Registration and Segmentation

A Mutual Promotion Paradigm of Correspondence and Perception in Medical Images

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Deep learning(DL)-Registration V.S. DL-Segmentation



Complementary of registration and segmentation



Y. He, et. al. Deep Complementary Joint Model for Complex Scene Registration and Few-shot Segmentation on Medical Images. In 16th ECCV 2020, Vol. 1, pp. 770–786.



I: Learning segmentation to improve registration (Without perception)

a) Misalignment on blurred anatomies b) Distortion on task-unconcerned regions



Moving image

Fixed image

Warped image Displacement vector field

Task-dependent but low-significant regions

Without perception, registration is unable to perceive the low-significant regions for correspondence.



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Task-independent but significant regions

Without perception, registration seeks the alignment of all anatomies, making the ROIs have to compromise with them.

I: Learning segmentation to improve registration (Embedding perception)





I: Learning segmentation to improve registration (Perception-Correspondence Decoupling)

Reduce interference of task-independent regions



Forward inference: less interference of background



I: Learning segmentation to improve registration (Reverse Teaching)

Reduce label requirement





Forward inference: less interference of background



I: Learning segmentation to improve registration (PC-Reg-RT)



https://github.com/YutingHe-list/PC-Reg-RT

Only **5** labeled cases! **10%** DSC improvement! **4.11%** Jacobian matrix<= 0 reduction!



More accurate

More smooth

Method	Reg-DSC (%)	ASD	$ J_{\phi} \le 0 \ (\%)$	CPU time (s)	GPU time (s)	Seg-DSC (%)				
a) Cardiac CT cross-object registration										
Affine only	64.0 ± 12.5	$3.37 {\pm} 0.86$	-	5.98 ± 0.55	-	-				
BSpline [11]	80.8 ± 10.4	$1.69 {\pm} 0.63$	$0.34{\pm}0.51$	40.19 ± 1.59	-	-				
SyN [12]	75.5 ± 12.7	$2.31 {\pm} 0.90$	$0.50 {\pm} 0.16$	23.70 ± 4.33	-	-				
Unsup-VoxelMorph [1]	75.8 ± 11.8	$2.18 {\pm} 0.74$	4.48 ± 1.61	-	0.22 ± 0.16	-				
LC-VoxelMorph($\lambda = 1$) [4]	73.2 ± 11.6	$2.43 {\pm} 0.68$	$0.38 {\pm} 0.23$	-	0.23 ± 0.41	-				
LC-VoxelMorph($\lambda = 0.1$) [4]	77.0 ± 11.6	$2.04 {\pm} 0.58$	3.43 ± 0.79	-	0.23 ± 0.31	-				
CycleMorph [19]	76.5 ± 9.4	2.12 ± 1.01	0.64±0.18 -		0.22 ± 0.25	-				
DeepRS [8]	81.5 ± 7.2	1.71 ± 0.77	7.03 ± 1.18	-	$0.65 {\pm} 0.10$	87.4 ± 6.4				
(Our) PC-Reg	79.0±9.9	1.93 ± 0.56	0.40 ± 0.18	-	$0.54{\pm}0.51$	83.1±12.9				
(Our) PC-Reg-RT	85.7±7.3	$1.32{\pm}0.38$	$0.37 {\pm} 0.28$	-	$0.54 {\pm} 0.19$	89.4±6.1				
	b) Cervic	al vertebra C	T cross-object re	egistration						
Affine only	64.8 ± 10.2	1.37 ± 0.34	-	6.35 ± 0.70	-	-				
BSpline [11]	74.2 ± 18.5	1.15 ± 1.58	$0.45 {\pm} 0.98$	38.62 ± 1.72	-	-				
SyN [12]	39.4 ± 34.7	-	-	21.30 ± 9.70	-	-				
Unsup-VoxelMorph [1]	50.1 ± 22.1	$3.09 {\pm} 0.58$	$10.96 {\pm} 0.41$	-	$0.29 {\pm} 0.17$	-				
LC-VoxelMorph($\lambda = 1$) [4]	80.4 ± 8.4	$0.72 {\pm} 0.25$	$0.25 {\pm} 0.09$	-	0.29 ± 0.16	-				
LC-VoxelMorph($\lambda = 0.1$) [4]	82.3 ± 7.6	$0.65 {\pm} 0.22$	1.85 ± 0.42	-	0.29 ± 0.17	-				
CycleMorph [19]	$82.5 {\pm} 6.8$	$0.62 {\pm} 0.35$	$0.13 {\pm} 0.06$	-	$0.34 {\pm} 0.38$	-				
DeepRS [8]	81.7 ± 5.7	$0.65 {\pm} 0.31$	2.06 ± 0.39	-	$0.86 {\pm} 0.13$	86.3±8.6				
(Our) PC-Reg	81.4 ± 8.1	0.66 ± 0.23	$0.16 {\pm} 0.08$	-	$0.74 {\pm} 0.60$	63.8 ± 20.4				
(Our) PC-Reg-RT	86.7±5.0	$0.41{\pm}0.15$	$0.11 {\pm} 0.06$	-	0.71 ± 0.23	84.4 ± 12.6				
c) Brain MR cross-object registration										
Affine only	75.5 ± 3.7	1.25 ± 0.21	-	7.14 ± 0.51	-	-				
BSpline [11]	77.0 ± 3.9	1.15 ± 0.22	0	40.32 ± 0.62	-	-				
SyN [12]	78.5 ± 3.8	1.07 ± 0.21	0	19.67 ± 1.46	-	-				
Unsup-VoxelMorph [1]	76.5 ± 3.7	1.09 ± 0.19	1.37 ± 0.19	-	$0.30 {\pm} 0.30$	-				
LC-VoxelMorph($\lambda = 1$) [4]	79.0 ± 4.1	$1.07 {\pm} 0.22$	$0.14{\pm}0.03$	-	$0.30 {\pm} 0.29$	-				
LC-VoxelMorph($\lambda = 0.1$) [4]	79.9 ± 3.9	1.02 ± 0.20	1.37 ± 0.15	-	$0.30 {\pm} 0.28$	-				
CycleMorph [19]	77.7 ± 3.7	$1.06 {\pm} 0.20$	0	-	$0.32 {\pm} 0.42$	-				
DeepRS [8]	77.6 ± 3.6	$1.05 {\pm} 0.19$	1.34 ± 0.24	-	1.04 ± 0.12	81.7 ± 3.4				
(Our) PC-Reg	79.0 ± 3.4	1.03 ± 0.18	$0.02 {\pm} 0.01$	-	0.71 ± 0.39	79.4 ± 3.5				
(Our) PC-Reg-RT	80.0±3.4	$0.97{\pm}0.18$	$0.04 {\pm} 0.02$	-	$0.71 {\pm} 0.40$	82.3±3.3				

Compared with 8 methods:

Great registration accuracy: Only five labels, achieve the best registration accuracy in cardiac CT, cervical CT and brain MR registration tasks;

Effectively avoid distortion: the irrelevant background is eliminated, the distortion of the misaligned edge area caused by the lack of real texture in the tag is avoided;

Excellent time efficiency: the registration result can be obtained by one inference, the time efficiency of PC-Reg is more than 10 times faster than the traditional model.



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✓ With very few labels, the reverse teaching method can bring significant performance improvement, even if there is only one labeled image, it still has excellent registration performance;

✓ With the increase of the number of tags, the performance of PC-Reg-RT will be further improved.

I: Learning segmentation to improve registration (Phenomenon)



a) Inaccurate segmentation b) Fine alignment

Poor segmentation still bring fine alignment. (Due to the extrusion between the structures)



II: Learning registration to learn segmentation (Paradigm)

Zhao A. et. al., (2019) DataAug. CVPR



Registration aligns unlabeled images and labels for pseudo-labeled data, driving the learning of segmentation

Here, we talk three key limitations and their solutions.

II: Learning registration to learn segmentation (Limitation 1)_{Zhao A. et. al., (2019) DataAug. CVPR}





II: Learning registration to learn segmentation (Limitation 2)_{Zhao A. et. al., (2019) DataAug. CVPR}







II: Learning registration to learn segmentation (Limitation 3)_{Zhao A. et. al., (2019) DataAug. CVPR}







II: Learning registration to learn segmentation (Knowledge consistency constraint)

Sampled images

Registration network

Registration

network

Image **H**

age M

Bidirectional consistency (BiC) for

topology-preserved registration

Deformed image $\mathbf{F}^{\phi^{+}}$

Deformed image M⁶

 \mathcal{L}_{sim}

Image M

Inverse

deformation field ϕ^{-1}

Deformation field ϕ

Existing method directly learns registration



Our KCC constrains registration learning



Advantage: Better authenticity with less registration error

Y. He, et al., "Learning Better Registration to Learn Better Few-Shot Medical Image Segmentation: Authenticity, Diversity, and Robustness," in IEEE TNNLS

Semantic consistency (SeC) for

semantic-aligned registration

(fixed)

(fixed)

Semantic regions M

Semantic regions F

II: Learning registration to learn segmentation (Space-style sampling program)



Limitation: Lack of diversity in generated sparse distribution



Advantage: Better diversity in generated dense distribution



II: Learning registration to learn segmentation (Mix misalignment regularization)



Advantage: More robust to learn with inaccurate data



$$\mathbb{S}(\gamma \mathbf{X}_A + (1 - \gamma) \mathbf{X}_B) \Longleftrightarrow \gamma \mathbb{S}(\mathbf{X}_A) + (1 - \gamma) \mathbb{S}(\mathbf{X}_B)$$





