THE LANCET Digital Health

Supplementary appendix

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Supplementary materials S1: Mathematical description of cellular diversity computation and image analysis methods

A. Local Nuclear Graph Construction

A set of *n* segmented nuclei is denoted as *N*, where $N = \{\eta_i, p \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}\}\$. The intuition behind Local Nuclear Graph (LNG)(1,2) is to group nuclei in local clusters for better characterizing the interactions between nuclei, locally, and to extract nuclear properties that can quantify tumor morphology efficiently. Formally, a LNG is defined as a graph $G = (N_G, E_G)$, where N_G represents the vertices of the graph (essentially the nuclei centroids), and E_G represents the set of edges connecting the nuclei within G . Construction of LNG can be achieved by linking nearby nuclei based on vicinity criteria as follows:

$$
P(\eta_u, \eta_v) = d(\eta_u, \eta_v)^{-\alpha},
$$

where η_u and η_v are two vertices/nuclei in the LNG and $d(\eta_u, \eta_v)$ represents the Euclidean distance between the two nuclei. Parameter *α* controls the density of the graph. Intuitively, $P(\eta_u, \eta_v)$ is defined as the probability that two nuclei having a pairwise spatial relation, i.e., the probability of two nuclei being connected in a graph. The probability of the nuclei being connected is a decaying function of the relative distance and quantifies the possibility for one of these nuclei to be grown from the other. Since this probability decreases with increase in distance, we probabilistically define an edge set *E*, such that

$$
E = \{ (\eta_u, \eta_v) : r < d(\eta_u, \eta_v)^{-\alpha}, \forall \eta_u, \eta_v \in N \},
$$

where $r \in [0,1]$ is an empirically determined parameter (normally set $r = 0.2$). In establishing the edges of LNG, we use a decaying probability function with an exponent of -*α* with *α*≥0. The value of *α* determines the density of the edges in a LNG. Consequently, larger value of *α* produces sparser graphs. As *α* approaches 0, the graphs become densely connected and approach a complete graph. We fixed $r=0.2$, and tuned parameter α to create the subgraph. For a digitized histology image at 40x magnification, we suggest to set α =0.44 or 0.46, the configurations of different α for an example are shown in Fig. S1. As may be observed, if α is large (α >0.46), the LNG will be small and contain just a few nuclei; on the other hand, if the α is low $(\alpha \le 0.44)$, the LNG is too dense.

B. Nuclear Sub-class Co-occurrence Matrix Construction

Calculation of Nuclear features: In order to quantify the nuclei morphology, several measurements, e.g., shape and texture, based on the pre-segmented nuclei are calculated. We denote each feature extracted for a nucleus η_i as $m_j(\eta_i)$. For each nucleus, we have a set of nuclear features, $M = \{m_j(\eta_i), j \in \{1...k\}\}\$. In this work, 11 nuclear morphologic features were considered, (the considered features are listed in Table

1, note that the nuclei features are not limited to these 11 features, any nuclear morphologic measurement can be used).

Co-occurring nuclear morphology matrix construction: In order to quantify the local cellular diversity between nuclear sub-groups in terms of local nuclear morphology, the co-occurrence nuclear morphology matrix is constructed for each LNG that enables the capturing the frequency of co-occurrence of diverse features for different nuclei within a LNG. Intuitively, if all the nuclei are identical in appearance, the cooccurrence matrix is a 1 x 1 matrix. On the other hand, the greater the diversity and range of attributes, the larger the co-occurrence matrix. To compute the co-occurring nuclear morphology, we discretized the

nuclear morphological features
$$
m_j(\eta_i)
$$
 along each feature dimension such that

where ω is a quantifying factor. Intuitively, the discretization operation categorizes the nuclei into subclasses in terms of a certain morphological feature *mj* . For example, if we consider the nuclear size as a morphological feature, with $\omega = 3$, we can now categorize nuclei into three sub-classes: nuclei with large size, medium size, and small size. Fig. S2(d) and (f) show examples, in which a set of nuclei belonging to a LNG (shown in Fig. S2(b)), are categorized into three groups, in terms of nuclear size and nuclear solidity, respectively (the group numbers are indicated in the parenthesis). Note that different nuclear feature results in different nuclei sub-class groups. The element of co-occurrence matrices records the frequency of cooccurring nuclear sub-group (we set ω =5 for all the experiments).

While constructing the CM, all nuclei that are within an LNG are considered. We denote the LNG in a histology image as G_k , $k \in \{1...q\}$, where q is the total number of LNGs in the image. For each G_k in conjunction with a particular nuclear morphologic feature, we construct a c×c CM, denoted as $C_{\alpha_k}^{m_j}$ *k* $\mathbf{C}_{G_k}^{m_j}$ $\mathbf{C}_{G_k}^{m_j}$ $C_{G_k}^m$ which captures the co-occurrence frequency of nuclear sub-classes, in turn regularized by morphological

feature m_j can be expressed as follows:

feature
$$
{}^{m_j}
$$
 can be expressed as follows:
\n
$$
C_{G_k}^{m_j} = \frac{1}{\sum_{a,b=1}^{\infty} C_{G_k}^{m_j}(a,b)} \begin{bmatrix} C_{G_k}^{m_j}(1,1) & C_{G_k}^{m_j}(1,2) & \dots & C_{G_k}^{m_j}(1,\omega) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ C_{G_k}^{m_j}(\omega,1) & C_{G_k}^{m_j}(\omega,2) & \dots & C_{G_k}^{m_j}(\omega,\omega) \end{bmatrix}
$$

$$
C_{G_k}^{m_j}(a,b) = \sum_{\eta_u, \eta_u}^{G_k} \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } m_j(\eta_v) = a \quad \text{and } m_j(\eta_v) = b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
$$

where

Fig. S2(c) and (e) show the CMs based on nuclear size and solidity of a LNG, respectively. One may observe that, by using different nuclei features, the CM is different even though they are from the same nuclear cluster. This may help to mine sub-visual information in different nuclear feature spaces.

C. Description of Cellular diversity feature Extraction

We extract a set of higher order statistics features from LNG to quantify tumor morphology. The overall flowchart for calculating cellular diversity is presented in Fig.S1 and the computational steps are summarized as follows:

Step 1: Given pre-segmented nuclei in a TMA core, we calculate a set of *K* nuclear features for each nucleus (see Table 1 for the specific features we computed).

Step 2: Calculate LNG based on nuclei locations, this is control by parameter α (set to 0.44 and 0.46, to cover different size of LNG, one example is shown in Supplementary Figure S3 with $_{\alpha}$ =0.44).

Step 3: For each LNG and each nuclear feature, we compute a 2D co-occurrence matrix (CM) *C*. For example, for the nuclear feature *Area* in the *i*th LNG, we form a matrix C*i*,*area*. The element *cij* in matrix C*i*,*area* reflects the percentage of feature quantification level *i* and *j* co-occurrence in the current LNG. Note that for a LNG we have K co-occurrence matrix, since we have K nuclear features.

Step 4: Based on each co-occurrence matrix, we calculate a set of 13 Haralick measurement (high order statistics summarized in Table 2)(3). For now, a NG has Kx13 features.

Step 5: For each TMA core, we may have N NGs, we then calculate 5 commonly used statistics, i.e., median, standard derivation, range, kurtosis, skewness, along each nuclear feature. We now have Kx13x5 features for a TMA core. In this study, $K = 11$, so that we have 715 features for a TMA core.

D. Classification of KRAS status from H&E stained TMAs images

A set of N=236 patients with available KRAS mutational status were identified from the patients considered in this study. This included n=60 KRAS+ and n=176 KRAS- patients. The ability of the CellDiv features to distinguish KRAS+ vs. KRAS- patients was evaluated in a classification setting using 5-fold crossvalidation over 100 iterations while ensuring balanced classes distribution (4). At each run, a training fold was determined by including 80% samples from minority class, 40 samples from KRAS+ in this case, and an equal number from the majority class, i.e., 40 randomly selected samples from KRAS-. The remaining samples were used to form the testing fold. At each run, a set of top 6 discriminative CellDiv features were selected using Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test method (5) from the training fold. A Random Forests (RF) classifier was then constructed using the top features and validated on the samples in testing fold. Fig.S4C

illustrates two representative cases of KRAS+ and KRAS-, and corresponding CellDiv feature maps. One may observe that in the case of KRAS+, the CellDiv expression in terms of nuclear intensity was higher than in the KRAS- case. All the statistical analysis was performed on MATLAB R2018b platform (MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA). We got a $AUC=0.63\pm0.02$ for this classification (top features shown in Table S5).

E. Scanning details of different cohorts

 D_1 was scanned and digitized using an Aperio Scanscope CS whole slide imager at 20x magnification. D_2 was scanned and digitized at 20x using a Ventana iScan HT Scanner (serial #: BI15N7205). Scanner information about D_3 obtained from TCGA included Aperio files in .svs format. Finally, five 2000 x 2000 pixels image blocks at 20x magnification were extracted and the average value of features was used to represent each patient in D_3 . D_4 was scanned and digitized at 40x using a Panoramic 250 Scanner. The images were down-sampled to 20x magnification for image analysis in this study.

F. Comparing the CellDiv-based model with existing models

We evaluated the CellDiv-based model with the existing hand-crafted models and deep learning (DL) based model. All comparisons and evaluations were done on the training sets to maintain consistency between the models.

Dataset Description

The early stage non-small cell lung carcinomas (NSCLC) modeling cohort comprises a total of 486 patients in the form of digitized TMA image (scanned at 20X magnification digitally) from Cleveland Clinic (D1) and Yale Medical School (D2). Long term clinical out-come was available for all patients in this cohort. Because most of existing methods in the literature involve construction of prognostic models for a binary classification setting, in this work we used a threshold of 3 years to dichotomize patients into short-term survival $\left(\leq 3 \text{ years}\right)$ and long-tern survival $\left(\geq 3 \text{ years}\right)$.

Machine learning classifier construction and evaluation

A machine learning classifier - Quadratic Discriminant Analysis (QDA), was coupled with Wilcoxon rank sum test (WRST) as a feature selection method for constructing the model under 3-fold nested crossvalidation (CV)(6) with 100 runs. The mean and standard deviation of area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve (AUC), accuracy, specificity, sensitivity across all iterations/runs were reported for the QDA classifier.

Comparing CellDiv with States of the Art Hand-crafted features and Deep Learning Approaches

We compared the efficacy of CellDiv features with four previously published histomorphometric feature approaches(1,7–11) describing both cell morphology and cellular architecture. In total, we investigated the performance of 5 feature families: (1) 100 features describing nuclear shape (7), (2) 51 features describing global cell architectures(8), (3) 72 features describing cell orientation entropy by COrE (9) (24 features with three cell sub-graph setups), (4) 105 Cell Cluster Graph (CCG) features describing local cell cluster arrangement (1) (35 features with three cell sub-graph setups), and (5) 715 CellDiv features, characterizing the complexity of cell sub-graphs. Details of feature families are summarized in Table S4.

We also compared the CellDiv features with a deep learning method (DLM). The DLM was implemented using the DenseNet style Convolutional Neural Network (12). Specifically, a DL architecture comprising 1 input layer, 5 dense block layers, 3 and 1 output layer was constructed. The input layer accepts an image patch of 256 x 256 pixels, and the output layer is a soft-max function which outputs the class probability of being positive or negative. In the DLM, we split each TMA spot image into smaller patches of 256 x 256 pixels, the class labels for these image patches being assigned the same class label as that of the corresponding TMA spot image it was derived from. The average image size of the TMA spot was about 3800x3800 pixels at 20x magnification, which in turn resulted in a total of 23,049 patches. We performed the training and validation using a 3-fold cross-validation approach with 30 runs across each fold, all training and testing being done at the patient and not at the individual image-level. Once each of the individual image patches corresponding to a single patient have been assigned a class label, majority voting was employed to aggregate all the individual predictions to generate a patient-level prediction.

Table S5 shows the classification performance of different hand-crafted feature-based models and the DLM in the modeling cohort (n=486). The CellDiv based classifier achieved the highest AUC value of 0.68 ± 0.01 in differentiating short-term vs long-term survival. Xang et al.(11) and Yu et al.(13) previously presented nuclear histomorphometric based classifiers to predict tumor recurrence. Their approaches largely relied on nuclear shape, texture, and spatial arrangement features. In our comparative study, we found that these features only yielded a weak signal, $AUC \le 0.55$, in separating short-term and long-term survival early stage NSCLC patients. The combination of nuclear shape and spatial arrangement features yielded a mean AUC of 0.64.

While deep learning algorithms have become very popular for a variety of image processing and computer vision applications in digital pathology (14–17), these approaches are typically data-hungry and are dependent on large cohorts of training exemplars to learn the most discriminating representation. Most deep learning models are based on convolutional neural networks, networks in which a cascade of multiple layers comprise nonlinear processing units for feature extraction. Building a good deep learning model however requires a large amount of well-annotated training cases. In the modeling cohort, the deep learning approach we employed was constrained by the fact that we had an unbalanced dataset. It is likely that the relatively few negative samples, coupled with the class imbalance resulted in a sub-optimally trained deep learning network, with a mean AUC of 0.62. In addition, the local nuclear architecture and cellular diversity information may not be captured by filters and convolutional operations which hinder the convolutional network to yield superior performance than hand-crafted biological inspired features.

Figure S1: Data preparation and demographics of all cohorts

Patient enrolment, inclusion and exclusion criteria for the CellDiv Pathomic analysis in our study.

Figure S2: Experimental Design

The flowchart illustrates the complete experimental design. 1. Data Acquisition: Digitized TMAs and WSIs were collected from three different institutes and TCGA, in which cohorts D_1 and D_2 are the modeling cohorts, and D_3 and D_4 are the independent validation cohorts. 2. Local Cellular Diversity Computation: the nuclei were segmented by an automatic method and a local nuclear graph was constructed based on nuclear proximity. CellDiv features were then extracted from each local nuclear graph. 3. Cellular Diversity-based Risk Score: In the training phase, LASSO method was used to discover the top features for constructing risk score, for LUAD and LUSC specifically, using Cox proportional hazard model on modeling cohorts. 4. Survival Analysis: In the test phase, for the TCGA cohort, the same features were extracted from randomly selected five virtue TMA image blocks (2000x2000 pixels) from the whole slide diagnostic image of cohort D_3 . The average feature value of the five virtue TMAs was used to represent each patient and feed into the pre-constructed Cox model. A risk score was generated for each patient in D₃ and D4, and survival analysis was performed to evaluate the pre-trained Cox model. 5. Histogenomic

Analysis: A. Identification of differentially expressing genes. B. Identification of biological processes implicated using Gene Ontology and implementation of single-sample Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (ssGSEA) to understand the relationship between prognostic CellDiv features. C. Classification KRAS mutation vs. wildtype using CellDiv features for LUAD.

Figure S3: An example of an LNG configuration

(a) Original H&E image; We set $r=0.2$, and tuned α to (b) 0.42, (c) 0.46, and (d) 0.48 respectively to obtain the different LNG configurations.

Figure S4: Flowchart for cellular diversity computation

(a) Green contours/lines indicate the nuclear boundaries and the adjacent panel shows the local nuclei graphs (LNG) with edges between proximally located nuclei. (b) Shape, size, and texture features are then extracted for each of the nodes in the LNG and co-occurrence matrices are constructed. From these cooccurrence matrices, high order statistics such as entropy are extracted and used to construct the cellular diversity feature vector *S*.

Figure S5: An example of cellular diversity computation

(a) Original H&E image; (b) magnified region of the LNG, α =0.44, marked by black contour shown in (a) with nuclear size and its category (shown in the parenthesis) displayed. (c) corresponding co-occurrence matrix of nuclear size; (d) magnified region of the LNG marked by black contour shown in (a) with nuclear solidity and its category (shown in the parenthesis) displayed (e) corresponding co-occurrence matrix of nuclear solidity.

Figure S6: Machine-learning methodology flowchart

After extracting the CellDiv features from all images in the training cohort, we performed (a) feature selection using Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator (LASSO) with Cox Proportional Hazard Model as the cost function under a 10-fold cross-validation scheme with 100 runs. LASSO L1 regularization technique iteratively shrinks the feature coefficient estimates toward zero, and results in identification of an optimal tuning parameter lambda (18) that increases in a cross-validation setup until features with only nonzero coefficients are retained. Therefore, in cases with a very large number of features, a LASSO model can help both shrink and find the sparse model that involves a small subset of the most informative features (shown in (c)). Thus, features picked by the LASSO models within the training cohort are then pooled in a linear combination and multiplied with their respective coefficients to construct a risk score (RS). For all the images in the training and independent test/validation cohorts, a risk score was then generated for each patient (shown in (d)).

Figure S7: Feature selection using LASSO for (i) LUSC and (iii) LUAD

A set of 11 CellDiv features and a set of 23 CellDiv features were selected to construct the Cox Proportional Hazard Regression model for LUSC and LUAD, respectively. The risk score distribution of LUSC and LUAD are shown in (ii) and (iv) for LUSC and LUAD, respectively. The median value was selected as the threshold from the training cohort to separate the high vs. low risk patients. This threshold was then applied to the validation cohort for the high vs. low risk patients.

Figure S8: The KM curves for CellDiv-based risk score (a) and all available clinical variables (b)-(g) in validation/test cohort LUSC-UBern

One may observe that in this cohort, apart from the gender, no clinical variable was able to sperate the patients in terms of 5-year survival.

Figure S9: The KM curves for CellDiv-based risk score (a) and all available clinical variables (b)-(i) in validation/test cohort LUSC-TCGA

One may observe that in this cohort, no clinical variable was able to sperate the patients in terms of 5-year survival.

Figure S10: The KM curves for CellDiv-based risk score (a) and all available clinical variables (b)-(i) in validation/test cohort LUAD-TCGA

One may observe that in this cohort, N-stage was prognostic of survival; also, the model that combines all clinical variables was prognostic in terms of 5-years survival. While analyzing differences between the Nstage and CellDiv-based models, we found that these models made errors on different patients, which implies that the combination of the clinical and CellDiv-based model could potentially outperform any individual model (result shown in Table S3-last row, and Table 1 in the main manuscript corroborate this hypothesis).

Table S1: Nuclear features considered in image analysis

Table S2: 13 Haralick measurements of the co-occurrence matrix (CM)

The "intensity" refers to the quantification levels of nuclear morphology, for example, a 3-levels was used in Fig.2 to quantify nuclear size and solidity. $P_{i,j}$ represents the element in CM, where *i* and *j* represents the indices of the quantification level. P_x and P_y are the partial probability density functions. P_{x+y} is the probability of CM coordinates summing to $x + y$, respectively. N_g is the quantification level. μ_x, μ_y, σ_x , and σ_y are the means and standard deviations of P_x and P_x , respectively.

Table S3: Features used for constructing Cox risk model of LUSC

Table S4: Features used for constructing Cox risk model of LUAD

Table S5: Top features used for *KRAS* **classification**

MeanInsideBoundaryIntensity:mean(intensity-ave)

MeanInsideBoundaryIntensity:median(intensity-ave)

MeanInsideBoundaryIntensity:median(intensity-ent)

MeanIntensity:mean(intensity-ave)

MeanInsideBoundaryIntensity:mean(intensity-var)

MeanOutsideBoundaryIntensity:range(info-measure2)

Table S6: The precision-recall(PR)-AUC, F1-score, precision and recall of CellDiv model, Clinical variables model, and CellDiv + Clinical variables model for test cohorts: LUSC-TCGA, LUSC-UB, and LUAD-TCGA

In this scenario, we used a threshold of 3 years to categorize the patients into short-term survival $\left\langle \leq 3 \right\rangle$ years) and long-tern survival (>3 years).

Table S7: Description of global cell graph, nuclear shape, COrE, and CCG features in quantitative evaluation experiments.

Table S8: Performance comparison of different hand-crafted feature-based models, and the DL method

Features/Methods	AUC	Accuracy	Specificity	Sensitivity
Global Cell Graph (8)	0.55 ± 0.01	0.55 ± 0.05	0.58 ± 0.12	0.53 ± 0.13
Nuclear Shape (7)	0.53 ± 0.02	0.59 ± 0.06	0.39 ± 0.18	0.70 ± 0.18
CorE(9)	0.52 ± 0.02	0.51 ± 0.08	0.62 ± 0.21	0.46 ± 0.21
CCG(1)	0.54 ± 0.01	0.52 ± 0.04	0.63 ± 0.12	0.47 ± 0.11
Wang et al. (11)	0.64 ± 0.02	0.61 ± 0.04	0.63 ± 0.11	0.57 ± 0.09
DL(12)	0.62 ± 0.04	0.60 ± 0.07	0.62 ± 0.18	0.59 ± 0.17
CellDiv	0.68 ± 0.01	0.63 ± 0.04	0.72 ± 0.10	0.58 ± 0.09

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