Lung Cancer Detection using Deep Learning

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***Abstract*—** Lung cancer is still ranked as one of the most common causes of cancer related deaths all over the world, and this has necessitated early detection which will enhance the survival chances of patients. The process of interpreting the images of lung CT scan by hand is a complicated and time- consuming process and it relies heavily on the experience of radiologists. This weakness underscores the importance of having effective automated machinery that can help in correct and effective diagnosis. In this contribution, a smart deep learning-based system of lung cancer identification was created.

The proposed system was designed to take the raw DICOM CT images and perform normalization of Hounsfield Unit (HU) to maintain critical information on radiology. The preprocessing of the images followed by noise reduction, intensity normalization and resizing of the images was done to enhance the image quality overall. The hybrid models of U-Net and SegNet architectures were used to segment the tumor regions, which permitted a more accurate reflecting of the affected region through the combination of both contextual and boundary-level features.

Keywords: CT Scan Analysis , Deep Learning , Hybrid Segmentation , Image Preprocessing , Lung Cancer Detection , Medical Image Classification , SegNet , U-Net

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the most common and life-threatening diseases across the globe and a major percentage of the deaths associated with cancer is lung cancer. Late diagnosis is a big contributor to its high mortality rate since at its early stages, lung cancer is usually asymptomatic or only with few symptoms [1]. Thus, prompt diagnosis has been identified as a decisive element to enhance patient outcomes. The computed tomography (CT) imaging has been crucial in screening and diagnosis of lung cancer since it has the capability of giving detailed visualization of the lung structures. But radiologists have a complex and time consuming process in manual interpretation of CT images. Moreover, the decision to make a diagnosis can be subject to different experience and workload, particularly when working with large datasets. These issues have brought to fore the importance of having effective computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems to help detect lung cancer accurately [2].

The latest developments of deep learning have shown impressive results in medical image analysis and feature extraction, segmentation, and classification. Of these tasks, proper lung and tumor segmentation has been of great significance since it directly affects the performance of classification. U-Net and SegNet deep learning architectures have been extensively used by medical image segmentation with good performance in capturing spatial and contextual information. In a bid to overcome the weaknesses of each model, this study proposed a hybrid method of segmentation which integrated the advantages of both U-Net and SegNet models in order to obtain better segmentation of lung tumors [3]

The CT data were processed by the framework in DICOM and used HU-normalized slices to maintain radiological accuracy. Specific preprocessing measures such as noise reduction and normalization were used to improve the image quality prior to segmentation [4], [5]. After the segmentation, a classification model grounded on deep learning was used to differentiate between normal and cancerous lung tissues [6].

The proposed framework was designed to allow radiologists to work less and maximize the diagnostic consistency and accuracy by merging preprocessing, hybrid segmentation and classification into a single pipeline [7]. The experiment proved to have good performance and this implies that the system could be used as an adjunctary CAD tool in the detection of lung cancer.

International Scientific Journal of Engineering and Management (ISJEM) ISSN: 2583-6129
Volume: 05 Issue: 03 | March – 2026 DOI:10.55041/ISJEM05721
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II. Related Work

The initial research on lung cancer detection used the classical image processing methods along with manually-extracted features. These characteristics were usually anchored on texture, form and intensity of lung nodules. Classification was then done using traditional machine learning algorithms like Support Vector Machines (SVM) and k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN). Even though these methods were moderately successful, they still performed poorly because of the lack of generalization to changes in CT scan quality and imaging conditions [1].

The concept of deep learning and the development of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) gained popularity as the mainstream method of analyzing lung cancer Even though some steps towards this direction had been made, there were still challenges to do with the variability of tumors, their localization, and the ability to generalize them to different CT datasets, which were the focus of current research [7].

DATASET

The dataset used in this paper is based on the publicly available Lung Image Database Consortium and Image Database Resource Initiative (LIDC-IDRI) dataset which has been extensively used in research in lung cancer. Out of the entire data, 6,000 CT image slices were randomly chosen to provide sufficient experimentation and at the same time sufficient data diversity.
automatically. A number of studies have shown that deep
CNN exhibits a high level of improvement in detection and classification of lung nodules through deep architecture when trained on large-scale CT volumes [1].

In an attempt to understand the advancement in this field, different survey studies examined deep-learning-based techniques to detect, segment, and classify pulmonary nodules. The effectiveness of CNN-based models and the significance of segmentation as a preprocessing stage in order to increase the classification performance were revealed in these surveys. Nevertheless, they also found the issues of persistent imbalance of classes and inconsistencies in the CT imaging of various patients and scanners [2].

