



## MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF PM<sub>10</sub> IN AMBIENT AIR OF KLANG VALLEY, MALAYSIA

(Analisis PM<sub>10</sub> Bulanan di dalam Udara di Lembah Klang, Malaysia)

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### Abstract

The urbanization in Klang Valley, Peninsular Malaysia over the last decades has induce the atmospheric pollution's risk resulted to negative impact on the environment. The aims of this paper are to identify the spatial-temporal relationship of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), to determine the characteristic of each location and to classify hierarchical of the location in relation to their impact on PM<sub>10</sub> concentration in Klang Valley. The Spearman correlation test indicate that there was strong significant relationship between all the locations ( $>0.7$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) and moderate relationship between Petaling Jaya-Kajang and Kajang-Shah Alam ( $<0.7$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). The principal component analysis (PCA) identifies all four locations have been affected by PM<sub>10</sub> which were determined as one of the pollutant that deteriorated the air quality. Cluster analysis (CA) has classified the PM<sub>10</sub> pattern into three (3) different classes; Class 1 (Klang), Class 2 (Petaling Jaya and Kajang) and Class 3 (Shah Alam) based on location. Further analysis of CA would be able to classify the PM<sub>10</sub> classes into groups depending on their dissimilarities characteristic. Thus, possible period of extreme air quality degradation could be identified. Therefore, statistical and envirometric techniques have proved the impact of the various location on increasing concentration of PM<sub>10</sub>.

**Keywords:** particulate matter, Spearman correlation test, principal component analysis, cluster analysis

### Abstrak

Proses pembandaran di Lembah Klang, Semenanjung Malaysia sedekad lalu telah mendorong kepada risiko pencemaran atmosfera yang memberi impak negatif kepada alam sekitar. Kajian ini dilakukan bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti hubungkait antara ruang dan tempoh bagi partikel terampai (PM<sub>10</sub>), menentukan ciri – ciri setiap lokasi dan menentukan pengkelasan hirarki lokasi berhubungan dengan impak kepekatan PM<sub>10</sub> di Lembah Klang. Ujian korelasi Spearman menunjukkan hubungkait yang kuat antara semua lokasi ( $>0.7$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) dan hubungan

yang sederhana antara Petaling Jaya-Kajang dan Kajang-Shah Alam ( $<0.7$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). Analisis komponen utama (PCA) menentukan semua empat lokasi yang telah terjejas dengan PM<sub>10</sub> iaitu antara bahan pencemar yang menjejaskan kualiti udara. Analisis kluster (CA) mengelaskan pola PM<sub>10</sub> kepada tiga (3) kelas berlainan; Kelas 1 (Klang), Kelas 2 (Petaling Jaya dan Kajang) serta Kelas 3 (Shah Alam) berdasarkan lokasi. Analisis lanjutan CA membolehkan pengelasan kelas PM<sub>10</sub> kepada kumpulan bergantung kepada ketidaksamaan ciri. Justeru, kemungkinan tempoh kemerosotan kualiti udara yang melampau dapat dikenalpasti. Oleh itu, teknik statistik dan envirometrik telah membuktikan impak pelbagai lokasi terhadap peningkatan kepekatan PM<sub>10</sub>.

**Kata kunci:** partikel terampai, ujian korelasi Spearman, analisis komponen utama, analisis kluster

### Introduction

Particulate matter is one of the aerosol particles in the atmosphere [1, 2] which has an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and well known as PM<sub>10</sub>. PM<sub>10</sub> has been discovered as major air pollutant in Southeast Asia including Klang Valley, Malaysia [3, 4, 5]. A long term study of 5 decades regarding to air pollution brings up an implication not only to human health but also to polluting the environment [6, 7]. Particulate matter specifically PM<sub>10</sub> affects human health via inhalation due to its smaller in size and the ability to reach and settle in human respiratory tract which could induce chronic pulmonary disease and asthma [8, 9].

Asia region encounter a major problem due to air particulate matter pollution with the annual average value of total suspended particulate (TSP) which exceeding 300  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  [10]. In Malaysia without the haze issue, the level of PM<sub>10</sub> is mostly influence by the vehicular and industrial emission [4]. Therefore, this study will define the PM<sub>10</sub> level in Klang Valley region under normal condition without severe haze issue as the main focus.

Multivariate analysis has been chosen as the final statistical method to analyze, classify and interpret huge number of datasets and has become the most applicable in various field of study recently [11 - 19]. These types of analysis include the application of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Hierarchical Agglomerative Cluster Analysis (HACA). The PCA was applying to identify the most significant parameter which relates to spatial and temporal variation [11 - 17, 20, 21, 22]. Meanwhile, HACA was applying to group large data into cluster with differing characteristic between the groups but similar characteristic within the group [23]. Therefore, the aim of this study is to identify the spatial-temporal relationship of PM<sub>10</sub>, to determine the characteristic of each station and to classify hierarchical of the station that give an impact to PM<sub>10</sub> concentration in Klang Valley.

### Materials and Methods

#### Background of sampling location

Klang Valley region involves several districts in Selangor and is located in central part of west coast Peninsular Malaysia by the Strait of Malacca to west [24, 25]. Alam Sekitar Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (ASMA) was appointed by Malaysian Department of Environment (DOE) in establishing, operating and maintaining the continuous air quality monitoring stations. All the stations (S1, S3 and S4) were located within residential area except for Petaling Jaya (S2) which located within industrial area. All the stations within Klang Valley region were affected by heavy traffic which consequently affected by vehicles emissions and the details were shown in the Table 1. The Klang Valley Region which is situated in the central part of Selangor state is illustrated in Figure 1.

#### The air quality data

The daily-recorded air quality data of PM<sub>10</sub> at the selected stations within the year of 2000 – 2009 were obtained from Malaysian Department of Environment (DOE). A total of 480 observation data of PM<sub>10</sub> (12 observations x 4 stations x 10 years) were involved in this study.

#### Data cleaning

Data treatment technique has been used for to treat the missing data in order to obtain a better continuous air quality monitoring data. The missing data in this study has been treated with the method of mean substitution. All the missing data are replacing with the value of mean available neighboring data [27]. Furthermore, other studies stated

that mean substitution method is better and more accurate rather than eliminating the missing value with list wise and pairwise deletion method [28, 29, 30].

Table 1. Continuous air quality monitoring stations within Klang Valley region

| Station ID | Air Monitoring Station                 | Representative Station ID | Representative Name | Coordinates  |               | Background  |
|------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
|            |                                        |                           |                     | Latitude (N) | Longitude (E) |             |
| CA0011     | SM(P) Raja Zarina, Klang               | S1                        | Klang               | 3.0100°      | 101.4085°     | Residential |
| CA0016     | Sek. Keb. Seri Petaling, Petaling Jaya | S2                        | Petaling Jaya       | 3.1092°      | 101.6387°     | Industry    |
| CA0023     | Country Height, Kajang                 | S3                        | Kajang              | 2.9939°      | 101.7417°     | Residential |
| CA0025     | Sek. Keb. TTDI, Shah Alam              | S4                        | Shah Alam           | 3.0773°      | 101.5112°     | Residential |

Source: Department of Environment [26]

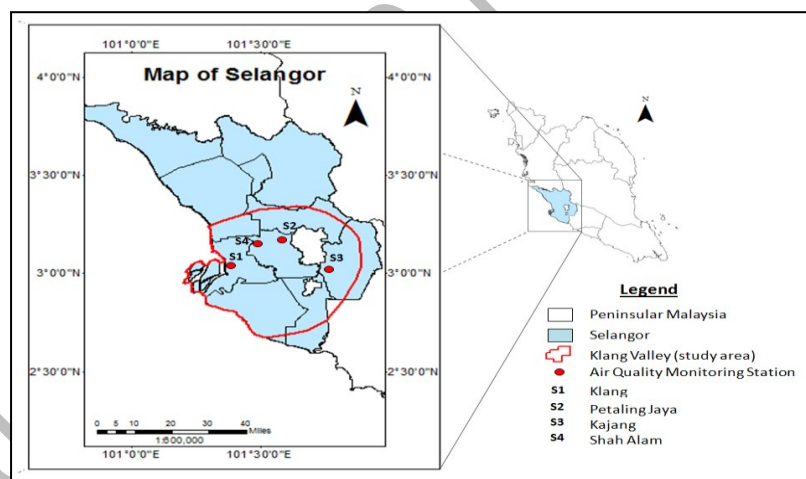


Figure 1. Map of Selangor district which include Klang Valley region

### Data analysis

Several types of statistical approach include descriptive analysis, Spearman correlation analysis, principal component analysis (PCA) and cluster analysis (CA) via XLSTAT software has been used in achieving the objective. XLSTAT software has been used as a tool because of its flexibility, multidimensionality and ability to **synthesis** complex data sets [15]. Any missing value had been treated using mean substitution method.

### Spearman correlation test

Spearman correlation test is used for determination of relationship between two variables and also known as Spearman Rho test [31, 32, 33]. This test is one of the non-parametric approaches which is suitable for not normally distributed data and would prefer a monotonic graph instead of linear graph. Monotonic relationship shows that the score of variable increases with decreasing the other variables' score either in similar or different rate. The correlation values are in the range between -1 and +1 where the value only shows the strength of correlation between two variables without showing cause and consequence between those two variables [34]. However, the influence and the impact of each other variables can be described. Mathematical formula for calculating Spearman correlation is as follows;

$$r = 1 - \left( \frac{6 \sum p^2}{N(N^2 - 1)} \right) \quad (1)$$

where  $p^2$  is define as square root of the variable, and N is a sample size

### Principal component analysis (PCA)

Principal component analysis is a procedure for identifying, reducing and arranging items into groups depending on dependent variables and the strength of correlation between those items [12, 15, 16, 35 – 39]. Linear combination of original data set is being generated by the ability of PCA in reducing large amount of data into new sets of variables where the number of principal components is not more than number of original variables [37]. Identification and observation of variation's source taking place after reduction of data set and generally written in the following mathematical equation 2;

$$PC_i = l_{1i} X_1 + l_{2i} X_2 + \dots + l_{ni} X_n \quad (2)$$

where  $PC_i$  is define as  $i^{\text{th}}$  principal component,  $l_{ji}$  is define as variable loading and  $X_j$  is define as observed variable

### Cluster analysis (CA)

CA is an unsupervised pattern recognition identification method, used to split a large group into smaller ones [12] based on homogeneity data. The homogeneous sub-groups will be obtained within the population and gather them into clusters based on similarity of the data [38, 40, 41]. In this study, CA was used for clustering data with the similarities in a group. CA is employed on the normal distribution dataset through the Ward's method by means of Euclidean distances, as a measure of the relationship [11, 12, 16]. The outcome of this method will be demonstrated in a dendrogram form.

## Results and Discussion

### Statistical analysis of PM<sub>10</sub>

The monthly PM<sub>10</sub> data in Klang Valley, Selangor have been analyzed and summarized in box plots. The PM<sub>10</sub> distribution in the air is higher in Klang and Shah Alam compare to Petaling Jaya and Kajang with the range of 154.65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 104.19 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively. The mean of PM<sub>10</sub> also higher in Klang and Shah Alam compare to the other two stations with the value of 79.97 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 63.32 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively. Major activities and heavy populated with residential and industrial activities are the main contributors to the higher PM<sub>10</sub> value in Klang Valley region (Klang and Shah Alam). The details of descriptive statistic of PM<sub>10</sub> distributions in Klang Valley region for 2000 to 2009 is shown in Table 2 and expressed by box plot in Figure 2.

