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## Application of chemometrics approaches to determine the virgin sesame oil adulterants using FTIR spectral data

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### Abstract

A methodology based on Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy with attenuated total reflectance sampling technique, combined with multivariate analysis, was developed to monitor the adulteration of extra virgin sesame oil with groundnut oil and palm oil. Principal components regression (PCR), Hierarchical Cluster Analysis, (HCA) and discriminant analysis (LDA) are used to quantify the percentage of adulteration based on spectral data, using different proportion of the samples. The wave numbers associated with the biochemical differences among several types of edible oils have been investigated using chemometric tools.

**Keywords:** FTIR spectroscopy, virgin sesame oil, Principal Components Analysis, Hierarchical Cluster Analysis, Discriminant Analysis

### 1. Introduction

The detection of adulteration of food products is important for consumers, industries, and retailers. Analysis of the quality and purity of the oils in general, and in edible oils, in particular, is of great relevance and has been the subject of research of several authors (Ben-Ayed *et al.*, 2013) [2]. Adulteration of pure expensive edible oils either with low-priced oils, with degraded used oils or with toxic mineral oils can have great economic and social impact, and is a serious public health problem (Johnson, 2014) [4]. Adulteration results in the integration of harmful substances in foodstuff supplied to unwary consumers.

Quite a few techniques have been applied for the quantification of adulteration of virgin sesame oil, for example, Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy, real-time mass spectrometry, gas chromatography, and high-performance liquid chromatography (Kataoka *et al.*, 2000) [5]. Optical techniques, such as Raman, fluorescence, and absorption spectroscopy, are relentless, non-destructive analytical techniques having an increasing number of applications in the study of foodstuff.

FTIR combined with chemometric methods is a powerful analytical approach. It does require minimal sample preparation, particularly when used in conjunction with attenuated total reflectance (ATR) (Vlachos *et al.*, 2006) [9]. It has been recognized as a fast analytical technique to detect and quantify the presence of adulterants because it provides important information about the presence of certain functional groups. It is also considered as a "fingerprint technique," meaning that there are no two oils with the same FTIR spectra either in the number of peaks or in the maximum peak intensities. FTIR spectroscopy allows researchers to differentiate between authentic and adulterated oils by observing the FTIR spectra changes due to the adulteration (Rohman, 2012) [10].

The principal component regression (PCR) and the Discriminant analysis techniques are well-known statistical methods, often used in quantitative prediction methodologies based on spectroscopic data (Martens and Naes, 1989) [6]. Both techniques have large acceptance in a wide range of scientific fields. The main reason is that they have been designed to meet the situation where there are many, possibly correlated, predictor variables and few samples: this scenario is common, especially in food science where developments in spectroscopy since the

seventies have revolutionized chemical analysis. They are based on reduction of data dimensionality and inverse calibration, in systems where there is a possibility to calibrate for the desired component, while implicitly modeling the other sources of variation (Miller and Miller, 2005) [7]. The spectral regions at whole frequency regions and at selected fingerprint regions were chosen for optimization, calibration and validation models. In the present study, FTIR spectroscopy combined with PCR, HCR and DA techniques was used to develop methodologies for the quantitative analyses of mixtures of sesame oil with groundnut oil and palm oil in order to predict the adulteration level of virgin sesame oil. This will also facilitate the determination of frequency regions useful to differentiate virgin sesame from other edible oils.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Sample preparation

Virgin Sesame Oil (VSO) and selected vegetable oils, namely Palm Oil (PO) and Groundnut oil (GO) were purchased from the local market. In this study, we used Virgin Sesame Oil (VGO) adulterated samples mixed with palm oil and groundnut oil in accurately weighted proportions in the range of 5-15% (v/v). These mixtures were manually shaken to ensure total homogenization.

### 2.2 FTIR measurement

Infrared spectra were collected in a "Unicam Research Series" FTIR spectrometer equipped with a single-reflection "Golden Gate" diamond ATR module, a deuterated Lalanine doped triglycene sul-fatedetector, and a KBr beamsplitter. The equipment was connected to a computer and was controlled by WinFirst 1.1 software (Madison, USA).

FTIR measurements were obtained by pipetting a small drop (~5  $\mu$ L) of edible oil on top of the ATR baseplate, which was kept at 30°C. All infrared spectra, recorded in absorbance mode, were collected in the region of 500–4,000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , co-

adding 128 interferograms at a resolution of 4 cm, the collection time being approximately 2 min. Each measurement was repeated three times and the average was obtained.

For qualitative analysis, principal components contributing to the variance of the data set were subjected to hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) linear discriminant analysis (LDA) in an attempt to predict the likelihood of a sample belonging to a previously defined group. Chemometrics analyses, including quantification using PCR calibrations, hierarchical cluster analysis and discriminant analyses was performed using the SPSS.17.0.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Principal component analysis

The following table provides the KMO index for the virgin sesame oil with adulterants of palm oil and groundnut oil. The KMO measure indicates the marvelous level of sesame oil adulterant (0.842) and Bartlett's value of 1828 with a significance of 0.000. Hence, the factor analysis was carried out further to differentiate against adulterants (Table.1).

**Table 1:** Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	0.842
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Approx. Chi-Square	1828.00
df	21
Sig.	0.000

Principal component analysis using the functional groups was performed on the FTIR spectral data of the samples. To display the points in two principal components, PC 1 and PC 2 (first and second principal components) were chosen to represent the information. For each principal component (PC), every sample has a score and every variable has a loading that represents its contribution to the combination.

**Table 2:** Factor extraction and its relative variance

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings			
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative%	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative%	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	4.502	64.320	64.320	4.502	64.320	64.320	3.984	56.914	56.914
2	2.497	35.666	99.986	2.497	35.666	99.986	3.015	43.072	99.986
3	.001	.011	99.998						
4	.000	.002	100.000						
5	0.00002814	.000	100.000						
6	0.0000005495	0.000007849	100.000						
7	0.0000001764	0.000002520	100.000						

As a first step, the correlation matrix for the 7 different adulterant groups on edible oils was examined. The results clearly indicate that all the values are positive and much variation was also noticed. In the factor extraction phase, the numbers of common factors exhibited to adequately describe the data are determined. The decision is based on the eigenvalues and percentage of total variance accounted for by different number of factors.

Since, the factors which have eigenvalues less than 1.0 are of little importance, they are not taken into account for the interpretation purpose of this study. The cumulative percentage of variance and percentage of variance accounted for each factor with eigenvalues are summarized in Table.2. From this table, it is evident that only two factor components were exhibited with eigenvalues of 4.502 and 2.497.

The first factor (component) accounts for 64.32% of the total variance and the second factor accounts for 35.66% of the variance. Hence, the total variance explained by these two factors accounts for 99.986%. So only a meager 0.014% of variance was not explained with the remaining components. In order to confirm the initial factors extracted in the principal component analysis, a rotation was carried out using VARIMAX rotation. After the initial factor extraction, the varimax rotation was carried out and the results show that even in this face, only two component models were exhibited with an eigenvalue of 3.984 and 3.015 with the percentage of variance of 56.91% for the first component and 43.07% for the second component. Hence, the total variance explained by these two component accounts for 99.98%.

It can also be seen clearly by means of the following scree plot (Fig.1) that there is a clear identification of only two components. It is a common practice to use the scree plot and loadings for the first two PCs. Fig.1 shows the principal component scree plot of the PC1 and PC2 of two adulterant samples. The results of the present study, shows that only the first two components have eigenvalues greater than 1 and that there is a big drop in eigenvalue between component 2 and component 3.



Fig 1: Scree plot for adulterated oils

After identifying the number of factors, the variables included in each factor are distinguished by means of their factor loadings. The factor loadings are considered to be the best method associated with a specific factor for a specific state which is simply the correlation between the factor and the standardized scores. The following table shows the factor loading on the 7 variables (Table.3).

Table 3: Factor loading structure of virgin sesame oil and adulterants

	Component	
	1	2
Palm oil 15%	0.919	0.395
Palm v10%	0.919	0.395
Palm oil 5%	0.919	0.395
Virgin Sesame oil%	0.918	0.397
Groundnut oil 5%	-0.610	0.397
Groundnut oil 15%	-0.614	0.894
Groundnut oil 10%	-0.616	0.894
Total	3.984	3.015
% of variance	59.914	43.072
Cumulative%	59.914	99.986

