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


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### ABSTRACT

To address the issues related to high perishability and limited shelf life of food proteins from muscle origin, different innovative processing, and preservation techniques, as well as analytical methodological approaches have been developed to meet environmental challenges and consumer demand for food of high quality and sustainable production supported by circular economy principles. This development has been enhanced and increased during the ongoing age of the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0), which has been gaining momentum since 2015, coming up with a range of automated and digitized technologies. This review provides an updated overview of the recently developed thermal and nonthermal processing and preservation technologies, along with selected advanced analytical techniques used in the industry of muscle foods. Particular attention has been given to Industry 4.0 technologies and their role in achieving smart production with high automation and digitalization rates. As in other industry sectors, technology breakthroughs are reshaping the food industry, including the muscle food sector. Emerging technologies, such as pulsed electric field, high-pressure processing, ohmic heating, nanotechnology, advanced mass spectrometry and hyperspectral imaging sensors are among the key elements in the current food revolution 4.0. Although Industry 4.0 offers countless possibilities, more studies are still needed to capture its full potential and further harness its technologies to solve current challenges and move forward toward Industry 5.0.

### KEYWORDS

Muscle; emerging technologies; processing; preservation; analytical methods; sustainability

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## Introduction

Nowadays, food security is facing major challenges posed by resource depletion, climate change, loss of biodiversity, current geopolitical issues, as well as the growing world population, which is expected to reach nearly 10 billion people by 2050. These contemporary issues present formidable societal and environmental problems that can be addressed only by deep-structural changes and ambitious socio-economic initiatives. The challenge of feeding all people requires innovative strategies and new multicultural rethinking and paradigms toward more sustainable use of the available natural and human resources, to ensure food and nutrition safety.<sup>[1–6]</sup>

From the standpoint of human nutrition, muscle foods (such as chicken, lamb, beef, hog, ham, and fish) are among the most significant food commodities.<sup>[7]</sup> Consumption of muscle foods has been increasing in recent years due to their high-quality proteins, vitamins, and minerals.<sup>[8,9]</sup> However, muscle foods are very perishable and their quality decays quickly unless adequately prepared, packed, and kept under refrigerated conditions or other approved preservative strategies.<sup>[10,11]</sup> The deteriorations and degradations are caused mostly by high fat and moisture contents, making them prone to biological factors, such as protein degradation, lipid oxidation, or putrefactions, which are interceded by microbial and endogenous enzymes, leading to a shortened shelf life.<sup>[12,13]</sup> As a result, a variety of preservation and processing procedures have been developed over the years. Because of their availability and simplicity, traditional thermal treatments, such as broiling, frying, roasting, and grilling have been frequently utilized for centuries.<sup>[8,14,15]</sup> Thermal treatments are used to prepare food and improve sensory characteristics and digestibility, inactivate germs and assure food safety, and increase shelf life.<sup>[16]</sup> Nevertheless, applying high heat loads may result in degradations and negative impacts on the sensory and nutritional quality characteristics of the treated foods, particularly in the case of muscle food items, which are recognized for their high susceptibility to heat treatments.<sup>[10,17]</sup> Furthermore, the ever-increasing customer demand for fresh, safe, nutritious, and healthful food, as well as unique consumption patterns (e.g., minimally processed foods) have pushed the food sector to create novel and revolutionary thermal processing processes.<sup>[16,18,19]</sup> For example, different research has focused on the application of microwave,<sup>[20–22]</sup> radio frequency,<sup>[23,24]</sup> ohmic heating,<sup>[25,26]</sup> and infrared processing<sup>[18,27]</sup> approaches in different areas of food processing and manufacturing.

More innovative preservation procedures have arisen in recent years to fulfil consumer expectations for high-quality products with prolonged shelf life, greater safety, and increased process efficiency. Several studies have shown that such preservation methods are energy-efficient and allow for the inactivation of microbes and enzyme activity in food items while maintaining sensory quality characteristics.<sup>[28–33]</sup> With these considerations in mind, a variety of nonthermal treatments, such as high-pressure processing,<sup>[34,35]</sup> pulsed electric field,<sup>[36,37]</sup> ultrasound,<sup>[38]</sup> modified atmosphere packaging,<sup>[39,40]</sup> and cold plasma<sup>[41]</sup> have gained in popularity in recent years. Certain of these emerging technologies can be used for assisting the traditional conservative approaches such as freezing<sup>[42]</sup> or other preservative technologies.<sup>[43]</sup>

Food quality, safety, and authenticity are important issues that have attracted much attention in recent years from the industry, the scientific community, and consumers. Traditional analytical methods used in food analysis are characterized by several challenges, encouraging the development of novel tools and instruments.<sup>[44–47]</sup> Moreover, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for the development of analytical techniques that reduce human contact with food products.<sup>[48]</sup> Analytical techniques, especially hyperspectral imaging<sup>[49–51]</sup> and mass spectrometric fingerprinting,<sup>[52–54]</sup> are two promising approaches that have been extensively studied to fight against food fraud and ensure food authenticity in a rapid and non-targeted manner.

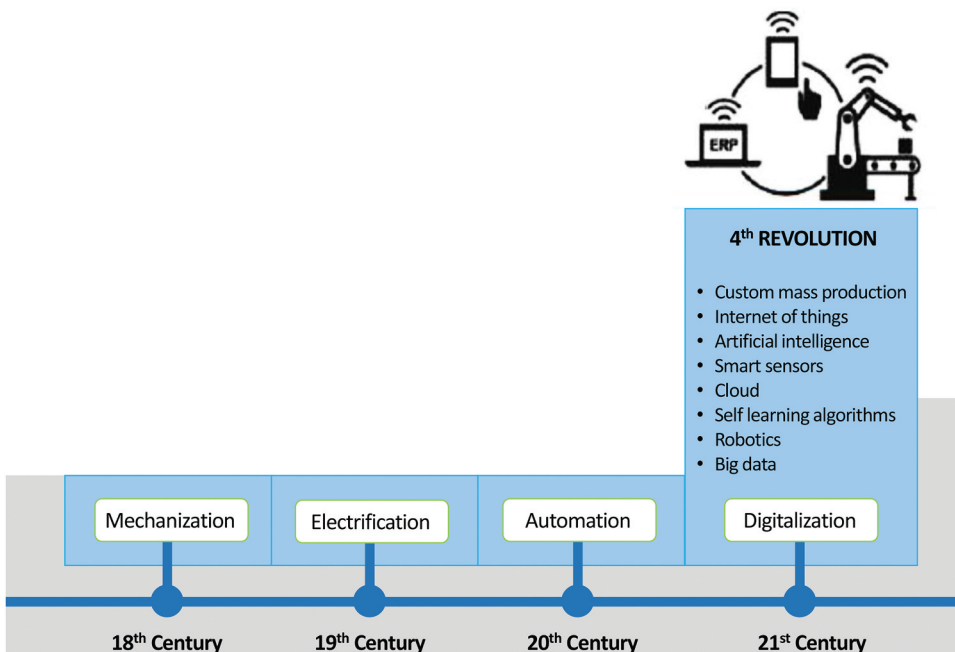
Some of the aforementioned preservative, processing, and analytical approaches are currently in use in the food industry, while others are still in progress and need refinement. The advent of the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) technologies could accelerate the transition of these technologies from the laboratory to the industry. Industry 4.0 has recently emerged with the convergence and interaction of biological, physical, and digital worlds in which automation, digitalization,

and networking play a crucial role.<sup>[55–57]</sup> Industry 4.0 has been gaining momentum, being an incentive to address critical global challenges and to achieve sustainable development.<sup>[58–60]</sup> The major Industry 4.0 technology clusters that are more relevant to the food industry are Artificial Intelligence (AI), smart sensors, autonomous robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), big data, blockchain, additive technologies, and advanced nano-biotechnology, among others.<sup>[6,61–63]</sup>

Several review papers dealing with either thermal/nonthermal processing techniques<sup>[10,28,64]</sup> or analytical methodologies<sup>[65–67]</sup> have recently been published. However, a comprehensive review that covers a wide range of processing, preservation, and analytical technologies in muscle foods in the age of Industry 4.0 is not available. To the best of our knowledge, this work is the first to raise awareness of the importance of considering a wide range of emerging technologies simultaneously, meeting the key principle of Industry 4.0. Thus, this manuscript will highlight the main Industry 4.0 technologies and show how to harness these technologies, especially those associated with preservation/processing and analytical techniques, to address current challenges in the muscle food industry. This manuscript will first give a general overview of key technologies associated with Industry 4.0. Emerging technology breakthroughs in processing, preservation, and analytical techniques will be then discussed. Finally, future perspectives will be highlighted and briefly explained.

### Industry 4.0 in the food field

All industrial revolutions have characteristics that allow them to be classified as revolutions rather than simply evolutionary changes in the industry (Fig. 1). Industry 4.0 is occurring because of advancements in many technologies, such as smart sensors, additive manufacturing, robots, IoT, blockchain, AI, and other information and communication technologies.<sup>[61,68,69]</sup> These technologies have enabled custom mass production with increased productivity, flexibility, and efficiency.<sup>[70,71]</sup> Several publications argued that Industry 4.0 technologies could help to achieve several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>[71]</sup> By adopting new technologies and harnessing Industry



**Figure 1.** The evolution of the Industrial Revolution.

4.0 technologies, a digital transformation of both manufacturing/production and consumption is currently taking place.<sup>[62,69,72]</sup>

The implementation of Industry 4.0 principles offers several possibilities in the meat and muscle-based food industry. One example is the significant advancement in several spectral fingerprinting techniques used for online measurement of composition and quality predictions, safety, and authenticity of muscle foods. Miniaturization of spectral techniques has driven the development of portable and hand-held devices in recent years.<sup>[46,73–75]</sup> Moreover, smartphones are more and more used as promising biosensors for non-invasive, portable food quality assessment.<sup>[76]</sup> Additive manufacturing or 3D printing constitutes another example of technologies that have boomed in the age of Industry 4.0. Although it is still at the conceptual stage, 3D food printing offers numerous possibilities for the development of tailored animal protein-based products, such as meat and other muscle food products.<sup>[77,78]</sup>

Robotic technology is advancing in all fields, including the muscle food industry. For instance, robots can be used in cutting and packaging in meat processing industries, or in collecting data such as temperature, relative humidity, and ammonia concentrations in poultry barns.<sup>[79]</sup> Misimi et al.<sup>[80]</sup> developed a novel robotic 3D vision-guided concept for chicken fillet harvesting, while a similar intelligent robot was recently designed for half-ship cutting.<sup>[81]</sup> A detailed overview of the possibilities and limitations of implementing different robotic technologies in the food sector was provided.<sup>[82]</sup> More recently, several intelligent robotic systems used for carcass cutting, deboning, and other relevant automation in abattoirs were reviewed in detail.<sup>[83]</sup>

The food industry has seen unprecedented digital shifts due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has put enormous pressure on food supply chains, with consumers being at the centre of this transformation. There has been an increased focus on food sustainability with a surge in demand for food availability, convenience, and traceability. Blockchain technology, which is a decentralized, distributed data structure and public digital ledger, has recently been suggested for food traceability and enhancement of sustainable operations.<sup>[74,84]</sup> This technology provides information on the entire history of a product as it travels along the whole supply chain. For instance, it can be applied to trace fish lots, back and forth, throughout the entire fisheries value chain.<sup>[85,86]</sup>

## Recent advances in muscle food processing methods

With the ever-growing global population, technology has an essential role today in assisting the food industry to progress toward more sustainable production and consumption systems.<sup>[87]</sup> In fact, the recent technological advances and innovations that emerged in the age of Industry 4.0 have enabled a digital transformation of food production systems to meet new food production requirements, including among others less resource and energy consumption and less waste, better food quality and safety, and more diversity and convenience to consumers. Advanced engineering research has resulted in the emergence of a large variety of “green technology” based on thermal and nonthermal processing techniques in the food industry. In the muscle food sector, several innovative technologies including ohmic heating (OH), radio frequency (RF), pulsed electric field (PEF), cold plasma (CP), high-pressure processing (HPP), as well as ultrasound technologies have been under exponential development and some of them are already adopted by certain food sectors.

### Thermal processing

Thermal processing can be used in muscle food products for several purposes such as cooking, thawing, extraction, pasteurization, sterilization, enzyme inactivation and microbial decontamination.<sup>[17,88]</sup> Conventional methods used for cooking muscle food involve the use of hot water or steam, leading to surface overheating with slow heat conduction while waiting for the interior to reach the suitable temperature.<sup>[89–91]</sup> To overcome these shortcomings, intensive research has been conducted in the field of OH, RF, and microwave cooking of muscle foods (Table 1).

Table 1. Effects of different thermal treatments on various muscle foods.

Thermal processing	Product	Treatment purpose	Process condition	Objective	Main findings	Reference
Ohmic	Vacuum-packed sausage	Pasteurization	F: 50 Hz T: 75°C Time: 30 s Current: 40 A Voltage: 430 V	- Inactivation of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> . - Investigation of chemical, sensory, color and texture change	- Reduction of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> > 5-log - No change in chemical composition, lipid oxidation, pH, cooking loss or water holding capacity - Slight alteration in color and texture - No sensory differences	[ <sup>92</sup> ]
	Meat baby food	Sterilization	F: 25 to 50 kHz T: 90°C for 10 min	- Minimization of furan content	- Reduction of (70–90%) of furan formation - Lower fatty acids oxidation and Maillard reaction products compared to conventional sterilization	[ <sup>93</sup> ]
	Australian and Japanese beef	Cooking	F: 50 Hz–25 KHz T: 5–65°C Voltage: 50 V	- Evaluation of the effect of several process variables such as muscle chemical composition and temperature - Comparison between CB and WB in terms of moisture and fat contents, and microstructure analysis	- Slow heating in Japanese beef due to high-fat content - Reduction in drip loss in both beef at 20 KHz treatment	[ <sup>94</sup> ]
	Meatball	Cooking	Heat fluxes: 3.7, 5.7 and 8.5 kW/m <sup>2</sup> Time: 4, 8, 12 min Ohmic heater: 15.26 V/cm	- Studying the microbiological safety	- Reduction of total mesophilic aerobic bacteria, mold and yeast, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>C. perfringens</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> spp., <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	[ <sup>95</sup> ]
	Beef loin	Thawing	- Voltage: 50 V	- Evaluation of microbiological quality and instrumental color	- Short time was required for the thawing process - Reduction of total microorganism, <i>Pseudomonas</i> spp. and coliform counts	[ <sup>96</sup> ]
	Shrimp	Thawing	• Voltage: 92, 138, and 184 V, 60 Hz, 40 A - T°: 30, 35, 40, 50, and 60°C	- Studying the peelability and the thermal and structural properties	- No color differences between all groups - No increase in shrimp peelability - Extreme ohmic heating caused protein denaturation, shell tightening, and loss of astaxanthin content	[ <sup>97</sup> ]
	Scallop muscles	Thawing	- Voltage: 50 V (for heating) and 100 V (for thawing) - F: 50 Hz to 20 kHz - T°: –20°C to 65°C	- Studying the thermal protein denaturation and quality attribute changes (e.g., drip loss, shrinkage, texture, and microstructure)	- Drop in the resistance of scallop muscles and an increase in the heating rate as a result of the increase of frequency and temperature - Little impact on water released, shrinkage, and textural changes - Reduction of actin denaturation degree	[ <sup>98</sup> ]

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued).

Thermal processing	Product	Treatment purpose	Process condition	Objective	Main findings	Reference
Radio frequency heating	Pork hams	Cooking	- Voltage: 5300 V - F: 27.120 MHz - Conveyor belt speed: 10 m/h	- Evaluation of the thermal treatment and sensory properties	- 50% decrease in cooking time using radio frequency - Slight reduction in sensory quality	[ <sup>99</sup> ]
	Chicken breast meat	Thawing	- 10 kW, 27.12 MHz - Voltage: 1500 V	- Examination of the electric field distribution on thawing time, T° consistency and quality changes	- Thawing rate was ≈23 times accelerated - Reduction in drip loss - Enhancement of textural properties	[ <sup>100</sup> ]
	Pork tenderloin	Heating	- 27.12 MHz, 1.4 kW - Electrode gaps: 100, 120 and 140 mm	- Investigation of myofibrillar protein gel properties	- Reduction of processing time - Improvement of water retention of myofibrillar protein gel	[ <sup>101</sup> ]
	Raw Pacific sauries	Pasteurization	- 27 MHz, 9 kW - Time/T°: 19 min to reach 120–130°C	- Inactivation of heat-resistant spores of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> spores	- Induction of β-sheet self-assembly - High stability and ordered gel network structure - Reduction of <i>B. subtilis</i> spores were by 5-log	[ <sup>102</sup> ]
	Lean beef meat block	Thawing	- 27.12 MHz, 6 kW - Conveyor belt speed: 1 m/h to 60 m/h	- Investigation of the processing parameters and conditions affecting the heat distribution and thawing time	- Heating stability enhanced on moving conveyor belt - Best conditions were: average T° (0.2 and 0.4°C), 17 min for static conditions and 3 m/h for moving conveyor belts	[ <sup>103</sup> ]
	Lean pork	Thawing	- 3 kW, 27.12 MHz	- Studying the impact of different methods and end-point tempering T° on pork quality	- Reduction in tempering time and acceptable physicochemical properties (reduction in cook loss, pH and TVB-N, increase in b* value) - Uniform T° distribution	[ <sup>104</sup> ]

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued).

Thermal processing	Product	Treatment purpose	Process condition	Objective	Main findings	Reference
Microwave	Chicken thigh and breast meats	Cooking	– 180 W for 10 min	-Assessment of the impact of microwave and traditional oven cooking proteins on profile changes and functional properties	-No change in cooking loss, color, or chemical composition -Tougher texture -Changes in protein and functional properties are dependent on the type of meat and cooking method	[ <sup>105</sup> ]
	Grass carp meat	Cooking	600 W, T°: 70°C	- Studying the physical/chemical properties of samples cooked by microwave and water bath -Illustrating the relationship between saltiness perception and changes in protein, water distribution and microstructure	-Cooking in the microwave could improve saltiness perception -Reduction in the unfolding degree of tertiary structure and cooking loss -Maintain the compact structure of meat	[ <sup>106</sup> ]
	Pork bellies	Cooking	800 W for 100 s and 400 W for 200 s	- Improving the tenderness and other food quality of meat cooked in the microwave	-Enhancement of tenderness was improved which is linked with water holding capacity and microstructure	[ <sup>107</sup> ]
	Bovine <i>gluteus medius</i> muscle	Roasting	35 kW at T° 180°C and 80°C, with intensities of 30 or 100%	-Studying texture and color properties, and cooking yield and shrinkage extent	-Improvement of shear force value and the shrinkage rate -High-intensity microwave heating had negative effects on quality	[ <sup>108</sup> ]
	Yak meat	Cooking	420, 560 and 700 W, Heating time: 90–310 s	-Investigation of physicochemical properties, microstructure, and volatile profiles and comparison with the traditional boiling cooking method	-Increase in cooking loss, a* values, and shear force with increasing cooking time -Improved texture and volatiles attributes for microwave-cooked samples -Negative impact on color and water loss	[ <sup>109</sup> ]

**Abbreviations:** A: amperes, F: Frequency, T°: Temperature, Hz: Hertz, MHz: Megahertz, V: Volt, W: Watt, kW: Kilowatt, Min: Minute.



The OH is based on the production of heat as a result of the electrical resistance of a material to the flow of electric current.<sup>[110,111]</sup> In contrast to traditional cooking approaches, OH cooking has the benefits of shortening cooking time, providing regular temperature distribution and higher heating yields. In addition, ohmic-cooked muscle food has a much more constant appearance, better gelation characteristics, less cooking loss, softer texture, and more satisfactory tenderness compared to traditional cooking methods.<sup>[26,111–113]</sup> Therefore, OH can be successfully integrated with a design of Industry 4.0 driving the development of environmentally friendly technologies.<sup>[114]</sup> Due to the growing demand for rapid thawing methods, the potential of OH was investigated as an alternative method in meat and fish products.<sup>[115,116]</sup> For instance, ohmic thawing is a promising alternative thawing method for minced beef, providing a shorter process time and less water loss compared to conventional thawing methods. Besides, OH was applied to loosen the connection between the shell and meat, improving the peelability of shrimps (*Pandalus borealis*).<sup>[97]</sup> In another recent study, the application of OH at 120 voltages for 5 min was found to be suitable to process green mussel meat, achieving higher nutritional quality and lower loss compared to conventional cooking methods, such as steaming and boiling.<sup>[117]</sup>

As OH, RF heating is a volumetric heating technology that may be employed in many applications in the food industry. However, thawing frozen products is one of the main applications of RF in muscle foods.<sup>[89,103,118]</sup> The impact of RF on the thawing process was explained by ionic displacement and polar molecules in frozen samples that induce dipole rotation, converting the energy of the electromagnetic wave to heat, leading to thawing.<sup>[89,118,119]</sup> For example, Bedane et al.<sup>[103]</sup> showed that RF thawing could be performed on beef blocks using a moving conveyor belt. According to the authors, the movement and the rotation of frozen lean beef meat block can promote the redistribution of the electromagnetic field and improve the heating uniformity. They also explored the effects of different processing parameters and conditions on the heating uniformity of samples under static and moving situations on the conveyor belt. The results indicated that RF at a frequency, power, and conveyor belt speed equal to 27.12 MHz, 6 kW and 3 m/hr, respectively could moderately improve the heating uniformity. Despite the limited applications of RF in the muscle food industry presently, it is believed that the arrival of Industry 4.0 technologies would accelerate the processes and RF technology optimization. For example, computer modelling and simulation of RF heating could be one of the main research directions due to the rapid increases in computation power and improvements in commercial software.<sup>[120,121]</sup>

The implantation of microwaves, which are electromagnetic waves having frequencies ranging between 300 MHz and 300 GHz corresponding to wavelengths ranging from 1 m to 1 mm, has revolutionized the way food is processed and prepared both commercially and domestically.<sup>[91,122,123]</sup> Microwave cooking can be considered an alternative and efficient method to minimize time, preserve nutritional quality, reduce cost and save energy due to volumetric heating. However, microwave heating was traditionally associated with several issues, including uneven heating/cooking, creating hot and cold spots, inability to brown food, and excessive drying of foods. In addition, the penetration depth of microwaves is affected by the dielectric properties of food, which in turn are affected by the moisture content. It should be highlighted that the penetration depth of microwaves into foods depends among others on frequencies, noticing that lower frequency can penetrate deeper into food. That is why frequency at MHz level (penetration depths are large) is used for industry processing, whereas frequency at GHz level (penetration depths are small) is used for household microwave ovens. It should be also noticed that the penetration depth of microwaves varies with other factors, such as temperature and salt contents, etc.<sup>[124,125]</sup>

Compared with OH and RF, microwave heating is more suitable for household applications. Recent advances in microwave technologies, such as the use of solid-state generators or coupling microwaves with other emerging processing technologies<sup>[126]</sup> could expand the application range of microwaves. For example, the use of solid-state generators as alternative power sources to conventional magnetrons could be considered a techno-economically promising solution that has the potential to control frequency and power, increase repeatability and reproducibility, reduce energy consumption, and

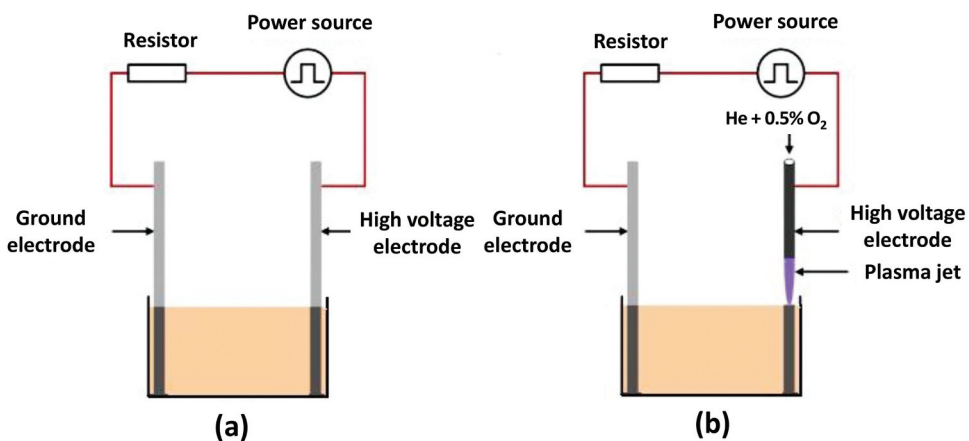
overcome the non-uniform heating of traditional microwaves. Such advanced applications (i.e., the use of solid-state and/or coupled technology) could pave the way for the development of smart cooking/kitchen and smart processing systems,<sup>[127]</sup> which is in line with Industry 4.0 principles.

### Nonthermal processing

PEF and CP are related to high-voltage pulsed technologies, and both employ a similar food treatment experimental setup (Fig. 2). The PEF system is comprised of a pulsed power source and metal electrodes in a treatment chamber.<sup>[37]</sup> The high voltage and ground electrodes are both solid for PEF, while only the ground electrode is solid for CP. The high voltage electrode of CP is a hollow metal pipe with a needle tip. This hollow pipe is filled with a working gas and a strong electric field or voltage triggers the breakdown of gas molecules. The PEF and plasma jet ground electrodes are coupled to a high-voltage pulsed power supply through a current-limiting resistor.

Meat tissue is a single layer of longitudinal muscle cells, and a PEF treatment cut the muscles across the fibre direction. PEF meat treatment is done in either a batch or continuous treatment chamber. The batch chamber is filled with fluids depending on the number and kind of treated meat pieces. The treatment of cross-contamination makes this approach undesirable in meat processing. Other possibilities for continuous treatment of meat parts might include conveying belts, cartridges or pistons to transport slightly compressed meat pieces via electrode systems. Cell electroporation, in PEF-treatment, increases membrane permeability to normally non-permeable molecules, allowing molecular transport and improving meat tenderization.<sup>[128,129]</sup> Scanning electron microscopy of the treated food demonstrated that PEF-treated meat displayed pore development in connective tissue.<sup>[130]</sup>

The synergistic effect of PEF may expedite proteolysis, resulting in increased meat tenderization on frozen samples. Faridnia et al.<sup>[131]</sup> stored beef muscle samples (4°C) before applying moderate PEF treatments with varying electric field strength and frequency (0.2–0.6 kV/cm, 1–50 Hz, 20 s). They found no significant variations in colour stability, pH, cooking losses, or protein profile in the meat. However, Ma et al.<sup>[132]</sup> discovered that samples of cooked lamb meat chops treated to lengthy storage duration and frozen-thawed pre-treatment before PEF resulted in substantial increases in volatile chemicals owing to lipid and protein oxidation. Therefore, building a thawing phase before PEF treatment is critical to achieving a good meat product.



**Figure 2.** Schematic assembly (a) Pulsed electric field (PEF) treatment, (b) Cold plasma (CP) treatment.

PEF-treated meat showed better mass transfer during drying and better water-binding during cooking due to increased micro diffusion of brine and water-binding chemicals. Khan et al.<sup>[133]</sup> revealed that high PEF (10 kV, 200 Hz and 20 s) treatments may severely impact beef quality compared to low PEF treatments (2.5 kV, 200 Hz and 20 s). With another research, the function of the most critical process parameters (150 vs. 300 and 450 vs. 600) and (0.60 vs. 1.20 kV/cm) in assessing the influence of PEF on the critical technical qualities of chicken meat was investigated.<sup>[134]</sup> The authors found no effects on pH or brightness or yellowness. However, there was a considerable tenderizing impact of PEF treatment on beef<sup>[129,135]</sup>; and a meta-analysis found that PEF increased beef tenderization by 20%.<sup>[136]</sup> In addition, a PEF combined with mechanical pressing offers a platform for the extraction of functional compounds from meat wastes.<sup>[137]</sup> Ghosh et al.<sup>[138]</sup> demonstrated that PEF may be utilized to produce protein-rich functional products from biorefinery waste. This technique should encourage farmers and meat processors to recycle trash. Zhou et al.<sup>[139]</sup> demonstrated that PEF extraction is quicker and yields more protein than standard approaches.

PEF methods used for post-mortem tenderization to enhance meat quality have shown modest promise in limited research with muscle foods. However, optimal processing parameters seem to vary amongst muscles. Moreover, not many research discusses the customization of PEF treatments and their impact on the various quality features of meat.<sup>[140]</sup> As a result, the variable influence on meat texture across various muscles must be addressed, and further research is needed to figure out how PEF affects muscle structure. More examples of the application of PEF on muscle foods can be found in Table 2.

CP has been tested in chicken,<sup>[145–148]</sup> beef,<sup>[149,150]</sup> and pork.<sup>[151–153]</sup> A 300-second CP exposure provided a maximum decrease of 1.5 logs bacterial load using a high oxygen atmosphere, but utilizing air or high nitrogen atmospheres resulted in lesser antibacterial effectiveness.<sup>[154]</sup> Moutiq et al.<sup>[146]</sup> detected a 2-log CFU/g decrease in natural chicken microflora after 5 minutes of treatment and 24 hours of storage at 100 kV for 1, 3, and 5 minutes. Wang et al.<sup>[155]</sup> tested the impact of voltage and time on in-package raw chicken meat. After 24 hours at 4°C, CP treatment with 55, 65, or even 80 kV for 3 minutes did not affect raw chicken breast meat microbial populations. Pérez-Andrés et al.<sup>[156]</sup> found that CP treatment altered functional capabilities depending on the protein's natural structure and nature. Roh et al.<sup>[148]</sup> found that CP treatment results in homogeneous microbial inactivation in stacked or non-stacked meat cube samples regardless of sample location or surface-to-volume ratio.

HPP is another promising technique that has been widely used to get rid of microorganisms and undesirable enzymes and extend the shelf life of muscle food products. The efficiency of HPP in destroying spoilage microorganisms and deactivating food enzymes can be influenced by various

**Table 2.** Effects of pulsed electric field (PEF) and cold plasma (CP) treatments on various muscle foods.

Product	Application	Process parameters	Main results	Reference
Beef biceps	Tenderization during ageing	PEF (0.61 kV/cm 20 Hz)	No significant effect on the sheer force of tough muscles	[141]
Mussels	Protein extraction	PEF(20 kV/cm, 8 pulses)	77.08% improved the extraction yield with improved extraction speed	[139]
Beef <i>semimembranosus</i>	Digestion	PEF (5 kV, 90 Hz, 20 $\mu$ s; 10 kV, 20 Hz, 20 $\mu$ s)	Favourable impact on the kinetics of in vitro digestion	[142]
Beef and chicken breasts	Effects of minerals	PEF (2.5 kV, 200 Hz, 20 $\mu$ s; 10 kV, 200 Hz, 20 $\mu$ s)	Release of minerals from the electrodes to the treated samples	[143]
Lamb meat	Extend shelf life	PEF (1–1.4 kV/cm, 90 Hz, 20 $\mu$ s, 964 pulses)	Frozen-thawed beef reduces cooking loss while lowering the fat content.	[144]
Chicken fillets	Extend shelf life	CP (80 kV for 180 s)	Retains look without affecting shelf life for one day	[145]

factors including process parameters, type and growth period of microorganisms, and the type of food being processed. HPP enhances the water holding ability of muscle foods, thus keeping the food fresh for a long time. Pressure levels between 100 to 600 MPa are generally used to extend the shelf life of muscle food products.<sup>[157]</sup> The common mechanism of microbial destruction by HPP includes many aspects, such as modification in the cell wall, and cell membrane, as well as protein and enzyme function.<sup>[158]</sup> When HPP is used at commercial levels (Table 3), pressure ranges from 400 to 600 MPa with an extreme temperature of 15°C.<sup>[174]</sup>

Previous studies showed that high-pressure levels (>100 MPa) completely deactivate microorganisms while moderate or low levels of pressure (10–50 MPa) only decrease the reproduction and growth rate of microorganisms. Microbial deactivation by HPP can also be effected by different parameters involving water activity, temperature, pH, concentrations of sugar and salt as well as the time of process implementation.<sup>[28,31,175]</sup> A comprehensive overview of the effect of HPP on the physical, chemical, microbial, and nutritional quality attributes of crab meat was carried out in a recent study.<sup>[35]</sup> In another recent study, the application of HPP treatment at 600 Mpa for 8 min could be efficient for reducing *L. monocytogenes* in dry-cured sausage and loin.<sup>[171]</sup> More applications of HPP in muscle foods and other food products have been reviewed thoroughly in recent papers.<sup>[175,176]</sup>

Ultrasound is the energy produced through mechanical waves of vibration frequencies higher than 20,000 cycles/sec, which is beyond the hearing capacity of humans. Ultrasound is a newly developed nonthermal green eco-friendly technology that increases the efficiency of food handling procedures in the food industry.<sup>[177]</sup> It can be used in combination with pressure (manosonication) and with temperature (thermosonication) giving more efficiency in food handling and processing.<sup>[178]</sup> In addition, the technique can be applied in combination with other existing and novel technologies including HPP, microwave, supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>, and enzymatic extraction, among others.<sup>[179,180]</sup>

Ultrasound techniques can be classified into two categories (i.e., high-intensity ultrasound and low-intensity ultrasound) according to the frequency and intensity ranges.<sup>[177,179,181]</sup> Ultrasound technology inactivated microorganisms by producing cavitation in the liquid media containing the sample, generating free radicals (e.g., H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and their hydroxyl radicals) that destruct the cell membrane.<sup>[177,180]</sup> The antimicrobial activity of high-intensity ultrasound could be influenced by several parameters such as temperature, type of microorganism, contact time with microorganism, and quantity and composition of treated food.<sup>[182]</sup> The main applications of ultrasound in muscle foods include thawing, tenderization, curing, and decontamination.<sup>[181,182]</sup>

The application of CP and ultrasound technologies is still very limited in food processing in general and in the muscle food industry in particular. However, with the considerable advances offered by Industry 4.0 technologies, it is expected that these technologies could be implemented in the food industry in near future.

### **Impact of emerging technologies on the protein digestibility of muscle food**

Muscle foods are an important source of dietary proteins and can fulfil the protein requirement of the human body.<sup>[183]</sup> As discussed before, muscle foods are subjected to different processing methods, both thermal and nonthermal, before they are ready for human consumption. Salting, smoking, curing, marinating, drying, and chilling are among the most used treatments before and during manufacturing processes. These nonthermal processing methods have the potential to affect the digestibility of meat proteins and have been widely studied.<sup>[183]</sup> Meat and meat products are also subjected to various thermal processes such as oven roasting, frying, braising, broiling or stewing, either by the manufacturer or by the consumer. While the effects of thermal processing on the digestibility of muscle proteins have been widely studied,<sup>[17]</sup> little information is available on the effect of emerging technologies on the digestibility of muscle proteins. Only recently a review<sup>[184]</sup> was published highlighting the effects of emerging technologies on the digestibility of meat and seafood proteins.



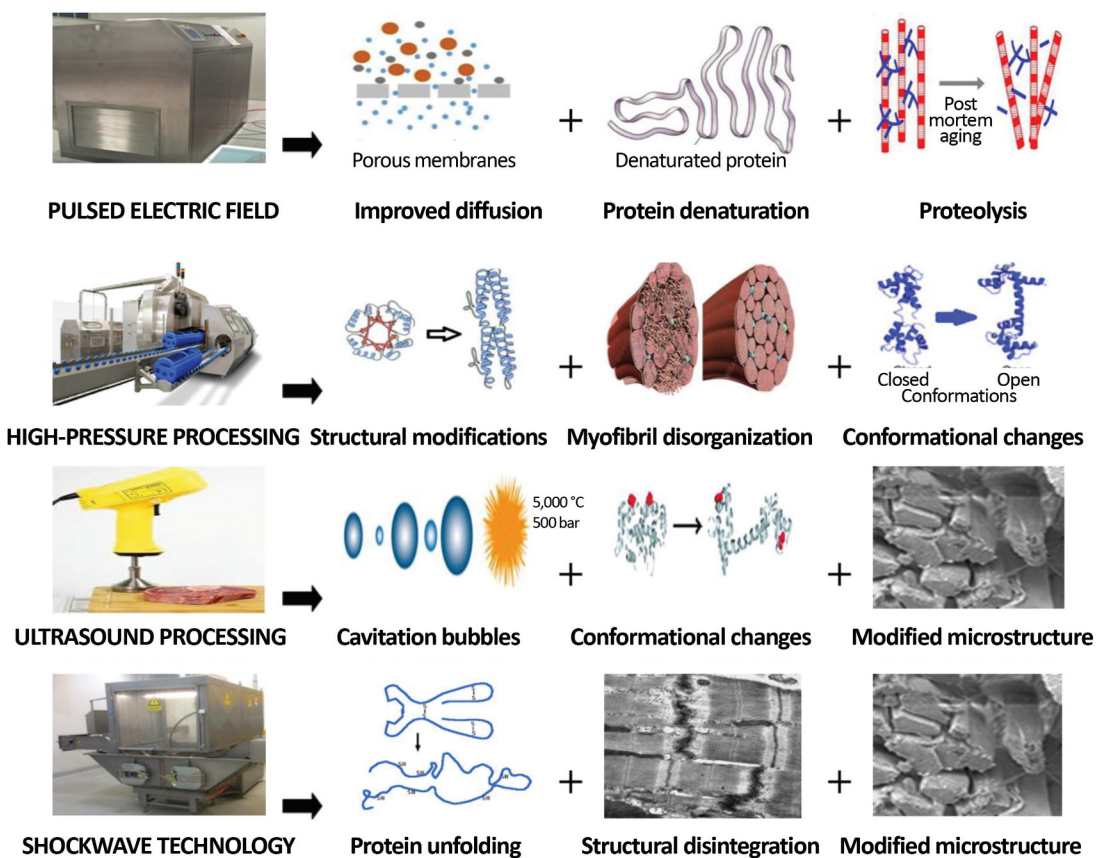
**Table 3.** Effects of high-pressure processing (HPP) and ultrasound (US) technology on various muscle foods.

Nonthermal processing	Product	Process parameters	Main results	Reference	
Ultrasound	Cured beef	Intensity: 2.39, 6.23, 11.32 y 20.96 W/cm <sup>2</sup> ; time: 30, 60, 90 y 120 min 10°C	120 min and 20.96 W/cm <sup>2</sup> reduced <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 and <i>B. cereus</i> . Production of H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> in brining and degradation of cell membrane	[ <sup>159</sup> ]	
	Dried beef	Brining: 4°C, 18 h with and without <i>Lactobacillus sakei</i> and US 25, 33 y 45 kHz for 30 min; dry at 60°C for 4 h	Fatty acid profiles were modified by drying time, and ultrasonic frequency interacting with <i>L. sakei</i> populations in Jerky	[ <sup>160</sup> ]	
	Salmon fillets	45 kHz and 200 W, 1 min	Ultraviolet light + high-intensity ultrasound (HIU) and ultraviolet light + HIU + electrolyzed acid water reduced <i>L. monocytogenes</i> population and natural microbiota	[ <sup>161</sup> ]	
	Brown crab ( <i>Cancer pagurus</i> )	900 W, 75°C, 45 min	<i>L. monocytogenes</i> inactivation, cooking time reduction and pasteurization process are not necessary	[ <sup>162</sup> ]	
HPP	Poultry breast	9.6 W/cm <sup>2</sup> , 40 kHz, 0, 30 and 50 min	After 50 min of sonication <i>S. aureus</i> populations were reduced during 7 days of storage	[ <sup>163</sup> ]	
	Beef	11 W/cm <sup>2</sup> , 40 kHz, 0, 60 and 90 min	HIU for 90 min reduced coliforms, mesophiles and psychrophiles during 10 days of storage	[ <sup>164</sup> ]	
	Beef	Semitendinosus	Thermosonication at 75°C and 25 kHz, 0.33 W/g	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> spore numbers were reduced. <i>C. perfringens</i> spores exposed to heat shock after HIU are inactivated	[ <sup>165</sup> ]
	Salmon	30 kHz, 45 min	<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp. inactivation (log cfu/g)	[ <sup>166</sup> ]	
	Mackerel		1.3/g		
	Cod		0.7/g		
	Hake		0.6/g		
			0.6/g		
	Ground chicken meat	266–434 MPa, 3.3–11.7 min in combination with <i>trans</i> -Cinnamaldehyde	F value of 306.9 for <i>Salmonella</i> reduction and 692.1 for <i>L. monocytogenes</i> reduction	[ <sup>167</sup> ]	
	Iberian dry-cured Pork <i>Longissimus dorsi</i>	600 MPa, 8 min, 16°C	3.2 log reduction of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	[ <sup>168</sup> ]	
Ham, turkey, and Bratwurst sausages	200–400 MPa, 5 min at 4°C	Drip loss was improved by 35% and water binding capacity was affected	[ <sup>169</sup> ]		
Dry-cured sausage and loin	600 MPa, 5 min at 25°C	Increase in the shelf life of treated samples from two up to 10-fold compared to the control ones	[ <sup>170</sup> ]		
Sliced dry-cured Iberian ham	600 MPa, 8 min	2.47 log reduction of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	[ <sup>171</sup> ]		
Ready-to-eat surimi products	600 MPa for 8 min	3 log reduction of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	[ <sup>172</sup> ]		
	250–350 MPa, 3–5 min	The total bacterial count was reduced from 726.67 to 7.33 CFU/g and total volatile basic nitrogen content decreased from 3.45 to 0.93 mg N/100 g	[ <sup>173</sup> ]		

Several emerging technologies are studied for various applications in the meat industry. Nonthermal technologies such as PEF, ultrasonication, HPP, and shockwave technology are widely applied to fresh and processed meat products, inducing various beneficial effects such as improved tenderization and microbial quality.<sup>[141,185,186]</sup> Thermal-based emerging technologies including OH, or re-emerging technologies (e.g., sous-vide) are becoming popular and widely studied as alternative processing methods for the development of minimally processed foods.<sup>[187]</sup> Limited literature is available on the effect of emerging technologies on the digestibility of meat and seafood proteins and needs scientific attention. Fig 3 shows the underlying mechanisms for different emerging technologies, which improve the digestibility of muscle proteins.

Overall, a positive effect of PEF processing has been reported on the digestibility of beef and venison proteins. Baht et al.<sup>[142,188]</sup> reported a positive effect of PEF treatment on the digestibility of beef *Longissimus dorsi* and *Biceps femoris*, respectively, during *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion. A similar effect of PEF treatment was also observed on the protein digestibility of deer *Longissimus dorsi* during *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion.<sup>[189]</sup> High-intensity treatments (10 kV, 20 or 90 Hz, 20  $\mu$ s) were more effective in improving the digestibility of the proteins. While these studies used uncooked meat proteins, a positive effect of PEF treatment was also confirmed on the protein digestibility of cooked beef and venison muscles.<sup>[190,191]</sup>

Whereas Alahakoon et al.<sup>[192]</sup> did not observe any effect of PEF treatment (0.7–1.5 kV/cm) on the protein digestibility of sous-vide processed beef brisket, Chian et al.<sup>[193]</sup> reported an increase of 18 to 31% in the protein digestibility of PEF-treated beef *Longissimus thoracis* (1.0–1.25 kV/cm). This



**Figure 3.** Mechanisms of the pulsed electric field, high-pressure, ultrasound, and shockwaves for improving the digestibility of muscle proteins.

positive effect on protein digestibility was attributed to various protein structural modifications and microstructural changes induced in the food matrices by PEF treatments.

Most of the studies have reported a positive impact of HPP on the digestibility of muscle proteins. Kaur et al.<sup>[194]</sup> observed faster hydrolysis of the beef proteins treated with HPP (175 and 600 MPa) during *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion. The effect was more pronounced for the samples treated at 600 MPa. This positive effect was attributed to pressure-induced structural and microstructural modifications and other related changes such as protein solubilisation and denaturation. A significant increase was reported by Xue et al.<sup>[195]</sup> in the protein digestibility of cooked rabbit meat batters treated with HPP (100–300 MPa, 9 min, 25°C) during *in vitro* simulated digestion. An increase of 6.13% and 61.31% was recorded for HPP-processed samples during gastric and intestinal digestion, respectively. Cepero-Betancourt et al.<sup>[196]</sup> observed a positive effect of HPP processing (200–500 MPa, 5 min) on the digestion of abalone muscle proteins during *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion. The effect was independent of the magnitude of the applied pressure and was attributed to pressure-induced unfolding of the proteins. Rakotondramavo et al.<sup>[197]</sup> observed a significantly higher digestibility and digestion rate for HPP-treated cooked ham compared to raw meat after *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion.

Like PEF and HPP, ultrasonication seems to have a positive effect on the digestibility of muscle proteins and induce conformational changes which lead to the exposure of enzyme cleavage sites.<sup>[184]</sup> Dong et al.<sup>[198]</sup> reported an increasing trend for protein digestibility with processing time (20 kHz, 400 W, 0–20 min) and significantly higher values were observed for the shrimp samples processed for 20 min. Bagarinao et al.<sup>[199]</sup> found similar results that are a significantly higher protein digestibility for ultrasound processed (20 kHz, 464 W, 5 min) abalone (*Haliotis iris*) samples after *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion.

Recently, a positive impact of shockwave technology, an emerging technology that uses mechanical high-pressure pulses produced by high-voltage electrical discharge, was reported on the digestibility of muscle proteins. Chian et al.<sup>[200,201]</sup> studied the effect of shockwave processing (0.57 Hz, 35 kV, 18  $\mu$ F, 11 kJ/pulse) on the digestibility of beef brisket proteins using *in vitro* gastrointestinal and *in vitro* gastric digestion models, respectively. Both these studies reported a positive and significant effect of the shockwave processing on the protein digestibility of the beef samples. This positive effect was attributed to various structural and microstructural changes induced by shockwave processing.

## Current trends and advancements in muscle food preservation techniques

Traditionally, ice, drying, smoking, fermentation, or salting have been widely used as preservative treatments to maintain the quality of food.<sup>[202]</sup> More advanced techniques have emerged in recent years as a result of the implementation of Industry 4.0 technologies. In the following sections, current trends and advancements in muscle food preservation techniques are discussed.

### Freezing-based techniques

Freezing, one of the most ancient preservation techniques, firstly used cryogenic freezing, plate contact freezing, and air blast freezing.<sup>[203]</sup> Nevertheless, these techniques sometimes present poor freezing rates and can trigger cellular damage due to ice crystals and protein denaturation. Thus undesirable effects such as changes in texture, water-holding capacity (WHC), color, etc. are taken place.<sup>[42,204]</sup> Considering these inconveniences, new trends include other advanced techniques such as high-pressure freezing (HPF), electrically assisted freezing (EF), magnetically aided freezing (MF), ultrasound-assisted freezing (UAF), microwave-assisted freezing (MAF), osmo-dehydro-freezing (ODF) and antifreeze protein (AFP).<sup>[42,205]</sup> Some examples of the application of freezing-based techniques are tabulated in Table 4. The HPF began to be used in the late 1990s although it has not been extensively applied to food matrices yet. In the literature, a few examples of muscle foods (*i.e.*, abalone, pink salmon, or tuna) are available<sup>[211,223]</sup> whereas a higher number of applications focused on the use of

**Table 4.** Freezing-based techniques applied to muscle food products.

Product	Technique	Conditions	Results	Ref.
<i>Thunnus alalunga</i> fillet	HPP+ABF	200 MPa, 6 min + −50 °C and v (1, 5 m/s)	Thawing loss reduction, improved quality in long storage.	[206]
<i>Lates calcarifer</i> fillet	HPP+ABF	150–200 Mpa, 3 min + −18° C, 4 h	Increased hardness, inhibition of secondary lipid oxidation compounds	[207]
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> fillet	HPP+LS+F	200 Mpa, 15 min + 0.50%, v/v + −80°C	Bacterial reduction against <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (> 5-log CFU/g).	[208]
<i>Oreochromis aureus</i> fillet	ICF	−5 °C, 0.9% saline solution	Maintenance of the integrity and inhibit protein structural damage.	[209]
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> fillet	PSF	−15 °C and −25 °C, 200 Mpa	Ice crystals reduction, lower protein denaturation and higher WHC.	[210]
<i>Oncorhynchus gorboscha</i> , <i>Gadus chalcogrammus</i> , <i>Thunnus albacares</i> filets	HPF	−32 °C, 250 Mpa, 3 min	Bacterial reduction against <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> and <i>Salmonella enterica</i> (3-log CFU/g).	[211]
Pork minced meat	EMF	0.2 T, 20 kHz, 2 V/cm	No alteration in freezing dynamics.	[212]
Pork small blocks	PMFF	15.98 mT, −30°C (4°C/min)	Decreased nucleation point, phase change time and subcooling time.	[213]
Fresh crab sticks	EMF	<2 mT, 6–59 Hz	No advantage of EMF over ABF (drip loss, WHC, toughness, whiteness).	[214]
<i>Gluteus medius</i> sirloin meat	EF	5.8 × 104V/m, −20 °C	60% decrease in ice crystals size. Retained hardness, reduced drip loss, no effect on color.	[215]
<i>Larimichthys crocea</i> fillet	UAF	20–40 kHz, 175 W, 30 s	Increased freezing rate, preserved quality and reduced lipid oxidation.	[216]
Fresh chicken breast	UIF	30 kHz, 165 W, −25 °C, 8 min	Accelerated freezing rate, smaller ice crystals, reduced thawing and cooking loss.	[217]
Fresh chicken breast	UIF	30 kHz, 165 W, −25 °C, 8 min	Maintenance of the myofibrillar protein structure, reduced loss of the elastic response, gel strength, free water, and WHC. Promotion of compact and homogeneous gel networks.	[218]
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> fillet	UIF	45 kHz, 320 W, −40 °C, 15–25 min	Less affected by small ice crystals, so lower thawing and cooking loss, maintenance of protein structure.	[219]
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i> fillet	UIF	30 kHz, 75 W, −25 °C, 9 min	Inhibited the growth of ice crystals, reduced free water, reduced thawing and cooking loss, retarded increase in TBARS and TVB-N.  Smaller and uniform ice crystals maintained sarcomere integrity and protein thermal stability and no changes in the SDS-PAGE pattern.	[220]  [221]
Porcine longissimus muscle	UIF	30 kHz, 180 W, −18 °C	Shorter freezing time, lower thawing loss, no effect on color or pH, smaller and uniformly distributed ice crystals.	[222]

**Abbreviations:** high-pressure processing (HPP), air blast freezing (ABF), isochoric freezing (ICF), pressure shift freezing (PSF), high pressure assisted freezing (HPF), air velocity (v), liquid smoking (LS), freezing (F), electromagnetically freezing (EMF), permanent magnetic field freezing (PMFF), water holding capacity (WHC), electrically aided freezing (EF), ultrasound-assisted freezing (UAF), ultrasound-assisted immersion freezing (UIF), total volatile base nitrogen (TVB-N), thiobarbituric acid reactive substance (TBARS).

high-pressure pretreatment before freezing.<sup>[206,208]</sup> The principles of HPF differ in small particularities though they all can reduce quality loss because of the formation of small ice crystals uniformly distributed.<sup>[224,225]</sup> The EF, MF, or the combination of both referred to as electromagnetically freezing (EMF) are known to modify the molecular structure of water and have been used since the early 2000s.<sup>[214,226]</sup> The EF might break and debilitate the hydrogen bonds of water molecules leading to a less ordered structure or contrarily, reorganize the water molecules thus reducing the free energy.



The MF directly affects water by organizing water molecules, increasing hydrogen bonding, and weakening the van der Waals bonding force.<sup>[212,226,227]</sup> Recently, different works have applied this technology to muscle foods, but further studies are needed to prove its effectiveness.<sup>[212,214]</sup> UAF uses a frequency between 20 and 100 kHz in food processing. UAF can accelerate the freezing rate due to the enhancement of ice nucleation, increasing the rate of mass and heat transfer and controlling the size and formation of ice crystals.<sup>[228,229]</sup>

Although several studies focused on fruits and vegetables, UAF application has been improved in the last few years on muscle food products.<sup>[230]</sup> Among these studies, most of them used ultrasound-assisted immersion freezing (UIF), which uses a liquid medium for ultrasound transmission thus significantly shortening freezing time.<sup>[217,231]</sup> MAF is still one of the less applied techniques, based on the use of 2.45 GHz microwave irradiation to better maintain the structure of the food while freezing.<sup>[232]</sup> MAF has been applied to fresh pork tenderloins while radiofrequency waves have been used in fresh rainbow trout fish.<sup>[233,234]</sup> However, further efforts need to be made towards the development of this technique. Regarding ODF, its application is still very limited and no applications on muscle food products have been found in the literature.<sup>[235]</sup>

### **Packaging and other non-thermal treatments**

Packaging, such as modified atmosphere packaging (MAP), is known to increase perishable food safety and shelf life. Together with other non-thermal treatments such as the use of natural preservatives or the application of nanotechnology can prevent microbes and enzyme activity in muscle foods maintaining sensory quality characteristics.<sup>[32,42,236]</sup>

### **Natural preservatives**

The use of natural preservatives is one of the most recent trends among consumers and the scientific community. This increment is mainly due to the consumer's concern about synthetic additives thus changing to natural strategies to extend the shelf-life of food products.<sup>[202,237]</sup> Among the different properties of these natural preservatives, antioxidant and antimicrobial activities have been highlighted for their combined use to prevent contamination and the loss of the sensory quality characteristics of muscle foods. Therefore, the compounds most used can be classified according to their origin: vegetal (*e.g.*, essential oils and plant extracts), animal (such as chitosan, lysozyme) or microbial (bacteriocins) sources.<sup>[237–240]</sup> In this section, those compounds that are fundamentally used directly on the food product are addressed. However, the same compounds can be included in edible films and coating for packaging purposes. Some of the most recent studies using natural preservatives in muscle foods are compiled in [Table 5](#).

Regarding natural additives of vegetal origin, plant extracts and essential oils are the most used as food preservation techniques. Oregano, thyme, or rosemary have been successfully used to preserve not only muscle foods but also other such plants (*e.g.*, orange, pomegranate). Essential oils (EOs) and phenolic compounds, together with terpenes and alkaloids are secondary metabolites present in plants which usually present antioxidant and antimicrobial activities, among others.<sup>[237,263,264]</sup> Therefore, natural additives are an alternative to synthetic preservatives, although more research is still needed towards the industrial application of these molecules.

### **Edible films and coatings**

Edible films and coatings are considered primary packaging systems made from edible ingredients that have been proposed as alternative methods for food preservation.<sup>[265]</sup> In recent years, they have been increasingly studied owing to different advantages over synthetic materials used for food packaging, namely high efficacy in retarding food degradation, extended shelf life, lack of toxicity, as well as an eco-friendly character.<sup>[249,266]</sup>

The main difference between films and coatings is related to their application procedure. Edible films are prepared separately as solid sheets and then used to cover the surface of the food, whereas

