

## Re: Analysing nerve sections...!?

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.image.processing/2004-12/0149.html>

---

**From:** Chuck Dillon ([spam\\_at\\_nimblegen.com](mailto:spam_at_nimblegen.com))

**Date:** 12/27/04

Date: Mon, 27 Dec 2004 09:49:35 -0600

Gopsworth wrote:

- >
- > *This is the 21st century! There HAS to be a better way of automating*
- > *this process!!*
- >
- > *Now I know most photo editing software will be able to generate an*
- > *outline of an image from a photo – in this case, it should be able to*
- > *convert photos of my nerve slides to an image of lots of little*
- > *circles. What I then need is some way of counting those little circles*
- > *and working out their areas.*
- >
- > *Does anyone have any suggestions?!!*

The question is whether or not there is sufficient information in the image(s) to allow software to isolate the features you need to measure from the noise (which is everything else). Whether it is possible or with what steps it is possible is always specific to the problem and the data so all I can suggest is that you investigate it from that perspective or hire (collaborate with) someone who has experience with this kind of problem and can investigate it for you.

To give you a feel for the issues I suggest you get ImageJ (public domain) from <http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij/> and use it to investigate your problem. You need to determine if you can use it's gray scale processing and thresholding functions to isolate the features in a binary image. Binary meaning the pixels are either your features or not. ImageJ includes a general purpose "analyze particles" function that you can use to get standard morphology measurements from binary images.

HTH,

-- ced

--

Chuck Dillon  
Senior Software Engineer  
NimbleGen Systems Inc.