

Dedicated to

My teachers

*Who taught me all that I learnt
and made me what I am today*

&

My Parents

*Who sacrificed their today
for my better tomorrow*

Contents

	Page No.
Acknowledgements	i
Table of contents	iv
List of figures	vii
List of tables	xiv
List of abbreviations	xvi
Preface	xviii
1 Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Problem statement and motivation	5
1.3 Aim and objective of the thesis	6
1.4 Contribution of the thesis	7
1.5 Organization of the thesis	10
2 Chapter 2: Literature review	13
2.1 Introduction	14
2.2 Preprocessing	19
2.3 Segmentation	22
2.3.1 Pixel based segmentation	23
2.3.2 Edge based segmentation	24
2.3.3 Region based segmentation	25
2.4 Feature extraction	30
2.4.1 Morphological features	30
2.4.2 Intensity features	32
2.4.3 Texture features	32
2.5 Classification	39
2.6 Conclusion	48
3 Chapter 3: Enhancement and segmentation of histopathological images of cancer using dynamic stochastic resonance	49
3.1 Introduction	50
3.2 Enhancement	51
3.2.1 Denoising	53
3.2.2 Contrast enhancement	55
3.3 Segmentation	56
3.3.1 Otsu's thresholding	57
3.3.2 k-means clustering	59
3.3.3 Fuzzy c-means clustering	60
3.3.4 Dynamic stochastic resonance	61

3.4	Materials and methods	65
3.4.1	Preparation of histopathological slides	65
3.4.2	Image acquisition	69
3.4.3	Algorithm for DSR based enhancement and segmentation	71
3.4.4	Segmentation performance matrices	73
3.5	Results and discussion	76
3.6	Conclusion	88
4	Chapter 4: Features extraction for quantitative measurements of histopathological images of breast cancer	89
4.1	Introduction	90
4.2	Feature extraction	91
4.2.1	Morphological features	92
4.2.2	Intensity features	93
4.2.3	Texture features	94
4.3	Materials and methods	95
4.3.1	Dataset preparation	95
4.3.2	Preprocessing	98
4.3.3	Segmentation	98
4.3.4	Feature extraction from segmented image	100
4.4	Result and discussion	114
4.5	Conclusion	132
5	Chapter 5: Classification and analysis of histopathological images of breast cancer	133
5.1	Introduction	135
5.2	Validation of the classifier	135
5.3	Types of classification	136
5.3.1	Unsupervised classification	136
5.3.2	Supervised classification	137
5.3.2.1	Artificial neural network	137
5.3.2.2	K-nearest neighbour	138
5.3.2.3	Support vector machine	139
5.4	Materials and methods	141
5.4.1	Dataset preparation	141
5.4.2	Proposed artificial neural network	144
5.5	Validation of histopathological image	146
5.5.1	Performance measurement	146
5.5.2	Performance evaluation criteria for classifier	147
5.6	Results and discussion	151
5.7	Conclusion	165

6	Chapter 6: Comparative study of different classifiers for classification of histopathological images of breast cancer	166
6.1	Introduction	168
6.2	Ranking of the features	171
6.3	Relief-F algorithms	171
6.4	Materials and methods	172
6.4.1	Data set preparation	172
6.4.2	Preprocessing	175
6.4.3	Segmentation	175
6.4.4	Feature extraction	180
6.4.5	Classification	182
6.5	Results and discussion	184
6.6	Conclusion	187
7	Chapter 7: Evaluation of morphological changes of histopathological images of ovarian and breast cancer tissues and its correlation with their biochemical parameters	188
7.1	Introduction	189
7.2	Materials and methods	192
7.2.1	Biochemical estimation	192
7.2.1.1	Haematological analysis	192
7.2.1.2	CA-125 assay	193
7.2.1.3	Estimation of lipid peroxidation	194
7.2.2	Morphological estimation	196
7.2.2.1	Preprocessing	196
7.2.2.2	Segmentation	196
7.2.2.3	Feature extraction	197
7.3	Results and discussion	198
7.4	Conclusion	209
8	Chapter 8: Conclusion and future work	210
8.1	Conclusion	211
8.2	Scope for future work	216
	References	217-258
	Appendices	259-285
	List of publications and presentations	286-288
	Personal profile	



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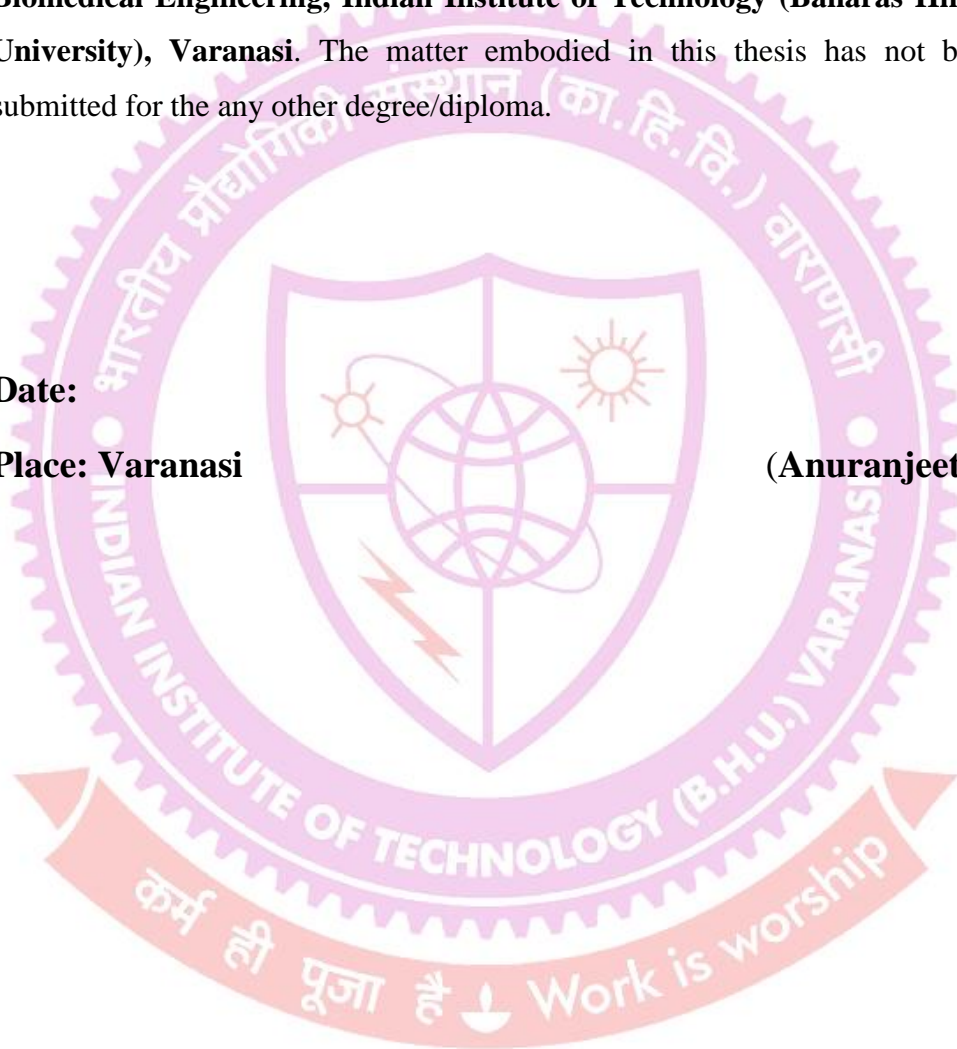
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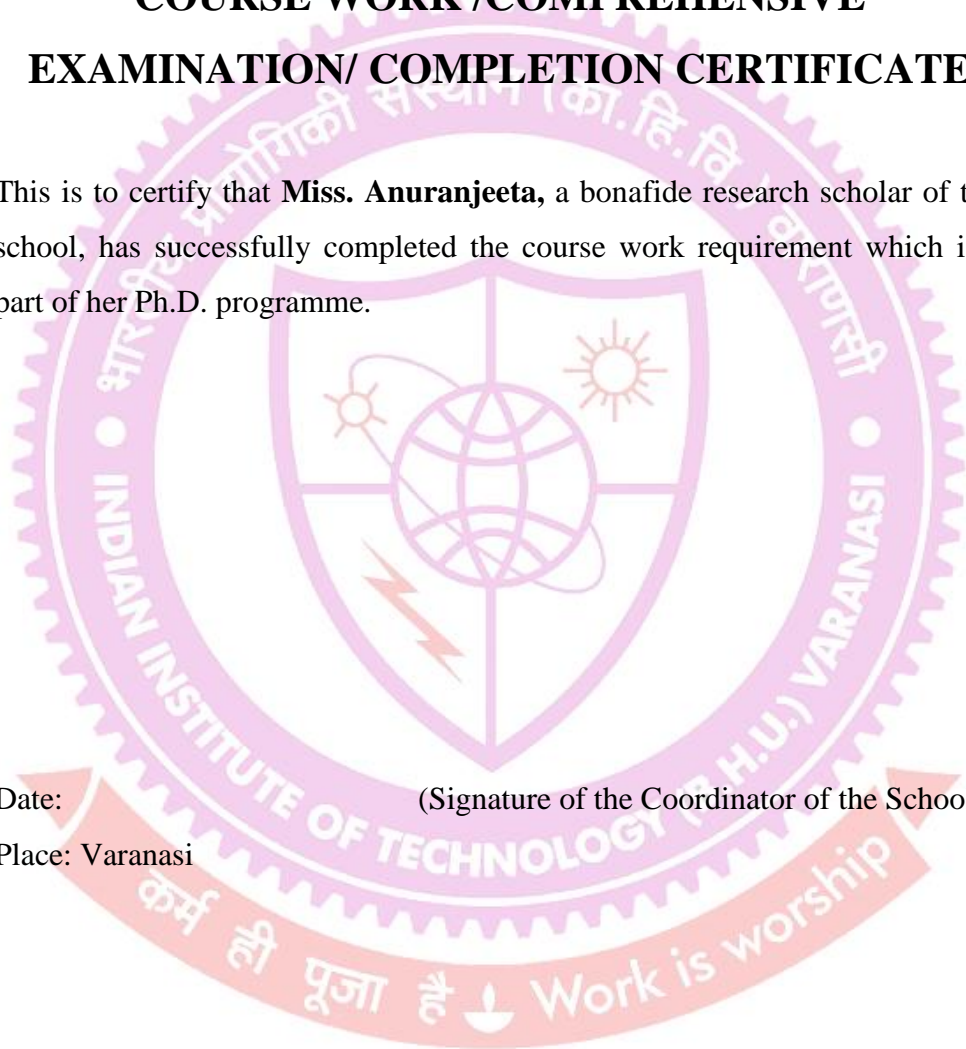
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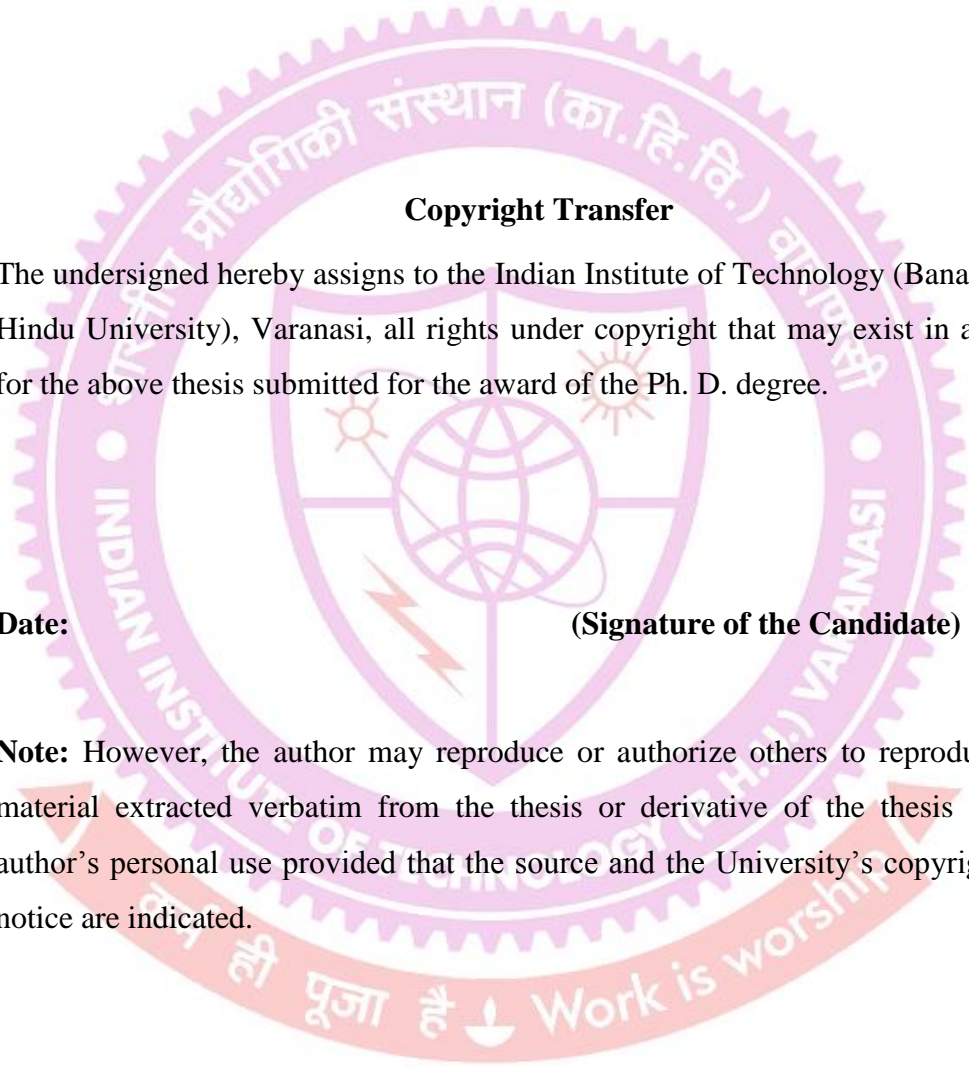
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Acknowledgements

The journey of my Ph.D. work is full of learning, experiences and enjoyment of joy and pain. The series of learning and experiences become possible because of many individuals who supported me directly as well as indirectly. It was not possible to get positive progress without their generous and earnest support. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all concerned people who have helped me during the Ph.D. work.

First of all, I am extremely grateful to, my respected supervisor **Dr. Shiru Sharma Madam**, School of Biomedical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for her insightful, prospective guidance, valuable suggestions and constant encouragement throughout the entire duration of my Ph.D work. Their stimulation and encouragement influenced me to continue research even in difficult situations. She has challenged my way of thinking and provided valuable advice and guidance for my research. I have learnt many things about research and various skills from her. Her sagacious guidance helped me all the time of research and writing papers and thesis.

I owe my special thank to my co-supervisor **Prof. K.K. Shukla Sir**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for his constructive guidance. This whole work would never have been possible without the wise, fruitful discussion and suggestions of my co-supervisor.

I feel proud in expressing my profound gratitude to my present day **Coordinator Dr. Neeraj Shrama Sir**, Indian Institute of Technology, (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for providing the necessary amenities and giving me the opportunity to work in such a competitive environment.

I would also like to express my deep sense of gratitude to **Prof. Nira Misra Madam**, Ex-Coordinator (during the year 2011) for permitting my admission to pursue Ph.D. programme from School of Biomedical Engineering, IIT-(BHU), Varanasi.

All other faculty members of the institute have been very kind enough to extend their help at various phases of this research, whenever I approached them, and I do hereby acknowledge all of them. I extend my sincere gratitude to **Prof. A.K. Ray Sir, Prof. Ranjana Patnaik Madam, Dr. Sanjeev Kr. Mahato Sir** and **Dr. Sanjay Kr. Rai Sir**, for their excellent support and constant encouragement during this research work.

I would like to thank **Dr. Shrikant Sir**, Associate Professor, Department of histopathology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for his expert guidance and observation during clinical studies. He has always made himself available to clarify my doubts despite his busy schedules and I consider it as a great opportunity to learn from his research expertise.

I heartily acknowledge the invaluable cooperation and timely suggestions of my Seniors, colleagues and juniors, **Shilpa Jaiswal, Monika Singh, Anuj Srivastava, Subodh Srivastava, Rajesh Kumar, Sanjay Saxena, Nishant Singh, Munendra Singh, Romel Bhattacharjee, Anoop Tiwari, Alok, Nitesh, Sandeep**, and apart from this I am thankful to all of them for their valuable and good company, fruitful discussions and for maintaining a productive research environment throughout my Ph.D. research work. A special word of appreciation for the technical assistance given during my thesis writing by **Md. Koushik Chowdhury** is specially acknowledged.

I express my heartfelt thanks to office staff of the school specially **Mr. Parmathma ji, Mr. Sharma ji, Mr. Mishra ji, Mr. Bharath ji, Mr. Ajay ji, Mr. Kishori ji, Mr. Sharan ji, Mr. Suresh ji, Mr. Avinash ji, and Mr. Ravi ji** for their assistance throughout my research work.

I would like to acknowledge, **Rajiv Gandhi National fellowship** from **University Grant Commission (UGC)**, India for providing me financial assistance.

I would like to thank **Dr. J.K. Singh (Director) and Prof. A. Nath, (Head)** of S.S. Hospital and Research institute, Kankarbagh, Patna, for their help in clinical support and analysis of histopathological images.

I express my heartfelt thanks to office staff of the hospital specially **Aseem Kumar Anshu, Sacchidanand, Chandan kumar Singh, Priyanka, Anamika Anand, Dr. Abhay kumar, Mr. Anupam, Mr. Asmanjas kumar**, to carry out my research work and supporting me in my bad times.

Further, I would like to express my respectful thanks to **S.N. Panday Sir**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, who regularly given motivation to do the research work with patience.

Undoubtedly from core of my heart, I am unable to find words to express my gratefulness of beyond accountability to my adorable parents **Mr. S. P. Prasad and Mrs. Shanti Devi** who has been constantly with me and never let me give up during my tough times. They did not teach how to perform my experiments but have always provided me inner strength so that I could withstand all the harshness of life. They have been my supporting ladders so that I could climb and scale of height where I currently stand. My brother **Abhijeet, Abhishek, Abhinav and** sister **Anamika** have given me their unequivocal support throughout, as always, for which my mere expression of thanks would not suffice.

Further, I would like to extend my special thanks to my friends **Deepa Verma, Anjana Rani, Rati Tripathi, Ruchi Singh, Sarita yadav, Priya singh** who continuously motivated me to work hard with patience.

With deepest gratitude and love, I bow down to **Shrii Shrii A'nandmurti jii Almighty**, by his grace and blessing inspired me to take up this work to serve the humanity.

Anuranjeeta

List of Figures

Figure No.	Figure Caption	Page No.
Figure 1.1	The general procedure of computer aided diagnosis.	4
Figure 2.1	Photomicrograph of a cross section of the histopathological images of breast cancer from a biopsy sample.	15
Figure 2.2	Schematic flowchart of the proposed CAD method for histopathological imaging.	16
Figure 2.3	Schematic diagram of methods used in CAD method for histopathological imaging.	19
Figure 2.4	Classification of segmentation techniques	23
Figure 3.1	Basic enhancement process [Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2009)].	52
Figure 3.2	Quartic bi-stable based DSR system. (a) Quartic potential for the unmodulated system at $t = 0$, $n(t) = 0$, (b) modulated system in presence of sufficient amount of energy i. e. noise intensity.	64
Figure 3.3	Basic steps for slide preparation for histopathological image.	66
Figure 3.4	Tissue processing step. (a) Tissue sample. (b) After grossing sample present in the box was kept in the container for tissue processing. (c) Automatic tissue processor.	67
Figure 3.5	Step of block preparation (a) Tissues in L-mould shape block. (b) Pouring of melted wax ($55-60^{\circ}\text{C}$) in the blocks contain tissue sample. (c) Solidification of block (d) Prepared block.	67
Figure 3.6	Tissue sectioning and slide preparation step. (a) Tissue sectioning by microtome. (b) Section kept in the water bath for proper spreading. (c) Sections transferred to the slide.	68
Figure 3.7	Stained slide with haematoxylin and eosin. (a) Sample present on slide. (b) Photomicrograph of a cross section of the histopathological images of biopsy sample.	69
Figure 3.8	Histopathological HE stained breast cancer images (a) Malignant cervix cancer, at 40x and 100x (b) Malignant breast cancer image at 40x and 100x.	70
Figure 3.9	Example of challenges in cells detection and classification (a) Artifact (b) Overlapping(c) Heterogeneity	70

Figure 3.10	Illustration of image segmentation using DSR	72
Figure 3.11	Enhancement results using classical methods and DSR (a) Photomicrograph of cervix cancer at 40× magnification (b) Enhancement of intensity component of HSI image using (c) γ correction with $\gamma=1.1$, (d) SSR method, (e) CLAHE method and (f) DSR method.	76
Figure 3.12	(a) Segmentation results of DSR processed image using Otsu's thresholding of cervix cancer obtained at 40× magnification. (a) Photomicrograph of cervix cancer. (b) Image obtained using DSR on intensity component, (c) Segmented cells from the image.	77
Figure 3.13	Segmentation results of DSR processed image using Otsu's thresholding of cervix cancer obtained at 100× magnification. (a) Photomicrograph of cervix cancer. (b) Image enhancement using DSR. (c) Segmented cells from the image.	78
Figure 3.14	Segmentation results of DSR processed image using Otsu's thresholding of prostate cancer obtained at 100× magnification (a) Photomicrograph of the prostate cancer. (b) Image enhancement using DSR. (c) Segmented cells from the image.	78
Figure 3.15	Segmentation results of DSR processed image using Otsu's thresholding of ovarian cancer obtained at 100× magnification. (a) Photomicrograph of ovarian cancer. (b) Image enhancement using DSR, (c) Segmented cells from the image.	79
Figure 3.16	Comparative segmentation results of (Benign 1). (a) Photomicrograph of the benign stage of breast cancer (b) Ground truth image. (c) Otsu's thresholding method. (d) k-means clustering method. (e) Fuzzy c-means method (f) DSR based proposed method.	80
Figure 3.17	Comparative segmentation results of (Benign 2). (a) Photomicrograph of the benign stage of breast cancer (b) Ground truth image. (c) Otsu's thresholding method. (d) k-means clustering method. (e) Fuzzy c-means method. (f) DSR based proposed method.	80
Figure 3.18	Comparative segmentation results of (Malignant 1) (a) Photomicrograph of the malignant stage of breast cancer (b) ground truth image. (c) Otsu's thresholding method. (d) k-means clustering method. (e) Fuzzy c-means method. (f) DSR based proposed method.	81
Figure 3.19	Comparative segmentation results of (Malignant 2) (a) Photomicrograph of the malignant stage of breast cancer. (b) Ground truth image. (c) Otsu's thresholding method. (d) k-means clustering method, (e) Fuzzy c-	81

	means method (f) DSR based proposed method.	
Figure 3.20	Comparison of Otsu's thresholding, k-means, fuzzy c-means and proposed DSR segmentation methods for 22 images. (a) Correlation, (b) Normalized probabilistic rand index (c) Global consistency error (d) Variation of information.	87
Figure 4.1	Morphological variability of cells (a) Single benign cell. (b) Single malignant cell. (c) Group benign cells. (d) Group malignant cells.	96
Figure 4.2	Schematic flowchart of the proposed method.	97
Figure 4.3	Image segmentation method for background removed (a) Single benign cell. (b) Single binary opaque of benign cell. (c) Single binary opaque of malignant cell. (d) Single malignant cell. (e) Group benign cells. (f) Group binary opaque of benign cells. (g) Group binary opaque of malignant cells. (h) Group malignant cells.	101
Figure 4.4	Step in CAD method of histopathological breast cancer images. (a) Benign cell. (b) Malignant cells. Selected ROI of cells in RGB (c) Single benign cell (d) Single malignant cell (e) Group benign cells (f) Group malignant cells. (g, h, i, j) converted into gray scale image respectively. (k, l, m, n) after band thresholding respectively. (o, p, q, r) distinct cells respectively. (s, t, u, v) weighted (red) and unweighted (blue) marked centroid respectively. (w, x, y, z) cells in the bounding box respectively.	102
Figure 4.5	Directionality use in calculating GLCM (D is the distance between two pixels)	108
Figure 4.6	Histopathology breast cancer dataset (a) Single benign cells dataset. (b) Single malignant cells dataset. (c) Group benign cells dataset. (d) Group malignant cells dataset.	115
Figure 4.7	Area (F1) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	119
Figure 4.8	Perimeter (F4) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	120
Figure 4.9	Major axis length (F5) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	121
Figure 4.10	Minor axis length (F6) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and	122

	malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	
Figure 4.11	Circularity (F7) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	123
Figure 4.12	Eccentricity (F8) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset respectively.	124
Figure 4.13	Max intensity (F9) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	125
Figure 4.14	Area (F1) and convex area (F2) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	126
Figure 4.15	Circularity (F7), eccentricity (F8) and solidity (F3), feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	126
Figure 4.16	Perimeter (F4), major axis length (F5), minor axis length (F6), max intensity (F9), min intensity (F10), mean Intensity (F11), standard deviation (F12), autocorrelation (F13), cluster prominence (F16), sum of squares (F22), sum of average (F23), sum of variance (F24) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells. (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	127
Figure 4.17	Contrast (F14), correlation (F15), dissimilarity (F17), energy (F18), entropy (F19), homogeneity (F20), maximum probability (F21), sum of entropy (F25), difference variance (F26), difference entropy (F27), information measure of correlation2 (F28), inverse difference normalized (IDN) (F29) and inverse difference moment normalize (F30) feature based variations of values in breast cancer cells (a) Single benign and malignant cell dataset. (b) Group benign and malignant cells dataset.	127
Figure 5.1	Example of ANN classification	138
Figure 5.2	Illustration of k-NN classification	139
Figure 5.3	Example of SVM classification	140
Figure 5.4	Flow chart of the proposed methodology.	142

Figure 5.5	Classification flowchart of neural network toolbox	144
Figure 5.6	Proposed artificial neural network architecture using 20 hidden neurons. (a) Group cells (b) Single cells	145
Figure 5.7	Train network (a) Group cells dataset. (b) Single cells dataset.	146
Figure 5.8	Neural network training tool (a) Group cells dataset. (b) Single cells dataset.	151
Figure 5.9	Validation performance plot (a) Group cells dataset with 13 input. (b) Single cells dataset with 30 input.	152
Figure 5.10.	Regression plot (a) Group cells dataset, (b) Single cells dataset	153
Figure 5.11	Error histogram of learning stages errors of feed forward artificial neural network to classify cancerous cell (a) Group cells (a) Single cells.	154
Figure 5.12	Confusion Matrix (a) Group cells dataset. (b) Single cell dataset	156
Figure 5.13	Comparison of performance graph of variation of accuracy and misclassification in group cells	158
Figure 5.14	Comparison of performance graph for variation of accuracy and misclassification in single cells	158
Figure 5.15	ROC curve showing performance classification of ANN (a) Group cells dataset. (b) Single cells dataset.	161
Figure 5.16	ROC curve showing performance classification of k-NN (a) Group cells dataset. (b) Single cells dataset.	162
Figure 5.17	ROC curve showing performance classification of SVM (a) Group cells dataset. (b) Single cells dataset.	162
Figure 5.18	Working of the Cell Check (v1.0) Graphical User Interface (GUI) (a) Cell Check (v1.0) GUI (b) Uploading of the image into Cell Check (c) Benign cell detected. (d) Malignant cell detected.	163
Figure 6.1	Schematic flowchart of the proposed method	174
Figure 6.2	Enhancement method (A) Original benign breast image. (B) Enhanced image using CLAHE method.	175
Figure 6.3	Segmentation of benign cells from histopathology images by using different methods. A: Original image. B: Ground truth image. C: Mixture Modeling Thresholding (MMT). D: Simple Interactive Object Extraction (SIOX). E: Robust Automatic Threshold Selection (RATS). F: Trainable Weka Segmentation (TWS).	177
Figure 6.4	Segmentation of malignant cells from histopathology images by using different methods A: Original image.	177

	B: Ground truth image. C: Mixture Modeling Thresholding (MMT). D: Simple Interactive Object Extraction (SIOX). E: Robust Automatic Threshold Selection (RATS). F: Trainable Weka Segmentation (TWS).	
Figure 6.5	Comparison of segmentation methods on the basis of average values of PRI for 25 sample images	178
Figure 6.6	Comparison of segmentation methods on the basis of average values of GCE for 25 sample image	179
Figure 6.7	Comparison of segmentation methods on the basis of average values of VI for 25 sample images	179
Figure 6.8	Features based difference of the benign (blue colour) and malignant (red colour) cells are observe while loaded in the weka data mining software. (a) count (F1), (b) total area (F2), (c) average size (F3), (d) area fraction (F4), (e) perimeter (F5), (f) major axis length (F6), (g) minor axis length (F7), (h) circularity (F9), (i) solidity (F10), (j) feret (F11), (k) integrated density (F16), (l) class (two class benign and malignant).	183
Figure 6.9	Graph for comparative performances of various classifiers	185
Figure 6.10	Graph for ranking of maximal relevance factor.	187
Figure 7.1	Mechanism of lipid peroxidation	191
Figure 7.2	Haematological test (a) Tube contains blood. (b) Complete blood count analyzer.	193
Figure 7.3	Elisa Test (a) Elisa kit (b) Microtiter plate (c) Elisa Reagent (d) Elisa microplate reader.	193
Figure 7.4	Estimation of lipid peroxidation test (a) TCA added to serum (b) Precipitation occurs (c) After adding TBA it gives pinkish color.	195
Figure 7.5	Comparative results of biochemical parameter in normal, ovarian and breast cancer patients. (a) MDA level. (b) CA-125 level.	199
Figure 7.6	Comparative results of biochemical parameter in normal, ovarian and breast cancer patients. (a) RBC count (b) Haemoglobin level (c) WBC count (d) and Platelet count	200
Figure 7.7	Segmentation of normal ovary cells from the background of the image. A1:Microphotograph of original cross section of normal ovary tissue marked by (a) arrow showing similar in size and shape of cells, a single nucleus, large cytoplasm and smooth nuclear border. A2: Segmented image. A3: Outlines	203

	of the segmented image.	
Figure 7.8	Segmentation of malignant ovary cells from the background of the image. B1:Microphotograph of ovary papillary mucinous cyst adenocarcinoma marked by arrow (b) showing abnormal scattered, multinucleate cells and higher mitotic count, marked by arrow (c) hyperchromatic nuclei stained dark blue, marked by arrow (d) few germinal epithelial cell are enlarged with more nucleoli and per chromatin in nature, marked by arrow (e) diffused cytoplasm showing fusiform cells are significant feature of this stage. B2: Segmented image. B3: Outlines of a segmented image.	203
Figure 7.9	Segmentation of normal breast cells from the background of the image. A1:Microphotograph of original section of normal breast tissue marked by an arrow (a) showing normal clusters of glands in the fibrous stroma, similar in size and shape of cells, a single nucleus, large cytoplasm, smooth nuclear border. A2: Segmented image A3: Outlines of the segmented image.	204
Figure 7.10	Segmentation of malignant breast cells from the background of the image. B1:Microphotograph of original breast lump Infiltrating Ductal Carcinoma grade II marked by an arrow (b) showing the cells show pleomorphism and hyperchromatic nuclei. B2: Segmented image (B3) Outlines of the segmented image.	204
Figure 7.11	Comparative results of features of normal ovary cells, ovarian cancer cells, normal breast cells and breast cancer cells. (a) Count. (b) Total area. (c) Average size. (d) Area fraction.	205
Figure 7.12	Comparative results of features of normal ovary cells, ovarian cancer cells, normal breast cells and breast cancer cells. (a) Perimeter. (b) Major axis length. (c) Minor axis length. (d) Circularity.	206

List of Tables

Table No.	Table Caption	Page No.
Table 2.1	Previous work reported for the segmentation of histopathological images	28
Table 2.2	Previous work reported in the literature for the feature extraction from histopathological images	37
Table 2.3	Previous work reported in the literature for the classification of histopathological images.	47
Table 3.1	Quantitative evaluation of Otsu's thresholding segmentation methods for 22 images.	83
Table 3.2	Quantitative evaluation of k-means clustering segmentation methods for 22 images.	84
Table 3.3	Quantitative evaluation of Fuzzy c-means clustering segmentation methods for 22 images.	85
Table 3.4	Quantitative evaluation of proposed DSR based Otsu's thresholding segmentation methods for 22 images.	86
Table 4.1	Features of benign and malignant cells	92
Table 4.2	The distribution of various features extracted from images and their ranges	103
Table 4.3	Representing (F1) area (F4) perimeter (F5) major axis length (F6) minor axis length (F7) circularity (F8) eccentricity and (F9) max intensity levels of 10 images of single benign cells of breast cancer.	116
Table 4.4	Representing (F1) area (F4) perimeter (F5) major axis length (F6) minor axis length (F7) circularity (F8) eccentricity and (F9) max intensity levels of 10 images of single malignant cells of breast cancer.	116
Table 4.5	Representing (F1) area (F4) perimeter (F5) major axis length (F6) minor axis length (F7) circularity (F8) eccentricity and (F9) max intensity levels of 10 images of group benign cells of breast cancer.	117
Table 4.6	Representing (F1) area (F4) perimeter (F5) major axis length (F6) minor axis length (F7) circularity (F8) eccentricity and (F9) max intensity levels10 of images of group malignant cells of breast cancer.	117
Table 4.7	The comparative parameter of single cells and group cells dataset of benign and malignant cells of breast cancer image	128
Table 5.1	Division of the single cell and group cells dataset according to the training and testing.	143

Table 5.2	Confusion matrix (FP, FN, TP and TN)	148
Table 5.3	Evaluations of proposed method compared with various classifier approaches in group cells	157
Table 5.4	Evaluations of proposed method compared with various classifier approaches in single cells.	157
Table 5.5	Comparison of the proposed method with other standard methods	160
Table 6.1	Represent the attribute relation file format (.arff) file with 16 attributes	173
Table 6.2	Quantitative comparison of segmentation methods on the basis of average values of 25 images	178
Table 6.3	Comparative performances of various classifiers.	184
Table 6.4	Ranking of morphological features	186
Table 7.1	Sample preparation for the estimation of MDA by TBARS method.	195
Table 7.2	Comparative data of all biochemical parameters	200
Table 7.3	Comparative data of all morphological parameters of an average value of five (5) sets of images in each group	207

Preface

Cancer has turned out to be the leading causes of mortality in the world thereby creating the need for more awareness globally. The onset of cancer development is due to the unrestrained growth of cells and these cancer cells have the capability to migrate to other parts of the body causing metastasis. Cancer detection has always been a major issue for the pathologists and medical practitioners for diagnosis and treatment planning. The chances of curing of cancer are primarily in its detection and diagnosis. However, its correct diagnosis and treatment is an important factor for the better survival rates of the patients.

Currently, several imaging techniques such as X-Ray, Mammography, Positron Emission Tomography (PET), Computer Aided Tomography (CAT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and Ultrasound Imaging have been used for the screening and detection of cancer. Various biochemical tests such as blood test, serum tumour marker test, and Lipid peroxidation test (LPO) are also used for cancer diagnosis.

The above mentioned techniques are helpful in diagnosing the cancer. However, all these techniques have shortcomings in determining their respective malignancy levels. For this reason, these techniques are not considered as gold standards in pathological domains and biopsy examination is still necessary to reach the final decision. Screening histopathological imaging of the cancer is currently the most effective tool for detection of cancer.

The histopathological techniques are used for the study of structure, function, and interpretations of the tissue and cells. Histopathology gives information about abnormalities present in the cellular structure of the tissue and cells. The images provide complete information about the tissue at a cellular level. Currently, scrutiny of histopathological images is the routinely used method to examine biopsy sample for the diagnosis of cancer.

Firstly, pathologists observe and analyze the biopsy sample images for specific abnormalities or for some of the important signs of cancer such as appearance of cells, distribution of cells in tissues, regularities of cell shapes, sizes, cluster of cells and architectural distortions under the light microscope and compare all the features of the sample with healthy cells to interpret the result. The manual evaluation of cancer detection from histopathological images is subjective in nature, time consuming and varies with perception level of expert pathologists. Due to the limitation of manual observation, it's difficult for the pathologists to provide both accurate and uniform evaluation for the enormous number of histopathological images generated in widespread screening in shorter time.

To overcome this problem, there is a need of computer image analysis. Therefore, CAD techniques are being introduced for fast, reliable and accurate diagnosis of cancer. The CAD provides a quantitative result of each particular cell in the image to classify it into normal and abnormal categories e.g. benign and malignant ones with higher sensitivity. The basic steps involved in the CAD tool are pre processing, segmentation of abnormalities in cells, feature extraction, and classification from selected features. A CAD system for cancer detection and diagnosis can also be used as the second opinion by the pathologist.

The automated identification of cancerous cells by histopathological images helps in alleviating the above mentioned issues and provides better results if the important feature based approaches are used for the identification of disease. Therefore, improvement in CAD performance increases the diagnostic options and the cure is more likely to be selective. Also, to help the pathologist in screening a large number of images, use of a CAD system may be helpful in exact prognosis free from human error.

In the thesis, the efficient approaches for the design and development of CAD system for cancer detection from images have been proposed. Hence, the present thesis aims at increasing the accuracy of diagnosis by the design of CAD tool for analysis of images so that early, accurate and faster screening of cancer can be achieved.

CAD system has been proposed for analysis and quantitatively measuring from haematoxylin and eosin stained breast cancer histopathology. With the proposed solutions for different problems in automated cancer detection that are presented in this thesis, we believe that it will provide the pathologists with useful tools for assisting them with the cancer diagnosis task.

The entire thesis is divided into eight chapters as follows:

Chapter-1: This chapter describes a brief introduction on the present scenario regarding the examination of the tissue structure by the pathologists for the detection of the abnormalities leading to cancer. The essential need for automation of the procedure through a CAD system is addressed. In perspective of addressing the requirements for this necessity, the present chapter briefly represents the problem statement and motivation, aims and objectives and research contributions of the present thesis work. At the end of this chapter, the thesis organization section concisely highlights all the chapters present in this thesis.

Chapter-2: This chapter includes a detailed literature survey of the background research work done in the area of cancer detection from histopathological images using CAD system. It starts with an explanation of preprocessing techniques in histopathology image modalities. Segmentation methods are then discussed. The chapter continues with an explanation of feature extraction based on the various attributes including morphological, textural and intensity based features. A discussion of the classification methods and disease identification is also represented in this chapter. Finally, the existing researches on different cancer using image analysis of histopathological images are discussed.

Chapter-3: This chapter deals with the histopathological procedures for the obtaining images from the samples and then image acquisition techniques are discussed. After that, brief description of the image pre-processing and enhancement techniques required to process the acquired images. Further, Otsu's thresholding, k-means, fuzzy c-means and proposed DSR based approach has been discussed for the segmentation of histopathological images. Segmentation performance matrices in terms of correlation, GCE, NPR, and VI have also been explained. The performance of the proposed segmentation approach has been compared with the other commonly used segmentation methods such as Otsu's thresholding, k-mean and fuzzy c- mean.

Chapter-4: This chapter provides the CAD system for the quantitative measurement of features of haematoxylin and eosin stained breast cancer histopathological images. A brief introduction about breast cancer dataset available online University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) that used in this research for feature extraction of single and group cells dataset. After that, image pre-processing, segmentation and feature extraction steps have been carried out. The definitions and mathematical descriptions of various morphological, intensity and texture based features have been described which are used throughout the thesis.

Chapter-5: This chapter explains the requirements of classification steps in CAD system, types of classification and training and validation steps have been discussed. Further, definitions and mathematical descriptions of various performance evaluation methods used throughout the thesis for examining the efficacy and suitability of the proposed approaches associated with the existing CAD systems have been investigated. In the present investigation three classifiers (1) Artificial Neural Network (ANN), (2) k-Nearest Neighbour (k-NN) and (3) Support Vector Machine (SVM) has been trained using breast cancer single cells and group cells datasets. The performance was evaluated in terms of classifier's performance measures such as accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity. Finally, a brief description and working of Graphical User Interface (GUI), named as CELL CHECK (v1.0) has been explained for identification of a benign and malignant cell in breast cancer histopathological images.

Chapter-6: This chapter presents the comparative study of different classifiers for histopathological image of breast cancer classification and detection using morphological features based on all cells present in the image. A computer aided diagnosis approach consisting of various steps, viz. pre-processing, segmentation, features extraction and classification has been proposed. Contrast Limited Adapted Histogram Equalization (CHALE) approach is used for pre-processing and Trainable Weka Segmentation (TWS) approach is used for segmentation purpose. Ranking of the features is accomplished using Relief-F algorithms.

Chapter-7: This chapter evaluates the changes in patterns of morphological, intensity and texture based features of malignant cells and the comparative features of benign cells in ovarian and breast cancer of histopathological images and its correlation with the several biochemical parameters. Further, morphological observation of these features disclose an improved a difference in area, perimeter, major axis length, circularity and max intensity values between benign and malignant cells. Further, it presents an overview of the biochemical tests such as RBC count, WBC count, Haemoglobin level, platelets count, CA-125, and malondialdehyde (MDA) of normal, breast and ovarian cancerous patients.

Chapter-8: This chapter describes the outcomes of the major findings of this research work with brief conclusions and suggestions for the future work.

References: This includes the references as a source of information to carry out the entire research work.