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Predicting Proximate Parameters of Coal Seams Using Artificial Intelligence and Well Logs

George Olivier*

Department of Geosciences, Auburn University, Beard Eaves Coliseum, Auburn, United States of America

***Corresponding author:** George Olivier, Department of Geosciences, Auburn University, Beard Eaves Coliseum, Auburn, United States of America; E-mail: olivierge@auburn.edu

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Description

Predicting the proximate parameters of coal seams is an important task in the mining industry as it helps to assess the quality of the coal and the potential of the seam for economic exploitation. Proximate parameters refer to the characteristics of coal that can be measured without the use of sophisticated equipment, such as moisture, ash, volatile matter, and fixed carbon content. These parameters are used to determine the energy content of the coal and its suitability for different applications. In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful tool for predicting the proximate parameters of coal seams based on well logs.

Well logs are measurements of the physical properties of rocks and sediments made during the drilling process. They provide valuable information about the geological structure of the subsurface, including the location and thickness of coal seams. The use of well logs for coal seam characterization has been widely adopted in the mining industry due to their high accuracy and cost-effectiveness.

AI algorithms, such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), Support Vector Machines (SVMs), and decision trees, have been applied to predict the proximate parameters of coal seams based on well logs. These algorithms are trained on a dataset of well log measurements and their corresponding proximate parameters, which is used to identify the relationships between the input variables (well log measurements) and the output variables (proximate parameters).

One of the advantages of AI-based approaches is that they can handle large and complex datasets, making it possible to extract valuable information from a wide range of well log measurements. For example, ANNs are capable of capturing complex nonlinear relationships between input and output variables, while SVMs can handle high-dimensional datasets with a large number of features. Decision trees are useful for identifying the most important input variables that contribute to the prediction of the output variable.

In a recent study, an ANN-based approach was used to predict the proximate parameters of coal seams in the South African coalfields using well logs. The dataset consisted of well logs from 58 boreholes, with a total of 742 coal samples. The well logs included measurements of gamma ray, density, resistivity, and sonic velocity, while the proximate parameters included moisture, ash, volatile matter, and fixed carbon content.

The results showed that the ANN-based approach was able to predict the proximate parameters of coal seams with high accuracy, with correlation coefficients ranging from 0.81 to 0.98. The most important input variables for the prediction of each proximate parameter were identified using sensitivity analysis, which showed that gamma ray and density logs were the most important for predicting ash and fixed carbon content, while resistivity and sonic velocity logs were most important for predicting moisture and volatile matter.

Overall, the use of AI-based approaches for predicting the proximate parameters of coal seams using well logs has the potential to improve the efficiency and accuracy of coal seam characterization in the mining industry. By leveraging the power of AI, it is possible to extract valuable information from large and complex datasets, which can help to identify the most promising areas for coal exploration and improve the overall profitability of coal mining operations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, predicting the proximate parameters of coal seams is an essential task in the mining industry as it helps to assess the quality and economic potential of the coal. The use of well logs, which provide measurements of the physical properties of rocks and sediments, has been widely adopted for coal seam characterization due to their accuracy and cost-effectiveness. The application of AI-based approaches, such as ANNs, SVMs, and decision trees, has shown promising results for predicting the proximate parameters of coal seams based on well logs. These approaches can handle large and complex datasets and extract valuable information that can help to identify the most promising areas for coal exploration and improve the profitability of mining operations. Overall, the use of AI in predicting the proximate parameters of coal seams has the potential to revolutionize the mining industry by improving the efficiency and accuracy of coal seam characterization.

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