A hierarchical prediction method based on hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM for metal tube bending wrinkling detection

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Abstract
Metal bending tube is widely used in industry while its forming defects extremely affect the bending quality. Among all defects, the bending-inside wrinkling caused by the non-uniform compressive stress is a zero-tolerated defect, particularly when the tube is for transportation. However, the current wrinkling detection approach, suffering from the lack of insight into wrinkling mechanism, is normally posteriori. To obtain the priori wrinkling condition for a certain go-to-bend tube, we put forward a metal tube bending wrinkling hierarchical prediction method based on hybrid-kernel gray wolf optimizer (GWO) support vector machine (SVM). Three typical kernel combinations are utilized for the GWO-SVM prediction model. To verify the proposed wrinkling prediction method, aluminum alloy series tubes are tested. By constructing the 12 typical designations of aluminum alloy tubes’ finite element bending simulation case base, the prediction model is trained through three hybrid-kernel GWO-SVMs, respectively. The results are compared with the traditional SVM and GWO-SVM, which show that the proposed hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM model has the best performance for hierarchically predicting bending wrinkling. Analysis of the predicted results shows that when the relative wall thickness is less than 0.015, wrinkling is very likely to occur with any relative bending radius within the range. On the contrary, there is less tendency to wrinkle. At the same time, the smaller the R/D, the higher the hierarchy of wrinkling. This proposed prediction method lays the foundation for metal tube bending wrinkling detection and prevention.

Keywords Metal tube bending · Wrinkling · Hierarchical prediction method · Hybrid-kernel · GWO-SVM

1 Introduction
With a hollow structure and good mechanical properties, different shapes of metal bending tubes are usually used for equipment lightweight, liquid transportation, and anti-collision buffer [1]. Under the combined action of one side tension and one side pressure, the tube blank is formed into a bending tube [2]. Due to the complex deformation conditions, it will inevitably produce diverse forming defects, such as bending springback [3], wall thickness thinning [4], cross-section distortion [5], and wrinkling [6].

The tube bending deformation defects can be generally categorized into axial defects and radial defects. Axial defects, mainly caused by unloading springback and elongation, will directly affect the tube assembly performance in service. Springback refers to the actual bending angle that becomes lower than the set bending angle [7]. The bending tube produces a certain amount of springback angle along the axial direction, which is due to the recovery of elastic deformation of the tube. The yield strength and elastic modulus of the tube material are important factors that affect the springback angle [8]. At the same time, radial defects are distributed along the diameter of the tube. The thinning of the tube wall is caused by the stretching of the tube after receiving the tangential tensile stress in the process of bending. The elongation length and the relative bending radius have a great influence on the wall thickness reduction during the forming process. The smaller the relative bending radius and the larger the elongation, the more serious the thinning
of the wall thickness [9]. The flattening of a cross-section is also a defect in the radial direction, which is mainly reflected by the flattening of the outer side of the tube. The cross-section flattening is mainly affected by the material of the tube. The contraction strain ratio and the elastic modulus of the tube will change the cross-section flattening. Furthermore, the bending angle is an important factor affecting the flattening of the section [10]. Unlike the above-mentioned defects, the wrinkling on the tube bending inner side occurs both axially and radially. During the tube bending process, the wrinkling wave is formed in the axial direction with large deformation along the bending direction, while each cross-section of the bent tube also shows varying depression deformation in the radial direction.

When the compressive stress exceeds a certain critical value, the local plastic buckling instability will occur, resulting in wrinkling. When this compression occurs continuously in a certain area, the excessively accumulated local material is difficult to spread in time, finally resulting in wrinkling. The wrinkling of a bending tube is mainly studied from two aspects. A part of researchers focused on theoretical studies of tube bending wrinkling mechanism. To effectively predict the appearance of wrinkle defects during the forming process, Zhao et al. [11] used strain diagrams to evaluate the formation process of external pressure and analyzed the influence of geometric parameters on elastoplastic instability. Yang et al. [12] established a wrinkling prediction model to predict the minimum radius of tube bending and analyzed the influence of process parameters such as bending angle, tube geometry, and material properties on the forming quality, based on the thin shell theory, forming theory, energy principle, and wave function. In addition, they also studied the potential effect of friction on the bending deformation of thin-walled tubes with small bending diameters. The dynamic contact condition of the bending process with large slip was reproduced by the torsion compression test, and the results showed the lower sensitivity of wrinkling to friction [13]. The other part of the researchers concentrated on the influential factor study of wrinkling by numerical simulation. Cui et al. [14] studied the influence of process parameters on the wrinkling of hydro-formed thin-walled tubes and obtained the influence of elastic modulus, initial yield stress, and tangent modulus on the tube wrinkling through the finite element method. Hasanpour et al. [15] quantitatively studied the wrinkling phenomenon of the thin-walled tube in rotary bending and the effect of some process parameters by detecting wrinkling in a finite element model using velocity integral parameters. Furthermore, Alexander et al. [16] took the geometric shape of wrinkles h/L as a geometric feature to describe the severity of wrinkles and obtained the stress concentration factor (SCF) related to wrinkles through finite element analysis to determine the failure period. Li et al. [17] presented an analytical method for obtaining the wrinkling limit of thin-walled tubes by finite element simulation and formulating reasonable analytical assumptions.

Since the mechanism of metal forming wrinkling defects is extremely complex, it is difficult to theoretically obtain the wrinkling information according to the forming conditions. Recently, intelligent algorithms are widely applied in many metal forming defect problems ranging from the prediction of the occurrence of defects in the sheet metal forming process [18], the control of the springback phenomenon in the aluminum sheet bending process [20], and realize real-time control of the rebound of the sheet [19]. SVM method focuses on solving classification and regression problems in engineering, which also better solve practical problems such as small samples, nonlinearity, high dimensionality, and local minima [21]. But for uneven data and large-scale problems, general shortcomings such as complexity of algorithms, low efficiency, and low classification performance still exist in SVM methods. Generally, SVM uses a kernel function to map origin input data into a high-dimensional feature space and finds a hyperplane determined by maximizing the gap between classes to classify data. In the process of finding optimal hyperplane, regularization parameter (C) determines the tolerance of error while the kernel parameter (g) implicitly determines the distribution of the data after it is mapped to a new feature space. To find the appropriate parameters for better achieving the classification purpose, SVMs integrated with various optimization algorithms are proposed to improve the forecasting ability, such as Particle Swarm Optimizer (PSO) [22] and Genetic Algorithm (GA) [23]. Due to the GWO assisted with encircling mechanism can find the best solutions which can be extended to higher dimensions as a hyper-sphere, it shows superior performance in terms of optimizing parameters [24]. Based on the safety diagnosis of automated vehicles, Shi et al. [25] proposed an under-sampling method based on linear discriminant analysis and a threshold adjustment method based on the GWO algorithm to improve the performance of SVM model classification and fault diagnosis. Xu et al. [26] constructed the demand forecasting model using the SVM based on GWO. The results show that the GWO-SVM model obtained a better result than that of the BP neural network model and SVM model.

For most of the tube practical applications, the wrinkling defects are zero-tolerated. Suffering from the lack of insight into wrinkling mechanisms, the existing methods are normally posteriori. To aforehand obtain the priori wrinkling condition for a certain go-to-bend tube blank, a metal tube bending wrinkling hierarchical prediction method based on the novel hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM was proposed. By finite element analysis of the tube bending process, a wrinkling hierarchical method is obtained to determine the degree of wrinkling. To obtain a more accurate prediction model, a
novel hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM is established. A case study is carried out by a series of aluminum alloy tubes to verify the feasibility of the proposed method. In addition, an experiment based on the 6063-aluminum tube bending is carried out. The results show that the novel hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM method is a proper model for hierarchically predicting metal tube bending wrinkling detection.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 described the bending wrinkling problem. Then, the wrinkling hierarchical prediction method using the hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM algorithm is presented in Sect. 3. To verify the prediction method, an aluminum alloy tube bending case was conducted. The results of different wrinkling prediction models were compared and discussed. Finally, some main conclusions were drawn in Sect. 5.

2 Bending wrinkling problem statements

Rotary draw bending (RDB) is the most commonly used metal tube bending form. The main components of a typical RDB equipment are shown in Fig. 1, which are combined with the bending die, insert, clamp die, wiper die, and pressure die. Assume the tube diameter is $D$, which is of $t$ thickness, as well as the bending radius is $R$. The bending die rotates about the X-direction with a speed of $\omega$, while the tube blank is fitted in its groove and finally bends to an angle of $r$ accompanied with the bending die. With the exact same dimensions with the bending die, the insert provides the tension required for tube bending through the contact friction along with the clamp die. The wiper die, which is of $L$ length, enhances the support area evenly along the bending inner side against wrinkling. At the same time, the pressure die, which initially locates $L_{p0}$ from the bending point, provides a boost in the Z-direction to force with a speed of $V_p$ that helps to restrain the material flow in the bending outer side. The wrinkling of tube bending is the result of the interaction of various deformation conditions. In the process of bending, the concave side of the tube wall shrinks along the bending direction due to the tangential compressive stress, which will inevitably cause the increase in tube wall thickness while the excessive increase will cause wrinkling as is shown in Fig. 1. The wall thickness distribution is influenced by relative bending radius ($R/D$), relative wall thickness ($t/D$), and $D$. The smaller the $t/D$ and $R/D$, the more the tangential compressive stress on the concave side of the tube wall, which leads to a more serious wall thickness increase and the possibility of the occurrence of wrinkling. The relative speed of the boosting ($dV_p/d\tau$) between $V_p$ and $\omega$ represents the friction force acting on the outside of the tube. Large frictional resistance with high friction factor between tube and die ($\mu$) causes tangential tension on the outer convex side of the tube wall, which relieves the tangential compression and material accumulation of the inner concave side of the tube wall to some extent, thereby affecting the wrinkling tendency of the inner concave side of the tube. Though the pressure die can reduce the thinning of the outer side of the tube wall if it boosts for a whole forming process, it can also cause the thickness of the inner concave sidewall and even cause wrinkling. Thus, $L_{p0}$ is also a factor affecting wrinkling. Moreover, as the wiper die supports bending the inner area against wrinkling, $L$ has a great influence on the wrinkling while the bending parameter $r$ determines whether the wrinkling could show up. Considering to place the tube into the bending die, the gap between the tube wall and the die ($t_0$) is unavoidable. Yet the gap will influence the material flow space which will also influence the bending wrinkling. In addition to the effect of process parameters on wrinkling detection, the material of the tube also makes a significant contribution to affect wrinkling since each tube with different parameters of the initial yield stress ($\sigma_{0y}$) and Young’s modulus ($E$) strongly affects the wrinkling ability of the tube materials which have different strength, toughness, and mechanical properties. Accordingly, the effect factors of metal tube bending wrinkling ($Q$) are consistent with the mentioned parameters, as shown in Eq. (1).
The wrinkle waviness of a bent tube is usually used as a criterion for judging the wrinkling degree. The formula for calculating the waviness is shown in Eq. (2).

\[ \Delta H = \frac{D_1 - D_2}{2} \]  

where \( D_1 \) denotes the maximum diameter in the direction of the short axis of the waving curve, while \( D_2 \) denotes the minimum diameter in the direction of the short axis of the waving curve.

The evaluation of the wrinkling of a bent tube can be performed by first layering the tube along the \( X \)-axis and then calculating the wrinkle waviness of each layer on the \( Y-Z \) plane. The center layer where \( X = 0 \) is defined as the zero layers, while other layers are defined as the \( m \)th layer according to the absolute value of \( Z \) from small to large and whether it is placed above the center layer or below it, for example, \( X = 3, m = 1; X = -3, m = 2; X = 5, m = 3 \ldots \) and so on. On the \( m \)th layer, the distance between the point on the inner side of a tube wall and the bending center is calculated. As shown in Fig. 2, the red point \( N^m(x^m, y^m, z^m) \) represents the \( i \)th point which has the maximum distance on the \( m \)th layer, while the blue point \( C^m(x^m_j, y^m_j, z^m_j) \) represents the \( j \)th minimum points on the \( m \)th layer. \( O(0,0,0) \) represents the center of the bending. Then, the minimum distance \( D^m_j \) and maximum distances \( L^m_i \) are calculated in Eq. (3).

\[
D^m_j = \sqrt{x^m_j^2 + y^m_j^2 + z^m_j^2} \\
L^m_i = \frac{D^m_j + D^m_{j+1}}{2}
\]

Then, the wrinkling waviness can be obtained in Eq. (4).

\[
H^m(i, j) = L^m_i - \frac{D^m_j + D^m_{j+1}}{2}
\]

The tube bending wrinkling waviness of a bent tube on the \( m \)th layer is shown in Fig. 2.

3 Wrinkling prediction approach based on hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM

3.1 Construction of wrinkling database

To obtain the priori wrinkling condition for a certain go-to-bend tube, a database of supervised training samples needs to be established. The input data are the material parameters and process parameters that affect the wrinkling of metal tube bending, as shown in Eq. (1). By the given range, the parameters can be obtained by Latin hypercube sampling. With the aim of rapidly obtaining a large scale of wrinkling samples, the tube bending models are established by simulating methods.
using finite element simulation software, such as ABAQUS/Explicit.

As well as determining the input variables, the samples also need to be labeled for supervised training. Yet even the tube has been simulated, the precise wrinkling information cannot be obtained, including the judgment of slight wrinkling, the number of wrinkling, and the degree of wrinkling. Therefore, further processing of the finite element model is needed for getting complete wrinkling information. In the process of finite element numerical calculation, it is necessary to mesh the complex model, discretize the mass of a continuum element, and solve the equations at each element node. For the tube bending model, the element nodes on the tube which are used for numerical calculation are extracted and imported into MATLAB. Subsequently, the corresponding position data of each element node before and after the bending are extracted. As shown in Fig. 2, the node positions on each layer of the Y–Z plane on the outside of the tube are obtained as well as the wrinkling waviness can be calculated in Eqs. (5) and (6).

\[ L = \sqrt{y^2 + z^2} \]  
\[ N_i \in \{(x_i, y_i)\}, C_j \in \{(x_j, y_j)\}, h_i = \left| y_i - \frac{y_j - y_{j+1}}{2} \right| \]  

Considering that there are some interference points when extracting the element nodes, these points will be eliminated according to the ratio of wrinkle depth and tube diameter \((h/D)\). Moreover, the slight wrinkling can also be ignored.

Therefore, further processing of the finite element model is needed for getting complete wrinkling information. In the process of finite element numerical calculation, it is necessary to mesh the complex model, discretize the mass of a continuum element, and solve the equations at each element node. For the tube bending model, the element nodes on the tube which are used for numerical calculation are extracted and imported into MATLAB. Subsequently, the corresponding position data of each element node before and after the bending are extracted. As shown in Fig. 2, the node positions on each layer of the Y–Z plane on the outside of the tube are obtained as well as the wrinkling waviness can be calculated in Eqs. (5) and (6).

Define the wrinkle criterion: where \(H/D\) is larger than 1/50 and the difference between the maximum point and the minimum point on the left and right sides is larger than 1/100 means there is a wrinkle at that point. For further estimating the tube bending wrinkling, both wrinkling numbers \((n)\), which is the dimension of the \(H\) matrix, and \(P\) are considered to establish.

The hierarchical classification method is proposed in Fig. 3.

3.2 Hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM prediction model

Based on the above studies, we established the input matrix \(Q\) in Eq. (1), and the label \(Y\) is also determined based on the hierarchical classification method as shown in Eq. (8).

\[ Y \iff \{P, n\} \]  

For realizing the prediction of bending tube wrinkling, it is needed to establish the mapping between \(Q\) and \(Y\), which can be achieved through algorithms. Machine learning algorithms could find the relationship between input and output samples by learning a large amount of samples. SVM method focuses on solving classification problems, which also comes powerful tools to overcome some traditional difficulties such as the “curse of dimensionality” and “over-fitting” [27]. But for uneven data and large-scale problems, general shortcomings such as complexity of algorithms, low efficiency, and low classification performance [28] still exist in SVM methods. To reach higher accuracy and efficiency of hierarchical prediction of tube bending wrinkling, we optimized the traditional SVM and proposed a novel hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM method to establish the wrinkling prediction model.

3.2.1 Basic SVM

The original SVM is based on the given training sets to find a hyperplane in the sample space and separate the different samples [29].

\[ D \in \{(x_i, y_i)\}, x_i \in \mathbb{R}^2, y_i \in \{-1, +1\} \]  

The partition hyperplane can be expressed by a linear equation in Eq. (10), where \(b\) is the normal vector of the hyperplane, representing the direction of the hyperplane.

\[ w^T x + b = 0, w = (w_1, w_2, ..., w_d) \]  

To find the optimal hyperplane which can be better used for classification, the distance between the vector closest to the hyperplane and the hyperplane is maximized. The basic form can be expressed as Eq. (11).

\[ \min \frac{1}{2} ||w||^2 \]  
\[ s.t. y_i (w^T x_i) \geq 1, i = 1, 2, ..., m \]
The solution can also be written in Lagrange form as Eq. (12).

\[ L(w, b, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i (1 - y_i (w^T x_i + b)) \] (12)

To obtain the dual problem, the partial derivatives of \(W\) and \(B\) are set to 0, as Eq. (13).

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{max} & \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j x_i^T x_j \\
\text{s.t.} & \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i y_i = 0, \\
& \alpha_i \geq 0, i = 1, 2, \ldots, m
\end{align*}
\] (13)

Instead of directly calculating the inner product of high dimensional or even infinite-dimensional characteristic space, consider a “kernel function” such as Eq. (14):

\[
\kappa(x_i, x_j) \leq \varphi(x_i), \varphi(x_j) \leq \varphi(x_i)^T \varphi(x_j)
\] (14)

\[ \varphi(x_i)^T \varphi(x_j) \] is the input vector to the feature space mapping \[30\].

Gamma \((g)\) denotes a kernel parameter, which implicitly determines the distribution of the data after it is mapped to a new feature space. In traditional SVM algorithms, \(C\) and \(g\) are obtained through grid optimization and cross-validation. Besides, the choice of kernel function has a great influence on the prediction result. Different conventional kernels have different technical merits in classification. Commonly used kernel functions include linear kernel, polynomial kernel, RBF kernel, and sigmoid kernel.

3.2.1.1 GWO-SVM GWO is an intelligent optimization algorithm based on the gray wolf’s predation. It has been applied to parameter optimization, job shop scheduling, and so on. The GWO process divides the gray wolf into four categories according to the social dominant level, namely \(\alpha\), \(\beta\), \(\gamma\), and \(\omega\). These four classes represent higher management capability from top to bottom and the high-to-low fitness solutions in GWO. The wolf’s hunting process involves closing in on the prey, taking the three positions closest to the prey in each iteration, and surrounding the prey \([31]\). In this paper, we optimized the traditional SVM model using GWO to find the best parameters in SVM. The steps of GWO-optimized SVM parameter selection are as follows.

**Step 1** Initialize gray wolf population, the number of iterations, and SVM parameters \(C\) and \(g\).

**Step 2** Calculate fitness, taking the minimum error rate of SVM as the fitness value.
Step 3 The fitness values are compared and three optimal solutions are obtained.

Step 4 Update individual gray wolf location.

Step 5 According to the algorithm to determine whether the maximum number of iterations, if yes then stop, if no then continue to repeat the operation.

Step 6 Save the best $C$ and $g$ by the final location of the $\alpha$ wolf.

Step 7 Train SVM model and predict the test samples.

3.2.2 Hybrid-kernel strategy

Each kernel function is suitable for some tasks, and it must be chosen for the tasks under consideration by hand or using prior knowledge. It is found that different kernel functions have different technical merits in classification and show different prediction performances when other parameters are the same. For example, the linear kernel has the advantage of simpler parameters and faster computation compared to other kernels. Furthermore, the RBF kernel, as a local kernel function, has strong learning ability as it maps samples to a higher order hyperplane to achieve nonlinear mapping while it has weak generalization performance. On the contrary, the polynomial kernel, as a global kernel function, has strong generalization ability and strong and weak learning ability [32]. Therefore, by combining conventional kernel functions, the combined feature space is established and the features of each kernel function are combined, making it more flexible. In this paper, three kinds of hybrid-kernel SVM models, which combine linear kernel with the polynomial kernel, linear kernel with RBF kernel, and polynomial kernel with RBF kernel, are established. The hybrid-kernel function LP-SVM is proposed, which combines the linear kernel with the polynomial kernel:

$$K_{LP} = \lambda K_{lin} + (1 - \lambda)K_{poly}$$

The hybrid-kernel function LR-SVM is proposed, which combines the linear kernel with the RBF kernel:
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Table 1 Material property

| Property  | 1060-H12 | 2014-T4 | 2024-O | 2219-T81 | 3003-H18 | 5052-H32 | 5052-O | 5454-H34 | 6063-T4 | 7050-T7451 | 6063-T6 | 4032-T6 |
|-----------|----------|---------|--------|----------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|------------|--------|--------|
| E (MPa)   | 69,000   | 72,400  | 72,400 | 72,000   | 69,000   | 70,000   | 70,000 | 69,000   | 72,000   | 69,000     | 79,000 |        |
| σ0(σ0) (MPa) | 75    | 290      | 75     | 350      | 185      | 195      | 90     | 240      | 90       | 470        | 215    | 315    |

Latin hypercube sampling is a kind of stratified random sampling method, which ensures the full coverage of each variable in its range. Assuming there are \( n \) variables, this method divides each variable into \( m \) intervals with the same probability distribution, and then samples independently and randomly in each interval [33]. To compare the effect of the number of samples on predicted accuracy, we sampled 120, 240, 360, and 480 groups of samples, respectively. Furthermore, the material property in Table 1 and the process parameters in Table 2 are also inputs for the machine learning model, while the hierarchical classification of tube bending wrinkling is the output for the prediction model.

After the dataset is established, the dynamic analysis is carried out in ABAQUS/Explicit. As shown in Fig. 5, the bending model consisted of a tube, bending die, clamp die, pressure die, wiper die, and insert die. The former one is set as a deformation while others are set as discrete rigid. After the assembling of each part, the step is divided into initial step and step 1, where the step time is set. To speed up the simulation, we directly define the mass scaling factors, giving incrementation of time to the dynamic model. Subsequently, the contact between tube surface and die is defined as surface to surface, using penalty contact method, where the contact interaction property is also set. The example of contact settings is shown in Fig. 5. Next, to define the constraint, we fix the section of the tube where the bend starts and the reference point of clamp die together and set wire between the references of clamp die and bending die. In this case, the bending die can drive the clamp die and the tube to rotate synchronously. The boundary conditions are also set to include 3 aspects. The bending die is given a rotational angular velocity along the X-axis in step 1. The wiper die is fixed in both the initial step and step 1. Then, the wiper die is given a linear velocity along the Z-axis in step 1. Finally, we mesh the complex model via the global distribution method, and modified the size of the seeds based on the diameter of the tube in each model. For each model, the setting parameters are all set in Python using secondary development script. After finite element analysis, the INP files before and after bending are imported into MATLAB for hierarchical processing analysis. Having built the complete dataset,
the prediction model can be set up in LIBSVM. The process of modeling repeats 10 times to eliminate the influence of sample selection. The five kinds of SVM (improved GWO-SVM with three kinds of the hybrid-kernel function, GWO-SVM, and traditional SVM) are applied to data in this paper.

4.2 Results and comparison

4.2.1 Experimental results

To verify the efficiency and accuracy of the proposed method, a 6063 aluminum alloy tube with strong comprehensive performance, which is widely used as tube material and easily get wrinkled, is arranged to bend with a KM-A50-CNC-320 bender, as shown in Fig. 6a. The tube has a diameter of 27 mm, thickness of 60 mm, and the bending radius of 60 mm. There are 9 bends as shown in Fig. 6b. Among them, the angles of 1 and 7 bends are 75°, while those of other bends are 90°. Apparently, three of the bends (2, 3, 7) are wrinkled, of which the specific information is measured via a Vernier micrometer. The wrinkle classification method mentioned above is used to classify the bends. We select 3 wrinkling bends and a non-wrinkling bend to verify the reliability of the SVM model for predicting wrinkle classification. The process parameters and material parameters of the bent tube are taken as prediction set. The improved LR_GWO_SVM model is used to predict the wrinkle classification. The predicted results are in an agreement with the measured results, which further
illustrates the feasibility of the method. The results show that it could realize the hierarchical prediction of tube wrinkling with known parameters. The experimental diagram and measuring method are shown in Fig. 6 and the measuring results and prediction results are shown in Table 3.

### 4.2.2 Comparison with different algorithms

The comparison test algorithm is coded in MATLAB2021a, running on a LAPTOP (CPU: Intel Core i5-7200U, 2.50 GHz, 2.71 GHz, 8 GB) for ten times to compare the accuracy of the SVM algorithms with different hybrid-kernel functions. The most accurate SVM algorithm is selected for wrinkling prediction. As the results are shown in Fig. 7, liner kernel function combined with RBF kernel function (LR_SVM_GWO) has the highest accuracy for 8 times of ten runs. The average accuracy for ten runs is 74.5% and the highest accuracy in ten runs is 83.0%. This indicates the higher prediction ability of LR_SVM_GWO. However, LP_SVM_GWO, which uses the hybrid-kernel function of liner kernel and polynomial kernel, has lower accuracy. The average accuracy of LP_SVM_GWO is 70.0%, while the average of RBF kernel function combined with polynomial kernel function is 40.0%. As a result, LR_SVM_GWO was selected as the improved SVM algorithm to further verify the feasibility of wrinkle prediction model in this paper. Apparently, the prediction accuracy of the LR_GWO-SVM approach exceeds GWO-SVM and traditional SVM. Among the ten runs, the LR_GWO_SVM has the highest average accuracy of 74.5%, which is higher than the accuracy of GWO-SVM of 71.0% and traditional SVM of 63.8%. The results show the superiority of the improved GWO-SVM model and its reliability in predicting the wrinkling of metal tube bending.

The real categories and predicted results of LR_GWO_SVM, GWO_SVM and traditional SVM are shown in Fig. 8. From the calculation results, we can see that higher prediction accuracy is achieved by the improved method. To further evaluate the superiority of the improved method, three statistical indices are utilized to measure the forecasting accuracy. These indices are the mean absolute error (MAE), mean square error (MSE), and the root mean square error (RMSE) [34]. The values can reflect the difference between the virtual data and the predict data which are often a criterion of evaluating machine learning models. The smaller values indicate higher forecast performance. These indices are defined in Eq. (19), where $y_n$ is the real value and $\hat{y}_n$ is the predicted value.

![Fig. 7](image_url) Comparison of prediction accuracy for different SVM models

| H/D | Length between troughs ($L$) | J/D | P | Actual category | Predict category |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 1   | 2.667                       | 5.08| 1 | 4.855          | 0.0203          | 2               | 2               |
| 2   | 1.060                       | 4.647| 1 | 4.441          | 0.009           | 1               | 1               |
| 3   | 0.660                       | 3.513| 3 | 3.357          | 0.007           | 3               | 3               |
|     | 0.453                       | 5.240|   | 5.008          | 0.003           | 3               | 3               |
| 4   | 0.660                       | 2.793|   | 2.669          | 0.009           | 0               | 0               |
As it can be seen from Fig. 9, the three error values of LR_GWO_SVM are the smallest of the five models with the MAE of 0.445, the MSE value of 1.01, and the RMSE value of 0.992, which indicates that the improved prediction model (19)

\[
MSE = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2
\]

\[
MAE = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} |\hat{y}_i - y_i|
\]

\[
RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2}
\]

is more reliable. Compared with the contrast models, prediction results have been improved successfully.

4.3 Analysis and discussion

4.3.1 The influence of training sample amount on prediction accuracy

Eliminating the wrong samples, there are 118, 236, 355, and 473 groups of samples left to apply the prediction model. As shown in Fig. 10, with the increase of the number of
samples, the accuracy of the prediction model established by the four algorithms has been improved to some extent. When the sample size was increased to 473, the accuracy of LR_GWO_SVM increased from 64.3 to 75.9% comparing with 118 samples, which increased by 18.0%. The accuracy of GWO_SVM and traditional SVM was also increased from 60.4 to 75.2% and 59.8 to 69.5%. It is proved that the general trend of the accuracy is increasing with the rise of sample amount. The larger the sample size, and the more comprehensive the training data, the machine learning model will show better performance. With the number of samples increased, the influence of the sample distribution and the selection of the sample set on the results can be reduced, and the prediction model has more opportunity to train. Therefore, further increasing the sample amount is a way to continuously improve the prediction model and achieve higher accuracy.

4.3.2 The influence of bending process parameters on wrinkling

To analyze the affection of the parameters in Table 2 on wrinkling, the correlation analysis, which is used to measure the correlation and closeness of variables, is performed using Spearman correlation coefficient via SPSS. The result shows that all these parameters have a greater or less correlation with the tube bending wrinkling hierarchy. Among the 12 parameters, the correlation ratio of $\sigma$ reaches the highest values of...
0.388, followed by \( t/D \) and \( R/D \). It demonstrates that the yield stress of the tube makes the greatest contribution to affect wrinkling. That is because the material of the tube strongly affects the strength, toughness, and mechanical properties of the tube, which further affect the deformation during the tube bending process and lead to wrinkling. Since \( t/D \) and \( R/D \) have a great impact on the tangential compressive stress on the concave side of the tube wall, they also seriously influence the wrinkling tendency. To further study the correlation between different parameters and wrinkling, a study of the effect of \( t/D \) and \( R/D \) on wrinkling is presented as an example. The bending of metal tubes with \( t/D \) of 0.008–0.025 and \( R/D \) of 2–5 is made by simulation model (a) and the newly prediction model (b), as shown in Fig. 11. The influence of other variables on wrinkling results can be limited by the control variable method. The influence tendency of relative bending radius and wall thickness on the wrinkling can be analyzed from the results. As can be seen from the diagram, the smaller the \( t/D \), the higher the wrinkling degree. Similarly, the smaller the \( R/D \), the higher the hierarchy of wrinkling. That is because low relative wall thickness and bending radius both lead to unequal deformation, which will result in more wrinkling tendency. The prediction results are consistent with the simulation results and theoretical analysis, which further proves the reliability of the prediction model.

5 Conclusion

Bending defect is a general phenomenon that may occur in metal tube forming. Among all defects, the bending-inside wrinkling caused by the non-uniform compressive stress is a zero-tolerated defect. Therefore, realizing the prediction of bending wrinkling can make a significant contribution to bending quality. Given that the current wrinkling detection approach, suffering from the lack of insight into wrinkling mechanism, is normally posteriori, we proposed a hierarchical prediction method for metal tube bending wrinkling detection to obtain the priori wrinkling condition for a certain go-to-bend tube. Based on the good classification performance of SVM, it is presented for the prediction of wrinkling models. Due to the great influence of SVM parameters and kernel function on the prediction accuracy, GWO and hybrid-kernel method are integrated to optimize the prediction model and achieve better prediction ability.

A series of aluminum alloy tubes is chosen as the case study of the proposed method. The aluminum alloy tube bending wrinkling database, which consists of 12 kinds of aluminum tubes considering 12 parameters in the metal tube bending process, is constructed. To train and obtain the wrinkling prediction model, five SVM-based algorithms, viz., GWO-SVM with three kinds of the hybrid-kernel, GWO-SVM, and traditional SVM, are compared. The result of LR-GWO-SVM shows the best performance of 74.5% average accuracy, which is higher than that of GWO-SVM (70.9%) and that of traditional SVM (63.8%). Furthermore, an experiment based on the 6063-aluminum tube bending is carried out. The results show that the novel hybrid-kernel GWO-SVM method is a proper model for hierarchically predicting metal tube bending wrinkling detection.

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**Declarations**

**Ethics approval**  No applicable.

**Consent to participate**  No applicable.

**Consent for publication**  The authors consent to publish this article.

**Competing interests**  The authors declare no competing interests.

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