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## SPECIALTY SECTION

This article was submitted to  
Ocean Observation,  
a section of the journal  
Frontiers in Marine Science

RECEIVED 31 December 2022

ACCEPTED 06 March 2023

PUBLISHED 17 March 2023

## CITATION

Yang J, Hu Y, Zhang J, Ma Y,  
Li Z and Jiang Z (2023) Identification  
of marine oil spill pollution using  
hyperspectral combined with  
thermal infrared remote sensing.  
*Front. Mar. Sci.* 10:1135356.  
doi: 10.3389/fmars.2023.1135356

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# Identification of marine oil spill pollution using hyperspectral combined with thermal infrared remote sensing

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The types of marine oil spill pollution are closely related to source tracing and pollution disposal, which is an important basis for oil spill pollution punishment. The types of marine oil spill pollution generally include different types of oil products as well as crude oil and its emulsions in different states. This paper designed and implemented two outdoor oil spill simulation experiments, obtained the hyperspectral and thermal infrared remote sensing data of different oil spill pollution types, constructed a hyperspectral recognition algorithm of oil spill pollution type based on classical machine learning, ensemble learning and deep learning models, and explored to improve the identification ability of hyperspectral oil spill pollution type by adding thermal infrared features. The research shows that hyperspectral combined with thermal infrared remote sensing can effectively improve the recognition accuracy of different oils, but thermal infrared remote sensing cannot be used to distinguish crude oil and high concentration water-in-oil emulsion. On this basis, the recognition ability of hyperspectral combined with thermal infrared for different oil film thicknesses is also discussed. The combination of hyperspectral and thermal infrared remote sensing can provide important technical support for emergency response to maritime emergencies and oil spill monitoring business of relevant departments.

## KEYWORDS

marine oil spills, hyperspectral remote sensing, thermal infrared remote sensing, oil pollution types identification, deep learning

## 1 Introduction

Marine oil spill is the most typical and serious environmental pollution accident in the process of marine development. Various oil spills pollution types on the sea not only damage the marine environment and coastline ecology, pollute fishery resources, endanger marine food security, affect tourism, but also threaten human health, and even hinder the

healthy development of the marine economy (Washburn et al., 2018; Silva et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2022). It is difficult to eliminate negative impacts of major marine oil spills on the marine ecological environment in a short time.

In general, the types of marine oil spill pollution include different types of oil products as well as crude oil and its emulsions in different states. There are five typical oil products: 1) Crude oil, such as the oil product leaked in the Deepwater Horizon platform oil spill accident in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 (Leifer et al., 2012) and the Penglai 19-3C platform oil spill accident in 2010 (Yang et al., 2019); 2) Fuel oil, that is, the fuel used for large ship engines, such as the oil product leaked in the oil tanker grounding accident in southeast Mauritius in 2020 (Rajendran et al., 2021); 3) Condensate, also known as natural gasoline, is similar to gasoline, such as the oil product leaked from the East China Sea oil tanker collision accident in 2018 (Lu et al., 2019a); 4) Vegetable oil, such as palm oil with the largest production, consumption and international trade volume in the world (Yang et al., 2021); 5) Diesel oil, that is, the fuel used for high-speed diesel engine for small ships. Crude oil and its emulsions in different states include non-emulsified crude oil, water-in-oil emulsion and oil-in-water emulsion (Lu et al., 2019b; Lu et al., 2020). Once the spilled oil on the sea surface is not removed in time, a series of complex physical and chemical changes, such as diffusion, drift, emulsification, evaporation, dissolution, adsorption precipitation, photooxidation and biodegradation, will occur under the combined action of wind, wave, current and other environmental dynamics, forming water-in-oil (WO) and oil-in-water (OW) emulsions of different concentrations (Lu et al., 2013a).

The types of marine oil spill pollution are closely related to source tracing and pollution disposal, which is an important basis for oil spill pollution punishment. Different types of oil products, crude oils and its emulsions in different states need to adopt different emergency treatment strategies, such as combustion elimination, oil absorption felt adsorption, dispersant spraying, skimmer recovery, etc (Zhong and You, 2011; French-McCay et al., 2022). Timely identification of different types of marine oil spill pollution is of great significance for marine oil spill monitoring and emergency response.

Optical remote sensing and microwave remote sensing are important means for marine oil spill monitoring (Fingas and Brown, 2014; Lu et al., 2016a; Pärt et al., 2021). Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) is the most commonly used technology for marine oil spill monitoring in microwave remote sensing, which has the advantages of all-day, all-weather, and can also successfully obtain images under cloudy and rainy conditions. Therefore, SAR has become the primary means for relevant business departments to monitor marine oil spills (Velotto et al., 2011; Marghany, 2014; Alpers et al., 2017; Mdakane and Kleynhans, 2020; Ma et al., 2021; Zhu et al., 2021). However, SAR also has a higher false alarm rate in detecting marine oil spills, and it is difficult to identify oil spill pollution types and estimate the oil film thickness. The oil spill information contained by optical remote sensing is more abundant than SAR, and has been studied and applied widely in oil spill monitoring (Shi et al., 2018; Shen et al., 2020; Hu et al., 2021;

Yang et al., 2022b). Among them, hyperspectral remote sensing has higher spectral resolution, and can extract rich subtle features among different oil spill pollution types. Therefore, it has been widely concerned about oil spill monitoring using hypersectral remote sensing (Lu et al., 2013b; Cui et al., 2017; Zhu et al., 2019; Zhu et al., 2019; Li et al., 2020; Wang B. et al., 2021), especially oil spill pollution type identification (Wettle et al., 2009; Yang et al., 2020; Jiang et al., 2021; Lai et al., 2021; Li et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2022a), but is vulnerable to the impact of sun flare in complex marine environment, which lead to the oil film boundary is not clearly identified (Sun and Hu, 2016; Lu et al., 2016b; Duan et al., 2020). The infrared emissivity of seawater and oil film is different, and the oil-water boundary is well identified. Thermal infrared remote sensing is almost not affected by the change of light, which can realize the detection of marine oil spill and the inversion of oil film thickness, but it is difficult to distinguish the type of oil spill emulsion (Jing et al., 2011; Wang and Hu, 2015; Lu et al., 2016c; Guo et al., 2020; Jiao et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022). The comparison of marine oil spill monitoring capabilities of various remote sensing technologies is listed in Table 1.

Most of the optical remote sensing monitoring of marine oil spill is carried out based on a single sensor type, which has certain limitations and cannot meet the needs of accurate monitoring. Recently, more and more scholars pay attention to combining the advantages of different sensors to effectively improve the remote sensing monitoring ability of marine oil spill, and have made certain achievements (Mohammadi et al., 2021; Rajendran et al., 2021). Lu et al. (2019a) used China's GF-3 SAR data to delineate suspected oil spill areas in the East China Sea "SANCHI" collision oil spill event in January 2018. The multispectral data of Sentinel-2 satellite is used to carry out optical remote sensing detection of marine oil spill, and further carried out optical remote sensing identification and classification of oil spill pollution types based on the analysis of spectral response characteristics of oil spill simulation experiments, which is mutually verified with the suspected oil spill monitoring results of GF-3 SAR. Wang L. F. et al. (2021) proposed a new method to determine the oil film area using the fusion of visible light and thermal infrared images. This method integrates the advantages of visible light and thermal infrared images, and can accurately determine the oil film area under different lighting conditions, with an average error of 2.78%. Wang and Gao (2020) used SAR and laser fluorescence sensors to carry out airborne platform oil spill monitoring. First, they used SAR for long-distance and large-scale detection. Once the suspected oil spill area was detected, they used laser fluorescence sensor for close detection. The combination of SAR and laser fluorescence sensor greatly improved the detection effect and recognition ability of marine pollutants in large areas.

To sum up, this paper designed and implemented two outdoor oil spill simulation experiments, carried out the extraction and analysis of hyperspectral and thermal infrared optical features of different oil spill pollution types, introduced classification algorithms such as classical machine learning, ensemble learning and deep learning, studied and constructed hyperspectral oil spill pollution type recognition algorithms, and explored how to improve the ability of hyperspectral oil spill pollution type identification by adding thermal infrared features.

TABLE 1 Comparison of oil spill monitoring capability of various remote sensing technologies.

Remote sensing technologies	Advantages	Disadvantages
SAR	all-day, all-weather and not covered by cloud	high false alarm rate, unable to identify the type of oil spill pollution and estimate the oil film thickness
Multispectral remote sensing	wide space coverage, low cost, able to distinguish heavy oils from light oils and estimate the approximate oil film thickness	low spectral resolution, vulnerable to sunglint interference
Hyperspectral remote sensing	high spectral resolution, able to identify different oil products and crude oil emulsions, and reverse oil film thickness	not applicable to large-scale marine oil spill monitoring, vulnerable to sunglint interference
Ultraviolet remote sensing	sensitive to thinner oil film	low spatial resolution, vulnerable to interference from sunlight and bio-oil film, unable to identify non-emulsified oil and oil-water emulsions
Thermal infrared remote sensing	all-day, sensitive to thicker oil film, not disturbed by the sunglint	unable to identify non-emulsified oil and oil-water emulsions, vulnerable to interference from targets with similar thermal properties to oil film
Laser radar	active remote sensing, able to identify different oil products, and reverse oil film thickness	unable to detect very thick oil film, vulnerable, and expensive

## 2 Materials and methods

### 2.1 Experiments and materials

This part mainly introduces two outdoor oil spill simulation experiments. One is the experimental scenario (Figures 1A, B) for different types of oil products (Figure 2A), namely crude oil, fuel oil, palm oil, diesel oil and gasoline. In September 2020, the experiment was conducted in the pool (45 m × 40 m) of Qingdao Nanjiang Wharf, five kinds of oil products are distributed in the enclosure made of PVC boards, and the seawater depth is 1.2 m. The second is the experimental scenario (Figures 1C, D) for crude oil and its emulsions in different states (Figure 2B), namely, non-emulsified crude oil, WO emulsion and OW emulsion, which was carried out in Aoshanwei experimental base in Qingdao in May 2022. High speed disperser and emulsifier were used to prepare WO emulsion and OW emulsion with different volume concentrations. The

preparation method was referred to (Lu et al., 2019). Crude oil with different thickness and crude oil emulsions with different volume concentration are distributed in the enclosure made of black PVC boards. The oil products information used in the experiment is shown in Table 2.

### 2.2 Data and preprocessing

#### 2.2.1 Remote sensing data

For the experimental scenarios of different types of oil products, the Cubert S185 airborne hyperspectral imager and DJI “Yu” 2 airborne thermal infrared camera were used to obtain approximately synchronous hyperspectral images and thermal infrared images of different types of oil products (Figures 3A, B). For the experimental scenes of crude oil and its emulsions in different states, the Cubert S185 airborne hyperspectral imager

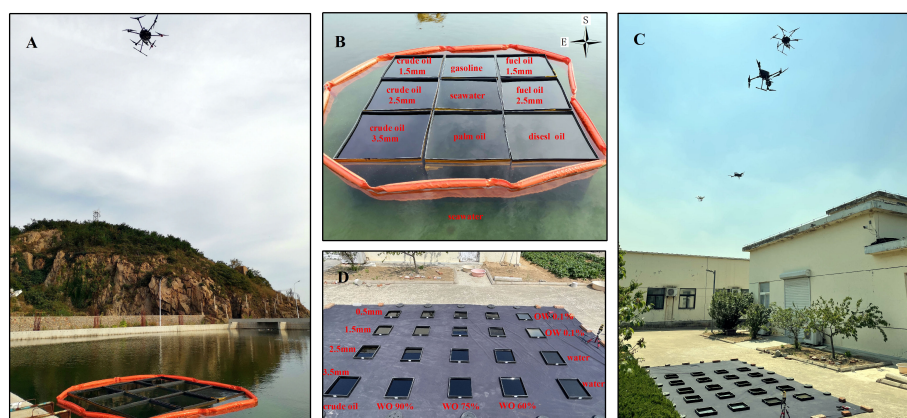


FIGURE 1

Oil spill observation experimental scenarios and oil distribution using hyperspectral combined thermal infrared remote sensing: (A) experimental scenarios of different types of oil products in September 2020; (B) distribution of different types of oil products; (C) experimental scenario of crude oil and its emulsions in different states in May 2022; (D) distribution of crude oil and its emulsions in different states.

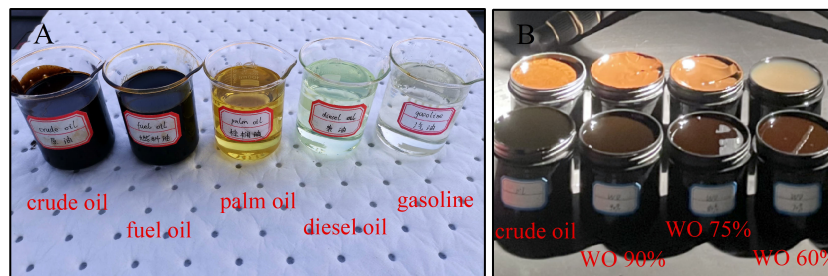


FIGURE 2 Experimental oils: (A) different types of oil products; (B) crude oil and its emulsions in different states.

and Zemmuse H20T airborne thermal infrared imager were used to obtain approximately synchronous hyperspectral and thermal infrared images of crude oil and its emulsions in different states (Figures 3C, D). The main parameters of the Cubert S185 airborne hyperspectral imager and Zemmuse H20T airborne thermal infrared imager are shown in Table 3. Except for the camera focus and stability, the main parameters of Zemmuse H20T airborne thermal infrared imager and DJI “Yu” 2 airborne thermal infrared camera are the same.

The data acquired by the airborne hyperspectral imager include the original measured spectral data, reference plate and dark current calibration data. The data to be converted was imported to the Cubert Utils Touch software. The spectral reflectance data of different oil spill pollution types was exported. Import the thermal infrared image acquired by the airborne thermal infrared imager into the DJI Thermal Analysis Tool to export the brightness temperature data of different oil spill pollution types. Due to the different coverage of airborne hyperspectral image and airborne thermal infrared image, two images need to be registered and

cropped. The image size of different oil products as well as crude oil and its emulsions in different states used for identification experiments is 638×630 and 551×765 respectively.

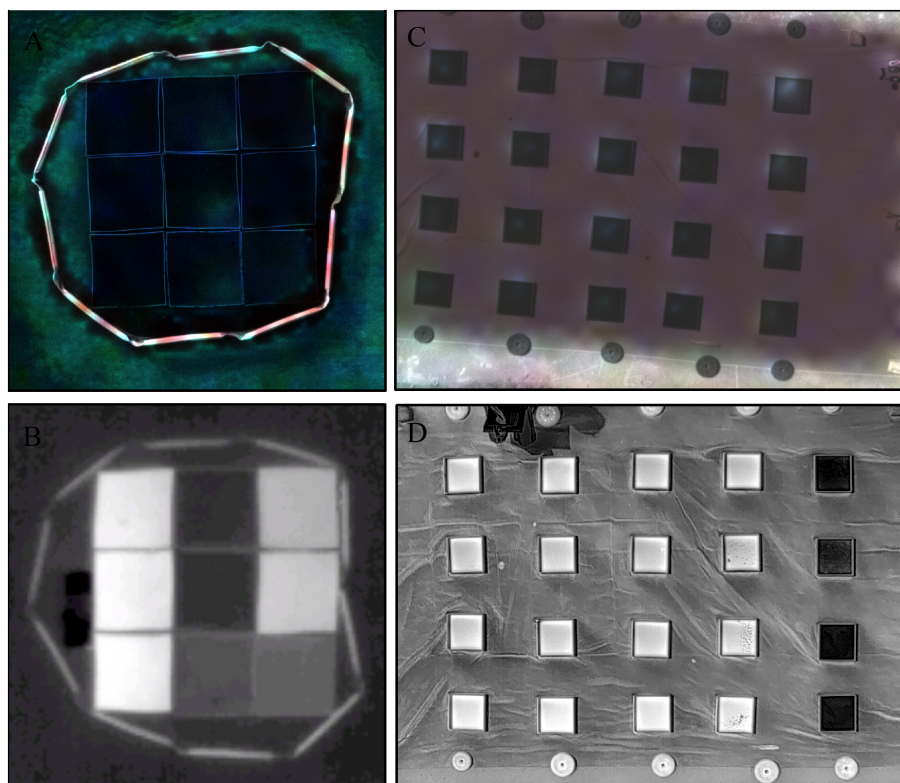
### 2.2.2 Field data

Field data includes Analytical Spectral Devices (ASD) data and site photos used to assist in the production of ground truth image. The ASD FieldSpec4 spectrometer (350-2500 nm) was used to measure Lambertian standard plate, different oil spill pollution types, seawater and skylight to obtain their radiance, and then convert the radiance into the spectral reflectance of different oil spill pollution types and seawater according to the formula in literature (Yang et al., 2020). The detailed index parameters of ASD FieldSpec4 spectrometer are shown in literature (Yang et al., 2020). The ground truth image (Figure 4) obtained through human-computer interaction interpretation is used as the benchmark for evaluating the classification and recognition results, and the performance of the classification and recognition model is tested at the same time.

TABLE 2 The properties and description of experimental oils.

Oil spill pollution types	Oil products	Density g/mL	Apparent color	Description
Different types of oil products	crude oil	0.882	black	produced in the Shengli oil field of China with added anticoagulant
	fuel oil	0.853	dark cyan	fuel for large-scale marine engines, which is a residual heavy oil after crude oil extraction of gasoline and diesel oil
	palm oil	0.836	palm yellow	the largest vegetable oil product in the world in terms of production, consumption, and international trade.
	0# diesel oil	0.835	light cyan	high-speed diesel engine fuel for small ships
	95# gasoline	0.737	yellowish transparent	strong volatility, properties are similar to condensate oil that leaked from the East China Sea oil tanker collision accident in 2018
Crude oil and its emulsions in different states	crude oil	0.935	black	produced in the Shengli oil field of China, (dehydrated), asphaltene 1.57%, resin 18.77%, wax 7.56%
	WO emulsion		dark brown	there are many small water droplets in the oil
	OW emulsion		light yellow	there are many small oil droplets in the water





**FIGURE 3** Hyperspectral and thermal infrared images of different oil spill pollution types: **(A)** airborne hyperspectral image of different oil products; **(B)** airborne thermal infrared images of different oil products; **(C)** airborne hyperspectral images of crude oil and its different emulsions; **(D)** airborne thermal infrared images of crude oil and its different emulsions.

### 2.3 Methods

In this paper, the Support Vector Machine model in classical machine learning, the Random Forest model in ensemble learning and the Convolution Neural Network model in deep learning are selected to identify the types of oil spill pollution. For the experiment of different types of oil products, the number of

labeled samples is 375606, of which about 3% are used for training and about 3% for validation. For the experiment of crude oil and its emulsions in different states, the number of labeled samples is 135695, of which about 3% are used for training and about 3% for validation. The number of training samples, validation samples and test samples for each oil spill pollution type in the experiment is listed in [Table 4](#).

**TABLE 3** The main parameters of Cubert S185 hyperspectral imager and Zenmuse H20T thermal infrared imager.

Cubert S185 hyperspectral imager		Zenmuse H20T thermal infrared imager	
parameter	index	parameter	index
spectral range/nm	450~950	spectral range/ $\mu\text{m}$	8~14
spectral resolution/nm	8	resolution	640x512
spatial resolution/cm	3.6@10000	sensitivity(NETD)/mK	$\leq 50 @ f/1.0$
field of view angle/ $^\circ$	23	field of view angle/ $^\circ$	40.6
specification/ $\text{px}^2$	1000x1000	measuring range/ $^\circ\text{C}$	-40~ +550
sampling interval/nm	4	pixel spacing/ $\mu\text{m}$	12
number of channels	125	aperture	f/1.0
focal length/mm	16	focal length/mm	13.5

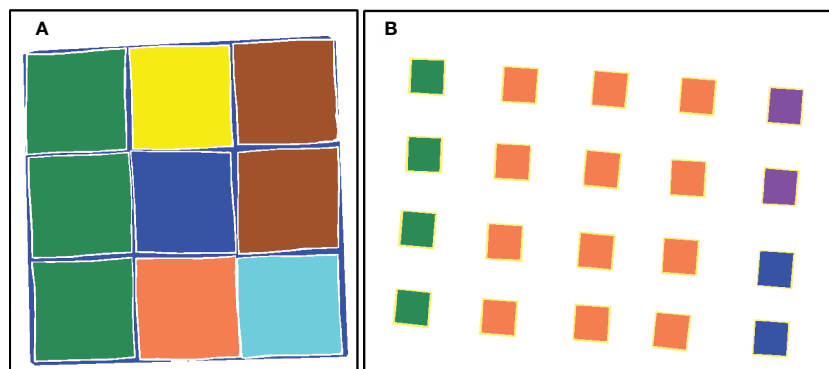


FIGURE 4 Ground truth image: (A) different oil products; (B) crude oil and its emulsions in different states.

### 2.3.1 Support vector machine

SVM is a traditional machine learning method based on statistical learning theory. It can automatically find the support vector that has a greater ability to distinguish classification and then construct the classifier, which can maximize the interval between classes to achieve good statistics when the number of samples is small. This method has high convergence efficiency, training speed, and classification accuracy, and has been widely used in many fields of research in recent years (Wang et al., 2011; Hu et al., 2019a; Hu et al., 2019b). The kernel function selected in this paper is the radial basis function.

### 2.3.2 Random forest

Random Forest is an algorithm that effectively uses multiple decision trees to train and predict samples and optimize decisions through the idea of ensemble Learning. The basic unit is the decision tree. The randomness of RF is mainly reflected in two aspects: one is the random selection of data, and the other is the

random selection of features to be selected. This can make the decision trees in the RF different from each other, and further enhance the generalization ability of the model.

The RF algorithm uses multiple CART decision trees as weak classifiers. In CART tree, the criterion of impure measure used to select variables is Gini coefficient. The minimum Gini coefficient criterion is used for feature selection. Here, the number of decision trees in the RF is 100.

### 2.3.3 Convolutional neural network

CNN is a significant achievement in the field of deep learning, and has been widely used in hyperspectral remote sensing classification in recent years. CNN has two main characteristics. One is local receptive fields, the other is weight sharing, which effectively reduces the number of parameters in the network and makes CNN have displacement invariance.

The CNN model structure used in this paper consists of seven information layers, including one input layer, two convolutional

TABLE 4 Number of training samples, validation samples and test samples in the experiment of oil spill pollution type identification.

	Data size	Class	Number of training samples	Number of validation samples	Number of test samples
Different oil products	638×630	crude oil	3000	3000	101897
		fuel oil	2000	2000	70036
		gasoline	1000	1000	34624
		diesel oil	1000	1000	34173
		palm oil	1000	1000	34624
		seawater	1600	1600	56286
		PVC board	700	700	23366
Crude oil and its emulsions in different states	551×765	crude oil	400	400	13082
		WO emulsion	1200	1200	40750
		OW emulsion	200	200	6776
		seawater	200	200	6773
		PVC board	1800	1800	60714

layers, two pooling layers, one full connection layer, and one output layer. The number of convolutional kernel in the first convolution layer is 10, and the size of convolutional kernel is 5×5. The number of convolutional kernel in the second convolution layer is 8, and the size of convolutional kernel is 3×3. The size of the subsampling filter in the first pooling layer and the second pooling layer is 1×1 and 1×1 respectively. The maximum pooling is adopted for the pooling layer. The number of batch training is 2, the number of iterations is 80, and the learning rate is 0.7.

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Identification results of different oil spill pollution types

In view of the hyperspectral image (HSI) and multidimensional image of hyperspectral combined thermal infrared (HTI), Convolution Neural Network (2D-CNN) model, Support Vector Machine (SVM) algorithm and Random Forest (RF) algorithm are used to carry out classification and identification of different oil spill pollution types, namely, identification of different types of oil products as well as crude oil and its emulsions in different states.

##### 3.1.1 Identification results of different types of oil products

According to the classification results of different types of oil products (Figure 5), it can be seen that 2D-CNN, SVM and RF classifiers have different abilities in data feature mining, and the performance of classification is also different. Intuitively, SVM has relatively poor oil identification effect based on the HSI. The mixing

of different oils, especially light oils (palm oil, diesel oil, gasoline) is serious. The recognition effect of heavy oils (crude oil, fuel oil) is good. The classification results are quite different from the ground truth image (Figure 4A). The recognition results of RF model and 2D-CNN model (Figures 5A–C) can better maintain the continuity of oil film, which is consistent with the ground truth image, and shows the powerful data mining ability and feature extraction ability of ensemble learning model and deep learning model.

For the HTI, the recognition results (Figures 5D–F) of the three algorithms are obviously better than those based on the HSI. With the addition of thermal infrared features, the oil type recognition results can better maintain the continuity of oil spill on the sea, with clearer boundaries, and the mixing phenomenon between light oils is greatly reduced, which is consistent with the ground truth image. However, gasoline and seawater still have a misclassification phenomenon, which is due to the volatility of gasoline, resulting in that the selected gasoline training samples are not completely pure gasoline pixels.

##### 3.1.2 Identification results of crude oil and its emulsions in different states

It can be seen from the recognition results of crude oil and its emulsions in different states (Figure 6) that, for the HSI, the recognition results of 2D-CNN model on WO emulsion, OW emulsion and seawater (Figure 6C) are good, which are consistent with the ground truth image (Figure 4B), but the crude oil is partially divided into WO emulsion, showing the strong data mining ability and feature extraction ability of the deep learning model. The recognition results of SVM model and RF model for crude oil and its emulsions in different states (Figures 6A, B) are similar. In addition to the fact that crude oil is partially divided into

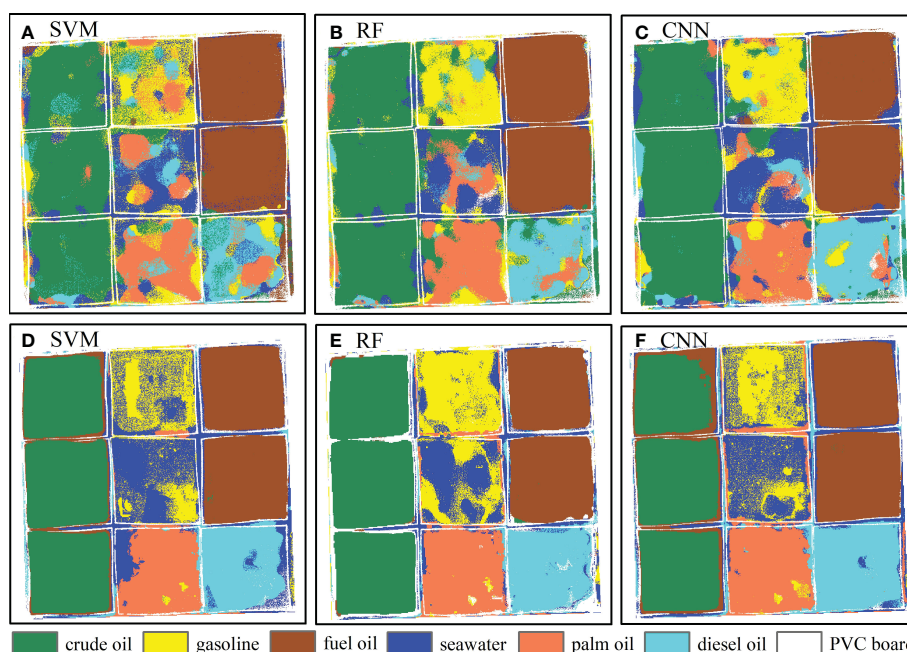


FIGURE 5 Classification results of oil products based on different dimensional images: (A–C) HSI; (D–F) HTI.

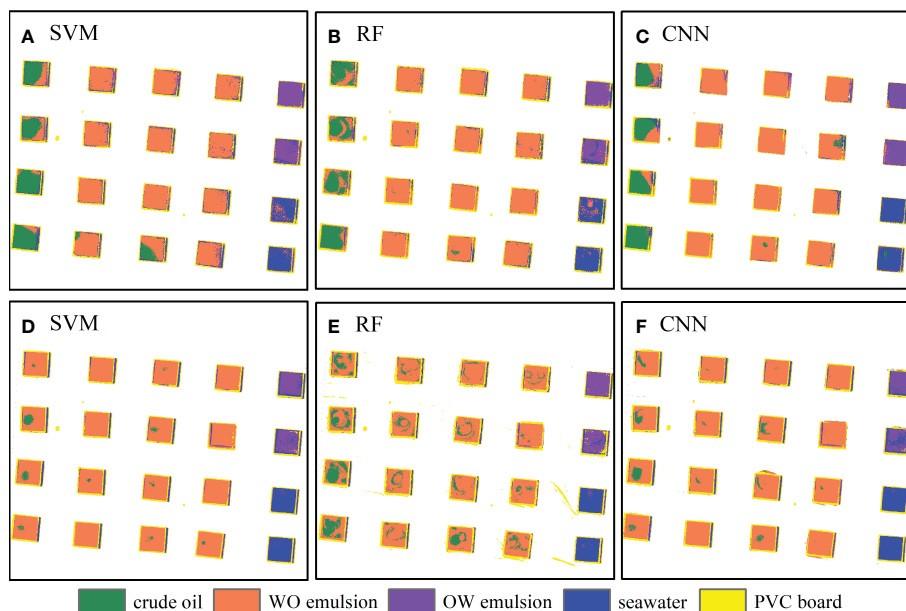


FIGURE 6  
Classification results of crude oil and its different emulsions based on different dimensional images: (A–C) HSI; (D–F) HTI.

WO emulsion, and seawater is also partially divided into WO emulsion.

Different from the recognition results of different oil products in Section 3.1.1, the recognition results of the three algorithms for crude oil and its emulsions in different states based on the HSI are significantly better than those of the HTI. The addition of thermal infrared features enhances the recognition effect between seawater and WO emulsion, but aggravates the mixing phenomenon between crude oil and WO emulsion, making most crude oil be wrongly divided into WO emulsion (Figures 6D–F).

## 3.2 Identification accuracy evaluation of oil spill pollution types

The same training samples are used to train the 2D-CNN model, SVM and RF model to carry out oil spill pollution type recognition, and the recognition accuracy of oil spill pollution type is evaluated based on the ground truth image (Figure 4).

### 3.2.1 Overall identification accuracy evaluation

The overall accuracy and Kappa coefficient in the confusion matrix are used in this paper to evaluate the overall identification accuracy of oil spill pollution types based on HSI and HTI, as shown in Table 5. For different oils, the overall recognition accuracy of SVM, RF and 2D-CNN models based on the HSI is 72.66%, 78.82% and 80.09% respectively. After adding thermal infrared features, the overall recognition accuracy of SVM, RF and 2D-CNN models reached 83.24%, 85.08% and 82.9% respectively, and Kappa coefficients were 0.80, 0.82 and 0.80 respectively, indicating that the prediction results of the HTI were in good agreement with the actual results. For crude oil and its emulsions in different states, the overall recognition accuracy of SVM, RF and 2D-CNN models based on the HSI reaches 94.52%,

94.62% and 95.2% respectively. After adding thermal infrared features, the overall recognition accuracy of SVM, RF and 2D-CNN models is 92.06%, 91.67% and 91.45% respectively.

### 3.2.2 Identification accuracy evaluation of single oil spill pollution type

The F1 score is used to evaluate the identification accuracy of single oil spill pollution type based on HSI and HTI, as shown in Figure 7. In general, for different oils, the recognition accuracy of the three algorithms based on HTI has been improved to varying degrees compared with that based on HSI. Taking the recognition results of RF model as an example, the F1 scores of gasoline, palm oil and diesel oil increased by 0.07, 0.21 and 0.20 respectively. The F1 score of crude oil and fuel oil increased by 0.11 and 0.03 respectively. The F1 score of seawater increased by 0.09. The experimental results show that the thermal infrared features can increase the identification ability of hyperspectral for different oils, especially light oils, and can effectively improve the oil identification accuracy. For crude oil and its emulsions in different states, the recognition accuracy of the three algorithms based on HTI is lower than that based on HSI to varying degrees, but the recognition accuracy of seawater is improved. Taking the recognition results of RF model as an example, the F1 scores of crude oil, WO emulsion and OW emulsion decreased by 0.37, 0.09 and 0.04 respectively, while the F1 scores of seawater increased by 0.10.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Spectral response of different oil spill pollution types

Remote sensing reflectivity of five typical oil products, crude oil and its emulsions in different states, and seawater were obtained by



TABLE 5 The accuracies for oil pollution type identification of three algorithms based on HSI and HTI.

Evaluation criterion		Overall Accuracy (%)	Kappa Coefficient	
Methods				
Different oil products	SVM	HSI	72.66	0.68
		HTI	83.24	0.80
	RF	HSI	78.82	0.75
		HTI	85.08	0.82
	2D-CNN	HSI	80.09	0.76
		HTI	82.93	0.80
Crude oil and its emulsions in different states	SVM	HSI	94.52	0.90
		HTI	92.06	0.85
	RF	HSI	94.62	0.90
		HTI	91.67	0.85
	2D-CNN	HSI	95.20	0.91
		HTI	91.45	0.84

ASD, of which the area around 1.4 μm and 1.9 μm is affected by the strong absorption zone of water, so the reflectivity within this range is abnormal. At the same time, considering the edge effect of the photosensitive devices used, irregular oscillations will occur at the end of the sensing spectrum of the spectrometer. Therefore, this paper studied the spectral response of oil spill in the spectral range of 360~1340 nm, 1440~1800 nm and 1980~2400 nm.

### 4.1.1 Spectral characteristics of different oils

In general, the reflectivity of the five oil products and seawater is very small (Figure 8), which is related to the absorption properties of oil products and seawater. In the visible light band, the reflectance spectra of light oils such as diesel, gasoline and palm oil are generally consistent with

those of seawater, and there is an obvious reflection peak at about 480 nm; The reflectivity of heavy oil such as crude oil and fuel oil are obviously lower than those of light oils and seawater. In the near-infrared and shortwave infrared bands, the reflectivity of the five oils are higher than that of seawater. This is because the pure natural water is nearly a “black body” in the near-infrared band. Therefore, in the spectral range of 850~2500 nm, the reflectivity of the purer natural water is very low, almost zero.

Within the spectral range (450~950 nm) of the airborne hyperspectral image, the spectral curves of the three light oils and seawater are very similar. Therefore, based on the single dimensional characteristics of hyperspectral, the recognition results of the three algorithms for light oils (palm oil, diesel oil, gasoline) and seawater are poor, and the mixing phenomenon is serious. At the same time, the spectra of heavy oils and light oils are quite different, so except at the edge of the enclosure, the recognition accuracy of heavy oils such as crude oil and fuel oil based on the HSI is good, and there is little mixing with light oils and seawater.

### 4.1.2 Spectral characteristics of crude oil and its emulsion in different states

In general, the spectral response of crude oil and its emulsions in different states and seawater in different spectral ranges is different (Figure 9), which is related to its absorption and scattering properties. WO emulsion contains seawater droplets. When incident light enters seawater droplets from oil film, it will produce strong backscattering. In the near infrared and short wave infrared spectra, the WO emulsion has higher reflectivity. In addition, due to the absorption of -C-H in WO emulsion, obvious reflection valleys are formed at ~1725 nm, ~1760 nm and ~2170 nm. In the OW emulsion, dispersed small oil droplets exist in continuous water, which makes it have high reflectivity in the spectral range of 360~1400 nm. At the same time, due to the absorption of -O-H, obvious reflection valleys are formed at ~975 nm and ~1200 nm. This is very close to the results obtained from the indoor experiment carried out by Lu et al. (2019). Due to the

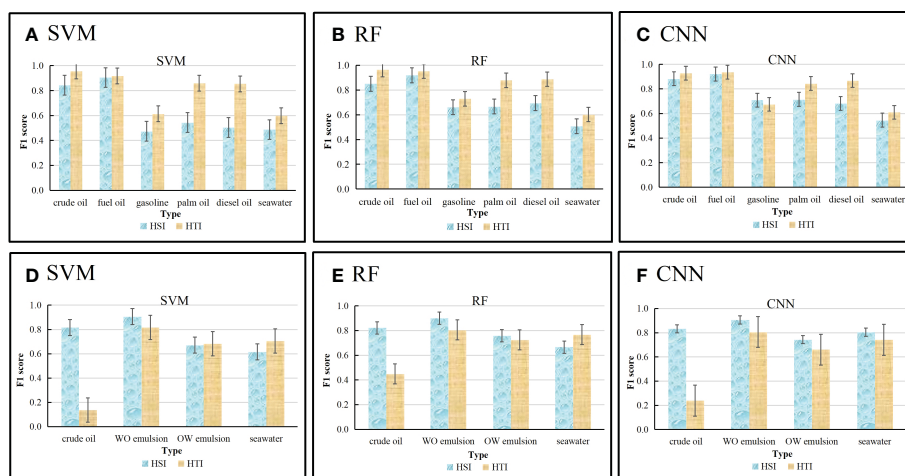


FIGURE 7 Identification accuracies of single oil spill pollution type based on HSI and HTI: (A–C) different oil products; (D–F) crude oil and its emulsions in different states.

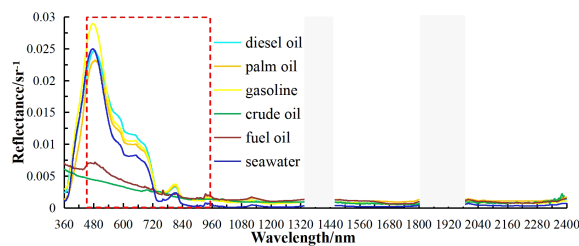


FIGURE 8 Mean spectral reflectance of typical oil products (The gray area is a non-atmospheric window, the red rectangular area represents the spectral range of airborne hyperspectral image).

strong absorption and low reflection of incident light, the spectral reflectance of crude oil is low, especially in the near infrared band, the spectral reflectivity of crude oil is nearly zero.

In the spectral range of airborne hyperspectral images (450~950 nm), there are large differences in the spectral response of crude oil and its emulsion different states and seawater. Therefore, based on the HSI, three algorithms are used to identify WO emulsion, WO emulsion and seawater with good results. However, due to the high oil concentration of the stable WO emulsion, the spectral curve of the WO emulsion is very similar to that of the crude oil. Therefore, the WO emulsion is mixed with the crude oil in the classification and recognition results based on the HSI.

## 4.2 Thermal response of different oil spill pollution types

### 4.2.1 Thermal infrared intensity characteristics of different oils

Because the heat capacity and infrared reflectance of oil film and seawater are different, there exists temperature difference between oil film and background seawater, which is the basis using infrared image to detect marine oil spill. It can be seen from Figure 3B that the heavy oils (crude oil and fuel oil) show a “bright” hue on the thermal infrared image, which is the most obvious difference from the seawater background, in which the crude oil shows “brightest”, and the fuel oil shows “brighter”. Light oils (palm oil, diesel oil and gasoline) is displayed as “dark” hue on the thermal infrared image. Diesel oil is “darker”, palm oil is “dark”, and gasoline is “darkest”. This is mainly related to the

characteristics of the oil products themselves, the ability to absorption and radiation and other factors. Heavy oils can absorb more solar radiation and emit it in the form of thermal radiation.

There is a certain conversion relationship between intensity of thermal infrared image and brightness temperature. Here, intensity is used to replace brightness temperature to analyze the thermal response characteristics of different oils. It can be seen from Figure 10 that the thermal infrared radiation intensity of the five oil products and seawater from high to low is crude oil, fuel oil, diesel oil, palm oil, seawater and gasoline. The thermal infrared intensity of gasoline is lower than that of seawater, because gasoline volatilization will cause the surface temperature to drop. The thermal infrared intensity of crude oil and fuel oil are obviously higher than those of diesel oil, palm oil and gasoline. The thermal infrared intensity of the three kinds of light oils is quite different. It is precisely because of this difference that the mixing phenomenon between light oils in the recognition results of the HTI is greatly weakened. However, there is still a certain mixing phenomenon between gasoline and seawater, which is related to the strong volatility of gasoline.

### 4.2.2 Brightness temperature characteristics of crude oil and its emulsions in different states

It can be seen from Figure 3D that the crude oil and WO emulsions show “bright” hue on the thermal infrared image, which is the most obvious difference from the seawater background. The OW emulsion and seawater show a “dark” hue on the thermal infrared image, among which, the oil in water emulsion is relatively “dark”, and the seawater is the “darkest”, which is mainly related to

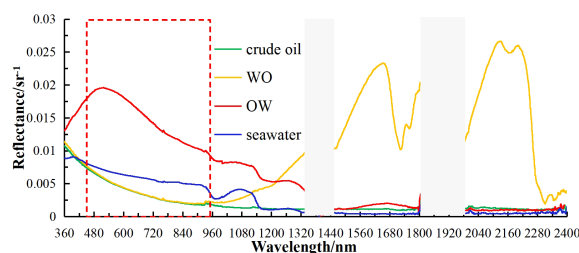


FIGURE 9 Mean spectral reflectance of crude oil and its emulsions in different states (The gray area is a non-atmospheric window, the red rectangular area represents the spectral range of airborne hyperspectral image).

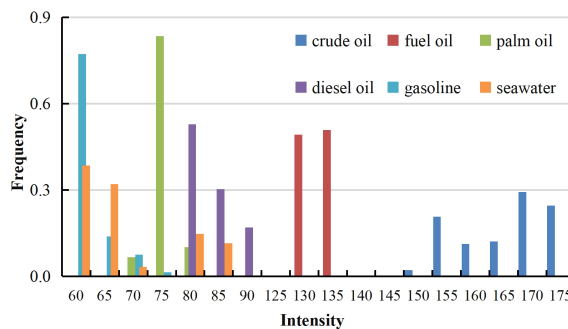


FIGURE 10 Thermal infrared intensity distribution of different oil products and seawater.

the concentration of oil. The higher the oil concentration, the more solar radiation absorbed and emitted in the form of thermal radiation.

The thermal infrared image of crude oil and its emulsion in different states was obtained using the Zemmuse H20T airborne thermal infrared imager. The brightness temperature analysis was carried out by selecting pixels of the same size for crude oil, WO emulsion, OW emulsion and seawater from the thermal infrared image. It can be seen from Figure 11 that the brightness temperature of crude oil and its emulsions in different states and seawater from high to low are crude oil, 90% WO emulsion, 75% WO emulsion, 60% WO emulsion, 0.1% OW emulsion and seawater. The brightness temperatures of crude oil and WO emulsions with different concentrations are close. The brightness temperature of OW emulsion and seawater is similar, but the brightness temperature of crude oil and WO emulsion is significantly different from that of OW emulsion and seawater, with an average difference of 20 °C. It is precisely because the brightness temperature difference between crude oil and WO emulsions of different concentrations is not obvious, which makes the mixing phenomenon of crude oil and WO emulsions enhanced in the recognition results of the HTI, so the vast majority of crude oil is wrongly divided into WO emulsions. This shows that thermal infrared remote sensing technology cannot be used to distinguish

crude oil and WO emulsion, which is consistent with the conclusion reached by Jiao et al. (2021).

### 4.3 Application of hyperspectral combined thermal infrared features in oil film monitoring with different thickness

#### 4.3.1 Spectral and brightness temperature characteristics of oil film with different thickness

In order to explain the identification results of different oil spill pollution types using the HTI, the spectral and brightness temperature characteristics of different oils, crude oil and its emulsions in different states have been analyzed and discussed in the previous section. Here we further analyze and discuss the spectral and brightness temperature characteristics of oil films with different thicknesses, which can be used to explain the possible results of oil film thickness classification using the HTI.

It can be seen from Figure 12 that the spectral curves of oil films with different thicknesses are generally the same. With the increase of wavelength, the spectral reflectance of crude oil decreases gradually. Similarly, with the increase of oil film thickness, the spectral reflectance of crude oil decreases gradually. In the spectral range of airborne hyperspectral images (450~950 nm), the spectral

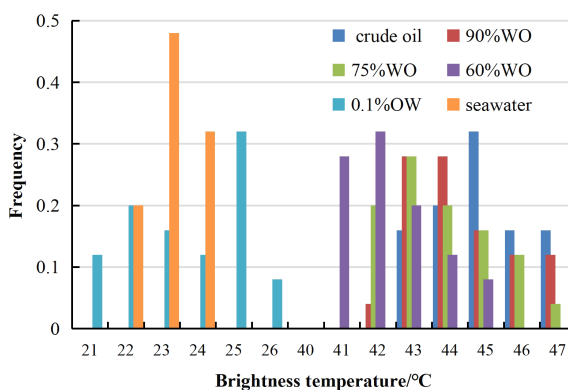


FIGURE 11 Thermal infrared brightness and temperature distribution of crude oil and its different emulsions and seawater.

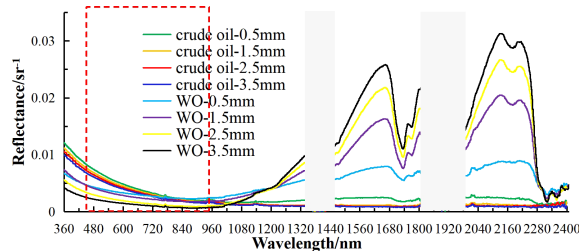


FIGURE 12 Spectral reflectance of crude oil film with different thickness and WO emulsion with different thickness at the same concentration (The gray area is a non-atmospheric window, the red rectangular area represents the spectral range of airborne hyperspectral image).

responses of oil films with different thicknesses exist difference. Therefore, theoretically, the classification results of oil films with different thicknesses should be good based on the HSI. It can be seen from Figure 13 that the brightness temperature of oil film with different thickness is different, which increases with the increase of oil film thickness, and the brightness temperature difference is greater than 1°C. In theory, the addition of thermal infrared features will enhance the recognition ability of oil films with different thicknesses. The combination of hyperspectral and thermal infrared remote sensing can be used to classify and identify oil film with different thickness on the sea surface.

### 4.3.2 Spectral and brightness temperature characteristics of WO emulsions with different thickness at the same concentration

Here, in order to explain the possible classification results of WO with different thicknesses at the same concentration using hyperspectral and thermal infrared remote sensing, the spectral and brightness temperature characteristics of WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration are analyzed and discussed. It can be seen from Figure 12 that, taking WO emulsions with a concentration of 60% as an example, the spectral curves of WO emulsions with different thickness at the same concentration are generally consistent. In the spectral range before 1200 nm, the spectral reflectance of WO emulsions decreases gradually with the increase of oil film thickness; In the near-infrared range after 1200

nm, the spectral reflectance of WO emulsions increases gradually with the increase of oil film thickness.

In the spectral range of airborne hyperspectral images (450~950 nm), the spectral responses of WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration are different. Therefore, theoretically, the classification results of oil films with different thicknesses should be good based on the HSI. It can be seen from Figure 13 that the brightness temperature of WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration is different, which increases with the increase of oil film thickness. However, the brightness temperature difference is not all greater than 1°C, and there may be mixing between oil films with different thicknesses. In conclusion, theoretically, the addition of thermal infrared features may enhance the recognition ability of WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration.

## 5 Conclusion

In this paper, we designed and implemented two outdoor oil spill simulation experiment, carried out the extraction and analysis of hyperspectral and thermal infrared multidimensional optical features of different oil spill pollution types, constructed hyperspectral oil spill pollution type recognition algorithm based on traditional machine learning, ensemble learning, and deep learning model, and explored how to improve the ability of hyperspectral oil spill pollution type

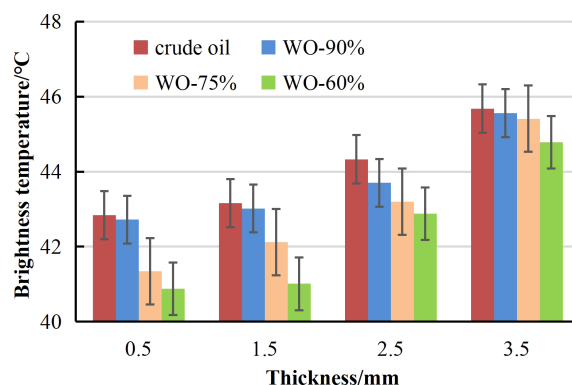


FIGURE 13 Thermal infrared brightness and temperature of crude oil film with different thickness and WO emulsion with different thickness at the same concentration.



identification by adding thermal infrared features. At the same time, the classification ability of hyperspectral combined with thermal infrared remote sensing for different oil film thicknesses and WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration is also discussed. The main conclusions can be drawn as follows: (1) The addition of thermal infrared features can effectively improve the hyperspectral recognition ability of different oils (crude oil, fuel oil, palm oil, diesel oil, gasoline), especially light oils. Among them, the F1 scores of gasoline, palm oil and diesel oil are increased by 0.07, 0.21 and 0.20 respectively, the F1 scores of crude oil and fuel oil are increased by 0.11 and 0.03 respectively, and the F1 scores of seawater are increased by 0.09. (2) Thermal infrared remote sensing technology cannot be used to distinguish crude oil and high concentration WO emulsions. The addition of thermal infrared features will reduce the recognition effect of hyperspectral on crude oil and WO emulsions; (3) Through the analysis of the spectral characteristics and brightness temperature characteristics of oil films with different thicknesses and WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration, it is theoretically shown that the thermal infrared characteristics can enhance the ability of hyperspectral classification of oil films with different thicknesses and WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration.

This paper analyzes the spectral characteristics and brightness temperature characteristics of oil films with different thicknesses and WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration, and obtains corresponding theoretical conclusions. Next, in order to verify the relevant theories and obtain reliable conclusions, we will use airborne hyperspectral images and airborne thermal infrared images to identify oil films with different thicknesses and WO emulsions with different thicknesses at the same concentration.

Affected by the weather, complex marine environment and lighting conditions, the data obtained by optical remote sensing during the oil spill accident is limited. In the case of few samples, sample self-learning and expansion is a problem worthy of attention, and machine learning models in the case of limited samples should also be concerned. At the same time, facing the needs of oil spill remote sensing business monitoring, transfer learning model based on historical oil spill remote sensing data should be explored to achieve marine oil spill monitoring without samples.

## Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

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## Author contributions

JY and ZJ designed outdoor oil spill simulation experiments, JY and YH designed the method with experiments, and JY wrote the manuscript. JY and YH revised the manuscript according to the comments of reviewers. The manuscript was supervised by YH, JZ, YM and ZL. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

## Funding

This research was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. U1906217, No. 42206177, No. 61890964), Fund of Technology Innovation Center for Ocean Telemetry, Ministry of Natural Resources (No. 2022004), Shandong Provincial Natural Science Foundation (No. ZR2022QD075), Qingdao Postdoctoral Application Research Project (No. qdyy20210082, No. QDBSH202105) and the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (No. 21CX06057A).

## Acknowledgments

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the editor and reviewers who provided valuable comments to help improve this paper.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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