Open-Access MIMIC-II Database for Intensive Care Research

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Abstract—The critical state of intensive care unit (ICU) patients demands close monitoring, and as a result a large volume of multi-parameter data is collected continuously. This represents a unique opportunity for researchers interested in clinical data mining. We sought to foster a more transparent and efficient intensive care research community by building a publicly available ICU database, namely Multiparameter Intelligent Monitoring in Intensive Care II (MIMIC-II). The data harnessed in MIMIC-II were collected from the ICUs of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center from 2001 to 2008 and represent 26,870 adult hospital admissions (version 2.6). MIMIC-II consists of two major components: clinical data and physiological waveforms. The clinical data, which include patient demographics, intravenous medication drip rates, and laboratory test results, were organized into a relational database. The physiological waveforms, including 125 Hz signals recorded at bedside and corresponding vital signs, were stored in an open-source format. MIMIC-II data were also deidentified in order to remove protected health information. Any interested researcher can gain access to MIMIC-II free of charge after signing a data use agreement and completing human subjects training. MIMIC-II can support a wide variety of retrospective critical care research, and the kinds of research that can be conducted using MIMIC-II. For a more complete but slightly older description of MIMIC-II (version 2.4), including comparisons with other ICU databases, please see [2].

II. METHODS

A. Data Collection

The ICU data in MIMIC-II were collected at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in Boston, MA, USA during the period from 2001 to 2008. Adult data were acquired from four ICUs at BIDMC: medical (MICU), surgical (SICU), coronary care unit (CCU), and cardiac surgery recovery unit (CSRU). MIMIC-II also contains data from the neonatal ICU (NICU) of BIDMC, but this paper focuses only on the adult data, which make up the majority of MIMIC-II. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards of BIDMC and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Two types of data were obtained: clinical data and physiological waveforms. The clinical data were acquired from the CareVue Clinical Information System (models M2331A and M1215A; Philips Healthcare, Andover, MA) and the hospital’s electronic archives. The data included patient demographics, nursing notes, discharge summaries, continuous intravenous drip medications, laboratory test results, nurse-verified hourly vital signs, etc. Table I describes different clinical data types in MIMIC-II by giving examples of each type. The physiological waveforms were collected from bedside monitors (Component Monitoring System Intellivue MP-70; Philips Healthcare) and included high-resolution (125 Hz) waveforms (e.g., electrocardiograms), derived time series such as heart rate, blood pressures, and oxygen saturation (either once-per-minute or once-per-second), and monitor-generated alarms. Figure 1 shows an example of high-resolution waveforms.

B. Database Organization

After data collection, the clinical data were processed and imported into a relational database that can be queried using Structured Query Language [3]. The database was organized according to individual patients at the highest level. A given patient might have had multiple hospital admissions and each hospital admission in turn could have included multiple ICU stays; within the same hospital admission, ICU stays...
In order to comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, MIMIC-II was deidentified by removing protected health information (PHI). Also, the entire time course of each patient (all hospital admissions and ICU stays) was time-shifted to a hypothetical period in the future. This deidentification was a straight-forward task for structured data fields but was a challenging task for free-text data such as nursing notes and discharge summaries. Thus, an automated deidentification algorithm was developed and was shown to perform better than human clinicians in detecting PHI in free-text documents. For more details about this open-source algorithm, please see [6], [7].

D. Public Access

In order to gain free access to MIMIC-II, any interested researcher simply needs to complete a data use agreement and human subjects training. The actual access occurs over the Internet. The clinical data can be accessed either by downloading a flat-file text version or via a live connection through password-protected web service. The physiological waveforms are best accessed using the WFDB software package. For detailed information regarding obtaining access to MIMIC-II, please see the MIMIC-II website: http://physionet.org/mimic2.

III. RESULTS

Table II tabulates adult patient statistics in MIMIC-II, stratified with respect to the four critical care units. In total, 26,870 adult hospital admissions and 31,782 adult ICU stays were included in MIMIC-II. MICU patients formed the largest proportion among the 4 care units, while CCU patients made up the smallest cohort. Only 15.7% of all ICU stays were successfully matched with waveforms. In terms of neonates, 7,547 hospital admissions and 8,087 NICU stays were added to MIMIC-II.

Among the adults, the overall median ICU and hospital lengths of stay were 2.1 and 7 days, respectively. CSRU patients were characterized by high utilization of mechanical ventilation, Swan-Ganz, invasive arterial blood pressure monitoring, and vasoactive medications. Overall, 45.8% and 53.1% of all adult ICU stays utilized mechanical ventilation and invasive arterial blood pressure monitoring, respectively. In-hospital mortality rate was highest in the MICU (16%) and lowest in the CSRU (3.7%). The overall in-hospital mortality was 11.5%.

IV. DISCUSSION

In MIMIC-II, we have successfully created a publicly available database for the intensive care research community. MIMIC-II is a valuable resource, especially for those researchers who do not have easy access to the clinical intensive care environment. Furthermore, research studies based on MIMIC-II can be compared with one another in an objective manner, which would reduce redundancy in research and foster more streamlined advancement in the research community as a whole.

The diversity of data types in MIMIC-II opens doors for a variety of research studies. One important type of research that can stem from MIMIC-II is the development and evaluation of automated detection, prediction, and estimation algorithms. The high temporal resolution and multi-parameter nature of MIMIC II data are suitable for developing clinically useful and robust algorithms. Also, it is easy to simulate a real-life ICU in offline mode, which enables inexpensive evaluation of developed algorithms without the risk of disturbing clinical staff. Previous MIMIC-II studies in this research category include hypotensive episode prediction [8] and robust heart rate and blood pressure estimation [9]. Additional signal processing studies based on MIMIC-II
TABLE II
ADULT PATIENT STATISTICS IN MIMIC-II (VERSION 2.6), STRATIFIED WITH RESPECT TO CRITICAL CARE UNIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MICU</th>
<th>SICU</th>
<th>CSRU</th>
<th>CCU</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital admissions¹</td>
<td>10,313 (38.4%)</td>
<td>6,925 (25.8%)</td>
<td>5,691 (21.2%)</td>
<td>3,941 (14.7%)</td>
<td>26,870 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct ICU stays²</td>
<td>12,648 (39.8%)</td>
<td>8,141 (25.6%)</td>
<td>6,367 (20.0%)</td>
<td>4,626 (14.6%)</td>
<td>31,782 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matched waveforms³</td>
<td>2,313 (18.3%)</td>
<td>673 (8.3%)</td>
<td>1,195 (18.8%)</td>
<td>798 (17.3%)</td>
<td>4,979 (15.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yrs)⁴</td>
<td>64.5 (50.1, 78.2)</td>
<td>61.1 (46.7, 75.9)</td>
<td>67.1 (57.0, 76.2)</td>
<td>71.4 (58.9, 80.7)</td>
<td>65.5 (51.9, 77.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male)³</td>
<td>6,301 (49.8%)</td>
<td>4,701 (57.7%)</td>
<td>4,147 (65.1%)</td>
<td>2,708 (58.5%)</td>
<td>17,857 (56.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay (days)⁴</td>
<td>2.1 (1.1, 4.3)</td>
<td>2.4 (1.2, 5.4)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.1, 4.1)</td>
<td>1.9 (1.0, 3.5)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.1, 4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital length of stay (days)⁴</td>
<td>7 (4, 13)</td>
<td>8 (5, 16)</td>
<td>8 (5, 12)</td>
<td>5 (3, 9)</td>
<td>7 (4, 13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day SAPS I⁴</td>
<td>13 (10, 17)</td>
<td>14 (10, 17)</td>
<td>17 (14, 20)</td>
<td>12 (9, 15)</td>
<td>14 (10, 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation³</td>
<td>4,202 (33.2%)</td>
<td>4,131 (50.7%)</td>
<td>5,152 (80.9%)</td>
<td>1,076 (23.3%)</td>
<td>14,561 (45.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swan-Ganz hemodynamic monitoring³</td>
<td>366 (2.9%)</td>
<td>1,066 (13.1%)</td>
<td>4,137 (65.0%)</td>
<td>1,086 (23.5%)</td>
<td>6,655 (20.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive arterial blood pressure monitoring³</td>
<td>3,944 (31.2%)</td>
<td>5,343 (65.6%)</td>
<td>5,545 (87.1%)</td>
<td>2,054 (44.4%)</td>
<td>16,886 (53.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of vasoactive medications³</td>
<td>2,859 (22.6%)</td>
<td>1,982 (24.4%)</td>
<td>4,397 (69.1%)</td>
<td>1,334 (28.8%)</td>
<td>10,572 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality³</td>
<td>1,645 (16%)</td>
<td>842 (12.2%)</td>
<td>213 (3.7%)</td>
<td>392 (10.0%)</td>
<td>3,092 (11.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table is an updated version of Table 2 in [2], which is based on version 2.4.

MICU, medical ICU; SICU, surgical ICU; CSRU, cardiac surgery recovery unit; CCU, coronary care unit;
SAPS, Simplified Acute Physiological Score

¹ N (% of total admissions)
² N (% of total ICU stays)
³ N (% of unit stays)
⁴ median (first quartile, third quartile)

Fig. 1. An example of high-resolution waveforms

include false arrhythmia alarm suppression [10] and signal quality estimation for the electrocardiogram [11].

Another type of research that MIMIC-II can support is retrospective clinical studies. While prospective clinical studies are expensive to design and perform, retrospective studies are inexpensive, demand substantially less time-commitment, and allow flexibility in study design. MIMIC-II offers severity scores such as the Simplified Acute Physiological Score I [12] and Sequential Organ Failure Assessment [13] that can be employed in multivariate regression models to adjust for differences in patient conditions. For example, Jia and colleagues [14] investigated risk factors for acute respiratory distress syndrome in mechanically ventilated patients, and Lehman and colleagues [15] studied hypotension as a risk factor for acute kidney injury.

MIMIC-II users should note that real-life human errors and noise are preserved in MIMIC-II since no artificial cleaning or filtering was applied. Although this presents a challenge, it also is an opportunity for researchers to work with real data and address pragmatic issues.

Because MIMIC-II is a single-center database originating from a tertiary teaching hospital, research results stemming from MIMIC-II may be subject to institutional or regional bias. However, many research questions can be answered
independent of local culture or geographic location (e.g., the focus of the study is physiology).

A successful MIMIC-II study requires a variety of expertise. While clinically-relevant research questions would best come from clinicians, reasonable database and computer skills are necessary to extract data from MIMIC-II. Hence, a multi-disciplinary team of computer scientists, biomedical engineers, biostatisticians, and intensive care clinicians is strongly encouraged in designing and conducting a research study using MIMIC-II.

V. CONCLUSIONS

MIMIC-II is a large ICU database that encompasses detailed patient demographics, records of clinical interventions, physiological waveforms and vital signs, and much more. Its public availability contributes to building a vigorous and collaborative research community.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCES