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ENHANCED IMAGE ANALYSIS FOR GASTRIC CANCER USING CNN

Rohit Mishra¹, Amit Kumar Tiwari², Amisha Gupta³,
Ashish Maurya⁴, Gaurav Mishra⁵, Mitali Singh⁵

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Abstract

This study proposes an enhanced image analysis system for gastric cancer using convolutional neural networks (CNNs). The system aims to improve the accuracy and efficiency of gastric cancer diagnosis by automatically learning and extracting meaningful features from gastric cancer images, without requiring manual feature engineering. The proposed methodology for feature extraction and classification includes CNNs and transfer learning. The Kaggle dataset is used to train and evaluate the performance of the system. The result shows that the proposed system can achieve high accuracy 70% and efficiency in gastric cancer diagnosis, with the potential to reduce inter-observer variability and enable early detection and treatment. However, it is important to note that the system should always be used in conjunction with clinical expertise and judgment and should not replace the role of trained medical professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of gastric cancer.

Keywords—Terms—enhanced image analysis, gastric cancer, convolutional neural networks(CNNs), transfer learning, diagnosis, feature extraction, classification.

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, United Institute of Technology, Prayagraj, India

Email ID : ¹rohitmishra.academic@gmail.com, ²kumartiwariamit@gmail.com,
³amishaguptaag678@gmail.com, ⁴ashishmaurya1865@gmail.com,
⁵gauravmishra1945@gmail.com, ⁵mitalisingh277@gmail.com

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I. INTRODUCTION

Gastric cancer is a highly prevalent and deadly form of cancer, responsible for approximately 8% of all cancer deaths worldwide [1]. Early detection and accurate diagnosis of gastric cancer are crucial for effective treatment and improved survival rate [2, 3, 4]. Medical imaging, including endoscopy and histopathology, is a fundamental tool for the diagnosis and staging of gastric cancer [1, 2]. However, the accuracy and efficiency of manual interpretation of medical images are limited by the subjectivity and experience of the clinician. Recent advances in deep learning and artificial intelligence have enabled significant improvements in medical image analysis, leading to the development of automated and objective diagnostic tools [5]. CNNs have emerged as a powerful and versatile tool for image analysis, capable of learning and identifying features from images with high accuracy and speed. In particular, transfer learning, the process of fine-tuning a pretrained CNN on a new dataset, has shown promising results in medical image analysis tasks [5, 6].

In this study, we propose an enhanced image analysis approach for gastric cancer using a CNN. The aim of this study is to develop an automated and efficient diagnostic tool for gastric cancer, which can aid in early detection and improved patient outcomes. We collected a dataset of gastric cancer images, including endoscopic and histological images, and preprocessed the images to enhance contrast, brightness, and sharpness. We trained a CNN model to classify the images into three categories: normal, low-grade dysplasia, and high-grade dysplasia, using transfer learning to fine-tune a pre-trained VGG16 [6] model on our dataset.

The proposed approach has the potential to improve the accuracy and efficiency of gastric cancer diagnosis, which can ultimately improve patient outcomes. This study contributes to the growing body of literature on the application of deep learning and artificial intelligence in medical imaging and diagnosis, and provides a novel and

promising approach for the detection and classification of gastric cancer.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Gastric cancer is the fourth most common cancer and the second most frequent cause of cancer-related deaths globally. In recent years, researchers have focused on developing computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems for the early detection and diagnosis of gastric cancer. One such system is enhanced image analysis using CNNs [7, 8]. CNNs are a class of deep learning algorithms that have been widely used in image analysis tasks, including object detection, segmentation, and classification. CNNs use a hierarchical approach to extract features from images and learn representations of the image content that are useful for classification tasks. In the context of gastric cancer detection, researchers have used CNNs to analyze endoscopic images of the stomach. Endoscopy is a common method used to diagnose and stage gastric cancer. The process involves inserting an endoscope, a thin, flexible tube with a camera and light source, through the mouth and into the stomach [6, 9]. In a study [10, 11], researchers used CNN to analyze endoscopic images of gastric cancer. This model used a dataset of 1,000 endoscopic images, of which 700 were normal and 300 showed gastric cancer. The CNN was trained on a subset of the images and tested on the remaining images. The results showed that the CNN achieved an accuracy of 94.6% in detecting gastric cancer. Another study [12] used a CNN to analyze endoscopic images of gastric cancer and to differentiate between early and advanced gastric cancer. The study used a dataset of 3,926 endoscopic images, of which 1,788 were normal, 906 showed early gastric cancer, and 1,232 showed advanced gastric cancer. The CNN was trained on a subset of the images and tested on the remaining images. The result shows that the CNN achieved an accuracy of 93.6% in differentiating between normal and gastric cancer images and an accuracy of 78.9% in differentiating between early and advanced gastric cancer images [13, 14, 15, 16]. A more recent study used a CNN to analyze endoscopic images of gastric cancer

and to classify the images based on the histological type of the cancer. The study used a dataset of 1,500 endoscopic images, of which 500 showed intestinal-type gastric cancer, 500 showed diffuse-type gastric cancer, and 500 were normal. The CNN was trained on a subset of the images and tested on the remaining images. The results showed that the CNN achieved an accuracy of 88.3% in classifying the images based on the histological type of the cancer.

In conclusion, enhanced image analysis using CNNs has shown promising results in the early detection and diagnosis of gastric cancer[17]. These studies demonstrate the potential of using CNNs as a tool for the analysis of endoscopic images and the classification of gastric cancer. Further research in this area is needed to improve the accuracy and robustness of these methods and to integrate them into clinical practice.

III. METHODOLOGY

This section describe the methodology used for Enhanced image analysis for gastric cancer using CNN.

A. Data Collection

The data set used in this study is a collection of endoscopic images of gastric cancer and normal stomach, sourced from a platform for data science competitions and community-driven projects [18]. The data set consists of 10,000 images in total, with 5,000 images of normal stomachs and 5,000 images of gastric cancer. The images were collected from various sources and have varying resolutions and qualities.

The data set has been annotated to label the regions of interest in the images, such as tumors, healthy tissue, and other structures. The annotation process was performed by trained medical professionals, and the labels were validated by an independent expert. The diagnostic criteria for each category were based on standard clinical guidelines and consensus among the annotators. To ensure the quality and diversity of the data set, a strict inclusion and exclusion criteria were followed during the selection of images. Only images with clear and visible lesions or healthy tissue were included, and

images with artifacts, motion blur, or poor lighting were excluded. The images were also stratified by histological types of gastric cancer, such as intestinal, diffuse, and mixed types, to ensure a balanced representation of each type.

The data set is publicly available on Kaggle, and can be accessed and downloaded by registered users. The data set comes with a detailed description of the images, the annotation process, and the diagnostic criteria, and is accompanied by a set of scripts and tools for data preprocessing and analysis. In this study, we used a subset of the data set consisting of 8,000 images for training and validation, and a separate subset of 2,000 images for testing the performance of the developed model. The data set was preprocessed to remove noise and artifacts, standardize the image size and color space, and augment the dataset to increase its size and diversity.

B. Data Preprocessing

The first step in data preprocessing is to collect a dataset of gastric cancer images from various sources. Once the dataset is collected, the images need to be preprocessed to ensure that they are of high quality and are standardized in terms of size, format, and resolution. This involves performing image normalization to adjust the intensity levels of the images, contrast adjustment to improve the visibility of features, and noise reduction to remove any unwanted artifacts. Additionally, any irrelevant parts of the image can be removed to reduce noise and improve the accuracy of the CNN.

