



# STEM CELL SEGMENTATION USING GAN AND TRANSFER LEARNING

<sup>1</sup> Naveen Kumar G, Research scholar, Computer science and engineering

[gnaveen@gitam.in](mailto:gnaveen@gitam.in), Bangalore,India

<sup>2</sup> Dr Ramesh Naik B, Assistant Professor, Computer science and engineering, [rbhukya@gitam.edu](mailto:rbhukya@gitam.edu),  
Bangalore,India

*Abstract* : We address the issue of dividing cell shapes from microscopy pictures of human prompted pluri potent Retinal Pigment Epithelial foundational microorganisms (iRPE) utilizing Convolution Neural Networks (CNN). We will likely think about the exactness gains of CNN-based division by utilizing (1) un-explained pictures by means of Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN), (2) explained out-of-bio-space pictures by means of move learning, and (3) deduced information about magnifying lens imaging planned into mathematical expansions of a little assortment of clarified pictures. In the first place, the GAN learns a theoretical portrayal of cell objects. Then, this unaided learned portrayal is moved to the CNN division models which are further calibrated on few physically sectioned iRPE cell pictures. Second, move learning is applied by pre-preparing a piece of the CNN division model with the COCO dataset containing semantic division marks. The CNN model is then adjusted to the iRPE cell area utilizing a little arrangement of clarified iRPE cell pictures. Third, enlargements dependent on mathematical changes are applied to a little assortment of explained pictures. All these ways to deal with preparing CNN-based division model are contrasted with a standard CNN model prepared on a little assortment of clarified pictures. For very small annotation counts, the results show accuracy improvements up to 20% by the best approach in comparison to the accuracy achieved using a baseline UNet model. For larger annotation counts these approaches asymptotically approach the same accuracy.

*IndexTerms* - *Generative Adversarial Network, Transfer Learning, Deep Learning, Cell segmentation, iRPE.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a disease that affects the eye macula. There are 10 million people in the United States of America diagnosed with AMD and the occurrence of AMD is more likely for people over 50 years of age. AMD disease is caused by the death of Retinal Pigment Epithelium (RPE) cells in an eye retina [2,8,29]. RPE cells form a single layer with pigment granules, have tight junctions, and appear to have a hexagonal shape in a healthy implant [15,35]. These visual signs of healthy RPE cells have been shown to be the key qualitative attributes during the 155 day long bio-manufacturing process of RPE cell implants [12,15]. Before a cell implant is delivered to a patient, it must be evaluated for healthy cell function during the implant preparation. Several biological studies have related cell shapes to the implant “quality” [12]. Based on these studies, the microscopy imaging community has been developing supervised and unsupervised automatic methods for RPE cell segmentation as the division can be valuable for 1) shape examination, 2) separation of cell areas that are solid or undesirable, and 3) estimations of cell tally and thickness [9,23]. Notwithstanding cell shape estimations, Trans-Epithelial Resistance (TER) and

Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) estimations have been utilized for surveying the wellbeing of RPE cell inserts. TER is a quantitative strategy to gauge the honesty of tight intersection elements in cell culture models of epithelial monolayers of an eye retina. The scopes of TER and VEGF esteems can be pointers of sound and VEGF proportion  $<3$  RPE cell capacities in an embed. Notwithstanding, these estimation reaches can differ contingent upon the specific estimation approach (Chopstick or Endohm approach) and the sorts of polymer embeds [30,34]. To convey RPE cell inserts with top caliber, one can measure both shape-based and TER/VEGF-based models by breaking down fragmented splendid field pictures and by anticipating TER/VEGF esteems. For performing division and expectation investigations, Artificial Intelligence (AI) based models can be utilized. Computer based intelligence models can be separated into Traditional Machine Learning (TML) and Deep Learning (DL) based models. TML models rely upon include designing while DL models perform highlight designing consequently however have higher displaying intricacy. Furthermore, the utilization of these TML and DL models requires a planning of commented on information, a model choice or its plan, enhancement of model boundaries, designing of important highlights, etc. This spurs our work to investigate the tradeoffs of TML and DL models to foresee TER/VEGF/cell tally of RPE cell embed. In this paper we utilized three expectation approaches utilizing TML and DL models and these three forecast approaches are built straightforwardly or by implication from aligned splendid field microscopy pictures with or without division and highlight extraction.

## II. Related Work

Ongoing advances in profound learning have prompted novel division procedures dependent on convolution neural organizations (CNN) [4, 22]. Among numerous kinds of CNN models, the U-Net model [22] has been effectively applied to portioning natural pictures. To prepare CNN models, the challenge lies in getting an enormous number of preparing sections (i.e., comments) that are typically made physically. This manual exertion is exorbitant and accordingly, the quantity of explanations required for preparing CNN models with millions of assessed coefficients isn't generally accessible. In addition, at the point when CNN models are applied in the bio-clinical spaces, microscopy and clinical pictures must be commented on by topic specialists. Subsequently, the comment creation by specialists is restricted to few physically arranged tests for preparing CNN models. To beat this absence of commented on preparing tests, approaches like information increase [9], move learning [7], and portrayal learning through Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN) [14] have been proposed in the previous years.

Transfer learning (TL) for the most part alludes to tweak models previously prepared on various assignments and datasets that have a lot of explanations, for example, the ImageNet dataset [7], Common Objects in Context (COCO) [16], or the PASCAL Visual Object Classes (VOC) [10]. This TL approach comprises of supplanting the last layers of the pre-prepared models with arbitrarily introduced ones that fit the reason for the new application. Then, all organization loads are streamlined with deference of the biomedical preparing dataset [6]. Another way to deal with conquering the absence of preparing comments depends on Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN). GANs are solo learning models that are ready to create itemized practical manufactured pictures [11]. In this way, the GANs can expand the quantity of explained preparing tests and thus yield improved exactness of CNN based grouping or limitation assignments [1].

GAN models can be considered as a two-player game between a generator, which figures out how to produce tests taking after genuine information, and a discriminator, which learns instructions to segregate among genuine and created information. Both the generator and the discriminator cost capacities are limited at the same time. The iterative minimization of cost works ultimately prompts a Nash harmony where neither can promote singularly limit its expense work. In the end, the GAN discriminator gives a theoretical solo portrayal of the information pictures. In a basic GAN, the generator accepts an arbitrary commotion vector as an info what's more, yields a picture [21]. Late works have proposed encoder-decoder-like generators where the contribution of the generator is a picture [30]. This methodology has been utilized for style move in regular pictures.

All the more as of late, GAN-based division strategies have been proposed in the writing. In [26], the creators supplant the customary discriminator with a completely convolutional multiclass classifier. The classifier appoints to each info picture pixel one mark that relates to a semantic class or to counterfeit/genuine imprint. Along these lines, they utilize unlabeled pictures during the preparation interaction. In [2], the discriminator is adjusted to recognize physically fragmented cell microscopy pictures and produced pictures from CNNs. The created (assessed) division pictures are like physically clarified pictures and

subsequently are more precise than those got from a basic CNN division model. What's more, such strategies have been utilized as area variation procedures [30] to change attractive reverberation pictures (MRI) into processed tomography (CT) pictures [14] or Differential Interference Contrast to Phase Contrast microscopy pictures [12]. These changes could take into account the utilization of manual divisions in a single methodology to portion pictures procured in another methodology.

The principle commitment is a correlation of enlargement, Transfer learning, and portrayal learning for building division CNN models with insignificant information. An underlying portrayal is adapted either utilizing move learning or solo GAN prior to being moved to the CNN network and refined on the modest number of physically sectioned pictures. The division exactness of each CNN model is assessed on pictures of iRPE cells with the form/area based measurements for a differing number of commented on pictures. The curiosity lies in evaluating the exactness commitments of three ways to deal with the precision of a CNN model over a shifting number of physically explained pictures. Also, we altered the GAN organization to coordinate the conventional encoder-decoder design of the UNet model to empower solo portrayal learning also, pre-advancement of the U-Net CNN loads.

