Supplemental Material for: Is Visual in-Context Learning for Compositional Medical Tasks within Reach?

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Abstract

In this document, we aim to supply the interested reader with additional side-information on visual in-context learning on compositional medical tasks. This information includes more details on the datasets used for training, the synthetic tasks we trained on, the experimental settings and models we trained and how we evaluated them. We further provide more qualitative outputs and information on used open-source libraries. Finally, we name limitations and discuss the societal impact of our work.

1. Dataset

Our training dataset is based on the MedSAM dataset [33], more specifically, the 38 datasets of which we show examples in Table 1, more details can be found in Table 2. As can be seen, the datasets cover a wide variety of imaging modalities.

We enrich the data with synthetic tasks, which we put into task sequences for compositional medical tasks as we described in the main paper. An example of the individual generative-, transformation- and discriminative tasks we extract from each image-segmentation pair is shown in Tab. 3.

2. Information on experiments in *Chapter 4*. *Analysis of task recovery in codebooks*

As we oultine in the main paper, we identify the limitations that are induced when operating in the token space of learned codebooks. These codebooks entail certain reconstruction errors, which we explored for simple image reconstruction and the reconstruction of segmentation maps on the datasets DAP ATLAS [25], BSDS/CBSD68 [35], HAM10000 [48], Openorganelle (hela-2, hela-3, jurkat-1, macrophage-2, sum-159) [20] and RETOUCH (cirrus, topcon, spectralis) [12]. In Table 4, we show the results

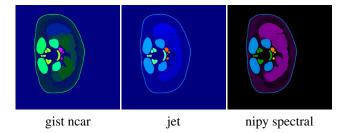


Figure 1. Different colormaps for the ATLAS dataset with which we supply codebooks to indicate the effect of visual prompting.

from the spiderplots in the main paper in numerical form. There, results for auto-encoding images, noisy images and segmentation maps are reported. For the ATLAS dataset with its 142 classes, we briefly investigated the significance of different color schemes when processing segmentation maps. To do this, we utilized color-maps from matplotlib ¹, the names of which are indicated in Table 4. In Figure 1 we show a segmentation map with these different color-maps.

The different VQ-GAN models we test are pre-trained models from a model zoo ² which is associated to [11, 43]. The models vary in their loss function in training and network architectures which influences their codebook size and latent tensor shape in the quantization layer. For a detailed description of their differences we kindly refer the reader to the explanations by Rombach *et al.* [43].

3. Hyperparameters for VQ-GAN and tranformer training

In Table 5, we summarize the genreal hyperparameters of the VQ-GAN models and the transformer models we train.

Ihttps://matplotlib.org/stable/users/explain/ colors/colormaps.html

²https://github.com/CompVis/latent-diffusion/ tree / main ? tab = readme - ov - file # pretrained autoencoding-models

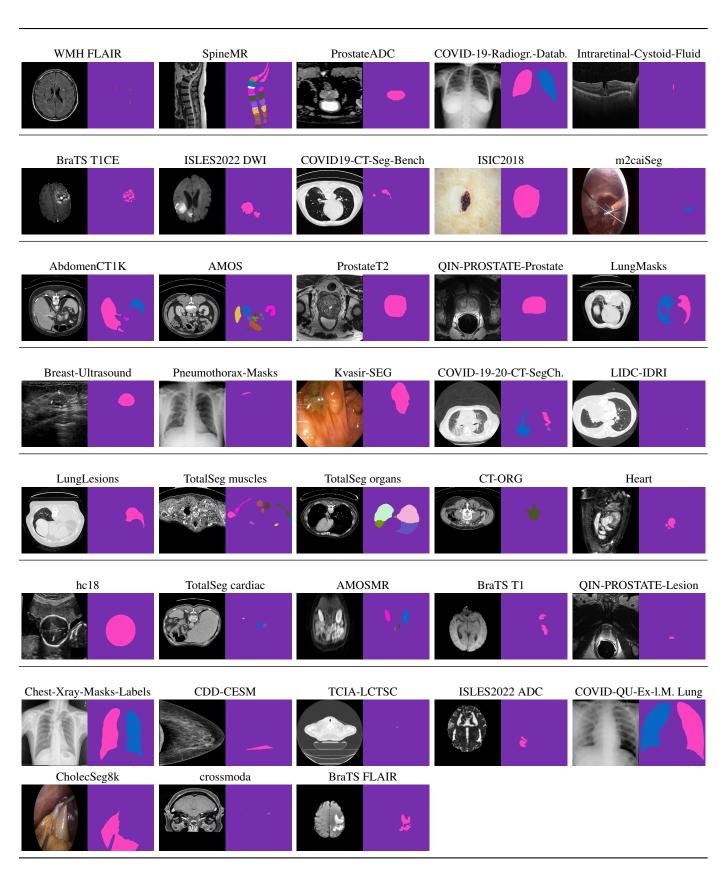


Table 1. Example images and segmentations from 38 datasets in MedSAM [33] which we use as basis for our investigation.

Dataset	Link								
AMOSMR [27]	https://amos22.grand-challenge.org/Dataset/								
BraTS T1 [7-10, 37]	http://braintumorsegmentation.org/								
BraTS T1CE [7-10, 37]	http://braintumorsegmentation.org/								
CDD-CESM [28]	https://www.cancerimagingarchive.net/collection/cdd-cesm/								
Chest-Xray-Masks-Labels [13, 24]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/nikhilpandey360/chest-xray-masks-and-labels								
COVID-19-20-CT-SegCh. [3, 44]	https://covid-segmentation.grand-challenge.org/Data/								
COVID-QU-Ex-1.M. Lung. [14, 17, 41, 46, 47]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/anasmohammedtahir/covidqu								
COVID19-CT-Seg-Bench [30]	https://github.com/JunMa11/COVID-19-CT-Seg-Benchmark								
crossmoda [18]	https://crossmoda-challenge.ml/								
hc18 [50]	https://hc18.grand-challenge.org/								
Heart [45]	http://medicaldecathlon.com/								
Intraretinal-Cystoid-Fluid [1]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/zeeshanahmed13/intraretinal-cystoid-fluid								
ISLES2022 ADC [21]	https://www.isles-challenge.org/								
ISLES2022 DWI [21]	https://www.isles-challenge.org/								
Kvasir-SEG [26, 40]	https://datasets.simula.no/kvasir/								
LungLesions [4]	http://medicaldecathlon.com/								
m2caiSeg [34]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/salmanmaq/m2caiseg								
Pneumothorax-Masks [53]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/vbookshelf/pneumothorax-chest-xray-images-and-masks								
ProstateADC [45]	http://medicaldecathlon.com								
ProstateT2 [45]	http://medicaldecathlon.com								
QIN-PROSTATE-Lesion [4, 19]	http://doi.org/10.7937/K9/TCIA.2018.MR1CKGND								
QIN-PROSTATE-Prostate [4, 19]	http://doi.org/10.7937/K9/TCIA.2018.MR1CKGND								
SpineMR [54]	https://www.cg.informatik.uni-siegen.de/en/spine-segmentation-and-analysis								
TCIA-LCTSC [52]	https://www.cancerimagingarchive.net/collection/lctsc/								
WMH flair [29]	https://wmh.isi.uu.nl/								
BraTS flair [7–10, 37]	http://braintumorsegmentation.org/								
Breast-Ultrasound [2]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/aryashah2k/breast-ultrasound-images-dataset								
COVID-19-RadiogrDatab. [14, 41]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/tawsifurrahman/covid19-radiography-database								
ISIC2018 [15, 16, 48]	https://challenge.isic-archive.com/data/								
CholecSeg8k [23, 49]	https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/newslab/cholecseg8k								
TotalSeg cardiac [51]	https://zenodo.org/records/6802614								
CT-ORG [42]	https://www.cancerimagingarchive.net/collection/ct-org/								
TotalSeg organs [51]	https://zenodo.org/records/6802614								
TotalSeg muscles [51]	https://zenodo.org/records/6802614								
LIDC-IDRI [5]	https://www.cancerimagingarchive.net/collection/lidc-idri/								
AMOS [27]	https://amos22.grand-challenge.org/								
AbdomenCT1K [31, 32]	https://github.com/JunMal1/AbdomenCT-1K								
LungMasks [22]	https://github.com/JoHof/lungmask								

Table 2. Datasets with their citations and links for further information.

Both architectures and the effects of the hyperparameters in source code can be found in the model definitions of either VQ-GAN 3 or the GPT2 transformer 4 .

4. Additional qualitative results

4.1. VQ-GAN reconstruction

In the main paper, we present quantitative results regarding the upper bound of codebooks on the MedSAM datasets. There, we evaluate a pre-trained VQ-GAN and different fine-tuned variants which are trained on task data and indomain images. In Figure 2, we show the difference, that our proposed fine-tuning (color remapping augmentation, dataset- and task balancing) can make for representing task data as compared to an ImageNet pre-trained model. It is clearly evident, that the pre-trained reconstructions are not able to capture the semantic content encoded in the segmentation maps, while fine-tuning shows visually coherent re-



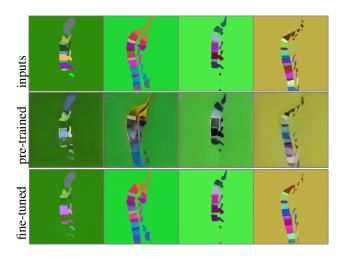


Figure 2. Qualitative examples of auto-encoding segmentation maps with VQ-GAN codebooks. First row shows inputs, second row shows reconstructions with an ImageNet pre-trained VQ-GAN, row three shows a model fine-tuned on task data with color remapping augmentation and dataset + task balancing.

sults with only minor inaccuracies in color and shape.

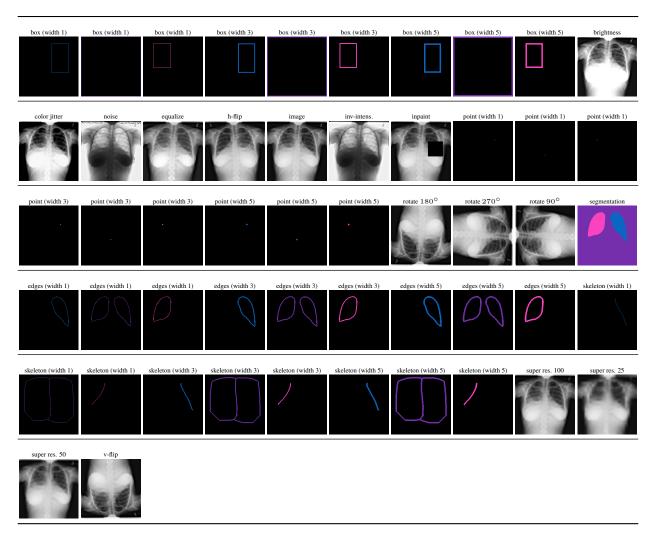


Table 3. Here, we show an example of how each image-segmentation pair is enriched with additional synthetic tasks.

The quantitative evaluation for reconstructing different task-related images (*i.e.*, Table 2 in the main paper) is carried out on 22K test images and segmentation annotations comprised of samples from the 38 datasets we use to train.

4.2. Qualitative compositional predictions

In Figure 3 and Figure 4 we display additional compositional task sequences and associated predictions by the visual in-context transformer. We can observe, that the visual in-context learner, even though the compositional tasks are quite complex and encompass long sequences, can coherently follow the instructions in the context task sequence. Of course, we can also observe inaccuracies, such that certain structures can not be predicted coherently, such as detailed structures in the brain in Figure 3 (top).

Interestingly, when inspecting the image modalities of both Figure 3 and Figure 4, the wide range of modalities, *i.e.*, magnetic resonace imaging, computed tomogra-

phy, ultrasound, and even endoscopy images can be captured nicely.

In some cases, we see, that the visual in-context learner can capture the distribution of the expected output, *e.g.*, the segmentation in the last two columns of Figure 3, in the example at the bottom, but the predicted structures are located at the wrong position. This might be a hint that in case the model is not able to connect the image pattern to the semantic structure, as defined in the context set, it hallucinates a wrong but overall plausible-looking output. Fine, small structures in medical imaging datasets might elevate this problem which also highlights the challenging setting.

