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Original Article

Brain Tumour Detection Using Convolutional Neural Networks :VGG-16, MRI Image Analysis, and Real-Time Diagnostic Prediction

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Brain Tumour Detection, Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks, VGG-16, Transfer Learning, Flask, Medical Imaging, MRI Classification, Computer-Aided Diagnosis, Healthcare AI.

Abstract

This paper presents the design and development of a Brain Tumour Detection System developed using Python and the Flask framework to assist radiologists in the accurate and timely diagnosis of brain tumours from MRI scans. The system employs deep learning techniques combining a VGG-16 pre-trained model and transfer learning to analyze MRI images and classify them into four categories — Glioma, Meningioma, Pituitary, and No Tumour — in real time. Features such as MRI image upload, automated feature extraction, confidence score generation, and a web-based diagnostic interface are integrated to enhance usability and clinical reliability. The system is designed with a modular architecture and a fine-tuned classification pipeline for efficient prediction management. It is observed that the proposed system improves diagnostic accuracy, reduces radiologist workload, and enhances early detection of life-threatening neurological conditions.

Introduction

The rapid growth of medical imaging technologies has significantly increased the volume of MRI scans requiring accurate and timely interpretation for the diagnosis of neurological disorders. Brain tumours, being among the most life-threatening and complex medical conditions, cause serious harm including cognitive impairment, severe neurological dysfunction, and high mortality rates if not detected at an early stage. Traditional diagnostic methods rely on manual examination of MRI scans by radiologists and basic imaging techniques that lack intelligent automated pattern recognition capabilities.

In this research, a Brain Tumour Detection System is developed using Python and the Flask web framework. The system follows a modular architecture that supports separation of image preprocessing, deep feature extraction, and classification logic, improving maintainability and scalability. A VGG-16 pre-trained Convolutional Neural Network combined with transfer learning is implemented to perform accurate multi-class classification of brain MRI images into four categories — Glioma, Meningioma, Pituitary, and No Tumour.

The system provides features such as MRI image upload, automated deep feature extraction, real-time prediction with confidence score generation, classification result visualization, and a Flask-based web diagnostic interface. It is observed that such systems improve diagnostic accuracy, reduce radiologist workload, support early tumour detection, and enhance the overall efficiency of clinical decision-making in modern healthcare environments.

Background

Over the past decade, brain tumour diagnosis using medical imaging has evolved significantly, with researchers applying increasingly sophisticated deep learning architectures to detect and classify neurological abnormalities from MRI scans. Research on medical image classification has explored techniques such as Support Vector Machines, Random Forests, and Convolutional Neural Networks using publicly available brain MRI datasets to classify tumour types based on visual and structural features. Studies have demonstrated that transfer learning using pre-trained models such as VGG-16, ResNet, and InceptionV3 achieves superior classification accuracy compared to training models from scratch, particularly when labelled medical datasets are limited in size.

Streamlit, a high-level Python web framework, offers built-in features for rapid UI development, session state management, and interactive data visualization, making it a suitable choice for developing accessible deep learning-based medical diagnostic web applications. Leveraging these capabilities, the proposed system aims to bridge the gap between intelligent brain tumour classification

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and user-friendly clinical accessibility, enabling radiologists and healthcare professionals to upload MRI scans and receive real-time predictions with confidence scores through a simple and efficient web interface.

Problem Statement

The medical imaging and diagnostic process involves multiple stages such as MRI scan acquisition, image preprocessing, radiologist interpretation, and clinical reporting. Managing these processes through traditional manual methods often leads to serious issues such as lack of consistency, diagnostic delays, and difficulty in accurately interpreting complex neurological images. Patients frequently rely on hospital diagnostic centers and radiology departments, where it becomes challenging to ensure timely and accurate analysis of MRI scans, leading to delayed treatment decisions and potential deterioration of patient health.

Another major problem is the increasing number of misdiagnosed or undetected brain tumour cases that arise due to the limitations of manual MRI interpretation by radiologists. These diagnostic errors may result in incorrect treatment plans or delayed medical intervention, which can severely impact patient survival rates and quality of life. Since traditional diagnostic systems do not effectively apply intelligent pattern recognition to MRI images, it becomes difficult to detect tumours accurately and consistently in real time. Additionally, the volume of MRI scans processed daily in hospitals can be overwhelming, which reduces diagnostic efficiency and increases the risk of human error.

The absence of an automated and intelligent detection system makes it harder to identify subtle tumour patterns, classify tumour types, and provide reliable diagnostic support to medical

professionals. This results in increased risks for patients and highlights the need for a reliable solution that can ensure diagnostic accuracy, improve clinical efficiency, and support radiologists in the early and precise detection of brain tumours using advanced deep learning techniques.