### Objectives:

- To develop cell segmentation and evaluation processing using Deep Learning Segmentation.
- To extract and evaluate cells using Feature Extraction techniques
- To Predict and evaluate stem cells using Machine Learning Algorithms

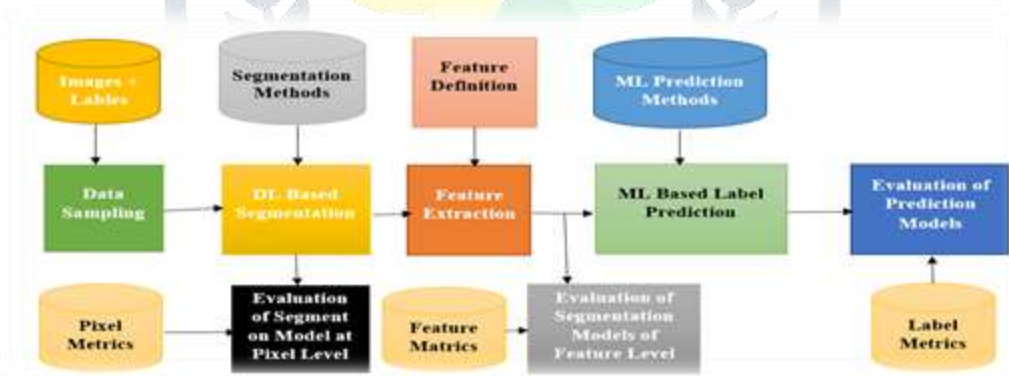
### III. Methodology:

#### Approach 1 (indirect label prediction with segmentation and feature extraction):

Segment raw images into foreground (cells) and background using a Deep Learning model (DL\_Seg), extract features from segmented cells, and predict the cell functions using machine learning (TML\_Reg) model.

#### Approach 2 (indirect label prediction with feature extraction):

Extract features directly from raw images (per field of view) and predict the cell functions from the extracted features using Machine Learning (TML\_Reg) model.

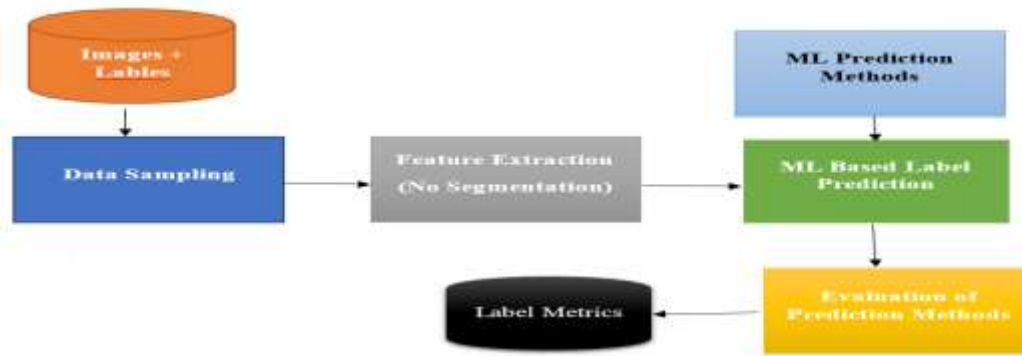


#### Approach 1: Indirect label prediction with segmentation and feature

This approach consists of three steps: deep learning model for RPE cell segmentation task (DL\_Seg), feature engineering and extraction of cell features from the segmented RPE absorbance images generated from DL\_Seg model, and cell function prediction from cell features using a TML-based model. This pipeline is denoted as “DL\_Seg  $\bowtie$  Extract\_Features  $\bowtie$  TML\_Reg

The model design complexity of this approach is very high because we need to select a DL model for segmentation and a TML model for cell function prediction. The level of optimization required is very high because models need to be optimized at three different steps; segmentation, feature extraction, and cell function level comprising of global parameters involved in the DL model used for segmentation and local parameters that need to be optimized in the TML model. This approach is transparent by providing three accuracy probes, a DICE score for segmentation,  $\chi^2$  difference for features, and RMSE for cell function prediction. Although this approach is transparent, it requires a lot of manual effort to create ground truth data for segmentation and to engineer the relevant features for TML prediction analysis.

Approach 2: Indirect label prediction with feature extraction This approach consists of two steps, feature engineering and cellfunction prediction. First, features are extracted from RPE absorbance images and then the TML model is built to predict cell function from extracted features. This entire pipeline is denoted as “Extract\_Features þTML\_Reg”.



#### IV. Data set

The dataset for this examination comprised of absorbance microscopy pictures of human iRPE cells. The red, green, what's more, blue frequency separated pictures from sent white light splendid field magnifying instrument were changed over to absorbance pictures absorbance =  $\log_{10}(1 - \text{conveyance})$ . The absorbance pictures guide to a convergence of shade as per Beer-Lambert law. The pictures were part into 1000 tiles of  $256 \times 256$  pixels with 16 pieces for each pixel (bpp) and the comparing ground-truth division tiles. Each tile contains a RPE monolayer estimating roughly  $0.5 \text{ mm} \times 0.5 \text{ mm}$ . By and large, around 185 000 RPE singular cells were imaged. Since the goal of this examination was to assess exactness execution of numerous CNN models prepared with few explained pictures, we picked 500 tiles for preparing the division models and 500 tiles for assessment (testing). To survey affectability of CNN model exactness to the quantity of explained pictures, we shifted the quantity of preparing models from 50 tiles to 500 tiles for preparing the six models portrayed in the past segment. Every one of the 80 403 accessible absorbance picture tiles of  $256 \times 256$  pixels were utilized for the GAN solo preparing. The absorbance pictures with their physically made division covers, just as all un-explained absorbance pictures, are accessible for perusing and downloading from this URL 2.

#### V. Discussion

The work presented in this paper focuses on improving cell boundary segmentation by using augmentation and transfer learning from two sources when a small number of manual segmentations is available. The main objective is to compare transfer learning from a very large collection of out-of-domain annotated images (e.g., COCO based transfer learning) or from a sufficiently large collection of in-the-domain un-annotated images and a small number of in-the-domain annotated images (GAN).

#### Conclusion

One of the approaches depends on another rebuilding of an encoder decoder division organization (U-Net) into a solo GAN model to empower portrayal learning with a similar organization components which will later be utilized for division. Promising outcomes were shown when this methodology was applied to sectioning singular cell forms from absorbance pictures of human iRPE monolayer inserts. We conjecture that TL-GAN shows mediocre outcomes to TL-COCO in light of the fact that just a single portion of the last division organization could be moved from the GAN portrayal. This stands conversely where the all the loads can be moved from the COCO division pretrain. All methodologies depicted in this paper could be utilized to improve some other division task.

#### REFERENCES

[1] M. Majurski et al., "Cell Image Segmentation Using Generative Adversarial Networks, Transfer Learning, and Augmentations," 2019 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Workshops (CVPRW), 2019, pp. 1114-1122, doi: 10.1109/CVPRW.2019.00145.

