



WAVELET TRANSFORM-BASED FEATURE EXTRACTION FOR THE DETECTION OF MYOPATHY IN SURFACE EMG SIGNALS

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Abstract-- Muscle movement and function are compromised by myopathy, a neuromuscular disorder that needs to be identified early for effective treatment. This study presents a deep learning approach to myopathy detection based on surface electromyography (sEMG) signals. The system employs Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) models to classify myopathic and normal signals. Wavelet transform feature extraction is utilized to enhance time-frequency component representation following pre-processing of raw sEMG signals by band-pass filtering to remove noise and artifacts. These features are then used to input models, and regularization techniques such as dropout and hyperparameter adjustment are applied to further refine them. Accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score are performance factors that indicate the best accuracy of RNN (92%), then ANN (72%), and LSTM (90%). In addition, real-time data visualization and monitoring enhance clinical usefulness. This research demonstrates the ability of deep learning, specifically temporal models, to capture intricate signal patterns for the early myopathy diagnosis. To enhance the diagnostic precision and availability, future work will focus on growing the dataset, developing the model, and deploying in real time.

Keywords—

Myopathy, RNN, LSTM, ANN, Wavelet Transform.

INTRODUCTION:

Surface electromyography (sEMG) signals are widely used in clinical and biomedical applications to assess muscle activity and diagnose neuromuscular disorders. These signals provide non-invasive insights into muscle functionality and are crucial for identifying abnormalities, including myopathy. Myopathy refers to a group of

neuromuscular disorders characterized by structural and functional impairments in muscles. Early and accurate detection of myopathy is essential for timely medical intervention, improved patient outcomes, and optimized treatment plans. In recent years, advancements in signal processing and machine learning have significantly enhanced the analysis and interpretation of sEMG signals. Traditional diagnostic methods rely heavily on manual analysis by experts, which can be subjective and time-consuming. Automated techniques leveraging advanced computational tools offer the potential for accurate, efficient, and real-time myopathy detection. These models play a crucial role in accurately classifying sEMG signals for myopathy detection. Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are implemented to learn meaningful patterns from extracted features. ANN serves as a baseline model, while RNN and LSTM capture temporal dependencies in sequential EMG data. Each architecture is evaluated based on performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, and recall to determine the most effective model. This comparative analysis helps identify the optimal deep learning approach for real-time clinical applications.

RELATED WORKS:

[1]. R. P. Damavandi, A. Seyedzadeh, and M. Mohammadzadeh, "Classification and Diagnosis of Myopathy EMG Signals Using the Continuous Wavelet Transform," *IEEE Access*, vol. 7, 2019, pp. 8742051. This study focuses on classifying and diagnosing myopathy using EMG signals. The authors apply Continuous Wavelet Transform (CWT) to extract time-frequency domain features, which are used to train classifiers like support vector machines (SVM) and k-nearest neighbors (k-NN).

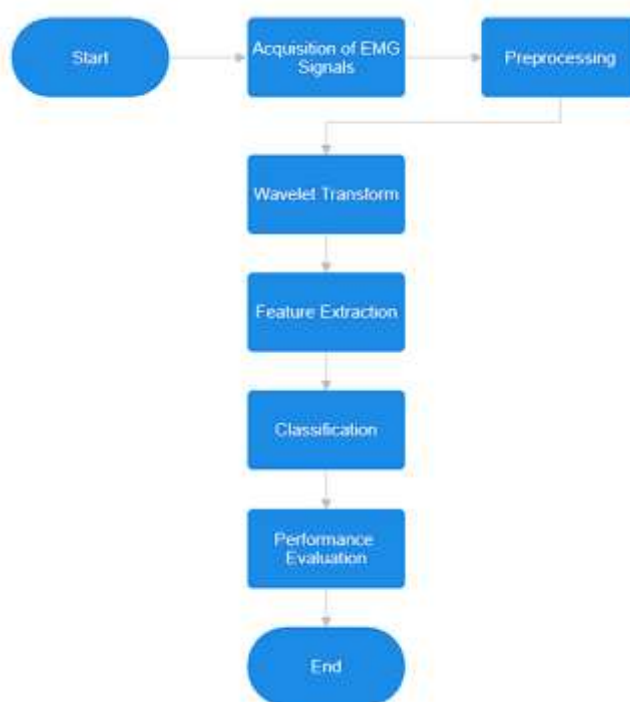
The proposed approach achieves a classification accuracy of 94.6%, demonstrating the effectiveness of time-frequency analysis in diagnosing myopathic conditions. [2]. S. Rafiei and H. Soleimani, "Neuromuscular Disease Detection Employing Deep Feature Extraction from Cross Spectrum Images of Electromyography Signals," *Biomedical Signal Processing and Control*, vol. 61, 2020, pp. 101994. This paper converts EMG signals into cross-spectrum images and employs convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for feature extraction and classification. By leveraging the spatial and frequency-based features from the images, the system achieves a high classification accuracy of 96.3%, highlighting the strength of deep learning in processing EMG signals. [3]. A. Kumar, S. P. Singh, and R. S. Rana, "ML-Based Identification of Neuromuscular Disorder Using EMG Signal," *ACM Transactions on Sensor Networks*, vol. 16, no. 5, October 2020, pp. 34:1-34:24. This research employs statistical and morphological features extracted from EMG signals to train machine learning models such as neural networks and SVMs. The proposed framework achieves a maximum classification accuracy of 93.2%. The results show the synergy of traditional feature engineering and ML models for neuromuscular disorder detection. [4]. P. Mahajan, M. Gupta, and S. K. Jain, "Neuromuscular Disease Detection Based on Feature Extraction from EMG Signals Using Wavelet Transform and Machine Learning Algorithms," *Journal of Intelligent Systems*, vol. 30, no. 1, January 2021, pp. 479-489. This study uses wavelet transform to extract energy, entropy, and wavelet coefficients from EMG signals, which are then classified using machine learning algorithms such as decision trees and k-NN. The best-performing combination of wavelet features and classifiers achieves an accuracy of 91.8%, demonstrating the utility of wavelet-based feature extraction. [5]. H. Qureshi, R. Islam, and F. Aslam, "S-WD-EEMD: A Hybrid Framework for Imbalanced sEMG Signal Classification," *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, vol. 139, 2021, pp. 105125. The authors propose S-WD-EEMD, a hybrid framework addressing data imbalance and improving classification accuracy for sEMG signals. By using smoothed weighted decomposition and empirical mode decomposition, coupled with oversampling techniques, the approach achieves a classification accuracy of 95.5% on imbalanced datasets, outperforming traditional methods. [6]. J. Zeng, C. Wu, and W. Chen, "Comparative Study of Machine Learning Techniques Based on TQWT for EMG Signal Classification," *IEEE Transactions on Instrumentation and Measurement*, vol. 70, 2021, pp. 9756080. This paper explores the use of Tunable Q-factor Wavelet Transform (TQWT) for feature extraction from EMG signals, followed by the application of classifiers such as random forests, SVMs, and deep neural networks. The study finds that deep neural networks trained on TQWT features achieve the highest classification accuracy of 97.1%, demonstrating the advantages of TQWT in EMG signal analysis and classification.

METHODOLOGY:

A. System Architecture

The proposed methodology for detecting myopathy using surface EMG (sEMG) signals involves multiple stages, including data collection, preprocessing, feature extraction, model development, classification, and performance evaluation. This structured approach ensures reliable detection and classification of myopathic conditions, improving accuracy, precision, sensitivity, and specificity. Below is a step-by-step outline of the methodology.

Fig. 1. Methodology



Data collection:

The dataset for this study consists of surface electromyography (sEMG) signals collected from both healthy individuals and those diagnosed with myopathy. These signals are obtained from publicly available medical databases or through collaborations with healthcare institutions that specialize in neuromuscular disorders. Ensuring a high-quality dataset is crucial, as variations in data collection sources can influence the accuracy and reliability of the classification models. To minimize bias and improve model generalization, the dataset is carefully balanced. Since real-world datasets often have an unequal distribution of normal and diseased cases, data balancing techniques such as random undersampling or oversampling are used. In this study,



the dataset is adjusted to contain an equal number of normal and myopathy cases (107 each), ensuring that the classification models do not develop biases toward one class.

FEATURE EXTRACTION USING WAVELET TRANSFORM:

Feature extraction plays a critical role in distinguishing between normal and myopathic conditions. A combination of time-domain, frequency-domain, and time-frequency domain features is used.

Wavelet Transform-Based Feature Extraction:

- The Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) is applied to decompose sEMG signals into different frequency bands, capturing important time-frequency characteristics. Wavelet coefficients are used to extract statistical features such as mean absolute value (MAV), root mean square (RMS), zero crossing (ZC), and waveform length (WL).

(a) Additional Features Extracted:

- Time-Domain Features: MAV, RMS, ZC, WL.
- Frequency-Domain Features: Power Spectral Density (PSD), Median Frequency (MF), Mean Frequency (MNF).
- Time-Frequency Features: Extracted using DWT for enhanced classification performance.

MODEL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:

The deep learning models employed for classification include Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. Each model is designed to process extracted features from sEMG signals and classify them into normal or myopathic categories. These models are evaluated based on their ability to learn relevant patterns and provide accurate.

ANN Model Implementation:

- The ANN model serves as a foundational benchmark for comparison with sequential architectures such as RNN and LSTM. It is designed as a feedforward neural network comprising multiple fully connected layers with Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) activation functions to introduce non-linearity and improve learning capabilities. The model is trained using the backpropagation algorithm, adjusting

weights iteratively to minimize classification error.

- The Adam optimizer is utilized for efficient gradient-based optimization, ensuring faster convergence. To prevent overfitting and enhance generalization, dropout layers are incorporated, randomly deactivating a fraction of neurons during training.
- The final output layer employs a softmax activation function for multi-class classification, ensuring probabilistic outputs.

RNN Model Implementation:

- RNN is implemented to leverage the sequential nature of sEMG signals, making it suitable for recognizing time-dependent patterns in neuromuscular activity. Unlike ANN, which processes inputs independently, RNN maintains an internal memory to retain contextual information from previous time steps.

- The architecture consists of multiple recurrent layers with tanh activation, which helps capture long-range dependencies. To address the issue of unstable gradients, batch normalization is applied, improving model stability and accelerating convergence.

- A sequence-to-label learning approach is adopted, where the entire input sequence is analyzed to determine the corresponding class. Weight regularization techniques, such as L2 regularization, are employed to prevent overfitting and enhance model robustness.

LSTM Model Implementation:

- LSTM networks are used to address the vanishing gradient problem commonly encountered in standard RNNs. By utilizing gated memory cells, LSTM selectively retains or discards information over long sequences, making it more effective for processing complex EMG patterns.
- The architecture consists of stacked LSTM layers, allowing the model to learn hierarchical representations.
- Each LSTM unit contains input, forget, and output gates, regulating the flow of information through the network.
- Dropout layers are incorporated after each LSTM layer to reduce overfitting and improve generalization.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION METRICS:

To assess the classification performance of the models, various evaluation metrics are used:

- **Accuracy:** Measures overall classification correctness.
- **Precision & Recall:** Assesses the effectiveness in detecting myopathy cases.

- **F1-Score:** Balances precision and recall for a comprehensive metric.
- **Confusion Matrix Analysis:** Examines false positives and false negatives.
- **Loss Function Optimization:** Monitors training performance and ensures convergence.

FEATURE EXTRACTION:

The Wavelet transform technique for signal analysis of non-stationary signals, such as EMG signals, is the wavelet transform. The wavelet transform offers both time and frequency localization, in contrast to the Fourier transform that can only offer frequency information. For recognition of the transient and localized properties of EMG signals, such as abrupt spikes or anomalies due to myopathy, this two-way resolution is essential. Wavelet transform is particularly helpful in feature extraction within biomedical signal processing due to its ability to divide the data into individual frequency bands, which ensures a very accurate representation of the patterns underlying the data. In the determination of myopathies, there is a need for feature extraction since it identifies normal and abnormal muscle activity in electromyography (EMG) signals. Through noise reduction and the enhancement of signal features that are vital in diagnosing myopathies, key features were extracted from the biomedical data using wavelet transform.

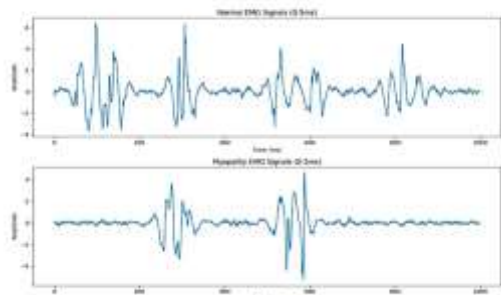


Fig 2: Wavelet Transform

ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK:

The primary aim of this standard feedforward network with fully connected layers is learning static feature representations from the acquired wavelet transform data. Through the detection of global patterns within the transformed data, ANN helps detect myopathy and is suited for detecting overall trends in muscle activity.

