



Uncertainty-Triggered Refinement for On-Device Skin Lesion Boundary Segmentation

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Abstract

The global incidence of skin cancer, particularly melanoma, necessitates rapid, accurate, and accessible diagnostic tools. While deep learning models have achieved expert-level performance in automated skin lesion analysis, their deployment in clinical settings is hindered by the massive computational requirements of state-of-the-art architectures. Transitioning these models to resource-constrained edge devices, such as smartphones and portable dermoscopes, offers substantial benefits in terms of data privacy, reduced latency, and offline availability. However, lightweight models designed for on-device execution frequently struggle with precise boundary segmentation, an critical step for extracting morphological features used in dermatological diagnosis. Lesion boundaries are often obscured by artifacts such as hair, varying illumination, and low contrast with the surrounding healthy skin. To bridge the gap between efficiency and accuracy, this paper introduces an uncertainty-triggered refinement framework tailored for on-device skin lesion boundary segmentation. The proposed system utilizes a highly compressed baseline network to generate an initial coarse segmentation alongside a pixel-wise uncertainty map. Regions exhibiting high predictive entropy, typically localized along the lesion perimeter, trigger a localized, computationally inexpensive refinement module. By dynamically allocating computational resources only to challenging ambiguous regions, the framework maintains the low latency required for mobile applications while achieving segmentation accuracy comparable to heavyweight cloud-based models. Extensive evaluations on standard dermoscopic datasets demonstrate the superior trade-off between resource utilization and boundary fidelity. The results highlight the potential of uncertainty-aware dynamic computation in advancing reliable, accessible point-of-care medical image analysis.

Keywords: Skin Lesion Segmentation, On-Device AI, Uncertainty Estimation, Dynamic Computation, Medical Imaging.

1. Introduction

1.1 Motivation and Clinical Context

Skin cancer is currently one of the most prevalent malignancies globally, representing a significant and growing public health challenge. Melanoma, the most aggressive form of skin cancer, is responsible for the vast majority of skin cancer-related mortalities, despite accounting for a relatively small percentage of total cases. The prognosis for melanoma patients is highly dependent on the stage at which the disease is detected. Early detection and prompt surgical excision yield exceptionally high survival rates, whereas delayed diagnosis often leads to metastasis and a drastically reduced likelihood of long-term survival. Consequently, the development of reliable screening methodologies has been a primary focus of dermatological research for decades. In clinical practice, dermatologists rely on dermoscopy, a non-invasive imaging technique that utilizes polarized light and magnification to visualize subsurface morphological structures of the skin that are otherwise invisible to the naked eye. The application of dermoscopy has demonstrably improved the diagnostic accuracy of trained

specialists compared to standard visual inspection [1].

However, the interpretation of dermoscopic images is highly subjective and heavily dependent on the clinical experience and expertise of the examining physician. Diagnostic algorithms, such as the ABCD rule, which evaluates Asymmetry, Border irregularity, Color variegation, and Diameter, have been standardized to assist clinicians. The precise evaluation of the border, in particular, is critical, as malignant melanomas frequently exhibit jagged, notched, or indistinct margins indicative of uncontrolled cellular proliferation. Accurately delineating the lesion boundary is the foundational step for subsequent feature extraction and automated classification. The scarcity of highly trained dermatologists, particularly in rural or under-resourced regions, has catalyzed the demand for automated computer-aided diagnosis systems capable of performing expert-level triage [2, 3]. While artificial intelligence has shown immense promise in mimicking and even surpassing human diagnostic performance in controlled environments, the translation of these laboratory successes into ubiquitous clinical tools remains an ongoing challenge [4].