### Determination of air quality relationship

The monthly PM<sub>10</sub> data in Klang Valley region for 10 years period (2000 to 2009) showed the result of not normally distributed. Parametric test has been used for transformation process via log method. However, the negative result still not normally distributed form. Therefore, the non-parametric test was chosen for the PM<sub>10</sub> data instead of parametric test. Thus, the Spearman correlation was chosen as the non-parametric approach for determining the relationship between two variables.

Table 2. Descriptive statistic of monthly PM<sub>10</sub> distributions in Klang Valley region for year 2000-2009

| Station       | Obs | Min   | Max    | Range  | Q1    | Median | Q3    | Mean  | Var (n) | Std. dev. (n) |
|---------------|-----|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------|---------------|
| Klang         | 120 | 39.25 | 193.90 | 154.65 | 55.14 | 68.39  | 95.02 | 79.97 | 1149.72 | 33.91         |
| Petaling Jaya | 120 | 26.82 | 116.97 | 90.15  | 45.34 | 54.06  | 67.45 | 58.28 | 316.60  | 17.79         |
| Kajang        | 120 | 31.01 | 124.48 | 93.48  | 42.30 | 49.87  | 61.73 | 54.03 | 283.27  | 16.83         |
| Shah Alam     | 120 | 29.67 | 133.86 | 104.19 | 44.71 | 58.71  | 80.07 | 63.32 | 535.08  | 23.13         |

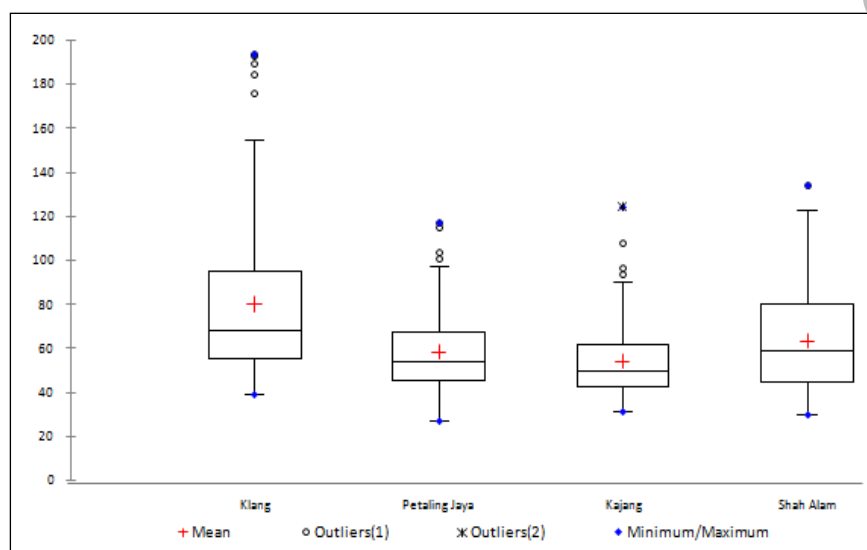


Figure 2. Box Plot of PM<sub>10</sub> distributions in Klang Valley region for 10 years period (2000 – 2009)

Table 3 showed that all the stations have significant relationship. However, only Klang-Petaling Jaya, Klang-Kajang, Klang-Shah Alam and Petaling Jaya-Shah Alam prove for strong correlation between two stations with the value of 0.732(p <0.0001), 0.753(p <0.0001), 0.845(p <0.0001) and 0.776(p <0.0001) respectively. The rest, Petaling Jaya-Kajang and Kajang-Shah Alam showed moderate correlation with the value of 0.678(p <0.0001) and 0.602(p <0.0001), respectively (Table 4). Klang (S1) was shown to be the main contributor to the PM<sub>10</sub> level and variation within 10 years period. Based on Malaysian Environmental Quality Report 2004 by Department of Environment, PM<sub>10</sub> were originating from stationary sources where industries as the highest contributor followed by power plants and the mobile sources from motor vehicles activity [42].

Table 3. Spearman correlation of PM<sub>10</sub> between Klang Valley regions for 10 years

| Year      | Variables     | Klang        | Petaling Jaya | Kajang       | Shah Alam |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| 2000-2009 | Klang         | <b>1</b>     |               |              |           |
|           | Petaling Jaya | <b>0.732</b> | <b>1</b>      |              |           |
|           | Kajang        | <b>0.753</b> | <b>0.678</b>  | <b>1</b>     |           |
|           | Shah Alam     | <b>0.845</b> | <b>0.776</b>  | <b>0.602</b> | <b>1</b>  |

Values in bold are different from 0 with a significance level alpha = 0.05

Table 4. Probability value of the spearman correlation of PM<sub>10</sub> between Klang Valley regions for 10 years

| Year      | Variables     | Klang              | Petaling Jaya      | Kajang             | Shah Alam |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 2000-2009 | Klang         | <b>0</b>           |                    |                    |           |
|           | Petaling Jaya | <b>&lt; 0.0001</b> | <b>0</b>           |                    |           |
|           | Kajang        | <b>&lt; 0.0001</b> | <b>&lt; 0.0001</b> | <b>0</b>           |           |
|           | Shah Alam     | <b>&lt; 0.0001</b> | <b>&lt; 0.0001</b> | <b>&lt; 0.0001</b> | <b>0</b>  |

Values in bold are different from 0 with a significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$

#### Air quality classification using principal component analysis (PCA)

PCA has been applied for identifying the most and less significant location that contributes to air quality in Klang Valley region. Two types of test; Keiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure (KMO) and Barlett's Test of Sphericity have been used in order to assess the sufficiency of the data [13, 37, 38]. KMO test shows the multicollinearity or in simple words, identification of similarity in correlation value exists between two or more items [15]. If there is a similarity in correlation between the items, those items will be measured in similar aspect. The benchmark's value for KMO test is agreed to be more than 0.5 [37, 38]. The KMO value for this study is 0.726 which indicate that there is no serious multicollinearity problem for the Klang Valley's PM<sub>10</sub> data and suitable to construct PCA. Besides, Barlett's sphericity test also used in identification of the correlation between items and sufficiency of the data to construct the PCA with the benchmark value of less than 0.05 [13, 37, 38]. The result of Barlett's test showed that the observed PM<sub>10</sub> data are sufficient to construct PCA with the obtained p-value less than 0.0001. These two sets of test are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Keiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure (KMO) and Barlett's Test of Sphericity

| Types of PCA Test                               | Test's Variable              | Value      |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Keiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy |                              | 0.726      |
| Barlett's Test of sphericity                    | Chi-square (observed values) | 467.771    |
|                                                 | Significant (p-value)        | p < 0.0001 |

The Eigenvalue of these data is 3.391 and meet the PCA criterion because of the value larger than one (Eigenvalue > 1). The Eigenvalue shows the proportion of variance in every factor where the variance is significantly increase with increasing number of Eigenvalue [38]. Only 1 Eigenvalue was observed for the PCA analysis as shown in Table 6 because only PM<sub>10</sub> observation data were used in this study. The scree plot in Figure 3 can prove that only single Eigenvalue involve in this PCA interpretation and the factor that give a large different in variance will be shown clearly by the scree plot [38].

From this study, all of the air quality stations in Klang Valley affected by anthropogenic activity as seen in the F1. From Table 6, it shows that all of the stations gave the positive and strong factor loading [Klang (0.994), Petaling Jaya (0.902), Kajang (0.914) and Shah Alam (0.923)]. Therefore, over past 10 years period (2000 – 2009), particulate matter less than 10 micron (PM<sub>10</sub>) is one of the most air pollutant that contributed to air quality problem in Klang Valley region. Strong positive factor loading lead to the source of particulate matter from traffic emission in which be the major source of PM<sub>10</sub> from automobiles' fuel combustion activity [37, 43]. Figure 4 shows the dot matrix position base on factor loading of each air quality stations.

