

Strawberry Ripeness Classification System Based On Skin Tone Color using Multi-Class Support Vector Machine

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Abstract— This research aims to build an automatic sorting system for strawberry ripeness into three categories: unripe, partially ripe, and ripe. Manual fruit sorting has many weaknesses and limitations. One of the disadvantages is human error in the sorting process. Therefore, the implementation of artificial intelligence as replacement of human worker can mitigate the problem. Fruit ripeness is identified based on color characteristic, which is the Red, Green, Blue (RGB) value of the object. Multi-Class Support Vector Machine (SVM) with Radial Basis Function (RBF) kernel function is implemented to classify the ripeness. The data was taken using the Logitech C920 web camera which then divided into training and testing data video. In this research, prototype of strawberries sorting is built with real-time video which is never been considered in previous researches. Training data consists of 70 unripe strawberries, 70 partially ripe strawberries, and 70 ripe strawberries. Meanwhile testing data comprises of 30 unripe strawberries, 30 partially ripe strawberries, and 30 ripe strawberries. The result shows that the strawberry ripeness classification system using Multi-class SVM with RBF kernel function produces up to 85.64% accuracy, where the parameters are $C = 7$ and $\gamma = 10^{-2}$.

Keywords—*strawberry, HSV, RBF, multi-class support vector machine*

I. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of Industry 4.0 with the application of artificial intelligence and the use of machinery becomes more effective and efficient to replace human tasks, especially in fruit sorting process based on its quality [1]. Sorting strawberries manually has limitations because it is influenced by employee subjectivity and physic ability. Therefore, at some point the classification process becomes inconsistent. Inconsistent classification will affect the quality of the fruit that will be sold or processed in industry. Thus, a solution is needed to maintain the quality of production and the trust of consumers.

Researches on fruit classification have been done widely, especially using computer vision and machine learning. Sidehabi et al. developed fruit sorting machines that classify passion fruit into three categories: unripe, nearly ripe, and ripe. This system using K-means Clustering as a segmentation method and Multi-Class Support Vector Machine (MSVM) as a classification method. The data is taken using a Logitech C270 web camera with input data in 6 sides of passion fruit. The dataset is divided into 93 pieces for training and 30 pieces for testing data. Based on the results of attempts conducted, passion fruit sorting system with RBF kernel function parameters $C = 25$ and $\gamma = 10^{-5}$ can achieve accuracy 93,3% with an average time to sort each fruit is 0.94128 seconds [2].

Li et al. conducted research on fast recognition method for elevating mature strawberries using deep learning approach. Experimental result showed that the average recognition rate of mature strawberries using Caffe-Net can reach 95% accuracy, higher than SVM that only yielded 84% accuracy [3]. Elhariri et al. presented a content-based images classification system to monitor the ripeness level of bell pepper by investigating and classifying the different maturity stages. Experimental result showed that the system has obtained a classification accuracy of 93.89%, using One-against-One Multi-class SVM with linear kernel function and 10-fold cross-validation [4]. Prakash et al. developed a classifier using multi-class SVM with RBF kernel to classify apple. This system was compared with conventional K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) and Naïve Bayes classifiers. The multi-class SVM classifier with RBF kernel has shown superior classification performance [5].

El-Bendari et al. presented an automated multi-class classification approach for tomato ripeness measurement and evaluation via investigating and classifying the different maturity stages and then compared it with one-against-one (OAO) multi-class SVM with linear kernel, one-against-all (OAA) multi-class SVM with linear kernel and Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA algorithm). The result of the experiment showed that the system has obtained ripeness classification accuracy of 90.80% using one-against-one (OAO) multi-class SVM algorithm with linear kernel function, while ripeness classification accuracy of 84.80% using one-against-all (OAA) multi-class SVM algorithm with linear kernel function, and ripeness classification accuracy of 84% using LDA algorithm [6]. Mahendra et al. compared several images processing-based features for Support Vector Machine (SVM) to classify strawberries quality. The compared features were Red Green Blue color models (RGB), Hue Saturation Value color model (HSV), RGB histogram, Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT), Speeded-Up Robust Features (SURF), Oriented FAST and Rotated BRIEF (ORB), and Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG). Experimental result showed that SURF achieved the best accuracy up to 90.73% [7].

From previous researches that used SVM method, Only Ref. [3] and [7] that work on strawberry classification. The data collection process in those researches were taken in the form of still images and not imitating real condition in industry. The main contribution of this research is the making of prototype with real-time video, thus it is closer to direct implementation according to industry needs.

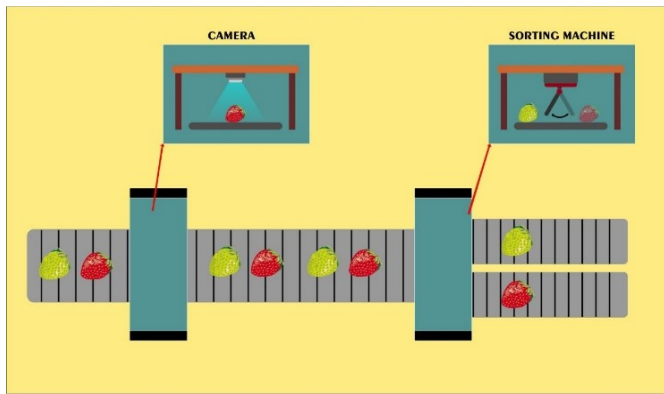


Fig. 1. Illustration of strawberry ripeness classification system

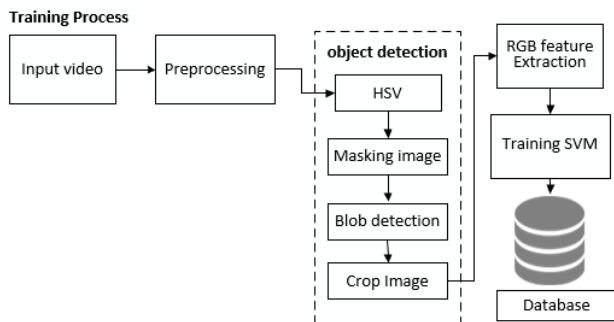


Fig. 2. Block diagram of training data

This research builds an automatic sorting system for industrial automation using the Multi-class SVM algorithm with RBF kernel. Based on previous researches, RBF is proven as the best SVM kernels that handle non-linear data. This system will classify the maturity of strawberries based on the RGB model into three categories: unripe, partially ripe, and ripe.

II. PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed design of the strawberry ripeness classification system is illustrated in Fig. 1. The proposed system will sort strawberries that meet ripeness standards. Unripe and partially ripe strawberries are categorized as strawberries that do not meet the standards while ripe strawberries are categorized as strawberries that meet the standards. This system is implemented on a prototype which uses a conveyor belt, box, and a camera. The data is taken using camera Logitech C920 with a resolution of 1920x1080 pixels, 15-megapixel snapshots, and 30 fps bitrate. The camera is installed in the box with predetermined lighting conditions using LED strips. The distance between the camera and strawberries is 25 cm. The strawberry sorting system is processed using python programming language. The dataset is divided into training and testing data.

A. Training Data

Block diagram of training data can be seen in Fig. 2.

- *Input Data:* Input data in the training process are video frames that consist of 70 unripe strawberries, 70 partially ripe strawberries, and 70 ripe strawberries. The best frame from training data is selected, so not all frames are used.

Examples of frames used in the training data process can be seen in Fig. 3.

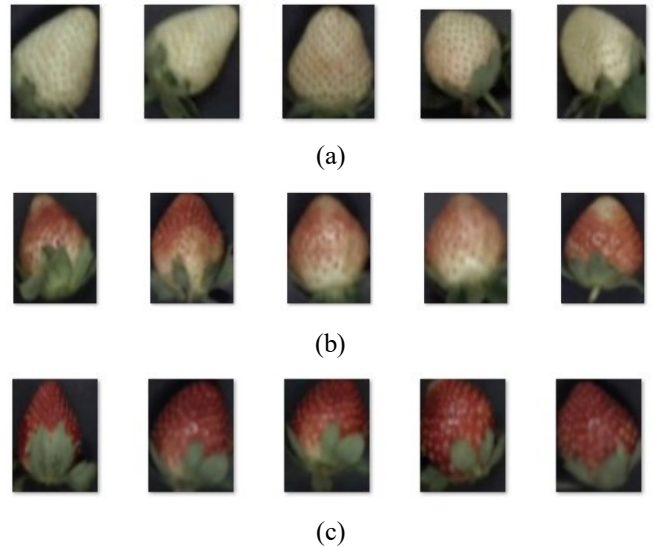


Fig. 3. Strawberry frames in the training process: (a) unripe strawberries; (b) partially ripe strawberries; and (c) ripe strawberries

- *Preprocessing:* In this process, the image is resized from 1920x1080 to 1280x720 pixel to reduce the execution time and cut the memory usage.
- *Convert RGB to HSV:* After the image went through the preprocessing, RGB image is converted to HSV. Digital images use RGB color models as color reference standards, so it is necessary to convert RGB to HSV models [8]. The HSV color space has three components: Hue, Saturation, and Value [9]. The hue (H) of a color refers to which pure color it resembles. All tints, tones, and shades of red have the same hue. Hue is described by a number that specifies the position of the corresponding pure color on the color wheel, as a fraction between 0 and 1. The saturation (S) of color describes how white the color is. A pure red is fully saturated, with a saturation of 1; tints of red have saturations less than 1, and white has a saturation of 0. The value (V) of a color, also called its lightness, describes how dark the color is. A value of 0 is black, with increasing lightness moving away from black. RGB to HSV conversion is described as follows.

1. Determine the RGB image (1)

2. Find max and min value for each R, G and B channel (2)

$$\begin{aligned} C_{max} &= \text{MAX}(R, G, B) \\ C_{min} &= \text{MIN}(R, G, B) \end{aligned}$$

3. Calculate H Value

$$H = \begin{cases} 60 \left(\frac{G - B}{C_{max} - C_{min}} \right), & \text{if } C_{max} = R \\ 120 + 60 \left(\frac{B - R}{C_{max} - C_{min}} \right), & \text{if } C_{max} = G \\ 240 + 60 \left(\frac{R - G}{C_{max} - C_{min}} \right), & \text{if } C_{max} = B \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

If image data type is 8 bit, then:

$$H1 = \frac{H}{2}$$

4. Calculate S value

$$S = \begin{cases} \frac{C_{max} - C_{min}}{C_{max}} \\ 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

5. Calculate V value

$$V = C_{max} \quad (5)$$

Example of strawberry image conversion from RGB to HSV can be seen in Fig. 4.

- **Image Masking:** In image masking process, HSV images are converted to binary images. Masking is a binary image consisting of a value of 0 and not 0 [10]. The masking process aims to separate the foreground and background images by utilizing the threshold process which takes the optimal range of lower and upper values from HSV. Based on the results of attempts conducted, the optimal lower and upper values of HSV can be seen in Table 1.

TABLE I. VALUE RANGE OF HSV

Value	H	S	V
Minimal	0	31	37
Maximal	49	168	212

- **Blob Detection:** The next process is to determine the area of the object to apply the bounding box (*bbox*). Blob detection will analyze the area and shape of the blob object from an image that becomes the focus of the detection. The example of an object inside a *bbox* and the object after cropping can be seen in Fig. 5.

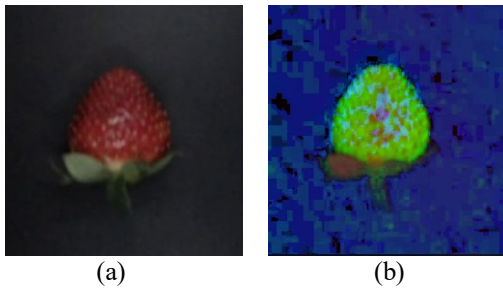


Fig. 4. (a) RGB frame of strawberry; (b) HSV frame of a strawberry after conversion

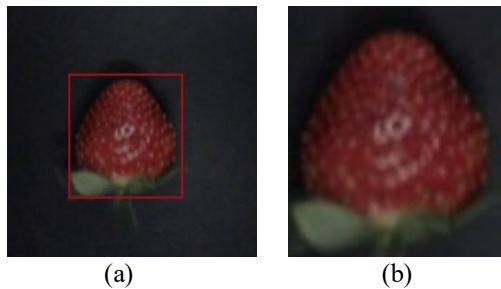


Fig. 5. (a) Strawberry frame with *bbox*; (b) Strawberry frame after cropping

- **Feature Extraction:** At this stage, the feature extraction process is carried out. Feature extraction in this study will take the average value of Red, Green, and Blue ($\bar{R}\bar{G}\bar{B}$) in the image as a differentiator between objects.
- **Feature Labelling:** The value of $\bar{R}\bar{G}\bar{B}$ feature is labeled into three class categories (C), which are unripe (UR), Partially Ripe (PR), and Ripe (RP). The range of minimum and maximum values of the feature $\bar{R}\bar{G}\bar{B}$ can be seen in Table II.

TABLE II. THE RANGE OF $\bar{R}\bar{G}\bar{B}$ VALUE

C	\bar{R}	\bar{G}	\bar{B}
1	56.824457-103.067	59.20913-98.28762	50.40640-79.81763
2	65.60592-114.8516	54.93678-97.06655	46.25921-80.54918
3	49.22717-92.92438	34.754802-71.30653	30.19935-56.48504

- **Database:** After the labeling process is done, the file is saved in CSV format to be used in the classification process.

B. Testing Data

Block diagram of testing data can be seen in Fig. 6.

- **Input Data:** Input data in the testing process are video frames that consist of 30 unripe strawberries, 30 partially ripe strawberries, and 30 ripe strawberries.
- The preprocessing stages to feature extraction stage in the testing process are identical to those in the training process.
- **Classification using Multi-Class Support Vector Machine:** After the feature extraction process, the next step is to classify strawberry using SVM algorithm. This algorithm will classify strawberry ripeness into three categories: unripe, partially ripe, and ripe. The goal of SVM is to produce a model (based on the training data) which predicts the target values of the test data using only the attributes of test data. Four kernels in SVM are linear, RBF, sigmoid and polynomial [2]. RBF is one of the SVM kernels that can handle non-linear data. So, RBF kernel is used in this study.

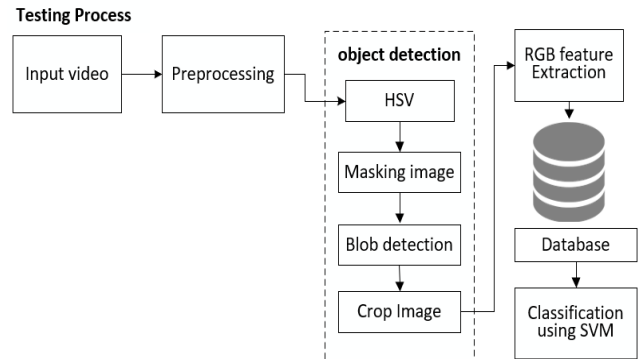


Fig. 6. Block diagram of testing data

Based on the experiment, the RBF kernel results in high classification accuracy compared to other kernels. C and gamma (γ) are the two parameters in the RBF kernel [11]. These parameters are very influential on the level of accuracy so it is necessary to find the optimal value of these parameters in order to produce an accurate classification model. The following equation can be used to calculate the RBF kernel.

$$K(x_n, x_i) = \exp(-\gamma \|x_n - x_i\|^2 + C) \quad (6)$$

$$f(x_i) = \sum_{n=1}^n a_n y_n K(x_n, y_n) + b \quad (7)$$

where x_n is the support vector data, a_n is the Lagrange multiplier, and y_n is the membership class label (+1, -1) with $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$ [2]. The examples of classification results can be seen in Fig. 7.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this step, each frame of a video is tested for each class, where one class contains 70 strawberries. The initial step is to conduct experiments to find the optimal values of the C and gamma (γ) parameters of the RBF kernel. The C parameter defines the margin distance and the γ parameter defines the acceleration of the function. To obtain an accurate classification with the highest accuracy, the system has to be experimented with different values of C and γ . The experiment was carried out in 50 trials. The C value is modified from 1 to 10 and the γ value is modified from 10^{-5} to 10^{-1} . The experiment shows that the optimal value of C is 7 and γ is 10^{-2} . Experimentation results to find an optimal value of C using $\gamma = 10^{-2}$ is shown in Table III.

Based on the experiment, the optimal parameter values are $C = 7$ and $\gamma = 10^{-2}$. The highest overall accuracy yielded using these optimal parameters is 85.64%. The accuracy for Unripe (UR), Partially Ripe (PR), and Ripe (RP) classes are 97.07%, 62.94%, and 96.27%, respectively. In this system, the detection error is caused by several conditions, i.e. leaves that partially cover the strawberries, the background included in the bounding box, and color similarity between strawberries. Some of these factors cause the detection results to be inaccurate and unstable. The examples of the detection error are shown in Fig. 8.

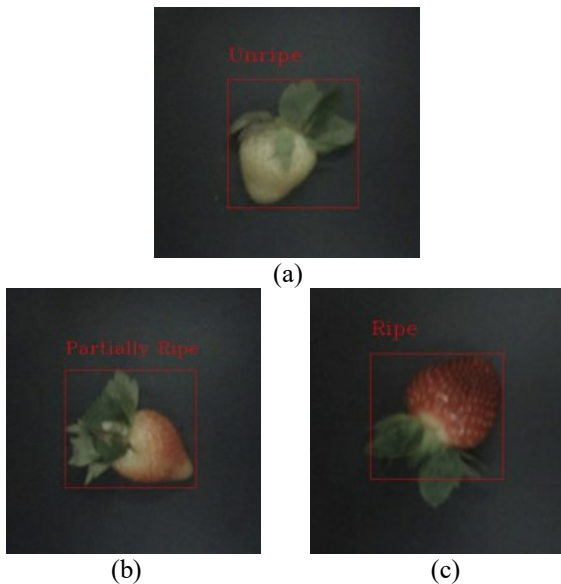


Fig. 7. Examples of classification results in the testing process (a) unripe; (b) partially ripe; (c) ripe

IV. CONCLUSION

This strawberry ripeness level classification system uses multi-class support vector machine algorithm with RBF kernel, with a value of $C = 7$, and $\gamma = 10^{-2}$. This shows that the high parameter values used in the kernel does not necessarily produce good accuracy. Video data used in the training process include 70 unripe strawberries, 70 partially ripe strawberries, and 70 ripe strawberries, while data in the testing process include 30 unripe strawberries, 30 partially ripe strawberries, and 30 ripe strawberries. This system yields the highest accuracy of 85.64%.

TABLE III. EXPERIMENTATION ON C VALUE USING GAMMA=10⁻²

C	Class	PREDICTION					Average Accuracy [%]
		UR	PR	RP	Total	Accuracy [%]	
1	UR	900	9	7	916	94.33	84.31
	PR	115	485	223	823	78.95	
	RP	21	21	951	993	97.65	
2	UR	898	9	9	916	98.03	84.15
	PR	97	477	249	823	57.95	
	RP	16	19	958	993	96.47	
3	UR	898	9	9	916	98.03	84.93
	PR	79	497	247	823	60.38	
	RP	28	15	950	993	96.37	
4	UR	898	910	891	916	98.03	85.14
	PR	83	503	237	823	61.11	
	RP	14	23	952	993	96.27	
5	UR	899	11	6	916	98.14	85.55
	PR	80	513	230	823	62.33	
	RP	13	25	955	993	96.17	
6	UR	896	13	7	916	97.81	56.81
	PR	76	519	228	823	63.06	
	RP	13	26	95	993	9.56	
7	UR	895	13	8	916	97.07	85.64
	PR	74	518	231	823	62.94	
	RP	11	26	956	993	96.27	
8	UR	891	15	10	916	97.27	85.29
	PR	75	513	235	823	62.33	
	RP	11	26	956	993	96.27	
9	UR	888	18	10	916	96.94	84.94
	PR	82	507	234	823	61.60	
	RP	11	26	956	993	96.27	
10	UR	886	20	10	916	96.72	84.91
	PR	81	509	233	823	61.84	
	RP	11	27	955	993	96.17	

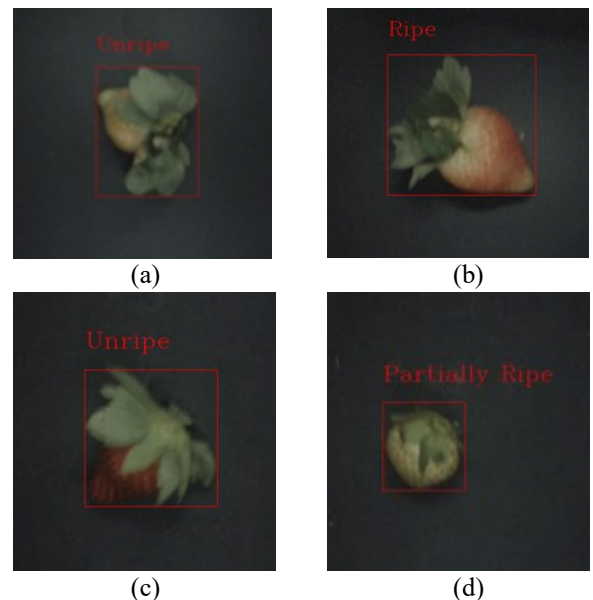


Fig. 8. Examples of detection error

The development of this research is to optimize the detection process by using other algorithms so that the system can adjust the bounding box shape of the object without taking the background.

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