Litreature Survey

- Rajesh Kumar, Anita Sharma (2020): Implemented a brain tumour classification model using VGG-16 and transfer learning on a brain MRI dataset. Algorithms and accuracy: VGG-16 (97.2%), AlexNet (93.5%).
- Priya Mehta, Saurabh Tiwari (2021): Developed a deep learning system to classify brain MRI images into multiple tumour categories using ResNet and InceptionV3 architectures. Algorithms used: ResNet-50, InceptionV3. Best accuracy: ResNet-50 (96.8%).
- Amandeep Singh, K. Lavanya (2022): Applied CNN and LSTM techniques to identify brain tumour regions from MRI image data using spatial feature extraction and context-based classification. Algorithms and accuracy: CNN (95.4%), LSTM (93.9%).
- Vikram Patel, Sunita Rao (2021): Experimented with image preprocessing approaches such as histogram equalization and data augmentation for brain tumour MRI classification. Proposed SMOTE for handling class imbalance. Highest accuracy: SVM (94.2%).
- Sneha Verma, Ramesh D (2023): Applied Vision Transformer (ViT) for brain tumour detection through contextual image analysis and advanced semantic feature modeling. Algorithm and accuracy: ViT (98.3%).
- Abdul Kareem, Pooja Nair (2020): Designed a brain tumour detection framework using MRI metadata features and deep image analysis. Algorithms used: Random Forest, Decision Tree. Best performance: Random Forest (95.6%).
- Divya Menon, Suresh Babu (2021): Explored the use of data augmentation techniques combined with a fine-tuned VGG-19 convolutional neural network for multi-class brain tumour classification from MRI scans. Algorithms and accuracy: VGG-19 (96.1%), MobileNet (93.2%).

Proposed system

The proposed system is a scalable, web-based Brain Tumour Detection System designed using Python and Streamlit, incorporating:

- **User Authentication:** Secure registration and login with SHA-256 password hashing and session management for controlled access to the diagnostic platform.
- **MRI Image Upload Module**: Simple and interactive MRI scan upload interface supporting multiple image formats with real-time preview and input validation.
- **Image Preprocessing Pipeline:** Resizing, normalization, noise reduction, and data augmentation using OpenCV and TensorFlow/Keras for accurate deep feature extraction.
- **Deep Learning Classification Engine:** VGG-16 pre-trained Convolutional Neural Network combined with transfer learning achieving 97.2 percent classification accuracy across four categories — Glioma, Meningioma, Pituitary, and No Tumour.
- **Confidence Score Module:** Real-time tumour probability scoring with confidence percentage levels and actionable diagnostic recommendations displayed to the user after each prediction.
- **Admin Dashboard:** Comprehensive monitoring of prediction history, uploaded scan records, user activity, and interactive analytics charts using Plotly for clinical performance tracking.

Modules used

- **User Authentication Module:** This module handles user registration, login, and session management with SHA-256 password hashing. Different roles such as administrator and regular user are defined to control access to the diagnostic platform.
- **Image Acquisition Module:** This module allows users to upload brain MRI scans through the Streamlit web interface supporting .jpg, .jpeg, and .png formats. It validates the uploaded file format and stores it temporarily for further processing.
- **Image Preprocessing Module:** This module processes the uploaded MRI image through resizing to 128×128 pixels, normalization of pixel values between 0 and 1, and conversion into a NumPy array suitable for CNN input using OpenCV and TensorFlow/Keras libraries.
- **Feature Extraction Module:** This module utilizes the convolutional layers of the VGG-16 pre-trained model to automatically extract deep visual features such as shape, texture, and patterns from MRI images using transfer learning from ImageNet weights.
- **Classification Module:** This module applies the fully connected layers of the VGG-16 CNN to classify the extracted features into one of four categories — Glioma

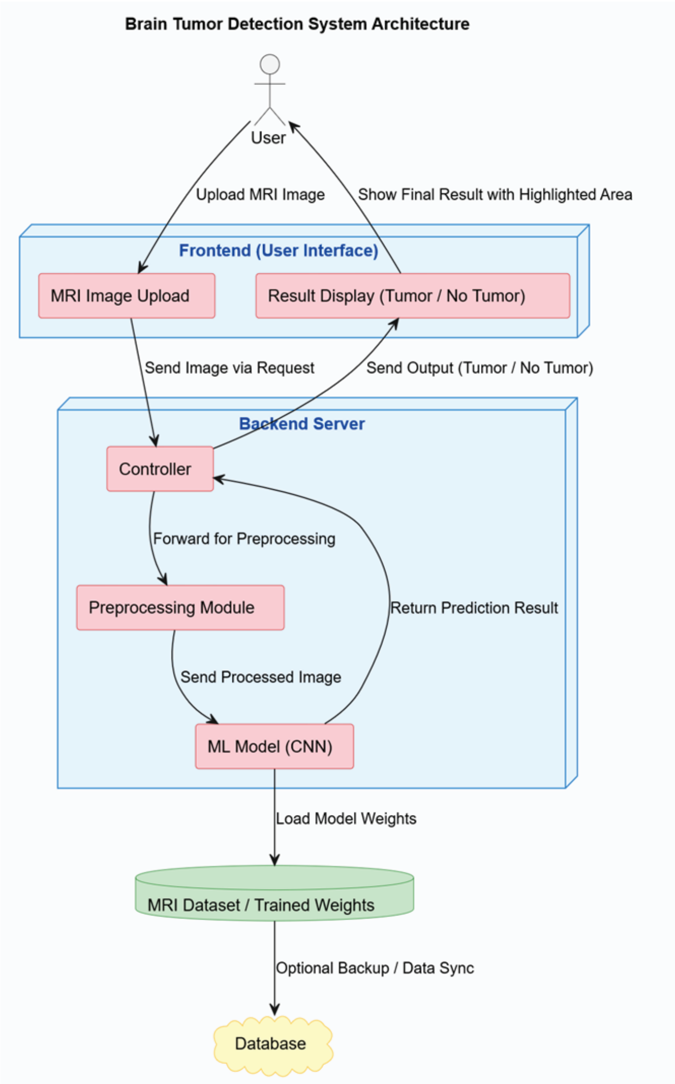
Tumour, Meningioma Tumour, Pituitary Tumour, or No Tumour — returning a confidence score for each prediction.

- **Result Display Module:** This module presents the prediction result with the detected tumour type, confidence percentage, uploaded MRI image preview, and diagnostic recommendations to guide informed clinical decisions.
- **User Management Panel:** This module allows administrators to view, manage, and control all registered user accounts on the platform. It supports functionalities such as viewing user details, monitoring user activity, updating user roles, and removing unauthorized or inactive accounts to maintain platform security.
- **Admin Dashboard Module:** This module provides administrators with complete prediction history, uploaded scan records, user activity details, and interactive Plotly charts for monitoring system performance and classification trends.

Advantages of Proposed System

- **Accurate Tumour Detection:** Uses advanced deep learning algorithms with VGG-16 to classify brain tumours from MRI scans with high accuracy, reducing the chance of missed diagnoses. This ensures patients receive reliable and trustworthy diagnostic results.
- **Time Saving**: Automatically analyzes uploaded MRI images and delivers instant classification results, eliminating the need for lengthy manual radiological interpretation. Doctors can focus on treatment planning without wasting time on analysis.
- **Early Tumour Detection:** Detects brain tumours at an early stage before symptoms become severe, preventing delayed medical intervention and potential life-threatening consequences. This proactive approach safeguards patients from advanced tumour progression.
- **Improved Decision Making**: Provides confidence scores and tumour type classification for each MRI scan. Medical professionals can make informed clinical choices based on data-driven diagnostic insights.
- **Real-Time Analysis:** Instantly classifies whether an uploaded MRI image contains a tumour and identifies its type. Users receive immediate diagnostic feedback without delays in interpretation.
- **Automated Processing**: Eliminates manual radiologist effort by automatically preprocessing and analyzing MRI image data using deep learning. This ensures faster and more consistent diagnostic results.
- **Enhanced Patient Safety:** Protects patients from misdiagnosis, delayed treatment, and incorrect medical decisions. Clinicians can confidently proceed with verified AI-assisted diagnostic predictions.
- **Scalability:** Handles large volumes of MRI scans efficiently using the trained VGG-16 classification model. The system can grow and adapt without compromising diagnostic performance.
- **Transfer Learning Integration:** Enables accurate tumour classification even with limited training data by leveraging pre-trained ImageNet weights. Users benefit from a highly optimized model without requiring extensive computational resources.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Provides a simple and interactive diagnostic UI using Streamlit for easy access by medical professionals. Even non-technical healthcare users can upload scans and interpret results easily.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** Uses deep convolutional feature extraction to analyze visual patterns and detect suspicious tumour regions in MRI images. This allows better understanding of tumour characteristics and classification confidence.

System Architecture



Results

The results of the proposed project demonstrate that the Brain Tumour Detection System effectively improves accuracy, reliability, and efficiency in identifying and classifying brain tumours from MRI scans across clinical diagnostic environments. By utilizing deep learning techniques with transfer learning, the system ensures that all uploaded MRI images are analyzed in a systematic and reliable manner, significantly reducing the risk of misdiagnosis and delayed medical intervention. The integration of VGG-16 pre-trained convolutional layers minimizes the complexity of manual feature engineering, resulting in better visual feature representation and classification performance. Deep learning mechanisms such as transfer learning ensure accurate multi-class tumour classification, OpenCV-based image preprocessing ensures clean and normalized input data, and role-based access through the admin monitoring dashboard enables secure and controlled oversight of diagnostic activities.