- [2] Assaf Arbelle and Tammy Riklin Raviv. Microscopy cell segmentation via adversarial neural networks. In 2018 IEEE 15th International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI 2018), pages 645–648. IEEE, 2018.
- [3] Shagun Arora, Alia Rashid, Micah Chrenek, Qing Zhang, Soojung Park, Hans Grossniklaus, and John Nickerson. Analysis of human retinal pigment epithelium (rpe) morphometry in the macula of the normal aging eye. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, 54(15):2014–2014, 2013.
- [4] Vijay Badrinarayanan, Alex Kendall, and Roberto Cipolla. SegNet: A Deep Convolutional Encoder-Decoder Architecture for Image Segmentation. pages 1–14, 2015.
- [5] K. Bharti and B. Jha. Regenerating retinal pigment epithelial cells to cure blindness: a road towards personalized artificial tissue. *Current stem cell reports*, 1(2):79–91, 2015.
- [6] Hao Chen, Xiaojuan Qi, Lequan Yu, and Pheng-Ann Heng. Dcan: deep contour-aware networks for accurate gland segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pages 2487–2496, 2016.
- [7] Jia Deng, Wei Dong, Richard Socher, Li-Jia Li, Kai Li, and Li Fei-Fei. Imagenet: A large-scale hierarchical image database. In *2009 IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, pages 248–255. Ieee, 2009.
- [8] Lee R Dice. Measures of the amount of ecologic association between species. *Ecology*, 26(3):297–302, 1945.
- [9] Dieleman. Classify plankton with deep neural networks. <http://benanne.github.io/2015/03/17/plankton.html>.
- [10] Mark Everingham, Luc Van Gool, Christopher KI Williams, John Winn, and Andrew Zisserman. The pascal visual object classes (voc) challenge. *International journal of computer vision*, 88(2):303–338, 2010.
- [11] Ian Goodfellow, Jean Pouget-Abadie, Mehdi Mirza, Bing Xu, David Warde-Farley, Sherjil Ozair, Aaron Courville, and Yoshua Bengio. Generative adversarial nets. In *Advances in neural information processing systems*, pages 2672–2680, 2014.
- [12] Liang Han and Zhaozheng Yin. Transferring microscopy image modalities with conditional generative adversarial networks. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Workshops*, pages 99–107, 2017.
- [13] Lawrence Hubert and Phipps Arabie. Comparing partitions. *Journal of classification*, 2(1):193–218, 1985.
- [14] Yuankai Huo, Zhoubing Xu, Shunxing Bao, Albert Assad, Richard G Abramson, and Bennett A Landman. Adversarial synthesis learning enables segmentation without target modality ground truth. In *2018 IEEE 15th International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI 2018)*, pages 1217–1220. IEEE, 2018.
- [15] Anna Khoreva, Rodrigo Benenson, Jan Hosang, Matthias Hein, and Bernt Schiele. Simple does it: Weakly supervised instance and semantic segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, pages 876–885, 2017.
- [16] Tsung-Yi Lin, Michael Maire, Serge Belongie, James Hays, Pietro Perona, Deva Ramanan, Piotr Dollar, and C Lawrence Zitnick. Microsoft coco: Common objects in context. In *European conference on computer vision*, pages 740–755. Springer, 2014.
- [17] M. Brady M. Simon, J. Chalfoun and P. Bajcsy. Do we trust image measurements? variability, accuracy and traceability of image features. 2016.
- [18] Michael Majurski, Petre Manescu, Joe Chalfoun, Peter Bajcsy, and Mary Brady. Impact of sampling and augmentation on generalization accuracy of microscopy image segmentation methods. In *3rd IEEE International Workshop on Computer Vision for Microscopy Image Analysis (CVMI)*, 2018.
- [19] D. Malacara-Hernandez M. C. Wilson D. Williams P. RangelFonseca, A. Gomez-Vieyra and E. Rossi. Automated segmentation of retinal pigment epithelium. *Journal of the Optical Society of America*, 30(20), 2013.
- [20] George Papandreou, Liang-Chieh Chen, Kevin P Murphy, and Alan L Yuille. Weakly-and semi-supervised learning of a deep convolutional network for semantic image segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE international conference on computer vision*, pages 1742–1750, 2015.
- [21] Alec Radford, Luke Metz, and Soumith Chintala. Unsupervised representation learning with deep convolutional generative adversarial networks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1511.06434*, 2015.
- [22] Olaf Ronneberger, Philipp Fischer, and Thomas Brox. UNet: Convolutional Networks for Biomedical Image Segmentation. In *International Conference on Medical image computing and computer-assisted intervention*, pages 234–241, may 2015.

- [23] Ethan A Rossi, Piero Rangel-Fonseca, Keith Parkins, William Fischer, Lisa R Latchney, Margaret A Folwell, David R Williams, Alfredo Dubra, and Mina M Chung. In vivo imaging of retinal pigment epithelium cells in age related macular degeneration. *Biomedical optics express*, 4(11):2527–2539, 2013.
- [24] M. Chrenek Q. Zhang-B. Bruce M. Klein J. Nickerson S. Bhatia, A. Rashid. Analysis of rpe morphometry in human eyes. *Molecular vision*, 22, 2016.
- [25] Tim Salimans, Ian Goodfellow, Wojciech Zaremba, Vicki Cheung, Alec Radford, and Xi Chen. Improved techniques for training gans. In *Advances in neural information processing systems*, pages 2234–2242, 2016.
- [26] Nasim Souly, Concetto Spampinato, and Mubarak Shah. Semi supervised semantic segmentation using generative adversarial network. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision*, pages 5688–5696, 2017.
- [27] Nguyen Xuan Vinh, Julien Epps, and James Bailey. Information theoretic measures for clusterings comparison: Variants, properties, normalization and correction for chance. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 11(Oct):2837–2854, 2010.
- [28] David Warde-Farley and Ian Goodfellow. 11 adversarial perturbations of deep neural networks. *Perturbations, Optimization, and Statistics*, 311, 2016.
- [29] Sarala Padi, Petru Manescu, Nicholas Schaub, Nathan Hotaling, Carl Simon, Kapil Bharti, Peter Bajcsy, Comparison of Artificial Intelligence based approaches to cell function prediction, *Informatics in Medicine Unlocked*, Volume 18,2020,100270, ISSN 2352-9148, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.imu.2019.100270>.

