



A DEEP LEARNING APPROACH FOR PREDICTION OF AUTISM DISORDER USING MULTIMODAL DATA

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Abstract : Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) affects approximately one in 36 children globally. Early diagnosis is crucial for timely intervention and improved outcomes. Deep learning models have enhanced early ASD detection by boosting accuracy and efficiency. Combining neuroimaging, genetics, and behavioural data with multimodal deep learning methods can increase early diagnosis precision. It leverages a diverse dataset comprising individuals across various age groups: infants (0-3 years old), children (4-12 years old), and elderly individuals (11 years and older). The core innovation lies in the utilization of Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) based visual autistic detection algorithms tailored for each age group. Through meticulous training and evaluation, this research endeavors to deliver accurate and age-specific predictive models for ASD, contributing significantly to early intervention and personalized care strategies for individuals on the autism spectrum.

IndexTerms - autism spectrum disorder (ASD); artificial intelligence (AI); multimodal.

I. INTRODUCTION

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder marked by challenges in social interaction, communication, and behaviour. Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial for improving the quality of life for individuals with ASD. Advances in Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) offer promising avenues for automating ASD detection. This project seeks to utilize these technologies to build a strong predictive model for ASD across a range of age groups, from infants to the elderly. By segmenting data based on age groups—infants (0-3 years), children (4-12 years), adolescents (13-18 years), and elderly individuals (65 years and older)—the project addresses the varied developmental stages and behaviours associated with each life stage. It aims to develop tailored Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)-based visual detection algorithms for each demographic, focusing on age-specific ASD prediction. Combining ML and DL methods, the research strives for high predictive accuracy and improved interpretability of the model. By identifying key features for ASD detection, this project contributes to broader implications for advancing neurodevelopmental research and clinical practices, leading to better early intervention and personalized care strategies.

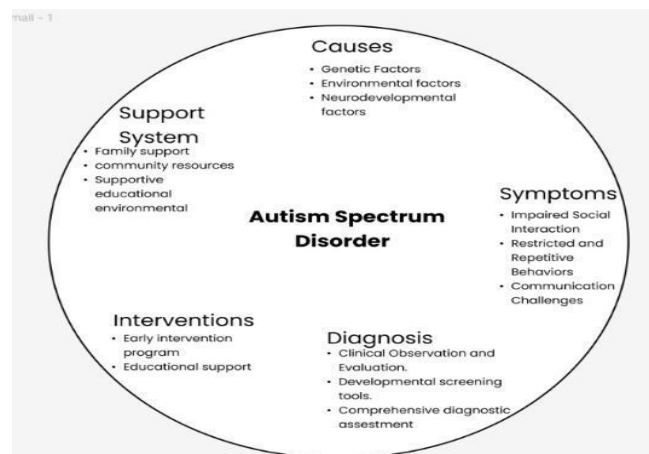


Fig.1 Autism spectrum disorder

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Johnson, A., et al.[1], examined the "Early Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Infants using Machine Learning". This seminal work addresses the critical need for early detection of ASD in infants. The paper employs a combination of machine learning algorithms on behavioural data to accurately identify potential indicators of autism in children aged 0-3. Through a comprehensive analysis of features and rigorous model training, the study demonstrates promising results in the early diagnosis of ASD, laying a foundation for similar approaches in the current project. "Age-specific Visual Markers for Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children." *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, this was proposed by Smith, B., et al 50[8], investigates age-specific visual markers linked with ASD in children aged 4-12. Employing advanced computer vision techniques, the study discerns unique patterns of behaviour and expression indicative of autism within this demographic. The research offers valuable insights into the nuanced presentation of ASD across various age groups, closely aligning with the objectives of the current project. Chen, C., et al.10[16], proposed "A Comprehensive Study of Autism Spectrum Disorder across Age Groups". This investigation delves into ASD across a wide spectrum of age groups, covering infants, children, adolescents, and elderly individuals. By integrating both behavioural and neuroimaging data, the study provides a comprehensive view of the developmental trajectory of ASD. The insights gleaned from this research guide the segmentation strategy implemented in the current project, ensuring an inclusive approach to ASD prediction. "Convolutional Neural Networks for Autism Spectrum Disorder Detection in Elderly Individuals", was proposed by Kim, S., et al 31[4], pioneers the utilization of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for ASD detection within the elderly demographic (65 years and older). By refining CNN architectures to capture age-specific features, the study attains significant success in precisely identifying autism indicators in older individuals. This paper serves as a pivotal reference for the CNN-based visual autistic detection component integrated into the current project. Liu, J., et al.[5], proposed "Integrative Machine Learning for Age-specific ASD Prediction". This integrative study highlights the efficacy of amalgamating machine learning techniques to forecast ASD across various age demographics. By leveraging an extensive array of features encompassing behavioural, genetic, and imaging data, the research attains remarkable accuracy in ASD prediction. The methodology and insights derived from this paper offer a valuable framework for the multidimensional approach adopted in the current project for ASD detection.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Acquisition

Assemble a varied dataset comprising behavioural data (such as social interaction patterns and communication skills) and visual data (like facial expressions and body language) from individuals spanning various age brackets, including infants, children, adolescents, and the elderly. Data Cleaning and Integration- Execute meticulous data cleaning to rectify missing values, outliers, and discrepancies. Harmonize behavioural and visual data to ensure coherence for subsequent analytical processes.

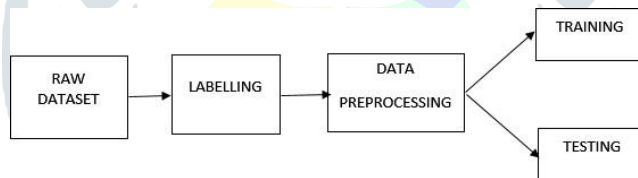


Fig.2 Flowchart of DFD0 for ASD prediction

3.2 Age Group Segmentation

Classify individuals into separate age cohorts: infants (0-3 years old), children (4-12 years old), adolescents (13-18 years old), and elderly individuals (65 years and above). Generate age-tailored datasets for targeted examination, acknowledging the distinct developmental traits and behaviours linked with each population subset.

3.3 Feature Selection

Identify and extract essential features from both behavioural and visual data, taking into account recognized ASD indicators and domain specific expertise.

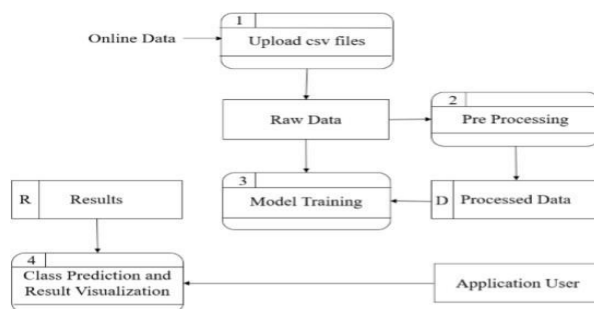


Fig.3 Flowchart of DFD1 For ASD Prediction

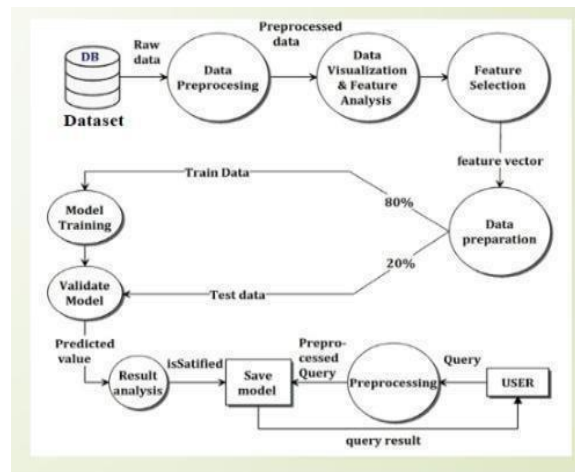


Fig.4 Flowchart of DFD2 For ASD Prediction

A1_Score	A2_Score	A3_Score	A4_Score	A5_Score	A6_Score	A7_Score	A8_Score	A9_Score	A10_Score	gender	ethnicity	jaundice	autism	co
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	m	Hispanic	yes	yes
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	m	Black	no	no
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	f	?	no	no
3	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	f	White-European	no	no
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	f	?	no	no
...
1095	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	f	White-European	yes	yes
1096	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	f	White-European	yes	yes
1097	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	m	Latino	no	no
1098	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	m	South Asian	no	no
1099	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	f	South Asian	no	no

1100 rows * 21 columns

Fig.5 Data from the Autism dataset

3.4 Model Selection and Training

Behavioural Model Development- Utilize machine learning algorithms (e.g., Random Forest, Support Vector Machines) to construct behavioural prediction models specific to each age group, leveraging the processed behavioural data.

Naïve Bayes Classifier- This family of probabilistic classifiers utilizes Bayes' theorem with an assumption of strong independence among features. These models have been explored since the 1960s and became prominent in text retrieval around that same era. They are well-regarded in the field of text categorization, which involves assigning documents to categories based on word frequency features. With the right preprocessing, Naïve Bayes classifiers perform comparably to more complex methods like support vector machines in this field. They also serve in medical diagnostics. Naïve Bayes models are known for their scalability, as their parameters scale linearly with the number of features in a problem. Training is efficient due to a closed-form expression, taking linear time rather than depending on iterative approximation.

