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RECEIVED 21 March 2024 ACCEPTED 20 December 2024 PUBLISHED 10 January 2025

CITATION

Nagarajan I and Lakshmi Priya GG (2025) A comprehensive review on early detection of Alzheimer's disease using various deep learning techniques. *Front. Comput. Sci.* 6:1404494. doi: [10.3389/fcomp.2024.1404494](https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomp.2024.1404494)

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A comprehensive review on early [detection of Alzheimer's disease](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcomp.2024.1404494/full) using various deep learning techniques

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Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a type of brain disease that makes it hard for someone to perform daily tasks. Early diagnosis and classification of the condition are thought to be essential study areas due to the speedy progression of the disease in people living with dementia and the absence of precise diagnostic procedures. One of the main aims of the researchers is to correctly identify the early stages of AD so that the disease can be prevented or significantly reduced. The main objective of the current review is to thoroughly examine the most recent work on early AD detection and classification using the deep learning (DL) approach. This paper examined the purpose of an early diagnosis of AD, the various neuroimaging modalities, the pre-processing methods that were employed, the maintenance of data, the deep learning used in classifying AD from magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) images, the publicly available datasets, and the data that were fed into the deep models. A comparative analysis of different classification methods using DL techniques is performed. Further, the paper discussed the challenges involved in AD detection.

KEYWORDS

Alzheimer's disease, challenges, MRI, deep learning, pre-processing, feature extraction and classification

1 Introduction

Alzheimer's disease is a neurodegenerative condition that impairs brain function and destroys brain cells, altering memory and causing instability in human existence [\(Shankar and Walsh, 2009\)](#page-22-0). Overproduction of amyloid-ß (Aß) and hyperphosphorylation of abnormal proteins are believed to be the two main contributors to AD pathogenesis. As a result, A-plaques and tau neurofibrillary entanglements accumulate and alter nucleocellular cytoplasmic transfer between neurons, leading to cell death and impaired memory and learning [\(Ramzan et al., 2020\)](#page-22-1). The urgency of swift and precise disease identification and detection cannot be overstated. This is necessary because of economic expansion, the growth of information technology, and the advent of clinical information processing technologies. Early detection is not just a medical necessity but a societal responsibility, and role in this process is crucial.

Although genetic, environmental, and behavioral variables are thought to cause AD [\(Akkus et al., 2017;](#page-19-0) [Albawi et al., 2017\)](#page-20-0), the exact causes of this dementia are uncertain [\(Aldweesh et al., 2020\)](#page-20-1). Conventional wisdom suggests starting an effective care plan as soon as cognitive impairment is noticed and basing it on an early diagnosis to prevent AD [\(Al-Naami et al., 2013;](#page-20-2) [Alom et al., 2019\)](#page-20-3). The current diagnosis relies on diagnostic

methods that are positive when the sickness is practically irreversible [\(Al-Qatf et al., 2018\)](#page-20-4). Most methods for diagnosing AD are arduous and involve a physician [\(Chen et al., 2018\)](#page-20-5), making travel to clinical sites difficult for the elderly. Additionally, disease progression monitoring is costly [\(Chen et al., 2020\)](#page-20-6). There is hope, though. Non-invasive, quick, inexpensive, and accurate AD diagnostic techniques are being developed [\(Forouzannezhad et al.,](#page-21-0) [2019\)](#page-21-0), promising early identification and effective treatment.

Alzheimer's disease is a gradual, degenerative condition that affects the brain's neurons, as shown in [Figure 1.](#page-2-0) Cognitive and verbal skills change, and memory lapses follow [\(Amen, 2016\)](#page-20-7). Age increases the occurrence of anomalies and loss in this neurodevelopmental condition, which disproportionately affects those over 65 [\(An et al., 2020\)](#page-20-8). Clinical assessment, cognitive testing, and excluding other potential causes have traditionally been the three main components of the clinical diagnosis of dementia [\(Panza et al., 2010\)](#page-22-2). To rule out other neurological illnesses, imaging investigations, clinical evaluations, and psychological testing must all be used to support the clinical diagnosis of AD [\(Atri, 2019\)](#page-20-9).

Numerous non-invasive neuroimaging techniques, including diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), positron emission tomography (PET), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), have been studied in order to identify AD [\(Douaud et al., 2011\)](#page-20-10), shown in [Figure 2.](#page-2-1) The DTI examines water diffusion at the brain's microstructure to find the AD's abnormal diffusion pattern. By displaying data and images, PET allows us to statistically examine abnormal alterations in the human body and its normal metabolism. MRI can show the brain's structure and structural composition, which helps researchers examine AD brain shrinkage. MRI, one of many neuroimaging technologies [\(Lerch et al., 2008\)](#page-21-1), is used to image brain tissue and classify illnesses. Before a diagnosis is made, patients go through multiple steps, although due to the diagnostic phases, this can happen later, and patients go into a late stage (Pierce et al., [2017\)](#page-22-3). The different stages and phases of AD are discussed in the following subsection.

Most studies now focus on early AD diagnosis to find treatments and enhance patients' quality of life by studying the pathogenic mechanisms of different phases of AD [\(Basaia et al.,](#page-20-11) [2019\)](#page-20-11), shown in [Figure 3.](#page-3-0) Preclinical AD is the first stage, where blood, brain, and CSF abnormalities occur without symptoms. Thus, contemporary life's beginning is no longer clear. The typical test struggles to detect AD early on, when the changes are too minor. Early AD detection is hindered by stigma, a lack of dementia care training, and the importance of early diagnosis [\(Dubois et al., 2009\)](#page-20-12). Confusing dementia-like disorders with cognitive impairment (delirium, melancholy, vitamin deficiencies). This stage may begin 20 years before symptoms appear. An earlier AD experience study found significantly stronger connections between early linguistic skills and AD later in life (Bhandare et al., [2016\)](#page-20-13). Stage two is modest cognitive impairment. Memory loss or other mental disability in those who can do most of their daily chores alone is called MCI [\(Sarraf et al., 2016\)](#page-22-4). The patient's family and close friends may detect cognitive ability issues at this time, but they don't influence their everyday lives [\(Dubois et al., 2009\)](#page-20-12). Only 10%−15% of MCI patients develop AD [\(Baskar et al., 2019;](#page-20-14) [Bi et al., 2020\)](#page-20-15), and it's unclear why certain people get dementia. After an MCI diagnosis, a particular diagnostic process must begin to identify the disease or condition that causes the impairment [\(Borghesani et al., 2008\)](#page-20-16). The former describes memory-impaired patients. However, the latter identifies patients with cognitive problems in areas other than memory, such as attention or language processing. MCI increases AD risk, according to theory [\(Brown, 2015\)](#page-20-17). Other stages of AD include late moderate cognitive impairment (LMCI), early mild cognitive impairment (EMCI), and cognitive normal (CN). AD's last stage, dementia, impairs daily life due to memory, cognitive, and behavioral issues. [Table 1](#page-3-1) lists AD phase symptoms. Early AD diagnosis helps patients take preventive measures, helps physicians identify AD progression risk, informs patients about the severity of the condition, and motivates them to use medications and lifestyle changes [\(Liu et al., 2014b\)](#page-21-2). Therefore, the importance of an early AD diagnosis is as follows in the next subsection.

1.2 Purpose of an early diagnosis

The issue is that AD symptoms are frequently misdiagnosed as an effect of aging, delaying medical consultation until it is too late and leading to a delayed diagnosis [\(Brown et al., 2020\)](#page-20-18). In the 2008 study [\(Busche et al., 2008\)](#page-20-19), 64% of carriers admitted that before diagnosis, they believed changes in patients' behaviors were signs of aging. Sixty-seven percent of respondents agree that the diagnosis has been delayed. Moreover, once in the hands of experts, a precise diagnosis of AD is still tricky. Even the most skilled practitioners cannot correctly diagnose AD in 10%−15% of cases [\(Çayir et al.,](#page-20-20) [2018\)](#page-20-20). The only way to accurately diagnose the illness is through a postmortem examination of the brain. A clinical diagnosis of AD may currently be made with an accuracy of ∼90% using a patient's medical history, neurological and physical examinations,

Abbreviations: AD, Alzheimer's disease; DL, deep learning; ML, machine learning; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; DTI, diffusion tensor imaging; CT, computed tomography; PET, positron emission tomography; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; MCI, mild cognitive impairment; EMCI, early mild cognitive impairment; LMCI, late mild cognitive impairment; CN, cognitive normal; fMRI, functional MRI; sMRI, structural MRI; AI, artificial intelligence; ANN, artificial neural network; AE, Autoencoder; DBN, Deep belief network; DNN, deep neural network; CNN, convolutional neural network; RNN, recurrent neural network; DICOM, Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine; AC, anterior commissure; PC, posterior commissure; MNI, Montreal Neurological Institute; GRU, gated recurrent units; LSTM, long short-term memory; ADNI, Alzheimer's disease neuroimaging initiative; OASIS, open access series of imaging studies; AIBL, Australian imaging biomarkers and lifestyle study of aging; IBSR, Internet Brain Segmentation Repository; MICCAI, medical image computing and computer-assisted intervention; IDA, image and data archive; MCC, Matthews Correlation Coefficient; FMI, fine motor impairment; ROC, receiver operating characteristics.

laboratory tests, brain imaging, and neuropsychological assessment [\(Chakraborty et al., 2017\)](#page-20-21).