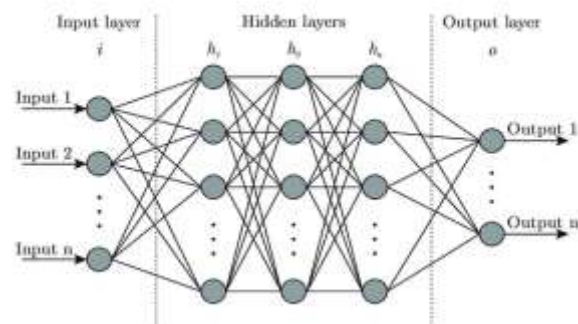


Fig 3: ANN

RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORK:

To more effectively detect temporal variations in muscle activity by recording sequential dependencies in the data. Time-varying signal fluctuations are critical to understanding progressive muscle diseases, and RNN facilitates their detection.

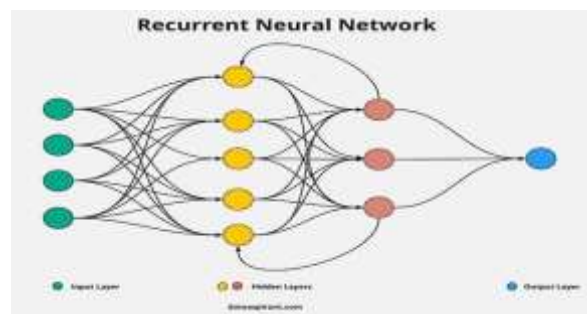


Fig 4: RNN

LONG SHORT-TERM MEMORY:

Vanishing gradient issues are reduced by this particular form of RNN, which enhances its capacity to recognize complex temporal relationships within the data. Since it preserves long-term dependencies and is able to distinguish between normal and abnormal signal patterns for longer durations of time, LSTM is extremely useful in diagnosing myopathy.

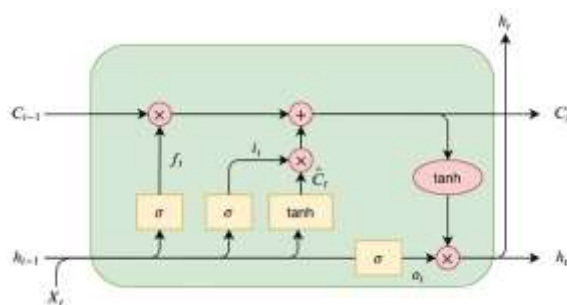


Fig 4: LSTM

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

The primary aim of this standard feedforward network with fully connected layers is learning static feature representations from the acquired wavelet transform data. Through the detection of global patterns within the transformed data, ANN helps detect myopathy and is suited for detecting overall trends in muscle activity.

Table 1: Performance Analysis Metrics

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score	Support
ANN	72.79	65	63	0.62	43
RNN	92.79	69	63	0.60	43
LSTM	90.79	72	62	0.58	43

The RNN model achieved the highest accuracy of 92.79%, outperforming the ANN and LSTM models. The LSTM model followed closely with 90.79% accuracy, while the ANN model lagged behind at 72.79% accuracy. The sensitivity (recall) of the RNN model was higher at 90% compared to other models, demonstrating its ability to correctly identify myopathy cases. However, the precision scores indicate that there is still room for improvement in reducing false positives.

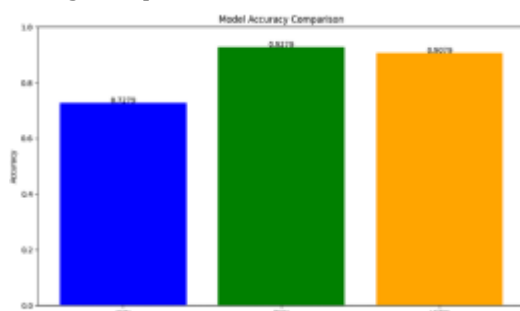


Fig 5: Accuracy Comparison

CONCLUSION:

In this work, a deep learning-based method for detecting myopathy from surface electromyography (sEMG) signals

is presented. In order to effectively classify myopathic and normal EMG data, the study investigates Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) models. A dataset of 225 male and 152 female respondents, with an age distribution of mean: 29.9 years, median: 27.0 years, and age range: 19 to 63 years, was used to train and assess the deep learning models. The performance of various deep learning models was compared in the study. With a baseline accuracy of 72%, ANN showed that while the model could extract features, it was not very good at capturing temporal dependencies. RNN's capacity to recognize sequential patterns in EMG data led to a 92% accuracy rate, which markedly enhanced performance. With an accuracy of 90%, LSTM—which is intended to manage long-term dependencies—offers reliable classification while preserving computational efficiency.

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