## Food drying: Effect of process conditions and use of renewable energy sources

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## Drying as a method of food preservation



### Drying mechanism, drying equilibrium



### Energy requirement of drying process



Fig. 4. Specific energy requirement for convection drying of arils (control treatment).

Motevali, A., Minaei, S., & Khoshtagaza, M. H. (2011). Evaluation of energy consumption in different drying methods. *Energy conversion and management*, *52*(2), 1192-1199.

Key factors influencing drying kinetics and energy consumption

### Drying method and technology

Air relative humidity

Air temperature

Air velocity

Sample characteristics

Pressure



## Effect of process conditions on water activity



## Prediction of drying kinetics by mathematical modelling

#### Two approaches:

1. Drying models employing the analysis of physical phenomena, such as mass diffusion, heat transfer, and surface tension

#### 2. Empirical models based on experimental measurements



#### Momentum equations

$$\begin{array}{l} 13 \quad \rho \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \nabla \left( \eta + \rho \frac{C_s k^2}{\sigma_s e} \right) \cdot (\nabla u + (\nabla u)^T) + \rho u \cdot \nabla u + \nabla P = 0 \lim_{k \to \infty} \\ 11 \quad \frac{\partial X}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial X}{\partial t} = D_{\text{eff}} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} \\ 14 \quad \rho_a C_{pa} \left( \frac{\partial T_{ac}}{\partial t} \right) + \nabla (-\lambda_a \nabla T_{\infty}) + \rho_a C_{pa} \, u \nabla T_{\infty} = 0 \\ 12 \quad (1 - \varphi) \rho_{\text{sol}} \frac{\partial X_{\text{out}}}{\partial t} = \dot{m} \text{pol} \end{array}$$

#### Table 1. Selected thin-layer mathematical models.

Model name	Model
Page	$MR = \exp(-kt^n)$
Modified Page	$MR = \exp[-(kt)]^n$
Henderson and Pabis	$MR = a \exp(-kt)$
Two-term	$MR = a \exp(-k_0 t) + b \exp(-k_1 t)$
Two-term exponential	$MR = a \exp(-kt) + (1-a) \exp(-kat)$
Midilli	$MR = a \exp(-kt)^n + bt$
Approximation of diffusion	$MR = a \exp(-kt) + (1-a) \exp(-kbt)$
Verma	$MR = a \exp(-kt) + (1-a) \exp(-gt)$

## Development of a new Process Conditions Sensitive (PCS) thin-layer mathematical model of hot air convective drying



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To cite this article: Juma Haydary, Mohammad Jafar Royen & Abdul Wasim Noori (2023): Process conditions sensitive (PCS) thin-layer mathematical model of hot air convective drying, Chemical Engineering Communications, DOI: <u>10.1080/00986445.2023.2223136</u>

$$OF = \sum_{T} \left( \sum_{i} \left( MR_{Exp,i} - MR_{Pred,i} \right)^{2} \right)_{min} + \sum_{v} \left( \sum_{i} \left( MR_{Exp,i} - MR_{Pred,i} \right)^{2} \right)_{min} + \sum_{d} \left( \sum_{i} \left( MR_{Exp,i} - MR_{Pred,i} \right)^{2} \right)_{min} + \sum_{d} \left( \sum_{i} \left( MR_{Exp,i} - MR_{Pred,i} \right)^{2} \right)_{min} = min$$

 $MR = \frac{M - M_e}{M_0 - M_e}$ 





## Effect of shrinkage

$$MR = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{8}{(2n+1)^2 \pi^2} Exp\left(-\frac{(2n+1)^2 \pi^2 D_{eff} t}{4 l^2}\right)$$



# Use of renewable energy in food drying, solar drying



Indirect forced solar drying system

## Why indirect solar drying?



### Effect of ambient air relative humidity



### Rehydration of dried products









## Energy efficiency of solar drying



Sintie, Y. T., & Aduye, G. T. (2020). Potential assessment and experimental analysis of solar vegetable dryer: in case of northern Ethiopia. *Renewables: Wind, Water, and Solar, 7*(1), 1-28.

# Thank you for your attention

