



# Automated mammogram breast cancer detection using the optimized combination of convolutional and recurrent neural network

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## Abstract

The objective of this study is to frame mammogram breast detection model using the optimized hybrid classifier. Image pre-processing, tumor segmentation, feature extraction, and detection are the functional phases of the proposed breast cancer detection. A median filter eliminates the noise of the input mammogram. Further, the optimized region growing segmentation is carried out for segmenting the tumor from the image and the optimized region growing depends on a hybrid meta-heuristic algorithm termed as firefly updated chicken based CSO (FC-CSO). To the next of tumor segmentation, feature extraction is done, which intends to extract the features like grey level co-occurrence matrix (GLCM), and gray level run-length matrix (GLRM). The two deep learning architectures termed as convolutional neural network (CNN), and recurrent neural network (RNN). Moreover, both GLCM and GLRM are considered as input to RNN, and the tumor segmented binary image is considered as input to CNN. The result of this study shows that the AND operation of two classifier output will tend to yield the overall diagnostic accuracy, which outperforms the conventional models.

**Keywords** Mammography · Breast cancer diagnosis · Optimized region growing · Deep hybrid learning · Firefly updated chick-based chicken swarm optimization

## Abbreviations

CSO	Chicken swarm optimization	IMBC	Incoherent motion in breast cancer
CAD	Computer-aided diagnosis	ADEWNN	Adaptive differential evolution wavelet neural network
CNN	Convolutional neural network	MIAS	Mammographic image analysis society
FF	Firefly	MLP	Multi-layer perceptrons
FC-CSO	Firefly updated chicken-based CSO	PCET	Polar complex exponential transform
FPR	False positive rate	SVM	Support vector machines
GLRM	Gray-level run-length matrix	IRMA	Image retrieval in medical applications
MCC	Mathews correlation coefficient	SURF	Speed-up robust features
RNN	Recurrent neural network	DNN	Deep neural network
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging	FNR	False-positive rate
ELM	Extreme learning machine	MSVM	Multiclass support vector machine
PDEs	Partial differential equations	LASSO	Least absolute shrinkage and selection operator
SDEs	Simple differential equations	DL-CNN	Deep learning-convolution neural network
EINP	Estimation of intensity via non-parametric approach	RBF	Radial basis functions
		HGRE	High grey level run emphasis
		ANN	Artificial neural network
		LSTM	Long short-term memory
		GRU	Gate recurrent unit
		NPV	Negative predictive value
		LGRE	Low grey level run emphasis
		CSA	Crow search algorithm
		FDR	False discovery rate

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GLCM	Grey level co-occurrence matrix
IAP-CSA	Improved awareness probability-based chicken swarm optimization
WCO	World cup optimization

## 1 Introduction

Breast cancer starts when cells begin to grow out of control and it usually form a tumor that can often seen on an x-ray or felt as a lump. Breast cancer occurs mostly in women. Breast cancer is very dangerous to women's health and life, and this cancer is ranked second and first in all-female diseases [1]. To decrease the death rate, lumps need to detect in an early stage [2]. Using the mammogram, the breast cancer has been detected as early as possible. Hence, the cost required for curing the breast cancer is less [3]. However, the accuracy is negatively influenced by several factors like the complexity of breast structure, subtle features of the early-stage disease, and radiologist fatigue and distraction [4, 5]. In the present scenario, the detection approaches implemented in recognition of breast cancer consisting of photoacoustic imaging, computed tomography, microwave imaging, mammography, MRI, (the Nomenclature table has been provided before the references section) etc., [5, 6]. Mammography is the best approach from all the methodologies to diagnose breast cancer [7]. In breast cancer, two symptoms, such as calcifications and breast masses, are considered as the early signs.

It is complicated for doctors to diagnose cancer based on mammogram images because of its complexity of premature breast cancer, combined with less brightness of mammogram images itself. Thus, it is essential for enhancing the detection efficiency of doctors via the CAD system of deep learning techniques [8]. A variety of CAD models have been introduced earlier for decreasing human involvement and assist the radiologist in automatic discrimination among malignant and benign tumors [9]. A CAD model is not only helpful in breast image and also benefit in other areas of medical diagnosis like respiratory-related chronic diseases [10], and diagnosis of pulmonary edema [11] for simple and early diagnosis. Moreover, the integration of expert's knowledge will enhance the diagnosis accuracy.

For segmenting the medical images, numerous approaches have been introduced. However, image segmentation is found to be a difficult job because each of these approaches involves their constraints. Level set [12] is an excellent approach applicable for segmenting the image, which was initially developed by Sethian and Osher [13]. This method segments the images precisely by considering the energy minimization problem. It might be prominent that region boundaries are very important in analyzing the mammogram images. The active contour is introduced as a zero level set [14]. The conventional level set techniques are

categorized into three classes, region, edge, and combined approaches [15, 16]. However, these methods are generally very sensitive to weak boundaries and noise [17].

The key contributions of the paper are based on the following points.

- To develop an improved breast cancer detection model using mammogram images with the help of four phases like “pre-processing, tumor segmentation, feature extraction, and classification”.
- To enhance the segmentation accuracy by developing the optimized region growing algorithm, in which the proposed FC-CSO algorithm optimizes the threshold or tolerance.
- To utilize the same FC-CSO algorithm to the hybrid classifier with the integration of CNN and RNN termed as CNN for optimizing the hidden layers, which in turn improves the detection accuracy.

The organization is designed as follows:

Literature review features and the challenges of state-of-the-art models are described in Sect. 2. Architectural view of a proposed breast cancer diagnosis is shown in Sect. 3. Section 4 depicts the optimized segmentation and classification for diagnosing breast cancer. The proposed and conventional models are shown in Sect. 5. Finally, the conclusion is determined in Sect. 6.

## 2 Literature review

### 2.1 Related works

In 2019, Wang et al. [18] have investigated the CAD approach based on feature fusion with the deep features of CNN. At first, a mass detection approach that was based on deep features of CNN and unsupervised ELM clustering. Next, a feature set was built by fusing morphological, texture, density, and deep features. To classify benign and malignant breast masses, an ELM classifier was introduced with the help of a fused feature set. Finally, the experiments have shown that the suggested model was outperformed in detection and classification. The CNN [18] has high classification and detection accuracy to extract the features. But it is computationally expensive.

In 2019, Geweid and Abdallah [19] utilized a non-parametric method for resolving the uncertainty in breast cancer detection. Moreover, it investigated the reliability of implementing the non-parametric method in mammography, to diagnose and provide treatment to breast cancer. The five approaches were tested using 156 mammogram images for acquiring accurate measurement of the efficiency of the detection procedure. Therefore, it was concluded that

the developed model was accurate in efficiently diagnosing the breast cancer. Non-parametric approach [19] is an accurate and reliable mechanism, and it demonstrates the affected region in an efficient borderline, and it is relatively not affected by mammogram noise. However, there are some conflicts such as it requires more computational time and needs more statistical power if the guess of an approximately equivalent parametric test is valid.

In 2016, Singh et al. [20] has introduced a CAD technique for decreasing the involvement of human and assisting the radiologist in diagnosing cancer using PCET moments. For feature extraction of a suspicious area, both phases of PCET moments and magnitude were utilized. For enhancing the classification accuracy of the developed CAD model, a new classifier ADEWNN was developed. For the experiment, the developed strategy was verified on mammographic images from the “MIAS database.” Thus, results of the suggested model have obtained the best accuracy with less error rate. ADEWNN [20] has high accuracy, and it is more stable and efficient. Yet, it is not fully automatic because the region of interest is extracted manually.

In 2019, Li et al. [21] has introduced a modified DenseNet Neural Network approach and named the DenseNet-II Neural Network method for classifying cancerous mammography images accurately and effectively. Here, the “DenseNet-II Neural Network” approach was introduced. The simulation results shows that the DenseNet-II Neural Network approach has high classification performance when considered the tenfold cross-validation approach and also enhanced the strength and generalization. DenseNet Neural Network [21] enhanced the efficiency of the network model as well as calculation speed, and to merge different activations, this model can learn easily that leads to accurate classification. Still, it is highly expensive.

In 2018, Cruz et al. [22] have authenticated the implementation of classifiers on Neural Networks such as MLP, RBF, and SVM with various kernels for detecting the existence of breast lesions and categorizing those lesions into benign or malignant. Moreover, the IRMA database was utilized, which consists of 2796 patch images that include  $128 \times 128$  pixels region of interest. Every image was indicated by texture patterns taken out from two-level decomposition using morphological wavelets. Also, multi-layer has two layers of successful technique in attaining high accuracy for breast cancer detection. MLP [22] has high accuracy when compared to existing models, and it is useful for regression and mapping. Though there are few defects like training huge dataset on vast problem consumes more time.

In 2019, Kaur et al. [23] have introduced a method on the mini-MIAS database concerning a pre-processing approach and create feature extraction with the help of K-mean clustering to SURF selection. Also, a layer was newly added in the classification level that gives a ratio of 70% training to

30% testing of DNN and MSVM. Therefore, the result was shown that the accuracy of the developed model by “K-mean clustering using MSVM” was outperformed than decision tree method. SVM [23] has high classification accuracy, and it works well when there is a clear margin of division among the classes. However, there are some challenges, such as it is not appropriate for huge databases, and if the count of features for every data point comes beyond the count of training samples, it doesn't work well.

In 2019, Hai et al. [24] have recommended an end-to-end learning method that relates to merge multi-level features. To extract high-level features, CNN was introduced. For optimizing the CNN, these extracted features were merged. Hence, the outcomes have demonstrated that the suggested model was producing the best results when compared to existing CNN approaches. S-DenseNet [24] has high performance and has the anti-over fitting capability. Though, it requires more amount of memory.

In 2017, Duraisamy and Emperumal [25] had developed a “deep learning-based framework” to categorize digital mammograms, and also verify existence of tumor tissues with level sets. The experimental results were performed on benchmark breast cancer database, which proved that the developed model had provided an improved performance than the conventional models. Fully complex-valued relaxation network [25] has high performance, and it doesn't require more effort while training. But, it is required to enhance classification accuracy.

In 2019, Razmjoooy et al. [26] have analyzed the different evolutionary algorithms for optimizing neural networks in different ways for image segmentation purposes. In 2019, Guo et al. [27] have investigated a non-destructive test method called image processing for the detection of breast cancer. Image processing is generated due to different reasons, such as sampling to noise, initial digitalization, and intensity. The main purpose is to improve the Sobel filter based on interval analysis. The results are based on MIAS, which is an applicable database for breast cancer detection. This method provides efficient result in the presence of uncertainties. In image acquisition, the noise should be reduced. This method is not efficient for image processing. In 2013, Razmjoooy et al. [28] have utilized the diagnosis system for malignant melanomas, which eliminates extra hairs using edge detection and deduces a color image that will segment by intensity thresholding. At last, the authors performed image analysis to measure a set of candidate attributes that contain enough information to differentiate malignant from benign melanomas. SMO did not require matrix memory and thus the training issues of SVM can be avoided. It needs a lot of time, so difficult to reach the real-time response.

In 2020, Razmjoooy et al. [29] have introduced the importance of image processing for cancer detection. They

provided a literature review on the automatic skin cancer detection and discussed the various steps of skin cancer detection process based on the implantation capabilities. This method is computationally inexpensive, also it is fast and simple to implement. It provides extremely susceptible noise. Training time is long so that the overtraining should be avoided.

In 2018, Razmjoooy et al. [30] have presented a method to detect cancer. The scales are eliminated using edge detection and smoothing, and then segmentation was done. Here, the morphological operations can be used to eliminate the extra information where the melanoma boundary exists. In this work, the WCO was used to optimize MLP neural network, which detects the malignancy in melanoma. This method shows good efficiency. It is difficult to show the problems in the network.

## 2.2 Review

Though there are various computer-aided detection approaches for diagnosing breast cancer and mammographic lesion, there are still some manually developed features so that a new mechanism needs to be introduced for acquiring the best performance in image classification. Table 1 describes the features and challenges of existing breast cancer detection approaches.

## 3 Architectural view of proposed breast cancer diagnosis

### 3.1 Proposed methodology

Various research contributions have proven to diagnose breast cancer using mammogram images to reduce mortality rate at a high level. The Deep Learning has risen the medical image processing, especially tumor detection. Moreover, it is being utilized for detecting breast cancer, which is also suggested by the radiologist to accomplish the cancer diagnosis as it is still improving the prediction outcomes effectively. Architectural model of the proposed breast cancer detection model is shown in Fig. 1.

The developed model involves four main phases: “pre-processing, tumor segmentation, Feature extraction, and classification.” The median filtering is used to remove the noise from the image during pre-processing. Once mammogram image is pre-processed, it is subjected to tumor segmentation. Here, the optimized region growing approach is used for segmenting the tumor. As a modification to the conventional region growing algorithm, the tolerance is optimized or tuned by a new optimization algorithm termed as FC-CSO in such a way that the segmentation accuracy is maximum.  $M_m$  represents input mammogram image.

The pre-processed image is indicated as  $M_{m(pre)}$ , and the tumor segmented binary image is represented as  $M_{m(seg)}$ . In addition, features like GLCM and GLRM extract the segmented binary image. In the detection side, hybrid classifiers with the integration of two well-performing classifiers like CNN and RNN are used. In the hybrid classifier, the number of hidden layers is used by the proposed FC-CSO algorithm. The main objective of optimized classification is to maximize detection accuracy. Finally, the detection results in three classes namely normal, benign, and malignant categories corresponding the input images.

### 3.2 Image pre-processing

In this phase, median filter is for eradicating the irrelevant noise from the image restraining the low or high frequencies that enhance or recognize the edges in the image. Generally, median filtering [31] is a non-linear filter. The major intention of this filter is to substitute the noisy and neighbourhood pixels of an image, and then sorted based on the image’s gray level. When the median filter is given to the input image  $M_m$ , the output of this phase is determined based on Eq. (1), which is denoted as  $M_{m(pre)}$ , in which the 2D-mask is indicated as  $K$ :

$$M_{m(pre)}(r, s) = med\{M_m(r - v, s - w) | v, w \in K\} \quad (1)$$

Hence after filtering, the output  $M_{m(pre)}$  is formed that could be applied to further processing.

### 3.3 Feature extraction

Two feature sets, such as GLCM and GLRM are extracted, and description is given below.

**GLCM** [32]: It is an approach for measuring the spatial relationship of pixels. Moreover, it is used to evaluate the probability of pixels pairs by certain values that assist in investigating the spatial relationship in an image. The formulation for energy is denoted in Eq. (2):

$$ENR = \sum_u \sum_v B_{uv}^2 \quad (2)$$

In Eq. (2), the  $(u, v)^{th}$  element in the normalized GLCM is specified by  $B_{uv}$ . The numerical formulation for entropy, contrast, and homogeneity is denoted in Eqs. (3), (4), and (5), respectively.

$$ENY = - \sum_u \sum_v B_{uv} \log_2 B_{uv} \quad (3)$$

$$CON = \sum_u \sum_v (u - v)^2 B_{uv} \quad (4)$$

**Table 1** Features and challenges of existing breast cancer detection models

Authors [citations]	Methodology	Features	Challenges
Wang et al. [18]	CNN	It has high classification and detection accuracy It is used to extract the uses from the region of interest	It is computationally expensive
Geweid and Abdallah [19]	Non-parametric approach	It is an accurate and reliable mechanism It demonstrates the affected region in an efficient borderline, and it is relatively not affected by mammogram noise	It requires more computational time Needs more statistical power if the guess of approximately equivalent parametric tests is valid
Singh et al. [20]	ADEWNN	It has high accuracy It is more stable and efficient	It is not fully automatic because the region of interest is extracted manually
Li et al. [21]	DenseNet neural network	Enhanced the efficiency of the network model as well as calculation speed To merge different activations, this model can learn easily that leads to accurate classification	It is highly expensive
Cruz et al. [22]	MLP	It has high accuracy when compared to other models	Training a huge dataset on vast problem consumes more time
Kaur et al. [23]	SVM	It is useful for regression and mapping SVM has high classification accuracy It works well when there is a clear margin of division among the classes	It is not suitable for huge databases If the number of features for every data point exceeds the number of the training data sample, it doesn't work well
Hai et al. [24]	S-DenseNet	It has a high performance It has an anti-over fitting capability	It requires more amount of memory
Duraisamy and Emperumal [25]	Fully complex-valued relaxation network	It has a high performance It doesn't require more effort while training	It is required to enhance classification accuracy
Guo et al. [26]	Hukuhara difference, interval analysis, Sobel filtering	It has a necessary efficiency in presence of uncertainties	Noise should be reduced in the image acquisition Image processing is not efficient
Razmjooy et al. [27]	Morphology-based technique	SMO did not need matrix memory, therefore SVM training issues can be avoided	It is time consuming It is difficult to implement to reach the real-time response
Razmjooy et al. [28]	Image acquisition technique	It is computationally inexpensive It is fast and simple to implement	The noise is extremely susceptible Overtraining should be avoided
Razmjooy et al. [29]	Hybrid neural network- world cup optimization algorithm	It shows good efficiency	Difficulty of showing the problem to the network

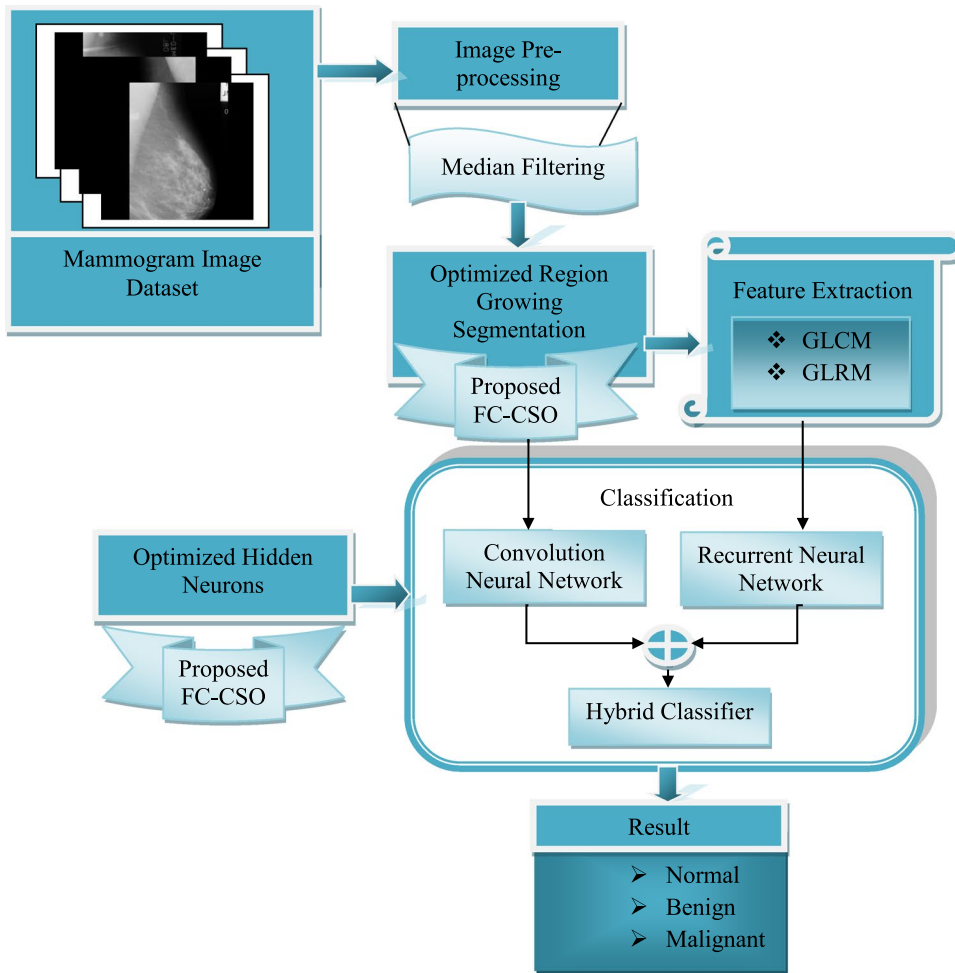


Fig. 1 Block diagram of developed breast cancer detection model

$$HMG = \sum_u \sum_v \frac{1}{1 + (u - v)^2} B_{uv} \quad (5)$$

Moreover, the variance, sum average, and correlation are given in Eqs. (6), (7), and (8), respectively. Here, the mean  $B_{uv}$  is indicated by  $\mu$  the count of grey level in image is given by  $N_G$ . The mean and standard deviation of  $B_u$  and  $B_v$  is denoted by  $\mu_r$ ,  $\mu_s$ , and  $\sigma_r$ ,  $\sigma_s$ , respectively.

$$VAR = \sum_u \sum_v (u - \mu)^2 B_{uv} \quad (6)$$

$$SAV = \sum_{u=2}^{2N_G-2} u B_{r+s}(u) \quad (7)$$

$$COR = \frac{\sum_u \sum_v (u \times v) B_{uv} - \mu_r \mu_s}{\sigma_r \sigma_s} \quad (8)$$

Also, the “sum variance, sum entropy, difference entropy, difference variance, information metrics of correlation, and maximum correlation coefficient” are expressed in Eqs. (9–14), respectively.

$$SVA = \sum_{u=2}^{2N_G} (u - SAV)^2 B_{r+s}(u) \quad (9)$$

$$SEN = \sum_{u=2}^{2N_G} B_{r+s}(u) \log \{ B_{r+s}(u) \} \quad (10)$$

$$DEN = \sum_{u=0}^{N_G-1} B_{r-s}(u) \log \{ B_{r-s}(u) \} \quad (11)$$

$$DVA = \text{Variance of } B_{r-s} \quad (12)$$

$$IMC1 = \frac{EPQ - EPQ1}{\max \{EP, EQ\}} \tag{13}$$

$$IMC2 = \sqrt{(1 - \exp[-2.0[EPQ2 - EPQ]])} \tag{14}$$

From Eqs. (13), and (14), EPQ, EPQ1, and EPQ2 is denoted in Eqs. (15), (16), and (17), respectively.

$$EPQ = - \sum_u \sum_v B_{uv} \log_2 B_{uv} \tag{15}$$

$$EPQ1 = - \sum_u \sum_v B_{uv} \log_2 \{B_r(u)B_s(v)\} \tag{16}$$

$$EPQ2 = - \sum_u \sum_v B_r(u)B_s(v) \log_2 \{B_r(u)B_s(v)\} \tag{17}$$

The mathematical formula for MCC is given in Eq. (18):

$$MCC = \sum_w \frac{B(u, w)B(v, w)}{B_r(u)B_s(w)} \tag{18}$$

**GLRM** [33]: It is assumed as a matrix, where the texture analysis obtains the texture features. By increasing the image intensity, the higher-order statistical data is shown by GLRM. The calculation of short-run emphasis, long-run emphasis, grey level non-uniformity, run-length non-uniformity, run percentage, LGRE, HGRE is represented in Eqs. (19–25), respectively.

$$LR^{EM} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u,v} v^2 H(u, v) \tag{19}$$

$$SR^{EM} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u,v} \frac{H(u, v)}{v^2} \tag{20}$$

$$GL^{NU} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_u \left( \sum_v H(u, v)^2 \right) \tag{21}$$

$$RL^{NU} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_u \left( \sum_u H(u, v)^2 \right) \tag{22}$$

$$RN^{PER} = \sum_{u,v} \frac{n_t}{H(u, v)v} \tag{23}$$

$$LGR^{EM} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u,v} \frac{H(u, v)}{u^2} \tag{24}$$

$$HGR^{EM} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u,v} u^2 H(u, v) \tag{25}$$

From the above equations, the second-order joint conditional probability density function is denoted by  $H(u, v)$ . Therefore, the combination of GLCM and GLRM acquired, at last, is given as  $R_z$ , where  $z = 1, 2, \dots, N_z$  and the whole count of features is denoted by  $N_z$ .

## 4 Optimized segmentation and classification for diagnosing breast cancer

### 4.1 Solution encoding

This research work intends to solve the problem facing under tumor segmentation and classification of mammogram images. For maximizing the segmentation accuracy and classification accuracy, two sets of optimization are done. The proposed FC-CSO algorithm optimizes the threshold value of region growing and the hidden layer of hybrid classifier (CNN + RNN = CRNN). In region growing algorithm,  $\delta$  indicates the threshold function. The number of hidden layers of CNN is denoted as  $CE_L$  and RNN as  $RE_L$ . The bounding limit of the solution is between 5 and 25.

### 4.2 Objective model

The objective model of the developed breast cancer detection focuses on tumor segmentation and its categorization. The accuracy is determined using Eq. (26), where  $Tr^P$ ,  $Tr^N$ ,  $Fa^P$ , and  $Fa^N$  is the true positive, true negative, false positive, and false negative elements. Moreover, maximized objective function is shown in Eq. (27):

$$ACC = \frac{Tr^P + Tr^N}{Tr^P + Tr^N + Fa^P + Fa^N} \tag{26}$$

$$OB = Max(ACC) \tag{27}$$

This objective function is attained by adopting the optimization strategy with a new modified algorithm called FC-CSO algorithm on tumor segmentation and its classification in the proposed breast cancer diagnosis framework.

### 4.3 Optimized region growing

The output of the pre-processing phase image i.e.  $M_{m(pre)}$  is further processed for segmenting the tumor from an image.

The segmentation process is utilized by a single seed region growing algorithm named optimized region growing algorithm. Figure 2 shows the diagrammatic representation of the proposed region growing -based segmentation.

Seed region growing [34] is mostly used for different image segmentations. This region growing algorithm works based on the group of pixels into image regions. In this the image is done by a seed pixel and then attaches the homogeneous pixels until the segmentation is satisfied.

Assume  $W$  as whole area of input image  $M_{m(pre)}$ , which is divided into  $o$  sub-regions  $W_1, W_2, \dots, W_o$ . The below-specified conditions must be fulfilled during the region growing algorithm.

1.  $\bigcup_{u=1}^o W_o = W$ ;
2. To  $W_1, W_2, \dots, W_o, W$  indicates the connected region;
3. For any  $u, v, u \neq v, W_u \cap W_v = \emptyset$ ;
4.  $J(W_u) = true$ ;
5.  $W(W_u \cup W_v) = false$ ;

From the above conditions, the grey level value of the set  $W_u$  is denoted by  $J(W_u)$ , and the whole sum of pixels of an image is given by  $o$ . As discussed before, the starting step of the seeded region growing algorithm is the selection of seed points. Every phase of the algorithm includes that the above set is added by one pixel, while the value of pixels meets the condition given in Eq. (29). The average of the image  $t$  is denoted in Eq. (28):

$$t = \frac{1}{o} \sum_{(r,s) \in W} V(r, s) \tag{28}$$

$$|V(r, s) - t|_{(r,s) \in W} < \delta \tag{29}$$

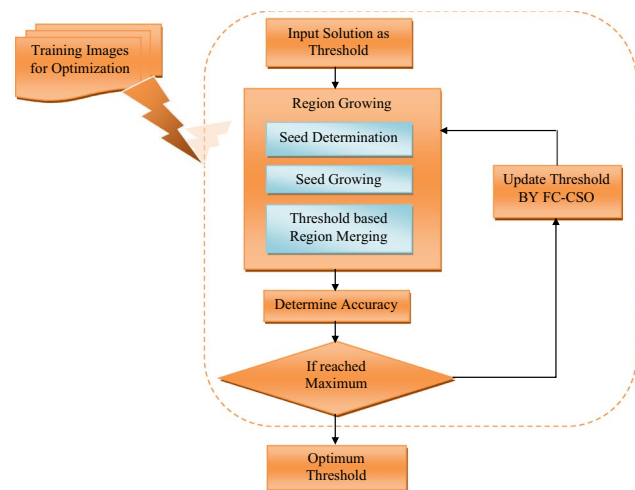


Fig. 2 Optimized region growing for tumor segmentation

From Eqs. (39) and (40),  $V(r, s)$  denotes the value at the coordinate  $(r, s)$ . In addition, the term  $\delta$  is determined as tolerance or threshold that must be very close to the average of an image. Accordingly, the working condition of this model is the selection of seed and threshold plays a key role in improving the segmentation performance. The traditional seeded region growing algorithm requires human involvement for choosing these parameters that initiate the subjective elements, and the accurate tuning of parameters are demanded. For attaining accurate automatic segmentation, the threshold of the seeded region growing algorithm is optimized by the help of suggested FC-CSO algorithm, which must be in the range of  $[0, 256]$ .

### 4.4 Existing chicken swarm optimization

The classic CSO [35] is inspired by mimicking the hierarchical order of chicken swarms. CSO is capable to extract the chickens swarm to optimize the efficient problems. The behaviors of the chicken are idealized by the rules that are as follows:

In a chicken swarm, many groups exist in a dominant rooster, a couple of hens and the chicks in each group. The chicken swarms are divided according to the fitness values of chickens. The worst fitness values are termed as chicks whereas the best fitness values are termed as roosters, and others are denoted as hens. The mother–child relationship among the chicks and hens are demonstrated randomly, which remains unchanged. The status of the dominance and mother–child relationship are updated at multiple time steps  $tst$ . Chickens follow the group-mate rooster while searching for food, chickens follow their as they are avoided by other ones for eating food. The mother will search food for their chicks. The dominant rooster has a benefit in competition for food.

Assume the number of roosters is denoted by RC, the number of hens is indicated by HC, the number of chicks is represented by CC, and the number of mother hens is denoted by  $MH$  respectively. All  $C$  virtual chickens are denoted by their locations at  $tst$  time steps in  $ds$  dimensional space is given by  $X_{a,b}^{tst}$  ( $a \in [1, \dots, C], b \in [1, \dots, ds]$ ). As the roosters having the best fitness values has more priority in acquiring the food so that those chickens can search for food in vast places, which is formulated in Eq. (30), in which standard deviation is indicated by  $\sigma^2$  and is given in Eq. (31), and the random number is denoted by  $Ran$ :

$$X_{a,b}^{tst+1} = X_{a,b}^{tst} * (1 + Ran(0, \sigma^2)) \tag{30}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{iff } fn_a \leq fn_c, \\ \exp\left(\frac{(fn_c - fn_a)}{|fn_a| + \epsilon}\right), & \text{otherwise, } c \in [1, C], c \neq a \end{cases} \tag{31}$$

From Eq. (31), the fitness value is indicated by  $fn$ ,  $c$  denotes rooster’s index, and  $\epsilon$  used to avoid zero division



error. The submissive hens have less benefit in having food compared to the dominant hens. The corresponding equation is formulated in Eq. (32), where, a random number is indicated by *Ran* over [0, 1]. Moreover, the rooster index of  $a^{th}$  group hen's groupmate is denoted by  $rt1 \in [1, \dots, C]$ , and the rooster index of chicken selected at random is given by  $rt2 \in [1, \dots, C]$ . The fitness of  $fn_a > fn_{rt1}$ ,  $fn_a > fn_{rt2}$  therefore  $S2 < 1 < S1$ . The equations for  $S1$  and  $S2$  are shown in Eqs. (33), and (34), respectively. The chicks move around their mother in order to find the food. This is given in Eq. (35):

$$X_{a,b}^{tst+1} = X_{a,b}^{tst} + S1 * Ran * (X_{rt1,b}^{tst} - X_{a,b}^{tst}) + S2 * Ran * (X_{rt2,b}^{tst} - X_{a,b}^{tst}) \tag{32}$$

$$S1 = \exp((fn_a - fn_{rt1}) / (abs(fn_a) + \epsilon)) \tag{33}$$

$$S2 = \exp((fn_{rt2} - fn_a)) \tag{34}$$

$$X_{a,b}^{tst+1} = X_{a,b}^{tst} + FLM * (X_{mo,b}^{tst} - X_{a,b}^{tst}) \tag{35}$$

In Eq. (35),  $X_{mo,b}^{tst}$  is the position of  $a^{th}$  chicks mother,  $FLM (FLM \in (0, 2))$  is a parameter. Moreover,  $FLM$  every chick is randomly chosen from 0 to 2, and the individual differences are considered. The pseudo-code of traditional CSO is shown in Algorithm 1.

### 4.5 Firefly algorithm

The inspiration of FF [36] is inspires the social behaviour of fireflies in tropical summer sky. By using bioluminescence with different flashing patterns, they communicate, search for prey, and locate mates. Moreover, few characteristics of FF are idealized for developing a FF algorithm. In order to make simple, only three rules are employed that are as follows:

- (1) The whole FF's are unisex so one FF is attracted to others irrespective of the sex.
- (2) The pleasant appearance is relative concerning contrast. Less contrast FF is moving in the direction of more contrast one. Moreover, attractiveness is proportional to the contrast that reduces by increasing the distance among the FF's. When there are no brighter FF's than a specific FF, it force to move about in the freedom at random.
- (3) The contrast of FF is in some way connected to analytical form of cost function. In order to maximize the issue, contrast is being proportional to the cost function.

The starting positions of agents are defined in the space randomly, which is shown in Eq. (36), in which the minimum and the maximum allowable values for  $p^{th}$  variable are given by  $X_{p,\min}$ , and  $X_{p,\max}$ . The initial value of  $p^{th}$  variable for  $q^{th}$  agent is given by  $X_{p,q}^{(in)}$ :

$$X_{p,q}^{(in)} = X_{p,\min} + rndm * (X_{p,\max} - X_{p,\min}), p = 1, 2, \dots, D \tag{36}$$

### 4.6 Hybrid FC-CSO algorithm

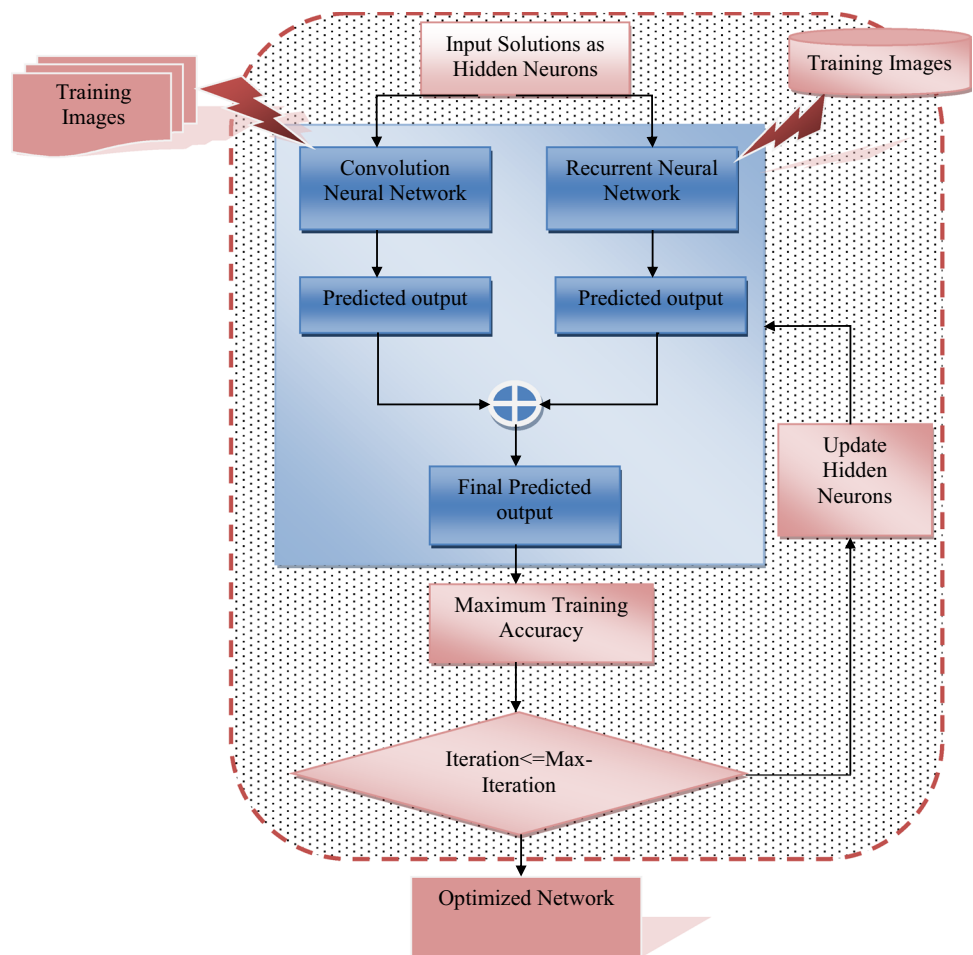
The conventional CSO has the ability to attain a high precision convergence rate but comparing with low dimensional cases the searching time is prolonged in the discrete optimization problems. Hence, to operate with a high convergence rate, the beneficial concept of FF is used here. In the proposed FC-CSO algorithm, the chick update is replaced by the FF update that works better for performing the proposed segmentation and classification effectively. Algorithm 1 shows the pseudo-code for the proposed FC-CSO.

Algorithm 1: Pseudocode of developed FC-CSO
Initialize the chickens population as $C$ and describe the related parameters
Validate the fitness value of $C$ chickens, $ist$ is initialized to 0
<b>while</b> ( $ist < Max\_Gen$ )
<b>if</b> ( $ist \% TS = 0$ )
Perform the fitness ranking
Categorize the cat swarms
<b>end if</b>
<b>for</b> $a = 1 : C$
<b>if</b> $a = rooster$
Update its location by Eq. (30)
<b>end if</b>
<b>if</b> $a = hen$
Update its solution using Eq. (32)
<b>end if</b>
<b>if</b> $a = chick$
Update its solution by FF based on Eq. (36)
<b>end if</b>
Validate the new solution
If the new solution is best than the earlier one, update it
<b>end for</b>
<b>end while</b>

### 4.7 Hybrid classifier

The combination of CNN and RNN termed as CRNN is used for classifying the images into normal, benign, and malignant. An optimized hidden layer concept is to develop the novelty of the proposed model into a hybrid CRNN algorithm. The working flow of the optimized hybrid classifier is shown in Fig. 3.

**Fig. 3** Working principle of the optimized hybrid classifier by FC-CSO algorithm



**CNN:** The basic structure of CNN comprises of several layers like convolutional layers, pooling layers, and one or more fully connected layers. It involves the combination of three layers. In CNNs the information flows from input to output direction.

