

Research Article

Improving Tuberculosis Prognosis with Benchmarked Machine Learning Models

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Article History Abstract

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Tuberculosis remains a considerable cause of morbidity and mortality in several poor and middle-income countries. When a patient is diagnosed with tuberculosis, healthcare providers must select most appropriate treatment tailored to patient's unique situation and expected Accepted: September 01, 2025 trajectory of disease, guided by clinical competence. goal is to predict chance of dying from tuberculosis, which will help doctors figure out how disease will progress and make decisions about treatment. re Deep- were 36,228 records and 130 fields in first data collection, but many of CPS records were missing, incomplete, or wrong. After cleaning and preparing data, a new dataset was created with 24,000 entries and 37 fields. This dataset includes 22,875 reported cured tuberculosis patients and 1 140 tuberculosis-related deaths. Two controlled experiments were designed to examine impact of data imbalance on model performance, employing (1) unbalanced and (2) balanced datasets.

Introduction 1

According to WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2020, number of tuberculosis cases in Americas is slowly growing, with Brazil being main reason for this [1, 2]. Brazil had 96,000 TB cases in that year, mortality rate of 9%, making it countries with highest tuberculosis. [3] contend that TB functions as socioeconomic inequality typifies diseases correlated with poverty. poverty rates in Latin America began to increase in 2015, mostly due to growth of vulnerable populations in characterized by increased homelessness and incarceration [4].

Despite tuberculosis being a significant infectious disease, it may be effectively cured with prompt use of appropriate medications. Various kinds of tuberculosis (TB) that exhibit resistance to specific medications may necessitate administration of many antibiotics, potentially resulting in multidrugresistant (MDR) TB, extensively drug-resistant TB, HIV-associated TB, and deterioration [5] of health systems. most conclusive clinical approach for detecting drug-resistant tuberculosis is microbiological culture, which can take many months and is a costly operation. Consequently, re exists an urgent clinical requirement for supplementary approaches capable of swiftly and accurately identifying both drug-resistant and drug-sensitive types of tuberculosis [6] in a cost-effective manner. One strategy involves utilizing high-resolution Computed Tomography (CT) imaging to aid doctors in analyzing, diagnosing, and providing appropriate rapy for tuberculosis patients [7].

Prognosis research examines correlations between result occurrences and predictors within specified groups afflicted by a disease, namely tuberculosis (TB) [8]. Diagnosis involves identifying an illness through symptom examination, whereas prognosis pertains to understanding disease progression, predicting individual risk, and assessing responses to treatment to enhance and minimizing outcomes [9].

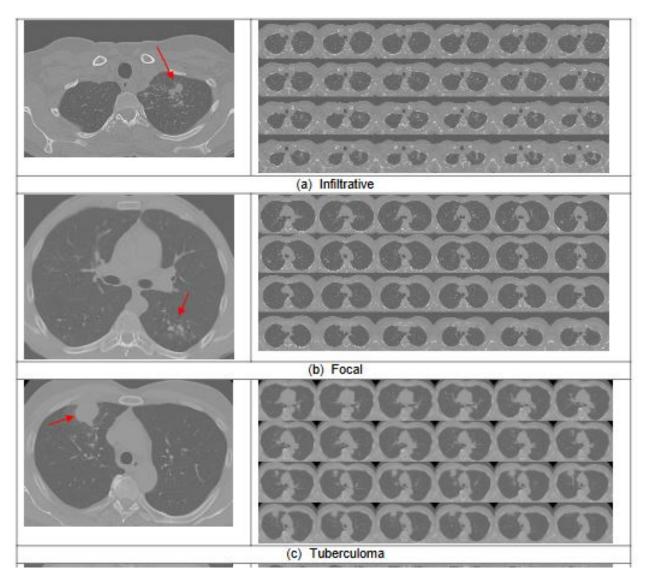


Figure 1: Depiction of varieties of post-primary tuberculosis

Consequently, upon establishing a diagnosis, it is imperative to assess condition to choose most suitable treatment options, including hospitalization or admission to an (ICU) [10]. assessment of severity is crucial for enhancing communication of outcome risk to patients, hence increasing possibilities to limit illness development, enhance patients' quality of life, and efficiently manage health resources. Regrettably, quality of several prognostic studies is substandard [11].

