Role of Color in Histological Image Analysis Rough-Fuzzy Computing to Deep Learning



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Outline of the Talk

□ Histological Image Analysis

□ Importance of Color

- Normalization of Color
- Rough-Fuzzy Clustering



Deep Learning





Histology Image Analysis

- □ In histology, microscopic images of tissue sections are examined to study the manifestation of diseases under consideration.
- Most important property of histological images, as compared to radiological, cytological and other imaging modalities, is
 - enormous density of data,
 - □ more cellular details.



Cell nuclei (blue-purple), red blood cells (bright red), other cell bodies and extracellular material (pink), and air spaces (white).

It makes computer-aided diagnosis more accurate than other imaging modalities.



Histology Image Analysis

- □ When a pathologist looks at a biopsy of a suspected cancer, the histological section (tissue sample) is stained with multiple contrasting histochemical reagents, which highlight different tissue structures and cellular features.
- □ Haematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stain is
 - one of the principal tissue stains used in histology.
 - **General Standard in medical diagnosis.**



Cell nuclei (blue-purple), red blood cells (bright red), other cell bodies and extracellular material (pink), and air spaces (white).

❑ Haematoxylin stains cell nuclei a purplish blue, and eosin stains the extracellular matrix and cytoplasm pink, with other structures taking on different shades, hues, and combinations of these colors.



Histology Image Analysis

- Hence, color in pathology plays a pivotal role as a good indicator of histological components.
 - Pathologist / pattern recognition system can easily differentiate between nuclear and cytoplasmic parts of a cell.
- Problem of histological tissue analysis: Inadmissible inter and intra-specimen variation in stained tissue color.



Factors Responsible for Color Inconsistency





Impact of Dust

□ Presence of artefacts in the histology images due to dust particles





Effect of Fading

□ Color variation due to fade color effect: It happens when the histology slides are unused for many days.





□ Color inconsistency present among histological images, collected from different sources, may significantly affect the performance of computer-aided diagnosis.



Hamamatsu Nanozoomer





Aperio Scanscope

Image courtesy: http://camper.in.tum.de/Students/MaBaDaHistologyProcess



□ Color inconsistency present among histological images, collected from different sources, may significantly affect the performance of computer-aided diagnosis.



Hamamatsu Nanozoomer

Aperio Scanscope

Challenge: How to reduce color variation present among the images within a particular biopsy set.

Image courtesy: http://camper.in.tum.de/Students/MaBaDaHistologyProcess



□ Histological information consists of morphological information and details of in-situ molecular and cellular structures, which is very important in therapeutic diagnosis.



Hamamatsu Nanozoomer



Aperio Scanscope

Image courtesy: http://camper.in.tum.de/Students/MaBaDaHistologyProcess



□ Histological information consists of morphological information and details of in-situ molecular and cellular structures, which is very important in therapeutic diagnosis.



Hamamatsu Nanozoomer

Aperio Scanscope

Challenge: Reduce color disagreement without hampering histological information in the images.

Image courtesy: http://camper.in.tum.de/Students/MaBaDaHistologyProcess



Definition of the Problem





Clustering is performed on HSI color space.





Clustering is performed on weighted hue histogram.





Clustering is performed on weighted hue histogram.



A. Hanbury, "Circular statistics applied to colour images", *Computer Vision Winter Workshop*, 91(1-2), pp. 53-71, 2003. Machine Intelligence Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India



Clustering is performed on weighted hue histogram.



like linear space, local neighborhood information is computed as follows:

$$\xi_{k} = \frac{1}{1+\alpha} \left(h_{k} + \frac{\alpha}{\left| N_{k} \right|} \sum_{h_{j} \in N_{k}} h_{j} \right)$$

Solution??



Clustering is performed on weighted hue histogram.



Combing both, Weighted Hue histogram *H* is defined as:

$$H(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left[H^{SW}(\theta) + H^{\alpha}(\theta) \right]$$

incorporates both saturation weighted hue information and local neighbourhood information

P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 1735-1745, 2020.



Cosine Distance

Clustering can be performed based on cosine distance.





New Dissimilarity Measure

Clustering is performed based on a new dissimilarity measure.

$$d(\theta_i, \theta_j) = \log(2\pi I_0(\kappa)) - \kappa \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$
$$I_0(\kappa) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \exp(\kappa \cos \theta) d\theta$$

 $I_0(.)$ is the modified Bessel function of first kind and order zero.

area under the curve is varied using κ without affecting periodicity

$$1)d(\theta_{i},\theta_{j}) = d(\theta_{j},\theta_{i})$$

$$2)d(\theta_{i},\theta_{i}) < d(\theta_{i},\theta_{j})\forall j \neq i$$

$$3)d(\theta_{i},\theta_{k}) \leq d(\theta_{i},\theta_{j}) + d(\theta_{j},\theta_{k})\forall \theta_{i},\theta_{j},\theta_{k} \in [0,2\pi]$$

12.0 $\kappa = 3.5$ ----- $\kappa = 4.5$ 10.0 κ = 5.5 κ = 6.5 — 8.0 θ)ρ _{6.0} 4.0 2.0 0.0 -150 -100 -50 50 100 150 Angular Deviation (θ) can capture intrinsic data distribution connection with von Mises probability distribution

κ = 2.5 —



Rough-Fuzzy Circular Clustering

□ A rough-fuzzy clustering in circular domain

Why fuzzy clustering?



Rough set: deals with uncertainly and incompleteness in class definition

L. A. Zadeh, "Fuzzy Sets: Information and Control", vol. 24, no. 3, pp. 338-353, 1965.

Z. Pawlak, "Rough Sets: Theoretical Aspects of Reasoning About Data", Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer, 1991.



Objective Function

Minimization of objective function with respect to parameter set ψ :

$$J_{RF}(\psi) = \sum_{i=1}^{c} \left[\omega \times J_{i}^{L}(\psi) + (1-\omega) \times J_{i}^{B}(\psi) \right]$$

$$\psi = \left\{ v_{ij}, \mu_i, \kappa_i \right\}$$

corresponding to lower approximation region for *i*-th class:

$$J_{i}^{L}(\psi) = \sum_{\theta_{j} \in \underline{A}(\beta_{i})} \left[\log(2\pi I_{0}(\kappa_{i})) - \kappa_{i} \cos(\theta_{j} - \mu_{i}) \right] H(\theta_{j})$$

corresponding to boundary region for *i*-th class:

$$J_{i}^{B}(\psi) = \sum_{\theta_{j} \in B(\beta_{i})} V_{ij}^{m} \left[\log(2\pi I_{0}(\kappa_{i})) - \kappa_{i} \cos(\theta_{j} - \mu_{i}) \right] H(\theta_{j}) + \sum_{\theta_{j} \in B(\beta_{i})} \left[V_{ij}^{m} \log(v_{ij}^{m}) - v_{ij}^{m} \right] H(\theta_{j})$$



Estimation of Membership Function

So, fuzzy membership function follows von Mises distribution



N. I. Fisher, "Statistical Analysis of Circular Data", Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K., 1995.



Estimation of Stain Representative



It depends on the choice of relative importance parameter ω

STATISTICAL

Estimation of Concentration Parameter

$$\begin{split} & \underbrace{\frac{\partial J_{RF}(\psi)}{\partial \kappa_{i}} = 0}_{\\ \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{i}} = \mathbf{T}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \sum_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j} \in \underline{A}(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i})} \cos(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{i}) H(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j}) + (1 - \boldsymbol{\omega}) \times \sum_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j} \in B(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i})} v_{ij}^{m} \cos(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{i}) H(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j}) \\ & \underbrace{\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \sum_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j} \in \underline{A}(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i})} H(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j}) + (1 - \boldsymbol{\omega}) \times \sum_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j} \in B(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i})} v_{ij}^{m} H(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j})}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j} \in B(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i})} \end{bmatrix} \end{split}$$

$$T(\kappa_i) = \frac{I_1(\kappa_i)}{I_0(\kappa_i)}$$

T⁻¹(.) is approximated using numerical methods

N. I. Fisher, "Statistical Analysis of Circular Data", Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K., 1995.



Template





Source

P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 1735-1745, 2020.





P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 1735-1745, 2020.





P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 1735-1745, 2020.





P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 1735-1745, 2020.





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P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 1735-1745, 2020.





P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 1735-1745, 2020.



Description of Data Sets

- UCSB (University of California, Santa Barbara) Breast Cancer Cell
 Data : Total number of samples = 58
- Data specifications: hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stained biopsy images (10 biopsy sets: 9 sets × 6 + 1 set × 4)
- $\square Each image has a resolution of 896 \times 768.$
- Associated ground-truth annotation with nuclei considered as ROI.
- Images are stored in 24-bit nonlinear RGB format.
- □ Number of classes : Non-cancerous benign cell (32 images) and Cancerous malignant cell (26 images).

E. D. Gelasca *et al.*, "Evaluation and benchmark for biological image segmentation", *IEEE International Conference on Image Processing*, 2008.



Description of Data Sets

- □ CMU Data (published by the bimagicLab in Carnegie Mellon University)
- $\Box \quad \text{Total number of samples} = 3$
- Data specifications: H&E stained biopsy images
- **\Box** Each image has a resolution of 1280×1024 .
- Associated stain decomposition ground-truth, separate H-stained and E-stained images.
- Images are stored in 48-bit linear RGB format.

M. T. McCann *et al.*, "Algorithm and benchmark dataset for stain separation in histology images", *IEEE International Conference on Image Processing*, 2014.



Performance on UCSB Data



Standard deviation of estimated stain vectors of H-stain and E-stain



Performance on UCSB Data



Standard deviation of estimated stain vectors of H-stain and E-stain



Performance on CMU Data





Performance on CMU Data





Performance on UCSB Data



NMI fails to capture within-biopsy color constancy information

L. G. Nyuel *et al.*, "New variants of a method of MRI scale standardization", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, 19(2), pp. 143-150, 2000.



Quantitative Indices

Between-Image Color Constancy Index

$$\operatorname{BiCC}(I) = \frac{1}{2(|S|-1)} \times \sum_{J \neq I} \frac{\operatorname{med}_{i \in \operatorname{ROI}(I)} \{W(i)\} + \operatorname{med}_{j \in \operatorname{ROI}(J)} \{W(j)\}}{\max\{\max_{i \in \operatorname{ROI}(I)} \{W(i)\}, \max_{j \in \operatorname{ROI}(J)} \{W(j)\}\}}$$

It evaluates color consistency of ROI among images within particular same biopsy set

Within-Set Color Constancy Index

WsCC(S) =
$$\frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{I \in S} \text{NMI}(I) \times \text{BiCC}(I);$$

Overall representation of within-image and within-biopsy color consistency



Performance on UCSB Data



The RFCC method outperforms other existing color normalization methods as per color consistency after normalization is concerned.

Will supervised approach perform better than unsupervised approach?



- □ It is based on least square GAN (LSGAN) [IEEE TPAMI-2019]
- □ It consists of four deep networks:
 - □ a color appearance encoder \mathcal{E}_c , which extracts the color appearance information,
 - □ a stain density encoder \mathcal{E}_s , which captures the information regarding amount of stains bound to biological components,
 - \Box a decoder/generator *G*, and
 - \Box a discriminator \mathcal{D} .
- The networks (E_c, E_s, G, D) should be any differentiable functions so that the error values can be back-propagated during training.
 In the current study, the networks are chosen to be convolutional neural networks.



- □ The model assumes that the latent color appearance code (z_c) and stain density code (z_s) are independent of each other.
- A generative module and a reconstructive module are designed to capture disentangled color appearance and stain density information.
- □ The disentangled representation enhances the generalizability and adaptability of the model
 - loss or modification in one information does not affect the other information.
- □ To deal with the overlapping nature of histochemical reagents, the TredMiL assumes that the latent color appearance code, extracted through the color appearance encoder, is sampled from a mixture of truncated normal distributions.

TATISTICS



'Conv' means convolutional layer, 'ReLU' denotes rectified linear unit, 'InNorm' represents instance normalization, 'Identity' means identity function, i.e., f(x) = x, 'LeakyReLU' denotes leaky rectified linear unit.



- \Box Each training set image x is fed simultaneously into
 - **The color appearance encoder** $\mathcal{E}_c(x; \theta_{Ec})$ and
 - $\Box \quad \text{the stain density encoder } \mathcal{E}_{s}(x; \theta_{Es}),$
- which eventually output
 - \square the latent color appearance code z_c and
 - \square latent stain density representation z_s , respectively.
- Both the latent representations, z_c and z_s , are fed into the decoder /generator as inputs, which generates the reconstructed image.
- □ The discriminator \mathcal{D} takes inputs in the form of triplets $(x; z_c; z_s)$ and discriminates real encoding from the generated/fake encoding.

S. Mahapatra and P. Maji, Truncated Normal Mixture Prior Based Deep Latent Model for Color Normalization of Histology Images, *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, 42(6), pp. 1746--1757, June 2023.



TredMiL: Objective Function

□ The adversarial objective term, attributed by the generative module, is framed as follows:

$$J_{\rm adv} = J_{\rm G}(\mathcal{D}) + J_{\rm G}(\mathcal{G})$$

□ The objective functions, corresponding to the generative module, are given as follows:

$$J_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{D}) = \min_{\mathcal{D}} J_1(\mathcal{E}_c, \mathcal{E}_s, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}),$$

$$J_1(\mathcal{E}_c, \mathcal{E}_s, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) = \underbrace{E_{x \sim P_x(x)} E_{z_c \sim P_{\mathcal{E}_c}(z_c|x)} E_{z_s \sim P_{\mathcal{E}_s}(z_s|x)} (A - \mathcal{D}[x, z_c, z_s])^2}_{R} + \underbrace{E_{z_c \sim P_{z_c}(z_c)} E_{z_s \sim P_{z_s}(z_s)} E_{x \sim P_g(x|z_c, z_s)} (B - \mathcal{D}[x, z_c, z_s])^2}_{G}$$

A and *B* denote the labels, assigned by discriminator \mathcal{D} , to designate real and generated/fake encoding, respectively.



TredMiL: Objective Function

Similarly, $J_{G}(\mathcal{G}) = \min_{\mathcal{G}} J_{2}(\mathcal{E}_{c}, \mathcal{E}_{s}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}),$

 $J_2(\mathcal{E}_c, \mathcal{E}_s, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) = E_{z_c \sim P_{z_c}(z_c)} E_{z_s \sim P_{z_s}(z_s)} E_{x \sim P_{\mathcal{G}}(x|z_c, z_s)} (C - \mathcal{D}[x, z_c, z_s])^2$

- \Box *C* represents the label, assigned by discriminator D to designate generated/fake encoding, as desired by generator *G*.
- The reconstruction objective to be minimized is as follows:

$$J_{\rm rec} = \underbrace{-E_{Q(z_c, z_s)}[\log P_{\mathcal{G}}(x \mid z_c, z_s)]}_{L_R} - E_{Q(z_c, z_s)}[\log Q(z_c, z_s)] + \underbrace{D_{KL}[Q(z_c) \mid \mid P_{z_c}(z_c)]}_{R_1} + \underbrace{D_{KL}[Q(z_s) \mid \mid P_{z_s}(z_s)]}_{R_2},$$

□ where L_R represents the reconstruction loss, R_1 and R_2 denote the regularization terms corresponding to color appearance code z_c and stain density code z_s , respectively, and D_{KL} is the KL divergence.



TredMiL: Training





TredMiL: Color Normalization





TredMiL in Presence of Dust





TredMiL: Effect of Fading



Opacity=10

Opacity=25

Opacity=50

Opacity=75

Opacity=90



Color Normalization on Nuclei Segmentation



Original









N. Kumar et al., "A Dataset and a Technique for Generalized Nuclear Segmentation for Computational Pathology", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, 36(7), pp. 1550-1560, 2017.



Stain Vector Estimation



Standard deviation of estimated stain vectors of H-stain and E-stain

PF for Stain Separation



H&E Stained Image



E-Stain



KL Div: 2.00, SNR: 17.86

M. Macenko, M. Niethammer, J. Marron, D. Borland, J. T. Wooseley, X. Guan, C. Schmitt, and N. E. Thomas, "A Method for Normalizing Histology Slides for Quantitative Analysis", *IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging: From Nano to Macro*, pp. 1107-1110, 2009.



EPF for Stain Separation



H&E Stained Image



E-Stain



KL Div: 1.01, SNR: 23.41

M. T. McCann et al., "Algorithm and Benchmark Dataset for Stain Separation in Histology Images", *IEEE International Conference on Image Processing*, pp. 3953-3957, 2014.



HTN for Stain Separation



H&E Stained Image



E-Stain



KL Div: 2.38, SNR: 17.35

X. Li and K. N. Plataniotis, "A Complete Color Normalization Approach to Histopathology Images Using Color Cues Computed From Saturation-Weighted Statistics", *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, 62(7), pp. 1862-1873, 2015.

SPCN for Stain Separation



H&E Stained Image



E-Stain



KL Div: 2.96, SNR: 18.09

A.Vahadane et al., "Structure-Preserving Color Normalization and Sparse Stain Separation for Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, 35(8), pp. 1962-1971, 2016.

EM for Stain Separation



H&E Stained Image



E-Stain



KL Div: 2.39, SNR: 18.03

X. Li and K. N. Plataniotis, "Circular Mixture Modeling of Color Distribution for Blind Stain Separation in Pathology Images", *IEEE Journal on Biomedical and Health Informatics*, 21(1), pp. 150-161, 2017.

RFCC for Stain Separation



H&E Stained Image



E-Stain



KL Div: 0.82, SNR: 22.43

P. Maji and S. Mahapatra, "Circular Clustering in Fuzzy Approximation Spaces for Color Normalization of Histological Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, pp. 1735-1745, vol. 39, no. 5, 2020.

TredMiL for Stain Separation



H&E Stained Image



E-Stain





KL Div: 0.60, SNR: 25.53

S. Mahapatra and P. Maji, "Truncated Normal Mixture Prior Based Deep Latent Model for Color Normalization of Histology Images", *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, 42(6), pp. 1746--1757, June 2023.



Stain Separation



But, unlike EPF, the RFCC and TredMiL are applicable to cases with more than 2 stains





ColTrans



NMI: 0.6620, BiCC: 0.6134, WsCC: 0.4109



PF

EPF

Template

NMI: 0.6816, BiCC: 0.6484, WsCC: 0.4438







Template View of the second se

HTN









SCD

NMI: 0.7069, BiCC: 0.6745, WsCC: 0.4776 NMI: 0.6802, BiCC: 0.6476, WsCC: 0.4416 NMI: 0.6029, BiCC: 0.5664, WsCC: 0.3471





StainGAN



NMI: 0.6632, BiCC: 0.6255, WsCC: 0.4174

AST

NMI: 0.6846, BiCC: 0.6439, WsCC: 0.4418



SN-GAN



NMI: 0.7069, BiCC: 0.6702, WsCC: 0.4743





RFCC



NMI: 0.7126, BiCC: 0.6925, WsCC: 0.4925



TredMiL



NMI: 0.7547, BiCC: 0.7281, WsCC: 0.5600



Performance Analysis





Structural Similarity (SSIM Index)



Z. Wang et al., "Image Quality Assessment: From Error Visibility to Structural Similarity", *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*, 13(4), pp. 600-612, 2004.



Limitations and Future Directions



Haematoxylin-Diaminobenzidine (H&DAB) stained Warwick beta cell images

M. Kuse et al., "Local Isotropic Phase Symmetry Measure for Detection of Beta Cells and Lymphocytes", *Journal of Pathology Informatics*, 2(2), pp. 2, 2012.



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