

A Novel NIR Spectroscopy Correlation Approach to Amino Acid Analysis of Soybean Proteins for Composition Improvements

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1. Introduction

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PROJECT SUMMARY

In the following slides a research project will be presented in which state-of-the-art FT-NIR instruments were evaluated and utilized, data analysis and calibration methodology were substantially improved. The goal was to allow rapid NIR analysis of the large number of soybean samples required for improving the genetics of soybean seed composition for agricultural cost savings and human health food applications.

PROJECT SUMMARY, cont'd

Calibrations are developed for three selected amino acid groups that include essential amino acids for identified soybean accessions.

Conventional “wet chemistry” analytical methods are time-consuming and costly. As a result, soybean breeders and researchers have an imperative need to utilize faster and less expensive methods. NIR Spectroscopy is a rapid and inexpensive method for composition analysis for academia and industry. Recent advancements in instrumentation design, such as the application of the Diode Array (DA) technique and the Fourier Transform (FT) IR and NIR techniques, have significantly improved overall instrument performance and advancement in the field of grain analysis.

Project Description

Overall Goals

- To design improved approaches to NIR calibrations for amino acid composition analysis of soybean proteins, soybeans and soybean food and feed matrix formulations
- To develop NIR calibration transfer methodology between different laboratories for various food and feed applications

Research Objectives

To produce NIR amino acid calibrations for a small group of three amino acids.

To investigate and develop methodology for NIR spectra pre-processing and data analysis to improve both the accuracy and reliability of NIR measurements of soybean seed composition.

To develop and optimize NIR Spectroscopy calibrations for determination of the above-mentioned amino acids in soybean seeds.

Research Objectives

To obtain reproducibly calibration plots of the above-mentioned four individual amino acids in soybean lines, using PLS-1 and PLS-2 regression algorithms

To perform multivariate analysis to better resolve the individual amino acid calibrations.

To carry out the analysis and comparison of soy proteins of similar amino acid composition in powder vs. gel vs. liquid suspension, in order to investigate the matrix effect on the NIR calibrations.

To compare reduced and unreduced soybean protein calibrations, to improve the cysteine vs. cystine NIR calibrations.

Research Objectives

- 1. To compare our results with the results of other laboratories' data, in order to investigate the transferability of NIR calibrations among different laboratories.**
- 2. To compare results with ^{13}C (Waltz;WAHUHA)) NMR and GC-MS primary data for amino acid composition.**

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Objectives, cont'd

Evaluate multivariate analysis methodology for NIR calibrations in order to determine soybean protein and soybean amino acid residue contents (go to wiki, or google, etc., and learn some)

Investigate the potential of NIR spectroscopy for developing calibrations for amino acids and amino acid mixtures [amino acid triple matrix method] [specify which amino acids and which mixtures – specify aa's, but for the mixtures, refer to the table in the next page]

Generate NIR calibrations of the soybean protein amino acid residues specified in the table on the next page, based on high-resolution nuclear magnetic resonance analysis

Background

The soybean:

- more than 3 Billion bushels produced in the US each year (USDA, 2007)
- Major source of plant protein and oil (and a high-level plant source of Methionine and Tryptophan)
- Protein content from different soybean cultivars vary greatly
 - Some have over 50% protein (dry wt.)
 - Some accessions show significantly higher Methionine (~19%*) and Cysteine levels

*Kuiken, 1948

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Research Objectives

Objectives that need to be addressed in order to realize NIR's utility in practical food applications and lab analysis:

Generate an NIRS calibration for all of the amino acid residues in soybean proteins that are determined by a primary method

Obtain an NIRS calibration for selected groups of three amino acid triplets, such as **Arg-Lys-Glx**, **Asx-Ala(or Val)-Pro**, or **(Met+Cys)-Arg-Val**.

- (Can such determinations result in significant savings of time and money in research and food industry labs?)

Obtain appropriate and accurate values for use in precision formulation matrices.

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Background

Soybean Uses

Main Soybean Growing Countries:

- United States, Brazil, Argentina, China and India

Some final products from soybean processing:

- Foods, Nutraceuticals, soy isoflavones
- TVP
- Animal feed
- Adhesives, Fibers, Lining
- Foams
- Fertilizers

Usage in Industry

- Developmental Labs and Grain Labs in industry have been reluctant to use NIR because of the low quality of instruments available (until recently) and to an extent, the lack of proper calibrations
- It has already been used in the area of new grain development, genetic selection and cross-breeding.
- Because of its high sensitivity, NIR is useful as a rapid and inexpensive screening tool, despite not having very high resolution, if a robust and accurate calibration can be generated.

Current Status

- The Food Industry and Nutritional Sciences have a great need for rapid techniques that are economical, accurate, reproducible and nondestructive.
- Protein Quality is an important processing and nutritional attribute

Soybean protein and amino acids – best method

- The methods that exist for judging protein quality are mostly destructive, and possess severe limitations, like changing the structure of amino acids before they're quantitated.
- SS NMR is an established method used to identify the aa residues, but has resolution limitations. However, NMR can be done in liquids or gels that improves the resolution.
- Drawback: NMR takes much longer than NIR
- NIR is a powerful *secondary* technique

UIUC NIR Soybean Database

- **Our high-resolution NIR calibrations and methodologies were employed to carry out a large number of protein and oil composition analyses of soybean seeds (:80,000) for breeding and selection purposes, over a period of three years.**
- **A wide variety of soybean developmental lines and more than 5,000 exotic soybean germplasm accessions were thus characterized accurately and reproducibly (Source: UIUC Soybean NIR Database).**
- **Such results demonstrate the usefulness of this novel NIR approach for soybean selection and breeding purposes. They also validate our NIR calibrations undertaken in parallel with the higher resolution (but slower and more expensive) NMR measurements.**

Applications

- R & D
 - Food Formulations and Protein Quality / Amino Acid Composition Analysis
- Food Developments
- Food Safety and Microbiology Applications
- Health Foods
- Nutraceuticals
- Nutrition Research
 - Agricultural Feeds and Pet Foods

Biomedical Applications

High-resolution NIR Chemical Imaging may also enable rapid and sensitive analyses with micro-arrays for Nucleic Acids, multiple Molecular Bioassays, Automated Proteomics, Biotechnology, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Applications, such as those aimed at early Detection of Cancer and Prevention.

References to Previous Work

- V. Prisecaru Publications
- I.C.Baianu et al. Publications
- Orf et al. Publications, etc.

VIP References

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- The effects of various macronutrient ingredients in snack bars on energy levels, satiety and hunger. FFH Conference, Urbana, IL, 2002. Abstract.
- The starting point for a healthy diet, ADA 2003 Oct. Abstract.
- Poster presentation: Assessing vitamin C and E deficiencies in U.S. adults using NHANES III and the 2000 DRIs. ADA Conference, St. Louis, MO 2001
- Poster presentation: The effects of various protein and carbohydrate ingredients in snack bars on blood glucose levels. ADA Conference, St. Louis, MO 2001.
- Poster presentation: Assessing vitamin C and E deficiencies in U.S. adults and suggesting ways to reduce deficiencies. IDA meeting Chicago, 2002
- Poster presentation: The effects of various protein and carbohydrate ingredients in laboratory-made energy bars on blood glucose levels. IDA meeting Chicago, 2002.
- Poster presentation: The effects of various protein and carbohydrate ingredients in snack bars on energy levels, satiety and hunger. FFH Conference, Urbana, IL, 2002.
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- Abstract: Painter, J.E., North, J., and Prisecaru, V.I., 2003. The starting point for a healthy diet: where popular diets and the governmental authorities agree. (2003 – JADA).

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You, T., Jun Guo, Ion C. Baianu, and Randall L. Nelson. 2002. Rapid Determination of Protein, Oil, Moisture, and Isoflavone Contents of Single Soybean Seeds by Fourier Transform Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy, *Proceedings of the China and International Soy Conference and Exhibition (CISCE 2002)*, November 6-9, pp. 414--415.

You, T., Jun Guo, Ion C. Baianu, and Randall L. Nelson 2002. "Determination of Isoflavone Contents in Bulk for Selected Soybean Lines by Fourier Transform Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy", in *Proceedings of the 9th Biennial Conference of the Cellular and Molecular Biology of the Soybean*, pp.503-5-04.

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 - Helms, T., J. Orf, G. Vallad, and P. McClean. 1997. Genetic variance, coefficient of parentage, and genetic distance of six soybean populations. *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 94: 20-26.
 - Helms, T.C., and J.H. Orf. 1998. Protein, oil, and yield of soybean lines selected for increased protein. *Crop Sci.* 38:707-711.
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Previous Studies

Brazil, 2003 to 2006

- Collected soybean samples in several different states in Brazil
- Analyzed amino acids in soybeans using:
 - HPLC
 - Derivatized HPLC
- Individual amino acid compositions of the soybean samples showed significantly different amino acid mean levels ($p < 0.01$ and $p < 0.02$) – **Met, Lys, and Thr**
- Tentative Conclusion: it is possible to calculate the a.a. content of a sample for several amino acids by comparison with a primary method; **however, primary data was *not* available for several essential amino acids.**

Rationale and Significance

Both major advancements in instrumentation, and improved data analysis/novel calibration methodologies are necessary to improve the accuracy and reliability of NIR for measuring low-level components such as individual amino acids.

Rationale and Significance

- High-protein, high-yield cultivars increase the soybean crop value. Conventional, or “wet chemistry”, methods are time-consuming, expensive and impractical for repetitive measurements required for genetic selection and breeding experiments to increase both protein content and the agronomic yield values of soybean cultivars
- **Faster and less expensive methods for protein, oil, moisture and amino acid analysis of soybeans are needed**

Rationale and Significance

Novel NIR instrumentation techniques – combined with improved data analysis and calibration methodologies – are essential for selecting soybean cultivars with both high quality protein composition and high agronomic yield.

Such improved NIR analysis can also result in enormous cost and time savings for the amino acid composition analysis that is required for example by soybean breeders in genetic selection experiments.

NIR AA Calibration Data

Flow-Chart of the Steps in a Novel Approach for Amino Acid NIRS Analysis of Soybeans and Proteins

Selection of Standard Samples with the widest Range of Equally-Spaced Values (ES-ROV)

Primary Methods of Analysis for:
(AA , P , M and O (oil))

Correlation test with Protein % D

Precision Formulation Matrix for Calculating Concentration Steps

Selection Criteria:

High ROV > 20%

and Low Correlation: < 90%

NIRS Measurements

Next Group of Amino Acids

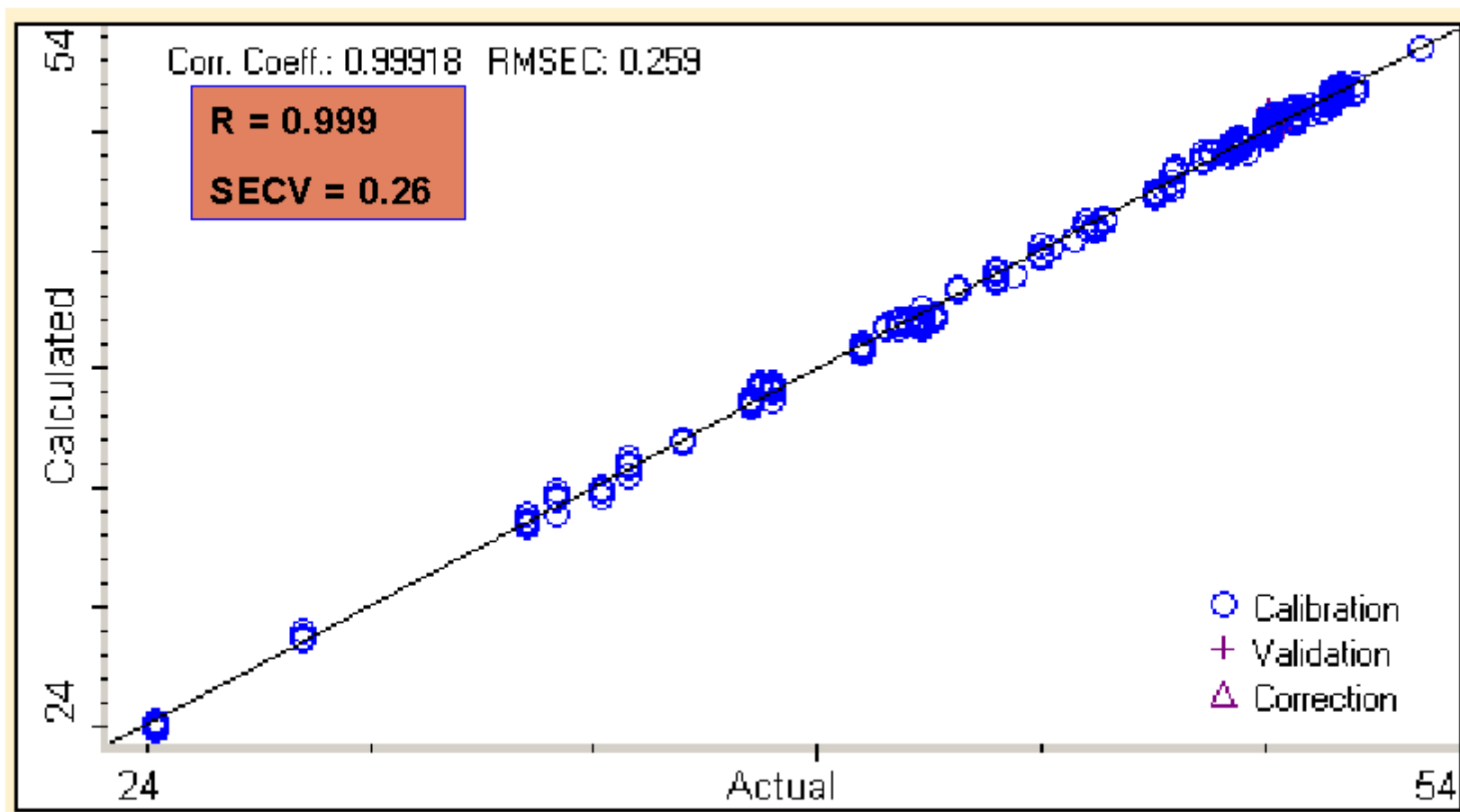
PLS-1

PLS-2 (n<6: 3 AA+P+M+O)

Selection of an Amino Acid Triplet Group for Calibration

Three AA Composition Results

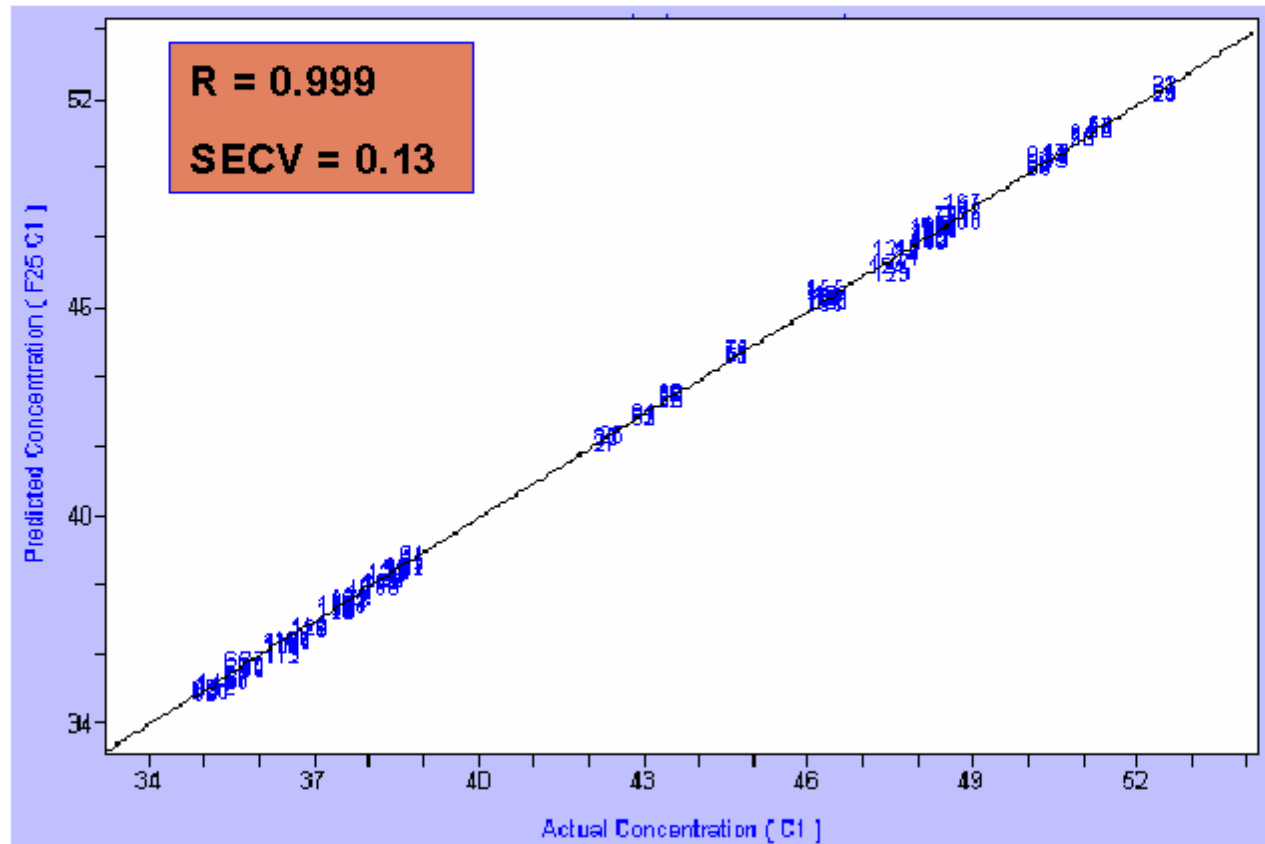
Protein Calibration for Bulk Soybean Analysis on the Spectrum One NTS FT-NIR Instrument



65 calibration standards, 20 grams for each standard, 8.9mm NIR beam size

Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

Protein Calibration for Bulk Soybean Analysis on the DA-7000 Diode Array NIR Instrument



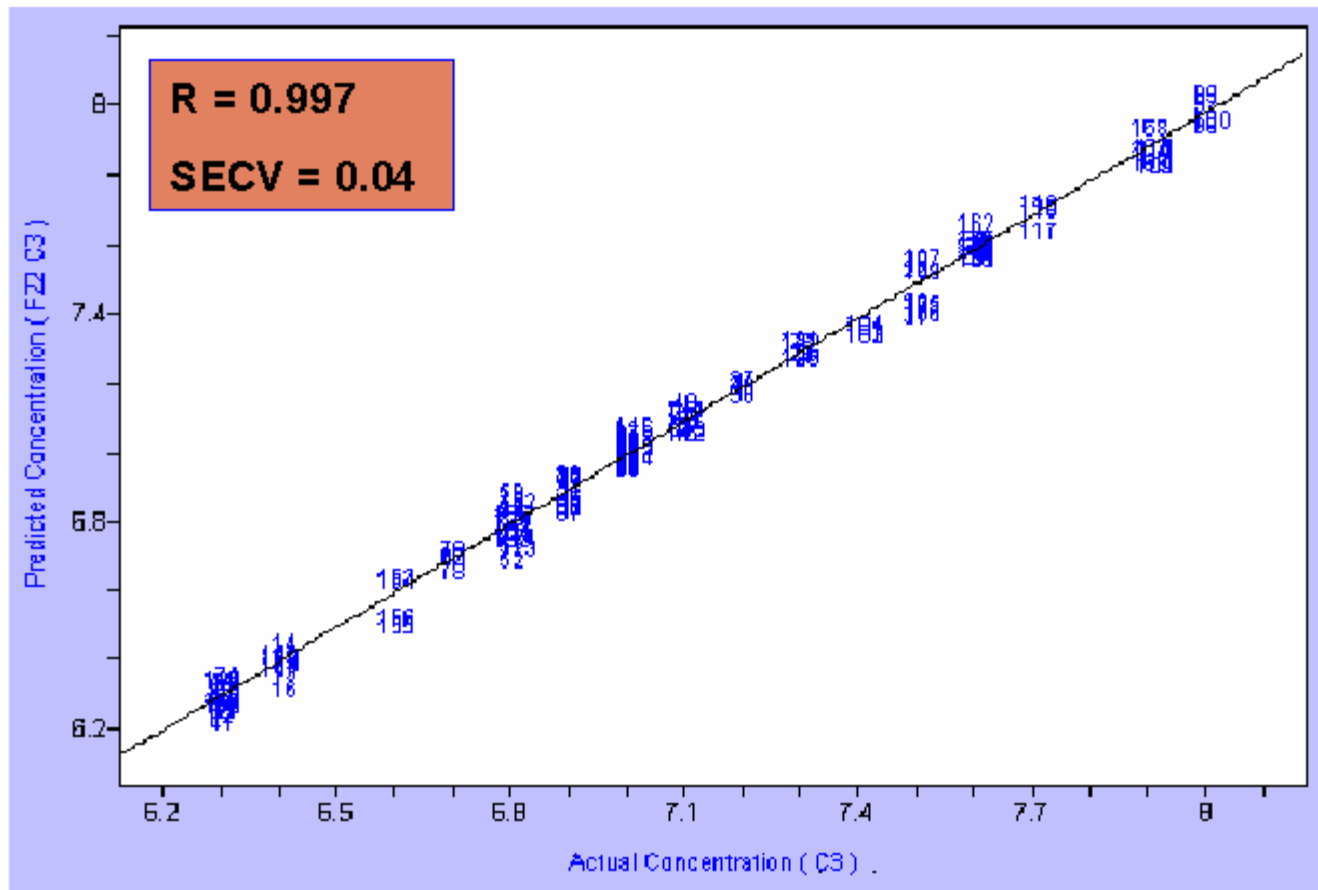
Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

Calibration Results for Protein and Oil Analysis with the Perten DA-7000, Dual Diode-Array DA-NIR Instrument

Components	Protein		Oil	
	Bulk Sample	Single Seeds	Bulk Sample	Single Seeds
SECV	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.5
R	99.9%	98.5%	99.9%	98.5%

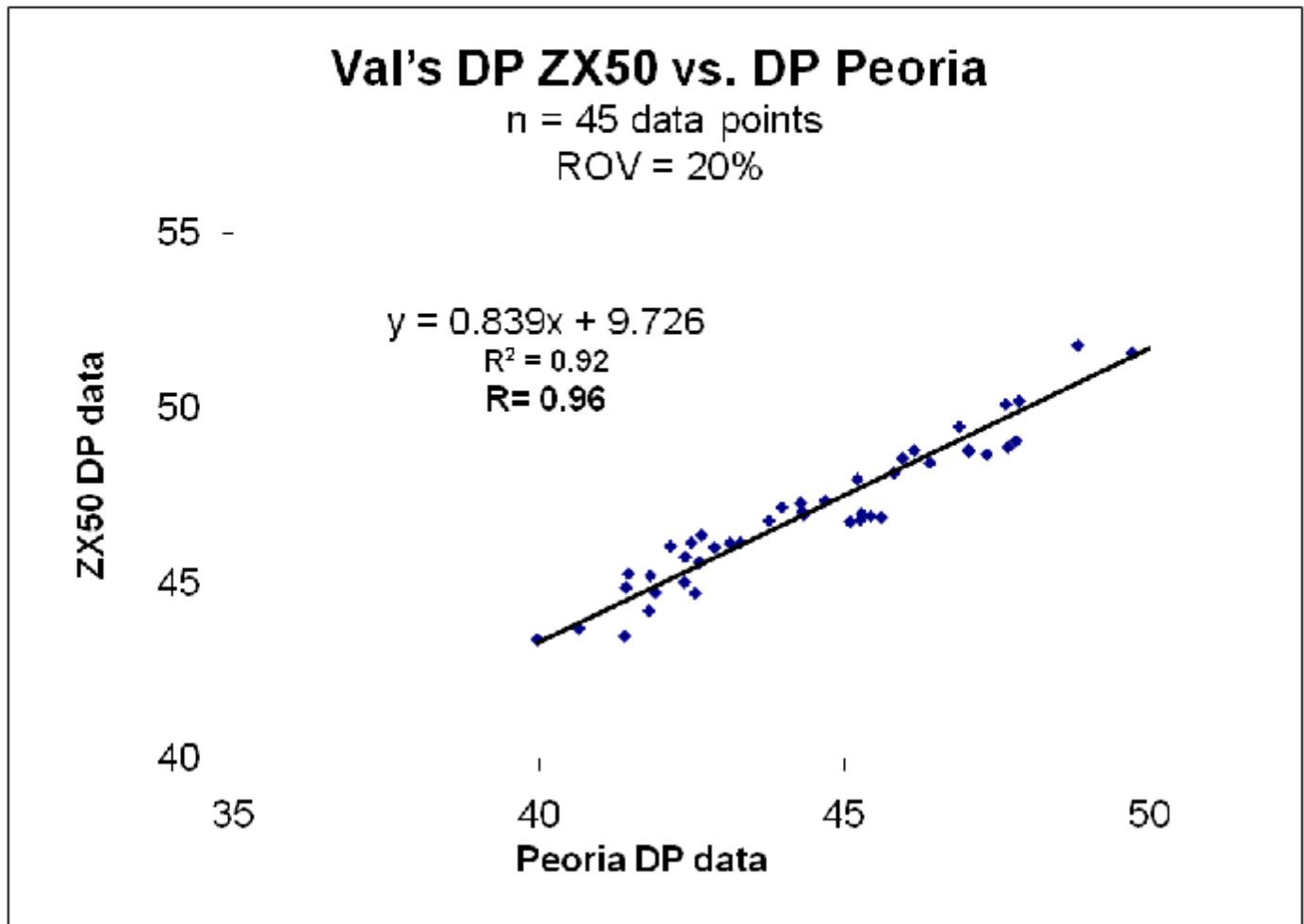
Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

Moisture Calibration for Bulk Soybean Analysis on the DA-7000 Diode Array NIR Instrument



Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

Comparison of NIR Dry Soy Protein Data (Primary data: Sigma Method–Lowry modified)



Correlations of Amino Acids with Crude Protein in Soybeans

A.A.	R²	R
ASX	0.634	0.796
THR	0.005	0.071
SER	0.578	0.760
GLX	0.690	0.831
PRO	0.480	0.693
GLY	0.628	0.792
ALA	0.619	0.787
VAL	0.640	0.800
ILE	0.631	0.794

A.A.	R²	R
LEU	0.644	0.802
TYR	0.536	0.732
PHE	0.474	0.689
HIS	0.499	0.706
LYS	0.652	0.807
ARG	0.687	0.829
MET	0.548	0.740
CYS	0.498	0.706
M+C	0.538	0.733

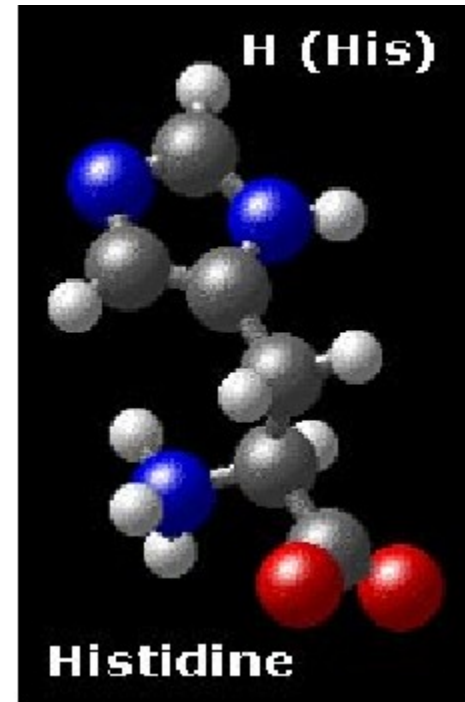
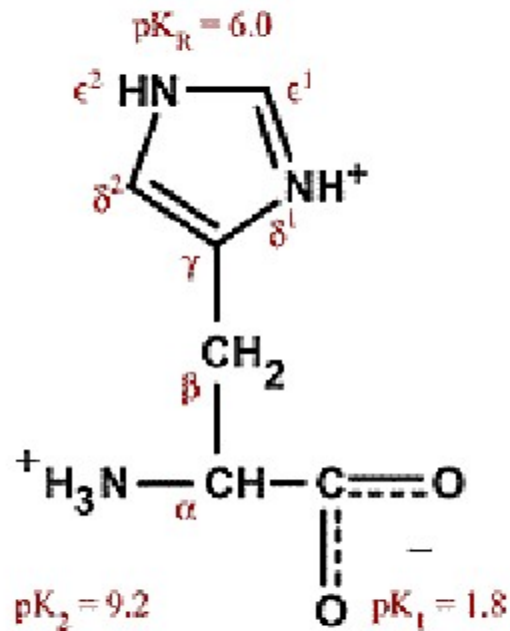
Amino Acids **Highly-Correlated** with the Dry Protein Content:

- Histidine: **R = 0.93**
- Arginine: **R = 0.90**
- Glx: **R = 0.88**
- Valine: **R = 0.87**
- Leucine: **R = 0.85** → *borderline*

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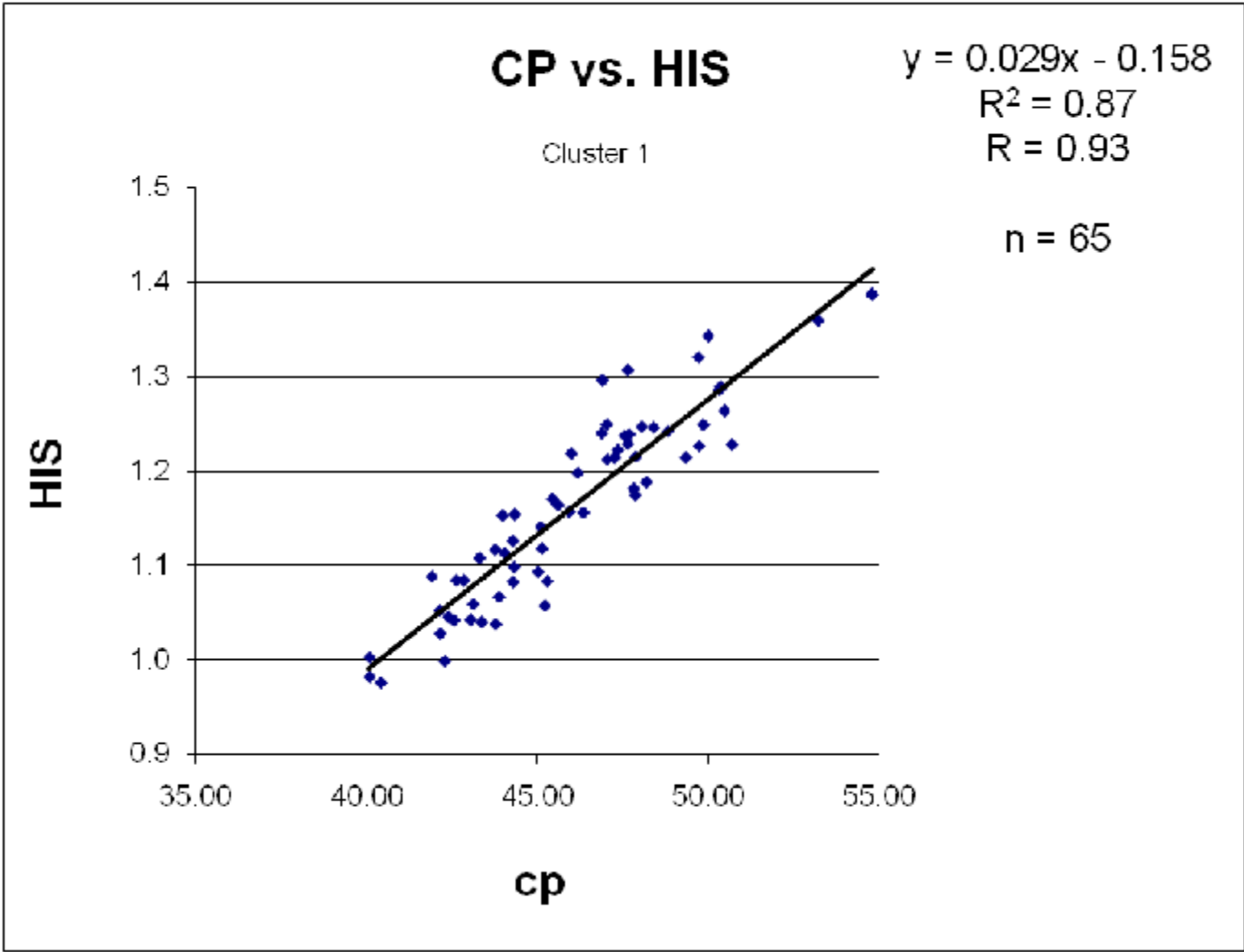
and the **imino acid** Proline: **R = 0.87**

Histidine

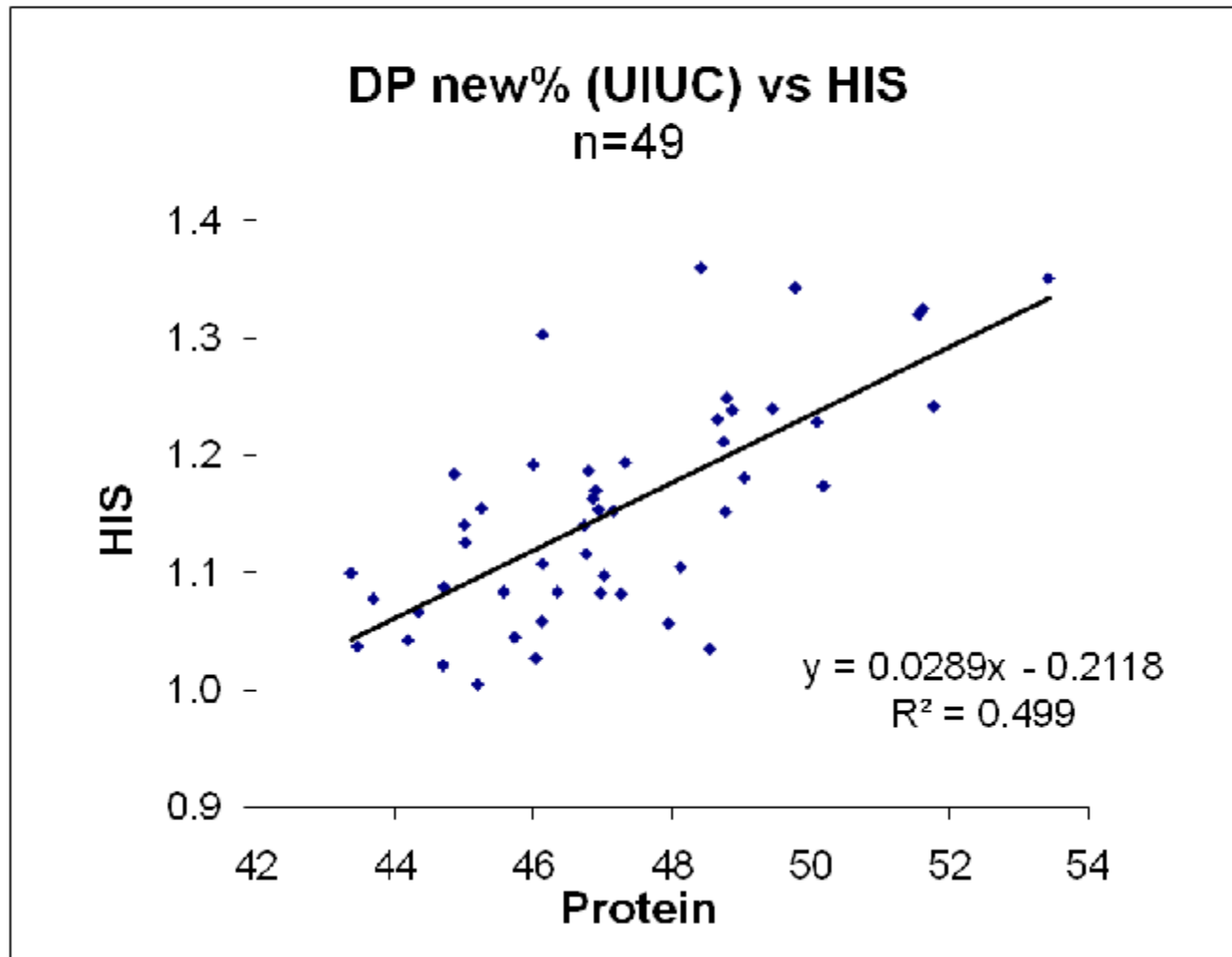


- Basic
- Polar
- Positively charged
- $pK_1 = 1.8$
- $pK_2 = 9.2$
- $pK_R = 6.0$ (NH⁺)

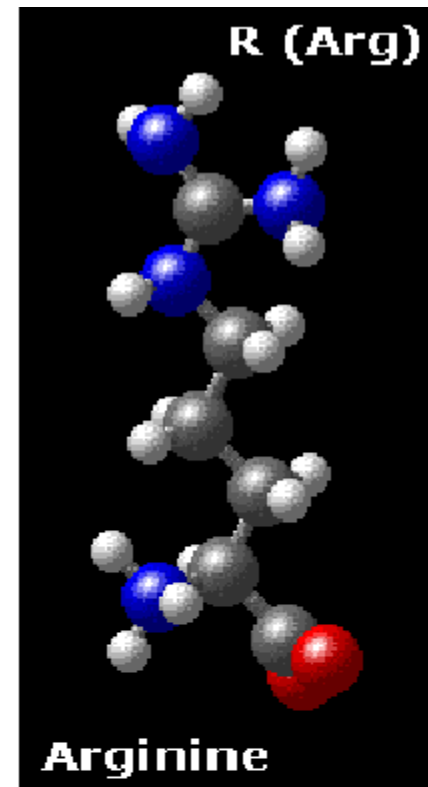
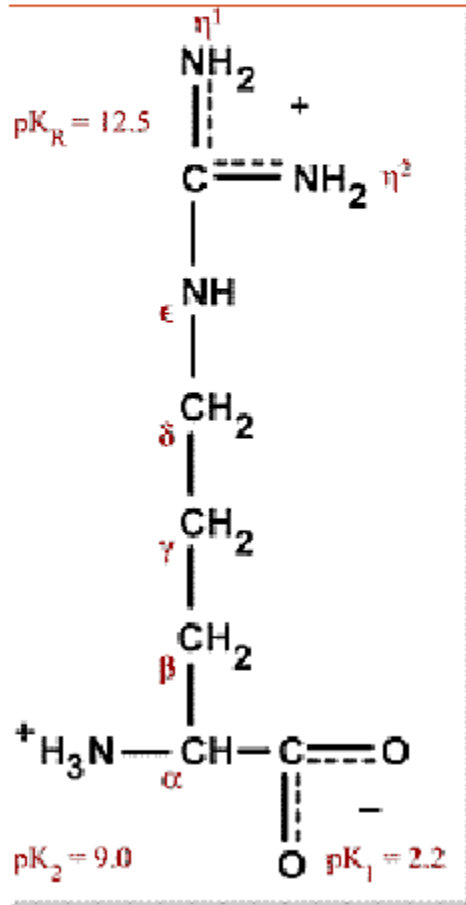
Histidine: His vs. % Dry Protein



Histidine: His vs. % Dry Protein

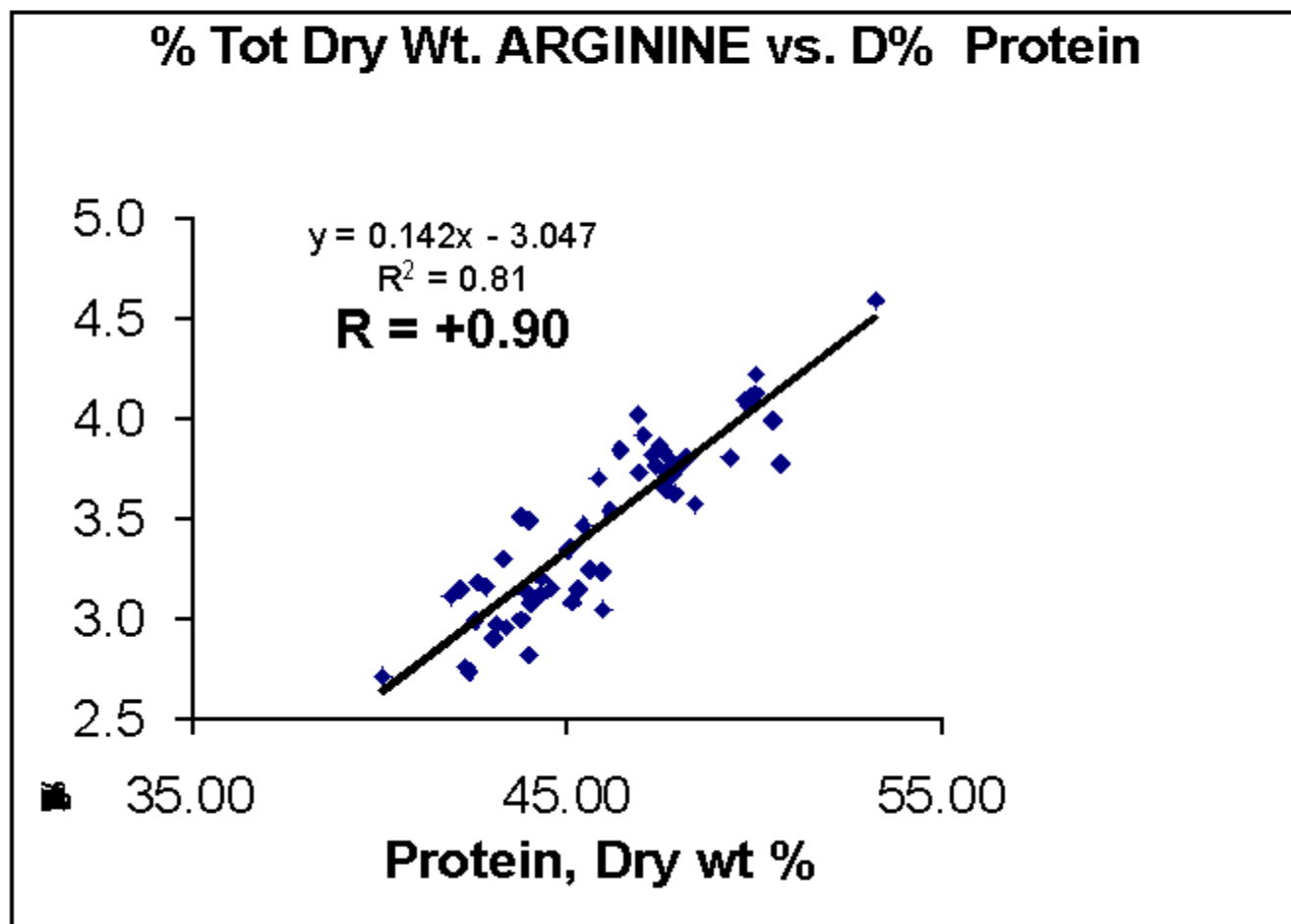


Arginine



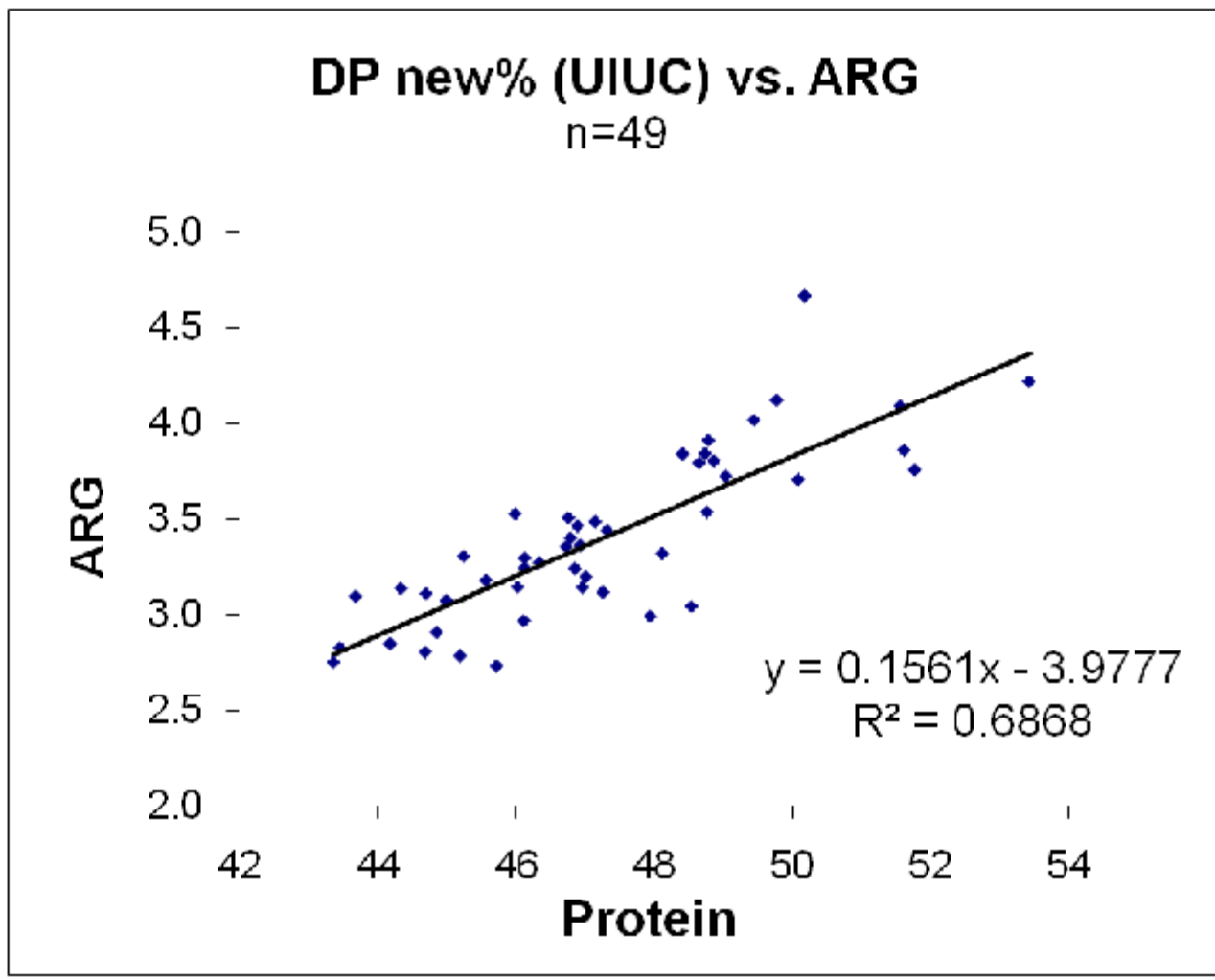
- Polar
- Positively charged
- $\text{pK}_1 = 2.2$
- $\text{pK}_2 = 9.0$
- $\text{pK}_R = 12.5$

Amino Acid Contents of Soybeans Determined by GCMS and Correlation with Total Dry Protein

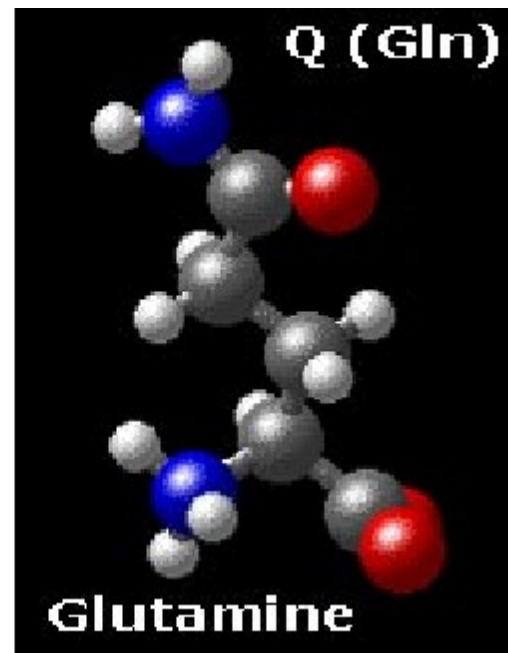
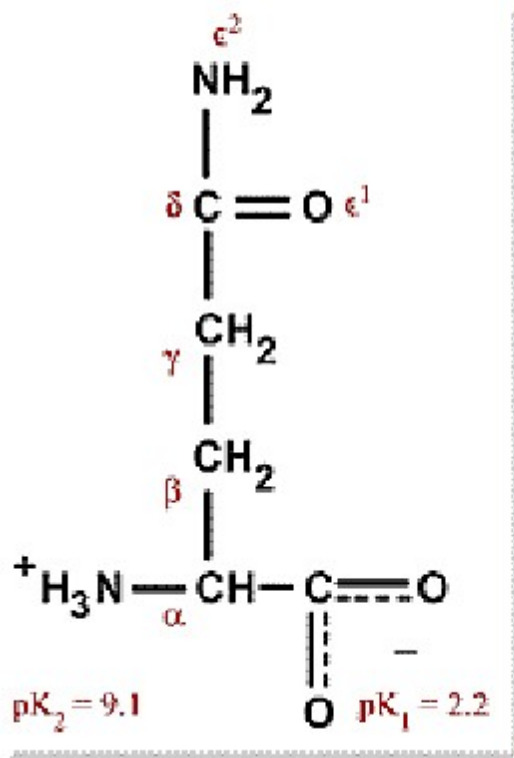


Amino Acid Content of Soybeans Determined by GCMS: Correlation with Total Dry Protein

Nature Precedings : doi:10.1038/npre.2011.6231.4 : Posted 7 Nov 2011

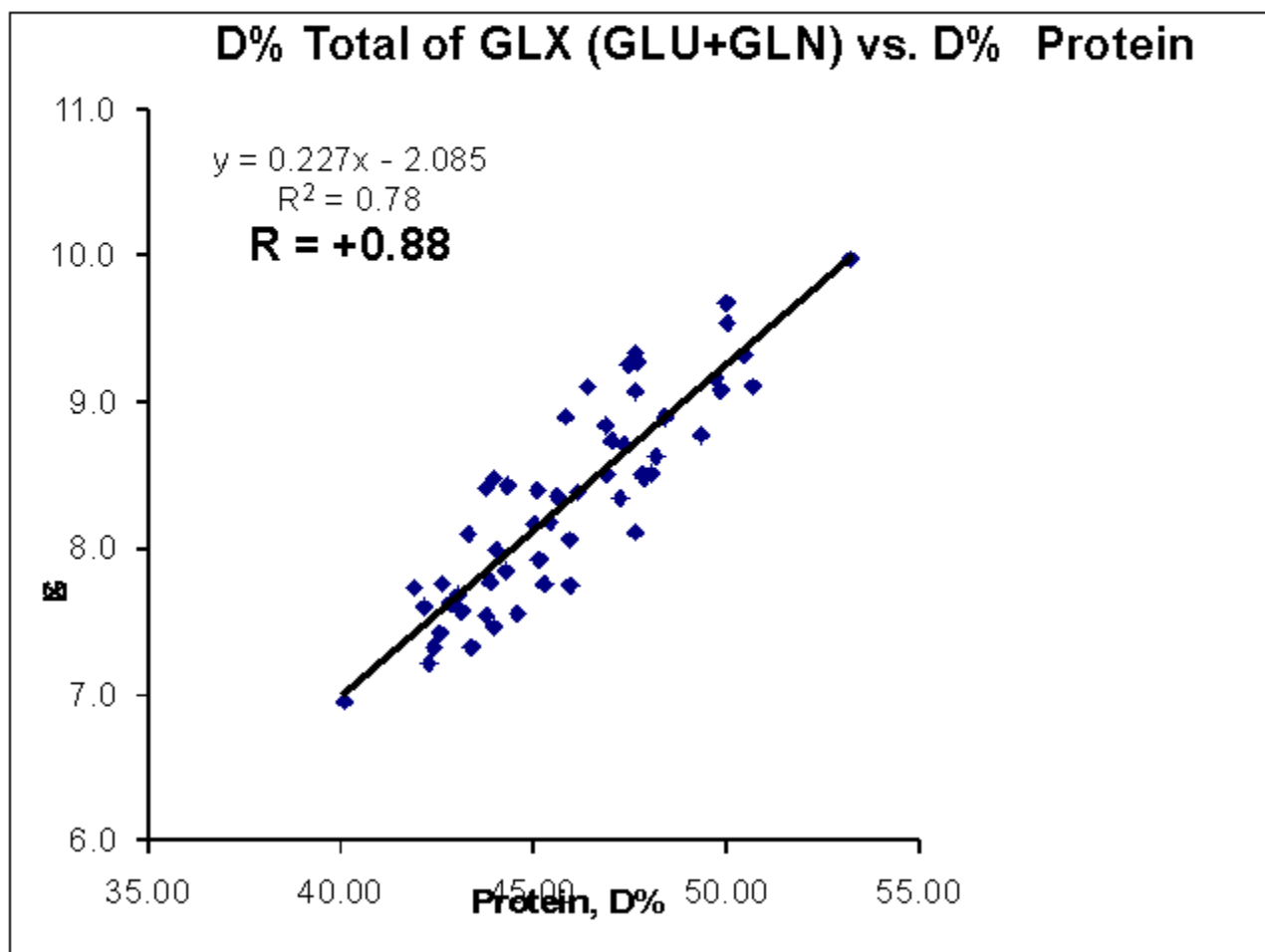


Glutamine

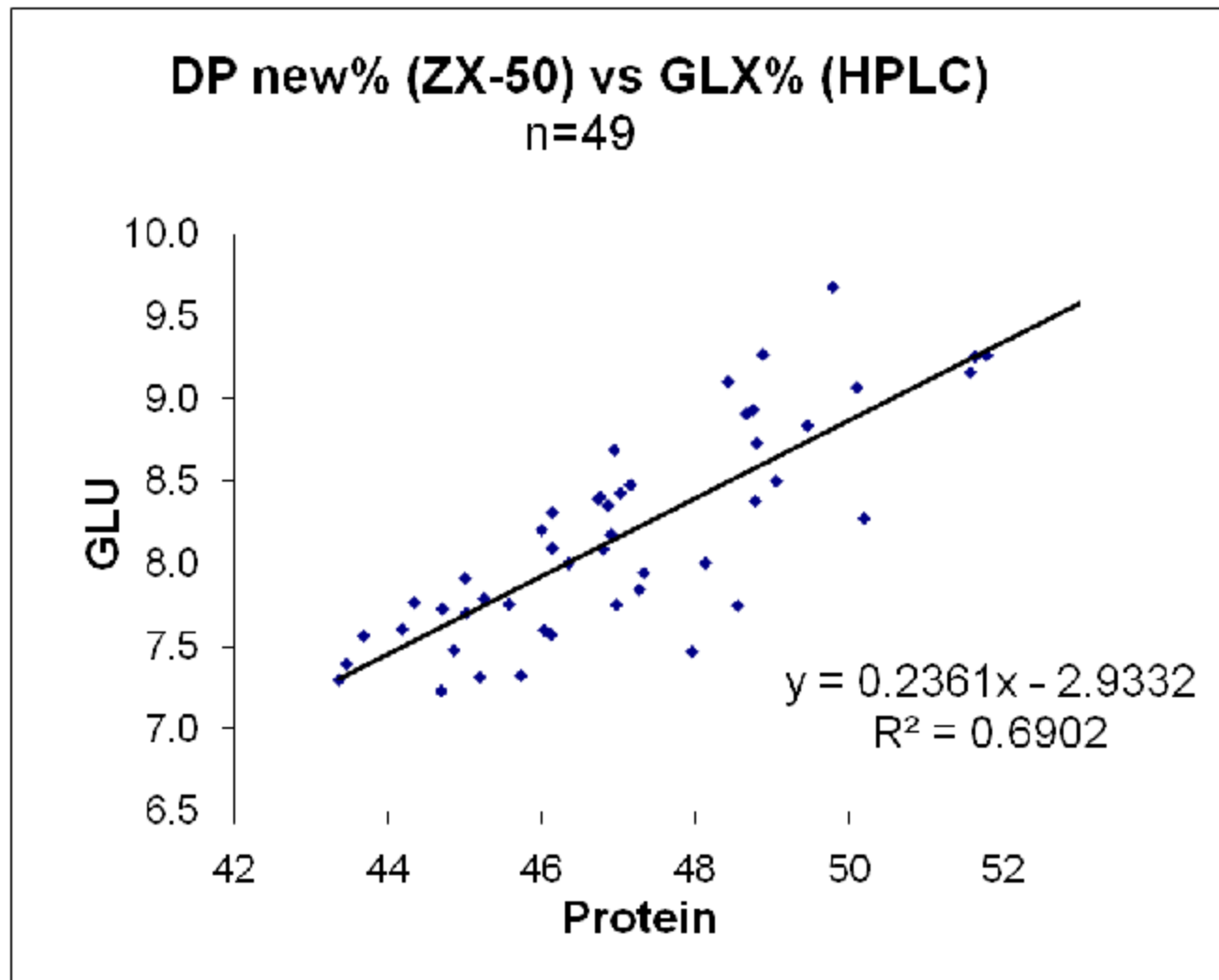


- Neutral
- Polar (uncharged)
- pK₁ = 2.2
- pK₂ = 9.1

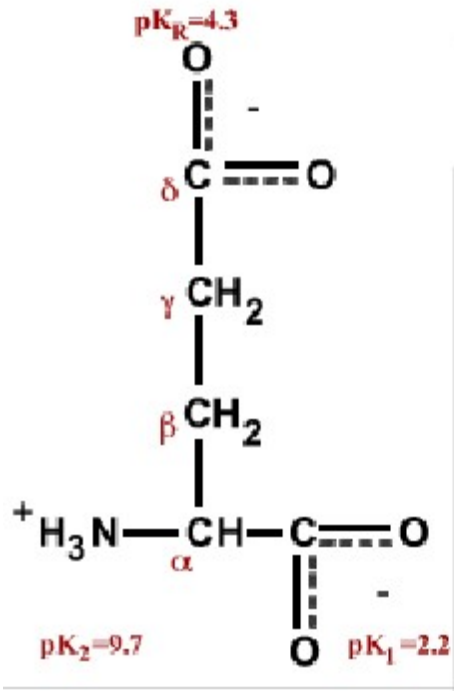
Glutamine plus Glutamic Acid, "GLX", as Total Dry Weight % vs. Dry Soybean Protein %



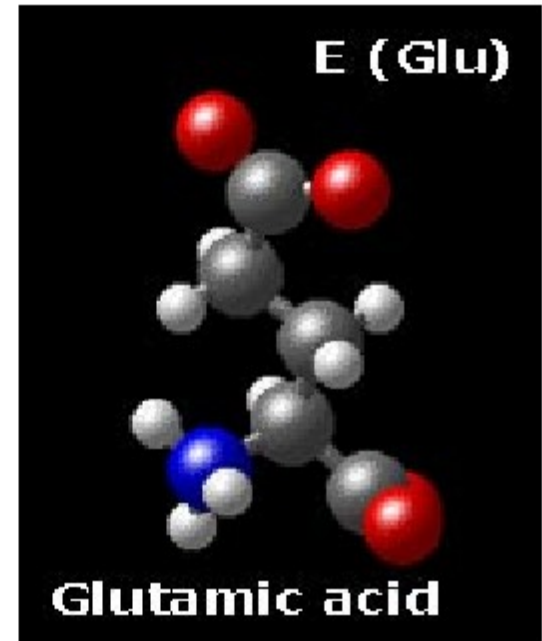
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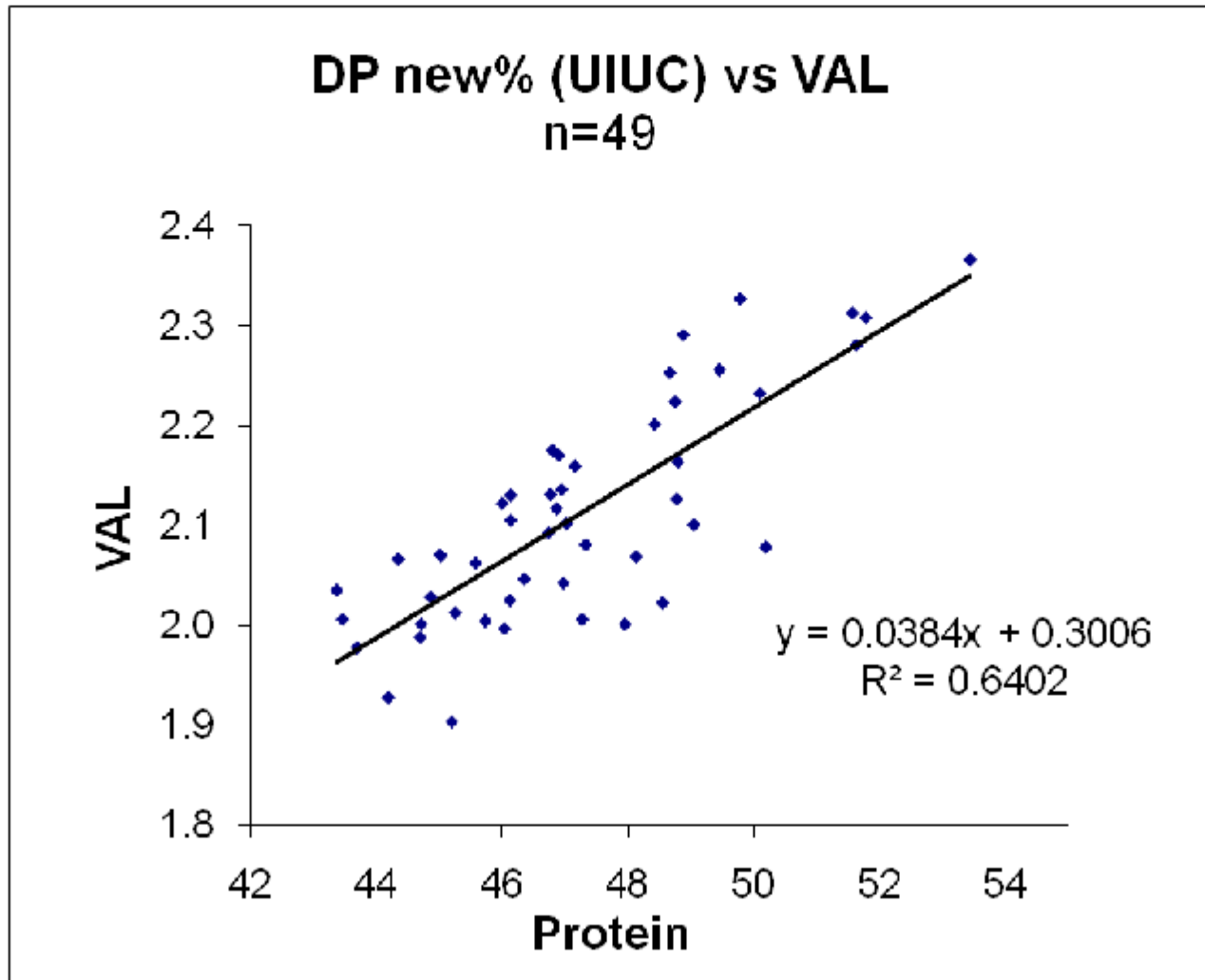
Glutamic acid



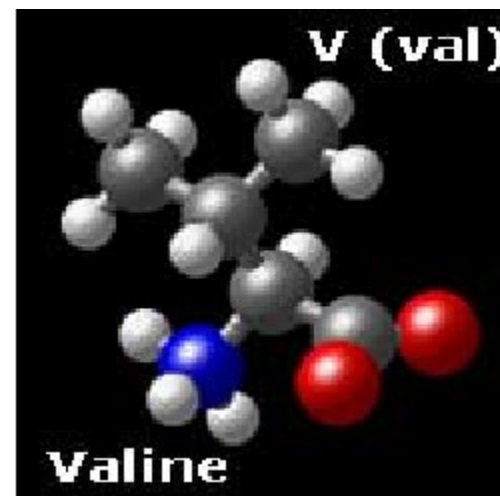
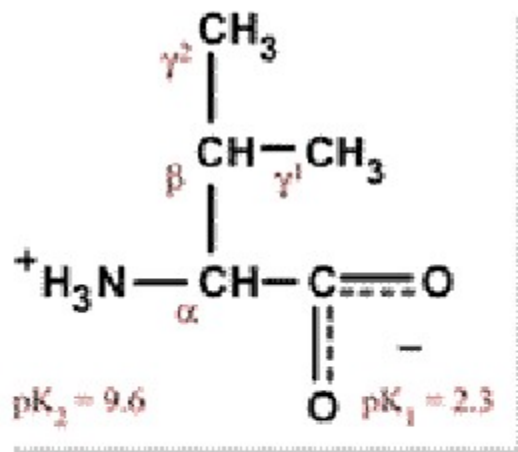
- Acidic
- Polar (charged)
- $\text{pK}_1 = 2.2$
- $\text{pK}_2 = 9.7$
- $\text{pK}_R = 4.3$



Valine

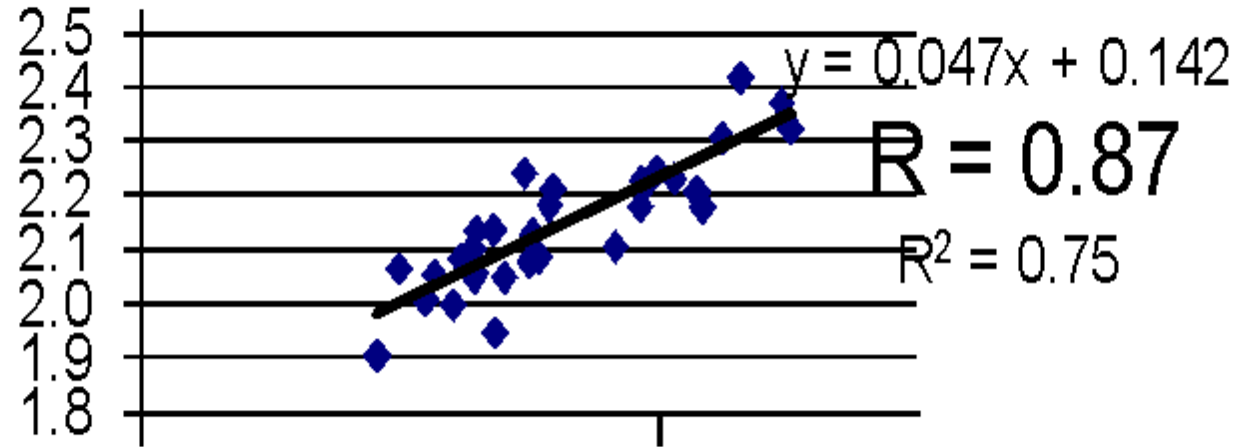


Valine



- Aliphatic
- Non-polar
- $pK_1 = 2.3$
- $pK_2 = 9.6$

PRO vs. Protein % D

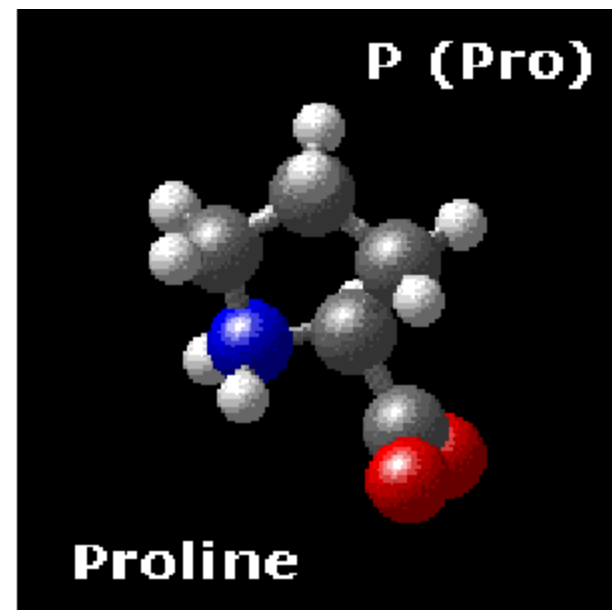
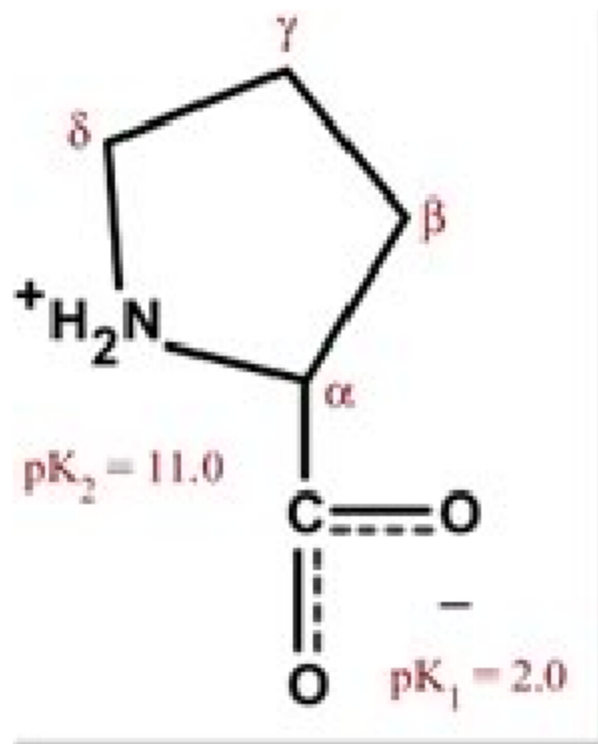


35.00

45.00

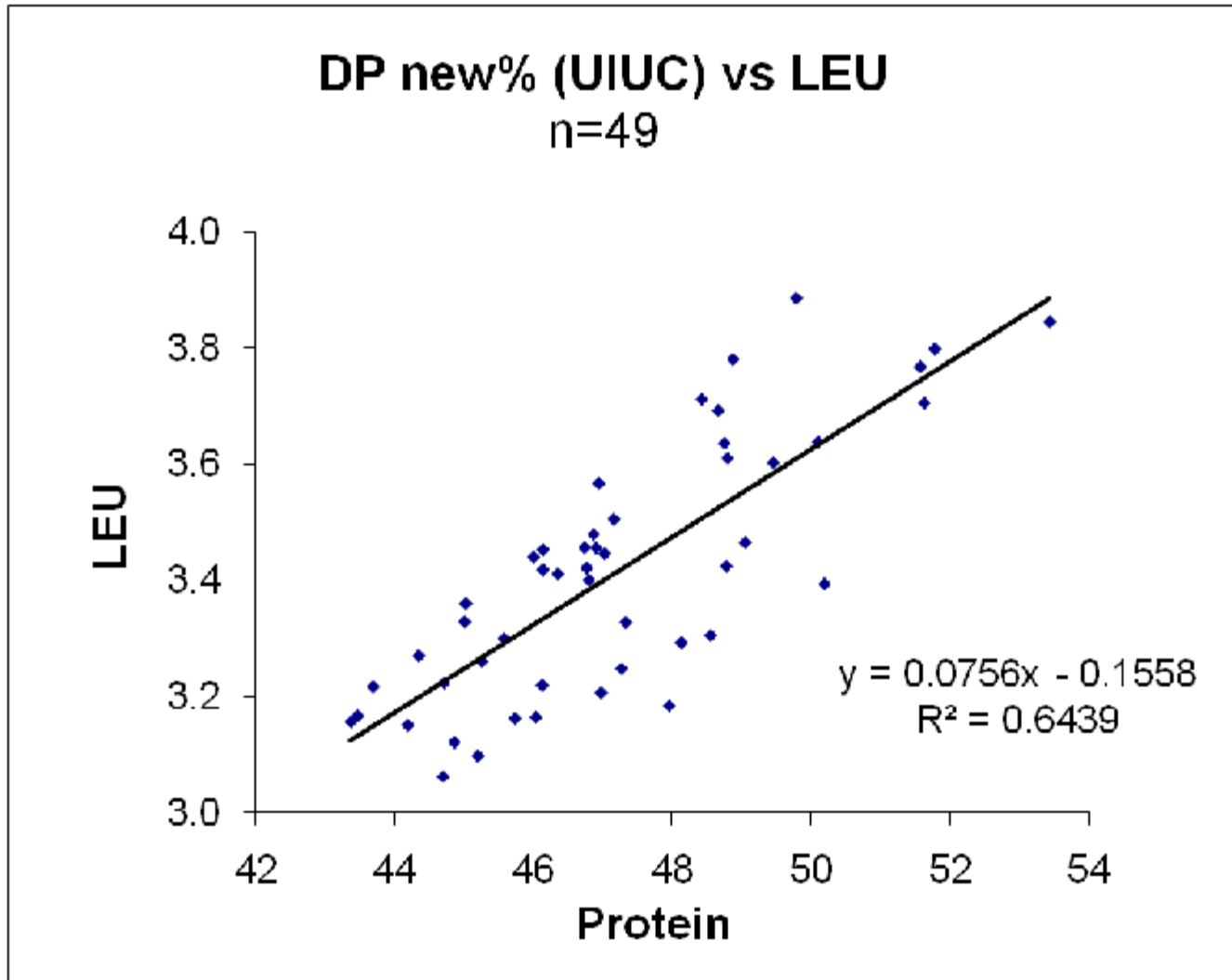
Protein by NIR

Imino Acid – Proline

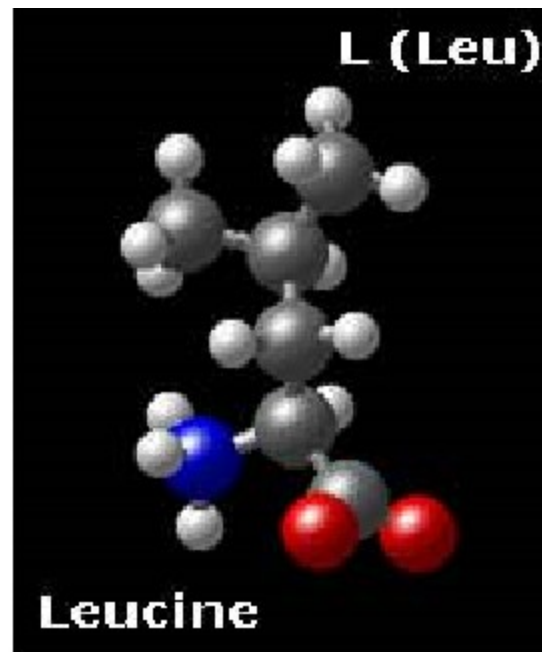
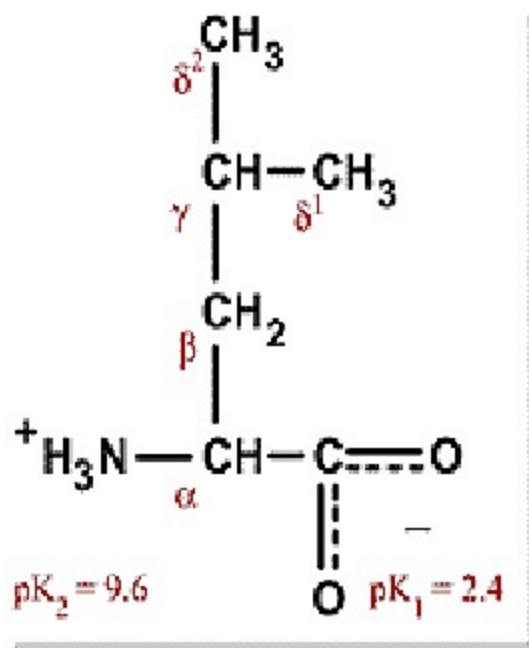


- Cyclic
- Non-polar
- Similar to aliphatic group amino acids
- $\text{pK}_1 = 2.0$
- $\text{pK}_2 = 11.0$

Leucine



Leucine



- Aliphatic
- Non-polar
- Usually buried in folded proteins
- $\text{pK}_1 = 2.4$
- $\text{pK}_2 = 9.6$

Amino Acids Highly-Correlated with the Dry Protein Content:

- Histidine: **R= 0.93**
- Arginine: **R= 0.90**
- Glx: **R= 0.88**
- Valine: **R= 0.87**
- Leucine: **R= 0.85**

=====

and the Imino Acid Proline: **R = 0.87**

Amino Acid Primary Data (GC-MS)

Amino Acid Primary Data:

(sample of 401 data points out of a total of 3,618)

#	ASP	THR	SER	GLU	PRO	GLY	ALA	VAL	ILE	LEU	TYR	PHI	HIS	LYS	ARG	MET	CYS	M+S
1	4.8	1.6	2.0	7.3	2.1	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.8	3.2	1.4	2.1	1.1	2.6	2.8	0.7	0.8	1.5
2	4.8	1.6	2.0	7.3	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.8	3.2	1.2	2.0	1.0	2.5	2.7	0.7	0.8	1.5
3	5.0	1.6	2.1	7.8	2.1	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	3.2	1.3	2.1	1.1	2.7	3.1	0.7	0.8	1.5
4	4.8	1.6	2.1	7.5	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.9	3.2	1.3	2.1	1.1	2.6	3.0	0.7	0.7	1.4
5	4.9	1.6	2.1	7.4	2.1	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	3.2	1.2	2.1	1.0	2.6	2.8	0.7	0.8	1.5
6	4.9	1.6	2.1	7.6	2.1	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	3.2	1.2	2.2	1.1	2.6	3.0	0.7	0.7	1.4
7	5.3	1.8	2.4	8.4	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.5	2.2	1.2	2.8	3.5	0.6	0.8	1.5
8	5.0	1.6	2.1	7.8	2.2	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	3.3	1.4	2.1	1.1	2.7	3.1	0.7	0.8	1.5
9	5.1	1.7	2.3	7.9	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	3.3	1.3	2.2	1.1	2.7	3.1	0.7	0.9	1.7
10	5.7	1.4	2.7	9.1	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.2	3.6	1.6	2.4	1.2	3.0	3.7	0.8	1.0	1.9
11	6.2	1.6	2.9	9.7	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.3	2.2	3.9	1.6	1.8	1.3	3.1	4.1	0.9	1.0	1.9
12	6.1	1.7	2.8	9.5	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.3	3.8	1.7	2.5	1.4	3.2	4.2	0.9	1.1	1.9
13	5.9	1.5	2.8	9.3	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.2	3.8	1.6	2.5	1.2	3.1	3.8	0.9	1.1	1.9

15	6.0	1.5	2.8	9.2	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.2	3.8	1.5	2.4	1.3	3.0	4.1
16	5.7	1.5	2.7	8.8	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	3.6	1.6	2.3	1.2	2.9	4.0
17	6.0	1.5	2.8	8.7	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	3.6	1.6	2.4	1.2	2.9	3.9
18	5.9	1.5	2.7	9.3	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.2	3.7	1.6	2.4	1.3	3.1	3.9
19	5.7	1.8	2.5	8.9	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	3.6	1.6	2.4	1.2	3.0	3.8
20	5.8	1.4	2.8	9.1	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	3.7	1.6	2.4	1.4	3.0	3.8
21	5.9	1.8	2.6	9.3	2.5	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.2	3.8	1.6	2.2	1.2	3.0	3.8
22	5.7	1.8	2.5	8.9	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.1	3.7	1.5	2.4	1.2	3.0	3.8
23	5.6	1.7	2.3	8.5	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	3.5	1.5	2.3	1.2	2.8	3.7
24	5.3	1.4	2.6	8.2	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.5	2.2	1.2	2.8	3.5
25	5.4	1.6	2.4	8.4	2.3	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.4	2.2	1.1	2.7	3.5

Amino Acid ROVs

AA	ASX	THR	SER	GLX	PRO	GLY	ALA	VAL	ILE
Max	6.20	1.82	2.90	9.67	2.60	2.18	2.57	2.37	2.27
Min	4.73	1.35	2.04	7.23	1.95	1.72	1.72	1.90	1.78
Ratio	0.24	0.26	0.30	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.33	0.20	0.22

AA	LEU	TYR	PHE	HIS	LYS	ARG	MET	CYS	met+c
Max	3.89	1.66	2.53	1.36	3.20	4.67	0.88	1.08	1.95
Min	3.06	1.11	1.54	1.00	2.52	2.73	0.65	0.72	1.38
Ratio	0.21	0.33	0.39	0.26	0.21	0.41	0.27	0.34	0.29

Legend:

Red
(poor;
low)

Green
(accept
table)

Blue
(good;
high)

Comparison Between Amino Acid Contents of Soybean Seeds Determined by Primary Data: ¹³C Liquid State HR NMR and IEC

Nature Precedings : doi:10.1038/npre.2011.6231.4 : Posted 7 Nov 2011

Wt. % total	Ala	Val	Leu	Ile	Gly	Asn	Asp	Asx	Gln	Glu	Glx
NMR	5	5	7	4.5	4	7	5	12	11	8	19
IEC	4	5.2	7.3	4.7	2.8	ND	ND	12.1	ND	ND	21.3

Wt. % total	Ser	Thr	Arg	Lys	Trp	Tyr	His	Phe	Cys	Met
NMR	5	4	8	7	1	3	3	6	1.5	1
IEC	4.6	3.6	9.5	7.8	ND	3.5	2.6	5.5	ND	0.9

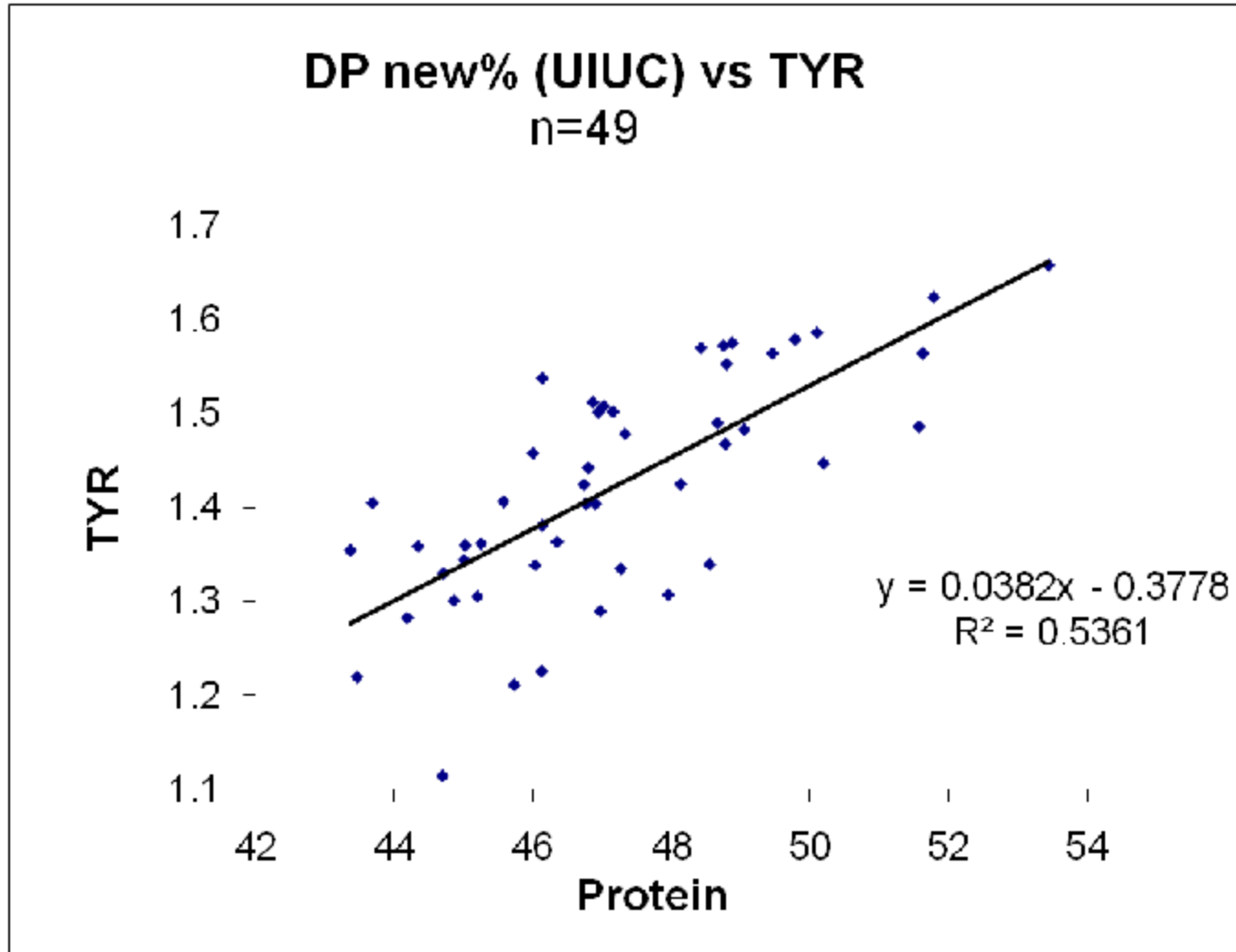
SOY PROTEIN and MOISTURE DATA , with Soybean Accession Identifiers

ID v = very, lt = light, grn = green,
brn = brown, bl = black

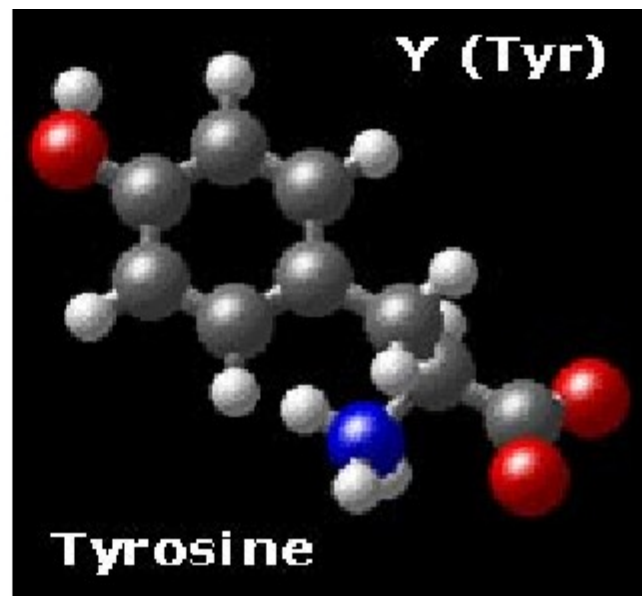
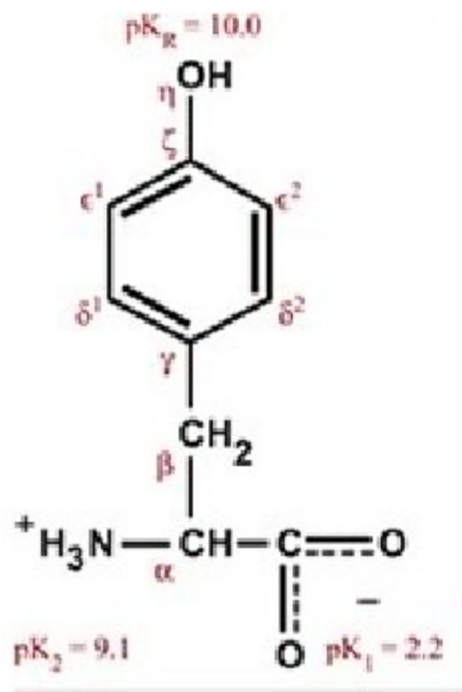
acid source	coat color	cultivar	seed
PI536636	Y	Ripley	93U-5051
PI548518	Y	Cutler	71 92U-901
PI548477	Lgn	Ogden	99S-4040
PI548379	Y	Mandarin	00U-109
PI548603	Y	Perry	98U-1459
PI533655	Y	Burlison	95U-2238
PI548311	Y	Capitol	97U-2231
PI548659	Y	Braxton	94S-6

VIP-Data			Example:		
10DataPoints			TOTAL: 3,816data-points		
	Prot	Moist	Oil	DP	DP
calc	DO calc				
	35.57	11.10	20.50	40.01	40.01
		23.06			
	36.91	10.00	20.76	41.00	41.01
		23.07			
	41.75	10.41	17.06	46.60	46.60
		19.04			
	41.44	10.30	10.02	46.20	46.20
		11.17			
	41.10	10.16	18.60	45.75	45.75
		20.70			
	36.71	9.12	20.60	40.40	40.39
		22.67			
	38.03	10.84	20.24	42.65	42.65
		22.70			
	39.52	10.44	19.34	44.13	44.13
		21.59			
	40.17	9.04	18.80		44.16
		20.67			
	40.67	10.25	18.30	45.31	45.31
		20.39			

Tyrosine vs. %DP

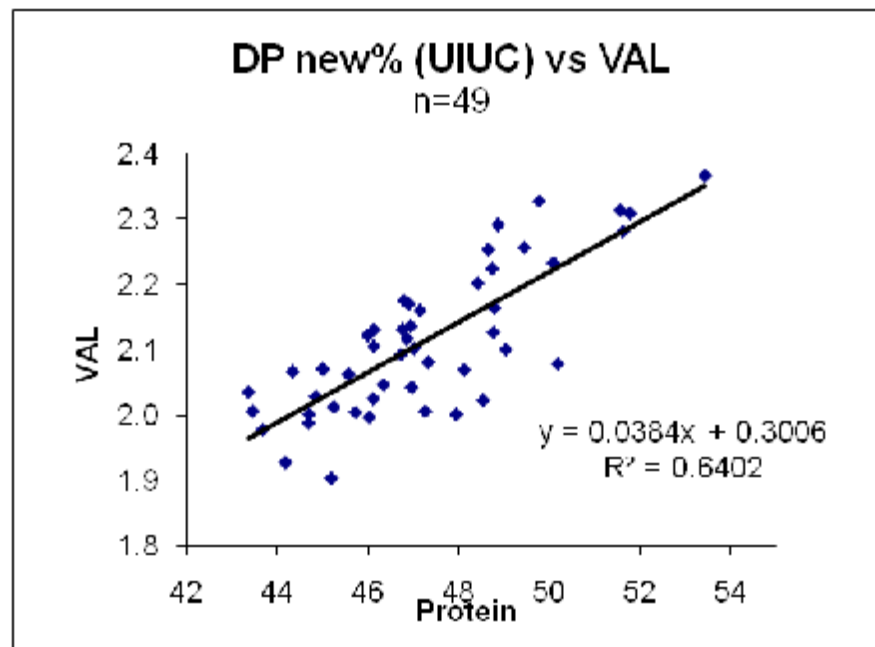
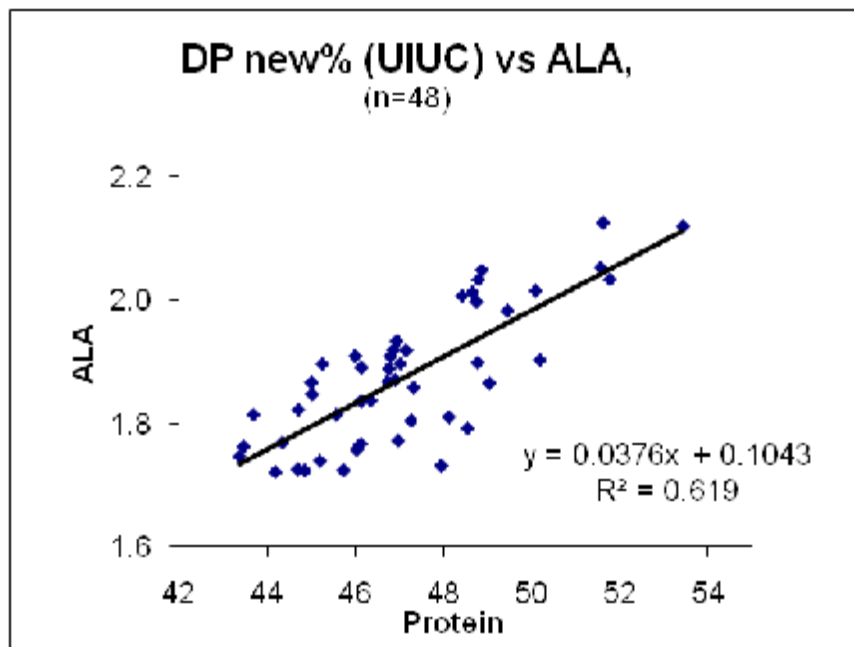


