

Dextrose Equivalent Analysis of Acid Hydrolysed Corn and Cassava Starch Sourced from Ghana

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To cite this article:

Odum Bismark, Owusu Kwaku Michael, Odoom Kwesi Justice, Ebenezer Otoo, Norgbey Eyrarn, Kwakye Danso Benjamin. Dextrose Equivalent Analysis of Acid Hydrolysed Corn and Cassava Starch Sourced from Ghana. *Science Journal of Chemistry*. Vol. 9, No. 2, 2021, pp. 45-53. doi: 10.11648/j.sjc.20210902.12

Received: November 17, 2020; **Accepted:** December 14, 2020; **Published:** April 23, 2021

Abstract: The use of acid hydrolysis to convert starch into dextrose can be difficult and time-consuming. The process requires high acidic medium and temperature which tends to contaminate the end-product hydrolysate. Therefore, this research was carried out to obtain optimum conditions necessary to produce a high and quality Dextrose Equivalent by varying the initial starch concentration and acid volume. The mass of corn and cassava starch and the total hydrochloric acid volume used for the hydrolysis ranged from 100 to 400 g and 1-3 liters respectively. The results showed that the optimum conditions for hydrolyzing the two starch types to Dextrose were within a temperature range of 100°C-120°C, 12 w/w% starch concentration, 4 atmospheric pressure and 30 minutes operating time. The optimum conditions produced a Dextrose Equivalent of 79.80% and 78.66% for cassava and corn starch respectively. The amount of dextrose produced in the process is a function of temperature, pressure, acid volume, operating time and initial starch concentration. Experimental results also confirmed an increase in pH of the hydrolysate with a temperature rise, and this influenced the Dextrose quality. The outcomes provided new findings to complement existing outcomes on how initial starch concentration and acid volume affect Dextrose Equivalent by acid-type hydrolysis.

Keywords: Hydrolysis, Dextrose Equivalent, Starch, Dextrose, Hydrolysate, Titration

1. Introduction

Hydrolysis of starch to low-molecular products such as glucose, starch nanoparticles and adhesives is widely applied in many industries including the sugar, spirits and textile industries, as well as in the brewing industry [1, 2]. Acid hydrolysis of starch can be employed to convert starch into dextrose [3]. The degree of hydrolysis is often attained by means of mineral acids (pH 2) and high temperatures from 140-220°C [1]. Industrial processing of starch for commercial production of glucose syrup mainly involves the employment of mineral acids for starch hydrolysis before the

advent of enzymes [4, 5]. The use of enzyme and acid-enzyme hydrolysis of starch is being applied in some industries [1, 6-8]. The use of enzyme for starch hydrolysis is an indispensable method. One difficulty in using this method is that the stability of the enzymes cannot be assured. In addition, the pH level and temperature play vital role in their stability [1]. The source of the enzyme also affects the mode of action, properties and the product of hydrolysis [7] making it difficult to regulate most times. Enzyme and acid-enzyme hydrolysis can be expensive and time consuming, and sometimes difficult to undertake especially when the enzymes are not well cultured [7].

Acid hydrolysis of starch has wide applications even though it produces unnecessary by-products which may contaminate the end-product hydrolysate as a result of the high thermal processing [1, 9-11]. However, the employment of intensive filtration and purification methods as well as careful regulation of the process eliminate contaminants [6]. This method can be monitored and regulated without much difficulty at optimum conditions. The challenge for production of dextrose by acid hydrolysis process is obtaining high quality and quantity of Dextrose. Dextrose (glucose) is very useful. It is therefore crucial to identify and measure the factors and how each affect starch hydrolysis [1].

Hydrolysis of starch is widely employed in many biological and industrial processes [12]. Corn and cassava starch are major industrial raw material and they are used for energy generation after conversion to bioethanol [13-16]. Acid hydrolysis method is used to explore the structure of starch granules [11, 14, 17, 18]. It is also employed in structure modification of native starches by altering the functional properties such as the starch swelling, gelatinization, retrogradation, pasting and digestive properties of starch granules [18, 19-21]. Acid hydrolysis was used as a modification method for production of starch-based adhesives and thin boiling of starch which have wide applications in many industries [13, 14, 18, 22-29].

The kinetics of starch hydrolysis is often monitored in two different ways. It includes insoluble residues and soluble sugar present in solution [2]. A two-stage hydrolysis pattern was observed by most researchers which involved a fast-initial rate followed by a slower rate [12, 14, 17, 29, 30, 32-36]. The relatively fast initial rate corresponded to amorphous regions of granules which are more prone to chemical hydrolysis [12, 14, 30]. The slow process was due to simultaneous hydrolysis of amorphous and crystalline starch regions [17, 19]. The insoluble residue mostly

comprises of crystalline parts of amylopectin which are acid-resistant [2, 21, 27]. With this knowledge, in recent years, research efforts are employed on using acid hydrolysis as one modification method to alter the structural and functional properties of native starch structure for wider applications of starch [13, 31]. However, previous researches conducted have not provided a detailed results and information that explicitly explains how starch concentration and acid volume each affects Dextrose Equivalent (DE). Therefore, the present work investigated two different starches (corn and cassava starch) as model materials to identify and understand how the variation in acid volume and initial starch concentration affects the DE yield through acid hydrolysis. The effectiveness and efficiency of acid-enzyme and enzymatic hydrolysis [1, 4-6, 37-43] was also compared to acid hydrolysis.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Material and Samples

Carbohydrate extracts of corn and cassava starch were prepared in the laboratory from maize grains (*Zea Mays*) and cassava root tubers (*Manihot Escalenta Crantz*) respectively. The crop variety from which the corn and cassava starch was extracted is “Obaatampa” and “CRI Essam Bankye” respectively. These varieties were sourced from Ghana [44].

Stock concentrations of hydrochloric acid, sodium carbonate, benedict reagent, standard glucose, activated carbon and all other apparatus used for the research were accessed from the Chemical Engineering and Chemistry Research Laboratories of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi Ghana. The samples are well described in Table 1.

Table 1. Sample conditions, labels and their descriptions.

Sample Label	Sample Description	Sample concentrations (w/w %)	Density of hydrolyzed solution mixture, g/ml
HS $\frac{100C}{1000}$	100 g of cassava starch mixed with 1000 ml of 0.1M HCl	9.09	1.0470
HS $\frac{100C}{1500}$	100 g of cassava starch mixed with 1500 ml of 0.1M HCl	6.25	1.0650
HS $\frac{100C}{2000}$	100 g of cassava starch mixed with 2000 ml of 0.1M HCl	4.76	1.0450
HS $\frac{200C}{1000}$	200 g of cassava starch mixed with 1000 ml of 0.1M HCl	16.67	1.0730
HS $\frac{200C}{1500}$	200 g of cassava starch mixed with 1500 ml of 0.1M HCl	11.76	1.0767
HS $\frac{200C}{2000}$	200 g of cassava starch mixed with 2000 ml of 0.1M HCl	9.09	1.0520
HS $\frac{200M}{1500}$	200 g of corn starch mixed with 1500 ml of 0.1M HCl	11.76	1.0767
HS $\frac{400M}{3000}$	400 g of corn starch mixed with 3000 ml of 0.1M HCl	11.76	1.1013

2.2. Experimental Procedures of Acid Hydrolysis

2.2.1. Acid Hydrolysis of Corn and Cassava Starch

Different volumes (1 liter, 1.5 liters, 2 liters and 3 liters) of 0.1M HCl were prepared from stock concentration of HCl.

During the lab experiment; taking sample HS $\frac{100C}{1000}$ for example, 100 g of cassava starch was initially weighed and

then transferred into a clean pressure cooker (autoclave). A diluted solution of 1 liter was prepared 0.1 M HCl and mixed with the starch within the autoclave and constantly stirred until a homogenous solution mixture was formed. The autoclave (containing the starch mixture) was placed on a heated hot plate. The starch mixture was heated whilst stirring (on agitator at 400 rpm) until it gelatinized. Careful heating and continuous stirring were necessary in order to obtain fine starch gel. The gelatinized starch mixture was further heated

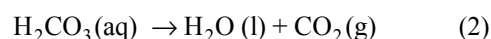
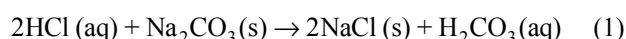
for 30 minutes within a temperature range of (100°C - 120°C) at pressure 4 atm and the starch was converted into dextrose (glucose). The autoclave was tightly covered at this stage to prevent excessive heat loss and maintain constant pressure. After 30 minutes operating time, the autoclave was opened and the content (hydrolysate) was allowed to cool down to a normal room temperature. The pH of the hydrolysate was slightly acidic. The above procedures were repeated for each sample with variation in starch weight and volume of acid as described in Table 1.

2.2.2. Processing of Hydrolyzed Starch

The remaining hydrochloric acid (HCl) in the hydrolysate (glucose slurry) was neutralized with calculated amounts of sodium carbonate (Na₂CO₃), as illustrated in Figure 1. Taking

sample $HS \frac{100C}{1500}$ for instance, the hydrolysate was

neutralized by adding 5.679 g of sodium carbonate (Na₂CO₃) granules to adjust the pH to about 6.34 at 23.1°C. The quantity of sodium carbonate needed to completely neutralize the HCl increased with an increase in HCl volume. Addition of Na₂CO₃ to the hydrolysate was characterized by effervescent gas due to escape of carbon dioxide. The production of carbon dioxide is shown by the equations below;



Sodium chloride and carbonic acid were formed when hydrochloric acid reacted with sodium carbonate as shown is equation 1 above. Carbonic acid is unstable at room temperature, therefore it decomposed into water and carbon dioxide as indicated in equation 2. The sodium chloride was refined and eliminated from the solution. Solid impurities like precipitated protein and coagulated fats hydrolysis contained in the hydrolysate were centrifugal separation and surface adsorption using 20 g of Activated Carbon. The quality of the dextrose was affected by the efficiency of the refining and purification methods. The impurities largely depended on the starch source [6]. The starch used for the experiment contained low protein content. The hydrolysate was filtered through a filter placed on a funnel and connected to a vacuum pump to create vacuum for suction of the solution through the pores of the filter paper into a clean, dried and empty container. To obtain more concentrated glucose slurry; the hydrolysate was heated in an evaporation unit (continuous heat exchangers) under controlled temperature.

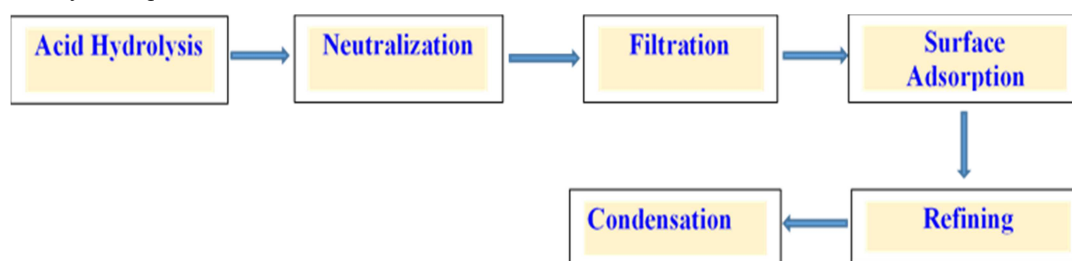


Figure 1. Block diagram showing the general steps employed in the acid hydrolysis of corn and cassava starch.

2.3. Titration Method

2.3.1. Titration of Hydrolysate

Titration of end product of corn and cassava starch hydrolysis was carried out to determine the quantity of reducing sugars (dextrose) produced by using Lane-Eynon titration method [45, 46]. 10 g of hydrolyzed starch sample

($HS \frac{200C}{1500}$); hydrolysate, was diluted with deionized water

to 100 ml dilute which contains dextrose (glucose). The hydrolysate herein referred as the analyte was transferred into a 50 ml calibrated burette, and titrated against a known amount (20 ml) of boiling benedict solution (copper sulphate solution); titrant, contained in Erlenmeyer flask with methylene blue as indicator. The indicator changed colour from blue to light green once all the copper sulphate in solution reacted with the glucose. The titration was ceased when a colour change was observed. The titration was repeated thrice and the average titre value (volume of glucose) was recorded. These procedures were repeated for each starch sample. However, the reaction between the glucose and the benedict solution was not stoichiometric, therefore a calibration curve was scrutinized whiles further titrations

were carried out with series of known concentrations of standard glucose solution.

2.3.2. Procedures for Titration of Standard Glucose Against Benedict Solution

Different concentrations of standard glucose solution (5 w/w%, 4.5 w/w%, 4.0 w/w%, 3.5 w/w%, 3.0 w/w%, 2.5 w/w%, 2.0 w/w%, 1.5 w/w%) were prepared. The density and mass of each homogenous standard glucose concentrations was determined and recorded in Table 2. 100 ml of dilute standardized benedict solution was prepared using a benedict reagent of stock concentration. 20 ml of dilute benedict solution (as titrant) was pipetted and transferred into a 50 ml beaker and placed in a hot water bath maintained at 90°C for 2 minutes. 5 w/w% concentration of prepared standard glucose solution was transferred into a 50 ml burette, and this was titrated against 20 ml warmed benedict solution whilst it was still in hot water bath until the blue colour changed to light green. The titration was repeated for the same 5 w/w% standard glucose solution concentration and the average titre value was recorded. The titration process was repeated for each of the standard glucose concentration.

Table 2. Titration results of standard glucose solution against benedict solution.

Weight % concentration of glucose standard solution	Density of the solution (g/ml)	Average titre value (ml)	Mass of standard glucose (g)
5	1.020	0.30	0.0153
4.5	1.013	0.90	0.0210
4	1.000	1.40	0.0381
3.5	1.008	1.75	0.0439
3	1.008	2.55	0.0446
2.5	1.002	3.15	0.0449
2	1.004	4.40	0.0456
1.5	1.009	5.30	0.0460

$$\text{Consistent average mass of standard glucose} = \frac{0.0439 + 0.0446 + 0.0449 + 0.0456 + 0.0460}{5} = 0.045 \text{ g}$$

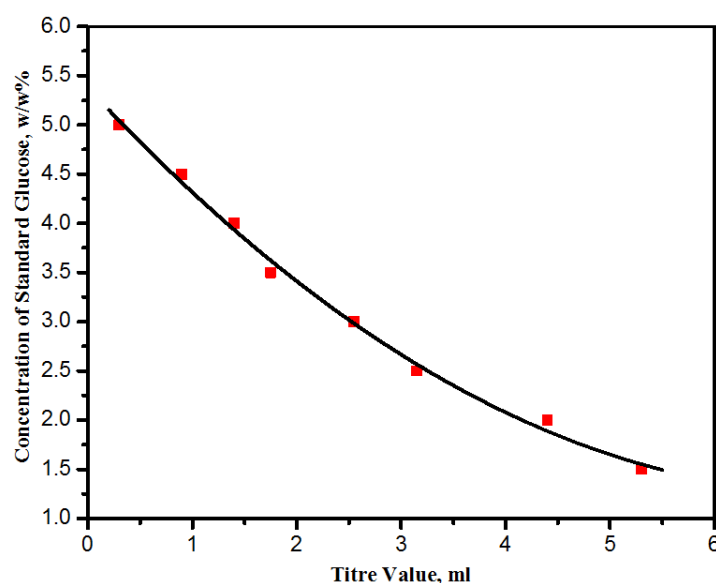
3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Titration of Standard Glucose Solution Against Benedict Solution

Methylene blue indicator was used in the titration to mark the end-point of the titration with a colour change of benedict solution. The reason is because glucose solution in the presence of benedict solution resulted in a colour change from blue to light green. This was due to the conversion of Cu^{2+} to Cu^{+}

present in the solution at a temperature between 90°C - 98°C .

From the titration results indicated in Figure 2, it was observed that the amount of standard glucose (titre value) needed to 'neutralize' the benedict solution increased as the concentration of the standard glucose decreased. This observation was due to a decrease in the amount of glucose molecules per the volume of standard glucose solution. When the concentration of standard glucose solution decrease from 5 to 1.5 w/w%, more of the glucose was required to 'neutralize' the same 20 ml benedict solution.

**Figure 2.** Titration of standard glucose solution (w/w%) against warmed 20 ml benedict solution, titre value recorded in ml.

3.2. Titration of Hydrolyzed Starch Samples Against Benedict Solution

After hydrolysis of sample $\text{HS}\frac{100\text{C}}{1000}$, $\text{HS}\frac{100\text{C}}{1500}$ and $\text{HS}\frac{100\text{C}}{2000}$, different titre values were observed when each of these samples was titrated against benedict solution. An increase in the volume of 0.1M HCl in the samples resulted in a decrease in the titre values recorded. This implies that as the volume of 0.1M HCl was increased, more of the cassava starch was hydrolyzed into glucose hence a small volume of the hydrolysate was necessary to cause benedict solution to

change color and vice versa. Therefore, a decreasing amount of each glucose slurry was enough to neutralize equal amount of benedict solution (Figure 3). The conclusion was that an increase in acid volume produced more glucose even when the mass of starch samples was maintained constant. The same conclusion was drawn for corn samples ($\text{HS}\frac{200\text{M}}{1000}$, $\text{HS}\frac{200\text{M}}{1500}$ and $\text{HS}\frac{200\text{M}}{2000}$). From the Table 3, it was observed that the volume of glucose slurry (titre values) decreased from 8.35 ml to 1.75 ml with an increase in acid (0.1M HCl) volume from 1 liter to 2 liters.

Table 3. Total acid volume effect on the amount of dextrose produced following acid hydrolysis.

Volume of stock concentrations of HCl, ml	Volumes of diluted 0.1M HCl used for acid hydrolysis, liter(s)	Volume of hydrolyzed HS $\frac{100C}{1000}$, HS $\frac{100C}{1500}$ and HS $\frac{100C}{2000}$ samples needed to cause color change of benedict solution, ml
9.83	1	8.35
14.7	1.5	2.00
19.7	2	1.75

The reason was that an increase in the total volume of acid resulted in an increase in the amount of glycosidic bonds in starch molecules which were broken down to produce the glucose. The glycosidic bonds in starch polysaccharides needed to be broken down into monosaccharides in order to obtain the simple sugars (dextrose). The more the starch was converted into glucose after hydrolysis the smaller the titre value needed to neutralize the benedict solution. This observation was expected because compared to results of standard glucose titration with benedict solution, the total volume of standard glucose (titre value) needed to neutralize the same volume of benedict solution increased with a decrease in the concentrations of glucose standard. Similar observations and conclusions were drawn for sample

HS $\frac{200C}{1000}$, HS $\frac{200C}{1500}$, HS $\frac{200C}{2000}$ as well as sample HS $\frac{200M}{1000}$, HS $\frac{200M}{1500}$ and HS $\frac{200M}{2000}$.

When 200 g of cassava starch was used with varying volumes of HCl solution, the results obtained from the titration process indicated a decrease in the titre values of glucose slurry from 2.7 ml to 0.6 ml. The two smallest titre values (0.63 ml and 0.60 ml) was recorded for sample

HS $\frac{200M}{1500}$ and HS $\frac{200C}{1500}$ (approximately 12 w/w% initial corn and cassava starch concentrations respectively) as indicated in Figure 3 and Figure 4. These results demonstrated that the local optimum condition for high yield of dextrose through acid hydrolysis was at 12 w/w% initial cassava and corn starch concentrations, initial pH value of 2, 30 minutes operating time, 4 atmospheric pressure and within a temperature range of 100°C-120°C. The acid concentration,

the pH and duration of hydrolysis also had significant effect on the DE [1, 14]. For commercial production of dextrose from cassava and corn starch, a scale-up under the same conditions can be considered. A hydrolysate with high DE value contained significant (large) amount of glucose and vice versa. Hydrolysis of starch under optimum conditions in this research produced high quantity and quality dextrose which may also serve as raw material for further conversion into different kinds of chemicals, such as citric acid, fumaric acid, lactic acid and end-product ethanol [47].

3.3. DE Computation

The degree of hydrolysis was measured as an increase in the content of reducing sugars [42, 48]. The DE indicates the extent to which starch was hydrolyzed into simple sugar (glucose) following starch hydrolysis. In other words, Dextrose Equivalent denotes the degree of hydrolysis of starch; and by extension how much glucose was obtained. This parameter was determined analytically by the formula; Dextrose Equivalent (DE)

$$= \frac{\text{Reducing sugar (expressed as glucose)}}{\text{Total carbohydrates}} \times 100 \quad [48, 49]. \quad (3)$$

The average mass of standard glucose (0.045 g) per the mass of each hydrolyzed starch sample expressed as a percentage accounted for the DE value of a particular sample.

Taking sample HS $\frac{200C}{1500}$ for example; the mass and density of the hydrolyzed sample concentration was 10 g and 1.064 g/ml respectively. Therefore,

$$\text{The volume of hydrolyzed sample (HS}\frac{200C}{1500}\text{)} = \frac{\text{Mass of concentrated sugar}}{\text{Density of concentrated sugar}} = \frac{10}{1.064} = 9.398\text{ml}. \quad (4)$$

$$\text{The dilution factor} = \frac{\text{Total volume of hydrolyzed sample after dilution}}{\text{Volume of concentrated sample}} = \frac{100\text{ml}}{9.398\text{ml}} = 10.64 \quad (5)$$

Mass of dilute sample solution = Volume x Density of diluted sample. The density and volume (titre value) of diluted sample was approximate 1 g/ml and 0.6 ml.

$$\text{Dextrose Equivalent of sample (HS}\frac{200C}{1500}\text{)} = \left(\frac{\text{Mass of standard glucose}}{\text{Mass of diluted sample solution}} \right) \times 100 = \left(\frac{0.045}{1 \times 0.6} \right) \times 100 = 79.8\% \quad (6)$$

3.4. Analysis of DE Values

The highest DE recorded at the local optimum conditions for acid hydrolysis of corn and cassava starch was 78.7% and

79.8% respectively. The DE values demonstrated that the two starch sources yielded some amount of reducing sugars. Different starch sources often produce varied amount of DE even under the same conditions. This was due to the fact that

different starch sources contained varying quantity of constituents such as protein, fat or lipids, phosphorus and moisture content which had some impact on the DE.

From Table 4, it was observed that, when 100 g of starch was maintained, and the volume of 0.1 M HCl increased by 500 ml, the amount of dextrose produced, increased from 5.51% to 26.87%. When 1 litre and 1.5 litres of 0.1M HCl was maintained while the amount of starch was increased by 100 g respectively, the DE increased drastically (approximately tripled). For example, consider sample $HS \frac{100C}{1000}$ with DE = 5.51% compared to sample $HS \frac{200C}{1000}$ with DE = 17.88%, as well as sample $HS \frac{100C}{1500}$ with DE =

23.27% compared to sample $HS \frac{200C}{1500}$ with DE = 79.80%.

Meanwhile, when the mass of cassava starch and the volume of HCl was increased simultaneously (i.e. 100 g and 1000 ml increment in cassava starch and 0.1M HCl respectively or in other words constant 9.09 w/w% sample concentration) the DE approximately doubled. However, the DE recorded for these initial starch concentrations were very small. For instance, sample $HS \frac{100C}{1000}$ with DE = 5.51% compared to sample $HS \frac{200C}{2000}$ with DE = 11.01%. These mixture of samples (9.09 w/w % starch-HCl concentration) yielded small amount of glucose.

Table 4. Illustration of computed DE values of sample solutions.

Sample Label	Volume of hydrolyzed sample needed to neutralize benedict solution, ml	Sample w/w% solution concentration	Dextrose Equivalent (DE), %
$HS \frac{100C}{1000}$	8.35	9.09	5.51
$HS \frac{100C}{1500}$	2.00	6.25	23.27
$HS \frac{100C}{2000}$	1.75	4.76	26.87
$HS \frac{200C}{1000}$	2.70	16.67	17.88
$HS \frac{200C}{1500}$	0.60	11.76	79.80
$HS \frac{200C}{2000}$	4.3	9.09	11.01
$HS \frac{200M}{1500}$	0.63	11.76	78.66

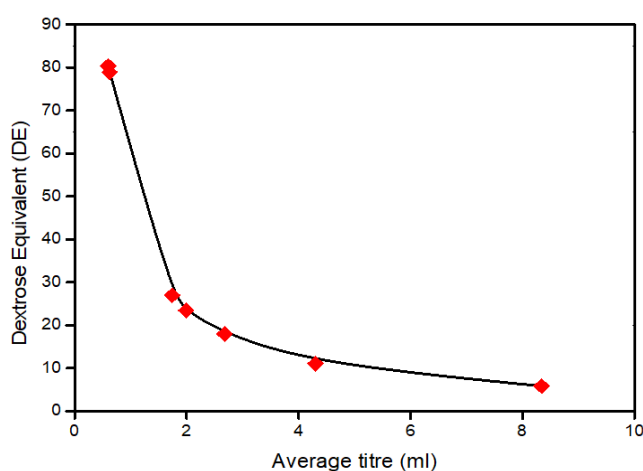


Figure 3. Demonstration of the degree at which glycosidic bonds cleave to produce glucose (Dextrose Equivalent) which influenced the volume of hydrolysed starch necessary to neutralize 20 ml of benedict solution. The smaller the average titre value the larger the amount of glucose produced in the hydrolysed starch samples.

The highest DE was recorded when the increase in the quantity of both starch types (including selected samples indicated below) and 0.1M HCl were at 100 g and 500 ml intervals respectively. Therefore, a comparison drawn between sample $HS \frac{100C}{1000}$ with DE = 5.51% to sample $HS \frac{200C}{1500}$ with DE = 79.80% as well as sample $HS \frac{100M}{1000}$

with DE = 6.62% to sample $HS \frac{200M}{1500}$ with DE = 78.66%

proved true. However, some previous researches showed that higher dextrose yield can be obtained when acid hydrolysis is proceeded by enzyme hydrolysis using saccharifying enzyme. Saccharifying enzyme was proven to produces a higher yield of reducing sugar compared to liquefying enzyme [6, 7].

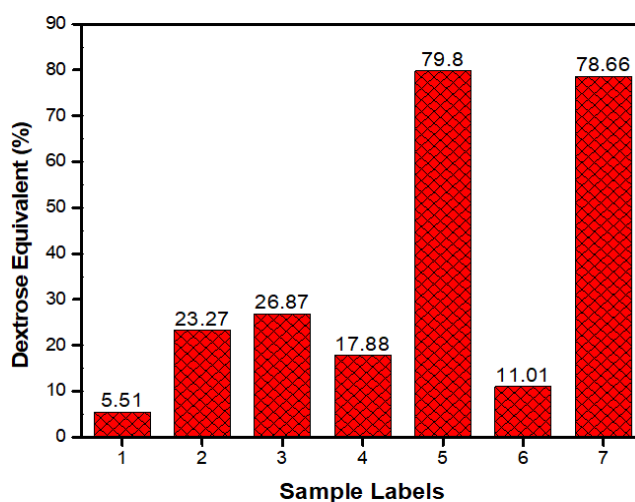


Figure 4. The Dextrose Equivalent (DE) of sample hydrolysates following acid hydrolysis of corn and cassava starch into dextrose.

3.5. pH Variation with Temperature Change

The effect of pH under conditions of temperature variation on the DE was scrutinized. Therefore, considering the pH of

sample HS $\frac{300M}{4000}$ (Figure 5) for example, during

hydrolysis the pH decreased as the temperature was raised. Different pH values were recorded for the starch reaction mixture at different temperatures. One disadvantage of this observation was that, the acidity of the hydrolyzed starch tends to increase with temperature. The increase in pH meant increase in acid content and this was eliminated through neutralization reaction with calculated amount of Na_2CO_3 for each sample. One of the end products which was eliminated following the neutralization process was NaCl. Therefore, using optimum pH, and especially temperature regulation was a key factor considered and controlled during the process to produce high quality and quantity of dextrose.

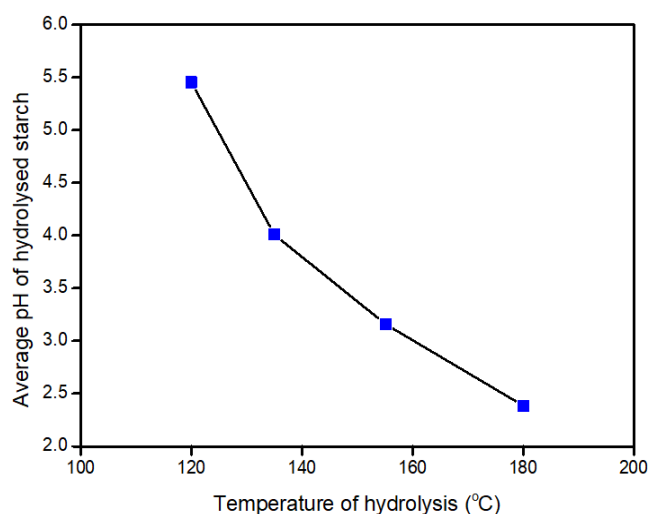


Figure 5. The plot demonstrates the effect of temperature on the pH of starch undergoing acid hydrolysis. An increase in temperature causes a rise in the average pH of hydrolyzed starch sample.

4. Conclusion

This study was conducted to determine the optimum condition with focus on the initial concentration of starch-acid mixture. Results demonstrated that the quality and quantity of dextrose produced following acid hydrolysis is significantly affected by the acid volume and initial starch concentration. The optimum conditions obtained was 12 w/w% initial starch concentration (200 grams of corn/cassava in 1.5 litres of 0.1 M HCl mixture) which yielded high DE after 30 minutes operating time and within a temperature range of 100°C-120°C and at a pressure of 4atm. One other observation from the process showed that the source of the starch has effect on the DE. However, this effect was not significant for corn and cassava compared to other factors such as the volume of acid and mass of starch used. Nevertheless, different starch sources constitute different physical and chemical properties due to different compositions and or proportions of amylose and amylopectin [31, 50] as well as the presence of constituents like protein, lipid, phosphorus and moisture [51, 52]. The results showed that at optimum conditions as indicated, approximate DE

values of 79.80% and 78.66% was obtained for cassava and corn starch respectively.

Analysis of results and reviews show that the quality and quantity of dextrose produced may be affected by a number of factors which includes the process temperature, pressure, acid volume, operating time and initial starch concentration. The focus of this study reveals, under the stated conditions, that the initial starch concentration (taking into consideration the mixing ratio of acid volume and the dry weight of starch sample) is a significant factor to consider for a high quantity and quality dextrose yield during acid hydrolyses. It is also recommended that other conditions be extensively exploited for an in-depth understanding in the quest to improve quality yield with the process.

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