A Machine Learning Method for Detecting Line Defects of Glass Substrates Using Time Series Non-contact Line Scan Data

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Abstract—Recently, the demand for ultra-high definition with 4K and 8K panels has increased. The study in this paper develops a fast algorithm for detecting wiring defects of glass substrates, which is based on an analysis done on time series data obtained through non-contact electronic inspection. New feature quantities with respect to the frequency domain of time series data are proposed. To demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm, numerical experiments are conducted using the real sensing data obtained in the field of glass substrate inspection.

Index Terms—defect detection, machine learning, glass substrate, time series data, non-contact inspection, frequency-domain feature

I. INTRODUCTION

RECENTLY, the flat panel industry such as liquid crystal and organic electro-luminescence has grown. This has led to an increase in the demand for ultra-high definition with 4K and 8K panels. Increasing products yield rate reduces the unit price of products while improving productivity. Therefore, the wiring inspection of glass substrates is one of the most crucial processes. Hence, recently, the conduction test of wiring is performed in the middle process. Therefore, detected defects are easily and certainly repaired to improve the product yield rate.

In recent years, the non-contact continuity test of wiring in the middle process has attracted attention. In non-contact electrical inspection, the presence or absence and location of wiring defects are identified by analyzing the change in time series data of minute voltage obtained by scanning glass substrates with on inspection jig.

It is necessary that the defect detection of glass substrates from the inspection field is performed in real time without giving an erroneous detection. When defects are detected in the inspection process, it is necessary to capture an image of the defect after moving the camera to the corresponding wiring defect. When noise is falsely detected as a defect, the camera cannot find the defect. Therefore, an error will appear, and the inspection system will stop. In addition, there are multiple steps in the production of glass substrates. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a continuity inspection on the field in real time to avoid waiting during the later steps.

Although there are several studies in the field of anomaly detection for defect detection, these studies cannot be applied, because it needs to be performed in real time.

There are several studies in the field of anomaly detection for defect detection. The wavelet transform, Fourier transform, and state-space model are the techniques that are commonly used in this field [1], [2], [3], [4], [5], [6]. Although there are several techniques, this research needs to be done in real time and cannot be applied as it is.

In conventional research on contactless electrical inspection, methods for discrimination using thresholds [7] and methods using machine learning [8] have been proposed [9]. Although various waveform types exist depending on the wiring spacing and the surface roughness of glass substrates, there have been several waveform types where noise is falsely detected as a defect by conventional studies [7], [9].

In this study, we propose new feature quantities focusing on the frequency domain of time series data obtained from non-contact electrical inspection of glass substrates and fast detect deflection algorithm of glass substrates by machine learning. In addition, we compare data with several conventional methods using the real inspection data and verify the usefulness of the proposed method.

II. INSPECTION DATA ACQUISITION METHOD AND CONCEPT OF DEFECT DETECTION

This section describes glass substrates electrical inspection and defect detection on glass substrates. Section II-A describes the method for non-contact inspection of glass substrates. The concept of finding defects from the obtained inspection data will be explained in Section II-B. Section II-C describes the effects of false detection in the detection of defects on glass substrates. Section II-D shows conventional research on defect detection of glass substrates.

A. Non-contact electrical inspection of glass substrates

As the wiring in glass substrates is a conductor such as aluminum or silver, the non-contact inspection can be contacted based on the principle of parallel plate capacitors. As shown in Fig. 1, time series data of minute voltages can be obtained by scanning glass substrates with the inspection jig.

The minute voltage data in the inspection is represented as time series data shown in Fig. 2.
B. Defect detection from minute voltage data

If there are defects such as a wire break, the amplitudes of waveforms of part corresponding to defects are larger than the peripheral part in the time series data of minute voltage. The most basic idea of defect detection is to set a threshold as shown in Fig. 3, and subsequently then to determine the part whose voltage is over the threshold as a defect.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Original} & \quad \text{Threshold} \\
1.6 & \quad 2.4 \\
0 & \quad 1000 & \quad 2000 & \quad 3000 & \quad 4000 & \quad 5000 & \quad 6000
\end{align*}
\]

As shown in Fig. 4, it may be difficult to set an appropriate threshold. For example, in Fig. 4, the left part whose voltage is over the threshold is falsely detected as a defect although it is noise.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Original} & \quad \text{Threshold} \\
1.95 & \quad 2.05 \\
0 & \quad 1000 & \quad 2000 & \quad 3000 & \quad 4000 & \quad 5000 & \quad 6000
\end{align*}
\]

Fig. 3. Defect detection by setting a threshold

Fig. 4. Example of detection error

C. The importance of suppressing false detection

One of the goals of this study is to reduce false detection in the electrical inspection of glass substrates. The reason for this is that if false detection occurs frequently, the inspection system will stop temporarily and the inspection efficiency would decrease. When defects are detected in the inspection process, it is necessary to capture an image of the defect after moving the camera to the corresponding wiring defect. When noise is falsely detected as a defect, the camera cannot find the defect. Therefore, an error will appear and the inspection system will stop, leading to a decrease in inspection efficiency.

D. Issues in conventional research

This section shows conventional research. First, II-D1 and II-D2 will describe research on defect detection using time series data obtained from contact electrical inspection. Finally, the studies on general defect detection are described in II-D3.

1) Defect detection method using the threshold:

Hamori et al. [7] proposed a method to detect defects by setting a threshold after repeating the following three steps: (1) difference value calculation, (2) minute change emphasis, and (3) spike noise smoothing. Their method is effective when compared to the basic idea presented in Section II-B. However, their method often misses a type of defects where the wiring is about to be cut. In addition, there are problems where their method is difficult to cope with various inspection data. Moreover, it is difficult for operators to set an appropriate thresholds through experience and trial-and-error.

2) Defect detection method using machine learning:

Wakamatsu et al. [9] proposed a new defect detection algorithm to solve the problem of Hamori et al. [7]. It became possible to detect defects for various types of inspection data, including types with minor changes that could not be detected by the study of Hamori et al.. Wakamatsu et al. proposed a “trend removal by using moving average curve method”. Moreover, Wakamatsu et al. constructed a defect detection algorithm based on machine learning using newly proposed “Z score” and “Isolations” feature quantities to emphasize small changes.

Although some of the problems of the study of Hamori et al. [7] have been solved, it has been observed that depending on the type of waveform, defect detection cannot be performed correctly. One of the reasons for this is that
moving average curves do not fit well with some waveform types, as the feature of various waveform data cannot be captured.

3) General-purpose defect detection algorithm:

In the field of anomaly detection including defect detection [1], [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], there are several kinds of researches such as the method of a state space model, and density ratio estimation, along with methods based on signal processing techniques such as empirical mode decomposition and singular spectrum transformation. Although there are various conventional studies, these studies are computationally slow and cannot be applied directly to this study.

As one of the algorithms specialized for anomaly detection, an isolation forest (IF) [10] based on ensemble learning using a decision tree has been proposed. In this study, we use it as a comparison method in the numerical experiments described later.

III. PROPOSED DEFECT DETECTION ALGORITHM

In this research, based on the problems of conventional research, we improve the trend removal methods and propose new feature quantities used for machine learning. Moreover, we propose an algorithm to detect defects of glass substrates wiring in real time with higher accuracy than the conventional method.

First, the details of the feature quantities used for trend removal will be described in Section III-B. Subsequently, the detail of trend removal algorithm is explained in Section III-C. Finally, the details of feature quantities and machine learning used for defect detection will be presented in section III-D.

A. Outline of proposed defect detection algorithm

The outline of the algorithm proposed in this study is as follows. At this time, \( X_t, t = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, m \) is the voltage signal data obtained by non-contact electrical inspection. Frequency domain \( G(k), k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, m - 1 \) is obtained by applying a fast Fourier transform (FFT) to \( X_t \). Furthermore, the time series data after trend removal \( X_t', t = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, m \) is obtained by applying FFT to \( X_t' \).

Step 1 Calculate the “number of trend change” from \( X_t \).
Step 2 From \( X_t \), calculate the “average number of data between extremes” and “proportion of extremes” proposed in the previous research.
Step 3 Calculate the “crest factor of the frequency domain” from \( G(k) \).
Step 4 Do trend removal using feature quantities obtained in Steps 1, 2, and 3.
Step 5 Calculate the “Z score [9]” and the “Isolations [9]” from \( X_t' \).
Step 6 Calculate the “Z score of the frequency domain” from \( G'(k) \).
Step 7 Machine-learned defect detection is performed using the feature quantities obtained in Steps 5 and 6.

Steps 2 and 5 are almost the same as in the conventional research [9]. Hence, the explanations of these steps have been omitted.

B. Feature quantities used for trend removal

In the conventional trend removal method [9], the calculated moving average curve could not identify the waveform change of the minute voltage signal. There were cases where defect detection could not be performed due to these reasons. Therefore, we propose new feature quantities “the number of trend changes” in III-B1 and “the crest factor in the frequency domain” in III-B2 to improve the trend removal method.

1) Number of trend changes(Tr):

The details of Step 1 in the defect detection algorithm shown in Section III-A are given below.

As shown in Fig. 5, it can be seen that the frequency, presence or absence of the trend, and the number of changes in the trend differ depending on waveform types. It is possible to identify the difference in frequency by the “average number of data between extremes” and “proportion of extremes” proposed in the previous research.

However, the previous research by Wakamatsu et al. [9] was not able to identify the trend and the number of changes. Therefore, in this study, we propose the “number of trend changes” that calculates the change from rising to falling or the opposite of the waveform that occurs.

The details of Step 1 in the defect detection algorithm shown in Section III-A are given below.

Step 1-1 The exponential smooth moving average \( S_{i}(\theta) \) of the time series data \( X_t \) of the minute voltage signal is calculated by Eq. (1).

\[
S_{i}(\theta) = \theta X_{t-1} + (1 - \theta) S_{i-1}(\theta),
\]

where \( \theta \) is an exponential smoothing parameter that satisfies \( 0 \leq \theta \leq 1 \) and \( S_{1}(\theta) = X_1 \).

Step 1-2 The difference between the exponential smooth moving average \( U_{i}(\theta, \theta') \) is calculated by Eq. (2).

\[
DS_{i}(\theta, \theta') = S_{i}(\theta) - S_{i}(\theta'),
\]

where \( \theta \) and \( \theta' \) are exponential smoothing parameters.

Step 1-3 The exponential smoothing moving average \( U_{i}(\theta, \theta', \theta'') \) of \( DS_{i}(\theta, \theta') \) is calculated by Eq. (3).

\[
U_{i}(\theta, \theta', \theta'') = \theta' DS_{i-1}(\theta, \theta') + (1 - \theta'') U_{i-1}(\theta, \theta', \theta''),
\]

where \( \theta, \theta' \) and \( \theta'' \) are exponential smoothing parameters, and \( U_{i}(\alpha) = DS_{i}(\theta, \theta') \).

Step 1-4 Calculate Eq.(4).

\[
STr0 = \{ t | DS_{i}(\theta, \theta') - U_{i}(\theta, \theta', \theta'') = 0 \}
\]

and

\[
Tr = |STr0|,
\]

where \(|STr0|\) represents the number of elements in the set \(STr0\).

\(DS_{i}(\theta, \theta')\) calculated in Step 1-2 is an approximate shape of the trend for the original data \(X_t\) (See Fig. 6).

\(U_{i}(\theta, \theta', \theta'')\) calculated in Step 1-3 is a waveform that tracks the trend of \(DS_{i}(\theta, \theta')\) (see Fig. 7). In Step 1-4, the
number of times the trend switches is calculated by counting the intersection of $DS_t(\theta, \theta')$ and $U_t(\theta, \theta', \theta'')$.

2) Crest factor of frequency domain (crf) [11]:

The details of Step 3 in the defect detection algorithm shown in Section III-A are given below.

To properly perform the trend removal method, it is necessary to consider not only the time domain but also the features of the frequency domain. In conventional research [9], feature quantities in the time domain were proposed. In addition, the “number of trend change” proposed as a new feature quantity in section III-B1 is also a time domain feature quantity.

First, the necessity of the feature quantities based on the frequency spectrum is explained. In Fig. 8, the number of trend change in the two waveforms is almost equal. While the wave component of the specific cycle is seen in waveform Type A, the wave component having various cycle is mixed in the waveform Type B. Therefore, it is necessary to make the average interval value smaller for Type B when compared to Type A. However, if only the number of trend changes is used as the feature quantity trend removal cannot work properly, because the move average interval values of Types A and B are almost equal.

Based on the above-mentioned considerations, the details of Step 3 in the defect detection algorithm shown in Section III-A are as follows.

Step 3-1 For $X_t$, calculate the frequency spectrum $G(k)$ by FFT.

Step 3-2 The crest factor of $G(k)$ is calculated by Eq. (5).

$$crf = \frac{G(k)_{\text{max}}}{G(k)_{\text{real}}}, \quad (5)$$

where $G(k)_{\text{max}}$ and $G(k)_{\text{real}}$ are the maximum and effective values of $G(k)$, respectively, and they are defined by the following equations.

$$G(k)_{\text{max}} = \max_{k=1, \ldots, m-1} G(k),$$

$$G(k)_{\text{real}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} G(i)^2}.$$
\( f(Tr, Ave_{bp}, crf) = \alpha \cdot Tr + \beta \cdot Ave_{bp} + \gamma \cdot crf, \)

where \( \alpha, \beta, \) and \( \gamma \) are weighting parameters for each feature quantity.

Step 4-2 The moving average curve is calculated using the interval values obtained in Step 4-1.

Step 4-3 The absolute values of the difference between the original data and its move average curve are calculated, and the top peak point is extracted to obtain time series data.

Step 4-4 Calculate the move average curve of time series data obtained in Step 4-3. Repeat the steps from Step 4-1 to Step 4-4 \( \eta \) times.

D. Feature quantities and machine learning algorithms used for defect detection

The details of Steps 6 and 7 in the defect detection algorithms shown in Section III-A are given below.

Step 6-1 For \( X_t \), calculate the frequency spectrum \( G'(k) \) by FFT.

Step 6-2 Calculate the Z score of \( G'(k) \) obtained in Step 6-1.

\[
F(k) = \frac{G'(k) - \mu}{\sigma}, \tag{6}
\]

where \( \mu \) and \( \sigma \) represent the mean and standard deviation of \( G'(k) \), respectively.

There are three feature quantities used for machine learning in Step 7 of the defect detection algorithm shown in Section III-A. The first and second are the “Z score” and the “Isolations” of \( X_t \) obtained in Step 5 of Section III-A. The third is \( F(k) \) obtained in Step 4 of Section III-A. In this study, we investigate a support vector machine (SVM), the k-nearest neighbor method (k-NN), gradient boosting (XGBoost), the random forest (RF), and the isolation forest (IF).

IV. EXPERIMENT

We confirm the effectiveness of the proposed method in this research. The actual data (238 waveform data) obtained from the field of the inspection process of glass substrates were used for the experiment. The values of parameters were \( \theta = 0.016, \theta' = 0.007, \theta'' = 0.021, \alpha = 0.90, \beta = 0.50, \gamma = 0.90, \eta = 3. \)

The programming language used for implementation is Python 3.65, and the operating environment is CPU: Core i5-6400, RAM: 16.0 GB, OS: Windows 10. For machine learning programs, we used the Python libraries scikit-learn ver. 0.201 and XGBoost ver. 0.81.

The total inspection data was 495.16 s, and about 2.08 s per waveform data until the calculation of the feature quantities used for machine learning was completed.

A. Comparison experiment with conventional method

Table I shows the results of comparative experiments of conventional method [7] and the proposed method with k-NN \( (k = 13) \). It is necessary to set the threshold in the conventional method of Hamori et al.. We performed the comparison using two indicators of true positive rate and false positive rate for several different thresholds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threshold</th>
<th>True Positive Rate(%)</th>
<th>False Negative Rate(%)</th>
<th>k-NN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 ( \times 10^{-4} )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As listed in Table I, with the conventional method of Hamori et al. [7], the True Positive Rate is high at any threshold, and defects can be detected with high accuracy. In contrast, the false positive rate is as high as approximately 60%. Therefore, in several cases, noises are falsely detected as defects.

When the threshold is set to \( 1.2 \times 10^{-6} \) and \( 1.6 \times 10^{-6} \), although the True Positive Rate of the conventional method is equal to k-NN, there is a large difference in False Positive Rates. The proposed method is shown to be an excellent method to detect defects with high accuracy while minimizing false detection.

B. A comparative experiment on the trend removal method

When the conventional trend removal method was applied, the defects in 22 waveforms out of 238 waveform data could not be detected. In contrast, applying the detrending method proposed in this research could reduce 22 waveforms to 9 waveforms. An example of the improvement is shown in Fig. 10 below.

![Fig. 10. Example of data containing defects](image1.png)

![Fig. 11. Result of trend removal by the previous study](image2.png)

In Fig. 10, there are two changes corresponding to the defect. When the trend removal method of conventional
Fig. 12. Result of trend removal by the proposed method

research was used (See Fig. 11), the change corresponding to the defect on the right was small and could not be detected as a defect. However, in the proposed trend removal method (See Fig. 12), the change corresponding to the defect on the right side became clear and could be detected correctly as a defect.

C. Experiment on Machine Learning Algorithm and Influence of Parameters

In this study, hyperparameters of machine learning algorithms such as SVM, XGBoost, RF, and IF are set to be default values of the Python libraries scikit-learn ver. 0.201 and XGBoost ver. 0.81. We use four evaluation metrics: (1) Accuracy, (2) Precision, (3) Recall, and (4) F-measure. In addition, we examined the validity of the model using cross validation with a division number of 9.

1) Comparison result of machine learning algorithm:
Table II shows the comparison results of applying the machine learning algorithm. Notably, \( k = 13 \) is set for k-NN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table II</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT MACHINE-LEARNING ALGORITHMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SVM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy%</td>
<td>99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision%</td>
<td>87.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recall%</td>
<td>79.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-measure%</td>
<td>79.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As listed in Table II, the Accuracy, Precision, and Recall of k-NN (\( k = 13 \)) are well-balanced compared to other methods, and the F-measure, which is the overall judgment index, is the highest.

2) Parameter setting in k-nearest neighbor method:
Table III lists the results when the value of \( k \) is changed in order to investigate the influence of the value of \( k \) on k-NN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table III</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF k-NN WITH DIFFERENT PARAMETER k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( k = 1 )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( k = 3 )</td>
<td>78.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( k = 5 )</td>
<td>91.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( k = 7 )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( k = 9 )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( k = 11 )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( k = 13 )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( k = 15 )</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Table III, judging from the F value, the best results were obtained when \( k = 11, 13 \). In addition, for the case of setting \( k = 1 \), the F-measure is stable above 83% in all cases, and the proposed method shows desirable results from the viewpoint of robustness.

V. CONCLUSION

In this research, we have proposed feature quantities of frequency components and the trend removal method based on a new move average interval value calculation method. Furthermore, we have constructed a fault detection method based on machine learning. In addition, experiments were conducted using glass substrate inspection data of the field. Moreover, performances were compared by applying multiple machine learning algorithms. The experimental results show that the \( k \)-nearest neighbor method is excellent not only in detecting defects on glass substrates with higher accuracy than conventional methods [7] but also in the inspection field in terms of improving inspection efficiency.

As future work, we will verify the effectiveness of the proposed method using additional inspection field data. In addition, we will consider the proposal of a new feature quantities and trend removal algorithm using frequency components to further enhance defect detection accuracy.

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REFERENCES