

Article

Constructing artificial features with Grammatical Evolution for the motor symptoms of Parkinson's Disease

Aimilios Psathas¹, Ioannis G. Tsoulos^{2,*}, Alexandros Tzallas³ and Vasileios Charillogis⁴

¹ Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Ioannina, Greece; pint00141@uoi.gr

² Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Ioannina, Greece; itsoulos@uoi.gr

³ Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Ioannina, Greece; tzallas@uoi.gr

⁴ Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Ioannina, Greece; v.charilog@uoi.gr

* Correspondence: itsoulos@uoi.gr

Abstract: This study introduces a set of features designed to capture the motor symptoms of Parkinson's Disease (PD) through detailed motion analysis, with a specific focus on how these symptoms change before and after medication. The features reflect key aspects of patient movement, such as tremor intensity, slowness, rigidity, instability, and irregularity in motion patterns. By quantifying how consistently and smoothly a patient performs specific tasks, the features provide insight into motor control quality and neurological function. Crucially, they are labeled according to the patient's state—before and after receiving medication—allowing for a clear comparison of treatment effects. This enables not only objective tracking of symptom severity, but also evaluation of medication responsiveness. These features address a fundamental clinical need: moving beyond subjective observation toward continuous, data-driven monitoring of disease progression and therapeutic effectiveness in Parkinson's Disease. In the current work the impact of feature construction using Grammatical Evolution on previously mentioned features is evaluated. We compare traditional neural architectures (MLP with ADAM, MLP with Genetic Algorithm, and RBF networks) against models trained on artificially constructed features. The results demonstrate a substantial reduction in classification error when 2 to 5 constructed features are used, achieving the lowest error rate (14.33%) with four generated features (FC4GEN), compared to 38.65% for the best baseline model (RBF). These findings highlight the effectiveness of evolutionary feature construction in enhancing classification accuracy.

Keywords: Machine learning; Evolutionary algorithms; Genetic Programming; Grammatical Evolution

Received:

Revised:

Accepted:

Published:

Citation: Psathas, A.; Tsoulos, I.G.;

Tzallas, A.; Charillogis, V.

Constructing artificial features with Grammatical Evolution for the motor symptoms of Parkinson's Disease.

Journal Not Specified **2025**, *1*, 0.

<https://doi.org/>

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1. Introduction

2. Materials and Methods

3. Results

4. Conclusions

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Funding: Please add: “This research received no external funding” or “This research was funded by NAME OF FUNDER grant number XXX.” and “The APC was funded by XXX”. Check carefully that the details given are accurate and use the standard spelling of funding agency names at <https://search.crossref.org/funding>, any errors may affect your future funding.

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5. Title of Site. Available online: URL (accessed on Day Month Year).
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