Tyrosine

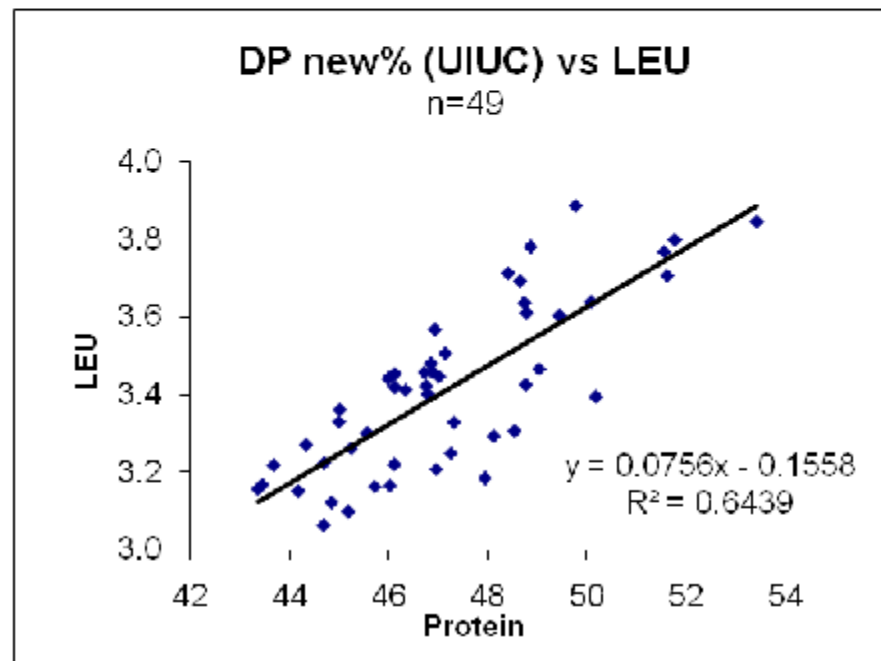
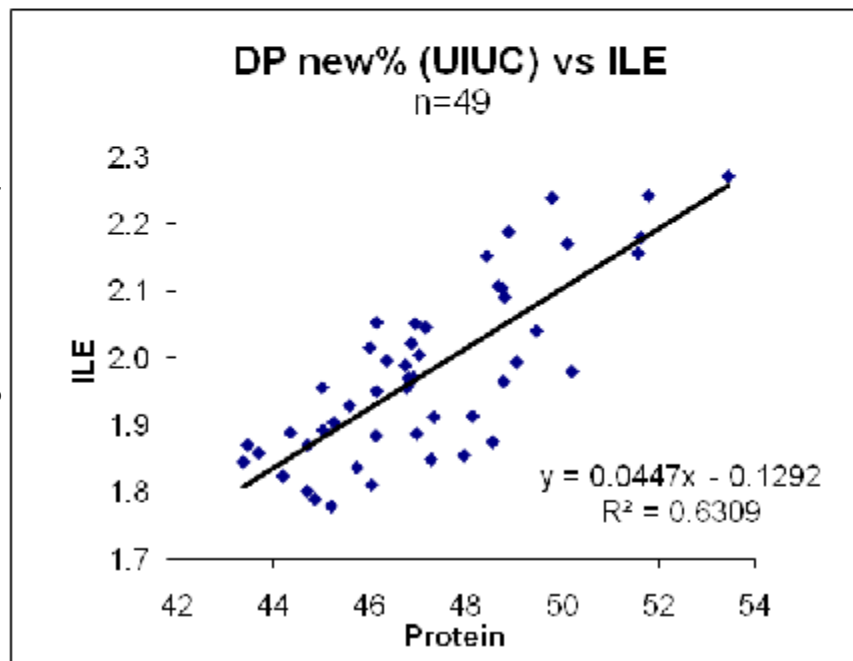


- Aromatic
- Non-polar
- Not as hydrophobic as Phe
- $\text{pK}_1 = 2.2$
- $\text{pK}_2 = 9.1$

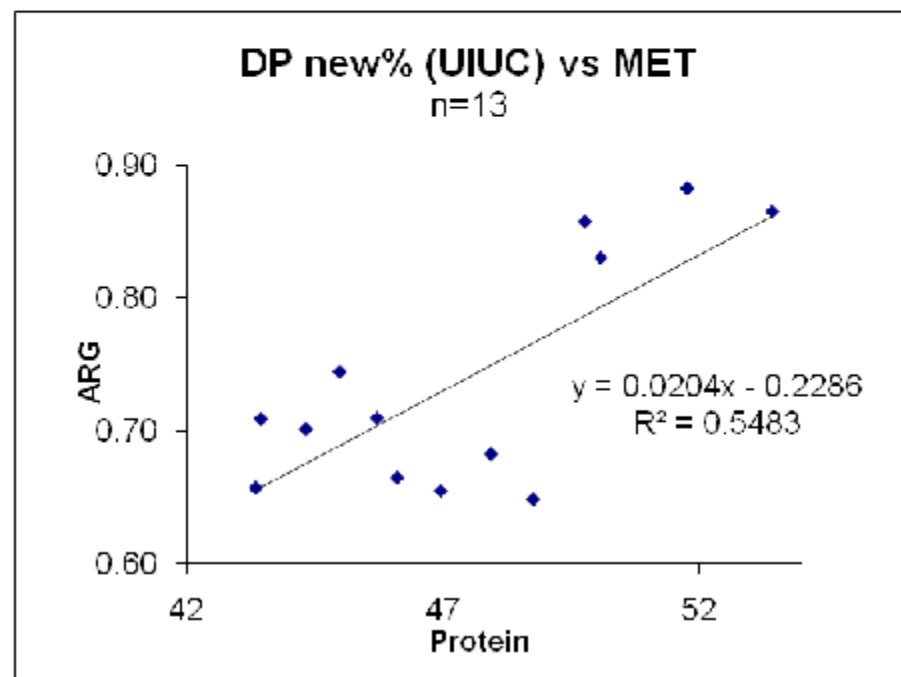
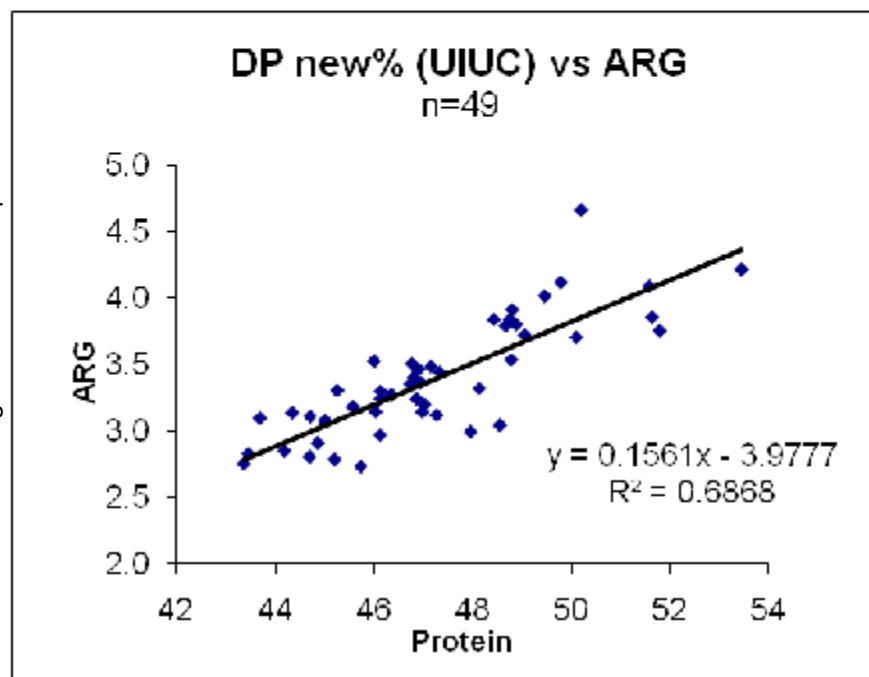
Amino Acid Primary Data (GC-MS), cont'd



Amino Acid Primary Data (GC-MS), cont'd



Amino Acid Primary Data (GC-MS), cont'd



Amino Acid Summary

- Total protein measurement is by wet chemistry analysis, for which a ~96% correlation with our lab's NIR analysis is **confirmed**.
- Some of the amino acid correlations depend on the type of amino acid residue.
- There is a potential for selecting the composition of amino acids seen in soybeans.

Amino Acids, p.2

- A few amino acid residues vary much more across some soybean varieties than others
- The combined NIR, NMR and GC-MS data for amino acids in soybean seeds shows the possibility of generating reliable calibrations for selected triplet groups of amino acids using FT-NIR Spectroscopy.
- NIRS data for AA can be validated and may thus become a very useful tool for cross-breeding and genetic selection purposes.

3. Proposed Research Methods

I. Techniques, Data analysis and Expected Results

- Primary and secondary techniques ; Chemical and Hyperspectral NIR Imaging ; Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy and Microspectroscopy)
- Data Analysis: Principles of NIRS, Data Corrections, Regression Algorithms and Multivariate analysis.

I. Limitations and Advantages of proposed methods

II. Tentative schedule to conduct major steps

I. Techniques, Data analysis and Expected Results

A. TECHNIQUES:

- NIR Spectroscopy,
- GC-MS
- HPLC and IEC
- Chemical Imaging,
- Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy

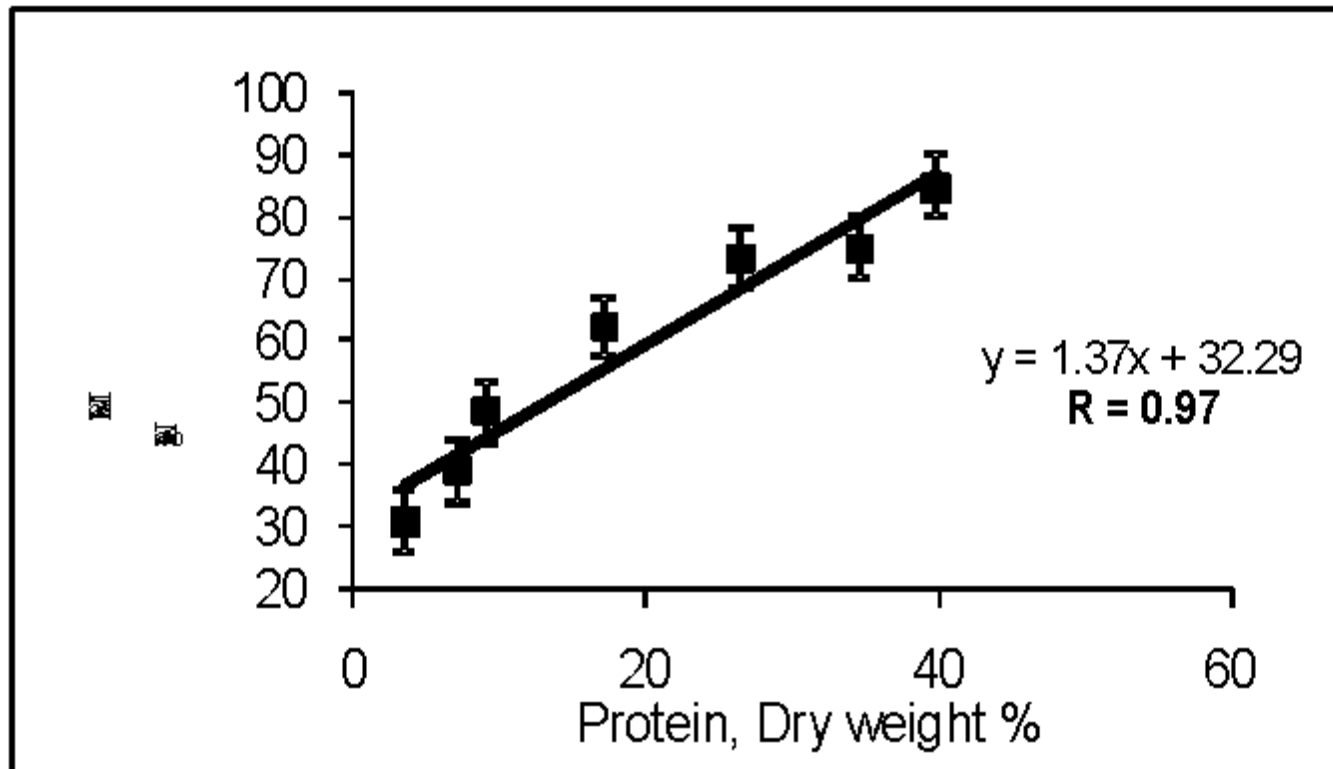
B. Data Analysis

C. Expected Results

NIR Analysis of Amino Acids & Proline in Soybeans

- Wet chemistry analysis :
 - Ion Exchange Chromatography (IEC) / UV / vis Abs. / Fluorescence
 - Derivatization HPLC
 - GC-MS (USDA – Peoria)
- NMR as Primary Method

Soybean Proteins Content by C-13 NMR and Sigma Methods



Source: Baianu, You, Costescu, Prisecaru & Nelson. AOCs Proc., (2005)

Principles of NIR Spectroscopy

- IR absorption spectra occur because the atom-to-atom bonds within molecules can vibrate and rotate thus generating series of different energy levels among which rapid transitions can occur.
- According to Quantum Mechanics, the vibro-rotational energy levels of a molecule can be approximated by the following equations:

$$E_{NIR} = E_{rot} + E_{vib} + E_{anh} = j(j+1)Bhc + [1 - x(n+1/2)]h\nu$$

- where: **j**: rotation quantum number = 0, 1, 2, ...
 - **n**: vibration number = 0, 1, 2, ...;
 - **E**: Energy eigenvalues, and
 - **x**: anharmonicity constant (~0.01).

Current Near-Infrared Instruments: Techniques

Current NIR instruments utilize EM radiation with wavelengths from ~ 750 nm to 2500 nm. Their operation is based on the fact that molecular bonds stretch and/or bend, thus causing absorption bands at certain characteristic IR and NIR wavelengths that are proportional to the amount of the absorbing components present in the sample, e.g., amide 1 and 2 bands.

Apparent Absorbance



- The calculated absorbance is usually referred to as the “**apparent absorbance**,” and it can be significantly affected by **Specular Reflection and Light Scattering**, even for thin samples.
- Therefore, in order to obtain reliable NIR quantitation, **Spectral Pre-Processing and Corrections** are always required.

Data Correction Problems

- We found that the NIR methods currently employed in industry for:
 - spectral pre-processing
 - correction of light scattering
 - specular reflection effects

are in need of substantial improvements in order to produce high accuracy, robust and stable calibrations for rapid composition analyses of seeds.

Light Scattering Corrections for Soybean NIR Spectra

Spectral variations between soybean samples can be caused by:

- chemical composition differences
 - (i.e., what you want to measure)
- Spurious effects*
 - specular reflection
 - scattering effects
 - internal reflection

*These do not monitor chemical composition -- and are therefore measurement artifacts that are undesirable and distort the data.

Fourier Transform NIR

- Recent NIR Spectroscopy techniques utilizing Fourier Transform (FT) fulfill all these conditions, but require pre-calibration by AOCS-approved wet chemistry techniques, using well-defined and stable sample standard sets of 50 to 100 different samples.

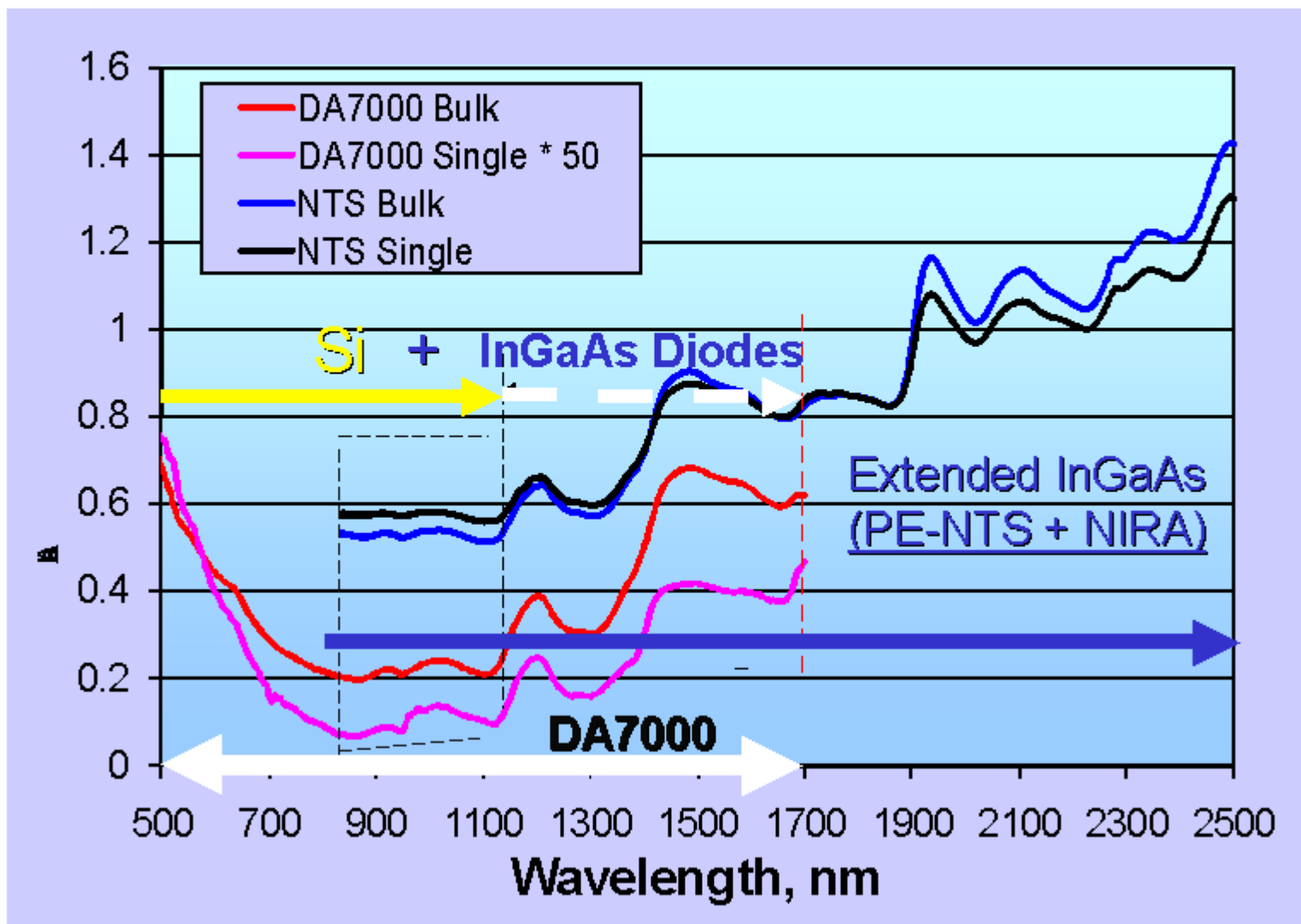
FT-IR Spectrometer *Spectrum One* and FT-NIR Spectrometer *SpectrumOne-NTS*

- Introduced in 2001 by Perkin Elmer Co. (Shelton, CT, USA) for High Sensitivity, high-resolution and long-term stability
- *SpectrumOne* and *Spectrum One NTS* have a similar look but are configured for different spectral ranges (e.g., IR and NIR, respectively).



(Perkin Elmer Co., USA)

Comparison of Soybean Spectra Collected with either Perten DA7000 or the PE Spectrum One NTS (with Extd InGaAs/NIRA) NIR Instruments



Lambert-Beer's Law

- Absorption is a universal spectroscopic phenomenon that has immediate chemometric applications, because it is directly related to the constituent concentration as described by:

Lambert-Beer's Law, which states that ...

$$A = \epsilon * C * L$$

where:

A = True Absorbance

= Extinction coefficient of analyte

= **Concentration**

= Pathlength of light



Lambert-Beer's Law, Con't

- The absorbance of a sample is difficult to measure directly
- In practice, the absorption is often calculated indirectly from the measurement of the reflectance ($A = \text{Log } 1/R$), or transmittance ($A = \text{Log } 1/T$), that can be readily measured even for thick samples, provided these do not possess a composite structure, such as thick, multiple layers with different compositions
- The calculated absorbance is usually referred to as the 'apparent absorbance,' and it can be significantly affected by Specular reflection and light scattering even for thin (e.g., 5 mm) samples.
- Therefore, in order to obtain reliable NIR quantitation, spectral pre-processing and corrections are always required

Light Scattering Corrections for Soybean NIR Spectra

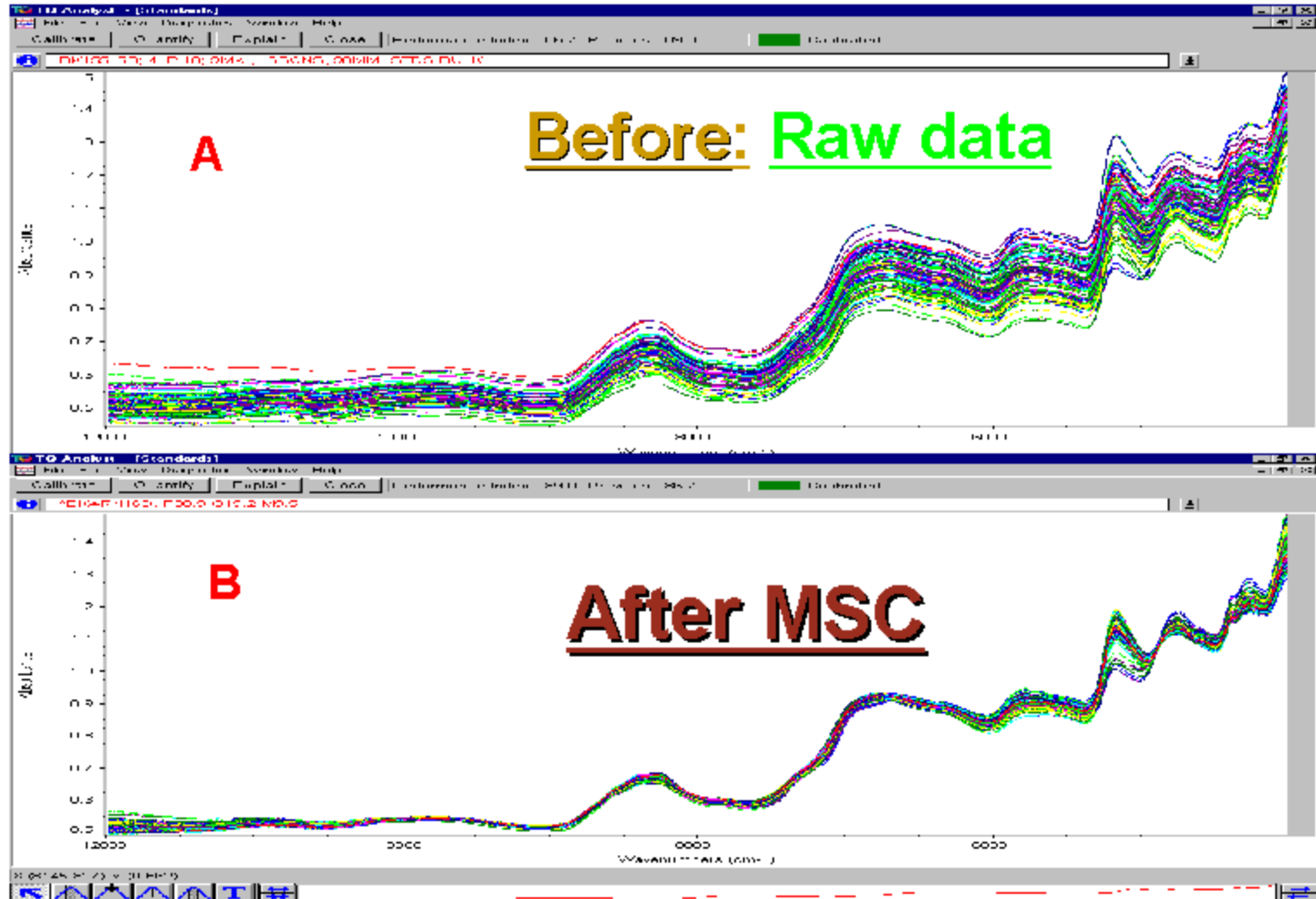
- Spectral variations between soybean samples can be caused by chemical composition differences, specular reflection, as well as light scattering effects (that do not monitor chemical composition —and are therefore a measurement artifact)
- The effects of **light scattering** and/or **specular reflection** on the NIR spectra of soybean need be investigated, and eliminated if at all possible

NIR Light Scattering Corrections, p.2

One finds that the methods that are currently employed by the NIR industry for spectra pre-processing and corrections of light scattering and/or specular reflection effects are in need of substantial improvements in order to produce calibrations that are:

- Highly accurate
- Robust
- Lead to stable calibrations for rapid composition analyses of seeds

SpectrumOne NTS Spectra of Bulk Soybean Samples, before (A) and after (B) Multiple Scattering Correction (MSC)



Detrimental Effects of Light Scattering on the Accuracy of NIR Analysis for Whole Soybeans

(measured with the FT-NIR, SpectrumOne NTS Spectrometer)

Component	R		SECV	
	No MSC	MSC	No MSC	MSC
Protein	99.5	99.9	0.63	0.26
Oil	99.3	99.9	0.29	0.13
Moisture	99.8	99.9	0.26	0.17

R: Correlation coefficient

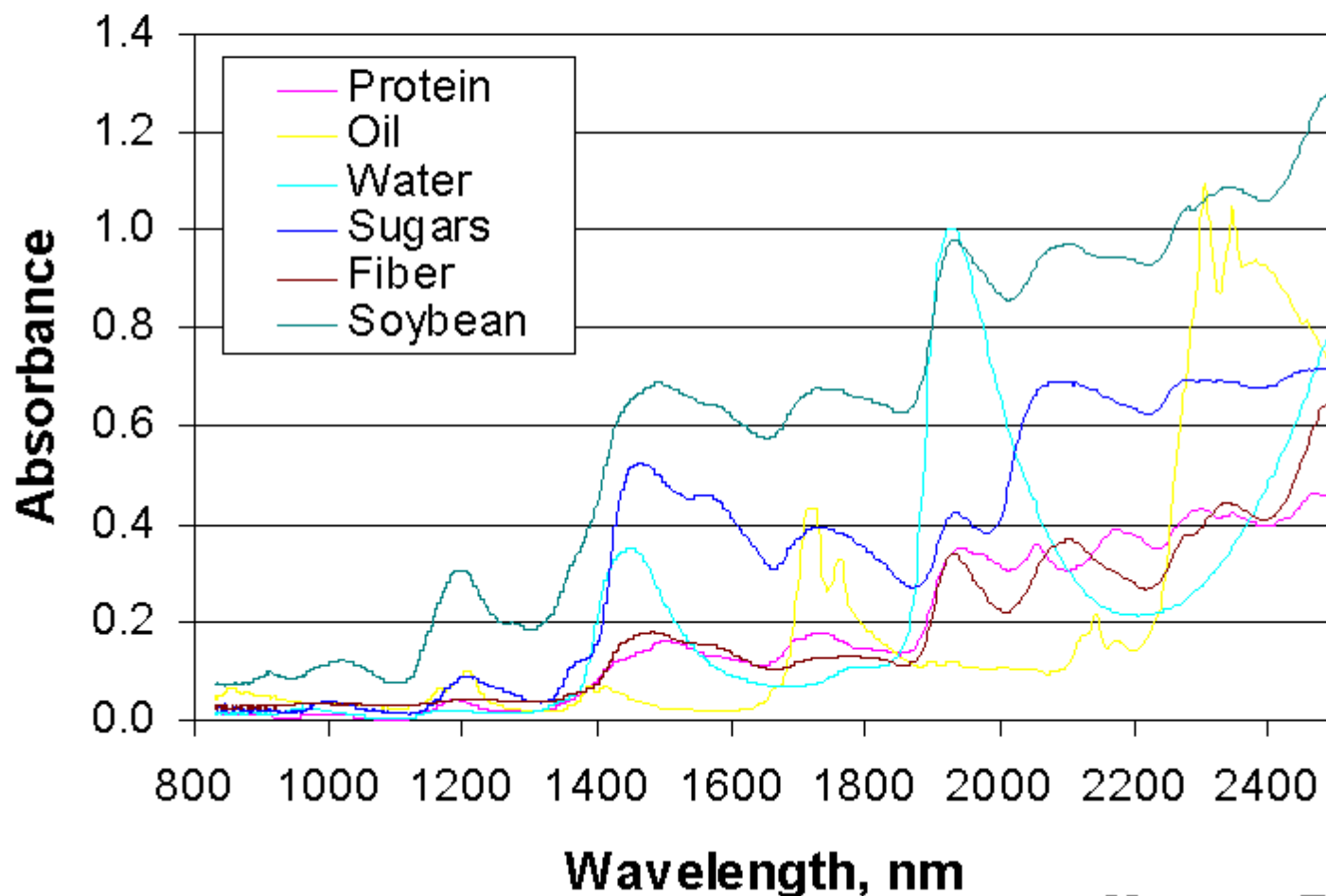
SECV: Standard Error of Cross Validation

(Tested with 65 bulk whole soybean standards)

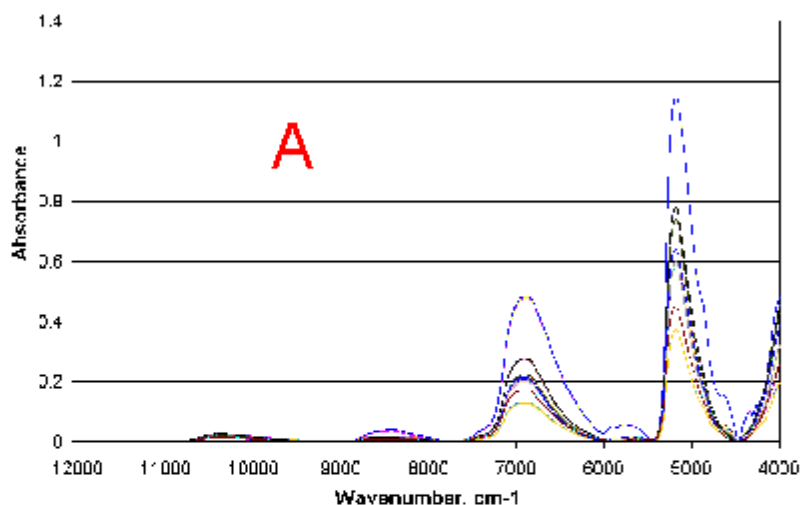
Source: T. You, 2006

FT-NIR Spectra of Five Major Soybean Components

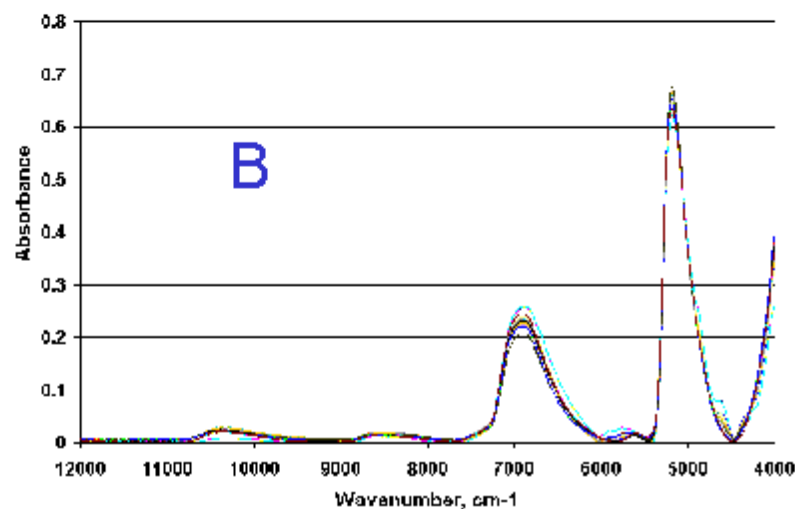
Collected on the Perkin-Elmer SpectrumOne NTS FT-NIR Spectrometer



SpectrumOne NTS FT-NIR Spectra of Soy Protein Isolates (SPI) in H₂O, before (A) and after (B) Multiple Scattering Correction (MSC) (Source: I.C. Baianu et al., 2009)



Before MSC



After MSC

Component	Number of Factors		R		SECV	
	NoMSC	MSC	NoMSC	MSC	NoMSC	MSC
SPI	6	6	0.998	0.999	0.87	0.54
H2O	6	6	0.998	0.999	0.87	0.54

R: Correlation coefficient

SECV: Standard Error of Cross Validation

SECV

The Standard Error of Cross Validation (SECV) is defined as:

$$SECV = \sqrt{1/n \times \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}$$

where n is the total number of samples, y_i denotes the standard value of the component concentration, \hat{y}_i and denotes the predicted component concentration

SEP

The **standard error of prediction** is the standard deviation of the sample mean estimate of a population mean.

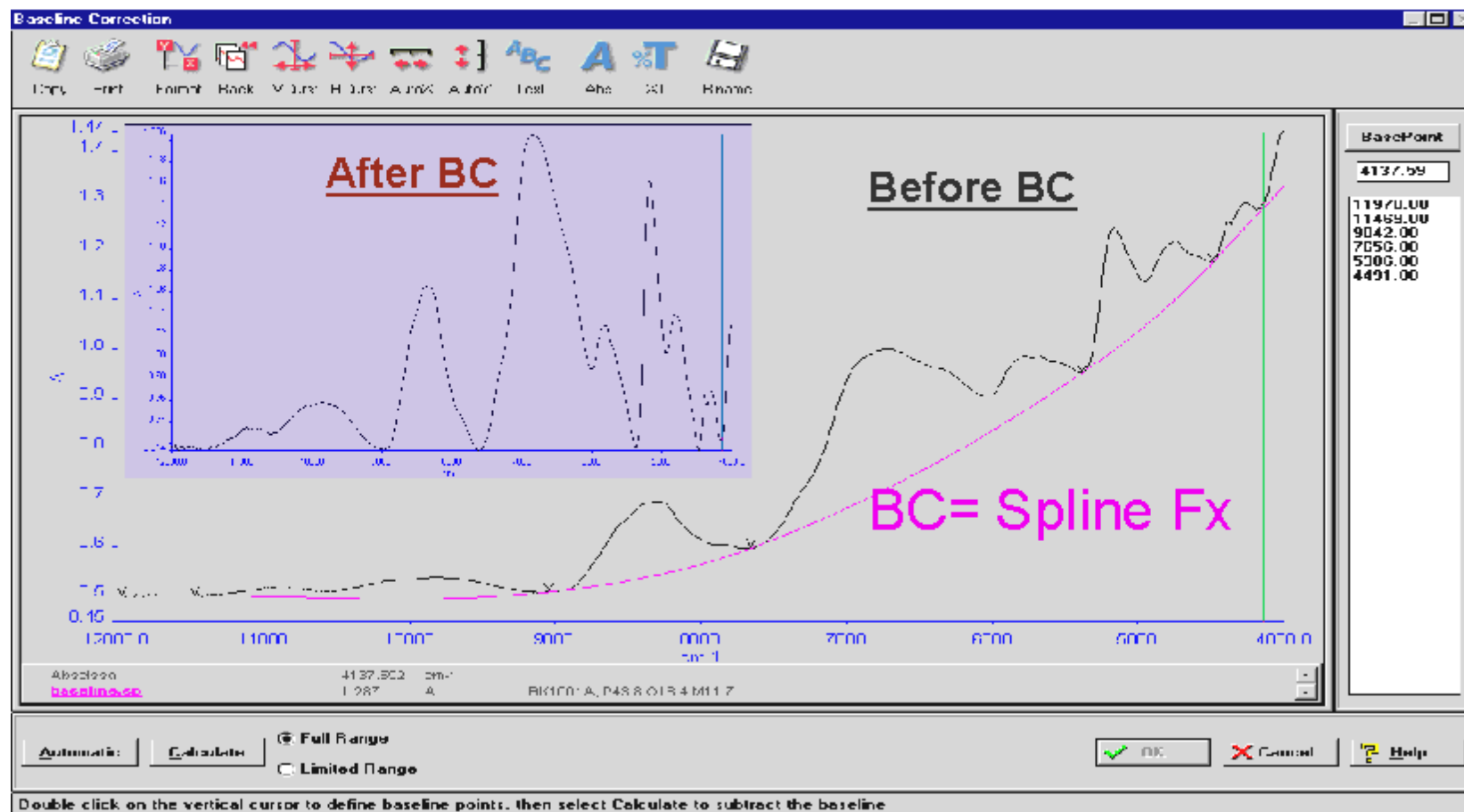
$$SE_{\bar{x}} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Usually estimated by the sample estimate of the population standard deviation (sample standard deviation) divided by the square root of the sample size:

where

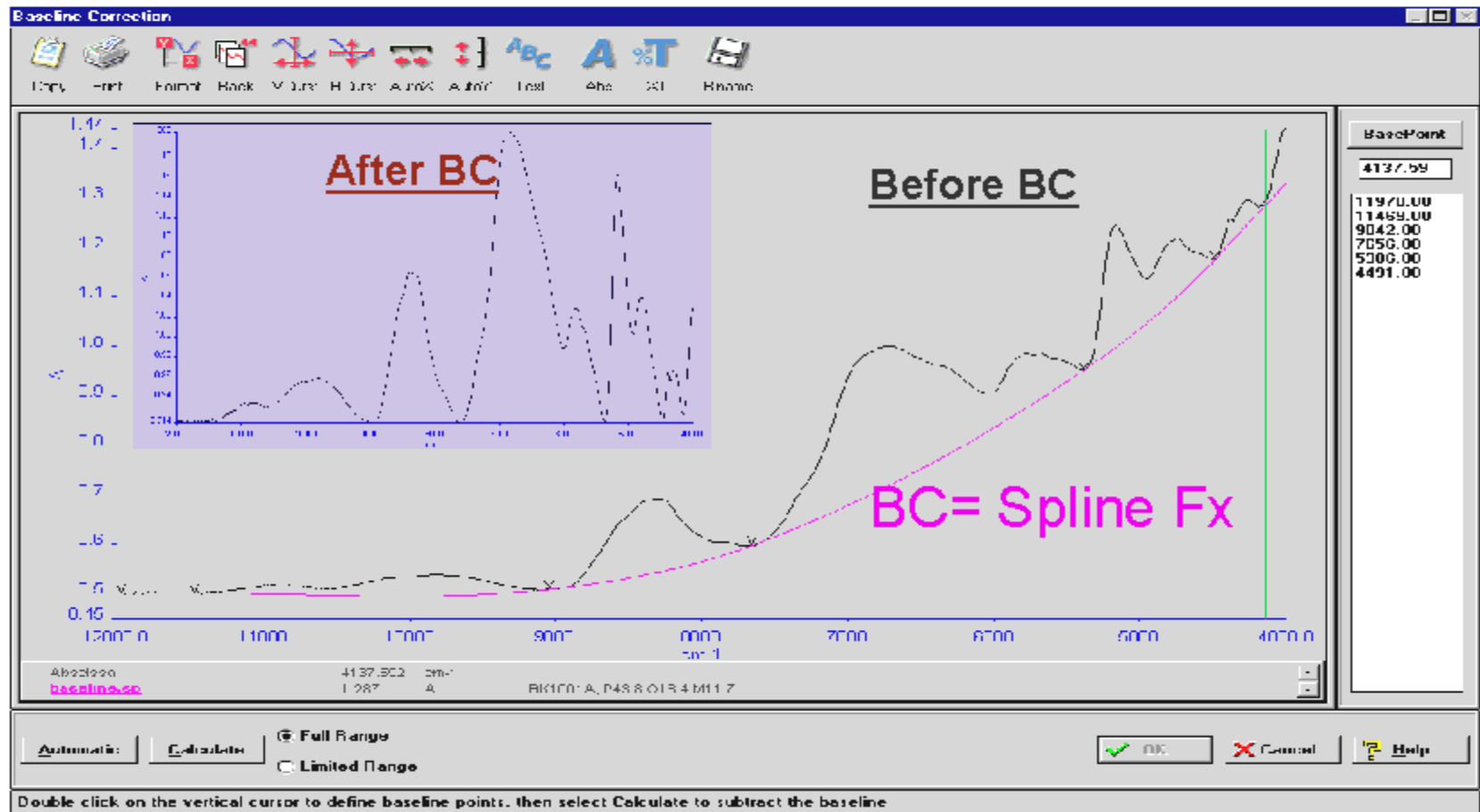
s is the sample standard deviation (i.e. the sample based estimate of the standard deviation of the population), and
 n is the size (number of observations) of the sample.

Illustration of the Interactive, Spline Baseline Correction (BC)* of the FT-NIR Spectrum of a Whole Soybean Seed, with Coat



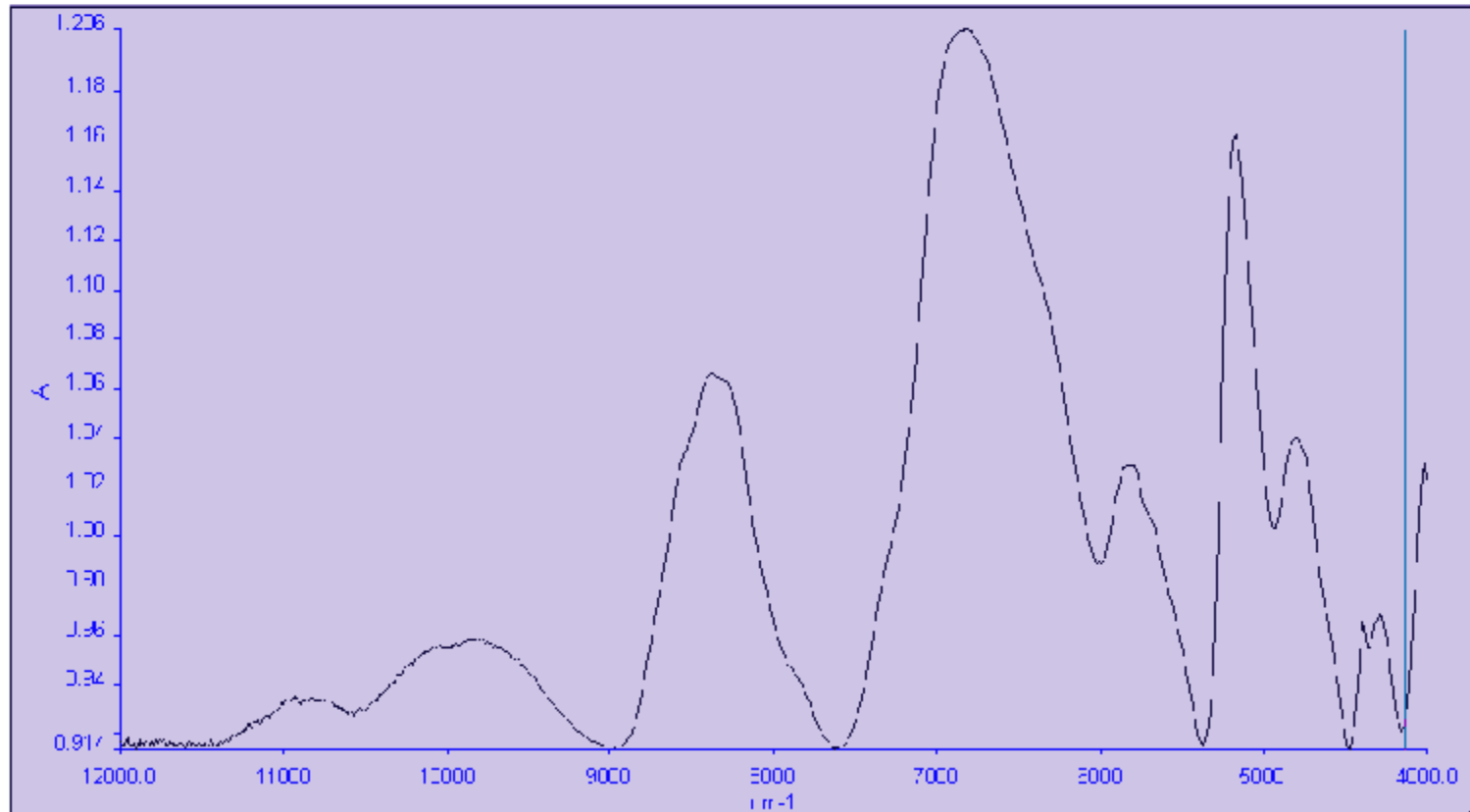
•Note: Only the PE Spectrum program supports this interactive, spline-function, Fx, baseline correction (BC), shown above in purple color.

Illustration of the Interactive, Spline Baseline Correction (BC) * of the FT-NIR Spectrum of A Whole Soybean Seed, with Coat



•**Note:** Only the PE Spectrum program supports this interactive, spline-function, Fx, baseline correction (BC), shown above in purple color.

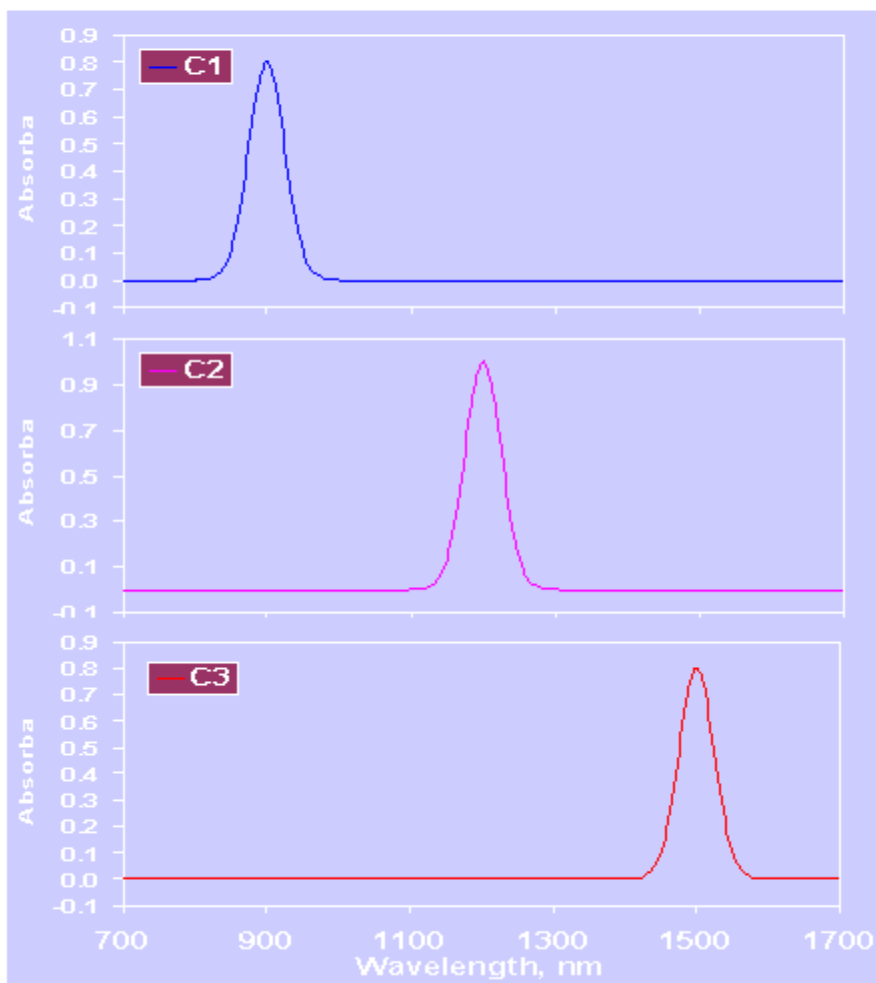
True FT-NIR Absorption Spectrum of Soybeans with Coat



Calibration

- Generate or Select a suitable set of Standard Samples of Known composition
- Obtain Raw FT-NIR data
- Correct Data for Multiple Scattering
- Use Lambert-Beer Law in conjunction with iterated data regression by PLS-1 or 2; check up on PLS-1 precision and correct computation;
- Examine the Calibration's Linear Correlations and Validation/ Composition Predictions

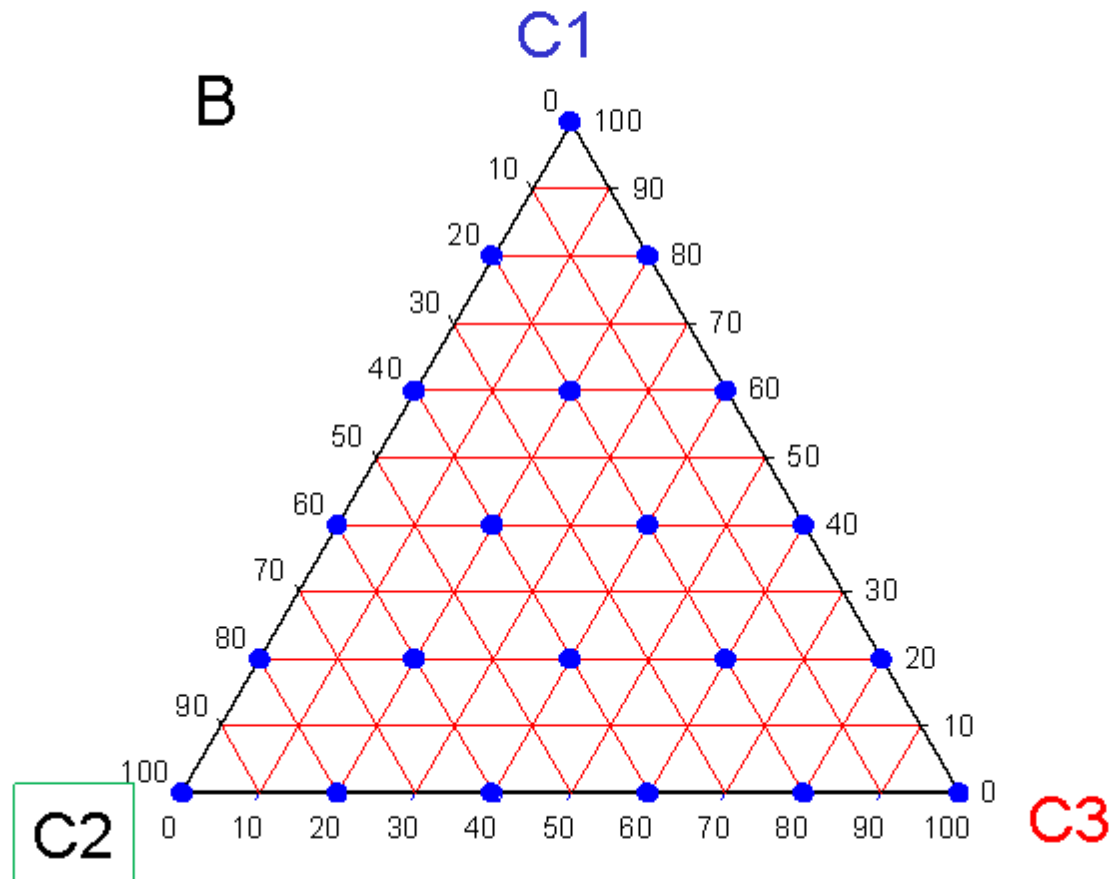
Computer Simulation Study of the PLS-1 Calibration Algorithm



N=21, Calibration Standards

Source: T. You, 2006

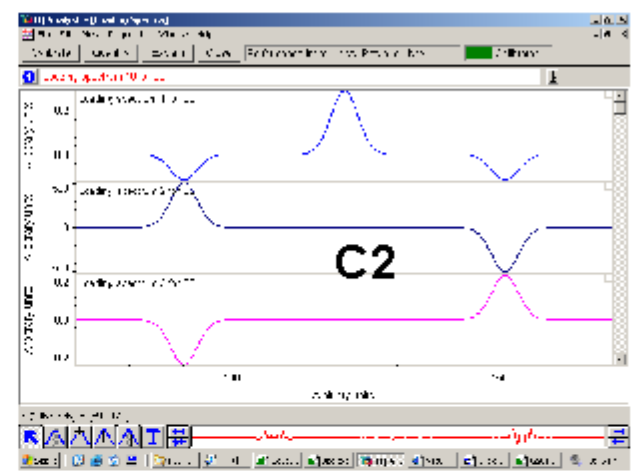
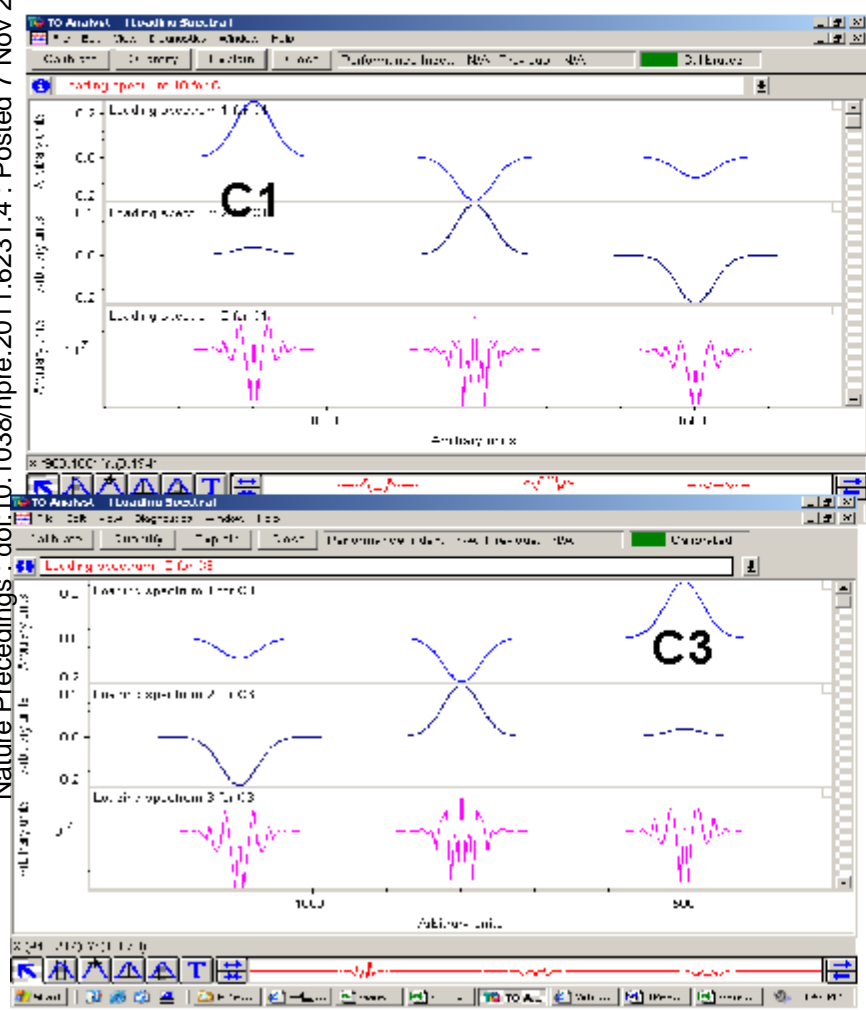
Computer Simulation of PLS-1 Algorithm with 3 Components (%)



Adapted from T. You, 2006

Loading Vectors and SECV's of Components C1 to C3 for the Simulated PLS-1 Calibration Algorithm, without any Noise ...except from negligible PC computation errors !

Nature Precedings : doi:10.1038/npre.2011.6231.4 : Posted 7 Nov 2011



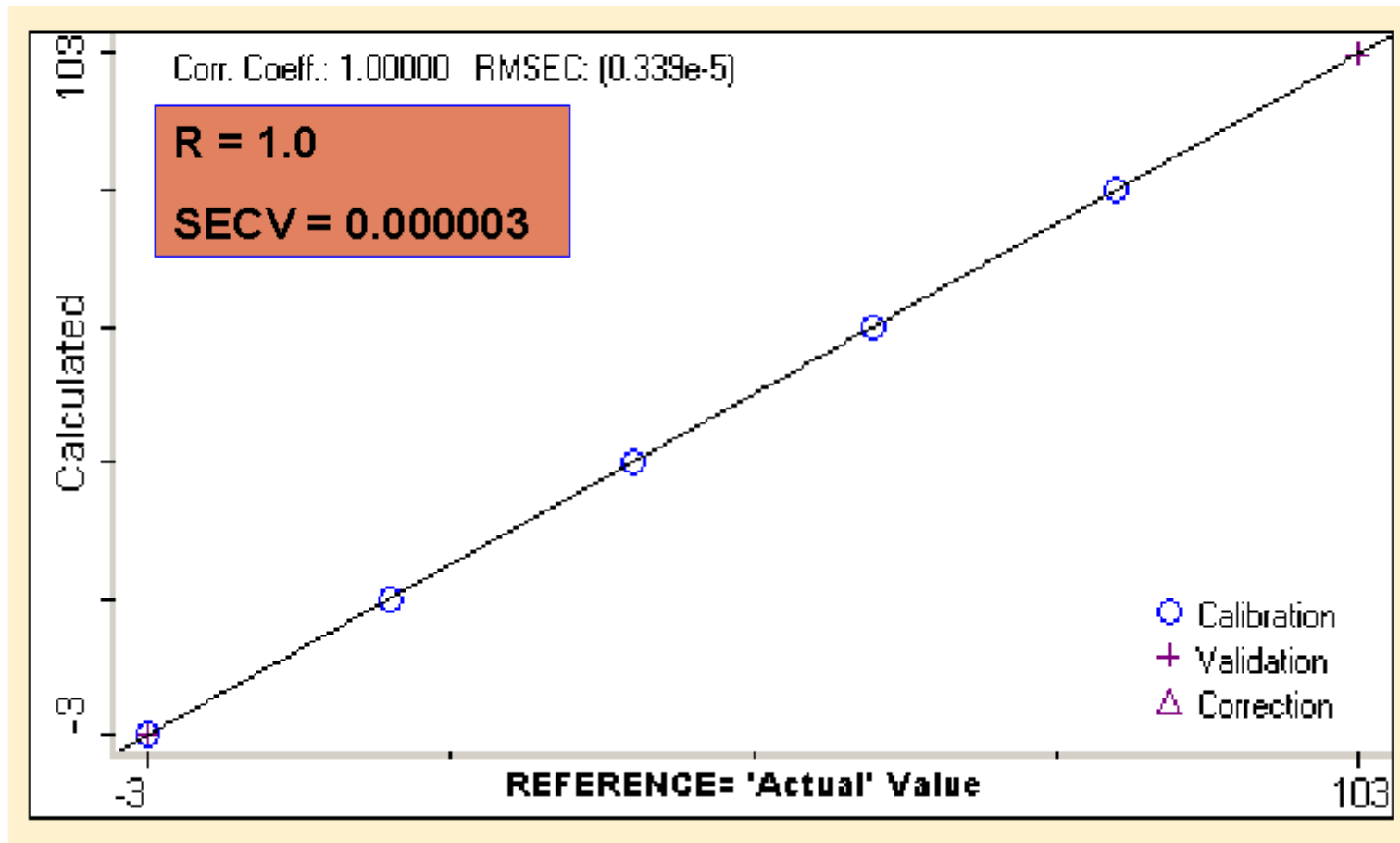
Components	Number of Factors	R	SEP
C1	2	100%	9×10^{-6}
C2	2	100%	1×10^{-6}
C3	2	100%	2×10^{-6}

R: Correlation coefficient

SEP: Standard Error of Prediction

* 'Ideal' conditions, that is, without Noise!

Predicted vs. Reference Concentrations of Component C1 for our PLS-1 Simulation Study



Source: T. You, 2006

II. Limitations and Advantages of Proposed Procedures

Major Limitations

- Amino Acids affected by acid hydrolysis of the protein:
 - Absence of Trp data. Trp is just an example of what hydrolysis does to amino acids. Corrections to hydrolysis is one of the limitations caused by hydrolysis
 - No data extrapolation to Zero
- Correlation of amino acids with Dry Protein
- Extremely limited range of ROV's makes it impossible to do the calculations for those amino acids

Matrix Effects

- A major obstacle that exists in the comparison of NIRS calibration data for different types of samples with the same chemical/biochemical composition but in different form or phase is the so-called “matrix effect.”
- This “matrix effect” depends on the state in which the molecules are in: Solid, Liquid phases and also on different: Texture/Morphology, Particle Size Distribution, Molecular Alignments.
- Other related causes : internal gaps, different interfaces, internal sample changes in refractive index, and so on.

NMR Advantages

- Trp data included
- *in situ* data acquisition

NIRS Calibrations for Selected AA Groups

- It is very important that there are enough knowns in the protein spectra to solve for all of the amino acid residues selected
- This research project will be using four groups of amino acid triplets such as:
 - Arg—Ala—Val
 - Cys (and/or Met)—Lys--Ser

Derivatized HPLC Advantages

- Derivatization prior to acid hydrolysis followed by HPLC eliminates the limitations caused by the protein treatment with acid.

Planned Work, p.2

Planned work also includes:

- **Crystalline amino acids powders vs. amino acids in gels**
- **Egg white vs. egg albumin data**
- **The making of concentrated solutions, followed by partial drying resulting in an amorphous gel rather than crystalline powders.**

Timeline and Steps

1. Select the best primary method for analyzing protein and amino acids
 - GCMS, NMR
 - Both are useable and comparable
 - NMR is superior
 - No acid hydrolysis
 - Readily available
1. Obtain dry protein and moisture contents
2. Obtain PLS-1 for protein content

Model Systems Rationale

- Why do we need a model system? Why can't we skip this step and just run our soybean samples?
 - We need knowledge of the bands assigned from the model systems (e.g., Tyrosine ring, Amide II band)
 - Serves to show the scale of the level of errors we can expect to get
 - Others have tried and failed

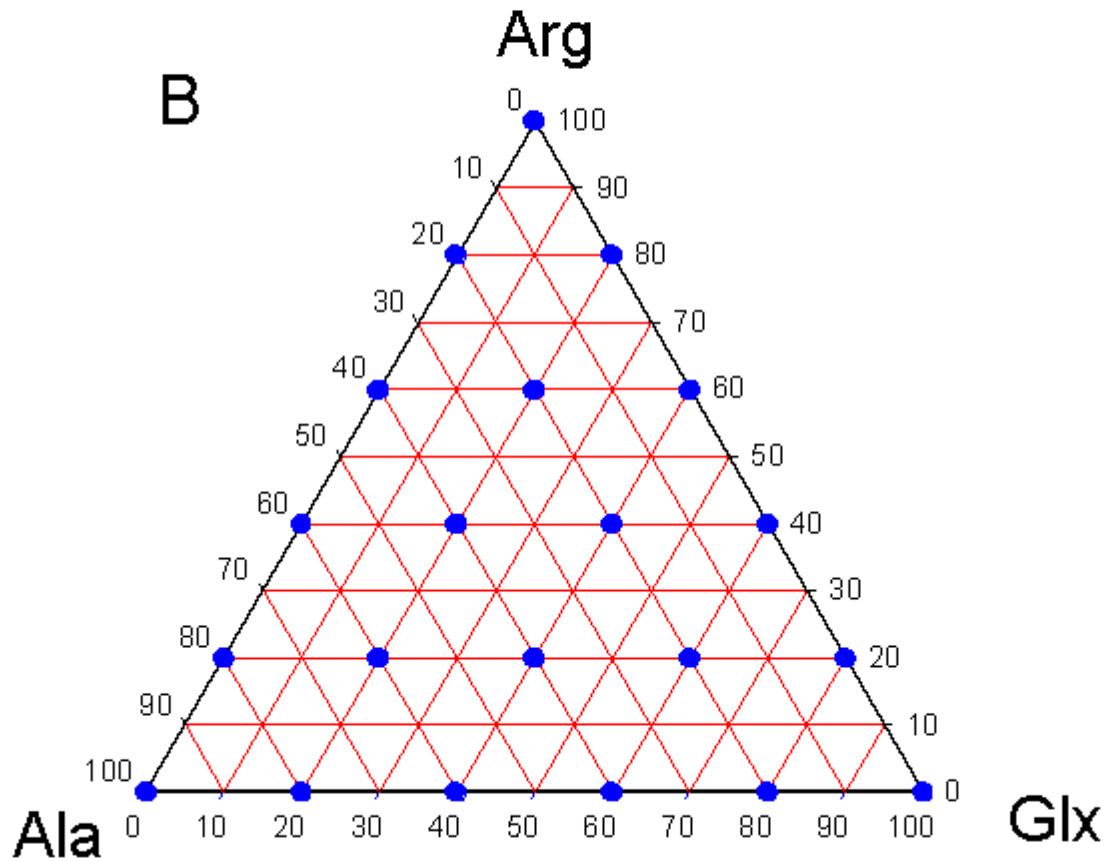
Timeline and Steps, cont'd

- In principle, all amino acid combinations should be performed, but we will do 4 triplets
- TIME FACTOR: Running the samples
 - 4 x 100 samples x 2 (duplicates)
 - = 800 samples
 - 5 minutes/sample.... 4,000 minutes
 - Or one month
- TIME FACTOR: Making the samples
 - 1 week per sample, parallel proc.
 - Total estimated time: several months

Experimental Setup

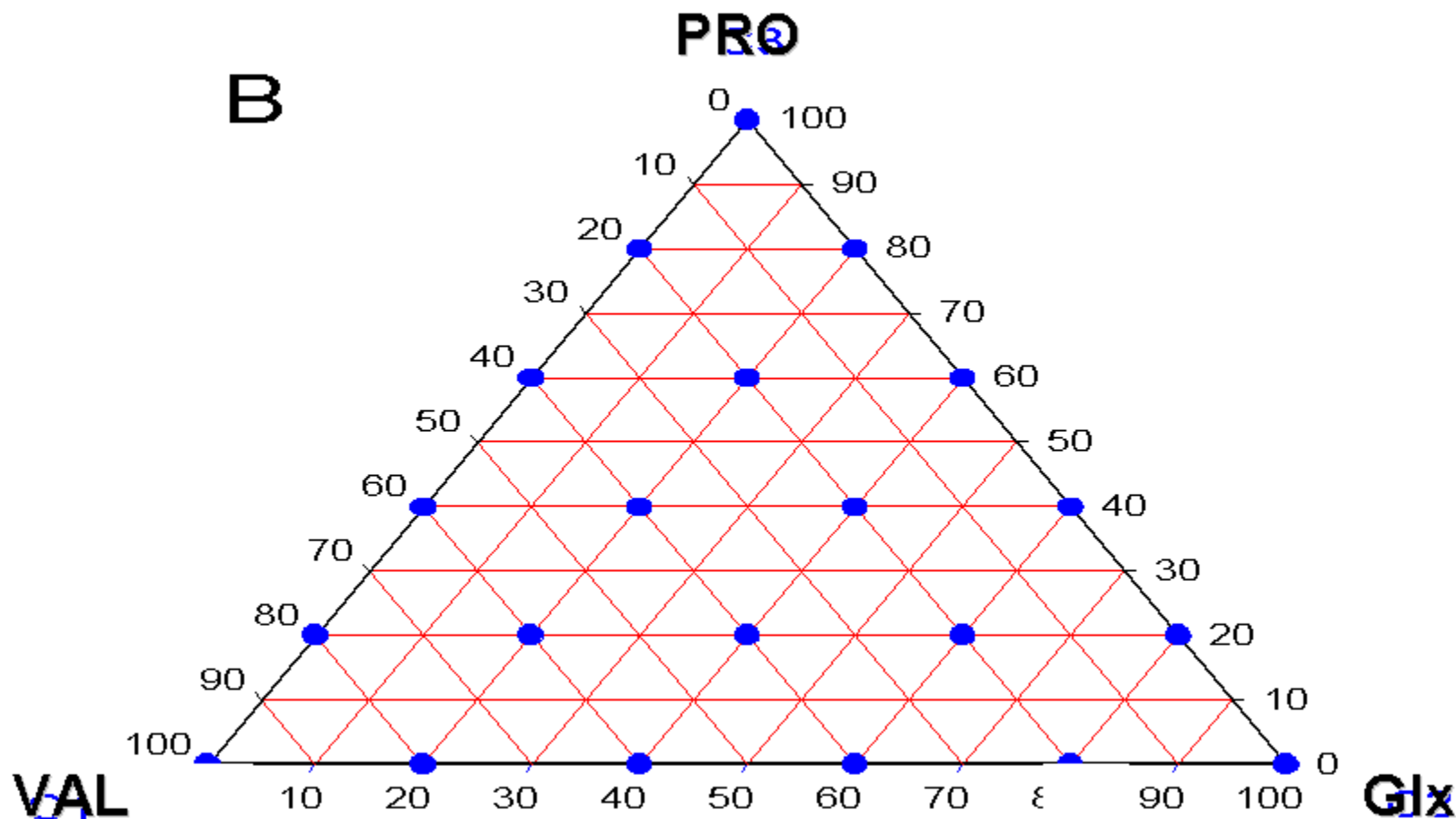
- For the selection of the individual amino acids to be analyzed, the following matrix is measured for pure amino acid powders:
 - #1: Pro-Glu-Ala
 - #2: Arg-pSer-Ile
 - #3: Lys-Cys-Phe

