



Watermark Quality Analysis

Watermarks provide security features and/or product identification in paper. Watermarks are traditionally examined using visual testing. Visual assessment lacks sufficient precision and sensitivity to optimize quality and maintain the papermaking performance.

A definition of a good watermark depends upon the product end-use: sharp watermarks may be desired for security papers and undesired for some printing papers. Consequently, watermark quality analysis usually requires a reference watermark image for comparison.



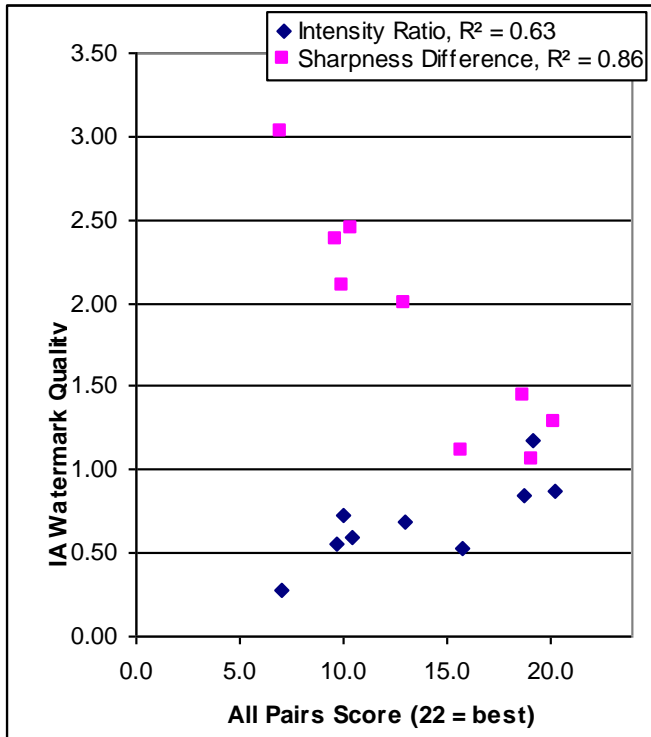
Watermarks are imaged in transmitted light with the PPF or Micro-scanner, and images stored. The stored Sample images are opened by the Watermark Image Analysis software. The Watermark Intensity Ratio and Sharpness Difference are then determined relative to a Reference image. The results include:

- The **Background Formation** quality, %COV
- Sample **Watermark %-Intensity**
- The **Intensity Ratio** of the Sample watermark relative to the Reference. If greater than 1, then Intensity of the Sample is greater than the Reference, and vice versa.
- The **Sharpness Difference** of the Sample relative to the Reference. If the value is positive, then the Sharpness of the Reference watermark is greater than the Sample

ADVANTAGES:

- **Comparison with watermark's artwork, or with user selected reference watermarks**
- **Windows™ based, bitmap storage and retrieval, Excel™ ready data and print-outs**
- **Faster, more precise and objective compared to visual testing**
- **Highly correlated with visual assessment**

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Results of Watermark Quality Analysis software are highly correlated to Visual all pairs ranking



The Watermark Quality Analysis Software imports images directly from the Paper PerFect Formation Analyzer (PPF optics platform)

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Computer:

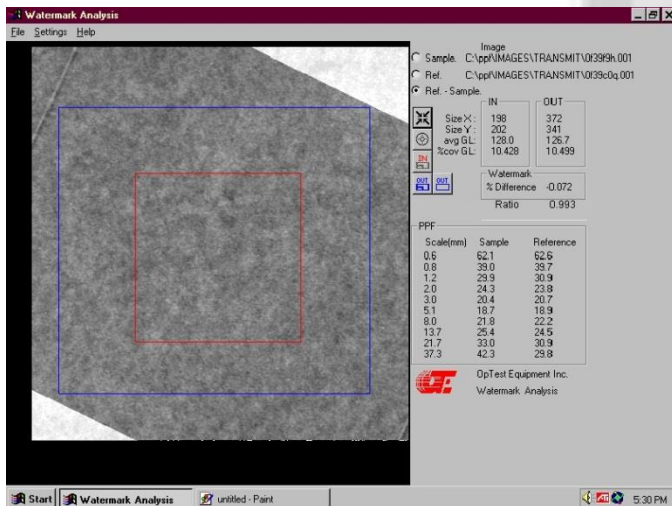
- Computer with Pentium Processor, 1+ Ghz, 250+ MB RAM, USB port
- Latest Versions Windows™
- Microsoft Office™

Optics Platform:

- Paper PerFect Formation Analyzer
 - Paprican Micro-Scanner
- or,
- Camera with IR filter and an optical resolution of 70 to 150 μm /pixel
 - A pixel array of 480 H x 480 V
 - Pixel signal of 256 GL (8 bit, monochrome)
 - Average Signal Level: 50 +/- 3% of Full Scale (i.e. 128 GL in 8 bit sensitivity)
 - Lighting non-uniformity < 1% (after mapping)
 - Resulting images saved as a bitmap (*.bmp)

OPTIONS

- Paper PerFect Formation Analyzer
- Paprican Micro-Scanner
- Software: Excel and/or Photoshop



The Watermark Quality Analysis Software display after the sample has been aligned with the Reference



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