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Prediction of Alzheimer's disease progression within 6 years using speech: a novel approach leveraging language models

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1 **Abstract**

2 **INTRODUCTION:** Identification of individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) who are at risk of
3 developing Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) is crucial for early intervention and selection of clinical trials.

4 **METHODS:** We applied natural language processing techniques along with machine learning methods to develop a
5 method for automated prediction of progression to AD within 6 years using speech. The study design was evaluated
6 on the neuropsychological test interviews of $n = 166$ participants from the Framingham Heart Study, comprising 90
7 progressive MCI and 76 stable MCI cases.

8 **RESULTS:** Our best models, which used features generated from speech data, as well as age, gender, and education
9 level, achieved an accuracy of 78.5% and a sensitivity of 81.1% to predict MCI-to-AD progression within 6 years.

10 **DISCUSSION:** The proposed method offers a fully automated procedure, providing an opportunity to develop an
11 inexpensive, broadly accessible, and easy-to-administer screening tool for MCI-to-AD progression prediction,
12 facilitating development of remote assessment.

13

1 **Background**

2 Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia and has a long prodromal phase, during
3 which subtle cognitive changes occur. Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is a stage between normal cognition and
4 AD. Individuals with MCI are at higher risk of developing AD with a 3–15% conversion rate of MCI to AD every
5 year [1,2]. Therefore, accurately predicting the progression of MCI to AD can assist physicians in making decisions
6 regarding patient treatment, participation in cognitive rehabilitation programs, and selection for clinical trials
7 involving new drugs [3].

8 Traditionally, AD pathology can be assessed using biomarkers such as cerebrospinal fluid assays or
9 neuroimaging techniques like Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) [4–
10 7]. Several studies have explored these modalities to predict conversion from MCI to dementia [8–12]. Although
11 these techniques provide useful information, they are invasive and expensive, limiting their applicability to well-
12 resourced places and lacking the scalability and accessibility needed for low- and middle-income countries [13].
13 Furthermore, clinical and pathological variability is observed in AD using imaging techniques, which can make
14 accurate diagnosis and prognosis challenging [14].

15 In contrast, a Neuro-Psychological Test (NPT), conducted through an in-person interview, is currently the
16 most accessible method for assessing cognitive decline. The NPT, triggered by patient history and in conjunction
17 with a clinical examination, provides a comprehensive evaluation of cognitive function, including attention,
18 memory, language, and visuospatial abilities. Researchers have explored computer-based approaches to predict the
19 progression from MCI to AD using NPTs [15–18], primarily relying on hand-crafted features and the cognitive
20 scores extracted from the NPT by clinicians. However, these approaches have not yet achieved full automation,
21 limiting their potential for more precise and efficient cognitive evaluations.

22 On the other hand, speech in the NPTs can be a strong predictor of cognitive decline [19,20], and various
23 AI-assisted diagnostic models using linguistic and acoustic features extracted from the NPTs have been developed
24 [21–23]. The Framingham Heart Study (FHS), which is the longest ongoing longitudinal, transgenerational cohort
25 study of chronic disease, has been digitally recording the NPT interviews since 2005, and these voice recordings
26 include all major established cognitive tests, such as the Boston Naming Test, Hooper Visual Organization Test, and
27 Wechsler Memory Scale [24]. Several studies have used these recordings to develop diagnostic tools. For instance, a
28 voice-based predictor was developed to identify dementia using acoustic features [25]. Xue et. al applied deep

1 learning methods to acoustic features from FHS voice recordings to detect dementia and MCI [26]. In our earlier
2 work, we utilized Natural Language Processing (NLP) on the voice recordings to place each individual across the
3 dementia spectrum [27].

4 NLP, particularly Large Language Models (LLMs) popularized with the introduction of ChatGPT, has
5 emerged as a powerful tool in healthcare, showing reliable performance in various tasks [28–30]. By leveraging
6 LLMs, we open up new frontiers in AD research, leading to the development of automated screening tools.
7 Specifically, we consider the classification problem of determining whether individuals with MCI will progress to
8 AD dementia within a 6-year window. Predicting conversions over a shorter period of time may be relatively easier,
9 but has limited clinical utility [31].

10 Our automated pipeline utilizes audio recordings of the NPT to predict the likelihood of MCI subjects
11 transitioning to AD within 6 years. We emphasize that our analysis only uses text automatically transcribed from
12 these recordings and it does not rely on any acoustic features. By leveraging transformer-based language models, we
13 aim to capture semantic nuances potentially missed by conventional scoring, enriching the assessment with
14 comprehensive text features. This underscores our plan for developing a cost-effective, automated tool that
15 surpasses traditional methods in detecting AD progression. Conducting the NPT interview remotely, via a web
16 interface without clinician participation, can further minimize screening costs. The pipeline incorporates diverse
17 computational techniques, including speech recognition, speech diarization, a transformer-based sentence encoder,
18 and logistic regression models.

