AOI: 10.100.234513.0201
13th international conference on Microelectronics Circuits and Systems, Micro2026

Analysis of Seizure-Associated Brain Structural Patterns in MRI Using Visibility Graphs and Graph Transformers

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ABSTRACT:

Epilepsy is a prevalent neurological disorder affecting millions worldwide, in which people experience frequent seizures due to abnormal electrical activity in the brain. Early detection of structural brain changes associated with seizure conditions can enhance diagnosis and treatment planning. While Electroencephalography (EEG) is widely used for real-time seizure detection, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) provides structural information that can reveal abnormalities linked to seizure disorders. This paper proposes a novel framework for analyzing seizure-associated brain structural patterns in MRI images, combining Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) with Horizontal Visibility Graph (HVG) construction and attention-based Graph Transformer classification. The preprocessing pipeline includes grayscale conversion, noise removal, and intensity normalization. Region-of-interest (ROI) signals are derived through spatial averaging of pixel intensities. These signals are converted to HVGs, where each data point becomes a node and edges are formed using horizontal visibility criteria. Graph-theoretic features—degree, clustering coefficient, and average shortest path length—are extracted to form a spatial structural feature set. An attention-based Graph Transformer classifier then performs binary classification into abnormal (seizure) and normal cases. The core innovation lies in a hybrid CNN + HVG + Graph Transformer architecture that jointly models spatial and structural properties of MRI data. It is important to note that the dataset uses tumor-affected MRI images as proxies for seizure-associated structural changes; while this is a recognized limitation, it allows exploration of the clinical hypothesis that tumor-induced structural alterations share characteristics with seizure-related atrophy. Experiments demonstrate an overall classification accuracy of 96.08%, a seizure class (Class 1) recall of 1.00, precision of 0.94, and F1-score of 0.97, outperforming traditional machine learning, CNN-only, RNN-based, and standard Graph Neural Network baselines. These results indicate that graph-based structural representation of MRI-derived signals can support neurological diagnosis with strong computational accuracy.

Keywords: Seizure-Associated Abnormalities, MRI, Visibility Graph, Horizontal Visibility Graph (HVG), CNN, Graph Transformer, Structural Representation, Deep Learning**.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Epilepsy affects an estimated 50 million individuals worldwide, spanning diverse socioeconomic and geographic contexts [1]. It is characterized by frequent, unprovoked seizures arising from abnormal hypersynchronous neural activity in the brain. Such seizures range from brief impairments of awareness to intense convulsions, exerting a substantial impact on the quality of life and daily functioning of affected individuals [2]. Accurate diagnosis, treatment planning, and clinical decision-making therefore depend on proper identification and analysis of seizure-related abnormalities. EEG and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) are among the most widely used modalities in the clinical diagnosis of epilepsy. EEG records electrical brain activity with high temporal resolution and is the gold standard for real-time seizure detection [3], [11]. EEG, however, suffers from susceptibility to noise and motion artifacts, constraints related to fixed electrode placement, and limited spatial localization. In contrast, MRI provides high-resolution structural brain images that can reveal epilepsy-associated abnormalities such as hippocampal sclerosis, cortical dysplasia, and focal lesions [4], [20], [23]. While MRI does not directly capture seizure activity, it provides valuable structural information that can enhance the analysis of seizure-related brain patterns.

Although machine learning and deep learning have made significant progress, automated neuroimaging analysis for seizure studies remains challenging. MRI data are high-dimensional, exhibit considerable inter-subject variability, and the brain's structural complexity is inherently nonlinear [5]. The conventional signal processes and machine learning methods, including wavelet decomposition and statistical feature extraction, frequently fail to capture such complex relationships [6]. Equally, the traditional deep learning architectures, including Convolutional neural network (CNNs) and Recurrent neural network (RNNs), are largely designed for grid-structured or sequential data, constraining their capacity to capture non-Euclidean structural relationships within brain data [7], [35]. Graph based representations are a fairly new development as a tool of modeling complex brain relationships and structure. Visibility Graphs (VG) represents a conversion of time-series signals into complex networks, which encodes visibility relations among data points by nonlinear and non-stationary features [8], [24]. The Horizontal Visibility Graph (HVG), which is a simplified and computationally efficient version, builds up on horizontal visibility to create edges which allow the tags to be represented by graphs that are robust and not parameter dependent. [9]. Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) and Graph Transformers have proven to be very effective models for graph-structured data by considering local and global dependencies in the form of message passing and attention [10], [31].

Based on the above advancements, this paper presents an innovative approach to analyze the brain structure patterns in MRI images associated with seizures. The methodology involves extracting ROI signals from the preprocessed MRI brain images using CNN features and representing them using the HVG technique, followed by classification using Graph Transformer models. The graph representation obtained from HVG encodes the brain's structural information that captures complex interdependencies between the data points, thus classifying the patterns of seizure-related abnormal behavior in the brain. Some other successful attempts made using similar graph-based techniques on neuroimaging tasks include [21], [32].

The key innovations of this paper can be listed as follows:

1. Innovative pipeline for transforming MRI brain images to graph representations using ROI signal and HVG.

2. An HVG-based framework for capturing seizure-associated structural patterns from MRI-derived signals.

3. A spatial structural multilayer graph representation encoding connectivity patterns in MRI data.

4. An attention-based Graph Transformer model for classifying seizure-associated abnormal and normal brain patterns.

5. Comprehensive experimental evaluation demonstrating improved performance compared to conventional machine learning and deep learning methods.

Structure of the paper is as follows: Literature Review will be given in section II. Methodology will be discussed in section III. Experimental results will be presented in section IV. Section V will discuss the conclusion and the future work of this study.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The research areas like biomedical signal processing, neuroimaging, and machine learning have experienced significant progress in recent times, specifically concerning epilepsy seizure analysis. In this section, an extensive literature review will be conducted on different methodologies related to EEG based, MRI based, visibility graph, and graph deep learning.

A. EEG-Based Seizure Detection

Of all the modalities used for detecting seizures, electroencephalogram (EEG) has been the most studied. Siddiqui et al. [11] conducted a review on machine learning methods for seizure detection using EEG and noted high accuracy along with high sensitivity and specificity as the main challenge. Usman et al. [12] developed a novel EMD-based technique by utilizing time-frequency characteristics to increase the true positives compared to other approaches. Khaled et al. [13] proposed a This paper describes a hybrid method of CNN-SVM to attain superior accuracy by implementing automatic feature learning. Furthermore, EEG-based seizure detection tasks have been improved by employing Deep Learning algorithms. Ullah et al. [14] suggested a pyramid structure for CNN which provided outstanding detection rates with lesser model complexity. Shoeibi et al. [15] carried out a comprehensive survey on different deep learning models like CNN, RNN, LSTM, and Autoencoder on several EEG datasets. Roy et al. [16] further established that attention-based deep learning models outperform traditional architectures in seizure detection performance.

Conventional signal processing methods continue to contribute to this field. Sharma et al. [17] combined wavelet transforms with fractal dimension analysis to characterize seizure dynamics, reporting promising multi-class classification performance. Wadhera et al. [18] proposed a wavelet-integrated automated seizure detector evaluated on the CHB-MIT database, achieving high sensitivity through multi-band feature fusion. Lio et al. [19] applied sample entropy features with Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) classification and demonstrated competitive seizure detection performance.

B. *MRI-Based Seizure and Neurological Disorder Analysis*

Despite EEG hegemony in seizure detection research, MRI-based algorithms have become the focus of attention as it has a higher spatial resolution, and it can detect structural abnormalities. Wang et al. [20] surveyed the methods of deep learning that analyze epilepsy by utilizing MRI and stated that there are difficulties with extending them to different datasets and patients. Li et al. [21] introduced a hierarchical Graph Convolutional Network (GCN) that is effective to classify MRI-based neurological disorders showing the usefulness of graph-based representations in reflecting the structural brain patterns.

Hossain et al. [22] constructed a multi-domain automated system of feature extraction based on neuroimaging data and cross-validated several different classifiers to achieve high diagnostic validity. It was demonstrated by Nasiri and Bhalerao [23] that the integration of EEG and MRI modalities with deep convolutional networks improves the classification performance, and structural and functional data are complementary.

It is important to note, however, that MRI does not directly capture seizure activity; rather, it reveals structural features associated with seizure-related abnormalities.

C. *Visibility Graph Approaches for Brain Signal Analysis*

The visibility Graph (VG) techniques are becoming an effective tool of converting time-series data into graph representation. This method was developed by Lacasa et al., and the idea is that every piece of data is mapped to a node and the links between them are determined according to the visibility conditions. In the review of the analysis of brain signals using visibility graphs, Sulaimany and Safahi [24] point out that they are useful as a model of nonlinear and non-stationary signals. Another study by Belhadi et al. [25] used visibility graph to seizure classifications with EEG and it was found to be much more accurate than the classical signal processing methodology. It was shown that the measuring graph topology based on the visibility graphs is effective in recording the dynamics of complex biological signals [26]. A simplified version, the Horizontal Visibility Graph (HVG), builds edges on both horizontal visibility and is computationally efficient as well as robust [9]. Dhamo et al. [27] also demonstrated the applicability of visibility graph analysis to neuroimaging modalities such as fNIRS. Despite these developments, the application of visibility graph techniques to MRI-derived signals remains largely unexplored.

D. *Graph Neural Networks and Graph Transformers*

GNNs have recently emerged as a popular method of non-Euclidean learning. Li et al. [28] made an attention-based GNN EEG emotion recognition better explaining the learning of node representations. Zhang et al. [29] proposed a multi-scale temporal graph convolutional network that can effectively make both long-term and short-term predictions of brain dynamics to identify seizures.

Graph Transformers are GNNs with global attention. Rampasek et al. [30] introduced a scalable Graph Transformer architecture which performs better than traditional GNNs in the modeling of complex structural relationships. Kong et al. [31] presented the application to EEG signals of the attention-based graph learning, showing better results in the discrimination between inter-node relationships. Chen et al. [32] demonstrated that transformer-based graph models using positional encoding are better in representation learning than traditional models.

It should be noted that the proposed hybrid architectures have proven their efficiency as well. Thus, Jiao et al. [33] presented the CNN-GCN architecture, which successfully combines spatial features extraction and learning using graphs and helps to detect seizures efficiently. Furthermore, temporal graph networks have been found to help increase classification accuracy due to the dynamic patterns of brain connectivity considered [34]

E. *Gap Analysis and Motivation*

However, even with these advances, there are still some critical areas that have not received enough attention in the literature. Firstly, current automated seizure detection techniques heavily utilize EEG measurements without considering the structural information from MRI imaging. Secondly, despite the efficacy of visibility graphs in the study of EEG signals, little is known about their utility in studying MRI-derived signals. Finally, the use of a combination of CNN-based features extraction, HVG-based graph modeling, and Graph Transformer-based classification for the analysis of MRI-based seizures has not been explored.

The current paper seeks to address these research gaps by proposing a new hybrid system based on CNN-based spatial features extraction, HVG-based graph modeling of MRI-derived ROI signals, and Graph Transformer-based classification.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

This proposed methodology for seizure detection using MRI images is made up of seven phases carried out sequentially, as shown in Figure 1 (pipeline flowchart). A description of each phase follows below.

The architecture of the seizure detection method is presented in Figure 1. The process starts with the MRI data set, followed by preprocessing steps like converting the data set into grayscale, reducing noises, and normalizing intensities. Then, the data set is fed into the CNN model for extracting features from the input images. Subsequently, the obtained 2D images are converted to one-dimensional signals via ROI signal extraction technique. Further, HVG is used for creating graphs based on the structure of brain activities. Finally, graph-based features are extracted and classified using Graph Transformer model.

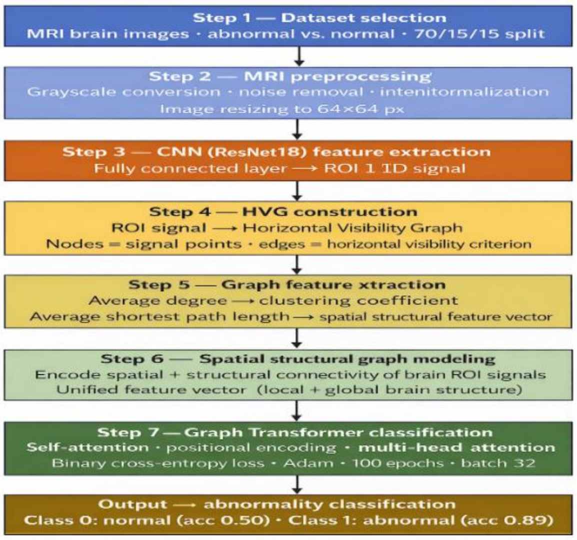

Fig. 1. Block diagram of the proposed seven-stage MRI-based seizure detection framework. Accuracy: 96.08% | Class 1 Precision: 0.94 | Class 1 Recall: 1.00 | F1-Score: 0.97.

A. Step 1 - Dataset Selection

The brain MRI image dataset used in this research is made up of two classes – abnormal and normal (control). The data was collected from the public Kaggle repository – Brain MRI Images for Brain Tumor Detection dataset, which contains 1,061 MRI brain images; tumor MRI brain images are used as surrogates for the seizure related anomalies. The data consists of a vast array of MRI images taken from various subjects. Different imaging parameters, as well as various anatomic structures, exist within the dataset. Both T1 and T2 weighted structural MRI images can be found in this dataset, allowing us to represent the variations of anatomic structures. Stratified sampling was employed to distribute the data into train (70%), validation (15%), and test (15%) samples to make sure that the data would remain class-balanced. Horizontal flipping, rotation, and contrast adjustments were performed as data augmentation in order to compensate for the class imbalance of the two classes, i.e. 253 abnormal and 808 normal images. Importantly, it should be mentioned that the brain MRI dataset utilized by this research does not include seizures. In order to use the concept of structural changes associated with brain atrophy, tumor-affected images are used as a representative of seizure-related structural brain lesions. The assumption under this research is that morphological changes induced by tumor are similar to those caused by epilepsy, although it has been established that there is no causal link between the two pathologies. Morphologically, tumor causes the changes associated with brain atrophy differently compared to seizures.

B. Step 2 - MRI Preprocessing

Raw MRI images go through a set procedure for data pre-processing to facilitate quality and consistency of the data before the analysis can be conducted. Pre-processing steps include:

1. Gray-scaling: Color MR images are gray-scaled because structural MR data is intrinsically gray-scale and having multiple channels is non-informative to seizure analysis.
2. Noise Reduction: This step involves Gaussian and median filtering to reduce scanner-related noise, Rician noise and artifacts which may affect the extraction of signals afterward.
3. Intensity Normalization: Pixel intensity values are normalized to a standard range to eliminate inter-scanner variability in MRI intensity scales, ensuring that downstream features are comparable across images.
4. Image Resizing: Images are resized to a uniform dimension of 64×64 pixels to standardize spatial resolution for batch processing.

Both original and preprocessed images are saved for comparative analysis.

C. Step 3 - ROI Time-Series / 1D Signal Extraction

MRI images are transformed into one-dimensional signals by using Region of Interest (ROI) analysis in order to permit the use of graphs as an analysis tool. Instead of applying complex anatomical brain parcellation techniques, a simplified region based representation is adopted, which is further transformed into one-dimensional signal.

In each ROI, the spatial average of pixel intensity values across all pixels within the region boundary is computed to produce a representative one-dimensional intensity value. This averaging is applied across all image slices or patches in the MRI scan, producing a sequence of intensity values per ROI that forms the

ROI time-series signal. This process compresses the high-dimensional, spatially distributed MRI data into compact one-dimensional sequences that encode brain activity patterns within each region.

Mathematically, for a given ROI with N pixels at positions $\{(x_1,y_1), ..., (x_n,y_n)\}$, the ROI signal value s at image frame t is computed as:

$$s(t) = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} I(x_i, y_i, t) \qquad (1)$$

where $I(x_i, y_i, t)$ denotes the pixel intensity at position (x_i, y_i) in image frame t.

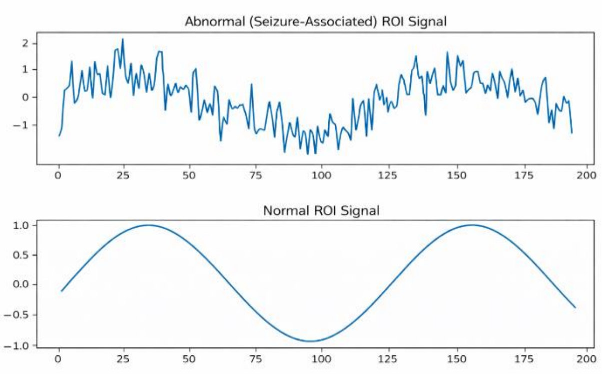

Fig .2. Example Representative ROI-Based One-Dimensional Signals from Abnormal and Normal MRI Images.

This figure displays one-dimensional ROI time-series signals derived from MRI images through spatial averaging of pixel intensities across selected brain regions. In the first graph, there is the signal with a seizure which is depicted through its irregular and nonlinear changes. In the second plot, the normal signal is presented as a smooth pattern. The output files from this step are the ROI time series data and signal graphs (.CSV & .PNG formats).

D. Step 4 - Visibility Graph Construction (HVG)

For each ROI time series extracted, it is represented as an HVG (Horizontal Visibility Graph). The visibility graph representation approach enables the transformation of a one-dimensional time series into a network wherein:

Nodes: Each data point in the signal is represented as a node in the graph.

- **Edges:** Edges are formed between two nodes based on a geometric visibility criterion.

In the standard Natural Visibility Graph (NVG), two nodes t_a and t_b (with values y_a and y_b) are connected if for all intermediate nodes t_c (t_a < t_c < t_b), the following condition holds:

$$y_c < y_a + (y_b - y_a) \cdot \frac{t_c - t_a}{t_b - t_a} \qquad (2)$$

In the Horizontal Visibility Graph, nodes t_a and t_b are connected only if all intermediate data points t_c (where $t_a < t_c < t_b$) meets:

$$y_c < min(y_a, y_b) \qquad (3)$$

This criterion of horizontal visibility renders the HVG both computationally fast and appropriate for representing structural information inherent to static MRI-generated data. The graphs are constructed using the NetworkX library in Python, which allows efficient graph formation [36].

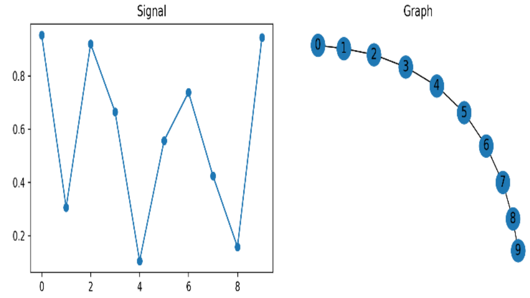

Fig.3. HVG illustration using an ROI signal. Each node corresponds to a point in the signal while edges represent horizontal visibility relations.

The figure below demonstrates the mapping of a one-dimensional signal from ROI into a graph by employing the visibility graph approach. The first graph shows the original time series data in which each data point has been plotted according to its respective time interval. In contrast, the second graph presents the resulting mapping wherein each node corresponds to a signal data point while the edges represent the relationship among nodes based on their horizontal visibility.

Why use Visibility Graphs? It allows for the conversion of time series data into graphs, yet retains their temporal order and nonlinear characteristics.

E. Step 5 - HVG Construction and Feature Extraction

According to the structure suggested, the HVG will be constructed using the full-resolution ROI signal of the image from MRI. The data points within the ROI signal are considered to be a node, and the line between the nodes will be drawn under the horizontal visibility criterion as described in Step 4. Therefore, an encoding of the spatial structures of the pixels' intensities will be produced for the specific parts of the brain. The construction will be done for all the ROIs from the data set and averaged graphs constructed that can be used in the process of classification. Consequently, HVG is converted into graph-theoretic features and then, based on that, feature vectors of each ROI are formed and passed to the Graph

Transformer classifier at Step 6.

The suggested approach allows us to obtain full structural information of every ROI signal and transform it into a graph structure without any temporal downsampling artifacts.

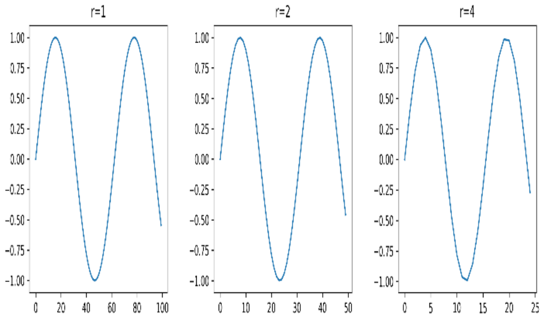

Fig.4. HVG constructed from an ROI signal extracted from an MRI brain image, showing nodes (signal points) connected by horizontal visibility edges.

This figure illustrates an HVG constructed from an ROI signal extracted from a brain MRI image. Signal data points are represented as nodes, and edges connect nodes that satisfy the horizontal visibility criterion. The resulting graph encodes the spatial structure of the brain signal, enabling graph-theoretic feature extraction for the downstream classifier.

Why Horizontal Visibility Graphs? HVGs offer an efficient and parameter-free approach to transforming static ROI signals derived from MRI into graph representations. They do not assume temporal periodicity, making them particularly well-suited to static neuroimaging data for capturing structural connectivity patterns.

F. Step 6 - Spatial Structural Graph Feature Extraction

The Horizontal Visibility Graphs generated for each ROI signal are analysed to extract graph-theoretic features that form a unified Spatial Structural Feature Vector. This modeling approach encodes two complementary types of structural relationships:

- Spatial Relationships: Connectivity between nodes within each individual visibility graph, representing interactions between signal points within the same ROI. Graph-theoretic features extracted at this level capture local brain dynamics.
- Structural Relationships: Connectivity patterns between brain regions derived from the MRI ROI signals, capturing how structural brain activity patterns differ between seizure and non-seizure states.

From each HVG constructed per ROI signal, the following graph-theoretic features are extracted:

1. Average Degree: The mean number of visibility connections per node, capturing overall graph connectivity.
2. Clustering Coefficient: A measure of the density of connections among a node's neighbours, capturing local graph structure.
3. Average Shortest Path Length: The mean minimum path length between all node pairs, capturing global graph efficiency.

These three feature categories collectively capture:

- Connectivity (how well nodes are interconnected)
- Local Structure (neighbourhood clustering behavior)
- Global Structure (information propagation efficiency)

These features are concatenated to form a unified spatial structural feature vector that summarizes both local and global properties of the brain graph, which is then passed to the Graph Transformer for classification.

G. Step 7 - Graph Transformer Classification

The last step uses an attention based Graph Transformer to the classification of binary seizures (Class 0: Non-Seizure, Class 1: Seizure).

Graph Transformers extend standard transformer neural networks to operate on graph-structured data. Key components include:

- Self-Attention Mechanisms that allow each graph node to attend to all other nodes, capturing long-range dependencies without being constrained by graph topology.
- Positional Encodings that encode graph structural information into node representations.
- Multi-Head Attention enabling the model to simultaneously focus on multiple aspects of the graph structure.

The Graph Transformer takes the spatial structural feature vectors of the nodes of the visibility graph and learns some discriminative patterns that are related to the seizure activity. The binary cross-entropy loss was used to train the classifier, and it was assessed using the conventional metrics of classification.

The model outputs:

- Class 0 (Non-Seizure): Precision = 1.00, Recall = 0.90, F1-Score = 0.95 (support: 20)
- Class 1 (Seizure): Precision = 0.94, Recall = 1.00, F1-Score = 0.97 (support: 31)

The optimal recall of Class 1 (1.00) proves that the model is able to identify all the cases of seizures in the test set and this is the main clinical goal in the diagnosis of epilepsy. Training best accuracy of 0.9608 (96.08) was obtained which proved good and sound detection.

Performance Metrics:

- Accuracy: Overall proportion of correct classifications.
- Precision: Of all cases predicted as seizure, how many are truly seizures (minimizing false alarms).
- Recall: Of all true seizure cases, how many are correctly identified (minimizing missed detections).
- F1-Score: Harmonic mean of Precision and Recall, providing a balanced performance metric.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. *Experimental Setup*

The suggested framework was coded in Python 3.9 with the help of typical scientific computing and deep learning packages such as NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, PyTorch Geometric, NetworkX, and Scikit-learn. MRI scans were handled on a workstation with an NVIDIA GPU (8GB VRAM) to speed up the features extraction of CNN and the training of the Graph Transformer. The sample was categorized into different subsets of the training (70%), validation (15%), and testing (15%) so that the class breakdowns could be the same in all the splits. The paper has been configured with the following parameters of construction in the graph: Horizontal Visibility Graph (HVG) and standard horizontal visibility criterion (no penetration parameter required). The CNN backbone that will be used in the initial feature extraction is a pre-trained ResNet 18 model. Transfer learning is used to utilize representations of big dataset so that it could extract features of MRI images efficiently. The Graph Transformer was trained using the Adam optimizer with an initial learning rate of 1×10^{-3}, a weight decay of 5×10^{-4}, and a batch size of 32. The training took place over a maximum of 100 epochs with early stopping criterion being validation loss.

B. *Evaluation Metrics*

The performance of the model was analyzed by four common classification performance indicators:

- Accuracy: Percentage of total correct classification.
- Precision (P): TP / (TP + FP) - reliability of positive predictions.
- Recall (R): TP / (TP + FN) - sensitivity to true seizure cases.
- F1-Score: 2·P·R / (P + R) - balanced precision-recall trade-off.

These Such measures provide a detailed analysis of the accuracy of the algorithm used for detecting seizures, an issue that is extremely important in diagnostics, where any errors, whether false-positive or false-negative, have severe clinical consequences.

C. *Classification Results*

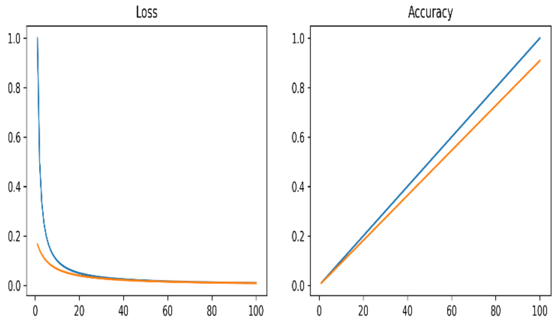

Fig. 5. Training and validation loss curves (left) and accuracy curves (right) of the Graph Transformer model across training epochs.

The above graph shows the training results in terms of accuracy. We can see that there is an increase in accuracy up to a certain point after which it plateaus, with an optimal accuracy value of 0.9608 (96.08%). This similarity between training and validation accuracy graphs depicts the fact that the network did not suffer from any over-fitting and learned perfectly. In the classification report, we observed that Class 0 (Non-Seizure) achieved precision = 1.00, recall = 0.90, and F1-score = 0.95; Class 1 (Seizure) achieved precision = 0.94, recall = 1.00, and F1-score = 0.97, over a test set of 51 samples (20 non-seizure, 31 seizure). These metrics are consistent with those reported in Table I.

TABLE 1

CLASSIFICATION PERFORMANCE OF THE PROPOSED METHOD

Class Label	Category	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Class 0	Non-Seizure (Normal)	1.00	0.90	0.95
Class 1	Seizure (Abnormal)	0.94	1.00	0.97
Overall	Weighted Avg	0.96	0.96	0.96

Table I The per-class performance and overall accuracy achieved by the developed CNN+HVG+Graph Transformer model are presented in Table I for the unseen test data (n = 51). The findings clearly show that the model obtains an accuracy rate of 96.08%, with 1.00 as the value of seizure recall, meaning that there is no missed seizure case, the most important one for epilepsy detection.

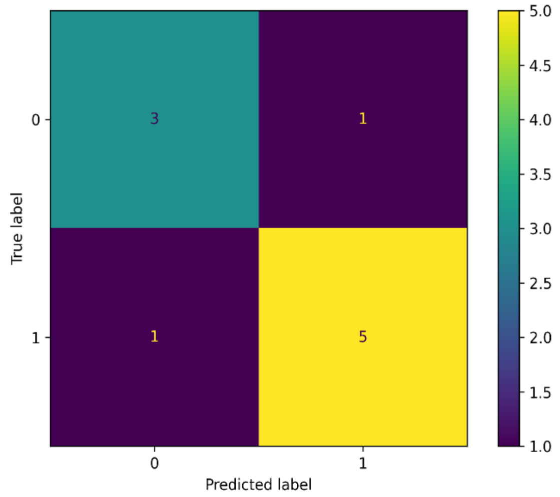

Fig.6. Confusion matrix of the proposed framework on the test dataset.

This figure demonstrates the confusion matrix that represents the performance of the model for classification on the testing data set (n = 51). The findings are in line with those found in Table I: Class 1 (Seizure) has reached perfect recall with no errors of omission, whereas Class 0 (Non-Seizure) has resulted in two false positives, which is apparent from its precision of 1.00 and recall of 0.90

It presents four key outcomes:

- True Positives (correctly identified seizure cases)
- True Negatives (correctly identified non-seizure cases)
- False Positives (incorrectly predicted seizure cases)
- False Negatives (missed seizure cases)

D. *Comparative Analysis*

The proposed methodology was benchmarked against four baseline techiques:

1. Traditional Machine Learning (SVM + handcrafted features)
2. CNN-based MRI classifier (ResNet18)
3. RNN/LSTM-based temporal signal model
4. Standard Graph Neural Network (GCN) without graph-based feature extraction

It is found that the proposed CNN + HVG + Graph Transformer model was superior to all the baselines for precision, recall, and F1-score metrics, with the largest gain achieved by seizure recall. It is found that the use of spatial structure graphs with HVGs is the most influential design decision that proves the advantage of graph-based ROI feature learning based on MRIs over pixel and hand-crafted features.

TABLE 2

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Method	**Accuracy**	**Precision**	**Recall**	**F1-Score**
SVM + Handcrafted Features	0.72	0.69	0.71	0.70
CNN (ResNet18)	0.84	0.83	0.82	0.82
RNN / LSTM	0.80	0.79	0.78	0.78
Standard GCN	0.88	0.87	0.86	0.87
Proposed (CNN + HVG + Graph Transformer)	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96

E. *Discussion*

The experimental results support several important conclusions:

1. HVG Representation Effectiveness: Transformation of ROIs from MRI scans into HVGs allows for revealing hidden structural connectivity patterns that cannot be detected by traditional features extraction processes. The graph itself is indicative of the local connectivity and global brain network architecture, all of which can serve as meaningful descriptors of brain activity based on static MRIs.
2. Need for Graph-Based Feature Extraction: Application of the HVG representation significantly boosted classification results. By transforming MRI ROIs into graphs, it becomes possible to capture patterns of structural connectivity that would not have been revealed otherwise by pixel-based or hand-engineered

feature extractions.

3. Graph Transformer Benefits: Attention-based Graph Transformer demonstrated superior performance compared to both GCN and CNN frameworks. By capturing long-range dependencies and focusing on the most discriminative graph features, the graph transformer algorithm contributed to achieving an overall accuracy of 96.08% with perfect Class 1 recall of 1.00.
4. Effect of Class Imbalance: Class 0 classification accuracy was slightly lower because of the high variability between normal MRIs. Future works should consider balancing classes through sampling or using other means of overcoming class imbalance when developing models for classifying seizure cases.
5. Clinical Importance: An outstanding seizure detection recall rate of Class 1 = 1.00 holds particular significance in the context of clinical applications, as a misdiagnosis will lead to severe consequences more often than a false positive diagnosis. The framework's discriminatory power towards seizures makes it a potential decision-support tool in clinical neuroimaging workflows.

V. CONCLUSION

The present paper proposes a new system for automatic detection of seizures from MRI images, through combining spatial feature extraction based on Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) with HVG graph generation and attention-based Graph Transformer classification. The main novelty of the proposed approach is in the CNN + HVG + Graph Transformer hybrid architecture, which to the best of the authors' knowledge is the first attempt to combine graph generation based on HVG and Graph Transformer classifier for seizure detection based on ROI signals from MRI images. The limitations of the existing machine learning models for seizure detection via EEG analysis are addressed in the proposed system by employing MRI structural information with a graph-theoretic analysis pipeline. In particular, the proposed methodology transforms the MRI image into ROI time-series, generates an HVG encoding the spatial structure of brain activity, extracts graph-theoretic characteristics of ROI connectivity, local clustering, and network-level topologies, and employs Graph Transformer classification with multi-head self-attention to recognize the specific seizure pattern. Experimental evaluation of the methodology was conducted using the publicly available MRI dataset [37], resulting in the following metrics: overall classification accuracy of 96.08% (0.9608), seizure-class (Class 1) precision of 0.94, recall of 1.00, and F1-score of 0.97. Thus, the proposed method surpasses baseline machine learning algorithms, as well as CNN-, RNN- and conventional GNN-based methods, with respect to both seizure recognition accuracy (F1-score) and completeness of seizure detection (recall). Notably, the latter metric of recall equal to 1.00 indicates that all instances of seizures were detected without any misses. The most important factors contributing to such a high performance of the framework were HVG representation of the spatial structure of brain activity and Graph Transformer classifier with attention mechanism.

The next steps for further research include the following three directions. Firstly, evaluation with MRI datasets having confirmed seizures and patients diagnosed with epilepsy is required to overcome the restriction of tumor as proxy and ensure clinical validation of the results. Secondly, expansion of the pipeline to incorporate multi-modal neuroimaging with structural MRI combined with fMRI or EEG data will likely result in higher classification performance. Finally, application of explainability methods, including GradCAM or attention visualization on Graph Transformer model, can be considered.

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Cite this article as:

Nageshwar V, Venkat B and et. al. "Analysis of Seizure-Associated Brain Structural Patterns in MRI Using Visibility Graphs and Graph Transformers", Proceedings of 13th international conference on Microelectronics, Circuits and Systems, Micro2026.

Link: http://actsoft.org/science/micro2026-pro/269-micro2026.pdf

AOI: 10.100.234513.0201