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CT404

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Assignment 2: Image Processing & Analysis

1 A Morphological Image Processing Pipeline for Medical Images

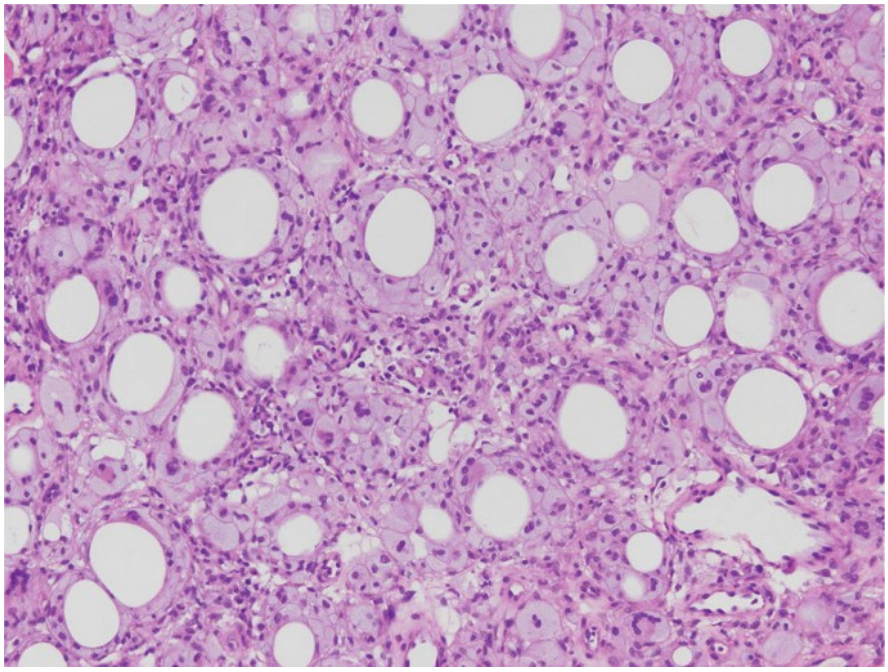

Figure 1: Original Skin Biopsy Image

1.1 Conversion to A Single-Channel Image

```python
# Task 1: A Morphological image processing pipeline for medical images
# Task 1.1: Conversion to a single channel image
import cv2

# read in original image (in BGR format)
image = cv2.imread("../../Task1.jpg")

# convert to greyscale
greyscale = cv2.cvtColor(image, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
cv2.imwrite("./output/greyscale.jpg", greyscale)

# convert to blue channel only
b_channel = image.copy()
b_channel[:, :, 1] = 0
b_channel[:, :, 2] = 0
cv2.imwrite("./output/b_channel.jpg", b_channel)

# convert blue channel to greyscale
b_channel_greyscale = cv2.cvtColor(b_channel, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
b_channel_greyscale_contrast = b_channel_greyscale.std()
cv2.imwrite("./output/b_channel_greyscale.jpg", b_channel_greyscale)

# convert to green channel only
g_channel = image.copy()
g_channel[:, :, 0] = 0
```

```python
g_channel[:, :, 2] = 0
cv2.imwrite("./output/g_channel.jpg", g_channel)

# convert green channel to greyscale
g_channel_greyscale = cv2.cvtColor(g_channel, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
g_channel_greyscale_contrast = g_channel_greyscale.std()
cv2.imwrite("./output/g_channel_greyscale.jpg", g_channel_greyscale)

# convert to red channel only
r_channel = image.copy()
r_channel[:, :, 0] = 0
r_channel[:, :, 1] = 0
cv2.imwrite("./output/r_channel.jpg", r_channel)

# convert red channel to greyscale
r_channel_greyscale = cv2.cvtColor(r_channel, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
r_channel_greyscale_contrast = r_channel_greyscale.std()
cv2.imwrite("./output/r_channel_greyscale.jpg", g_channel_greyscale)

# assess objectively which allows most contrast
print("Blue Channel Greyscale Contrast: "  + str(b_channel_greyscale_contrast))
print("Green Channel Greyscale Contrast: " + str(g_channel_greyscale_contrast))
print("Red Channel Greyscale Contrast: "   + str(r_channel_greyscale_contrast))
```

Listing 1: `1_single_channel_conversion.py`

Since the image has predominant hues of pink-purple, we would expect the green-channel-only image to be the one that yields the highest contrast, as pink & purple colours are made up primarily by the blue & red channels: the dominance of these channels results in little variance in intensity within these channels, and therefore green will have the highest intensity variance. This is proven true by the text output of the above code, where the standard deviation of the greyscale image based off the green channel alone is by far the highest:

```
[andrew@arch] ~/currsem/CT404: Graphics & Image Processing/assignments/assignment2/code/task1  (master)
 % python 1_single_channel_conversion.py                                                    ✓ 1s
Blue Channel Greyscale Contrast: 2.4259424019744213
Green Channel Greyscale Contrast: 23.4691181827275
Red Channel Greyscale Contrast: 7.1678348221775
[andrew@arch] ~/currsem/CT404: Graphics & Image Processing/assignments/assignment2/code/task1  (master)
 %                                                                                          ✓
```

Figure 2: Output of `1_single_channel_conversion.py`

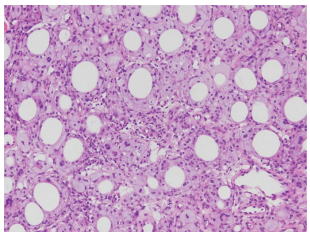

Figure 3: Original image

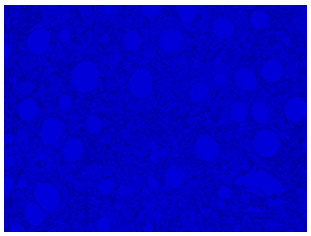

Figure 5: B-Channel

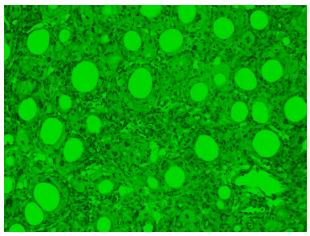

Figure 7: G-Channel

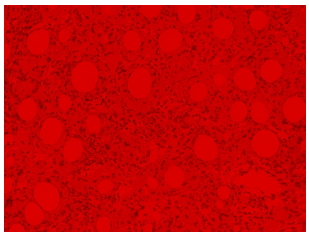

Figure 9: R-Channel

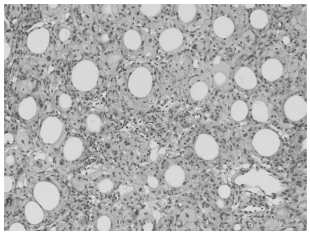

Figure 4: Greyscale original

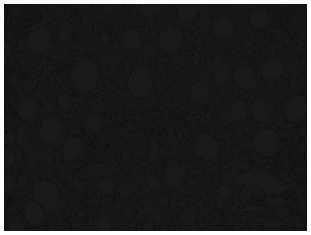

Figure 6: B-Greyscale

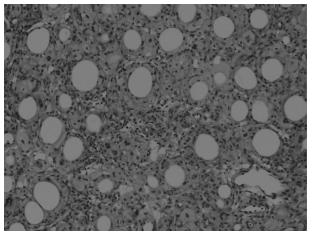

Figure 8: G-Greyscale

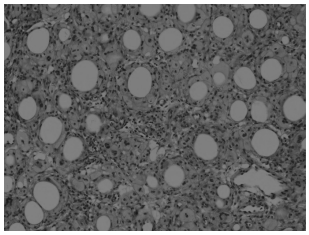

Figure 10: R-Greyscale

My selected single-channel image is the greyscale version of the green-channel-only image, as it yields the greatest contrast:

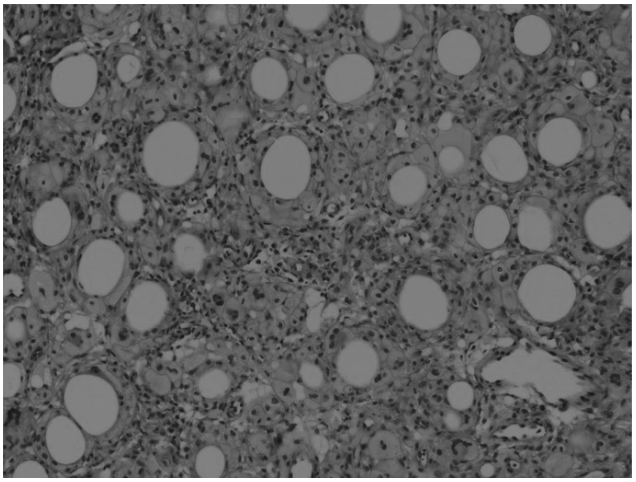

Figure 11: Selected single-channel image: greyscale green-channel-only

1.2 Image Enhancement

```python
# Task 1.2: Image Enhancement
import cv2

# read in chosen single-channel greyscale image
image = cv2.imread("./output/g_channel_greyscale.jpg", cv2.IMREAD_GRAYSCALE)

# apply histogram equalisation
equalised_image = cv2.equalizeHist(image)
equalised_image_contrast = equalised_image.std()
cv2.imwrite("./output/histogram_equalised.jpg", equalised_image)

# apply contrast stretching
stretched_image = cv2.normalize(image, None, 0, 255, cv2.NORM_MINMAX)
stretched_image_contrast = stretched_image.std()
cv2.imwrite("./output/contrast_stretched.jpg", stretched_image)

print("Histogram Equalisation Contrast: " + str(equalised_image_contrast))
print("Contrast Stretching Contrast: "    + str(stretched_image_contrast))
```

Listing 2: `2_image_enhancement.py`

```
[andrew@arch] ~/currsem/CT404: Graphics & Image Processing/assignments/assignment2/code/task1  (master)
 % python 2_image_enhancement.py                                                              ✓ 17s
Histogram Equalisation Contrast: 74.39671562396384
Contrast Stretching Contrast: 49.452865136563894
[andrew@arch] ~/currsem/CT404: Graphics & Image Processing/assignments/assignment2/code/task1  (master)
 %                                                                                            ✓
```

Figure 12: Output of `2_image_enhancement.py`

I chose to use the histogram equalisation technique as it gave the best contrast, as seen from the calculated standard deviation in contrast above and in the output images below.

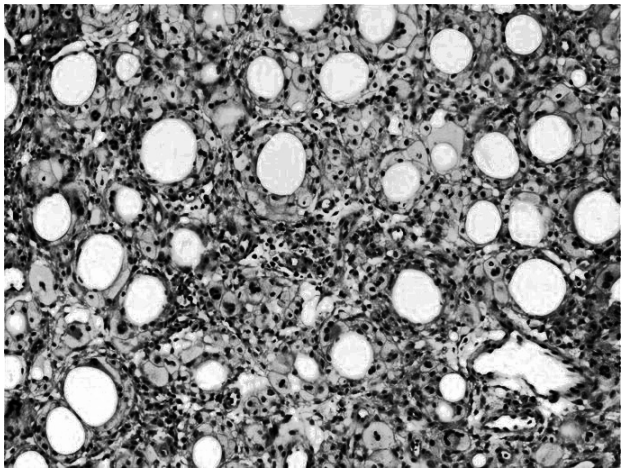

Figure 13: Histogram-equalised image

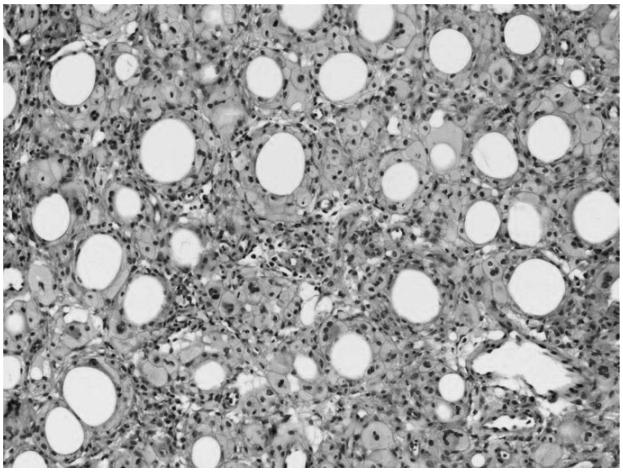

Figure 14: Contrast-stretched image

1.3 Thresholding

```python
# Task 1.3: Thresholding
import cv2

# read in chosen enhanced image
image = cv2.imread("./output/histogram_equalised.jpg", cv2.IMREAD_GRAYSCALE)

# perform otsu thresholding to find the optimal threshold
threshold_value, otsu_thresholded = cv2.threshold(image, 0, 255, cv2.THRESH_BINARY + cv2.THRESH_OTSU)
cv2.imwrite("./output/otsu.jpg", otsu_thresholded)

print("Threshold value used: " + str(threshold_value))
```

Listing 3: `3_thresholding.py`

```
[andrew@arch] ~/currsem/CT404: Graphics & Image Processing/assignments/assignment2/code/task1  (master) +
 % python 3_thresholding.py
Threshold value used: 129.0
[andrew@arch] ~/currsem/CT404: Graphics & Image Processing/assignments/assignment2/code/task1  (master) +
 %
```

Figure 15: Output of `3_thresholding.py`

I used Otsu's algorithm to find the optimal threshold value that best separated the foreground (objects of interest) from the background. As can be seen from the above output, the optimal value chosen was 129.

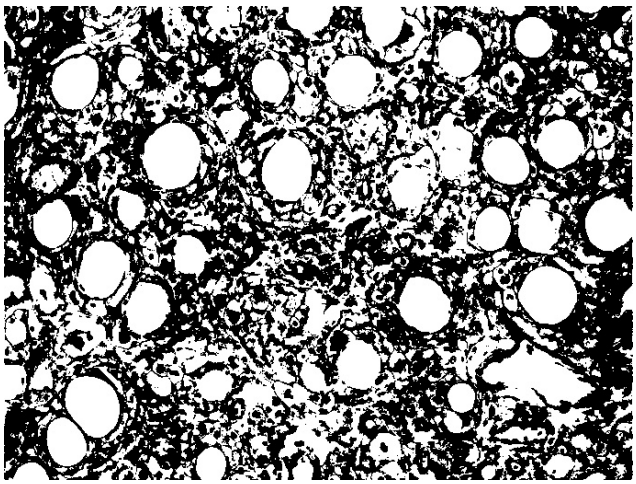

Figure 16: Image with Otsu thresholding

1.4 Noise Removal

```python
# Task 1.4: Noise Removal
import cv2

# read in thresholded image
image = cv2.imread("./output/otsu.jpg", cv2.IMREAD_GRAYSCALE)

# try several different sizes of structuring element (must be odd)
for kernel_size in range(1, 32, 2):
    # define a disk-shaped structuring element
    structuring_element = cv2.getStructuringElement(cv2.MORPH_ELLIPSE, (kernel_size, kernel_size))

    # apply morphological opening to remove noise
    opened_image = cv2.morphologyEx(image, cv2.MORPH_OPEN, structuring_element)
    cv2.imwrite(f"./output/kernel_size_{kernel_size}.jpg", opened_image)
```

Listing 4: `4_noise_removal.py`

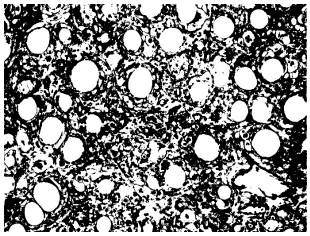

Figure 17: `kernel_size = 1`

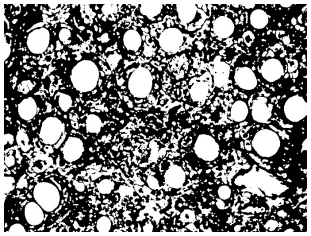

Figure 18: `kernel_size = 3`

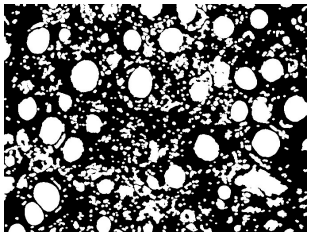

Figure 19: `kernel_size = 5`

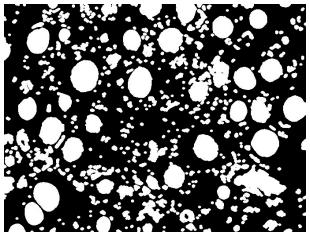

Figure 20: `kernel_size = 7`

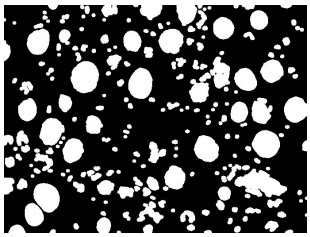

Figure 21: `kernel_size = 9`

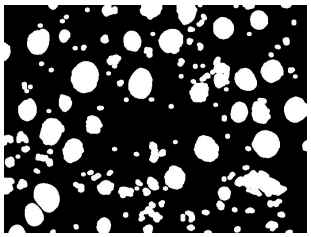

Figure 22: `kernel_size = 11`

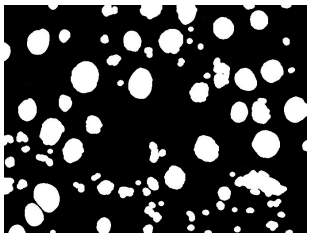

Figure 23: `kernel_size = 13`

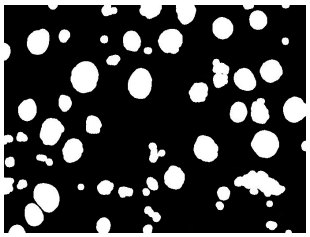

Figure 24: `kernel_size = 15`

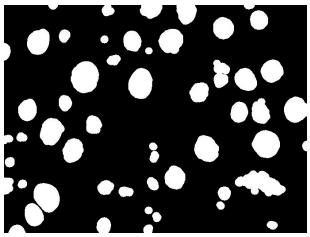

Figure 25: `kernel_size = 17`

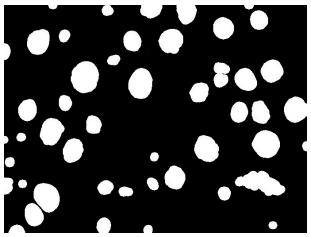

Figure 26: `kernel_size = 19`

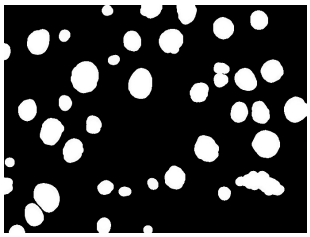

Figure 27: `kernel_size = 21`

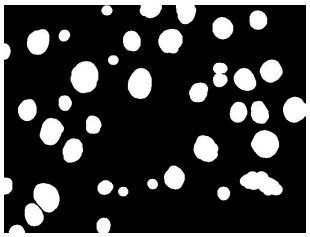

Figure 28: `kernel_size = 23`

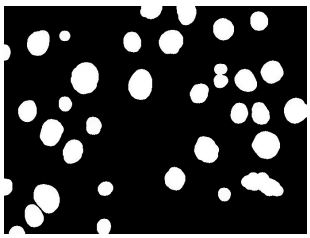

Figure 29: `kernel_size = 25`

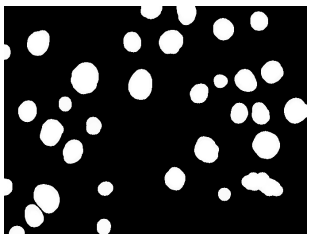

Figure 30: `kernel_size = 27`

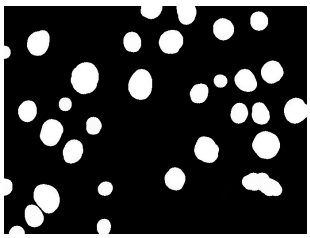

Figure 31: `kernel_size = 29`

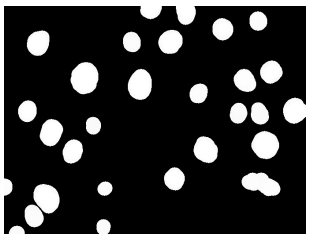

Figure 32: `kernel_size = 31`

I chose to go with `kernel_size = 25` as it seemed to give the optimal balance between removing noise without significantly reducing the size of the remaining fat globules .

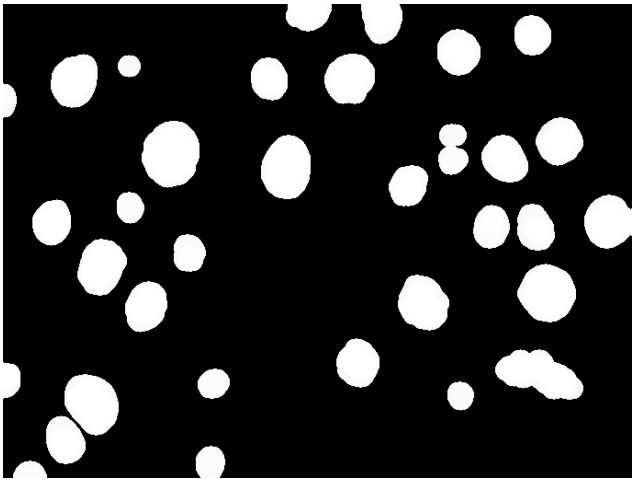

Figure 33: Chosen noise threshold: `kernel_size = 25`

1.5 Extraction of Binary Regions of Interest / Connected Components