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Bionic Technology and Deep Learning in Agricultural Engineering: Current Status and Future Prospects

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Abstract: As one of the most important production activity of mankind, agriculture plays an important role in social development. With the development of science and technology, agricultural technology has constantly been explored and researched. By learning and imitating the characteristics of creatures in nature, bionic technology has been applied to the improvement of agricultural machinery and farm implements. In recent years, as an extension of bionic technology, machine vision and deep learning have been widely used in agricultural production. The application of bionic technology and deep learning in agricultural engineering are reviewed in this study. In traditional agricultural engineering, many bionic farming tools were developed to reduce soil resistance and multiple bionic cutting cutters were designed to improve work efficiency and save energy. Machine vision and neural networks were widely used in crop classification, sorting, phenological period recognition and navigation. Deep learning methods can promote the intelligentization of agricultural engineering and has obvious advantages in crop classification, disease and pest identification, growth status evaluation and autonomous robots. Agricultural engineering that integrates bionic technology, machine vision and deep learning will develop toward more automation and intelligence.

Keywords: Counter-Regulatory Arms, RAS, Cardiovascular and Renal Function Bionic Technology, Deep Learning, Agricultural Engineering, Machine Vision

Introduction

Agriculture, as one driving force of human development, is the foundation for supporting social stability. Agricultural engineering has always been an important research field and various technologies have been continuously promoted and applied in agricultural engineering (Zhang *et al.*, 2002). Bionic technology, with unique design thought, has a positive effect on the development of agricultural engineering. The birth of bionics opened a new era of human learning from nature (Luquan and Yunhong, 2016). "Bionics is the study of the structure, properties, principles, behaviors and interactions of biological systems, so as to provide new design ideas, working principles and system composition for engineering technology" was proposed by Academician (Yongxiang, 2004). So far, there is no

unified and clear definition of bionics in the strict sense, but its basic connotation is clear: Bionics improves modern technical equipment and creates new technologies by studying and imitating various characteristics of the biological world (Dickinson, 1999), such as matter, energy, information, etc.

By imitating the characteristics and movements of various creature, bionics is an important form of human learning from nature. Bionic technology has been applied to optimized agricultural machineries and farm implements, which greatly improves the work efficiency of agricultural production (Jia *et al.*, 2019; Li *et al.*, 2017; Liu *et al.*, 2014). Various bionic agricultural machineries have been designed and developed, such as tillage plows, cutting cutters and driving wheels.

Machine vision imitates human visual functions through computers and artificial neural networks imitate

brain synaptic connections for information processing, both of which are new extensions of bionic technology. Machine vision and neural networks have been widely used in agricultural engineering, such as the classification and sorting of agricultural products, the estimation of the state of crops and the navigation of agricultural machinery. Machine vision has successfully replaced the recognition of human eyes, which can save labor and improve recognition accuracy (Patel *et al.*, 2012; Xue *et al.*, 2012). With the development of technology, more and more agricultural machineries are equipped with vision systems for intelligent monitoring, early warning, processing and other functions.

Deep learning (LeCun *et al.*, 2015; Schmidhuber, 2015), as more complex neural networks in the field of machine learning, realizes more intelligent recognition and processing and promotes the development of artificial intelligence. In recent years, deep learning has been researched and promoted in the field of agriculture, which helps to improve the intelligence of traditional agriculture. In the process of agricultural production, deep learning performs well in crop classification, disease and pest diagnosis, growth status evaluation and autonomous robots. This paper systematically introduces the application status of bionic technology, machine vision, neural network and deep learning in agricultural engineering and considers and prospects the future development of bionic technology and deep learning.

Bionic Application of Agricultural Machineries

In the field of agricultural engineering, the interaction between soil and machinery is one of the research hotspots. Since the 1980 s, Academician Ren and his team conducted a systematic and in-depth study of earthworms and constructed the mechanical principles of bionic mollusk movement (Luquan and Yunhong, 2016). Based on some biological phenomena, such as earthworms build a lubricating interface film on their body surface through secreted mucus and surface electroosmosis to reduce soil adhesion and the non-smooth surface structures of some soil animals have good performance in desorption and drag reduction, bionic desorption theory was gradually summed up.

Soil Cultivation

In the process of agricultural machinery touching the soil, the interaction between the soil and the touching parts brings greater resistance and power consumption and bionics is widely used in the resistance and consumption reduction technology of the touching parts. Generally, non-smooth surfaces on soil-touching parts of many soil animals have become bionic research objects, such as convex hulls, pits (Xu *et al.*, 2009), ribs, scales (Li

et al., 1998), which have the characteristics of desorption and drag reduction. Reducing abrasion and tillage resistance is the main goal of the improvement research of agricultural farming machinery. Zhang (2014) used reverse engineering technology to extract the ribbed geometric structure information on the outer surfaces of shell organisms and fit mathematical models to optimize the structures of subsoiling shovels. The test results indicate that the bionic ribbed subsoiling shovel has lower tillage resistance and better wear resistance. Xue (2017) designed a bionic coupling disc by analyzing the drag reduction characteristics of the dung beetle head and the pangolin back-surface, which has a better drag reduction performance and energy-saving effect.

As shown in Fig. 1, inspired by high excavation efficiency of soil burrow animals, bionic researches on the claws of these animals have made abundant achievements. Wang *et al.* (2018) designed a bionic weeding shovel based on the geometric structure of the zokor paw, which has a significant drag reduction effect when weeding among seedlings. Based on the profile curve characteristics of the mole's forefoot paw and toe, (Ji *et al.*, 2012) designed a bionic rotary tillage cutter, which meets industry standards and consumes less power (Jia *et al.*, 2009; Tong *et al.*, 2015). The characteristics of soil animal surfaces, such lubrication, electroosmosis, have multiple coupling effects on reducing the surface viscosity and soil resistance. Zhang *et al.* (2019b) designed a bionic injection device to improve the performances of desorption and drag reduction during operation, using coupling of earthworm movement, mucus secretion and body surface structure as the bionic object, as shown in Fig. 2.

Agricultural Robots

The latest agricultural robots have integrated information technology, sensor technology and artificial intelligence technology on traditional agricultural machinery. Because field operations are different from production of industrial assembly line, the walking devices of agricultural robots are special.

Combining the buffalo striding strategy and the characteristics of wheel movement, Chen *et al.* (2003) proposed a bionic walking-wheel method, replacing the wheel rolling with walking on soft ground and it changed the mechanical structure system of coexisting load bearing and driving in traditional production. The MIT Biomimetic Robotics Lab took cheetahs as bionic objects and developed a cheetah-like robot with smoother movement (Ananthanarayanan *et al.*, 2012; Seok *et al.*, 2013). As shown in Fig. 3, Yanhu *et al.* (2018) designed an adaptive low-vibration walking wheel that mimics the foot motion posture of ostriches and the energy-storage and shock-absorption function of its metatarsophalangeal joints.

Agricultural Cutters

Bionics provides new ideas and methods for the research, design and optimization of crop cutters. Tian *et al.* (2017) designed a blade that mimics the mouthparts of longhorn beetles, as shown in Fig. 4. In cutting tests of single-stalk hems, its average maximum cutting force and cutting power consumption were reduced by 7.4 and 8.0%, respectively. Wei *et al.* (2018) designed a bionic harvest cutting table of flax by capturing the upper-jaw contour of the Korean beetle and its cutting effect is obviously superior to that of the traditional standard cutter, reducing the cutting blank area by 50% and the recut area by 80%. By imitating the chewing teeth of locusts, Honglei *et al.* (2018) designed a bionic saw blade for corn stalk cutting (Jia *et al.*, 2013), a bionic disc cutter

(Wang *et al.*, 2014), a dynamic bionic stubble cutting device (Honglei *et al.*, 2018). The test results indicate that the power consumption of the bionic saw blade and bionic disc cutter are reduced by 12.85 and 18.49% respectively and the torque output of the bionic stubble cutting device is reduced by 19.5~21.8%. Berling and Rechberger (2007) designed a plastic cutter based on the self-sharpening characteristic of beaver incisors and its wear rate was significantly reduced.

The above research demonstrates that bionic cutters can increase the service life, efficiency and reduce power consumption of the blades through the bionic design of animal shape and function. The application of bionic technology can better improve the shortcomings of traditional blades by learning from the advantages of biological evolution.

