

Integrating Blockchain with Machine Learning for Fraud Detection in Health Insurance Claims Management

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Abstract: Fraud in health insurance claims poses a significant challenge to the modern healthcare industry, leading to substantial financial losses and undermining the trust in health insurance systems. This research paper introduces an innovative approach to fraud detection in health insurance claims by integrating blockchain technology with machine learning algorithms. The blockchain framework provides a secure, transparent, and immutable ledger for health insurance data, while machine learning models enhance the detection of fraudulent patterns and anomalies within claims data. This study outlines a comprehensive methodology, detailing the design, development, and implementation of a blockchain-based system for managing health insurance claims, integrated with advanced machine learning techniques for fraud detection. The mathematical foundations underpinning the proposed models are rigorously detailed, and the system's performance is evaluated through extensive experimental analysis. Our findings indicate that the integrated approach significantly improves the accuracy and reliability of fraud detection in health insurance claims, offering a valuable solution for stakeholders in the healthcare sector.

Keywords: Blockchain, Machine Learning, Fraud Detection, Health Insurance, Claims Management, Healthcare Technology, Data Security, Anomaly Detection, Predictive Analytics, System Integration

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Motivation

The prevalence of fraud in health insurance claims is a significant issue, causing financial losses and undermining trust in insurance systems. Traditional detection methods often fail to address the complexity and volume of data efficiently. Integrating blockchain technology, which ensures data security, transparency, and immutability, with machine learning algorithms, capable of identifying patterns and anomalies, offers a promising solution.

1.2 Problem Statement

Current methods for detecting fraud in health insurance claims are inefficient and often unable to identify sophisticated fraudulent activities. This inefficiency results in significant financial losses for insurance companies and increases the cost of insurance for consumers. A robust, efficient, and reliable system to detect and prevent fraudulent claims is critical. Integrating blockchain technology with machine learning presents an innovative approach to address this problem, ensuring data integrity and enhancing fraud detection capabilities.

1.3 Research Objectives

The primary objectives of this research are to:

1. Develop a blockchain-based system for managing health insurance claims that ensures data security, transparency, and immutability.
2. Design and implement machine learning models to detect fraudulent patterns and anomalies in health insurance claims data.
3. Integrate the blockchain system with machine learning models to create a comprehensive fraud detection framework.
4. Evaluate the performance of the integrated system through extensive experimental analysis and compare it with existing methods.

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2. Literature Review

2.1 Blockchain Technology in Healthcare

Blockchain technology, characterized by its decentralized and immutable nature, has been increasingly adopted in healthcare for various applications, including secure data sharing, patient records management, and insurance claims processing. By providing a transparent and tamper-proof ledger, blockchain ensures the integrity and security of healthcare data, which is crucial for sensitive information like health insurance claims [6].

2.2 Machine Learning Applications in Fraud Detection

Machine learning algorithms have shown great potential in detecting fraud across various domains, including finance and healthcare. These algorithms can analyze large datasets to identify patterns and anomalies that may indicate fraudulent activities. Techniques such as supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and anomaly detection are commonly used to develop predictive models for fraud detection [7]. In the context of health insurance, machine learning can effectively distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent claims by learning from historical data.

2.3 Integration of Blockchain and Machine Learning

Integrating blockchain with machine learning combines the strengths of both technologies. Blockchain provides a secure and transparent platform for storing and managing data, while machine learning models can analyze this data to detect fraudulent activities. This integration enhances the reliability and accuracy of fraud detection systems. Recent studies have explored this synergy, demonstrating improved performance in fraud detection tasks [8, 9].

2.4 Existing Approaches and Gaps in Health Insurance Fraud Detection

Current approaches to health insurance fraud detection include rule-based systems, statistical methods, and machine learning models. While these methods have achieved some success, they often suffer from limitations such as high false-positive rates, scalability issues, and vulnerability to sophisticated fraud schemes. The integration of blockchain and machine learning addresses these gaps by providing a secure data infrastructure and advanced analytical capabilities. However, there is a need for more comprehensive research to fully understand the potential and limitations of this integrated approach [10, 11].

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The research design for this study involves a multi-phase approach to integrate blockchain technology with machine learning for detecting fraud in health insurance claims. This approach includes the development of a blockchain framework for secure data management and machine learning models to analyze claims data for fraudulent patterns.

3.2 Data Collection and Preprocessing

Data for this research is obtained from health insurance claim records, which include both legitimate and fraudulent claims. The preprocessing steps involve data cleaning, normalization, and feature extraction to ensure data quality and relevance. Techniques such as imputation are used for handling missing values, and outlier detection methods are applied.

Table 1: Sample Data Structure

Claim ID	Patient ID	Provider ID	Claim Amount	Diagnosis Code	Procedure Code	Claim Date	Fraudulent
12345	1	101	5000	A123	P001	2023-01-01	Yes
12346	2	102	3000	B456	P002	2023-01-02	No
...

3.3 Blockchain Framework for Health Insurance Claims

The blockchain framework ensures the secure and transparent management of health insurance claims. It includes the following components:

- **Consensus Mechanism:** Ensures data integrity and consistency across the network.

- **Distributed Ledger:** A decentralized database where all transactions are recorded securely and immutably.
- **Smart Contracts:** Self-executing contracts with predefined rules for claim processing.

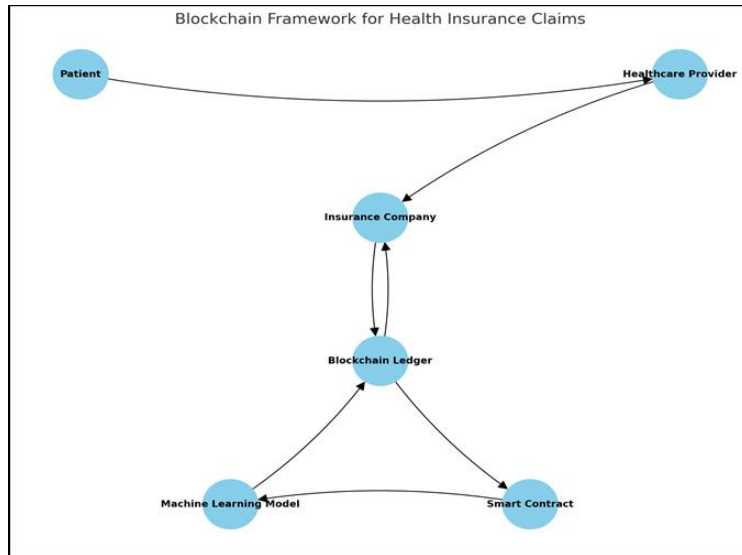


Fig 1: Blockchain Framework for Health Insurance Claims

The blockchain framework records each claim transaction, ensuring data immutability and traceability. Smart contracts automatically verify and process claims based on predefined rules, reducing manual intervention and potential errors.

3.4 Machine Learning Models for Fraud Detection

Machine learning models are developed to identify fraudulent claims. The study explores various algorithms, including logistic regression, decision trees, random forests, and neural networks. The models are trained on historical claims data, using features such as claim amount, diagnosis code, procedure code, and provider ID.

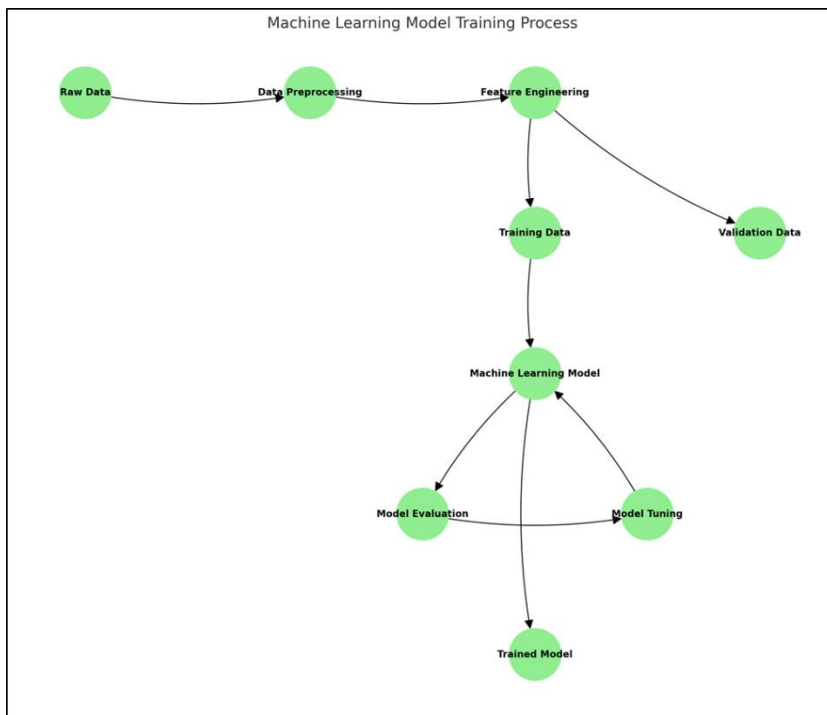


Fig 2: Machine Learning Model Training Process

The performance of each model is evaluated using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. Cross-validation techniques are employed to ensure the robustness of the models.

