Mask2Former 를 이용한 CT 및 PET 영상의 정밀 폐암 분할

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Precision Lung Cancer Segmentation from CT & PET Images Using Mask2Former

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Abstract

Lung cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, highlighting the critical need for early diagnosis. Lung image analysis and segmentation are essential steps in this process, but manual segmentation of medical images is extremely time-consuming for radiation oncologists. The complexity of this task is heightened by the significant variability in lung tumors, which can differ greatly in size, shape, and texture due to factors like tumor subtype, stage, and patient-specific characteristics. Traditional segmentation methods often struggle to accurately capture this diversity. To address these challenges, we propose a lung cancer diagnosis system based on Mask2Former, utilizing CT (Computed Tomography) and PET (Positron Emission Tomography) images. This system excels in generating high-quality instance segmentation masks, enabling it to better adapt to the heterogeneous nature of lung tumors compared to traditional methods. Additionally, our system classifies the segmented output as either benign or malignant, leveraging a self-supervised network. The proposed approach offers a powerful tool for early diagnosis and effective management of lung cancer using CT and PET data. Extensive experiments demonstrate its effectiveness in achieving improved segmentation and classification results.

1. Introduction

Lung cancer has seen a dramatic rise in incidence over the twentieth century and is now the most common cancer in the Western world. It is the leading cause of cancer mortality in the United States, with approximately 170,000 deaths each year, accounting for a third of all cancer-related deaths in men and a quarter in women. Globally, lung cancer represents 11.4% of all new cancer cases and is responsible for 18.0% of cancer-related deaths [1]. Non-small-cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC) accounts for approximately 85–88% of lung cancer cases, while small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) makes up about 12–15% [9]. Lung cancer is highly invasive and heterogeneous, making early detection and treatment essential to improving the overall five-year survival rate [10]. Over the past decade, the detection of lung nodules has been extensively studied using various medical imaging techniques, including chest X-ray, positron emission tomography (PET), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), low-dose CT (LDCT), and chest radiography (CRG). . This high mortality rate underscores the urgent need for early detection and effective treatment. However, manual segmentation of lung cancer in medical imaging is both time-consuming and prone to variability, leading to inconsistent results. To address these issues, there is a growing need for automated segmentation systems. Recent advances in deep learning have significantly improved the accuracy of medical image segmentation. This work proposes a new lung cancer segmentation system that utilizes CT and PET scans, leveraging Mask2Former combined with self-attention mechanisms to enhance segmentation accuracy. Our approach achieves a notable precision of 94.87%, effectively addressing the challenges of tumor heterogeneity and reducing interobserver variability. By providing a more reliable and efficient means of early diagnosis, this system represents a significant advancement in the management of lung cancer [7].

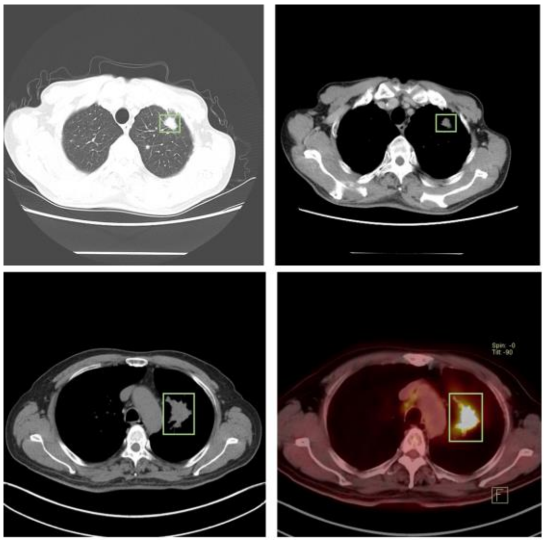
2. Related work

Cancer is a life-threatening disease that demands early diagnosis to enhance patient survival rates. The manual process of detecting, segmenting, and classifying cancer in various organs—such as the breast, brain, lung, and skin—through medical imaging is time-intensive and requires specialized expertise. Lung cancer detection and segmentation have significantly advanced with the rise of deep learning. Initial breakthroughs, such as Esteva et al.'s (2017) work on CNNs for medical image classification [2], paved the way for subsequent improvements in lung cancer segmentation. A widely used and reliable approach for accurately identifying tumors in lung imaging is 3D-based segmentation, which has been incorporated into various methods. Paing et al. [11] utilized tomography scans to develop a fully automated and enhanced random forest classification system for lung nodules, improving boundary detection with a 3D chain code method. In [12], a 3D CNN was introduced for the automatic diagnosis of lung cancer, yielding strong performance with a recall of 99.6% and an AUC of 0.913%. The model's effectiveness was evaluated using the LIDC-IDRI standard dataset. Numerous studies have demonstrated that integrating deep learning techniques significantly enhances the accuracy of medical imaging segmentation [13]. . Liu et al. (2019) enhanced segmentation accuracy using U-Net architectures [3], while the advent of Vision Transformers (ViTs) in 2020, as explored by Dosovitskiy et al., further advanced image analysis [4]. Building on this, Chen et al. (2022) introduced Mask2Former, a transformer-based model that excels in instance segmentation by integrating self-attention mechanisms [5]. Recent studies, such as Kim et al. (2023), have demonstrated the benefits of combining CT and PET imaging with deep learning models to improve diagnostic accuracy [6]. This progression highlights the potential of Mask2Former in addressing the challenges of lung tumor heterogeneity and interobserver variability. Building on these advancements, our proposed approach leverages Mask2Former for a robust segmentation system using CT and PET scans, aiming to further enhance early diagnosis accuracy and address the complexities of lung tumor characteristics. By integrating Mask2Former's high-quality instance segmentation capabilities with multi-modal imaging data, we aim to provide a more reliable and efficient tool for lung cancer detection, ultimately contributing to improved patient outcomes and more effective management of the disease.

