AI-based localization and classification of skin disease with erythema

Literature Survey

Abstract

Although computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) is used to improve the quality of diagnosis in various medical fields such as mammography and colonography, it is not used in dermatology, where noninvasive screening tests are performed only with the naked eye, and avoidable inaccuracies may exist. This study shows that CAD may also be a viable option in dermatology by presenting a novel method to sequentially combine accurate segmentation and classification models. Given an image of the skin, we decompose the image to normalize and extract high-level features. Using a neural network-based segmentation model to create a segmented map of the image, we then cluster sections of abnormal skin and pass this information to a classification model. We classify each cluster into different common skin diseases using another neural network model. Our segmentation model achieves better performance compared to previous studies, and also achieves a near-perfect sensitivity score in unfavorable conditions. Our classification model is more accurate than a baseline model trained without segmentation, while also being able to classify multiple diseases within a single image. This improved performance may be sufficient to use CAD in the field of dermatology.

Introduction:

Computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) is a computer-based system that is used in the medical imaging field to aid healthcare workers in their diagnoses[1]. CAD has become a mainstream tool in several medical fields such as mammography and colonography[1,2]. However, in dermatology, although skin disease is a common disease, one in which early detection and classification is crucial for the successful treatment and recovery of patients, dermatologists perform most noninvasive screening tests only with the naked eye. This may result in avoidable diagnostic inaccuracies as a result of human error, as the detection of the disease can be easily overlooked. Furthermore, classification of a disease is difficult due to the strong similarities between common skin disease symptoms. Therefore, it would be beneficial to exploit the strengths of CAD using artificial intelligence techniques, in order to improve the accuracy of dermatology diagnosis. This paper shows that CAD may be a viable option in the field of dermatology using state-of-the-art deep learning models.

Results and discussion

Figure 1 shows the schematic flow of our study. We started with the original image. We preprocessed this image by decomposing it into its hemoglobin and melanin constituents. These images were then input to the U-Net to generate the segmented output. We drew contours around each cluster and used a convex hull algorithm to draw rectangles around these clusters and crop them as individual images. These cropped images were used as input to the EfficientNet, which generated a prediction along with the confidence rate.

Figure 1