

Improving Weakly Supervised Lesion Segmentation Using Multi-Task Learning

Tianshu Chu¹*, Xinmeng Li¹*, Huy V. Vo², Ronald M. Summers³, Elena Sizikova¹

* - contributed equally

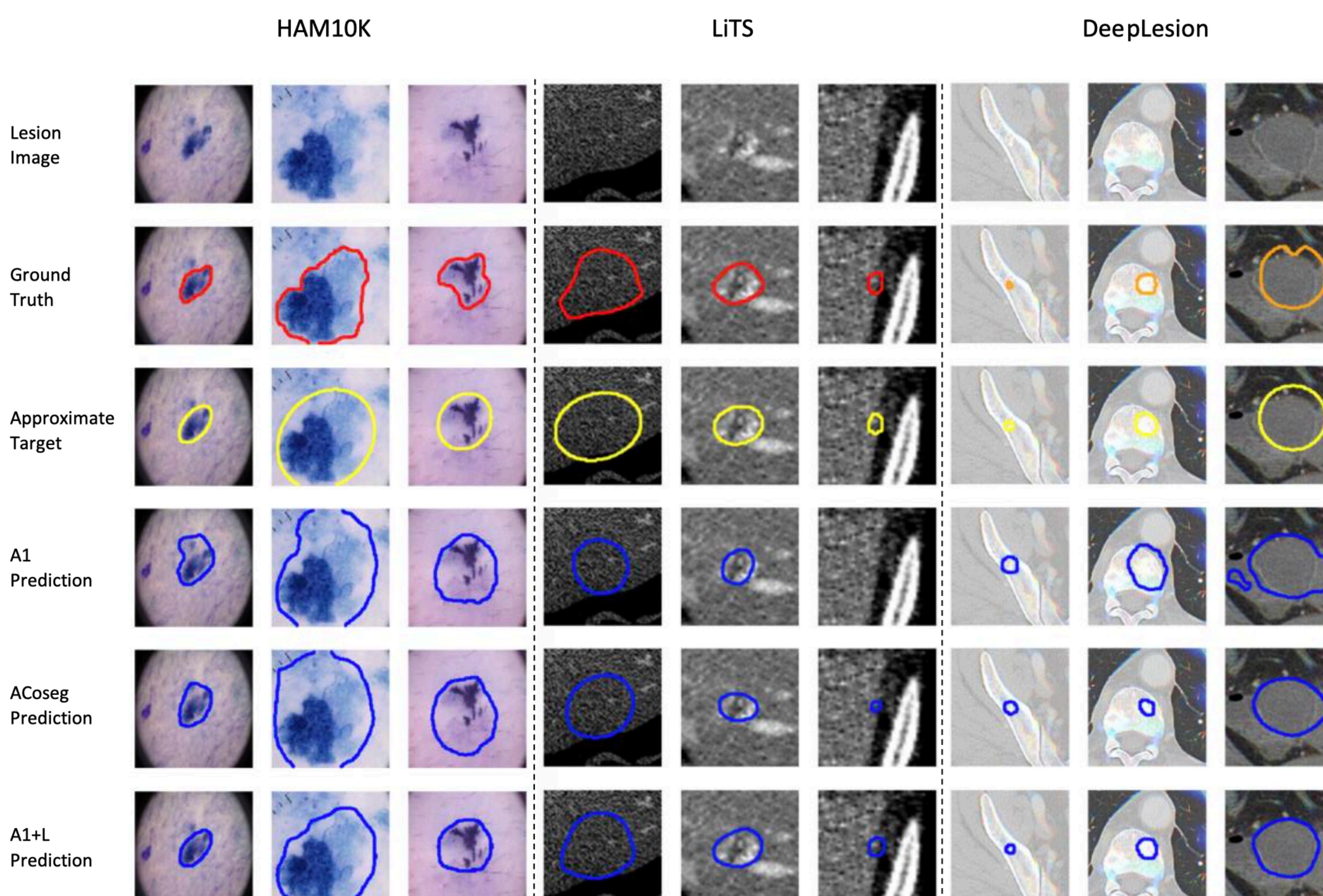
¹Center for Data Science, New York University; ²Ecole Normale Supérieure; ³Diagnostic Radiology, NIH Clinical Center

Introduction

Given that we do not have full supervision, how can we leverage the existing partial data to learn a good model? Such problems are common in medical imaging, where acquiring full supervision requires specialized training and specialized knowledge. RECIST is a standard way to roughly annotate the lesion extent in CT, but no dense masks are typically available.

In this work, we propose to replace the segmentation alone and co-segmentation (Agarwal et al., 2020a) process by a joint classification/segmentation network.

Visualization

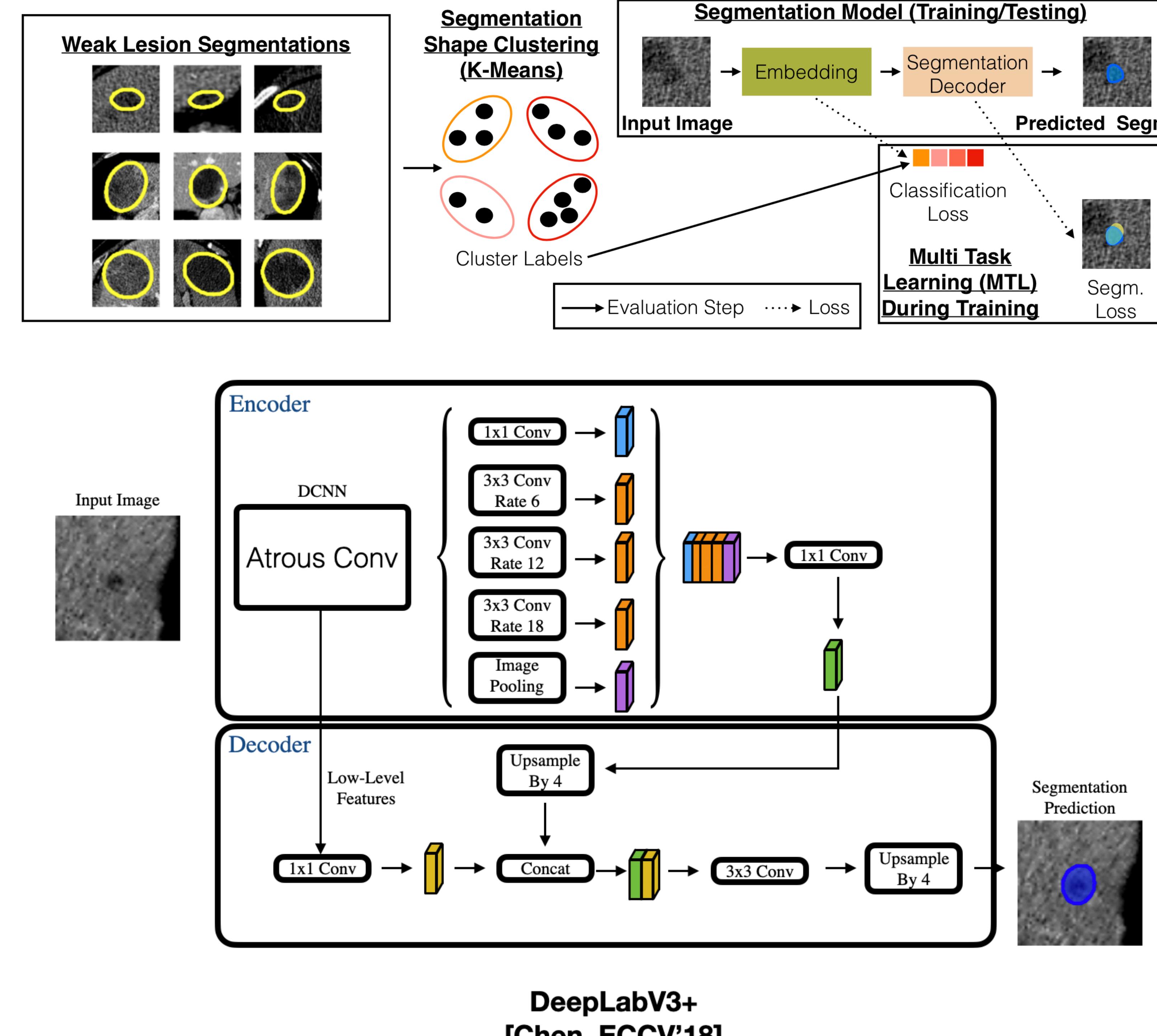


The prediction masks of our method are closer to the relative rotation, shape and size of ground truth than A1 and ACoseg results.

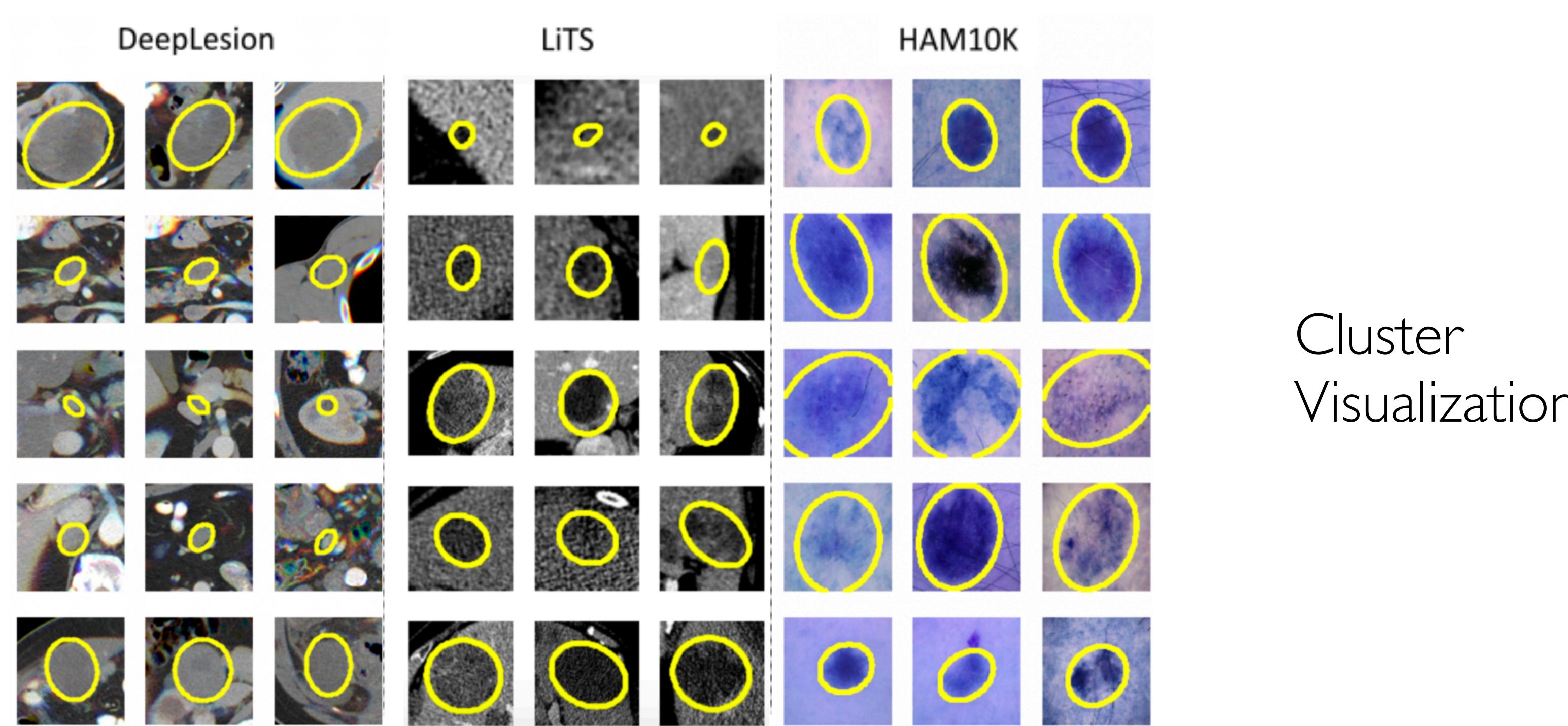
References

1. Vatsal Agarwal, Youbao Tang, Jing Xiao, and Ronald M Summers. Weakly supervised lesion co-segmentation on ct scans. In 2020 IEEE 17th International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI), pages 203–206. IEEE, 2020a.
2. Liang-Chieh Chen, Yukun Zhu, George Papandreou, Florian Schroff, and Hartwig Adam. Encoder-decoder with atrous separable convolution for semantic image segmentation. In Proceedings of the European conference on computer vision (ECCV), pages 801–818, 2018.

