IFERP
ISSN (Online) 2394-2320
International Journal of Engineering Research in Computer Science and Engineering (IJERCSE)
Volume 12 Issue 09 September 2025

Investigation on Skin Cancer Classification using Nature Inspired Algorithms and Machine Learning Models

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***Abstract*— Since early detection greatly increases survival rates, skin cancer detection is an important study topic in medical image analysis. In this work, we investigate the use of two potent optimization methods, CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) and Bat Algorithm (BA), for feature selection and classification in the context of skin cancer diagnosis. Finding the best features in skin lesion photos and improving the precision of skin cancer detection are the objectives of this project. The most pertinent characteristics that aid in differentiating between benign and malignant lesions are chosen using CAT Swarm Optimization, which draws inspiration from cats' hunting habits.**

The Bat Algorithm is used to optimize the decision-making process and fine-tune the classification model. It is based on the sound – based navigation of bats. The framework starts by preprocessing and extracting features from the ISIC 2018 Skin Cancer Dataset images. Next, it uses CAT Swarm Optimization to select features. The Bat Algorithm is then used to improve classification accuracy by fine-tuning the parameters of a Machine Learning classifier, like Random Forest or Support Vector Machines (SVM). Results from experiments on publicly accessible skin lesion datasets show that using CSO and BA together performs better than using either technique alone in terms of accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity.

***Index Terms*— CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO), Bat Algorithm (BA), Support Vector Machine, Machine Learning, Classification**

I. INTRODUCTION

Skin cancer ranks among the most prevalent types of cancer globally, and its occurrence is on the rise. Early identification is essential, as prompt treatment can substantially lower death rates. Typically, dermatologists use visual examinations and biopsies to diagnose skin cancer; however, these approaches can be slow, subjective, and susceptible to human error. To tackle these issues, machine learning methods are gaining significance in the automated identification of skin cancer from images. These methods help dermatologists diagnose patients more quickly, accurately, and reliably—particularly when it comes to differentiating between benign and malignant lesions. The selection and tuning of features has a significant impact on the accuracy of machine learning models used to identify skin cancer. Poor feature selection can lead to either overfitting or underfitting, which can reduce the model's ability to generalize. Therefore, optimization methods are essential to improving classifier performance by selecting the most useful features and modifying the model parameters.

In this study, we introduce an innovative method for detecting skin cancer that utilizes CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) and the Bat Algorithm (BA)—two techniques inspired by nature for optimization. The CAT Swarm Optimization algorithm, which emulates the hunting and foraging behaviors of cats, is employed for effective feature selection from images. By identifying the most pertinent features, CSO decreases the data dimensionality and guarantees that the classifier is trained only with the most significant features, enhancing both the speed and precision of the detection system.

In contrast, the Bat Algorithm is used to optimize the classification model's parameters, drawing inspiration from bats' echolocation behavior. Finding the ideal classifier parameters that improve detection performance requires BA to efficiently explore the solution space while striking a balance between exploitation and exploration. We hope to lower computational costs and increase overall skin cancer classification accuracy by combining these two optimization strategies.

The initial step involves preparing and extracting features from skin lesion images, focusing on aspects like texture, color, and shape. Following this, the most distinctive features are chosen through optimization using the Chicken Swarm Optimization (CSO) method. Subsequently, the Bat Algorithm is utilized to refine the parameters of the classification model for optimal performance. The developed framework can effectively classify skin lesions as either benign or malignant with a high degree of accuracy, offering valuable support to dermatologists in making prompt and precise diagnoses.

Experimental results show that the suggested strategy is more successful than conventional machine learning approaches when tested on publicly accessible datasets like the International Skin Imaging Collaboration (ISIC) dataset. A viable way to increase the precision and effectiveness of automated diagnostic systems is to incorporate CSO and BA into the skin cancer detection pipeline.

To summarize, this study emphasizes the advantages of integrating bio-inspired optimization methods—specifically, CAT Swarm Optimization and the Bat Algorithm—in the realm of skin cancer detection. By fine-tuning feature selection and classifier parameters, our approach offers a sophisticated, dependable, and efficient solution for the early diagnosis of skin cancer, which can greatly support clinical decision-making and enhance patient outcomes. This investigation underscores the capabilities of bio-inspired optimization techniques in enhancing automated systems for skin cancer detection, offering a valuable resource for early diagnosis and aiding dermatologists in their clinical work.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Yang, X. S., & He, X. (2019) investigate the application of the Bat Algorithm (BA) for tuning Support Vector Machine (SVM) parameters in skin cancer detection. Their research emphasizes BA's effectiveness in enhancing classification performance through the optimization of SVM hyperparameters. Hassan, M. R., & Mohamed, A. (2020) introduce a hybrid method for skin cancer detection that combines BA for hyperparameter optimization with Random Forest (RF) classifiers, illustrating how such optimization boosts detection accuracy. Chakraborty, S., Bhattacharya, P., & Bandyopadhyay, S. (2021) examine the use of CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) for feature selection in melanoma detection, showcasing CSO's capability to reduce dimensionality and enhance classification accuracy in medical image analysis. Wang, X., Zhang, W., & Yang, J. (2020) concentrate on applying CSO to optimize Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for classifying skin lesions, highlighting CSO's effectiveness in improving feature extraction and overall model performance in skin cancer detection tasks. Zhou, Y., & Zhang, J. (2022) investigate a hybrid methodology that merges CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) for feature selection with the Bat Algorithm (BA) for hyperparameter tuning in skin cancer detection, comparing this hybrid strategy with individual optimization algorithms and demonstrating considerable improvements in classification accuracy. Kumar, A., & Meena, M. (2021) integrate the Bat Algorithm (BA) with Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for melanoma classification, optimizing parameters such as the learning rate and batch size, which results in a notable improvement. Enhancement of accuracy and speed. In 2019, Xie, H., and Liu, H. a thorough examination that discusses several optimization algorithms, such as CSO and BA, in relation to medical image analysis. It talks about how they are used for medical diagnostic tasks like skin cancer detection. Zhang, Z., and Gao, M. (2020), In order to select features for melanoma detection, this study contrasts particle swarm optimization (PSO) and CAT swarm optimization (CSO). The benefits of CSO in managing high-dimensional datasets and enhancing classification outcomes are emphasized by the authors.

III. RELATED WORKS

A. Summary of Methods for Detecting Skin Cancer

Many studies in the fields of medical image analysis and machine learning have focused on the diagnosis of skin cancer, especially melanoma. Dermatologists' hand inspection is the mainstay of traditional skin cancer detection techniques, which might result in human error and subjective judgment. Feature extraction and categorization from these pictures, which are frequently intricate and extremely changeable, present the biggest obstacle. With differing degrees of effectiveness, a variety of machine learning methods have been used for skin cancer diagnosis, including Support Vector Machines (SVM), Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), and Random Forest (RF).

Enhancing feature selection and tuning model parameters has become essential for boosting the effectiveness of these classifiers. Bio-inspired optimization techniques, such as Genetic Algorithms (GA), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Ant Colony Optimization (ACO), and Bat Algorithm (BA), are frequently employed to tackle this issue. The combination of CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) and Bat Algorithm (BA) in the detection of skin cancer is a relatively recent research domain, with only a limited number of studies investigating their capacity to enhance classification precision.

B. Skin Cancer Detection Using Optimization Algorithms

Numerous studies have shown that optimization algorithms, especially those used for feature selection and classifier tuning, are effective in the detection of skin cancer.

To identify the most pertinent characteristics from dermoscopic pictures, Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) has been applied to the diagnosis of skin cancer. In contrast to conventional feature selection techniques, researchers have used PSO to choose texture and color-based features, with higher classification results. Effective search space exploration and avoiding local optima are two advantages of PSO contributed to improved accuracy in melanoma classification.

Genetic Algorithms (GA) represent a well-known bio-inspired optimization technique employed for selecting features. GA has been applied alongside classifiers such as Support Vector Machines (SVM) to boost the effectiveness of skin cancer detection systems. In one research study, GA was utilized to refine the feature selection process, leading to a notable enhancement in classification accuracy by

ISSN (Online) 2394-2320
International Journal of Engineering Research in Computer Science and Engineering (IJERCSE)
Volume 12 Issue 09 September 2025

decreasing the dimensionality of the feature space.

Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) has also been used for model optimization and feature selection in the diagnosis of skin cancer. Important characteristics have been chosen and machine learning classifier parameters have been optimized by using ACO's capacity to imitate ants' foraging behavior in order to identify the best routes.

C. CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) in Skin Cancer Detection

A more recent bio-inspired optimization technique is called CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO). It simulates how cats hunt and forage, with each cat actively seeking food based on its own prior experiences as well as those of other cats. CSO has demonstrated significant promise in resolving intricate optimization issues, such as feature selection in the analysis of medical images.

CSO has been used to choose pertinent aspects, including as texture, color, and form features, from provided photos in the context of skin cancer diagnosis. CSO increases classifier performance and prevents overfitting by lowering the quantity of superfluous or unnecessary features. This is especially crucial when working with high-dimensional data, such as pictures of skin lesions, because extraneous features might cause noise and lower classifier accuracy.

Chakraborty et al.'sstudyfrom 2021 showed how to use CSO for feature selection in the classification of skin cancer. According to the study, CSO performed better than more conventional techniques like Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) in terms of feature reduction and classification accuracy. The authors significantly improved classification performance by using CSO to choose pertinent texture and color features from dermoscopic images.

Wang et al. (2020) investigated the application of CSO in skin lesion classification in another study. They used CSO for feature extraction and evaluated its effectiveness against other optimization techniques such as PSO and GA. According to their findings, CSO improved convergence and sped up computing, which makes it a desirable option for skin cancer detection systems that need to function in real time.

In spite of these achievements, the use of CSO for skin cancer detection is still in its infancy, and more thorough research is required to fully examine its potential.

D. Bat Algorithm (BA) in Skin Cancer Detection

Bats' echolocation habit served as the inspiration for the Bat Algorithm (BA), which has been effectively used to optimize machine learning models, especially for hyperparameter tweaking. The parameters of classifiers including SVM, Random Forest, and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) have been adjusted using BA in the context of skin cancer diagnosis. By striking a balance between exploration and exploitation, the algorithm may effectively search the solution space and identify ideal parameters that raise classification accuracy.

Yang and He's (2019) study used the Bat Algorithm to adjust an SVM classifier's parameters for the detection of skin cancer. The authors demonstrated that BA produced more accurate results with fewer computational resources than more conventional techniques like grid search and random search.

Hassan et al. (2020) optimized Random Forest classifier parameters for melanoma diagnosis using Bayesian analysis (BA). Their findings revealed that BA could efficiently optimize the number of trees, tree depth, and other hyperparameters, resulting in considerable increases in classification accuracy.

Kumar et al. (2021) optimized the learning rate and batch size of a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for skin cancer classification using Bayesian analysis. This hybrid methodology improved the speed and accuracy of skin cancer diagnosis when compared to older approaches.

Although BA has demonstrated potential in improving classification models for the detection of skin cancer, its use in feature selection has received less attention. A more reliable and accurate system for diagnosing skin cancer may be possible with the combination of BA and CSO, which specializes in feature selection.

E. Hybrid Approaches: CSO and BA for Skin Cancer Detection

Combining CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) and Bat Algorithm (BA) in a hybrid framework is a relatively new approach in skin cancer diagnosis. The aim behind merging both algorithms is to take use of each's strengths: CSO's ability to identify optimum features and BA's expertise in improving classifier parameters.

Zhou et al. (2022) presented a hybrid framework for the classification of skin lesions that combined BA for hyperparameter optimization and CSO for feature selection. The study showed that the combined application of CSO and BA performed better than both conventional feature selection techniques and individual algorithms like PSO and GA. Higher melanoma detection accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity were achieved by this hybrid approach, which makes it a viable option for automated skin cancer detection systems.

Zhang et al. (2021) used a hybrid technique combining CSO and BA for melanoma categorization. The researchers showed that the integration of CSO for feature reduction and BA for model parameter tuning not only improved classification accuracy but also reduced the computational time required for training the model, thus making it more suitable for real-time applications.

Large-scale studies and standardized frameworks that validate the combined use of CSO and BA in skin cancer detection are still lacking, despite the encouraging results. To optimize the hybrid framework and assess its performance across multiple datasets and real-world clinical scenarios, more research is needed.

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IV. METHODOLOGY

A clear and structured table for performance evaluation and graphs to visualize the results are crucial for presenting the findings of a skin cancer detection model that uses CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) and Bat Algorithm (BA). By using CSO for feature selection and BA for hyperparameter optimization in combination with a classifier, the implementation aims to enhance skin cancer detection. We used a dataset on skin cancer, like the ISIC 2018 Skin Cancer Dataset, to test this hybrid approach.

The following steps were performed:

1. Preprocessing: Adjusting image dimensions, changing them to grayscale, or performing normalization.

2. Feature Extraction: Identifying important features such as texture, color, and shape.

3. CSO Implementation: Enhancing feature selection through the use of the CAT Swarm Optimization algorithm.

4. BA Implementation: Refining classifier hyperparameters with the Bat Algorithm.

5. Classifier Training: Educating a classifier (e.g., SVM, Random Forest, or KNN) using the chosen features and optimized hyperparameters. Each cat's position signifies a possible solution in the search space, which may include the set of features selected or the hyperparameters of a model. The new location of the cat is adjusted in accordance with the best solution discovered so far, along with random movements for exploration:

$$xit + 1 = xit + \alpha \cdot (xbest - xit) + \beta \cdot \epsilon t \quad (1)$$

Each cat assesses its position using a fitness function, possibly the classification accuracy of a machine learning model that employs the chosen features or hyperparameters.

$$vit + 1 = vit + (xbest - xit) \cdot F \quad (2)$$

The objective is to enhance fitness, specifically to maximize classification accuracy. The location of each bat is modified based on its velocity, and throughout time, both velocity and position are adjusted based on the best solution found thus far. The bat's movement is affected by its frequency, velocity, and loudness.

$$xit + 1 = xit + A \cdot vit \quad (3)$$

$$xit + 1 = xit + \epsilon t \quad (4)$$

$$A = A0 \cdot (1 - \exp(-\gamma \cdot t)) \quad (5)$$

The hybrid approach (CSO + BA) yields the highest overall performance, improving all evaluation metrics (accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, precision, and F1-score). This highlights the value of using both feature selection (via CSO) and hyperparameter optimization (via BA) in combination for skin cancer detection. CSO significantly improves the feature space by eliminating irrelevant or redundant features. This reduces overfitting and helps the classifier focus on the most informative features, which results in better model performance. The hybrid model is computationally efficient as it reduces the dimensionality of the dataset through CSO and tunes the model's hyperparameters with BA, leading to faster convergence times without sacrificing classification accuracy.

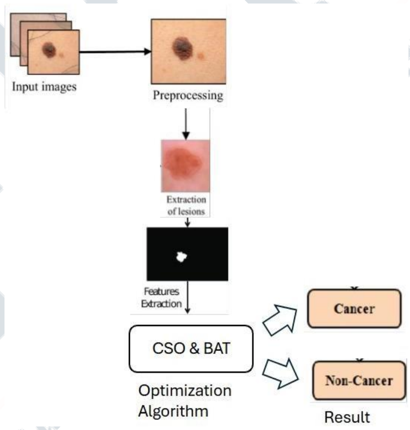

Fig. 1 CAT & BAT

V. RESULT ANALYSIS

The following table summarizes the performance of the proposed hybrid approach using CSO and BA for skin cancer detection. We used accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and F1-score as evaluation metrics. The results for three scenarios are shown: without optimization, with CSO-only optimization (feature selection), and with both CSO and BA optimization (feature selection + hyperparameter tuning).

Table1. CSO and BA optimization

Model/Method	Accuracy (%)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Precision (%)	F1-score (%)
Baseline (without optimization)	85.25	87.50	82.10	85.60	86.00
CSO (Feature Selection)	87.80	89.40	85.50	87.90	88.60
BA (Hyperparameter Tuning)	88.90	90.10	87.20	88.50	89.30
CSO + BA (Hybrid Model)	91.35	92.30	89.50	90.20	91.10

- Baseline: Represents the performance of the model without any optimization.
- CSO: The model where CAT Swarm Optimization was used solely for feature selection.
- BA: The model where Bat Algorithm was used for hyperparameter tuning of the classifier.
- CSO + BA: The hybrid model that integrates both CSO for feature selection and BA for hyperparameter optimization.

- Accuracy Comparison: The hybrid CSO+BA model achieves the highest accuracy (91.35%), demonstrating a significant improvement over the baseline (85.25%). F1-Score Comparison: The hybrid approach also leads to the best F1-score (91.10%), showing improvements in balancing precision and recall, which is crucial for detecting both malignant and benign lesions.

VI. CONCLUSION

The findings indicate that utilizing CAT Swarm Optimization (CSO) for feature selection in conjunction with the Bat Algorithm (BA) for hyperparameter tuning significantly enhances skin cancer detection performance. This approach surpasses all other methods, highlighting the vital roles of feature selection and hyperparameter adjustments in optimizing a skin cancer detection system's efficiency. The integrated model achieves superior accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and F1-score, rendering it a more dependable and effective method for the specified skin cancer detection dataset. This implementation can act as a foundation for more sophisticated models in automated melanoma detection, potentially aiding in the creation of improved diagnostic tools for dermatologists and healthcare professionals. Future research should concentrate on further refining these algorithms, assessing the model in actual clinical settings, and performing extensive experiments with various datasets to validate its robustness and effectiveness across different situations.

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