Expert System for Diagnosing Gourami Fish Diseases Using the Certainty Factor Approach

Hindayati Mustafidah^{1*}, Ilham Gunadi¹, Cahyono Purbomartono², Suwarsito², Eri Zuliarso³

¹Informatics Engineering, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, Indonesia ²Aquaculture, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, Indonesia ³Information Technology, Universitas STIKUBANK, Indonesia

*corr-author: h.mustafidah@ump.ac.id

Abstract - Gourami is an economically significant fish in the aquaculture sector due to its high market demand and relatively stable price. However, it is also challenging to cultivate, with disease outbreaks being one of the primary difficulties. Early diagnosis of gourami fish diseases requires expertise from fish health specialists, who are often difficult to find due to their limited availability. With advancements in artificial intelligence-based technology, this study developed an expert system to diagnose gourami fish diseases based on observed symptoms. The system employs the Certainty Factor (CF) approach to estimate the likelihood of a particular disease affecting the fish. The Certainty Factor approach utilizes a knowledge base derived from expert knowledge to address uncertainty in diagnosis. The certainty factor weights are determined based on confidence levels from both experts and users to generate an accurate diagnosis. This expert system was developed using data from 20 types of gourami fish diseases and 38 associated symptoms. The system successfully identified diseases with a certain level of confidence and provided appropriate treatment recommendations based on the confidence level obtained. By implementing this expert system, the risk of disease outbreaks can be minimized, thereby improving efficiency and productivity in gourami fish farming while helping maintain fish health and reducing economic losses caused by disease.

Keywords: certainty factor; disease; expert system; gourami; symptoms.

I. INTRODUCTION

The giant gourami (*Osphronemus gourami*) is a commercially valuable species in aquaculture, especially in freshwater fish farming. Its consistently high demand and stable market price make it one of the 15 priority fish commodities aimed at boosting production and farmer income [1]. According to Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), the country's gourami

production declined by 2.37% in 2021, decreasing from 180,388.76 tons in the previous year to 176,113.78 tons. However, farming gourami presents considerable challenges due to various risks, particularly frequent disease outbreaks, which lead to high mortality rates and reduced fish quality, resulting in economic losses [2]. Several factors influence fish health, including water quality, feeding practices, and even genetic traits.

Each type of disease affecting gourami requires a specific treatment and management approach. The wide range of diseases attacking gourami complicates the detection process, as some share similar symptoms [3]. This makes it difficult for fish farmers to determine the appropriate control measures, highlighting the need for fisheries experts who can accurately diagnose diseases and provide effective solutions. However, in many areas, such experts are scarce, and hiring a specialist or consultant can be costly. As a result, most fish farmers rely solely on their own experience to manage fish diseases [4] [5].

There are several common types of diseases that affect gourami, including parasitic, bacterial, viral, and fungal infections [6]. Gourami suffering from parasitic diseases typically exhibit symptoms such as body wounds, white spots on the skin and fins, and decreased Bacterial infections, appetite. often caused by Aeromonas, Pseudomonas, and Vibrio species, can lead to body wounds, gill swelling, dull body coloration, and reduced appetite. Viral infections in gourami commonly present with symptoms such as body swelling, dull coloration, and appetite loss. In contrast, fungal infections are characterized by the presence of white filaments on the skin and fins, along with decreased appetite.

Expert systems, a product of rapid advancements in computer technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) [7] [8], serve as a valuable alternative for fish farmers in diagnosing fish diseases. These systems are designed to replicate the problem-solving abilities of experts by integrating expert knowledge into a computer-based framework. An expert system operates by analyzing facts or symptoms through a rule-based knowledge base [9]. The application of expert systems in fisheries has been explored for over two decades. Research by [10], [11], and [12] focused on developing expert systems for diagnosing fish diseases and determining appropriate treatments. Additionally, [13] developed an expert system for selecting suitable fish species based on water quality.

One of the weighting methods for symptoms in expert systems is the **Certainty Factor** (**CF**) **method**. CF incorporates confidence values obtained from experts to handle uncertainty [14], [14], [15], alongside confidence values from users. Studies have shown that CF provides higher accuracy compared to other methods [16], [17], [18]. Previous research on CF implementation includes [19], who applied CF for early detection of tuberculosis, and [20], who utilized CF for identifying heart disorders.

Given the accuracy of the Certainty Factor (CF) method in diagnosing diseases, as previously mentioned, this study develops an expert system using the CF method with forward chaining to diagnose gourami diseases. This research builds upon the study conducted by [5].

II. METHOD

Fig. 1 illustrates the stages involved in developing an expert system using the Certainty Factor (CF) method for diagnosing gourami diseases.



Fig. 1 Research stages

1) Knowledge Acquisition: The knowledge incorporated into the expert system is gathered from books and journal articles related to gourami diseases and their symptoms. Additionally, expert interviews are conducted to determine the CFexpert values for diagnosing diseases. The acquired knowledge is then stored in the knowledge base.

2) *Knowledge Representation*: The knowledge stored in the knowledge base is represented using IF-THEN rules, which include facts or symptoms along with the corresponding gourami disease types.

3) Expert System Shell Development: The development of the expert system shell involves creating and refining the framework used to build the expert system. This shell serves as a structural foundation that facilitates the integration of expert knowledge and the formulation of rules for inference and problem-solving at a specific confidence level. The confidence level is determined using the **Certainty Factor (CF) method**. The expert system shell is developed using the **Kotlin programming language**, tailored for the **Android platform**, and implemented in **Android Studio**.

The **Certainty Factor (CF) method** serves as the core problem-solving approach in the expert system developed in this study, utilizing the (1) and (2) [21]:

$$CF = CFuser * CFexpert$$
 (1)

$$CFcombine = CF_1 + CF_2(1 - CF_1) \qquad (2)$$

CFuser is the confidence value assigned by the user to a fact or hypothesis.

- **CFexpert** is the confidence value assigned by the expert based on predefined knowledge or established rules.
- CF₁ is the **certainty factor** value from the first rule. CF₂ is the **certainty factor** value from the second rule.

This method helps quantify uncertainty by combining expert and user confidence values to improve the accuracy of disease diagnosis in gourami fish.

CFcombine represents the confidence level in a hypothesis after considering two contributing pieces of evidence. The calculation $(1 - CF_1)$ acts as an adjustment factor to ensure that CF_2 does not fully add to the total value but only contributes to the portion not yet accounted for by CF_1 .

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Research Knowledge

The knowledge in this study consists of diseases, their symptoms, and expert-determined **Certainty Factor** (**CF**)parameter values.

1) Gourami Diseases and Symptoms: This study identifies 20 types of diseases affecting gourami fish, along with their causes and symptoms. The data were gathered from various scientific journals and books. Table I provides a comprehensive summary of these diseases, including their underlying causes and commonly observed symptoms. Besides, this study also identifies 38 symptoms associated with various gourami diseases. The symptoms were compiled from scientific literature and expert consultations. Table II lists these symptoms along with their corresponding codes.

2) *CF Parameter Values*: As previously mentioned, expert-derived CF values (CFexpert) are essential to ensure the system provides accurate disease diagnoses for gourami fish. The certainty factor (CF) values represent different levels of confidence assigned by experts when assessing the likelihood of a symptom contributing to a specific disease. These values help improve the accuracy of the expert system's diagnosis, as shown in Table III.

Disease	Disease Name	Cause	Common Symptoms
P001	Saprolegniasis	Fungal (Saprolegnia sp.)	White cotton-like growth on the skin, fins, and
1001	Suproreginusis	i ungai (suprotegina spi)	gills
P002	Lernaeosis (Lernaea sp.)	Parasitic (Lernaea sp.)	Worm-like parasites attached to the body.
			inflammation
P003	Argulosis	Parasitic (Argulus sp.)	Scratching, red sores, irritation, lethargy
P004	White Spot Disease (Bercak	Parasitic (Ichthyophthirius	White spots on the skin, rapid gill movement,
	Putih/ Ichthyophthiriasis)	multifiliis)	loss of appetite
P005	Trichodiniasis	Parasitic (Trichodina sp.)	Mucus-covered skin, erratic swimming,
			difficulty breathing
P006	Motile Aeromonas	Bacterial (Aeromonas sp.)	Skin ulcers, bloated abdomen, hemorrhages
	Septicemia (MAS)		
P007	Columnaris	Bacterial (Flavobacterium	Frayed fins, white patches on the skin and
		columnare)	gills
P008	Fish Tuberculosis (TBC)	Bacterial (Mycobacteriumsp.)	Weight loss, ulcerations, lethargy
P009	Dactylogyriasis	Parasitic (Dactylogyrus sp.)	Gill damage, excessive mucus, labored
			breathing
P010	Gyrodactyliasis	Parasitic (Gyrodactylus sp.)	Scraping against objects, frayed fins, irritation
P011	Myxosporiasis	Parasitic (<i>Myxosporea</i> sp.)	Cysts in muscles, deformities, weight loss
P012	Ergasilosis	Parasitic (<i>Ergasilus</i> sp.)	Gill damage, mucus buildup, respiratory
D010			distress
P013	Clinostonumiosis	Parasitic (<i>Clinostomum</i> sp.)	Visible cysts in muscles, reduced mobility
P014	Oodiniasis	Parasitic (<i>Oodinium</i> sp.)	Golden dust-like appearance on the skin,
D015			lethargy
P015	Edwardstelosts	Bacterial (<i>Edwardstella</i> sp.)	Swollen eyes, skin ulcers, nemorrhages
P010 P017	V IDFIOSIS	Bacterial (<i>Vibrio</i> sp.)	Red sores, nemormages, letnargy
P017	Furunculosis	Bacterial (Aeromonas	blanding
D019	Straptococcosis	Postorial (Streptosocius and)	Den eve erretie swimming, swellen ebdemen
P010	Branchiomycosis	Fungal (<i>Branchionyces</i> sp.)	Gill rot respiratory distress sufficient
P020	Megalocytivirus Infection	Viral (Megalocytivirus)	Enlarged cells, organ failure, sudden death
1020	megalocytivitus inteetton	ma (meguiocynvinus)	Emarged cens, organ randre, sudden death

TABLE I
TYPES OF GOURAMI DISEASES, CAUSES, AND COMMON SYMPTOMS

TABLE II SYMPTOMS OF GOURAMI FISH DISEASES STORED IN KNOWLEDGE BASE

Symptom Code	Symptom Description
G001	Presence of white or brownish-white fungal mycelia (<i>Terdapat miselia</i> (<i>kumpulan hifa</i>) berwarna putih atau putih kecoklatan)
G002	Fine, cotton-like filaments on the fish's body (<i>Terdapat benang-benang halus menyerupai kapas di bagian tubuh ikan</i>)
G003	Anchor worms firmly attached to the body, fins, gills, or eyes (<i>Terlihat cacing jangkar yang menempel kuat pada bagian badan, sirip, insang, dan mata ikan</i>)
G004	Hemorrhaging at wound sites (Pendarahan pada luka)
G038	Liver and digestive tract damage (<i>Kerusakan pada hati dan saluran pencernaan</i>)

TABLE III CF PARAMETER VALUES

Confidence Level	CF Value
Not Confident (Tidak Yakin)	0.0
Don't Know (Tidak Tahu)	0.2
Slightly Confident (Sedikit Yakin)	0.4
Fairly Confident (Cukup Yakin)	0.6
Confident (Yakin)	0.8
Very Confident (Sangat Yakin)	1.0

B. Knowledge Representation

Based on the collected data on symptoms and diseases in gourami fish, the information is represented in the form of a decision table (Table IV) and inference rules (Table V). The decision table illustrates the relationship between symptoms and diseases, aiding in the formulation of rules and system validation. Meanwhile, the inference rules enable the expert system to perform reasoning and decision-making based on the structured knowledge representation.

Table V presents the inference rules used to diagnose specific diseases in gourami fish based on observed symptoms. Each rule follows an IF-THEN structure, where a combination of symptoms leads to the identification of a particular disease.

C. Expert System Shell

An expert system shell is a software framework designed for expert systems. It contains a knowledge base, which consists of the essential information needed to understand, formulate, and solve problems. This knowledge base is constructed from expert knowledge, which is then transformed into rules in the form of IF-THEN statements. These rules are utilized within the inference engine, where they are compared against facts stored in the database based on user input. When the IF (condition) part of a rule matches an input fact, the rule is executed, and the THEN (action) part is added to the database as a newly established fact. This process continues iteratively, as each newly added fact in the knowledge base can trigger additional rules within the inference engine.

D. Implementation Results of the Expert System Shell

The implementation of the developed expert system shell is illustrated in Fig. 2, which represents the main interface of the Android-based application. This main page includes key features such as disease diagnosis, a list of diseases and symptoms, diagnosis history, user guidance, and information about the developers. The application is designed in the Indonesian language.

The list of diseases included in the system is displayed on the page shown in Fig. 3. The disease list page contains a compilation of diseases that affect gourami fish. When a user selects a specific disease, the system navigates to the disease detail page (Fig. 4), which provides a description of the disease, its symptoms, and suggested treatments. Users can access this page by tapping the "Disease List" button on the main page.

Sumptom Codo -	Disease Code					
Symptom Code –	P001	P002	P003	P004		P020
G001	\checkmark				••••	
G002	\checkmark				•••••	
G003		\checkmark			•••••	
	••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	
G038						

TABLE IV DECISION TABLE FOR SELECTED GOURAMI FISH DISEASES

TABLE V RULES FOR DETERMINING DISEASE TYPES BASED ON SYMPTOMS

Rule Code	Rule
R001	IF white or brownish-white mycelium (clusters of hyphae) is present AND fine, cotton-like filaments appear on the fish's body THEN Saprolegniasis
R002	IF anchor worms are firmly attached to the body, fins, gills, and eyes AND bleeding occurs in the infected area (wounds) THEN Lernaeasis (Lernae sp.)
R003	IF the fish appears emaciated AND rubs its body against the pond walls or bottom AND exhibits bleeding (wounds) AND has visible parasites attached to its body AND is hyperactive THEN Argulosis
R004	IF appetite decreases (loss of appetite) AND the fish frequently rubs against the pond walls or bottom AND struggles to breathe (gasping) AND white spots appear on its body AND the fish swims sluggishly AND its body color appears pale THEN White Spot Disease
•	
•	
•	IF appetite is lost or reduced AND the fish moves slowly AND its body color darkens AND
R020	skin is damaged AND the fish's body swells AND ulcers or sores appear THEN Megalocytivirus

Fig. 3 displays the "Disease List" page within the expert system application. This page provides users with a comprehensive list of fish diseases, including their names, descriptions, and associated symptoms. It serves as a reference to help users identify and understand various diseases affecting gourami fish. Instead, Fig. 4

presents the "Disease Detail" page within the expert system application. This page provides in-depth information about a specific disease, including its symptoms, causes, and recommended treatments. It serves as a valuable resource for users to better understand and manage diseases affecting gourami fish.



Fig. 2 Main page

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Daftar Penyakit
MAS (Motile Aeromonas Septicemia)
Cacing Jangkar (Lernaesis)
Kutu Ikan (Argulosis)
Jamur (Saproleginasis / Achyliasis)
Bintik Putih (White Spot)
Gatal (Trichodiniasis)
Columnaris (Flexibacter Columnaris)
TBC (Tuberculosis)
Cacing Insang (Dactylogiriasis)
Cacing Kulit (Gyrodactyliasis)
Myxoporeasis
Ergasilosis
Clinostonumiosis
Oodiniasis



Fig. 3 Disease list page

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MAS (Motile A	eromonas	Septicemia)
DESKRIPSI	GEJALA	SOLUSI
Penyebab "Penyakit bakteri Aeromonas ini umum terjadi pa air tawar, serta diter dan laut. Infeksi bad kondisi stres sepert penanganan yang k tingginya kadar bah kualitas air buruk, fi dan lainnya. Serang dan jika kondisi ling menyebabkan kema	Merah" pada hydrophila. F. da semua um unkan pada i teri ini sering i kepadatan i kepadatan j urang baik, iri an organik, o uktuasi suhu ian penyakit i kungan terus atian hingga "	ikan adalah 'enyakit bakterial ur dan jenisi ikan ikan air payau terjadi akibat inggi, malnutrisi, feksi parasit, ksigen rendah, air yang ekstirm, ni bersifat akut, memburuk, dapa 00%.

Fig. 4 Disease detail page

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In addition to the disease list, the system also includes a symptom list page that provides information about the various symptoms that gourami fish may experience (Fig. 5). When a user selects a specific symptom, the system navigates to a symptom detail page, which may contain photos or videos (Fig. 6). These visual aids are intended to help users accurately identify the symptoms affecting their gourami fish.

The core functionality of an expert system lies in the interaction between the user and the system. Users seek solutions from the system regarding the issues they face. In this case, the user wants a diagnosis of the type of disease affecting farmed gourami fish based on observed symptoms. The system presents a list of potential symptoms for the user to select those that match their fish's condition. Based on the selected symptoms, the system diagnoses the disease affecting the gourami fish. The confidence level of the diagnosis is determined using the Certainty Factor (CF) method.

An example of the gourami disease diagnosis result is shown in Fig. 7. This diagnosis result page displays the detected disease name based on the chosen symptoms, the system's confidence level, the list of selected symptoms, a description of the disease, and recommendations for disease management.

Fig. 7 presents the diagnosis results for fish lice disease (Argulosis) with a confidence level of 94.70%. This confidence level is calculated based on the certainty values provided by the user (Table VI) and verified against the certainty values given by the expert (Table VII).



TABLE VI USER-SELECTED SYMPTOMS

No	Symptom Name	Description	CFuser
1	Fish appears thin (Ikan tampak kurus)	Fairly certain	0.6
2	Fish frequently rubs its body against the pond wall or bottom (Ikan	Fairly certain	0.6
	sering menggosokan badan ke dinding atau dasar kolam)		
3	Bleeding on wounds (Pendarahan pada luka)	Certain	0.8
4	Presence of lice attached to the fish's body (Terdapat kutu yang	Certain	0.8
	menempel pada tubuh ikan)		
5	Fish is hyperactive (Ikan hiperaktif)	Slightly	0.4
		certain	

TABLE VII SYMPTOMS AND EXPERT CF VALUES

No	Symptom Name	CFexpert
1	Fish appears thin (Ikan tampak kurus)	0.4
2	Fish frequently rubs its body against the pond wall or bottom (Ikan sering menggosokan	0.6
	badan ke dinding atau dasar kolam)	
3	Bleeding on wounds (Pendarahan pada luka)	0.8
4	Presence of lice attached to the fish's body (<i>Terdapat kutu yang menempel pada tubuh ikan</i>)	0.8
5	Fish is hyperactive (Ikan hiperaktif)	0.4

The CFuser value is obtained when the user selects disease symptoms and assigns a confidence level ranging from "Tidak" (Not at all) with a value of 0 to "Sangat Yakin" (Very Certain) with a value of 1. Meanwhile, the CFexpertvalue is determined by experts and stored in the database, using the same value range as CFuser, as shown in Table III.

A value of 0 (Not at all) indicates that a symptom does not appear and is not characteristic of a disease, whereas a value of 1 (Very Certain) signifies that a symptom frequently appears in a disease and strongly characterizes it.

For example, in Table VII, the symptom "Fish is hyperactive" has an expert CF value of 0.4, indicating that it appears occasionally in Argulosis cases. In contrast, the symptom "Presence of lice attached to the fish's body" has an expert CF value of 0.8, meaning it frequently appears and is strongly indicative of Argulosis. Once both CFuser and CFexpert values are determined, the certainty factor calculation is performed using (1) and (2). The **certainty factor (CF)** is calculated by progressively combining the CF values for each selected symptom.

Here is the step-by-step calculation:

$$CF_1 = 0.6 * 0.4 = 0.24$$

2 Fish rubs its body against the wall or pond bottom $CF_2 = 0.6 * 0.6 = 0.36$

CFcombine1 = 0.24 + 0.36 (1-0.24) = 0.5136

3 Bleeding wounds

- $CF_3 = 0.8 * 0.8 = 0.64$ Cfcombine2 = 0.5136 + 0.64 (1-0.5136) = 0.824896
- 4 **Presence of lice attached to the fish's body** $CF_4 = 0.8 * 0.8 = 0.64$

Cfcombine3 = 0.824896 + 0.64 (1-0.824896) = 0.93696256

5 Fish is hyperactive

 $CF_5 = 0.4 * 0.4 = 0.16$

Cfcombine4 = 0.93696256 + 0.16 (1-0.93696256) = 0.9470485504

6 Final CF value

CF = 0.9470485504 * 100% = **94.70485504%**

This result indicates that the system **diagnoses the disease Argulosis with a certainty of 94.70%** based on the symptoms provided by the user.

B. System Testing

The expert system developed was tested using the **black-box testing method** to ensure that the application functions correctly from a functional perspective. The results of the system testing are presented in Table VIII.

The test results indicate that the developed expert system can provide diagnostic outcomes that align with expectations based on user-inputted symptoms. All test scenarios demonstrate that the system delivers accurate results, both in detecting diseases and in correctly determining when no disease is found due to insufficient confidence levels. Thus, the system has successfully passed the functional testing phase and can be utilized as a tool to assist in diagnosing gourami fish diseases based on observed symptoms.

CONCLUSION

The Android-based expert system application has been successfully developed by implementing the Certainty Factor method to determine the confidence level of disease diagnosis in gourami fish. The diagnosis is provided based on the symptoms selected by the user, along with their confidence level, which is then expert confidence levels combined with for corresponding symptoms in supporting disease identification. Since there are several varieties of gourami fish, future research can further specify the system to identify diseases affecting specific gourami species. Additionally, this study can be expanded by integrating geospatial data features, such as aquaculture pond locations and climate data, to better understand the relationship between environmental conditions and disease occurrence in gourami fish. The use of geospatial data can also help identify regions prone to specific fish diseases.

No	User-Selected Symptom Scenario	Expected Result	System Output	Status
1	G001 : Fairly Certain G002 : Certain	Disease : Saproleginasis Confidence Level : 81.28%	Disease : Saproleginasis Confidence Level : 81.28%	Correct
2	G001 : Fairly Certain G002 : Slightly Certain G003 : Slightly Certain	No disease detected	No disease detected	Correct
3	G003 : Certain G004 : Certain	Disease : Lernaesis Confidence Level : 81.28%	Disease : Lernaesis Confidence Level : 81.28%	Correct
4	G010 : Fairly Certain G012 : Slightly Certain G035 : Slightly Certain G015 : Slightly Certain	Disease : Branchiomycosis Confidence Level : 75.14%	Disease : Branchiomycosis Confidence Level : 75.14%	Correct
5	G005 : Slightly Certain G009 : Fairly Certain G010 : Certain G011 : Certain G013 : Certain G020 : Fairly Certain	No disease detected	No disease detected	Correct

TABLE VIII SYSTEM TESTING RESULTS USING THE BLACK-BOX METHOD

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