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Investigating the Use of LSTM and Time-Series Analysis in Medical Equipment Failure Prediction

PRECIOUS EJIBA[1], PHILIP NWAGA[2], UGOCHI AWUOKI[3], ODERA OHAZURIKE[4]
[1] *DB Biomedical Ltd, London, Surrey, United Kingdom*
[2] *Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois, USA*
[3] *DB Biomedical Ltd, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria*
[4] *Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA*

Abstract- Ensuring the reliability of medical equipment is crucial for uninterrupted healthcare delivery, as unexpected failures can lead to significant operational disruptions and affect patient safety. This study explores the potential of Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural networks for predicting equipment failures using historical time-series data. The methodology involved pre-processing failure data, implementing a sliding window approach for feature engineering, and training an LSTM model to capture patterns indicative of potential equipment failures. The results showed that the LSTM model could recognize trends in historical data; however, the model's loss curve exhibited variability, suggesting limitations in achieving consistent accuracy. This fluctuation points to areas where the model's robustness could be improved, particularly by enhancing data quality and exploring additional predictive features. While the findings support the application of LSTM networks in predictive maintenance, further research is recommended to validate the model in real-world healthcare environments and optimize it for practical implementation. This study contributes to the growing body of research on machine learning in predictive maintenance, underscoring both the promise and challenges of applying advanced neural networks to healthcare equipment management.

Indexed Terms- Long short-term memory (LSTM), Predictive maintenance (PdM), Medical equipment, Machine learning, Time-series analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

In healthcare, the reliability of medical equipment is of paramount importance, as it directly affects patient care, safety, and overall operational efficiency (Zamzam et al., 2021). Modern healthcare facilities rely heavily on a wide range of medical devices, from diagnostic imaging machines to life-support systems, to provide high-quality patient care. Unexpected equipment failures can lead to significant downtimes, disrupting clinical services, delaying diagnoses, and potentially compromising patient safety. Furthermore, these failures often result in substantial financial burdens, both from costly repairs and lost revenue due to interrupted services (Wang et al., 2024).

Despite the critical need for reliable equipment, many healthcare facilities still rely on reactive or scheduled maintenance strategies. Reactive maintenance, which involves repairing equipment only after a failure occurs, not only increases equipment downtime but also poses significant risks to patient safety (Saguier, 2023). Scheduled maintenance, although more proactive, can still be inefficient as it may result in unnecessary servicing or, conversely, miss potential failures that arise unexpectedly (Mohd E>endi Amran et al., 2023). Consequently, there is a clear need for a more sophisticated, predictive approach to equipment maintenance.

Predictive maintenance, driven by machine learning-based time-series analysis, has been identified as a promising solution to these challenges (Mohd Effendi Amran et al., 2023). By leveraging historical and real-time data from medical equipment, predictive models aim to anticipate potential failures, thereby allowing healthcare providers to pre-emptively address issues. This data-driven approach has shown potential in improving equipment reliability and reducing unplanned repairs in various industries (Manchadi, Ben-Bouazza, & Jioudi, 2023). However, within healthcare, predictive maintenance is still underused and faces challenges that have hindered its widespread adoption (Meddouai, Hain, & Hachmoud, 2023; Gupta, 2024).

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Networks
The healthcare sector is now exploring more advanced techniques to ensure higher levels of equipment uptime and improve patient care outcomes. One machine learning technique, Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, a type of recurrent neural network (RNN), are designed to capture long-term dependencies in sequential data, making them theoretically suitable for predictive maintenance tasks that involve time-series data (Md et al., 2023). While LSTM has been successfully applied in industries such as manufacturing and energy for failure prediction, its application in healthcare remains largely exploratory and is still in the early stages (Kumar, Tripathi, & Singh, 2023). This study seeks to investigate the applicability and potential effectiveness of LSTM networks in medical equipment failure prediction, with the goal of identifying patterns in historical failure data that may inform future predictive maintenance models for healthcare.

In this study, we propose a predictive maintenance framework that utilizes an LSTM-based model to analyse time-series data from historical equipment failures. Figure 1 provides an overview of the LSTM model architecture, which consists of two LSTM layers followed by a dense output layer. This architecture is designed to process sequential data patterns and produce a prediction output indicating the likelihood of equipment failure (1 for failure, 0 for no failure). The model is trained on historical failure records to learn patterns over time, thereby enabling an investigation into the model's effectiveness for failure prediction in a healthcare setting.

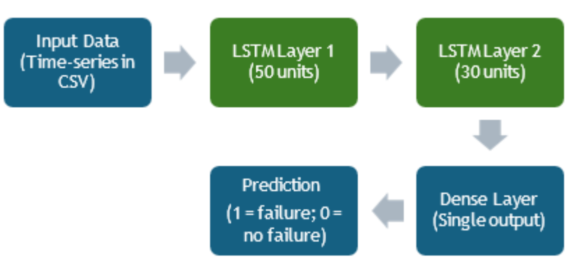

Figure 1: LSTM Model for Equipment Failure Prediction

This figure illustrates the architecture of the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model used to predict equipment failures. The input layer receives time-series data in CSV format, followed by two LSTM layers (with 50 and 30 units, respectively) to capture sequential patterns in the data. The dense output layer provides a single prediction indicating the likelihood of equipment failure (1 for failure, 0 for no failure).

Predictive maintenance (PdM) models have demonstrated increasing relevance across various industries by leveraging machine learning and time-series analysis to forecast equipment failures and optimize maintenance schedules. While industries such as manufacturing and aviation have widely adopted PdM techniques to reduce operational costs and downtime, the healthcare sector has yet to fully realize their potential (Meddhaoui, Hain, & Hachmoud, 2023; Gupta, 2024). Despite the clear benefits, healthcare facilities face unique challenges in implementing these models, particularly in terms of data complexity and reliability. This study seeks to address this gap by investigating the feasibility and effectiveness of LSTM neural networks in medical equipment failure prediction, thereby contributing insights into the application of predictive analytics for enhancing healthcare delivery.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Predictive Maintenance in Healthcare (PdM)
Predictive maintenance (PdM) is a data-driven approach that leverages sensor data, machine learning models, and historical performance data to access equipment conditions in real- time, making it more efficient and effective at reducing unexpected failures and minimising operational costs (Manchadi, Ben-Bouazza, C Jioudi, 2023). It provides the opportunity to shift from reactive to proactive equipment management, allowing for maintenance interventions that minimize downtime and extend equipment life (Molęda, Małysiak- Mrozek, Ding, Sunderam, C Mrozek, 2023). PdM has been widely adopted in industries such as manufacturing and aviation, but its application in healthcare has been slower to gain traction. This is due, in part, to the complex nature of healthcare environments, where equipment failure can have life-threatening consequences (Manchadi, Ben-Bouazza, C Jioudi, 2023). However, recent

advancements in data analytics and machine learning have shown promising results in applying predictive maintenance models to healthcare equipment.

Several studies have explored the potential of predictive maintenance in healthcare. For instance, (Divya, Marath, C Santosh Kumar, 2022) demonstrated how data-driven PdM can reduce maintenance costs and equipment downtime in hospital settings. The study emphasized the importance of integrating PdM systems with hospital operations to ensure continuous monitoring of critical devices. Similarly, (Sogeti, 2021) applied predictive analytics to hospital assets and found that PdM could lead to a reduction in equipment failures, highlighting the economic and operational benefits of adopting such systems in healthcare environments.

PdM offers a significant improvement over more traditional maintenance methods, such as reactive maintenance – where repairs are made only after equipment fails – and preventive maintenance, which follows scheduled intervals regardless of the actual condition of the equipment. To fully appreciate the impact of predictive maintenance, it is useful to compare it against the two more conventional approaches: reactive and preventive maintenance. The following table outlines the key differences between these three strategies, focusing on their triggers for action, cost efficiency, downtime, and industry adoption.