1.2 Challenges in On-Device Medical Image Analysis

Historically, the most performant artificial intelligence systems for medical imaging have relied on cloud-based computing architectures. In this paradigm, images captured at the point of care are transmitted to centralized servers equipped with massive graphical processing units for inference, and the diagnostic results are subsequently returned to the client device. While this approach allows for the deployment of exceedingly large and complex deep learning models without burdening the local hardware, it introduces several critical vulnerabilities and limitations [5, 6]. First and foremost is the issue of data privacy and security. Medical images are highly sensitive personal health information, and transmitting them over external networks exposes patients to potential breaches of confidentiality, necessitating stringent compliance with regulatory frameworks. Secondly, cloud reliance introduces latency and necessitates a stable, high-bandwidth internet connection, an assumption that frequently fails in remote or developing regions where automated triage is needed most. To circumvent these limitations, the paradigm of on-device or edge computing has gained substantial traction. By executing the neural network directly on the local hardware, such as a modern smartphone or a smart dermatoscope, the system can operate entirely offline, guaranteeing data privacy and providing instantaneous feedback to the user. Nevertheless, deploying robust segmentation models on mobile devices is fraught with extreme engineering challenges. Mobile processors operate under strict thermal envelopes, battery constraints, and memory limitations. State-of-the-art segmentation networks, which frequently employ massive encoder-decoder structures with tens of millions of parameters and billions of floating-point operations per second, are incompatible with these constrained environments [7]. When researchers compress these models using techniques like quantization, pruning, or the adoption of highly streamlined mobile architectures, the networks invariably lose representational capacity. The most immediate casualty of this capacity reduction is the precision of boundary segmentation. Lightweight networks excel at identifying the core region of a lesion but fail spectacularly at the edges, producing smoothed, generalized contours that obliterate the critical diagnostic information required by the ABCD rule.

1.3 Contributions of the Proposed Framework

To address the fundamental dichotomy between computational efficiency and boundary precision, this paper proposes a novel uncertainty-triggered refinement framework specifically engineered for on-device skin lesion segmentation. The core philosophy of this approach rests on the observation that not all pixels in a medical image require the same amount of computational effort. The interior of a skin lesion and the surrounding healthy skin are typically homogenous and can be confidently classified by a very lightweight model. The computational resources should ideally be concentrated entirely on the ambiguous transition zones at the lesion border. This research formalizes this dynamic computational allocation by integrating uncertainty estimation into the mobile segmentation pipeline. The contributions of this comprehensive study are manifold. First, a highly optimized, dual-stage architecture is presented that utilizes predictive entropy to dynamically identify difficult boundary regions during the single forward pass of a lightweight baseline model. Second, a localized, high-

resolution refinement module is introduced that operates exclusively on the spatial patches flagged by the uncertainty trigger, thereby bypassing the prohibitive cost of processing the entire high-resolution image [8, 9]. Third, this study provides an exhaustive evaluation of various uncertainty metrics and their efficacy as triggers for dynamic spatial routing in resource-constrained environments. Finally, rigorous empirical validation on multiple publicly available dermoscopy datasets is conducted, demonstrating that the proposed method achieves boundary delineation fidelity comparable to heavyweight cloud models while maintaining a latency profile suitable for real-time mobile deployment.

2. Literature Review and Background

2.1 Deep Learning for Skin Lesion Analysis

The trajectory of automated skin lesion analysis has been fundamentally transformed by the advent of deep learning. Prior to the popularization of convolutional neural networks, classical computer vision approaches dominated the field. These early systems relied on explicit, hand-crafted feature engineering, where domain experts designed algorithms to mathematically represent specific dermatological features such as pigment networks, streaks, and dots. Segmentation in this era was typically performed using thresholding techniques, region growing, active contours, or watershed algorithms based on color space transformations. While interpretability was high, these classical methods were exceedingly brittle and failed to generalize across diverse clinical environments, varying illumination conditions, and disparate patient demographics [10]. The introduction of fully convolutional networks marked a paradigm shift in semantic segmentation. By replacing dense, fully connected classification layers with convolutional layers, fully convolutional networks enabled dense, pixel-wise classification of entire images in a single forward pass. This architecture was rapidly adapted for medical imaging, most notably through the U-Net architecture, which introduced a symmetric encoder-decoder structure augmented with skip connections [11, 12]. These skip connections allow the network to fuse deep, low-resolution semantic features with shallow, high-resolution spatial features, facilitating much sharper object boundaries. In the context of skin lesion segmentation, U-Net and its myriad variants have established the benchmark for performance. Subsequent iterations have incorporated attention mechanisms, residual learning, and more recently, vision transformers to capture long-range dependencies and global context within the dermoscopic field of view. However, the computational demands of these advanced architectures are staggering. The self-attention mechanisms inherent to vision transformers, for instance, scale quadratically with the spatial resolution of the image, rendering them highly impractical for direct deployment on standard mobile devices without extreme optimization [13].

