Expanded and Filtered Features Based ELM Model for Thyroid Disease Classification

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Abstract
Thyroid disorder affects the regulation of various metabolic processes throughout the human body. Structural and functional disorders can affect the body and the brain. The computer-aided diagnosis system can identify the kind of thyroid disease. One such machine learning framework is presented in this paper to recognize disease existence and type. This paper presents a fuzzy adaptive feature filtration and expansion-based model to generate the most relevant and contributing features. This two-level filtration model is processed in a controlled fuzzy-based multi-measure evaluation. At the first level, the composite-fuzzy measures are combined with expert’s recommendations for identifying the ranked and relevant features. At the second level, the statistical computation-based distance measure is applied for expanding the featureset. The fuzzification is applied to the expanded featureset for transiting the continuous values to fuzzy-values. At this level, the fuzzy-based composite-measure is applied for selecting the most contributing and relevant features over the expanded dataset. This processing featureset is processed by the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) classifier to predict the disease existence and class. Five experiments are conducted on two datasets for validating the performance and reliability of the proposed framework. The comparative analysis is conducted against the Naive Bayes, Decision Tree, Decision Forest, Random Tree, Multilevel Perceptron, and Radial Basis Function (RBF) Networks. The analysis outcome is taken in terms of accuracy, error, and relevancy-based parameters. The proposed framework claims a significant gain in accuracy, relevancy, and reduction in the error rate.

Keywords Thyroid disease · Fuzzy logic · Statistical distance · Thyroid diagnosis · Disease prediction and classification · ELM

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1 Introduction

Thyroid [1–3] is one of the common endocrine disorders which is spreading worldwide. Even in India, more than 50 million people are suffering from thyroid disease. The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland located in the neck. It controls the metabolism in the human body. It means it can affect the complete functioning associated with the hormones. Thyroid disorder [2–6] can be identified easily as the small swelling in the throat, and the accessibility of its diagnosis and treatment is easy. The thyroid gland has mainly two types of hormones called Triiodothyronine (T3) and Thyroxine (T4). These hormones control the body temperature, protein production, energy production, and circulation. Iodine is the main structural substance of these two hormones. The imbalance of these hormones can cause different kinds of thyroid disorders. There are four different forms of thyroid disorder.

1.1 Hypothyroidism

When the thyroid gland does not produce enough hormones, it is called low thyroid or underactive thyroid or hypothyroidism. It can cause depression, constipation, heavy-weight, cold, etc. The occasional swelling is also a symptom of hypothyroidism.

1.2 Hyperthyroidism

When the thyroid gland produces the hormones in excess, such a situation is called excessive thyroid or hyperthyroidism. It can be identified as muscle weakness, heat intolerance, thyroid enlargement, faster heartbeat, sleeping problem, weight loss, etc.

1.3 Structural Abnormalities

The structural change or abnormality in the gland can also cause thyroid disease. Because of this abnormality, nodules can appear on the gland. This abnormal enlargement is called goiter, and it can be removed by using surgery of the organ.

1.4 Tumors

Another serious form of thyroid disorder is thyroid cancer. The cells that cause thyroid cancer are distinct from all other cells of the human body. These cells absorb iodine from the bloodstream, which is poisonous to the human body. This kind of disease can result in hair loss, body pain, sickness, nausea, etc. These surgical treatments are required to cure thyroid cancer.

The automated disorder identification system can be developed after recording the thyroid disease symptoms in terms of different hemoglobin contents, patient information, sonography-based information, and structural information of goiter. Various classification methods [7–11] such as Bayesian network, neural network [12], Support Vector Machine (SVM), etc. were used by the researchers in recent years. For reducing the computational complexity, the feature ranking and selection methods were provided by the researchers to optimize the classification accuracy.

A lot of research is already investigated in the form of classification models and methods to predict and classify thyroid disease. Some of the problems identified in the earlier research that motivated us to design a new model are listed below.
• Most of the earlier researchers used the complete featureset for predicting thyroid disease. This larger featureset based prediction model affected the performance of the system. A selective and significant features-based model is required to improve the performance of thyroid prediction.

• The feature ranking and weight identification methods were used by the researchers to identify the effective features. Most of the researchers used single measures to identify the valuable features. But the single method-based method cannot provide generic results that can be employed on multiple datasets accurately.

• The existing researchers did not consider the expert opinion to identify the most significant and valuable features. In the medical field, expert opinion is used to take an accurate and real-time decision.

In this paper, a fuzzy-adaptive composite measure is applied at two levels for reducing the dimension size and improving the relevancy of the featureset. The featureset expansion is achieved using statistical-distance based computation. Expert opinion is considered within the feature selection stage to optimize the performance and reliability of thyroid disease prediction. The expanded-filtered featureset is transited through fuzzy rules for handling the ambiguities. The final-relevant featureset is processed under the ELM classifier for predicting the thyroid existence and disease class.

1.5 Major Contributions

The problem in the thyroid gland can cause various health issues, including fatigue, weakness, hair loss, blood pressure, etc. The overactive and underactive thyroid gland has a different impact on health. It is necessary to diagnose the thyroid accurately with category specification. In this research, a selective and extensive feature processed model is presented for accurate diagnosis of the thyroid. The contribution of this research is listed hereunder:

• A Fuzzy adaptive composite-measure and recommendation analysis-based feature selection method are included for the identification of relevant and contributing features.

• The fuzzy-based two-level filtration method is employed for generating an effective and reliable featureset.

• The feature expansion is conducted using statistical distance measures

• The impurities of continuous data are removed by applying fuzzy rules and generating fuzzy nominal data.

• The dynamic weight adjustment-based ELM classifier is applied for the accurate prediction of disease and disease class.

• Five different experiments are conducted for validating the performance of the proposed framework and achieving effective prediction results for 2, 4, 6 and 18 class datasets.

In this paper, a filtered and expanded feature-based probabilistic model is presented to classify thyroid disease. Fuzzy adaptive composite-measure based ranking and filtration is accomplished for identifying the most significant features. This filtration stage is applied at two levels: before and after feature expansion. The statistical aggregative measure is used for feature expansion, and the fuzzy rules are applied to validate the dataset. Finally, the dynamic weight adjustment-based ELM model is employed to recognize the disease class. In this section, a detailed exploration of thyroid disease, its types, symptoms, and diagnosis is provided. The section also
explored the feature selection and classification methods. In section II, the methods used by the researchers to classify thyroid disease over different datasets are provided. In section III, the proposed expanded and filtered probabilistic model for thyroid disease classification is presented. The algorithmic behavior of this model is also provided. Detailed exploration of proposed fuzzy-based feature selection and expansion is also provided in this section. In section IV, the experimental results obtained from work on five experiments taken on two different datasets are discussed. In section V, the conclusion and future scope of this work are provided.

2 Related Work

The patients with thyroid disease are increasing rapidly and suffering from various disease forms, including hyperthyroid, hypothyroidism, thyroid nodule, cancer, and so on. Various data mining and machine learning [13–17] algorithms were analyzed by the researchers for identifying the most significant, accurate and reliable method. The automated disease classification under the machine learning algorithm [18] is designed by the researchers to diagnose the disease based on the symptoms. Each stage of the machine learning algorithm was improved by the researchers to improve the accuracy of disease recognition. Pan et al. [2] used the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and random forest-based method for thyroid classification. The PCA is applied to preserve the variability, and the combined ensemble learning method improves the accuracy effectively. A comparative evaluation of various machine learning algorithms for thyroid classification was provided by Maysanjaya et al. [3]. The author applied the RBF, LVQ (Learning Vector Quantization), Multilayer Perceptron (MLP), Back Propagation Algorithm (BPA), Artificial Immune Recognition System (AIRS) and Perceptron classifiers. The analytical results provided by the author identified that the MLP provided a maximum accuracy of 96.74%. A hybrid intelligent framework [19] was proposed by integrating the Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) with the SVM classifier. The teaching learning-based algorithm (TLBO) and Differential Evolution (DE) algorithms were integrated within the framework for optimizing the parameters of SVM. The average accuracy received by this model was 97.17%. A multi-layer perceptron-based intelligent [20] method was investigated for the effective recognition of thyroid patients. The model was implemented on a primary dataset collected for a hospital. The author collected 11 attributes and achieved 99.8% accuracy. Yadav et al. [21] used the decision tree ensemble approach for thyroid disease prediction. The method was implemented in the real environment on a real-time dataset and achieved 99.2% accuracy. An ensemble [22] approach of thyroid disease classification was defined by combining C4.5 and random Forest techniques. The proposed method achieved 96% accuracy on average.

The feature selection and ranking methods were opted by the researchers to process only the relevant features. Quereshi et al. [5] used the feature rejection technique to discard redundant and irrelevant features. The reduced dimensions featureset was processed under SVM, K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN), neural network, and decision tree methods to gain a higher classification rate. The ranker search [23] method was applied to identify the most relevant features from the thyroid disease dataset. The highest-ranked features were processed by the probabilistic naive bayes classifier to gain accuracy over 95%. A fuzzy rule [24] based expert system was designed to process the most relevant features. K-Means and neuro-fuzzy-based model was designed to handle suspicious and uncertain conditions to build final rules. Huang et al. [25] compared four different feature selection methods called chi-square, fisher score, information gain, and minimal-redundancy-maximum-relevance (mRMR) methods on a
sub-health dataset. The accuracy-based verification was also provided on all feature selection methods using the KNN classifier. Another empirical evaluation of binary relevance, pairwise, and label power-set feature selection methods were provided by Rodriguez et al. [26]. Padmaja et al. [27] also provided an analytical and comparative measure for several feature selection methods, including Sequential Forward Selection (SFS), Sequential Floating Forward Selection (SFFS) and Random Subset Feature Selection (RSFS), etc.

Prasad et al. [28] proposed the string matching algorithm and the bee colony optimization-based hybrid approach for accurate prediction of thyroid disease. A regular match using a string matching algorithm achieved 100% accuracy. But, when the matching failed, the method was replaced by PSO (Particle Swarm Optimization) method, which achieved 93% accuracy. Even if PSO failed, the higher method was replaced by ABC (Artificial Bee Colony) optimization method, which achieved 65% accuracy. It shows no single method has achieved effective accuracy. On average, 86% accuracy is achieved by the system irrespective of the failure ratio of each method. A rule-based classifier was designed by Yeh et al. [29] as an improvement to SSO (Simplified Swarm Optimization) for improving the solution quality of thyroid prediction. The rule is applied to feature pruning and to avoid the over-fitting of the training dataset. The computational results verified the superiority of the method over conventional and (Soft Computing) SC-based classifiers. A GDA_WSVM (Generalized Discriminant Analysis and Wavelet Support Vector Machine) [30] system was introduced for improving the accuracy of thyroid prediction. The method used the GDA (Generalized Discriminant Analysis) method as an extensive feature extraction and reduction approach for the correct diagnosis of thyroid disease. The author achieved a maximum accuracy of 91.86%. A recursive rule [31] extraction-based continuous attribute processing was defined for accurate and interpretable classification of thyroid disease. The author processed the imbalanced dataset and handled the impurities that exist in the dataset. This interpretable rules-based method has achieved a maximum accuracy of 96.70%. The accuracy of the method is controlled by the generated discrete and continuous rules. Better rule formation can be done to improve the accuracy of thyroid prediction.

Temurtas et al. [32] did a detailed study of thyroid disease diagnosis using neural networks. Different network configurations were analyzed by the author with different learning vectors and kernels. The minimum and maximum classification accuracy achieved by the author were 79.08% and 94.81%. Kodaz et al. [33] used the information gain for feature filtration and applied the AIRS (Artificial Immune recognition system) for thyroid diagnosis. The method achieved 95.90% accuracy. A fuzzy weighted [34] pre-processing based AIRS (Artificial Immune Recognition System) was proposed as a hybrid method for solving the diagnosis problem of thyroid disease. With sampling variations, 85% of accuracy was achieved by the author. Another hybrid immune-based thyroid disease classification was provided by Chang et al. [35]. The method was defined as an extension to GA (Genetic Algorithms). The probability analysis was applied to handle the diversity that exists in the data and to reduce the risk. The average accuracy achieved by the method was 96.78%. The hybridization of LDA (Linear Discriminant Analysis), KNN, and ANFIS (Adaptive Neurofuzzy Interference System) were provided by Ahmad et al. [36] for effective thyroid disease forecasting. LDA was applied by the author for feature extraction, and then filtration was performed using the weighted-KNN approach. The method achieved a higher accuracy of 98.5%. The comparative evaluation of conventional classifiers was provided by Pal et al. [37] for thyroid detection. The author identified the KNN as the best performing classifier with 96.90% accuracy over Naive Bayes and SVM classifiers.

An integrated model using SOM (Self Organizing Map) and LVQ (Linear Vector Quantization) was proposed by Razia et al. [7] for identification of thyroid disease class. This integrated model achieved 85% accuracy. Shankar et al. [38] improved the multi-kernel
SVM approach for thyroid disease classification by integrating a feature selection approach at an intermediate layer. The feature selection method identified the insignificant features and computationally improved the performance of the model. This filtered featureset based method has achieved 97.49% accuracy.

Radiologists and physicians also use sonography images to diagnose thyroid nodules. The textural features [4] were extracted and processed in SVM to classify thyroid lesions. The author processed the 78 textural features and validated them using the threefold method to gain accuracy over 98%.

3 Research Methodology

The thyroid is a hormone-generated disease that can be identified by analyzing the symptoms and medical history of patients. The thyroid gland produces various kinds of hormones that affect every cell, organ, and tissue to regulate the metabolism of the human body. The intensity of thyroid hormone affects the body’s energy, temperature, and production-proteins. Various symptoms, body variations, and tests are analyzed by the experts to diagnose the type of thyroid. In this paper, an effective machine learning model is presented that observes and processes the available symptoms and test-measures to identify the type of thyroid infection accurately. In this paper, a fuzzy adaptive feature selection and expansion method are provided for generating the most reliable and relevant features for thyroid prediction. The composite measures and recommendations were combined through fuzzy rules for generating the compact-efficient featureset. Later on, the dynamic weight adjustment-based ELM classifier is applied for the accurate prediction of thyroid existence and type. The proposed feature filtration and expansion based probabilistic model is provided in Fig. 1.

The proposed framework has accepted the larger training set taken from the secondary [39] source. This raw training set contains the patient information, disease symptoms, and various test results conducted on the patient. In the earlier phase of this proposed model, the evaluation of the raw training set is performed to identify the most contributing features. The feature selection is made using a fuzzy and composite measure based method. The composite measure defined in this work used the InfoGain, GainRatio, and ChiSq measures. The expert’s recommendation is also combined to generate the fuzzy rules for generating the Level-I filtered dataset. The expert opinions are collected personally from the physician and online [40, 41] sources. The collective computation is applied to these fuzzy qualified measures and manual assessment weights to identify the most contributing features. At level II, the feature expansion is done by applying the statistical-distance measure. The statistical measures included in this work are mean, Standard Deviation (SD), and Standard Error (SE). The fuzzy rules are applied to this expanded dataset for transiting the continuous features to fuzzy-nominal features. This expanded dataset is further processed by the fuzzy-based composite measures for identifying the most contributing and relevant features. At the final stage, a dynamic weight adjustment based ELM classifier is applied for the prediction of thyroid disease existence and type. The input-testing set or the new patient physiological, symptoms, and various test information is supplied to this proposed Machine Learning (ML) model for diagnosing the type of thyroid disease. In this section, each of the integrated functionality of this proposed framework is provided.

3.1 Effective and ranked thyroid feature selection (Level I)

This research is formulated to diagnose the existence and category of thyroid disease in a patient. The wider real-time datasets are collected from the UCI repository. The
description of datasets [39, 42] is provided in Sect. 4. In the broader form, the dataset has 29 features for an individual. These features include physiological features, patient information, symptoms, and various test measures. Some of these features are basic features, including age, gender, and query information. The query information collects the case history of the patient respective to earlier infections to thyroxine, antithyroid medication, hypothyroid, and hyperthyroid. The clinical information is collected in the form of low-level and high-level symptoms. The high-level symptoms include sickness, pregnancy, and physiological changes identified in the patient. The low-level symptoms include the size of the goiter, Infection of I131, and lithium. By consulting the physician (expert) personally and by taking the depth study of disease [40, 41], it is identified that the physiological and general patient information has a negligible contribution to diagnosing the disease. The high level and low level clinical and query features with respective effective and doctor recommendations are provided in Table 1. The table identified that the infection of I131 and lithium highly influences the thyroid hormones. These recommendations are considered as the weighted factor and used with feature measures to generate the ranked filtered featureset.

The physiological changes such as weakness, hair loss, blood pressure, etc. are not enough to diagnose thyroid disease. The blood tests such as T4, TSH, T3, FTI, and TBG are conducted by the expert to perform low-level evaluations. These tests are able to identify the degree of abnormality and the category of thyroid disease. The abnormality influence, type of disorder, associated symptoms of these tests are provided in Table 2. Based on the scope and recommendation of these tests, the weights are also assigned to these tests, which are listed in this table.

Table 2 identifies the functional behavior and its scope based on high and low abnormality. These tests are capable of identifying different categories of thyroid disease. The values of these tests and their relation to thyroid disease categories are provided in Table 3.
This relation shows that TSH, T4, and FTI tests are capable of diagnosing Hyperthyroidism and Hypothyroidism accurately. T3 test can diagnose only Hyperthyroidism.

After getting the expert opinion, recommendation, and concern, the available dataset features are analyzed respectively to labeled diseases. Various feature selection and ranking methods are available for the identification of contributing features. The feature selection measures improve the efficiency and reliability of classification methods. The label-driven analysis is performed by these ranking measures. In Sect. 3.1, the functional processing and ranking behavior of these measures are provided hereunder. In this paper, a composite and fuzzy rule-based measure is applied to these measures for identification. In Sect. 3.2, the proposed composite rule-based evaluation, measures, and functional behavior are provided. The performance analysis of the proposed composite-fuzzy feature-based model is provided against independent feature rankers.

### 3.2 Feature-Ranking and Selection Measures

#### 3.2.1 Info-Gain

Info-gain is the ranking [25–27] method used to evaluate the feature based on information theory and its mapping to the relative class. The predictive integrated evaluation measure as information obtained from the training set is shown in Eq. (1).

$$\text{Info} = - \sum_{j=1}^{K} p(C_j) \log_2 p(C_j)$$  

where $K$ is the number of classes of thyroid disease disorder, $C$ is the set of classes, $p(C_j)$ is the probabilistic derivation of a number of elements of the particular sample set map to class $C_j$.

The evaluation is further extended by specifying the range interval. Let for a particular feature $f_i$, the range interval $r_k(f_i)$ is defined for the feature, the number of samples

| Features   | Effect/description                                                                 | Doctor recommendation |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1131       | Destroy thyroid cells                                                             | High                  |
| Thyroid surgery | Complication risks are less than 2 percent                                       | Low                   |
| Pregnancy  | Changes exist in hormones and size during pregnancy                              | Low                   |
| Goiter     | Abnormal enlargement of the thyroid gland                                         | Medium                |
| Tumor      | Less occurred cancer, In later age of an individual, lesser visible symptoms       | Low                   |
| Lithium    | Rare disorder, affect blood pressure, growth, etc. results hypopituitarism         | Medium                |
| Hypopituitary | A drug that affects the thyroid function. It can develop goiter, hypothyroidism     | High                  |
| Sick       | Sickness exists in thyroid problems, but it is not a single reason                 | Low                   |
| Psych      | Affects mentally, physically, and emotionally. But difficult to identify it is     | Low                   |
|            | because of thyroid                                                              |                       |

Table 1 Effect of symptoms and features of thyroid patients
Table 2 Effect of various tests conducted for thyroid diagnosis

| Test/features       | Abnormal high results                                                                 | Abnormality low results          | Disorders                           | Symptoms                                      | Doctor recommendation |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| TT4 Test            | High protein level, High iodine, Pregnancy-related tumor, Germ cell tumor                | Dietary Issues, Protein Level, hypothyroidism | Hyperthyroidism, Hypopituitarism     | Dryness, Eye Issue, Hair Loss, Blood pressure, etc | High                  |
| T3 Test             | Graves disease, Painless thyroiditis, toxic nodular Goitre, Periodic paralysis, Hyperthyroidism | hypothyroidism                    | hyperthyroidism, Hypopituitarism     | Weakness, Fatigue, Weight loss, increased sensitivity, Hair loss, dryness, etc | Medium               |
| TSH                 | More Hormones, Overactive thyroid gland                                                 | Underactive thyroid gland         | Hypothyroidism                       | Through Blood test                            | High                  |
| FTI (Free T4)       | High Protein Level, High Iodine, Pregnancy-related tumor, Germ cell tumor                | Dietary Issues, Protein Level, hypothyroidism | Hyperthyroidism                      |                                               | High                  |
| TBG (thyroxin-binding globulin) | High Results can be normal in pregnancy or Liver Disease                                | Low can be due to acromegaly, Acute Illness, Hyperthyroidism, malnutrition | hyperthyroidism                      | Dryness, fatigue, hair loss, sensitivity Increased, etc | Low                  |
that map the range is given by \( n_{ik} \). The information obtained for a sample \( S_{ik} \) is given in Eq. (2) for the feature \( f_i \) and respective to the defined interval \( r_k(f_i) \).

\[
\text{Info}(S_{ik}) = - \sum_{j=1}^{K} p_{ikj} \log_2 p_{ikj}
\]  

(2)

From this available feature range, \( M \) intervals are identified, and the integrated information map is obtained as \( E_i \). The interval specific information map is given by

\[
E_i = \sum_{k=1}^{M} p_{ik} I(S_{ik})
\]  

(3)

In the formalized and integrated form, the information gain is obtained and represented by Eq. (4).

\[
IG = I(\Sigma) - E_i
\]  

(4)

The information gain can be applied to individual independent features to assign the ranking. The features with higher can be selected as the high-value feature. Info-gain values obtained for various features of the Thyroid and Hypothyroid dataset are provided in Sect. 4. The evaluated values by the measure based on the instances of both datasets are shown in Fig. 2. The same evaluation is also computed for each feature selection and ranking measure defined in this section. Later, the proposed fuzzy-based composite measure is applied for improving the capabilities of the proposed model.

Figure 2 shows the attribute ranking evaluated for both datasets using the info-gain ranking algorithm. The attributes are shown on X-axis, and the y-axis shows the weights based on the info-gain measure. By observing weights for these two datasets, the most contributing and high-ranked features are selected in this proposed model. For the rest of the feature rankers, the values are provided in Table 4.

### 3.2.2 Gain-Ratio

The gain ratio[12] is the improved form of information gain that uses the normalized information for feature evaluation. The gain ratio is capable of reducing the biasness against the large attributes. It uses a split information value based normalized analysis to process the features in partitions. The split of the dataset (D) into v partitions is done, and relatively v values come in outcome for an attribute (Attr). The splitinfo evaluation is provided in Eq. (5).

| Table 3: Test capabilities for thyroid disease category identification |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Column 1 | Normal | Hyperthyroidism | Hypothyroidism Primary | Hypothyroidism Secondary |
| TSH | Normal | Low | High | Low |
| T4 | Normal | High | Low | Low |
| FTI | Normal | High | Low | Low |
| T3 | Normal | High | – | – |
The higher value of Splitinfo shows the uniformity obtained over the attributes, and lower splitinfo represents the existence of peaks with more number of tuples in some partitions. After obtaining the SplitInfo, the Gain-Ratio is computed using Eq. (6). The attributes are selected with a higher ratio.

\[
\text{GainRatio(Attr)} = \frac{\text{Gain(Attr)}}{\text{SplitInfo(Attr)}}
\]

(6)

Gain-Ratio values obtained for various features of the Thyroid and Hypothyroid dataset are provided in Table 4.

3.2.3 ChiSquare

Chi-Square [5126, 27] is the statistical test that measures the dependency of two variables. The coefficient of determination is applied by this measure to evaluate the similarities. The Chi-Square test is very effective in measuring the contribution of categorical or nominal data. This test identifies the mapping of the dependent variable respective to the class label. The ChiSquare score evaluation with the specification of C classes and k different values is provided through Eq. (7). The datasets considered in this research have a number of attributes with nominal values. The ChiSquare test has performed well to evaluate the weights for these categorical features.

\[
\text{ChiSquare}(x_{ij}) = \frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}
\]

(7)
Table 4  Evaluation of compounding fuzzy-features of proposed model (4 datasets)

|         | Info Gain (1/Thyroid Class) | Info Gain (2/Thyroid Class) | Info Gain (3/Thyro 
| Class) | Gain ratio | Gain ratio | Gain ratio | ChiSq | ChiSq | ChiSq | ChiSq |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Age     | 0.0029                      | 0.0354                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0000          | 0.0000          | 0.0000          | 0.0000          | 0.0000          |
| Sex     | 0.0057                      | 0.0142                      | 0.0019                      | 0.0020          | 0.0063          | 0.0158          | 0.0021          | 0.0023          |
| on thyroxine query_ on thyroxine | 0.0061                  | 0.1122                      | 0.0064                      | 0.0103          | 0.0107          | 0.1963          | 0.0119          | 0.0192          |
| on anti thyroid medication | 0.0001                   | 0.0012                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0005          | 0.0005          | 0.0101          | 0.0004          | 0.0050          |
| Sick    | 0.0001                      | 0.0046                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0170          | 0.0003          | 0.0199          | 0.0000          | 0.0074          |
| pregnant | 0.0081                  | 0.0237                      | 0.0106                      | 0.0016          | 0.0888          | 0.2585          | 0.0154          | 0.0154          |
| Thyroid surgery | 0.0000               | 0.0080                      | 0.0003                      | 0.0011          | 0.0000          | 0.0724          | 0.0026          | 0.0106          |
| I131 treatment | 0.0000               | 0.0029                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0000          | 0.0003          | 0.0221          | 0.0001          | 0.0004          |
| query_ on hypothyroid | 0.0031                  | 0.0055                      | 0.0042                      | 0.0046          | 0.0865          | 0.0152          | 0.0126          | 0.0136          |
| query_ on hypothyroid | 0.0012                   | 0.0053                      | 0.0001                      | 0.0004          | 0.0032          | 0.0144          | 0.0004          | 0.0013          |
| Lithium | 0.0005                      | 0.0111                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0002          | 0.0060          | 0.0131          | 0.0006          | 0.0041          |
| Goiter  | 0.0007                      | 0.0015                      | 0.0010                      | 0.0010          | 0.0091          | 0.0202          | 0.0141          | 0.0141          |
| Tumor   | 0.0005                      | 0.0024                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0001          | 0.0027          | 0.0139          | 0.0001          | 0.0005          |
| Hypothyroidal  | 0.0005                      | 0.0008                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0000          | 0.1554          | 0.2605          | 0.0087          | 0.0087          |
| Psych.  | 0.0060                      | 0.0074                      | 0.0007                      | 0.0019          | 0.0224          | 0.0277          | 0.0024          | 0.0069          |
| TSH measured | 0.0115                  | 0.0134                      | 0.0120                      | 0.0120          | 0.0261          | 0.0302          | 0.0259          | 0.0259          |
| T3 measured | 0.0032                  | 0.0232                      | 0.0008                      | 0.0019          | 0.0038          | 0.0269          | 0.0011          | 0.0026          |
| T3      | 0.1200                      | 0.2358                      | 0.0263                      | 0.0398          | 0.6998          | 0.1332          | 0.0161          | 0.0308          |
| TT4 measured | 0.0123                   | 0.0129                      | 0.0027                      | 0.0031          | 0.0441          | 0.0464          | 0.0082          | 0.0092          |
| TT4     | 0.1293                      | 0.2146                      | 0.0836                      | 0.1323          | 0.6633          | 0.0768          | 0.0525          | 0.0802          |
| T4U measured | 0.0065                  | 0.0081                      | 0.0002                      | 0.0007          | 0.0152          | 0.0187          | 0.0004          | 0.0014          |
| T4U     | 0.0388                      | 0.1428                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0041          | 0.0441          | 0.0660          | 0.0000          | 0.0049          |
| FTI measured | 0.0065                  | 0.0080                      | 0.0002                      | 0.0007          | 0.0152          | 0.0186          | 0.0004          | 0.0014          |
| FTI     | 0.0993                      | 0.1818                      | 0.0864                      | 0.1430          | 0.0742          | 0.0954          | 0.0416          | 0.0697          |
| TBG measured | 0.0084                  | 0.0086                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0000          | 0.0359          | 0.0370          | 0.0000          | 0.0000          |
| TBG     | 0.0000                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0000                      | 0.0000          | 0.0000          | 0.0000          | 0.0000          | 0.0000          |
| Referral source | 0.0203                 | 0.1009                      | 0.0040                      | 0.0061          | 0.0136          | 0.0677          | 0.0026          | 0.0040          |
where $C$ is the number of class, $k$ is the different values, $n_{ij}$ defines a number of samples with $i$th value, and

$$
\mu_{ij} = \frac{n_{s_i} n_{ij}}{n} \tag{8}
$$

where $n_{s_i}$ defines the number of samples that takes $i$th value of a feature and $n_{s_j}$ defines the number of samples that map to class $j$. ChiSquare values obtained for various features of the Thyroid and Hypothyroid dataset are provided in Table 4.

### 3.2.4 ReliefF

ReliefF [12, 25] is the feature selector which is used effectively for binary classification problems. The filter is sensitive to the interactions among the features. This filter evaluates the nearest neighbor difference for scoring the features. It generates the 'hit' and 'miss' based observations respective to class specification. The weighted score is evaluated by this filter. In this research, multi-class analysis is considered so that the filter has not provided satisfactory results.

### 3.3 Proposed Fuzzy Based Composite-Measure and Recommendation Adaptive Feature Selection

In this paper, composite-measure and recommendation based fuzzy rules are defined for identifying the most contributing features. For setting up the global adaption for thyroid disease, the measures are computed for Thyroid and Hypothyroid datasets for two and multi-class disease prediction. Table 4 shows the values obtained InfoGain, Gain Ratio, and ChiSquare measures for all features. The fuzzy rules based on Eqs. (9)–(11) are applied for obtaining the significance of features on a specific dataset. In Table 4, the significant feature values are highlighted in red color. The equations are applied separately on each dataset. Equation (9) shows the fuzzy transition of feature-values of the InfoGain measure. The equation shows the Significant and NonSignificant fuzzy values are obtained by incorporating the fuzzification on the InfoGain parameter. A large of values for a fuzzy parameter ($a$) between 0 (Min) and 0.181 (Max) are tested for evaluating the most gainful decision on Significant and NonSignificant Features. The analysis is done respectively to the removal of recommended features and accuracy achieved on the filtered dataset. After conducting deep experimentation, $a=0.005$ confirmed the adaptation of generalized rule for all datasets. This generalized fuzzy value achieved significant results among all experimented values.

$$
f_{\text{InfoGain}} = \begin{cases} \text{InfoGain} \geq a & \text{Significant} \\ \text{InfoGain} < a & \text{Non Significant} \end{cases} \tag{9}
$$

where $a=0.005$ is the parameter value used for Optimized fuzzy decision.
GainRatio is another measure included in the proposed fuzzy-based composite rule formation. Fuzzification is applied to the GainRatio parameter for transiting it to Significant and NonSignificant categories. The fuzzy rule is derived by incorporating a wide range of values between minimum and maximum values of the fuzzy parameter (a). After experimenting with the fuzzy rules on all datasets, the observations identified a = 0.2 achieved the most accurate and generalized results for all datasets. Equation (10) shows the fuzzification rule of GainRatio and obtained the $f_{\text{GainRatio}}$ as output.

$$f_{\text{GainRatio}} = \begin{cases} \text{GainRatio} \geq a & \text{Significant} \\ \text{GainRatio} < a & \text{Non Significant} \end{cases}$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)$$

where $a = 0.02$ is the parameter value used for Optimized fuzzy decision.

The third measure used in this proposed composite-fuzzy rule-based Feature selection method is ChiSquare. Fuzzification is applied to compute ChiSq values for identifying the Significant and NonSignificant features. The analytical evaluation is applied to different values for observing the strength of the filtered featureset. The experimentation is conducted a vast range of iterative values between min and max for genetic and parametric evaluation. The analytical results identified that $a = 50$ identified a dominating featureset that can provide globally high accuracy. The fuzzy rule for evaluation of $f_{\text{ChiSq}}$ values is shown in Eq. (11).

$$f_{\text{ChiSq}} = \begin{cases} \text{ChiSq} \geq a & \text{Significant} \\ \text{ChiSq} < a & \text{Non Significant} \end{cases}$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)$$

where $a = 50$ is the parameter value used for Optimized fuzzy decision.

Each of the measures is fuzzified for all features of four datasets. The identified Significant values of each measure and feature are highlighted in pink boxes. Now, the Fuzzy AND and OR operations are applied to these Significant(SG) and NonSignificant (NSG) fuzzy values. This composite rule is applied to the fuzzy values of each dataset. This fuzzy rule computed each measure in terms of High, Medium, and Low contributing features. Equation (12) defines the fuzzy And-OR rule applied for obtaining the fuzzy values for these dataset-specific values. This rule is applied to fuzzy computed $f_{\text{InfoGain}}$, $f_{\text{GainRatio}}$, and $f_{\text{ChiSq}}$ features respective to Significant and NonSignificant values. The generalized rule is defined by analyzing the Significant and NonSignificant values of each dataset and decided the degree of measure. This degree of measure is described in terms of Fuzzy High, Medium, and Low values. The transited generalized fuzzy values of InfoGain, Gain Ratio, and ChiSq measures are provided in Table 5. These generalized-fuzzy feature values are further combined with recommended values for selecting or rejecting the features.

$$GfMeasure = \begin{cases} (SG \cap SG \cap SG \cap SG) \cup (NSG \cap SG \cap SG \cap SG) & H \\ (NSG \cap NSG \cap SG \cap SG) & M \\ Otherwise & L \end{cases}$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)$$

Here, $GfMeasure$ is the generalized fuzzy measure applied on computed fuzzy-based feature-measure values for each dataset, SG is the significant and NSG are the non-significant fuzzy-measure values for specific features and datasets.

The generalized fuzzy rules are incorporated on InfoGain, GainRatio, and ChiSQ features and obtained the $Gf_{\text{InfoGain}}$, $Gf_{\text{GainRatio}}$, and $Gf_{\text{ChiSq}}$ features. The fuzzy rules are implied to combine these features with Recommendation Weights. These fuzzy rules
are shown in Table 5. Based on these rules, the features are the most contributing features that are selected. In this proposed model, these selected features are further processed for building the machine learning model. These pruned and relevant features are further processed under the expansion stage described in Sect. 3.2.

In this work, composite-fuzzy feature-measure is combined with recommended features for identifying the most significant features. These selected 15 features are listed in Table 5. These selected features include all the recommended features. This proposed feature selection measure is effectively better than other feature ranking methods. Top-ranked features obtained from some of the state-of-art feature selectors are listed in Table 6. The observations show that these ranking methods do not include all the recommended features. It shows that the earlier methods are not significant respective to expert concern. The analytical validation of the proposed feature ranking and filtration method against existing methods is provided in section IV. Moreover, these existing filters are dataset-specific. But
the proposed composite and fuzzy measure based filters are generated over four datasets. This generic and global dataset can be applied to any other thyroid disease dataset.

### 3.4 Expanded Feature Set Generation

After applying the proposed Composite-Fuzzy measure based filter, first-Level ranked and contributing features are derived. In the second level, the feature set is expanded by applying the statistical distance measures on each feature. The aggregative statistical measures such as Mean, Standard Deviation (SD), and Standard Error (SE) are computed on ranked features. These aggregative measures are combined with each selected feature using the distance measure. The aggregative features are defined specifically to observe the collective behavior of normal or no-disease instances. The computation of Mean for any features corresponding to No-disease values is shown through Eq. (13).

\[
\text{Mean}(f) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i}{N} \tag{13}
\]

where \( N \) is the number of Normal or No-disease instances, \( f \) is the selected feature.

The mean feature gives an estimate of the average feature value, and the difference-value analysis sets a window for identifying the instances that belong to the same class. The instances of the normal class will give better window mapping, whereas the instances of disease instances will be far away from this window. As the features are very relevant to the respective class, the mean-difference analysis provided significant and accurate results. Another aggregative measure taken in this work is Standard deviation (SD), and its estimation is shown through Eq. (14). SD identifies the mean specific distribution of values over the features for Normal and disease instances over the training set. The deviation is analyzed and recorded for each instance. The deviation will map later on the testing set for obtaining the maximum mapping to the relative class.

\[
\text{SD}(f) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (f_i - \text{Mean})^2}{N}} \tag{14}
\]

where \( N \) is the number of Normal or Disease Instances.

Standard Error (SE) is another measure that estimates the deviation over the sample and presents the difference as an error. Equation (15) represents the formula of SE computation.

\[
\text{SE}(f) = \frac{\text{SD}}{\sqrt{N}} \tag{15}
\]

where \( N \) is the number of Normal or Disease Instances.

The distances features are computed on these aggregative features for expanding the feature set. The expansion is applied by considering the aggregative operation on label-specific instances. On the testing set, the collective aggregate operation-based distance measure is applied. The distance measure-based computation is provided through Eq. (16). When all the features are computed through this aggregative distance measure, a wider feature set is obtained. This dataset is further passed through the filtration stage for identifying the most contributing and relevant distance features. The second level filtration process and results are provided in the next subsection.
Table 6  Analytical evaluation of proposed filtration measure (top 15 features/thyroid dataset)

| Feature selection method         | Selected features                                                                 | Number of recommended features Removed |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Info-gain                        | psych, Age, T3, T4U, on_thyroxine, T3_measured, TSH_measured, sex, TT4, TT4_measured, TSH, pregnant, lithium, FTI_measured, T4U_measured | 2                                       |
| Gain-ratio                       | psych, lithium, pregnant, TT4_measured, TSH_measured, I131_treatment, sick, on_thyroxine, TBG_measured, on_antithyroid_medication, T3_measured, FTI_measured, T4U_measured, query_on_thyroxine, sex | 3                                       |
| Chi-square                       | psych, T4U, age, pregnant, T3, sick, lithium, T3_measured, on_thyroxine, sex, TT4, TSH_measured, TSH, TT4_measured, FTI_measured | 2                                       |
| ReliefF                          | T3_measured, on_thyroxine, TSH_measured, TT4_measured, TBG_measured, TBG, sex, query_hyperthyroid, query_hypothyroid, I131_treatment, psych, sick, T4U_measured, FTI_measured, on_antithyroid_medication | 4                                       |
| Proposed composite fuzzy rule-based method | I131_treatment, lithium, hypopituitary, psych, TSH_measured, TSH, T3, TT4_measured, TT4, T4U_measured, T4U, FTI_measured, FTI, TBG_measured, referral_source | 0                                       |
where AggreF is the specific aggregative feature such as Mean, SD, and SE, fValue is the actual feature value, Exp_F is the expanded new feature.

Fuzzy rules are employed on this expanded featureset for handling the uncertainties. The membership function is applied to the feature values for categorizing the feature data. The membership grading is evaluated based on the Eq. (17). The function categorized the feature values to (VH, H, N, L, and VL). The values of fuzzy parameters are computed by observing the trainingset values. b and c are the minimum and maximum values of a feature value for the Normal or No-Disease class. The value of a and d is analyzed by observing the frequency ratio of instances in the category and setting a clear cutoff value dynamically. The dynamic computation is applied for this feature-specific transition, and the process is applied to each feature separately. After applying Eq. (17) on each feature of the expanded dataset, the normalized dataset is obtained. This fuzzy-normalized dataset is further passed through the proposed composite-measures and fuzzy filter for identifying the most relevant and contributing features. The generation of this ranked and filtered expanded featureset formation is described in the next subsection.

\[
\text{Exp}_F = \text{AggreF} - f\text{Value}
\]

where a, b, c, d, and e are the decision parameters, ExF is the expanded feature value.

### 3.5 Ranked and Filtered Featureset Formation (Level II)

The expanded wider dataset is analyzed using the proposed composite-measure based fuzzy filter for generating a relevant and compact featureset. The functional behavior, parameters, and associated constraints are already described in Sect. 3.2. According to this proposed filter, the fuzzification is applied to InfoGain, GainRatio, and ChiSq measures for isolating the Significant (SG) and NonSignificant (NSG). Table 7 contains the values of each of these measures for all four datasets. The SG features are highlighted by red color boxes. Further, the And-OR based fuzzy rules are applied for combining these measures and selecting the most relevant features.

Table 8 contains the fuzzy rules for selecting the most relevant, effective, and gainful features. The table contains the fuzzy values of InfoGain, GainRatio, and ChiSq measures. These fuzzy values are obtained by analyzing the And-OR operations applied to the SG/NSG values of each dataset. Based on the SG features and corresponding AND-OR relation among all datasets, the attribute-measure contribution is identified in terms of High (H), Medium (M) and Low (L). Further, the And-OR based fuzzy rules are applied for combining these measures and selecting the most relevant features. Table 8 states the features identified after applying the Level-2 features. Both the training and testing datasets are expressed as these features, and the classifier is applied to this ranked and filtered dataset.
Table 7  Evaluation of features using three filters on expanded datasets (4 datasets)

| Filter   | Thyroid Class | Hypothyroid Class | Thyroid Class | Hypothyroid Class | Thyroid Class | Hypothyroid Class | Thyroid Class | Hypothyroid Class |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| T3       | 0.0000        | 0.0000            | 0.0000        | 0.0000            | 0.0003        | 0.0221            | 0.0001        | 0.0004            |
| Lithium  | 0.0005        | 0.0011            | 0.0000        | 0.0002            | 0.0060        | 0.0131            | 0.0006        | 0.0041            |
| Hypothyroid | 0.0005      | 0.0008            | 0.0000        | 0.0000            | 0.1554        | 0.2605            | 0.0087        | 0.0087            |
| Psych    | 0.0060        | 0.0074            | 0.0007        | 0.0019            | 0.0224        | 0.0277            | 0.0024        | 0.0069            |
| TSH      | 0.0115        | 0.0134            | 0.0120        | 0.0120            | 0.0261        | 0.0302            | 0.0259        | 0.0259            |
| T4U      | 0.1810        | 0.3130            | 0.2925        | 0.3318            | 0.1231        | 0.1799            | 0.5939        | 0.5245            |
| T4       | 0.1200        | 0.0232            | 0.0008        | 0.0019            | 0.0698        | 0.0269            | 0.0011        | 0.0026            |
| T4U      | 0.1293        | 0.2146            | 0.0836        | 0.1323            | 0.0633        | 0.0768            | 0.0525        | 0.0802            |
| TSH      | 0.0065        | 0.0081            | 0.0002        | 0.0007            | 0.0152        | 0.0187            | 0.0004        | 0.0014            |
| T3       | 0.0388        | 0.1428            | 0.0000        | 0.0041            | 0.0441        | 0.0660            | 0.0000        | 0.0049            |
| FTI      | 0.0665        | 0.0080            | 0.0002        | 0.0007            | 0.0152        | 0.0186            | 0.0004        | 0.0014            |
| TSH      | 0.0093        | 0.1818            | 0.0864        | 0.1430            | 0.0742        | 0.0954            | 0.0416        | 0.0697            |
| FTI      | 0.0084        | 0.0086            | 0.0000        | 0.0000            | 0.0359        | 0.0370            | 0.0000        | 0.0070            |
| TSH      | 0.0109        | 0.0040            | 0.0006        | 0.0016            | 0.0136        | 0.0677            | 0.0026        | 0.0040            |
| Mean_TSH| 0.2365        | 0.4437            | 0.3467        | 0.3988            | 0.0338        | 0.0653            | 0.0518        | 0.0596            |
| Mean_T4U| 0.1680        | 0.3146            | 0.1178        | 0.1795            | 0.0239        | 0.0448            | 0.0171        | 0.0326            |
| Mean_FT1| 0.0642        | 0.2073            | 0.0277        | 0.0479            | 0.0105        | 0.0340            | 0.0046        | 0.0800            |
| STD_TSH | 0.1401        | 0.2867            | 0.1186        | 0.1855            | 0.0205        | 0.0421            | 0.0180        | 0.0281            |
| STD_T4U | 0.2365        | 0.4437            | 0.3467        | 0.3988            | 0.0338        | 0.0653            | 0.0518        | 0.0596            |
| STD_FT1 | 0.1680        | 0.3146            | 0.1178        | 0.1795            | 0.0239        | 0.0448            | 0.0171        | 0.0326            |
| SE_TSH  | 0.2365        | 0.4437            | 0.3467        | 0.3988            | 0.0338        | 0.0653            | 0.0518        | 0.0596            |
| SE_T4U  | 0.1680        | 0.3146            | 0.1178        | 0.1795            | 0.0239        | 0.0448            | 0.0171        | 0.0326            |
The proposed fuzzy filtered and expanded measure is applied for generating the dataset with the most relevant and contributing features. The functional process of expanded feature generation is provided in Algorithm I. The algorithm accepts the labeled training set as input and returns the MLModel as output. The process of fuzzy-based filtering and expansion is described in the algorithm. The machine learning model is incorporated with a Dynamic weight adjustment based ELM classifier. The constraints and functional behavior of the classifier are described in the next subsection.

**Algorithm I: ExpendedFeatureBasedMLModel**

```plaintext
ExpendedFeatureBasedMLModel (TrainingSet, fRecommend, Classes)

/*TrainingSet is the disease symptom dataset with class labels, frecommend is the list of features recommended by expert and classes is the list of class labels*/

Begin
1. [InfoGain, GainRatio, ChiSq]=Ranking (TrainingSet, Classes)
   [Apply Individual Ranking]
2. [fInfoGain, fGainRatio, fChiSq]=Fuzzify(InfoGain, GainRatio, ChiSq)
   [Generate the fuzzy measures on feature rankers]
3. Ranking=CompositeMeasureFuzzyFilter(fInfoGain, fGainRatio, fChiSq, fRecommend)
   [Identify the attribute ranking by mapping the attributes of training instances to different classes]
4. FTrainingSet=ExtractedRankedDataset (TrainingSet, Ranking)
   [Extract the ranked features to form processing training set]
5. [Mean, SD, SE] = GenerateStats(FTrainingSet)
   [Collect the statistical measures for the filtered training set]
6. DFT rainingSet=GenerateDistFeatures(FTrainingSet, Mean, SD, SE)]
   [Generate the distance-statistical features]
7. ExtTrainingSet = [FTrainingSet DFTrainingSet]
   [Generate the expanded wider feature set]
8. FW ightedSet=ApplyFuzzyRules(ExtTrainingSet)
   [Generate Fuzzy Rule processed weighted dataset]
9. [InfoGain, GainRatio, ChiSq]=Ranking(FWeightedSet, Classes)
   [Apply Individual Ranking]
10. [fInfoGain, fGainRatio, fChiSq]=Fuzzify(InfoGain, GainRatio, ChiSq)
    [Generate the fuzzy measures on feature rankers]
11. Ranking=CompositeMeasureFuzzyFilter(fInfoGain, fGainRatio, fChiSq)
    [Identify the attribute ranking by mapping the attributes of training instances to different classes]
12. FTrainingSet=ExtractedRankedDataset (FWeightedSet, Ranking)
    [Apply composite fuzzy ranking]
13. MLModel = ELM(FTrainingSet, Classes)
    [Generate the ELM Model relative to Disease Classes]
14. Return MLModel
End
```
Table 8  Fuzzy-evaluated feature selection on expanded feature set

| Feature                  | Info Gain | Gain Ratio | ChiSQ | Selected |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|----------|
| I131_treatment           | L         | L          | L     | No       |
| lithium                  | L         | L          | L     | No       |
| hypopituitary            | L         | M          | L     | No       |
| psych                    | L         | L          | L     | No       |
| TSH_measured             | L         | L          | L     | No       |
| TSH                      | H         | H          | H     | Yes      |
| T3_measured              | L         | L          | M     | No       |
| TT4_measured             | L         | M          | L     | No       |
| TT4                      | H         | H          | H     | No       |
| T4U_measured             | L         | L          | L     | Yes      |
| T4U                      | L         | M          | M     | Yes      |
| FTI_measured             | L         | L          | L     | No       |
| FTI                      | H         | H          | H     | Yes      |
| TBG_measured             | L         | M          | L     | No       |
| referral_source          | L         | L          | M     | No       |
| Mean_TSH                 | H         | H          | H     | Yes      |
| Mean_TT4                 | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| Mean_T4U                 | M         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| Mean_FTI                 | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| STD_TSH                  | H         | H          | H     | Yes      |
| STD_TT4                  | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| STD_T4U                  | M         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| STD_FTI                  | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| SE_TSH                   | H         | H          | H     | Yes      |
| SE_TT4                   | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| SE_T4U                   | M         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| SE_FTI                   | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| TTest_TSH                | H         | H          | H     | Yes      |
| Ttest_TT4                | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| Ttest_T4U                | M         | L          | H     | Yes      |
| Test_FTI                 | H         | L          | H     | Yes      |
3.6 Thyroid Classification

ELM combines the features and capabilities of the neural network and SVM. The behavior of ELM adapts the functionality of feed-forward neural networks along with computational intelligence. It is an intelligent method that acquires the parameters analytically instead of manually tuned. The structure of ELM is composed of a single hidden layer on which the weights are transferred using Feed-Forward architecture. Initially, the weights are randomly generated, which are further updated based on the analysis performed on each interaction. In this work, the N samples of training set are processed with \((EF_{Xi}, t_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \ (i = 1, 2, \ldots, N)\) expanded features and with class label specification. The additive N hidden nodes are the output vector. The activation functions are expressed through Eq. (18).

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \beta_i g(w_i EF_{Xj} + b_i) = O_j \text{Where} j = 1, 2, 3, \ldots N
\]  

(18)

where \(w_i = [w_{i1}, w_{i2}, \ldots, w_{in}]^T\) defines the weights on input neurons and connect with hidden layer, \(\beta_i = [\beta_{i1}, \beta_{i2}, \ldots, \beta_{im}]^T\) are the weights that connect the hidden and output layer, \(b_i\) is the threshold limit.

In ELM, the single layer of feed-forward network tries to reduce the difference between \(O_j\) and \(t_j\) and it can be represented as Eq. (19).

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \beta_i g(w_i EF_{Xj} + b_i) = t_j \text{Where} j = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, N
\]  

(19)

With each successive iteration, the output is analyzed for identifying the weight updation. The objective of the functional process of ELM is to minimize the cost provided in Eq. (20).

\[
\text{Min} |\beta g - T|
\]  

(20)

The proposed expanded, filtered, and fuzzy feature-based ELM model is applied on two and multi-class datasets. The analysis and comparative results are provided in the next section for validating the performance of the proposed model.

4 Experimental Results

In this paper, a Fuzzy-filtered and expanded feature processed ELM classifier is applied for thyroid disease classification. The composite-measure based fuzzy filter is combined with the expert recommendations to identify the contributing features. The statistical-distance measure is applied to continuous features to expand the featureset. The transformation of continuous features to nominal form is done using fuzzy rules. At the second level, the composite-measure based fuzzy filter is applied on an expanded featureset to identify the processing features. In the final stage, the ELM classifier is applied to identify the class of thyroid disease. In this section, the experimentation and analysis results are derived to verify the significance of the proposed model. The section contains the dataset description, parameter exploration, and comparative results.
5 Datasets

The proposed model is applied to hypothyroid[39] and thyroid-L7[42] datasets. The hypothyroid[39] dataset is described by 30 attributes, including the symptoms, history, and hormone-based measures. The dataset has 3772 instances described by 23 discrete and seven continuous attributes. The instances of the dataset are categorized by four classes, including no-thyroid and three disease forms. The thyroid-C7[42] is the other dataset with 30 disease descriptive features and six disease classes. The dataset has 9172 instances. In this section, the proposed filtered-expanded featureset is processed by the ELM classifier for generating the analytical results. The comparative observations are taken against Naïve Bays, RBF Network, Decision Tree, Decision Table, Random Forest, and Multilayer Perceptron methods. Each classification method is validated using the tenfold method. The results of existing methods are taken by processing the original dataset. The comparative analysis is obtained in terms of classification accuracy, precision rate, recall rate, MAE, and RMSE parameters.

5.1 Analysis Parameters

5.1.1 Accuracy

Accuracy is defined as the ratio between the correctly classified instances and the total number of instances in the testingset.

\[
\text{Acc} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \tag{21}
\]

where TP = True Positive, TN = True Negative, FP = False Positive, FN = False Negative.

5.1.2 MAE

MAE is the average magnitude of the errors in a set of predictions. Equation (22) represents the computation of MAE.

\[
\text{MAE} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} |A_c - P_c|}{N} \tag{22}
\]

where Ac is the actual class, Pc is the predicted class, N is the number of instances in the testingset.

5.1.3 RMSE

Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is the standard deviation based prediction error. The evaluation of RMSE is shown in Eq. (23)

\[
\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (A_c - P_c)^2}{N}} \tag{23}
\]
where $A_c$ is the actual class, $P_c$ is the predicted class, $N$ is the number of instances in the testing set.

### 5.1.4 Precision

Precision is the extension of the accuracy feature that defines the ratio of true positives and total positives. Total positive includes True and false positives. False Positives are the instances that are wrongly labeled as Positive. The formula of precision is shown in Eq. (24).

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$  \hspace{1cm} (24)

where TP = True Positive, FP = False Positives.

### 5.1.5 Recall

Recall defines the ratio of correctly recognized instances and total instances in the actual class. The total instances in the actual class are defined by True positive and False negatives. Equation (25) shows the Equation of Recall.

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

where TP = True Positives, FN = False Negative.

### 5.2 Thyroid L-7 Dataset: Disease Existence Analysis

The first experimentation of the proposed filtered-expanded featureset based ELM model is conducted on the Thyroid L-7 dataset to identify the positive and negative existence of the disease. The dataset contains 9172 instances, including 7052 Negative and 2120 Positive instances. Dataset has 29 features. After performing two-level filtration and expansion of the proposed model, the dataset contains 21 features. The ELM classifier is applied to this fuzzy transited dataset for recognizing the appropriate class. The experimentation is conducted using the tenfold method by defining the 10% testing set. The confusion matrix in Table 9 shows the prediction results for each class. The observations show that the 6960 negative instances are predicted correctly out of 7052 instances, and 2109 positive instances are predicted correctly. The proposed model achieved 98.88% accuracy. The comparative analysis against state-of-art classifiers is provided in Figs. 3, 4, and 5.

Figure 3 shows the performance analysis in terms of the accuracy parameter. The comparative analysis of the proposed method is provided against NaiveBayes, MLP,
RBF Network, Decision Table, J48, and Random Forest classifiers. The bar graph shows that the proposed model outperformed all the classifiers with a maximum of 98.88% accuracy. RBF network is the least performer with 76.89% accuracy. J48 achieved a closer accuracy to the proposed model of 96.83% rate.

Another comparative evaluation to validate the proposed model is provided in terms of Error analysis. The classification error is computed in terms of MAE and RMSE parameters. The classification model with the least error rate will be considered more reliable. The bar graph in Fig. 4 shows the MAE and RMSE values obtained for the proposed model are 0.0216 and 0.104. Among the state-of-art classifiers, J48 achieved
the least MAE and RMSE of 0.0448 and 0.1645. The bar graph shows that the proposed model outperformed all the existing classifiers with a larger difference.

The relevancy and accurate classification analysis are conducted in this work using Precision and Recall parameters. Figure 5 verifies the significance of the proposed model as the maximum precision and recall of 0.989. Among the state-of-art classifiers, RBF Network is the least performer with 0.591 and 0.769 rates of Precision and Recall. J48 achieved the 0.969 and 0.968 rates of Precision and Recall values, but still, it is quite lesser than the proposed model.

The analytical and comparative observations obtained in this section verify that the proposed model is highly significant and reliable than other existing methods. The proposed model accurately identifies the existence of the disease in an individual.

5.3 Thyroid L-7 Dataset: Disease Class Analysis (6 Classes)

In experiment II, the analysis is conducted to recognize the disease class. The experimentation is conducted on the same Thyroid L-7 dataset that has 9172 instances and 29 features. In the proposed filtered-expanded form, the dataset has 21 features. The dataset is defined with Six classes. The dataset has 7052 instances of health diseases. The dataset contains 2120 disease instances, including 883 of Hyperthyroid, 410 of Binding_protein, 346 of Replacement_Theory, 448 of General_Health, and 33 of antithyroid treatment. The proposed model is employed over this data for identifying the appropriate disease class. The confusion matrix obtained from the classification results is provided in Table 10. The results identified that most of the disease categories and negative instances are identified accurately. The section also verified the performance against other state-of-art methods in terms of accuracy, error, and relevancy measures.

Figure 6 shows the performance verification of the proposed model against Naïve Bayes, MLP, RBFNetworks, Decision Table, Random Tree, Random Forest, and J48 classifiers. The bar graph identified that the proposed model claimed 97.60% accuracy, which is 1.5% higher than the best performer among existing classifiers.
The error-based comparative analysis of the proposed model is taken in terms of MAE and RMSE parameters. The lesser error rate identifies the reliable and effective classification of disease. Figure 7 shows the RMSE and MAE based comparative evaluation. The bar graphs that the proposed model claimed MAE = 0.0135 and RMSE = 0.0823. J48 achieved the effective MAE and RMSE of 0.0182 and 0.1056, which is even quite higher than the proposed model. It shows that the proposed model recorded a significantly lesser error rate than existing classifiers.

The relevancy analysis of the proposed model is conducted based on Precision and Recall parameters. Figure 8 shows the comparative analysis against existing classifiers. The bar graphs show that the proposed model achieved a precision rate of 0.979 and a recall rate of 0.976. Among the existing methods, RBFNetwork is the least performer, and J48 is the best performer with 0.961 precision and recall rates. The results verified the higher performance of the proposed model against state-of-art methods.

**Table 10** Confusion matrix (6 classes)

| Actual               | Predicted                               |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                       | Negative | hyperthyroid | binding_protein | replacement_theory | general_health | antithyroid_treatment |
| Negative             | 6894     | 32           | 34              | 41                  | 23            | 28                     |
| Hyperthyroid         | 8        | 861          | 3               | 1                   | 4             | 6                      |
| Binding_protein      | 8        | 2            | 399             | 0                   | 0             | 1                      |
| Replacement_theory   | 3        | 1            | 1               | 338                 | 2             | 1                      |
| General_health       | 7        | 1            | 3               | 2                   | 435           | 0                      |
| Antithyroid_treatment| 7        | 0            | 0               | 0                   | 1             | 25                     |

![Classification Methods/Models](image)

**Fig. 6** Accuracy analysis on disease class (6-classes)
The results provided in this section verify that the proposed model is effective for multi-class thyroid prediction. The proposed filtered-expanded and ELM classifier-based method ensured reliable and effective results for multi-class prediction against existing classifiers.

5.4 Thyroid L-7 Dataset: Disease Subclass Analysis (18-Classes)

Another Experiment is conducted on the Thyroid L-7 dataset for subclass disease classification. The dataset has 9172 instances, 29 features, and 18 classes. The performance analysis against existing approaches is conducted using Accuracy, Error, and relevancy parameters. The accuracy-based analysis results are provided in Fig. 9. The analysis results show the Decision Tree, Decision Table, Random Forest, and Random Tree methods achieved
the significant accuracies of 95.9%, 89.38%, 95.15%, and 91.46%. The proposed expanded and filtered features based model achieved the most significant results, with 96.25% accuracy.

The error-based analysis of the proposed model is provided in Fig. 10 using MAE and RMSE parameters. The figure shows that the proposed classification model achieved the least MAE and RMSE with 0.0067 and 0.0583 values. The error features of this model are quite lesser than the MAE and RMSE values of existing classifiers. Among existing methods, J48 achieved the most significant error features with 0.0063 MAE and 0.0622 RMSE. Even the MAE value of J48 is lesser than the proposed model, but it is not effective for RMSE and accuracy parameters. It signifies that the overall performance of the proposed model is better than all existing methods.

The relevance-based analysis for subclass prediction on the thyroid dataset is provided in Fig. 11. The figure shows that the proposed model gained the maximum relevancy.
with a 0.961 precision rate and 0.962 recall rate. J48 and Random forest classifiers also achieved significant results with 0.958, 0.949 precision rate, and 0.959, 0.951 recall rates, respectively.

The accuracy, relevancy, and error based evaluation results ensure the high performance and reliability achieved by this proposed model. The proposed model accurately predicts the disease, disease class, and subclass. For multi-class thyroid prediction, the proposed model achieved the most significant and reliable results.

5.5 Hyperthyroid Dataset: Disease Existence Analysis

Another experiment in this research is conducted on the Hyperthyroid dataset. The dataset has 3772 instances and 29 features. In this section, the analysis results on disease existence are provided in comparison with existing methods. The dataset has 3481 negative and 291 positive instances. The proposed filtered and expanded featureset based method is applied for identifying the disease existence over the dataset. The analytical evaluation of the proposed model is provided in terms of the Confusion matrix. Table 11 shows the confusion matrix results that show out of 3481 negative instances 3458, and out of 291 positive instances, 290 instances are predicted accurately. It shows that the proposed model
achieved significant and reliable results. The comparative analysis against other state-of-art methods is provided in terms of accuracy, error, and relevancy parameters.

Figure 12 shows the comparative evaluation and validation of the proposed method against state-of-art classifiers analysis in terms of accuracy parameter. The results are provided against NaiveBayes, MLP, RBF Network, Decision Table, J48, and Random Forest classifiers. The bar graph shows that the proposed model outperformed all the existing classifiers and achieved 99.36% accuracy. Out of existing classifiers, the RBF network achieved the least accuracy of 95.0424%. The decision table, Random forest, and J48 also achieved accuracy over 99%, but still, the accuracy rate is lesser than the proposed model. It verifies the proposed model achieved higher accuracy than existing classifiers.

Error feature-based comparative analysis is provided in Fig. 13 for validating the performance of the proposed model. The classification error is an analysis using MAE and RMSE parameters. The proposed classification model achieved the effective classification results with significant MAE and RMSE results with 0.0118 and 0.0771. J48 achieved the least classification error with 0.0051 MAE and 0.054 RMSE results. But overall results, including accuracy, relevancy, and error rate, the proposed model outperformed all the existing classifiers.
Precision and Recall parameters define the relevance-based analysis and the comparative results for these parameters are provided in Fig. 14. The bar graph shows that the proposed model achieved significant precision and recall rate with values 0.994. Random Forest, Decision Tree, and Decision Tree achieved a better relevancy rate, but the accuracy of these methods is lesser than the proposed model. The combined results identified that the proposed model achieved more significant, relevant, and accurate results.

5.6 Hyperthyroid Dataset: Disease Class Analysis (4 Classes)

Another disease class-based analysis is conducted on the Hyperthyroid dataset. In this multi-class prediction-based experiment, the dataset has four main classes called Negative, Compensated Hypothyroid, Primary Hypothyroid, and Secondary Hypothyroid. The proposed expanded and filtered featureset based ELM model is applied for effective, reliable, and accurate results. The class-specific prediction results are provided in Table 12 in the form of a confusion matrix. The confusion matrix shows that the proposed model recognized the health_patient instances 3473 out of 3481 records accuracy. In the same way, for Compensated hypothyroid, 193 out of 194 and for primary hypothyroid, 94 out of 95 instances are recognized accurately. The confusion matrix shows that the proposed model
achieved significant and effective results. Further, the comparative analysis against existing classifiers is provided against error, relevancy, and accuracy parameters.

Accuracy-based comparative analysis is provided in Fig. 15 for analyzing the performance and reliability of the proposed model against existing classifiers. The graphs show that the proposed model achieved maximum accuracy with 99.68%. Decision Table, J48, and Random forest also achieved accuracy over 99%, even though the proposed model achieved the maximum prediction rate.

MAE and RMSE are the error-based parameters used to analyze the classification error that exists in a model or classifier. The comparative analysis against these parameters is provided in Fig. 16. The figure shows that the proposed model achieved the least MAE and RMSE with values 0.003 and 0.0392. The comparative result shows that the proposed model ensures a significantly lesser error rate than existing classifiers.

The precision and recall parameters analysis are conducted in Fig. 17 for validating the relevancy based performance analysis. The figure shows that the proposed model achieved 0.996 precision and 0.997 recall values. The bar graph shows that the results are better than
other classifiers and validate the proposed model is more effective, relevant, and reliable for thyroid disease and disease class prediction.

5.7 Comparative Results

In the previous subsection, the experimentation-driven comparative analysis is provided for validating the performance and effectiveness of the proposed model against various classifiers. In this section, the comparative analysis is provided against some other state-of-art methods. The accuracy-based comparative analysis is conducted, and the results are provided in Table 13. The table clearly shows that the proposed model is robust and provides effective results for 2, 4, 6, and 18 class datasets. The maximum accuracy achieved by the proposed model is 99.68% for predicting thyroid disease on a 4-classes dataset. The table confirmed that the proposed model outperformed all the existing models and classifiers.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, a relevant and reliable feature processed ELM classifier is proposed for improving the performance for the prediction of thyroid existence and type. The proposed framework included a wide pre-processing stage called Filtered-Expanded-Filtered for transiting the raw-dataset to relevant-featureset. The feature filtration in this framework is performed at two levels. At level-I, the raw dataset is processed, and a fuzzy-based composite measure is applied along with an expert recommendation for identifying the most contributing ranked features. In this state, the composite-fuzzy rules are generated on InfoGain, GainRatio, and ChiSq measures. This filtered dataset is further processed by the statistical-distance based measure for generating the larger and aggregative analysis based featureset. At the second filtration stage, the fuzzy rule is applied to this expanded dataset for transiting the continuous values to fuzzy-categorical values. The fuzzy-based composite
| Table 13  | Accuracy analysis against earlier studies |
|-----------|------------------------------------------|
|           | Accuracy | Number of classes | Instances | Attributes | Classes                          |
| Ahmad1 et al. [28] | 98.5     | 2                  | 3163      | 25         | Negative, hypothyroid            |
| Naïve Bayes [34]      | 91.63    | 3                  | 756       | 22         | Hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, and normal |
| Decision tree [34]    | 96.91    | 3                  | 756       | 22         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, and normal |
| MLP [34]              | 95.15    | 3                  | 756       | 22         | Hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism and normal |
| RBF network [34]      | 96.03    | 3                  | 756       | 22         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, and normal |
| With filtration Naïve Bayes [34] | 89.96 | 3                  | 756       | 19         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, and normal |
| With filtration Decision Tree [34] | 97.35 | 3                  | 756       | 19         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, and normal |
| With filtration MLP [34] | 94.71 | 3                  | 756       | 19         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, and normal |
| With filtration RBF network [34] | 94.27 | 3                  | 756       | 19         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, and normal |
| Shankar et al.[35]    | 97.49    | 3                  | 7547      | 30         | Hypothyroid, Hyper Thyroid, Normal |
| KNN[36]               | 93.44    | 3                  | 7200      | 21         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, Normal |
| Naïve Bayes [36]      | 22.56    | 3                  | 7200      | 21         | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, Normal |
| FS-PSO-SVM [43]       | 97.49    | 3                  | 215       | 5          | Normal, Hypothyroid, Hyper thyroid |
| Multi-kernel SVM [44] | 97.49    | 3                  | 7547      | 29         | Normal, Hypothyroid, Hyper thyroid |
| SVM [45]              | 95.3     | 5                  | 500       | –          | Hypothyroidism, Hyperthyroidism, Goiter, Thyroid nodules, Thyroid cancer |
| ELM [46]              | 97.73    | 3                  | 215       | 5          | Normal, Hypothyroid, Hyper thyroid |
| ELM (sig transfer function) [47] | 95.80 | 3                  | 215       | 5          | Normal, Hypothyroid, Hyper thyroid |
| Proposed (level 2 filter) | 98.877  | 2                  | 9172      | 21         | Positive, Negative               |
| Proposed (level 2 filter) | 97.6014 | 6                  | 9172      | 21         | Negative, Hyperthyroid, Binding_Protein, Replacement_Theory, General_Health, Antithyroid_treatment |
| Proposed (level 2 filter) | 96.2495 | 18                 | 3772      | 21         | NEG,F,A,I,M,N,G,K,J,L,Q, C,O,H,D,P,B,E |
| Proposed (level 2 filter) | 99.3637 | 2                  | 3772      | 21         | Positive, Negative               |
| Proposed (level 2 filter) | 99.6819 | 4                  | 3772      | 21         | Negative, compensated_hypothyroid, primary_hypothyroid, secondary_hypothyroid |
measure is again applied at this level, and a relevant and effective dataset is obtained. This filtered dataset is finally processed by a dynamic weight adjustment based ELM classifier for accurate prediction of thyroid disease. The proposed model experiments on two datasets for five trials. The number of classes in these trials is 2, 4, 6 and 18. The analytical observations are conducted against error based, accuracy, and relevancy based parameters. The experimentation based comparative analysis is conducted against NaiveBayes, MultiLevel Perceptron, RBF Network, Decision tree, Decision Table, Random Tree, and Random Forest classifiers. The results confirmed that the proposed framework achieved a better accuracy, Precision and Recall rate and reduced the RMSE and MAE. The proposed framework also achieved better accuracy against other state-of-art methods and models. In the future, the bioinformatics features can be used to enhance the capabilities, performance, and effectiveness of the proposed model. The proposed model can be tested on other diseases by collecting the symptoms, behavior, and features of that domain.

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Declarations

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