Enhancement of Low-Quality Diatom Images using Integrated Automatic Background Removal (IABR) Method from Digital Microscopic Image

Mohd Aiman Syahmi Kamarul Baharin ^a; Ahmad Shahrizan Abdul Ghani ^a; Syafiq Qhushairy Syamsul Amri ^a; Normawaty Mohammad-Noor ^b and Hasnun Nita Ismail ^c

^a Faculty of Manufacturing and Mechatronic Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Pekan, Malaysia

^b Dept.of Marine Science, Kulliyyah of Science International Islamic University Malaysia, Pahang, Malaysia

^c Faculty of Applied Science, University Technology of MARA, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Most diatom images scanned from digital microscopes suffer from low contrast, noise, and contain unwanted floating particles and debris in a single image. Moreover, the active movement of diatom along with poor lens focusing produces a blurred image. Thus, in this paper, we introduce a new integrated automatic background removal technique (IABR) to enhance low-quality microscopic diatom images. This paper describes a two-step process of microscopic diatom image for image smoothing. First, haze removal technique is applied to the low light image to enhance and removes the image from haze and noise. Second, the background removal technique extracts the diatom cell from the background image and improves the image contrast. The output results show that the proposed IABR method has successfully enhanced and smooths low-quality diatom images by removing the image background and improving image contrast.

KEYWORDS:

diatom; integrated automatic background removal; image enhancement; image smoothing

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The research work has been supported by collaborative research between Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), University Teknologi MARA (UiTM), and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) under University Research Grant (RDU200745) entitled 'Formulation of Mathematical Model to Enhance Underwater Image Quality Using Optimized Dehazing Method for Fluid-Type Algae Identification' and research grant of Universiti Malaysia Pahang Postgraduate Research Scheme (PGRS210363).