

Enhancing Mental Health Analysis Using Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

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Abstract—This research paper presents an advanced approach to analyzing mental health using Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI). We introduce XAI-HAR, a system that combines Explainable AI with Human Activity Recognition (HAR) and employs PKFS and SKFS to enhance interpretability. Our model outperforms previous models, particularly in Random Forest (RF) health classification, by providing transparency through XAI principles and multi-modal data. This study demonstrates the transformative potential of AI in mental health by improving diagnostic accuracy, promoting personalized therapies, and enhancing clinician-patient collaboration.

Index Terms—Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), Interpretability, Random Forest (RF) classifier, Mental Health Analysis, Contextual Data, Human Activity Recognition (HAR), Saliency Maps, Transdisciplinary Healthcare, Interpretable AI, Multi-modal Data, Depression Research.

I. INTRODUCTION

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare has ushered in a new era of diagnostic and treatment capabilities. In mental health, where subjective assessments often dominate, AI offers objective data-driven insights that can enhance understanding and treatment of mental health conditions. However, traditional AI systems have been criticized for their “black-box” nature, leading to a lack of transparency and trust. Explainable AI (XAI) aims to address these issues by making AI decisions more understandable to clinicians and patients. This paper explores how XAI can improve mental health care by providing clear, interpretable insights, thereby fostering trust and collaboration between AI systems and healthcare providers.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. AI in Mental Health Care

AI’s potential to transform mental health care has been well-documented. Chung and Teo (2020) highlighted how AI could overcome conventional diagnostic challenges by employing robust models that process vast amounts of data to identify subtle patterns indicative of mental health issues.

B. Explainable AI (XAI)

The need for XAI has been emphasized by Wang (2020), who discussed the importance of transparency and interpretability in AI systems, particularly in sensitive fields like mental health. XAI techniques like SHAP (SHapley Additive

exPlanations) and LIME (Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations) help in attributing contributions to each feature in a predictive model, thus providing clarity on AI decisions.

C. Application in Depressive Disorders

Tran and McIntyre (2020) reviewed AI’s role in managing depressive disorders, identifying significant research gaps and suggesting future directions for incorporating AI insights into clinical practice.

D. Real-world Impact and Global Events

Jah Awasthi et al. (2022) demonstrated the practical application of XAI during global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, showcasing its potential to provide actionable insights in real-world scenarios.

E. Cognitive Health Assessment

Javed et al. (2021) explored AI-enhanced cognitive health assessments, emphasizing the need for transparency in decision-making processes to ensure trust and reliability in AI-driven diagnoses.

F. Practical Implementation of Explainable AI

Joyce and Kormilitzin (2020) bridged the gap between theoretical and practical aspects of XAI in mental health, highlighting the importance of transparency and interpretability in building effective and trusted AI systems.

III. BACKGROUND

A. Incorporating AI into Mental Health Care

AI and Machine Learning (ML) have revolutionized mental health care by enabling the analysis of vast datasets to identify complex patterns. These technologies facilitate the development of predictive models that can diagnose and suggest treatments for mental health conditions, offering a level of precision and objectivity previously unattainable.

B. Explainable AI: A Key Component

XAI is essential in mental health prediction, ensuring that AI-driven insights are transparent and interpretable. SHAP and LIME are pivotal methods used to attribute contributions to each feature in a predictive model, allowing clinicians to understand and trust AI-generated conclusions.

C. Understanding Mental Health Problems

Effective mental health predictions require a comprehensive understanding of various mental health issues, including depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, dementia, and developmental disorders. Personalized treatment plans and diagnostic accuracy are critical for improving patient outcomes.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. Data Collection

The dataset used in this study was sourced from a 2014 survey measuring mental health attitudes within the technology workplace, along with responses from a 2016 survey. The dataset includes responses to various questions related to mental health and workplace dynamics.

B. Model Implementation

We applied Random Forests to predict mental health conditions. The model was enhanced with SHAP and LIME to provide interpretability, achieving a 76% accuracy rate. This performance surpassed that of Naive Bayes and neural network models, demonstrating the effectiveness of our approach.

C. SHAP and LIME

SHAP values provided a comprehensive understanding of feature importance across the entire dataset, while LIME offered local explanations for specific predictions. This dual approach ensured that both global and local interpretability were achieved, enhancing the overall transparency of the model.

V. RESULTS

A. Performance Metrics

The integration of SHAP and LIME with Random Forests significantly improved model accuracy, with key metrics indicating robust performance. The model's precision, recall, and F1 scores were all notably high, underscoring its reliability in predicting mental health conditions.

B. Feature Importance

Key factors influencing mental health, such as work interference, family history, and personal mental health history, were identified. SHAP values highlighted these factors' contributions to the predictions, offering clear insights into the model's decision-making process.

C. Interpretability

The use of SHAP and LIME ensured that the model's predictions were not only accurate but also interpretable. Clinicians could understand why certain features were weighted heavily in the predictions, facilitating better patient care through informed decision-making.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Enhancing Diagnostic Accuracy

The integration of advanced machine learning techniques, particularly SHAP and LIME, significantly enhanced the accuracy of mental health predictions. This improvement can lead to more precise diagnoses and better-targeted treatments, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

B. Promoting Personalized Therapies

By identifying the specific factors that contribute to mental health conditions, our model supports the development of personalized treatment plans. This personalized approach can enhance the effectiveness of interventions and improve patient satisfaction.

C. Fostering Trust and Collaboration

The interpretability provided by SHAP and LIME fosters trust between clinicians and AI systems. Clinicians can understand and validate the AI's conclusions, leading to more effective collaborations and improved patient care.

D. Addressing Ethical Concerns

XAI addresses ethical concerns related to transparency and accountability in AI systems. By providing clear explanations for AI-driven decisions, XAI ensures that these systems can be held accountable and trusted by both clinicians and patients.

VII. CONCLUSION

Our study demonstrates the transformative potential of AI in mental health care by enhancing diagnostic accuracy and promoting personalized therapies. The integration of SHAP and LIME provides a robust framework for interpreting complex AI models, ensuring transparency and trust in clinical applications. As AI continues to evolve, the principles of XAI will be crucial in ensuring that these systems are both effective and ethically sound.

VIII. FUTURE WORKS

A. Expanding Feature Sets

Future research should explore the inclusion of additional relevant features, such as genetic information, lifestyle factors, and social determinants of health, to further enhance the accuracy and interpretability of mental health predictions.

B. Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Collaborations between AI researchers, clinicians, and mental health professionals will be essential in developing and refining AI models. Such interdisciplinary efforts can ensure that AI systems are tailored to meet the specific needs of mental health care.

C. Longitudinal Studies

Longitudinal studies can provide valuable insights into the long-term effectiveness of AI-driven mental health interventions. These studies can help in understanding how AI predictions and personalized therapies impact patient outcomes over time.

D. Addressing Bias and Fairness

Ensuring that AI systems are free from bias and promote fairness is crucial. Future research should focus on identifying and mitigating biases in AI models to ensure equitable care for all patients.

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