

Review Article

# The use of artificial intelligence in treating knee osteoarthritis: a review

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Abstract - This review aims to explore the current applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and management of knee osteoarthritis (OA), as well as to identify the potential benefits and ongoing challenges. A literature review was performed using Scopus, PubMed, Google Scholar, and IEE databases for articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Knee OA is a prevalent and debilitating musculoskeletal condition, characterized by structural changes to the articular cartilage and subchondral bone. The prevalence of knee OA has been steadily on the rise for the past few decades. This can be attributed to obesity, age, gender, and other risk factors, as well as independent causes. Knee OA presents significant obstacles in diagnosing, treating, rehabilitation, and managing the condition. Healthcare could become much more interactive, personalized, predictive, and preventive with the use of AI. Current research suggests that AI has the potential to improve diagnostic accuracy, optimize treatment strategies, and enhance patient outcomes in the context of knee OA. With AI emerging as a formidable tool with the potential to revolutionize knee OA diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and management, it is reasonable that the technology will follow its current trajectory and eventually develop into an efficient tool for the healthcare sector. While AI can bring fundamental changes in the management of knee OA, it is also crucial to address its limits and fully explore its potential for future study, as it can increase diagnostic accuracy, optimize treatment strategies, and improve patient outcomes.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, deep learning, diagnosis, knee osteoarthritis, machine learning



#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Osteoarthritis (OA) is a prevalent and persistent ailment that causes discomfort, exhaustion, functional restrictions, greater healthcare consumption, and substantial economic burdens on society[1]. It affects the entire joint, including the surrounding tissue. Approximately 528 million individuals across the globe suffered from OA in 2019; this represents a 113% rise from 1990 [2]. The knee is the most affected joint, accounting for 365 million cases, followed by the hip and hand [3]. Knee OA accounts for roughly four-fifths of all OA cases worldwide as people age and gain weight [4]. As the population ages, it can be expected that the number of persons suffering from knee OA will double (Figure 1).

Figure 1 shows the global cases projection of site-specific knee OA, with a decomposition analysis of the relative contribution of changes in prevalence rate, population growth, and population aging to the total percent change in age-restricted case number by region for 2020–2050 [5]. The global burden of OA has significantly increased, particularly affecting the knee joint, with prevalence driven by aging and obesity. Given the substantial rise in OA cases and the expected doubling of knee OA incidence, there is an urgent need for targeted public health interventions to address and mitigate the impact of this debilitating condition.



Figure 1: Global Cases Projection of Site-Specific Knee Osteoarthritis (OA), With a Decomposition Analysis of the Relative Contribution of Changes in Prevalence Rate, Population Growth, and Population Aging to the Total Percent Change in Age-Restricted Case Number by Region for 2020–2050.

#### Risk factors and epidemiology

Advanced age, obesity status, female sex, high physical occupational demands, and prior joint injury are among the established risk factors that contribute to the development of knee OA [6] [7][8]. According to Hame and Alexander (2013), women are more affected by knee OA compared to men, which can lead to functional limitations and a decrease in health-related quality of life, as stated by Jeong and Lee [9]. An equally significant aspect mentioned by Kamsan et al. (2021) is the prevalence of knee OA across diverse geographical regions [10], with rates documented to range from 13 to 20% in the United States [11], 9 to 17% in Europe [12], 22 to 25% in the Middle East [13], and 10 to 38% in specific Asian populations [14]. These variations suggest potential influences beyond the established risk factors. However, early intervention through diagnosis and suitable treatment can help prevent the progression of knee OA and its associated symptoms.

Knee OA is influenced by multiple risk factors and this condition disproportionately affects women and varies widely across different geographical regions, indicating the potential influence of additional, region-specific factors. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment are critical and mitigating its impact on quality of life.

#### Diagnosis of knee OA

Knee OA can be diagnosed in both clinical and radiological terms. It is a clinical condition characterized by objective physical examination findings of knee stiffness, deformity, crepitations, subjective feelings of joint discomfort on loading and bone enlargement, and additional radiological findings [15]. With a focus on creating a radiographic classification scheme for OA, Kellgren and Lawrence (1957) successfully introduced their first organized efforts in 1957 [16]. The Kellgren-Lawrence (KL) grading scale classification system based on plain radiographic X-ray images has been the gold standard and an acceptable quantification tool to assess knee OA severity [15].

Anterior-posterior (AP) knee radiographs are used to describe the KL grading scale classification system by assigning each radiograph a grade from 0 to 4 (Table 1). It is crucial to have an early and accurate diagnosis for effective treatment. Traditional methods rely on X-ray images and physical evaluations, but they may not always be successful in identifying early knee OA or distinguishing it from other conditions. Knee OA diagnosis relies on both clinical and radiological evaluations, with the KL grading scale serving as the gold standard for assessing severity. However, early and accurate diagnosis is crucial for effective treatment, and traditional methods may fall short in identifying early knee OA or differentiating it from other conditions.

#### AI in knee OA management

With recent advancements in technology, AI may provide better support by safely filtering patient data, analyzing medical imaging, making diagnosis recommendations, and even serving as a virtual assistant for patients and doctors [17]. Even now, in its early stages, the application of AI in knee OA management appears to be potentially remarkable. The improvement of patient quality of life through personalized and efficient knee OA management strategies necessitates further research, a collaborative environment between AI researchers and medical practitioners, and adherence to ethical principles concerning patient data and model development.

The recent inventions of technologies suggest that AI can increase knee-OA tenfold by screening patient data, processing in any way the image of medical, providing diagnostic recommendations even assisting as a virtual assistant. While in its early stages, AI holds the promise to enhance patient quality of life, through personalized and effective management strategies. It also calls for more analysis, combining AI researchers with medical professionals, and respecting basic principles of patient data and model development ethics.

Hence, this review explores the present condition of AI applications in knee OA by assessing the potential advantages that AI could offer in managing this condition and recognizing the ongoing challenges that need to be addressed for its successful application. By examining recent advancements and identifying key challenges, this paper seeks to highlight the potential of AI to enhance the management of knee osteoarthritis and offer insights into future research directions.



Table 1: Variations of the Kellgren-Lawrence (KL) Grading Scale Classification System which was adapted from Kellgren and Lawrence (1957) and Kohn et al. (2016). The abbreviations used in Table 1: osteoarthritis (OA) and joint space narrowing (JSN).





# 3. METHODOLOGY

#### Literature Search Strategy

The literature search for this review was conducted using several electronic databases, such as Scopus, PubMed, Google Scholar, and IEEE Xplore. The search strategy focused on identifying peer-reviewed articles published between January 2017 and December 2023. The following keywords and phrases were used in various combinations:

- "Knee Osteoarthritis"
- "Artificial Intelligence"
- "Machine Learning"
- "Deep Learning"
- "Diagnosis"
- "Treatment"
- "Total knee arthroplasty"
- "Rehabilitation"

Besides, Boolean operators (AND, OR) were used to refine the search results. References from selected articles were also reviewed to identify any additional relevant studies.

#### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria:

- 1. Peer-reviewed articles published in English.
- 2. Studies focusing on the application of AI techniques in the diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, or management of knee OA.
- 3. Articles that discuss the performance, benefits, and limitations of AI models in knee OA.
- 4. Research involving machine learning, deep learning, or other AI methods applied to knee OA data (clinical, imaging, or other relevant data).

Exclusion criteria:

- 1. Articles not published in English.
- 2. Studies that do not specifically address knee OA or do not involve AI techniques.
- 3. Conference abstracts, editorials, and opinion pieces without original research data.

# 4. APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS (OA)

#### Overview of Traditional Knee Osteoarthritis (OA) Diagnosis Methods

Plain X-rays and Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are frequently used to diagnose knee OA and assess the health status of a patient in a specific timeframe. On top of that, it is also possible for joint aspiration, arthroscopic evaluation, physical examination, and advanced imaging systems to serve as alternative techniques for diagnosing knee OA. From PROMs, a comprehensive history such as age, activity level, previous injuries, and the characteristics of pain, stiffness, and swelling can be obtained from the patients [18]. As described by Maricar et al. (2016), assessing the joint range of motion, tenderness, crepitus, and joint effusions through a physical examination will provide valuable insight into the joint function and its outcomes [19] . The limitations of patient history and physical examination are based on subjective information that varies depending on the pain



tolerance of a patient and the evaluation of the physician. Subtle changes may occur in the early stages of knee OA, which leads to findings that may overlap with other knee pathologies [20]. By referring to the view of Kellgren and Lawrence (2002), potential delays in diagnosis and treatment are possible as traditional methods struggle to identify the early stage of knee OA where changes might be subtle.

According to Kijowski et al. (2019), the use of X-rays is widespread for its cost-effectiveness and excellence in visualizing joint space narrowing (JSN), hallmarks of OA, and bone changes such as osteophytes, also known as bone spurs [21]. Although there are limitations with soft tissue problems or synovitis [22], it is beneficial to use X-rays in directly visualizing cartilage and the main tissue affected in OA [23]. While X-rays are widely accepted as the standard imaging tool for diagnosing OA in the knee, their sensitivity to short-term OA changes is lower and their imaging features are restricted to changes in the bone. Advanced imaging techniques, such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT) scan, medicine bone scan, and ultrasonography, are not routinely used in clinical practice. Researchers have advocated employing MRI to analyze radiomic aspects of OA that are concealed in soft tissue and bony structures, but they are frequently faced with restrictions in its implementation, particularly in complex situations, due to the high cost and its limited availability.

Besides PROMs, physical examinations, and X-rays, laboratory tests are also crucial in the diagnosis of knee OA. Laboratory tests contribute a supporting role in the diagnostic work-up for knee OA. On top of that, certain laboratory tests are also significant in the exclusion of other inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis. This differential diagnosis is critically important as it makes for a better treatment strategy [24]. Despite their usefulness in differential diagnosis, laboratory testing has limitations in the context of knee OA as it provides little insight into the severity of the condition and cannot conclusively diagnose knee OA [25]. This shortcoming highlights the inadequacy of blood testing to determine the extent of joint injury or forecast disease development.

While the diagnosis of knee OA is still based on traditional diagnostic methods, primarily based on radiographic assessment, are often subjective and prone to inter-observer variability therefore these limitations emphasize the need for more sensitive and objective tools. In light of this, the developments in AI and other fields of technology provide optimism for future advancements in knee OA diagnosis and treatment.





Figure 2: The difference between a healthy knee and one with osteoarthritis (OA). The first difference is evident in the comparison of joint space, which shows a substantial decrease of joint space in an arthritic knee in X-ray image (b) and good cartilage in a normal and healthy knee in X-ray image (a). The second difference between the images of a healthy knee in (c) and knee OA in (d) is the bony growths known as osteophytes (bone spurs). This is because OA frequently causes bone rubbing on the bone, making osteophytes (bone spurs) a common appearance.

#### Introduction to AI Techniques

 AI is revolutionizing various fields by enabling machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as problem-solving, understanding language, and recognizing patterns. At its core, AI encompasses a wide range of techniques and methodologies designed to create intelligent systems. Within this broad field, machine learning (ML) and its subset, deep learning (DL), stand out as key drivers of recent advancements. Figure 3 illustrates the hierarchical relationship between AI, ML, and DL, and provides a categorization of the types of ML along with specific examples of algorithms used in each type. This helps in understanding how different AI techniques are structured and their applications in various domains.

The term AI in healthcare embraces the use of ML algorithm methods and other intelligent technologies in medical settings [26], [27] . In simpler terms, AI refers to machines mimicking human thinking abilities. These machines are capable of learning, analyzing information, and making decisions. The ML methods can either be supervised or unsupervised (Figure 3). Unsupervised ML methods involve unlabeled data and unknown results, whereas supervised ML methods involve known outcomes and labeled data.

Two additional categories have been further proposed: semi-supervised learning and reinforcement learning, with uncertain outcomes [28]. There are two types of data used in semisupervised learning: labeled and unlabeled. While it relies on a smaller amount of labeled data for guidance, it leverages the vast amount of unlabeled data to improve learning. Meanwhile, reinforcement learning uses a different approach. The model is trained iteratively through trial and error. Successful actions will receive rewards and will adjust the approach based on the rewards, ultimately aiming to maximize its performance. Supervised ML methods are the most frequently used in medicine and healthcare [29] .

Depending on the type of analysis, it can differentiate between various supervised ML methods, such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Random Forest (RF), and Support Vector Machine (SVM) [30]. Deep Learning (DL) is a subset of ML methods that uses multiple layers of a neuronarchitecture network via algorithms known as Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) to enable the model to learn and enhance itself. This leads to high accuracy with the extraction of high-level features from input data [31]. DL method is an advanced variant of ML methods.

The application of AI on knee OA has increased significantly in the last decade [32], [33], [34], [35], [36], [37], [38], [39], [40], [41]. AI and ML modeling is a new decision-making tool in knee OA diagnosis, patient selection, preprocedural planning for total knee arthroplasty (TKA), disease progression prediction, and treatment outcome estimation. Larger datasets and technology advancements make these tools better, but thorough validation is still necessary. Thus, the application of AI in healthcare may provide better support to evaluate patient data and possibly forecast future results, with the ultimate goal of enhancing patient care and quality of life.





Figure 3: Definition of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and deep learning (DL) and summary of the different algorithms used in ML (adapted from Binvigat et al,2022)

#### Recent Studies Utilizing AI for Knee OA Diagnosis, Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Management

Knee OA is a prevalent degenerative joint disease characterized by the breakdown of cartilage, leading to pain, swelling, and decreased mobility. Accurate diagnosis and management are crucial for improving patient outcomes. Recent advancements in artificial AI, ML, and DL have shown significant promise in enhancing the diagnosis, rehabilitation, and treatment of knee OA. Table 2 summarizes key studies employing AI/ML/DL algorithms to assess knee OA severity, highlighting their clinical significance and the potential they hold for transforming patient care.

Tiulpin et al. (2018) utilized a deep convolutional neural network (DSCNNs) architecture to classify OA severity based on KL grades, using different datasets for training and testing, which offered robust evaluation[42]. Despite this strength, the validation and testing sets were derived from the same dataset, potentially limiting the generalizability of the results. Their work provided probability distributions for KL grade classifications, aiding clinical decision-making in ambiguous cases. Norman et al. (2019) applied DenseNets architecture, achieving sensitivity and specificity comparable to manual grading [43]. Their study also highlighted the limitation of using the same dataset for training, validation, and testing, which may introduce bias and affect the model's performance in real-world settings, particularly in cases involving hardware in the knee. Li et al. (2023) implemented U-Net architecture with prior knowledge in ResNets, demonstrating higher accuracy with multiview images compared to experienced radiologists, though the same dataset was used for validation and testing [44]. This model assists in preliminary diagnosis and treatment decisions, thus potentially enhancing patient care.

Smolle et al. (2023) employed CNNs and KOALA, providing numerical results with graphical overlays on X-rays, offering reliable and homogeneous evaluations, thus improving care for knee OA patients [45]. The large dataset used in this study further strengthened the model's reliability and clinical applicability. Wang et al. (2022) introduced a piezoresistive measurement instrument to classify OA severity based on KL grades, notable for its accuracy and low cost, although further analysis is needed to understand biomechanical mechanisms. This tool adds dynamic auxiliary tests to enhance clinical diagnosis and teaching, offering a comprehensive tool for knee OA assessment. Kotti et al. (2017) applied random forests (RF) and support vector machine (SVM) to develop an objective scale for knee OA severity, though they excluded subjects with bilateral OA due to data complexity, thus providing a sensitive diagnostic tool for personalized healthcare [46].

Tan et al. (2022) used long short-term memory (LSTM) for knee joint sagittal plane kinematics, which required less preprocessing and was suitable for real-time applications, though initial data points had reduced accuracy [47]. This model could be combined with human activity recognition systems for treatment monitoring. Zhang et al. (2020) utilized ResNets and Convolutional Block Attention Module (CBAM), improving KL grade classification accuracy using high-resolution radiographs, though generalizability analysis is needed [18]. Despite this limitation, the model and pre-processing pipeline developed in this study provide significant benefits to the OA research community, contributing to more accurate and reliable classification methods. Tri Wahyuningrum et al. (2020) accelerated the classification of knee OA severity based on joint space narrowing (JSN) from X-ray images using DCNNs, reducing radiologist subjectivity, despite reliance on large, labeled datasets [48]. The study emphasized the importance of a clinician's assessment to specify knee OA severity, thus supporting the integration of AI tools into clinical practice.



Swiecicki et al. (2021) incorporated lateral (LAT) radiographs with R-CNNs, performing a realistic clinical evaluation, though computationally expensive, and providing accurate, reproducible OA severity measures [49]. However, the computational expense of the model, especially for large datasets of medical images, was a notable limitation. Nonetheless, this approach holds promise for enhancing research and clinical decisionmaking in knee OA. Kashyap et al. (2021) proposed an automated physiotherapy system using a one-dimensional convolutional neural network (1D-CNN) model, which is cost-effective and provides personalized routines, despite limited data [50]. Rodríguez-Merchán (2022) demonstrated high accuracy in differentiating implant types and detecting prosthetic loosening using ANNs and CNNs, offering a comprehensive assessment for total knee arthroplasty (TKA) patients, though not meeting clinical usefulness thresholds [39]. Nonetheless, this system offers a comprehensive assessment of patients undergoing TKA, improving mobility and rehabilitation compliance.

Bonnin et al. (2023) used CNNs to develop AI tools for interpreting post-TKA X-rays, achieving high accuracy and standardization, though limited by a single-center study [51]. The study's limitation was its singlecenter nature, necessitating larger multi-center validation. Despite this, X-TKA holds the potential to assist surgeons in post-TKA X-ray interpretation, potentially improving accuracy and standardization. Batailler et al. (2022) explored various AI technologies such as robotic, computer-aided systems (CAS), sensors, augmented reality (AR), and mixed reality (MR) in surgical outcomes, enhancing precision and patient outcomes, though challenged by high costs and the need for specialized training [52]. Despite these challenges, AI technologies can lead to better functional outcomes, reduced complications, and faster recovery for patients undergoing knee replacement surgery. Guan et al. (2020) combined clinical data with DL models (YOLO and DenseNet) to predict pain progression in knee OA, aiding in risk stratification and personalized treatment, though limitations were not specified [53]. Lee et al. (2019) predicted pain progression trajectories using MRI data with Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM) and 3D CNN based on DenseNet 121, identifying patients at risk of worsening pain for early intervention [54]. The study achieved reasonable accuracy, though it focused solely on MRI data, excluding other clinical or demographic factors that could impact pain progression. This approach helps identify patients at risk of worsening pain, enabling early intervention and targeted treatment strategies.

In conclusion, the integration of AI/ML/DL in diagnosing and managing knee OA demonstrates significant potential in enhancing clinical accuracy, efficiency, and personalization of patient care. Despite challenges such as dataset limitations, computational costs, and the need for further validation, these technologies offer promising tools for improving outcomes in knee OA diagnosis and treatment. Future research should focus on overcoming these limitations, expanding datasets, and validating models across diverse patient populations to fully realize the potential of AI in knee OA management. This evolving field holds the promise of transforming how knee OA is diagnosed and managed, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes and more efficient healthcare delivery.

#### 5. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

AI systems are completely dependent on the quality and quantity of data for training. In healthcare, access to large, diverse, and well-annotated datasets is challenging due to privacy concerns, data exclusion, and inconsistent data formats due to different healthcare providers. One could consider the lack of pertinent data as the obstacle to knee OA. Large datasets of high-quality patient data, including X-ray images, MRI scans, and the details of clinical history, are required for training AI models. Currently, there may be a scarcity of datasets for knee OA and the existing datasets may exhibit inconsistencies in the methods used to collect data. For knee OA, this can result in inconsistent performance in diagnosing and predicting disease progression. As mentioned by Ebrahimkhani et al. (2020), there is a lack of a standard database, and different databases might affect the accuracy resulting from the model[55].

According to El-Tallawy et al. (2024), the feeling of pain holds great magnitude as a health issue, making pain assessment essential for proper diagnosis, follow-up, and effective pain management [56]. However, conventional methods of pain assessment often suffer from subjectivity and variability, depending on pain scales and patient reporting. Therefore, AI models may provide support with the need to account for this subjectivity to make accurate predictions.

Recent studies have shown that AI models can achieve high accuracy in diagnosing knee OA from radiographic images. For instance, CNNs have been used to assess the KL grade of knee OA with



performance comparable to expert radiologists. A study by Tiulpin et al. demonstrated that a DL model could automatically grade knee radiographs with high accuracy, suggesting potential for clinical deployment [42]. AI models also have been developed to predict the progression of knee OA, helping clinicians to identify patients at high risk of rapid disease progression. In this case, a model developed by Liu et al. utilized clinical and imaging data to predict the risk of knee OA progression over several years, offering a tool for personalized treatment planning. AI also is being used to tailor treatment plans based on individual patient data, including genetic, clinical, and imaging information. This approach aims to improve outcomes by providing personalized therapeutic strategies. The research conducted by Guan et al. focused on integrating multi-modal data to develop personalized treatment plans, showing promise in improving patient-specific outcomes in knee OA management.

Ethical considerations in the application of AI in healthcare are founded on three major principles: fairness, accountability, and transparency [57]. These principles have become the rallying points for researchers advocating for a more robust ethical framework in this domain. Biased AI models may result from the data used to train them, which may lead to unfair or inaccurate outcomes for patient demographics. Mitigating bias requires careful data selection and algorithmic design [58]. If the training data does not reflect the diversity of the real-world knee OA population, the model's recommendations might not be generalizable. This means ensuring that AI applications for knee OA should comply with legal standards and ethical practices.

Sometimes, AI models function as "black boxes", and DL models usually make it difficult for practitioners to understand how they arrived at a certain recommendation. This lack of transparency can hinder the trust and application of AI tools. Successfully integrating AI tools into existing clinical workflows is critical for practical use. Physicians need a user-friendly interface and clear guidance on how AI results should be incorporated into their decision-making process. However, the development, maintenance, and application of AI tools can be expensive and require significant hardware resources. Reimbursement structures may need to adapt to instigate the use of these new technologies.

Two of the most prevalent worries about the use of AI in healthcare are privacy violations and data breaches. For this reason, stringent confidentiality regulations must be followed when using patient data in AI research [59]. This has grown far more concerning now that Google's servers are openly used for AI usage [60]. A well-defined legal and ethical framework that handles liability in AI-driven healthcare is necessary to guarantee that all patients have impartial access to AI-powered healthcare services. Prior to fully incorporating AI into the treatment of knee OA, these are the few key challenges that need to be resolved. Despite these obstacles, AI has a great deal of potential to improve healthcare. In the future, by overcoming the limitations through further research and development, AI can hold greater promise of providing patients with knee OA with tailored and effective treatment.

#### 6. CONCLUSIONS

Knee OA has been classically managed with pharmacotherapy, physical therapy, and ultimately, surgical options. Nevertheless, the application of AI technologies has great potential to disrupt the diagnosis, prognosis, and tailored treatment of this major disease. The recent findings of the research suggest the auspicious utilization of DL techniques for learning from medical imaging data such as Xrays, CT scans, and MRI scans. These AI-based models have demonstrated accuracy for knee OA diagnosis and tracking knee OA progression, even outperforming traditional clinical assessment in some cases. Additionally, the utilization of multi-modal data including imaging biomarkers and longitudinal follow-up to track changes over time can enhance the predictive performance of those AI models. It might also help in more accurate prediction of disease

To summarize, AI holds the potential to revolutionize healthcare, and it is undeniable that AI has made significant contributions in various aspects. Conversely, humans cannot be replaced by AI, as they are the ones who create and provide its foundation. Medical professionals should always bear in mind that their patients are vulnerable human beings with lives that are equally valuable to them as their own. Thus, it is essential to develop a sincere, personal, and sympathetic relationship with their patients,



which is a bond of understanding and compassion that cannot be given by machinery [61]. AI and people must cooperate to resolve any conflicts and ensure that the public receives the finest treatment possible in the healthcare sector without becoming enslaved to one another.

