Research Article

Lung Cancer Detection Using Image Segmentation by means of Various Evolutionary Algorithms

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The objective of this paper is to explore an expedient image segmentation algorithm for medical images to curtail the physicians' interpretation of computer tomography (CT) scan images. Modern medical imaging modalities generate large images that are extremely grim to analyze manually. The consequences of segmentation algorithms rely on the exactitude and convergence time. At this moment, there is a compelling necessity to explore and implement new evolutionary algorithms to solve the problems associated with medical image segmentation. Lung cancer is the frequently diagnosed cancer across the world among men. Early detection of lung cancer navigates towards apposite treatment to save human lives. CT is one of the modest medical imaging methods to diagnose the lung cancer. In the present study, the performance of five optimization algorithms, namely, *k*-means clustering, *k*-median clustering, particle swarm optimization, inertia-weighted particle swarm optimization, and guaranteed convergence particle swarm optimization (GCPSO), to extract the tumor from the lung image has been implemented and analyzed. The performance of median, adaptive median, and average filters in the preprocessing stage was compared, and it was proved that the adaptive median filter is most suitable for medical CT images. Furthermore, the image contrast is enhanced by using adaptive histogram equalization. The preprocessed image with improved quality is subject to four algorithms. The practical results are verified for 20 sample images of the lung using MATLAB, and it was observed that the GCPSO has the highest accuracy of 95.89%.

1. Introduction

Lung cancer, also known as lung carcinoma, is a malignant tumor characterized by uncontrolled growth of the cell in tissues of the lung. It is mandatory to treat this to avoid spreading its growth by metastasis to other parts of the body. Most cancers that start in the lung are carcinomas. The two main types are small-cell lung carcinoma and nonsmall-cell lung carcinoma [[1](#page-14-0)]. Long-period tobacco smoking is the primary factor for 85% of lung cancers [\[2](#page-14-0)]. About 10–15% of cases occur in people who have never smoked but due to air pollution, secondhand smoking, asbestos, and radon gas. Computer tomography (CT) and radiographs are the conventional methods to detect the presence of lung cancer. The diagnosis is confirmed by

biopsy which is usually performed by bronchoscopy or CT scan. The cause of cancer-related death among men is mainly due to lung cancer. Hence, it is essential to determine a new robust method to diagnose the lung cancer at an earlier stage [\[3](#page-14-0)]. For the present study, 20 lung image samples and four algorithms have been taken for analysis. It was proved that the combination of adaptive median filter, adaptive histogram equalization, and guaranteed convergence particle swarm optimization- (GCPSO-) based algorithm has more accurate results among others.

2. Methods

In medical image segmentation, the accuracy is foremost important, as it deals with human lives. It is highly crucial to

Figure 1: Process flow diagram of the projected method.

- (1) Assume the input matrix "*A*" which has *M* rows and *N* columns.
- (2) Construct a matrix with $M + 2$ rows and $N + 2$ columns by appending zeros to sides of the input matrix
- (3) Take a mask of size 3×3 .
- (4) Place the mask on the first element, i.e., element on the first row and first column of matrix "*A*".

(5) Select all the elements listed by the mask and sort them in ascending order.

(6) Take the median value (center element) from the sorted array and replace the element *A*(1, 1) by the median value

- (7) Slide the mask to the next element.
- (8) Repeat the steps from 4 to 7 until all the elements of matrix "*A*" are replaced by their corresponding median value.

ALGORITHM 1: Median filter.

- (1) Assume the input matrix "*A*" which has *M* rows and *N* columns.
- (2) Construct a matrix with *M* + 2 rows and *N* + 2 columns by appending zeros to sides of the input matrix.
- (3) Take a mask of size 3×3 .

(4) Place the mask on the first element, i.e., element on the first row and first column of matrix "*A*".

(5) Select all the elements listed by the mask and find the average

- (6) Take the mean value from the sorted array and replace the element *A*(1, 1) by the median value.
- (7) Slide the mask to the next element.
- (8) Repeat the steps from 4 to 7 until all the elements of matrix "*A*" are replaced by their corresponding median value.

ALGORITHM 2: Median filter.

- (1) Obtain the histogram for the input image and find the probability mass function.
- (2) Find the cumulative distributive function; from that, find the CDF according to gray levels.
	- (3) Find the new gray levels by using the following equation:
	- $CDF_{New} = CDF * (number of gray levels 1).$
- (4) Map the new gray levels into a total number of pixels and plot the modified histogram.

ALGORITHM 3: Histogram equalization.

- (1) Select the cluster centers. Let them be "*C*."
- (2) Calculate the Euclidean distance.
- (3) Take each and every pixel and assign them into the appropriate cluster if the Euclidean distance is minimum between the cluster and pixel.
- (4) Once the segregation is completed for all the pixels, recalculate the new cluster center using the following formula: $v_i = (1/c_i) \sum_{j=1}^{c_i} x_i$.
- (5) Repeat the steps from 2 to 4 for some number of iterations or until a certain condition is encountered.
- (1) Select the random cluster centers. Let the number of cluster centers be "*C*."
- (2) Calculate the Euclidean distance.
- (3) Take each and every pixel and assign them into the appropriate cluster if the Euclidean distance is minimum between the cluster and pixel.
- (4) Once the segregation is completed for all the pixels, recalculate the new cluster center using the median value instead of using a squared formula.
- (5) Repeat the steps from 2 to 4 for some number of iterations or until a certain condition is encountered.

ALGORITHM 5: *k*-Median clustering.

- (1) Initialize the velocity and position of all the particles with random values.
- (2) Define a fitness function.
- (3) Find the fitness value for each particle.
- (4) Compare the fitness value with the best fitness. If the fitness values are better, then set the current value as new pbest.
- (5) Repeat steps from 3 to 5 for each particle.
- (6) Update the velocity using equation ([1](#page-10-0)).
- (7) Upgrade the position.
- (8) Update gbest.
- (9) Repeat steps from 7 to 9 until certain conditions are encountered or for the predefined number of iterations.

ALGORITHM 6: Particle swarm optimization [[11, 13](#page-15-0)].

Initialization

- (1) Initialize the number of clusters and number of iterations.
- (2) Initialize \hat{p} , sc, fc, numSuccess = 0, and numFailures = 0.
- (3) Define a fitness function.

Clustering

- (4) Find the fitness value for each particle.
- (5) Update the local best solution obtained so far.
- (6) Repeat steps 4 and 5 for the predefined number of iterations.
- (7) Update velocity and position of each particle for the current global best particle.

Selection step

- (8) Execute the selection operator.
- (9) If any local best position *yi* has changed, perform the clustering algorithm. Otherwise, end the algorithm.

ALGORITHM 7: GCPSO algorithm [\[15](#page-15-0)].

Figure 2: Performance measures of the filter.

Figure 3: Performance measures for the medical image segmentation.

	SSI			SMPI		
Sample images	Mean filter	Median filter	Adaptive median filter	Mean filter	Median filter	Adaptive median filter
Image 1	0.9621	0.8208	0.8086	0.9857	0.9788	0.9638
Image 2	0.9658	0.8232	0.8087	0.9895	0.959	0.9452
Image 3	0.9588	0.8209	0.8091	0.9883	0.9799	0.9696
Image 4	0.9671	0.8080	0.7937	0.9958	0.9836	0.9703
Image 5	0.9705	0.8220	0.8078	0.9851	0.9833	0.9706
Image 6	0.9708	0.8218	0.7900	0.9948	0.9775	0.9457
Image 7	0.9660	0.8202	0.8067	0.9979	0.9608	0.9464
Image 8	0.9640	0.8265	0.8154	0.9922	0.9622	0.9493
Image 9	0.9638	0.8272	0.8141	0.9990	0.9716	0.9576
Image 10	0.9644	0.8238	0.8112	0.9944	0.9804	0.9659
Image 11	0.9639	0.8231	0.8122	0.9765	0.9788	0.9643
Image 12	0.9642	0.8289	0.8152	1.0012	0.9826	0.9721
Image 13	0.9648	0.8239	0.8135	0.9920	0.9782	0.9674
Image 14	0.9564	0.8242	0.8098	0.9888	0.9767	0.9648
Image 15	0.9573	0.8208	0.8084	1.0005	0.9785	0.9636
Image 16	0.9631	0.8242	0.8095	0.9912	0.9755	0.9613
Image 17	0.9919	0.8239	0.8352	0.9722	0.9770	0.9882
Image 18	0.9912	0.7983	0.7857	1.0003	0.9808	0.9696
Image 19	0.9921	0.8020	0.7884	1.0037	0.9838	0.9706
Image 20	0.9939	0.8085	0.7690	0.9968	0.9741	0.9432

TABLE 1: SSI and SMPI values of input images.

Adaptive median filter

Figure 4: Comparative results of SSI values.

 \rightarrow Adaptive median filter

Figure 5: Comparative results of SMPI values.

Images	True positive rate	True negative rate	False positive rate	False negative rate	Accuracy
Image 1	87.8783	89.1554	10.8446	12.1217	88.5937
Image 2	86.6527	89.5874	10.4126	13.3473	88.2682
Image 3	83.8975	87.3900	12.6100	16.1025	85.7501
Image 4	82.6502	85.7011	14.2989	17.3498	84.2186
Image 5	83.5680	84.2582	15.7418	16.4320	83.9216
Image 6	82.7250	82.4643	17.5654	17.2750	82.5795
Image 7	81.1893	79.0554	20.9446	18.8107	80.1519
Image 8	80.2543	77.7549	22.2451	19.7457	79.0656
Image 9	81.7874	78.4139	21.5861	18.2126	80.1606
Image 10	80.4304	77.4794	22.5206	19.5696	79.0378
Image 11	81.7725	78.0352	21.9648	18.2275	79.9755
Image 12	84.0795	78.8912	21.1088	15.9205	81.5238
Image 13	81.6145	78.7989	21.2011	18.3855	80.2806
Image 14	79.8951	78.6152	21.3848	20.1049	79.3023
Image 15	80.9012	78.4626	21.5374	19.0988	79.7600
Image 16	80.1249	78.1480	21.8520	18.8751	79.2121
Image 17	80.1220	78.1687	21.8318	19.8780	79.2229
Image 18	78.2509	83.5148	16.4852	21.7491	80.7020
Image 19	78.7041	83.7431	16.2569	21.2959	81.0816
Image 20	76.7118	84.3245	15.6755	23.2882	80.1831

Table 2: Statistical results from the *k*-means algorithm.

Table 3: Statistical results from the *k*-median clustering segmentation algorithm.

Images	True positive rate	True negative rate	False positive rate	False negative rate	Accuracy
Image 1	87.9631	90.6864	9.3136	12.3069	89.3672
Image 2	86.5908	90.1719	9.8281	13.4092	88.5622
Image 3	83.3821	88.9051	11.0949	16.6179	86.2969
Image 4	82.0844	86.3637	13.6363	17.9156	84.2695
Image 5	83.2410	85.7769	14.2231	16.7590	84.5294
Image 6	82.5053	84.2412	15.7588	17.4947	83.3654
Image 7	81.1107	80.4281	19.5719	18.8893	80.7832
Image 8	80.1857	79.4033	20.5967	19.8143	79.8186
Image 9	82.1213	79.7647	20.2353	17.8787	80.9977
Image 10	80.6627	79.1577	20.8423	19.3373	79.9611
Image 11	82.0209	79.1588	20.8412	17.9791	80.6621
Image 12	84.3809	80.4121	19.5879	15.6191	82.4514
Image 13	82.0487	80.3496	19.6504	17.9513	81.2545
Image 14	80.4506	79.4375	20.5625	19.5494	79.9876

TABLE 3: Continued.

Images	True positive rate	True negative rate	False positive rate	False negative rate	Accuracy
Image 15	81.3002	80.0536	19.9464	18.6998	80.7248
Image 16	80.1942	80.0503	19.9497	19.8058	80.1291
Image 17	80.2984	80.3756	19.6244	19.7016	80.3332
Image 18	78.6327	85.5226	14.4774	21.3673	81.7792
Image 19	78.9322	85.2163	14.7837	21.0678	81.8439
Image 20	77.2752	85,8000	14.2000	22.7248	81.0973

TABLE 4: Statistical results from the PSO algorithm.

Table 5: Statistical results from the IWPSO algorithm.

Images	True positive rate	True negative rate	False positive rate	False negative rate	Accuracy
Image 1	87.4649	90.3272	9.6728	12.5351	88.9813
Image 2	86.1950	89.8126	10.1874	13.8050	88.1810
Image 3	82.9347	88.9622	11.0378	17.0653	86.1018
Image 4	81.4285	87.2013	12.7987	18.5715	84.3584
Image 5	82.9023	86.3940	13.6060	17.0977	84.6631
Image 6	82.1065	84.5145	15.4855	17.8935	83.2876
Image 7	82.1361	79.1744	20.8256	17.8639	80.7064
Image 8	80.3274	80.3855	19.6145	19.6726	80.3544
Image 9	82.4185	80.3924	19.6076	17.5815	81.4631
Image 10	81.0769	79.5965	20.4035	18.9231	80.3943
Image 11	82.2198	79.7401	20.2599	17.4299	81.2411
Image 12	84.6322	81.1390	18.8610	15.2172	83.0334
Image 13	82.6283	80.7231	17.3596	17.3596	81.8905
Image 14	80.9338	80.8231	19.1769	19.0328	80.9025
Image 15	81.8790	81.5899	18.4101	18.2694	81.6669
Image 16	80.8120	81.4173	18.5827	19.1734	81.0896
Image 17	80.8582	81.0677	18.9323	19.0166	81.0209
Image 18	79.1387	84.9622	15.0378	20.8310	81.8081
Image 19	79.4655	84.8219	15.1781	20.3936	82.0213
Image 20	77.7684	85.4281	14.5719	22.2316	81.2033

Figure 6: Comparative results of the true positive rate value.

FIGURE 7: Comparative results of the true negative rate value.

Figure 8: Comparative results of the false positive rate value.

Figure 9: Comparative results of the false negative rate value.

FIGURE 11: Resultant images after preprocessing.

Figure 12: Resultant images by *k*-means clustering.

eradicate the incidence of noise content and to improve the image quality before an examination [[4\]](#page-15-0). This part of work is known as preprocessing. In the preprocessing stage, noise removal and contrast enhancement are two primary steps. In the present study, the performance results of median, adaptive median, and average filters to isolate the presence of speckle noise have been compared. The coding for the same has been implemented using MATLAB. Furthermore, the image quality and visual appearance are improved by adaptive histogram equalization. The second stage of work is segmentation. This stage consists of applying five methods, namely, *k*-means, *k*-median, particle swarm optimization (PSO), inertia-weighted particle swarm optimization (IWPSO), and GCPSO. The tumor portion was extracted from the segmented results of the above-said five methods and compared with manual extraction. The results show that the GCPSO-based segmentation has more accuracy than the others. Figure [1](#page-1-0) depicts the process of operation for the present study.

2.1. Median and Adaptive Median Filters. The median filter removes the noise and retains the sharpness of the image. Accordance to the name, each pixel is replaced by the median value from the neighborhood pixels. A 3×3 window is used in this filter [\[5](#page-15-0)]. This is one of the best filters among conventional filters which remove the speckle noise. The steps followed to construct the median filter are given in Algorithm [1](#page-1-0).

Spatial processing to preserve the edge detail and to eliminate nonimpulsive noise by the adaptive median filter plays a vital role. The small structure in the image and edges are retained by the adaptive median filter. In the adaptive median filter, the window size varies with respect to each pixel.

2.2. Average Filter. This is a simple filter which removes the spatial noise from a digital image. The presence of spatial noise is mainly due to the data acquisition process.

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Figure 13: Resultant images by *k*-median clustering.

The neighborhood mean value is measured for each and every pixel and is replaced by the corresponding mean value. This process is repeated for every pixel in the image [[5\]](#page-15-0). All the pixels in the digital image are modified by sliding the operator over the entire range of pixels. The steps followed for the average filter are given in Algorithm [2](#page-1-0).

2.3. Histogram Equalization. Image enhancement is the technique which is used to improve the image quality. For better understanding and analysis, it is mandatory to enhance the contrast of medical images. The conventional method used for this operation is histogram equalization. A minor adjustment on the intensity of image pixels is done in this method. Each pixel is mapped to intensity proportional to its rank in the surrounding pixels. The steps followed for histogram equalization are given in Algorithm [3](#page-1-0) [\[6](#page-15-0)].

2.4. k-Means Clustering Algorithm. The simplest and conventional method in cluster analysis is the *k*-means clustering algorithm. This algorithm segregates the given dataset into two or more clusters $[7]$ $[7]$. The accuracy of this method completely depends on the selection of the cluster center. It is mandatory to select the optimum cluster center to get a better result. The Euclidean distance is the general measure to segregate the dataset [\[8](#page-15-0)]. Pixels are assigned to an individual cluster based on the Euclidean distance. The objective function used in this algorithm is

$$
J(v) = \sum_{i=1}^{C} \sum_{j=1}^{Ci} (||x_i - v_j||)^2,
$$
 (1)

where x_i are the pixels, v_j are the cluster centers, $||x_i - v_j||$ is the Euclidean distance between x_i and v_j , C_j is the number of data points for the *i*th cluster, and *C* is the number of cluster centers [[9\]](#page-15-0). The steps followed for k-means clustering are given in Algorithm [4](#page-1-0).

Figure 14: Resultant images by the PSO algorithm.

2.5. k-Median Clustering Algorithm. This is also a clustering algorithm slightly modified from the *k*-means algorithm. In centroid calculation instead of calculating the mean value, the median value is considered. This algorithm significantly reduces the error since there is no squared operation as in the calculation of the Euclidean distance. The clusters formed by this method are more compact. As an alternate, this approach uses the Lloyd-style iteration. The steps followed for *k*-median clustering are given in Algorithm [5](#page-2-0) [\[10](#page-15-0)].

2.6. Particle Swarm Optimization. PSO is a metaheuristic algorithm used efficiently in medical image analysis [[11](#page-15-0)]. It mimics the social behavior of the birds searching for food [[12\]](#page-15-0). The fundamental idea of PSO is sharing and communicating the information. In this approach, each particle has initial position and velocity. Based on the fitness value, the velocity

and position are updated. The relevant two equations in PSO to update the position and velocity are as follows [\[11, 12](#page-15-0)]:

$$
v(t + 1) = v(t) + c_1 r_1 [\text{pbest}(t) - x(t)] + c_2 r_2 [\text{gbest}(t) - x(t)],
$$
 (2)

$$
x(t+1) = x(t) + v(t+1),
$$

where r_1 and r_2 are the random numbers and the acceleration coefficients c_1 and c_2 are two positive constants. The success of PSO relies on the fitness function. The following fitness function has been used for the present study:

maximize
$$
f = \sum_{i=1}^{n}
$$
 intercluster distance,
(3)

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Figure 15: Resultant images by IWPSO algorithm clustering.

where n is the number of clusters. The steps followed for the particle swarm optimization are shown in Algorithm [6](#page-2-0).

2.7. Inertia-Weighted Particle Swarm Optimization. The exploration and exploitation in PSO are based on the inertia weight. The basic PSO, presented by Eberhart and Kennedy in 1995, has no inertia weight. In 1998, Shi and Eberhart introduced the concept of inertia weight by adding constant inertia weight. They stated that a significant inertia weight facilitates a global search, while a small inertia weight fa $cilitates$ a local search $[14]$ $[14]$. This enhances the convergence rate and reduces the number of iterations. Inertia weight less than 1, in general, improves the results. The used method improves the convergence rate and saves the time taken and some iterations.

The resulting velocity update equation becomes

$$
v(t + 1) = w * v(t) + c_1 r_1 [\text{pbest}(t) - x(t)] + c_2 r_2 [\text{gbest}(t) - x(t)],
$$
\n(4)

where *w* is the inertia weight, with constant inertia weight *w* $= 0.7$ and random inertia weight $w = 0.5 + \text{rand}$ ()/2.

2.8. Guaranteed Convergence Particle Swarm Optimization. The GCPSO focuses on a new particle which deals with the current best position in the region. In this task, this particle is treated as a member of the swarm, and the velocity update equation for this new particle is given as follows [\[15](#page-15-0)]:

$$
v\varphi(t+1) = x\varphi(t) + \text{pbest}(t) + \omega v\varphi(t) + \rho(t)(1-2r). \quad (5)
$$

The search ability is increased by the social part. This will improve the random search in the area around the gbest position. The random vector and diameter of the search area

Figure 16: Resultant images by GCPSO algorithm clustering.

are r and $\rho(t)$, respectively. The range of the random vector lies between 0 and 1. The diameter of the search area can be updated using the following equation:

$$
\rho(t+1) = \begin{cases}\n2\rho(t), & \text{#successes} > \text{sc}, \\
\left(\frac{1}{1.5}\right)\rho(t), & \text{#failures} > \text{fc}, \\
\rho(t), & \text{otherwise},\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(6)

where the terms #successes and #failures are defined as the number of consecutive successes and failures, respectively. The threshold parameters sc and fc are determined empirically. Since it is hard to obtain a better value in only a few iterations in a high-dimensional search space, the recommended values are thus $\text{sc} = 15$ and $\text{fc} = 5$.

On some benchmark tests, the GCPSO has shown an excellent performance of locating the minimal of a space after unimodal with only a small amount of particles. The steps to be followed for the GCPSO are shown in Algorithm [7.](#page-2-0)

3. Performance Measures

Certain performance measures are used to evaluate the results obtained from medical image segmentation. The list of performance measures used to assess the filter operation is shown in Figure [2](#page-2-0) [\[16](#page-15-0)]. Let I_f be the image after noise reduction and I_0 be the noisy image.

Performance measures used for the evaluation of the results of the segmentation algorithm are given in Figure [3](#page-3-0) [\[17](#page-15-0)].

4. Results and Discussion

The used methods are practically implemented using MATLAB coding, and the results were verified.

In the preprocessing stage, a comparison was done between the performance of median, adaptive median, and mean filters. The SSI and SMPI values are shown in Table [1](#page-3-0) and Figures [4](#page-3-0) and [5.](#page-4-0) From the results, it is evident that the adaptive median filter has accurate characteristics than the mean and median filters for medical image segmentation.

The segmentation accuracy was measured using the true positive rate, true negative rate, false positive rate, and false negative rate by comparing the results from the algorithm with manual segmentation results. The practical results of the *k*means clustering segmentation algorithm are shown in Table [2.](#page-4-0)

The practical results of the *k*-median clustering segmentation algorithm are shown in Table [3.](#page-4-0)

The practical results of the PSO-based segmentation algorithm are shown in Table [4](#page-5-0).

The practical results of the IWPSO segmentation algorithm are shown in Table [5](#page-5-0).

The practical results of the GCPSO segmentation algorithm are shown in Table [6](#page-6-0).

The graphical view of the comparison of the true positive rate, true negative rate, false positive rate, and false negative rate for the algorithms used is shown in Figures [6](#page-6-0)[–9.](#page-7-0) It is proved that the true positive and true negative rates are high and false positive and false negative rates are low for the GCPSO algorithm.

The comparative evaluation based on the accuracy of the segmentation is shown in Table [7](#page-8-0) and Figure [10.](#page-7-0) The results indicate that the GCPSO-based technique has the highest average value of accuracy than the other methods.

The resultant images after preprocessing are shown in Figures $11(a)$ and $11(b)$.

The resultant images after segmentation using *k*-means clustering are shown in Figure [12](#page-9-0).

The resultant images after segmentation using *k*-median clustering are shown in Figure [13](#page-10-0).

The resultant images after segmentation using the PSO algorithm are shown in Figure [14](#page-11-0).

The resultant images after segmentation using the IWPSO algorithm are shown in Figure [15](#page-12-0).

The resultant images after segmentation using the GCPSO algorithm are shown in Figure [16](#page-13-0).

In an earlier research, lung cancer detection was done using PSO, genetic optimization, and SVM algorithm with the Gabor filter and produced an accuracy of 89.5% [\[18](#page-15-0)]. The method to detect lung cancer by means of K-NN classification using the genetic algorithm produced a maximum accuracy of 90% [\[19](#page-15-0)]. The comparative results with respect to the above-said methods are shown in Table 8.

The graphical comparative analysis between the used and existing methods is shown in Figure 17.

5. Conclusion

In this study, various optimization algorithms have been evaluated to detect the tumor. Medical images often need

Table 8: Comparative analysis of accuracy of the projected method with various methods.

Various methods	Accuracy (%)
PSO, GA, and SVM algorithm [18]	89.50
K-NN classification using GA [19]	90.00
Projected GCPSO method	95.81

Figure 17: Graphical view of accuracy.

preprocessing before being subjected to statistical analysis. The adaptive median filter has better results than median and mean filters because the speckle suppression index and speckle and mean preservation index values are lower for the adaptive median filter. Comparing the five algorithms, the accuracy of the tumor extraction is improved in GCPSO with the highest accuracy of 95.8079%, and it obtained above 90% of precision in all the 20 images. It is more accurate when compared to the previous method which had an accuracy of 90% in 4 out of 10 datasets only. In future studies, the use of more number of optimization algorithms will be included to improve the accuracy.

Data Availability

The CT images data used to support the findings of this study have been deposited in the LungCT-Diagnosis repository [\(doi.org/10.7937/K9/TCIA.2015.A6V7JIWX](http://doi.org/10.7937/K9/TCIA.2015.A6V7JIWX)).

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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