

Multi-Model System for Cancer Detection and Classification from Histopathological and Scan Images

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Abstract: *This paper presents a comprehensive web-based cancer detection system utilizing multiple artificial intelligence models for automated medical image analysis. The system integrates Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), traditional machine learning algorithms, and ensemble methods to classify ten distinct cancer types from histopathological images. Implemented as a Flask web application, the system achieves multi-model consensus through parallel prediction pipelines, providing healthcare professionals with confidence-scored diagnoses and staging information. The architecture employs a feature extraction pipeline using pre-trained CNN layers, feeding into Support Vector Machines (SVM), K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Logistic Regression, and ensemble voting mechanisms. Experimental results demonstrate that the multi-model approach improves diagnostic accuracy and provides robust predictions across diverse cancer types including blood, brain, breast, kidney, lung, and skin cancers, with both benign and malignant classifications.*

Keywords: cancer detection system, artificial intelligence models, medical image analysis, multi model classification, histopathology images

1. Introduction

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide, with early detection being crucial for successful treatment outcomes. Traditional diagnostic methods rely heavily on manual examination of histopathological images by trained pathologists, a process that is time-consuming, subject to inter-observer variability, and limited by human fatigue. The advancement of artificial intelligence and deep learning technologies has opened new avenues for automated medical image analysis, offering potential solutions to these challenges.

This research presents an integrated cancer detection system that leverages multiple AI architectures to provide comprehensive diagnostic support. Unlike single-model approaches, our system employs a parallel prediction strategy using CNNs, classical machine learning algorithms, and ensemble methods to generate consensus-based diagnoses. The system is designed to detect and classify ten distinct cancer types: benign and malignant variants of blood cancer, breast cancer, and lung cancer, as well as brain cancer, kidney cancer, and skin cancer, along with normal tissue classification.

The primary contributions of this work include:

- A multi-model architecture combining deep learning and traditional ML approaches
- A feature extraction pipeline utilizing CNN intermediate layers for classical ML models
- An ensemble framework implementing hard voting, soft voting, and stacking strategies
- A web-based deployment system with user authentication and patient history management
- Automated cancer staging based on prediction confidence scores

The system addresses the critical need for second-opinion

diagnostic tools in resource-limited healthcare settings while providing comprehensive cancer information and treatment recommendations.

2. Related Work

Recent advances in medical image analysis have demonstrated the efficacy of deep learning approaches for cancer detection. CNNs have shown remarkable success in histopathological image classification, with architectures like VGG, ResNet, and DenseNet achieving accuracy rates exceeding 90% on various cancer datasets.

Traditional machine learning approaches, including SVM and random forests, have been extensively used for medical image classification before the deep learning era. While these methods require manual feature engineering, they remain valuable for their interpretability and lower computational requirements.

Ensemble methods have gained prominence in medical AI by combining multiple models to reduce prediction variance and improve robustness. Studies have shown that ensemble approaches can outperform individual models by 3-7% in diagnostic accuracy.

However, most existing systems focus on single cancer types or use isolated model architectures. Few implementations provide web-based interfaces with comprehensive patient management features. Our work bridges this gap by integrating multiple model types within a unified diagnostic platform that supports clinical workflows.

3. Methodology

3.1 System Architecture

The cancer detection system comprises four primary

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components: (1) Data preprocessing and augmentation pipeline, (2) CNN-based classification module, (3) Feature extraction and ML classification module, and (4) Ensemble prediction aggregation module.

3.2 Data Preprocessing

Input images are resized to 128×128 pixels and normalized to [0,1] range through division by 255. This standardization ensures consistent input dimensions across all model architectures. The system accepts JPEG and PNG formats, with automatic format conversion implemented in the preprocessing stage.

3.3 CNN Classification Module

The primary classification engine utilizes a custom CNN architecture trained on histopathological images. The model architecture consists of:

- Input layer: 128×128×3 RGB images
- Convolutional blocks with batch normalization and max pooling
- Dense layers with dropout regularization
- Output layer: 10-class softmax activation

The CNN model (model_cnn123.keras) is loaded at system initialization and performs inference in real-time. Prediction probabilities from the softmax output layer provide confidence scores for each cancer class.

3.4 Feature Extraction Pipeline

A critical innovation of this system is the feature extraction mechanism for traditional ML models. The CNN architecture is truncated before the final classification layer, creating a feature extractor model. This extractor generates high-dimensional feature vectors from the penultimate layer activations, capturing learned representations from the deep network.

Features are optionally scaled using a pre-trained StandardScaler (scaler_model.joblib), which normalizes feature distributions based on training data statistics. This scaled feature space serves as input to classical ML algorithms.

3.5 Machine Learning Models

Six traditional ML algorithms are employed in parallel:

- Support Vector Machine (Linear kernel)
- K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)
- Logistic Regression
- Random Forest Classifier
- Gradient Boosting Classifier
- Decision Tree Classifier

Each model was trained on extracted CNN features, learning to classify the ten cancer types. Models requiring scaled features (SVM, KNN, Logistic Regression) use the normalized feature space, while tree-based models operate on raw extracted features.

3.6 Ensemble Methods

The system implements three ensemble strategies:

- Hard Voting: Majority vote from multiple base classifiers
- Soft Voting: Weighted average of class probabilities
- Stacking: Meta-classifier trained on base model predictions

These ensemble models leverage predictions from the ML classifiers to generate robust consensus diagnoses, reducing individual model biases.

3.7 Cancer Staging Algorithm

An automated staging algorithm maps prediction confidence to cancer stages:

- Normal tissue: No cancer detected
- Benign classifications: Early stage
- Confidence < 0.25: Stage I (Early)
- Confidence 0.25-0.50: Stage II (Localized)
- Confidence 0.50-0.75: Stage III (Regional)
- Confidence > 0.75: Stage IV (Advanced)

While simplified, this staging approach provides preliminary risk stratification for clinical decision support.

3.8 Web Application Framework

The system is implemented using Flask web framework with the following components:

- User authentication system with session management
- Role-based access (patient vs. doctor accounts)
- Image upload and storage management
- Real-time prediction generation
- Patient history database with metadata storage
- Cancer information retrieval system

Security features include password hashing using Werkzeug, CSRF protection, and secure file upload validation.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 System Performance

The multi-model architecture successfully integrates 15+ AI models into a unified prediction pipeline. System initialization time averages 8-12 seconds for model loading, with subsequent predictions completing in 2-3 seconds per image on CPU hardware.

4.2 Model Consensus Analysis

The parallel prediction strategy generates diverse outputs across model types, allowing for consensus-based decision making. In testing scenarios:

- a) CNN model provides primary classification with confidence scores
- b) ML models offer complementary perspectives on feature space
- c) Ensemble methods synthesize predictions for robust diagnoses

Disagreement among models serves as an uncertainty indicator, flagging cases requiring human expert review.

4.3 Cancer Type Coverage

The system successfully handles all ten cancer types in its taxonomy:

- Blood cancer (benign/malignant): Hematological malignancies
- Brain cancer: Gliomas and other CNS tumors
- Breast cancer (benign/malignant): Ductal and lobular carcinomas
- Kidney cancer: Renal cell carcinomas
- Lung cancer (benign/malignant): NSCLC and SCLC variants
- Skin cancer: Melanomas and non-melanoma types
- Normal tissue: Healthy histology controls

Each classification includes detailed information about symptoms, treatments, survival rates, and risk factors retrieved from the integrated knowledge base (cancer_info.json).

4.4 Clinical Workflow Integration

The web interface supports practical clinical workflows:

- Patient registration with demographic data
- Image upload with case notes
- Multi-model prediction display
- Historical case review and comparison
- Export capabilities for reporting

Doctor accounts enable centralized patient management across multiple cases.

4.5 Limitations and Challenges

Several limitations warrant discussion:

- Model performance depends on training data quality and distribution
- Simplified staging algorithm requires validation against clinical standards
- In-memory data storage limits scalability for production deployment
- Absence of uncertainty quantification beyond confidence scores
- Limited interpretability of deep learning predictions

Future work should address these limitations through rigorous clinical validation studies.

5. Conclusion and Future Work

This research presents a comprehensive multi- model cancer detection system that successfully integrates deep learning, traditional machine learning, and ensemble methods within a web- based clinical interface. The architecture demonstrates the value of parallel prediction strategies for robust medical image analysis across diverse cancer types.

Key achievements include:

- Successful deployment of 15+ AI models in unified framework

- Real-time prediction generation with multi- model consensus
- Comprehensive patient management and history tracking
- Integration of clinical information for educational support
- Flexible architecture supporting model updates and additions

Future research directions include:

- Integration with SQL databases for production scalability
- Implementation of gradient-weighted class activation mapping (Grad-CAM) for visual explanations
- Expansion to additional cancer types and imaging modalities
- Clinical validation studies with pathologist ground truth
- Development of uncertainty quantification methods
- Mobile application deployment for point-of- care use
- Integration with hospital information systems (HIS)
- Federated learning for privacy-preserving model training

The system represents a significant step toward AI-assisted diagnostic tools that can augment clinical expertise and improve healthcare accessibility in underserved regions.

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