

Classification of Brain Tumors by Image Processing and Ensemble Learning

1st Hakan Tekgul

*Electrical and Computer Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
Metz, France
htekgul3@gatech.edu*

2nd Jad Sinno

*Electrical and Computer Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
Metz, France
jsinno3@gatech.edu*

3rd Madhur Gupta

*Electrical and Computer Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
Metz, France
mgupta325@gatech.edu*

Abstract—When diagnosed at a late stage, brain cancers and tumors provide very short life expectancy and a high mortality rate because of their aggressive nature. In order to diagnose and detect the tumor on the brain at the earliest stage possible, various medical imaging techniques such as Computed Tomography (CT) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) are used. Unfortunately, the diagnosis and treatment of the tumor depends highly on the physician’s medical knowledge. Hence, many different systems have been proposed in the past decade to automatically detect brain tumors by using machine learning. One major problem with these approaches is the fact that they usually need lots of training data (MRI Scans).

In this project, we detect brain tumors from MRI images with a limited amount of training data, around 120 images. Specifically, we use an ensemble learning approach that is based on Support Vector Machines (SVM). After applying image processing techniques such as low-pass filtering to all the images, the most common prediction from different SVM classifiers is chosen for a testing image. Validation accuracies are used to select the best image processing techniques and their optimal parameters. Our experimental results suggest that the Ensemble Classifier achieves an accuracy of 87% with low time complexity.

Index Terms—Brain Tumor, Image Classification, Ensemble Learning, Medical Imaging, SVM

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Motivation

Brain cancers and tumors affect the life of humans negatively, as abnormal growth of brain cells damage the functioning of the brain and might even lead to death. With increased usage of cell phones, the incidence rate of brain tumors is predicted to rise rapidly[REF]. Furthermore, the mortality rate of brain cancers have also been increasing constantly in the past decade[REF]. In order to reduce the mortality rate and treat brain tumors, diagnosis should be done in the earliest stage possible.

Medical imaging is used to diagnose and visualize different types of tumors in the human body. Various medical imaging techniques such as CT Scan, MRI, or X-Ray is used in hospitals for diagnosis. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is generally used for brain tumor diagnosis as it shows the inside of the brain with contrast. With the use of MRI, brain tumors are identified as soon as possible by many physicians. However, some MRI scans are hard to read and there is a

chance that physicians can make a mistake during diagnosis. When a physician decides that a tumor in the brain does not exist but in reality there is a tumor, a false negative diagnosis occurs and such diagnosis can be catastrophic for the patient. Hence, many different systems have been proposed in the past decade that automatically identifies brain tumors in an MRI scan. Even though most of these approaches have good accuracy and results, they usually need a huge number of training data and computation resources. Therefore, new approaches for brain tumor classification must be considered.

In this work, we propose to detect brain tumors from MRI images with a limited amount of training data. Specifically, we use image processing and ensemble learning through Support Vector Machines (SVM) to classify whether an MRI scan has a tumor or not. Our main goal in this study is to maximize the classification accuracy and minimize the number of false negatives. We use different image processing techniques, including Low-Pass Filter (LPF), High-Pass Filter (HPF), Median Filter (MF), and Low-Pass - High-Pass Filter (LPF+HPF). Then, we apply different machine learning algorithms such as k-NN, SVM, and Neural Networks (NN). To summarize, we make three main contributions in this paper:

- We apply different image filters to MRI scans and analyze the best processing technique for tumor detection.
- We experiments with three different machine learning algorithms and state their accuracy for different image processing techniques.
- We propose an ensemble learning approach that successfully identifies a tumor in the brain with a minimum number of false negatives.

Our experimental results suggest that LPF+HPF is the best filter to use for tumor detection, with an average classification accuracy of 84%. Additionally, we observed that Support Vector Machines (SVM) gives the optimal results in terms of classification. Finally, our ensemble learning approach that is based on different filters and Support Vector Machines outputs a classification accuracy of 87% and a 2% false negative rate.

B. Related Work

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Image Preprocessing

B. Image Filtering

C. Machine Learning

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

IV. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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REFERENCES

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