



12-6-2018

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Recommended Citation

Hammann, William; Seames, Wayne; and Ross, Andrew, "Carbohydrate Extraction from the *Chorella Vulgaris* Microalgae Strain" (2018). *Essential Studies UNDERgraduate Showcase*. 11.
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Carbohydrate Extraction from the *Chorella Vulgaris* Microalgae Strain

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Sponsor: National Science Foundation IRES Program

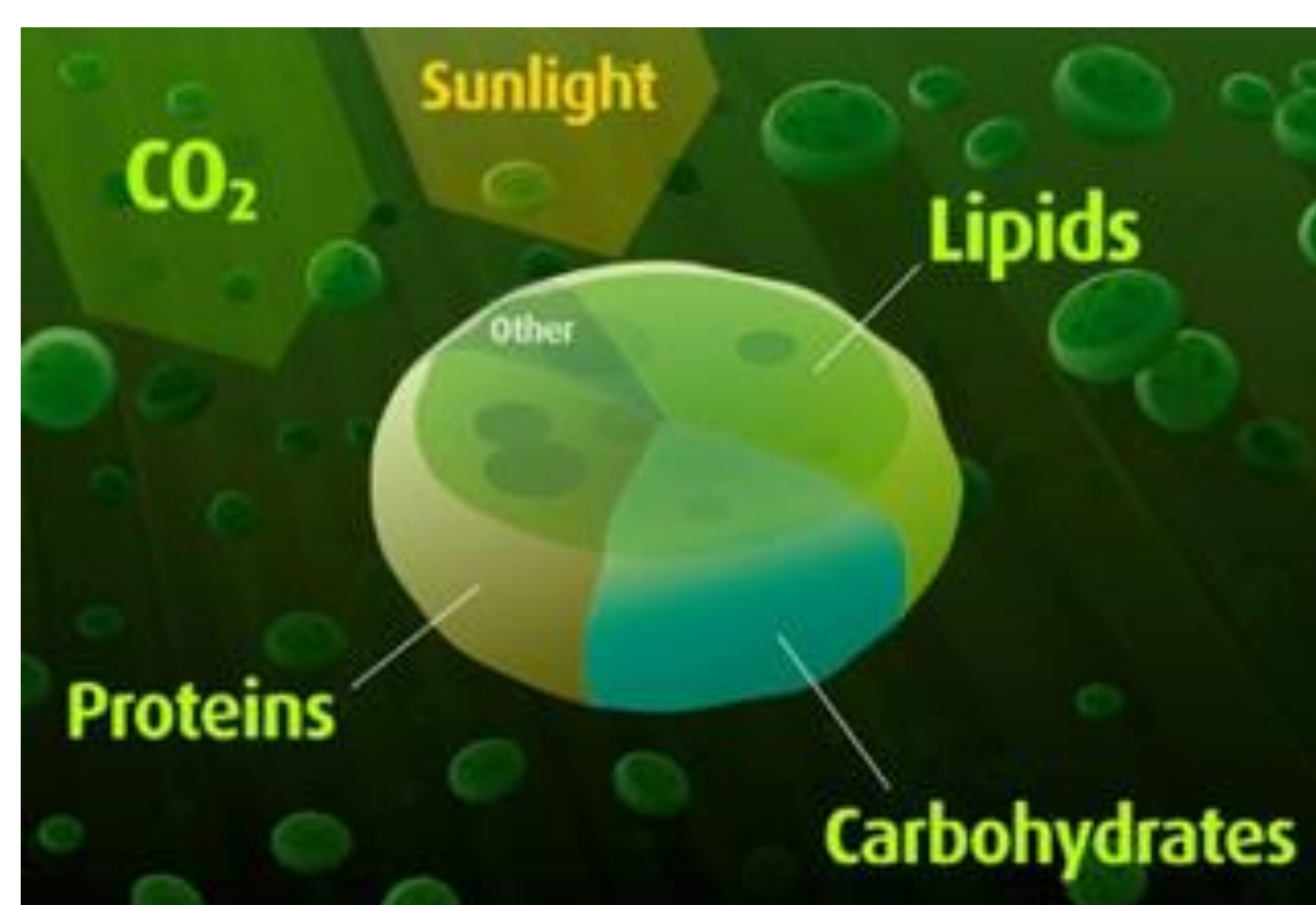
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Introduction

- Microalgae are microscopically small aqueous life forms which store energy in multiple forms including carbohydrates and oils¹
- High potential for use as feedstock for fuel and chemical intermediates²



Hypotheses

- The use of microwave pre-treatment along with dilute acid hydrolysis will increase the efficiency of carbohydrate recovery compared to single step methods because of the increase in cell rupture.
- A combination of pretreatment and extraction methods can be found that provide maximum recovery of both lipids and carbohydrates.

Methodology

- Full Central Composite Design of Experiments with three replicates
- Dried autotrophic *Chlorella Vulgaris* biomass was ground using a ball mill
- Dilute sulfuric acid hydrolysis conducted in a 1100W Milestone StartSYNTH Microwave
- Samples centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 10 min and filtered through 0.45 micron filter
- Analysed in Dionex UltiMate 3000 HPLC with Shodex RI-101 detector

Results

Main Effects for Total Carbohydrate Yield

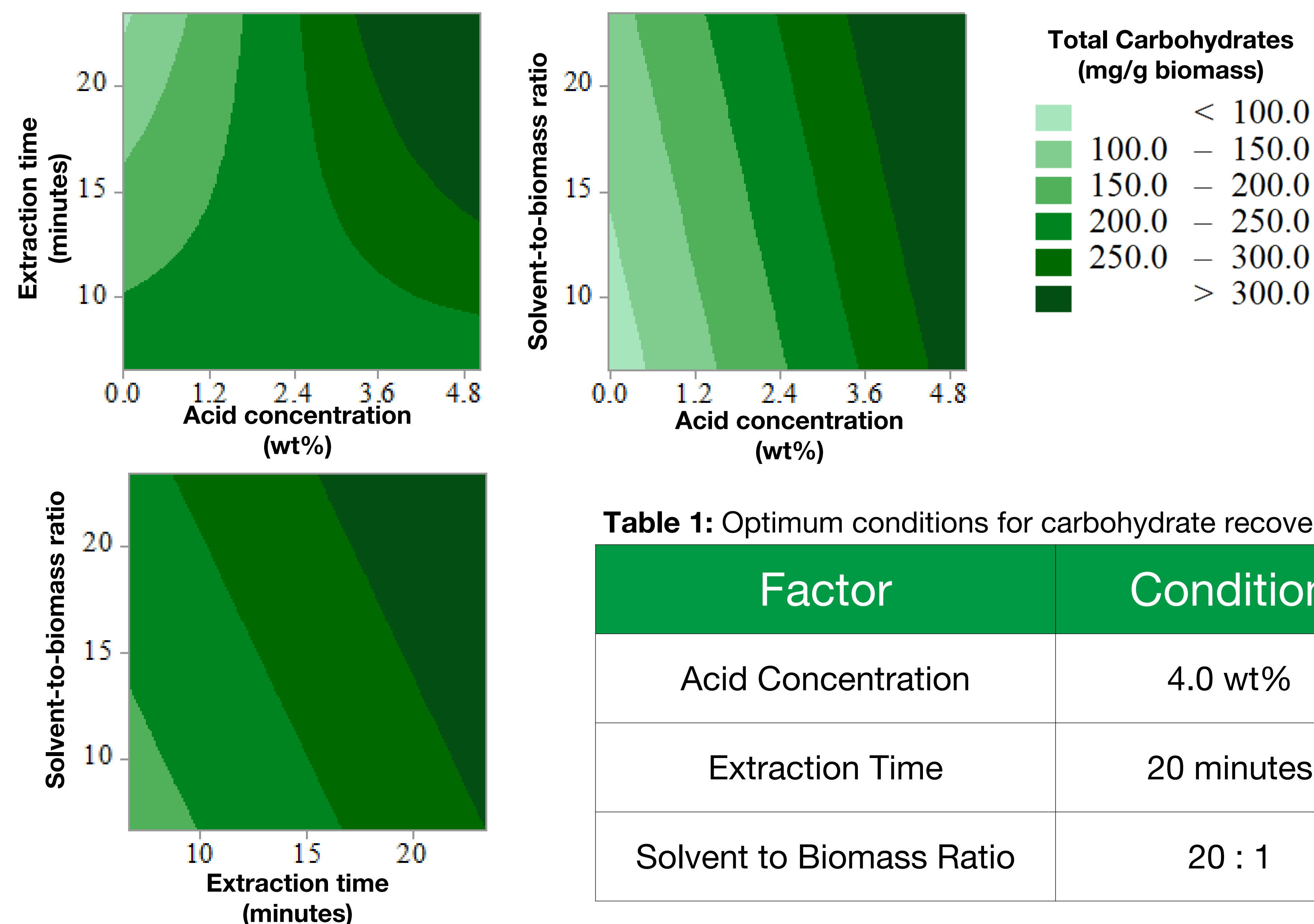
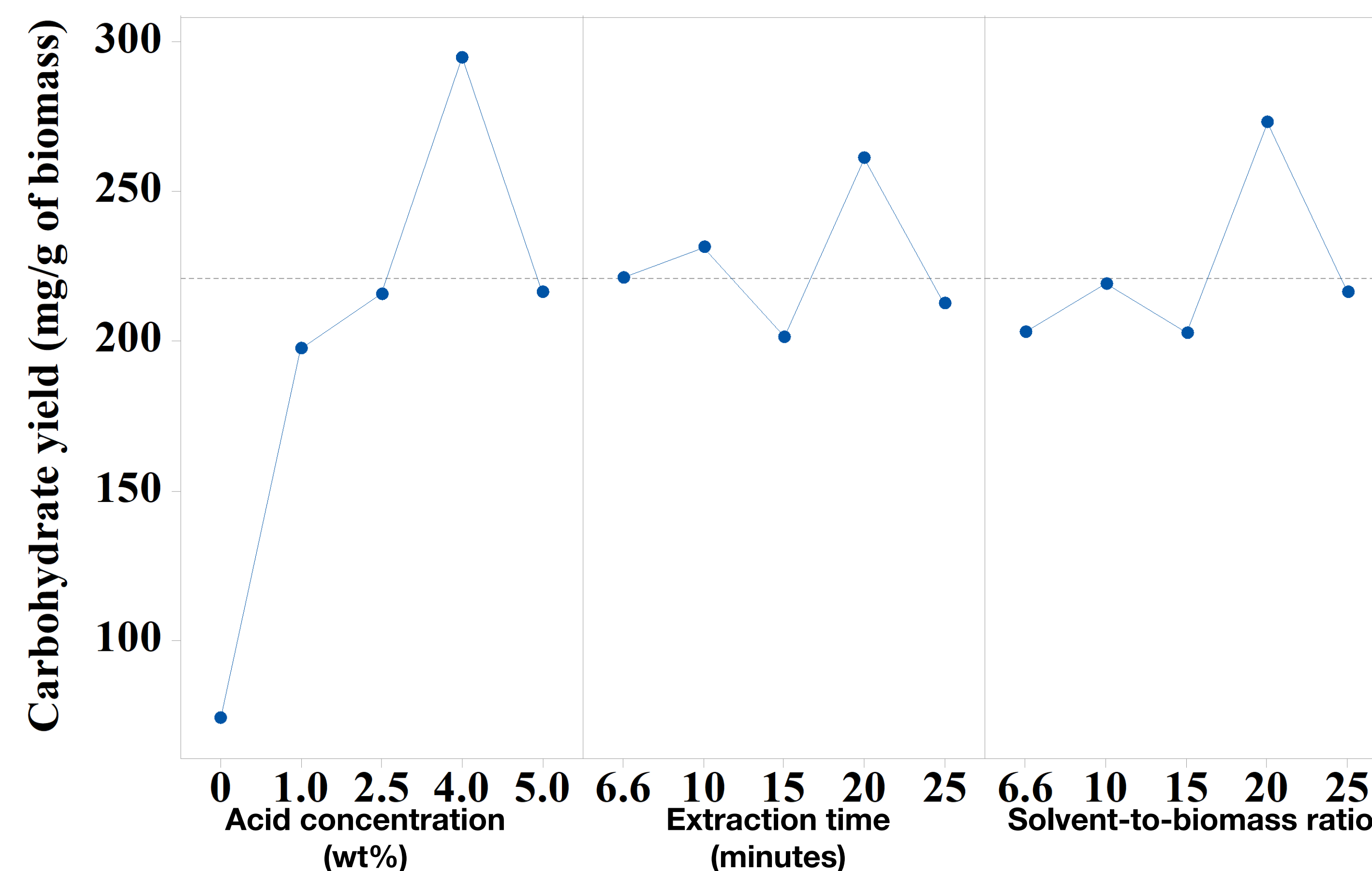


