Automatic Brain Segmentation Method based on Supervoxels

Martin Tamajka
Supervisor: Wanda Benešová, PhD
Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

Motivation and goal

Goal:
- Segment human brain MR volume into white matter (WM), grey matter (GM) and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

Motivation:
- Segmentation quality directly influences diagnostics.
- Manual segmentation is extremely time-consuming even if performed by experienced radiologists.
- Examples of segmentation use cases: regional brain volume estimation in Multiple Sclerosis, tumor volume measurement, brain change analysis, surgical planning, etc.

Oversegmentation and supervoxels

- SLIC algorithm [2] with supervoxel size 120 and compactness 6
- Oversegmentation success rate is defined in equation (3)

\[
S = \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{s \in S} \frac{\text{major}(s)}{\text{size}(s)}
\]

- Oversegmentation success is higher for smaller supervoxels. Nevertheless, small supervoxels contain only limited information.

Features extraction

Features are based on intensity and position of supervoxel:
- Normalized intensity histogram of voxels in supervoxel.
- Normalized intensity histogram of neighbouring supervoxels.
- Normalized Euclidean distance of supervoxel centroid from the brain centre.
- Angle between supervoxel centroid and brain centre in XY, XZ and YZ plane.

Classification

- Each supervoxel is assigned to either BG, CSF, GM or WM.
- We train multilayer perceptron (MLP) with two hidden layers, sigmoidal activation function and Levenberg–Marquardt training function.
- In training process, we do not include supervoxels having less than 87% voxels from single class.
- Supervoxels with mean intensity \( \leq 2 \) are a priori background.

Results, conclusion and future work

- IBSR-18 dataset, all supervoxels divided in ratio 80:20 (train:test)
- Results are promising and clearly comparable to state-of-the-art (Tab. I)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tissue</th>
<th>CSF</th>
<th>GM</th>
<th>WM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSC</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITDS (DSC)</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion and future work:
- In this work we propose a fully automatic method for segmentation of brain from MR images.
- Supervoxels with higher oversegmentation error have higher standard deviation and lower MLP excitation rate. In future work we are going to use this information to identify potentially oversegmented and/or misclassified supervoxels and either split them into smaller supervoxels or use some other segmentation technique, e.g. majority voting using non-rigidly registered atlases. Next option is to use and evaluate performance of another oversegmentation algorithm.

Preprocessing

Main goals of preprocessing in our method are to increase success rate of supervoxel classification and to decrease computational complexity of training and classification. Therefore we perform two preprocessing steps:
- Incorporate prior knowledge that supervoxels that have average intensity below 2 (before normalization) belong to background.
- Remove skull, eyes and other non-brain tissues using BET [1] (Fig. 1) preserving brain voxels.

Classifications

\[
S = \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{s \in S} \frac{\text{major}(s)}{\text{size}(s)}
\]

- \( S \) is normalize degree of supervoxel

References


Figure 1. Skull stripping performed by BET

Figure 4. Left - distribution of normalized Euclidean distances of supervoxels of individual tissues from brain centre. Right - normalized intensity histogram of individual tissues.

Figure 5. Segmentation result and areas with low MLP excitation rate

This work was supported by the Grant VEGA 1/0625/14 and Siemens Healthcare.

http://vgg.fii.stuba.sk/category/research-areas/medical_imaging/

Master’s thesis was awarded the Dean’s award of Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies at Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava.