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Article

Digital Reconstruction of Hong'an Homespun Using AI and Semantic Differential Method

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Abstract

This study develops an innovative method for the attribution and visual reconstruction of hand-woven fabrics using artificial intelligence, employing Chinese Hong'an Homespun as a case study. The paper proposes a comprehensive algorithm integrating microscopic analysis, physical micro-model creation, and bimodal prompt engineering. The semantic differential method with a five-point scale was applied for objective evaluation of visual replica of historical fabrics. Comparative testing of AI models (Midjourney, ChatGPT, Qwen3, DouBaoAI, HailuoAI) revealed significant differences in their ability to reproduce characteristic features of hand weaving. The results demonstrate the superiority of detailed prompts with precise quantitative parameters and confirm the effectiveness of micro-models as visual anchors. The research establishes new standards in the digital documentation of cultural heritage and opens prospects for preserving traditional textile techniques. The most successful AI are Midjourney and ChatGPT have achieved an average score of 0.88 on the semantic scale, confirming the practical applicability of the method.

Keywords: AI; hand-woven fabrics; semantic differential; prompt engineering; cultural heritage; digital reconstruction; Hong'an Homespun; textile fabric

1. Introduction

Hong'an coarse cloth has been hand-woven since the Ming Dynasty using traditional spinning wheels and treadle looms passed down through generations in Hong'an, Hubei Province. Made from locally grown cotton through 72 artisanal steps—including ginning, spinning, dyeing, warping, and weaving—it yields fabric of standard size (0.47 m wide, ~13.33 m long) with distinctive rustic aesthetics and cultural significance [1]. Historically, cotton was abundant in the region, and “the hum of looms resonated in every household.” The resulting fabric is durable, soft, breathable, thermoregulatory (warm in winter, cool in summer), wrinkle-resistant, and static-free. Its textured surface creates micro-massage points with documented dermatological benefits. Woven on wooden inclined-beam looms, it embodies natural simplicity and ethnic artistry, reflecting over 4,000 years of Chinese textile heritage. Recognized as a Provincial Intangible Cultural Heritage and a National Geographical Indication Product, Hong'an Homespun features a natural palette (indigo, black, white), strong abrasion resistance, and deep grain patterns that merge daily utility with folk tradition—often described as “the interwoven nostalgia of Jing-Chu culture” (Xu, Ye and Zhao 2019; Xu, Y. M., Ye, H. G., & Zhao, H. 2019) [2,3].

1.1. AI Applications in Textile Design

While AI can generate hyper-realistic images (Gangadharbatla, H. 2022) [5], it struggles to replicate human serendipity in creative processes (Erdelez, S. 1997) [4]. In textiles, AI models predict two key property categories: physical (strength, elasticity, air permeability) and tactile (softness, roughness) (Turkmen, B. G., Celik, P., Sehit, H., & Ute, T. B. 2024) [6]. Traditional evaluation

methods—lab tests and expert panels—are slow, costly, and subjective (Kim, H., Kim, S., & Park, C. K. 2023; Kenkare, N. 2005) [7,8], prompting interest in AI-driven automation. Machine learning excels at processing large datasets, modeling nonlinear relationships, and improving prediction accuracy (Elkateb, S. N. 2022; Metin, A., & Bilgin, T. T. 2024) [9,10]. It can also integrate contextual variables like environment and user preference. Yet challenges remain: limited generalizability, high computational costs, and poor model interpretability (Youn, S., West, A., & Mathur, K. 2024; Seçkin, M., Seçkin, A. Ç., Demircioğlu, P., & Bögreci, I. 2023) [11,12].

For handfeel prediction, standardized frameworks enhance objectivity (Booth, A., Papaioannou, D., & Sutton, A. 2012) [13]. CNNs and hybrid models (e.g., YOLOv4-R-CNN) enable defect detection and parameter estimation like stiffness (Ouyang, W., Xu, B., Hou, J., & Yuan, X. 2019; Arshad, S. R., & Shahzad, M. K. 2024) [14,15]. Makarama, O., Van, H., Hong, M. 2023, achieved 99% accuracy in material parameter prediction using transformers [16]. Other studies report high performance: 92% accuracy in texture classification (Rasouli, M., Chen, Y., Basu, A., Kukreja, S. L., & Thakor, N. V. 2018) [17]; ≈95% accuracy in softness/flexibility prediction (Xue, Z., Zeng, X., & Koehl, L. 2017; Xue, Z., Zeng, X., Koehl, L., & Shen, L. 2015) [18,19]; 99.3% accuracy in tactile property prediction via ResNet-50 (Gültekin, E., Çelik, H. I., Nohut, S., & Elma, S. K. 2020) [20].

1.2. Application of Semantic Differential Scale

The semantic differential scale (SDS) offers a quantifiable framework to evaluate AI-generated content, reducing subjectivity. It serves three purposes: (1) measuring semantic alignment between AI output and human perception; (2) benchmarking model performance to guide optimization; and (3) assessing user preferences to align outputs with human expectations.

While not directly tied to the core study, historical linguistic methods—such as tracing textile-related loanwords (e.g., Spanish *algodón* from Arabic), analyzing place-name roots (e.g., "-wick" or Chinese "Sangyuan"), or reconstructing proto-language roots like Indo-European *webh-* ("to weave")—reveal ancient trade and technology diffusion (Menéndez-Benito, V., & Schwenter, S. A. 2019; Pokorny, J. 1959–1969) [21,22]. However, interpreting historical textiles is hindered by material fragility (most survive only as fragments) and ambiguous terminology. Ancient terms often exhibit polysemy (e.g., "tissue" or Chinese "锦" [jin]) or semantic drift (e.g., "purple" once meant Phoenician crimson, not violet), risking modern misinterpretation (Lombardini, L. 2012; Gaspa, S., Michel, C., & Nosch, M. L. 2017; Nosch, M. L., & Michel, C.) [23–25].

This research aims to develop and validate an algorithm for generating visual replicas of historical textiles by integrating physical micro-models, bimodal prompts, and semantic differential analysis.

Flowchart of research (algorithm) shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Flowchart of research.

Table 1. shows the content of step 1 as more important step in this study. Table 1. Flowchart of research of Step 1.

No.	Steps	Detailed description
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1	Data collection and processing	Physical characteristics: Collect data on the physical properties of various fabrics, such as fiber composition, thickness, weight, and elasticity. These quantitative data are obtained through laboratory measurements—for example, determining fiber composition using a fiber analyzer and measuring fabric thickness with a thickness gauge.
		Visual features: High-resolution images of fabric samples can be analyzed to extract critical visual attributes, such as color and texture. Color features can be quantified by Pantone color, and texture features can be extracted with the help of image processing algorithms.
2	Semantic data collection	The semantic difference scale is employed to systematically quantify subjective user perceptions of textile materials. design a carefully curated set of bipolar adjective pairs (e.g., “soft-hard”) that comprehensively capture tactile, visual and functional fabric attributes.
3	Data processing	The abnormal values and abnormal expressions in the understanding of collected fabric feature data are removed through preliminary AI experiments. For numerical fabric feature data and semantic data, standardize processing to make them have a unified dimension.
4	Feature selection and extraction	The preprocessed fabric characteristic data undergoes rigorous feature selection and extraction to effectively reduce the dimensionality of irrelevant descriptors and retain the most representative features. These optimized features are used as input variables for subsequent attribution analysis.
5	Attribution evaluation and optimization	The trained model establishes mapping relationships between fabric characteristics and user semantic perceptions. For instance, the model may learn positive correlations between specific fiber compositions and perceptual descriptors like “softness”. The constructed prompt words are evaluated to measure the model performance with indicators such as accuracy and error. Based on the evaluation results, adjust the parameters or structure of the prompt words to optimize AI performance to ensure that the AI can accurately attribute the relationship between fabric features and user semantic perception.

Please highlight c

2. Objects of Research

The image materials of the cases used in this analysis are all sourced from Hong'an Handspun Fabrics in Hong'an County, Hubei Province. As a highly representative traditional handicraft of the local area, Hong'an Handspun Fabric carries profound regional cultural heritage and unique manual textile techniques. Its fabric texture, color matching, and pattern styles all exhibit distinct local characteristics, providing rich and typical sample support for AI-based traceability research on handspun textiles.

The reasons for selecting Hong'an handspun fabric images as cases are as follows. Firstly, the samples have strong uniqueness. The manual production process of Hong'an handspun fabric is irreproducible and significantly different from mechanically produced textiles, with distinct details such as the yarn direction, weave density, and defect characteristics on the fabric surface. Secondly, it has high cultural recognition. The traditional patterns (such as the "Swastika Pattern" and "Meander Pattern") and color system (mainly using natural dyes like indigo and ochre) of Hong'an Handspun Fabric have clear regional cultural orientation. This can help AI not only determine "whether a textile is handspun" during the traceability process but also further associate it with the in-depth attribution of "which regional traditional manual textile category it belongs to," thereby improving the accuracy and cultural relevance of traceability. Thirdly, it can provide a sufficient number of samples for AI model training, avoiding model bias caused by a single type of sample and ensuring the scientificity and reliability of AI-based attribution analysis for handspun textiles.

Figure 2 shows the chosen fabrics and its reports.

Real images

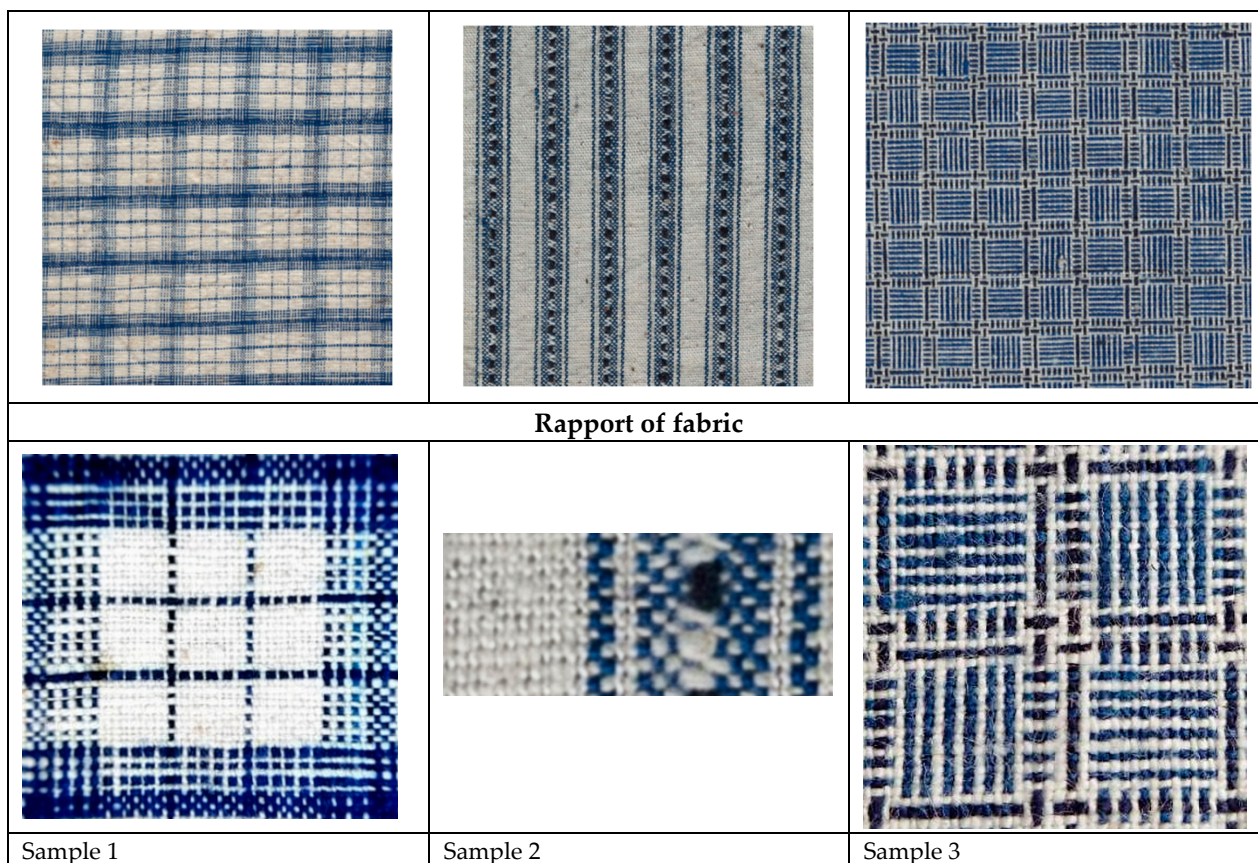


Figure 2. Three samples of Hong'an handspun fabrics and its rapports.

The chosen fabri

The chosen fabrics have next features.

(1) Fabric craftsmanship texture - heavy and rugged, 100% pure cotton handwoven; core material, craftsmanship, and touch. Uneven, ridged texture - iconic tactile feature ("roughness"); plain weave with uneven handspun yarns; the texture origin (natural irregularities of handspun yarns); yarn knots and thickness variations; typical traces of hand spinning. Extremely high density, approximately 300 g/m² - quantitative parameter ensuring a thick and substantial texture.

(2) Color decoration - three classic colors (natural indigo, carbon black, and natural white). Wide alternating stripes - iconic pattern (can be replaced by simple geometric grids or classic indigo checkered patterns). Rustic elegance and primitive simplicity - aesthetic keywords highlighting "refinement in roughness".

(3) Cultural Expression - fabric embodies both daily utility and folk artistry.

Sample 1 incorporates two horizontally aligned blue yarns and two vertically aligned blue yarns, systematically distributed to form a nine-cell matrix. The corner square patterns of this matrix are structured as follows. Upper-left quadrant is composed of three vertical white yarns interspersed with four vertical dark blue yarns. Upper-right quadrants composed of three horizontal white yarns. Lower-left quadrant is composed of three horizontal white yarns. Lower-right quadrant is composed of three vertical white yarns separated by four vertical dark blue yarns. Each weft yarn interlaces alternately over and under individual warp yarns. The corner square patterns are interconnected by dotted-line configured yarns. The pattern cells are systematically arranged and extended quad axially along vertical and horizontal orientations.

Sample 2 incorporates two horizontally aligned blue yarns and two vertically aligned blue yarns, systematically distributed to form a nine-cell matrix. The corner square patterns of this matrix are structured as follows. Upper-left quadrant is composed of three vertical white yarns interspersed with four vertical dark blue yarns. Upper-right quadrants composed of three horizontal white yarns. Lower-left quadrant is composed of three horizontal white yarns. Lower-right quadrant is composed

of three vertical white yarns separated by four vertical dark blue yarns. Each weft yarn interlaces alternately over and under individual warp yarns. The corner square patterns are interconnected by dotted-line configured yarns.

Sample 3 comprises four distinct sectors. Upper-left quadrant is composed of three vertical white yarns interspersed with four vertical dark blue yarns. Upper-right quadrant is composed of three horizontal white yarns separated by four horizontal dark blue yarns. Lower-left quadrant is composed of three horizontal white yarns partitioned by four horizontal dark blue yarns. Lower-right quadrant is composed of three vertical white yarns alternating with four vertical dark blue yarns. All parallel yarns interlace in an over-under alternation pattern relative to the warp orientation. The pattern cells are systematically arranged and extended quad axially along vertical and horizontal orientations.

3. Methods of Research and Tools

3.1. Micro-Models of Fabric

Next properties of the fabrics were investigated and shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Basic characteristics of the fabrics.

	Characteristic	Value		
		sample 1	sample 2	sample 3
1	Interweave Type	plain weave	plain weave	plain weave
2	Density, yarns/1 cm: wrap weft	21 17	18 15	22 22
3	Strength	high	medium	medium
4	Relief	smooth	smooth	textured
5	Pantone code	19-3830TCX	19-3830TCX.	19-3830 TCX
6	Cotton content, %	100	100	100

To visualize the fabric structures, enlarged models of the thread interlacing were created, preserving the original two-color weaving rapport as micro-models. The micro-models were made from cotton cords of two colors (the same as original fabrics) with a diameter of 3 mm, following the procedure below:

(1) Control marks for the positions of the warp threads were placed along the edges of a rigid cardboard frame at 3 mm intervals. The repeat pattern of the original fabric was replicated by alternating white and blue threads. Each end was secured to the frame's mount.

(2) After fixing the warp threads, they were additionally tensioned and aligned starting from a control mark. This prevented sagging and ensured stable weaving geometry.

(3) The weft threads (cotton cords) were sequentially passed through the warp, following the interlacing order according to the pattern repeat. A needle was used to pass the cord, ensuring it remained strictly perpendicular to the warp.

(4) Interlacing Fixation: Each weft thread was secured to the frame's mount. Upon completion, the macro-model was temporarily stitched to prevent the weave from shifting.

(5) The micro-models were photographed under the same conditions as the original fabric samples.

Figure 3 shows photographs of all the micro-models.

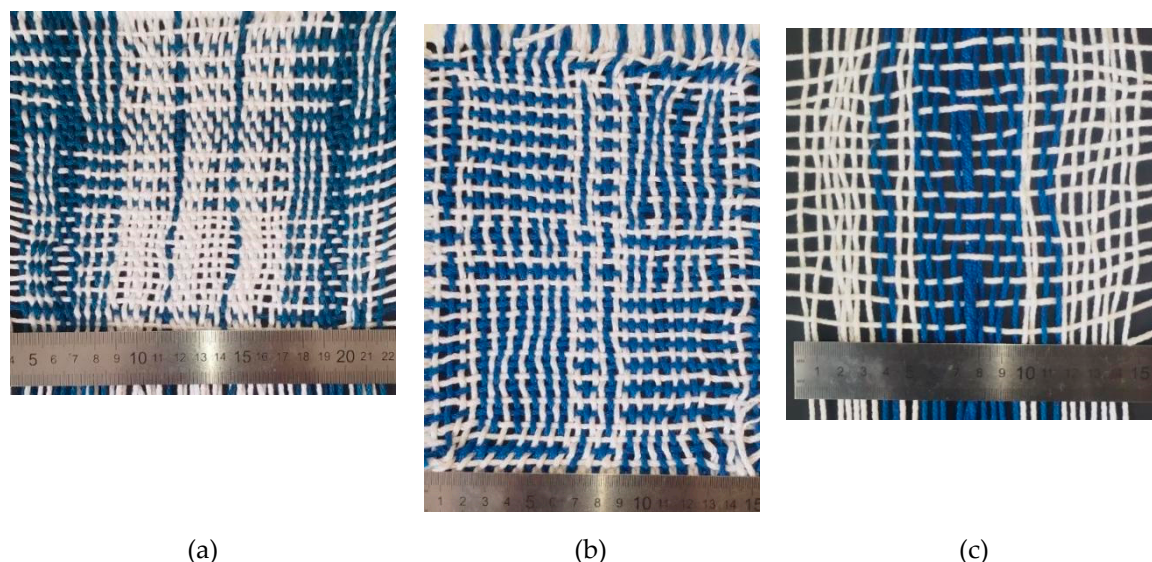


Figure 3. The micro-models of fabric rapport with the scale.

Figure 3 shows that the micro-models successfully visualize the "live" relief, demonstrate variability in thread thickness, and highlight the characteristics of the linear-graphic pattern created by the plain weave using differently colored threads.

The micro-models were visually compared with the original fabric. When discrepancies were found, individual threads were tightened or re-laid to achieve an exact match with the fabric's pattern.

The results of comparing Sample 1 and its micro-model are provided as an example.

The original fabric (Figure 2a) is made in plain weave. Its repeat pattern is a square divided into four sectors. In each sector, the stripes of threads are oriented perpendicularly to those in adjacent sectors. The sectors form a checkerboard alternation: vertical lines ↔ horizontal lines. The color scheme is white and blue. The effect is a visual imitation of mosaic or a weaving "labyrinth".

The original weave consists of even, straight lines; each "cell" of the repeat is formed by the strict alternation of white and blue threads. It features clear geometry: vertical stripes, horizontal stripes, and square blocks.

In the micro-model (Figure 3a), the structure is preserved: the repeat is divided into squares with different stripe directions. However, it differs from the original fabric in having less uniform threads (threads shift, and their varying thickness is visible). In some areas, the weave "shifts," forming slight diagonal waves. In the center of the micro-model, the alternation is not as strictly ordered.

Thus, while the weave pattern is correctly replicated, there are technical inaccuracies in tension and density.

3.2. AI Types

More popular AI - Qwen3 max [26], ChatGPT [27], Midjourney [28], DouBaoAI [29], and HailuoAI [31] - were used in this study.

Hong'an homespun fabric represents a distinctive textile category, whose significance stems from the integration of objective technical parameters (high density, gram weight, tensile strength, and natural composition) with subjectively perceived yet powerfully qualitative attributes (expressive handcrafted textures, rustic elegance, minimalist decorations, and profound cultural-historical connotations). While AI can partially characterize the fabric through quantifiable metrics (e.g., density and gram weight), its essential distinction from other textiles resides in inherently non-quantifiable dimensions: artisanal craftsmanship, material memorability, and the unique "nostalgic essence" it embodies.

Two types of prompts which are different in details according to fabric rapports were used to achieve the most authentic reproduction effect.

3.2.1. Basic One Modal Prompt

The basic one modal prompt mainly contains the following core information. Its overall description is relatively concise, focusing on qualitative expressions, while lacking precise quantification and structured details:

(1) fabric basic properties include clearly specification of the fabric type such as hand-woven fabric, and core color combinations by marking the Pantone color numbers corresponding to key colors (such as Pantone 19-4053 TCX, 19-3831 TCX).

(2) pattern and texture features include briefly describing the pattern form (such as blue stripes crossing to form white checks, interweaving of blue lines in different shades, black and white squares alternating into a grid) and special designs (such as black dot-shaped weaving holes on blue stripes forming a negative space design, patterns similar to traditional Chinese geometric patterns), but fail to elaborate on the composition rules of the patterns.

(3) shooting and visual conditions explain by means of the shooting angle (all shots are taken vertically downward), light conditions (uniform light, soft light creating soft shadows), and the way the fabric is placed (laid flat).

(4) craftsmanship texture includes a mention of the fabric texture (fine, coarse weave), the visibility of the interweaving of warp and weft threads, and the handmade natural imperfections.

3.2.2. Improved Bimodal Prompts

Building on the basic one modal prompt, the improved bimodal prompt significantly expands the information by incorporating quantitative data, structured decomposition, and process details, resulting in a more accurate and systematic description:

1) quantitative details of fabric and pattern include clearly specification of the number and types of yarns, such as "each side of the large white check is composed of 22 yarns", "the width of the blue stripe is 9 warp yarns", "the width of the fine blue thread is 2 warp yarns", and "4 vertical white warp yarns are arranged with 5 vertical black warp yarns". Specific numbers are used to define pattern dimensions and yarn distribution.

2) refine the logic of pattern composition, for example, decompose the four corner areas of the matrix (the upper-left corner consists of 3 vertical white yarns interspersed with 4 vertical dark blue yarns, the upper-right corner consists of 3 horizontal white yarns, etc.), and clarify the yarn interweaving rules for different areas.

3) in-depth explanation of process technology by adding supplement specific weaving methods, such as "each weft yarn is alternately interwoven above and below a single warp yarn" and "yarns in a dot configuration connect the four-corner square patterns". The description of structural features enhance by proposing the concept of a "symmetrical grid" structure, and clarify the combination relationship of various parts of the fabric (e.g., "the right side is woven by alternately arranging 2 horizontal white weft yarns and 3 horizontal black weft yarns to form a rectangular stripe pattern").

4) basic information was retained and optimized by adding maintain core attributes (fabric type, Pantone color number, shooting angle, lighting conditions, manual defects) while improving expression accuracy. For instance, "vertical shooting angle" was specified as "vertical downward viewing angle", "uniform light" as "balanced light" to emphasize stability.

Table 3 shows the main differences between two types of prompts.

Table 3. Basic features of the both prompts.

Comparison dimensions	Basic one modal prompt	Improved bimodal prompt
-----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Degree of information quantification	There is no quantitative data, only qualitative descriptions such as "thin stripes" and "large checks"	Use a large number of specific numbers (such as the number of yarns, stripe width) to precisely define the size and distribution
Pattern structure disassembly	Only describe the overall pattern shape (such as "forming a nine - grid", "grid - like structure"), without regional subdivision	Divide the pattern into specific areas (four corners and quadrants, left and right sides), and clarify the yarn composition and interweaving rules of each area.
Depth of Process Details	Only mention "warp and weft interweaving" and "handmade", without specific description of the weaving method	Supplement the alternating interweaving methods of weft and warp yarns, as well as the yarn connection logic (such as dot - shaped yarn connection), and clarify the process types such as "plain weave".
Expression logic and framework	The information is fragmented. Simply list it according to "fabric - pattern - shooting - texture"	The structure is clear. First, disassemble the composition details of each part of the fabric, and then explain the shooting and visual conditions to form a logical chain of "part - whole".
Design concept extraction	There is no clear design concept, only vague associations such as "similar to traditional Chinese geometric patterns" are mentioned.	Put forward structured concepts such as "symmetric grid" to strengthen the systematicness and regularity of the design.

3.3. Mat

Table 4 shows the content of basic one modal and the improved bimodal prompts.

Table 4. Content of the prompts.

Sample	Basic one modal prompt	Improved bimodal prompt
1	Hand-woven fabric. The fine blue stripes cross the middle to form a large white lattice, Blue is Pantone 19-4053 TCX. and there are two horizontal lines and two longitudinal indigo yarns in the large white lattice, forming nine checks within the white lattice. The blue yarn weave pattern is dotted and the blue and white weave check. The texture is delicate, the vertical shooting angle is uniform, and the light is uniform. It can be seen that the warp and weft are intertwined, with handmade natural imperfections.	It is hand-woven fabric. Blue stripes intersect centrally to form a large white square grid composed of 22 yarns per side, with the blue corresponding to Pantone 19-4053 TCX. The large white grid incorporates two horizontally aligned blue yarns and two vertically aligned blue yarns, systematically distributed to form a nine-cell matrix. The corner square patterns of this matrix are structured as follows. Upper-left quadrant is composed of three vertical white yarns interspersed with four vertical dark blue yarns. Upper-right quadrants composed of three horizontal white yarns. Lower-left quadrant is composed of three horizontal white yarns. Lower-right quadrant is composed of three vertical white yarns separated by four vertical dark blue yarns. Each weft yarn interlaces alternately over and under individual warp yarns. The corner square patterns are interconnected by dotted-line configured yarns. Balanced yarn thickness ensures chromatic presentation in a symmetrical grid formation. Imaged from a vertical downward perspective under even illumination, the fabric reveals meticulously interlaced warp and weft threads, preserving artisanal imperfections inherent to hand-weaving techniques.

2	<p>The linen fabric has vertical stripes in deep indigo and white, and the pattern is an intricate weave of different shades of blue lines. Blue is Pantone 19-4053TCX. Each blue stripe has regularly spaced black dot braided holes that form a dotted pattern that removes color from the material to create a negative space design. There is also a pinstripe on each side of the main stripe. The fabric is laid flat. Shoot vertically downwards with even lighting. It can be seen that the warp and weft are intertwined, with handmade natural imperfections.</p>	<p>A handcrafted plain white cotton fabric serves as the base, featuring a vertical blue stripe with a width of 9 warp yarns. At the center of this blue stripe, a black-and-white dotted line is formed by interwoven black yarns. On both sides of the blue stripe, spaced 3 white warp yarns apart, there are thin blue lines each with a width of 2 warp yarns, resulting in three vertical blue lines in total. The white and blue colors (Pantone 19-4053TCX) are woven using warp and weft yarns of identical thickness. Balanced yarn thickness ensures chromatic presentation in a “symmetrical grid” formation.</p> <p>Imaged from a vertical downward perspective under even illumination, the fabric reveals meticulously interlaced warp and weft threads, preserving artisanal imperfections inherent to hand-weaving techniques.</p>
3	<p>A two-tone weave pattern in dark blue and gray with lines in different directions, The dark blue color is Pantone 19-3831 TCX. A small square pattern, three vertical and three horizontal gray yarns are intertwined to form a checkerboard-like staggered distribution, with dark blue as the base color. Soft light creates soft shadows on the surface, accentuating its intricate design. The top-down view captures the complete distribution across the entire canvas, showing a seamless arrangement of threads in a symmetrical manner. It can be seen that the warp and weft are intertwined, with handmade natural imperfections</p>	<p>The handmade plain weave pattern consists of four parts, the upper left is composed of three vertical white warp yarns spaced by four vertical dark blue warp threads, the upper right is composed of three horizontal white warp yarns spaced by four horizontal dark blue weft yarns, the lower left is composed of three horizontal white warp yarns interspersed with four horizontal dark blue warp yarns, and the lower right is composed of three vertical white warp yarns composed of four vertical dark blue warp intervals.</p> <p>The shooting angle is vertically downward, and the light is evenly balanced. It can be seen that the warp and weft are intertwined, with handmade natural imperfections.</p>

Semantic Differential Method for an Images Validation

The semantic differential method constructs to evaluate the dimensions by setting up groups of studied visual replica. It consists of traditional numerical scoring with a symmetric scale (e.g., -2 to +2), where each scale point corresponds to specific descriptions rather than abstract scores.

