A Major Project Synopsis on

Alzheimer's Disease Detection

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by

HARIPRASAD J P

23FS20MCA00017

Under the guidance of

Dr. Linesh Raja, Associate Professor

Department of Computer Applications

School of AIML, IoT&IS, CCE, DS and Computer Applications

Faculty of Science, Technology and Architecture

Manipal University Jaipur

Rajasthan, India

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Introduction:

Alzheimer's Disease (AD), a devastating neurodegenerative disorder, progressively strips individuals of their memories and cognitive abilities. Traditional diagnostic methods, such as clinical evaluations and manual MRI analysis, often face challenges like subjectivity and time delays, which can hinder early intervention [1]. This project seeks to address these limitations by developing an automated deep learning system using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to detect Alzheimer's from MRI scans, enabling faster and more reliable diagnoses.

Abstract:

Alzheimer's Disease affects over 55 million people globally, with cases expected to triple by 2050 due to aging populations [2]. Current diagnostic practices, including cognitive tests and PET scans, are resource-intensive and lack consistency across diverse populations [3]. This project proposes a CNN-based framework to classify MRI scans into four critical stages: Non-Demented, Very Mild Demented, Mild Demented, and Moderate Demented. By automating feature extraction and leveraging large-scale neuroimaging datasets, the system aims to achieve higher diagnostic accuracy than traditional methods while reducing human error. The solution integrates advanced data preprocessing, model optimization, and a clinically interpretable web interface to support real-world healthcare workflows.

Objective of the Project:

1. Early Diagnosis: Detect subtle brain changes in MRI scans to identify Alzheimer's before severe symptoms manifest.

2. Accuracy Enhancement: Utilize CNNs' self-learning capabilities to improve classification precision over manual assessments.

3. Automation: Streamline diagnosis by minimizing reliance on subjective clinical judgments.

4. Clinical Integration: Develop a scalable tool to assist neurologists in treatment planning and patient monitoring.

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's is characterized by amyloid-beta plaque accumulation and neurofibrillary tangles in the brain, which disrupt neuronal communication and lead to irreversible cognitive decline [4]. Early-stage symptoms include forgetfulness and confusion, progressing to severe memory loss and inability to perform daily tasks.

Statistical Data on Alzheimer's Disease:

- Global Burden: 60–70% of dementia cases are attributed to Alzheimer's, costing healthcare systems over $1 trillion annually [5].

- Diagnostic Gaps: Up to 50% of cases remain undiagnosed in low-income regions due to limited access to advanced imaging tools [6].

Project Overview:

This project focuses on training a CNN model using MRI scans taken from the Keggle . The model will classify scans into four stages, providing clinicians with probabilistic predictions and visual explanations of brain regions contributing to the diagnosis.

Literature Review:

Recent studies highlight the potential of deep learning in Alzheimer's detection. A few papers are mentioned here:

- Traditional ML Limitations: SVM and Random Forest models achieved only 70–75% accuracy due to reliance on handcrafted features [7].

- CNN Advancements: 3D CNN architectures improved accuracy to 89% by capturing spatial patterns in MRI volumes [8].

- Explainability: Gradient-weighted Class Activation Mapping (Grad-CAM) has emerged as a key tool for interpreting CNN decisions in medical imaging [9].

Existing System vs. Proposed System:

Existing System:

- Manual assessments by radiologists are time-consuming and prone to inter-rater variability [10].

- Machine learning models like PCA-SVM struggle with noisy data and small sample sizes [11].

Proposed System:

- Adaptive Preprocessing: Incorporates skull-stripping and histogram normalization to enhance scan quality [12].

- Hybrid CNN: Combines ResNet50's transfer learning with custom layers for stage-specific classification [13].

- Real-Time Feedback: A Flask-based web app delivers results within 10 seconds of scan upload.

Proposed Methodology:

1. Dataset Collection: MRI scans sourced from Keggle.

2. Preprocessing: Noise reduction using Gaussian filters, augmentation via rotation/flipping [14].

3. Model Design: A 15-layer CNN with dropout (0.3) and Adam optimizer (learning rate = 0.001).

4. Evaluation: Stratified 5-fold cross-validation to ensure robustness across demographics.

Application:

The web application, designed for hospitals and clinics, allows users to upload anonymized MRI scans. The system returns a diagnostic report with confidence scores, highlighted regions of interest (e.g., hippocampal atrophy), and recommended next steps (e.g., cognitive testing).

System Requirements:

Hardware: i5 processor, 4GB RAM (sufficient for inference; training requires cloud GPUs).

Software: Python 3.8, TensorFlow 2.10, Flask 2.2, and OpenCV for image processing.

Research Scope:

Peer-reviewed articles (2020–2023) from IEEE Xplore, PubMed, and ScienceDirect were prioritized. Conference papers and non-English studies were excluded.

Expected Outcomes:

- A CNN model with >90% accuracy on multi-class validation, outperforming existing methods [15].

- Open-source deployment of the web app to facilitate global adoption.

- A clinical validation study partnering with neurology departments at three hospitals.

Conclusion:

By integrating deep learning with neuroimaging, this project aims to transform Alzheimer's diagnosis from reactive to proactive. The tool's ability to detect early-stage biomarkers could delay disease progression through timely interventions, improving quality of life for millions.

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