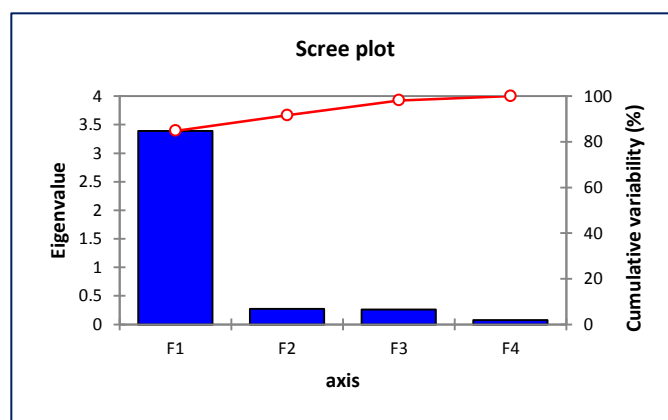


Figure 3. Scree plot of eigenvalue vs cumulative variability (%)

Table 6. Principal component analysis (PCA) interpreted result of PM<sub>10</sub> data in Klang Valley

| Air Quality Station | Factor Loading |        |        |        |
|---------------------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                     | F1             | F2     | F3     | F4     |
| Klang               | 0.944          | 0.141  | -0.234 | 0.185  |
| Petaling Jaya       | 0.902          | -0.246 | 0.347  | 0.076  |
| Kajang              | 0.914          | 0.356  | 0.152  | -0.123 |
| Shah Alam           | 0.923          | -0.256 | -0.250 | -0.142 |
| Eigenvalue          | 3.391          | 0.273  | 0.261  | 0.076  |

The principal components were then being rotated to gain better understanding and interpretation of the data. Varimax rotation was used as a criterion [37] as proposed by other author [44], with only involve the consideration of component with an eigenvalue larger than 1. The variability and cumulative variability for rotated principal component scored both 84.773%. Table 7 shows the percentage of variability and cumulative variability of the PM<sub>10</sub> data after being rotated with Varimax rotation. On the other hand, Table 8 shows the percentage contribution of PM<sub>10</sub> in Klang, Petaling Jaya, Kajang and Shah Alam which are 26.27%, 23.99%, 24.62% and 25.10% respectively. Therefore, it proved that the above statement can be accepted with the average percentage contribution of 25% for each area.

Table 7. Rotated percentage of variability and cumulative variability after Varimax rotation

|                            | F1     | F2     | F3     | F4      |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Variability (%)            | 84.773 | 6.818  | 6.516  | 1.893   |
| Cumulative variability (%) | 84.773 | 91.591 | 98.107 | 100.000 |

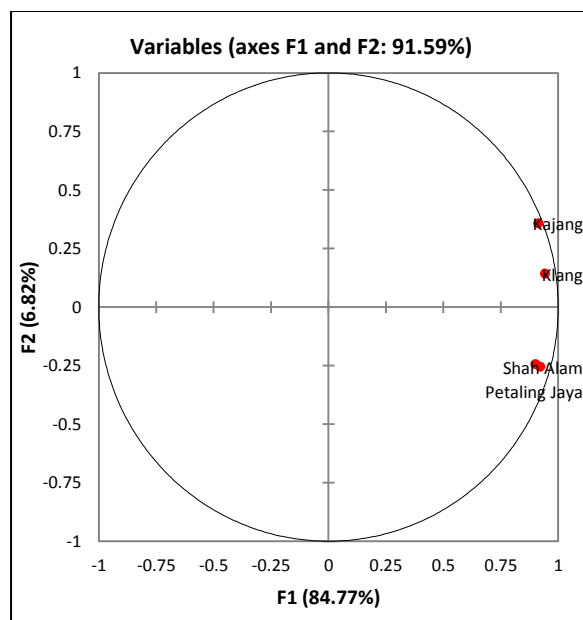


Figure 4. Dot matrix position base on factor loading of each air quality stations in Klang Valley region.

