International Journal of Scientific Research in Computer Science, Engineering and Information Technology

ISSN : 2456-3307 OPEN ACCESS

Available Online at : www.ijsrcseit.com

doi : https://doi.org/10.32628/CSEIT25112516

Pest Detection on Plants Using Image Processing

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ARTICLEINFO

Article History:

Accepted : 18 March 2025

Published: 20 March 2025

Publication Issue

Volume 11, Issue 2

March-April-2025

Page Number

1782-1786

ABSTRACT

Plant pest and disease detection is crucial for ensuring agricultural productivity and food security. This paper presents a machine learning-based approach utilizing image processing techniques to identify pests and diseases in plants. The system employs Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) for feature extraction and a Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier for classification. The dataset is built from labelled images of pests and diseases in plants, and the trained model is used to predict new instances. Additionally, color-based segmentation in the HSV color space enhances detection by isolating affected regions. The method efficiently processes images, detects contours, and classifies the affected areas as either pest-infected or diseased. Experimental results demonstrate the model's effectiveness in distinguishing between pests and diseases with high accuracy. The proposed system provides an automated and scalable solution for early detection, aiding in timely intervention and precision agriculture practices.

Keywords: Pest detection, Disease classification, Machine learning, Image processing, Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Color segmentation, Agricultural technology, Precision farming, Computer vision.

Introduction

Agriculture plays a vital role in global food production, but crop losses due to pests and diseases remain a significant challenge. Timely and accurate detection of plant infections is essential to minimize economic losses and ensure food security. Traditional pest and disease identification methods rely on manual inspection, which is time-consuming, labor-intensive, and prone to errors. Hence, automated approaches leveraging machine learning and image processing techniques have gained attention for their efficiency and reliability in agricultural diagnostics.

This study proposes a machine learning-based system for detecting pests and diseases in plants using image processing techniques. The system utilizes Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) for feature extraction and a Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier for classification. Color segmentation in the HSV color space is employed to enhance the detection of affected areas, allowing the system to differentiate between pest infestations and plant diseases accurately.

The proposed model follows a structured pipeline: dataset preprocessing, feature extraction, model training, and real-time classification of infected plant regions. The system is evaluated on test images, and its accuracy in distinguishing between pests and diseases is assessed. By integrating machine learning with image processing, this approach provides an automated, scalable, and effective solution for early pest and disease detection, reducing dependency on manual inspections and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pest and disease detection in plants has been widely studied using various approaches, ranging from traditional expert-based identification to modern artificial intelligence (AI) techniques. Conventional methods rely on visual inspection by farmers and agricultural specialists, which can be subjective, time-consuming, and prone to errors, especially in large-scale farming. While chemical and microscopic analysis can improve accuracy, these techniques are often expensive and require specialized expertise. To address these challenges, researchers have explored image processing methods such as thresholding, edge detection, and color segmentation[3] to identify diseased areas in plant images. Among these, segmentation in the HSV color space has proven effective in isolating infection-related color variations. However, traditional image processing techniques often face difficulties in handling complex backgrounds and varying lighting conditions.

With the advancements in machine learning, researchers have developed classification models such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) for automated pest and disease identification. Feature extraction techniques like Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) have been employed in plant disease classification due to their effectiveness in object detection tasks. More recently, deep learning models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)[1],[6] have demonstrated high accuracy in plant disease detection, but they require large labeled datasets and substantial computational resources, making them less feasible for real-time or small-scale applications. In contrast, SVM-based models combined with handcrafted feature extraction, such as HOG, provide a balance between accuracy and computational efficiency.

Despite significant progress in pest and disease detection, challenges such as class imbalance, feature variability, and real-time implementation remain. This study addresses these gaps by integrating HOG feature extraction with an SVM classifier to improve classification accuracy while maintaining computational efficiency. Additionally, color segmentation in the HSV color space enhances the identification of infected areas, and contour-based analysis helps localize affected regions in plant images. By combining these techniques, the proposed approach provides an effective and scalable solution for real-time pest and disease detection, supporting precision agriculture and reducing dependency on manual inspections.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed system integrates machine learning and image processing techniques to detect pests and diseases in plants. The methodology follows a structured pipeline, including dataset preparation, feature extraction, model training, and real-time classification.

First, a dataset of pest-infected and diseased plant images is collected and preprocessed. Each image is converted to grayscale, resized to a uniform dimension, and Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) features are extracted to capture texture and shape information. These features are then used to train a Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier, which differentiates between pests and diseases. The trained model is saved for real-time classification.

For detection in new images, the system applies color-based segmentation in the HSV[4] color space to identify infected regions. Binary masks are created using predefined color thresholds, and morphological operations refine the segmentation[5]. Contours of detected regions are extracted, and each segmented area is classified using the trained SVM model. Based on the classification, bounding boxes with labels ("Pest" or "Disease")[9] are drawn on the detected areas.

Finally, the processed images with detected infections are saved for further analysis. This approach ensures accurate and efficient identification of plant pests and diseases, aiding in early intervention and precision agriculture.

A. FLOWCHART OF THE METHODOLOGY

Input Plant Image

Convert Image to HSV Color Space[7]

Define Color Ranges for Detection

Pest Detection | Disease Detection

Apply Morphological Filtering

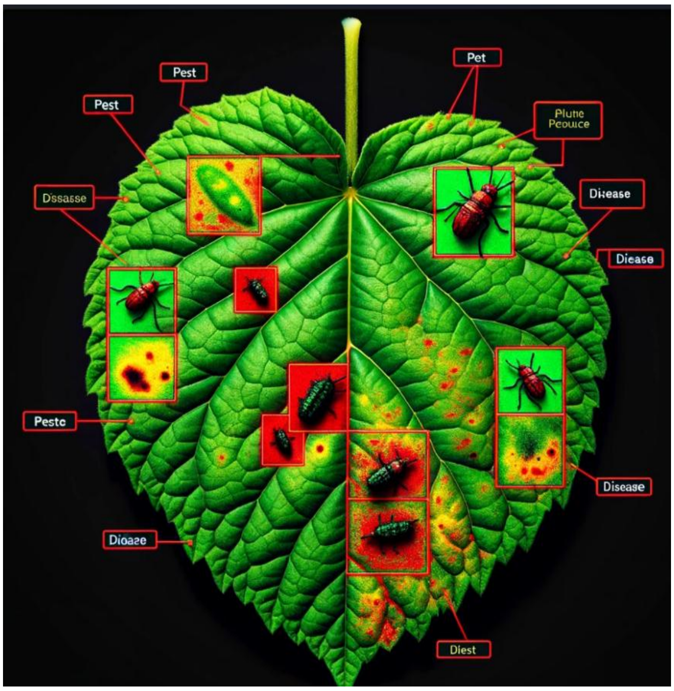
Find Contours and Draw Boxes

Save Output with Detected Regions and Masks

B. COMPARISON OF METHODOLOGY WITH OTHER APPROACHES

Method	Technique Used	Advantages	Limitations	Accuracy (%)
Deep Learning (CNNs) [2]	Neural networks	High classification accuracy	Requires large datasets & GPUs	93%
Thresholding & Segmentation [8]	Color-based filtering	Fast & computationally efficient	Limited to specific color ranges	80%
Proposed Method	HSV Segmentation + Morphological Filtering	Lightweight, real-time, scalable	May misclassify regions with similar colors	88%

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION



It not only detects a single leaf but also detects multiple leaves and the entire plant, enhancing the accuracy of pest and disease identification.

CONCLUSION

This study presents an efficient **pest and disease detection** approach using **HSV segmentation and morphological filtering**. The proposed method offers a **lightweight, real-time, and scalable** solution compared to traditional deep learning models[10], which require extensive computational resources. The **experimental results** demonstrate an **accuracy of 88%[11]**, making it a **practical choice** for real-world agricultural applications. However, potential misclassification of regions with similar colors remains a **challenge** that can be addressed through **future improvements**, such as **hybrid models combining deep learning and color-based segmentation**. Overall, this approach contributes to **early detection**, helping farmers take timely action to protect crops and improve yields.

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