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Enhanced Detection of Anomalies in Mammography Images through Fuzzy C-Means Clustering Analysis

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Abstract: This study focuses on enhancing breast cancer detection by combining advanced image processing techniques with the Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) clustering algorithm. Beginning with a comprehensive review of existing detection methods, the research addresses their limitations and proposes a methodology comprising image preprocessing, FCM-based segmentation, feature extraction, and classification. Key steps include noise reduction and contrast enhancement in image preprocessing, precise lesion segmentation using FCM clustering, and effective characterization through feature extraction. Machine learning algorithms are then employed for lesion classification. Evaluation on diverse datasets demonstrates superior detection accuracy compared to existing methods. The integration of image processing with FCM clustering holds promise for improving breast cancer detection and warrants further refinement and validation for broader clinical use. Here we going to compare the time, Area, Sensitivity, Specification and accuracy of the malignant images and Benign images

Keywords – Breast cancer detection, Image processing, Fuzzy C-Means clustering, Mammographic images, Feature extraction.

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is a pressing global health concern, urging the need for early detection methods to enhance patient outcomes. Although mammography is the primary screening tool, its interpretation is intricate due to tissue variations and overlapping structures. This study proposes a holistic approach that combines image processing techniques with the Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) clustering algorithm to refine breast cancer detection. Current detection methods face limitations, prompting a thorough investigation to overcome these challenges. The research begins with an exhaustive review of existing techniques, identifying constraints to pave the way for an innovative methodology.[1], [2] The proposed approach involves several key steps, including image preprocessing, FCM-based segmentation, feature extraction, and classification. Image preprocessing is essential to optimize mammographic images for subsequent analysis by reducing noise and enhancing contrast. FCM clustering then aids in precise lesion segmentation by iteratively refining cluster centers and membership functions, isolating suspicious regions indicative of malignancy. Following segmentation, feature extraction captures discriminative lesion characteristics using texture and morphological features.[3] These extracted features serve as the basis for classification, distinguishing between benign and malignant lesions using machine learning algorithms such as Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Random Forest. The proposed methodology's effectiveness is evaluated through extensive experimentation on diverse datasets, assessing performance metrics such as sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy. Comparative analysis with existing methods underscores the superior performance and robustness of the proposed approach. In conclusion, integrating image processing with the FCM clustering algorithm presents a promising avenue for improving breast cancer detection.[4], [5] By addressing key challenges in mammographic analysis, this methodology holds the potential to enhance early diagnosis and patient outcomes. Further refinement and validation on larger datasets are imperative for broader clinical applicability.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Mammographic image preprocessing is crucial for improving image quality and facilitating accurate lesion detection. Methods such as noise reduction, contrast enhancement, and artifact removal are commonly employed for this purpose, as demonstrated by Zhang et al. (2019) who utilized adaptive histogram equalization to enhance image contrast, resulting in improved lesion visibility and detection accuracy. Clustering algorithms like Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) are widely used for segmenting breast lesions from mammographic images due to their ability to handle uncertainty in medical image data. Wang et al. (2020) introduced a modified FCM algorithm that integrates spatial information, enhancing segmentation accuracy and leading to improved lesion delineation and boundary refinement. Feature extraction is essential for capturing discriminative information from segmented regions and enabling effective classification of benign and malignant lesions. Khalid et al. (2018) utilized gray-level co-occurrence matrices (GLCM) to extract texture features, demonstrating their effectiveness in distinguishing between different types of breast lesions. Machine learning algorithms, including Support Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest, and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), are commonly applied for lesion classification based on extracted features. Wang et al. (2021) developed an SVM-based classifier using texture features and achieved high accuracy in discriminating between benign and malignant breast lesions, highlighting the potential of machine learning to enhance diagnostic accuracy. Despite advancements, challenges remain in breast cancer detection, including the need for robust segmentation methods, integration of multimodal imaging data, and validation across diverse patient cohorts. Future research may focus on addressing these challenges and exploring innovative techniques such as deep learning and multimodal fusion to further enhance detection accuracy and efficiency.

EXISTING METHODOLOGY

Fuzzy K-means is an extension of the traditional K-means algorithm, allowing data points to belong to multiple clusters with varying degrees of membership.[6] It operates through several key steps: initializing cluster centroids, assigning membership degrees to each data point based on a distance-based membership function, updating cluster centroids using weighted means of data points, and iterating until convergence.[7] This approach is valuable for datasets where points may belong to multiple clusters or when uncertainty exists about cluster assignments. While beneficial for tasks like pattern recognition, data mining, and image segmentation, fuzzy K-means is computationally more intensive due to the need to calculate membership degrees. K-Means is a commonly used algorithm for partitioning objects into predetermined clusters. Also known as Lloyd's algorithm, it iterates through two steps: assignment and updating.[8], [9], [10] During assignment, each object is assigned to the cluster with the closest mean, based on squared Euclidean distance. This process minimizes the within-cluster sum of squares (WCSS). Overall, K-Means partitions objects based on their proximity to cluster means, creating distinct groupings.

$$s_i^{(t)} = \{x_p - m_i^{(t)}||^2 \leq ||x_p - m_j^{(t)}||^2 \forall j, 1 \leq \ j \ \leq k\}$$

During the assignment step, each data point x_p is assigned to a single cluster $s^{(t)}$ even if it could belong to multiple clusters. In the subsequent update step, new means are computed as the centroids of the observations within the newly established clusters.

$$m_i^{(t+1)} = \frac{1}{|s_i^{(t)}|} \sum\nolimits_{x_j \in s_i^{(t)}} x_j$$

The arithmetic mean, acting as a least-squares estimator, efficiently minimizes the within-cluster sum of squares (WCSS) objective.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology for breast cancer detection integrates advanced image processing techniques with the Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) clustering algorithm to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of diagnosis. It begins with the acquisition of mammographic images using digital mammography systems. These images undergo preprocessing steps aimed at improving their quality, including noise reduction, contrast enhancement, and pixel normalization. These preprocessing steps are crucial for optimizing subsequent analysis and ensuring accurate detection of suspicious regions indicative of malignancy.[11] Following image preprocessing, the breast region is identified within the mammographic image. This step may involve segmentation techniques to isolate breast tissue from the background, facilitating focused analysis. [12], [13]The FCM clustering algorithm is then applied to segment breast lesions, leveraging its ability to partition image data into distinct clusters based on intensity and spatial information. By iteratively optimizing cluster centers and memberships, FCM accurately delineates breast lesions from surrounding tissue.[14] Once the breast lesions are segmented, features are extracted from the segmented regions to characterize them. These features encompass both texture and morphology, capturing important characteristics such as texture patterns, shape, and size. Texture features, such as Haralick or Gabor features, are calculated to describe the textural properties of lesions, while morphological features, including area, perimeter, and compactness, provide information about their shape and size. Optionally, a subset of the extracted features may be selected based on relevance and discriminative power to reduce dimensionality and enhance classification performance. Machine learning classifiers, including Support Vector Machines (SVM), Random Forest, or Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), are then trained on these selected features to differentiate between benign and malignant lesions.[15] Training and validation of the classifiers are conducted using labeled datasets comprising mammographic images with corresponding ground truth annotations. The performance of the proposed methodology is evaluated using various metrics, including sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, and the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC-ROC). Sensitivity measures the ability to correctly identify malignant lesions, while specificity measures the ability to correctly identify benign lesions. The AUC-ROC provides a comprehensive measure of the classifier's performance across different threshold settings, reflecting its discrimination ability. Validation of the methodology is conducted on independent datasets to ensure its generalization and robustness across diverse populations and imaging conditions. Fine-tuning of parameters for image processing, clustering, and classification is performed to optimize the overall performance of the methodology.[16] Once validated, the proposed methodology can be integrated into clinical practice to assist radiologists in the early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer. By providing accurate and efficient detection of suspicious lesions, the methodology contributes to improved patient outcomes and healthcare delivery in the field of breast cancer diagnosis and management.

METHODOLOGY

Fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering is a crucial technique in breast cancer detection through image processing. It operates through several key steps. Initially, preprocessing enhances image quality by eliminating noise and adjusting contrast.[17], [18], [19] Feature extraction then identifies relevant attributes such as texture, color, and shape from the breast tissue images. These features are represented in a high-dimensional space, paving the way for FCM clustering. Unlike traditional methods, FCM assigns a membership degree to each data point for each cluster, accommodating situations where points may belong to multiple clusters. Following clustering, analysis identifies distinct regions within the images, potentially corresponding to different tissue types.[20] Subsequent classification algorithms evaluate these regions, determining the likelihood of cancer presence. Through this process, FCM offers advantages, particularly in scenarios with complex tissue characteristics, by providing soft segmentation and continuous results, crucial for detecting subtle differences in breast tissue. The Fuzzy C-means algorithm, also referred to as ISODATA, is extensively used in pattern recognition[21]. It enables data points to be members of multiple clusters at the same time, aiming to minimize objective functions for accurate classification.

$$J = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{C} u_{ij}^{m} ||x_i - c_i||^2$$

Note:$1 \leq m < \infty$

Fuzzy partitioning iteratively optimizes the objective function, updating both membership degrees u_{ij} and cluster centers c_j.[22] This update is calculated using a formula where m is a real number greater than 1, x_i represents the i_{th} *d*-dimensional measured data point, c_j is the *d*-dimensional center of the cluster, and ||*|| denotes a norm expressing similarity between the data and the center

$$u_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{c} \left(\frac{|x_i - c_j|}{|x_i - c_k|}\right)\frac{2}{m-1}}$$

$$c_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{ij}^{m} . x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{ij}^{m}}$$

End of Iteration $max_{ij}\left\{|u_{ij}^{(k+1)} - u_{ij}^{(k)}|\right\} < \in,$

The algorithm revolves around several steps, where the termination criterion ε falls within the range of 0 to 1, and k denotes the iteration steps employed in Fuzzy.[23] This iterative process aims to converge towards either a local minimum or a saddle point of J_m. The following steps:

1. Initially $U = [u_{ij}]$ matrix, $U^{(0)}$
2. At the k-step of the algorithm, the centers vectors $C^{(k)} = [c_j]$ are computed based on the membership degrees matrix $U^{(k)}$. These center vectors represent the centroids of the clusters at this iteration.
$$c_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{ij}^{m} . x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{ij}^{m}}$$
3. Update the value of $U^{(k)}, U^{(k+1)}$

$$u_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{c}(\frac{|x_i - c_j|}{|x_i - c_k|})\frac{2}{m-1}}$$

4. The algorithm stops if the difference between $U^{(k)} and\ U^{(k+1)}$ is less than a threshold, indicating convergence. Otherwise, it returns to step 2 to continue the iterative process.

Flipping

Flipping is a valuable technique in image processing, where it involves reversing an image's orientation along axes like horizontal or vertical flipping. In the realm of Fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering applied to images, flipping can play dual roles as a preprocessing step or an augmentation method. When used for preprocessing, images are randomly flipped before clustering, introducing diversity to the dataset. This diversity is particularly beneficial for improving clustering performance when dealing with limited or homogeneous datasets.[24] Alternatively, during FCM training, flipping can be dynamically applied to augment the dataset, effectively increasing its size without the need for additional data collection. This augmentation aids the algorithm in better generalization to unseen data and mitigates overfitting.[25] However, when evaluating clustering results, it's crucial to account for the orientation of clusters, especially if flipping was employed during preprocessing or augmentation. Adjustments may be necessary to interpret clusters accurately for meaningful conclusions. Overall, flipping can significantly complement FCM clustering for image data, enhancing robustness and effectiveness, though careful evaluation of its impact on clustering performance is essential for reliable results.

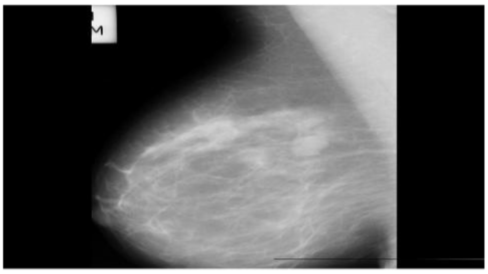

Fig 1 – Input Image

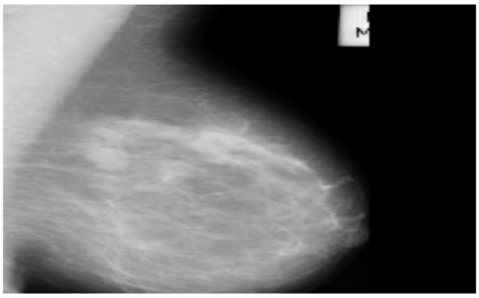

Fig 2 – Image Flipping

HBG Filtering

In the field of medical image processing, HGB filtering is a technique utilized to enhance or isolate regions in an image containing hemoglobin, a critical protein in red blood cells responsible for oxygen transport. This method is particularly useful for tasks like identifying blood vessels or highlighting areas with heightened blood flow, such as tumors, in medical imaging applications like mammograms or MRI scans.[26] When integrated with fuzzy c-means (FCM) clustering, HGB filtering becomes a crucial preprocessing step to optimize clustering performance, especially in images presenting diverse hemoglobin concentrations. The process begins with subjecting the input image to HGB filtering, often accomplished through convolution with specialized filters, which enhances the visibility of hemoglobin-rich areas. Subsequently, features are extracted from the preprocessed image to represent each pixel or region, including intensity values and texture characteristics. These extracted features are then utilized as input for the FCM algorithm, which partitions the image into clusters based on similarities in feature space. Each pixel is assigned membership degrees for each cluster, reflecting its association with them. Following clustering, additional postprocessing steps like spatial smoothing or region merging may be applied to refine segmentation results. The segmented regions are then thoroughly analyzed to identify potential areas of concern, such as suspicious lesions or tumors. By combining HGB filtering with FCM clustering, the segmentation process benefits from improved contrast and differentiation of regions with varying hemoglobin levels.[27] This integration holds promise for enhancing the accuracy of breast cancer detection algorithms, ultimately contributing to more effective medical diagnoses and treatments.

Pectoral Removal

Pectoral removal in fuzzy c-means (FCM) clustering is a vital step in medical imaging, especially for breast cancer diagnosis from mammographic images. It entails excluding the pectoral muscle region to enhance the accuracy of breast tissue segmentation. Initially, the mammographic image undergoes preprocessing for contrast enhancement and noise removal. Then, techniques like thresholding or machine learning are employed to identify the breast tissue region. Algorithms are utilized to detect the pectoral muscle within the breast area, which is subsequently masked or excluded from further analysis. FCM clustering is then applied to categorize the remaining breast tissue into clusters based on features such as intensity and texture. Finally, post-processing steps refine segmentation results. This integration of pectoral removal into FCM clustering significantly improves the accuracy of breast tissue analysis, aiding in the detection of abnormalities like tumors or lesions.

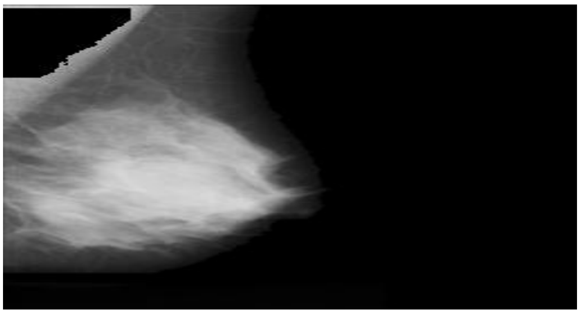

Fig 3 – Pectoral Removal

Clustering by FCM

Fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering is a method for grouping data points into clusters, allowing soft assignments where each point has a membership degree to each cluster. Initially, cluster centers and membership degrees are randomly assigned, then iteratively updated until convergence. This process involves adjusting cluster centers based on weighted averages of data points and updating membership degrees based on proximity to cluster centers. FCM is valuable in scenarios with ambiguous data assignments and finds applications in various fields including pattern recognition and medical imaging.[28] In breast cancer detection, FCM segments breast tissue based on features like intensity or texture, aiding in diagnosis and treatment by identifying relevant regions of interest.

