

Mamdani Inference Technique for prediction of egg hatching parameters of different species of birds

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Abstract. Identification of the size of hatching eggs is a vital factor in predicting the type of bird as well as temperature and humidity parameters to the success of the incubator. The egg hatching incubator works on the principle that all eggs are of same type of bird and the conditions would be conducive for every egg to hatch. An automatic egg hatching temperature and humidity control method was proposed based on Mamdani inference technique to hatch different species of birds. In order for the temperature and humidity to be predicted using fuzzy logic, some rules should be stemmed from experience of the experts. Such rules are stated through facts about normal body temperatures of different birds. The classification accuracy reached 100% for all types of birds being small, medium or large. Mamdani inference technique is feasible, robust and has generalization ability leading to accurate prediction of temperature, humidity and hatching period.

Keywords: Fuzzy logic, Temperature, Humidity, Incubator, Egg hatching

1 Introduction

Incubators are substitute for hens in the poultry industry to hatch chicks. It is a device used to grow and maintain microbiological cultures through maintenance of optimal temperature and humidity. Higher hatch rates are achieved due to the ability to control both temperature and humidity. Temperature, relative humidity and oxygen concentration are key factors in the hatching process to achieve satisfactory hatching rate. Incubation system is a multi-interference, multi-variable and time delay complex self-motivated system. It is hard to control well in conventional control methods [1].

Nevertheless, temperature, relative humidity and oxygen concentration of accurate control is essential to improve quality and hatchability of chicks [2]. Quite a number of studies have been dedicated to the control of incubators, for example in [3], they provided a fuzzy expert decoupling design methods and realized the intelligent control of an incubator. A classical control method was proposed which developed a fuzzy control system for temperature and humidity [4]. Tao and Kaixue [5] described Fuzzy-PID dual-mode control in relation to temperature and humidity for incubation. In the breeding cycle of the commercial birds, the bird normally begins to lay small eggs and in few weeks, will go to medium size and then to the preferred large size egg. Though egg size can be influenced using fat levels, enzymes and protein, some factors such as body weight of the bird and age, yolk weight and nutrient intake can control egg size [6].

Shape examination of hatching eggs is imperative and hard work in farms. Physical inspection lacks objectivity and is timewasting. A method of automatic shape identification was proposed based on moment technique, machine vision and enhanced GA-NN algorithm [7].

Asuquo and Okon [8] studied the effects of egg size on fertility and age in lay and hatchability of eggs. They observed that chicken egg size within the range of 45-56 g would hatch better than small eggs. Senapati et al., [9] reported positive correlation between hatchability and egg weight. A correlation between hatching and egg weight in domestic birds has also been discovered elsewhere [10]. In the context of life-history theory, egg size has been widely studied because it can be highly variable. Some previous studies have shown that egg size can affect both parental and offspring fitness [11].

Machine vision for the production of vaccines introduced hatching egg fertility detection and image processing presented a method to detect the middle-stage hatching egg fertility. Multi-scale morphological transformation was used to improve the image, and then recognize the quality of the shade of the egg. The image was locally segmented so as to extract major embryo blood-vessel features of the embryo image, and then the Weight Fuzzy

C-means clustering algorithm based on histogram calculated the threshold. The number of the blood-vessels was counted to detect the fertility [12].

Temperature sensor and humidity sensor was selected to compose sensor groups after evaluating hatching condition, the system monitors and controls temperature and humidity automatically through 1-wire bus technology. The sensor drives actuators to realize temperature, humidity and turning-over-eggs control. Hatching experts recommended 38.2°C temperature during starting-hatching, 0~4 days, 38.0°C in 5~7 days, 37.8°C in 8~12 days, 37.6°C in 13~15 days, 37.4°C in 16~19 days, 37.2°C in 20~21 days [13].

The humidity demand is 53% relative humidity in 1~3 days during starting hatching, 58% relative humidity in 4~6 days, 55% relative humidity in 7~18 days, 65% relative humidity on the 19th day, 70% relative humidity on the 20th day, 65% relative humidity on the 21st day. If the setting value is more than the humidity, then starts humidifier, which can increase thrifty rate of day-old chicks and sustain clean health [13].

Hatching control system has stringent constraint on temperature and humidity, and only right temperature and humidity can increase hatching rate and rate of chicks, which can attain good economic efficacy.

In [14], they used a single chip microcomputer as the incubator core which makes use of temperature sensor and humidity sensor for examination of temperature and humidity in the incubator. The microcomputer splits the complex incubation controlling system into heating fuzzy and adding wet fuzzy controlling system so that the fuzzy control of temperature and humidity can be achieved. The system responds swiftly and has high index of controlling accuracy that results in improved incubation rate.

In this paper, we present an intelligent egg hatching temperature and humidity control method based on Mamdani inference technique to hatch different species of birds. The proposed method covered only three types of birds that are quail, chicken and duck.

2 Methodology

In this research, three bird egg species were used that is quail, chicken and duck. The egg weights and sizes were obtained from the related work and classified as shown in Table 1. These were used as the input parameters into the fuzzy system. The egg sizes were classified as small, medium and large and the weights were classified as light, average and heavy. The expected outputs were predetermined as humidity, temperature, period and bird classification shown in table 2.

Table 1. Egg weights and sizes of different bird species classification

	Egg size (cm)		Egg weight (g)	
	Quail	2.5-3.0	Small	9-10.5
Chicken	5.0-6.0	Medium	45-56	Average
Duck	7.0-9.0	Large	70-110	Heavy

Table 2. Hatching Parameters

	Value & Fuzzy Terms		Value & Fuzzy Terms		Value & Fuzzy Terms	
Humidity	40-50	Low	50-60	Medium	85-95	High
Temperature (°C)	41.5-42.5	Warm	41-45	Warm-Hot	104-106	Hot
Period (Days)	16-17	Short	19-23	Average	25-28	Long
Classification	1-2	Quail	2.1-3	Chicken	3.1-4	Duck

For egg size and weight, the Gaussian membership functions were used.

$$f(x; \sigma, c) = e^{-\frac{(x-c)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad (1)$$

A Gaussian membership function is determined completely by c and σ ; c represents the MFs centre and σ determines the MFs width.

For temperature, humidity and period, trapezoidal membership functions were used.

$$f(x; a, b, c, d) = \max\left(\min\left(\frac{x-a}{b-a}, 1, \frac{d-x}{d-c}\right), 0\right) \quad (2)$$

The parameters {a, b, c, d} (with $a < b \leq c < d$) are the x coordinates of the 4 corners of the trapezoidal membership function.

Lastly, on classification, the triangular membership function was used.

$$f(x; a, b, c) = \max\left(\min\left(\frac{x-a}{b-a}, \frac{c-x}{c-b}\right), 0\right) \quad (3)$$

The parameters {a, b, c, d} (with $a < b < c$) are the x coordinates of the 3 corners of the triangular membership function.

In this system, fuzzy rules used were based on the human knowledge. The following rules were expressed for representing a trained system.

Rule 1: If weight is light and egg size is small then temperature is warm, humidity is medium, period is short and class is Quail.

Rule 2: If Weight is Average and Size is Medium then Temperature is Warm-Hot, Humidity is Low, Period is Average and Class is Chicken.

Rule 3: If Weight is heavy and Size is large then Temperature is Hot, Humidity is High, Period is long and Class is Duck.

The Mamdani inference technique was used for defuzzification.

$$\text{Crisp Output} = \frac{\sum \mu x}{\sum \mu} \quad (4)$$

3 Results

The simulation model for the hatcher was successfully developed. The simulation results showed that the model could accurately determine the required conditions for hatching different types of eggs. Testing was done using the input data in Table 3 and the corresponding predicted outputs are shown in the table. The results showed that the system could determine the most suitable conditions for a particular type of eggs even if the input weight and size are outside the training values. This is shown by means of egg size of 8.5cm together with egg weight of 65g. The system was intelligent enough to tell that this egg would probably fall under the classification of duck which would be the case if a human being is to give a verdict.

Table 3: Inputs and corresponding predicted outputs

Inputs		Outputs			
Size (cm)	Weight (g)	Temperature (°C)	Humidity	Period (Days)	Classification
2.8	9.94	42	55.1	17	1.5 (Quail)
5.75	59	43.5	46.1	21.9	2.52 (Chicken)
9	80	105	90	28	3.51 (Duck)
8.5	65	105	90.1	28	3.51 (Duck)
2.5	13	42	55.1	17	1.51 (Quail)

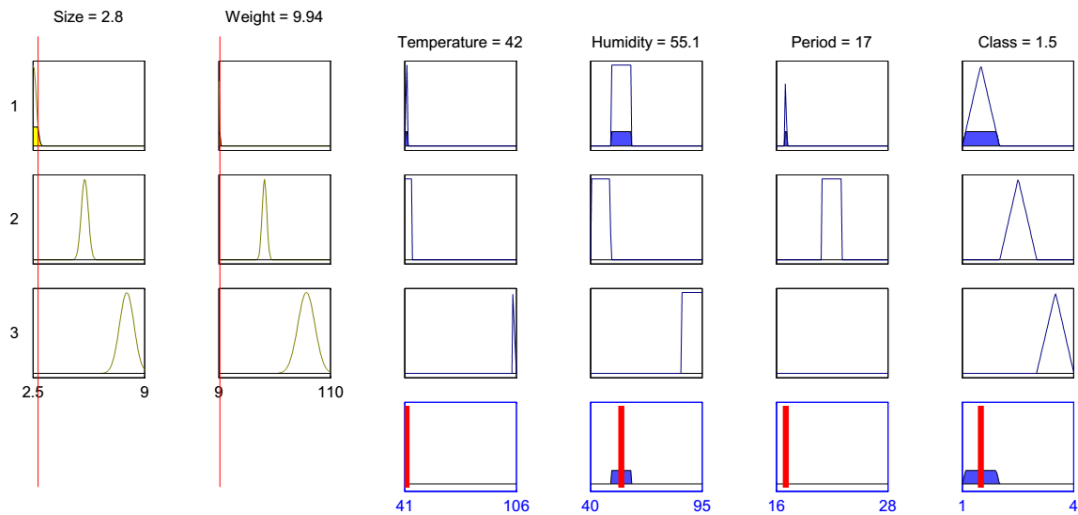


Figure 1. Predicted hatching parameters for a Quail

In figure 1, egg size of 2.8cm and weight of 9.94g has been classified as an egg of a quail as well as 42 °C temperature, 55.1 humidity and hatching period of 17 days were predicted by the fuzzy inference system.

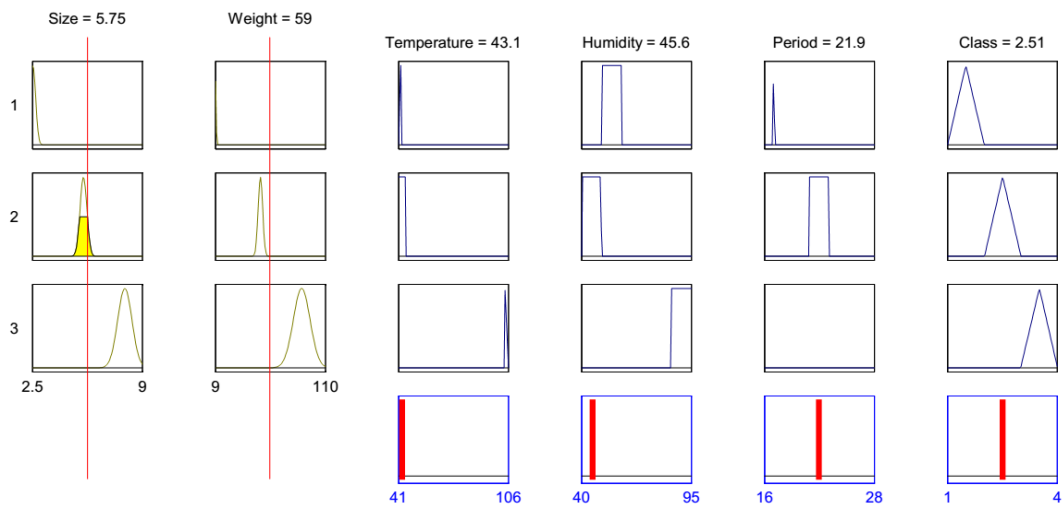


Figure 2. Predicted hatching parameters for a Chicken

The following inputs were used in figure 2, egg size of 5.75cm and weight of 59g has been categorized as a chicken egg as well as 43.1 °C temperature, 45.6 humidity and hatching period of 21.9 days were predicted by the fuzzy inference system.

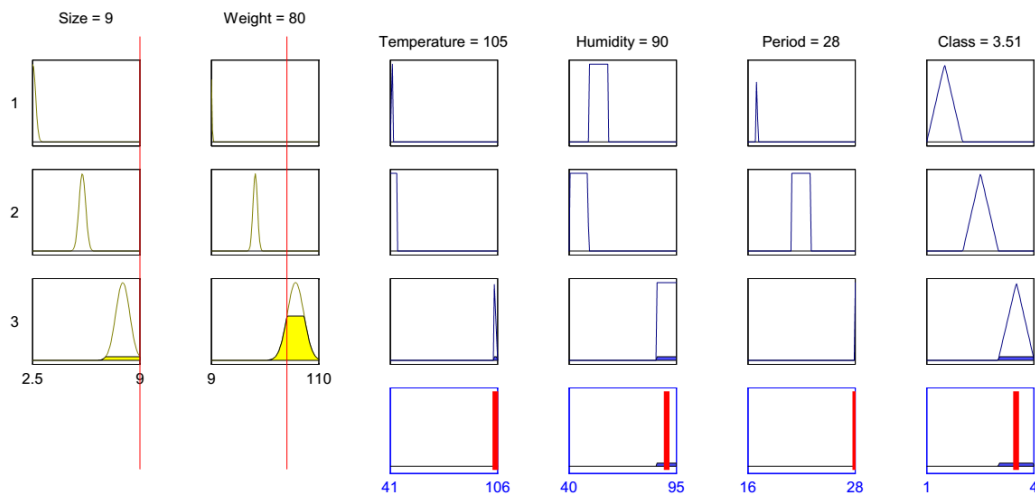


Figure 3. Predicted hatching parameters for a Duck

Egg size of 9cm and weight of 80g were used as inputs in figure 3. The fuzzy inference system predicted the inputs to be a chicken egg as well as 105 °C temperature, 90 humidity and hatching period of 28 days.

4 Conclusion

The simulated results of incubation parameters for different types of birds using Mamdani inference technique integrates the capabilities of chicken, duck and quail hatchers into a single incubator. The hybrid incubator system is convenient for farmer breeding birds at different intervals. Accurate hatching parameters prediction can only be made when same bird type of eggs are in the incubator otherwise the hatching rate could be adversely affected. In future, a way of alerting the users of the incubator about bird type egg inconsistencies should be implemented.

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