To evaluate of Hong’an homespun AI-Generated images, five-level semantic differential scale consisting scoring criteria: -2 → -1 → 0 → +1 → +2 was designed. The SDC has 3 groups (visual effects, structure, properties) and nine indicators of its. Table 5 shows the scores of SDC.

Table 5. SDC for visual replica evaluation.

Evaluation Dimension	Severely Inconsistent	Obvious Defect	Basic Compliance	Good Performance	Perfect Restore
	-2	-1	0	+1	2
A. Visual effects					

1. Surface Texture	Smooth as silk, without three-dimensional sense	Slight sense of concavity and convexity (concavity-convexity), similar to cheap cotton fabric	Shallow grooves visible, but without "roughness"	Clear nodules, occasional traces of hand-spun yarn	Strong "bark-like" concave and convex with deep grooves and knots prominent
2. Color Naturalness	Dazzling fluorescent blue/false black	Oversaturated indigo or grayish black	Close to Pantone standard but with a plastic-like feel	Natural dye tones, slight color spots	The earth tone of indigo is the same as the Pantone color number, and there is a natural transition between black and white
3. Pattern Contrast	Stripes blurred and difficult to distinguish	Blurred boundaries (>1mm transition zone)	Clear demarcation but without sharpness	Sharp edges, excessive is more natural	Knife-like precision of color block demarcation
4. Fabric Density	Translucent to see the background (sparse like a net)	Local yarn gaps visible	Minimum gaps (similar to denim)	Tightly knitted, unevenly distributed locally	The structure is compact and evenly distributed
5. Cultural Elements	Abstract patterns, irrelevant to Hong'an homespun	Stripes with distorted proportions	Basic patterns correct but without cultural details	Traditional stripes/grids + hints of weaving tools	Typical pattern background element
6. Generation Defects	Obvious repeated patterns/digital noise	Local deformation or blurring	Slight edge defects	1-2 minor flaws	Zero defects
B. Structure					
7. Number of textures	The number of textures varies greatly from the number needed	The number of textures is quite different from the number required	The number of textures varies quite a bit from the number needed	The number of textures is less than what is needed	The number of textures is the same as the required number
C. Properties					
8. Three-dimensional Sense	Completely flat 2D effect	Faint shadows visible when magnified	Medium depth, main grooves with shadows	Strong yarn projection under side light	3D tactile "on paper"
9. Handicraft Warmth	Industrial perfectionism (flawless)	Excessively regular, mechanical symmetry	Slight changes in yarn thickness	Visible hand-knotted nodules/asymmetric beauty	Vivid irregularities: burrs, uneven dyeing, etc

Sensory visual analysis of visual replica generated by the five different AI have been done after printing all images on a paper A4. 30 participating professional teachers and students in fashion design analyzed the printed images item by item in accordance with the aforementioned evaluation objects and standards. After the scoring was completed, the average score of each image firstly calculated under each of the 9 evaluation indicators, then the overall average score for each type of AI computed. Finally, these average scores used to compare the performance of images through to complete the entire questionnaire evaluation and statistics process.

4. Results Obtained

Figure 4 shows the images generated by the basic one modal prompts.

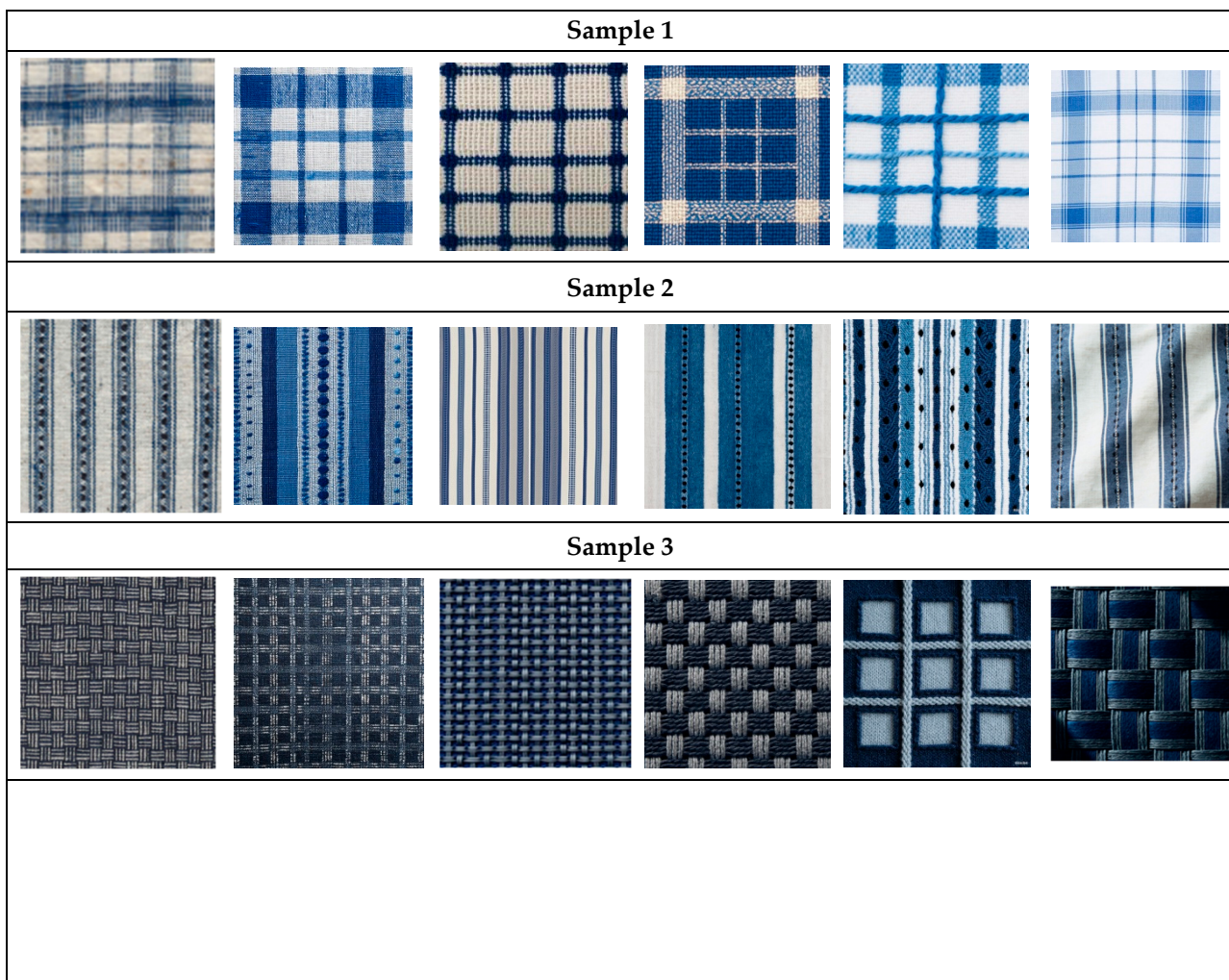


Figure 4. (left to right) Real images and the images generated by basic one modal prompts by Midjourney, Qwen3, ChatGPT, DouBaoAI and HailuoAI.

The results of SDC application after analyzing the images generated by means of basic one modal prompt are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. SDC scores for different AIs images generated by basic one modal prompt.

Criteria	Sample	Scores					Average score
		Midjourney	Qwen3	ChatGPT	DouBaoAI	HailuoAI	
	1	1	1	1	1	0	1

1.Surface texture	2	2	1	1	1	0	0.8
	3	0	1	2	2	1	
average score		1	1	1.3	1.3	0.3	
2.Color naturalness	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.2
	2	0	1	0	0	1.5	
	3	1.5	1	1.5	1	0	
average score		0.8	1	0.8	0.7	0.5	
3.Pattern contrast	1	1	1	1	1	1	11.2
	2	2	1	1	1	1.5	
	3	0	0	1.5	1	1	
average score		1	0.7	1.2	1	1.2	
4.Fabric density	1	1	0.5	1	2	2	0.2
	2	1	1	2	1	2	
	3	1	0	0	2	1	
average score		1	0.5	1	1.7	1.7	
5.Cultural elements	1	1	0	1	0	-1	0.3
	2	1	0	0	0	0	
	3	0	0	1	0	-1	
average score		0.7	0	0.7	0	-0.6	
6.Generation defects	1	0	0	1	0	1	0.4
	2	1	0	0	-1	0	
	3	1	0	1	-1	1	
average score		0.7	0	0.7	-0.7	0.7	
7. Number of textures	1	2	-1	1	0	1	1
	2	1	0	1	0	1	
	3	0.5	0	0.5	-1	0	
average score		1.2	-0.3	0.8	-0.3	0.7	
8.Three-dimensional Sense	1	1	2	1	2	-1	0.2
	2	1.5	1	0	1	-2	
	3	0	2	2	2	0	
average score		0.8	1.7	1	1.7	-1	
9.Handicraft warmth	1	1	0	-1	1	0	0.6
	2	1	1	0	1	-1	
	3	0	0	0	1	0	
average score		0.3	0.3	-0.3	1	-0.3	
Average score		0.8	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.4	

Figure 6 shows the vector radar charts illustrating the ability of the compared AI models to generate different aspects of virtual replicas.

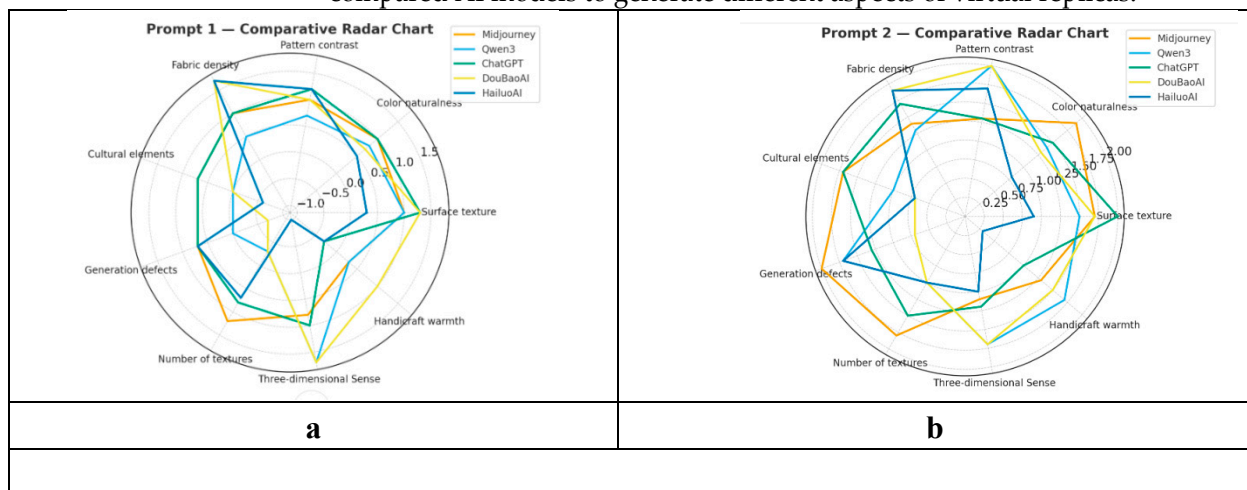


Figure 6. Comparative radar charts for basic one modal prompt 1 (a) and improved bimodal prompt 2 (b).

5. Discussion

5.1. Analyze AI's Understanding of Basic One Modal Prompts

As Table 6 shown, the possibilities of AI used could be ranged by this way.

(1) Surface texture presentation

ChatGPT (1.3)=DouBaoAI (1.6)>Qwen3 (1) = Midjourney (1) > HailuoAI (0.3),

(2) Color naturalness presentation

Qwen3 (1) > ChatGPT (0.8) = Midjourney (0.8) > DouBaoAI (0.7) = HailuoAI (0.5),

(3) Pattern contrast

ChatGPT (1.2) = HailuoAI (1.2) > DouBaoAI (1) = Midjourney (1) > Qwen3 (0.7),

(4) Fabric density

DouBaoAI (1.7) = HailuoAI (1.7) > ChatGPT (1) = Midjourney (1) > Qwen3 (0.5),

(5) Cultural elements

Midjourney (0.7) = ChatGPT (0.7) > Qwen3 (0) = DouBaoAI (0) = HailuoAI (-0.6),

(6) Generation defects

Midjourney (0.7) = Qwen3 (0.7) = chatGPT (0.7) = HailuoAI (0) > DouBaoAI (-0.7),

(7) Texture quantity

Midjourney (1.2) > chatGPT (0.8) > HailuoAI (0.7)>Qwen3 (-0.3) = DouBaoAI (-0.3),

(8)Three-dimensional sense

Qwen3 (1.7) = DouBaoAI (1.7) > chatGPT (1) > Midjourney (0.8) > HailuoAI (-1),

(9) Handmade texture

Midjourney (1.4) > Qwen3 (1.4) > HailuoAI (1.4) > chatGPT (1.1) > DouBaoAI (1.0).

After this analysis comprehensive performance of AI their an advantages (strong ability) and disadvantages (weak ability) due to basic prompts shows in Table 8.

Table 8. Comprehensive Score Ranking of AI by basic prompts.

AI	Comprehensive average score	Strong ability	Weak ability
Midjourney	0.8	Surface Texture, Pattern Contrast, Cultural Elements	Three-Dimensional Sense, Handmade Texture
ChatGPT	0.8	Color Naturalness, Texture Quantity, Cultural Elements	Pattern Contrast, Three-Dimensional Sense
DouBaoAI	0.7	Fabric Density, Generation Defect Control	Cultural Elements, Handmade Texture, Texture Quantity
Qwen3	0.7	Three-Dimensional Sense, Generation Defect Control	Fabric Density, Cultural Elements
HailuoAI	0.4	Pattern Contrast, Fabric Density	Generation Defects, Texture Quantity, Three-Dimensional Sense

As Table 8 shown, ChatGPT has the best comprehensive performance, especially good at "detail restoration" (surface texture, patterns) and "cultural symbol recognition", making it suitable for the generation needs of "traditional fabrics and culture-related patterns".

Midjourney has outstanding advantages in color and texture, and is suitable for generating ordinary fabrics that require high "visual authenticity" (natural colors, rich details).

DouBaoAI and Qwen3 have moderate performance with different focuses (DouBaoAI is strong in density, Qwen3 is strong in three-dimensional sense), and are suitable for scenarios that have demands on a single dimension (such as density and three-dimensional sense).

HailuoAI has the weakest comprehensive performance, only performing moderately in pattern contrast and fabric density. It has a high defect rate and insufficient details, so it is not recommended for high-demand fabric generation tasks.

5.2. Analyze AI's Understanding of Improved Bimodal Prompts

As Table 7 shown, the possibilities of AI used could be ranged by this way.

(1) Surface texture presentation

ChatGPT (2.0) > Midjourney (1.6) = Qwen3 (1.6) > DouBaoAI (1.5) > HailuoAI (1.4),

(2) Color naturalness presentation

Midjourney (1.9) > ChatGPT (1.6) = Qwen3 (1.6) > DouBaoAI (1.5) = HailuoAI (1.5),

(3) Pattern contrast

ChatGPT (2.0) = HailuoAI (2.0) > DouBaoAI (1.5) > Midjourney (1.25) = Qwen3 (1.25),

(4) Fabric density

DouBaoAI (1.9) = HailuoAI (1.9) > ChatGPT (1.8) > Midjourney (1.4) > Qwen3 (1.3),

(5) Cultural elements are ranking by next score

Midjourney (1.8) = ChatGPT (1.8) > Qwen3 (0.8) = DouBaoAI (0.8) = HailuoAI (0.8),

(6) Generation defects

Midjourney (1.5) = Qwen3 (1.5) = chatGPT (1.5) = DouBaoAI (1.5) > HailuoAI (1.0),

(7) Texture quantity

Midjourney (1.9) > ChatGPT (1.4) > Qwen3 (1.3) = DouBaoAI (1.3) > HailuoAI (0.9),

(8) Three-dimensional sense

Qwen3 (1.8) > DouBaoAI (1.6) > chatGPT (1.3) > Midjourney (1.1) > HailuoAI (1.0),

(9) Handmade texture

Midjourney (1.4) > Qwen3 (1.4) > HailuoAI (1.4) > chatGPT (1.1) > DouBaoAI (1.0).

After this analysis comprehensive performance of AI their an advantages (strong ability) and disadvantages (weak ability) due to improved bimodal prompts shows in Table 9.

Table 9. Comprehensive score ranking of AI by bimodal prompts.

AI	Comprehensive Average Score	Strong ability	Weak ability
ChatGPT	1.5	Surface Texture, Pattern Contrast, Cultural Elements	Three-Dimensional Sense, Handmade Texture
Midjourney	1.6	Color Naturalness, Texture Quantity, Cultural Elements	Pattern Contrast, Three-Dimensional Sense
DouBaoAI	1.4	Fabric Density, Generation Defect Control	Cultural Elements, Handmade Texture, Texture Quantity
Qwen3	1.5	Three-Dimensional Sense, Generation Defect Control	Fabric Density, Cultural Elements
HailuoAI	1.1	Pattern Contrast, Fabric Density	Generation Defects, Texture Quantity, Three-Dimensional Sense

As Table 9 shown, ChatGPT has good abilities at "detail restoration" (surface texture, patterns) and "cultural symbol recognition", making it suitable for the generation needs of traditional fabrics and culture-related patterns.

Midjourney has outstanding advantages in color and texture, and is suitable for generating ordinary fabrics that require high visual authenticity (natural colors, rich details).

DouBaoAI and Qwen3 have good performance with different focuses (DouBaoAI is strong in density, Qwen3 is strong in three-dimensional sense), and are suitable for scenarios that have demands on a single dimension (such as density and three-dimensional sense).

HailuoAI has the weakest comprehensive performance, only performing moderately in pattern contrast and fabric density. It has a high defect rate and insufficient details, so it is not recommended for high-demand fabric generation tasks.

5.3. Comparison Basic and Improved Prompts

As shown in Tables 6 and 7, all AI models benefit from the bimodal prompt: average scores increased by a factor of 2 (Midjourney, DouBaoAI, ChatGPT) or 3 (Qwen3, HailuoAI). The positive impact of the bimodal prompt led to improvements across all nine evaluation indicators, with the average score rising from 0.6 to 1.4 points. This confirms the effectiveness of enriching prompts with detailed descriptions that bring the visual replica closer to the original artifact.

Figure 7. shows how the improving of basic prompt influences on visual replicas quality.

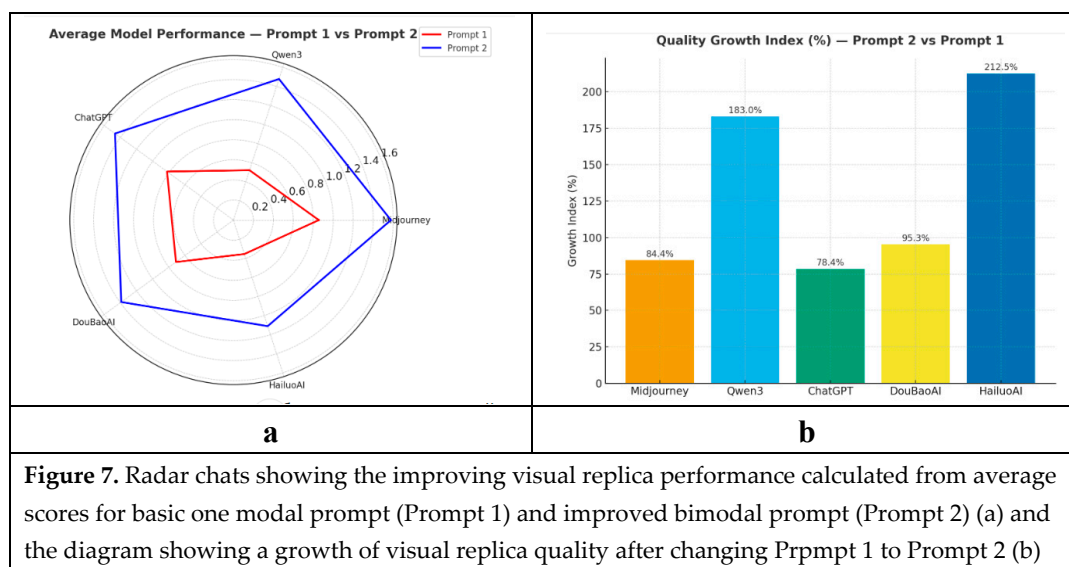


Figure 7. Radar charts showing the improving visual replica performance calculated from average scores for basic one modal prompt (Prompt 1) and improved bimodal prompt (Prompt 2) (a) and the diagram showing a growth of visual replica quality after changing Prpmt 1 to Prompt 2 (b)

As Figure. 7 shown, the growth of visual replicas quality is different for compared AI: the biggest growth for HailuoAI (+212%) and Qwen3 (+183%), stable growth for Midjourney (+84%) and ChatGPT (+78%), moderate growth for DouBaoAI (+95%).

The increased confidence in the generated images is attributed to the following factors:

(1) An information parsing accuracy from "vague description" to "quantitative definition" for more precise AI understanding, enabling AI to more accurately capture key information and reduce comprehension deviations. The basic prompts mostly use non-quantitative descriptions such as "thin blue stripes", "large white checks", and "two horizontal lines" (e.g., "two horizontal lines and two vertical indigo yarns" in Sample 1). AI tends to have comprehension deviations due to subjective terms like "thin/large". The improved prompts supply specific quantitative data (e.g., "white squares composed of 22 yarns on each side" and "blue stripes 9 warp yarns wide" in Sample 1; "spaced 3 white warp yarns apart" and "thin lines 2 warp yarns wide" in Sample 2), and clarify yarn types (warp/weft) and color-corresponding standards (Pantone color code binding).

This indicates that AI can accurately parse information presented as "quantitative parameters + clear classification", avoid misinterpreting "vague adjectives", and achieve an understanding that better aligns with the actual fabric structure.

(2) Detail restoration from "overall summary" to "local disassembly" for deeper AI understanding due to disassembling local structures and supplementing process details. Improved prompt allow AI to understand the microscopic composition of fabrics rather than just their macroscopic features. Basic prompts only summarize the overall effect (e.g., "dark blue and gray two-tone with lines in different directions" and "checkerboard interleaved distribution" in Sample 3) without mentioning the logic of local structures. The improved prompts disassemble the overall pattern into local units (e.g., "the upper left part consists of 3 white warp yarns + 4 dark blue warp

yarns, and the upper right part consists of 3 white warp yarns + 4 dark blue weft yarns" in Sample 3; "the four-corner squares are divided into upper left/upper right/lower left/lower right, with different yarn arrangements in each area" in Sample 1), and supplement weaving processes (e.g., "each weft yarn interlaces alternately above and below the warp yarns" and "dashed-structure yarns connect the four-corner squares").

This shows that AI can understand the hierarchical relationship between "whole and part", and even capture "weaving process details", rather than merely staying at superficial visual descriptions—markedly enhancing the depth of understanding.

(3) Structural cognition ability raised from "disordered information" to "pattern extraction" for more systematic AI understanding by extracting structural patterns and unifying expression logic, the improved prompts help AI identify the design logic of fabrics (such as symmetry and repetition) instead of receiving information in isolation:

The basic prompts resent information in a disorderly manner (e.g., stacking features like "dark blue and white vertical stripes, black dot holes, and thin stripes" in Sample 2 without explaining their positional relationships). AI easily overlooks the connections between elements.

The improved prompts clarify the spatial relationships and design patterns of elements (e.g., "a blue stripe in the center, with one thin blue line on each side separated by 3 white warp yarns, totaling 3 vertical blue lines" and "uniform yarn thickness forming a 'symmetrical grid' color presentation" in Sample 2; "stripes on the right are symmetrical to those on the left, both featuring a checkered structure of 'alternating white warp yarns + black warp yarns' in Sample 4"), and unify the expression of "shooting angle/lighting" (e.g., fixing "shot vertically downward with uniform lighting" to avoid ambiguity in basic prompts like "vertical shooting angle with uniformity").

This reflects that AI can understand "spatial layout patterns" and "core design concepts (e.g., symmetry)", and even reduce ambiguity by unifying expression logic—significantly strengthening its ability to systematically understand information.

Thus, AI demonstrates significantly better understanding of the improved prompts than the basic ones. Through "quantitative parameters + local disassembly + pattern extraction", optimized multimodal prompts transform vague, disorderly descriptions into precise, systematic information. AI's understanding upgrades from "superficial visual recognition" to "in-depth structural and process cognition": it can not only accurately parse specific parameters but also grasp the relationship between parts and the whole, as well as identify design logic. This essentially achieves comprehensive understanding of "fabric details, processes, and design patterns", providing a more reliable information foundation for subsequent generation of fabric images that meet requirements or conduct fabric analysis.

Based on the research findings, the following workflow for generating visual replicas of hand-woven fabrics has been established for the future research:

- (1) determination of qualitative and quantitative fabric characteristics;
- (2) fabrication of a physical micro-model;
- (3) photography of the original fabric and the micro-model;
- (4) prompt writing structured as follows (Table 10):
- (5) uploading the prompt and the image of micro-models of fabric rapport.

By this way which combining the bimodal prompt and micro image of fabric the possibility of AI to understand the prompt will be increased.

Table 10. The structure of rational prompt.

Prompt element	An example/writing guide
positive prompt (what should be included)	
Fundamental description	Seamless textile surface with a pattern based on the provided repeat unit image. Photorealistic macro shot.
Condition	maintain the composition from the micro-model.

Fabric type	satin silk, 3/1 twill (denim-like texture), herringbone wool tweed, twill 3/1, satin 5-harness, herringbone, basket weave, jacquard.
Colors and color ratios	deep indigo blue (#0A1E6B) and natural off-white (#F9F9F4). Exact color relationships: [color 1] and [color 2/3].
Weave structure	3/1 twill weave, 5-harness satin weave, herringbone, basket weave, jacquard. Repeat structure by quadrants (2x2) with alternating stripe orientation: vertical warp stripes in three quadrants, horizontal weft stripes in one quadrant.
Fabric parameters	Density: ~5–7 threads per cm, clear geometric rhythm.
Surface texture	Texture character: [light nap/silky sheen/matte graininess], [S or Z twist], micro-fibers, slightly uneven thickness, natural crossings and overlaps. [If needed: pronounced diagonal ridges for twill / V-shaped 'herringbones' / smooth mirror-like surface for satin / raised patterns for jacquard]. Controlled shadows between threads, readable over-under intersections.
Weave characteristics	Plain weave with visible thread interlacing, minor manual irregularities in thread thickness and tension
Lighting	[soft/hard] [direction] light, natural color rendition, shallow depth of field, muted background in highlights.
Final appearance	Square repeat unit laid flat, symmetrical, with clear edges, no folds, no imitation of fabric draping, and no background interference
negative prompt (what should be excluded)	
Exclude the following elements and styles: cartoon or illustrative style, vector graphics, 3D render, plastic look, glossy tubes, wireframe models, perfectly even lines, flat fills, embroidery, knitting or stitching effects, text, logos, watermarks, visible pattern seams, excessive sharpness, digital noise, blurriness, and low resolution	

6. Conclusions

This study demonstrates an effective interdisciplinary approach—combining AI, semantic analysis, and textile research—to attribute and visually reconstruct handwoven fabrics, using Hong'an Homespun as a case study. AI-generated images of Hong'an Dabu checkered cloth often fail to capture its defining traits: regularity, symmetry, and repetition in line and color patterns. AI struggles with complex weaving terminology, precise yarn counts, and numerical descriptors, though it accurately interprets photographic terms like “high resolution,” “studio lighting,” and “sharp focus.”

An algorithm for generating faithful visual replicas was developed, integrating microscopic fabric analysis, structural parameter measurement, physical micro-model creation, and bimodal prompting (text + image).

Key findings are:

(1) The method—microscopy, micro-models, and structured bimodal prompts—proved scientifically robust. Semantic differential scales enabled objective AI output evaluation, while micro-models acted as visual anchors for prompt refinement and error analysis.

(2) AI models varied significantly: Midjourney and ChatGPT performed best (avg. score 0.88), balancing texture, color, and structure; DouBaoAI (0.77) rendered 3D effects well but missed geometric precision; Qwen3 (0.55) and HailuoAI (0.33) struggled with core hand-woven features.

(3) Improved prompts—featuring quantitative data (yarn count, Pantone codes) and technical terms—greatly boosted accuracy. Yet AI still falters with numerical precision and specialized vocabulary, underscoring the need for domain-specific training data.

(4) Digital reconstruction of heritage textiles like Hong'an Homespun is not just technical but cultural—it must convey “rustic elegance,” “handmade warmth,” and rhythmic pattern harmony. The fusion of craft knowledge and AI creates a sustainable bridge between intangible heritage and digital futures.

(5) The method enables digital archives of endangered weaves, educational tools, and industry applications in prototyping and technique preservation.

Future work should focus on: textile-specialized AI models, tools for local detail control, deeper integration of semantic scales in prompting, and continued use of handcrafted micro-models to guide and validate generation.

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