

SCSegamba: Lightweight Structure-Aware Vision Mamba for Crack Segmentation in Structures

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Abstract

Pixel-level segmentation of structural cracks across various scenarios remains a considerable challenge. Current methods encounter challenges in effectively modeling crack morphology and texture, facing challenges in balancing segmentation quality with low computational resource usage. To overcome these limitations, we propose a lightweight Structure-Aware Vision Mamba Network (SC-Segamba), capable of generating high-quality pixel-level segmentation maps by leveraging both the morphological information and texture cues of crack pixels with minimal computational cost. Specifically, we developed a Structure-Aware Visual State Space module (SAVSS), which incorporates a lightweight Gated Bottleneck Convolution (GBC) and a Structure-Aware Scanning Strategy (SASS). The key insight of GBC lies in its effectiveness in modeling the morphological information of cracks, while the SASS enhances the perception of crack topology and texture by strengthening the continuity of semantic information between crack pixels. Experiments on crack benchmark datasets demonstrate that our method outperforms other state-of-the-art (SOTA) methods, achieving the highest performance with only 2.8M parameters. On the multi-scenario dataset, our method reached 0.8390 in F1 score and 0.8479 in mIoU. The code is available at <https://github.com/Karl1109/SCSegamba>.

1. Introduction

Structures like bitumen pavement, concrete, and metal frequently develop cracks under shear stress, making regular health monitoring essential to avoid production issues [3, 4, 19, 23, 30]. Due to differences in material properties and environmental conditions, various materials exhibit significant variations in crack morphology and visual appearance [24]. As a result, achieving pixel-level crack seg-

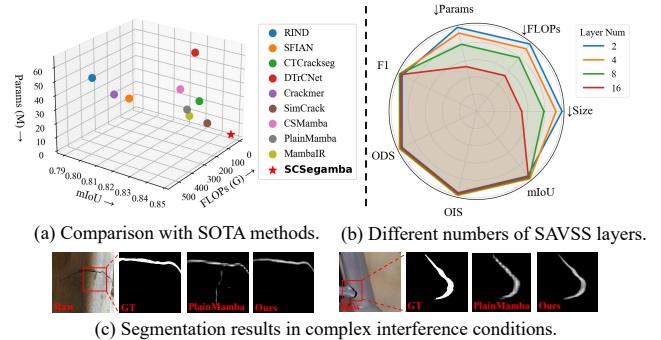


Figure 1. Performance of SCSegamba on multi-scenario TUT [33] dataset. (a) Comparison with SOTA methods. (b) Impact of different SAVSS layer numbers on performance, with normalized metrics; FLOPs (G), Params (M), and Size (MB) decrease towards the edges. (c) Visual results under complex interference conditions.

mentation across diverse scenarios remains a complex challenge. Recently, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), such as ECSNet [59] and SFIAN [5], have shown effective crack feature extraction capabilities in segmentation tasks due to their strong local inductive properties. However, their limited receptive field constrains their ability to model broad-scope irregular dependencies across the entire image, resulting in discontinuous segmentation and weak background noise suppression. Although dilated convolution [2] expand the receptive field, their inherent inductive bias still prevents them from fully addressing this issue [58], especially in complex crack patterns with heavy background interference.

The success of Vision Transformer (ViT) [10, 45, 47] has demonstrated Transformer’s effectiveness in capturing irregular pixel dependencies, which is crucial for recognizing complex crack textures, as seen in networks like DTr-CNet [48], MFAFNet [9], and Crackmer [46]. However, the quadratic complexity of attention calculations with sequence length leads to high memory use and training challenges for high-resolution images, limiting deployment on

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resource-constrained edge devices and practical applications. As shown in Figure 1(a), Transformer-based methods like CTCrackseg [44] and DTrCNet [48] perform well, but their large parameter counts and high computational demands limit their deployability on resource-constrained devices. Although variants like Sparse Transformer [6] and Linear Transformer [21] reduce computational requirements by sparsifying or linearizing attention, they sacrifice the ability to model irregular dependencies and pixel textures, hindering pixel-level detection tasks. Consequently, Transformer-based methods struggle to balance segmentation performance with computational efficiency.

Recently, Selective State Space Models (SSMs) have attracted considerable interest due to Mamba’s showing strong performance in sequence modeling while maintaining low computational demands [14, 15]. Vision Mamba (ViM) [62] and VMamba [36] have extended Mamba to the visual domain. The irregular extension of crack regions with numerous branches in low-contrast images, often affected by irrelevant areas and shadows, challenges existing Mamba VSS (Visual State Space Model) block structures and scanning strategies in capturing crack morphology and texture effectively. Most Mamba-based methods [37, 51, 52, 55] process feature maps through linear layers, limiting selective enhancement or suppression of crack features against irrelevant disturbances, thus reducing detailed morphological extraction. Additionally, common parallel or unidirectional diagonal scans [16] struggle to maintain semantic continuity when handling irregular, multi-directional pixel topologies, weakening their ability to manage complex textures and suppress noise. Consequently, current Mamba-based SSM frequently produce false or missed detections in multi-scenario crack images. Moreover, although these methods have the advantage of fewer parameters, there remains potential to further reduce their computational demands and enhance their deployability on edge devices. As shown in Figure 1(b), CSMamba [37], MambaIR [16], and PlainMamba [55] showed unsatisfactory performance on crack images, with room for improvement in parameter count and computational load.

To tackle the challenge of balancing high segmentation quality with low computational demands, we propose the SCSSegamba network that produces high-quality pixel-level crack segmentation maps with low computational resources. To improve the Mamba network’s perception of irregular crack textures, we design a Structure-Aware Visual State Space block (SAVSS), employing a Structure-Aware Scanning Strategy (SASS) to enhance semantic continuity and strengthen crack morphology perception. For capturing crack shape cues while maintaining low parameter and computational costs, we designed a lightweight Gated Bottleneck Convolution (GBC) that dynamically adjusts weights for complex backgrounds and varying mor-

phologies. Additionally, the Multi-scale Feature Segmentation head (MFS) integrates the GBC and Multi-layer Perceptron (MLP) to achieve high-quality segmentation maps with low computational requirements. As shown in Figure 1(c), optimal segmentation performance was achieved with four SAVSS layers, producing clear segmentation maps that effectively mask complex interference while maintaining model lightweightness.

In essence, the primary contributions of our work are outlined as follows:

- We propose a novel lightweight vision Mamba network, SCSSegamba, for crack segmentation. This model effectively captures morphological and irregular texture cues of crack pixels, using low computational resources to generate high-quality segmentation maps.
- We design the SAVSS with a lightweight GBC Convolution and a SASS scanning strategy to enhance the handling and perception of irregular texture cues in crack images. Additionally, a simple yet effective MFS is developed to generate segmentation maps with relatively low computational resources.
- We evaluate SCSSegamba on benchmark datasets across diverse scenarios, with results demonstrating that our method outperforms other SOTA methods while maintaining the low parameter count.

2. Related Works

2.1. Crack Segmentation Network

Early crack detection methods often relied on traditional feature extraction techniques, such as wavelet transform [61], percolation models [54], and the k-means algorithm [25]. Although straightforward to implement, these methods face challenges in suppressing background interference and achieving high segmentation accuracy. With advancements in deep learning, researchers have developed CNN-based crack segmentation networks that achieve SOTA performance [5, 7, 18, 26, 40, 49]. For instance, DeepCrack [35] enables end-to-end pixel-level segmentation, while FPHBN [56] demonstrates strong generalization capabilities. BARNet [17] detects crack boundaries by integrating image gradients with features, and ADDUNet [1] captures both fine and coarse crack characteristics across varied conditions. Although CNN-based methods show significant promise, the local operations and limited receptive fields of CNNs limit their ability to fully capture crack texture cues and effectively suppress background noise.

Transformers [45], with their self-attention mechanism, are well-suited for visual tasks that require long-range dependency modeling, making them increasingly popular in crack segmentation networks [9, 31, 32, 41, 53]. For example, VCVNet [39], based on Vision Transformer (ViT), is designed for bridge crack segmentation, addressing fine-grained segmentation challenges. SWT-CNN [27]

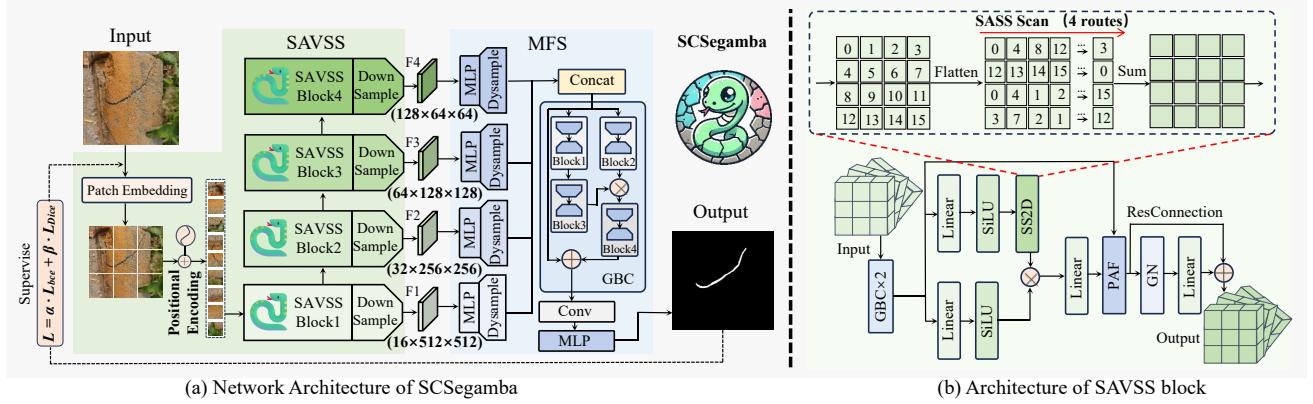


Figure 2. Overview of our proposed method. (a) illustrates the overall architecture of SCSegamba and the processing flow for crack images. (b) displays the structure of the SAVSS block. The input crack image undergoes comprehensive morphological and texture feature extraction through SAVSS, while MFS produces a high-quality pixel-level segmentation map.

combines Swin Transformer and CNN for automatic feature extraction, while TBUNet [60], a Transformer-based knowledge distillation model, achieves high-performance crack segmentation with a hybrid loss function. Although Transformer-based methods are highly effective at capturing crack texture cues and suppressing background noise, their self-attention mechanism introduces computational complexity that grows quadratically with sequence length. This results in a high parameter count and significant computational demands, which limit their deployment on resource-constrained edge devices.

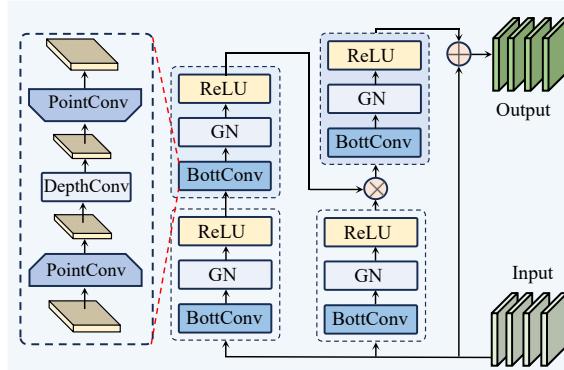


Figure 3. Architecture of GBC. It employs bottleneck convolution to efficiently reduce the parameters and computational load, while the gating mechanism enhances the model’s adaptability in processing diverse crack patterns and complex backgrounds. GN represents group normalization.

2.2. Selective State Space Model

The introduction of the Selective State Space Models (S6) in the Mamba model [14] has highlighted the potential of SSM [12, 13]. Unlike the linear time-invariant S4 model, S6 efficiently captures complex long-distance dependencies while preserving computational efficiency, achieving strong performance in NLP, audio, and genomics. Consequently,

researchers have adapted Mamba to the visual domain, creating various VSS blocks. ViM [62] achieves comparable modeling to ViT [10] without attention mechanisms, using fewer computational resources, while VMamba [36] prioritizes efficient computation and high performance. Plain-Mamba [55] employs a fixed-width layer stacking approach, excelling in tasks such as instance segmentation and object detection. However, the VSS block and scanning strategy require specific optimizations for each visual task, as tasks differ in their reliance on long- and short-distance information, necessitating customized VSS block designs to ensure optimal performance.

Currently, no high-performing Mamba-based model exists for crack segmentation. Thus, designing an optimized VSS structure specifically for crack segmentation is essential to improve performance and efficiency. Given the intricate details and irregular textures of cracks, the VSS block requires strong shape extraction and directional awareness to effectively capture crack texture cues. Additionally, it should facilitate efficient crack segmentation while minimizing computational resource requirements.

3. Methodology

3.1. Preliminary

The complete architecture of our proposed SCSegamba is depicted in Figure 2. It includes two main components: the SAVSS for extracting crack shape and texture cues, and the MFS for efficient feature processing. To capture key crack region cues, we integrate the GBC at the initial stage of SAVSS and the final stage of MFS.

For a single RGB image $E \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times H \times W}$, spatial information is divided into n patches, forming a sequence $\{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n\}$. This sequence is processed through the SAVSS block, embedding key crack pixel cues into multi-scale feature maps $\{F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4\}$. Finally, in the MFS, all information is consolidated into a single tensor, produc-

ing a refined segmentation output $W \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times H \times W}$.

3.2. Lightweight Gated Bottleneck Convolution

The gating mechanism enables dynamic features for each spatial position and channel, enhancing the model's ability to capture details [8, 57]. To further reduce parameter count and computational cost, we embedded a bottleneck convolution (BottConv) with low-rank approximation [28], mapping matrices from high to low dimensional spaces and significantly lowering computational complexity.

In the convolution layer, assuming the spatial size of the filter is p , the number of input channels is d and the input is s , the convolution response can be represented as:

$$z = Qs + c \quad (1)$$

where Q is a matrix of size $f \times (p^2 \times d)$, f is the number of output channels, and c is the original bias term. Assuming z lies in a low-rank subspace of rank f_0 , it can be represented as $z = V(z - z_1) + z_1$, where z_1 abstracts the mean vector of features, acting as an auxiliary variable to facilitate theoretical derivation and correct feature offsets, $V = LM^T$ ($L \in \mathbb{R}^{f \times f_0}$, $M \in \mathbb{R}^{(p^2d) \times f_0}$) represents the low-rank projection matrix. The simplified response then becomes:

$$z = LM^T s + c' \quad (2)$$

Since $f_0 < f$, the computational complexity reduces from $O(fp^2d)$ to $O(f_0p^2d) + O(f_0f_0)$, where $O(f_0f_0) \ll O(fp^2d)$, indicating that the computational complexity reduction is proportional to the original ratio of f_0/f .

In BottConv, pointwise convolutions project features into or out of low-rank subspace, thus significantly reducing complexity, while depthwise convolution that perform spatial information-adequate extraction in subspace guarantees negligibly low complexity. As shown in Figure 5, BottConv in our GBC design significantly reduces parameter count and computational load compared to the original convolution, with minimal performance impact.

As shown in Figure 3, the input feature $x \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H \times W}$ is retained as $x_{\text{residual}} = x$ to facilitate the residual connection. Subsequently, the feature x is passed through the BottConv layer, followed by normalization and activation functions, resulting in the features x_1 and $g_2(x)$ as shown below:

$$g_1(x) = \text{ReLU}(\text{Norm}_1(f_1(x))) \quad (3)$$

$$x_1 = \text{ReLU}(\text{Norm}_2(\text{BottConv}_2(g_1(x)))) \quad (4)$$

$$g_2(x) = \text{ReLU}(\text{Norm}_3(\text{BottConv}_3(x))) \quad (5)$$

To generate the gating feature map, x_1 and $g_2(x)$ are combined through the Hadamard product:

$$m(x) = x_1 \odot g_2(x) \quad (6)$$

The gating feature map $m(x)$ is subsequently processed through BottConv once again to further refine fine-grained

details. After the residual connection is applied, the resulting output is:

$$y = \text{ReLU}(\text{Norm}_4(\text{BottConv}_4(m(x)))) \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Output} = y + x_{\text{residual}} \quad (8)$$

The design of BottConv and deeper gated branch enable the model to preserve basic crack features while dynamically refining the fine-grained feature characterization of the main branch, resulting in more accurate segmentation maps in detailed regions.

3.3. Structure-Aware Visual State Space Module

Our designed SAVSS features a two-dimensional selective scan (SS2D) tailored for visual tasks. Different scanning strategies impact the model's ability to capture continuous crack textures. As shown in Figure 4, current vision Mamba networks use various scanning directions, including parallel, snake, bidirectional, and diagonal scans [36, 55, 62]. Parallel and diagonal scans lack continuity across rows or diagonals, which limits their sensitivity to crack directions. Although bidirectional and snake scans maintain semantic continuity along horizontal or vertical paths, they struggle to capture diagonal or interwoven textures. To address this, our proposed diagonal snake scanning is designed to better capture complex crack texture cues.

SASS consists of four paths: two parallel snake paths and two diagonal snake paths. This design enables the effective extraction of continuous semantic information in regular crack regions while preserving texture continuity in multiple directions, making it suitable for multi-scenario crack images with complex backgrounds.

After the RGB crack image undergoes Patch Embedding and Position Encoding, it is input as a sequence into the SAVSS block. To maintain a lightweight network, we use only 4 layers of SAVSS blocks. The processing equations are as follows:

$$\bar{P} = e^{\Delta P} \quad (9)$$

$$\bar{Q} = (\Delta P)^{-1}(e^{\Delta P} - I) \cdot \Delta Q \quad (10)$$

$$z_k = \bar{P}z_{k-1} + \bar{Q}w_k \quad (11)$$

$$u_k = Rz_k + Sw_k \quad (12)$$

In these equations, the input $w \in \mathbb{R}^{t \times D}$, $P \in \mathbb{R}^{G \times D}$ controls the hidden spatial state, $S \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times D}$ is used to initialize the skip connection for input, z_k represents the specific hidden state at time step k , and $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{G \times D}$ and $R \in \mathbb{R}^{G \times D}$ are matrices with hidden spatial dimensions G and temporal dimensions D , respectively, obtained through selective scanning SS2D. These are trainable parameters that are updated accordingly. u_k represents the output at time step k . SASS establishes multi-directional adjacency relationships, allowing the hidden state z_k to capture more intricate topological and textural details, while enabling the

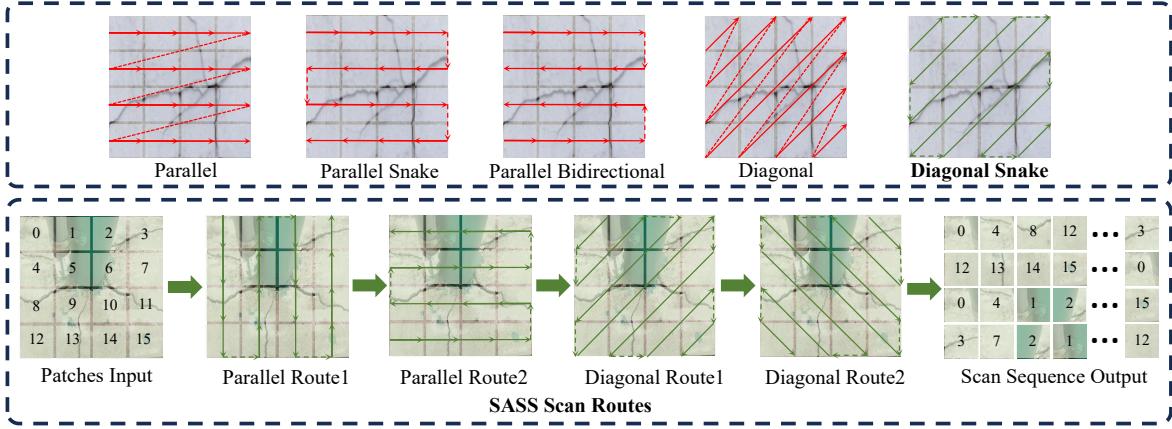


Figure 4. Illustration of our proposed SASS and other scanning strategies. The first row presents four commonly used single scanning paths, along with our proposed diagonal snake path. The second row illustrates the execution flow of our proposed SASS scanning strategy.

