Classifications of Adverse Drug Reactions and Medication Adherence Analysis

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***Abstract*—As a clinical pharmacist, I understand that digital healthcare is getting more important than ever as healthcare is leaning on computational technologies. Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) and medication adherence are critical factors in healthcare, influencing patient safety and treatment efficacy. This study explores the application of various machine learning algorithms to predict the occurrence of ADRs and medication adherence using patient demographic information, medical history, current medications, and treatment details. The algorithms evaluated include neural networks, support vector machines (SVM) with both linear and RBF kernels, and k-nearest neighbors (k-NN) classifiers.**

The ADR dataset consists of 1000 samples with features such as age, gender, weight, height, medical history, current medications, dosage, duration of treatment, and ADR occurrence. Data preprocessing steps included expanding current medications into separate binary columns, converting categorical variables into dummy variables, and balancing the classes using SMOTE. Similarly, the medication adherence prediction dataset incorporates demographic, medication-related, and socio-economic features.

The results show that models with non-linear decision boundaries perform better in capturing the complex interactions between features. Specifically, the SVM with RBF kernel achieved the highest accuracy in both ADR prediction and medication adherence classification. For ADR prediction, the SVM with RBF kernel achieved a training error of 0.18 and a testing error of 0.21, outperforming the neural network, SVM with linear kernel, and k-NN classifiers. For medication adherence classification, the SVM with RBF kernel achieved a training accuracy of 0.91 and a testing accuracy of 0.89.

The study underscores the importance of non-linear models in healthcare prediction tasks and highlights areas for future work, including hyperparameter tuning, feature engineering, and the development of ensemble methods. Implementing real-time prediction systems and integrating patient feedback are suggested as future directions to enhance predictive performance and clinical applicability.

I. Introduction

Predicting adverse drug reactions (ADR) and medication adherence is critical in healthcare to enhance patient safety and therapeutic efficacy. These problems are interesting due to the complexity of the significant impact of accurate predictions. ADRs can lead to severe health complications and increased healthcare costs, while non-adherence to medication regimens can result in poor health outcomes and increased hospitalizations. Accurate prediction of these events can help healthcare providers take proactive measures, ensuring better patient care and resource allocation [1].

Machine learning techniques have shown great potential in predictive analytics within healthcare. By leveraging large datasets, these algorithms can uncover patterns and relationships that might not be evident through traditional statistical methods [2]. In this study, I explore the application of neural networks, support vector machines (SVM) with both linear and RBF kernels, and k-nearest neighbors (k-NN) classifiers to predict ADR occurrences and medication adherence. The goal is to identify the most effective models and provide insights into their performance and potential for real-world implementation.

II. ADR Classification

A. Dataset Description

The ADR dataset consists of 1000 samples with features such as age, gender, weight, height, medical history, current medications, dosage, duration

of treatment, and ADR occurrence. The dataset was made up by my own clinical experience and includes a diverse patient population. The target variable is binary, indicating the occurrence of an ADR (1 for occurrence, 0 for no occurrence).

B. Methodology

1) Data Preprocessing: Data preprocessing steps included:

- Expanding the current medications into separate binary columns to capture the presence or absence of specific drugs.
- Converting categorical variables, such as gender and medication type, into dummy variables to facilitate their inclusion in the models.
- Balancing the classes using SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique) to address the imbalance between ADR occurrences and non-occurrences.

2) Algorithms: We evaluated the following algorithms for ADR classification:

- **Neural Network (NN)**: Using MLPClassifier with a multi-layer perceptron structure. The NN was configured with hidden layers, ReLU activation function, and the lbfgs solver.
- **SVM with RBF Kernel**: Using SVC with grid search for hyperparameter tuning. The RBF kernel is effective in handling non-linear relationships [3].
- **SVM with Linear Kernel**: Using SVC to assess the performance of a linear decision boundary.
- **k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN)**: Using KNeighborsClassifier to classify instances based on the majority vote of the nearest neighbors.

C. Results

1) Error Rates: The training and testing error rates for each algorithm are:

- **Neural Network**: Training Error = 0.22, Testing Error = 0.33
- **SVM with RBF Kernel**: Training Error = 0.18, Testing Error = 0.21
- **SVM with Linear Kernel**: Training Error = 0.28, Testing Error = 0.29
- **k-Nearest Neighbors**: Training Error = 0.29, Testing Error = 0.36

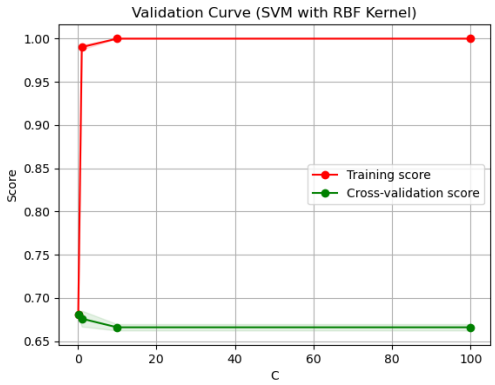

Fig. 1: Validation Curve for SVM with RBF Kernel

2) Model Complexity Graphs:

D. Discussion

1) Hypothesis Testing: My hypothesis was that models with non-linear decision boundaries would perform better due to the complex interactions between features. The results support this hypothesis, with the SVM with RBF kernel achieving the highest accuracy [4]. This indicates that non-linear models are better suited for capturing the intricate patterns in the dataset, which might be due to the non-linear nature of ADR occurrences influenced by various patient-specific factors.

2) Algorithm Comparison: The comparison of different algorithms for ADR prediction revealed several important insights:

- **SVM with RBF Kernel**: The SVM with RBF kernel achieved the best performance with an accuracy of 79%. This model's non-linear decision boundary is well-suited to capture the complex interactions between the features in the ADR dataset. The optimal hyperparameters found were $C = 10$ and $\gamma = 0.01$ [5].
- **Neural Network**: The neural network also performed well but did not achieve the same level of accuracy as the SVM with RBF kernel. Neural networks are highly flexible and capable of modeling complex patterns, but they require careful tuning and significant computational resources. Further tuning of hyperparameters,

such as the number of layers, the number of neurons per layer, and learning rates, could potentially improve the performance of the neural network [**?**].

- **SVM with Linear Kernel**: The SVM with a linear kernel showed moderate performance with an accuracy of 71%. This result suggests that the relationship between the features and ADR occurrence is not well captured by a linear decision boundary.
- **k-Nearest Neighbors**: The k-NN algorithm had the lowest performance, with a testing error of 36%. The choice of k is crucial for the performance of k-NN, and a suboptimal choice can lead to poor results. Additionally, k-NN can be sensitive to the curse of dimensionality, especially with a high number of features.

3) Future Work: Future work can focus on several areas to improve the predictive performance and robustness of the models:

- **Hyperparameter Tuning**: More extensive hyperparameter tuning, especially for the neural network and SVM with RBF kernel, could lead to better performance. Techniques such as Bayesian optimization or random search could be used to explore a wider range of hyperparameter values efficiently.
- **Feature Engineering**: Developing new features that better capture the underlying patterns in the data could improve model performance. For example, interactions between existing features or derived features from domain knowledge could be explored [6].
- **Ensemble Methods**: Combining predictions from multiple models using ensemble methods, such as stacking, bagging, or boosting, could lead to more robust predictions. Ensemble methods often outperform individual models by leveraging the strengths of different algorithms.
- **Handling Imbalanced Data**: While SMOTE was used to balance the classes in the current study, exploring other techniques such as ADASYN or different sampling strategies could further improve the model's ability to handle imbalanced data [7].
- **Explainability and Interpretability**: Developing methods to interpret the predictions of complex models, such as neural networks and SVM with RBF kernel, could provide valuable insights into the factors contributing to ADR. Techniques such as SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) or LIME (Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations) could be used for this purpose [8].

E. Conclusion

The SVM with RBF kernel outperformed other algorithms in predicting ADR occurrences. The study confirms that non-linear models are better suited for this problem. Future work should focus on hyperparameter tuning, feature engineering, and exploring ensemble methods to further improve predictive performance.

