





Domain Adaptation and Active Leaning for Microscopy

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Electron Microscopy



FIBSEM stack at 5 nm resolution.



Synapses and Mitochondria



- Synapses transmit signals from neurons to other cells.
- Mitochondria provide cells with the energy they need.
- Their shape is affected by neuro-degenerative diseases.





Talk Outline

- 1. Segmentation given sufficient amounts or training data.
- 2. Domain adaptation
- 3. Active Learning





Context-Based Features

Synapse:



Post-synaptic region

- Dendrite
- No vesicles



• Many vesicles

Non-Synapse:







Contextual Features



- Context features are based on image statistics inside a cubic neighborhood centered around a location relative to the voxel to be classified.
- Many different channels are computed and AdaBoost selects the location, channel and cubic neighborhood size.





Our method

Kreshuk et al.

Threshold set at 90% TPR for both methods



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3D Detection











Quantitative Evaluation

	Voxel Size	Train		Test		
Dataset		Size (voxels)	Labeled synapses	Size (voxels)	Labeled synapses	
(A) Som. cortex	6.8 nm	$750 \times 564 \times 750$	9 (some)	655 imes 429 imes 250	28 (all)	
(B) Hippocampus	5 nm	$1024\times 653\times 165$	20 (all)	$\begin{array}{c} 1024 \times 883 \times 165 \\ 1024 \times 1536 \times 200 \end{array}$	79 (all)	
(C) Cerebellum	5 nm	$1398\times1343\times299$	7 (some)	$1966 \times 1343 \times 200$	56 (all)	



Membranes and Contextual Features



- Explicitly model membranes as separate regions and exploit the fact that the inside is enclosed within them to retain the graph cut formulation.
- Use the contextual features to compute the unary terms.
- ➡ Improved performance and faster training.

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Time and Accuracy





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$3.21 \ \mu m \times 3.21 \ \mu m \times 1.08 \ \mu m$: 53 mitochondria



From Contextual Features to U-Net

Context Features + CRF U-Net 3D

Striatum Mitochondria

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Method	Jaccard Index		
Context F. + CRF	84.6%		
U-Net 2D	82.4%		
U-Net 3D	86.1%		







Is Resistance Futile?

U-Net 3D

Context Features 3D CRF



Method	Jaccard Index		
Context Features 2D	66.8%		
Context Features 3D	85.2%		
U-Net 2D	73.5%		
U-Net 3D	77.0%		

.. but U-Net does not take orientation into account.



So, probably, but high-level knowledge still has its place.

A Closer Look at Mitochondria

Hippocampus





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Striatum





Cerebellum





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Somatosensory Cortex









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Training samples
$$X^t = \{\mathbf{x}_i^t, y_i^t\}_{i=1}^{N^t}, \quad t = 1, \dots, T$$

Goal: Learn a mapping $\phi^t(\mathbf{x}^t) : \mathcal{X}^t \to \mathcal{Z}$
such that $f_t(\mathbf{x}) = \boldsymbol{\beta}^T \phi^t(\mathbf{x})$



How: Set of task-specific non-linear functions $\phi^t(\mathbf{x}^t) = [h_1^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \dots, h_M^t(\mathbf{x}^t)]^T$ We propose $h_j^t(\mathbf{x}^t) = h_j(\mathbf{x}^t - \boldsymbol{\tau}_j^t), \ h_j(\cdot) \in \mathcal{H}$ $f_t(\mathbf{x}) = \boldsymbol{\beta}^T \, \phi^t(\mathbf{x}^t) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \beta_j h_j(\mathbf{x}^t - \boldsymbol{\tau}_j^t)$ j=1





Gradient Boosting

Weak Learner Search

At each boosting iteration, the optimal weak learner \tilde{h} minimizes

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N^{t}} w_{ik}^{t} \left[\tilde{h}(\mathbf{x}^{t} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{\tau}}^{t}) - y_{i}^{t} \right]^{2} \right)$$

In practice, $h(\cdot)$ are regression trees or decision stumps







Quantitative Evaluation





Delineating Dendritic Trees ...



Processing steps:

- 1. Compute the *tubularity* of individual voxels.
- 2. Select voxels that locally maximize this measure.
- 3. Build a *tubular* graph by linking these voxels.
- 4. Find an optimal tree within the graph.





... and Roads



—> The only difference between the two versions comes from the data used to train the path classifier!





Path Classification







Unsupervised Domain Adaptation

Source Domain

Target Domain

Given annotations in a source stack:

- Establish correspondences in the target stack, some correct, other not.
- Formulate a multiple instance learning problem.

Multiple Instance Learning

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Relative contributions (weights) of candidate correspondence to the softmin

$$\hat{\Gamma}^{t} = \arg \min_{\Gamma^{t}} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}^{s}|} \sum_{c_{i}^{s} \in \mathcal{C}^{s}} \operatorname{softmin} \left[\ell_{i1}, \ell_{i2}, \dots, \ell_{ik}\right],$$

where

•
$$\ell_{ij} = L_{\delta} \left(f_{\Gamma^s}(c_i^s) - f_{\Gamma^t}(c_{i,j}^t) \right)$$

- Γ^s and Γ^t are model parameters, that is boosted tree thresholds.
- L_{δ} is the Huber loss
- softmin $[\ell_1, \dots, \ell_k] = -\frac{1}{r} \ln \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \exp(-r\ell_j)$

Segmentation

Synapses

Subspace Alignment

Ours

Mitochondria

Subspace Alignment

Ours

GT

	No adaptation	Histogram Matching	TD only	SA [7] + Lin. SVM	SA [7] + AdaBoost	Ours $(k = 8)$
Synapse	0.22	0.32	0.39	0.13	0.39	0.57
Mitochondria	0.50	0.39	0.57	0.24	0.59	0.62

Active Learning

Obvious Strategies

Uncertainty Sampling

Conventional uncertainty sampling:

Introducing geometry:

Potentially mislabeled points. Favoring smooth boundaries.

$$p_G^0(y_i = \hat{y}) = \sum_{s_j \in A_k(s_i)} p_T(y_i = \hat{y} | y_j = \hat{y}) p_\theta(y_j = \hat{y} | \mathbf{x_j})$$
$$p_G^{\tau+1}(y_i = \hat{y}) = \sum_{s_j \in A_k(s_i)} p_T(y_i = \hat{y} | y_j = \hat{y}) p_G^{\tau}(y_j = \hat{y})$$

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• Branch and Bound Search for an Optimal Slice.

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• Much easier task for the expert annotator.

Batch-Mode Geometry-Based Active Learning

EM Segmentation Results

10000 datapoints

100 datapoints

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MRI Segmentation Results

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Delineation

Ambiguous cases:

- Branch crossovers
- Occluded paths
- Linear structures that are not part of the ground truth

—> Annotator should focus on paths that violate the smoothness of probabilities along the branches.

Probability Propagation

• Propagate the probabilities *P*_o assigned by the base classifier around the overcomplete graph to obtain:

$$P^* = (I - \alpha S)^{-1} P_0$$
 Zhou

Zhou et al., NIPS 04

0.9 0.8 0.7 0.6 0.5 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.1

• Calculate entropy *after* the propagation

• Identify ambiguous image regions

Uncertainty before propagation

Uncertainty after propagation

Density Query

 $^{\circ}$ A selected batch E^* should be:

- Informative -- entropy
- *Representative* –global similarity
- Diverse –labelled and intra-batch similarity

Introduce a *density score*:

- σ_G global similarity
- σ_L labelled similarity
- σ_I intra-batch similarity

 $\sigma_{G}(E) = \sum_{i \in E} \sum_{1 \le j \le N} w_{ij}$ $\sigma_{L}(E) = \sum_{i \in E} \sum_{l \in L} w_{il}$ $\sigma_{I}(E) = \sum_{i \in E} \sum_{j \in E} w_{ij}$

$$\mu(E) = \frac{\sigma_G(E) - \sigma_L(E) - \sigma_I(E)}{\sigma_G(E)},$$

Combine density and uncertainty components:

$$E^* = \underset{E \in E_k}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} \quad \mu(E)(\sum_{i \in E} H(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

Algorithm's behavior

Decreasing ambiguity

5 samples

15 samples

25 samples

35 samples

45 samples

Frequently queried pairs

Path Classification Results

Roads

Blood vessels

Axons

Neurons

Batch size

- Singletons do not capture geometry
- **Pairs** capture geometry and enable frequent classifier update
- *Triplets* classifier not updated frequently enough

Delineation Results

Random

Uncertainty

Ground truth

Conclusion

• A human brain contains approximately 100 billion neurons and 100 trillion synapses.

• It would take 1000 Exabytes to store an uncompressed digitization at 5nm resolution.

- Techniques that rely on Machine Learning are required but the training data is hard to obtain.
- Both Domain Adaptation and Active Learning can help but the interfaces must be carefully designed.
- We are going to have to learn how to learn.

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