



UNIVERSITÀ
DI FOGGIA



11th Workshop on
**MANAGEMENT OF INNOVATION
IN THE AGRICULTURAL & FOOD
SYSTEMS OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

*(Gestione dell'Innovazione nei Sistemi
Agroalimentari della Regione Mediterranea)*

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Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie, degli Alimenti
e dell'Ambiente (SAFE)
Via Napoli 25 Foggia – Aula Magna “Di Stefano”



QUALITY AND DRYING BEHAVIOUR OF ORGANIC FRUIT PRODUCTS

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OUR RESEARCH GROUP AND COMPETENCES



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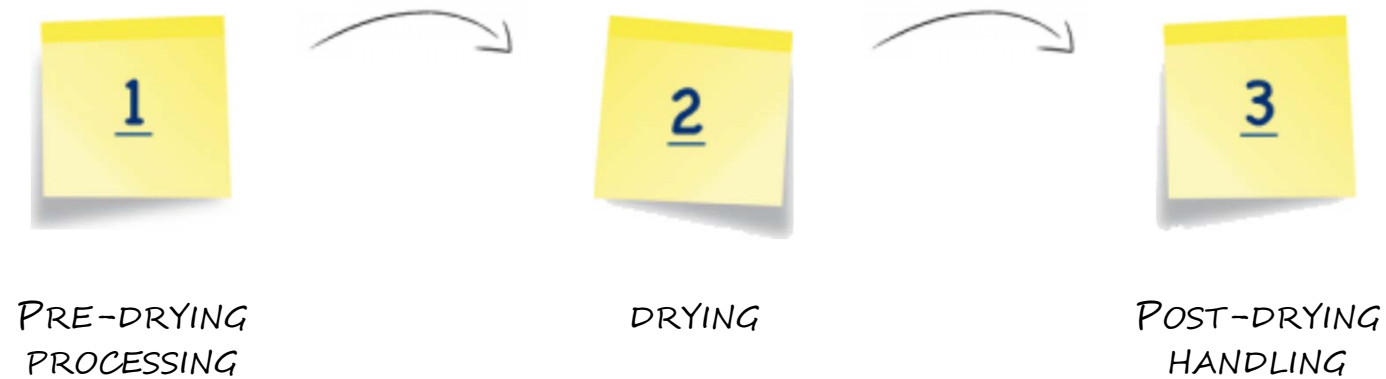
FLAVIO RAPONI
PH.D. STUDENT
2ND YEAR



SERENA FERRI
PH.D STUDENT
1ST YEAR

1. Chemical, physical and physicochemical analysis on food
2. Image analysis and computer vision
3. Vis/NIR and SWIR single-point spectroscopy and hyperspectral imaging
4. Chemometrics and Machine Learning (e.g. Deep Learning and Transfer Learning)
5. Internet of Things and sensors
6. virtual development environment, 4GL software (i.e. R, Python and Matlab) and agnostic programming platforms

DRYING OF FOOD CONSISTS OF THREE STEPS...



1

PRE-DRYING
PROCESSING

IT DEPENDS ON THE PHYSICAL STATE OF THE MATERIAL SUBJECTED TO DRYING

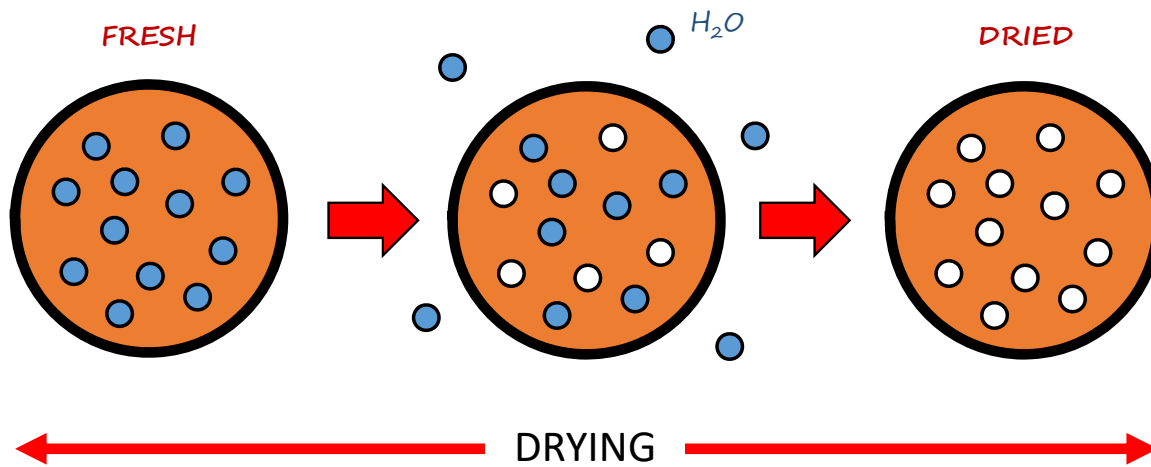
SOLID ●
SULFITED
SOAKED
DEWATERED
BLANCHED
FROZEN
...



LIQUID
VACUUM CONCENTRATED
TREATED WITH ENZYMES
FOAMED
...

2

DRYING



READY-TO-EAT

QUALITY INDICES ASSESSED BY CONSUMERS

SEMI-PRODUCT

QUALITY INDICES IMPORTANT IN FURTHER
PROCESSING AND AFFECTING PROPERTIES OF THE
FINAL PRODUCT

3

POST-DRYING
HANDLING

THE DRY PRODUCT IS NOT IN A THERMODYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM STATE



- » PRE-DRYING TREATMENTS AND DRYING AFFECT PRODUCT STORABILITY
- » POST-DRYING TREATMENTS SHOULD MINIMIZE OR PROTECT THE MATERIAL FROM FURTHER CHANGES
- » PRODUCT IS MORE STABLE WHEN IT IS IN A GLASSY STATE THAN IN RUBBERY STATE
- » CONTACT WITH OXYGEN PROMOTES OXIDATION OF LIPID-LIKE SUBSTANCES (I.E. CAROTENOIDS)
- » POST-DRYING PROCESSING IS ALSO INTENDED TO ADD VALUE TO THE FINAL PRODUCT

PHYSICOCHEMICAL CHANGES

- » MOISTURE CONTENT AND WATER ACTIVITY
- » SHAPE AND SIZE
- » FIRMNESS AND TEXTURE
- » PIGMENTS CONTENT
- » ENZYMATIC AND NON-ENZYMATIC BROWNING

NUTRITIONAL CHANGES

- » VITAMINS CONTENT
- » CAROTENOIDS CONTENT
- » TOTAL POLYPHENOLIC CONTENT
- » ANTIOXYDANT CAPACITY

SENSORIAL CHARACTERISTICS





WHICH ARE THE MAIN INTERESTS OF AN ORGANIC CONSUMER?



HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES

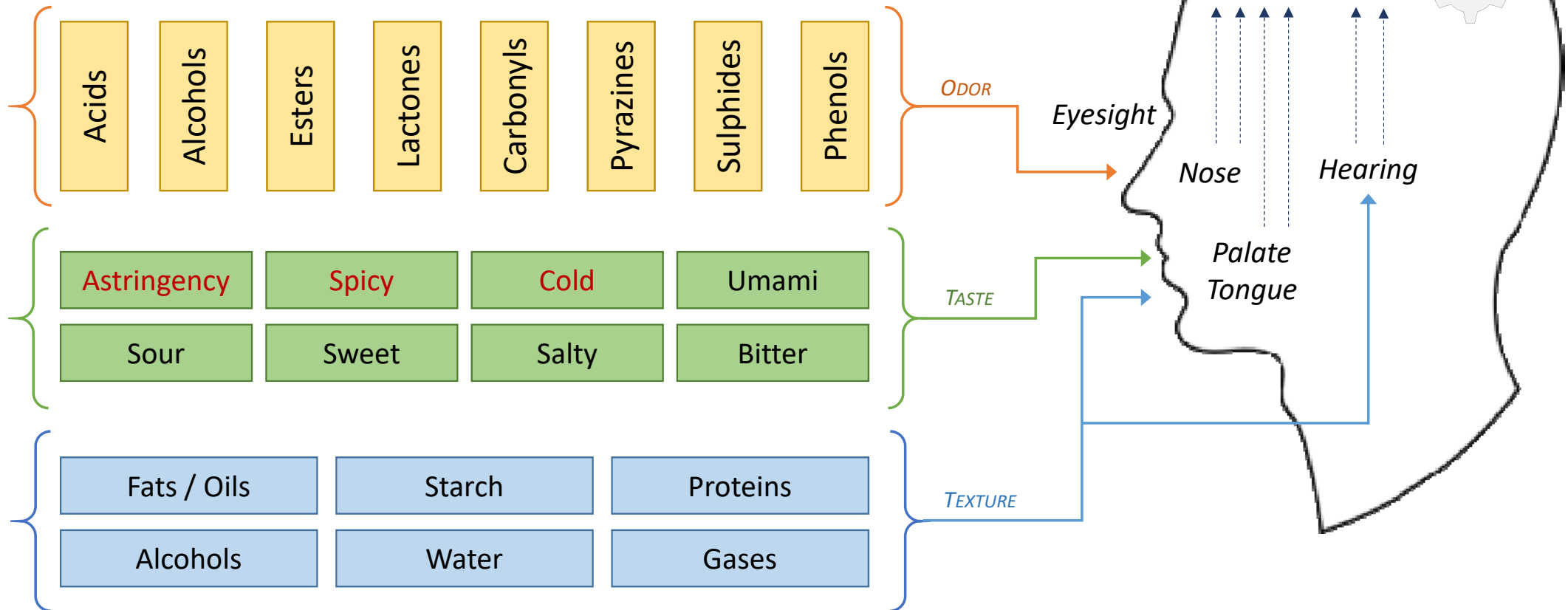


ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

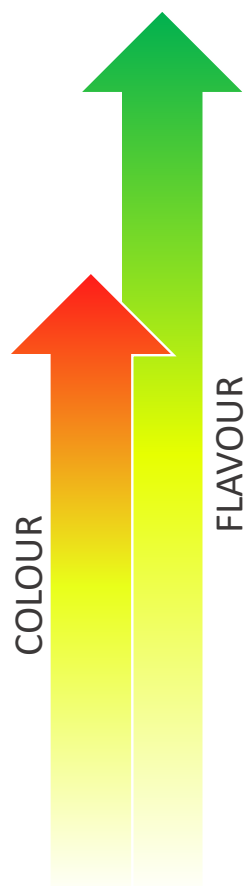


**FINALLY, YET IMPORTANTLY, DEMAND FOR ORGANIC FOODS IS DRIVEN
PRIMARILY BY CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR QUALITY**

SENSORY PERCEPTION OF FOODS



BIASED PERCEPTION OF FOOD QUALITY



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FLAVOUR AND COLOUR



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FLAVOUR AND SIZE, SHAPE, STRUCTURE AND PACKAGING



NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF ORGANIC AND CONVENTIONAL FOODS

AGRONOMIC VARIABLES

Cultivar
Soil type
Organic matter
Planting date
Harvest date
Trace elements

PRODUCTION METHODS

Duration
Replication
Statistical design
Sampling of plant
Sample size
Nutritional analyses

FARM LOCATION

Geographical location
Climate
Seasonal variations
Storage conditions
Post-harvest processing
Plant disease

OUR RESEARCH WORK

CARROT



Daucus carota L.
var. Romance

Shape and size

Slices of 3-mm thickness

Pretreatment

Hot-water blanching

Drying temperature

40°C (for 8 h)