19

20 **Methods**

21 **Study participants**

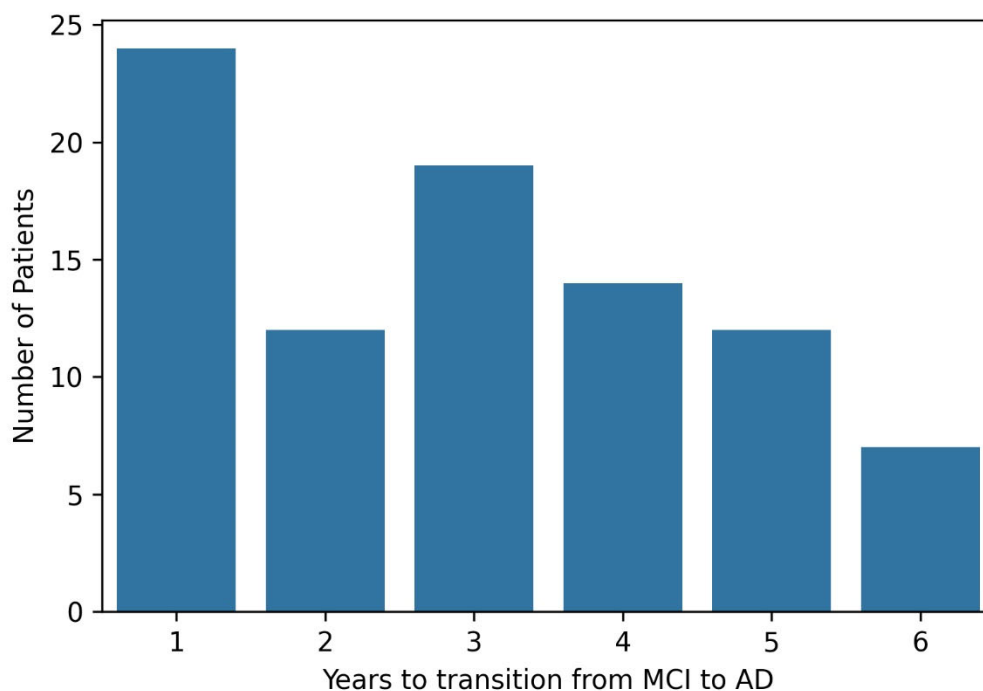
22 A cohort of 166 subjects with cognitive complaints were consecutively monitored by the FHS [32],
23 consisting of 59 males and 107 females, with a median age of 81 years (range: 63 to 97 years). It is noteworthy that
24 the demographic composition of our cohort is predominantly White, reflecting the specific population from which
25 the participants were drawn. Each participant underwent an approximately one-hour-long NPT, which was recorded
26 and saved in the .wav format. The NPTs conducted by the FHS include sub-tests assessing different cognitive
27 domains, such as memory, naming and language, visuoperceptual skills, abstract reasoning, and attention [33,34].
28 Additional information such as education, presence of Apolipoprotein E (ApoE) genes, and health risk factors (such

1 as blood glucose, diabetes, hypertension etc.) were also available. All the participants have a completed NPT for
2 which an MCI diagnosis was assigned. The cognitive status assignments such as AD diagnosis and MCI for those
3 showing signs of cognitive decline was reached by consensus of at least one neurologist and one neuropsychologist,
4 based on neurology exams, FHS study and external medical records, and brain imaging (the diagnostic procedure is
5 outlined [33,35]). All participants have provided written informed consent and study protocols and consent forms
6 were approved by the Boston University Medical Campus Institutional Review Board.

7

8 **Data preparation**

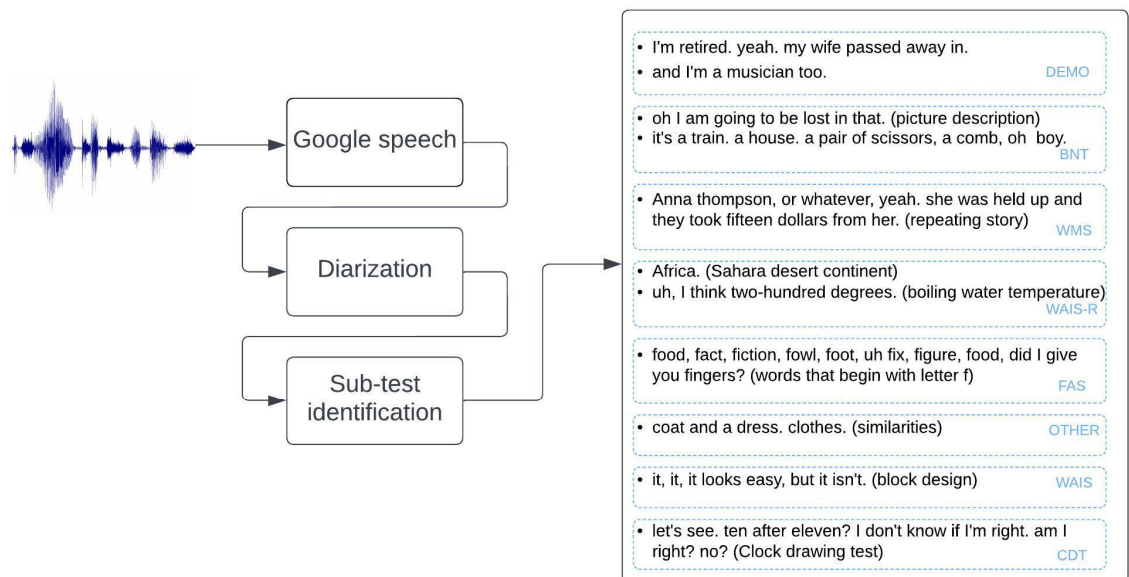
9 The cohort for this study was derived from a larger group of participants whose NPTs were recorded by the
10 FHS. This group consists of individuals at various cognitive stages, including some who have been diagnosed with
11 MCI. Due to the increasing interest in AD and related clinical trials, our analysis focused on predicting the
12 progression from MCI to AD. We elected not to consider progression from normal cognition to AD (or MCI) since
13 the NPT has limited utility in predicting future cognitive decline in individuals without any current signs of
14 cognitive deterioration. Therefore, we focused on MCI cases and identified those who had either progressed to AD
15 or remained MCI within 6 years, as determined by a dementia review.



16

1 Figure 1 shows the number of patients transitioning to AD from MCI each year over this period. It
2 represents the distribution of transitions, indicating that a larger number of patients tend to transition to AD earlier
3 within the 6-year timeframe. This observation suggests that the progression from MCI to AD is more likely to occur
4 in the initial years following the MCI diagnosis.

