

Simulating Heat Stress of Coal Gangue Spontaneous Combustion on Vegetation Using Alfalfa Leaf Water Content Spectral Features as Indicators

Qiyuan Wang

China University of Mining and Technology - Beijing Campus

Yanling Zhao (✉ ylzhao@cumtb.edu.cn)

China University of Mining and Technology - Beijing Campus <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6701-754X>

Feifei Yang

China Agricultural University

Tao Liu

Yangzhou University Agricultural College

Wu Xiao

Zhejiang University

Haiyuan Sun

China University of Mining and Technology - Beijing Campus

Research

Keywords: heat stress, live fuel moisture content, spectral features, long-short-term memory

Posted Date: April 20th, 2021

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-426563/v1>

License: © ⓘ This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

1 Simulating heat stress of coal gangue spontaneous combustion on
2 vegetation using alfalfa leaf water content spectral features as
3 indicators

4 Qiyuan Wang¹, Yanling Zhao^{1*}, Feifei Yang², Tao Liu³, Wu Xiao⁴, Haiyuan Sun¹

5 ¹*Institute of Land Reclamation and Ecological Restoration, China University of Mining & Technology*
6 *(Beijing), Beijing 100083, P.R. China*

7 ²*College of Information and Electrical Engineering, China Agricultural University, Beijing 100083, P.R.*
8 *China*

9 ³*Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Crop Genetics and Physiology/Co-Innovation Center for Modern Production*
10 *Technology of Grain Crops; Agricultural College, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225009, P.R. China*

11 ⁴*Department of Land Management, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, P.R. China*

12 **Note: The character “*” means that author is corresponding authors.**

13 **Abstract**

14 **Background:** Vegetation heat-stress assessment in the reclamation areas of coal gangue dumps is of
15 great significance in controlling spontaneous combustion. **Methods:** The study simulated the heat-stress
16 environment of a coal gangue dump reclamation area through a temperature gradient experiment. We
17 collected leaf spectrum and water content data on alfalfa plants commonly planted in such areas. We then
18 obtained the optimal spectral features of appropriate leaf water content indicators through time series
19 analysis, correlation analysis, and least absolute shrinkage operator (lasso) regression analysis. A spectral
20 feature-based long short-term memory (SF-LSTM) model is proposed to estimate alfalfa's heat stress
21 level. **Results:** Comparing three leaf water content indicators, we found that the live fuel moisture content
22 (LFMC) varies significantly with time and has high regularity. Correlation analysis of the raw spectrum,

23 first-derivative spectrum, vegetation indexes and leaf water content data shows that LFMC and spectral
24 data were the most strongly correlated. Combined with lasso regression analysis, the optimal spectral
25 features were the first-derivative spectral value at 1661 nm (abbreviated as FDS (1661)), RVI (1525,
26 1771), DVI (1412, 740) and NDVI (1447,1803). When the classification strategies were divided into
27 three categories and the time sequence length of the spectral features was set to five consecutive
28 monitoring dates, the SF-LSTM model had the highest accuracy in estimating the heat stress level in
29 alfalfa. The accuracy of the training set was > 95% and the accuracy of the verification set was about
30 90%. **Conclusion:** The results provide an important theoretical basis and technical support for vegetation
31 heat-stress assessment in coal gangue dump reclamation areas.

32 **Keywords:** heat stress, live fuel moisture content, spectral features, long-short-term memory

33 **Background**

34 The organic materials in coal gangue dumps can oxidize and generate heat, such that spontaneous
35 combustion may occur when the rate of heat generation exceeds that of heat dissipation [1-2]. The
36 spontaneous combustion of coal gangue dumps poses a serious threat to the environment and human
37 safety. This spontaneous combustion, by releasing a large number of toxic and harmful gases and
38 chemical [3], damages the surrounding soil and water environment in the mining area [4-5]. It may also
39 cause geological disasters during the long-term stacking [6], resulting in human casualties. In 2005, a
40 coal gangue hill in China, spontaneously ignited, resulting in the death of eight people and burns to 122
41 people [7]. Further, over 30 miners were killed in the Ukraine from an explosion due to spontaneous
42 combustion of coal in 2014 [8]. Remediation of coal gangue dumps mainly involves land reclamation
43 and ecological reconstruction to reduce the probability of spontaneous combustion and other disasters
44 [9]. A warning of spontaneous combustion in coal gangue dump reclamation areas helps managers take

45 effective and timely countermeasures. Remote sensing can be used for this purpose. Research this type
46 of monitoring has mostly focused on surface temperature and coal fire monitoring via thermal infrared
47 sensing [10-15]. However, changes in surface temperature are greatly affected by climate, sunshine, and
48 other factors, which cause high hysteresis in spontaneous coal fire monitoring and make it impossible to
49 obtain reliable early warnings. It has been found that prior to spontaneous combustion in coal gangue
50 dumps, there is an internal heat accumulation stage that can affect the growth of plants. In this stage,
51 there is potential to gain an early warning based on the spectral responses of plants. By averting
52 spontaneous combustion disasters, the ecological environments of mining areas can be fundamentally
53 improved.

54 Heat accumulation inside gangue dumps increases the surface soil temperature, which can reduce
55 root numbers, roots' absorption of water and nutrients, and plant fresh weights [16]. High soil
56 temperature is far more influential than high air-temperature on plant growth [17]. At present, few studies
57 have used remote sensing to monitor soil heat stress, and have mainly focused on drought stress [18],
58 waterlogging stress [19], high-temperature stress [20], disease stress and heavy metal stress [21]. Plant
59 environmental stress has been estimated directly or indirectly based on spectral features (such as
60 frequency-domain transformation features [22], vegetation indexes [23]), physiological and biochemical
61 parameters (such as plant water [24], the leaf area index [25], pigment content [26], and chlorophyll
62 fluorescence parameters [27])

63 The heat stress caused by internal spontaneous combustion may eventually evolve into a fire in coal
64 gangue dump reclamation areas. In such scenarios, the monitoring of plant water status is an important
65 factor in detecting temperature anomalies [28]. Remote sensing can monitor plant water content because
66 plant water absorbs radiation in the near-infrared (750–1300 nm) and short-wave-infrared (1300–2500

67 nm) regions [29]. Research has found that equivalent water thickness (EWT [18]), LPMC [30], and the
68 relative water content (RWC [31]) of leaves can better reflect vegetation water status. Currently,
69 commonly used vegetation moisture inversion methods include radiation transfer model inversion [32-
70 34], traditional regression models [35-37], and machine learning models [38]. Yebra M et al. [39] used
71 radiation transfer model inversion to estimate fuel moisture contents from MODIS reflectivity data and
72 established a flammability index through logistic regression modeling to map fire risk in Australia. Yi Q
73 et al. [40] reported that DR1647/DR1133 and DR1653/DR1687 (DR = first-order differential reflectance
74 value) are the optimal indexes for estimating EWT and LPMC, respectively. Rodríguez-Pérez JR et al.
75 [35] used near-ground hyperspectral data to estimate grape leaf water content and used ordinary least-
76 squares regression (OLSR) and functional linear regression (FLR) modeling, finding that the FLR model
77 centered at 1465 nm had the highest accuracy ($R^2 = 0.7$, RMSE = 8.485). Krishna G et al. [41] predicted
78 RWC according to the water deficit stress status of rice genotypes based on spectral indices, multivariate
79 techniques, neural network techniques, and existing water-band indices. They proposed new water-band
80 indices—the ratio index (RI) and normalized difference ratio index (NDRI)—for this purpose. In
81 previous studies, the water indicators obtained by remote sensing technology have been used to
82 qualitatively analyze plant water condition over an entire monitoring period to determine environmental
83 stress level on vegetation. However, the accuracy and timeliness of the results are usually insufficient.

84 In this paper, a long-short-term-memory network model based on spectral features is proposed to
85 estimate heat stress. It simulates the temperature-gradient test of plant heat stress in coal gangue dump
86 reclamation areas and monitors plant water condition based on hyperspectral remote sensing. This
87 provides a new way to monitor spontaneous combustion in coal gangue dumps. This method considers
88 temporal variation in the spectral features of water status in vegetation under environmental stress. It

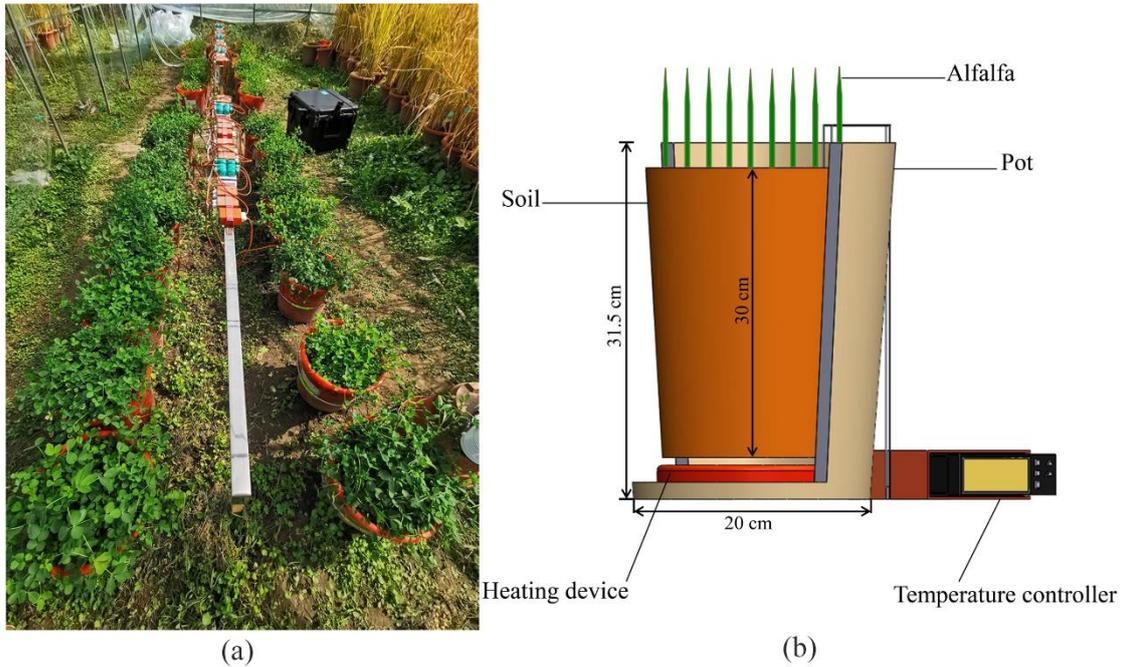
89 allows accurate diagnoses to be made soon as possible and provides a new method of remote sensing
90 monitoring of other environmental stresses.

91 **Materials and methods**

92 **Experimental design**

93 The simulation experiment was carried out in the autumn of 2020 at the potted proving ground of
94 Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, China (119° 25' N, 32° 23' E). Yangzhou is in the transition zone
95 between the humid subtropical monsoon climate and the temperate monsoon climate. It has four distinct
96 seasons and abundant sunshine and rainfall. Alfalfa, a common herbaceous plant commonly used in the
97 reclamation areas of coal gangue dumps, was selected as the experimental plant. The species used was
98 Algonquin [42].

99 Seeds were sown on September 10, 2020, at a sowing density of 10 holes per pot and two seeds per
100 hole. Ten seedlings per pot were grown to the three-leaf stage and harvested on November 15, 2020. The
101 inner diameter of the bottom of the barrel was 20 cm, the inner diameter of the mouth was 28 cm, the
102 height of the pots was 31.5 cm, and the empty barrel weighed 0.54 kg. Each barrel was loaded with 10
103 kg air-dried light loam and 5.28 g compound fertilizer with an N-P-K ratio of 15%-15%-15%. One kg of
104 soil was used to cover the seeds after sowing. The first alfalfa crop took about 60 days to grow from the
105 sowing to the flowering stage. The gradient experiment of heat stress was started on October 16, 2020.
106 One control group and five experimental groups were set. For the experimental groups, five heat sources
107 of different temperature T (T1 = 60 °C, T2 = 90 °C, T3 = 120 °C, T4 = 150 °C, and T5 = 180 °C) were
108 placed at a depth of 30 cm in the soil layer, which is the typical thickness of overlying soil used in
109 reclamation projects [43] (Fig. 1(b)). Each group was replicated five times, as shown in Fig. 1(a). The
110 relative water content of all treated soils was controlled at about 60%.



111

(a)

(b)

112 **Fig.1** (a) Field of simulation experiment of heat stress in alfalfa and (b) schematic diagram of the
 113 heating equipment.

114 **Data acquisition**

115 **Spectral data**

116 A portable ground object spectrometer (Spectra Vista Corporation SVC HR-1024I) was used to measure
 117 the spectral reflectance of alfalfa leaves. The spectral measurement range was 340–2500 nm and the
 118 spectral sampling intervals were 1.5 nm (sampling range 350–1000 nm), 3.8 nm (sampling range 1000–
 119 1885 nm), and 2.5 nm (sampling range 1885–2500 nm). The resample interval was 1 nm. The
 120 measurements were synchronized with the heating. The first measurement was made on October 16,
 121 2020, and then every 4 days. The spectral reflectance of leaves was measured between 10:00 and 14:00
 122 on sunny and windless days. The spectral data were collected eight times until November 15, 2020, when
 123 it was overcast and rainy. A standard whiteboard was used for calibration of measurements using a hand-
 124 held leaf spectrum detector with a light source. This was clamped to the middle part of a leaf sample to
 125 measure its spectrum. Each process measured three pots and each pot was measured six times, with the

126 average taken as the processed alfalfa leaf spectrum reflectance. During the measurement process,
127 standard whiteboard calibration was performed every 30 minutes.

128 **Leaf water content**

129 Leaf water content data were collected synchronously with spectral data. Three alfalfa samples were
130 selected for each treatment and packed in self-sealing plastic bags to avoid water loss from the plants as
131 much as possible. Samples were quickly brought back to the laboratory to weigh their fresh weight (m_f)
132 with a precision balance and manually measure their leaf area. Each treated fresh leaf was put into a
133 beaker filled with distilled water and soaked for 24 hours. After reaching a constant weight, the saturated
134 fresh weight was measured (m_t). Then a blade put into the paper bag, which was placed in an oven at
135 105 °C for 30 min, then the drying temperature was set at 80 °C for 48 h until the constant weight was
136 attained, which was measured as the dry weight (m_d). The leaf water content was calculated according
137 to Eqs. (1), (2), and (3):

138

$$139 \quad LPMC = \frac{m_f - m_d}{m_d} \quad (1)$$

140 Where m_f is the measured weight of fresh leaves and m_d is the weight of the same sample after
141 drying.

142 .

$$143 \quad EWT = \frac{m_f - m_d}{A} \quad (2)$$

144 Where A is the leaf area.

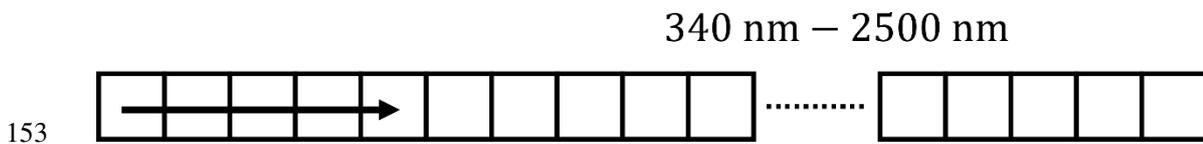
$$145 \quad RWC = \frac{m_f - m_d}{m_t - m_d} \quad (3)$$

146 Where m_t is the measured saturation weight of the leaves.

147 **Methods**

148 **Spectral feature construction**

149 **Raw spectral data processing:** Matlab 2017a (Mathworks, Natick, Massachusetts, USA) was used to
150 average the spectral curves collected for each treatment in the heat-stress test to reduce the differences
151 within groups. Then, a one-dimensional Gaussian filter was applied to the mean spectral curve along the
152 spectrum direction to smooth it. The sliding window was set to 5, as shown in Figure 2.



154 **Fig. 2** Schematic diagram of one-dimensional Gaussian filtering along the spectrum direction, with a
155 sliding window of 5.

156 **First derivative spectrum:** Differential processing of a spectrum can reduce the influence of
157 background information such as field noise and soil on spectral data [44]. The direct difference method
158 was used to calculate the first-derivative spectrum of spectral reflectance to highlight the target spectral
159 features. Eq. (4) was used to calculate the first derivative of the spectrum.

160
$$\rho'(\lambda_i) = [\rho(\lambda_i + 1) - \rho(\lambda_i - 1)] / 2\Delta\lambda \quad (4)$$

161 In the formula, λ_i is the wavelength, $\rho(\lambda_i)$ and $\rho'(\lambda_i)$ are the reflectance and first-derivative
162 spectrum of the wavelength λ_i , respectively, and $\Delta\lambda$ is the interval between the wavelength
163 λ_{i-1} and λ_i .

164 **Vegetation index:** The vegetation index was constructed using the two-band combination method
165 of raw and first-derivative spectral reflectance, and compared with the conventional vegetation index
166 (Table 1). The two-band combination method included the ratio vegetation index ($RVI(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$),
167 normalized difference vegetation index ($NDVI(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$), and difference vegetation index

168 ($DVI(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$). These are commonly used in remote sensing monitoring. The selection range of any

169 band combination was between 340–2500 nm and their formulas [45] are as follows:

170
$$NDVI(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (R_{\lambda_1} - R_{\lambda_2}) / (R_{\lambda_1} + R_{\lambda_2}) \quad (5)$$

171
$$RVI(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = R_{\lambda_1} / R_{\lambda_2} \quad (6)$$

172
$$DVI(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = R_{\lambda_1} - R_{\lambda_2} \quad (7)$$

173 Where λ_1 and λ_2 are wavelengths (nm); and R_{λ_1} and R_{λ_2} are the reflectances at wavelengths λ_1

174 and λ_2 , respectively, and $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$.

175 **Table1** Vegetation indices related to leaf water content.

Vegetation index	Acronym	Equation ¹	Reference
Water index	WI (900, 970)	R_{900} / R_{970}	[46]
Water index	WI (1300, 1450)	R_{1300} / R_{1450}	[47]
Normalized difference water index	NDWI	$(R_{870} - R_{1260}) / (R_{870} + R_{1260})$	[48]
Normalized difference vegetation index	NDVI	$(R_{858} - R_{645}) / (R_{858} + R_{645})$	[49]
Normalized difference infrared index	NDII	$(R_{858} - R_{645}) / (R_{858} + R_{645})$	[50]
Simple ratio vegetation index	SR	R_{800} / R_{680}	[51]
Moisture stress index	MSI	R_{1610} / R_{842}	[52]
Photochemical reflectance index	PRI	$(R_{570} - R_{531}) / (R_{570} + R_{531})$	[53]

176 ¹ R_{λ} = reflectance at wavelength λ

177 **Spectral feature selection**

178 **Correlation analysis:** The Pearson correlation coefficient (Eq. (8)) was used to correlate the spectral

179 parameters (raw spectrum, first-derivative spectrum, and vegetation index) with plant leaf water content

180 indicators (LFMC, EWT, and RWC). Pairwise analysis selected highly correlated spectral features in the

181 appropriate band range.

$$182 \quad r(X, Y) = \frac{Cov(X, Y)}{\delta_X \delta_Y} \quad (8)$$

183 Where $Cov(X, Y)$ is the covariance of X and Y , δ_X is the variance of X , and δ_Y is the
184 variance of Y .

185 **Lasso regression:** The Lasso regression model was proposed by Robert in 1996 and has become
186 an important regression model in the field of machine learning [54]. The method is a compression
187 estimator that constructs a penalty function to obtain a relatively refined model. This makes it compress
188 some regression coefficients; that is, the sum of the absolute value of the forcing coefficient is less than
189 a fixed value. Through regularization, the regression coefficients of some independent variables are
190 compressed to zero, then the variable selection is completed. At the same time, Lasso regression retains
191 the advantage of subset contraction and is a biased estimation model (Eq. (9)) for dealing with data
192 with multicollinearity.

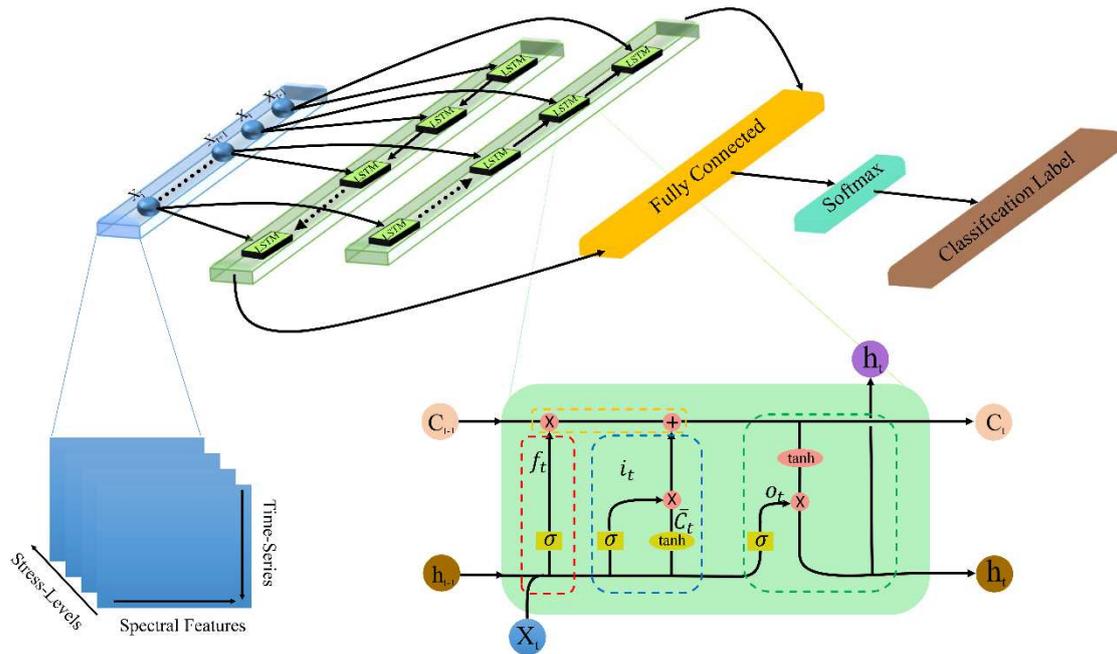
$$193 \quad \min_{\beta_0, \beta} \left(\frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_j - \beta x_i^T - \beta_0)^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^p |\beta_j| \right) \quad (9)$$

194 Where N is the sample number, y_j is the predicted true value, x_i is the observed value, β_0 is
195 the bias, β is the weight of the observed variable, and λ is a non-negative regularization parameter.
196 $\lambda \sum_{j=1}^p |\beta_j|$ is called L^1 regularization.

197 **Assessment of heat stress by SF-LSTM**

198 LSTM is a recurrent neural network (RNN) architecture used in the field of deep learning, and was
199 proposed by [55]. Unlike standard feedforward neural networks, LSTM has a feedback connection. It
200 not only processes point datasets (such as images) but also processes data sequences. Compared with
201 other deep learning algorithms, LSTM performs very well in processing regression or classification
202 problems with time series feature data and is now widely used. The characteristics of temporal change in

203 physiological parameters must be taken into account when estimating environmental stress level, and the
 204 influence of subjective qualitative analysis on the estimation accuracy should be avoided as far as
 205 possible. Therefore, in this paper, based on the multi-dimensional and multi-time-series characteristics
 206 of the test plant moisture indicators, Pytorch (Facebook AI Research, Menlo Park, California, USA) was
 207 used to construct the artificial RNN SF-LSTM. Its structure is shown in Figure 3.



208
 209 **Fig. 3** SF-LSTM network structure diagram.

210 SF-LSTM is a neural network model based on bidirectional LSTM and uses spectral features as
 211 the input layer. The whole network is composed of an input layer, bidirectional LSTM layer, full
 212 connection layer, Softmax layer, and classified output layer. At the lower left of Fig. 3, the data
 213 structure of the input layer is enlarged. Inspired by image data processing, a three-dimensional matrix
 214 was constructed with dimensions of 1) spectral features, 2) time-series, and 3) stress level. The data
 215 structure of the input layer not only considers the calculation of various spectral features but also
 216 ensures that the data can be calculated according to the time series. At the same time, the multi-
 217 dimensional vector operation makes the calculation efficient. The core computing units, called *memory*

218 *cells*, are zoomed in at the lower right of Fig. 3. In the memory cells, " \otimes " and " \oplus " denote the dot
219 product and matrix addition, respectively. The first step of the memory cell is to decide what
220 information to discard from the cellular state. This decision is made by a sigmoid layer called the
221 "forget gate". It looks at h_{t-1} (the previous output) and X_t (the current input), and outputs a number
222 between 0 and 1 for each number in C_{t-1} (the previous state), where 1 represents total retention and 0
223 represents total deletion (Eq. (10)). The next step is to decide what information to store in the cellular
224 state. The sigmoid layer called the "input gate" decides which values to update, and the next tanh layer
225 creates a candidate vector \tilde{C}_t (Eqs. (11), (12)), which is added to the state of the cell and combined
226 with C_{t-1} to create the updated value C_t (Eq. (13)). Finally, the "output gate" determines the output
227 of the memory cells. The output value of h_t is obtained by multiplying the output of a sigmoid layer
228 with the normalized C_t value of the tanh layer (Eqs. (14), (15)).

$$229 \quad f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_f) \quad (10)$$

$$230 \quad i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_i) \quad (11)$$

$$231 \quad \tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_c \cdot [h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_c) \quad (12)$$

$$232 \quad C_t = f_t * C_{t-1} + i_t * \tilde{C}_t \quad (13)$$

$$233 \quad o_t = \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_o) \quad (14)$$

$$234 \quad h_t = o_t * \tanh(C_t) \quad (15)$$

235 where σ is the logistic sigmoid function, W is the weight matrix, $*$ is a dot product, and b is
236 a bias term.

237 **Validation**

238 The observed sample data for constructing the model was divided into a training set (segmentation scale
239 = 0.8) and validation set (segmentation scale = 0.2). The coefficient of determination (R^2) and root mean

240 square error (RMSE) were used as indicators of its accuracy [24] Eqs. (16), (17)). Accuracy is defined
241 as the degree of consistency between the model results and the true categories (Eq. (18)). Ten-fold cross-
242 validation was adopted for the training set [56].

$$243 \quad RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2}{n}} \quad (16)$$

$$244 \quad R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{y}_i - y_i)^2} \quad (17)$$

$$245 \quad Accuracy = \frac{n_{class}}{n} \times 100\% \quad (18)$$

246 Where y_i is the true value, \hat{y}_i is the predicted value, \bar{y}_i is the mean value, n is the number of
247 samples, and n_{class} is the number of correctly classified samples.

248 **Results**

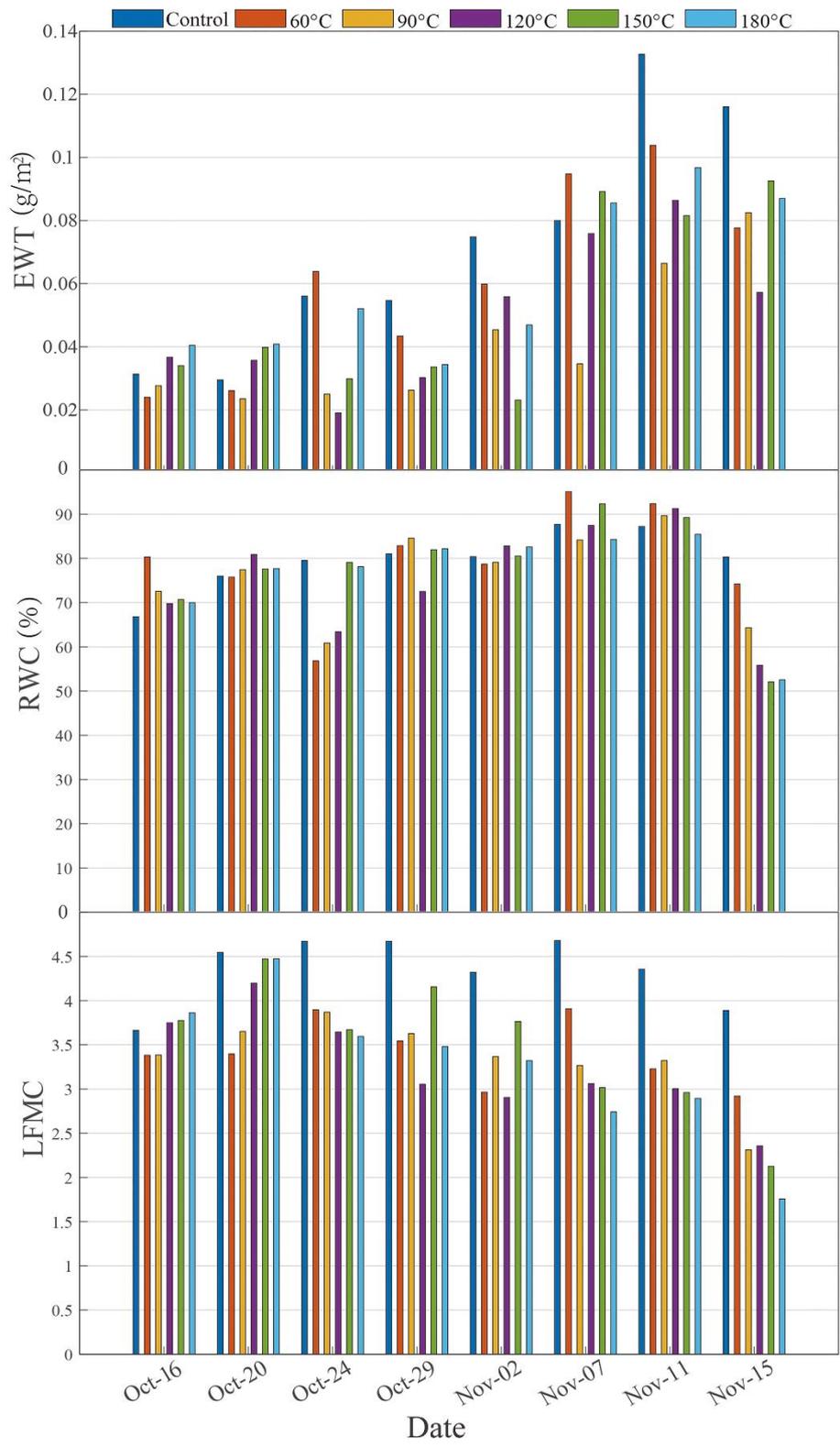
249 **LFMC, EWT, and RWC time series analysis**

250 This study focused on alfalfa, a herbaceous plant commonly used in the reclamation areas of coal
251 gangue dumps. The soil layer was heated on the day after the first data collection on October 14, and
252 leaf samples were collected eight times in total. The changes in LFMC, EWT, and RWC with time
253 under different treatments are shown in Figure 4. The temporal changes in water indicators under
254 different heat stresses were different. The soil layer was not heated when the soil was collected on
255 October 14. At this time, the growth trend in each alfalfa pot was similar, and the differences in LFMC,
256 EWT, and RWC between each experimental group were small.

257 Figure 4 shows the following. 1) EWT: All treatments showed an overall growth trend. The
258 control group increased almost all the time, reaching the maximum value on November 11 before
259 dropping slightly on November 15. Apart from this overall trend, the EWTs of the other experimental
260 groups showed different trends with no strong regularity over time. 2) RWC: The differences between

261 groups on a particular date were small and the range of variation in RWC on different dates was
262 relatively stable. On November 7 and 11, the RWC of the control group and each experimental group
263 peaked. On November 15, the RWC of each treatment group declined, with a relatively large range of
264 decreases. In general, there was no significant difference in RWC between the control and experimental
265 groups. 3) LFMC: After heating the soil layer, the LFMCs of the control group were significantly
266 higher than those of the experimental groups on each monitoring date. The LFMCs of each
267 experimental group showed gradually decreasing trends. In the late monitoring period, the LFMC
268 decreased with increases in the temperature gradient on November 7, 11, and 15 and reached the lowest
269 point on November 15, exhibiting a clear decrease over time.

270 According to the results of water indicator monitoring and the above analysis, it is clear that
271 LFMC is the best water indicator for reflecting heat stress in alfalfa. This is consistent with previous
272 studies. LFMC is very sensitive to heat stress and is an important variable in many fire behavior
273 prediction models and fire-risk indicators [39,57].



274

275 **Fig.4** Time series of equivalent water thickness (EWT), live fuel moisture content (LFMC), and relative

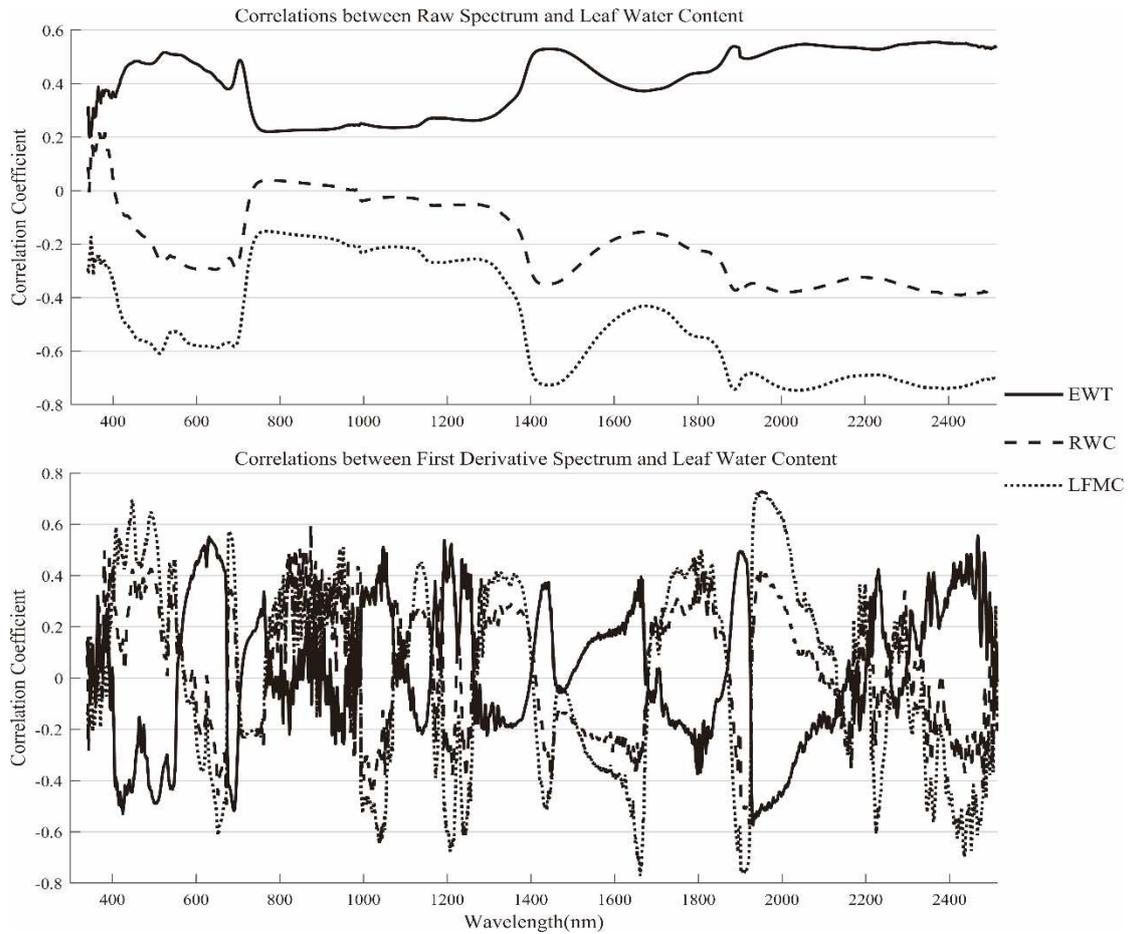
276 water content (RWC) in the control and experimental groups at leaf level from October 16–November

277 15, 2020.

278 **Correlation analysis of spectral features and leaf water content**

279 **Correlations between raw spectrum, derivative spectrum, and leaf water content data**

280 The Pearson correlation coefficient is one of the most commonly used indicators in correlation analysis
281 [58], and was used in this paper. Correlation analysis of EWT, RWC, and LFMC was performed using
282 raw leaf spectrum and first-derivative spectrum data from throughout the monitoring period (14
283 October–15 November; Fig. 5). The results show that the raw spectra of leaves were positively
284 correlated with EWT at all wavelengths, negatively correlated with RWC except at a small number of
285 visible wavelengths (VIS, 400–780 nm), and negatively correlated with LFMC at all wavelengths.
286 Overall, the EWT, RWC, and raw spectrum correlations were weak ($|r| < 0.6$), of which the RWC was
287 weaker, while LFMC was best in the short-wave infrared band (SWIR, 1400–2500 nm) to obtain the
288 strong correlation band ($|r| > 0.7$), and the correlation was strongest at 1889 nm ($r = -0.75$). The
289 first-derivative spectrum can effectively suppress influences such as the soil background. In the
290 correlation analysis of the first-derivative spectrum, EWT and RWC, the positive and negative
291 correlations were uncertain and the absolute values of the correlation coefficients were small. The
292 performance of LFMC continued to be excellent, with the maximum correlation coefficient between
293 LFMC and the first-derivative spectrum appearing at 1661 nm ($r = -0.77$).



294

295 **Fig.5** Coefficients of correlation between EWT, RWC, LFMC and the raw leaf and first-derivative
 296 spectral data

297 **Correlation between vegetation index and leaf water content**

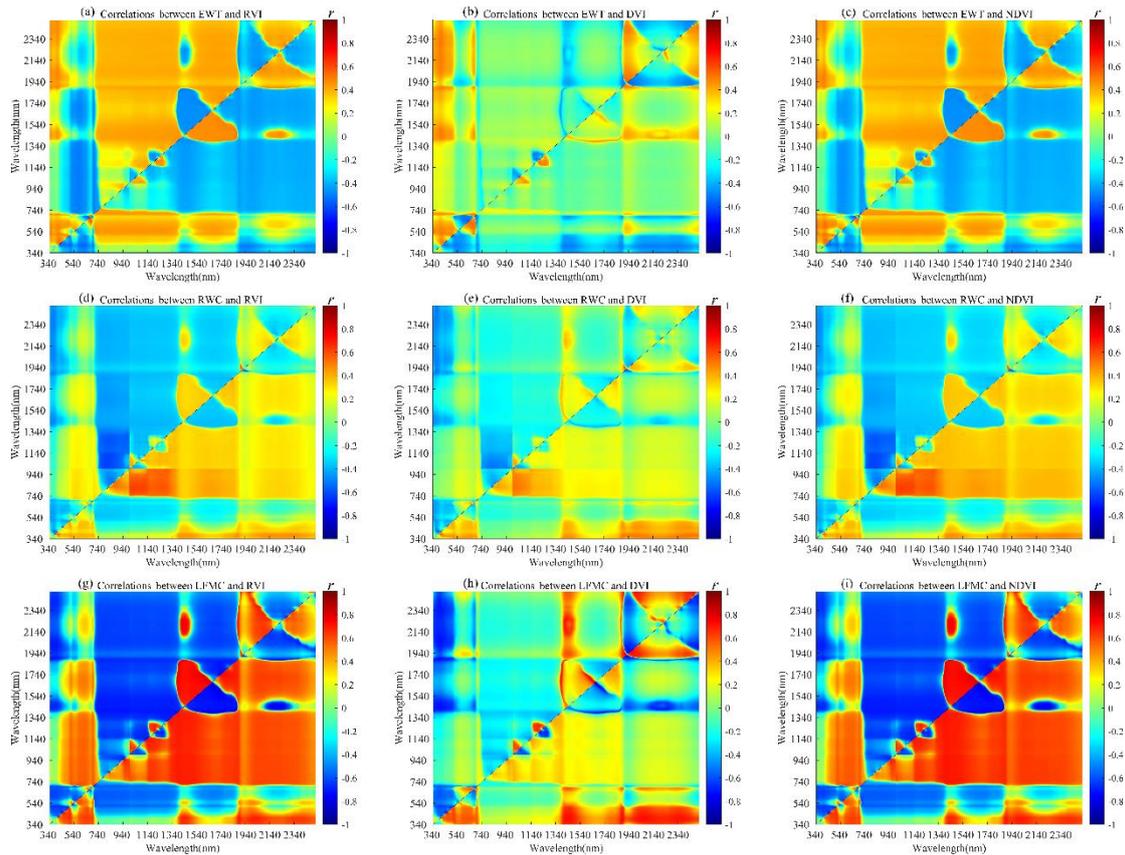
298 In remote sensing monitoring of plant water content, vegetation indexes have been widely used and are
 299 some of the most important spectral parameters. Therefore, we first analyzed the correlations between
 300 eight classical vegetation indices and EWT, RWC, and LFMC (Table 2). The correlations between each
 301 index and EWT and RWC were weak. In contrast, the correlations between LFMC and each index were
 302 better. The vegetation indices with good correlations with LFMC comprised bands mainly concentrated
 303 in the near-infrared and SWIR regions. The WI (1300,1450), NDVI, and NDII had correlations with
 304 LFMC of > 0.6, among which the correlation between WI (1300,1450) and LFMC was the highest at
 305 0.7. The results in Table 2 show that these classical vegetation indices are not quite adequate for

306 application in this paper, and a vegetation index with better correlation needs to be constructed.

307 **Table 2** Coefficients of correlation (r) between existing vegetation indices and leaf water content

Vegetation index	r			Vegetation index	r		
	EWT	RWC	LFMC		EWT	RWC	LFMC
WI (900,970)	0.34	-0.39	-0.64	NDWI	0.22	-0.57	-0.59
WI (1300,1450)	0.44	-0.39	-0.7	NDVI	0.39	-0.33	-0.57
SR	-0.37	-0.33	-0.57	NDII	0.33	-0.44	-0.63
MSI	-0.35	0.42	0.64	PRI	-0.44	0.31	-0.5

308 To find the best vegetation indices for estimating leaf water content, the correlations between the
 309 ratio (RVI), normalized-difference (NDVI), and difference (DVI) vegetation indices of the two bands in
 310 the 340–2500 nm range with EWT, RWC, and LFMC were systematically analyzed. Figure 6 presents a
 311 matrix of the correlation coefficients based on the different band combinations of the raw full-band
 312 spectrum and the leaf water content. The results show that the correlations between the vegetation indices
 313 and EWT and RWC were still weak, with LFMC performing best, which is consistent with the previous
 314 analysis. From Figs. 6 (g), (h), and (i), the three indices with the highest correlation coefficients r (RVI
 315 (1525,1771), DVI (1412,740), and NDVI (1447,1803)) were screened out, with the r -values being 0.81,
 316 0.82, and 0.77, respectively. The band compositions of the three vegetation indices are in the near-
 317 infrared and SWIR, and they were highly correlated with the LFMC. Therefore, they can be preliminarily
 318 used as the spectral characteristic parameters of the LFMC.



319

320 **Fig. 6** Coefficients of correlation between EWT, RWC, and LFMC with RVI (λ_1, λ_2), NDVI (λ_1, λ_2),

321 DVI (λ_1, λ_2), and ratio/normalized difference/difference vegetation indexes constructed from raw

322 spectral data

323 **Optimal spectral features**

324 According to the temporal changes in leaf water content and the correlation analysis with the raw

325 spectral data, first-derivative spectrum, and vegetation index, it is obvious that LFMC is the best water

326 indicator for assessing heat stress, while EWT and RWC are not suitable. Based on correlation analysis,

327 RS (1889; raw spectral value at 1889 nm), FDS (1661; first-derivative spectral value at 1661 nm), RVI

328 (1525,1771), DVI (1412,740), and NDVI (1447,1803) were the five spectral features with strong

329 correlations with LFMC. In general, selecting more features is not necessarily better, and data

330 redundancy will reduce computational efficiency and affect the accuracy and applicability of the

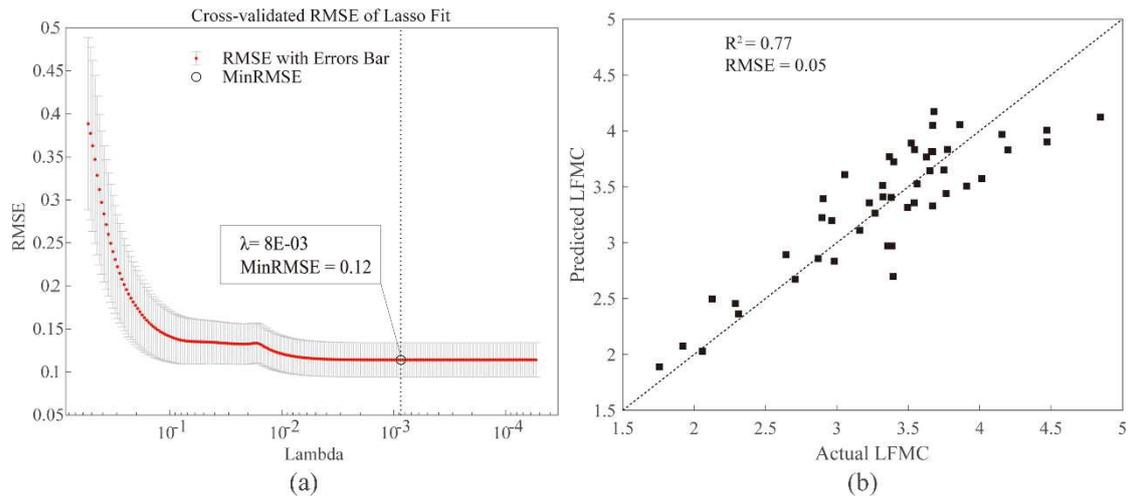
331 model. Therefore, it is necessary to further screen the spectral characteristic parameters of LFMC.

332 The regular term constructed in the Lasso regression model makes it possible to compress the
 333 dimension of the input sample. First, we need to determine the optimal regular coefficient Lambda (λ)
 334 and adopt 10-fold cross-validation for the dataset (Figure 7(a)). As shown in Fig. 7(a), the minimum λ
 335 of the RMSE was obtained after multiple iterations and was used as the regular term coefficient of the
 336 model. Then, the compressed spectral characteristic parameters were determined and the accuracy of
 337 the regression model was tested. The results are shown in Table 3 and Figure 7(b). It can be seen from
 338 Table 3 that RS (1889), as an independent variable, is compressed to 0 in the model, indicating that RS
 339 (1889) is removed from the input dimension. The R^2 -value of the Lasso regression model constructed
 340 with FDS (1661), RVI (1525,1771), DVI (1412,740) and NDVI (1447,1803) as independent variables
 341 was 0.77 with an RMSE of 0.05. Although the spectral features were reduced, the model accuracy was
 342 still high.

343 **Table 3** Correlation coefficients between existing vegetation indices and leaf water content

Lasso regression Spectral parameters	Regression coefficients	R^2	RMSE
RS (1889)	0		
FDS (1661)	29		
RVI (1525,1771)	30.93	0.77	0.05
DVI (1412,740)	0.19		
NDVI (1447,1803)	-2.76		
Equation ¹	$y = 29x_1 + 30.93x_2 + 0.19x_3 - 2.76x_4$		

344 ¹ y = LFMC; x_1 = FDS (1661); x_2 = RVI (1525,1771); x_3 = DVI (1412,740); x_4 = NDVI
 345 (1447,1803).



346

347 **Fig. 7** (a) Use of 10-fold cross-validation to determine the regular coefficient (lambda, λ) of the Lasso

348 model; (b) predicted and actual values of LFMC by Lasso regression.

349 SF-LSTM estimation of heat-stress level

350 The direct use of spectral characteristics to accurately estimate the stress level in plants requires full

351 consideration of the temporal changes in spectral data under different stress levels. Although it is

352 sometimes feasible to estimate the spectral data in a single period, its generalization ability is often

353 weak. To solve this problem, the spectral features of the time series were used as input to construct an

354 SF-LSTM, and the estimation of plant stress level was transformed into a classification problem. The

355 network structure is shown in Figure 4. To find the optimal model, the input layer data were set up with

356 unified spectral features and different time series lengths, and different classification strategies were

357 trialed: 1) Spectral features: FDS(1661), RVI(1525,1771), DVI(1412,740) and NDVI(1447,1803); 2)

358 time series: the time series length of spectral features was divided into lengths of 3, 5 and 7 (each

359 length is a continuous date and does not reverse repeat); 3) classification strategies: two categories

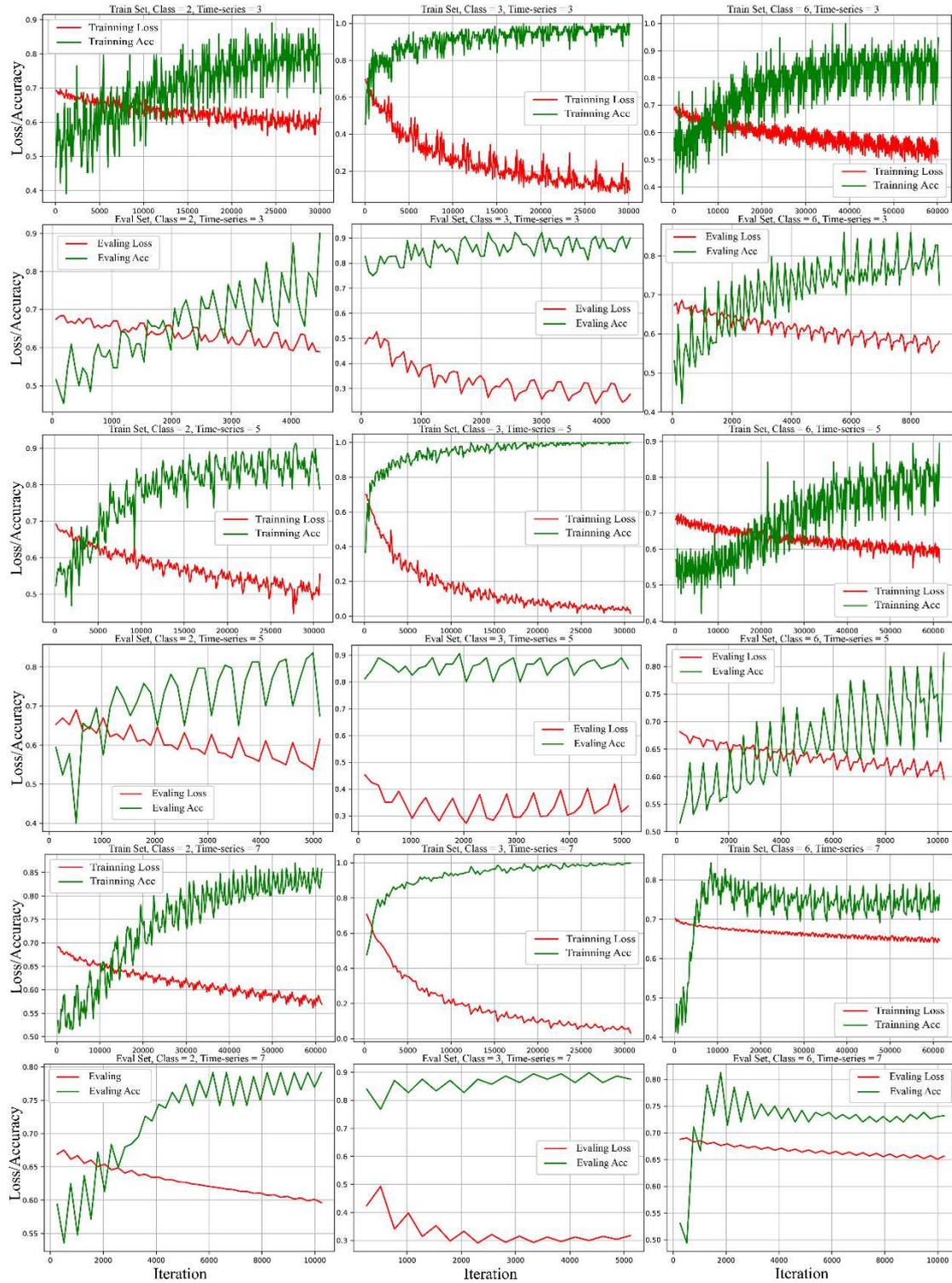
360 (control group and experimental groups), three categories (control group, T1 and T2, and T3, T4, and

361 T5) and six categories (control group and each of the five experimental groups). The number of

362 samples in each test was determined by the length of the time series, and the ratio of the training set to

363 the verification set was 4:1. The number of output layer categories was consistent with the number of
364 stress level categories. The initial learning rate was 0.01 and the batch size was adjusted according to
365 the sample size. The adaptive moment estimate (Adam) was selected by the network optimizer and the
366 cross-entropy error function was adopted as the loss function. The classification results are shown in
367 Figure 8.

368 When using deep learning to estimate the heat-stress level in terms of a binary classification or
369 multiple classification problem, the classification of categories has a huge impact on the modeling
370 results. The test results show that the classification strategy determines the convergence of the model's
371 loss and accuracy and the overall stability of the model. Under the same classification strategy, the time
372 series length of spectral features determines the level of model accuracy. As shown in Figure 8, among
373 the different classification strategies, the loss and accuracy of the dichotomy model converged, the
374 accuracies of the training set and evaluation set were not ideal, and the stability of the model was low.
375 When divided into six categories, the model cannot converge many times and its stability is very poor.
376 The heat-stress level was divided into three categories. The model training set had the highest accuracy
377 and the accuracy convergence value was > 95%. Under different time series lengths, the effect was not
378 good at a time series length of three. When the time series length of the data was five, the training set
379 loss and accuracy had good convergence. The evaluation set had high accuracy and good stability, and
380 its accuracy was stable at about 90%. Overfitting occurred at a time series length of seven. The overall
381 results show that the SF-LSTM model is suitable for estimating heat stress when the classification
382 strategies are divided into three categories and the time series length is five.



383

384 **Fig. 8** Loss and accuracy of the SF-LSTM model training set and validation set under different
 385 classification strategies and time series lengths

386 **Discussion**

387 In this study, alfalfa was used to simulate thermal stress in a coal gangue dump reclamation area to

388 conduct a gradient test with several experimental groups (control group, T1 = 60 °C, T2 = 90 °C, T3 =
389 120 °C, T4 = 150 °C, T5 = 180 °C). Water content and hyperspectral data on alfalfa leaves were collected
390 one month before the flowering period. Correlation analysis and selection of the spectral features of
391 alfalfa leaf water content were carried out. Based on the SF-LSTM model, the stress level in alfalfa under
392 heat stress was estimated.

393 **Leaf water content**

394 The LFMC showed obvious regularity under different temperature gradients, which may be due to the
395 calculations of LFMC and leaf dry and fresh weights. Root system growth has a huge impact on the dry
396 and fresh weights of the plant leaves. As the heat stress time increases, the supply of water and
397 nutrients to plant leaves becomes insufficient. Long-term high soil-temperatures cause significant
398 changes in the LFMC of plant leaves. Compared with high air-temperature, the photochemical
399 efficiency of leaves and the root growth of plants are more severely affected by stress due to high soil-
400 temperature. Kuroyanagi & Paulsen [17] also reported that shoot growth and senescence in winter
401 wheat are influenced more by soil-temperature than air-temperature. The adverse effects of high soil-
402 temperature on physiological activities are probably due to direct inhibition of root growth and activity
403 and, therefore, limitation of water and nutrient supplies to the leaves [59] and disruption of cytokinin
404 synthesis in roots [17, 60]. High soil-temperatures also promote leaf senescence by increasing the
405 transport of root abscisic acid (ABA) to the leaves [61]. Although there were fluctuations in EWT and
406 RWC during the monitoring period, the regularity was weak. This may be due to water shortages in the
407 plant leaves, lack of nutrients, and destruction of the internal microstructure of the leaves under
408 different degrees of high soil-temperatures [16], resulting in varying degrees of change in leaf area and
409 saturated water content.

410 **Spectral features**

411 Changes in leaf spectra are usually affected by changes in chlorophyll, water content, internal structure,
412 dry matter content, etc. The reflectance spectra of green plants in the 1000–2500 nm region are mainly
413 influenced by liquid water and dry compounds. The water absorption band is 1360–2080 nm, which is
414 highly correlated with leaf water content and is not affected by leaf structure [62]. This study shows that
415 the band sensitive to the leaf water content of alfalfa under high-soil-temperature heat stress is mainly
416 concentrated in the long-wave infrared region (1400–2500 nm). Correlation analysis of the raw and first-
417 derivative spectra with water content data showed that the bands at 1889 nm and 1661 nm had the highest
418 correlations with LFMC, which was the optimal spectral feature (see Figure 3). This is similar to previous
419 studies [63].

420 Due to the strong reflection from the surfaces of fresh leaves and the influences of the surface and
421 internal structures of leaf cuticles, leaf hairs, etc., it is difficult to comprehensively and accurately
422 estimate plant moisture status using a single band of spectral reflectance. By constructing a vegetation
423 index, the effective spectral information of the vegetation can be maximized, the single-band scattering
424 effect can be effectively reduced, and prediction accuracy can be improved [64]. This article analyzed
425 the correlations between the ratio, difference, and normalized vegetation indexes and leaf water content
426 in any two bands within 340–2500 nm. It found that the correlations between various indexes and LFMC
427 were all high. Specifically, the three spectral features RVI (1525,1771), DVI (1412,740), and NDVI
428 (1447,1803) had the highest correlations. The results of this part of the correlation analysis also verify
429 that LFMC is the most suitable water content indicator for this study on temporal changes in leaf water
430 content.

431 Through correlation analysis, we screened out several spectral features with strong correlations with

432 LFMC. However, in multiple regression, when the independent variable has a higher dimension, there
433 are often problems such as collinearity and data redundancy [65]. Using the Lasso regression model to
434 further optimize the above-mentioned spectral features can minimize the adverse effects of multi-
435 dimensional input data on the assessment results when estimating the heat-stress level. After
436 dimensionality reduction and Lasso regression, the spectral features selected in this paper were FDS
437 (1661), RVI (1525,1771), DVI (1412,740), and NDVI (1447,1803).

438 **Heat stress estimation**

439 Considering the importance of temporal sequences in the estimation of plant environmental stress,
440 LSTM (which can effectively utilize a temporal sequence of data in deep learning) was used to build an
441 heat-stress model. Meanwhile, stress-level estimates were presented in the form of classification
442 results for the application scenarios considered in this paper. Compared with traditional machine
443 learning classification methods, LSTM is more effective in classifying remote sensing time series data
444 [66]. A variety of classification strategies and time-series-length models were tested. The dichotomy
445 strategy was the most common strategy used in the classification model. According to the results in
446 Figure 8, although the parameters of the model constructed using the dichotomy strategy can converge,
447 the accuracy was not acceptable. This may be related to the large difference in the proportion of the
448 number of samples of the two categories in the training set and the evaluation set. In the next step of
449 the study, this adverse factor was reduced by increasing the sample size of the control group during
450 experimental data collection. Among the multi-classification strategies, three categories had the best
451 effects. The longer the time series, the better. The model had the highest accuracy with a sequence
452 length of five. This conclusion is in line with the laws of deep learning. Over-redundant data, complex
453 neural network architectures, and inappropriate classification strategies not only make models unable to

454 fit the data, but also lead to over-fitting [67]. Over-fitted models have poor generalization ability and
455 weak applicability.

456 **Conclusions**

457 In this study, an SF-LSTM model was established by using the time series spectral features of leaf
458 water content obtained through an experiment that simulated heat stress in coal gangue dump
459 reclamation areas. The model was effective in estimating the heat-stress level in alfalfa. Through time
460 series analysis of leaf water content data, it was found that the EWT and RWC do not have high
461 regularity over time, making it difficult to distinguish between normal and heat damage statuses in
462 alfalfa. Heat stress in alfalfa was best indicated by the LFMC leaf water content index.

463 According to correlation analysis of the raw spectrum, first-derivative spectrum, three forms of
464 vegetation index, and leaf water content data, RS(1889), FDS(1661), RVI(1525,1771), DVI(1412,740),
465 and NDVI(1447,1803) had the strongest correlations with LFMC. After further screening by the Lasso
466 regression model, FDS(1661), RVI(1525,1771), DVI(1412,740) and NDVI(1447,1803) were found to
467 be the optimal spectral features of inversion LFMC, and can be used as spectral features to assess heat
468 stress.

469 The SF-LSTM model was constructed to estimate the heat-stress level in alfalfa based on a time
470 series of spectral features. The results show that this model can estimate the stress level with high
471 accuracy when the classification strategies are divided into three categories (control group, T1 and T2,
472 and T3, T4, and T5) and a spectral feature time series length of five (where the dates in the monitoring
473 period are continuous without repetition).

474 The results of this study provide a new way to assess plant heat stress in coal gangue dump
475 reclamation areas. This has important practical application value and is expected to be further verified

476 and applied in other types of environmental stress research. Subsequent studies will verify the
477 conclusions of this experiment at larger spatial scales.

478 **Abbreviations**

479 Lasso: least absolute shrinkage operator; SF-LSTM: Spectral feature-based long short-term memory;
480 LFMC: Live fuel moisture content; FDS: First-derivative spectral value; EWT: Equivalent water
481 thickness; RWC: Relative water content; DR: First-order differential reflectance value; RI: Ratio index;
482 NDRI: Normalized difference ratio index; RVI: Ratio vegetation index; NDVI: Normalized difference
483 vegetation index; DVI: Difference vegetation index; WI: Water index; NDWI: Normalized difference
484 water index; NDII: Normalized difference Infrared index; SR: Simple ratio vegetation index; MSI:
485 Moisture stress index; PRI: Photochemical reflectance index; RNN: Recurrent neural network; VIS:
486 Visible wavelengths; SWIR: Short-wave infrared band; RS: Raw spectral value; ABA: Abscisic acid.

487 **Acknowledgments**

488 This work was supported by the National Key Research and Development Program of China [grant
489 numbers 2016YF C0501103-4, 2016YF C0501103-5]. The authors wish to express heartfelt thanks to
490 Yang Tianle, Yao Zhaosheng, Zhang Weijun, and Lin Zihan for data acquisition work, and to Wang
491 Dunliang and Li Rui for debugging the test equipment.

492 **Authors' contributions**

493 QW and FY: Conceptualization, methodology, data curation: Application of statistical, mathematical,
494 computational, or other formal techniques to analyze or synthesize study data, Visualization, Writing-
495 Original draft preparation. YZ and WX: Writing—review & editing, funding acquisition,
496 conceptualization. TL and HS: Provision of study materials, laboratory samples, instrumentation. All
497 authors read and approved the final manuscript.

498 **Funding**

499 This study was funded by the National Key Research and Development Program of China (2016YF
500 C0501103-4, 2016YF C0501103-5).

501 **Availability of data and materials**

502 The processed data required to reproduce these findings cannot be shared at this time as the data also
503 forms part of an ongoing study.

504 **Declarations**

505 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

506 Not applicable.

507 **Consent for publication**

508 This manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal.
509 Competing interests

510 This manuscript has no conflicts of interest to declare.

511 **Author details**

512 ¹ Institute of Land Reclamation and Ecological Restoration, China University of Mining & Technology
513 (Beijing), Beijing 100083, P.R. China. ² College of Information and Electrical Engineering, China
514 Agricultural University, Beijing 100083, P.R. China. ³ Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Crop Genetics and
515 Physiology/Co-Innovation Center for Modern Production Technology of Grain Crops; Agricultural
516 College, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225009, P.R. China. ⁴ Department of Land Management,
517 Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, P.R. China

518 **References:**

- 519 1.Šýkorová I, Pickel W, Christanis K, et al. Classification of huminite—ICCP System 1994. *Int J Coal*
520 *Geol.* 2005;62:85-106.
- 521 2.Bian Z, Dong J, Lei S, et al. The impact of disposal and treatment of coal mining wastes on
522 environment and farmland. *Environmental geology.* 2009;58:625-634.
- 523 3.Wu Y, Yu X, Hu S, et al. Experimental study of the effects of stacking modes on the spontaneous
524 combustion of coal gangue. *Process Saf Environ.* 2019;123:39-47.
- 525 4.Zhengfu B, Inyang HI, Daniels JL, Frank O, Struthers S. Environmental issues from coal mining and
526 their solutions. *Mining Science and Technology (China).* 2010;20:215-223.
- 527 5.Finkelman RB. Potential health impacts of burning coal beds and waste banks. *Int J Coal Geol.*
528 2004;59:19-24.
- 529 6.Ribeiro J, Da Silva EF, Flores D. Burning of coal waste piles from Douro Coalfield (Portugal):
530 petrological, geochemical and mineralogical characterization. *Int J Coal Geol.* 2010;81:359-372.
- 531 7.Xing Y, Feng J, Rong X. Discussion on causes of combustion and explosion and of coal gangue at
532 the No. 4 mine of Pingdingshan coal Mine and countermeasures. *Chinese J Geol Hazard Control.*
533 2007;18:145-150.
- 534 8.Sloss LL. Assessing and managing spontaneous combustion of coal. Retrieved from London 2015
- 535 9.Querol X, Zhuang X, Font O, et al. Influence of soil cover on reducing the environmental impact of
536 spontaneous coal combustion in coal waste gobbs: a review and new experimental data. *Int J Coal Geol.*
537 2011;85:2-22.
- 538 10.Roy P, Guha A, Kumar KV. An approach of surface coal fire detection from ASTER and Landsat-8
539 thermal data: Jharia coal field, India. *Int J Appl Earth Obs.* 2015;39:120-127.
- 540 11.Pandey J, Kumar D, Mishra RK, et al. Application of thermography technique for assessment and
541 monitoring of coal mine fire: a special reference to Jharia Coal Field, Jharkhand, India. *Int. J. Adv.*
542 *Remote Sensing GIS.* 2013;2:138-147.
- 543 12.Chatterjee RS. Coal fire mapping from satellite thermal IR data - A case example in Jharia
544 Coalfield, Jharkhand, India. *Isprs J Photogramm.* 2006;60:113-128.
- 545 13.Cracknell AP, Mansor SB. Detection of sub-surface coal fires using Landsat Thematic Mapper data.
546 *International Archives of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.* 1993;29:750.
- 547 14.Misz-Kennan M, Tabor A. The thermal history of selected coal waste dumps in the Upper Silesian
548 Coal Basin (Poland). *Coal and Peat Fires: A Global Perspective.* 2011;3
- 549 15.Carpentier O, Defer D, Antczak E, Duthoit B. The use of infrared thermographic and GPS
550 topographic surveys to monitor spontaneous combustion of coal tips. *Appl Therm Eng.* 2005;25:2677-
551 2686.

- 552 16.Xu Q, Huang B. Growth and physiological responses of creeping bentgrass to changes in air and
553 soil temperatures. *Crop Sci.* 2000;40:1363-1368.
- 554 17.Kuroyanagi T, Paulsen GM. Mediation of high-temperature injury by roots and shoots during
555 reproductive growth of wheat. *Plant, Cell & Environment.* 1988;11:517-523.
- 556 18.Zhang F, Zhou G. Estimation of canopy water content by means of hyperspectral indices based on
557 drought stress gradient experiments of maize in the north plain China. *Remote Sens-Basel.*
558 2015;7:15203-15223.
- 559 19.El Bastawesy M, Ali RR, Deocampo DM, Al Baroudi MS. Detection and assessment of the
560 waterlogging in the dryland drainage basins using remote sensing and GIS techniques. *Ieee J-Stars.*
561 2012;5:1564-1571.
- 562 20.Song Y, Wu C. Examining human heat stress with remote sensing technology. *Gisci Remote Sens.*
563 2018;55:19-37.
- 564 21.Mittler R. Abiotic stress, the field environment and stress combination. *Trends Plant Sci.*
565 2006;11:15-19.
- 566 22.Zhou X, Sun J, Tian Y, et al. Development of deep learning method for lead content prediction of
567 lettuce leaf using hyperspectral images. *Int J Remote Sens.* 2020;41:2263-2276.
- 568 23.Caballero D, Calvini R, Amigo JM. Hyperspectral imaging in crop fields: Precision agriculture. In,
569 *Data handling in science and technology: Elsevier;* 2020:453-473.
- 570 24.Cao Z, Wang Q, Zheng C. Best hyperspectral indices for tracing leaf water status as determined
571 from leaf dehydration experiments. *Ecol Indic.* 2015;54:96-107.
- 572 25.Fang H, Liang S, Kuusk A. Retrieving leaf area index using a genetic algorithm with a canopy
573 radiative transfer model. *Remote Sens Environ.* 2003;85:257-270.
- 574 26.Stagakis S, Markos N, Sykioti O, Kyparissis A. Monitoring canopy biophysical and biochemical
575 parameters in ecosystem scale using satellite hyperspectral imagery: An application on a *Phlomis*
576 *fruticosa* Mediterranean ecosystem using multiangular CHRIS/PROBA observations. *Remote Sens*
577 *Environ.* 2010;114:977-994.
- 578 27.Sperdouli I, Moustakas M. Spatio - temporal heterogeneity in *Arabidopsis thaliana* leaves under
579 drought stress. *Plant Biology.* 2012;14:118-128.
- 580 28.Bowyer P, Danson FM. Sensitivity of spectral reflectance to variation in live fuel moisture content
581 at leaf and canopy level. *Remote Sens Environ.* 2004;92:297-308.
- 582 29.Liu C, SUN P, Liu S. A review of plant spectral reflectance response to water physiological
583 changes. *Chinese Journal of Plant Ecology.* 2016;40:80.
- 584 30.Yebra M, Dennison PE, Chuvieco E, et al. A global review of remote sensing of live fuel moisture
585 content for fire danger assessment: Moving towards operational products. *Remote Sens Environ.*
586 2013;136:455-468.
- 587 31.Peñuelas J, Filella I, Biel C, Serrano L, Save R. The reflectance at the 950 - 970 nm region as an
588 indicator of plant water status. *Int J Remote Sens.* 1993;14:1887-1905.
- 589 32.Clevers JGPW, Kooistra L, Schaepman ME. Estimating canopy water content using hyperspectral
590 remote sensing data. *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation & Geoinformation.*
591 2010;12:119-125.
- 592 33.de Jong SM, Addink EA, Doelman JC. Detecting leaf-water content in Mediterranean trees using
593 high-resolution spectrometry. *Int J Appl Earth Obs.* 2014;27:128-136.
- 594 34.Yi Q, Wang F, Bao A, Jiapaer G. Leaf and canopy water content estimation in cotton using
595 hyperspectral indices and radiative transfer models. *Int J Appl Earth Obs.* 2014;33:67-75.

- 596 35.Rodríguez-Pérez JR, Ordó Ez C, González-Fernández AB, et al. Leaf water content estimation by
597 functional linear regression of field spectroscopy data. *Biosyst Eng.* 2018;S1375313746.
- 598 36.Ge Y, Bai G, Stoerger V, Schnable JC. Temporal dynamics of maize plant growth, water use, and
599 leaf water content using automated high throughput RGB and hyperspectral imaging. *Comput Electron*
600 *Agr.* 2016;127:625-632.
- 601 37.Rodríguez-Pérez JR, Ordóñez C, González-Fernández AB, et al. Leaf water content estimation by
602 functional linear regression of field spectroscopy data. *Biosyst Eng.* 2018;165:36-46.
- 603 38.Virnodkar SS, Pachghare VK, Patil VC, Jha SK. Remote sensing and machine learning for crop
604 water stress determination in various crops: a critical review. *Precis Agric.* 2020;21:1121-1155.
- 605 39.Yebra M, Quan X, Riaño D, et al. A fuel moisture content and flammability monitoring
606 methodology for continental Australia based on optical remote sensing. *Remote Sens Environ.*
607 2018;212:260-272.
- 608 40.Yi Q, Bao A, Wang Q, Zhao J. Estimation of leaf water content in cotton by means of hyperspectral
609 indices. *Comput Electron Agr.* 2013;90:144-151.
- 610 41.Krishna G, Sahoo RN, Singh P, et al. Comparison of various modelling approaches for water deficit
611 stress monitoring in rice crop through hyperspectral remote sensing. *Agr Water Manage.*
612 2019;213:231-244.
- 613 42.Xiong X, Liu N, Wei Y, et al. Effects of non-uniform root zone salinity on growth, ion regulation,
614 and antioxidant defense system in two alfalfa cultivars. *Plant Physiol Bioch.* 2018;132:434-444.
- 615 43.Wang J, Li X, Bai Z, Huang L. The effects of coal gangue and fly ash on the hydraulic properties
616 and water content distribution in reconstructed soil profiles of coal - mined land with a high
617 groundwater table. *Hydrol Process.* 2017;31:687-697.
- 618 44.Tsai F, Philpot W. Derivative analysis of hyperspectral data. *Remote Sens Environ.* 1998;66:41-51.
- 619 45.Atzberger C, Darvishzadeh R, Immitzer M, et al. Comparative analysis of different retrieval
620 methods for mapping grassland leaf area index using airborne imaging spectroscopy. *International*
621 *Journal of Applied Earth Observation & Geoinformation.* 2015;43:S1544033316.
- 622 46.Peñuelas J, Pinol J, Ogaya R, Filella I. Estimation of plant water concentration by the reflectance
623 water index WI (R900/R970). *Int J Remote Sens.* 1997;18:2869-2875.
- 624 47.Seelig HD, Hoehn A, Stodieck LS, et al. Plant water parameters and the remote sensing R 1300 / R
625 1450 leaf water index: controlled condition dynamics during the development of water deficit stress.
626 *Irrigation Sci.* 2009;27:357-365.
- 627 48.Gao B. NDWI—A normalized difference water index for remote sensing of vegetation liquid water
628 from space. *Remote Sens Environ.* 1996;58:257-266.
- 629 49.Rouse JW, Haas RH, Schell JA, Deering DW. Monitoring vegetation systems in the Great Plains
630 with ERTS. NASA special publication. 1974;351:309.
- 631 50.DeFries RS, Townshend J. NDVI-derived land cover classifications at a global scale. *Int J Remote*
632 *Sens.* 1994;15:3567-3586.
- 633 51.Jordan CF. Derivation of Leaf-Area Index from Quality of Light on the Forest Floor. *Ecological*
634 *Society of America.* 1969
- 635 52.Wolf AF. Using WorldView-2 Vis-NIR multispectral imagery to support land mapping and feature
636 extraction using normalized difference index ratios. In, *Algorithms and Technologies for Multispectral,*
637 *Hyperspectral, and Ultraspectral Imagery XVIII: International Society for Optics and Photonics;*
638 2012:83900N.
- 639 53.Gamon JA, Peñuelas J, Field CB. A narrow-waveband spectral index that tracks diurnal changes in

640 photosynthetic efficiency. *Remote Sens Environ.* 1992;41:35-44.

641 54.Tibshirani R. Regression shrinkage and selection via the lasso. *Journal of the Royal Statistical*
642 *Society: Series B (Methodological).* 1996;58:267-288.

643 55.Hochreiter S, Schmidhuber J. Long short-term memory. *Neural Comput.* 1997;9:1735-1780.

644 56.Kim J. Estimating classification error rate: Repeated cross-validation, repeated hold-out and
645 bootstrap. *Comput Stat Data an.* 2009;53:3735-3745.

646 57.Anderson SA, Anderson WR. Ignition and fire spread thresholds in gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). *Int J*
647 *Wildland Fire.* 2010;19:589-598.

648 58.Zhang W, Li X, Zhao L. A fast hyperspectral feature selection method based on band correlation
649 analysis. *Ieee Geosci Remote S.* 2018;15:1750-1754.

650 59.Kramer PJ. Water stress research: progress and problems [Plant physiology]. 1983

651 60.Smart CM, Scofield SR, Bevan MW, Dyer TA. Delayed leaf senescence in tobacco plants
652 transformed with tmr, a gene for cytokinin production in *Agrobacterium*. *The Plant Cell.* 1991;3:647-
653 656.

654 61.Udomprasert N, Li PH, Davis DW, Markhart III AH. Effects of root temperatures on leaf gas
655 exchange and growth at high air temperature in *Phaseolus acutifolius* and *Phaseolus vulgaris*. *Crop Sci.*
656 1995;35:490-495.

657 62.Zhang L, Zhou Z, Zhang G, et al. Monitoring the leaf water content and specific leaf weight of
658 cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) in saline soil using leaf spectral reflectance. *Eur J Agron.*
659 2012;41:103-117.

660 63.Wu J, Chen TS, Pan LX. Spectrum Variance Analysis of Tree Leaves under the Condition of
661 Different Leaf water Content. *Guang pu xue yu Guang pu fen xi= Guang pu.* 2015;35:1961-1966.

662 64.Cheng T, Rivard B, Sanchez-Azofeifa A. Spectroscopic determination of leaf water content using
663 continuous wavelet analysis. *Remote Sens Environ.* 2011;115:659-670.

664 65.Dormann CF, Elith J, Bacher S, et al. Collinearity: a review of methods to deal with it and a
665 simulation study evaluating their performance. *Ecography.* 2013;36:27-46.

666 66.Crisóstomo De Castro Filho H, Abílio De Carvalho Júnior O, Ferreira De Carvalho OL, et al. Rice
667 crop detection using LSTM, Bi-LSTM, and machine learning models from Sentinel-1 time series.
668 *Remote Sens-Basel.* 2020;12:2655.

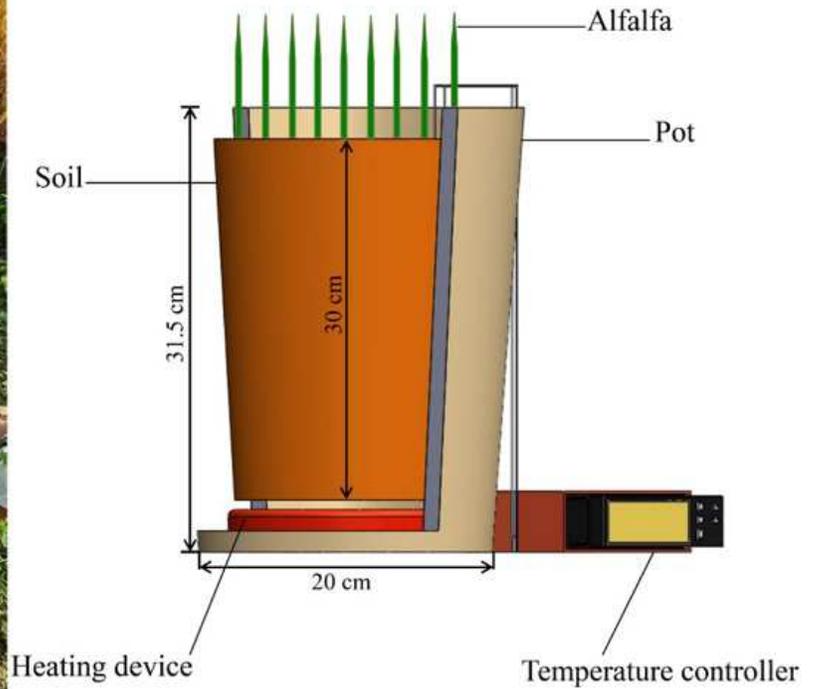
669 67.Karim F, Majumdar S, Darabi H, Chen S. LSTM fully convolutional networks for time series
670 classification. *Ieee Access.* 2017;6:1662-1669.

671

Figures



(a)



(b)

Figure 1

(a) Field of simulation experiment of heat stress in alfalfa and (b) schematic diagram of the heating equipment.

340 nm – 2500 nm



Figure 2

Schematic diagram of one-dimensional Gaussian filtering along the spectrum direction, with a sliding window of 5.

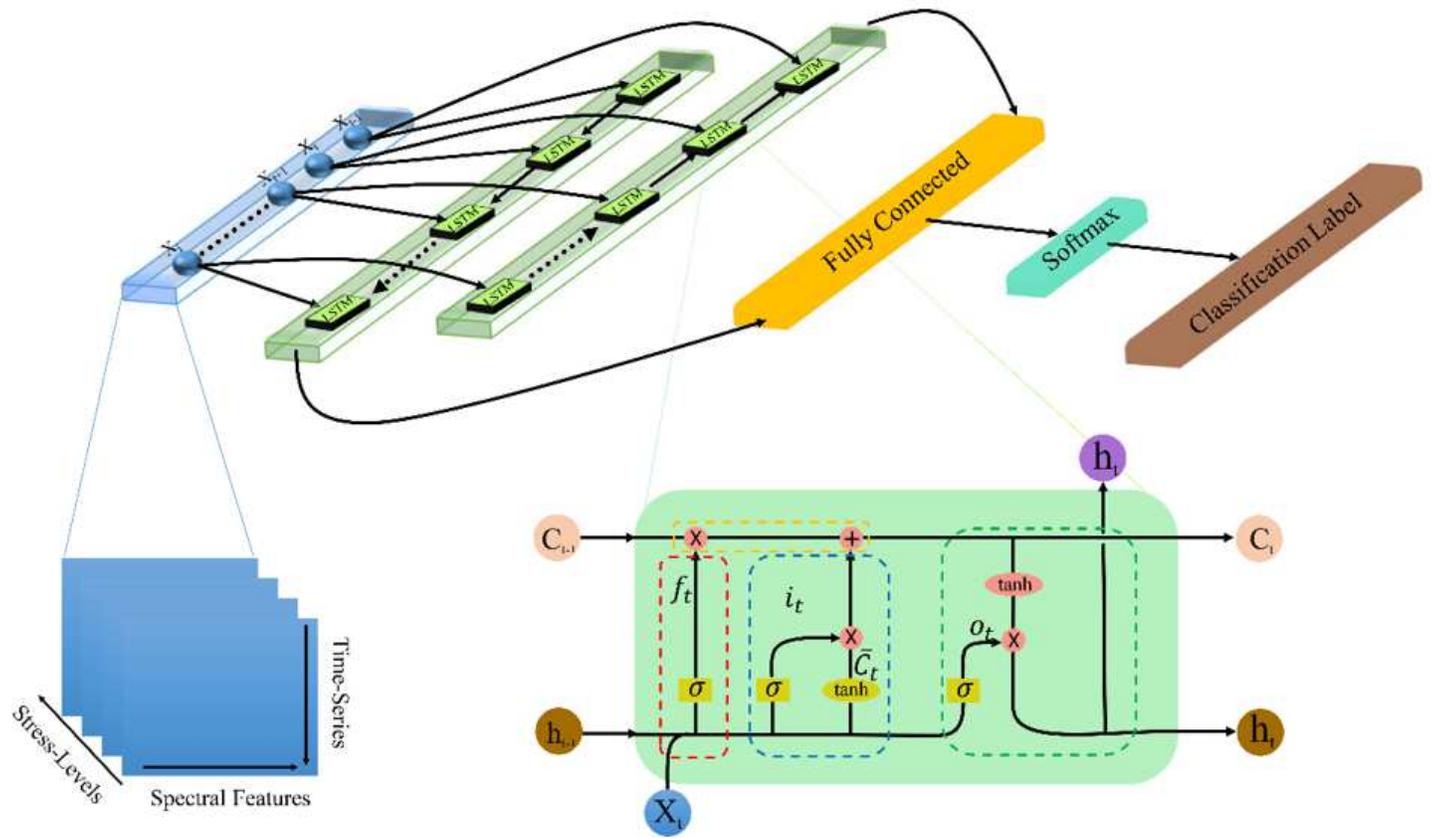


Figure 3

SF-LSTM network structure diagram.

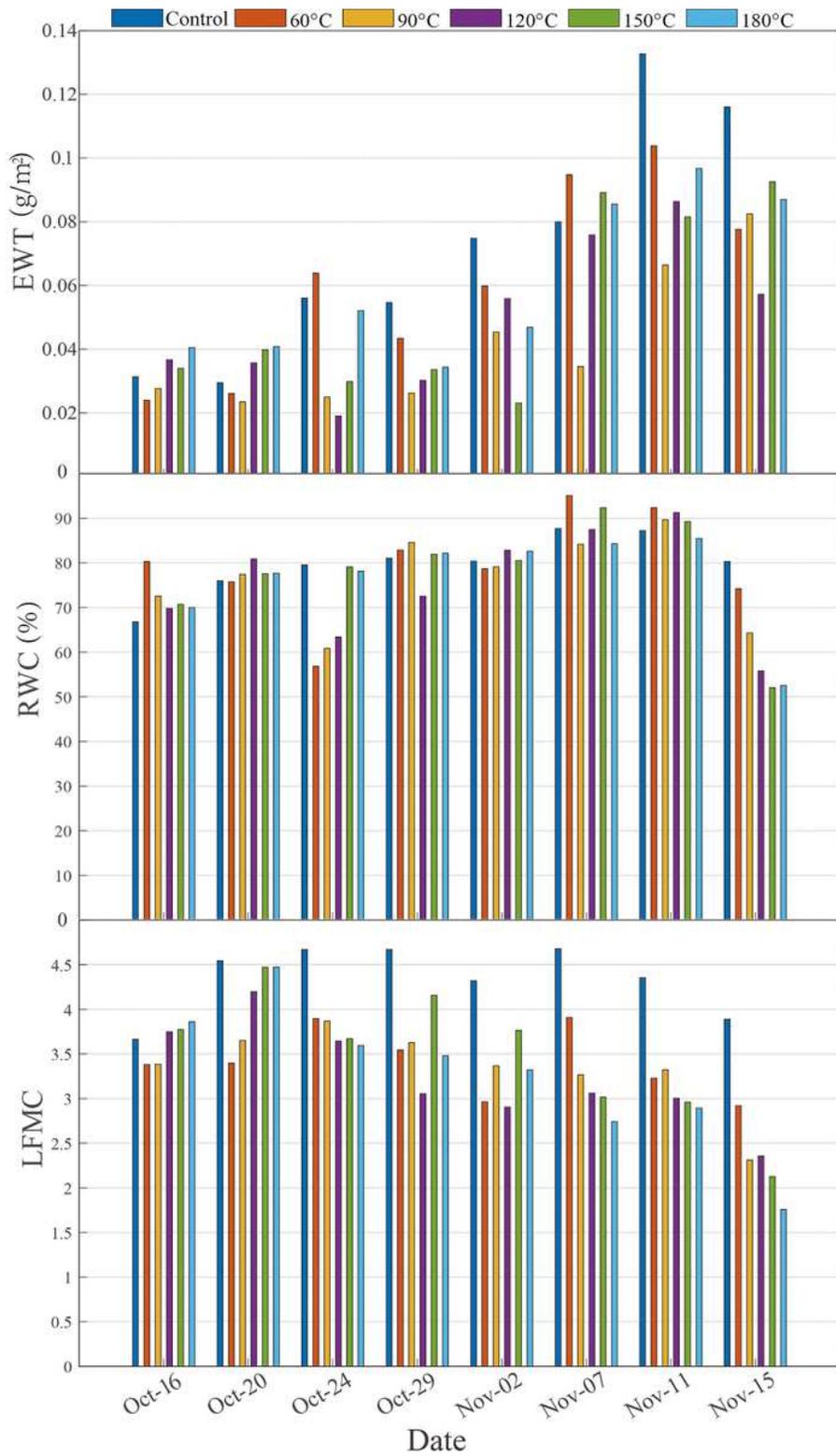


Figure 4

Time series of equivalent water thickness (EWT), live fuel moisture content (LFMC), and relative water content (RWC) in the control and experimental groups at leaf level from October 16–November 15, 2020.

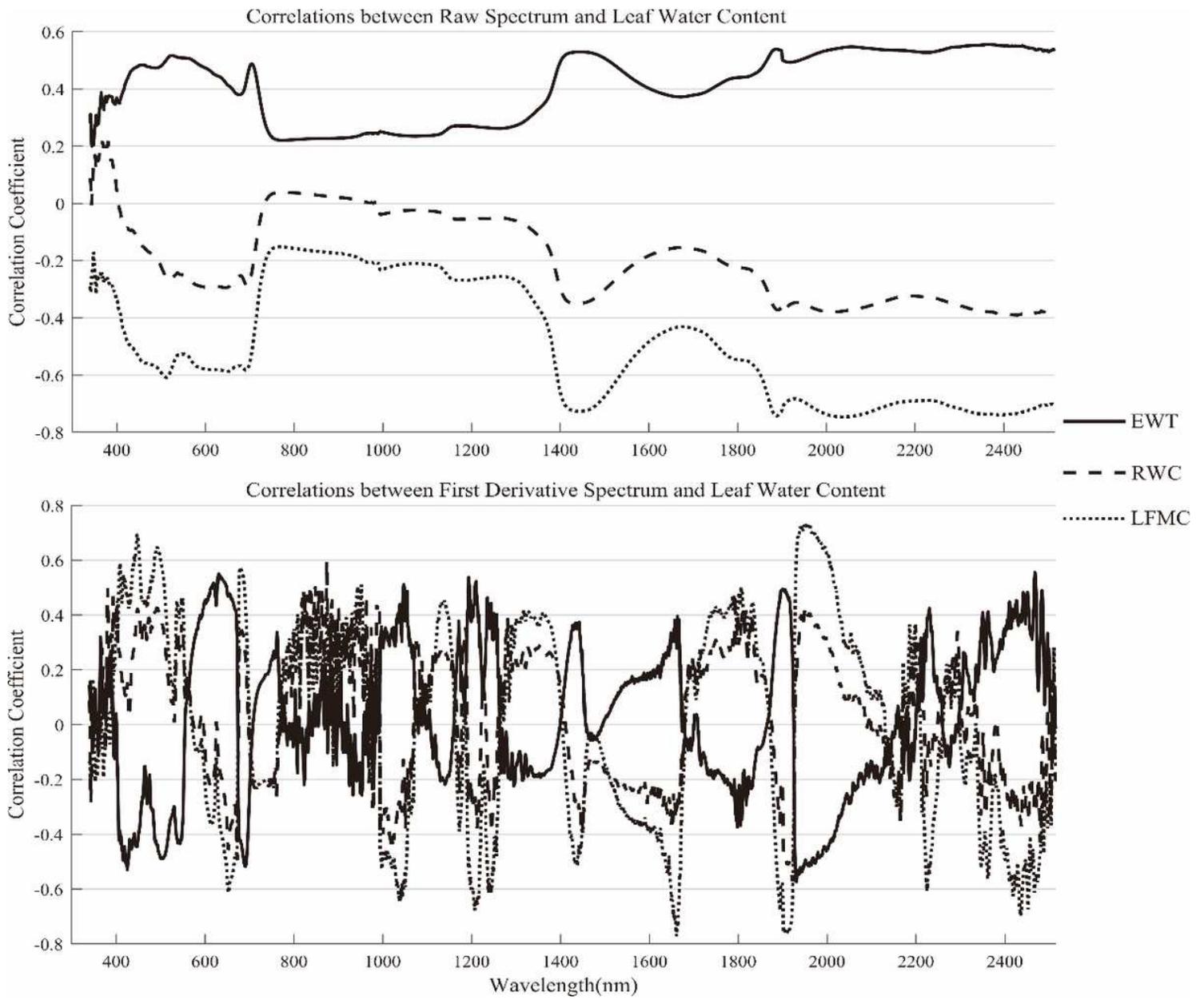


Figure 5

Coefficients of correlation between EWT, RWC, LFMC and the raw leaf and first-derivative spectral data

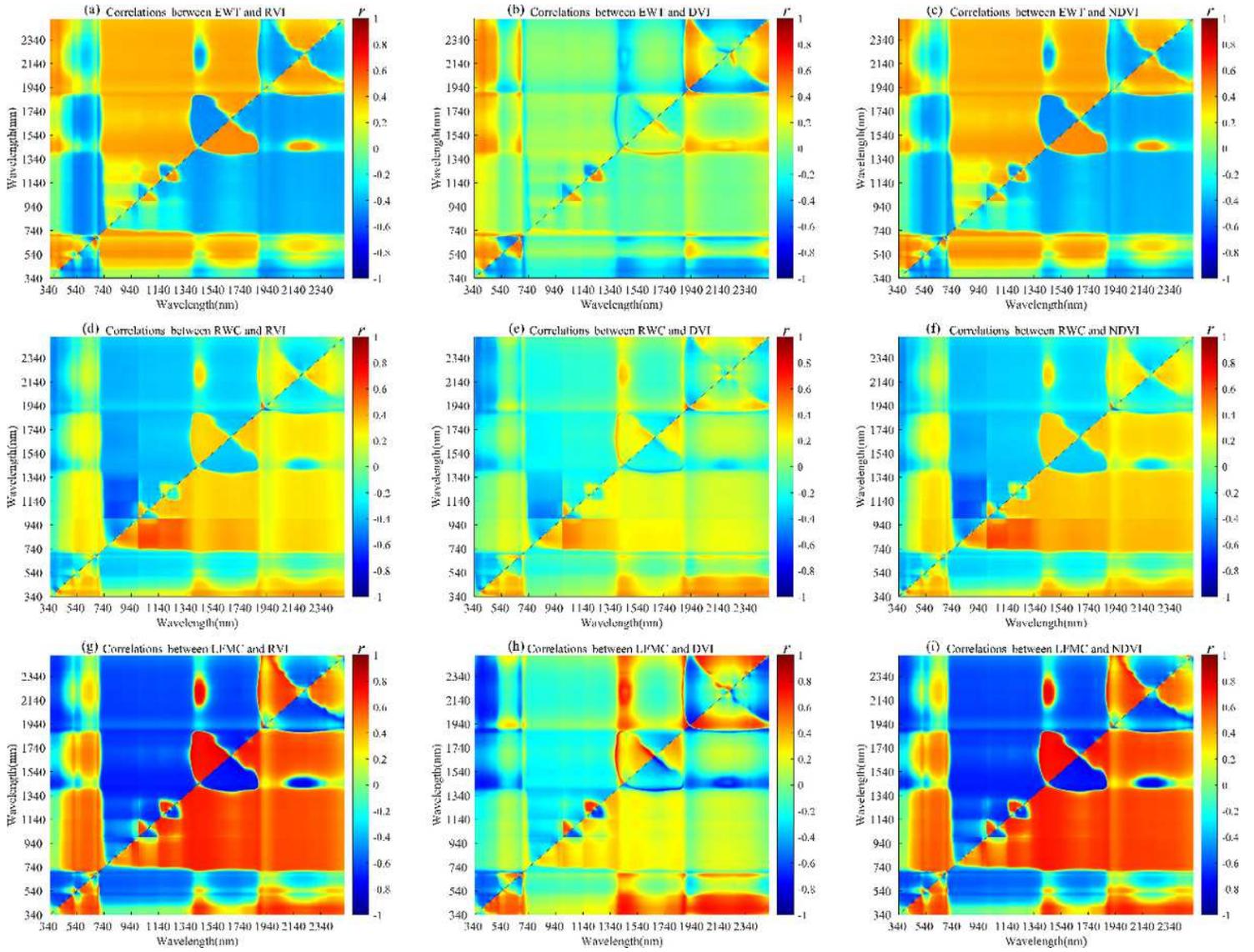


Figure 6

Coefficients of correlation between EWT, RWC, and LFMC with RVI (λ_1, λ_2), NDVI (λ_1, λ_2), DVI (λ_1, λ_2), and ratio/normalized difference/difference vegetation indexes constructed from raw spectral data

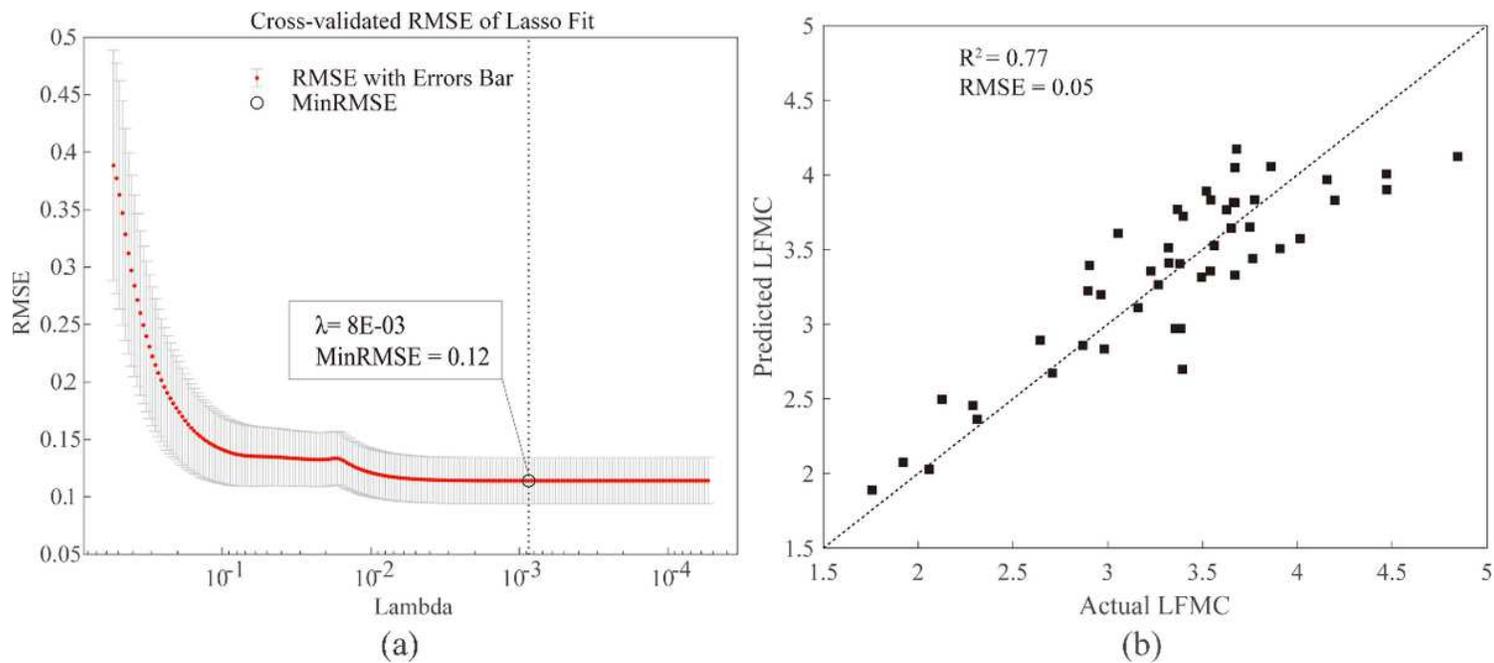


Figure 7

(a) Use of 10-fold cross-validation to determine the regular coefficient (lambda, λ) of the Lasso model; (b) predicted and actual values of LFMC by Lasso regression.

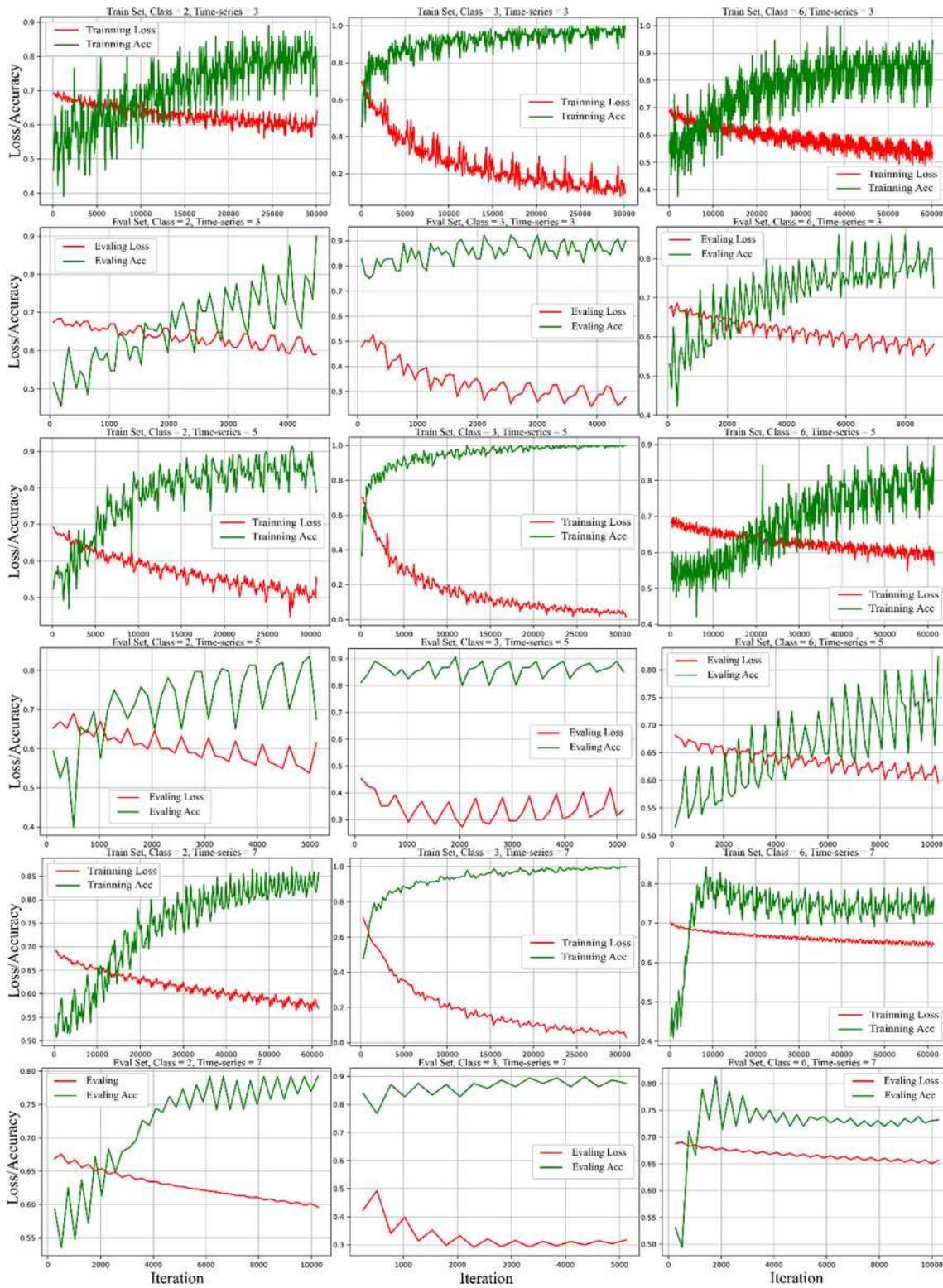


Figure 8

Loss and accuracy of the SF-LSTM model training set and validation set under different classification strategies and time series lengths