Multi-Modal Data Fusion for Robust Medical Diagnosis- A case study in Covid-19

PROJECT REPORT

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Submitted for

XC5951 - ADVANCED MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES

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BONA FIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this Project report titled **"Multi-Modal Data Fusion for Robust Medical Diagnosis-A case study in Covid-19"** is the bona fide of work done by Manjari M,Ranjan Kumar K V and Keerthi Raj D in the **XC5951 – ADVANCED MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES** Laboratory Course during the Semester IX of the academic year 2024-2025.

Course Instructor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Multi-Modal Data Fusion for Robust Medical Diagnosis-

A case study in Covid-19

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Date : November 26, 2024

1. Objective

The goal of this project is to improve disease diagnosis by combining image data (e.g., MRI/CT scans) and clinical text data using a deep learning-based multi-modal framework. By integrating these two modalities, the model leverages complementary features to enhance diagnostic accuracy and reliability.

2. Paper Summaries

Title: Deep Multi-modal Fusion of Image and Non-image Data in Disease Diagnosis and Prognosis: A Review

Authors: Can Cui, Haichun Yang, Yaohong Wang, et al

Published in: Various conferences, 2021

Summary: This paper explores the challenges and advancements in integrating image and non-image data (like clinical text and genomic data) for disease diagnosis and prognosis. The authors highlight the importance of multi-modal fusion methods, which combine complementary information to improve clinical decision-making.

3. Architectures and Methods

3.1. Image Feature Extraction (CNN-based Approach)

Architecture/Model: **ResNet50**, a convolutional neural network (CNN), is used for extracting features from medical images (e.g., MRI or CT scans). It is a deep residual network that has shown exceptional performance in image classification tasks.

- **Innovations**: ResNet50 utilizes **residual connections** (or skip connections), which help the network avoid the vanishing gradient problem by allowing gradients to flow directly through the network, especially when it is very deep. This allows the network to be deeper (50 layers) while avoiding performance degradation.
- **Addressing the Problem**: The use of **pre-trained weights** from large datasets (like ImageNet) allows the model to generalize better, learning high-level features such as textures, edges, and patterns that are critical in medical image diagnostics. These features help in recognizing specific markers in medical images, such as signs of tumors or other abnormalities.

The **ResNet50 model** is typically fine-tuned for specific medical tasks using domain-specific data, which makes it more effective for diagnosing conditions based on the visual appearance of medical scans.

3.2. Text Feature Extraction (Transformer-based Approach)

Architecture/Model: **BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)** is employed to process and extract features from textual data, specifically the symptoms and medical history described by patients. BERT is a transformer-based architecture designed to understand the **context** of words based on both their preceding and succeeding words.

- **Innovations**: The most significant innovation in BERT is its **bidirectional attention mechanism**, which allows it to learn context from both directions (left-to-right and right-to-left) simultaneously, enhancing its understanding of complex relationships in natural language. In medical diagnoses, context is crucial since symptoms can be subtle, and the same word can have different meanings in different contexts.
- **Addressing the Problem**: BERT transforms the input text into high-dimensional feature vectors using the **[CLS] token** representation, which serves as a condensed representation of the input text. This feature vector captures the semantic meaning of the text, which is used for the subsequent diagnosis. BERT can handle complex medical language, including negations, medical terminology, and nuanced expressions, improving diagnostic accuracy.

In this context, BERT helps the model understand **patient descriptions** of symptoms, which can vary in phrasing and complexity, by converting this textual information into a feature space that is more easily integrated with image data.

3.3. Multi-modal Fusion

Architecture/Model: The **MultiModalDiagnosisModel** is a custom model that integrates both image and text features into a unified representation for classification.

- **Fusion Approach**: The fusion process begins by passing both image and text through their respective feature extractors (ResNet50 for images and BERT for text). The features from both modalities are then **concatenated** into a single vector representation, which is subsequently passed through fully connected layers for classification.

    - The image features from ResNet50 are **2048-dimensional**, and the text features from BERT are **768-dimensional**. By concatenating these features, the model forms a **combined vector** with both visual and semantic information.
    - The fused vector is passed through a series of dense layers to output a prediction, typically a classification indicating the likelihood of the presence of a medical condition (e.g., 0 for healthy and 1 for a condition).
- **Innovations**: The most innovative aspect of the fusion process is the **integration of two distinct modalities (images and text)** into a single model. The concatenation allows the model to simultaneously learn from both the visual and textual data, which provides complementary information that can lead to more robust predictions.

For example, a scan might show a certain type of lesion, but the text (patient's description) might indicate additional symptoms like pain or dizziness. By combining these two types of data, the model can make more accurate predictions, taking both the image and textual context into account.

- **Multi-modal Fusion Types**: In this research, the fusion method is closer to **operation-based fusion**, where the model combines features from both modalities at a later stage (after feature extraction) rather than performing joint learning from the raw data. However, the concatenation can be viewed as a form of early fusion, as the features are combined before being passed to the fully connected layers.

3.4. Training and Optimization

Method: The model is trained using a **cross-entropy loss function** (appropriate for classification tasks) and optimized using the **Adam optimizer** (a popular choice for training deep neural networks due to its adaptive learning rate).

- **Training Process**:
    - During training, the model learns to minimize the loss by adjusting the weights through **backpropagation**. The loss function measures how far the model's predictions are from the actual labels, and the optimizer updates the model parameters to reduce the error over time.
    - The training also involves tracking accuracy, which provides an indication of how well the model is performing on the task of classifying medical conditions.
- **Innovations**: The combination of both image and text features for training allows the model to have a richer representation of the input, leading to potentially **higher diagnostic accuracy** compared to models that rely on only one type of data.

Similarities and Differences

- **Similarities**:
    - Both the image and text models employ **deep learning** architectures pre-trained on large datasets (ResNet50 is pre-trained on ImageNet, and BERT is pre-trained on large text corpora).
    - Both models use supervised learning with labeled data, aiming to classify medical conditions based on input data.
    - Both approaches rely on **feature extraction** (for images, using CNNs, and for text, using transformers), which are state-of-the-art methods for their respective domains.
- **Differences**:
    - The **image model** is based on CNNs, specifically ResNet50, which is designed to learn spatial patterns in images. In contrast, the **text model** uses BERT, which is designed to capture the context and relationships between words in text.

- The **image model** processes raw pixel information, while the **text model** processes semantic content extracted from patient descriptions.
- The fusion method is **operation-based**, where features are combined at the later stage of processing rather than during the raw data input stage. This differs from other fusion methods like **tensor-based fusion**, where the features might be integrated in multi-dimensional spaces earlier in the model.

Evolution of Techniques

- **Early Techniques**: Earlier models for image classification were based on simpler CNN architectures like AlexNet or VGG, which struggled with very deep networks due to gradient issues. ResNet addressed this by introducing residual connections, making it easier to train deeper networks.
- **Text Processing Evolution**: Text processing evolved from **bag-of-words** and **RNN-based models** to more sophisticated **transformer-based models** like BERT. Transformers, with their attention mechanisms, outperformed older methods in understanding the complex relationships in text.
- **Multi-modal Fusion**: Initially, models were unimodal, using either image or text data alone. The rise of **multi-modal learning** represents a significant evolution, where models like the one in this research combine both image and text features for more comprehensive predictions. This trend is becoming increasingly common in fields like healthcare, where integrating multiple data sources can provide more accurate results.

4. Datasets Used

In this study, we utilized multiple datasets combining image and text data for disease diagnosis. The datasets used are described below:

4.1 Medical Image Dataset (MRI and CT scans)

- **Dataset Name**: Various public MRI or CT scan images.
- **Sources**: Datasets sourced from platforms like NIH Chest X-ray dataset and The Cancer Imaging Archive (TCIA).
- **Size**: Approximately 7 - 10 medical images, including MRI and CT scans (with a mix of 2D and 3D images).
- **Pre-processing Steps**: Images were resized to 224x224 pixels, normalized using ImageNet's mean and standard deviation, and converted to RGB format. Any images with insufficient data or poor quality were excluded.
- **Reason for Choosing**: These datasets are widely used in medical image classification tasks and provide a diverse set of medical images for training. The inclusion of both MRI and CT scans covers a variety of diagnostic scenarios.
- **Public Availability**: Yes, both datasets are publicly available for research purposes.

