

SHS-GC-MS Optimization for Volatile Organic Compounds Analysis in Oral Fluid and Urine

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INTRODUCTION

- Physiological processes naturally produce Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). In a pathological condition, different processes occur, causing the generation of VOCs which are not usually produced and/or changing their concentration [1].
- VOCs can be analyzed in biological samples (for example, oral fluid and urine) to identify potential disease biomarkers, notably cancer [2].
- Static Headspace Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (HS-GC-MS) depends on numerous factors, such as incubation time (t_{inc}), temperature (T), salt addition (NaCl), agitation (A), sample volume (SV) and pH [3].
- Factorial experimental designs can be used in order to maximize the process and reduce the number, duration, and cost of experiments [4].

METHODS

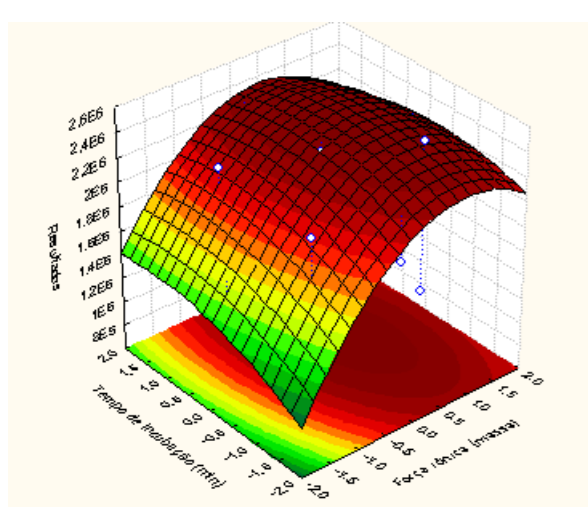
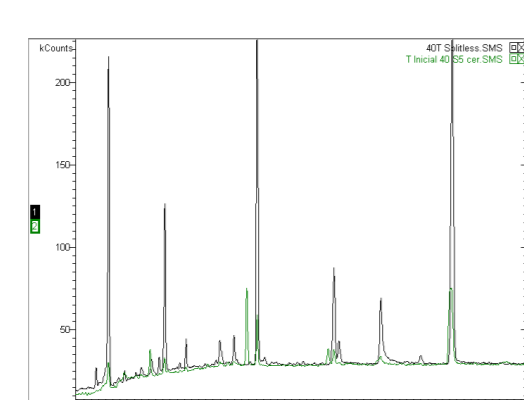
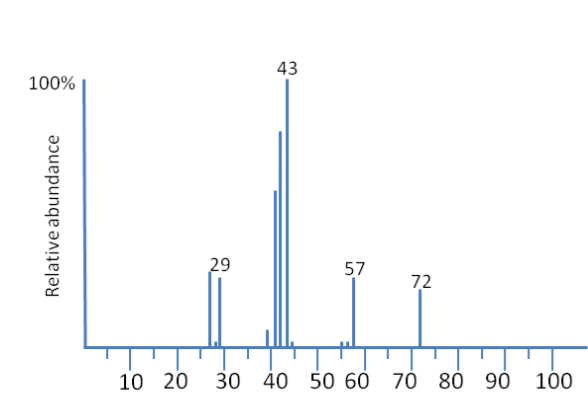
- Plackett-Burman (PB) factorial design was used to evaluate how the variables affected the total response area. The significant ones were optimized by central composite design (CCD) and Response Surface Methodology.



Sample collection



Sample preparation



GC-MS

Statistical analysis in Statistica 7.0

GC-MS: Gas Chromatography CP-3800 coupled to Ion Trap Mass Spectrometry Saturn 2000 (Varian)

Fig 1. Experimental design and analysis.

