

# Towards models for the prediction of beef meat quality during cooking

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## Abstract

Heating of beef muscles modifies the water content, the micronutrient content and the colour of beef meat. Juice expelling and loss of water soluble micronutrients were predicted by combined transfer-kinetics models. Kinetics modeling and crust formation are needed to progress toward a reliable prediction of HAAs formation. HAAs formation in uniformly heated beef meat slices was compared with the values issued from the kinetic models developed in literature in liquid systems. The models of literature were adapted to meat slices but the parameters values were different from those determined in liquid systems. Results in meat slices were confronted to the HAAs formation at the surface of bigger meat pieces subjected to air roasting conditions. The transposition of the results from the meat slices towards the bigger meat pieces was not direct because the formation of HAAs was affected by the thickening of the crust and the migration of precursors.

## Highlights:

Prediction of cooking losses and vitamins content in cooked meat; Kinetics of the formation of HAAs during roasting; Mitigation of HAAs formation during grilling and roasting.

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33

34 **Keywords:**

35 Meat quality; Nutritional properties; Heterocyclic Aromatic Amines; Cooking process;  
36 Mathematical modeling.

37

38 **List of abbreviations**

39 **Muscle types**

40 **IS:** *Infraspinatus*;

41 **LT:** *Longissimus thoracis*;

42 **MA:** *Masseter*

43 **SM:** *Semimembranosus*;

44 **ST:** *Semitendinosus*.

45

46 **Heterocyclic aromatic amines (HAAs)**

47 **IQ:** 2-amino-3-methyl-3*H*-imidazo  
48 [4,5-*f*]quinoline;

49 **MeIQ:** 2-amino-3,4-dimethyl-3*H*-  
50 imidazo[4,5-*f*]quinoline;

51 **IQx :**2-amino-3-methyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*f*]  
52 quinoxaline;

53 **MeIQx :**2-amino-3,8-dimethyl-3*H*-  
54 imidazo[4,5-*f*]quinoxaline;

55 **DiMeIQx :**2-amino-3,4,8-trimethyl-3*H*-  
56 imidazo[4,5-*f*]quinoxaline;

57 **PhIP :** 2-amino-1-

58 methyl-6-phenyl-imidazo-[4,5-*b*]pyridine.

59

60

7861 **Introduction**

79 Today, most meat and meat-based products are cooked before being eaten. The cooking  
80 process not only destroys pathogenic or spoilage microorganisms but develops also sensorial  
81 properties which are specific of the cooked product. Cooking has an important effect on the  
82 nutritional properties of the meat product and at the same time on its possible toxicity. This  
83 paper deals with: the juiciness, the nutrients content, the colour of cooked meat and the

62 **Other abbreviations:**

63 **DM:** Dry Matter;

64 **FTIR:** Fourier Transform InfraRed;

65 **LC-APCI-MS/MS:** Liquid Chromatography

66 –Atmospheric Pressure Chemical Ionization

67 tandem Mass Spectrometry;

68 **MgSO<sub>4</sub>:** Magnesium Sulfate;

69 **MRI:** Magnetic Resonance Imaging;

70 **MW:** Microwave;

71 **NaCl:** Sodium Chloride;

72 **NMR:** Nuclear Magnetic Resonance;

73 **SE:** Standard Error;

74 **STPP:** Phosphates Sodium triPolyphosphate;

75 **W:** Watt.

76

77

84 formation of Heterocyclic, Aromatic Amines (HAAs) during grilling and roasting. Discussion  
85 on the prediction of meat tenderness which would have required mechanical modeling is  
86 beyond the scope of this study. Colour and juiciness are with tenderness the main sensorial  
87 properties of beef meat. Juiciness is related with the variation of the water content in the meat  
88 during cooking which also determined the cooking yield which is a critical factor for  
89 industry. Meat is rich in bioavailable micronutrients (vitamins B, iron, zinc, selenium). A lot  
90 of these micronutrients, as the B vitamins, are water-soluble, and are expelled with meat juice  
91 during cooking. Some of the B vitamins are also temperature-sensitive as thiamin (B1),  
92 pyridoxin (B6) and cobalamin (B12), while other as niacin (B3) are known to be more  
93 heat-resistant. Despite its importance for the quality of beef meat, vitamin B12 is seldom  
94 studied due to difficulties in its quantification, Szterk (2012a). In this paper only the B3 and  
95 B6 vitamins have been studied to validate a combined-modeling approach. It will be possible  
96 to extend afterwards this approach to other vitamins as the B12.

97 This paper overviews the work performed during the ProsafeBeef project to improve the  
98 quality of the cooked beef meat as it is ingested by consumers. To reach this objective it is  
99 necessary to know how the variations in the process conditions and in the quality of the raw  
100 meat will affect the quality of the cooked meat. In practice consumer habits, types of heating  
101 equipment and raw meat quality vary a lot. Moreover, quality is most often analyzed  
102 averagely while its evolution is local and depends on the complex thermal and water  
103 gradients generated in the meat during heating. This can explain why the results of literature  
104 are sometimes contradictory, and often difficult to transpose from one case to another. This  
105 leads scientists and engineers to repeat experiments as soon as the type of meat, the size of  
106 the meat cut, the type of equipment, or the cooking conditions are changed. Combined  
107 transfer to quality modeling is appropriate to respond to this situation.

108 This paper describes how the combined modeling approach was used to progress in the  
109 project. Text is separated into three parts: (1) the analysis of the evolution of meat water  
110 content and colour during cooking linked to protein denaturation and contraction, (2) An  
111 example of how the combined models can be used to predict the cooking loss and the B  
112 vitamin content in cooked beef meat, and (3) the analysis of the formation of heterocyclic  
113 aromatic amines during the roasting and the grilling of beef meat. At the beginning of each  
114 part the literature is shortly reviewed to analyze the basic phenomena which are involved in  
115 the development of the studied quality. When possible, the results obtained at lab-scale are  
116 confronted with what can be observed in household equipment. Combined transfer to quality  
117 models requires the knowledge of the time-evolution of the target quality at a given

118 temperature and at given water content. Thus, quality kinetics were measured in slices of  
119 meat uniformly heated. These kinetics have been combined to a transfer model to predict the  
120 evolution of the weight loss and the B vitamin content during the roasting of SM muscle by  
121 air convection. The new results and the need for future research are discussed in the paper.

122

123

## 124 **1) Protein denaturation and contraction, links with meat juiciness and colour**

125

126 Basic knowledge gained at lab-scale will be compared to what can be observed in a  
127 controlled microwave equipment. Then, the mathematical relations issued from the  
128 experiments on the uniformly heated slice are presented and discussed.

129

### 130 *Basic knowledge on protein denaturation and effect on water binding capacity and colour*

131 Denaturation of muscle proteins which is linked to the organoleptic qualities (tenderness,  
132 juiciness and colour) of cooked meat has been studied for a long time. Myosin is known to  
133 denatured at about 54 and 58°C, whereas actin, actomyosin complex and titin are denatured  
134 at around 80°C and the transition temperature of sarcoplasmic proteins is about 65-67°C  
135 (Tornberg, 2005). Collagen contraction occurs between 58°C to 65°C. Protein structural  
136 changes in muscle tissue due to thermal changes have been studied using FTIR  
137 microspectroscopy which is a versatile spatially resolved technique. (Kirschner, Ofstad,  
138 Skarpeid, Høst & Kohler, 2004; Bertram, Böcker, Ofstad & Andersen, 2006; Astruc et al.,  
139 2012). Increasing in meat temperature, leads to an increase in  $\beta$ -sheet and a decrease in  
140  $\alpha$ -helical structures, which is more pronounced for the intracellular proteins than for the  
141 connective tissue and is practically independent of the fibre type (Kirschner et al., 2004;  
142 Astruc et al., 2012). Salting can also affect the protein structure which is important to  
143 consider when marinated products have to be cooked (Böcker, Ofstad, Bertram, Egelanddal  
144 & Kohler, 2006; Böcker, Kohler, Aursand & Ofstad, 2008; Carton, Böcker, Ofstad, Sørheim  
145 & Kohler, 2009). Meat salting is known to increase the water holding capacity of the meat.  
146 However, sodium is detrimental for human health and thus it can be interesting to replace  
147 sodium by other salts. During the ProSafeBeef project, investigations have been focussed on  
148 the analysis of the effect of different salt types on protein structures by FTIR microscopy and  
149 Raman microscopy (Perisic, Afseth, Ofstad & Kohler, 2011; Perisic, Afseth, Ofstad, Hassani  
150 & Kohler, 2013). Clear differences in protein structures could be detected for the different  
151 salt mixtures. The samples that were treated with mixtures containing MgSO<sub>4</sub> hydrated

152 earlier with increasing salt concentration. An increased hydration of the proteins in meat  
153 tissue was related to a partial unfolding of the proteins and thereby to their destabilization.  
154 This unfolding of the protein may, at moderate salt concentrations led, to an increase of  
155 hydration, since large parts of the proteins were accessible and thus able to bind to water  
156 molecules. A further increase of the salt concentration led to a further destabilization of the  
157 proteins and consequently to their denaturation. These last results are important to reduce the  
158 salt content in cooked meat products.

159 Colour change due to temperature increase is initially due to myoglobin denaturation, shifting  
160 from deep red to pink and then on to a greyish colour before finishing in a light brown. It is  
161 recognized that these changes occur near 60°C, between 60 and 70°C, and between 70-80°C,  
162 respectively (Lawrie, 1985). Beyond the 85°C threshold, Maillard molecules begin to form  
163 along with the melanoid pigments which are associated with the grilled-meat colour.

164

165 *Confrontation of previous knowledge with weight losses and colour evolutions measured*  
166 *during microwave cooking*

167 Microwave cooking has been chosen as an example because it is a cooking method widely  
168 used at domestic scale. Moreover, there are limited published data about the quality of beef  
169 cuts as affected by rapid heating methods including microwave (Tang, Lyng, Cronin &  
170 Durand, 2006). Traditional cooking methods (such as convection, contact, immersion, and  
171 infrared radiation) lead to heterogeneities between the product surface and its center.  
172 Microwave cooking/reheating is known to lead to more complex patterns of heterogeneity,  
173 related to either the geometric shape of the product (overheated corners and angles of  
174 parallelepipeds, or in cylindrical products, overheating of the product center) or to its  
175 composition (Ryynanen & Ohlsson, 1996). Work was dedicated during the ProSafeBeef  
176 project to microwave cooking to evaluate the effect of the difference sources of variations  
177 encountered in practice on the quality of cooked beef meat (Perez-Juan, Kondjoyan, Picouet  
178 & Realini, 2012). To discuss the results in the light of previous basic knowledge the  
179 heterogeneity of thermal treatment and its duration were determined using six or eight optical  
180 probes inserted in the roast. The dimensions of the roastbeef and its the position in the  
181 microwave were also perfectly controlled to ensure repeatable gradients of temperatures in  
182 the sample. Meat issued from different muscles (*Semitendinosus* and *Semimembranosus*)  
183 coming from animal of different ages (Friesian yearling heifers and mature cows) were  
184 cooked using combinations of microwave power (182 W and 654 W power) and final  
185 temperature (60 and 80°C). The gradient of temperature due to microwave heating was

186 mainly along the vertical cross-section of the sample. Underdone areas were observed at the  
187 roast surface being more evident in the central section while the edges were overcooked or  
188 almost burnt. Maximum temperature depended on the targeted temperature of each treatment,  
189 and therefore, was higher for roasts heated to a final temperature of 80°C compared with 60°C  
190 (Table 1). Most of the observed results agree with what is known from literature at a  
191 laboratory scale or what can be obtained using other heating sources than microwave. For  
192 example, microwave power affected treatment duration but neither the cooking loss, nor the  
193 product temperature. While cooking loss and colour variation were affected by the final meat  
194 temperature. A significant increase of lightness was observed in the SM when cooked to 80°C  
195 compared with 60°C (Table 2). However, some of the colour differences due to animal age  
196 were still evident after cooking. Moreover, other observations were less clear for example  
197 about the effect of animal age, which should have had no influence on the final meat  
198 temperature, which was not observed. This was partly due to the difficulties in controlling the  
199 microwave cooking under practical conditions. The initial difficulty to position the fiber  
200 sensors in raw meat and movement of these sensors during cooking can for example lead to  
201 artificially greater or smaller temperature. This is especially important when this temperature  
202 is used to control the treatment-time because heating can be stopped earlier/later which will  
203 lead to a lower/greater cooking loss than expected. This effect was clearly observed during  
204 some experiments in the SM muscle.

205

206 This study illustrates the difficulty to use basic literature knowledge issued from laboratory  
207 experiments to interpret what can be actually observed at a household scale. Despite the  
208 attempt of specialists of thermal science and of meat science to control the MW cooking of  
209 calibrated pieces of beef meat some non-expected results were observed. This was mainly  
210 due to the fact that quality was analysed too averagely while its evolution was locally  
211 dependent on the complex thermal gradient generated in the meat. Thus, at household scale it  
212 is often difficult to know if the observed effects come from a variation of the quality of the  
213 raw beef meat or if they come from a difference in the functioning of equipments. Combined  
214 transfer to quality modelling approach is developed in the following to predict weight losses  
215 and nutrient contents during the convection cooking of beef meat roasts. Convection cooking  
216 has been chosen since thermal gradients are quite easy to model in such a situation. However,  
217 combined transfer-quality modelling requires the knowledge of the time-evolution of the  
218 target quality at a given temperature which is studied in the next paragraph.

219

220

221 *Representation of the time evolution of the water holding capacity of the meat and of its*  
222 *colour using mathematical functions*

223 Effect of temperature on water de-bonding due to protein denaturation is generally taken  
224 into account in models by a mathematical function which describes the effect of temperature  
225 on the water holding capacity of the meat. Experiments are usually performed by immersing  
226 thin slices of meat in water bath at given temperature and waiting for equilibrium (no more  
227 weight loss). The results are often presented as the evolution of the equilibrium water content  
228 with temperature using a sigmoid function (Van der Sman, 2007, Goni and Salvadori, 2010).  
229 The difference between the initial and the equilibrium water contents is used to determine the  
230 loss of juice. It is considered that the value of the equilibrium water content is not dependent  
231 on the dimension of the sample and that the sigmoid shape of the function is verified  
232 whatever the type of muscle. This has been validated during the ProSafeBeef project using  
233 pieces of beef muscles of different dimensions and types (Fig. 1, Kondjoyan, Oilic,  
234 Portanguen & Gros, 2013). Effect of dimension which exists between thin meat slices of meat  
235 and 10mm-side-cubes becomes negligible when the dimension of the cube increases. Except  
236 for specific muscles as *Masseter*, the evolution of the equilibrium water content with  
237 temperature keeps a sigmoid shape. However, equilibrium values can be different from one  
238 type of muscle to another (Kondjoyan et al., 2013).

239 The knowledge of temperature thresholds is not enough to predict the evolution of colour  
240 which results from the kinetics of the previously mentioned chemical reactions. Thus,  
241 experimentations have been conducted during the ProSafeBeef project in order to model the  
242 effect of time and temperature on the kinetics of meat colour. Samples were cut in slices to  
243 ensure a uniform heating of the meat. The evolution of the three colour parameters in the  
244 CIELAB system ( $D65-10^\circ-L^*a^*b^*-d/8$  SCE) were measured during steam heating at three  
245 temperatures: 66, 98 and 205°C. These colour parameters were normalized relatively to their  
246 initial value measured on the raw meat. At 66°C or 98°C,  $L^*/L^*_0$  increases to a maximum  
247 during the first 30 to 60 seconds of the treatment and then stabilizes. At 205°C,  $L^*/L^*_0$   
248 increases during the first 10 s of the treatment and then decreases sharply toward a minimum  
249 value (Fig. 2). The variations of  $a^*/a^*_0$  are opposite to those of  $L^*/L^*_0$ .

250 Visually, the change of the colour parameters corresponds to the whitening, the browning and  
251 the darkening of the sample in the course of the cooking treatment. For the 66 and 98°C  
252 temperatures, sample whitened and then does not change colour until the end of the treatment  
253 where spots of brown were noticed. On the contrary, for the 205°C treatment the whitening is

254 limited to the first 10 s of the treatment, afterwards sample gets brown and darkens very  
255 quickly. A kinetics model based on two successive first order chemical reactions was  
256 developed to take into account the evolutions described previously (Portanguen, Lebert &  
257 Kondjoyan, 2009).

258

259

## 260 **2) Modeling the cooking yield and micronutrients content in cooked beef meat**

261

### 262 *2.1) Modeling the mass transfer and the cooking yield during cooking and cooling*

263

264 This discussion concerns water transfer in pieces of whole beef meat (grounded meat not  
265 considered here) during their cooking and following cooling. The temperature increase in the  
266 beef meat pieces leads to water debinding from the myofibrillar proteins and water migration  
267 under pressure in channels of different dimensions formed by the contraction of the complex  
268 muscle structure (Laroche, 1978; Lepetit, 2007; Lepetit, Grajales, & Favier, 2000). Van der  
269 Sman (2007) has modeled water transport in meat pieces during cooking by using the  
270 Flory–Rehner theory and the Darcy law. Feyissa, Gernaey, and Adler-Nissen (2013) have  
271 extended this work by inserting the mechanical forces to model the effect of protein  
272 contraction on the water transport inside roast meat. These works assumes that juice  
273 circulates in a uniform porous material which does not vary during heating. This is disputable  
274 because contraction of muscle structure leads to a network of interconnected channels of  
275 different sizes. The parameters introduced in these models are also difficult to determine for  
276 whole beef meat. Feyissa et al. (2013) reported data for ground meat and emphasized the  
277 need for more quantitative knowledge of the effect of temperature on meat permeability and  
278 meat elastic modulus. Another approach, which combines heat transfer and chemical kinetics,  
279 has been used in literature to model the cooking of whole beef meat (Goni & Salvadori,  
280 2010). This approach is simpler than the previous one and can be used for the multi-objective  
281 optimization of beef roasting (Goni & Salvadori, 2012). A limit of literature is that all  
282 previous models have been validated directly on a few pieces of meat of given size and shape  
283 derived from one type of muscle and subjected to air cooking conditions. This falls short,  
284 since a real determination of model performance requires a wide range of sample sizes and  
285 muscle types. Moreover, oven-cooking in dry air is not the best situation for a first test of  
286 model performance, since: (i) it is a complex situation where uncertainties on heat transfer  
287 "are mixed" with the uncertainties due to the mass transfer phenomena which drive to crust

288 formation, and (ii) air-cooking makes it difficult to effectively separate the water loss by  
289 evaporation from the water loss by protein denaturation–contraction.

290

291 Confronted with this literature knowledge a two sides approach was followed during the  
292 Prosafebeef project. On one side the simplest modeling approach of literature was improved  
293 and extensively validated to be able to predict, in a first step, the weight loss (Kondjoyan et  
294 al., 2013) and, in a second step, the loss of micronutrients associated with the juice migration.  
295 On the other side, an experimental method was developed to visualize the contraction of the  
296 connective tissue and of the muscle fibers during heating and to map out the water movement  
297 in the beef meat due to this contraction (Bouhrara et al, 2011).

298

299 Existing kinetic models of Goni & Salvadori (2012) was improved by introducing an explicit  
300 determination of the effect of sample thickness on mass transfer (Kondjoyan et al., 2013).  
301 Performance of the new model to predict weight loss was evaluated on a SM muscle using a  
302 wide range of samples which size varied from thin steaks to big muscle cuts (Oillic et al.  
303 2011). Different air/steam conditions were applied to analyze the transition from the wet to  
304 the dry air situation and sets of experiments were performed on other muscles than the SM to  
305 extend the application of the model (Kondjoyan et al., 2013). Some predicted and measured  
306 weight losses are compared in figure 3 to illustrate the results. The predicted cooking losses  
307 agreed with the measurements on all the meat samples regardless of their dimensions and of  
308 the time-temperature conditions. During cooking by air convection water evaporation at the  
309 meat surface can be a further cause of weight loss. However, measurements and simulations  
310 led to the conclusion that during the study of Kondjoyan et al. (2013) most of the evaporation  
311 came from the juice already expelled by the denaturation and the contraction of proteins.  
312 Globally the simple model which combined heat transfer and a kinetic approach was enough  
313 accurate to predict the average weight loss under very different cooking conditions. However,  
314 it does not take into account neither the coupling between the mechanical phenomena, which  
315 induce the meat contraction, and juice flow, nor the effect of the juice flow and of the meat  
316 contraction on the temperature variations close to the meat surface.

317

318 The new method developed to visualize the contraction of the muscle structure and its effect  
319 on juice flow was based on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). MRI was used because it is a  
320 noninvasive, nondestructive tool that can be used to characterize properties and structures  
321 both locally and dynamically (Bouhrara et al, 2011; Bouhrara, Clerjon, Damez, Kondjoyan &

322 Bonny, 2012). A novel device was designed to heat the sample in an NMR imager. Rapid  
323 MRI methods were developed both to contrast the connective tissue and the muscle fibers in  
324 the images and to map water during heating. The contrasted images were used to quantify  
325 deformation fields during heating (Bouhrara, Lehallier, Clerjon, Damez & Bonny, 2012).  
326 Finally, global models were developed which link the water content and the deformation to  
327 temperature (Fig. 4). The contraction of myofibrillar and collagen networks was observed at  
328 38°C, and water began to migrate toward the interfascicular space at 38°C. A strong  
329 deformation occurred between 54 and 70°C. Variation of the interfascicular space and matrix  
330 contraction led to complex juice flow patterns within the muscle.

331 The previous MRI method is able to analyze in 3 dimensions the anisotropic deformation of  
332 the sample and the formation of the channels of various sizes through which the juice will be  
333 expelled outside the meat. This method will be very helpful for the design and the validation  
334 of models such as those of Feyissa et al., (2013) but which will be more realistic, because  
335 they will take into account the non-uniformity and time-variation of the porosity of the meat  
336 and the anisotropy of the mechanical deformations.

337

## 338 *2.2) Prediction of the loss of micronutrients during cooking*

339

340 Literature has shown that the loss of water soluble vitamins during cooking was often close to  
341 the measured weight loss. This is the case for Lombardi-Boccia, Lanzi & Aguzzi (2005), who  
342 have analyzed the content of B vitamins in raw and cooked beef cuts issued from 5 types of  
343 muscles (sirloin, fillet, roast beef, topside and thick flank) and find 36 % to 42 % of niacin  
344 loss depending on the type of muscle. Leskova et al. (2006) have reviewed the retention of  
345 most of the vitamins during heat treatments and its prediction by mathematical models. They  
346 stress on the effect of the cooking method and of the cooking conditions on the loss of  
347 vitamins. For example the retention of vitamin B6, which was 6.5 % during meat frying,  
348 ranged from 43 to 71 % during roasting and broiling. Similarly, the retention of niacin varied  
349 from 45 to 90 % depending on the culinary treatment. Leskova et al. (2006) finally mentioned  
350 the lack of kinetic models to predict the loss of vitamins and they insisted on the necessity for  
351 the models to take into account the effect of the type of vitamin, of the cooking method, and  
352 more generally of all the process conditions on the vitamins losses.

353

354 Thus, a modeling approach was developed during the ProSafeBeef project to predict the  
355 concentration of vitamin B3 and B6 according to the size of the meat cut and to the heating  
356 conditions. Vitamin losses by juice expelling was predicted using the weight loss model of

357 Kondjoyan et al. (2013) while the thermal degradation kinetics of these two vitamins were  
358 measured in juice and in thin slices of meat under controlled conditions. Validation  
359 experiments were performed on meat cut of different sizes. Results prove that the  
360 concentration in vitamin B6 decreased faster in the juice than in the meat cuts probably  
361 because of the difference in the degradation due to light. Vitamin B3 was almost only present  
362 in nicotinamide form, nicotinic acid being in very small proportion (from 1 to 5 µg/g DM).  
363 On the contrary, to vitamin B6, no thermal denaturation of nicotinamide content was  
364 measured in the meat cubes heated in water-bath, even after 15 hours at 90°C. This was  
365 coherent with literature which asserts that vitamin B3 is particularly heat-resistant. Thus, the  
366 loss of vitamin B3 was predicted afterwards directly from the calculated quantity of expelled  
367 juice while the thermal degradation of the vitamin B6 was added to the quantity of B6  
368 expelled in the juice to determine the total loss of this vitamin (Fig. 5). The model was  
369 validated during the oven-roasting of meat cuts of different size heated under different  
370 conditions. Values predicted by the model were consistent with experimental values. The  
371 average of the algebraic difference between the predicted and the measured values ranged  
372 from -2.2 to 11.6 % of the experimental value. Then, the validated model was used to predict  
373 the loss of vitamin B3 and B6 under different heating conditions. During grilling or pan  
374 frying of steaks, the loss in vitamin B was only due to juice expelling and was ranging from 4  
375 to 23 % depending on the degree of doneness (cooking time). During roasting, the loss of  
376 vitamin B3 in beef meat was in between 25 and 32 % mainly depending on the final core  
377 temperature of the meat (50-70°C), while it was in between 30 and 41 % during simmering.  
378 The additional loss fraction of vitamin B6 due to thermal denaturation was between 5 and  
379 10% during roasting and simmering and reached 30% during very long boiling/steam  
380 treatments. This study illustrates how heat mass transfer models can associated to  
381 denaturation models to predict the nutritional quality of cooked beef meat.

382

383

### 384 **3) Formation of Heterocyclic Amines during the roasting and the grilling of beef meat**

385

386 The HAAs are usually formed as end-products of the Maillard reaction at moderate  
387 temperatures (150-200°C) and products of pyrolysis *via* radicalar mechanisms for high  
388 temperatures (>300°C) (Messner & Murkovic, 2004). Beef meat contains creatinine and  
389 tryptophan which can lead to the formation of HAAs once the product temperature goes over  
390 the 90-100°C threshold (Skog, Johansson & Jagerstad, 1998). According to Polak, Dosler,

391 Zlender & Gasperlin (2009) the increase of creatinine and free aminoacids during meat  
392 ageing favors the formation of HAAs. This difference in the content of precursors is also put  
393 forward by Sterk, Roszko, Malek, Kurek, Zbiec, & Waszkiewicz-Robak (2012b) to interpret  
394 the difference of HAAs formation between the *Psoas Majors* and the *Gluteus Medius*. In their  
395 study, storage temperature has also an effect on HAAs formation. However, the variations  
396 due to the muscle type or to storage were much smaller than the differences due to the  
397 cooking method. The rate of HAAs formation increases with temperature, reaching very high  
398 rates between 150 and 200°C, which are the temperatures commonly found when grilling or  
399 roasting meat. HAAs formation tends to be promoted by low water activity but slowed by  
400 marination (Pais, Salmon, Knize & Felton, 1999; Sinha, Knize & Felton, 1997). Some  
401 literature results have concluded that increasing the content in lipids decreases the formation  
402 of HAAs (Hwang & Ngadi, 2002) while lipid oxidation promotes their formation as recently  
403 shown for PhIP (Zamora, Alcon & Hidalgo, 2012). Thus, antioxidants like vitamin E have  
404 been used to prevent HAAs formation (Balogh, Gray, Gomaa & Booren, 2000). Wine, garlic,  
405 rosemary or other ingredients in the marinade could also have a similar effect as vitamin E  
406 (Busquets, Puignou, Galceran, & Skog, 2006; Gibis, 2007). Phenolic compounds in the frying  
407 oil (Persson, Graziani, Ferracane, Fogliano, & Skog, 2003) or lipid oxidation compounds  
408 (Randel et al., 2007) appear to be linked to lower quantities of HAAs. HAAs mainly form at  
409 the product surface, in the “crust”. The quantity produced is directly dependent on the  
410 cooking process and on the cooking equipment. However, integrating these elements remains  
411 a complex task due, in particular, to the difficulty in measuring the temperature at the product  
412 surface (Knize, Cunningham, Avila, Jones, Griffin, & Felton, 1994; Knize et al., 1995;  
413 Murkovic & Pfannhauser, 2000). Epidemiological studies have widely reported an indirect  
414 link between the quantity of HAAs produced and the cooking stage, which is itself assessed  
415 through the colour of the cooked meat (Sinha et al., 1998; Sinha et al., 1999; Rohrmann &  
416 Becker, 2001, 2002; Rohrmann, Zoller, Hermann, & Linseisen, 2007; Aaslyng,  
417 Duedahl-Olesen, Jensen, & Meinert, 2013). Finally, it can be concluded from literature that  
418 although, cooked meat and meat juices are significant sources of HAAs, it remains difficult to  
419 reliably estimate the consumer exposure depending on his practice, on the type of meat and  
420 on the type of equipment (Skog, 2002; Murkovic, 2004). Combined transfer-reaction  
421 modeling can be a great help in dealing with the variety of conditions encountered in practice.  
422 Such, an approach has already been followed by Tran, Salmon, Knize and Colvin (2002) to  
423 simulate the formation of HAAs during pan frying of beef patties. However, the mass transfer  
424 (no juice migration) and the formation of the crust at the surface of the patties were not really

425 modeled. Gradient of temperature in the meat patties was calculated using a conduction  
426 model and assuming either that heat capacity of the meat was constant or variable depending  
427 on the local temperature value. The simulated temperature agreed with the measurement at  
428 the center of the patties. This was not the case at 6 mm from the surface where the differences  
429 of temperature between the simulated and the measured values were greater than 10°C at the  
430 end of cooking. Differences were probably even greater in the crust area which thickness  
431 during pan frying is usually less than 2 mm. A first order kinetic model and an Arrhenius  
432 relation were used to predict the formation of HAAs, using the same activation energy value  
433 for all the HAAs. A more sophisticated modeling of the heat-mass transfer during frying of  
434 beef patties has been developed recently Sprague and Colvin (2011). A diffusion model was  
435 used to predict the mass transfer (lipid and water) while the temperatures were simulated  
436 using a mixture-enthalpy formulation to account for the liquid and the vapor state of water.  
437 The coherence between the predicted and the measured quantity of HAAs in the simulations  
438 of Tran et al. (2002) and Sprague & Colvin (2011) proves the interest of the transfer-reaction  
439 approach. However, the transfer and reaction models have not been validated enough to  
440 ensure reliable predictions on HAAs formation. The objective of the work performed during  
441 the Prosafebeef project was to progress on the kinetic modeling of HAAs formation in beef  
442 meat and to analyze experimentally this formation during roasting, in relation with the  
443 development of the crust at the surface of beef meat pieces. These are two key points to  
444 predict reliably HAAs formation by transfer-reaction models. In a first step, experiments and  
445 kinetic modeling were performed on uniformly heated slices of meat. The results were  
446 compared to the kinetics model developed in liquid systems (Arvidson, van Boekel, Skog,  
447 Solyakov, & Jägerstad, 1999; Murkovic, 2004). In a second step, the results obtained on meat  
448 slices were confronted to what occurred at the surface of bigger meat pieces. Experiments on  
449 meat slices and bigger meat pieces were also used to validate different mitigation strategies to  
450 decrease the formation of HAAs.

451

### 452 3.1) *Experiments on meat slices*

453

454 Two set of experiments were performed on meat slices. The first set aimed at determining the  
455 effect of process conditions (time-temperature, relative humidity) on HAAs formation in  
456 meat tissues issued from different muscles. The second set of experiments aimed at studying  
457 the effect of marination on HAAs formation.

458

459

460 *HAA formation in non-marinated beef meat*

461 During the first set of experiments jets were used to heat 1-2 mm meat slices of lean  
462 *Longissimus thoracis* and *Semimembranosus* muscles (Kondjoyan et al., 2010 a, b). These  
463 muscles were aged and stored under the same conditions. The jets were either, superheated  
464 steam jet, or hot air jet to be able to vary the water activity of the meat. The temperature was  
465 considered as rapidly uniform in the meat and the whole slice as being as a formed crust.  
466 Experiments were restricted to 20 minutes because afterwards the slice was “bursting”.  
467 HAAs content was measured by LC-APCI-MS/MS according to a method specially adapted  
468 for beef meat (Kondjoyan et al., 2010 a, b). Analysis of the results led to the conclusion that  
469 four HAAs namely IQx, 4,8-DiMeIQx, MeIQx and PhIP were mainly formed during the heat  
470 treatments and that their concentration followed regular kinetic patterns. After only 10min of  
471 treatment the formation of HAAs was plateauing or followed by degradation. HAAs  
472 formation increased significantly between 170 and 200°C. Results depended on the jet  
473 conditions. The results were compared to the ones obtained in literature in liquid systems  
474 (Arvidson, van Boekel, Skog, Solyakov, & Jägerstad, 1999; Murkovic, 2004). Under  
475 superheated steam jet conditions, the amounts of IQx and 4,8-DiMeIQx formed in LT slices  
476 were 3 to 4-fold smaller than those reported in literature for meat juices, while quantities of  
477 MeIQx and PhIP remained comparable. Under hot-air jet conditions the amount of HAAs  
478 formed in the SM muscle was clearly lower than that formed in the LT muscle as soon as the  
479 heat treatment was longer than 300s. In this study, the content of the two muscles in creatine  
480 and in amino acids and other precursors was similar except for phenylalanine and glycogen  
481 which have to be hydrolysed before affecting HAAs formation. The difference in the content  
482 of amino acids and sugar between the two raw muscles was very small and thus could not  
483 explain the difference between the two muscles. Thus, the difference between the two  
484 muscles was attributed to variations in the water migration and content. The extreme  
485 dehydration obtained with the hot-air jets slowed the formation of IQx, MeIQx and,  
486 particularly, 4,8-DiMeIQx compared with superheated steam treatments. The reverse effect  
487 was observed for PhIP concentrations which increased 1.4 to 5.5-fold. These original results  
488 obtained on meat slices confirm what was observed in juice system i.e. there is a temperature  
489 threshold of 150°C above which the formation of HAAs is really boosted. They also highlight  
490 the importance of the nature of the muscle tissue, and of the water activity variation on HAAs  
491 formation. The first-order kinetic model used in literature to describe the results obtained in  
492 liquid systems was adapted to predict the results on meat slices, taking into account the time-  
493 temperature variation in the slice over the course of the experiment. The parameters of the

494 kinetic model were different from one HAA to another and also different from the values  
495 obtained in liquid systems.

496

#### 497 *HAAs formation in marinated beef meat*

498 The second set of experiments, which aimed at studying the effect of marination on HAAs  
499 formation, was performed on meat slices 3 mm in thickness and 60 mm in diameter (10 g) cut  
500 from Roastbeef muscles issued from three young bulls of Holstein breed. These meat slices  
501 were grilled on a hot plate at 220°C for 10 min. (5 min per side, turned over every 1 min).  
502 Marination is often proposed in literature as a mean way to decrease the formation of HAAs  
503 in grilled and roasted beef meat. This HAAs decrease is generally attributed to the  
504 antioxidant effect of plant extracts placed in the marinade. However, other compounds such  
505 as NaCl or phosphates can affect HAAs formation by modifying the transfer of juice from the  
506 center of the product to its surface.

507 The objective of this set of experiments was to determine how the combined effect of a  
508 modification of juice migration and of the addition of an antioxidant compounds can decrease  
509 the formation of HAAs. Rosemary extracts were chosen for their well-known antioxidant  
510 activity. NaCl and polyphosphate were examined because they are used in main of the  
511 delicatessen products and are known to affect the water holding capacity of the meat. They  
512 can also affect iron, or oxygen concentration or solubility, in meat with some contradictory  
513 effects on lipid and protein oxidation. In literature, the effect of NaCl on oxidation is still  
514 much debated. For many authors, NaCl may act as pro-oxidant in meat products (Kanner,  
515 Harrel, & Jaffe, 1991; Sarraga, Carreras, & Garcia Regueiro, 2002). Nevertheless, in some  
516 conditions, inhibition of oxidation by NaCl has also been reported. For example, Rhee, Smith  
517 & Terrell (1983) reported that NaCl activated lipid oxidation at low concentration but  
518 inhibited at concentration greater than 2 % in ground pork. In dry-cured pork loins, Sarraga et  
519 al. (2002) have also observed an antioxidant effect at 3 %. Other authors have demonstrated  
520 that polyphosphate can inhibit myoglobin and lipid oxidation during meat storage (Allen, &  
521 Cornforth, 2006; Lee, Hendricks, & Conforth, 1998). At the pH of meat, polyphosphates  
522 have multiple negative charges which can bind cations and contribute to its antioxidant  
523 properties in meat. Thus, NaCl and Phosphate at higher concentrations than 3 % should both  
524 increase the water concentration of the meat pieces and increase the antioxidant reactions.  
525 The four HAAs (2-amino-3-methylimidazo [4,5-f]-quinoline (IQ) regularly formed in  
526 greatest quantity at these temperatures, 2-amino-3,4-dimethylimidazo[4,5-f]-quinoline  
527 (MeIQ), 2-amino-3,4,8-trimethylimidazo[4,5-]quinoxaline (DiMeIQx) and 2-amino-1-

528 methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-b]pyridine (PhIP) were quantified in the meat extract.  
529 Extraction and quantification of HAAs were performed using the same procedures as the one  
530 used in the previous set of experiments (Kondjoyan et al., 2010 a, b).  
531 The largest concentrations of HAAs were found in the non-marinated control steaks.  
532 Rosemary extracts decreased the formation of MeIQ and PhIP but increased the concentration  
533 of IQ and DiMeIQx. Addition of Sodium, Chlorite and Tripolyphosphate led to an important  
534 decrease of the concentration of IQ, DiMeIQx and PhIP but had no effect on the formation of  
535 MeIQ (Table 4). These results can explain some contradictions of literature when different  
536 antioxidative extracts are added to marinade to decrease the formation of HAAs. If these  
537 marinades already contain NaCl and Sodium Polyphosphate, the assumed active effect of the  
538 extracts can be biased by the presence of the salts. It is also reasonable to think that the  
539 formation of HAAs in delicatessen issued from pork meat can be mitigated by the presence of  
540 salts. However, it is not recommended to increase the NaCl content in marinated beef  
541 products because sodium is known to have detrimental effects on human health. The kinetics  
542 of the oxidation reactions and, the effect of antioxidants on the rate of the reactions are not  
543 known in meat. Moreover, it has been shown during the project that salt present in the  
544 marinade can modify the mass transfer. Thus the situation in marinated product is very  
545 complex and the following of the work was focused on crust formation at the surface of non-  
546 marinated beef meat.

547

### 548 3.2) *Crust development and HAAs formation at the surface of small roast beefs*

549

550 Previous experiments on meat slices aim at limiting the temperature and the water gradients  
551 to better quantify the effect of process conditions or of meat composition on the formation of  
552 HAAs. However, in practice, crust is only a thin area close to the surface of the meat which  
553 thickened during grilling and roasting. The HAAs content in the whole meat piece depends  
554 on the gradients of temperature and of water content in the thickening crust and of the relative  
555 importance of this crust area with respects to the non-crust area. Thus, it was important to  
556 analyze the crust development and its effect on HAAs formation. This was performed during  
557 the project at the surface of a 5 cm thick cylindrical piece of meat subjected during up to  
558 90 min to a jet at 210°C which mimics the cooking by air convection of a roast beef in a fan-  
559 assisted oven. Analysis of the thermal exchanges in the crust area requires the measurement  
560 of surface and under surface temperatures. This is not easy when meat is cooked in an oven  
561 due to problems of accessibility and to probe movements generated by the heat shrinkage of  
562 the meat sample. Thus, experiments were performed using: (1) an open jet system which

563 enables the IR measurement of surface temperature, and (2) a specific device which partially  
564 compensates heat shrinkage and thermocouple movements. Results prove that during these  
565 experiments, no plateauing and no degradation of the quantity of HAAs were observed even  
566 after 90 min at 210°C. This was the contrary to what had been observed in meat slices where  
567 the formation of HAAs was plateauing or followed by their degradation after only 10 min of  
568 treatment at 170-210°C (Kondjoyan et al., 2010 a, b). This degradation had also been  
569 observed in liquid systems when HAAs were heated in test tubes at 200°C (Arvidsson et al.,  
570 1999). This contradiction can be due to the fact that the crust area, where the temperature was  
571 higher than 200°C, only represented a small portion of the area where HAAs were forming  
572 (temperature higher than 150°C). Thus, the small degradation which occurred in the 200°C  
573 area of the crust was overwhelmed by the HAAs formation in the other parts of the crust.  
574 Another cause can be related to the variation of the precursors content in the crust. When thin  
575 slices of meat are subjected to air flows, precursors are quickly consumed which can explain  
576 why in meat slices HAAs degradation occurred just after ten minutes of treatment. On the  
577 contrary, in roasts the juice which comes from the core to the surface brings precursors which  
578 can be used for further formation of HAAs.

579 Previous results illustrate that the transposition of the results obtained in thin slices to bigger  
580 meat pieces is not direct and that it will require both the modeling of the thickening crust and  
581 of the thermal gradient close to the surface, and probably also the modeling of the migration  
582 of the precursors with juice from the center of the meat piece towards its surface. An accurate  
583 modeling of these phenomena remains a challenge for the future modeling research. The  
584 second set of experiments on meat cylinder was also used to validate a mitigation strategy of  
585 HAAs formation based on the control of temperature at the surface of the meat. The idea was  
586 to subject the surface of the meat to a temperature less than 150°C to mitigate the formation  
587 of HAAs while promoting the formation of the crust as desired by many consumers which  
588 like the grilled or the roasted meat. Conditions were actually found where the meat product  
589 kept the traditional roasted aspect while being almost completely free of HAAs compared to  
590 beef meat as classically roasted in oven.

591

592

### 593 **Conclusion**

594 The variations of the water holding capacity of the beef meat, of its color, of the degradation  
595 of the B vitamins and of the formation of HAAs have been studied in slices of beef meat  
596 uniformly heated. Mathematical relations have been found to describe the quality kinetics.

597 Some of these relations were combined with a heat transfer model to predict the weight loss  
598 and the content of the B3 and B6 vitamins in pieces of SM muscle subjected to air/steam  
599 convection. The predictions of this combined model were validated experimentally on meat  
600 pieces of different sizes subjected to various air/steam conditions. This approach can be  
601 extended to other thermal treatments, to other beef muscles or to other micronutrients.

602 The use of combined transfer-reaction models to predict HAAs formation is more difficult.  
603 The transfers in the developing crust are complex and the routes of the reactions responsible  
604 for the formation of HAAs are not fully elucidated. However, ProsafeBeef work has led to  
605 some original results which can be used for the development of new models. For example the  
606 formation of HAAs seems to depend on the arrival of precursors which migrate with the juice  
607 towards the meat surface. Moreover, salts added with the marinade can affect both the  
608 oxidation reactions and the migration of juice.

609 The modelling approach, which combines heat transfer and chemical kinetics, was successful  
610 to predict the transfer of juice. Thanks to its simplicity it can be easily used for the multi-  
611 objective optimization of beef cooking. It can also lead, in the future, to lumped models  
612 usable by scientists and engineers which have no skill in numerical modeling. However, this  
613 approach has its limits. It is not linked with the anisotropic deformation of the beef meat  
614 sample and with the effect of meat contraction on juice expelling. These aspects are  
615 important to analyze the effect of cooking on the meat mechanical properties and tenderness.  
616 This is also important if local variations of the juice migration have to be taken into account  
617 to determine the formation of HAAs in the crust. More generally, the models existing in  
618 literature to predict the gradient of temperature in the crust at the surface of meat during  
619 grilling and roasting remain too simple and need to be improved. The MRI method developed  
620 during the project can be very helpful to design and to validate new transfer models. HAAs  
621 are not the only potential toxic compounds which form during grilling and roasting.  
622 Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and products of lipid oxidation are other potentially toxic  
623 compounds which come from the same kind of precursors and reactions routes as flavour  
624 compounds. Thus, a more complete understanding of these reactions in meat is required to  
625 find how to promote flavour while mitigating the formation of the process-induced food  
626 toxicants.

627

628

629

630

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635

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## Figures legends

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**Figure 1:** Variation of water content in the meat at equilibrium (longest cooking times),  $X_{eq}$ , at different water-bath temperatures. Black squares signify the value measured on ST muscle by Goni and Salvadori (2010). Other symbols represent the measurements reported by Oillic, Lemoine, Gros & Kondjoyan (2011) on IS, LT, MA, SM and ST muscles. The dashed line is the sigmoid function used by Goni and Salvadori (2010) to fit their experimental results.

**Figure 2:** Kinetics of  $L^*/L^*_0$  measured on beef samples subjected to superheated steam jets at different temperatures. A kinetics model based on two successive first order chemical reactions was developed. Colour measurement: CIELAB system (D65-10°-L\*a\*b\*-d/8 SCE).

**Figure 3:** Cooking losses predicted by the combined heat transfer to kinetics model on SM meat cubes heated in the water bath (full lines) compared against measured losses (symbols  $\square$ ,  $\Delta$ ,  $\diamond$ ). The side length of the cube is (a) 10mm, (b) 30mm, (c) 50mm, and (d) 70mm, respectively. Symbols correspond to the different water bath temperatures.

**Figure 4:** Proton density versus average temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) (a). The proton density in the muscle decreases considerably with temperature, it is in part due to Curie's law and can also be explained by contraction that expels intramuscular water outside the muscle. Cumulative deformation (mm) *versus* temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) (b). Before  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$ , cumulative deformation is very slight and corresponds to the accumulation of the image registration error. The moderate strain between  $\sim 38$  and  $\sim 54^{\circ}\text{C}$  corresponds to myosin denaturing and the beginning of collagen denaturing. The acceleration of deformation after  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  is due to the temperature effect on sarcoplasmic proteins and to the collagen inducing contraction of the connective network. Plateaus of deformations that occur from  $\sim 68^{\circ}\text{C}$  can be explained by the end of one or several of these phenomena.

**Figure 5:** Evolution of the concentration of the B6 vitamin in meat samples. Squares are the values measured at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$ , diamonds are those measured at  $90^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; full lines are the values calculated by the model. Dotted lines represent the calculated quantities of the vitamin B6 expelled in the juice during cooking at  $60$  and  $90^{\circ}\text{C}$  respectively.

## Tables legends

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860 **Table 1:** Effect of animal age, microwave power and temperature on maximum temperature  
861 (least squares means  $\pm$  SE, °C) for *Semitendinosus* beef roasts.

862

863 **Table 2:** Effect of animal age, microwave power and temperature on color lightness (L\*),  
864 redness (a\*) and yellowness (b\*) for *Semimembranosus* beef roasts. Least squares means  $\pm$   
865 SE.

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867 **Table 3:** The content of the studied aminoazarens in 3mm slice of beef meat (ng/g of  
868 lyophylized sample). The same letters by values indicate no statistically significant  
869 differences at the level of  $p=0.05$ . Data were analysed by Anova, range test at a significance  
870 level of  $P=0.05$  (Statistica 8.0, StatSoft Inc., Tulsa, USA).

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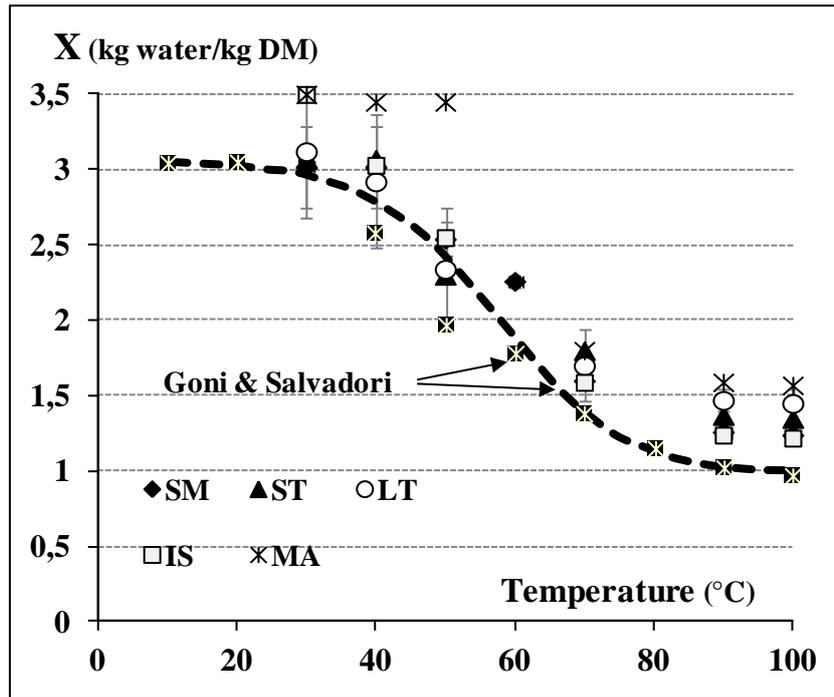
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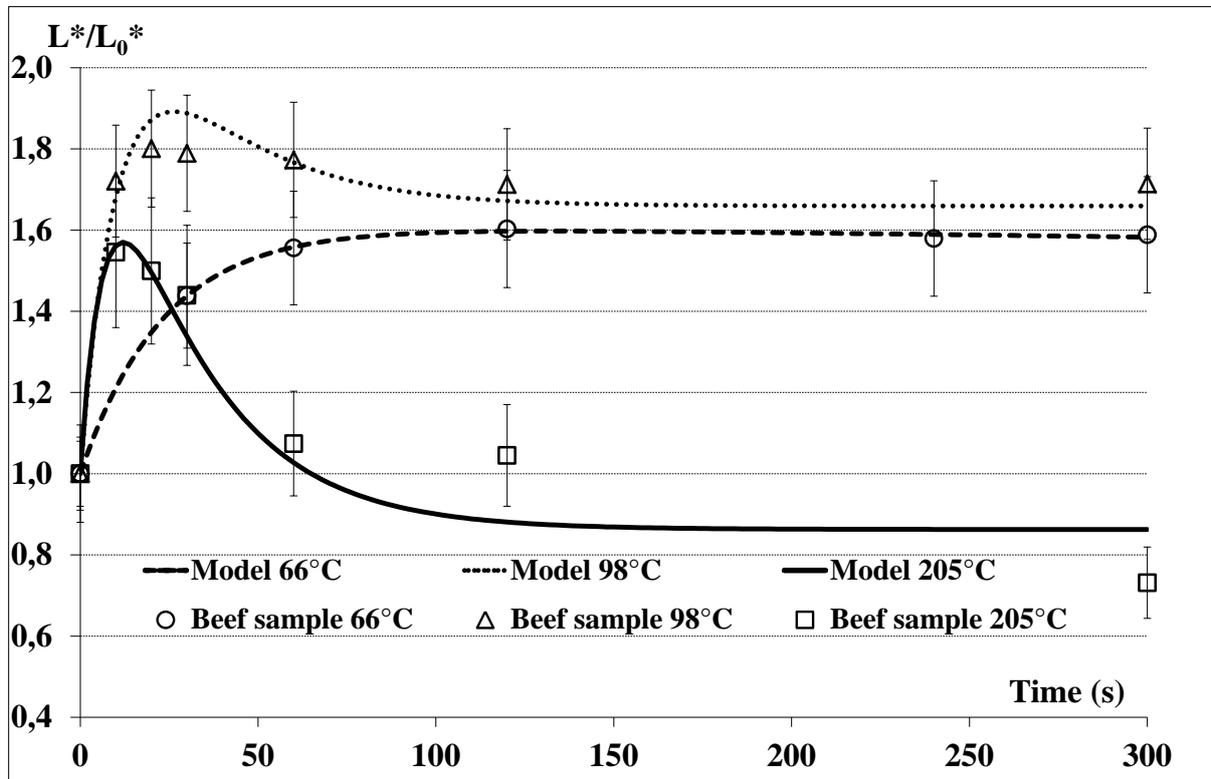
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888 **Figure 1**

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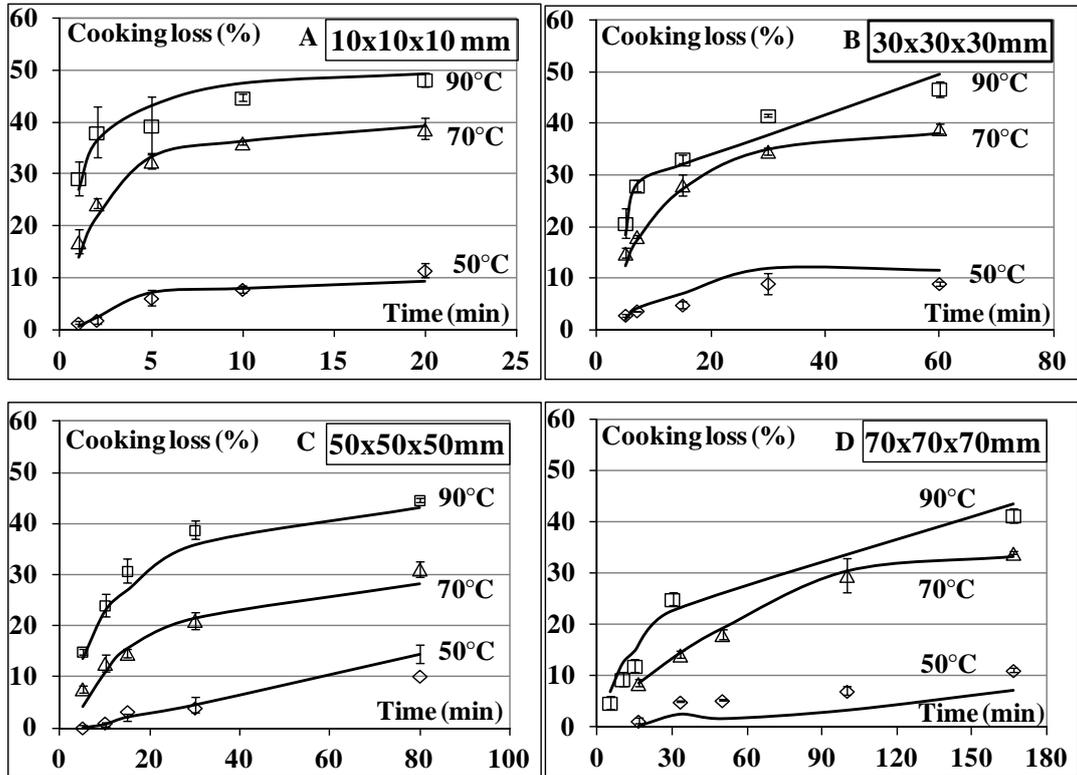
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891 **Figure 2**

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**Figure 3**

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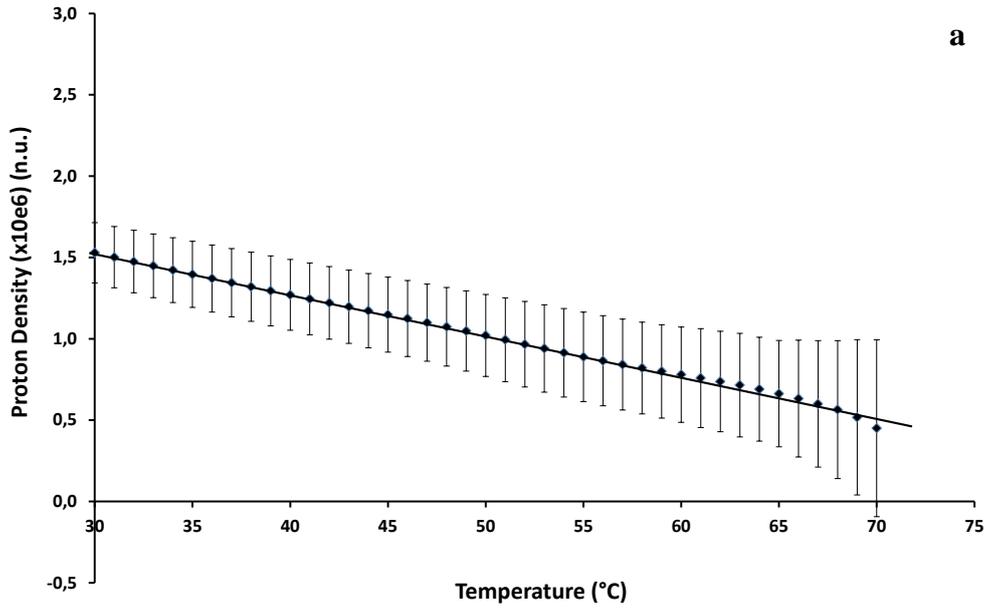
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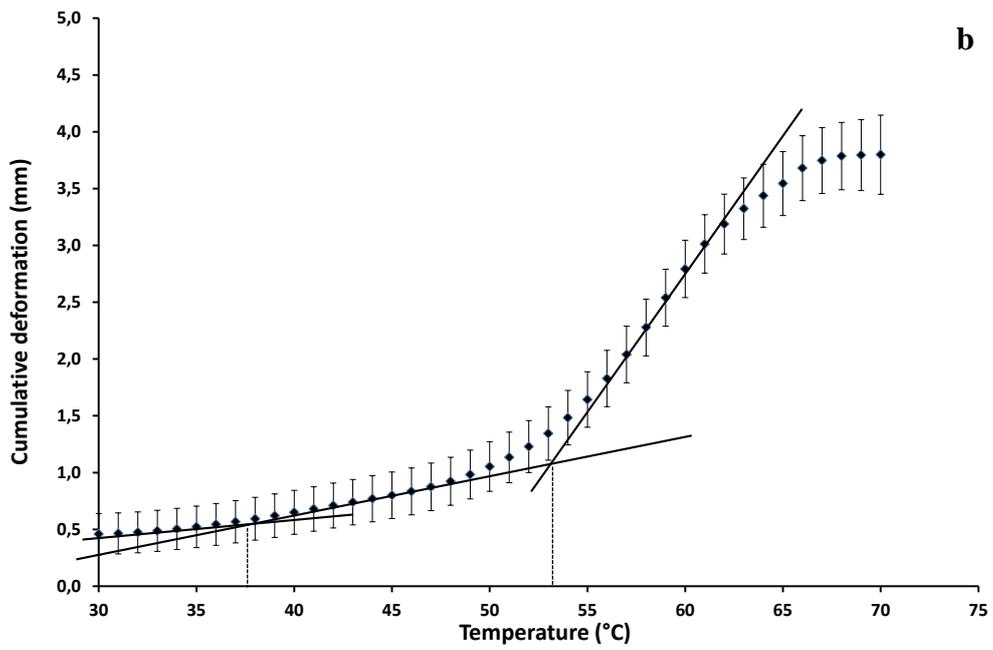
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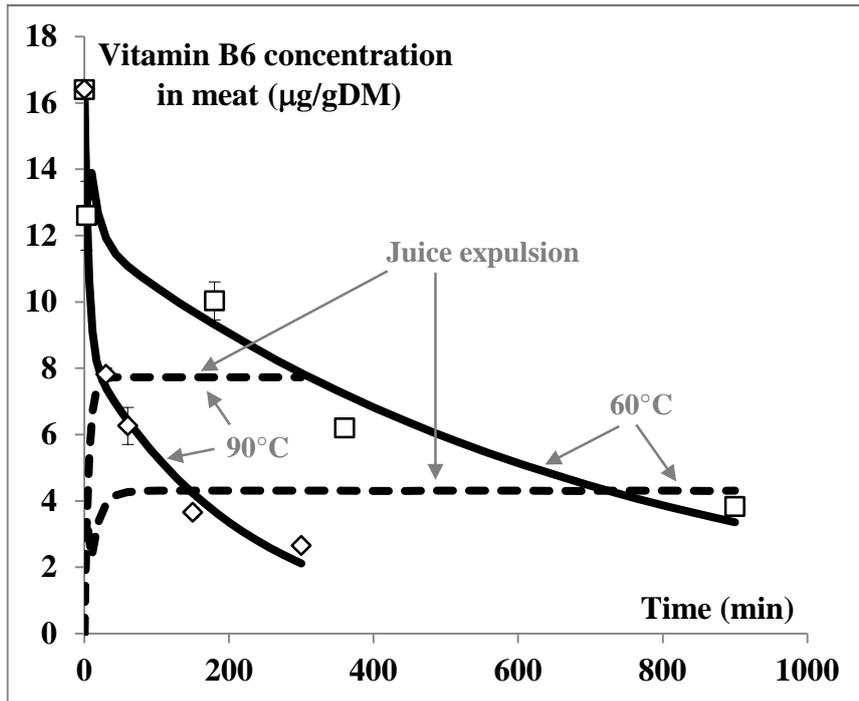
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**Figure 4**

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931 **Figure 5**

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		Maximum temperature (°C)
Age	Heifers	76.9 <sup>b</sup> ±1.3
	Cows	82.1 <sup>a</sup> ±1.3
Power (W)	Temp (°C)	
182	60	71.8 <sup>c</sup> ±1.9
182	80	84.8 <sup>a</sup> ±1.9
654	60	77.7 <sup>b</sup> ±1.9
654	80	83.6 <sup>a</sup> ±1.8

942 <sup>a,b,c</sup> Within a column, main effect, and interaction effect, least squares means with different  
 943 letters differ ( $P<0.05$ ). Power\*Temperature  $P<0.05$ .

944 **Table 1**

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		L*	a*	b*
Age	Heifers	55.29 <sup>a</sup> ±0.40	7.71 <sup>b</sup> ±0.27	12.62 <sup>a</sup> ±0.19
	Cows	46.20 <sup>b</sup> ±0.40	10.18 <sup>a</sup> ±0.27	10.98 <sup>b</sup> ±0.19
Temp (°C)	60	49.70 <sup>b</sup> ±0.37	10.22 <sup>a</sup> ±0.25	11.98±0.18
	80	52.09 <sup>a</sup> ±0.37	7.66 <sup>b</sup> ±0.25	11.62±0.18

949 <sup>a,b</sup> Within a column, main effect, least squares means with different letters differ ( $P<0.05$ ).

950 **Table 2**

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Variant of steaks	IQ	MeIQ	DiMeIQx	PhIP
Control sample (non-marinated steaks)	0,020±0,005 <sup>b</sup>	0,011±0,005 <sup>b</sup>	1,785±0,189 <sup>b</sup>	124,819±19,646 <sup>c</sup>
STPP 6%, NaCl 6%	0,001±0,001 <sup>a</sup>	0,023±0,001 <sup>b</sup>	0,086±0,020 <sup>a</sup>	22,367±1,111 <sup>a</sup>
Rosemary extract 0,35%, NaCl 6%	0,039±0,013 <sup>c</sup>	0,006±0,001 <sup>a</sup>	2,183±0,143 <sup>c</sup>	80,406±13,632 <sup>b</sup>

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962 **Table 3**

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