# Trans Fat Determination in the Industrially Processed Edible Oils By Transmission FT-IR Spectroscopy

By

Dr. Syed Tufail Hussain Sherazi E-mail: tufail\_sherazi@yahoo.com

National Center of Excellence in Analytical Chemistry, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan.

#### TFA and FDA

- FDA issued a final rule that requires the declaration of the amount of TFA present in foods, including dietary supplements, on the nutrition label by January 1, 2006.
- Since there was no scientific basis for establishing a daily value (DV) for TFA, the final rule did not require the listing of a % DV as is required for some of the other mandatory nutrients, such as saturated fat.

### Determination of Isolated *trans*Isomers

- Capillary GC Method
- Single-bounce attenuated total reflectance (SB-ATR) FT-IR spectroscopy method.
- ➤ Based on the observation that *trans* double bonds exhibit a characteristic and strong IR absorption band (967 cm<sup>-1</sup>, H-C=C bending vibration)
- Widely employed method, particularly in the analysis of hydrogenated oils

## Factors Limiting Accuracy of Traditional AOCS Method

- ➤ All triglycerides exhibit a weak absorption band that underlie the *trans* absorption band
- Intensity of these underlying absorptions varies with triglyceride composition of the oil; can contribute 3-5 percent to the measured *trans* values.
- ➤ Sensitivity is limited by inherently short effective pathlength (~4 mm at *trans* measurement wavelength).

#### FT-IR Spectral measurements

- The infrared spectra of the trans standards and samples were collected using Nicolet 5700 FT-IR spectrometer equipped with a 200 µm KCl transmission cell.
- Trielaidine and partially hydrogenated oil are solids at room temperature.
- Therefore the viscosity of trielaidine standards and test samples were decreased by the addition of odorless mineral oil spirit (OMS) containing the spectral marker (0.03%) in the ratio of 1:2 to facilitate the loading of transmission cell.

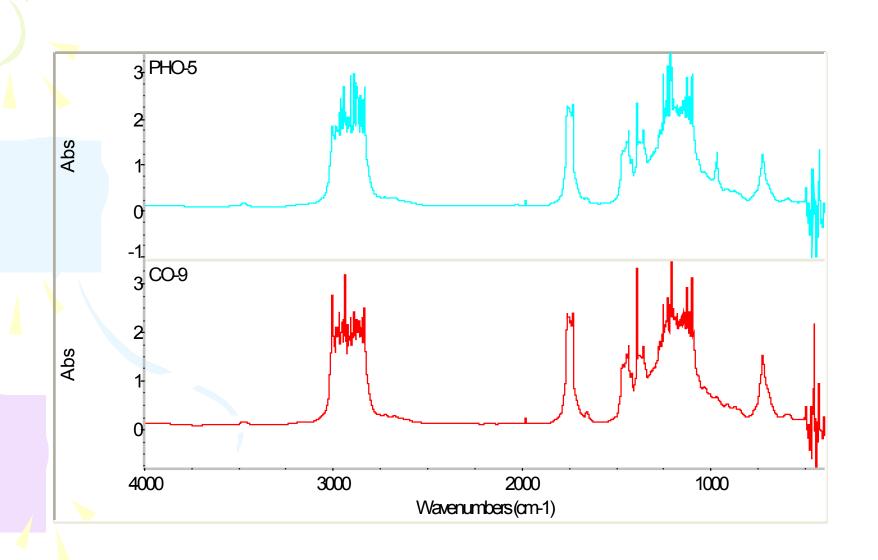
#### FT-IR Spectral measurements

- ➤ Prior to the loading of 200 µm KCl cell, all standards and samples were heated to 50 0C to avoid any crystallization during the analysis.
- ➤ A total of 32 scans were collected in the range 4000–400 cm-1 at a resolution of 4 cm-1.
- ➤ The transmission FT-IR spectrum of all diluted standards and samples with OMS were recorded under the same parameters and fresh background was subtracted from the each for the accuracy in the results.

