

# AI-Based Neurophysiological Signal Analysis: A New Era in Depression Diagnosis

Vanshika Dhoble

PG Student, Department of Computer Application, G. H. Raisoni University, Amravati, Maharashtra, India

## ABSTRACT

This study suggests using electroencephalography (EEG) in conjunction with a convolutional neural network (CNN) model to detect major depressive disorder (MDD). In the suggested approach, a CNN model trained to identify the distinctive EEG signs of sadness processed EEG data images with brain activity patterns linked to MDD. Early detection and intervention are made easier by the CNN model's output, which indicates the existence and severity of MDD. This method has the potential to completely change the diagnosis of depression by offering a quicker, more objective, and more accessible way to detect people who are at risk of developing major depressive disorder (MDD). This would improve patient outcomes and lessen the burden of this looming condition on society.

**KEYWORDS:** Major Depressive Disorder (MDD); Electroencephalography (EEG); Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs).

## I. INTRODUCTION

The application of machine learning and neuroimaging techniques, such as electroencephalography (EEG), functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), has gained significant attention in diagnosing brain disorders at an individual level [1]. While neuroimaging has been successful in distinguishing between patient groups and healthy individuals, applying these techniques for single-subject predictions—which are essential for clinical diagnosis—remains a challenge due to variations in individual brain activity and data interpretation [1].

One approach to improving the accuracy of EEG-based depression detection is the cross-correlation method, which helps analyze the functional connectivity between different brain regions. Studies have shown that cross-correlation techniques can enhance depression classification accuracy by identifying subtle variations in brain activity patterns linked to depressive symptoms [2]. Furthermore, EEG signal processing plays a critical role in understanding brain functions and has been widely used in medical diagnostics and brain-computer interfaces (BCI). Various EEG feature extraction and classification techniques, such as power spectral density (PSD), wavelet transforms, and deep learning models, have been applied to detect neuropsychiatric disorders, including depression [3].

Recent advancements in deep learning-based EEG classification have significantly improved the accuracy of depression detection. Hybrid models, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) combined with long short-term memory (LSTM) networks, have been employed to capture

spatial and temporal EEG features, demonstrating higher classification accuracy than traditional machine learning methods [5].

Moreover, recent research suggests that connectivity biomarkers derived from neuroimaging can serve as reliable indicators for assessing different levels of depression severity. For instance, studies utilizing resting-state fMRI and EEG connectivity measures have demonstrated that depression severity correlates with changes in functional brain networks, providing a potential avenue for objective and automated depression assessment [4]. Neurofeedback-based EEG analysis has also been explored as a potential intervention, utilizing real-time brain activity monitoring to guide therapeutic treatments [6].

In addition, novel approaches integrating pre-deployment stress classification using EEG data have been investigated to assess mental health conditions before they escalate into severe depression [8]. The classification of EEG signals using machine learning has been widely reviewed, with a focus on different feature extraction techniques that improve depression state recognition [7]. As these advancements continue, the development of an AI-powered EEG depression detection system represents a promising step toward early diagnosis, objective assessment, and real-time monitoring of depression [10].

## II. RELATED WORK

Depression detection using Electroencephalogram (EEG) signals has gained significant attention in recent years. In recent years, there has been a lot of interest in the use of electroencephalogram (EEG) signals to diagnose depression. Machine learning and deep learning approaches have been used in a number of research to increase the precision and dependability of depression diagnosis. Traditional machine learning techniques for EEG-based depression identification have been investigated in a number of research. For example, Hosseinifard et al. (2013) used support vector machines (SVM) in conjunction with power spectral density analysis to categorise people as either depressed or not, with encouraging accuracy. Similarly, to improve classification performance, Faust et al. (2014) used wavelet transform-based feature extraction in conjunction with decision trees and k-nearest neighbours (KNN).

A hybrid deep learning framework that combines CNNs with long short-term memory (LSTM) networks to capture sequential dependencies in EEG signals has also been proposed by Li et al. (2021), further improving depression detection capabilities. Deep learning approaches have also demonstrated significant improvements in EEG-based depression detection. Zhang et al. (2019) used convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to automatically extract spatial and

temporal EEG features, leading to improved classification accuracy compared to traditional handcrafted feature-based methods.

### III. DATA AND SOURCES OF DATA

The development of an AI-powered EEG depression detection system relies on high-quality EEG datasets obtained from various sources. High-quality EEG datasets gathered from multiple sources are necessary for the creation of an AI-powered EEG depression detection system. Labelled EEG recordings from publicly accessible datasets, such as the TUH EEG Database, DEAP, and SEED, can be utilised to train machine learning models.

Pre-processing methods for these EEG recordings include noise reduction, feature extraction (e.g., power spectral density, frontal alpha asymmetry), and labelling according to mental health evaluations such as the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D).

Working with EEG data necessitates ethical concerns such as IRB permission, patient consent, and adherence to privacy laws (HIPAA, GDPR). AI models can be trained to accurately identify depression by combining clinical records, public databases, and real-time EEG collection. This presents a viable strategy for early diagnosis and intervention.

#### Equations:

- **Signal Acquisition and Pre-processing:**

$$X(t) = S(t) + N(t)$$

- **Feature Extraction:**

$$F = f(X)$$

- **Response Time Equation :**

$$T_r = T_a + T_p + T_f + T_c$$

### IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data collection, pre-processing, feature extraction, model development, and evaluation are all part of the experimental research methodology for the AI-powered EEG depression detection system. EEG signals are obtained from clinically diagnosed depressed and non-depressed individuals using multi-channel EEG devices in a controlled environment, and ethical considerations, such as informed consent and data privacy compliance, are ensured.

The collected EEG signals are pre-processed to remove noise and artefacts using filters like Butterworth and wavelet transforms, and the data is then segmented and normalised.

Time-domain, frequency-domain, and time-frequency analysis are used for feature extraction, employing techniques like Power Spectral Density (PSD), Short-Time Fourier Transform (STFT), and functional connectivity measures. The retrieved characteristics are used to train deep learning architectures such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, as well as machine learning models such as Random Forest and Support Vector Machines (SVM).

Model performance is maximised by feature selection methods like Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) and Principal Component Analysis (PCA). Accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and AUC-ROC metrics are used to assess the models' performance after they have been trained and validated using an 80-20 split or k-fold cross-validation. For clinical and distant applications, the trained model is then integrated into an AI-powered real-time system with an intuitive user interface.

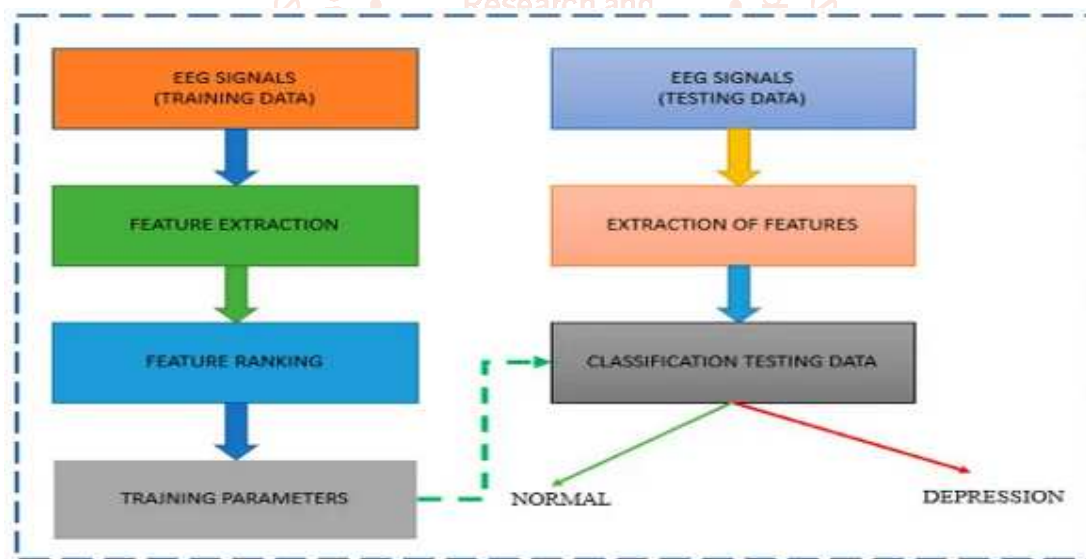


Figure 1 : Electroencephalography-Based Depression Detection Using Multiple Machine Learning

#### 1. EEG Signals (Training Data) :

An AI-powered EEG depression diagnosis system uses EEG signals from a sample of people, including both depressed and non-depressed patients, as training data.

Machine learning and deep learning models are trained using these data to differentiate between patterns of normal and depressed brain activity.

#### 2. Feature Extraction:

In EEG-based depression identification, feature extraction is essential for finding patterns that set depressed people apart from healthy controls.

Time-domain, frequency-domain, and non-linear characteristics are extracted from EEG signals. Machine learning and deep learning algorithms use these extracted information as input to accurately detect sadness.

**3. Training Parameters :**

In order to optimise machine learning and deep learning models for precise classification, training parameters are essential in EEG-based depression diagnosis.

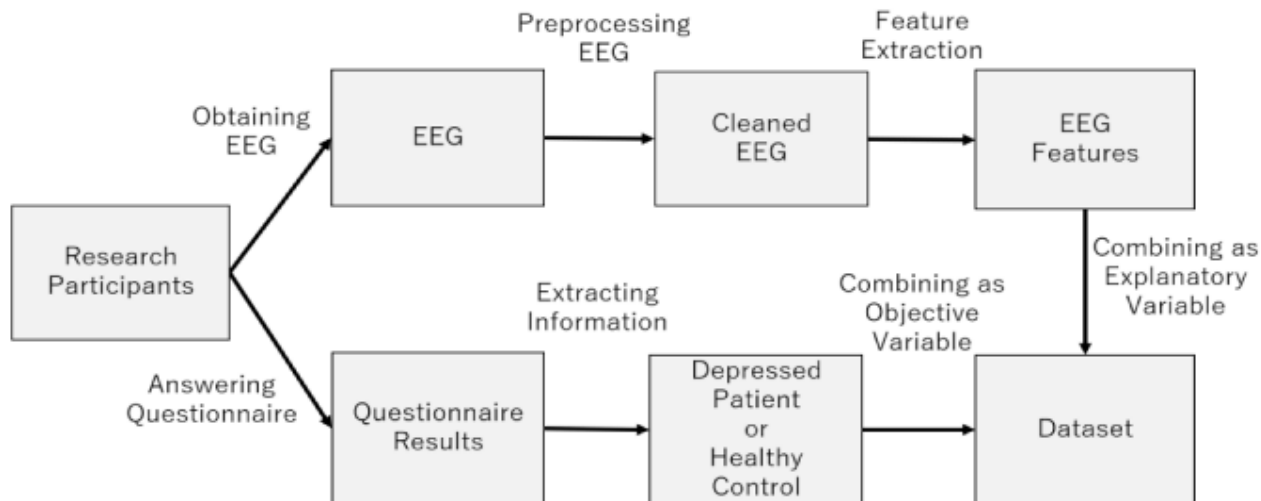
EEG-based AI models can efficiently use ranking features for high-accuracy depression identification while preserving computing economy by optimising these training parameters.

**4. Classification Testing Data :**

In order to classify testing data for EEG-based depression diagnosis, trained machine learning or deep learning models are applied to unknown EEG signals in order to identify whether or not a participant is depressed.

For precise categorisation, deep learning models such as Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are also used to record temporal and spatial EEG patterns.

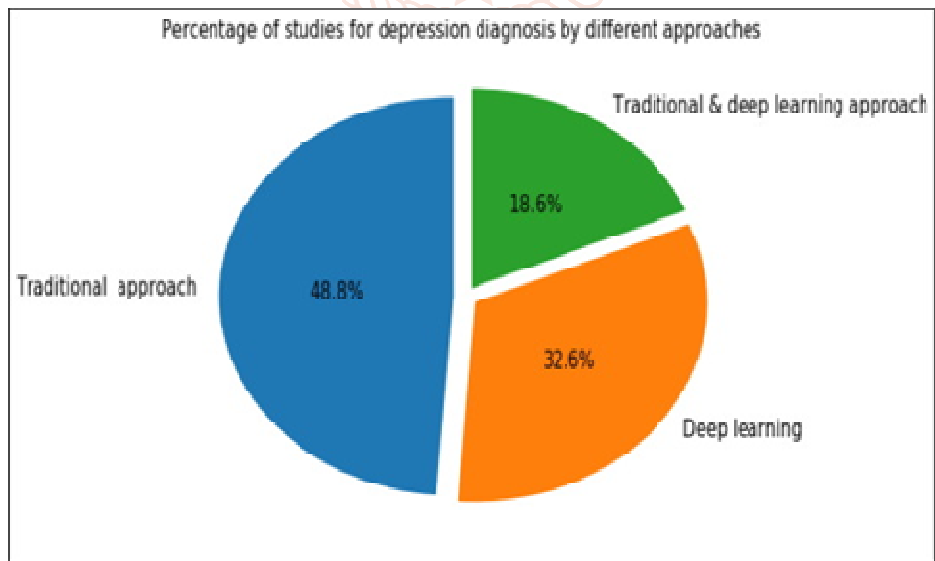
**V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**



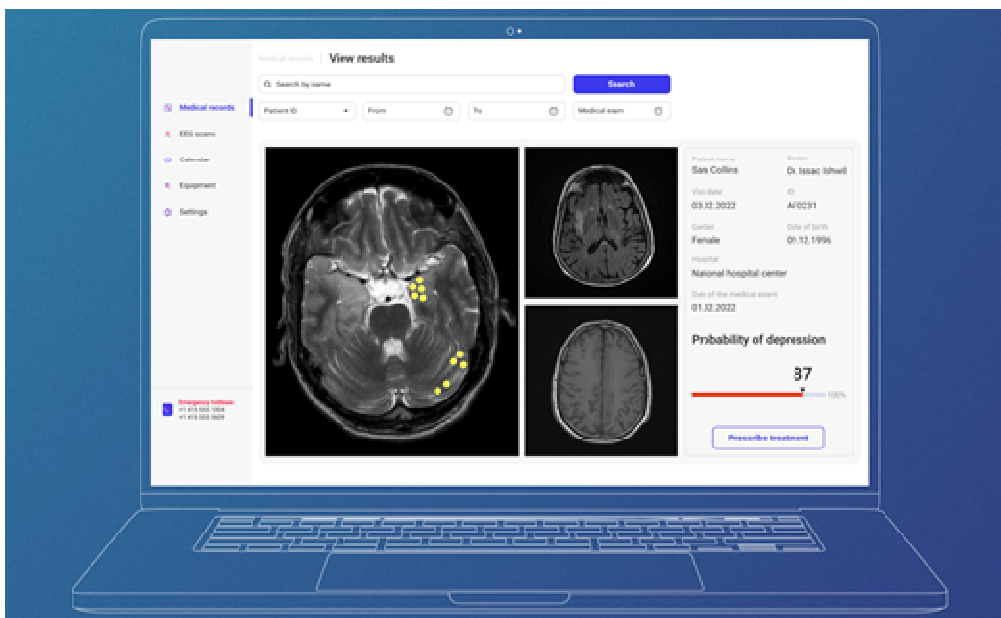
**Figure 2: Machine-Learning-Based Depression Detection Model from Electroencephalograph (EEG)**

The AI-powered EEG depression detection system was evaluated based on various machine learning and deep learning models, using optimized feature extraction and ranking techniques.

Brainwave activity is analysed using artificial intelligence (AI) techniques in a machine-learning-based depression detection model that uses electroencephalography (EEG) to find patterns associated with depression. In order to differentiate between people who are depressed and those who are not, machine learning (ML) models analyse the electrical activity of the brain, which is measured by EEG.

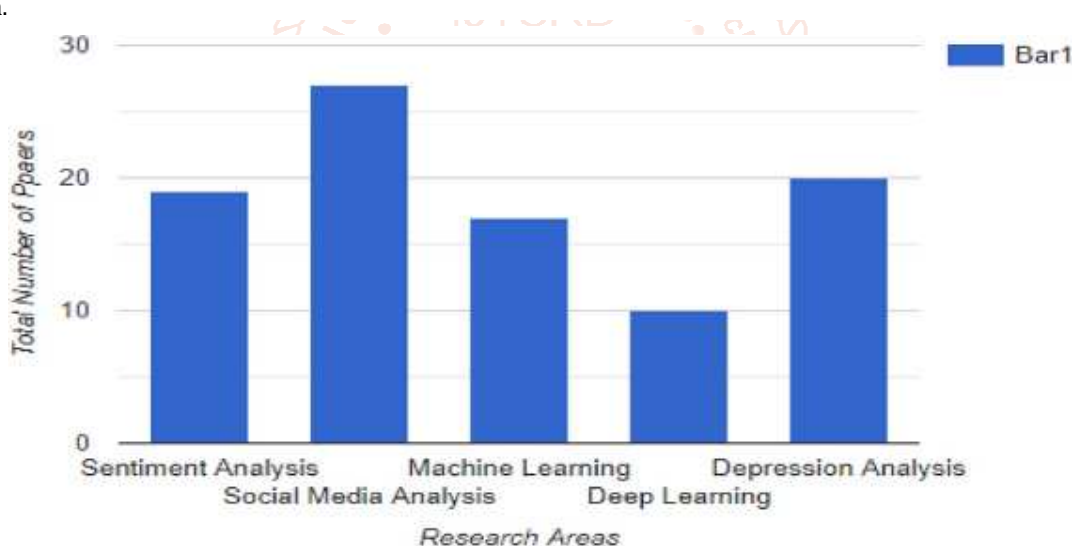


**Fig. data**



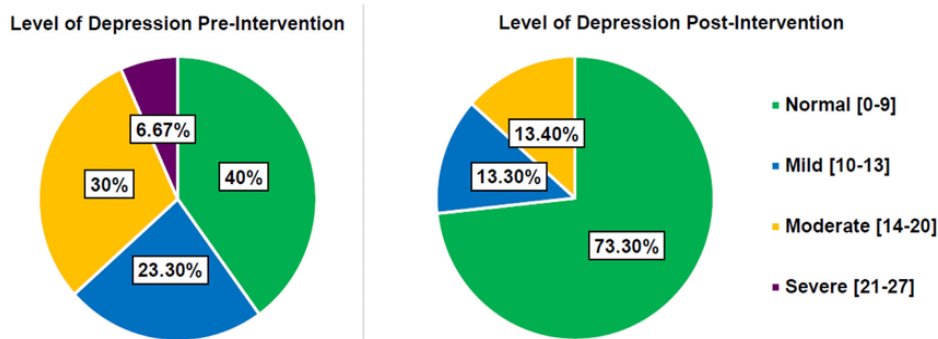
**Figure 3: Automated diagnosis of depression from EEG signals using traditional and deep learning approaches: A comparative analysis - Science Direct**

Electroencephalography (EEG) has been widely used to analyse patterns of brain activity and identify depression. Conventional machine learning techniques frequently entail the manual extraction of features from EEG signals, which are then classified using algorithms such as Decision Trees, K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN), and Support Vector Machines (SVM). On the other hand, deep learning techniques like Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) can automatically extract characteristics from unprocessed EEG data, possibly identifying more intricate patterns linked to depression.



**Figure 4 : Sentiment Analysis in Social Media Data for Depression Detection**

Social media sentiment analysis, which examines user-generated content like tweets, Facebook posts, and Reddit comments, is a potent method for identifying depression. These systems use machine learning (ML) and natural language processing (NLP) to find keywords, engagement behaviors, and affective patterns associated with depression.



**Figure 5 : The level of depression measured in the experimental group before and after the intervention.**

An experimental group's depression levels were tested both before and after an intervention, and the results indicated a notable increase in mental health. Prior to the intervention, 23.30% of participants had mild depression, 30% had moderate depression, and 6.67% had severe depression, compared to 40% who had normal depression. Following the intervention, mild and moderate occurrences of depression fell to 13.30% and 13.40%, respectively, while the percentage of people with normal depression levels rose to 73.30%. Notably, there was no longer any serious depression.

**Table 1: EEG-based high-performance depression state recognition**

	Depressed patients	Healthy control subjects
Number of people	24	29
Gender (male/female)	13/11	20/9
Age (years)	16-56	18-55
Sampling frequency	250Hz	
Reference electrode	Cz	
Single acquisition time	5 minutes	

This table represents the demographic and experimental setup details for an EEG-based depression study. It compares depressed patients and healthy control subjects based on key factors such as sample size, gender distribution, age range, EEG recording parameters, and reference electrode used. The data provides essential information for understanding the study population and EEG acquisition settings, ensuring reproducibility and accuracy in depression state recognition research.

**Table 2 : Classification of depressive and normal in EEG | Semantic Scholar**

State	Depression	Anxiety	Stress
Normal	0-9	0-7	0-14
Mild	10-13	8-9	15-18
Moderate	14-20	10-14	19-25
Severe	21-27	15-19	26-33
Extremely Severe	28+	20+	34+

This table represents the classification criteria for Depression, Anxiety, and Stress based on severity levels. The severity-level-based classification criteria for stress, anxiety, and depression are shown in this table. It uses numerical score ranges to classify mental health issues into five states: Normal, Mild, Moderate, Severe, and Extremely Severe. Based on standardised psychological tests, which are frequently generated from scales like the DASS (Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale), these thresholds aid in the diagnosis of individuals.

**Table 3 : Source of Help Sought by the General Public When Depressed**

Source of Help	Frequency	%
The doctor seen for a long time	807	49.0
Psychiatrist	318	19.3
Other resources instead of a doctor	272	16.5
Not seeking help at all	113	6.9
Any doctor	79	4.8
Don't know/difficult to say	50	3.0
Refused to answer	8	0.5
Total	1,647	100

This table presents the different sources of help individuals seek when experiencing depression. While 19.3% sought assistance from a psychiatrist, the majority (49%) sought advice from a long-term physician. 16.5% of respondents used alternative options like online platforms or support groups. 6.9%, however, did not ask for assistance at all. A lower proportion (4.8%) went to any doctor that was accessible, and 3% weren't sure where to turn for assistance. Remarkably, 0.5% declined to respond. These results underline the necessity of diversified and easily accessible mental health services by highlighting the different ways people seek mental health help.

## VI. CONCLUSION

We express our sincere gratitude to all individuals and organizations that contributed to the successful completion of this research on AI-Powered EEG Depression Detection Systems. Firstly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our mentors and academic advisors for their invaluable

guidance, insightful feedback, and continuous support throughout this study. Their expertise has been instrumental in shaping our research. We are also grateful to the participants and medical professionals who provided crucial EEG data, enabling us to analyze and develop an effective depression detection system. Special appreciation goes to the

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This research would not have been possible without the collective efforts of all those involved, and we deeply appreciate their contributions. Lastly, we thank our families and friends for their unwavering support and motivation, which played a crucial role in completing this research. Their encouragement kept us focused and determined throughout this journey. Without the combined efforts of all those involved, this research would not have been possible. We also acknowledge the contributions of our peers and colleagues for their encouragement, constructive discussions, and collaborative efforts that enhanced the quality of this work.

AI-enhanced neurophysiological signal analysis represents a groundbreaking advancement in the diagnosis and understanding of depression, offering promising opportunities to improve both the accuracy and efficiency of clinical assessments. Traditionally, the diagnosis of depression has relied heavily on subjective patient reports and self-assessments, which can be influenced by factors such as social stigma or the patient's ability to articulate their symptoms. However, with the application of AI techniques to neurophysiological data—such as electroencephalography (EEG), functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), and other brain activity measurements—clinicians can obtain more objective, quantifiable insights into the brain's functioning, providing a deeper understanding of depression's underlying neural mechanisms. AI algorithms, particularly those utilizing machine learning and deep learning models, are capable of analyzing vast amounts of data from these neurophysiological signals, identifying complex patterns that may not be immediately apparent to human clinicians. This can facilitate earlier detection, more accurate diagnoses, and more personalized treatment strategies. For instance, AI can assist in distinguishing between different subtypes of depression, enabling targeted interventions based on an individual's unique neurophysiological profile. Additionally, AI-powered analysis tools can monitor the progression of depression over time, offering valuable insights into the effectiveness of treatment plans and helping to adjust therapeutic approaches as needed. As research continues to explore the integration of neurophysiological signal analysis with AI, it is expected to play a transformative role in mental health care, leading to a more precise, data-driven understanding of depression and ultimately improving outcomes for patients worldwide.

By leveraging advanced AI techniques on neurophysiological data—such as EEG, fMRI, and other brain activity signals—clinicians can gain valuable insights into the brain's patterns and functions that are linked to depressive disorders. Unlike traditional methods that rely on subjective patient reports, AI algorithms can identify subtle, complex brain activity patterns, enabling earlier detection and more accurate diagnoses. Furthermore, AI can help distinguish between

different forms of depression, allowing for personalized treatment strategies tailored to an individual's specific neural profile. The continuous monitoring of neurophysiological signals through AI can also provide real-time feedback on treatment efficacy, helping doctors make informed decisions and adjust therapies as needed. As research progresses, AI-enhanced neurophysiological analysis holds the potential to transform depression diagnosis, leading to better outcomes for patients by offering deeper, objective insights into the brain's role in mental health. This innovative approach is likely to reduce the burden on patients and clinicians alike, creating a future where mental health care is more targeted, effective, and accessible. AI can also help differentiate between various subtypes of depression, leading to more personalized treatment options tailored to the specific brain patterns of each patient. Furthermore, AI can monitor changes in brain activity over time, offering valuable insights into how depression evolves and how patients respond to treatment. This continuous monitoring enhances the ability to adjust therapeutic strategies promptly, improving overall treatment outcomes. As AI continues to advance, its integration into neurophysiological analysis will likely revolutionize depression care, enabling faster, more precise interventions, and ultimately improving the quality of life for millions of individuals.

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