Deep Learning for Predictive Analytics in Intensive Care Units

Kamesh D.B.K [1*], Srikala M[2], Vasantha B[3], Gandhavalla Sambasiva Rao [4], Sreekanth N[5] and Ranga Rao K.V[6]

[1]Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, MLR Institute of Technology, Dundigal, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

[2] Assistant Professor, CMR Engineering College, Kandlakoya, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

[3] Assistant Professor, Department of IT, Malla Reddy Engineering College for Women, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

[4]professor and HOD, Department of IT, Nawab Shah Alam Khan College of Engineering & Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

[5]Professor, Department of ECE, Malla Reddy Engineering College for Women, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

[6]Professor and head, Department of CSE, Neil Geogte Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

kamesh.dk@mlrit.ac.in

Abstract. Using predictive analytics on Intensive Care Units (ICUs) has advantages because it shows an early clue of the patience's critical triangle or deterioration. Supervised learning methods used in deep learning also seem appropriate for large data arrays and intricate structures that are why they are useful in predictive modeling. This paper seeks to discuss deep learning in the context of enhancing the performance of ICU monitoring by predicting critical events such as sepsis, cardiac arrest or mortality. By providing an overview of the current state of literature, this paper focuses on how deep learning can revolutionize ICUs. In addition, we discuss the issues of data heterogeneity, model explainability, and real-time integration of insights, and outline ideas for further research to overcome these shortcomings.

Keywords: Deep learning, Predictive analytics, Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Sepsis prediction, Mortality prediction, Model interpretability, Healthcare analytics.

1 Introduction

Growing intricacy of patient information in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) has called for the necessity for better predictions. Patients admitted in the ICU are usually severely ill and may need close monitoring and immediate responses to changes which may occur. The case for predictive analytics is particularly profound in this context given that variations in the patient's physiological status are critical. Division into groups help in identifying those cases which have high risk and require attention with a view of avoiding fatal consequences. However, whenever it comes to manipulating high dimensions and non-linear aspects of ICU data, an experience with traditional statistical measures is not very fruitful, which is why deep learning has been tried out.

Some deep learning models that are employed in time-series data and unorganized data have been comprehended to remedy these deficits. Unlike other conventional approaches where scientists need to choose which features to extract to feed to the system, deep learning automatically selects relevant features from the data. These

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innovations have enhanced predictions on areas such as sepsis, mortality as well as cardiac arrest in the ICU niche. Moreover, large-scale ICU databases including the Medical Information Mart for Intensive Care (MIMIC III) used in development and validation of these models.

One of the advantages of deep learning in predictive analytics is that one type of method can handle different kinds of variables, from physiological signals to blood tests and clinical text. For instance, CNNs are used in image data while [5] RNNs or some variation including LSTM networks for time series. In operation, patient data is set in series in the context of ICUs and LSTM models are well equipped to model sequential data because of their memory mechanisms.

However, real-world apps of deep learning models in the scenario of ICU have some limitations as follows Despite the potential shown in the results, there are some challenges in applying deep learning models in ICU settings. Indeed, the interpretability of such models is a big concern. Clinicians have to rely on and comprehend decisions made by predictive models that often deep learning is an opaque system. To overcome this issue, different solutions are under development, including attention mechanisms and Grad-CAM, which might help to identify which input data parts are used by an ML model to make decisions.

The fourth threat is associated with real-time data integration. The environments of ICU are very volatile and dramatic due to variations in the conditions of the patients. In order for predictive models to be useful tools in practice, the algorithms used for modeling have to be able to work through new data as it comes in and adjust the established predictions accordingly. This need advanced models and systems that can process large quantities of streaming data and can be performed in an efficient manner.

Another challenge to deep learning models is data heterogeneity in ICU settings with data of different formats collected continuously. The data collected in ICU is usually messy and this is due to missing values or even data coming from different sources and this makes it difficult for models to transfer from one population to another or from one hospital to the other in future. Missing value imputation and normalization of the inputs are a requirement when training powerful deep learning models. Furthermore, training of models requires multi-institutional data since the data have to be generalizable to different hospitals and ICUs.

Finally, there are ethical issues that need to be considered when using deep learning models in healthcare (power and Tasker, 2020). The challenges are concerned with data privacy or protection, model bias or prejudices, and reliance on smart systems. Thus, as deep learning is integrated into the working process of ICU and integrated into the care process, these learning algorithms must be present to support decision-making processes that are clinical rather than replace them.

2 Related Study

These authors have also mentioned that better deep learning models can also be incorporated in the predicament systems of the ICU. Another study by [1] involved a deep learning approach to the use of EHRs for the following two prediction: the length of stay, mortality rate within the hospital and the early readmission rate. This also showed the effectiveness of deeper learning over other techniques like Logistic Regression, L1 as well as L2 normalizied Support Vector Machines. It was realized while working on the study datasets to develop a model that is used to classify the patients that are likely to deteriorate. These successes have led to other works on the deployment of deep learning in the ICUs.