Oral fluid optimization parameters:

Table 1. PB design for oral fluid

| Variables | Plackett-Burman Levels | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|------|-----|
| | -1 | 0 | 1 |
| t_{inc} (min) | 5 | 12.5 | 20 |
| T (°C) | 60 | 77.5 | 95 |
| NaCl (g) | 0 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| A (rpm) | 250 | 475 | 700 |
| SV (mL) | 0.5 | 1 | 1.5 |
| pH | Ac | Neu | Bas |

Table 2. CCD values for oral fluid

| Variables | CCD 2 ³ Levels | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | -1.68 | -1 | 0 | 1 | 1.68 |
| t_{inc} (min) | 5 | 8 | 12.5 | 17 | 20 |
| T (°C) | 60 | 66 | 77.5 | 89 | 95 |
| NaCl (g) | 0.2 | 0.36 | 0.6 | 0.84 | 1 |

Urine optimization parameters*:

Table 3. PB design for urine

| Variables | Plackett-Burman Levels | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
| | -1 | 0 | 1 |
| t_{inc} (min) | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| NaCl (g) | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| A (rpm) | 250 | 475 | 700 |
| SV (mL) | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| pH | Ac | Neu | Bas |

Table 4. CCD values for urine

| Variables | CCD 2 ³ Levels | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------|-----|------|------|
| | -1.68 | -1 | 0 | 1 | 1.68 |
| t_{inc} (min) | 10 | 16 | 20 | 26 | 30 |
| A (rpm) | 400 | 490 | 550 | 640 | 700 |
| NaCl (g) | 0.8 | 0.96 | 1.2 | 1.44 | 1.6 |

T was kept at 95 °C

RESULTS

Oral fluid:

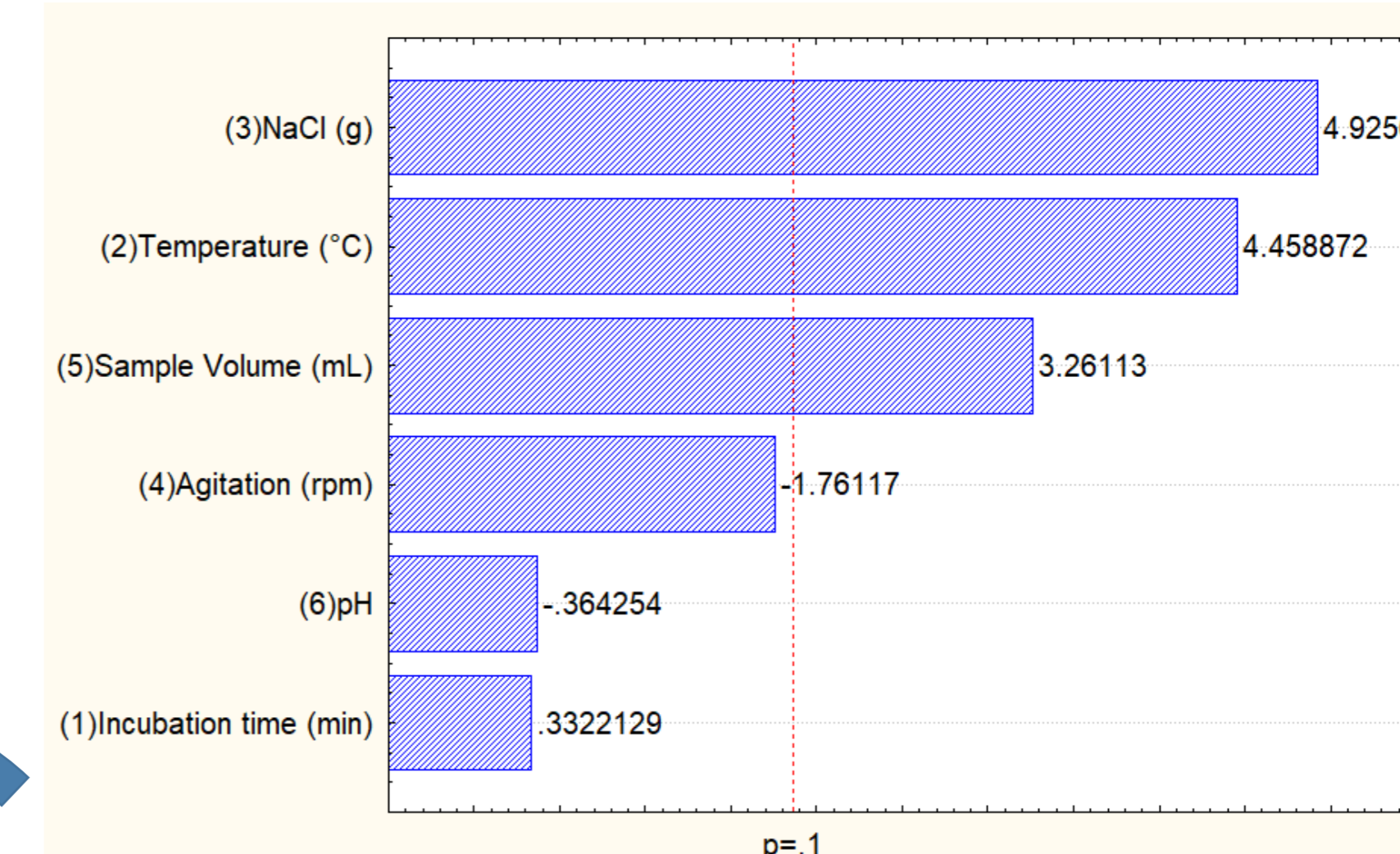
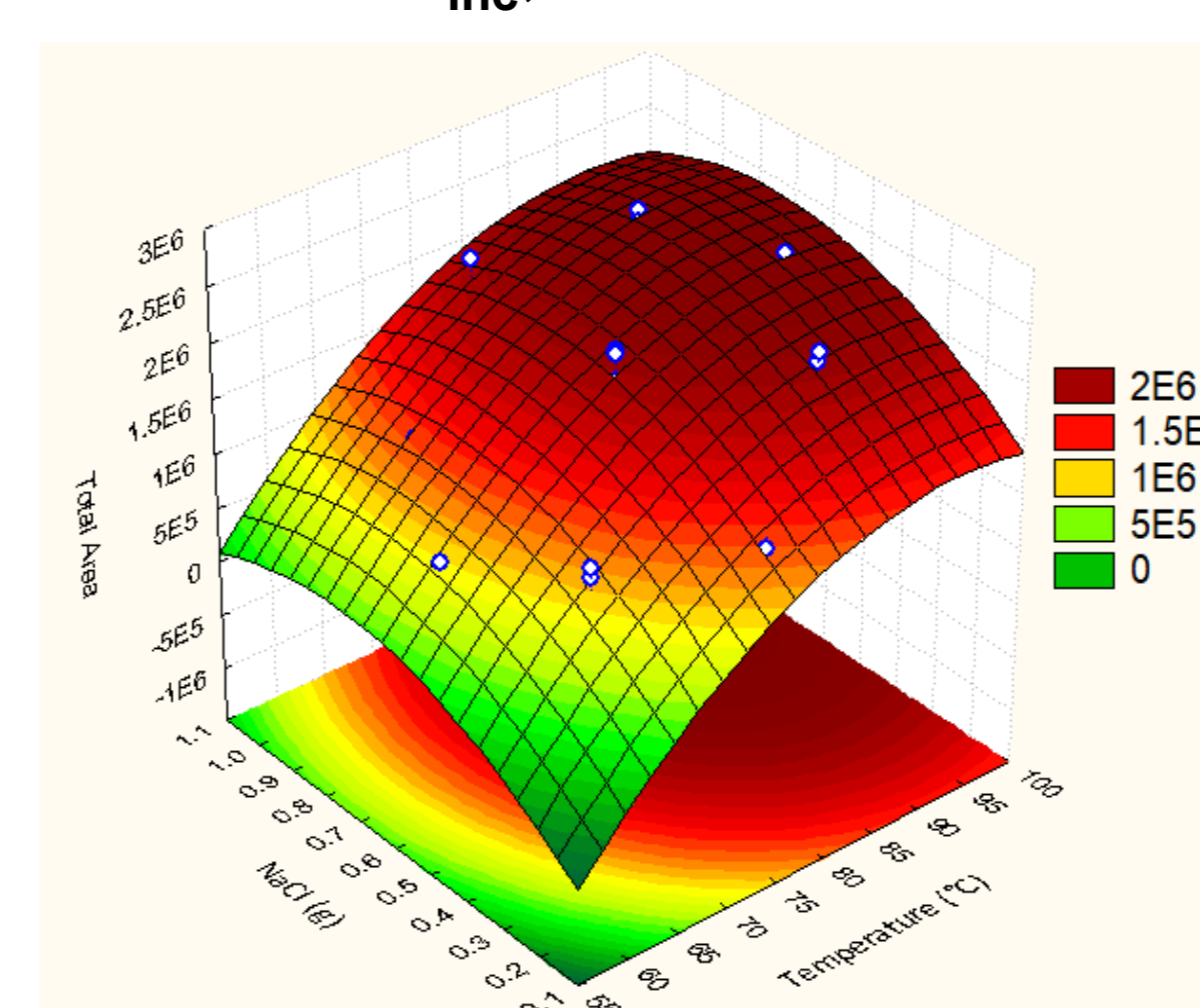
