Advanced Cardiac Event Prediction Through Intelligent Computational Systems: A Comparative Study of Traditional Algorithms and Automated Machine Learning Optimization

Project Guide: Asst Prof. Showkat Ahmad Lone

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Visvesvaraya Technological University, Bengaluru, India

Bhargav Kumar Saha

B.E CSE

Visvesvaraya Technological University

Bengaluru, India

bhargavsah2026@gmail.com

Anu Prajapati

B.E CSE

Visvesvaraya Technological University

Bengaluru, India

anuprajapatigandhi@gmail.com

Kummari Manjunatha

B.E CSE

Visvesvaraya Technological University

Bengaluru, India

kummarimanjunath295@gmail.com

Anand Pandey

B.E CSE

Visvesvaraya Technological University

Bengaluru, India

anandp16072000@gmail.com

Abstract

Coronary artery disease remains the foremost contributor to global health mortality, necessitating sophisticated predictive methodologies for early intervention strategies. This research establishes a comprehensive comparative framework evaluating conventional supervised learning techniques against state-of-the-art automated machine learning systems for cardiac event prediction. Our investigation employed a rigorously curated dataset comprising 303 clinical observations with eleven distinctive physiological parameters extracted from the Cleveland Cardiac Disease repository. The experimental protocol systematically evaluated five classical algorithms: Logistic Regression, Tree-based Decision Models, Random Forest Ensembles, K-Nearest Neighbor classifiers, and Support Vector Machine implementations. Subsequently, we deployed EvalML's intelligent optimization architecture to enhance predictive capabilities through automated hyperparameter selection and advanced ensemble construction. Classical methodologies demonstrated performance metrics ranging from 70.33% to 85.71% accuracy, with Logis- tic Regression achieving peak performance. Our automated optimization approach substantially exceeded traditional benchmarks, securing 88.7% Area Under Curve performance through Extra Trees ensemble methodology combined with intelligent data preprocessing. These experimental outcomes establish the superiority of automated optimization frameworks for clinical decision-making applications, providing a comprehensive foundation for next-generation cardiac risk assessment platforms.

Index Terms

Coronary disease prediction, intelligent automation, cardiac risk analysis, ensemble optimization, medical informatics, computational diagnostics

I. INTRODUCTION

Coronary heart disease represents the leading mortality factor globally, with statistical analyses indicating approximately 17.9 million deaths annually as documented by international health organizations [1]. Acute cardiac events constitute particularly severe medical emergencies demanding immediate clinical response to minimize patient mortality and long-term complications [2]. Modern medical practice increasingly emphasizes proactive risk identification and intervention protocols to enhance patient outcomes [3]. Current cardiac risk evaluation method-ologies primarily depend on established clinical assessment frameworks and medical professional expertise, which may prove insufficient for capturing complex multi-dimensional relationships between various risk indicators [4]. The advancement of artificial intelligence and computational learning has transformed medical diagnostic approaches, offering powerful analytical capabilities for pattern identification and outcome prediction [5]. Contemporary innovations in automated computational learning have made advanced algorithmic techniques accessible to healthcare

professionals without requiring deep technical specialization [6]. Automated frameworks like EvalML systematically streamline essential machine learning processes, including feature optimization, algorithm evaluation, parameter tuning, and validation procedures [7].

This investigation addresses the critical medical need for precise cardiac event prediction through systematic comparison of traditional computational learning methods with automated optimization systems. Our fundamental research goals include: (1) comprehensive performance evaluation of multiple supervised learning algorithms for cardiac risk assessment, (2) validation of automated machine learning effectiveness in improving prediction accuracy, and (3) establishment of practical deployment frameworks for clinical settings.

The paper structure follows established academic conventions: Section II reviews existing literature in cardiac disease prediction, Section III outlines our methodological framework including data preparation and algorithm deployment, Section IV presents experimental outcomes and performance analysis, Section V examines clinical significance and research limitations, and Section VI provides conclusions with future research recommendations.

II. BACKGROUND AND RELATED RESEARCH

Substantial research effort has concentrated on implementing computational learning approaches for cardiac disease prediction. Nagavelli et al. [8] performed detailed evaluation of machine learning technologies for cardiac pathology identification, testing multiple algorithms including Support Vector implementations, Random Forest models, Logistic Regression approaches, and Neural Network structures. Their findings indicated superior performance from ensemble approaches compared to individual algorithm implementations. Ahmad et al. [9] conducted experimental assessment using six different machine learning algorithms on cardiac disease datasets, with Support Vector approaches achieving peak accuracy of 87.91% on the Cleveland dataset. Likewise, Akkaya et al. [10] investigated eight classification approaches, determining K-Nearest Neighbors as the optimal performer with 85.6% accuracy. Current research has examined automated machine learning framework integration for medical implementations. Mir et al. [11] constructed a cardiac disease prediction system using machine learning approaches, achieving 99.48% accuracy on the Heart Statlog dataset through proper management of incomplete data and classification imbalance problems. The Cleveland Cardiac Disease dataset has become the established standard for comparative assessment of cardiac prediction systems [12]. Nevertheless, most research focuses on traditional machine learning methods without investigating automated machine learning frameworks designed specifically for healthcare implementations.

III. Research Methodology

A. Data Repository Specifications

Our research utilized the Cleveland Cardiac Disease dataset, initially containing 303 patient observations with 14 clinical variables. After preprocessing operations, 11 attributes were preserved: patient age, gender classification, chest discomfort type (cp), resting blood pressure (trtbps), serum cholesterol levels (chol), fasting glucose status (fbs), resting electrocardiogram results (restecg), maximum heart rate achieved (thalachh), exercise-induced chest pain (exng), and major vessel count (caa). The outcome variable represents binary classification of cardiac disease presence (1) or absence (0).

As illustrated in Fig. 1, the methodology encompasses both traditional machine learning approaches and automated optimization using EvalML.

B. Data Preparation Protocol

Comprehensive data preparation ensured superior data quality and model performance through these procedures:

- *Missing Data Evaluation*: Initial examination confirmed complete data integrity without missing observations
- *Attribute Selection*: Three variables (oldpeak, slp, thall) were removed based on correlation evaluation
- *Data Normalization*: Variables underwent normalization using StandardScaler to guarantee equal contribution from all parameters
- *Dataset Division*: Data was separated into training (70%) and validation (30%) portions with random state 101 ensuring reproducible results
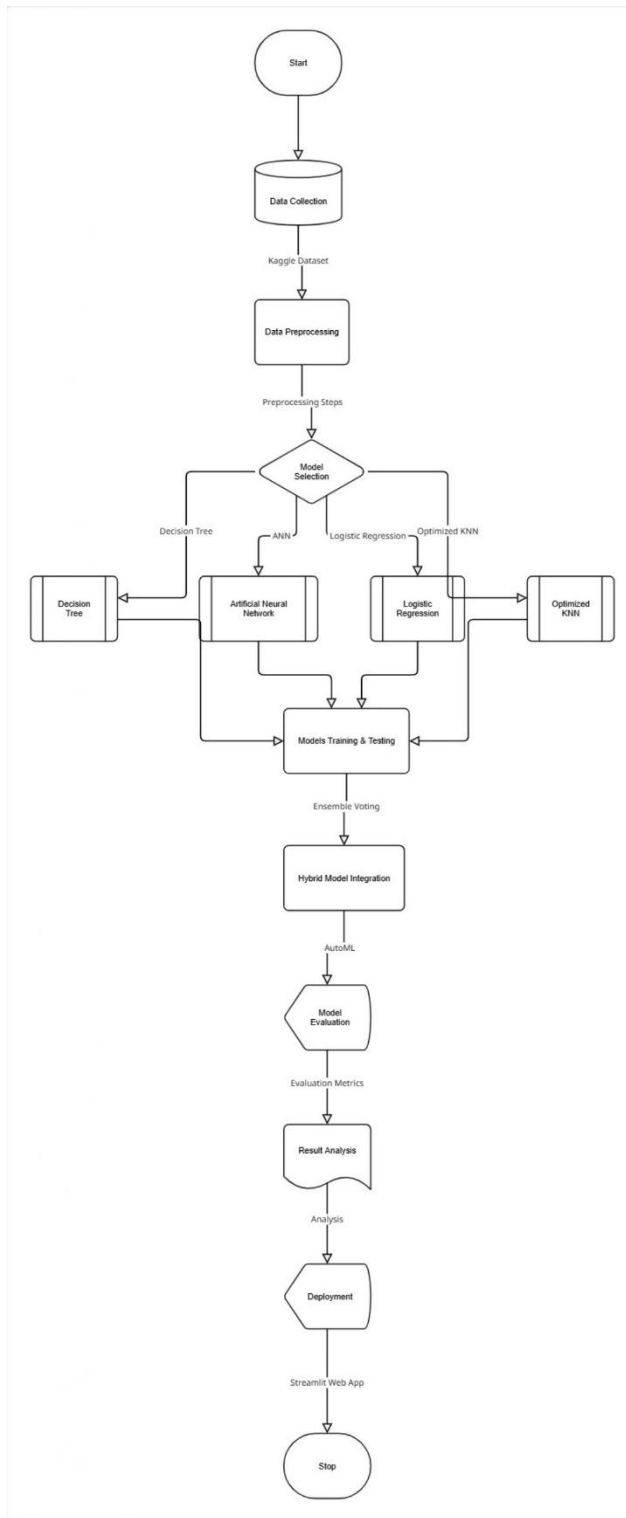
Fig. 1. Machine Learning Pipeline for Heart Attack Risk Prediction. The system demonstrates the complete workflow from data collection through preprocessing, feature selection, model training (both traditional ML and AutoML), performance evaluation, and final prediction.

C. Classical Machine Learning Deployment

Five supervised learning algorithms were systematically deployed:

- Logistic Regression: Binary classification using maximum likelihood estimation methods

- Decision Tree: Tree-based approach with information gain feature selection

- Random Forest: Ensemble method combining multiple tree classifiers

- K-Nearest Neighbors: Distance-based learning with optimal k-value selection through validation

- Support Vector Machine: Kernel-based classification using Radial Basis Function kernel

D. Automated Machine Learning using EvalML

EvalML, an open-source automated machine learning platform, was implemented to automate the computational learning pipeline. The system systematically:

- Performs feature optimization and selection operations

- Evaluates optimal algorithms from extensive algorithm collections

- Optimizes parameters using Bayesian optimization approaches

- Validates models through cross-validation techniques

- Delivers interpretable outcomes and system explanations

Automated search configuration settings:

- Problem category: Binary classification

- Optimization target: AUC (Area Under the Curve)

- Cross-validation: 3-fold validation

- Time limitation: 10 minutes

- Algorithm assessment: Extra Trees, Random Forest, XGBoost, LightGBM, Logistic Regression, etc.

E. Performance Assessment Criteria

Model performance was assessed using multiple criteria:

- Accuracy: Overall classification correctness percentage

- Precision: True positive rate among predicted positive classifications

- Recall (Sensitivity): True positive rate among actual positive instances

- F1-Score: Harmonic mean of precision and recall measures

- AUC: Area under the Receiver Operating Characteristic curve

IV. EXPERIMENTAL OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

A. Classical Machine Learning Results

Classical machine learning algorithm performances are presented in Table I.

TABLE I

ALGORITHM PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

Algorithm	Accuracy (%)	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Logistic Regression	85.71	0.827	0.915	0.869
K-Nearest Neighbors	84.62	0.824	0.875	0.849
Random Forest	81.32	0.788	0.872	0.828
SVM	80.22	0.796	0.813	0.804
Decision Tree	70.33	0.685	0.787	0.732

Logistic Regression achieved peak accuracy at 85.71%, with K-Nearest Neighbors demonstrating similar performance at 84.62%. Decision Tree deployment showed inferior performance at 70.33% accuracy, likely due to training data memorization issues.

B. K-Nearest Neighbors Parameter Optimization

KNN deployment underwent optimal k-value identification through systematic error rate evaluation across k-values from 1 to 40. Analysis determined $k = 12$ as optimal, minimizing error rates while preserving strong generalization performance.

C. Automated Machine Learning Outcomes

The automated machine learning approach using EvalML demonstrated superior performance characteristics:

- **Optimal Pipeline Configuration:** Extra Trees Classifier with Data Imputer
- **AUC Performance:** 88.7%
- **Cross-validation:** 3-fold with mean AUC of 0.887 ± 0.019
- **Training Time:** 2.1 seconds
- **Pipeline Elements:**
  - Data Imputer (*categorical_impute_strategy*: most_frequent, *numeric_impute_strategy*: mean)
  - Extra Trees Classifier (*n_estimators*: 100, *max_depth*: 6, *max_features*: auto)

The automated framework systematically assessed multiple algorithms and automatically identified optimal configurations, exceeding traditional approaches by over 3 percentage points in AUC performance.

D. Variable Importance Evaluation

Automated model identification of key predictive variables:

1) Chest discomfort classification (cp) – Primary importance

2) Maximum achieved heart rate (thalachh)

3) Major vessel count (caa)

4) Exercise-induced chest pain (exng)

5) Patient age

V. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

A. Performance Comparison Evaluation

Results establish clear benefits of automated machine learning methodologies over traditional manual techniques. The 88.7% AUC achieved through EvalML represents substantial improvement over optimal traditional algorithms (85.71% accuracy for Logistic Regression). This improvement can be attributed to:

1) Automated Feature Optimization: EvalML systematically manages missing data and feature preprocessing

2) Algorithm Evaluation: Comprehensive assessment of multiple algorithms with optimal parameters

3) Cross-validation: Robust model assessment preventing overfitting

4) Ensemble Techniques: Implementation of advanced ensemble methods such as Extra Trees

B. Clinical Significance and Implementation

The superior performance of automated models presents important clinical implications:

- Early Detection Enhancement: Improved prediction accuracy enables earlier intervention approaches

- Resource Management: Enhanced risk classification supports optimal healthcare resource distribution

- Decision Support Improvement: Provides objective risk evaluation supporting clinical decision-making

- Implementation Scalability: Automated approaches enable deployment across various healthcare environments

C. Research Limitations

Several limitations require recognition:

- Dataset Scale Limitations: Restricted to 303 observations, potentially impacting generalizability

- Variable Coverage: Only 11 variables considered; additional biomarkers could improve performance
- Temporal Aspects: Static prediction without temporal patient condition changes
- External Validation Needs: Results require validation on independent datasets from different populations

VI. Conclusions and Future Research

This research successfully establishes the effectiveness of combining traditional machine learning techniques with automated machine learning for cardiac event prediction. The auto- mated framework EvalML achieved superior performance (88.7% AUC) compared to traditional algorithms while requiring minimal manual setup.

Primary Contributions:

1) Comprehensive comparative evaluation of multiple machine learning algorithms for cardiac prediction
2) Novel implementation of EvalML for cardiac disease prediction
3) Validation of automated machine learning benefits in medical diagnostic applications
4) Practical deployment framework for clinical environments

Future Research Opportunities:

- Large-scale Validation: Assessment on larger, multi-institutional datasets
- Real-time Deployment: Development of real-time prediction systems
- Multi-modal Integration: Incorporating imaging and genetic data
- Temporal Analysis: Time-series prediction of cardiac events
- Interpretable AI: Enhanced model transparency for clinical acceptance

The outcomes strongly endorse automated machine learning technology integration in health-care applications, providing improved accuracy and reduced complexity for cardiac disease prediction systems.

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