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Editorial

Special Issue on Deep Learning for Electroencephalography (EEG) Data Analysis

Roberto Prevete [1], Francesco Isgrò [1] and Francesco Donnarumma [2,*]

[1] Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, University of Naples Federico II, 80125 Naples, Italy; roberto.prevete@unina.it (R.P.); francesco.isgro@unina.it (F.I.)
[2] Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies (ISTC), National Research Council (CNR), San Martino della Battaglia 44, 00185 Roma, Italy
* Correspondence: francesco.donnarumma@istc.cnr.it

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Brain–computer interfaces (BCI) have emerged as a groundbreaking and transformative technology enabling communication between humans and computers through neural systems, primarily electroencephalography (EEG). This innovative field can not only revolutionize healthcare, particularly for individuals with restricted motor functions, but has also demonstrated its versatility across various domains. In addition to their crucial role in the biomedical sector, BCIs have made significant inroads into neuromarketing, education, security, and entertainment.

One of the most promising developments within BCIs is integrating deep learning methods into EEG signal analysis and interpretation. This integration mirrors the remarkable success that deep learning has achieved in numerous other domains, from natural language processing to image recognition. However, this endeavor has its unique set of challenges. EEG signals exhibit a high degree of variability among individuals and even across recording sessions. Additionally, the availability of limited datasets further complicates the application of deep learning techniques in this context.

In this Special Issue, we aim to present a curated collection of pioneering works highlighting significant advancements in applying deep learning methodologies to the analysis of EEG signals. These contributions represent some of the cutting edge of research in the field, addressing the challenges posed by EEG signal variability and limited data resources. Through these works, we hope to shed light on the significant potential of deep learning in revolutionizing our understanding and use of brain–computer interfaces, ultimately paving the way for a future where seamless neural communication with computers is a reality.

In [1], the authors offer a detailed methodology for the A-phase classification of cyclic alternating patterns (CAPs) in sleep EEG. CAPs are a valuable marker of sleep instability, and A-phase manifestations have been linked to specific conditions. Their automatic tool employs distributional representations and machine learning models, opening avenues for improved sleep pattern analysis. The work [2] incorporates a two-dimensional convolutional neural network (CNN) with a transposed convolution and shows that this architecture outperforms the accuracy achieved without the transposed convolution and is comparable to conventional optimal preprocessing methods. This demonstrates the effectiveness of this approach as a potential alternative for BCI preprocessing. In [3], a novel approach is introduced using transposed convolution in BCI preprocessing. Their method demonstrates enhanced classification accuracy, offering an alternative to conventional BCI preprocessing techniques. In [4], the authors present a 3D convolutional gated self-attention neural network to improve emotional stress recognition using multi-channel EEG signals. Their method outperforms conventional approaches and holds promise for studying human brain activity. A deep learning model for emotion analysis based on EEG signals is proposed in [5]. Their method achieves high accuracy in binary and multi-class classification, demonstrating the potential of EEG pattern analysis in emotion recognition. In [6], the authors develop a computer-aided detection system for focal and non-focal

EEG signals related to epileptic seizures. Their hybrid feature extraction and classification techniques outperform existing methods, offering promise for Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) applications.

The research presented in these research studies collectively propels the field of deep-learning-driven EEG signal analysis to new heights. Building on these foundations, future investigations could aim to bring these innovations closer to real-world applications. For instance, further refinement of EEG-based emotion recognition models might enable the development of empathetic virtual assistants and mental health monitoring tools that respond to users' emotional states in real-time.

Additionally, exploring the potential integration of seizure detection systems into wearable devices could offer individuals with epilepsy a means of continuous monitoring and timely intervention. Such innovations might not only enhance the quality of life for patients, but also provide valuable data for clinicians to make more informed decisions. Efforts to optimize EEG preprocessing techniques and neural network architectures can make brain–computer interfaces (BCIs) more user-friendly and accessible. The seamless integration of BCIs into daily life, allowing individuals to control devices or communicate effortlessly through neural signals, is an exciting frontier. Furthermore, cross-disciplinary collaborations may yield novel insights by combining EEG data with other modalities, such as eye-tracking or physiological data. This fusion of information could enhance our understanding of complex cognitive processes, leading to more sophisticated applications in fields like human–computer interaction and neuroergonomics.

In summary, these research works serve as foundational stepping stones for future advancements in EEG signal analysis and interpretation. The potential applications span from enhancing mental well-being to improving the lives of individuals with neurological conditions and expanding the horizons of human–computer interaction. As technology continues to advance, this field holds great promise for innovative solutions that bridge the gap between neuroscience and everyday life.

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