



BRAIN TUMOR DETECTION AND LOCATION FROM MRI IMAGES USING MATLAB

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ABSTRACT

In the field of Medical image processing the Extraction of brain tumor from magnetic resonance image (MRI) has become one of the most profound and active research nowadays. This paper describes the proposed strategy about detection, extraction and location of brain tumor from MRI scan. This system comprises of noise removal functions, segmentation and morphological operations which are the basic concepts of image processing. The experimental results indicate that the proposed method efficiently detect and locate the tumor region from the brain image using MATLAB Tool.

Keywords: MRI, Segmentation, Morphology, Direction, MATLAB.

I. INTRODUCTION

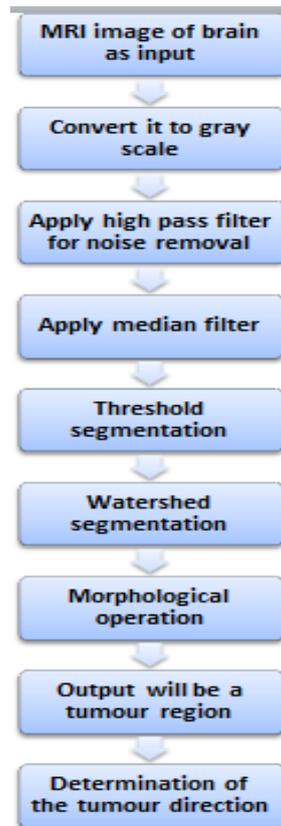
A brain tumor is an abnormal growth of tissue in the brain or central spine that can cause improper brain function. Brain tumor is classified into two types benign and malignant where benign is non-cancerous and less harmful whereas malignant is cancerous and spreads rapidly reaching to other brain tissue with lethal nature. Further malignant tumor is classified into two types as primary and secondary. Primary tumors are those that originate in the brain. Secondary tumors are those that originate in some other part of the body finally reaching the brain through the process of metastasis.

In order to properly diagnose and examine the brain tumor it is important to identify and detect the exact location of its existence. There are various method like CT Scan, X-ray, MRI etc. available in present era for brain tumor detection but MRI (Magnetic resonance imaging) is a non-invasive method and uses powerful magnet and radio waves to provides visual details about the anatomy and the overall structure of the brain and can be used to examine the blood supply inside the brain for detecting abnormality also tracking the progress or growth of the disease.

Normally an MRI image is unclear having noise which leaves the medical practitioner uncertain about the precise proximity of the brain tumor. This paper mainly deals with enhancement of the MRI image using noise removal functions, segmentation and morphological operations which will provide the clear contour about the brain tumor.

II. PROPOSED METHOD

The algorithm has two stages, first is pre-processing of given MRI image and after that segmentation and then performs morphological operations. Steps performed in the algorithm are depicted in the flowdiagram below.



All above steps of flow diagrams are explained here in detail.

A. Grayscale Imaging

MRI images are magnetic resonance images which can be acquired on computer when a patient is scanned by MRI machine. We can acquire MRI images of the part of the body which is under test or desired. Generally when we see MRI images on computer they look like black and white images. In analog practice, gray scale imaging is sometimes called "black and white," but technically this is a misnomer. In true black and white, also known as halftone, the only possible shades are pure black and pure white. The illusion of gray shading in a halftone image is obtained by rendering the image as a grid of black dots on a white background (or vice versa), with the sizes of the individual dots determining the apparent lightness of the gray in their vicinity. The halftone technique is commonly used for printing photographs in newspapers and as MRI image is taken on computer then in the case of transmitted light (for example, the image on a computer display), the brightness levels of the red (R), green (G) and blue (B) components are each represented as a number from decimal 0 to 255, or binary 00000000 to 11111111. For every pixel in a red-green-blue (RGB) grayscale image, $R = G = B$. The lightness of the gray is directly proportional to the number representing the brightness levels of the primary colors. Black is represented by $R = G = B = 0$ or $R = G = B = 00000000$, and white is represented by $R = G = B = 255$ or $R = G = B = 11111111$. Because there are 8 bits in the binary representation of the gray level, this imaging method is called 8-bit grayscale. Grayscale is a range of shades of gray without apparent color. The darkest possible shade is black, which is the total absence of transmitted or reflected light. The lightest possible shade is white, the total



transmission or reflection of light at all visible wavelengths. So because of the above reasons first we convert our MRI image to be pre-processed in grayscale image.

B. High Pass Filter

After that image is given as an input to high pass filter. A high pass filter is the basis for most sharpening methods. An image is sharpened when contrast is enhanced between adjoining areas with little variation in brightness or darkness. A high pass filter tends to retain the high frequency information within an image while reducing the low frequency information. The kernel of the high pass filter is designed to increase the brightness of the centre pixel relative to neighbouring pixels. The kernel array usually contains a single positive value at its centre, which is completely surrounded by negative values.

C. Median Filter

In signal processing, it is often desirable to be able to perform some kind of noise reduction on an image or signal. The median filter is a nonlinear digital filtering technique, often used to remove noise. Such noise reduction is a typical pre-processing step to improve the results of later processing (for example, edge detection on an image). Median filtering is very widely used in digital image processing because, under certain conditions, it preserves edges while removing noise. The main idea of the median filter is to run through the signal entry by entry, replacing each entry with the median of neighbouring entries. The pattern of neighbours is called the "window", which slides, entry by entry, over the entire signal. For 1D signals, the most obvious window is just the first few preceding and following entries, whereas for 2D (or higher dimensional) signals such as images, more complex window patterns are possible (such as "box" or "cross" patterns). Note that if the window has an odd number of entries, then the median is simple to define: it is just the middle value after all the entries in the window are sorted numerically. For an even number of entries, there is more than one possible median. This filter enhances the quality of the MRI image.

D. Threshold Segmentation

The simplest method of image segmentation is called the thresholding method. This method is based on a clip-level (or a threshold value) to turn a gray-scale image into a binary image. The key of this method is to select the threshold value (or values when multiple-levels are selected). Several popular methods are used in industry including the maximum entropy method, Otsu's method (maximum variance), and etc. K-means clustering can also be used. In computer vision, Segmentation is the process of partitioning a digital image into multiple segments (sets of pixels, also known as super pixels). The goal of segmentation is to simplify and/or change the representation of an image into something that is more meaningful and easier to analyze.^[1] Image segmentation is typically used to locate objects and boundaries (lines, curves, etc.) in images. More precisely, image segmentation is the process of assigning a label to every pixel in an image such that pixels with the same label share certain visual characteristics. The result of image segmentation is a set of segments that collectively cover the entire image, or a set of contours extracted from the image (see edge detection). Each of the pixels in a region are similar with respect to some characteristic or computed property, such as color, intensity, or texture. Adjacent regions are significantly different with respect to the same characteristic(s).^[1] When



applied to a stack of images, typical in Medical imaging, the resulting contours after image segmentation can be used to create 3D reconstructions with the help of interpolation algorithms like Marching cubes.

E. Watershed segmentation

A grey-level image may be seen as a topographic relief, where the grey level of a pixel is interpreted as its altitude in the relief. A drop of water falling on a topographic relief flows along a path to finally reach a local minimum. Intuitively, the watershed of a relief corresponds to the limits of the adjacent catchment basins of the drops of water. In image processing, different watershed lines may be computed. In graphs, some may be defined on the nodes, on the edges, or hybrid lines on both nodes and edges. Watersheds may also be defined in the continuous domain. There are also many different algorithms to compute watersheds.

Meyer's flooding Watershed Algorithm

One of the most common watershed algorithms was introduced by F. Meyer in the early 90's. The algorithm works on a gray scale image. During the successive flooding of the grey value relief, watersheds with adjacent catchment basins are constructed. This flooding process is performed on the gradient image, i.e. the basins should emerge along the edges. Normally this will lead to an over-segmentation of the image, especially for noisy image material, e.g. medical CT data. Either the image must be pre-processed or the regions must be merged on the basis of a similarity criterion afterwards.

1. A set of markers, pixels where the flooding shall start, are chosen. Each is given a different label.
2. The neighbouring pixels of each marked area are inserted into a priority queue with a priority level corresponding to the gray level of the pixel.
3. The pixel with the highest priority level is extracted from the priority queue. If the neighbours of the extracted pixel that have already been labelled all have the same label, then the pixel is labelled with their label. All non-marked neighbours that are not yet in the priority queue are put into the priority queue.
4. Redo step 3 until the priority queue is empty.

The non-labelled pixels are the watershed lines.

F. Morphological Operations

Morphological image processing is a collection of nonlinear operations related to the shape or morphology of features in an image. According to Wikipedia, morphological operations rely only on the relative ordering of pixel values, not on their numerical values, and therefore are especially suited to the processing of binary images. Morphological operations can also be applied to grayscale images such that their light transfer functions are unknown and therefore their absolute pixel values are of no or minor interest. Morphological techniques probe an image with a small shape or template called a structuring element. The structuring element is positioned at all possible locations in the image and it is compared with the corresponding neighbourhood of pixels. Some operations test whether the element "fits" within the neighbourhood, while others test whether it "hits" or intersects the neighbourhood:

A morphological operation on a binary image creates a new binary image in which the pixel has a non-zero value only if the test is successful at that location in the input image. The structuring element is a small binary image, i.e. a small matrix of pixels, each with a value of zero or one:

- The matrix dimensions specify the *size* of the structuring element.
- The pattern of ones and zeros specifies the *shape* of the structuring element.
- An origin of the structuring element is usually one of its pixels, although generally the origin can be outside the structuring element.