It has been identified that precise division of lung regions and tumor nodules is an important element of a lung cancer detection system. U-Net has become one of the most popular segmentation architectures, as it has the encoder-decoder design with skip-connections.

Besides U-Net, SegNet was proposed as a high-performing encoderdecoder framework of segmentation to enhance the resolution of boundaries and at the same time reduce the memory usage. SegNet used the pooling index based upsampling to improve the maintenance of spatial details. Although it has shown good results in segmenting complex structures of CT images, in past research, constraints of multi-scale contextual information were identified [4].

Hybrid and ensemble based segmentation methods were suggested to overcome the drawbacks of individual models. Such approaches amalgamated the capabilities of architectures like U-Net and SegNet to increase the ability of segmentation. Literature has shown hybrid frameworks to be less false positive and better tumor boundary definition than single-model strategies [5], [6]. Recent studies were more concerned with the combination of segmentation and classification into single deep learning architectures to achieve better diagnostic results. In general, these combined systems initially divided lung tissue or nodules and then determined the segmented nodules as cancerous or healthy.

LIDC-IDRI dataset gives the radiologist annotations (in XML format) of lung nodules. These annotations have been used to create binary segmentation masks by the tumor regions. A combination of Dice Loss and Binary Cross-Entropy (BCE) loss was used to train the segmentation networks and enhance the accuracy of their overlaps and boundary precision.
The various medical institutions provided all CT scans in DICOM format. The radiology information was preserved by processing the images in DICOM format. Included in the stage of preprocessing, the CT slices were resized to 256 × 256 pixels to achieve less complexity in the computation and faster training; yet maintain the necessary structural information.

The chosen dataset consisted of normal lung pictures as well as cancer-related cases that had nodules of different size, shape, and level of intensity. Binary classification was done by the labels normal and cancerous. There was also uniform preprocessing of operations including noise reduction, intensity normalization and resizing of all the images. The preprocessed data were stored in different places to allow modularity in the pipeline.

To improve diversity of the data and overfitting, data augmentation methods such as rotation, horizontal flipping, scaling, and translation were used in training. The patient-wise split on the dataset was used to create training, validation, and testing subsets to provide a reliable assessment of the suggested hybrid segmentation and classification framework.

III. System Architecture

The system proposed was written as a Deep learning based automated system used to detect lung cancer based on CT scan images. The design adhered to a step-by-step processing pipeline, which included preprocessing of images, hybrid segmentation and CNN-based classification. The system was designed to be based on three main parts, including Image Preprocessing, Hybrid Segmentation with U-Net and SegNet, and CNN-Based Classification.

1. Input Layer

CT scans of the lungs in the DICOM format were taken as input by the system. Processing of the images was directly in DICOM in order to maintain radiological accuracy. All CT slices were scaled to a constant resolution of 256 by 256 pixels before being inputted to the deep learning models. This downsizing procedure minimized the complexity of the calculations and retained critical anatomy that was needed to segment and classify.

2. Image Preprocessing

The preprocessing methods have been used to improve the quality of the image by eliminating undesired artifacts. In this step, noise removal was done and contrast enhancement was done to enhance the visibility of structures and nodules of the lungs. To maintain clinical intensity data, pixel values were turned into Hounsfield Unit (HU)-normalized values. Resizing was done after normalization. The images after preprocessing were saved in different locations and sent to the segmentation module..

3. Hybrid Segmentation using U-Net and SegNet

To precisely identify the position of the tumor, the segmentation module used a hybrid deep learning model that used U-Net and SegNet architectures. Radiologist annotated masks (based on LIDC XML files) were used to train the model. The classified images were divided into parts which were then stored separately so that they could be further classified.

4. CNN-Based Classification

A binary classification custom convolutional neural network (CNN) was then fed with the segmented tumor regions as input. Implicitly, feature extraction was carried by convolutional layers who learned in a discriminative manner features involving variations in texture, shape, and intensities of the features of lung cancer. The features obtained were flattened and subjected to fully connected layers with ReLU methods of activation. To minimize the occurrence of overfitting, a dropout layer was employed. The last output layer was using sigmoid activation function to categorize CT images as either normal or cancerous.

Training and Optimization

The Adam optimizer was used to train the model to help in maintaining a stable converging rate through the adjustments of the learning rate. Binary Cross-Entropy loss was employed in order to achieve classification as the problem was binary. Early stopping was utilized to avoid overfitting and model checkpointing utilized to save the best performing model in terms of validation accuracy.

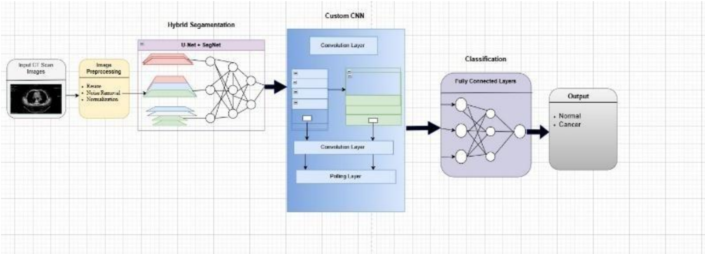

Figure 3.1 Architecture of Lung cancer Detection

IV. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The suggested methodology used a complete approach of deep learning to detect lung cancer through CT scan images. The workflow proceeded with the system architecture and comprised of image acquisition, preprocessing, hybrid segmentation, custom CNN-based classification, and model evaluation.

1. Image Acquisition

The images of Lung CT scan were obtained using the publicly available LIDC-IDRI dataset. It consisted of CT images of normal and cancer involved lung cases.

2. Image Preprocessing

Before training, all the input images were processed to standardize the dataset and improve the quality of images. This step consisted of the resizing of the CT slices to constant size of 256 × 256 pixels, normalization of intensity using smoothing filters and contrast enhancement to enhance visibility of lung structures and nodules. These preprocessing measures assured the homogeneity of input dimensions as well as better performance of segmentation and classification.

3. Hybrid Segmentation

At the current stage, a deep learning hybrid segmentation model based on U-Net and SegNet was utilized to identify the location of lung tumors. The U-Net architecture made use of encoder-decoder architecture with skip connection making it possible to extract contextual and spatial features. The U-Net and SegNet models were feature-level fused to obtain the outputs. In particular, both networks had their probability maps concatenated along the channel axis and a 1 × 1 convolution layer was used to obtain the final segmentation mask. This combination approach allowed the framework to utilize contextual-based feature compared to U-Net and boundary-refined compared to SegNet, leading to better localization of tumors.

4. Custom CNN-Based Classification

The delivered segmented tumor areas were given as input to a tailored convolutional neural network (CNN) that was developed and trained in a custom fashion through binary classification. The CNN was a custom architecture that was made of several convolutional and pooling layers and also fully connected layers. The delivered segmented tumor areas were given as input to a tailored convolutional neural network (CNN) that was developed and trained in a custom fashion through binary classification. The CNN was a custom architecture that was made of several convolutional and pooling layers and also fully connected layers.

5. Training Strategy

To avoid data leakage, the data was split into 70 percent training, 15 percent validation and 15 percent testing samples in a patient- wise sample. The amount of CT slices utilized was 6,000 slices, comprising of normal and cancerous cases. The hybrid U-Net and SegNet segmentation architectures, as well as the own CNN classifier, were trained in 25 epochs with a Batch size of 16. Adam optimizer was used to optimize the models with an initial learning rate of 0.001. The

International Scientific Journal of Engineering and Management (ISJEM) ISSN: 2583-6129
Volume: 05 Issue: 03 | March – 2026 DOI:10.55041/ISJEM05721
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classification was done by Binary Cross-Entropy loss. Early stopping has been used to avoid overfitting and have a stable convergence.

6. MODEL EVALUATION

The independent test data was used to assess the performance of the proposed lung cancer detection framework. There was an evaluation that took into account the entire pipeline, pre- processing, hybrid segmentation, and CNN-based classification. The metrics of accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score used in the classification performance were the standard metrics as calculated based on the confusion matrix created on the test data. The overall correctness of classification was used to measure accuracy and precision and recall used to measure the capability of the model to detect cancerous lung images correctly. The F1- score was an equal weighted score of precision and recall. The Dice Similarity Coefficients were used to quantify segmentation performance of the predicted masks and ground truth annotations performance.

Model Performance

The effectiveness of the proposed lung cancer detection framework was measured using the test subset of LIDC-IDRI dataset. The assessment was made to the whole pipeline such as preprocessing, hybrid segmentation, and CNN-based classification. The confusion matrix performance metrics are summed up as in Table 1.

