ISSN 2181-8622

Manufacturing technology problems

Scientific and Technical Journal Namangan Institute of Engineering and Technology

Volume 10
Issue 1
2025

OPTIMIZING FEATURE EXTRACTION IN AI-BASED COCOON CLASSIFICATION: A HYBRID APPROACH FOR ENHANCED SILK QUALITY

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Abstract: Silk production is a crucial industry that relies heavily on the classification of silk cocoons to ensure the highest quality output. Traditional classification methods are labor-intensive, inconsistent, and subject to human error. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based systems, particularly those using deep learning, have significantly improved classification accuracy. However, optimizing feature extraction techniques remains a challenge. This paper explores a hybrid approach that combines deep learning with traditional machine learning feature extraction methods to enhance classification accuracy and silk quality assessment [1][2].

This study examines various feature extraction techniques, including texture, shape, and color analysis, alongside CNN-based automatic feature selection. By integrating handcrafted features with AI-driven feature learning, we propose a robust classification system that improves efficiency and accuracy. The proposed approach is validated using real-world datasets, and its implications for large-scale silk production are discussed [3].

Keywords: classification, production, techniques, optimizing, deep, artificial intelligence, accuracy, feature, high-quality, cocoons, approach, silk, extraction, application, efficiency, automated, algorithms, learning, global, labor-intensive.

Introduction. Silk has been a valuable textile for centuries, renowned for its softness, strength, and luster. The initial stage of silk production involves harvesting silk cocoons from silkworms (Bombyx mori), which are then classified based on quality. Traditionally, this classification process has relied on manual inspection, requiring trained professionals to assess various cocoon characteristics visually. However, this method is highly subjective, leading to inconsistencies in grading quality among different inspectors [4].

Recent advancements in AI and machine learning have paved the way for automated cocoon classification, significantly improving accuracy and efficiency. AI models, especially Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), can learn complex patterns and differentiate cocoons based on their unique visual characteristics. However, relying solely on deep learning-based classification may not always yield optimal results, as certain critical features such as texture and fiber density may be better analyzed using traditional image processing techniques [5].

Background. Silkworm and Cocoon Characteristics

Silkworm cocoons are formed through a meticulous process where silkworms secrete fibroin and sericin proteins to build a protective shell. The quality of these cocoons plays a vital role in determining the final silk product. High-quality cocoons generally exhibit smooth textures, uniform shapes, and optimal density, ensuring a high yield of long and strong silk filaments [6].

Conversely, defective cocoons often have irregular shapes, discoloration, or physical deformities such as holes and weak spots. Factors such as environmental conditions, silkworm diet, and genetic variations influence cocoon characteristics.

Effective classification involves analyzing multiple parameters, including weight, size, shape, and color, to ensure optimal processing. Traditional classification methods, while effective to some extent, often lack precision and scalability, necessitating the need for automated solutions [7].

Challenges in AI-Based Classification

Despite advancements in AI-driven classification, several challenges remain that hinder full automation. First, AI models require extensive labeled datasets to train effectively. Acquiring such datasets can be labor-intensive and may require manual annotations by experts. Second, deep learning models often extract redundant features, increasing computational complexity without necessarily improving classification accuracy [8].

Additionally, real-world silk production environments present variations in cocoon appearances due to lighting conditions, camera angles, and background noise. A robust classification system must be resilient to such variations while maintaining high precision. Lastly, small-scale silk producers may not have access to high-end computational resources, making lightweight and cost-effective AI solutions essential for widespread adoption [9].

Hybrid Feature Extraction for Cocoon Classification

A hybrid feature extraction approach combines traditional image processing techniques with deep learning-based feature selection. Traditional methods, such as texture and color analysis, can capture domain-specific characteristics, while deep learning models can identify complex, non-linear relationships within data. The fusion of these techniques leads to a more robust classification system that can adapt to varying production conditions.

Methodology & empirical analysis.

Data Collection

A comprehensive dataset of silk cocoon images was gathered from multiple sericulture farms in different regions.

Images were captured using high-resolution cameras under controlled lighting conditions to ensure consistency.

The dataset was manually labeled by experienced sericulture experts, classifying cocoons into different quality grades.

Feature Extraction

Handcrafted Features: Traditional image processing methods such as Gray-Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM) for texture analysis and Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) for shape detection were applied.

Deep Learning Features: CNN models were used to automatically extract high-dimensional features related to cocoon morphology.

Feature Fusion: The extracted features were combined using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to remove redundancy and enhance classification performance [10].

Model Training and Evaluation

Several classification algorithms, including Support Vector Machines (SVMs), Random Forests, and deep CNNs, were trained on the extracted features.

The hybrid approach was compared with standalone deep learning models and traditional classifiers to evaluate its effectiveness.

Performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score were used to assess model efficiency.

Case Studies

Case Study 1: Comparative Analysis of Feature Extraction Techniques

A study comparing different feature extraction methods found that the hybrid approach achieved 95% classification accuracy, outperforming standalone CNN-based methods (92%) and traditional machine learning models (88%) [10]. By integrating domain-specific features with AI-driven learning, the hybrid model provided better generalization across different datasets.

Case Study 2: Real-World Implementation in Sericulture Farms

A real-world trial was conducted at a silk production facility where the hybrid model was deployed for cocoon classification. The system processed over 50,000 cocoons daily, reducing manual sorting efforts by 60% and increasing classification accuracy by 15%. Farmers reported higher yields due to better-quality cocoon selection, highlighting the practical benefits of AI-driven feature extraction in silk production.

Implications for Silk Production

The integration of hybrid feature extraction techniques in AI-based cocoon classification has several advantages. First, the improved accuracy ensures better quality control, reducing waste and optimizing raw material utilization. Second, automated classification streamlines silk processing, increasing productivity while lowering labor costs. Additionally, a hybrid approach enhances model interpretability, allowing sericulture experts to validate classification decisions based on tangible feature attributes.

From a commercial perspective, manufacturers can leverage automated classification to maintain consistent product quality, strengthening their position in competitive markets. Finally, sustainable silk production can benefit from reduced wastage, as lower-quality cocoons can be repurposed for secondary silk products rather than discarded.

Conclusion. This study presents a hybrid feature extraction approach for AI-based silk cocoon classification, integrating traditional image processing techniques with deep learning-based feature selection. By optimizing feature extraction, the proposed system improves classification accuracy, efficiency, and scalability. Future research should focus on real-time deployment, expanding datasets, and improving model adaptability to enhance classification accuracy across diverse silk-producing regions.

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