APPLE



Malus domestica B.
var. Gala

Shape and size

Wedges of 3-mm thickness

Pretreatment

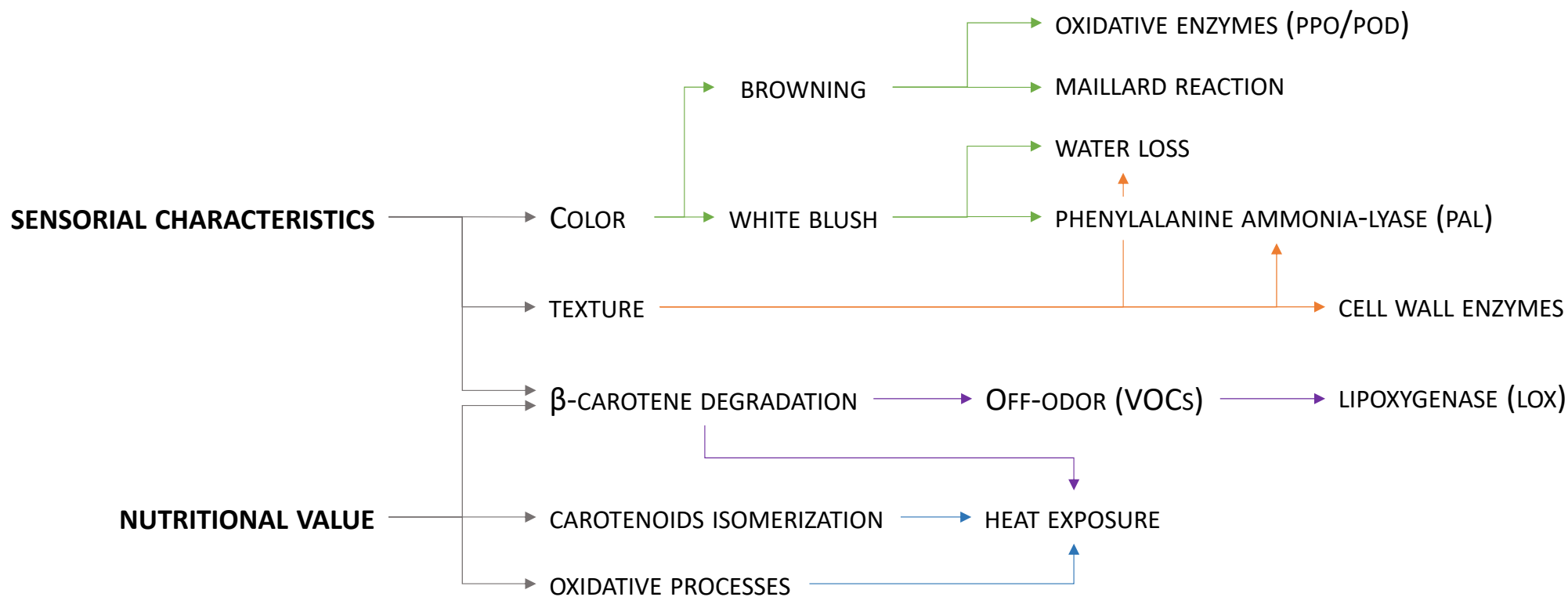
Hot-water blanching

Drying temperature

60°C (for 8 h)



QUALITY PARAMETERS AFFECTED BY DRYING PROCESS

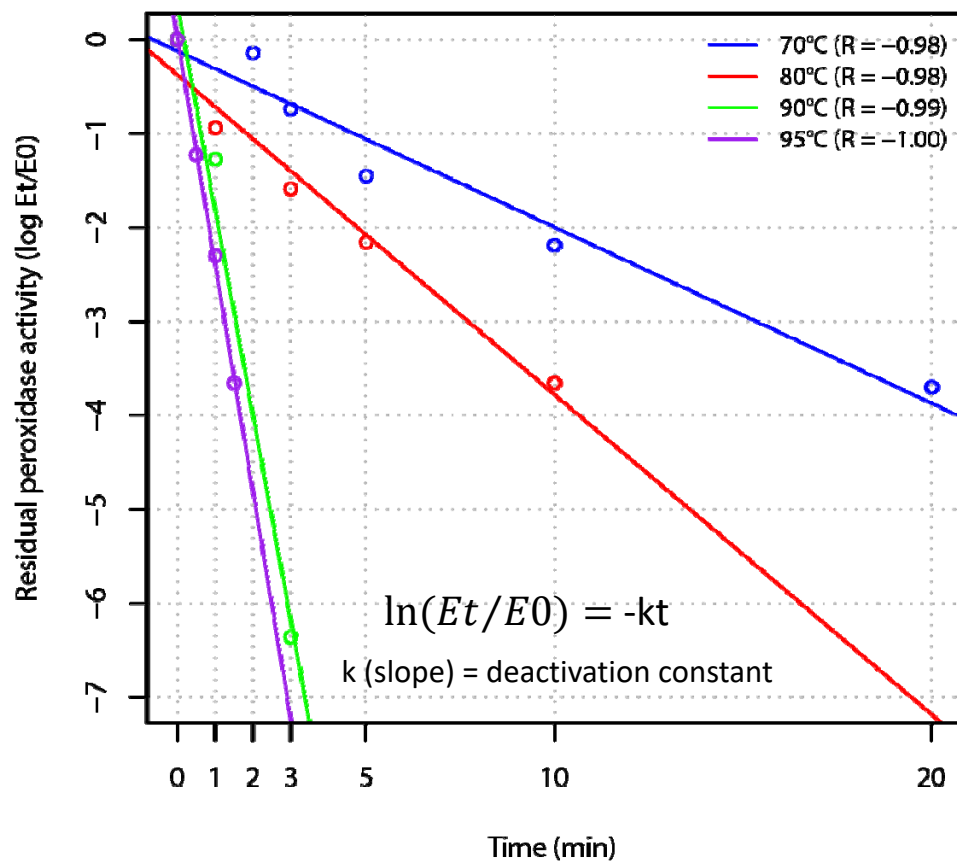




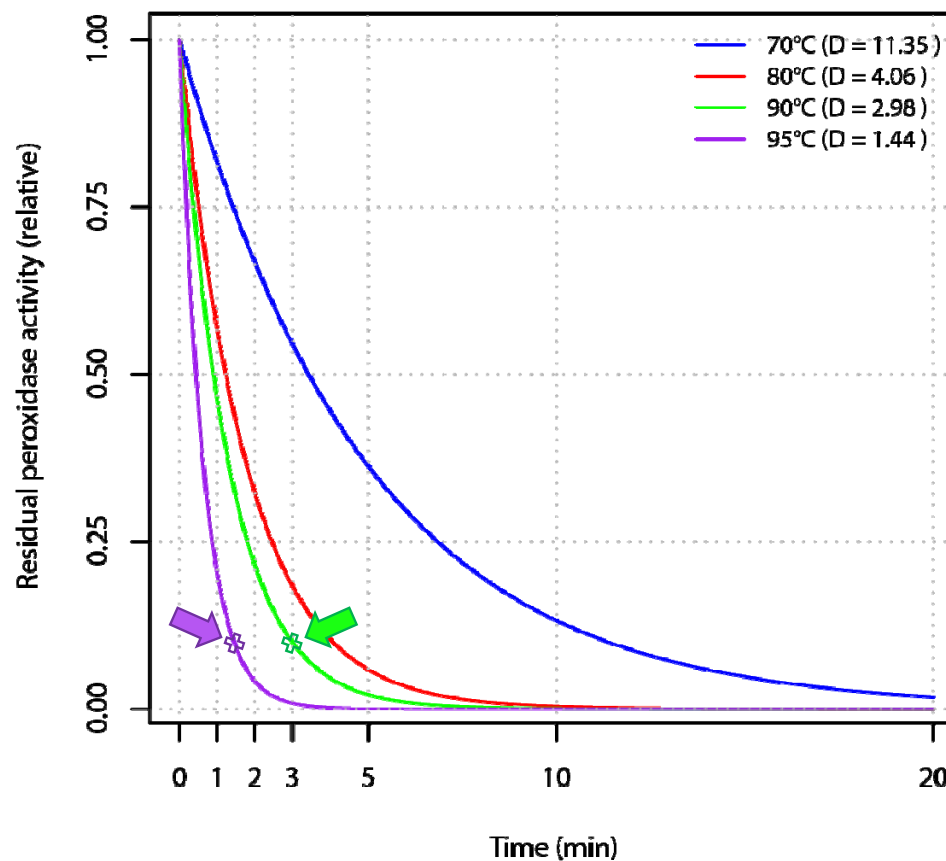
HOT-WATER BLANCHING - PEROXIDASE ACTIVITY -



SEMI-LOG PLOT



NON LINEAR FIRST-ORDER PLOT





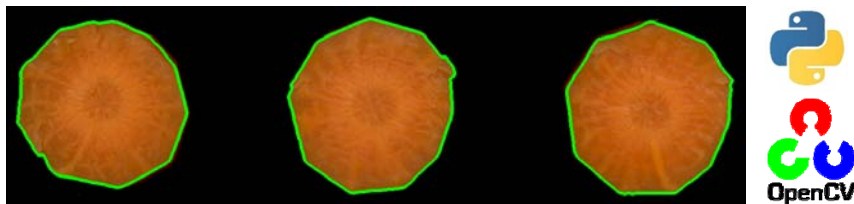
HOT-WATER BLANCHING - COLOR ANALYSIS -



Blanching comparison (90°C vs 95°C)

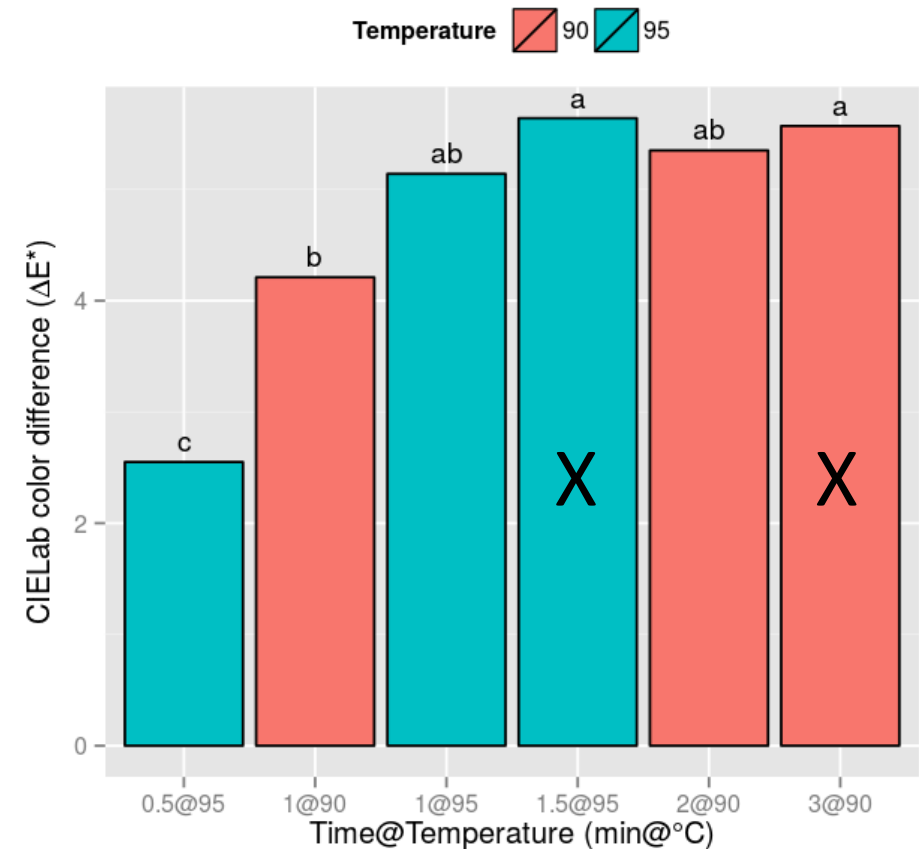
EXPERIMENTAL PROTOCOL

- › Product: carrot slices
- › Slice thickness: 5 mm
- › Blanching temperature: 90, 95°C
- › Blanching time at 90°C: 0.0, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 min
- › Blanching time at 95°C: 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 min



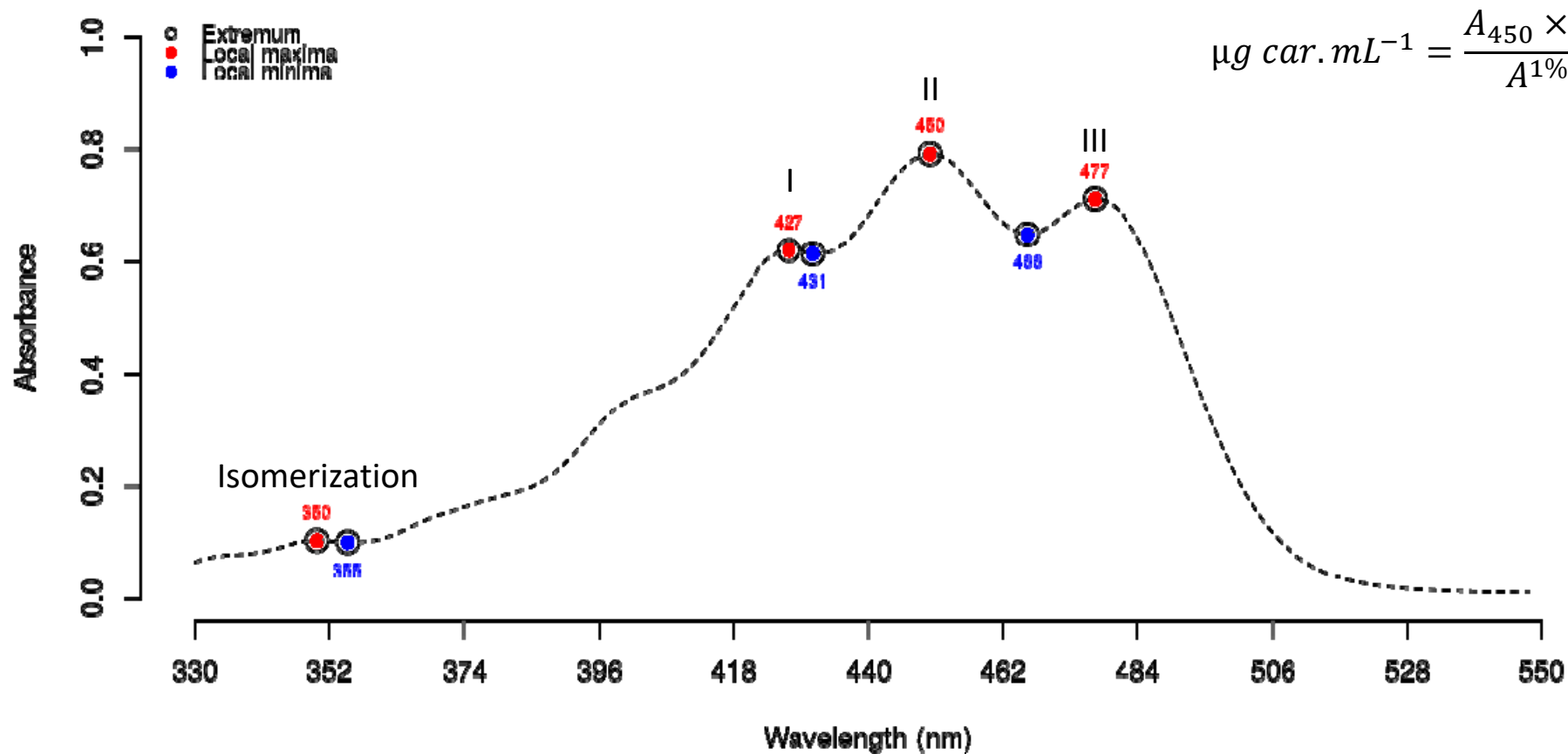
BLANCHING EFFECTS ON CARROT COLOR COORDINATES

- › Decrease in Luminance (L^*)
- › Increase in Hue Angle (h)
- › Decrease in Chroma (C^*)
- › Increase in ΔE^* (>5, high difference between colors)





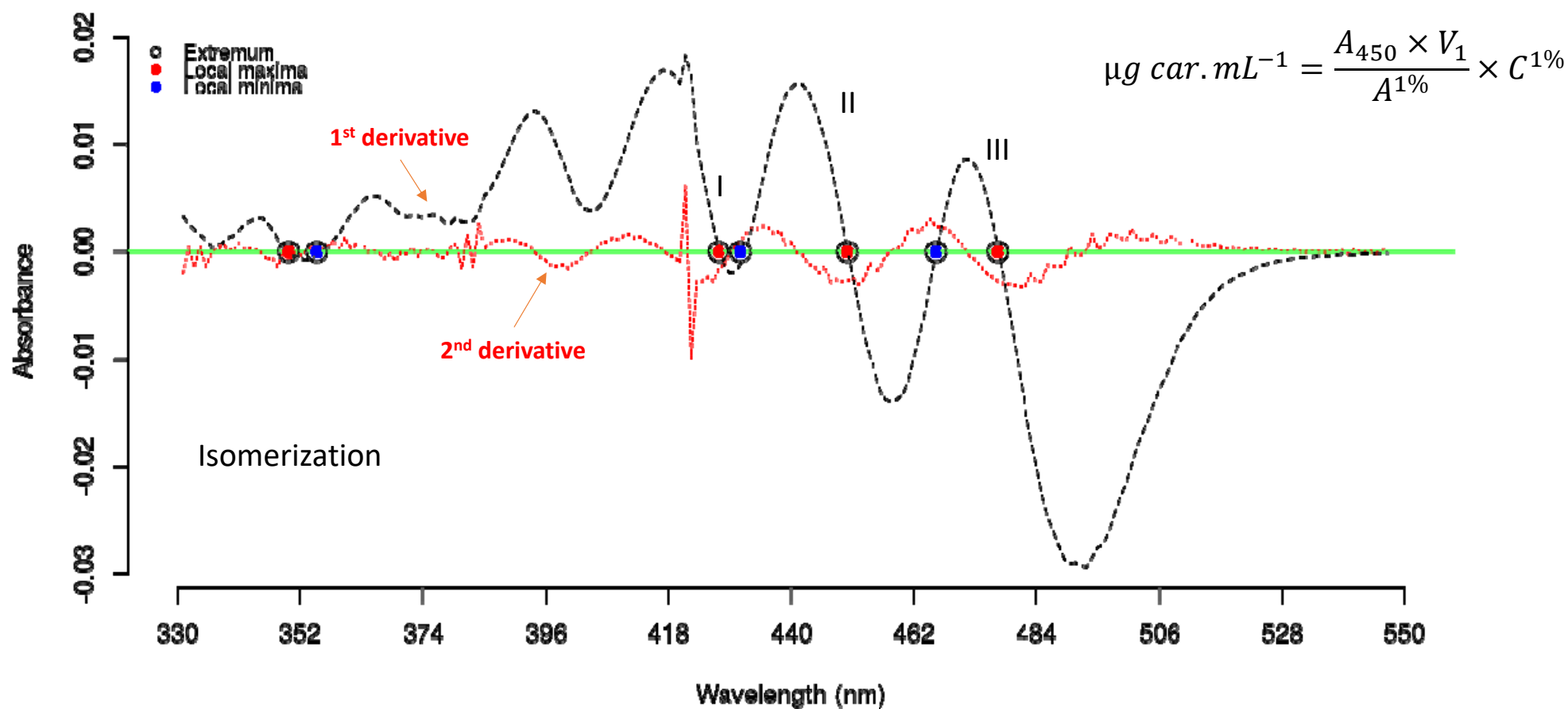
HOT-WATER BLANCHING - TOTAL CAROTENOIDS -



$$\mu g \text{ car. mL}^{-1} = \frac{A_{450} \times V_1}{A^{1\%}} \times C^{1\%}$$



HOT-WATER BLANCHING - TOTAL CAROTENOIDS -





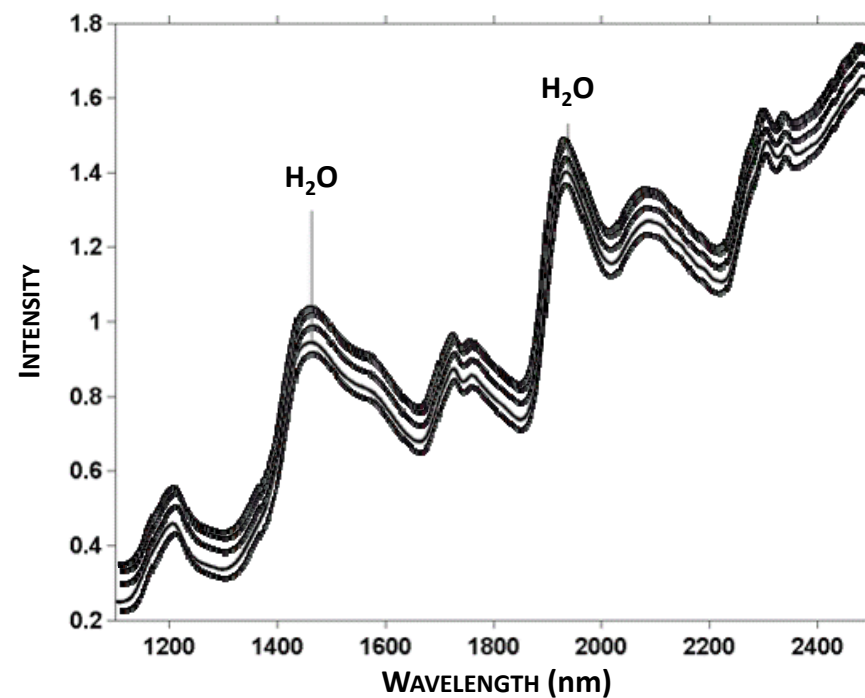
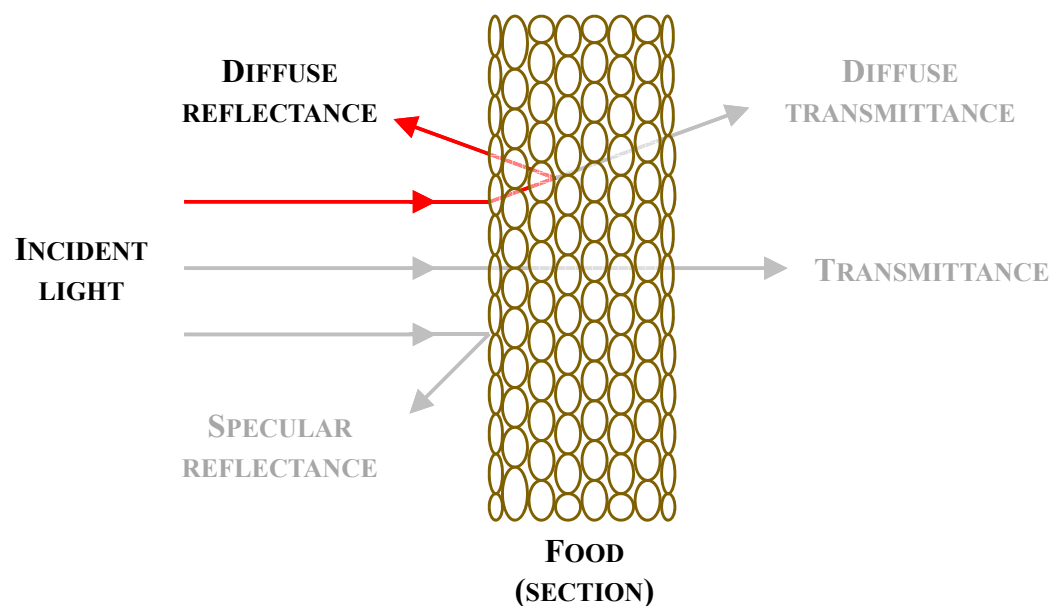
QUALITY PARAMETERS DURING 8-H DRYING



Treatment	Drying phase (K-means)	Drying time (hour)	Water activity (a _w)	Moisture (relative)	SSC (°Brix)	Lightness (L*)	Hue angle (h)	Total carotenoids
Control	I	0	0.88 ± 0.04 a	0.90 ± 0.02 a	6.35 ± 1.43 f	53.61 ± 1.47 f	51.82 ± 0.37 bc	50.75 ± 3.05 d
		1	0.84 ± 0.04 ab	0.86 ± 0.01 ab	8.58 ± 0.99 ef	57.38 ± 1.36 e	53.43 ± 0.50 ab	52.90 ± 5.66 d
		2	0.82 ± 0.05 b	0.85 ± 0.01 ab	8.56 ± 1.27 ef	58.70 ± 1.60 de	53.32 ± 0.62 bc	66.26 ± 15.09 d
	II	3	0.64 ± 0.03 c	0.82 ± 0.03 b	10.57 ± 1.64 de	61.65 ± 4.28 bcd	50.40 ± 1.38 c	154.88 ± 37.01 c
		4	0.62 ± 0.03 c	0.67 ± 0.09 c	14.69 ± 3.15 bc	64.67 ± 2.14 ab	50.18 ± 0.95 c	205.63 ± 87.36 bc
		5	0.45 ± 0.03 d	0.72 ± 0.05 c	12.02 ± 3.54 cde	62.86 ± 2.68 abc	53.17 ± 1.93 bc	261.22 ± 81.76 ab
	III	6	0.46 ± 0.04 d	0.49 ± 0.15 d	14.09 ± 5.80 cd	65.12 ± 1.49 a	55.16 ± 2.32 ab	294.65 ± 61.04 a
		7	0.45 ± 0.04 d	0.45 ± 0.09 d	18.67 ± 5.25 ab	58.86 ± 2.69 de	51.89 ± 1.17 bc	297.32 ± 44.30 a
		8	0.42 ± 0.02 d	0.25 ± 0.07 e	20.02 ± 7.25 a	60.63 ± 2.23 de	50.52 ± 0.96 c	178.68 ± 29.63 c
			<i>p</i> value	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
		<i>HSD</i>	0.04	0.06	3.99	2.72	1.84	71.30
Hot-water blanching	I	0	0.91 ± 0.03 a	0.91 ± 0.01 a	5.75 ± 0.51 c	49.00 ± 1.89 c	56.55 ± 1.98 a	35.74 ± 6.25 d
		1	0.90 ± 0.02 a	0.89 ± 0.01 a	5.35 ± 0.75 c	50.55 ± 2.33 c	56.12 ± 1.66 a	45.27 ± 11.11 d
		2	0.88 ± 0.03 a	0.86 ± 0.02 a	7.13 ± 2.21 c	51.42 ± 1.84 bc	55.00 ± 1.41 a	65.18 ± 17.70 cd
	II	3	0.77 ± 0.03 b	0.63 ± 0.07 b	7.40 ± 1.69 c	59.91 ± 2.72 a	51.86 ± 1.36 b	89.97 ± 24.46 cd
		4	0.70 ± 0.08 c	0.44 ± 0.14 c	15.96 ± 6.14 b	60.13 ± 2.33 a	49.77 ± 2.30 cd	239.58 ± 47.43 b
		5	0.68 ± 0.07 c	0.49 ± 0.08 c	19.55 ± 7.37 b	60.96 ± 2.25 a	50.61 ± 2.01 bc	234.04 ± 78.81 b
	III	6	0.50 ± 0.07 d	0.20 ± 0.07 d	35.79 ± 8.08 a	54.82 ± 7.16 b	48.79 ± 1.89 de	292.47 ± 69.77 a
		7	0.49 ± 0.08 d	0.19 ± 0.03 d	31.68 ± 6.09 a	52.63 ± 3.47 bc	47.50 ± 1.38 e	275.45 ± 27.87 ab
		8	0.40 ± 0.02 e	0.17 ± 0.02 d	32.71 ± 8.72 a	54.72 ± 6.27 c	47.66 ± 1.08 e	304.57 ± 31.62 a
			<i>p</i> value	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
		<i>HSD</i>	0.05	0.06	5.53	3.83	1.71	42.54



NIR SPECTROSCOPY TO MONITOR THE DRYING PROCESS

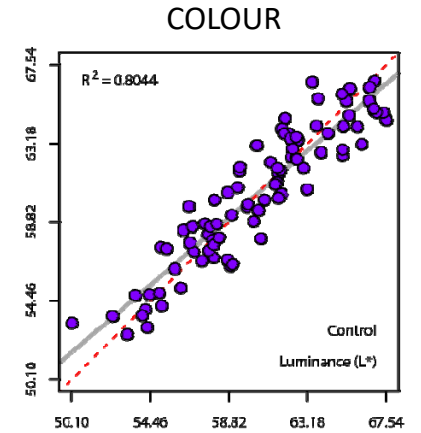
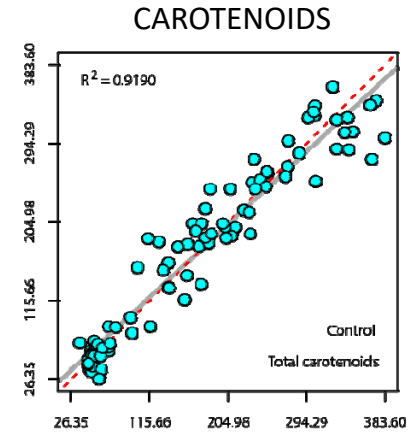
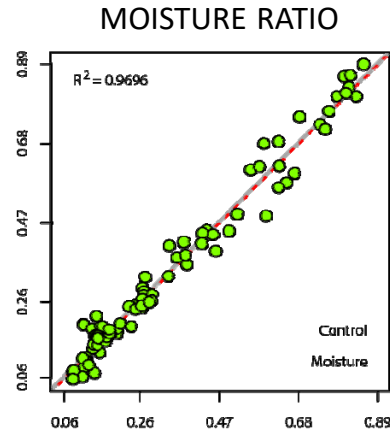
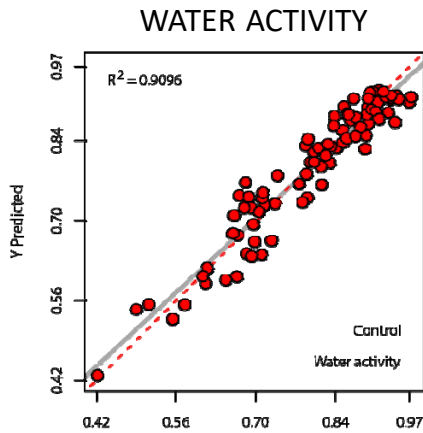




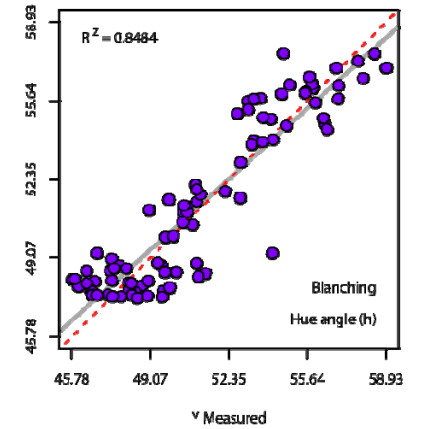
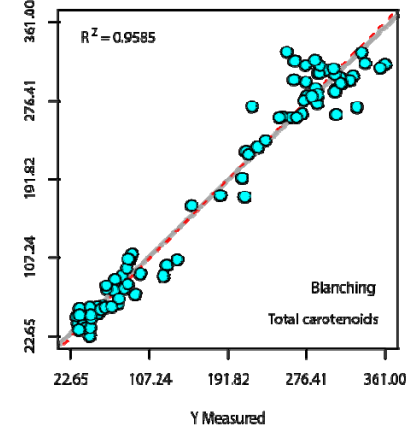
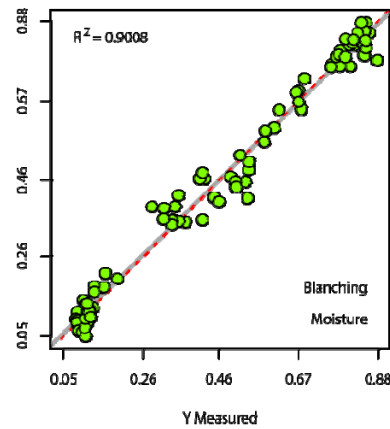
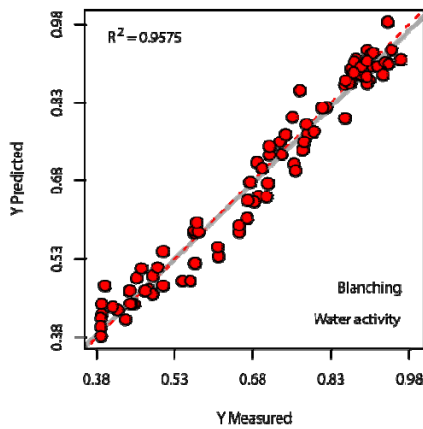
PARTIAL LEAST SQUARES (PLS) REGRESSION MODELS



