



CATÓLICA  
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PORTO



# The Effect of Dissociating Agents on the Dispersion of a Grated Cheese

## Conclusions for its Structure-Holding Interactions

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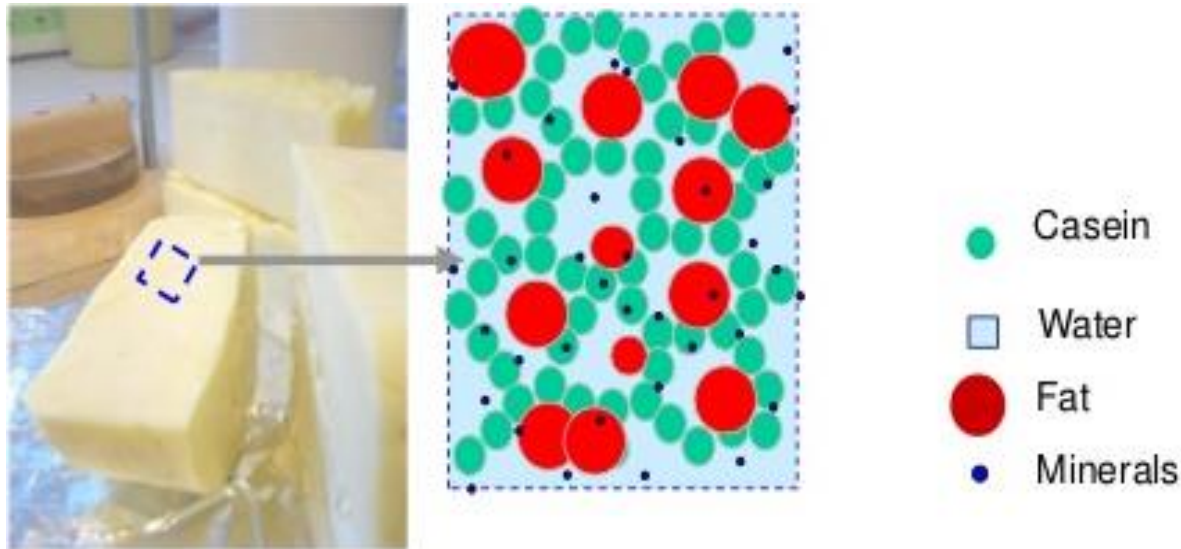
# Summary

- Introduction
- Material and Methods
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusions
- References



# Introduction

## *Cheese Microstructure*<sup>[1]</sup>



Cheese microstructure affects:<sup>[2]</sup>

- Flavour
- Texture
- Melting
- Quality

**Figure 1** - Cheese Microstructure.

Image from <https://pt.slideshare.net/MarkFink/the-microstructure-of-australian-cheddar-cheese-and-other-dairy-products>

# Introduction

## *Emmental Cheese*<sup>[3]</sup>



Swiss-type  
Semi-hard curd

Matrix acidification after  
pressing of curd



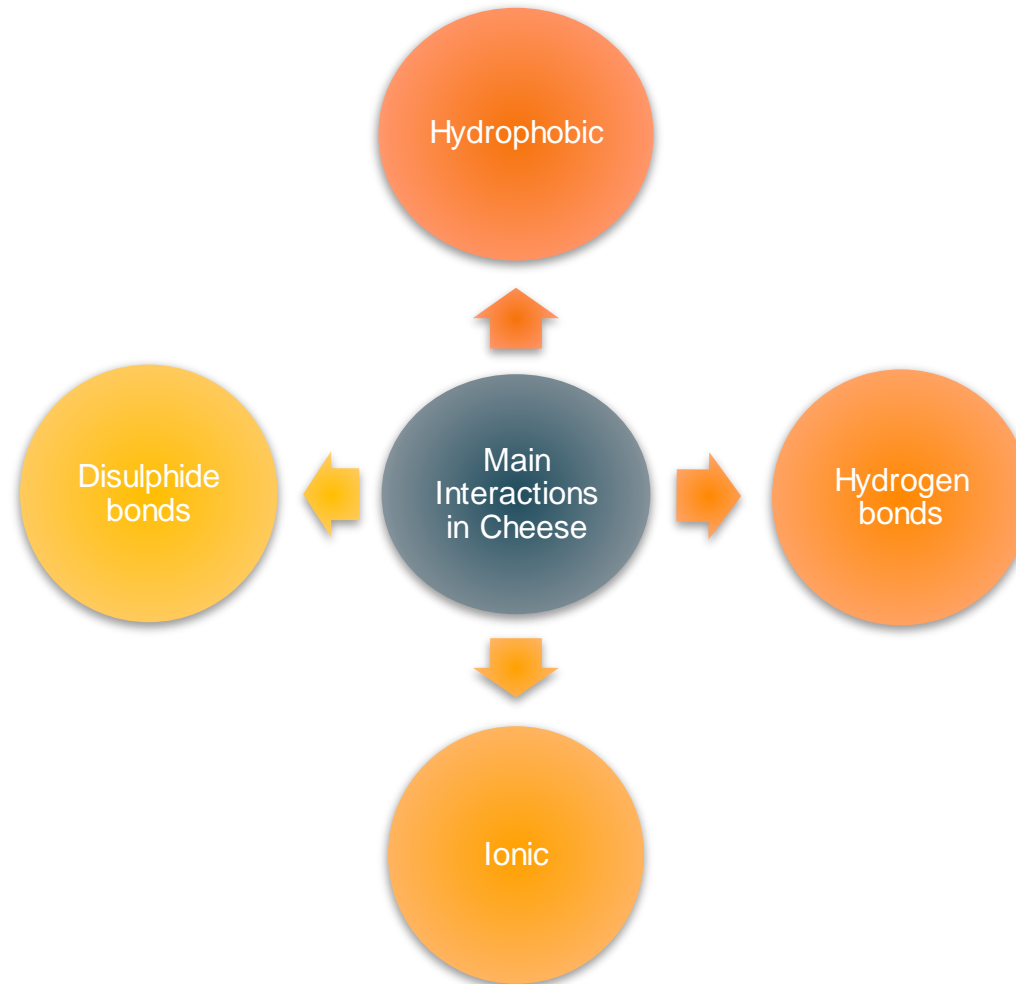
Colloidal calcium  
concentration increases  
with casein concentration  
at drainage

Formation of para- $\kappa$ -  
casein matrix with Ca-  
casein ratio close to that  
of milk casein micelles



# Introduction

## *Cheese Interactions*<sup>[4] [5]</sup>



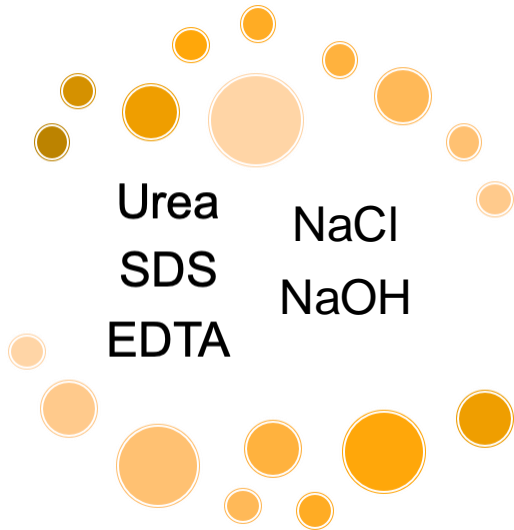
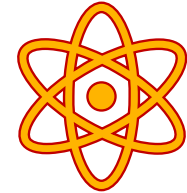
# Introduction

## *Dissociating Agents*<sup>[6]</sup>



# Introduction

## *Dissociating Agents*



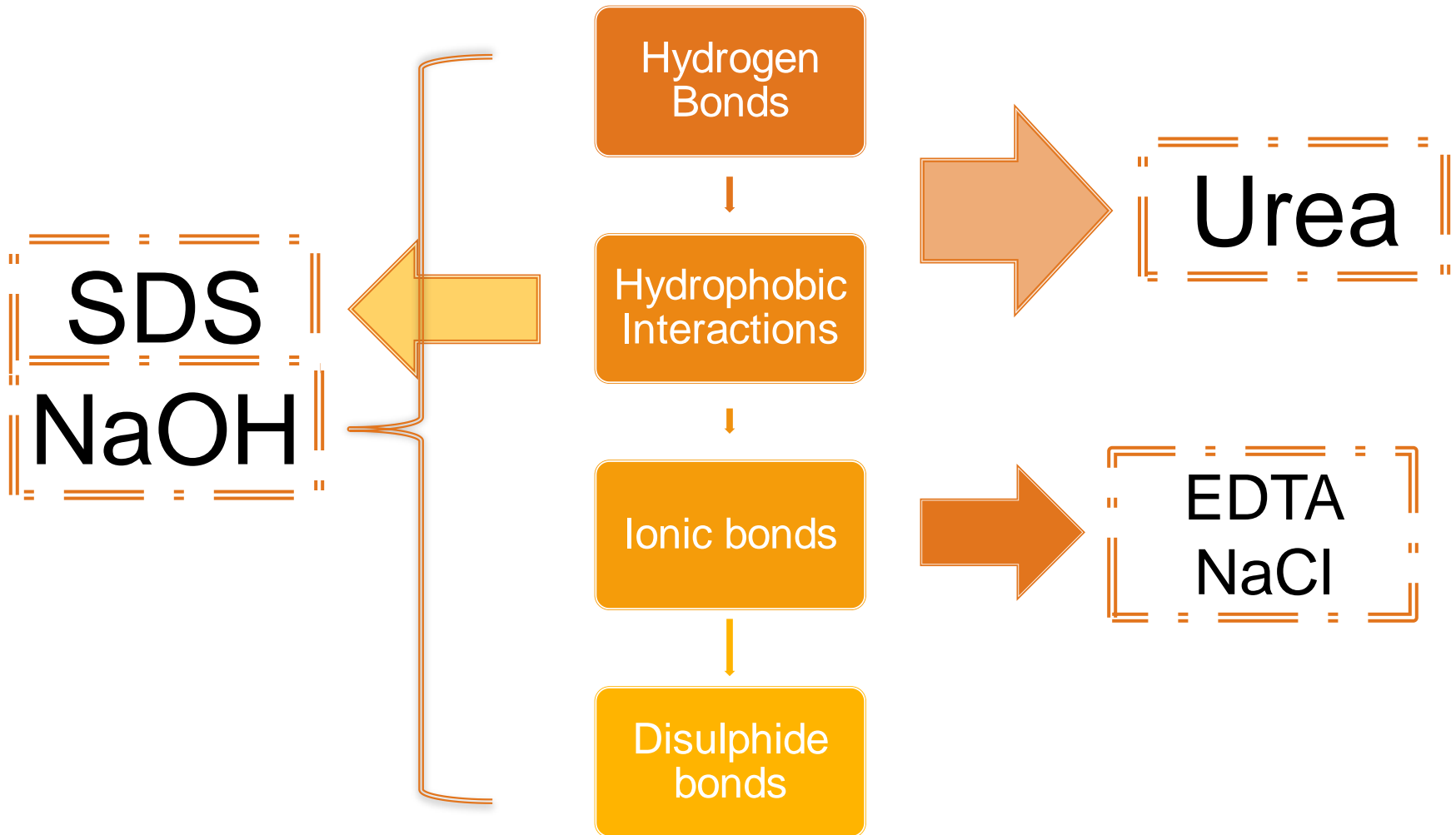
Concentrations  
Combinations

Modify protein  
**solubility** and **stability**



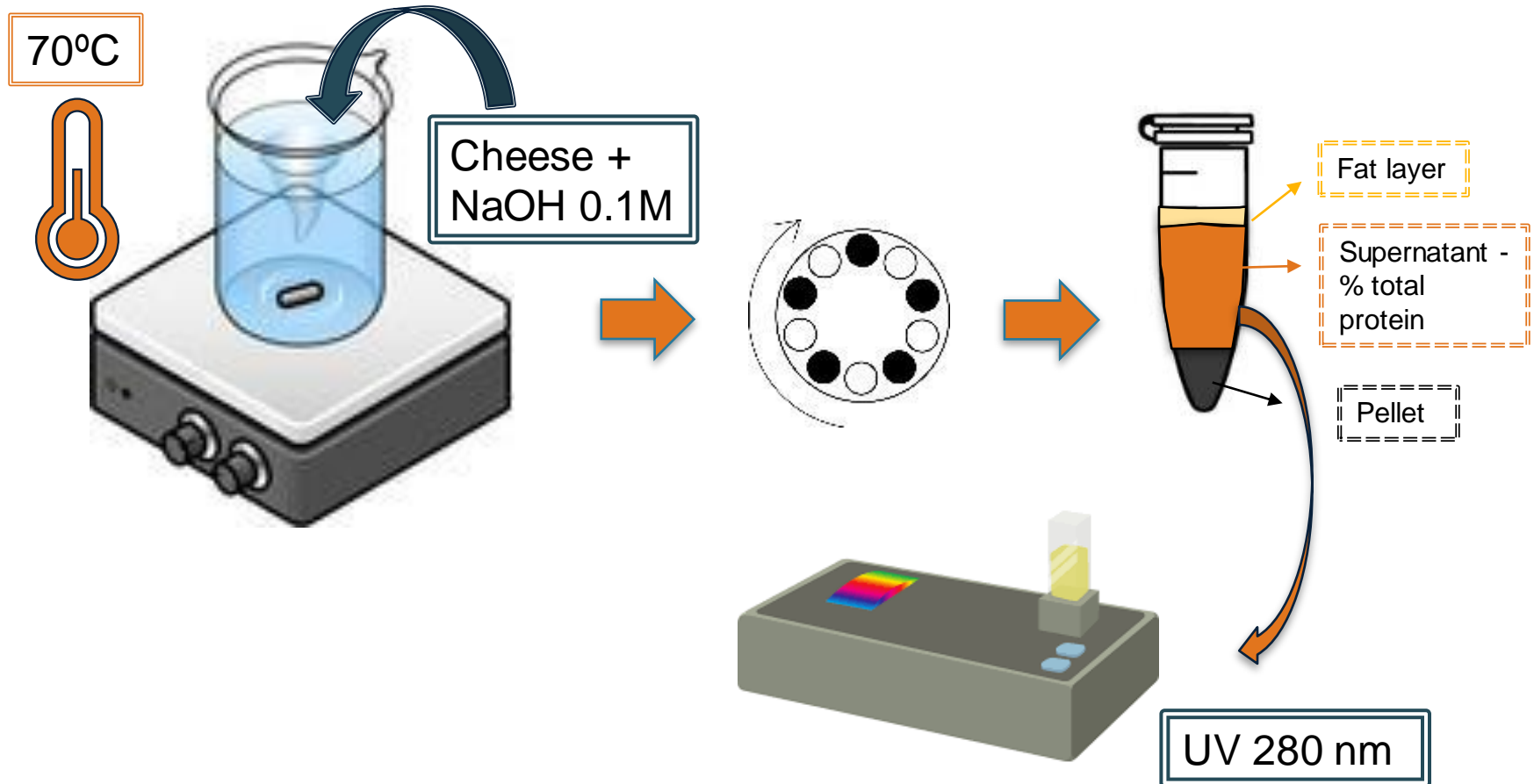
# Introduction

## *Dissociating Agents*<sup>[7] [8] [9]</sup>



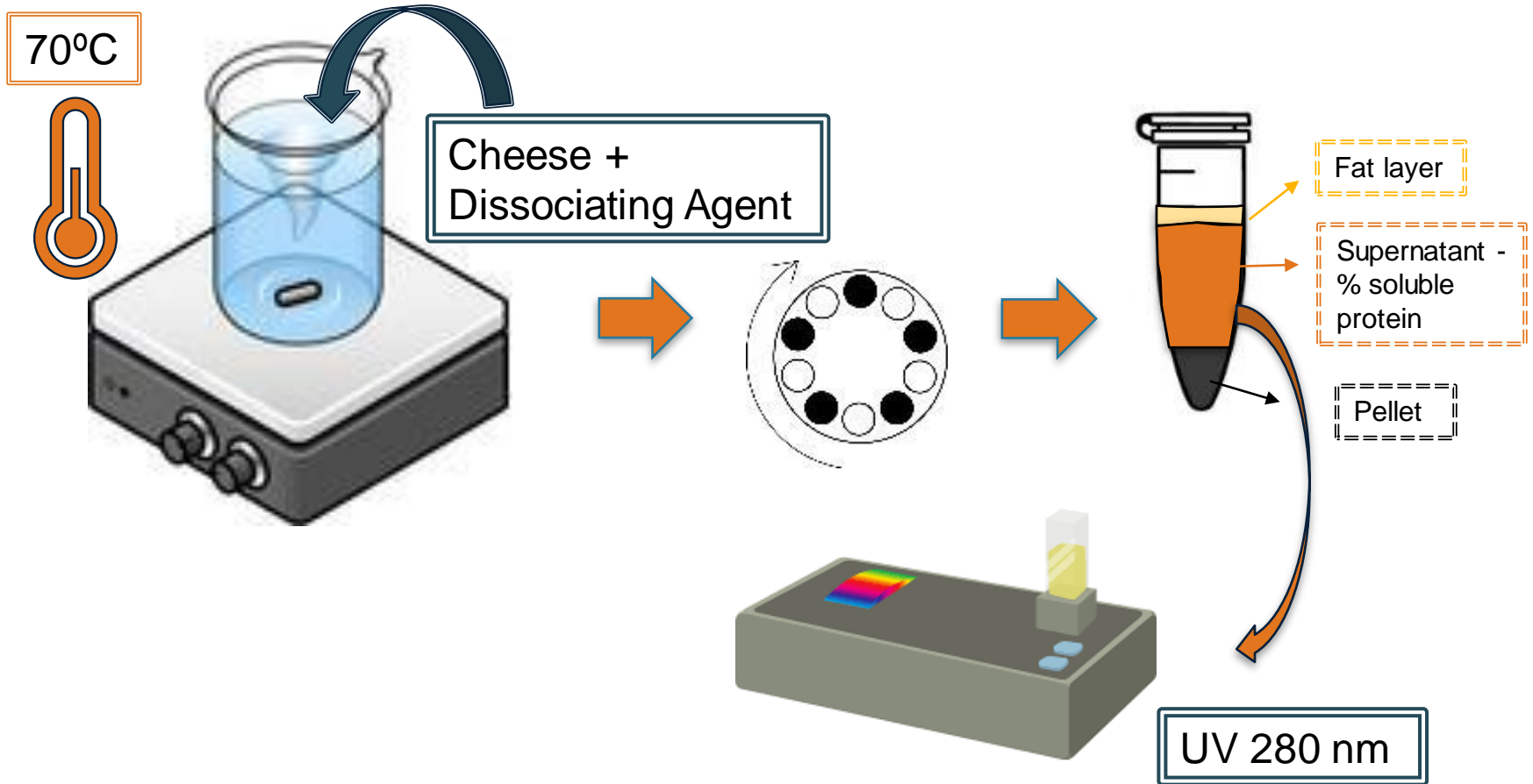
# Material and Methods

## *Determination of Total Protein in Cheese*<sup>[10]</sup>



# Material and Methods

## *Determination of Soluble Protein in Cheese Dispersions<sup>[10]</sup>*



# Material and Methods

## *Experimental Design*



**Table 1** – Dissociating agents and combinations used in the study, and respective concentrations.

Dissociating Agent	Concentration
<b>NaCl</b>	0.05 and 0.6 M
<b>Urea</b>	1.5 and 6 M
<b>SDS</b>	2.5 %
<b>EDTA</b>	4 and 50 mM
<b>Urea + SDS</b>	6 M + 2.5 %
<b>Urea + EDTA</b>	6 M + 4 mM
<b>Urea + SDS + EDTA</b>	6 M + 2.5 % + 4 mM
<b>NaOH</b>	0.1 M

# Results and Discussion

## *Determination of Total Protein in Cheese*



New Method

**$0.315 \pm 0.010$  g**

Kjeldahl Method

**$0.297 \pm 0.030$  g**

Difference of 5.7%



# Results and Discussion



## *Determination of Soluble Protein in Cheese Dispersions*

**Table 2** – Dissociating agents and combinations used in the study, and respective quantity of soluble cheese protein, as well as percentage of soluble cheese protein obtained.

Dispersing medium	Soluble Protein (g solubilized protein / g added cheese)	Soluble Protein (%)
Deionized Water	0.0319 ± 0.006	9.97 ± 1.90
NaCl 50 mM	0.0439 ± 0.003	13.70 ± 0.95
NaCl 0.6 M	0.0746 ± 0.011	23.33 ± 3.52
Urea 1.5 M	0.167 ± 0.018	52.10 ± 5.47
Urea 6 M	0.269 ± 0.025	85.30 ± 6.13
EDTA 4 mM	0.0905 ± 0.0079	28.67 ± 2.02
EDTA 50 mM	0.0730 ± 0.0063	22.83 ± 1.96
SDS 2.5 %	0.213 ± 0.007	67.37 ± 1.40
Urea 1.5 M + SDS 2.5%	0.282 ± 0.012	88.20 ± 3.60
Urea 6 M + SDS 2.5 %	0.270 ± 0.016	85.40 ± 2.40
Urea 6 M + EDTA 4 mM	0.275 ± 0.008	87.27 ± 3.56
Urea 6 M + SDS 2.5 % + EDTA 4 mM	0.279 ± 0.022	92.13 ± 10.61





# Conclusions

- The new protein quantification method introduced is valid for cheese and probably other lactic matrices (ongoing work).
- Cooperation between hydrophobic interactions, hydrogen bonds and ionic interactions are involved in the protein structure of Emmental cheese.
- The main interactions responsible for protein structure in this cheese matrix are electrostatic, in particular hydrogen bonds, and hydrophobic interactions, since urea (6M) alone can solubilize up to 85% of cheese proteins.



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# Thanks for the attention!