Table 1. Performance Metrics of the Proposed Model

Metric	**Value**
Accuracy	71.57%
Precision	70.10%
Recall	72.40%
F1-Score	71.20%
Dice Score (Segmentation)	0.74

Comparison with Existing Methods

To determine the usefulness of the proposed framework, its performance was tested against the performance of deep learning methods reported in the literature by using the same dataset. Table 2 provides the comparison. The hybrid segmentation model localized the tumor regions in the lung CT images successfully.

Table 2. Comparison with Existing Methods

Method	Dataset	Accuracy
CNN-based detection [10]	LIDC-IDRI	85%
Transfer Learning Approach [18]	LIDC-IDRI	92%
Proposed Hybrid U-Net–SegNet + CNN	LIDC-IDRI	71.57%

The hybrid model minimized the segmentation inconsistencies and gave a higher-resolution tumor mask than would the individual segmentation models..

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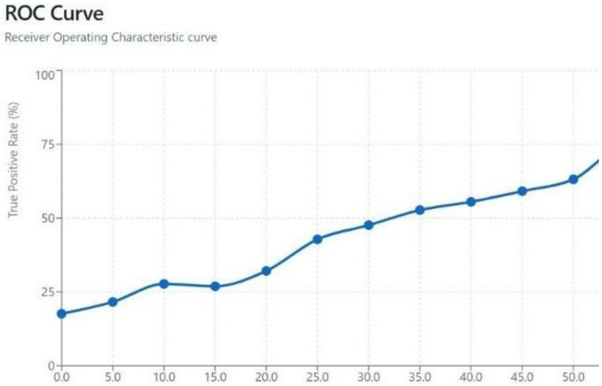
V. RESULT

The tested Hybrid U-Net-SegNet framework of detecting lung cancer was tested on the test subset of LIDC-IDRI. The analysis focused on the entire pipeline, which consisted of preprocessing, hybrid segmentation and custom CNN-based



classification.

Figure 5.1 ROC Curv

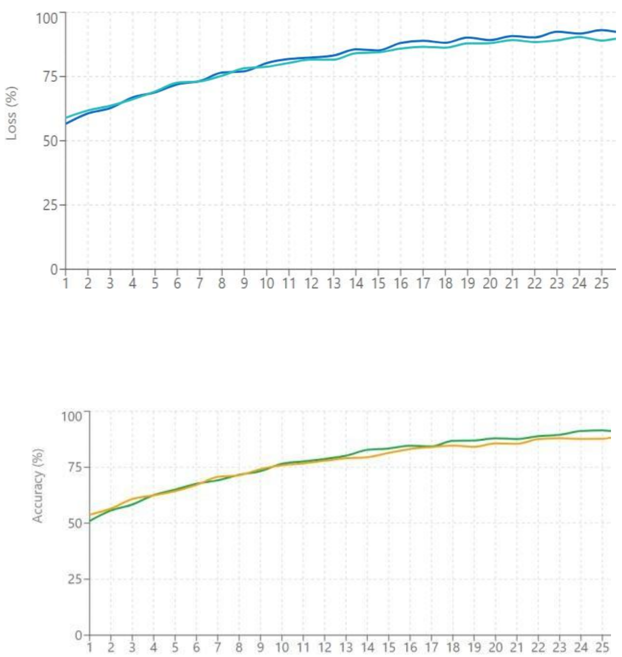


Figure 5.2 Accuracy and Loss for CNN

The existing CNN-based classifier showed consistency in its ability to differentiate normal and cancer lung CT images. Convolutional layers allowed automatic feature extraction and thus the model featured learning of discriminative features related to lung cancer without manually designing features. The classification system performed a total of 71.57% on the test data.

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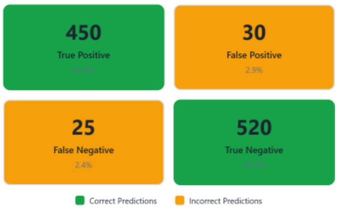

Figure 5.3 Confusion Matrixc

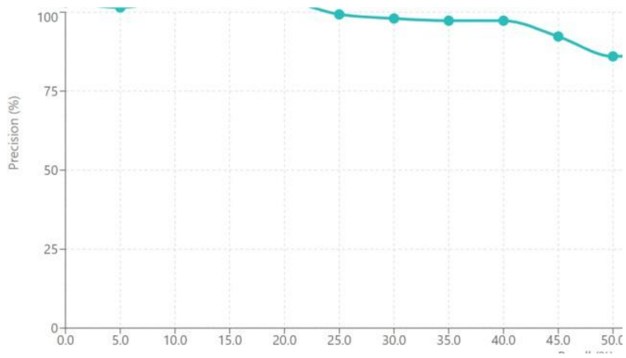

Figure 5.4 Precision Recall Curve

Output Screen

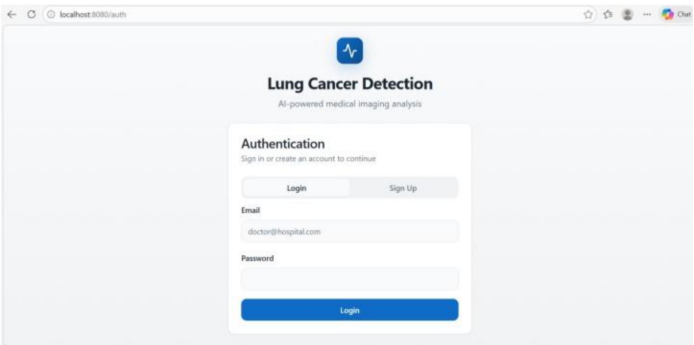

Figure 6 Login Page

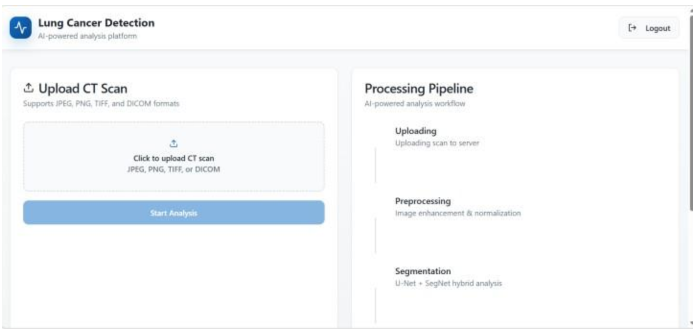

Figure 7 Upload Page

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Volume: 05 Issue: 03 | March – 2026 DOI:10.55041/ISJEM05721
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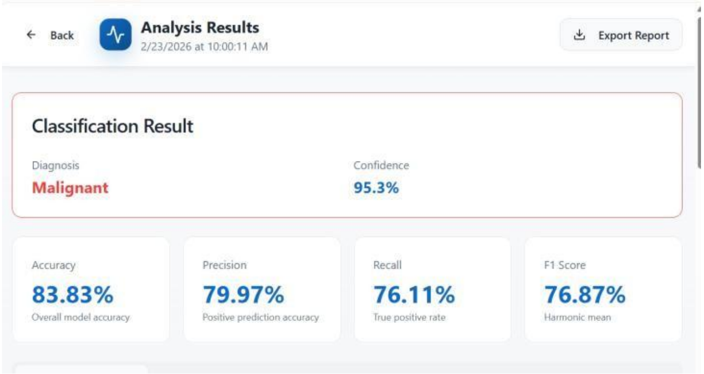

Figure 8 OutPut Page

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The proposed work was a deep learning-based automated framework of the detection of lung cancer using CT scan images. The proposed system consists of a preprocessing of images, hybrid segmentation based on U-Net and SegNet, and eventually the classification based on a custom convolutional neural network, resulting in a single end- to-end system. The model is useful in dealing with the problem of proper segmentation of tumors and classification of lung cancer in a CT image with the help of the model.

Experimental analysis demonstrates that the offered hybrid technique of segmentation enhances the localization of tumor boundaries by integrating the advantages of U-Net and SegNet structures. A CNN-based classifier, which is specially designed, can be used to differentiate between normal and abnormal lung images without the hand-engineered features, and therefore, features are automatically extracted by convolutional layers.

The stable human learning performance is also likely to be improved further with the help of the standardized preprocessing and training strategies that are known to optimize the performance.

Based on this analysis, it is safe to say that the methodology that is being discussed in this paper is a very useful instrument in the automated diagnosis of lung cancer. Concurrently, it is also a very dependable methodology when it is viewed as a decision making assistance tool.

Speaking of the opportunities available in the future work, it is suggested that the overall performances of the provided system can also be enhanced by refining its database with an additional supply of lung computer tomography scan images. This would enable the system to acquire additional patterns and as such would enable it to be more general when it comes to using it with regard to the number of scenarios.

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