

Università degli Studi di Padova

Synthetic CT Generation from MRI

A Unet Deep Learning Approach

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- 1. Introduction
- 2. Preprocessing
- 3. Data Augmentation
- 4. 2D U-Net Model
- 5. Testing Process
- 6. Results



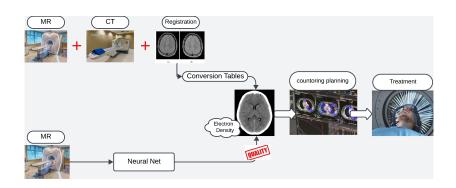


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Introduction









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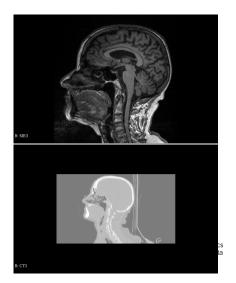


Preprocessing



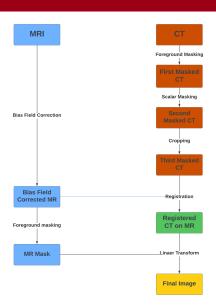
Datasets and Normalization

- Baseline Dataset: Glioma patients (3T MAGNETOM Trio, Siemens).
- Target Dataset:
 Neurodegenerative patients
 (SIEMENS Biograph mMR,
 PET/MRI hybrid).
- Z-score normalization was applied to MR images of both datasets.



Preprocessing Workflow









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Why Data Augmentation?



Why Augment?

- Limited data in medical imaging leads to overfitting and biased models.
- Augmentation increases dataset diversity, crucial for model generalization.
- Our datasets: Baseline (15 patients) and Target (16 patients).



Data Augmentation



Augmentation Methods

- Translation: Shifts image in different directions.
- Flip: Mirrors images horizontally or vertically.
- Horizontal and Vertical Flip: Rotates images 180 degrees for full orientation coverage.
- Rotation: Rotates images to add orientation diversity.
- Scaling: Resizes images to simulate different distances.





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2D U-Net Model Architecture



Block	Layers
Down 1	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + MaxPool
Down 2	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + MaxPool
Down 3	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + MaxPool
Down 4	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + MaxPool
Bottleneck	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + Conv2D + ReLU + BN
Up 1	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + ConvTransp
Up 2	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + ConvTransp
Up 3	${\sf Conv2D} + {\sf ReLU} + {\sf BN} + {\sf ConvTransp}$
Output	Conv2D + ReLU + BN + Conv2D

Table: 2D U-Net Model Layers





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Testing Process



- Comparison: Predictions of synthetic CT images are compared with actual CT images in a defined region of interest (ROI) using a mask.
- Metrics:
 - MAE (Mean Absolute Error): Measures the average absolute difference between predicted and actual Hounsfield Unit (HU) values, indicating overall precision.
 - BIAS (Mean Error): Shows whether predictions overestimate or underestimate actual CT values.
 - **DSC** (**Dice Similarity Coefficient**): Evaluates the overlap between predicted and actual segmentations for specific tissue classes (e.g., bones, fat, muscle).



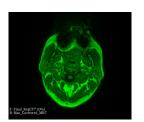


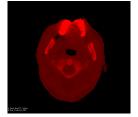
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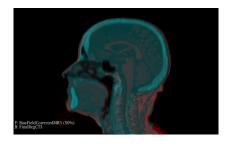
Preprocessing Results: Artifacts vs Normal







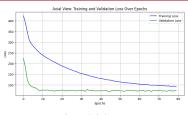


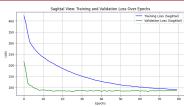




Pretraining Results



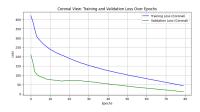




Axial View

Sagittal View

$$(MAE) = 60.437, ME = 19.909$$

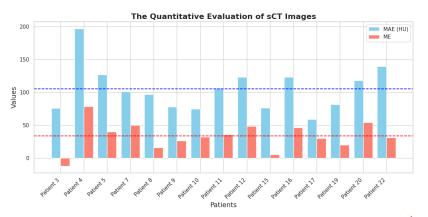




Coronal View

Quantitative Evaluation: The Target Dataset







Bone Threshold Assessment

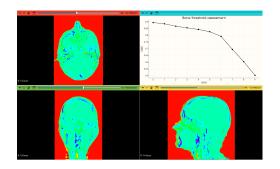


- Evaluated accuracy of sCT images using bone threshold assessment.
- Dice Similarity Coefficient (DSC) measures overlap between sCT and CT bone structures.
- DSC ranges from 0 (no overlap) to 1 (perfect overlap).
- DSC decreases as Hounsfield Unit (HU) thresholds increase.
- Higher DSC at lower HU indicates better bone structure capture in sCT.
- Decline in DSC at higher HU reflects challenges in modeling dense bone tissues.



Bone Threshold Assessment: Sample Case





Sample Case: This figure illustrates the comparison between real CT and sCT for a specific case (P3), showing the impact of HU threshold variation on bone structure accuracy.

Thanks!