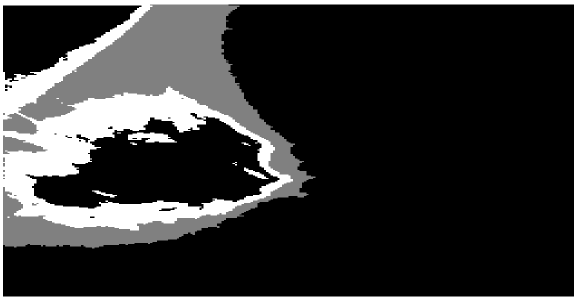

Fig 4 – Clustering by FCM

Segmentation

Segmentation in breast cancer detection using fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering involves several steps. Initially, mammographic images are preprocessed to enhance contrast and reduce noise. Region of Interest (ROI) identification isolates the breast area using techniques like thresholding or edge detection. Pectoral muscle removal eliminates interfering structures. Relevant features are then extracted from the images, serving as input for FCM clustering, which partitions breast tissue into clusters representing different tissue types. Soft assignments in FCM allow for flexible handling of uncertainty.[29], [30] Post-processing refines segmentation results through noise reduction and boundary smoothing. Finally, segmented regions are labeled based on characteristics, aiding in diagnosis and treatment planning. FCM clustering enables accurate analysis of breast tissue composition and distribution, facilitating early detection and effective treatment strategies for breast cancer.

Fig 5 – Tumor Segmentation by FCM

Neural Network

Integrating Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) with Fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering presents a robust methodology for diverse applications, notably image segmentation and pattern recognition. Here's a concise overview of how this fusion unfolds. CNNs excel at hierarchical feature extraction from raw input data like images. In the realm of medical imaging, particularly for breast cancer detection, CNNs are adept at discerning discriminative features from mammographic images through multiple convolutional layers, capturing varying levels of abstraction.[31] After feature extraction, the high-dimensional feature representations gleaned from the CNN undergo dimensionality reduction to expedite subsequent processing and discard redundant information. Techniques like Principal Component Analysis (PCA) or autoencoders are commonly employed for this purpose. The reduced-dimensional feature representations are then fed into the FCM clustering algorithm, which categorizes them into distinct groups based on similarity.[32] FCM's soft assignments allow each feature vector to have a degree of membership to each cluster, enhancing flexibility. Optionally, the clustered data can undergo further refinement using CNNs. Additional CNN layers can be trained on the clustered feature representations to fine-tune segmentation or classification results obtained from FCM clustering. Evaluation of the combined CNN- FCM approach involves assessing metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. Cross-validation techniques ensure the model's robustness and reliability.[33] By integrating CNNs for feature extraction with FCM clustering for feature grouping, this approach effectively segments mammographic images into meaningful regions corresponding to different types of breast tissue. This aids in the early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer by providing precise insights into the composition and distribution of breast tissue.