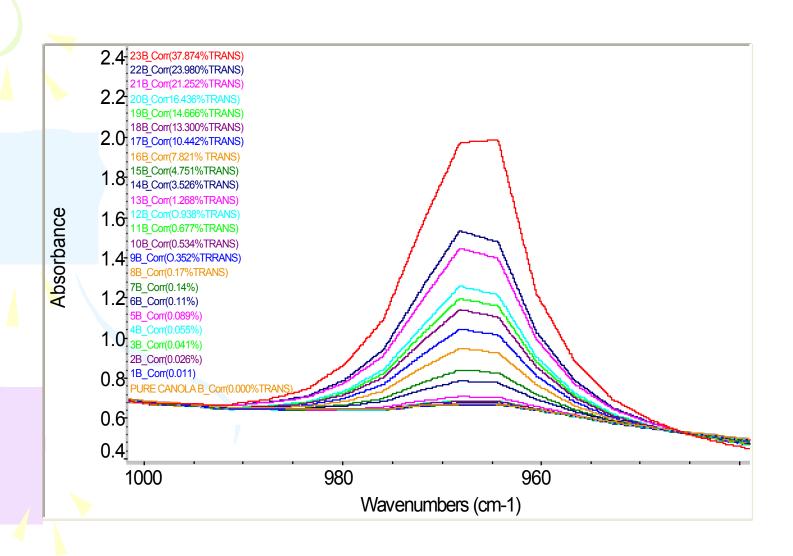
### Gas Chromatography

- Fatty acid methyl esters (FAMEs) were prepared using standard (IUPAC method 2.301, 1979) and analyzed on a Perkin Elmer gas chromatograph (8700) a flame ionization detector.
- Oxygen-free nitrogen gas was used as mobile phase.
- Oven temperature was programmed as following:
- > The column held initially at 130 °C for 2 min;
- Increased to final temperature 220 °C with 4 °C/min heating holding for 5 minutes;
- > injector temperature, 260 °C;
- detector (FID) temperature, 270 °C;
- column flow rate, 4 ml/min;
- > split ratio, 40:1;
- > injected volume, 1 μL.

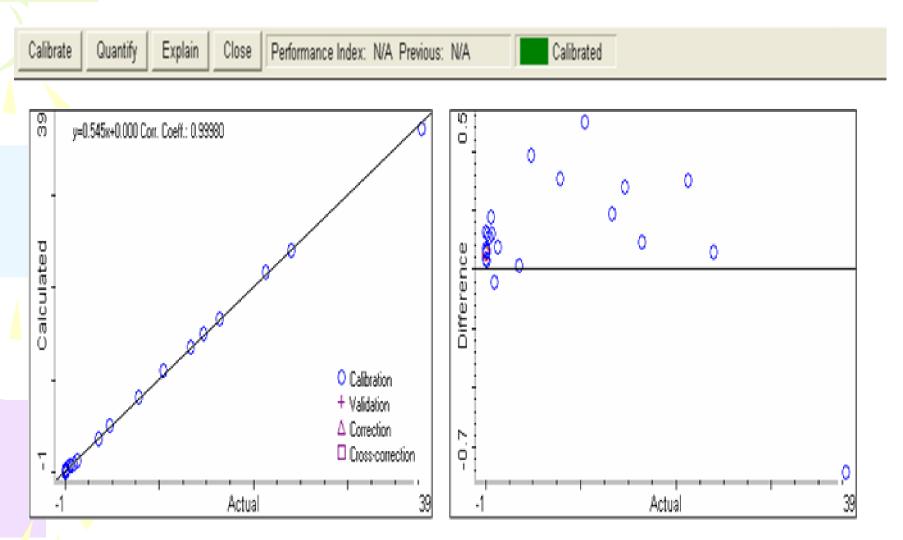
# Representative transmission FT-IR spectrum of partially hydrogenated oil (PH-5) with prominent *trans* peak at 967 cm-1 and cooking oil (CO-9).