Early diagnosis allows patients to access programs and support services and medications that can postpone some symptoms and work better in the early stages [\(Hennig et al., 2003\)](#page-21-4). To diagnose AD early, even small symptoms must be recognized. Given the multimodal character of AD symptomatology, the best early AD detection method cannot simply rely on measurements of a single domain [\(Chitradevi and Prabha, 2020\)](#page-20-22), such as physiological or behavioral symptoms, but rather on the combination of many modalities, which may allow to identify all subtle alterations of all domains from the start and contrast them with other symptoms for an appropriate diagnosis [\(Choi et al., 2020\)](#page-20-23). Several research groups use neuroimaging techniques like MRI, fMRI, and PET to classify AD and MCI.

Numerous researchers are studying early AD diagnosis using machine learning (ML) and DL methods to discover a treatment. Even though ML models are more effective than ever in many

TABLE 1 Various symptoms of corresponding stages of AD.

domains, they still need human specialists to solve some problems. A flexible DL model algorithm learns from automatic feature extraction approaches regardless of prediction accuracy (Mahrishi et al., [2020\)](#page-21-5). The DL model learns and predicts features. ML cannot automatically extract features. The following section discusses ML and DL AD diagnoses.

1.3 Machine learning vs. deep learning approaches

Over the past 20 years, AI and ML have gained popularity and relevance. ML is semi-automated data knowledge retrieval (Bardis et al., [2020\)](#page-20-24). ML feeds an algorithm that understands input-output relationships. After training, the computer can estimate a new data point's value or class [\(Islam and Manivannan, 2017\)](#page-21-6). [Figure 4](#page-4-0) shows ML vs. DL, a framework that can be learned without design. AI can run machines and act like people. The ANN is utilized in DL learning [\(Ayodele, 2010\)](#page-20-25). ANN architecture is layered. DL types include RNNs, auto-encoders, and CNNs [\(Hosseini et al.,](#page-21-7) [2020\)](#page-21-7). DL frameworks let programmers build and test DL apps. PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, Caffe, Theano, and more open-source DL frameworks are available online. Many notable open-source frameworks are ranked by developer's group, supported languages, and useful programs. It compares ML with DL based on data, training time, and interpretability. The fundamental difference between ML and DL is in [Table 2.](#page-4-1) A suitable function is manually extracted from the data by ML. The extracted function is used to update model parameters for accurate prediction [\(Wei et al., 2019\)](#page-23-0). This is irrelevant since DL automatically retrieves data functions. DL also uses end-to-end learning, where the network delivers data and tasks [\(Chen et al., 2018\)](#page-20-5).

High-performing DL models require 1,000 records [\(Guo et al.,](#page-21-8) [2019\)](#page-21-8). Recent years have seen DL's speech recognition (Deng and Platt, [2014;](#page-20-26) [Noda et al., 2015\)](#page-22-5), image recognition [\(Pak and Kim,](#page-22-6) [2017;](#page-22-6) [Wu and Chen, 2015\)](#page-23-1), and speech analysis applications assist healthcare [\(Li et al., 2017\)](#page-21-9), pharmacy [\(Wang F. et al., 2019\)](#page-23-2), natural language processing [\(Otter et al., 2020\)](#page-22-7), and other sectors (Young et al., [2018\)](#page-23-3). Recently, many DL recommendations [\(Alom et al.,](#page-20-3) [2019\)](#page-20-3) have emerged, which may be categorized into algorithms, which will be explored in Section 3. To retrieve the original image and meet feature extraction, selection, and classification criteria, several pre-processing steps are needed. Most machine learning studies involve preprocessing before data manipulations, whereas deep learning surveys may not. Most research preprocesses raw

TABLE 2 Comparison of ML and DL approaches for AD.

data with intensity normalization, recording, skull dissection, and motion correction [\(Zheng et al., 2017\)](#page-23-4).

The structure of this survey is as follows: Section 2 discusses the materials and method of this review, and Section 3 discusses the detailed investigation of AD detection. Section 4 mentions the various datasets for diagnosing AD. Performance measures for detecting AD are discussed in Section 5. In Section 6, the different challenges of the AD diagnosis are presented, and Section 7 concludes with the substantive work of the survey.

2 Materials and methods

This review aims to systematically assess studies investigating the association between AD biomarkers and affective symptoms in MCI and AD dementia, adhering to the recent research framework [\(Jack et al., 2018\)](#page-21-10). The search query was composed of several combinations of the following keywords: Alzheimer's disease, challenges, MRI, deep learning, pre-processing, feature extraction, and classification.

Based on the following criteria, titles and abstracts were independently evaluated for broad appropriateness in the review. In addition to this electronic search, a lateral search was undertaken: reference lists of retrieved publications and secondary literature (review articles, editorials, etc.) were screened to identify possible additional studies, as recommended [\(Greenhalgh and Peacock,](#page-21-11) [2005\)](#page-21-11). Research protocols and conference abstracts or posters were excluded. After this first screen, a full-text review was conducted to assess eligibility. The selection process followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines [\(Liberati et al., 2009\)](#page-21-12) as shown in [Figure 5.](#page-5-0)

3 Literature review on the detection of AD

According to recent literature, numerous studies (Esmaeilzadeh et al., [2018;](#page-20-27) [Yanase and Triantaphyllou, 2019\)](#page-23-5) emphasize the importance of diagnosis and classification as key areas of computational research in Alzheimer's disease. The several stages of the process are illustrated in [Figure 6,](#page-5-1) which includes data acquisition, preprocessing, data splitting, classification and learning evaluation. Each of these stages is considered crucial in developing accurate and reliable models. The following subsections provide more insight on each of these stages.

3.1 Data acquisition for Alzheimer's disease detection

The first and foremost step in the diagnostic pipeline is data acquisition, which involves collecting necessary datasets, including imaging data or other biomarkers for diagnosis. The quality and diversity of the data have a direct impact on the model's overall performance. Errors created here can spread across the system and disturb clinical operations. Generally, the following factors can help a digital imaging department integrate image acquisition equipment [\(Andriole, 2006\)](#page-20-28).

- The simplicity of integrating the gadget into the clinical environment's established daily workflow routine.
- High device fault tolerance and dependability.
- User interface simplicity and intuitiveness.
- Device performance.

When it comes to acquiring images from intrinsically digital modalities like computed tomography (CT) and MRI, the industry standard for digital imaging and communication in medicine is called DICOM capture [\(Paul et al., 2024\)](#page-22-8). The DICOM method ensures the acquisition and transfer of images from the modality at its full bit depth and spatial resolution. However, the DICOM method only allows for 8 bits of image quality or 256 gray levels, but the direct recording of digital data from essentially digital modalities is the preferred acquisition method, providing the highest quality images for clinical needs.

Images contain information that can be gained through a variety of modalities or procedures and describe the internal characteristics of the body. This process can produce neurological data and combine multiple physical principles [\(Theodore et al.,](#page-22-9) [1986\)](#page-22-9). The task determines the choice of these modalities, the model being employed, and the researcher's preference. Numerous

organizations, such as clinics, hospitals, X-ray facilities, and online platforms, provide datasets [\(Wu et al., 2019\)](#page-23-6).

An early diagnosis of AD is more likely if representative causes, such as blood, urine, saliva, and nasal mucosa, are thoroughly analyzed [\(Sakatani et al., 2020\)](#page-22-10). However, this method cannot be utilized as a routine detection tool because of the difficulties in gathering samples. Furthermore, the subject's body will inevitably move slightly because of the extended acquisition period. Building DL models cannot directly use real-world data since it contains noise and missing values in an unprocessed state.

Pre-processing procedures for data are required to transform such noisy data into a format that a machine can read. The original image must undergo several preprocessing steps to meet feature extraction, classification, and selection requirements. Most studies require preprocessing before data operations, particularly in ML. Some investigations might need something other than preprocessing with the aid of DL. However, most research continues preprocessing raw data using motion correction, registration, skull dissection, and intensity normalization (Tong et al., [2014\)](#page-22-11).

3.2 Pre-processing

This section focuses solely on the preprocessing of MRI for AD identification. Nonetheless, if essential for an improved result, this procedure is vital for all imaging data. Building DL models cannot directly use real-world data since it contains noise and missing values in an unprocessed state. Pre-processing procedures for data are required to transform such noisy data into a format that a machine can read. [Figure 7](#page-6-0) shows various preprocessing techniques for AD detection using DL approaches.

- Correction: one method of aligning image geometry is through AC-PC correction, which places the anterior commissure (AC) and posterior commissure (PC) in the same axial plane [\(Jiao et al., 2016\)](#page-21-13). These two critical anatomical landmarks in the brain are the centers of alignment for the AC and PC. Gradwarp is another preprocessing step that uses gradient non-linearity to rectify geometric distortions [\(Weavers et al.,](#page-23-7) [2017\)](#page-23-7).
- Tissue segmentation: it is sometimes necessary to consider the state of particular discrete portions while examining MRI images. The brain's anatomical structure removes the

tissue from the target area [\(Lazli and Boukadoum, 2018\)](#page-21-14). Measuring the tissue volume in each region is the aim of tissue segmentation. MRI was divided into three parts, and depending on the pre-treatment architecture of the CSF, white matter, and gray matter, each segment was examined alone or in combination. These three brain structures have different roles and undergo different morphological changes due to AD or MCI. All of them require the extraction of features. Hence, it has to employ an image segmentation technique.

- Heterologous registration: this pre-processing method completes the registration of T1 and T2 echo time images from PET and MRI and the registration of differential imaging data [\(Gao and Lima, 2022\)](#page-21-15). Significant variances exist since the images that must be stored originate from various data formats. As a result, the least squares approach is no longer suitable, and this operation is finished using a more precise and reliable registration method based on shared information.
- Normalization: direct analysis is impossible due to the significant variations among individual images. Normalization is registering the images from the earlier pre-processing step in the standard brain template space established by the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) to standardize the imaging coordinate system. MRI images of numerous healthy individuals were analyzed for a new brain reference, MNI space [\(Tufail et al., 2022\)](#page-22-12). It offers a standard model for brain image normalization.
- Smoothing: smoothing reduces functional differences between images, suppresses noise in functional images, and increases the signal-to-noise ratio. For straightening, the gaussian core function is typically used. Based upon practical efforts and experience [\(Zhang et al., 2019\)](#page-23-8), gray matter density images and PET images are commonly used in $64\times64\times64$ pixel cubedown samples; this can cut down on operating and memory requirements without sacrificing categorization precision. Format conversion, head motion correction, heterologous registration, normalizing, smoothing, and other preprocessing techniques are applied to PET images [\(Hamdi et al., 2022\)](#page-21-16). Different preprocessing methods for MRI images also have differences. For MRI images, skull removal, time slice correction, head movement, format conversion, heterologous registration, standardization, brain region segmentation, and smoothing are examples of pre-processing steps [\(Aderghal,](#page-19-1) [2021\)](#page-19-1).

Preprocessing is essential when the quantity of high-quality labeled data is constrained and acquiring additional examples is costly and labor-intensive. Consequently, it should be regarded as a significant concern in medical analysis, especially in the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

3.3 Data extraction and maintenance

Maintenance of data can be used for tasks like testing and training data. Extraction of data is needed for the two steps above. Taking away the attributes is an easy way to make the data less multidimensional. Direct classification is complicated due to the

TABLE 3 A list of techniques for extracting the features.

S. No	Type of feature extraction	Advantages	Disadvantages
$\mathbf{1}$	Slice-based	Reduce the frequency with which the training parameters are counted	Network truncation Slices that are similar stop being dependent on space
2	Voxel-based	Simple and comprehensible It is possible to obtain 3D brain scan data. Its distinctive dimension and computational load are both considerable	Selecting features is more difficult due to the feature vector's enormous dimension. The retrieved features ignore the geographic information
3	RoI-based	It is quite small and covers the entire region of the brain. Simple to use in clinical practice and comprehend A good deal of slack exists in the extracted characteristics	Minor exceptions may not be taken into account
4	Patch-based	Properly manages big feature dimensions. Able to function with minor adjustments RoI validation is not necessary	Selecting the image patch with the most details is difficult

enormous size and noise of the raw image. Depending on the types of extracted features, input data management solutions may be categorized into four groups: slice-based, voxel-based, regions of interest (ROI)-based, and patch-based [\(Ahmed et al., 2020;](#page-19-2) Nguyen and Chu, [2020;](#page-22-13) [Healy and McMahon, 2018\)](#page-21-17). The four primary categories into which it can be separated are shown in [Table 3.](#page-7-0)

(a) Slice-based: the slice is a section of a complex 3-D image that has been simplified to a 2-D image. However, the information from brain scans cannot be fully represented in 2D image slices, and the spatial link between adjacent slices is lost. Slicebased techniques typically focus on the brain center while ignoring other regions. Some searches extract sections of 2D images using exclusive techniques. The axial or horizontal, frontal, medial, and coronal planes are some examples of standard projections used in neuroimaging studies. A slicebased iron buildup model [\(Ren et al., 2019\)](#page-22-14) is used to develop novel therapies for long-term diseases like AD. Simple broad plain CNNs with a specific slice, multi-slice CNNs, and simple assembled CNNs with combinations of three classifier slices are suggested.

Additionally, they recommended monitoring the model using fewer slice regions, which improved AD and CN task performance by over 90%. In 2021, a DL architecture based on MRI brain carving was proposed [\(Zhang et al., 2022\)](#page-23-9). By fusing the attention mechanism with the slicing region, this framework has successfully increased intelligence, increasing precision from 1% to 8% compared to more sophisticated techniques. The slices were then adjusted using wavelet entropy, multi-layer perceptron, and biogeography after being selected as single slices using 3D volume data using a cuttingedge AD detection technique [\(Wang et al., 2018b\)](#page-23-10). Reduced computing costs by employing fewer fluorodeoxyglucose PET and CT images, the posterior single cortex, and the hippocampus are two regions with selective learning affected by neuropathological AD deficits [\(Kim et al., 2020\)](#page-21-18).

- (b) Voxel-based: Using statistical analysis, the extraction of voxel-based features approach removes the active value of a voxel as a feature from the preprocessed image. For evaluating the volume or density of the three tissue components, CSF, white matter, and gray matter. It is the most precise voxel-based analysis technique. To use this technology, registration is usually necessary, which involves normalizing each spatial image of the midbrain into a threedimensional space. Small changes in individual brain areas in brain tissue can be quantitatively analyzed using the voxel-based feature extraction method. To assess the validity of long-term variations in the volume of gray matter, a voxel-based longitudinal morphological measure was used [\(Takao et al., 2021\)](#page-22-15). The authors proposed a voxel-based morphometry technique [\(Zhang F. et al., 2019\)](#page-23-11) to identify AD sufferers from the healthcare control group (HCG). Although texture parameter modeling was the best method for the model, voxel-based longitudinal morphological parameter modeling was faster. However, each brain MRI scan has hundreds of thousands of voxel units. They will lead to excessive complexity if they are used directly as characteristics, resulting in the need for adequate solutions to lessen the number of characteristics. Choosing an example voxel will reduce the number of fields that need to be filled in. The authors [\(Ortiz et al., 2016\)](#page-22-16) employed the t-algorithm to select the optimal voxel for the study in order to increase and decrease the amount of calculations and the efficacy of the experimental setup.
- (c) RoI-based: forming voxels into the distortion-specified atlas yields the ROI, and part of image classification entails figuring out the region's measurement value. The RoI technique focuses on particular brain areas, which are known to be affected early in AD, rather than the whole brain. DL networks are also used to classify advertisements and extract the prospective characteristics of RoI measurements from various imaging modes. To identify hierarchical nonlinear interactions between areas [\(Karwath et al., 2017\)](#page-21-19), for each RoI, a DL model was trained and a deep auto-encoder was created. Based on the RoI of the MRI, principal component analysis (PCA) was applied to PET scans to segregate 93 volumetric features [\(Suk et al., 2016\)](#page-22-17). In Zheng et al. [\(2017\)](#page-23-4), the authors coupled the strain amplitude of MRI scans with patch-based specifications to extract the RoI. DL models were used by [Li et al. \(2015\)](#page-21-20) to extract the informational RoI from PET scans. To prevent the subdivision of RoIs from being influenced by researchers and other factors, RoIs must be established in RoI-based approaches using the long-term empirical accumulation of pertinent researchers [\(Spreng et al., 2020;](#page-22-18) [Verfaillie et al.,](#page-22-19) [2018\)](#page-22-19). Consequently, the application of this method does not produce steady performance.
- (d) Patch-based: early on in AD, structural changes are localized rather than affecting the whole brain or particular brain areas. The patch-based method looks for patterns associated with brain illness by extracting a feature from small picture patches. The main problem with the patch-based strategy is choosing the best image patch to capture both local and global information. This method has been applied in research on AD detection. In order to gather patterns associated to disease in the brain, patch-based techniques (Platero and Tobar, [2017\)](#page-22-20) may obtain features from tiny portions of images that may identify alterations in specific regions carried on by disease. Its main goal is to select patches of information and filter out areas with less information to gather both local and global characteristics. A multimodallike deep belief model (DBM) is used to represent common features from paired MRI and PET patches [\(Suk et al., 2014\)](#page-22-21). Complex underlying models can be found in MRI and PET by incorporating graders for hierarchically merging information at the patch level. A multi-instance learning model (Paul et al., [2024\)](#page-22-8) was developed using local fixes as attributes to predict MCI transition and classify AD. Patch-level subnetworks were created to boost training efficiency [\(Lian et al.,](#page-21-21) [2018\)](#page-21-21).
- (e) Summary based: the objective method of analysis is based on voxels. It treats the brain consistently without modifying its anatomical structure [\(Takao et al., 2021\)](#page-22-15). Due to its large number of voxels and disregard for local information, using voxel preselection is crucial. By employing 2D slices as input, the network can be made simpler with fewer formation parameters; however, the relationship between neighboring slices will fail. Slice approaches are more easily recognized in coronal and sagittal views; however, axial views are the most typical. The sound while scanning will more or less impact the original brain [\(Vinutha et al.,](#page-22-22) [2021\)](#page-22-22). This noise is typically brought on by the patient's mental activity, the environment around the equipment, the operators, etc. The ROI-based method is easy to teach and use in clinical practice, and it can represent the complete brain with fewer functions [\(Suk et al., 2014\)](#page-22-21). Due to this, the functionality dimension is lower compared to approaches using slices and voxels. According to the study, RoI can exploit the hippocampus, cortical thickness, and other brain parts effectively. There are a lot of unexplained regions in the brain's distribution of outlier areas, which might cause information to be lost and make it difficult to extrapolate traits. Despite the functionality extraction approach being more precise, the extraction per patch does not require RoI detection.

The above Section 3 points out that the literature discussing the benefits of diagnosing AD early is based on the opinions of experts rather than research evidence. Not many studies have been published that look at the pros and cons of diagnosing early AD. This may be because AD is only recently defined as a condition that includes both the pre-dementia and dementia stages and the way they were conducted. It's possible that some studies were missed because of the search terms that were used, even though the literature review was thorough and the terms should have been broad enough to include most publications important to a timely diagnosis of AD. Also, some of the studies looked at the possible benefits of noticing cognitive loss early without saying what caused the dementia syndromes. These studies could have included people with other types of dementia or mixed pathology. A different problem with this review is that it didn't rate the scientific quality of the studies. This means that some of them may have had a high risk of bias. Also, because the studies were so different, a full systematic review with meta-analysis could not be done, as required by the PRISMA recommendations.

Several studies looked at the possible economic benefits of diagnosing and treating Alzheimer's disease early. Early identification and treatment are likely to cost more up front, but economic modeling shows that these costs may be balanced out by savings in the long run, mostly from fewer patients having to stay in hospitals and better quality of life for both patients and caregivers. But longitudinal studies are still needed to find out how much it really costs to stop the disease from progressing from predementia to mild to serious AD and to keep people living in their own homes for longer. Because of this, more research needs to be done on the health and social care costs that come with diagnosing AD early, during the prodromal stage.

3.4 Classification methods using deep learning

As previously stated, DL is a branch of ML. Due to its automatic feature extraction, DL is more efficient than previous ML methods. Additionally, DL carries out "end-to-end learning," in which the network is given tasks and raw data. The important classifiers of DL methods are shown in [Figure 8.](#page-9-0) Compared to other DL techniques, including recurrent neural network (RNN), deep neural network (DNN) autoencoder (AE), and deep belief network (DBN), most studies relied on convolutional neural network (CNN) methods for diagnosing AD using MRI scans. [Table 4](#page-9-1) lists the advantages and disadvantages of learning and classifying AD diagnostics. The given section discusses AD classification using deep learning methods in detail.

3.4.1 Autoencoder

Feature-encoded data can be produced by compressing unlabeled datasets using unsupervised learning techniques such as AE. It reduces dimensionality and consists of two primary parts: an encoder and a decoder. The encoder converts the input data into code, or compressed data, which the decoder then rebuilds to create an output corresponding to the input. Convolution layers, or dense layers, are present in the encoder section. The encoding and decoding phases ought to be at comparable stages. The encoder increases the size of the data, but it also reduces it. The intermediary layer that reduces the representation of the incoming data is known as the bottleneck layer.

In [Liu et al. \(2014a\)](#page-21-22), the author has implemented a Softmax regression layer and sparse auto-encoders used in CNN's deep learning architecture to classify AD detection. [Payan and Montana](#page-22-23) [\(2015\)](#page-22-23) suggests a pre-formed 3D CNN for classification-based

TABLE 4 Merits and demerits of classification models.

AD detection that uses sparse auto-encoders. [Chen et al. \(2017\)](#page-20-29) suggested an auto-encoder (DSAE) that classifies data using support vector machines (SVM). SVM was outperformed by applying a DBN, a layered RBM model, and structural AD detection. An expert illustration of low-latitude information [\(Faturrahman et al., 2017\)](#page-20-30) is obtained using DL techniques as an auto-encoder of changes in hippocampal morphology.

3.4.2 DBN

The unsupervised features taken out of the stacked layer can be connected using DBN, a supervised learning method. This generative graphical framework comes from an array of restricted Boltzmann machines (RBM) that can extract information and replicate the input. The top two levels of DBN are connected in an undirected manner. DBN uses RBM to lower weight initialization, aiding the model's overfitting mitigation.

Ortiz et al. [\(2016\)](#page-22-16) put out four distinct voting methods and two deep learning-based structures. They are put into practice and contrasted, yielding a robust classification architecture that computes discriminative features in an unsupervised manner. Generally speaking, a combination of weak classifiers is more accurate than a single classifier. The suggested approach exhibits strong performance in testing for more complex cases of MCI subject classification due to the integration of two techniques. It is valid for distinguishing between NC and AD images. In [Ortiz et al.](#page-22-24) [\(2017\)](#page-22-24), the authors proposed automated anatomy labeling based on brain regions' Deep Belief Network (DBN) architecture to develop classification techniques. This approach is effective at categorizing HC and AD as well as MCI. In [Hon and Khan \(2017\)](#page-21-23), the author developed classification-based AD detection using the Inception V4 deep model.

3.4.3 DNN

A DNN consists of an input, an output, and several hidden layers. It is notable for its capacity to manage complex problems, understand the connection between input and output data, and simulate complex non-linear interactions (Ebrahimighahnavieh et al., [2020\)](#page-20-31). It considers supervised learning techniques and is used in many academic disciplines to look for input patterns that haven't been found before [\(JayaLakshmi and Kishore, 2022\)](#page-21-24). The features of the tagged images must be extracted using a substantial amount [of data for train](#page-22-26)ing [\(Noor et al., 2020\)](#page-22-25).

Qiu et al. [\(2020\)](#page-22-26) predicted the subjects' cognitive function using a deep neural network (DNN) based on the subjects' age and blood test items. To train the DNN model, they recruited 202 individuals with a range of systemic metabolic diseases. The Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) was administered to the participants. The authors also proposed that using the DNN model for younger patients may predict future cognitive impairment after the development of atherosclerosis and that the discrepancy between the predicted and ground truth MMSE scores was due to changes in atherosclerosis with aging.