5 In our previous work [27], we developed a tool to automatically transcribe voice recordings. Each utterance
6 was diarized (i.e., ascribed to a speaker: participant or examiner) and each transcript was split into the eight sub-tests
7 comprising the FHS NPT. Some of these sub-tests are part of larger batteries of cognitive assessments such as
8 Wechsler Memory Scale (WMS) [36], Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS) [37], and a revised form of the
9 WAIS (WAIS-R) [38]. In addition, there are several other tests that are frequently administered independently,
10 including the Boston Naming Test (BNT) [39], Verbal fluency (FAS) [40], and Clock Drawing Test (CDT) [41].
11 The other two sub-tests are DEMO, which represents a part of the interview related to demographic information, and
12 OTHER, which includes parts that are not categorized in the defined sub-tests. Using this developed tool, the
13 participants' audio files were automatically transcribed, and each sentence was automatically labeled based on the
14 specific sub-test to which it belonged, such as WMS, WAIS, WAIS-R, BNT, FAS, CDT, DEMO, or OTHER.



15
16 Figure 2 illustrates the automated pipeline to extract such structured data from the raw voice recording.
17 From the prior study [27] leveraging a similar population, the diarization task demonstrated a performance with an
18 Exact F1-score of 70.2%, and the sub-test classification task achieved an accuracy of 96.2%.

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Statistical analysis

The cohort consisted of 166 patients with MCI, 90 of whom progressed to AD dementia (progressive MCI) and 76 remained MCI (stable MCI) within the 6-year horizon. AD dementia included AD with stroke, AD without stroke, and mixed dementia (vascular + AD). Over a 6-year follow-up period, the participants with MCI had a mean (s.d.) time to AD of 2.7 (1.5) years. Table 1 presents the participant characteristics, including self-reported gender, education status, age statistics, and six possible combinations of the three types of the ApoE gene (E2/E3/E4) for both copies of the allele. The table suggests that older women with lower education levels and those carrying one or two copies of the ApoE E4 allele are more likely to progress to AD. This finding aligns with previous studies that highlight age as the most significant risk factor for AD [42]. As individuals age, the prevalence of AD increases significantly, with estimates of 19% for those aged 75-84 and 30-35% for those over 85 years old [43]. Additionally, research shows that individuals who inherit one copy of the ApoE E4 genotype have a higher risk of developing AD, while those who inherit two copies have an even higher risk [44,45]. Notably, in the progressive MCI group, females had an average age of 1.4 years older than males, suggesting that females may be more prone to progression due to their longer lifespan.

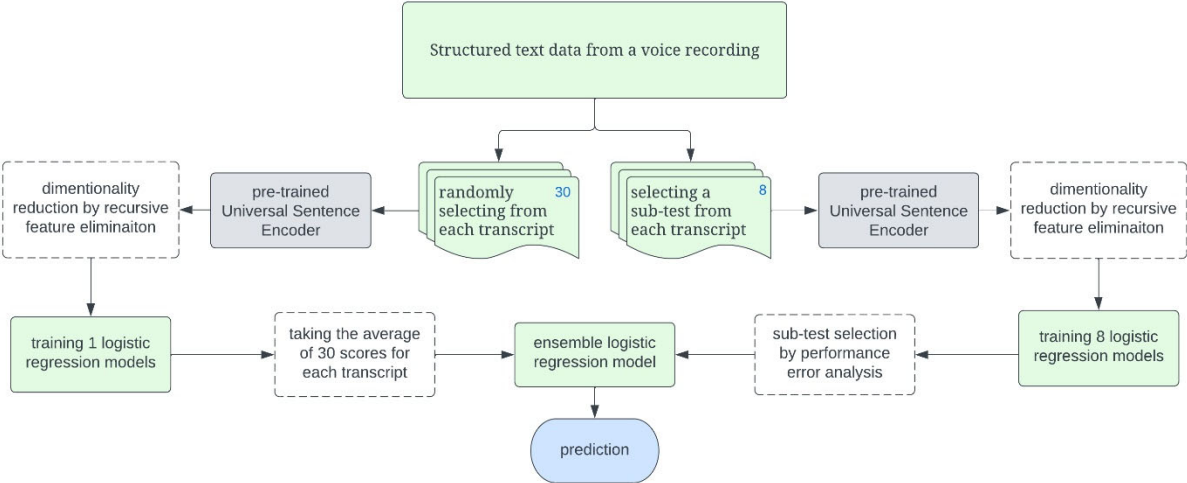
Transcript encoding using Universal Sentence Encoder

There are currently no standard methods for encoding a document into quantitative data. Based on selecting a specific segment of each transcript, we obtain different vector embeddings for each NPT interview. To increase the training data, we randomly sample from each transcript to create several abbreviated versions that are then encoded. In addition, the content of each sub-test can be encoded separately, resulting in 8 specific embeddings. These embedding vectors are generated by a deep learning-based model, the Universal Sentence Encoder (USE) [46]. The USE is a pre-trained neural network based on the transformer architecture and has demonstrated a promising downstream classification accuracy on dementia detection and other tasks [27,47]. The USE outputs a 512-dimensional vector for each embedding. To simplify the downstream classification model, we perform dimensionality reduction using a logistic regression-based Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) method [48]. Specifically, we perform logistic regression-based RFE on the training data, systematically removing the weakest feature as determined by the smallest absolute value of the logistic regression coefficients.

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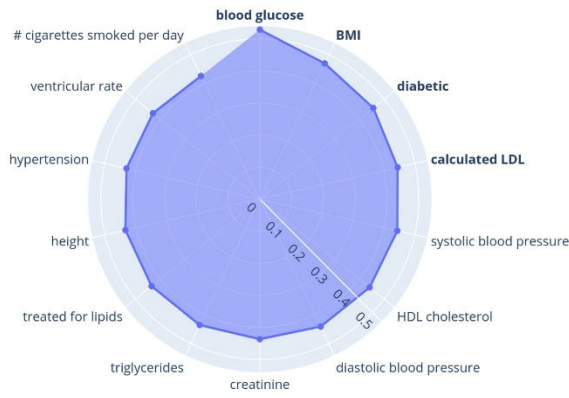
Prediction procedure

We generate deep learning-based embedding vectors from either an abbreviated version of a transcript or the content of one specific sub-test. This results in 8 embedding vectors associated with each sub-test, as well as multiple embedding vectors from the abbreviated versions of one transcript. We then train a logistic regression model on the quantitative data associated with one sub-test content, resulting in 8 different trained models and 8 scores for the sub-tests. However, the 8 scores representing the sub-tests undergo a feature selection process using performance error analysis. The embeddings from multiple shortened versions of each transcript are treated as independent input, and one logistic regression model is trained on all of them, resulting in the generation of multiple scores for one transcript. Although the abbreviated versions of a transcript are treated independently during the embedding procedure, we take the average of the logistic regression scores to create the Transcript Average Score (TAS). Finally, we feed the TAS score along with the selected sub-test scores into an ensemble logistic regression model to make the final prediction of the likelihood of an individual with MCI converting to AD within 6 years.

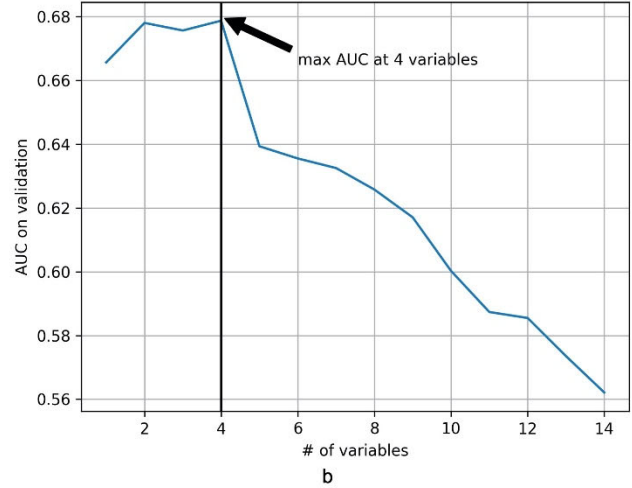


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Figure 3: Automated pipeline for Alzheimer's disease prediction from an NPT interview.



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2 illustrates the prediction process. By integrating random abbreviation and sub-test specific embeddings
 3 through data augmentation, our approach significantly enhances the model's data interpretation and accuracy. This
 4 includes generating the TAS score from diverse transcript versions, alongside sub-test evaluations to improve our
 5 prediction process. This strategy enriches our model's data representation and predictive accuracy, leveraging both
 6 broad and detailed transcript insights.

7

8 **Validation and performance metrics**

9 To evaluate our model's performance, we employed a stratified group k-fold cross-validation approach,
 10 splitting the dataset into 10 folds. This division allocated 90% of the data for training (across 9 folds) and 10% for
 11 testing (the remaining fold), with each segment serving as the test set once to ensure comprehensive evaluation.
 12 Within this framework, we also implemented an internal cross-validation within the training phase for
 13 dimensionality reduction and feature selection. This nested cross-validation strategy ensures the test data remain
 14 unseen until the final testing phase, enhancing the validity and reliability of our results. We conducted the stratified
 15 group k-fold cross-validation three times, each with a distinct random seed, to accurately calculate the average
 16 metrics and 95% confidence intervals for our model's performance assessment. The performance metrics considered
 17 for the evaluation were classification accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, precision, F1-score, and the Area Under the
 18 Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve (AUC). The AUC is a valuable measure that estimates the probability of
 19 the classifier ranking a randomly chosen progressive MCI subject (positive sample) higher than a randomly selected

1 stable MCI subject (negative sample). Sensitivity and specificity provide insights into the correct classification of
2 positive and negative subjects, while the F1 score measures the trade-off between precision and recall.

3

4 **Results**

5 Table 2 presents the average performance metrics of the logistic regression model, including the 95%
6 confidence interval for each metric. The table is sorted in descending order based on AUC, with the highest value
7 listed first. The first row showcases the model's performance, incorporating text, demographics, ApoE, and health
8 factors, achieving an AUC of 78.5% and an F1 score of 79.9%, marking the highest effectiveness observed. The
9 subsequent two rows highlight models that leverage text features along with readily available demographic data such
10 as age, sex, and education, also demonstrating strong predictive capabilities with an AUC and F1-score of 77.8%
11 and 79.4% for our NLP model using only text features. The fourth row of the table reports the performance of
12 adding ApoE data to the model using demographic features, resulting in an AUC and F1-score of 71.7% and 75.7%.
13 In addition, we trained a model with only demographic features as input, yielding an AUC of 68.8% as shown in
14 row 6th.

15 We also assessed a logistic regression model based on traditional neuropsychological test scores, including
16 assessments like Logical Memory, Visual Reproductions, Paired Associate Learning Immediate Recall, Similarity
17 Test, Boston Naming Test, and Verbal Fluency Test. The model's performance, detailed in the 5th row, shows an
18 AUC of 71.3% and an F1-score of 75.5%, underscoring that our NLP model not only matches but exceeds the
19 predictive power of standard NPT scores. Additionally, when using 4 health factors (blood glucose, body mass
20 index, presence of diabetes, and calculated low-density lipoprotein (LDL)) as input to the logistic regression, the
21 seventh row shows an AUC of 66.2% and F1 score of 72.5%. As MMSE evaluates cognitive problems with
22 thinking, communication, understanding, and memory, the model based on MMSE yielded an AUC of 60.7%. Other
23 combinations of different features had no performance improvement over the best models in the first three rows of
24 Table 2. Furthermore, the 4 health factors used in Table 2 (blood glucose, body mass index, presence of diabetes,
25 and calculated LDL) resulted from the performance error analysis of 14 health factors; see the Supplement and
26 Figure 4 for the complete analysis.

