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Chemometric amylose modeling and sample selection for global calibration using artificial neural networks

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Abstract: Chemometric amylose modeling for global calibration, using whole grain near infrared transmittance spectra and sample selection, was used in an artificial neural network (ANN), to assess the global and local models generated, based on samples of newly bred Indica, Japonica and rice. Global sample sets had a wide range of sample variation for amylose content (0 to 25.9%). The local sample set, Japonica sample, had relatively low amylose content and a narrow sample variation (amylose: 12.3 to 21.0%). For sample selection the CENTER algorithm was applied to generate calibration, validation and stop sample sets. Spectral preprocessing was found to reduce the optimum number of partial least squares (PLS) components for amylose content and thus enhance the robustness of the local calibration. The best model was found to be an ANN global calibration with spectral preprocessing: the next was a PLS global calibration using standard spectra. These results pose the question whether an ANN algorithm with spectral preprocessing could be developed for global and local calibration models or whether PLS without spectral preprocessing should be developed for global calibration models. We suggest that global calibration models incorporating an ANN may be used as a universal calibration model.

Rice is consumed mainly as cooked whole-grain kernels. Consumers in northeast Asian countries prefer relatively low amylose in rice for cooking, and the physical properties of cooked rice are important from the viewpoint of its edibility. Genetic variations in amylose content are exhibited by native cultivars from various areas in Asia⁸. These physical properties of cooked rice can be characterized by the amylose content of milled rice⁶,¹⁰,¹⁵ and amylose content is used as one of the indexes of rice quality, especially for its edibility.

The potential of nonlinear multivariate calibration using artificial neural networks (ANN) has been reported⁴,⁷, as well as the reliability of common European ANN calibration for moisture and protein in whole-grain cereals using NIT, in terms of accuracy, stability, and transferability⁵. The chemometric models for measuring amylose content is necessary for the evaluation of ANN calibration which defines calibration(training, stop) and validation sample sets based on global sample sets, such as, newly bred Indica, Japonica and rice.

A partial least squares (PLS) regression model employing near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy of whole-grain milled rice samples has been proposed¹¹,¹³. By combining several types of spectral measurement technique it has
been found that amylose has an equally strong relationship to the vibrational spectra. Near-infrared transmittance (NIT) of whole-grain milled rices coupled with a PLS regression analysis has been used to develop a PLS calibration model for amylose content \[^{[13]}\], and these models (wavelength 570 to 1000 nm: monochromator type spectroscopy) have been improved by using the visible/near-infrared region\[^{[14]}\]. However, Shenk \[^{[12]}\] commented that many studies have relied on calibration and validation sample sets that must be set by trial and error. The aim of this study was to develop chemometric amylose models employing global sample sets based on newly bred \textit{Indica}, \textit{Japonica} and rice or employing the local sample sets based on \textit{Japonica} rice.

This study examined the performance of ANN and PLS chemometric models developed for global and local samples in which entire samples were divided into calibration sample sets (training, stop) and validation sample sets using the CENTER algorithm. The application of spectral preprocessing to improve amylose determination was also assessed.

### 1 Materials and Methods

#### 1.1 Samples and preparation

Short-grain \textit{Japonica} non-glutinous type rices (731 samples) harvested in 1996, 1997 and 1998 were collected in prefectures throughout Japan. Short-grain \textit{Japonica} glutinous type rices and \textit{Indica} type rices (49 samples) harvested in 1996 and 1997 were obtained from the National Agricultural Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishers of Japan (MAFF), and five regional National Agricultural Experiment Stations (Hokkaido, Tohoku, Hokuriku, Chugoku, and Kyushu). Brown rice samples sacked on polyethylene bags (5kg) and stored in a chamber at 5°C before milling.

Samples were milled up to a milling yield of 90 to 91% with a VP-31T friction type rice miller (Yamamoto Co., Ltd., Japan). Determination of amylose content and spectra measurements were taken on from September to December in each crop year.

#### 1.2 Determination of amylose content

The milled rice samples were ground with a 3010-018 model cyclone grinder (Udy, Ft. Collins, CO, USA) equipped with a 50-mesh screen. Before amylose determination, the moisture content of the ground samples was determined in duplicate by oven drying 3g of rice powder at 135°C for 1h. Amylose (%) was determined in duplicate on 50-mesh milled rice flour using the iodine colorimetric method\[^{[6]}\].

#### 1.3 Near-infrared spectra acquisition

The whole-grain samples of milled rice were scanned using a scanning monochromator, which is the prototype of the Infratec 1241 spectrometer (Foss Tecator AB, Höganäs, Sweden). The Infratec 1241 contains a tungsten halogen lamp and a diffraction grating that irradiates monochromatic light. A silicon detector was used. Spectra were first recorded for each sample from 850 to 1048 nm, using 100 wavelength points with 2 nm steps. Milled rice grains (300g) were supplied to the sample cell from the feeder. Each batch was scanned ten times. Ten spectra were averaged to form one spectrum (log (1/T)) for each sample. The coefficient of variation in absorbance among measurements for each sample was less than 0.01.

#### 1.4 Spectral preprocessing

The ANN and PLS were calibrated for amylose with and without spectral preprocessing, using appropriate software (Unscrambler V 6.11b: Camo ASA, Trondheim, Norway). The pretreated samples were computed with multiplicative scatter correction (MSC), the first derivative and the second derivative separately, and using a combination of MSC and the first and second derivative. The full MSC model was selected for computing using the new MSC model.

#### 1.5 PLS calibration models

Unscrambler 6.11b (Camo ASA, Trondheim, Norway) was used to develop a PLS calibration model for amylose content determination. The optimum number of PLS components was cross-validated and selected.

Models were validated using a validation sample set. The performance of PLS calibration...
models and ANN calibration models (below) was evaluated using the standard error of prediction (SEP) and the ratio of the SEP to the standard deviation of the original data set (RPD)\cite{16} (Williams and Sobering, 1993).

1.7. ANN calibration models

All NIT scans were subjected to proprietary mathematical processing before ANN calibrations were developed using the back propagation method. Back propagation used the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm from the Neural Network Toolbox for use with MATLAB (v 5.2.0: The MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA).

In general, ANN consists of an input layer, a hidden layer and an output layer of spectra data (Fig.1). The input and output nodes are linked by a hidden layer of nodes through connection weights. The weighted input signals are transferred to the hidden layer. Each node in the hidden layer computes the sum of its weighted inputs and transforms this sum by means of a linear and non-linear transfer function. The outputs from the hidden layer are weighted and then sent to the output node.

Fig. 1 Schematic diagram showing the architecture of a hypothetical ANN for spectroscopic calibration.

2. Sample selection

The characteristics of all samples used in the calibration and validation are shown in Table 1. Global and local PLS calibration models were also developed and evaluated using calibration and validation sample sets based on the PLS and the ANN calibration. The ANN calibration model was also developed and evaluated using a training sample set, stop sample set and validation sample set (Table 2).

Each spectrum was transformed with a (1,4,4,1) derivative: the first number is the derivative, the second number is the gap (number of data points), and the third / fourth are smoothing (number of data points) and the use of Near-Infrared software (WINISI II, V 1.02: Foss NIRSystems/Foss Tecator AB, Silver Springs, MD, USA). Every fourth data point from 4 to 97 (858 to 1042nm) was used, and, as a result, 93 data points for each spectrum were calculated using data at 93 wavelengths.

For each product, the CENTER program was used to compute standardized $H$ distances of each spectrum from the average spectrum and to reorder the spectra in the file from smallest to largest $H$. Every eighth sample was reserved from the first ordered files for validation of the PLS and the ANN calibration models used. Every seventh of the remaining seven-eighths of the samples was reserved from the second
ordered files as stop sample sets of the ANN calibration models used. The remaining calibration set was used as the ANN and PLS calibration model sample (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2 Sample selection diagram (global model).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Ranges of amylose data for a cross validation sample set

Table 1 summarizes the diversity of two cross-validation sample sets; the variation of the global sample set was from 0 to 25.9%, the mean value was 15.5% and the standard deviation (SD) was 2.4 (Fig. 3a). The results of genetic variation in amylose content (high (24 to 30%), relatively low (16 to 22%), and low (8 to 15%), glutinous) reflected those exhibited by the native cultivars from various areas in Asia [8]. Our samples represent a wide sample variation for amylose content of milled rice. This reflects the inclusion of newly bred rice, such as giant embryo, dull endosperm, and glutinous endosperm in our investigation. Their inclusion was not on the grounds of utilization suitability or advanced utilization, but rather the protection of genetic resources from a breeding and cultivation perspective, using genetic analysis [11]. This underpins the need for the development of calibration models able to measure a wide range of amylose content.

The variation of the local sample set was from 12.3 to 21.0%, the mean value was 15.8% and the SD was 1.5 (Fig. 3b). These varieties of Japonica generally provide the staple food in northeast Asian countries. They have relatively low amylose contents and a narrow sample variation.

![Frequency distribution of amylose data. (a): the global sample set, (b): the local sample set.](image)

3.2. Effect of spectral preprocessing on the PLS calibration results

Table 3 shows the validation set of Mode A for the global and Mode B for the local sample sets. Mode A consisted of the global calibration sets with and without spectral preprocessing, as did Mode B. The optimum number of PLS components for Mode A ranged from 8 to 14, and those for Mode B from 8 to 11. The optimum number of PLS components using standard spectra was higher than those that used preprocessed spectra. Spectral preprocessing thus reduces the optimum number of PLS components. Spectral preprocessing (MSC, the first and second derivative), eliminates multiplicative scatter and additive effects from the standard spectra. Norris and Williams [9] reported that second derivative spectra also gave the highest accuracy for the testing of all
The performance of the SECv of global PLS models was found to be slightly higher than that of local PLS models. The global PLS model had a SECv of 1.2 to 1.3 and R² of 0.7 to 0.75 with a bias of −0.012 to 0.000 whilst that of the local PLS model had a SECv of 1.04 to 1.09 and R² of 0.5 to 0.54 with a bias of −0.004 to 0.000. This indicates that SECv was related to the extent of the amylose range for the sample set used. The improvement of models with spectral preprocessing was such that no significant differences were found between several spectrally preprocessed samples. Thus models employing the derivative were slightly superior to all others in terms of minimum SECv and bias, and maximum R².

### 3.3. Validation of global and local calibration using chemometric modeling (PLS, ANN)

Table 4 presents the statistical results of validation for the PLS calibration models. Mode C was developed using the global calibration sample set (range 0·25·9%) and the global validation sample set (range 0·20·3%). Mode D was developed using the local calibration sample set (range 12.3·21·0%) and the local validation sample set (range 13.0·20.0%); and Mode E was developed using the global calibration sample set (range 0·25·9%) and the local validation sample set (range 13.0·20·0%). Global amylose calibrations for Mode C had the highest R² and RPD. In this part of the PLS calibration models, the global amylose model using a standard spectrum was found to have the highest R² and RPD. This has the advantage of amylose estimation using a calibration model, without any spectral preprocessing from raw spectra of milled rice.
and RPD: Mode H had the second highest R² and RPD. A combination of MSC and the first and second derivatives were superior to all others in terms of minimum SEP and bias and maximum R² in Model F. Notably the statistical results of Mode H, the local validation sample set for the global calibration, had a higher R² and RPD compared with those of Mode E.

Figure 4 summarizes the performance of the global/local models used for ANN or PLS. The parameters (NC, R², bias, SEP and RPD) were described with from minimum to maximum value of six treatments (spectral preprocessing) in each calibration mode (Mode C, D, E, F, G, H). These modes followed an RPD sequence. Mode F and C had the highest R² and RPD. These models applied the PLS and the ANN algorithms to develop the calibration models. The range of amylose in the global calibration and the local validation sample sets was from 0 to 21.0%. Mode H had the third highest R² and RPD. The range of amylose in the global calibration sample set was from 0 to 25.9%; that in the local validation sample set was from 13 to 20%. Mode E and D had the fourth highest R² and RPD. These models used the PLS algorithm for the development of calibration models. The ranges of amylose in the calibration sample sets for Mode E and D were 0 to 25.9% and 12.3 to 21% respectively. The range of amylose in the local validation sample set was from 12.3 to 20.0%.

Mode H, incorporating an ANN algorithm that developed both a global calibration sample set and a local validation sample set, was found to be the third highest statistical performer. This might reflect the superior modeling capability of the non-linear transfer function ANN for the deviation from linearity, compared to the linear approximations of the PLS models.

The best model was an ANN calibration combining the MSC and the second derivative in its spectra used to develop a global calibration and validation sample in Mode F (Fig. 5a):

![Fig. 5 The relationship between reference values and predicted values for a wide sample variation of amylose content of milled rice using (a): ANN calibration combining the MSC and the second derivative of spectra in Mode F, (b): PLS calibration for standard spectra in Mode C.](image)

![Fig. 4 The performance of the Global / Local models used for ANN or PLS algorithms.](image)
calibration and validation sample in Mode C (Fig. 5b). These results pose the question of whether an ANN algorithm combining spectral preprocessing could be developed for global and local calibration models or whether the PLS without spectral preprocessing should be developed for global calibration models. We suggest that global calibration models incorporating an ANN algorithm may be used as universal calibration models.

4. Conclusion

This study examined the performance of ANN and PLS chemometric models based on global and local samples, in which entire samples were divided into calibration sample sets (training, stop) and validation sample sets using the CENTER algorithm. The application of spectral preprocessing to improve amylose determination was also assessed. Training samples, stop samples and validation samples for the chemometric models (PLS, ANN) were determined using the CENTER algorithm. The best model was an ANN calibration combining the MSC and the second derivative in the spectra that used to develop global calibration and validation samples in Mode F. The second best model was a PLS calibration using standard spectra for the development of global calibration and validation samples in Mode C. Mode H, incorporating an ANN algorithm to develop a global calibration sample set and a local validation sample set, was found to be the third highest statistical performer. This may reflect the greater ability of the non-linear transfer function of ANN to model deviations from linearity, compared with the linear approximation of the PLS models. These results raise the question as to whether an ANN algorithm with spectral preprocessing could be developed for global and local calibration models or whether PLS without spectral preprocessing should be developed for global calibration models. We propose chemometric amylose modeling and sample selection for global calibration using ANN. Global calibration models incorporating an ANN may be used as universal calibration models.

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Abbreviations used

ANN, artificial neural network; NC, number of PLS components; SD, standard deviation; NIT, near-infrared transmittance; MSC, multiplicative scatter correction; PLS, partial least squares; RPD, the ratio of the SEP to the standard deviation of the original data set; SECV, standard error of cross-validation, SEP, standard error of prediction.

References:


