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Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2022, **12**, 18457

Rapid determination of lambda-cyhalothrin residues on Chinese cabbage based on MIR spectroscopy and a Gustafson–Kessel noise clustering algorithm

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Pesticide residues exceeding the standard in Chinese cabbage is harmful to human health. In order to quickly, non-destructively and effectively qualitatively analyze lambda-cyhalothrin residues on Chinese cabbage, a method involving a Gustafson–Kessel noise clustering (GKNC) algorithm was proposed to cluster the mid-infrared (MIR) spectra. A total of 120 Chinese cabbage samples with three different lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels (no lambda-cyhalothrin, and cases where the ratios of lambda-cyhalothrin and water were 1 : 500 and 1 : 100) were scanned using an Agilent Cary 630 FTIR spectrometer for collecting the MIR spectra. Next, multiple scatter correction (MSC) was employed to eliminate the effects of light scattering. Furthermore, principal component analysis (PCA) and linear discriminant analysis (LDA) were utilized to reduce the dimensionality and extract the feature information from the MIR spectra. Finally, fuzzy c-means (FCM) clustering, Gustafson–Kessel (GK) clustering, noise clustering (NC) and the GKNC algorithm were applied to cluster the MIR spectral data, respectively. The experimental results showed that the GKNC algorithm gave the best classification performance compared against the other three fuzzy clustering algorithms, and its highest clustering accuracy reached 93.3%. Therefore, the GKNC algorithm coupled with MIR spectroscopy is an effective method for detecting lambda-cyhalothrin residues on Chinese cabbage.

Received 9th March 2022
Accepted 23rd May 2022

DOI: 10.1039/d2ra01557a

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1. Introduction

Chinese cabbage, originating in China, is a major cash crop.[1] Chinese cabbage is enjoyed by people all over the world and is widely planted.[2–4] Chinese cabbage is rich in multiple nutritional components and has a high medicinal value, and therefore it occupies an important position in many vegetable markets.[5] Due to it containing protein, crude fibre, multivitamins and minerals (such as calcium, phosphorus and iron), Chinese cabbage can prevent cardiovascular disease, scurvy and cancer.[6] However, insect pests are the main reason hindering the normal growth of Chinese cabbage during the whole planting process. In order to increase production, many farmers commonly use high-concentration lambda-cyhalothrin as an insecticide.[7] However, the long-term intake of Chinese cabbage with high lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels may lead to several chronic diseases, and even death.[8–11] As food safety is gradually being taken more seriously, many countries have imposed strict limits on pesticide residues in vegetables and fruits.[12] Consumers have a high demand for high-quality and pollution-free Chinese cabbage, but many markets lack effective ways to detect lambda-cyhalothrin residues. Therefore, a fast, convenient, effective and non-destructive method is urgently required to identify lambda-cyhalothrin residues on Chinese cabbage.

Chemical analysis techniques have been widely applied to accurately detect pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables. For instance, Sivaperumal *et al.* used ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography/time-of-flight mass spectrometry (UHPLC/TOF-MS) to sensitively identify and quantify 60 pesticide residues, and proved the reliability of the method for such detection in various food samples.[13] Li *et al.* developed gas chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (GC-MS/MS) coupled with a modified QuEChERS method, which illustrated a good applicability, recovery and repeatability for the detection of 133 pesticide residues in chenpi.[14] Yang *et al.* utilized gas chromatography combined with an electron capture detector (GC-ECD) to accurately screen and quantitatively analyze 15 pesticide residues in various leafy vegetables.[15] Sun *et al.* developed a method involving ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography coupled with diode array detection (UHPLC-DAD) for the simultaneous identification of *E*/*Z*-

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fluoxastrobins, and extended its application to 160 kinds of vegetables and fruits.[16] Laura *et al.* adopted an accurate and sensitive method involving an ion chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry system (IC-MS/MS) to determine 9 highly polar anionic pesticides.[17] However, due to their typically complicated operation, high cost, time-consuming and polluting nature, it is difficult to promote the large-scale application of chemical analysis techniques for the detection of pesticide residues.

