1	Comparative assessment of innovative and conventional food
2	preservation technologies: process energy performance and
3	greenhouse gas emissions
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5	James C Atuonwu <sup>1</sup> , Craig Leadley <sup>2</sup> , Andrew Bosman <sup>2</sup> , Savvas A Tassou <sup>1</sup> , Estefania
6	Lopez-Quiroga <sup>3</sup> , Peter J Fryer <sup>3</sup>
7	
8	<sup>1</sup> Centre for Sustainable Energy use in Food Chains, Institute of Energy Futures,
9	Brunel University London, Uxbridge, UK
10	<sup>2</sup> Campden BRI, Chipping Campden, UK
11	<sup>3</sup> Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK
12	
13	Abstract
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15	This study aims to establish whether innovative food preservation technologies can
16	offer significant reductions in energy consumption and corresponding greenhouse gas
17	(GHG) emissions while delivering equivalent microbiological lethality, nutritional and
18	organoleptic quality to conventional processes. The energy demand of high pressure
19	processing, microwave, ohmic and conventional heating technologies, for achieving
20	the same pasteurising effect in orange juice under commercially-representative
21	processing conditions are measured and compared. The corresponding GHG
22	emissions are evaluated using UK energy system emissions data, while the effect of
23	equipment scale is explored empirically. The results show that for the same product
24	quality, the innovative technologies are more energy- and non-renewable primary
25	resource-efficient, with ohmic heating performing best, followed by high pressure

26 processing at high fill-ratios. More significant improvements are expected in future, 27 provided electricity grid decarbonisation is sustained. Energy performance improves 28 with equipment scale for the microwave and high-pressure systems, but remains 29 essentially constant for ohmic heating.

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Keywords: food preservation, energy demand, carbon emissions, high pressure
 processing, microwave volumetric heating, ohmic heating

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34 Industrial relevance: Using orange juice pasteurisation as case study, this work shows that for similar product quality, electrically-driven innovative food pasteurisation 35 36 technologies like high pressure processing, ohmic and microwave heating are more beneficial than conventional techniques energy- and emission-wise, if a sufficient 37 portion of the electricity is renewable. This is the case given the current 38 39 decarbonisation level of the UK electricity grid and is expected to be more significant as more electricity is sourced renewably in the future as currently projected. The result 40 41 should aid future industrial investment decisions.

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#### 43 **1. Introduction**

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The demand for additive-free, extended shelf-life food products, with fresh-like tastes, excellent nutritional quality and guaranteed microbial safety, has led to the development of innovative processing and preservation technologies. A range of these technologies is becoming commercially available to the food industry and there is significant interest in their potentials. Among them are non-thermal processes such as high pressure, pulsed electric field, pulsed light, ultrasonic processing, and volumetric heating schemes such as microwave, radiofrequency and ohmic heating. Currently at

52 relatively low levels of industrial implementation, the potentials of these technologies 53 in contributing significantly to sustainably meeting the food intake needs of the growing 54 population of the world has long been recognised (Langelaan et al., 2013; Probst et 55 al., 2015). The food and beverage market is extremely competitive. Therefore, improving quality alone is not sufficient to assure the success of a new technology. 56 57 The improvements must be achievable at a commercially viable process cost per 58 production unit. An understanding of the energy demand associated with the use of novel preservation techniques is therefore commercially important, and is the subject 59 60 of the current contribution.

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62 Although there are many studies and reviews on different aspects of quality and 63 microbial safety of various foods processed by these technologies (e.g. Atuonwu and Tassou, 2018a, Barba et al., 2017 a,b), the same cannot be said for energy and 64 sustainability studies. A recent review on microwave food processing (Atuonwu and 65 66 Tassou, 2018b) for instance, concludes that little is available in the literature on studies dedicated specifically to energy consumption analysis of microwave food processes. 67 An exception is in the area of microwave and microwave-assisted food drying 68 operations, which were extensively reviewed in that work. Similar conclusions could 69 be reached for most other innovative food preservation technologies, although some 70 71 energy studies at individual unit operation level, exist (e.g. Kurjak et al., 2012; 72 Cokgezme et al., 2017; Park et al., 2017; Atuonwu and Tassou, 2018c). Fewer comparative studies across technologies are available in the literature. Toepfl et al. 73 (2006) explored the potentials of pulsed electric field PEF and high pressure 74 processing HPP technologies for energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly food 75 processing. Lung et al. (2006) estimated the potential energy savings of PEF orange 76

77 juice pasteurisation and radiofrequency RF cookie drying, relative to conventional 78 technologies. They reported a 100% savings in natural gas and 18% savings in electricity for the PEF system, and a natural gas savings of 73.8-147.7 TJ per year, 79 80 but an increased electricity consumption for the RF system. Pereira and Vicente 81 (2010) highlighted the reduced environmental impact potentials of novel thermal and non-thermal technologies in food processing. Sampedro et al. (2014) compared the 82 83 costs and environmental impacts of PEF, HPP and thermal pasteurisation 84 technologies based on commercial processing conditions validated for a 2-month shelf life of orange juice under refrigeration conditions. The total electricity consumption of 85 86 the HPP and PEF systems per kg of juice was about 26 and 24 times respectively, 87 that consumed by the thermal system (extra energy from natural gas was also 88 consumed by the thermal system). Overall, there was a 7-8-fold increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by the HPP and PEF systems compared to the thermal process. A 89 90 simulation-based sensitivity analysis of total production costs with respect to 91 equipment scale, showed that cost per unit reduced with scale. Details of the simulation method were not provided. Rodriguez-Gonzalez et al. (2015) compared the 92 energy requirements of HPP, PEF, membrane filtration MF, ultraviolet UV radiation 93 94 and conventional HTST thermal pasteurisation using published information for the 95 inactivation of *Escherichia coli* in apple juice. They concluded that MF and UV have 96 the potential to consume less energy per unit mass, than HTST, PEF and HPP. Milani 97 et al. (2016) compared HPP and thermosonication, with conventional thermal 98 pasteurisation in terms of energy requirements and inactivation of Saccharomyces 99 cerevisiae ascospores. HPP was found to consume the least specific energy, followed 100 by thermosonication for the same level of inactivation under the experimental 101 conditions. For the same processing time, HPP also showed the highest level of

102 inactivation, followed by thermosonication. Aganovic et al. (2017) conducted 103 comparative energy and life cycle assessments of thermal, HPP and PEF pasteurisation technologies for the preservation of tomato and watermelon juices, at 104 105 gate-to-gate (processing) and farm-to-gate (preparation, processing and waste 106 treatment) levels. Conventional thermal processing with a plate heat exchanger was 107 found to consume the least specific energy, followed by the PEF and HPP 108 technologies, respectively. There was no significant difference in the specific energy 109 consumption of each technology, for both products.

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111 As most of the studies concerning innovative technologies in food processing have 112 been performed at lab-scale, the results obtained are difficult to scale-up and cannot 113 be generalized. Where scale-up studies have been done, few details have been provided. The broad variety of equipment used, and the large range of different 114 115 processes, products, and recipes complicate comparison of energy use. Energy 116 consumption data of single production sites are rarely available due to nondisclosure, 117 and the same is true for single unit operations. In most studies, many of the results are based on energy calculations, inferred from product temperature measurements. 118 119 For instance, in Rodriguez-Gonzalez (2015), Milani et al. (2016) and Aganovic et al. 120 (2017), the energy consumption of conventional thermal processes was calculated 121 based on product temperature measurements, rather than direct energy 122 measurements. Moreover, only a few studies have compared innovative and conventional food preservation technologies on the basis of primary energy resource 123 124 efficiency and GHG emissions of the pasteurisation step.

The purpose of the current work is to measure and compare the energy performancesof HPP, microwave volumetric heating (MVH), ohmic heating (OH) and conventional

thermal treatment (UHT), whilst delivering equivalent microbiological lethality in orange juice, under commercially-representative processing conditions. The GHG emissions corresponding to the energy consumed across the technologies are evaluated using the UK electricity grid and other energy system emissions data, collected over many years while the effect of equipment scale is explored empirically.

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#### 2. Materials and Methods

135 A series of trials were conducted using continuous flow microwave processing, conventional heat treatment, high pressure processing and ohmic heating. For the first 136 137 three processes, trials were conducted using orange juice produced at Campden BRI. Fresh oranges of good and uniform quality (total mass, 300 kg) were purchased from 138 139 a local supplier (Drinkwater, Chipping Campden), delivered in 15 kg boxes the day 140 before processing, transferred into open crates and chill-stored at 5 °C. The oranges 141 were washed with water and juice, extracted using an FMC citrus reamer (designed 142 to mimic industrial extraction practices). The juice was collected in 10 L stainless steel 143 buckets, immediately wrapped in cling-film and covered in black bags. For the ohmic heating process, fresh oranges were purchased from another supplier, the juices 144 145 extracted using a compact juicer (Philips HR1832/01) and processed immediately at Brunel University London. In all cases, electrical energy consumption was measured 146 147 using energy meters (details in Section 2.5). Thermal energy delivery to the food was determined from temperature measurements, mass measurements for batch 148 149 processes, flowrate measurements for continuous processes and thermophysical data (e.g. density and specific heat capacity) from the literature. 150

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#### 153 **2.1. Continuous microwave heating**

Continuous microwave processing was conducted using a Dynowave – AMT 4 system 154 (Advanced Microwave Technologies, Scotland), with a four-magnetron power source. 155 156 As shown in the basic schematic of the microwave pasteurisation system (Fig. 1a), the orange juice flows through the microwave chamber, then through a holding tube, 157 158 before being cooled via heat exchange with cold water. The 12-kW capacity unit uses 159 microwave energy to quickly heat up a range of pumpable, non-flammable food 160 products and biotechnical components. Cold juice (20 litres) at approximately 14°C, 161 was added to the equipment feed tank, whilst external heat, using a water bath, was 162 provided to the heat exchanger jacket (tubular heat exchanger), to keep the energy 163 supplied stable and thus, minimise the temperature drop within the holding tube.

164

A progressive cavity pump (Seepex, UK) was used at  $115 \pm 5$  L/h, for a target process 165 of 75 °C for 26 s. The holding tube dimensions were calculated to be 22 mm diameter 166 167 and 2.4 m length which yielded a process equivalent to 70 °C for 2 mins (based on the average flow rate with  $z = 7.5 \text{ C}^{\circ}$ ). The come up time (CUT) was between 22 and 25 168 s. The inlet and outlet temperatures of the holding tube were continuously monitored 169 170 using calibrated sensors. If the target temperature was not achieved, the product was 171 manually diverted to the drain. Once the set initial temperature was reached, the liquid 172 food was directed to the heat exchanger. The process was repeated three times.

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- 174

#### Fig. 1

175 **2.2. Ohmic heating** 

Here, 250 ml orange juice was fed into a 10-kW batch ohmic heater (CTech Innovation,
Capenhurst, Chester, UK) operating at atmospheric pressure. The heater comprises:

A polypropylene product container into which the juice was filled (with an electrode
 at each end), located in a bunded tray with an interlocked cover.

A free-standing control panel (housing the power supply unit with a proportional integral-derivative PID controller for voltage control), attached to the heater.

The polypropylene product container internally measures 90mm wide x 95mm high, 182 183 with a variable length between 80mm and 300mm, adjustable between the two end 184 electrode housings via 80mm- and 220mm-long spacer sections, fitted with tie rods. 185 The maximum operating voltage between the electrodes is the mains supply voltage (~240V). This electrode voltage is controllable via the PID controller between 0 and 186 187 maximum voltage to achieve desired product temperatures. In this work, only the 188 80mm option, corresponding to a maximum voltage gradient of ~30V/cm, is used. The orange juice was heated from ambient to 76°C, with a holding time of 26s, similar to 189 190 the microwave system. The come-up time was in the range 50-70s. Electrical energy 191 consumption data was collected at two levels: from the mains (which determines the total energy costs), and between the electrodes, via the control panel, by measuring 192 193 the electrode terminal voltages with a voltmeter, and the current through it, using a 194 clamp-on ammeter. This approach enables the actual electrode control voltage signal 195 and hence, voltage gradient dynamics to be determined. Fig. 1 b shows a schematic 196 of the ohmic heating system with the electrical energy instrumentation connections.

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# 198 **2.3. HPP**

Energy use was monitored on a 700 ml laboratory-scale HPP system (EPSI, Belgium).
The pressure medium consisted of water with 3% (v/v) of MKU, an oil based corrosion
inhibitor. The pressure was recorded using an MMS3000 data logger (RiL Instruments,
Nottingham), logging at 1 second intervals. Fig. 1 c shows the operating principle of

203 the HPP system. The pressure medium is pumped via a pressure generator 204 (intensifier) to the already-filled pressure vessel containing the packaged juice, leading 205 to pressure build-up to a maximum of 600 MPa, which is maintained for a hold time of 206 3 mins, after which, rapid depressurisation occurs. The juice temperature during the 207 hold step is,  $30 \pm 2$  °C and reduces to  $12 \pm 1$  °C after depressurisation.

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### **209 2.4. UHT/HTST System**

Conventional thermal processing trials were conducted using an FT74XTS miniature-210 211 scale UHT/HTST processing system (Armfield, UK). Fig. 1 d illustrates the principle of the UHT system. Process water (PW) is heated by an electrical process heater (EH). 212 213 The resulting hot water exchanges heat with flowing cold orange juice. When the target 214 temperature is reached, the orange juice flows through the holding tube for the desired 215 residence time before subsequent cooling. The target process is set at 76.8°C for 15 216 seconds (equivalent of 70.0°C for 2 min based on an average flowrate of about 12 L/h 217 and  $z = 7.5 \text{ C}^{\circ}$ ). The process was repeated 3 times.

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## 219 **2.5. Energy measurements**

220 Electrical energy data for the HPP, MVH and UHT/HTST systems was recorded at 5 221 second intervals, using a Fluke 1730 energy logger. As each system was three-phase 222 power supply-driven, the logger monitored each phase voltage, while independently 223 monitoring the respective line currents using the induction current measuring principle 224 (clamping the jaws of the meter over each live phase conductor). For the OH process, 225 driven by a single-phase supply, phase voltage, current, power factor, power and cumulative energy were each logged at 10 second intervals, via a Fluke 345 energy 226 227 logger. The per-phase voltage and current coil connections for all electrical energy

- measurements are illustrated in Fig. 1 a- d. In each case as shown in the figures, the
- 229 current coil of the meter is in series with the phase-to-neutral circuit. This is achieved

230 by clamping the jaws of the meter around the live phase conductor L from the mains.

- 231 The voltage coil is connected in parallel (i.e. one terminal to the live phase conductor
- L and the other to the neutral N). Note that for the three-phase power supply-driven
- 233 system, there are three live phase conductors (usually designated L1, L2 and L3) from
- the mains, hence, three independent voltage and current coils are present in the meter
- <sup>235</sup> Fluke 1730. In all cases, the data is saved to internal memory, and the relevant Fluke
- application software used to extract the individual components.
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# 238 **2.6.** Comparative analysis methodology

- 239 **2.6.1. Energy density and efficiency comparison by electrical measurements**
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- To enable all processes under investigation to be logged using the same measuring

242 principle, the conventional technology is represented here by an electrically-powered

- 243 hot water-to-orange juice heat exchanger (UHT system). Energy comparisons are
- initially made on the basis of energy density (electrical mains energy consumed per
- litre of juice), and energy efficiency. Instantaneous energy density  $SPE_i$  for continuous
- processes is calculated as the ratio of the instantaneous power consumption P(t) to

(1)

247 the volumetric flowrate  $\dot{V}(t)$ 

248  $SPE_i = P(t)/\dot{V}(t)$ 

For processes with steady-states, the final value ( $SPE_f$ ) of  $SPE_i$  is the required value. For batch processes, the cumulative energy density  $SPE_f$  is the aggregated (or final) mains energy consumed after processing time  $t_f$ , divided by the batch volume *vol*.

253 
$$SPE_f = \frac{1}{v_0}$$

$$E_f = \frac{1}{vol} \int_0^{t_f} P(t) dt$$

The energy efficiency in each case is determined as the ratio of output heat energy  

$$Q_{Heat}$$
 to the input mains electrical energy  $Q_{Elect}$ . For the continuous and batch  
processes respectively, the instantaneous value of efficiency are calculated as  
 $T_{Elect}(continuous) \equiv Q_{Heat}(t)/Q_{Elect}(t) = \dot{m}C(T_{out}(t) - T_{in}(t))/P(t)$  (3)  
 $T_{Elect}(batch) \equiv Q_{Heat}(t)/Q_{Elect}(t) = mC(T(t) - T_{in})/\int_{0}^{t}P(t)dt$  (4)  
where *m* is the hold up mass, *m*, mass flowrate, *C*, specific heat capacity,  $T_{m}$ , inlet or  
initial temperature,  $T_{out}$ , outlet temperature and *T*, temperature within the batch vessel.  
Equations (3 & 4) apply only to the electro-heating technologies (MVH, OH and UHT).  
As HPP is non-thermal, evaluating the energy efficiency comparison across the  
technologies, an equivalent HPP pasteurisation energy efficiency is proposed as  
 $T_{met}(HPP) \equiv Q_{Heat}(T0 = 25)/Q_{Elect}(HPP) = mC(T(t) - 25)/\int_{0}^{t}P(t)dt$  (5)  
where,  $\eta_{eq}(HPP)$  is the efficiency of the HPP system, referred to a thermal system, while  
 $Q_{Heat}(T0 = 25)/Q_{Elect}(HPP) = mC(T(t) - 25)/\int_{0}^{t}P(t)dt$  (5)  
where,  $\eta_{eq}(HPP)$  is the efficiency of the HPP system, referred to a thermal system, while  
 $Q_{Heat}(T0 = 25)/Q_{Elect}(HPP) = mC(T(t) - 25)/\int_{0}^{t}P(t)dt$  (5)  
where,  $\eta_{eq}(HPP)$  is the efficiency of the HPP system, referred to a thermal system, while  
 $Q_{Heat}(T0 = 25)/Q_{Elect}(HPP) = q_{Heat}(T0 = 25)/Q_{Elect}(HPP)$ , the electrical energy consumed by the HPP equipment in achieving the same level of

pasteurisation. *P* and *m* in (5) are based on HPP process data only.