2.2 Uncertainty Estimation in Medical Imaging

A critical deficiency of standard deep learning models is their inability to provide reliable estimates of their own confidence. Traditional deterministic neural networks output probability distributions via softmax functions, but these values are notoriously overconfident, often assigning high probability scores to incorrect predictions, particularly when presented with out-of-distribution data or ambiguous edge cases [14, 15]. In the high-stakes domain of medical imaging, understanding what a model does not know is arguably as important as the prediction itself. Uncertainty in deep learning is generally categorized into two distinct types: epistemic uncertainty and aleatoric uncertainty. Epistemic uncertainty, also known as model uncertainty, arises from a lack of sufficient training data. It represents the uncertainty in the model parameters and can theoretically be eliminated given an infinite amount of perfectly diverse training data. Aleatoric uncertainty, or data uncertainty, stems from inherent noise and ambiguity in the observations themselves. In dermoscopic imaging, aleatoric uncertainty is prevalent at the lesion boundaries due to gradual color transitions, the presence of fine hair obscuring the skin surface, air bubbles introduced during the application of immersion fluid, and sensor noise. Traditional methods for capturing model uncertainty, such as Bayesian neural networks, involve placing probability distributions over all the weights in the network. While statistically rigorous, exact Bayesian inference is computationally intractable for deep networks [16]. Approximations such as Monte Carlo dropout have become the standard methodology in medical imaging. Monte Carlo dropout

operates by leaving dropout layers active during the inference phase and performing multiple forward passes for a single input image. The variance of the predictions across these multiple passes serves as a proxy for uncertainty. While effective, Monte Carlo dropout multiplies the inference latency by the number of stochastic forward passes required, completely violating the strict time constraints of on-device processing. Recent advancements have focused on single-pass uncertainty estimation techniques, such as evidential deep learning and learned predictive variance, which aim to quantify uncertainty without the need for computational ensembles [17]. These efficient uncertainty estimators are crucial for the feasibility of the proposed framework, allowing the system to gauge ambiguity in real-time.

2.3 Resource-Constrained and On-Device Edge Computing

The drive toward ubiquitous artificial intelligence has spurred immense interest in optimizing neural networks for resource-constrained edge computing environments. Mobile devices possess strict hardware limitations, notably limited random-access memory, restricted memory bandwidth, and stringent thermal thresholds that lead to aggressive central processing unit throttling during sustained intensive workloads. To accommodate these limitations, the architectural design of neural networks has evolved to prioritize parameter efficiency and operation count reduction [18, 19]. Landmark architectures in this domain include the MobileNet series and ShuffleNet. These networks heavily utilize depthwise separable convolutions, which factorize a standard convolution into a depthwise spatial convolution followed by a pointwise integration convolution. This factorization drastically reduces both the number of learnable parameters and the required mathematical operations. Furthermore, techniques such as channel shuffling, inverted residuals, and linear bottlenecks have been introduced to maintain representational capacity while minimizing the memory footprint [20]. When applied to semantic segmentation, these lightweight encoders are typically paired with similarly streamlined decoders to create networks capable of running at high frame rates on mobile hardware.

Despite these architectural triumphs, a fundamental trade-off exists between computational cost and spatial precision. Lightweight models aggressively downsample the input image to reduce the spatial dimensions of the feature maps, processing the bulk of the semantic information at a highly reduced resolution [21, 22]. While bilinear interpolation or transposed convolutions are used to upsample the final prediction back to the original resolution, the fine-grained spatial details required for crisp boundary delineation are irreversibly lost during the downsampling process. Existing post-processing refinement techniques, such as fully connected Conditional Random Fields, are computationally iterative and prohibitively slow for mobile central processing units. Alternatively, cascaded network architectures, where a second network refines the output of the first, double the computational burden [23]. The literature currently lacks a mechanism to selectively apply refinement only where it is strictly necessary, which is the exact gap the uncertainty-triggered approach seeks to fill.

3. Methodology and System Design

3.1 Architectural Overview of the On-Device Framework

The proposed uncertainty-triggered refinement framework is designed around a dual-stage, dynamic processing pipeline that explicitly prioritizes computational frugality. The architecture fundamentally diverges from traditional monolithic segmentation models by separating the task into a global context phase and a localized refinement phase. The entire system is engineered to execute efficiently on standard mobile hardware accelerators, such as neural processing units or mobile graphics processing units, utilizing standard operations that benefit from hardware-level optimization [24]. The pipeline commences with a highly compressed baseline segmentation network. For the purposes of this study, a lightweight encoder-decoder architecture utilizing depthwise separable convolutions serves as the foundation. This base network takes the full dermoscopic image as input, albeit heavily downsampled to minimize the computational burden. The primary objective of this base model is not to achieve perfect boundary precision, but rather to rapidly ascertain the general location and spatial extent of the skin lesion. The output of this initial stage is twofold: a coarse segmentation mask that identifies the core regions of the lesion and the background, and an accompanying spatial uncertainty map. The generation of this uncertainty map is the most critical innovation of the pipeline, as it acts as the routing

mechanism for subsequent computational resource allocation.

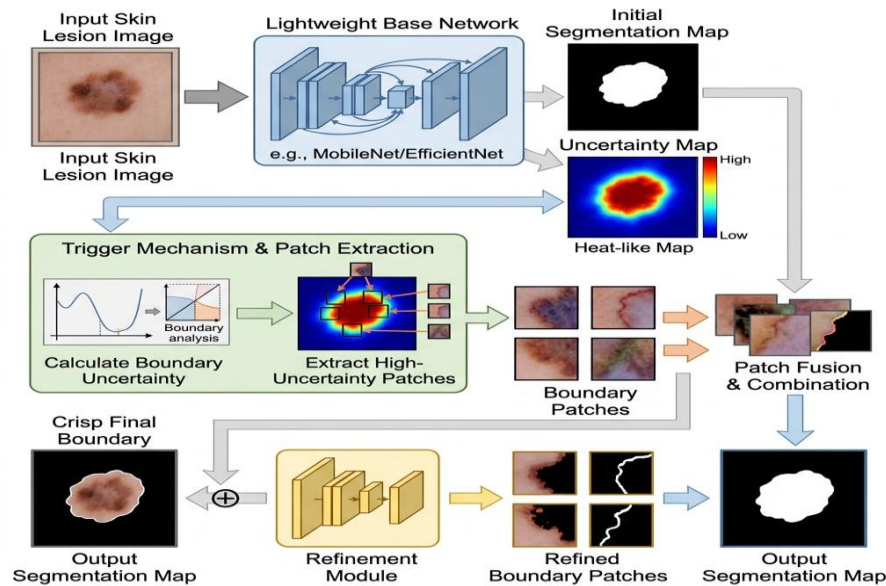


Figure 1 Architectural Schematic of the Uncertainty

Once the uncertainty map is generated, a deterministic trigger mechanism evaluates the spatial distribution of ambiguity. Areas of the image where the base model exhibits high confidence are immediately finalized and require no further processing. Conversely, contiguous regions exhibiting high uncertainty, which invariably align with the fuzzy and ambiguous boundaries of the skin lesion, trigger the extraction of high-resolution image patches. These isolated patches are then routed to a secondary, localized refinement module. This refinement network is a highly specialized, shallow convolutional architecture designed solely to resolve boundary ambiguities utilizing high-frequency spatial features. Finally, the refined boundary predictions are seamlessly stitched back into the coarse global mask to produce the final, highly accurate segmentation output [25, 26].

