Content Based Image Retrieval in Digital Pathology


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The proposed CBIR system works in the following way:

i) An end-user is able to select a region of interest/concern from a candidate digital slide

ii) A robust set of textural and spectral features are calculated on the selected region

iii) This feature vector derived from the user-given image region is then trained to form a Support Vector using one-class Support Vector Machine (SVM) classification

iv) A large set of virtual slides from a database is then queried

v) Corresponding feature vectors for every region of the digital slides stored in the database are calculated

vi) Pattern recognition is performed using the previous trained Support Vector and SVM for all feature vectors

vii) The result from SVM, the so called decision value is then used as indication regarding how similar a region of an image in the database is to the candidate user selected region

viii) Using the similarity metric, the top most similar images are retrieved from the archive.

**Overview**

The CBIR system is designed to improve the efficiency of searching for relevant images. Below gives an illustration of how spectral measurements of texture are taken using these spectral bands to provide a means of performing very fast pseudo-background subtraction. This allows for higher level measurements of structure and pattern to be taken. Creating the Image DB

Features

- **Texture Measurements**
  - \( m = \frac{1}{n}\sum x^n \)
  - \( s = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum (x - \mu)^2 \right)^{1/2} \)
  - \( \phi_1 = \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1^2} \)
  - \( \phi_2 = (\mu_3 - 3\mu_2^2) + (\mu_2 - 3\mu_1^2) \)
  - \( \phi_3 = (\mu_4 - 3\mu_3^2) + (\mu_3 - 3\mu_2^2) + (\mu_2 - 3\mu_1^2) \)
  - \( \phi_4 = (\mu_5 - 15\mu_4^2) + (\mu_4 - 15\mu_3^2) + (\mu_3 - 15\mu_2^2) + (\mu_2 - 15\mu_1^2) \)

- **2D Invariant Moments**
  - Normalised central moment \( m_{y} = \frac{m_{y}}{m_0} \) where \( y = \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1^2} + 1 \)

- **Spectral Measurements of Texture**
  - \( 2D \) Fourier Spectrum \( \rightarrow F(u,v) = \int \int f(x,y)e^{-j2\pi(ux+vy)} \) dx dy

*Below gives an illustration of how spectral measurements of texture are taken using these spectral bands to provide a means of performing very fast pseudo-background subtraction. This allows for higher level measurements of structure and pattern to be taken by taking texture measurements directly from these spectral bands within the Fast Fourier Transform of a given image.*

**Conclusions**

CBIR has been shown to be feasible for WSI using texture and spectral feature measurements with a One Class SVM used as a classifier.

Further work needs to be developed to support high throughput analysis and evaluation on large image libraries. The computational complexity of working with such large imagery as well as the associated feature calculation is substantial.

It is clear the massively parallel nature of the problem can be exploited to provide a fast, real-time manageable CBIR system.