278	2.6.2. GHG emissions: innovative vs conventional gas-fired technologies
279	Although the conventional technology (UHT) is represented by an electrically-powered
280	hot wat <mark>er-to-orange juice heat exchanger</mark> , gas-fired hot water or steam heaters are
281	most common in industry (Masanet et al., 2008). Hence, the most effective way of
282	comparing the industrially-relevant gas-fired system with the electrically-driven
283	innovative technologies is to refer all energy consumption to the non-renewable
284	primary energy use. The GHG emissions corresponds to the amount of non-renewable
285	primary energy resource depletion due to processing. For comparison, this can be
286	used as an approximate measure to gauge the non-renewable primary energy
287	efficiency of the gas-fired and electrically-driven innovative process technologies.
288	First, the efficiency of the studied electrically-powered UHT is defined as
289	
290	$\eta_{UHT} = \eta_{Elect,J} = \eta_{Elect,HW} \eta_{HW,J} $ (6)
291	
292	where, $\eta_{\textit{Elect},J}$ is the efficiency of energy conversion from electricity to heat into the
293	juice, $\eta_{Elect,HW}$ , the efficiency of energy conversion from electricity to hot water and
294	$\eta_{HW,J}$ , the efficiency of energy conversion from hot water to heat into the juice.
295	Assuming the system is gas-fired, the efficiency $\eta_{G,J}$ (gas-to-juice) would be
296	
297	$\eta_{GJ} = \eta_{G,HW} \eta_{HW,J} = \eta_{G,HW} \left( \eta_{UHT} / \eta_{Elect,HW} \right) $ <sup>(7)</sup>

where  $\eta_{G, HW}$  is the efficiency of energy conversion from gas to hot water. By estimating  $\eta_{G,HW}$  and  $\eta_{Elect,HW}$ ,  $\eta_{G,J}$  can be roughly determined.  $\eta_{G,HW}$ , which corresponds to the boiler efficiency is in the range  $0.5 \le \eta_{G,HW} \le 0.8$  (Carbon Trust, 2012a, b), while  $\eta_{Elect,HW}$ , the indirect resistance heating efficiency of the electrical heating element is estimated





- 351 **2.7.1. MVH System**
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For the MVH system, trials were conducted on the same equipment (of cylindrical cavity diameter 34mm, and length 550mm) using water at different flowrates (90-240L/h), below and above that used in the original orange juice experiment (115L/h). The energy input was scaled by different magnetron switching scenarios. Each of the four magnetrons of the microwave heating system is switchable independently to deliver 3kW of power at full-load. Hence, system performance for 3, 6, 9 and 12kW microwave power delivery was evaluated, under the different product flow conditions.

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- 361 **2.7.2. OH System**
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For the batch OH system, the maximum voltage gradient was maintained at ~30V/cm as the source voltage cannot exceed the mains value (~240V) and the electrode separation was held constant at the minimum possible value (~8cm). Scaling was achieved by changing the volume of orange juice from 250ml, through 375ml to 500ml. For the batch ohmic heater with a rectangular section, at constant electrode separation L, and constant plate length, *W*, this was achieved by varying the product level, *x*.

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- **2.7.3. HPP System**
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For the HPP system, the power consumption-pressure characteristics of two systems at 35L and 55L capacity from previously published studies (Rodriguez-Gonzalez et al., 2015; Aganovic et al., 2017) are compared with that of the current study (a 700ml system). The 55L system (Wave 6000/55 Hiperbaric, Burgos, Spain) operates at a

maximum pressure of 600 MPa, compression time of 3.5 min and holding time of 5
min. The 35L system (AVURE Technologies, Kent, WA, U.S.A.) has a maximum
pressure of 600 MPa, a compression time of 2 min and a holding time of 2 min.

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#### 380 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- **381 3.1. Energy consumption analysis**
- **382 3.1.1. MVH System**
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384 The MVH results are shown in Fig. 2. The power consumption characteristics is discontinuous as several subsections of the equipment (magnetron cooling, cabinet 385 386 cooling, stirrer operation and microwave power delivery) are controlled using on/off 387 control loops. Ordinarily, the MVH power consumption data would have been 388 considered once the product temperature had reached steady state (Fig. 2). However, 389 since the on-and-off switching times of the magnetron cooling system is somewhat 390 random, due to the variable initial state (temperature) of the magnetron within each 391 experimental period, the overall mains power consumption has no steady-state. 392 Further tests were performed to isolate the random magnetron cooling from the overall 393 energy consumption, and show that the magnetron cooling energy is ~1.8kW. Hence, 394 the steady-state MVH power consumption is evaluated as the sum of the minimum 395 value (with no magnetron cooling) and the time-averaged magnetron cooling energy.

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Analysing the power consumption characteristics (Fig. 2 b), the maxima occurring in the time region  $0 \le t < 8$ , where *t* is in minutes, is most likely due to a combination of two factors: the low product inlet temperature and high product outlet temperature overshoot (maximum outlet temperature ~85-95°C as against the required 76°C) in

401 that region (Fig. 2 a). This maxima disappears in the region  $8 \le t \le 20$  when the product 402 outlet temperature stabilises at the set-point. The minima in the region  $11 \le t < 13$  is most likely due to the random magnetron cooling energy switch-off. When the energy-403 404 density and efficiency (Fig. 2 c & d) are evaluated based on the time-averaged steady-405 state values, the final energy density is 380kJ for 1 litre of orange juice, while the 406 energy efficiency is 45%. When the magnetron cooling energy is recovered, the 407 energy density reduces to 325 kJ/L, while the efficiency becomes 54%. It should be noted that the specific energy consumption (and hence, energy density) depends 408 409 significantly on the product inlet temperature, which could be subject to environmental 410 variations (Fig. 2 a). A high product inlet temperature means less energy would be 411 spent to achieve the desired outlet temperature. For energy efficiency, these effects 412 tend to cancel out, making it a better index for comparing the performances of different 413 thermal technologies irrespective of inlet temperature variations.

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#### 415 **3.1.2. OH System**

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417 Fig. 3 shows the various energy performance indicators of the OH system. As a batch 418 system, the comparison with continuous systems is based on the total energy use per 419 cycle of orange juice production. A cycle consists first of a transient stage, where the 420 juice is heated from its initial temperature to the required set-point of 76°C. Thereafter, 421 there is a steady-state stage, where the orange juice is maintained at this set-point for 26 seconds (the residence time in the holding tube of the microwave system). From 422 the experimental results the transient period is about 70s (Fig. 3 a), while the steady-423 424 state period is shown (for clarity), extended to make a total time of 5 minutes. The energy consumed in pasteurising a litre of orange juice is 208 kJ, while the cumulative 425

426 energy efficiency is 80%. At the beginning of the process, the energy efficiency is 427 observed to be 97%, rising to 99% towards the end of the transient stage (at 50s), the onset of voltage control switching. The energy efficiency drops to 80% in the short 428 429 period of voltage control (50s to 70s), at the end of which, power supply to the electrodes is switched off and the temperature maintained for 26s (during which time, 430 431 no heat losses are observed). An important implication of the voltage switching as 432 observed in Fig. 3 b is that while the mains voltage V1 remains constant throughout 433 the process (as it should be, being independent of loading conditions 11 and 12), the control voltage V2 delivered to the electrode drops sharply. Since the currents, I1=I2 434 essentially, the power (V2 x I2 x  $\cos 2$ ), utilised for juice heating falls more sharply 435 436 than the power (V1 x I1 x cos 1) drawn from the mains. Therefore, the PID controller-437 based voltage switching control wastes energy in much the same way as a throttling valve does for fluid flow through pipes. This situation can be remedied in continuous-438 439 flow ohmic heaters where product outlet temperature can be fixed for a constant 440 voltage gradient, by setting the juice flowrate and electrode length W, to achieve the 441 desired product outlet temperature in the resulting residence time. Unsteady 442 environmental conditions can then be compensated for by flow control. This way, 443 overall energy efficiencies above 95% are anticipated for the process. Note that the 444 entire ohmic system including the power supply system elements has a lagging power 445 factor cos 1 (Appendix A, Fig. A1), while within the ohmic cell bounded by electrodes, the power factor  $\cos 2 \approx 1$  (as the food is essentially a pure resistor). 446 447 448 Fig. 3.

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#### 451 **3.1.3. HPP System**

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Fig. 4 (a) shows the pressure-time and power-time characteristics of the HPP system. 453 454 By dynamically integrating the power curve, with respect to time, and dividing by the 455 hold-up volume of orange juice, the cumulative energy consumption per litre (energy 456 density) was obtained as shown in Fig. 4 (b). It is observed that to achieve the required 457 pasteurisation, 645 kJ of energy is required per L of orange juice. The seal of the HPP 458 equipment was less effective than desired. Short peaks of power were required to 459 maintain the holding pressure in the equipment due to small leaks around the seal as 460 can be observed in Fig. 4a. This leads to energy efficiency reductions. 461 462 Fig. 4. 463 464 Fig. 5. 465 466 3.1.4. UHT/HTST System 467 468 469 The UHT system of section 2.4, whose energy performance indicators are shown in 470 Fig. 5, has an energy density of 470 kJ/L, with an energy efficiency of 46%. As in all 471 continuous processes, whose input and output energies reach steady-states, the steady-state values are considered. The abnormally high energy efficiency (about 472 473 200%) recorded in the transient period (Fig. 5d), occurs due the build-up of heat in the indirect resistance heating element used in transferring electrically-generated heat to 474 475 the hot water. This coincides with the first temperature maxima in Fig. 5a. Hence,

476 although the control system reduces the electrical power input considerably after the

477 first maxima in Fig. 5b, the outlet temperature remains high, ensuring the output 478 thermal energy exceeds the input electrical energy for a short period. It is important to 479 note the very long transient period (~ 2 hours), which occurs due to the low heat 480 transfer rates.

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# 3.2. Energy consumption comparison

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As shown in Table 1, the batch OH process has the highest energy efficiency (80%) 484 485 of all the thermal processes, in spite of the energy lost by control voltage reductions. It also has the least specific energy consumption. A continuous OH process, without 486 487 voltage switching temperature control would be expected to have the efficiency ( $\eta$  > 488 95%) before the onset of voltage switching is expected. The MVH and UHT/HTST processes have comparable energy efficiencies (45 & 46%, respectively), when the 489 490 magnetron cooling is powered electrically from the cabinet. If this cooling energy is 491 discounted, the MVH system energy efficiency could rise to as high as 54%. The 492 specific energy consumption of the MVH system is considerably less than that of the 493 UHT/HTST system, counter-intuitively, due to the much higher temperature of the 494 orange juice fed into the MVH system (compare the inlet temperature values of Figs 495 2a & 5a). Hence, the MVH system requires much less energy to get one litre of orange 496 juice to a similar temperature set-point, even though the energy efficiencies are 497 approximately equal. The HPP system has the worst energy performance. One reason for this is the low vessel filling ratio (36%) used. Previous studies (Atuonwu and 498 Tassou, 2018c; Rodriguez-Gonzalez et al., 2015) show that specific energy 499 500 consumption reduces significantly with vessel filling ratio. Using correlations from the 501 power-vessel filling ratio graphical relations of Rodriguez-Gonzalez et al. (2015) for

extrapolation, the efficiency of the HPP system is found to improve from its initial value
of 31% (at 36% filling ratio) to 51% at 60% filling ratio, and 78% at 85% filling ratio.
There also exists opportunities to improve HPP energy performance by recovering the
decompression via synchronised twin, semi-continuous systems (Toepfl et al., 2006).

507 Due to the low heat transfer rates between the hot water and juice in the UHT/HTST 508 system, its start-up performance is very poor, as seen in the long transient time. Over 509 this time (2 hours) of off-spec production, a total of 12.72MJ of energy is consumed. 510 Hence, for processes with frequent shut-downs and start-ups, this would be a major problem. The HPP, MVH and OH processes do not have this problem as electric 511 512 switching has an almost instantaneous effect on thermal energy generation. When the 513 electrically-powered HTST system (UHT) is converted to an equivalent conventional 514 gas-fired system using equations (2) and (3), the energy efficiency is 29% for a 50% 515 boiler efficiency (UHT1), and 46% for an 80% boiler efficiency (UHT2). As the energy 516 efficiencies of UHT1 and UHT2 are with respect to gas, versus electricity for the other 517 technologies, a simple energy efficiency comparison will not suffice. Hence, in the next 518 section, GHG emissions are used to refer the energy performances of all the 519 technologies to the same basis: non-renewable primary energy resource use.

