

# SIFT TEXTURE DESCRIPTION FOR UNDERSTANDING BREAST ULTRASOUND IMAGES

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## Abstract

Texture is a powerful cue for describing structures that show a high degree of similarity in their image intensity patterns. This paper describes the use of Self-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT), both as low-level and high-level descriptors, applied to differentiate the tissues present in breast US images. For such a task, a subset of 16 images has been randomly selected from a larger dataset of 700 Ultra-Sound (US) images acquired at the *UDIAT Diagnostic Centre of Parc Taulí* in Sabadell (Catalunya), between 2010 and 2012. This subset has been complemented with multi-label Ground Truth (GT), as illustrated in figure 1.

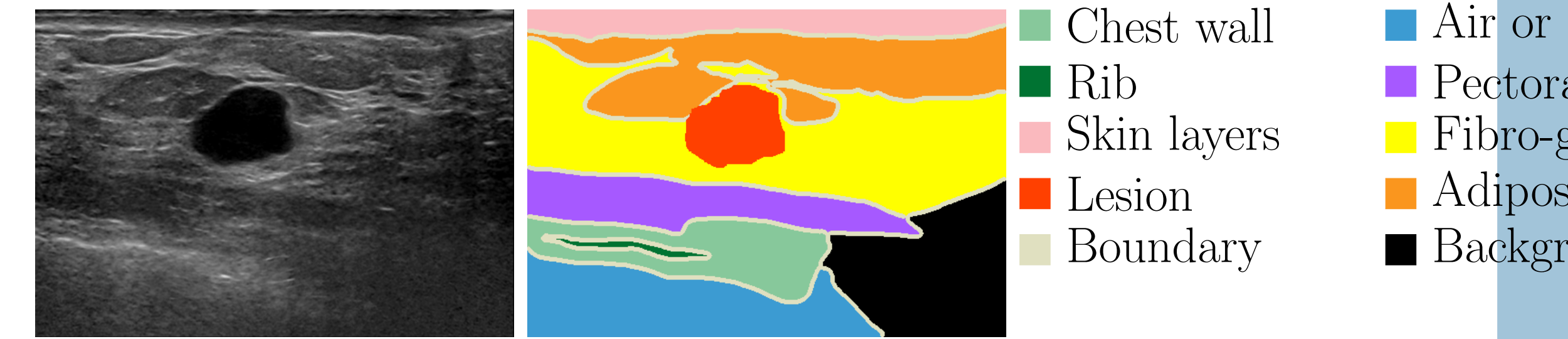


Fig. 1: Dataset sample. From left to right: image sample, accompanying multi-label GT, tissue label GT color-coding.

## SIFT as a low-level descriptor, tested using Maximum A Posteriori (MAP)

- Goal: Analyze tissue classes separability.
  - Bayesian framework for tissue discrimination (see eq. 1).
  - low-level descriptors based on SIFT
- Feature Description.
  - Extract SIFT descriptors at all pixel positions.
  - Project the 128D SIFT to 2D using Principal Component Analysis (PCA).

$$P(\omega|\bar{x}) = \frac{P(\bar{x}|\omega) \cdot P(\omega)}{P(\bar{x})} \quad (1)$$

- Qualitative analysis can be found in fig. 2-4.
- Quantitative analysis can be found in fig. 5, where a comparison with intensity feature can be found. The overall sensitivity for the intensity case is  $16.6 \pm 27.5\%$ , whereas for the SIFT case is  $18.8 \pm 17.2\%$  which show that both feature spaces produce similar results.

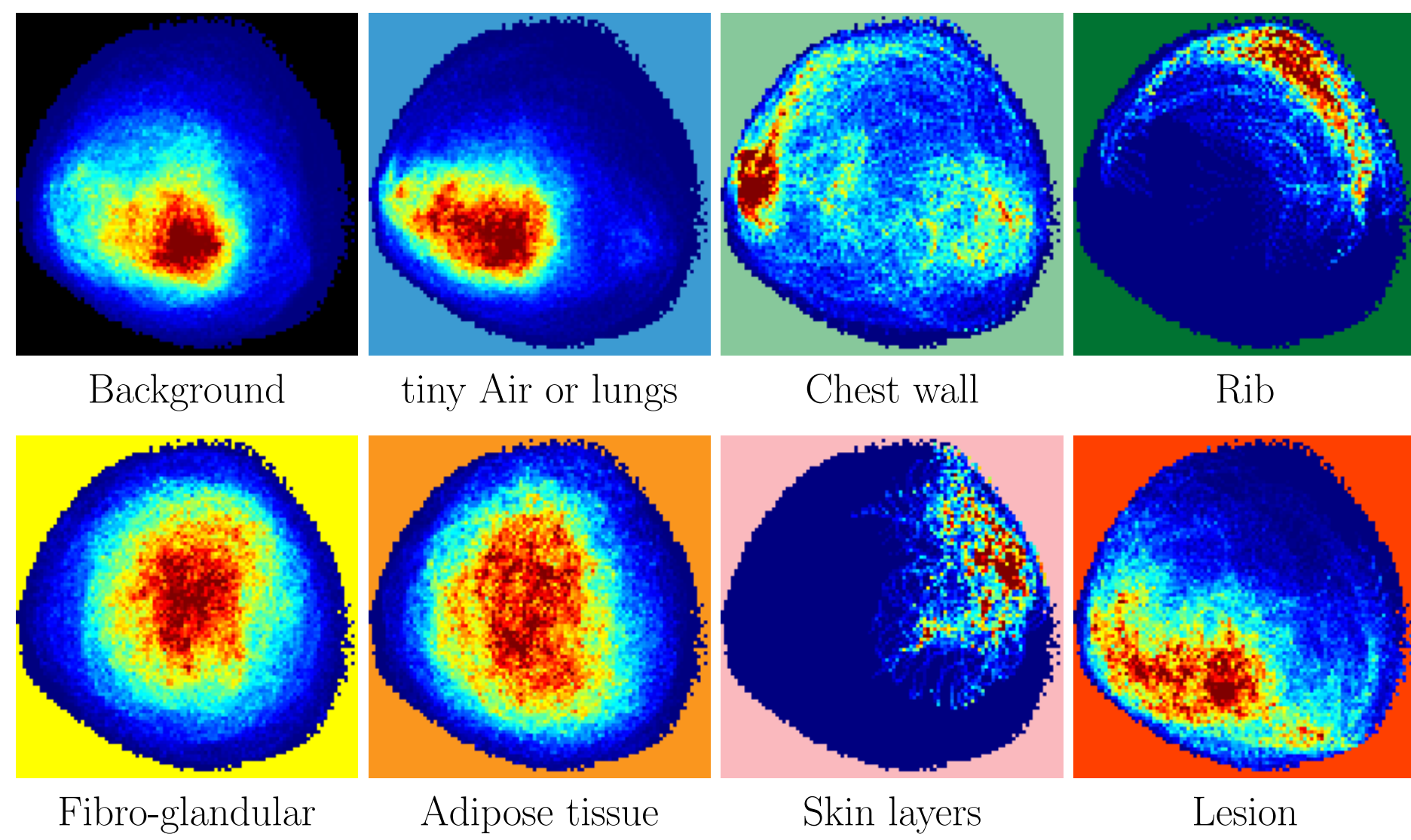


Fig. 2: Distribution of the SIFT descriptors for some classes in the GT.

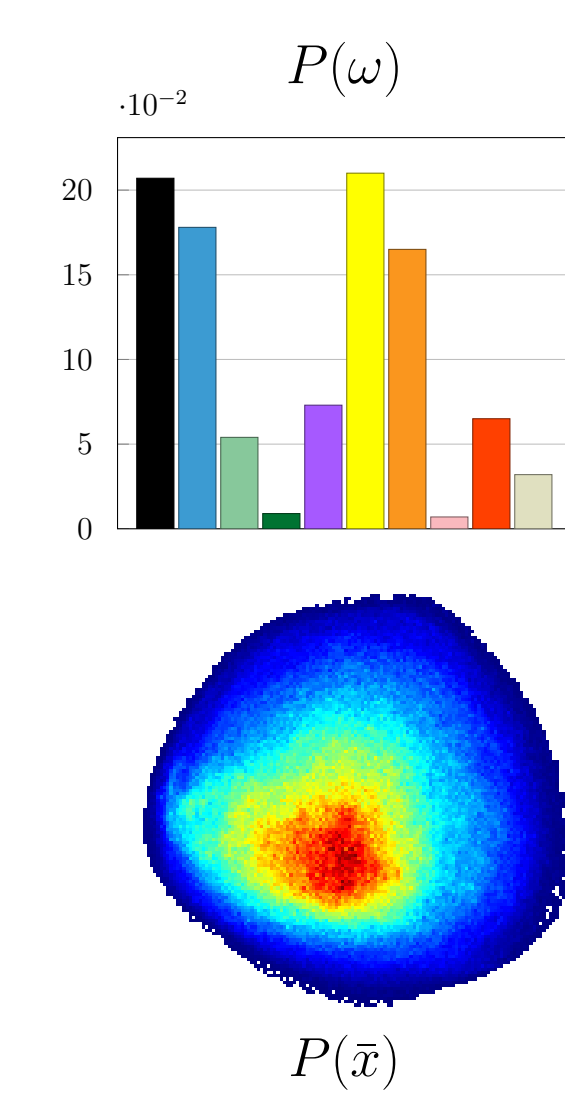


Fig. 3: Data prior knowledge.

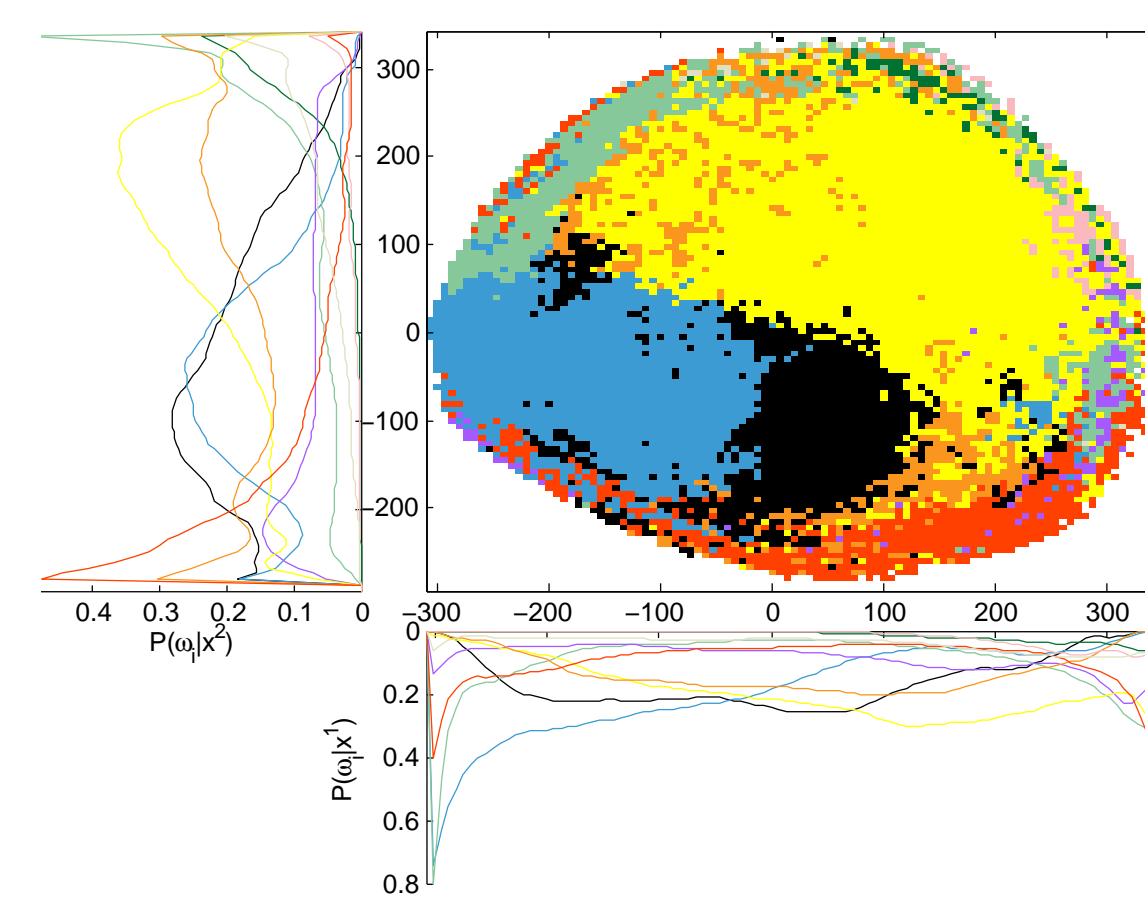


Fig. 4: Qualitative evaluation of the MAP labeling of the feature space.

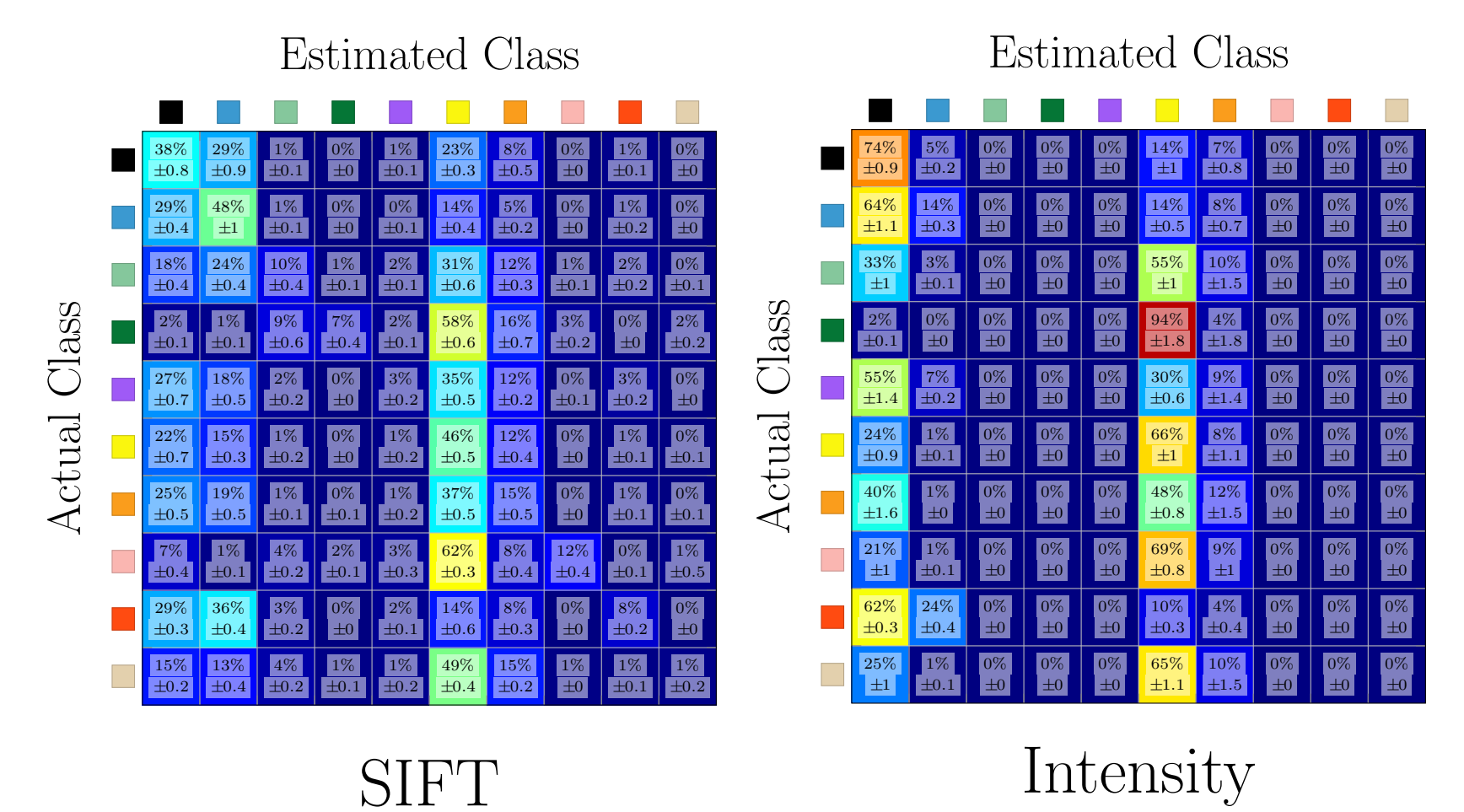


Fig. 5: Confusion matrix showing quantitative results obtained from (10.000 samples  $\times$  10 classes)  $\times$  5 folds cross-validation.

## SIFT as a high-level descriptor using Bag-of-Features (BoF), tested using Radial Basis Function (RBF)-Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier

Texture is an area property related to spatial repetition of structures, statistical similarities, or both.

- Goal: Analyze how separable are the tissue classes present in breast US images
  - Classification framework for tissue discrimination (RBF-SVM).
- Feature Description (see fig. 6).
  - High-level descriptors based on BoF-SIFT.
  - Generate a codebook of the features (k-means,  $k = 36$ ).

- Extract superpixels (Quick-Shift (QS)).
- Occurrence study to describe each superpixel.
- Quantitative analysis can be found in fig. 7, The sensitivity achieved is  $29 \pm 3.6\%$  for the intenisty and  $33.5 \pm 2.3\%$  for SIFT.

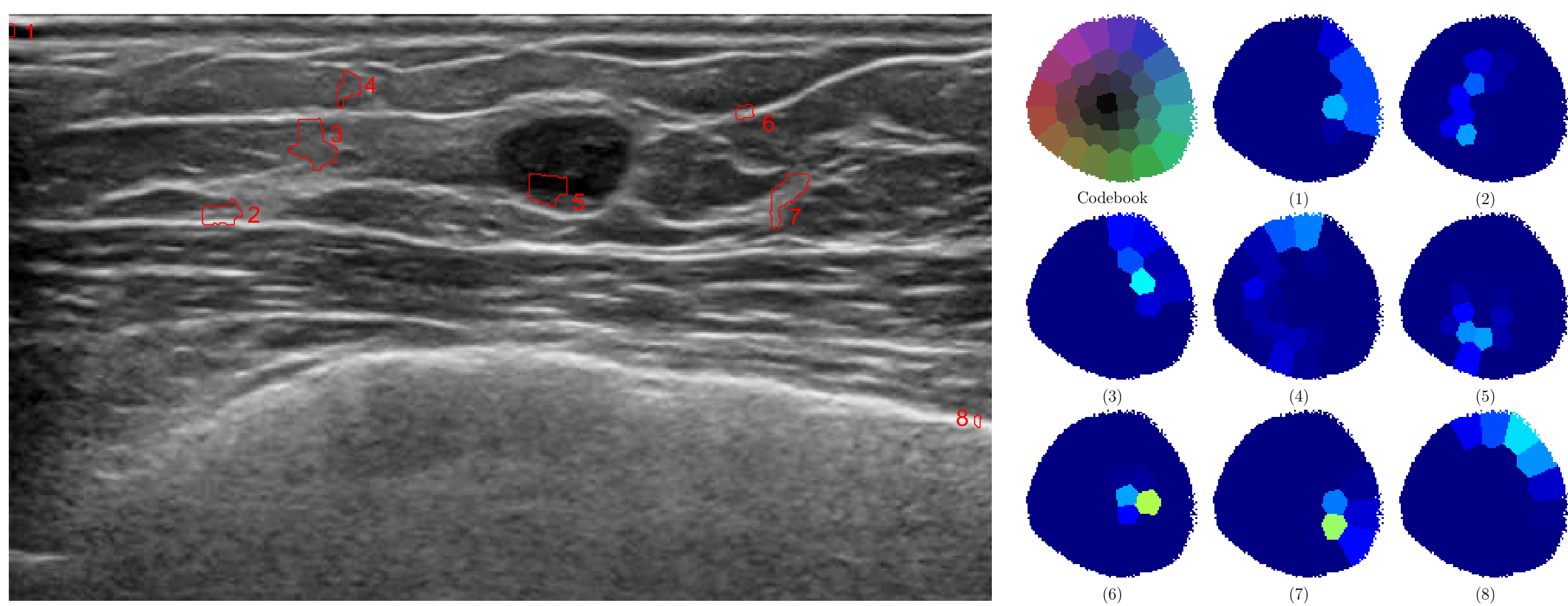


Fig. 6: SIFT-BoF descriptors qualitative analysis. (Left) image example. (Right) Dictionary representation colored using the location of the keypoint location in fig. ??a space. (1-8) Occurrence of the dictionary's key-points associated to each region highlighted in the original image.

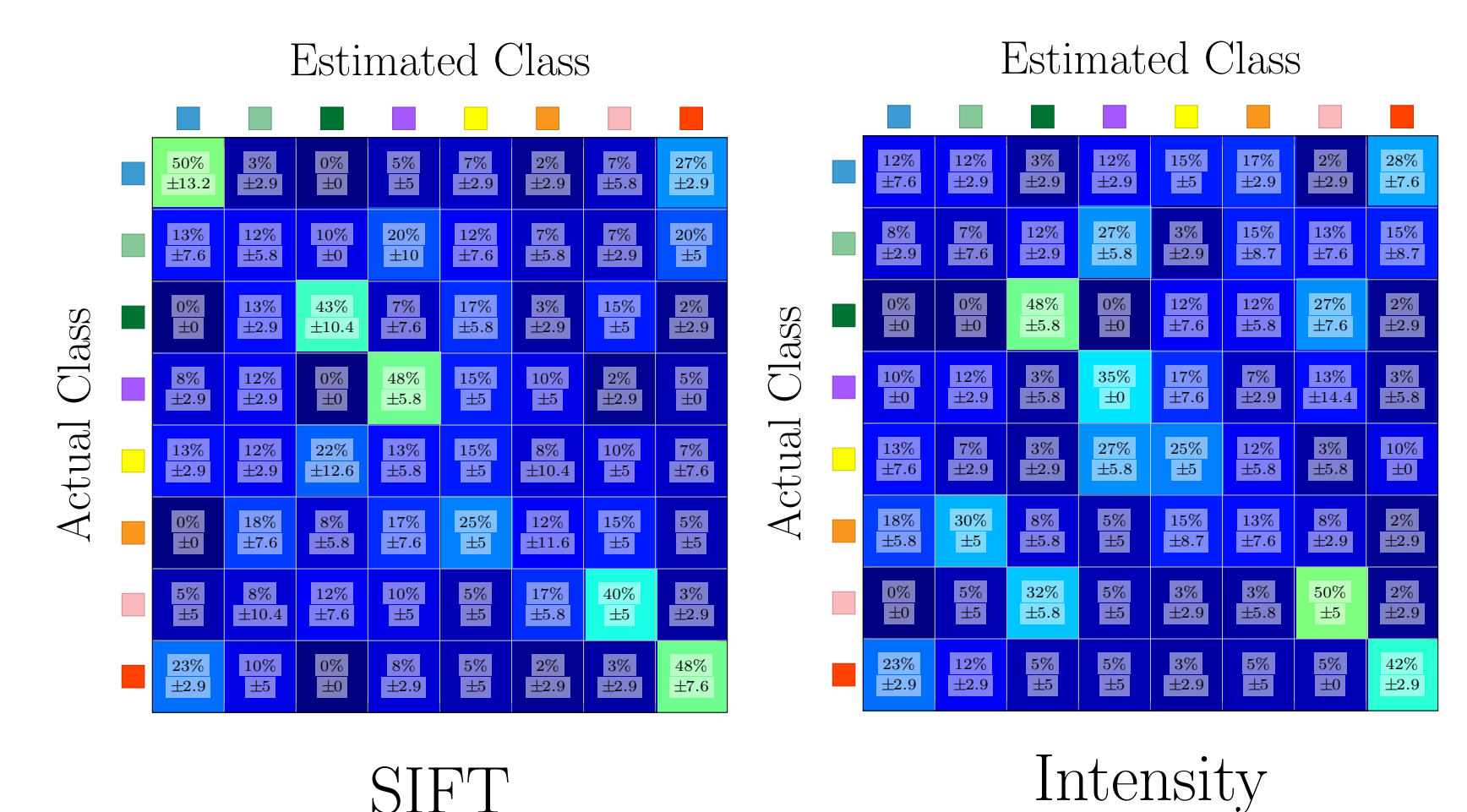


Fig. 7: some caption

## Conclusion

The present study was designed to explore the usage of SIFT feature space as a texture for characterizing the different tissues present in a breast US image. The usage of SIFT either as a low-level or high-level texture descriptor has been evaluated in comparison to intensity features, which are the features most commonly used. The fact that SIFT and intensity descriptors produce similar results, encourages further studies on using SIFT texture descriptors characterizing breast tissues in US images.