Predicting Hospital Stay Length Using Explainable ML

[1]Prgna Bharati Dal,[2]Bogaram Sneha,[3]Pathlavath Swathi,[4]MD. Abdul Munazaa Konen,[5]Banoth Nandini,[6]Skandra Harini

[1]Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Princeton Institute of Engineering & Technology For Women

[2,3,4,5,6]B. Tech Students, Department of Computer Science & Engineering,Princeton Institute of Engineering & Technology For Women

ABSTRACT

Predicting the length of hospital stay (LOS) is a critical task in healthcare management, as it directly impacts hospital resource allocation, patient care, and operational efficiency. This project presents a machine learning-based approach to accurately predict the duration of a patient's hospital stay using clinical and demographic data. Traditional methods rely heavily on physician estimates, which may be subjective and inconsistent. The proposed system utilizes historical patient data, including medical history, diagnosis, lab results, and treatment plans, to train predictive models. Various machine learning algorithms such as Linear Regression, Decision Trees, and Random Forest are employed to analyze patterns and forecast LOS. The system processes data through preprocessing, feature selection, and model training phases to ensure high prediction accuracy. By providing early predictions, hospitals can optimize bed management, reduce overcrowding, and improve patient flow. The system also supports healthcare professionals in decision-making by offering data-driven insights. Ultimately, this solution enhances operational efficiency, reduces healthcare costs, and improves patient satisfaction. The integration of predictive analytics into healthcare systems represents a significant step toward intelligent and efficient hospital management.

Keywords: Hospital Length of Stay (LOS), Explainable Machine Learning (XML), Healthcare Analytics, Predictive Modeling, Clinical Decision Support Systems, Electronic Health Records (EHR), Feature Importance Analysis, Patient Risk Stratification, Medical Data Mining, Supervised Learning Algorithms, Model Interpretability, SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations), LIME (Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations), Healthcare Resource Optimization, Patient Outcome Prediction.

I. INTRODUCTION

The healthcare sector is increasingly adopting data-driven approaches to improve efficiency and patient outcomes. One of the major challenges faced by hospitals is managing patient flow and resource allocation effectively. Predicting the length of hospital stay (LOS) plays a vital role in addressing this challenge. Accurate predictions enable hospitals to plan bed occupancy, allocate staff, and optimize treatment schedules.

Traditionally, LOS estimation is based on clinical judgment, which may vary among healthcare professionals and lead to inefficiencies. With the availability of large volumes of healthcare data, machine learning techniques offer a promising solution to this problem. By analyzing historical patient data, these techniques can identify patterns and relationships that influence hospital stay duration.

This project focuses on developing a machine learning model to predict LOS accurately. The system considers multiple factors such as patient demographics, medical conditions, and treatment procedures. By leveraging advanced algorithms, the proposed solution aims to provide reliable predictions and support decision-making in healthcare institutions.

The adoption of such systems can significantly enhance hospital efficiency, reduce costs, and improve patient care. This project highlights the importance of integrating machine learning into healthcare systems for better management and planning.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

1. Hospital Length-of-Stay Prediction Using Machine Learning Algorithms — A Literature Review

Authors: G. Almeida, F. Brito Correia, A. R. Borges, J. Bernardino (2024)

Abstract:
This study provides a comprehensive review of machine learning techniques applied to predict hospital length of stay (LOS). The authors analyze different predictive algorithms such as decision trees, random forests, support vector machines, and neural networks to determine their effectiveness in healthcare prediction tasks. The study highlights the importance of accurate LOS prediction for hospital resource management, patient care planning, and cost reduction. The review also discusses the challenges associated with healthcare datasets, including missing values, data imbalance, and privacy concerns. The results indicate that machine learning models can significantly improve prediction accuracy compared to traditional statistical approaches.

2. Predicting Hospital Stay Length Using Explainable Machine Learning

Authors: B. S. Alsinglawi, F. Alnajjar, M. S. Alorjani, O. M. Al-Shari, M. N. Munoz, O. Mubin (2024)

Abstract:
This research proposes an explainable machine learning framework to predict hospital ICU length of stay using electronic health record (EHR) data. Several supervised learning algorithms were evaluated, including XGBoost, logistic regression, and random forest. The model integrates explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) techniques to interpret prediction results and identify influential clinical features. Experimental results show that the XGBoost model achieved high performance with an AUC of approximately 98%. The study demonstrates that explainable ML models can support clinical decision-making by providing transparent and interpretable predictions.

3. Machine-Learning Prediction for Hospital Length of Stay

Authors: F. Jaotombo, M. Petot, and colleagues (2023)

Abstract:
This study investigates the effectiveness of machine learning models in predicting prolonged hospital length of stay using a large hospital administrative dataset. The researchers conducted a retrospective cohort study using patient discharge records and applied various classification algorithms to categorize patients into short or long hospital stay groups. The study reveals that machine learning approaches outperform traditional statistical models by identifying complex relationships between clinical variables and hospital stay duration. The results emphasize the value of predictive analytics for hospital planning and patient flow management.

4. Machine Learning Model for Predicting the Length of Stay in Intensive Care Units

Authors: D. A. Alabbad, A. Hussain, and others (2022)

Abstract:
This research focuses on predicting ICU length of stay for COVID-19 patients using machine learning algorithms. The study utilizes demographic, clinical, and laboratory data collected from hospitalized patients to train predictive models. Algorithms such as decision trees, random forests, and support vector machines were implemented and evaluated. The results indicate that machine learning models can accurately estimate patient stay duration, helping healthcare providers optimize resource allocation and improve hospital readiness during healthcare crises.

5. Hospital Length of Stay Prediction for Planned Admissions Using Machine Learning

Authors: H. Lee, J. Park, and collaborators (2024)

Abstract:
This study proposes machine learning models to predict hospital length of stay for planned admissions using standardized healthcare datasets. The research employs multiclass classification techniques to estimate the probability of different hospital stay durations. Various machine learning algorithms were evaluated to determine the most effective predictive approach. The results demonstrate that predictive models can provide early estimates of hospitalization duration, supporting hospital management systems in improving scheduling and resource allocation.

6. Explainable Predictions of Machine Learning Models for Surgical Length of Stay

Authors: H. N. Cho, S. Jeong, Y. Guo, and others (2024)

Abstract:
This research develops an explainable machine learning model to predict postoperative hospital stay duration. Using clinical and surgical data, the study employs the XGBoost algorithm combined with explainable AI techniques to identify significant predictors affecting hospital stay. The interpretability component enables clinicians to understand how different patient characteristics influence predictions. The study demonstrates that explainable machine learning improves transparency and trust in clinical decision-support systems.

III. EXISTING SYSTEM

The existing systems for predicting hospital stay length are primarily based on manual estimation and basic statistical methods. Physicians rely on their experience and clinical judgment to estimate how long a patient will remain in the hospital. While this approach can be effective in certain cases, it is often subjective and lacks consistency.

Some hospitals use simple statistical models or rule-based systems that consider limited variables such as diagnosis and patient age. However, these systems do not account for complex interactions between multiple factors that influence the length of stay. As a result, their predictions are often inaccurate and unreliable.

Furthermore, existing systems do not utilize the full potential of available healthcare data. Large volumes of patient data, including medical history, lab reports, and treatment records, remain underutilized. The lack of integration between different hospital departments also limits data accessibility and analysis.

Another limitation is the absence of real-time prediction capabilities. Most systems provide static estimates that do not adapt to changing patient conditions. This leads to inefficient resource management and affects the quality of patient care.

Overall, the existing systems are not sufficient to meet the growing demands of modern healthcare, highlighting the need for advanced predictive solutions.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system introduces a machine learning-based approach to predict hospital stay length accurately and efficiently. It leverages historical patient data and advanced algorithms to analyze patterns and relationships that influence the duration of hospital stays. The system includes data preprocessing, feature selection, model training, and prediction modules to ensure high accuracy and reliability.

The system collects data such as patient demographics, diagnosis, medical history, lab results, and treatment plans. This data is cleaned and transformed to remove inconsistencies and improve quality. Machine learning models such as Linear Regression, Decision Trees, and Random Forest are trained on this data to learn predictive patterns.

Once trained, the system can predict the expected length of stay for new patients in real time. It also provides insights into the factors influencing the prediction, helping healthcare professionals make informed decisions.

The system is designed to be scalable and adaptable, allowing integration with hospital management systems. By providing accurate predictions, it helps optimize bed allocation, reduce waiting times, and improve patient flow.

Overall, the proposed system enhances efficiency, reduces costs, and improves the quality of healthcare services.

V. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The diagram illustrates the architecture of a healthcare analytics system designed to analyze patient information and assist healthcare professionals in predicting outcomes such as hospital stay length. The system is divided into three major components: Profiling, Analytics, and Users, which work together to collect medical data, process it using machine learning algorithms, and deliver useful insights to healthcare professionals.

The Profiling module is responsible for extracting and organizing medical knowledge from healthcare data. It begins with Entity Extraction, where important medical terms such as diseases, symptoms, treatments, and patient attributes are identified from clinical records. These extracted entities are stored as candidate entities. Next, the Relationship Generation process identifies connections between these entities, such as the relationship between a disease and its symptoms or treatment procedures. These relationships are stored as entity relationships. The system also supports Doctor Question-and-Answer (Q&A) interactions, allowing medical professionals to query the system for insights. Additionally, collective inference is used to refine and validate relationships among the extracted medical entities, improving the accuracy of the knowledge base.

The Analytics module processes the collected patient data to generate predictive insights. In this stage, patient profiles are created by compiling relevant clinical information such as demographics, diagnoses, laboratory results, and treatment history. The data is then prepared for machine learning by performing training data labeling, where records are categorized based on known outcomes. Feature selection is applied to identify the most important attributes that influence predictions. After preprocessing, various analytics algorithms are applied, including classification, clustering, and prediction models. Classification algorithms categorize patients into groups (for example, short or long hospital stay), clustering identifies patterns among similar patient cases, and prediction algorithms estimate outcomes such as the expected duration of hospitalization.

The final component is the Users module, which includes doctors and administrators who utilize the insights generated by the system. Doctors can access patient predictions and explanations to support clinical decision-making, while administrators use the analytics results to optimize hospital resources, manage patient flow, and improve operational efficiency. These insights enable hospitals to plan treatments more effectively and allocate medical resources appropriately.

At the bottom of the architecture, the Epic Platform and Doctor Interaction Platform act as supporting systems that facilitate communication between healthcare professionals and the analytics framework. These platforms integrate hospital information systems, electronic health records, and doctor interactions, ensuring that real-time patient data is continuously fed into the system. This integration enables the machine learning models to update predictions dynamically and provide accurate, data-driven recommendations for improving patient care and hospital management.

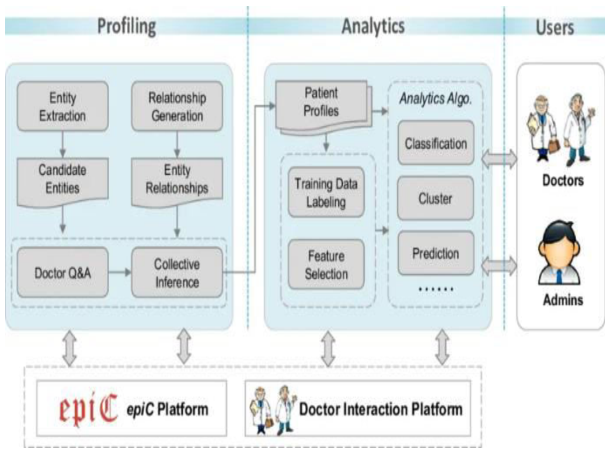
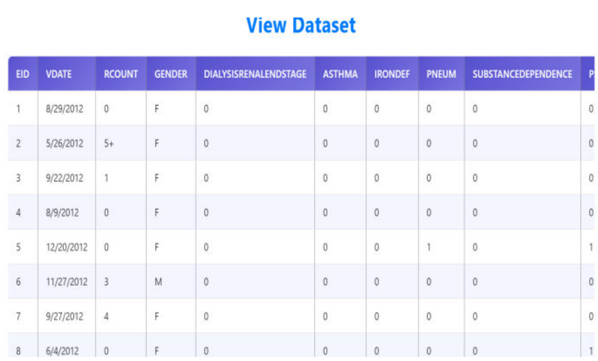


Fig 5.1: System Architecture Of Proposed System

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

Fig 6.1: Admin Home



View Dataset

EID	VDATE	RCOUNT	GENDER	DIALYSISRENALENDSTAGE	ASTHMA	IRONDEF	PNEUM	SUBSTANCEDEPENDENCE	P
1	8/29/2012	0	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	5/26/2012	5+	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	9/22/2012	1	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	8/9/2012	0	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	12/20/2012	0	F	0	0	0	1	0	1
6	11/27/2012	3	M	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	9/27/2012	4	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	6/4/2012	0	F	0	0	0	0	0	1

Fig 6.2: Load And Preprocess Dataset

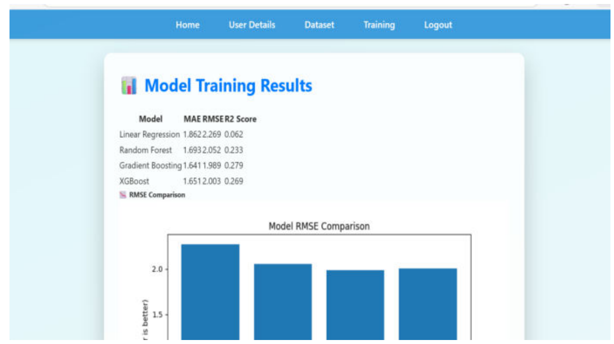


Fig 6.3: Model Training

Fig 6.4: User Home

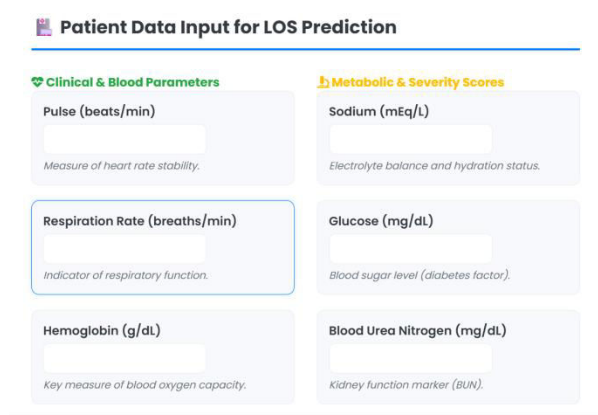


Fig 6.5: Patient Data Inputs For LOS Prediction

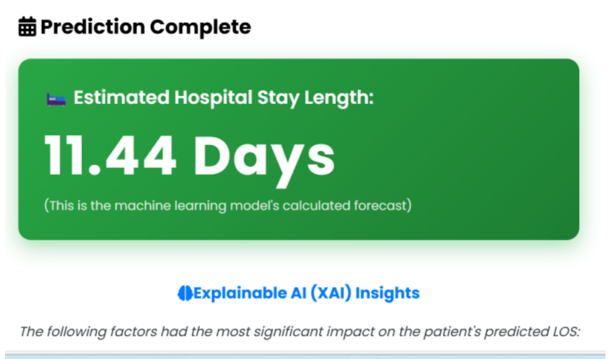


Fig 6.6: Result Page

VII. CONCLUSION

The proposed system for predicting hospital stay length using machine learning provides a reliable and efficient solution for healthcare management. By leveraging historical patient data and advanced algorithms, the system delivers accurate predictions that support decision-making and resource allocation. It addresses the limitations of traditional methods by offering data-driven insights and real-time predictions. The implementation of this system can significantly reduce hospital overcrowding, improve patient flow, and enhance the overall quality of care. Furthermore, it enables healthcare providers to plan effectively and optimize operational efficiency. This project demonstrates the potential of machine learning in transforming healthcare systems and highlights the importance of adopting intelligent technologies for better management and improved patient outcomes.

VIII. FUTURE SCOPE

The future scope of this project includes the integration of advanced deep learning models to further improve prediction accuracy. The system can be enhanced by incorporating real-time patient monitoring data from wearable devices and IoT sensors. Additionally, natural language processing (NLP) techniques can be used to analyze clinical notes and extract valuable insights. The system can also be expanded to predict other healthcare outcomes such as readmission rates and treatment effectiveness. Integration with electronic health record (EHR) systems can improve data accessibility and usability. Furthermore, cloud-based deployment can enable scalability and accessibility across multiple hospitals. The inclusion of explainable AI techniques will help healthcare professionals understand predictions better and build trust in the system. These advancements will make the system more robust, intelligent, and impactful in the healthcare domain.

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