

Original Research Article

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## Whey Protein Isolate based Biodegradable Food Packaging Film as affected by Protein to Glycerol Ratio, pH and Sonication Amplitude

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### ABSTRACT

The present study aimed at developing and characterizing biodegradable films produced by casting technique using whey protein isolate. Whey proteins are a by-product from the cheese industry. Packaging film was prepared by dissolving WPI and glycerol in distilled water with continuous stirring to obtain a film-forming solution. The pH of the film forming solution was adjusted and heated to  $90 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min in a water bath. The filtered WPI solution was subjected to ultrasonication at different levels according design of experiment. The film forming solution casted on petri dishes and dried at  $35 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h in a hot air dryer and film was peeled and tested at room temperature ( $24 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The effect of three independent variables viz., WPI to Glycerol ratio ( $X_1$ ), pH of solution ( $X_2$ ), Sonication Amplitude ( $X_3$ ) were studied and these variables coded as respectively. Response variables viz., thickness, weight gain, moisture content, appearance, transparency and density were measured for optimization of the process. Response Surface Methodology (RSM) was used for designing the experiment. The results showed that the biodegradable packaging film should be prepared by incorporation WPI to Gly ratio as 1.5 with maintain pH of 7.08 at 100 sonication amplitude to get film thickness Of 0.275698 mm, density 1.85064 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, moisture content 27.7102%, transparency 2.32937. Using RSM graph, we concluded the effect of processing parameter on the characteristics of the biodegradable film.

#### Keywords

Biodegradable, Whey protein isolate, Glycerol, food Packaging film

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### Introduction

The purpose of the food packaging is to preserve and protect the food product throughout the manufacturing, transport,

storage and consumption chain. Good packaging also guarantees the health and safety of consumers. Generally after using food product the packaging material is thrown which is dangerous to the environment.

Around the world, people are facing grave issues of plastic packaging waste as conventional plastics take hundreds of years to decompose. To tackle this issue several countries have banned use of plastic products and are promoting use of eco-friendly biodegradable food packaging materials. India had a growing role in the world towards mitigating climate change. A biodegradable plastic is the material which falling apart into very small fragments due to the action of naturally occurring micro-organisms such as bacteria, fungi and algae. For the degradation oxygen and water is required and the plastic must be derived from biopolymer rather than petro-polymers. Biopolymers are obtained via polymerization of biobased raw materials through engineered industrial processes. Polyesters, protein, polysaccharide, polyphenol and lipid are the example of biopolymer which can be used to develop biodegradable packaging material.

Protein denatured by heat, acid, alkali and solvent in order to form the more extended structures which are required for film formation (Bourtoom, 2008). The cross linking of proteins by means of Chemical, Enzymatic, Physical treatment. Denaturation of proteins begins at 40°C and  $\beta$ -LG does not denature until 78°C. 95% of protein denatures irreversibly at 85°C and gelation occurs above this temperature (Kilara and Vaghela 2004). Texture of WPI gels was affected by pH of solution (Suzana *et al.*, 1997). Theeranun and Krochta (2010) found that WPs are globular and heat labile in nature. Plenty of studies regarding protein-based films have been produced especially about soy protein, whey protein, corn protein (zein), gluten and rice protein. Whey proteins are a by-product from the cheese industry. There are two type of whey protein. Whey protein isolates (WPI) and Whey protein concentrate (WPC). Many researchers have extensively studied preparation method for biodegradable film

using whey protein as raw material and tested properties of film (Javier *et al.*, 2007; Mahamadou *et al.*, 2007; Majid 2009; Wang *et al.*, 2010; Oscar *et al.*, 2012; Kadam *et al.*, 2013; Markus 2013; Zolfi *et al.*, 2014). Galgano *et al.*, (2015) found that biodegradable packaging give shelf-life prolongation of fruits and vegetables. Javier *et al.*, (2007) formed film using WPI and glycerol and found that Films with Gly were much more flexible and less brittle. 5% WPI with 3.6:1WPI: Gly ratio showed the best result for thickness and water vapor permeability. (Mahamadou *et al.*, 2007). Water vapor permeability of hydrophilic protein films is affected by film thickness (Roy *et al.*, 2000). The glycerol is important in the structure development of film (Igor *et al.*, 2007). Looking to the problems of plastics packaging, a research investigation planned for the preparation of biofilm by using whey protein isolates with objective to standardize the process parameters for development of WPI packaging film and characterize the effects of WPI:Gly ratio, pH of solution and sonication on physical properties of film.

## **Materials and Methods**

Materials required for film were Whey protein isolates (BulkAmino, Advance Nutratch, New Delhi, India), Glycerol and all other chemicals in analytical grade were procured.

WPI and glycerol were dissolved in DD water with continuous stirring to obtain a film-forming solution. WPI to Gly ratio was taken as variable parameter like, 0.5, 1 and 1.5. The pH of the film forming solution was adjusted with 2 N NaOH. The pH of solution was taken as variable in experiment like 7, 8 and 9. pH of solution was measured with the help of digital pH meter. Then, the solution was heated to  $90 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min in a water bath while being stirred continuously. After 30 min of heating, solution was rapidly cooled in an ice bath for

10–15 min to avoid further denaturation. Then the solution was filtered through two layers of muslin cloth to remove any coagulation. The filtered WPI solution was subjected to ultrasonication at different levels according design of experiment. The film forming solution of 25 g was casted on petridishes and dried at  $35 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h in a hot air dryer. Then dried film was kept in a  $50\% \pm 2\%$  RH in humidity chamber for at least 24 h for ease in film peeling and testing at room temperature ( $24 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Peeling of film was done very carefully to prevent film from brake and crake.

The effect of three independent variables *viz.*, WPI to Glycerol ratio, pH of solution, Sonication Amplitude was studied and these variables coded as  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  respectively. The levels of parameter values were carefully chosen based on the literature available. Response variables *viz.*, Thickness, weight gain, Moisture content, appearance, odour, transparency, density, water absorption index and water solubility index, were measured for optimization of the process. Response Surface Methodology (RSM) was used for designing the experiment. A Central Composite Rotatable Design (CCRD) of 3 variables. Altogether 15 combinations were chosen according to a central composite rotatable design. The coded and uncoded variable values of the design are presented in Table 1.

### **Film thickness**

Film thickness was measured with the help of digital Vernier Calipers (Mitutoyo corporation, Japan made, model- CD-12”), having a least count of 0.01mm (Plate 3.3-B). Measurements were carried out at different film locations and the mean thickness value was used to calculate the permeability of the films. Film thicknesses are used to determine oxygen permeability (OP), water vapor transmission rate (WVTR) and mechanical film properties.

### **Film weight**

Film weight was measured using a balance. Measurements were carried out and the mean weight value was used to calculate the weight of the films. It measured in grams.

### **Film area**

Film area was measured using formula given below. For measuring area, we have to measure first diameter of film.  $A = \pi r^2$  Where  $A$  = Film area and  $r$  = Radius of developed film in circular shape

### **Film density**

Film density was measured using following formula. For measuring film density, first measure volume of film and weight of film

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Weight of film}(W)}{\text{Volume of film}(V)}$$

Where  $\rho$ = Film density  
W= weight of film  
V= volume of film

### **Moisture content**

Film moisture content was measured by oven drying method. Film samples were trimmed into small strips, dried in an oven at  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h to a constant weight. The small strip has 1 gm in weight. Samples were subsequently removed from the oven after 24 hrs. Final weights were recorded and moisture content calculated.

Moisture Content= (Initial weight -final weight)/Initial weight\*100%

### **Transparency of film**

The transparency of films was determined using a UV-1601 spectrophotometer

(Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan). The film samples were cut into rectangles and placed on the internal side of the spectrophotometer cell. The transmittance of films was determined at 600 nm as described by Han and Floros (1997). The transparency of the films was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Transparency} = \log \frac{T_{600}}{x}$$

Where,  $T_{600}$  is the transmittance at 600 nm and  $x$  is the film thickness (mm).

### Statistical analysis

Response surface methodology (RSM) was applied for optimizing processing parameters for making biopolymer films from Whey Protein Isolates (WPI). CCRD design was used to statistically optimize the processing parameters and evaluate the main effects, interaction effects and quadratic effects of the processing parameters on WPI biopolymer film. A 3-factor, 3-level design was used to explore the quadratic response surfaces and for constructing second order polynomial models using Design Expert® (Version 8.0.2, Stat-Ease, Minneapolis, MN). The independent variables used for study are shown in Table 1. Levels of independent variables were selected on the basis of literature available and preliminary screening experiments. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted for fitting the model represented by following Equation to examine the statistical significance of model terms. Model analysis with respect to lack-of fit test and  $R^2$  (coefficient of determination) was done for determining adequacy of model. Response surfaces were generated and by using the same software, numerical optimization was done. The most commonly used model for optimization by using response surface methodology is of the form:

$$Y_k = \sum_{i=1}^3 b_{k0} X_i + \sum_{i=1}^3 b_{kii} X_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^3 b_{kij} X_i X_j \quad (k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots)$$

Where,  $Y_k$  is the response,  $b_{k0}$ ,  $b_{ki}$ ,  $b_{kj}$  are the constant, linear, quadratic and cross-product regression coefficients, respectively and  $X_i$  are the coded independent variables.

### Results and Discussion

Physical, optical, biochemical properties of WPI packaging film are measured. The observation were analyzed using CCRD design (Response Surface Methodology) which statistically evaluate the main effects, interaction effects and quadratic effects of the different processing parameters on WPI biopolymer film with graphical presentation.

The effect of Whey Protein isolate to Glycerol ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on different dependable parameters like moisture content, film thickness, density, moisture content and transparency for development of biodegradable film are discussed hereafter.

#### Effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on film thickness

Thickness of WPI based biopolymer film was measured by digital Vernier calipers in the unit of mm. Results of film thickness are graphically presented in Figure 1. The thickness of film was recorded 0.25 to 0.3mm for all the run. In all run, the effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on film thickness did not showed any significant difference.

It was observed that the thickness of edible films was highly influenced ( $p < 0.05$ ) by the type and amount of biopolymer and plasticizer used in film preparation. Minimum film thickness was observed in run 13 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1, 8 pH and 100 Sonication amplitude) as 0.25mm, while maximum film thickness of 0.3 mm was recorded in run 11 (WPI:Gly ratio of 0.5, 9 pH and 100 Sonication amplitude) as presented in Table 2. As the concentration of

plasticizer increased, the film thickness also increased. This might be due to increase proportion of plasticizer with pH. Similar results were reported by Wagh (2014) for the thickness of glycerol-plasticized films ranged from 0.17 to 0.31 mm. The actual effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on density of film was analysed with response surface curve and contour plot. It is evident from regression coefficient Table 2, that the thickness of edible film was affected by negative effect of WPI to glycerol ratio ( $p < 0.01$ ) and positive linear effects of pH and Sonication amplitude. The other factors having significant effects were interaction of WPI to Gly ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude. The quadratic effect of WPI to Gly ratio was also found to influence the thickness of edible film. Quadratic relationship was established with the three process variables as per the following equation. Final equation in terms of coded factors

$$\text{Thickness} = +0.27 + 7.071 * X_1 + 3.536 * X_2 - 3.536 * X_3 - 3.536 * X_1 * X_2 + 3.536 * X_1 * X_3 + 0.012 * X_2 * X_3 + 5.370 * X_1^2 + 2.870 * X_2^2 - 2.130 * X_3^2$$

Final equation in terms of actual factors

$$\text{Thickness} = +0.68262 + 6.53451 * \text{WPI to Gly ratio} - 0.071533 * \text{pH of solution} - 3.77589 * \text{Sonication amplitude} - 7.07107 * \text{WPI to Gly ratio} * \text{pH of solution} + 2.82843 * \text{WPI to Gly ratio} * \text{Sonication amplitude} + 4.82843 * \text{pH of solution} * \text{Sonication amplitude} + 0.021481 * \text{WPI to Gly ratio}^2 + 2.87037 * \text{pH of solution}^2 - 3.40741 * \text{Sonication amplitude}^2$$

From the response surface curve and the contour map of interaction, it was observed that thickness was found to be increased with decreased in WPI:Gly ratio. Density of film is inversely influenced by pH level of solution. Sonication improves the distribution of WPI particles in film matrix which can potentially become effective packaging materials.

Thickness was found to decrease with increase in sonication amplitude and WPI to glycerol ratio and also the thickness was found to be decreased with increase in sonication amplitude and pH level of solution.

### **Effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on density of film**

The brittleness of film is adjudged by the density of film. Density of WPI based biopolymer film was determined by standard formula and results were described in Table 2. The combine effect of WPI:Gly ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on density of film was graphically presented in Figure 2, 3 and 4.

The density of biodegradable film is related with weight and thickness of film. The maximum density was found  $2.62 \text{ kg/m}^3$  in the run 7 (WPI:Gly ratio of 0.5, 7 pH and 50 Sonication amplitude) and minimum density of  $1.48 \text{ kg/m}^3$  recorded in run 10 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1, 8 pH and 50 Sonication amplitude) as presented in Table 2. As the WPI:Gly ratio and pH of solution increased then the density of film was decreased. The proportion of glycerol is directly proportional to the density of the film. Similar results were found by Singh *et al.*, (2015) for the density of chitosan based glycerol-plasticized films ranged from  $1.34$  to  $1.44 \text{ kg/m}^3$ . The actual effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on density of film was analysed with response surface curve and contour plot.

It is evident from regression coefficient Table 2, that the Density of edible film was affected by negative linear effect of WPI to glycerol ratio ( $p < 0.01$ ) and positive linear effects of pH and Sonication amplitude. The other factors having significant effects were interaction of WPI to Gly ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude. The quadratic effect of WPI to Gly ratio was also found to influence the density of edible film.



As per the response surface model, the density of film was found to have quadratic relationship with of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude. The Model F value of 4.99 implies that the model is significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). Regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) and Adjusted  $R^2$  values of the model are 0.8997 and 0.7193 respectively.