Tuberculosis may impact several bodily parts, including belly, glands, bones, and neurological system, although it predominantly affects lungs. Initially, TB mycobacteria access pulmonary alveoli, where y infiltrate and proliferate inside alveolar macrophages [12]. To counteract presence of foreign germs, human immune system initiates a response to phagocytize inhaled mycobacteria through alveolar macrophages, facilitating ir interaction with T lymphocytes, a subtype of white blood cell. Consequently, epilioid histiocyte cells combine and collaborate with lymphocytes to form tiny clusters. Consequently, a mass of granulomatous tissue forms, initiating process of cytokinesis, which produces proteins such as interferon- γ secreted by CD4⁺ T-lymphocytes (effector T cells) to activate macrophages for destruction of pathogenic germs [13]. Furrmore, produced CD8⁺ T lymphocytes (cytotoxic T cells) can directly eliminate contaminated cells. Neverless, microorganisms are not invariably eradicated from affected granuloma. In several instances, y become inactive and dormant, resulting in a latent infection that compromises human immune system [14].

final diagnosis of active tuberculosis is clinically established by detecting presence of M. tuberculosis bacterium, causal agent of TB, by microbiological culture of human specimens. In practice, culture

development of M. TB may need an average of two or more weeks. To speed identification of active tuberculosis (TB), a variety of integrated methodologies will be employed, including tuberculin skin test (TST), blood tests, amplification of Mycobacterium tuberculosis nucleic acids [15], and morphological investigations of biological specimens. Although se strategies offer advantages, y lack specificity. For instance, prevalent method involves identifying acid-fast bacilli (AFB) in sputum smears [7], although only 44% of all new cases (and even 15–20% of pediatric cases) can be detected. ad hoc choice to commence anti-tuberculosis treatment is complicated in instances where acid-fast bacilli do not appear on sputum smear microscopy, despite a clinical suspicion of tuberculosis [16].

Our primary objective is to assess ML models to support tuberculosis prognosis and related decision-making by predicting mortality risk based on patient demographic, clinical, and laboratory data. Comparisons with existing studies are confounded by differing objectives and utilized data. Accordingly, we evaluate nine ML models employed in existing studies on tuberculosis detection [17].

2 Related Work

pursuit of early tuberculosis detection is a primary objective of global health initiatives, owing to intrinsic challenges associated with eradicating disease. Currently, existing research has predominantly investigated application of deep learning for tuberculosis detection using radiographic [15–17] or microscopic images [18,19]. Several research have investigated application of deep learning. Anor research [39] proposes and evaluates three ML models: Support Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest (RF), and Neural Network (NN). dataset consisted of 4,213 records from an unspecified location; 64.37% of entries indicated completed treatments. anticipated result from models is treatment completion, and following metrics were employed for model comparison: accuracy, precision, sensitivity, and specificity. RF model attained best accuracy at 76.32%, while SVM excelled in precision at 73.05% and specificity at 95.71%. neural network attained best sensitivity at 68.5%. research [40] utilized an Indian dataset consisting of 16,975 patient records to categorize adverse outcomes. y categorized mortality, treatment failure, loss to follow-up, and non-evaluation as belonging to same class. y introduced a deep learning model called LSTM Real-time Adherence Predictor (LEAP) and evaluated its performance against a Random Forest model. LEAP attained an AUROC of 0.743, while RF earned 0.722.

A furr research [41] additionally examined several ML algorithms for classification of adverse outcomes. A multi-country dataset including 587 records of tuberculosis cases was utilized, encompassing Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Romania. y assessed three ML models: Random Forest (RF), Support Vector Machine (SVM) with linear kernel, and SVM with polynomial kernel, in comparison to traditional regression techniques, including indicating potential underfitting or overfitting problems.

