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## Texture Features Analysis using Gray Level Co-occurrence Matrix for Abnormality Detection in Chest CT Images

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### Abstract

Texture is an important characteristic for the analysis of many types of images because it provides a rich source of information about the image. Also it provides a key to understand basic mechanisms that underlie human visual perception. In this paper four statistical feature of texture (Contrast, Correlation, Homogeneity and Energy) was calculated from gray level Co-occurrence matrix (GLCM) of equal blocks (30×30) from both tumor tissue and normal tissue of three samples of CT-scan image of patients with lung cancer. It was found that the contrast feature is the best to differentiate between textures, while the correlation is not suitable for comparison, the energy and homogeneity features for tumor tissue always greater than its values for normal tissue.

**Keywords:** Texture feature, Co-occurrence matrix, CT-scan, statistical feature.

### تحليل خصائص النسيج باستخدام مصفوفة الحدوث (GLCM) لكشف الشذوذ في الصور المقطعية للصدر

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### الخلاصة

النسيج هو من الخصائص المهمة لتحليل أنواع متعددة من الصور لأنها توفر مصدرا غنيا من المعلومات حول الصورة. كما أنه يوفر مفتاح لفهم الآليات الأساسية التي تكمن وراء الإدراك البصري البشري. في هذا البحث، تم حساب الخصائص الإحصائية للنسيج (التباين، الارتباط، التجانس والطاقة) من مصفوفة الحدوث (GLCM) لكثافة متساوية (30×30) لكل من نسيج الورم والأنسجة الطبيعية وباستخدام ثلاث عينات لصور اشعة مقطعية لمرضى مصابين بسرطان الرئة. وقد تبين أن ميزة التباين هو أفضل للتمييز بين القوام، في حين أن الارتباط غير مناسب للمقارنة، وميزات الطاقة والتجانس لنسيج الورم دائما أكبر من قيمها للأنسجة الطبيعية.

### Introduction

Image analysis techniques have played an important role in several medical applications. In general, the applications involve automatic extraction of features from the image which is then used for a variety of classification tasks, such as distinguishing normal tissue from abnormal tissue [1]. Texture is an important characteristic for the analysis of many types of images [2- 4] because it

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provides a rich source of information about the image [4], among the traditional application areas of texture analysis are industrial inspection, biomedical image analysis, etc. A texture area in an image can be characterized by non-uniform or varying spatial distribution of intensity, the intensity variation reflects some change in the scene being imaged [5].

Texture features are complex visual patterns composed of entities or sub patterns that have specific characteristics (brightness, slope, and size) [6]. Texture is attractive not only because it is an important component in image analysis for solving a wide range of applied recognition, segmentation, and synthesis problems, but also it provides a key to understand basic mechanisms that underlie human visual perception [7]. Texture features refer to visual patterns that have properties of homogeneity that do not result from the presence of only a single color or intensity. These features contain important information about the structural arrangement of surfaces and their relationship to the surrounding environment [8]. Simplest texture features can be achieved by calculating statistical properties, like mean and variance from the gray level histogram of the image. However, the performance of these kinds of first-order statistics is usually poor. Haralick et al. (1973) [9] calculated second-order gray scale statistics using gray-level co-occurrence matrices (GLCM) and defined fourteen statistical measures for texture. Co-occurrence matrices give information about patterning of the texture, and it is used to calculate textural properties from them. These features are sensitive to illumination variations, but have been very popular in different texture analysis applications [10].

**Method**

In this paper, an image classification system is proposed based on Haralick texture features extracted from a slice of DICOM Lung CT images, to differentiate between lung cancer tissue and normal lung tissue. The system process is shown in Figure-1, start by Choice of two sections of equal size from different tissues in the original input image, and then create multiple GLCM from the two sections by specifying an array of offsets. These offsets define in pixel relationships of varying direction and distance in four directions and 30 distances as follow:

- Offsets = [ 0 1; 0 2; 0 3; 0 4; .....; 0 30]                   (0°, Horizontal direction(H)).
- [-1 1; -2 2; -3 3; -4 4; .....; -30 30]                   (45°, Right-down direction (RD)).
- [-1 0; -2 0; -3 0; -4 0; .....; -30 0]                   (90°, Vertical direction (V)).
- [-1 -1; -2 -2; -3 -3; -4 -4; .....; -30 -30]                   (135°, Left-down direction (LD)).

Several statistics were derived from created GLCMs. These statistics provide information about the texture of an image. The statistical features calculated in this work are: Contrast, Correlation, Energy and Homogeneity of multiple GLCMs for each normal and tumor section. The following sections will describe in detail the above stages. The system implemented with MATLAB software version R2014a.

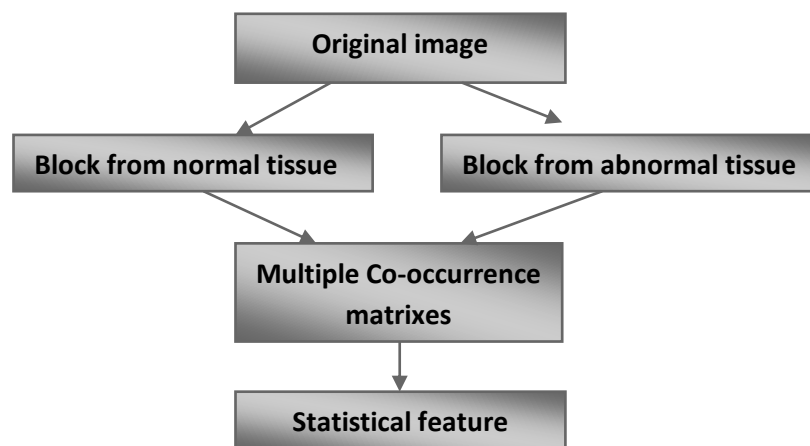


Figure 1-Block diagram of implemented system

**Texture Features Analysis**

An important approach to region description is to quantify its texture content. Although no formal definition to texture exists, intuitively this descriptor provides measures of properties such as smoothness, coarseness and regularity. The three principal approaches used in image processing to

describe the texture of the region are statistical, structural, and spectral. Statistical approaches yield characterization of textures as smooth, coarse, grainy, and so on [11].

Texture analysis methods are divided into two main categories: *stochastic* and *structural*. The approaches differ in their principles of describing and treating textures. In a stochastic model, textures are considered to be formed by random processes. These kinds of textures are analyzed studying the statistical properties of the intensity values of pixels. In the structural approach, texture is considered to consist of textural primitives, often called textons that are located on the texture with certain placement rules. [10]

**Gray Level Co-Occurrence Matrix (GLCM)**

Several texture metrics that contain spatial information are based on the co-occurrence matrix, they also known as the spatial gray-level dependence matrix. Forming the co-occurrence matrices is an initial step that compiles spatial as well as statistical information for computing the texture metrics described later. The spatial information considered is the relative position of pairs of pixels, defined with distance  $d$  and orientation  $\theta$  that describe the location of the second pixel with respect to the first. A co-occurrence matrix is formed for each such position. In this manner, each co-occurrence matrix prepares the data to emphasize primarily structure or streaks in a given direction and a grain size that is at least as large as the selected distance. Typically, four values of  $\theta$ , namely  $0^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$ , and  $135^\circ$ , cover the orientations, and the most common choice of distance is  $d = 1$  when  $\theta$  is  $0^\circ$  or  $90^\circ$ , and  $d = \sqrt{2}$  when  $\theta$  is  $45^\circ$  or  $135^\circ$  [12].

Mathematically, for a given image  $I$  of size  $K \times K$ , the elements of a gray-level Co-occurrence matrix  $M_{co}$  for a displacement vector  $d (= dx, dy)$  is defined as:

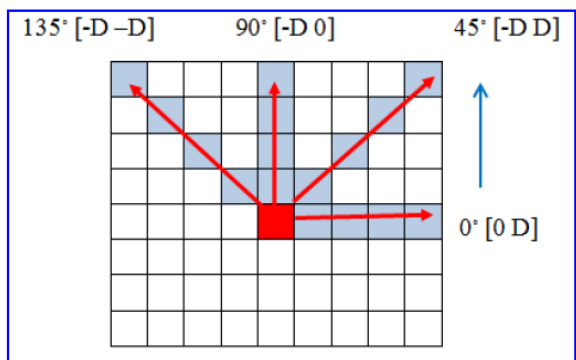
$$M_{co} = \sum_{x=1}^K \sum_{y=1}^K \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1, \text{ if } I(x, y) = i \text{ and } I(x + d_x, y + d_y) = j \\ 0, \text{ otherwise} \end{array} \right\} \dots\dots\dots 1$$

A single GLCM might not be enough to describe the textural features of the input image. For example, a single horizontal offset might not be sensitive to texture with a vertical orientation. For this reason, create multiple GLCMs for a single input image. To create multiple GLCMs, specify an array of offsets. These offsets define pixel relationships of varying direction and distance. For example, an array of offsets that specify four directions (horizontal, vertical, and two diagonals) and four distances are defined. In this case, the input image is represented by 16 GLCMs. The calculated statistics features from these GLCMs, we can take the average of each feature in four directions for the same distance and plot versus offset.

Such as illustrated in the following example which creates an offset that specifies four directions and 4 distances for each direction.

Offsets = [0 1; 0 2; 0 3; 0 4; .....  
 -1 1; -2 2; -3 3; -4 4; .....  
 -1 0; -2 0; -3 0; -4 0; .....  
 -1 -1; -2 -2; -3 -3; -4 -4; .....]

Figure-2 illustrates the spatial relationships of pixels that are defined by this array of offsets, where  $D$  represents the distance from the pixel of interest [13, 14].



**Figure 2**-Co-occurrence matrix offset for extracting texture features in 4 directions and 4 distances [15].

## Haralick Features

In 1973, Haralick [9] introduced 14 statistical features. These features are generated by calculating the features for each one of the co-occurrence matrices obtained by using the directions  $0^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$ , and  $135^\circ$ , then averaging these four values. The distance parameter can be selected as one or higher. A vector of these 14 statistical features is used for characterizing the co-occurrence matrix contents [16], only four of them are defined here:

• **The Contrast:** Measures the local contrast of an image. The Contrast is expected to be low if the gray levels of each pixel pair are similar, given by:

$$Contrast = \sum_i^M \sum_j^N (i - j)^2 P[i, j] \quad (2)$$

• **The Correlation:** Provides a correlation between the two pixels in the pixel pair. The Correlation is expected to be high if the gray levels of the pixel pairs are highly correlated.

$$Correlation = \sum_i^M \sum_j^N \frac{(i - \mu)(j - \mu) P[i, j]}{\sigma^2} \quad (3)$$

• **The Homogeneity:** Measures the local homogeneity of a pixel pair. The Homogeneity is expected to be large if the gray levels of each pixel pair are similar, given by:

$$Homogeneity = \sum_i^M \sum_j^N \frac{P[i, j]}{1 + |i - j|} \quad (4)$$

**The Energy:** Measures the number of repeated pairs. The Energy is expected to be high if the occurrence of repeated pixel pairs is high, given by:

$$Energy (Angular Second Moment) = \sum_i^M \sum_j^N P^2 [i, j] \quad (5)$$

Where M, N are the dimension of the image P[i,j] for  $i=1,2,3 \dots \dots \dots M$ ,  $j=1, 2 \dots \dots \dots N$ .  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  are the mean and standard deviation of image respectively. [9, 16-18].

## Results and Discussion

The introduced proposed system in this paper have been tested on several digitized lung CT scan images from three patients with lung cancer, first input the images ,then selected two blocks from input image of each sample one of them from tumor tissue and the other from normal tissue of size  $(30 \times 30)$  as shown in Figures-3, 4 and 5.

Multiple GLCMs produced from the two blocks by specifying an array of offsets to the program. These offsets define pixel relationships of varying directions (horizontal, vertical, and two diagonals) and 30 distances for each direction. In this case, the selected subimage (Block) is represented by 120 GLCMs, then four statistical features (Contrast, Correlation, Energy and Homogeneity) calculated from these GLCMs, and take the average for each feature in four direction for the same distance see Tables-1, 2 and 3, To facilitate the comparison between features of tumor tissue and normal tissue each feature plotted versus offset.

As Figure-6 show that there are a clear difference in each feature for tumor tissue and normal tissue with the same offset and for different samples, where; in the contrast, there is a big difference between them within the offset 5 - 20, and the contrast of normal tissue is greater than the contrast of tumor tissue, while high correlation appears in small distance between pairs of pixels, then decrease as the distance increase, this is true for tumor and normal tissues for all samples. Energy and homogeneous are with the same behavior, where the value of these features of tumor tissue is greater than normal tissue in particular within the offset 0-25 for the energy and 5-20 for the homogeneous. These behaviors frequent in all tested samples.

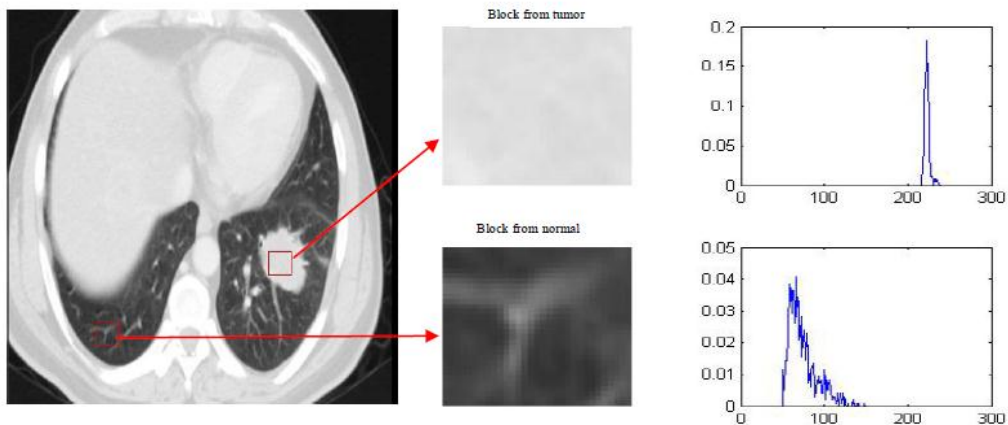


Figure 3-Two selected sections of tumor and normal tissue from sample 1 and the sections histogram.

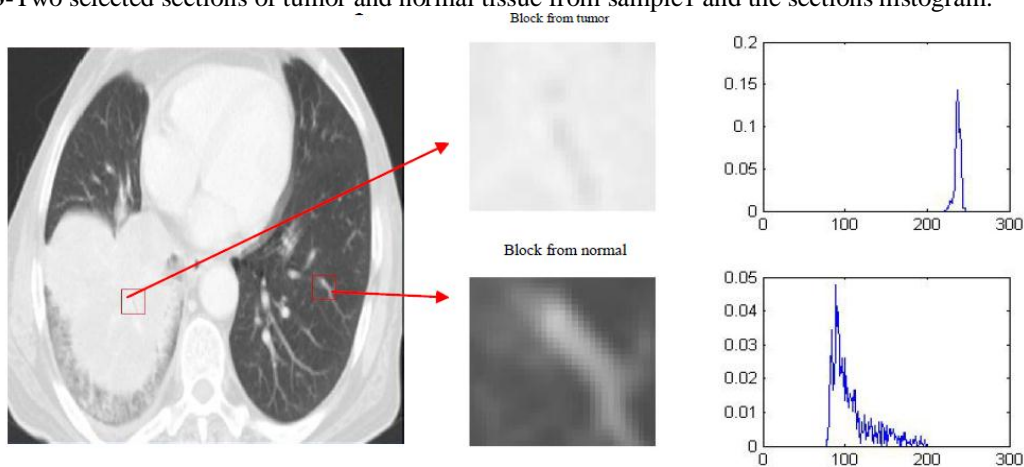


Figure 4- Two selected sections of tumor and normal tissue from sample 2 and the sections histogram.

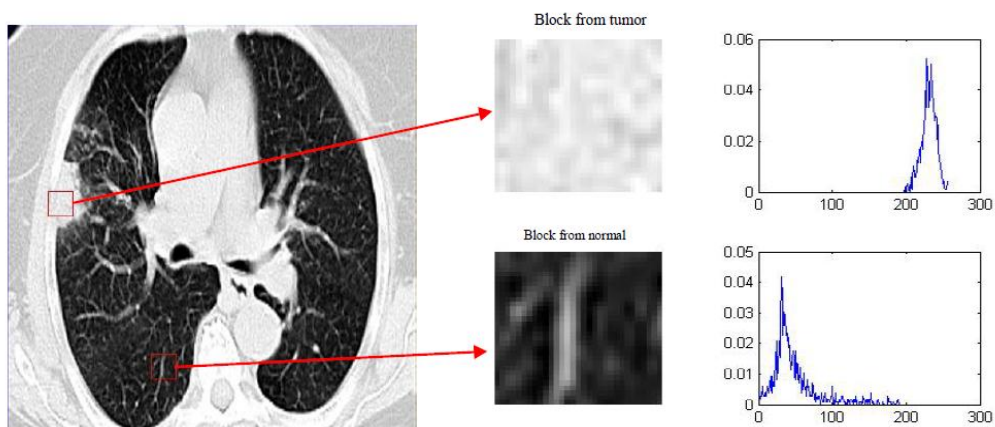


Figure 5-Two selected sections of tumor and normal tissue from sample 3 and the sections histogram.

**Table 1-** The average of statistical features (Contrast, Correlation, Energy and Homogeneity) in four directions (0°, 45°, 90°, 135°) for tumor and normal tissue in a set of 30 distances for sample 1.

offset No.	Tumor region				Normal region			
	Contrast	Corr.	Energy	Homogeneity	Contrast	Corr.	Energy	Homogeneity
1	0.003	0.520	0.992	0.998	0.127	0.708	0.552	0.936
2	0.004	0.000	0.992	0.998	0.242	0.464	0.479	0.886
3	0.004	0.001	0.992	0.998	0.327	0.305	0.433	0.854
4	0.004	0.001	0.991	0.998	0.389	0.206	0.401	0.829
5	0.005	0.000	0.991	0.998	0.441	0.126	0.383	0.813
6	0.005	0.001	0.990	0.998	0.492	0.042	0.371	0.800
7	0.005	0.000	0.990	0.997	0.514	0.011	0.363	0.792
8	0.006	-0.250	0.990	0.997	0.517	0.005	0.368	0.793
9	0.007	-0.250	0.989	0.997	0.495	0.023	0.386	0.801
10	0.005	0.000	0.989	0.997	0.484	0.011	0.406	0.808
11	0.006	0.000	0.989	0.997	0.478	-0.006	0.420	0.811
12	0.006	nan*	0.988	0.997	0.474	-0.027	0.429	0.814
13	0.007	0.000	0.987	0.997	0.462	-0.016	0.435	0.818
14	0.007	0.000	0.986	0.996	0.457	-0.015	0.443	0.822
15	0.008	0.000	0.984	0.996	0.454	-0.017	0.450	0.820
16	0.009	0.000	0.983	0.996	0.460	-0.039	0.453	0.820
17	0.010	0.000	0.981	0.995	0.457	-0.055	0.459	0.821
18	0.011	nan*	0.979	0.995	0.430	-0.048	0.475	0.828
19	0.012	0.000	0.976	0.994	0.386	-0.027	0.497	0.837
20	0.014	nan	0.972	0.993	0.344	0.013	0.512	0.844
21	0.016	0.000	0.968	0.992	0.305	0.064	0.541	0.854
22	0.016	0.000	0.970	0.992	0.247	0.117	0.596	0.878
23	0.019	nan*	0.964	0.991	0.206	0.068	0.651	0.897
24	0.023	0.000	0.955	0.988	0.181	0.033	0.695	0.910
25	0.030	0.000	0.943	0.985	0.183	-0.154	0.754	0.927
26	0.041	nan*	0.925	0.979	0.159	-0.098	0.773	0.934
27	0.061	nan*	0.896	0.970	0.113	0.007	0.804	0.943
28	0.102	0.000	0.853	0.949	0.153	0.014	0.764	0.923
29	0.216	0.000	0.853	0.892	0.139	0.013	0.771	0.930
30	0.290	0.000	0.925	0.855	0.097	0.017	0.836	0.952

\*represent there is no correlation

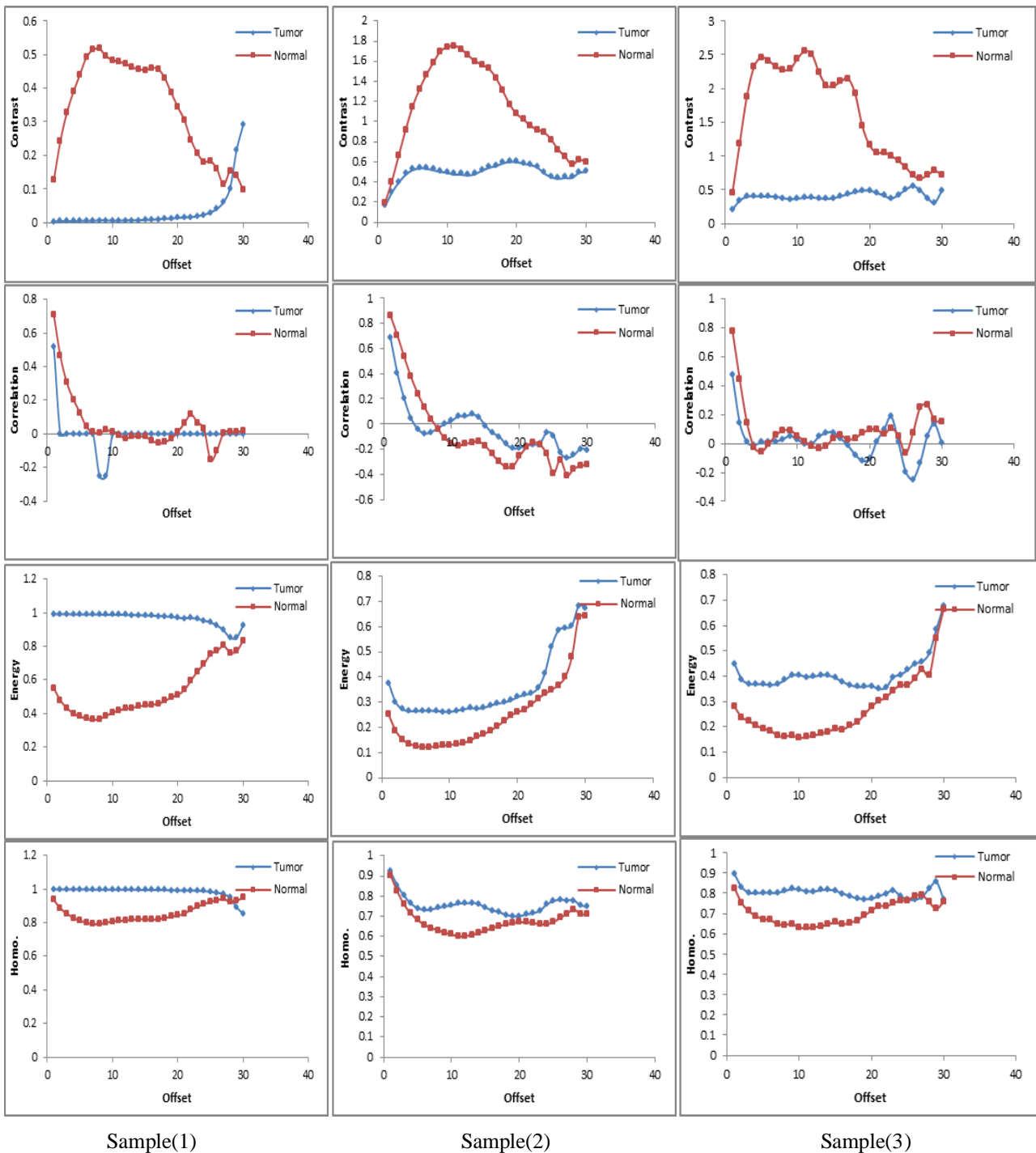
**Table 2-** The average of statistical features (Contrast, Correlation, Energy and Homogeneity) in four directions (0°, 45°, 90°, 135°) for tumor and normal tissue in a set of 30 distances for sample 2

offset No.	Tumor region				Normal region			
	Contrast	Corr.	Energy	Homogeneity	Contrast	Corr.	Energy	Homogeneity
1	0.156	0.685	0.377	0.922	0.192	0.859	0.251	0.904
2	0.294	0.407	0.302	0.853	0.407	0.708	0.189	0.824
3	0.396	0.205	0.273	0.802	0.667	0.537	0.153	0.758
4	0.474	0.049	0.265	0.763	0.921	0.378	0.136	0.714
5	0.519	-0.039	0.265	0.740	1.150	0.242	0.127	0.681
6	0.537	-0.075	0.267	0.731	1.325	0.133	0.122	0.658
7	0.533	-0.064	0.267	0.734	1.468	0.039	0.122	0.641
8	0.517	-0.031	0.265	0.742	1.588	-0.040	0.124	0.631
9	0.502	0.001	0.263	0.749	1.697	-0.114	0.128	0.618
10	0.492	0.025	0.262	0.754	1.741	-0.152	0.131	0.610
11	0.474	0.062	0.267	0.763	1.756	-0.171	0.134	0.600
12	0.474	0.061	0.272	0.763	1.721	-0.158	0.138	0.601
13	0.466	0.077	0.277	0.767	1.660	-0.145	0.149	0.608
14	0.479	0.055	0.275	0.761	1.602	-0.138	0.163	0.617
15	0.514	-0.014	0.278	0.743	1.566	-0.176	0.173	0.629
16	0.542	-0.069	0.288	0.729	1.526	-0.238	0.188	0.642
17	0.558	-0.099	0.295	0.721	1.437	-0.300	0.205	0.652
18	0.586	-0.158	0.299	0.707	1.308	-0.337	0.225	0.659
19	0.601	-0.194	0.308	0.700	1.172	-0.341	0.248	0.666
20	0.599	-0.190	0.321	0.700	1.078	-0.256	0.261	0.671
21	0.582	-0.171	0.330	0.709	1.023	-0.185	0.272	0.670
22	0.570	-0.163	0.336	0.715	0.960	-0.145	0.291	0.667
23	0.545	-0.155	0.357	0.727	0.920	-0.162	0.315	0.660
24	0.485	-0.069	0.414	0.758	0.894	-0.238	0.334	0.660
25	0.450	-0.091	0.521	0.775	0.822	-0.394	0.349	0.671
26	0.433	-0.227	0.586	0.783	0.723	-0.283	0.369	0.692
27	0.442	-0.268	0.596	0.779	0.652	-0.407	0.400	0.712
28	0.442	-0.247	0.604	0.779	0.573	-0.356	0.481	0.735
29	0.492	-0.196	0.683	0.754	0.625	-0.332	0.638	0.709
30	0.500	-0.205	0.674	0.750	0.597	-0.322	0.642	0.712

**Table 3-**The average of statistical features (Contrast, Correlation, Energy and Homogeneity) in four directions (0°, 45°, 90°, 135°) for tumor and normal tissue in a set of 30 distances for sample 3

offset No.	Tumor region				Normal region			
	Contrast	Corr.	Energy	Homogeneity	Contrast	Corr.	Energy	Homogeneity
1	0.209	0.473	0.450	0.896	0.459	0.780	0.280	0.827
2	0.341	0.144	0.388	0.831	1.192	0.445	0.238	0.753
3	0.399	0.011	0.370	0.804	1.885	0.147	0.223	0.712
4	0.408	-0.009	0.368	0.801	2.327	-0.026	0.205	0.689
5	0.401	0.009	0.368	0.804	2.465	-0.054	0.192	0.673
6	0.400	0.016	0.365	0.802	2.415	-0.005	0.185	0.668
7	0.398	0.015	0.369	0.803	2.326	0.058	0.165	0.648
8	0.380	0.031	0.385	0.812	2.278	0.090	0.162	0.645
9	0.362	0.054	0.403	0.822	2.289	0.092	0.165	0.650
10	0.369	0.028	0.404	0.819	2.445	0.055	0.156	0.631
11	0.385	0.001	0.397	0.810	2.553	0.015	0.160	0.629
12	0.389	-0.001	0.398	0.809	2.513	-0.017	0.165	0.633
13	0.373	0.050	0.404	0.817	2.235	-0.034	0.173	0.638
14	0.367	0.075	0.403	0.818	2.047	-0.016	0.180	0.647
15	0.377	0.078	0.393	0.813	2.038	0.038	0.193	0.657
16	0.406	0.036	0.377	0.799	2.102	0.056	0.190	0.647
17	0.437	-0.013	0.365	0.787	2.151	0.029	0.204	0.656
18	0.469	-0.077	0.358	0.776	1.923	0.038	0.218	0.667
19	0.488	-0.118	0.358	0.772	1.441	0.074	0.248	0.691
20	0.491	-0.104	0.362	0.773	1.161	0.095	0.280	0.715
21	0.453	0.016	0.349	0.787	1.049	0.100	0.302	0.738
22	0.416	0.096	0.355	0.799	1.057	0.064	0.316	0.736
23	0.371	0.187	0.395	0.816	1.005	0.109	0.344	0.751
24	0.428	0.009	0.406	0.787	0.928	0.051	0.365	0.765
25	0.502	-0.194	0.424	0.769	0.836	-0.068	0.365	0.766
26	0.556	-0.246	0.450	0.768	0.714	0.072	0.391	0.787
27	0.496	-0.133	0.457	0.783	0.667	0.249	0.428	0.792
28	0.380	0.055	0.491	0.824	0.716	0.267	0.403	0.756
29	0.310	0.135	0.586	0.856	0.784	0.164	0.549	0.724
30	0.484	0.006	0.677	0.769	0.718	0.151	0.665	0.759





**Figure 6-** The average of statistical features (Contrast, Correlation, Energy and Homogeneity) in four directions as a function of offset for sections from tumor tissue and normal tissue of sample 1, 2 and 3.

**Conclusion**

There are many texture features that can be extracted from the gray-level co-occurrence matrix. In our work, an evaluation of the Haralick texture features is done in order to identify the most significant features that can be used differentiate abnormalities within the lungs for cancer versus normal . The four commonly used features-contrasts, correlation, energy and homogeneity-are studied to differentiate between tumor tissue and normal tissue. Our results indicate that the best feature can be used to differentiate between them is the contrast, followed by each of the Energy and the homogeneous, while the correlation is inappropriate to distinguish between the two types of tissue. There is still further work that can be done in the detecting of the abnormality within the lungs to detect the type of that abnormality whether it will be a lung cancer or not.

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