

## Original Research Article

# AUTOMATIC CLASSIFICATION OF ANTERIO-POSTERIOR AND LATERAL VIEWS OF LEG X-RAYS

*A Manikandarajan<sup>1</sup>, K Parasuraman<sup>2</sup>, S Padmarajan<sup>3</sup>, M Gurumoorthy<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Government Cuddalore Medical College and Hospital, Chidambaram. India.

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Government Cuddalore Medical College and Hospital, Chidambaram. India.

<sup>3</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Government Cuddalore Medical College and Hospital, Chidambaram. India.

<sup>4</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Government Cuddalore Medical College and Hospital, Chidambaram. India.

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**Corresponding Author:**

**Dr. M Gurumoorthy,**  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Orthopaedics, Government Cuddalore  
Medical College and Hospital,  
Chidambaram. India.  
Email: rakeshebinezar@gmail.com

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**ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Radiographic positioning is highly standardized, so as to help the physician and radiologists to correctly interpret and to make diagnosis. Hence, it plays a pivotal role in viewing the particular portions or areas to be examined. Radiographic positions viz. lateral view, oblique view, anterior-posterior view, posterior-anterior view etc., which are all so classified based on the way the X-ray images are radiographed with respect to the object and the film. When the X-rays have passed through the object from front to back of the patients, it is referred as antero-posterior (AP) view. If it is taken from back to front of the patient it is said to be postero-anterior (PA) view. When it is passed through the object from the side of the patients, it is said to be lateral view. In oblique view, X-rays is passed through the object based on the angle. Hence, it is quite inevitable that there needs to be suitable computational algorithms for the detection of the orientation of the X-ray images. In this work, an attempt has been made to classify AP view and LAT view of leg X- rays, which will aid the radiologist or orthopedicians to get accurate and faster results.

**Materials and Methods:** The block diagram of the proposed system is shown in Fig. 2. When the leg X- ray image is given as an input to the proposed method, the image is preprocessed with median filter to remove the noise. 3,1 Median Filter The best known order statistic filter is the median filter which replaces the value of the pixel by the median of the gray levels in the neighborhood of that pixel.<sup>[13]</sup> The median filter is a non-linear digital filtering technique, often used to remove noise and is particularly effective in the presence of impulse noise, also called 'salt and pepper' noise.

**Results:** A set of 100 X- ray images were collected which consist of 50 antero-posterior views and 50 lateral views. The resolution of the images is 1024 × 768 pixels. The first step in the proposed method is preprocessing, which removes the noise in the image and smoothen the image using median filter. The variation of histogram due to the presence of noise is also reduced during the preprocessing.

**Conclusion:** In this work, classification of antero-posterior and lateral views in leg X-rays is automated using model based method and template based methods. In the model based method the histogram features and statistical features are extracted and classified using the classifiers. PNN and SVM. The SVM classifier performs well in classifying the X- ray views when statistical feature is given as input. When the SURF features is used for classification, the accuracy of the proposed method increased to 91.8% which is highest among the classification methods employed. The results indicate that, in future bone fracture detection can be automated and content based X-ray retrieval systems could also be implemented.

**Keywords:** Anteroposterior and lateral.

## INTRODUCTION

Radiographic positioning is highly standardized, so as to help the orthopaedician and radiologists to correctly interpret and to make diagnosis. Hence, it plays a pivotal role in viewing the particular portions or areas to be examined. Radiographic positions viz. lateral view, oblique view, anterior-posterior view, posterior-anterior view etc., which are all so classified based on the way the X-ray images are radiographed with respect to the object and the film. When the X-rays have passed through the object from front to back of the patients, it is referred as antero-posterior (AP) view. If it is taken from back to front of the patient it is said to be postero-anterior (PA) view. When it is passed through the object from the side of the patients, it is said to be lateral view. In oblique view, X-rays is passed through the object based on the angle. Hence, it is quite inevitable that there needs to be suitable computational algorithms for the detection of the orientation of the X-ray images. In this work, an attempt has been made to classify AP view and LAT view of leg X- rays, which will aid the radiologist or orthopedicians to get accurate and faster results. A sample image of AP view and LAT views taken in this work is shown in Fig. 1. In this work, two methods are proposed for automatic classification of leg X-rays, model based and template based. In model based approach the statistical features and histogram feature are extracted and the support vector machine and probabilistic neural networks are used for classification purpose. In the template based approach SURF is used for classification purpose. This paper is organized as follows Section 1 gives an outlay of the general introduction and the need of the proposed work. Review of the existing literature is presented in Section 2. Section 3 elaborates the Proposed Methodology, while the Performance Measures and Experimental results are described in Section 4 which is followed by the conclusion in Section 5.

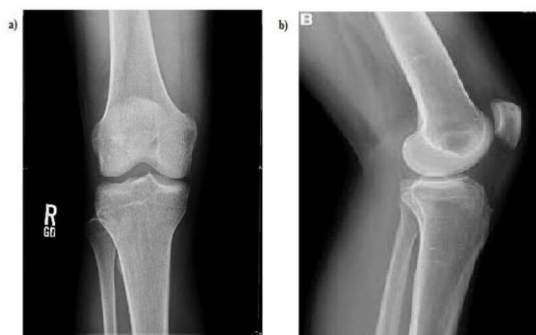


Figure 1a: Sample antero-posterior view b) Sample lateral view

## Previous work

Few research efforts are reported in the literature for identifying the X-ray image views,<sup>[1-5]</sup> however, they are not fully automated systems. The authors in,<sup>[6]</sup> proposed a method to determine the image view based on the similarity of the image to reference images, but used

four distance measures and K-nearest-neighbor classifier. The classification of views in medical images will aid the radiologist in diagnosing diseases.<sup>[7]</sup> The work in,<sup>[2]</sup> proposes a method to identify the frontal/lateral view using a template matching technique, the similarity measures were based on the cross correlation coefficient. The speedup robust features are used for the classification of cardiac views in echocardiogram in.<sup>[8]</sup> Random forests with local binary patterns are used to classify the X-ray images in.<sup>[9]</sup> A segmentation algorithm based on the kernelized weighted C-means clustering and automatic segmentation correctness coefficients is proposed in.<sup>[10]</sup> Fuzzy- based Medical X- ray Image Classification is proposed in.<sup>[11]</sup>

A novel shape texture feature extraction technique to classify medical X- ray images is proposed in.<sup>[12]</sup>

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The block diagram of the proposed system is shown in Fig. 2. When the leg X- ray image is given as an input to the proposed method, the image is preprocessed with median filter to remove the noise. 3,1 Median Filter The best known order statistic filter is the median

filter which replaces the value of the pixel by the median of the gray levels in the neighborhood of that pixel.<sup>[13]</sup> The median filter is a non-linear digital filtering technique, often used to remove noise and is particularly effective in the presence of impulse noise, also called

‘salt and pepper’ noise.3×3 median filter is used and it illustrated in Table 1.

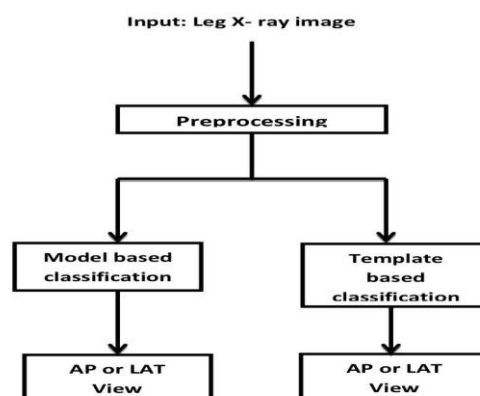


Figure 2: Block diagram of the proposed sytesm

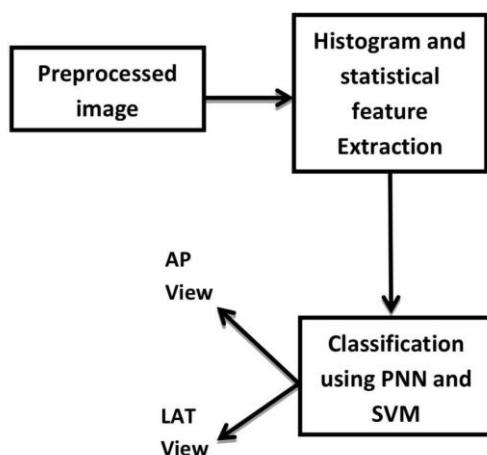
Table 1: 3x3 Median filter

|              |            |              |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| $(x-1, y-1)$ | $(x, y-1)$ | $(x+1, y-1)$ |
| $(x-1, y)$   | $(x, y)$   | $(x+1, y)$   |
| $(x-1, y+1)$ | $(x, y+1)$ | $(x+1, y+1)$ |

Where  $(x, y)$  is the center pixel which is replaced with the median value.

### 3.2 Model based classification

Fig. 3 shows the block diagram of model based classification method. Two different texture features namely 32 bin gray scale histogram and statistical features such as entropy, kurtosis, skewness, mean and standard deviation are extracted from the region of interest. The histogram gives an idea about the contrast of the image and distribution of the gray values. For gray level histograms, the tonal distribution is from 0 to 255 while 0 represents black and 255 represents white. The statistical texture characteristics provide information about the properties of the level of the intensity distribution in the image like the smoothness, contrast, uniformity, flatness, and brightness. In this work statistical features mean, standard deviation, entropy, skewness and kurtosis are extracted. Mean returns the average value of the extracted region of interest. The standard deviation gives the information regarding how the data is dispersed from the mean. Entropy is a statistical measure of randomness that can be used to characterize the texture of the input image. Kurtosis gives an idea about the shape of the probability distribution. Skewness is a measure which tells how the data are symmetrically arranged about its mean.



**Figure 3: Block diagram of model based classification method**

The usages of these features in correctly classifying the two different X- ray views were tested with PNN and SVM classifiers. PNNs can be used for solving classification problems. In this setting, a training set consisting of known input variables and corresponding outputs, is used to estimate a probability density function (PDF). Each output in the training set belongs to some class. When evaluated on data outside the training set, the PNN then classifies the input variables using the estimated PDF. A class is assigned, corresponding to that with the highest probability of occurrence. Support vector machine is a supervised machine learning algorithm that uses kernel function to map linearly inseparable data to linearly separable data by mapping given data

in higher dimension. A hyperplane is constructed in such a way that the margin between the two classes is maximum. The data vectors lying near the hyperplane are called support vectors which are alone then used in classification rather than considering all data points unlike clustering algorithms.

### 3.3 Template based classification

SURF,<sup>[14]</sup> is becoming one of the most popular feature detector and descriptor in computer vision field. It is able to generate scale-invariant and rotation-invariant interest points with descriptors. Evaluations show its superior performance in terms of repeatability, distinctiveness, and robustness. SURF is selected as the interest point detector and descriptor for the following reasons: 1) X- ray image could be taken under the conditions of i) Within-view variation, ii) Between-view variation and iii) Structure localization. Interest points with descriptors generated by SURF are invariant to variation and location changes. 2) Computational cost of SURF is small, which enable fast interest point localization and matching. The block diagram of template based classification system is shown in Fig. 3. The SURF detector is based on the Hessian matrix for its good performance in computational cost and accuracy. For a point  $(x,y)$  in an image  $I$ , The Hessian matrix  $H(\sigma)$  with is defined as.

$$H(x, \sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} L_{xx}(x, y, \sigma) & L_{xy}(x, y, \sigma) \\ L_{yx}(x, y, \sigma) & L_{yy}(x, y, \sigma) \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Modern feature extractors select prominent features by first searching for pixels which demonstrate rapid changes in intensity values in both the horizontal and vertical directions. Such pixels yield high Harris corner detection scores and are referred to as keypoints.

Keypoints are searched over a subspace of  $\{x, y, \sigma\} \in R^3$ . The variable  $\sigma$  represents the Gaussian scale space at which the keypoint exists. In SURF, a descriptor vector of length 64 is constructed using a histogram of gradient orientations in the local neighborhood around each keypoint. The proposed method extracts salient features and descriptors from images using SURF. This extractor is preferred over SIFT due to its concise descriptor length. Whereas the standard SIFT implementation uses a descriptor consisting of 128 floating point values, SURF condenses this descriptor length to 64 floating point values. The template consists of a sample image (without artifacts) of each view to be classified from which the proposed system extracts knowledge. SURF first detects the interest points and generates corresponding descriptors. The pre-computed SURF descriptors of template images in each category are then used to match with the extracted descriptors of the input X- ray image. The number of matched points between the input X- ray image and template

images of different categories is determined. Then the Euclidean distance between the matched points in the template and the X-ray image is calculated and the average is taken. The template image with the shortest distance with the input X-ray image is classified as the corresponding view i.e. antero-posterior or lateral view and the result is displayed as shown in Fig. 5.

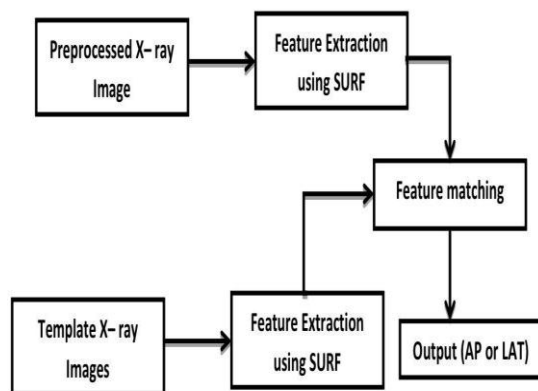


Figure 4: Block diagram of template based classification system



Figure 5: Snapshot of X-ray view classification system

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A set of 100 X-ray images were collected which consist of 50 antero- posterior views and 50 lateral views. The resolution of the images is  $1024 \times 768$  pixels. The first step in the proposed method is preprocessing, which removes the noise in the image and smoothens the image using median filter. The variation of histogram due to the presence of noise is also reduced during the preprocessing.

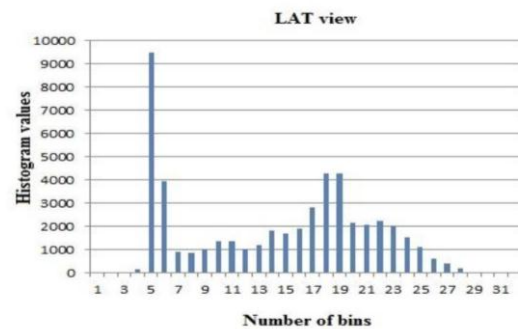


Figure 6: Shows the preprocessed images

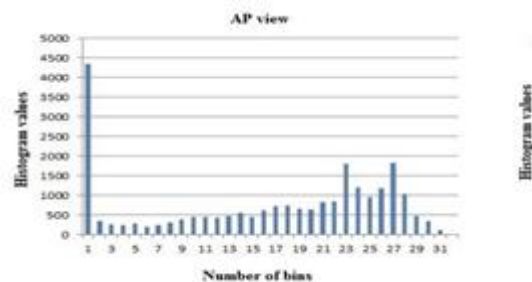


Figure 7: Gray lever histogram of each views



Figure 6: Simple preprocessed images

In model based classification method, the histogram features are extracted since the histogram pattern varies according to the structural variation which will make the classification easier. The gray level histogram using 32 bins of the sample is shown in Fig. 7

and it can be seen that the histogram pattern of each view varies.

Among the 50 X-ray images of a particular view, 30 images were taken for training purpose and 20 were taken for testing purpose, i.e., 60 images for training and 40 images for testing totally. Table 2a) Classification accuracy of PNN classifier with histogram features.

**Table 2a): Classification accuracy of PNN classifier with histogram features**

| Test Image       | AP view | LAT view | Accuracy (%) |
|------------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| AP view (20)     | 16      | 4        | 80           |
| LAT view (20)    | 17      | 3        | 85           |
| Overall accuracy |         |          | 82.5         |

**Table 2b): Classification accuracy of SVM classifier with histogram features**

| Test Image       | AP view | LAT view | Accuracy (%) |
|------------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| AP view (20)     | 17      | 3        | 85           |
| LAT view (20)    | 17      | 3        | 85           |
| Overall accuracy | —       | —        | 85           |

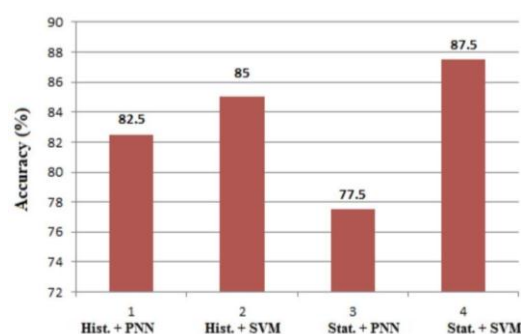
**Table 3a): Classification accuracy of PNN classifier with statistical features**

| Test Image       | AP view | LAT view | Accuracy (%) |
|------------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| AP view (20)     | 15      | 5        | 75           |
| LAT view (20)    | 16      | 4        | 80           |
| Overall accuracy | —       | —        | 77.5         |

**Table 3b): Classification accuracy of SVM classifier with statistical features**

| Test Image       | AP view | LAT view | Accuracy (%) |
|------------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| AP view (20)     | 17      | 3        | 85           |
| LAT view (20)    | 18      | 2        | 90           |
| Overall accuracy | —       | —        | 87.5         |

When the histogram features are used for classification the SVM classifier gives a better accuracy of 85%. The confusion matrix of histogram features with PNN and SVM classifiers are tabulated in table 2 a) and b). The SVM classifier performs well in classifying the views comparing to the PNN classifier, when using the statistical features the accuracy is improved to 87.5%. The confusion matrix of statistical features with the PNN and SVM classifiers are shown in Table 3 a) and b) respectively. Fig. 8 shows the performance of classifiers with histogram and statistical features with PNN and SVM classifiers.

**Figure 8: Performance comparison of PNN and SVM using histogram and statistical features**

To further improve the accuracy, an attempt has been made to classify the views using template based method. In each view one image is chosen randomly and used as a template. The efficiency of the proposed method is tested with the remaining 98 images. The Template based classification method gives an overall accuracy of 91.8% in classifying X-ray views. The confusion matrix of the X-ray view classification system is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4 Classification accuracy of template based method using SURF**

| Test Image       | AP view | LAT view | Accuracy (%) |
|------------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| AP view (49)     | 43      | 6        | 87.7         |
| LAT view (49)    | 45      | 4        | 93.8         |
| Overall accuracy | —       | —        | 91.8         |

## CONCLUSION

In this work, classification of antero-posterior and lateral views in leg X-rays is automated using model based method and template based methods. In the model based method the histogram features and statistical features are extracted and classified using the classifiers.

PNN and SVM. The SVM classifier performs well in classifying the X-ray views when statistical feature is given as input. When the SURF features is used for classification, the accuracy of the proposed method increased to 91.8% which is highest among the classification methods employed. The results indicate that, in future bone fracture detection can be automated and content based X-ray retrieval systems could also be implemented.

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