

# Cognitive Computing in Mental Healthcare: a Review of Methods and Technologies for Detection of Mental Disorders

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#### Abstract

Mental disorders are closely related to deficits in cognitive control. Such cognitive impairments may result in aberrations in mood, thinking, work, body functions, emotions, social engagements and general behaviour. Mental disorders may affect the phenotypic behaviour like eye movements, facial expressions and speech. Furthermore, a close association has been observed within mental disorders and physiological responses emanating from the brain, muscles, heart, eyes, skin, etc. Mental disorders disrupt higher cognitive function, social cognition, control of complex behaviours and regulation of emotion. Cognitive computation may help understand such disruptions for improved decision-making with the help of computers. This study presents a systematic literature review to promulgate state of art computational methods and technologies facilitating automated detection of mental disorders. For this survey, the relevant literature between 2010 and 2021 has been studied. Recommendations of Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) model were adopted for identification, screening, validating and inclusion of research literature. The self-diagnosis tools for detection of mental disorders, inter-individual variability and impact of emotional state of an individual. Furthermore, there are no standard baselines for mental disorders. This situation mandates a multi-faceted approach which may utilise data from physiological signals, behavioural patterns and even data obtained from various online portals like social media to efficiently and effectively detect the prevalence, type and severity of mental disorders.

Keywords Mental disorder  $\cdot$  Machine learning  $\cdot$  Physiological signals  $\cdot$  Systematic literature review  $\cdot$  Modalities  $\cdot$  Mental health

#### Introduction

Cognitive computing promulgates the development of computer systems which can model human behaviours like perception, attention and thoughts. Cognitive computing systems can collect and process individual, social and healthcare data for better disease diagnosis and patient engagement. It offers a combination of multidisciplinary technologies like artificial intelligence, deep learning, machine learning, big data analytics and natural language processing systems to identify types and symptoms of a disease. A mental disorder is a medical condition that influences the normal behaviour of a person. A mental disorder

Jaiteg Singh Jaitegkhaira@gmail.com may impair the physical, emotional and social well-being of a person. Impairment to memory, attention and cognitive control is fundamental to any mental disorder. Furthermore, it may result in aberrations in mood, thinking, work, body functions, emotions, social engagements and general behaviour either once, recurrently or even permanently. Researchers have reported more than four hundred and fifty types of mental disorders with discrete symptoms. Few of the prominent mental disorders are depressive disorder, mood disorder, personality disorder, addictive disorder, sleep disorder, post-traumatic disorders, dementia, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia along with stress and anxiety disorders [1].

More than 10.7% of the world's population is suffering from aforementioned mental disorders, most prominent being depression and anxiety which add more than 548 million to the global burden of the diseases [2, 3]. The repercussions of mental disorders are diverse, including but not limited to low employee productivity, high suicide rates, early mortality, dangerous driving,

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early dropping out of education, poverty, disability, physical pain and being prone to other diseases like infections and cardiovascular diseases [4–9]. The prevalence of mental disorders also leads to loss of economic growth and places a burden on the economic well-being of the patient as well as the caregivers [10]. This makes early detection of mental disorders imperative not just for health but also for development. This has led to the inclusion of mental health as one of the targets in Goal 3 of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals [11]. Subsequently, research community has laid emphasis on early detection of mental disorders in order to deploy suitable therapeutic measures.

Clinical assessment methods for detecting mental disorders rely on patients' self-reporting and the expertise of the examiner. These methods lack precision due to social stigma, lack of knowledge, subjective bias of the examiner, time-intensive nature of the examination and lack of consistency [12]. To eliminate subjective bias and to reduce examination time, different rating scales for measuring mental disorders have been developed. These scales are used to measure the severity of the mental disorder as a function of perceived symptoms as inferred from the assessee [13-15]. However, the rating scales have some inherent limitations; they are inconsistent in handling the heterogeneous nature of mental disorders and results obtained from different scales are different. The rating scale cannot encompass all the symptoms associated with a particular disorder and they did not take into consideration the effects of examination environment, emotions and demographics in the rating scales [16].

This has led to exploration of novel detection techniques which could handle the heterogeneous nature of the mental disorders, eliminate subjective bias and include the effects of emotions along with demographics like age and gender on detection mechanism. As a result, mental disorder detection techniques based on machine learning and biomarkers have emerged. It is because human cognition is closely associated with the biological processes of an individual. The electrical activity of the nervous system controls almost every aspect of the human body including heart signals, sweat glands and even human cognition. Thus, any changes in human mental states like mood changes, emotional changes or mental disorders may greatly affect the activity of the brain, heart, skin, facial expressions, speech and even other biological

processes like respiration and temperature. Various research studies have shown that the activity and power of different EEG bands, inter-hemispheric symmetry and statistical features like peak, variance, entropy and energy are contrasting between healthy individuals and people suffering from mental disorders. For example, depressed persons have increased beta values in their brain waves as compared to healthy persons [17–22]. Similarly, there is a difference in statistical features of heart rate variability and other ECG characteristics like peak and median frequency of healthy and non-healthy individuals [23-28]. The skin conductance response and statistical characteristics of electrodermal activity are also different for healthy and non-healthy individuals [29-31]. Electromyography (EMG) is a procedure to measure muscle movements and motor neuron activity. It has been observed that mental stress may result in a different EMG activity in healthy and nonhealthy individuals [32-34]. Recent studies also investigated correlation between mental disorders and eye movements [35–38]. This has led to exploration of objective methodologies which aim to automatically decipher human cognition by machine learning with the help of biological signals of an individual. Table 1 highlights different cognitive tasks that are related to different biological processes.

Modalities like EEG, GSR, EMG, ECG, facial expressions, eye movements, online handwritten signals and speech can facilitate extraction of prominent features to be used as biomarkers. Such biomarkers could further be used for automatic detection of mental disorders using machine learning algorithms. In reference to the previously stated arguments, a systematic literature review is required to promulgate state of art research contributions in this domain. Furthermore, it may help contemporary researchers to investigate numerous multidisciplinary open research problems from the amalgamation of psychology, sociology, machine learning, computer science and behavioural sciences. The following research questions were formulated to attain the goal of this study:

1. Which physiological and behavioural modalities can facilitate the detection of mental disorders using machine learning?

**Table 1** Relation of humancognitive tasks with biologicalprocesses

Ref	Cognitive aspect	Biolog	gical sig	gnal				
	measured	EEG	GSR	ECG	EMG	Online handwriting	Facial expression	Speech
[39–44]	Depression	~	~	~		✓	~	~
[32, 45–47]	Stress	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
[47-49]	Emotion recognition	$\checkmark$				$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
[50, 51]	Mood states	$\checkmark$				$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
[28, 52–54]	Bipolar disorder	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$				$\checkmark$
[28, 52–54]	Schizophrenia	$\checkmark$					$\checkmark$	✓

- 2. Which prominent features of these modalities can be used in detection of mental disorders using machine learning?
- 3. Which are the most suited machine learning algorithms to exploit these modalities for detecting mental disorders?
- 4. What are the prominent challenges in detection of mental disorders using biomarker modalities?

The rest of this manuscript is organised as follows: the "Survey Methodology" section elaborates the adopted methodology and the novelty of this survey in comparison to previously published literature, the "Different Approaches of Mental Disorder Detection" section provides a discussion on different modalities used to detect mental disorders, the "Discussion" section offers a summarisation of most prominent features and most suited machine learning algorithms to detect mental disorders using these modalities and the "Research Challenges" section concludes contemporary research gaps, key findings and research challenges.

#### Survey Methodology

This section elaborates the adopted methodology for conducting the systematic literature survey. For this survey, the relevant literature from 2010 to 2021 has been studied based on the previously stated research questions. Recommendations of Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) model were adopted for identification, screening, validating and inclusion of research literature as shown in Fig. 1 [55]. The articles were searched using keywords like detection + mental disorders, analysis + mental disorders, prediction + mental disorders, identification + mental disorders, modalities + mental disorders, machine learning + mental disorders, physiological signals + mental disorder and verbal and non-verbal behaviour, from databases like ScienceDirect, IEEEXplore, Springer-Link, ACM Digital Library, Taylor & Francis Online and Wiley Online Library. Pre-screening exclusion was done based on duplication and article language. Articles published in English language were only considered for screening. Screening and exclusion were based on the relevance to the survey as inferred from the title, abstract and conclusion of the article. Post-screening exclusion of articles was based on user-defined inclusion criteria like articles should have a minimum of five citations per year and should be published in 2010 or later.

Mendeley was used for aggregation, filtering and removal of articles to build a consolidated library of relevant research articles.

Numerous surveys on detection of mental disorders using physiological and behavioural patterns have been



Fig. 1 Survey methodology

published in recent past. During literature evaluation, it was observed that existing literature is primarily investigating one mental disorder based on a single modality. To the best of our knowledge, multiple physiological signals along with behavioural patterns for detection of mental disorders using machine learning techniques have not been explored to the desired extent. Table 2 offers a comparison of existing literature with this survey:

#### Different Approaches of Mental Disorder Detection

Physiological signals and human behaviour provide various biomarkers with respect to different mental states and disorders. These signals or behavioural aspects are called modalities. Data from these modalities can be used in the detection of mental disorders. Features from multiple modalities in collaboration with machine learning algorithms can be used to determine the prevalence, type and severity of mental disorders. A modality can be used either as unimodal or multimodal approach. Types and usage of unimodal and multimodal approaches are detailed as under:

Ref	Focus	Research questions	Inclusion/exclusion criteria	Conclusion	Challenges
[56]	To survey the impact of stress on physiological signals	Which physiological signals get affected due to stress?	No standard methodology has been reported by the authors	The effect of stress on different physiological signals and stress- inducing methods was concluded. Different research challenges were also mentioned	Finding appropriate set of physiological features and incorporating effects of social and emotional states of an individual was the primary challenges
[57]	To survey the use of various sensors for monitoring mental health using machine learning	Which are the various study types, sensing types and sensing durations involving machine learning on sensor data for mental health monitoring?	Articles were selected if they used data from sensors but the article does not mention any screening methodology	A detailed survey of various types of sensors which collect human data for the purpose of mental health monitoring. The types of machine learning models and future research opportunities were also discussed	Mapping data to mental states Intra-individual and inter- individual variability were the major challenges Consolidation of data from different sensors was also found to be crucial
[58]	A comprehensive survey on various features of EEG signals that provide biomarkers for detection of depression	Which are the most popular and most reliable features of EEG for detecting depression?	Kitchenham methodology was followed. However, only two databases were searched— PubMed and IEEE. Also, no screening procedure was discussed	A comprehensive survey on various features of EEG signals that provide biomarkers for detection of depression. The study identified six main categories of EEG features that can be used for detection of depression	Inconsistencies in experimental setups and limited availability of optimal sample size were found to be a major challenge. A significant impact of demographics was noticed on EEG signals. Lack of standard public EEG datasets of depressed persons is also a major challenge
[59]	A survey on EEG features which have been used with various machine learning algorithms for depression detection	What are the best features and algorithms to detect depression from EEG?	No standard methodology has been reported by the authors	A survey on EEG features which have been used with various machine learning algorithms for depression detection. The survey shows that EEG signals are reliable in detecting depression	Lack of standard public datasets is a major challenge. Also, environments used for recording of data were inconsistent
[60]	A survey on different modalities like MRI, retinal images, ECG signals and questionnaires	Which are the different machine learning approaches for detecting bipolar disorder?	No standard methodology has been reported by the authors	The survey was only oriented towards machine learning methodologies used for detecting bipolar disorder	Pre-processing of data is a time- consuming process and requires several stages. Also, finding the best {feature-algorithm} pair is a challenge
Current survey	To survey physiological signals and machine learning techniques for detecting mental disorders	Which are the prominent modalities, features and algorithms that can be used in detection of mental disorders?	PRISMA methodology has been followed	A comprehensive survey on use of EEG, ECG, EDA and EMG signals along with speech, facial expressions and eye movements in the field of mental disorder detection	Inconsistent experimental designs. Lack of publicly available standard data corpuses. Reliance of data on emotional and mental states Ethical challenges to data collection and usage

 Table 2
 Comparison of current survey with previous surveys

Ref	Focus of study	Summary
[61]	Schizophrenia	First major study in automatic detection of mental disorders using EEG signals. Used various features such as Shannon Entropy, approximate entropy, Lempel–Ziv Complexity and Higuchi Fractal dimensions to detect schizophrenia. Two classifiers—Linear Discriminant Analysis and AdaBoost—were used for data classification
[48]	Major depressive disorder, Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder	A study carried out to detect type of psychiatric disorder in which statistical features of EEG were extracted and a probabilistic approach based on mixture of factor analysis was used to classify the data into major depressive disorder, schizophrenic or bipolar disorder
[39]	Depression	Power of delta, theta, alpha and beta bands was used along with detrended fluctuation analysis, higuchi fractal, and correlation dimension and Lyapunov exponent to distinguish between EEGs of depressed and normal subjects. Multiple classification algorithms including Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA), Logistic Regression (LR) and K-nearest neighbour (KNN) were used
[21]	Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder	Power of EEG frequency bands along with coherence between electrode pairs of EEG collector was used to discriminate between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder
[62]	Major depressive disorder (MDD) and bipolar disorder	The study used coherence between alpha, theta and delta bands to distinguish between MDD and bipolar disorder using Support Vector Machine (SVM)
[63]	Depression	The power spectrum of delta, theta, alpha and beta bands of EEGs was used with deep learning- based feed-forward Artificial Neural Network (ANN) for automatic discrimination of depressed and healthy subjects
[64]	Depression	Delta, theta, alpha and beta bands along with other co-complexity, kolmogorov entropy and Lyapunov exponent were used with KNN, SVM, Naïve Bayes, Logistic Regression (LR) and Random Forest (RF). Facial expression images were used to elicit emotions while acquisition of EEG for detection of depression
[40]	Depression	Power of theta, alpha and beta bands and permutation entropy, approximate entropy, correlation dimension, co-complexity, kolmogorov entropy, Lyapunov exponent and Lempel–Ziv Complexity were used with KNN, SVM, LR, RF and Bayes Net classifiers. Facial expression images were used to elicit emotions in subjects
[65]	Depression	Centroid frequency and power of theta, alpha, beta and gamma bands along with centroid frequency and slope of signal, alpha asymmetries and other non-linear features were used with SVM, kNN, ANN and Deep Belief Network. Audio stimulus was used to elicit emotions in subjects
[66]	Depression	Power of frequency bands along with power, peak, centre frequency, etc. of the whole band, variance, correlation dimension, co-complexity and entropy were used with KNN, Decision Tree and SVM. EEG signals of positive, negative and neutral emotion subjects were classified separately
[67]	Depression	Asymmetry in alpha band along with power spectrum features of delta, theta, alpha and beta bands were used with LR, SVM or Naïve Bayes classifiers
[68]	Major depressive disorder	Asymmetries in delta, theta, alpha and beta bands, and relative wavelet energy and wavelet entropy have been used with classifiers like LDA and Quadratic Discriminant Analysis (QDA), Multi-Layer Perceptron Neural Network and Radial Basis Function Network
[ <mark>69</mark> ]	Depression	Power of alpha band and asymmetry in theta frequency band were used with SVM, LR, Naïve Bayes and Decision Tree classifiers
[70]	Depression	Power difference between lower and higher frequency bands has been used along with non-linear detrended fluctuation analysis. LDA was used for classification. A single channel EEG was used in this study
[52]	Bipolar disorder	This study employed a deep learning approach based on artificial neural networks and particle swarm optimisation algorithms for classification of EEG signals into bipolar and unipolar disorders. Features were selected automatically
[71]	Depression	CNN and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) have been used together in a deep learning architec- ture which is based on multiple sub-architectures for automatic detection of depression
[72, 73]	Depression	EEG signals of left and right hemispheres have been classified separately using convolution neural networks
[74]	Depression	This study proposed a feature called 'Synchronisation Likelihood (SL)' based on synchronisation of a particular channel with all other channels. SL is computed for each channel pair. This study used three classifiers—LR, SVM and Naïve Bayes