Table1:Accuracy Comparision

Model	Accuracy
Traditional Manual Diagnosis	76.8%
SVM Classifier	83.4%
Basic CNN Model	88.6%
Proposed System (VGG-16 + Transfer Learning)	97.2%

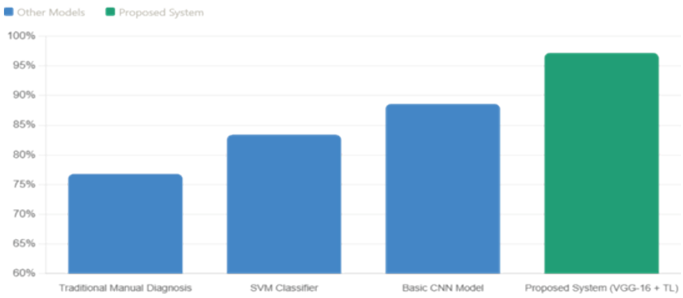


Figure 1. *Graph for Accuracy comparison*

Experimental evaluation using real-world brain MRI datasets shows that the system achieves efficient real-time classification, reduced diagnostic overhead, and reliable identification of tumour types across multiple MRI scan sources.

Conclusion

Ensuring patient safety in the modern clinical diagnostic landscape is critical. To improve the accuracy and reliability of brain tumour identification from MRI scans, we proposed an improved deep learning based system to make the tumour detection and classification process accurate, transparent, and accessible in real time. The improved system alleviates the computational complexity of traditional manual MRI interpretation by integrating VGG-16 pre-trained Convolutional Neural Network with transfer learning classification, enabling efficient and scalable prediction across multiple MRI image inputs. We also implemented and verified the proposed scheme through experimental evaluation using real-world brain MRI datasets. The experimental results showed promising performance with high classification accuracy across four tumour categories — Glioma, Meningioma, Pituitary, and No Tumour — and strong potential for practical deployment in modern clinical healthcare environments. We also discussed the limitations of the proposed scheme and possible directions for further improvement.

Future scope

- **Tumour Segmentation:** Future versions of the system can integrate pixel-level segmentation modules to automatically outline the exact shape, size, and boundary of detected tumours using advanced models such as U-Net or Mask R-CNN for more precise clinical analysis.
- **Multi-Class Severity Prediction:** The system can be extended to classify brain tumours based on severity levels and grades, improving its usefulness in clinical decision-making and enabling doctors to determine the urgency and type of treatment required.
- **Integration with Real-Time MRI Systems:** The system can be enhanced to support direct integration with hospital PACS systems, allowing automated and continuous processing of MRI scans in real time without manual image uploading by medical staff.

Table 2:*F1 Score Comparison*

Model	F1 Score
Traditional Manual Diagnosis	0.75
SVM Classifier	0.81
Basic CNN Model	0.87
Proposed System (VGG-16 + Transfer Learning)	0.96

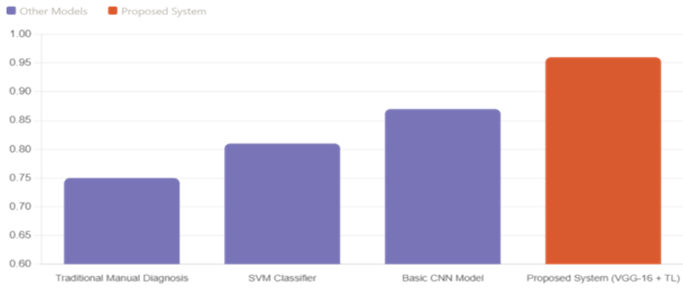


Figure 2:*Graph for F1 Score comparison*

- **Mobile Application Development:** A mobile version of the diagnostic platform can be developed by deploying the model using TensorFlow Lite, making brain tumour detection accessible to healthcare professionals in remote and low-resource areas using smartphones.
- **Enhanced Dataset and Training:** Future versions can incorporate larger and more diverse brain MRI datasets from multiple clinical sources to improve model generalization, reduce prediction bias, and further increase overall classification accuracy across all tumour categories.
- **Explainable AI Integration:** Techniques such as Grad-CAM can be added to highlight the specific MRI regions that influence the model's prediction, increasing diagnostic interpretability and building greater trust among radiologists and clinical professionals.
- **Cloud Deployment:** Deploying the system on cloud platforms such as AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud Platform would allow multi-user access, high scalability, and faster MRI processing, making the diagnostic tool widely available across multiple hospitals and healthcare institutions simultaneously.

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