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Source identifcation of mine water inrush based on principal component analysis and grey situation decision

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Abstract

Coal mining is bound to destroy the underground aquifer structure, which will lead to mine water inrush disaster. An accurate and rapid identifcation of water inrush sources is the crux of preventing the recurrence of water inrush incidents. In this regard, 37 training water samples and 14 verifcation water samples were extracted from three types of aquifers in the Xieqiao coal mine, China. Na⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Cl⁻, SO₄²⁻ and HCO⁻₃ were used as the evaluation variables. The principal component analysis was used to eliminate the redundant ion variables in the training samples. The grey situation decision method combined with the entropy weight was used to establish the recognition model. The ion variables of the verifcation samples were substituted into the model calculations, and the comprehensive accuracy of the model was found to be 85.71%. The proposed method has the advantages of accuracy and speed compared to other contemporary recognition methods. The grey situation decision-making method overcomes the problem that single-factor evaluation cannot identify water inrush, and the entropy weight method can refect the degree of diference between the variables. Based upon this recognition model, it provides a new method for recognizing water inrush sources, which would also be benefcial to prevention and control of mine water hazards.

Keywords Mine water inrush source · Principal component analysis · Grey situation decision · Linear half-order reduction function · Bayesian discriminant

Introduction

Mine water inrush is one of the extraordinarily severe coal mine accidents in China, and the main reason for these kind of accidents is the absence of in-depth research on the hydrogeological conditions of collieries. According to some statistics from China's State Administration of Coal Mine Safety, there are about 905 mines with complex hydrogeological conditions in China (Zhang et al. [2020;](#page-13-0) Wang et al. [2020](#page-13-1); Sun et al. [2015;](#page-12-0) Xu et al. [2020\)](#page-13-2). The variation characteristics of the hydrochemical parameters in the underground multiaquifer system are a direct refection of mine water inrush (Yin et al. [2019;](#page-13-3) Qian et al. [2017\)](#page-12-1). Therefore, accurate and rapid identifcation of water inrush source in the multi-aquifer system is very important in protecting the lives of miners and maintaining safe production of collieries.

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Mining would cause changes in the level of groundwater, temperature and hydrochemical components, which can be analyzed using various techniques, including water temperature and water level method, hydrochemical analysis and mathematical analysis. Based upon the geothermal gradient theory, aquifer temperature shows diferences at certain depths. Sui et al. ([2010\)](#page-12-2) compared the water temperature at the water inrush point with that of the aquifer with hidden water inrush potential, which can preliminarily predict the source of mine water inrush. Lin et al. ([2014](#page-12-3)) conducted a dewatering test on the aquifer, and discovered the recharge channel through the change of water level, and identifed the potential source of mine water inrush. Wang and Shi ([2019](#page-12-4)) used Piper, Durov, and Stif diagrams to identify the four types of water sources. Li et al. [\(2016\)](#page-12-5) obtained the conventional ion concentration through feld sampling tests, and determined the seawater infltration channel and water inrush source by combining these test results with multivariate statistical analysis to study the hydrochemical effect of the aquifer. Stable isotopes δ D and δ^{18} O play an important role in analyzing the origin and formation of

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groundwater in aquifers. They can not only determine the relationship among groundwater, precipitation and surface water, but also analyze the supply source and mixing ratio of groundwater (Chafouq et al. [2018](#page-12-6); Yi et al. [2018](#page-13-4); Boumaiza et al. [2020;](#page-12-7) Cao et al. [2020;](#page-12-8) Liao et al. [2020\)](#page-12-9). Guan et al. [\(2019\)](#page-12-10) used stable isotopes to verify each other with hydrogeochemical analysis to accurately identify the source of water inrush in Mingdon mine (China), and reported that, due to the high cost, most coal enterprises did not use the method often. In recent years, the mathematical statistical analysis has also developed rapidly, which is widely used in hazard identifcation related to water inrush activities (Liu et al. [2019](#page-12-11); Wang et al. [2020](#page-13-1)). Based upon cluster analysis, Zhang et al. [\(2019a](#page-13-5), [b](#page-13-6)) established a multiple logistic regression recognition model, and identifed and verifed the water inrush aquifer in Qinan coal mine, China. Huang et al. [\(2019\)](#page-12-12) established the Piper-PCA-Fisher water source recognition model, which is more accurate than the Piper diagram method or Fisher discriminant method. Based upon the principal component analysis (PCA) and BP neural network, Yang et al. ([2019](#page-13-7)) proposed the water source discrimination model of mine water feld monitoring system, which was applied to Lijiazui mine in Huainan (China), and exhibited the accuracy of 91%. Dong et al. ([2019](#page-12-13)) combined the Fisher feature extraction and support vector machine (SVM) methods, and applied this new model to the Wuhai mining area (China). The results showed that this new combined model was more accurate and efficient in discriminating water inrush sources than the traditional SVM model. However, this method requires a large number of water sample data, and could not identify multiple water inrush sources at the same time.

The mathematical analysis method has the characteristics of simple operation, high discrimination efficiency, is objective and provides accurate results at low cost. Therefore, based upon the mathematical theory of grey situation decision-making, this paper proposes a new model for water inrush water source discrimination based on principal component analysis and entropy weight-grey situation decision method. In the model, the principal component analysis eliminates redundant variables, reduces the workload, and assigns entropy weight to each variable to characterize the degree of diference of variables. Finally, the gray situation method is used to attribute the multi-factor target evaluation to single-objective decision-making, which solves the problem that single-factor evaluation cannot refect the water quality characteristics of water inrush sources. Since the production of Xieqiao mine in Huainan coalfeld (China), there have been 24 water inrush accidents due to the infuence of coal mining, which have a great impact on the safety of miners and the mine economy. In the water inrush potential areas of water trickling in the coal wall, water chemical variable information samples were extracted, and put into the model for discrimination. This way, the predictions regarding the source of water pouring samples were made. Timely investigation and treatment for the water flling channel and water filling strength of the aquifer can effectively prevent the occurrence of water inrush accidents. This study is only aimed at quantitative analysis of hydrochemical information, and therefore, it can also be applied to other similar mine water source discrimination, thus indicating a wide range of applicability.

Hydrogeological conditions in the study area

Xieqiao coal mine (China) is located in the northeast of Yingshang county, Fuyang city, Anhui province, China and is geographically positioned as shown in Fig. [1](#page-2-0). The terrain in the mining area is fat and belongs to the Huaihe alluvial plain. The study area belongs to a transitional climate, with obvious seasonality of hot summers and cold winters. The annual average temperature is 15.1 °C, while the annual average rainfall is 926.3 mm. Most of the rainfall falls in June, July and August, accounting for about 40% of that falls the whole year. The annual average evaporation is 1610.14 mm. The evaporation is larger than the rainfall, whereas the humidity coefficient is nearly 0.5.

The groundwater regime in the mining areas of Xieqiao consists of four subsystems, namely the loose aquifer of the Cenozoic, the coal-bearing sandstone fssure aquifer of the Permian, the limestone-karst fssure aquifer of the Carboniferous and the limestone-karst fracture aquifer of the Ordovician. The hydrogeological characteristics of the aquifer and aquifuge are shown in Fig. [1.](#page-2-0) Between the coal-bearing sandstone fssure aquifer and the loose layer pore aquifer, there is a thick clay layer covering the coal measures. Besides, the average distance between the limestone aquifers of the Taiyuan formation and the coal floor is 16.44 m. Therefore, under normal conditions, there is no direct water filling effect among the three aquifers.

Sampling and testing

The sample bottle was washed 2–3 times using water before sampling. The sample bottle should not be flled with water sample, and around 5–10 ml space was left at the top of the bottle (Huang et al. [2019;](#page-12-12) Guo et al. [2019](#page-12-14)). The water samples were maintained at a low temperature to prevent any chemical reactions (Zhang et al. [2019a](#page-13-5), [b](#page-13-6); Zhang et al. [2016](#page-13-8)). Eight variables $(K^+ + Na^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, Cl^-,$ SO_4^2 ⁻, HCO₃⁻, pH and TDS) were tested. The pH value of the sample was tested using a Hanna portable pH meter within the 5 min of the collection of samples. The samples for cation analysis were acidified with nitric acid to $pH \leq 2$. The tests were conducted within 24 h after sampling at the Quality Inspection Center, Anhui University of Science and

Fig. 1 Location of the study area, sampling sites and the aquifer profle

Technology, China. The Cl[−], SO_4^2 ⁻, and HCO₃[−] tests were conducted using ion chromatography, whereas $K^+ + Na^+$, $Ca²⁺$, and Mg²⁺ tests were conducted using inductivelycoupled plasma mass spectrometry. In order to review the reliability of test results, the anion and cation balance was calculated to confrm that of the standard error lied within \pm 5%. As shown by the results presented in Table [1](#page-3-0) and Fig. [1](#page-2-0), a total of 37 training water samples were collected between 2005 and 2018 in Xieqiao mine, China. The samples included five samples from the Cenozoic aquifer, 14 samples from the Permian aquifer, and 18 samples from the carboniferous aquifers. In order to show the accuracy of the model, 14 verifying samples were also collected. The *Q*, *P*, $C, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5$ and X_6 were used to represent the Cenozoic aquifer, the Permian aquifer, the Carboniferous aquifer, Na⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Cl⁻, SO₄²⁻ and HCO₃⁻, respectively.

Methods

Principal component analysis

The p vectors X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_p of the original data matrix X was used as a linear combination *Y=AX.* The relationship between the original and new variables is given by Eq. ([1\)](#page-2-1).

$$
\begin{cases}\nY_1 = a_{11}X_1 + a_{12}X_2 + \dots + a_{1p}X_p \\
Y_2 = a_{21}X_1 + a_{22}X_2 + \dots + a_{2p}X_p \\
\vdots \\
Y_p = a_{p1}X_1 + a_{p2}X_2 + \dots + a_{pp}X_p\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(1)

where $a_{i1} + a_{i2} + a_{i3} + \cdots + a_{ip} = 1$; Y_i and Y_j are not related, Y_i is the maximum variance of all the linear combinations of $(X_1, X_2, ..., X_n)$, and Y_2 is the combination with the largest variance among all the linear combinations of $X_1, X_2, ..., X_p$ that are not related to Y_1 . Moreover, the sum of the variances

Table1 Water samples from the Xieqiao coal mines, China

The general steps for solving the principal components are as follows.

The original variable data was standardized, and the covariance matrix Σ among the variables was calculated. The eigenvectors of the covariance matrix were $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \ldots \geq \lambda_n$, whereas the corresponding unit eigenvectors were $T_1, T_2, ..., T_p$. The transformation matrix was given by: $A = T'$, where *j* is the *i*-th row of A and the unit feature vector T_i corresponded to the *i*-th largest root of Σ . In addition, the variance of the *i*-th principal component Y_i was equal to the *i*-th large characteristic root λ_i of Σ . Then, the variance contribution rate of Y_k was calculated for the *k*-th principal component and given by: $\eta_k = \frac{\lambda_k}{\sum_{k=1}^p \lambda_k}$. If $m \ (m < p)$ principal components were selected, the cumulative contribution rate of principal components $Y_1, Y_2, ..., Y_m$ was $\xi_m = \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k / \sum_{k=1}^p \lambda_k$. The main component index that made the cumulative contribution rate of variance reach 75% or more was selected (Price et al. [2006](#page-12-15); He et al. [2016;](#page-12-16) Cloutier et al. [2008](#page-12-17)).

Entropy weight

According to the information theory, information is a measure of the degree of order of the system, whereas entropy is the measure of the degree of disorder of a system. Entropy value can represent the diference in the concentration of each ion in diferent water samples, whereas the weight value of the corresponding ion can be obtained using the entropy weight method (Chen et al. [2019](#page-12-18); Fausto et al. [2019](#page-12-19); Liang et al. [2019](#page-12-20)). The calculation steps are as follows.

There were *m* evaluation water samples and n evaluation ions, They formed the initial matrix $R = (r_{ij})_{m \times n}$, in which r_{ij} represents the evaluation value of the *j*-th ion in the *i*-th water sample (*i*=*1,2,3,…,m;j*=*1,2,3,…,n*).

The proportion of p_{ij} was calculated using Eq. [\(2](#page-4-0)).

$$
p_{ij} = \frac{r_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} r_{ij}}.\tag{2}
$$

The entropy of the *j*-th ion was calculated using Eq. ([3\)](#page-4-1).

$$
e_j = -k \sum_{i=1}^{m} \bullet \ln p_{ij}, k = \frac{1}{\ln m}.
$$
 (3)

The entropy weight of the *j*-th ion was calculated using Eq. ([4\)](#page-4-2).

$$
\omega_j = \frac{(1 - e_j)}{\sum_{j=1}^n (1 - e_j)}.
$$
\n(4)

Entropy weight and grey situation decision method

The binary combination of events and countermeasures constitutes the situation. Taking an event as the core, other similar events were gathered around the core event, forming a gray event to study the countermeasures. This is the gray situation decision-making thought (Zu et al. [2018;](#page-13-9) Zhang et al. [2014](#page-13-10)). In the identifcation of mine water inrush, the identifcation index was regarded as the gray element, while the identifcation object was taken as an event. Diferent water source categories were used as the countermeasures (Li et al. [2019](#page-12-21); Fu [2016;](#page-12-22) He and Gong [2013\)](#page-12-23). The optimal situation was determined through decision analysis. The water source category corresponding to the optimal situation was the evaluation result. In general, there was no preference between diferent countermeasures, though diferent goals have different effects on optimization, and different decision makers' preferences for diferent goals will also lead to inconsistent goal weights. In traditional gray situation decision-making, the equal treatment of targets could not refect the decision makers' preferences and the actual situation of the decisionmaking problems. Therefore, the entropy theory was applied to diferent indices to give weights. It improved the resolution between situations and made the decision results more accurate and reasonable. The main steps of the mathematical model are as follows.

Event a_i (*i*=1, 2, ..., *n*) and countermeasure b_j (*j*=1, 2, $..., m$) were determined. Situation was constructed $s = (a, b)$ and the situation array was established. The p ($p=1, 2, ...,$ *q*) index was given. Different situation effect measurement matrices were constructed according to diferent targets *p*, and the elements in the matrix were obtained relying on the membership function of each index. The situation efect measurement matrices were defined as given by Eq. ([5\)](#page-4-3).

$$
D^{(p)} = \left(r_{ij}^p / S_{ij}\right)_{m \times n}.\tag{5}
$$

According to the single-indicator decision efect measurement value $r_{ij}^{(p)}$ and the entropy weight of each indicator, the comprehensive effect measurement value $r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)}$ of multiple indicators was obtained. The $r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)}$ value was defined and given by Eq. (6) (6) .

$$
r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)} = \sum_{p}^{q} \omega_p r_{ij}^{(p)}.
$$
\n⁽⁶⁾

Therefore, the comprehensive decision matrix was defned as given by Eq. ([7\)](#page-5-0).

$$
D^{(\Sigma)} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11}^{(\Sigma)} & r_{12}^{(\Sigma)} & \cdots & r_{1m}^{(\Sigma)} \\ r_{21}^{(\Sigma)} & r_{22}^{(\Sigma)} & \cdots & r_{2m}^{(\Sigma)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ r_{n1}^{(\Sigma)} & r_{n2}^{(\Sigma)} & \cdots & r_{nm}^{(\Sigma)} \end{bmatrix} .
$$
 (7)

The best situation was chosen and the decisions were made based upon the best results. If *bj*∗ was the best strategy of the comprehensive decision matrix column, the comprehensive effect measurement value $r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)}$ was defined as given by Eq. (8) (8) .

$$
r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)} = \max_{j} \left\{ r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)} \right\}.
$$
 (8)

If *aj*∗ was the best strategy of the comprehensive decision matrix row, the comprehensive efect measurement value $r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)}$ was defined as given by Eq. [\(9](#page-5-2)).

$$
r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)} = \max_{i} \left\{ r_{ij}^{(\Sigma)} \right\}.
$$
 (9)

Bayesian discriminant method

If n samples were taken from G matrices, each sample must belong to one of the G matrices (A_g) . If *p* variables (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) x_p) were measured for each sample, then each sample can be regarded as a point in the p-dimensional space {*R*}. Additionally, *n* samples constituted a p-dimensional sample space ${R}$. An unknown sample *X* (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_p) was also regarded as a point in the p-dimensional space. If it fell in the subspace with the highest probability, it could be classifed as one of the *G* matrixes (Yan et al. [2019;](#page-13-11) Fang et al. [2020;](#page-12-24) Du et al. [2020\)](#page-12-25). The Bayesian discriminant model is as follows. There are g matrices A_{ϱ} ($g=1,2,..., G$). The probability

density function is given by Eq. ([10\)](#page-5-3).

$$
f_g(x) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{p}{2}} \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| -\frac{1}{2} (x - a_g)^{n} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| (x - a_g)^{n} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| (x - a_g)^{n} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \right| \right| \right|,
$$
\n(10)

where $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)'$. The parameters a_g and \sum represent the mean and covariance matrix of A_g , respectively. The prior probability q_g and parameter of A_g were known, and there was no signifcant diference between the matrix covariance matrix. The discriminant function is given by Eq. (11) (11) .

$$
q_{g}f_{g}(x) = q_{g}(2\pi)^{-\frac{p}{2}} \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(x - a_{g} \right)^{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(x - a_{g} \right) \right| \right|, \tag{11}
$$

where $g = 1, 2, \ldots, G$. The multivariate linear discriminant function under Bayes criterion can be obtained and is given by Eq. ([12](#page-5-5)).

$$
y_g(x) = c_{0g} + c_{1g}x_1 + c_{2g}x_2 + \dots + c_{pg}x_p
$$
\n(12)

Mine water inrush identifcation and verifcation

Extraction of discriminant variables and entropy weights

As shown in Fig. [2,](#page-6-0) the content of alkaline-earth metal ions $(Ca^{2+}$ and Mg²⁺) were significantly higher than the alkali metal ions ($Na⁺ + K⁺$). The main chemical type of Cenozoic, Permian and Carboniferous aquifers were Ca·Na- $Cl·HCO₃$, $Ca·Mg·Na-Cl·HCO₃$ and $Ca·Na-Cl·SO₄·HCO₃$, respectively.

The correlation coefficient thermograph directly described the degree of correlation among the variables, as shown in Figs. [3](#page-6-1), [4](#page-6-2), and [5](#page-7-0). For the Cenozoic aquifer, the correlation between the variables was large and all the variables were positively correlated. The concentrations of Cl[−] and Na⁺ + K⁺, Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ were significantly correlated, and the corresponding correlation coefficients were 0.99 and 0.88, respectively. For the Permian aquifer, the concentrations of Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} were positively correlated, with the correlation coefficient of 0.96. The concentrations of Ca^{2+} , Mg²⁺ and SO₄²⁻ were positively correlated, with the correlation coefficients of 0.75 and 0.81 , respectively. The concentrations of $Na^+ + K^+$ and HCO_3^- were also positively correlated, with the correlation coefficient of 0.79. For the Carboniferous aquifer, the concentrations of Cl− and $Na⁺ + K⁺$ were significantly correlated, with the correlation coefficient of 0.98. The correlation coefficient between these variables was large, which will cause information overlap and afect the accuracy of the water inrush discrimination model. In order to solve these problems, the principal component analysis was used to extract the main variables as the discriminant factors of the water inrush discriminant model.

In general, the number of principal components depended on its cumulative variance ratio. When the cumulative variance ratio was greater than 80%, the number of principal components at this time can fully refect the water chemical information of the sample. According to Kaiser criterion and the scree plot method (Fig. 6), the cumulative variance rate was found to be 85.91%. Therefore, the number of principal components was 3. As shown by the results presented in Table [2](#page-7-2), the Principal component 1 refected the information of 36.23% of the training samples and represented Na⁺ and $K⁺$. Principal component 2 reflected the information of 29.15% of the training samples and represented SO_4^2 ⁻. Principal component 3 refected the information of 20.53% of the training samples and represented HCO_3^- . According to the principal component score coefficients (Table 3), the relationships between the principal components P_1 , P_2 and P_3 and the original variables X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5 and X_6 were obtained, which are given by Eqs. (13) (13) – (15) (15) .

$$
P_1 = 0.567X_1 + 0.312X_2 + 0.268X_3 + 0.471X_4 + 0.416X_5 + 0.339X_6,
$$
\n(13)

$$
P_2 = -0.408X_1 + 0.418X_2 + 0.490X_3
$$

- 0.283X₄ + 0.495X₅ - 0.306X₆, (14)

$$
P_3 = -0.018X_1 - 0.462X_2 + 0.415X_3
$$

- 0.451X₄ + 0.099X₅ + 0.633X₆. (15)

Fig. 5 Heat map of the correlation coefficient for the Carboniferous aquifer

Fig. 6 Scree plot of the principal components

Table 2 Variance interpretation rate and orthogonal rotation factor loading matrix

Parameters	Principal components			
	1	\mathfrak{D}	3	
X_1	0.84	-0.54	-0.02	
X_2	0.46	0.55	-0.51	
X_3	0.40	0.65	0.46	
X_4	0.69	-0.37	-0.50	
X_5	0.61	0.65	0.11	
X_6	0.50	-0.41	0.70	
Eigenvalue	2.17	1.75	1.23	
% of variance explained	36.23	29.15	20.53	
% of cumulative variance	36.23	65.38	85.91	

The bold values refect the contribution value of important factors

Construction of water inrush source recognition model

Substituting the ion concentration data presented in Table [1](#page-3-0) into Eqs. ([13\)](#page-6-3) (14) and (15), the scores of the three principal components were obtained, and the corresponding results are presented in Table [4.](#page-8-0) According to the characteristics of ionic components of the water samples presented in Table [1,](#page-3-0) the ionic concentration values of the same aquifer were more discrete, and some data have abnormal values, as shown in Fig. [7.](#page-9-0) Therefore, Huber's M-estimated value should be used instead of the average to refect the concentration trend to obtain the ionic index classifcation values corresponding to the three water sources. Taking Huber's M estimator of P_1 , P_2 and P_3 as the optimal value, the ranking values of the game set $B = \{b1, b2, b3\}$ are presented in Table [5.](#page-9-1) According to the entropy weight theory, the weights of P_1 , P_2 and P_3 were also calculated and are presented in Table [6.](#page-9-2)

According to the grading criteria of the game set presented in Table [5,](#page-9-1) the membership function was calculated using the linear half-order function method, and the linear half-order function was the half-step function. Finally, the membership function graphs of P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 were obtained, as shown in Fig. [8](#page-10-0).

According to Fig. [8](#page-10-0), the membership function of each variable is as follows.

(1) Membership of variables P_1 .

The membership function of P_1 belonging to the Cenozoic aquifer was defned as given by Eq. ([16](#page-7-4)).

$$
f_{P_1}^Q = \begin{cases} 1 & x < 693.3621 \\ \frac{933.0847 - x}{239.7226} & 693.3621 \le x \le 933.0847 \\ 0 & x > 933.0847 \end{cases}
$$
 (16)

The membership function of P_1 belonging to the Permian aquifer was defned as given by Eq. ([17](#page-8-1)).

Table4 The principal component score

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\boldsymbol{N}	P_1	P_{2}	P_3	\boldsymbol{n}	P_1	P ₂	P_3	
	I (The Cenozoic aquifer)			26.00	1043.60	-369.00	-214.66	
$\mathbf{1}$	1231.18	-586.24	-298.66	27.00	887.33	-349.93	-130.30	
2	1152.98	-548.77	-299.69	28.00	1239.00	-366.32	-417.26	
3	606.17	-230.66	-43.40	29.00	542.81	-45.38	120.12	
$\overline{4}$	117.95	-68.29	-27.68	30.00	290.26	30.03	-25.27	
5	358.53	-66.64	159.73	31.00	1213.64	-562.87	-277.88	
	II (The Permian aquifer)			32.00	1238.89	-544.47	-303.16	
6	1022.47	-716.63	131.70	33.00	326.95	13.81	-55.54	
$\overline{7}$	1018.01	-714.39	161.74	34.00	452.79	56.61	3.92	
8	402.67	-117.03	44.36	35.00	205.80	-102.30	127.15	
9	358.67	-41.33	65.88	36.00	491.37	-260.90	191.47	
10	1341.07	-196.33	866.58	37.00	388.55	-97.08	138.76	
11	264.68	23.20	63.18		IV (Verification samples)			
12	1233.04	-647.32	-263.35	V_1	379.01	-53.43	73.75	
13	1214.47	-639.13	-283.11	V_2	335.75	-192.51	238.74	
14	1208.48	-733.60	-194.49	V_3	272.85	-82.67	146.08	
15	1851.33	-1113.28	953.35	V_4	1239.10	-909.12	316.54	
16	1984.32	-1185.52	984.12	V_5	1352.80	-1023.71	636.08	
17	1535.66	-1088.21	564.10	V_6	820.64	-570.48	-17.36	
18	544.66	-317.74	305.64	V_7	974.75	-601.88	61.40	
19	1405.98	-1037.44	434.47	V_8	652.44	-210.37	350.73	
	III (The Carboniferous aquifer)			V_9	1332.07	-1029.71	972.07	
20	1297.16	-572.66	-276.78	V_{10}	1269.20	-704.65	15.34	
21	1298.41	-574.58	-278.23	V_{11}	1132.60	-547.58	-302.92	
22	1299.42	-573.76	-277.50	V_{12}	1101.67	-288.73	76.70	
23	1399.89	-358.51	-611.57	V_{13}	1028.10	-419.43	-270.66	
24	1024.68	-575.76	-235.89	V_{14}	955.94	-332.01	-339.70	
25	1015.28	-550.47	70.74					

 \overline{a}

$$
f_{P_1}^P = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 933.0847\\ \frac{x - 933.0847}{255.5420} & 933.0847 \le x \le 1158.6267\\ 1 & x > 1158.6267 \end{cases} \tag{17}
$$

The membership function of P_1 belonging to the Carboniferous aquifer was defned as given by Eq. ([18\)](#page-8-2).

$$
f_{P_1}^C = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 693.3621 \\ \frac{x - 693.3621}{239,7226} & 693.3621 \le x \le 933.0847 \\ \frac{1158.6267 - x}{225.5420} & 933.0847 \le x \le 1158.6267 \\ 0 & x > 1158.6267 \end{cases}
$$
(18)

(2) Membership of variables P_2 .

The membership function of P_2 belonging to the Cenozoic aquifer was defned as given by Eq. ([19\)](#page-8-3).

$$
f_{P_2}^Q = \begin{cases} 0 & x < -337.9810\\ \frac{x + 337.9810}{70.1005} & -337.9810 \le x \le -267.8805\\ 1 & x > -267.8805 \end{cases} \tag{19}
$$

The membership function of P_2 belonging to the Permian aquifer was defned as given by Eq. ([20](#page-8-4)).

$$
f_{P_2}^P = \begin{cases} 1 & x < -619.1755 \\ \frac{x + 337.9180}{-281.1945} & -619.1755 \le x \le -337.9810 \\ 0 & x > -337.9810 \end{cases} \tag{20}
$$

The membership function of P_2 belonging to the Carboniferous aquifer was defned as given by Eq. ([21\)](#page-10-1).

Fig. 7 Scatter plots of anion and cation water samples

Table 5 Rating standard table of countermeasures set

Aquifers	P_{1}	P_{2}	P_{3}
Cenozoic	693.3621	-267.8805	-101.9429
Permian	1158.6267	-619.1755	221.8392
Carboniferous	933.0847	-337.9810	-137.8058

Table 6 Entropy weight table of principal components

Fig. 8 Membership function of principal components

Table 7 Results of

discriminating water samples

$$
f_{P_2}^C = \begin{cases} 0 & x < -619.1755 \\ \frac{x+619.1755}{281.1945} & -619.1755 \le x \le -337.9810 \\ \frac{x+267.8805}{-70.1005} & -337.9810 \le x \le -267.8805 \\ 0 & x > -337.9810 \end{cases} \tag{21}
$$

(3) Membership of variables P_3 .

The membership function of P_3 belonging to the Cenozoic aquifer was defned as given by Eq. [\(22\)](#page-10-2).

$$
f_{P_3}^Q = \begin{cases} 0 & x < -137.8058\\ \frac{x+137.8058}{35.8629} & -137.8058 \le x \le -101.9429\\ \frac{221.8392 - x}{323.7821} & -101.9429 < x \le 221.8392\\ 0 & x > 221.8392 \end{cases} \tag{22}
$$

The membership function of P_3 belonging to the Permian aquifer was defned as given by Eq. [\(23](#page-10-3)).

$$
f_{P_3}^P = \begin{cases} 0 & x < -101.9429\\ \frac{x + 101.9429}{323.7821} & -101.9429 \le x \le 221.8392\\ 1 & x > 221.8392 \end{cases} \tag{23}
$$

The membership function of P_3 belonging to the Carboniferous aquifer was defned as given by Eq. [\(24](#page-10-4)).

$$
f_{P_3}^C = \begin{cases} 1 & x < -137.8058\\ \frac{x + 101.9429}{-35.8629} & -137.8058 \le x \le -101.9429\\ 0 & -101.9429 \end{cases} \tag{24}
$$

The bold values represent the maximum membership in grey situation decision-making method

Verifcation of water inrush source recognition model

The values of the principal components P_1 , P_2 and P_3 of the 14 validation samples presented in Table [1](#page-3-0) were substituted into the corresponding membership functions (16)–(24) to obtain the degrees of membership of P_1 , P_2 and P_3 . According to the membership function and the maximum membership principle in fuzzy mathematics, the results are presented in Table [7](#page-10-5). The recognition accuracy of water samples from the Cenozoic aquifer was 100%. The recognition accuracy of water samples from the Permian aquifer was 87.50%, whereas the recognition accuracy of water samples from the Carboniferous aquifer was 66.67%. The comprehensive accuracy of the model was 85.71%.

Discussion

The grey situation decision-making method is used to obtain the optimal situation in an environment with known and unknown factors (Zu et al. [2018](#page-13-9); Zhang et al. [2014\)](#page-13-10). It was applied to the identifcation of water inrush resources with many multi-factor variables, which are attributed to a single target for decision discrimination. It solves the problem that a single factor cannot identify the source category. However, traditional multi-objective grey situation decision-making methods do not refect the decision makers' preferences and the actual situation of decision-making when dealing with decision-making goals (Li et al. [2019](#page-12-21); Fu [2016;](#page-12-22) He and Gong [2013](#page-12-23)). By assigning entropy weight to each variable, which can refect the degree of diference between the variables, the grey situation decision-making method is further complemented and improved. In order to evaluate the accuracy of this method, it has been compared with the Bayesian discriminant method.

On the basis of extracting the principal components, the classification function coefficients of P_1 , P_2 and P_3 are obtained using the Bayesian discriminant method, as shown by the results presented in Table [8](#page-11-0). The linear discriminant functions of three kinds of aquifers are derived and given by Eqs. (25) (25) – (27) (27) .

Table 8 Discriminant coefficient of classification function

Principal components	Ų.	P	
P_1	0.006	0.006	0.009
P ₂	0.005	0.002	0.008
P_3	-0.001	0.003	-0.001
Constants	-2.452	-4.146	-3.613

Verification samples	y_Q	y_P	y_C	Actual	Bayesian
V_1	1.91	0.65	2.50	1	3
V_2	1.64	1.80	2.37	1	3
V_3	1.37	2.24	1.96	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathfrak{2}$
V_4	0.12	2.42	0.05	$\mathfrak{2}$	$\mathfrak{2}$
V_5	0.09	3.83	0.26	2	$\mathfrak{2}$
V_6	0.36	0.42	0.77	2	3
V_7	0.33	0.68	0.28	$\mathfrak{2}$	\overline{c}
V_8	0.06	0.40	0.23	\overline{c}	\overline{c}
V_9	0.58	4.70	0.83	\overline{c}	\overline{c}
V_{10}	2.64	2.12	3.92	2	3
V_{11}	0.52	1.76	0.70	\overline{c}	\overline{c}
V_{12}	1.62	2.11	2.16	3	3
V_{13}	1.89	0.37	2.56	3	3
V_{14}	1.96	0.09	2.67	3	3

The bold values represent the maximum membership in Bayesian discriminant

$$
y_Q = 0.006x_{p_1} + 0.005x_{p_2} - 0.001x_{p_3} - 2.452,
$$
 (25)

$$
y_p = 0.006x_{p_1} + 0.002x_{p_2} + 0.003x_{p_3} - 4.146,
$$
 (26)

$$
y_C = 0.009x_{p_1} + 0.008x_{p_2} - 0.001x_{p_3} - 3.613. \tag{27}
$$

Substituting the data presented in Table [4](#page-8-0) into the function Eqs. (16) (16) , (17) and (18) , the discrimination results were obtained and are presented in Table [9](#page-11-3). The recognition accuracy of water samples from the Cenozoic aquifer was 0%. The recognition accuracy of water samples from the Permian aquifer was 75%. The recognition accuracy of water samples from Carboniferous aquifer was 100%, whereas the comprehensive accuracy of the model was 64.29%. Therefore, the new discriminant model proposed in this paper has higher accuracy than the traditional Bayesian discriminant method.

Due to the small number of Cenozoic samples, the accuracy of the Cenozoic samples discrimination was low using the Grey Situation Decision method and the Bayesian discriminant method. Therefore, the model was based on a certain number of water samples. More water samples should be collected to improve the accuracy of the model. In addition, this model should consider the impact of temperature, hydrogeological conditions and human activities on the aquifer to further improve its applicability.

Conclusion

Principal component analysis was used to eliminate the internal correlation between ionic variables. Six ions were combined into three principal components P_1 , P_2 and P_3 , which comprehensively refected the information of water chemistry. It greatly reduces the number of variables and the calculation of the model.

The recognition accuracy of water samples from the fourth aquifer was 100%. The recognition accuracy of water samples from the coal-bearing sandstone aquifer was 87.50%. The recognition accuracy of water samples from the limestone-karst fssure aquifer in the Carboniferous was 66.67%. The comprehensive accuracy of the model was 85.71%. The entropy weight-grey situation decision model provides a new method for the identifcation of water inrush, and has important theoretical guiding signifcance for mine water prevention work.

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