A modified fractal texture image analysis based on grayscale morphology for multi-model views in MR Brain

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a modified fractal texture feature analysis with the use of grayscale image morphology for automatic image classification of different views in MR brain images into normal and abnormal. This main contribution of this approach is a reduction of the total number of a threshold value, and the number of image decomposition, in which only the number of extract threshold value two or three are enough for tumor region extraction compared to four or more is required in the previous method of SFTA (segmentation based fractal texture analysis). This is achieved by preprocessing of hierarchical transformation technique (HTT), which make use of morphological image transformations with the desired structural element. From this decomposed images, mean, area, fractal dimension and selective shape features are extracted and fed into KNN and ensemble bagged tree classifiers. Finally, some of the post-processing is handled for tumor region extraction and tumor cells computation. It is found that this proposed approach has superior results in the segmentation of diseased tissue from normal tissue and the prediction of image classes in terms of accuracy with the less number of threshold extraction and image decomposition rather than the SFTA algorithm.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In image processing and computer vision, a feature is a piece of interesting information that indicates some quantifiable attribute of an image to achieve the computational task. The extracted features from an image are much lesser dimension than the original image that dimensionality reduction reduces the issues of the bulk of image processing. Generally, image features are categorized into two types like local and global features. Local features are calculated over the outcomes of image band separation when image segmentation or the process of edge detection [1]. And the global features are computed on the entire portion of an image or regular sub-regions in an image. In this way, the global feature texture is an important one to analyse the regional descriptor that useful in the process of pattern matching or retrieval process [2]. In this work, or the recognition and image patterns, the segmentation process has carried out to extract some significant intended features from an image. In that aspect, many researchers are introduced several techniques to analyse MR brain images. Amulya E.R et al [3] introduced the texture feature-based classification of different views of MR brain images with the use of GLCM and SVM (support vector machine) techniques. Pratima Purushottam Gumaste and Vinayak K. Bairagi [4] developed the hybrid

technique of advanced textural feature extraction to detect the tumor tissues from healthy tissue of different views of MR brain slices with use of support vector machine. In addition to, Marwan A. A. Hamid and Najeed Ahmed Khan [5] discussed that the method of DWT and PCA (principal component analysis) for dimensionality reduction followed by GLCM feature based SVM classification to analyse the MR brain tumors. Consequently, Alceu Ferraz Costa et al., [6] proposed the algorithm of segmentation based fractal texture analysis (SFTA) that is most frequently used in many image-based applications for the purpose of image segmentation and texture feature extraction.

For instance, M. Anju Krishna et al., [7] presented the Liver tumor segmentation and feature extraction using the SFTA method. Similarly, Spandana Paramkusham et al [8] have carried out on different feature extraction approaches of rotation invariant local frequency (RILF), local binary pattern (LBP), and SFTA (segmentation based fractal texture analysis) for breast abnormality detection using SVM classification. Saban Ozturk and Bayram Akdemir [9] were presented the comparison of various feature extraction algorithms of GLCM, LBP, LBGLCM, GLRLM and SFTA for automatic histopathological image analysis. From these comparisons, the SFTA feature extraction approach achieved the maximum success rate of accuracy. However, Jude Hemanth et al [10] have mentioned that the image pre-processing step has an important role for further image analysis steps of image segmentation, feature extraction [11], and classification. According to the literature study, many researchers are presented related to pre-processing based image analysis. Richard Alan Peters [12] suggested that the mathematical morphological image transformations are very helpful to analyse the images in different image processing techniques like noise suppression, edge detection, segmentation, feature extraction, shape recognition, texture image analysis, and image restoration etc. R Usha et al [13] discussed the combination of morphological transformation and fractal texture-based image segmentation technique to analyse the MR brain tumor images. G. Bala Maalinii and Anand Jatti were presented [14] the combined approach of morphological reconstruction and thresholding approaches for MR brain tumor detection, which also reduced the algorithm size in an effective manner.

Furthermore, S. Naganandhini et al [15] have introduced the combined approach of threshold and morphological operations based brain image segmentation technique for skull stripping. Andrei C. Jalba et al., [16] were introduced the morphological hat-transform scale-spaces based pattern classification approach for diatom images and Brodatz texture image set. A watershed algorithm based texture image analysis leads to the problem of over-segmentation. For that, D. Suvarna et al., [17] included the morphological operations of opening and closing in a watershed algorithm for various textures image analysis. Ankur Jyoti Das et al., [18] were carried out that the combination of morphological operations and K-means based segmentation approach for automatic detection of MR brain tumor. As with R. Radhakrishnan et al [19] suggested that the extraction of fractal dimension feature through the morphological decomposition operations of dilation and erosion provide better outcomes. Yanpeng Wu et al., [20] mentioned that the traditional watershed algorithm is very poorer in a segment the object in distinct size with the use of single threshold value. According to the reason, the additional morphological dilation and erosion operations were incorporate with a watershed algorithm for better image segmentation. Yingbo Liang and Jian Fu [21] have discussed image morphology and total variation model based watershed segmentation and concluded that the traditional problem of oversegmentation was avoided in a watershed algorithm. Yu Wang et al., [22] introduced morphological top-hat transformation based segmentation and feature extraction approach for SVM classification on mice liver fibrosis microscopic images in less computational time. Dhananjay Bhaskar et al., [23] introduced the region growing and morphological transformation based feature was extracted to classify the cell microscopic images. Nelson Luis Duranona Sosa et al., [24] mentioned that the morphological transformations like erosion and dilation operations act as texture descriptor in RGB images. Similarly, morphological image transformation was applied by many researchers to analyse the images.

In this paper, the mathematical morphology has used for both purpose of image segmentation, and feature extraction to analyse the different views of MR brain slices. The fractal texture analysis algorithm of the SFTA [6] technique is considered to be one of feature extraction approaches for further classification. The conventional SFTA algorithm works better than the GLCM, Haralick features. However, it takes the numerous number of a threshold value, image decomposition to extract the affected parts of the brain and feature classification. In this method, the morphological transformation based fractal texture analysis approach has discussed with the use of Kth nearest neighbour and ensemble bagged tree classifier algorithms to analyse the different views of MR brain images.

2. MR BRAIN IMAGE SET

The multi-model view of MR brain image samples are gathered from Madurai Rajaji Government hospital and KG Advanced scan center, Madurai, Tamilnadu together of 525 brain slices normal and

abnormal classes. From this 240 (168 images are abnormal and 72 images are normal) images are for axial view, 187 images in coronal view (123 for abnormal and 64 for normal), and 98 images are available in sagittal view (50 abnormal and 48 normal) of MR brain. From this 60% images are allocated for training and remaining images are taken for testing in each view of normal and abnormal classes. The sample images of two different classes in various views of MR brain has illustrated in Figure 1.

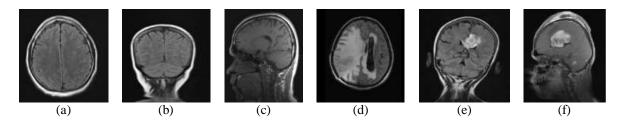


Figure 1. Normal and abnormal images of different views of MR brain. axial (a) normal and (d) abnormal; coronal (b) normal and (e) abnormal; sagittal (c) normal and (f) abnormal

3. RESEARCH METHOD

In this paper, morphological transformation based fractal texture analysis method is introduced to detect the brain abnormality and to extract the significant texture features in different views of MR brain images. This proposed method of MR brain image classification has outlined in Figure 2. In this approach, the different views of MR brain images are taken as an input this system. Primarily, the morphological transformation operations are applied in pre-processing phase. Then, the fractal texture analysis process is used for image segmentation and texture feature extraction. The extracted texture features are fed into feature classification algorithms such as KNN and ensemble bagged tree, which are classifies the unknown test image data with use of known set of trained predefined categories of class labels. Finally, the tumor regions are extracted from the recognized class of abnormal images to calculate the defected cells of brain image.

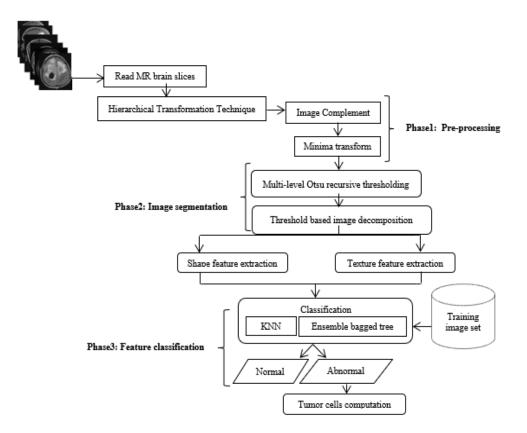


Figure 2. Morphological transformation based fractal texture analysis in different views of MR brain image

3.1. Pre-processing

During this first stage, the hierarchical transformation technique [25] is applied to enhance the image contrast and improve the image quality with use of top-hat and bottom-hat image transforms. This method incorporates the essential steps of optimum disk-shaped structural element selection which helps to select the suitable size of SE value for a specific brain image. Because, the size of disk-shape mask is different from one image to another. Consequently, the image complement operation is utilized on hierarchical transformed image that are helps to highlight the defected cells of brain images. This operation is mathematically defined by the equation of,

$$U(i,j) = \neg (V(i,j)) \tag{1}$$

Where, V(i,j) and U(i,j) are denote the hierarchical transformed and complementary image respectively. Finally, the minima transform operation has used to avoid the issue of over-segmentation [26]. The mathematical definition of H-minima transform is calculated by the equation of,

$$M_m(c) = T_c(c+m) \tag{2}$$

Here, c, m, and T indicate the inverse distance map of clustered nuclei, depth, and reconstruction and erosion operators respectively.

3.2. Segmentation and feature extraction

The fractal analysis of texture algorithm [6] has divided into two different stages like (i) threshold based image decomposition and (ii) texture feature extraction. Initially, the multi-level Otsu thresholding technique has applied to each image regions recursively, until the total number of threshold is found. The total number of threshold is decided by the end user. In this work, threshold size is initialized as 2. Threshold based image decomposition has mathematically expressed by the equation of,

$$I_d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } t_{lower} < I_g(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \le t_{upper} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(3)

Where, t_{lower} and t_{upper} indicate the lower and upper threshold values. From these decomposed process of each segmented images, the mean, area, boundaries fractal dimension feature and addition to, shape features of solidity, perimeter, and centroid features are extracted. The extracted feature vector of unknown test image data is used for further classification with use of known set of training set.

3.3. Feature classification

Classification is one of the methods to recognize the relevant class label of unknown test sample with known set of trained class labels. In this paper, KNN and ensemble bagged tree machine learning algorithms are used to classify the image labels. In KNN algorithm, the features of testing set are classified by distance measure of Euclidian distance from its neighbour in the brain image's features that are assigned to the class. Here, the performance KNN algorithm has estimated by the choice of 'K' and distance metric [27]. The mathematical definition of Euclidian distance is expressed as,

D (a, b)=
$$\sqrt{((a_1 - b)^2 + (a_2 - b_2)^2 + \dots + (a_n - b_n)^2)}$$
 (4)

where, a and b are represent the feature points of test and trained data.

The formation of the bag with the decision tree learners are refereed as Bagged Tree that is one of the best ensemble machine learning algorithms. The feature sampling decomposition is formulated by the technique of bootstrap aggregation, which is: select the M out of M sub training set with feature replacement for each new learner. The formation of decision tree for each sub training set is depends on the attributes of gini index, entropy and information gain. The definition of gini index can be defined as,

$$g = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{m} X_j^2 \tag{5}$$

Here,
$$X_{j} = \frac{Total number of records in jth class}{Total number of records (m)}$$
 (6)

And every tree in the ensemble can randomly select predictors for decision splits which method helps to increase the accuracy of bagged trees.

3.4. Tumor cells computation

The recognized abnormal brain images are moved into next sub-sequent phase of area opening which helps to remove the small objects from binary image. From this extracted tumor portion, the number of affected cells is also calculated using binarization technique. The segmented binary images have two values such as white (1) and black (0) pixels. Initially, the total number of zero (0) and non-zero pixels (1) in an image (X) can be computed by the equation of,

$$X = \sum_{p=0}^{255} \sum_{q=0}^{255} [s(0) + s(1)]$$
⁽⁷⁾

Image pixels=width (p)×height (q)= 256×256 . The variable I, s (0) and s (1) are image, black and white pixels respectively. The total number of white pixel (wp) in image (X) has expressed by:

$$wp = \sum_{p=0}^{255} \sum_{q=0}^{255} [s(1)] \tag{8}$$

Here, wp=number of white pixels and the value of 1 pixel=0.264mm. Then, area of tumor computation has illustrated as:

$$T_{area} = \left[\left(\sqrt{wp} \right) * 0.264 \right] mm^2 \tag{9}$$

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The collective MR brain images in training and testing set are pre-processed using morphological image transformation, which are shown in Figure 3 with use of selective image sample.

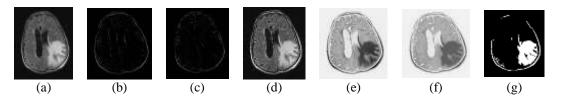


Figure 3. The morphological image transformation based fractal texture image segmented results for axial abnormal (a) Original image (b) top-hat (c) bottom-hat transformed (d) enhanced image (e) complementary image (f) minima transformed image (g) segmented image

The fractal texture image segmentation results of morphological transformed image Figure 3 (f) are presented in Figure 4.

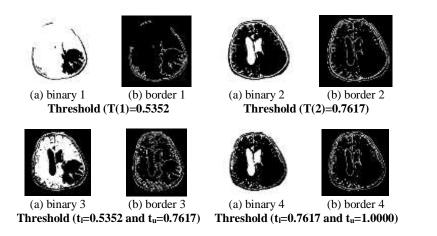


Figure 4. Morphological transformation based texture image segmented results for axial abnormal MR brain

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In fractal texture analysis, if the number of extracted threshold is 2, the total number of segmented image will be as $n\times 2$. Then, boundary region are also extracted from each binary segmented images. As mentioned in Figure 4, the decomposed results of T (1)=0.5352 has considered as segmented results. From this image, the tumor region are extracted, which is illustrated in Figure 5 as follows,



Figure 5. Tumor region extraction from the segmented abnormal binary image

From these segmented binary images, the features of mean, area, boundary fractal dimension and other shape features of solidity, perimeter, and centroid are extracted. This process is applied to both training and testing set of MR brain image data in image dataset. The classification results of this proposed feature extraction technique based ensemble bagged tree and KNN classification results are presented in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

Table 1. Confusion matrix for morphological transformation based fractal texture analysis of MR brain with use of KNN classifier

				use e		v crassi	mer					
Axial					Coronal				Sagittal			
	Output				Output					Output		
Target		O (0)	O (1)			O (0)	O(1)	Target		O (0)	O(1)	
	T(0)	62	6	Target	T(0)	41	8		T(0)	14	6	
	T(1)	4	25		T(1)	6	20		T(1)	2	17	

Table 2. Confusion matrix for morphological transformation based fractal texture analysis of MR brain with use of ensemble bagged tree classifier

Axial			Coronal				Sagittal					
	Output				Output				Output			
T		O (0)	O (1)	Tongot		O (Ô)	O(1)	Torrat		O (0)	O(1)	
Target	T(0)	56	12	Target	T(0)	37	12	Target	T(0)	12	8	
	T(1)	8	21		T(1)	7	19		T(1)	3	16	

From this formation of confusion matrix, the classification results of sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, and MCC measures are also computed. The mathematical definition of these classification measures is given in following equation as:

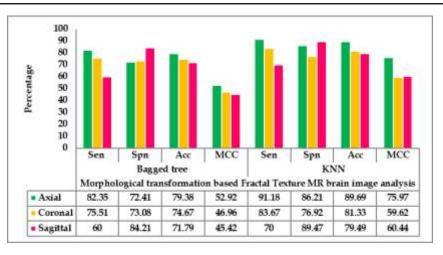
$$Sensitivity = \frac{TP}{(TP+FN)} \times 100$$
(10)

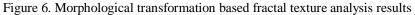
$$Specificity = \frac{TN}{(TN+FP)} \times 100$$
(11)

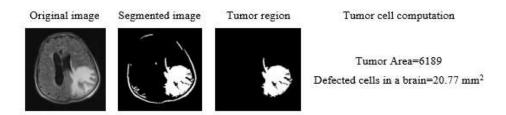
$$Accuracy = \frac{(TP+TN)}{(TP+FP+TN+FN)} \times 100$$
(12)

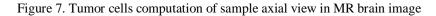
$$MCC = \frac{((TP \times TN) - (FP \times FN))}{\sqrt{((TP + FP)(TP + FN)(TN + FP)(TN + FN))}}$$
(13)

The prediction of positive and negative image samples, accuracy, and the classification quality measure of MCC are also graphically presented in Figure 6. Tumor cells computation of sample axial view in MR brain image as shown in Figure 7.









5. COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL SFTA AND MODIFIED FRACTAL TEXTURE IMAGE ANALYSIS APPROACH

In this section, the morphological transformation based fractal texture analysis approach has compared and discussed with the conventional SFTA technique. The comparison of these approaches are started with the extraction of threshold value, image decomposition and classification results. Initially, the extractions of threshold value of each approach are shown in Table 3 correspondingly.

Image named	Image	Image View	Threshold position	SFTA	Proposed
Sample1		Axial	T(1)	0.1172	0.5352
			T(2)	0.2949	0.7617
Sample2		Coronal	T(1)	0.1133	0.2324
			T(2)	0.2734	0.6133
Sample3		Sagittal	T(1)	0.1074	0.2676
1		3	T(2)	0.2676	0.6465

Table 3. Sample extracted threshold value for different views in MR brain image decomposition in

As shown in above Figure 8, the conventional SFTA technique does not provide significant details more relevant to abnormal tissue of MR brain in three views of sample abnormal slices. But, the SFTA

approach enables the minimum of abnormal tissue in sagittal view of abnormal slices at two threshold binary decomposition (TTBD). However, it needs the numerous number of image decomposition to extract the affected parts of the brain. Comparatively, proposed approach given the clear image details regarding to affected parts of brain tissues with limited number of image decomposition like STBD (single threshold binary decomposition). The SFTA approach takes maximum three or four level image decomposition to achieve the extraction of diseased tissues. But, this proposed approach provides better results minimum of single threshold value as 2. As mentioned in Figure 8, the proposed approach achieves better segmentation in minimum of single threshold position of T (1).

Subsequently, the extracted SFTA feature based classification for MR brain image analysis has illustrated in Figure 9. From the comparison of SFTA classification prediction results with the proposed approach of Morphological transformation based fractal texture image analysis as mentioned in Figure 6, the proposed approach also has superior results in the classification results in terms of accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and MCC measures.

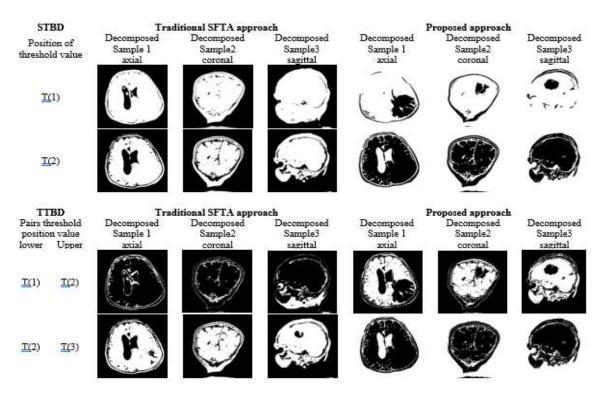


Figure 8. Sample decomposed different views of MR brain image outcomes in distinct approaches

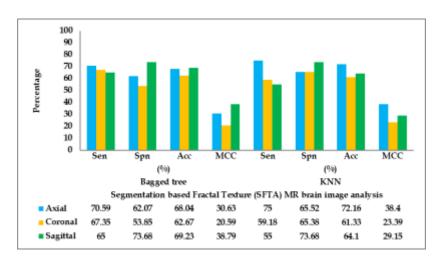


Figure 9. SFTA feature based classification of different views in MR brain image analysis

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6. CONCLUSION

This paper presents the morphological transformation based fractal texture image analysis of MR brain using KNN and ensemble bagged tree classifiers. This proposed technique provides the very promising outcomes to detect and classify the different views of normal and abnormal MR brain slices. The classification of bagged tree with use of extracted features accomplishes the accuracy of 79.38%, 74.67%, and 71.79% are axial, coronal, and sagittal view respectively. Similarly, the percentage of accuracy in the classification of KNN achieves the maximum of 89.69% for axial, 81.33% for coronal, and 79.49% for sagittal view rather than the ensemble bagged tree classifier. Finally, this proposed approach has been compared with conventional fractal texture analysis of SFTA in terms of size of threshold value, number of image decomposition, and the size of feature vector to analyse the MR brain images. From this comparison, the proposed approach achieves the highest percentage in accuracy, prediction of both positive and negative data with the minimum number of threshold value, less number of binary image decomposition.

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