

# Using Machine Learning Approaches To Create The Most Significant Alzheimer's Disease (AD) Prediction.

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## 1. Abstract

The condition of dementia is still prevalent in older individuals and is a significant contributor to reliance and incapacity. Most dementia cases are caused by Alzheimer's disease (AD), a complicated and severe neurodegenerative condition without reliable diagnostic tools. The most significant risk factor for AD is age, therefore, as lifespan increases, the prevalence of AD also increases, and the diagnosis becomes complicated. An estimated 55.2 million individuals worldwide have dementia. While persons in their 30s, 40s, and 50s may get this illness, adults 65 and older make up most of those diagnosed with AD. To stop AD from worsening and spreading irreversibly, it is critical to correctly and quickly identify it. Deep learning (DL) and machine learning (ML) have seen increased success in medical imaging in recent years, and it has replaced previous techniques for analyzing medical pictures and raised awareness of AD. Deep and machine learning models are more precise and efficient in detecting AD than traditional machine learning techniques. This research aims to identify the most accurate prediction model for labeling patients as healthy or unhealthy. K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Random Forest (RF), and Support Vector Machine (SVM) were three models that were taken into consideration through the RStudio software package with the utilization of a secondary dataset obtained from the Australian Imaging, Biomarker & Lifestyle (AIBL). Using the R software, proper data pretreatment steps were conducted to clean the raw data, and standard processes were used to evaluate the cleaned data. According to the results, DL and ML technologies can successfully detect AD with the best model prediction in just eight (8) features out of the thirty-one (31) features in the baseline dataset were fitted by Random Forest (RF), which had a recall score of 98.88%.

**Keywords:** Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), AIBL(Australian imaging Biomarkers and Lifestyle Flagship Study of Ageing), HC(Healthy Control), Mild Cognitive Impairment(MCI), Deep learning, Machine Learning, neural network, support vector machine, Alzheimer's disease(AD), and dementia.

## 2. Introduction

Most people agree that the brain is one of the body's most essential organs. All actions and reactions that allow us to think and believe are controlled by and supported by the brain. It also aids in preserving good memories and emotions. With advancing years come a variety of diseases. One of them, dementia, affects 60 to 80 percent of older people [1]. Age is not the only factor associated with a neurodegenerative condition; other risk factors include gender, a history of neurological disorders, and biomarkers like amyloid (APOE 4) and tau (APOE 3) [2]. AD is a form of dementia that is highly severe. AD is a progressive and fatal brain condition. When AD is identified, it slowly worsens and destroys memory cells, which impairs a person's ability to think. It is a degenerative neurological condition that causes neurons to stop functioning or even die [3]. There are various stages of AD or dementia, such as the preclinical stage, during which the patient feels no change in daily activities but an early stage of AD and during which the brain begins to shrink. This stage is controllable. The next stage is mild dementia or mild cognitive impairment, which involves minor changes in the brain but has no impact on the patient's daily activities. The next dimension of mild AD is when the brain begins to shrink along with the mild

symptoms of AD, which slightly impair daily activities. The next stage is dementia with moderate AD, in which symptoms significantly impact most aspects of daily life. The final stage is dementia with severe AD, in which patients experience various issues, including memory loss, frequent confusion, an inability to learn new things, a change in personality, and difficulty speaking and expressing the appropriate emotions. These then are AD's various stages. The spectrum of AD is the time it takes for symptoms to appear; it takes moderate cognitive impairment around 20 years to progress to AD. Early identification is crucial since AD has already altered the brain's structure. This alteration is brought on by the accommodation of amygdala protein in brain cells and the growth of the actual ventricle. Recent research found compelling evidence that individuals who survive COVID-19 have a higher chance of later getting AD [4]. Various efforts have been made in clinical practice to create a reliable method for detecting early-stage AD, which would provide patients with dementias diagnosed with access to critical knowledge, resources, and support. One of these procedures is the measurement of structural brain atrophy using cutting-edge brain image capture technologies like Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) [5]. Due to the difficulties in generalizing biomarker changes, this technology (Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)), among many others, failed to categorize and predict AD patients accurately. Machine learning is the ideal option for early identification and evaluating collections of records and dataset sets with millions of identifiers from thousands to hundreds of people [6]. Machine learning is one of the most important artificial intelligence (AI) ideas to emerge from academia. The machine learning approach has a baseline of its experience and is sometimes known as "training data" or "preliminary assessment data" [7]. It focuses on fostering the skills necessary for using and accessing the material in the program. It is normal to practice analyzing and understanding data using machine learning. Machine learning algorithms have been extensively used in the medical picture and data extraction with various applications, including detecting brain diseases. The range of available alternatives is expanded. Using machine learning to detect and categorize AD's many kinds and stages will be crucial. Random Forest (RF), Support Vector Machine (SVM), and k-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) are three supervised machine learning classifiers that this research will use to construct a model that best predicts whether a person is a healthy (i.e. HC=1) or a non-healthy(i.e., Non-HC=0). The study will focus on the AIBL(BL) dataset, and every MCI and AD classes will be combined into one class, non-healthy control. This will provide light on the early detection and treatment of AD in elderly patients since it will reduce brain power and, over time, reduce thinking speed.

## Machine learning

It is a method for gathering and processing data that automates the creation of analytical answers. It is predicated on robots examining data, looking for patterns, and making judgments with minimal human assistance [8]. Two classes of machine learning—supervised and unsupervised—can be used to detect AD early before advancing to the critical stage.

Data with labels are used in supervised learning. Supervised learning requires monitoring to train the model, which is akin to a student who learns things in the presence of a teacher. Supervised learning in medical imaging may be used to detect the condition and subsequently classify it based on the results. Then, the model must train using the picture's texture, shape, and size. After training, the picture is fed into the supervising model to recognize the image and forecast the outcome according to the algorithm.

Another kind of learning algorithm is unsupervised learning. The structure and patterns can be discovered in the data through unsupervised learning. There are no norms to follow in unsupervised learning. By itself, the computer finds patterns in the data.

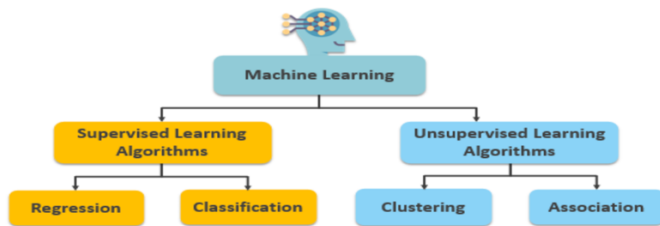


Fig 2.1 Machine Learning (Rashmi Karan et al.,2022).

### 3. Dataset Description

The Australian Imaging, Biomarker & Lifestyle (AIBL) website is an excellent source for the dataset used for this study. On November 14th, 2006, the Flagship Study of Aging was officially established to undertake a four-and-a-half-year long-term cognitive study. The first cohort comprised 1,100 participants from two specific sites in Australia who were at least 60 years old. Each volunteer underwent evaluation, along with their cognitive traits, biomarkers, lifestyle, and health variables were noted to uncover potential precursors of the development of symptomatic AD in the future. The sample included people who were either in good health (HC), had mild cognitive impairment (MCI), or had been diagnosed with AD. The AIBL dataset was read and analyzed using RStudio software tools. R is a computer language mainly used for data mining tasks [9]. The unique record Identifiers combined pertinent files after importing all necessary libraries.

The 862 records (participants) and 36 attributes comprise the AIBL non-imaging baseline dataset utilized in this research. The characteristics include details on the subjects' demographics, medical histories, neuropsychological testing, apolipoprotein E genotype, blood analysis, clinical diagnoses, and five additional redundant factors connecting the several data sets. These redundant variables are subsequently removed from the dataset during the data preparation steps. Below is a quick summary of the characteristics that were utilized to analyze the AIBL dataset:

**Demographics:** Baseline patient gender and age (in years).

**Medical Conditions:** Neurologic (MH NEURL), smoking (MH SMOK), hepatic (MH HEPAT), musculoskeletal (MH MUSCL), psychiatric (MH PSYCH), malignancy (MH MALI), gastrointestinal (MH GAST), endocrine-metabolic (MH ENDO), renal-genitourinary (MH RENA), and cardiovascular (MH CARD),.

**Genotypes:** 2-Alleles genotypes of apoE (APGEN1/APGEN2). Among the three genotypes, one is held by each allele.

**Blood tests:** Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (HMT102), Mean corpuscular hemoglobin (HMT100), AXT117 (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone), HMT3 (Red Blood Cell), Vitamin 12 (BAT126), HMT7 (White Blood Cell), Cholesterol (RCT120) (RCT329), Platelets (HMT13), Urea Nitrogen (RCT6), Serum Glucose (RCT11), Hemoglobin (HMT40).

**Neuropsychological tests:** MMSCORE (The Mini-Mental State Examination), CDGLOBAL(the Clinical Dementia Rating Global), LIMMTOTAL(the Logical Memory Immediate Recall), and the total number of story units recalled—the partial score of the LM test—all neuropsychological tests (LDELTOTAL).

### 4. Methodology

The AIBL dataset was analyzed with a standard mining approach read through RStudio software with the data selection done with the study's objective, as shown in fig 4.2.1.

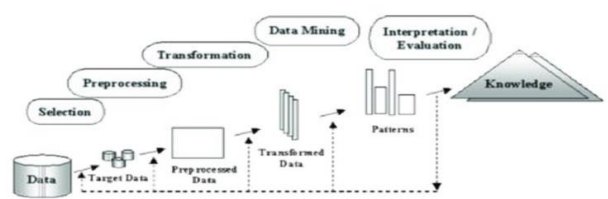


Fig 4.1. Standard Data Mining Steps (Mohotti et al., 2017) [10].

Data mining is a powerful method when examining massive data sets to find significant patterns, correlations, and links between various variables. It entails applying statistical and machine learning methods, including clustering, classification, regression, association rule mining, and anomaly detection, to extract meaningful information from data. It applies to several industries, including commerce, medicine, finance, marketing, and social media. Data mining in business may be used to discover consumer preferences, industry trends, and future development possibilities. It may be used in healthcare to examine medical information and find illness risk factors. Data mining in finance may assist in identifying fraud and evaluating investment risks. It may be used in marketing to study customer behavior and specific target demographics.

The AIBL dataset mining begins with loading all the necessary libraries, an option in R to enable verbose output when using the 'tiny text' package. 'tinytex' is a LaTeX distribution for R that allows users to compile LaTeX documents within R as displayed in fig 4.2.

```
14 #1. Loading of all relevant libraries needed.
15
16 -----(r, include=FALSE)----
17 options(tinytex.verbose = TRUE)
18
19 library(Boruta)
20 library(missForest)
21 library(Publiush)
22 library(caret)
23 library(ggplot2)
24 library(corrplot)
25 library(caretfamily)
26 library(ROCR)
27 library(caret)
28 library(skimr)
29 library(randomForest)
30 library(dplyr)
31 library(MLmetrics)
32 library(data.table)
33 library(caret)
34
```

Fig 4.2. Libraries needed for AIBL dataset mining.

| File           | Observations              | Variables |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| apores.aiblb   | 862 obs. of 6 variables   |           |
| car.aiblb      | 1688 obs. of 5 variables  |           |
| labdata.aiblb  | 1688 obs. of 15 variables |           |
| medhist.aiblb  | 862 obs. of 13 variables  |           |
| mmse.aiblb     | 1688 obs. of 5 variables  |           |
| neurobat.aiblb | 1688 obs. of 6 variables  |           |
| ptdemo.aiblb   | 1688 obs. of 4 variables  |           |
| ptdemo.aiblb   | 862 obs. of 5 variables   |           |

Fig 4.2.1. Importing of all raw datasets needed for AIBL dataset mining.

```
45 #1.2 Merging the datasets with 1688 observations after combining the files .
46
47 aibl_new<-rbind(aiblb,car,labdata,medhist,mmse,neurobat,ptdemo)
48 inner_join(aiblb,car)
49 inner_join(mse,aiblb)
50 inner_join(neurobat,aiblb)
51 inner_join(ptdemo,aiblb,by=c("RID"="RID","SITEID"="SITEID","VISCODE"="VISCODE"))
52
53 #1.3 the datasets with only 868 observations are combined. During the duration of the testing period, these stay con
54
55 medhist<-medhist[aiblb[,c(2,3)]]
56 apores<-apores[aiblb[,c(2,3)]]
57 ptdemo<-ptdemo[aiblb[,c(2,3)]]
58
59 ## Merge with the key RID only.
60 aibl_new<-aiblb[aiblb[,c(2,3)]]
61 left_join(medhist,aiblb)
62 left_join(apores,aiblb)
63 left_join(ptdemo,aiblb,by=c("RID"="RID"))
```

Fig 4.2.2. Merging of all Imported raw datasets needed for AIBL dataset mining.

Any superfluous characteristics like visit code (VISCODE), RID (unique participant identification), VISCODE2 (visit code), APTSTDT, and day of evaluation (EXAMDATE) were subsequently removed from the data after the raw dataset was shown in RStudio with the variable names printed. The PTDOB column was cleaned up of symbols like "/", and the variables were forced to take on the proper data type. The AGE feature was developed (feature engineering) for analytical purposes, and the intended output variables, HC and Non-HC, were reduced from three-factor levels to two. Also, the variables in the MMSCORE columns were grouped and forced, and any missing values, denoted by "-4", were located and designated with "NA".





balanced class(1115 observations with nine(9) columns) was changed due to the class observations, with class one having 609 observations and class two having 506 observations using the setting  $k = 3$  and Synthetic Minority Oversampling Method (SMOTE), as shown in figure 4.7. The  $k$ -Nearest Neighbor method is used by the SMOTE approach to distributing fictitious data points.

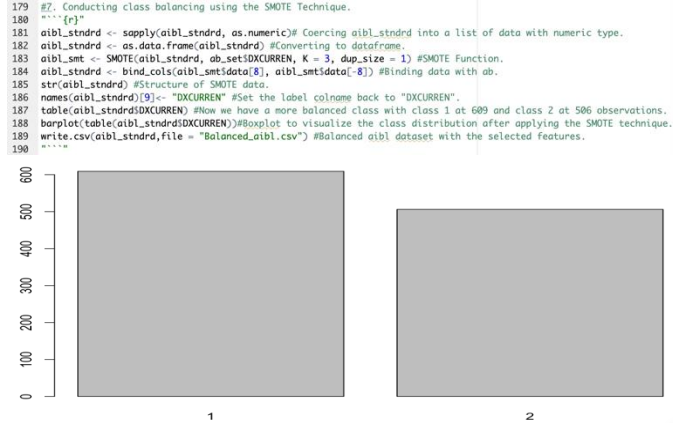


Fig 4.7. A plot of the target balanced class distribution per category.

Three machine learning techniques  $K$ -Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Random Forest (RF), and Support Vector Machine (SVM), was used for model training. The cleaned dataset was divided between training and testing halves at a ratio of 70:30 each. The radial basis function (RBF-based) kernel SVM technique was chosen because of its excellent classification accuracy and capacity to categorize non-linearly separable issues. It effectively addresses "over-fitting" by generating a hyper-plane that separates a dataset into homogenous partitions on both sides. Similarly, the  $k$ -nearest neighbors (KNN) technique is a straightforward machine-learning approach that may be used to address classification and regression issues. While it is simple to apply, training takes longer when the data is enormous. Last but not least, the Random Forest (RF) method effectively correctly forecasts outcomes, mainly when each tree in the ensemble is uncorrelated from the others. For regression work, the average of each decision tree's outputs is calculated, while a classification task produces the mode of the categorical variable.

## 5. Results And Discussions

The three trained algorithms' findings in the RStudio program are emphasized as illustrated in Fig. 5.1. The F-1 Score, sensitivity, and prediction accuracy suggested by the Random Forest model are all high. Recall/ Sensitivity will serve as a superior assessment measure due to the nature of the issue because our goal is to create a model that accurately identifies each patient and generates the fewest false negatives. The recall score for the model was 98.88% after 335 records were evaluated using the eight features we had chosen as the outcome of our dimensionality reduction method. Of those 335 records, 327 were identified correctly, while eight were incorrectly classified. Also, the model is a good classifier because of the Area Under Curve (AUC) score of 0.9936008 and the ROC curve's proximity to 1.0.

| Model Type                   | Confusion Matrices |            | Accur<br>acy | Sensi<br>tivity | Speci<br>ficity | PPV   | NPV   | Preva<br>lence | Preci<br>sion | Dete<br>ction<br>Rate | Dete<br>ction<br>Preva<br>lence | Recall | F1    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------|-------|
|                              | HC                 | Non-<br>HC |              |                 |                 |       |       |                |               |                       |                                 |        |       |
| Support<br>Vector<br>Machine | HC                 | 177        | 6            |                 |                 |       |       |                |               |                       |                                 |        |       |
|                              | Non-<br>HC         | 7          | 145          | 96.12           | 96.20           | 96.03 | 96.72 | 95.39          | 54.93         | 96.72                 | 52.84                           | 54.63  | 96.20 |
| k-Nearest<br>Neighbors       | HC                 | 171        | 12           |                 |                 |       |       |                |               |                       |                                 |        |       |
|                              | Non-<br>HC         | 13         | 139          | 92.54           | 92.93           | 92.05 | 93.44 | 91.45          | 54.93         | 93.44                 | 51.04                           | 54.63  | 92.93 |
| Random<br>Forest             | HC                 | 177        | 6            |                 |                 |       |       |                |               |                       |                                 |        |       |
|                              | Non-<br>HC         | 2          | 150          | 97.61           | 98.88           | 96.15 | 96.72 | 98.68          | 53.43         | 96.72                 | 52.84                           | 54.63  | 98.88 |

Fig 5.1. The three model predictions analysis results.

```

329 cm <- ConfusionMatrix(new_prdctn, test_aiblDXCURREN) # Making the Confusion Mat
330 (Classification.Accuracy <- 100*Accuracy(new_prdctn, test_aiblDXCURREN)) # Model
331 Mdl_accr <- table(test_aiblDXCURREN, new_prdctn)
332 confusionMatrix(Mdl_accr, mode = "everything") #Computed accuracy is 97.61%, reca
333
334 #Predict and Calculate Performance Metrics.
335 prdctnA <- predict(rndmfrst, newdata = test_aibl, type = "prob")
336
337 library(ROCR)
338 prfct_prdctn <- prediction(prdctnA[,2], test_aiblDXCURREN)
339
340 # 0. Accuracy.
341 (accrcy = performance(prfct_prdctn, "acc"))
342 plot(accrcy, main="Accuracy Curve for Random Forest", col=2, lwd=2)
343
344 # 1. Area under curve
345 auc <- performance(prfct_prdctn, "auc")
346 auc.y.values[[1]]
347
348 # 2. True Positive and Negative Rate
349 prdctnB <- performance(prfct_prdctn, "tpr", "fpr")
350 # 3. Plot the ROC curve
351 plot(prdctnB, main="ROC Curve for Random Forest", col=3, lwd=3)
352 abline(a=0, b=1, lwd=2, lty=3, col="black")

```

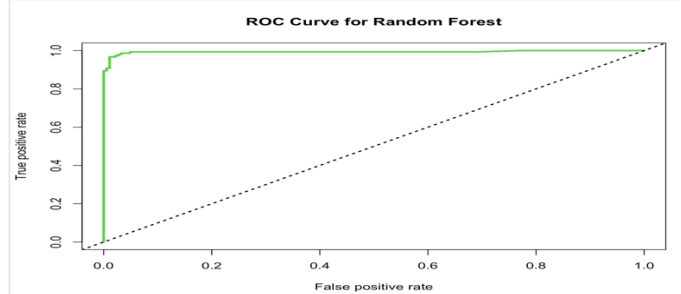


Fig 5.2. ROC curve displaying Random Forest model performance.

## 6. Conclusion

The study's goal was accomplished, and the ML strategy used to analyze the AIBL dataset was effective. By fitting just eight features from the 31 characteristics offered in the baseline dataset, the chosen learned model could predict new data with an accuracy of 97.61% and a recall of 98.88%. Analytically, it was impossible to choose between dropping LIMMTOTAL or LDELTOTAL since the backward elimination method revealed that either or both variables are significant characteristics. Thus, it is suggested that future data collection should limit itself to gathering data on only seven biomarkers, with either LDELTOTAL or LIMMTOTAL included as selected by clinical research domain experts. Ensuring that only the relevant biomarkers important to the research are captured will lower the cost of data collecting. Future research utilizing the AIBL dataset should consider the machine learning(ML) strategy described in this study and include more data gathered over many months. Last but not least, this study experienced no computing constraints and may be repeated using the same approaches in the future.

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