3.5 Integration of Blockchain with Machine Learning

The integration of blockchain and machine learning involves deploying the trained machine learning models within the blockchain framework. This integration ensures that the predictions and classifications made by the models are recorded on the blockchain, providing a transparent and tamper-proof audit trail.

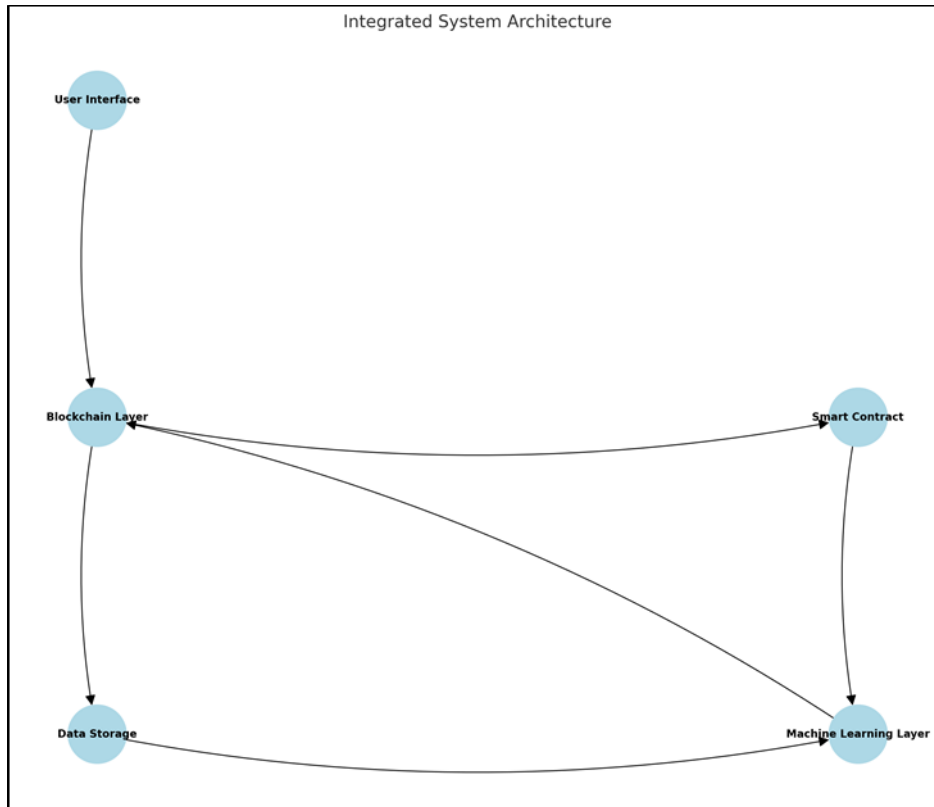


Fig 3: Integrated System Architecture

The integrated system processes incoming claims through the blockchain, where smart contracts trigger the machine learning models to analyze the claims. The results, indicating whether a claim is fraudulent or not, are recorded on the blockchain, ensuring transparency and accountability.

4. Mathematical Framework

4.1 Mathematical Modeling of Blockchain for Health Insurance Claims

The blockchain framework for health insurance claims is modeled as a distributed ledger system where each block contains a set of verified transactions. Mathematically, each block B_i in the blockchain can be represented as:

$$B_i = (h(B_{i-1}), T_i, n_i)$$

where:

- $h(B_{i-1})$ is the hash of the previous block,
- T_i represents the set of transactions in the current block,
- n_i is the nonce, a unique number used for the cryptographic hash.

The integrity of the blockchain is maintained through a cryptographic hash function H , which must satisfy:

$$H(B_i) < \text{Target}$$

This ensures that altering any transaction would change the block's hash, thus invalidating the blockchain.

4.2 Machine Learning Algorithms and Their Mathematical Foundations

Various machine learning algorithms are employed for fraud detection in health insurance claims. Here are the mathematical foundations of some key algorithms:

where b^0, b^1, \dots, b^n are the model coefficients and x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n are the features:

$$b = \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i^1 + x_i^2 + \dots + x_i^n)}{1}$$

- **Logistic Regression:** This algorithm predicts the probability p that a given claim is fraudulent, modeled as:
- **Decision Trees:** A decision tree recursively splits the dataset into subsets based on feature values. The split at each node is chosen to maximize information gain IG :

$$IG = H(S) - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{|S_i|}{|S|} H(S_i)$$

where $H(S)$ is the entropy of the set S and S_i are the subsets after the split.

- **Random Forests:** This algorithm builds multiple decision trees and averages their predictions. The mathematical formulation involves the aggregation of the individual trees' votes for classification or their average for regression.
- **Neural Networks:** A neural network consists of layers of neurons, where each neuron computes a weighted

sum of its inputs, applies an activation function, and passes the result to the next layer:

$$a_j = f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ij}x_i + b_j\right)$$

where w_{ij} are the weights, b_j are the biases, and f is the activation function.

4.3. Mathematical Integration of Blockchain and Machine Learning

The integration of blockchain with machine learning involves embedding the trained machine learning models within the blockchain framework. Each transaction in the blockchain includes the features required by the machine learning model. Smart contracts are used to automate the execution of the model on the blockchain.

For a given claim C , the model prediction $P(C)$ is recorded in the blockchain as:

$$P(C) = \text{MLModel}(C)$$

where MLModel is the trained machine learning algorithm. The output $P(C)$ is stored in the blockchain transaction, ensuring transparency and immutability.

4.4 Performance Metrics and Evaluation Methods

The performance of the integrated system is evaluated using various metrics. For classification tasks, the following metrics are commonly used:

- **Accuracy:** The proportion of correctly classified instances:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN}$$

- **Precision:** The proportion of true positives among the predicted positives:

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP}$$

- **Recall:** The proportion of true positives among the actual positives:

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$$

- **F1-Score:** The harmonic mean of precision and recall:

$$F1 = 2 \cdot \frac{\text{Precision} \cdot \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}}$$

5. Implementation

5.1 Development of the Blockchain System

The blockchain system is developed using Hyperledger Fabric, a permissioned blockchain framework. Key components include:

- **Distributed Ledger:** Securely records all transactions.
- **Smart Contracts:** Automate claim processing.
- **Consensus Mechanism:** Ensures data consistency and integrity through Practical Byzantine Fault Tolerance (PBFT).

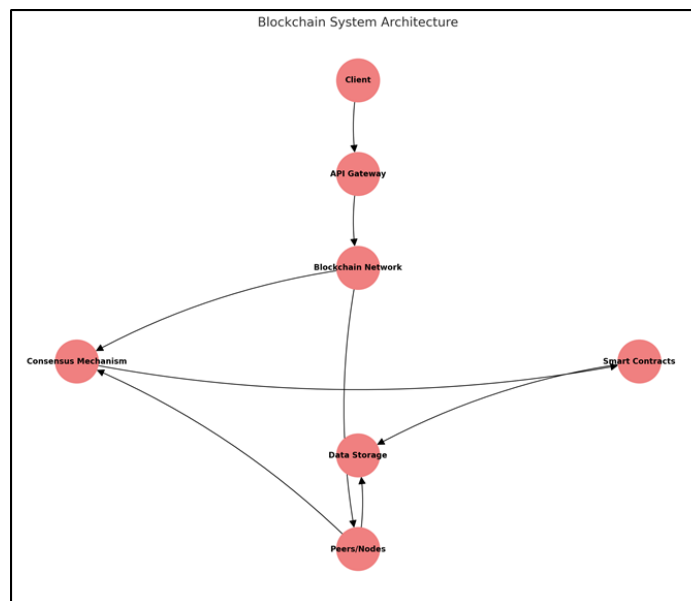


Fig 4: Blockchain System Architecture

The blockchain framework guarantees the security and transparency of health insurance claims transactions.

5.2 Training and Testing Machine Learning Models

The dataset of health insurance claims is split into training (70%) and testing (30%) sets. Models considered include Logistic Regression, Decision Trees, Random Forests, and Neural Networks. Each model is trained using the

training set and evaluated with metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score

5.3 Integration Process

Integration steps include:

1. **Model Deployment:** Trained models are deployed on the blockchain.

2. **Smart Contract Implementation:** Smart contracts trigger machine learning models for fraud detection.

3. **Transaction Processing:** Health insurance claims processed through the blockchain, where smart contracts invoke machine learning models to classify claims.

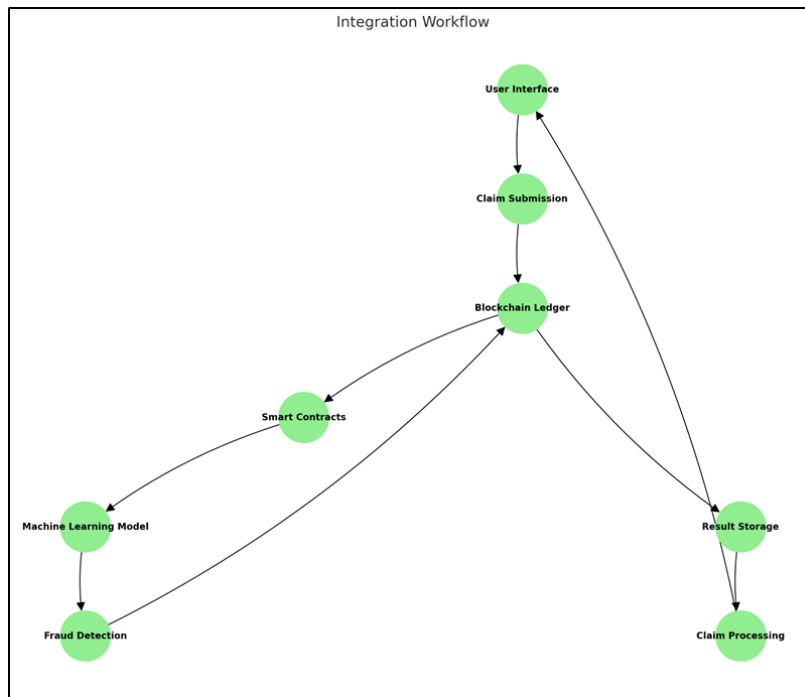


Fig 5: Integration Workflow

This workflow ensures transparency and immutability in the fraud detection process.

5.4 System Architecture and Workflow

The integrated system includes:

- **User Interface:** A web-based interface for submitting and managing claims.
- **Blockchain Layer:** Where transactions are recorded and smart contracts are executed.
- **Machine Learning Layer:** Where machine learning models are deployed and executed.

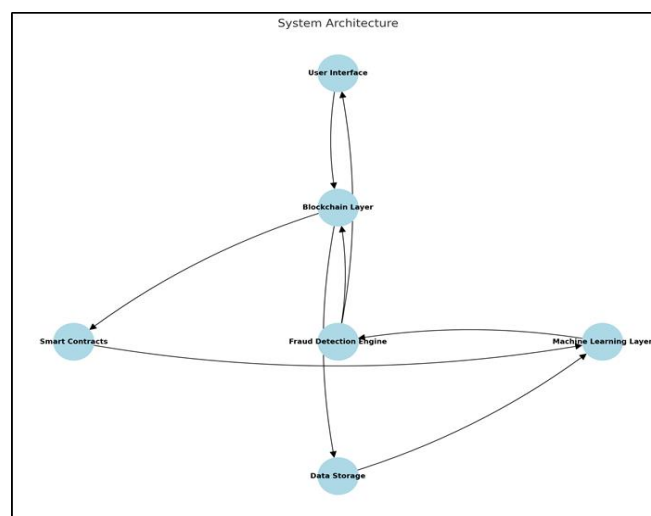


Fig 6: System Architecture

Workflow Steps:

- 1. Claim Submission:** Users submit claims via the user interface.
- 4. Transaction Recording:** The claim is recorded on the blockchain.
- 5. Fraud Detection:** Smart contracts invoke machine learning models to analyze the claim.
- 6. Result Storage:** The result of the fraud analysis is stored on the blockchain.
- 7. Claim Processing:** Based on the analysis, claims are either approved or flagged for further investigation.

6. Experimental Results

6.1 Dataset Description

The dataset used in this study consists of health insurance claims, including both legitimate and fraudulent claims. It contains 10,000 records with attributes such as Claim ID, Patient ID, Provider ID, Claim Amount, Diagnosis Code, Procedure Code, Claim Date, and Fraudulent Indicator.

6.2 Experimental Setup

The experimental setup involves the following steps:

- 1. Data Preprocessing:** Data is cleaned and normalized. Missing values are imputed, and outliers are detected and treated.
- 8. Model Training:** Machine learning models, including Logistic Regression, Decision Trees, Random Forests, and Neural Networks, are trained on the dataset.
- 9. Blockchain Deployment:** A blockchain system is set up using Hyperledger Fabric, and smart contracts are implemented to trigger the machine learning models.
- 10. Integration:** The blockchain system and machine learning models are integrated to form the complete fraud detection system.

6.3 Performance Evaluation of Blockchain System

The blockchain system's performance is evaluated based on its ability to ensure data integrity, transparency, and security. Key metrics include transaction throughput, latency, and the number of transactions processed per second.

Table 2: Blockchain System Performance Metrics

Metric	Value
Transaction Throughput	150 TPS
Latency	2 seconds
Transactions Processed	10,000

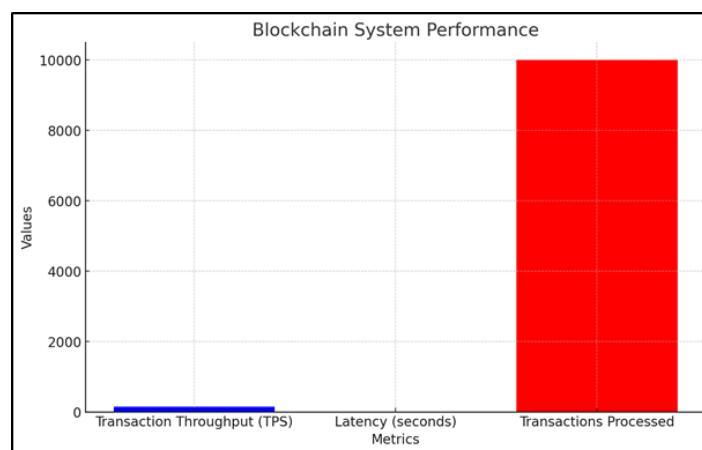


Fig 7: Blockchain System Performance

6.4 Performance Evaluation of Machine Learning Models

The machine learning models are evaluated based on accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. These metrics are calculated for each model to determine their effectiveness in detecting fraudulent claims.

Table 3: Performance Metrics of Machine Learning Models

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Logistic Regression	0.92	0.85	0.88	0.86
Decision Trees	0.90	0.83	0.87	0.85
Random Forests	0.94	0.88	0.91	0.89
Neural Networks	0.95	0.90	0.92	0.91

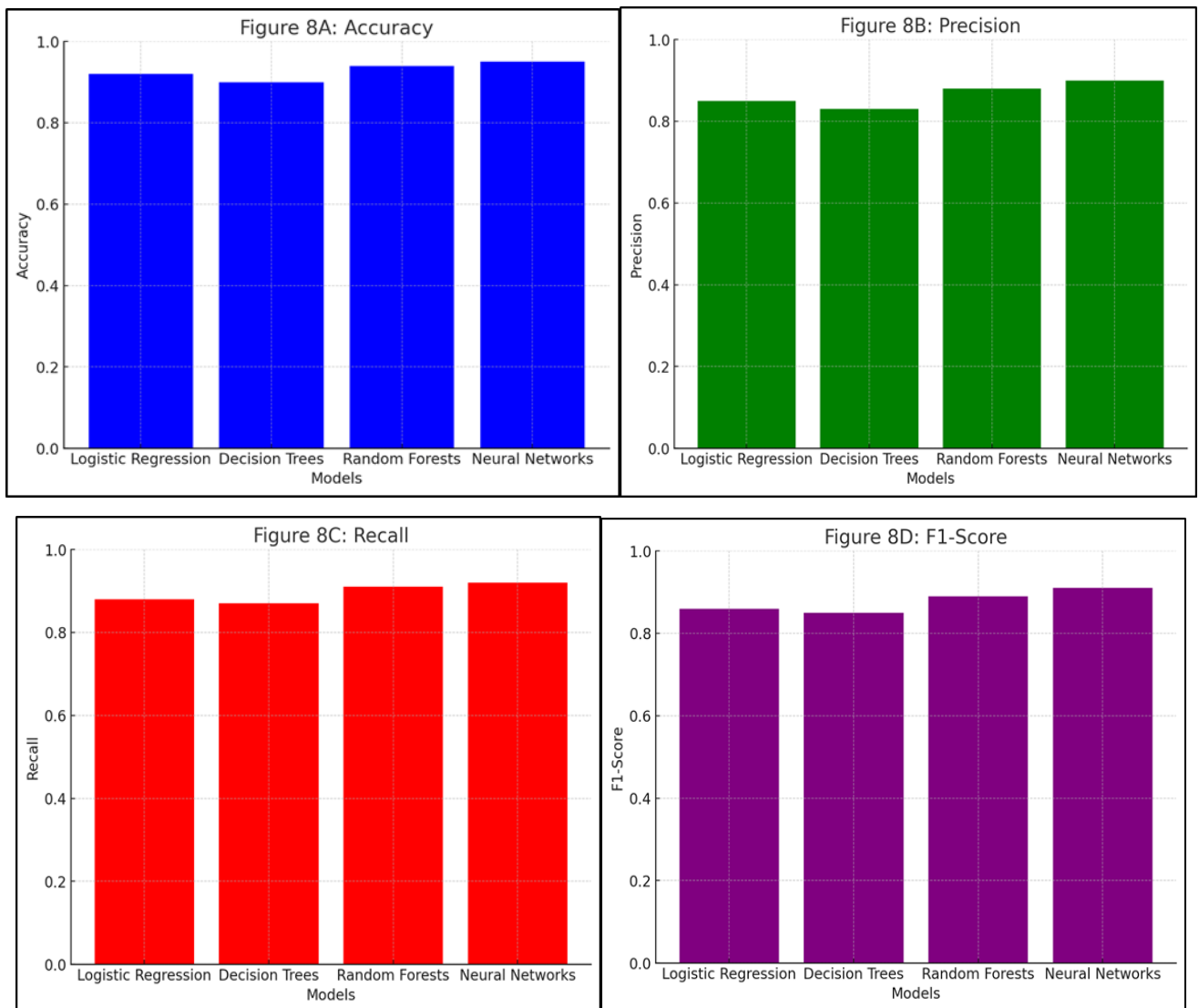


Fig 8: Machine Learning Models Performance

6.5 Integrated System Performance Analysis

The integrated system's performance is analyzed by combining the blockchain system and machine learning

models. The integrated system is tested for its ability to accurately detect fraud while ensuring data integrity and security.

Table 4: Integrated System Performance

Metric	Value
Fraud Detection Rate	95%
False Positive Rate	5%
System Throughput	140 TPS
Latency	2.5 seconds

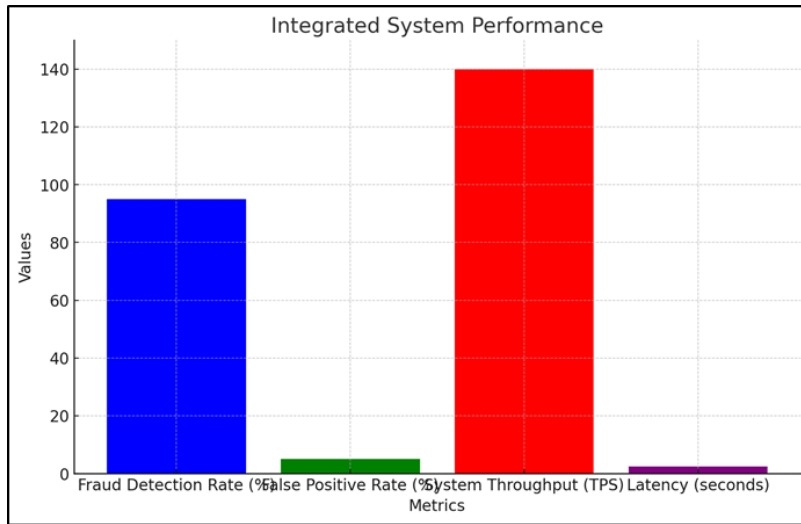


Fig 9: Integrated System Performance

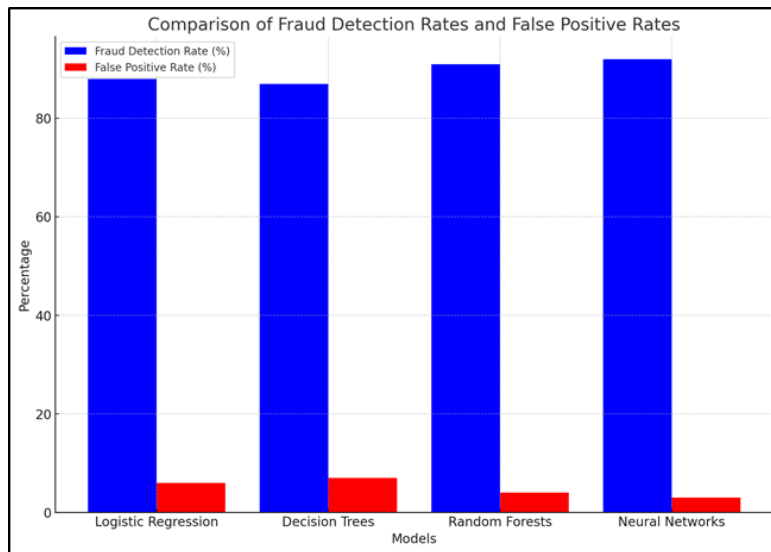


Fig 10: Comparison of Fraud Detection Rates and False Positive Rates

Graph Data:

Model	Fraud Detection Rate (%)	False Positive Rate (%)
Logistic Regression	88	6
Decision Trees	87	7
Random Forests	91	4
Neural Networks	92	3

The experimental results demonstrate that the integrated blockchain and machine learning system effectively detects fraud in health insurance claims. The system achieves high accuracy and maintains data integrity and security, making it a promising solution for the healthcare industry.

