

## Determination of sesame oil, rice bran oil and pumpkin seed oil in ternary mixtures using FTIR spectroscopy and multivariate calibrations

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### Abstract

Pumpkin seed oil (PSO), rice bran oil (RBO), sesame oil (SEO) are considered as functional oils due to its biological activities which are beneficial to human health, as a consequence, these oils had the higher price. This attracted unethical players to blend these oils with lower price oils, therefore, its authentication by analysis of purity levels of oils is very important. This study highlighted the potential application of FTIR spectroscopy and multivariate calibrations for analysis of PSO, RBO, and SEO in ternary mixtures. Individual FTIR spectra of studied oils as well as in ternary mixtures with certain compositions were scanned and pre-processed. Two multivariate calibrations of principle component regression (PCR) and partial least square regression (PLSR) were compared and used to build the prediction models at optimized FTIR spectra regions. The selection of multivariate calibrations, wavenumbers region, and FTIR spectra modes was based on the statistical parameters of highest  $R^2$  and lowest values of root mean square error of calibration (RMSEC) and root mean square error of prediction (RMSEP). The results showed that PLSR using second derivative FTIR spectra at wavenumbers region of 3100-2750 and 1500-663  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was used to predict the levels of PSO in ternary mixtures with RBO and SEO with  $R^2 > 0.99$  in calibration and validation models along with RMSEC value of 0.0054% and RMSEP of 0.0179%. FTIR spectra using the second and first derivatives at wavenumbers of 3100-650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were used for prediction of RBO and SEO in ternary mixture with PSO, respectively. It can be concluded that FTIR spectra combined with PLSR at certain wavenumbers region are accurate as indicated by high  $R^2$  values and precise as indicated by low values of RMSEC and RMSEP for analysis of PSO, RBO and SEO in ternary mixtures.

## 1. Introduction

Sesame oil (SEO) has a high price in the fats and oils industry due to delightful odor, delicious taste, and nutritional value (Ramesh *et al.*, 2005). It can be used for preparing several foods including soup, salad, forcemeat and refreshments, which can promote the appetite (Ji *et al.*, 2019). SEO is believed to have several biological activities including reducing blood glucose and increasing antioxidant levels in streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats (Ramesh *et al.*, 2005), anticancer through inhibiting proliferation and inducing apoptosis (Yoshiyukimiyahara *et al.*, 2001), antihypertension (Nakano, Ogura, Miyakoshi *et al.*, 2006; Miyawaki *et al.*, 2009), antioxidant (Nakano, Kwak, Fujii *et al.*, 2006), and analgesic (Nahar and Rokonuzzaman, 2009), and autoimmune encephalomyelitis inhibitor in C57BL/6 mice (Mosayebi *et al.*, 2007).

Pumpkin seed oil (PSO) has been reported to contain phytoesters, phenolic compounds, antioxidants, tocopherols, and small levels of carotenoids responsible to some biological activities which are beneficial to human health (Cuco *et al.*, 2019) including prevention of gastric, breast, colorectal and lung cancers (Elfiky *et al.*, 2012), retardation of hypertension progression antihypertension (Zuhair *et al.*, 2000), prevention of prostate disease, mitigation of hypercholesterolemia and arthritis, alleviation of diabetes mellitus by enhancing hypoglycaemic activity, reduction of bladder and urethral pressure (Fruhirth *et al.*, 2003; Fu *et al.*, 2006), improving bladder compliance and urinary disorder in Human overactive bladder (Nishimura *et al.*, 2014), and offering good antioxidant sources (Nawirska-Olszan' ska *et al.*, 2013; Naziri *et al.*, 2016).

Rice bran oil (RBO), one of the high valuable oils

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recommended to be consumed by the World Health Organization (WHO), is commonly consumed in Asian countries like India, Japan, China, Korea, and Indonesia (Liu *et al.*, 2019), and is believed to contain some phytochemicals having beneficial effects to human health (Ghosh, 2007). RBO contains unsaturated fatty acids, especially oleic acid and linoleic acid accounting of 45% and 33%, respectively. Besides, RBO is also rich in multiple dietary phytochemicals including tocopherols (tocopherol and tocotrienol), squalene, phytosterols, polyphenols, and  $\gamma$ -oryzanol (Patel and Naik, 2004). These bioactive compounds are responsible for biological activities such as antioxidant (Thanonkaew *et al.*, 2012), anti-inflammatory agent (Rao *et al.*, 2016), and for the treatment of cardiovascular disease, atherosclerosis and hyperlipidemia (Wilson *et al.*, 2007).

Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy offered an official standard method because this technique could be used to analyze analytes as a whole (Rohman and Che Man, 2011a), not through specific components composed edible fats and oils like gas chromatography for analysis of derivatized fatty acids as methyl esters and liquid chromatography for analysis of triglyceride composition and sterol composition. Therefore, FTIR spectroscopy is considered an ideal method for analysis of edible fats and oils. In complex mixtures, FTIR spectroscopy with the aid of multivariate calibration has been successfully used for quantitative analysis of complex systems. These include analysis of virgin coconut oil in the ternary mixture with palm oil-olive oil as well as olive oil in the mixture with soybean oil-corn oil (Rohman and Che Man, 2011a), analysis of olive oil in quaternary mixture with grape seed oil, rice bran oil and walnut oil (Rohman and Che Man, 2011b) and analysis of lard in quaternary mixtures with body fats of lamb, chicken and cow (Rohman and Che Man, 2010). In this study, the combination of FTIR spectroscopy and multivariate analysis (calibration in multivariate modes and discriminant analysis) for the determination of three functional edible oils of SEO, PSO, and RBO. The selection of these three oils was based on the similarity in terms of FTIR spectra as analyzed using chemometrics of principal component analysis (PCA) exploiting the absorbance values as variables (Irnawati *et al.*, 2020).

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1 Materials

Pumpkin seed oil (PSO), sesame oil (SEO) and rice bran oil (RBO) were purchased from several markets in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The composition of the fatty acids of PSO, SEO, and RBO was analyzed using gas chromatography with flame ionization detector as

derivate of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) using 37 FAME standards. The composition of fatty acids of PSO, SEO and RBO were in accordance with those listed in Codex Alimentarius Commission (2010). The solvents and reagents used were of pro-analytical grade.

### 2.2 Preparation of calibration and validation samples

For quantitative analysis purposes, a series of calibration and validation (prediction) samples with known concentrations of PSO, SEO and RBO were prepared. For making calibration samples, numerous samples consisting of PSO in ternary mixtures with SEO and RBO at concentration ranges of 0–100.0% volume/volume as in Table 1 were prepared. The oil levels in ternary systems were selected randomly with the assistance of Excel software (Microsoft Inc., USA). For preparing validation samples, a series of different samples was preparing in the concentration ranges covered by calibration samples. All samples were analyzed using FTIR spectrophotometer.

Table 1. The composition of rice bran oil (RBO), sesame oil (SEO) and pumpkin seed oil (PSO) used for modelling the simultaneous analysis of studied oils

Sample No	Percentage of studied oils (% , volume/volume)		
	RBO	SeO	PSO
1	23	34	42
2	5	0	95
3	18	2	80
4	46	44	10
5	25	28	47
6	26	3	71
7	36	41	23
8	26	19	55
9	15	46	39
10	40	1	59
11	31	24	45
12	25	43	32
13	23	27	50
14	18	46	36
15	12	8	80
16	34	13	53
17	39	49	12
18	18	24	58
19	23	26	51
20	27	18	55

### 2.3 FTIR spectra acquisition

The acquisition of FTIR spectra of studied samples was performed using FTIR spectrometer (Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS10, Madison, WI), controlled with the operating Omnic software. The measurements were done in mid infrared region of 4000-650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with 32 scannings and the resolution was 8  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  using horizontal

attenuated total reflectance (HATR) composed of ZnSe crystal. All FTIR spectra were corrected against FTIR spectrum of air as background. After every scan, a new reference air background spectrum was taken. These spectra were recorded as absorbance values at each data point in triplicate.

#### 2.4 Chemometrics analysis

Chemometrics analysis including multivariate calibration and discriminant analysis was performed using TQ Analyst software version 9 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.). For quantification, multivariate calibrations used were partial least square regression (PLSR) and principle component regression (PCR). The principle component analysis was carried out using software Minitab version 17 (Minitab Inc., USA).

### 3. Results and discussion

FTIR spectra could be effective means for analysis of complex samples due to its capability to provide several analytical signals (peaks and shoulders) which could be exploited as dependent variables in quantitative analysis using calibration models. In this study, the sampling technique used was attenuated total reflectance in which the evaluated samples were directly placed into ATR crystals without any addition of solvents. Therefore, FTIR-ATR spectroscopy techniques are taken into account as green analytical chemistry. Combined with multivariate calibrations of principle component regression (PCR) and partial least square regression (PLSR), FTIR spectra could be used as powerful quantitative analytical techniques (Rohman and Che Man, 2011a). Figure 1 the FTIR spectra-ATR of evaluated oils (SEO, PSO and RBO) without any pre-treatment of spectral data in the regions of 4000 and 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

The selection of PSO, SEO and RBO in ternary mixtures was based on the similarity of these three FTIR spectra based on principal component analysis (PCA). These oils had the similar score plot both in the first principle components (PC1) and the second principle component (PC2), therefore they are similar in variables used in PCA (Irnawati et al., 2020).

For interpretation of FTIR spectra of studied oils, the absorption band at 3007  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to the *cis* =CH stretching vibration, while bands with strong intensities at 2953, 2953 and 2853  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  arise from the vibrations of C-H, namely asymmetric stretching of -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>), asymmetric stretching of -CH(CH<sub>2</sub>)-, and symmetric stretching of -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>), respectively. The strong band at wavenumbers of 1743  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  comes from stretching vibration of C=O in triglyceride. The weak band at 1654  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is due to the vibration of alkene group (C=C) from unsaturated fatty acids contained in studied oils especially oleic and linoleic acids, while the bands with strong and medium intensities located at 1460 and 1378  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  arise from scissoring (bending) vibration of -CH<sub>2</sub>- and -CH<sub>3</sub>, respectively (Armenta et al., 2007). The band at 1237  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  originates from stretching vibrations of C-C bonds of belonging to hydrocarbon skeletal. Bands at wavenumbers range between 1159-1096 were corresponding to C-O stretching vibration, while the band at 996  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is due to vibration of *trans* =C-H. The last band located at 850 and 722  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  represent bending (rocking mode) vibration of methylene (-CH<sub>2</sub>) and bending vibration (out of plane) of *cis*-disubstituted olefin (Sim and Ting, 2012). The FTIR-ATR spectra exhibited that no specific fingerprint peaks to differentiate among these three oils, as a consequence, differences in the peak intensity were investigated for simultaneous analysis of studied oils.

To perform quantitative analysis of SEO, PSO and

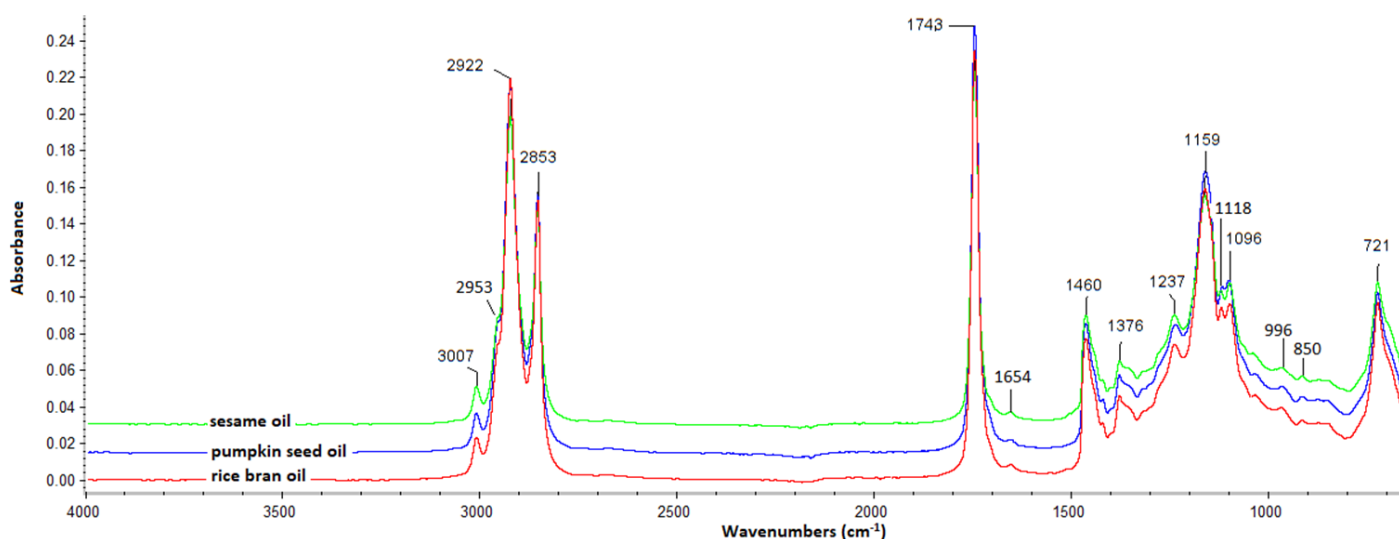


Figure 1. FTIR-attenuated total reflectance spectra of sesame oil, pumpkin seed oil, and rice bran oil at mid infrared region (4000 -650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) scanned with resolution of 8  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and number of scanning of 32.

RBO simultaneously, PCR and PLSR were compared using absorbance values at specific wavenumbers as independent variables. This absorbance was combined to get what called with “principle components” or factors and then these factors were regressed toward actual values of studied oils. The selection of wavenumbers used relied on the variations (in terms of peak intensities) existed among oils. Besides, the derivative spectra were also prepared and compared its performance with normal spectra. The spectra derivatization could take advantage of resolving the overlapping peaks, but the sensitivity was decreased.

Table 2 shows the statistical results expressed with coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) in the calibration and validation models, RMSEC and RMSEP values obtained during optimization of FTIR spectra for determination of SEO in ternary mixtures with PSO and RBO using

normal and derivative spectra (first- and second derivatives) at specific wavenumbers region along with multivariate calibration types. PLSR at combined wavenumbers region of 3100-2750 and 1500-663  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was finally used to predict the contents of SEO, PSO and RBO as indicated by highest  $R^2$  (0.9997 and 0.9964 in calibration and validation models) and by lowest values of RMSEC of 0.0054% and RMSEP of 0.0179%. The low value of RMSEC and RMSEP indicated that the developed models were precise enough, while high  $R^2$  values ( $>0.99$ ) expressed the accurate models. Therefore, FTIR spectra could be used to predict SEO in ternary mixtures with PSO and RBO in unknown samples.

Figure 2[A] reveals the scatter plot describing the relationship between actual values of PSO in ternary mixtures with RBO and SEO and FTIR predicted values PLSR at combined wavenumbers region of 3100-2750

Table 2. The performance of multivariate calibrations of principle component regression (PCR) and partial least square regression (PLSR) for quantitative analysis of pumpkin seed oil (PSO) in ternary mixture with sesame oil and rice bran oil

Multivariate calibrations	Wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Spectra	Calibration		Validation	
			$R^2$	RMSEC	$R^2$	RMSEP
PCR	3100-663	normal	0.9979	0.0139	0.996	0.0213
		derivative 1	0.9987	0.011	0.9984	0.0129
		derivative 2	0.9945	0.0223	0.9935	0.0279
	1800-663	normal	0.9982	0.0126	0.9964	0.0192
		derivative 1	0.9988	0.0103	0.998	0.0139
		derivative 2	0.994	0.0232	0.9944	0.0262
	3100-2750	normal	0.9932	0.0246	0.9913	0.0297
		derivative 1	0.9817	0.0272	0.9892	0.0337
		derivative 2	0.9388	0.073	0.9517	0.0707
	1500-663	normal	0.9988	0.0102	0.9983	0.0131
		derivative 1	0.9984	0.0122	0.9966	0.0177
		derivative 2	0.9913	0.0278	0.9882	0.0325
	3100-2750 and 1800-663	normal	0.9981	0.0129	0.9968	0.0325
		derivative 1	0.9984	0.0121	0.9983	0.0187
		derivative 2	0.9941	0.0229	0.9946	0.0134
	3100-2750 and 1500-663	normal	0.997	0.0163	0.9963	0.0219
		derivative 1	0.9984	0.0119	0.9971	0.0165
		derivative 2	0.9941	0.0231	0.9904	0.0293
PLSR	3100-663	normal	0.998	0.0135	0.996	0.0225
		derivative 1	1	0.0013	0.9986	0.0115
		derivative 2	1	0.0012	0.9963	0.0216
	1800-663	normal	0.9984	0.0119	0.997	0.0172
		derivative 1	0.9996	0.0063	0.9978	0.0143
		derivative 2	1	0.002	0.9961	0.0208
	3100-2750	normal	0.9946	0.0219	0.9933	0.0263
		derivative 1	0.9969	0.0167	0.9902	0.0312
		derivative 2	0.9948	0.0217	0.9418	0.0717
	1500-663	normal	0.9992	0.0084	0.9982	0.0134
		derivative 1	0.9995	0.0065	0.9979	0.0139
		derivative 2	0.9983	0.0124	0.9933	0.0245
	3100-2750 and 1800-663	normal	0.9974	0.0153	0.9955	0.024
		derivative 1	0.9987	0.0107	0.9987	0.0119
		derivative 2	1	0.0012	0.9975	0.0182
	<b>3100-2750 and 1500-663</b>	normal	0.9994	0.007	0.9977	0.015
		derivative 1	0.9995	0.0067	0.9984	0.0121
		<b>derivative 2</b>	<b>0.9997</b>	<b>0.0054</b>	<b>0.9964</b>	<b>0.0179</b>

\*the selected condition was marked with **bold**.

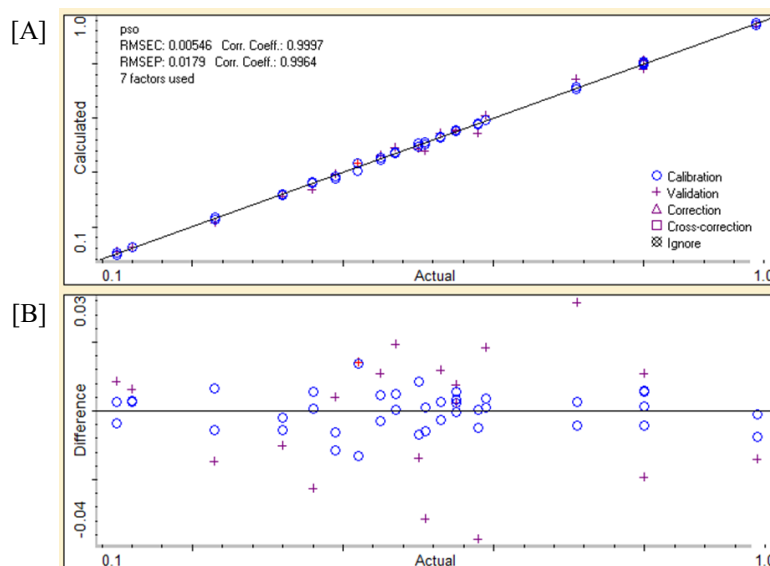


Figure 2. The PLS regression for relationship between actual values of pumpkin seed oil (PSO) in ternary mixtures with rice bran oil and sesame oil at combined wavenumbers region of 3100-2750 and 1500-663  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  using the second derivative FTIR [A] along with residual analysis [B].

Table 3. The performance of multivariate calibrations of principle component regression (PCR) and partial least square regression (PLSR) for quantitative analysis of rice bran oil in ternary mixture with sesame oil and pumpkin seed oil (PSO)

Multivariate calibrations	Wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Spectra	Calibration		Validation	
			$R^2$	RMSEC	$R^2$	RMSEP
PCR	3100-663	normal	0.9894	0.0143	0.9821	0.0303
		derivative 1	0.9903	0.0136	0.987	0.0264
		derivative 2	0.9758	0.0215	0.9617	0.0298
	1800-663	normal	0.9829	0.0181	0.9741	0.0433
		derivative 1	0.9847	0.0171	0.9784	0.034
		derivative 2	0.9724	0.0229	0.9523	0.034
	3100-2750	normal	0.9545	0.0293	0.9395	0.0365
		derivative 1	0.95	0.0307	0.9559	0.0292
		derivative 2	0.8236	0.0557	0.8384	0.056
	1500-663	normal	0.9847	0.0171	0.9715	0.0255
		derivative 1	0.9481	0.0312	0.924	0.0376
		derivative 2	0.8303	0.0547	0.7833	0.0616
3100-2750 and 1800-663	normal	0.988	0.0152	0.9797	0.0316	
	derivative 1	0.9883	0.015	0.9872	0.0285	
	derivative 2	0.973	0.0227	0.9525	0.0354	
3100-2750 and 1500-663	normal	0.9718	0.0232	0.9422	0.0344	
	derivative 1	0.9613	0.0271	0.9367	0.0346	
	derivative 2	0.8744	0.0476	0.8101	0.059	
PLS	<b>3100-663</b>	normal	0.9952	0.0095	0.9794	0.0301
		derivative 1	0.9986	0.0052	0.9902	0.0254
		<b>derivative 2</b>	<b>0.9999</b>	<b>0.0013</b>	<b>0.9821</b>	<b>0.0242</b>
	1800-663	normal	0.9898	0.014	0.9797	0.0416
		derivative 1	0.9954	0.0094	0.9819	0.0332
		derivative 2	0.986	0.0164	0.9682	0.032
	3100-2750	normal	0.9662	0.0253	0.9537	0.032
		derivative 1	0.9858	0.0165	0.9507	0.0336
		derivative 2	0.9855	0.0167	0.8991	0.047
	1500-663	normal	0.9893	0.0143	0.9733	0.0249
		derivative 1	0.9741	0.0222	0.9591	0.0279
		derivative 2	0.6951	0.0706	0.6734	0.0726
3100-2750 and 1800-663	normal	0.9913	0.013	0.9788	0.0311	
	derivative 1	0.9937	0.011	0.9883	0.0269	
	derivative 2	0.998	0.0061	0.9829	0.0287	
3100-2750 and 1500-663	normal	0.9976	0.0068	0.9869	0.0277	
	derivative 1	0.9931	0.0116	0.9841	0.0181	
	derivative 2	0.7945	0.0596	0.7722	0.0624	

\*the selected condition was marked with **bold**.

Table 4. The statistical parameters of multivariate calibrations of principle component regression (PCR) and partial least square regression (PLSR) for quantitative analysis of sesame oil (SEO) in ternary mixture with rice bran oil and pumpkin seed oil (PSO)

Multivariate calibrations	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Spectra	Calibration		Validation	
			R <sup>2</sup>	RMSEC	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSEP
PCR	3100-663	normal	0.9972	0.0122	0.9932	0.0234
		derivative 1	0.997	0.0125	0.9964	0.0209
		derivative 2	0.9791	0.0328	0.9781	0.0368
	1800-663	normal	0.9973	0.0119	0.994	0.0337
		derivative 1	0.9958	0.0148	0.9952	0.0228
		derivative 2	0.9801	0.0321	0.979	0.0335
	3100-2750	normal	0.9937	0.0181	0.9939	0.0193
		derivative 1	0.9844	0.0284	0.9792	0.0351
		derivative 2	0.8932	0.0727	0.9052	0.073
	1500-663	normal	0.9947	0.0166	0.992	0.0213
		derivative 1	0.9879	0.025	0.9886	0.0245
		derivative 2	0.9656	0.042	0.9681	0.0408
	3100-2750 and 1800-663	normal	0.9974	0.0116	0.9933	0.0252
		derivative 1	0.9972	0.0122	0.9968	0.0216
		derivative 2	0.9812	0.0312	0.9809	0.0325
3100-2750 and 1500-663	normal	0.9927	0.0194	0.9843	0.0286	
	derivative 1	0.9912	0.0214	0.9914	0.022	
	derivative 2	0.9691	0.0399	0.9679	0.0415	
PLS	<b>3100-663</b>	normal	0.9998	0.0032	0.997	0.0245
		<b>derivative 1</b>	<b>0.9999</b>	<b>0.0019</b>	<b>0.9978</b>	<b>0.021</b>
		derivative 2	0.9999	0.0021	0.9914	0.0246
	1800-663	normal	0.9981	0.0098	0.9945	0.0332
		derivative 1	0.9993	0.0062	0.9974	0.0258
		derivative 2	0.9996	0.0146	0.9942	0.0209
	3100-2750	normal	0.9947	0.0166	0.9952	0.0175
		derivative 1	0.9955	0.0154	0.9767	0.0364
		derivative 2	0.9616	0.0444	0.9363	0.0595
	1500-663	normal	0.9989	0.0076	0.9935	0.0208
		derivative 1	0.9943	0.0173	0.9946	0.0171
		derivative 2	0.9713	0.0384	0.9736	0.0371
	3100-2750 and 1800-663	normal	0.998	0.0101	0.9943	0.0253
		derivative 1	0.9993	0.0058	0.9982	0.0229
		derivative 2	0.9999	0.0024	0.9954	0.0194
3100-2750 and 1500-663	normal	0.9993	0.0058	0.9968	0.0211	
	derivative 1	0.9951	0.0159	0.9938	0.0189	
	derivative 2	0.978	0.0337	0.9785	0.0337	

\*the selected condition was marked with **bold**.

and 1500-663 cm<sup>-1</sup> using the second derivative FTIR spectra along with residual analysis [2B]. Residual analysis is the difference between the actual and predicted value to see the error patterns. It is clear that systematic error is negligible because all point difference falls above and below zero value. Similarly, Table 3 and Table 4 showed the statistical parameters of PLSR and PCR for prediction of RBO and SEO in ternary mixtures.

Similarly, based on the highest R<sup>2</sup> and the lowest values of RMSEC and RMSEP, FTIR spectra using second derivative at wavenumbers of 3100-650 cm<sup>-1</sup> was used for prediction of RBO in ternary mixtures with SEO and PSO (Table 3). While, FTIR spectra at the same wavenumbers region using the first derivative mode was preferred for quantitative analysis of sesame oil (SEO) in ternary mixture with rice bran oil and pumpkin seed oil (PSO), as compiled in Table 4.

#### 4. Conclusion

The combination of FTIR spectroscopy with PLSR could be used successfully for quantitative analysis of PSO, SEO, and RBO in ternary mixtures with acceptable accuracy and precision, as indicated by the high value of R<sup>2</sup> and low value of errors obtained. The developed method was valid and could be an effective analytical technique for quality assurance of functional oils due to its property as a fingerprint analytical method. The method also did not involve the use of extensive reagents and solvents, therefore, could be considered as a green analytical technique.

#### Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest.



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