



Short communication

## An approach to predict chemical composition of goat *Longissimus thoracis et lumborum* muscle by Near Infrared Reflectance spectroscopy



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### ABSTRACT

The ability of near infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) to estimate the protein, moisture, connective tissue and ash content in the *Longissimus thoracis et lumborum* (LTL) muscle of goat was studied. Samples ( $n = 240$ ) of the LTL muscle were taken from the 8th to 13th rib cut of goat carcasses. Samples were scanned in a FT-NIR Master™ N500 (BÜCHI) over a NIR spectral range of  $4000\text{--}10,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a resolution of  $4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . It was collected 3 spectra per sample and subsequently, chemical analyses were performed at the Carcass and Meat Quality Laboratory of ESA-IPB. Using NirCal 1.5 it was developed a PLS regression model assaying, first and second derivatives as math treatment and multiplicative scatter correction for minimizing scattering effect on the spectra database recorded ( $n = 240$ ). The best calibrations' models show relatively good predictability for protein (standard error of prediction SEP = 0.43; coefficient of determination  $R^2 = 0.91$ ), moisture (SEP = 0.48;  $R^2 = 0.92$ ). Calibrations' models obtained are important as a first attempt to predict the chemical composition of goat meat by NIRS. More experimental data are needed to improve the accuracy of these calibrations.

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### 1. Introduction

The near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) using the Fourier transform (FT) is a technology known by the end of 1960s when a computerized spectrophotometer NIR was

developed, and its applicability to the analysis of meat was shown (Ben-Gera and Norris, 1968). NIRS technology is currently a highly versatile tool used in diverse fields including the food industry and particularly in animal science to predict the chemical and physical composition of meat of different species (Weeranantanaphan et al., 2011). Due to this high versatility, the technology is being used for large-scale meat quality evaluation to predict chemical composition (Prieto et al., 2009). Identification and authentication is other applications for which NIR spectroscopy is a valuable tool as to identify (beef, pork, lamb

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and chicken) and authenticate different homogenized meat muscle species (Damez and Clerjon, 2013). In goats, as far as we know, there are no studies about the reliability and accuracy of this technology to characterize the meat composition. This work was a first approach to study the ability of NIRS to estimate the protein, moisture, connective tissue, ash and fat content in the *Longissimus thoracis et lumborum* (LTL) muscle of goat meat.

## 2. Materials and methods

A total of 400 goats of *Serrana* breed, between 5 and 9 years old and with live weights between 35 and 40 kg were used in this study of BISOVI-CAP (Project QREN SI I&DT Co-Promotion n° 21511/201) project. Samples ( $n = 240$ ) of LTL muscle were taken from the 8th to 13th rib of the goat carcasses randomly selected. Samples were minced in a power mill (BÜCHI B-400) specific for meat and meat products obtaining homogeneous samples. Then the samples were scanned in a FT-NIR Master™ N500 (BÜCHI) equipped with a 360° rotation system using a petri dish and over a NIR spectral range of 4000–10,000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with a resolution of 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Three spectra per sample were measured and the mean spectrum was used for the development of the calibration equations.

Chemical analyses were performed at the Carcass and Meat Quality Laboratory of ESA-IPB. The protein content (NP 1612:1979), moisture (NP 1614:2002), ash (NP 1615:2002), fat content (AOAC, 1997) and collagen (hydroxyproline) (NP 1987: 2002) of the samples were determined.

Using version 5.5 of NIRCal BÜCHI software, chemometric calculations were developed to obtain a robust calibration. For calibrations, sets of calibration (C-set) and validation (V-set) spectra were used and a partial least square regression (PLS) model was developed. Only samples with reference analysis were used for calibration covering all expected allowable variations of the quality of the product. The combinations were chosen randomly. When selecting the spectra in the calibration and validation set, all spectra of one sample were assigned either to the calibration or to the validation set. The two sets were completely independent from each other and spectra in the V-set were used like unknown samples and only the C-set was involved in the loading calculation. A Normalization by Closure, Normalization Between 0 and 1 and MSC Full were performed as math pretreatments to reduce baseline variations caused by scattering and first derivative Savitzky-Golay 9 Points was also used to reduce baseline effects and to increase smaller absorption peaks particularly eliminating the linear ordinate offset in spectra with very sharp absorption bands with high noise spectra.

**Table 1**  
Statistical parameters (C-set/V-set).

Parameters (%)	N	Mean	SD	Range (min/max)
Protein	165/66	21.17/21.19	1.11/1.11	18.45–23.38/18.65–23.04
Moisture	152/62	76.25/76.27	1.94/1.90	70.25–80.12/71.52–80.02
Ash	130/57	2.44/2.45	0.36/0.4	1.32–3.07/1.38–3.05
Connective tissue	84/42	0.87/0.82	0.36/0.32	0.19–1.77/0.24–1.31
Fat	50/16	2.37/2.56	1.01/0.92	0.5–3.93/1.05–3.73

**Table 2**  
Calibration and validation parameters to goat fresh meat.

	Protein	Moisture	Ash	Connective Tissue	Fat
Pretreatment	Normalization Between 0 and 1	MSC Full	1. Normalization by Closure 2. First Derivative Savitzky-Golay 9 Points	1. Normalization Between 0 and 1 2. First Derivative Savitzky-Golay 9 Points	1. First Derivative Savitzky-Golay 9 Points 2. MSC Full
Wavelength ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	4200–10,000	4200–10,000	4200–10,000	4200–10,000	4200–10,000
Method	PLS	PLS	PLS	PLS	PLS
SEC	0.33	0.54	0.08	0.19	0.41
SEP	0.43	0.48	0.28	0.24	0.49
C-set R	0.91	0.92	0.94	0.72	0.83
V-set R	0.87	0.94	0.52	0.46	0.60
Consistency	77.45	112.67	30.25	78.71	82.84

Models using principal components analysis (PCA) and PLS have also been used previously in several muscles of different species (Cozzolino and Murray, 2004).

## 3. Results and discussion

Specific calibration equations were developed for the protein, moisture, ash, connective tissue and fat. The number of samples, means, standard deviations and ranges of chemical parameters measured is shown in Table 1. All values are within the expected values for fresh goat meat.

The best calibration equations as well as pretreatments, calibration wavelength ranges and the statistics obtained for each calibration are presented in Table 2. The consistency parameter describes the relationship between the standard errors of calibration (SEC) and validation (SEV) sets respectively (NirCal 4.21 manual, 2002). Values between 70 and 110% are acceptable. The Q-Value is a specific index used to give the overall quality of a NIR calibration measure of the quality of and it ranges from 0 to 1. A Q-value higher than 0.50 is acceptable for quantitative analysis. However, Q-value over 0.70 is considered robust. The highest Q-value was used as criteria for selection of the best calibration model (NirCal, 2002). This measure is useful as a tool for the judgment when different calibrations were compared. For values higher than 0.6 the calibrations became acceptable.

With the exception of ash content, all calibrations' models show relatively good predictability, particularly protein (Fig. 1) and moisture (Fig. 2) show the best SEC, SEP as well as coefficients of determination (R). In mutton Viljoen et al. (2007) to predict contents of protein and moisture but also in fat have been predicted this components with great accuracy.

The calibration models obtained show similar accuracy as the results reported by Sun et al. (2012) in a study about the potential of NIRS combined with chemometrics

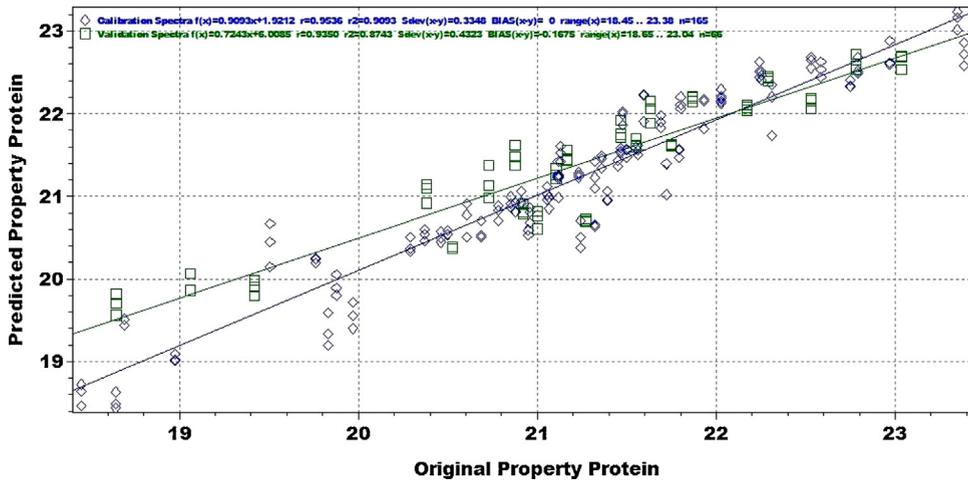


Fig. 1. Relationship between original and predicted properties for protein.

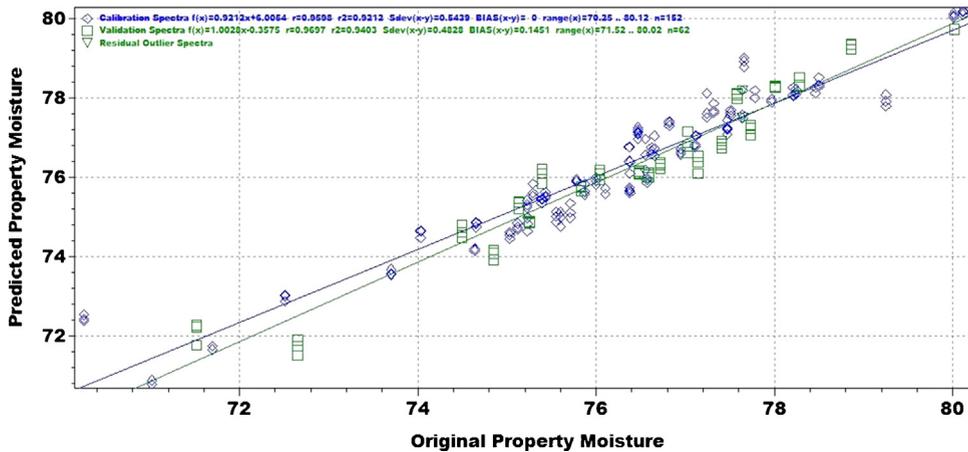


Fig. 2. Relationship between original and predicted properties for moisture.

to classify the geographical origins of lamb meats. Also good results were accounted by Guy et al. (2011) that use the NIRS to predict lamb meat fatty acid composition.

Calibrations from BÜCHI in Iberian pig meat for prediction chemical composition by Luna Delgado et al. (2004) have produced results with the same accuracy for protein and moisture as the calibrations obtained this study. However fat prediction was much better predicted than in goat meat.

#### 4. Conclusions

The calibration models obtained are important as a first attempt to predict the chemical composition of goat meat by NIRS. The NIRS technology combined with chemometrics will be a useful tool to know raw goat meat composition and select material improving the quality of meat processing. More experimental are needed to improve the accuracy of these calibrations and particularly for fat and ash prediction equations an even distribution of reference values along the calibration range should be taken into account.

#### Conflict of interest

We wish to confirm that there are no known conflicts of interest associated with this publication and there has been no significant financial support for this work that could have influenced its outcome.

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