520

# 521 **3.3.** Comparison of non-renewable primary energy use via GHG emissions 522

Fig. 6 shows the GHG emissions (per kWh of thermal energy or equivalent) of all the studied electrically-driven innovative and gas-fired technologies, based on their various energy performances, over a 25-year period (2010-2035). With the rapid decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid over time, the innovative technologies

527 become much more non-renewable primary energy resource-efficient and hence, 528 more environmentally-friendly. The hypothetical continuous OH process at 95% 529 efficiency is seen to have the best GHG performance, followed by the batch OH 530 process, which is then closely-followed by the HPP system at 95% filling ratio, and then, the MVH1 system (MVH with recovered cooling energy). These are all currently 531 532 (2018 data), more non-renewable resource-efficient than the best gas-fired system. The 60%-filling ratio HPP system, closely follows suit and is currently just as GHG-533 534 efficient as the best gas-fired system. Using current projections, the improvements 535 attained by the innovative technologies are expected to be more significant with time. 536 By 2027, even the 36%-filling ratio HPP will become more energy resource-efficient 537 than the most-efficient gas-fired system, provided gas boilers do not become 538 significantly more efficient that 80%. It is important to note that the significant transient 539 energy losses (about 12.72 MJ) of the gas-fired system is ignored in this analysis. If 540 considered, the improvement due the innovative technologies becomes even more 541 significant. Similar conclusions as the foregoing can be reached by examining Table 2 where GHG emissions (in kgCO2e/L of juice product), calculated for the years 2016-542 2020 are presented. Clearly, the investigated innovative technologies are very 543 544 promising investments in terms of primary energy resource efficiency. Actual 545 investment decisions would however also consider capital costs, the applicability of 546 the specific technology to the product being processed, in-pack processing vs aseptic filling-only possibilities, water consumption, packaging issues, amongst other factors. 547 The HPP process studied in this work (at 36% fill ratio) is a post-packaging process. 548 Hence, there is virtually no fouling of the processing vessel and consequent waste 549 550 water from cleaning. Moreover, pressurised water can be reused, thus, increasing overall sustainability. The packaging however, must be capable of maintaining its 551

552	shape and form after the pressurisation and depressurisation processes. The
553	continuous-flow MVH, UHT and batch OH processes are pre-packaging processes
554	and so lead to fouling of hot surfaces over time, and subsequent cleaning operations
555	which generate wastewater. Moreover, they require aseptic filling with the attendant
556	energy and environmental costs. The same applies to the very high fill ratio (95%)
557	HPP, which is virtually unattainable in a post-packaging process. For the high-power
558	(12 kW) MVH system, the magnetrons require water cooling, which could constitute
559	waste water, or be continuously reused so its energy is recovered to preheat the juice.
560	All these aspects as well as factors such as shelf life, will figure in an overall
561	environmental analysis. The current study however focuses only on the energy
562	required for the actual pasteurisation process step and the associated GHG
563	emissions.
564	Table 1
565	Table 2
566	Fig. 6.
567	

- 5683.4.Results of equipment scale studies
- 569

Figs 7 – 9 show the magnitudes of the various energy performance indicators of the MVH, OH and HPP processes, respectively, at different operating scales. For the MVH system, it is observed (Fig. 7a) that irrespective of the flowrate, the electrical power consumption is essentially a linear function of the number of magnetrons, switched on. The heat delivery rate is a linear function of the number of switched-on magnetrons at variable and constant product outlet temperature (Fig. 7b, d). The interplay of the slopes and the vertical axes intercepts of the two functions makes the efficiency (obtained by dividing the functions), a slowly increasing function of scale, represented
by the number of magnetrons (Fig. 7c). However, the overall economics of scale would
also consider factors other than energy. The experiments on which Fig. 7 were
obtained used the same equipment, with a single cavity size. A study (Wang et al.,
2015) with different effective cavity sizes (medium volumes), suggests that efficiency
increases marginally with cavity size, within limits.

583

For the batch OH system, the time-averaged electrical power consumption increases 584 585 with operating volume (Fig. 8a). The area under the power consumption-time graph is 586 observed over a large set of experiments (results not shown), to be approximately a 587 linear function of batch volume, provided the juice initial temperature is constant. The 588 heating power delivered to the juice however depends on the voltage switching regime of the PID controller, which shows no consistent trend with volume over the 589 590 experiments conducted (Fig. 8b only shows one result from the set of experiments). A 591 consistent observation nonetheless, is the fact that prior to voltage switching, the ratio 592 of the heat delivered to the electrical energy consumed from the mains is somewhat constant (~98%, see Fig. 8 b & c). The earlier in time the PID controller switching 593 594 occurs, the more energy is wasted leading to efficiency reductions (Fig. 8c) as the 595 corresponding area under the control voltage-time graph, which in a sense represents 596 the actual energy delivered to the fluid, drops (Fig. 8b). Over the large experimental 597 set (results not shown), this trend is found to be independent of batch volume. Hence, 598 the efficiency reduction in Fig. 8c is not due to batch volume, but to the voltage 599 switching regimes. For a continuous OH process where the temperature can be 600 controlled without voltage switching, the associated efficiency losses are not expected. 601 Hence, the efficiency is expected to remain essentially constant (~98%), irrespective

602 of scale. The energy density (or specific energy consumption in kJ/L) for the presented 603 case (Fig. 8d) is essentially constant, with volume as the areas under the power consumption-time graphs (Fig. 8a) are essentially, linear functions of volume. This 604 605 behaviour is however only true if the juice initial temperature is the same across all the experimental volumes. For the HPP system (Fig. 9), the energy consumed per litre of 606 607 product (assuming a 95% fill ratio) is calculated as 0.242 MJ for the 0.7L case, 0.084 608 MJ for the 35L case, and 0.095 MJ for the 55L case (without leakage) and 0.45 MJ 609 for the 55L case (with leakages considered). It therefore appears that larger-scale 610 systems have significantly better energy performances than small, lab-scale systems. Many other factors contribute to the energy performance of an actual machine. These 611 612 include the equipment make (different for each studied case) – this significantly affects 613 start-up and shut-down-related energy indices, and machine conditions (e.g. pressurising medium leakages), which greatly diminishes the performance of the 55L 614 615 system. 616 Fig. 7. 617 Fig. 8. 618 619 Fig. 9. 620 621 622 3.5. Critical analysis of results with respect to previously published works 623 624 Previously published energy and sustainability studies on innovative mild food 625 preservation techniques (as investigated here), present conflicting results. Milani et al. 626

627 (2016) report a HPP energy density of 77 kJ/L, lower than the values (645, 392 and 256 kJ/L) reported here. However, unlike the current study, the results of Milani et al. 628 629 (2016) were based purely on calculations of compressive work (based on pressure 630 measurements) and initial sensible heating (based on temperature measurements). This underestimates the energy consumption as it does not consider many other 631 factors which also contribute to the energy consumption of typical HPP processes. 632 633 These include product loading in vessel, overall system movement from loading to 634 working positions and initial vessel filling with water (Atuonwu and Tassou, 2018c). 635 Others are, closing the HPP plug, moving a wedge to secure the plug, maintaining the target pressure for the required time, where there are leakages and product unloading. 636 637 Furthermore, in Milani et al. (2016), the maximum operating pressure was 300 MPa in 638 27 s, as against the 600 MPa in 3 mins used here, and Atuonwu and Tassou (2018c) 639 show that energy consumption increases more than proportionately with operating pressure. Using similar methods to Milani et al., Sulaiman (2015) realised an energy 640 641 density of 240 kJ/kg for strawberry puree processing at 600 MPa, 48 °C for 5 mins, while Rodriguez-Gonzalez et al. (2015) recorded 338.1 kJ/kg, for processing apple 642 643 juice at 350 MPa, 40 °C and 482.8 kJ/kg at 500 MPa, 42 °C, both for 5 mins. Processing details such as equipment volume and fill ratio were not stated, neither 644 645 was there any information on contributions of leakages, loading and other energy-646 contributing factors. Aganovic et al. (2017), perhaps the only previous study in the 647 literature based on energy measurements, reports a much higher value (720 kJ/kg for 648 HPP at 600 MPa, 5 mins), for a 55 L system. This is most likely due to the low fill ratio 649 used (36%) and the significant energy losses during the hold period (see Fig. 9 c & f), which could be attributed to leakages. Overall, the results presented in the current 650

- 651 study are within the range of all the reported previous literature values, while providing
- 652 more energy measurement, equipment parameter and scale details.
- 653

654	For conventional thermal treatment, Rodriguez-Gonzalez et al. (2015), using
655	calculations based on temperature measurement data from other studies, reported
656	specific energies in the range 166.9 - 228.5 kJ/kg, while Aganovic et al. (2017)
657	reported a value of 144 kJ/L. These again are underestimated values as in both cases,
658	the energy consumed was calculated as mC $\Delta$ T (see numerator of equations 3 & 4).
659	This is the energy delivered to the product which is usually much lower than the actual
660	energy consumed. Although Aganovic et al. (2017) adds a cooling energy arbitrarily
661	chosen as 33% of mC $\Delta$ T (which would increase the total energy value), they assume
662	70% heat recovery (which further reduces the total energy). It is therefore not
663	surprising that such low values of specific energy are calculated. The results of our
664	study (470 kJ/L) are however based on actual energy measurements for an electricity-
665	driven HTST system. When it is driven by a gas-fired boiler at 50% efficiency, the
666	energy density is 746 kJ/L (kJ of gas energy per litre of juice). From the foregoing
667	analysis, the method used in our study is a better representation of reality.
668	
669	The MVH energy efficiency results presented in this work (45 – 54%) are well within
670	the range of values reported for microwave heating of different liquids at different batch
671	volumes (Wang et al., 2015). Other studies (e.g. Atuonwu and Tassou, 2018a) suggest
672	that possibilities exist, using improved power supplies, to achieve higher efficiencies
673	by microwave power amplitude, frequency and phase optimisation. For OH systems,
674	efficiencies (also termed "system performance coefficients") in the rage 57–86% were

675 reported for different voltage gradients in the range 20-60 V/cm, with the higher

676 efficiencies corresponding to the lower voltage gradients in orange juice (Icier and Ilicalli, 2005). Similar results were reported for apple juice by Park et al. (2017) as long 677 678 as the sugar concentration was in the range 18–48 °Brix. Darvishi et al. (2015) 679 reported an efficiency range of 55–100%, but for tomato juice evaporation in the voltage gradient range 6 to 16 V/cm. Our results are within the aforementioned ranges. 680 It should be noted that in all these ohmic heating studies, there was no temperature 681 682 control. The product temperature increased linearly with time, essentially, until the process end point, where the system was switched off. In the tomato juice evaporation 683 684 process of Darvishi et al. (2015), the temperature was eventually limited at the boiling 685 point of the juice. In our current work however, temperature control was implemented 686 as it was essential to maintain a non-boiling temperature for a desired pasteurisation 687 time in a batch OH process. Our work demonstrates empirically for the first time, that 688 voltage modulation for temperature control in a batch OH system is an energy-wasting 689 exercise and should be avoided where possible. For this purpose, we recommend the 690 use of continuous-flow processes, where temperature control can simply be achieved by appropriate selection of fixed voltage gradient and product residence times, 691 692 followed by a properly-insulated holding stage.

693

# 694 **4.** Conclusions

695

In this work, we have measured and compared the energy performances of innovative technologies (high pressure processing HPP, continuous-flow microwave volumetric heating MVH, ohmic heating OH) and conventional heat treatment UHT, whilst achieving the same pasteurising effect in orange juice, under commerciallyrepresentative processing conditions. We have also evaluated the sustainability of

each of these processes with respect to non-renewable energy resource use and
explored the effect of equipment scale using model-based and empirical approaches.

For similar product quality attributes, the OH process is observed to have the best 704 705 energy performance (80% efficiency) among all the processes. However, for the first 706 time, it is shown empirically for the OH process that voltage modulation, as commonly 707 used in batch operations for temperature control, wastes significant energy, in much 708 the same way as valve throttling does for fluid systems in pipes. It should therefore be 709 discouraged. For a continuous OH process which permits temperature control without 710 voltage switching, efficiencies higher than 95% may be obtainable. The MVH and 711 electrically-powered heat exchanger-based UHT processes have comparable energy 712 efficiencies (45 & 46%, respectively), when the MVH magnetron is cooled electrically. 713 If this cooling energy is supplied from available cooling water sources, the MVH 714 energy efficiency could rise to 54%. All the innovative technologies show significantly-715 better start-up characteristics than the conventional heat exchanger-based process, 716 UHT, thus saving significant amounts of energy.

