CLASSIFICATION OF COLOR TEXTURES USING MULTISPECTRAL RANDOM FIELD MODELS

Alireza Khotanzad\(^1\) and Jesse W. Bennett
Electrical Engineering
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas 75275-0338

Orlando J. Hernandez
Electrical & Computer Engineering
The College of New Jersey
Ewing, New Jersey 08628-0718

ABSTRACT

A large number of texture classification approaches have been developed in the past but most of these studies target gray-level textures. In this paper, supervised classification of color textures is considered. Several different Multispectral Random Field models are used to characterize the texture. The classifying features are based on the estimated parameters of these model and functions defined on them. The approach is tested on a database of sixteen different color textures. A near 100\% classification accuracy is achieved. The advantage of utilizing color information is demonstrated by converting color textures to gray-level ones and classifying them using gray-level random field models. It is shown that color based classification is significantly more accurate than its gray-level counterpart.

**Keywords:** Color Texture, Texture Classification, Mutispectral Random Field Models, Color Texture Features

1. INTRODUCTION

Texture classification has received a great deal of attention in the past and a large body of literature exists on it. However, a large majority of previously published studies on this subject consider classification of gray-level textures. Although color is an important visual cue, classification of color textures has not received much attention in the past since simultaneous consideration of textural activity and color information creates a higher degree of complexity. In this work, we focus on color texture classification and

\(^1\) Corresponding Author – Email: kha@ engr.smu.edu - Fax: 214-768-3573
utilize a number of recently developed multispectral random field models for this purpose. This class of models is capable of characterizing color texture and as such provides the right tool for classifying such textures. We introduce features defined on the estimated parameters of the multispectral random field models and use these features in supervised classification schemes. It is shown that a near perfect classification would be achieved for a database that contains sixteen different color textures.

The advantage of considering color in texture classification is also demonstrated in this work. An equivalent gray-level database is created for the color database used in this study. The gray-level textures are then classified using features derived from gray-level random field models and the performance is compared to that of color textures. There is considerable gain in classification accuracy indicating that color information does provide substantial advantage to the recognition task.

2. RECENT STUDIES

In the work presented in [1], several filtering like approaches to texture feature extraction are reviewed and their performances in gray-level texture classification problems are compared. These approaches include: Laws masks, ring/wedge filters, dyadic Gabor filter banks, wavelet transforms, wavelet packets and wavelet frames, quadrature mirror filters, discrete cosine transform, eigenfilters, optimized Gabor filters, linear predictors, and optimized finite impulse response filters. The features are computed as the local energy of the filter responses. The effect of the filtering is highlighted, keeping the local energy function and the classification algorithm identical for most approaches. For reference, comparisons with two classical nonfiltering approaches, co-occurrence (statistical) and autoregressive (model based) features, are also given. A ranking of the tested approaches based on extensive experimentation is presented.

In another recent gray-level texture classification study, Haley and Manjunath [2] present a method of rotation-invariant texture classification based on a complete space-frequency model. A polar, analytic form of a 2-D Gabor wavelet is developed, and a multiresolution family of these wavelets is used to compute
information-conserving microfeatures. From these microfeatures, a micromodel, which characterizes spatially localized amplitude, frequency, and directional behavior of the texture, is formed. The essential characteristics of a texture sample, its macrofeatures, are derived from the estimated selected parameters of the micromodel. Classification of texture samples is based on the macromodel derived from a rotation invariant subset of macrofeatures. In experiments, comparatively high correct classification rates were obtained using large sample sets.

In [3], Kaplan evaluates the effectiveness of multiscale Hurst parameters as features for gray-level texture classification and segmentation. For texture classification, the performance of the generalized Hurst features is compared to traditional Hurst and Gabor features. The author’s experiments show that classification accuracy for the generalized Hurst and Gabor features are comparable even though the generalized Hurst features lower the dimensionality by a factor of five. The segmentation accuracy using generalized and standard Hurst features is also evaluated on images of texture mosaics. For these experiments, the performance is evaluated with and without supplemental contrast and average grayscale features. Finally, the effectiveness of the Hurst features to segment real synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery is investigated.