At present, infrared (IR) spectroscopy technology is considered a quite mature technique with the emergence of several new types of spectral instruments. The characteristic information of hydrogen groups in organic molecules can be obtained by scanning samples by IR spectroscopy.[18] Due to the advantages in terms of convenience, rapidity, non-destructivity, accuracy and efficiency, IR spectroscopy technology has been widely applied in many fields, such as food production,[19–21] agricultural product classification,[22–24] environment monitoring[25] and medical safety.[26–28] Especially for the detection of pesticide residues, researchers have achieved great success through utilizing IR spectroscopy technology. Sun *et al.* combined a series of methods, such as competitive adaptive reweighted sampling (CARS), iteratively retaining informative variables (IRIV), gravitational search algorithm (GSA) and support vector machine (SVM) approaches, to analyze the collected near-infrared (NIR) spectral data of lettuce leaves, and the detection accuracy for pesticide residues was up to 98.33%.[29] Jamshidi *et al.* used partial least squares (PLS) and partial least squares-discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) to establish an NIR spectral data model for cucumber, so as to be able to quickly analyze the safety of samples.[30] Yazici *et al.* developed a non-destructive detection method based on NIR spectroscopy to determine multiple pesticide residues on strawberry fruits.[31] Jamshidi *et al.* collected the visible/near-infrared (Vis/NIR) spectra of cucumber at a range of 450–1000 nm, and then applied PLS-DA to accurately classify samples with different concentrations of diazinon residue.[32] Xue *et al.* used both particle swarm optimization (PSO) and a PLS model to predict the dichlorvos residue on the surface of navel orange with Vis/NIR spectroscopy.[33] However, MIR spectroscopy technology combined with fuzzy clustering algorithms has rarely been reported as applied to detect pesticide residues in vegetables and fruits.[34]

Fuzzy clustering analysis belongs to unsupervised machine learning method. Fuzzy clustering algorithms can determine a sample's attributes by clustering and modelling unlabelled sample data.[35,36] Since the concept of fuzzy partitioning was first put forward, fuzzy clustering algorithms have been continuously extended. Among many fuzzy clustering algorithms, fuzzy c-means (FCM) clustering is the most widely applied and successful app.[37,38] FCM obtains the fuzzy membership of each sample point by optimizing the objective function, and then correctly determines the class of sample points. However, FCM is sensitive to noise data and prone to local optimization. In order to overcome the shortcomings of FCM, researchers have made a series of improvements. Gustafson and Kessel proposed a new fuzzy clustering algorithm called Gustafson–Kessel (GK) clustering.[39,40] Not only that, to solve the noise sensitivity problem of FCM, Noise clustering (NC) algorithm relaxes the noise distance to optimize the objective function.[41] The proposed GKNC algorithm is a derivation of GK clustering and the NC algorithm, and uses the Mahalanobis distance as a new distance measure to accurately cluster the analyzed data points with a high-dimensional, non-spherical or elliptical distribution. Therefore, GKNC can cluster MIR spectra with a complicated data structure and has shown good robustness.

In this paper, the Gustafson–Kessel noise clustering (GKNC) algorithm combined with MIR spectroscopy technology was proposed to quickly identify lambda-cyhalothrin residues on Chinese cabbage. The MIR spectra of Chinese cabbage were collected using an Agilent Cary 630 FTIR spectrometer. Then, multiple scatter correction (MSC) was used to reduce the MIR spectral scattering and noise effects. Furthermore, principal component analysis (PCA) and linear discriminant analysis (LDA) were applied to reduce the dimensions and extract the identification information, respectively. Finally, an optimal method for clustering MIR spectral data of Chinese cabbage was verified by running the FCM, GK, NC and GKNC algorithms.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Samples preparation

In this experiment, fresh Chinese cabbage (*Brassica rapa*, Chinese group) were purchased from the same supermarket.[42] In total, 120 Chinese cabbage leaf samples were collected under similar growth conditions. All the samples were washed adequately with water (45 °C), which removed pesticide residues on the surface of the samples effectively. Then, the samples were stored in sealed bags.

Lambda-cyhalothrin (5% EC, Shandong Shenda Crop Science Co. Ltd, Shouguang, China) was selected as the experimental pesticide. The 120 cabbage leaves were randomly and evenly divided into three groups, so each group had 30 leaves. Lambda-cyhalothrin and clear water were mixed made into two different concentrations of solution, with ratios of 1 : 500 and 1 : 100 respectively. Group A were sprayed with water as the control group. Two different concentrations of lambda-cyhalothrin solution were sprayed on the surface of groups B and C, respectively, striving to maintain a uniform and comprehensive spraying.

In order to reduce the effect of water, all the prepared samples were placed in a cool and ventilated place for 24 h. Before MIR spectra collection, the samples of Chinese cabbage leaves were made into 2 mm × 2 mm small samples.

2.2 MIR spectra collection

An Agilent Cary 630 FTIR spectrometer (Agilent Technologies Co., USA) was utilized to collect the MIR spectral data of Chinese cabbage. Micro lab PC and Resolutions Pro were used as the data collection software. During the whole collection process, the experimental temperature and relative humidity were kept at about 25 °C and 50–60%, respectively. The spectrometer adopted an ATR (attenuated total reflectance) adapter

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to scan the Chinese cabbage samples 64 times. The resolution ratio of the Agilent Cary 630 FTIR spectrometer was 8 cm^{-1}, and the background scanning was set to 64 times. The wavenumber range of the collected MIR spectra was 4000–400 cm^{-1}. Also, the dimensionality of the collected spectral data was 971.

2.3 MIR spectra preprocessing

The collected MIR spectral data contained light scatter information, such as noise, baseline shift and translation. At the same time, light scattering was also affected by the sample size and the external environment. Due to the existence of light scattering information in the original spectral data, the results from the direct classification were unsatisfactory. Multiple scatter correction (MSC) was utilized as an effective and common spectral data preprocessing method.[24] Therefore, MSC preprocessed the MIR spectral data of Chinese cabbage to eliminate the light scattering effectively and to enhance the spectral absorption information related to the contents of the components.

2.4 Feature extraction and dimension reduction methods

The collected MIR spectra represented the high-dimensional data (the dimensionality of the MIR spectra was 971), so they also contained redundant information and noisy data. Not only that, the high-dimensional data caused the curse of dimensionality. In order to reduce the huge amount of computation required and to improve the modelling accuracy, feature extraction and dimension reduction methods were used to process the MIR spectra of the Chinese cabbage leaves. Principal component analysis (PCA) was used to map the high-dimensional data to the low-dimensional space to reduce the dimensionality of the MIR spectra while retaining the largest variance information.[43] Linear discriminant analysis (LDA) was used as a feature extraction and dimension reduction method based on scatter matrixes.[44] With the LDA process, the spectral data were transformed and the data belonging to different classes were separated as much as possible so as to accurately classify Chinese cabbage samples with three different lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels in the low-dimensional data. In this paper, PCA and LDA were applied to reduce the dimensionality of the MIR spectra and extract the feature information from the MIR spectra.

2.5 Gustafson–Kessel noise clustering (GKNC) algorithm

In this paper, a new clustering algorithm called Gustafson–Kessel noise clustering (GKNC) was proposed which uses the combination of GK clustering and the NC algorithm while including their advantages. GKNC adopted the Mahalanobis distance to replace the original Euclidean distance. Therefore, GKNC expanded the range of data to be clustered. The GKNC was able to accurately perform cluster analysis on the non-spherical or elliptical data by automatically adjusting the distance measures. The detailed description of the GKNC algorithm is as follows.

Given an unlabelled data set $X = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n\} \subset \mathscr{R}^p$, the objective function of the GKNC algorithm is defined as:

$$J_{\mathrm{GKNC}}(X; U, V) = \sum_{i=1}^{c}\sum_{k=1}^{n} {u_{ik}}^m D_{ik}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{c}\sum_{k=1}^{n} \delta_{ik}^2 \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{c} u_{ik}\right)^m \tag{1}$$

where c is the number of sample categories, n is the number of sample data, X is an unlabelled data set, U is the fuzzy membership matrix and is set as $U = [u_{ik}]_{c\times n}$, u_{ik} is the fuzzy membership value of the data point x_k belonging to the ith cluster centre v_i, $V = \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_i\}$ is the cluster centre matrix, v_i is the ith cluster centre, m is the fuzzy weight parameter, D_{ik}^2 is distance norm matrix, and δ_{ik}^2 is the parameter. The equations of D_{ik}^2 and δ_{ik}^2 are defined as:

$$S_{fi} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n} {u_{ik}}^m (x_k - v_i)(x_k - v_i)^T}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} {u_{ik}}^m}, 1 \le i \le c \tag{2}$$

$$D_{ik}^2 = (x_k - v_i)^T S_{fi} (x_k - v_i),\ 1 \le i \le c,\ 1 \le k \le n \tag{3}$$

$$\delta_{ik}^2 = \left|S_{fi}\right| \left[\sum_{j=1}^{c} \left(\frac{D_{ik}^2}{D_{jk}^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}\right]^{-1}, 1 \le i \le c, 1 \le k \le n \tag{4}$$

where S_{fi} is the fuzzy covariance matrix of the ith cluster centre. The constraint conditions of the GKNC algorithm are: the fuzzy membership value $u_{ik} \in [0, 1]$ and the fuzzy weight parameter $m > 1$ and $1 < c < n$. The fuzzy membership matrix U and the cluster centre's matrix V are calculated by minimizing the objective function of the GKNC algorithm under constraint conditions.

$$u_{ik} = \frac{\left(\delta_{ik}^2 D_{ik}^{-2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{c} \left(\delta_{jk}^2 D_{jk}^{-2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}}, 1 \le i \le c, 1 \le k \le n \tag{5}$$

$$v_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n} {u_{ik}}^m x_k}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} {u_{ik}}^m}, 1 \le i \le c \tag{6}$$

The initialization of the GKNC algorithm is performed described as follows:

(1) Assign values to parameters such as m, c, n and ε. The fuzzy weight parameter $m > 1$, the threshold $\varepsilon > 0$ and $1 < c < n$.