https://github.com/YutingHe-list/BRBS

Method	Туре	(a)				(b)			
		$1\text{-shot}_{\pm std}$		5-sho	$ot_{\pm std}$	1-sho	$1\text{-shot}_{\pm std}$		$5\text{-shot}_{\pm std}$
		DSC% ↑	$\operatorname{AVD}mm\downarrow$	$\text{DSC}\%\uparrow$	$\mathrm{AVD}mm\downarrow$	$\text{DSC}\%\uparrow$	$\mathrm{AVD}mm\downarrow$	DSC% ↑	$\mathrm{AVD}mm\downarrow$
3D U-Net [13] SegNet [14] U-Net++ [15] DBN [16]	LS LS LS LS	$\begin{array}{c} 63.8 \pm 16.3 \\ 57.5 \pm 17.4 \\ 42.9 \pm 20.5 \\ 48.8 \pm 16.5 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 6.13 {\pm} 3.46 \\ 7.01 {\pm} 4.53 \\ 9.18 {\pm} 3.78 \\ 10.70 {\pm} 4.10 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 84.3_{\pm 9.6} \\ 78.8_{\pm 10.5} \\ 84.0_{\pm 8.6} \\ 78.9_{\pm 12.0} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2.43 {\scriptstyle \pm 2.14} \\ 2.68 {\scriptstyle \pm 1.72} \\ 2.51 {\scriptstyle \pm 2.26} \\ 3.90 {\scriptstyle \pm 3.12} \end{array}$	$54.4_{\pm 10.8} \\ 52.3_{\pm 4.9} \\ 51.2_{\pm 10.6} \\ 23.5_{\pm 15.9}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2.94 {\scriptstyle \pm 1.23} \\ 3.18 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.37} \\ 2.33 {\scriptstyle \pm 1.06} \\ 13.83 {\scriptstyle \pm 7.26} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 69.5_{\pm 8.8} \\ 62.7_{\pm 7.0} \\ 66.4_{\pm 12.7} \\ 80.2_{\pm 5.6} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.59 {\pm} 0.84 \\ 1.98 {\pm} 0.72 \\ 2.02 {\pm} 1.62 \\ 0.92 {\pm} 0.30 \end{array}$
UA-MT [46] CPS [48] MASSL [47] DPA-DBN [16]	SLS SLS SLS SLS	$\begin{array}{c} 54.8_{\pm 17.0} \\ 70.7_{\pm 9.4} \\ 57.2_{\pm 12.5} \\ 49.0_{\pm 14.4} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 9.44_{\pm 4.77} \\ 4.01_{\pm 1.73} \\ 13.86_{\pm 3.16} \\ 10.47_{\pm 3.81} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 66.4_{\pm 16.2} \\ 87.4_{\pm 5.4} \\ 77.4_{\pm 8.7} \\ 68.0_{\pm 14.5} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4.69 _{\pm 2.27} \\ 1.40 _{\pm 0.76} \\ 9.07 _{\pm 3.11} \\ 5.75 _{\pm 3.89} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 36.7_{\pm 8.4} \\ 25.3_{\pm 1.2} \\ 74.0_{\pm 3.1} \\ 28.1_{\pm 7.6} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 8.69 _{\pm 2.29} \\ \text{unable} \\ 1.32 _{\pm 0.35} \\ 7.75 _{\pm 1.78} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 75.5_{\pm 3.4} \\ 37.1_{\pm 1.8} \\ 80.5_{\pm 3.1} \\ 68.7_{\pm 8.2} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.31 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.95} \\ \text{unable} \\ 0.92 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.43} \\ 3.90 {\scriptstyle \pm 2.39} \end{array}$
VM [11] LC-VM [26] LT-Net [5]	ABS ABS ABS	$77.6_{\pm 6.0}$ - $67.2_{\pm 6.5}$	$2.49_{\pm 0.73}$ - $3.55_{\pm 0.90}$	$\begin{array}{c} 81.0_{\pm 6.1} \\ 81.7_{\pm 6.0} \\ 77.8_{\pm 7.8} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2.13 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.78} \\ 2.04 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.77} \\ 2.25 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.95} \end{array}$	$78.7_{\pm 1.8}$ - 76.9 $_{\pm 1.5}$	$0.73_{\pm 0.07}$ $0.75_{\pm 0.51}$	$\begin{array}{c} 83.1_{\pm 1.8} \\ 83.0_{\pm 1.8} \\ 82.6_{\pm 1.2} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.56_{\pm 0.08} \\ 0.56_{\pm 0.07} \\ 0.57_{\pm 0.05} \end{array}$
DeepAtlas [1] DataAug [2] DeepRS [3] PC-Reg-RT [4] VAEAug [6]	LRLS LRLS LRLS LRLS LRLS	$\begin{array}{c} 85.4_{\pm 4.5} \\ 81.4_{\pm 5.2} \\ 73.4_{\pm 12.3} \\ 85.5_{\pm 4.7} \\ 75.5_{\pm 11.0} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.59 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.56} \\ 2.23 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.67} \\ 3.40 {\scriptstyle \pm 1.92} \\ 1.55 {\scriptstyle \pm 0.63} \\ 4.29 {\scriptstyle \pm 2.12} \end{array}$	$87.9_{\pm 4.3}$ $82.2_{\pm 5.2}$ $87.0_{\pm 5.0}$ $88.5_{\pm 4.9}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.30 {\pm 0.57} \\ 2.04 {\pm 0.73} \\ 1.60 {\pm 0.90} \\ 1.23 {\pm 0.72} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 73.0_{\pm 2.4} \\ 81.3_{\pm 1.4} \\ 55.9_{\pm 12.0} \\ 66.9_{\pm 3.6} \\ 74.8_{\pm 12.2} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.02 \pm 0.10 \\ 0.69 \pm 0.06 \\ 1.81 \pm 0.91 \\ 1.38 \pm 0.19 \\ 1.71 \pm 2.71 \end{array}$	79.3 ± 2.6 83.9 ± 1.2 73.0 ± 5.9 73.1 ± 3.1	$\begin{array}{c} 0.74 {\pm 0.12} \\ 0.55 {\pm 0.06} \\ 0.93 {\pm 0.25} \\ 1.09 {\pm 0.17} \end{array}$
Our BRBS	LRLS	89.2 _{±3.4}	$1.24_{\pm 0.50}$	91.1 ±3.9	$0.93_{\pm0.57}$	85.7 _{±1.0}	$0.49_{\pm 0.04}$	87.2 $_{\pm 1.0}$	$0.43_{\pm 0.05}$



Compared with LRLS method:

- For large heart structures, BRBS performs better in the accuracy of boundary segmentation.
- For small brain tissues, BRBS shows
 better segmentation performance of fine structures.

KCC		S3P		MMR	Segmentation		Registration				
	SeC	BiC	Image	Space	Style		$DSC\% \uparrow$	$\mathrm{AVD}mm\downarrow$	DSC% ↑	$\mathrm{AVD}mm\downarrow$	$ J_\phi \le 0\% \downarrow$
($84.3_{\pm 9.6}$	$2.43_{\pm 2.14}$	-	-	-
			\checkmark				80.7 ± 9.6	$2.52_{\pm 1.52}$	$72.6_{\pm 13.8}$	$2.89_{\pm 1.18}$	$3.3_{\pm 0.7}$
			\checkmark	\checkmark			$83.7_{\pm 8.0}$	$2.33_{\pm 2.03}$	73.2 ± 13.8	$2.84_{\pm 1.17}$	$3.2_{\pm 0.7}$
			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		$88.1 {\pm} 4.7$	1.25 ± 0.63	$73.0_{\pm 13.9}$	$2.87_{\pm 1.20}$	$3.5_{\pm 0.8}$
			\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	$84.4_{\pm 6.5}$	1.85 ± 0.89	$73.5_{\pm 13.8}$	$2.84_{\pm 1.18}$	$3.7_{\pm 0.8}$
	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		$90.0_{\pm 3.8}$	1.04 ± 0.49	$85.9_{\pm 13.5}$	1.33 ± 0.67	$6.2_{\pm 1.2}$
	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		$90.4_{\pm 3.4}$	1.00 ± 0.44	$86.0_{\pm 13.5}$	$1.31_{\pm 0.64}$	$2.5_{\pm 1.1}$
	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	91.1 $_{\pm 3.9}$	$0.93_{\pm 0.57}$	$86.7_{\pm 13.6}$	$1.22_{\pm 0.62}$	$1.7_{\pm0.8}$

Each module plays a certain role in improving performance. When all modules are added to the model, the performance of BRBS reaches the best.



- **1.** Compared with other methods based on LRLS, BiC and SeC effectively improve the authenticity of images generated by BRBS model.
- Compared with the real images, 2. the images generated by BRBS also have high similarity, so the trained segmentation network will learn the representation ability that matches the real data and obtain good generalization ability.

 $\alpha=0, \beta=1$

 $\alpha=1, \beta=1$

DeepRS

(w/o BiC)

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- a) Without S3P, the generated image only has sparse feature distribution and poor diversity.
- b) S3P constructs a distribution with continuous space and style, and samples densely on this distribution, so a large number of images with different space and style characteristics are generated.



- 3D U-Net (MMR-free) can't perceive these misaligned regions (b), and it is easy to over-fit to inaccurate information, and it shows too high confidence in the segmentation results for mismatched regions.
- 2. The MMR training model fits a linear function to the misaligned regions, thus producing a lower response (C) to these misaligned regions, and improving the robustness of the segmentation model to alignment distortion.





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