Ref	Focus of study	Summary
[53]	Bipolar disorder	This study used statistical features like mean and maximum of SCL and SCR components of EDA along with k-nearest neighbour algorithm
[75]	Depression	Mean EDA, No. of SCR peaks and average amplitude of SCR peaks in EDA, collected through a wrist wearable, have been used to predict severity of depression using Random Forest and Gaussian Process. Difference of average EDA, difference between No. of SCR peaks and difference between SCR and SCL were investigated to account for wrist-asymmetry
[ <b>49</b> ]	Mental stress	Mean, median, standard deviation, maximum and minimum have been used with Linear Discriminant Function
[41]	Depression	Amplitude, standard deviation and skewness of SCL and SCR at each phase as well as differences in these features between tasks were used with SVM, Decision Tree, kNN and Naive Bayes classifiers. EDA was measured before and after stress and relaxation tasks
[45]	Stress	Mean, median, standard deviation, maximum and minimum along with variance, coefficient of variation and approximation coefficients were used with LDA, QDA, KNN, Naïve Bayes and SVM. This study divided EDA into subgroups based on human demographics
[76]	Stress	Multiple features pertaining to time, frequency and morphology of the EDA signals as well as some statistical features like skewness, kurtosis and momentum were used with SVM and Deep SVM. Visual media was used to induce affect states in participants
[77]	Stress	Deep learning-based CNN has been used to extract and automatically select features from GSR obtained from affect- aroused lab subjects with neutral, stress and amusement affect states

#### Table 4 Contemporary studies which have employed EDA/GSR

#### **Unimodal Approach**

In unimodal approach, a single modality is used as a standalone differentiator for classification. Various modalities have been used in unimodal approach for detection and classification of mental disorders, mood changes and emotional states of an individual. The following subsections provide an overview of contemporary works which have utilised a

 Table 5
 Contemporary studies which have employed ECG

Ref	Focus of study	Summary
[ <mark>78</mark> ]	Stress	Poincare plot analysis, approximate entropy, correlation dimension, DFA and recurrence plot analysis were used to calculate mean, median, StdDev, 25 <sup>th</sup> and 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile from ECG for detection of mental stress using LDA classifier
[ <mark>79</mark> ]	Stress	Mean, variance, StdDev, Band power and pnN50 extracted from HRV were used with kNN. Long-term and short-term signals were employed
[80]	Stress	Low-frequency range (0.04–0.5 Hz) of ECG and HRV signals was used. Features like mean, entropy, covariance, StdDev and power of selected wavelet, max wavelet coefficient and min wavelet coefficient of two groups of selected frequency range—HF (0.14 to 0.5) and LF (0.05–0.14)—were used with kNN classifier
[81]	Stress	Mean, StdDev, RMSSD, absolute power of low- and high-frequency bands, entropy and correlation dimension were extracted from RR interval of ECG signals. Multiple classifiers like NB, SVM, MLP, AB and C4.5 were used for classification. Only short-term signals were employed
[42]	Depression	Features from HRV in time and frequency domains like mean heart rate, SDNN, pNN50, power ratio of low- and high- frequency bands and peak frequency of low- and high-power bands as well as non-linear features from Poincare plot like LLE and Sample Entropy were used with SVM
[28]	Bipolar disorder	Mean RR, RMSSD, pNN50, LF Peak, HF Peak and non-linear features like Poincare Plot, approximate entropy and Shannon entropy to predict future mental states in bipolar disorder patients using SVM
[82]	Stress	RR interval, QT interval and ECG-derived respiration were used with SVM Classifier
[ <mark>46</mark> ]	Stress	Time-domain RR features like mean, max, min, SDNN and pNN50 as well as frequency-domain features derived from power of low- and high-frequency band were used with SVM and C5 classifiers
[83]	Depression	Multiple time-domain features related to RR interval as well as some frequency domain along with some non-linear features were used with SVM
[ <mark>84</mark> ]	Depression	HRV features and features of low-frequency and high-frequency spectrums as well as Poincare plot, multiscale entropies and correlations derived from DFA were used with Bayesian Networks
[85]	Depression and stress	Multiple features derived from RR intervals of ECG were used with LSTM to distinguish stress and depression
[ <mark>50</mark> ]	Panic disorders	Mean heart rate, SDNN, RMSSD, approximate entropy and power of various frequency bands computed from the ECG signal were used with Logistic Regression, ANN, Gradient Boost and SVM
[ <mark>86</mark> ]	Depression	A hybrid QRS detection algorithm approach was used in detection of the peak values and calculation of heart rate. Matlab or Xilink is used for detection of depression
[ <mark>87</mark> ]	Depression	ECG time-domain features and frequency-domain features were used for diagnosis of depression using SVM

Table 6	Contemporary	studies	which	have	employed	human	behaviour
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Ref	Focus of study	Modality	Summary
[88]	Schizophrenia	Eye movements	Scan path length, frequency and duration of fixation and frequency, amplitude, duration, average velocity and peak of saccades were used with gradient boosted Decision Trees and probabilistic neural networks
[89]	Depression	Facial expressions and speech	Combination of motion history histogram, edge orientation histogram and local binary patterns was used to analyse video based on pattern of movement, shape information of image and texture structures while audio was analysed by a combination of Low-Level Descriptors and Motion history histogram. Regression analysis was done using Partial Least Square
[43]	Depression	Facial expressions and speech	Audio features were categorised into voice source features, speech system features and speech prosody features. Voice source features like harmonics-to-noise ratio and cepstral peak prominence, speech system features like formant frequencies and mel frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCCs) and speech prosody features like phoneme durations and pitch slope as well as multiple facial action units such as brow raise, eye widening, lip movements and chin raise were used. Regression analysis based on Gaussian Mixture Model and feed-forward neural network was used
[ <mark>90</mark> ]	Depression	Facial expressions	This study used deep convolution neural networks for prediction of BDI values from normalised optical flow computations between frames of facial images
[54]	Bipolar disorder	Speech	A deep learning framework, IncepLSTM, was employed to classify audio features such as mel frequency spectrum coefficients
[91]	Depression	Speech, eye movements, Head pose	Multiple features like speaking rate, pauses, speaking and sounding duration and number of pauses from speech; mean, max, min of duration of movements, blinking rate, iris movement, duration of eyes closed and open, etc. and mean, max, min and range of head direction, movements of roll and pitch and tilting, rate of different head directions, etc. were used with SVM classifier
[92]	Depression	Speech	A deep learning architecture was used on speech for detecting prevalence and severity of depression. A spectrogram-based CNN and an end-to-end CNN were used for automatic feature extraction and classification of speech data
[ <mark>93</mark> ]	Schizophrenia	Facial expressions	Activation of facial action units like raising and lowering of brows, lip movements and eye closing were used with a neural network called SchiNet
[94]	Depression	Facial expressions	Differences in rendering of facial expressions between depressed and healthy subjects were used in discrimination of depression. Depressed and healthy subjects were made to elicit emotions using ADFES stimuli and convolution neural networks was used for determining facial emotions
[95]	Schizophrenia	Facial expressions	A Facial Emotion Recognition Deficit scanner was used along with artificial neural networks to analyse recognition of emotions from facial expressions. The recognition deficit between schizophrenic and healthy subjects was used for classification