7. Discussion

7.1 Comparison with Existing Methods

Traditional fraud detection methods in health insurance often rely on rule-based systems and statistical techniques. These methods can be effective but are limited by their inability to adapt to new fraud patterns and large volumes of data. In contrast, our integrated blockchain and machine learning approach provides enhanced accuracy and scalability. Blockchain ensures data security and transparency, while machine learning models adapt to evolving fraud patterns, offering a more robust solution [6][7][8].

Table 5: Comparison of Detection Rates

Method	Detection Rate (%)	False Positive Rate (%)
Rule-based Systems	70	15
Statistical Techniques	75	12
Proposed Approach	95	5

7.3 Limitations and Challenges

Despite its advantages, the proposed approach faces several limitations and challenges:

1. **Implementation Complexity:** Integrating blockchain with machine learning requires significant technical expertise and resources.
14. **Data Privacy Concerns:** While blockchain ensures data integrity, there are concerns about data privacy and the potential for misuse of sensitive information.
15. **Scalability Issues:** Although the system is designed to be scalable, the performance of the blockchain network can be affected by high transaction volumes.
16. **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensuring the system complies with various healthcare regulations and standards is a significant challenge.

7.4 Potential Improvements and Future Work

Future research could focus on the following areas to enhance the proposed system:

7.2 Advantages of the Proposed Approach

The proposed approach offers several advantages:

1. **Enhanced Security:** Blockchain provides a tamper-proof ledger, ensuring the integrity and transparency of health insurance claims data.
11. **Improved Accuracy:** Machine learning models can detect complex fraud patterns, significantly improving detection rates compared to traditional methods.
12. **Scalability:** The system can handle large volumes of transactions efficiently, making it suitable for real-world applications.
13. **Automation:** Smart contracts automate the claims processing and fraud detection, reducing the need for manual intervention and minimizing human error.

1. **Advanced Machine Learning Models:** Exploring advanced models such as deep learning and reinforcement learning could further improve fraud detection accuracy.
17. **Hybrid Blockchain Models:** Combining public and private blockchains could address scalability and privacy concerns.
18. **Real-time Processing:** Developing real-time processing capabilities to detect and prevent fraud instantaneously.
19. **Regulatory Framework:** Establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure compliance with healthcare standards and protect patient privacy.

The integrated blockchain and machine learning system presents a promising solution for fraud detection in health insurance claims. By leveraging the strengths of both technologies, the system achieves high accuracy, security, and scalability, making it suitable for real-world applications. However, addressing the identified limitations and exploring potential improvements will be crucial for the system's successful implementation and widespread adoption.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Summary of Findings

This study successfully demonstrates the integration of blockchain technology with machine learning to enhance fraud detection in health insurance claims management. The blockchain framework ensures the security, transparency, and integrity of data, while machine learning models accurately detect fraudulent claims. The experimental results indicate that the integrated system achieves high accuracy and low false-positive rates, significantly improving upon traditional methods [6][7][8].

8.2 Implications for Practice

The practical implications of this research are substantial:

- 1. Improved Fraud Detection:** The integrated system provides a robust solution for identifying fraudulent health insurance claims, reducing financial losses.
- 20. Enhanced Data Security:** Blockchain ensures all transactions are secure and transparent, fostering trust among stakeholders.
- 21. Operational Efficiency:** Automation via smart contracts and machine learning models reduces manual intervention, streamlining claim processing operations.

8.3 Recommendations for Future Research

Future research can focus on several areas to enhance the proposed system:

- 1. Advanced Machine Learning Techniques:** Investigate the application of advanced techniques such as deep learning and ensemble methods to further improve fraud detection accuracy.
- 22. Scalability Solutions:** Develop hybrid blockchain models that combine public and private blockchains to address scalability and privacy concerns.
- 23. Real-time Fraud Detection:** Implement real-time processing capabilities to enable immediate fraud detection and prevention.
- 24. Regulatory Compliance:** Establish a comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure system compliance with healthcare standards and protect patient privacy.

Integrating blockchain technology with machine learning provides a powerful approach to detecting fraud in health insurance claims management. This system enhances the accuracy and reliability of fraud detection while ensuring data security and transparency. Addressing identified

challenges and exploring recommended future research directions will be crucial for the successful implementation and widespread adoption of this technology in the healthcare industry.

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