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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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C O N T E N T S

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: COTTON, TEXTILE AND LIGHT INDUSTRY

Rakhimov R., Sultonov M.	3
Inspection of the strength of the column lattice of the improved fiber cleaner	
Turdiyev B., Rosulov R.	10
The influence of technological parameters of the elevator on cotton seed damage	
Khuramova Kh.	15
Graphic analysis of the obtained results on cotton regeneration	
Sharifbayev R.	20
Optimizing feature extraction in Ai-based cocoon classification: a hybrid approach for enhanced silk quality	
Akramov A., Khodzhiev M.	24
The current state and challenges of the global textile industry: key directions for the development of Uzbekistan's textile sector	

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TECHNOLOGIES

Sattarov K., Jankurazov A., Tukhtamyshova G.	30
Study of food additives on bread quality	
Madaminova Z., Khamdamov A., Xudayberdiyev A.	37
Determination of amygdalin content in peach oil obtained by pressing method	
Kobilov N., Dodayev K.	43
Food safety and industrial importance of corn starch. the impact of the hydration process on the starch content in the grain	
Mustafaev O., Ravshanov S., Dzhakhangirova G., Kanoatov X.	50
The effect of storing wheat grain in open warehouses on the "aging" process of bread products	
Erkayeva N., Ahmedov A.	58
Industrial trials of the refining technology for long-term stored sunflower oil	
Boynazarova Y., Farmonov J.	64
Microscopic investigations on the effect of temperature on onion seed cell degradation	
Rasulova M., Xamdamov A.	79
Theoretical analysis of distillators used in the distillation of vegetable oil miscella	

CHEMICAL SCIENCES

Ergashev O., Bazarbaev M., Juraeva Z., Bakhronov H., Kokharov M., Mamadaliyev U.	84
Isotherm of ammonia adsorption on zeolite CaA (MSS-622)	
Ergashev O., Bakhronov H., Sobirjonova S., Kokharov M., Mamadaliyev U.	93
Differential heat of ammonia adsorption and adsorption mechanism in Ca ₄ Na ₄ A zeolite	
Boymirzaev A., Erniyazova I.	101
Recent advances in the synthesis and characterisation of methylated chitosan derivatives	
Kalbaev A., Mamataliyev N., Abdikamalova A., Ochilov A., Masharipova M.	106
Adsorption and kinetics of methylene blue on modified laponite	
Ibragimov T., Tolipov F., Talipova X.	114
Studies of adsorption, kinetics and thermodynamics of heavy metall ions on clay adsorbents	
Muratova M.	123
Method for producing a fire retardant agent with nitric acid solutions of various concentrations	
Shavkatova D.	132
Preparation of sulphur concrete using modified sulphur and melamine	
Umarov Sh., Ismailov R.	139
Analysis of hydroxybenzene-methanal oligomers using ¹ H nmr spectroscopy methods	
Vokkosov Z.	148
Studying the role and mechanism of microorganisms in the production of microbiological fertilizers	
Mukhammadjonov M., Rakhmatkarieva F., Oydinov M.	153
The physical-chemical analysis of KA zeolite obtained from local kaolin	
Shermatov A., Sherkuziev D.	160
Study of the decomposition process of local phosphorites using industrial waste sulfuric acid	
Khudayberdiev N., Ergashev O.	168
Study of the main characteristics of polystyrene and phenol-formaldehyde resin waste	

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: MECHANICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Kudratov Sh.	
UZTE16M locomotive oil system and requirements for diesel locomotive reliability and operating conditions	174
Dadakhonov N.	
Device studying the wear process of different materials	181
Dadakhonov N., Karimov R.	
Investigation of irregularity of yarn produced in an improved drawn tool	189
Mirzaumidov A., Azizov J., Siddiqov A.	
Static analysis of the spindle shaft with a split cylinder	196
Mirjalolzoda B., Umarov A., Akbaraliyev A., Abduvakhidov M.	
Static calculation of the saw blade of the saw gin	203
Obidov A., Mirzaumidov A., Abdurasulov A.	
A study of critical speed of linter shaft rotation and resonance phenomenon	208
Khakimov B., Abdurakhmanov O.	
Monitoring the effectiveness of the quality management system in manufacturing enterprises	217
Bayboboev N., Muminov A.	
Analysis of the indicators of the average speed of units for the process of loading into a potato harvesting machine	232
Kayumov U., Kakhkharov O., Pardaeva Sh.	
Analysis of factors influencing the increased consumption of diesel fuel by belaz dump trucks in a quarry	237
Abdurahmonov J.	
Theoretical study of the effect of a brushed drum shaft on the efficiency of flush separation	244
Ishnazarov O., Otabayev B., Kurvonboyev B.	
Modern methods of smooth starting of asynchronous motors: their technologies and industrial applications	250
Kadirov K., Toxtashev A.	
The influence of the cost of electricity production on the formation of tariffs	263
Azambayev M.	
An innovative approach to cleaning cotton linters	271
Abdullayev R.	
Theoretical substantiation of the pneumomechanics of the Czech gin for the separation of fiber from seeds	277
Siddikov I., A'zamov S.	
Study of power balance of small power asynchronous motor	282

Obidov A., Mirzaakhmedova D., Ibrohimov I.	288
Theoretical research of a heavy pollutant cleaning device	
Xudayberdiyeva D., Obidov A.	294
Reactive power compensation and energy waste reduction during start-up of the electric motor of uxk cotton cleaning device	
Jumaniyazov K., Sarbarov X.	302
Analysis of the movement of cotton seeds under the influence of a screw conveyor	
Abdusalomova N., Muradov R.	310
Analysis of the device design for discharging heavy mixtures from the sedimentation chamber	
Ikromov M., Shomurodov S., Boborajabov B., Mamayev Sh., Nigmatova D.	318
Study of obtaining an organomineral modifier from local raw materials to improve the operational properties of bitumen	
Ikromov M., Shomurodov S., Boborajabov B., Mamayev Sh., Nigmatova D.	324
Development of composition and production technology for polymer-bitumen mixtures for automobile roads	
Muradov R., Mirzaakbarov A.	332
Effective ways to separate fibers suitable for spinning from waste material	

ADVANCED PEDAGOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

Xoliddinov I., Begmatova M.	336
A method of load balancing based on fuzzy logic in low-voltage networks with solar panel integration	
Murodov R., Kuchqarov A., Boynazarov B., Uzbekov M.	345
Research on the efficiency of using hydro turbines in pumping mode and for electricity generation	
Abdurakhimova M., Romanov J., Masharipov Sh.	353
A literature review of settlement land trends (past, present, and future) based on english-language articles indexed in the web of science database from 2014 to 2023	
Muhammedova M.	360
Development and scientific justification of the design of orthopedical footwear for patients with injuries to the soul-foot joint	
Akbaraliyev M., Egamberdiyev A.	367
Methods of effective organization of fire and rescue operations	

A'zamxonov O., Egamberdiyev A.

Principles of organizing material and technical support in emergency situations 373

Tuychibayeva G., Kukibayeva M.

The module of developing communicative competence of seventh and eighth-grade students in uzbekistan secondary schools 379

Ismoilova Z.

Methods for enhancing the competence of future english teachers 383

ECONOMICAL SCIENCES

Yuldashev K., Makhamadaliev B.

The role of small business entities in the program "From poverty to well-being" 389

Mirzakhlikov B.

Organizational mechanism for the development of state programs for poverty reduction 397

Rustamova S.

Specific characteristics of administration in developed countries 402