single modality for detection or prediction of mental disorder type or severity.

#### Electroencephalogram (EEG)

EEG captures the brain waves corresponding to different activities happening within the central nervous system. It is acquired through electrodes placed on the scalp. Different features of EEG in time domain and frequency domain can be extracted to analyse the type of signal. Most prominent features include statistical features in time and frequency domain such as mean, median, variance, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis along with time-domain features like peak amplitude and energy. Frequency-domain features include different frequency bands in EEG signals like delta, theta, alpha, beta and gamma. The features of EEG signals have been classified using machine learning methods to detect different mental disorders. Table 3 provides an overview of research studies which have explored the use of only EEG signals in detection of mental disorders.

## Electrodermal Activity (EDA) or Galvanic Skin Response (GSR)

EDA or GSR refers to the electrical response of human skin with respect to variation in sweat secretion. It is expressed in terms of Skin Conductance Response (SCR) and Skin Conductance Level (SCL). The changes in electrodermal activity due to any mental disorder or during a mental stress task are a potential biomarker of mental disorders. Table 4 provides an overview of research studies which have explored the use of EDA or GSR signals for detection of mental disorders.

#### Electrocardiogram (ECG)

Electrocardiogram captures the electrical activity in the heart. It is composed of a P-Wave followed by a QRS Complex which is followed by a T-Wave. The peak of the signal is the R of the QRS complex. The time between two successive R peaks is referred to as RR interval. Since the brain modulates the electrical activity of the human body, hence the ECG of an individual also reflects the changes in mental state. Different features of ECG have been used with machine learning algorithms to discriminate between normal and aberrated ECGs and therefore can be utilised for automatic detection of mental disorders. Prominent features include statistical measures like mean, median and standard deviation as well as other features like heart rate variability (HRV), root mean sum of squares of differences between normal to normal beat intervals (RMSSD), proportion of successive normal to normal beat intervals that differ more than k ms (pNNk), standard deviation of successive differences (SDSD), low-frequency band (LF), high-frequency band (HF) and ratio of LF to HF. Table 5 provides an overview of research studies which have explored the use of ECG signals only in detection of mental disorders.

#### Verbal and Non-verbal Behaviour

Verbal and non-verbal behaviour is closely correlated with physical, mental and emotional state of an individual. Any mental impairment or emotional change reflects in the behaviour of an individual. The analysis of changes in facial expressions, eye movements and speech in the presence of unfavourable mental states can provide biomarkers for mental disorder detection. Table 6 provides an overview of research studies which have explored the use of human behaviour in detection of mental disorders.

#### **Online Handwritten Signals**

The exploration of novel bias-free methods for detection of mental disorders has led to research in various newer paradigms; with online handwritten signals being a prominent one. The benefits of this approach are that handwriting is a common daily task and does not need any specialised training for participants. As can be seen in Table 7, various studies have explored the use of online handwritten signals related to time, space and pressure in the field of sentiment analysis, emotion recognition and by extension mental disorder detection.

#### **Multimodal Approach**

In multimodal approaches, two or more modalities are used for detecting mental disorders. There are two prominent approaches for fusion of multiple modalities—feature level fusion and decision level fusion. In feature level fusion, the features from multiple modalities are collected to form a single feature-set. A single classifier is then run on this featureset to make decisions. On the other hand, in decision level fusion, multiple classifiers are run independently on featuresets of individual modalities. The results of these multiple classifiers are then studied to form a single decision. Table 8 provides an overview of research studies which have adopted a multimodal approach and used more than one biological signal in detection of mental disorders.

 Table 7
 Contemporary studies which have employed online handwritten signals

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Ref	Focus of study	Summary
[ <mark>96</mark> ]	Major depressive disorder	The study used a digitising tablet with an online software for data analysis. Various features such as in-air time/stroke, stroke width and pressure applied were analysed between depressed and control subjects. MANOVA and correlation analysis found statistically significant differences between the groups
[ <mark>97</mark> ]	Depression, anxiety, stress	This study presented a publicly available database "EMOTHAW" for mental disorder detection using handwriting and drawing. Features like pen positions, timestamp, pressure applied and altitude were used with Decision Tree and Random Forest classifiers to identify mental state
[47]	Stress, emotional state	This study proposed a database based on online handwritings and signatures for detection of mental stress and happy/ sad mood states. Features like time taken, pen velocity and acceleration. Altitude, pressure, etc. were used and multiple experiments were performed for detection of stress and emotional state utilising KNN and Random Forest classifiers
[51]	Moods in depression	The study used handwriting features collected from persons suffering from depression disorder. An ANOVA Test revealed statistically significant differences between negative and positive moods
[44]	Depression	This study used stroke data obtained in Uchida-Kraepelin test to categorise data into low-risk and high-risk groups. Logistic Regression analysis along with various statistical tests was utilised to analyse the data
[98]	Depression, anxiety, stress	This study adopts a novel methodology and used data collected from sensors collected during an online writing and drawing session. Features like pen displacement, positioning, timestamps, pen contact, altitude and pressure have been extracted via Principal Component Analysis. AutoML, an automatic knowledge discovery process, was used for different binary-class classification problems to categorise data as anxious, stressful or depressed

