

# Ensemble Learning for Heart Disease Prediction: a Review

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# **Ensemble Learning for Heart Disease Prediction: A Review**

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**ABSTRACT** Humanity has been affected by various diseases throughout history, which have killed many lives. One of the deadliest diseases that humanity has seen in the modern age and is still acknowledged today is heart disease. Heart disease is on the rise as a result of the spread of unhealthy behaviors including smoking, overeating, and inactivity. This paper examined the machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and ensemble learning methods (ELMs) utilized in heart disease prediction research, as well as how they are being implemented. Searches were carried out on the Google Scholar online datasets. Sixty-five studies were included, with ML methods making up most of the studies with 28 (43%), and ELMs were the next single largest group with 24 (37%). DL methods were the smallest single group with 13 (20%). The Cleveland dataset was used in most studies. The result shows that over the last 5 years, there has been a growing desire of leveraging ML, and DL techniques to help further the understanding of heart disease prediction, whether it be by expanding the knowledge of the physiological changes or by improving the accuracies of models to help improve the treatments and disease management.

**INDEX TERMS** Review**,** machine learning, deep learning, ensemble learning, heart disease prediction.

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Heart disease has been the main cause of death worldwide over the last decade. The world health organization (WHO) estimated that around 23.6 million people die largely from cardiovascular diseases each year, with coronary artery disease and brain stroke accounting for 82 percent of these deaths. Such reasons include elevated blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, smoking, and a history of heart disease in the family[1].

Modern technology, including robotics, computers, and mobile phones, as well as the field of health care, nearly everywhere uses machine learning (ML) (i.e., disease diagnosis, safety). ML is becoming more and more popular in a wide range of sectors, including healthcare and disease diagnosis[2]. It is a method that aids the system in picking up knowledge from earlier data samples. In many fields, ML is essential. It also demonstrates how it affects the prediction of heart disease[3].Deep Learning

(DL) is a component of artificial intelligence (AI), which is also a subset of ML. Also, it is an increasingly common ML method [4]. Numerous more study fields can benefit from the use of DL. It is used to predict heart disease as well[3].

The ensemble is a technique that is used to improve the classifier's accuracy. It is combining weak classifiers with strong learners to boost the effectiveness of the weak classifiers. So, merging different classifiers is getting improved performance over each classifier working alone[5].

This study highlights ML and DL methods that are used in heart disease prediction (HDP). It started by outlining several ML and DL methods that are used in common recent studies

This study is to provide insights to recent and future researchers and practitioners regarding ML and DL-based heart disease prediction (MLDL-B-HDP) that will aid and enable them to choose the most appropriate and superior machine learning/deep learning methods. Additionally, it aims to identify potential studies related to the MLDL-B-HDP. In general, the scope of this study is to provide the proper explanation for the following questions:

Which ML-DLHDP datasets are the most widely used?

Which ML and DL approaches are presently used in health care to classify heart diseases?

How is the model's performance evaluated? Is that sufficient?

This study summarized different ML and DL methods utilized in HDP models. The remainder of the paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, the background and overview of ML and DL are discussed, whereas Section 3 is showed the method used to select the studies. Section 4 is presented the results obtained. Finally, Section 5 is concluded the article with a general conclusion.

#### **II. BASICS AND BACKGROUND**

ML is a branch of AI that uses numerical calculations and statistical computations to perform analysis. It was coined in 1959 by [Arthur Samuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Samuel). It requires methods that help the data be processed and generate the final results. It is based on creating software programmers that gain knowledge from data and increase precision without being programmed, over time. ML methods can work with large datasets and make decisions and predictions.

DL is a part of the broad area of AI as well as part of ML, in which suitable methods are augmented by layers of neurons of brain function and structure called artificial neural networks (ANNs). DL replicates the functions of the brain when analyzing and processing data to make decisions. It performs a deep analytical procedure to assiduously learn a dataset using hierarchical layers of ANN. DL Processing data uses a non-linear method to connect and associate all inputs to produce the optimal output. A neural network's first layer gathers input data, analyses it, and transmits the results to the second layer as output. Before making decisions and providing outcomes, the next layer of neurons in a deep neural network processes earlier data [6].

To improve accuracy, the ensemble methods combine multiple classifiers into a single model. There are three types of ensembles learning methods. The first one is bagging that aggregates similar classifiers by the voting method. The second is "boosting," which is similar to "bagging," but new models are influenced by the results of previous models. The third is stacking. It is an advanced ensemble method that is aggregated different classifiers to build the model.





**Figure 1**. Most ML and DL algorithms used in HDP.

#### **A.** *MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHMS*

This section presents the most ML methods that are used in HDP.

#### 1) DECISION TREE

Decision Tree (DT) is a supervised method for machine learning. It is employed to find continuous solutions to classification and regression issues. dividing data based on specific criteria The distribution of the data resembles a tree. Decisions are made in the leaves, which are separated into nodes. This process iterates across the features, and the leaf nodes deliver the final result. The classification tree's decision variable is categorical, but the regression tree's decision variable is continuous (the result is yes or no) [7].

#### 2) SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINE

Both classification and regression issues can be solved with Support Vector Machine (SVM). It classifies data into two classes over a hyperplane. Keep comparable data of one type on one side and comparable data of a different type on the other side of the hyperplane. In order to reduce misclassification, it aims to maximize the separation between each class's two closest data points and the hyperplane. The hyperplane should define what the decision's borders are. In order to divide a group of objects from various classes, you need a decision plan [8].

SVM can be utilized for classification. A hyperplane can divide disease classes in the case of the HDP such that one side of the edge has heart disease while the other does not. Linear and nonlinear SVM are additional divisions of SVM. A nonlinear SVM is used when the data cannot be linearly separated using a line, as opposed to a linear SVM, which can do so. A nonlinear SVM kernel function is used because the data may be complex and cannot be separated using a linear SVM [9].

#### 3) K-NEAREST NEIGHBOR

K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) is a method for supervised learning that may be applied to boz th regression and classification issues. The k nearest data points in the training set are found if the KNN is missing a target value for a given data point, and the estimated average value of collected data points is calculated. The mean of the k labels is returned by regression, whereas the mean of the k labels is either assigned or returned by classification. When prior knowledge of the data is unavailable, KNN is the default classification method employed. The closest

data points can be determined using the Manhattan distance and Euclidean distance, two distance measures. Even with noisy and large amounts of data, it can produce better outcomes and forecasts [9].

#### 4) NAÏVE BAYES

Naïve Bayes (NB) is a probabilistic method that uses the Bayes theorem in application and makes strong (naive) assumptions about the independence of feature pairs. Simple Bayesian models are particularly useful in medicine for diagnosing heart disease patients because they are easy to build without complex iterative parameter estimation. Although being simple, naive Bayesian classifiers are widely used because they often perform surprisingly well and outperform more complex classification methods. The posterior probability can be calculated according to the Bayes theorem:  $P(X|Y)$  from  $P(X)$ ,  $P(Y)$ , and  $P(Y|X)$ . The Naive Bayes assumes that the influence of the value of a predictor variable (X) on a particular class (Y) is independent of the values of other predictor variables. This assumption is called class independence.

$$
P(X/Y) = \frac{P(Y/X) \times P(X)}{P(Y)}\tag{1}
$$

 $P(X|Y)$  is the posterior likelihood of the (target) class given the predictor (attribute).

 $P(X)$  is the prior likelihood of class.

 $P(Y|X)$  is the probability which is the probability of the predictor given class.

 P(Y) is the prior likelihood of the predictor

Where  $X$  and  $Y$  are two events. This method works well with categorical data, but poorly if the training dataset has numeric data [10].

#### 5) LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Both classification and regression problems are resolved using logistic regression (LR). To predict the result, input values may be linearly combined with a logistic or sigmoid function and coefficient values. Given the value of (0 or 1) of the input variable, it provides a binomial result, indicating the probability that the event will occur. There are different types of logistic regression results, like binomial, ordinal (classifications with ordering), and polynomial (classifications without ordering). This model is simple to use and can make accurate predictions. To predict the values of continuous variables, linear regression is used [7].

#### *6)* Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)

Artificial neural network (ANN) is a field of machine learning in neural networks. ANNs are similar to that of Human brain function. The cell is a simulation of a human neuron, it is Similar to how a cell processes information and responds. ANN learns from data, categorizes it, and anticipates an output. It is a nonlinear statistical architecture for discovering complex problem solutions. It contains three layers: an input layer a hidden layer, and an output layer with many nodes that resemble neurons in the human brain. The nodes of the ANN act as inputs for the input layer as neurons converse with one another. Data from the outside world is transferred to the concealed layer through the input layer. Here, the hidden layer analyses the data and makes some computations to search for patterns. Pass the classified data to the output layer after processing. Input functions are converted into output functions using activation functions. There are various varieties, including logistic, tanh, sigmoid, linear, and more. These days, ANNs are widely employed in different industries, including health, image identification, speech recognition, and face recognition [9].

#### *B. DEEP LEARNING ALGORITHMS*

This section presents a review of the most commonly used DL algorithms in HDP.

#### 1) MULTI-LAYER PERCEPTRON

Multi-layer perceptron (MLP) is a form of supervised learning approach and an ANN. This is also referred to as deep learning's fundamental architecture or deep neural network (DNN).

 A basic MLP is made up of just three layers: an input layer that accepts input data, and an output layer that decides what to do with the input signal. Between these two there may be one or more hidden layers that serve as the network's processing units. MLPs' output is calculated using a different of activation functions, including Tanh, Sigmoid, and Softmax, rectified linear unit (ReLU), and numerous optimization techniques, including limited memory BFGS (L-BFGS), adaptive moment estimation (Adam), and stochastic gradient descent (SGD) are used throughout the training phase. MLP needs tuning many hyperparameters, such as hidden layers, neurons, and several iterations, so complex models can be solved computationally intensively[11].

#### 2) CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORK

Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is a well-known supervised DL architecture. It learns directly from inputs without needing to extract features. A CNN with numerous convolutional and pooling layers is demonstrated in Figure 2. As a result, CNNs enhance the architecture of conventional ANNs such as controlled MLP networks. Each CNN layer considers optimal parameters to produce meaningful output while reducing the complexity of the model. CNNs also use a dropout layer that can address the overfitting problem that can occur in traditional networks. The ability to automatically detect key features from inputs without requiring human interaction makes them more effective than traditional networks. In the visual geometry group (AlexNet, Xception, ResNet, etc.), depending on their learning capacity, different CNN variations can be used in various application fields[11].

#### *3)* RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORK

A recurrent neural network (RNN) is one more common neural network that processes sequential or time-series data. It provides the current stage with the output of a previous stage as input. Similarly, to CNNs and feedforward, recurrent networks learn from their training inputs. However, they have a different memory. For that, the information from previous inputs can be used to influence current inputs and outputs. In contrast to a normal DNN, which assumes that the input and output are independent of one another, in RNN, the output is dependent on the prior element in the sequence. Standard recurrent networks, on the other hand, contain vanishing gradients, which makes it challenging to train extended data sequences. A Feed-Forward Neural Network can be transformed into RNN. A single layer of RNNs is created by compressing the nodes from the neural network's input, hidden, and output layers. A, B, and C are the parameters of the RNN network.

Below, are some common variants of recurrent networks that are minimally problematic and work well in many domains of real-world application:

 The LSTM is a well-liked RNN architecture that employs specialized units to address the vanishing gradient issue. In LSTM devices, memory cells have a long-term data storage capacity. Three gates control how information enters and exit the cell. For example, the "forget gate" determines what information is preserved from the cell in the previous state and removes information that is no longer needed. The "input gate" determines what information is put into the cell state. The "output gate" determines and controls the output. LSTM networks are considered one of the most successful RNNs for solving the problem of training recurrent networks.

 Another popular version of recurrent networks called GRU uses gating techniques to regulate and manage the information flow between neural network cells. GRUs are similar to LSTMs but have reset and update gates but no output gates and fewer parameters. GRU and LSTM vary primarily in that GRU only has two gates (the reset and update gates), while LSTM has three gates (input, forget, and output gates). The GRU's structure enables it to record dependencies on lengthy data sequences in an adaptive manner without losing information from previous segments of the sequence.

 Recurrent networks have the fundamental characteristic of having at least one feedback link that permits looping activations. As a result, the network can carry out temporal processing and sequence learning tasks including sequence duplication or detection, temporal association or prediction, etc. Recurrent networks have certain common applications in speech recognition, machine translation, natural language processing, prediction difficulties, and text summarization[11].

#### 4) GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK

In order to generate new believable patterns on demand, generative modeling uses a form of neural network architecture called generative adversarial networks (GANs). By automatically detecting regularities and patterns in the incoming data, the model can be utilized to generate new instances from the original dataset.

 GAN contains two neural networks. A discriminator D forecasts the possibility that successive samples will be produced from the real data instead of the created data that was produced using the generator. A generator G generates new data with attributes comparable to the original data. As a result, both generators and discriminators in GAN modeling are trained to compete with one another. The deployment of GAN networks is designed for unsupervised learning tasks.

 By producing more realistic data, the generator may attempt to deceive and perplex the discriminator. Healthcare, data augmentation, picture analysis, video generation, audio generation, traffic control, pandemics, cyber security, etc. are just a few of the fast-expanding application areas for GAN networks. In general, GANs have become a significant autonomous data augmentation field and a solution to issues that call for generative approaches [11].

#### **III. METHOD**

#### *A. SEARCH STRATEGY AND SELECTION PROCESS*

In this study, four key search terms (heart disease, machine learning, ensemble learning) across reputable 5-9 journals like IEEE, ACM, Springer, ScienceDirect, and Emerald. To focus on more recent advancements in the field, it was only applicable to articles from 2018 to 2023. There were 100 results in total for original articles with keywords mentioned above, after reviewing articles, case reports and meta-data analysis articles were filtered out. Looking into the content of each publication, it was identified that some of the results were not related to heart diseases and/or machine learning. In the end, 65 publications are relevant to this study. These publications were elected to subcategorize under the results section concerning the disease. It aims to diagnose to provide a more comprehensive comparison and a more coherent reading experience for readers. **[Figure](#page-5-0)**  shows a flowchart detailing the process of how relevant studies are obtained, classified, and explored. **[Table 1](#page-5-1)** outlines the criteria used to define the search term and where, within the manuscript, each term focuses.

<span id="page-5-1"></span>*Table 1.* Criteria used to build the literature search.



#### 1) SEARCH RESULT

The search process is detailed in *[Figure](#page-5-0)* based on the search criteria, 97 total studies were found on the scientific search engines. The unique studies were subsequently extracted, which left a total of 97 studies.



**Figure 2**. Flow chart of studies selection.

<span id="page-5-0"></span>Among the 97 studies that remained, 10 studies were excluded due to issues with accessing the full manuscript, leaving 87 studies to be included for full-text readings and to form the dataset for this study. However, during the full-text readings, a further 18 studies were excluded. After all the exclusions had been applied, this left a final total of 65 studies that were considered for this study [3], [4], [12]- [13].

#### **IV. RESULTS**

Of the 65 studies, several different approaches were taken. The studies were clustered into three subgroups of methods: ML, DL, and ELMs. Each study was then assigned to one of these three groups using the criteria outlined in Table 1. Machine learning methods made up most of the studies with 28 (43%) [3] [12]-[14] being assigned to this group. ELMs were the next single largest group with

24 (37%) studies [15] - [13]. Deep learning methods were the smallest single group with 13 (20%) studies [4], [16] - [17]

#### *A. HEART DISEASE WITH MACHNE LEARNING METHODS*

The studies within this group are focused on using SVM, KNN, DT, RF, NB, LR, ANN, and J48

methods. Most of the 28 studies used more than the methods then compared between them as [12], [18]- [19]- [20], [3], [21]- [22], [14]. Two studies that are used one method [23], [24].







## *Table 2.* Summary of ML methods used in heart disease prediction (HDP).





*EART* 

*BLE* 

methods. Five of these studies used DNN as [4],[16]- [44].

#### *B. HEART DISEASE WITH DEEP LEARNING METHODS*

CNN, GRU, LSTM, RNN, and BiLST M Table **3.** Sum mar y of DL met hod s use d in hear t disease prediction (HDP). summarizes studies that used deep learning methods. Ref Dataset Methods Best Accuracy/Results Future Work/Limitation **2018** [16] Cleveland Fve layer DNN architecture 99% accuracy **2018** [45] Cleveland DNN 93.51% accuracy Use LSTM, RNN, and CNN. **2019** [46] Cleveland  $\chi^2$  statistical model & DNN 93.33% accuracy Use GA with ANN & DNN. **2019** [44] Multiple datasets DNN 87.64% accuracy Use other DL networks. **<sup>2019</sup>** [47] Cleveland & Physionet CNN 97% **2019** [48] Cleveland MLPNN with Back-propagation 94% accuracy **2020** [49] Not mention **DLMNN** 92% accuracy<br> **2020** [50] Cleveland CNN GRU 94% accuracy [50] Cleveland CNN - GRU 94% accuracy **2020** [4] Cleveland DNN using Talos optimization 90.78% accuracy **2021** [51] MIMIC-II RNN, LSTM, GRU, & BI-LSTM GRU with 3 layers is the best **2021** [52] Kaggle Enhanced RNN 91% accuracy<br>**2021** [53] Cleveland LASSO & CNN 97% [53] Cleveland LASSO & CNN **<sup>2022</sup>** [17] Cleveland & Hungarian Fuzzy inference system with 98.85% accuracy **2023** [54] Cleveland, Hungarian, Long Beach and Switzerland CNN 83% Test CNN model on structured and unstructured data to improve it **2023** [55] : Cleveland, Hungarian, Switzerland, Long Beach, stalog CNN with SAE 90.08%

The studies within this group are focused on using DNN,

*Table 3***.** Summary of DL methods used in heart disease prediction (HDP).



ing, Bagg Tree  $(CA)$ (WAE), AdaBoost, and Stacking methods Also some of these studies were combined and integrated between two or more ]. Ref Dataset Methods Best Accuracy/Results Future Work/Limitation 2018 [16] Cleveland Fve layer DNN architecture 99% accuracy **2018** [45] Cleveland DNN 93.51% accuracy Use LSTM, RNN, and CNN. **2019** [46] Cleveland  $\chi^2$  statistical model & DNN 93.33% accuracy Use GA with ANN & DNN. **2019** [44] Multiple datasets DNN 87.64% accuracy Use other DL networks. **<sup>2019</sup>** [47] Cleveland & Physionet CNN 97% **2019** [48] Cleveland MLPNN with Back-propagation 94% accuracy<br>DLMNN 92% accuracy **2020** [49] Not mention **DLMNN** 92% accuracy **2020** [50] Cleveland CNN - GRU 94% accuracy **2020** [4] Cleveland DNN using Talos optimization 90.78% accuracy **2021** [51] MIMIC-II RNN, LSTM, GRU, & BI-LSTM GRU with 3 layers is the best **2021** [52] Kaggle Enhanced RNN 91% accuracy<br>**2021** [53] Cleveland LASSO & CNN 97% LASSO & CNN **<sup>2022</sup>** [17] Cleveland & Hungarian Fuzzy inference system with Fuzzy interence system with 98.85% accuracy<br>Bi-LSTM

CNN 83%

CNN with SAE 90.08%

Table **3.** Summary of DL methods used in heart disease prediction (HDP).

Cleveland, Hungarian, Long Beach and Switzerland

: Cleveland, Hungarian, Switzerland, Long Beach, stalog

**2023** [54]

**2023** [55]

summarizes studies that used ELMs.

*Table 4.* Summary of ensemble learning methods (ELMs) used in heart disease prediction (HDP).





and DL methods. Three studies used more than e ensemble method and compared them [56], [57],



Test CNN model on structured and





Cleveland 98.86% with arge

dataset

#### **V. DISCUSSION**

2023 [76]

According to the papers covered in this study, there is a clear intent to use ML and DL in the field of heart disease prediction research. This is demonstrated by 65 papers that either use ML, DL, or ensemble approaches to build high-accuracy models, evaluate how ML or DL are being used, or compare them [29] - [38], [40], [22], [14], [51], [59], [56], [57], [58]. Most studies applied ML and DL methods to classify and detect heart disease at early stages.

and a large public dataset CNN-LSTM model

 Most of the studies used UCI ML Repository especially the Cleveland dataset with 303 records and 14 features. The results obtained depend on the dataset [24], [66], [13]. As an average of accuracies, the studies that applied DL methods present higher

accuracy than studies that applied ML methods. [Figure 2](#page-13-0) shows the average accuracies of ML and DL for the studies.

datasets - lack of deep ensemble learning methods - In the future, generalize the system



<span id="page-13-0"></span>**Figure 2**. The average **accuracy of** the studies.

Also ensemble models provide better results and improve the performance than individual models [59], [64], [71].

### **Acknowledgments:**

#### **Conflicts of Interest:**

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