G. Direction determination

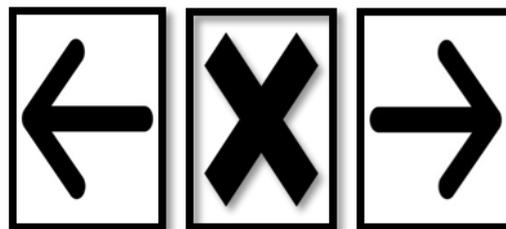
- This step determines the direction of the tumor in the MRI Scan. i.e. whether the MRI scan has tumor in left side of the brain or right side of the brain.
- In case the tumor is located in the middle then the algorithm would display as can't say.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following figures show the input MRI scan is treated through various processes to detect and extract the tumor from the MRI scan. i.e. grayscale image, high pass filtered image, threshold image, watershed segmented image, finally input image and extracted tumor from the MRI image. For this purpose, real-time patient data is taken for analysis. As a tumor in an MRI image has intensity more than that of its background, so it becomes very easy to locate and extract it from an MRI image.



Fig. 1 Input MRI image of tumor affected brain



Left direction can't say Right direction

Fig. 2 Input direction image of the tumor (i.e. left direction, can't say and right direction)



Fig. 3 Grayscale image of the fig. 1

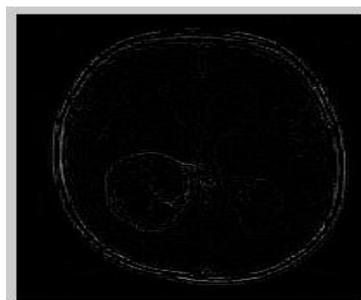


Fig. 4 HPF output of fig.3 image



Fig. 5 Enhanced MRI image of fig.4

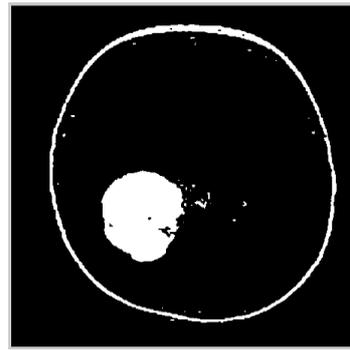


Fig.6 Threshold segmented image of i/p image

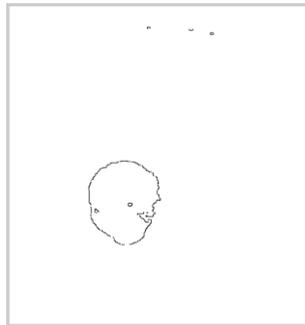


Fig.7 Watershed segmented image of i/p image

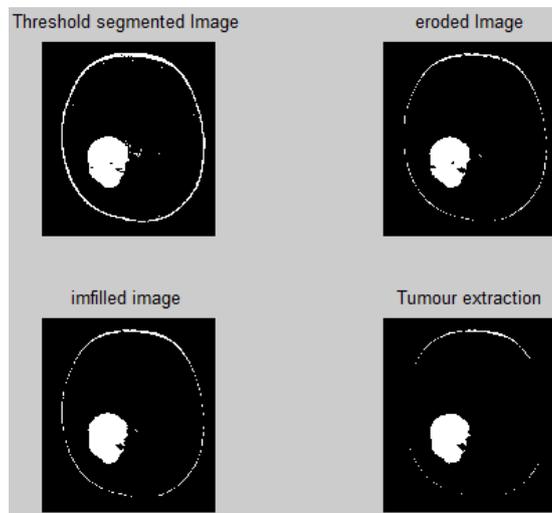


Fig. 8 Morphological operation

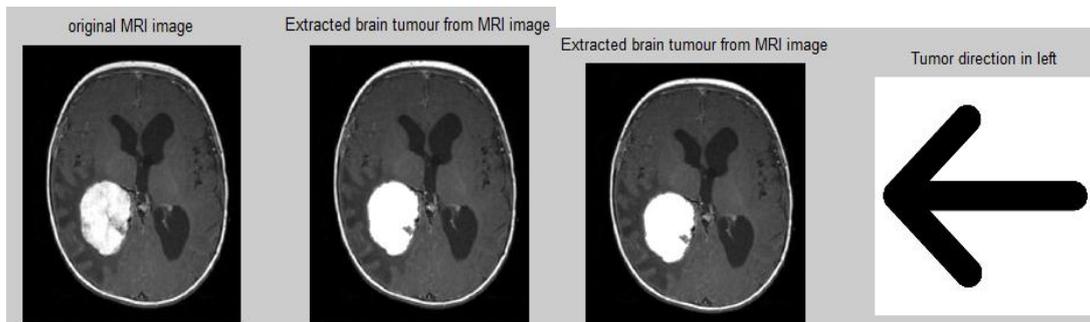


Fig. 9 Final Extracted brain tumor from MRI image

Fig.10 Final the direction of the Extracted brain tumor from MRI image



IV. FUTUREWORK

In future this programme can be done more advanced so that tumor can be classified according to its type and its mass can be determined. Also can be used to detect and determine tumors in several parts of human body such as lungs, bone cancer, and other types of tumors where the accuracy of tissue edge is profound.

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