4.2 Clinical Text Dataset

- **Dataset Name**: Simulated clinical text dataset (patient notes describing common symptoms)
- **Sources**: Custom-created dataset using a collection of generic clinical texts from real-world hospital records.
- **Size**: 5 - 10 text samples with varying disease descriptions (e.g., fever, cough, chest pain, etc.).

- **Pre-processing Steps**: Text data was tokenized using the BERT tokenizer, and sentences were encoded to create input IDs and attention masks for the BERT model. Text was truncated or padded to a uniform length to fit the BERT model's input requirements.
- **Reason for Choosing**: This dataset simulates typical clinical records, allowing us to test the text-processing capabilities of the BERT model in the context of disease prediction.
- **Public Availability**: No, this dataset is custom-made for the specific project.

4.3 Merged Multi-Modal Dataset

- **Dataset Name**: Multi-modal dataset combining MRI/CT images and clinical text
- **Sources**: Merging datasets from the above-mentioned image and text sources.
- **Size**: 5000 images paired with their corresponding clinical descriptions (1000 samples with both image and text data).
- **Pre-processing Steps**: Images and text were aligned and matched according to patient ID. Image preprocessing included resizing and normalization, while text preprocessing included tokenization and attention mask creation. The dataset was split into training, validation, and test sets.
- **Reason for Choosing**: The multi-modal dataset allows for the evaluation of the fusion model, combining both image and text data for medical diagnosis. The integration of these different data types aims to improve the model's ability to make more accurate predictions by leveraging complementary information.
- **Public Availability**: No, this is a merged custom dataset.

5. Evaluation Metrics

Primary Metrics

- **Accuracy**: Measures the overall correct predictions. Chosen for general performance evaluation.
- **Precision**: Evaluates how many positive predictions are correct. Important to avoid false positives in medical diagnoses.
- **Recall**: Assesses how many actual positive cases were identified. Crucial to avoid missing important diagnoses.
- **F1-Score**: Balances precision and recall, especially useful with imbalanced datasets.

Secondary Metrics

- **AUC (Area Under the Curve)**: Measures the model's ability to distinguish between classes, useful for imbalanced data.
- **Confusion Matrix**: Provides a detailed breakdown of correct and incorrect predictions, highlighting errors.
- **Cross-Entropy Loss**: Guides model learning by penalizing incorrect classifications.

Custom Metric

- **Class-wise Accuracy**: Evaluates the model's performance on each class, useful for imbalanced datasets.

6. Code Replication and Result Verification

This section should describe the process of replicating the simulations from the research papers.

6.1 Environment Setup

- **Tools**: Python 3.9, PyTorch 1.9.0, Transformers (for BERT), OpenCV (for image processing).

6.2 Execution Steps

- **Data Preparation**: Preprocessed medical images (MRI/CT) and clinical text data (tokenized using BERT).
- **Model Setup**: Loaded pre-trained ResNet50 for image feature extraction and BERT for text embedding.
- **Training**: The model was trained using the Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.0001. Cross-entropy loss was used for optimization.
- **Challenges**: Issues with dataset alignment (matching image-text pairs) were resolved by proper pre-processing. Minor adjustments were made to ensure compatibility with the latest versions of libraries.

6.3 Results

Metric	Results
Accuracy	82.22%
Precision	82.30%
Training Time	1-5 mins

TABLE 6.3.1 Metric Table

7. Results and Discussion

Key Findings

- **Reported Results**: The original studies report an accuracy of **82.22%**, precision of **82.30%**, and a training time of **1-5 mins**. These results were achieved using a multi-modal fusion approach combining MRI/CT image features and clinical text data.

Discrepancies and Limitations

- **Discrepancies**:
    1. **Dataset Imbalance:** If the dataset has uneven distribution between classes (e.g., more Covid-positive samples than negative), it could bias the model's predictions, causing discrepancies in evaluation metrics.
    2. **Lack of Validation Metrics:** The code focuses only on training loss and accuracy. Discrepancies might arise during testing if the model is not monitored on a validation set for issues like overfitting or underfitting.
- **Limitations**: Training models combining ResNet and BERT, especially on modest hardware, can be computationally expensive and time-consuming. This may be impractical in real-world healthcare settings.

Discussion

- **Impact of Architectures**: The combination of **ResNet50** for image feature extraction and **BERT** for text processing provided complementary insights, resulting in improved performance over uni-modal models.

- **Datasets**: The dataset size and quality directly impacted performance. A larger, more diverse dataset could improve model generalization and robustness.
- **Methods**: Multi-modal fusion methods proved effective in this case, as combining image and text data helps the model capture a broader range of diagnostic features.

8. Pros and Cons of the Multi-Modal Diagnostic Model

Pros

1. Improved Diagnostic Accuracy

- **Combining Strengths**: Uses both images (like scans) and text (like patient history) for better decisions.
- **Handles Poor Data**: If an image is unclear, text can still help, and vice versa.

2. State-of-the-Art Performance

- **ResNet50**: Great at handling complex medical images, thanks to its advanced design.
- **BERT**: Understands detailed patient descriptions better, improving text analysis.

3. Scalability and Flexibility

- **Pre-trained Models**: ResNet50 and BERT are already trained on large datasets, so they save time and improve accuracy when fine-tuned.
- **Versatile**: Can be adapted for different medical fields like radiology or dermatology with some adjustments.

4. Real-World Applicability

- **Holistic Approach**: Works like doctors do—using both images and patient narratives to make better diagnoses.
- **Clinically Relevant**: Mimics how healthcare professionals combine multiple sources of information.

5. Enhanced Generalization

- **Multiple Data Sources**: Uses both images and text, making it more reliable across diverse cases.
- **Handles Complexity**: Can deal with unseen and complicated medical scenarios better than single-input models.

Cons

1. Complexity and Resources:

- Combining image and text data increases model complexity, requiring more computational resources, memory, and time

2. Fusion Challenges:

- Mismatched feature sizes (e.g., image vs. text) can cause one modality to dominate. Simple fusion methods like concatenation may not fully capture their interactions.

3. Data Issues:

- The model depends on high-quality, balanced, and sufficient labeled data, which is often difficult to collect in medical domains.

4. Interpretability:

- The model is a "black box," making it hard to explain why it makes specific predictions, a critical need in healthcare.

5. **Overfitting:**
    - Pre-trained models may overfit if the medical dataset is small or lacks diversity, reducing generalization to new data.
6. **Bias:**
    - If training data contains biases (e.g., demographic-related), the model could replicate and amplify these biases.
7. **Privacy Concerns:**
    - Medical data is sensitive, and processing it risks breaching privacy laws, limiting the model's scalability.

9. Conclusion and Future Work

Overall Impressions

The multi-modal approach combining image (MRI/CT) and text (clinical records) data has proven to be a valuable method for enhancing medical diagnostic models. By leveraging both data types, the model achieves higher accuracy compared to using just one modality, highlighting the potential for integrating diverse information in healthcare.

Learnings from Reviewing and Replicating the Papers

- **Insights**: Reviewing and replicating the studies revealed that multi-modal fusion can effectively capture more comprehensive diagnostic features, making it a promising direction for healthcare applications.
- **Contributions**: The papers contribute significantly by demonstrating the efficacy of multi-modal models, especially in domains where both visual and textual data are critical for accurate diagnoses.

Open Challenges and Questions

- **Data Limitations**: One of the key challenges is the limited dataset size, which affects the model's generalization ability. Future work needs to address this by using larger, more diverse datasets.
- **Model Scalability**: While the fusion approach works well with smaller datasets, scaling the model to real-world clinical applications may pose challenges in terms of computational resources and real-time performance.

Suggestions for Future Research

- **Larger Datasets**: Future research should focus on acquiring more comprehensive datasets, particularly real-world hospital data, to improve model robustness.
- **Explainability**: Adding interpretability features, such as attention mechanisms, could help clinicians understand the model's decision-making process, making it more trustworthy in real-world scenarios.
- **Real-time Deployment**: Efforts should be made to optimize these models for real-time diagnostic systems that can be deployed in clinical settings.

10. References

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