As for application of random field texture models [4] [5] to texture classification, most of the previous work in this area is focused on gray-level textures [6] [7]. As an example, Chellappa and Chatterjee [8] present two feature extraction methods for classification of textures using Markov Random Field (MRF) models. It is assumed that the given $M \times M$ texture is generated by using a Gaussian MRF model. In the first method, the least squares (LS) estimates of the model parameters are used as the features. In the second method, using the notion of sufficient statistics, it is shown that the sample correlations over a symmetric window including the origin are optimal features for classification. It is also shown that simple minimum distance classifiers using these two feature sets yield good classification accuracies.
Some recent studies have considered color texture classification. The study by Wang and Healey [9] considers color texture classification independent of rotation, scale, and illumination. Color texture is modeled using spatial correlation functions defined within and between sensor bands. Using a linear model for surface spectral reflectance with the same number of parameters as the number of sensor classes, the authors show that illumination and geometry changes in the scene correspond to a linear transformation of the correlation functions and a linear transformation of their coordinates. A several step algorithm that includes scale estimation and correlation moment computation is used to achieve the invariance. The key to the method is the new result that illumination, rotation, and scale changes in the scene correspond to a specific transformation of correlation function Zernike moment matrices. These matrices can be estimated from a color image. This relationship is used to derive an efficient algorithm for recognition. The algorithm is substantiated using classification results on over 200 images of color textures obtained under various illumination conditions and geometric configurations.

Other recent examples of color texture classification are the works presented in [10], [11], [12], and [13]. These papers focus on using the pure color vectors as the feature set, while they diverge on the classification methodology employed (histogram, transform, filtering, co-occurrence, neural network), as well as the level of comparison of the results with those for grey-level imagery. Also in another study [14], specific techniques have been developed recently to exploit the large amount of spectral and spatial information present in color textures to optimize filters aimed at the execution of illumination-invariant color texture discrimination. Other recent approaches to color texture classification also include the taking of perceptual information models into account [15], as well as the usage of random environment models [16].
3. MULTISPECTRAL RANDOM FIELD MODELS

Multispectral Random Field Models are the generalization of the gray-level random field models. They were initially developed in [17], [18]. These models are capable of characterizing color textures and are able to synthesize a color texture from the estimated parameters of the model fitted to it [18], [17]. In this work, we utilize three such models for the classification task.

3.1 Multispectral Simultaneous Autoregressive (MSAR) Model

The Multispectral Simultaneous Autoregressive (MSAR) model is the first considered model. A pixel location within a two-dimensional $M \times M$ lattice is denoted by $s = (i, j)$, with $i, j$ being integers from the set $J = \{0, 1, \ldots, M-1\}$. The set of all lattice locations is defined as $\Omega = \{s = (i, j) : i, j \in J\}$. The MSAR model relates each lattice position to its neighboring pixels, both within and between image planes, according to the following model equation:

$$y_i(s) = \sum_{j=1}^{P} \sum_{r \in N_{ij}} \theta_{ij}(r) y_{i}(s \oplus r) + \sqrt{\rho_i} w_i(s), \quad i = 1 \ldots P$$

with,

$y_i(s) =$ Pixel value at location $s$ of the $i^{th}$ plane

$s$ and $r =$ two dimensional lattices

$P =$ number of image planes (for color images, $P = 3$, representing: Red, Green, and Blue planes)

$N_{ij} =$ neighbor set relating pixels in plane $i$ to neighbors in plane $j$ (only interplane neighbor sets, i.e. $N_{ij, i \neq j}$ may include the (0,0) neighbor)

$\theta_{ij} =$ coefficients which define the dependence of $y_i(s)$ on the pixels in its neighbor set $N_{ij}$

$\rho_i =$ noise variance of image plane $i$

$w_i(s) =$ i.i.d. random variables with zero mean and unit variance
⊕ denotes modulo M addition in each index (a toroidal lattice structure is assumed so a complete neighbor set could be defined for pixels on the boundary of the image).