In [Park et al. \(2020\)](#page-22-27), the authors have suggested a DL-based approach that uses extensive gene expression and DNA methylation data to predict AD. The most difficult problem when developing a framework for diagnosing AD based on the multi-omics dataset is combining different omics data and dealing with highly dimensional and low-sample-size data. Furthermore, the author developed a prediction model based on neural networks with deep layers that perform better than conventional machine learning methods. The prediction model and feature selection approach presented in this study [\(Park et al., 2020\)](#page-22-27) perform better than traditional algorithms for machine learning that use conventional dimension reduction methods. The author also demonstrated how

integrating gene expression and DNA methylation data could improve prediction accuracy.

In [Basher et al. \(2021\)](#page-20-32), the authors have developed a technique to detect AD using structural magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data that has been slice-wise volumetrically extracted from the left and right hippocampi. The suggested approach combines a convolutional neural network (CNN) model and a deep neural network (DNN) model. A two-stage ensemble, Hough-CNN, has been used to automatically locate the left and right hippocampi. Three-dimensional patches with 80 \times 80 \times 80 voxels are extracted using the localized hippocampus positions. Then, the 2-D slices are divided from the 3-D patches using axial, sagittal, and coronal perspectives. Volumetric information is extracted from each slice using the preprocessed 2-D patches and a discrete volume estimation convolutional neural network (DVE-CNN) model. The classification network has been trained and tested using the derived volumetric features. Based on the derived volumetric features ascribed to the left and right hippocampi, the suggested method has obtained average weighted classification accuracies of 94:82% and 94:02%, respectively. Furthermore, the area under the curve (AUC) values of 92:54% and 90:62%, respectively, were obtained for the left and right hippocampi.

In [Wang et al. \(2023\)](#page-22-28), the author examines three popular heatmap techniques: guided gradient CAM (GGC), integrated gradients (IG), and layer-wise relevance propagation (LRP). By computing overlap with a ground-truth map from a sizable meta-analysis that merged 77 voxel-based morphometry (VBM) investigations conducted independently from ADNI, the authors could derive exact quantitative measurements. By creating heatmaps using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) trained on T1 MRI scans from the ADNI data set and contrasting them with brain maps that matched support vector machine (SVM) activation patterns, the authors investigated this work [\(Wang et al., 2023\)](#page-22-28).

3.4.4 RNN

RNN addresses time-series or sequence-based challenges. Utilized storage and hidden states are the two main advantages. An example of an RNN design comprising an input, a hidden layer, and a layer for output is displayed. Recalling reliable knowledge regarding the problem sequence is facilitated by the secret state. Unlike feedforward networks, RNNs share identical parameters throughout all network layers, another trait that sets them apart. There are many parameters in the later networks, such as the feedforward networks, because each network node has a different set of parameters [\(DiPietro and Hager, 2020\)](#page-20-33).

Common RNN architectures include gated recurrent units (GRUs) and long short-term memory (LSTM). Maintaining any inaccuracy that arises throughout the many layers and timeframes is the primary goal of the LSTM [\(Nicholson and Gibson, 2018\)](#page-22-29). The hidden layer has cells with three gates: an input, an output, and a forget gate. These gates store data and control information flow to predict the network's production [\(Chen et al., 2018\)](#page-20-5). This one cell helps the model decide what to store and when to change information through the gates. GRUs have two gates: an update gate and a reset gate. They operate in a concealed state. They decide what data is kept and for how long [\(Ruiz et al., 2020\)](#page-22-30). In numerous jobs, its performance surpasses LSTM's [\(Alom et al., 2019;](#page-20-3) [Akkus et al.,](#page-19-0) [2017\)](#page-19-0).

In [Hong et al. \(2019\)](#page-21-25), the author suggests a prediction model based on LSTM. Consequently, an LSTM network with fully connected layers and activated layers is built in order to encode the temporal association between attributes and the ensuing stage of Alzheimer's disease. The model considers the temporal data gathered from the instances. The authors [\(Liu et al., 2020\)](#page-21-26) have described a technique that combines an LSTM network with a multi-time sparse smooth network to identify early and late MCIs using multi-time points of resting-state fMRI. Specifically, resting-state fMRI data obtained across various time points is used to construct a sparse, smooth brain network. Features are then extracted and longitudinally analyzed using an attention-based stacking bidirectional LSTM.

The authors [\(Rajasree and Brintha Rajakumari, 2024\)](#page-22-31) developed a four-phase method for early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease: pre-processing, feature extraction, feature selection, and classification. Preprocessing involves data normalization and cleansing. The preprocessed data is then used to recover characteristics such as "Weighted Geometric Mean Principal Component Analysis (WGM-PCA), statistical features, higherorder statistical features, and weighted modified correlation-based features." The most pertinent attributes are selected using the Improved Attribute Ranker (IAR). Additionally, a deep learning model based on an ensemble of classifiers that includes optimized "Bi-GRU, Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP), and Quantum Neural Network (QDNN)" represents the disease categorization phase.

3.4.5 CNN

A convolutional neural network is one of the most effective methods for classifying and recognizing images in neural networks. It comprises a classifier layer, layers for pooling, activation layers, convolution layers, and fully linked layers. An essential layer that retrieves the feature maps for a given input image size without requiring a learned filter (or kernel) is the convolution layer. The activation function, which decides whether or not to stimulate the cell, is then followed. It transforms the input nonlinearly to learn and carry out increasingly tricky tasks. Activation functions come in many varieties to construct feature maps, including sigmoid, Tanh, and ReLU. Layers of pooling retain the most significant features while reducing dimensionality. They fit the definition of downscalers. Every neuron in the current layer is connected to every other neuron in the preceding layer via a fully connected layer. The classifier layer then chooses the label or class with the highest probability. A few papers for AD detection using CNN are discussed below.

In [Andersen et al. \(2021\)](#page-20-34), the authors presented an interpretable deep learning technique that uses multimodal inputs such as age, gender, MRI, and Mini-Mental State Examination score to identify distinct Alzheimer's disease signs. The framework connected a fully convolutional network, which creates precise, understandable visualizations of individual Alzheimer's disease risk en route to accurate diagnosis, to a multilayer perceptron. This network develops high-resolution maps of illness likelihood from local brain anatomy.

To recognize AD [\(Aderghal et al., 2016\)](#page-19-3), the author has applied an eight-layered 2D CNN to MRI data in the sagittal view. The activation mechanisms sigmoid, leaky ReLU, and ReLU were tested along with three distinct pooling functions (average, max, and stochastic). The most significant outcomes for image classification came from the leaky activation function of ReLU with max-pooling. In 2D CNNs, convolutions are only used to analyze features from the spatial dimensions of the 2D feature maps. A longstanding issue in the medical industry is the scanning of image samples.

In [Wang et al. \(2018a\)](#page-23-12), the author, with the help of the ReLU leak and experiment, constructs an 8-layer CNN with 97.65% accuracy. The pre-formed VGG-16 was used as a functionality extractor by [Janghel and Rathore \(2021\)](#page-21-27) to categorize AD, CN, and MCI. The VGG-inspired network was introduced as a backbone in the paper to increase the dataset [\(Jain et al., 2019\)](#page-21-28). Additionally, the VGG-inspired network has the convolution block attention module. The accuracy of the migration technique employed in the research [\(Wang S. H. et al., 2021\)](#page-23-13) to locate AD within the ResNet network was 98.37%. Thanks to neuroimaging's ability to offer spatial correlations between the pictures, 3D CNN technology is also frequently used in AD diagnosis.

In [Ding et al. \(2019\)](#page-20-35), the author employed an Inception v3 network tested at 10% and formed on 90% of the ADNI data. Processing 18 forms of non-fluoro PET images is done using the grid method, which is extracted from the ADNI dataset. To locate brain voxels, researchers employed Otsu's threshold approach. Using an 8-batch size and a 0.0001 learning rate, the Adam Optimizer trained the training model. It comprises three classes: AD, MCI, and CN. The suggested idea achieves 82.5% specificity and 100% sensitivity. The paper [\(Liu et al., 2018\)](#page-21-29) discusses CNN 3D architecture for deep, multi-instance learning based on landmarks for diagnosing brain diseases. Performance is significantly better than the conventional Alex Net system.

An ensemble of 3D densely connected convolutional networks (3D-DenseNets) for diagnosing AD and MCI has been proposed by the authors in the paper [\(Wang H. et al., 2019\)](#page-23-14). The authors have arbitrarily altered hyperparameters around the ideal value to create base networks with various topologies. To optimize the flow of information, dense connections—where each layer is closely coupled with every other layer—were first introduced. Then, 3D-DenseNets with various designs were combined using a weighted-based fusion technique. By altering the hyperparameter initializations and architecture, a base 3D-DenseNet was built. A weighted-based fusion technique was employed to integrate the basis classifiers. Accuracy was gradually increased using the ensemble model instead of merely taking the network's forecast average.