Published research on tuberculosis prediction utilizing ML, we employ computational methodologies to (i) diminish complexity of dataset, and (ii) identify ideal hyperparameter configuration. Additionally, and importantly, we assess ensemble models. Our research utilizes a comprehensive data collection from Brazil, a nation with one of highest tuberculosis incidence rates globally. This approach enhances current understanding of ML in tuberculosis prognosis.

3 Proposed Methodology

We adhered to technique outlined in Figure 2 to benchmark ML models. objective was to identify optimal model to assist in tuberculosis prognosis. methodology employed in this study encompassed data set preprocessing; implementation of a feature selection algorithm to diminish data dimensionality; training models on both imbalanced and balanced data sets; utilization of search technique to identify application of statistical methods to assess similarity of model distributions; identification of superior models and creation of an ensemble model; application of statistical techniques for comparative analysis of best models; and, ultimately, evaluation of models through testing.

SI-NAN database comprised records of patients with conditions specified National. This study utilized information from State of Amazonas concerning individuals diagnosed and treated for tuberculosis

Author(s)	Dataset	Methods	Outcomes	Performance
[23]	37 prediction models	Statistical methods	Treatment outcomes	16 models
		(LR not considered	(completion, cure, suc-	
		ML)	cess, failure, death, loss,	
			not evaluated)	
[39]	4213 records	SVM, RF, Neural	Treatment completion	RF Accuracy
		Network		76.32
[40]	16,975 patient	Deep Learning	Unfavourable outcomes	LEAP AUROC
	records	(LSTM-LEAP), RF	(death, failure, loss, not	0.743
			evaluated)	
[41]	587 records	RF, SVM (linear	Unfavourable outcomes	High specificity
		& polynomial), re-		(94%)
		gression (stepwise,		
		LASSO)		
[42]	6450 TB incidence	DT, Bayesian net-	Treatment outcome pre-	AUC 97%
	records	works, LR, MLP,	diction	
		RBF, SVM		

Table 1: Summary of Related Work on TB Prediction Models

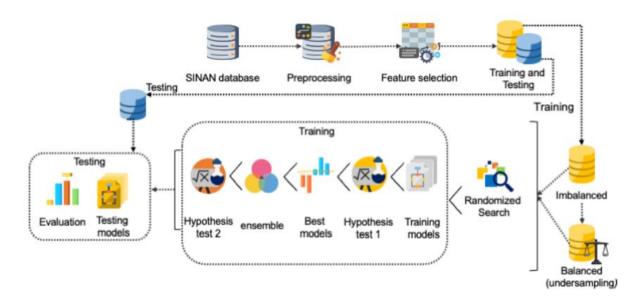
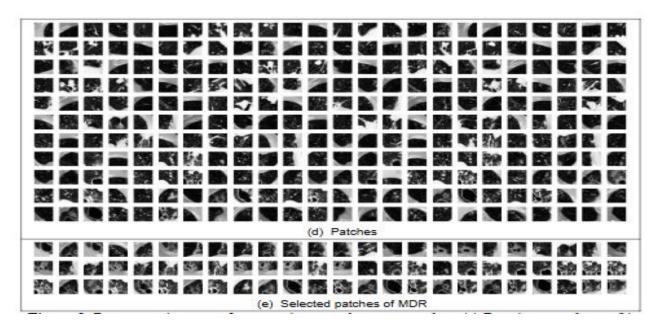


Figure 2: System Architecure

(TB) from 2007 to 2018, sourced from SINAN-TB. original data set had 36,228 records and 130 fields, including 35,007 records of patients cured of tuberculosis and 1,221 records of tuberculosis-related fatalities. All field descriptions are available in SINAN data dictionaries [70]. Data preprocessing was conducted for cleaning purposes. Post-preprocessing, updated dataset comprised 24,015 entries encompassing 38 fields; 22,876 records pertained to patients cured of tuberculosis, whereas 1,139 records documented tuberculosis-related fatalities. We evaluated efficacy of four feature selection methodologies (SFS, SFFS, SBS, and SBFS as detailed in Section 3.1) to identify most representative attributes in original dataset. Subsequently, we diminished dimensionality of data for model processing. Nineteen fields were chosen for each of nine ML models. This aligns with [44], which utilized identical SINAN-TB dataset and characteristics picked by an expert. We utilized complete data set and implemented k-fold cross-validation, setting k=10 in accordance with references [71–74]. Original dataset indicated that preprocessed dataset was unbalanced, comprising 22,876 cured patients and 1,139 TB fatalities.