(2) Set the maximum number of iteration $r_{\max}$ and the number of initial iteration $r_0 = 1$.

(3) The terminal fuzzy membership and the terminal cluster centres of FCM are used as the initial fuzzy membership $u_{ik}^{(0)}$ and the initial cluster centre $v_i^{(0)}$ of the GKNC algorithm.

(4) The terminal fuzzy membership and the terminal cluster centres of FCM are utilized to calculate the constant δ_{ik}^2 by eqn (2)–(4);

The iteration steps of the GKNC algorithm are:

Step 1: Calculate the norm matrix D_{ik}^2 by eqn (2) and (3).

Step 2: Update the fuzzy membership value $u_{ik}^{(r)}$ by eqn (5).

Step 3: Update the typical value $v_i^{(r)}$ by eqn (6).

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Step 4: Add the number of iterations r.

The termination condition of ($\|v_i^{(r)} - v_i^{(r-1)}\| < \varepsilon$) or $r > r_{\max}$ is then judged. If the termination condition is met, the iteration ends.

The GKNC algorithm uses the terminal fuzzy membership values and the terminal cluster centres to identify the Chinese cabbage samples with four pesticide residue levels.

2.6 Software

MSC, PCA, LDA and fuzzy clustering algorithms, such as FCM, GK, NC and GKNC, were run on Matlab 2016a (Mathworks Co., USA) under the Windows 10 system. The computer processor was an i7 core.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Spectral analysis

In this study, the wavenumber range of the collected MIR spectra was 4000–400 cm^{-1}. The MIR spectra contained a lot of characteristic functional group information as shown in Fig. 1. Fresh Chinese cabbage contains plenty of water, so the MIR spectra were greatly affected by water. The three main absorption peaks in the 3600–3200 cm^{-1}, 1700–1500 cm^{-1}, and 1100–900 cm^{-1} regions were due to the specific absorption of water. Not only that, the chemical bonds, such as C–O and P–O stretching vibrations, ranged from 1200 to 1100 cm^{-1}. The region of 1500–1200 cm^{-1} mainly contained the C–H, N–H distortion vibrations and the N–O, N=O stretching vibrations. Because Chinese cabbage with different lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels had different functional group information, the MIR spectra were able to accurately express all the samples.

In order to eliminate the influence of noise interference and instrument detection on the original spectral data, it was necessary to preprocess the data. The MIR spectral data were preprocessed by MSC in Fig. 2.

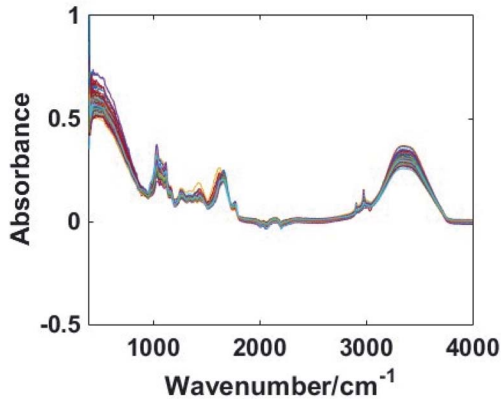

Fig. 2 MIR spectra preprocessed by MSC.

3.2 PCA analysis

For further analysis, PCA was applied to reduce the dimensionality of the MIR spectra data. In this study, because the first 22 principal components explained 98.9% of the total variance and fully retained the characteristic information of the spectral data, PCA mapped 971-dimensional spectral data to the 22-dimensional feature space, and the dimensions were reduced from 971 to 22. The first 22 eigenvalues were as follows: $\lambda_1 = 2.070$, $\lambda_2 = 1.230$, $\lambda_3 = 0.830$, $\lambda_4 = 0.410$, $\lambda_5 = 0.224$, $\lambda_6 = 0.135$, $\lambda_7 = 0.082$, $\lambda_8 = 0.062$, $\lambda_9 = 0.061$, $\lambda_{10} = 0.032$, $\lambda_{11} = 0.029$, $\lambda_{12} = 0.028$, $\lambda_{13} = 0.021$, $\lambda_{14} = 0.018$, $\lambda_{15} = 0.016$, $\lambda_{16} = 0.012$, $\lambda_{17} = 0.011$, $\lambda_{18} = 0.010$, $\lambda_{19} = 0.008$, $\lambda_{20} = 0.007$, $\lambda_{21} = 0.006$, $\lambda_{22} = 0.005$. The first 22 principal components were directly clustered by four fuzzy clustering algorithms, and the highest clustering accuracy of GKNC was only 63.3%. In order to visualize the spectral data information processed by PCA, the scores plot of the first two principal components were drawn. As shown in Fig. 3, the MIR spectral data of the Chinese cabbage had no unique feature areas and severely overlapped. Due to the existence of redundant data, it was difficult for the fuzzy clustering algorithms to identify the Chinese cabbage samples. In order to accurately classify the Chinese cabbage samples, the MIR spectral data needed to be further processed.

3.3 LDA analysis

LDA, as a supervised dimensionality reduction algorithm, is commonly used to extract discrimination information from data. PCA was first applied to reduce the dimensionality of the high-dimension data while avoiding the problem of small samples

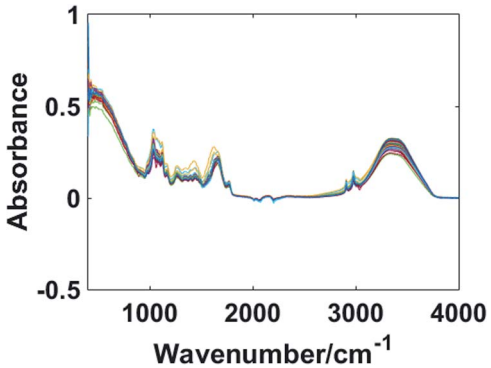

Fig. 1 Raw spectra of the Chinese cabbage samples.

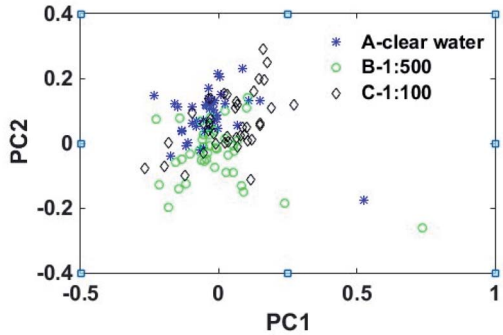

Fig. 3 PCA scores plot of the vectors with PC1 and PC2.

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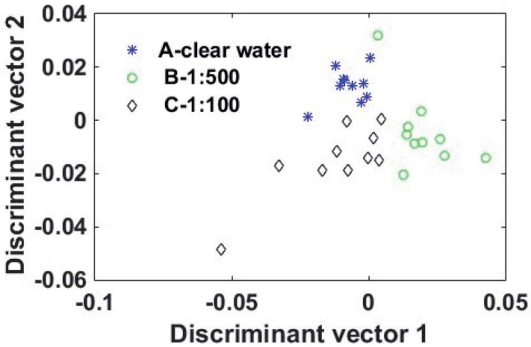

Fig. 4 LDA scores plot of the vectors with DV1 and DV2.

when LDA extracted discriminant information. In this study, LDA extracted the feature vectors from the 22-dimensional spectral data. The Chinese cabbage samples were divided into the training set and the test set. The number of the training samples was 90 and the number of the test samples was 30. Due to the Chinese cabbage samples being classified according to three lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels, the training set was processed to produce two optimal discriminant vectors (DV1 and DV2). The 22-dimensional spectral data of the 30 test samples were projected to DV1 and DV2, so they were transformed into two-dimensional data. Fig. 4 shows the scores plot of the two optimal discriminant vectors. As shown in Fig. 4, the MIR spectral data of the Chinese cabbage samples with three different lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels had good distribution areas.

3.4 Classification results of the FCM clustering algorithm

In this section, fuzzy c-means (FCM) clustering was applied to cluster the MIR spectral data of the test samples after PCA dimension reduction and LDA feature information extraction. All the relevant parameters needed to be reset before running FCM clustering. The parameters were as follows: threshold value $\varepsilon = 0.00001$, fuzzy weight parameter $m = 3$, number of sample categories $c = 3$, number of test samples $n = 30$, maximum number of iterations $r_{\max} = 100$ and the initial number of iterations $r_0 = 1$. The initial cluster centres were the average values of the Chinese cabbage sample data of each concentration after LDA, so the initial cluster centres of FCM were:

$$V^{(0)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1^{(0)} \\ v_2^{(0)} \\ v_3^{(0)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0222 & 0.0012 \\ 0.0007 & 0.0234 \\ -0.0004 & 0.0090 \end{bmatrix} \tag{7}$$

The terminal cluster centres were obtained by running FCM after 15 iterations. The terminal fuzzy membership values are shown in Fig. 5. Therefore, the terminal cluster centres of FCM were determined according to eqn (8).

$$V^{(15)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1^{(15)} \\ v_2^{(15)} \\ v_3^{(15)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0137 & -0.0154 \\ -0.0061 & 0.0132 \\ 0.0177 & -0.0078 \end{bmatrix} \tag{8}$$