Table 8. Contribution of the variables after Varimax rotation

| Contribution (%)     | D1     |
|----------------------|--------|
| Klang                | 26.27  |
| Petaling Jaya        | 23.99  |
| Kajang               | 24.62  |
| Shah Alam            | 25.10  |
| Average contribution | 25.00  |
| Total contribution   | 100.00 |

#### Air quality pattern using cluster Analysis (CA)

This study focused on four monitoring stations around Klang Valley region, where particulate matter less than 10 micron (PM<sub>10</sub>) has been chosen for analysis. CA was used as an approach to find and put them into groups depending on their dissimilarities. PM<sub>10</sub> pattern which obtained from PCA output have been classified into three (3) different classes; Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 based on location and can be illustrated in dendrogram such as in Figure 5.

Class 1 refers to air monitoring station in Sekolah Menengah Perempuan Raja Zarina, Klang (CA0011) representative as Klang air monitoring station. This station contributes highest number of dissimilarity to the graph where it is performed alone and giving significant indicator of air quality. In other words, Klang can be represented as a not good air condition. Class 2 covered two different air quality stations which are located in Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Petaling, Petaling Jaya (CA0016) represent as Petaling Jaya air monitoring station and Country Height, Kajang (CA0023) represent Kajang air monitoring station. Class 3 refers to Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Tun Dr. Ismail, Shah Alam (CA0025) which represents Shah Alam air monitoring station.

Klang (Class 1) is located near to industrial area and a busy port area originated at Port Klang, while the other two clusters are situated near to both industrial and residential area. The study showed that the sources of pollutant in all stations are affected by motor vehicles, industrial and factories activities. The level of  $PM_{10}$  in Klang showed slightly higher due to the port activity which was not found in the other stations [45].

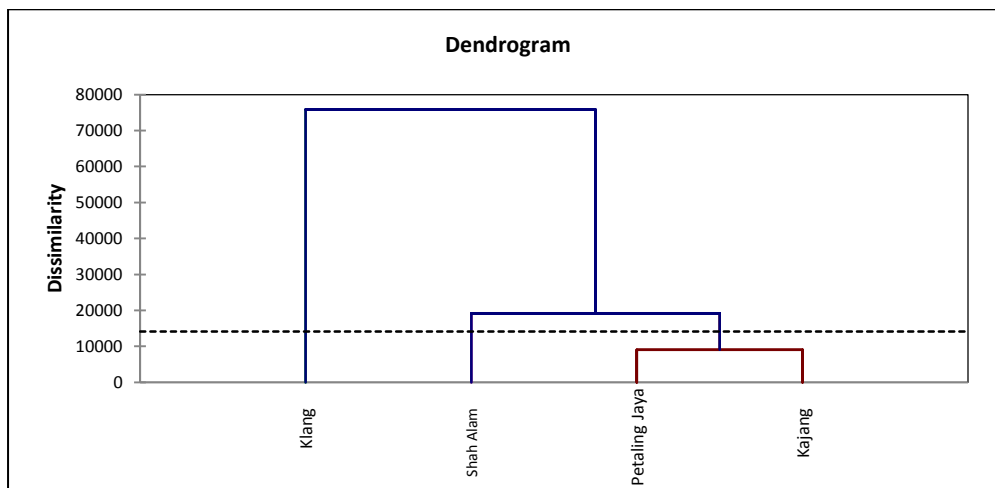


Figure 5. Dendrogram view of cluster analysis for particulate matter ( $PM_{10}$ ) in Klang Valley

Characteristic of  $PM_{10}$  pattern within the Klang Valley region can be identified more using this CA method. This further analysis was discussed based on classes and the groups that might be produced. Figure 6 shows the pattern of  $PM_{10}$  for three different clusters in Klang Valley based on year.

Throughout the 10 years period from 2000 to 2009, Class 1 (Klang) produces three patterns of group; Group 1 (2008 and 2009) and Group 2 (2002 and 2005). Meanwhile Group 3 (2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007) had shown the highest similarity within the year. Based on year 2000 to 2009, Class 2 which refers to Petaling Jaya and Kajang produces four different patterns of group; Group 1 (2008), Group 2 (2009), Group 3 (2003, 2004 and 2005) and lastly Group 4 (2000, 2001, 2002, 2006 and 2007). Class 3 (Shah Alam) produce 3 patterns, Group 1 (2000, 2001, 2003 and 2007), Group 2 (2008 and 2009) and Group 3 (2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005). The above finding showed that the concentration of  $PM_{10}$  in the air were the highest at each station; Klang, Petaling Jaya, Kajang and Shah Alam at year 2008 and 2009.

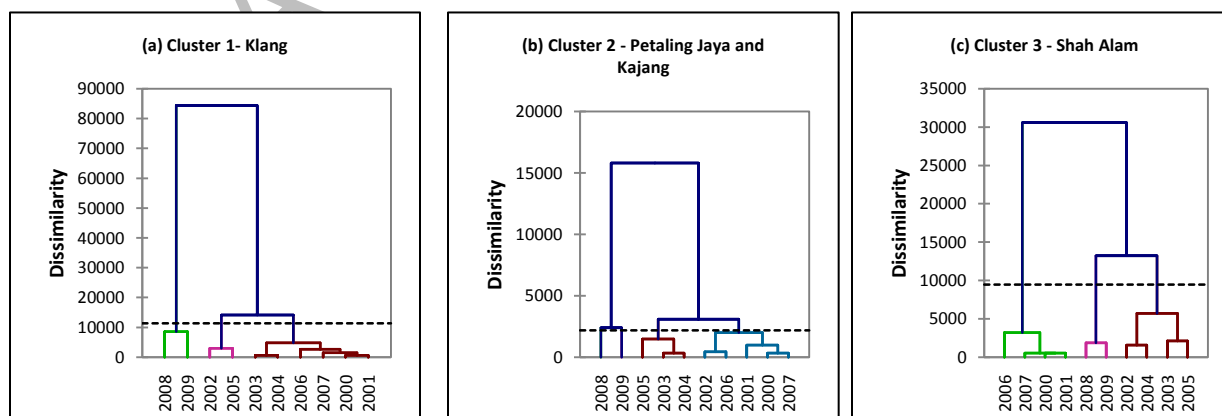


Figure 6. Dendrogram (a – c) view of  $PM_{10}$  pattern for three different clusters in Klang Valley based on year

### Conclusion

Based on the result, significant relationship of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) in Klang Valley, Malaysia and its pattern can be identified using statistical and envirometric technique. The relation between two variables can be determined by using Spearman Correlation Test. Strong correlations ( $>0.7$  with the p-value  $<0.001$ ) were obtained for all stations in determination of significant relationship between 2 stations except for Petaling Jaya-Kajang and Kajang-Shah Alam which recorded moderate correlation value 0.678(p  $<0.001$ ) and 0.602 (p  $<0.001$ ) respectively. Principal component analysis (PCA) was able to identify the **109** and less significant location which contributing to the level of PM<sub>10</sub>. The study found that all four location **have** been affected by PM<sub>10</sub> **11** was determined as one of the air pollutant that contributes to the deterioration of air quality in Klang Valley. **11** other hand, Cluster analysis (CA) on the other hand was able to classify the PM<sub>10</sub> into three groups depending on their dissimilarities characteristic. PM<sub>10</sub> pattern which obtained from PCA output have been classified into three (3) different classes, Class 1 (Klang), Class 2 (Petaling Jaya and Kajang) and Class 3 (Shah Alam) based on location and possible period of extreme air quality degradation could be identified. These statistical and envirometric techniques have proved the impact of the various location on increased concentration of PM<sub>10</sub>.

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