

Classification of coal/rock based on Hyperspectral LiDAR calibration-free signals

He Zixin, Shao Hui*, Guo Hang, Chen Jie

(School of Electronic and Information Engineering, Anhui Jianzhu University, Hefei 230601, China)

Abstract: Safety is essential to deep mining operations. To monitor and detect the safety condition of surrounding rock of roadway and deep coal mining site, many methods obtain competitive results by monitoring targets situation based on laser scanning spacial information. The Hyperspectral LiDAR (HSL) technology can acquire spacial and spectral data for deep mine safety detection and further fine structure analysis. The exact coal/rock classification is the basis of detection and analysis. While, in on-site operation, HSL signals are susceptible to instrument attributes and environmental factors, and need calibration for further classification application. However, due to serious dust pollution in deep coal mines, conventional calibrations are hard to achieve the desired results. To address this issue, a new method was proposed to classify coal/rock without calibration. First, the new feature values, waveform entropy (WE) and joint skewness-kurtosis figure (JSKF), were extracted from coal/rock samples based on HSL measurements. Then, the coal/rock classification tests were conducted with random forest (RF) and support vector machine (SVM) classifiers. Additionally, the spectral properties of different wavebands were evaluated by spectral segmentation test and the classification performances were optimized further by selecting specific channels. The results show that the proposed method can achieve excellent classification accuracy for coal/rock without calibration.

Key words: Hyperspectral LiDAR; classification; calibration; waveform entropy;
joint skewness-kurtosis figure

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基于高光谱激光雷达信号强度免校准的煤岩分类

何子辛, 邵 慧*, 郭 航, 陈 杰

(安徽建筑大学电子与信息工程学院, 安徽合肥 230601)

摘 要: 安全性对于深井开采至关重要。基于激光雷达的扫描探测技术可以有效监测巷道和深部煤矿现场的围岩安全状况。新兴的高光谱激光雷达不仅可以提供空间几何信息还可以提供丰富的光谱数据,在深井煤矿安全检测和精细结构分析方面具有良好的应用前景,而精确的煤岩分类是监测分析的基础。在实际应用中,雷达强度信号易受仪器属性和环境因素的影响,需校准才能使用。由于深井煤矿粉尘污染严重,常规校准方法难以达到理想效果。针对这个问题,提出一种信号强度免校准的方

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作者简介:何子辛,男,硕士生,主要从事激光雷达数据处理方面的研究。

通讯作者:邵慧,女,副教授,博士,主要从事激光雷达与数字图像处理方面的研究。

法,从激光雷达回波信号中提取新特征实现煤岩精确分类。首先,使用高光谱激光雷达获得煤/岩石样本的回波强度信息,并计算出波形熵 (WE) 和联合偏斜度-峰度系数 (JSKF) 作为新分类特征参数。其次,采用随机森林 (RF) 与支持向量机 (SVM) 分类器实现煤/岩石分类。最后,笔者进行了光谱分段测试,对特征分类性能进行优化。结果表明,所提的免校准方法,提高高光谱激光雷达直接应用能力的同时能够保持良好的分类性能。

关键词: 高光谱激光雷达 (HSL); 分类; 校准; 波形熵 (WE); 联合偏度-峰度系数 (JSKF)

0 Introduction

Coal is an important energy in the world and it plays an important role in the development of the economy. Although a lot of new energy sources are applied in production and living, it will still occupy the dominant position for a long time^[1]. As the demand for coal increases and surface resources decrease, deep mines are concerned and carried out. However, disasters caused by deep mining threaten safety operation seriously. Many methods had been implemented to ensure the operation safety, such as safety pre-evaluation^[2], regional prediction^[3], rock mass classification^[4] and so on. Whereas, traditional geological monitoring methods usually require extensive field work, which is time-consuming and labor-intensive. At present, remote sensing has become one of the most effective tools for monitoring the condition of underground spaces. Rock classification based on light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology attracted wide attention due to its high classification accuracy and good recognition precision^[5].

LiDAR is an effective remote sensing technique that it can not only assess stability of rock conditions accurately^[6], but also collect surface geometry information of rock and distinguish different rock properties by acquiring 3D point cloud data^[7]. Whereas, traditional LiDAR sensors operate at single or several wavelengths that can only obtain limited spectral information, which restrict the performance of application^[8]. With development of remote sensing, the emergence of hyperspectral LiDAR (HSL), fusion of hyperspectral data and LiDAR, significantly enhanced the quantitative and qualitative analysis capabilities of LiDAR, which has been widely used in atmospheric

detection, forest protection and artificial target detection^[9-13].

However, the performance of HSL depends on the quality of intensity signal received by LiDAR receiver. Many aspects impact the accuracy of LiDAR intensity signals in on-site applications, such as, instrument properties^[14] and environmental factors^[15]. The common solution is to calibrate the intensity signal to eliminate data deviation. In 2007, Hoeffle et al. calibrated the intensity signal using data-driven and model-driven correction, which provided support for surface classification and multi-temporal analysis^[16]. In 2011, Kaasalainen et al. studied the effect of range and incidence angle on intensity signals, conducted instrument calibration and target surface features calibration researches^[14]. In the same year, Yan et al. evaluated the influence of geometric calibration and radiometric calibration of LiDAR signal on land surface classification, improved the accuracy of LiDAR data by eliminating parameter deviations and correcting the scanning angle^[17]. Most calibration methods need a whiteboard with a calculated reflectance as reference to correct LiDAR signals. While the environment of signal collection site is seriously polluted and the reference whiteboard is easily covered by dust, which leads to inaccurate calculations and is hard to ensure the accuracy of calibration.

To address this issue, we propose a new method to classify coal/rock samples without calibration. The instrument we employed is previously proposed an HSL based on acousto-optic tunable filter (AOTF)^[18], which offers a quicker tuning speed and broader wavelength ranges. First, waveform entropy (WE) and joint skewness-kurtosis figure (JSKF) are calculated based on HSL

intensity signals, as new extracted features. Then, coal/rock samples are classified with WE and JSKF by random forest (RF) and support vector machine (SVM) classifiers and the classification results are compared with the intensity signals. Finally, with spectral segmentation test, the classification performances are optimized by selecting the fewer channels and compared results with calibrated intensity signal.

1 Materials and methods

1.1 Instrument and measurements

1.1.1 AOTF-HSL

The instrument we employed is the previously designed AOTF-HSL with a spectral 5 nm resolution, using a supercontinuum laser source (YSL® SC-OEM)^[18], as Fig.1 shown. A computer triggers laser source to transmit supercontinuum laser pulses and filtered by the AOTF device to select specific wavelength. The specifications of AOTF module can be found in Tab.1. With beam expander, the laser pulses are collimated to transmit to the target. The echo signals are collected by the optical receiving module and focused them on

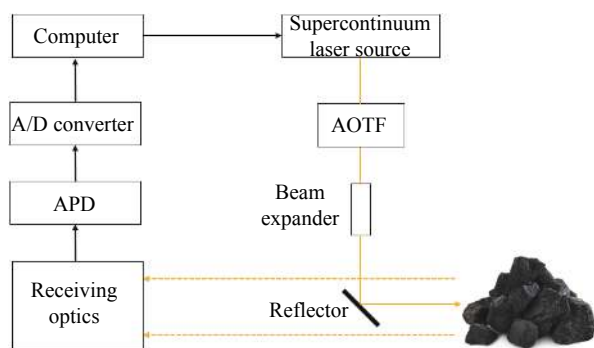


Fig.1 Schematic diagram of HSL

Tab.1 Specification of AOTF-HSL

Parameter	Value
Spectral range/nm	650-1100
Spectral resolution/nm	5
Output efficiency	>40%
Polarization	Line polarization
Beam divergence/mrad	0.4

avalanche photodiode (APD) model, which converts the laser echo signals into electronic signals and amplifies them. The output signals of APD are sampled and converted to digital signals by a high-speed A/D converter and transmitted to computer for data processing.

1.1.2 Hyperspectral measurement

The measurements were conducted in a controlled laboratory environment to obtain hyperspectral information through AOTF-HSL. Due to the low sensitivity of APD and the low transmitted power intensity of supercontinuum lasers below 650 nm^[19], the measurement of the spectrum channels was selected in the range of 650 nm to 1100 nm. The waveforms of pulses reflected from coal/rock samples were collected by an oscilloscope sampling at 20 GHz.

Besides coal and gangue-rock, we also added rock from roof layer and rock from floor layer as samples, which come from deep mines^[18]. All samples were scanned at the same distance from the instrument that range differences between samples can be neglectable.

1.2 Traditional calibration method

The precision of the intensity calibration of HSL system is a prerequisite for many quantitative applications, and it has become an important research object^[14]. The equation (1) describes parameters related to the signal received by the LiDAR sensor:

$$P_r = \frac{P_t D_r^2}{4\pi R^4 \beta_t^2} \sigma \quad (1)$$

Where, P_r is the power receiver, P_t is the transmitted power, D_r is the receiver optical aperture diameter, R is the distance, β_t denotes transmitter beam width, and σ is the backscatter cross section.

The backscatter cross section can be expressed equation (2):

$$\sigma = \frac{4\pi}{\Omega} \rho A_s \quad (2)$$

Where, Ω is a cone of a solid angle into which the incoming radiation is scattered uniformly, ρ is the surface reflectance, and A_s denotes the scattering receiving area.

The equations indicate that the accuracy of intensity

signals not only depends on distance, scattering cross-section, and atmospheric parameters, but also relates to reflectance of targets and directionality of the incident angle^[15]. Therefore, it is necessary to calibrate intensity signals. An efficient calibration method is to set a whiteboard with a constant reflectance for correction^[18]. Whereas, in deep coal mines, the conventional calibration method is hard to valid because of dust pollution.

1.3 New features extraction methods

1.3.1 Waveform entropy

The entropy concept is introduced to measure uncertainty of random variables^[20]. A metric of the dispersion degree of echo signals with respect to their variables is selected as a new feature, namely waveform entropy.

While the different target is present, the entropy value corresponds different, further, WE parameter of the same target is different under different spectral laser scanning^[21]. Therefore, we can distinguish different type sequences based on WE, which is vary with scatter distribution, wavelength and other features^[21-22].

In order to adopt the concept of entropy, we suppose digital echo signals as $X_j^t = x_j^t(i)$, $i = n, \dots, N$, $t = 1, \dots, 4$, $j = 1, \dots, m$. i denotes the echo signal from initial point to the ending point, t is the different type of coal sample, and j is the number of channels, setting,

$$X_j^t = \sum_{i=n}^N |x_j^t(i)| \quad (3)$$

$$p_j^t(i) = \frac{|x_j^t(i)|^2}{(X_j^t)^2} \quad (4)$$

Where, $p_j^t(i)$ is an energy distribution of the vector at individual components, WE is defined as,

$$E_j^t(x) = - \sum_{i=n}^N p_j^t(i) \ln p_j^t(i) \quad (5)$$

Evidently, WE is closely related with amplitude, and vary with signal amplitude fluctuation. The more uniform probability $p_j^t(i)$ is, the larger WE value is. Consequently, WE of a digital waveform depends on the waveform itself, we will apply the distinguished values as feature to

classify the different coal samples.

1.3.2 Features based on echo waveform energy

Digital waveform provides more specific information potentially which easily available for operation^[23]. Statistical variables of waveform energy were extracted from LiDAR echo signal waveform, which has been widely applied in the discriminated classes of coastal habitats and species^[24], forest species^[25]. In 2011, Guo et al.^[26] proposed a JSKF model by combining skewness and kurtosis for band selection and achieved good results. We employ JSKF as a new feature to classify coal/rock.

Skewness is a characteristic number that characterizes the degree of asymmetry of the probability distribution density curve relative to the average, which is expressed by the third-order standardized moments. The equation is:

$$S = \frac{E[X - \mu]^3}{\sigma^3} \quad (6)$$

Where, $E(X)$ is the expectation of vector X , μ is the mean value of vector X , and σ is the standard deviation of vector X . The larger the skewness, the more asymmetrical the distribution of random variables.

Kurtosis is a characteristic number that characterizes the peak of the probability density distribution curve at average value, which is expressed by the ratio of the fourth-order central moment of the random variable to the square of the variance. Kurtosis reflects the sharpness of the peak of the probability density distribution curve. The larger the kurtosis value, the sharper the probability density distribution curve. The equation is:

$$K = \frac{E[X - \mu]^4}{\sigma^4} - 3 \quad (7)$$

Skewness and kurtosis represent the asymmetry of random distribution, which could not only measure the difference between different bands of target characteristics, but also evaluate non-Gaussianity of data samples. JSKF uses the product of skewness and kurtosis as an indicator to measure the amount of information deviating from the normal distribution of the size. It is defined as

$$F_{\text{JSKF}} = S \cdot K \tag{8}$$

That is:

$$F_{\text{JSKF}} = \frac{1}{\sigma^7} [E(X - \mu)^4 - 3\sigma^4] \cdot E(X - \mu)^3 \tag{9}$$

It is obvious that JSKF is related to the expectation of the waveform. The expectation is related to mean and standard deviation. The mean and standard deviation depend on the waveform itself. Therefore, the JSKF of the digital waveform also depends on the waveform itself that has no relation to external conditions. We employ the waveform of JSKF as another feature to classify different coal and rock samples in the next section.

1.3.3 Classification methods

In order to explore coal/rock classification based on AOTF-HSL, RF and SVM are employed as classifiers in our experiments. The main advantage of RF is only a few parameters and manual intervention needed to require high stability^[27], which is usually applied for remote sensing image analysis^[28]. SVM can provide high classification accuracy and it has become a very popular kernel-based classification algorithm in hyperspectral image classification^[29]. Both of them have been widely applied in remote sensing researches and their efficiencies have proven in remote sensing data classification^[30]. Multi-label classification is implemented by the scikit-learn Python package^[31].

2 Experiments and results

2.1 Experimental method

2.1.1 Full channel classification

The experiments were conducted under a controlled laboratory environment. We employed HSL of 91 channels to collect different coal/rock sample data and calculated WE and JSKF based on echo signals. Then, intensity signals, WE, JSKF, and calibrated intensity signals were classified by RF and SVM classifiers to observe the performance.

2.1.2 Channel selection classification

With the number of channels in HSL increases, the instrument complexity and the amount of collected data

also increase at the same time. Complex large-scale instruments and huge data volumes are hard for on-site operation and data processing. Therefore, we hope that a miniaturization HSL with less channels can also achieve accurate classification results. In order to simplify equipment complexity to save equipment resources and improve efficiency, we have improved the experiment: select a part of channels from 91 channels for classification by random selection method and test accuracy. The number of channels increases from 1 in turn until the precision reaches 100%. We evaluate the consequences by comparing the number of channels required.

2.1.3 Performance comparison and spectral segmentation test

To further compare the capacity of WE, JSKF and calibrated intensity signals, we attempt to randomly extract 5 channels from 91 channels and assess the property of them respectively. At the same time, our previous research confirmed that the data of different bands have different properties^[32], so we conduct a spectral segmentation test based on WE and JSKF to find the optimal band for classification.

2.2 Experiment results and analysis

2.2.1 Full channel classification results

The classification results of all channels are shown in the Tab.2. The accuracy of all features can reach 100% by using the full channels spectral information. The results prove that with sufficient spectral information, the classification of coal and rock can achieve ideal results.

Tab.2 Full channels classification accuracy

Data	RF	SVM
	Accuracy	Accuracy
Intensity	100%	100%
WE	100%	100%
JSKF	100%	100%
Calibrated	100%	100%

2.2.2 Channel selection classification results

With sufficient experiment tests, the channels of random selected classification results are shown in the

Tab.3. For the RF classifier, while accuracy reaches 100%, the least number of channels needed for intensity signal is 21, which is maximum compared with others. WE needs 15 channels, the channels of JSKF and calibrated intensity signal are both 6. Compared with the intensity signal, WE, JSKF and calibrated intensity signal reduce 6, 15, 15 channels respectively. For the SVM classifier, when accuracy reaches 100%, the intensity signal needs 20 channels at least. WE needs 15 channels, JSKF needs 6 channels, and the calibrated intensity signal needs 4 channels. Compared with the intensity signal, WE, JSKF and calibrated intensity signal reduce 5, 14, 16 channels respectively. With comparison, we can draw a conclusion: the four groups of data can still achieve the desired performances by using fewer spectrum channels. Meanwhile, the number of channels needed for WE and JSKF classification is significantly less than that of intensity signal. Although WE and JSKF do not achieve the classification ability as same as calibrated intensity signal, they can provide enhancement of classification effect significantly than the intensity signal, which indicate that the HSL intensity signal calibration-free method we proposed is feasible for improving the

Tab.3 Minimum number of random channels

Data	RF	SVM
	Number of channels	Number of channels
Intensity	21	20
WE	15	15
JSKF	6	6
Calibrated	6	4

classification performance.

2.2.3 Performance comparison and spectral segmentation test results

5-channel random extraction classification results are shown in **Tab.4**. The accuracies are calculated by averaging multiple experiments.

Tab.4 5-channel classification accuracy

Data	RF	SVM
	Accuracy	Accuracy
WE	88%	90%
JSKF	96%	100%
Calibrated	98%	100%

From the results, we can see that with 5 channels, the accuracy of calibrated intensity signal and JSKF is 98% and 96% respectively by RF, and they are both 100% by SVM. For WE, although more channels are needed to achieve accurate classification, the precision still reaches 90% by extracting 5 channels randomly. The reason is that the 91-channel HSL covers a wide spectrum that different spectral bands have different classification properties^[32]. Therefore, we conduct a spectrum segmentation test to find the optimal interval of classification.

Figure 2 show the waveform distribution diagram of WE and JSKF.

We can see that WE and JSKF present different properties in different bands. For WE, the entropy changes slowly at 650-1000 nm and increases significantly at 1000-1100 nm in **Fig.2(a)**. JSKF is used

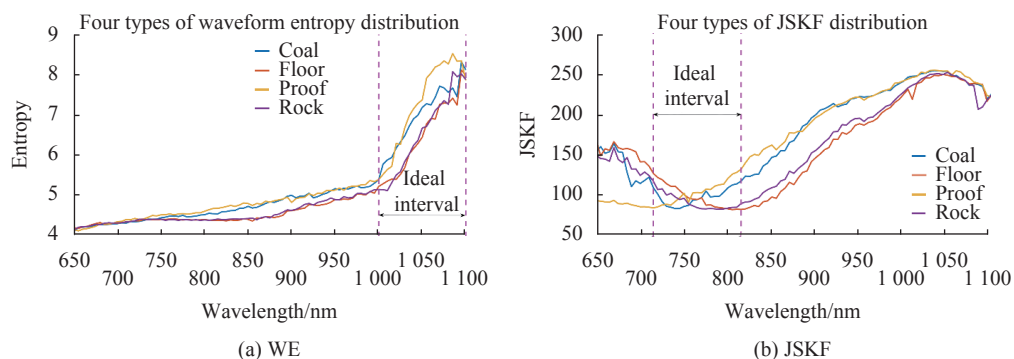


Fig.2 (a) Waveform distribution diagram of WE; (b) Waveform distribution diagram of JSKF

as an indicator to measure the amount of information that deviates from the normal distribution. The data are approximately at the lowest value between 720 nm and 820 nm in Fig.2(b). That means, the data deviation is relatively low; and when it reaches the maximum at 1000-1100 nm, the data deviation is relatively high. Thus, we test the 720-820 nm band and the 1000-1100 nm band respectively and compared them with the calibrated intensity signal. There are 20 channels in each band. The results are shown in Tab.5 and Tab.6.

Tab.5 720-820 nm classification results

Classifier	RF		SVM	
	Channels	Accuracy	Channels	Accuracy
WE	20	95.02%	20	95.34%
JSKF	3	100%	4	100%
Calibrated	2	100%	3	100%

Tab.6 1000-1100 nm classification results

Classifier	RF		SVM	
	Channels	Accuracy	Channels	Accuracy
WE	11	100%	7	100%
JSKF	19	100%	7	100%
Calibrated	10	100%	6	100%

From Tab.5, we can see that in the 720-820 nm spectrum band, for the WE, the precision is only reach 95% using all of 20 channels, whereas the performance of JSKF is improved further compared to random channels selection method. The 100% accuracy only needs 3 channels with RF classifier, and needs 6 channels with random channels selection. And the 100% accuracy only needs 4 channels with SVM classifier, where efficiency increased 33% than random channels selection. In this band, the number of channels that accuracy reach 100% needed for JSKF is basically as same as the number of channels required for calibrated intensity signal.

From Tab.6, we can see that in the 1000 - 1100 nm spectrum band, the performance of WE has been improved further than random channel selection method.

The 100% accuracy only needs 11 channels with RF classifier, and increase 27% than channel selection randomly, and it needs 7 channels with SVM classifier, which improve 53% than channel selection randomly. For JSKF, the performance is slightly reduced. The number of channels of RF and SVM classifiers is reduced by 217% and 40% compared with random channel selection. In this band, the number of channels needs to reach 100% accuracy with WE is basically as same as the number of channels required with calibrated intensity signal.

Based on the above experiments, we can see that WE and JSKF have different classification results in different spectral band. The reason is as following: WE characterizes the degree of dispersion for variables. Due to the different characteristic wavelength of object, the absorption characteristic of the spectrum is different. The characteristic wavelength of coal/rock is in the near-infrared spectrum^[33], where the absorption characteristic is obvious, the degree of dispersion for variables is large and WE changes significantly (Fig.2(a)). Thus, the classification performance of WE is better in the near-infrared band. JSKF measures the deviation of the variable from the normal distribution. The smaller the data deviation, the better the data quality. The data collection results show that the deviation of the data is small in 720-820 nm band (Fig.2(b)). Thus, the classification performance of JSKF is better in 720-820 nm band. Meanwhile, both of them can basically reach the classification performance of calibrated intensity signal in their corresponding ideal classification band. While realizing the intensity signal calibration-free, it maintains excellent classification performances. The results show that our calibration-free classification method is feasible.

3 Conclusions

In this paper, we proposed a new method based on the classification of coal/rock in deep coal mines. Without any reference, we employed WE and JSKF to classify four different types of coal/rock, explored the classification performances of different features in

different spectral bands and evaluated the classification performance by comparing with calibrated intensity signal. The following conclusions can be drawn from the results:

(1) When the spectral information is sufficient, all features can achieve accurate classification.

(2) WE and JSKF require less spectral channels than intensity signals to achieve accurate classification.

(3) For different spectral bands, WE and JSKF have different classification performance, and they can achieve great classification performance as calibrated intensity signal in their ideal band.

This research not only solves the problem that intensity signals cannot be calibrated in the deep coal mines, but also simplify the complexity of the equipment, laying the foundation for miniaturized LiDAR. In the future, we will do the further research for instrument miniaturization package and deep mine field application.

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