The image observations are assumed to have zero mean (i.e., the sample mean is computed and subtracted from all pixels).

The parameters associated with the MSAR model are $\theta$ and $\rho$ vectors which collectively characterize the spatial interaction between neighboring pixels within and between color planes. A least-squares (LS) estimate of the MSAR model parameters is obtained by equating the observed pixel values of an image to the expected value of the model equations. This leads to the following estimates [18], [17]:

$$
\hat{\theta}_i = \left[ \sum_{s \in \Omega} q_i(s) q_i^T(s) \right]^{-1} \left[ \sum_{s \in \Omega} q_i(s) y_i(s) \right]
$$

and

$$
\hat{\rho}_i = \frac{1}{M^2} \sum_{s \in \Omega} (y_i(s) - \hat{\theta}_i^T q_i(s))^2
$$

where:

$$
\theta_i = \left[ \theta_{i1}^T \theta_{i2}^T \ldots \theta_{ip}^T \right]^T
$$

$$
q_i(s) = \left[ y_{i1}^T(s) y_{i2}^T(s) \ldots y_{ip}^T(s) \right]^T
$$

$$
y_{ij}(s) = \text{col} \{ y_j(s \oplus r) : r \in N_{ij} \}
$$

3.2 Multispectral Markov Random Field (MMRF) Model

The second kind of model considered is the Multispectral Markov Random Field (MMRF) Model. A multispectral image may be considered Markovian with respect to its neighbor set if it has the following property:

$$
p( y_i(s) \mid \text{all other image observations} ) = p( y_i(s) \mid \text{neighborhood observations} )
$$
Because the conditional distribution of \( y_i(s) \) given all other observations and \( y_i(s) \) given the neighborhood observations are the same, the best linear estimator of the observed values may be written in terms of the neighborhood observations as:

\[
y_i(s) = \sum_{j=1}^{p} \sum_{r \in N_{ij}} \theta_{ij}(r) \ y_j(s \oplus r) + e_i(s), \quad i = 1 \ldots P
\]

where the estimation error

\[
e_i(s) = \sum_{j=1}^{p} \sum_{r \in \Omega} c_{ij}(r) \ w_j(s \oplus r), \quad i = 1 \ldots P
\]

is a stationary noise sequence with unit variance i.i.d variates, \( w_i(s) \) for some choice of \( c_{ij} \)'s.

Since the resulting system of equations that could be employed to obtain a LS estimate of the model parameters is nonlinear, an approximate LS estimate approach is employed here. This is an iterative method that involves repeatedly solving the pair of equations [18], [17]:

\[
\hat{\theta}_{n+1} = \left[ \sum_{s \in \Omega} Q_n(s) Q_n^T(s) \right]^{-1} \left[ \sum_{s \in \Omega} Q_n(s) y(s) \right], \quad n = 0,1,2,\ldots
\]

and

\[
\hat{\rho}_{n+1} = [\hat{\rho}_1 \ \hat{\rho}_2 \ \hat{\rho}_3]^T = \frac{1}{M^2} \sum_{s \in \Omega} [y(s) - Q_n^T(s) \hat{\theta}]^2, \quad n = 0,1,2,\ldots
\]

where

\[
Q(s) = \begin{bmatrix}
y_{11}^T(s) & y_{12}^T(s) & y_{13}^T(s) & 0^T & 0^T & 0^T \\
0^T & \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} y_{21}^T(s) & 0^T & y_{22}^T(s) & y_{23}^T(s) & 0^T \\
0^T & 0^T & \frac{\rho_3}{\rho_1} y_{31}^T(s) & 0^T & \frac{\rho_1}{\rho_2} y_{32}^T(s) & y_{33}^T(s)
\end{bmatrix}^T
\]

and
\[
\mathbf{y}_{ij}(s) = \begin{cases} 
\text{col}\{y_i(s \oplus r) + y_j(s \oplus -r) : r \in N_{ij}\}, & i = j \\
\text{col}\{y_j(s \oplus r) : r \in N_{ij}\}, & i < j \\
\text{col}\{y_j(s \oplus -r) : r \in N_{ij}\}, & i > j
\end{cases}
\]

\(Q(s)\) is evaluated using \(\mathbf{p} = \hat{\mathbf{p}}_n\) and \(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_0\) is taken as \([1 1 1]^T\). The iteration terminates when convergence is obtained, i.e. subsequent iterations fail to produce significant changes in \(\boldsymbol{\theta}\). This approach works well in practice, typically requiring less than 10 iterations to obtain the LS estimate of MMRF model parameters.

### 3.3 Pseudo-Markov Random Field (PMRF) Model

The third model is the Pseudo-Markov Random Field (PMRF) model which has the same model equations as the MMRF:

\[
y_i(s) = \sum_{j=1}^{P} \sum_{r \in N_{ij}} \theta_{ij}(r) y_j(s \oplus r) + e_i(s), \quad i = 1 \ldots P
\]

However, by restricting the correlation structure of the stationary noise sequences \(\{e_i(s)\}\) of the PMRF model, it lends itself to a linear LS estimation scheme of its model parameters, instead of the non-linear iterative approach used for the MMRF model. The assumed correlation structure for \(\{e_i(s)\}\) is:

\[
\nu_{ij}(r) = \mathbb{E}\{e_i(s) e_j(s \oplus r)\} = \begin{cases} 
-\theta_{ij}(r) \sqrt{\rho_i \rho_j}, & r \in N_{ij} \\
\rho_j, & r = 0 \text{ and } i = j \\
0, & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

The LS estimate of the PMRF model parameters is given by [18], [17]:

\[
\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \left[\sum_{s \in \Omega} Q(s) Q^\top(s)\right]^{-1} \left[\sum_{s \in \Omega} Q(s) \mathbf{y}(s)\right]
\]

and

\[
\hat{\mathbf{p}} = \left[\hat{\rho}_1 \hat{\rho}_2 \hat{\rho}_3\right]^T = \frac{1}{M^2} \sum_{s \in \Omega} \left[\mathbf{y}(s) - Q^\top(s) \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\right]^2
\]

where:
The features for color textures are defined on the estimated $\theta$ and $\rho$ parameters of the considered multispectral model (i.e., MSAR, MMRF, or PMRF). The estimated $\theta$ parameters are used directly whereas ratios of the $\rho$ parameters of different color planes in the form of $\frac{\rho_r}{\rho_g}$ and $\frac{\rho_r}{\rho_b}$ are utilized. The justification for using ratios is to make the features robust to illumination changes. To see this, take a linear imaging model. For such a model, the observed values at each lattice position are assumed to be a product of illumination and spectral reflectance. Under this assumption the $\theta$ ‘s and ratios of $\rho$ ‘s are invariant to changes in illumination intensity, i.e., the power of the illumination source changes uniformly across the spectrum. Such a change in illumination will correspond to a linear change in the image observations that is constant across image planes, affecting the mean and variance of the observed image. Changes in the mean vector do not impact the feature set because Random Field model parameters are estimated from mean
normalized images. Changes in image variance that are uniform across image planes are reflected in the model parameters as a constant scale factor applied to each $\rho_i$, hence the ratios of $\rho_i$'s are invariant to such changes.

The parameter vectors $\theta_{ij}$ are a function of the selected neighbor sets. For the MSAR model a 4-element unilateral neighbor set is chosen, given by

$$N_{ij} = \{ (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1), (1, -1) \} \quad \forall i,j.$$  

This choice of neighbor set is illustrated in Fig. 1 for within a single plane, (i.e., $i=j$), and it results in a 38-dimensional feature set, $f_{MSAR}$,

$$f_{MSAR} = \left\{ \frac{\rho_r}{\rho_g}, \frac{\rho_r}{\rho_b}, \theta_{rr}, \theta_{rg}, \theta_{rb}, \theta_{gb}, \theta_{br}, \theta_{bb} \right\}$$

with each $\theta_{ij}$ representing four parameters $\{\theta_{i,0}, \theta_{0,i}, \theta_{i,1}, \theta_{1,-i}\}$.

The neighbor sets for the MMRF and PMRF models must be symmetric, i.e., $r \in N_{ij} \iff -r \in N_{ji}$. The same four-element neighbor set $N_{ij}$ is used for these models. However, the $\theta_{ij}$ of symmetric neighbors are taken to be equal in these models. Consequently, only half of $\theta_{ij}$ parameters are used resulting in a 26-dimensional feature vector for each model:

$$f_{MMRF} = \left\{ \frac{\rho_r}{\rho_g}, \frac{\rho_r}{\rho_b}, \theta_{rr}, \theta_{rg}, \theta_{rb}, \theta_{gb} \right\}$$

and

$$f_{PMRF} = \left\{ \frac{\rho_r}{\rho_g}, \frac{\rho_r}{\rho_b}, \theta_{rr}, \theta_{rg}, \theta_{rb}, \theta_{gb} \right\}$$

It should be noted that the selected four-element neighbor set is not optimal in the sense that it cannot regenerate a visually close image to the original in conjunction with the utilized model. However, as shown later, this compact and rather sub-optimal (from image regeneration point of view) neighbor set can produce excellent classification results.
4.2 Features for Grey-Level Textures

The grey-level version of each of the color textures considered in this study is also generated using a conversion method discussed later. The features considered for grey-level texture are also based on random field models. The one plane version (P = 1) of MSAR and MMRF are used for modeling these textures. These models are referred to as SAR and MRF [4], [5]. The LS estimation method is used to estimate $\theta_i$ and $\rho$ parameters for these models [4], [5]. Since there is only one $\rho$ parameter, illumination invariance is obtained by dividing this parameter by the image sample variance, $\sigma^2$ [8]. Therefore the feature set is:

$$f_{SAR} = \left\{ \frac{\rho}{\sigma^2}, \theta \right\}$$

and

$$f_{MRF} = \left\{ \frac{\rho}{\sigma^2}, \theta \right\}$$

Various neighbor sets containing from 8 to 80 symmetric neighbors are considered for these models and the ones producing the best results are used in this study. It turns out that the best neighbor sets are a 36 and a 20 element set as shown in Fig. 2. These neighbor sets are used for $64 \times 64$ and $16 \times 16$ textures, respectively. The numbers of features associated with these neighbor sets are 19 and 11 for the 36 and 20-element set, respectively, for both the SAR and MRF models.

5. Classification Method

A supervised non-parametric nearest-neighbor classifier, along with the leave-one-out error estimation method is used for evaluating the efficacy of the discussed features. In this simple classification scheme, an unknown feature vector $f^{(i)}$ is assigned to the class associated with its nearest neighbor, as defined by a distance metric $d(x, y)$, i.e., assign the unknown image sample to the class $k$ associated with the training sample for which $d(f^{(i)}, f^{(k)})$ is minimized, with $f^{(k)}$ representing the ith training sample of class $k$. 

11
In order to compensate for scale variations and correlations within each feature vector, a normalized distance metric is used

\[ d(f^{(t)}, f_i^{(k)}) = \sqrt{(f^{(t)} - f_i^{(k)})^T \hat{\Sigma}_k^{-1} (f^{(t)} - f_i^{(k)})} \]

where the superscript \( t \) denotes the test sample, and \( \hat{\Sigma}_k \) is the sample covariance matrix of the training feature set (including \( n_k \) samples) for class \( k \)

\[ \hat{\Sigma}_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} (f_i^{(k)} - \hat{m}_k)(f_i^{(k)} - \hat{m}_k)^T, \]

with \( \hat{m}_k \) being the corresponding sample mean

\[ \hat{m}_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} f_i^{(k)}. \]

This normalization method prevents features with large magnitude from dominating the nearest-neighbor distance and compensates for redundancy in the feature set.

### 6. EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

#### 6.1 Image Databases

A sixteen-class color natural texture database constructed from images available in [19] is used in this study. These are full color Red, Green, and Blue (RGB) images with up to 256 intensity levels for each of the red, green, and blue color components. For each natural texture, two image resolutions are included in the database, 512×512 and 128×128. The selected texture images are shown in Fig. 3.

Each original image is partitioned into 64 non-overlapping sub-images, providing a total of 1024 images at each selected resolution. These sub-images are 64×64 and 16×16 derived from the original 512×512 and 128 x 128 images, respectively. A sample of each resolution is shown in Fig. 4.
A second database of gray-level textures is generated from this color database by converting all of the 1024 color images into gray-level ones. This process is carried out using the linear RGB to CIE luminance conversion [20]

\[ Y_{\text{CIE}} = 0.2125 R + 0.7154 G + 0.0721 B. \]

No re-quantization of the image data was performed and the resultant gray-level images were kept in a floating-point format. Fig. 5 illustrates the gray-level converted images.

### 6.2 Classification Results

The leave-one-out classification results are shown in Tables 1 through 4. In the leave-one-out scheme used here, one sample out of 1024 available samples is taken out and used as the test sample. This left out test sample is then classified using the other 1023 samples as the training set. This procedure is repeated for each of the 1024 samples one at a time resulting in independent classification of each sample.

Tables 1 and 2 summarize the results for the 64×64 and 16×16 images, respectively. The number of correctly classified samples out of the total of 1024 tested samples (tested one at a time) is shown for the color and gray-level images for features derived from different models. Tables 3 and 4 show the individual classification accuracy rates for each of the sixteen classes.

These results demonstrate that perfect classification can be achieved for 64×64 color texture images using features of either MSAR or MMRF model. For the PMRF model, there is a single misclassification; one sample from class 12 (Candy Sprinkles) is incorrectly assigned to class 10 (Fabric). For the lower image resolution of 16×16, classification accuracies remain high at 98.5% for the MSAR model and 95.9% for both the MMRF and PMRF models, respectively. The majority of misclassified samples are from class 4 (Leaves), which has textural characteristics that are similar to class 7 (Sand) and class 16 (Grass). Considering the results for both resolutions, it may be concluded that the MSAR based features would be the best choice for the classification task.
As for classification results of the gray-level counterparts images, the accuracy rates for the 64×64 resolution are high and the SAR and MRF models perform equally well resulting in correct classification rate of 97.8% and 97.2%, respectively. However, when the resolution is reduced to 16×16, the performance degrades significantly yielding only 62.1% and 57.4% accuracies for the SAR and MRF models, respectively. In this case many of the samples are misclassified and the confusion is spread over almost all classes. As noted before, the structure of the utilized neighbor set is also different for the two resolutions. The 18-element set of Fig. 2(a) is used for the 64×64 case and the 10-element set of Fig. 2(b) is utilized for the 16×16 resolution. These are neighbor sets that produce the best results from among many that were examined.

By comparing the classification results of color images to their gray-level converted counterparts, the advantage of using color becomes apparent. At the 64×64 resolution, the color results are clearly better even though an optimal neighbor set is used with the gray-level images. If the same 4-element neighbor set used for color images is utilized for the gray-level images, the accuracy will be much lower. At the 16×16 resolution, the difference in performance becomes much more pronounced. While the color textures are classified in the high 90% range, the rate for gray-level images is in the 60% range. At this resolution, the textural detail within a single plane becomes fuzzy and interaction between different image planes becomes more dominant. The inter-pane interactions, which are somewhat invariant to image resolution, are captured by the multispectral models causing them to perform better than their single plane, gray-level counterparts.
Table 1. Summary of Leave-One-Out Classification Results for 64×64 Images

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Type</th>
<th>No. of Correctly Classified Out of 1024</th>
<th>Accuracy Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Color Image Database</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSAR</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMRF</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMRF</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gray-Level Image Database</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR (18-element neighbor set)</td>
<td>1001</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRF (18-element neighbor set)</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Summary of Leave-One-Out Classification Results for 16×16 Images

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Type</th>
<th>No. of Correctly Classified Out of 1024</th>
<th>Accuracy Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Color Image Database</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSAR</td>
<td>1009</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMRF</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMRF</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gray-Level Image Database</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR (10-element neighbor set)</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRF (10-element neighbor set)</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Individual Class Accuracy Rates for 64×64 Images

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Color Image Database</th>
<th>Grey-Level Image Database</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MSAR</td>
<td>MMRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Individual Class Accuracy Rates for 16×16 Images

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Color Models</th>
<th>Grey-Level Models</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MSAR</td>
<td>MMRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>96.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>84.4</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>89.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>90.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>95.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. CONCLUSIONS

In this work three different multispectral random field models, MSAR, MMRF, and PMRF, are used for supervised color texture classification. Features are defined on the estimated parameters of these models fitted to the image. These models capture both inter-plane and intra-plane interactions of image pixels resulting in richer characterization of the image compared to its gray-level counterpart. The performance is tested on 1024 images from a sixteen-class database at two resolutions, $64 \times 64$ and $16 \times 16$. It is shown that a small and compact neighbor set is all that is needed for the classification task. In a leave-one-out performance evaluation scheme and utilizing a normalized nearest-neighbor classifier, perfect classification is obtained for $64 \times 64$ images whereas $16 \times 16$ images produce accuracy rates in the 98% range. It is also concluded that the MSAR model works the best for both image resolutions.

To evaluate the advantage of incorporating color (multi-plane activity) in the classification task, gray-level counterparts of the color texture images are created and classified using single plane random field models. It is shown that even though a larger neighbor set (close to an optimal one) is used, the classification result is still inferior to that of color textures. This is especially evident in the lower $16 \times 16$ resolution.

In addition to supervised classification applications, the discussed features are particularly attractive in image segmentation tasks. The requirements in the image segmentation applications are often diametrically opposed; the desire for a large number of image features to accurately identify uniform texture regions versus the need for a spatially compact neighbor set to allow accurate detection of texture boundaries. Based on the results of this study, the multispectral random field based approach can satisfy both requirements providing a good tool for image segmentation.
Fig. 1. Neighbor set used in the color image classification experiments. The (0,0) position is represented by the white circles, and the black circles denote the relative neighbor locations.

Fig. 2. Neighbor sets used in the gray-level image classification experiments. The (0,0) position is represented by the white circles, and the black circles denote the relative neighbor locations.
Fig. 3. Color Image database. Each of the 16 sample images is partitioned into 64 non-overlapping sub-images for the classification experiments.
Fig. 4. Partitioning of original texture images. Fig. 4(a) shows a 512×512 database image with a selected sub-image, shown in Fig. 4(b), indicated by the white square. Fig. 4(c) and Fig. 4(d) show the same image and sub-image, respectively, from the 128×128 image database.
Fig. 5. Gray-Level Image database as converted from the color image database. Each of the 16 sample images is partitioned into 64 non-overlapping sub-images for the classification experiments.
8. REFERENCES


About the Author – Alireza Khotanzad received his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1983. He is currently Professor of Electrical Engineering at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. His research interests include intelligent systems, computer vision, and neural networks. He served as an associate editor of the IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks from 1995 to 1997. He is currently an associate editor of Pattern Recognition and the IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence.

About the Author – Jesse W. Bennett received his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from Southern Methodist University in 1997. He received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1980 and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering degrees from Southern Methodist University in 1983. He was with Texas Instruments, Inc. until 1998.

About the Author – Orlando J. Hernandez was born in Havana, Cuba, and he received his Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas in 2002. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering at The College of New Jersey, Ewing, New Jersey. His research interests include computer vision, image processing, and computer architecture. Before joining TCNJ, he spent ten years in the industry at Texas Instruments Inc. and Maxim Integrated Product Inc. where he held positions in Product Development, Design Management, and Business Management.