Neuro Spiral: Harnessing Convolutional Neural Networks for Parkinson's Diagnosis

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Abstract

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is one of the most prevalent and incurable neurological disorders, with its global impact increasingly alarmingly. Early and accurate detection of PD remains a critical challenge, particularly in identifying fine motor impairments. In this study, we propose a novel system to differentiate PD patients from healthy individuals using sketch-based analysis of spiral drawings. By utilizing a set of sketches derived from the PD patients and healthy groups, we classify a set of sketches based on the approach developed through deep learning that applies Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). We thus get a classification that depicts an efficient recognition system. Therefore, in the current experiments, it shows how accurately CNN recognizes a set of people as having the problem.

Keywords: *Parkinson's Disease, Fine Motor Symptoms, Sketching, Spiral Drawing, Convolutional Neural Networks, Deep Learning, Early Detection, Classification, Neurological Disorder, PD Detection, Image Analysis.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The clinical features include progressive tremors, bradykinesia, and the like in Parkinson's Disease (PD). Early and accurate diagnosis is critical to effective management; however, traditionally used methods often lack objective measures. Spiral drawing tests emerged as a useful tool for measuring motor performance that captured subtle levels of motor impairment in PD patients.
This paper develops the deep learning technique using Convolutional Neural Networks that classify Parkinson's disease patients with healthy controls according to the respective spiral sketches by using it, which shall yield an efficient non-invasive tool that can early determine PD with minimum error rate.

Problem Statement:

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a degenerative neurological condition mainly impairing the motor skills. Its two main features are tremor and bradykinesia. It has become clear that the disease has to be diagnosed as early as possible so that proper patient care and disease control could be provided. Still, traditional diagnostic procedures of PD remain clinical evaluations and thus unreliable, which fails to identify motor deficits in early stages. Existing tools, such as spiral drawing tests, have been shown to be promising in identifying motor dysfunction but rely heavily on manual analysis or basic image processing techniques that may not provide high accuracy or scalability.
This research addresses such limitations by suggesting an advanced deep learning-based system using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to classify spiral sketches, thus distinguishing between patients with PD and healthy individuals. The goal is to develop an efficient, objective, and automated diagnostic tool capable of accurately detecting early motor impairments associated with PD, thus giving a more reliable alternative to the traditional methods.

Aim of the project:

The objective of this project is to design an early and precise detection system using deep learning that can classify the spiral sketches through a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) to support non-invasive, automated diagnostics for Parkinson's Disease.

Project Domain:

This falls under the domain of **Healthcare Technology** and Artificial Intelligence, focusing on the application of **Deep Learning** and **Image Processing** for developing a diagnostic system for Parkinson's Disease based on spiral sketch analysis.

Scope of the Project:

The main aim of this project is to change the face of early detection in Parkinson's Disease by using deep learning techniques. CNNs are to be used on spiral sketches in order to classify a person as either a PD patient or a healthy control. This scope would encompass developing a strong, non-invasive, cost-effective, and scalable tool that can diagnose individuals. The system can support the healthcare provider to provide earlier intervention and improved management of disease. It also has the potential to be integrated in mobile applications and telemedicine platforms, thereby reaching remote and underserved populations.

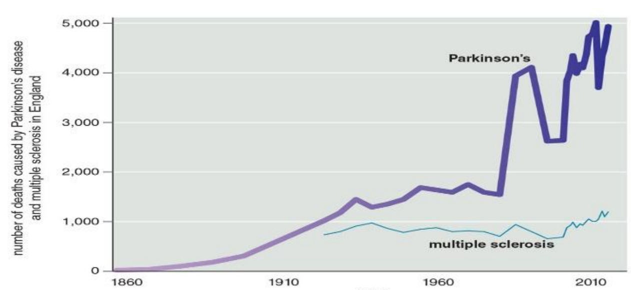

Figure 1

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Parkinson's Disease has been a more researched condition because it not only affects the motor functions but also the quality of life associated with it. From the traditional diagnostic methods to the most advanced handwriting and spiral image analysis, this survey will outline some of the important studies related to more potential new approaches in early diagnosis and assessment of symptoms.

