Classification of chronic kidney disease based on machine learning techniques

Moataz Mohamed El Sherbiny, Eman Abdelhalim, Hossam El-Din Mostafa, Mervat Mohamed El-Seddik
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ABSTRACT

In recent years, indescribable suffering from various kidney diseases has been experienced by people all over the world. The situation has been significantly worse because of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Only through an early diagnosis of CKD may kidney disease be hindered in its early stages from progressing. However, it is easier to detect the chronic kidney disease with the aid of machine learning (ML) classifier algorithms sooner than any other existing methods. The present work proposes an approach for potentially predicting CKD infection while considering patient health dataset information, employing nine distinct ML algorithms; random forest (RF), Naive Bayes (NB), support vector machine (SVM), decision tree (DT), logistic regression (LR), extreme gradient boosting (XGB), adaptive boosting (ADB), k-nearest neighbors (KNN), and neural network (NN). Machine learning algorithms had been utilized and conducted in four experiments, then they were compared using five performance measures; F1-score, precision, accuracy, recall and run time are used to evaluate the performance. Results had shown that AdaBoost (ADA) outperformed other techniques with achieved accuracy of 99.17%.

Keywords: Chronic kidney disease, Classifier, Feature selection, Machine learning, Performance measures

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1. INTRODUCTION

Kidneys are vital bean-shaped organs that excrete wastes and excess fluid from blood. The most critical stage of the kidney-damaging process is chronic kidney disease (CKD). As a result of CKD, the human kidney can lose its functionality gradually over time [1]. The CKD is a widespread disease that costs a significant number of lives worldwide. One of the most prevalent causes of mortality and suffering in the 21st century is CKD. Furthermore, the number of patients with CKD has been rising, with an estimated 843.6 million people diagnosed globally in 2017. CKD is the 11th deadliest cause of mortality worldwide with 1.2 million deaths annually [2]. Currently, it is the sixth most rapidly growing reason of death globally. Since the treatment and medication are neither accessible nor affordable in the majority of developing countries, early detection is very vital to optimize treatment effectiveness and facing the financial economic impact [3]. The main aim of using machine learning (ML) is to enable computers to learn from training data and extract information, in order to perform tasks on future data commonly known as test data [4]. The accuracy and speed of diagnosis have been enhanced with aid of ML techniques. Yet improving accuracy to minimize error rates is considered a challenge. The worldwide health issue of CKD is getting worse every day. Around 10% of the world’s population is in distress. CKD threatens the lives of tens of thousands of people annually. The ML
methods have been utilized in a set of researches for CKD classification and prediction in the biomedical field [5] most of previous work used the UCI dataset that contains a lot of missing values in addition to numerous features that can be misleading. A summary of related work is presented in Table 1. The main contribution of this study is to reduce complexity of dataset by selecting the most relevant features to target classification and eliminate non relevant or redundant ones. Moreover, different missing values imputation techniques were involved including k-nearest neighbors (KNN) which is as far as we know the first time to be implemented on CKD dataset.

Abuomar and Sogbe [6] achieved classification accuracy of 98.8% and 10-fold cross validation value of 95.75% using decision tree (DT). Khan et al. [7] identified the important attributes using feature selection technique that eliminated the uncorrelated features. Results indicate that on a smaller dataset of 23 attributes for chronic kidney disease, naive bayes (NB) has a maximum accuracy of 99.1%. The DT outperformed the other classifiers in terms of time complexity. Charleonnan et al. [8] indicated that the DT classifier and logistic regression (LR) techniques outscored the other classifiers such as SVM, random forest (RF) and KNN, reaching 98.75% and 97.5% accuracy respectively. Polat et al. [9] reduced the dimensions of CKD dataset through choosing two types of feature selection techniques. The results demonstrate the support vector machine (SVM) classifier’s accuracy rate for the diagnosis of chronic kidney disease was higher (98.5%). Yashfi et al. [10] applied both RF and ANN to CKD dataset. They used feature selection technique to choose 80% of total number of predictor attributes. RF has achieved the highest accuracy of 97.12%. Nirmala et al. [11] applied two steps for classification. In first step, they applied LR, DT, and SVM classifier for analysis. The best outcome was DT that achieved accuracy of 95.92%. In second step, they applied an ensemble method to boost the performance of classifiers and reached the highest accuracy of 97.23%. Rady and Anwar [12] showed that probabilistic neural network (PNN) outscored SVM and multi-layer perceptron (MLP) in terms of prediction performance achieving accuracy of 96.7%. Vanaja and Kumar [13] demonstrated the prediction of chronic kidney disease through NB that have got better accuracy of 94.6%, rather than other algorithms that were tested such as KNN, SVM, DT, and ANN. Xiao et al. [14] utilized various data mining models in prediction of CKD including RF, SVM, extreme gradient boosting (XGB), and KNN. Linear models were discovered to reach average AUC higher than 87%. Alijaaf et al. [15] built a prediction model for chronic kidney disease using both NB and KNN algorithms. KNN reached the most notable precision of 97%, preceding NB that has scored 91% in terms of precision.

This study aims to improve the prediction model’s accuracy for CKD by integrating multiple missing data imputation strategies as well as employing feature selection methods. The proposed method is discussed in detail in section 2. In section 3 delves into the evaluation and discussion of experimental results. Finally, work conclusions are given in section 4.

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Naïve bayes and feature selection of 23 attributes</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleonnan et al.</td>
<td>Logistic regression</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polat et al. [9]</td>
<td>Support vector machine and feature selection using wrapper</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yashfi et al. [10]</td>
<td>Random forest with and feature selection of 20 attributes</td>
<td>97.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nirmala et al. [11]</td>
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<td>Rady and Anwar [12]</td>
<td>Neural network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xiao et al. [14]</td>
<td>Naïve bayes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alijaaf et al. [15]</td>
<td>K-nearest neighbors</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. METHODS

This section contains the proposed system and framework of this study. It consists of three main blocks. Firstly, dataset description, then data preprocessing, ML algorithms and finally evaluation methods as shown in Figure 1.

2.1. Dataset description

The data source used in this paper is obtained from University of California Irvine ML respiratory which was collected from hospital in India over two months. The dataset consists of 400 sample record and 25 features including 14 numerical features, 10 categorical ones in addition to the target classification property labeled as ckd or not CKD. The dataset consists of 250 cases of individuals who have CKD and 150 instances of individuals who do not have CKD. The number of complete instances without any missing values in the dataset is 158.
2.2. Data preprocessing

Preprocessing is a very crucial component of developing the prediction model in our study. Since the inconsistent data alter the accuracy of the model, considering that the gathered data includes missing values and nominal variables. Therefore, cleaning noisy data is done by handling outliers, the values that are beyond the range of the remaining values. The dataset has a significant number of missing values as shown in Figure 2. The dataset contains 158 complete instances only. Patients frequently overlook several measures for a variety of reasons. As a result, missing values will show up in the data if the diagnostic categories of the samples are unidentified, necessitating the use of an appropriate imputation method. Data preprocessing is implemented in four different stages which are imputation, encoding, scaling and feature selection.

2.2.1. Imputation

There are various iterative strategies for dealing with null values such as replacing with constant “zero”, mean, median and most frequency techniques. Replacing missing feature values with zero has no effective biasing in prediction but this assumption is medically impossible. In this paper, two methods were implemented. First one is simple imputer by replacing null values with the mean value, while second one k-nearest neighbor imputer with different k-values. Mistyped data are replaced by correctly typed ones.
2.2.2. Encoding

Nominal values need to be converted into numbers to make ML algorithm able to understand data it receives in order to facilitate processing. Categorical variables were encoded using ordinal encoder. While class target value was encoded using label encoder.

2.2.3. Scaling

Before fitting any models, it is usually vital to scale numeric descriptive features since several significant classes of techniques require it such as SVM and other ML Algorithms since scaling facilitates the ability of model to learn and comprehend the problem [16]. Although there are various methods for scaling data, standard scaling, which adjusts the attribute to 0 mean and 1 standard deviation, was employed in this work. Normalization and standardization are the two most effective scaling techniques. Each data point is resized in a certain range during normalization using the (1):

\[ y = \frac{x - \text{Min.Value}}{x - \text{Max.Value}} \]  

(1)

where; x is the value before normalization, and y is the value after normalization. While standardization shifts the distribution to have a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one by the (2):

\[ y = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \]  

(2)

where; \( \mu \) is the mean, and \( \sigma \) is the standard deviation.

2.2.4. Feature selection

It is a mechanism for minimizing the number of irrelevant input variables that do not have a significant contribution on the target variable. It focuses on the issue of high dimensionality to achieve better relative accuracy [17]. Consequently, the model runs more quickly and the complexity of the data is reduced. Feature selection is an approach independent of the learning algorithm. Therefore, it is used for elimination of irrelevant features and selection of relevant ones. Feature selection was implemented in this research using the ANOVA for continuous numerical features while chi-square was used for categorical nominal ones;

\[ F = \frac{MST}{MSE} \]  

(3)

where; \( F \) is the ANOVA coefficient, \( MST \) is the mean squares of treatments. And \( MSE \) is the mean squares of errors;

\[ X^2 = \sum \frac{(\text{Observed Value} - \text{Expected Value})^2}{\text{Expected Value}} \]  

(4)

where; \( X^2 \) is chi-square test.

2.3. Machine learning algorithms

The ML algorithms classify or predict data without explicit programming after going through the training phase. Eight supervised ML techniques had been utilized in this study. In order to determine the best ML technique that provides the highest classification performance thorough a comparative analysis of the tested algorithms. Method that have been tested includes RF, NB, SVM, DT, LR, extreme gradient boosting (XGB), Adaboost (ADA), KNN and neural network (NN).

2.3.1. Random forest

A learning algorithm that develops numerous DT during the training phase and provides output class of those individual trees. Regression and classification can both be employed. This model makes a slight adjustment that makes use of the de-correlated tree by bagging, which is the development of numerous DTs from training data using bootstrapped samples. A specified number of feature columns are removed from the total number of feature columns during bootstrapping. Bootstrap modelling increases bias while minimizing variance.

2.3.2. Naive bayes

A probability-based model is a supervised algorithm that necessitates feature independence for classifying data. This model works well for datasets with a large number of input attributes. It encompasses every feature that is provided, even some that have minor effect on the outcome of the prediction [18].
The probabilistic model can be expressed as the following equation, where X and Y are two independent events;

\[ P(X|Y) = \frac{P(Y|X)P(X)}{P(Y)} \]  \hspace{1cm} (5)

where; \( P(X|Y) \) is the posterior probability of target class given predictor attribute. \( P(Y|X) \) is the likelihood which is the probability of predictor given class. \( P(X) \) is the prior probability of class and \( P(Y) \) is the prior probability of predictor.

### 2.3.3. Support vector machine

A decision plane-based model is one of the most robust statistical learning framework-based algorithms that provides a solution for both regression and classification problems as well as both linear and non-linear datasets [19]. Every data point is regarded as an n-dimensional vector, and a (n-1) hyper plane divides the datasets. A hyperplane is a line that splits a plane into two halves in a two-dimensional space. A support vector classifier can be explained by the (6):

\[ f(x) = \beta_0 + \sum_{i \in S} a_i K(x_i, x_j) \]  \hspace{1cm} (6)

where; \( \beta_0 \) is bias, and S is set of observation.

### 2.3.4. Decision tree

A supervised learning approach, whose purpose is to comprehend basic chained decision rules from prior input variables in order to train a model to classify a target variable. A set of impurity criteria is applied to recursively separate the variables until a set of stopping requirements are met. Gini impurity is chosen for the model from a variety of impurity measuring techniques;

\[ G(t) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{c} p_i^2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (7)

where; \( G(t) \) is Gini impurity at node t, and \( p_i \) is proportion of observation at class \( c \) of node t.

### 2.3.5. Logistic regression

In the healthcare system, LR is a well-known supervised learning algorithm [20]. The LR predicts the probability of the class output using a set of independent features. Assuming that \( p \) is the probability of a subject belongs to the CKD class, therefore \( 1-p \) is the probability of a subject belongs to the non-CKD class. Decision boundary is the threshold set to determine which data belongs to certain class This classification probability is calculated using the logistic sigmoid function. This algorithm can be described mathematically as:

\[ P_i = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\sum_{j=0}^{n} \beta_j x_{ij}}} \]  \hspace{1cm} (8)

where; \( i \) is the number of observations, \( j \) is the number of individual variables, \( P_i \) is the probability of ‘1’ at observation \( i \), \( \beta_j \) is the regression coefficient, and \( x_{ij} \) is the \( j^{th} \) variable at observation \( i \).

### 2.3.6. Xgboost

An XGB is a tree-based sequential DTs algorithms [21]. It is regarded as one of the most efficient methods for performing classification and predictions on small to medium-sized structured or tabular datasets. It uses a gradient descent architecture to accurately estimate a target variable or feature, through integrating relatively weaker and simpler models. One of XGBoost’s most significant aspects is scalability, where it directs abrupt learning through parallel and distributed computing as well as provides well-structured memory usage [22].

\[ L(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} l \left( y_i, \hat{y}_i^{(t-1)} + f_t(x_i) \right) + \Omega(f_t) \]  \hspace{1cm} (9)

Where; \( f_t \): the term added to minimize objective function, \( \hat{y}_i^{t} \): Prediction of the i-th instance at t-th iteration, \( \Omega \): Penalize complexity of model function, and \( l \): Differentiable convex loss function.

### 2.3.7. ADA

The ADA is an iterative ML algorithm that is less prone to over-fitting of data. Where dataset is split into two partitions for each iteration, the features used in the first iteration will be given less weight, and the incorrectly classified data are given more weight in the next iteration. When all iterations are finally completed,
they are merged with appropriate weights to yield a powerful and effective classifier that predicts the classes of the unseen data. The output of classifier can be written as:

$$F_T(x) = \sum_{t=1}^{T} f_t(x)$$ (10)

the error function after adaptive boosting (ADB) can be calculated as:

$$E_t = \sum_i E[F_{t-1}(x_i) + \alpha_t h(x_i)]$$ (11)

where; \(f_t\): Weak feature, \(F_{t-1}\): Boosted classifier, and \(\alpha_t\): Coefficient assigned to weak classifier.

2.3.8. K-nearest neighbors

A distance-based supervised ML algorithm that can be used for regression as well as for classification which is done by most votes to its neighbors [23]. It is a lazy learner algorithm because it doesn’t immediately apply what it has learned from the training set. Instead, it stores the dataset then applies what it has learned when it comes to classify.

2.3.9. Neural network

NNs would be developed for classification, recognition as well as numerous other uses based on their layers and neurons. Its fundamental methodology is underpinned by biological neural systems. The two key features of ANN are its ability to generalize and produce an acceptable response to unobserved data, as well as its ability to learn how to carry out its functions once it has been properly trained [24]. Initially the best subset of features is fed to the NN as the inputs. A weighted sum is calculated at each neuron for each feature subset. Then, a transfer function is applied to this weighted sum to determine the output value of neuron.

2.4. Evaluation methods

The most prominent performance measurements are precision, F1-score, sensitivity (recall), and accuracy. True positives (TP), false positives (FP), true negatives (TN), and false negatives are the four variables needed by the evaluation methods (FN).

Accuracy: This is the percentage of cases that were correctly identified out of all the cases.

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + FP + TN + FN}$$ (12)

Precision: It is the ratio of correctly predicted positive outcomes to all positive outcomes.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$ (13)

Recall: It is the proportion of correctly predicted events among the foreseen data.

