iJRASET
International Journal For Research in
Applied Science and Engineering Technology

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 13 **Issue:** IV **Month of publication:** April 2025

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2025.69067

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 13 Issue IV Apr 2025- Available at www.ijraset.com

A Comprehensive Multi-Model Approach to Kidney Stone Detection using Deep Learning

Ramagowni SivaKumar[1], Hrushikesh Reddy K V[2], Charan Reddy S[3], Surya Prakash Reddy B[4]
Department of Data Science, Anurag University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Abstract: This work presents an end-to-end deep learning-based kidney stone detection system based on a combination of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for ultrasound image processing and Random Forest for clinical data classification. The combination of the two models has an enormously improved diagnostic accuracy, reducing misclassification rates. With the use of a fusion model, the system effectively facilitates decision-making with accurate and autonomous detection. This study illustrates the advantages of multi-modal learning in medical diagnosis and aims to support healthcare professionals in early detection and treatment planning.
Keywords: Kidney Stone Detection, Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks, Random Forest, Multi-Modal Learning

I. INTRODUCTION

Identification of kidney stone is a useful urological tool in which early identification avoids morbidity and severe pain. Routine diagnosis is based on ultrasound, blood tests, and urine analysis that depend largely on radiologists' subjective judgment. These tests might be reliable, but they are time-consuming and prone to error as well as variability and subjectivity. With the development of machine learning and deep learning, computer-aided diagnostic systems have emerged as a new option to improve detection accuracy and efficiency [1].

Deep learning has transformed medical imaging, especially by Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), which are proved to be more accurate in feature learning and classification [2]. CNN-based models have been extensively utilized in areas like chest X-ray analysis, dermatological disease detection, and organ segmentation [3]. CNN models work best to detect intricate patterns and spatial relationships in medical images and are therefore highly appropriate for ultrasound image classification.

Besides medical imaging, structured clinical data yield useful information in disease prediction. Random Forest classifiers were found to be effective in exploring structured medical data, especially in exploring risk factors like urine composition, blood pressure, and calcium levels [4]. Decision tree-based model capability in dealing with nonlinear relations makes them a promising candidate in predictive health applications [5].

Although CNNs are optimum in medical imaging and Random Forest models are optimum in clinical data analysis, single-modality methods come with their limitations. CNNs by themselves might not work where image acquisition is suboptimal, there is occlusion, or there are artifacts in ultrasound scans [6]. Also, machine learning models learned from clinical data might fall short of the spatial insight needed for image-based diagnosis [7]. To address these challenges, this project envisions a multi-modal deep learning strategy that combines CNNs for image classification of the ultrasound images and Random Forest for clinical data analysis in order to enhance diagnostic accuracy with reduced false negatives and false positives [8].

Multi-modal learning has been successfully employed in medicine, for instance, brain lesion segmentation, diabetic retinopathy diagnosis, and MR image reconstruction [9,10,11]. Inspired by these developments, the present work proposes designing a fusion framework that unites image and clinical data and exploits their complementary advantages for better classification performance.

The method includes preprocessing of clinical data and ultrasound images, individual CNN and Random Forest model training, and weighted fusion of their predictions. The system's performance will be measured based on accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. The project, by integrating deep learning and structured data analysis, supports the automated detection of kidney stones, ensuring early diagnosis and treatment planning for medical professionals [12].

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Kidney stone detection has also become much better with machine and deep learning models. Earlier, diagnosis was given in the form of ultrasound images, blood work, and urinalysis, which were then interpreted by radiologists manually. Although the older techniques weren't all that good with respect to effectiveness, accuracy, and subjectivity.

The artificial intelligence technology, or the deep learning technology, has revolutionized the medical diagnosis process by using automation in image analysis and increased detection rates.

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) played a vital role in the area of medical imaging by extracting relevant features of ultrasound images automatically. CNN models have been widely used to identify abnormalities in medical scans, which result in quicker and correct diagnoses. CNN models performed better in such tasks as tumor detection, organ segmentation, and pattern recognition in radiology images. While being good, CNN alone is not enough in handling noisy ultrasound scans, noise, and patient-to-patient anatomy variability.

Structural clinical information has also been processed using machine learning methods such as Random Forest and Decision Trees. Some clinical parameters, such as urine pH, calcium and oxalate concentration, are reliable predictors of stone formation. Large sets of patient data can be compared by such models to identify patterns and associations that guide early diagnosis and risk stratification. Machine learning algorithms are a critical addition to clinical decision-making since they can process numerical and categorical data.

Though the state of the art in machine learning and deep learning has grown, single-modality methods have some limitations. CNNs are limited in how they can generate accurate diagnoses when input images are degraded or distorted because of image artifacts. Similarly, clinical data-alone machine learning approaches lack the capability of observing spatial context in medical scans. To fill this gap, researchers have developed multi-modal fusion models incorporating both imaging and clinical data. The hybrid models can take advantage of CNN's strengths in image classification and machine learning models for analyzing clinical data with more precision and reliability.

Quality variation in ultrasound imaging is one of the significant issues in detecting kidney stones. Scanning modality, scanner, and operator competency can differ, affecting image quality and hence complicating standardization of the diagnosis. Secondary, discrimination of kidney stones from others like cysts or tumors similarly relies on high-accuracy models learned from heterogenous data. Data augmentation techniques, transfer learning, and increasingly complex feature extractions have been employed as methods of improving deep-learning model robustness, by researchers.

Model interpretability is a second problem in medical AI use. Deep learning models are very accurate but also "black boxes," and it is difficult for physicians to understand the reasoning behind a prediction. Science continues to advance explainable AI models that produce visual heatmaps and feature importance scores so clinicians can observe how a model made a decision.

Coming studies on the diagnosis of kidney stones will construct even more sophisticated multi-modal learning schedules by incorporating additional sources of data such as patient history, genes, and lifestyle measurements. The use of AI-facilitated diagnosis machines in clinics will bring unprecedented possibilities for improved early detection, reduced misdiagnosis, and improved patient outcomes. As artificial intelligence is further developed, kidney stone diagnosis will be quicker, more precise, and less burdensome for clinicians around the world.

III. METHODOLOGY

The Kidney Stone Detection System is intended to merge ultrasound image processing and clinical data processing with deep learning and machine learning. This approach will guarantee prompt and accurate detection, which will then lead the medical professional to an astute diagnosis. The approach encompasses several key elements, including hardware and software integration, image processing and data preprocessing, model creation, and results integration.

A. System Setup

To process medical images and patients' histories effectively, the system requires a computer with a high-performance computing system. For simple use, an Intel Core i5 CPU, 8GB RAM, and 10GB free storage on your computer is sufficient. If you wish to process a large dataset, you can add 16GB of RAM and add a GPU (such as an NVIDIA GTX 1050 or better) for quicker processing time while training deep learning models. On the software aspect, the system is developed in Python 3.7 or higher, as it is the most popular language to support the best libraries for machine learning and deep learning. TensorFlow and Keras are used for training deep learning models. OpenCV to perform image processing of ultrasound images. And Scikit-learn for working with the clinical data. Also, Pandas and NumPy are used, along with Matplotlib and Seaborn for visualization of the model's performance.

B. Image and Data Preprocessing

The system works with two types of data: ultrasound images and clinical history; thus, each data type has an individual preprocessing process before entering into the models.

Processing ultrasound images: Transform all images into grayscale to be uniform. Standardize all images to 128x128 pixels to ensure the same uniform input into the model. Normalizing pixel values to between 0-1 can increase model efficiency. Implement augmentation techniques to the images such as rotation and contrast changes to increase the model's ability to determine differences on ultrasound images. Processing clinical data: For clinical data handling any incomplete cases will be address by implementing mean imputing so that incomplete cases do not hinder the predictions. Numeric variables such as urine pH, calcium and oxalate levels will be normalized so that reported values will be in the same metric. Only the highlighted variables will be selected which had also been available in the current medical literature and exploratory data analysis. Model Development - The model will be formalized during the data processing phase in two models. One for the ultrasound images and one with the clinical data. CNN model for classification of ultrasound images: The Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) will be used on the ultrasound images to learn patterns. The model will be developed with multiple convolutional layers in its architecture to be able to identify minute patterns within the images. To stabilize the model and reduce complexity, Batch Normalization and pooling layer techniques are used. There is also a fully connected output layer so that the model can assign classes to the images, either Normal, Stone, Tumor, or Cyst. The model uses the categorical cross-entropy loss function, and was trained on the Adam optimizer. Random Forest Model for Clinical Data: Structured clinical records are trained to identify patients using a random forest classifier. It will be trained to make a prediction based on numerical features (i.e., the amount of calcium and oxalate concentration).

C. Fusion Model for Final Diagnosis

The system does not rely solely on one model to determine a final decision, but instead uses a fusion of the Random Forest model and the CNN output. The CNN model will produce a probability associated with the different kidney conditions determined from the analysis of the imaging. The Random Forest model will produce a probability of kidney stones determined based on patient information. The decision will be even weighted the CNN model 60%, the Random Forest model 40% of the decision. If both are the same decision, there’s no issue to determine a conclusion. But if not, then the system will use the probabilities associated with each condition to make a weighted conclusion to provide the right condition.

D. System Optimization and Performance Improvement

The system will be continuously optimized for accuracy and reliability. Error management protocols will be implemented to identify and correct errors in process images or information that is established as clinically unreliable. The model will be retrained and adapted to new patient records so that the system is always current with new medical literature. In terms of protections against overfit conditions within the CNN model, dropout regularization will be incorporated. Cross-validation protocols will be initiated to provide stable performance metrics across new data.

E. Reporting.

Accurate clinical diagnoses and treatment plan recommendations will be presented in linked reports that are generated automatically. Summary performance metrics, like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score will be reported so that the interpretation of the predictions can be assessed against appropriate predictive performance.

IV. RESULTS

Kidney Stone Detection System that combines deep learning and clinical data analysis was tested and utilized successfully. High accuracy was achieved in kidney disease diagnosis through combining CNN-based ultrasound image classification and Random Forest-based clinical predictions.

Based on the test results, the ultimate diagnosis was made by using a fusion model strategy, where the CNN model and clinical prediction were weighted appropriately. The system showed excellent reliability, and it correctly classified tumors, cysts, and normal kidney status. The fusion strategy aided in improving diagnoses so as to reduce minimal misclassification and enhanced decision-making support for physicians.

Final Results for Doctors:

	Patient ID	CNN Prediction	Clinical Prediction	Final Diagnosis
0	P00397	Tumor	Normal	Tumor
1	P00248	Tumor	Cyst	Tumor
2	P09257	Cyst	Normal	Cyst
3	P01431	Tumor	Normal	Tumor
4	P03709	Normal	Normal	Normal
5	P01741	Tumor	Normal	Tumor
6	P12157	Cyst	Cyst	Cyst
7	P09369	Cyst	Cyst	Cyst
8	P01936	Tumor	Normal	Tumor
9	P00928	Tumor	Normal	Tumor

Fig: Result-1

V. CONCLUSION

The Kidney Stone Detection System elegantly combines deep learning-based image classification with machine learning-based clinical data analysis to enable kidney stone diagnosis with enhanced accuracy and efficiency. Utilizing the application of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for image processing of ultrasound images and Random Forest models for clinical data analysis, the system presents an end-to-end and data-driven solution to medical diagnostics. The combination of the two models leads to a more precise prediction, ruling out false positives and false negatives, which are rampant with normal diagnosis techniques.

This model can provide a mechanistic and scalable system with less human interpretation dependency, enabling standardized and faster diagnosis. Real-time reporting and monitoring also facilitate the health care experts to make well-informed decisions. The strength of this model is in the weighted approach of image-based and clinical predictions given by the fusion model and then weighing them in turn to receive an overall indication of kidney wellness.

Future expansion for this system consists of bigger data sets, hyperparameter adjustment of the model, and inclusion of more medical features like genetic predisposition and lifestyle. Future work in explainable AI will enable greater transparency, so that doctors can have more understanding of why they arrived at their decision. With ongoing enhancement, this system has strong potential in maximizing early detection, minimizing misdiagnosis, and enhancing patient care in nephrology.

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