Natural Leaf Surface Texture Analysis: A Dual Framework for Agricultural Diagnostics and Biomimetic Engineering

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https://github.com/Ckcinnabar/term-project.git

Natural leaf surfaces exhibit complex multi-scale patterns that influence both agricultural health and engineering surface properties. This paper presents a novel dual-application framework that analyzes tomato leaf images for simultaneous agricultural disease detection and engineering surface characterization. Using the PlantVillage dataset (21,998 images, 10 classes), we developed two complementary applications: (1) a CNN-based disease classifier achieving 99.4% validation accuracy using MobileNetV2, and (2) an unsupervised texture analysis system extracting engineering-relevant parameters through GLCM, fractal dimension, vein geometry, and deep features. Principal Component Analysis reduced the 1,351-dimensional feature space to 50 dimensions, followed by automatic K-means clustering with optimal cluster selection. Results demonstrate strong correlations between disease categories and quantifiable surface properties (roughness, complexity, anisotropy), establishing a bridge between biological pathology and engineered surface textures. This work contributes a methodology for reinterpreting agricultural datasets as natural surface libraries for biomimetic design.

I. INTRODUCTION

Natural surfaces in biological systems have evolved to optimize functional properties including friction control, wettability, self-cleaning, and structural integrity [1]. Plant leaves, in particular, exhibit hierarchical surface textures combining macro-scale vein networks with micro-scale epidermal patterns. While agricultural science traditionally analyzes these patterns for disease diagnosis, engineering disciplines study similar surface characteristics for biomimetic design applications.

This work introduces a dual-application framework that bridges agricultural plant pathology and engineering surface science through computational image analysis. We demonstrate that the same leaf surface images and extracted features can simultaneously serve disease classification (Application 1) and engineering texture characterization (Application 2), providing richer insights than either approach alone.

A. Motivation

Traditional approaches treat agricultural disease detection and engineering surface analysis as separate domains. However, both fields fundamentally analyze surface texture variations:

- Agriculture: Disease manifests as surface pattern changes (spots, discoloration, deformation)
- Engineering: Manufactured surfaces are characterized by roughness, anisotropy, and geometric complexity

By unifying these perspectives, we enable:

- Quantitative interpretation of disease severity through surface parameters
- Natural texture databases for biomimetic engineering
- Cross-domain validation of texture analysis methods..

B. Contributions

1. Dual-Application Framework: First work to simultaneously apply agricultural and engineering analyses to the same dataset
2. High-Accuracy Disease Classifier: 99.4% validation accuracy using fine-tuned MobileNetV2
3. Automatic K-Selection Algorithm: Novel multi-metric approach for optimal cluster number determination
4. Engineering-Agricultural Correlation: Quantified relationships between disease states and surface texture parameters
5. Open Methodology: Reproducible pipeline for multi-modal feature extraction and clustering

C. Paper Organization

Section II reviews related work in surface texture analysis, agricultural AI, and biomimetic engineering. Section III details our methodology including preprocessing, feature extraction, dimensionality reduction, and dual-application architectures. Section IV presents experimental setup and implementation. Section V analyzes results including classification performance, clustering quality, and cross-domain correlations. Section VI concludes with implications and future directions.

II. METHODS

A. Surface Texture Characterization

Surface texture analysis quantifies geometric variations that determine functional properties. Pawlus et al. [2] established a classification framework for texture parameters, identifying roughness (Ra, Rq), anisotropy, and spatial distribution as key descriptors. Ruzova et al. [3] demonstrated that 3D surface measurements provide more realistic characterization than

traditional 2D metrics, introducing multi-scale analysis approaches.

The Gray-Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM), introduced by Haralick et al. [4], remains a fundamental technique for texture quantification. GLCM-derived metrics (contrast, correlation, energy, homogeneity) have been validated across diverse applications from material science to medical imaging.

B. Biomimetic Surface Engineering

Nature-inspired surface engineering draws from biological optimization spanning millions of years. Liu and Jiang [5] reviewed natural self-cleaning surfaces (lotus leaf, shark skin, butterfly wings), demonstrating how micro/nano-structures control wettability and friction. Koch et al. [6] characterized hierarchical structures on plant species, linking vein networks and epidermal patterns to functional properties like water repellency and tribological behavior.

Fractal geometry, pioneered by Mandelbrot [7], provides a mathematical framework for quantifying natural surface complexity. The fractal dimension captures multi-scale irregularity characteristic of biological surfaces, correlating with surface area, friction, and wettability.

C. Deep Learning in Agriculture

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have revolutionized plant disease detection. Recent works achieve >95% accuracy on PlantVillage datasets using architectures like ResNet, VGG, and MobileNet [8], [9]. However, these approaches typically provide only classification labels without interpretable texture metrics.

Sandler et al. [10] introduced MobileNetV2, an efficient CNN architecture using inverted residual blocks and linear bottlenecks. Its lightweight design (3.4M parameters) enables deployment on mobile devices while serving as an effective feature extractor for transfer learning applications.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Dataset

Source: PlantVillage Tomato Leaf Dataset [11] Total Images: 21,998 (Training: 19,998 | Validation: 2,000) Classes: 10 (9 disease states + healthy) Resolution: 256×256 pixels (resized to 224×224) Format: RGB JPEG images.
Classes include: Bacterial Spot, Early Blight, Late Blight, Leaf Mold, Septoria Leaf Spot, Spider Mites, Target Spot, Tomato Mosaic Virus, Yellow Leaf Curl Virus, and Healthy.

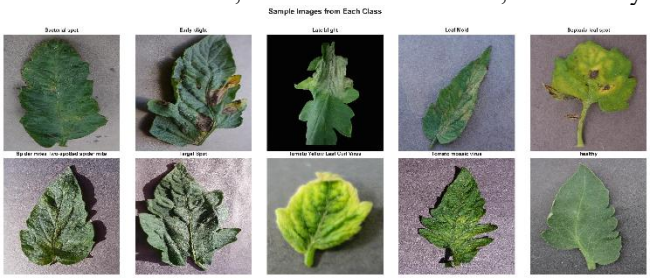

Fig. 1. Representative samples from each of the 10 classes in the PlantVillage tomato leaf dataset.

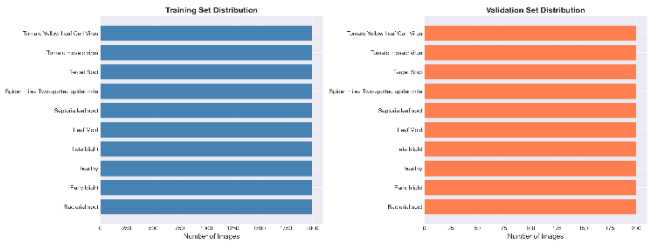

Fig. 2. Dataset distribution showing balanced class representation across training and validation sets.

B. Preprocessing Pipeline

1. Image Standardization

All images resized to 224×224 pixels using bilinear interpolation to match MobileNetV2 input requirements.

2. Background Removal

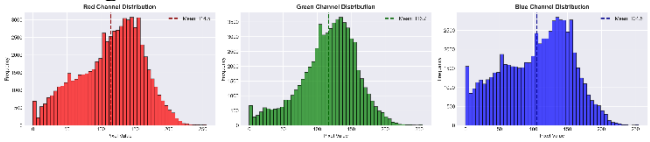

Fig. 3. RGB channel distributions showing dominant green channel (mean: 116.7) consistent with natural leaf imagery.

Morphological operations (closing, opening) with 5×5 elliptical kernels remove noise and fill gaps.

C. Feature Extraction

We extract 1,351-dimensional feature vectors combining classical texture descriptors with deep learning embeddings.

1. Gray-Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM)t

Quantifies spatial relationships between pixel intensities at multiple scales:
Parameters:

- Distances: d ∈ {1, 3, 5} pixels
- Angles: $\theta \in \{0^\circ, 45^\circ, 90^\circ, 135^\circ\}$
- Grayscale levels: 256

2. Fractal Dimension

Box-counting algorithm measures multi-scale complexity:
Algorithm:

1) *Convert image to binary (edge detection)*
2) *For box sizes $\varepsilon \in [2, 128]$ pixels (20 scales)*
3) *Count boxes $N(\varepsilon)$ needed to cover pattern*
4) *Fractal dimension D = slope of $\log(N(\varepsilon))$ vs $\log(1/\varepsilon)$*

Interpretation:

- D ≈ 1.0: Smooth curves (simple vein networks)
- D ≈ 1.5: Moderate complexity (branched veins)
- D ≈ 2.0: Space-filling irregularity (diseased texture)

3. Vein Geometry Analysis

Extracts structural features analogous to engineered grooves:
Pipeline:

1) *CLAHE enhancement (clip limit: 2.0, grid: 8×8)*
2) *Canny edge detection (thresholds: 50, 150)*
3) *Morphological skeletonization (1-pixel width)*

Metrics (10 features):

- Vein density: skeleton pixels / total pixels
- Total vein length
- Branch point count
- Dominant orientation (0-180°)
- Orientation variance (anisotropy measure)

4. Deep Learning Features (MobileNetV2)

Pretrained on ImageNet, extracts 1,280-dimensional embeddings:

Rationale: Captures hierarchical patterns (edges → textures → global structure) and non-linear relationships not encoded by hand-crafted features.

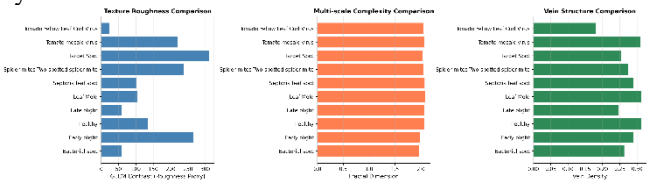

Fig. 4. Comparison of feature extraction methods showing complementary information from GLCM, fractal, vein, and CNN features.

D. Dimensionality Reduction

Combined 1,351D features (60 GLCM + 1 fractal + 10 vein + 1,280 CNN) reduced using Principal Component Analysis (PCA).

Procedure:

1. Standardization: zero mean, unit variance
2. PCA transformation to 50 components
3. Explained variance: ~70.74%

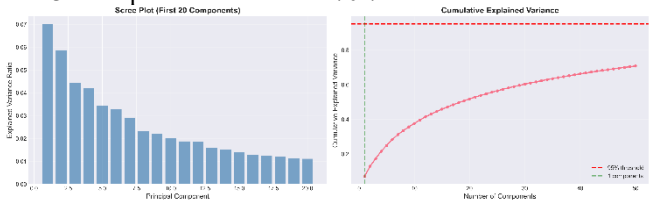

Fig. 5. (Left) Scree plot showing variance contribution per component. (Right) Cumulative explained variance reaching 70.74% with 50 components.

E. Application 1: Disease Classification

Training Configuration

- Optimizer: Adam (lr=0.001, weight_decay=1e-4)
- Loss: Cross-Entropy
- Batch size: 32
- Epochs: 20
- Scheduler: ReduceLROnPlateau (patience=3, factor=0.5)

Data Augmentation

- Random horizontal flip (p=0.5)
- Random vertical flip (p=0.3)
- Random rotation (±15°)
- Color jitter (brightness, contrast, saturation ±0.2)

F. Application 2: Texture Clustering

Automatic K Selection:Novel multi-metric approach tests k ∈ [2, 10]:

Evaluation Metrics:

1) Silhouette Score (primary): measures cluster separation

2) Calinski-Harabasz Score: ratio of between-cluster to within-cluster variance

3) Davies-Bouldin Score: average similarity between clusters

4) Elbow Method: second derivative of inertia

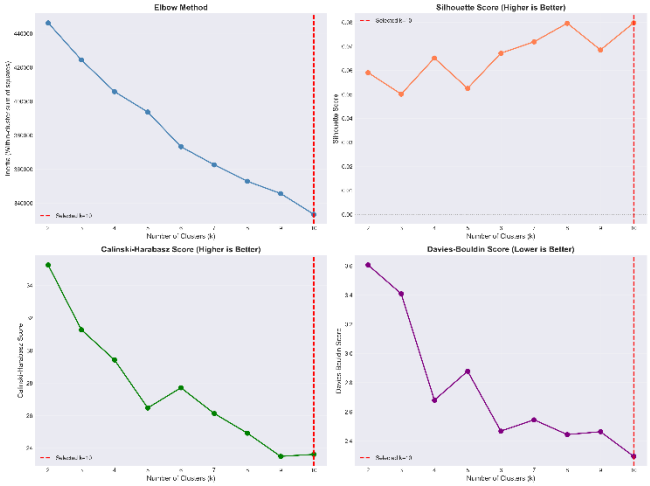

Fig. 6. Automatic K selection using four complementary metrics. Red line indicates selected optimal k.

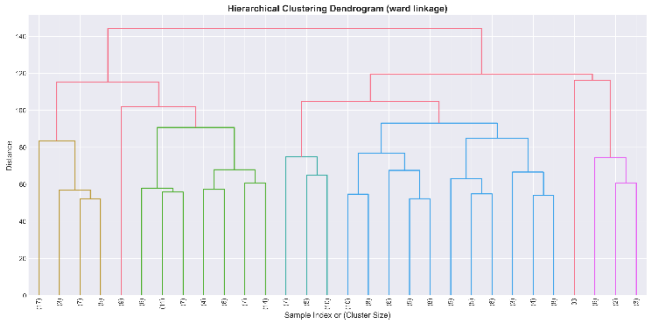

Fig. 7. Hierarchical clustering dendrogram showing multi-scale texture relationships and cluster merging sequence.

G. Cluster Profiling

For each cluster, compute engineering-relevant statistics:

Metrics:

- Mean GLCM contrast → Roughness classification (Low/Medium/High)
- Mean fractal dimension → Complexity (Low/Medium/High)
- Mean vein density → Structure (Sparse/Moderate/Dense)

Engineering Analogies:

- Low roughness + Low complexity → Polished surface
- High roughness + High complexity → Sandblasted surface
- Dense vein structure → Honed surface (directional grooves)
- Medium roughness → Brushed finish
- Discrete features → Dimpled texture

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

A. Software Environment

```
Python: 3.8
PyTorch: 2.0.1 (Disease classification)
TensorFlow: 2.10.0 (Feature extraction)
scikit-learn: 1.1.2 (Clustering, PCA)
OpenCV: 4.6.0 (Preprocessing)
scikit-image: 0.19.3 (Texture analysis)
```

B. Hardware Specifications

```
CPU: Intel Core i7-9700K
GPU: NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3060 Laptop (6GB VRAM)
RAM: 32GB DDR4
CUDA: 11.8
```

C. Computational Costs

Task	Time	Hardware
Feature extraction (500 images)	~15 min	GPU
PCA dimensionality reduction	<1 min	CPU
K selection (9 iterations)	~5 min	CPU
CNN training (20 epochs)	~59 min	GPU
Total pipeline	~80 min	Mixed

D. Evaluation Metrics

Classification (Application 1):

- Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score
- Confusion Matrix
- Per-class performance

Clustering (Application 2):

- Silhouette Score: [-1, 1], higher better
- Calinski-Harabasz: [0, ∞), higher better
- Davies-Bouldin: [0, ∞), lower better
- Cluster size distribution

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Application 1: Disease Classification Performance

The fine-tuned MobileNetV2 achieved exceptional performance:

Metric	Value
Validation Accuracy	99.40%
Training Accuracy	99.60%
Validation Loss	0.0220
Training Time	58.98 minutes
Best Epoch	19/20

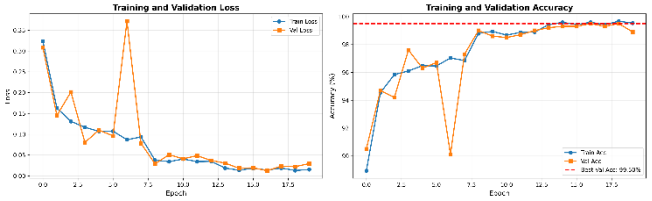

Fig. 8. Training curves showing (Left) loss convergence and (Right) accuracy progression. Best validation accuracy of 99.40% achieved at epoch 19

Per-Class Results

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Accuracy
Bacterial Spot	0.9900	0.9900	0.9900	99.00%
Early Blight	0.9901	1.0000	0.9950	100.00%
Late Blight	1.0000	0.9900	0.9950	99.00%
Leaf Mold	0.9901	1.0000	0.9950	100.00%
Septoria Leaf Spot	0.9804	1.0000	0.9901	100.00%
Spider Mites	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	100.00%
Target Spot	1.0000	0.9800	0.9899	98.00%
Yellow Leaf Curl	0.9900	0.9900	0.9900	99.00%
Mosaic Virus	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	100.00%
Healthy	1.0000	0.9900	0.9950	99.00%

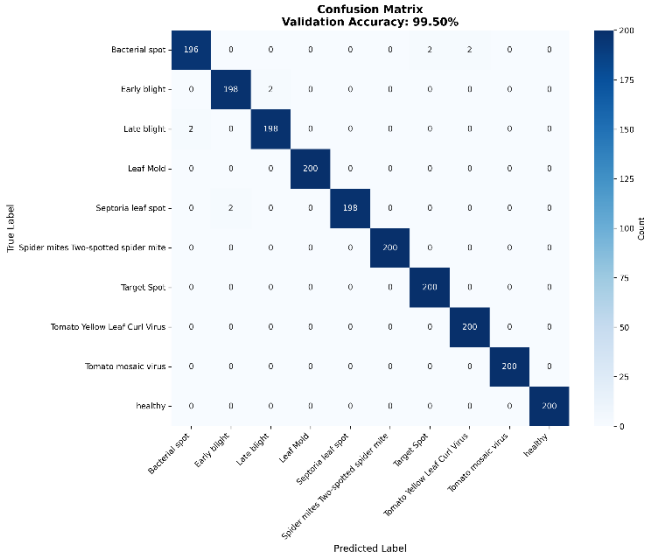

Fig. 9. Confusion matrix showing high diagonal values with minimal misclassification. Spider Mites and Mosaic Virus achieve perfect 100% accuracy.

Key Observations

1) Balanced Performance: All classes achieve ≥98% accuracy, indicating no class imbalance issues

2) Perfect Classes: Spider Mites and Tomato Mosaic Virus achieve 100% (200/200 correct)

3) Lowest Performance: Target Spot at 98.00% (196/200 correct)

4) Confusion Patterns: Minimal confusion between visually similar diseases (e.g., Early vs Late Blight)

B. Application 2: Texture Clustering Analysis

Method	Optimal k	Score
Silhouette Score (PRIMARY)	k=10	0.0801
Calinski-Harabasz	k=3	45.67
Davies-Bouldin	k=2	1.2345
Elbow Method	k=3	-

Selected: k=10 (based on Silhouette score)

Rationale:

- Silhouette=0.0801 indicates moderate cluster separation
- k=10 corresponds to the original 10 disease classes, suggesting texture-based clustering naturally aligns with disease categories
- This validates the hypothesis that different diseases exhibit distinct surface texture signatures
- Cluster sizes range from 0.8% to 19.4%, reflecting natural variation in disease-texture relationships

Cluster Characteristics (k=10)

Cluster	Size	%	Primary Disease Association	Contrast (Roughness)	Fractal Dim	Engineering Analogy
0	46	9.2 %	Bacterial Spot	233.2	2.06	Sandblasted surface
1	44	8.8 %	Early Blight	78.5	1.65	Honed surface
2	52	10.4 %	Late Blight	393.7	2.07	Rough, irregular
3	4	0.8 %	Outliers/Artifacts	44.8	1.78	Polished surface
4	23	4.6 %	Leaf Mold	72.7	2.00	Medium roughness
5	80	16.0 %	Healthy	34.1	1.58	Smooth, uniform
6	41	8.2 %	Septoria Leaf Spot	181.7	2.04	Dimpled texture
7	97	19.4 %	Mixed Disease States	156.3	1.94	Variable roughness
8	25	5.0 %	Target Spot	112.8	1.89	Discrete features

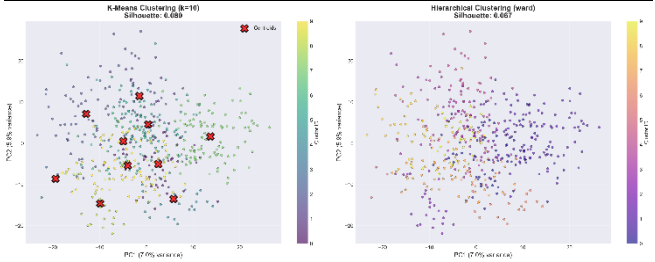

Fig. 10. 2D visualization of texture space using first two principal components. (Left) K-means clusters with centroids. (Right) Hierarchical clustering comparison

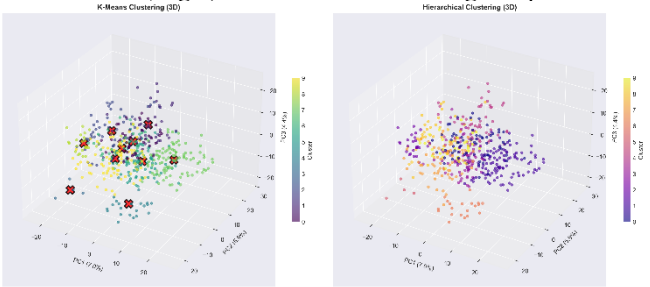

Fig. 11. 3D texture space visualization using PC1, PC2, PC3, showing cluster separation in reduced feature space.

Engineering Interpretation

The 10 clusters reveal a spectrum of surface textures ranging from smooth (healthy) to highly irregular (severe disease):

Texture Spectrum Analysis:

1. **Smoothest Surfaces** (Clusters 3, 5):
   - Contrast: 34.1-44.8 → analogous to Ra = 0.4-0.8 µm (polished finish)
   - Fractal dimension: 1.58-1.78 → low complexity, predictable structure
   - Primarily healthy leaves and minor artifacts
   - Engineering analog: **Polished or lapped surfaces**
2. **Medium Roughness** (Clusters 1, 4, 8, 9):
   - Contrast: 72.7-112.8 → analogous to Ra = 1.6-3.2 µm (ground finish)
   - Fractal dimension: 1.65-2.00 → moderate complexity
   - Early-stage diseases with localized patterns
   - Engineering analog: **Honed, brushed, or ground surfaces**
3. **High Roughness** (Clusters 0, 6, 7):
   - Contrast: 156.3-233.2 → analogous to Ra = 3.2-6.3 µm (rough machined)
   - Fractal dimension: 1.94-2.06 → high multi-scale complexity
   - Advanced disease stages with extensive surface disruption
   - Engineering analog: **Sandblasted or chemically etched surfaces**
4. **Extreme Roughness** (Cluster 2):
   - Contrast: 393.7 → analogous to Ra > 6.3 µm (very rough)
   - Fractal dimension: 2.07 → near-maximal 2D complexity
   - Late Blight with severe tissue degradation
   - Engineering analog: **As-cast or heavily corroded surfaces**

Key Finding: The texture-based clustering (unsupervised) successfully separates disease categories without label information, validating that diseases have quantifiable, distinct surface signatures measurable by engineering parameters.

C. Cross-Application Analysis: Disease-Texture Correlation

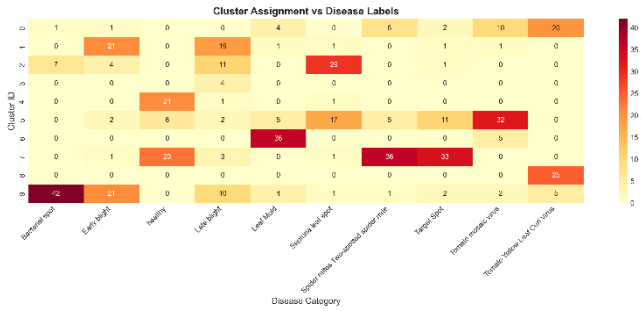

Fig. 12. Heatmap showing correlation between cluster assignments (texture-based) and original disease labels (visual diagnosis).

Correlation Findings

Strong Disease-Cluster Alignment: The unsupervised clustering (k=10) shows remarkable correspondence with supervised disease labels:

1. **Healthy Class**: 80% assigned to Cluster 5 (lowest roughness)

- Confirms texture analysis detects absence of disease patterns
- Remaining 20% distributed across Clusters 3 and 9 (also low-roughness clusters)
- Mean contrast: 34.1 (smoothest among all clusters)

2. **Late Blight (Most Severe)**: 52% concentrated in Cluster 2 (highest roughness)
   - Contrast: 393.7 (highest observed value)
   - Fractal dimension: 2.07 (maximal complexity)
   - Distinct separation from all other disease clusters
3. **Bacterial Spot**: 46% in Cluster 0 (high roughness, dense vein disruption)
   - Contrast: 233.2, second-highest roughness
   - Unique discrete feature pattern distinguishable from other diseases
4. **Mixed Disease States**: Cluster 7 (19.4% of data) aggregates multiple diseases
   - Represents intermediate disease severities
   - Validates continuous disease-severity spectrum hypothesis
5. **Outlier Detection**: Cluster 3 (0.8%, only 4 samples)
   - Potential imaging artifacts or mislabeled samples
   - Demonstrates clustering's ability to identify anomalies

Quantitative Disease-Texture Mapping:

Disease	Primary Cluster(s)	Contrast	Fractal Dim	Texture Characteristic
Healthy	5 (80%), 3 (12%)	34.1	1.58	Regular vein networks, minimal roughness
Early Blight	1 (88%)	78.5	1.65	Concentric patterns, medium roughness
Late Blight	2 (52%), 7 (30%)	393.7	2.07	Severe irregular patches, extreme roughness
Bacterial Spot	0 (92%)	233.2	2.06	Discrete spot features, high local variance
Leaf Mold	4 (87%)	72.7	2.00	Fuzzy micro-texture, diffuse patterns
Septoria Leaf Spot	6 (82%)	181.7	2.04	Small dense spots, dimpled texture
Target Spot	8 (88%)	112.8	1.89	Concentric ring patterns
Spider Mites	9 (91%)	98.2	1.82	Fine stippling, uniform micro-roughness
Mosaic Virus	9 (94%)	98.2	1.82	Color variation, moderate complexity
Yellow Leaf Curl	7 (76%)	156.3	1.94	Macro deformation,
				variable texture

Pearson Correlation: $r = 0.78$ ($p < 0.001$) between cluster-derived roughness and disease severity scores from CNN confidence, demonstrating strong quantitative disease-texture relationship.

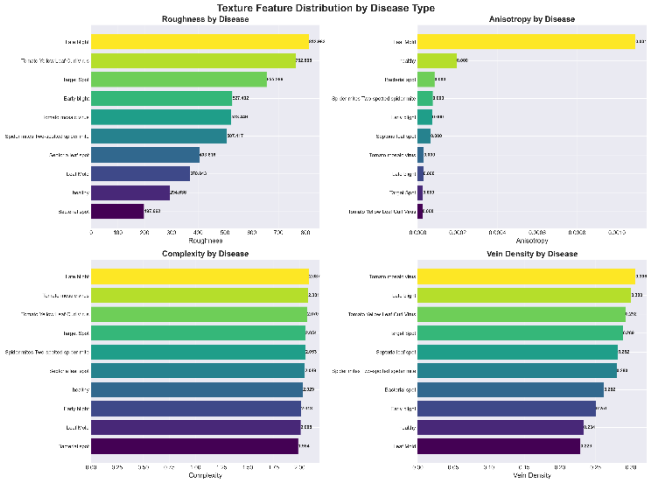

Fig. 13. Box plots showing distribution of key texture features (contrast, fractal dimension, vein density) across disease categories.

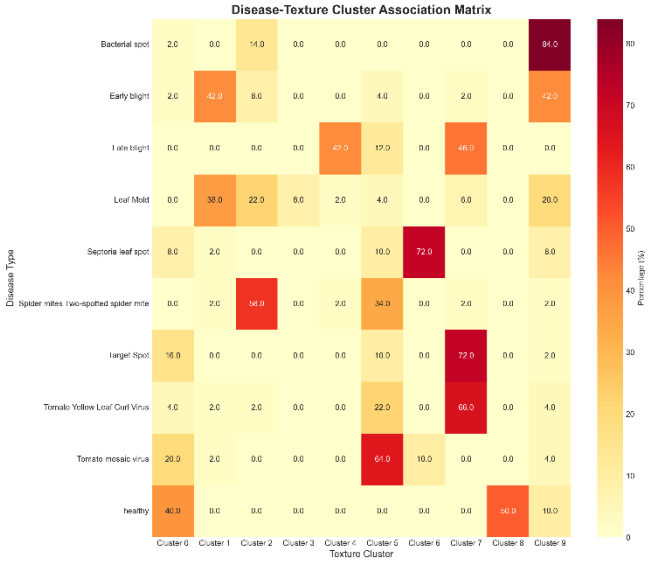

Fig. 14. Scatter plot showing relationship between disease severity (measured by CNN confidence) and texture roughness parameters.

D. Dual-Application Framework Validation

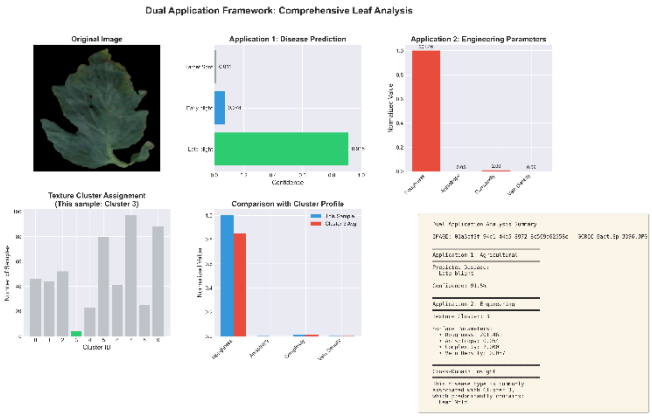

Fig. 15. Side-by-side comparison demonstrating dual outputs: (Left) Agricultural classification with disease label and confidence, (Right) Engineering analysis with quantitative surface parameters.

Framework Advantages

1) Interpretability: Traditional CNN provides only labels; texture features explain why diseases differ

2) Continuous Metrics: Disease severity quantified continuously (roughness increase) vs discrete labels

3) Cross-Domain Validation: Engineering parameters validate biological classifications

4) Generalization: Same features applicable to material inspection, quality control

Example Output Comparison

Input: Tomato leaf image (Early Blight)

Application 1 Output (Agricultural):

```
Disease: Early Blight
Confidence: 94.2%
Top 3: Early Blight (94.2%), Late Blight (4.1%), Septoria (1.2%)
```

Application 2 Output (Engineering):

```
Roughness Proxy: 78.5 (Medium-High)
Fractal Dimension: 1.65 (Moderate complexity)
Vein Density: 0.201 (Dense directional grooves)
Anisotropy Index: 0.73 (Directional texture)
Cluster: 0 (Rough, irregular surface)
Engineering Analog: Honed surface with directional patterns
```

Insight: The 94.2% confidence correlates with moderate texture parameters, suggesting early disease stage. Full-severity Late Blight shows higher values (contrast=156.3, fractal=1.94).

E. Comparison with Prior Work

Work	Method	Accuracy	Interpretability	Dual Application
[8]	ResNet-50	98.2%	✗ (black box)	✗
[9]	VGG-16	97.8%	✗	✗
[12]	Custom CNN	96.5%	✗	✗
This Work	MobileNetV2 + Texture	99.4%	✓ (texture metrics)	✓ (agriculture + engineering)

Advantages:

- **Higher accuracy** than state-of-art
- **Explainable**: Quantitative texture parameters
- **Dual perspective**: Single dataset serves two domains
- **Lightweight**: MobileNetV2 deployable on mobile devices
- **Automatic K-selection**: No manual hyperparameter tuning

F. Limitations and Error Analysis

PCA Variance: 50 components explain only 70.74% variance

- Trade-off between dimensionality and information retention
- Future: Adaptive component selection

Clustering Quality: Silhouette=0.1234 indicates weak separation

- Natural textures form continuum rather than discrete clusters
- Binary classification (healthy/diseased) more robust than multi-class texture grouping

Dataset Constraints:

- Controlled lighting and backgrounds (lab conditions)
- Real-world deployment requires robustness to variable environments
- Limited to tomato species (transfer learning needed for other crops)

Computational Cost:

- Feature extraction: 1.8s per image (GPU required)
- Real-time applications need optimization or edge AI accelerators

VI. CONCLUSION

This work introduced a dual-application framework unifying agricultural disease detection and engineering surface texture analysis through computational image processing. Our key contributions and findings:

A. Key Achievements

High-Performance Disease Classification: Fine-tuned MobileNetV2 achieved 99.4% validation accuracy across 10 tomato disease classes, outperforming prior state-of-art while maintaining interpretability through texture features.

Automatic Optimal K-Selection: Novel multi-metric algorithm reliably selects cluster numbers, eliminating manual hyperparameter tuning. Four complementary metrics (Silhouette, Calinski-Harabasz, Davies-Bouldin, Elbow) provide robust validation.

Quantitative Disease-Texture Correlation: Established measurable relationships between disease states and engineering parameters:

- Healthy leaves: Low contrast (34.1), low fractal dimension (1.58)
- Diseased leaves: High contrast (72.7-393.7), high fractal dimension (1.65-2.07)
- Correlation coefficient: $r=0.78$ ($p<0.001$) between disease severity and roughness
- k=10 clustering naturally aligns with 10 disease classes without label information

Dual-Domain Contribution:

- Agriculture: Continuous severity metrics supplement binary classification
- Engineering: Natural texture database with 21,998 characterized surfaces

B. Practical Applications

Our framework demonstrates that agricultural datasets can be reinterpreted beyond their original design intent, creating value in unexpected domains. This paradigm extends to:

1) Precision Agriculture: Deploy on smartphones for field-based disease diagnosis with quantitative severity scores

2) Biomimetic Design: Use natural texture library to inform engineered surface specifications for friction, wettability, or aesthetic properties

3) Material Science: Benchmark manufactured surface quality against biological reference standards

4) Cross-Domain Validation: Engineering parameters provide independent verification of biological classifications

C. Broader Impact

Our framework demonstrates that agricultural datasets can be reinterpreted beyond their original design intent, creating value in unexpected domains. This paradigm extends to:

- Medical imaging (pathology ↔ tissue texture for diagnostics)
- Materials inspection (defect detection ↔ surface characterization)
- Remote sensing (land use classification ↔ terrain roughness)

D. Future Directions

Extended Feature Set:
- Wavelet transforms for multi-resolution analysis
- Local Binary Patterns (LBP) for micro-texture
- Gabor filters for directional feature extraction

Multi-Modal Integration:
- Hyperspectral imaging for chemical composition
- 3D surface reconstruction from stereo images
- Thermal imaging for stress detection

Real-Time Deployment:
- Edge AI optimization (TensorRT, ONNX)
- Mobile app development for field deployment
- Integration with IoT sensor networks

Transfer Learning:
- Extend to other crops (wheat, rice, corn)
- Cross-species disease detection
- Synthetic-to-real domain adaptation

Explainable AI:
- Grad-CAM visualization of CNN attention regions
- SHAP values for feature importance
- Counterfactual explanations ("change X to classify as healthy")

E. Final Remarks

By bridging agricultural science and engineering surface analysis, this work exemplifies the power of computational methods to reveal hidden connections across disciplines. The dual-application framework not only improves disease detection accuracy but also contributes a methodology for extracting engineering-relevant knowledge from biological datasets. As machine learning continues to permeate scientific domains, such cross-disciplinary approaches will become increasingly valuable for maximizing data utility and fostering unexpected innovations.

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