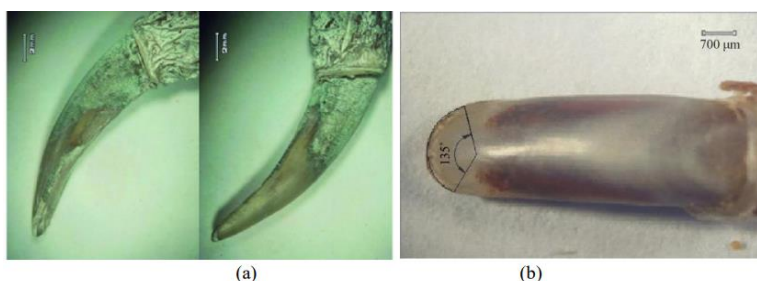


Fig. 1: Bionic objects. (a) the zokor paw (b) the toe of mole rat

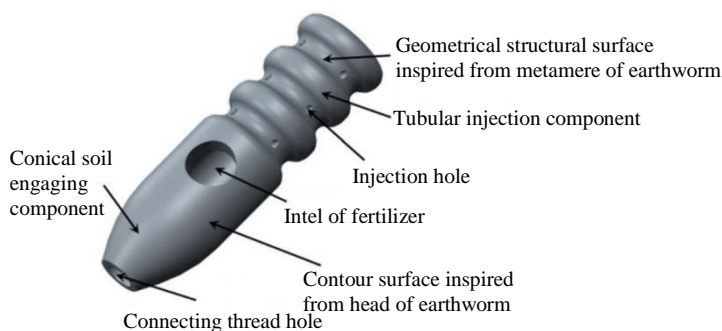


Fig. 2: Bionic injection device



Fig. 3: Bionic walk wheel

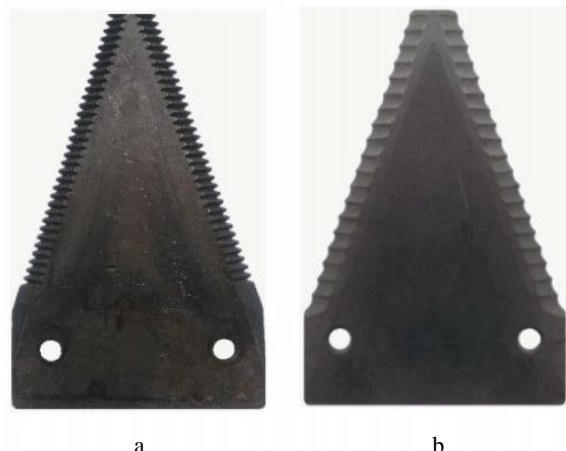


Fig. 4: (a) Ordinary blade; (b) Bionic blade

Machine Vision and Neural Networks in Agricultural Engineering

After the early bionic research on animal characteristics, bionic technology in the field of agricultural engineering has developed from ground mechanical drag reduction, bionic wear-resistant materials and bionic design to the direction of intelligent agriculture and advanced manufacturing. As the "intelligent eye" of artificial intelligence, machine vision plays an important role in the classification of agricultural products, the monitoring of weeds and pests and intelligent agricultural machinery, which has attracted the attention of many researchers. In recent years, artificial intelligence is the frontier development of bionics and many applied researches of artificial intelligence have been carried out in the field of agricultural engineering.

Recognition and Classification

In order to overcome the influence of color saturation, illumination and reflection on visual classification, Kang and Sams (1999) used artificial neural networks to train the color and shape of oranges to achieve recognition and classification. The test results indicate that this method has higher requirements for environmental conditions and the visual environment directly affects the recognition results.

Rocha *et al.* (2008; 2010) constructed different classifiers by extracting the color, texture and shape features of different fruits. They found the optimal combination to optimize the recognition rate and Fig. 5 shows average accuracy per class. They found that the combination of Color Coherence Vectors (CCVs), Border/Interior (BIC) and Sum and difference histograms (Unser) provides better average accuracies when considering intra-class variability. Seng and Mirisae (2009) proposed a new fruit recognition system, which combines three features analysis methods: Color-based, shape-based

and size-based in order to increase accuracy of recognition. The recognition results of the system are accurate up to 90%.

In this regard, (Faria *et al.*, 2012) used different classifiers to integrate different features to achieve "one-to-one" processing for specific categories. This method simplified the training process and obtained better recognition results with a small amount of training data. In recognition experiments on 2699 images of fruits and vegetables (15 categories), the recognition accuracy rate reached 85%. Koslowski *et al.* (2013) used MPEG-7 color and texture descriptors from image patches to classify fruits and evaluated classification effect multi-layer perceptron network and support vector machine. In the experiments, the misjudgment rates of 320 fruit images (8 categories) were less than 10%. Biswas and Hossain (2013) extracted and analyzed multiple recognition clues (such as colour, shape, size, texture and weight) of the captured images to classify and recognize the vegetables. The results show that it has high classification accuracy and is suitable for vegetable classification in different occasions.

As shown in Fig. 6, (Zhang *et al.*, 2014) proposed a hybrid classifier that combines the chaos artificial bee colony algorithm and the feedforward neural network, which extracted color, texture and shape features to recognize 18 categories of fruit images, with a recognition accuracy of 89.1%. Considering the impact of different lighting on the images of vegetables and fruits, Dubey and Jalal (2015) extracted different state-of-art color and texture features and combined them to achieve more efficient and discriminative feature description and used multi-class support vector machine to classify different fruit images and the recognition accuracy rate is up to 90.6%.

In order to solve the problem that traditional recognition methods are greatly affected by light, shadows and other factors, Xiaolin *et al.* (2014) replaced the SVM classifier with a compressed perceptron and merged the extracted feature information to achieve classification. The results show that the highest recognition rate of fruit and vegetable images with 13 categories is 96.2%. Wang *et al.* (2016) used ANN-BP model for estimating vegetation chlorophyll content based on red edge parameter, which could greatly improve the accuracy (Yao *et al.*, 2009). used machine vision and neural networks to sort the quality and shape of potatoes.

State Evaluation

Watcharabutsarakham and Methasate (2019) proposed a system based on the SVM trained on color and Gray Level co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM) image features, which can automatically detect the position of Planthoppers (RPHs) in the collected images and classify the life stage of each hopper and its classification accuracy achieved 87%. By using decision tree

algorithm, classify analytic data to get images of RPHs, Tsai *et al.* (2017) proposed a Region Of Interest (ROI) method to detect RPHs, with an 80% classification accuracy. Yue *et al.* (2016) also proposed a digital image processing method, based on a nonlinear dispersive phase operation and a multi-feature fusion mean shift method, to segment rice RPHs on curtain in paddy fields. Ma *et al.* (2013) used OSTU algorithm to segment the embryo images, extracted six characteristic parameters from the images and used the k-means clustering algorithm to identify maize varieties. In the experiment, the variety identification rates are than 94.12%.

Lavania and Matey (2015) combined double thresholding based on the 3D-Otsu's method and the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) method to detect and classify weed in crop rows and it was suited for the real time applications. As shown in Fig. 7, for the detection and characterization of Nitrogen (N) deficiencies in corn fields, Zermas *et al.* (2015) used small-scale Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Computer Vision algorithms to analyze the visual (RGB) spectrum and supervised learning methods to characterize crop leaves. The test results show that the accuracy of identifying Ndeficient leaves was 84.2%. Based on the hyperspectral technology, Wu *et al.* (2019) established Recurrent Neural Network (GRNN) and Probabilistic Neural Network (PNN) to identify the phenological period of cantaloupe fruit.

Navigation of Agricultural Machinery

Based on monocular vision, Wang *et al.* (2013) used threshold segmentation and morphological algorithms to extract crops and fitted the running route to realize automatic tractor navigation. Hiremath *et al.* (2014) proposed a visual navigation algorithm based on the Particle Filter and the experimental results show that the algorithm was robust. As shown in Fig. 8, (Radcliffe *et al.*, 2018) used orchard images captured by a multispectral camera, focusing on tree canopy and sky of an orchard row, to realize the navigation of unmanned ground vehicles.

Qingkuan *et al.* (2016) used K-means algorithm to extract green crops from the soil background, morphological filtering algorithm to eliminate the weed interference information and Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) to quickly and accurately detect the navigation line. Zhai *et al.* (2016) proposed a method for detecting crop rows based on binocular vision with Census transformation and used the Principle Component Analysis (PCA) method to fit the centerline of the corresponding crop row. Zhiyan *et al.* (2017) proposed a path-planning method based on

machine vision for tea crop walking, which combined 2G-R-B processing and the method of least squares.

Deep Learning in Agricultural Engineering

In recent years, the application and research of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to agricultural engineering has rapidly increased. The convolutional neural network was inspired by the biological visual cortex. In 1962, Canadian neurologists conducted experiments on the visual cortex of animals and found that some neuronal cells in the brain would make respond when the edges in a specific direction appeared. This mode in which specific neuronal cells will find specific features to complete visual tasks has become the basis of CNN. In recent years, the application of convolutional neural networks and deep learning in agricultural engineering has increased.

Plant Diseases and Insect Pests

In the recognition of plant diseases and insect pests, the deep learning model effectively improves its accuracy and accuracy. Siyu *et al.* (2020) used machine vision and adaptive convolutional neural network to detect the quality of peanut kernels and realized the recognition of peanut defects such as mildew, broken and shriveled. Ferentinos (2018) developed convolutional neural network models to perform plant disease detection and diagnosis, with the best performance reaching a 99.53% success rate.

Min *et al.* (2019) applied the different combinations of normalizing image size, truncating region of interest and Faster R-CNN Inception v2 (or SSD MobileNet v1) to intelligent diagnosis of rice pests and diseases. DeChant *et al.* (2017) used deep learning models to effectively identify Northern Leaf Blight (NLB) in maize with 96.7% accuracy. Chen *et al.* (2019) constructed an intelligent identification system in process of feature automatic learning, feature fusion, classification and position regression based on deep learning method, the recognition rates of 16 kinds of common pests in light traps under natural condition ranged from 66 to 90% and the recognition rates of 38 pest symptoms in the field ranged from 50 to 90%. Liu *et al.* (2018) proposed a deep learning model based on the AlexNet model to detect apple leaf diseases.

Fuentes *et al.* (2017) presented deep-learning-based approach to detect diseases and pests (Fig. 9) in tomato plants using images captured in-place by camera devices with various resolutions, with three detectors: Faster R-CNN, R-FCN, SSD and additionally propose a method for local and global class annotation and data augmentation to increase the accuracy and reduce the number of false positives during training. Zhang *et al.*

(2019a) proposed a deep convolutional neural network method by combining the spatial pyramid pooling with the improved YOLOv3 model and the average accuracy was 88.07%. Barbedo (2018) discussed the main factors that affect the design and effectiveness of deep neural nets applied to plant pathology and built a database of 50,000 images for research.

Agricultural Production

At present, deep learning is developing rapidly in the field of agriculture and there are a variety of deep learning models and methods that have been applied to various agricultural and food production challenges (Kamilaris and Prenafeta-Boldú, 2018). Cai *et al.* (2018) exploited a machine learning model based on Deep Neural Network (DNN) and high-performance computing for intelligent and scalable computation of classification processes, which is useful for in-season classification of field-level crop types. Lin *et al.* (2019) proposed a rice planthopper image classification algorithm based on transfer learning and Mask R-CNN, with a average classification accuracy of 92.3%.

By using a convolutional neural network, (Dyrmann *et al.*, 2016) proposed a method that is capable of recognizing plant species in color images and the network could achieve a classification accuracy of 86.2% for these 22 species. Zhong *et al.* (2019) developed a deep learning based classification framework for remotely sensed time series. Kussul *et al.* (2017) used deep learning models, including a traditional fully connected Multilayer

Perceptron (MLP) and the most commonly used approach in RS community random forest and compare them with CNNs, to classify ground crops from multitemporal multisource satellite imagery.

As show in Fig. 10, Sa *et al.* (2016) proposed a multimodal Faster R-CNN model for fruits recognition, which is applied to an autonomous agricultural robotic platform. Ye *et al.* (2019) established a model of stunning state classification based on Faster R-CNN and the recognition accuracy was 96.51%, which can be used to enhance automated slaughtering processes in the poultry industry.

As shown in Fig. 11, Yu *et al.* (2019) proposed a deep learning method based on the Mask R-CNN. which can automatically detect ripe and unripe strawberries. As show in Fig. 12, Tian *et al.* (2019) proposed an improved YOLO-V3 model for detecting apples during different growth stages in orchards with fluctuating illumination, complex backgrounds, overlapping apples and branches and leaves. The average detection time of the model is 0.304 s per frame at 3000×3000 resolution. Dias *et al.* (2018) used CNNs to estimate bloom intensity of apple trees, with recall and precision rates higher than 90%. Zhonghong *et al.* (2019) proposed a new method for fresh grade recognition of spinach based on hyperspectral and deep learning. Maryam *et al.* proposed an improved Inception-ResNet model for yield estimation, as shown in Fig. 13, with a 91% average test accuracy on real images and 93% on synthetic images (Rahnemoonfar and Sheppard, 2017).

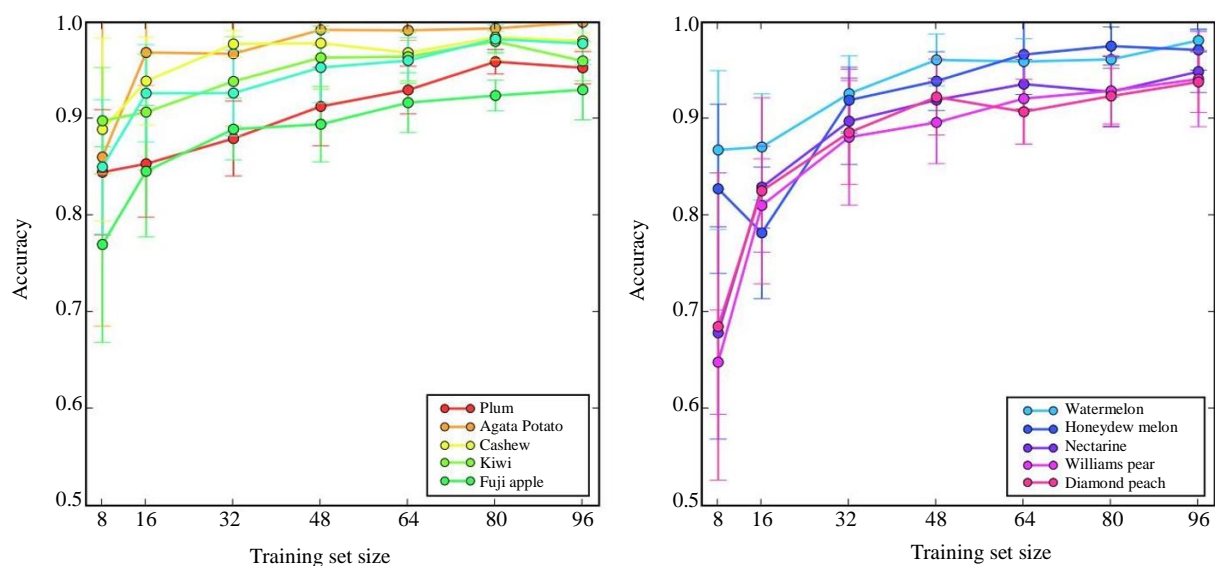


Fig. 5: Average accuracy per class

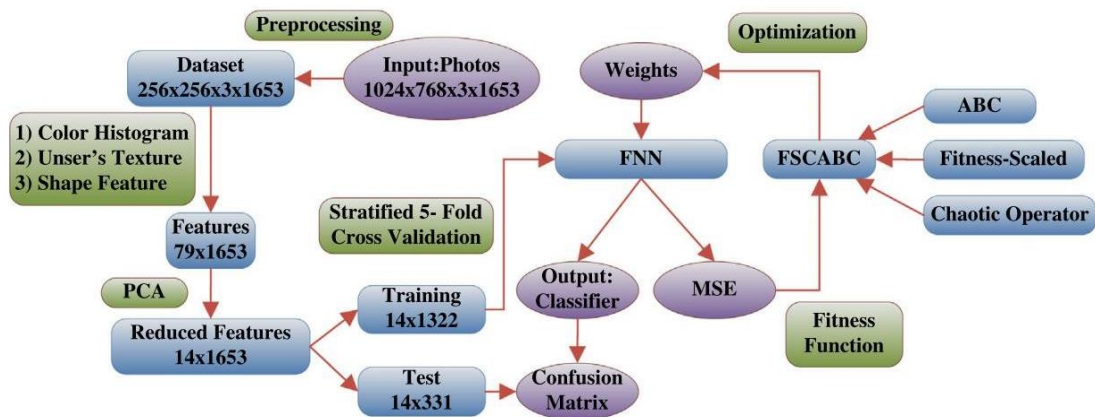


Fig. 6: The flowchart of the proposed fruit recognition system



Fig. 7: The output of the recommendation scheme on a heavily N-deficient image

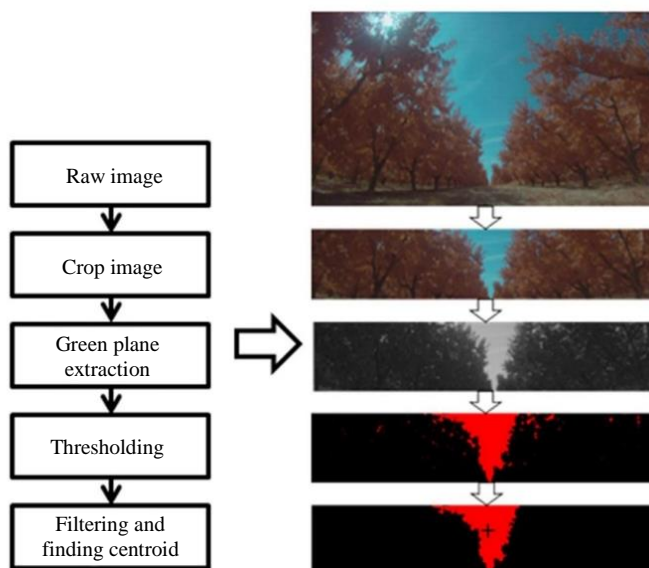


Fig. 8: Image processing algorithm for autonomous navigation

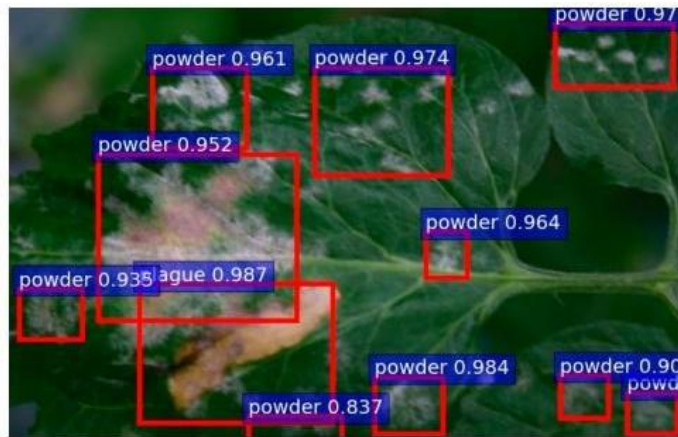


Fig. 9: Detection results of diseases and pests

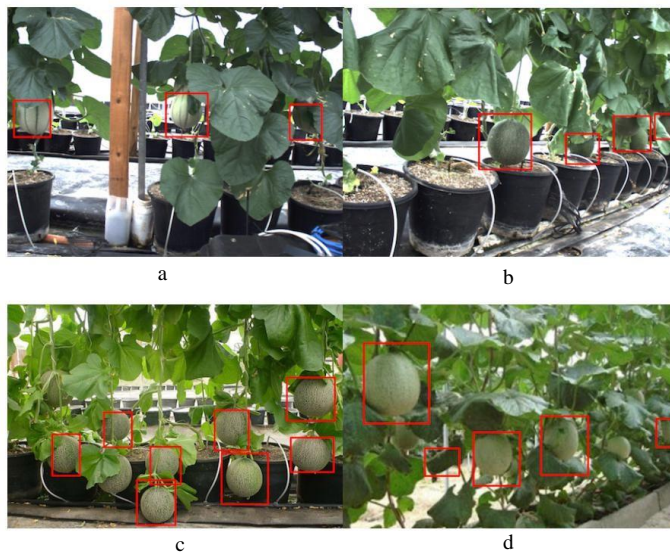


Fig. 10: Fruits recognition based on Faster R-CNN



Fig. 11: Strawberry recognition based on Mask R-CNN



Fig. 12: Apple recognition based on an improved YOLO-V3

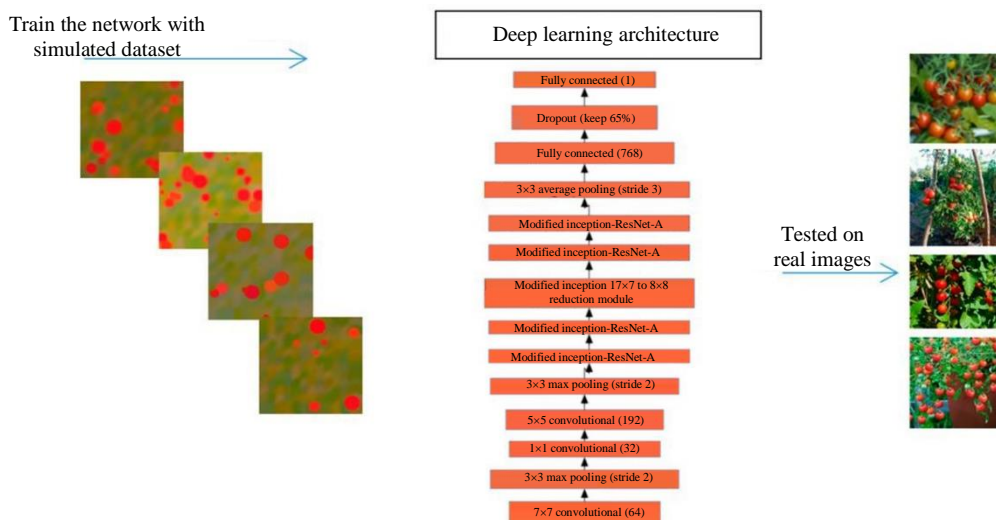


Fig. 13: The framework of the improved Inception-ResNet model for yield estimation

Table 1: Bionic application of animal morphological and movement

Aspects	Objects	Results and applications
Bionic description theory	Earthworms and soil animals	Theoretical basis for drag reduction and energy saving
Farming machineries	Shells, dung beetles, pangolins, zokors, etc.	Bionic plow-moldboard, bionic press roller and bionic subsoiler
Crop cutters	Beetles, beetles, moles, locusts, etc.	Bionic cutters
Movement structure	Buffalos, cheetahs, ostriches, etc.	Bionic walking wheels and robots

Discussion and Future Prospect

In recent years, the research of bionic technology has become more and more extensive and achieved great success in agricultural engineering applications. Bionic technology has gradually developed from the primary imitation, such as shape, structure and movement of animals, to intelligent methods and algorithms, such as machine vision, neural networks and deep learning. Agriculture, as an important industry related to human survival, is the cornerstone of maintaining social stability. Through the development and application of bionic technology, agricultural engineering has been improved: Higher operating efficiency, energy consumption saving, intelligent identification and management. Bionic technology and deep learning have accelerated the innovation of agricultural technology, reduced the number of field staff, increased the output of agricultural

products and promoted the automation and intelligence of agricultural engineering.

Bionic Design of Agricultural Machineries

As an earlier bionic technology used in agriculture, the imitation of soil animal morphology and movement has promoted the development and application of new farm tools and agricultural machinery. The bionic research on morphology and kinematics mainly focuses on farming machinery and cutting cutters. The soil drag reduction of bionic agricultural machineries is conducive to reducing the energy consumption and wear of agricultural machinery during the cultivation process and the bionic design of cutting and crushing tools can reduce energy consumption and improve work efficiency Table 1. The bionic research and application of animal morphological and movement in agricultural engineering focuses on the following aspects:

- (1) Research on the bionic desorption theory: By exploring characteristics and rules of soil animal desorption phenomenon, the bionic desorption theory provides a theoretical basis for the bionic design of agricultural machinery. The proposal of "biological non-smooth drag reduction theory" and "multiple bionic coupling theory" promoted applications of bionics in agricultural engineering
 - (2) Design and research of farming machineries: Bionic technology has played an important role in the design of agricultural machinery, effectively solving problems of farming machineries, such as large resistance, serious wear and high energy consumption. By imitating the characteristics of shells, dung beetles, pangolins, zokors and other animal, some bionic plowmoldboard, bionic press roller and bionic subsoiler have characteristics of anti-adhesion and anti-resistance, which promotes the development of agricultural farming machineries
 - (3) Research on cutting cutters: bionic technology has greatly promoted the design and application of crop harvesters. The cutting and crushing cutters imitated the mouthparts of longhorn beetles, the upper jaws of scarabs, the paws of moles and the chewing teeth of locusts are superior to traditional cutting cutters in cutting force and cutting power consumption and improve cutting efficiency
 - (4) Research on bionic walking wheels and robots: Due to the wheel structure of traditional agricultural machineries, slipping and sinking problems often occur in soft and muddy farmland. Bionic walking wheels and robots have better performances of motion, shock absorption and smoothness. With the development of robot technology, biomimetic agricultural robots are increasingly popularized
- (1) Crop classification and recognition: Machine vision and neural networks can replace manual work to achieve efficient and automatic classification and recognition. A variety of classifiers can be constructed through image processing and neural networks. Classifier construction methods mainly include: Based on feature parameters (such as color, texture, shape, size and edge), support vector machines, multi-layer perception networks and artificial neural networks. The classifiers based on machine vision and neural network accelerate the intelligent recognition in agricultural engineering
 - (2) Size and quality sorting: Automatic sorting of size and quality effectively reduces time consumption and labor costs. Machine vision combined with neural network, OSTO algorithm, K-means clustering algorithm, feature dimension reduction and other algorithms can sort crops (such as potatoes, corn) and further realize the sorting of weeds and crops, identify weeds and automate weeding
 - (3) Phenological phase recognition: Machine vision combined with chromatograph, spectroscopy and regression neural network can identify crop phenological phases, evaluating growth status and yield, which is very important in agricultural engineering applications
 - (4) Path extraction and navigation: The path of crops can be extracted through machine vision to realize autonomous navigation of agricultural machinery. Vision acquisition methods include monocular cameras, binocular cameras and depth cameras. Machine vision combined with neural networks, K-means clustering algorithm and other algorithms can extract path information such as crop ranks and walking paths between crops

Agricultural Recognition and Analysis

The research and application of machine vision and neural networks in the field of agricultural engineering have broadened the agricultural engineering and it has become an important part of intelligent agriculture. As advanced bionic technology, machine vision and neural network are different from the early bionics (imitating animal characteristics and behaviors), but carried out from visual capture, analysis and processing. In the field of agricultural identification, machine vision and neural networks have played a great role and are widely used in crop classification, quality sorting, variety identification, phenological phase identification, weed identification and route navigation. Machine vision focuses on visual capture, image processing and data analysis and neural networks imitate brain neurons for training and learning. The combination of machine vision and neural networks realizes advanced visual identification in the agricultural field. Machine vision and neural networks are widely used in agricultural engineering, including:

Intelligent Agricultural Engineering

In recent years, the rapid development of deep learning has promoted the intelligentization of agricultural engineering. As a more advanced bionic technology, deep learning is more complex than machine vision and artificial neural networks, but it can solve classification problems more efficiently and accurately. Compared with the basic bionic technology, deep learning requires more calculations and faster processing speed. With the development of integrated circuit and chip technology, the research and application of deep learning are increasing. Deep learning consists of multi-layer networks for feature extraction, pooling and output. Common deep learning models include CNN, R-CNN, Faster R-CNN, R-FCN, SSD, Mask R-CNN, YOLO, etc. The research and application of deep learning in agricultural engineering focus on the following aspects:

- (1) Classification: Deep learning has played an important role in the recognition and classification of crops. By building huge databases for learning and training, it can quickly and accurately classify crop varieties, independent of target characteristics and lighting environment
- (2) Recognition of pests and diseases: After learning and training, the deep learning model has become an important means of identifying pests and diseases, speeding up the diagnosis speed and accuracy
- (3) Evaluation of growth status: Deep learning can identify and evaluate the maturity, flowering, freshness and yield of crops to achieve intelligent management
- (4) Intelligent robots: Intelligent robots based on deep learning are the most popular research direction, leading the development of automation and intelligence in agricultural engineering. The combination of deep learning, robotics and other disciplines enables agricultural machineries more intelligent, such as perception and autonomous navigation and it will accelerate the development of intelligent agricultural robots

Deep learning is an important method of artificial intelligence and its application promoted the development of intelligent agriculture. Compared with machine vision and neural networks, deep learning models have higher accuracy and efficiency. Bionic technology has developed from simple imitation design to intelligent processing and its application in agricultural engineering has changed from agricultural machineries and cutters to intelligent recognition and autonomous agricultural robots.

With the development of bionic technology and deep learning, the improvement of agricultural engineering will not only be the optimization of agricultural machinery and crop identification, but also intelligent management and unmanned monitoring of agriculture. Although deep learning has promoted agricultural intelligence, the characteristics of high cost and complicated operation are still problems to be solved. Bionic technology and deep learning will bring new challenges and opportunities to agricultural practitioners and will continue to promote the development of agricultural technology. The research of bionic technology still needs continuous exploration and suitable and convenient intelligent agricultural robots will become the hotspot of future research.

Conclusion

This paper discusses the agricultural engineering application of bionic technology and deep learning technology in detail. The bionic technology has played an important role in promoting the agricultural development. Traditional bionics technology is widely used in agriculture, such as reducing soil resistance of agricultural machinery and improvement of cutting cutters. These

applications indicate that bionic technology has incomparable advantages in agricultural engineering. Machine vision and neural networks are widely used in agricultural engineering to solve the problems of crop classification, sorting, phenological period recognition and navigation. In recent years, deep learning has been deeply explored and applied in agricultural engineering, especially in the aspects of crop classification, disease and pest diagnosis, growth status evaluation and autonomous robots, showing high efficiency and intelligence.

At present, bionic technology and deep learning are still important methods and driving forces of agricultural development and more in-depth research is needed. At the same time, deep learning still has many problems, such as time-consuming, high cost and high complexity. With more in-depth research, bionic technology and deep learning will be improved and optimized continually, leading to intelligent and sustainable agriculture.

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Author's Contributions

Chunlei Tu and Jie Li: Contributed significantly to analysis and manuscript preparation.

Jinxia Li and Cheng Shen: Participated to collect the materials.

Xingsong Wang: Contributed to the conception of the study.

Ethics

The authors declare their responsibility for any ethical issues that may arise after the publication of this manuscript.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests. The corresponding author affirms that all of the authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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