Identification of damaged corn seeds using an air-coupled ultrasonic technique

Abstract

Corn, an important staple for in many countries around the world, could have is subject to a very inefficient germination rate due to worms damaging their worm-damaged seeds. However, the air-coupled ultrasonic technique ultrasound is a rapid, safe and widely accepted method for the early detection of such damage. In this study, *I* we explored the current effectiveness and future prospects of this technique for the identification of identifying damaged seeds. My process Our procedure started with drawing a sample of 810 seed particles seeds, which consisted consisting of 400 that were intact, 400 manually damaged by hands and 10 damaged by worms. Then I we used the principal component analysis (PCA) method to reduce the dimensions of air-coupling ultrasonic information and extract the top ten principal components. Finally, I we built constructed the a KNN decision tree by using SIMCA software and a Fisher recognition model by using MATLAB software. The pattern recognition was established by using KNN, KNN which has the most accurate recognition rate. and The correct recognition rate of modeling for the front and back data of the intact particles is was 98% and 100%, respectively; and for the manually damaged particles, that damaged by hands from front and back the recognition rate is 99% and 97%, respectively. The results show that the model developed by using air-coupled ultrasonic data can classify the corn seed particles both with and without holes or notand that to provide a basis for the development of a corn seed selection system, which has a significant role for in improving the seed clarity and the germination rate.

Keywords: damaged corn seeds seed identification, air-coupled ultrasonic principal component analysis, KNN

1 Introduction

Corn is one of the most widely cultivated food crops in the biosphere. Worldwide, the land area of devoted to planting corn planted in the world is the third biggest largest. after rice and wheat. The planting range is from latitudes of $58^{\circ} \frac{1}{1000}$ degrees north to 40° degrees south. It would be is preferable to cultivate the first generation (self-cross line) of hybrid corn seeds because their parents have diverse and distinguishable genetic traits. The second generation of seeds is not as favorable because of the truncated features, which vields result in a smaller vield less production. So Thus, the first generation hybrid corn seed is optimal, especially when inbred. Since healthy seeds will yield healthy production produce, so they must first be evaluated as healthy before they are sown. Clarity is one of the four main principal health indicators (along with purity, elarity moisture content and germination rate) used to determine the *sowing quality and authenticity of corn seed and the as well as impact it will have on *the commercial value and germination rate of the seeds. Seed clarity refers to a proportion of seeds, i.e., the percentage ratio of normal corn weight to the total weight, including the impurities. According to the crop seed inspection procedures prescribed *in "GB3543-1983," the clarity analysis sample test is divided into four parts: such as (1) good seed, (2) waste seed, and impurity (3) impure with life organic, and (4) impure inorganic or not. During the growing and storage process, some seeds are spoiled by worms, which results resulting in the a decrease of in seed the clarity of the whole entire batch. Worms mostly most frequently cause irreversible damage to the embryo of seeds, making it so the seeds cannot germinate rendering them incapable of germination, which means thus resulting in that they are classified their classification as wasted seeds. If these seeds are then subsequently mixed with healthy seeds, the quality of the whole entire batch quality will be adversely affected and results result in a lower germination rate. * English Editor's Notes: (1) What [i.e., which noun] does the pronoun "it" refer to? (2) "Germination rate" appears to be one of the other three health indicators; hence, this term should not be used to define/identify/explain another one of the indicators. (3) I'm guessing that "GB3543-1983" is a Chinese government rule or regulation. As such, this term needs more detailed identification for the benefit of international readers.

An air-sieve cleaner and spiral separator are The main clarity processing methods use an air-sieve cleaner and spiral separator. The air-sieve screen cleaner is composed of an air-blast system and a series of screen meshes that use the buoyancy and width or thickness of seeds for cleaning. However, this method will be is affected by the size and shape of the impurities, the wind speed, velocity and mesh size during the clarity screening process, these factors would lead to seed clarity that do not meet the national standard,^[1,2] let alone filter out damaged seeds. Therefore, we need a swift and secure screening method which can fulfill the demand of corn seed clarity processing is needed. A number of Several scholars who detect inspect agricultural products found have noted that impacted acoustic emission was used as is the basis for a device that separates pistachio nuts with closed shells from those with split-shells^[3]. Also, Onaran et al.^[4] developed a prototype system that was set up to detect empty hazelnuts by dropping them kernels onto a steel plate and processing the acoustic signal generated when kernels upon impact with the plate. They realized found that 98% of filled, developed kernels and 97% of empty kernels were accurately classified. In addition, Smail Khalifahamzehghasem and colleagues [5] developed an intelligent walnut recognition system by combining acoustic emissions analysis, a decision tree and a fuzzy inference system (FIS) Smail's that exhibited an overall classification accuracy was of 94.7%, thereby indicating that the model could can be implemented for separating the empty walnuts shells from filled walnuts. Another example is that of Mei Y M and Guo, ^[6] who adopts adopted a method based on the combination of a decision tree and fuzzy inference system to identify and classify the intact corn particles, moth-eaten particles and mildewed corn particles by using a collision acoustic signal. The experiment's accuracy of their experiment was 97.6%, 92.9% and 96.4%, respectively, for each kind of particle. and Thus, those findings substantiated the effectiveness of the acoustic detection of acoustic on the corn seed damaged by worms. Although this technique provides a new effective approach for seed grading, but this technique could it should not be used for seed testing and sorting because of accuracy issues.

Air-coupled ultrasonic ultrasound is a rapid and nondestructive testing technology It acquires that has acquired high frequency, good direction, strong penetrating power and high precision features, such as ultrasonic. This technology uses using air as a coupled medium non-contact medium without the coupling agent, and also possesses a good surface compliance and can identify very thin material, etc. We have Having consulted modern recent literature, ^[7,8] have gone through germination tests, and ascertained that the seeds used in the tests are were indeed irradiation irradiated by the ultrasonic ultrasound and that the frequency and intensity are were same identical with the reported identification experiments, we are sure confident that the ultrasonic irradiation has no was not harmful to the corn seed. So Therefore, the air-coupled ultrasonic this method is very appropriate for identifying damaged corn seed particles. Air-coupled ultrasonic testing technology has been extensively used in numerous areas. A number of academics have applied it to the detection of both defective aviation components ^[9,10] and steel materials ^[11] detection and the analysis of material properties. the These studies have authenticated the assertion that the precision of defect detection can reach 1 mm ^[12,13].

In this study, the experiments used the pattern recognition method for detecting and distinguishing damaged maize seeds from the intact particles. Pattern recognition has been proved to have been used successfully in material defects testing. Li $Z^{[14]}$ choose the SVM (support vector base) as a pattern recognition classifier to identify the a flat bottom hole and a flat pan, two types of simulated defects, with the recognition rates of is 90% and 95%, respectively. Both R. Drai and colleagues ^[15] and VieiraA P et al.^[16] studied welding defects such as lack of penetration, incomplete fusion cracks and pore identification and as well as classification based on ultrasonic ultrasound, with accuracy rates above 85%.

These experimental outcomes assist to in the development of a recognition model based on air-coupled ultrasonic ultrasound for detecting and distinguishing the corn seeds damaged by worms from the intact particles. The goal is to compare and analyze a variety of pattern recognition methods to develop a high recognition rate and decent stability recognition model for corn seeds damaged by worms.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Samples

There are Numerous corn seed varieties exist, and each of them which varies in size, shape and humidity ratio. but However, the elastic modulus would will have minor transformations, and the level of ultrasonic wave diffraction around the seeds

will be assorted. Usually the Stored seeds usually need to be processed due to their moisture content of the seeds is being less than 13%. Compared with the difference in ultrasonic signals difference that is caused by seeds with and without holes, the elastic modulus difference is caused by factors that include including seed moisture content that differing in range, of moisture i.e., less than 13%, the different varieties as well as variety, and the different degree of diffraction due to size, all of which have insignificant effect on ultrasonic signals. In addition Moreover, the species are usually detected one by one individually, rather than as multiple varieties mixed together. If different varieties of seeds are used to build the model, it will have a bad an adverse effect on the recognition performance model, in which case and then we can create a specific model for those cases can be created.

All of the 810 stored corn seed particles of corn seeds that from the three varieties used in this study were harvested in the Tong Zhou district of Beijing Tong Zhou in September. In this study, lot of many seeds with holes should have been used. However, because the amount of available seeds with holes drilled by worms is was less in quantity, so this experiment focused on the seed manually damaged, instead of moth-eaten, particles damaged by hands, instead of the moth eaten particles. The total seeds are made up consisted of 400 intact particles, 10 worm-damaged particles and 400 manually damaged particles damaged by hands. The shape of the seeds used were was flat in nature, and the seed dimensions have having a length of 12mm-to-14mm, a width of 7.5mm-to-9.5mm and a thickness of 3.8mm-to-5mm.

The hole size of corn seeds damaged by worms was different, following this as well as that in the those manually damaged, holes damaged by hands also varied in size so the holes damaged by hands were also in dissimilar sizes to prove thus demonstrating that the damaged seeds could be identified whatever regardless of the hole size. The holes hole sizes of the corn seed, that damaged by bug or hand regardless of how the damage occurred, has had a length of 8-mmto-9.5mm, a width of 2.5-mmto-3.5mm and a thickness of 1.5-mmto-2.5mm. Seed particles Physical diagrams of seed particles are shown in Figure 1.



(1)Intact particle (a) Front



(b) Back



(2)Worm-damaged particle (a) Front





(3)Hands Manually damaged particle (a) Front (b) Back Figure 1 Corn seeds seed particles physical diagram

2.2 Data acquisition

The front sides of intact corn seeds are slightly concave; but the when they have there are holes, the front is much more sagged. Therefore, the reflections of the ultrasonic signal from the front and back both sides of the seeds are not identical, so resulting in inconsistency in the collected signal strength of the transmission wave is not consistent, which may affect the recognition of seeds. Considering that in practical application the range of seeds is not uncontrollable, so we observed every seed has been observed from on both sides, i.e., front and back, to verify that the orientation of the seed will would not influence the recognition.

The air-coupled ultrasonic signal acquisition system used in this study is shown illustrated in Figure 2. The Ultran NCG500-D13 model of the transducer Ultran NCG500-D13, has a center frequency of 400 kHz and a 40mm center distance, taking

the way of once-receive and once-send sent. The first step in the signal acquisition process is to place one seed particle seed in the focal point of the transceiver transducer focal point (To fulfill the seed placing placement requirements, a plastic tape layer is placed inserted between the transducers). [-Delete both parentheses] Then Second, using use any signal generator (e.g., Tektronix AFG3102) to produce a 12-cycle, continuous sine-wave original excitation signal with a frequency of 400 kHz. Then Third, using use a power amplifier (China: ekNet Electronics Company Amplifier Research 75A250A) amplified to boost the excitation signal (V_{pp}) to 200V (China: ekNet Electronics Company Amplifier Research 75A250A) to drive the aircoupling ultrasonic transducer and transmission transmitter from the seed. Next Fourth, filtering filter the ultrasonic signal received by the air coupled ultrasonic pulse transmitter / receiver that with the controlling computer named (Panametrics-NDT) Model 5900PR produced by the Pan American NDT) company controlling, and increasing increase the gain to 60dB. The A/D conversion of the ultrasonic signal is completed by the NI-5114 card. So Thus, the professional analysis software called CScan1 of on the upper computer could can be convenient to acquire for acquiring the data of ultrasonic signal data. The air-coupled ultrasonic signal acquisition systemused in this study is shown in Figure 2. The commercial mathematics software Matlab2014a produced by (MathWorks, Inc., USA) was used to simulate the model processes, including process that is de-noising, feature extraction, classification and identification.



Figure 2 Air-coupled ultrasonic signal acquisition system

Our method included using the air-coupled ultrasonic signal this acquisition system to collect ultrasonic data of from both sides of 810 seed particles from bothends (front and rear back), one by one individually, which gave us yielding 1,620 sets of data which had having 2,048 individual data points to be collected. However, because there was some noise in the collected data, so it could not be utilized to develop a model. Therefore, we considered the data points from 1,000 to 1,400 (shown listed in Table 1) to shape a model and test the model's its performance. Graphs of seeds the original ultrasonic signals are show depicted in Figure 3(a) (b) (c).



(a) Intact particles



(b) Worm-damaged particles



(c) Hand Manually damaged particles

Figure 3 Seeds Original ultrasonic signals of seeds

Table 1 Acquisition of corn-seed particles air-coupled ultrasonic signal numbers of corn-seed particles

	Intact particles	Hand Manually damaged	Worm-damaged		
Orientation	ultrasonic signal-	particles ultrasonic signal	particles ultrasonic-		
	number (piece)	number (piece)	signal number (piece)		
front	400	400	10		
back	400	400	10		

2.3 Modeling

2.3.1 Noise filtering

The noise from the original air-coupled ultrasonic wave signal will have an impact on the recognition results. Since a single wave can be used to analyze a signal simultaneously in the time and frequency domains simultaneously, it the wave can effectively distinguish the mutation portion of the noise in the signal, thereby de-noising the signal it. In this study, the an orthogonal structure and compactly supported Daubechies wavelet have been were used to reduce the signal noise. We used the a Db4 wavelet to decomposition decompose the signal into five layers to obtain a set of wavelet coefficients; then, we thresholding thresholded the coefficient

to get obtain the estimated coefficients to make the difference between estimated coefficients and wavelet coefficients as small as possible and then finally use the estimated coefficients to reconstruct the signal. After de-noising, the signal to noise ratio (SNR, SNR=20lg [*PS/PN*], with *Ps* and *Pn* represents representing the effective power of the signal and noise) was raised increased from 7.15 to 23.06. The de-noised data were then used as the input of for the feature selection.

2.3.2 Feature selection

The principal component analysis (PCA)^[17,1718] method was adopted to reduce the dimensions of the air-coupled ultrasonic information. In this study, the ultrasonic signal data acquired had consisted of 2048 d, making the signal data huge an excessive and overlapped overlapping quantity. This redundant information has had insignificant good contribution value in the experiment. As show graphically plotted in Figure 4, after the feature was sorted, more than 97% of the primary data were kept retained in the top ten principal components; so hence, the those top ten principal-components were extracted in this experiment. This extraction can make the data of high-dimensionto-low-dimension space conducive for the analysis and for the-reduction of reducing the loss of information.



Figure 4 Accumulated contribution rates of prior 20-dimensional principal components

2.3.3 Classification methods

In this experiment, four statistical pattern recognition methods, namely, the Nonlinear K-neighbor (KNN), SIMCA, linear Fisher Distinguish and Decision Tree cluster,^[19] have been were applied to build recognition models for corn seeds thathave having holes and worm damage The collected data that have possessing extracted features were used to build four recognition models by the four aforementioned methods, respectively, in KNN, k=4. The model prediction performance was evaluated by a correct recognition rate, *Correct recognition rate is* defined as the number of samples in the correct identification /the number of the sample which should be identified×100%. [Editor's Note: Should this rate be expressed as a mathematical formula?]

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Comparison of manually and hand-damaged particles compared with worm damaged particles

In the consideration of considering the difference between the hand damaged manually and the worm-damaged seed particles, there was a hypothesis it was hypothesized that this model was not incapable of identifying the seed particles which are drilled by moths because this the model is based on the hands identification of manually drilled particles. [Editor's Note: Do you consider worms and moths to be the same kind of damaging agent?]

Front and back ultrasonic signal data was were collected from one hundred particles with hand-drilled holes and ten moth-eaten particles, then de-noised after which the signals data were de-noised and lastly extract the first ten-dimensional features finally extracted by using PCA. It is Obviously, to see one may observe that the front and back data of both hand-drilled holes particles and moth-eaten particles are mixed together in the PCA features space (Figure 5).

It shows Thus, it has been demonstrated that the difference between moth-eaten

particles and hand-drilled holes particles of the same variety are not indistinguishable, which has exhibiting almost no effects on the results. Therefore, the particles manually drilled by hands particles could be replaced with the particles moth-drilled by moth, This is which became the basis for follow-up in this study.



Figure 5 Spatial distribution of the manually particles with hand damaged and moth-damaged particles in PCA [Editor's Note: Revise all text on the image according to the following patterns: Manually damaged particles, back and Worm-damaged particles, back, noticing the punctuation.]

3.2 Comparative analysis of the recognition models 3.2.1 Both sides Each side of the data model

Recognition model The structure of the recognition model is as follows, consisted of choosing intact and the manually damaged holes seeds to obtain front-side air-coupled ultrasonic signal data from 300 pieces, respectively, leaving yielding a total of 600 pieces of data as for a training set. The data was used to set up four kinds of recognition models respectively. The intact and manual holes seeds have We obtained positive air-coupled ultrasonic signal data from100 pieces of intact and manually damaged seeds, respectively, producing a total of 200 pieces of data as an testing experimental set to test the correct identification rate of the model. Then, the testing experimental set data will go through underwent the same de-noising and feature extraction processing regarding the front-side ultrasonic data of intact and damaged particles, and vice versa. The PCA spatial distribution of data from both sides each side of the particles with hand-drilled holes and the intact particles, is shown graphed in Figure 6 (a), (b). In addition, the minority particles have exhibited a clear boundary between ultrasonic data, either whether from the front or the back of the vast majority of both intact seeds and damaged seeds. Therefore, the ultrasonic method can distinguish between intact seeds and the hole-damaged seeds with holes. The difference between the different particles of the same variety is greater than the difference between the front and back signals of from the seeds. These results thus suggest that the intact particles can be separated from the damaged particles ones.

The intact particles and holed damaged particles were developed classified by the four identification methods which are shown listed in Table 2. From the table, it can be concluded that the KNN, SIMCA and Fisher identification models have better prediction results, especially for the data of pertaining to the back side of intact particles on the rear side. The correct recognition rate is 100% in for all sets. Compared with the other three methods, the KNN acquired obtained the best recognition effects rates. The correct recognition rates for the either each side of both the intact particles and holes the damaged particles are greater than 97%, making rendering the model more reliable. The truthful correct recognition rate of the model based on the decision tree is less than that of the others, being 87% for the front side of holed the damaged particles (front) is 87%. However, it still remains has to be proved that the air-coupled ultrasonic technology is feasible to use for the identification of the corn seed particles, whether is intact or holes damaged.



(a) Front side



(b) Back side

Figure 6 PCA spatial distribution of data from both sides each side of the particles with hand drilled holes manually damaged and intact particles [Editor's Note: Revise the text on the above images according to the following patterns: Manually damaged particles, training set, back; Manually damaged particles, experimental set, back. Revise likewise for Figure 7.]

[Editor's Note: Revise "Holes" to "Damaged" 4 times in the text of Tables 2 & 3 below.]

Table 2 Identification results of from different models for the two sides of data of each side

				unit: %					
	Identification method	KNN		SIMCA		Fisher		Decision tree	
		Intact	Holes	Intact	Holes	Intact	Holes	Intact	Holes Damaged
correct	Front	98	99	99	90	99	90	94	87
recognition rate	Back	100	97	100	96	100	96	93	92
	Average	99	98	99.5	93	99.5	93	93.5	89.5

3.2.2 Modeling by the two-sided seed data

In the actual production application of corn-seed clarity processing, the model is used to identify the damaged seeds from a large amount of seeds where the orientation is uncontrollable; so hence, we need to building a model that can identify seeds, whether regardless of the orientation, is front or rear needed. The evolution of the identification model process is as follows.