**Convolutional layers:** This type of layer act an extractor, and therefore these layers help to learn the representation of input images. The neurons are structured into feature maps. Each neuron is associated with the neighborhood of the prior layer by the group of trainable weights, and it is named as a filter bank. The  $d^{th}$  output feature map for  $Co_d$  is computed using Eq. (8), in which  $INP$  is the input image, the convolutional filter linked with  $d^{th}$  feature map is denoted by  $fm_d$ , and the 2D convolutional operator is denoted by  $*$ , which is utilized for measuring the interior result of the filter in each region of the input image. Moreover, the non-linear creation function is denoted by  $f(\cdot)$ . This allows for extracting the non-linear features:

$$Co_d = f(fm_d * INP) \tag{37}$$

Moreover, the two kinds of functions, such as hyperbolic tangent and sigmoid functions, are usually utilized.

**Pooling layers:** The feature map is utilized to decrease the spatial resolution which helps to attain the spatial invariance to input translations and distortions. It is a general tradition to employ common pooling aggregation layers for transmitting the normal input values of the minute region of an image to the succeeding level. The convolution by multiple input maps are merged in each resultant map, and this equation is represented in Eq. (38):

$$Co_d^{CL} = f\left(\sum_{k \in A_l} Co_d^{CL-1} * KN_{kl}^{CL} + AB_l^{CL}\right) \tag{38}$$

In Eq. (9), the convolutional layer is denoted by  $CL$ , and the downsampling layer is denoted by  $CL - 1$ , the input features of downsampling layer is indicated by  $Co^{CL-1}$ , the kernel maps and additive bias of convolutional layer is indicated by  $KN_{kl}^{CL}$  and  $AB_l^{CL}$ , respectively, the selection input maps are done by  $A_l$ , and the input and output are denoted as  $k, l$ .

**Fully connected layers:** The final phase of CNNs includes a generic multi-layer network. Several layers are stacked to extract the abstract feature depictions by moving in the network. This type of layer follows the feature depictions of pooling and convolutional layers for performing high-level reasoning functions.

**Training:** Both ANNs and CNNs make use of learning algorithms for altering the public parameters for attaining the necessary outcome of the network. The usual algorithm utilized for this objective is the backpropagation algorithm.

**RNN:** It [37] is a classification of ANN, where the links among the nodes create a directed graph with a progression of information. It can work with time-series data effectively, and therefore the resultant appears to be best when determining the present and the earlier data. LSTM is one type of RNN that consists of a memory cell unit. It consist of three gate units, namely input, forget, and output gates. Moreover, LSTM is used to resolve the gradient mass and explosion. On updating the memory cell unit’s state by three gates, LSTM removes the unnecessary data and seize the required data in series efficiently. GRU is introduced as a special kind of LSTM, which is used to build the RNN model for enhancing performance. GRU combines the output and forgets gates into a unique update gate  $UG_e$ , where the linear interpolation assists in acquiring the current result. Assume,  $g_e \leftarrow F_{s_{com}}$  is the  $e^{th}$  input feature, and  $h_{e-1}$  is the earlier hidden state. The updated gate is represented in Eq. (39), and the reset gate is shown in Eq. (40):

$$UG_e = Acf(WM^{sUG}g_e + WM^{hUG}h_{e-1}) \tag{39}$$

$$RG_e = Acf(WM^{sRG}g_e + WM^{hRG}h_{e-1}) \tag{40}$$

From Eqs. (39) and (40), the activation function is denoted by  $Acf$ , which is a logistic sigmoid function. The weight matrix is denoted by  $WM^e = \{WM^{sUG}, WM^{hUG}, WM^{sRG}, WM^{hRG}\}$  that has to be tuned appropriately for minimizing the fault discrepancy among the predicted and actual output. The candidate state of the hidden unit is measured using Eq. (41), in which the element-wise multiplication is indicated by  $\otimes$ :

$$\tilde{h}_e = \tan(WM^{sgh}g_e + WM^{hh}(h_{e-1} \otimes RG_e)) \tag{41}$$

The linear interpolation among  $h_{e-1}$  and candidate state  $\tilde{h}_e$  is named as  $e^{th}$  hidden activation function  $h_e$  of GRU, and the equation is given in Eq. (42):

$$\begin{aligned} h_e &= (1 - UG_e) \otimes \tilde{h}_e + UG_e \otimes h_{e-1} \\ &= (1 - UG_e) \otimes \tilde{h}_e + UG_e \otimes h_{e-1} \end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

Here, the proposed FC-CSO algorithm optimizes the number of hidden layers of CNN and RNN. On performing the AND operation to both of the output generated from CNN and RNN, the final classified output is generated. Thus the three classes, such as normal, benign, and malignant categories, are obtained from the input mammogram images.

## 5 Results and discussions

### 5.1 Experimental set-up

The implemented breast cancer detection model was proposed using MATLAB 2018a, and also performance examination was performed. The Type I, and Type II measures are analyzed using performance analysis. Type I measures are positive measures like Accuracy, Sensitivity, Specificity, Precision, NPV, F1Score and MCC, and Type II measures are negative measures like FPR, FNR, and FDR. The state-of-the-art techniques were compared from the proposed model of the experimental results through validation with graphs and tabulations. The population size and iterations considered for the experiment were 10 and 25, respectively. The performance analysis of the suggested approach was compared over CSO [35], CSA [38], FF [36], and IAP-CSA [39]. The classification analysis was compared over NN [40], SVM [41], fuzzy [42], CNN [43], RNN [37], CRNN [43, 37].

### 5.2 Performance measures

In this paper, the following ten performance measures are evaluated:

(a) Accuracy: It is a “ratio of the observation of exactly predicted to the whole observations,” as shown in Eq. (26).

(b) Sensitivity: It measures “the number of true positives, which are recognized exactly,”

$$Sen = \frac{Tr^P}{Tr^P + Fa^N} \tag{43}$$

(c) Specificity: It measures “the number of true negatives, which are determined precisely.”

$$Spe = \frac{Tr^N}{Fa^P} \tag{44}$$

(d) Precision: It is “the ratio of positive observations that are predicted exactly to the total number of observations that are positively predicted”.

$$Pre = \frac{Tr^P}{Tr^P + Fa^P} \tag{45}$$

(e) FPR: It is computed as “the ratio of the count of false-positive predictions to the entire count of negative predictions.”

$$FPR = \frac{Fa^P}{Fa^P + Tr^N} \tag{46}$$

(f) FNR: It is “the proportion of positives which yield negative test outcomes with the test.”

$$FNR = \frac{Fa^N}{Tr^N + Tr^P} \quad (47)$$

(g) NPV: It is the “probability that subjects with a negative screening test truly don’t have the disease.”

$$NPV = \frac{Fa^N}{Fa^N + Tr^N} \quad (48)$$

(h) FDR: It is “the number of false positives in all of the rejected hypotheses.”

$$FDR = \frac{Fa^P}{Fa^P + Tr^P} \quad (49)$$

F1 score: It is the “harmonic mean between precision and recall. It is used as a statistical measure to rate performance”.

$$F1score = \frac{Sen \cdot Pre}{Pre + Sen} \quad (50)$$

(j) MCC: It is a “correlation coefficient computed by four values.”

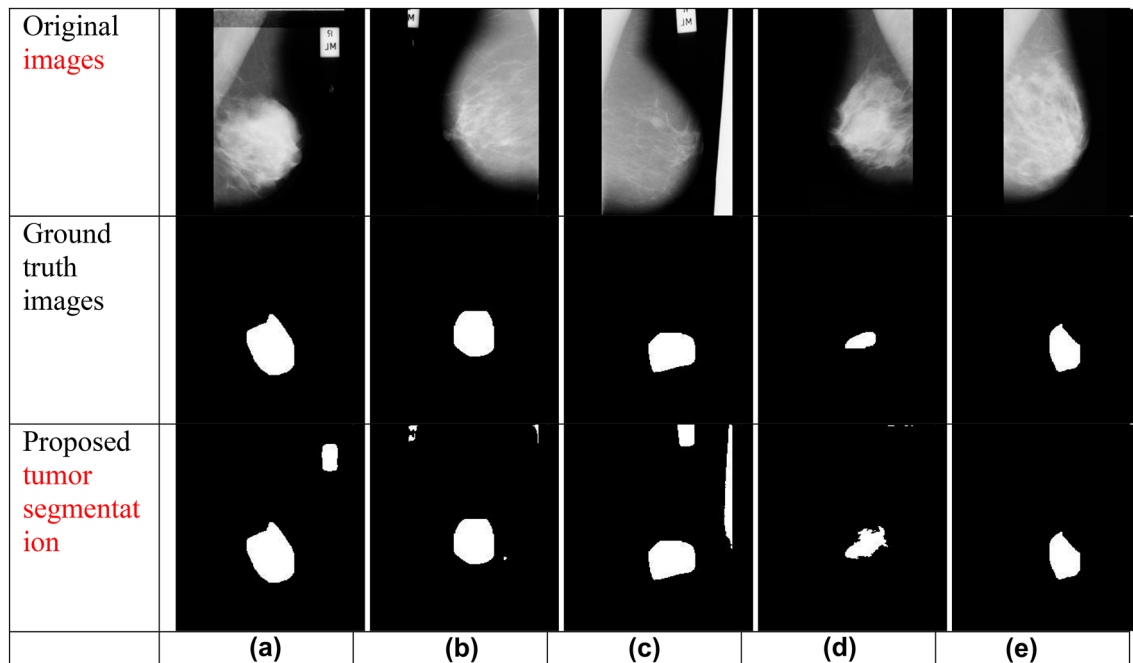
$$MCC = \frac{Tr^P \times Tr^N - Fa^P \times Fa^N}{\sqrt{(Tr^P + Fa^P)(Tr^P + Fa^N)(Tr^N + Fa^P)(Tr^N + Fa^N)}} \quad (51)$$

### 5.3 Segmentation analysis

The experimental outcomes of breast cancer detection are shown in Fig. 4. The analysis of the proposed region growing algorithm and conventional tumor segmentation in mammogram images are tabulated in Table 2. The accuracy of the proposed FC-CSO-region growing algorithm is truly defined the true observations from the whole observations. It is 16.1% superior to conventional region growing, 1.3% superior to CSO, 0.3% superior to CSA, 0.1% superior to FF and IAP-CSA-based region growing. Moreover, the sensitivity of the developed FC-CSO-region growing is correctly determined the true observations. Therefore, the sensitivity of the suggested IAP-CSA-based region growing is 79.7% better than the region growing, 56.7%, 2.1%, 3% 1.9% superior to CSO, CSA, FF, and IAP-CSA-region growing. The precision of the developed FC-CSO-based-region growing is 7.6% improved than region growing, 55.7% improved than CSO-region growing, 59.6% improved than CSA- region growing, and 4.7% improved than FF and IAP-CSA-region growing. From the results, it has been confirmed that the suggested FC-CSO-region growing is superior in segmenting the tumor from the mammogram images.

### 5.4 Performance analysis

The conventional heuristic-based CRNN and the performance analysis is shown in Fig. 5. From Fig. 5a, the accuracy of the developed FC-CSO-CRNN is determined



**Fig. 4** Experimental results of tumor segmentation for breast cancer detection for **a** image 1, **b** image 2, **c** image 3, **d** image 4, and **e** image 5

**Table 2** Segmentation analysis of the proposed FC-CSO-region growing algorithm and conventional tumor segmentation in mammogram images using region growing algorithm

Metrics	Region growing [34]	CSO-region growing [35]	CSA-region growing [38]	FF-region growing [36]	IAP-CSA-region growing [39]	FC-CSO-region growing
Accuracy	0.84781	0.97157	0.98098	0.98348	0.98387	0.98489
Sensitivity	0.12029	0.3796	0.60829	0.57756	0.58386	0.59521
Specificity	0.99805	0.98727	0.98653	0.99892	0.99892	0.99996
Precision	0.9272	0.44167	0.40253	0.95308	0.95308	0.99814
FPR	0.00195	0.012727	0.013465	0.001082	0.001081	4.30E-05
FNR	0.87971	0.6204	0.39171	0.42244	0.41614	0.40479
NPV	0.99805	0.98727	0.98653	0.99892	0.99892	0.99996
FDR	0.0728	0.55833	0.59747	0.046921	0.046921	0.001863
F1-score	0.21295	0.40829	0.48447	0.71926	0.72412	0.74573
MCC	0.30249	0.39499	0.48573	0.73505	0.73922	0.76478

correctly for all the learning percentages in a precise manner. The accuracy of the proposed FC-CSO-CRNN is 0.5%, 1%, 1.5%, 4% superior to CSO-CRNN, CRNN, FF-CRNN, and IAP-CSA-CRNN at learning percentage 45%. Moreover, the sensitivity of the modified FC-CSO-CRNN model has precisely defined the true positive values, which is shown in Fig. 5b. Thus, the sensitivity of the suggested FC-CSO-CRNN is 2.3% enhanced than CSA, 6.6% enhanced than FF, 8.4% enhanced than CRNN, 9% enhanced than CSO, and 10.9% enhanced than IAP-CSA-based CRNN at learning percentage 65%. Moreover, the precision of the developed FC-CSO-CRNN is positive observations from the whole positive observations are shown in Fig. 5d. It is 2.3%, 2.9%, 6%, 10.1% superior to FF, CRNN, CSA, and IAP-CSA-CRNN at learning percentage 45%.

The overall performance of the proposed and existing methods based on CRNN is shown in Table 3. The accuracy of the proposed FC-CSO-CRNN is 3.3%, 2.3%, 0.4%, 0.9% better than CSO, CSA, FF, and IAP-CSA-based CRNN, respectively. Similarly, the precision of the developed FC-CSO-CRNN is defined correctly. The precision of the recommended FC-CSO-CRNN is 8.3%, 6.5%, 14%, 17.7% enhanced than CSO, CSA, FF, and IAP-CSA-CRNN. Finally, it is confirmed that the developed FC-CSO-CRNN is performing well in breast cancer detection comparing to other improved CRNN.

