

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A FLEXIBLE AI-INTEGRATED INTRAORAL IMAGING DEVICE FOR REAL-TIME DENTAL DIAGNOSTICS

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Introduction:

Teeth play an important role not only in chewing food but also in speaking and maintaining facial appearance. Good oral health is essential for overall well-being, as poor dental hygiene can lead to problems like cavities, gum diseases, and even serious health issues such as heart disease and diabetes. Traditional dental diagnosis mainly depends on visual examination and X-rays, which can sometimes miss early-stage diseases and depend heavily on the dentist's experience.

With the advancement of technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and image processing are improving the way dental problems are detected. AI can analyze dental images quickly and accurately, helping in early identification of issues like cavities, plaque, and lesions. Intraoral cameras are already used for capturing images inside the mouth, but most of them do not provide intelligent analysis.

This project focuses on developing an AI-integrated intraoral diagnostic system that can capture high-quality images and analyze them in real time. The system uses deep learning techniques to detect dental diseases automatically. It also supports mobile and cloud connectivity, allowing remote monitoring and consultation.

The proposed solution aims to make dental diagnosis faster, more accurate, and accessible, especially in rural and low-resource areas. By combining AI, IoT, and healthcare, this system helps shift from traditional reactive treatment to early detection and preventive care.

Objectives:

1. To design a portable intraoral imaging device for capturing clear dental images.
2. To develop an AI-based system for detecting dental diseases such as caries, plaque, and gum infections.
3. To provide real-time diagnostic results with severity level and confidence score.
4. To build a user-friendly mobile/web application for easy image upload and report viewing.
5. To enable cloud-based storage for maintaining patient records and history.
6. To suggest appropriate treatment options and preventive measures based on diagnosis.
7. To recommend nearby dental clinics using location-based services.
8. To make the system affordable and accessible for rural and low-resource areas.

Methodology:

The project focuses on developing an AI-integrated intraoral dental diagnostic system by combining hardware, software, and machine learning techniques.

First, a portable intraoral camera is used to capture high-resolution images of teeth and gums. The camera is equipped with LED lighting and Wi-Fi connectivity to ensure clear image capture and real-time transmission to the mobile or web application.

Once the image is captured, it is sent to the backend server for preprocessing. In this stage, image processing techniques such as noise removal, contrast enhancement, resizing, and normalization are applied to improve image quality. The region of interest (teeth area) is extracted using segmentation methods.

After preprocessing, the image is passed to the AI model. A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is used to analyze the image and detect dental conditions such as caries, plaque, calculus, and gum inflammation. The model classifies the severity of the disease (mild, moderate, severe) and generates a confidence score.

The results are then processed by the system to generate a structured diagnostic report. This report includes detected conditions, severity level, possible causes, and recommended treatments.

The system also integrates a medical safety engine to ensure safe treatment suggestions and avoid incorrect medication. Additionally, a location-based recommendation module suggests nearby dental clinics using GPS data.

All reports and images are securely stored in cloud storage for future reference and monitoring. The user can access past records and track improvements over time.

Finally, the system is tested for accuracy, performance, and usability to ensure reliable real-time dental diagnosis.

Result and Conclusion:

In conclusion the developed AI-integrated intraoral dental diagnostic system was successfully implemented and tested using multiple dental images. The system was able to capture high-quality intraoral images and process them efficiently through the AI model.

The results showed that the system can accurately detect common dental conditions such as early caries, moderate decay, plaque accumulation, and gum inflammation. The AI model achieved good accuracy, especially in mild and moderate cases, with confidence levels ranging from approximately 60% to 85%. The system was able to generate diagnostic reports within a few seconds, ensuring real-time performance.

The integration of image preprocessing techniques improved the clarity of images and enhanced the accuracy of predictions. The cloud-based storage system enabled secure saving of reports and easy access for future reference. The clinic recommendation module successfully suggested nearby dental clinics based on user location.

However, some limitations were observed, such as reduced accuracy in severe dental cases and dependency on image quality and lighting conditions. These issues can be improved with a larger dataset and better imaging techniques.

In conclusion, the proposed system provides a fast, reliable, and cost-effective solution for early dental disease detection. It reduces dependency on manual diagnosis and improves accessibility to dental care, especially in rural areas. The system has strong potential for real-world application in preventive and remote healthcare.

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Future Scope:

The future scope of this project includes:

1. Improving the AI model accuracy by training on a larger and more diverse dataset.
2. Enhancing detection capabilities for severe dental conditions and complex cases.
3. Integrating real-time video analysis instead of only image-based diagnosis.
4. Developing edge AI models for faster processing without internet dependency.
5. Adding support for more dental conditions such as oral cancer, periodontitis, and enamel erosion.
6. Implementing 3D dental imaging for better visualization and analysis.
7. Expanding the mobile application with multilingual support for wider usability.
8. Integrating tele-dentistry features for direct communication with dentists.
9. Connecting with Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems for better data management.
10. Improving hardware design with higher resolution cameras and better sensors.
11. Adding voice-guided assistance for easy image capture by users.
12. Enhancing data security and privacy using advanced encryption techniques.
13. Providing personalized oral health recommendations using AI analytics.
14. Extending the system for use in schools, rural clinics, and public health programs.
15. Supporting offline mode for remote areas with limited internet connectivity.