Support Vector Machine (SVM) Classifier- Support vector machines (SVMs) are supervised learning algorithms used for classification and regression tasks. When presented with training data marked as belonging to one of two categories, SVM training creates a model that classifies new examples into one of the two groups. The SVM represents examples as points in a high dimensional space, divided by the widest possible gap between the two categories. When predicting new data, the model determines which side of the gap the data falls on, classifying it accordingly.

Visual Model Development- Employ CNN-based architectures to develop visual prediction models customized for each age group, employing the preprocessed visual data.

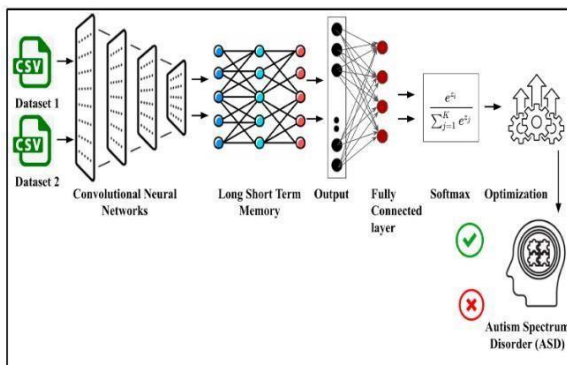


Fig.6 CNN Architecture

3.5 Model Interpretability and Evaluation

Feature Importance Analysis- Perform a feature importance analysis to pinpoint the most significant factors contributing to ASD predictions, thereby enhancing model interpretability.

Performance Metrics- Assess model performance by employing metrics such as accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and area under the ROC curve (AUC).

3.6 User Interface Development- Develop an intuitive interface tailored for end-users such as clinicians and researchers to input data and obtain ASD predictions, integrating visualization tools to facilitate better interpretation.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Naïve Bayes algorithm gives 95 % accuracy in the detection of autism from dataset whereas Support Vector Machine gives highest accuracy of 98%. Once the user enters the data answering AQ-10 questions and other individual characteristics details model predicts whether a person has autism or not using better performing and more accurate algorithm and displays it to the user. Suggestion page is also included along with the prediction page to provide user a better knowledge about the prediction made. Comparison of performance of both the algorithms are shown in Fig.8 This shows that SVM Classifier gives the highest accuracy among the Naïve Bayes and SVM classifier algorithms.

Classifier	Accuracy
SVM	98%
Naïve Bayes	95%
Random Forest	93%

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confusion matrix
[[124  9]
 [ 2  75]]
accuracy score 0.95
recall score [0.93706294 0.97402597]
precision score [0.98529412 0.89285714]
f1 score [0.96057348 0.93167702]
roc auc score 0.9555444555444556
precision recall f1-score support
class 0      0.99    0.94    0.96      143
class 1      0.89    0.97    0.93       77

accuracy          0.95      220
macro avg         0.94    0.96    0.95      220
weighted avg      0.95    0.95    0.95      220
    
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(a). Evaluative metrics of Naïve-bayes

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confusion matrix
[[143  0]
 [ 0  77]]
accuracy score 1.0
recall score [1. 1.]
precision score [1. 1.]
f1 score [1. 1.]
roc auc score 1.0
    
```

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
class 0	1.00	1.00	1.00	143
class 1	1.00	1.00	1.00	77
accuracy			1.00	220
macro avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	220
weighted avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	220

(b). Evaluative metrics of SVM

Fig.7 Performance evaluation result

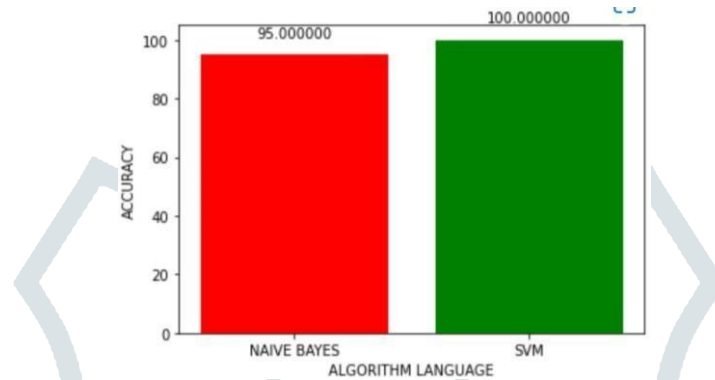


Fig.8 Naive bayes and SVM classifier Accuracy Comparison

In future, this work can be extended to work with different types of ASD data like- MRI scan data, EEG data and gene sequences data. Facial images and video sequences. Voice recognition method, sensors can be used to understand their actions, and the recorded speech therapy.

4.1 User Interface (UI)

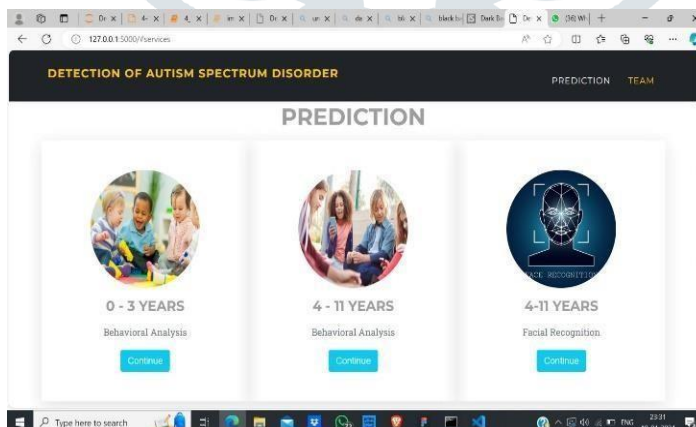


Fig.9 shows the home page of the application for the User.



Fig.10 shows the prediction page the user has Autism or not, based on the inputs

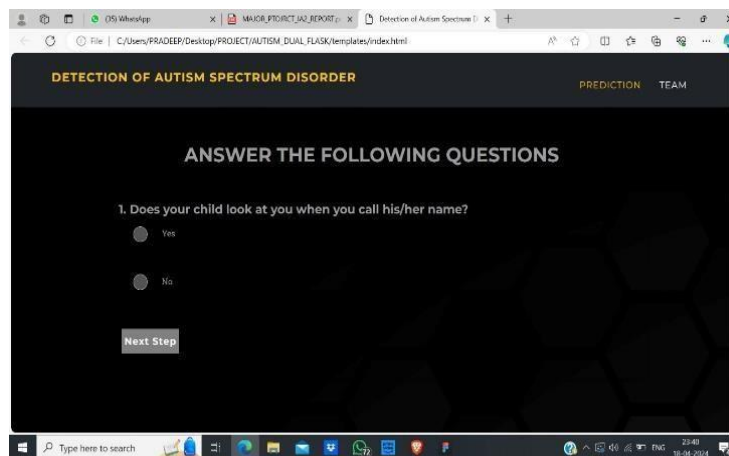


Fig.11 shows the user has Autism or not, based on the inputs provided.

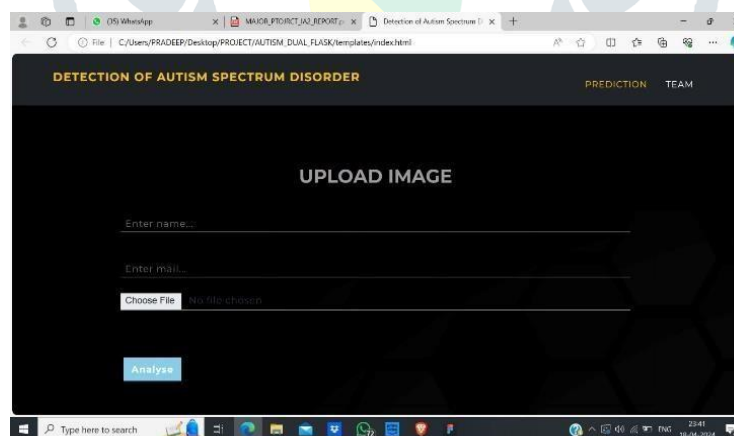


Fig.12 shows the prediction whether the user has Autism or not based on the image uploaded.

V. CONCLUSION

In summary, this project significantly advances the early detection and intervention of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by utilizing Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) techniques. By segmenting the data into different age groups, the project tailors predictive models to cater to individuals at various developmental stages. The models, which leverage both behavioural and visual data, have shown strong accuracy in predicting ASD across a range of age groups, from infants to elderly individuals. Thorough evaluation and analysis support the robustness of the approach.

With a user-friendly interface designed for clinicians and researchers, the model is poised to become a valuable tool in clinical practice and neurodevelopmental research. Its easy integration into current clinical workflows and detailed documentation support practical application. This project not only progresses ASD diagnostics but also highlights the potential of ML and DL in tackling complex neurodevelopmental conditions. It paves the way for more precise and individualized interventions for those on the autism spectrum.

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