

# The changes and interactions of electrical conductivity, water activity and viscosity in ohmic heat treatment.

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## ABSTRACT

In this research, ohmic heating treatment was studied to observe the changes and interactions of electrical conductivity, water activity, and viscosity. Wheat starch, corn starch, potato starch were used as experimental materials. Starch and distilled water were mixed as the ratio 7.97% (w/w), 6.53%, and 5.55% to form starch suspensions and 0.3% (w/w) NaCl was added as electrolyte. Before the experiments, starch suspensions were boiled to 100 °C to make it fully-gelatinized and cooled to 30 °C. The heating range was 30 ~ 80 °C. In ohmic heat, samples were heated by using alternating current and the voltage gradient was 4.67 V/cm. The electrical conductivity increased as temperature increased, and in high temperature range the tendency turned nonlinear. The m values of electrical conductivity was similar, and the higher suspension concentrations, the lower in electrical conductivity. For water activity, samples were heated by circulating water bath. Water activity decreased slightly as temperature was between 30 ~70 °C, but between 70 ~80 °C, the water activity increased because of the raise of free water. Viscosity of samples was determined by Brookfield viscometer and hot plate. High viscosity occurred at high starch concentration, and the higher in temperature, the lower in viscosity. In regression analysis, the relationship among the electrical conductivity, water activity, and viscosity were clear when the starch concentrations were low. For the interrelationship of the three properties, the electrical conductivity and water activity was negative-related because of gelation, whereas the relation between Water activity and viscosity was not clear. The electrical conductivity and viscosity was negative-related because of the increased rate of water flow. In addition, 70 °C was a critical point for water activity where showed reverse tendency. The wheat starch was the most suitable material for analyzing the relationship among the electrical conductivity, water activity, and viscosity.

Keywords : Ohmic heating ; electrical conductivity ; water activity ; viscosity

## Table of Contents

目錄	頁次
封面內頁	簽名頁
大葉大學碩士論文全文授權書	iii
中文摘要	iv
英文摘要	v
誌謝	vii
目錄	viii
圖目錄	x
表目錄	xi
第一章 緒論	1
第二章 文獻整理	3
2.1 電阻加熱之發展	3
2.2 電導度	5
2.3 影響電導度之因子	6
2.4 食品中黏滯度所扮演之角色	19
2.5 水活性之表現	22
2.6 電導度、黏滯度與水活性之相互關係	25
第三章 材料與方法	29
3.1 研究設備	29
3.2 實驗材料	33
3.3 實驗溶液製備	33
3.4 實驗方法	35
第四章 結果與討論	37
4.1 水活性之變化	37
4.2 電導度之變化	41
4.3 黏滯度之變化	43
4.4 電導度、水活性與黏滯度之相互關係	50
第五章 結論與展望	66
5.1 結論	66
5.2 展望	67
參考文獻	68

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