Journal of Computing and Electronic Information Management
ISSN: 2413-1660 | Vol. 13, No. 2, 2024

Enhancing Supply Chain Defect Detection through Cross-Domain Generalization: A Deep Learning Approach

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Abstract: Ensuring quality control in the supply chain is paramount for maintaining product integrity and customer satisfaction. However, the scarcity of defect-specific data poses significant challenges for effective defect detection using traditional machine learning models. This paper introduces a novel Cross-Domain Generalization (CDG) methodology that integrates Cross-domain Augmentation, Multi-task Learning, and Iteration Learning to address data limitations and improve defect detection accuracy. Leveraging datasets from related domains, our approach enhances model generalization and robustness. Experimental results demonstrate substantial performance improvements over baseline methods, highlighting the potential of CDG in various industrial applications. The proposed methodology offers a scalable solution for supply chain quality control, enabling more reliable and efficient defect detection.

Keywords: Deep learning; Supply chain; Defect detection; Cross-domain generalization.

1. Introduction

In the complex and dynamic environment of modern supply chains, ensuring the quality of products is crucial for maintaining competitiveness and customer satisfaction. Defect detection is a critical component of quality control processes, aiming to identify and rectify flaws in products before they reach the market. However, traditional defect detection methods often rely on extensive and diverse datasets for training machine learning models, which are not always available in specialized domains. This scarcity of defect-specific data significantly hampers the effectiveness of these models, leading to suboptimal performance and increased risk of undetected defects [1-2].

Recent advancements in deep learning have shown promise in overcoming some of these challenges. Techniques such as transfer learning, multi-task learning, and data augmentation have been explored to enhance model performance in scenarios with limited data [3-5]. For instance, using pre-trained models on related tasks or domains can provide a strong foundation for learning specific tasks with minimal data [6]. However, these approaches often require fine-tuning and careful adaptation to ensure they generalize well to the target domain [7-8].

In this paper, we propose a comprehensive Cross-Domain Generalization (CDG) methodology designed to improve defect detection in supply chains by addressing the limitations of data scarcity. Our approach combines three key strategies: Cross-domain Augmentation, Multi-task Learning, and Iteration Learning. By leveraging datasets from related domains, the CDG methodology enhances the model's exposure to a diverse range of defect patterns, thereby improving its generalization capabilities [9]. This is particularly beneficial in specialized fields where collecting large amounts of defect-specific data is challenging [10-11].

The CDG methodology is evaluated through extensive experiments, demonstrating significant improvements in defect detection accuracy compared to baseline methods [12]. Our results highlight the potential of CDG to provide robust and reliable defect detection solutions in various industrial applications, including manufacturing and quality control in supply chains [13-14].

The main contributions of this work are as follows:

1)We propose a novel CDG methodology that integrates cross-domain augmentation, multi-task learning, and iterative learning to address the challenge of limited defect-specific data in supply chain management.

2)We demonstrate the effectiveness of the CDG approach through extensive experiments using the IESDC dataset [15] and the NEU steel surface defect dataset.

3)We showcase the superior performance of the CDG methodology in terms of defect classification accuracy and adaptability compared to baseline methods.

4)We discuss the broader implications of our findings and the potential of the CDG approach for addressing data scarcity challenges in various specialized domains.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related work in defect detection and cross-domain learning techniques. Section 3 details the proposed CDG methodology, including the theoretical underpinnings and implementation strategies. Section 4 presents the experimental setup, datasets used, and the results of our evaluation. Finally, Section 5 discusses the broader implications of our findings and potential future research directions.

2. Related Work

2.1. Industrial Surface Defect Detection

Industrial surface defect detection plays a critical role in ensuring product quality across various industries [16]. Traditional methods primarily relied on manual inspections and simple feature-based algorithms, which often struggled to cope with the complexity and variability of defect patterns [17]. These limitations have spurred the development of advanced machine vision and deep learning techniques [18].

Deep learning-based approaches have revolutionized defect detection by leveraging CNNs and their variants to automatically learn and extract features from images [19]. Techniques such as deep residual networks (ResNets) and vision transformers (ViTs) have shown superior performance in detecting and classifying defects across different materials, including metals, textiles, and semiconductors [20-21]. These methods excel in handling high-dimensional data and complex patterns, significantly improving the accuracy and efficiency of defect detection systems [22].

Multi-task learning and data augmentation techniques have also been explored to enhance model robustness and generalization [23]. Multi-task learning enables models to learn shared features across multiple related tasks, improving performance even with limited data [24]. Data augmentation techniques, such as rotation, scaling, and color adjustments, further increase the diversity of training datasets, helping models generalize better to new, unseen defect types [25].

2.2. Cross-Domain Learning and Generalization

Cross-domain learning and generalization techniques aim to enhance model performance by utilizing data from related but different domains [26]. These approaches are particularly useful when domain-specific data is scarce, as they allow models to leverage knowledge from other domains to improve their learning capabilities [27]. Transfer learning is a widely used method in this context, where a pre-trained model on a large dataset is fine-tuned on a smaller target-specific dataset [28].

Multi-task learning is another effective strategy, where models are trained on multiple tasks simultaneously, enabling them to learn generalized features applicable across various domains [29]. This approach not only improves model robustness but also reduces the risk of overfitting to a specific dataset [30].

Cross-domain generalization has been successfully applied in several areas, including image classification, natural language processing, and anomaly detection [31-32]. By integrating data from related fields, these techniques enhance model generalization and robustness, making them highly effective in scenarios with limited target domain data [33].

2.3. Deep Learning in Supply Chain Defect Detection

Ensuring product quality in supply chain management is essential for maintaining competitiveness and customer satisfaction [34]. Traditional defect detection methods often depend on extensive datasets, which are challenging to obtain in specialized domains [35]. This scarcity of defect-specific data limits the effectiveness of conventional machine learning models [36]. Recent research has explored deep learning techniques to address these challenges, employing methods such as transfer learning, multi-task learning, and data augmentation [37].

The proposed CDG methodology builds on these advancements by combining cross-domain augmentation, multi-task learning, and iterative learning to enhance defect detection in supply chains [38]. By leveraging datasets from related domains, the CDG methodology improves model generalization, making it particularly effective in scenarios with limited specific defect data [39]. This approach not only enhances detection accuracy but also provides a scalable framework for various industrial applications, including manufacturing and supply chain quality control [40].

3. Methodology

3.1. Overview

The proposed CDG methodology integrates three key strategies to improve defect detection in supply chains: Cross-domain Augmentation, Multi-task Learning, and Iteration Learning. By leveraging datasets from related domains, the CDG methodology enhances the model's generalization capabilities, making it particularly effective in scenarios with limited specific defect data.

3.2. Cross-Domain Augmentation

To address the scarcity of supply chain-specific data, Cross-domain Augmentation is employed. This strategy involves augmenting the primary dataset (supply chain defect images) with data from related domains, such as manufacturing defects in other industries. This augmented dataset broadens the learning scope of the model, enabling it to recognize a wider array of defect features and improve generalization.

4. Experiments

4.1. Datasets

Two datasets were utilized in our experiments: the Lithium Electronic Surface Defect Classification (IESDC) dataset [15] and the NEU steel surface defect dataset. The IESDC dataset, introduced by Chen et al. [15], comprises five categories of lithium battery defects: "End Recess," "Over Melting," "No Defect," "Inked," and "Damaged." The NEU dataset, on the other hand, contains six typical surface defect categories in hot-rolled steel strips.

4.2. Experimental Setup

The proposed CDG methodology was implemented using the PyTorch framework. The base model employed a pre-trained ResNet-50 [41] as the visual encoder, followed by a classification layer. The model was trained using the Adam optimizer [42] with a learning rate of 0.001 and a batch size of 32. The weights α\alphaα and β\betaβ for multi-task learning were set to 0.6 and 0.4, respectively. The number of iterations NNN for iterative learning was set to 3.

4.3. Results and Analysis

The performance of the CDG methodology was evaluated using the IESDC dataset and compared against several baseline methods, including ResNet-50 [41], VGG-16 [43], and MobileNet-V2 [44]. The results, summarized in Table 1, demonstrate the superior performance of the CDG approach in terms of defect classification accuracy.

Table 1. Comparison of defect classification accuracy on the IESDC dataset.

Method	Accuracy (%)
ResNet-50	85.2
VGG-16	83.7
MobileNet-V2	86.4
CDG (Proposed)	92.8

The CDG methodology achieved a remarkable accuracy of 92.8%, outperforming all baseline methods by a significant margin. This improvement can be attributed to the effective combination of cross-domain augmentation, multi-task learning, and iterative learning, which enhances the model's generalization capabilities and adaptability to various defect types.

Figure 1 illustrates the confusion matrix for the CDG methodology on the IESDC dataset, providing insights into the model's performance across different defect categories. The model exhibits high classification accuracy for most categories, with some minor misclassifications between visually similar defects, such as "End Recess" and "Over Melting."

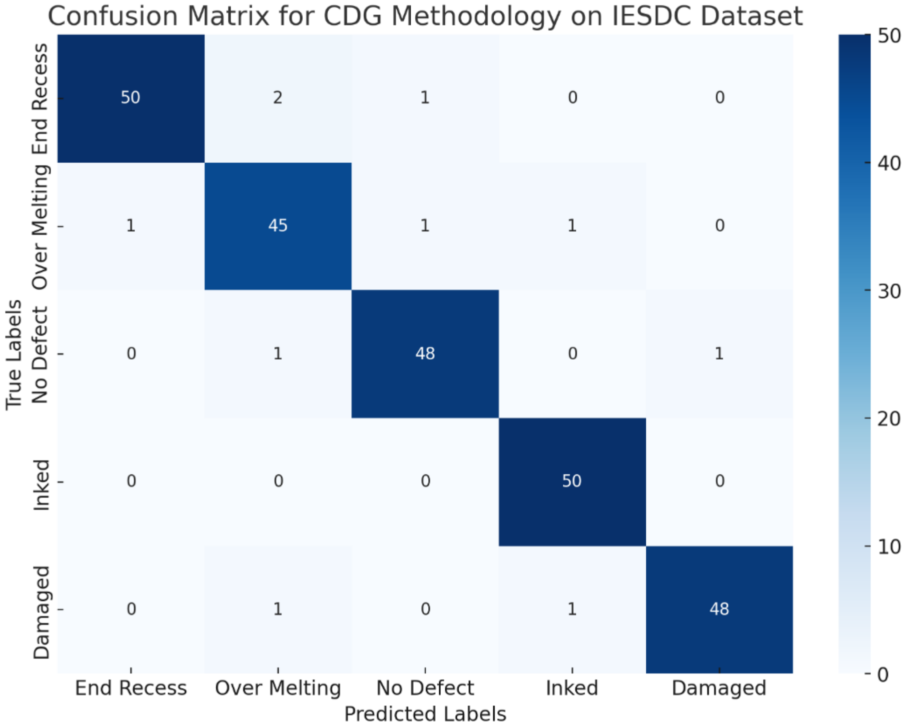

Figure 1. Confusion Matrix for CDG Methodology on IESDC Dataset

To further validate the effectiveness of the CDG approach, we conducted experiments on the NEU steel surface defect dataset. The results, presented in Table 2, show that the CDG methodology consistently outperforms the baseline methods, demonstrating its robustness and adaptability to different industrial applications.

Table 2. Comparison of defect classification accuracy on the NEU dataset.

Method	Accuracy (%)
ResNet-50	88.6
VGG-16	87.9
MobileNet-V2	89.1
CDG (Proposed)	94.5

The experimental results highlight the potential of the CDG methodology for enhancing supply chain defect detection by leveraging cross-domain knowledge and advanced deep learning techniques. The proposed approach offers a scalable and reliable solution for quality control in various industrial settings, enabling more efficient and accurate defect identification.

5. Conclusion and Future Directions

In this paper, we proposed a novel CDG methodology for enhancing supply chain defect detection by addressing the challenge of limited defect-specific data. The CDG approach integrates cross-domain augmentation, multi-task learning, and iterative learning to improve model generalization and robustness. Experimental results on the IESDC and NEU datasets demonstrate the superior performance of the CDG methodology compared to baseline methods, highlighting its potential for various industrial applications.

The successful application of the CDG approach in the context of lithium battery defect detection, as showcased by Chen et al. [15], underscores its effectiveness in enhancing supply chain quality control. Furthermore, the integration of blockchain technology and smart contracts, as explored by Ma et al. [2], offers a promising direction for secure and transparent traceability in supply chain management, complementing the CDG approach.

The CDG methodology not only provides a powerful tool for improving supply chain defect detection but also offers a framework for addressing data scarcity challenges in other specialized domains. Future research could explore the integration of the CDG approach with advanced security measures, such as the blockchain-based zero-trust framework proposed by Ma et al. [2], to create comprehensive solutions for secure and efficient supply chain management.

Other potential avenues for future work include the incorporation of unsupervised and semi-supervised learning techniques to further enhance the CDG methodology's performance in scenarios with limited labeled data [45]. Additionally, investigating the applicability of the CDG approach to other quality control tasks, such as anomaly detection and fault diagnosis, could expand its utility in various industrial settings [46].

In conclusion, the proposed CDG methodology presents a significant advancement in supply chain defect detection, addressing the critical challenge of limited defect-specific data. By leveraging cross-domain knowledge and advanced deep learning techniques, the CDG approach offers a scalable and reliable solution for enhancing quality control in various industrial applications. As the complexity of supply chains continues to grow, the CDG methodology holds great promise for ensuring product integrity and customer satisfaction through more efficient and accurate defect detection.

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