Table 1: Comparison of Reactive, Preventive, and Predictive Maintenance

This table provides a comparative overview of three maintenance strategies: reactive, preventive, and predictive maintenance. It highlights key characteristics such as timing, approach, and effectiveness in minimizing downtime and failure costs.

Type of Maintenance	Reactive maintenance	Preventive maintenance	Predictive maintenance
Definition	Maintenance is performed after equipment has failed or broken down.	Maintenance is performed on a regular schedule, regardless of equipment condition	Maintenance is performed based on real-time data and predictions to prevent failure
Trigger for action	Equipment failure or malfunction	Scheduled time intervals (e.g., monthly, yearly)	Data analytics and condition monitoring predict when failure will happen.
Cost efficiency	High costs due to unplanned downtime and urgent repairs.	Moderate costs due to regular maintenance but may include unnecessary servicing.	Highly cost-effective by reducing unplanned downtime and avoiding unnecessary maintenance.
Downtime	High, because repairs are made after a failure occurs.	Moderate, downtime is scheduled but may result in equipment being offline unnecessarily.	Minimal, downtime is minimized by predicting failures in advance and only maintaining equipment
Impact on equipment	Can lead to significant damage and shorten equipment lifespan	Prolongs equipment life by performing regular maintenance but may lead to overservicing	Optimizes equipment lifespan by maintaining only, when necessary, based on real conditions.
Data usage	No data usage	Basic records of maintenance schedules.	Relies on real-time data from sensors and historical performance to predict failures.
Industry adoption	Common in older or less critical industries.	Widely used in various industries including healthcare.	Increasing adoption in industries with critical equipment, including healthcare

Despite these advances, most current PdM applications in healthcare rely on rule-based systems or simple regression models. While these methods are useful for detecting straightforward patterns, they often struggle to account for complex, non-linear relationships in time-series data, which are common in medical equipment performance. This limitation has prompted the exploration of more sophisticated machine learning algorithms, including recurrent neural networks (RNNs), particularly Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks.

III. MACHINE LEARNING AND LONG SHORT-TERM MEMORY NETWORKS IN PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE

Machine learning (ML) has revolutionized predictive maintenance by enabling more accurate failure predictions through the analysis of large datasets and patterns that traditional methods cannot easily identify. In healthcare, where equipment reliability is critical, ML models have shown potential in predicting failures, thereby reducing unexpected breakdowns and optimizing maintenance schedules (Rahman et al., 2023). Commonly applied models, such as decision trees and support vector machines (SVM), have shown promise in predictive maintenance by using historical data to identify failure patterns (Rzayeva et al., 2023). Furthermore, recent advancements in ML techniques have enhanced precision in identifying complex patterns, further demonstrating their potential to improve predictive maintenance strategies in healthcare (Onyenagubo C Ohazurike, 2024). However, these traditional methods often struggle to capture the complex relationships in time-series data, which is crucial in understanding the progressive wear and tear of medical equipment.

To address these challenges, Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks—a type of recurrent neural network (RNN)—have emerged as a promising solution for tasks involving time-series data (Ahn, Lee, Kim, Park, & Jeong, 2023). LSTMs are specifically designed to capture long-term dependencies by retaining sequence information, making them well- suited for assessing the gradual degradation of medical devices over time (Maheshwari, Tiwari, Rai, & Singh, 2024). Despite their potential, however, the application of LSTMs for predictive maintenance in healthcare remains relatively unexplored, with few concrete examples in real-world medical settings.

While LSTM networks have gained traction in fields such as manufacturing and energy, concrete applications in healthcare are sparse, and their effectiveness in predicting medical equipment failures is not yet fully established (Jiang et al., 2022). Recent advancements suggest that LSTMs could be beneficial, yet there is a need for further exploration to assess their applicability and performance in healthcare contexts. This study thus aims to investigate the use of LSTM networks and time-series analysis for predicting equipment failures in healthcare, with the goal of providing insights into their feasibility and identifying potential areas for improvement. The following sections outline the methodology used to implement and evaluate an LSTM model for equipment failure prediction, covering data collection, pre-processing, and model training.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This study applies a six-step approach to predict equipment failures using time-series data and an LSTM neural network. Figure 2 below provides an overview of the workflow involved in this approach, from data collection to model evaluation.

Equipment Failure Prediction Workflow Using Time-Series Analysis

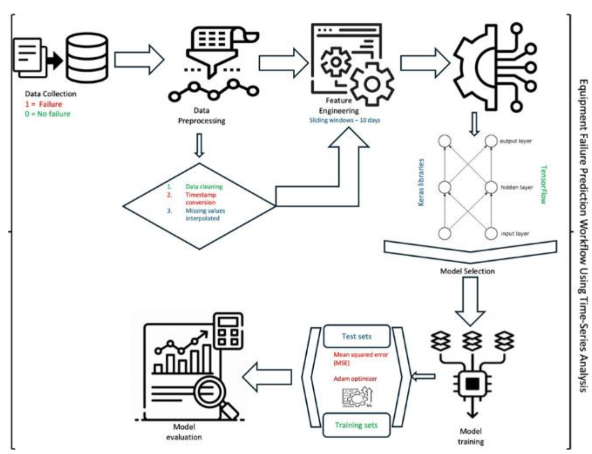

Figure 2: Workflow for Predictive Maintenance using LSTM Neural Network

This figure outlines the steps involved in the methodology for predicting equipment failures using time-series data. The process starts with data collection and pre-processing, followed by feature engineering using sliding windows of 10-day sequences. An LSTM neural network is selected for the task, and the model is trained on historical failure data before final evaluation on test sets.

The method used in this study focuses on predicting equipment failure using time-series analysis and machine learning techniques. The approach involves the following steps:

Data Collection
Historical equipment failure data was collected over a series of timestamps. This data included instances where equipment either failed or operated normally. Each data point records the timestamp and whether a failure occurred, with values normalized between 0 (no failure) and 1 (failure).

Data Pre-processing
The data was first cleaned and processed to ensure consistency. A time-series dataset was created by converting the timestamp into a date-time format for easier manipulation and aggregation. The time-series data was resampled to ensure regular intervals, and missing values were interpolated where necessary.

Feature Engineering
Key features for predicting equipment failure included the time index and past occurrences of failure. To create a useful dataset for the model, historical sequences of failure data were prepared, where the model could learn patterns over time.

A sliding window approach was used, where the model looks at a sequence of past time steps (e.g., the past 10 days) to predict failure in the next time step.

Model Selection
The machine learning model chosen for this task was a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural network, which is particularly effective for time-series prediction due to its ability to learn from sequential data.

The LSTM network was designed using TensorFlow and Keras libraries, and the architecture included an input layer followed by one LSTM layer, and finally, a fully connected layer to output the failure prediction for the next time step.

Model Training:
The data was split into training and testing sets, with the model being trained on the historical sequences of equipment failure data.

The model was optimized using the Mean Squared Error (MSE) loss function, and the Adam optimizer was used for weight updates.

During training, the model learned to minimize the prediction error by adjusting its internal weights, with performance monitored over a series of epochs.

Evaluation
The trained model was evaluated on a testing set, where it predicted future failures based on unseen data. The accuracy of the predictions was evaluated by comparing the predicted failure values with the actual data from the test set.

V. RESULTS

The results of the equipment failure prediction model are presented in two main visualizations: the Model Training and the Model Loss Curve.

Model Training
The LSTM model was trained using the historical equipment failure data collected over a 10- day period. Table 2 below shows a sample of this dataset, with timestamps and a binary indicator of equipment failure (1 for failure, 0 for no failure).

Table 2: Sample of Equipment Failure Data
This table provides a sample of the historical equipment failure data used in the study. The “time” column represents the date of observation, while the “failure” column indicates whether the equipment failed on that day (1 for failure, 0 for no failure).

Time	Failure
2024-01-01	0
2024-01-02	1
2024-01-03	0

2024-01-04	0
2024-01-05	1
2024-01-06	1
2024-01-07	0
2024-01-08	0
2024-01-09	1
2024-01-10	0

Figure 3 displays the equipment failure data over a 10-day period, illustrating failure occurrences over time, with values ranging between 0 (no failure) and 1 (failure).

The model was tasked with analysing this historical failure data to estimate the likelihood of equipment failures on subsequent days. The plot reveals a pattern in failure events, which the model examined to assess its ability to recognize and potentially predict these patterns over time.

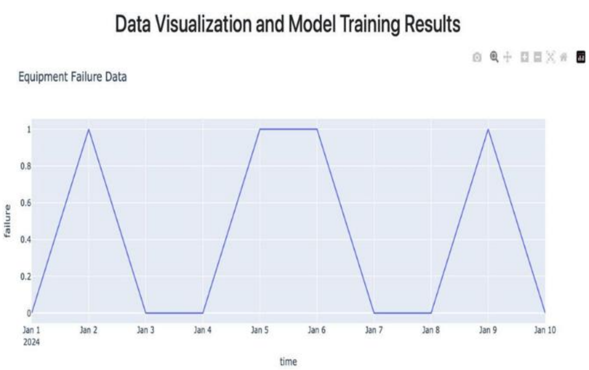

Figure 3: Model Training Visualization

This figure illustrates the time-series data of equipment failures over a 10-day period. The y-axis represents the binary indicator for failure (1 for failure and 0 for no failure), while the x-axis shows the time. The peaks in the graph indicate instances of equipment failure. This visualization was used to provide the model with historical failure patterns, which the LSTM model analysed during training to identify any underlying patterns and assess its potential effectiveness in recognizing such failure instances.

Model Performance and Loss Curve:
Figure 4 illustrates the loss curve for the LSTM model over five epochs of training. The curve captures the model's error reduction attempts as it learned from the historical failure data. Initially, the model's loss fluctuates, showing a reduction at first but then indicating variability. This suggests the model's learning trajectory was not consistent in reducing prediction error across each epoch.

Figure 4: Model Performance and Loss Curve

This figure shows the loss curve of the LSTM model over five epochs. The y-axis represents the loss value, while the x-axis represents the number of epochs. The curve's variability suggests that the model faced challenges in achieving stable error reduction, reflecting the complexity of accurately predicting equipment failures with the available data.

In analysing the model's performance, the final loss value of 2.79e-5 demonstrates that the model achieved some level of prediction accuracy, though the variability in the curve indicates room for improvement in consistency. This fluctuation suggests the model may not have fully captured the failure patterns as intended. Future work could explore alternative model configurations or additional data pre-processing techniques to enhance model stability and reliability for equipment failure predictions.

VI. DISCUSSION

The results of this study offer insights into the applicability of Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural networks in predicting medical equipment failures through time-series analysis. By training an LSTM model on historical equipment failure data, this research aimed to assess the model's ability to recognize failure patterns. The findings demonstrate both potential and limitations, which align with observations in existing literature on predictive maintenance.

Model Training

Figure 3, which visualizes the historical failure data, shows that the model was able to detect repetitive patterns in equipment failures over time. This aligns with previous studies that have highlighted LSTM's strength in capturing sequential dependencies in time-series data, especially in domains requiring pattern recognition over extended intervals (Kumar, Tripathi, & Singh, 2023). In healthcare, where continuous monitoring is essential, LSTM's capacity to recognize patterns can be valuable for anticipating equipment malfunctions, enabling proactive maintenance. However, as Rzayeva et al. (2023) noted, while LSTM networks excel in capturing simple, repetitive patterns, they may struggle with more complex, irregular data without additional processing steps. The model's success in recognizing basic failure trends indicates its promise but also underscores the need for optimization in handling varied and inconsistent data.

Model Loss Curve

Figure 4 provides a deeper look into the model's training performance, as depicted by the loss curve over five epochs. The inconsistency in the loss values throughout training suggests an instability in the model's learning process. Such fluctuations in the loss curve indicate challenges in achieving stable learning, which could stem from factors like data quality, small batch sizes, or inadequate configurations (Liu, Yu, Rahayu, & Dillon, 2023). This observation aligns with findings from Maheshwari, Tiwari, Rai, & Singh (2024), who pointed out that achieving consistent performance with LSTM models often requires substantial tuning and high-quality datasets, especially in healthcare where data irregularities are common. This fluctuation in the loss curve reveals that while the model was learning, it encountered difficulties in consistently capturing the failure patterns, which might hinder its reliability in real-world applications.

Data Pre-processing and Feature Engineering

The observed model instability further emphasizes the need for robust pre-processing and feature engineering techniques, as echoed in the literature. Studies by Mohd Effendi Amran et al. (2023) and Sogeti (2021) have shown that pre-processing steps like data resampling, handling missing values, and constructing meaningful features are critical for enhancing model performance in predictive maintenance tasks. In this study, efforts were made to preprocess the dataset by resampling time intervals and interpolating missing values. However, as the results indicate, these steps may need further refinement to improve the LSTM model's predictive stability and reliability in real-world healthcare environments.

Sliding Window

Additionally, the application of the sliding window approach in feature engineering allowed the model to capture time-based trends in failure occurrences. Literature supports the effectiveness of sliding windows in creating temporal dependencies within data, which are vital for failure prediction tasks (Leuekeu, González, & Riekert, 2022). Nonetheless, while this approach is beneficial, its application in healthcare equipment failure prediction is still in an exploratory phase. Integrating more contextual data, such as equipment usage patterns and environmental conditions, could further enhance the model's robustness, as highlighted by Manchadi, Ben-Bouazza, & Jioudi (2023).

VII. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE WORK

This study provides an exploratory analysis of using LSTM networks for predicting equipment failures in healthcare. However, certain limitations should be noted. First, the model was trained on a controlled dataset with pre-processed and resampled data, which may not fully reflect the inconsistencies and noise common in real-world healthcare data. The fluctuating loss values observed during training suggest that the model's learning stability could be affected by data quality and configurations, as indicated in literature (Liu, Yu, Rahayu, & Dillon, 2023). Future research should focus on refining pre-processing techniques and exploring additional methods to address inconsistencies in healthcare datasets.

Additionally, the study used a sliding window approach for feature engineering to capture temporal dependencies yet did not include other contextual factors such as equipment usage history, environmental conditions, or maintenance schedules. Incorporating such features could enhance model accuracy and resilience in real-world applications (Manchadi, Ben-Bouazza, & Jioudi, 2023). Further studies should investigate how these variables impact predictive performance and consider hybrid models that combine LSTM with other architectures to handle complex patterns.

Finally, this research was limited to a relatively small dataset, constrained to historical data from a single type of equipment. Expanding the dataset to include a broader range of equipment and testing the model in diverse healthcare settings would allow for a more comprehensive assessment of the model’s applicability and robustness.

CONCLUSION

This study investigated the feasibility of using Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks to predict equipment failures in healthcare settings. While the model demonstrated an ability to capture patterns in historical failure data, the variability in the loss curve indicates that achieving consistent prediction accuracy remains a challenge. These findings highlight both the potential and the limitations of applying LSTM models in healthcare predictive maintenance. Future work should address these challenges by improving data quality, exploring additional features, and testing in diverse healthcare environments to enhance model reliability and practical application.

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