CONTROL

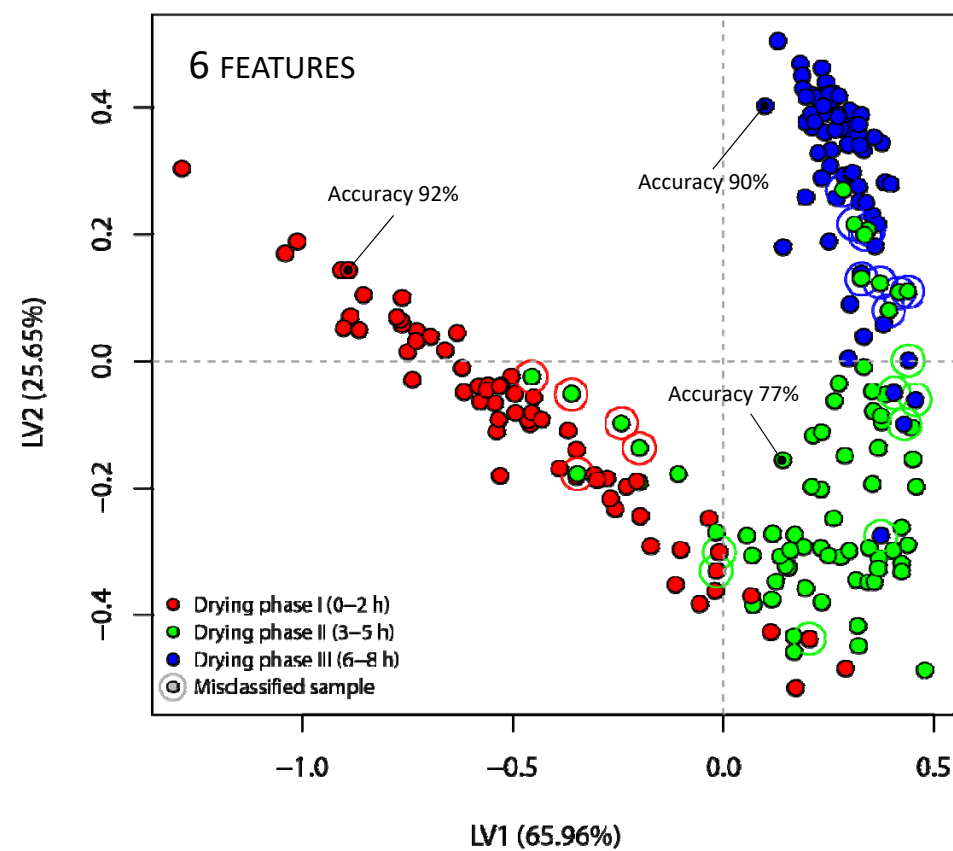
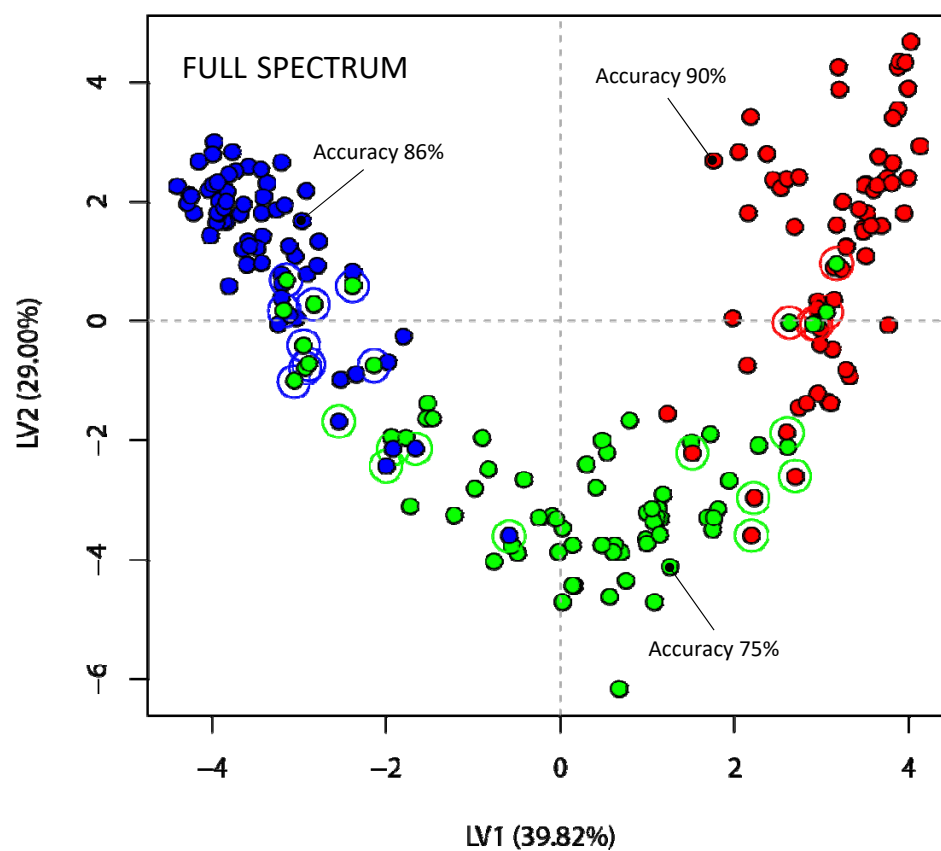


**HOT-WATER
BLANCHING**





PLS DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS - CLASSIFICATION MODELS



CONCLUSIONS

1. PPO (**apple**) and POD (**carrot**) activities were monitored as markers for enzyme inactivation
2. Hot-water blanching for 1.5 min at 95°C was selected as the best feasible pre-treatment on **carrot**
3. Results showed advantages of NIR spectroscopy for online monitoring of moisture ratio, water activity, colour and nutrients in both **apple** and **carrot**
4. NIR spectral profiles allowed recognition of drying phases in both **apple** and **carrot**
5. Prediction models based on few wavelengths showed metrics comparable to models obtained from full spectra

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION