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Profiling of Wavelength Biomarkers of Pure Meat Samples from Different Species Based on Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and PCA Techniques

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Abstract— Infrared spectroscopy (IR) has been known as an analytical method suitable for authenticity studies. In particular, Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy can be used for qualitative and quantitative purposes. The main advantages of FTIR are high sensitivity, high energy throughput and excellent speed of spectral acquisition. Combined with computer and advanced chemometric software, FTIR can easily be used to manipulate spectral information. Biomarkers such as DNA/RNA, proteins, metabolites, or a combination of profiles of several of these molecules are indicators that may be used to rapidly and easily detect the status and phase of biological processes. Thus biomarkers provide information about the status and phase of biological processes. This study aims to investigate pig wavelength biomarkers against other pure samples of different types of meat based on Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and PCA techniques. Fat from four different animal meats (pig,chicken,beef, and lamb) were processed under different extraction conditions prior to FTIR and PCA analysis. Palm oil was used as control. Sixteen wavelengths in accordance to type of fat and processing method were identified as spectral markers to differentiate pig, beef, lamb, and chicken fats, and palm oil. The spectral biomarkers identifying pig and chicken fats were quite similar, complicating the identification of samples containing said fats. The biomarker wavelengths identified from the spectra of the four fats and palm oil at position 1236 and 3007 cm-1 separated the four animal fats and palm oil at notable distances, indicating that these wavelength could be used to identify non-halal samples.

Keywords-pig; biomarker; halal; FTIR; PCA; authentication; fat.

I. INTRODUCTION

There are various approaches to detect and measure the level of adultery in food products. The first approach is to determine the ratio between chemical constituents. This approach assumes that this ratio is constant in certain food products. In this approach every addition of food products will modify or change the value of this ratio or will highlight anomalies in their chemical composition. Usually, this approach is associated with a number of analyzes and often uses chemometrics for analysis. The second approach looks for specific markers in food products, both chemical constituents or morphological components, which prove the presence of adulterants in food products. The third approach uses analytical methods derived from physical analysis by considering all samples to show the effect of counterfeiting on their physico-chemical properties [2].

Analytical methods commonly used to detect adulteration of oils and fats are based on differences in the properties and composition of the components. These methods usually depend on physical-chemical constants or on chemical and biological measurements [8].

Infrared spectroscopy (IR) has been known as an analytical method suitable for authenticity studies [10]. Analysis of food samples using the medium infrared spectrum (MIR) (4000-400 cm) provides relevant and valuable information about the existence of molecular bonds [9]. The infrared spectrum which is a modern analytical instrument produces a large amount of data that includes several thousand wavelengths of data (wave number). A computer that is used systematically can process large amounts of data with minimal information loss. A

chemometric can process large data systematically and allow it to gain deeper insight and a more complete interpretation of this data. The main objectives of the multivariate method are data reduction, classification and classification of observations and modeling of relationships that may exist between variables. Multivariate methods can also predict whether new observations are included in qualitative or quantitative groups [3].

In particular, Principal component analysis (PCA) is a technique to reduce the difficulty of processing datasets, improve interpretation and at the same time minimize information loss. PCA also makes new uncorrelated variables which in turn maximize variance. In other words, PCA is an adaptive data analysis technique because the technical variants have been and can be developed according to different types of data and structures [4], [7].

On the other hand, biomarkers like DNA/RNA, proteins, metabolites, or a profile of several molecules are indicators that may be used to rapidly and easily detect the status and phase of biological processes. This study reports the results of investigation of pig wavelength biomarkers against other pure samples of different types of meat based on Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and PCA techniques.

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

A. Fat Identification in Pure Samples

1) Sample Preparation: Samples from pig, chicken, lamb and beef were prepared for analysis. The meats were collected from a local slaughterhouse at Gombak Market in Malaysia. The preparation started firstly by washing the samples using distilled water to remove any contamination on the surface of the meat samples. Then, the meat samples were cut into small sizes (1 cm x 1 cm) and kept at -20 °C until use.

2) Sample Extraction [11]:Fat extraction was done using four different processes respectively (oven, baked, boiled, fried. The melted fat obtained from the extraction (see below) was strained through a triple-folded muslin cloth, dried by addition of anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 20 min. The fat layer was decanted, shaken well and centrifuged again before being filtered through Whatman filter paper containing sodium sulfate anhydrous to remove trace amounts of water. The prepared oils were then used for FTIR or kept in tightly closed containers under a nitrogen blanket in -20 °C. The extraction processes are described briefly below.

a. Fat extraction using a oven process

In this process, the meat was cut into small pieces, mixed, and melted at 90-100 $^{\circ}$ C for 2 h in the oven (in a cookware).

b. Fat extraction using a baking process

The meat was cut into small pieces, mixed, and melted at 90-100 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 min in a baking process over a fire using prepared cookware.

c. Fat extraction using a boiling process

The meats were cut into small pieces, mixed, and melted at 90-100 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 min in a boiling process.

d. Fat extraction using a frying process

In this process, the meat was cut into small pieces, mixed, and melted at 90-100 °C for 15 min in a frying process.

B. Pig Biomarker Identification

1) Pig Biomarker Identification in Spectral and Chemometric Analysis:

a. FTIR spectral region analysis

We compared all the animal fat charts using IR software. The IR data of all the animal fats obtained from FTIR was compared using the IR software Spectragryph version 1.2.8 [1]. Nicolet iS50 FTIR Spectrometer is used to obtain full spectrum in the mid-infrared region (400-4000 cm-1). The number of scans is set to 32 with a resolution of 4 cm-1. Measurements are calibrated against the background air. The overall FTIR spectrum corresponds to stretching of functional groups and fingerprint groups that are present in fat from meat species.

b. Chemometric Analysis

Chemometrics is the chemical discipline that uses mathematics and statistics to design or select optimal experimental procedures, to provide maximum relevant chemical information by analyzing chemical data, and to obtain knowledge about chemical systems.

Among the existing multivariate analysis techniques, PCA is the most commonly used. If dealing with a lot of data where a set of n objects are described by a number of p variables. In such situations, identification need help of mathematical techniques such as PCA. This technique is usually used in all fields where data analysis is needed, where it is often used in conjunction with other multivariate techniques such as discriminant analysis [3].

2) Pig Biomarker Identification in The Scatter Plot Screener and Table Analysis

The biomarkers were visually similar, therefore it was predicted that it would be difficult to identify samples containing pork fat from other fats in its spectral diagram. However, this problem was overcome by using a scatter plot screener program. The program compared between two wavelenghts across the sixteen wavelenghts, and significant wavelengths differentiating pig fat from chicken fat. Table I listed the frequency range of FTIR in relation to functional groups.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study tested fats obtained from four types of animal meats: pig, chicken, beef, and lamb. Each animal meat was separated into four parts and each part was subjected to different processes: oven, baking, friying, and boiling processes. After the process, extraction was carried out to obtain 100% pure fat, in accordance with previous reports by

Rohman and Che Man [11]. A total of sixteen different fats were obtained.

A. Fat Identification in Pure Samples

The graph shows the average spectrum of three replicates of pig, chicken, beef and lamb fats. The four fats were each subjected to four types of processes namely oven, baking, boiling, and friying. A total of sixteen fat samples were obtained.

The sixteen fats that were obtained were then injected into the FTIR device. The data used was the average of values obtained. The data obtained from FTIR was further processed using IR software. The graphic display of the sixteen fats is presented in Fig. 1.

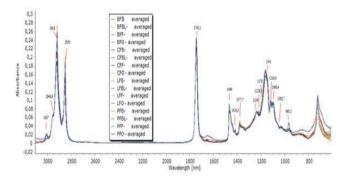


Fig. 1 FTIR spectra of lipid fraction extracted from sixteen samples averaged in infrared region (4,000 - 650 cm-1).

Fig. 1 above shows the sixteen fat IR readings in one chart. Four animal fats were used: firstly, pig fat denoted PF processed with oven (PFO), baked (PFB), fried (PFF), and boiled (PFBL), secondly, chicken fat denoted CF processed by oven (CFO), baked (CFB), fried (CFF), and boiled (CFBL), thirdly, beef fat abbreviated to BF processed with oven (BFO), baked (BFB), fried (BFF), and boiled (BFBL) and fourthly, lamb fat shortened to LF processed by oven (LFO), baked (LFB), fried (LFF), and boiled (LFBL).

	SPECTRUM RANGE OF FTIR IN RELATION TO FUNCTIONAL GROUPS							
No	Frequency	Description						
	range							
1	3006 – 3000 cm ⁻¹	Frequency at 3007 cm ⁻¹ was attributed to $-$ C=CH (<i>cis</i> double bond stretching) and can be attributed to mono-unsaturated fatty acids (MUFA).						
2	1650 – 1645 cm ⁻¹	The C=O group of triglycerides shows a stretching vibration band at approximately 1744 cm ⁻¹ . The C=C stretching mode of unconjugated olefins usually shows moderate to weak absorption at 1667 – 1640 cm ⁻¹ . Unsubstituted trans-olefin absorbs 1670 cm ⁻¹ , but the band may be extremely weak or absent; unsubstituted cis-olefins absorb near 1650 cm ⁻¹ , and the absorption of this band is stronger than that of trans-olefin. For these reasons, these bands can be attributed to C=C stretching vibration of disubstituted cis C=C of acyl group of oleic acid and linoleic acid.						
3	1380 – 1360 cm ⁻¹	The bands between $1400 - 1000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ were the most difficult to assign; at approximately 1464 cm ⁻¹ , all spectra showed the scissoring band of the bending vibration of the methylene group.						

4	1230 – 1228 cm ⁻¹	In all samples near 1400 cm ⁻¹ and at 1377 cm ⁻¹ , a small band was observed, which was difficult to assign. This could be due to symmetrical bonding vibration of methyl group In this region, we can see slight changes in the height of the peaks at $1200 - 1250$ cm ⁻¹ frequency region. In general, twisting and wagging vibration of the CH ₂ groups was observed in the zone between $1250 - 1150$ cm ⁻¹ and these bands generally result from methylene scissoring.
5	1119 – 1096 cm ⁻¹	In this frequency, pure lard showed two overlapping peaks having maxima at 1098.69 cm ⁻¹ and 1116.88 cm ⁻¹ . These peaks have been found to be inversely related to the proportion of saturated acyl group and oleic acyl groups, respectively.

The sixteen wavelengths along the spectrum were analysed using the spectra analysis software to determine the value of each of the specified target wavelengths. Location of the target wavelength and its values are listed in Table IIA and IIB.

TABLE IIA THE SIXTEEN WAVELENGHTS FTIR VALUE OF SIXTEEN FAT SAMPLES OF FOUR PROCESSES INFRARED REGION (4,000 – 1400 cm-1).

Groups	3007	2948,9	2918	2850	1743,1	1466	1416,5	1377,7
BF-B	0,01147	0,06338	0,2572	0,1926	0,2357	0,09129	0,03138	0,04928
BF-BL	0,01083	0,06199	0,2734	0,2046	0,2337	0,09152	0,03161	0,05261
BF-F	0,01257	0,06242	0,251	0,188	0,2288	0,09017	0,03187	0,0495
BF-O	0,01158	0,06344	0,259	0,1943	0,2398	0,09158	0,03097	0,04852
CF-B	0,01929	0,06715	0,1964	0,1347	0,243	0,07331	0,0299	0,04349
CF-BL	0,01939	0,06712	0,194	0,1367	0,2419	0,07407	0,02897	0,04418
CF-F	0,01943	0,06666	0,1936	0,1367	0,2438	0,07378	0,02893	0,04374
CF-O	0,0192	0,0671	0,1968	0,1389	0,2462	0,07445	0,02904	0,04473
LF-B	0,01253	0,06416	0,2241	0,1618	0,2419	0,0802	0,02927	0,04584
LF-BL	0,01242	0,06372	0,2198	0,1586	0,2408	0,079	0,02874	0,04466
LF-F	0,01323	0,06532	0,2108	0,1493	0,2436	0,07608	0,02841	0,0444
LF-O	0,01343	0,06337	0,2129	0,1586	0,2406	0,07991	0,02827	0,04411
PF-B	0,01827	0,06584	0,2002	0,1416	0,2467	0,07438	0,02858	0,04381
PF-BL	0,01854	0,06569	0,1989	0,1406	0,2451	0,07414	0,02857	0,04378
PF-F	0,01873	0,06601	0,1988	0,1405	0,2455	0,07416	0,02861	0,04383
PF-O	0,0189	0,06637	0,1993	0,141	0,2461	0,07463	0,02887	0,04416

 TABLE IIB

 The sixteen wavelenghts FTIR value of sixteen fat samples of four processes infrared region (1400 – 650 cm-1).

Groups	1236	1216,3	1178	1141	1116,6	1098,4	1082,7	965,1
BF-B	0,07368	0,07291	0,1382	0,1274	0,09681	0,09439	0,06057	0,03434
BF-BL	0,07511	0,07645	0,1514	0,1258	0,09573	0,09398	0,05926	0,03368
BF-F	0,07318	0,07263	0,1368	0,1254	0,09565	0,09351	0,06056	0,03516
BF-O	0,07361	0,07199	0,1374	0,1282	0,09703	0,09407	0,06127	0,03136
CF-B	0,073	0,06546	0,1224	0,1335	0,09528	0,09466	0,07185	0,03043
CF-BL	0,07313	0,06545	0,121	0,1399	0,09675	0,09364	0,07098	0,0308
CF-F	0,07332	0,06528	0,1216	0,1412	0,09747	0,09419	0,07159	0,03066
CF-O	0,07394	0,06657	0,1221	0,1414	0,09809	0,09467	0,07142	0,0306
LF-B	0,07264	0,06873	0,1268	0,1357	0,09951	0,09489	0,06471	0,04556
LF-BL	0,07183	0,06724	0,1242	0,136	0,09951	0,09443	0,0646	0,04564
LF-F	0,07191	0,06661	0,1198	0,1383	0,1003	0,09452	0,06649	0,04867
LF-O	0,07117	0,06658	0,1262	0,1383	0,09611	0,09593	0,0659	0,04871
PF-B	0,0727	0,06623	0,1202	0,1404	0,09801	0,09449	0,06918	0,02984
PF-BL	0,07275	0,06623	0,1203	0,1399	0,09763	0,09431	0,06927	0,03009
PF-F	0,07283	0,06623	0,1205	0,1401	0,09762	0,09445	0,06954	0,03022
PF-O	0,07306	0,06632	0,1209	0,1404	0,09793	0,09466	0,07023	0,03025

Table IIA and IIB show the 256 values corresponding to four types of animal fats processed via four different processes. It was expected that these processes do not change the chemical structure of the animal fats. Minitab 17 was used to analyse the data. The results of the analysis can be seen in Fig. 2.

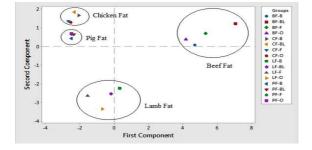


Fig. 2 Score plot of sixteen fat animal groups in sixteen wavelengths in the specified fat chart

Fig. 2 shows the score plot for the animal fats processed differently (via oven, baked, fried, and boiled) remains grouped within the same type of animal fat. This suggest that processing did not cause structural changes in the fat derived from the four types of animal meat.

Following this, only data from the oven process across the four types of meat was used in the next biomarker identification step: pig fat processed via oven (PF-O), chicken fat processed via oven (CF-O), beef fat processed via oven (LF-O). Palm oil (PO), was added to the analysis; 5 samples were used in total.

B. Pig Biomarker Identification

Identification of pig biomarker was carried out on the four animal fats obtained via oven process and palm oil. Each sample was analysed five times; biomarker value was recorded as the average of the 5 repetition values.

Fig. 3 shows the overall spectrum of the fats tested (4000-650 nm). The region of interest in the functional group region included wavelengths from 3000 to 2800 nm, while in the fingerprint region included 1800-900 nm.