Ensemble approaches develop many ML models to address same issue. Unlike a singular classifier,

ensemble approaches aim to construct a collection of models and integrate m. Ensemble learning is sometimes referred to as committee-based learning or multiple classifier systems. amalgamation of learning models may be conventionally executed in three manners: by averaging, by voting, or by utilizing a learning model. term 'average' is typically utilized in context of numerical outputs, when classifiers yield an output that represents mean of data. A vote entails tallying outputs of classifiers according to frequency of class occurrences, with class receiving highest votes serving as input for a new learning model. Feature selection strategies are algorithms employed to identify a subset of fields from



original database [43]. It is often utilized due to its simplicity and speed [46]. SFFS is an enhancement of SFS algorithm that incorporates a novel feature, employing SFS technique succeeded by iterative conditional exclusion of least significant feature inside feature set. ultimate feature set comprises a selection of most optimal characteristics [47]. SBS begins with entire array of characteristics and systematically eliminates less relevant ones until a specified closure condition is satisfied [48]. SBFS is an enhancement of SBS approach that eliminates extraneous features by picking a subset from primary attribute collection [49]. ML is convergence of statistics and computer science, frequently cited as foundation of artificial intelligence. This is a learning process utilizing a mamatical model to forecast outcomes or establish classifications based on past data. se models may be employed in healthcare sector to ascertain causes, risk factors, and efficacious rapies for diseases, among or applications [51].

4 Results & Discussion

Results indicate that ensemble models, specifically Gradient Boosting (GB) and Random Forest (RF), consistently get greatest F1-scores across all feature selection procedures, exhibiting low fluctuation. Decision Tree (DT) and Support Vector Machine (SVM) exhibit competitive performance, but somewhat inferior to ensemble approaches. Conversely, simpler models like Logistic Regression (LR) and Naïve Bayes (NB) generally provide lower F1-scores, signifying ir inadequate capacity to discern intricate patterns within dataset. Results indicate that advanced feature selection methods such as SFFS and SBFS typically provide slight enhancements in performance relative to more basic SFS and SBS, suggesting that more adaptable selection procedures are advantageous for enhancing model efficacy.

Table 4 contrasts F1-macro outcomes of various ML models trained on unbalanced and balanced datasets. findings demonstrate that dataset balancing markedly enhances performance in nearly all models. Logistic Regression (LR) and Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) exhibit significant enhancements post-balancing, elevating ir F1-macro scores by over 15%. Naïve Bayes (NB), albeit exhibiting considerable improvement, remains inferior to more sophisticated models, indicating its restricted capacity to delineate non-linear decision boundaries. Conversely, ensemble-based approaches like Gra-