3. Methodology

We developed a lung cancer segmentation system using an open dataset of CT and PET images from 355 patients [8]. The images underwent a rigorous preprocessing pipeline to ensure consistency and improve model performance. This preprocessing involved normalization to standardize pixel intensity values, resizing images to a uniform resolution of 512x512 pixels, and applying data augmentation techniques such as random rotations, and cropping to enhance the diversity and robustness of the dataset (See Fig 1).

We employed Mask2Former, a cutting-edge model for precise instance segmentation. Its transformer-based self-attention and mask prediction mechanisms accurately segment complex lung tumor features in CT and PET images. The model's architecture includes a transformer encoder that processes images through self-attention layers, focusing on critical regions and capturing detailed spatial relationships essential for accurate segmentation. This self-attention technique dynamically highlights relevant features while minimizing background interference, with the mask prediction head refining these features into precise



(Figure 1) CT and PET images in dataset

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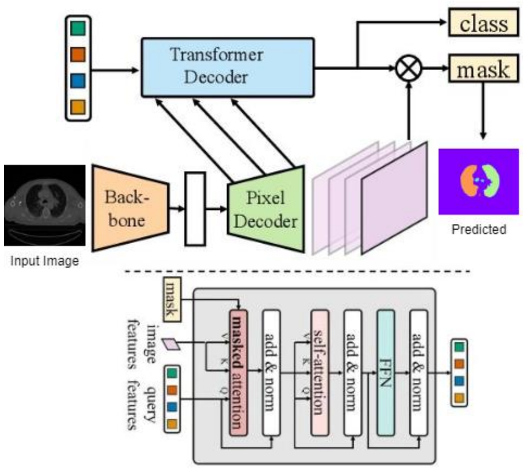
segmentation masks. We fine-tuned the model using a dataset of 355 preprocessed CT and PET images, training it with the PyTorch framework. The AdamW optimizer was used, starting with an initial learning rate of 0.0001, which was gradually reduced using a cosine annealing schedule. The training involved a batch size of 32 over 100 epochs, with weight decay set at 0.01 to prevent overfitting. The training environment included two NVIDIA GeForce RTX GPUs, 64GB of RAM, and a high-performance CPU, ensuring efficient processing of the large dataset. The system achieved a segmentation precision of 94.87%, demonstrating Mask2Former's effectiveness in handling the heterogeneity



(Figure 2) Mask2Former architecture

of lung tumors and reducing interobserver variability. Figure 2 illustrates the Mask2Former architecture.

4. Result

We evaluated our proposed lung cancer segmentation system using key metrics: Precision, Recall, and F1-Score, and compared it against the MaskFormer and Vision Transformer (ViT) models. The results clearly demonstrate the superiority of our model. Our model achieved a Precision of 0.948, indicating its high accuracy in correctly identifying lung tumors. It also showed strong sensitivity with a Recall of 0.83, reflecting its ability to detect a significant portion of true positive cases. The F1-Score of 0.87 highlights the model's balanced performance, effectively combining both Precision and Recall to deliver reliable segmentation results. When compared to MaskFormer, which recorded a Precision of 0.898, Recall of 0.772, and F1-Score of 0.619, our model

Model	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Proposed Model	0.948	0.83	0.87
MaskFormer	0.898	0.772	0.619
ViT	0.799	0.812	0.749

(Table 1) Comparison between others model

consistently outperformed it across all metrics. The ViT model, while demonstrating moderate effectiveness, achieved lower scores with a Precision of 0.799, Recall of 0.812, and F1-Score of 0.749. These comparisons underscore the effectiveness of our Mask2Former-based approach in handling the complexities of lung cancer segmentation, particularly in managing tumor heterogeneity and improving overall diagnostic accuracy (See Table 1).

5. Conclusion

This study demonstrates the effectiveness of our Mask2Former-based approach for lung cancer segmentation, achieving high accuracy in not only identifying and segmenting lung tumors but also in classifying them as malignant or benign. The model's ability to handle the complexities of tumor variability underscores its potential as a valuable tool for improving early cancer diagnosis. In the future, we plan to extend our dataset and apply additional data augmentation techniques to further enhance the model's robustness and accuracy. These enhancements will help adapt our system to a wider range of clinical scenarios, ultimately contributing to more reliable and effective lung cancer diagnosis and classification.

Acknowledgment

This work was supported by Institute of Information & communications Technology Planning & Evaluation (IITP) under the Artificial Intelligence Convergence Innovation Human Resources Development (IITP-2023-RS-2023-00256629) grant funded by the Korea government(MSIT). This research was supported by the MSIT(Ministry of Science and ICT), Korea, under the ITRC(Information Technology Research Center) support program(IITP-2024-RS-2024-00437718) supervised by the IITP(Institute for Information & Communications Technology Planning & Evaluation).

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