1. Select a sample of 300 seed particles consisting of 150 intact and 150 hand drilled; having equal share of 150 each. Then

2. Follow the air-coupled ultrasonic signal data on both sides of the elements of the above selected sample, so there is to obtain a total of 600 pieces of data that are to be used for the model, in order to establishing four kinds of recognition models; Now,

3. Choose another sample comprising consisting of 100 particles drawn equally from intact and hand-drilled; particles equally then

4. Replicate the above aforementioned trial; then

5. Total 200 particles the data on 200 particles to experiment test the performance of the model; performance. Finally,

6. Collect the statistical data from the correct recognition rate model of intact particles and holes holed particles, respectively.

The PCA spatial distribution of the particles front and back side data with for both hand-drilled holes damaged and intact particles is shown in Figure 7. As shown listed in Table 3, KNN could can be considered as the preeminent pattern recognition

method, and the model of which have has higher factual recognition rate for the ultrasonic data from the intact and holes damaged particles.



Figure7 Spatial distribution of the hands manually damaged particles and intact particles in PCA

			unit: %)	
Identification	KNN		SIMCA		Fisher		Decision tree	
method	Intent	Holos	Intest	Holog	Intest	Holog	Intest	Holes
	Intact	Holes	Intact	Holes	Intact	Holes	Intact	Damaged
correct recognition	100	97	00	94	99	94	100	04
rate	100		77					94

Table 3 Recognition results of for different models

3.2.3 Comparative analysis of the models

From According to Tables 2 and Table 3, the data of for the seeds taken from either side is either separate or hybrid. The correct recognition rate of the KNN model for intact and holes damaged particles is the most precise among the four methods. This result is supported by the argument ^[20] that the KNN recognition method while making judgments uses the factual information of all the known points while making judgments; and therefore, the recognition effect will be better than with other methods.

As shown listed in Tables 2 and Table 3, most of the recognition methods are decent acceptable for the intact particles. The main reason may be that the those particles are similar in shape, size and in embryo's embryonic uniformity. Due to the size and the depth of the holes, the difference is relatively big large between holes the damaged particles. So Thus, the attenuation of the ultrasonic signals will be different after penetrating into the seed, and the difference of in the signals make causing the seed samples distribution of the seed samples at the PCA space to be relatively dispersed. The distance of a little small part of the damaged particles from the center is greater than the distance from the intact particles to the center of the model center. Therefore, the holes damaged particles were incorrectly identified as intact seeds, which will thereby leading to reduce a reduction in the correct recognition rate.

Among researchers doing engaged in similar studies scholars, Mei Y M and Guo uses used an impact sound signal to identify intact particles and insect-damaged particles of corn seeds whose at accuracy rates is of 97.6% and 92.9%, respectively. In this our study, the accuracy of the recognition rates about for intact particles and insects insect-damaged particles is was higher than the minimum recognition rates of 3.6% and 5.9%. However, if compared with the model established by the KNN recognition method in this paper research, the correct recognition rate of for both intact particles and holes damaged particles is still lower.

4 Conclusions

The results showed have demonstrated that the model established by using air-coupled ultrasonic data is the best for identifying the intact particles and holes damaged particles of corn seeds. The pattern recognition established by KNN has acquired the highest average accurate recognition rate and the highest correct recognition rate of among the tested models for intact particles and holes damaged particles, which may reach 97% and 100%, respectively. While some model Although the precise recognition rate is relatively low for some models, the lowest range is 87% to 93%. The results of this study have a great practical significance in corn seeds the

production and processing in practical life of corn seeds. It Our method can individually pick out the moth-eaten seeds, one by one, that are mixed in among a large number of intact seeds, So, it can improve thereby improving the clarity of the seed and furthering the seed germination rate. Finally, it this method satisfies the detection requirements of the seeds detection without damaging their the physical and chemical properties of the seeds, thus making it is an efficiently efficient and environmentally-friendly detection method. [CJR stopped editing at this point.]

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