

# Preface

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Dental image segmentation is an important task in dental image analysis and plays a crucial role in various dental applications, such as diagnosis, treatment planning, and clinical research. With the advent of different imaging modalities, there has been a significant increase in the complexity and variability of dental images, thus making the dental image segmentation task more challenging. Recent advancements in deep learning techniques have led to significant improvements in dental image segmentation accuracy and efficiency.

This thesis mainly focuses on studying and analysing state-of-the-art dental image segmentation techniques, finding their advantages and limitations, and proposing new methods and models to accomplish the objectives. This thesis aims to conduct a comprehensive literature review on segmentation models for dental images. The various methods and models concerning current research trends have been analysed by mentioning their pros and cons and identifying possible research gaps. Various models using deep learning approaches have been proposed in this thesis to fulfil the research gap in segmenting dental images.

The first contribution in the thesis is related to the task of teeth area segmentation from dental panoramic X-ray images, where two models using deep learning approaches have been proposed. The first proposed model exploits the Multimodal CNN architecture for automated segmentation of teeth region. This model consists of multiCNN encoder and decoder. The encoder has three different streams: conventional CNN, dilated CNN and separable CNN. The main objective behind the Multimodal CNN architecture is to combine the advantages of different CNN streams for rich dental information to improve

segmentation performance. The second proposed model for teeth area segmentation is a novel cascaded deep architecture with attention guidance for tooth boundaries. This model comprises of two deep models. The first model has an attention-guided encoder-decoder network while the second one is the deep convolutional architecture. The purpose of this model is to generate a contextual rich feature map with a focus on tooth boundaries using the proposed attention block TBAB. The second model maintains the semantic information and improves the quality of the predicted segmented map removing blurry pixels and generating accurate and clear segmentation maps.

The second contribution to the thesis is to enhance teeth segmentation by using multifusion deep neural network. This deep neural network comprises of four major components: encoder, decoder, skip connections and hybrid loss function. The encoder gathers detailed teeth information whereas decoder is responsible for reconstructing the predicted segmented maps. The skip connections are of two types short and long which maintain texture information in an encoder and preserve low-level information in a decoder. The model is trained using a combination of binary cross entropy loss and dice loss to maintain structural information of teeth region. The objective of this model is to generate precise and enhanced teeth segmentation map with clear teeth region boundaries.

The third contribution is TeethCaps a deep segmentation model based on a capsule network for segmenting teeth regions from panoramic radiographs. This model has three modules, a feature extractor, an attention block and a capsule block. The feature extractor has convolution and dilated convolutions and is responsible for preserving the most discriminant features. The second module is an attention block having CBAM block which gives attention to channel and spatial features and generates refined feature maps. The third is the capsule block consists of convolutional and deconvolutional capsule layers which maintain the spatial information while performing segmentation.

The fourth contribution of the thesis is to segment the precise teeth region by a novel deep encoder-decoder architecture utilizing the transformers. The transformer structure is fused with the encoder-decoder architecture to handle spatial information in panoramic images and leverages its attention mechanism for capturing contextual dependencies. Skip connections have been made in the model to retain the features of the original image, ensuring adequate reconstruction of the image. Various deep segmentation models using transformers were also implemented and analysed for teeth region segmentation on dental images.

The proposed model has been implemented and validated on publicly available benchmark datasets. The results and analysis reveal that the proposed models outperform state-of-the-art methodologies presented in the literature. Extensive ablation of some proposed models has also been conducted to demonstrate the effect of various components of the proposed models.

The thesis concludes with an overall conclusion of the proposed research work, followed by a discussion of future research directions in the field of dental image segmentation.