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Author: Desbordes Paul Ruan Su Modzelewski Romain

Vauclin Sébastien Vera Pierre Gardin Isabelle

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Highlights :

- We propose a new feature selection strategy in two steps called GARF (Genetic Algorithm based on Random Forest) to select the most relevant subset of features from a large amount of characteristics extracted from positron emission tomography images and clinical data.
- A genetic algorithm is used to perform this selection according to a new multiparametric fitness function depending on a random forest misclassification rate, areas under receiver operating characteristic curves and a sparsity constraint.
- Experimental results show that excellent performances are obtained by our feature selection strategy compared to those obtained by 3 other methods.

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