The adequate precision value of 8.497 indicates that the model can be used to navigate the design space as it is greater than 4.0. Quadratic relationship was established with the three process variables as per the following equation. Final equation in terms of coded factors,

$$\text{Density} = 1.86 - 0.30 * X_1 + 0.042 * X_2 + 0.11 * X_3 + 0.19 * X_1 * X_2 + 0.32 * X_1 * X_3 - 0.036 * X_3 * X_2 + 0.19 * X_1^2 - 0.095 * X_2^2 - 0.06 * X_3^2$$

Final equation in terms of actual factors

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Density} = & -0.031795 - 6.98340 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio} + 1.29537 * \text{pH of solution} + 4.59283 \text{E-} \\ & 003 * \text{Sonication Amplitude} + 0.37213 * \\ & \text{WPI:Gly ratio} * \text{pH of solution} + 0.025394 * \\ & \text{WPI:Gly ratio} * \text{Sonication Amplitude} - \\ & 1.42082 \text{E-} 003 * \text{pH of solution} * \text{Sonication} \\ & \text{Amplitude} + 0.75037 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio}^2 - \\ & 0.094907 * \text{pH of solution}^2 - 9.58519 \text{E-} 005 * \\ & \text{Sonication Amplitude}^2 \end{aligned}$$

From the response surface curve and contour plot for density of film it was observed that density was found to be increased with decreased in WPI:Gly ratio. Density of film is inversely influenced by pH level of solution. The density was found to decrease with increase in sonication amplitude and WPI to glycerol ratio and density was decreased with increase in sonication amplitude and pH level of solution.

### **Effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on moisture content of film**

Packaging films should maintain moisture levels within the packaged product. Therefore, the knowledge of moisture content and total soluble matter of the films is very important for food packaging applications (Leceta *et al.*, 2013). The amount of water present in films provide an indication of the hydrophobicity of the films, hence, the hydrophilic films have higher moisture content (Bourbon *et al.*, 2011).

The maximum moisture content was found 39.2 in the run 8 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1, 9 pH and 75 Sonication amplitude) and minimum moisture content of 17.25 recorded in run 10 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1.5, 8 pH and 75 Sonication amplitude) as presented in Table 2. As the WPI:Gly ratio increased then the moisture content of film was decreased and pH level increased then moisture content also increased. The proportion of glycerol is directly proportional to the density of the film. The similar result explained by Singh *et al.*, (2015) that the moisture content of chitosan based film was varies between 12 to 19 % moisture content. The actual effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on density of film was analysed with response surface curve and contour plot. In the present study, it was found to fit with the three variables as per quadratic relationship. The best model equation for moisture was,

$$\text{M.C} = +33.53 - 4.05 * X_1 + 1.12 * X_2 - 1.01 * X_3 - 2.38 * X_1 * X_2 + 1.62 * X_1 * X_3 - 0.067 * X_2 * X_3 - 5.39 * X_1^2 + 1.93 * X_2^2 + 0.15 * X_3^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{M.C} = & +108.99344 + 63.31242 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio} - \\ & 24.78102 * \text{pH of solution} - 0.18481 * \text{Sonication} \\ & \text{Amplitude} - 4.75525 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio} * \text{pH of} \\ & \text{solution} + 0.12954 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio} * \text{Sonication} \\ & \text{Amplitude} - 2.66887 \text{E-} 003 * \text{pH of} \end{aligned}$$

solution\* $\text{SonicationAmplitude}^2 + 1.92880 * \text{pH of solution}^2 + 2.42074\text{E-}004 * \text{Sonication Amplitude}^2$

increasing with increasing of relative variables.

### Effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on transparency of film

The effect of glycerol level (quadratic) on moisture was significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). Regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) value (0.9987) indicated that 1.03 % of the total variation was not explained by the present model. The Model F-value was significant and there is only a 0.01 % chance that it could occur due to noise. With the increase in whey protein isolate level, moisture content decreased and thereafter increased after reaching to a certain minima and reverse was true with glycerol level. Fundo *et al.*, (2008) observed that high chitosan/glycerol concentration solutions led to films with significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher water content. This can be related with higher molecular entanglement and viscosity, which lead to higher retention of water molecules during drying of the films. Sobral *et al.*, (2001) observed that the increase in the plasticizer concentration increases the moisture content of the film because of its high hygroscopic character, which also contributes to the reduction of the forces between the adjacent macromolecules.

Transmittance indicates about light barrier properties of WPI films. This property is important to prevent lipid oxidation induced by UV light in food system (Ramos *et al.*, 2013). Hence, it is an important parameter to evaluate the efficacy of packaging films for foods (Leceta *et al.*, 2013). The maximum transparency was found 2.33 in the run 8 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1.5, 7 pH and 100 Sonication amplitude) and minimum transparency of 2.16 recorded in run 1 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1.5, 9 pH and 50 Sonication amplitude) as presented in Table 2. As the pH level increased, transparency start to decrease. While Sonication amplitude increase then transparency also transparency. Wpi to glycerol ratio is not significantly affect the transparency. Similar results were found by Kadam *et al.*, (2013) for the transparency of WPI based glycerol-plasticized films and explained that Sonication process gives the transparency to the film. The actual effect of WPI to Gly Ratio, pH and Sonication amplitude on transparency of film was analysed with response surface curve and contour plot. Transmittance was found to have quadratic relationship with the three process variables as per the following equation,

From the response surface curve and contour plot for moisture content of film it was observed that moisture content was found to increase with increase in WPI:Gly ratio and pH up to certain point of maxima and then its start to decrease with increasing level of relative variables.

$$\text{Transparency} = +2.27 - 0.021 * A - 0.018 * B + 7.071\text{E-}003 * C - 0.035 * A * B + 0.025 * A * C - 0.029 * B * C + 6.111\text{E-}003 * A^2 - 1.389\text{E-}003 * B^2 - 0.034 * C^2$$

The moisture content was found to increase with increase in sonication amplitude and WPI to glycerol ratio up to reaching maximum at 0.7 WPI:Gly ratio and 70 sonication amplitude after that its start to decrease with increasing the relative variables. The moisture content was found to decrease with increase in sonication amplitude and pH level of solution up to reaching minimum value and then start

$$\text{Transparency} = +0.95837 + 0.32661 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio} + 0.16154 * \text{pH of solution} + 0.015619 * \text{Sonication Amplitude} - 0.070858 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio} * \text{pH of solution} + 1.98579\text{E-}003 * \text{WPI:Gly ratio} * \text{Sonication Amplitude} -$$

1.14853E-003\* pH of solution\* Sonication Amplitude+0.024444 \* WPI:Gly ratio<sup>2</sup>-1.38889E-003 \* pH of solution<sup>2</sup>-5.42222E-005 \*SonicationAmplitude<sup>2</sup>

This shows that WPI to gly ratio (quadratic effect), pH (quadratic) and sonication amplitude (quadratic effect) significantly (p<0.05) affected transmittance of films. Furthermore, a very high degree of precision and a good deal of the reliability of the

conducted experiment was indicated by a low value of the coefficient of variation (CV=0.36 %). The R2 value (0.9879), being a measure of the goodness of fit of the model, indicated that 98.79 % of the total variation was explained by the model. Transmittance decreased with the level of WPI however; it increased with glycerol. Yan *et al.*, (2012) documented that the films containing 35 % glycerol had the highest light transmittance rate, whereas lowest with 30 % glycerol level.

**Table.1** Experimental design Summary (by RSM)

Variables	Coded X <sub>i</sub>	Coded levels		
		-1	0	+1
WPI:Gly ratio	X <sub>1</sub>	0.5	1	1.5
pH of WPI solution	X <sub>2</sub>	7	8	9
Sonication Amplitude	X <sub>3</sub>	50	75	100

**Table.2** Effect of process variables and values of experimental responses for developed WPI based biodegradable film

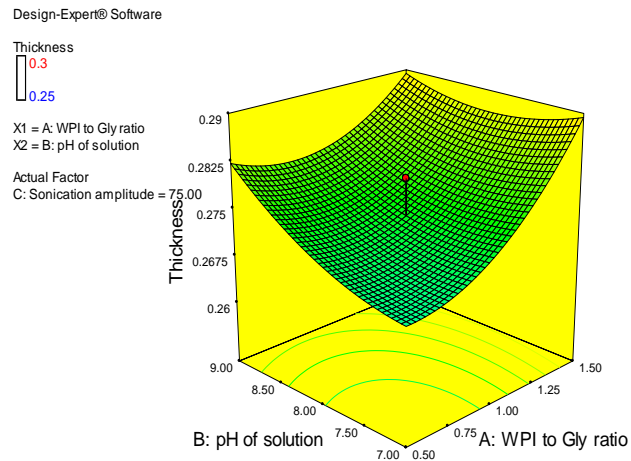
Run	Variable			Responses			
	WPI:Gly X <sub>1</sub>	pH X <sub>2</sub>	Soni. Amplitude X <sub>3</sub>	Thick ness (mm)	Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Moisture content (%)	Transparency
1	1.5	9	50	0.29	1.54	24.15	2.16
2	1.5	8	75	0.28	1.7	17.25	2.26
3	1	8	75	0.28	1.94	33.44	2.27
4	1	8	75	0.28	1.94	33.44	2.27
5	1	8	75	0.28	1.94	33.44	2.27
6	1	7	75	0.26	1.5	36.02	2.3
7	0.5	7	50	0.3	2.62	33.11	2.23
8	1.5	7	100	0.29	1.93	27.88	2.33
9	1	9	75	0.27	1.62	39.2	2.25
10	1	8	50	0.26	1.48	35.48	2.2
11	0.5	9	100	0.3	1.91	34.86	2.23
12	1	8	75	0.28	1.75	33.44	2.27
13	1	8	100	0.25	1.78	32.63	2.22
14	0.5	8	75	0.26	2.55	28.71	2.32
15	1	8	75	0.28	1.94	33.44	2.27

X<sub>1</sub> is coded independent variable for WPI:Gly ratio level, X<sub>2</sub> is coded independent variable for pH level , X<sub>3</sub> is coded independent variable for Sonication amplitude.

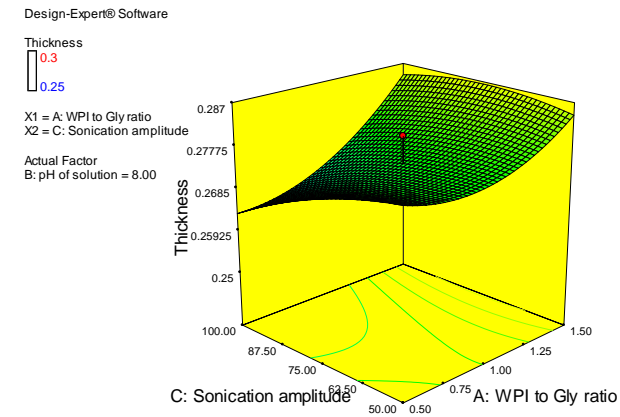


**Fig.1** Response surface plot for thickness. A. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and pH of solution on thickness of film. B. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and sonication amplitude of solution on thickness of film. C. Effect of sonication and pH of solution on thickness of film

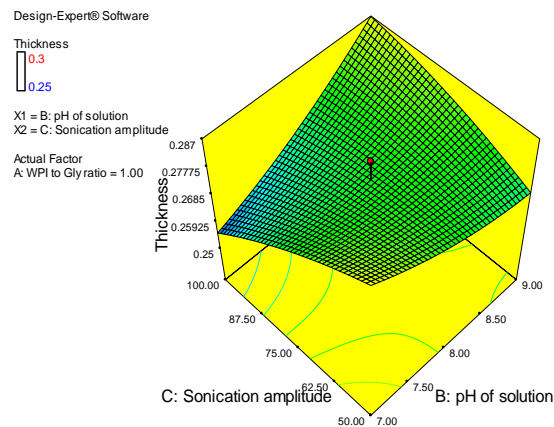
A.



B.

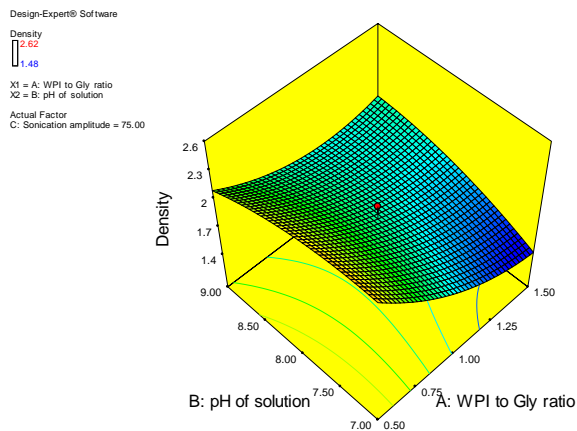


C.

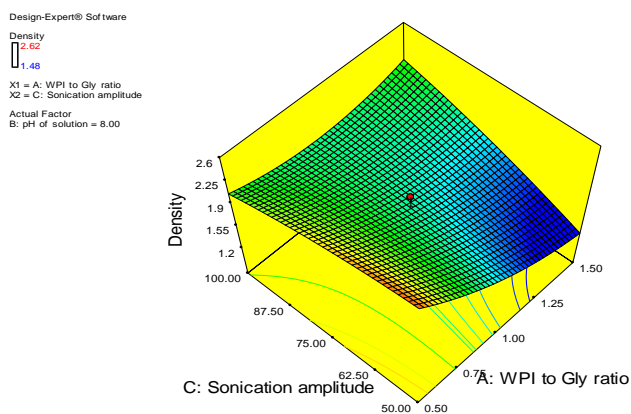


**Fig.2** Response surface plot for Density. A. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and pH of solution on density of film. B. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and sonication amplitude of solution on density of film. C. Effect of sonication and pH of solution on density of film

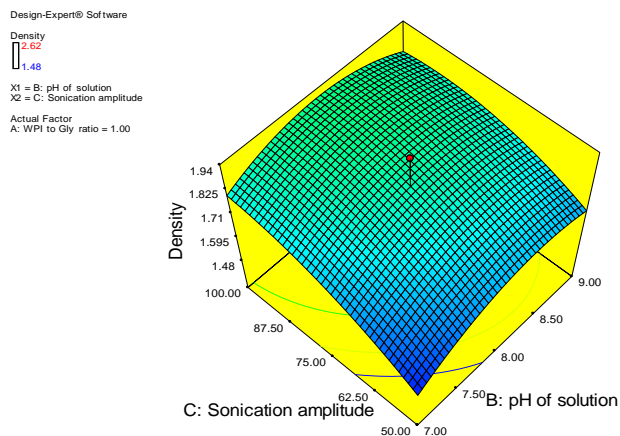
A



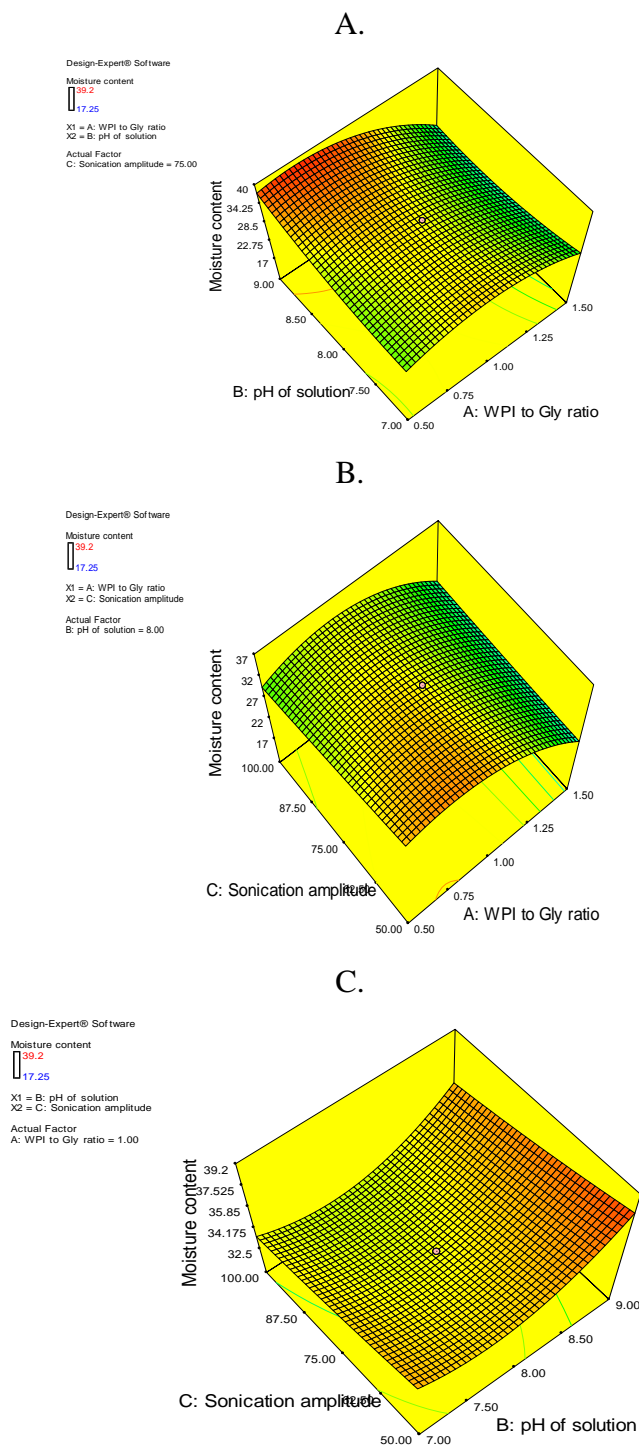
B.



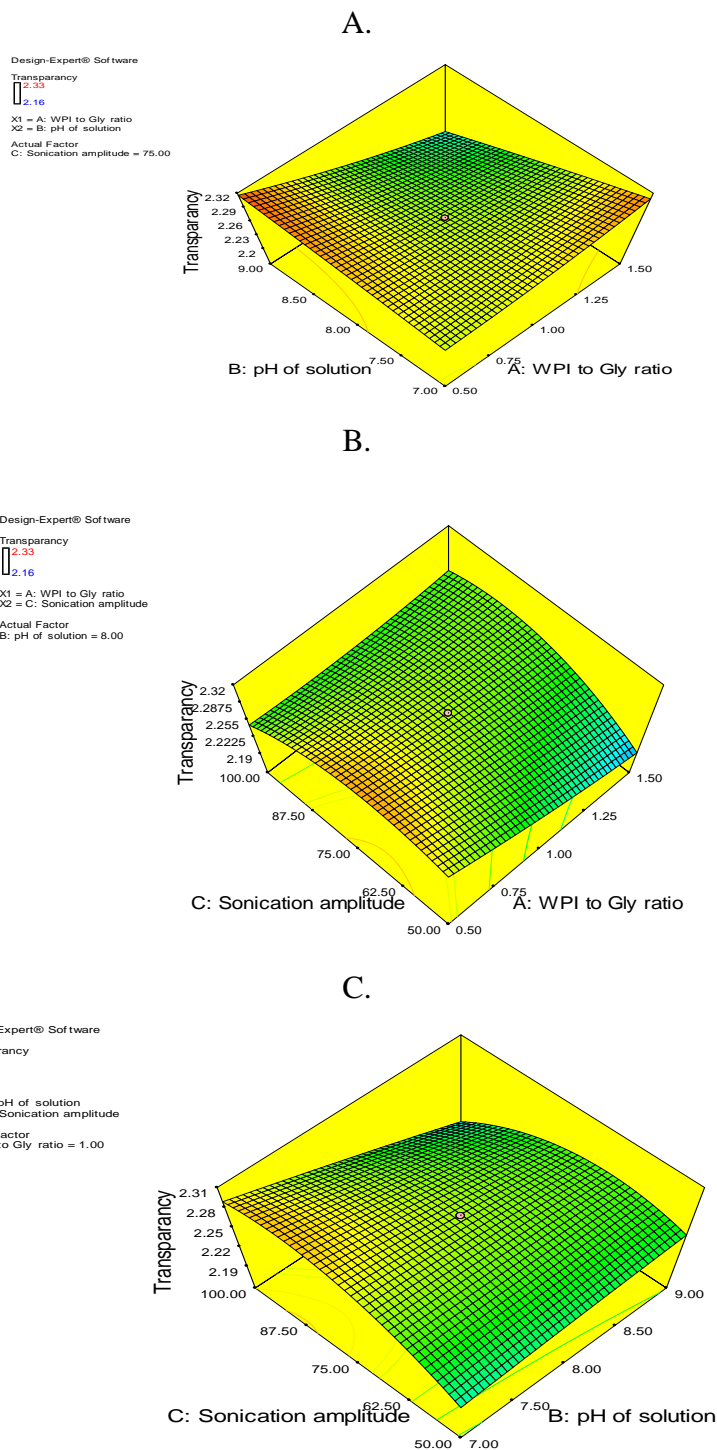
C.



**Fig.3** Response surface plot for Moisture Content. A. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and pH of solution on Moisture Content of film. B. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and sonication amplitude of solution on Moisture Content of film. C. Effect of sonication and pH of solution on Moisture Content of film



**Fig.4** Response surface plot for transparency. A. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and pH of solution on transparency of film. B. Effect of WPI:Gly ratio and sonication amplitude of solution on transparency of film. C. Effect of sonication and pH of solution on transparency of film



From the response surface curve and contour plot for transparency of film, it was observed that transparency was found to decrease with

increase in WPI:Gly ratio and pH. The transparency was found to first increase and after rich maxima its start to decrease with

increase in sonication amplitude and WPI to glycerol ratio. Sonication improved distribution of WPI particles in film matrix; that's why the transparency of film also got better result.

In conclusion, in this study, biodegradable films were developed based on WPI using the casting method. The results showed that the properties of these films were greatly influenced by WPI to gly ratio, pH of solution and sonication amplitude. Physical and biochemical properties of Whey protein isolate (WPI) powder were pH 6.8, protein content 89.5%. All the films were flexible and homogeneous without surface cracks and pores. The presence of whey protein isolate in biodegradable film imparted yellow color. The appearance of the film facing the mould base was shiny than the surface exposed to air during drying. All the films were easy to peel off from the mould except WPI film at 0.5 WPI to Gly ratio, which might be due to its lower thickness and higher plasticizer ratio. Film thickness of whey protein isolate biopolymer film was ranged between 0.25 to 0.3mm. The minimum film thickness was observed in run 13 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1, 8 pH and 100 Sonication amplitude) as 0.25mm, while maximum film thickness of 0.3 mm was recorded in run 11 (WPI:Gly ratio of 0.5, 9 pH and 100 Sonication amplitude). The density of whey protein isolate biopolymer film was ranged between 1.48 to 2.62 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. The maximum density was found 2.62 kg/m<sup>3</sup> in the run 7 (WPI:Gly ratio of 0.5, 7 pH and 50 Sonication amplitude) and minimum density of 1.48 kg/m<sup>3</sup> recorded in run 10 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1, 8 pH and 50 Sonication amplitude). The moisture content of whey protein isolate biopolymer film was ranged between 17.25 to 39.2. The maximum moisture content was found 39.2 in the run 8 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1, 9 pH and 75 Sonication amplitude) and minimum moisture content of 17.25 recorded in run 10 (WPI:Gly ratio of

1.5, 8 pH and 75 Sonication amplitude). The transparency of whey protein isolate biopolymer film was ranged between 2.16 to 2.33. The maximum transparency was found 2.33 in the run 8 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1.5, 7 pH and 100 Sonication amplitude) and minimum transparency of 2.16 recorded in run 1 (WPI:Gly ratio of 1.5, 9 pH and 50 Sonication amplitude). Response surface methodology using CCRD design was found to be an effective technique to optimize the process development of WPI based packaging film as a function of 1.5 WPI to Gly ratio, 7.08 pH level and 100 sonication amplitude. From the response surface plots the three independent variables were found to significantly influence all the response variables either independently or interactively. It was concluded from the analysis that the biodegradable packaging film should be prepared by incorporation WPI to Gly ratio as 1.5 with maintain pH of 7.08 at 100 sonication amplitude to get film thickness of 0.275mm, density 1.850 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, moisture content 27.710%, transparency 2.329. In Food packaging materials, WPI film proven good potential towards improving quality and enhancing safety of food materials as well as reducing the plastic pollution.

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