In the present study, the samples of virgin sesame oil adulterated with palm oil 15% (with a loading value 0.919), palm oil 10% (with a loading value 0.919) and palm oil 5% (with a loading value 0.919) and the virgin sesame oil are associated and form into factor 1. In the second component, adulterants of sesame oil with groundnut oil 15% (with a loading value 0.894), groundnut oil 10% (with a loading value 0.894) and groundnut oil 5% (with a loading value 0.397) are grouped into factor 2 (Table.3). This clearly indicates that in the case of sesame oil, the FTIR spectral data of the palm adulterant did not show any significant difference, whereas, the groundnut oil adulterants of 5%, 10% and 15% with the sesame oil did not come closer to the earlier factor. The factor matrix pattern also reflects the reasonable clear loading

structure which is given in Fig.2. Two factor exhibit the combination of virgin sesame oil and palm oil of different percentage as an isolated factor.

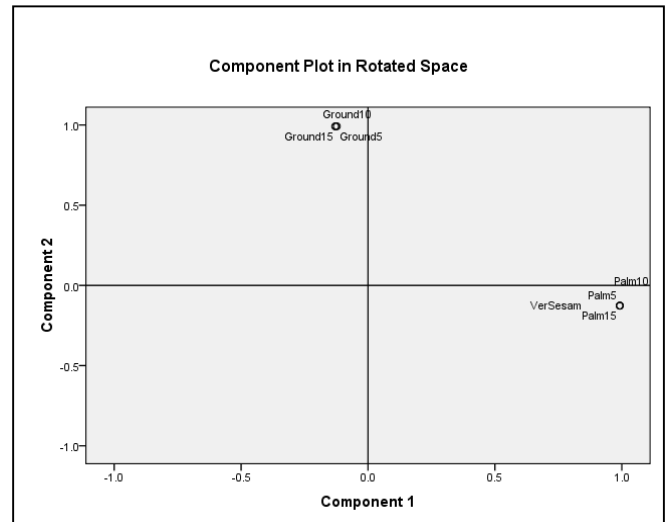


Fig 2: Principal Component analysis (PCA) under varimax rotation for the virgin sesame oil adulterants.

### 3.2 Hierarchical Cluster Analysis

The agglomeration schedule table shows the change in the coefficient which deals with the cases which are closer and forming into different clusters. The column labeled “coefficients” has the values of the distance statistic which were used to identify the distance and classify it into a cluster and the number of clusters formed at different stages can be seen in the above table. Table.4 comprises six clusters. The agglomeration schedule shows the oil samples 3 and 4 which are combined to form the first cluster with minimum coefficient value of 33.24. At stage 2, the second cluster is formed with the oil sample numbers 2 and 3 with a coefficient value of 90.606. At stage 3, the oil samples 1 and 2 are formed in the third cluster with a coefficient value of 3757.892. At stage 4, the oil samples 6 and 7 are formed into the fourth cluster with a coefficient value of 10006.275. At stage 5, the oil samples 5 and 6 are formed into the fifth cluster with a coefficient value of 40176.776. In the last stage, the oil samples 1 and 5 are joined into a sixth cluster with a coefficient value of 206900000.

Table 4: Agglomeration Schedule of virgin sesame oil adulterated with palm oil and groundnut oil

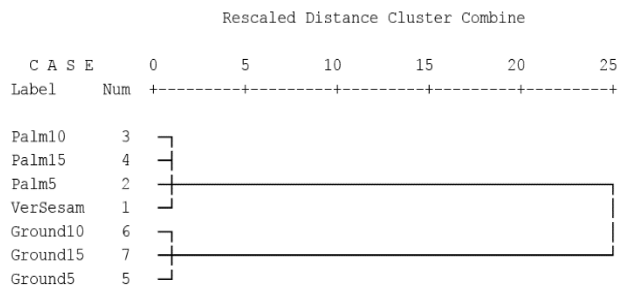
Stage	Cluster Combined		Coefficients	Stage Cluster First Appears		Next Stage
	Cluste r 1	Cluste r 2		Cluste r 1	Cluste r 2	
1	3	4	33.248	0	0	2
2	2	3	90.606	0	1	3
3	1	2	3757.892	0	2	6
4	6	7	10006.275	0	0	5
5	5	6	40176.776	0	4	6
6	1	5	206900000.00	3	5	0

The above results can be represented graphically in the form of a dendrogram, where two clusters can be identified. Since the distance is very close, only two major visible clusters are formed which were termed as cluster A and cluster B. The hierarchical cluster analysis, at the distance of oils can be grouped as follows:

**Cluster A** comprises of palm oil 10%, palm oil 15%, palm oil 5% and the virgin sesame oil.

**Cluster B** comprises of the groundnut oil 10%, groundnut oil 15% and groundnut oil 5%.

**Dendrogram using Single Linkage**



**Fig 4:** Dendrogram of edible oil data set showing two natural groupings using the single linkage method.

The dendrogram shows that the samples of palm oil 15% clustered with palm oil 10% forms into a homogenous cluster. At the second cluster level, the virgin sesame oil is clustered with palm oil 5% and the other clusters are with the longer distances (Fig.4). The dendrogram shows that the virgin sesame oil is quite homogeneous. From the above results it is clear that the groundnut oil as an adulterant with the sesame oil can easily be identified, whereas palm oil of 10% level with the groundnut oil cannot be easily identified. Detection of such natural groupings suggests that discrimination between at least some of them may be possible. The length of the branch shows how far apart each case is from the other cases in its cluster. Cases with low distance are close together. Hence, the blending of palm oil with sesame oil as adulterant is hard to find with the help of spectral data.

**3.3 Discriminant analysis**

The edible oil variable is independent of the study that comprises of two factors, namely virgin sesame oil, and adulterants namely palm oil and groundnut oil. From this output, we can see that some of the means of virgin sesame oil, palm oil and groundnut oil differ noticeably from group to group. While one attribute of edible oil construct representing the virgin sesame oil, the adulterants contain three attributes as follows: The palm oil consists three attributes, namely palm oil 5%, palm oil 10% and palm oil 15% in proportion and the groundnut oil consists of three attributes namely groundnut oil 5%, groundnut oil 10% and groundnut oil 15% in proportion. The dependent variable for the present study is the adulterant which consists of three categories 1) 5% 2) 10% and 3) 15% in proportions.

In order to determine whether the edible oils are capable for subsequent analysis, the Cronbach coefficient alpha test was conducted and it was found that edible oil adulteration coefficient alpha value is 0.835, and in fact, it is exceeding the recommended level of 0.70 observed by Nunally (1978). Therefore, the items selected for edible oil adulteration are considered as reliable for subsequent analysis. The research findings based on the Multiple Discriminant analysis on edible oil are discussed below.

Table.5 displays the means for three differences categories of edible oil, each with regard to three attributes. An examination of Table.5 shows the existence of several significant mean differences across the oil adulterants. Multiple discriminant analysis was used to explore the degree to which FTIR spectra of oils can match with the functional groups. Only the first discriminant function (Wilk’s  $\lambda=0.820$ ;  $\chi^2=23.153$ ;  $DF=4$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) was significant and explains 100% of the variance of the adulterant oil. The result of the second function is given as Wilk’s  $\lambda=1.000$ ;  $\chi^2=0.000$ ;  $DF=1$ ,  $p=0.987$  (Table.6). Since the second function is not significant, its associated statistics will not be used in the interpretation of the ability of the seven constructs to discriminate among three categories of edible oil.

**Table 5:** Mean value of spectral wave number of virgin sesame oil, palm oil and groundnut oil adulterants

Group		Mean	Std Deviation	Valid N (listwise)	
				Unweighted	Weighted
Sesame	Percent5	1524.48	1522.308	40	40.000
	Percent10	1524.48	1522.308	40	40.000
	Percent15	1524.48	1522.308	40	40.000
Palm	Percent5	1526.20	1522.517	40	40.000
	Percent10	1526.54	1522.641	40	40.000
	Percent15	1526.56	1522.578	40	40.000
Groundnut	Percent5	2686.80	1043.668	40	40.000
	Percent10	2712.36	1007.677	40	40.000
	Percent15	2709.92	1005.308	0	40.000
Total	Percent5	1912.49	1475.961	120	120.000
	Percent10	1921.13	1472.329	120	120.000
	Percent15	1920.32	1471.334	120	120.000

**Table 6:** Eigenvalues and Wilks’ Lambda

Function	Eigen value	% of Variance	Cumulative%	Canonical Correlation	Wilks' Lambda	Chi-square	df	Sig.
1	.220 <sup>a</sup>	100.0	100.0	.425	.820	23.153	4	.000
2	.000 <sup>a</sup>	.0	100.0	.002	1.000	.000	1	.987

The standardized coefficients and discriminant loadings for each attribute of edible oils are provided in Table.7. The standardized coefficients denote the partial contribution of each of the attributes of subjective norm construct to the discriminant function. The largest subjective norm constructs

to the discrimination between categories of the edible oils (Table.7). However, Hair *et al.*, (1998) <sup>[3]</sup> warn that a discussion of the standardized coefficient may lead to misinterpretations.

**Table 7:** Standardized Canonical Discriminant function Coefficients

	Function	
	1	2
Percent5	-9.640	17.901
Percent10	10.509	-17.405

**Table 8:** Structure Matrix

	Function	
	1	2
Percent10	.880*	.474
Percent15 <sup>a</sup>	.880*	.475
Percent5	.856*	.517

As it can be seen from Table.8, palm oil was the main contributing attribute of blending with groundnut oil

**Table 10:** Functions at Group Centroids

Group	Function	
	1	2
Sesame oil	-.329	.002
Palm oil	-.326	-.002
Groundnut oil	.655	0.000007080

An examination of group centroids (Table.10) clearly suggests that function 1 discriminates between groundnut oil and sesame oil. When compared to sesame oil, groundnut oil blends offers higher influence for mixing (Table.11). There is not much influence of palm oil mixing with sesame oil. Sesame oil mixing with groundnut oil influence in a positive response to be used as adulterants. Meanwhile, sesame oil is superior to groundnut oil in terms of valuing them by palm oil. Thus, sesame oil has been distinguished from groundnut oil as adulterants.

Further, discrimination was successful in classifying 47.5% of original grouped cases as correctly classified and 27.5% cross-validated grouped cases as correctly classified (Tables.11&12). Hair *et al.*, (1998) <sup>[3]</sup> provide a rough

(discriminant loading=0.880) in discriminating between all categories of edible oils. Substantive loadings (>±. 30, Hair *et al.*, 1998) <sup>[3]</sup> were also obtained from palm oil with adulterant at 15% proportion (0.475) and 10% proportion (0.474). *F*-tests of the equality of group mean, illustrated in Table.9, supported these results. All *p*-values >0.001 indicate that, for each of the other three attributes of the edible oil construct, means are equal across the two different categories of adulterants.

**Table 9:** Tests of Equality of Group Means

	Wilks' Lambda	F	Sig.
Percent5	.861	9.426	.000
Percent10	.854	9.970	.000
Percent15	.855	9.938	.000

estimate by suggesting an improvement of at least 25% on that which could be achieved by chance. Thus, research findings have obtained classification accuracy of greater than 25% achieved by chance and has cross-validated the above discriminating results.

**Table 11:** Classification Function Coefficients

	V4		
	Sesame oil	Palm oil	Groundnut oil
Percent5	-.002	-.002	-.009
Percent10	.003	.003	.010
(Constant)	-1.722	-1.725	-3.223

**Table 12:** Classification Results (a)

Group	Predicted Group Membership			Total
	Sesame oil	Palm oil	Groundnut oil	
Original Count Sesame oil	26	1	13	40
Palm oil	25	2	13	40
Groundnut oil	9	2	29	40
Ungrouped cases	1	0	0	1
% Sesame oil	65.0	2.5	32.5	100.0
Palm oil	62.5	5.0	32.5	100.0
Groundnut oil	22.5	5.0	72.5	100.0
Ungrouped cases	100.0	0	0	100.0
Cross-validated <sup>a</sup>				
Count Sesame oil	4	23	13	40
Palm oil	27	0	13	40
Groundnut oil	9	2	29	40
% Sesame oil	10.0	57.5	32.5	100.0
Palm oil	67.5	0	32.5	100.0
Groundnut oil	22.5	22.5	72.5	100.0

**4. Conclusion**

In the present study, the application of chemometrics combined with FT-IR spectroscopy proved to be in the prediction of the adulteration of the same oil with groundnut oil and palm oil. The results of the present study are an outcome of the mid-infrared analysis with different edible oils. PCR, HCA and DA techniques were found suitable for practical applications. The validation and evaluation of the

predictability of the models was attained by the analysis of a set of external samples. This study opens the perspective of future research with the goal to further decrease the number of wave numbers necessary to discriminate edible oils.

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