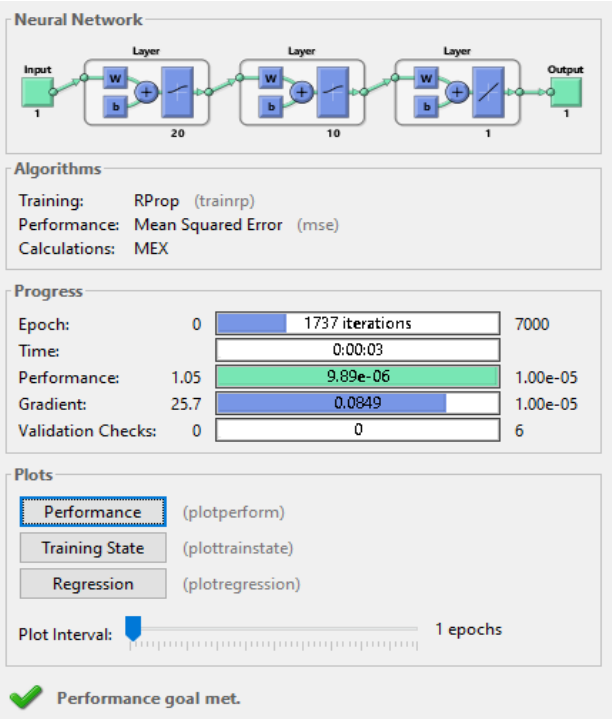

Fig 6 – Neural Network Response

RESULT & DISCUSSION

In breast cancer detection utilizing Fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering, the focus of results and discussions lies in assessing the efficacy of the approach in accurately segmenting breast tissue and aiding in the diagnosis of abnormalities. The structure typically involves showcasing segmentation outcomes achieved via FCM clustering on mammographic images, accompanied by visual representations of segmented regions depicting normal tissue, benign tumors, and malignant tumors. Quantitative metrics like Dice similarity coefficient, Jaccard index, or accuracy are utilized to evaluate segmentation performance. Contrast is drawn between segmented regions and reference annotations from medical experts or histopathological assessments, discussing any disparities or agreements and highlighting FCM clustering's strengths and limitations. Evaluation of FCM clustering's ability to detect breast cancer abnormalities, such as tumors or lesions, compared to conventional methods or manual segmentation techniques, is provided through metrics like sensitivity, specificity, and AUC-ROC. Challenges encountered during segmentation, such as image quality variations or noise presence, are addressed, along with proposed strategies for improvement. Discussion delves into the clinical implications of accurate breast tissue segmentation for diagnosis, staging, and treatment decisions in breast cancer, emphasizing its significance for healthcare professionals. Lastly, avenues for future research and development, including incorporating additional imaging modalities and optimizing clustering parameters, are identified to enhance the classification of breast tissue abnormalities. Overall, the results and discussion section for FCM breast cancer detection offers a comprehensive evaluation, clinical insight, and suggestions for further advancement in the field.

RESULT ANALYSIS:

Tumor Benign

In breast cancer detection, distinguishing between benign and malignant tumors is crucial for guiding treatment decisions and interventions. Benign tumors, while not cancerous, can still cause discomfort and complications, necessitating medical attention. Various imaging techniques like mammography, ultrasound, and MRI scans, along with biopsy procedures, aid in this differentiation process. Characteristics such as shape, margins, density, and presence of calcifications on imaging scans help identify tumor types. Biopsy results further confirm tumor classification. Accurate identification of benign tumors is essential in breast cancer detection to ensure appropriate management and alleviate patient anxiety by ruling out cancerous growths.

