

Enhancing Pneumonia Detection in Chest X-rays through Transfer Learning with AlexNet and Adversarial Training

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Abstract- *Pneumonia poses serious health risks if not promptly diagnosed and treated. Despite the value of chest X-rays for pneumonia detection, their interpretation is complicated by intricate image details. This study proposes a dual approach for enhancing pneumonia detection in chest X-rays: implementing Transfer Learning with the AlexNet architecture and employing Adversarial Training. Transfer Learning exploits a pre-trained deep neural network, AlexNet, to boost performance with limited data. AlexNet, initialized with ImageNet weights, captures relevant features from X-ray images. The model is fine-tuned using labeled pneumonia X-ray data. Adversarial Training supplements the model's discriminative capabilities by integrating an adversarial network. By generating challenging adversarial examples, the network learns more discerning features, thus improving pneumonia detection. Experiments on a benchmark X-ray dataset and comparison with conventional methods showcase notable accuracy and precision gains with the Transfer Learning-AlexNet approach. Incorporating Adversarial Training enhances performance further, increasing sensitivity and specificity. In conclusion, coupling Transfer Learning, AlexNet, and Adversarial Training presents a promising route to significantly improve pneumonia detection accuracy in chest X-rays. This research contributes to the ongoing enhancement of medical image analysis, fostering improved clinical decision support systems.*

Indexed Terms- *Pneumonia Detection, Chest X-rays, Transfer Learning, AlexNet, Adversarial Training, Medical Image Analysis.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, medical imaging has become an essential tool for diagnosing various diseases and conditions, enabling clinicians to make accurate and

timely decisions for patient care. Among these imaging modalities, chest X-rays have gained prominence due to their non-invasiveness and wide availability. Efficient and accurate detection of pneumonia in chest X-rays holds significant clinical importance, as pneumonia remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. With the advancements in deep learning techniques, researchers have been exploring ways to enhance the accuracy of pneumonia detection using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and transfer learning.

Transfer learning has emerged as a powerful strategy to leverage pre-trained models on large datasets and adapt them to specific tasks. This approach addresses the challenge of limited annotated medical image datasets by utilizing knowledge gained from broader domains such as natural images. One prominent architecture that has shown success in image classification tasks is AlexNet, which introduced the concept of deep CNNs and demonstrated their potential in large-scale image recognition (Krizhevsky, Sutskever, & Hinton, 2012).

Moreover, the integration of adversarial training has demonstrated substantial improvements in the performance and robustness of deep learning models. Adversarial training involves training a neural network alongside an adversarial network that generates perturbations to the input data, thereby enhancing the model's ability to generalize and detect subtle patterns. This technique has shown promise in medical image analysis by aiding the model in learning more discriminative features and mitigating issues related to overfitting (Goodfellow et al., 2014).

In this study, we propose a novel approach to improve pneumonia detection in chest X-rays by combining transfer learning with the AlexNet architecture and incorporating adversarial training. We hypothesize that by transferring knowledge from a pre-trained

AlexNet model and simultaneously subjecting the model to adversarial training, we can enhance the model's ability to accurately detect pneumonia in chest X-rays. We evaluate the performance of our proposed approach using a comprehensive dataset of annotated chest X-rays and compare its results with traditional CNN-based methods.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents a review of related works in pneumonia detection using deep learning and transfer learning approaches. Section 3 describes the methodology, detailing the dataset, model architecture, and training procedure. Section 4 presents the experimental results and discussions, followed by conclusions and future directions in Section 5.

1. A review of related works in pneumonia detection using deep learning and transfer learning approaches.

Pneumonia is a critical medical condition that requires prompt and accurate diagnosis for effective treatment. Over the years, deep learning techniques coupled with transfer learning have shown significant promise in improving the accuracy of pneumonia detection from chest X-ray images. This review explores the evolution of these approaches, highlighting key studies that have contributed to the advancement of pneumonia diagnosis.

1.1 Deep Learning in Pneumonia Detection

Deep convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have revolutionized medical image analysis due to their ability to learn intricate features directly from raw data. Rajpurkar et al. (2017) introduced a seminal work by developing a deep learning model named CheXNet. The model was trained on a large dataset of chest X-ray images and achieved impressive results in detecting various thoracic diseases, including pneumonia. This work laid the foundation for subsequent research in pneumonia detection using deep learning techniques.

1.2 Transfer Learning for Pneumonia Detection

Transfer learning has emerged as a valuable strategy for leveraging pre-trained models on large datasets to enhance the performance of medical image analysis

tasks. Shen et al. (2019) demonstrated the effectiveness of transfer learning by fine-tuning a pre-trained network on a smaller dataset of pneumonia cases. By adapting a deep network originally trained on a large natural image dataset, the authors achieved considerable improvements in pneumonia detection accuracy.

1.3 Adversarial Training for Robust Pneumonia Detection

Adversarial training has recently gained attention for its potential to improve the robustness of deep learning models. With the introduction of adversarial examples, models can be exposed to perturbations that simulate real-world variations and challenges. Zhang et al. (2022) extended the application of adversarial training to pneumonia detection. By incorporating adversarial perturbations during the training process, their proposed model exhibited enhanced performance against potential variations in chest X-ray images.

1.4 Hybrid Approaches: AlexNet and Adversarial Training

Building upon the foundations of deep learning, transfer learning, and adversarial training, the proposed research aims to synergize the strengths of these approaches. By adapting the well-established AlexNet architecture, which has shown effectiveness in various image classification tasks, and integrating it with adversarial training, the study seeks to enhance pneumonia detection accuracy. This combination is expected to harness both the representative power of deep features and the robustness gained through adversarial exposure.

1.5 Deep Learning's Evolution in Pneumonia Detection

The advent of deep convolutional neural networks (CNNs) has ushered in a paradigm shift in medical image analysis. A pivotal milestone was achieved by Rajpurkar et al. (2017), who introduced CheXNet—a deep learning model designed for radiologist-level pneumonia detection in chest X-rays. By leveraging a vast dataset and training a deep network, CheXNet demonstrated remarkable capabilities in identifying various thoracic conditions, including pneumonia. This seminal work propelled the exploration of deep learning's potential in automating pneumonia diagnosis.

1.6 Harnessing Transfer Learning for Improved Detection

Transfer learning, an approach wherein pre-trained models are fine-tuned for specific tasks, has garnered substantial attention for its capacity to mitigate data scarcity and boost performance. Shen et al. (2019) illuminated the utility of transfer learning in pneumonia detection. In their study, a pre-trained network, originally designed for natural image classification, was adeptly adapted for pneumonia detection on a relatively smaller dataset. This transfer learning paradigm not only expedited the training process but also yielded considerable enhancements in pneumonia detection accuracy.

1.7 Enriching Robustness through Adversarial Training

The pursuit of robustness in deep learning models has led to the incorporation of adversarial training—an innovative technique wherein models are fortified against adversarial perturbations. In the context of pneumonia detection, Zhang et al. (2022) extended the frontiers of adversarial training. By introducing adversarial perturbations during the model's training, their approach showcased heightened resilience to variations in chest X-ray images. This advancement offered a promising avenue for bolstering model performance in real-world scenarios characterized by diverse imaging conditions.

1.8 Converging Strengths: AlexNet and Adversarial Training

The research paper titled "Enhancing Pneumonia Detection in Chest X-rays through Transfer Learning with AlexNet and Adversarial Training" encapsulates the synergistic amalgamation of deep learning, transfer learning, and adversarial training. The chosen architecture, AlexNet, renowned for its prowess in image classification tasks, becomes the canvas for implementing adversarial training. This fusion aims to capitalize on the intrinsic feature extraction capabilities of deep architectures while equipping the model with the resilience cultivated through adversarial exposure.

1.9 Prospects and Implications

In the trajectory of pneumonia detection from chest X-ray images, the integration of deep learning, transfer learning, and adversarial training has emerged as a

transformative paradigm. Preceding research has set the stage for innovative methodologies that strive to achieve heightened accuracy, robustness, and generalization capacities. The research paper's proposition to synergize AlexNet with adversarial training underscores a forward-looking approach, accentuating the relentless pursuit of precise and reliable pneumonia diagnosis.

1.10 Progression Towards Integrated Approaches

The landscape of pneumonia detection has undergone a significant transformation with the convergence of deep learning and transfer learning paradigms. The study by Wang et al. (2020) exemplifies this trend by proposing a multi-stage approach that combines deep learning networks with transfer learning techniques. Their model involves an initial feature extraction phase using a pre-trained CNN, followed by a transfer learning stage using a smaller pneumonia-specific dataset. This multi-stage integration reflects the growing recognition of the synergy between the strengths of both techniques.

1.11 Addressing Imbalance with Attention Mechanisms

A recurring challenge in medical image analysis, including pneumonia detection, is the class imbalance present in datasets. To mitigate this, attention mechanisms have been incorporated. Li et al. (2019) introduced an attention-guided network for pneumonia detection that dynamically allocated focus to relevant regions in the chest X-rays. By doing so, the model demonstrated improved discrimination between pneumonia and healthy cases, showcasing the potential of attention mechanisms in augmenting model performance.

1.12 Cross-Domain Transfer Learning for Generalization

The concept of cross-domain transfer learning has gained traction as a means to enhance model generalization across different sources of data. Xu et al. (2021) showcased the feasibility of this approach by employing a source domain with abundant data (e.g., natural images) to enhance pneumonia detection on a target domain (e.g., chest X-ray images). This cross-domain transfer learning strategy enabled the model to leverage the diverse features learned from the

source domain, contributing to enhanced performance in pneumonia classification.

1.13 Hybrid Architectures for Enhanced Performance
Aiming to further amplify the performance of pneumonia detection models, hybrid architectures have emerged. Zhang et al. (2020) proposed a hybrid architecture that combines a CNN with a long short-term memory (LSTM) network. By fusing the spatial features extracted by the CNN with the temporal dependencies captured by the LSTM, their model demonstrated improved accuracy in identifying pneumonia cases, particularly in cases where temporal patterns played a crucial role in diagnosis.

1.14 Prospects and Future Directions
The domain of pneumonia detection using deep learning and transfer learning techniques has witnessed remarkable advancements. As research continues to evolve, there remain several avenues that hold potential for further exploration. These include the integration of explainable AI techniques to enhance model interpretability, the investigation of few-shot learning for scenarios with limited annotated data, and the exploration of federated learning to leverage data from multiple institutions while preserving privacy.

1.15 Conclusion
In the realm of pneumonia detection from chest X-ray images, the integration of deep learning, transfer learning, and adversarial training has shown remarkable potential. Previous research has paved the way for innovative approaches that strive to achieve higher accuracy, robustness, and generalization capabilities. The proposed research aims to contribute to this trajectory by investigating the combined power of the AlexNet architecture and adversarial training, offering a novel perspective in the pursuit of accurate pneumonia diagnosis.

II. DESCRIBES THE METHODOLOGY, DETAILING THE DATASET, MODEL ARCHITECTURE, AND TRAINING PROCEDURE.

The methodology employed in this research paper involves a combination of transfer learning using the AlexNet architecture and adversarial training to

improve the accuracy of pneumonia detection in chest X-rays.

a. Dataset
The dataset used for this study comprises a diverse collection of chest X-ray images, including both pneumonia-positive and pneumonia-negative cases. This dataset has been widely adopted in the field and is publicly available. The dataset consists of X-ray images collected from various sources and annotated by experienced radiologists for accurate labeling.

b. Model Architecture
The chosen model architecture for this study is the AlexNet [Krizhevsky et al., 2012]. AlexNet is a deep convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture known for its effectiveness in image classification tasks. The pre-trained AlexNet model, which was initially trained on a large-scale image dataset, is fine-tuned for pneumonia detection using transfer learning.

c. Training Procedure
The training procedure involves two main steps: transfer learning and adversarial training.

In the transfer learning step, the pre-trained AlexNet model is loaded and the fully connected layers are modified to suit the binary classification task of pneumonia detection. The model is initialized with weights learned from the original dataset and then fine-tuned using the pneumonia X-ray dataset. The learning rate is adjusted to ensure effective fine-tuning while preventing overfitting.

Adversarial training is then introduced to enhance the model's robustness and generalization capability. A generator network is incorporated to produce perturbations on the input X-ray images. The discriminator network is simultaneously trained to distinguish between original and perturbed images. The generator and discriminator are iteratively trained to optimize their respective objectives, resulting in a more resilient and accurate pneumonia detection model.

The entire training process involves monitoring convergence using appropriate metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. To prevent

overfitting, techniques like dropout and batch normalization are applied during training.

d. Evaluation

The proposed approach is evaluated using a rigorous cross-validation procedure. The trained model is assessed on a separate validation dataset to tune hyperparameters and assess generalization performance. Comprehensive evaluation metrics, including area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC-ROC) and area under the precision-recall curve (AUC-PRC), are employed to quantify the model's performance.

e. Ethical Considerations

This research adheres to ethical guidelines regarding the use of medical data and patient privacy. All images used in this study are fully anonymized, and patient information is protected according to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.

III. THE REVIEW RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The present study aimed to enhance the accuracy of pneumonia detection in chest X-rays by employing a transfer learning approach with the AlexNet architecture and incorporating adversarial training. The following section presents a comprehensive review of the obtained results and ensuing discussions.

a. Transfer Learning with AlexNet:

The utilization of transfer learning with the AlexNet architecture proved to be effective in improving pneumonia detection. By leveraging pre-trained weights from a large dataset, the model exhibited the capability to extract relevant features from chest X-ray images, thereby mitigating the limitations associated with limited training data. This aligns with findings from previous studies that underscored the significance of transfer learning in medical image analysis (Smith et al., 2018; Johnson et al., 2020).

b. Adversarial Training:

The integration of adversarial training further augmented the performance of the proposed model. The adversarial component facilitated the generation of perturbations that enhanced the model's resilience

to variations in image quality and noise, resulting in a more robust pneumonia detection system. Similar observations were reported by Jiang et al. (2019) in their study on adversarial training for medical image analysis.

c. Comparison Study:

To validate the efficacy of the proposed approach, a comprehensive comparison study was conducted against existing methods. The results indicated a notable improvement in both sensitivity and specificity metrics for pneumonia detection. The proposed model outperformed traditional convolutional neural networks (CNNs) in accurately identifying pneumonia-afflicted regions within chest X-rays. This echoes the findings of Zhang et al. (2021) who demonstrated superior performance of adversarial-enhanced transfer learning in medical image classification tasks.

d. Clinical Implications:

The outcomes of this study bear significant clinical implications. Accurate and timely detection of pneumonia in chest X-rays can expedite diagnosis, treatment, and patient care. The proposed model's ability to extract relevant features and accommodate variations in image quality underscores its potential to aid radiologists and clinicians in making well-informed decisions. This aligns with the goals of enhancing healthcare through advanced technology and automation (Topol, 2019).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the present study sought to address the pressing need for accurate and efficient pneumonia detection in chest X-rays through a comprehensive approach that combined Transfer Learning using AlexNet and Adversarial Training. The results of this study underline the potential of these techniques to significantly enhance the performance of pneumonia detection systems.

Through the utilization of Transfer Learning, specifically leveraging the pre-trained AlexNet model, the study demonstrated the benefits of knowledge transfer from a large dataset to the task at hand. This approach is consistent with previous research that highlights the effectiveness of transfer learning in

medical image analysis (Zhou et al., 2019). The superior performance achieved by our model, as evidenced by the improved accuracy and sensitivity, can be attributed to the ability of AlexNet to capture high-level features that are relevant to pneumonia detection.

Adversarial Training further contributed to the robustness of the proposed model. By introducing adversarial perturbations during the training process, the model learned to be more resilient to variations in input data, thus reducing the risk of misclassification. This is in line with the findings of Goodfellow et al. (2014) who demonstrated the efficacy of adversarial training in improving the generalization and reliability of deep learning models.

A notable outcome of our research is the comparison study conducted between the proposed approach and traditional methods, such as handcrafted feature extraction combined with Support Vector Machines (SVM). The findings clearly show that the Transfer Learning Approach with AlexNet and Adversarial Training outperforms the traditional methods in terms of accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity. This aligns with the trend observed in the field, where deep learning techniques consistently demonstrate superior performance in medical image analysis tasks (Litjens et al., 2017).

However, it is important to acknowledge certain limitations of the study. While the proposed approach shows promising results, the model's performance may still be influenced by variations in image quality, different patient populations, and specific clinical settings. Future research could focus on adapting the model to different datasets to assess its generalizability further. Additionally, the potential for fine-tuning hyperparameters and exploring alternative architectures beyond AlexNet could also be considered to optimize performance even further.

In conclusion, this research contributes to the ongoing efforts to enhance pneumonia detection in chest X-rays through the amalgamation of Transfer Learning using AlexNet and Adversarial Training. The demonstrated advancements in accuracy and robustness support the assertion that deep learning techniques hold immense potential for improving

medical image analysis and have direct implications for clinical decision-making and patient care.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

e. Exploration of Additional Deep Architectures:

Further investigations could involve exploring the applicability of other advanced deep learning architectures, such as VGG, ResNet, or Inception, in conjunction with adversarial training for pneumonia detection in chest X-rays. This would provide insights into the comparative effectiveness of different architectures in improving detection accuracy.

f. Multimodal Fusion with Clinical Data:

Incorporating additional clinical data, such as patient demographics, medical history, and laboratory results, could enhance the model's predictive power. A multimodal fusion approach that combines chest X-ray images with clinical data may lead to more robust and accurate pneumonia detection.

g. Domain Adaptation for Improved Generalization:

Addressing the potential domain shift between the source and target datasets could involve exploring domain adaptation techniques. Adapting the model to account for differences in X-ray acquisition settings and patient populations could enhance its generalization performance.

h. Incremental Learning and Lifelong Adaptation:

Investigating methods for incremental learning and lifelong adaptation is crucial for maintaining model performance as new data becomes available. Continuous updating of the model using new X-ray images can help it remain effective in a changing clinical environment.

i. Interpretable Decision Support:

Developing methods to visualize and interpret the model's decision-making process can aid radiologists and clinicians in understanding its predictions. Techniques like attention maps or saliency analysis could be integrated to provide insights into the regions of interest within X-ray images.

j. Real-world Clinical Validation:

Conducting a comprehensive clinical validation study involving multiple medical centers and a diverse

patient population would determine the real-world utility of the proposed approach. This validation could assess the model's performance, generalizability, and impact on clinical decision-making.

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