Early research concerned itself with symptoms of PD: [1]. A 2022 study published early-stage experiences of patients suffering from PD that include bradykinesia, tremor, rigidity, fatigue, depression, sleep disturbances, and pain among the most obvious symptoms. That work stressed a need for such patient-reported outcome instruments tailored to such symptoms in bettering clinical trials assessments. [2] Jankovic and Tan (2020) discussed PD as a multi-system disorder, dividing its motor and non-motor symptoms. Their paper described how motor impairments like tremor and rigidity compromise balance and gait. They evaluated aggregation of α-synuclein as the primary pathogenic mechanism and appealed for appropriate biomarkers for proper diagnosis.[3] Traditional diagnostic methods relied heavily on clinical observation. A 2016 study highlighted the importance of conventional tools such as motor tests, which are subjective and often fail to detect early-stage PD, thus a need for more objective approaches.[4] Soman et al. (2023) presented a novel methodology using the Scalable Precision Medicine Open Knowledge Engine (SPOKE). They enhanced EHRs by embedding patient data onto a biomedical knowledge graph, allowing classifiers to predict PD years before clinical onset, paving the way for early detection and personalized interventions. [5] Poluha et al. (1998) pioneered handwriting analysis to assess PD symptoms, revealing that micrographia and tremor-induced distortions in handwriting correlate strongly with motor dysfunction. Their study provided a foundation for exploring handwriting as a diagnostic tool.[6] Drotár et al. (2014) introduced in-air movement analysis during handwriting as a new marker for PD. Their study demonstrated how parameters like in-air time and pen transitions improve the accuracy of PD classification.[7] Drotár et al. (2016) extended this work, analyzing handwriting kinematics and pressure features. This study demonstrated that pen pressure variations were very effective in differentiating PD patients from healthy controls, with an accuracy of 82.5%. [8] A study conducted in 2015 had investigated the effects of PD on motor functions, focusing specifically on gait and postural instability. The results had suggested a very close correlation between poor motor control and disease progression.[9] Zham et al. (2017) proposed a new index named Composite Index of Speed and Pen-pressure (CISP), using spiral sketches. Their paper proved that integration of speed and pressure parameters may effectively evaluate PD severity.[10] A 2021 study focused on traditional motor tests for PD diagnosis, such as the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS), highlighting their limitations in early detection and the need for objective biomarkers.[11] A 2018 study explored how digital tools, such as digitized pens, can capture handwriting kinematics, providing real-time insights into motor impairments caused by PD.[12] A 2019 study analyzed spiral drawing tasks to assess tremor severity in PD patients. The study concluded that spiral analysis could serve as a reliable tool for quantifying motor dysfunctions.[13] A 2020 research introduced automated handwriting analysis systems for PD diagnosis. By analyzing spatial and temporal features of handwriting, this approach offered a non-invasive and scalable solution.[14] During 2023, AI-based diagnostic tools in PD were considered. The advancements included deep learning algorithms to read handwriting and spiral sketches for improving accuracy and detection of the condition early.[15] An evaluation of tasks for spiral sketching was published in 2024 for diagnosing bradykinesia. The evaluation emphasized the possible diagnostic use of the task, which further established spiral image analysis as a technique for early diagnosis of PD with traditional and modern techniques.

III. Methodology

A. Data Collection

The dataset for this project is sourced from Kaggle, which contains spiral sketches of Parkinson's Disease (PD) patients and healthy controls. This dataset will be used as the basis for training and testing the machine learning models..

B. Data Preprocessing

- **Data Augmentation:** to increase the diversity of the training data and avoid overfitting, data augmentation techniques are applied, such as rotating, flipping, zooming, and varying brightness or contrast of the images. This helps generate more varied images to improve the model's robustness and generalization.
- **Normalization**: Data is normalized for ensuring the consistent scaling so that spiral sketches are analyzed to help in comparison between different participants' drawings.

C. Feature Extraction

This is the extraction of relevant features from the spiral images.

- **Geometrical Features:** Such parameters include the tightness of spirals, symmetry patterns, and completeness in shapes, and it is possible that some of these will distinguish between patients with PD and healthy controls.

D. Model development

This paper uses a machine learning approach by employing Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to classify the spiral sketches:

- **Model Selection:** CNNs are selected because they can extract hierarchical features from image data. These models can automatically learn patterns in spiral sketches that distinguish between PD patients and healthy controls.
- **Model Training**: Model Training: After splitting the data into training and test sets, the CNN is trained on a labeled sketch, using a kind of supervised approach. Hyper parameters like the numbers of layers used and filter sizes are optimized, and the final classification is then achieved.