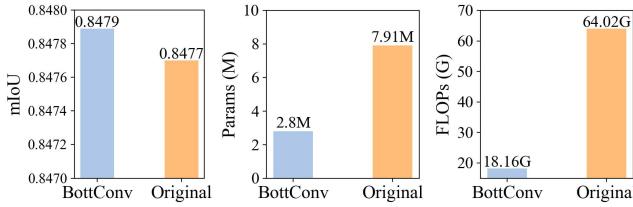


Figure 5. Performance comparison between using BottConv and raw convolution in GBC on the TUT [33] dataset.

output u_k to more effectively integrate multi-directional features.

To effectively combine the initial sequence x with the sequence processed through SS2D, we incorporate Pixel Attention-oriented Fusion (PAF) [33], enhancing SAVSS's ability to capture crack shape and texture details. Following selective scanning, a residual connection is applied to the fused information to preserve detail and facilitate feature flow. Furthermore, GBC refines the inter-layer output within SAVSS, strengthening crack information extraction and boosting performance in later stages.

3.4. Multi-scale Feature Segmentation Head

Unlike convolutional layers, the MLP swiftly learns the mapping relationships between features and labels, thereby reducing model complexity. When the four feature maps $F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H \times W}$ produced by SAVSS are fed into MFS, they undergo individual processing through the efficient MLP operation and dynamic upsampling [34], restoring their resolution to the original size and yielding $F_1^{up}, F_2^{up}, F_3^{up}, F_4^{up} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H \times W}$. The formula is as follows:

$$F_i^{up} = DySample(MLP_i(F_i)) \quad (13)$$

where i denotes the layer index.

To integrate all multi-scale crack shape and texture representations, these feature maps are aggregated into a single tensor, obtaining a high-quality crack segmentation map

$o \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times H \times W}$ as follows:

$$o_1 = GBC(Concat(F_1^{up}, F_2^{up}, F_3^{up}, F_4^{up})) \quad (14)$$

$$o = MLP(Conv(o_1)) \quad (15)$$

3.5. Objective Function

We use a blend of Binary Cross-Entropy loss (BCE) [29] and Dice loss [43] as the objective function, which helps improve the network's robustness to imbalanced pixel data. The overall loss function is expressed as follows:

$$L = \alpha \cdot L_{Dice} + \beta \cdot L_{BCE} \quad (16)$$

where the hyperparameters α and β control the weights of the two loss components. The ratio of α to β is set to 1:5.

4. Experiments

4.1. Datasets

Crack500 [56]. The images in this dataset were captured using a mobile phone. The original dataset consists of 500 bitumen crack images, which were expanded to 3368 images through data augmentation. Each image is paired with a corresponding pixel-level annotated binary image.

DeepCrack [35]. The dataset comprises 537 RGB images of cement, bricks and bitumen cracks under various conditions, including fine, wide, stained, and fuzzy cracks, ensuring diversity and representativeness.

CrackMap [22]. The dataset was created for a road crack segmentation study and consists of 120 high-resolution RGB images capturing a variety of thin and complex bitumen road cracks.

TUT [33]. In contrast to other datasets with simple backgrounds, this dataset includes a dense, cluttered background and features cracks with elaborate, intricate shapes. It contains 1408 RGB images across eight scenarios: bitumen, cement, bricks, runway, tiles, metal, blades, and pipes.

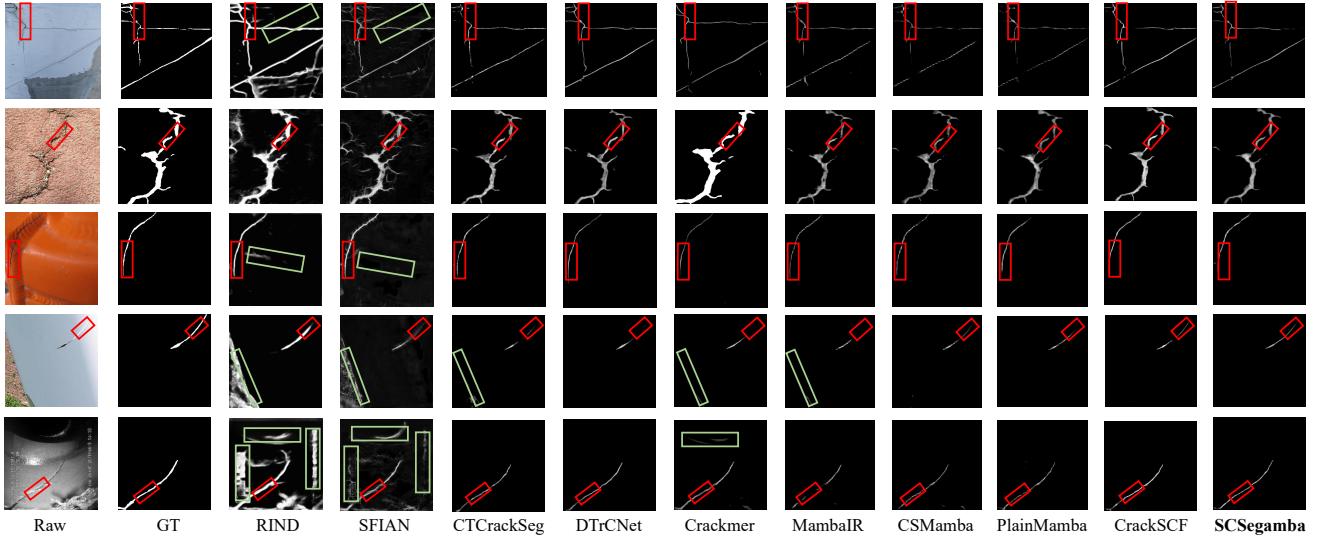


Figure 6. Visual comparison of typical cracks with 9 SOTA methods across four datasets. Red boxes highlight critical details, and green boxes mark misidentified regions.

During processing, all datasets were divided into training, validation, and test sets with a 7:1:2 ratio.

4.2. Implementation Details.

Experimental Settings. We built our SCSegamba network using PyTorch v1.13.1 and trained it on an Intel Xeon Platinum 8336C CPU with eight Nvidia GeForce RTX 4090 GPUs. The AdamW optimizer was used with an initial learning rate of 5e-4, PolyLR scheduling, a weight decay of 0.01, and a random seed of 42. The network was trained for 50 epochs, and the model with the best validation performance was selected for testing.

Comparison Methods. To comprehensively evaluate our model, we compared SCSegamba with 9 SOTA methods. The CNN or Transformer-based models included RIND [38], SFIAN [5], CTCrackSeg [44], DTrCNet [48], Crackmer [46] and SimCrack [20]. Additionally, we compared it with other Mamba-based models, including CSMamba [37], PlainMamba [55], and MambaIR [16].

Evaluation Metrics. We used six metrics to evaluate SCSegamba’s performance: Precision (P), Recall (R), F1 Score ($F1 = \frac{2RP}{R+P}$), Optimal Dataset Scale (ODS), Optimal Image Scale (OIS), and mean Intersection over Union (mIoU). ODS measures the model’s adaptability to datasets of varying scales at a fixed threshold m , while OIS evaluates adaptability across image scales at an optimal threshold n . The calculation formulas are as follows:

$$ODS = \max_m \frac{2 \cdot P_m \cdot R_m}{P_m + R_m} \quad (17)$$

$$OIS = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \max_n \frac{2 \cdot P_{n,i} \cdot R_{n,i}}{P_{n,i} + R_{n,i}} \quad (18)$$

mIoU is used to measure the mean proportion of the intersection over union between the ground truth and the predicted results. The calculation is given by the formula:

$$mIoU = \frac{1}{N+1} \sum_{l=0}^N \frac{p_{ll}}{\sum_{t=0}^N p_{lt} + \sum_{t=0}^N p_{tl} - p_{ll}} \quad (19)$$

where N is the number of classes, which we set as $N = 1$; t represents the ground truth, l represents the predicted value, and p_{tl} represents the count of pixels classified as l but belonging to t .

Additionally, we evaluated our method’s complexity using three metrics: FLOPs, Params, and Model Size, representing computational complexity, parameter complexity, and memory footprint.

4.3. Comparison with SOTA Methods

As listed in Table 1, compared with 9 other SOTA methods, our proposed SCSegamba achieves the best performance across four public datasets. Specifically, on the Crack500 [56] and DeepCrack [35] datasets, which contain larger and more complex crack regions, SCSegamba achieved the highest performance. Notably, on the DeepCrack dataset, it surpassed the next best method by 1.50% in F1 score and 1.09% in mIoU. This improvement is due to the robust ability of GBC to capture morphological clues in large crack areas, enhancing the model’s representational power. On the CrackMap [22] dataset, which features thinner and more elongated cracks, our method surpasses all other SOTA methods in every metric, outperforming the next best method by 2.06% in F1 and 1.65% in mIoU. This demonstrates the effectiveness of SASS in capturing fine textures and elongated crack structures. As illustrated in

Methods	Crack500						DeepCrack					
	ODS	OIS	P	R	F1	mIoU	ODS	OIS	P	R	F1	mIoU
RIND [38]	0.6469	0.6483	0.6998	0.7245	0.7119	0.7381	0.8087	0.8267	0.7896	<u>0.8920</u>	0.8377	0.8391
SFIAN [5]	0.6977	<u>0.7348</u>	0.6983	0.7742	0.7343	0.7604	0.8616	<u>0.8928</u>	0.8549	0.8692	0.8620	0.8776
CTCrackSeg [44]	0.6941	0.7059	0.6940	0.7748	0.7322	0.7591	<u>0.8819</u>	0.8904	0.9011	0.8895	0.8952	<u>0.8925</u>
DTrCNet [48]	0.7012	0.7241	0.6527	0.8280	0.7357	0.7627	0.8473	0.8512	0.8905	0.8251	0.8566	0.8661
Crackmer [46]	0.6933	0.7097	0.6985	0.7572	0.7267	0.7591	0.8712	0.8785	0.8946	0.8783	0.8864	0.8844
SimCrack [20]	<u>0.7127</u>	0.7308	0.7093	0.7984	<u>0.7516</u>	<u>0.7715</u>	0.8570	0.8722	0.8984	0.8549	0.8761	0.8744
CSMamba [37]	0.6931	0.7162	0.6858	0.7823	0.7315	0.7592	0.8738	0.8766	0.9025	0.8863	0.8943	0.8863
PlainMamba [55]	0.7035	0.7173	0.7170	0.7557	0.7358	0.7682	0.8646	0.8668	0.9050	0.8659	0.8850	0.8788
MambaIR [16]	0.7043	0.7189	<u>0.7204</u>	0.7681	0.7435	0.7663	0.8796	0.8840	<u>0.9056</u>	0.8895	<u>0.8975</u>	0.8907
SCSegamba (Ours)	0.7244	0.7370	0.7270	0.7859	0.7553	0.7778	0.8938	0.8990	0.9097	0.9124	0.9110	0.9022
Methods	CrackMap						TUT					
	ODS	OIS	P	R	F1	mIoU	ODS	OIS	P	R	F1	mIoU
RIND [38]	0.6745	0.6943	0.6023	0.7586	0.6699	0.7425	0.7531	0.7891	0.7872	0.7665	0.7767	0.8051
SFIAN [5]	0.7200	0.7465	0.6715	0.7668	0.7160	0.7748	0.7290	0.7513	0.7715	0.7367	0.7537	0.7896
CTCrackSeg [44]	0.7289	0.7373	0.6911	<u>0.7669</u>	0.7270	0.7785	0.7940	0.7996	<u>0.8202</u>	0.8195	0.8199	0.8301
DTrCNet [48]	0.7328	0.7413	0.6912	0.7681	0.7276	0.7812	<u>0.7987</u>	0.8073	0.7972	0.8441	0.8202	0.8331
Crackmer [46]	0.7395	0.7437	0.7229	0.7467	0.7346	0.7860	0.7429	0.7640	0.7501	0.7656	0.7578	0.7966
SimCrack [20]	<u>0.7559</u>	<u>0.7625</u>	0.7380	0.7672	<u>0.7523</u>	<u>0.7963</u>	0.7984	<u>0.8090</u>	0.8051	0.8371	<u>0.8208</u>	<u>0.8334</u>
CSMamba [37]	0.7371	0.7413	0.7053	0.7663	0.7346	0.7841	0.7879	0.7946	0.7947	0.8353	0.8146	0.8263
PlainMamba [55]	0.7150	0.7189	0.6649	0.7616	0.7099	0.7699	0.7867	0.7967	0.7701	<u>0.8523</u>	0.8102	0.8253
MambaIR [16]	0.7332	0.7347	<u>0.7569</u>	0.7013	0.7280	0.7834	0.7861	0.7930	0.7877	0.8387	0.8125	0.8249
SCSegamba (Ours)	0.7741	0.7766	0.7629	0.7727	0.7678	0.8094	0.8204	0.8255	0.8241	0.8545	0.8390	0.8479

Table 1. Comparison with 9 SOTA methods across 4 datasets. Best results are in bold, and second-best results are underlined.

Methods	Year	FLOPs↓	Params↓	Size↓
RIND [38]	2021	695.77G	59.39M	453MB
SFIAN [5]	2023	84.57G	13.63M	56MB
CTCrackSeg [44]	2023	39.47G	22.88M	174MB
DTrCNet [48]	2023	123.20G	63.45M	317MB
Crackmer [46]	2024	14.94G	<u>5.90M</u>	43MB
SimCrack [20]	2024	286.62G	29.58M	225MB
CSMamba [37]	2024	145.84G	35.95M	233MB
PlainMamba [55]	2024	73.36G	16.72M	96MB
MambaIR [16]	2024	47.32G	10.34M	79MB
SCSegamba (Ours)	2024	<u>18.16G</u>	2.80M	37MB

Table 2. Comparison of complexity with other methods. Best results are in bold, and second-best results are underlined.

Figure 6, our method produces clearer and more precise feature maps, with superior detail capture in typical scenarios such as cement and bitumen, compared to other methods.

For the TUT dataset [33], which includes eight diverse scenarios, our method achieved the best performance, surpassing the next best method by 2.21% in F1 and 1.74% in mIoU. As shown in Figure 6, whether in the complex crack topology of plastic tracks, the noise-heavy backgrounds of metallic materials and turbine blades, or the low-contrast, dimly lit underground pipeline images, SCSegamba consistently produced high-quality segmentation maps while effectively suppressing irrelevant noise. This demonstrates

that our method, with the enhanced crack morphology and texture perception from GBC and SASS, exhibits exceptional robustness and stability. Additionally, leveraging MFS for feature aggregation improves multi-scale perception, making our model particularly suited for diverse, interference-rich scenarios.

4.4. Complexity Analysis

Table 2 shows a comparison of the complexity of our method with other SOTA methods when the input image size is uniformly set to 512. With only 2.80M parameters and a model size of 37MB, our method surpasses all others, being 52.54% and 13.95% lower than the next best result, respectively. Additionally, compared to Crackmer [46], which prioritizes computational efficiency, our method's FLOPs are only 3.22G higher. This demonstrates that the combination of lightweight SAVSS and MFS enables high-quality segmentation in noisy crack scenes with minimal parameters and low computational load, which is essential for resource-constrained devices.

4.5. Ablation Studies

We performed ablation experiments on the representative multi-scenario dataset TUT [33].

Ablation study of segmentation heads. As listed in Table 3, with our designed MFS, SCSegamba achieved the best results across all six metrics, with F1 and mIoU scores 1.57% and 1.21% higher than the second-best method. In

Seg Head	ODS	OIS	P	R	F1	mIoU	Params ↓	FLOPs ↓	Model Size ↓
UNet [42]	<u>0.8055</u>	<u>0.8151</u>	0.8148	<u>0.8376</u>	<u>0.8260</u>	<u>0.8378</u>	2.92M	19.27G	39MB
Ham [11]	0.7703	0.7784	0.7962	0.7838	0.7909	0.8124	2.86M	35.08G	38MB
SegFormer [50]	0.7947	0.7983	<u>0.8170</u>	0.8174	0.8172	0.8307	2.79M	17.87G	35MB
MFS	0.8204	0.8255	0.8241	0.8545	0.8390	0.8479	<u>2.80M</u>	<u>18.16G</u>	<u>37MB</u>

Table 3. Ablation study of different segmentation heads. UNet [42], Ham [11], and SegFormer [50] are high-performance heads.

GBC	PAF	Res	ODS	OIS	P	R	F1	mIoU	Params ↓	FLOPs ↓	Model Size ↓
✓	✗	✗	<u>0.8136</u>	0.8196	0.8213	0.8461	<u>0.8335</u>	0.8434	2.49M	16.75G	<u>34MB</u>
✗	✓	✗	0.7998	0.8084	0.7918	<u>0.8524</u>	0.8222	0.8343	2.28M	14.91G	33MB
✗	✗	✓	0.7936	0.8069	0.7952	0.8438	0.8197	0.8313	<u>2.48M</u>	<u>15.65G</u>	35MB
✓	✓	✗	0.8047	0.8102	0.8174	0.8379	0.8275	0.8377	2.54M	17.08G	35MB
✓	✗	✓	0.8116	<u>0.8200</u>	0.8156	0.8522	0.8334	0.8425	2.75M	17.82G	37MB
✗	✓	✓	0.8023	0.8076	<u>0.8219</u>	0.8302	0.8260	0.8360	2.54M	15.99G	35MB
✓	✓	✓	0.8204	0.8255	0.8241	0.8545	0.8390	0.8479	2.80M	18.16G	37MB

Table 4. Ablation study of components within the SAVSS block. Best results are in bold, and second-best results are underlined.

terms of complexity, although Params, FLOPs, and Model Size are only 0.01M, 0.29G, and 2MB larger than the SegFormer head, our method surpasses it in F1 and mIoU by 2.67% and 2.07%, respectively. This demonstrates that MFS enhances SAVSS output integration, significantly improving performance while keeping the model lightweight.

Scan	ODS	OIS	P	R	F1	mIoU
Parallel	0.8123	0.8184	0.8146	<u>0.8523</u>	0.8330	0.8427
Diag	0.8091	0.8148	0.8225	0.8417	0.8320	0.8410
ParaSna	0.8102	0.8162	0.8219	0.8365	0.8291	0.8408
DiagSna	<u>0.8153</u>	<u>0.8215</u>	<u>0.8237</u>	0.8497	<u>0.8365</u>	<u>0.8451</u>
SASS	0.8204	0.8255	0.8241	0.8545	0.8390	0.8479

Table 5. Ablation studies with different four-route scanning strategies in the SAVSS block, comparing parallel, diagonal, parallel snake, and diagonal snake scanning. The impact of different scanning strategies on complexity is negligible; thus, complexity analysis is omitted from this table. Best results are in bold, and second-best results are underlined.

Ablation study of components. Table 4 shows the impact of each component in SAVSS on model performance. When fully utilizing GBC, PAF, and residual connections, our model achieved the best results across all metrics. Notably, adding GBC led to significant improvements in F1 and mIoU by 1.57% and 1.42%, respectively, highlighting its strength in capturing crack morphology cues. Similarly, residual connections boosted F1 and mIoU by 0.13% and 2.47%, indicating their role in focusing on essential crack features. Although using only PAF resulted in the lowest Params, FLOPs, and Model Size, it significantly reduced performance. These findings demonstrate that our fully integrated SAVSS effectively captures crack morphology and texture cues, achieving top pixel-level segmentation results while maintaining a lightweight model.

Ablation studies of scanning strategies. As listed in Table 5, under the same conditions of using four different directional scanning paths, the model achieved the best performance with our designed SASS scanning strategy, improving F1 and mIoU by 0.30% and 0.33% over the diagonal snake strategy. This demonstrates SASS’s ability to construct semantic and dependency information suited to crack topology, enhancing crack pixel perception in subsequent modules. **More comprehensive experiments and real-world deployments are available in the Appendix.**

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we proposed SCSegamba, a lightweight structure-aware Vision Mamba for precise pixel-level crack segmentation. SCSegamba combines SAVSS and MFS to enhance crack shape and texture perception with a low parameter count. Equipped with GBC and SASS scanning, SAVSS, captures irregular crack textures across various structures. Experiments on four datasets show SC-Segamba’s exceptional performance, especially in complex, noisy scenarios. On the challenging multi-scenario dataset, it achieved an F1 score of 0.8390 and mIoU of 0.8479 with only 18.16G FLOPs and 2.8M parameters, demonstrating its effectiveness for real-world crack detection and suitability for edge devices. Future work will incorporate multi-modal cues to enhance segmentation quality, while further optimizing VSS design and scan strategies to achieve high-quality results with low computational resources.

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