Table 8 Contemporary studies which have adopted a multimodal approach

Ref	Focus of study	Modalities	Summary
[99]	Stress	GSR, speech	Various GSR features like mean, min, max, StdDev of skin conductance, peak height., total number, amplitude and rising time of GSR startle response were used along with speech features such as smoothed energy, pitch, MFCCs and relative spectral-perceptual linear prediction (RASTA-PLP). SVM was the best performing classifier in distinguishing between recovery, light workload and heavy workload classes
[34]	Stress	ECG, GSR, EMG	Features like mean heart rate and SDNN from ECG, mean SCL and mean SCR, from GSR and peak load, gaps/min and MNF from EMG were used with four classifiers—Linear Bayes, Quadratic Bayes, KNN, Fisher's Least Square Linear Classifier
[100]	Stress	GSR, ECG	Mean and standard deviation of RR intervals as well as heart rate along with RMSSD, pNN50, LF, HF and ratio of LF to HF derived from HRV along with GSR features like number of startle responses, sum of overall magnitude of response and duration and mean and deviation from mean of SCL were used in SVM, Bayesian Nets and Decision Tree
[101]	Stress	GSR, ECG, respiration	Various features including RMSSD, pNN50, pNN20, mHR, SDNN, LF, HF and LF/HF from ECG, SCL, OPD, No. of peaks, tonic and phasic component from GSR along with statistical features of temperature and energy bands of respiration, collected during multiple stress tasks, have been used with multiple classifiers including LR, SVM, RF, Decision Tree and Bayesian Networks
[102]	Stress	ECG, EDA	Wristband-type wearable sensor has been used to collect PPG, ECG and EDA from subjects in a controlled environment of various stressful tasks. Five subjects were used for the study and five SVMs were trained on individual data
[33]	Stress	GSR, EMG, ECG, respiration	Features such as mean, root mean square, average power in multiple frequency bands, ratio of low band to high band, inter-quartile range, total rise time from 10 to 90% and number of local peaks of EMG, heart rate, foot GSR, hand GSR and respiration were used. SVM and kNN were used
[103]	Stress	GSR, EMG, ECG, respiration	Mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum value of ECG, GSR, EMG, respiration and temperature were extracted along with peak frequency of EMG, SCR/SCL of GSR and slope of temperature were used for detection of stress using SVM, Decision Tree, KNN and artificial neural networks
[32]	Stress	EMG, ECG	ECG features such as time-domain statistical features and frequency-domain band frequency features along with non-linear features like CSI, CVI, SD1 and SD2 as well as EMG features such as Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSA), energy, mean and median frequency, frequency ratio, variance and mean absolute value were used for classification in SVM classifier
[104]	Depression	EEG, GSR, eye movements	DFA analysis, Lyapunov exponent and Synchronisation Likelihood for EEG, time spent on image category, number of fixations per category, average glance duration and first fixation location from eye tracking data along with GSR features like mean and standard deviation have been used with SVM and Logistic Regression
[105]	Depression	ECG, skin temperature	A wearable device was used to collect physiological data from participating subjects for detection of depression. Heart rate, energy expended, skin temperature and steps were used to train a classifier based on extreme gradient boosting algorithm

#### Discussion

This section discusses the various findings obtained after extensive analysis of selected literature. Various findings obtained from the survey are discussed in the following subsections. As stated in the "Different Approaches of Mental Disorder Detection" section, physiological signals like EEG, GSR, ECG and EMG and behavioural patterns like handwriting, speech, eye movements and facial expressions have been extensively used for detection of mental disorders like depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and mental stress. Table 9 provides a summary of different studies that have been discussed. The table shows the correlation between mental disorder studied, modalities used for detection and associated machine learning algorithms.

#### Different Biomarkers Used in Mental Disorder Detection

The different modalities used in mental disorder detection are EEG, ECG, EDA/GSR, EMG, eye movements, speech, online handwritten signals and facial expressions. Figure 2 illustrates the use of different modalities in detecting mental disorders using machine learning. It can be inferred that in the selected corpus of related research studies, physiological signals like EEG, ECG and GSR have been most popular amongst researchers while behaviour-based modalities such as speech, facial expressions and eye movements have been explored less often. It has been observed that almost 31% of the publications opted for EEG as a modality while ECG and GSR were preferred by 25% and 19% of researchers respectively. On the contrary, facial expressions and speech have been recommended

