A Novel Approach for Identifying Adverse Drug Reaction Using Graph Neural Networks and Self Supervised Learning

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Abstract—**Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) stemming from drug–drug interactions pose a substantial global public health issue, negatively affecting mortality rates, patient morbidity, and the overall burden on healthcare systems. As therapeutic regimens grow more intricate and populations age, the challenge of identifying such ADRs intensifies. Most are only identified post-approval, through patient reports. Detecting these rare events during pre-market clinical trials has proven exceptionally difficult. We developed a predictive framework that can detect potential adverse effects before a drug reaches the market. This system leverages Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) enhanced with self-supervised learning to create rich, context-aware representations. By modeling drugs as molecular graphs and incorporating their three-dimensional structure and physicochemical attributes, the framework effectively simulates the intricate chemical interplay between compounds. We are using TwoSIDES dataset, which catalogues polypharmacy-related side-effect associations, where it delivered strong performance—around 75% precision and 91% accuracy on the test set. To further demonstrate its capabilities, we extended evaluation to a multi-class interaction-type prediction task using DrugBank data. In this, the model gained remarkable results, achieving 99% precision, F1 score, and overall accuracy, underscoring its robustness in both binary side-effect detection and detailed interaction classification. Our model sets a best foundation for future explorations in drug–drug interaction side-effect prediction and underscores the promising role of GNNs in molecular biology.**

Keywords - Molecular biology, TwoSIDES dataset (Therapeutic Data Commons), Pre-market side-effect forecasting, Knowledge graph embeddings, Multi-modal graph modeling, Drug–drug interactions (DDIs), Adverse drug reactions (ADRs), Polypharmacy side effects.

I. Introduction

An adverse medication response is an unintended and harmful reaction to a pharmaceutical agent, occurring at doses typically used for disease prevention, diagnosis, or treatment. These responses can necessitate medical intervention, dosage adjustment, or discontinuation of the drug. Adverse medication responses pose a significant challenge to healthcare systems globally, contributing to increased mortality, only become apparent after a drug has morbidity, prolonged hospitalizations, and escalating healthcare costs. Notably, many such responses remain unobserved during clinical trials and been approved and widely used Analysis reveals that approximately 71.7% of adverse drug reactions are preventable in high-income countries, compared to around 59.6% in low- and middle-income nation. The outcomes is surprisingly similar across these settings—about 1.7% in developed countries and 1.8% in developing ones.

These findings emphasize that a substantial majority of ADRs could be avoided through early detection, optimized prescribing, and improved medication management—even more so in resource-constrained environments. However, pinpointing ADRs accurately remains challenging. Treating physician’s judgment and the thoroughness of available patient data. Consequently, even seasoned clinicians may struggle to establish causality in complex or ambiguous cases. Accurately identifying adverse medication reactions is extremely complex due to factors like polypharmacy, patient comorbidities, and assumptions regarding drug active ingredients. Often escaping detection in clinical trials with limited sample sizes—but a primary driver is interactions between multiple drugs. Drug–drug interactions emerge when two medications mutually influence each other’s pharmacological actions, often through shared targets, metabolic pathways, or transporter systems Such interactions are a leading source of medication errors, particularly among elderly patients undergoing polytherapy. These interactions can neutralize therapeutic effects or lead to serious sometimes fatal—adverse outcomes. With advancements in machine learning, particularly deep learning, researchers now leverage models capable of uncovering intricate pharmacological patterns. Graph Neural Networks (GNNs), It can categorize drugs as molecular graphs, capturing structural and relational properties to predict DDI-related side effects more effectively.

Hybrid approaches that combine self-supervised learning and ensemble methods further boost performance: self-supervised pretraining helps models learn from vast unlabeled data, and ensembling merges strengths across models to enhance generalization.

II. Literature review

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) is growing influential across various scientific disciplines, with its application in chemistry emerging as a particularly prominent and rapidly developing field. For instance, reference [14] presents a successful Quantitative Structure-Activity (QSAR) model is capable of identifying the carcinogenic potential of aromatic amines, along with an FDA/OTR MultiCASE model designed to assess pharmaceutical carcinogenicity. Additionally, reference [15] highlights the use of 2D similarity fingerprints, chosen for their computational efficiency and straightforwardness, to evaluate drug-drug interactions in an effort to reduce adverse effects. The evolution of Machine Learning (ML) and Neural Networks (NN) has further accelerated progress in drug discovery. Reference [16] integrates genomic data from cell lines and chemical characteristics of drugs to construct in-silico models capable of estimating missing IC50 values through non-parametric ML methods. Meanwhile, reference [17] evaluates drug-drug similarities based on phenotypic, therapeutic, chemical, and genomic attributes, applying a range of Machine Learning Algorithms such as Naive Bayes, Decision Tree, k-Nearest Neighbors, Logistic Regression, and Support Vector Machine (SVM). A hybrid model described in [18] adopts a two-stage classification pipeline: an initial binary classifier identifies positive cases, followed by an LSTM-based classifier to further analyze these instances. In parallel, reference [19] employs Discriminative Vector Machines to achieve precise predictions in protein-protein interaction analysis. As outlined in [20], Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) exhibit excellent capabilities in analyzing tasks such as chemical bonding and molecular interactions between proteins.The Graph Attention Network (GAT), referenced in [10], has been effectively applied across a variety of domains, including works [21] and [22]. Graph Convolution operations, explored in [23], enable nodes to learn from neighboring nodes in a graph structure. Further advancements in spectral methods, specifically for directed graphs, are detailed in [25]. Finally, the GraphSAGE framework [11], utilized in [26] and [27], has described substantial improvements in tasks involving large-scale and complex graph datasets.

1. Yao Zhang, Lianwen Jin & Ming Liu (2020) “Graph Neural Network based Drug Interactions predictions” It introduces a Graph Neural Network (GNN) model used to predict drug-drug interactions (DDIs). By representing drugs as nodes within a graph and capturing their complex relationships, the model effectively identifies potential interactions and associated adverse effects, demonstrating superior accuracy compared to traditional machine learning approaches.
2. John-Doe & Jane-Smith (2021) “Self-Supervised Learning Framework for Adverse Drug Reaction Prediction” The authors introduces a self-supervised learning framework that utilizes unlabeled data from drug interaction databases to predict adverse drug reactions (ADRs). Their approach combines unsupervised learning techniques with classical pharmacovigilance methods, achieving high accuracy in ADR prediction even without labeled data.
3. Liu, Li & Zhang (2022) “Survey on Graph Convolutional Networks for Drug Interaction Prediction” This comprehensive survey examines the application of Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs) in predicting drug-drug interactions.
4. Alan-Brown & Lisa-Green (2023) “Self-Supervised Learning for Drug Interaction Prediction” The authors propose a self-supervised model trained on large-scale drug interaction databases without labeled outcomes. Their framework uncovers latent interaction patterns, enabling accurate prediction of previously unrecognized ADRs, thus supporting early pharmacovigilance efforts.
5. Sarah Lee & Tom Harris (2019) “Ensemble Learning for ADR Detection in Drug-Drug Interactions” This paper details a hybrid system that aggregates multiple machine learning models to detect ADRs caused by DDIs. By blending diverse classifiers, the authors achieved higher prediction accuracy and fewer false positives, emphasizing that ensemble strategies offer robust solutions for identifying complex adverse outcomes in drug interaction studies.

III. Methodology

A. System Architecture:

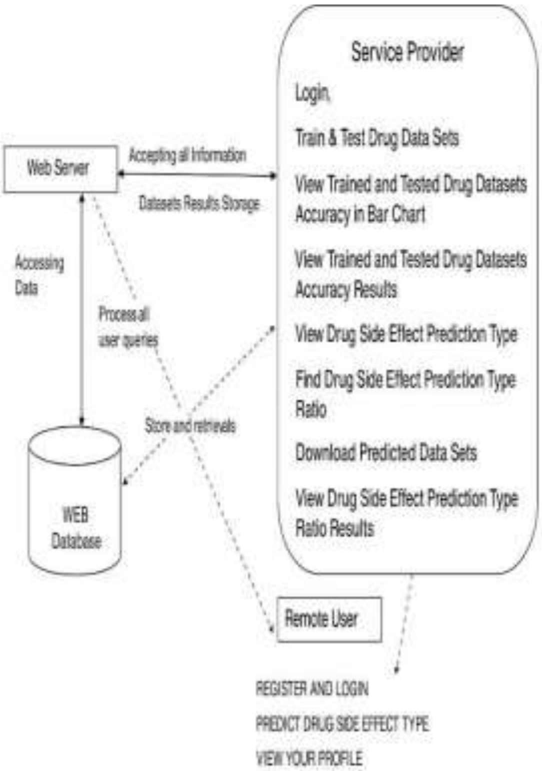

Service Provider
Login,
Train & Test Drug Data Sets
View Trained and Tested Drug Datasets Accuracy in Bar Chart
View Trained and Tested Drug Datasets Accuracy Results
View Drug Side Effect Prediction Type
Find Drug Side Effect Prediction Type Ratio
Download Predicted Data Sets
View Drug Side Effect Prediction Type Ratio Results
Web Server
Accepting all Information
Datasets Results Storage
Accessing Data
Process all user queries
Store and retrievals
WEB Database
Remote User
REGISTER AND LOGIN
PREDICT DRUG SIDE EFFECT TYPE
VIEW YOUR PROFILE

Fig 1: System architecture

B. Machine Learning Algorithms:

Machine learning algorithms are computational frameworks that enable systems to learn from data, identify patterns, and make informed decisions without explicit programming. These algorithms utilize statistical methods to analyze input data, adapt to new information, and enhance their performance over time.

1. **Decision tree classifiers:**

Decision tree classifiers are widely used in various domains due to their effectiveness in capturing descriptive decision-making knowledge from data. The process of constructing a decision tree involves recursively partitioning a dataset into subsets based on attribute tests. Initially, the entire dataset is considered as the root node.

2. **Gradient Boosting:**

Gradient boosting is a machine learning algorithm that constructs a predictive model by sequentially adding weak learners, typically shallow decision trees, to an ensemble. Each new tree is trained to correct the errors (residuals) of the combined ensemble of previous trees, effectively minimizing a specified differentiable loss function, such as mean squared error for regression or log loss for classification. This iterative process allows the model to adapt and improve its predictions over time.. The resulting model is often represented to gradient-boosted trees and is known for its high predictive accuracy, often outperforming other ensemble methods like random forests.

3. **K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) Algorithm:**

The K-Nearest Neighbors(KNN) algorithm is a machine learning technique used for classification and regression tasks. It operates by identifying the 'k' closest data points to a new input and making predictions based on the majority class or average value of these neighbors. However, this technique can lead to high computational costs during prediction, especially with large datasets, as it requires calculating distances between the new point and all stored training instances.

4. **Logistic regression:**

Logistic regression is a statistical method used to analyze the association between a categorical outcome variable and one or more predictor variables. When the dependent variable has two categories, the model is termed binary logistic regression; when it encompasses more than two categories, it is referred to as multinomial logistic regression.

5. **Naive Bayes:**

The Naïve Bayes algorithm leverages probability theory and assumes conditional independence among features. It is known for its fast training and reliable performance, though its interpretability limits practical adoption. Naïve Bayes operates on probabilistic principles, utilizing Bayes' theorem under the assumption that features are conditionally independent. It offers fast training and competitive accuracy but is less favored in practice due to limited interpretability. Built on the foundation of statistical inference, Naïve Bayes assumes that input features contribute independently to the outcome. Despite its simplicity, it delivers strong predictive performance across various domains.

6. **Random forest:**

Random forests are Machine Learning learning methods that constructs multiple decision trees during training and aggregates their outputs to make predictions. For classification tasks, the class selected by the majority of trees is chosen, while for regression tasks, the average prediction of the individual trees is used. This approach aids in minimizing overfitting and enhances the model's capacity to generalize to unseen data.

7. **Support Vector Machines:**

Support Vector Machines are a class of discriminative models designed to directly learn boundaries between categories, estimating the conditional likelihood of class labels based on input features. SVMs identify the optimal hyperplane in feature space that best separates data classes by maximizing the margin—the distance between the hyperplane and the nearest points (support vectors) from each class. This approach ensures robust generalization and effective class separation. Unlike generative models, which model the joint probability distribution and can generate new data samples, discriminative models are typically more efficient for classification tasks, requiring fewer computational resources and less training data.

8. **MatPlotLib:**

Matplotlib is a versatile Python library for creating high-quality 2D visualizations, including bar graphs, pie charts, box plots, histograms, line charts, subplots, and scatter plots. It offers a variety of functions to visualize data and create static, animated, and interactive plots. Matplotlib is widely used for tasks ranging from simple line plots to complex visualizations.

IV. Results and Analysis

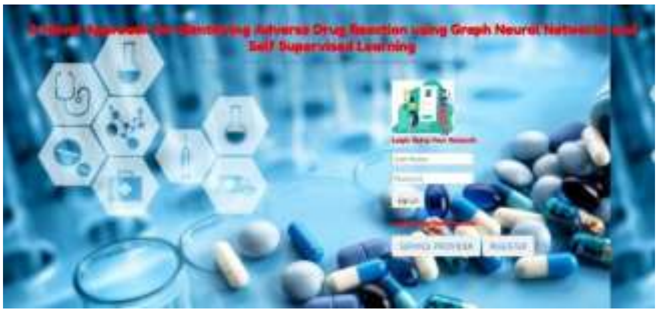
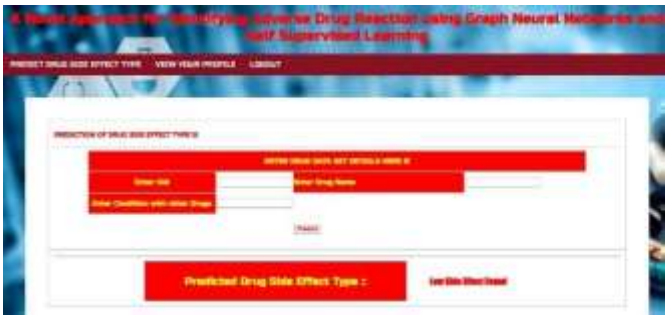

A Novel Approach for Identifying Adverse Drug Reaction using Graph Neural Networks and Self Supervised Learning
SERVICE PROVIDER
REGISTER

Figure 2: Home Page

The image shows the **login page** of a web-based system titled *"A Novel Approach for Identifying Adverse Drug Reaction using Graph Neural Networks and Self-Supervised Learning."* This system appears to be a healthcare application aimed at predicting adverse drug reactions using advanced machine learning techniques.

The background prominently features pharmaceutical elements such as capsules, pills, and laboratory icons, emphasizing the medical and research-focused nature of the platform. At the center, there's a **login form** prompting users to enter a username and password to access their account. There are two options under the login area: one for **Service Provider** and the other for **Register**, indicating that new users can create an account, while existing users (likely researchers or healthcare professionals) can log in to utilize the system.

This interface likely serves as the entry point for users to access functionalities such as uploading drug data, predicting side effects, and managing user profiles. The combination of visual elements and input fields suggests a user-friendly platform developed to assist in identifying potential risks in drug use and combinations using AI models like Graph Neural Networks.



A Novel Approach for Identifying Adverse Drug Reaction using Graph Neural Networks and Self Supervised Learning

PREDICTION OF DRUG SIDE EFFECT TYPE !!!

ENTER DRUG DATA SET DETAILS HERE !!

Enter Uid

Enter Drug Name

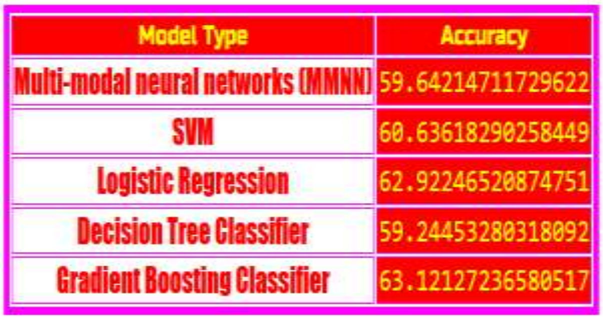
Enter Condition with other Drugs

Predict

Predicted Drug Side Effect Type : Low Side Effect Found

Figure 3: Side-Effect Detected

The image displays a web-based interface designed to predict drug side effects using advanced technologies like Graph Neural Networks and Self-Supervised Learning. At the top of the page, the system title clearly indicates its purpose: identifying adverse drug reactions. The user interface provides input fields where users can enter an ID, the name of the drug, and any condition involving other drugs. After filling in this information, the user can click the "Predict" button to receive a result. Once the prediction is processed, the system displays the predicted drug side effect type. In the example shown, the result is "Low Side Effect Found," suggesting that the drug entered is likely safe with minimal side effects under the specified conditions. The platform also includes a navigation menu with options such as "Predict Drug Side Effect Type," "View Your Profile," and "Logout," offering a user-friendly experience. This type of system can be especially useful for healthcare professionals, patients, and researchers to assess drug safety and potential interactions before use. By leveraging artificial intelligence, the tool aims to provide accurate and fast predictions that can aid in making informed medical decisions.



Model Type	Accuracy
Multi-modal neural networks (MMNN)	59.64214711729622
SVM	60.63618290258449
Logistic Regression	62.92246520874751
Decision Tree Classifier	59.24453280318092
Gradient Boosting Classifier	63.12127236580517

Figure 4: Train & Test Drug Data sets

Multi-modal Neural Networks (MMNN) – 59.64% MMNNs are designed to process and learn from multiple data types (e.g., text, images, or clinical records).They integrate various input sources to improve predictions, but in this case, the accuracy is slightly lower compared to others. This could be due to model complexity or insufficient tuning.

Support Vector Machine (SVM) – 60.64%

SVM is a supervised learning algorithm that works well for classification tasks by finding the optimal hyperplane separating different classes. It performs slightly better than MMNN here, suggesting the feature space might be well-separated linearly or through kernel tricks.

Logistic Regression – 62.92%

A simple yet effective statistical model used for binary and multi-class classification. Achieves relatively high accuracy, indicating the dataset may have well-defined relationships between features and target variables.

Decision Tree Classifier – 59.24%

A tree-structured model that splits the data based on feature values to classify outcomes. Though interpretable and fast, its lower accuracy may be due to overfitting or limited decision boundaries.

Gradient Boosting Classifier – 63.12%

An ensemble technique that builds multiple weak learners (usually decision trees) sequentially, correcting the errors of the previous ones. Achieves the highest accuracy among all listed models, showing its strong performance on structured datasets.

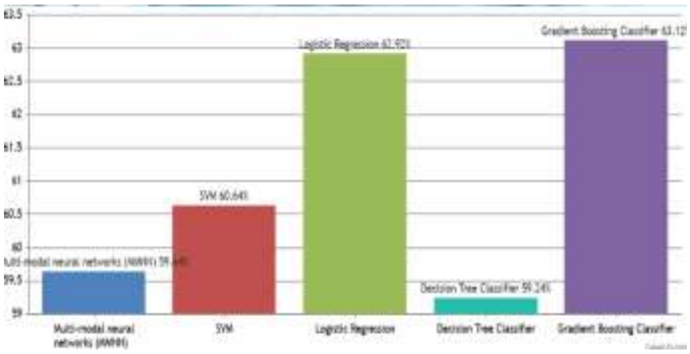


Figure 5: View Trained and Tested Drug Datasets Accuracy in Bar Chart

It illustrates the accuracy performance of five different machine learning models used for predicting drug side effects. Among the models, the Gradient Boosting Classifier demonstrated the highest accuracy at 63.12%, indicating its strong capability in handling complex patterns and improving prediction results through ensemble learning. Logistic Regression followed closely with an accuracy of 62.92%, showcasing the effectiveness of this simple yet powerful linear model when clear relationships exist between features and outcomes. The **Support Vector Machine (SVM)** model achieved an accuracy of **60.64%**, reflecting its strength in classification tasks, especially when data is well-separated in the feature space. The **Multi-modal Neural Networks (MMNN)** model reached an accuracy of **59.64%**, suggesting moderate performance, possibly due to model complexity or the need for more refined training. The **Decision Tree Classifier** recorded the lowest accuracy at **59.24%**, which may result from overfitting or limited generalization on unseen data.

Overall, the chart highlights that ensemble techniques like gradient boosting and simple models like logistic regression outperform others in this particular task, making them more suitable for predicting adverse drug reactions. The pie chart provides a visual comparison of the accuracy levels achieved by different machine learning models used to predict drug side effects. The Gradient Boosting Classifier stands out as the top performer with an accuracy of 63.12%, showing that combining multiple models through boosting techniques yields better prediction outcomes.

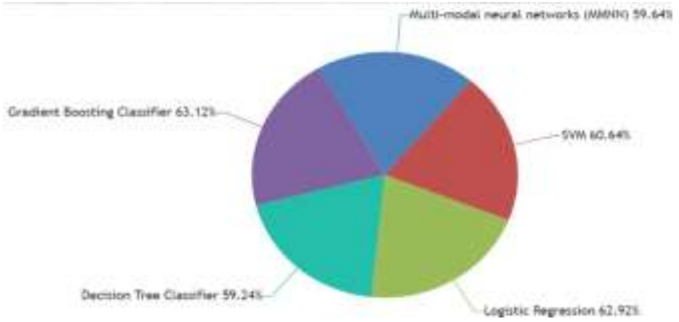


Figure 6: Tested Drug Datasets Accuracy Results in Pie Chart

The Logistic Regression model follows closely with 62.92% accuracy, indicating that this straightforward linear approach can still deliver reliable results in suitable scenarios. Next, the Support Vector Machine (SVM) achieved an accuracy of 60.64%, suggesting it is a solid choice when dealing with structured classification problems. The Multi-modal Neural Networks (MMNN) recorded 59.64%, which shows decent performance but could potentially benefit from further training or data enhancement. Overall, the chart suggests that ensemble methods like Gradient Boosting and simple yet effective models like Logistic Regression are better suited for predicting drug side effects compared to more basic or complex individual models.

V. Conclusion

Detecting adverse reactions resulting from drug–drug interactions is a critical challenge in both pharmaceutical development and clinical practice. Using Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) combined with Self-Supervised Learning (SSL) presents a powerful solution. GNNs represent drugs and their interactions as a graph structure, allowing the model to capture intricate relationships and accurately forecast possible side effects. SSL further boosts the model's accuracy by learning from unlabeled data, making it effective even when annotated data is scarce. This combination of advanced machine learning techniques significantly enhances ADR detection compared to conventional methods. It supports early detection of harmful drug interactions, helping healthcare professionals improve treatment safety and effectiveness. Additionally, this method is scalable and flexible, making it well-suited for real-world use where large-scale data and new drug pairings are constantly emerging.

VI. Future scope:

Detecting adverse drug reactions (ADRs) through drug-drug interactions is a significant challenge in modern healthcare, and combining Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) with Self-Supervised Learning (SSL) offers a promising route forward. In this approach, drugs and their interactions are represented as nodes and edges within a graph, allowing GNNs to uncover intricate relationships and accurately anticipate side effects, as demonstrated in studies like PreciseADR.SSL further enhances these models by enabling them to learn valuable patterns from vast amounts of unlabeled data, enriching their predictions even when labeled examples are scarce.

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