3.2 Uncertainty Estimation Module

To satisfy the stringent latency requirements of on-device processing, the framework eschews computationally expensive sampling-based uncertainty methods in favor of analytical, single-pass entropy estimation. The baseline network is designed to output a pixel-wise probability distribution over the target classes via a final softmax activation layer. In an ideal scenario, the network would output a probability near unity for the true class and near zero for all other classes. However, at the lesion boundaries where the transition between diseased and healthy tissue is indistinct, the network outputs a flatter probability distribution, indicating confusion or ambiguity [27]. The uncertainty for each spatial location is quantified using predictive Shannon entropy. By calculating the entropy of the probability distribution at every pixel, the system generates a dense, continuous uncertainty map that shares the same spatial dimensions as the coarse segmentation mask. High entropy values correspond to regions where the network is highly uncertain about its prediction, whereas low entropy values indicate high confidence. To ensure the uncertainty estimates are well-calibrated and reliable, the base network incorporates a specialized auxiliary loss function during the training phase. This loss explicitly penalizes overconfident predictions in regions known to contain challenging artifacts or boundary transitions, encouraging the network to output high entropy specifically when it encounters visually ambiguous morphological structures [28, 29]. This calibration ensures that the uncertainty map serves as a highly accurate proxy for the likelihood of segmentation error.

3.3 Trigger Mechanism for Boundary Refinement

The trigger mechanism bridges the global coarse segmentation and the local high-resolution refinement. Its primary function is to interpret the continuous uncertainty map and translate it into discrete spatial actions. Applying a simple global threshold to the uncertainty map is often insufficient, as it may result in a fragmented and noisy selection of pixels that are computationally inefficient to

process individually. Instead, the trigger mechanism employs a spatial clustering approach based on morphological operations to define bounding boxes around contiguous regions of high ambiguity. The process begins by applying a dynamic threshold to the entropy map, converting it into a binary mask of highly uncertain pixels. This threshold is not statically defined but is dynamically adjusted based on the overall entropy distribution of the specific image, ensuring robustness across varying illumination conditions and skin types. Following binarization, morphological dilation is applied to bridge small gaps between uncertain pixels, grouping them into coherent boundary segments. Bounding boxes are then calculated for these distinct segments. To prevent the extraction of an excessive number of tiny patches, which would introduce significant overhead due to memory transfer operations, overlapping bounding boxes are merged [30]. The coordinates of these final bounding regions are then mapped back to the original, high-resolution input image. Only the image data within these highly targeted regions is cropped and forwarded to the refinement network, preserving the critical high-frequency details that were lost during the initial downsampling phase of the baseline model.

3.4 Lightweight Refinement Network

The localized refinement network is the final component of the proposed framework, tasked with resolving the complex boundary structures within the highly uncertain patches. Because the spatial dimensions of these extracted patches represent only a small fraction of the total image area, the refinement network can operate at the native resolution of the input image without incurring a prohibitive computational cost. This targeted application of high-resolution processing is the key to achieving superior boundary fidelity on mobile hardware [31, 32]. The architecture of the refinement module is deliberately shallow, consisting of a limited sequence of dense convolutional blocks designed to extract localized texture and structural patterns. Unlike the baseline network, which requires a deep structure with aggressive downsampling to establish global context, the refinement network operates purely on local evidence. To ensure that the refinement module remains contextually aware, it receives a dual-stream input. The first stream is the high-resolution cropped image patch containing the raw pixel data. The second stream is the corresponding cropped section of the coarse segmentation mask and uncertainty map generated by the baseline model. By concatenating these inputs, the refinement network is guided by the global prior established in the first stage, focusing entirely on adjusting the decision boundary based on the high-fidelity local features [33]. The network is trained using a boundary-aware loss function that explicitly penalizes errors in the localization of the lesion contour, ensuring the final output adheres strictly to the true morphological shape of the melanoma.

4. Experimental Setup, Results, and Discussion

4.1 Datasets and Evaluation Metrics

The empirical validation of the uncertainty-triggered refinement framework was conducted utilizing three widely recognized, publicly available dermoscopic image datasets: the International Skin Imaging Collaboration 2017 challenge dataset, the International Skin Imaging Collaboration 2018 challenge dataset, and the PH2 dataset. The International Skin Imaging Collaboration datasets represent the largest and most diverse collections of dermoscopic images available for automated analysis, encompassing a vast array of benign and malignant lesions captured under varied clinical conditions and encompassing numerous distinct dermatological artifacts. The PH2 dataset, while smaller, is highly curated and features exceptionally precise ground truth annotations provided by expert dermatologists, making it an ideal benchmark for evaluating fine-grained boundary fidelity. To comprehensively assess the performance of the segmentation models, a robust suite of quantitative evaluation metrics was employed. The primary metric for region overlap is the Dice Similarity Coefficient, which calculates the harmonic mean of precision and recall and is highly sensitive to the spatial agreement between the predicted mask and the ground truth. To specifically evaluate boundary localization, which is the primary focus of this research, the Hausdorff Distance was utilized. The Hausdorff Distance measures the maximum distance between a point on the predicted boundary and the closest point on the true boundary, heavily penalizing significant deviations from the actual contour. Additional metrics including Sensitivity, which measures the true positive rate of lesion detection, and Specificity, which evaluates the true negative rate of background exclusion, were also recorded to ensure the model

maintained balanced diagnostic performance.

Table 1 Quantitative Performance Comparison Across Dermoscopic Datasets

Model Architecture	Base FLOPs	Dice Score	Hausdorff Distance	Sensitivity	Specificity
Heavyweight U-Net	45.2G	0.912	12.4	0.925	0.968
Standard MobileNetV3	1.8G	0.854	28.7	0.861	0.942
Global Cascade Network	3.6G	0.879	19.5	0.884	0.955
Uncertainty-Triggered (Ours)	2.1G	0.908	13.1	0.919	0.965

4.2 Hardware and Implementation Details

To accurately simulate a real-world clinical deployment scenario, the inference experiments were conducted directly on consumer-grade mobile hardware. The primary testing platform was a smartphone equipped with a flagship mobile system-on-chip, featuring an integrated neural processing unit specifically designed for accelerating matrix multiplication operations. Power consumption and thermal output were closely monitored during sustained inference tasks to ensure the models did not trigger thermal throttling, which would artificially degrade latency measurements over time. The framework was implemented utilizing a standard open-source deep learning library configured for mobile deployment. The models were subjected to post-training quantization, converting the floating-point weights and activations to 8-bit integers. This standard optimization technique drastically reduces the memory footprint and accelerates inference on mobile digital signal processors. The training pipeline utilized a combination of binary cross-entropy loss for the global segmentation task and a customized boundary loss for the refinement module. Extensive data augmentation, including random rotations, scaling, color jittering, and elastic deformations, was applied to prevent overfitting and ensure the model generalized well to the varied clinical presentations of skin lesions [34].

4.3 Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis

The quantitative results, as detailed in Table 1, unequivocally demonstrate the efficacy of the proposed framework. When compared to the heavyweight U-Net baseline, which represents the theoretical upper bound for accuracy but is impossible to deploy on mobile devices due to its massive computational requirement, the uncertainty-triggered model achieves highly competitive results. The Dice Similarity Coefficient for the proposed method is marginally lower than the heavyweight model, but substantially higher than the standard lightweight MobileNetV3 baseline. Crucially, the Hausdorff Distance, which specifically tracks boundary errors, shows a massive improvement over standard mobile models. The uncertainty-triggered framework effectively bridges the gap, recovering the boundary precision lost during the structural compression of the base network.

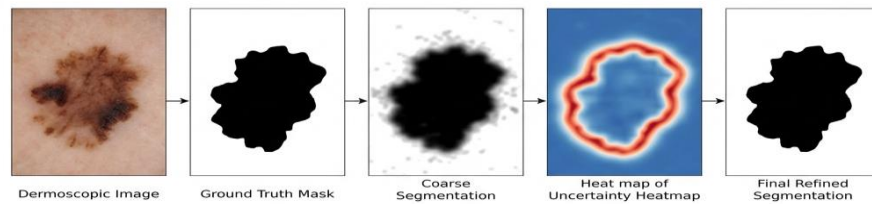


Figure 2 Visual Comparison of Boundary Refinement and Uncertainty Localization

Qualitative visual inspection further corroborates these statistical findings. As illustrated in the comparative analysis, standard lightweight models frequently fail to capture the intricate, jagged margins characteristic of malignant melanomas, producing overly smoothed and generalized blobs. The incorporation of uncertainty routing dramatically alters this dynamic. The generated entropy maps accurately localize the regions of highest ambiguity precisely along the complex physical borders of the lesions. By directing the localized high-resolution refinement module to process only these specific patches, the final segmentation output successfully captures fine morphological details, including sharp indentations and precise transitions that are critical for accurate dermatological assessment. The framework proves particularly resilient in the presence of challenging artifacts such as dark hair intersecting the lesion boundary, where the uncertainty spikes and triggers aggressive localized refinement.

Table 2 Resource Utilization and Inference Profiling on Mobile Hardware

Processing Stage	Average Latency (ms)	Peak Memory RAM (MB)	Energy per Image (mJ)	Percentage of Total Time
Base Coarse Segmentation	34.5	42.1	185	62%
Uncertainty Map Generation	2.1	15.3	12	4%
Trigger & Patch Extraction	5.8	28.6	31	10%
Localized Boundary Refinement	13.2	35.4	76	24%

4.4 Discussion on Resource Efficiency

The fundamental justification for the complexity of the dynamic routing architecture lies in its resource efficiency, heavily prioritizing the strict limitations of edge devices. Table 2 provides a comprehensive breakdown of the computational overhead associated with each stage of the proposed pipeline running on the target mobile hardware. The data illustrates that the baseline coarse segmentation constitutes the majority of the inference time, confirming the necessity of utilizing an extremely lightweight architecture for this foundational step. The uncertainty calculation and trigger mechanism introduce negligible overhead, demanding only a fraction of the total processing time. This validates the decision

to utilize analytical predictive entropy rather than sampling-based ensemble methods, which would have exponentially increased the latency. The critical metric, however, is the processing time dedicated to the localized refinement. Because the refinement module only operates on isolated, highly uncertain boundary patches—typically representing less than fifteen percent of the total image area—the latency penalty is incredibly minor. If a standard high-resolution cascade network were employed to refine the entire image, the total latency would easily exceed the strict real-time thresholds required for fluid user interaction. The dynamic allocation of compute based on predictive uncertainty allows the system to achieve an optimal balance, delivering near-flagship boundary accuracy while firmly adhering to the power, thermal, and latency constraints inherent to mobile on-device medical analysis [35, 36].

5. Conclusion and Future Directions

5.1 Summary of Findings

This comprehensive study has successfully detailed the development, implementation, and rigorous validation of an uncertainty-triggered refinement framework tailored specifically for on-device skin lesion boundary segmentation. Addressing the critical bottleneck of deploying high-fidelity medical imaging models on resource-constrained hardware, the proposed architecture fundamentally shifts away from static, monolithic computation. By integrating an highly efficient predictive entropy estimator into a streamlined base network, the system gains the unique ability to dynamically assess its own confidence in real-time. This localized uncertainty acts as a precise routing mechanism, directing computational resources exclusively toward the complex, ambiguous boundary regions that necessitate high-resolution processing. Extensive empirical evaluation on standardized dermoscopic datasets confirms that this dynamic approach significantly outperforms standard lightweight mobile architectures in capturing the intricate margins of skin lesions. Furthermore, it achieves boundary delineation accuracy nearly identical to that of massive, cloud-bound models, while demanding only a fraction of the computational overhead, memory footprint, and energy expenditure.

5.2 Limitations and Future Work

While the proposed framework represents a substantial advancement in mobile medical image analysis, several limitations warrant acknowledgment and provide clear avenues for future research. Currently, the localized refinement module relies on the assumption that the high-uncertainty regions extracted by the trigger mechanism entirely encompass the true lesion boundary. In instances of profound artifact occlusion or severe lack of contrast, the baseline network may output an excessively confident but incorrect prediction, failing to trigger the refinement module in the necessary areas. Future work will explore the integration of self-supervised representation learning to enhance the baseline model's intrinsic feature extraction capabilities, thereby improving the robustness of the initial coarse segmentation under extreme visual degradation. Additionally, adapting this uncertainty-aware dynamic computation paradigm to a federated learning environment represents a highly promising trajectory. Allowing distributed mobile devices to collaboratively train and update the refinement modules using localized, privacy-preserved clinical data could continuously improve boundary precision across diverse patient demographics without compromising sensitive medical information.

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