

Preface

Cancer is among the most perplexing ailments that has tormented humans for much of our civilization. In both humans and dogs, tumours of the mammary gland are most common among females. Both human breast cancer (HBC) and canine mammary tumours (CMTs) are associated with high mortality rates and poor prognosis. Moreover, the disease is similar in both the species and hence, CMTs are considered excellent models for HBC studies. Timely classification of cancers is crucial for deciding the most appropriate therapeutic regime and prognosis. However, many a times, there is a delay in diagnosis due to the paucity of trained oncopathologists. Accurate identification and classification of benign and malignant tumour tissues is a vital clinical task, and automated procedures can substantially speed up the diagnosis, minimize errors and contribute to better healthcare management. Thus, the development of automated computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems is a priority research area for image enhancement, feature extraction, and classification of cancer histopathological images.

The increasing adoption of deep learning and machine learning across healthcare domains, together with the availability of highly characterized cancer datasets, has accelerated research into the utility of artificial intelligence in the analysis of the complex biology of cancer. While early results are promising, this is a rapidly evolving field with new knowledge emerging in both cancer biology and deep learning. Deep learning-based approaches are recently being explored for analyzing histopathological images of HBC. However, so far, due to the lack of any publicly available CMT database, no studies

have focused on the automated classification of CMTs. The existence of heterogeneous and diverse types of CMTs and the paucity of skilled veterinary pathologists justify the need for automated diagnosis. Thus, the study was proposed with the aim to develop a framework for CAD of CMTs with high accuracy. To the best of our knowledge, for the first time, a dataset of CMT histopathological images (CMTHis) was introduced in this study. Further, a VGGNet-16 as a feature extractor was proposed, wherein a FC layer was removed and experimented with various classifiers.

As the success of deep learning depends on the amount of data available, the large-scale collection of data is critical for the effectiveness of the model. However, privacy and security concerns often prevent data owners from contributing sensitive information in machine learning systems that contain multiple parties. Thus, another objective of this study was to address such concerns related to confidential input of data during training or inference, as well as to the sharing of a trained model. To address these, an efficient and secure cancer diagnostic framework for histopathological image classification is proposed in this study by utilizing both differential privacy and secure multi-party computation.

Another area of concern addressed in this study is the poor applicability of deep learning-based approaches on edge devices. Moreover, deep learning-based approaches are computationally expensive and have huge parameters, which makes them less affordable for edge devices. Recently in the edge computing world, providing a low-cost solution has become highly valuable. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to develop a model for histopathological image classification that works effectively on edge devices. The proposed model was tested on a Raspberry Pi and three different smartphones to demonstrate its efficiency on a lightweight processor. The model proposed herewith speeds up histopathological image classification significantly without sacrificing accuracy, allowing it to compete with other models for applications on edge devices.

The requirement for massive amounts of labelled data is a major limiting factor for deep learning-based approaches. In the field of medical imaging, such large labelled datasets are difficult to acquire. Machine learning-based algorithms are a potential alternative to deep learning for medical imaging with smaller datasets. A major constraint of conventional machine learning techniques is the requirement of complex processing for the extraction of discriminatory features. Traditional machine learning algorithms have limited ability to reveal the most sophisticated features of cancer histopathological images, but their robustness and fault tolerance can be enhanced by using fuzzy modelling to capture the uncertainty in image data. Therefore, in this study, a novel CoMHisP framework based on a fuzzy support vector machine with within-class density information was also proposed. It utilizes a novel feature extraction technique by optimizing the block size to extract image micro-patterns and computing centre of mass (CoM) for each pixel to extract feature vectors. The proposed methodology is simpler and requires less processing time than other methods, and consequently does not require high-performance computers. It performs extraordinarily well at lower magnification, which is an additional advantage for providing diagnosis using simple microscopes in low-cost clinical settings.

The approaches, proposed in this study, have been evaluated on publicly available BreakHis dataset and newly introduced CMTHis dataset. The present study demonstrated effective solutions for the classification of HBC and CMTs with high accuracy and solves the concerns associated with deep learning-based approaches such as the requirement of large datasets, data security and privacy issues, as well as limited applicability on edge devices.