**Table 5.** Packaging and other non-thermal treatments applied to muscle food products.

Seafood	Technique	Results	Ref.
Atlantic Mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> ) fillets	Rosemary and basil EO	Delayed lipid oxidation and formation of TVB-N. Extension of the shelf-life of products.	[ <sup>241</sup> ]
Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	Rosemary, thyme, laurel and sage EO	Antimicrobial and antioxidant properties. Enhance of the organoleptic quality of fish	[ <sup>242</sup> ]
Pink shrimp ( <i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i> )	Orange EO	Antioxidant and antimicrobial properties ( <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> family). Shelf-life extension of nearly 10 days.	[ <sup>243</sup> ]
Lamb burgers	Guarana and pitanga PE	Reduced lipid and protein oxidation.	[ <sup>244</sup> ]
Uncured pork sausages	Black and green tea PE	Antioxidant activity without effects on the sensory attributes.	[ <sup>245</sup> ]
Rabbit meat	Onion and cranberry PE	Improve the microbial control against <i>Pseudomonas</i> and <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> .	[ <sup>246</sup> ]
Salmon carpaccio	Gelatin-Ch films	Moderate antimicrobial activity.	[ <sup>247</sup> ]
White shrimp ( <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> )	Microalgal exopolysaccharide coating	Inhibition of microbial growth and deterioration. Preservation of sensory properties.	[ <sup>248</sup> ]
Smoked herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )	Ch coating	Inhibition of microbial growth and lipid oxidation. Antioxidant effects. Improvement of sensory parameters.	[ <sup>249</sup> ]
Pacific white shrimp ( <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> )	Oregano EOs and $\epsilon$ -polylysine	Inhibition of microbial growth and proteolysis. Improvement of sensory properties.	[ <sup>250</sup> ]
Yellow croaker ( <i>Larimichthys crocea</i> )	Ch -lysozyme edible coating	Inhibition of microbial growth, proteolysis, and lipid oxidation. Color and odor characteristics were preserved.	[ <sup>251</sup> ]
<i>Scomberoides commersonnianus</i>	Ch-WPI-EO coating	Inhibition of microbial growth, proteolysis, and lipid oxidation. Preservation of sensory properties (color, odor, texture, and appearance) during storage.	[ <sup>252</sup> ]
Beef	Ch-gelatine	Improvement of color preservation and reduced weight loss and lipid oxidation.	[ <sup>253</sup> ]
White shrimp ( <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> )	Ch-gelatine	Shelf-life extension. Decreased lipid oxidation and improvement of texture and color.	[ <sup>254</sup> ]
Cooked pork sausages	Ch- clove EO	Inhibition of microbial growth, late lipid oxidation and extension of the shelf-life.	[ <sup>255</sup> ]
Pacific Mackerel Fillets	Ch-gallic acid	Inhibition of microbial growth, biogenic amine formation, lipid oxidation and nucleotide and protein breakdown.	[ <sup>256</sup> ]
Pork patty	Pectin-green tea powder	Decrease of lipid oxidation, increase of radical scavenging effects and reduction of total aerobic bacteria	[ <sup>257</sup> ]
Golden Pomfret fillets	Gelatine- tea polyphenol	Reduction of weight loss, pH lowering and microbial growth inhibition. Retard myofibril degradation during cold storage	[ <sup>258</sup> ]
Golden Pomfret fillets	Gelatine-Ch	Inhibition of myofibril degradation during cold storage	[ <sup>259</sup> ]
Rainbow Trout Fillets	Gelatine-oregano EO	Decrease of total volatile basic nitrogen, peroxide value, thiobarbituric acid and microbial growth	[ <sup>260</sup> ]
Whey protein	Frozen Atlantic salmon	Decrease of lipid oxidation of fish fillets. Increase in whiteness of cooked samples	[ <sup>261</sup> ]
Pike-Perch fillets	WPI-lactoperoxidase system- $\alpha$ -tocopherol	Antibacterial and antioxidant properties directed towards shelf-life extension.	[ <sup>262</sup> ]

coatings are formed directly onto the food surfaces.<sup>[266,267]</sup> Most of the edible materials are formed from natural biopolymers from animal-derived compounds (chitin, chitosan), plant-derived (cellulose, starch, pectin,), seaweed-derived (agar, alginate, carrageenan) as well as microbial-derived (pullulan, xanthan gum). In addition, lipid compounds such as oil, resins or waxes have been used and protein-based films (gelatine, collagen and milk, soy or whey proteins) are being widely investigated as well.<sup>[236,265]</sup> As happened with plant extracts and EOs, edible coatings and films act as antioxidant and antimicrobial agents due to the bioactive molecules. In recent years, different studies have tested the efficacy of these materials in different muscle food products (Table 5). The successful results obtained with these materials have led to this trend having considerable relevance in the preservation of muscle food and continues to be further explored.

## Recent development and application of analytical techniques for muscle foods

### *Spectroscopic and hyperspectral sensors*

Advanced analytical tools have been developed over the years giving the possibility to realize simple and rapid measurements with or without sample contact in the specific fringe of the electromagnetic spectrum, Vis (Visible), UV (Ultraviolet), MIR (Mid-infrared), NIR (near infrared), Raman, and fluorescence. Each spectral range is associated with specific chemical and physical information about the molecular content of the studied sample. For example, the NIR (780–2,500 nm) and MIR (2,500–25,000 nm) infrared ranges are associated with the absorption spectrum of organic molecules<sup>[268]</sup> with fundamentals vibrations observed in the MIR and combinations/overtone vibrations observed in the NIR range, respectively. Raman spectroscopy is based on the inelastic scattering of light observed after radiation with monochromatic light of an organic molecule.<sup>[269]</sup> Fluorescence can be considered as the emission of lower energy light by a fluorophore after excitation by UV (200–400 nm) or Vis (400–700 nm) light.

Hyperspectral imaging (I), also called chemical or spectral imaging, can be considered one of the most recent and disruptive innovations or development in the field of spectroscopy sensors and was proposed for the first time for airborne detection and mapping.<sup>[270]</sup> Food products, especially muscle foods are generally anisotropic and can have high local heterogeneity in physical properties (e.g. size and shape) and chemical composition (e.g., fat, protein, and collagen) making it challenging to control and optimize the quality of final food product. TIHSI technique is very smart since it gives the possibility to both record spectral and spatial information of the analyzed sample, allowing addressing this heterogeneity challenges. The HSI data analysis is generally associated with multivariate or chemometrics techniques (e.g., principal components analysis, partial least squares analysis and artificial neural network) to build predictive models or to visualize quality treats variations based on distribution maps of muscle food products (e.g., fish, chicken, red meats).<sup>[271–273]</sup> HSI sensors to evaluate the quality of treats (e.g., sensory properties, grade, and nutrition properties) of muscle food products has been the subject of different research/review papers and book chapters.<sup>[48,75,274]</sup> Therefore, its interest in the field of the implementation of this technique in muscle food industry 4.0 is no longer to be proved.

An HSI sensor generally contains four elements, including a “brain” (a computer with appropriate software), a sample stage, a “vision” system (CDD hyperspectral camera), and an illumination source (e.g. tungsten-halogen, UV lamp). The illumination source should be chosen carefully depending on the application, to provide illumination homogeneity and prevent heating effects.<sup>[275]</sup> When using UV lamps, a cooling system must be included in the system. For example, in the study of Zhuang et al.<sup>[276]</sup> two DC cooling fans (12 V, 5.4 W) were used in the HSI analysis of meat pork.

HSI sensors generate 3D data or hypercube including two spatial dimensions (length: X and width: Y), and one spectral dimension (I) (Fig. 4). The HSI sensors can provide images using three configurations: reflection, transmission, and interactance. In general, in muscle product analysis, the reflectance mode is the most used probably because it is the most convenient and informative.<sup>[277]</sup>

Depending on the image acquisition procedure, four techniques can be used to record 3D HSI, the whiskbroom (i.e. point scan), pushbroom (i.e. line scanning), tunable filter (or staring), and snapshot systems. The selection of the mode to use in the muscle food industry is affected by different factors, such as the application targeted (e.g. out-line, at-line, in-line), and the device cost and its robustness.

The simplest approach is called staring, in which an image plane is collected at one waveband after another with a fixed image field of view. In this configuration, the system generally uses filters (band-pass filters, a circular-variable filter, a liquid-crystal tunable filter or an acousto-optical tunable filter),<sup>[278]</sup> giving the possibility to record simultaneously both spatial dimensions (X and Y) while the spectral dimension is acquired sequentially.<sup>[279]</sup> However, this system is not well adapted to process monitoring because acquisition is quite slow and the sample needs to be in a fixed position which makes it poorly compatible with the high production rate that is generally required by the muscle food industry. This acquisition technique is more adapted for multispectral (MSI) systems. The MSI system proved its effectiveness in predicting different properties of muscle foods (e.g. microbial

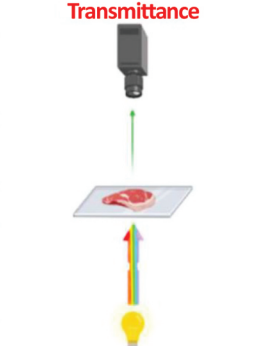
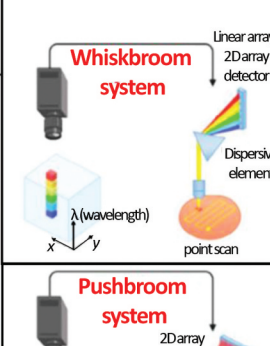
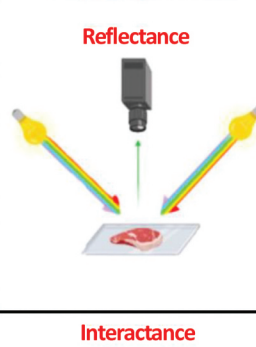
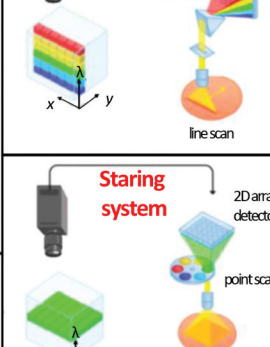
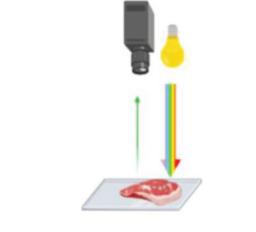
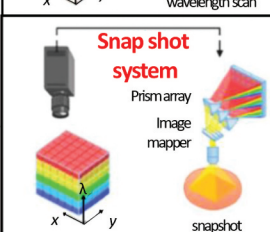
Image sensing mode	Image acquisition mode	Advantages & drawbacks
<p><b>Transmittance</b></p> 	<p><b>Whiskbroom system</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Optimal for accessing the spectral information of each pixel!</li> <li>(+) Highly flexible (sample size, raster width, spectral ranges and implementation of optical techniques)</li> <li>(-) Low spectral resolution</li> <li>(-) Used only for off-line control</li> <li>(-) Time-consuming</li> <li>(-) Need advanced repositioning hardware to ensure repeatability</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reflectance</b></p> 	<p><b>Pushbroom system</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Records a whole line of an image as well as spectral information simultaneously</li> <li>(+) Good compromise between spatial and spectral resolution</li> <li>(+) Suitable for on-line and in-line control! (suitable for conveyor belt systems)</li> <li>(-) Cannot acquire hyperspectral images for fast-moving samples</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interactance</b></p> 	<p><b>Staring system</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) High spatial resolution</li> <li>(-) At-line quality control only</li> <li>(-) Cannot acquire hyperspectral images for fast-moving samples</li> <li>(-) Limited to few wavelength bands</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Snap shot system</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Collect multiplexed spatial and spectral data simultaneously</li> <li>(+) Possibility to acquire a hypercube at video framerates</li> <li>(+) Suitable for on-line and in-line control (suitable for high conveyor belt systems)</li> <li>(+) Availability of miniaturized devices</li> </ul>

Figure 4. Different sensing and image acquisition modes that can be used for muscle foods analysis by hyperspectral imaging.

spoilage, muscle breed discrimination, sensory properties, chemical composition, and adulteration detection).<sup>[280–287]</sup>

The whiskbroom or point-scanning mode gives the possibility to record the full spectrum on a single pixel of the sample image. Therefore, the three dimensions ( $\lambda$ , X, and Y) are recorded separately and the sample is moved to give the possibility to the HSI camera to map the entire pixels of the sample image. With this mode, an optical grating, prism or a similar element is required to achieve light dispersion. However, since a double scan (i.e. spatial and spectral) is required, the acquisition time is a barrier to its implementation on a food processing line. This acquisition mode has mainly been used in microscopy analysis of muscle foods. For example, microspectroscopy was used to evaluate the thermal denaturation of proteins in the muscle fibre and connective tissue of bovine muscles<sup>[288]</sup> and to study the effects of high-pressure treatment on the muscle structure of salmon (*Salmo salar*).<sup>[34]</sup>

The push broom can be considered an upgrade of the point-scanning system. The principle is based on line-scan acquisition in which each line contains full-spectrum information for every spatial pixel. Thus, the spectral dimension and one spatial dimension are acquired simultaneously, while the second spatial dimension is acquired sequentially. Similar to whiskbroom instruments, a dispersing element is used in the spectrograph. However, as an entire line of pixels is recorded at once, a two-dimensional dispersing element and a two-dimensional detector array are required. As this method does not require the changing of filters and only requires the sample to be moved in one direction (the direction of the second spatial dimension), it is well suited to implementation for non-destructive evaluation of quality control during processing. This mode is the most commonly used for online applications in muscle food analysis.

This technique was investigated to predict or monitor chemical composition (e.g. moisture, total fat, protein, and biogenic amine) and sensory properties of different muscle foods (fish, chicken breast, minced pork, fresh minced beef, lamb cuts, and mutton).<sup>[289–291]</sup> Recent advances in optical components and data analytics have revolutionized imaging spectroscopy, allowing the emergence of a variety of specialized research and industrial platforms. For instance, a range of advanced cameras (called HySpex) has been developed by a Norwegian research and development organization to be used for various applications, including quality control and inspection of fish. This system can be used for sorting raw material passing through the production lines based on different qualities, or even fish species in real time.<sup>[292]</sup>

The most recent HSI sensors are called single shot or snapshot HSI.<sup>[293]</sup> This state-of-the-art technology has been developed recently taking advantage of the advancements that Industry 4.0 has provided (e.g., the availability of a larger amount of spatial resolution). These sensors are capable to record both spatial and spectral information in all the object area in one shot without scanning. This system provides advantages such as collecting HSI images at video frame rate making the sensors more appropriate for real-time applications, ultra-portability or miniaturization. The acquisition rate (e.g. 150 frames per second permits) of these devices permits to have a fixed platform and detector and therefore more robustness of the acquisition system. This technology is developed by different companies; for example, an HSI camera presenting 50 bands in the 450–850 nm range, a frame rate higher than 15 Hz, a resolution of  $250 \times 250$  pixels, with small dimensions ( $29 \times 29 \times 49$  mm) is proposed by Cubert Company.

In the past few years, snapshot HSI systems have gained attention in the research area of muscle food processing. For example, Ma et al.<sup>[294]</sup> used a single shot camera (SPM-EVM-VIS, Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre, Leuven, Belgium) with 16 bands (465, 474, 485, 496, 510, 522, 534, 546, 548, 562, 578, 586, 600, 608, 624, and 630 nm) and a rate of 340 fps to evaluate protein content of processed pork meat (freezing, thawing, salting and drying). The prediction models, combining Back Propagation with Neural Network and HSI absorbance spectra, gave good cross-validation results for the protein content of the different processed samples ( $R^2_{CV} = 0.8318$  and RMSECV = 8.38 mg/g). In another study,<sup>[295]</sup> two snapshot HSI cameras were used in the NIR (25 wavelengths between 673–957 nm) and VIS (16 wavelengths from 467–639 nm) range to discriminate between three red meat

species (pork, beef, and lamb). The exposure times of the snapshot were 2 ms and 3.9 ms for the NIR and VIS cameras, respectively. The combination of the HSI image features and a new chemometrics method (3D-CNN: deep 3D convolution neural network) gave discrimination models with good overall accuracy for both NIR (96.9%) and VIS systems (97.1%). However, more research is still needed to fully exploit the potential of the snapshot acquisition mode in more food applications.<sup>[51]</sup>

The rapid development in imaging and spectroscopic technologies including both hardware and software<sup>[291]</sup> has been spurred by Industry 4.0, extending the possibilities and providing innovative technologies in emerging applications. Recently, many publications have argued that Industry 4.0 technologies, such as smart sensors based on HSI and spectroscopy can enhance food traceability<sup>[296]</sup> and food quality.<sup>[63]</sup> Such smart technologies are connected by networks to software and can help the muscle food industry to move to the next level by enabling real-time monitoring and reducing measurement time. For example, the role of these sensors and digitalization in the move towards smart farming in the livestock industry was reviewed recently by Fuentes et al.<sup>[297]</sup> In the processing industry of meat, these smart sensors can be used to optimize inventory use by checking the confirmation of the carcass, missing parts, size, and presence or absence of defects, thus sorting meat products into various categories according to their properties.<sup>[79]</sup>

### **Advanced mass spectrometry**

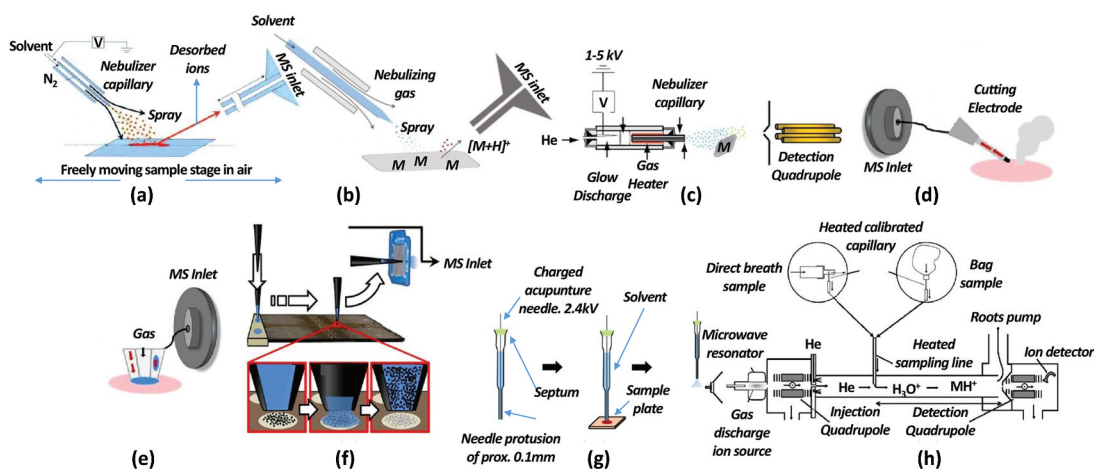
In recent years, mass spectrometry (MS) methods have been developed for the high throughput non-targeted analysis of muscle foods.<sup>[52]</sup> Among them, ambient mass spectrometry (AMS) techniques deserve special mention for their innovative approaches and powerful performances. AMS covers a family of techniques that allow the generation of ions under ambient conditions after minimal sample preparation. One of the advantages of AMS techniques is its ability to quickly reveal the food chemical profile<sup>[298]</sup> that can be used to set up non-targeted methods as recommended by the European Community and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention to successfully face food frauds.<sup>[299,300]</sup> A graphical representation of the most recent AMS techniques applied to muscle food analysis is reported in Fig. 5. Since no chromatography separation is performed, ambient sources are usually coupled to high-resolution mass spectrometry to obtain very precise information related to the encountered metabolites and to facilitate the identification of the examined muscle food.

Desorption electrospray ionization-mass spectrometry (DESI-MS) is one of the most famous and well-established AMS techniques, developed by Cooks and co-workers in 2004.<sup>[301]</sup> DESI is characterized by a nitrogen-assisted charged solvent that, on hitting the sample surface, desorbs and ionizes the analytes that are then revealed by MS. Although it is not extensively applied to food authentication, it has been recently tested for the screening of paralytic shellfish toxins in clams<sup>[307]</sup> (Fig. 5a).

Haddad et al.<sup>[308]</sup> created a voltage-free, easy ambient sonic spray ionization (EASI) MS method (Fig. 5b) able to efficiently desorb and ionize analytes directly from the sample surface. While the technique has been extensively used for the authentication of different types of honey, oil, emulsifiers and propolis,<sup>[309]</sup> thermal imprints of salmon fillets were screened by EASI-high resolution MS (HRMS) to monitor the impacts of the fish-raising regime on the triacylglycerol composition of salmon fat.<sup>[310]</sup>

Another well-established and commercially available AMS technique called direct analysis in real-time mass spectrometry (DART-HRMS), has been recently applied for the rapid authentication of thawed-frozen fish<sup>[311,312]</sup> (Fig. 5c). Specifically, DART-MS successfully revealed the freshness of salmon collected from a local market and analyzed at the purchase time and after a few days of storage under refrigerated conditions.<sup>[312]</sup> In the same vein, Massaro et al.<sup>[311]</sup> combined DART-HRMS data for the rapid assessment of fish freshness, opening new avenues for the development of species-independent approaches for the differentiation of fresh and thawed-frozen fish.

Rapid evaporative ionization coupled with mass spectrometry (REIMS-Fig. 5d) is, nowadays, one of the most widely used AMS techniques in food authentication. REIMS is characterized by the point heating of a sample using a soldering iron, a laser beam or an electronic surgical knife. The aerosol is



**Figure 5.** Schematics of ambient mass spectrometry techniques that have been applied to authentication of muscle foods. a) Desorption electrospray ionization (DESI-MS)<sup>[301]</sup>; b) Easy ambient sonic-spray ionization (Easi)<sup>[302]</sup>; c) Direct analysis in real-time (Dart)<sup>[303]</sup>; d) Rapid evaporative ionization mass spectrometry (Reims)<sup>[304]</sup>; e) MasSpec pen<sup>[304]</sup>; f) Liquid extraction surface analysis (Lesa)<sup>[305]</sup>; and g) Sheath-flow probe electrospray ionization (sfPesi).<sup>[306]</sup> Adapted with permission from the publishers (Wiley, Royal Society of Chemistry, ACS, AAAS, and Elsevier).

pulled using a Venturi pump through the tubing, from where part of the sample gas flow is diverted into a mass spectrometer via an impact heater.<sup>[313]</sup> While Rigano et al.<sup>[314]</sup> used this technique for the rapid authentication of Mediterranean sea fish species, Song et al.<sup>[315]</sup> applied it for the discrimination of salmon and rainbow trout. Moreover, efficiency and times of analysis for REIMS-MS and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) were compared for the detection of mislabelled fish species such as cod, coley, haddock, pollock and whiting. The REIMS-MS showed promising performances.<sup>[316]</sup> REIMS-HRMS is also able to quickly and reliably screen for meat adulteration (2.5% of protein-based adulterants)<sup>[317]</sup> as well as the fraudulent addition of offals to meats.<sup>[318]</sup> In the same manner, REIMS-HRMS measured the chemical fingerprints of meat, revealing the characteristic ionic features related to species, geographical origin, breed, types of strip loin sections and their tenderness.<sup>[313,319,320]</sup>

The same research group compared the power of REIMS-HRMS and DART-MS in determining distinct production systems for poultry. REIMS-HRMS showed >90% accuracy in differentiating organic and conventional poultry, while DART-HRMS showed a predictive ability of >99%.<sup>[321]</sup> Notably, Abigail et al.<sup>[322]</sup> implemented the MasSpec Pen technology, a handheld device connected to a high-resolution mass spectrometer that uses a water droplet for gentle desorption and ionization of the sample (Fig. 5e) for rapid authentication of muscle foods. Different meat and fish types, including grain-fed beef, grass-fed beef, venison, cod, halibut, Atlantic salmon, sockeye salmon, and steelhead trout, were successfully differentiated.

Liquid extraction surface analysis mass spectrometry (LESA-MS – Fig. 5f) is another innovative technology that combines micro-liquid sample extraction with nano-electrospray mass spectrometry.<sup>[323]</sup> In 2015, a LESA-MS method was developed for the authentication of processed meat products by detecting heat-stable peptide markers. Since skeletal muscle proteins are species-specific, Montowska et al.<sup>[324]</sup> exploited the potential use of these muscle protein markers for meat authentication. After suitable digestion, peptidic ions derived from myofibrillar and sarcoplasmic proteins were detected and correlated to meat species for the authentication of sausages and minced meat.

Hiraoka et al.<sup>[325]</sup> developed a point analysis technique for food by using sheath-flow probe electrospray ionization/mass spectrometry (sfPESI/MS). An acupuncture needle, inserted into a fine plastic capillary filled with solvent, was placed on the food surface (Fig. 5g). This enabled the solvent preloaded in the plastic capillary to rapidly extract the analytes on the sample surface. After sampling,

the probe was moved up to the highest position and a high voltage (HV) was applied. After lifting the probe to the default position, the analytes were transferred into the mass spectrometer via a self-aspirating electrospray source.

### **Other advanced techniques**

Food safety analysis involves well-established techniques such as gas chromatography (GC), MS, ultrahigh performance liquid chromatography (UHPLC), quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) as well as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).<sup>[326]</sup> In addition, some traditional methods are still used for determining muscle food freshness<sup>[327,328]</sup> including chemical measurements (meat pH, total volatile base nitrogen (TVB-N), and 2,3,5-triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC)), microbiological measurements and sensory evaluations. These last two approaches, however, can be very long (bacterial cultures), and dependent on the human factor (high expertise, judgment deviations due to fatigue and subjectivity). Finally, the fact that sensory analysis cannot be used for online measurement is also a significant caveat. There are, however, several studies reported in the literature that constitute promising and innovative applications to improve muscle foods analysis throughout the food chain, providing more efficient alternatives to conventional detection techniques. Among those technologies, there are sensors and immunoassays designed to measure specific analytes, like a gold nanoparticles (NP) sensor for histamine.<sup>[329]</sup> This biogenic amine can easily be produced in certain fishes, fermented foods and beverages under deficient manipulation, causing many intoxications.<sup>[330]</sup> Recent and promising advances in the design and development of NP-based sensors, with colorimetric and electrochemical detection, focusing on sensors for assessing food safety, mainly for the detection of chemical (pesticides, heavy metals) and biological contaminants (bacterial pathogens and natural toxins), were reviewed by Bülbül et al.<sup>[331]</sup>

Within the same subject, Chen et al.<sup>[332]</sup> fabricated and implemented a novel and low-cost colorimetric sensor array, with a specific calorific fingerprint to volatile compounds. This sensor uses chemically responsive dyes printed on a C2 reverse silica-gel flat plate, to evaluate chicken freshness. In addition, they proposed a novel algorithm, namely AdaBoost – OLDA (orthogonal linear discriminant analysis coupled with adaptive boosting) for sensors data classification and compared it with two classical classification algorithms – linear discriminant analysis (LDA) and back propagation artificial neural network (BP-ANN). Sionek et al.<sup>[333]</sup> explored the potential of biosensor technology to assess the quality of pork meat, significantly improving meat quality assessment while reducing simultaneously the cost of analysis in meat plants and slaughterhouses. They hypothesized that the biosensors used to measure triglycerides, lactic acid and glucose could be effectively applied to measure these metabolites in natural meat drip loss and that the results could be related to the technological quality of meat.

Choi et al.<sup>[334]</sup> reviewed paper-based nucleic acid testing (NAT) as alternative to laborious, expensive and time-consuming conventional assays, presenting substantially higher sensitivity and specificity than immunoassays. Non-destructive techniques such as the electronic tongue<sup>[335]</sup> electronic nose (E-Nose),<sup>[336]</sup> computer vision (CV),<sup>[337]</sup> spectroscopic techniques,<sup>[338]</sup> and artificial tactile (AT) sensory technologies<sup>[339]</sup> have been proposed for meat and freshness assessment. Nonetheless, since they are used only to detect freshness information parameters (e.g., odour, colour, and rubbery state) these technologies cannot be used to carry out a comprehensive assessment of muscle food freshness or spoilage. Furthermore, they are relatively expensive, time-consuming, labour-intensive, and in addition, require trained professionals to operate specialized instrumentation. This makes these technologies unsuitable for a point-of-need food safety inspection, especially in low- and middle-income countries, where insufficient equipment and facilities preclude modern methods of detection and therefore foodborne illnesses are more prevalent. In this context, the development of simple, cost-effective, and robust analytical devices for muscle-based food safety monitoring are mandatory to create effective prevention and control strategies. Among these, (e.g., three-dimensional paper-based microfluidic and lateral flow test strips devices), microfluidic chip-based devices (e.g., poly(methyl



methacrylate) (PMMA), polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)-based chips), which have significant impact due to their high performance, rapidly gained popularity for use in quality control and food safety.<sup>[334,340]</sup> Regarding this, Pang et al.<sup>[341]</sup> developed a self-priming polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)/paper hybrid microfluidic chip (SPH chip) with mixed-dye-loaded loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) for multiplex foodborne pathogens detection, using *Staphylococcus aureus* (SA) and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (VP) for method verification. In turn, Shih et al.<sup>[342]</sup> developed a simple paper-based ELISA (colorimetric) platform as an innovative point-of-care diagnostic tool to rapidly detect *E. coli*, and possibly other pathogens, in contaminated foods. This technique is easier to perform, less time-consuming, and less expensive than conventional methods.

Smartphone-based analytical techniques have also become popular for health-related and food safety monitoring.<sup>[343]</sup> A food allergen testing platform with a specially designed optical attachment to image and analyze immunoassays performed in microwells was built by Coskun et al.<sup>[344]</sup> The smartphone camera was used to acquire the transmission images of the assay. Liu et al.<sup>[345]</sup> implemented a rapid and cost-effective 3D printed smartphone-based platform (SBP) for a point-of-need food safety inspection, which employs aptamer-conjugated AuNPs as the colourimetric indicator, and a battery-powered optosensing accessory attached to the camera of a smartphone for transmission images capture.

These emerging technologies offer great potential to meet ASSURED criteria recommended by World Health Organization (WHO), which are affordable, sensitive, specific, user-friendly, rapid, robust, equipment-free and deliverable to end-users. Moreover, they can facilitate the active screening of food contaminants and toxicants, constituting powerful alternatives to conventional benchtop detection technologies<sup>[346]</sup> and thus significantly improving the current worldwide food safety control system.

## Perspectives and future directions

The food industry had experienced radical changes over the past century and more so over the last six years due to the arrival of Industry 4.0 technologies that have transformed almost every food industry sector, including the muscle food industry. While the first industrial revolution was defined by the mechanization of production, the second industrial revolution enabled mass production and the third one allowed automated production. Concerning the ongoing Industry 4.0, it has highlighted the need for multidisciplinary approaches and connectivity between various domains, particularly, physical, biological, and digital fields.

In this work, the recent applications of Industry 4.0 technologies in muscle food processing/preservation and analysis are enlightened, confirming the potential of emerging technologies (e.g., ohmic and radiofrequency heating, pulsed electric field, cold plasma, high-pressure processing, emerging freezing-based techniques, ultrasound, spectroscopic sensors, advanced mass spectrometry, etc.) as drivers toward more sustainable and healthier food production and consumption. Innovations in different domains of muscle food preservation and processing have led to better sensory and nutritional (especially digestibility) quality of treated products with a longer shelf life compared to those treated with traditional preservation techniques. In addition, energy use and production costs can be reduced and greater production capacity can be achieved with novel techniques, providing environmental and economic sustainability. Moreover, these emerging techniques can be used to extract bioactive compounds from food waste and by-products, thus bringing substantial added value for both the consumer and the producer.<sup>[37,137,175,347]</sup>

The incorporation of robotics in the muscle food sector (such as performing manual operations in meat processing plants) offers countless possibilities that could be enhanced by the current rapid development of smart sensors. Such sensors enable real-time remote monitoring of quality, safety, authenticity and other relevant parameters directly inline of production. The assessment of muscle

food quality and other related parameters have traditionally been determined using physico-chemical destructive and time-consuming techniques, while the advent of emerging analytical methods (e.g., hyperspectral imaging sensors, portable and smartphone-based techniques) has revolutionized the methods of analysing food products.

Despite the accelerated development in many muscle food processing/preservation and analysis areas, new requirements have been introduced by the disruptive technologies of Industry 4.0 and some challenges are still to be addressed. Overall, the muscle food industry is complex and challenging as it is influenced by multiple elements. For example, the heterogeneity of muscle food products in terms of shape and size makes it difficult to handle (during processing/preservation, analysis) and even much more difficult to automate using robots. Although the investigation of the potential of nonthermal treatments is among the most focused research areas, more research is still needed to understand the exact mechanism of action of these techniques, and their impact on treated food, and especially to demonstrate the safety of processed products. It should be highlighted that most emerging technologies have not yet crossed the barriers of the laboratory scale because of the high cost and lack of adaptability to an industrial environment. Another factor that hinders the wider acceptance of Industry 4.0 technologies is the technical and technological skill gap, which is one of the key barriers to the adoption of new technologies. Chapman et al.<sup>[6]</sup> pointed out the necessity of training courses to face disruptions due to Industry 4.0 technologies.

Overall, the adoption of new technologies can seem like a daunting task, and the uptake of these technologies is still slow in the food industry compared to other sectors, which might be due to the silo mentality that still exists among the researchers in the food industry.<sup>[348,349]</sup> Finally, various public and private policies in different countries are one of the main obstacles to the implementation of emerging technologies. Therefore, discussion and close collaboration between government agencies to establish common standards are indispensable to take full profit from the current Industry 4.0 technologies, ushering in the next wave of technological advances and innovations that will move the world towards Industry 5.0.

## Final remarks

This review provided a comprehensive overview of recent applications of Industry 4.0 technologies in the muscle food sector, with a special focus on processing/preservation methods and analytical techniques. Most of the topics discussed in this review paper were previously reviewed in more detail in other publications. However, to the best of our knowledge, this work is the first to raise awareness of the importance of simultaneously considering a wide range of emerging technologies that address the key principle of Industry 4.0, namely the convergence between various areas of science, especially physical, biological, and digital disciplines.

This review showed that emerging technologies, such as novel thermal and nonthermal processing, smart spectroscopic sensors, and other high throughput analysis (e.g., advanced spectrometry) have significant potential for applications to muscle food products despite the very different characteristics (such as shapes and sizes) of these food products. However, additional research and extensive collaboration between different players in the food supply chain as well as close policy coordination among countries are still needed to overcome various barriers that are currently hindering the wider implementation of emerging technology breakthroughs in the food industry. While the capture of the full potential of Industry 4.0 technologies and innovations is probably still a distant future in the muscle food industry, automation and digitalization are likely to only grow in prominence in the coming years.

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## CRediT authorship contribution statement

Abdo Hassoun: Conceptualization, methodology, writing – original draft preparation, revision, editing. Shahida Anusha Siddiqui, Slim Smaoui, İlknur Ucak, Rai Naveed Arshad, Zuhaib F. Bhat, Hina F. Bhat, María Carpena, Miguel A. Prieto, Abderrahmane Aït-Kaddour, Jorge A.M. Pereira, Carmela Zacometti, Alessandra Tata, Salam A. Ibrahim, Fatih Ozogul: writing – original draft preparation, revision. José S. Câmara: writing – original draft preparation, revision, supervision, Review & Editing. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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