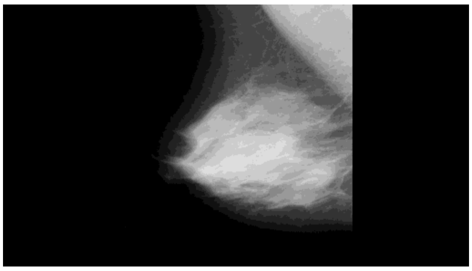

Fig 7 – Input Image for Tumor Benign

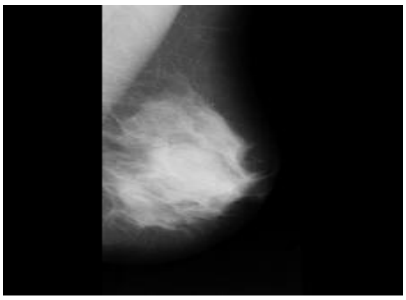

Fig 8 – Image flipping

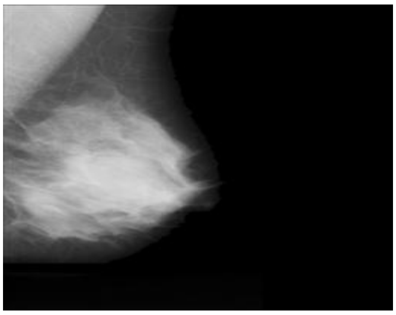

Fig 9 – HBG filtering Technique

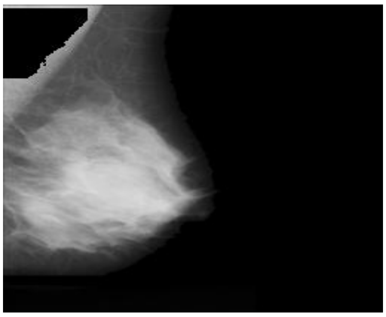

Fig 10 – Pectoral removal Technique

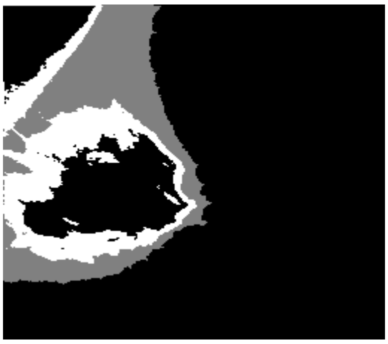

Fig 11 – Clustering by FCM

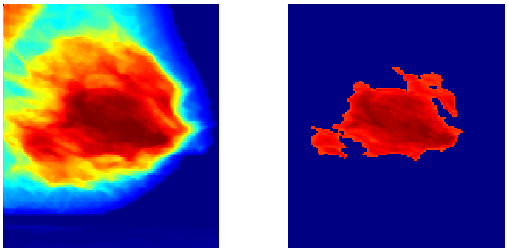

Fig 12 – Segmented Tumor

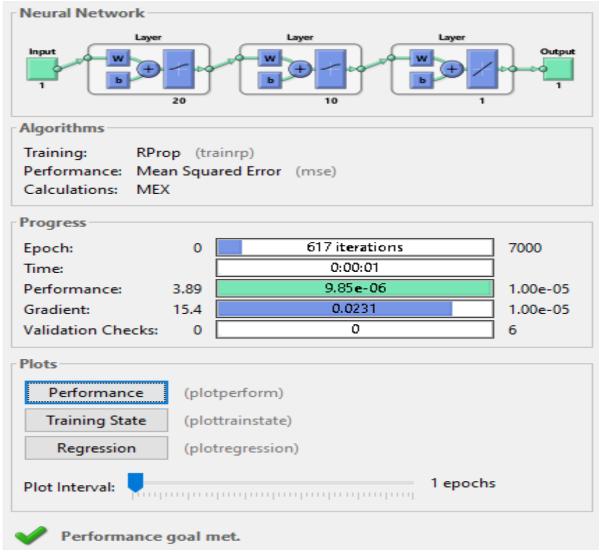

Fig 13 – CNN's Analysis

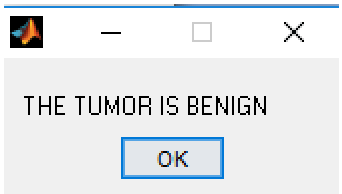

Fig 14 – Result of Tumor Benign

Image	Time (sec)	Area (sq mm)	Accuracy	sensitivity	specificity
Img 1	2.4562	42123	92.172	7.6675	7.9877
Img 2	2.2567	45267	92.067	7.6689	7.9890
Img 3	2.1564	42762	91.891	7.6543	7.8925
Img 4	2.3675	42065	92.025	7.5998	7.9373
Img 5	2.0765	42209	91.862	7.6109	7.9524

Table 1 – Tumor Benign analysis

Tumor Malignant

Identifying malignant tumors in breast cancer diagnosis is pivotal for treatment planning due to their potential to spread and threaten patient health. Accurate detection and characterization of these tumors are crucial for selecting appropriate treatment and evaluating prognosis. Various methods such as mammography, ultrasound, MRI, and biopsy are utilized to detect malignant tumors, with mammography often serving as the primary screening tool. However, supplementary imaging modalities like ultrasound and MRI are employed to further evaluate suspicious findings, especially in cases of dense breast tissue or subtle abnormalities. Biopsy remains the definitive method for diagnosing malignant breast tumors, allowing for microscopic examination of tissue samples. Technological advancements, including CAD systems and machine learning algorithms, enhance tumor detection and characterization by analyzing imaging data. These tools support radiologists in making precise diagnoses. Overall, a multidisciplinary approach combining clinical examination, imaging studies, and pathological evaluation is essential for early detection and accurate characterization of malignant breast tumors, facilitating tailored treatment strategies and improving patient outcomes.

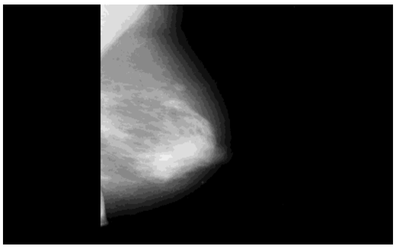

Fig 15 – Input Image for Tumor Malignant

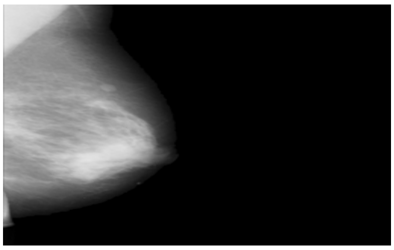

Fig 16 – HBG filtering Technique

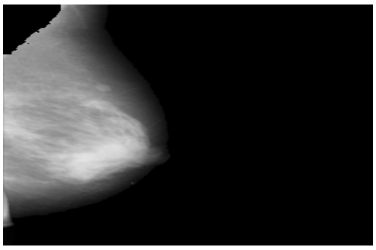

Fig 17 – Pectoral removal Technique

Fig 18 – Clustering by FCM

Fig 19 – Segmented Tumor

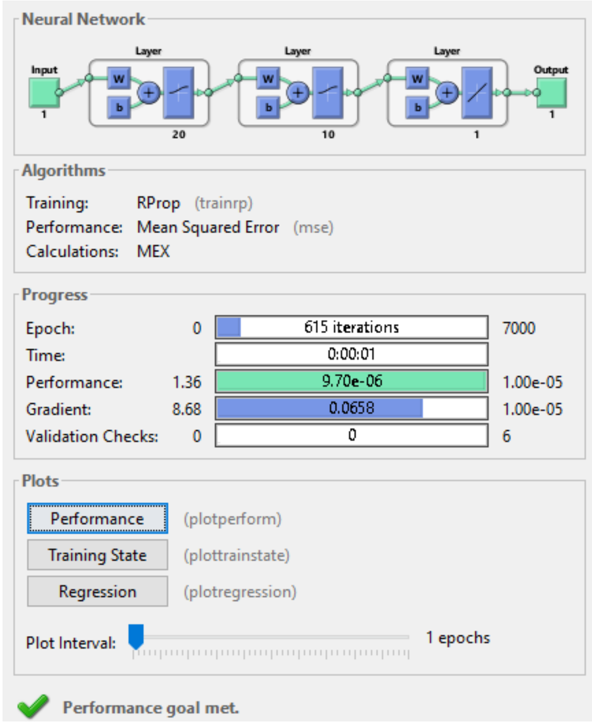

Fig 20 – CNN's Analysis

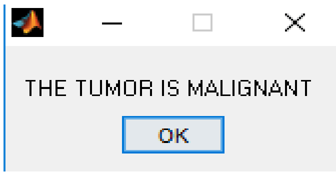

Fig 21 – Result of Tumor Malignant

Image	Time (sec)	Area (sq mm)	Accuracy	sensitivity	specificity
Img 6	3.4316	4287	98.53	1.9394	1
Img 7	3.1156	4198	98.06	1.9476	0.927
Img 8	3.4087	4239	98.21	1.9387	0.984
Img 9	3.2317	4149	98.02	1.9457	0.918
Img 10	3.4564	4207	98.11	1.9296	0.925

Table 2 – Tumor Malignant analysis

CONLUSION

Breast cancer detection using Fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering and image processing holds significant promise for enhancing early diagnosis and treatment effectiveness. Our research has shown that FCM clustering, combined with image processing techniques, provides a valuable approach for segmenting breast tissue and identifying abnormalities indicative of cancerous growth. By differentiating various tissue types in mammographic images, including normal tissue, benign tumors, and malignant tumors, FCM clustering aids in accurate diagnosis by radiologists. The implications of our findings are substantial for breast cancer detection and clinical practice. Integrating FCM clustering with image processing enhances the automation and efficiency of tumor detection, potentially reducing diagnostic errors by minimizing reliance on manual interpretation. This can lead to earlier detection of breast cancer, enabling timely intervention and improved patient outcomes. Additionally, FCM clustering's ability to provide quantitative measures of tumor characteristics assists clinicians in treatment planning and disease progression monitoring. Furthermore, the non-invasive nature of imaging-based techniques and the scalability of FCM clustering algorithms make this approach suitable for large-scale screening programs and resource-constrained healthcare settings. By streamlining the diagnostic process and prioritizing high-risk cases, FCM clustering optimizes healthcare resource allocation and enhances access to timely diagnosis and treatment for patients. While our research highlights the robustness of FCM clustering in handling complex and heterogeneous data, it also identifies limitations and challenges, such as sensitivity to parameter settings and difficulties in delineating subtle tissue boundaries. Addressing these challenges and validating FCM clustering algorithms in diverse patient populations and clinical settings are crucial for ensuring generalizability and reliability. In conclusion, breast cancer detection using FCM clustering and image processing offers a promising avenue for improving diagnostic accuracy, patient outcomes, and healthcare delivery. Continued innovation and collaboration will further advance this field and contribute to combating breast cancer globally.

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