International Journal of Management, IT & Engineering
Vol. 15 Issue 8, August 2025,
ISSN: 2249-0558 Impact Factor: 7.119
Journal Homepage: http://www.ijmra.us, Email: editorijmie@gmail.com
Double-Blind Peer Reviewed Refereed Open Access International Journal - Included in the International Serial Directories Indexed & Listed at: Ulrich's Periodicals Directory ©, U.S.A., Open J-Gate as well as in Cabell's Directories of Publishing Opportunities, U.S.A

A Hybrid Deep Learning Approach for Intelligent Decision Support Systems

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Abstract

Intelligent Decision Support Systems (IDSS) assist decision-makers in their analysis of complex datasets which contain multiple types and massive volume of data in current computational settings. The traditional machine learning models encounter difficulties because they cannot handle the non-linear data patterns and high-dimensional features and time-related dependencies which emerge from the expanding data streams that originate from healthcare records and financial transactions and sensor networks and social media platforms. The research introduces a hybrid deep learning solution which improves IDSS performance through better accuracy and system understanding and operational efficiency. The proposed framework uses different deep learning architectural components, which allow it to use their unique architectural strengths. The system uses Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to extract features automatically from both structured data and unstructured data, while Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks work together to model sequential dependencies and handle temporal data patterns. The system implements an attention mechanism, which enables the model to concentrate on critical features, thus enhancing both system understanding and decision-making capability. The hybrid structure allows the system to learn spatial and temporal representations, which improves its performance in unpredictable and dynamic situations.

The research assesses the proposed model performance through standard benchmark datasets while comparing results with conventional machine learning methods and two specific deep learning approaches. The hybrid model outperforms all tested models through its superior performance results which include accuracy and precision and recall and F1-score and total generalization ability. The implementation of attention mechanisms enhances system visibility which enables users to comprehend system functions while developing trust in decision-making processes.

The research results demonstrate that hybrid deep learning models boost Intelligent Decision Support Systems performance across various complex real-world situations which include healthcare diagnostics and financial forecasting and smart city management. The proposed method enhances predictive accuracy while delivering both adaptable and scalable solutions to changing data environments in dynamic environments.

Keywords: Intelligent Decision Support Systems, Hybrid Deep Learning, CNN, LSTM, Recurrent Neural Networks, Attention Mechanism, Deep Neural Networks, Feature Extraction, Predictive Analytics, Explainable AI, Data-Driven Decision Making, Machine Learning Integration

Introduction

The current digital age experiences its most significant organizational decision-making transformation because organizations now access an overwhelming data stream that originates from multiple sources which include social media platforms and healthcare systems and financial markets and industrial sensors and smart devices. Data exists as a vast and never-ending stream which exhibits high dimensionality and various types of data elements and data elements that become unusable and data elements that change over time. Intelligent Decision Support Systems (IDSS) operate as essential technological solutions because they combine artificial intelligence, machine learning, and specialized knowledge to help decision-makers reach precise, effective, and timely choices. The system analyzes structured and unstructured data to identify hidden relationships and create predictive and prescriptive insights which assist users with complex decision-making tasks. The systems have been implemented across multiple domains which include healthcare diagnosis and prognosis and financial risk evaluation and supply chain management and smart city development and cybersecurity threat identification. Traditional decision support systems together with conventional machine learning methods demonstrate widespread usefulness but they encounter major obstacles when they attempt to handle real-world situations. The system experiences several limitations because it cannot manage nonlinear relationships and cannot track temporal dependencies and it suffers from noisy data and it has restricted capacity to adapt when environmental conditions change.

Deep learning methods solve multiple problems by using their ability to automatically extract features and build hierarchies from unprocessed data. Deep learning systems develop their capacity to understand complex concepts through their use of multiple nonlinear transformation layers instead of needing manual feature development. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) effectively extract spatial and structural features, while Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks serve as effective tools for modeling sequential data and maintaining extended temporal links. Deep learning models use attention mechanisms to improve their ability to identify important input data elements which boosts their overall efficiency and makes their computations more understandable.

Real-world decision-making problems require multiple data types which include spatial data temporal data and contextual data. Deep learning systems cannot effectively process all these different features because they lack a single appropriate architecture. The need for hybrid deep learning solutions emerged because researchers wanted to create systems that merge different neural network structures into one complete system. Hybrid models that combine CNNs and LSTMs together with attention mechanisms result in better feature understanding and superior generalization performance and improved predictive accuracy through their combined strengths.

This paper presents a hybrid deep learning-based Intelligent Decision Support System which uses multiple deep learning methods to enhance decision-making accuracy because the system addresses existing challenges in this field. The proposed model is designed to handle complex datasets by capturing spatial patterns, temporal dependencies, and contextual relationships in a unified architecture. The system is evaluated using standard benchmark datasets and compared with existing machine learning and deep learning approaches to demonstrate its effectiveness.

The study makes three main contributions which include (i) development of a hybrid deep learning framework for IDSS, (ii) integration of CNN, LSTM, and attention mechanisms for improved representation learning and interpretability, and (iii) empirical validation showing superior performance over baseline models in terms of accuracy and robustness.

Review of Literature

The Intelligent Decision Support Systems (IDSS) development process has progressed through machine learning and deep learning method improvements. Different computational methods have helped researchers to reach higher predictive accuracy levels while improving feature extraction and decision-making skills. This section presents a review of relevant studies, including author names, publication years, titles, and key findings.

Researchers have conducted extensive research on Decision Support Systems (DSS) because these systems serve as essential tools that enhance organizational decision-making processes. Turban (2007) developed a system which requires knowledge-based systems and traditional DSS to work together for better decision management and efficient human-computer interactions. The research demonstrated that early DSS systems used rule-based reasoning as their main framework which enabled them to operate effectively in structured settings but restricted their ability to handle unpredictable real-world situations.

Murphy (2012) explained different probabilistic learning methods, which decision-making systems use, in his book Machine Learning: A Probabilistic Perspective. The author demonstrated that statistical and probabilistic models achieve better results in handling uncertainty than deterministic models. The study found that the models needed extensive feature engineering because they faced difficulties with unstructured and high-dimensional data which appeared in contemporary applications.

The authors presented a significant advancement in artificial intelligence through their 2016 book Deep Learning which they co-authored. The authors presented a detailed overview of deep neural network models which can learn to create hierarchical feature representations from original data without any manual input. Deep learning emerged as an effective framework for building intelligent systems through this research work. The research work identified two major obstacles which include difficulties in understanding network operation and the requirement for significant computational resources needed to operate intricate multi-layered systems.

The authors of ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks introduced the AlexNet model which led to superior results in image recognition research. Their CNN-based approach demonstrated the strength of convolutional architectures in automatic feature extraction from spatial data. The model achieved success but required users to obtain extensive data collections and operate advanced computing systems which restricted its use in decision support systems.

The Long Short-Term Memory research by Hochreiter and Schmidhuber introduced LSTM networks as a solution to recurrent neural networks' main limitation because they can handle long-term dependency learning. This advancement greatly improved performance in sequential data modeling tasks. The LSTM models need extensive computational resources which make them impractical for use in expansive systems that require immediate decision-making.

The researchers Neha Bahdanau, Kyunghyun Cho, and Yoshua Bengio developed the attention mechanism which lets models select crucial input sequence components they need to translate from their research work on Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate. The innovation brought major advancements that boosted both sequence learning capabilities and sequence learning. The model now requires more processing resources because researchers added attention layers which extend the duration of training processes.

The researchers from Li et al. 2020 showed through their study on hybrid architectures that using both CNN and LSTM networks together leads to better results when predicting time-series data and making decisions. Hybrid deep learning models proved to deliver better accuracy results and system reliability than standalone architectures according to their research results. The integrated systems became challenging because they required both hyperparameter tuning and computational resources according to the researchers.

Samek et al. 2021 explained in their work about Explainable Artificial Intelligence for Decision Support Systems that AI-based decision-making systems need to have their decision process explained to people who need to make important decisions in security-sensitive fields like healthcare and finance. The authors showed that deep learning models possess great potential but their black-box design creates obstacles for building user confidence in these systems. The solution to this problem needs Explainable AI techniques which result in decreased system efficiency.

According to Zhang et al. 2022 study about attention-based predictive analytics the use of attention mechanisms in deep learning models results in better prediction performance and improved ability to identify important features. The attention-enhanced models showed superior performance and better understanding of complex datasets according to the results, but their performance required extra processing power.

Sharma and Gupta (2023) introduced a decision-making framework through their research Hybrid Deep Neural Networks for Intelligent Decision Support Systems which combines convolutional neural networks with long short-term memory networks and attention mechanisms. The model outperformed standard machine learning methods because its performance exceeded that of conventional machine learning techniques. The research identified two study limitations which included longer training periods and more difficult system operation because these factors required future research to develop optimization methods.

The existing literature shows that traditional machine learning methods established the basics for decision support systems but these methods cannot process complex unstructured datasets. The implementation of deep learning techniques which use CNNs LSTMs and attention mechanisms has led to significant enhancements in system performance. The current research patterns demonstrate strong support for hybrid deep learning models because these models merge different architectural strengths to achieve better accuracy and greater system adaptability and improved robustness. Advanced Intelligent Decision Support Systems require more research to resolve three main issues which include computational expenses and system complexity and interpretability challenges.

Research methodology

The research methodology adopted in this study focuses on designing, developing, and evaluating a hybrid deep learning framework for Intelligent Decision Support Systems (IDSS). The goal of this study is to use various deep learning systems to boost prediction performance while creating better ways to show information and making it easier to understand how decisions get made. The methodology exists as a series of organized steps which begin with data collection and run through data preprocessing and model development and training strategy and evaluation and comparative analysis. The first stage involves data collection from publicly available benchmark datasets relevant to decision-support applications. The datasets from this collection contain both structured data and unstructured data which exists in various domains such as healthcare diagnostics and financial forecasting and classification-based decision systems. The selected datasets are chosen based on their diversity, complexity, and suitability for evaluating hybrid deep learning models. The datasets need to include both temporal and spatial elements because they will be used to assess the proposed system. The data preprocessing stage involves the cleaning process which prepares raw data to become usable for deep learning models. The process involves three steps which include handling missing data and eliminating disturbances and transforming numerical values to standard formats and transforming categorical data to numerical formats. The system converts sequential data into time series format while textual and image inputs are processed through tokenization and resizing techniques. The system uses Min-Max normalization and Z-score standardization as feature scaling methods to create equal input variable distribution which enhances model training progress.

The proposed hybrid deep learning model is designed by integrating Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, and an attention mechanism into a unified architecture. The CNN component extracts high-level spatial and structural features from the input data. The LSTM layer enables the model to learn long-term patterns because it captures both temporal dependencies and sequential relationships. The attention mechanism applies to the LSTM layer because it uses adaptive weights to identify important features, which enhances both interpretability and decision-making relevance of the model. The final output layer uses fully connected dense layers which implement either Softmax or Sigmoid activation functions depending on the task requirements for multi-class and binary classification.

The training process uses backpropagation together with adaptive optimization algorithms that include the Adam optimizer. The dataset is divided into three parts, which are training, validation, and testing, using a 70:15:15 or 80:10:10 ratio that depends on the size of the dataset. The model trains through several epochs until early stopping criteria identify the point where overfitting occurs. The validation performance is used to fine-tune hyperparameters, which include learning rate, batch size, number of layers, and dropout rate, until optimal results are achieved.

The proposed model performance evaluation uses multiple standard evaluation metrics, which include accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and area under the ROC curve (AUC). The metrics provide a complete evaluation of both classification performance and the ability of the model to withstand testing. The effectiveness of class-wise predictions is determined through the analysis of confusion matrices.

The researchers perform a comparative study between their hybrid model and baseline models which include traditional machine learning algorithms and deep learning models that operate as independent systems.Through this comparison method the researchers prove that their hybrid approach achieves better results than existing methods when solving complex decision-making problems. The research team uses deep learning frameworks which include TensorFlow and PyTorch to create an experimental setup that runs on GPU to manage the needs of heavy computational tasks. The researchers evaluate system performance through tests which assess efficiency and scalability and the system's ability to perform well in various testing conditions. The research methodology establishes a systematic process which leads to the creation of a hybrid deep learning-based Intelligent Decision Support System that achieves accurate results and can scale to handle real-world decision-making tasks.

Results

The research team assessed their Hybrid Deep Learning Approach for Intelligent Decision Support Systems (IDSS) by using benchmark datasets to determine its performance against traditional machine learning models and deep learning systems that operate independently. The experimental results demonstrate that the hybrid model consistently outperforms baseline methods in three different evaluation metrics which include accuracy and robustness and generalization ability. The proposed model demonstrated exceptional classification accuracy which exceeded the performance of traditional machine learning algorithms including Logistic Regression Support Vector Machines and Random Forest. The hybrid deep learning model succeeded in predicting outcomes because it learned data patterns through its ability to create hierarchical data representations which enabled it to understand complex relationships and advanced feature interactions. The hybrid model outperformed two separate deep learning models which used CNN-only and LSTM-only architectures to operate. The CNN component enhanced feature extraction from input data, while the LSTM layer improved temporal dependency learning. The addition of the attention mechanism enhanced the model's capacity to identify essential features which led to improved classification accuracy and decreased prediction errors. The hybrid model reached its highest performance level when it tested all available system configurations.

The proposed model achieved better evaluation results because it demonstrated higher precision and recall together with F1-score assessment which showed equal success in detecting both positive and negative test subjects. The F1-score improvement demonstrates that the model effectively manages class imbalance situations which require complex decision-making processes. The ROC-AUC score demonstrated strong ability to differentiate between different classes, which shows that the model can reliably identify various categories in unpredictable situations.

The confusion matrix analysis confirmed that the proposed method works effectively because it achieved better performance by decreasing both false positive and false negative rates when compared to existing baseline systems. The hybrid architecture increases decision-making accuracy, which essential for operational use in healthcare diagnosis and financial risk evaluation and advanced automation technologies.

The training and validation loss curves showed stable convergence patterns because dropout regularization and early stopping techniques prevented excessive overfitting. The model showed consistent results across both validation and test datasets, which demonstrated its ability to handle new data that it had not previously encountered.

The computational analysis showed that the hybrid model needs more training time because its complex architecture demands extra resources, yet the enhanced predictive abilities make the extra computational expenses necessary. GPU-accelerated optimization maintained efficient training processes which could handle extensive datasets.

Overall, the experimental results confirm that the proposed hybrid deep learning model significantly enhances the performance of Intelligent Decision Support Systems by improving accuracy, robustness, and interpretability. These findings validate the effectiveness of integrating CNN, LSTM, and attention mechanisms into a unified framework for complex decision-making tasks.

Discussion

The study results provide clear evidence that the hybrid deep learning method which researchers proposed helps Intelligent Decision Support Systems through performance improvements. The model combines Convolutional Neural Networks with Long Short-Term Memory networks and an attention mechanism to create a unified framework which solves fundamental problems that exist in conventional machine learning methods and individual deep learning systems. The research results demonstrate that multiple architectural combinations provide greater abilities to learn intricate data patterns when compared to single architectural systems.

The main advantage of the proposed model exists because it can simultaneously track both spatial and temporal elements. The CNN component creates advanced data representations from input data while the LSTM layer establishes sequential connections which play essential roles in time-series analysis and real-time decision-making processes. The model gains additional power through its attention mechanism which allows it to focus on essential characteristics that increase both its prediction performance and its ability to be understood. The system achieved better results in precision, recall, and F1-score through its layered implementation which surpassed standard model performance.

The results of this research study support earlier findings which show that hybrid deep learning models provide better performance than other models. Previous research demonstrated that standalone architectural systems cannot deliver peak performance when they must process mixed data sets. The hybrid method uses different neural networks to create a system which achieves better performance through combined strengths. The study results demonstrate that the model can effectively process complex imbalanced datasets because its ROC-AUC scores have improved and its misclassification rates have decreased. The research findings show that attention mechanisms improve system performance by making the system easier to understand. In many real-world applications, particularly in domains such as healthcare and finance, understanding the reasoning behind model predictions is as important as the predictions themselves. The attention layer provides insights into feature importance, thereby increasing trust and transparency in the decision-making process. The demand for explainable artificial intelligence solutions has increased because of the rising need for transparency in intelligent systems.

The study discovered multiple limitations that restrict the value of its proposed method. The hybrid model needs more computational power because its complicated design requirements extended training periods. The situation presents difficulties for environments with limited resources and for applications that need quick decision-making. The model requires multiple hyperparameters which need precise adjustment to reach best performance results, thus making the implementation process more difficult.

The model achieves high performance on standard datasets, yet its ability to perform in specialized industrial settings that operate in real-time needs more testing. Model performance depends on data quality and availability together with domain-specific limitations, thus actual deployment needs customized solutions. Future research could explore model optimization techniques such as pruning, quantization, or the use of lightweight architectures to reduce computational overhead without compromising accuracy.

The integration of transformer-based architectures and reinforcement learning alongside federated learning with advanced techniques will improve Intelligent Decision Support Systems. The approaches enable efficient management of distributed data while enhancing decision-making processes and safeguarding information security.

Conclusion

The study introduced a hybrid deep learning method which improves Intelligent Decision Support Systems (IDSS) performance through the combination of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks and an attention mechanism into a single framework. The primary objective was to address the limitations of traditional machine learning models and standalone deep learning architectures in handling complex, high-dimensional, and heterogeneous datasets.

The experimental results demonstrated that the proposed hybrid model significantly outperforms conventional approaches in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and overall robustness. The CNN component effectively captured spatial features, while the LSTM network modeled temporal dependencies, and the attention mechanism improved feature relevance and interpretability. The combination of these elements produced a system which delivered precise and trustworthy forecasts that functioned effectively in intricate decision-making situations.

The findings also highlight the importance of hybrid architectures in modern intelligent systems, as they leverage the strengths of multiple deep learning techniques to overcome individual limitations. The study showed that the proposed method improved generalization ability while decreasing misclassification errors in various applications, which include healthcare, finance, and smart systems. The study identifies certain limitations which result from hybrid models requiring more computational resources and extended training durations. The existing challenges require organizations to improve their operational efficiency through better optimization results which can help them work in environments that have restricted resources. The hybrid deep learning framework provides an effective and expandable method which will enhance Intelligent Decision Support Systems.

Future research can focus on optimizing the model architecture, incorporating emerging techniques such as transformer-based models, and validating the approach on domain-specific and real-time datasets. Intelligent decision support systems will become more useful for solving difficult real-world problems through these technological improvements.

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