

# Feasibility Study of Veterinary Drug Residues in Honey by NIR Detection

Hongqian Chen<sup>1</sup>, Zhenhua Tu<sup>2</sup>, Zhaoshen Qing<sup>3</sup>, Xiaobin Qiu<sup>1</sup>, and Chaoying Meng<sup>3,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> China Agriculture University Net Center, Beijing, 100083, China

<sup>2</sup> China Food Industry Promotion Center, Beijing, 100062, China

<sup>3</sup> China Agriculture University, Beijing, 100062, China

mcy@cau.edu.cn

**Abstract.** In order to verify the feasibility of the near-infrared to detect the veterinary drug in honey, studying the impact of different background correction methods for linear modeling and nonlinear modeling. Use PLSR to establish the linear model between near-infrared spectroscopy and to be measured, and LSSVR to establish the nonlinear model between near-infrared spectroscopy and to be measured. At the same time, we used Wavelet transform, Multiplicative Scatter Correction, Standard Normalized Variate, First derivative transform, Second derivative transform, Orthogonal Signal Correction and other background correction methods to improve the feasibility of the near-infrared detection.

**Keywords:** Near-infrared, Honey, Tetracycline.

## 1 Introduction

Honey is the nectar which is collected by bees from many plants, or is the sweet substance which is fully brewed in a special substance. In the process of feeding bees, beekeeper fed the bees with a large number of antibiotics such as tetracycline, chloromycetin and so on, in order to prevent the illness of the bees. This drug can be stored in honey's cells, tissues, organs, and with the food chain will threat human health. Especially in 2008, the exposure of the melamine incident highlights the problems in the field of food safety in China.

According to Hygienic Standard for Honey(GB/T5009.95): tetracycline antibiotics which are the major residues of veterinary medicine have been explicitly included in the detection range, and its limit of physicochemical index residue must be less than 0.05mg/kg. At present, as the requirements of European Union and The United States of America on pesticide and veterinary medicine

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\* This work is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China(30901127) and Rapid detection of food in small and medium-sized enterprises of public service platform construction project(2011GH552096), National torch plan that environment of industrialization of construction project.

residue, the quality of honeys which China exports should be improved. In January 2002, The European Union banned imports of Chinese products which originated in animals, because chloramphenicol residues of shrimp exceeded the standard. It also caused a chain reaction of Japan, Canada and Hong Kong. The "Green barriers" policy which EU adopted in the honey trade has not only seriously affected the honey export of China, but also influenced the whole industry [2]. In China, the phenomenon that residues of tetracycline exceed the standard becomes more and more serious. In July 2004, Industrial and commercial bureau of Sichuan Province investigated the honey on the market: only 4 batches of honey qualified in the 30 batches, and the unqualified rate is 87%. The most prominent problem is the tetracycline antibiotic residues exceeding, and 10 batches of honey didn't qualify while the unqualified rate is 33%. In order to safeguard the interests of consumers, to ensure the quality of honey for import and export and find an effective detection method of tetracycline antibiotic residues exceeding is imminent. Efficient and practical detection technology contributes to the safety appraisal of honey, and it can ensure that China's export of honey meets all the international standards.

At present, there are several methods to detect the veterinary drug residue of honey, such as traditional chemical method, liquid chromatography, ultraviolet spectrophotometer, electrochemical analysis and so on. However, these methods are defective, as some of them are devastating while others are time-consuming and expensive. So, it needs a quick, lightweight, accurate and effective detection method in the research of tetracycline compositions in honey.

Some of previous studies have shown that Near-Infrared Spectroscopy can precisely detect the composition of honey. However, the content of tetracycline ingredients in honey is quite low, which leads that the information of near infrared region was disturbed by the background noise, so it is difficult to extract and utilize it. Meanwhile, Near infrared spectrum detection technology has been studied and applied in the detection of honey quality, identification of adulteration, plant source and place of origin. The near infrared spectrum detection technology has been used in the quality detection of honey products, and the adulteration detection, and the detection of plant source, and origin detection, but the detection of veterinary drug residues in honey has not been reported. In this study, the feasibility of detecting veterinary drug residues in honey by Near-Infrared Spectroscopy was investigated, in which variety of spectral preprocessing and non-linear quantitative model will be used.

## **2 Materials and Methods**

### **2.1 Materials**

This study collected the main origin of honey, include Sichuan, Qingzang, Beijing and so on. The honey's variety include unioral honey and multifloral honey, like *Robinia pseudoacacia* L, *Friobotryajaponica* (Thunb.) Lind, *Zizyphus jujuba* NM ver.

iaerirus(Bunge.)Rehrl, Astragalus siviuis L, Vites negundo van heterophylla (Franch.)Rehd, Tilia amurensis Rupr, Dimocarpuslongan Lour, Brassico campestris L, Litchi chine-is Soon, Eurya, Citrus reticulata Blanco, Sophoraviciifclia Hanue. There are 153 honey samples, and stored at 4°C freezer.

## 2.2 Instruments and Parameters

In this study, spectral acquisition used ISF/28N Fourier near-infrared spectrometer instrument which is product in BRUKER co. This instrument's range is 3600~12500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , a minimum resolution is  $1\text{cm}^{-1}$ . When collecting the spectrum of liquid, we can use transmission pool (optical path is 2mm or 20mm), quartz liquid transmission and reflection optical fiber (fixed optical path is 2mm) Annex.

## 2.3 The Acquisition of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy

The experimental spectra are collected in a temperature controlled laboratory (In this study, the temperature is 26°C). The instrument must be warm up for 30 minutes or more before test. At the same time, if honey is crystallized, the crystal honey samples must be heated to nine hours in 40 °C water bath and then place samples in 26°C environment temperature.

## 2.4 Detection of Tetracycline Content in Honey

We use high performance liquid chromatography - ultraviolet detect method to detect the content of tetracycline in honey. Honey samples dissolved in 0.1mol/L Na2EDTA-McIlvaine solution, after centrifuged, the supernatant use Oasis HLB Solid phase extraction column and the carboxylic acid anion exchange column to purify, and use Elution to determine the volume. Finally, we use high performance liquid chromatography with UV detection at 350nm, and use external standard method (peak area) - the standard curve for quantification, and the concentration of tetracycline is 0.005mg/kg<sup>[6]</sup>. In 153 samples, we select 101 samples to detect, there are 41 samples have chemical value, and 60 samples don't have the chemical value.

# 3 Results and Analysis

## 3.1 PLSR Model of Tetracycline Content in Honey

There are 6 abnormal samples in the 41 samples, so we get 35 samples to calculate. After removing the abnormal samples, in order to get more stability of the model, the calibration set and predict set are in the ratio of 2:1, 3:1, 7:3, 4:1, 3:2, according to K-S law to divide. And then, all set establish PLSR model respectively, all indicators shows in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Statistic data of honey including calibration and prediction for 5 times

Honey quality indicators	Divide number	Sample set	Number of samples	Range	Average	Standard deviation
Tetracycline( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ )	1	Calibration set	27	10.2-66.8	22.1333	14.1161
		Prediction set	8	11.3-47.6	24.9125	13.2533
	2	Calibration set	24	10.2-66.8	21.7958	14.9162
		Prediction set	11	11.3-47.6	24.8909	11.2625
	3	Calibration set	21	10.2-66.8	21.8571	15.4482
		Prediction set	14	11.3-47.6	24.1357	11.2371
	4	Calibration set	25	10.2-66.8	22.1080	14.6854
		Prediction set	10	11.3-47.6	24.42	11.7571
	5	Calibration set	28	10.2-66.8	21.8143	13.9547
		Prediction set	7	11.3-47.6	26.5857	13.3714

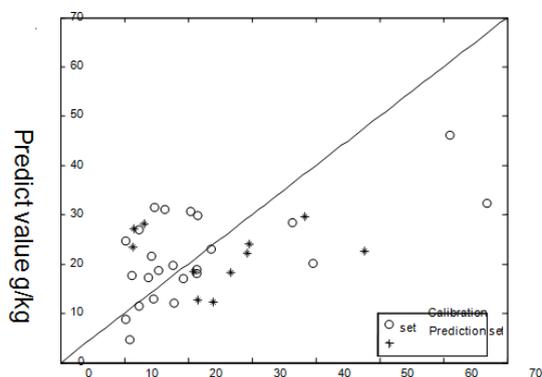
The calibration set and the prediction set be calculate with Auto-scaling method, and then we use PLSR method for multivariate statistical analysis of the experimental data. Nonlinear iterative partial least squares (NIPALS) algorithm is used to get partial least square factors. The optimum factor number of the calibration model (# LV) is determined by two factors, LOOCV and prediction residual sum of squares (PRESS). The result of honey tetracycline Fourier transmission and reflection spectra PLSR model showed in Table 2.

**Table 2.** The PLSR models results of honey tetracycline content for 5 times

Honey quality indicators	Divide number	Calibration set					Prediction set		
		$n^a$	#LV <sup>b</sup>	r	SEC	RSD <sub>c</sub> (%)	$n^c$	SEP	RSD <sub>p</sub> (%)
Tetracycline ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ )	1	27	4	0.6287	10.9774	49.6%	8	14.6035	58.62%
	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.6170</b>	<b>11.7386</b>	<b>53.86%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12.9852</b>	<b>52.12%</b>
	3	21	4	0.5946	12.4208	56.83%	14	11.7928	48.86%
	4	25	4	0.6165	11.5629	52.3%	10	13.6492	55.89%
	5	28	4	0.6271	10.8693	49.83%	7	15.2219	57.26%

Note: a: n is number of samples in the calibration set, b: # LV is the best number of factors in calibration set, c: n is the number samples in prediction set.

The predict effect of PLSR modeling to establish honey tetracycline Fourier transmission and reflection spectra is not good, because the tetracycline content in honey is too low. The second division is much better, r is 0.6170, RSD is 52.12%. Figure 1 shows the correlation of the predictive value and the true value of the model built in the 2nd division of the tetracycline content in honey. From the figure, poor model prediction accuracy is difficult to directly meet the forecast requirements.



**Fig. 1.** Correlation between the measured and predicted values of honey tetracycline content for the second time: FT transmittance spectra ( $4000\text{-}12500\text{cm}^{-1}$ )

### 3.2 Map of the Signal Optimization

Multiplicative scatter correction, standard variable transformation, the Fourier transform and wavelet transform are separately processed for the spectral matrix ( $X$  matrix), without taking into account the specific characteristics of the test the amount of information to be analyzed. Therefore, they are difficult to remove extraneous interference while without loss and to be measured on the spectral information. For this case, Wold, orthogonal signal correction (Orthogonal Signal Correction, OSC) method used to avoid the removal of important information on the forecast to be measured. Wold use Orthogonal Signal Correction method to resolve this problem. The OSC algorithm make the measurement information is also taken into account, and it remove the spectral information which is independent with variable matrix  $Y$ . The OSC algorithm has so many improved algorithms, one is a direct orthogonal signal correction (Direct Orthogonal the Signal Correction. DOSC), which is Westerhuis proposed, a direct orthogonal signal correction (DOSC) algorithm provides exact solution to orthogonal signal correction proposed by Wold. Just by a simple least squares method, DOSC can figure out those with the  $Y$  orthogonal, in the  $X$  matrix space and to the greatest extent describe the  $X$  matrix variation (variation) of the orthogonal factor.

We use DOSC to preprocess the near-infrared Fourier transmission and reflection spectra of honey tetracycline, and DOSC removed irrelevant information, which makes the difference among the spectra of each sample more obvious. Removing the irrelevant information with DOSC, we use PLSR model to establish the near-infrared spectrum and honey tetracycline.

Selecting parameters of DOSC and establishment the PLSR model, the number of factor selected from 1,2, and tolerance factor of DOSC from the 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, and PLSR best the main factor number is selected from 1-20. When DOSC tolerance factor is set too high, the result of model appeared over-fitting; contrary, DOSC tolerance factor is set too low, the unwanted information filter not complete, and the precision of the model are also affected. When removing a factor of DOSC, and the

tolerance factor is set to 0.35, the accuracy of the model is the highest,  $r$  increased from 0.617 to 0.6781,  $RSD_p$  (%) decreased from 52.12% to 45.65%.

### 3.3 Nonlinear Calibration Model of Tetracycline Content in Honey

The tetracycline content in honey is very low ( $10^{-9}$ ~ $10^{-7}$ ), its non-linear effects and interference may also be larger. Therefore, we use LSSVM to establish the nonlinear model of tetracycline in honey, in order to explore the feasibility of quantitative detection. RBF kernel is used in this article, and LSSVR which used RBF kernel just need confirm two parameters, namely the regularization parameter  $\gamma$  and kernel bandwidth parameters. The parameters  $\gamma$  and  $\sigma^2$  used two-step grid-search and remove one across-validation to determine.

Firstly, we follow the exponential growth to primaries parameter  $\gamma$  and  $\sigma^2$ , and in the first choice, the range of parameter  $\gamma$  is from 1 to 109, and the range of parameter  $\sigma^2$  is from 0.01 to 100. After first choice, the value of parameter  $\gamma$  is 1 and the value of parameter  $\sigma^2$  is 81.92. Secondly, we use uniform growth to feature parameter  $\gamma$  and parameter  $\sigma^2$ , in the first choice the initial range of the parameter  $\gamma$  is 0.1-10, and the initial range of  $\sigma^2$  is 0.01~100. The growth step of parameter  $\gamma$  is 0.1, and the growth step of parameter  $\sigma^2$  is 0.1. After second choice, the value of parameter  $\gamma$  is 1.2 and the value of parameter  $\sigma^2$  is 9.8. After selecting the best parameter  $\gamma$  and the bandwidth parameters of kernel function, we establish the LSSVR model of Tetracycline content in honey, and the result of the model shown in Table 3. From the modeling results, the prediction of using LSSVR model is better than the PLSR model,  $RSD_p$  (%) decreased from 52.12% to 48.95%.

**Table 3.** The PLSR and LSSVR models constructed with different spectral preprocessing methods

Honey quality indicators	Model	Parameter	$r$	SEP	$RSD_p$ (%)
Tetracycline( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ )	PLSR	LV=4	0.6170	12.9852	52.12%
	DOSC-PLSR	n=1, tol=0.35, LV=1	0.6781	11.3634	45.65%
	MSC-PLSR	LV=2	0.5736	12.4985	50.21%
	SNV—PLSR	LV=2	0.5734	12.4955	50.2%
	WT-PLSR	Bior3.3, J=1, LV=4	0.6169	12.9852	52.17%
	First derivative - PLSR	2-9, LV=2	0.5327	12.3201	49.50%
	Second derivative -PLSR	2-9, LV=2	0.5744	12.3930	49.79%
	LS-SVR	$\gamma=1.2, \sigma^2=9.8$	0.6618	12.1838	48.95%

LV: PLSR, The number of main factors; n: DOSC, Number of factors; tol: DOS, The number of tolerance factor; J: Wavelet decomposition level;  $\gamma$ : LSSVR, The regularization parameter,  $\sigma^2$ RBF, Bandwidth of kernel function parameters.

## 4 Conclusion

DOSC remove the spectral information with Y orthogonal, and it make the linear relationship between spectra and to be measured is more obvious, which can improve the predictive ability of PLS Model and also simplify model. The value of RSD<sub>p</sub> from 52.12% drop to 45.65% after DOSC treatment, so DOSC is a very effective pre-processing method in PLSR regression model.

We use LSSVR to build nonlinear model of tetracycline in honey, because our data base has less number of samples. The predict precision of LSSVR is better than PLSR, the value of RSD<sub>p</sub>(%) decrease from 52.12% to 48.95%.

However, due to complex background, peak overlap, and the strong absorb effect of water, it is hard to accurately extract the effective information of tetracycline in honey with these methods, and to achieve rapid detect requirements.

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