Data Mining to Help Aphasic Quadriplegic and Coma Patients

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Abstract: One of the major challenges in medical history has been differentiating between a brain dead person and a person in coma. Tests like apnoea can prove dangerous sometimes. The motive here is to apply data mining techniques to brain data that are obtained from EEG to differentiate between brain dead and coma patients. Here we also focus on another important application in the medical field, which is the ability to recognise the slightest response of a quadriplegic patient with aphasia to their surroundings. This is possible from EEG data. Data mining is done using new data set and present repository to obtain greater degree of accuracy.

Keywords: EEG, Aphasia, Quadriplegia, Coma, Brain waves, WEKA data mining tools.

1. Introduction

All the activities of a human body are controlled by the brain which is considered the most important organ. Most fields of medicine have some form of measurements to evaluate illness. But as all the brain activities are characterized in terms of brain waves, we need techniques for mining the EEG signal data thus calibrating the brain activity to aid evaluation of normal function versus illness. The field of neuroscience needs to incorporate accurate calibrations to enable better treatments in future. Quadriplegia with aphasia is one of the cases where the patient’s activity can be monitored accurately only by brain waves. Although very slight muscle activities might be present, the patients may still not be able to express much through it. So, it is important to apply the right data mining techniques to get information about the person’s state of mind from the EEG data sets. Another important issue under consideration is the main difference between a patient in coma and a brain dead person. Brain activity is measured in terms of the four waves of EEG namely alpha, beta, theta and delta waves. The frequency varies for these 4 types: beta (>13 Hz), alpha (8-13 Hz), theta (4-8 Hz), delta (0.5-4 Hz). An apt data mining technique is required to compare data sets and arrive at the right decision regarding the brain functionality of the patient under examination.

2. Data Mining Using Weka

The EEG data obtained are stored in the form of attribute relation file format (*.arff) and is given as input to WEKA data mining tool. WEKA (Waikato Environment for Knowledge Analysis) is a collection of machine learning algorithms. It contains tools for clustering, association rules and visualising the behaviour of data set fed to it. We feed the patient data to the WEKA data mining tool and check whether the patient’s brain waves are being generated normally or are there a possibility of brain death. For an Aphasic Quadriplegia patient, we compare the intensity of the waves between specific distances, or in other words the spikes in the waves to see if they are generated with balance. And furthermore the clustering and association helps us to identify the response of the quadriplegic patient with aphasia to our actions/stimuli. Also the EEG data can be extracted in such a way that the electrodes can be concentrated in specific regions (single-unit recording) to detect even the weakest of brain waves. This is again used for data mining with WEKA tools.
react when he/she wants to express a person's data. That is, how the normal data of our quadriplegic patient with normal people, aiding better the values of our patients close to the normal people, thus enhancing the quality of life of our patients.

The standard deviation is then taken:

\[ \text{var} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \text{mean})^2 / (n-1) \]

That is, \( x \) signifies a burst of electrical activity in the brain. The flat regions in the particular EEG wave are characterized by the flat regions in the brain. This thought is one that is invoked by what happens around him/her. This aids better characterization of the patient’s emotion. If S.D of the quadriplegic patient approximately equals the S.D value of normal person, it means all their brain waves are being generated with a balance.

Brain state can be characterized in terms of psychophysical and EEG signal parameters. The EEG signal characteristics can be observed in brain lobes such as frontal lobe, parietal lobe, occipital lobe and temporal lobe. The activity in these regions is characterized by higher peaks in the brain waves generated.

For example, let us consider a scenario where the family members want to know which type of music would make an aphasic quadriplegic patient feel better. The EEG patterns are obtained while the patient listens to the different genres of music being played. The logistic regression algorithm in WEKA can be used to study how the patient feels about a particular genre of music played and predict which genre can make the patient happy. Few important attributes can be selected for this logistic regression. This will give some knowledge on which type of music is most preferred by the patient, and from now on that genre can be played.

3. Detect brain activity in Quadriplegic patients with Aphasia

Aphasic quadriplegic patients can listen, feel and reflect thoughts on things happening around them. But they cannot express themselves clearly because of the inability to move their limbs and the inability to express their thoughts in the form of articulation. But their inability to speak and express themselves can be overcome if the people around, try to understand their thoughts and feelings from their brain data. Such a patient will generate balanced brain waves. Even the higher order brain functions are performed with ease. In case, any imbalance is noticed in the form of a different brain wave pattern, the medical team can be immediately informed about the patient’s condition. And nothing goes untold.

Humans react to some instances more than others. This can be identified by peaks in the waves. The spikes in the EEG wave produced can show some elevated response or action levels. This is used to give clues about an aphasic quadriplegic patient having active thoughts about a particular happening around him/her.

From the wave:

\[ z = \text{mean} (x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_n) \]

That is, \( x \) signifies to points on x axis bounding the flat regions. That is, the flat regions in the particular EEG wave.

This will give relative value of distance between spikes in the particular EEG wave.

The standard deviation is then taken:

\[ \text{S.D} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \text{mean})^2} / (n-1) \]

This helps in bringing the values of our patients close to the values obtained from normal people, aiding better characterization.

Now comparison is made between the brain characteristic data of our quadriplegic patient with aphasia and a normal person’s data. That is, how the normal healthy people will react when he/she wants to express a thought inside their brain.

Figure 2: Classification in WEKA

Figure 3: Wave discharges on an EEG

To detect the height or intensity of the emotion/response:

1. The data set that is obtained from the EEG when they are asleep and processed.
2. The data set is also collected when a person talks to the patient and expects the patient to feel something. This is processed too.

The height shall be a measurement of the intensity of the brain wave at some points, which in turn indicates responses at specific time instances. So, continuous recording of the brain waves of the patient is done.

\[ \text{val}_1 = \text{highest point of y axis of wave 1} - \text{highest point at sleep} \]

\[ \text{val}_2 = \text{highest point of y axis of wave 2} - \text{highest point at sleep} \]

This is repeated for n waves obtained from the data set.

\[ \text{val} = (\text{val}_1) + (\text{val}_2) + (\text{val}_3) + \ldots (\text{val}_n) \]
Similarly we obtain a mean value from all the EEG waves of normal persons. The normal persons are tested under several levels of emotions such as happy to extremely happy. The same procedure is repeated for each level of happiness to get a value. This mean value is now used as a reference parameter to give hints on the patient’s response. Cluster analysis plays an important role here:

[5] The greater the likeness (or homogeneity) within a group, and the greater the disparity between groups, the better or more distinct the clustering. Cluster analysis seeks as a result, a crisp classification of the data into non-overlapping groups. Now this value (val) of patient under examination is used to cluster. After required preprocessing, k means clustering is used. And once clustering is done, it can be found out to which group this person belongs. That is, the intensity of the emotion is known which shows whether the patient is extremely happy or just happy at that moment. We can also visualise the characteristics of each cluster. We can do this by using the ‘visualise cluster assignments’ option.

\[ r_i = \frac{\sum (d_i) p_t + (d_2) p_t + (d_3) p_t + (d_4) p_t + (d_5) p_t}{\text{potential}} \]

Here ‘pt’ refers to the potential of each particular electrode ‘i’ and ‘potential’ refers to the potential of the first main electrode.

For this we need to perform data mining from repository and also from the patient under examination. We devise a formula here which decides whether the person is brain dead or not, based on relative value with respect to a threshold value set. Quantitative EEG (QEEG) applies multi channel measurements that can better determine spatial structures and localize areas with brain activity or abnormality. The results are often used for topographic brain mapping represented with colour maps in 2D and 3D to enhance visualization.

N. Sivanandan [2] used interpolation technique in which k nearest neighbour electrodes were involved. The accuracy and the smoothness of the picture generated improves as k increases. The suggested methodology was to use one main electrode and k nearest electrodes. And a ground electrode is always needed to show the differential voltage.

But a technique can be used where k is set to 6 constantly and each electrode serves as the nearest neighbour to each of the remaining 5 electrodes at one point of time and single unit recording is used. This gives a more accurate statistics regarding brain activity. All these 6 electrodes are concentrated over an area. An EEG signal between electrodes placed on the scalp consists of many waves with different characteristics.

By using groups of electrodes, we can split the entire portion into distinct small regions. And these regions are circular in nature. This can provide clues regarding a particular region where even slightly detectable brains waves are being generated. Minimal configuration for mono electrode measurement consists of one active, one reference and one ground electrode.

And furthermore, WEKA classifier algorithms such as Naïve Bayes classifier can be used to assess the patient’s mood. This way, the patient’s family members can understand the current state of mind of the patient much better and provide the needed moral support or company.

4. Differentiating the Brain Dead and a Coma Patient

There are some cases where the patient with coma eventually becomes brain dead. This means the person becomes entirely incapable of performing any more functions. To withdraw the life support from a coma patient who has been declared as brain dead, several tests have to be performed. And some tests might not be so effective and some other tests can even jeopardize the coma patient’s life. But out of all of these, only the brain waves can give accurate information.

\[ r_z = \frac{\sum (d_1) p_t + (d_2) p_t + (d_3) p_t + (d_4) p_t + (d_5) p_t}{\text{potential}} \]

Here ‘pt’ refers to the potential of a particular neighbouring electrode ‘i’ and ‘potential’ refers to the potential of the central electrode under consideration right now.

Let us consider 5 electrodes around one main electrode, under consideration at this time. Let d1, d2, d3, d4, d5 be the distance of the five other electrodes from the main electrode. The value of these parameters keeps changing for each trial. All are placed around a particular region. So the relative potential of the first main electrode is given by:

Here ‘p_t’ refers to the potential of a particular neighbouring electrode ‘i’ and ‘potential’ refers to the potential of the central electrode under consideration right now.

Now the main electrode is made as an electrode for comparison that is the neighbouring electrode. A new main electrode is chosen. And this way each time, r2, r3, r4, r5 and
Finally to characterize this circular region:

\[
\text{Activity } = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \left( r_i / 6 \right)
\]

If this value is above a threshold, it means this EEG data obtained shows some evidence regarding brain waves being generated. The ARFF file has this value as one of the attributes along with brain data. Based on this the class of the ARFF file can be @ATTRIBUTE brain_activity {0,1} where 0 indicates that the value is below threshold and 1 implies that value is above the threshold. This is provided for pre-processing in WEKA. The red portions shows which circular regions of the brain are active than the others. If a few regions come under red then the person has at least some brain activity and is not brain dead. From this we can identify whether the person is really brain dead, or only in coma and has a chance of recovering. When all the circular regions are characterized by blue colour, it means all the brain functionalities are lost and there is no hope of recovery and can be declared a brain dead person. Rather than seeing activity around a point, this methodology concentrates on finding the activity in a particular region. And so even the faintest of brain waves around any circular region can be detected. If it is possible to successfully identify even the minute brain activity present, then there won’t be any error in declaring a person as brain dead.

6. Conclusion

Thus by characterizing the data through mining and thorough analysis, we try to differentiate a person who is brain dead and who is still in coma and has hope to return to normalcy. By studying thoroughly the attributes through visual classification (identify attributes) and clustering (group those with similar values) the data mining enables us to understand the thoughts of people who have been affected by severe case of quadriplegia which is accompanied by aphasia.

References

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