ABSTRACT

In the field of medical images diagnoses, doctors need a reliable second opinion when diagnosing thoracic diseases in chest X-rays. Existing methods of interpreting chest X-ray images classify them into a list of findings without specifying their location in the images, resulting in uninterpretable results. Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is a popular model for thoracic diseases diagnoses, which is a deep learning technique that has shown high accuracy in image classification and detection of features. In this work, an advanced CNN model is proposed to identify 14 findings in chest X-rays. For each test image, the intended CNN model should predict a bounding box and class for all findings. The classes range from 0 to 13, with each number corresponding to a specific disease in the dataset. Both numerical and visual results have demonstrated that the proposed model outperforms the CapsNet model with accuracy of 92.49% in X-ray images classification and labeling.

INTRODUCTION

Thoracic diseases are serious health problems that plague a significant amount of people. Chest X-ray is currently one of the most popular methods to diagnose thoracic diseases and plays an important role in the healthcare overview [1]. Yet, it happens when working with such a wide variety of medical tools, radiologists face many daily challenges, perhaps the most being the chest X-ray. The interpretation of chest X-rays can lead to medical misdiagnosis, even for the best practicing doctor. Computer-aided detection is a technology designed to identify these diseases in X-ray scans and decrease the false negative rates of physicians interpreting medical images. This research has two specific aims: 1. Localize and classify different types of thoracic abnormalities from chest X-ray. 2. Build a valuable second opinion for doctors that could help accurately identify and localize findings on chest radiographs.

BACKGROUND

Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) were proposed by Yann LeCun in 1988 that have been widely applied to a variety of features detection, image recognition, medical diagnostics, etc [8]. Karmakinwong et al. [3], compared three CNN architectures (AlexNet [4], VGG-16 [5], CapsNet [6]) that could help in early diagnosis of Tuberculosis infection. Mao et al. [7], built a deep generative classifiers architecture to diagnose thoracic diseases in chest X-ray images with 90% of prediction accuracy after 10 epochs. Kieu et al. [2], employed 9 well-known convolutional neural networks to detect COVID-19 from chest X-ray images, VGG16 and VGG19 outperform other networks with accuracy of 92% in confirming positive cases.

METHODS

- **VENUS-CXR dataset** is used in this research, collected from two hospitals in Vietnam, between 2018 and 2020. A total of 18,000 scans in this dataset were split into 63.6% for training, 17.7% for validation, and 16.67% to test the accuracy of the proposed system.
- The advanced CNN model is built using Keras library and contains 3 types of layers: Convolutional, Max pooling, and SoftMax. Batch normalization is used to reduce the training time by normalizing the inputs to a layer for each mini-batch. RELU is the activation function that transfers the summed weighted input from the node into the activation of the node or output for that input image.

RESULTS

- The CNN model classifies and labels 14 different findings (14 thoracic diseases, and the normal case) in each X-ray image. The 14 radiographic findings as listed below:
  - 0. Aortic enlargement
  - 1. Atelectasis
  - 2. Calcification
  - 3. Cardiomegaly
  - 4. Consolidation
  - 5. ILD
  - 6. Infiltration
  - 7. Lungs Opacity
  - 8. Aortic enlargement
  - 9. Pleural lesion
  - 10. Pleural effusion
  - 11. Pleural thickening
  - 12. Pneumothorax
  - 13. Pulmonary fibrosis
  - 14. Normal

- In the training process, we evaluated the model on the validation set, and selected the model that achieved the highest classification performance. The loss factor decreases over time and is about 0.2 in the last cycle. The classification accuracy and the loss values are shown in the graphs below.

CONCLUSION

Chest disease is an area where mortality rates are high all over the world. Studies of detection and classification of thoracic diseases are important. In this study, chest X-ray images taken from VENUS-CXR dataset were performed as input data to the implemented model using data augmentation and histogram equalization techniques. In this research, an advanced Convolutional Neural Network is proposed. The proposed CNN model performs thoracic diseases classification and localization on chest X-ray images with a very low loss rate of 0.2 after 5 training cycles. The model outperforms the popular CapsNet model with accuracy of 92.5% and 86.86% for the CapsNet model.

FUTURE WORK

As a future work, a bigger dataset will be used for more training of the CNN model to get a higher classification performance. Additionally, 10-fold cross validation can be employed to get a better approximation of optimum model accuracy since only 5-fold was done in this research.

REFERENCES


AKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Xin Yang, who guided me throughout this project. I would also like to thank Dr. Suk Jai Sie for her help and assistance.