

# 1      Adaptive Wavelet Transform Based on Artificial Fish 2      Swarm Optimization and Fuzzy C-means Method for 3      Noisy Image Segmentation

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12                        **Abstract.** Aiming at the problem that traditional fuzzy C-means (FCM) clustering  
13                        algorithm is susceptible to noise in processing noisy images, a noisy image seg-  
14                        mentation method based on FCM wavelet domain feature enhancement is proposed.  
15                        Firstly, the noise image is decomposed by two-dimensional wavelet. Secondly, the  
16                        edge enhancement of the approximate coefficient is carried out, and the artificial  
17                        fish swarm (AFS) optimization algorithm is used to process the threshold value  
18                        of the detail coefficient, and the processed coefficient is reconstructed by wavelet  
19                        transform. Finally, the reconstructed image is segmented by FCM algorithm. Five  
20                        typical gray-scale images are selected by adding Gaussian noise and Salt& pepper  
21                        noise, respectively, and segmented by various methods. The peak signal-to-noise  
22                        ratio (PSNR) and error rate (MR) of segmented images are used as performance  
23                        indexes. Experimental results show that compared with traditional FCM clustering  
24                        algorithm segmentation method, particle swarm optimization (PSO) segmentation  
25                        method and other methods, the indexes of image segmentation by the proposed  
26                        method is greatly improved. It can be seen that the proposed segmentation method  
27                        retains the texture information of image edge well, and its anti-noise performance  
28                        and segmentation performance are improved.

29                        **Keywords:** FCM, artificial fish swarm optimization, wavelet transform, noisy im-  
30                        age segmentation.

## 31      1. Introduction

32      Image segmentation is a basic pre-processing step to deal with subsequent practical prob-  
33      lems, which builds a bridge between initial image processing and later recognition. Image  
34      segmentation is to segment an image into object and background. The segmentation pro-  
35      cess is the grouping process of pixels, which occurs between pixels with similar attributes  
36      in the neighborhood, such as intensity, color or texture [1-3].

37      Noise is an inevitable part of computer vision processing. How to avoid the influence  
38      of noise is a significant research direction at present. Fuzzy C-means (FCM) algorith-  
39      m is a popular image segmentation method at present. A large number of researchers  
40      have carried out researches on noisy image segmentation based on FCM algorithm [4,5].

Compared with the hard segmentation method, FCM algorithm can retain more details of image texture. In view of the weak anti-noise performance of traditional FCM algorithm, relevant scholars propose the methods of combining FCM algorithm with other algorithms to remove noise. Reference [6] proposed a gray image segmentation method based on FCM and artificial bee colony (ABC) optimization. Reference [7-9] proposed an image segmentation method combining particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithm and FCM. The introduction of PSO algorithm [10], genetic algorithm [11] and gray wolf algorithm [12] improves the robustness of image segmentation to a certain extent. PSO algorithm is easy to fall into local extremum in the search process, and has low convergence accuracy and slow speed in the later stage of evolution. At present, some researchers improve the FCM algorithm to enhance the anti-noise performance of the algorithm. A dynamic parameter FCM image segmentation algorithm based on edge subdivision was proposed in reference [13]. In reference [14], local and non-local information were introduced into the objective function, and the weight between pixel information and non-local spatial information was adjusted by information entropy to enhance the anti-noise performance of the algorithm. The above segmentation methods retain less edge texture information and only improve the anti-noise performance and segmentation performance.

In this paper, based on the traditional FCM image segmentation, a noisy image segmentation method based on wavelet transform is proposed. Firstly, the noisy image is decomposed by two-dimensional wavelet. Secondly, the AFC algorithm is used to process the threshold value of the image detail coefficient, and the edge enhancement of the approximate coefficient is carried out. Then, FCM algorithm is used for image segmentation, so that it can retain more image edge texture information during segmentation.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 and section 3 introduce the related works and preliminaries, including WTF, FCM. Section 4 displays the modified artificial fish swarm algorithm. The proposed noise image segmentation model is proposed in Section 5. The experiments are conducted on section 6, with the conclusion of our manuscript outlined in Section 7.

## 2. Related Works

Image segmentation is an important process of dividing an image into several regions with similar or identical features (including brightness, color, texture, etc.). In recent years, a variety of image segmentation algorithms have emerged for different application occasions [15]. Clustering method has been widely used in the field of image segmentation [16]. Fuzzy C-Means clustering (FCM) is a soft clustering algorithm based on fuzzy set theory. Different from hard clustering algorithm, each data point has a certain degree of membership for all cluster clusters. Through several iterations, the minimum value of the objective function is found and the cluster cluster with the maximum membership degree of each data point is output. Although FCM clustering algorithm has good segmentation performance for noiseless images, it does not consider information other than pixels, so its segmentation effect for noisy images needs to be improved. Reference [17] proposed a suppression FCM algorithm (S-FCM). Through competitive learning mechanism, the clustering cluster with the largest membership degree was rewarded and other clustering clusters were punished, so as to accelerate the convergence speed of the objective function and maintain the clustering effect. Reference [18] proposed a Bias Corrected FCM

1 (BCFCM) with the introduction of spatial neighborhood restriction term for the segmentation  
 2 of medical brain images. With the neighborhood restriction term, it had certain robustness to noise.  
 3

4 Reference [19] proposed a FCM with Generalized Improved Fuzzy Partitions (GIFP-  
 5 FCM), a membership limit item was added to the objective function of FCM, which im-  
 6 proved the classification effect of cluster clusters and the convergence speed. Reference  
 7 [20] put forward a new Local information restriction term and added it into the FCM ob-  
 8 jective function, and put forward a Fuzzy Local information C-means (FLICM), which  
 9 had a good segmentation effect on noise images. Reference [21] proposed a FCM with  
 10 non-local spatial information by using the image non-local information and the objective  
 11 function proposed in reference [22] to solve the problem that only considering the local  
 12 image information was not enough to obtain good segmentation effect, so as to make  
 13 more effective use of image information. Reference [23] proposed a self-tuning non-local  
 14 spatial-information FCM algorithm, which could automatically obtain the most appropri-  
 15 ate filtering parameters for different pixels and improve the flexibility and robustness of  
 16 the algorithm. Reference [24] combined the suppressed FCM algorithm with the intuitive  
 17 fuzzy set for membership degree, removed the suppressed FCM algorithm parameters,  
 18 and applied non-local spatial information to propose a suppressed non-local spatial intui-  
 19 tive FCM algorithm (SNLS-IFCM). Reference [25] proposed the attribute similarity of  
 20 2-element topological subspace, and presented a new FCM based on similarity of attribute  
 21 space (FCM-SAS). The accuracy of clustering was improved by using membership de-  
 22 gree and sample attribute information of clustering center. FCM algorithm based on kernel  
 23 method is an important method. The kernel method maps the data that is difficult to clas-  
 24 sify linearly from low dimension to high dimension so as to achieve linear classification  
 25 of data in high dimension.

