Intraoperative Histological Analysis of Squamous Cell Carcinoma Tumor Margins Using a Convolutional Neural Network

Introduction

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) is the second most common form of non-melanoma skin cancer.



MOHS Micrographic Surgery with **intraoperative margin assessment** is used for the removal of SCC tumors to prevent metastasis. However, margin assessment is **confounded** by **multiple variables:** slide quality, specimen complexity, time limitations



Figure 1: Post-operative (NLM) WSIs maintains original tissue appearance and structure. Intraoperative (FSA) WSIs have distorted tissue structure and appearance. Image source: Giacomelli et. al., 2019

Objectives

Develop a **robust**, **accurate**, and **quick to run** model to automate intraoperative assessment using a **Convolutional Neural Network**

Selected References

- Goldblum, John R, Laura W Lamps, Jesse K Mckenney, Jeffrey L Myers, and Juan Rosai. 2018. Rosai and Ackerman's Surgical Pathology. Philadelphia, Pa: Elsevier, 48-53.
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 2013. "Simulators of Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Skin: Diagnostic Challenges on Small Biopsies and Clinicopathological Correlation." Journal of Skin Cancer 2013. https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/752864.
- García, Salvador, et al. "Big Data Preprocessing: Methods

and Prospects." Big Data Analytics, vol. 1, no. 1, 1 Nov. 2016, https://doi.org/10.1186/s41044-016-0014-0. *All figures and charts produced by student unless otherwise stated



Results

- Model achieves AUC of 0.90 on previously unseen test dataset of 320,000 patches
- Model evaluated on entire dataset of 95 WSIs

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 Average AUC-ROC score of 0.923 AUC-ROC scores of 0.96+ for more than a third of the dataset

Conclusions + Future Works

Approach	Data Site + Size	AUC	Precision	Recall	F1	Accuracy
Wako et. al.	828 images, 7 sites	0.952	0.950	0.960	0.950	N/A
Santos et. al.	15 WSIs, Oral SCC	0.770	0.911	0.929	0.920	0.976
Halicek et. al.	381 WSIs, Head + Neck SCC	0.954	N/A	0.847	0.948	0.890
Ma et. al.	15 slides, Head + Neck SCC	0.937	N/A	0.888	N/A	0.824
My approach	95 WSIs, multiple sites	0.923	0.960	0.970	0.960	0.960

- Model achieves high performance scores and
- Average prediction rate of 33s per WSI.
 Average prediction rate for each patient case is
 57s per WSI, with a confidence interval of 56.754±23.995.



quick prediction rates.

- Model obtained the **best performance metrics** for 3/5 scores and comparable AUCs and accuracies.
- Model predictions demonstrate high accuracy in localizing tumors within WSIs, which would significantly assist pathologists with the histologic examination process during surgery.
 Future directions include utilizing Graph convolutional networks (GCNs) to factor in patch

level relations and more expansive datasets