Table 1: Optimum conditions for carbohydrate recovery

Factor	Condition
Acid Concentration	4.0 wt%
Extraction Time	20 minutes
Solvent to Biomass Ratio	20 : 1

Motivation

- Microalgae is renewable, biodegradable, and eco-friendly
- The addition of carbohydrate recovery may reduce the economic risk of adopting sustainable microalgae-based technologies
- This will help mitigate global climate change by reducing fossil-derived products by producing analog renewable fuels and chemicals

Conclusions

- Acid hydrolysis conducted in a microwave significantly increases carbohydrate recovery compared to autoclave assisted hydrolysis due to the increase in cell rupture
- In this particular strain of *Chlorella Vulgaris* up to 40% of the dry biomass is carbohydrates
- This method allows for rapid carbohydrate determination compared to traditional methods

Future Work

- Compare results with extraction from wet biomass and extraction of carbs from heterotrophic *Chlorella Vulgaris*
- Determine if sonication can replicate microwave to facilitate extraction
- Determine best conditions for combined or two step extraction of carbohydrate and lipids

References

- ¹ To, Trang Q., et al. "Low Cost Ionic Liquid - Water Mixtures for Effective Extraction of Carbohydrate and Lipid from Algae of Carbohydrate and Lipid from Algae." *Faraday Discussions*, vol. 206, 2018, pp. 93-112.
- ² Chen, Chun-Yen, et al. "Microalgae-Based Carbohydrates for Biofuel Production." *Biochemical Engineering Journal*, vol. 78, 2013, pp. 1-10.
- Image Source: "Algae Biofuels - a Blooming Business." *Meristem Journeys*, 3 Nov. 2015