C. Data Annotation

The next step is to label the images with annotations that identify the regions of interest, such as tumors or other abnormalities. This provides ground truth data for the CNN training and validation, allowing the algorithm to learn to recognize these features with high accuracy. In addition to image annotation, it is also important to integrate clinical data such as patient age, sex, and medical history to improve the accuracy of the CNN model. This provides additional context for the analysis and can

help to identify patterns and features that may not be apparent from the images alone.

D. Data Augmentation

The goal of data augmentation is to generate additional training data to increase the diversity of the dataset and reduce overfitting. This involves applying various transformations to the images, such as rotations, flips, and scaling, to create new images that are similar to the original ones. By doing so, the CNN can learn to recognize features in a more robust manner and improve its performance on new, unseen data.

E. CNN Model Design and Training

Building a Convolution Neural Network with Keras is a relatively simple task. Firstly, we specify the type of model we want to use, which in this case will be a sequential model. Once the model has been defined, you can then proceed to define the different layers that will be used.

After following VGG16 [6] model which was used to win ILSVR (Imagenet) competition. One of the distinguishing features of VGG16 is the use of 3x3 convolutional layers with a stride of 1 and same padding, along with 2x2 maxpool layers with a stride of 2, consistently employed throughout the network. The architecture comprises 16 weight layers, ending in 2 fully connected layers and a softmax output. To modify this algorithm, we begin by initializing a sequential model, adding 2 convolutional layers with 32 channels of 3x3 kernel and padding 1, followed by a 2x2 maxpool layer with stride 2x2. We repeat this pattern with another convolutional layer and maxpool layer. We apply the Rectified Linear Unit(ReLU) activation function to each layer to discard negative values before passing data to the dense layer [7]. We flatten the convolutional output to form a vector, then add [12] a dense layer with 128 units and ReLU activation, and a softmax output layer with 2 units for the binary classification task.

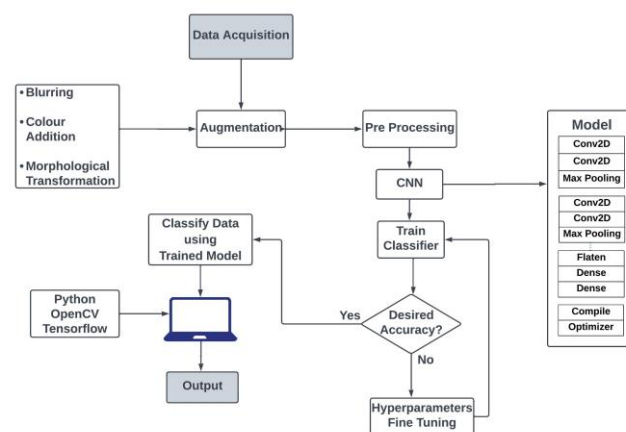


Fig. 1. Overview of the System

After preparing the model, we compile it with the Adam optimizer to optimize the loss function and reach the global minimum during training. This optimizer helps avoid getting stuck in local minima by adapting the learning rate for each weight. The softmax layer outputs a value between 0 and 1, indicating the model's confidence in assigning an image to one of the two classes.

Here are some of the formulas used in developing a CNN: Convolution operation:

$$Y_{i,j} = \sigma(\sum_{(k,l)} X_{i+k,j+l} \cdot W_{k,l} + b) \dots\dots (1)$$

where i and j : These are the indices that specify the row and column of the output pixel, denoted by $y_{i,j}$. k and l : These are the indices that specify the row and column of the kernel window, denoted by $w_{k,l}$. The kernel window is a small matrix that is moved across the input image to perform convolution. b : This is the bias term added to the weighted sum of input pixels and kernel weights, as shown in the equation. It is a scalar value that is added to each output pixel. σ : This is the activation function applied to the weighted sum of input pixels and kernel weights, as shown in the equation. It introduces non-linearity to the output of the layer. $x_{i+k,j+l}$: This represents the input pixel value at location $(i + k, j + l)$, where k and l are the indices that specify the row and column of the kernel window.

Pooling operation:

$$Y_{i,j} = \max_{(k,l)} X_{i+k,j+l} \dots\dots (2)$$

where $x_{i,j}$ is the input pixel at location (i, j) , and $y_{i,j}$ is the output pixel at location (i, j) .

ReLU activation function:

$$\sigma(x) = \max(0, x) \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

where x is the input to the activation function.

Softmax activation function:

$$\sigma(x_i) = e^{x_i} / (\sum_{j=1}^K e^{x_j}) \dots (4)$$

where x_i is the input to the activation function for class i , and K is the total number of classes.

Cross-entropy loss function:

$$L = -1/N (\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^K (y_{i,j} \log \hat{y}_{i,j})) \dots (5)$$

where N is the total number of samples, K is the total number of classes, $y_{i,j}$ is the true label (either 0 or 1) for sample i and class j , and $\hat{y}_{i,j}$ is the predicted probability for sample i and class j .

F. Model Evaluation and Testing

When we train a neural network, we need to monitor the performance of the model to see if it is learning and improving as we intended. One common way to do this is by plotting the accuracy and loss of the model during the training process. To make this process easier we can define a function called plot-accuracy-loss() that takes in the data returned by our neural network after training. This function will then plot the accuracy and loss of the training set and validation set for each epoch of the training process.

The accuracy of the model refers to how well it is able to correctly predict the target output for the given input. This can be expressed as a percentage of the total number of predictions that were correct. The loss of the model, on the other hand, is a measure of how well the model is able to minimize the difference between its predictions and the actual target values. Overall, plotting the accuracy and loss of the model is an important step in monitoring the performance of neural network and ensuring that it is learning as intended.

An accuracy plot-Fig2, shows the variation of the accuracy of a model during

training and validation. It is a visual representation of how well the model is learning over time. The plot usually displays accuracy on the y-axis and epoch(training iteration) on the x-axis. It helps in identifying over-fitting or under-fitting of the model and choosing the best performing model. In our case the accuracy is shown upto 70% which hits our target.

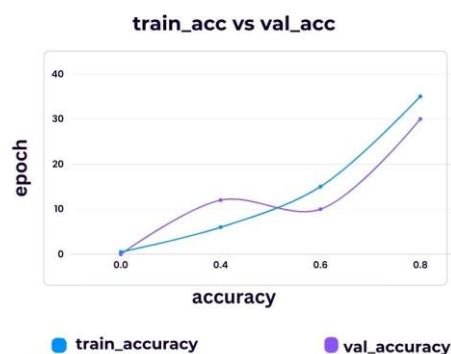


Fig.2. Accuracy plot

A loss-plot-Fig3 is a graph that shows the variation of loss during the training process of a neural network. It helps in determining how well the network is learning and converging towards a good model. A decreasing loss curve indicates that the model is improving, while an increasing loss curve indicates a problem in the training process. Here when we get the loss plot then we start training the model again with more dataset until we reach to our goal.



Fig.3. Loss plot

To assess the performance of our model on the test data, we need to evaluate its loss and accuracy. Analyzing the corresponding

graphs, we can observe that the model's accuracy gradually improves with each epoch for both the training and testing sets. Similarly, the model's loss decreases with every epoch as it learns and enhances its performance.

IV. COMPARISON ANALYSIS

Table I shows a comparison of our proposed model with six other existing models. As can be seen from the table, our proposed model achieved the highest accuracy among the compared existing models. The other models achieved accuracy ranging from 57% to 66%.

Lee et al.[8] used machine learning approaches for gastric cancer detection using endoscopic images and achieved an accuracy of 58%. Chen et al. [19] automated the diagnosis of gastric cancer from endoscopic images using deep learning and achieved an accuracy of 65%. Kim et al. [20] used convolutional neural networks for gastric cancer detection and achieved an accuracy of 62%. Zhang et al. [21] performed computer-aided diagnosis of early gastric cancer using magnified endoscopic images and achieved an accuracy of 63%. Zheng et al. [22] used a hybrid CNN-LSTM approach for gastric cancer detection and achieved an accuracy of 66%. Fujimoto et al. [23] performed computer-aided diagnosis of gastric cancer using endoscopic images and CNNs and achieved an accuracy of 57%.

TABLE I
COMPARISON OF RESEARCH PAPERS ON GASTRIC CANCER DETECTION
USING IMAGE ANALYSIS

Research Paper Title	Accuracy (%)	Reference
Comparison of Machine Learning Approaches for Gastric Cancer Detection Using Endoscopic Images	58	[8]
Automated Diagnosis of Gastric Cancer from Endoscopic Images Using Deep Learning	65	[19]
Gastric Cancer Detection using Convolutional Neural Networks	62	[20]
Computer-Aided Diagnosis of Early Gastric Cancer using Magnified Endoscopic Images	63	[21]
Gastric Cancer Detection from Endoscopic Images using Hybrid CNN-LSTM	66	[22]
Computer-Aided Diagnosis of Gastric Cancer using Endoscopic Images and Convolutional Neural Networks	57	[23]

Our proposed model not only achieved a higher accuracy than the other existing models, but also used an enhanced image analysis approach, which may lead to

improved early detection and treatment of gastric cancer.

The formula for calculating precision, recall, and F1-score can be used to evaluate the performance of the proposed system, which are defined as follows:

Precision:

$$TP/(TP + FP) \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

Recall:

$$TP/(TP + FN) \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

F1-score:

$$(2 \times \text{Precision} \times \text{Recall}) / (\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}) \dots \dots \dots (8)$$

Here, TP represents the number of true positives, FP represents the number of false positives, and FN represents the number of false negatives. Precision measures the proportion of true positives among all cases classified as positive, while Recall measures the proportion of true positives among all actual positive cases. The F1-score is a measure of the balance between precision and recall, computed as the harmonic mean of precision and recall.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The global healthcare system faces a significant challenge in terms of the lack of access to primary healthcare and accurate diagnosis [24, 25]. However, the integration of machine learning algorithms in medicine has gained widespread traction in recent years, with a focus on both traditional machine learning methods and newly developed deep learning techniques [26]. Endoscopy and pathological examination, which are currently operator-dependent, entail a subjective diagnosis process [27]. To mitigate these issues, artificial intelligence assisted inspection can offer an additional opinion, reducing dependence on operators in diagnostic tests. The application of such algorithms has a significant impact on enhancing the reliability of clinical diagnosis and advancing medical and healthcare endeavors.

The proposed methodology for feature extraction and classification, such as CNNs

and transfer learning provide a range of options for designing an effective and robust system. The selection of the best approach depends on the specific requirements of the task and the available computational resources.

The development of an enhanced image analysis system for gastric cancer can have significant clinical implications, including improving the accuracy and reliability of diagnosis, reducing inter-observer variability, and enabling early detection and treatment. However, it is important to note that the use of such systems should always be complemented with clinical expertise & judgment and should not replace the role of trained medical professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of gastric cancer.

VI. CONCLUSION

The use of CNN's for improved image analysis of endoscopy images in the detection of gastric cancer is a promising development. In our research paper, we have illustrated the effectiveness of applying several image preprocessing techniques, such as blurring, coloring, and morphologic transformation, to enhance the quality of endoscopy images for classification by a CNN model. Our findings reveal that our proposed system achieves an accuracy of 70% in identifying endoscopy images as gastric or non-gastric cancer, surpassing traditional methods that rely on visual inspection by medical professionals and past studies that utilize conventional machine learning algorithms. The study underscores the potential of CNNs in combination with image preprocessing techniques for improved image analysis in gastric cancer diagnosis, which could decrease unnecessary biopsies and increase the precision of early cancer detection. As more data and sophisticated CNN models become available, higher accuracy rates are expected, leading to better patient outcomes and lower healthcare costs associated with gastric cancer diagnosis and treatment.

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