Computer Simulation of PLS-1 Algorithm with 3 Components (%)



Adapted from T. You, 2006

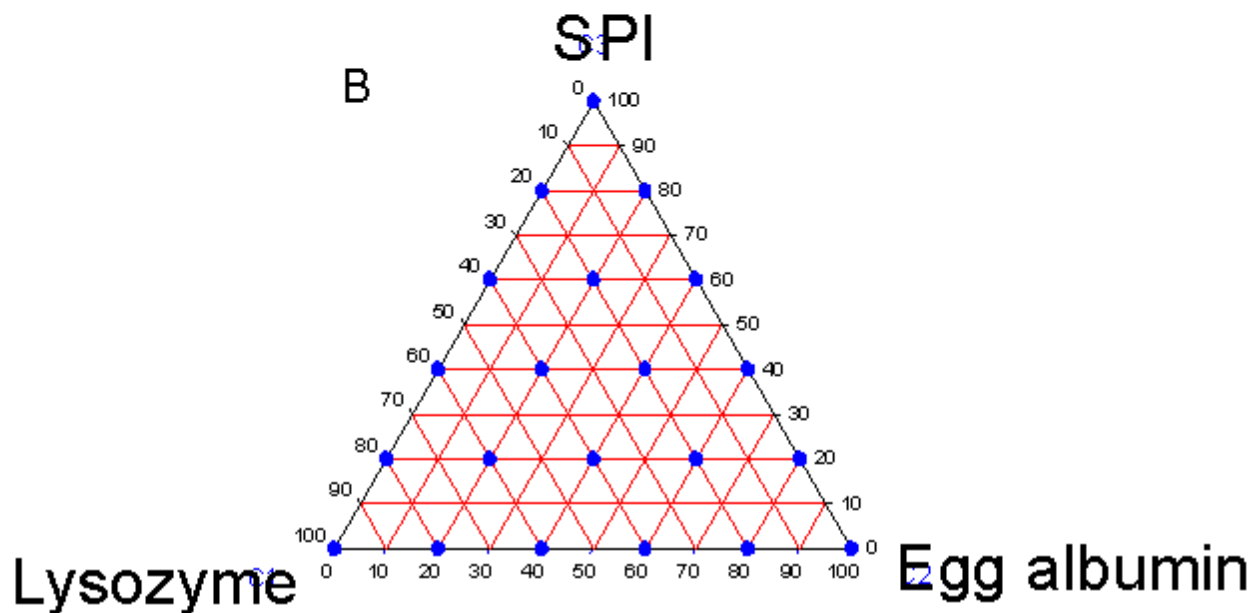
Planned Work, cont'd



Similar model calibrations will be carried out for mixtures of other amino acids, triple selected, such as: Cys + Met - Arg-Ala or Met - Asn - Lys

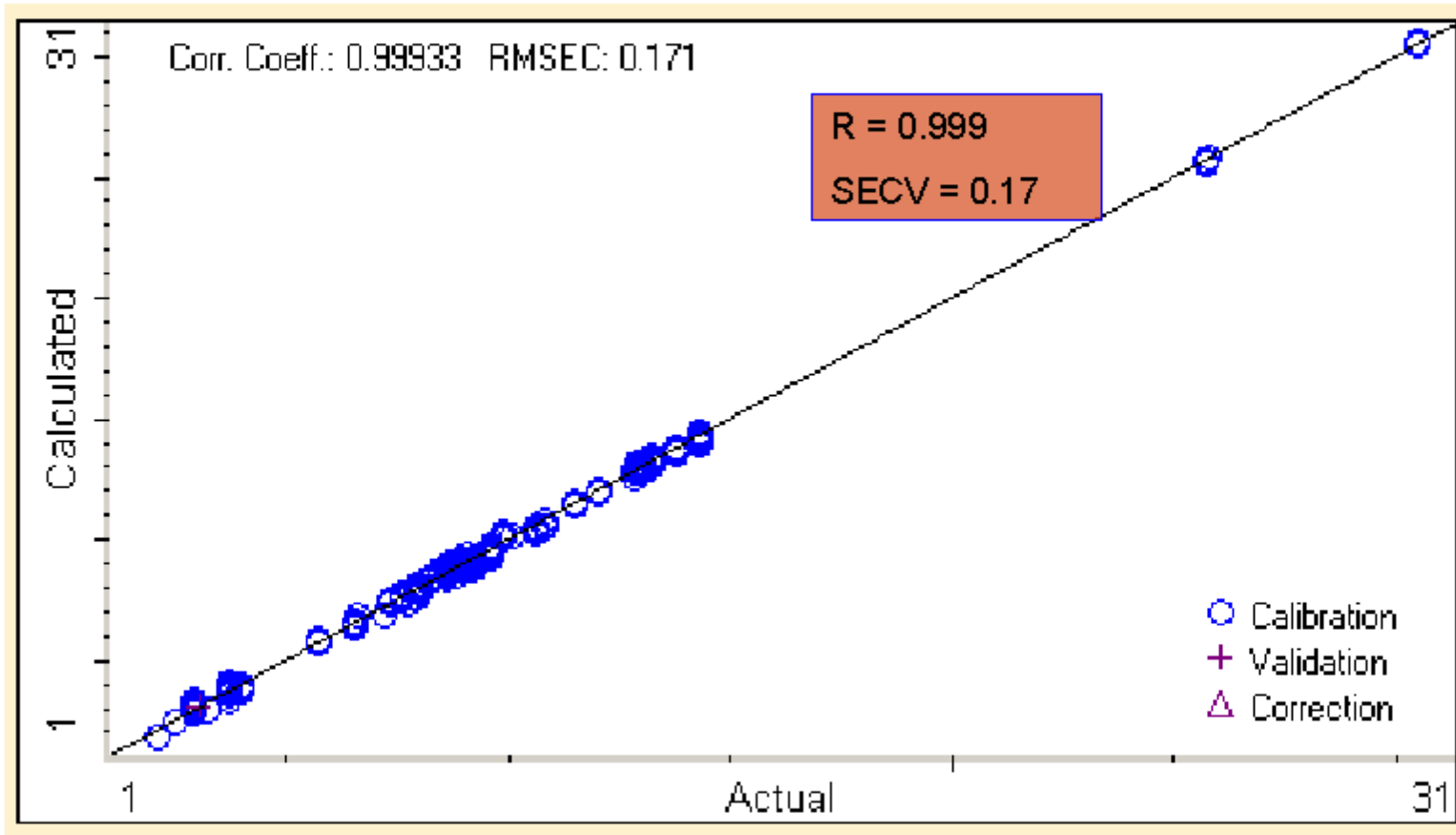
Planned Work, cont'd

- Future work may include a “triangle” triplet of
 - Pro– Glx--Val
 - Met+Cys –Arg--Ala
 - Soy protein isolates (SPI), egg albumin and lysozyme



Moisture Calibration for Bulk Soybean Analysis on the Spectrum One NTS FT-NIR Instrument

Nature Precedings : doi:10.1038/npre.2011.6231.4 : Posted 7 Nov 2011



65 calibration standards, 20 grams for each standard, 9mm NIR beam size

Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

Bulk Soybean Calibration with 65 Standards for Protein, Oil, and Moisture Analysis

Developed with Data from the SpectrumOne NTS FT-NIR Spectrometer

Component	Number of Factors	R	SECV	SEP
Protein	13	99.9%	0.26	0.33
Oil	15	99.9%	0.13	0.23
Moisture	15	99.9%	0.17	0.30

R : Correlation Coefficient

SECV: Standard Error of Cross Validation

SEP: Standard Error of Prediction

Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

Detrimental Effects of Light Scattering on the Accuracy of NIR Analysis for Whole Soybeans

(measured with the FT-NIR, SpectrumOne NTS Spectrometer)

Component	R		SECV	
	No MSC	MSC	No MSC	MSC
Protein	99.5	99.9	0.63	0.26
Oil	99.3	99.9	0.29	0.13
Moisture	99.8	99.9	0.26	0.17

R: Correlation coefficient

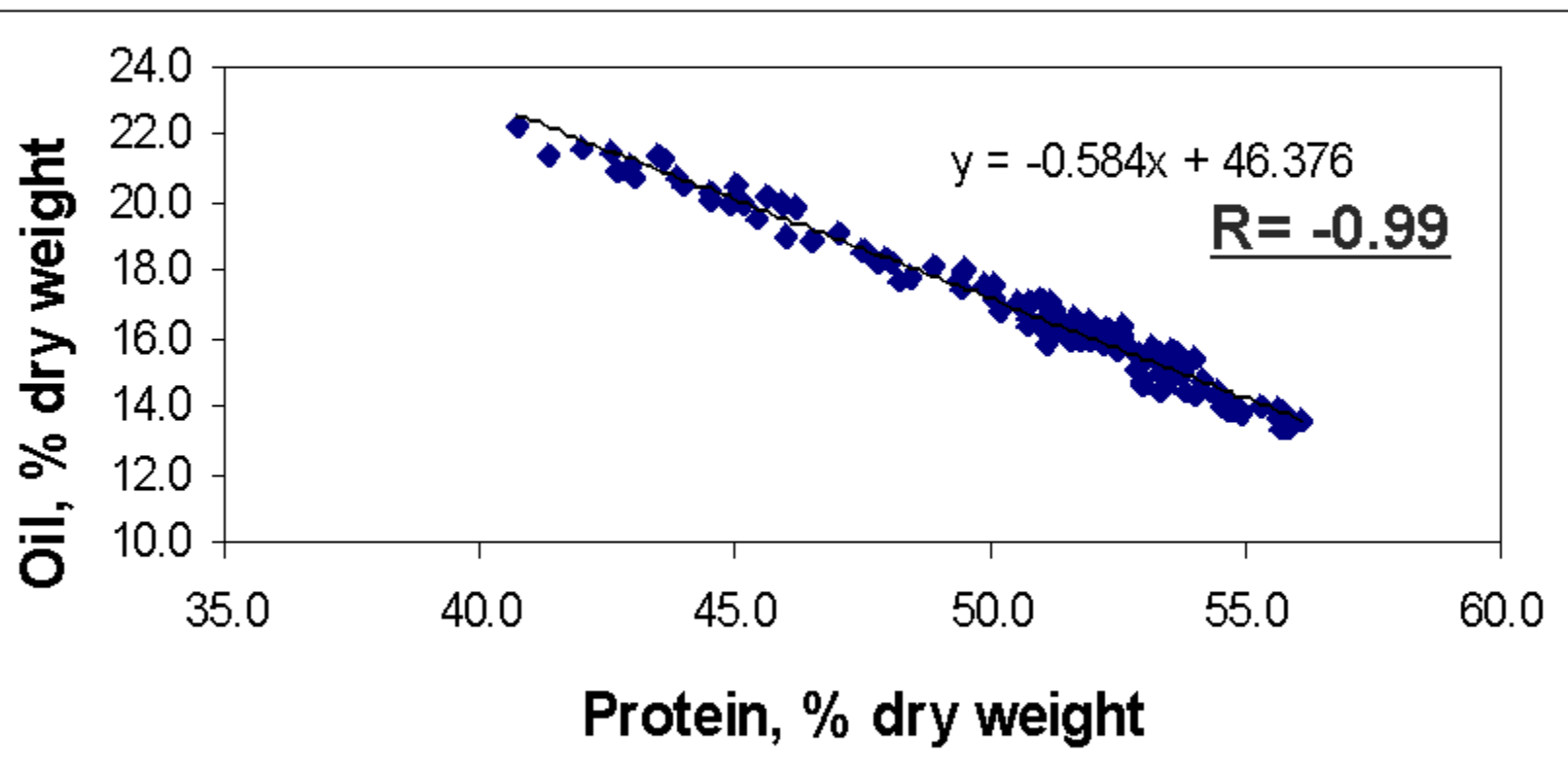
SECV: Standard Error of Cross Validation

(Tested with 65 bulk whole soybean standards)

Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

A new and Improved Set of 124 Bulk Soybean Standard Samples:

Protein-Oil Inverse Correlation for the Year 2003 Calibration Standard



* 124 Standard samples were selected with a wide range of Protein and Oil concentrations that were uniformly distributed in 0.5% concentration steps for Protein, and in 0.2% steps for Oil.

Source: Soybean NIR Database, UIUC

NIR Illustration



Golden Cove (Digital Color Infrared)

Gold Beach, Oregon

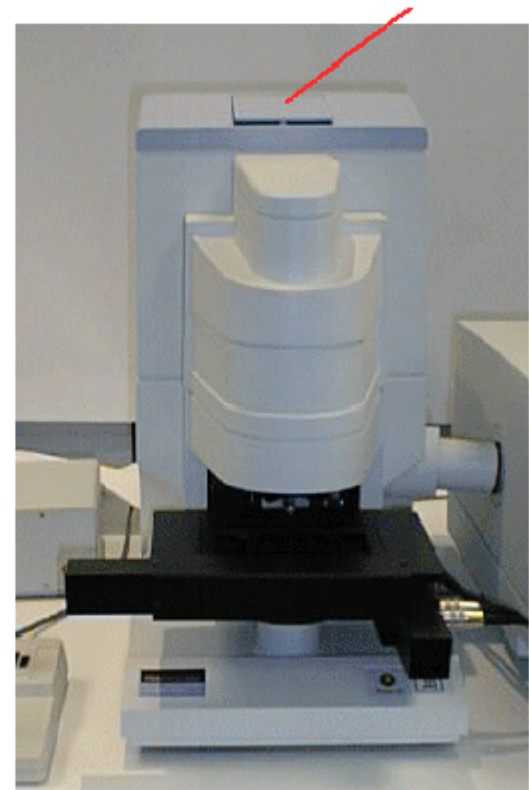
<http://www.pbase.com/image/38188240>

Chemical and Hyperspectral NIR Imaging

Chemical and Hyperspectral Imaging of Amino Acid Residues and Proteins in Soybeans

Images Using the NIR AutoImage FT-NIR Microspectrometer:

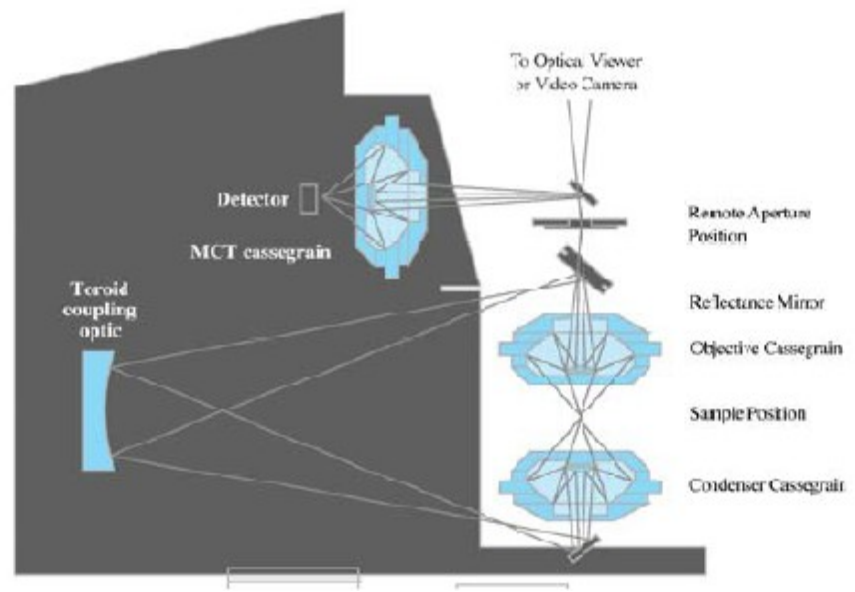
- **Introduced in 2003 by PerkinElmer Co. (Shelton, CT, USA) for high-resolution studies.**
- **Employed for our NIR Microspectroscopy and Chemical Imaging investigations of Soybean seeds.**



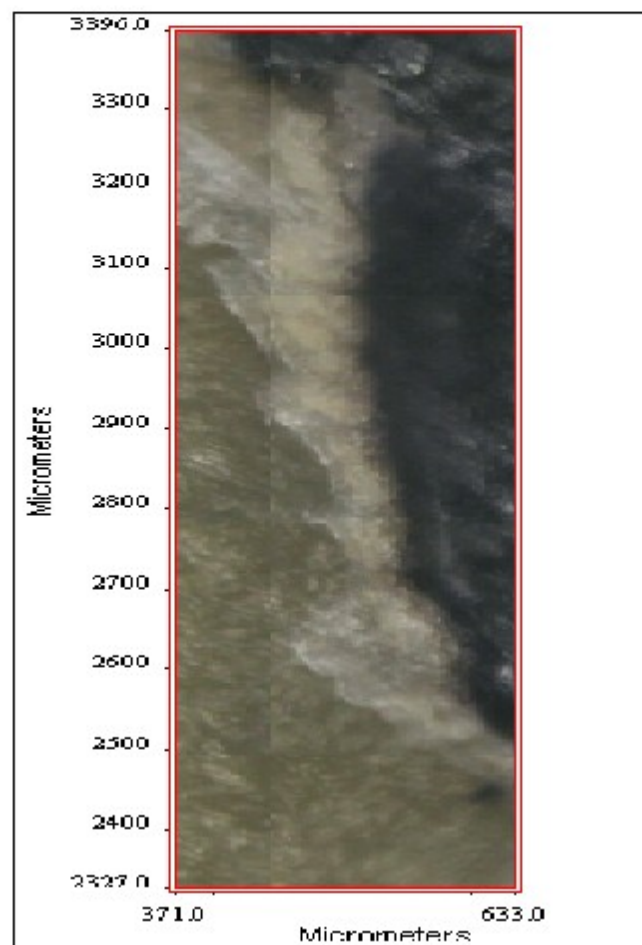
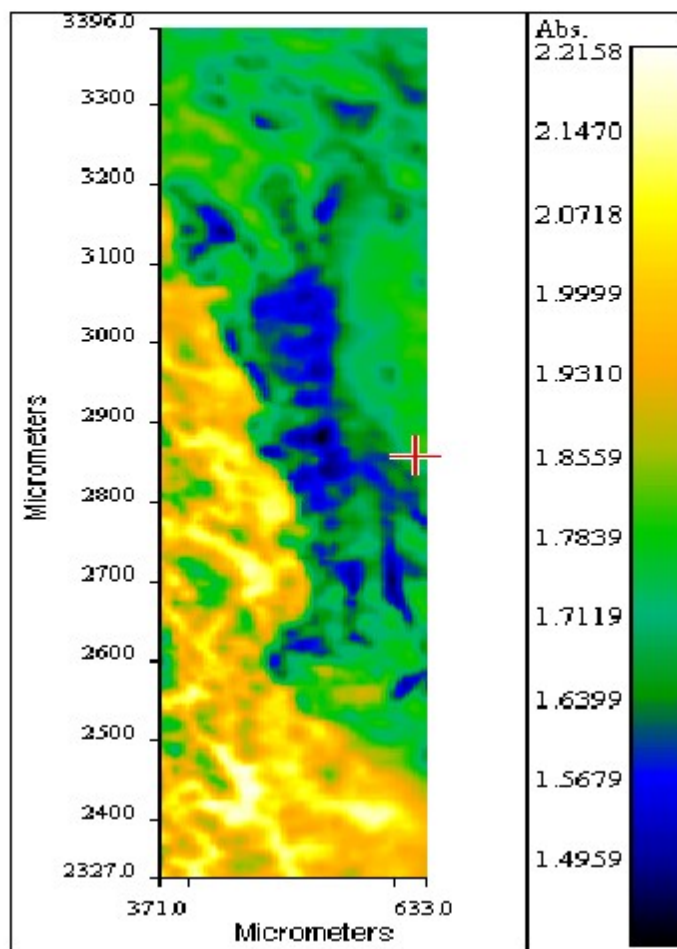
**Microscope Coupled to
the FT-NIR Spectrometer**

Image of the Perkin Elmer AutoImage Microspectrometer “Innards”

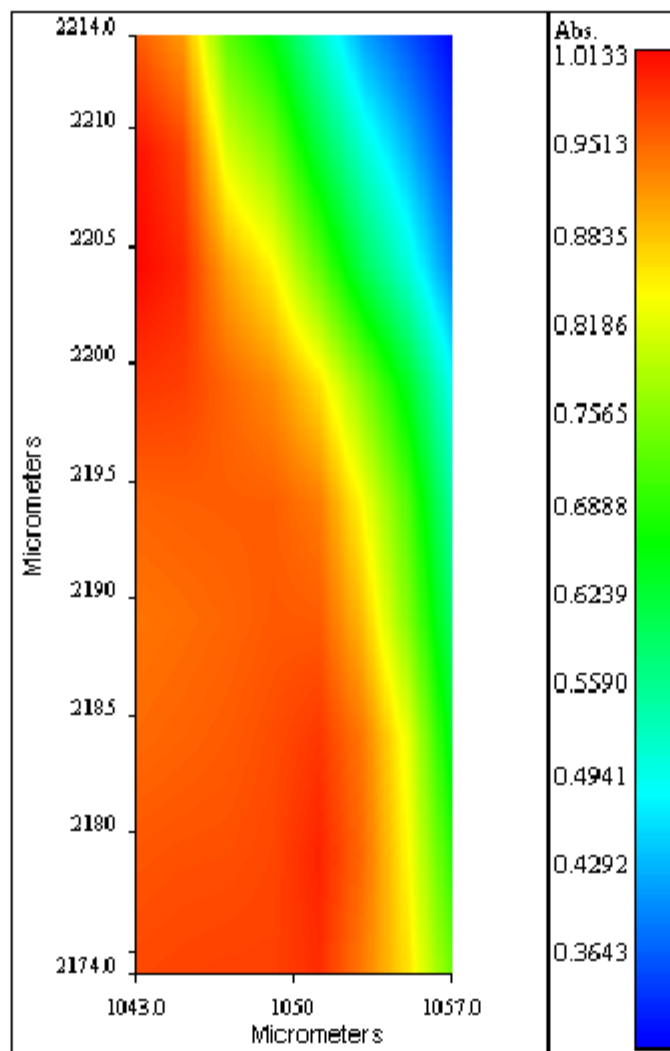
Nature Precedings : doi:10.1038/npre.2011.6231.4 : Posted 7 Nov 2011



FT-IR Chemical Image (Left) and Visible Light Micrograph (Right) of a Black Coat Soybean with Part of the Coat Removed



FT-NIR Chemical Image of Oil Distribution in a Mature Soybean Embryo Section



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- ISPOB (Illinois Soybean Operating Board)

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