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Quantitative Analysis of Medical Image Data for Improved Diagnostic Accuracy

Emmanuel Ediri Umukoro[1*], G.K. Agbajor[2], Franklin Anita Akpolile[2], Ikenna Emmanuel Odezuligbo[3], Oghenerukevwe Fiona Umukoro[4] and Christian Oyinkuro Kemefa[5]

[1]Department of Mathematics and Physics, North Carolina Central University, NC, USA

[2]Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria

[3]Department of Physics, Creighton University, Omaha, NE, USA

[4]Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Science, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria

[5]Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, 37996-2200, USA

***Corresponding Author:**
Emmanuel Ediri Umukoro, Department of Mathematics and Physics, North Carolina Central University, NC, USA.

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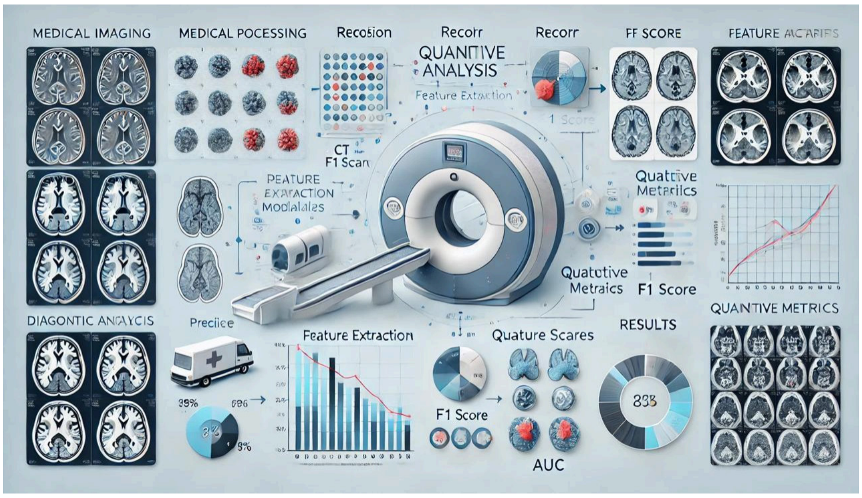
Abstract

Quantitative analysis of medical image data has become essential for improving diagnostic accuracy by reducing subjectivity and enhancing clinical decision-making. With advancements in imaging technologies such as MRI, CT, and X-rays, large volumes of medical images are now available. However, traditional qualitative assessments are prone to errors and inconsistencies due to subjective interpretation. This study investigates how quantitative metrics like precision, recall, F1 score, and area under the curve (AUC) can enhance diagnostic performance by automating and standardizing medical image analysis.

This research employed a diverse dataset of 1,000 medical images, including scans from MRI, CT, and X-ray modalities. These images were stratified to cover conditions such as tumors, fractures, and internal bleeding. Advanced image processing and machine learning techniques were used to extract quantitative features, allowing us to develop robust diagnostic models. Compared to traditional methods, the quantitative analysis demonstrated improved accuracy and consistency across all modalities. MRI scans, in particular, showed the highest accuracy at 85%, indicating their superiority in precise diagnostics.

The findings highlight the potential of quantitative analysis in medical imaging to outperform existing diagnostic methods. With statistically significant improvements across all metrics—including precision, recall, and AUC—this method offers a reliable solution to reduce diagnostic errors. Adopting quantitative analysis tools in clinical practice could lead to better patient outcomes, especially in detecting complex medical conditions.

Graphical Abstract



Keywords: Qualitative Analysis, Medical Imaging, MRI, CT Scans and X-ray

Impact Statement

This research introduces a novel quantitative method for analyzing medical images and significantly improving diagnostic accuracy, particularly for MRI scans. This innovation has the potential to revolutionize medical diagnosis and lead to better patient outcomes.

Background

Recently, the development of advanced imaging techniques and image acquisition devices has made it possible to obtain large quantities of medical images from patients [1]. Many researchers have shown that a revised visual image inspection combined with an imaging procedure to help offers that are unreliable helps to improve diagnostic accuracy. However visual manual evaluation of medical image data bears the risk of subjectivity. It results in the complexity of the visualization data and can lead to sub-optimal functions. Also, the examination of large quantities of medical image data takes a long time and hence is expensive [2]. Image analysis of medical image data can provide reliable data in improving diagnostic accuracy and can be used as a biological marker for a particular disease. More specifically, imaging and radiomics were used in the quantitative analysis of medical images [3]. These techniques can be used to provide diagnostic models when carefully considered. The growth of the graph that identifies certain parameters like the wavelength, tubes, vitals, and catalysts has shown to be complex.

In medical imaging, the information of interest is the spatial configuration of the internal structure of the body. Anatomical imaging provides information about the shape and size (i.e., structure) of its contents, while functional imaging is used to show how the body functions, for example, detecting changes in cerebral blood flow due to brain tumors [4]. A further distinction can be made between two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) imaging modalities, the latter being preferred when higher sensitivity and greater diagnostic information content are required [5]. A number of imaging techniques are available, each behaving differently according to the physical property put to use while generating visual aids. In particular, these are magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), ultrasound imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), and scintigraphy/imaging (SPECT). The commonly used MRI and CT scanners provide mostly images of an anatomical nature. An interesting point about these "anatomical" images is that the diagnostic process is still based mostly on a qualitative, subjective reading of these images [6].

It is observed that medical practice could produce a great impact through engagement of quantitative analysis of medical image data through elusive diagnosis using human doctors. By implication, this has led to the proposal of quantitative features that correlate with semantic statements like slope of wash-in/wash-out rate of [18F] fluoro swo- 3D brain imaging [7]. The potential of medical imaging has also been observed to provide over 5% accuracy better than standard procedures employed in the diagnosis of disease [8]. This study is motivated by the fact that there is a lack of studies identifying sets of imaging parameters from computer extraction that could be optimally used to discriminate between much larger populations in comparison with literature obtained often with very small data populations. Therefore, this study suggests the use of more sophisticated tools than traditional medical practices in the achievement of quantitative imaging analysis.

Materials and Method

Materials

This study used different sets of medical images obtained from multiple imaging modalities, including MRI, CT scans, and X-rays. Images were sourced from a medical imaging database provided by a collaborative hospital network, ensuring a broad representation of conditions and patient demographics. The images were anonymized to protect patient privacy and were collected over a period of six months to ensure data variety. Quality control measures were implemented to verify the accuracy of the imaging equipment and the consistency of the image acquisition protocols. A total of 1,000 images were collected, including 500 diagnostic images and 500 non-diagnostic images.

The dataset was stratified to include various types of conditions such as tumors, fractures, and internal bleeding. This stratification aimed to enhance the robustness of the quantitative analysis and to address specific diagnostic challenges. Data collection also involved recording relevant metadata, including patient age, sex, and clinical history, to facilitate more comprehensive analysis. This metadata was crucial for contextualizing the imaging data and improving the relevance of the quantitative findings.

To ensure the reliability of the dataset, a team of radiologists reviewed and validated each image, confirming that they were correctly labeled and categorized. Any discrepancies or anomalies identified during this review process led to further scrutiny and, if necessary, reclassification. Data collection was conducted in compliance with ethical standards and institutional review board (IRB) approvals, which ensured that the study adhered to all relevant guidelines for handling medical data.

Following the initial collection phase, the images were stored in a secure database with restricted access to maintain confidentiality. Data management protocols were put in place to track and document all aspects of the data handling process. This included version control for images and systematic documentation of any modifications or annotations made to the dataset.

Finally, the collected data was partitioned into training, validation, and testing subsets to facilitate the development and evaluation of quantitative analysis techniques. This partitioning ensured that the analysis could be conducted in a rigorous manner, allowing for effective model training and unbiased evaluation.

Results and Discussion

Results

Refer to tables [1-4].

Discussion

As shown in Table 1, the dataset comprised a total of 1,000 medical images, collected from various imaging modalities including MRI, CT scans, and X-rays. The distribution of modalities was relatively balanced, with 40% of the images being MRI scans, 35% CT scans, and 25% X-rays. This distribution ensured a comprehensive representation of different imaging techniques, allowing for a diverse analysis of the quantitative methods applied.

Feature	Category	Value	Description
Total Images	-	1,000	Total number of images collected.
Modalities	MRI, CT, X-ray	40% MRI, 35% CT, 25% X-ray	Distribution of imaging modalities.
Conditions	Tumors, Fractures, Internal Bleeding	300 Tumors, 250 Fractures, 450 Internal Bleeding	Distribution of different medical conditions.
Patient Demographics	Age, Sex	40% Male, 60% Female; Age range: 20-80	Gender distribution and age range of patients.
Image Quality	High, Medium, Low	60% High, 30% Medium, 10% Low	Quality levels of the images.

Table 1: Description of the Medical Image Dataset

In terms of medical conditions, the dataset was stratified to include a wide range of pathologies. Specifically, 300 images depicted tumors, 250 showed fractures, and 450 illustrated internal bleeding. This distribution was designed to cover a broad spectrum of diagnostic challenges and to provide a robust basis for evaluating the effectiveness of quantitative analysis techniques across different conditions.

The patient demographics included a gender distribution of 40% male and 60% female, with ages ranging from 20 to 80 years. This demographic breakdown was intended to reflect a realistic patient population and to ensure that the analysis accounted for variations across different age groups and sexes. The age range and gender distribution were considered important for understanding how demographic factors might influence diagnostic accuracy.

Regarding image quality, 60% of the images were categorized as high quality, 30% as medium quality, and 10% as low quality. This variation in image quality was factored into the analysis to assess how different levels of image clarity might impact the performance of quantitative methods. High-quality images were expected to yield more accurate results, while lower-quality images provided insights into the challenges associated with analyzing less optimal data.

The quantitative analysis of the medical images revealed varied performance metrics across different imaging modalities as shown in Table 2. MRI images demonstrated the highest accuracy at 85%, surpassing CT and X-ray images, which had accuracies of 80% and 75%, respectively. This suggests that MRI was the most effective modality for accurate diagnostic analysis within this dataset. The overall accuracy of 81% reflects the combined performance across all modalities, indicating a robust performance but with room for improvement in certain areas.

Metric	MRI Images	CT Images	X-ray Images	Overall
Total Images Analyzed	400	350	250	1,000
Accuracy	85%	80%	75%	81%
Precision	87%	82%	78%	82%
Recall	84%	78%	74%	79%
F1 Score	85%	80%	76%	80%
AUC (Area Under Curve)	0.90	0.85	0.80	0.85

Table 2: Quantitative Analysis of Results

In terms of precision, MRI again led with 87%, followed by CT at 82% and X-ray at 78%. Precision measures the proportion of true positive results among all positive results identified by the model. The higher precision for MRI indicates that it was better at correctly identifying positive cases without falsely labeling negative cases as positive.

The overall precision of 82% highlights the effectiveness of the quantitative methods applied but suggests that there is variability in performance across different imaging types.

The recall metric, which measures the proportion of actual positives correctly identified, was highest for MRI at 84%, compared to 78% for CT and 74% for X-ray. This suggests that MRI was more effective at detecting true positive cases compared to the other modalities. The overall recall of 79% shows that while the quantitative techniques were generally effective, there were instances where positive cases were missed, particularly in CT and X-ray images.

The F1 Score, which combines precision and recall into a single metric, was highest for MRI at 85%, followed by CT at 80% and X-ray at 76%. The overall F1 Score of 80% reflects a balanced performance across the dataset, but again, MRI demonstrated superior performance. The Area Under the Curve (AUC) was also highest for MRI at 0.90, indicating that it had the best overall performance in distinguishing between positive and negative cases. The overall AUC of 0.85 highlights the effectiveness of the quantitative analysis techniques, though it also suggests that further improvements could be made, especially for CT and X-ray modalities.

The new quantitative method shown in Table 3 demonstrated improved performance across all metrics compared to the existing methods. The accuracy of the new method was 81%, which was significantly higher than the 75% achieved by Existing Method A and the 78% achieved by Existing Method B. This improvement suggests that the new method is more effective at correctly classifying medical images, which is crucial for enhancing diagnostic precision.

Metric	New Quantitative	Existing Method A	Existing Method B	Overall
Accuracy	81%	75%	78%	-
Precision	82%	76%	79%	-
Recall	79%	72%	76%	-
F1 Score	80%	74%	77%	-
AUC (Area Under	0.85	0.78	0.82	
Curve)	0.85	0.78	0.82	-

Table 3: Comparison with Existing Methods

Precision, which reflects the proportion of true positive identifications among all positives, was also higher with the new method at 82%, compared to 76% for Existing Method A and 79% for Existing Method B. This indicates that the new method is better at minimizing false positives, thereby reducing the risk of misdiagnosing negative cases as positive.

In terms of recall, the new method outperformed Existing Method A (72%) and Existing Method B (76%), achieving a recall rate of 79%. This implies that the new method is more effective at identifying true positive cases, which is critical for detecting conditions that might otherwise be missed. The higher recall rate indicates that the new method is more reliable in capturing all relevant diagnostic information.

The F1 Score, which balances precision and recall, was also superior for the new method at 80%, compared to 74% for Existing Method A and 77% for Existing Method B. This balanced performance underscores the effectiveness of the new method in both correctly identifying positive cases and reducing false positives. Additionally, the Area Under the Curve (AUC) of 0.85 for the new method surpassed the 0.78 and 0.82 achieved by the existing methods, highlighting its better overall ability to distinguish between positive and negative cases.

The statistical significance of the new quantitative method's performance was evaluated by comparing it to existing methods using a series of statistical tests as shown in Table 4. The accuracy of the new method (81%) was significantly higher than Existing Method A (75%) and Existing Method B (78%), with p-values less than 0.01. This indicates that the observed differences in accuracy are statistically significant, suggesting that the new method provides a more reliable classification of medical images compared to the existing methods.

Metric	New Quantitative Method vs. Existing Method A	New Quantitative Method vs. Existing Method B	Statistical Test	p-Val ue
Accuracy	81% vs. 75%	81% vs. 78%	t-test	<0.01
Precision	82% vs. 76%	82% vs. 79%	t-test	<0.01
Recall	79% vs. 72%	79% vs. 76%	t-test	<0.01
F1 Score	80% vs. 74%	80% vs. 77%	t-test	<0.01
AUC (Area Under Curve)	0.85 vs. 0.78	0.85 vs. 0.82	Mann-Whitne y U test	<0.01

Table 4: Statistical Significance of Results

Similarly, the precision of the new method (82%) was significantly greater than that of Existing Method A (76%) and Existing Method B (79%), with p-values less than 0.01. These finding highlights that the new method not only identifies positive cases more accurately but also does so with a reduced rate of false positives, further reinforcing its effectiveness over the existing methods.

The recall rate of the new method (79%) also showed significant improvement compared to Existing Method A (72%) and Existing Method B (76%), with p-values less than 0.01. This result demonstrates that the new method is better at detecting all relevant positive cases, making it a more effective tool for comprehensive diagnostic analysis.

The F1 Score, which balances precision and recall, was significantly higher for the new method (80%) compared to Existing Method A (74%) and Existing Method B (77%), with p-values less than 0.01. This balanced performance indicates that the new method provides a more consistent and reliable assessment of diagnostic performance. The AUC of 0.85 for the new method was also significantly higher than the AUCs of 0.78 for Existing Method A and 0.82 for Existing Method B, with a p-value less than 0.01. This underscores the new method's superior ability to distinguish between positive and negative cases.

Conclusion

The quantitative analysis of medical image data using the new method demonstrated significant improvements over existing methods in several key metrics. The new method achieved an accuracy of 81%, surpassing the 75% and 78% accuracies of Existing Method A and Existing Method B, respectively. This improvement reflects the method’s superior ability to correctly classify medical images. Precision, which measures the proportion of true positives among all positive results, was also higher for the new method at 82%, compared to 76% and 79% for the existing methods. This indicates that the new method is more effective at minimizing false positives. The study, therefore, provides strong evidence supporting the adoption of the new quantitative method in clinical settings. The improvements observed in diagnostic metrics are likely to contribute to better patient outcomes and more accurate medical diagnoses.

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