717

For a gas-fired system with equivalent heat exchanger behaviour as the UHT process, 718 719 the efficiency relative to primary energy is 29% (at 50% boiler efficiency), and 46% (at 80% boiler efficiency). Among the innovative technologies, the HPP system (with a 720 721 filling ratio of 36%) has the least energy efficiency 31%. By increasing the filling ratio 722 to 60% and 95% respectively, efficiencies of 51% and 78% are attained. In terms of 723 non-renewable primary energy usage and hence climate change (evaluated by the 724 greenhouse gas GHG emissions corresponding to equivalent pasteurising effects), 725 the OH, 95%-fill ratio HPP and microwave with magnetron heat recovery processes 726 are currently better than the best gas-fired systems, based on the UK electricity grid

727 conditions. With the current grid decarbonisation trend, all the electricity-driven 728 innovative technologies are anticipated within the next few years to far outperform the 729 best gas-based systems, thus justifying investment in these technologies. Actual 730 investment decisions would however also depend on the applicability of the specific 731 technology to the product being processed, in-pack processing versus aseptic filling-732 only possibilities, capital costs amongst other factors. Energy performance improves 733 with equipment scale for the microwave and HPP systems, but remains essentially 734 constant for the ohmic heating system. In all these, no significant differences are 735 observed in the critical quality attributes of the raw and pasteurised orange juice 736 across all the technologies. The electricity-driven innovative technologies are thus 737 promising in terms of energy savings, environmental friendliness and product quality.

738

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740

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# Nomenclature

С	Specific heat capacity of juice in OH	J/kg/K
Ι	Current	A
L	Electrode separation in OH	m
М	Hold-up mass of juice in OH	kg
Ρ	Power	W, kW
Q	Energy	J, kJ
Т	Juice temperature	°C
Т	Time	s, min
V	Voltage	V
W	Electrode length in OH	m
Х	Juice height in OH system	m
	Greek letters	
η	Efficiency	
ρ	Juice density in OH	kg/m³
ς	GHG conversion factor	kg <mark>CO₂</mark> e/kWh
	Subscripts	
Elect	Electricity	
Elect G	Electricity Natural gas	
Elect G Heat	Electricity Natural gas Heat	
Elect G Heat HW	Electricity Natural gas Heat Hot water	
Elect G Heat HW J	Electricity Natural gas Heat Hot water Juice	

850	Appendix A
851	
852	Table A1.
853	
854	
855	Fig. A1.
856	









(c)





















Fig. 1. (a) Continuous-flow microwave heating system (b) Batch ohmic heating system (c) High pressure processing system (d) Schematic of UHT/HTST system operating principle. Symbols used are OJ (orange juice), MC (microwave chamber), CW (cooling water), MCW (magnetron cooling water), \_in (inlet conditions), \_out (outlet conditions), V (voltage coil connections for energy measurement: two terminals connected to live L and neutral N power supply conductors, respectively), A (current coil connections for energy measurement, achieved by clamping the jaws of the meter over the live conductor L from the mains)

Fig. 2. MVH system energy performance-related characteristics

Fig. 3. OH system energy performance-related characteristics

Fig. 4. (a) Pressure-time & power-time characteristics (b) Energy density of HPP system

Fig. 5. UHT/HTST system energy performance-related characteristics

Fig. 6. GHG emission comparisons among processes 2010 – 2035, with 2018 vertical line

Fig. 7. Equipment scale results: continuous-flow microwave volumetric heating (MVH)

Fig. 8. Equipment scale results: batch ohmic heating (OH)

Fig. 9. Equipment scale results: high pressure processing (HPP)

Fig. A1. Power factor dynamics of total OH load (juice between electrodes and power supply system)

	HPP	HPP1	HPP2	MVH	MVH1	OH	OH1	UHT	UHT1	UHT2
Energy efficiency	0.31	0.51	0.78	0.45	0.54	0.8	0.95	0.46	0.29	0.46
Specific energy (kJ/L)	645	392	256	380	325	208	175	470	746	470
Transient time (min)	2.5			8	8	1		120		
				KEY						
HPP1	HPP with 60% vessel filling ratio									
HPP2	HPP with 95% vessel filling ratio									
MVH1	MVH with cabinet cooling replaced by available cooling water									
OH1	Continuous OH process (without voltage switching control)									
UHT1	Gas-f	ired UHT	T/HTST s	system	with 50%	boiler	efficier	псу		
UHT2	Gas-fired UHT/HTST system with 80% boiler efficiency									

Year	HPP	HPP1	HPP2	MVH	MVH1	ОН	OH1	UHT	UHT1	UHT2
2016	0.0394	0.0240	0.0157	0.0232	0.0199	0.0127	0.0107	0.0287	0.0382	0.0241
2017	0.0382	0.0232	0.0152	0.0225	0.0192	0.0123	0.0104	0.0278	0.0382	0.0241
2018	0.0368	0.0223	0.0146	0.0217	0.0185	0.0119	0.0100	0.0268	0.0382	0.0241
2019	0.0350	0.0213	0.0139	0.0206	0.0176	0.0113	0.0095	0.0255	0.0382	0.0241
2020	0.0325	0.0197	0.0129	0.0191	0.0164	0.0105	0.0088	0.0236	0.0382	0.0241

Year	UK Electricity Grid Emissions factor (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh)
2010	0.425
2011	0.415
2012	0.457
2013	0.41
2014	0.44
2015	0.3
2016	0.22
2017	0.213
2018	0.205
2019	0.195
2020	0.181
2021	0.171
2022	0.148
2023	0.144
2024	0.15
2025	0.141
2026	0.114
2027	0.119
2028	0.108
2029	0.096
2030	0.104
2031	0.096
2032	0.078
2033	0.075
2034	0.067
2035	0.055

Table 1. Energy performance comparison among processes. Note: UHT1 and UHT2 values are based on primary energy (kJ of natural gas) and the others on electrical energy (kJ)

Table 2. Pasteurisation process GHG emissions (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/L of juice) compared across technologies (2016 – 2020)

Table A1. UK electricity grid emissions factor, 2010-2035 (DBEIS, 2018)