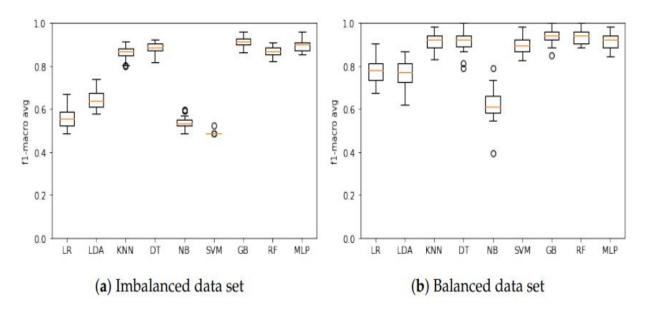


Figure 3: F1-macro metrics for ML framework

Model	Feature Selection				
	SFS	SFFS	SBS	SBFS	
LR	88.45 (±0.012)	88.67 (±0.010)	89.12 (±0.009)	89.05 (±0.008)	
LDA	87.94 (±0.011)	88.40 (±0.010)	$88.75 (\pm 0.008)$	88.69 (±0.007)	
KNN	90.21 (±0.006)	90.48 (±0.005)	90.91 (±0.004)	$90.76 (\pm 0.004)$	
DT	92.10 (±0.004)	92.34 (±0.003)	$92.65 (\pm 0.002)$	$92.51 \ (\pm 0.002)$	
NB	$86.75 \ (\pm 0.015)$	87.02 (±0.012)	87.40 (±0.010)	87.21 (±0.009)	
SVM	$91.33 \ (\pm 0.005)$	$91.55 (\pm 0.004)$	$91.78 \ (\pm 0.003)$	$91.70 \ (\pm 0.003)$	
GB	93.20 (±0.003)	$93.45 (\pm 0.003)$	$93.71 (\pm 0.002)$	$93.68 \ (\pm 0.002)$	
RF	$92.80\ (\pm0.004)$	93.01 (±0.003)	93.29 (±0.003)	$93.20\ (\pm0.002)$	
MLP	$91.92 (\pm 0.006)$	$92.15 (\pm 0.004)$	$92.47 (\pm 0.003)$	$92.40 \ (\pm 0.002)$	

Table 2: Results of F1-score (in %)

dient Boosting (GB) and Random Forest (RF) regularly attain superior performance, with F1-macro scores over 93% on balanced dataset. Ensemble method surpasses individual models, illustrating advantages of amalgamating classifiers. Findings underscore significance of data balancing in predictive modeling, especially for unbalanced issues like TB prognosis. Although basic models benefit from balancing, sophisticated ensemble models get superior generalization performance.

5 Conclusion

Tuberculosis remains a considerable cause of morbidity and mortality in several poor and middle-income countries. When a patient is diagnosed with tuberculosis, healthcare providers must select most appropriate treatment tailored to patient's unique situation and expected trajectory of disease, guided by clinical competence. goal is to predict chance of dying from tuberculosis, which will help doctors figure out how disease will progress and make decisions about treatment. re were 36,228 records and 130 fields in first data collection, but many of records were missing, incomplete, or wrong. After cleaning and preparing data, a new dataset was created with 24,000 entries and 37 fields. This dataset includes 22,875 reported cured tuberculosis patients and 1 140 tuberculosis-related deaths. Two controlled experiments were designed to examine impact of data imbalance on model performance, employing (1) unbalanced and (2) balanced datasets.

Model	Imbalanced Data Set	Balanced Data Set
LR	$58.42 \ (\pm 0.038)$	$79.15 \ (\pm 0.052)$
LDA	$66.11 (\pm 0.041)$	$77.34\ (\pm0.057)$
KNN	$84.25 \ (\pm 0.028)$	$90.82\ (\pm0.032)$
DT	87.93 (±0.025)	$92.41\ (\pm0.040)$
NB	$55.72 \ (\pm 0.026)$	$64.10 \ (\pm 0.065)$
SVM	$50.36 \ (\pm 0.007)$	$88.92 \ (\pm 0.037)$
GB	$90.42 \ (\pm 0.023)$	$95.10 \ (\pm 0.029)$
RF	85.91 (±0.019)	$93.87 (\pm 0.030)$
MLP	88.12 (±0.024)	$92.76 \ (\pm 0.033)$
Ensemble	$91.02 \ (\pm 0.020)$	$95.33 \ (\pm 0.016)$

Table 3: F1-macro results (in %)

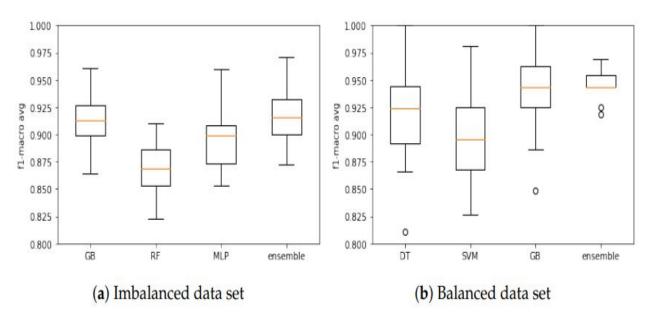


Figure 4: Training of ensemble models and related models

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