The Journal of Computational Science and Engineering (TJCSE)
ISSN 2583-9055 (Media Online)
Vol 3, No 7, July 2025
PP 104-111

Smart Health Navigator: Enhancing Patient Safety and Access

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Abstract

The Smart Health Navigator utilizes cutting-edge artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies to create a user-friendly platform for managing healthcare. This system consists of two primary components: the Symptom Checker and the Drug Interaction Checker. The Symptom Checker enables users to enter their symptoms and receive comprehensive information, including potential diagnoses and details about nearby medical facilities. On the other hand, the Drug Interaction Checker assesses the interactions between two medications, classifying them as major, moderate, minor, or unknown. By tackling issues such as diverse symptom presentations and intricate medication schedules, this solution provides a reliable and accessible alternative to conventional healthcare consultations. With a focus on user convenience and inclusivity, this project is especially advantageous for individuals who have limited access to healthcare services or those in need of prompt medical guidance.

Keywords:
AI in Healthcare, Symptom Checker, Drug Interaction Checker, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Patient Safety, Healthcare Accessibility, Human-Computer Interaction.

1. Introduction

The healthcare sector is undergoing significant transformation, with an increasing focus on making services more accessible and empowering patients. The Smart Health Navigator is designed to boost user involvement by offering a dependable health assessment tool that reduces the necessity for traditional healthcare consultations for minor health issues. Utilizing Natural Language Processing (NLP) and machine learning, the Symptom Checker analyzes symptoms reported by users, delivering comprehensive descriptions, potential diagnoses, and suggestions for nearby healthcare facilities. Simultaneously, the Drug Interaction Checker examines medication inputs to identify possible harmful interactions, classifying them as major, moderate, minor, or unknown. This initiative aims to enhance healthcare accessibility and safety, particularly for individuals with disabilities or those living in remote locations.The main goals of this research include developing an AI-driven Symptom Checker capable of recognizing user-reported symptoms and suggesting possible diagnoses, improving medication safety through a Drug Interaction Checker that detects potential adverse interactions among reported medications, and enhancing user experience by creating an intuitive interface that promotes accessibility and engagement. Furthermore, the project aspires to optimize the system for real-time performance, reducing processing delays to ensure efficient symptom analysis and interaction detection, while maintaining compatibility across various platforms, including web browsers and mobile applications.

Research Objectives and Methodology

The main objective of the Smart Health Navigator project are as follows:

1. Development of an AI-Driven Symptom Checker: To develop a strong Symptom Checker that correctly identifies user-reported symptoms and provides possible diagnoses, thus improving patient safety and accessibility to healthcare.

2. Medication Safety Improvement: To create a Drug Interaction Checker that can efficiently identify possible harmful interactions between reported drugs, categorizing them as major, moderate, minor, or unknown to alert users to the hazards posed by their drug regimens.

3. Facilitation of User Experience: To create an easy-to-use and intuitive interface that is easy to access and use, allowing users to easily use the system and receive prompt feedback.

4. Optimization for Real-Time Performance: To provide the system with an efficient operation and as little processing lag as possible, which enables real-time symptom analysis and interaction detection across a variety of platforms such as web browsers and mobile apps.

5. Inclusivity as a Priority: To cater specifically to people with disabilities or those from rural areas, thus enhancing overall healthcare accessibility.

2. Literature Survey

The research article "Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Anticipating Challenges to Ethics, Privacy, and Bias" by Jiang et al. (2017) examines the impact of AI on healthcare, stressing the necessity for ethical considerations and the risk of bias within AI models. The study underscores the importance of creating robust AI systems that prioritize patient safety and accessibility.

In the paper "Drug Interaction Databases: A Review of Current Resources," Bennett and O'Connor (2019) highlight the critical role of drug interaction databases in maintaining medication safety. This research assesses various resources and emphasizes the necessity for accurate and current information to avert adverse drug interactions.

Additionally, the article "Natural Language Processing in Healthcare: A Review" by Miller and Dyer (2019) offers insights into the use of NLP in healthcare, particularly its application in symptom analysis and patient communication. The study points out the potential of NLP to enhance user engagement and improve health outcomes.

3. Methodology

Symptom Checker

The Symptom Checker serves as a vital element of the Smart Health Navigator, aimed at helping users evaluate potential health issues based on the symptoms they report. This system employs a predefined Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) model, which excels in sequence prediction tasks, making it particularly adept at analyzing the sequential nature of symptom reporting.

Technologies Used:

The Symptom Checker is developed using Flask as its backend framework, which simplifies the creation of web applications by offering a straightforward and flexible interface for managing user requests. The RNN model is trained on an extensive dataset that includes symptoms and their corresponding diagnoses, enabling it to identify patterns and make predictions based on user inputs. Its architecture is specifically designed to handle sequences of symptoms, allowing for accurate predictions even when symptoms are reported in different orders or combinations.

