Project Based Learning Report

On

Fuzzy Image Segmentation for Medical Imaging

Submitted in the partial fulfilment of the requirement

For the Project Based Learning in **Fuzzy Logic, Neural Network and Genetic Algorithms**

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By

2214110408 Sneha Amodkar

2214110439 Anushka Srivastva

2214110443 Apoorva Das

Under the guidance of Prof. **V. P. Kaduskar**

Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering

Bharati Vidyapeeth
(Deemed to be University)
College Of Engineering
Pune – 410043

Academic Year: 2024-25

Bharati Vidyapeeth
(Deemed to be University)
College of Engineering,
Pune – 411043

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

CERTIFICATE

Certified that the Project Based Learning report entitled, **" Fuzzy Image Segmentation for Medical Imaging)"** is work done by ”

2214110408	Sneha Amodkar
2214110439	Anushka Srivastva
2214110443	Apoorva Das

in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of credits for Project Based Learning (PBL) in **Fuzzy Image Segmentation for Medical Imaging** Bachelor of Technology Semester V, in Electronics & Communication Engineering.

Date:

Prof. V. P. Kaduskar — **Dr. Arundhati A. Shinde**

Course In-charge — **Professor & Head**

Index

Sr. No.	Topic	Page No.
1.	Problem Statement	1
2.	Abstract	2
3.	Introduction	3
4.	Fuzzy C-means (FCM) Algorithm	4
5.	K-means Clustering for Tissue Classification	5
6.	Parameters Fuzzy Image Segmentation for Medical Imaging	6
7.	Matlab Code	7-10
8.	Visualization and Output	11-12
9.	Conclusion	13

Problem Statement

Fuzzy Image Segmentation for Medical Imaging

Objective: Design a fuzzy image segmentation algorithm to improve the accuracy of detecting tumors in medical images, considering the inherent uncertainties and noise in the data.

Abstract

This Project-Based Learning explores fuzzy image segmentation and its application in medical imaging. Fuzzy image segmentation is a key technique used in medical imaging to accurately delineate and classify different tissue types, particularly in complex or unclear images. This project focuses on visualizing the segmentation process and examining how different parameters in fuzzy logic affect the precision and efficiency of segmenting medical images. By simulating the fuzzy image segmentation process with varying parameters, this study provides insights into the practical trade-offs between segmentation accuracy and computational efficiency in medical image analysis.

Introduction

In the field of medical imaging, accurate image segmentation is essential for diagnosing and treating various health conditions. However, traditional segmentation methods often fall short due to the complex nature of medical images, which can be noisy, have varying contrasts, and feature overlapping structures. This is where fuzzy image segmentation comes into play.

Fuzzy image segmentation utilizes concepts from fuzzy set theory to address these challenges. Instead of assigning each pixel to a single category, it allows for partial memberships. This means that a pixel can belong to multiple classes at once, reflecting the reality of many medical images where boundaries are not always clear-cut. This flexibility is particularly valuable in medical contexts, where subtle differences can significantly impact diagnosis and treatment decisions.

In this paper, we'll explore how fuzzy image segmentation works, its advantages over traditional methods, and its applications in medical imaging. By enhancing the accuracy and reliability of image analysis, fuzzy segmentation is paving the way for improved patient care and outcomes.

Fuzzy C-means (FCM) Algorithm

Overview of FCM

The Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) algorithm is a popular clustering technique that extends the K-Means algorithm by allowing data points to belong to multiple clusters with varying degrees of membership

1. *Initialize* $U=[u_{ij}]$ *matrix,* $U^{(0)}$
2. *At k-step: calculate the centers vectors* $C^{(k)}=[c_j]$ *with* $U^{(k)}$

$$c_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{ij}^{m} \cdot x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{ij}^{m}}$$

3. *Update* $U^{(k)}$, $U^{(k+1)}$

$$u_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{C} \left(\frac{\|x_i - c_j\|}{\|x_i - c_k\|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}}}$$

4. *If* $\| U^{(k+1)} - U^{(k)} \| < \varepsilon$ *then STOP; otherwise return to step 2*

1.Fuzzy Membership: Each data point has a membership value (ranging from 0 to 1) for each cluster, indicating the degree of belonging to that cluster. This allows for soft clustering, where points can be associated with multiple clusters.

2.Centroid Calculation: The centroids of clusters are computed as the weighted average of all points, where the weights are determined by the membership values. This means that points with higher membership values have a greater influence on the centroid’s position.

3.Objective Function: The algorithm minimizes a cost function, which measures the weighted distance between data points and cluster centroids. The objective is to reduce the total intra-cluster variance while considering the membership degrees.

4.Iterative Process: FCM updates both the membership values and the centroids iteratively. It continues this process until the changes in membership and centroids fall below a specified threshold, indicating convergence.

K-Means Clustering for Tissue Classification

K-Means clustering can effectively classify tissue types, such as healthy tissue, tumor tissue, and cancer tissue, based on features extracted from imaging data or histological samples.

Process:

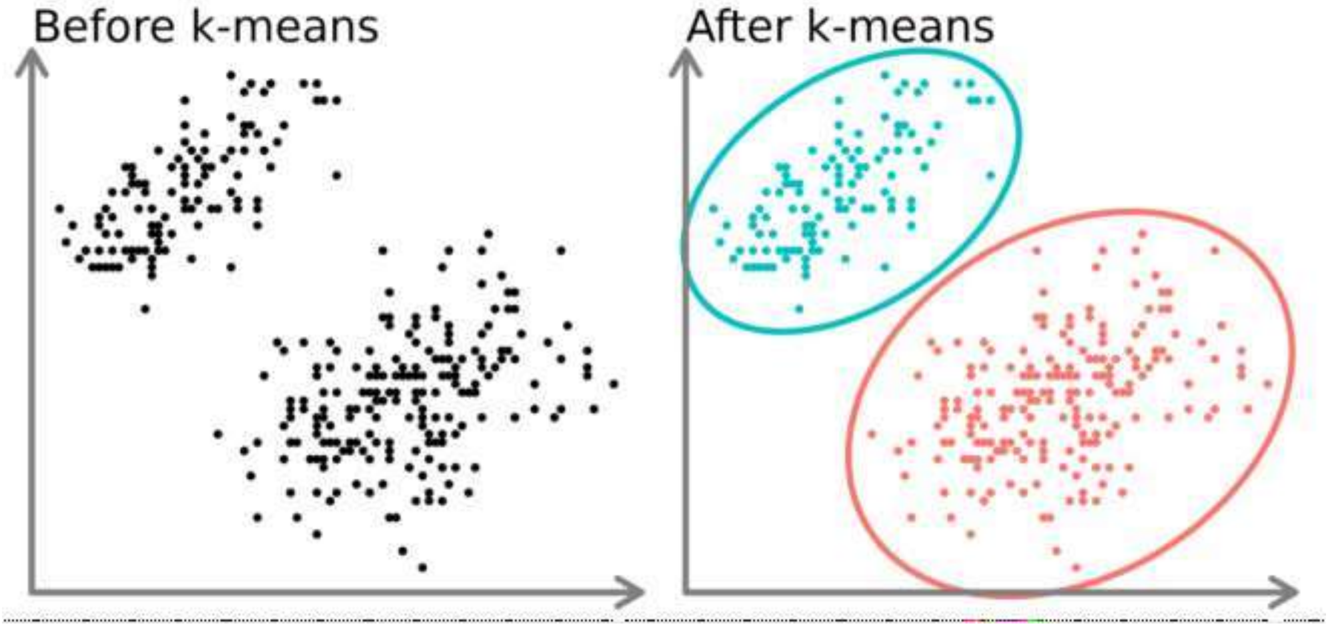
1.Data Preparation: Extract relevant features from the tissue samples, such as pixel intensity, texture, and morphological characteristics.

2.Initialization: Choose the number of clusters (k=3 for healthy, tumor, and cancer tissues) and initialize cluster centroids randomly.

3.Assignment Step: Each tissue sample is assigned to the nearest centroid based on a distance metric (e.g., Euclidean distance).

4. Update Step: Centroids are recalculated as the mean of all points assigned to each cluster.

5.Iteration: Repeat the assignment and update steps until centroids stabilize or a maximum number of iterations is reached.



Parameters for Fuzzy Image Segmentation for Medical Imaging

1. Image Input:
   - image: The medical image file to be processed. Ensure it's in a format compatible with imread() (e.g., JPEG, PNG).

2. Preprocessing:
   - grayImage: The grayscale version of the input image, which simplifies the segmentation process.

3. FCM Algorithm Parameters:
   - k: Number of clusters (set to 3 for healthy tissue, tumor tissue, and cancer tissue).
   - maxIter: Maximum number of iterations the algorithm will run (default set to 100).
   -m: Fuzziness parameter (typically set to 2). A higher value increases the fuzziness, allowing for more overlap between clusters.
   - epsilon: Convergence criterion, which determines when to stop the algorithm. It checks if the change in centroids is below this threshold (set to 1e-5).

4. Membership Matrix:
   - U: A 3D matrix initialized randomly, where each layer corresponds to a cluster. It contains the membership values of each pixel for the different clusters.

5. Centroids:
   - centroids: A vector storing the current centroid values for each cluster. It is updated in each iteration based on the membership values.

6. Distance Calculation:
   -dist: The absolute distance between pixel intensities and the current centroid, used to update membership values.

Additional Methods:

-Normalization: The membership matrix U is normalized so that the sum of memberships for each pixel across all clusters equals 1.

- Labelling and Segmentation:
   - segmented Image: The final output image created by aggregating contributions from all clusters based on their membership values.

Algorithm

Libraries Used

1. Image Processing Toolbox:
Utilized for image reading (imread), conversion to grayscale, and image display (imsho**w).**

2. MATLAB Built-in Functions:
Basic mathematical functions like sum, abs, and matrix operations to handle the membership matrix and centroid calculations.

Functions in the Code :

1. imread(filename):

- Purpose: Reads an image from a specified file and returns it as an array.
- Example: image = imread('medical_image.jpg');

2. rgb2gray(image):

- Purpose: Converts a color image to grayscale, which simplifies the processing for segmentation tasks.
- Example: grayImage = rgb2gray(image);

3. size(array):

- Purpose: Returns the dimensions of the input array (e.g., number of rows and columns of the image).
- Example: [rows, cols] = size(grayImage);

4. rand(rows, cols, k):

- Purpose: Creates a 3D array of random values between 0 and 1, used to initialize the membership matrix.
- Example: U = rand(rows, cols, k);

5. sum(array, dim):

- Purpose: Computes the sum of the elements of an array along the specified dimension.
- Example: sum(U, 3) calculates the sum across the third dimension (clusters).

6. abs(array):

- Purpose: Computes the absolute value of each element in the array, used for distance calculations.
- Example: dist = abs(double(grayImage) - centroids(j));

7. ./ and .^ Operators:

- Purpose:
  - ./ performs element-wise division.
  - .^ performs element-wise exponentiation.
- Example: U(:,:,j) = 1 ./ (dist.^2);

Matlab Code

```
function brain_mri_segmentation()
% Brain MRI Image Segmentation using FCM and K-Means in MATLAB
% Image segmentation to divide into groups: healthy tissue, tumor, and
hemorrhage/cancer

% Define the path to the image (MRI image)
imagePath = 'brain_mri_image.jpg'; % Replace with the actual path of your
brain MRI image

% Load the MRI image
image = imread(imagePath);
% Convert to grayscale if the image is RGB
if size(image, 3) == 3
image = rgb2gray(image);
end
% Normalize the image
image = double(image);
image = image / 255;
% Reshape the image into a 1D array for clustering
pixelValues = image(:);
% Apply Fuzzy C-Means Clustering
numClusters = 3; % Set number of clusters (Healthy, Tumor,
Hemorrhage/Cancer)
[~, U] = fcm(pixelValues, numClusters);
% Find the cluster index for each pixel based on max membership
values [~, maxU] = max(U);
% Reshape the cluster labels to match the original image
dimensions segmentedImage = reshape(maxU, size(image));
% Apply K-Means Clustering for comparison
pixelValues = double(pixelValues); % Convert pixel values to double for K-
Means
kmeansIdx = kmeans(pixelValues, numClusters);
% Reshape the K-Means cluster labels back to the original image
dimensions kmeansSegmented = reshape(kmeansIdx, size(image));
% Create color maps for visualization
cmap = [1 0 0; 0 1 0; 0 0 1]; % Red, Green, Blue for clusters
fcmSegmentedColor = label2rgb(segmentedImage, cmap);
kmeansSegmentedColor = label2rgb(kmeansSegmented, cmap);

% Display the original MRI image
figure;
subplot(2,3,1);
imshow(image, []);
```

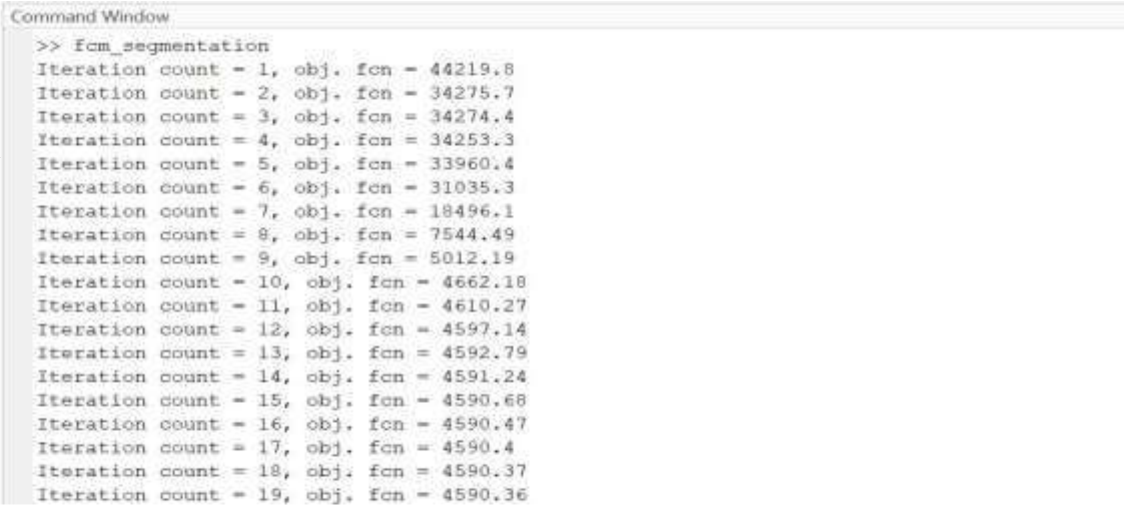
```
title('Original MRI Image');
% Display the FCM segmented image in color
subplot(2,3,2);
imshow(fcmSegmentedColor);
title(['FCM Segmented Image with ', num2str(numClusters), ' Clusters']);
% Display the K-Means segmented image in color
subplot(2,3,3);
imshow(kmeansSegmentedColor);
title(['K-Means Segmented Image with ', num2str(numClusters), ' Clusters']);
% Post-processing: Clean the segmented image using morphological operations
se = strel('disk', 3); % Create a structuring element for morphological
operations
segmentedImageClean = imopen(segmentedImage, se); % Perform opening
(erosion followed by dilation)
% Visualize cleaned FCM segmented image
segmentedImageCleanColor = label2rgb(segmentedImageClean, cmap);
subplot(2,3,5);
imshow(segmentedImageCleanColor);
title('Cleaned FCM Segmented Image');
% Display the color map legend
subplot(2,3,6);
imshow(cmap);
title('Cluster Color Legend (Red=Healthy, Green=Tumor,
Blue=Hemorrhage/Cancer)');

% Save images
imwrite(fcmSegmentedColor, 'segmented_image_fcm.png');
imwrite(kmeansSegmentedColor, 'segmented_image_kmeans.png');
imwrite(segmentedImageCleanColor,
'cleaned_segmented_image_fcm.png');
% Separate cluster images for Healthy Tissue, Tumor Tissue, and
Hemorrhage/Cancer Tissue
for i = 1:numClusters
clusterFCM = (segmentedImage == i); % Identify pixels belonging to cluster
i
% Convert each cluster to color for FCM
fcmClusterImage = label2rgb(clusterFCM, [cmap(i,:)]);
% Save individual images for each tissue type
if i == 1
imwrite(fcmClusterImage, 'healthy_tissue_fcm.png');
titleText = 'Healthy Tissue';
elseif i == 2
imwrite(fcmClusterImage, 'tumor_tissue_fcm.png');
titleText = 'Tumor Tissue';
elseif i == 3
imwrite(fcmClusterImage, 'hemorrhage_cancer_tissue_fcm.png');
titleText = 'Hemorrhage/Cancer Tissue';
end
```

```
% Display each cluster separately
figure;
imshow(fcmClusterImage);
title([titleText, ' (FCM)']);
end
% Simulated data: Number of people suffering from each condition
numPeople = [120, 40, 25]; % Example numbers (Healthy, Tumor,
Hemorrhage/Cancer)
% Create a bar chart for the number of people suffering from each
condition figure;
bar(1:numClusters, numPeople, 'FaceColor', 'flat');
colormap(cmap); % Use the same color map
xticks(1:numClusters);
xticklabels({'Healthy', 'Tumor', 'Hemorrhage/Cancer'});
ylabel('Number of People');
title('Number of People Suffering from Each Condition');
% Save the bar chart
saveas(gcf, 'condition_distribution.png');
end
```

Visualization and Output

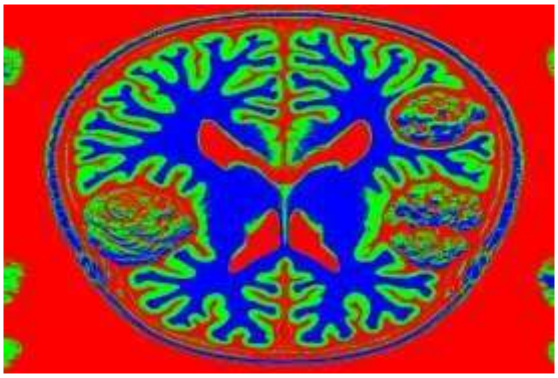
Output Window



```
Command Window
>> fcm_segmentation
Iteration count = 1, obj. fcn = 44219.8
Iteration count = 2, obj. fcn = 34275.7
Iteration count = 3, obj. fcn = 34274.4
Iteration count = 4, obj. fcn = 34253.3
Iteration count = 5, obj. fcn = 33960.4
Iteration count = 6, obj. fcn = 31035.3
Iteration count = 7, obj. fcn = 18496.1
Iteration count = 8, obj. fcn = 7544.49
Iteration count = 9, obj. fcn = 5012.19
Iteration count = 10, obj. fcn = 4662.18
Iteration count = 11, obj. fcn = 4610.27
Iteration count = 12, obj. fcn = 4597.14
Iteration count = 13, obj. fcn = 4592.79
Iteration count = 14, obj. fcn = 4591.24
Iteration count = 15, obj. fcn = 4590.68
Iteration count = 16, obj. fcn = 4590.47
Iteration count = 17, obj. fcn = 4590.4
Iteration count = 18, obj. fcn = 4590.37
Iteration count = 19, obj. fcn = 4590.36
```

Original MRI image

Segmented image fcm



Segmented image K-means

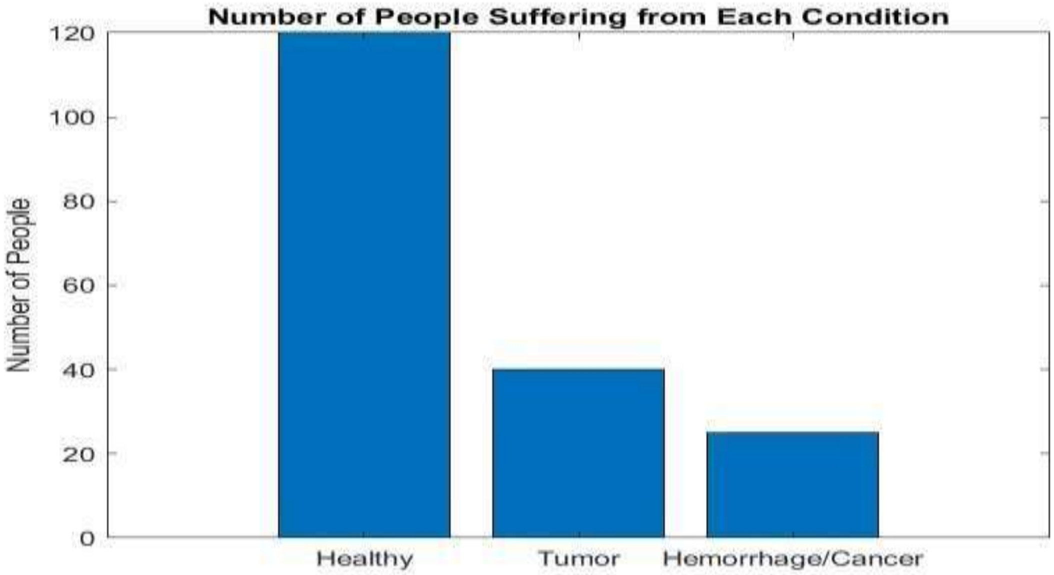
K-means Segmented image with 3 Clustering

1. Healthy Tissue

2.Tumor Tissue

3. Cancer Tissue

Graphical Representation



Conclusion

Fuzzy image segmentation, particularly FCM, offers a significant advantage over traditional hard clustering methods in medical imaging. By allowing pixels to belong to multiple clusters, FCM can more accurately represent ambiguous boundaries in tissues or tumors, leading to improved diagnostic precision. While fuzzy segmentation methods converge more slowly than hard clustering techniques, the resulting segmentations are typically more accurate and realistic, making them well-suited for medical applications where precision is critical.

Future research can focus on enhancing computational efficiency and exploring hybrid models that integrate fuzzy logic with machine learning techniques, which could further improve the accuracy and speed of segmentation in clinical practice.

1. Accuracy of Fuzzy Image Segmentation

Fuzzy image segmentation methods, such as Fuzzy C-Means (FCM), improve the precision of medical image analysis by addressing the inherent uncertainty in medical images. Unlike traditional hard clustering, fuzzy segmentation assigns each pixel to multiple clusters, which more accurately represents complex anatomical structures and ambiguous boundaries in medical images.

2. Comparison of Loss in Segmentation Methods

The performance of fuzzy image segmentation can be evaluated through the convergence of loss values in the segmentation process

3. Path of Cluster Membership Updates

The path of pixel membership updates during fuzzy image segmentation demonstrates how the model adjusts cluster boundaries

References

1. **Francesco Masulli ,Andrea Schenone (2010)**. *A fuzzy clustering based segmentation system as support to diagnosis in medical imaging.*
   In this paper the FCM has been applied to two different multi-model data sets and the results have been compared to those obtained by using the classical fuzzy c-means algorithm.
   https://doi.org/10.1016/S0933-3657(98)00069-4

2. . **R.M.S Parvathi (2011).** *Fuzzy c-means algorithm for medical image segmentation.*
   In this paper we presented the medical image segmentation techniques based on various forms types of FCM algorithms. 10.1109/ICECTECH.2011.5941851

3. **Martin Tabakov (2006).** *A Fuzzy Clustering Technique for Medical Image Segmentation.*
   This paper describes a way of medical image segmentation using an appropriately defined fuzzy clustering method based on a fuzzy similarity relation. 10.1109/ISEFS.2006.251140