

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Motivation	1
1.2	Fluorescence Microscopy for Large Scale Imaging	2
1.3	Segmentation for Morpho-Topological Analysis of Multi-Cellular Structures	4
1.4	Thesis Contribution	7
1.4.1	Publications, Related Work, and Collaborations	8
2	Background: Active Contour Models and Multiple-Object Segmentation	11
2.1	Membrane Detection in Fluorescence Microscopy	12
2.1.1	Fluorescence Microscopy	12
2.1.2	Membrane Segmentation Approaches	15
2.2	Active Contour Models	23
2.2.1	Parametric Models	24
2.2.2	Implicit Models	27
2.3	Multiple-Object Segmentation	29
3	ALPACA: Algorithm for Piecewise Adjacent Contour Adjustment	32
3.1	Overview	32
3.1.1	Input Parameters	32
3.2	Algorithm Steps	35
3.2.1	Gradient Vector Flow Image Force Computation	35
3.2.2	Free Parametric Active Contour Deformation	39
3.2.3	Detection of Adjacent, Overlapping, and Non-Adjacent Contour Sections	42
3.2.4	Shared Contour Section Computation	42
3.2.5	Piecewise Active Contours Reconstruction	44
3.3	Implementation Language and Libraries	45
3.4	Implemented Optimizations	45
3.4.1	Neighbor ROI/Shared Section Computations	45
3.5	Computational Complexity	46
3.5.1	Operations	46
3.5.2	Memory	46
4	Validation and Application	48
4.1	Quality Indicators	48
4.1.1	Morphological Indices	48
4.1.2	Similarity Indices	50

4.2	Test and Validation Cases	53
4.2.1	Microscopy Image Acquisition of PpO Cells	53
4.2.2	Synthetic Image with Hexagon Cells of Defined Adjacency	53
4.2.3	Manually Outlined Contours (MOC)	53
4.2.4	Algorithm Settings	54
4.3	Results and Discussion	57
4.4	Alternative Approaches	66
5	Conclusion	69
5.1	General Remarks	69
5.2	Future Work	70
	Bibliography	73
	Appendices	89
A	Statistical Analysis of Similarity Indices	89
A .1	Similarity Indices across Algorithm Steps in Synthetic Cells	90
A .2	Similarity Indices for Expert/Expert in Synthetic Cells	91
A .3	Comparison of Experts and ALPACA Steps in PpO Cells	94