5. Limitations

Despite the promising results, the approach has several limitations that need to be addressed in future work. The granularity of what the codebooks can represent limits

Codebook	ATLAS gist ncar (seg)	ATLAS jet (seg)	ATLAS nipy spectral (seg)	BSDS500 (img)	CBSD68 (img)	CBSD68 (img noisy5)	CBSD68 (img noisy10)	CBSD68 (img noisy15)	CBSD68 (img noisy25)	CBSD68 (img noisy35)	CBSD68 (img noisy50)	HAM10000 (img)	HAM10000 (seg)	hela-2 (img)	hela-2 (seg)	hela-3 (img)	hela-3 (seg)	jurkat-1 (img)	jurkat-1 (seg)	macrophage-2 (img)	macrophage-2 (seg)	sum159-1 (img)	sum159-1 (seg)	retouch cirrus (img)	retouch cirrus (seg)	retouch spectralis (img)	retouch spectralis (seg)	retouch topcon (img)	retouch topcon (seg)
	loU↑	IoU↑	· IoU↑	MAE↓	. PSNR↑	RMSE↓	. RMSE↓	RMSE↓	RMSE↓	RMSE↓	RMSE↓	MAE↓	. IoU↑	MAE↓	IoU↑	MAE↓	. IoU↑	MAE↓	IoU↑	MAE↓	IoU↑	MAE↓	. IoU↑	MAE↓	IoU↑	MAE↓	IoU↑	MAE↓	IoU↑
VQ-GAN f4	0.40	0.29	0.38	0.03	27.39	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.14	0.01	1.00	0.01	0.71	0.04	0.81	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.82	0.01	0.96	0.03	0.98	0.01	0.99	0.02	0.98
VQ-GAN f8	0.30	0.19	0.31	0.05	22.48	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.14	0.17	0.02	1.00	0.02	0.68	0.07	0.80	0.01	0.81	0.01	0.80	0.01	0.95	0.05	0.98	0.02	0.98	0.03	0.98
VQ-GAN f8-n25	56 0.22	0.23	0.28	0.05	21.81	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.02	1.00	0.02	0.65	0.08	0.78	0.01	0.77	0.01	0.78	0.01	0.94	0.04	0.97	0.03	0.97	0.03	0.97
VQ-GAN f16	0.17	0.18	0.22	0.06	20.50	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.02	0.99	0.02	0.61	0.09	0.74	0.01	0.75	0.01	0.73	0.01	0.94	0.05	0.95	0.03	0.95	0.04	0.96
VQ-GAN f4-kl	0.44	0.27	0.43	0.03	27.46	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.01	1.00	0.01	0.71	0.04	0.81	0.01	0.82	0.01	0.80	0.01	0.96	0.03	0.99	0.01	0.99	0.02	0.99
VQ-GAN f8-kl	0.33	0.28	0.35	0.04	23.65	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.16	0.02	1.00	0.02	0.69	0.07	0.81	0.01	0.82	0.01	0.80	0.01	0.95	0.04	0.97	0.02	0.98	0.03	0.98
VQ-GAN f16-kl	0.34	0.28	0.34	0.04	23.51	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.16	0.02	1.00	0.02	0.68	0.07	0.80	0.01	0.80	0.01	0.79	0.01	0.96	0.04	0.98	0.02	0.98	0.03	0.98
VQ-GAN f32-kl	0.27	0.22	0.28	0.05	21.80	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.17	0.02	1.00	0.02	0.63	0.08	0.77	0.01	0.77	0.01	0.76	0.01	0.95	0.04	0.97	0.03	0.97	0.03	0.97

Table 4. Preliminary evaluation of the ImageNet pre-trained codebooks from Figure 3 in the main paper represented in numerical form. The different rows show different pretrained Codebooks, columns indicate different datasets where it is indicated in brackets whether the images of the datasets are autoencoded or the segmentation maps are autoencoded to determine the upper performance bounds with respective codebooks.

Hyperparameter	VQ-GAN	Transformer
learning rate	4.5e - 06	4.5e - 06
batch size	96	4
codebook size	16384	16384 + 2
codebook enc. resolutions	1, 1, 2, 2, 4	N/A
└residual blocks per level	2	N/A
block size	N/A	4,500
# encoder layers	N/A	6
# attention heads	N/A	16
embdding dimension	N/A	1,408
dropout ratio (embedding)	N/A	0.1
dropout ratio (residual)	N/A	0.1
dropout ratio (attention)	N/A	0.1
hardware	$4 \times NVIDIA$	$4 \times NVIDIA$
	A100 40GB	A100 40GB

Table 5. Overview of the hyperparamters for both the VQ-GAN models and the GPT2 transformers we train.

their ability to recover fine-grained structures and, while color remapping augmentation improves generalization, the model remains sensitive to color variations where classes are encoded in very similar colors (*e.g.*, different shades of blue encoding different classes).

Ensuring consistency across intermediate outputs of the visual in-context learner is a remaining challenge as well. The model currently may produce misaligned sub-task predictions, affecting the overall coherence in the output sequence. This also ties into the qualitative observation that with longer sequences the intermediate outputs degrade successively (*e.g.*, Figure 3, second row where late in the sequence, the predicted brain scan is tinted blue).

The synthetic task generation pipeline, although effective, may not fully capture the complexity and diversity of real-world tasks which might impact the model's gen-

eralization capabilities. Exploring the effects of adapting this task generation pipeline from a data-centric perspective would be beneficial.

Balancing training data between imaging data and task outputs is crucial but challenging, especially with diverse datasets with different amounts of samples and the different generative-, transformation- and discriminative tasks.

Evaluation metrics such as IoU, F-1 Score, MAE, RMSE, and PSNR, while useful, may not fully capture the nuances of complex task sequences, necessitating more comprehensive evaluation frameworks. Here, efforts towards designing a compositional medical task benchmark are needed which encompasses a wide variety of compositional task prompts and associated evaluation schemes.

Finally, while the model shows promising results on complex, compositional task sequences, there is still much room for improvement when moving to out-of-domain sequences, *i.e.*, when moving beyond training datasets. One elevating factor for the presented approach could lie in model- and data scale, as visual in-context learners that were trained on larger datasets, with higher parameter counts [6] exhibited strong out-of-domain capabilities.

Addressing these limitations will be crucial for advancing visual in-context learning and enabling more robust, adaptable models for a wide range of applications. Future work should focus on enhancing codebooks, improving training strategies, expanding the synthetic task pipeline, and developing comprehensive evaluation frameworks.

6. Utilized open source code and libraries

We heavily build on the two codebases ^{5 6} and their opensource models. The GPT-2 implementation is based on the repository of minGPT ⁷. Further, we make heavy use of li-

⁵https://github.com/CompVis/taming-transformers

⁶https://github.com/CompVis/latent-diffusion

⁷https://github.com/karpathy/minGPT/

Context compositional task sequence

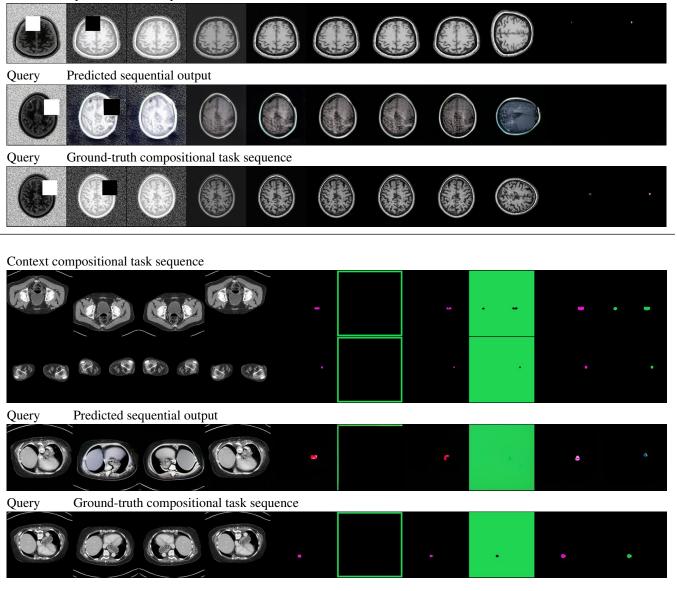


Figure 3. Additional compositional contexts, predicted task sequences and the associated ground-truth task sequences.

braries such as Pytorch [38], Pandas [36] and sklearn [39].

7. Impact statement

This paper presents work whose goal is to explore machine learning techniques for solving compositional visual tasks from the field of medical image analysis. Specifically, our goal is to enable users to specify vision-task pipelines without the requirement of programming knowledge or model re-training. This goal inherently means, that a broader audience could be able to use the developed models, which may include users with malicious intent. As the current models are not able to produce results that are on a level to be used

in medical practice and mainly serve to advance research, the factor of misuse may be of relatively low concern.

We utilize a broad set of medical datasets for this exploration and train models on it. As such, these models may reflect the biases within these datasets, such as gender-, ageor ethnicity imbalance.

Context compositional task sequence Predicted sequential output Query Query Ground-truth compositional task sequence Context compositional task sequence

Predicted sequential output Query Query Ground-truth compositional task sequence



Figure 4. Additional compositional contexts, predicted task sequences and the associated ground-truth task sequences.

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