

# Drying Behavior and Mathematical Modelling of Bottle Gourd

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## ABSTRACT

Bottle Gourd slabs of 10×10×3 mm, 10×10×5 mm and 10×10×7 mm were dehydrated by fluidized bed drying technique with a sample size of 100 g at air temperature of 50, 60 and 70°C at air velocity of 10m/s. The drying rate is high for the slabs of 10×10×3mm at 70°C. Moisture diffusivity of bottle gourd slabs dried under fluidized bed drying conditions was found in the range of  $1.03 \times 10^{-09}$  to  $6.18 \times 10^{-09}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s water activity varied from 0.318 to 0.393 for fluidized bed dryer. The product of fluidized bed dryer at 70°C (10×10×3mm) has best quality in terms of water activity. The experimental data was fitted to page model other than the mathematical models available in the literature. The fluidized bed dried product for 10×10×5 mm slab at 60°C was of best quality in terms of color.

## Highlights

- ① Drying Behavior and modeling of three different slabs (cubes) of Bottle gourd at three different temperature and at constant velocity was studied.
- ② The result of this study indicate that Samples dried in fluidized bed dryer at lower temperature and for small thickness were of best quality in terms of proximate analyses.

**Keywords:** Fluidized bed drying, moisture diffusivity, proximate analysis, mathematical modelling, water activity

Bottle gourd is a wonder vegetable. It is used all over the world as a vegetable in food preparation because of its unique flavor. Growth in popularity of convenient foods in many countries has stimulated increasing demand for high quality dehydrated bottle gourd products like bottle gourd flakes, bottle gourd seed oil and bottle gourd powder. Fluidized bed drying technique is a very convenient method of drying for heat sensitive food materials as it prevents them from overheating (Giner and Cavelo 1987). Results have shown that drying of vegetables in a fluidized bed dryer produces dry vegetable pieces of excellent quality in a much shorter time than in continuous belt dryers which are generally used (Bobic 2002). The study of drying kinetics helps in the design, simulation and optimization of drying processes.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Locally available bottle gourd was used in the

investigation. Bottle gourd had initial moisture content of 16.48 g of water/ g of dry matter. The initial moisture content of bottle gourd slices was determined by oven drying method (Ranganna 2000).

## Drying

Tray dryer and fluidized bed dryer was used for this investigation. peeled bottle gourds were cut into different dimensions i.e. cuboidal, as per the requirement of the investigation. The cuboidal shaped bottle gourds slices were cut into dimensions of 10×10×3 mm, 10×10×5 mm and 10×10×7 mm i.e. the dimensions of the cut pieces of bottle gourd slices were measured, with the help of a micrometer having least count of 0.001 mm. Drying of bottle gourd slabs were carried out for fluidized bed dryer at 50, 60 and 70°C at air velocity of 10 m/s respectively. The drying was terminated at moisture



content of about 6 per cent wet basis which was found safe for storage.

### Moisture content of bottle gourd samples during drying

Moisture content of bottle gourd slabs during drying experiments at various time intervals was determined by calculating mass of dry matter of the sample. Moisture contents at various times were calculated by the formula:

$$\text{Moisture content} = \frac{W_{\theta} - DM}{DM}, \text{ g water per g dry matter} \quad \dots(1)$$

### Dry matters

The dry matter percentage and weight of dry matter in sample were calculated as,

$$DM (\%) = 100.0 - IMC (\% \text{ wb}) \quad \dots(2)$$

$$\text{Weight of DM} = \text{Initial mass of sample} \times \frac{DM (\%)}{100} \quad \dots (3)$$

### Moisture Ratio

The moisture ratio (MR) at each moisture content level was determined by the following equation:

$$MR = \frac{M - M_e}{M_o - M_e} \quad \dots(4)$$

### Drying rate

The drying rate of sample was calculated by following mass balance equation,

$$R = \frac{W ML(kg)}{\text{Time interval (min)} \times (kg)} \quad \dots(5)$$

Where,  $W_{\theta}$  = weight of the sample at time  $\theta$ , g, DM = dry matter of the sample, g, IMC = Initial moisture content, MR = Moisture ratio, M = Moisture content at any time (d.b.),  $M_o$  = Initial moisture content (d.b.),  $M_e$  = Equilibrium moisture content; EMC (d.b.), R = Drying rate at time  $\theta$ , kg water/ kg, min, WML = Initial weight of sample – Weight.

### Moisture diffusivity during drying

In drying, diffusivity is used to indicate the flow of moisture out of material. In falling rate period of drying, moisture transfer within the food is mainly by molecular diffusion. The falling rate period of biological materials is best described by Fick's second law of diffusion (Crank 1958).

### Mathematical Models under Study

The experimental data were fitted to following mostly used drying models and the best was chosen for predicting drying behavior of dried bottle gourd slabs samples. To determine the most suitable drying equation, the experimental drying data were fitted in the various drying models (Table 1).

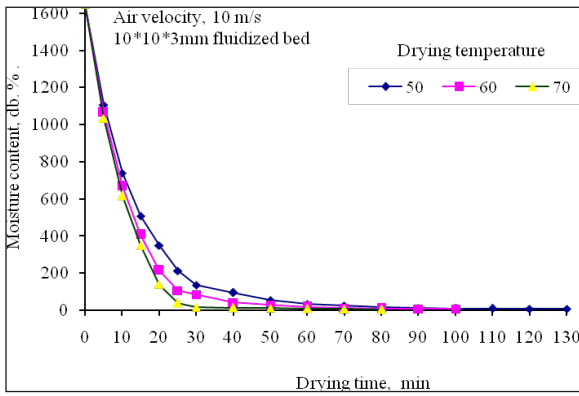
**Table 1:** Mathematical models used under drying study

Model equation	Name	Reference
$MR = \exp(-kt^n)$	Page	Zhang and Litchfield (1991)
$MR = a \exp(-kt)$	Henderson and Pabis	Henderson and Pabis (1961)
$MR = AT^B$	Power law	Chandra and Sing (1995)

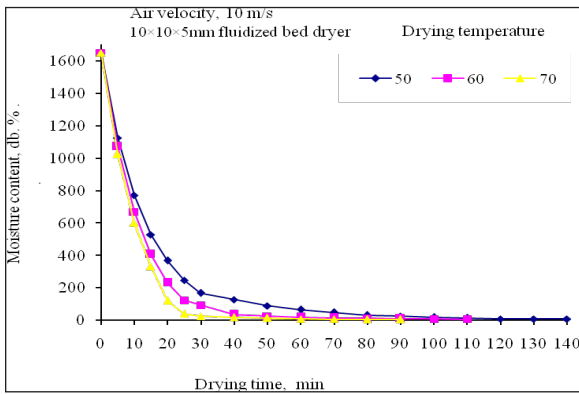
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Effect of process variables on drying time for bottle gourd slices

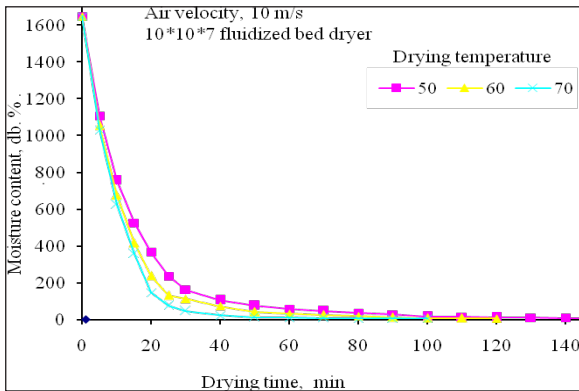
The change in moisture content of bottle gourd slabs with elapsed drying time, at three drying temperature levels of 40, 50 and 60 °C and three thickness levels, 10 × 10 × 3 mm, 10 × 10 × 5 mm and 10 × 10 × 7 mm at air velocity level of 10 m/s for fluidized bed dryer. The drying time for fluidized bed drying condition for bottle gourd slabs of 10×10×3 mm at 50, 60 and 70 °C was 2.16, 1.66 and 1.33 h, respectively. Similarly, the drying time for bottle gourd slabs of 10×10×5 mm dried at 50, 60 and 70 °C was found to be 2.33, 1.83 and 1.50 h, and the drying time for bottle gourd slabs of 10×10×7 mm dried at 50, 60 and 70 °C was found to be 2.50, 2.00 and 1.66h. As the drying air temperature was increased from 50 to 70 °C, the drying time reduced. The drying curves of bottle gourd slices under all conditions indicated that the drying process is unaffected by air velocity, but temperatures play a major role in drying.



**Fig. 1:** Variation in moisture content with drying time at different temperature



**Fig. 2:** Variation in moisture content with drying time at different temperature



**Fig. 3:** Variation in moisture content with drying time at different temperature

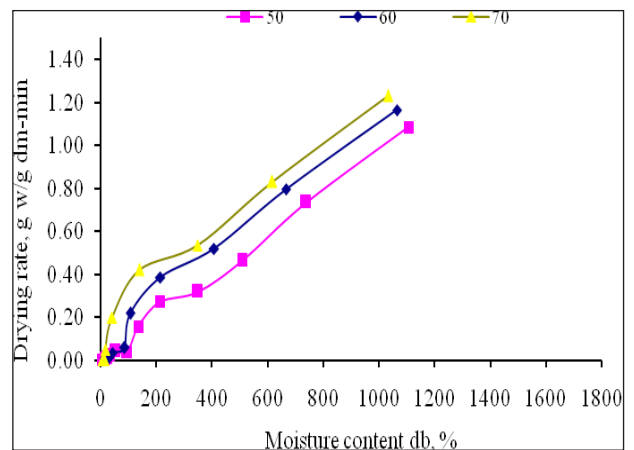
**Drying rate**

The drying rates decreased for bottle gourd slabs of 10×10×3 mm as compared to slabs of 10×10×7 mm at different drying air temperature (50, 60 and 70 °C) for drying rate for slab of 10×10×7 mm is lower compared with that of slabs of 10×10×3 mm in all the three temperature levels (50, 60 and 70 °C) for

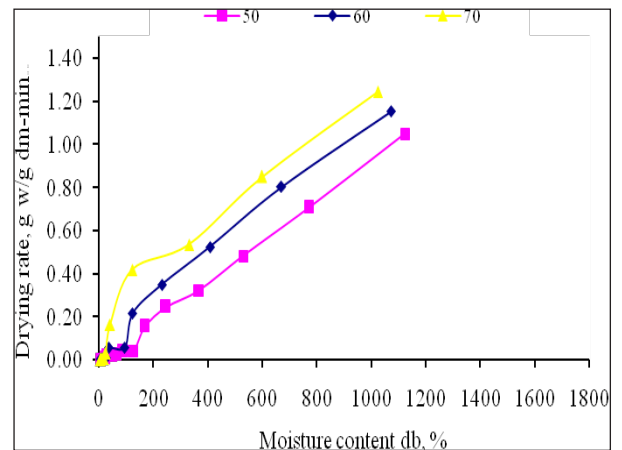
fluidized bed drying experiments. The drying rate is high for the slabs of 10×10×3 mm at 70 °C for fluidized bed drying. A second order polynomial relationship was found to have fitted adequately to desirable variations in the drying rates with moisture content at all three experimental temperatures and thickness is represented by equation 6 with their coefficient of correlation values presented in Table 2.

$$R = Ax^2 + Bx + C \quad \dots(6)$$

Where, *R* is the rate of drying in g water evaporated per g dry matter-min. *A*, *B* and *C* are constants and *x* is the moisture content in g water per g of dry matter. It is also seen that the values of coefficient of correlation are more than 0.97 for fluidized bed dryer, at all the process temperatures which shows the good correlation among the predicted and observed values.



**Fig. 4:** Drying Rate Curves with Moisture Content at different Temperature (10×10×3 mm)



**Fig. 5:** Drying Rate Curves With Moisture Content At different Temperature (10×10×5 mm)

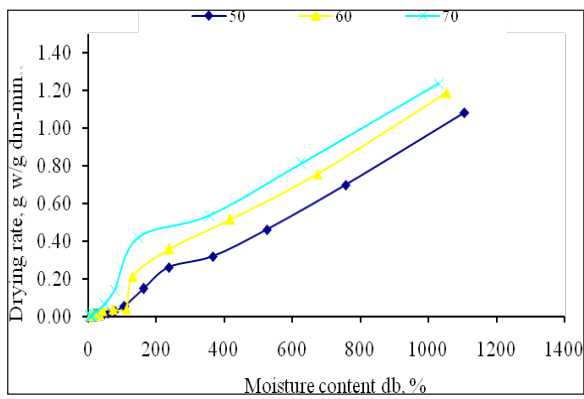


Fig. 6: Drying rate curves with moisture content at different temperature (10×10×7 mm)

### Moisture diffusivity of bottle gourd slabs

The variation in ln(MR) with drying time under various process conditions is presented in Fig.. The variation was found to be linear with inverse slope. The slope became steeper with increase in drying air temperature. Moisture diffusivity of bottle gourd slabs dried under fluidized bed drying conditions was found in the range of  $1.03 \times 10^{-9}$  to  $6.18 \times 10^{-9}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s.

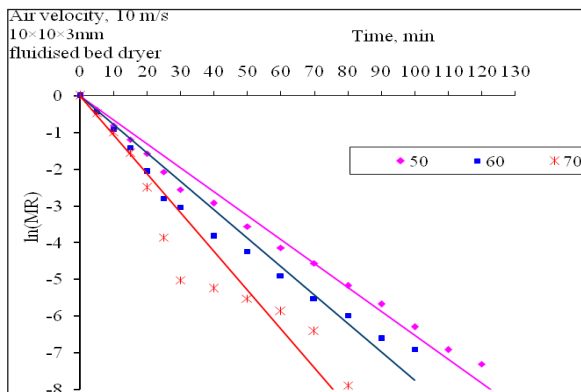


Fig. 7: Variation in ln(MR) versus time for fluidized bed dryer at different temperature (10×10×3mm)

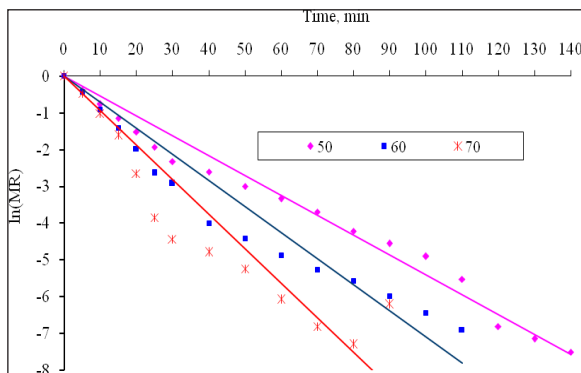


Fig. 8: Variation in ln(MR) versus time for fluidized bed dryer at different temperature (10×10×5mm)

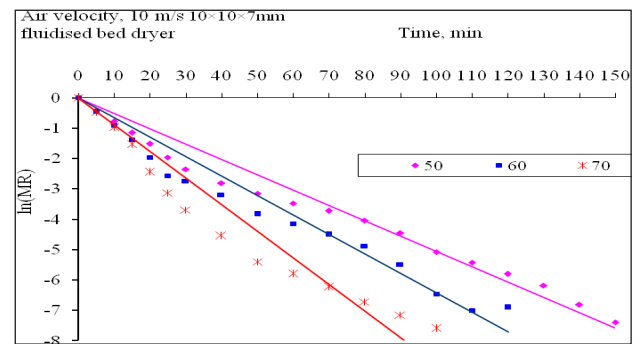


Fig. 9: Variation in ln(MR) versus time for fluidized bed dryer at different temperature (10×10×7mm)