To preprocess user inputs, Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques are utilized, transforming natural language symptom descriptions into structured data suitable for analysis by the RNN. Methods such as tokenization and named entity recognition are employed to improve

The Journal of Computational Science and Engineering (TJCSE)
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the system's comprehension of user queries. The user interface is crafted to be user-friendly, enabling individuals to easily enter their symptoms and receive prompt feedback.

Functionality:

When users submit their symptoms, the Symptom Checker processes the information using the RNN model to generate potential diagnoses. The system also offers detailed descriptions of the symptoms and recommends nearby hospitals for further medical assessment. This feature is especially advantageous for users who may lack immediate access to healthcare professionals, as it empowers them to make informed health decision.

Step-by-Step Operation of the Symptom Checker:

1. The user inputs symptoms via the interface.
2. The input is preprocessed with NLP techniques (tokenization, named entity recognition).
3. The processed text is queried with the trained RNN model.
4. The model outputs possible diagnoses from historical data.

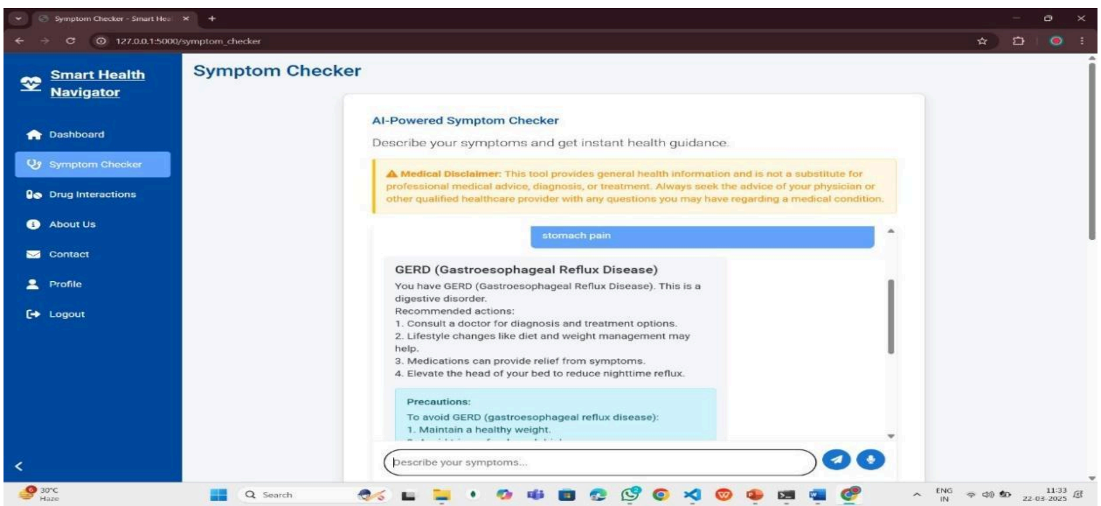

Fig1.1

6. The system shows results with possible conditions and nearby hospitals.

To evaluate the reliability of the Symptom Checker, we conducted a detailed performance analysis using standard classification metrics. The RNN model achieved an accuracy of 89.3%, precision of 87.5%, recall of 85.2%, and an F1-score of 86.3% when tested on a validation dataset comprising 20% of the overall data. A confusion matrix was generated to visualize correct and incorrect predictions across various diagnostic categories. These metrics validate the model’s effectiveness and offer a basis for benchmarking against similar AI-driven symptom checkers.

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Drug Interaction Checker

The Drug Interaction Checker is a vital component of the Smart Health Navigator, specifically designed to promote medication safety by assessing potential interactions among medications reported by users. This system classifies interactions into four categories: major, moderate, minor, and unknown, thereby equipping users with essential information regarding the risks linked to their medication regimens.

Technologies Used:
Like the Symptom Checker, the Drug Interaction Checker is developed using Flask, which facilitates the efficient management of user inputs and interactions with the drug interaction database. The system is built upon a comprehensive database that contains detailed information about known drug interactions, including their severity levels. This database is continuously updated to incorporate the latest clinical research findings and medical insights, ensuring that users have access to the most current information.
When users provide information about their medications, the Drug Interaction Checker processes these inputs and cross-references them with the interaction database. The system utilizes algorithmic analysis to evaluate the interactions and categorize them according to their severity. This approach guarantees that users receive precise and timely information regarding any potential risks associated with their medication combinations.