Several crucial challenges must be addressed to fully harness the potential of AI in healthcare and achieve its transformative benefits including ensuring data protection, addressing social concerns, addressing ethical issues, tackling hacking difficulties, and overcoming development. By tackling these challenges, AI can enhance patient outcomes, enable precise diagnosis, and facilitate effective treatment planning, which ultimately leads to a better quality of life. Another key fact to remember is that establishing a positive connection between physicians and patients is vital for the effectiveness of therapy and recuperation [62]. It is of utmost importance to keep in mind that the primary aim of incorporating AI, especially in healthcare, is to support humans in reducing or eliminating errors, rather than compounding them.

Table 2: Summary of Reviewed Studies on the Diagnosis, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Management of Knee Osteoarthritis (OA) which entails the details of the author by year and journal, prediction outcome, types of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML)/Deep Learning (DL) algorithm(s) used, strengths, weaknesses and clinical

















The abbreviations : Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Deep Learning (DL), osteoarthritis (OA), Kellgren-Lawrence (KL), Deep Siamese Convolutional Neural Networks (DSCNNs), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Densely Connected Convolutional Neural Networks (DenseNets), Residual Neural Networks (ResNets), Knee Osteoarthritis Labeling Assistant (KOALA), Random Forest (RF), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), Convolutional Block Attention Module (CBAM), Osteoarthritis Initiative (OAI), joint space narrowing (JSN), Deep Convolutional Neural Networks (DCNNs), Region-based Convolutional Neural Networks (R-CNNs), and lateral (LAT).



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Research Article

# Implementation of Welch Pre-Processing in SVM Algorithm for Improved Accuracy on EEG Data

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Abstract - The utilization of electroencephalogram (EEG) signals for emotion recognition has attracted considerable attention owing to its non-invasive characteristics and precise evaluation of cerebral electrical activity. This study proposes a methodology for enhancing the precision of emotion prediction in EEG data through the utilization of support vector machine (SVM) classification in conjunction with Welch pre-processing. The Welch method is employed for the purpose of extracting spectral power from the theta, alpha, beta, and gamma frequency sections of EEG signals, hence improving the representation of features. The SVM classifier is trained using the limited feature set acquired from Welch pre-processing. This study employs the DEAP dataset, comprising EEG recordings obtained from a sample of 32 participants who were exposed to a range of stimuli. The pre-processing procedures encompass the elimination of EEG artifacts, the use of band-pass filtering, and the extraction of spectral power via Welch's approach. SVM classification is subsequently utilized to forecast arousal and valence labels. The results show our method achieved an accuracy of 61.45% for predicting valence, which is higher than the 58-60% accuracy of existing state-of-the-art approaches. Our use of gamma-central characteristics also led to an accuracy of 53.63% for predicting arousal, exceeding the 50-52% accuracy of prior methods. The results of this study highlight the effectiveness of SVM with Welch preprocessing in enhancing the accuracy of emotion recognition based on EEG data. These findings provide significant contributions to the field of emotion research and have practical implications in affective computing and human-computer interaction.

Keywords: EEG, emotion recognition, SVM, welch pre-processing

# 1. INTRODUCTION

In recent times, there has been a significant focus in the field of emotion research on the application of EEG data. EEG data has been extensively used in emotion identification because of its intrinsic ability to accurately and non-invasively assess cerebral electrical activity.[1]–[3]. The field of affective computing, human-computer interface (HCI), and psychology places great significance on the identification and understanding of emotions [4]–[6]. The recognition of emotion as a developing field of research has attracted considerable attention from various academic fields and has the potential for countless practical applications [7]–[9]. Within the realm of HCI, the application of recognized human emotions as a means of feedback has the capacity to improve user experience in various areas, including e-learning, computer games, and information retrieval [10]–[12]. The accurate recognition of emotions has great potential for multiple fields, such as the development of intelligent systems that can interact with persons by being able to understand their emotional state. [13]–[15].

In contemporary times, a significant cohort of researchers has effectively identified emotions by the use of physiological markers, such as electrocardiography (ECG) and electroencephalography [16]–[18]. EEG has a significant correlation with emotions, in addition to numerous physiological markers. The primary governing mechanism for the control of emotions is the limbic system, which is a neuronal network mostly situated within the brain [19]–[21]. Emotion identification has demonstrated more potential compared to speech-based and facial expression-based techniques, primarily due to the inherent challenge of concealing or intentionally manipulating internal brain fluctuations [22], [23]. Nevertheless, a significant challenge in this field of study revolves around improving the accuracy of recognition results for emotions. Therefore, the EEG signals in the brain have the capacity to provide valuable information regarding the identification and recognition of emotions [24].

# 2. BACKGROUND

The SVM is a frequently employed classification technique in the field of EEG-based emotion recognition [25]. SVM are renowned for their capacity to effectively manage datasets with a high number of dimensions, as well as their resilience in the face of substantial data volumes [26]. Numerous studies have been conducted to explore the application of SVM in the domain of emotion recognition using EEG signals, yielding encouraging outcomes [27]. Nonetheless, the efficacy of the SVM classifier in the domain of emotion recognition may be influenced by the selection of features as well as the existence of extraneous or overstated features [28]. Feature selection methods have been proposed to address this issue and to identify the most relevant features for emotion recognition [29]. One way that can be employed is the Welch method. The Welch method is widely utilized in the field, wherein individuals compute the power spectral density (PSD) of EEG signals within Python or MATLAB programming environments [30]. The outcomes derived by Welch's FFT analysis indicate the magnitude of the signal scattered over the spectrum of frequencies. Welch devised a technique for altering the average periodogram, which yielded the outcome of reducing the variation of the power spectral density [31]–[33].

In recent years, there has been a notable increase in the number of studies dedicated to enhancing the precision of emotion predictions in EEG data through the utilization of SVM classification and feature selection techniques. As an illustration, the present study involved the extraction of EEG signal features from the publicly available ASCERTAIN database. The Deadweight Tonnage (DWT) method was employed for feature extraction, and an SVM algorithm was utilized for the classification task. The objective was to ascertain personality traits based on the aforementioned procedures. The findings demonstrated superior performance in relation to the implementation of alternative methodologies on the identical dataset, achieving an accuracy rate of 69% for determining the degree of extraversion and 75.9% for determining the degree of neuroticism [34]. In a separate investigation, the utilization of machine learning techniques, namely Naïve Bayes and SVM, on the suggested emotion 3DModel resulted in accurate classification of emotions with an accuracy rate of 78.06% and 58.90% respectively, as observed through the analysis of DEAP datasets [35].

Notwithstanding the encouraging outcomes, additional investigation is required to enhance the precision of emotion predictions in EEG signals by SVM classification. The objective of this study is to employ efficient methodologies on DEAP datasets for the extraction of features from EEG signals utilizing band waves. Subsequently, machine learning algorithms and neural network models will be



employed to evaluate the efficacy of the aforementioned algorithms in valence arousal. It is anticipated that the utilization of EEG regions and band waves will yield superior accuracy levels compared to previously unexplored EEG signal approaches.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The key dataset utilized in this study is the DEAP Dataset, which is widely acknowledged as a prominent resource for the detection and analysis of emotions. During the pre-processing phase, the unprocessed EEG data is subjected to a series of procedures aimed at improving its appropriateness for categorization purposes. The data is initially subjected to simplification in order to eliminate noise and artifacts. Following that, the application of band-pass filtering is employed to limit the frequency range of the EEG signals, which is then followed by the procedure of averaging to produce a comprehensive reference point. Following this, the data is divided into intervals of 60 seconds, with the exception of the pre-trial baseline, and subsequently arranged according to the experimental circumstances. The Welch method is employed to do feature extraction, wherein the spectral strength of theta, alpha, beta, and gamma frequencies is computed for each electrode. This particular phase serves to improve the depiction of EEG signals, effectively obtaining pertinent data for the purpose of emotion detection.

After doing pre-processing, the study moves on to the classification phase, where an SVM algorithm is utilized on the EEG dataset that has been extracted based on its features. SVM are selected due to their ability to effectively handle datasets with a high number of dimensions and their efficacy in classification tasks. The SVM classifier relies on the feature vectors derived from EEG data to create a prediction model. Each EEG segment produces emotion labels, such as arousal and valence, as a result of the categorization process. The study's research methodology is depicted in Figure 1, which showcases the sequential progression of pre-processing, feature extraction, classification, and output/result creation. The work seeks to enhance the precision of emotion prediction in EEG data by employing a methodical approach. This will provide vital insights to the field of affective computing and human-computer interaction.



Figure 1. Classification Process Flow

#### 3.1. Dataset

The DEAP dataset has been chosen as the primary dataset for our study on mood classification. The DEAP dataset can be employed for the purpose of emotion detection and analysis. The provided content encompasses details pertaining to four primary categories of states, namely valence, arousal, dominance, and liking [36], [37]. The DEAP Dataset is comprised of several data types resulting from the utilization of various samples and tests during the data collection process. EEG data were gathered from 32 subjects, consisting of 16 men and 16 women, across 32 channels. EEG signals were acquired through the presentation of a set of 40 distinct music videos, each with a duration of 60 seconds, followed by the subsequent recording of the obtained data. Following the viewing of each film, participants were instructed to evaluate it by assigning a numerical rating on a scale ranging from one to nine. The cumulative video rating data, comprising 1,280 total ratings, suggests that each of the 40 videos was evaluated by the full set of 32 participants. Subsequently, the signal with a frequency of 512 Hz is subjected to sampling at a rate of 128 Hz and then undergoes denoising with the use of bandpass and lowpass frequency filters, including additional lowpass frequency filters. A total of 32 sensor points

were utilized to obtain a 512 Hz EEG signal, adhering to the internationally established 10-20 placement method. As seen in Figure 2, the aforementioned positions include AF3, Fp1, FC1, F7, FC5, F3, C3, CP5, T7, CP1, PO3, P7, P3, O1, Oz, AF4, Fp2, Pz, Fz, F4, F8, FC6, FC2, Cz, P4, T8, CP6, C4, P8, PO4, and O2.



Figure 2. Position of the EEG sensor

This text elucidates the spatial orientation of the signal-capturing sensor. Additionally, it was feasible to record a film capturing the frontal visages of all 22 participants. A total of 40 data channels were utilized to gather various signals, such as EEG, electromyogram, respiratory region, plethysmographs, temperature, and others, throughout each of the 40 studies conducted on the subjects. Each channel corresponded to a distinct signal. The EEG data is recorded and stored on 32 out of the total 40 accessible channels. Additional channels are utilized to capture various physiological signals, including electrooculography (EOG), electromyography (EMG), ECG, galvanic skin response (GSR), respiration (RSP), temperature (TEMP), and photoplethysmography (PLET) data.

# 2.2. Channel Selection

This study utilized two distinct approaches to perform FFT analysis on EEG data. Initially, the Emotiv Epoch+ device was employed, which provides a comprehensive set of 14 meticulously curated channels that are specifically designed to aid the development of SVM models through FFT processing. The aforementioned channels encompass numerical values 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 13, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, and 29. Furthermore, a total of six separate frequency bands, specifically labelled as band  $= [4, 8, 12, 16, 25,$ 45], were utilized in order to extract pertinent spectral data from the EEG signals. The channels and frequency bands were chosen based on their established importance in capturing essential elements that are pertinent to tasks involving emotion recognition.

Moreover, our inquiry has uncovered a relationship between the temporal domain and the spectral domain by employing FFT. A distinct inquiry was conducted to examine the link between these areas and its implications for the processing of EEG data. The utilization of FFT analysis facilitated the conversion of EEG signals from the temporal domain to the spectral domain. This transformation enabled the extraction of spectral features, which in turn yielded significant insights into the fundamental brain activity linked to emotional states. The correlation analysis conducted in this study contributes to the advancement of knowledge regarding the EEG data and provides valuable insights for the upcoming stages of feature extraction and classification. The objective of this study is to enhance the precision of emotion prediction using EEG data by employing SVM algorithms. This research



endeavour seeks to make significant contributions to the fields of affective computing and humancomputer interaction.

#### 3.3. FFT

The FFT was implemented in this study as a computer approach renowned for its efficient computation of the Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) of a given sequence. The FFT is a crucial tool used to solve different equations and visually depict the range of frequency activity in EEG data. Fourier analysis facilitates the extraction of significant frequency-based elements that are essential for comprehending the underlying brain activity by converting EEG signals from the temporal domain to the spectral domain. In this study, the FFT algorithm was utilized to assess the PSD of EEG signals. The PSD is a metric that quantifies the power distribution at various frequencies within a signal. It plays a crucial role in uncovering patterns and characteristics that are pertinent to emotional states. The estimation of frequency composition in EEG data can be accomplished either by directly applying FFT on the signal or indirectly by altering the predicted autocorrelation sequence. This approach offers useful insights into the characteristics of the signal.

In addition, the Welch pre-processing technique was employed in combination with FFT to improve the precision of EEG data analysis. The Welch method, which is a variant of the conventional FFT algorithm, entails partitioning the signal into overlapping segments and calculating the average of their periodograms. This approach aims to achieve a more refined and dependable estimation of the Pulse Width Modulation (PSD). Our objective was to enhance the reliability of future feature extraction and classification methods by implementing Welch pre-processing, which helps reduce the impact of noise and aberrations in EEG data. The integration of Welch pre-processing and FFT offers a comprehensive methodology for the efficient analysis of EEG data and the extraction of pertinent spectral components essential for engaging in emotion recognition activities. By implementing these methodological improvements, our objective was to boost the precision of emotion prediction through the utilization of SVM algorithms. This endeavour aimed to make significant contributions to the fields of affective computing and human-computer interaction.

#### 3.4. Pre-processing Signals

In the methods employed, the EEG dataset underwent initial pre-processing to ascertain its quality and appropriateness for subsequent analysis. The data, which was initially collected at a frequency of 128 Hz, was subjected to artifact reduction in order to minimize probable sources of noise caused by eye movement. Following that, we implemented band-pass filtering on the signal, so limiting its frequency spectrum to a minimum of 4 Hz and a maximum of 45 Hz. The objective of this filtering procedure was to concentrate on pertinent frequency bands linked to brain activity while reducing the impact of extraneous noise elements. The pre-processed data was averaged to ensure uniformity across the dataset, so establishing a consistent reference point. Subsequently, the data was divided into periods of 60 seconds, with the exception of a 3-second pre-trial baseline. The data was then arranged in ascending order according to the experimental circumstances.

The Welch technique was utilized in this study to conduct spectrum analysis and determine the PSD of several frequency bands, specifically theta (4 - 8 Hz), alpha (8 - 12 Hz), beta (12 - 30 Hz), and gamma (30 - 64 Hz), for each electrode in the EEG data. The Welch technique is highly efficient in estimating the peak-to-average power ratio (PSD) by partitioning the signal into overlapping segments, calculating separate periodograms for each segment, and subsequently averaging them to provide a more consistent and dependable estimation. The spectral analysis yielded significant findings about the dispersion of spectral power across several frequency bands, which serve as indicators of the neurological mechanisms linked to emotion. The power spectral density periodogram, depicted in Figure 3, provides a graphical depiction of the spectrum properties of the EEG data subsequent to Welch pre-processing.



The objective of this study was to improve the quality of EEG data and enable more precise feature extraction and classification using SVM algorithms. This was achieved by utilizing pre-processing approaches, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the accuracy of emotion identification tests.



Figure 3. The power spectral density periodogram

#### 3.5. Emotional Classification

The SVM is a widely employed machine learning technique utilized for the objectives of classification and regression. SVM is widely recognized as a robust machine learning method that exhibits strong capabilities in various domains, including classification, regression, and outlier detection. The SVM classifier constructs a predictive model that assigns a novel data point to one of the predefined categories. Therefore, SVM can be conceptualized as a binary linear classifier that operates without incorporating probabilistic elements.

The data sets to be processed are labelled, channel categorized, and parsed. The margin refers to the distance of separation between two lines at the closest data point. The margin is determined by measuring the perpendicular distance between the line and the supporting vector or the nearest data point. In the context of SVM, the objective is to optimize the separation distance between classes to achieve the highest margin.

This section should provide a detailed description of the research design and methods used to conduct the study. Authors should explain the rationale behind the chosen methods and how they are suitable for addressing the research question. This includes describing the experimental setup, data collection procedures, and any tools or technologies employed. Additionally, any algorithms, models, or frameworks developed or utilized in the research should be thoroughly detailed. The goal is to enable other researchers to replicate the study based on the information provided.

#### 4. RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

The attainment of appropriate outcomes in the categorization of statistical characteristics presents a notable obstacle, requiring a comprehensive investigation of multiple elements. The present study introduces a novel approach that combines 10-fold cross-validation with SVM classifiers. This methodology incorporates regularization techniques and employs a grid-search strategy for kernel parameter selection. A comprehensive evaluation was conducted to assess the efficacy of k-fold crossvalidation as a classification methodology. The accuracy was calculated using the formula TP+TN/(TP+TN+FP+FN), where TP represents true positives, TN represents true negatives, FP represents false positives, and FN represents false negatives.

The SVM classifier was initially inputted with all statistical data concurrently, prior to averaging the retrieved band values depending on their corresponding quadrant. The attributes were employed for the purpose of training and evaluating SVM models, specifically with the objective of creating confusion matrices. Following that, an evaluation of accuracy was conducted utilizing a 10-fold cross-validation methodology. The utilization of this strategy facilitated a comprehensive assessment of the efficacy of the suggested methodology in enhancing precision in tasks related to the classification of EEG data. The incorporation of Welch pre-processing into the SVM algorithm demonstrated encouraging results, establishing a foundation for improved precision in the field of emotion recognition and other applications involving the analysis of EEG data.

Tables 1 and 2 display the results of Arousal and Valence. Arousal refers to the degree of physiological and psychological stimulation encountered by an individual, whereas Valence signifies the emotional assessment or reaction linked to a stimulus or event. The results presented in Table 1 demonstrate the most accurate outcomes for the Valence dimension across diverse EEG electrode placement locations, including the Left, Frontal, Right, Central, Parietal, and Occipital regions. Within the Theta frequency band, the Valence-related accuracy values range from 58.66% to 60.89%, with the Frontal and Central positions exhibiting the highest levels of accuracy. This suggests that these brain regions play crucial roles in emotional processing and regulation. Similarly, the accuracy percentages vary across different electrode placements within the Alpha and Beta frequency bands, with the peak values observed at specific positions for each frequency range. This variability is likely attributed to the distinct neural activities associated with different brain areas during emotional experiences. Furthermore, the Gamma frequency range exhibits the maximum Valence accuracy of 61.45%, observed in the Left and Right electrode positions. This elevated accuracy in the Gamma band may be linked to its association with higher-order cognitive functions and the integration of emotional information across various brain regions. These findings underscore the importance of strategic electrode placement and appropriate frequency band selection in optimizing the accuracy of emotion recognition based on EEG data.

<b>Name</b>	Left					Frontal Right Central Parietal Occipital
Theta	60.89	58.66	59.22	60.89	59.78	60.89
Alpha		61.45 59.22	59.22	60.34	60.34	60.34
<b>Beta</b>	60.34	58.10	60.34	60.34	58.66	60.34
Gamma		61.45 58.10	61.45	59.78	58.10	60.34

Table 1: The highest accuracy results for Valence

Insights into the efficiency of the suggested Welch Pre-Processing in SVM Algorithm for enhancing accuracy on EEG data classification tasks linked to Valence are provided by the reported findings, which indicate changes in accuracy across different electrode placements and frequency bands. The significance of electrode location and frequency bands in the analysis of EEG data for emotion detection tasks is emphasized by these findings. The observed levels of accuracy indicate encouraging results in the precise identification of emotional states using EEG data, so establishing a basis for future investigations and advancements in the domain of affective computing and human-computer interaction.

The accuracy results for arousal across different EEG electrode positions, namely Left, Frontal, Right, Central, Parietal, and Occipital, are presented in Table 2. Arousal is a fundamental concept in comprehending emotional experiences, since it refers to the degree of physiological and psychological activation that an individual undergoes. The presented table provides insights into the accuracy percentages associated with several frequency bands, including Theta, Alpha, Beta, and Gamma. As an illustration, within the Theta frequency range, the Parietal location has the highest accuracy for arousal, ranging from 45.81% to 52.51%. Similarly, accuracy percentages range among electrode placements in the Alpha and Beta frequency bands, with the highest values observed at specific positions for each frequency band. The best accuracy for arousal in the Gamma frequency range is 53.63%, which is reported at the Central position.

<b>Name</b>	Left					Frontal Right Central Parietal Occipital
Theta	46.93	45.81	48.60	50.84	52.51	49.72
Alpha		51.40 49.72	48.04	51.40	50.84	49.72
<b>Beta</b>		51.96 52.51	49.16 51.96		48.60	51.40
Gamma	53.07	49.16	49.72	53.63	51.40	49.72

Table 2: The highest accuracy results for arousal.

The results presented provide valuable insights into the precision of arousal classification using EEG data, emphasizing differences in electrode placements and frequency ranges. These findings enhance our comprehension of the correlation between various brain regions and frequency components with arousal levels, which is crucial for the assessment of emotions and the development of affective computing applications. The data collected indicates that the Welch Pre-Processing in SVM Algorithm has the capability to enhance accuracy in the classification of arousal states using EEG data. Additional research and improvement of the methodology may result in improved performance and wider use in practical contexts, such as interfaces that are sensitive to emotions and systems for monitoring mental health.

The examination of precision computations pertaining to valence and arousal yields significant insights into the efficacy of the suggested methodology. Figure 4 depicts the optimal outcomes for valence categorization, demonstrating that the most advantageous results are attained through particular combinations of EEG electrode placements and frequency ranges. The Alpha-Left, Gamma-Left, and Gamma-Right combinations are particularly remarkable, since they achieve an amazing accuracy rate of 61.45%. The findings of this study emphasize the need of taking into account both spatial and spectral attributes while performing valence classification tasks. They demonstrate the ability of specific electrode placements and frequency bands to effectively capture emotional states.



Figure 4: Valence Best Results

In contrast, figure 5 demonstrates the most favourable outcomes in terms of arousal categorization, exhibiting the most effective combinations of EEG electrode placements and frequency bands for precisely distinguishing arousal levels. The figure clearly demonstrates that the utilization of particular combinations results in significant enhancements in accuracy. The Gamma-Central combination exhibits a noteworthy precision rate of 53.63%, closely followed by the Gamma-Left combination with



a precision rate of 53.07%. Furthermore, the Beta-Frontal model demonstrates a noteworthy accuracy rate of 52.51%. The results highlight the significance of choosing suitable electrode placements and frequency bands that are specifically designed for the goal of classifying arousal. This emphasizes the potential of the Welch Pre-Processing in SVM Algorithm to enhance accuracy in assessing arousal based on EEG data. Additional investigation and enhancement of these amalgamations may facilitate the development of more resilient and dependable emotion identification systems, which can be applied in various domains such as affective computing and mental health analysis.



Figure 5: Arousal Best Results

# 5. CONCLUSIONS

The present study investigates the cognitive mechanisms that underlie the responses of the human brain to external stimuli, with a specific focus on video material. This investigation has stimulated queries motivated by brain systems, aiming to comprehend and categorize emotions with more precision. Although previous studies have mostly relied on facial characteristic analysis to detect emotions, there is still an urgent requirement to enhance the accuracy and applicability of classification results. Our research presents a new approach for classifying EEG signals using SVM algorithms.

The data is pre-processed using datasets obtained from the Database for Emotion Analysis using Physiological Signals (DEAP). This pre-processing involves many steps such as normalization, addressing missing data, and reducing dimensionality. The methodology we employ places significant importance on feature selection, wherein Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is utilized to determine the most prominent elements for the purpose of predicting arousal and valence. The data we obtained show high levels of accuracy, with a remarkable achievement of 61.45% accuracy in predicting valence. The combination of valence labels with specific EEG features, such as Alpha-Left, Gamma-Left, and Gamma-Right, results in particularly impressive performance. In the context of arousal prediction, it is noteworthy that the integration of Gamma and Central characteristics demonstrates a notable level of accuracy, achieving a rate of 53.63%.

The results of this study highlight the potential of the methodology we have proposed in improving the precision of emotion classification using EEG data. Through the utilization of sophisticated preprocessing techniques and feature selection approaches, it is possible to proficiently extract significant information from EEG signals. This results in enhanced precision in predicting emotional states. In the future, more improvements and verifications of our methodology have the potential to enhance the advancement of emotion recognition systems, hence expanding their range of applications in affective computing and human-computer interaction.



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