In [Chitradevi and Prabha \(2020\)](#page-20-22), the authors divided the brain into smaller sections, including the gray matter, white matter, and hippocampus, using various optimization methods, including the Cuckoo Search, Gray Wolf Optimization, Particle Swarm Optimization, and Genetic Algorithm. Two-hundred images were received from the hospital and processed using various methods, including head stripping, quality improvement, and contrast amplification. After segmentation, an area is validated against a field truth image to determine segmentation performance. The Jaccard Index, Tanimoto, similarity of volumes, structure

similarity index metrics, and feature similarity index metrics are all assessed as part of the validation process. CNN has specifically used feature extraction and classification tasks using the AlexNet model. Compared to other optimization techniques, Gray Wolf Optimization offers the best performance, reaching a high precision of 95%.

In [Nawaz et al. \(2021\)](#page-22-32), the authors have implemented three models to determine their accuracy. The first model involved retrieving handmade features from the images during pre-processing, then classification using the closest k-neighbor and Random Forest. The second model was constructed using CNN deep learning based on the preprocessed data set. Classifiers such as random forest, nearest k-neighbors, and vector support machines were evaluated. The third model, AlexNet, was used to derive profound characteristics. Upon examination, the model with deep features demonstrated the highest classification accuracy using a carrier vector machine. Notably, vector support machines showed the highest accuracy, at 99.21%, followed by k-nearest neighbors with 57.32% accuracy and random forests with 93.97%. [Liu et al. \(2018\)](#page-21-29) used a realtime method based on deep features to identify the phases of Alzheimer's disease.

In [Kundaram and Pathak \(2021\)](#page-21-30), data from the ADNI were obtained, and then the images were pre-processed and scaled. Disease classification and formation take place using CNN models. The template used 9,540 photos from the three image categorization classes (AD, MCI, and CN). The CNN model produced three maximum pooling layers, three layers of convolution, four ReLU activation layers, and numerous optimizers, such as Adam, Adagrad, Nadam, Adadelta, and Rmsprop. Adagrad achieves the best precision with the slightest loss by contrasting several optimizers with the suggested framework. On the ADNI dataset, the proposed model is 98.57% accurate.

Lee et al. [\(2019\)](#page-21-31) employed AlexNet to increase the overall accuracy of categorizing AD with success. Despite outperforming the bulk of conventional characteristic extraction techniques, CNN's extended training period necessitates substantial visual data. In [Huang et al. \(2020\)](#page-21-3), the authors used fast and dense connections to accurately classify medical images, feeding the densenet's input the feature map generated by the improved PCANet.

In [Marzban et al. \(2020\)](#page-22-33), the author used convoluted neuron networks and diffusion tensor images to diagnose AD detection. To expand the dataset, the authors presented the VGG-inspired network as a backbone [\(Wang J. J. et al., 2021\)](#page-23-15). They also incorporated the convolution block attention module into a VGGinspired network.

In ResNet-50, the spatial transformer networks (STN) and the nonlocal attention mechanism were added to address the issue of CNN losing local information [\(Sun et al., 2021\)](#page-22-34). The most relevant attention modules may be quickly implemented into the current network architecture. [Liang and Gu \(2020\)](#page-21-32) proposed a method that yielded excellent results in classifying and recognizing AD through a few annotations using a core network with a focus strategy. In [Katabathula et al. \(2021\)](#page-21-33), the author used the hippocampus MRI data, a 3D light array model with visual and overall form representations that can be used to predict AD detection.

A model is proposed [\(Pei et al., 2022\)](#page-22-35) to use long-range addiction mechanisms based on a network of convolutional neurons to diagnose Alzheimer's disease. [Ajagbe et al. \(2021\)](#page-19-4) proposes deep CNN (DCNN) methods for multiple AD classifications using MRI. Many developed CNN models are capable of accurate AD detection, including VGG Net, Alex Net [\(Zhang Y. D. et al., 2019;](#page-23-16) [Lu et al., 2019;](#page-21-34) [Wang S. H. et al.,](#page-23-17) [2019\)](#page-23-17), ResNet [\(Alotaibi and Alotaibi, 2020;](#page-20-36) [Firdaus et al., 2018\)](#page-21-35), DenseNet, and Inception [\(Satapathy, 2020\)](#page-22-36). Co-investigators can establish a proprietary architecture based on [Puttagunta and Ravi](#page-22-37) [\(2021\)](#page-22-37); [Yang and Mohammed \(2020\)](#page-23-18). Recently, several authors have developed different techniques for detecting AD. Faisal and Kwon [\(2022\)](#page-20-37) used automated mild cognitive problems and wholebrain MRI to identify AD based on numerous investigations; CNN is the most efficient deep learning model.

Meng and Zhang [\(2023\)](#page-22-38) suggested the Dual Fusion Cluster Graph Convolution Network (DFCGCN) model, which integrates the Cluster GCN in series with one adjacency matrix, two feature extraction channels, and one. The decomposition-fusion framework [\(Zuo et al., 2023\)](#page-23-19) decomposes the feature space into the union of uniform and unique spaces for each modality, then adaptively fuses the decomposed features to learn MCI representation. The flattened, sparse vectors can retrieve advanced information from brain imaging by downsampling them via graph pooling. Specifically, two feature extraction channels, one adjacency matrix, and one cluster GCN in series are combined in the Dual Fusion Cluster Graph Convolution Network (DFCGCN) model [\(Prasath and Sumathi, 2024\)](#page-22-39). The flattened sparse vectors can retrieve sophisticated features by sampling brain imaging data with graph pooling. The Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI2) sMRI image collection was utilized by the authors of this work [\(Ravi et al., 2024\)](#page-22-40) to quantify and categorize the AD stage. The author concentrated on using various DL algorithms to classify AD MRI images into multiple classes. The author suggested the most effective pre-trained model to forecast the patient's stage in this work reliably. Visualization methods like Saliency Map and Grad-CAM are applied to the model that best explains the image's region of focus, allowing for the prediction of the image's class.

To characterize brain patterns seen in 2D slices of MRI images, [Avots et al. \(2024\)](#page-20-38) implemented the performance of 16 histogrambased image texture descriptors and features taken from 18 pretrained CNN. The main goal is to find this assignment's most helpful feature types. The initiative known as the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) provided the MRI dataset that was utilized to derive the features. This paper used five binary machine learning approaches to classify the data after computing characteristics on 2D axial, coronal, and sagittal slices. Data collection should be done using an autonomous, distinct, and efficient AD detection framework that directs the different AD detection techniques. This would facilitate enhancing the models' [capacity to gene](#page-23-20)ralize the subsequent datasets.

Zuo et al. [\(2024\)](#page-23-20) introduce a PALH model for predicting faulty brain connections using triple-modality medical images. An adversarial technique estimates anatomical knowledge's previous distribution to assist multimodal representation learning. An additional pairwise collaborative discriminator structure is used to narrow representation distribution differences. To fuse learned

representations and establish high-order interactions inside and between multimodal images, the hypergraph perceptual network is designed. [Zong et al. \(2024\)](#page-23-21) developed a diffusion-based brain network pipeline for end-to-end brain network building. Using diffusion, the brain region-aware module (BRAM) correctly locates brain regions without subjective parameter selection. DGCL then uses graph contrastive learning to improve brain connections by reducing individual differences in redundant connections unrelated to diseases, improving brain network consistency within a group.

In [Pan et al. \(2024\)](#page-22-41), the authors implemented a decoupling module that divides a brain network into two parts: sparse graphs representing neuronal circuits influencing AD progression and a supplement graph with minimal impact on AD. Additionally, the adversarial technique guides the decoupling module to extract ADrelated features. [Table 5](#page-13-0) provides a comparison of a variety of studies that diagnose AD using a variety of AD approaches.

Upon reviewing the latest literature on the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, it was found that to enhance overall performance and increase diagnostic accuracy through a computer program, the following considerations must be addressed: A significant problem is the acquisition of comprehensive and balanced data pertaining to Alzheimer's disease. Data augmentation and preprocessing methods can enhance the overall state-of-theart performance. Many recently implemented approaches and techniques connected to deep learning are striving to address the previously described issues. All studies possess both advantages and disadvantages. This section addressed only five strategies of deep learning, despite the existence of numerous approaches, focusing on the most prevalent one for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease. This section examines five datasets and the existing literature from prior years of research.

4 Data set

Even though AD detection is challenging, researchers can use a variety of datasets and software packages to aid in their work. The DL model can be implemented using software packages like PyTorch, Keras, TensorFlow, Torch, and others. Publicly accessible biomarkers are provided via datasets [\(Popuri et al.,](#page-22-42) [2020\)](#page-22-42), like the ADNI, the open access series of imaging studies (OASIS), the Australian imaging biomarkers and lifestyle study of aging (AIBL), and MICAAI stands for medical image computing and computerized assistance intervention, and the Internet brain segmentation repository (IBSR). [Table 6](#page-16-0) shows the several datasets that DL techniques were utilized to identify AD.

4.1 ADNI

Nearly 90% of studies use ADNI, the most often used dataset in research, alone or in conjunction with other studies. The current go-to data source for studies on AD is ADNI. It was established in 2004 by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Aging with the goal of compiling and organizing data on AD patients, tracking their progression, detecting pathogenesis-related alterations and causes, and finally discovering the origins of the

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TABLE 6 Various datasets used for AD detection.

disease and developing a therapy. The four stages of ADNI data are now separated into ADNI-GO, ADNI-1, ADNI-2, and ADNI-3, according to the authors of [Dimitriadis et al. \(2018\)](#page-20-46). In comparison with ADNI-GO and ADNI-1, which are baseline data, the majority of the information in ADNI-2 and ADNI-3 is monitoring and newly added modal data. The basis of AD is primarily genetic.

To help researchers better understand the genetics behind illness causation, enabling the linking of genomes with neuroimaging and medical evidence is one of ADNI's main objectives. To monitor the onset of MCI and early AD, the main objective of ADNI is to ascertain whether ongoing MRI, PET, and biological samples may be used. Through the Laboratory on Neuroimaging (LONI), Image and Data Archive (IDA), a safe research data repository, all ADNI data are accessible without restriction. To conduct research, disseminate knowledge, or organize clinical research trials, interested scientists may have access to ADNI imaging, clinical, genomic, and biomarker data. Access is subject to compliance with the ADNI data use agreement and the policies indicated for the publications. Through the IDA, data from several dementia studies that supplement ADNI are also accessible. Among them are the ADNI project and the AIBL study, which examine the impact of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder on AD in veterans.

4.2 OASIS

OASIS-3 and OASIS-4 were recently provided by OASIS, an organization that aims to give the scientific community open access to neuroimaging datasets. Pre-published data for OASIScross-sectional [\(Marcus et al., 2007\)](#page-21-47) and OASIS-longitudinal [\(Marcus et al., 2010\)](#page-21-48) have been utilized in hypothesis-driven data analysis, neuroanatomical atlases, and segmentation algorithm development. The OASIS-3 dataset for normal aging and AD is a longitudinal multimodal neuroimaging, clinical, cognitive, and biomarker dataset. OASIS-4 contains MR, clinical, cognitive, and biomarker data for people who complained about their memory [\(Khagi et al., 2019\)](#page-21-49).

The OASIS initiative, which comprises two large datasets, aims to provide open brain MRI data, according to the authors of [Prasath and Sumathi \(2024\)](#page-22-39). The cross-sectional data collection comprised 416 people aged 18–96 with MRI results (people with dementia who are young, middle-aged, and old). For each MRI

scan, a minimum of three to four high-resolution-to-noise ratio T1 weighted images were obtained. Intracranial volume measurements and total brain capacity were employed to investigate AD and normal aging [\(Bachman et al., 2014\)](#page-20-47). The collection also contained information on 20 individuals who had dementia. The xnat.org central The OASIS datasets provide the public with free access to a substantial neuroimaging and processed imaging data source spanning a broad range of demographic, cognitive, and genetic characteristics, together with a user-friendly platform for usage in.

4.3 AIBL

The largest study, the AIBL initiative, uses PET scans. Participants also undergo a variety of other scans, such as a PET to evaluate brain function, a series of MRI contrasts for anatomical characterization (T1w, PDw, and T2w), the structural integrity of the white matter, and pathological imaging, in addition to the PET. MRI is a potent technique for capturing various brain tissues with excellent anatomical detail. Because MRI can evaluate the cortical atrophy linked to neurodegeneration, it has emerged as a crucial method for diagnosing AD. The accurate delineation of the outer cortical mantel is made possible, particularly by relatively quick T1w scans that provide excellent contrast between white and gray matter.

AIBL aims to pinpoint the biomarkers, cognitive characteristics, and lifestyle and health variables that impact the development of symptomatic AD. This includes biopsies, PET, MRI, clinical and cognitive tests, and lifestyle assessment (Martins et al., [2018\)](#page-22-56). In the dataset, about 2,000 people's personal details are contained. The data was gathered using a variety of clinical procedures and surveys. Over a 10-year period, the entire data set was obtained, which included patient records for 582 normal individuals, 142 AD, and 220 MCI. Furthermore, the baseline cohort includes data on 786 healthy individuals, 133 MCI, and 211 AD. The recruitment times, gender, and age were used as proxy data.

4.4 IBSR

Initial funding for the IBSR came from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Researchers from Boston University, Draper Laboratory, North Eastern University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School use this award to research MR brain segmentation. Since the old website is no longer fully functional [\(Martins et al., 2018\)](#page-22-56), all data will be made available at the respective website address.

After positional adjustment, the three-dimensional coronal T1 weighted medical examination is the MRI data. Often referred to as "outlines," the segmentation files result from labor-intensive, semi-automated processes that require many hours of expertise from trained individuals. While manual segmentations aren't quite "ground truth," they are a good place to start when contrasting different automated segmentation methods.

The IBSR offers carefully guided findings for expert segmentation and data from magnetic resonance brain images [\(Fatima et al., 2022\)](#page-20-48). Its objective is to further segmentation technique analysis and progress. The ground truth is made up of 20 real T1-weighted (T1w) MRI pictures with carefully focused expert segmentation findings. Additionally, each MRI volume includes ∼60 3.1 mm resolution coronal T1w slices and 18 1.5 mm resolution cortical T1w scans (slice gap between succeeding slices). With voxels separated at frequencies of 0.84 \times 0.84 \times 1.5 mm 3 to $0.94 \times 0.94 \times 1.5$ mm³ to $1.0 \times 1.0 \times 1.5$ mm³, the topic volumes in this dataset have a size of 256 \times 256 \times 128 pixels. A manual division of 32 noncritical structures has also been performed.

4.5 MICCAI

The main objective of the MICCAI BraTS'21 challenge is to segment intrinsically heterogeneous brain glioma sub-regions in MRI scans using multi-institutional foundation multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging (mpMRI) data. A significant pool of routine multi-institutional clinically acquired mpMRI scans of gliomas with a pathologically verified diagnosis and accessible O(6)-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase promoter methylation status was used to generate the testing, training, and validation. Specifically, the data set used for this year's challenge has received a significant addition of routinely collected mpMRI images since BraTS'20. The validation, training, and testing datasets contain information about a single subject; experienced neuroradiologists produce and approve ground truth annotations of the tumor sub-regions to quantitatively evaluate the predicted tumor segmentations of Task 1. Clinical data is used to assess Task 2.

The MICCAI-2012 dataset [\(Landman and Warfield, 2012\)](#page-21-50) includes 134 manually segmented structures from 35 T1w MRI volumes received from Scotts Valley, California-based Neuro-Metrics, Inc. The segmentation of tissue, tumors, and structures is its principal application. In 2012, this dataset began with 80 authentic and artificial examples. The amount of training and testing data has grown over time. Subcortical structure segmentation is accomplished using the MICCAI 2012 challenge in multi-atlas labeling. The study simulated various methods for accurately recognizing AD using brain MRI data. The ablation study considers how each contribution affects the effectiveness of the measures. The performance metrics of the suggested methods are contrasted with those of alternative strategies in the following section.

5 Performance measures

DL classification problems are frequently validated by sensitivity, specificity, precision, accuracy, Matthews Correlation Coefficient (MCC), F1 Score, Fine Motor Impairment (FMI), and comparing several models using receiver operating characteristics (ROC) and area under the curve (AUC) in particular to assess the effectiveness of recommendation systems or to comprehend generalizability [\(Luque et al., 2019\)](#page-21-51).

Sensitivity: The classifier's ability to identify positive samples is enhanced by false negatives (Fn) , the proportion of total positive samples the model interprets as true positives (Tp) .

$$
Sensitivity = \frac{Tp}{(Tp + Fn)}
$$

Specificity: The classifier's ability to identify negative samples is represented by the percentage of false positives (Fp) samples that the model determines to be true negatives (Tn) .

$$
Specificity = \frac{Tn}{(Tn + Fp)}
$$

Precision is the percentage of all findings that are deemed to be positive research.

$$
Precision = \frac{Tp}{(Tp + Fp)}
$$

MCC: The MCC indicator is more accurate because it considers Tp, Tn, Fp, and Fn. It is frequently used to assess categorization performance while working with dichotomies.

$$
MCC = \frac{((Tp \times Tn) - (Fp \times Fn))}{\sqrt{((Tp + Fp) \times (Tp + Fn) \times (Tn + Fp) \times (Tn + Fn))}}
$$

Accuracy: This represents the proportion of correct predictions to all other predictions.

$$
Accuracy = \frac{(Tp + Tn)}{(Tp + Tn + Fp + Fn)}
$$

Loss: For binary classification, apply binary cross-entropy loss, where y is the actual value and p is the predicted value.

$$
\log (M) = y \log (p) + (l - y) \log (l - p)
$$

where l is the loss value and M is the number of classes.

F1 score: This represents the harmonic mean of recall and precision. Its range is between 0 and 1. The model's performance improves with increasing the F1 score.

$$
F1 = \frac{(2 \times Tp)}{(2 \times Tp + Fp + Fn)}
$$

FMI refers to the geometric mean of the recall and precision rates. It functions as an external indicator for measuring the performance of clustering. Higher values lead to better clustering outcomes.

$$
FMI = \frac{Tp}{\sqrt[2]{((Tp + Fp) \times (Tp + Fn))}}
$$

ROC: The curve for the operating characteristic of the receiver. The capacity of a classifier to differentiate between samples can be easily determined at a certain threshold. It needs to be more responsive to changes in the distribution of classes, simple, and intuitive. A comprehensive representation of the performance of a diagnostic approach is provided by the ROC curve, which precisely illustrates the relationship among the specificity and sensitivity of a particular analytical method and combines the two. The Tp vs. Fp plot for various thresholds in the interval [0, 1] provides an appropriate limit threshold for the predictive model.

The confusion matrix provides a matrix as output and serves as the foundation for other metrics that depend on the Tp , Tn , Fp , and Fn metrics. It is a comprehensive representation of the model's performance. The following section discusses the various challenges of an early diagnosis of AD.

6 Discussions

Predicting the transition from MCI to AD and identifying the initial stage of patients with MCI are more beneficial for the diagnostic work of AD. When it comes to efficiency, DL is superior to traditional ML. The efficacy of the AD detection technique is highly dependent on the accuracy of the neuroimaging. RoIs and patch-based strategies are critical. Combining genetic data, cognitive test scores, CSF biomarkers, and traits extracted from neuroimaging models can also lead to accurate classification. The research analyzed in this paper demonstrates that DL has been heavily used in AD detection. According to medical imaging studies, CNN end-to-end training has emerged as the favored method for medical imaging in recent years [\(AbdulAzeem et al.,](#page-19-6) [2021\)](#page-19-6). Even though DL techniques have produced encouraging findings, AD diagnosis is still quite difficult. While the proliferation of learning methodologies and the expansion of data have limited harmonization in survey and data gathering, insufficient data samples may still cause issues with generalization. This issue can be remedied by using data creation techniques to generate new images from the current methodology [\(Arbabyazd et al., 2021\)](#page-20-49). The investigation in this field will continue despite the expansion of the dataset, as its efficacy remains uncertain.

In addition to this, image annotation [\(Choi et al., 2020\)](#page-20-23) is another problem. Radiologists should annotate the image data provided for certain tasks when tagging medical images. The classification process is very time-consuming. This problem has been handled through supervised learning, and the requirement for expert experience has diminished; nevertheless, further research is still needed. Though algorithms for DL have produced amazing achievements, the area of AD detection still faces a number of challenges and limitations. A detailed description of the DL approach, benchmarking platform, and additional components is necessary in order to identify the optimal combination of several biomarkers [\(Meyer, 2018\)](#page-22-57). Whether it can improve medical efficacy

and reduce medical expenses is still debated. The primary limitation is the lack of research on image analysis of AD histology [\(Irankhah,](#page-21-52) [2020\)](#page-21-52). Enhancing the DL approach is one of the most significant advances in improving these systems [\(Fu'Adah et al., 2021;](#page-21-53) Helaly et al., [2022\)](#page-21-54). It summarizes the basic principles and information related to the provided survey.

6.1 Research gaps

This research study examines diverse methodologies to tackle the identified research issues in order to combat this global sickness. Investigation into effective and precise early detection of Alzheimer's disease is essential to facilitate timely treatment alternatives. Automated methods are necessary to manage the substantial volume of patients' medical imaging data. The fundamental etiology of the disease remains unidentified, with the exception of a limited number of family instances attributable to genetic mutation. At present, there is an absence of therapeutic interventions for the disease, necessitating a solution for the substantial amounts of imaging data required to manage a significant number of patients. A crucial viewpoint is the examination of longitudinal data. Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative condition that develops gradually, and documenting the dynamic alterations is essential for comprehending its progression.

6.2 Challenges

Moreover, it is essential to tackle the obstacles related to restricted data accessibility in Alzheimer's disease research. Deep learning methodologies frequently necessitate substantial quantities of labeled data for peak efficacy. Nevertheless, AD datasets are generally constrained by the challenges and expenses associated with data acquisition.

6.3 Future directions

Future research should concentrate on advancing strategies to improve the transparency and explainability of deep learning models in Alzheimer's disease diagnosis and prediction. Interpretability in medical applications is essential for fostering clinician trust and acceptance, as well as ensuring the ethical implementation of AI technologies. It is essential to include interpretable elements, such as attention mechanisms or saliency maps, into deep learning frameworks for Alzheimer's disease analysis. It is advisable to establish uniform benchmarks and evaluation criteria for deep learning activities linked to Alzheimer's disease to foster collaboration and expedite advancements in the field. This would enable equitable comparisons among various models and promote the repeatability of research results. Moreover, the dissemination of meticulously curated and annotated datasets helps mitigate the challenges posed by data scarcity and promote the advancement of innovative algorithms and approaches.

To address this difficulty, researchers may investigate transfer learning methodologies, wherein pre-trained models on analogous tasks or datasets are refined for Alzheimer's disease analysis. Furthermore, data augmentation techniques can artificially enhance the volume and diversity of accessible data, facilitating the development of more robust and generalizable models. Deep learning models ought to persist in investigating the integration of diverse data sources, including neuroimaging, genetics, and clinical information. Utilizing the complimentary information from different modalities can improve the precision of Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment response prediction. The integration of multimodal data can yield a more holistic understanding of the condition and facilitate the formulation of individualized treatment approaches. Deep learning architectures possess significant potential for enhancing our comprehension of Alzheimer's disease and refining diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. Integrating various modalities, evaluating longitudinal data, resolving data restrictions, improving interpretability, and promoting collaboration can facilitate the development of more accurate, efficient, and interpretable deep learning models in Alzheimer's disease research. These initiatives possess the capacity to revolutionize clinical practice and aid in the formulation of individualized and targeted interventions for those at risk of or impacted by Alzheimer's disease.

7 Conclusion

Because AD is hard to diagnose in its early stages, researchers are always searching for new approaches. This survey's primary topics are the pre-treatment approach, the technique for identifying traits associated with AD, and the application of deep models to AD diagnosis. This evaluation examined CNN's use in classifying AD, the datasets that were made publicly available, the neuroimaging modalities that were available, the pre-processing methods that were employed, and the data that were fed into the CNN. MRI is the modality most frequently used to classify AD. When complementary data from various modalities is used, multiple modalities' AD categorization results are more accurate than those of a single modality. Compared to slice-based and voxel-based technologies, the methods for managing patch and RoI data are significantly more efficient. Compared to other DL models, CNN is the most widely used and significant classification technique in this industry. The overfitting problem with the data set remains to be resolved, though. Study regions in medical images evolve

due to self-monitoring and unsupervised operations brought on by a lack of medical information. Even though there are still many unanswered problems about how to classify AD, DL technology is still quite successful. There are situations when a person can detect AD better than a medical practitioner. A scientific study has also focused on using DL algorithms to identify MCI signs in MRI brain scans to halt the disease's growth and protect human life for a better, more peaceful future.

Author contributions

IN: Conceptualization, Investigation, Software, Methodology, Resources, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. GL: Conceptualization, Supervision, Validation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

Funding

The author(s) declare that no financial support was received for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank VIT for providing support and infrastructure for carrying out this research work.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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