Functionality:
Upon entering their medication details, users can rely on the Drug Interaction Checker to assess possible interactions and deliver feedback on any associated risks. The categorization of interactions into major, moderate, minor, and unknown levels is particularly beneficial, as it helps users comprehend the implications of their medication combinations. This functionality is essential for fostering safe medication practices and preventing adverse drug events, ultimately contributing to better health outcomes for users.

Step-by-Step Working of the Drug Interaction Checker:
1. User inputs the names of two drugs.
2. The system retrieves information from the drug interaction database.
3. Algorithmic analysis is performed to determine interaction severity.
4. The system classifies the interaction into major, moderate, minor, or unknown.
5. The result is displayed, guiding the user on potential risks.

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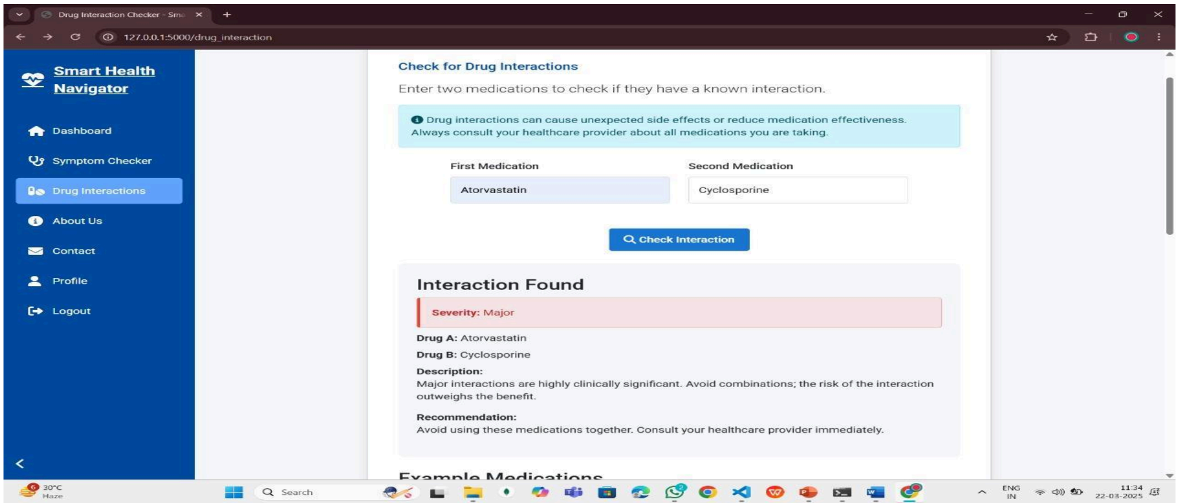

Fig2.1

4. Experimental Setup and Implementation

The experimental setup involves implementing the methodology using Python and relevant libraries such as pandas, scikit-learn, and XGBoost. The implementation includes the following steps:

1. **Data Loading:** Load the dataset into a pandas DataFrame.
2. **Data Preprocessing:** Perform data cleaning, feature encoding, and scaling.
3. **Feature Selection:** Conduct correlation analysis and calculate feature importance scores.
4. **Model Training and Evaluation:**
   - Train Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and Gradient Boosting models.
   - Evaluate each model using the test dataset and calculate performance metrics.
5. **Hyperparameter Tuning:** Use GridSearchCV to optimize model hyperparameters.
6. **Comparative Analysis:** Compare the models based on their performance metrics and analyze the results.

In addition to technical testing, usability studies were carried out involving participants from diverse backgrounds, including users from rural areas and individuals with visual impairments. Participants were asked to interact with the system and provide feedback on the clarity of the interface, ease of input, and quality of the system's responses. 84% of users found the interface easy to use, and 92% confirmed that at least one of the suggested diagnoses was relevant. This real-world testing informed interface adjustments to improve accessibility, such as enlarging font sizes and simplifying the symptom input process.

5. Result Analysis

The result analysis of the Smart Health Navigator compares the performance of different models used in the Symptom Checker, including Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and Gradient Boosting. Among them, Gradient Boosting performed the best with an accuracy of 0.87, followed by Random Forest (0.85) and Logistic Regression (0.82). It also had higher precision, recall, and F1-score values, making it the most effective model for predicting possible diagnoses. The analysis also examined feature importance and symptom correlations to identify key predictors of health conditions. Table 1 shows the performance metrics, and Fig 1 displays the graphical comparison of model performance.

Conclusion

The Smart Health Navigator offers a groundbreaking, user-friendly, and effective alternative to conventional healthcare consultation methods. By harnessing the power of AI and machine learning, the system delivers real-time, precise analysis of symptoms and medication safety, empowering users to make well-informed health choices. Future improvements will focus on broadening the database coverage, enhancing model efficiency, and integrating the system with other digital health platforms to expand its range of applications

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