



Thermal Fault Diagnosis of Electrical Equipment in Substations Based on Image Fusion

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ABSTRACT

Infrared thermal imaging can diagnose whether there are faults in electrical equipment during non-stop operation. However, the existing thermal fault diagnosis algorithms fail to consider an important fact: the infrared image of a single band cannot fully reflect the true temperature information of the target. As a result, these algorithms fail to achieve desired effects on target extraction from low-quality infrared images of electrical equipment. To solve the problem, this paper explores the thermal fault diagnosis of electrical equipment in substations based on image fusion. Specifically, a registration and fusion algorithm was proposed for infrared images of electrical equipment in substations; a segmentation and recognition model was established based on mask region-based convolutional neural network (R-CNN) for the said images; the steps of thermal fault diagnosis were detailed for electrical equipment in substations. The proposed model was proved effective through experiments.

1. INTRODUCTION

Infrared thermal imaging can diagnose whether there are faults in electrical equipment during non-stop operation [1-8]. In substations, the infrared images of electrical equipment are usually collected by infrared thermal imagers. The collected images need to be checked and judged one by one by experienced engineers. Despite its effectiveness, the manual method is very laborious and slow [9-13]. To prevent major emergency accidents in substations, it is of great significance to study the segmentation of abnormal temperature regions and thermal fault diagnosis based on infrared images of electrical equipment in substations.

Traditional fault detection approaches for electrical equipment have a low accuracy, because infrared images contain interference points, and lack obvious edge features [14-19]. Huang et al. [20] combined residual network (ResNet) with improved watershed algorithm to extract the abnormal areas and fault types of electrical equipment. To accurately segment overheated regions and narrow down the range of fault diagnosis, Fan et al. [21] proposed a novel overheated area detection algorithm of electrical equipment, which adopts Otsu's method to remove the background, leaving the general areas of electrical equipment. Lin et al. [22] designed an intelligent infrared image fault diagnosis method: the improved deep learning (DL) approach is adopted to detect equipment parts with arbitrary capture angles, and the diagnosis features are extracted from the detection results. Based on fuzzy clustering of fused multi-source data, Qi et al. [23] proposed an infrared image segmentation method, which covers three main steps: producing a saliency map through saliency detection of the infrared image, determining the initial cluster heads, and enhancing the contrast of the original

infrared image. For timely diagnosis of thermal anomalies of electrical equipment, Zhao et al. [24] improved the Canny edge detection algorithm to facilitate fault positioning in infrared images of electrical equipment. Specifically, Gaussian filter was replaced with wavelet transform and improved homomorphic filter to improve the flexibility and self-adaptability of Canny edge detection algorithm. The improvement promotes the detection accuracy and adaptability of the original algorithm. Hou [25] relied on adaptive ant colony algorithm to segment the infrared images on electrical equipment, and proved that the algorithm can detect faults in a timely and accurate manner, providing a reliable basis for relevant measures to speed up grid restoration.

For infrared images of electrical equipment in substations, the existing domestic and foreign fault diagnosis methods mainly include the traditional infrared image processing methods, fault diagnosis methods based on expert systems, and methods based on DL. The existing thermal fault diagnosis algorithms fail to consider an important fact: the infrared image of a single band cannot fully reflect the true temperature information of the target. As a result, these algorithms fail to achieve desired effects on target extraction from infrared images of electrical equipment with fuzzy edges. To solve the problem, this paper explores the thermal fault diagnosis of electrical equipment in substations based on image fusion. Section 2 proposes a registration and fusion algorithm for infrared images of electrical equipment in substations; Section 3 derives a segmentation and recognition model based on mask region-based convolutional neural network (R-CNN) for the said images; Section 4 details the steps of thermal fault diagnosis for electrical equipment in substations. The proposed model was proved effective through experiments.

2. REGISTRATION AND FUSION ALGORITHM FOR INFRARED IMAGES

Time changes have a great impact on the infrared imaging effect. Infrared images often contain lots of blind elements and non-uniform fringes, and have a low mean gray value. In general, infrared images can be characterized by solar radiation, gray distribution, and noise features. There are certain differences between infrared images in different bands. Due to hardware limitation and noises, the fused application of infrared images in different bands concentrates in the imaging scenes of medium and short distances. The infrared images taken in long-distance imaging scenes tend to face large ambiguities and deviations in the texture and edge distribution in different bands, making it difficult to realize pixel-level fusion of multi-band infrared images.

2.1 Feature point detection and registration

Like ordinary visible images, infrared images have two kinds of features: global features like color and texture, and local features that stably characterize local feature points. Global characteristics are susceptible to environmental changes. By contrast, the local features are not easily disturbed by the external environment, and more suitable for image matching. Spots and angular points are the primary local features. In an image, a pixel area can be viewed as a spot, if the pixel differs from the surrounding pixels in gray value. Spots are usually detected by Gaussian Laplacian operator and Hessian matrix. Let $W(a, b)$ be two-dimensional (2D) Gaussian function. Then, Gaussian Laplacian operator can be described as $\nabla^2[W(a, b)]$. The spot detection based on Gaussian Laplacian operator firstly convolute the image through Gaussian low-pass filtering, and then convolute the image with Laplacian kernel:

$$K(a, b; \varepsilon) = J(a, b) * W(a, b; \varepsilon) \quad (1)$$

$W(a, b; \varepsilon)$ can be expressed as:

$$W(a, b; \varepsilon) = \frac{1}{2\pi\varepsilon^2} e^{-\frac{a^2+b^2}{2\varepsilon^2}} \quad (2)$$

Laplacian kernel convolution can be expressed as:

$$\nabla^2 K = \nabla^2 [W(a, b)] * J(a, b) \quad (3)$$

To sum up, $\nabla^2[W(a, b)]$ is the Laplacian kernel convolution of $W(a, b)$. On a 2D image, $\nabla^2[W(a, b)]$ exists as a function with circular symmetry, whose scale can be controlled by ε . This method is almost immune to noise. The spot detection based on Hessian matrix adopts a Hessian matrix (4) and its determinant (5):

$$Hessian = \begin{bmatrix} K_{aa} & K_{ab} \\ K_{ab} & K_{bb} \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$\det Hessian = \varepsilon^4 [K_{aa}(a, b, \varepsilon)K_{bb}(a, b, \varepsilon) - K_{ab}^2(a, b, \varepsilon)] \quad (5)$$

where, $\det Hessian$ is the response degree of the image at pixel (a, b) to the matching template. On this basis, it is possible to

locate the spot at the scale of ε .

In an image, the intersection of the contours of the object is defined as an angular point, which is another local feature. This paper detects angular points based on Harris algorithm. The gray variation of the image is described by the first-order differential matrix of Harris algorithm. The neighborhood of a pixel is taken as a window to move in all directions. If the first-order differential matrix changes significantly in the neighborhood window of a pixel, then the pixel is as an angular point

2.2 Projection transformation

Owing to the features of infrared images, the image fusion faces limitations in imaging environment, band selection, and hardware requirements. To fuse short-wave and long-wave infrared images, this paper presents a registration algorithm based on the similarity of pixel grayscale distribution, which is suitable for imaging small targets over a long distance. Figure 1 shows the imaging scene.

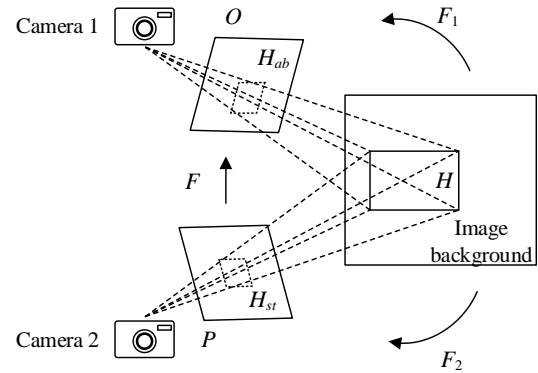


Figure 1. Small-target imaging model

Let O and P be the target background imaged by cameras 1 and 2, respectively; (a, b) and (s, t) be the coordinates of pixels in O and P , respectively; H be the overlap between O and P ; H_{ab} and H_{st} be the pixel areas corresponding to H in O and P , respectively; F_1 and F_2 be projection transformation matrices. Based on the principle of camera imaging, the projection relationship can be expressed as:

$$H_{ab} = F_1 H \quad (6)$$

$$H_{st} = F_2 H \quad (7)$$

The projection transformation relationship between O and P can be derived as:

$$H_{ab} = F H_{st} \quad (8)$$

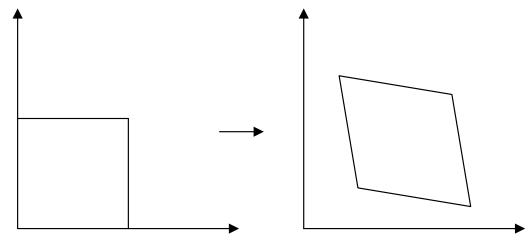


Figure 2. Affine transformation

Similar to the matrix of affine transformation (Figure 2), the form of the transformation matrix F can be given by:

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{21} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

where, f_{11}, f_{12}, f_{21} , and f_{22} are parameters about image changes through scaling and rotation; f_{13} and f_{23} are the parameters about image changes through translation; f_{31} and f_{32} are the parameters about image changes through projection. Let (a, b) be the coordinates of projection reference point (s, t) projected into the image O through F . Substituting (s, t) into the projection transformation formula (8), we have:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a' \\ b' \\ c' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{21} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

The spatial coordinates (a', b', c') in formula (10) can be adjusted into planar coordinates (a, b) by:

$$a = \frac{a'}{c'}, b = \frac{b'}{c'} \quad (11)$$

The transformation matrix F can be redefined as:

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{21} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

Combining formulas (10)-(12), a homogeneous linear equation system can be obtained for the parameters $f' = [f_{11}, f_{12}, f_{13}, f_{21}, f_{22}, f_{23}, f_{31}, f_{32}, 1]$ of transformation matrix F :

$$\begin{cases} sf_{11} + tf_{12} + f_{13} - saf_{31} - taf_{32} - a = 0 \\ sf_{21} + tf_{22} + f_{23} - sbf_{31} - tbf_{32} - b = 0 \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

The above analysis shows that the projection coordinates of the reference point (s, t) can be calculated based on the known values of (s, t) and transformation matrix F .

If at least four pairs of matched (s, t) and (a, b) are known, all the unknown quantities in f' can be solved. Based on formula (13), a homogeneous linear equation system can be established as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} s_1 & t_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -s_1a_1 & -t_1a_1 & -a_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & s_1 & t_1 & 1 & -s_1b_1 & -t_1b_1 & -b_1 \\ & & & & & & & & \vdots \end{bmatrix} f = 0 \quad (14)$$

Let D be the coefficient matrix of a homogeneous linear equation system. A right singular matrix can be obtained through singular value decomposition (SVD) on D . If no three-point collinearity exists among known projection reference points and projection points, the solution to formula (14) is the last column vector of the right singular matrix.

2.3 Search for the best registration projection point

Let MV_O and MV_P be the edge maps of images O and P ,

respectively. The traditional registration algorithm combines the extracted O and P feature points to generate multiple pairs of matching points. Unlike the traditional registration algorithm, this paper transforms the registration problem into an optimization problem that searches for the approximate optimal solution on the image plane, with genetic algorithm (GA) as the search method. Figure 3 show the flow of the algorithm.

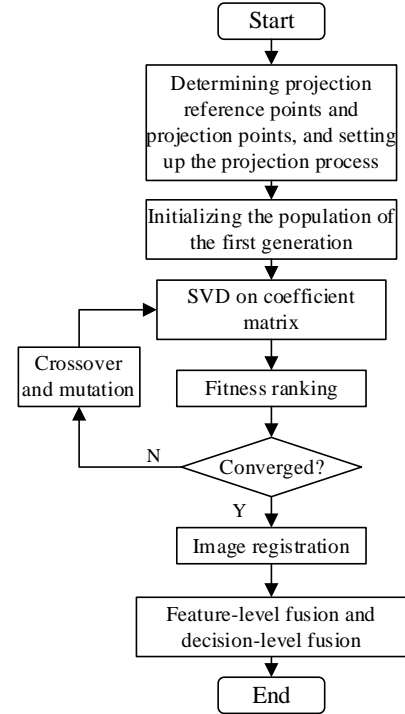


Figure 3. Flow of registration and optimization problem

As shown in Figure 3, the first step of the GA is to set up the projection process. The projection reference points and projection points in MV_O and MV_P are binary coded, and taken as chromosomes of the algorithm.

Let (j, l) be the set of coordinates of all points in region G_i ; MV_O and MV_{Pk} be the mean gray values of the two images in region G_i ; CO be the correlation coefficient about the similarity between the two images. Then, the fitness of chromosome i can be calculated by the correlation coefficient $CO(G_i)$ between the images with an overlap $G_i = MV_O \cap MV_{P_i}$:

$$CO(G_i) = \frac{\sum_j \sum_l [MV_O(j, l) - \overline{MV_O}] [MV_{P_i}(j, l) - \overline{MV_{P_i}}]}{\sqrt{\left\{ \sum_j \sum_l [MV_O(j, l) - \overline{MV_O}]^2 \right\} \left\{ \sum_j \sum_l [MV_{P_i}(j, l) - \overline{MV_{P_i}}]^2 \right\}}} \quad (15)$$

The correlation coefficient CO falls in the interval of $[-1, 1]$. If the two images are identical, $CO=1$.

After initializing the population of the first generation, the population is evolved iteratively to search for the optimal solution. When the iterative process ends, the output coordinates of the optimal projection point are the coded coordinates of the chromosome with the highest fitness.

Image fusion is the last step of the algorithm. Based on the coordinates of the optimal projection point, the optimal transformation matrix can be computed. By projecting P to O , it is possible to obtain P_0 , i.e., realize image registration. Let $G = O \cap P_0$ be the overlap between O and P_0 . The fusion of equal weight images can be simply expressed as:

$$J_0 = \begin{cases} O + P_0, (a, b) \notin G \\ \frac{1}{2}(O + P_0), (a, b) \in G \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

To control image fusion in the feasible range, it is necessary to perform zero-padding in the non-overlapping area $(a, b) \notin G$ between the two images with a sufficiently large gray value. In our algorithm, the registration process underpins the fusion process. The accuracy of the registration algorithm ensures the freedom of the fusion process. Considering the features of infrared images in different bands, it is important to design an additional feature- and decision- level fusion algorithm, such that the fused image contains the maximum possible amount of effective information.

3. INFRARED IMAGE SEGMENTATION AND IDENTIFICATION

During the thermal fault diagnosis on electrical equipment in substations, the collected infrared images include target equipment with overheated parts, normal electrical equipment, and complex backgrounds. The collected infrared images must be segmented accurately and quickly to provide an effective basis for the diagnosis of thermal faults of electrical equipment in substations.

The target equipment in an infrared image can be positioned by two methods: target detection algorithm, and semantic segmentation algorithm. Extended from Faster R-CNN, Mask R-CNN combines the merits of target detection and semantic segmentation to process multiple images simultaneously (Figure 4).

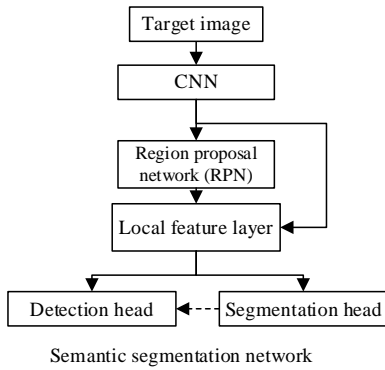


Figure 4. Structure of our CNN model

To enhance the segmentation and recognition capabilities of the model, this paper optimizes the parameter updates of Mask R-CNN based on optimizers. The stochastic gradient descent (SGD) optimizer, and root mean square propagation (RMSProp) optimizers were separately adopted to randomly optimize model parameters.

SDG optimizer trains the network based on randomly selected image samples. The learning unfolds quickly, but tends to fall into local optimum trap. Let η_{le} be network learning rate; u_τ be gradient descent at time τ ; $Error$ be the total loss function; Q'_τ and $Q'_{\tau+1}$ be the parameters to be optimized at time τ and $\tau+1$, respectively. Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} Q'_{\tau+1} &= Q'_\tau - u_\tau \\ &= Q'_\tau - \eta_{le} * \frac{\partial Error}{\partial (q_\tau)} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Let h_τ be the gradient of the loss function at time τ about the current parameter. Then, the first-order momentum c_τ related to the gradient can be described as:

$$c_\tau = h_\tau \quad (18)$$

The second-order momentum B_τ related to the square of the gradient is always equal to 1:

$$B_\tau = 1 \quad (19)$$

u_τ can be expressed as:

$$u_\tau = \eta_{le} * c_\tau / \sqrt{B_\tau} \quad (20)$$

h_τ can be calculated by:

$$h_\tau = \frac{\partial Error}{\partial (q_\tau)} \quad (21)$$

RMSProp optimizer adds a second-order momentum E_τ to SGD optimizer. Let V_τ be the gradient descent at time τ ; Q''_τ and $Q''_{\tau+1}$ be the parameters to be optimized at time τ and $\tau+1$, respectively. Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} Q''_{\tau+1} &= Q''_\tau - V_\tau \\ &= Q''_\tau - \eta_{le} * \frac{c_\tau}{\sqrt{\gamma * E_{\tau-1} + (1-\gamma)h_\tau^2}} \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

The second-order momentum E_τ , which represents the mean over the past period, can be calculated based on the exponential moving average:

$$E_\tau = \gamma * E_{\tau-1} + (1-\gamma)h_\tau^2 \quad (23)$$

V_τ can be expressed as:

$$V_\tau = \eta_{le} * c_\tau / \sqrt{E_\tau} \quad (24)$$

The network parameters can be adaptively updated by substituting the obtained first-order and second-order momentum into the corresponding parameter update formula above.

Our optimizer inherits the features of SGD and RMSProp optimizers, and combines first- and second-order momentums to correct model deviation. Let Q'''_τ and $Q'''_{\tau+1}$ be the parameters to be optimized at time τ and $\tau+1$, respectively. Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} Q'''_{\tau+1} &= Q'''_\tau - E_\tau \\ &= Q'''_\tau - \eta_{le} * \frac{c_\tau}{1-\gamma_1} / \sqrt{\frac{E_\tau}{1-\gamma_2}} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

The first-order momentum c_τ can be expressed as:

$$c_\tau = \gamma_1 * c_{\tau-1} + (1-\gamma_1) * h_\tau \quad (26)$$

The deviation corrected by c_τ can be expressed as:

$$\tilde{c}_\tau = \frac{c_\tau}{1-\gamma_1^\tau} \quad (27)$$

The second-order momentum E_τ can be expressed as:

$$E_\tau = \gamma_1 * E_{s-1} + (1 - \gamma_2) * h_\tau^2 \quad (28)$$

The deviation corrected by E_τ can be expressed as:

$$\tilde{E}_\tau = \frac{E_\tau}{1 - \gamma_2^\tau} \quad (29)$$

The gradient descent at time τ can be calculated by:

$$w_\tau = \eta_{le} * \tilde{c}_\tau / \tilde{E}_\tau \quad (30)$$

The network parameters can be adaptively updated by substituting the obtained first-order and second-order momentum into the above parameter update formulas.

4. THERMAL FAULT DIAGNOSIS OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN SUBSTATIONS

The thermal fault diagnosis of electrical equipment in substations was completed by temperature difference method. Let ξ be the temperature difference represented by the edges of the different bands of the infrared image; μ_1 and μ_2 be the temperature rises at overheated points and normal points, respectively; ψ_1 and ψ_2 be the temperatures at overheated points and normal points, respectively; ψ_0 be the ambient temperature. Then, we have:

$$\xi = \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_2}{\mu_1} \times 100\% = \frac{\psi_2 - \psi_1}{\psi_2 - \psi_0} \times 100\% \quad (31)$$

Table 1. Judgement criteria for temperature difference of electrical equipment in substations

Equipment name	Normal	General fault	Serious fault	Critical fault
High-voltage insulating casing	<0.30	≥0.30	≥0.90	≥0.95
Suspension insulator	<0.35	≥0.35	≥0.80	≥0.95
Supporting insulator	<0.35	≥0.35	≥0.80	≥0.95
Sulphur hexafluoride (SF) circuit breaker	<0.20	≥0.20	≥0.90	≥0.95
Air circuit breaker	<0.60	≥0.60	≥0.90	≥0.95
Connectors and clamps	<0.40	≥0.40	≥0.90	≥0.95
Capacitor	<0.40	≥0.40	≥0.90	≥0.95
Isolating switch	<0.40	≥0.40	≥0.90	≥0.95

Different judgement criteria should be applied to the temperature difference of various electrical equipment in substations. Table 1 presents the judgment criteria for typical equipment in substations, which help to determine the level of fault. For ordinary insulators, the criteria are as follows: (1) the insulator belongs to the normal state if the temperature difference is within 35%; (2) the insulator has general fault if the temperature difference is from 35% to 80%; (3) the insulator has serious fault if the temperature difference is from 80% to 95%; (4) the insulator has critical fault if the temperature difference is equal to or greater than 95%. Figure 5 shows the flow of thermal fault diagnosis for insulators.

The thermal fault diagnosis algorithm for electrical equipment in substations can be implemented in the following

steps:

Step 1. Temperature acquisition

Establish the relationship between the pixel value HF in the colorimetric bar collected by the infrared thermal imager and the device surface temperature ψ reflected by the image:

$$\psi = k \cdot HF + \sigma \quad (32)$$

Substitute the peak temperature and the corresponding gray value (HY_{max} , ψ_{max}), as well as the valley temperature and the corresponding gray value (HY_{min} , ψ_{min}) into formula (32) to derive the values of k and σ .

Step 2. Preprocessing

Preprocess the infrared image through weighted average graying, median filter denoising, and enhancement through histogram equalization.

Step 3. Segmentation and fusion

Segment and fuse the preprocessed infrared image by the method mentioned in the preceding section, producing the background area Φ_1 , normal temperature area Φ_2 , and abnormal temperature area Φ_3 .

Step 4. Image partitioning

Calculate the mean gray value of areas Φ_1 , Φ_2 and Φ_3 , separately; identify the area corresponding to the minimum mean gray value as background area 1, that corresponding to the maximum mean gray value as fault area 2, and the remaining area as normal area 0.

Step 5. Mean temperature calculation

Map the gray values obtained in Step 4 according to the results calculated in Step 1, and sort them in descending order: ψ_0 , ψ_1 , and ψ_2 .

Step 6. Fault diagnosis

Judge the fault state of the electrical device against the judgement criteria of temperature difference.

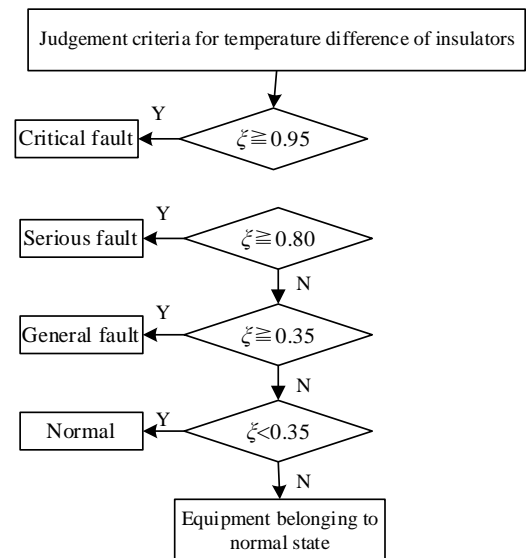


Figure 5. Flow of thermal fault diagnosis for insulators

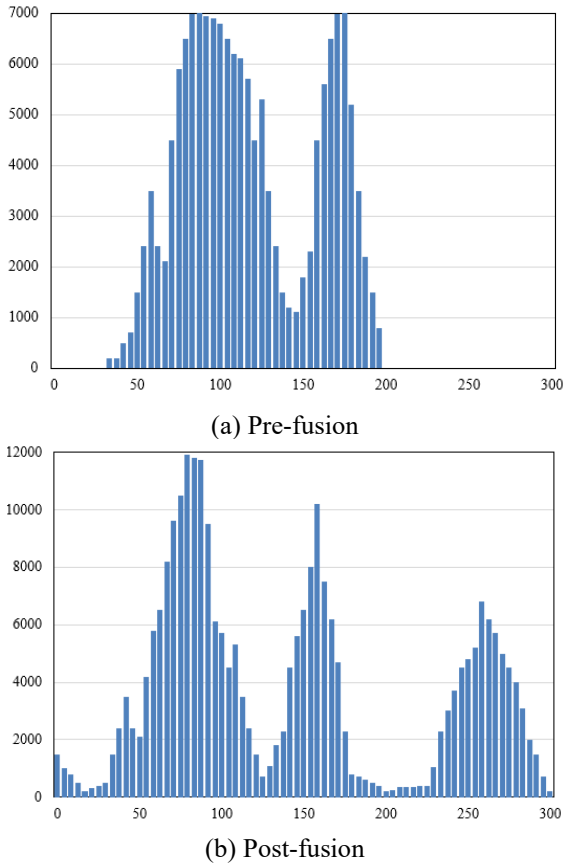
5. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS ANALYSIS

This paper collects the mean spatial frequency and mean gradient variance of 60 sets of fused images on thermal faults of electrical equipment in substations, and evaluates the fusion effect of infrared images against objective criteria. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Statistics on fusion effect

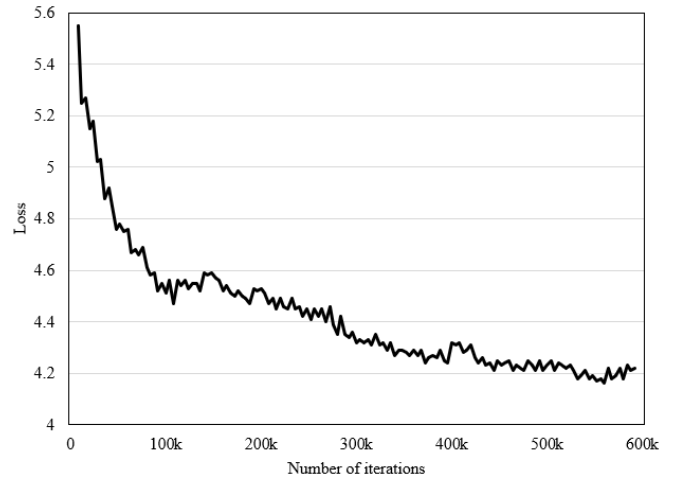
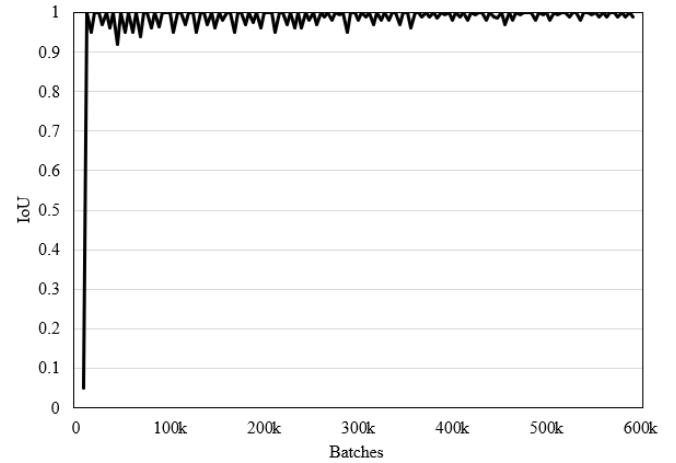
Image type	Shortwave image	Longwave image	Fused image
Mean spatial frequency	32.65	77.89	36.23
Mean gradient variance	2.54×10^5	45.78×10^5	9.53×10^5

Under visual enhancement and the low visibility in bad weather, shortwave infrared images make warm targets more recognizable in the cold background. However, the electrical equipment has a low gray value on the infrared images. On the contrary, in the longwave infrared images, the electrical equipment is full of alternating bright and dark areas. This causes inflation to the calculated values of longwave infrared images. As shown in Table 2, many details from shortwave images are added to the fused images, making the latter much clearer.

**Figure 6.** Gray level histogram effects before and after image fusion

To objectively judge the effect of image registration and fusion, this paper summarizes the frequency of gray values before and after image fusion in each stage, and objectively evaluates the contrast of the fused image. Figure 6 compares the gray level histogram effects before and after image fusion.

Before image registration and fusion, the gray values were concentrated in a small range, a sign of the low contrast and brightness of pre-fusion image. After image fusion, the nonzero values were distributed widely on the histogram, indicating that the fused image has a high contrast and brightness. Therefore, the fused image can better highlight the target, laying a good basis for the thermal fault diagnosis of electrical equipment in substations.

**Figure 7.** Loss curve of model**Figure 8.** IoU curve of model test

The loss function must ensure that the neural network can pinpoint the abnormal temperature areas, and segment these areas with a high accuracy. Our loss function includes three losses: the loss of classifying the target electrical device, the loss of segmenting the abnormal temperature areas, and the loss of position regression. Figure 7 shows that the total loss of the neural network tended to be stable with the growing number of iterations. The network training started to converge after the 200,000th iteration.

This paper adopts intersection over union (IoU) to measure the quality of fault detection. The closer the label box is to prediction box, the better the detection results. As shown in Figure 8, the rectangular box largely overlapped the fault target, with the growing number of batches.

Taking mean precision as the metric of model performance, Table 3 compares the experimental results and performances of different models. The improved YOLOv3 (you only look once) achieved a mean precision of 92.43%, only 0.32% lower than the image segmentation precision of the traditional Faster R-CNN. However, the improved YOLOv3 far exceeded other one-time regression detectors, such as RetinaNet, SSD300 (single shot detection), in terms of mean precision. Compared with the other models, our model achieved a relatively high mean precision (93.24%) in detecting overheated points on electrical equipment in substations.

The experimental dataset was divided into a training set, a test set, and a verification set by the ratio of 7: 2: 1. The training set has 140 images, the test set has 40 images, and the

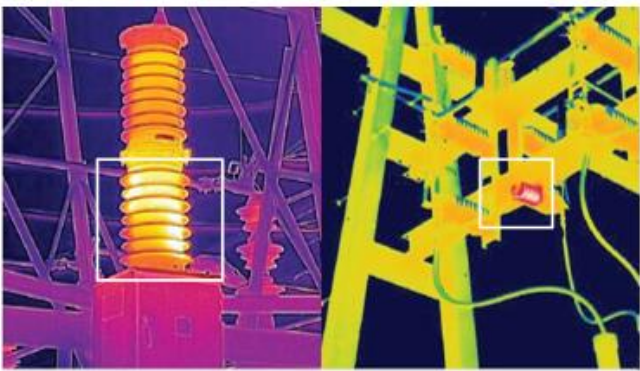
verification set has 20 images. Some of the images are from the Internet.

Table 3. Experimental results and performances of different models

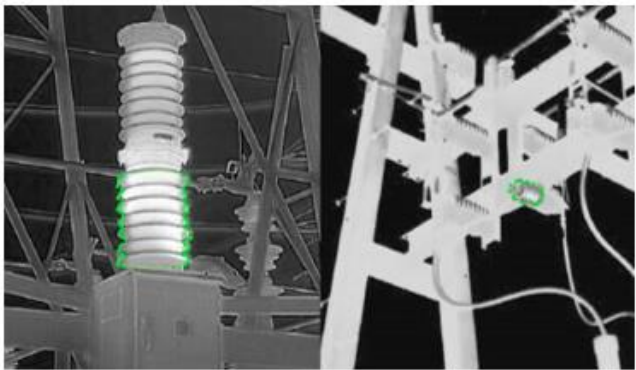
Model type	Backbone network	Mean precision (%)
RetinaNet	ResNet-50	78.54
SSD300	ResNet-50	82.36
YOLOv3	DarkNet-53	86.71
Improved YOLOv3	DarkNet-53	92.43
Faster R-CNN	VGG16	92.75
Our model	VGG16	93.24

Figure 9 (a) presents the infrared images on the supporting and suspension insulators in a substation under actual working conditions; Figure 9(b) presents the thermal fault diagnosis effect of our algorithm and model. The abnormal temperature areas were roughly indicated by boxes. From the boxes in Figure 9(b), the diagnosis effects on the background area Φ_1 , normal temperature area Φ_2 , and abnormal temperature area Φ_3 can be further obtained.

The proposed thermal fault diagnosis algorithm was adopted to compute the temperature difference of each electrical device according to the corresponding infrared image. Table 4 records the results on suspension insulator, 380kV high-voltage insulating casing, and supporting insulator of 3kV capacitor bank.



(a)Actual infrared image



(b)Effect of our method

Figure 9. Thermal fault diagnosis results on insulators

Table 4. Temperature differences of different electrical equipment

Electrical equipment	Suspension insulator	380kV high-voltage insulating casing	Supporting insulator of 3kV capacitor bank
Φ_1	13	16	11
Φ_2	24	22	34
Φ_3	49	41	52
Temperature difference	74.3%	79%	42%

As shown in Table 4, the temperature differences of suspension insulator, 380kV high-voltage insulating casing, and supporting insulator of 3kV capacitor bank were 79%, 74.3%, and 42%, respectively. Hence, the thermal faults of the three electrical devices are all general faults, which can be checked and eliminated during shutdown inspection. The experimental results show that the diagnosis results of our thermal fault diagnosis algorithm agree well with the actual faults on the electrical equipment in the substation, indicating that our detection method is feasible and effective.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Based on image fusion, this paper delves into the thermal fault diagnosis of electrical equipment in substations. Firstly, a registration and fusion algorithm was proposed for infrared images of electrical equipment in substations. Then, a Mask R-CNN-based segmentation and recognition model was developed for the said images. The steps of thermal fault diagnosis were then detailed for electrical equipment in substations. Through experiments, the gray level histogram effects before and after image fusion were compared, indicating that the fused image better highlights the target. Then, the proposed neural network was proved feasible by

plotting model losses and IoU curves. Further, the superiority of our network was confirmed by comparing the experimental results and performance of our network with several other models. Finally, the thermal fault diagnosis results on insulators were obtained. It was observed that the diagnosis results of our thermal fault diagnosis algorithm agree well with the actual faults on the electrical equipment in the substation.

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