Application Note 410000025-A

Identification of Forensic Fabrics Using a Portable Raman Spectrometer

At a crime scene, a police officer collects a fiber sample that may prove to be invaluable evidence in identifying a criminal or exonerating an innocent person. While FTIR has been used for analysis in the past, the strong absorption of the fabric or the glass slide where it is mounted makes the spectrum very hard to interpret. In recent years, Raman spectroscopy has been

studied extensively for forensic fiber analysis because of the high selectivity of Raman signatures, non-destruction nature of the test, and the ability to conduct the analysis without any sample preparation. The Raman test can be performed directly on fabrics or fibers mounted on glass slide with very little interference from the mounting resin or the glass.



EXPERIMENTAL

In this study, six types of undyed fabric samples were tested: diacetate, bleached cotton, polyester, polyamide (nylon), acrylic, and wool. A B&W Tek i-Raman EX portable Raman spectrometer with 1064 nm laser excitation along with a fiber optic probe holder was used. The video microscope sampling accessory can be used for testing on thin fibers and is very useful for microsamples, and for looking at specific spots on a sample.

The identification test involves creating a library and comparing each individual fabric spectrum with the spectra in the library. The software BWID was used to generate the library as well as to conduct the identification. The resulting "Match" or "No Match" is based on HQI (hit quality index), which measures the level of correlation of the sample spectrum against a reference spectrum calculated by using the correlation coefficient algorithm. The HQI threshold for a "Match" result was set at 80, which indicates an 80% correlation score between the sample spectrum and the reference spectrum.

Four out of the six types of fabrics are unambiguously identified. The overlaid spectra for these four fabrics are shown in **Figure 1**. As demonstrated in the diagonal line in the comparison results of **Table 1**, there is clear differentiation to separate diacetate, bleached cotton, polyamide, and acrylic fabrics.



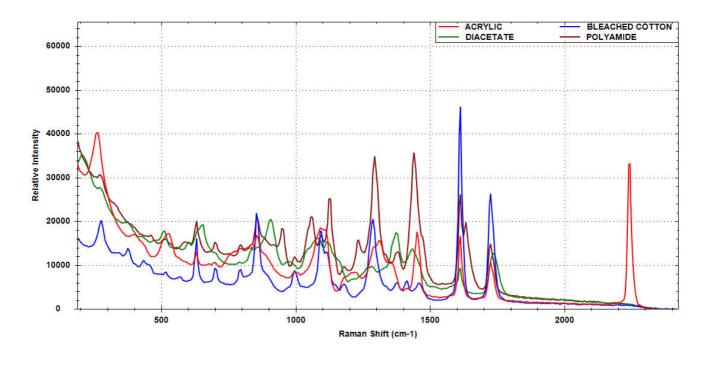


Figure 1. Overlay of spectra for acrylic, bleached cotton, polyamide, and diacetate

Library Sample	Diacetate	Bleached Cotton	Polyamide	Acrylic	Polyester	Wool
Diacetate	Match (HQI=87.68)	No match	No match	No match	No match	No match
Bleached Cotton	No match	Match (HQI=94.08)	No match	No match	No match	No match
Polyamide	No match	No match	Match (HQI=91.98)	No match	No match	No match
Acrylic	No match	No match	No match	Match (HQI=93.97)	No match	No match
Polyester	No match	No match	No match	No match	Match (HQI=96.59)	2 nd Match (HQI=81.23)
Wool	No match	No match	No match	No match	2 nd Match (HQI=94.75)	Match (HQI=85.38)

Table 1. Identification results using BWID software

Polyester and wool are difficult to differentiate by HQI, as the Raman spectra are highly similar (**Figure 2**). However, since fibers made from animal hair contain protein keratin, an amide I band from the amino acid cysteine in the region from 1600-1690 cm⁻¹ would be expected[1] for wool and not polyester. In addition, since cysteine provides the disulphide crosslinks that

hold the polymer chains in wool, a disulphide S-S band at 523 cm⁻¹ would also be expected[1]. These two peaks that are distinctively related to animal proteins can be seen in the wool spectrum shown in **Figure 2**, with the amide I band at 1653 cm⁻¹ and the S-S band at 523 cm⁻¹. These two unique peaks can be used to differentiate wool from polyester.

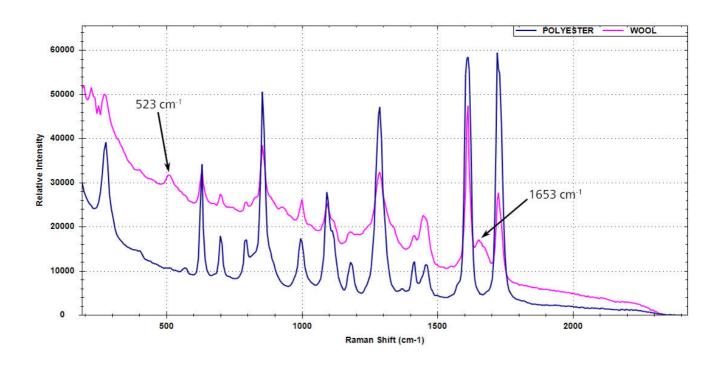


Figure 2. Overlay of spectra for wool and polyester

CONCLUSION

With unique discrimination power, Raman spectroscopy is a powerful technology that can be applied to forensic fabric and fiber analysis. Identification of an unknown fabric is achieved

in several minutes, making it a practical choice for rapid identification either on site or in the forensic lab.

REFERENCE

1. Li-Ling Cho. Identification of textile fiber by Raman microspectroscopy. J Forensic Science 2007; 6 (1):55-62



CONTACT

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CONFIGURATION

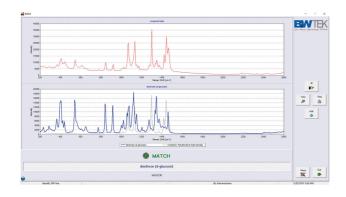


i-Raman EX

i-Raman® EX は、1064 nm 励起の弊社特許製品 CleanLaze®レーサーを伴う i-Raman ホータフルラマンスへクトロメーターの、受賞歴のあるシリースの構成要素です。この携帯型ラマンスへクトロメーターは、TE 冷却、高いタイナミックレンシ、高スルーフットに設計されたスへクトロクラフを有する高感度の InGaAs アレイ検出器を使用します。これは自家蛍光を作動させることなく高い信号対雑音比を提供するため、広範な種類の天然物、生体試料(たとえは細胞培養液なと) およひ有色サンフルを測定することかできます。

i-Raman EX は、100 cm⁻¹ から 2500 cm⁻¹ まての スヘクトル領域を網羅しているのて、全ての指紋領 域の測定かてきます。システムの小さな底面、軽量 構造、そして低消費電力により、とこてもラマン分 析を研究レヘルて実施することかてきます。i-Raman EX には、光ファイハーフローフ、フローフ ホルタ付きXYZスライトテーフルか装備されていま す。これは、多種多様なサンフルの測定を容易にす るために、多くの付属品全てと共にサンフル採取に 使用することかてきます。拡張された分析方法にお いては、弊社独自の多変量分析ソフトウェア BWIQ[®] または同定ソフトウェア BWID[®] を用いてオ ヘレーションすることかてきます。i-Raman EX に より、蛍光を伴わない品質分析およひ定量分析のた めの高精度のラマンソリューションを常に使用する ことかてきます。







BWID ID

ユーサーか作成したライフラリ、著作権で保護された B&W Tek のライフラリ、ならひに第三者フロハイタのライフラリに基つく材料の迅速な識別または検証を可能にする、B&W Tek 社製 携帯型ラマンスへクトロメーターのためのテータ記録、材料識別、およひレホート作成のためのソフトウェア。システムの性能検査を含みます。ユーサーライセンスを包括。購入日より1年間の無料アッフクレートを含みます。

(1064 nm)

ラホおよひ産業用のB&W Tek社製ラマンフローフを用いた使用のためのヒテオマイクロスコーフ付きサンフル採取システム。作動距離16 mmで20倍拡大の対物レンス付き。X、Y、およびZ軸方向の粗調整ならひに微調整、ターケティンク用同軸LED照明、サンフル観察のためのヒテオカメラか使用可能であり、標準マイクロスコーフ対物レンスと互換性かあります。フローフは含まれておらす、個別にこ購入いたたけます。1064 nmコンフィクレーション

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