AI for Healthcare: Applications of Semantic Segmentation in Lung Cancer Detection using Python and Implications for Public Policy

Medhavi Bhardwaj
Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University For Women (IGDTUW)
medhavi032btaiml22@igdtuw.ac.in

Dr. Deepak Sharma, IGDTUW, New Delhi, Delhi 110006

Prof. (Dr.) Broto Rauth
Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed to Be University (Institute of Management And Research
broto.bhardwaj@bharatividyapeeth.edu

Prof. A.K. Mohapatra, IGDTUW, New Delhi, Delhi 110006

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Abstract - The purpose of this paper is to study of how machine learning algorithms, artificial intelligence, semantic segmentation and fine recognition can be used to enhance computer vision in order to determine anomalies indicating cancer in lung cancer image datasets.
Methodology: We run the semantic segmentation model Deeplab V3 ResNet 50 on the lung image dataset to identify different segments and examine how to they can be used to detect anomalies in the tissue.
Findings: The current research study applied semantic segmentation and fine recognition to identify anomalies indicating cancer in a lung images dataset, and identify avenues and areas of further improvement in accuracy of the classification, predictions and preventive care.
Implications: The research presents a further study of previous literature on how these 2 attributes can be used to identify cancerous growths and tumors in image datasets of organs for prediction, pain management, dosages for chemotherapy and preventive care.
Originality: Since the pandemic, the need for improving the quality of healthcare has drastically increased and hence more accurate diagnosis are required.
Index Terms - Artificial intelligence, image analysis, lung cancer, Machine learning, Deep learning, semantic segmentation, computer visioning, healthcare
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INTRODUCTION

Lung cancer remains one of the most prevalent and fatal cancers worldwide. AI has also been used to develop models that help facilitate computer vision which enables computers to 'see' and process visual data the way humans do. For example, semantic segmentation and fine object recognition are crucial for accurately interpreting medical images such as X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans by segmenting tumors in radiology images. One example is detecting brain tumors in MRI scans by segmenting tumor regions from healthy tissue. For e.g. detecting microcalcifications in mammograms for early breast cancer detection facilitates early diagnosis, increasing the chances of successful treatment. AI-powered tools use semantic segmentation and fine object recognition to analyze tissue samples. In pathology and histology, it is used in segmenting different types of cells in histopathological slides and distinguishing between cancerous and non-cancerous cells in biopsies. This assists pathologists in diagnosing diseases faster and more accurately. Fine object recognition is used in identifying rare cell types or anomalies in large datasets. For example, locating specific biomarkers indicative of diseases like leukemia. This improves the identification of less visible or hard-to-spot features. This paper explores the role of semantic segmentation and fine object recognition in detecting lung cancer, highlighting their potential and challenges in clinical applications. The research presents a further study of previous literature on how these 2 attributes can be used to identify cancerous growths and tumors in image datasets of organs. However, very few studies have been conducted on identification of factors affecting mobile-health (m-health) patients' cancerous cell behaviour through telemedicine (Poddar, Donthu, & Wei, 2009; Bhardwaj et. al, 2023a,b,c)[14][30][15].

LITERATURE REVIEW

Lung cancer is a leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide. Early detection and diagnosis are crucial for improving patient outcomes. While traditional diagnostic methods like X-ray and CT scans are widely used, they often require expert interpretation and can be time-consuming. Semantic segmentation and fine-grained

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object recognition are two key techniques in computer vision that have shown promise in this field. Semantic segmentation involves partitioning an image into meaningful regions, assigning a class label to each pixel. This can be used to identify lung nodules and other abnormalities. Fine-grained object recognition focuses on classifying objects within a specific category, such as different types of lung cancer cells. While earlier research primarily focused on low-level visual features (e.g., brightness, color), more recent studies have leveraged advanced techniques like deep learning to examine higher-level attributes such as semantic segmentation, fine object recognition, and image similarity.

I. Key Components and Techniques used in the Study

AI can help doctors:

- **Detect cancer early**: AI can analyse images like mammograms, MRIs, X-rays, sonograms, and tissue slides to help detect cancer.
- **Predict cancer development**: AI can help predict what might develop into cancer.
- **Personalize treatment plans**: AI can help devise personalized treatment plans for patients.
- **Reduce unnecessary biopsies**: AI can help reduce the number of unnecessary follow-up biopsies.
- **Reduce false positives**: AI can help reduce the number of false positive diagnoses.

AI-powered segmentation algorithms are used to detect and localize tumors in medical images such as MRI or CT scans. This involves delineating the tumor boundaries to separate cancerous tissue from normal structures. **Example:** Deep learning-based tools like U-Net are widely used for segmenting brain tumors and lung nodules. Ronneberger et al. introduced the U-Net model, which is extensively used in medical imaging for segmentation tasks. AI systems identify specific features, such as tumour type, grade, or growth patterns, which might not be visible to the human eye with the help of object recognition. **Example:** Deep Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are employed for recognizing subtle variations in tumour appearance. CNN-based models have shown state-of-the-art accuracy in identifying malignant lung nodules from CT scans. Tools like OCT segmentation systems delineate retinal layers to detect abnormalities like fluid accumulation or retinal thinning. AI systems analyse diabetic retinopathy by segmenting pathological changes in retinal fundus images. Gulshan et al. (2016) demonstrated that AI could achieve expert-level performance in detecting diabetic retinopathy. AI detects fine-grained features such as microaneurysms, haemorrhages, or exudates in the retina that indicate early disease progression. Algorithms can recognize early signs of age-related macular degeneration. Abràmoff et al. (2018) implemented autonomous AI for diabetic retinopathy detection with high sensitivity and specificity. AI-powered segmentation is used to isolate skin lesions from the surrounding healthy skin in dermoscopic images. Semantic segmentation aids in identifying the boundaries of melanoma to assist dermatologists. A study by Esteva et al. (2017) used a CNN model trained on over 129,000 images to identify skin cancer with dermatologist-level accuracy. Fine Object Recognition finds detailed features, such as asymmetry, border irregularity, color variations, and diameter in lesions, which are crucial for melanoma detection. Algorithms classify specific lesion subtypes, like basal cell carcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma. Tschandl et al. (2019) reported AI models that outperform experts in diagnosing skin cancer from dermoscopic images [27]. Models like **U-Net** and **DeepLabV3** have been employed to segment lung nodules, distinguishing cancerous tissue from healthy lung regions in CT scans (Ronneberger, Fischer, et. al., 2015, Chen, Papandreou, et al.,2017). Advanced segmentation algorithms have been shown to enhance tumor boundary detection, a crucial step for planning treatments like surgery or radiotherapy (Zhou, Siddiquee, et. al., 2018). Techniques such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have demonstrated success in identifying small, subtle features, such as micro-nodules or calcifications, often indicative of early-stage lung cancer (Shen, Zhou, et. al., 2015, Liao, Liang, et. al.,2019). Hybrid approaches combining object detection and segmentation have improved the sensitivity and specificity of lung nodule classification (Dou, Chen, et. al. 2017)[25].

Semantic segmentation and **fine-grained recognition** are two powerful techniques in computer vision that can be combined to enhance lung cancer detection. **Semantic Segmentation for Lung Nodule Detection**

Precise Localization: Semantic segmentation can accurately identify and delineate lung nodules in CT scans.

Noise Reduction: By isolating the region of interest, the segmentation process can help reduce noise and artifacts, improving subsequent analysis.

Quantitative Analysis: Once segmented, nodules can be measured and analysed for features like size, shape, and texture, which are important indicators of malignancy.

Fine-Grained Recognition for Cancer Type Classification

Subtle Feature Discrimination: Fine-grained recognition can distinguish between different types of lung cancer based on subtle visual differences in cell morphology and tissue texture.

Early Stage Detection: By identifying early-stage cancer, it can improve treatment outcomes and survival rates.

Personalized Treatment: Understanding the specific type of lung cancer can help in tailoring treatment plans.

Combined Approach for Enhanced Detection

By combining these techniques, we can achieve a more comprehensive and accurate lung cancer detection system: **Nodule Segmentation:** Use semantic segmentation to isolate lung nodules from the surrounding lung tissue.

Feature Extraction: Extract relevant features from the segmented nodules, such as texture, shape, and intensity.

Fine-Grained Classification: Employ fine-grained recognition techniques to classify the nodules into benign or malignant categories, and potentially further subclassify them into specific cancer types. Studies have shown that random forests outperform linear models when predicting target variable based on diverse and high-dimensional image attributes, as they can handle interactions among features without requiring explicit specification (Sun et al., 2022; Zhang & Liu, 2021) [28]. Healthcare service Excellence, Esthetics and playfulness of the website. Abdul-Muhmin, A. G. (2010) [3] asserts that there is a role of detection, attitude, and mobile-health (m-health) hospitalers' performance on the Repeat propagate intentions in mobile-health (m-health) tele-medicine. Anderson, R. E., & Srinivasan, S. S. (2003) [4] gives a contingency framework for e- detection and e-loyalty. Ballantine, P.W. (2005)[5] says that interactivity and product information has an important role in patients' cancerous cell detection in an mobile-health (m-health) hospital setting. Ha, H. Y., & Janda, S. (2014)[28] studies the effect of customized information on mobile-health (m-health) propagate intentions. Orel, F. D., & Kara, A. [23] says that there is a positive and significant relationship between self-checkout healthcare service quality and ultimately customer loyalty [19]. Walker. 2020 studies the customer of 2020 and their progression. Li, C.; Pan, R.; Xin, H.; Deng, Z. [29] researched Artificial Intelligence Customer Healthcare service on Patients' cancerous cell and its impact during Mobile-health (m-health). Paz, M.D.R.; Delgado, F.J. studied the fields of neuro marketing and neuroscience applied to business [24] [8] [9][10].These healthcare abilities have both opportunities and threats in healthcare and mobile-health (m-health) communication. GANs can generate realistic-sounding tweets that may deceive other users into believing they are authentic [13] [12][11].

Key Applications of Semantic Segmentation

Medical Image Analysis using Disease Diagnosis and Monitoring:

Neurodegenerative Diseases: Segmenting brain structures can help detect early signs of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other neurodegenerative disorders.

Cardiovascular Diseases: Segmenting heart structures can aid in diagnosing heart diseases and monitoring heart function.

Cancer Detection: Segmenting cancerous tissues can help in early detection and monitoring disease progression.

Techniques for Semantic Segmentation in Healthcare

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs): CNNs are the backbone of many semantic segmentation models. They can extract features from images at different scales, enabling accurate pixel-level classification.

U-Net: This architecture is specifically designed for medical image segmentation. It combines contracting and expanding paths to capture both context and fine-grained details.

Fully Convolutional Networks (FCNs): FCNs convert fully connected layers of traditional CNNs into convolutional layers, allowing for pixel-wise classification.

Attention Mechanisms: These mechanisms help focus on the most relevant parts of the image, improving segmentation accuracy [15].

II. Research Methodology

The DeepLabV3 model is a state-of-the-art semantic segmentation architecture designed to classify and segment every pixel in an image into specific categories. It is built on convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and utilizes ResNet (Residual Network) as its backbone for feature extraction.

1. Feature Extraction Using ResNet

DeepLabV3 uses ResNet as its backbone to extract high-level feature maps from the input image. ResNet introduces *residual connections* that make it easier to train deep neural networks by addressing the vanishing gradient problem.

2. Dilated (Atrous) Convolutions

DeepLabV3 employs **dilated convolutions** to increase the receptive field of the network without losing spatial resolution. Dilated convolutions work by skipping certain input pixels while applying convolutional filters. For example, a dilation rate of 2 skips every other pixel in the input, effectively doubling the receptive field.

3. Atrous Spatial Pyramid Pooling (ASPP)

ASPP is the core innovation of DeepLabV3. It processes the extracted features through multiple parallel dilated convolutions with varying dilation rates to capture multi-scale information. ASPP consists of multiple Atrous Convolutions: Feature maps are passed through convolutions with different dilation rates (e.g., rates of 1, 6, 12, 18) to capture information at different scales.

Global Pooling Branch: Adds a global context by pooling the entire feature map into a single value and projecting it back.

Concatenation: Outputs from all branches are concatenated, combining both local and global context.

1x1 Convolution: Reduces dimensionality after concatenation. This mechanism allows DeepLabV3 to handle objects of varying sizes effectively, making it highly suitable for segmentation tasks like detecting tumors in medical images.

4. Upsampling for Pixel-Level Segmentation

After the ASPP module, the output is upsampled to the original resolution of the input image. This ensures that

each pixel in the input corresponds to a class label in the output. The up-sampling process involves:
Bilinear Interpolation: A common method for resizing images.
Pixel-wise Classification: The final output is a segmentation map, where each pixel is classified into a category.

III. Data Analysis

Another possibility is that the model may extract features that represent the overall structure of the data.

Table 1. Feature type and description

Numeric features	Numeric features represent numeric values, such as the number of items in a set
Binary features	Binary features have only two possible values, such as 0 and 1.
Categorical features	Categorical features represent categories or classes, such as different types of cats
Continuous features	Continuous features continuously change values, like humidity measure.
Ordinal features	Ordinal features have a defined order, such as scale from 1 to 5

The research methodology involved the following steps:

- **Data Acquisition:**

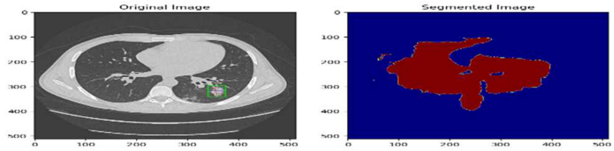
Collected a large dataset of CT images with annotated labels for lung nodules and other abnormalities.
Pre-process the images to enhance contrast and remove noise.
Model Development: Semantic Segmentation: Train a U-Net or other suitable architecture on the annotated dataset to segment lung nodules and other regions of interest.
Fine-Grained Object Recognition: Extract patches from the segmented regions. Train a deep convolutional neural network to classify these patches into different types of lung cancer cells.
Model Evaluation: Evaluate the performance of the models using standard metrics such as accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and F1-score.
Clinical Validation: Collaborate with radiologists to assess the clinical feasibility and accuracy of the proposed approach. Employs Conv2D, LeakyReLU, Dropout, and Dense layers.

3. **Loss Functions and Optimizers:**
Loss Functions: Binary cross-entropy loss was used for both generator and discriminator.
Optimizers: Adam optimizer was employed for both the generator and discriminator with a learning rate of 0.0001.

!V. Results

The output is a set of semantic segmented images with different colors showing the different areas of segmentation and a dataset with each different colored section grouped into a different class and recorded in the form of the percentage of the picture each segment occupies.

```
Image: 000020_03_01_166.png
Class 0: 82.03%
Class 3: 17.97%
```




```
Image: 000020_03_01_212.png
Class 0: 96.25%
Class 3: 3.15%
Class 8: 0.60%
```

The output is a set of semantic segmented images with different colors showing the different areas of segmentation and a dataset.

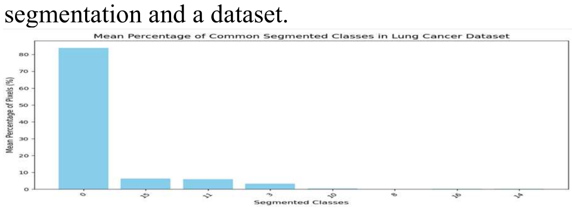


Fig 2: Percentage Representation of classes for benign cases

The bar chart visualizes the mean percentage of pixels corresponding to various segmented classes in a lung cancer dataset. Here's the interpretation:
Class Dominance (Class 0):
Class 0 accounts for the overwhelming majority of pixels, with over 80% representation on average. This suggests that Class 0 likely corresponds to the background or non-relevant areas in the lung images, such as non-tissue regions.
Minor Classes (Classes 15, 11, 3, 10, etc.):
The remaining classes (15, 11, 3, 10, 8, etc.) collectively represent significantly smaller percentages. Each of these classes has mean pixel percentages under 10%, indicating that these regions are less frequent or occupy smaller areas in the images. These minor classes might represent specific lung structures, nodules, or pathological findings (e.g., benign or malignant tissues).
Clinical Implications:
The predominance of Class 0 highlights the need for robust segmentation techniques to ensure accurate identification and isolation of the smaller yet clinically significant regions (e.g., nodules or lesions) represented by other classes. Classes with smaller pixel percentages are likely the focus of cancer detection, as they may represent areas of interest such as tumours or abnormalities.

V. Conclusion

Semantic segmentation facilitates the pixel-level delineation of lung structures, allowing the identification of abnormalities such as nodules or lesions in CT and X-ray images. This precise segmentation is essential for differentiating cancerous tissues from healthy lung regions, enabling early-stage detection of tumors. Deep learning models like U-Net and DeepLab have demonstrated their effectiveness in segmenting lung nodules, even in complex cases where the boundaries between normal and abnormal tissues are subtle (Ronneberger et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2017). For instance, using convolutional neural networks (CNNs), such as ResNet or DenseNet, fine recognition can analyze features like spiculation, calcification, or irregular borders, which are indicative of malignancy (He et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2017). This detailed analysis supports radiologists in assessing tumor aggressiveness and potential metastasis.

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About the Authors

Medhavi Bhardwaj is an undergraduate student at Gandhi Delhi Technical University For Women, a 3rd year student in B.Tech. in AI-ML. Her areas of research include artificial intelligence, image analysis using AI, and machine learning. She has published 3 books and 5 papers including Scopus.

Prof. (Dr.) Broto Rauth is working as Professor of Entrepreneurship at Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Management and Research, New Delhi since 2004. She has also taught at North Eastern Illinois University, Chicago, USA. She has completed Ph.D. and MBA from IIT, Delhi and B.Tech in Biochemical Engineering. A gold medalist from IIT Delhi, she has more than 26 years of industry and teaching experience and has published more than 132 papers in scopus and other reputed journals and 25 books. and