

NIR Quantitative Model Establishment of Cotton-Polyester Blend Fabrics and Related Problem Exploration

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Abstract In waste textile recycling, the rapid and accurate determination of fiber type and content is a key part of the recovery program. In this paper, 598 waste cotton-polyester blended fabrics were used as the research object, and the raw near infrared spectra (NIRS) of the samples were tested by portable NIR spectrometer. In the 1400~1700 and 1900~2200 nm NIR regions, there was a clear difference between the spectra of 100% cotton and 100% polyester samples, and these spectral differences were reflected in the various color fibers. At the same time, the reason why the slant spectrum was produced might be surface effect of the fabric, the coloring method and the fine particles adhered to the fiber surface. Dark samples tended to drift their spectral baselines in the shortwave region. After the derivative pretreatment, the baseline drift was basically eliminated, and the oblique spectrum showed normal spectral characteristics. The quantitative analysis model of waste cotton-polyester blend fabric was established by partial least squares (PLS) method combined with 1st derivative, Savitzky-Golay (S-G) smoothing, mean centering and orthogonal signal correction (OSC) method. In order to verify the reliability of the model, root mean standard error of cross validation (RMSECV) was calculated and 346 external samples were selected to test the model. The RMSECV of the model was 0.002, and the relational coefficient of calibration (R_C) was 0.998, and the relational coefficient of prediction (R_P) was 0.997, and the standard error of prediction (SEP) was 1.121, and the prediction accuracy of the model was up to 97%. The error of NIR predictive value and gravimetric determination was within $\pm 3\%$, and the consistency between the two is more than 90%, while the error was within $\pm 5\%$, and the consistency was above 95%, and the analysis time of each sample was less than 10 seconds. Therefore, the waste cotton-polyester blend fabric fiber content could be quickly and accurately predicted by using NIR technology combined with the model.

Keywords NIR; Cotton-polyester blend fabrics; Baseline drift; Slant spectrum; Quantitative model
中图分类号: O657.3 **文献标识码:** A **DOI:** 10.3964/j.issn.1000-0593(2019)02-0634-06

Received: 2016-09-05; **accepted:** 2017-02-16

Foundation item: the National key Research and Development Program of China "Regenerative Polyester Fiber Efficient Preparation Technology" (2016YFB0302900), the Beijing Municipal Education Commission Promotion Project (16317) and China Chemical Fiber Industry Association Green Fund project(2016-09)

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Introduction

As type and composition of textile is very complicated, during the waste cotton-polyester blend fabric recycling, a key issue is how to identify fiber type and determinate its content accurately. At the factory, most textiles are sorted manually, but the disadvantage of this way is obvious, such as low recognition accuracy, high manpower and financial input. In the laboratory, the two mainly quantitative analysis methods of textile fiber are chemical dissolution and microscopic observation^[1]. Due to long testing time, complicated analysis process and sample damage etc. shortcomings, the development of recycling waste textiles has been seriously hampered. Therefore, to explore a rapid, non-destructive and non-polluting quantitative method is very urgent. The NIR spectroscopy has many advantages mentioned above, at the same time since its equipment are able to adapt to the environment, easy to maintain and easy to operate, it has been widely used in many fields, including agriculture, petrochemicals, textile and pharmaceuticals^[2-3]. The application of NIR diffuse reflectance spectroscopy in the analysis of textile materials is mainly used to identify the material composition and predict the content of unknown samples^[4], to verify the feasibility of quantitative analysis of fiber content in blended fabrics^[5]. In 2015, Geng Xiang et al^[6] established a quantitative analysis model of orientation degree of cotton and hemp fiber using PLS method. The model could predict the degree of orientation of unknown samples and identify cotton and hemp according to the degree of orientation obtained. James Rodgers^[7] established the quantitative model of NIR for dyed cotton-polyester blended fabrics and explored the feasibility of NIR spectroscopy for quantitative analysis of dyed fabrics, but these studies could not be applied to on-site analysis.

A total of 598 cotton-polyester blend fabric samples were studied in this paper, and 252 samples of wide blend content range were used in calibration set (were pretreated by OSC and derivative etc.) to establish the quantitative analysis model^[8], and the remaining 346 fabrics were used for prediction set to validate the accuracy and robustness of the model. The experiment results showed that sample analysis time was less than 10 seconds. In this article, results of initial assessment on accurately measuring the fibers content of waste cotton-polyester blend fabrics using NIR have been proved applicable.

1 Experiment

1.1 Sample selection

All of 598 cotton-polyester blend fabrics were supplied

by Jinghuan Textile Recycling Handan Co., Ltd. and Zhejiang Green Environmental Protection Co., Ltd. The sample set had a wide range of blended fabric content (from 0% polyester ~ 100% polyester), various fabric colors and stitch structures. First of all, 598 blend fabrics were selected by FT-MIR (Nicolet Nexus 670, America). From Fig.1 we could see, 100% polyester fabrics have strong absorption in 1 711.7 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C-O}}$), 1 243.4 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{C-O})$) and 1 094.9 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{sC-O}}$) spectral regions, and 100% cotton fabrics characteristic absorption in 3 332.0 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{O-H}}$), 1 427.6 cm^{-1} ($\delta_{\text{O-H}}$), 1 025 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C-O}}$), fibers content was obtained by the national standard method (GB/T 2910.11—2009)^[9], where the cotton fiber in the cotton-polyester blend fabrics was dissolved with 75% H_2SO_4 , and the rest of the polyester content was acquired by gravimetric method.

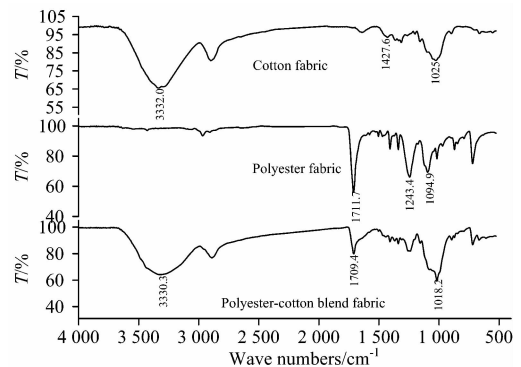


Fig. 1 MIR absorption spectra for cotton, polyester and cotton-polyester fabrics

1.2 Spectral collecting and processing

In the laboratory, temperature and humidity were 25 °C and 50%~70% of the conditions. NIR spectra of 252 cotton-polyester blend fabrics were measured on a portable SupNIR-1550 diffuse-reflection NIR spectrometer (Focused Photonics Inc. Hangzhou, China) with co-adding 30 scans ranging from 1 100 to 2 500 nm at 11 nm resolution. Each sample spectrum was produced by three-times-averaging, and the best thickness of tested samples was thicker than 3mm, which could prevent NIR light from passing through the sample and collecting background information. All of 598 cotton-polyester blend fabric samples had been washed to remove surface oil based stains, among which 252 samples were used in calibration set, and the other 346 swatches were used for validation set to verify the accuracy of the model. 100% cotton and 100% polyester fibers spectra were measured and compared. Fig.2 demonstrated that significant spectral differences of 100% cotton and 100% polyester were readily observed in several spectra regions, especially in the 1 400~1 700 and 1 900~2 200 nm, and these distinctive features could be used as a mark of the qualitative analyses of waste cotton-polyester

blend fabrics. The NIR quantitative analysis calibration model was established by using PLS method and the model was validated by the parameters of R_c , SEC, R_p and SEP.

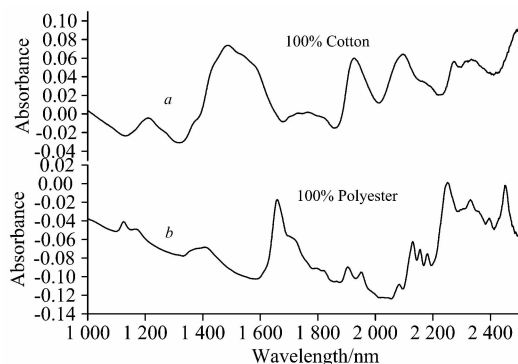


Fig. 2 The NIR absorbance spectra for cotton (a) and polyester (b)

The primary NIR spectra (between visible and MIR spectral regions) were generally concerned with the region of 1 100~2 500 nm^[10-11] and were mainly the combinations of band and overtone band of several hydrogen-containing groups (such as C—H, N—H, S—H, O—H). In addition, strong NIR absorption bands were also observed for carbonyl and acylamino organic compounds, almost covering all organic compounds and mixtures. However, as a result of that fact that NIR spectra often had relatively low absorption intensity and sensitivity, contained broad and blunt spectral, these broad-spectrum information needed to be extracted using characteristics to obtain NIR characteristic spectrum of the fabric. Various methods for processing NIR data have been reported in the literature, including: spectral data pretreatment and wavelength selection, such as OSC, net analysis signal (NAS), wavelet transform (WT), PLS, principal component analysis (PCA) etc. For qualitative and quantitative analysis of textiles, fabric components yield distinct absorption at a specific wavelength that could be used to identify and differentiate fabric categories.

2 Results and Discussions

2.1 Fabric content reference value determination

The reference value of the content of polyester-cotton blended samples was determined by acid dissolution method, in which cotton-polyester blend fabric was dissolved with 75% sulfuric acid, and the amount of cotton in the sample was calculated from the insoluble polyester. The reaction could be carried out in a water bath at 50 °C for about 1 hour, and the content of each sample was measured twice in parallel and the absolute error of the two measurement results did not exceed $\pm 3\%$. The average was used as a reference for the

sample content established by the model.

2.2 NIR Spectra Analysis

The NIR spectra of 252 training samples were shown in Fig. 3. As could be seen from the spectrum, which presented two different types, one was normal spectrums, and the other one was slash spectra (spectral features disappear completely). At the same time, a few samples showed different baselines than most of the modeling samples (Fig. 3). These baseline drift area was normally in 1 100~1 955 nm. It was possible that these baseline drifts were caused by differences in fabric stitch structure, delusterant or dyeing method. Samples of different stitch structure normally generate slightly difference to NIR spectra, and the baseline drift was usually produced by darker colored fabrics, as shown in Figure 4. Fabric surface effects (e. g. decolorant, delusterant) often led to slash spectra, so did the fine particles, which were attached to the surface of the fiber. A photograph of the microscope was shown in Figure 5, which documented the microstructure of the fiber. As these microscopic photographs showed, the fiber surface of slash spectra samples was rough compared to most of the modeling samples and the fiber surface was distorted, as shown at 1, 2 in Fig. 5, which could reduce the light reflection of the fiber due to the loss of their luster. It was much more probable that these features brought about the formation of slash spectra^[9]. While the fiber surface of normal NIR spectroscopy tended to be smooth with no other particles on its surface, as shown at 3,4 in Fig. 5.

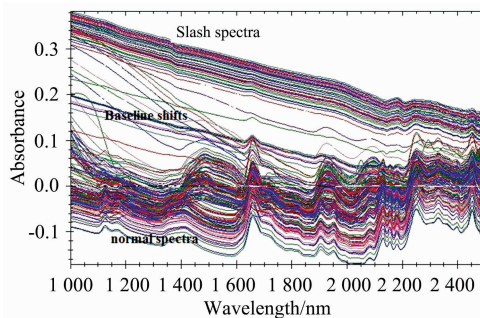


Fig. 3 NIR absorption spectra for calibration set

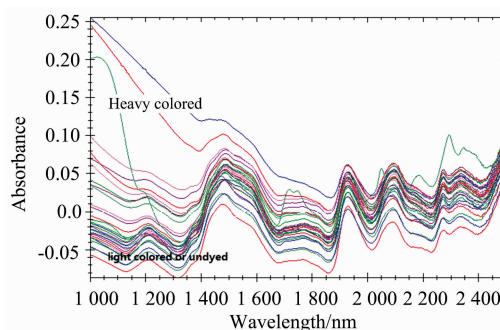


Fig. 4 NIR absorption spectra for different colored cotton fabrics

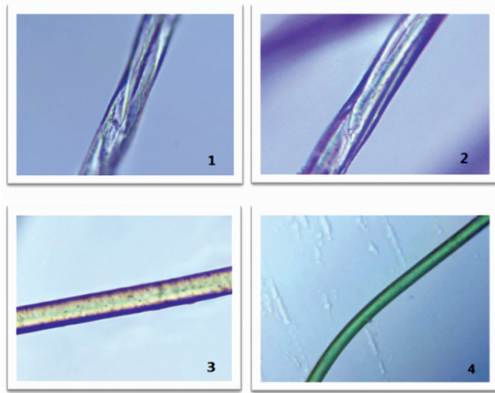


Fig. 5 Microscope photo for 100% polyester fiber

As could be seen from Figure 3, the baseline drift could not completely affect the position of the main absorption wavelength, however, they could seriously impact the intensity of absorbance in these spectral regions^[12]. To eliminate the baseline drift, 1st derivative was applied to the original spectra combined with S-G smoothing with second-order polynomials and 13-point windows. During the spectra preprocessing, derivative Math was often used to minimize spectral differences and to enhance small differences between similar samples. These spectra were pretreated by derivative and the results were presented in Fig. 6. The results showed that compared with other samples, the extinction effect did not impact the intensity of the derivative spectrum in each spectral region, and the broad spectra turned into sharp's, and the spectrum signal became very strong compared to the original NIR spectrum. In general, For NIR spectroscopy baseline drifts, the influence of fabric stitch structure on the NIR spectra was less significant than that of color, meanwhile, and slash spectra were also emerged features like normal spectrums after preprocessing.

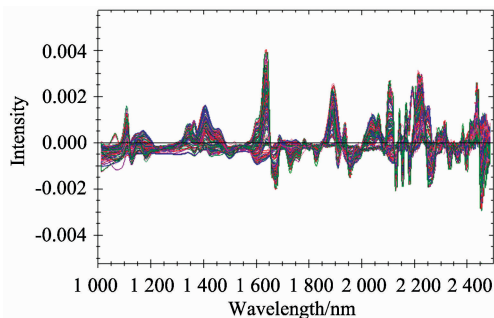


Fig. 6 NIR 1st derivative spectra for all calibration set

2.3 Quantitative calibration model

2.3.1 Establishment of quantitative calibration model

As could be seen from Fig. 2, the greater spectral differences between cotton and polyester in waste cotton-polyester blend fabrics gave a good basis for establishment of NIR

quantitative calibration model. The preprocessing method was an important part to NIR pretreated. Derivative, standardization and signal correction were often used to handle the NIR spectrum for all training sample, and derivative normally was utilized to minimize the spectral difference and baseline drifts, and signal correction generally was used to handle the other disadvantage factors. In a word, preprocessing methods were applied to deduct the non-objected spectra affect on the target one. According to the literature, OSC could remove orthogonal part of spectral matrix X and appropriate value matrix Y . As a newly developed processing method, however, there was an easily ignored disadvantage that spectral noise was not absolutely orthogonal to matrix Y when OSC method was used to handle the NIR data. Therefore, OSC could only eliminate the orthogonal part, but the residuals of noises also could affect robustness of the calibration model seriously, and might be a reason for over fitting. So a series of wavelength selection methods were applied to process NIR data before OSC, and unrelated points to models were removed to eliminate noises interference to some extent. In addition, characteristic wavelength filtered could reduce the cost of computation, and the robustness of calibration model would be improved, and correlation coefficient method was used to select wavelength in this paper. The correlation coefficient method was a correlation calculation for spectral matrix of calibration set, absorbance vector x_i for each wavelength to components underdetermined y_i array of concentrate vector, and obtained a figure of wavelength-correlation coefficient such as Fig. 7. The r was obtained by the following formula.

$$r = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n y_i}{\sqrt{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)^2} \sqrt{n \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^n y_i)^2}}$$

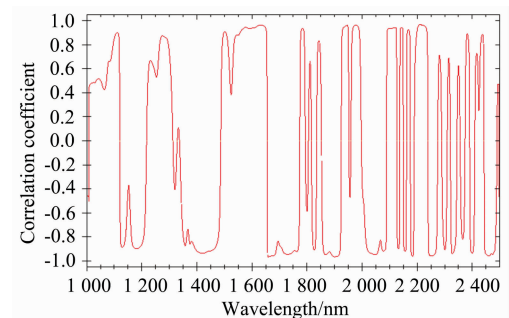


Fig. 7 Wavelength-correlation coefficient

The NIR quantitative calibration model was established by fiber content of 252 calibration samples (containing samples with a wide polyester content range and diverse colors), combined with chemometrics.

The spectra were pre-processed by 1st derivative, S-G smoothing, mean centering and other signal correction method

in the region of 1 400~2 500 nm, and the results were shown in Table 1. The statistical data indicated that the model established by OSC combined with 1st derivative and mean centre

preprocessed showed the best result (prediction accuracy was 97.6%) for the quantitative analysis of cotton or polyester content in waste cotton-polyester blend fabrics.

Table 1 Calibrated results and predicted results of polyester-content by different pretreated methods

Model type	Pretreated Method	Calibration set		Prediction set		Prediction Accuracy/%
		R_c	RMSECV/%	R_p	SEP/%	
PLS	1st derivative+S-G smoothing+SNV	0.995	0.053	0.993	2.002	88.0
	1st derivative+S-G smoothing+Mean centre	0.996	0.041	0.995	1.86	93.2
	1 st derivative+S-G smoothing+Mean centre+OSC	0.998	0.002	0.997	1.121	97.6

The correlation coefficient plot for LAB and NIR polyester content in best model as described in Fig. 8, which had a strong correlation (R^2 was 0.995 8). From the figure we could see some abnormal samples, which were called “outlier samples”. There are two kinds of outliers. One was the error of reference value measured or spectrum scanned, which could seriously influence the accuracy of the model, so it must be removed in the optimized model. The solution to this problem was that each sample was re-measured or scanned, and the results were compared with the previous one. The other one was that there was significant difference between outliers and the major modeling samples, and the accuracy of the model would be improved if these samples were removed, but adaptability of model would be reduced simultaneously because of the particularity of their properties. The common method used to solve this problem was establishing a new model, but this was not a practical solution since there was substantial cost and time associated with the development of a robust calibration model. At the same time, It had been proved that the part of singular samples also caused baseline drifts.

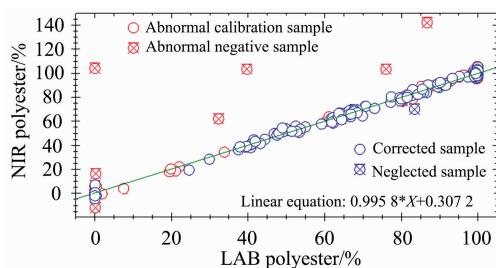


Fig. 8 Correlation coefficient plot for polyester content

2.3.2 Validation of quantitative model

In order to make the model applied to the actual analysis work, the accuracy and precision of the best model has been tested. Matching samples t -test applied to the LAB polyester content and NIR values of 346 calibration samples to verify the accuracy of the best model, the results were shown in Table 2. The absolute error of the LAB value and NIR value was all within (-3% , 3%), and the matching samples t -test showed that there were no significant difference between LAB

and NIR value with 95% confidence bounds and 5% significance level ($t_{\text{polyester}} = 0.144 < t_{0.05, 345} = 1.967$). At the same time, changing measurement environment (e.g. temperature, humidity), 6 times spectrum scanning for each sample, and the predicted value of polyester was obtained by quantitative calibration model. The result was shown in Table 3, which presented better repeatability.

Table 2 T-test of LAB and NIR values

	Mean value	Standard deviation	t	Sig.
LAB-NIR	0.019	2.177	0.144	0.885

Table 3 Repeatability test of the model

Max retries	LAB value	NIR value	Standard deviation	RSD /%
6	54.94	53.04~56.79	1.379	0.025
	25.45	24.96~26.68	0.685	0.027
	71.85	69.02~72.45	1.215	0.017

3 Conclusions

Under the optimum test conditions (temperature of 25 °C, relative humidity of 50%~70%, sample thickness of 3 mm or more), the raw NIR spectra of cotton-polyester blended fabrics were obtained in the range of 1 100~2 500 nm. The causes of the slant spectrum and the reasons for the baseline drift in the shortwave region and the selection of the pretreatment methods were also discussed. Using the PLS method combined with OSC, 1st derivative and mean-center pretreatment method, the NIR quantitative model of cotton-polyester blended fabric was established. RMSECV value of the model was 0.002, and R_c value was 0.998, and R_p value was 0.997, and SEP value was 1.121, and the model prediction accuracy was up to 97%, and analysis time was less than 10 seconds. The model could be used to predict the content of waste cotton / polyester blended fabric quickly and accurately.

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涤棉混纺织物近红外定量分析模型的建立及相关问题探讨

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摘 要 在废旧纺织品回收再利用中, 纤维类型和含量的快速、准确测定是回收方案的关键部分。以 598 个废旧涤棉混纺织物为研究对象, 采用便携式近红外(NIR)光谱仪测试了样品的原始近红外光谱。在 1 400~1 700 和 1 900~2 200 nm 光谱区域, 100% 棉和 100% 聚酯样品的光谱存在明显差异, 并且这些光谱差异存在于各种颜色纤维上。同时探讨了斜线光谱产生的原因可能是由于织物表面效果、着色方法及粘附在纤维表面的细小颗粒造成的。深色样品易造成其光谱基线在短波区发生漂移, 经导数预处理后, 基线漂移基本消除, 斜线光谱呈现出正常光谱的特征。利用偏最小二乘(PLS)法结合一阶导数、S-G 平滑、均值中心化和正交信号校正法, 建立了废旧棉-涤混纺织物定量分析模型。为了验证模型的可靠性, 选取 346 个样本采用内部交叉验证均方根误差(RMSECV)和预测样品集外部检验法对模型进行检验, 模型的 RMSECV 值 0.002、校正集相关系数 $R_c=0.998$ 、预测相关系数 $R_p=0.997$ 、预测标准差 $SEP=1.121$, 模型预测正确率可达 97%。对模型进行匹配样本 t 检验结果显示, NIR 方法与国家标准方法无显著性差异。NIR 预测值与重量法测定值误差在 $\pm 3\%$ 以内时, 二者的一致性在 90% 以上, 当误差在 $\pm 5\%$ 以内, 二者的一致性在 95% 以上, 分析时间小于 10 s。因此, 利用近红外技术结合所建模型可以快速、准确地预测废旧棉/涤混纺织物纤维成分的含量。

关键词 近红外; 棉-涤混纺织物; 基线漂移; 斜线光谱; 定量模型

(收稿日期: 2016-09-05, 修订日期: 2017-02-16)

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