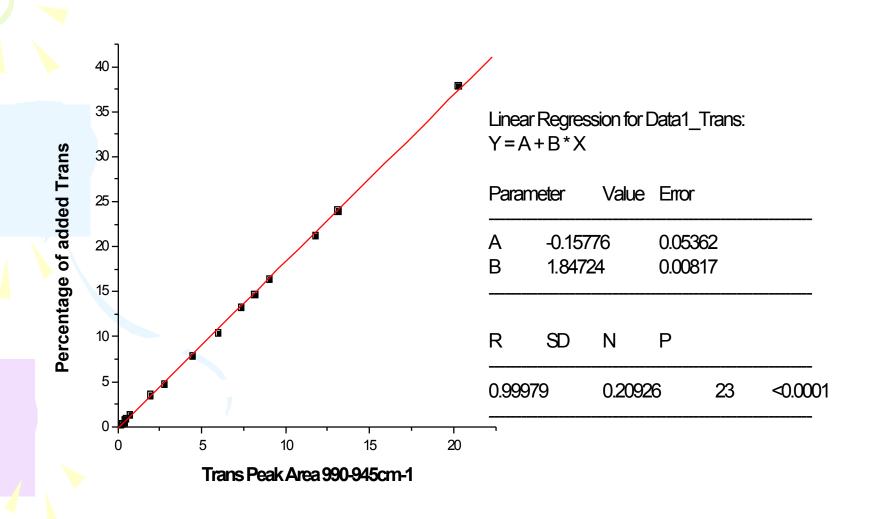
# The absorbance of *trans* band at 967 cm-1 of prepared standards spiking the trielaidine in canola oil ranging from 0.011 to 37.874%.



## TQ Analyst calibration of the *trans* standards (trielaidine added in canola oil)



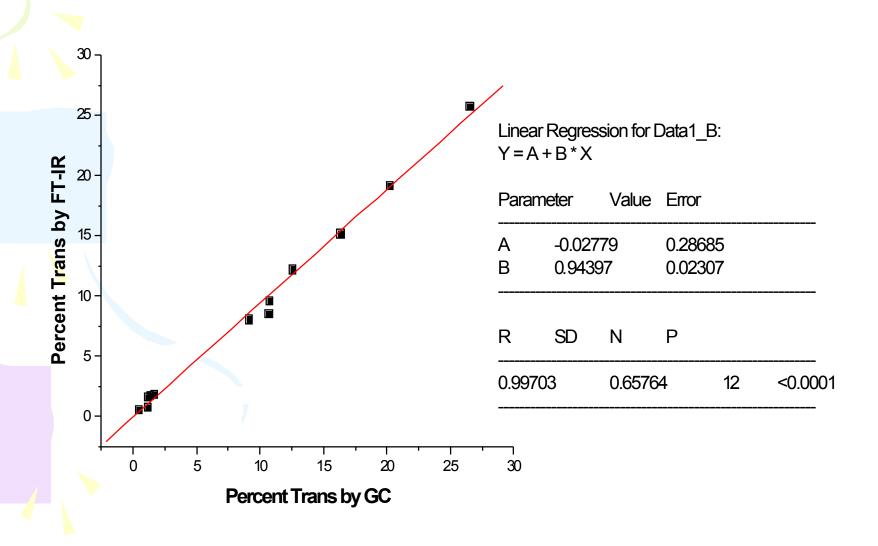
### Plot of *trans* peak area versus added *trans* to canola oil



### Trans fatty acids in partially hydrogenated oils (ghee) and cooking oils by GC and FT-IR

Samples	GC	FT-IR
• PHO-1	9.12 ±0.23	$8.06 \pm 0.02$
• PHO-2	$26.51 \pm 0.55$	$25.74 \pm 0.05$
• PHO-3	$10.72 \pm 0.64$	$9.61 \pm 0.03$
<ul> <li>PHO-4</li> </ul>	$10.69 \pm 0.22$	$8.58 \pm 0.01$
• PHO-5	$16.32 \pm 0.44$	$15.17 \pm 0.04$
• PHO-6	$12.55 \pm 0.41$	$12.21 \pm 0.04$
• PHO-7	$20.21 \pm 0.61$	$19.19 \pm 0.03$
• CO-8	$0.52 \pm 0.52$	$0.60 \pm 0.01$
• CO-9	$0.45 \pm 0.16$	$0.61 \pm 0.01$
• CO-10	$0.52 \pm 0.12$	$0.56 \pm 0.01$
• CO-11	$1.33 \pm 0.21$	$1.76 \pm 0.01$
• CO-12	$1.63 \pm 0.23$	$1.83 \pm 0.01$
• CO-13	$1.17 \pm 0.16$	$0.83 \pm 0.01$
• CO-14	$1.14 \pm 0.23$	$1.65 \pm 0.01$

#### Plot of GC results versus transmission FT-IR



#### Conclusion

- The results of transmission FT-IR spectroscopy were found in good agreement with the GC results and have shown slightly better sensitivity for low trans values in the analyzed edible oil samples.
- ➤ All hydrogenated edible oils have shown higher amount of *trans* fat by the both GC and transmission FT-IR spectroscopy, which is very dangerous for the health of consumers.