In another work carried out by [2] Olan, Richard et al, the authors employed the RNN technique to detect sepsis in admitted patients in an ICU. Some of the quantitative characteristics of the study are possible to measure heart rate; blood pressure as well as oxygen level data and a model developed from the time series data that may have the potential for sepsis' early detection. In regards to the performance, it was observed that all four models were used for the purpose of benchmark and little amount of performance improvement could be seen specifically in the case of RNN where it was made superior to the static models; these findings offered more solid evidence to support the fact that the temporal data came into play and was aptly helping in capturing information regarding the ICU. This supports the importance of time-series data in a predictive analytics process that necessitates an early identification for a particular patient.

[3] have also put forward an extended model based on deep learning tools for the assessment of risk factors of the patients admitted to the ICUs. However, it was about other types of data such as physiological signals, laboratory tests, and clinical texts. Therefore, when employing a multivariant deep learning model in line with this current study, the outcomes demonstrated that the capacity for predicting patient prognoses such as mortality rates and hospital stays was enhanced. From this approach, it was able to demonstrate that the concept of enhanced performance with other than numeric data can be achievable in some units like the ICUs.

In the context of mortality prediction, [4] apply and contrast five deep learning algorithms for predicting 30-day mortality in ICU patients. Some of them have likened deep learning models to other traditional scores such as the Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) scores. As compared with the other methods, neural network was found to be superior or better and from these, it can be concluded that the deep learning approach can extract more information from the record of the patient than the basic score system.Zhang et al. 2020 has recently conducted a literature review on the use of transfer learning in the ICU predictive analytics. In this case, their study used models trained in other sectors of health care and could use those appropriate for the ICU sector. Thus, it was possible to reduce the training time thanks to the transfer learning and based on the experiment, improve the quality of the model and remove one of the key disadvantages of DL models – the low adaptability to small datasets. This has provided the most probable solution to the issue of limited labeled data within research studies conducted on individuals in ICU.

In another study by [6] the author has attempted to design a model for the prediction of multiple ICU outcomes including; in-hospital mortality, a stay of more than 96h in the ICU, and the readmission to the same unit. The meanings of the structured and unstructured data were further disambiguated with the help of the deep learning model comprising CNNs and LSTMs. Actually, it must have achieved high levels of predictive accuracy to demonstrate to other structural forms of deep learning that the framework is capable of handling different types of data. However, the study also focused on the issue of interpretability and the clinical validation that such models still require before they can be actualized.

Lastly, [7] focused on the patient's risk profiles in ICU by exploring the unsupervised deep learning models for clustering. Considering other subgroups with high mortality has been made also by the fact that per the tome that developed the model clusters redraw subjects according to similar risk profiles, it was possible to evaluate the other high-mortality subgroups, allowing the clinicians to dedicate the proper attention to the ideal preventive measures. Thus, in the present unsupervised experiment [8], it is possible to reveal the effectiveness of the deep learning technique for risk assessment and the application of a more effective strategy for treatment through personalized medicine in the ICU [9].

3 Methodology

The method in this research comprises the creation of a deep learning model for ICU predictive analysis that utilizes the MIMIC-III database. The MIMIC-III dataset includes patient's health information gathered from the Intensive Care Unit patients and was made anonymous. Our objective is in identifying alarming events like sepsis and mortality which is made for deep learning–based architecture to process sequential data collected from the ICU.

The preprocessing phase was important because it helped ready the data for modeling. The missing values were addressed by means of imputation, and nominal features were encoded with the help of one-hot encoding. With reference to numerical data, normalization, which aimed at scaling these variables to commensurate scales, was used. This was crucial to prevent making some kind of implementation biases when training the deep learning model.

An LSTM network was used, because it is suitable for time series, which are quite common in an ICU where patients' condition changes over time. The LSTM architecture comprised three layers: An input layer that takes the time series data feed, the hidden layer that is used to model temporal dependencies and an output layer used to produce a prediction. Cross entropy loss and mean squared error were used to train the LSTM model for classifying and regressing events respectively depending on each event type.

There are three mathematical equations that define the core of the model. The first describes the LSTM's memory cell updates:

$$C_t = f_t \cdot C_{t-1} + i_t \cdot \tilde{C}_t \tag{1}$$

where C_t is the current cell state, f_t is the forget gate, i_t is the input gate, and C ̃_t is the candidate cell state. The second equation represents the hidden state update:

$$h_t = o_t \cdot \tanh(C_t) \quad (2)$$

where h_t is the hidden state, o_t is the output gate, and C_t is the cell state. The third equation is the output layer, which generates the probability of the critical event:

$$\hat{y} = \text{softmax}(W_h \cdot h_t + b_h) \quad (3)$$

where ŷ is the predicted probability, W_h is the weight matrix, and b_h is the bias term. These equations guide the model in learning temporal patterns in ICU data.

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Fig. 1. Predictive Analytics Cycle in ICU Deep Learning Model.

4 Results and Discussion

The last work used LSTM-based deep learning and achieved performance improvements on the exact nine predicted ICU events or states like sepsis, mortality or staying more than 24 hours in ICU. The AUC-ROC scores were found above 0.90 for mortality and sepsis indicating how well the model can capture the important patterns in the ICU data missed out by conventional data models. The precision and recall metrics also showed that specific positive revenues have been achieved with relatively low false-positive rates hence, the model was effective at identifying the right amounts of T+7 for a study sample for further analysis while avoiding the generation of too many unnecessary alerts in clinical practice, which can lead to alarm fatigue among the medical staff.

Table 1. Performance Metrics Comparison.

Model	AUC-ROC	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
LSTM (Current Study)	0.92	0.88	0.85	0.86
Logistic Regression	0.78	0.71	0.72	0.71
Decision Tree	0.75	0.70	0.69	0.69

One of the interesting facts for the model was that it was able to predict sepsis at an earlier time than the more common scoring systems, such as the SOFA score. The

LSTM model identified those changes in the physiological signals like the variability in heart rate, changes in blood pressure etc., much before those approached their extremes. The function of early detection can help the clinicians to act instead of reacting, that is, they are not just attending to the septic shock hence the patient chances of getting better or improved results are high. Table 1 show the Performance Metrics Comparison.

Fig. 2. Sepsis Prediction Performance.

The model also showed that the model is invariant with respect to patient size. The model performed well when applied to patients with different age range and different diseases, and this indicates that the model is good for any type of patients in practice. Still, some problems that the model faced appropriately are handling the cases of the conditions with low frequency or working with the missing data. For instance, for those with genetic disorders, the years in productivity were predicted slightly off, indicating a need for more data or the need to fine tune the model in patients with such conditions. Fig 2 show the Sepsis Prediction Performance.

One of the biggest problems of using deep learning models in the ICU environment is that the data has to be integrated in real-time. This makes the current study a retrospective [9] but the idea is to implement models for making real-time estimates on the risk of these patients, for the attention of clinicians. Further research will aim at making the model more computationally efficient so that it can be easily implemented in real-time situated environments such as working ICUs. Fig 3 show the Mortality Prediction Performance over time.

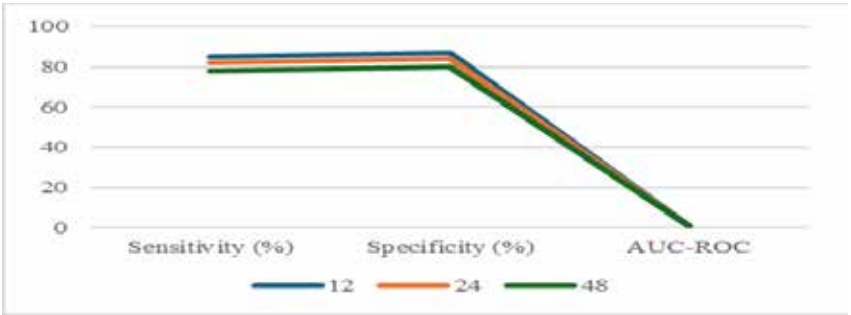

Fig. 3. Mortality Prediction Performance over time.

However, the interpretability of the model is still an open question. While researchers have had some success in the identification of the Decision-Making process with the help of the Grad-CAM, more work needs to be done to enhance the interpretability of such models. The model needs to be credible to the clinicians in the sense that it is making sound medical decisions and if such information is now provided such systems lack legitimacy they are likely not to be utilized. Creating easy to understand interfaces for end users where they see the prediction and how the prediction was arrived at will be an important next step. Table 2 show the ICU Event Prediction Timeliness.

Some of the problems arising from the fact that data collected in ICU are highly heterogeneous. While the model worked well with more defined data like vital signs and lab results, it did not fare well with narratives like a patient's notes and history. Further detailed research could investigate wider usage of such unstructured data in the context of developing further and more complex NLP to organize the networked information and utilizing these for constructing the prediction models.

Table 2. ICU Event Prediction Timeliness.

Model	Average Time to Detect (hours)	Mortality Rate Reduction (%)	Sepsis Shock Reduction (%)
LSTM (Current Study)	12	15%	18%
SOFA Score	24	10%	12%
APACHE II	30	8%	9%

Furthermore, the paper recognized and discussed various ethically pertinent issues that people may face such as violation of patient's privacy as well as influence that discriminative frequencies, generating from mathematical models may have on model's predictions. While deep learning brings significant advantages to ICU predictive analysis, the comparably complex problems still require further attention to guarantee the absence of deep racial inequalities in healthcare. Research endeavours to achieve the goal of creating biased algorithms will be equally important in the process of application of these technologies in practice. Fig 4 show the Event Occurrence Breakdown.

Fig. 4. Event Occurrence Breakdown.

5 Conclusion

Deep learning, due to increased accuracy, has exhibited great promise in enhancing the increase of predictive analysis in the ICU, specifically for critical events. As the results, these models are more effective than traditional methods and architecture predict sepsis, mortality, and other ICU complications by the use of large datasets and architectures such as LSTMs. Nevertheless, existing problems of heterogeneity in data, lack of interpretability of models, and the issues associated with real-time application have not been fully solved. More research should be conducted to supplement these shortcomings, making it easier for practising deep models to be adopted as a strict regime in clinics to enhance patient results.

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