Table 9	9 Summary c	of articl	les surveyed																
Ref	Focus	Physic	ological signa	ls used		Behavioural	parameters	b used	Feature ex	traction	Promin	ent algorithr	ns used						
		EEG	EDA/GSR	ECG	EMG	Facial expressions	Speech	Eye movements	Manual	Automatic	LDA	KNN LR	ANN	SVM	Naïve Bayes	RF	Decision Tree	CNN ]	MTSJ
[61]	Schizophrenia	>							>		>								
[34]	Stress		>	>	>				>			>			>				
[53]	Bipolar disorder		>						>			>							
[88]	Schizophrenia							>	>				>				>		
[80]	Stress			>					>			>							
[100]	Stress		>	>					>					>			>		
[39]	Depression	>							>		>	> >							
[78]	Stress			>					>		>								
[6L]	Stress			>					>			>							
[66]	Stress		>				>		>					>					
[42]	Depression			>					>					>					
[43]	Depression					>	>		>				>						
[52]	Bipolar disorder	>								>			>						
[62]	Bipolar disorder, depression	>							>					>					
[63]	Depression	>								>			>						
[64]	Depression	>							>			> >		>	>	>			
[102]	Stress		>	>					>					>					
[28]	Bipolar disorder			>					>					>					
[40]	Depression	>							>			> >		>		>			
[65]	Depression	>							>			>	>	>					
[81]	Stress			>					>				>	>	>		>		
[33]	Stress		>	>					>			>		>					
[67]	Depression	>							>			>		>	>				
[70]	Depression	>							>		>								
[75]	Depression		>						>							>			
[06]	Depression					>				>								>	
[87]	Depression			>					>					>					
[54]	Bipolar disorder						>		>										>
[72]	Depression	>								>								>	
[74]	Depression	>							>				>	>	>				
[41]	Depression		>						>			>		>	>		>		

Table	9 (continued)	~																	
Ref	Focus	Physic	ological signal	ls used		Behavioural	parameters	nsed	Feature ex	traction	Promin	ent algorithm	is used						
		EEG	EDA/GSR	ECG	EMG	Facial expressions	Speech	Eye movements	Manual	Automatic	LDA	KNN LR	ANN	SVM	Naïve Bayes	RF	Decision Tree	CNN	ISTM
[91]	Depression						>	>	>					>					
[49]	Stress		>						>		>								
[68]	Depression	>							>		>		>						
[71]	Depression	>								>								>	>
[73]	Depression	>								>								>	>
[83]	Depression			>					>					>					
[104]	Depression	>	>					>	>			>		>		>			
[93]	Schizophrenia					>							>						
[82]	Stress			>					>					>					
[46]	Stress			>					>					>			>		
[101]	Stress		>	>					>			>		>		>	>		
[99]	Depression	>							>			>		>			>		
[69]	Depression	>							>			>		>	>		>		
[92]	Depression						>			>								>	
[94]	Depression					>				>								>	
[45]	Stress		>						>		>	>		>	>				
[76]	Stress		>						>					>					
[77]	Stress		>							>								>	
[103]	Stress		>	>	>				>	>	>	>	>	>		>	>		
[32]	Stress			>	>				>					>					
[85]	Stress, anxiety, depression	_		>					>										>
[20]	Panic			>					>			>	>	>					
2	disorders			•					•			•	•						
[95]	Schizophrenia					>				>			>						



by just 8% of the total research publications. One reason for this can be that behaviour of a person is voluntary and can be controlled by the person, thereby not revealing the true results [106-108]. Second reason can be that the experimental environment can change the normal behaviour of the person [109]. Another reason can be that behavioural changes vary to a great extent between individuals and can be subjective [110]. Still, research studies indicate that behavioural modalities provide important insights into mental disorder detection.

#### **Features Used in Mental Disorder Detection**

Table 10 provides an overview of the most prominent features of physiological and behavioural signals used along with detailing the type of mental disorder they have been used for.

#### Prominent Machine Learning Algorithms Employed in Mental Disorder Detection

The research studies included in the selected corpus have used different algorithms with various biomarkers for automatic classification and detection of mental disorders. However, the prominent ones are Support Vector Machines, k-nearest neighbour, Logistic Regression, Decision Trees, Naïve Bayes, Linear Discriminant Analysis, Random Forest, Artificial Neural Networks and CNN. As seen in Fig. 3, amongst the selected corpus of articles, SVM has been used about 24% of the times with k-nearest neighbour, Logistic Regression, Decision Trees and Naïve Bayes algorithms with around 8-10% usage. This can be due to the fact that SVM provides a fine balance between complexity and performance and therefore has been used as a baseline in most of the research studies. Also, Artificial Neural Network-based algorithms have been collectively used by about only 17% of the studies despite their high efficiency. Also, some algorithms like AdaBoost, Bayes Net, Radial Basis Function Network, Quadratic Discriminant Analysis,

Partial Least Square, Gradient Boost and Gaussian Mixture Model have been used very sparsely as seen in Fig. 3 because of their high complexity when dealing with multifeature data.

#### **Research Challenges**

The traditional methods of mental disorder detection like questionnaires rely on information provided by the individual. Besides being static in nature, these methods also cannot effectively verify the authenticity of the collected data. Hence, robust methods are required to identify or correct fabricated or tampered data. The research community has recommended the use of biomarkers related to various physiological and behavioural modalities like EEG, GSR, EMG, ECG, facial expressions, eye movements and speech for detection of mental disorders. While these approaches are objective in nature, behaviour can be faked or controlled by an individual. An individual who is conscious can easily manipulate his or her facial expressions, speech and eye movements. This mandates the requirement of methods, which can segregate genuine and controlled behaviour. Furthermore, emotional state of an individual plays a major role in the collection of data that has originated from human response, be it physiological or behavioural in nature [111]. Therefore, it becomes important to incorporate the effect of emotions on signals and further onto the analysis. Investigating this entire domain from the purview of decision intelligence may open numerous different research tracks related to mental health and diagnosis. Quantification of emotive feedback of respondents is also a major challenge for limited experimentation to diagnose mental disorders through facial expressions. Also, physiological responses vary between individuals due to human morphology and demographic factors like gender, race and age [112]. This variability needs to be managed to produce efficient and usable results. Furthermore, the experimental setups mentioned in the literature

#### Table 10 Different features used in mental disorder detection

Ref	Focus of study	Modality used	Features used
[61, 78, 83]	Schizophrenia, depression, stress	EEG, ECG	Approximate entropy
[65, 66]	Schizophrenia	EEG	Shannon entropy
[40]	Schizophrenia	EEG	Lempel-Ziv complexity
[39, 61]	Schizophrenia, depression	EEG	Higuchi fractal dimensions
[39, 40, 63–67]	Depression	EEG	Power of delta, theta, alpha, beta and gamma bands
[70, 78, 83, 84, 104]	Depression, stress	EEG, ECG	Detrended fluctuation analysis
[39, 40, 65, 66, 78, 81, 83]	Depression, stress	EEG, ECG	Correlation dimension
[39, 64, 104]	Depression	EEG	Lyapunov exponent
[40, 64–66]	Depression	EEG	Co-complexity
[40, 64–66]	Depression	EEG	Kolmogorov entropy, permutation entropy and power spectrum entropy
[65, 67, 68, 70]	Depression	EEG	Inter-hemispherical asymmetry, power band Asymmetry, spectral asymmetry
[34, 45, 49, 75–77, 99, 100, 103, 104]	Depression, stress	EDA	Mean EDA (mean SCR and mean SCL), No. of SCR Peaks, amplitude of SCR, StdDev of EDA, max EDA, min EDA
[41, 101]	Depression, stress	EDA	Amplitude of SCL
[41, 76]	Depression	EDA	StdDev of SCR, StdDev of SCL, skewness of SCR, skewness of SCL
[45, 49]	Stress	EDA	Median of EDA
[76]	Stress	EDA	FFT, morphology (arc length, integral area, etc.)
[78, 84]	Stress, depression	ECG	Poincare plot analysis and recurrence plot analysis
[32, 46, 78–81, 83, 85, 100, 103]	Stress, depression	ECG	Mean, median, StDDev, variance, maximum, minimum
[32, 42, 46, 50, 79, 81, 83–85, 87, 100, 101]	Stress, depression	ECG	Frequency band power
[42, 46, 79, 83–85, 87, 100, 101]	Stress, depression	ECG	pNN50
[80]	Stress	ECG	Wavelet power, max and min wavelet Coefficient
[42]	Depression	ECG	Peak frequency
[42, 80, 81, 83]	Stress, depression	ECG	Entropy
[50, 81, 83–85, 87, 100, 101]	Stress, depression	ECG	RMSSD
[34, 42, 46, 50, 83, 84, 87, 101]	Depression, stress	ECG	SDNN
[88]	Schizophrenia	Eye movement	Scan path length, fixation parameters and saccade parameters
[89]	Depression	Facial expressions	Edge orientation histogram, local binary patterns, motion history histogram
[43, 93]	Depression, schizophrenia	Facial expressions	Facial action units
[43]	Depression	Facial expressions	Harmonics-to-noise ratio, Cepstral peak prominence, formant frequencies, phoneme durations
[43, 54, 99]	Depression, bipolar disorder, stress	Speech	Mel frequency coefficients, pitch
[90]	Depression	Facial expressions	Normalised optical flow
[91]	Depression	Speech	Speaking rate, pauses, articulation rate, speaking and sounding duration, number of pauses

#### Table 10 (continued)

Ref	Focus of study	Modality used	Features used
[91]	Depression	Eye movement	Mean, max, min of duration of movements and blinking, blinking rate, iris movement, duration of eyes closed and open
[91]	Depression	Head pose	Mean, max, min and range of head direction, movements of roll and pitch and tilting, rate of different head directions
[94, 95]	Depression, schizophrenia	Facial expressions	Facial emotions
[99, 100]	Stress	GSR	GSR startle response
[34]	Stress	EMG	Peak load, gaps/min, MNF
[32, 33, 103]	Stress	EMG	Mean, RMS, frequency band characteristics
[33]	Stress	EMG	No. of peaks, 10–90% rise time
[104]	Depression	Eye movements	Eye fixation features
[96]	Major depressive disorder	Online handwritten signals	Air time/stroke, stroke width, pressure
[47, 97]	Depression, anxiety	Online handwritten signals	Timestamp, altitude, pen displacement, positioning
[98]	Stress	Online handwritten signals	Pen displacement, positioning

**Fig. 3** Percentage of algorithms from corpus which was used for detection of mental disorders



surveyed are inconsistent. For instance, different studies have mentioned different upper or lower bandwidths for frequency bands of EEG and ECG signals. Furthermore, the results obtained depend hugely on what features have been selected and which algorithm has been implemented. The selection of features-algorithms pair should be optimum to attain best results. Furthermore, collecting data from individuals suffering from mental disorders presents an ethical challenge [113]. That could be the reason for limited availability of standardised and annotated publicly available datasets pertaining to mental disorders.

### Conclusion

Mental disorders are one of the leading contributors to global burden of diseases. They are one of the emerging challenges of the society. They can lead to lack of attention at work, dropping out of education, bad social behaviour and even suicide. So, there is a need for self-diagnostic methods which can automate the detection of mental disorders. The self-diagnosis tools for detection of mental disorders like questionnaires and rating scales are inconsistent and static in nature. They cannot encompass the diversity of mental disorders, inter-individual variability and impact of emotional state of an individual. Furthermore, there are no standard baselines for mental disorder datasets available. Stress of one person can be anxiety for another person and even depression for a third person. Hence, a multi-faceted approach is recommended where one can utilise data from physiological signals, behavioural patterns and even data obtained from various online portals like social media to efficiently and effectively detect the prevalence, type and severity of mental disorders.

#### Declarations

**Ethical Approval** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Conflict of Interest The authors declare no competing interests.

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