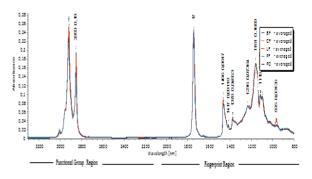


Fig. 3 FTIR spectra of lipid fraction extracted of 5 biomarker samples averaged infrared region (4,000 - 650 cm - 1).

Five fat samples and sixteen wavelenghts were discerned for use as biomarkers. The sixteen wavelenghts identified included four wavelenghts in the functional group region and twelve wavelenghts in the fingerprint region. The values were determined directly using software. The values of the sixteen wavelenghts are summarized in Table IIIA and IIIB.

 TABLE IIIA

 THE SIXTEEN WAVELENGHTS FTIR VALUE OF FIVE FAT SAMPLES OF OVEN

 PROCESS INFRARED REGION (4,000 –1400 cm-1).

		Functional	Groups		Finger Print					
	3007	2948.9	2918	2850	1743.1	1466	1416.5	1377.7		
BF	0.01158	0.06344	0.259	0.1943	0.2398	0.09155	0.03095	0.04852		
CF	0.0192	0.06706	0.1967	0.1392	0.2462	0.07448	0.02901	0.04472		
LF	0.01173	0.06336	0.2529	0.1887	0.2407	0.08989	0.03124	0.04811		
PF	0.01891	0.06633	0.1992	0.1413	0.2461	0.07467	0.02884	0.04415		
PO	0.01521	0.06598	0.211	0.1505	0.2414	0.07704	0.02896	0.04531		

 TABLE IIIB

 The sixteen wavelenghts FTIR value of five fat samples of oven process infrared region (1400 – 650 cm-1).

		Finger Print								
	1236	1216.3	1178	1141	1116.6	1098.4	1082.7	965.1		
BF	0.07361	0.07199	0.1374	0.128	0.097	0.09407	0.06134	0.03136		
CF	0.07394	0.06657	0.122	0.1412	0.0981	0.09469	0.0715	0.0306		
LF	0.07417	0.07258	0.1361	0.128	0.09608	0.09593	0.06097	0.04871		
PF	0.07307	0.06632	0.1208	0.1402	0.09793	0.09469	0.07031	0.03025		
PO	0.07387	0.06715	0.1229	0.1373	0.1009	0.09335	0.06858	0.02939		

Prominent peaks in the functional group region were at wavelenghts 3007 nm, 2948.9 nm, 2918 nm and 2850 nm. Fig. 4a shows four spectra of the five sample values in the functional group region (4000 - 2000 nm). The first spectrum shows wavelength 3007 of the five values, the second spectrum shows wavelength 2948.9, the third spectrum shows wavelength 2918, and the fourth spectrum shows wavelength 2850.

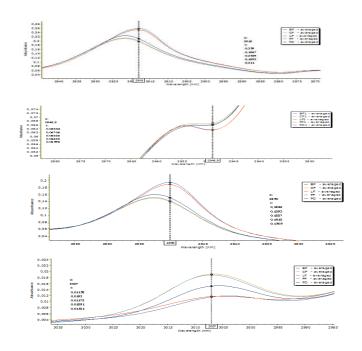


Fig. 4a FTIR spectra of lipid fraction extracted of 5 biomarker samples averaged and its value infrared functional group region (4,000 - 2000 nm).

Fig. 4b, 4c and 4d show spectra of the five sample values in the fingerprint group region (2000 – 650 nm). Twelve prominent wavelengths were identified: wavelengths 1743.1, 1466, 1416.5, 1377.7, 1236, 1216.3, 1178, 1141, 1116.6, 1098.4, 1082.7 and 965.1. The spectrum of the five samples at each wavelength in the fingerprint region is shown in Fig. 4b, 4c and 4d.

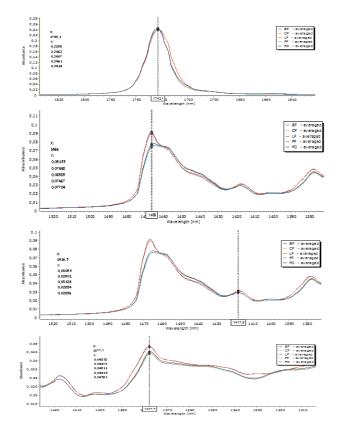


Fig. 4b FTIR spectra of lipid fraction extracted of 5 biomarker samples averaged and its value infrared fingerprint group region (2000 - 650 nm)

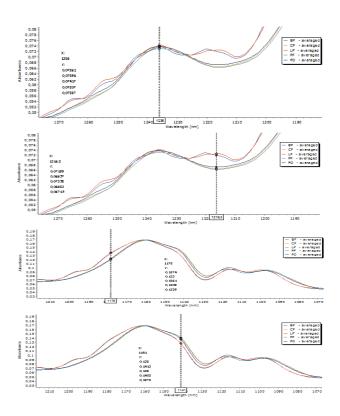


Fig. 4c FTIR spectra of lipid fraction extracted of 5 biomarker samples averaged and its value infrared fingerprint group region (2000 - 650 nm).

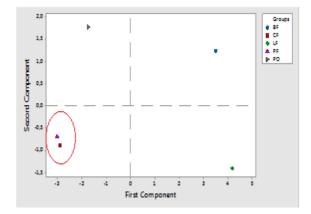


Fig. 5 Score plot of five fat animal groups in sixteen wavelengths in the specified fat chart

Figure 5 shows that the sixteen wavelengths in the spectrum can be plotted to distinguish pig fat against beef fat, lamb fat, and palm oil, but not pig fat against chicken fat. The biomarkers for pig and chicken fats were visually similar, therefore it was predicted that it would be difficult to identify samples containing pork fat from chicken fat from these wavelengths. However, this problem was overcome by using a scatterplot screener program. The program compared between two wavelengths across the sixteen wavelengths, and significant wavelengths differentiating pig fat from chicken fat were identified. The sixteen scatterplot screener values were calculated to determine wavelengths in the spectrum that would be able to properly distinguish pig fat from chicken fat. The results of the scatterplot screener calculations can be seen in Table IVa and IVb.

Table IVA and IVB shows comparison between two spectrum wavelengths denoted with colour codes. The green boxes indicate excellent wavelengths for use as biomarker, the yellow boxes indicate average wavelengths for use as biomarker, and the orange and red boxes indicate poor wavelengths for use as biomarker.

Wavelengths 3007 to 965.1 paired against wavelength 1236 resulted in green boxes in the table, meaning all the fats and oil separated well. The wavelength which resulted in the best separation against wavelength 1236 is wavelength 3007. These two wavelengths not only significantly differentiated pig fat from chicken fat, but were excellent at separating the two animal fats from palm oil as well.

Differences in wavelengths green, yellow, orange, and red can be clearly seen when scatter plots are applied. The five fats and oil that were identified to have good distance are circled in red. Examples of wavelength pairings resulting in red wavelengths, yellow wavelengths and green wavelengths are shown in Fig. 6, 7, 8 and 9 respectively.

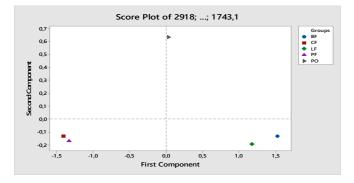


Fig. 6 Score plot of four fat animal and one palm oil in sixteen wavelengths (from 2918 to1743,1)nm in the specified fat chart

Fig. 7 shows the results of plot scores of the four animal fats and palm oil at wavelengths 2918 and 1743.1 nm on the spectrum (red box in Table 3); the biomarker wavelengths differentiating pig fat from chicken fat were relatively close compared to the wavelengths between pig fat with beef fat, lamb fat, and palm oil.

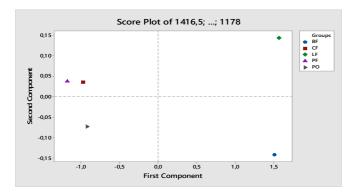


Fig. 7 Score plot of four fat animal and one palm oil in two wavelengths (1416,5 and 1178)nm in the specified fat chart

Fig. 8 shows the results of plot scores of the four animal fats and palm oil wavelengths 1416.5 and 1178 nm on the spectrum (red box in Table III); visually, the pig and chicken fat biomarker wavelengths were still relatively close

compared to the wavelengths between pig fat and beef fat, lamb fat, and palm oil that are relatively farther.

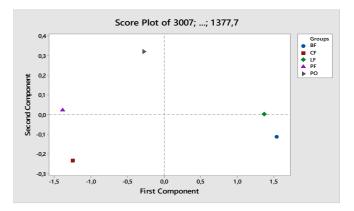


Fig. 8 Score plot of four fat animal and one palm oil in two wavelengths (1377,7 and 3007)nm in the specified fat chart

Fig. 9 shows the results of plot scores of the four animal fats and palm oil wavelengths 3007 and 1377.7 nm on the spectrum (yellow box in Table IV); it is observed that the pig and chicken biomarker wavelengths are farther apart; similarly, biomarker wavelengths identifying pig fat against beef fat, lamb fat, and palm oil are located far apart. Therefore, when using these two wavelengths for fat identification, the five fats and oil could be well separated.

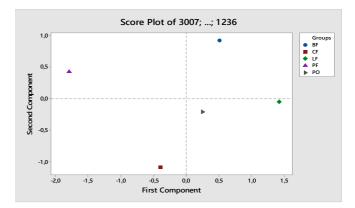


Fig. 9 Score plot of four fat animal and one palm oil in two wavelengths (1236 and 3007)nm in the specified fat chart

Fig. 10 shows the results of plot scores of the four animal fats and palm oil at wavelengths 1236 and 3007 nm on the spectrum (green box in Table IV); it is observed that the pig and chicken biomarker wavelengths, as well as that of pigs biomarker wavelengths against beef fat, lamb fat, and palm oil are well- separated in distance from one another. Therefore, using these two wavelengths for identification of the five fats and oil would result in clear separation.

Among the fifteen green wavelengths present in Table IV, wavelengths 1236 and 3007 were the most appropriate as biomarker wavelengths, because the pig fat and chicken fat wavelengths were located significantly far enough to be distinguished, as well as between pig fat against beef fat, lamb fat, and palm oil. The differences in the paired wavelengths can be seen in Fig. 10.

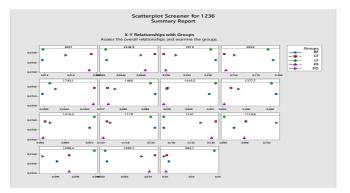


Fig. 10 Scatterplot screener of four fat animal and one palm oil in two wavelengths (1236 and all) nm in the specified fat chart

The two prominent frequencies were at wavelengths 3007 and 1236; frequency at 3007 cm⁻¹ was attributed to -C=CH (*cis* double bond stretching) and can be correlated to monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA). Meanwhile, at frequency range 1230 – 1228 cm⁻¹, slight changes in the height of the peaks at the 1200 – 1250 cm⁻¹ region was observed. In general, twisting and wagging vibration of the CH₂ groups was observed in the zone between 1250 – 1150 cm⁻¹; these bands are generally the result of methylene scissoring.

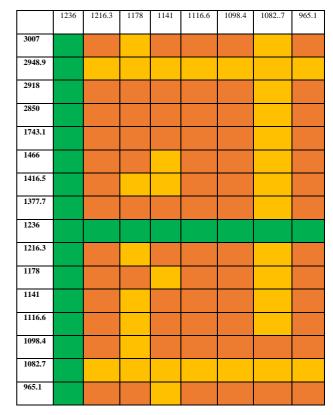
IV. CONCLUSIONS

The biomarker wavelengths identified from the spectra of the four fats and palm oil at position 1236 and 3007 cm-1 separated the four animal fats and palm oil at notable distances, indicating that these wavelength could be used to identify non-halal samples.

	3007	2948.9	2918	2850	1743.1	1466	1416.5	1377.7
3007								
2948.9								
2918								
2850								
1743.1								
1466								
1416.5								
1377.7								
1236								
1216.3								
1178								
1141								
1116.6								
1098.4								
1082.7								
965.1								

TABLE IVA SPECTRUM WAVELENGTH CALCULATION

TABLE IVB SPECTRUM WAVELENGTH CALCULATION



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