Table 2: Moisture diffusivity values for fluidized bed dried bottle gourd slabs

Shape	Drying tem. (°C)	Regression equation	Moisture diffusivity (m <sup>2</sup> /s)	R <sup>2</sup>
10×10×3 mm	50	y = -0.0009x - 0.460	3.97 × 10 <sup>-09</sup>	0.981
	60	y = -0.0012x - 0.526	5.30 × 10 <sup>-09</sup>	0.973
	70	y = -0.0014x - 0.784	6.18 × 10 <sup>-09</sup>	0.959
10×10×5 mm	50	y = -0.0014x - 0.351	2.29 × 10 <sup>-09</sup>	0.985
	60	y = 0.0022x - 0.691	3.62 × 10 <sup>-09</sup>	0.954
	70	y = -0.0261x - 0.863	4.10 × 10 <sup>-09</sup>	0.983
10×10×7 mm	50	y = -0.0007x - 0.578	5.56 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	0.986
	70	y = -0.0009x - 0.607	7.15 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	0.975
		y = -0.0013x - 0.713	1.03 × 10 <sup>-09</sup>	0.949

ANOVA, carried out to study the effect of process variables on moisture diffusivity revealed that size had significant effect on moisture diffusivity. The value lie in the range of 10<sup>-10</sup> to 10<sup>-11</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/s for food materials.

Table 3: ANOVA showing the effect of process variables on moisture diffusivity of bottle gourd slabs dried in a fluidized bed dryer

Sl. No.	Source	DF	SS	MS	F	SE(m)	CD(1)
1	Temp.	2	87.3766	43.6883	4176.996**	0.0341	0.1389
2	Size	2	10.2991	5.14957	492.346**	0.03409	0.1389
3	Total	4	2.72981	0.682454	65.249**	0.05905	0.2405
4	Error	18	0.188267	0.0104593			

CV = 3.3105

### Modeling of drying behavior of bottle gourd slabs

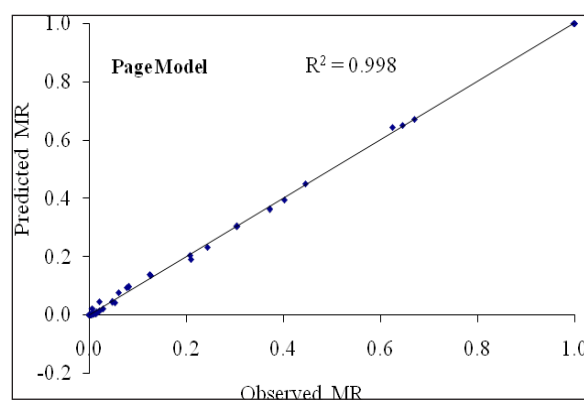
Experimental data on drying of bottle gourd slabs were fitted into three models as presented in Table

**Table 4:** Values for model constants and statistical parameters used in fluidized bed drying of bottle gourd slabs

Name of Model	Slabs thickness	Air temp.	Drying constant				Statistical parameters		
			K	N	A	B	R <sup>2</sup>	$\chi^2$	E <sub>RMS</sub>
Henderson and Pabis	10×10×3 mm	50	0.08	—	0.928	—	0.9960	0.0006	0.0240
		60	0.096	—	0.945	—	0.9970	0.0006	0.0236
		70	0.108	—	0.960	—	0.9980	0.0030	0.0159
	10×10×5 mm	50	0.075	—	0.933	—	0.9960	0.0005	0.0225
		60	0.095	—	0.954	—	0.9980	0.0002	0.0147
		70	0.110	—	0.967	—	0.9990	0.0002	0.0125
	10×10×7 mm	50	0.076	—	0.947	—	0.9970	0.0006	0.0239
		60	0.093	—	0.973	—	0.9990	0.0001	0.0105
		70	0.016	—	0.982	—	0.9990	0.0001	0.0102
Page model	10×10×3 mm	50	0.081	0.834	—	—	0.9980	0.0003	0.0208
		60	0.072	0.877	—	—	0.9980	0.0003	0.0233
		70	0.063	0.916	—	—	0.9980	0.0003	0.0171
	10×10×5 mm	50	0.087	0.838	—	—	0.9980	0.0003	0.0155
		60	0.073	0.888	—	—	0.9990	0.0002	0.0119
		70	0.065	0.925	—	—	0.9990	0.0002	0.0135
	10×10×7 mm	50	0.089	0.862	—	—	0.9990	0.0001	0.0105
		60	0.084	0.933	—	—	1.0000	0.0001	0.0080
		70	1.16	0.96	—	—	0.9990	0.0002	0.0121
Power model	10×10×3mm	50	—	—	3.754	01.027	0.947	0.069	0.2462
		60	—	—	4.442	-1.165	0.951	0.085	0.2703
		70	—	—	5.265	-1.294	0.938	0.103	0.2924
	10×10×5mm	50	—	—	3.527	-0.978	0.953	0.064	0.2389
		60	—	—	4.414	-1.157	0.954	0.0786	0.2610
		70	—	—	5.411	-1.317	0.945	0.0930	0.2810
	10×10×7mm	50	—	—	3.539	-0.988	0.952	0.0605	0.2327
		60	—	—	4.054	-1.114	0.958	0.0729	0.2525
		70	—	—	4.944	-1.255	0.948	0.0853	0.2703

1. The goodness of fit of each model was determined by estimating the coefficient of determination, The statistical parameters for different models used for fluidized bed dried bottle gourd slabs have been presented in Table 5. It was observed that in all models the values of R<sup>2</sup> were greater than 0.90 indicating a good fit except for power law model. The values of Coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) for Page model at all levels of temperatures were greater than 0.997 and the values of root mean square error (E<sub>RMS</sub>), reduced mean square of the deviation ( $\chi^2$ ) were in range 0.0177 to 0.0190, 0.0003 to 0.0004 respectively which were lower than the rest of other two models (Henderson & Pabis and Power law). Hence, Page model was found to be the

most satisfactory than the other models to represent the thin-layer drying of bottle gourd slab.

**Fig. 10:** Experimental and predicted values of moisture ratio by Page model (10×10×3 mm).

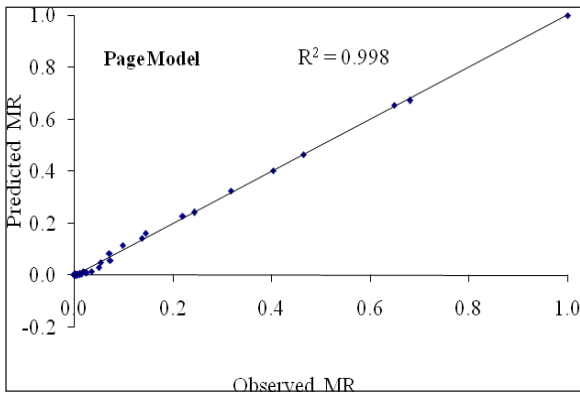


Fig. 11: Experimental and predicted values of moisture ratio by Page model (10×10×5 mm)

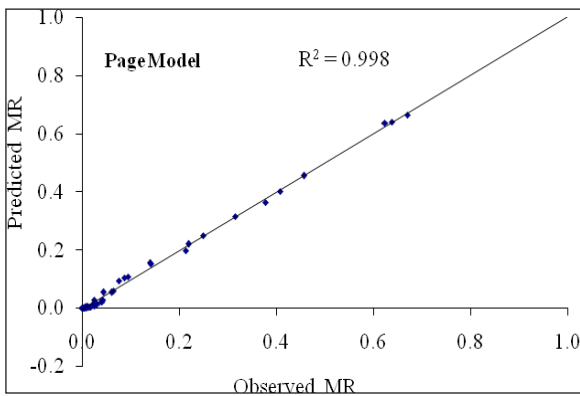


Fig. 12: Experimental and predicted values of moisture ratio by Page model (10×10×7 mm)

### Water activity of dehydrated bottle gourd samples

The water activity scale extends from 0 (bone dry) to 1 (pure water) but most foods have a water activity level in the range of 0.2 (very dry foods) to 0.99 (moist fresh foods). It revealed that as the temperature increased and thickness water activity decreased significantly.

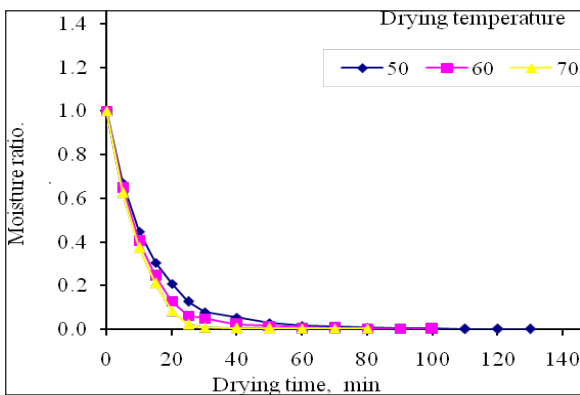


Fig. 13: Effect of temperature on moisture ratio of dried bottle gourd slabs (10×10×3 mm) at 10m/s

The minimum water activity reported for the sample of 10×10×3 mm at 70 °C is 0.318 fluidized bed dryer, which is in within safe limit. The ANOVA for water activity is presented in Table 6. From this table, it can be seen that effect of temperature was significant on water activity at 1 per cent level of significance.

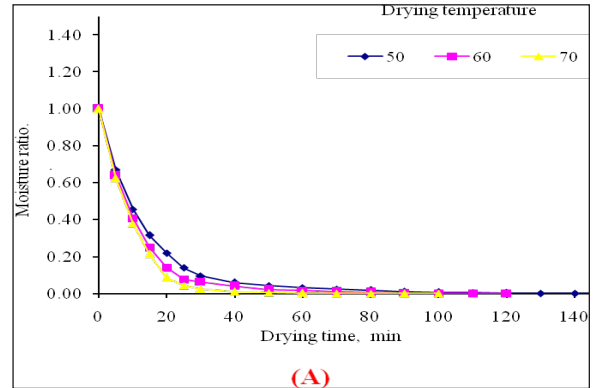


Fig. 14: Effect of temperature on moisture ratio of dried bottle gourd slabs(10×10×5 mm) at 10 m/s

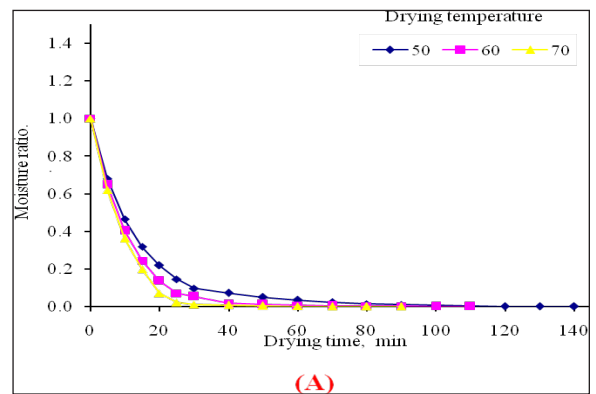


Fig. 15: Effect of temperature on moisture ratio of dried bottle gourd slabs (10×10×7 mm) at 10 m/s

Table 5: Water activity ( $a_w$ ) of fluidized bed dried bottlegourd powder

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	SE(m)	CD(5)	CD(1)
Temp.	2	0.0055	0.002787	38.180**	0.00285	0.0084	0.0116
Size	2	0.0110	0.005534	75.821**	0.002848	0.0084	0.0116
Total	4	0.0005	0.000136	1.864	0.004933	0.0146	0.0201
Error	18	0.0013	7.3e-005				

CV = 2.3760, \*\*Significant at 1% level of significance

### CONCLUSION

Drying of bottle gourd slabs occurred only in falling rate drying period. Constant rate drying period was absent throughout the drying process of bottle gourd slices dried under any air temperature.



Moisture diffusivity of slab of 10×10×3 mm is higher compared to 10×10×5 mm and 10×10×5 mm is higher compared to 10×10×7mm in fluidized bed drying conditions. Moisture diffusivity of bottle gourd slabs dried under fluidized bed drying conditions was found in the range of  $1.03 \times 10^{-09}$  to  $6.18 \times 10^{-09}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s. Page model gave better fit than the power model and Henderson & Pabis model in fluidized bed dryer. The best quality of dehydrated bottle gourd slabs were obtained from samples dried at lower temperature in fluidized bed dryer. Samples dried in fluidized bed dryer at lower temperature were of best quality in terms of color, water activity and proximate analysis than tray dried product. The sensory evaluation shows that the product of fluidized bed dryer of 10×10×3 mm at 70°C have good quality.

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