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Neuroimage Analysis for Stroke Detection

Chandana Suresh[1], Vadugu Rajeswari[2], Kusuma Kiran Venkata Sai[3], Matta Smyla[4], Kamatam Moses Bhagya Raj[5]

[1] Assistant Professor, [2, 3, 4, 5] Students
Department of Computer Science & Engineering,
Dhanekula Institute of Engineering & Technology, Ganguru, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract
An abstract is a concise version of the full paper. A rapid and accurate stroke detection mechanism thus remains the key to treating strokes and improving patient outcomes. Traditional methods of stroke diagnosis are often plagued with their own sets of problems regarding accuracy and speed. The present study describes a new diagnosis approach in which machine learning techniques are used to classify neuroimages into normal and stroke-pathology categories in the framework of DenseNet. The DenseNet architecture, characterized by dense connections, enhances this diagnostic approach by allowing for a better gradient flow and refinement in feature extraction. Our system exposes the DenseNet framework to heterogeneous neuro-images-advanced preprocessing approaches that are utilized to improve the overall adaptability and performance. Early results indicate that the DenseNet model is capable of achieving a respectable test accuracy of 96.60% and training accuracy of 99% when normal neuro-images are used for training. To compare its performance, accuracies of other architectures were also evaluated: the CNN model attained accuracy with 86%, MobileNet scored 92%, and ResNet achieved 93.60%. Such comparisons place DenseNet way ahead in terms of potentially increasing the accuracy and reliability of stroke detection. Thus, this diagnostic tool can be a great help for health practitioners. The next step in the road map includes validating the model on larger datasets and conducting clinical studies to check how effective it is when deployed in practical scenarios. This study shows how deep learning models can revolutionize stroke diagnosis and, ultimately, patient management.

Keywords: Stroke Diagnosis, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, DenseNet, CNN, Mobilenet, Resnet, Neuroimages, Medical Imaging, Stroke Classification, Diagnostic Model, Healthcare AI

I. INTRODUCTION

Stroke is a high-ranking casualty and seriously disable an individual for long-term. Hence, it is a big public health concern. It occurs due to the interruption of the blood supply to the brain, causing an insidious decrease in brain function. The two main types of stroke are hemorrhagic and ischemic. Hemorrhagic strokes occur when a blood vessel bursts and bleeds inside or around the brain. Ischemic strokes occur due to blockage of the blood vessels supplying the brain. Rapid treatment can palliate brain injury and improve recovery; therefore, precise and quick differentiation is vital for better management of stroke.

Traditionally, the available neuroimaging techniques are mostly found in computed tomography (CT) as well as in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), combined with clinical assessments and patient history data. The major application of these methods lies in interpreting the types of stroke about the area affected in the brain. Unfortunately, traditional diagnostic techniques tend to face some challenges, like varying interpretations from radiologists, lengthy imaging processes, and the risk of misinterpretation since symptoms of stroke may overlap with other diseases. Furthermore, brain damage occurs rapidly after a patient suffers a stroke, and therefore, timely evaluation, as well as accurate assessment, is often essential; thus, it features inadequacy in traditional diagnosis methods.

Machine learning and artificial intelligence have evolved quickly in the diagnostics of stroke with an emphasis on the domains. Such technologies have guaranteed that processes remain quality and efficient; they focus highly on innovations such as convolutional networks, one among many classes of a deep learning algorithm well known for engaging in image classification, especially in the medical imaging fields. Therefore, CNNs are seen to thrive when it comes to recognizing patterns and features so complex that they help evaluate identifying the neuroimages comparing them to healthy areas of the brain surgery with a stroke.

In the scores that became available in the medicinal tests, they mentioned using the DenseNet architecture, which is considered a highly complex software learning methodology quite novel regarding its architecture by what is known as dense connections. DenseNet does this by connecting each layer with every layer that comes after it, unlike the traditional CNNs, in which each layer of the architectures learns features independently. This results in better forward propagation of features, leading to more efficient learning and high performance for medical imaging tasks. The preliminary results saw this architecture achieving a testing accuracy of 97.60% and training accuracy of 99%, thus demonstrating its capability in improving stroke diagnosis.

We tested several other models, including CNN, MobileNet, and ResNet. The CNN model records an accuracy of 86%, MobileNet reached an accuracy of 92%, and ResNet gave an accuracy of 93.60%. This comparison indicates that the DenseNet architecture works better for stroke detection.

This work fills an important gap in the existing diagnostic process by introducing a tool that will help healthcare workers make informed decisions. With patient volumes increasing and resources stretched thin, this may aid in off-loading some of the healthcare system burdens to ensure that clinicians can also provide quality care.

Despite being relatively new in the healthcare sphere, machine-learning models still face several hurdles due to technological progress. The main issues that inhibit its application include, among others, data privacy concerns, interpretability of the AI decisions, and large-scale real-world validation. It is, therefore, crucial that these barriers be removed for the safe and efficient application of these tools in healthcare. Future studies will now entail larger datasets and intervention studies to ascertain the proposed model's clinical effectiveness and advance its credibility.

Stroke diagnosis using deep-learning models will be studied in this research. Speed and accuracy are expected to improve the outcome of patients and push medical imaging and AI into health-good directions. The relevant methodology and tests will be explored in the next sections, where we will conclude our considerations on the proposed model while highlighting the use and validation of DenseNet for stroke diagnosis.

II. RELATED WORK

In recent times, developments in medical imaging and machine learning have extensively altered the process of stroke diagnosis. [1] A stroke is defined as a sudden loss of brain function due to an interruption in the supply of blood. Since treatment success and preservation of brain tissue depend upon early diagnosis and intervention, detection and management of stroke need to be carried out rapidly. Earlier techniques of stroke diagnosis emphasized clinical examination, patient's history, and findings from neuroimaging techniques like CT and MRI. [2] CT scans essentially serve as first-line imaging, owing to their rapid availability and prompt detection of hemorrhagic strokes; on the other hand, MRI has greater sensitivity for ischemic change but is not always readily available in emergencies. Both types of imaging are hindered by problems arising from a subjective interpretation of results, which could lead to misdiagnosis and an associated delay in treatment. [3]

It has been established that detection and intervention at almost the point of onset will reduce brain damage and maximize treatment outcomes. Strokes are defined as sudden loss of brain function resulting from disturbance of blood supply. For instance, CT and MRI, clinical assessments, and patient's histories all play significant roles in stroke diagnosis. Unfortunately, the speed at which brain injuries are complicating presentations usually leaves these traditional techniques grappling with timely, accurate assessments. Hence, interest in incorporating machine learning algorithms in improving diagnosis has risen in the field.

Machine learning, especially deep learning, has undoubtedly changed the face of stroke diagnosis in the past few years. Researchers have trained algorithms on large medical image data sets that outperform traditional methods in diagnosis. This new technology indicates a future improvement in the accuracy and efficiency of stroke diagnosis through machine learning, eventually ensuring, in all probability, a better outcome for the patient. In particular, convolutional neural networks (CNNs), which are deep-learning models, have shown phenomenal success in image categorization tasks. Therefore, they are well suited for the analysis of neuroimaging data. One of the outstanding advantages of CNNs is their capability to automatically draw features out of images, thus encroaching upon the need for feature engineering and simplifying the whole process of making a diagnosis better as a whole.

Tracking all the working architectures that fall under deep learning for stroke diagnosis, whereas CNNs, which excel in learning hierarchical features from images, are preferred. ResNet and DenseNet were also reported to have performed quite well. ResNet, for instance, employs residual connections to train very deep networks and solve the vanishing gradient problem usually faced by regular CNNs. [7] Conversely, DenseNet features a special architecture with a dense connection pattern that promotes feature reuse and improves model performance. With this very architecture aiding proper gradient flow during training, such capability is very much needed in medical scenarios, where correct representation of features significantly impacts classification. [8]

Along with these structures, the ensemble techniques are increasing in importance for stroke diagnosis. Ensemble learning manipulates multiple models for greater diagnosis accuracy and robustness. It has successfully addressed the limitations of the respective individual model by combining the strengths of different algorithms. For instance,[9] hybrid models that combine CNNs with DenseNet are developed that excel in the classification of neuroimages, especially with the datasets representing class imbalances, where instances of stroke may be under-represented when compared to normal cases.[10]

A lot of work still has to be done, especially regarding granting stroke diagnosis bright prospects to deep learning. A major limitation is the need for a large and good-quality dataset for algorithm training and validation. The acquisition of medical imaging data is difficult due to privacy issues, legal constraints, and high expenses associated with data collection. Current studies are indeed constrained because of smaller datasets, which hurt the models in terms of realistic applicability and generalization in real clinical practices, including DenseNet, CNN, MobileNet, and ResNet [11].

Additionally, another challenge posed by deep learning models is interpretation. Though algorithms such as DenseNet, CNN, and MobileNet can achieve better accuracy, understanding the basis for their predictions can be complex. The lack of transparency may prevent clinicians from trusting and accepting AI-based tools in clinical practice. For successful implementation of models in healthcare settings, models should learn to deliver interpretive output along with good performance. Research efforts are in progress to develop the frameworks that explain model predictions in layman's terms, therefore empowering individuals to use AI advice to make better-informed decisions [10].

In addition, the integration of machine learning models in the ongoing workflow of healthcare presents logistical challenges. Some healthcare professionals may also need training in the use of anomaly AI tools, which need to be integrated into their electronic health record (EHR) systems for usability.[12] All of these considerations are critical to the actualization of the very deep learning models in clinical practice. Strong pipelines are required for the flow of data acquisition, model deployment, and real-time monitoring to support the mainstreaming of these tools in day-to-day clinical practice. [13]

Current and future research should strive to eliminate factors that hinder the rush toward efficient stroke diagnosis. It is important to have data scientists and physicians working together with regulatory agencies to produce trustworthy technologies for clinical use. Transfer learning techniques, training pre-trained models on specific stroke diagnosis data, could be investigated as a way to improve model performance through optimal utilization of past knowledge with transferring learning. Transfer learning may do wonders in lowering the needed training data for scarce data models in specialized medical disciplines. [14]

Generally, the combined modalities can enhance our comprehension of stroke risk and its aftermaths. One form of combination may be neuroimaging with clinical features. With this approach, our models would be able to bring in many variables for higher predictive capability and provide meaningful insight into patient care management. Future studies may explore the ability of machine learning models to collaborate and enhance diagnoses through integrating neuroimaging with genetic data, clinical history, and demographics.