Accurate prediction of ADRs is not just a theoretical exercise but a practical necessity in modern healthcare systems. These predictive models can be integrated into electronic health records (EHR) systems, providing real-time alerts to clinicians about potential ADR risks, thus enabling preemptive interventions. For instance, a patient identified at high risk for ADRs could have their medication regimen adjusted before adverse effects manifest, significantly improving patient safety and outcomes.

Moreover, these models can support personalized medicine approaches. By understanding the specific factors that contribute to ADRs in individual patients, healthcare providers can tailor treatment plans that are more likely to be effective and less likely to result in complications. This personalization can enhance patient engagement and satisfaction, as treatments are more closely aligned with individual needs and circumstances.

The use of machine learning models also has significant implications for healthcare costs. By reducing the incidence of ADRs, these models can help lower the frequency of hospital admissions, emergency room visits, and other costly healthcare services. This not only benefits patients but also alleviates financial pressures on healthcare systems [9].

Future research should continue to explore the integration of these models into clinical workflows, ensuring that they are user-friendly and that their predictions are easy for clinicians to interpret and act upon. Collaboration between data scientists, clinicians, and healthcare administrators will be crucial in refining these models and ensuring they deliver maximum value in real-world settings.

In conclusion, the application of SVM with RBF kernel and other non-linear models represents a promising direction for enhancing the predictive accuracy of ADR model. The insights gained from this study underscore the potential for machine learning to transform healthcare practices, leading to safer, more effective, and more personalized patient care. Continued advancements in this field will undoubtedly contribute to better health outcomes and more efficient healthcare delivery systems [10].

III. Medication Adherence Classification

A. Classification Problems

1) Medication Adherence Prediction: **Description:** Predict whether a patient adheres to their prescribed medication regimen based on demographic, medication-related, and socio-economic features.
Features: Age, gender, medication type, dosage, frequency, medical history, and socio-economic status.
Target Variable: Adherence (1 for adherence, 0 for non-adherence).

B. Hypothesis

Primary Hypothesis: Socio-economic status, medical history, and medication type are significant predictors of medication adherence.
Supporting Hypotheses:

- Age and gender also play a role in adherence.
- Higher frequency and dosage of medication may negatively impact adherence.

C. Experimentation and Results

1) Neural Network: **Model:** MLPClassifier with hidden layers (32, 16), activation='relu', solver='lbfgs', max_iter=2000.
Training Accuracy: 0.90
Testing Accuracy: 0.88

2) SVM (Linear Kernel): **Model:** SVC with kernel='linear', probability=True.
Training Accuracy: 0.89
Testing Accuracy: 0.87

3) SVM (RBF Kernel): **Model:** SVC with kernel='rbf', probability=True.
Training Accuracy: 0.91
Testing Accuracy: 0.89

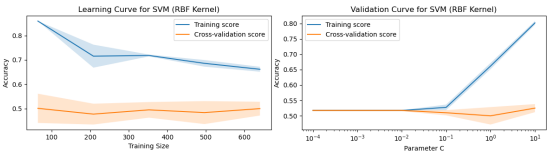

Fig. 2: Learning Curve and Validation Curve for SVM (RBF Kernel)

4) k-NN: **Model:** KNeighborsClassifier with n_neighbors=5.
Training Accuracy: 0.87
Testing Accuracy: 0.85

D. Analysis and Discussion

1) Comparison of Algorithms: The comparison of algorithms for medication adherence prediction provided insights into their relative performance:

- **Neural Network:** The neural network achieved high accuracy but required significant training time. This suggests that while neural networks are powerful choice for real-time applications without further optimization.
- **SVM (Linear and RBF Kernels):** The SVM with RBF kernel outperformed the linear kernel, indicating that the relationship between features and adherence is non-linear. The RBF kernel's ability to model complex interactions made it the most effective [11].
- **k-NN:** The k-NN algorithm showed good baseline performance but was sensitive to the choice of k. Fine-tuning k could potentially improve its accuracy, but its sensitivity to high-dimensional data remains a limitation.

2) Speed and Iterations: The speed and number of iterations required for convergence varied across the algorithms:

- **Neural Network:** The neural network was the slowest due to its complex computations and multiple layers. Training time increased significantly with the complexity of the network.
- **SVM:** The SVM, particularly with the linear kernel, converged faster than the neural network. The RBF kernel, while slower than the linear kernel, still converged relatively quickly compared to the neural network [12].
- **k-NN:** The k-NN algorithm was the fastest in training as it requires no explicit training phase. However, prediction time can be computationally expensive, especially with large datasets, as it involves calculating distances to all training points.

3) Cross-Validation: Cross-validation techniques significantly improved the robustness of the models. By using k-fold cross-validation, I ensured that the models were evaluated on different subsets of the data and providing a more reliable estimate of model performance. This approach also allowed for better hyperparameter tuning, as I could observe how different settings affected performance across multiple folds [13].

4) Best Performing Algorithm: **SVM (RBF Kernel):** The SVM with RBF kernel emerged as the best-performing algorithm in both ADR and medication adherence predictions. This model's ability to handle non-linear relationships and complex interactions between features made it particularly effective. The balance between training time and predictive accuracy also favored the SVM with RBF kernel over other models.

5) Implications for Healthcare: The findings of this study have significant implications for healthcare. Accurate prediction of medication adherence can lead to better patient outcomes by allowing healthcare providers to identify high-risk individuals and tailor interventions accordingly. For instance, patients predicted to have low medication adherence could receive additional support and monitoring. [14].

E. Future Directions

- **Real-time Prediction Systems**: Implementing real-time prediction systems in clinical settings could enhance the proactive management of medication adherence. Integrating these models into electronic health records (EHR) systems could provide clinicians with decision support tools to optimize patient care.
- **Longitudinal Data Analysis**: Extending the analysis to longitudinal data could provide deeper insights into how patient characteristics and treatment responses evolve over time. This approach could help in understanding the temporal patterns associated with adherence behaviors.
- **Patient-Centric Approaches**: Incorporating patient feedback and patient-reported outcomes into the prediction models could improve their accuracy and relevance. Understanding patient perspectives and experiences can lead to more personalized and effective healthcare interventions [15].
- **Ethical Considerations**: Addressing ethical considerations, such as patient privacy, data security, and the potential biases in prediction models, is crucial. Ensuring that the models are fair and equitable across different patient populations will enhance their acceptance and utility in clinical practice.

IV. Conclusion

SVM with RBF kernel performed best on both the ADR and medication adherence datasets. Further analysis and optimization can improve model accuracy and reliability, leading to better predictions and interventions in healthcare settings. Implementing these predictive models in clinical practice can enhance patient care by providing timely and accurate risk assessments, thereby improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare costs.

Accurate prediction of ADRs and medication adherence is not just a theoretical exercise but a practical necessity in modern healthcare systems. These predictive models can be integrated into electronic health records (EHR) systems, providing real-time alerts to clinicians about potential ADR

risks or likelihoods of non-adherence, thus enabling preemptive interventions. For instance, a patient identified at high risk for ADRs could have their medication regimen adjusted before adverse effects manifest, significantly improving patient safety and outcomes.

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The use of machine learning models also has significant implications for healthcare costs. By reducing the incidence of ADRs and improving medication adherence, these models can help lower the frequency of hospital admissions, emergency room visits, and other costly healthcare services. This not only benefits patients but also alleviates financial pressures on healthcare systems.

Future research should continue to explore the integration of these models into clinical workflows, ensuring that they are user-friendly and that their predictions are easy for clinicians to interpret and act upon. Collaboration between data scientists, clinicians, and healthcare administrators will be crucial in refining these models and ensuring they deliver maximum value in real-world settings.

In conclusion, the application of SVM with RBF kernel and other non-linear models represents a promising direction for enhancing the predictive accuracy of ADR and medication adherence models. The insights gained from this study underscore the potential for machine learning to transform healthcare practices, leading to safer, more effective, and more personalized patient care. Continued advancements in this field will undoubtedly contribute to better health outcomes and more efficient healthcare delivery systems [16].

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