26 Based on the FLICM algorithm, the Kernel method was substituted for Euclidean dis-  
 27 tance in reference [26], a new fuzzy factor was given, and the Kernel Weighted FLICM  
 28 (KWFLICM) algorithm was proposed. Based on the constraint factor in the fuzzy factor  
 29 of KWFLICM algorithm, reference [27] proposed a new weighted image to be used in  
 30 the constraint term, realized fuzzy clustering by using the Kernel method instead of Eu-  
 31 clidean distance, and presented the adaptive constrained Kernel FCM algorithm (Kernel  
 32 FCM) Fuzzy C-Means. On the basis of KWFLICM, reference [28] extended the cluster-  
 33 ing object to multidimensional data, sorted and considered the data and neighborhood of  
 34 each dimension, realized the clustering of multidimensional data by the kernel method,  
 35 and gave the Generalized KWFLICM algorithm. However, the above methods do not  
 36 reduce the number of iterations required for convergence of objective function, and the  
 37 improvement of segmentation efficiency is not obvious.

### 38 3. Preliminaries

#### 39 3.1. Wavelet Transform

40 Mallat algorithm proposed the concept of multi-resolution analysis. Since digital im-  
 41 ages are usually represented by two-dimensional array  $f(x, y)$ , it is assumed that two-

1 dimensional signal is  $f(x, y)$ , and two-dimensional Mallat algorithm is adopted to carry  
2 out wavelet changes [20,30]. The two-dimensional wavelet transform is defined as:

$$WT(a, b_1, b_2) = \frac{1}{a} \int \int f(x, y) \varphi(x, y) dx dy. \quad (1)$$

3 Where,  $a$  is the introduced normalized factor, which ensures the invariable energy  
4 before and after wavelet contraction.  $\varphi$  is the Fourier transform. Its inverse transformation  
5 is:

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{c_\phi} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{a^3} da \int \int (a, b_1, b_2) \phi(x, y) db_1 db_2. \quad (2)$$

6 where

$$c_\phi = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int \int \frac{|\phi(w_1 + w_2)|^2}{|w_1^2 + w_2^2|} dw_1 dw_2. \quad (3)$$

7 Digital images are broken down by two-dimensional wave and it gets four compo-  
8 nents namely, the diagonal coefficient  $D$ , horizontal coefficient  $H$ , vertical coefficient  $V$   
9 and approximate coefficient  $A$  respectively. Where  $D$ ,  $H$ , and  $V$  are also called detail  
10 coefficients.

### 11 3.2. Wavelet threshold function

12 In this paper, soft threshold function [31] is used for value processing of wavelet coeffi-  
13 cients, removing or attenuating the coefficients easily damaged by noise and reserving the  
14 useful ones so as to suppress noise. The threshold function is as follows:

$$W = sign(w)(|w| - \lambda), |w| > \lambda. \quad (4)$$

15 when  $W = 0$ ,  $|w| \leq \lambda$ . Artificial fish swarm algorithm performs threshold processing  
16 on images through Equation (4). Coefficient  $A$  does not carry out threshold processing,  
17 because coefficient  $A$  contains a lot of details useful to the image.

### 18 3.3. Adaptive evaluation

19 The performance of the fish should be evaluated at each generation selection so that the  
20 optimal solution can be obtained. The image is reconstructed by inverse wavelet transfor-  
21 m with the detail coefficient and approximate coefficient after the threshold processing.  
22 Then, the FCM objective function is calculated according to the reconstructed image, as  
23 shown in Equation (5), where the data point is the gray value of each pixel point. This  
24 fitness evaluation is directly aimed at the segmentation result, and thus indirectly at the  
25 image noise.

$$J = \sum_{i=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^L u_{i,j}^m d^2(h, v_i). \quad (5)$$

26 Although this objective function needs to be calculated in each generation selection  
27 of the artificial fish swarm algorithm, the overall calculation cost is within an acceptable  
28 range due to the use of histogram based FCM.

**3.4. Edge enhancement**

Image noise exists in detail coefficient after wavelet decomposition. In order to retain the texture features of image edge, this paper uses Canny edge detection algorithm [32] to detect image edge information by acting on approximate coefficients. Formula (6) is used to realize image enhancement. The two coefficients are reconstructed by wavelet transform to preserve the edge texture features of the image and improve the image segmentation quality effectively.

$$A_f = k \times A + (1 - k) \times A_e. \quad (6)$$

Where,  $k \in [0, 1]$  is a constant.  $A_e$  is the coefficient processed by Canny edge detection algorithm.

**3.5. FCM**

FCM algorithm is a fuzzy clustering algorithm based on objective function. In order to make FCM segmentation faster, this paper uses FCM to cluster gray level instead of pixel points. Because the number of gray levels is generally much smaller than the number of pixels. The essence of image segmentation by clustering method is to divide the gray level set into  $C$  class. Each class contains unique clustering center, which can be updated in the continuous generation selection, and the clustering result can be optimized by minimizing the objective function. Membership matrix is used to describe the generic properties of each pixel, and the degree of membership of a single pixel in different categories can be judged by its similarity to the cluster center.

The gray level set in the image is  $X = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_c$ , it divides these data into  $C$  categories, then there will be  $C$  cluster centers.  $x_i$  is a pixel-related feature vector in one-dimensional vector space, and the objective function can be changed to:

$$J = \sum_{i=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^L s_j u_{i,j}^m d^2(j, v_i). \quad (7)$$

Where  $s_j$  is the number of pixels with gray level  $j$ .  $L$  is gray level quantity.  $m$  is the membership factor,  $m \in (1, +\infty)$ . Lagrange multipliers are used to obtain the clustering center renewal equation and the membership equation that minimizes the objective function.

$$u_{i,j}^{k+1} = \frac{1}{(\sum_{h=1}^C (\frac{d(h, v_i^k)}{d(h, v_m^k)})^{2/(m-1)})}. \quad (8)$$

$$v_i^k = \sum_{l=1}^L (u_{j,i}^k)^m s_j j / \sum_{l=1}^L (u_{j,i}^k)^m s_j. \quad (9)$$

#### 4. Modified artificial fish swarm algorithm

The artificial fish swarm algorithm imitates the characteristics of fish gathering and abstracts the real fish as an artificial fish in the fish swarm algorithm [33,34] to encapsulate its own state and behavior. By receiving the stimulus information of the external environment, it selects the corresponding activities and affects the external environment through the change of its own state information. The artificial fish interact with each other to find the highest concentrations of food in the environment. During the state change of the artificial fish, the artificial fish may gather in the center of the range with the highest local food concentration. If the state center with the highest food concentration in the environment of all artificial fish is required, other influencing factors are applied to help the artificial fish jump out of the local optimal state center. The local optimal solution of artificial fish swarm algorithm is mainly due to the constant crowding factor which makes the optimal solution deviate from the reality. The moving step size of the artificial fish is fixed, so the artificial fish cannot continue to search for the optimal solution. In this paper, random number is introduced to add random value to step size to help artificial fish jump out of local optimal solution. Constant crowding factor lengthens the optimization time of the algorithm. In this paper, a fitness function is used to reduce the constant crowding factor adaptively so as to shorten the search time of the algorithm and reduce the error between the optimal solution and the actual value.

This paper improves the movement strategy. First, each artificial fish is rear-ended to determine the center with the highest food concentration and update the bulletin board status and the optimal artificial fish status until the artificial fish stops searching forward.

##### 1. AF-follow behavior

If the current moving artificial fish is  $X_i$ , it searches  $f_i$  with the highest concentration of food near the artificial fish corresponding to another artificial fish  $X_j$  with the largest concentration. If  $f_i/n_f = \sigma f_i$ , it indicates that there is a high food concentration in the position of  $X$  and the surrounding environment of the artificial fish is not crowded, then the artificial fish moves forward in the direction of  $X_j$ , otherwise the foraging behavior is performed. This behavior is used to speed up the movement of the artificial fish to a better state.

Let  $f_{max} = f_i$ ,  $X_{max} = X_j$ , it can obtain the artificial fish  $X_i$  forward position.

$$X_{inext} = \frac{X_i + (X_{max} - X_i)}{\|X_i + (X_{max} - X_i)\|} \cdot step \cdot Rand(). \quad (10)$$

If the artificial fish stops searching, the foraging behavior of the artificial fish is performed, and the bulletin board and the best artificial fish are selected and updated.

##### 2. AF-prey behaviour

Setting the current artificial fish state as  $X_i$ , selecting a state  $X_j$  in its visual range,

$$X_j = X_i + visual \cdot Rand(). \quad (11)$$

Judging whether the conditions of artificial fish moving forward are satisfied. Until the artificial fish meets the search times. If the forward condition is still not met, moving one step randomly according to equation (12).

$$X_i^{t+1} = X_i^t + step \cdot Rand(). \quad (12)$$

1 If the artificial fish stops searching in the above two steps, the clustering behavior will  
 2 be performed until the iteration termination condition is satisfied.

3 3. AF-swarm behaviour.

4 If the current artificial fish status is  $X_i$ , it searches for the number of fish  $n_f$  near  
 5 artificial fish  $X_i$  and the central location  $X_c$  with the highest food concentration. If  
 6 there is  $f_c/n_f = \sigma f_i$ , it indicates that the food concentration in the center of the shoal  
 7 is high and not crowded, and the artificial fish  $X_i$  moves forward to the center of the  
 8 shoal. This behavior is used to make a few artificial fish trapped in the local optimal  
 9 solution tend to the direction of the global optimal solution.

$$X_{inext} = X_i + \frac{X_c - X_i}{\|X_c - X_i\|} \cdot step \cdot Rand(). \quad (13)$$

10 Otherwise, it performs foraging behavior.

11 The process of improving artificial fish swarm algorithm is shown in figure 1. Firstly,  
 12 the total number of fish N and the number of generations selected by the artificial fish  
 13 swarm algorithm are set to calculate the food concentration of each artificial fish in the  
 14 current fish swarm. The artificial fish with the highest food concentration is selected as  
 15 the optimal artificial fish in the current fish swarm. It initializes the state of the best ar-  
 16 tificial fish as the value of the bulletin board. Combined with the selection times of fish  
 17 swarm optimization, the moving step size of artificial fish is improved, and the weight is  
 18 introduced to the step size of artificial fish to solve the problem of convergence speed of  
 19 the algorithm. According to the characteristics of fish movement, the algorithm choos-  
 20 es to carry out tail-chasing and foraging behaviors first, aiming to enable fish to quickly  
 21 determine the center position with high food concentration, and then carries out the move-  
 22 ment strategy of fish clustering behavior, aiming to avoid overcrowding between fish and  
 23 adjacent artificial fish and improve the ability of artificial fish to get rid of local optimal  
 24 solution. According to the above moving strategy, each artificial fish should perform the  
 25 following operations, such as chasing behavior, clustering behavior and foraging behav-  
 26 ior, and update the content of the optimal artificial fish and bulletin board iteratively until  
 27 the average value obtained for several consecutive times does not exceed the sought ex-  
 28 treme value or reaches the maximum number of generations. According to the optimal  
 29 value saved on the bulletin board, the optimal weight matrix is calculated as the basis for  
 30 setting the initial parameters of the wavelet function.

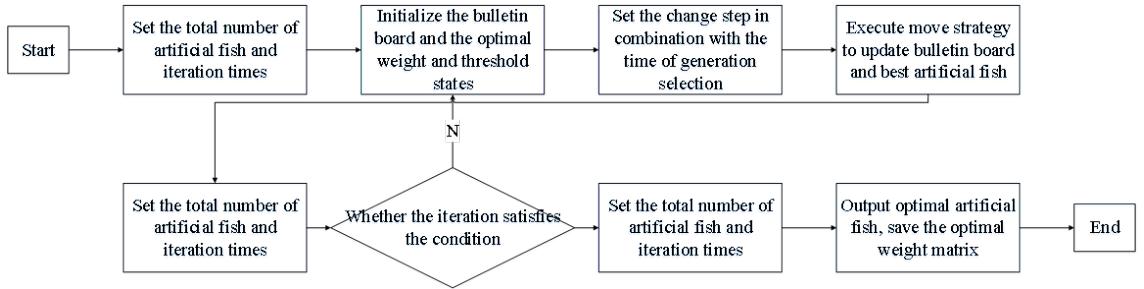
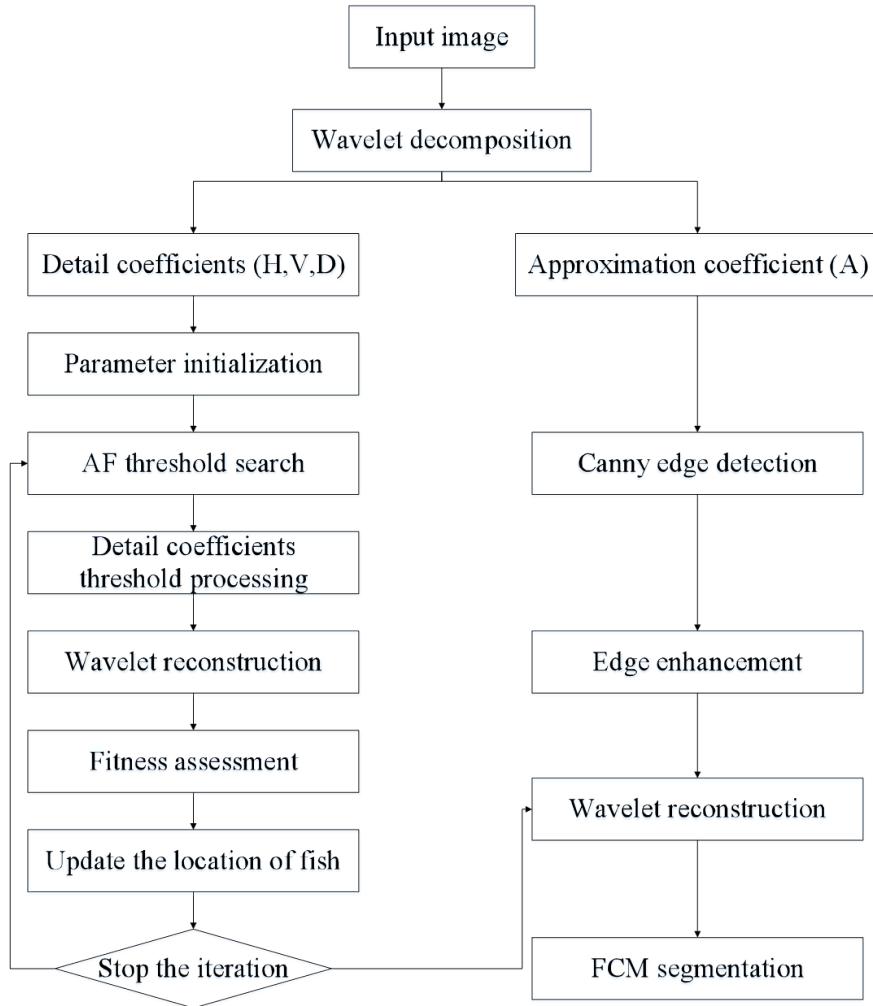
## 31 5. Proposed noise image segmentation

32 If FCM algorithm segments noise image directly, the segmentation effect is seriously  
 33 affected by the image noise. Therefore, this paper first uses wavelet transform and AF  
 34 algorithm fusion to reduce image noise and enhance image edge texture information.  
 35 Then the reconstructed image is segmented by FCM to make the segmented image more  
 36 robust. The flow of the proposed method is shown in figure 2.

37 The method in this paper can be divided into four steps as follows.

38 **Step 1.** Input the image, perform wavelet decomposition for the image and obtain 4  
 39 coefficients:

$$W(X) \rightarrow (A, H, V, D). \quad (14)$$

**Fig. 1.** Optimization process of AF**Fig. 2.** Flow chart of proposed method

1 Where  $W$  denotes the wavelet decomposition.

2 **Step 2.** AF algorithm is used to search the threshold values of detail coefficients D,  
 3 H and V respectively. When the fitness value does not exceed the given wide value, the  
 4 generation selection is stopped after 20 times. After each generation selection, the fuzzy  
 5 coefficient is processed according to the current threshold, and then the fuzzy coefficient  
 6 and the unprocessed detail coefficient are reconstructed by wavelet. The reconstructed  
 7 image is evaluated according to equation (5), which ensures the optimal threshold.

8 **Step 3.** Edge enhancement is performed on the fuzzy coefficient A, and the specific  
 9 expression is shown in Equation (6).

10 **Step 4.** The coefficients are reconstructed by wavelet transform, and the reconstructed  
 11 image is segmented by FCM.

$$W^{-1}(H', V', D', A_f) \rightarrow \hat{X}. \quad (15)$$

$$FCM(X) \rightarrow X_n. \quad (16)$$

12 Where  $W^{-1}$  is the inverse wavelet transform, used to reconstruct the image.

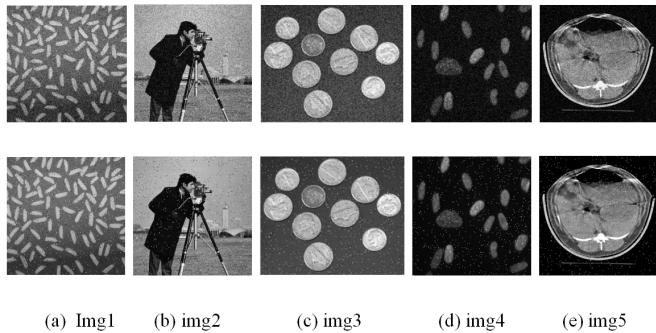
## 13 6. Experiments and analysis

14 In order to verify the segmentation performance and noise suppression ability of the pro-  
 15 posed method, five typical grayscale images are selected and named img1, img2, img3,  
 16 img4, img5 respectively, as shown in figure 3. Gaussian noise and salt and pepper noise  
 17 are added to the five images respectively. Firstly, the coefficient  $k$  in image edge enhance-  
 18 ment are set to 0.5, 0.7 and 0.9, respectively. Then, img1 is reconstructed and segmented.  
 19 The appropriate  $k$  value is selected by directly observing the reconstructed and segmented  
 20 images. The clustering number C is set to 3, 5 and 6 for img4 segmentation experiment.  
 21 The classification effect and convergence rate of objective function are analyzed, and the  
 22 appropriate C value is selected. Finally, the proposed method, traditional FCM method  
 23 and particle swarm optimization algorithm are used for segmentation, and three different  
 24 results are obtained. The peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR) and misclassification rate are  
 25 used to quantitatively evaluate the anti-noise performance and segmentation performance  
 26 of the proposed algorithm, and the running time is used to evaluate the time complexity  
 27 of the algorithm.

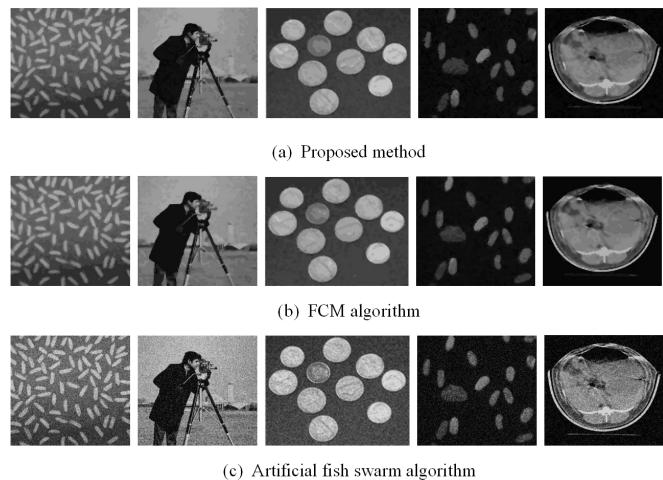
28 The experiment is carried out under Windows10 system, with AMD Ryzen5 2600  
 29 CPU, main frequency 3.40 GHz, and 16 GB operating memory. The experimental envi-  
 30 ronment is Matlab a2017 version.

31 Table 1 shows the image reconstruction and segmentation effects under different  $k$   
 32 values. It shows that when  $k = 0.9$ , the reconstructed image texture is the clearest and the  
 33 segmentation effect is the best.

34 Figure 4 and figure 5 are the segmentation results of the five images with different  
 35 noises by using the method in this paper, FCM algorithm and artificial fish swarm algo-  
 36 rithm. By directly observing the segmentation results, it can be seen that the image seg-  
 37 mented by the proposed algorithm is less affected by noise, especially the segmentation  
 38 effect of the image containing salt and pepper noise is significantly improved compared



**Fig.3.** Original and noise added images. The first row is added Gaussian noise and the second row is added salt & pepper noise.



**Fig.4.** segmentation results with Gaussian noise

k value	Reconstructed image	Segmented image	Reconstructed image	Segmented image
k=0.5				
k=0.7				
k=0.9				
k value	Gaussian noise	Gaussian noise	salt and pepper noise	salt and pepper noise

**Table 1.** Comparison of image reconstruction effect and segmentation effect with different k values

with the other two methods, and the proposed algorithm maintains a certain stability under these two kinds of noise.

In order to further verify the anti-noise performance of the proposed method, the paper adopts the Peak signal-to-noise Ratio (PSNR) for quantitative evaluation [35]. The larger PSNR denotes the better the anti-noise performance of the proposed method, which is defined as:

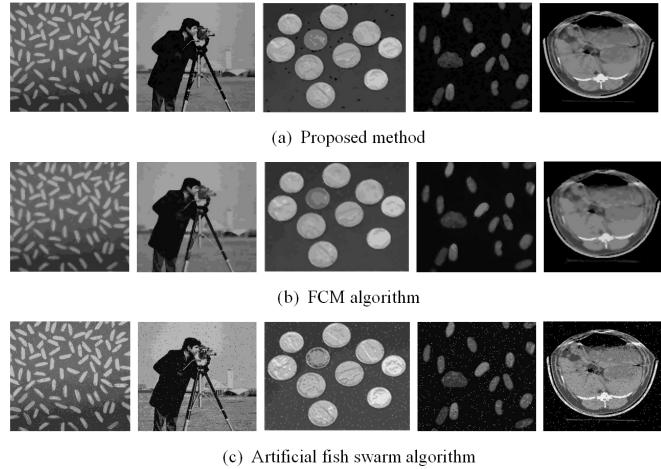
$$PSNR = 10\lg(MAX^2/MSE). \quad (17)$$

Where  $MAX$  is the maximum value of image pixels.  $MSE$  is the mean square error of image pixels and is defined as:

$$MSE = \frac{1}{mn} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m ||K(i,j) - I(i,j)||^2. \quad (18)$$

Where  $mn$  is the size of the image.  $K$  and  $I$  are the original noisy image and the segmented image respectively.

In order to further verify the segmentation performance of the proposed method, Misclassification Error (ME) is used as an indicator to evaluate the segmentation performance



**Fig. 5.** Segmentation results with salt and pepper noise

1 of the proposed method. The smaller ME value denotes the better segmentation performance  
2 of the proposed method, which is defined as:

$$ME = \left( 1 - \sum_{i=1}^C A_i \cap B_j \left( \sum_{j=1}^C B_j \right)^{-1} \right) \times 100\%. \quad (19)$$

3 Where  $A_i$  represents the pixel points divided into class  $i$  in the segmentation algorithm.  
4  $B_j$  represents the pixels divided into class  $j$  in an ideal image without noise.  $C$  is the  
5 number of categories.

6 In order to objectively evaluate the anti-noise performance and segmentation performance  
7 of the segmentation method in this paper, The PSNR value and ME value of seg-  
8 mented images by three methods are given in Table 2. The PSNR value and ME value of  
9 segmented images by these three methods are compared and analyzed. The PSNR value  
10 of the segmented images by this method is 16% and 20% higher than that of traditional  
11 FCM segmentation method and AF algorithm segmentation method on average. ME val-  
12 ues decreases by 28% and 13% on average, respectively. The proposed method has better  
13 segmentation performance for noisy images and better anti-noise performance. However,  
14 compared with the traditional FCM method, the running time of the proposed algorithm  
15 is longer than that of the traditional FCM method, which has a slight advantage over the  
16 AF algorithm segmentation method.

17 The following contents are the comparison results with state-of-the-arts image seg-  
18 mentation methods including ACMAWF [36], ACMFR [37], RFRBSFCM [38], PDB-  
19 SCAN [39]. Here, mean Intersection over Union (mIoU) and Normalized Mutual Infor-  
20 mation (NMI) are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed method.

$$mIoU = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K (A_i \cap C_i) / (A_i \cup C_i). \quad (20)$$

**Table 2.** PSNR, ME and time consumption of noisy image segmentation by three methods

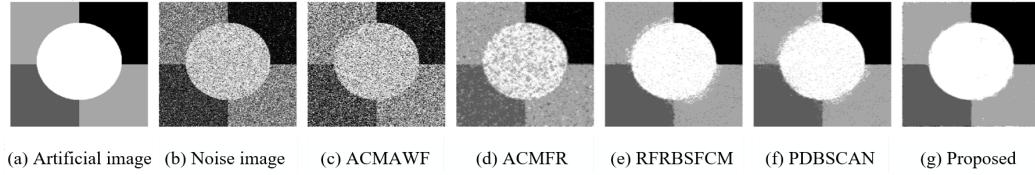
Method	Images	Noisy image	PSNR/dB	ME	Time/s
FCM	Img1	Gaussian noise	4.2751	0.4744	1.102
FCM	Img1	salt and pepper noise	6.6731	0.4032	1.068
FCM	Img2	Gaussian noise	3.3621	0.4891	1.081
FCM	Img2	salt and pepper noise	7.8971	0.4161	1.094
FCM	Img3	Gaussian noise	5.3441	0.3871	1.242
FCM	Img3	salt and pepper noise	7.6271	0.4251	1.227
FCM	Img4	Gaussian noise	6.3481	0.3541	0.091
FCM	Img4	salt and pepper noise	7.2451	0.3961	1.103
FCM	Img5	Gaussian noise	4.4531	0.3922	1.104
FCM	Img5	salt and pepper noise	5.9599	0.3631	1.730
Proposed method	Img1	Gaussian noise	13.7831	0.2161	1.752
Proposed method	Img1	salt and pepper noise	14.8771	0.2241	1.711
Proposed method	Img2	Gaussian noise	12.4991	0.3341	1.793
Proposed method	Img2	salt and pepper noise	16.2786	0.2998	1.724
Proposed method	Img3	Gaussian noise	15.7391	0.3151	1.778
Proposed method	Img3	salt and pepper noise	16.5051	0.2847	1.786
Proposed method	Img4	Gaussian noise	16.5051	0.2847	1.786
Proposed method	Img4	salt and pepper noise	14.1941	0.3271	1.862
Proposed method	Img5	Gaussian noise	13.5921	0.3281	1.925
Proposed method	Img5	salt and pepper noise	15.9681	0.2971	1.833
AF	Img1	Gaussian noise	10.6561	0.3251	1.756
AF	Img1	salt and pepper noise	9.6499	0.3781	1.732
AF	Img2	Gaussian noise	9.9531	0.3531	1.735
AF	Img2	salt and pepper noise	13.7861	0.3261	1.717
AF	Img3	Gaussian noise	12.4921	0.3471	1.748
AF	Img3	salt and pepper noise	14.7591	0.3541	2.107
AF	Img4	Gaussian noise	14.4941	0.2971	1.686
AF	Img4	salt and pepper noise	14.1981	0.4291	1.982
AF	Img5	Gaussian noise	12.9951	0.3351	1.916
AF	Img5	salt and pepper noise	12.6971	0.3261	1.891

Where  $A_i$  is the pixel set of the  $i-th$  cluster in the segmentation result.  $C_i$  is the pixel set of the  $i-th$  cluster in the reference image. Larger mIoU indicates better segmentation effect. For gray image  $I_1$  and gray image  $I_2$ ,

$$NMI = 2MI(I_1, I_2)/[H(I_1) + H(I_2)]. \quad (21)$$

Where,  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  have the same size,  $MI(I_1, I_2)$  represents the mutual information of  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ .  $H(I_1)$  and  $H(I_2)$  represent the entropy of  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  respectively. The larger NMI denotes the better segmentation result.

First, we segment the artificial grayscale image, as shown in Figure 6(a). The image size is  $256 \times 256$  pixels with 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% noise. Figure 6 shows the segmentation results of artificial images containing 5% mixed noise by five algorithms. The quantitative index results of artificial images are shown in Table 3.



**Fig. 6.** Segmentation results of artificial images containing 5% mixed noise by five algorithms

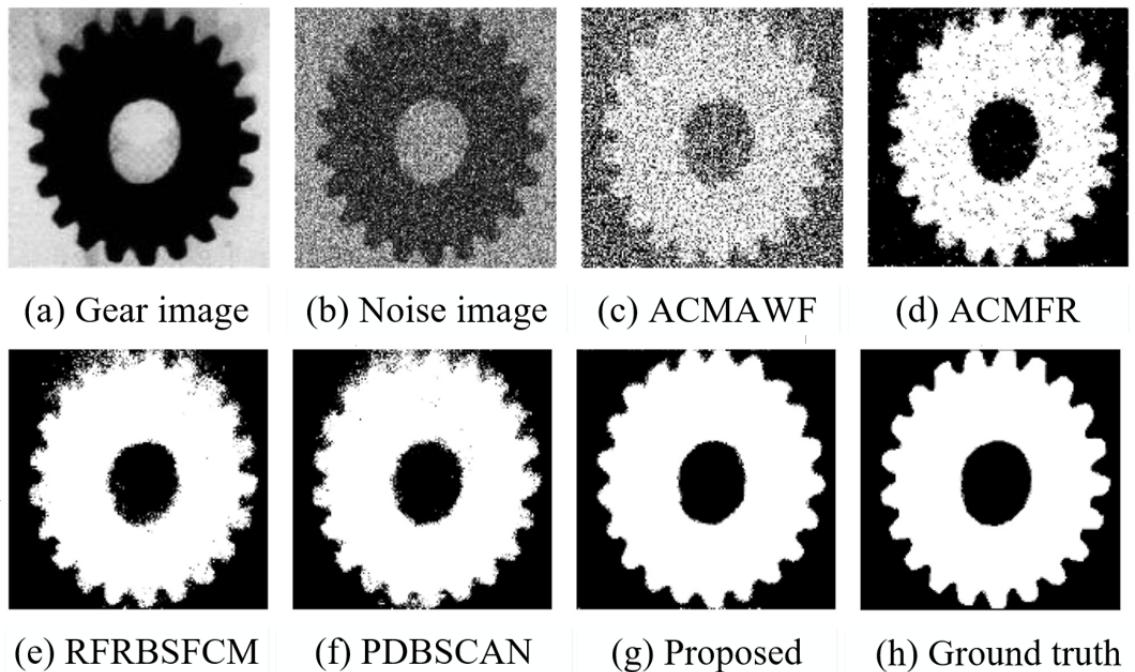
**Table 3.** Segmentation results of artificial images with different mixed noises by five algorithms%

Index	mIoU	mIoU	mIoU	mIoU	NMI	NMI	NMI	NMI
Noise	5	10	15	20	5	10	15	20
ACMAWF	53.76	49.59	36.52	31.52	26.45	15.53	9.20	7.24
ACMFR	86.06	65.36	56.27	50.62	74.43	51.21	39.82	32.01
RFRBSFCM	97.46	88.51	69.57	49.91	87.04	78.08	54.74	39.21
PDBSCAN	97.78	89.86	71.23	55.70	87.11	80.29	58.94	41.24
Proposed	97.81	96.65	93.51	87.82	93.34	90.99	85.46	75.95

The experimental results show that the ACMAWF algorithm has the fastest segmentation speed and poor segmentation effect, and the ACMFR algorithm has improved the segmentation result compared with ACMAWF due to the consideration of local spatial information, but it is not easy to converge. RFRBSFCM and PDBSCAN algorithms use original non-local spatial information, and the latter is superior to the former due to the consideration of intuitive fuzzy sets and membership competitive punishment. In the case of 5% mixed noise, the number of generation selection of PDBSCAN algorithm is less than that of RFRBSFCM algorithm, but when the mixed noise increases to more than 10%, the convergence speed of PDBSCAN algorithm is slower than that of RFRBSFCM

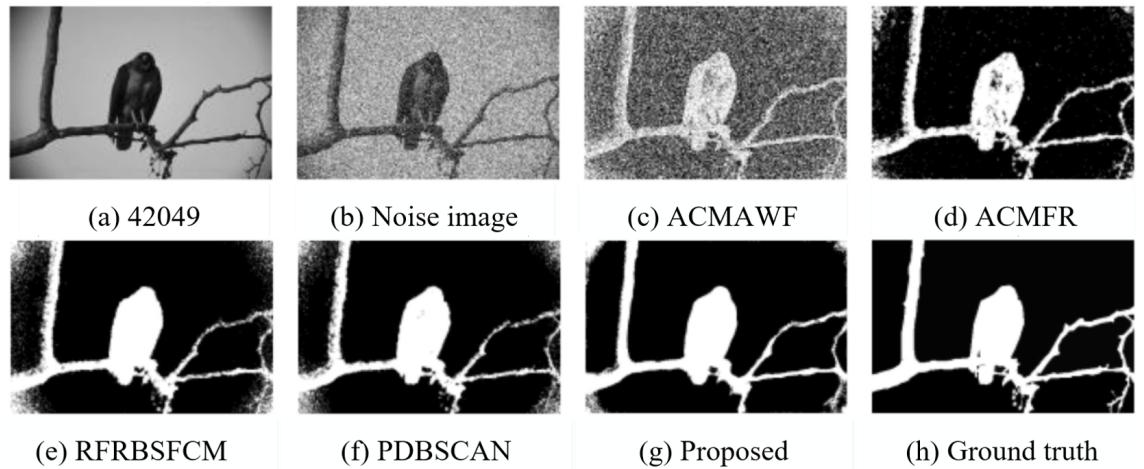
algorithm. The segmentation results of the proposed algorithm are better than those of other comparison algorithms, which shows that the proposed algorithm has good segmentation ability and detail retention ability.

The gray scale natural images are segmented with noise. The original images are gear images ( $263 \times 264$  pixels), 42049, 86016 and 118035, respectively. The last three images come from Berkeley image segmentation data set with the size of  $481 \times 321$  pixels. We add 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% mixed noise to four images respectively. Figures 7 9 and Table 4 compare the segmentation effects and quantitative indexes by five algorithms for four natural images. In Table 4, for each segmentation algorithm, from top to bottom are the segmentation quantitative index results of gear image, 42049, 86016 and 118035 under different mixed noises.

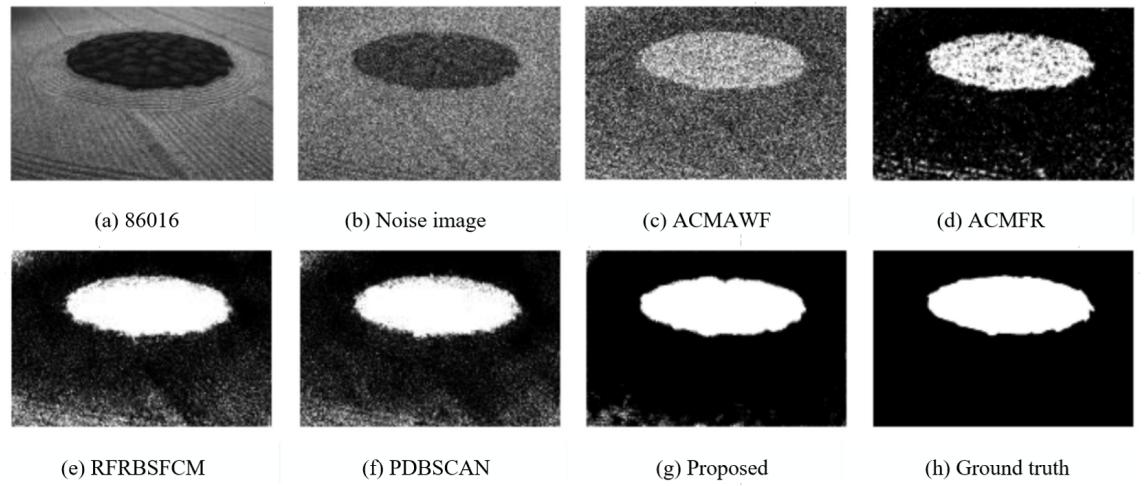


**Fig. 7.** Segmentation results with five algorithms containing 10% mixed noise for gear image

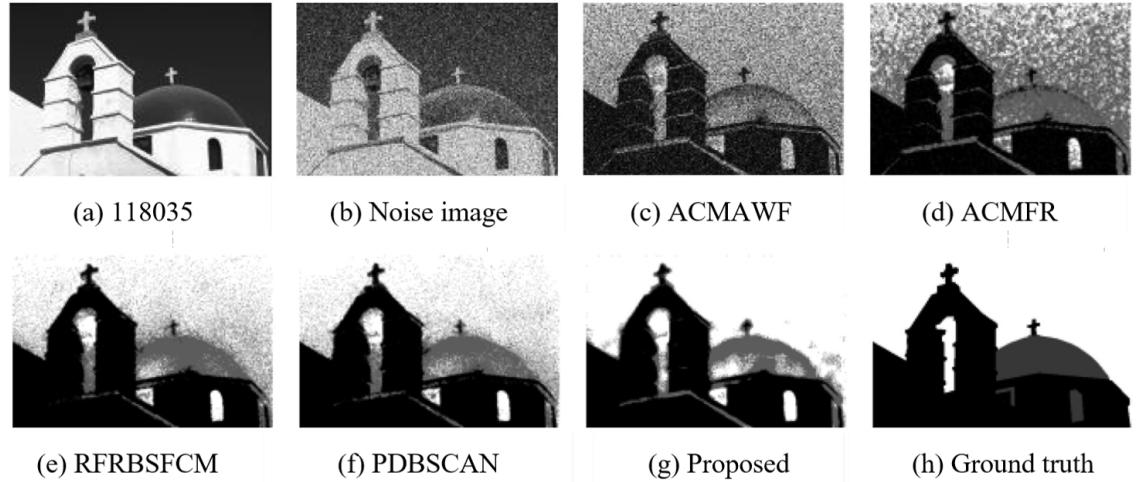
Experimental results show that because ACMAWF does not consider any image spatial information, the computational complexity is low, the segmentation effect is poor, and the segmentation speed is fastest. In the case of 5% mixed noise and excluding ACMAWF, the segmentation results of binary image by each algorithm are similar. When the intensity of mixed noise increases, ACMFR algorithm degrades the segmentation result of three classification images more than the other four algorithms. The segmentation result of RFRBSFCM is similar to that of PDBSCAN. Due to the original non-local spatial information calculation method, the segmentation time of both is longer. The segmenta-



**Fig. 8.** Segmentation results with five algorithms containing 10% mixed noise for 42049



**Fig. 9.** Segmentation results with five algorithms containing 10% mixed noise for 86016



**Fig. 10.** Segmentation results with five algorithms containing 10% mixed noise for 118035

tion result of the proposed algorithm has a small advantage over other algorithms under 5% mixed noise. With the addition of large mixed noise, the segmentation results of the proposed algorithm are better than those of other algorithms.

We also analyze the time complexity of these algorithms. Firstly, the calculation step expression  $E$  of the algorithm objective function is calculated. Secondly, all variables in  $E$  are unified as variable  $n$ , and the calculation step function  $E(n)$  is obtained. Finally, let  $n$  approaches infinity, find an auxiliary function  $f(n)$ , so that  $f(n)/E(n) = a$ , then  $E(n)$  and  $f(n)$  are the same order of magnitude.  $O[f(n)]$  is the time complexity of the algorithm, where  $a$  is a constant greater than 0.

In Table 4,  $H$  and  $W$  are the height and width of the image respectively.  $K$  is the number of clusters,  $iter$  is the number of generation selection.  $k$  is the neighborhood side length of ACMAWF algorithm.  $S$  and  $s$  are the side length of the search area and the neighborhood side length of the non-local mean filter respectively. ACMFR needs to consider the  $k \times k$  neighborhood of each pixel and membership degree in each generation selection, so the time complexity is  $O(n^6)$ . Both RFRBSFCM and PDBSCAN algorithms use the original NLM filter, so the time complexity is mainly affected by the time complexity of NLM filter, which is  $O(n^6)$ . Table 4 shows that the time complexity of the algorithm in this paper is lower, which is  $O(n^4)$ .

## 7. Conclusion

The noise image is decomposed by two-dimensional wavelet, then the AF algorithm is used to process the threshold value of the detail coefficient. The approximate coefficients are enhanced by edge enhancement. Finally, the FCM algorithm is used to segment the image. In this paper, Gaussian noise and salt-and-pepper noise are added to five different images, and these images with noise are segmented by the proposed method, traditional FCM method and AF algorithm, respectively. The peak signal-to-noise ratio and misclas-

**Table 4.** Segmentation results of images with different mixed noises by five algorithms%

Index	mIoU	mIoU	mIoU	mIoU	NMI	NMI	NMI	NMI
Noise	5	10	15	20	5	10	15	20
ACMAWF (gear)	83.71	69.99	59.93	55.52	56.10	32.53	18.91	13.43
ACMAWF (42049)	52.27	43.85	39.85	37.37	16.85	8.67	5.61	4.13
ACMAWF (86016)	42.07	37.63	35.14	33.15	9.30	4.38	3.33	2.44
ACMAWF (118035)	37.61	31.84	29.33	13.46	20.56	11.07	7.22	5.23
ACMFR (gear)	98.79	97.38	94.63	90.47	91.91	87.55	80.01	70.14
ACMFR (42049)	87.42	82.03	76.50	72.01	64.92	53.97	43.57	35.74
ACMFR (86016)	79.70	79.21	66.56	62.19	54.02	47.12	29.13	21.09
ACMFR (118035)	47.46	40.31	31.96	26.10	50.12	38.92	28.32	21.58
RFRBSFCM (gear)	98.79	97.46	95.95	93.09	92.08	88.05	84.01	77.73
RFRBSFCM (42049)	87.37	83.50	66.48	52.60	64.80	56.53	32.28	18.38
RFRBSFCM (86016)	89.11	66.23	51.99	43.84	71.96	38.45	22.26	22.88
RFRBSFCM (118035)	68.59	61.19	53.42	42.95	63.93	56.47	45.74	37.54
PDBSCAN (gear)	98.94	97.25	95.81	92.40	92.54	87.51	83.61	76.62
PDBSCAN (42049)	90.75	83.97	68.12	53.67	74.68	57.78	34.14	19.59
PDBSCAN (86016)	90.87	66.62	52.32	43.60	80.92	42.66	23.10	13.34
PDBSCAN (118035)	71.91	60.98	52.83	44.97	66.89	55.26	45.83	36.27
Proposed (gear)	98.00	99.23	97.66	96.30	95.01	93.18	88.81	84.65
Proposed (42049)	97.15	85.66	84.56	83.26	88.12	62.17	59.38	56.99
Proposed (86016)	97.42	93.45	92.49	79.21	88.90	79.43	76.55	54.26
Proposed (118035)	73.86	67.38	68.96	61.14	70.95	66.69	64.24	55.57

**Table 5.** Time complexity analysis

Method	$E$	$E(n)$	Time complexity
ACMAWF	$H \times W \times K \times iter$	$n^4$	$O(n^4)$
ACMFR	$H \times W \times K \times k^2 \times iter$	$n^6$	$O(n^6)$
RFRBSFCM	$H \times W \times (2S+1)^2 \times (2s+1)^2 + H \times W \times K \times iter$	$n^2(n+1)^4 + n^4$	$O(n^6)$
PDBSCAN	$H \times W \times (2S+1)^2 \times (2s+1)^2 + H \times W \times (K-1) \times iter$	$n^2(n+1)^4 + n^4(n-1)$	$O(n^6)$
Proposed	$H \times W \times [(2S+1)^2 - 1] + (2HW) \times K \times iter$	$n^2[(n+1)^2 - 1] + 2n^4$	$O(n^4)$

sification rate of the segmented images are taken as performance indicators. Experimental results show that the proposed method can effectively preserve the edge features of images, and has good anti-noise performance and segmentation performance.

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