In this experiment, the average values for the Chinese cabbage training samples were: group A $\bar{x}_1 = [-0.0053 \quad 0.0140]$, group B $\bar{x}_2 = [0.0192 \quad -0.0028]$ and group C $\bar{x}_3 = [-0.0140 \quad -0.0091]$. The Euclidean distances between $v_i^{(15)}$ and $\bar{x}_i$ were calculated, so as to determine which variety $v_i^{(15)}$ belonged to. Therefore, the Euclidean distances were: $\|v_1^{(15)} - \bar{x}_1\| = 0.0306$, $\|v_1^{(15)} - \bar{x}_2\| = 0.0352$, and $\|v_1^{(15)} - \bar{x}_3\| = 0.0063$. Due to the Euclidean distance between $v_1^{(15)}$ and $\bar{x}_3$ being the smallest, $v_1^{(15)}$ belonged to the group C. Not only that, the varieties of $v_2^{(15)}$ and $v_3^{(15)}$ were determined in the same way. $v_2^{(15)}$ and $v_3^{(15)}$ belonged to groups A and B, respectively.

The terminal fuzzy membership values of FCM were also used to classify the Chinese cabbage test samples. If the terminal fuzzy membership value u_{ik} that was produced by the kth test sample x_k was the biggest, x_k belonged to v_i. For instance, $u_{15}^{(15)} = 0.0977$, $u_{25}^{(15)} = 0.8165$ and $u_{35}^{(15)} = 0.0858$, so $u_{25}^{(15)} > u_{15}^{(15)} > u_{35}^{(15)}$. Due to x_5 belonging to $v_2^{(15)}$, x_5 belonged to group A. Moreover, the classification accuracy of FCM was 80%.

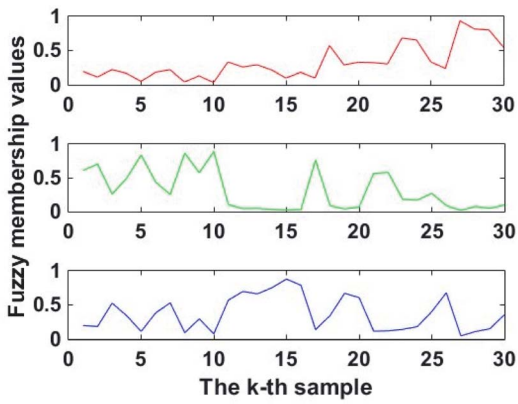

Fig. 5 Terminal fuzzy membership values of FCM.

3.5 Classification results of the GK clustering algorithm

GK clustering based on the Mahalanobis distance was utilized to cluster the MIR spectral data of the test samples. Before running GK, the parameters such as ε, m, c, n, r_0 and $r_{\max}$ were set the same as for the FCM. After 100 iterations, the terminal fuzzy membership values were determined and are shown in Fig. 6. The terminal cluster centres of GK were:

$$V^{(100)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1^{(100)} \\ v_2^{(100)} \\ v_3^{(100)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0024 & -0.0148 \\ -0.0108 & 0.0117 \\ 0.0156 & -0.0042 \end{bmatrix} \tag{9}$$

Like FCM clustering, the terminal cluster centres and the terminal fuzzy membership values that were produced by GK were used to identify the Chinese cabbage varieties. The terminal cluster centres $v_1^{(100)}$, $v_2^{(100)}$ and $v_3^{(100)}$ were determined in terms of which variety they belonged to by calculating the distances between $v_i^{(100)}$ and $\bar{x}_i$. Therefore, the terminal cluster

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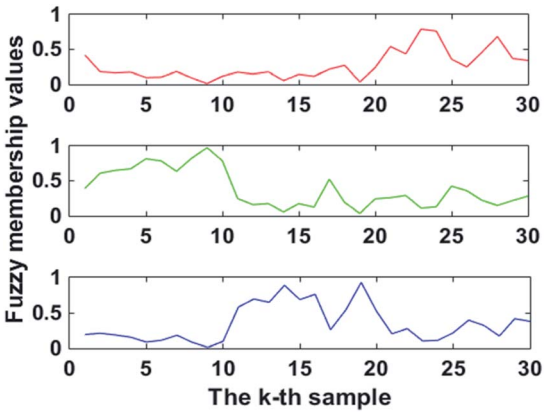

Fig. 6 Terminal fuzzy membership values of GK.

centres $v_1^{(100)}$, $v_2^{(100)}$ and $v_3^{(100)}$ belonged to groups C, A and B, respectively. Not only that, the terminal fuzzy membership values of the 5th test sample were: $u_{15}^{(100)} = 0.0514$, $u_{25}^{(100)} = 0.8364$ and $u_{35}^{(100)} = 0.1122$. Therefore, sample x_5 was classified into group A. The classification accuracy of GK reached 73.3%.

3.6 Classification results of the NC algorithm

NC was applied to classify the Chinese cabbage varieties by the terminal fuzzy membership values. Like FCM, some parameters needed to be reset before running NC. Therefore, some parameters were: threshold $\varepsilon = 0.00001$, fuzzy weight value $m = 3$, class number $c = 3$, amount of test set $n = 30$ and the maximum number of iterations $r_{\max} = 100$. The initial cluster centres of NC came from the terminal cluster centres of FCM. Therefore, the terminal fuzzy membership values of NC are illustrated in Fig. 7. The terminal cluster centres of NC were:

$$V^{(10)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1^{(10)} \\ v_2^{(10)} \\ v_3^{(10)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0104 & -0.0149 \\ -0.0075 & 0.0145 \\ 0.0183 & -0.0074 \end{bmatrix} \tag{10}$$

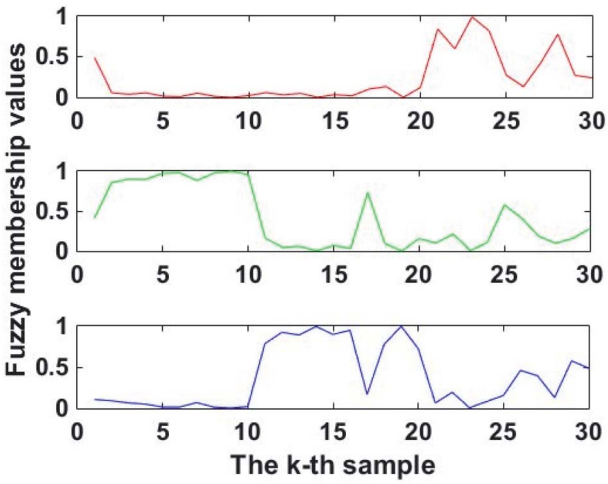

Fig. 7 Terminal fuzzy membership values of NC.

For clustering results analysis, the terminal cluster centres $v_1^{(10)}$, $v_2^{(10)}$ and $v_3^{(10)}$ belonged to groups C, A and B, respectively. On the other hand, the terminal fuzzy membership values of the third Chinese cabbage test sample were: $u_{15}^{(10)} = 0.0050$, $u_{25}^{(10)} = 0.8455$ and $u_{35}^{(10)} = 0.0026$. The Chinese cabbage test sample x_5 belonged to $v_2^{(10)}$; that is to say, x_5 belonged to group A. As a result, the classification accuracy of NC was 90%.

3.7 Classification results of the GKNC algorithm

Unlike NC, GKNC adopted the Mahalanobis distance to replace the Euclidean distance. GKNC also offered the terminal fuzzy membership values to classify the Chinese cabbage samples. Some parameters of the GKNC program were: class number $c = 3$, threshold value $\varepsilon = 0.00001$, fuzzy weight value $m = 3$, number of test samples $n = 30$, and the maximum iteration $r_{\max} = 100$. δ_{ik}^2 was calculated by the terminal fuzzy membership values of FCM and the terminal cluster centres of FCM. Not only that, the terminal cluster centres of FCM were used as the initial cluster centres of GKNC. After one iteration, the terminal fuzzy membership values of GKNC were determined, as shown in Fig. 8. Therefore, the terminal cluster centres of GKNC were:

$$V^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1^{(1)} \\ v_2^{(1)} \\ v_3^{(1)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0141 & -0.0155 \\ -0.0060 & 0.0129 \\ 0.0171 & -0.0086 \end{bmatrix} \tag{11}$$

The terminal fuzzy membership values provided by GKNC had the same classification principle as FCM, GK and NC. The clustering accuracy of GKNC was 93.3%. Furthermore, the classification accuracy of GKNC was higher than that of FCM, GK and NC.

3.8 Selection of the optimal fuzzy weight value and test samples

Four fuzzy clustering algorithms, namely FCM, GK, NC and GKNC, were applied to cluster the test samples. Therefore, the fuzzy membership values generated by four fuzzy clustering algorithms were able to classify the Chinese cabbage samples

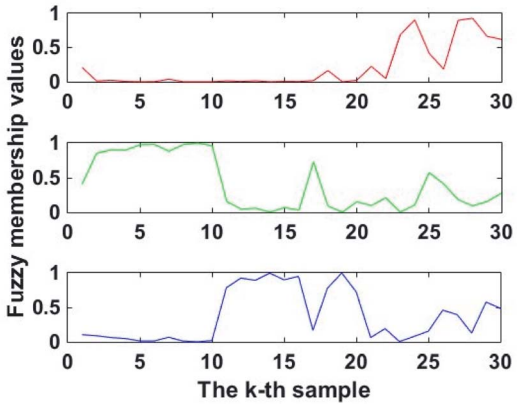

Fig. 8 Terminal fuzzy membership values of GKNC.

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Table 1 Clustering accuracies of FCM, GK, NC and GKNC with different fuzzy weight values (m)

m	FCM	GK	NC	GKNC
2.3	80%	53.3%	90%	93.3%
2.5	80%	50%	90%	93.3%
2.8	80%	70%	90%	93.3%
3	80%	73.3%	90%	93.3%
3.3	80%	73.3%	90%	93.3%
3.5	80%	80%	90%	93.3%
3.8	80%	83.3%	90%	93.3%
4	83.3%	86.7%	86.7%	93.3%

with three different lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels. However, the fuzzy weight value (m) and the number of test samples (n_test) were important factors to change the fuzzy membership values. Before running the four fuzzy clustering algorithms, the fuzzy weight value (m) was changed and the remaining parameters remained unchanged (especially the number of training samples n_training = 90 and the number of test samples n_test = 30). The clustering accuracy also changed owing to the change of the fuzzy weight value (m). From Table 1, the fuzzy membership values from GKNC produced the maximum classification accuracy compared to the other fuzzy clustering algorithms.

On the other hand, the number of training samples and training samples were changed, and the fuzzy weight value (m) was set as $m = 3$. The clustering results are shown in Table 2, and the classification accuracies of GKNC can be seen to be obviously higher than for the others.

In order to compare the clustering accuracies of the four fuzzy clustering algorithms under different conditions, the fuzzy weight value (m) and the number of training samples were modified at the same time. The clustering accuracies are shown in Table 3. As shown in Table 3, the classification accuracies of GKNC had the highest clustering accuracies, reaching 93.3%.

Table 2 Clustering accuracies of FCM, GK, NC and GKNC with different numbers of test samples and training samples

n_training	n_test	FCM	GK	NC	GKNC
90	30	80%	73.3%	90%	93.3%
84	36	80.6%	47.2%	86.1%	91.7%
75	45	84.4%	42.2%	86.7%	93.3%
72	48	85.4%	43.8%	87.5%	91.7%

Table 3 Clustering accuracies of FCM, GK, NC and GKNC with different fuzzy weight values (m) and training samples

m	n_training	n_test	FCM	GK	NC	GKNC
2	90	30	80%	53.3%	86.7%	93.3%
2.5	87	33	80.8%	73.7%	87.8%	92.9%
3	84	36	78.7%	71.3%	87%	92.6%
3.5	78	42	83.3%	73%	86.5%	92.9%
4	75	45	83.7%	73.3%	89.6%	93.3%

Table 4 Clustering accuracies of the four algorithms with different fuzzy weight values (m) and training samples

m	n_training	n_test	FCM	GK	NC	GKNC
2	90	30	80%	53.3%	85.8%	93.3%
2.5	87	33	80.3%	73.5%	86.4%	93.2%
3	84	36	80.6%	70.1%	86.1%	92.4%
3.5	78	42	82.9%	73.2%	86%	93.3%
4	75	45	83.3%	73.3%	90%	93.3%

3.9 Selection of different numbers of concentration levels

In order to further prove the superior performance of the GKNC algorithm, a new concentration level (the ratio of lambda-cyhalothrin and water was 1 : 20) was added. FCM, GK, NC and GKNC were used to identify and classify the four different lambda-cyhalothrin concentrations of Chinese cabbage samples. The clustering accuracies of the four algorithms are shown in Table 4. The clustering accuracies of GKNC were significantly higher than that of FCM, GK and NC.

4. Conclusions

To qualitatively determine lambda-cyhalothrin residues in Chinese cabbage quickly, non-destructively and effectively, the Gustafson–Kessel noise clustering (GKNC) algorithm coupled with MIR spectroscopy was proposed. The GKNC algorithm is a derivation of Gustafson–Kessel (GK) clustering and noise clustering (NC). The MIR spectral data were collected for 120 Chinese cabbage samples of three lambda-cyhalothrin residue levels using an Agilent Cary 630 FTIR spectrometer. MIR spectra were processed by multiple scatter correction (MSC), principal component analysis (PCA) and linear discriminant analysis (LDA). Finally, four fuzzy clustering algorithms, namely fuzzy c-means (FCM) clustering, Gustafson–Kessel (GK) clustering, noise clustering (NC) and GKNC, were used to cluster the spectral data. GKNC was able to identify and classify the lambda-cyhalothrin concentration of Chinese cabbage accurately and had the highest classification accuracies compared to the other three fuzzy clustering algorithms. The experimental results proved that the GKNC algorithm coupled with MIR spectroscopy was superior in the identification of lambda-cyhalothrin residues on Chinese cabbage.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have influenced the work reported in this paper.

Acknowledgements

The authors sincerely thank National Natural Science Foundation of China (31471413), and Key R&D Program of Zhejiang Province (2021C03178).

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