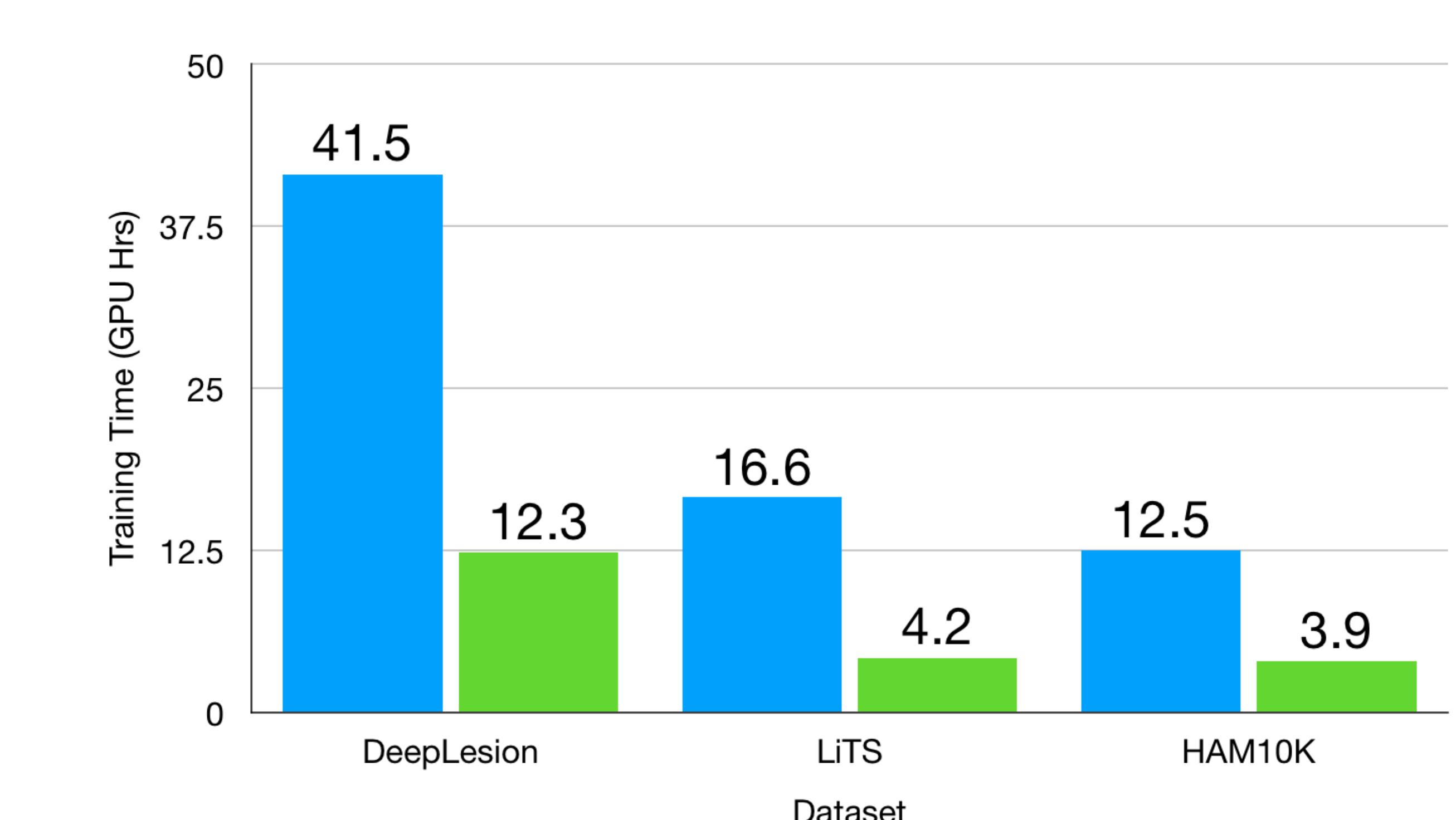
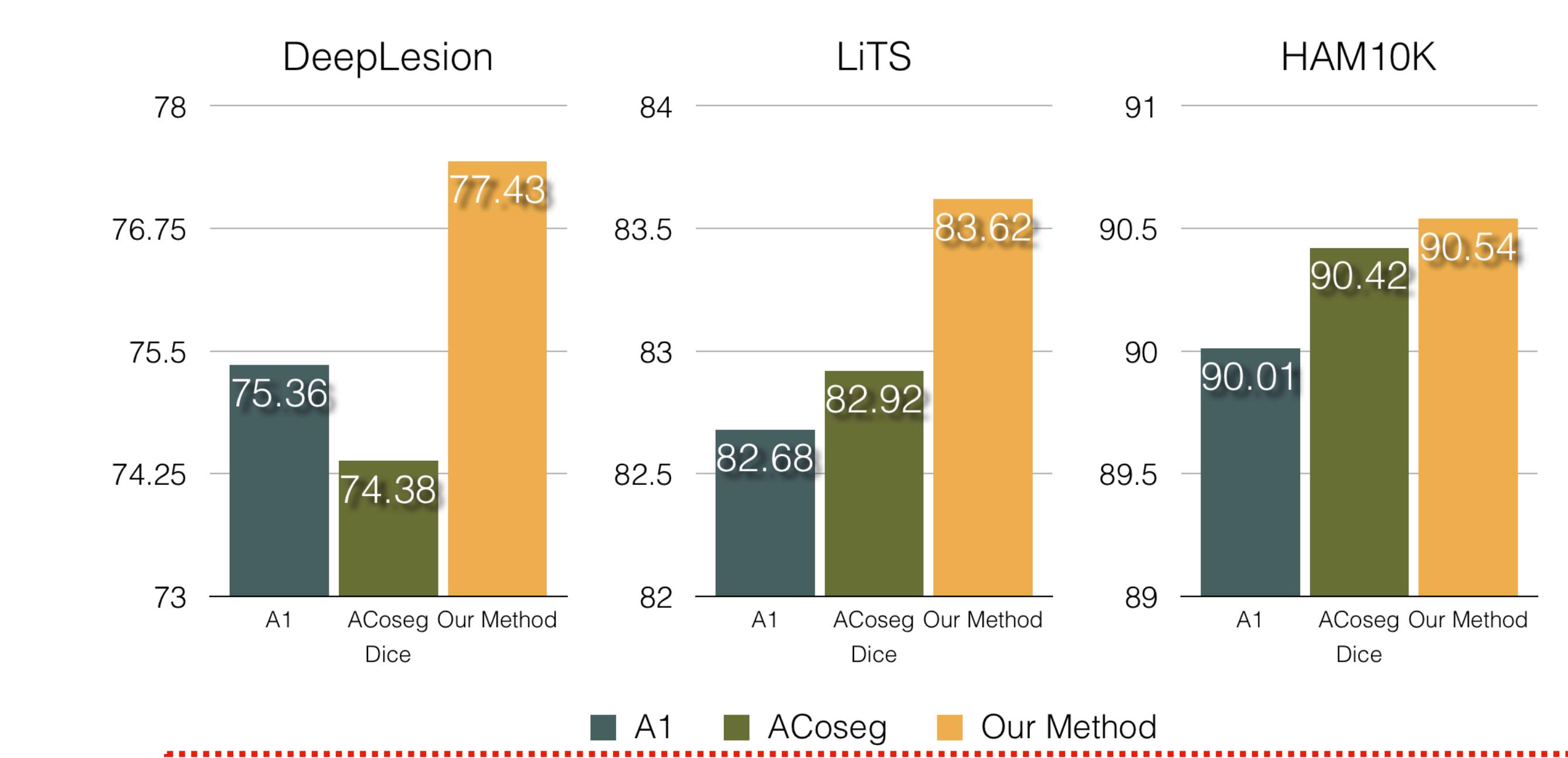
Methods



In this work, we propose to replace the co-segmentation process by a joint classification/segmentation network. We obtain the class labels by clustering lesions' RECIST measurements with K-means. Based on the RECIST, we also generate pseudo-ground truth using the Ellipse algorithm. We perform classification on the encoder output and train our model in a multi-task learning fashion to minimize the joint loss.



Results



We presented an multi-task learning approach that allows more accurate segmentations of computed tomography (CT) and dermatoscopic imaging data while significantly reducing training time.

Conclusion

- New joint detection and segmentation scheme for weakly supervised lesion segmentation
- Systematic analysis on CT and dermatoscopic datasets shows higher accuracy and faster training