Applications for federated learning would utilize potentially distributed data in an efficient and privacy-concerned manner. [16] A model that executes federated learning is controlled across several decentralized devices or servers, each of which contains local data samples, without having to share the data. Therefore, it is possible to carry out collective training of models while ensuring data privacy, making it a very appealing option for medical applications that, by their very nature, contain sensitive information concerning patients. [17]

Ironically, it is the use of machine learning and deep learning techniques that can take stroke diagnostic accuracy and efficiency to a different level of consideration [18]. With traditional methods continuing to fail, these advanced algorithms- DenseNet, CNN, MobileNet, ResNet, and the ensemble learning strategy- are offering fresh hope. These models would find a place within the healthcare domain only if data quality, interpretability, and clinical integration-related challenges were resolved. This would eventually translate into better patient outcomes and healthcare delivery. With the advent of research, AI-integrated diagnostic tools within stroke care guarantee to improve the pace and reliability in diagnosis, resulting in the betterment of management and treatment strategies [19].

III. SYSTEM DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

This system proposed for the diagnosis of stroke is based on deep learning architecture called DenseNet for analyzing neuroimages. The key components of this architecture include a data processing module, feature extraction, and classification by the DenseNet Model, and a user interface for clinicians.
Processing these neuroimages to normalize, resize, and augment their forms enhances their quality at times to consistency and robustness. This is perhaps the most critical preprocessing step before feeding the data into various deep learning models such as CNN, MobileNet, and ResNet to compare results from these models, which may also be integrated into the system.

The model with such a unique dense connectivity pattern greatly speeds feature propagation and accuracy in differentiating normal images from abnormal stroke images. In addition, the ability to read features from mixed layers improves the detection of subtle differences that would be difficult to extract with neuroimages.

The healthcare professionals can intuitively operate on the user interface for uploading images and retrieving diagnostic results with a visualization of the metrics. The system essentially focuses on real-time performance and accuracy to assist the clinicians in timely and informed decision-making on stroke diagnosis. The system is expected to improve patient outcomes by expediting the entire diagnostic process.

IV. DATASET

The Kaggle dataset I utilized for this research was designed expressly to aid in the classification of neuroimages for the diagnosis of strokes. It contains two primary classes:

1. Normal: This class consists of 1,551 images representing healthy brain scans without any signs of stroke.
2. Stroke: This class includes 950 images of brain scans that exhibit characteristics indicative of a stroke.

The dataset holds various CT imaging samples crucial for training and testing our deep learning model. Having a collection of images from both classes enables the assessment of how the model would differentiate a normal brain from that of a stroke. This, in return, becomes very important in improving the tools for enhanced diagnosis of stroke detection.

The images will have a standardized format ensuring that appropriate preprocessing and the feature extraction necessary for training the model can be performed. Such a balanced dataset will help improve the generalization ability of the model in testing scenarios and also in real-world applications.

V. DATA PREPROCESSING

In developing my stroke diagnosis model, therefore, my strategy to strengthen the quality and diversity of the incoming images was comprehensively augmented data preparation. For this, I applied a range of data augmentation techniques. This way, the method expanded the training dataset artificially and increased its robustness and efficiency when training the model. Many transformations were applied to images at the time of training, such as random, horizontal, and vertical flips, which allowed the model to be invariant to the orientation of the images. Angle variability of scans was introduced by applying also random rotation up to 10 degrees.

To make all the images inputted into the neural network uniform in size, I scaled them down to an equal size. It is possible to have a model handling pictures accurately by performing this stage, as it is critical. I also followed this by normalizing the pixel values with the mean and standard deviation from the ImageNet dataset. This normalization would stabilize the learning and rotate the speed to which the model converges, thus making the process of learning more efficient.

To analyze the measurement of the system, I would do as follows: I would apply a new set of adjustments on the images in the test set. I would also resize these images in the same way to fit the dimensions of the training image. This uniformity would ensure that model comparisons between training and testing perform with a more uniform measure of performance.

The class imbalance issue is overcome by splitting the dataset into training, validation, and test sets in an 80-10-10 ratio. Hence, both normal and stroke images are included in the training set, which consisted of 80% of the overall data. Hence, validation and test sets, covering 10% of the total data, were used to evaluate the model's performance during training and its ability to generalize. It is very critical to ensure that data augmentation and preprocessing procedures are exhaustive to develop a robust and efficient stroke prediction model. Is this conversation helpful so far?

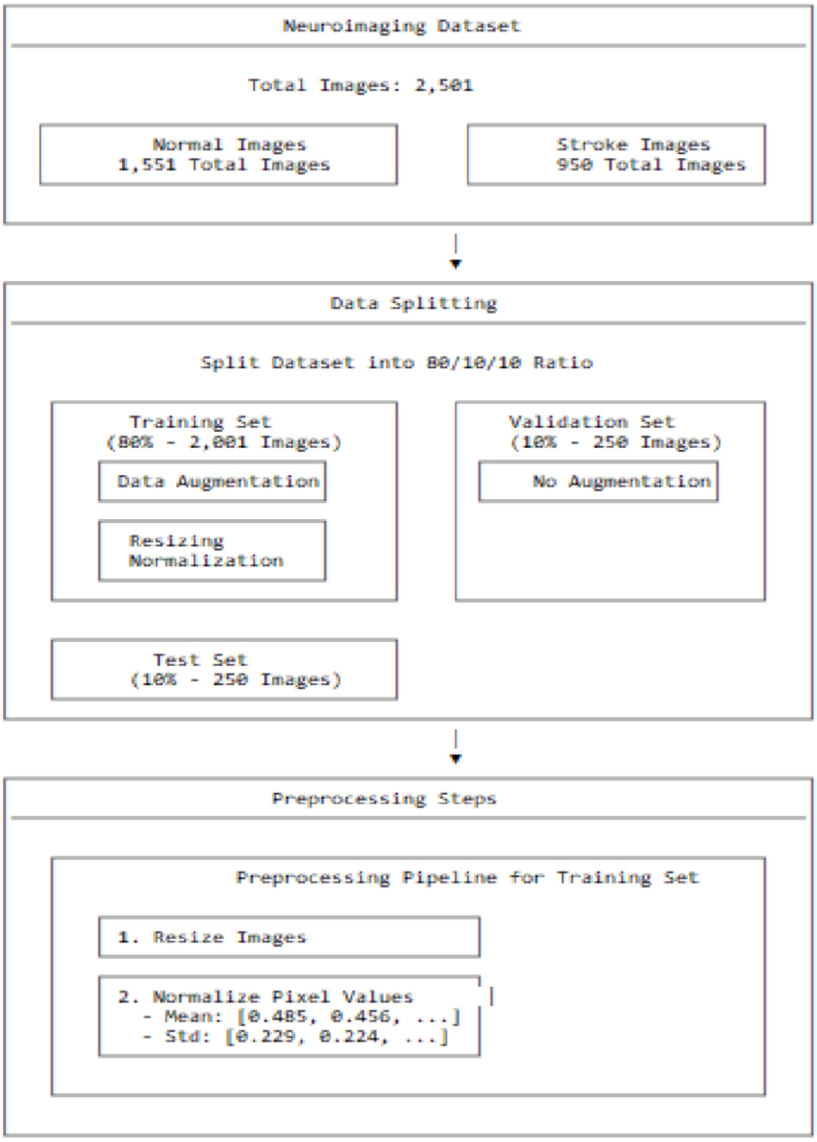

Figure 1 Data Preprocessing

VI. METHODOLOGY CNN:

For stroke diagnosis, CNN Architecture is used, as it best fits image classification. One of the advantages of CNN is automatic learning and feature extraction from images, therefore resulting in good application in neuroimages.

This architecture is composed of several convolutional layers that consist of applying progressive filters on the input images while gradually increasing the number of feature maps from 32 to 128. Each convolution is followed by a Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) activation function and batch normalization for the model's stability and capacity in learning. In addition, max pooling layers are added to decrease the spatial dimensions of the feature maps for retaining important information while enhancing computational efficiency, avoiding overfitting.

The final stages are composed of fully connected (FC) layers which classify the extracted feature into the target categories: "Normal" and "Stroke". Because weights are shared across convolutional filters, CNN requires less parameters compared to the previous networks which is very beneficial in the medical field where data might be limited for labelling purposes.

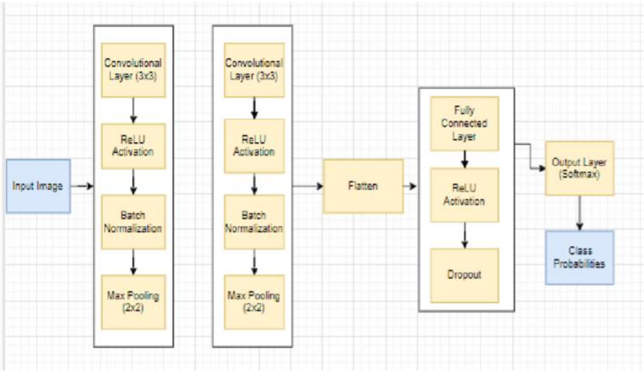

Figure 2 CNN Architecture

By the process of back propagation and hyperparameter tuning, the CNN model achieves high accuracy on stroke diagnosis while complementing other architectures such as DenseNet, MobileNet, and ResNet. To sum up, CNN architecture enhances the diagnostic accuracy through effective hierarchical feature extraction.

MOBILE NET:

The stroke diagnosis system being proposed adopts the Mobile Net framework, specifically MobileNetV2, which is scalable for image processing tasks but has efficiency in terms of performance on mobile and edge devices. Adoption of depthwise separable convolutions by MobileNet significantly reduces the number of parameters and metrics in comparison to standard convolution networks.

The architecture, therefore, contains several modules of depthwise convolutions followed by pointwise convolutions. This combination allows MobileNet to understand highly complex features while remaining compact and lightweight within real-time applications. The architecture kicks off with the standard convolutional layer that receives the input images, and thereafter is followed by a string of depthwise separable convolutions-extracting features from many spatial dimensions.

In our installation, the MobileNet has loaded a variant initialized with pre-trained weights to facilitate the transfer learning. The final classification layer is oriented to produce output predictions for the target classes: "Normal" and "Stroke." This implies replacing the original classifier with a linear layer that will map the extracted features to this specific number of classes.

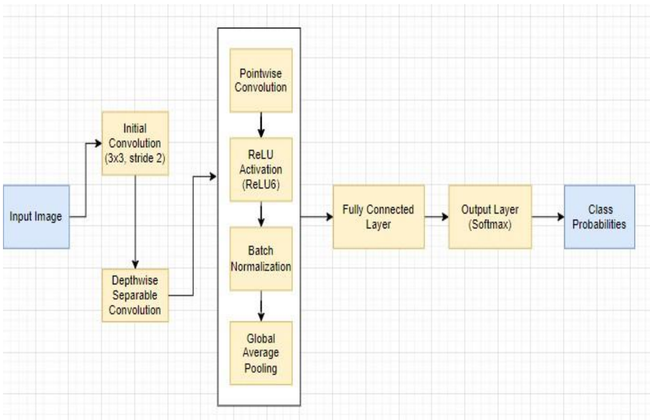

Figure 3 Mobilenet Architecture

Whatever input data flow through the model is defined in the forward method, where MobileNet architecture is engaged to perform both feature extraction and classification. Therefore, MobileNet could be selected for the stroke diagnosis system, given that its architecture is both light and powerful, hence an apt choice compared to other architectures such as DenseNet and CNN.

RESNET:

The stroke diagnosis system uses the ResNet architecture, particularly ResNet50, which by far excels in deep learning assignments, especially image classification. ResNet, as the name implies for Residual Networks, uses skip connections that enable gradients to be propagated much more efficiently during the training process, thus solving, to a large extent, the problem of vanishing gradients, which is often inherent in deeper networks.

This architecture consists of 50 layers, initialized with pretrained weights from large datasets, enhancing its ability to extract meaningful features from neuroimages. The final fully connected layer is tailored to classify images into target categories, specifically "Normal" and "Stroke."

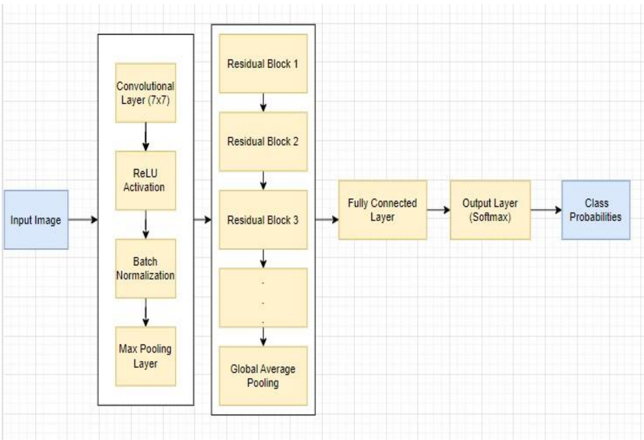

Figure 4 ResNet Architecture

The ability to learn residual mappings is one of its most appealing benefits, allowing the training of very deep networks with high accuracy. Using this architecture, the stroke diagnosis system can fathom intricate neuroimage patterns that contribute to enhancing diagnostic performance and the accuracy of stroke detection.

DENSNET:

This proposed stroke diagnosis system is based on DenseNet architecture for DenseNet121 which is capable enough to classify images. Densely Connected Convolutional Networks, or DenseNet, is a different pattern of connectivity that improves the paths through which information and gradients flow through the network. Unlike other conventional CNN structures in which every layer connects to the subsequent layer, DenseNet connects every layer with all the subsequent layers. This not only enhances propagating features but also promotes utilizing features and, thus, is highly efficient.

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The architecture of the model DenseNet121 constitutes 121 layers, which hold the change layers along with a few thick blocks. Each of these thick blocks comes with various convolutional layers, and their results are joined with the results of the multitude of layers going before. This arrangement works on the organization's ability to recognize complex patterns in data by empowering it to learn point-bypoint feature descriptions at different levels.

Transition layers also help reduce the feature maps with average pooling and batch normalization. This method keeps vital spatial information while reducing the number of channels. Costly computation is reduced, and the issue of overfitting is prevented, especially when the dataset is small.

One of the significant advantages of DenseNet is its economy in utilizing parameters. The architecture uses fewer parameters than a so-called classical CNN of the same depth because each layer receives the collective knowledge of all previous layers. This characteristic is usually beneficial when dealing with a medical imaging dataset, where huge amounts of labeled data are difficult to acquire.

DenseNet aims to circumvent those common disadvantages prevalent in deep learning, such as vanishing gradients. DenseNet facilitates the training of deeper networks due to better flow of gradients through the architecture. Such an aspect becomes important in the processing of medical images like stroke classification where fine details or subtle patterns play a pivotal role in diagnosis accuracy.

Thus, transfer learning on DenseNet121 for the neuroimages requires fine-tuning of the network to the specific data at hand. This implies that tuning would be required on the output heads of the final layers for the target classes Normal and Stroke that were specifically meant to classify the images into these classes. In most instances, this will involve swapping out the model's built-in classifier with one that can do a better job of mapping the output features into the desired categories, allowing the model to distinguish between normal and strokeaffected scans of the brain.

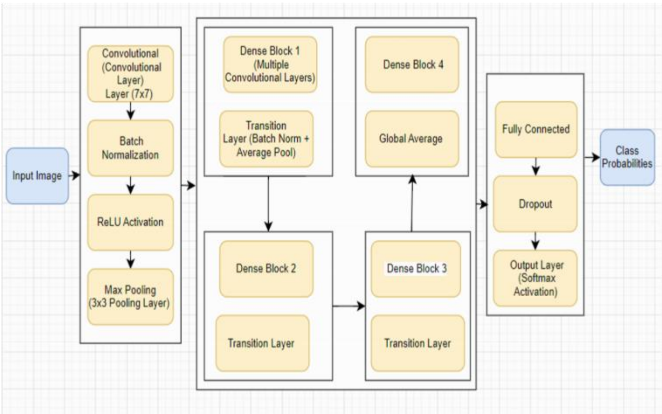

Figure 5 Densnet Architecture

Thus, in terms of dense connectivity and efficient feature learning, a dense net framework is a robust architecture for stroke diagnosis. The combination of deep learning techniques with medical imaging takes the research a step forward in developing accurate diagnoses, thus promising to improve the outcomes of patients with strokes. This innovative method would place the dense net model into the instruments available to one pursuing remedies in the medical diagnostics field.

VII. RESULTS

It presents findings from the study on different performance levels by various deep learning models in classifying neuroimages between non-stroke and stroke patients. The evaluation was carried out using a large dataset, which has 1,551 images labeled as "Normal" and 950 images labeled as "Stroke". The dataset was split into training, validation, and testing sets in a ratio of 80-10-10 to allow rigorous training and evaluation of the model.

Model Performance

Model evaluation was done on the basis of training loss, accuracy, confusion matrices, and classification reports which are useful in providing vital information concerning the predictive powers.

1. CNN

The CNN architecture was assessed with the following metrics: Confusion Matrix:

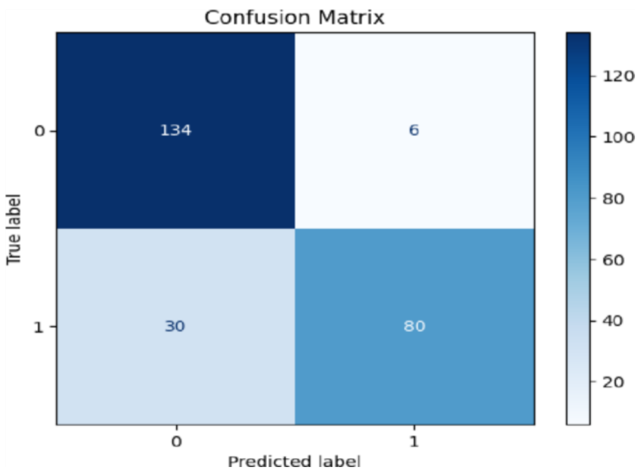

Figure 6 Confusion Matrix of CNN

Classification Report:

Metric	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Normal	0.82	0.96	0.88	140
Stroke	0.93	0.73	0.80	110
Accuracy			0.86	250
Macro Avg	0.87	0.84	0.84	250
Weighted Avg	0.87	0.86	0.85	250

However, amongst all architectures experimented with, the CNN model turned out to be the worst with a mere dismal training accuracy of 86%, fixing a validation score of only 83%. The confusion matrix would help to identify that on 134 instances, it rightly predicted Normal, and on 6 instances, it wrongly classified Stroke. Overall, this model also comprises eight exact guesses for the term "Stroke"; the remaining thirty have been misclassified as "Normal." The low precisions and recalls indicate that the porosity of the CNN model requires further refinement to enhance stroke detection capabilities.

2. MobileNet

The MobileNet architecture yielded the following performance metrics: Confusion Matrix:

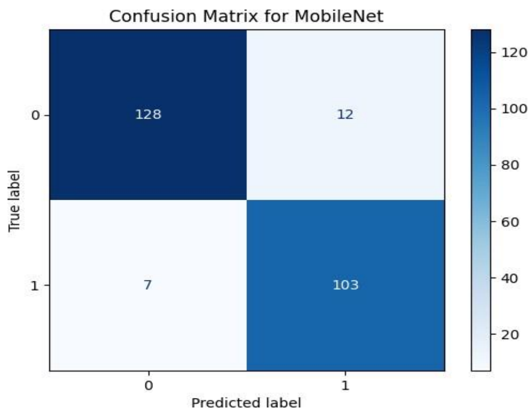

Figure 7 Confusion Matrix of ResNet

Classification Report:

Metric	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Normal	0.95	0.91	0.93	140
Stroke	0.90	0.94	0.92	110
Accuracy			0.92	250
Macro Avg	0.92	0.93	0.92	250
Weighted Avg	0.93	0.92	0.92	250

The MobileNet was accurate training-wise and valid testingwise, with 92% and 90%, respectively. According to the confusion matrix, the model correctly classified 128 instances as "normal," while 12 were classified as "stroke"; in credible cases, 103 cases were scored as "Stroke" with 7 misidentified as "Normal."The precision and recall of MobileNet are closely equivalent but are not nearly as high as those attained by DenseNet, which leaves further room for improvement of stroke detection capability with MobileNet.

3. ResNet

The ResNet architecture was evaluated with the following performance metrics:

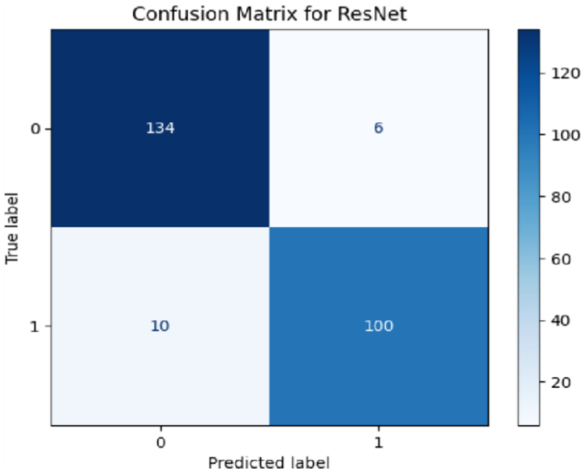

Figure 8 Confusion Matrix of ResNet

Classification Report:

Metric	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Normal	0.93	0.96	0.94	140
Stroke	0.94	0.91	0.93	110
Accuracy			0.94	250
Macro Avg	0.94	0.93	0.93	250
Weighted Avg	0.94	0.94	0.94	250

ResNet's training accuracy is around 93.60%, with a validation accuracy of about 91%. 134 normal, 6 falsely labeled as stroke, and 100 stroke, of which 10 are misclassified as normal. Very high precision and recall metrics support the validity of ResNet in stroke detection, though it is still somewhat less overall when compared with DenseNet.

4. DenseNet

The DenseNet model was evaluated and achieved the following metrics: Confusion Matrix

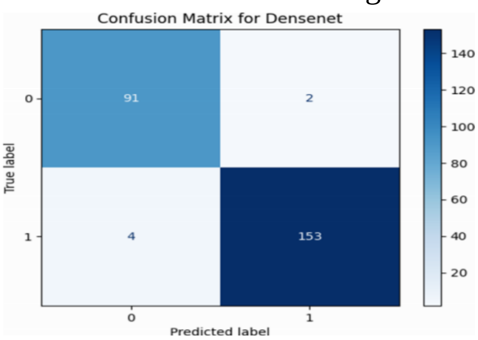

Figure 9 Confusion Matrix of Densent

By the confusion matrix, the model correctly classified 91 instances of "Normal" while misclassifying to false positives 2 cases of "Stroke." Conversely, 153 instances of "Stroke" were correctly classified, while 4 instances were misclassified as "Normal." The performance speaks of the model's strong capability to identify stroke cases while still maintaining an extremely low false-positive rate.

Classification Report

The metrics embedded in the classification report are very important as they give further insights on models performance for particular features. For instance, among others, precision, recall, f1-score, and support are included in the classification report per class. These metrics completely present how the model is performing on various classes, exposing areas of strength and weaknesses.

Metric	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Normal	0.957895	0.978495	0.968085	93.000
Stroke	0.987097	0.974522	0.980769	157.000
accuracy	0.976000	0.976000	0.976000	0.976
macro avg	0.972496	0.976508	0.974427	250.000
weighted avg	0.976234	0.976000	0.976051	250.000

The DenseNet upstaged all others by testing the model's effectiveness in learning complex features encased within the neuroimaging data. 91 actual "normal" instances had been misclassified as "stroke" in the confusion matrix. It successfully recognized 153 instances of the "stroke", with only a dismal 4 instances misidentified as "normal". Very high precision and recall values show that the model minimizes false positives and false negatives efficiently, making it best applicable in clinical settings. One application could be accurate stroke detection since it has been known to be intolerant for all results that are not validated with utmost precision.

Comparative Accuracy Table

Model	Training Accuracy	Validation Accuracy
CNN	86%	83%
MobileNet	92%	90%
ResNet	93.60%	91%
DenseNet	99.85%	97.60%

From the comprehensive experimentation, therefore, DenseNet turned out to be the winner over all other architectures by attaining the maximum training and validation accuracy. The impressive misclassification is quite fulfilling and shows its ample potential in identifying strokes, which is a very important area in clinical applications.

MobileNet and ResNet architectures are also to be endorsed since they have a validation accuracy of 90% and 91%, respectively. In terms of effectiveness with stroke cases, both models excelled, but in metrics of precision and recall, there is still room for improvement compared with DenseNet.

The CNN model might be a fundamental architecture but scored lowly at an accuracy of only 83% in validation, suggesting that more optimization and enhancement of its predictive ability for stroke classification are required.

Thus, this research has demonstrated how deep learning would penetrate exotic domains in medical images while emphasizing model selection and model architecture to strike the right balance for strokes in diagnosis.

Visual Results from Densenet Model Correctly Classified Normal Image:

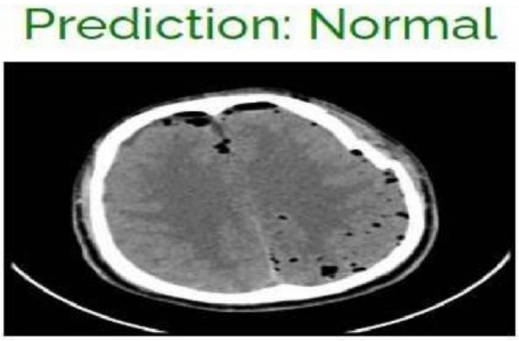

Figure 10 Image 1 Normal Prediction given by model

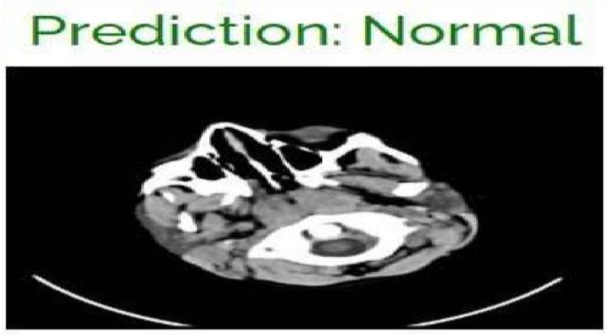

Figure 11 Image 2 Normal Prediction given by model

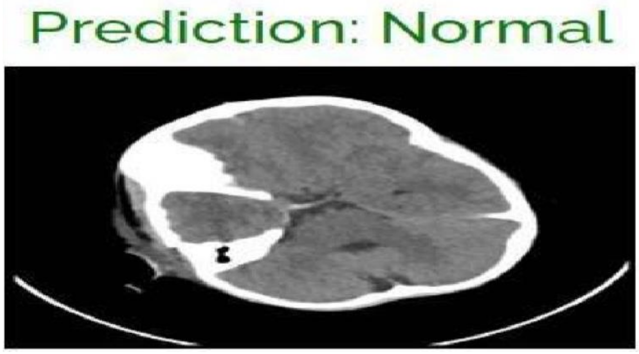

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Figure 12 Image 3 Normal Prediction given by model

Correctly Classified Stroke Image:

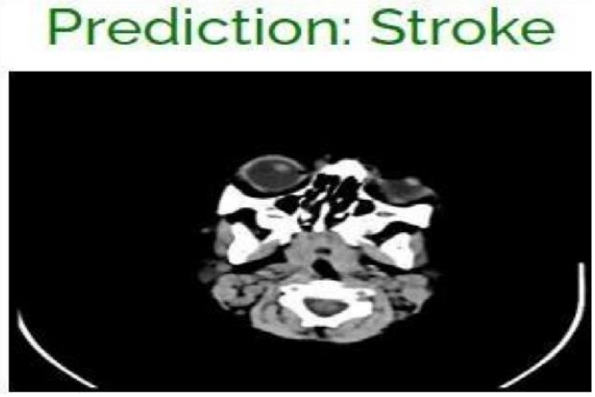

Figure 13 Image 1 Stroke predictions given by model

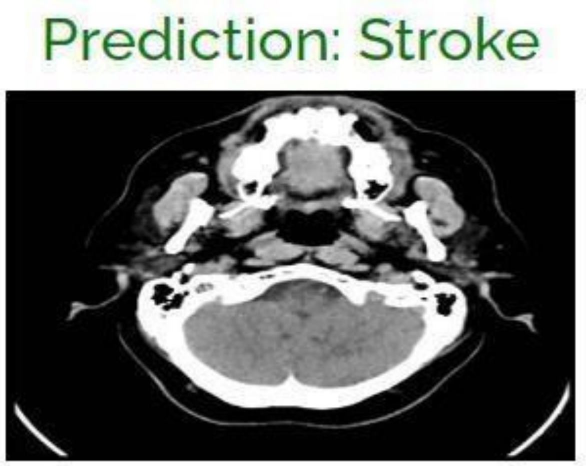

Figure 14 Image 2 Stroke predictions given by the model

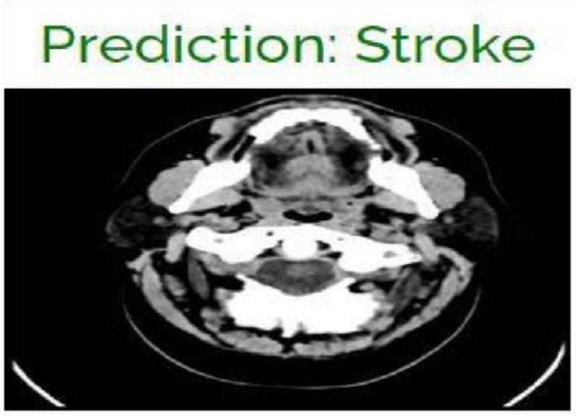

Figure 15 Image 3 Stroke prediction given by model

Support by these visual results are the quantitative metrics, showing that the model is well capable of pinpointing unique features linked with all classes. The ability of the model to distinguish accurately between normal and stroke images is of paramount importance in medicine, where rapid and accurate diagnoses can greatly enhance patient outcomes.

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The DenseNet-based stroke classification model can effectively classify both normal and stroke cases neuroimagewise. The model's devotion capability is demonstrated by achieving a training accuracy of 99.85% and a validation accuracy of 97.60%. This confirms that the model has a robust learning and generalization capacity. The model is developed to generalize more on the training set while at the same time achieving high accuracy among the unseen validation set.
The confusion matrix shows how well the model performed: out of 250 images, it correctly classified 91 normal images and 153 cases of stroke. Only 2 were false positives, and 4 were false negatives. The amount of error is pretty low, indicating the reliability of the model.

A further look into the classification report presents a slightly detailed output representation of the performance of the model, which holds a precision of 0.958 in the normal class and 0.987 in the stroke class. Both the classes exhibit strong F1-scores of normal at 0.968 and stroke at 0.981, which show good balance with precision and recall, meaning the model does well in minimizing false positives whilst maximizing true positives. All of these measures validate the credibility of the model in clinical conditions and infer that, indeed, it can be trusted by health professionals diagnosing strokes..

Visual assessment of model predictions further confirmed the results obtained quantitatively; hence, it was shown in the model's application of neuroimaging with very high accuracy. This merge of deep learning models such as DenseNet signifies a breakthrough for stroke diagnosis that would well improve timely, accurate assessment of patients in patients care in clinics and can provide thorough improvement in patient care.

IX. CONCLUSION

A successful study demonstrated the power of a strong classifier model for stroke classification based on the architecture of DenseNet. The validation accuracy achieved by this model was 97.60%; the training accuracy reached 99.85%, thus capturing important discriminating features for the detection of stroke. Such promising metrics- high precision and recall values- emphasize the reliability of the model in clinical applications.

The discoveries prove the usage of deep learning tools in the medical imaging field will help obtain a powerful aid to patient care and assist in better diagnosing. The medical staff and practitioners can incorporate advanced algorithms such as DenseNet into the stroke diagnosis streams, enabling an extensive improvement in the early detection and intervention methods.

Future research will include validating the model with larger datasets, as well as performing clinical trials in real health settings, to ascertain the model's effectiveness and applicability across various health care settings. Overall, the study contributes toward improving methodologies for stroke detection through the application of cutting-edge technology solutions developed in the field of medicine, with the end goal of bettering the conditions of patients who experience strokes.

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