### 5.5 Comparative analysis over different classifiers

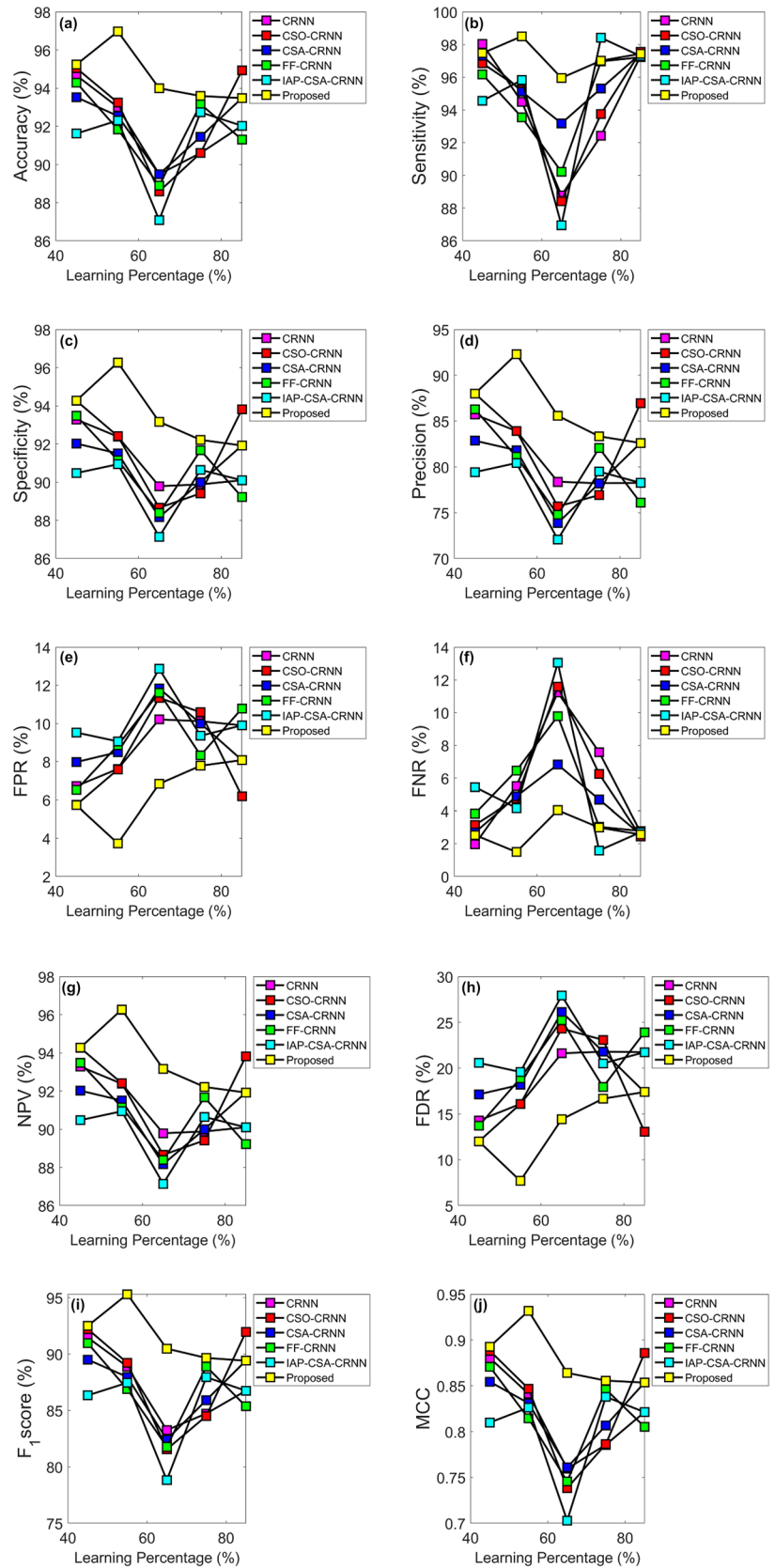
The comparative analysis of the proposed model over various classifiers is given in Table 4. The total positive and negative observations correctly determine the accuracy of the suggested FC-CSO-CRNN. Here, the accuracy of the modified FC-CSO-CRNN is 8.2% improved than NN, 34.2% improved than SVM, 40.2% improved than Fuzzy, 1.1% improved than CNN, 11.7% improved than RNN, and 34.4% improved than CRNN. Also, the sensitivity of the suggested

FC-CSO-CRNN has exactly defined the true observations from the whole observations. The sensitivity of the developed FC-CSO-CRNN is 47.8%, 60.5%, 5.6%, 4.1%, 29.1%, 81.2% better than NN, SVM, fuzzy, CNN, RNN, and RNN. Similarly, the precision of the improved FC-CSO-CRNN is 7.4% enhanced than NN, 65.5% enhanced than SVM, 61.9% enhanced than fuzzy, 9.6% enhanced than CNN, 9.2% enhanced than RNN, and 45.6% enhanced than CRNN. The proposed model offers the best performance for the conventional models in detecting breast cancer in mammogram images.

## 6 Conclusion

A new method has been developed for detecting breast cancer in mammogram images using an optimized hybrid classifier. Here, the proposed model has undergone a few steps, such as image pre-processing, tumor segmentation, feature extraction, and detection. At first, the noise was removed from the mammogram image with the help of median filtering. In the segmentation phase, the tumor was segmented using an optimized region growing algorithm, which was based on a hybrid meta-heuristic algorithm by the combination of two algorithms such as CSO and FF, called FC-CSO. Later, feature extraction was performed using the GLCM and GRLM features. In the detection stage, the combination of two deep learning approaches like CNN and RNN was integrated. In addition, for RNN, GLRM features were given as input, whereas the segmented binary image was given to CNN for obtaining high accuracy. The accuracy of the proposed FC-CSO-CRNN was 3.3%, 2.3%, 0.4%, 0.9% better than CSO, CSA, FF, and IAP-CSA-based CRNN, respectively. Similarly, the precision of the developed FC-CSO-CRNN was 8.3%, 6.5%, 14%, 17.7% better than CSO, CSA, FF, and IAP-CSA-CRNN. The classification analysis provided the results as the accuracy of the suggested

**Fig. 5** Performance analysis of proposed and conventional heuristic-based CRNN oriented breast cancer detection models with performance metrics **a** accuracy, **b** sensitivity, **c** specificity, **d** precision, **e** FPR, **f** FNR, **g** NPV, **h** FDR, **i** F1-score, and **j** MCC



**Table 3** Overall performance analysis of the proposed and conventional CRNN-based breast cancer detection models

Performance metrics	CSO-CRNN [35]	CSA-CRNN [38]	FF-CNN+RNN [36]	IAP-CSA-CRNN [39]	FC-CSO-CRNN
Accuracy	0.90598	0.91453	0.93162	0.92735	0.9359
Sensitivity	0.9375	0.95313	0.9697	0.98413	0.97015
Specificity	0.89412	0.9	0.91667	0.90643	0.92216
Precision	0.76923	0.78205	0.82051	0.79487	0.83333
FPR	0.10588	0.1	0.083333	0.093567	0.077844
FNR	0.0625	0.046875	0.030303	0.015873	0.029851
NPV	0.89412	0.9	0.91667	0.90643	0.92216
FDR	0.23077	0.21795	0.17949	0.20513	0.16667
F1-score	0.84507	0.85915	0.88889	0.87943	0.89655
MCC	0.78637	0.80671	0.84611	0.83796	0.85566

**Table 4** Analysis on proposed breast cancer detection models over conventional classifiers

Performance metrics	NN [40]	SVM [41]	Fuzzy [42]	CNN [43]	RNN [37]	CRNN [43, 37]	FC-CSO-CRNN
Accuracy	0.83681	0.675	0.64583	0.91667	0.81053	0.67368	0.90598
Sensitivity	0.625	0.36458	0.875	0.8875	0.71579	0.51	0.92424
Specificity	0.94271	0.7526	0.53125	0.93125	0.85789	0.76216	0.89881
Precision	0.84507	0.26923	0.48276	0.86585	0.71579	0.53684	0.78205
FPR	0.057292	0.2474	0.46875	0.06875	0.14211	0.23784	0.10119
FNR	0.375	0.63542	0.125	0.1125	0.28421	0.49	0.075758
NPV	0.94271	0.7526	0.53125	0.93125	0.85789	0.76216	0.89881
FDR	0.15493	0.73077	0.51724	0.13415	0.28421	0.46316	0.21795
F1-score	0.71856	0.30973	0.62222	0.87654	0.71579	0.52308	0.84722
MCC	0.62094	0.10548	0.39161	0.81381	0.57368	0.27553	0.78568

FC-CSO-CRNN was 8.2% improved than NN, 34.2% improved than SVM, 40.2% improved than Fuzzy, 1.1% improved than CNN, 11.7% improved than RNN, and 34.4% improved than CRNN. Finally, it is concluded that the proposed FC-CSO-CRNN is superior in detecting breast cancer from mammogram images. The proposed method detects the breast cancer using the mammogram images, which reduces the need of chemotherapy or breast removal and saves lives by detecting the breast cancer during early stage. In this work, we used the median filter at the pre-processing stage for noise removal. Even though the median filter has several benefits, such as straightforward, offers a sensible noise removal performance, it has a drawback of removing blurs image details and thin lines even at low noise densities. Hence, in future, we will use other filters, like Wiener filter for noise removal.

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