27 Based on the confidence intervals detailed in Table 2, the performance metrics of the first three rows,
28 which utilize the text feature set, distinguish them significantly from other models presented in the table. While there

1 may be some overlap in confidence intervals between models using text features and baseline models, statistical
2 analysis, such as the paired t-test, validates that the AUC for models employing text features is significantly
3 improved, underscoring the efficacy of our NLP approach in enhancing predictive accuracy.

4 Figure 5¹ displays the coefficients of our logistic regression model using the text features and the
5 demographics model output. The results have been adjusted for continuous variables through z-score normalization
6 (by subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation), making the coefficients comparable. This figure
7 represents the distribution of logistic regression coefficients for different features, highlighting their relative
8 importance in the model's predictive process. By comparing the interquartile ranges and medians of coefficients for
9 TAS and selected sub-tests against the demographic features, we can observe a difference in their contributions. A
10 higher median value for TAS and sub-tests implies these variables have a stronger predictive value, underscoring
11 their role over demographic factors in influencing the model's prediction.

12

13 **Discussion**

14 Speech during cognitive exams has been identified as a promising biomarker that strongly correlates with
15 underlying cognitive dysfunction. The current study aimed to automatically predict the progression to AD using
16 NLP and machine learning techniques applied to speech data. The proposed method predicted the participant's
17 progression to AD with an accuracy of 78.2% and a sensitivity of 81.1% in the held-out test data, demonstrating
18 strong predictive power over a 6-year span. However, the specificity of predicting whether an individual with MCI
19 will progress to AD within 6 years was moderate, at 75%. To reduce the costs associated with recruiting subjects for
20 clinical trials, it is important to improve the specificity. Nevertheless, the relatively high sensitivity of our prediction
21 tool makes it clinically applicable and potentially beneficial for eventual neuroprotective therapies [49].

22 Importantly, our method only utilizes features derived from speech data in an automated manner, along
23 with easily obtainable variables such as age, gender, and education level. The proposed method offers a non-
24 invasive, accessible, and easy-to-administer AI-based predictive approach because it does not require data involving
25 laboratory tests, genetic tests, or imaging exams. This makes it a promising candidate for integration into remote

¹ demographics: age, sex, and education; TAS: transcript average score; BNT: Boston Naming Test; DEMO: part of the interview related to demographic information; WAIS: Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale; CDT: Clock Drawing Test; OTHER: similarity tests.

1 assessment technologies. A major strength of this study is its utilization of semantic features extracted from the
2 structured text data. This approach allows for the potential transferability of the entire pipeline to other languages,
3 leveraging the availability of transcription tools that can transcribe from any language to English, and/or powerful
4 NLP models in different languages [50,51]. As a computer-aided decision-making tool, our method has the potential
5 to mitigate inter-clinician variability in selecting candidates for clinical trials and drug tests, enhancing the
6 consistency and reliability of participant selection processes [52].

7 The Results section indicates that adding demographic features to text features does not enhance the
8 model's ability to predict the progression from MCI to AD. This contrasts with previous assumptions about the
9 predictive power of age and other demographics in relation to degenerative diseases over extended periods. Even
10 though there are significant differences in demographics between stable and progressive MCI groups, the use of text
11 features alone outperforms the use of demographic features. This underscores the strong predictive strength of the
12 engineered text features. Moreover, upon evaluating the performance of the logistic regression model using the
13 traditional NPT scores, we observed an AUC of 71.3%. This result indicates that our approach outperforms
14 conventional NPT scoring methods in this study. Furthermore, when we compared our model with a well-
15 established cognitive assessment score such as the MMSE score, text features demonstrated higher predictive power.
16 In addition, compared with other works that used only non-invasive features [53,54], our model's F1-score = 79.4%
17 is higher. For instance, the authors in one paper [53] predicted AD transition within 9 years based on NPT scores
18 provided by specialized clinicians, achieving an F1-score of 70.8%, whereas M. Grassi et al. achieved an F1-score
19 of 72.7% using socio-demographic characteristics, clinical information, and NPT scores [54]. These methods still
20 require highly specialized personnel to generate the NPT scores while our method is fully automated, making
21 Alzheimer's prediction accessible to all.

22 As depicted in Figure 5, our analysis revealed that sub-tests related to demographic questions (DEMO),
23 Boston Naming Test (BNT), similarity tests (OTHER), and Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS) emerged as
24 the top features driving the performance of our model. These sections of each transcript are key predictors for
25 identifying the future incidence of AD. Thus, our approach facilitates the identification of sub-tests that provide
26 more informative insights for predicting the future incident of AD. This finding underscores the potential benefit of
27 employing a more structured interview to better capture the language deficits that may underlie cognitive decline.
28 Additionally, after conducting a performance error analysis on 14 health risk factors, we found that variables such as

1 blood glucose, BMI, diabetes, and calculated LDL were useful in predicting the development of Alzheimer's
2 disease. In conclusion, our study demonstrates the potential of using automatic speech recognition and NLP
3 techniques to develop a prediction tool for identifying individuals with MCI who are at risk of developing AD. Our
4 method achieved high accuracy and outperformed other non-invasive approaches. However, further prospective
5 studies with larger populations are necessary to validate the generalizability of our models. Additionally, it is
6 important to standardize the definition of MCI across different locations to enable better comparison of results. With
7 continued development and refinement, our approach may contribute to early intervention and selection in clinical
8 trials for novel AD treatments, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

9
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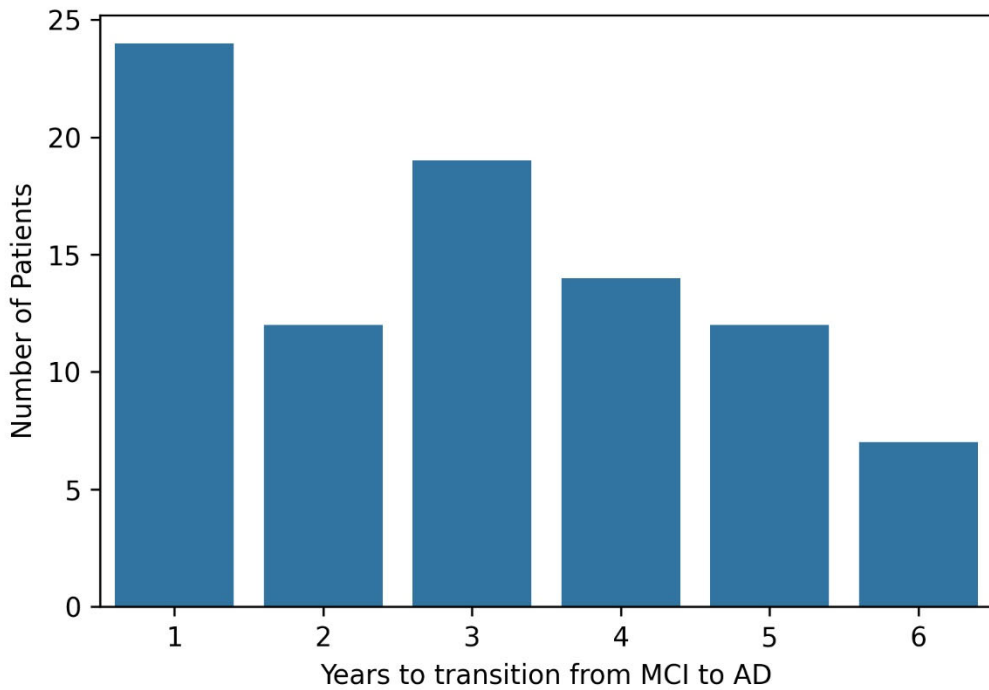
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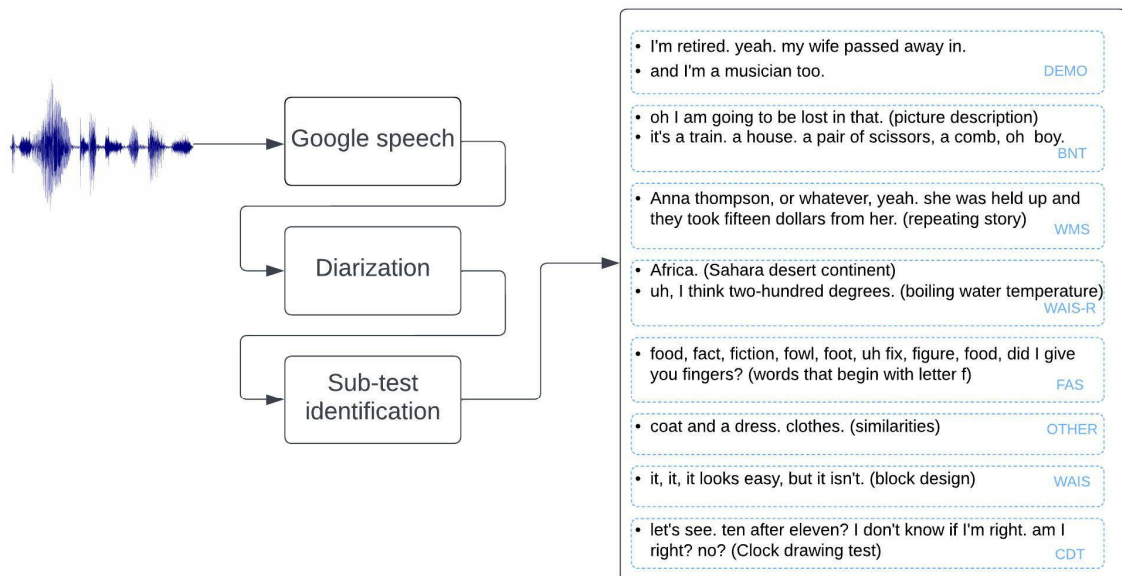
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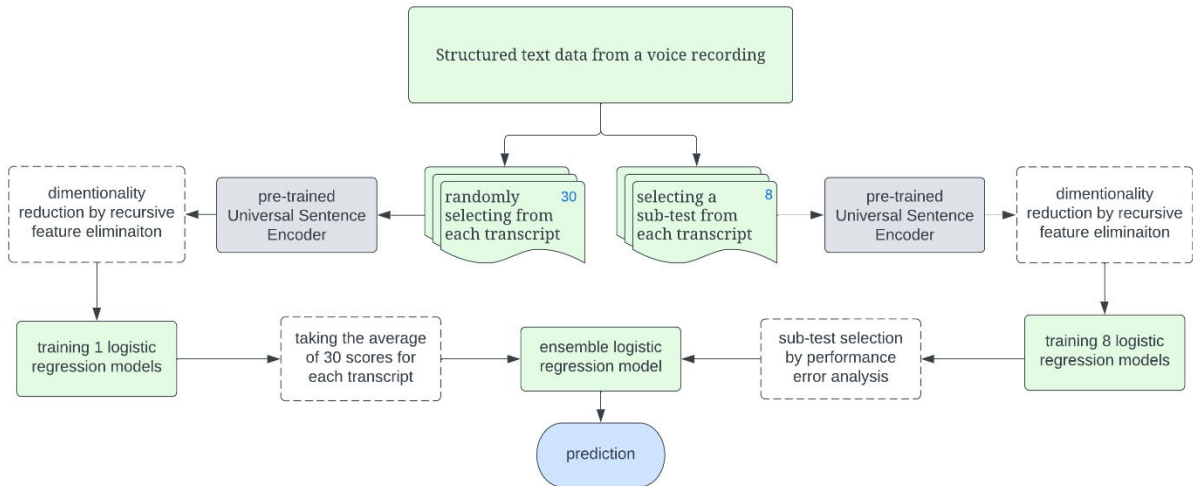


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2 Figure 1: Number of MCI patients transitioning to AD annually over 6 years.

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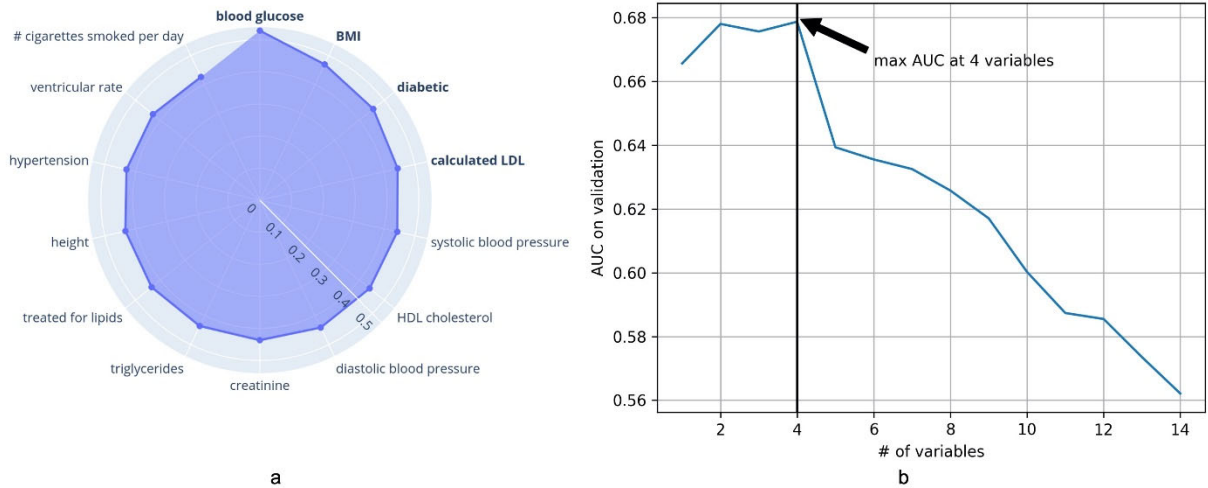


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5 Figure 2: Automated pipeline for converting raw speech into structured data (as an example, the box on the right
6 side contains a short note from each sub-test highlighted in blue ink).



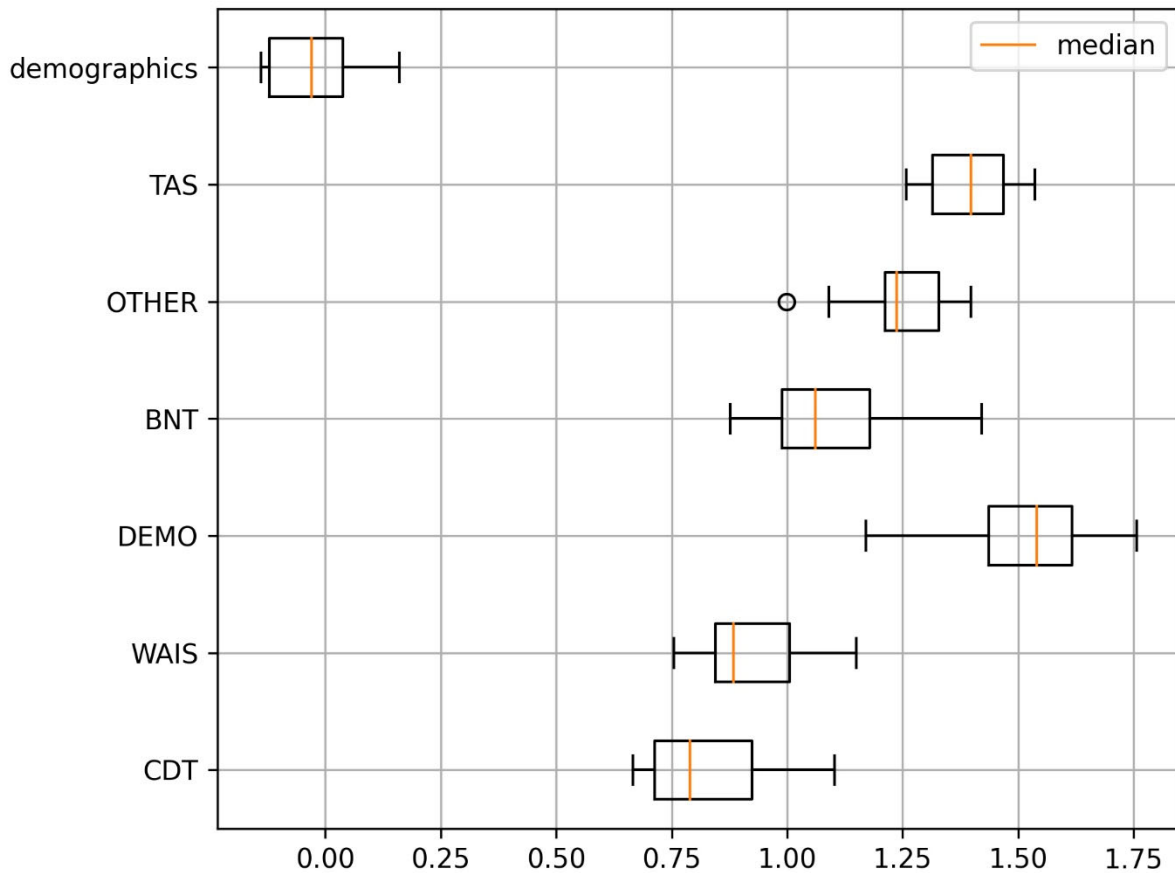
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Figure 3: Automated pipeline for Alzheimer's disease prediction from an NPT interview.



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Figure 4: Performance error analysis for health factors. (a) performance error (1-AUC) after removing each feature at a time. (b) results of AUC for an arbitrary number of most important features.



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2 Figure 5: Logistic regression coefficients of the text features and demographics used in the proposed method.

3

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8 **Conflicts**

9 Rhoda Au is a scientific advisor to Signant Health and NovoNordisk and consultant to Biogen and the
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 4 declaration from other authors.

5 **Consent Statement**

6 All participants have provided written informed consent and study protocols and consent forms were approved by
 7 the Boston University Medical Campus Institutional Review Board.

8 **Key Words**

9 Alzheimer’s disease prognosis, Natural Language Processing, Neuropsychological test, Framingham Heart Study

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Table 1: Characteristics of patients with MCI, who either remain MCI or progress to AD within 6 years.

	stable MCI <i>n</i> = 76	progressive MCI <i>n</i> = 90	Difference
Age			
63-75	29	8	-21
75-85	36	44	not significant
85+	11	38	27
Gender [mean age]			
Female	44 [77.8]	63 [84.2]	19
Male	32 [77]	27 [82.8]	not significant
Education			
High school grad or less	33	46	13
Some college or more	43	44	not significant
ApoE			
E44	1	6	5
E34 or E24	19	29	10
E22, E33, or E23	52	54	not significant

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Table 2: Average performance metrics (over 30 runs) on a held-out test set of the final logistic regression models using different features for MCI-to-AD progression in 6 years. Acc.: Accuracy, Sens.: Sensitivity, Spec.: Specificity, Prec.: Precision.

Features	AUC	Acc.	Sens.	Prec.	Spec.	F1-score
text & demographics & Apoe & health	78.5 (74.6, 82.5)	78.8 (75.6, 82.1)	80.6 (75.9, 85.2)	80.4 (76.8, 84.1)	76.9 (72.2, 81.5)	79.9 (74.6, 82.5)

text	77.8 (74.2, 81.3)	78.2 (75.0, 81.4)	81.1 (75.9, 86.3)	78.9 (75.8, 81.9)	75.0 (70.9, 79.1)	79.4 (76.0, 82.7)
text & demographics	77.5 (73.8, 81.2)	78.5 (75.4, 81.7)	81.1 (75.8, 86.3)	79.3 (76.1, 82.6)	75.6 (71.4, 79.8)	79.6 (76.1, 83.0)
demographics & Apoc	71.7 (67.7, 75.6)	74.4 (71.9, 76.9)	77.8 (71.5, 84.1)	77.1 (73.3, 80.9)	70.6 (63.6, 77.6)	75.7 (72.7, 78.7)
traditional NP tests	71.3 (67.2, 75.5)	74.7 (71.8, 77.6)	77.2 (70.7, 83.7)	77.2 (73.5, 80.8)	71.9 (66.3, 77.5)	75.5 (72.0, 79.0)
demographics	68.8 (64.3, 73.3)	70.6 (67.1, 74.1)	70.6 (64.5, 76.6)	74.9 (70.4, 79.4)	70.6 (64.3, 77.0)	71.1 (67.5, 74.8)
health factors	66.2 (63.1, 71.2)	71.2 (68.2, 74.1)	75.0 (68.4, 81.6)	73.2 (69.7, 76.7)	66.9 (61.2, 72.5)	72.5 (68.9, 76.1)
MMSE	60.7 (55.9, 65.4)	62.9 (59.5, 64.4)	66.7 (60.8, 72.6)	65.2 (61.4, 69.0)	58.8 (52.9, 64.6)	64.9 (61.1, 68.8)

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Prediction of Alzheimer’s disease progression within 6 years using speech: a novel approach leveraging language models

Supplementary

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1 We extended our model training and validation to include two additional time windows representing the
2 progression of MCI patients to AD. In the 5-year time frame, we had a cohort of 111 stable and 83 progressive
3 samples, while in the 7-year time frame, we had 47 stable and 98 progressive samples. The results of these analyses
4 can be found in Table S1. Notably, we observed that the model utilizing generated text features continued to
5 outperform the model relying on demographics and ApoE genotype information.

6
7 To select the 4 health factors used in the models reported in Table 2, we first conducted correlation analysis using
8 the Pearson method among 23 health factors. A total of 9 variables were removed due to a strong positive
9 correlation with the rest. The remaining 14 features included blood glucose, body mass index (BMI), calculated low-
10 density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, number of cigarettes smoked per day, creatinine, history of diabetes, average
11 diastolic blood pressure, height, history of hypertension, whether or not treated for lipids, average systolic blood
12 pressure, triglycerides, and ventricular rate per minute. We then performed additional feature selection on the
13 remaining 14 features using performance error analysis. This involved training a logistic regression model with all
14 14 features, and then systematically removing one feature at a time from the training set and evaluating the
15 performance of the model each time. The features were then ranked based on their relative performance error. As
16 shown in Figure 4: Performance error analysis for health factors. (a) performance error (1-AUC) after removing
17 each feature at a time. (b) results of AUC for an arbitrary number of most important features.

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20 4(a), blood glucose emerged as the most important feature with the highest error among other health factors, and the
21 rest of the parameters were sorted based on their decreasing performance error in a clockwise order on the radar
22 chart. Given these findings, we determined that using only the 4 most important variables from the health factors
23 yielded the best performance outcome, according to Figure 4: Performance error analysis for health factors. (a)
24 performance error (1-AUC) after removing each feature at a time. (b) results of AUC for an arbitrary number of
25 most important features.

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28 4(b).

1
 2 Table S1: Performance metrics (average over 10 runs) on a held-out test set of the final logistic regression models
 3 for MCI-to-AD progression in 5 and 7 years.

Features	Features Time window, years	AUC	Accuracy	F1 score
Text & demographics	5	73.6	75	71
	7	76.8	76.7	79.8
Text	5	72.7	75.5	70.8
	7	75.2	74.7	77.7
demographics & Apoe	5	63.5	67.5	67.4
	7	68.5	71.3	75

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