E. Data Visualization

Interpretation of the model results is done through visualizing the extracted features and classification results.:

Results of classification by CNN: The result of the classification by CNN, for example accuracy, confusion matrix, graphs and tables for easy interpretation and comparison.

F. Scalability and Deployment

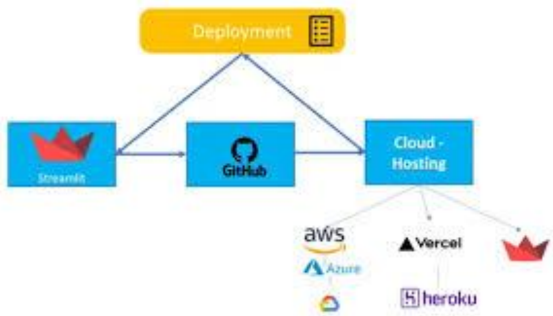

Figure 2

The system is designed to be scalable and easy to implement in real-world clinical settings:

- **Streamlit:** is utilized as the deployment framework to make the model interactive and accessible for users. This allows users to upload test images, view predictions. This simplicity of Streamlit makes the integration of the CNN model effortless, so users can interact with the app without requiring extensive technical knowledge.

IV. Implementation

A. Environment Setup: To begin the implementation, a suitable development environment is set up. This includes

- ***Software Requirements***: *Install Python and the required libraries, including TensorFlow, OpenCV, NumPy, Keras, Matplotlib, and Jupyter Notebook.*
- ***Data Storage:*** The dataset is sourced from Kaggle and stored as separate .npz files for training and testing. These files contain arrays of spiral drawing data created by healthy individuals and Parkinson's patients, used for model training and evaluation.

B. Data Import: The next step involves importing and visualization of data

- **Data Import and visualization:** The spiral drawing data is imported from .npz files using NumPy. Healthy and affected sketches are visualized using OpenCV to differentiate the patterns. This allows an effective comparison between the drawings of healthy individuals and Parkinson's patients.

C. Data Preprocessing: Once the data is loaded,

- **Data Augmentation:** This is done with the Keras' ImageDataGenerator for increasing the diversity of training images. It makes use of rotations, zooming, and flipping to artificially enlarge the dataset to improve model robustness and generalization. This helps in training the model on varied input data to have a better performance on unseen examples**.**
- **Image Preprocessing**: Resized the images into 128 x 128, converted them into grayscale, normalized by scaling their pixel values; encoded labels with numbers for the model to work on. Thus, the inputs are consistent and in the correct format

Figure 3

D. Model architecture defining: The model is defined using a convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture

- **Model definition and building**: A CNN model is constructed using multiple convolutional layers, max-pooling, dropout regularization, and dense layers. Then it is compiled using an Adam optimizer and categorical cross-entropy loss. The model is trained for 70 epochs on the training data to classify spiral drawings as healthy or Parkinson's categories.

E. Classification report and Visualization: to get a gist of the loss and accuracy and also take a look at the test predictions.

- **Loss and Accuracy Curve:** Plot the training and validation loss and accuracy over epochs to monitor the performance of the model.
- **Classification Report:** Generate a confusion matrix and classification report to assess precision, recall, and F1-score for each class**.**
- **Sample Test:** Run a sample test on the model using the test dataset to predict and evaluate its performance on unseen data.

H. Deployment and Integration: Once the system is successfully tested and optimized

- **Saving Model:** The model weights from the last epoch are saved to a file, ensuring the trained model can be reloaded for future use or deployment.
- **Streamlit App:** Deploy the trained model through a Streamlit app that allows users to upload images and receive predictions.
- **Scalability:** The model and the application are created with scalability in mind, so it can support greater amounts of data and user requests without performance dropping..

V. Result and Discussion:

A. Model Performance:

The model was able to classify Parkinson's disease effectively from spiral drawing data with high accuracy and differentiate between healthy and affected individuals. This confirms its ability to detect Parkinson's disease at an early stage through motor function abnormalities..

B. Loss and Accuracy Trends: During training, the model's loss decreased and accuracy increased with stabilizing after a certain number of epochs. This means that the model learned the features from the dataset well and generalized well to the validation set.

C. *Data Quality Impact:* *H*igh-quality data for training is the model's strong performance. Ensuring consistency and diversity in the dataset can significantly impact the model's ability to generalize across different patient conditions, thereby improving overall detection accuracy.

D. *Future Work*: Additional work could incorporate data sources other than speech, including motion, which would be important in enhancing the model's robustness and accuracy. Additionally, optimization of the dataset and consideration of more sophisticated architectures for deep learning like transfer learning might improve the ability to detect tough cases. Finally, a field test could determine the clinical application of the model in the actual clinical settings for diagnosing Parkinson's disease.

E. *Key Observations*: : The classified test data revealed one positive (Parkinson's) image (figure 6) with irregular spiral patterns and one negative (healthy) image (figure 5) with smooth spirals, thus demonstrating the model's ability to distinguish between healthy and affected individuals based on motor impairments...

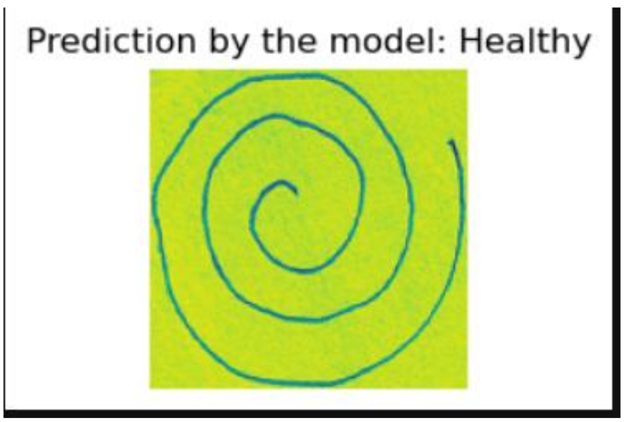

Figure 5

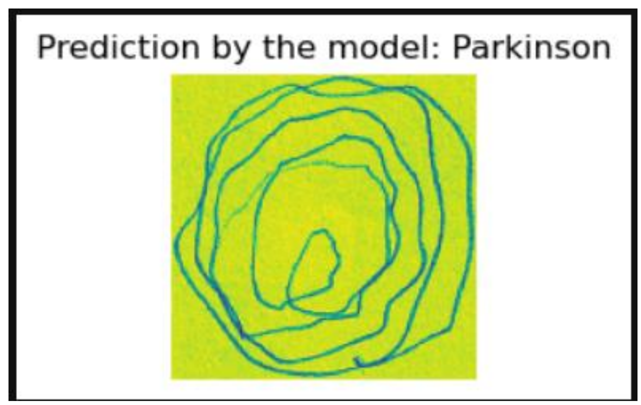

Figure 6

VI. Conclusion:

This project successfully developed a CNN-based model for the detection of Parkinson's disease from spiral drawing images. The model performed well and differentiated between healthy and Parkinson's patients with high accuracy, indicating its applicability in early diagnosis. Several techniques were applied, including data preprocessing and augmentation, to improve generalization and avoid overfitting. The model was trained on a well-structured dataset, ensuring high accuracy and reliable predictions. Moreover, the deployment of the model through a Streamlit app facilitated real-time predictions, making it a practical tool for clinicians in a clinical setting. The application provides a user-friendly interface, allowing easy interaction with the model. Scaling is another important emphasis, which should allow the addition of speech and motion data later on. The model could also be further developed to improve the performance and bring it closer to real-world use. The work is a tremendous step toward making deep learning used in medical diagnosis, especially with early-stage detection of Parkinson's. Using non-invasive, cost-effective methods such as spiral drawing analysis, the model holds a bright promise for a timely diagnosis, which in turn can result in effective treatment. This project then must be regarded as a huge success for creating further exploration and development into the use of AI-driven healthcare solutions..

Key Achievements:

Portability and Early Alert Diagnosis: This model can allow for early detection of Parkinson's at an early stage, where the affected can be treated with early intervention.

Predicting from Simple Drawing Test: The model can predict the disease of Parkinson's from simple spiral drawing tests and is cost-effective and non-invasive.

Web Availability with Streamlit: It ensures accessibility and availability by making the model accessible via a Streamlit app and allows users and clinicians to interact with the model online for real-time predictions

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