



SUSTAINABLE AI IN HEALTHCARE

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Abstract:

The paper explores the idea of environmentally friendly AI in healthcare, concentrating on the creation and use of such systems. The research paper highlights the importance of considering AI's sustainability across every phase of its development, including design, training, implementation, and use. It draws attention to the advantages of sustainable AI, including better patient outcomes and resource efficiency. The research looks into important issues like energy conservation, environmental effect, moral issues, and the incorporation of AI into healthcare systems. The research aims to offer perceptions and suggestions for the use of long-term AI solutions in healthcare.

Keywords: Sustainable AI, environmentally responsible, Resource efficiency, energy reduction

I. INTRODUCTION

The creation and application of artificial intelligence (AI) systems that are socially and environmentally responsible is known as sustainable AI. It entails developing AI infrastructure and algorithms with an eye on minimizing their detrimental effects on the environment, encouraging ethical considerations, and assuring long-term benefits for society [1]. Green AI attempts to develop and employ AI systems that are sustainable, promote environmental protection, and consume as little energy as feasible [9].

Sustainable AI should address the sustainability of the design, training, development, validation, re-tuning, implementation, and use of AI throughout its entire life cycle as opposed to focusing solely on its performance or use. There should be a clear distinction between AI for sustainability and AI's own sustainability [2]. Instead of concentrating merely on its performance or use, sustainable AI should consider the sustainability of the design, training, development, validation, re-tuning, implementation, and use of AI over its whole life cycle. Between AI for sustainability and AI's own sustainability, there should be a separate line drawn [6].

We should use AI "for dealing with environmental and climate problems," suggests renowned AI ethicist Mark Cocklebur in his proposal titled "AI for Climate" [7]. It's also important to concentrate on the long-term viability of AI. This shift in perspective is crucial because it makes it impossible to discuss AI for Climate Change or AI for Good without also discussing the effects that creating a specific AI model will have on environmental sustainability [4]. The term "Green AI" refers to the creation and use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that are sustainable and favorable to the environment [5].

Green AI aims to lessen the carbon footprint and energy consumption of AI systems as well as any unfavorable environmental effects brought on by their use [10]. Deep learning techniques and computer technologies are being widely adopted by computer scientists and health researchers. Their contributions make it possible to create the next Medical. Computers are formerly more accurate than radiologists in spotting nasty tumors and guiding scientists in the development of cohorts for precious clinical trials [11].



A. Background Information

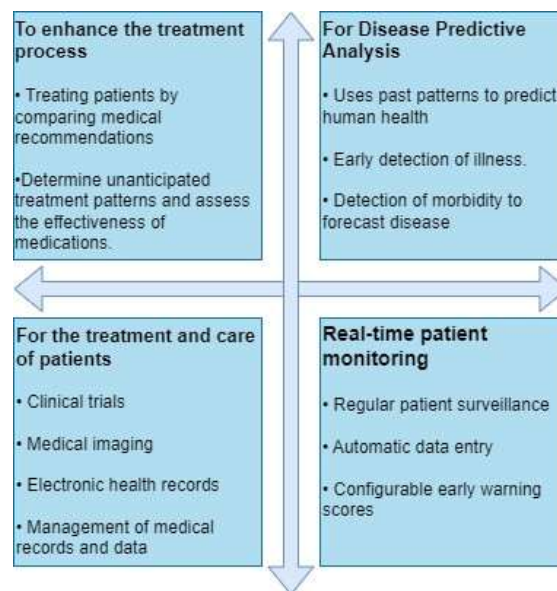
The healthcare industry is essential to enhancing the wellness of individuals and communities. However, healthcare organizations' operations and practices frequently have a major negative influence on the environment. Many industries, including healthcare, have adopted environmentally friendly practices as a result of growing awareness of climate change and the need for sustainable practices.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a ground-breaking innovation with the potential to completely change the healthcare industry. Data processing, pattern recognition, and decision-making are a few of the jobs that computers may perform. Machines can carry out these activities using a variety of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques. Medical research, diagnostics, therapeutic optimization, and resource management are a few domains where AI applications in healthcare have shown promise [7].

The idea of "Green AI" expands the application of AI in healthcare to concentrate not only on increasing operational effectiveness and patient care but also on reducing the environmental impact of healthcare institutions. Green AI aspires to include ethical resource management, energy efficiency, and sustainable practices into AI-enabled healthcare systems [1].

The urgent need to solve environmental issues, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and preserve natural resources is at the heart of the Green AI in healthcare movement. Healthcare organizations can aid in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing sustainability, and reaching long-term ecological goals by utilizing AI technology and techniques [9].

By incorporating eco-friendly and energy-efficient practices into AI algorithms and hardware infrastructure, healthcare institutions can benefit from AI without compromising sustainability goals [2]. The use of sustainable AI in healthcare is crucial for several key reasons. First, the energy-intensive processes used in the healthcare sector, like computers, data storage, and diagnostic imaging, greatly increase greenhouse gas emissions [6]. By enhancing AI systems' energy efficiency, healthcare companies can significantly reduce their carbon footprint and promote environmental sustainability [7].



APPLICATIONS OF AI IN HEALTHCARE



B. Problem Statement

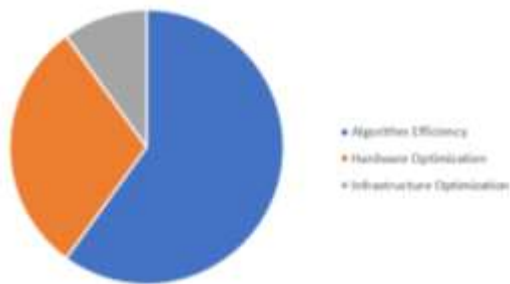
In order to maintain sustainable practices and reduce the ecological impact, environmental issues posed by the expanding use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare must be addressed. The energy use, computing needs, and carbon footprint of AI models and infrastructure in healthcare settings are becoming to be major issues that need to be addressed and mitigated.

Deep learning models and complicated algorithms are two examples of AI technologies that frequently require a lot of processing power and energy, which can increase greenhouse gas emissions and environmental damage [11]. The use of gear that consumes a lot of energy and the growing volume of data generated and processed worsen the environmental impact [4]. Therefore, it is imperative to consider the environmental effects of applying AI to healthcare.

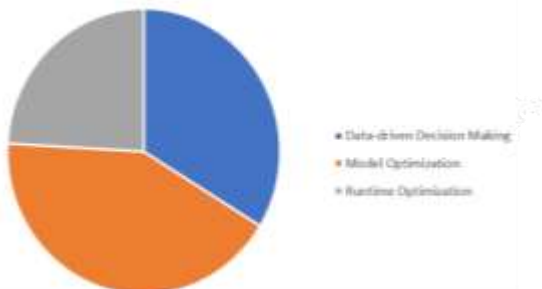
The environmental impact of AI in healthcare can have several adverse consequences. Excessive energy consumption not only leads to higher operational costs but also contributes to increased carbon emissions, exacerbating climate change [7]. Moreover, the reliance on energy-intensive hardware and resource-intensive data management practices can strain power grids and deplete natural resources, ultimately affecting sustainability in healthcare delivery [3].

D. Research questions/hypotheses

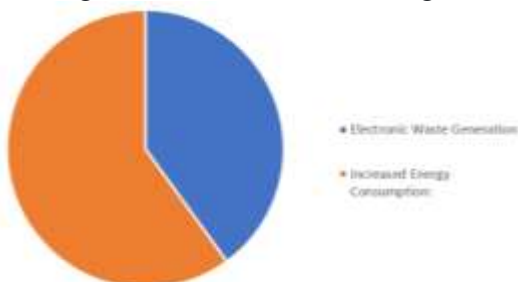
1. How can the energy usage of AI systems in the healthcare industry be reduced?



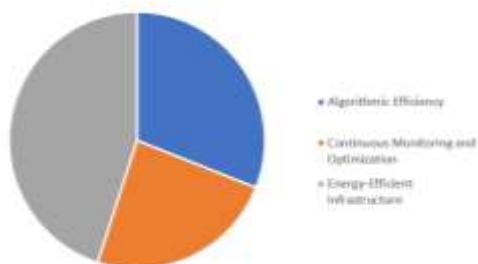
2. What tactics may be used to maximize energy efficiency while maintaining performance?



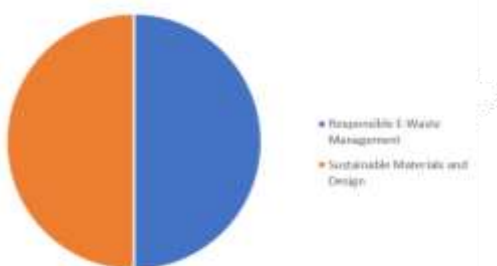
3. What potential environmental drawbacks and hazards can arise from using AI to medical diagnosis and decision-making?



4. How can infrastructure and AI algorithms be improved to save energy and decrease the environmental impact of healthcare systems that use AI?



5. How can AI hardware and component recycling and disposal be handled in an environmentally friendly way?



E. Significance of the research

The decision-making process can be supported by data-driven models for medical diagnosis, this might also improve the effectiveness of healthcare delivery in clinical settings [5]. The healthcare sector significantly contributes to resource consumption and carbon emissions [3]. We can greatly lessen the detrimental effects healthcare operations have on the environment and their carbon footprint by researching sustainable AI technology [1].

AI computations, such as training and inference procedures, can be computationally time and energy-intensive [11]. The environmental impact of AI in healthcare can be minimized by creating green AI methods, such as CNN model optimization and the use of energy-efficient hardware [7]. By reducing energy use, reducing carbon emissions, and supporting environmentally friendly practices in the healthcare sector, this research can help create a more sustainable future [9].

Green AI in healthcare has advantages for both the environment and patient treatment in addition to environmental benefits. Energy-efficient AI models and systems can aid in resource allocation optimization, increase scalability, and lower infrastructure costs [4].

Integrating green AI into healthcare offers hope for a sustainable future where AI technologies contribute to both breakthroughs in healthcare delivery and conservation of the environment [2].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Overview of relevant literature

1. "Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities" by S. S. Anjum and A. Hassanali.

The research paper on "Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities" by S. S. Anjum and A. Hassanali discusses the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in sustainable healthcare. The article emphasizes the importance of sustainable healthcare as well as its benefits in terms of improving patient outcomes and reducing healthcare waste. The authors discuss how implementing AI in healthcare might enhance patient care, more effectively use available resources, and reduce medical errors.

The conclusion of the paper emphasises the importance of green artificial intelligence (Green AI) in achieving sustainable computing and the demand for more research and development in this field.



The authors claim that GML approaches have the potential to dramatically lower computer systems' energy usage and improve their environmental sustainability.

2. Green Artificial Intelligence: A Review of Green Machine Learning Techniques for Energy-Efficient Sustainable Computing" by T. Mahmud and M. J. Islam.

The research paper "Green Artificial Intelligence: A Review of Green Machine Learning Techniques for Energy-Efficient Sustainable Computing" by T. Mahmud and M. J. Islam discusses the idea of "Green AI," which refers to the use of machine learning techniques that are energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable. In order to address the increased energy consumption of computer systems and the demand for environmentally friendly computing solutions, the authors emphasize the relevance of green artificial intelligence. The trade-off between energy efficiency and model accuracy, as well as the requirement for trained personnel to develop and implement these methods, are further difficulties with implementing GML approaches that are covered in the research paper. The authors contend that cooperation between academics, business leaders, and lawmakers is crucial to overcoming these difficulties. The conclusion of the research emphasizes the importance of green artificial intelligence (Green AI) in achieving sustainable computing and the demand for more research and development in this field.

3. The Role of AI in Achieving Sustainable Healthcare: Case Studies and Best Practices

The important role artificial intelligence (AI) plays in promoting sustainable practices in the healthcare industry is examined in the paper "The Role of AI in Achieving Sustainable Healthcare: Case Studies and Best Practices." The paper provides a collection of best practices and case studies that demonstrate how AI can enhance sustainability in the healthcare industry. The paper's introduction outlines the concept of sustainable healthcare in general while highlighting the challenges that the healthcare sector faces on an economic, social, and environmental level. It emphasizes the necessity for innovative solutions to these issues and highlights AI as an exhilarating technology in this regard. It emphasizes how important data governance, privacy protection, and algorithm transparency are to ensuring the ethical and responsible application of AI. In order to create a comprehensive and sustainable healthcare ecosystem, the research also emphasizes the importance of collaboration among stakeholders, including healthcare providers, AI developers, legislators, and patients.

4. "Exploring the Ethical Implications of Sustainable AI in Healthcare"

The importance of sustainable AI in healthcare is discussed in the introduction, along with some of its potential benefits such as improved patient outcomes and more effective use of resources. It also highlights the importance of thoroughly investigating the ethical implications to ensure the ethical and equitable use of AI in medicine. The paper also considers how sustainable AI will affect healthcare professionals. Concerns about job loss, adjustments to responsibilities and tasks, as well as the requirement for ongoing education and skill development in order to adapt to the changing healthcare environment, are all addressed. The conclusion of the paper "Exploring the Ethical Implications of Sustainable AI in Healthcare" examines the ethical issues raised by the use of AI in sustainable healthcare in great detail. Stakeholders can ensure the moral and just application of AI technologies in healthcare contexts by acknowledging and addressing these ethical issues. Researchers, decision-makers, and healthcare professionals interested in the development and use of sustainable AI in healthcare will find the study to be a useful resource.

5. "AI-Enabled Precision Medicine for Sustainable Healthcare: A Review"



AI-Enabled Precision Medicine for Sustainable Healthcare: A Review" provides a shrewd examination of how artificial intelligence (AI) can support precision medicine and sustainable healthcare practices. The paper offers a comprehensive examination of the available literature and research on the issue. At the outset of the paper, the goal of precision medicine, which aims to customize healthcare therapies based on human factors like genetic make-up, lifestyle decisions, and environmental effects, is introduced. By enabling more accurate and customized diagnoses, treatment plans, and therapeutic interventions, it exemplifies how AI has the potential to enhance precision medicine. Through a careful evaluation of studies and research articles, the study covers the various AI technologies and techniques utilized in precision medicine. Sections on genomics and bioinformatics, image analysis, and other subjects. are included.

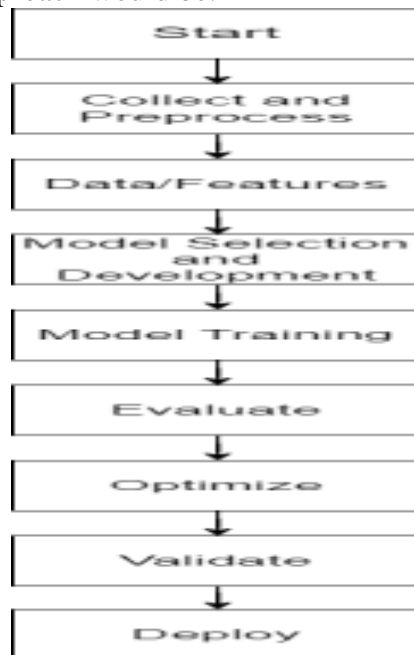
B. Key theories and concepts

1. Energy-Efficient Algorithms: Develop and modify AI algorithms that use less energy and computing power without compromising accuracy. The carbon footprint of AI systems used in healthcare can be decreased by using energy-efficient algorithms [4].
2. Green Infrastructure: To reduce energy consumption in AI-enabled healthcare environments, use energy-efficient hardware and infrastructure, such as low-power processors and servers [7].
3. Data Centre Optimization: Use methods like virtualization, consolidation, and intelligent workload management to streamline operations in data centers, consume less energy, and cut back on greenhouse gas emissions related to processing AI data [6].
4. Look into green data storage options like cloud-based storage and solid-state drives (SSDs), which may consume less energy than traditional hard disc drives (HDDs) [9].

III. METHODOLOGY

There are many different models that make up artificial intelligence. While the majority of these models are immediately applicable to the healthcare industry, the way they assist sustainability differ greatly. Below are definitions and descriptions of some specific AI technologies that are very significant to healthcare [11].

The flow of the recommended approach would be:

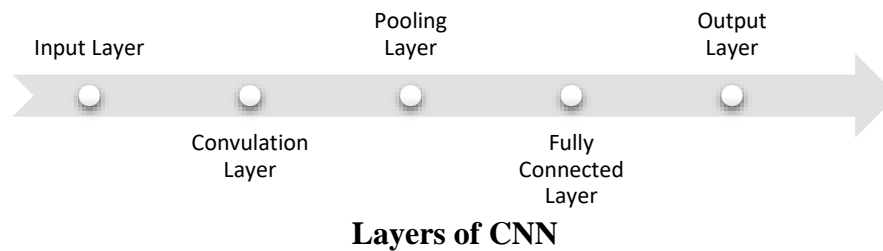




Types of Sustainable AI models that can be implemented for healthcare.

1. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs):

Convolutional Neural Networks, or CNNs, are created for the processing of visual data, such as photographs and movies. It extracts significant features from input data, like edges and textures, using layers of filters. CNNs are frequently employed for operations like object detection and picture categorization. They are strong instruments that have the capacity to learn and detect intricate patterns, making them useful in a variety of fields, including healthcare.



Existing approach:

CNNs are often used for tasks involving medical image analysis. To help with illness identification, segmentation, and classification, these deep learning models are capable of extracting useful information from medical images including X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs [5].

Existing CNN models in healthcare tend to capture complicated patterns and increase accuracy [5]. However, current CNN models in healthcare are frequently huge and sophisticated, which increases processing needs and energy consumption [5].

To capture complicated patterns and increase accuracy, current CNN models in healthcare are frequently huge and sophisticated, which leads to increase in processing needs and energy consumption.

Suggested approach:

CNNs can be made more efficient such that they use less energy and compute resources [4].

Model pruning, quantization, and effective network topologies (like Mobile Net and Shuffle Net) are a few methods that can drastically cut down on the number of parameters and processes required for inference without sacrificing performance [6]. Without the requirement for new data gathering, the training dataset can be artificially expanded using data augmentation techniques [7].

Utilizing dedicated AI chips, GPUs, or other energy-efficient hardware to run CNN models and optimize energy use during computations would be a sustainable AI strategy [9].

Transfer learning also lessens the need for intensive training with resource-heavy data by using pre-trained CNN models on big datasets and fine-tuning them on smaller healthcare-specific datasets [10].

Hybrid models, which combine CNNs with rule-based models, knowledge-based models, or other energy-efficient methodologies, may be used in sustainable AI. This diversification can improve energy consumption even more [3].

2. Reinforcement learning for optimization:

Reinforcement learning is a machine learning approach where an agent learns to make sequential decisions by interacting with an environment [5]. Based on its behaviors, the agent receives feedback in the form of rewards or penalties, directing it to maximize long-term cumulative rewards [5]. The agent experiments with various activities and discovers the best tactics to accomplish desired objectives through trial and error [5]. Reinforcement learning takes its cues from how people and



animals adapt to and make decisions in changing settings by seeing and interacting with their surroundings [5].

Existing Approach:

In order to increase efficiency, RL algorithms optimize resource allocation in healthcare contexts, such as scheduling operations or controlling patient flow.

RL is explored for clinical decision support systems, assisting healthcare providers in making treatment recommendations based on patient data and medical knowledge.

Reinforcement learning assists healthcare professionals by providing decision support systems. These systems can analyze large amounts of patient data and historical records to help doctors and clinicians make informed decisions regarding diagnoses, treatment plans, and predicting patient outcomes.

Analysis and diagnosis of medical imaging data may profit from reinforcement learning. These algorithms can help in the detection and classification of abnormalities, enhancing accuracy and possibly lowering errors in the interpretation of medical imaging by learning from huge datasets.

Suggested approach:

In many components of AI systems, such as data centers or device-level calculations, RL algorithms can optimize parameters, schedules, and configurations to save energy usage [1][10].

By utilizing data compression, data deduplication, and smart data routing techniques to reduce the environmental impact associated with data storage, transmission, and processing [9].

Optimize the training procedure to reduce energy usage. Numerous repetitions and interactions with the environment are frequent requirements of RL algorithms, which can be computationally taxing. We could reduce training time and energy usage by using strategies including parallel computing, distributed training, and effective algorithms [1][10].

Reward systems could be created in a way that promotes energy-conscious behavior. The use of incentives can encourage RL agents to reduce their use of energy or make eco-friendly choices. Energy-related rewards help RL agents learn to adjust their behavior for more sustainable results.

Real-time energy monitoring can be integrated into RL systems to provide feedback on energy usage. RL agents can learn to make decisions that minimize energy consumption and maximize energy efficiency in real-world environments by incorporating energy consumption information [1][10].

3. KNN:

K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) is a simple and intuitive machine learning algorithm used for classification and regression tasks [4]. KNN uses a new data point's proximity to its nearest K neighbors in the training dataset to categorize or forecast it. By taking into account the majority class or averaging the values of the new data point's K closest neighbors, the algorithm determines the class or value of that point. KNN is predicated on the idea that labels or values for similar data points will probably be similar [4]. It is a non-parametric algorithm, which means that it does not make any firm assumptions about the distribution of the underlying data [4].

Existing Approach:

By comparing a person's data with known cases, KNN is used to determine their risk of contracting diseases [4].

KNN is used to select individuals for individualized treatment or clinical trials by identifying groups of patients who share characteristics based on medical records, genetic data, etc. [4].



Using KNN, healthcare resources can be distributed depending on their proximity to patients or institutions [4].

KNN typically calculates the similarity between data points by considering all attributes included in the dataset [4].

Healthcare data is often diverse and multi-modal, including information from various sources such as electronic health records, medical imaging, genetic data, wearable devices, and more. Future applications of KNN in healthcare may require investigating methods for successfully fusing and integrating these diverse data sources. This would give KNN access to a more thorough and integrated view of patient data for better decision-making [4].

Suggested approach:

Using effective dimensionality reduction and data pre-treatment methods to lessen the computing burden of the KNN algorithm. When doing classification or regression tasks, the number of dimensions and the volume of data that must be processed can be decreased using techniques like feature selection, feature extraction, and data discretization [4].

By distributing the computational workload of the KNN algorithm across several devices or processors by using parallel processing techniques. As a result, the overall execution time, energy expenditure, and effective use of computational resources may all be decreased [4].

Using effective databases or data structures that enable quick data retrieval and processing when running the KNN algorithm. Reduce the amount of storage needed and the energy consumption connected with it by using data compression techniques and ethical data sharing practices [4].

We can use hardware which requires less energy to run KNN calculations. Select hardware like as GPUs, TPUs, or specific AI accelerators that are engineered to enable high-performance computation while consuming the least amount of power. Determine which hardware has the best energy efficiency for the particular healthcare application by comparing it to other available solutions [4].

4. Bayesian Model:

Bayesian refers to a statistical method that takes past information or assumptions into account while analyzing data [11]. Instead of treating parameters as fixed values, Bayesian inference treats them as random variables and assigns prior probability depending on available data [11]. The Bayes theorem is used to update the prior beliefs as new data is observed to produce posterior probabilities, which represent the updated understanding of the parameters [11].

Existing Approach:

Bayesian methods are already used to optimize data collection and management, but the focus is primarily on improving data quality and reducing bias [11].

For model construction and training, Bayesian approaches are frequently used to capture uncertainty and enhance model performance [11].

Bayesian approaches are used in AI systems to allocate resources, the major emphasis is on maximizing computational resources and enhancing performance [11].

By updating models with new data, Bayesian approaches facilitate continual learning and model development [11].

Suggested approach:

AI systems can benefit from the application of Bayesian optimization techniques to allocate their computing resources, such as memory and CPU consumption. Energy consumption can be reduced, resulting in more sustainable AI deployment, by wisely managing resources based on insights from Bayesian models [11].



The suggested use highlights the integration of Bayesian techniques into resource allocation algorithms to optimize energy consumption and minimize the environmental impact associated with resource-intensive tasks [11].

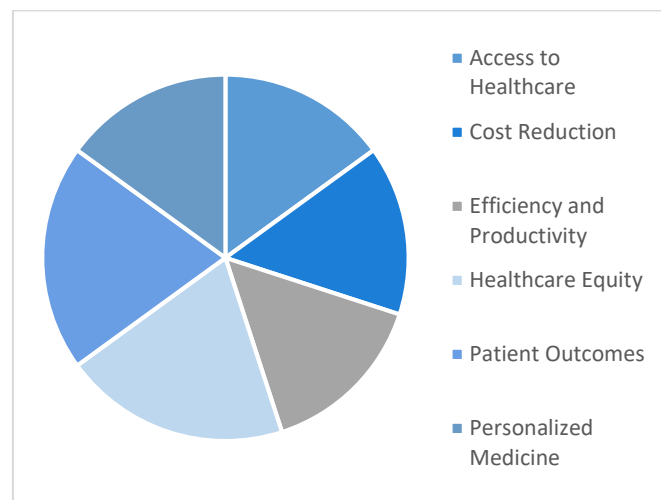
Adaptive sampling techniques are made possible by Bayesian models when collecting data. Bayesian approaches assist in identifying meaningful data points for training as opposed to gathering vast volumes of data uniformly, which minimizes needless data collection and processing. By reducing the need for calculation and data storage, this strategy saves energy.

Probability distributions are a built-in feature of Bayesian models that allow them to represent uncertainty in predictions. The need for substantial experimentation or data collecting is decreased as a result of this measurement of uncertainty. Energy consumption can be decreased by using trustworthy decisions to use less resources.

Prior knowledge can be incorporated into the learning process using Bayesian models. Bayesian models can lessen the quantity of fresh data needed for training by utilizing existing knowledge, such as domain experience or historical data. By minimizing data gathering efforts and accompanying processing expenses, this strategy can conserve energy.

The use of active learning procedures, in which the model actively chooses the most instructive data points for labeling or further investigation, is made possible by Bayesian models. Active learning decreases the quantity of data required for training by choosing the most pertinent data points, which results in energy savings in data gathering, labeling, and processing [11].

Bayesian models can be used for model pruning and compression strategies. The size and computing demands of models can be minimized, resulting in energy savings during both training and inference. This can be done by learning sparse representations or by using Bayesian approaches for weight pruning [11].



ADVANTAGES OF AI-ENHANCED HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR SOCIETAL WELL-BEING

IV. CONCLUSION

The research concludes by highlighting the idea of "Sustainable AI" or "Green AI" and its applicability to the field of healthcare. The goal of the project is to create and put into use artificial intelligence (AI) systems that are not only technologically cutting edge but also environmentally responsible. The research paper emphasizes the significance of taking into account the full life cycle of AI, including its design, training, development, deployment, and use, rather than just performance and efficiency.

The potential benefits of AI in healthcare are recognized given its capacity to improve clinical processes, boost diagnostic accuracy, and better patient outcomes. The healthcare industry has a significant impact on both the volume of waste produced and the emissions of greenhouse gases. The



concept of "Green AI" in healthcare expands the application of AI to improve patient care while minimizing the environmental impact of healthcare facilities. By incorporating eco-friendly and energy-efficient practices into AI algorithms and hardware infrastructure, healthcare institutions may benefit from AI while promoting sustainability [1][9].

The research is significant because it has the potential to enhance patient outcomes, optimize resource allocation, and address ethical issues related to the use of AI in healthcare. To accomplish healthcare practices that are ethically sound and environmentally friendly, it asks for further study and development in sustainable AI [7][8].

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