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VIRGIN OLIVE OILS: AUTHENTICATION AND DETECTION OF **ADULTERATION**

Applications of vibrational spectroscopy techniques

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANN: artificial neural networks ATR: attenuated total reflectance CP-ANN: counter-propagation artificial neural networks CVA: canonical variate analysis DA: discriminant analysis DTGS: deuterated triglycine sulphate ESM: external standard method EVOO: extra-virgin olive oil FDA: factorial discriminant analysis FT: Fourier transform GA: genetic algorithm HCA: hierarchical cluster analysis IECVA: interval extended canonical variate analysis IOC: international olive council KNN: k-nearest neighbours LDA: linear discriminant analysis LOD: limit of detection LS-SVM: least-square support vector machine MCTA: mercury cadmium telluride-A MIR: mid infrared MLR: multiple linear regression MRM: multivariate range modelling MSC: multiple scatter correction NCC: nearest centroid classification NMR: nuclear magnetic resonance NIR: near infrared PC: principal component PCA: principal component analysis

PC-OSC: principal-component orthogonal signal correction

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PCR: principal component regression PDO: protected designation of origin PLS: partial least square PLSR: partial least square regression PLS-DA: partial least square discriminant analysis POTFUN: potential function QDA: quadratic discriminant analysis R²: coefficient of determination RMSEC: root mean square error of calibration RMSECV: root mean square error of cross-validation RMSEP: root mean square error of prediction SECV: standard error of cross-validation SEP: standard error of prediction SG: Savitzky-Golay SIMCA: soft independent modelling of class analogies SLDA: stepwise linear discriminant analysis SNV: standard normal variate SVM: support vector machine UNEQ: unequal dispersed classes UV: ultra-violet VOO: virgin olive oil

INTRODUCTION

One of the main issues facing the food industry to this day is the authentication of its products. Due to their high price compared to other edible oils, especially when they benefit from a certification like the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Extra Virgin Olive Oils (EVOOs) and Virgin Olive Oils (VOOs) are an attractive target for fraudsters. They can indeed be subjected to more or less sophisticated fraudulent practices, the most common ones being the falsification or adulteration of VOOs with lower-price oils such as seed oils, refined olive oil or olive pomace oil. Many studies have thus been conducted in order to fight frauds that disrupt the market and deteriorate the positive image of VOOs.

First of all, the quality criteria which have been set by the International Olive Council (IOC) allow the classification of olive oils in different categories (extra virgin, virgin, lampante virgin) according to their free acidity, peroxide value, UV absorbance, alkyl esters contents and sensory properties. In the second place, molecular markers including fatty acids (Z and E), sterols, triterpene dialcohols, waxes or stigmastadienes are used to detect possible frauds.

However, the authentication of varietal or geographical origins, as well as the affiliation of a VOO to a PDO, often represent a real analytical challenge. Numerous research works, based on various physicochemical determinations associated with chemometric data processing, have sought to answer this problem. These studies can be classified into two main groups: those analysing the chemical composition of the oil, and those relying on spectroscopic techniques like nuclear magnetic resonance, infrared, Raman or fluorescence spectroscopies. For instance vibrational spectroscopic analyses, namely Near Infrared (NIR), Mid Infrared (MIR) and Raman, coupled with the predictive chemometric methods of Partial Least Squares (PLS) regression and PLS discriminant analysis (PLS-DA), have been successfully applied to the authentication of French VOOs from different PDOs. 1,2

1. BIBLIOMETRICS

A quick search of the terms "olive oil", "authentication" and "spectroscopy" in Google Scholar, restricted to articles published between 1990 and 2016, gives an idea of the vast amount of studies on these subjects. Figure 1 also indicates that "olive oil" is almost 3 times more often associated with "spectroscopy" than with "authentication", however "spectroscopy" is present in 94% of the articles containing both "olive oil" and "authentication". This tends to show that olive oil authentication is often studied in relation with spectroscopic analyses but that these analytical techniques also have other purposes, such as characterisation of oil components or measurement of quality parameters. It can also be noted that the number of articles containing "olive oil" and "chromatography" is higher than that for "olive oil" and "spectroscopy". However, this is no longer the case when the term "authentication" is added.

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF ARTICLES CONTAINING THE WORDS "OLIVE OIL", "AUTHENTICATION", "SPECTROSCOPY" OR "CHROMATOGRAPHY" AND THEIR COMBINATIONS (GOOGLE SCHOLAR, 20TH MARCH 2017, FIGURE NOT TO SCALE)

A more specific search on Web of Science confirms that the authentication of virgin olive oil using vibrational spectroscopy has been a subject of interest since the 1990s, and even more so during the past 10 years. This is evidenced by the growing number of publications that are reported in Figure 2. The number of studies focused on NIR has been steadily increasing since 2002, while MIR has seen a more recent and sharper rise of interest. Raman spectroscopy used to be the most popular in the late 1990s and early 2000s, but has since then been overtaken by the other two techniques. On average, around 20% of the articles included experiments with at least two of the analytical methods of interest.

FIGURE 2: EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS FOUND FOR THE QUERY "OLIVE OIL" AND AUTHENTIC* AND (NIR OR "NEAR INFRARED") OR (MIR OR "MID INFRARED") OR RAMAN (WEB OF SCIENCE, 20TH MARCH 2017)

In the year 2016 alone, six reviews dealing with the applications of spectroscopic and/or chemometric methods for the quality control and authentication of VOOs have been published. ³⁻⁸ Moreover, a book summing up the latest advances in food authenticity has also been edited and contains chapters regarding vibrational spectroscopy, chemometrics, the confirmation of geographical origin of food and the analysis of adulterated vegetable oils.⁹

The free software Wordle allowed the identification of the most frequently used keywords in the titles of the articles from the previous Web of Science search, and the result is presented in Figure 3. The terms "olive oil" and "spectroscopy" were removed in order to have a better view of the other words. Thus, the importance of Fourier-transform instruments and the predominance of studies using MIR over NIR and Raman spectroscopies appear. Other analytical techniques are mentioned, such as UVvisible, fluorescence or NMR spectroscopies, as well as the possibility to combine several methods. The association with chemometrics for multivariate analysis is also highlighted and a few specific models are cited, the most prominent one being PLS. The detection and quantification of extra-virgin or virgin olive oil adulteration with other vegetable or edible oils seems to be the main application, followed by the authentication or determination of geographical and varietal origins.

FIGURE 3: WORD CLOUD GENERATED BY THE TITLES OF THE ARTICLES FROM WEB OF SCIENCE QUERY (WORDLE, 20TH MARCH 2017, FONT SIZE REPRESENTATIVE OF FREQUENCY OF APPEARANCE)

2. SPECTROSCOPY

Vibrational spectroscopic techniques, such as infrared and Raman spectroscopies, have gained in popularity during the past decades, and their applications to food analysis have been extensively studied. Compared to chromatographic methods they allow simple, non-destructive, time- and costsaving analyses. Moreover, technological advances like the introduction of interferometers, attenuated total reflection instruments or detectors with increased sensitivity and resolution made them more user-friendly. The spreading use of chemometrics has also significantly improved the ability to extract meaningful information from spectral data, and to obtain reliable quantitative results.

FIGURE 4: SPECTROSCOPIC TECHNIQUES RELATED TO THE INFRARED REGION OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

Vibrational spectroscopy relies on changes in the energy levels of the molecules, due to the interaction between a sample and an electromagnetic radiation. Each bond between two atoms has a characteristic vibration frequency depending on parameters such as the reduced mass of these two atoms and bending force constants. The excitation brought by the radiation causes the bonds to stretch or bend. In the case of infrared absorption the molecular vibration is related to a change in the intrinsic dipole moment, while Raman inelastic scattering depends on a change in the electronic polarizability of the molecule. The amount of energy absorbed by the sample also influences the vibrations, as summarised in Figure 4. In the MIR region (4000-400 cm⁻¹), the transitions between energy levels correspond mainly to fundamental vibrations and a few overtones, whereas in the more energetic NIR area (12500-4000 cm⁻¹) lower intensity bands of overtones and combinations of the fundamental vibrations can be observed. As a consequence, these three techniques provide complementary information about the chemical composition and physical state of a sample. For instance, some infrared absorption bands arise from polar groups such as C=O and O-H, while Raman spectra show more pronounced scattering bands for nonpolar groups like C=C or C-C. It also worth noting that Raman is prone to fluorescence interference, which can be reduced by using a Fourier Transform (FT) interferometer and a laser source of lower energy. 10,11

3. CHEMOMETRICS

Chemometrics is the use of multivariate statistical analyses to extract information from chemical data. Since its creation by Svante Wold and Bruce Kowalski in the 1970s ^{12,13} different methods have been developed to serve various purposes, such as data pre-processing, qualitative or quantitative analysis.

