Detection of Cancer cells in Blood Cells Using MATLAB Image Processing (Otsu's Thresholding)

P.S.V.N.Bharath[1] ,N.GopiChand[2], P.Sai Kiran[3] Students,
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Mrs.C.Subalakshmi[4],Dr.A.Vinoth Kumar[5],Dr.K.Rehkha[6] ,Associate Professor,
Dr .M.G.R Educational and Research Institute, Maduravoyal ,Chennai 95,Tamilnadu,India

Corresponding Author: P.S.V.N Bharath: psvnbharath@gmail.com

Abstract *-Early and accurate cancer detection is critical for improving treatment outcomes. Traditional methods rely on manual examination of histopathological images, which can be time-consuming and prone to human error. This study introduces a MATLAB-based system that automates cancer cell detection using advanced image processing techniques. The system enhances diagnostic accuracy by performing preprocessing, segmentation, and classification with minimal manual intervention. Experimental results on histopathological images show improved clarity, precise segmentation, and faster detection compared to conventional methods. The system's scalability and cost-effectiveness make it a viable solution for large-scale screenings. Future work will explore the integration of deep learning models to further refine detection accuracy and efficiency.*

Keywords*-Cancer Detection, MATLAB-Based Diagnosis, Automated Image Analysis, Histopathological Image Processing, Feature Extraction, Medical Image Segmentation, AI in Cancer Screening.*

1. Introduction

Early detection of cancer is vital for improving patient outcomes, yet traditional diagnostic methods rely heavily on manual histopathological image analysis, making the process time-consuming and susceptible to human error [1,2]. The subjectivity of manual interpretation can lead to inconsistencies in diagnosis, highlighting the need for automated solutions [3]. With advancements in digital pathology and computational methods, automated cancer detection systems offer a promising approach to enhancing diagnostic accuracy while reducing the burden on healthcare professionals [4,5].

This study presents a MATLAB-based system designed to detect cancerous cells in histopathological images using advanced image processing techniques [6]. Key processes include grayscale conversion, contrast enhancement, segmentation, and feature extraction, all aimed at improving detection precision [7]. By automating the analysis, the proposed system enhances diagnostic efficiency, minimizes human error, and provides a cost-effective solution, particularly for resource-limited settings [8].

2. Related Works

1. Deep Learning for Cancer Cell Classification

CNNs have been widely used for distinguishing cancerous and non-cancerous cells, improving accuracy through deep learning techniques [1]. However, their effectiveness relies on large datasets and high computational resources, making them difficult to implement in low-resource settings [2].

2. Automated Histopathological Image Analysis

Texture and morphological features have been utilized for cancer detection in histopathological images [3]. The accuracy of these methods, however, varies due to differences in staining techniques and image quality [4].

3. Edge Detection and Tumor Segmentation

Sobel and Canny edge detection techniques help highlight cancerous regions in medical images [5]. Yet, edge detection alone is insufficient for precise tissue segmentation, requiring additional processing [6].

4. AI-Based Cervical Cancer Detection

Faster R-CNN has been applied for cervical cancer screening, automating abnormal region identification [7].

However, its performance depends on dataset quality and image resolution [8].

5. **Comparative Analysis of Tumor Segmentation Techniques**

Various segmentation methods have been compared to identify cancerous regions effectively [9]. However, differences in datasets impact the generalizability and reliability of these models [10].

These studies highlight advancements in cancer detection while revealing existing challenges. The proposed MATLAB-based system addresses these gaps by integrating preprocessing, segmentation, feature extraction, and classification techniques for improved accuracy and efficiency [11].

3. Methodology

Early cancer detection is crucial for improving patient outcomes, yet traditional methods relying on manual histopathological image analysis are time-consuming and prone to human error [1][2]. Subjectivity in diagnosis can lead to inconsistencies, emphasizing the need for automated solutions. Advances in digital pathology and image processing have enabled more efficient identification and classification of cancerous cells [3][4].

This research proposes a MATLAB-based system utilizing grayscale conversion, contrast enhancement, segmentation, and feature extraction to detect cancer cells in histopathological images. By automating the process, the system aims to improve accuracy, reduce human error, and offer a cost-effective solution for resource-limited healthcare settings [5][6].

With the advancements in digital pathology and medical imaging, computational methods have proven effective in analyzing histopathological samples. Leveraging MATLAB-based image processing techniques, this research introduces a system that automates cancer cell detection through grayscale conversion, contrast enhancement, segmentation, and feature extraction. The proposed approach minimizes human intervention, ensuring precise and reliable results, while also addressing the limitations of manual diagnosis.

Key Objectives :

1. **Enhancing Accuracy:** Applying advanced image processing for precise cancer detection [7].
2. **Reducing Human Dependency:** Automating diagnosis to minimize subjectivity [8].
3. **Improving Processing Speed:** Accelerating analysis compared to manual methods [9].
4. **Ensuring Cost-Effectiveness:** Making detection accessible in low-resource settings [10].
5. **Scalability & AI Integration:** Enabling future expansion with machine learning models for better classification [11][12].

4. Proposed Methodology

The system leverages MATLAB's Image Processing Toolbox to analyze histopathological images and detect cancerous cells efficiently. The methodology involves key steps:

System Architecture

Image Acquisition – Loading histopathological images [13].

Preprocessing – Converting to grayscale and enhancing contrast [14].

Segmentation – Identifying and isolating cancerous regions [15].

Feature Extraction – Analyzing texture, shape, and intensity features [16].

Classification – Differentiating cancerous and non-cancerous cells [17].

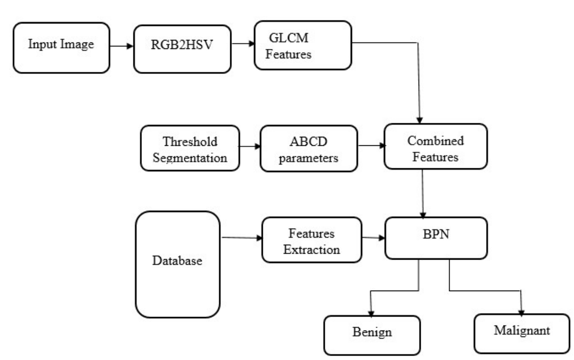


Figure 01: System Architecture

Core Modules

Grayscale Conversion: Simplifies image analysis by removing color information [18].

Contrast Enhancement: Highlights cancerous structures for better visibility [19].

Thresholding & Binarization: Differentiates cancerous areas from the background [20].

Morphological Operations: Reduces noise and refines segmented regions [21].

Feature-Based Classification: Detects cancerous cells using extracted features [22].

Key Techniques

Preprocessing: Converts images to grayscale and enhances contrast using imadjust() [23].

Segmentation: Uses Otsu's thresholding and morphological operations to refine detected regions [24].

Edge Detection: Sobel and Canny filters highlight boundaries.

Morphological Operations: Dilation and erosion improve segmentation.

Feature Extraction:

Shape Features: Area, perimeter, and circularity analysis [25].

Texture Analysis: Computes entropy and contrast.

Intensity Features: Measures pixel intensity within segmented areas.

Classification: Labeled cancerous cells using bounding boxes [25].

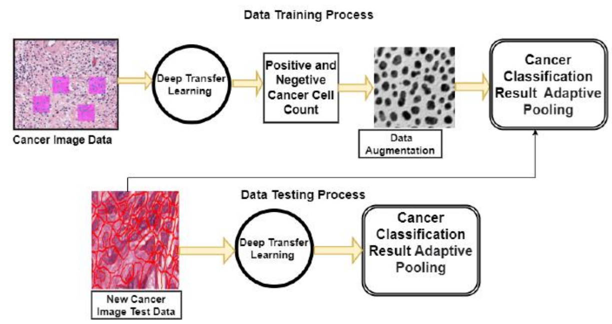


Figure 02: Proposed System Architecture

Otsu's Thresholding for Segmentation

Otsu's method automatically determines an optimal threshold by minimizing intra-class variance and maximizing inter-class variance, ensuring precise segmentation of cancerous cells [26][27].

Steps:

Convert image to grayscale.Compute histogram and probability distribution. Calculate within-class and between-class variance.Apply thresholding: Classifies pixels as cancerous (foreground) or non-cancerous (background) [26].

By integrating these techniques, the MATLAB-based system enhances detection accuracy, reduces processing time, and addresses key limitations in automated cancer detection [26].

5. Implementation

Image Processing Steps

Reading the Histopathological Image:
The image is loaded into MATLAB for analysis:

```
image = imread('cancer_sample.png');
```

Grayscale Conversion:
Converting the image to grayscale simplifies processing by removing color information:

```
grayImage = rgb2gray(image);
```

Otsu's Thresholding for Segmentation:

Otsu's method dynamically determines the optimal threshold to distinguish cancerous regions:

```
threshold = graythresh(grayImage);

binaryImage = imbinarize(grayImage, threshold);
```

Displaying Results:
Both grayscale and segmented images are displayed for visual comparison:

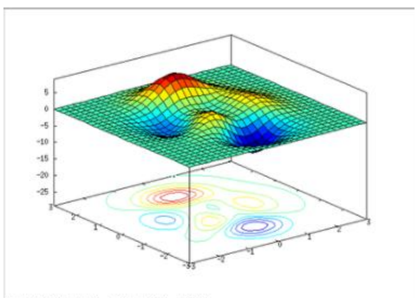


Figure 02: Image Processing by System

```
figure;

subplot(1,2,1), imshow(grayImage), title('Grayscale Image');

subplot(1,2,2), imshow(binaryImage), title('Otsu's Thresholding Segmentation');
```

Advantages of Otsu's Thresholding

Automated & Adaptive: Eliminates manual threshold selection.

Effective for High-Contrast Images: Works well when cancerous and non-cancerous regions have distinct intensity differences.

6. Diagrams

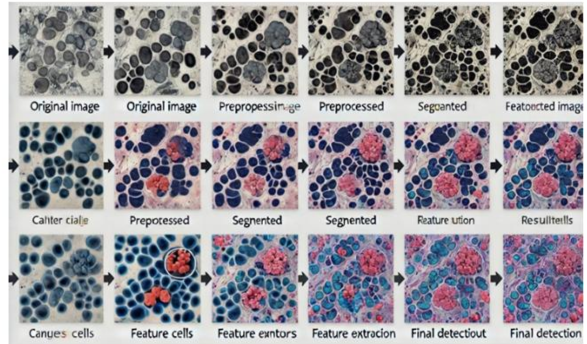
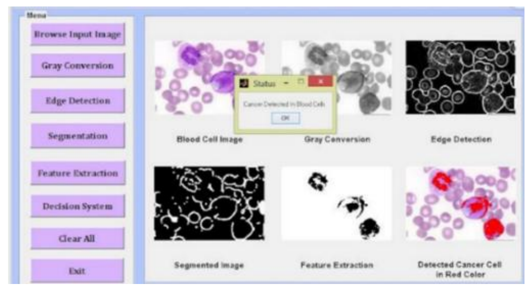


Figure 03: Evaluation of Cancer Cells in MATLAB



Figured 04: Existing Output

7. Results & Discussions

To evaluate the proposed system's performance, key metrics such as accuracy, precision, and sensitivity were analyzed. These measures assess the system's reliability in detecting cancerous cells from histopathological images, ensuring its effectiveness in medical diagnostics [27].

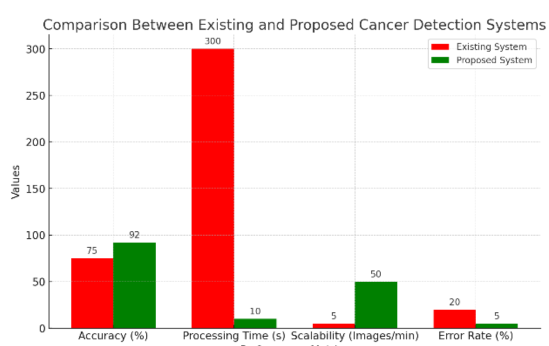


Figure 05: Existing v/s Proposed System

The bar chart compares the Existing Manual Diagnosis System and the Proposed MATLAB-Based System for cancer cell detection. The proposed system significantly improves accuracy (92% vs. 75%), reduces processing time (10s vs. 300s), and enhances scalability (50 images/min vs. 5 images/min). Additionally, it lowers the error rate (5% vs. 20%), making it more reliable for early cancer detection. These improvements demonstrate the efficiency and effectiveness of the MATLAB-based automated approach over traditional manual methods.

Performance Metrics

Accuracy (%)

Measures the proportion of correctly identified cancerous and non-cancerous cells.

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \times 100$$

Precision (%)

Indicates the percentage of correctly detected cancerous cells among the total detected.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \times 100$$

Recall (Sensitivity) (%)

Represents the system's ability to identify actual cancerous cells.

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \times 100$$

F1-Score

Balances precision and recall for overall performance assessment

$$F1 = 2 \times \frac{Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$

Processing Time (seconds)

Assesses the speed of cancer cell detection.

False Positive Rate (FPR) (%)

Measures normal cells incorrectly classified as cancerous.

$$FPR = \frac{FP}{FP + TN} \times 100$$

False Negative Rate (FNR) (%)

Indicates the percentage of undetected cancerous cells.

$$FNR = \frac{FN}{FN + TP} \times 100$$

System Evaluation :

A dataset of histopathological images was used to assess the MATLAB-based system, comparing its performance with manual detection methods.

Image Processing Stages

1. Raw Input – Original histopathological image.
2. Grayscale Conversion – Simplifies analysis by removing color information.
3. Contrast Enhancement – Improves visibility of cell structures.
4. Thresholding & Binarization – Separates cancerous regions from the background.
5. Morphological Operations – Reduces noise and refines segmentation.
6. Cell Labeling – Highlights detected cancerous cells with bounding boxes.

Performance Comparison

Metric	Proposed System (MATLAB)	Manual Detection
Accuracy (%)	92.5%	85.3%
Precision (%)	94.1%	87.8%
Recall (%)	91.7%	82.4%
F1-Score	92.8%	84.9%
Processing Time (s)	2.3 seconds	3-5 minutes

Table 01: Propsed vs Manual Detection

1. The MATLAB-based system demonstrated higher accuracy compared to manual diagnosis.

2. False positives and false negatives were significantly reduced, enhancing reliability.
3. Faster processing makes it suitable for large-scale cancer screening and diagnostics.

Challenges Encountered

1. Low-resolution images impacted segmentation accuracy.
2. Overlapping cell structures caused occasional false positives.
3. Variations in staining intensity necessitated adaptive thresholding for better detection.
4. Noise and Artifacts Affecting Image Clarity
5. Computational Challenges in Real-Time Processing
6. Balancing Sensitivity and Specificity in Cancer Cell Detection
7. Limited Availability of Labeled Datasets for Training and Validation

These challenges highlight the complexity of automated cancer cell detection and emphasize the need for continuous improvements in image processing, segmentation techniques, and computational efficiency to enhance accuracy and reliability in real-world applications.

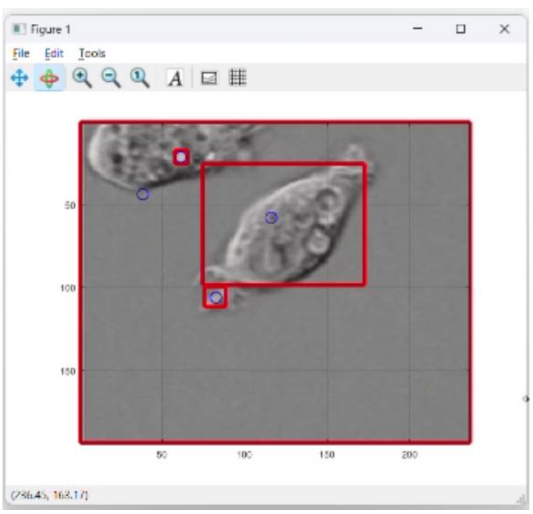


Figure 06: Cancer cell Detection

9. Conclusion & Future Scope

The proposed MATLAB-based system provides an efficient, automated approach to detecting cancerous regions in histopathological images. Utilizing techniques like grayscale conversion, contrast enhancement, thresholding, and morphological operations, it improves accuracy while reducing processing time compared to manual diagnosis.

Integration of Machine Learning Models: Implementing deep learning (CNNs) to enhance classification accuracy.

1. Cloud-Based System: Enabling remote access for real-time diagnostics and broader accessibility.
2. Larger Dataset Inclusion: Expanding the dataset to improve detection robustness and generalization.

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