EasyChair Preprint

№ 11713

Advancements in Deep Learning for Disease Detection: a Comprehensive Survey on T-Fusion Net and Spatial Attention in Infectious Disease Imaging

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January 6, 2024

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Abstract— In this analytical survey, we showcase one of our research in the area of virological science and its critical impact on infectious disease detection and diagnosis. The T-Fusion Net, an innovative deep neural network meticulously tailored for the precise detection of COVID-19, leveraging SARS-CoV-2 CT scans. Distinguished by its focus on virology, our model integrates Multiple Localizations-Based Spatial Attention Mechanisms (MLSAM) to enrich feature extraction and representation in medical image analysis, specifically emphasizing the nuanced patterns associated with viral infections. Through the strategic assembly of an ensemble of T-Fusion Nets orchestrated via fuzzy max fusion, we achieve unparalleled classification accuracy, boasting rates of 97.59% for T-Fusion Net and an impressive 98.4% for its ensemble counterpart. Our findings not only underscore the robustness of MLSAM in selective feature extraction but also spotlight its profound impact on enhancing diagnostic capabilities in infectious diseases. This study, with a virological lens, unveils a technological advancement poised to contribute in medical imaging in the realm of virology, offering a valuable tool for frontline healthcare practitioners in their battle against COVID-19.

Keywords: Deep neural network, Infectious disease detection, Spatial attention mechanisms, Ensemble learning, COVID-19 diagnosis, Virology.

1. INTRODUCTION

Medical image analysis [1-3] stands at the forefront of technological advancements, playing a pivotal role in disease diagnosis and patient care. The journey from conventional to advanced techniques in this realm represents a continual effort to overcome limitations and embrace innovative solutions. In the early stages, traditional classification techniques like support vector machines [4] and decision trees [5] formed the backbone of medical image analysis.

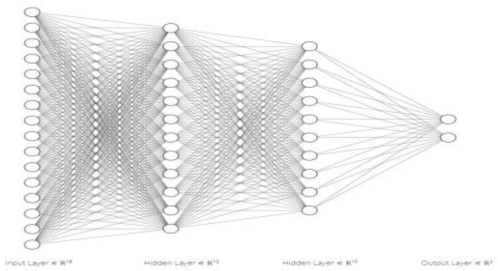

Fig. 1: Diagrammatic representation of a deep neural net.

However, their reliance on manual feature engineering [6] and rule-based algorithms [7] proved inadequate in capturing the complexity inherent in medical images. Recognizing these limitations, a transition occurred towards bio-inspired algorithms [8-11], specifically drawing inspiration from the adaptive organization observed in social insects like ants. While these bio-inspired approaches provided unique insights, challenges persisted in their generalization across diverse medical datasets. The subsequent evolution towards deep learning [12] methodologies marked a transformative shift, particularly with the integration of attention mechanisms [13-15] into convolutional neural networks [16].

Infectious diseases [17-18] are disorders caused by pathogenic microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites. These diseases can spread, directly or indirectly, from person to person, through contaminated food or water, and via vectors such as mosquitoes or ticks. The impact of infectious diseases on global health has been profound throughout history, influencing societal structures, economies, and public health policies.

The global challenges posed by infectious diseases, particularly the COVID-19 [19] pandemic, necessitate innovative approaches in medical image analysis for accurate and timely diagnosis. In response to this imperative, we present a groundbreaking study introducing the T-Fusion Net [20], a novel deep neural network designed for the precise detection of COVID-19 using SARS-CoV-2 CT scans. Leveraging Multiple Localizations-Based Spatial Attention Mechanisms (MLSAM) [20] and an ensemble of T-Fusion Nets through fuzzy max fusion, our research aims to significantly enhance feature extraction and representation in medical image analysis. The ensuing sections delve into the comprehensive experimental assessments conducted on a COVID-19 dataset, showcasing the T-Fusion Net's remarkable accuracy of 97.59%, and 98.4% for its ensemble. Our focus on infectious disease detection, particularly in the context of COVID-19, underscores the critical importance of advancing technological solutions to meet the demands of contemporary healthcare challenges. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides our findings in details and Section 3 concludes the survey.

2. CASE STUDY

- T-Fusion Net Accuracy: The proposed T-Fusion Net achieves a remarkable accuracy of 97.59% on the SARS-CoV-2 CT scan dataset, surpassing conventional models such as VGG-16, AlexNet, VGG-19, and DenseNet201.

- Ensemble Model Performance: The ensemble model, formed by combining multiple instances of T-Fusion Nets through fuzzy max fusion, demonstrates superior accuracy, reaching an impressive 98.4%. This ensemble approach proves to be highly effective in enhancing overall classification performance.

MLSAM's Contribution:

- Selective Feature Extraction: The Multiple Localizations-Based Spatial Attention Mechanism (MLSAM) plays a pivotal role in directing the model's attention selectively toward significant regions within input feature maps. This spatial attention mechanism is crucial for highlighting relevant details in medical images, contributing to improved feature extraction.

- Multi-Scale Feature Extraction: MLSAM employs convolutional operations with varying kernel sizes (3x3, 5x5, and 7x7) in parallel branches. This results in feature maps with diverse information, promoting multi-scale feature extraction essential for accurate medical image analysis.

Ensemble Model Strength:

- Fuzzy Max Fusion Process: The ensemble model's strength lies in the fuzzy max fusion process, where outputs from individual T-Fusion Nets are combined optimally. The fusion process is tuned with appropriate parameters (α, ε, and B) to ensure a balanced contribution from each model instance.

- Robust Classification: The ensemble approach enhances the robustness of the classification model, mitigating the impact of variations in individual model predictions. This results in a more stable and reliable classification system, crucial for clinical applications.

Clinical Implications:

- Timely and Accurate COVID-19 Detection: The high accuracy of the proposed T-Fusion Net and its ensemble has significant clinical implications. Accurate and timely detection of COVID-19 cases through CT scans is vital for prompt medical intervention, isolation, and resource allocation.

- The T-Fusion Net model significantly enhances the accuracy of COVID-19 detection by leveraging advanced deep learning techniques, including Multiple Localizations-Based Spatial Attention Mechanisms (MLSAM) and ensemble learning. This precision is achieved through the selective focus on relevant features within CT scan images, minimizing false positives and negatives and providing a more precise diagnostic outcome. Particularly in the context of infectious diseases like COVID-19, which often present subtle patterns in respiratory conditions, the MLSAM of T-Fusion Net contributes to improved feature extraction, ensuring even the subtlest abnormalities indicative of COVID-19 are captured for early and accurate diagnosis. The model's efficiency extends to clinical workflow, expediting the diagnostic process with rapid processing capabilities, enabling timely decision-making by healthcare professionals on patient care, isolation measures, and treatment plans, especially in high-volume or resource-constrained environments. Furthermore, T-Fusion Net reduces dependency on manual analysis of CT scans, streamlining the diagnostic workflow by automating the analysis of vast datasets. In terms of resource optimization, the model aids in optimal resource allocation by prioritizing treatment for confirmed COVID-19 cases, managing patient flow, and directing resources to areas with the greatest need. Its high accuracy minimizes unnecessary testing or interventions, preventing strain on laboratory resources and reducing potential exposure to healthcare professionals and patients. The reliable performance of T-Fusion Net instills confidence in healthcare professionals, supporting informed clinical decisions and establishing the model as a valuable component of the decision-support system. This collaborative approach between human expertise and advanced technology enhances diagnostic capabilities, ultimately contributing to the effective management of COVID-19 cases in clinical practice.

Conclusion and Future Directions:

- Promise for COVID-19 Diagnosis: The findings underscore the potential of deep learning models, particularly the T-Fusion Net and its ensemble, in contributing to accurate COVID-19 diagnosis. These models show promise in improving patient outcomes and aiding healthcare systems in managing the ongoing pandemic.

- Future Research Directions: Future research should focus on expanding datasets to include diverse COVID-19 cases, imaging modalities, and disease stages. Fine-tuning and optimization of the model can further enhance its performance and generalization capabilities across varied clinical settings. Continued efforts in this direction will strengthen the model's applicability and reliability in real-world healthcare scenarios. As the landscape of infectious diseases continues to evolve, continuous research endeavors will be crucial in refining the model's efficacy, ultimately strengthening its role as a reliable diagnostic tool in real-world healthcare scenarios. This proactive approach to research will contribute substantially to the ongoing enhancement of diagnostic technologies, particularly in the context of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

3 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the T-Fusion Net, equipped with MLSAM and integrated into an ensemble, presents a powerful and effective approach for COVID-19 detection through CT scans. The MLSAM spatial attention mechanism enhances the model's ability to discern intricate details, crucial for accurate medical image analysis. The ensemble model, employing fuzzy max fusion, further consolidates the strengths of individual T-Fusion Nets, resulting in a refined and reliable classification system. The promising results of this study underscore the potential of deep learning models in contributing to accurate and timely COVID-19 diagnosis, with implications for improving patient outcomes and healthcare resource allocation. Future research endeavors should focus on expanding datasets and refining the model for broader applications and increased generalization capabilities in diverse clinical settings.

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