Pre-treatment of raw spectra is often necessary to reduce the effect of interferences and artefacts on the subsequent development of a predictive model. Wavelet filtering 14 or Savitzky-Golay (SG) smoothing 15 can be used to improve the signal to noise ratio, while detrending or SG 1^{st} and 2^{nd} derivatives provide a correction of the baseline shift. Moreover, $2nd$ derivative can resolve overlapping peaks. Other algorithms, like Standard Normal Variate (SNV)¹⁶ and Multiplicative Scatter Correction (MSC) 17 , are useful when both additive and multiplicative effects caused by light scattering are present. Normalisation or scaling can also be applied to ensure that each spectrum has the same importance in the model.

Before the development of analytical models, the spectral data can be explored through Principal Component Analysis (PCA) 18,19 which decomposes the initial matrix into sets of scores and loadings allowing to reduce its dimensions. When enough variability is taken into account by the PCs, the loadings show which variables have more influence on the PCs and a representation of the scores can provide insight into the similarities among samples or the presence of outliers.

The discrimination between oils of different botanical, varietal or geographical origins involves the use of qualitative analyses. Unsupervised classification methods, such as Hierarchical Cluster Analysis (HCA) 20 , separate the samples into different groups without prior knowledge of their category membership. On the other hand, supervised methods like classification by Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) 21 or class-modelling by Soft Independent Modelling of Class Analogy (SIMCA) 22 , assign new samples to previously defined categories. LDA reduces the space dimensions by selecting directions that maximise the separation between classes, whereas SIMCA performs a PCA on each class to minimise its internal differences. More recently, artificial intelligence algorithms such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)²³ have been developed to categorise samples after a phase of training by iterative adjustments.

The development of quantitative models is required to determine the amount of adulterant that may have been added to a sample. Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) ²⁴, Partial Least Squares (PLS) ²⁵ or Principal Component Regression (PCR)²⁶ are the most commonly used methods. They are based on the construction of a linear relationship between the variations of spectral data and the chemical parameter to be explained. However, other methods using non-linear models, such as ANN or Support Vector Machines (SVM)²⁷, also have the ability to perform quantitative analyses. $3,11,28$

4. NEAR INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

1. Spectra interpretation

FIGURE 5: NEAR INFRARED SPECTRUM OF EVOO WITH IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN ABSORBANCE BANDS

As can be seen in Figure 5, characteristic NIR absorbance bands arise in several regions of the EVOO spectrum. Region A (8700-8000 cm⁻¹) is attributed to the $2nd$ overtone of C-H stretching vibrations, while B (7400-6700 cm⁻¹) results from combinations of C-H stretching and bending, and C (6000-5500 $cm⁻¹$) corresponds to the 1st overtone of C-H stretching vibrations. These three regions contain information regarding the degree of unsaturation of the fatty acids and triacylglycerols present in a sample. The two bands in region D (5300-5100 cm⁻¹) have been attributed to the 2nd overtone of C=O stretching vibration from carbonyl functional groups. Finally, region E (5000-4500 cm⁻¹) presents combination bands of =C-H and C=C stretching vibrations. 9,11,29,30

2. Identification of Virgin Olive Oils vs other oils

The first step of authentication is to differentiate olive oil from other oils and fats. This can be achieved through the analysis of their major compounds, such as fatty acids and triacylglycerols, usually conducted by gas chromatography and high performance liquid chromatography respectively. However, differences in the composition of the samples are also reflected in their NIR spectra, as can be seen in the examples presented in Table 1. Hourant *et al.* ³¹ indeed showed that the absorption intensity of the bands around 5814 cm⁻¹ (1720 nm), 4668 cm⁻¹ (2142 nm) and 4595 cm⁻¹ (2176 nm) could be related to the degree of total unsaturation in the sample. This allowed the classification of eighteen different oils and fats with the modelling of a dendroid structure based on seven linear discriminant functions. Yang *et al.* ³² confirmed that LDA could discriminate pure edible oils and fats using FT-NIR spectra, but obtained more satisfying classification rates with Canonical Variate Analysis (CVA).

TABLE 1: EXAMPLES OF NIR SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO DIFFERENTIATE OLIVE OILS FROM OTHER OILS

3. Adulteration of Virgin Olive Oils with other oils

Several articles focusing on the ability of NIR to analyse binary mixtures of VOOs with other kinds of oils have been published over the past 20 years (Table 2). Dispersive and FT-NIR have been equally used in these studies, and three of them report results obtained with a fibre optic probe although not in an on-line setting 33-35.

Downey *et al.* ³⁶ developed a SIMCA model that gave 100% of correct classification for VOOs versus adulterated samples containing 1 to 5% of sunflower oil. Karunathilaka *et al.* ³⁷ also applied SIMCA to FT-NIR spectra to successfully detect the addition of 10 to 20% of various vegetable oils in EVOOs. Mignani *et al.* ³³ obtained spectra through an integrating sphere and fibre optic detector. In this study, the application of PCA followed by LDA enabled the discrimination between EVOOs adulterated with refined olive oil, deodorised olive oil, olive pomace oil and refined olive pomace oil, with 75% of correct classification.

In addition to the detection of adulteration, most of the articles are interested in the use of regression models to quantify the amount of adulterant. For instance, Downey *et al.* ³⁶, Wesley *et al.* ³⁸ and Christy *et al.* ³⁹ applied PLS regression after various pre-treatments to predict the amount of sunflower oil added to olive oil. They all obtained R^2 values superior to 0.9 and Standard Errors of Prediction (SEP) under 2%. The analysis of VOOs adulterated with maize, soya, rapeseed, safflower, peanut, walnut, hazelnut or palm oils yielded similar results according to Azizian *et al.* ³⁴, Wesley *et al.* ³⁸, Christy *et al.* ³⁹ and Mendes *et al.* ⁴⁰. The latter constructed different models to quantify the addition of high linoleic oils, high oleic oils or palm olein, based on the absorption ratio at 5280 and 5180 cm⁻¹, attributed respectively to volatile and non-volatile compounds. Mignani *et al.* ³³, Azizian *et al.* ³⁴, Yang and Irudayraj ³⁵, Wesley *et al.* ³⁸ and Wojcicki *et al.* ⁴¹ also tried to quantify the adulteration of EVOOs by refined olive oil or olive pomace oil. These studies tend to show higher errors of prediction, ranging from 1.78 to 13%, which may be due to the higher similarity between the composition of pure and adulterated samples. Finally, Ozedmir and Ozturk⁴² developed a Genetic Inverse Least Square model, capable of predicting the concentration of tertiary mixtures with SEP of 1.42%, 5.42% and 6.38% for the amount of VOO, sunflower oil and maize oil respectively.

TABLE 2: EXAMPLES OF NIR SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO ANALYSE VOOS ADULTERATED WITH OTHER OILS

4. Authentication of geographical or varietal origins

The most recent and prominent application of NIR spectroscopy has been the classification of VOOs according to their geographical or varietal origins. Table 3 summarises some of the articles published on this subject, with a majority preferring FT-NIR to dispersive instruments.

The potential of PLS-DA modelling applied to NIR spectra to discriminate VOOs from different cultivars or regions of origin has been highlighted by several authors, amongst which Dupuy et al.¹, Sinelli et al. ⁴³, Woodcock *et al.* ⁴⁴, Galtier *et al.* ⁴⁵ and Bevilacqua *et al.* ⁴⁶. Indeed, all of them obtained 85 to 100% of correct classification rates. Other discriminant analysis algorithms, like FDA or LDA, have also been rather successfully tested by Downey *et al.* ⁴⁷, Casale *et al.* ⁴⁸ and Sinelli *et al.* ⁴⁹. Class modelling techniques such as SIMCA seem to give less satisfying results overall, although Casale *et al.* ⁵⁰, Oliveri *et al.* ⁵¹ and Laroussi-Mezghani *et al.* ⁵² managed to correctly predict the origin of 84.5 to 98.5% of their samples. Oliveri *et al.* ⁵¹, Casale *et al.* ⁵³ and Forina *et al.*⁵⁴ also used POTFUN or UNEQ class models giving 83 to 100% of correct classification. In another study, Oliveri *et al.* ⁵⁵ developed a novel Multivariate Range Modelling technique yielding a classification rate of 94.9%. Devos *et al.* ⁵⁶ achieved a classification rate of 86.3% with a SVM supervised learning model coupled with genetic algorithm for pre-treatment selection.

TABLE 3: EXAMPLES OF NIR SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF VOOS

5. MID INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

1. Spectra interpretation

Figure 6 shows a characteristic MIR spectrum of EVOO, presenting sharper absorption bands than the NIR spectrum. Band A, around 3005 $cm⁻¹$, is associated to the =C-H stretching vibrations of cis (Z) double bonds. Bands B and C (2920 and 2850 cm-1) arise respectively from C-H aliphatic asymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations. D (1740 cm⁻¹) corresponds to the C=O stretching of carbonyl groups, and E (1650 cm⁻¹) to C=C stretching vibrations. The fingerprinting region, under 1500 cm⁻¹, presents overlapping peaks that are less easily attributed. However, region F between 1500 and 1300 $cm⁻¹$ can be related to C-H aliphatic bending vibrations and region G (1250-1000 cm⁻¹) to C-C and C-O bending vibrations. Finally, band H (700 cm⁻¹) is attributed to the C-H bending of CH₂. 9,11,29,30

2. Identification of Virgin Olive Oils vs other oils

The discrimination between VOOs and other fats and oils has been more extensively studied using MIR than NIR spectroscopy, and always with FT instruments (Table 4).

Several authors, such as Lai *et al.*⁵⁷, Marigheto *et al.* ⁵⁸, Tay *et al.* ⁵⁹, Obeidat *et al.* ⁶⁰, Lerma-Garcia *et al.* ⁶¹, de la Mata *et al.* ⁶², reported a classification rate of 100% with the use of various discriminant analysis techniques including PLS-DA and LDA. Javidnia *et al.* ⁶³ reached the same result by using interval extended canonical variate analysis (iECVA). Yang *et al.* ³² obtained better results with CVA applied to MIR spectra of olive and sunflower oils compared to NIR, since 98.9% of the samples were correctly classified versus 92.2% for NIR spectra. In two different studies, Baeten identified refined olive oil and hazelnut oil using either ANN 64 or stepwise linear discriminant analysis (SLDA) 65 .

TABLE 4: EXAMPLES OF MIR SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO DIFFERENTIATE VOOS FROM OTHER OILS

3. Adulteration of Virgin Olive Oils with other oils

Numerous articles, gathered in Table 5, focus on the qualitative or quantitative analysis of mixtures of olive oil and other oils based on MIR data. Once again, only FT-MIR instruments were used.

Marigheto *et al.* ⁵⁸ applied LDA after data compression by PLS and obtained 99% correct classification for olive oil adulterated with as little as 5% of various vegetable oils. Similarly, Oussama *et al.* ⁶⁶ used PLS-DA after variable selection to correctly classify 100% of the samples containing 1 to 24% of soya or sunflower oils, and de la Mata *et al.* ⁶² to discriminate between VOOs adulterated with more and less than 50% of other oils. Discriminant analyses also allowed Tay *et al.* ⁵⁹ to successfully detect the addition of 2 to 10% of sunflower oil, while Rohman and Che Man reached 100% correct classification for samples adulterated with palm oil 67 , lard 68 , rice bran oil 69 , maize and sunflower oils 70 and 97.4% with rapeseed oil ⁷¹. Other techniques seem to give satisfying results, for instance Sun *et al.* ⁷² reached 96.6% correct classification with a Nearest Centroid algorithm after dimension reduction. Mixtures of hazelnut oil in VOO appear to be more difficult to detect. Indeed, Ozen and Mauer ⁷³ achieved a correct classification rate of 100% with DA but only for samples containing at least 25% of hazelnut oil. Baeten et al. ⁶⁵ reached a LOD of 8% for Turkish hazelnut oil in refined olive oil by applying SLDA on variables characterising the unsaponifiable matter. Georgouli *et al.* ⁷⁴ obtained a correct classification rate of 75% for samples adulterated with as little as 1% of hazelnut oil, with the use of k-NN after Continuous Locality Preserving Projections. The application of CP-ANN by Baeten and Novi ⁶⁴ only resulted in a partial separation between VOOs with and without the addition of 2 to 20% of hazelnut oil. As for the quantification of adulterants, most authors found that PLS regression after various pre-treatments gave satisfactory results. For instance, Wojcicki *et al.* ⁴¹, Tay *et al.* ⁵⁹, Oussama *et al.* ⁶⁶, Sun *et al.* ⁷², Rohman and Che Man ⁷⁵, Lai *et al.* ⁷⁶, Küpper *et al.* ⁷⁷, Gurdeniz *et al.* ⁷⁸ and Nigri and Oumeddour ⁷⁹ all obtained R^2 superior to 0.97 and RMSECV or RMSEP below 2.5% when predicting the concentration of diverse vegetable oils mixed with olive oil. However, Yang and Irudayaraj ³⁵ **,** Mendes *et al.* ⁴⁰ and Maggio *et al.* ⁸⁰ had higher errors of prediction for the analysis of added olive pomace oil, soya oi and hazelnut oil respectively. PCR was usually shown to be less efficient than PLS regression, except for Jovic *et al.* ⁸¹ who managed to quantify the amounts of olive oil, sunflower, high oleic sunflower and rapeseed oils in binary and ternary mixtures with R^2 over 0.99 and RMSEP under 2.3%. Another method, based on linear regression between the amount of adulterant and a ratio of peak heights, was applied by Vlachos *et al.* ⁸² and Poiana *et al.* ⁸³ using the absorbance at 3006 and 2925 cm⁻¹ which can be related to the degree of unsaturation. Allam and Hamed ⁸⁴ employed a similar method, but focused on the peaks at 1118 and 1097 $cm⁻¹$ that were assigned to C-O stretching.

TABLE 5: EXAMPLES OF MIR SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO ANALYSE VOOS ADULTERATED WITH OTHER OILS

4. Authentication of geographical or varietal origins

Similarly to NIR, the ability of FT-MIR spectroscopy to differentiate VOOs from various origins has been the subject of numerous research works, as can be seen in Table 6.

EVOOs from three different Italian regions were correctly classified by Sinelli *et al.* ⁴³ using PLS-DA, while Galtier *et al.* ⁸⁵ discriminated virgin olive oils from France and other countries with the same technique. Moreover, PLS-DA allowed Galtier *et al.* ⁸⁵ and Dupuy *et al.* ¹ to reach a correct classification of 96% and 98% respectively between VOOs from the six French PDOs, with samples collected over several harvest years. Bevilacqua et al. ⁴⁶ also correctly identified 92.3% of the samples from PDO Sabina versus other Mediterranean regions by applying PLS-DA to MIR data, even though NIR data provided better results. De Luca *et al.* ⁸⁶ built a model based on PLS-DA after cluster analysis and variable selection by Martens test to separate VOOs from 4 Moroccan regions, and obtained satisfactory results with R^2 over 0.986 and RMSEP under 0.049. LDA has also been used by several authors. For instance, Tapp *et al.* ⁸⁷ applied it after variable selection by genetic algorithm (GA), resulting in a correct classification rate of 100% for the country of origin of VOO samples. Casale et al; ⁴⁸ and Sinelli *et al.* ⁴⁹ both obtained a correct classification of 86.6% between three Italian cultivars with LDA after variable selection, and Abdallah *et al.* ⁸⁸ correctly classified 100% of the samples from seven Tunisian cultivars. Additionally, in this last study the concentrations of binary mixtures of cultivars were predicted by MLR, giving R² over 0.956 and SEP under 3.88%. Although supposedly less efficient than discriminant analyses, SIMCA was applied by Gurdeniz in several studies $89-91$ and allowed the discrimination of Turkish olive oils according to their region of origin, harvest year and cultivar. PLS regression was also used to predict the concentration of cultivars in binary mixtures with $R²$ between 0.84 and 0.91 and RMSEP between 3.14 and 20.9%. In another study, Casale *et al.* ⁵³ developed a UNEQ model and achieved a correct classification of 92.5% between olive oils from PDO Chianti Classico and other Italian regions. This was however a less satisfactory result than that obtained with NIR data. Finally, SVM analyses were employed by Devos *et al.* ⁵⁶ and Caetano *et al.* ⁹², resulting in mixed outcomes.

TABLE 6: EXAMPLES OF MIR SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF VOOS

6. RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY

FIGURE 7: RAMAN SPECTRUM OF EVOO WITH IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN ABSORBANCE BANDS

The Raman spectrum of EVOO presented in Figure 7 gives complementary information compared to the MIR spectrum. Peak A (1750 cm⁻¹) results from C=O stretching vibrations, and peak B (1660 cm⁻¹) is related to cis C=C stretching. They correspond to the peaks D and E of the MIR spectrum, although their relative intensities are reversed. The two peaks labelled C (1450-1300 cm⁻¹) are associated with C-H aliphatic bending vibrations, thus matching the region F of the MIR spectrum. Peak D, at 1270 cm- $¹$, is attributed to =C-H bending vibrations of cis double bonds and is not identified on the MIR</sup> spectrum. Region E (1150-800 cm⁻¹) is also characteristic of the Raman spectrum and related to C-C stretching vibrations. 9,11,29,30

2. Identification of Virgin Olive Oils vs other oils

Although it is less frequently used than NIR or MIR, several authors have studied the potential of Raman spectroscopy to authenticate olive oils (Table 7). In this case, as for MIR, only FT-Raman instruments were used.

Baeten *et al.* 93,94 demonstrated the ability of Raman spectra to discriminate between various oils and fats, including VOO. SLDA indeed allowed to classify the samples depending on their saturated, monounsaturated and poly-unsaturated fatty acids content. In another study ⁶⁵, SLDA on selected variables related to unsaponifiable matter gave a correct classification of 95% between refined olive oil and hazelnut oil, which is a similar result to that obtained with MIR data. Marigheto *et al.* ⁵⁸ reached a correct classification rate of 93% for EVOO versus other vegetable oils with LDA after data compression by PCA, although the same method applied to MIR spectra correctly identified 100% of the samples. Similar results were obtained by Yang *et al.* ³² using CVA after Raman data treatment by PLS, which gave 94.4% correct classification.

TABLE 7: EXAMPLES OF RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO DIFFERENTIATE VOOS FROM OTHER OILS

3. Adulteration of Virgin Olive Oils with other oils

Table 8 presents some articles studying the ability of Raman spectroscopy to detect and quantify the adulteration of VOOs. A majority of these works used FT-Raman, but an interest for confocal benchtop and handheld instruments can be noticed.

Marigheto et al ⁵⁸ employed Raman spectroscopy to detect the adulteration of EVOOs with different vegetable oils and reached a correct classification of 97% with PLSR, but these results were less satisfactory than with MIR spectra. Baeten *et al.* 65,94 also showed that SLDA could discriminate genuine olive oil from adulterated samples, and even obtained a correct classification of 97.5% for samples of refined olive oil adulterated with as little as 2% of hazelnut oil. A method involving Raman measurements at increasing temperatures to enhance spectral differences between pure and adulterated samples was successfully tested by Kim et al. ⁹⁵. Temperatures of 80 and 90°C allowed a correct classification of 100% by applying LDA on the PCA scores of the spectra.

Regarding quantitative analyses, several authors such as Mendes *et al.* ⁴⁰, Yang and Irudayaraj ³⁵, El-Abassy *et al.* ⁹⁶, Davies *et al.* ⁹⁷, Lopez-Diez *et al.* ⁹⁸ or Heise *et al.* ⁹⁹, applied PLS regression to Raman spectra to predict the concentrations of added sunflower, soya oil, hazelnut or olive pomace oils to VOO. They obtained quite satisfactory results, with R^2 over 0.97 and SEP below 3.6%. Yang and Irudayaraj ³⁵ concluded that Raman spectroscopy was slightly more efficient that NIR and MIR to quantify the adulteration of EVOO with olive pomace oil, whereas Mendes *et al.* ⁴⁰ detected no statistically significant difference between the three techniques for the analysis of soybean and olive oil mixtures. Baeten *et al.* ¹⁰⁰ used stepwise linear regression analysis (SLRA) to measure the amount of trilinolein added to VOO, yielding a R^2 of 0.998 for concentrations between 1 and 10% of adulterant. The same method applied to VOOs adulterated with maize, soya or olive pomace oils gave a R^2 of 0.92. Zhang et al.¹⁰¹ developed an external standard method (ESM) resulting in R² over 0.99 and RMSE below 3.2%, while Dong *et al.* ¹⁰² generated a LS-SVM model after parameter optimization by Bayesian framework that gave a R^2 of 0.997 and RMSEP of 0.051.

resolution: 6 cm⁻¹

TABLE 8: EXAMPLES OF RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO ANALYSE VOOS ADULTERATED WITH OTHER OILS

4. Authentication of geographical or varietal origins

Few studies have been published regarding the confirmation of VOOs declared geographical origin or cultivar with Raman spectroscopy, all of them using confocal instruments, as shown in Table 9.

Korifi et al.² applied PLS-DA to Raman spectra, yielding a correct classification of 92.3% for the six French PDOs with samples collected over several harvest years. A similar method gave Sanchez-Lopez *et al.* ¹⁰³ a correct classification of 86.6% for three Andalusian PDOs. In this study, PLS-DA on Raman data was also able to discriminate the EVOOs based on their harvest year, region of origin and olive variety with correct results of 94.3%, 89% and 84% respectively. Finally, Gouvinhas *et al.* ¹⁰⁴ used LDA to correctly classify 81.9% of Portuguese EVOO samples depending on their maturation stages.

TABLE 9: EXAMPLES OF RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY APPLICATIONS TO DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF VOOS

7. MULTIBLOCK ANALYSIS - CONCATENATION OF SPECTRAL DATA

1. Adulteration of Virgin Olive Oils with other oils

A couple of studies focusing on the combination of data from several analytical methods have recently been published and are presented in Table 10.

Wojcicki *et al.* ⁴¹ applied PLS regression to concatenated data from NIR, MIR, visible and fluorescence spectra, yielding a R^2 of 0.96 and RMSEP of 4.1%. However these results showed no significant improvement compared to those obtained with separate spectra. On the other hand, Nigri and Oumeddour¹⁰⁵ obtained better results with concatenated MIR and fluorescence data than with individual datasets. In this case, PLS regression gave a R^2 of 0.992 and RMSECV of 2.67.

TABLE 10: EXAMPLES OF CONCATENATED DATA APPLICATIONS TO ANALYSE VOOS ADULTERATED WITH OTHER OILS

2. Authentication of geographical or varietal origins

Diverging conclusions have been drawn regarding the usefulness of spectral data concatenation for the authentication of virgin olive oils, as can be seen in the articles from Table 11.

Harrington *et al.* ¹⁰⁶ reached 100% of correct classification between oils from five French PDOs by applying Principal-Component Orthogonal Signal Correction (PC-OSC) and PLS-DA to fused NIR and MIR data. However, this result was not compared to that obtained with each technique alone. In another study, Dupuy et al.¹ obtained 99% of correct classification for six French PDOs with PLS-DA on concatenated NIR and MIR spectra, but this did not significantly improve the result compared to MIR data alone. On the contrary, in three different articles 48,53,107, Casale *et al.* obtained an improved rate of correct classification by combining data from various analytical instruments. For instance, LDA on fused NIR and MIR spectra gave a correct classification rate of 90.2% for three Italian cultivars, versus respectively 82.9% and 86.6% for NIR and MIR data alone⁴⁸. UNEQ class modelling applied to combined NIR, MIR and UV-visible spectral data gave a correct classification of 100% for PDO olive oil Chianti Classico and improved the predictive ability of the model ⁵³. Concatenation of NIR, UV-visible and MS data also resulted in 100% discrimination between EVOOs from Liguria and other Italian regions, which was not possible with each separate technique ¹⁰⁷.

TABLE 11: EXAMPLES OF CONCATENATED DATA APPLICATIONS TO DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF VOOS

CONCLUSION

Bibliometric results show a growing interest in vibrational spectroscopic techniques as an alternative method for the authentication of VOOs and EVOOs. The ability of NIR, MIR and Raman spectroscopies to detect and quantify the adulteration of VOOs with cheaper oils, and to identify the geographical or varietal origins of samples, has been demonstrated in numerous research works. Even though MIR is more often studied, no significant difference appears in the quality of the results obtained with the three techniques. Thus, this apparent preference may be due to the greater availability of MIR instruments. Despite these promising results, vibrational spectroscopic techniques are not currently recognised as reference analytical methods by international standards and regulations.

The importance of chemometrics pre-treatment and modelling, allowing to treat the large amount of complex data generated by the vibrational spectroscopic analyses, should also be noted. Indeed, NIR, MIR and Raman spectra represent "fingerprints" of the samples, and only chemometrics can reveal the slight differences between two VOOs spectra.

In the future, more studies could be focused on the use of multiblock models to explore the interest of combining complementary information from several analytical techniques. The use of on-line instruments, for instance with fibre optic probes, could be an interesting way to monitor the varietal origin and quality parameters during olive oil extraction. However, the issue of NIR, MIR and Raman instrumental drift should be addressed if they are to be used on a routine basis.

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