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$ (14)

F1-Score: It is the weighted average of precision and recall.

$$F1 - Score = 2 \times \frac{Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$ (15)

Sensitivity: It is the mean proportion of actual TP that are correctly identified.

$$Sensitivity = \frac{TP}{TN + FP}$$ (16)

Specificity: It is used to measure the fraction of negative values that are correctly classified.

$$Specificity = \frac{TN}{TN + FP}$$ (17)

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dataset is split into two parts for training and testing purposes. The model learns to recognize relationships in between the data during training, so that it can make accurate predictions on new data. The testing set is used to evaluate the performance of the trained model on new unseen data. In this study, 70% for training and 30% for testing. Training and testing have been applied using kaggle on a processor core i7-10th generation and 16 GB RAM.
3.1. Experiment 1

Simple imputation approach is used to handle null values in the CKD dataset. There are several imputation techniques including median, mean and most frequent. This experiment utilized the mean strategy to deal with missing values. Results are summarized in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model name</th>
<th>Accuracy (%)</th>
<th>Precision (%)</th>
<th>F1-score (%)</th>
<th>Recall (%)</th>
<th>Run time (ms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>LR</td>
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<td>99.35</td>
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<td>96.64</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

3.2. Experiment 2

People with similar physical conditions should have consistent physiological data, which is the reason the KNN-based technique was selected to perform imputation of the incomplete records of dataset. KNN technique is used to handle null values with different k values of 3, 5, 7, and 9. Performance results are illustrated in Table 3.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>K-value</th>
<th>Model name</th>
<th>Accuracy (%)</th>
<th>Precision (%)</th>
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3.3. Experiment 3

Feature selection is a crucial component of ML so it is needed to select the most relevant features to build the model [25]. The dataset used in this research has quite a lot of features for relatively small size. The chi-square and ANOVA tests examine the connection between the features. The feature importance scores are shown in Figure 3 where continuous (numerical) and categorical (nominal) variables are shown in Figures 3(a) and 3(b) respectively. Results due to different number of attributes selected for prediction of target class are illustrated in Table 4.
Table 4. Results of experiment 3

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Figure 3. Feature importance scores for (a) numeric features and (b) nominal features
3.4. Experiment 4

The NN is known for higher accuracy in prediction and classification of medical datasets of large size. In this experiment, NN with a hidden layer is applied. Batch size is 16, learning rate is 0.0001, activation function is sigmoid and using Adams solver. Accuracy and test time shown in Table 5. While accuracy and loss versus epochs is shown in Figure 4. Different number of epochs such as 100 and 120 were executed in this experiment and their results are shown in Figures 4(a) and 4(b). However, accuracy did not improve at higher computational cost.

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<th>Time in S</th>
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Table 5. Results of experiment 4

Four experiments were conducted in this study on the chronic kidney dataset which contains 62.5% of CKD patients and 37.5% as non-ckd patients. After shuffling and splitting data into 70% train size and 30% test size performance were evaluated and compared in terms of accuracy, precision, F1-score, recall, ROC curves and run time. ADA and SVM achieved an accuracy of 100% when mean imputation is used to handle missing values. The highest accuracy was 99.17% when missing data was imputed using KNN. The chi-square and ANOVA tests examine the connection between the attribute to perform feature selection. ADA reached 100% when the top 14 features were selected. The DT achieved the highest accuracy of 99.17% among other models when 17 features were chosen. While the NN performance for this small size dataset stands at 97.5% accuracy.

![Accuracy and loss curves of NN versus number of epochs](image)

Figure 4. Accuracy and loss curves of NN versus number of epochs (a) 100 epochs and (b) 120 epochs
4. CONCLUSION

The accurate prediction of chronic kidney disease considered to be one of the challenging biomedical research topics nowadays. This research has resulted in the development of a ML-based pipeline to successfully identify chronic kidney disease using a data set of 400 sample instances with 24 features. Quite a lot of features for a relatively small dataset which led us to applying feature selection method. Consequently, we met our goal by utilizing and analyzing various ML algorithms such as RF, DT, ADA, KNN, XGB, and gaussian NB in addition to artificial NN, then compared the performance of these algorithms. The proposed model demonstrated an accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and ROC of 100%, 100%, and 100%, respectively using ADA with feature selection technique in less running time. Validation and testing were performed. The reliability of the method has been confirmed using ROC analysis. In future work, more advanced ML and DL algorithms will be applied on different datasets either statistical or medical images so that the efficiency and effectiveness of CKD prediction can be boosted at earlier stages.

REFERENCES


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