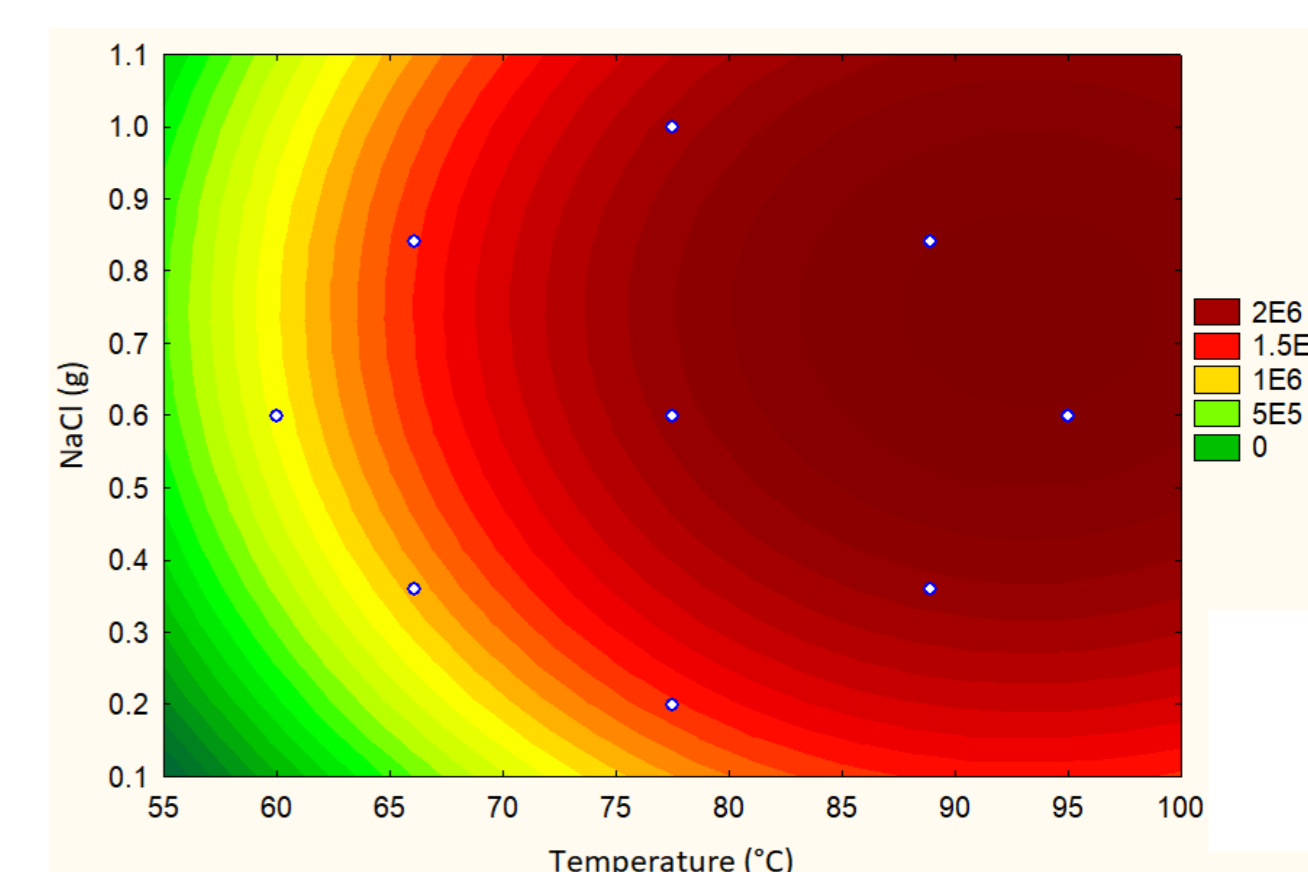


Fig 2. Pareto Chart – PB Oral Fluid

- SV was fixed at 1 mL;
- Agitation at 250 rpm;
- Neutral pH;
- CCD: T_{inc} , T and NaCl were optimized.



$R^2 = 0.964$
Equation: $2093172 + 486142 X_2 - 170231 X_2^2 + 168263 X_3 - 153601 X_3^2$



Optimized conditions for oral fluid: $T_{inc} = 5$ min, T = 95°C; NaCl = 0.8 g

Fig 3. Oral fluid CCD 2³ results

Urine:

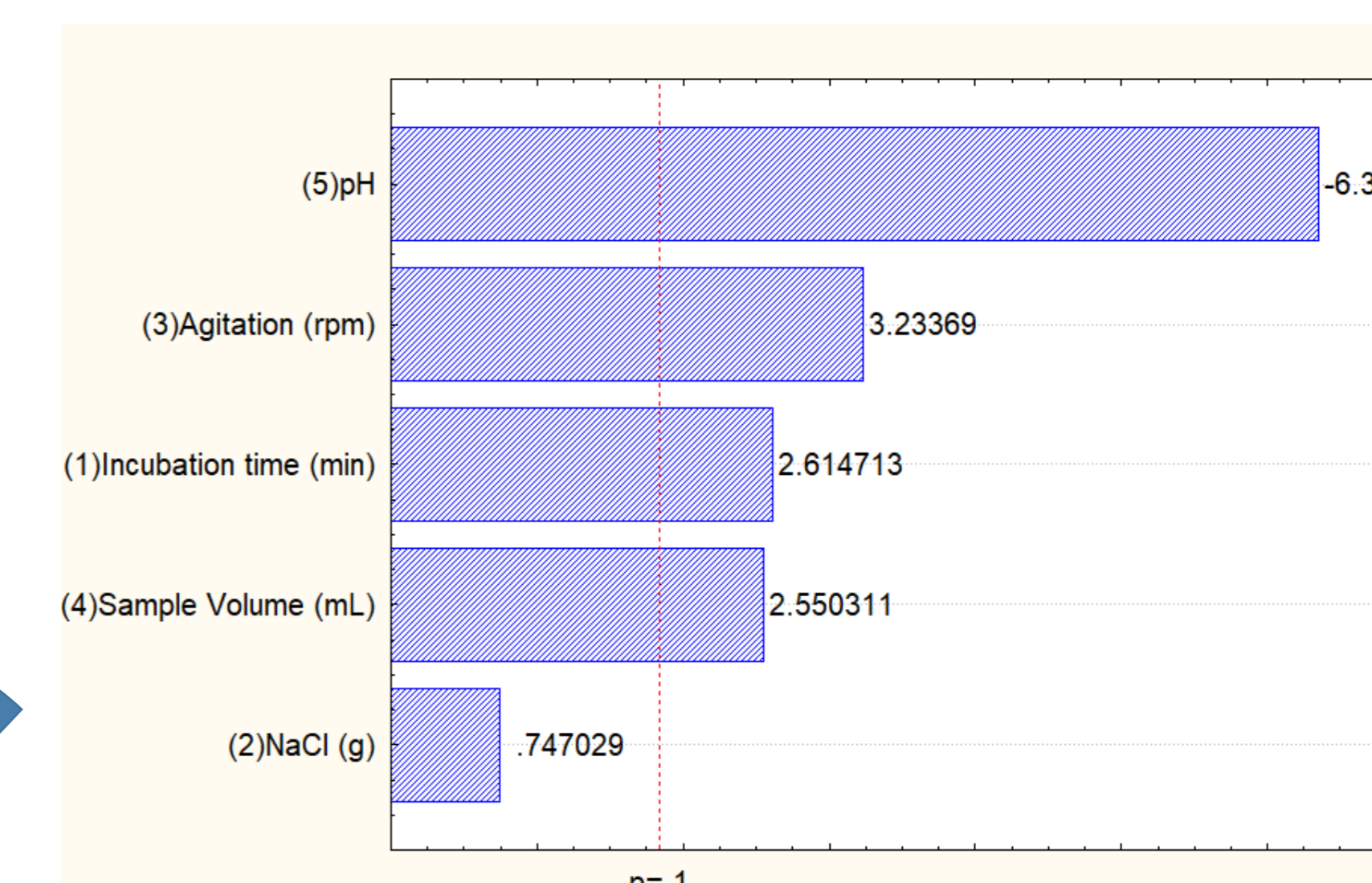
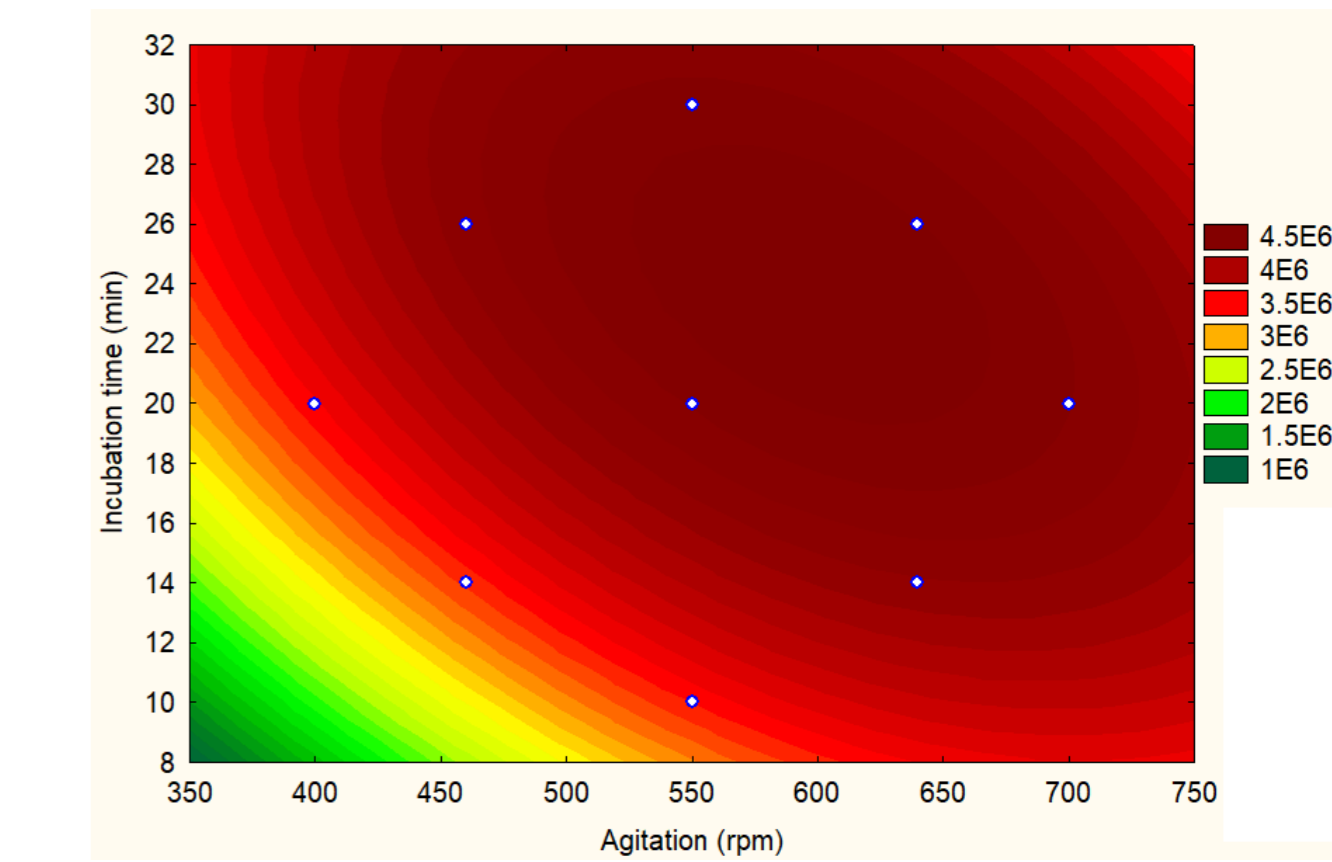
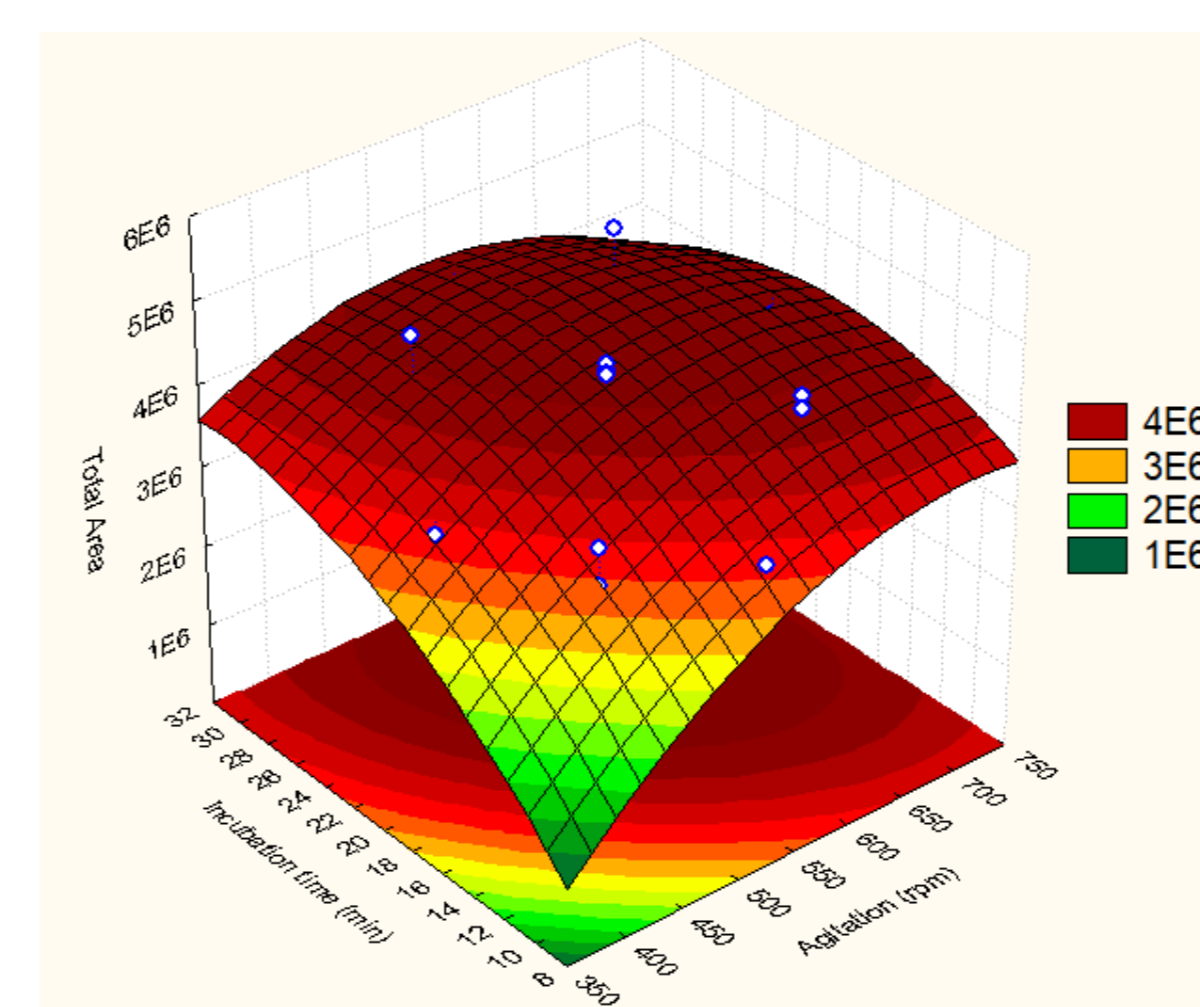


Fig 4. Pareto Chart – PB Urine

- SV was fixed at 4 mL;
- Acidic pH;
- CCD 2³: T_{inc} , A and NaCl were analyzed.



Optimized agitation: 550 rpm. t_{inc} and NaCl need a CCD 2² optimization.

Fig 5. Urine CCD 2³ results

CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVE

- Factorial design allowed the optimization of six variables related to VOCs analysis in OF and Urine. Once these matrices have different characteristics and VOC profiles, the optimized values also differ.
- These parameters will be used to analyze the OF and urine of individuals with Head and Neck Cancers, to determine possible biomarkers of this disease.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT