Mitigating Heat Stress By Dietary Manipulation of Dried Pulp of Tamarind (Tamarindus Indica L.) In Broilers Ration: Growth Dynamics, Lipids Profile, Redox Balance, Cellular And Humoral Immune Response

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Abstract

A total of 700 day old broiler chicks (Arbor Acres) were weighed and allocated to 28 floor pens (25 birds per pen). Five diets were prepared and allocated in a completely randomized design consisting of a control (basal diet) and four levels of dried Tamarind seeds pulp (DTSP) powder at the rate of 5 (DTSP-5), 7.5 (DTSP-7.5), 10 (DTSP-10) and 12.5 (DTSP-12.5) g/kg of feed for 35 days under heat stress condition. Body weight and feed conversion ratio (FCR) increased significantly (P<0.05) in the DTSP fed broilers compared to the control. Blood concentration of paraoxonase-1 (PON1) was significantly (P<0.05) higher in the DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. However, antibody titre against New Castle disease (ND) was significantly (P<0.05) higher in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. Blood cholesterol and triglyceride were significantly (P<0.05) lower in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. However, blood HDL was significantly (P<0.05) higher in DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. Blood LDL was significantly (P<0.05) lower in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. Significantly (P<0.05) higher total leucocytes count (TLC) was found in DTSP-12.5, however, heterophils were significantly (P<0.05) lower in the same group. In contrast, lymphocytes increased significantly (P<0.05) in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 while monocytes was significantly (P<0.05) decreased in the same group. In conclusion, DTSP-5 supplementation improved growth, however, redox balance, cholesterol profile and cellular and humoral immunity increased in DTSP-5, DTSP-7.5 and DTSP-12.5 in broilers exposed to heat stress.

Introduction

Though there is no universal definition of heat stress, however, it can be defined as environmental temperature beyond physiological temperature of the body, which results in adverse consequences and ultimately reduces the growth performance of the broiler chickens (Khan et al. 2012). In poultry production, heat stress occurs when the ambient temperature exceeds 25°C. The heat exposure may be from several days to several weeks and the temperature may go as high as 50°C (Kpomasse et al. 2021). Research studies have reported the deleterious effects of heat stress on growth, livability, carcass quality, physiological, and biochemical changes in broilers (Khan et al. 2011; Safiullah et al. 2019; Ahmad et al. 2020; Hafeez et al. 2021).

For better performance, the modernistic approach focuses on the use of different dietary supplements to exploit the intrinsic potential in broiler (Khan et al. 2012a). Phytogenics are feed additives that have received huge interest in improving health, growth performance and prevention of different bacterial and parasitic diseases in broilers (Ahmad et al. 2020; Hafeez et al. 2020; Chand et al. 2021; Shuib et al. 2021). These are plant derived materials which improve the productivity of birds through improved feed utilization, antioxidant and antimicrobial activities (Khan et al. 2012b; Haq et al. 2020; Hafeez et al. 2021).

Tamarind (Tamarindus indica L.) fruit is comprised of 11% pulp, 34% seeds and 55% pulp (Biradar et al. 2017; Pal and Mukkerjee 2020). Tamarind has been known for its anti-inflammatory, cholesterol lowering
and antioxidant functions (Chowdhury et al. 2005; Landi et al. 2007; Shridhar et al. 2014). Furthermore, it has strong carminative effect (Cabuk et al. 2003). Dried Tamarind seeds pulp (DTSP) is an excellent source of polyphenol such as oligomeric anthrocyanidins, anthrocyanidin and tannins (Pumthong 1999). Further, Gu et al. (2003) reported that DTSP contains phenolic antioxidants such as epicatechin, 3,4-dihydroxyphenyl acetate, methyl 3,4-dihydroxybenzoate, 40-dihydroxyacetophenone and 2-hydroxy-30. The extract of Tamarind pulp has also exhibited antioxidant potential in vitro (Tsuda et al. 1993). The pulp of this fruit is though edible, it is still considered as an industrial waste in countries where it is grown abundantly (Galvao et al. 2019). The dry matter of pulp generated during processing of this fruit is about 50 to 65% and comprised of modest amount of crude protein (74.8 g/kg), neutral detergent fibre (609g/kg), non-fibrous carbohydrate (268 g/kg) in addition to lignin (185 g/kg) and tannin (75 g/kg) as reported (Santos et al. 2018; Souza et al. 2018). Despite a number of valuable phytoconstituents and properties of Tamarind pulp, there is scant scientific information on its application in broiler production and health under heat stress. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to evaluate the inclusion of different levels of DTSP on the production performance, cellular and humoral immunity, lipids profile and antioxidant status in broiler exposed to heat stress.

**Materials And Methods**

This experiment was carried out under the care and use of experimental animals committee, The University of Agriculture Peshawar.

*Preparation of DTSP powder*

Fresh fruit of Tamarind was obtained from Tamarind tree, washed with cleaned water and shade-dried for two weeks at room temperature. The pulps were ground into fine powder.

*Animals and experimental designs*

A total of 700 day old broiler chicks (Arbor Acres) were weighed and allocated to 28 floor pens (25 birds per pen) bedded with wood shavings. Each pen measured 160 ×240 cm, equipped with round pen feeders and drinkers. Birds had free access to feed through feeders and drinkers throughout the study. Birds were vaccinated against the infectious diseases including New Castle disease according to the standard schedule. The basal food composition is given in Table 1. Birds were kept under fluorescent lighting for 23 h for the first week and then a 20 light: 4 dark light cycle. Birds were exposed to a cyclic heat stress cycle as shown in Table 2.
Table 1
Mean daily temperature and relative humidity of the experimental period

| Hours | Temperature (°C) | Relative humidity (%) |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 08:00 | 33.78            | 73.38                 |
| 12:00 | 35.36            | 96.16                 |
| 16:00 | 38.63            | 64.85                 |
| 20:00 | 35.82            | 68.85                 |
| 24:00 | 33.97            | 74.27                 |
| 04:00 | 31.56            | 76.23                 |
### Table 2
Composition of basal feed and chemical composition

| Ingredients        | Starter phase | Finisher phase |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Corn               | 55.5          | 56.00          |
| Soybean meal       | 27.4          | 26.5           |
| Canola meal        | 6.5           | 6.00           |
| Sunflower meal     | 3.2           | 3.5            |
| Vegetable oil      | 1.8           | 1.9            |
| Molasses           | 1.00          | 1.00           |
| Dialcium phosphate | 1.9           | 1.9            |
| Limestone          | 1.00          | 1.00           |
| NaCl               | 1.00          | 1.00           |
| NAHCO₃             | 0.2           | 0.2            |
| Vitamin mineral premix | 0.3 | 0.3 |

**Chemical composition**

| Component                | Starter phase | Finisher phase |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| ME, kcal/kg              | 3000          | 3150           |
| Crude protein, %         | 23.5          | 21.30          |
| Methionine, %            | 0.55          | 0.44           |
| Lysine, %                | 1.42          | 1.23           |
| Sulfur amino acids, %    | 0.96          | 0.80           |
| Threonine, %             | 0.95          | 0.85           |
| Calcium, %               | 1.05          | 0.90           |
| Phosphorus, %            | 0.50          | 0.45           |

¹Vitamin-mineral premix contains in the following per kg: vitamin A, 2400000 IU; vitamin D, 1000000 IU; vitamin E, 16000 IU; vitamin K, 800 mg; vitamin B₁, 600 mg; vitamin B₂, 1600 mg; vitamin B₆, 1000 mg; vitamin B₁₂, 6 mg; niacin, 8000 mg; folic acid, 400 mg; pantothenic acid, 3000 mg; biotin 40 mg; antioxidant, 3000 mg; cobalt, 80 mg; copper, 2000 mg; iodine, 400; iron, 1200 mg; manganese, 18000 mg; selenium, 60 mg, and zinc, 14000 mg.

**Experimental protocols and samplings**

Five diets were prepared and allocated in a completely randomized design consisting of a control (basal diet) and four levels of DTSP powder at the rate of 5 (DTSP-5), 7.5 (DTSP-7.5), 10 (DTSP-10) and 12.5 (DTSP-12.5) g/kg feed for 35 days including first week as adaptation period. Feed intake, body weight
gain and feed conversion ratio were measured per pen basis on a weekly interval and the average of each parameter for the whole period was recorded. On day 35, three birds per pen were slaughtered and 3ml of blood samples were taken into two separate tubes, one with EDTA and another without EDTA. Blood without EDTA was centrifuged (3000 rpm for 10 minutes) and preserved at -80°C. Blood with EDTA was stored at -4°C until analysis.

*Serum melanodialdehyde (MDA) and paraoxonase (PON-1)*

For the determination of lipid peroxidation in the serum samples, thiobarbituric acid (TBA) reaction was used as described by Ohkawa et al. (1979). The colour produced by the reaction of TBA and MDA was measured spectrophotometrically at 532nm. Blood PON-1 was determined by the method of Mackness et al. (1991) using phenol as a substrate. The working reagent was consisted of 1mM phenylacetate and calcium chloride and 20mM Tris HCl buffer. Change in the absorbance was recorded for five minutes at 270 nm after diluting the sample in 1:3 with buffer before mixing with the substrate.

*Cellular and humoral immunity*

Total leucocytes (TLC) and differential leucocytes were carried on blood with EDTA by the method described by Chand et al. (2016). Humoral response against the ND virus was carried out using haemagglutination inhibition test.

*Blood lipid profile*

Blood lipid profile of the control and treatment groups was determined with the help of commercial kits (Biocheck, UK) using chemistry analyzer.

*Statistical analysis*

Analysis of data was done by software (Statistix 8.1) by using Completely Randomized Design. Significant difference among the groups was computed using Tukey test at the level of 5% probability.

**Results**

The findings of feed intake, weight gain and FCR in broilers exposed to heat stress in response to different levels of DTSP is given in Table 2. The feed intake data did not differ between the control and the treatment groups. Body weight increased significantly (P < 0.05) in the DTSP fed broilers compared to the control. Similarly, FCR of the DTSP supplemented birds was significantly (P < 0.05) higher compared to the control broilers.

The effect of different levels of DTSP on MDA, PON1 and ND titre on broilers during heat stress is given in Table 3. The value of MDA did not change between the control and treatment groups. Blood concentration of PON1 was significantly (P < 0.05) higher in the DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. However, ND titre was significantly (P < 0.05) higher in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control.
Table 3
Mean (± SE) feed intake, body weight and feed conversion ratio (FCR) of broilers fed with different levels of dried tamarind pulp under cyclic heat stress

| Groups    | Feed intake (g) | Body weight (g) | FCR (g/g)  |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Control   | 3260 ± 13.42    | 1900b ± 5.43    | 1.71a ± 0.06 |
| DTSP-5    | 3170 ± 10.32    | 2000a ± 12.40   | 1.58b ± 0.05 |
| DTSP-7.5  | 3210 ± 8.77     | 2007a ± 11.21   | 1.59b ± 0.04 |
| DTSP-10.0 | 3230 ± 10.09    | 2022a ± 5.90    | 1.59b ± 0.01 |
| DTSP-12.5 | 3198 ± 12.44    | 2011a ± 9.45    | 1.59b ± 0.06 |

P value 0.0974 0.0000 0.0021

Within the same column mean values having different superscripts are significantly different (P < 0.05). DTSP represents Dried Tamarind seeds pulp; 0-12.5 represents Tamarind levels from 0-12.5g/kg of feed.

The findings of the effect of DTSP in broilers during heat stress on the blood cholesterol profile are given in Table 4. The results indicated that blood cholesterol and triglyceride were significantly (P < 0.05) lower in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. However, blood HDL was significantly (P < 0.005) higher in DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. Blood LDL was significantly (P < 0.05) lower in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control.

Table 4
Mean (± SE) melanodialdehyde, paraoxonase-1 and antibody titre against Newcastle disease (ND) of broilers fed with different levels of dried tamarind pulp under cyclic heat stress

| Groups    | MDA (nmole/ml) | PON1 (U/ml/min) | ND Titer  |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Control   | 2.54 ± 0.15    | 8.33b ± 0.33    | 4.00b ± 0.58 |
| DTSP-5    | 2.98 ± 0.09    | 10.33ab ± 0.88  | 5.33ab ± 0.33 |
| DTSP-7.5  | 2.59 ± 0.09    | 10.67ab ± 0.88  | 6.67a ± 0.33 |
| DTSP-10.0 | 2.27 ± 0.13    | 12.00a ± 0.58   | 5.67a ± 0.33 |
| DTSP-12.5 | 2.92 ± 0.16    | 11.67a ± 0.88   | 6.00a ± 0.58 |

P value 0.0000 0.0413 0.0191

Within the same column mean values having different superscripts are significantly different (P < 0.05). DTSP represents Dried Tamarind seeds pulp; 0-12.5 represents Tamarind levels from 0-12.5g/kg of feed.

The findings of total blood leucocytes count and differential leucocytes count in broilers during heat stress is given in Table 5. Significantly (P < 0.05) higher TLC was found in DTSP-12.5 compared to the control and rest of the treatment groups, however, heterophil concentration was significantly (P < 0.05)
lower in the same group compared to the control and the other treatment groups. However, lymphocytes increased significantly ($P < 0.05$) in DTSP-7, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 while monocytes significantly ($P < 0.05$) decreased in the same group.

Table 5
Mean ($\pm$ SE) serum lipid profile of broilers fed with different levels of dried tamarind pulp under cyclic heat stress

| Groups     | Cholesterol (mg/dl) | Triglycerides (mg/dl) | HDL (mg/dl) | LDL (mg/dl) |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Control    | 165.67$^a \pm 0.88$ | 148.33$^a \pm 0.88$  | 41.00$^b \pm 0.58$ | 93.00$^a \pm 0.58$ |
| DTSP-5     | 162.67$^a \pm 3.76$ | 137.33$^{ab} \pm 2.18$ | 45.00$^{ab} \pm 0.88$ | 91.00$^a \pm 3.47$ |
| DTSP-7.5   | 145.33$^b \pm 2.67$ | 124.67$^b \pm 3.18$  | 45.00$^{ab} \pm 1.46$ | 75.00$^b \pm 1.73$ |
| DTSP-10.0  | 146.00$^b \pm 4.05$ | 122.00$^b \pm 12.01$ | 46.33$^a \pm 2.84$  | 76.00$^b \pm 6.36$ |
| DTSP-12.5  | 141.00$^b \pm 1.16$ | 122.00$^b \pm 5.29$  | 48.00$^a \pm 1.73$  | 72.67$^b \pm 0.33$ |
| P-value    | 0.0003              | 0.0452                | 0.0392       | 0.0031      |

Within the same column mean values having different superscripts are significantly different ($P < 0.05$). DTSP represents Dried Tamarind seeds pulp; 0-12.5 represents Tamarind levels from 0-12.5g/kg of feed
Table 6
Mean (± SE) total leukocyte count and differential leukocyte count of broilers fed with different levels of dried tamarind pulp under cyclic heat stress

| Groups     | TLC × 10³/mm³ | Heterophils (%) | Lymphocytes (%) | Monocytes (%) | Basophils (%) | Eosinophils (%) |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Control    | 18.33 ± 0.88  | 29.00 ± 0.58    | 59.67 ± 0.88    | 9.67 ± 1.20   | 1.00 ± 0.58   | 0.67 ± 0.88     |
| DTSP-5     | 19.33 ± 0.88  | 28.00 ± 0.58    | 61.33 ± 1.20    | 8.00 ± 0.58   | 2.00 ± 1.00   | 0.67 ± 0.88     |
| DTSP-7.5   | 21.67 ± 1.45  | 26.67 ± 0.88    | 65.67 ± 0.88    | 4.67 ± 0.88   | 2.00 ± 0.58   | 1.00 ± 1.00     |
| DTSP-10.0  | 22.67 ± 1.20  | 24.00 ± 0.58    | 68.00 ± 1.16    | 4.00 ± 0.58   | 2.67 ± 0.88   | 1.33 ± 0.34     |
| DTSP-12.5  | 24.67 ± 0.88  | 21.33 ± 0.34    | 69.00 ± 0.58    | 4.67 ± 0.34   | 3.33 ± 0.66   | 1.67 ± 0.34     |
| P-value    | 0.0002        | 0.0000          | 0.0003          | 0.0014        | 0.3315        | 0.7723          |

Within the same column mean values having different superscripts are significantly different (P < 0.05). DTSP represents Dried Tamarind seeds pulp; 0-12.5 represents Tamarind levels from 0-12.5g/kg of feed.

Discussion

In the present study, feed intake did not differ between the control and treatment groups of birds under heat stress conditions; however, weight gain and FCR were significantly improved in the treatment groups. Similar to our study, Aengwanich et al. (2009) reported no significant change in the feed intake and feed efficiency in broiler fed different levels of Tamarind extract during 36–42 days of age, however, weight gain was significantly higher in response to 100 mg/kg at 38°C. In the study of Saleh et al. (2012) feed intake was decreased linearly in broiler fed with DTSP in drinking water at the increasing rate of 20, 30 and 40 g/l under thermoneutral temperature, which was attributed to the presence of anti-nutritional factors in this plant. In another study, Shinde et al. (2015) reported significant improvement in weight gain and FCR in broilers supplemented with DTSP at the rate of 250 g/100 kg with depression in these traits at higher doses (500, 1000 and 1500 g/kg) under normal temperature. It has been suggested that the pulp of Tamarind contains antioxidant (Razali et al. 2015) and antibacterial activities against the microorganisms (Daniyan and Muhammad 2008), which may result in higher growth performance in broilers. Unlike the previous studies, we did not find reduction in feed intake with the increasing level of DTSP, probably the higher doses in the current study were not enough to produce anti-nutritional factor effect. The flavonoids in Tamarind have been reported for the presence of hepatoprotective, nutrient digestibility, balancing microbiota, antioxidative and anti-inflammatory effects (Adeniyi et al. 2021) and might have contributed to the enhanced growth in birds.
In the current study, no significant change was observed in the serum MDA concentration in the control and treatment groups, however, PON1 concentration was increased significantly in DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 compared to the control. In some recent studies, improved serum PON1 was observed in broilers supplemented with different natural compounds such as taurine, ginger and milkthistle under heat stress conditions (Safiullah et al. 2019; Ahmad et al. 2020; Hafeez et al. 2021). PON1 is an important HDL-related antioxidant enzyme and its concentration has been reported to be augmented by the supplementation of antioxidants. Oxidative stress occurs due to perturbation in the balance between the oxidative stress and antioxidant capacity. Tamarind has been reported to suppress lipid peroxidation due to the anti-free radical activities of the phenolic compounds, two b-diketone and (-) epicatechin (Tsuda et al. 1994; Martinello et al. 2006). Limited studies have been conducted on the antioxidant activity of TDSP. In the present study, antibody titre against ND decreased in the control group and improved in DTSP-7.5, DTSP-10.0 and DTSP-12.5. The lymphocyte count is decreased during heat stress (Ahmad et al. 2020) as seen in this study and hence there is a lower antibody titre against an infection. The higher antibody titre against ND in this study seems to be due to the production of greater levels of lymphocytes in response to Tamarind supplementation.

The search for novel agents regulating blood cholesterol has gained momentum over the last few decades, resulting in a significant number of reports on natural agents with anticholesteremic activities. In view of the previous experiments, we evaluated the effect of DTSP on serum lipid profile. The seed coat of Tamarind is a low-cost source of antioxidant and exhibits antioxidant activity against thiocyanate and thiobarbituric (Pazhanivelan et al. 2008). Lipids are easily susceptible to the injury of free radicals. Compounds in Tamarind have been reported to improve the lipid profile (Martinello et al. 2006). In the current study, Tamarind pulp exhibited a significant reduction in lipid profile in serum of broilers. Decreased serum cholesterol and triglycerides have been attributed to epicatechins contents in Tamarind (Chan et al 1999). Biradar et al. (2017) reported reduced serum cholesterol by 25 and 28% in layers fed DTSP at the level of 0.25, 0.5 and 1% at thermoneutral temperature. Similarly, Chowdhury et al. (2005) also found reduced serum cholesterol in laying hens at the level of 2% level. Shinde et al. (2015) also reported reduced serum cholesterol in broilers fed DTSP extract. Similar observations were reported by Iftekhar et al. (2006) in human and Khairunnuur et al. (2011) in rats. It is speculated that the extra cholesterol is converted into bile acid in the hepatocytes or conjugated with taurine and glycine. Remarkably, serum HDL-cholesterol increased in the Tamarind treated birds. Biradar et al. (2017) reported increased serum HDL by 45% in Tamarind supplemented laying hens. Martinello et al. (2006) recorded increased serum HDL by 61% in hamsters in response to TDSP extract. Similar findings were also reported by Jindal et al. (2011) and Khairunnuur et al. (2011) with a significant increase in serum HDL in rats supplemented with 100 and 50 mg/kg Tamarind extract respectively. The level of serum LDL decreased significantly in DTSP-7.5, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 as compared to the control during heat stress. Similar observations were also reported by Khairunnuur et al. (2011), Chor Yin lin et al. (2013) and Biradar et al. (2017) in response to Tamarind pulp in commercial layers, rats and hamsters respectively. The reduced serum LDL in Tamarind supplemented animals has been attributed to epicatechins contents
(Luengthanaphol et al., 2004), which are known for the suppression of hypercholesterolemia by modulating lipid metabolism.

Environmental temperature is one of the most important factors affecting the immune system of broiler chickens. Exposure of the chickens to high ambient temperature causes significant physiological changes including immunosuppression and high mortality rate (Khan et al. 2012). Leucocyte count has been used as an indicator of heat stress in poultry. In the current study, TLC increased significantly in birds fed with DTSP at the rate of 12.5 g/kg. Moreover, heterophil and monocytes count increased in the control and DTSP-5 and the same were restored at the higher doses. Lymphocytes count was also lower in the control and DTSP-5, however, it was restored at higher doses. Rise in TLC is considered to enhance the immune system with increased resistance against infectious diseases and improvement in production performance. Almost similar findings were reported by Shinde et al. (2018) in broiler fed with different levels of DTSP. Aengwanich et al. (2009) reported restoration of heterophils and monocytes count in broiler under heat stress (38°C) for 8 h at a dose rate of 400 mg/kg. The resultant increase of leucocytes under heat stress has been attributed to the increased secretion of glucocorticoids. In addition, lymphocyte count was decreased in the control group and improved in broilers in Tamarind supplemented birds. Lymphopenia occurs in heat stress conditions due to increased secretion of glucocorticoids, DNA damage, lymopholysis and shift of lymphocytes from blood to the other body compartments (Compton et al. 19990; Heckert et al. 2002).

In conclusion, weight gain and FCR were improved in broilers supplemented with DTSP. PON1 was improved in DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 while antibody titre was greater in DTSP-7.5, DTSP-10 and DTSP-12.5 in broilers during heat stress. Except DTSP-5, total cholesterol and LDL increased in the rest of the treatment groups. Furthermore, TLC increased significantly in DTSP-12.5 while lymphocytes count was greater in all the treatments except DTSP-5. Similarly, heterophils and monocytes count decreased significantly in all the treatment groups except DTSP-5.

**Declarations**

**Conflict of interest**

Authors declare no conflict of interest

**Ethical approval**

This study was approved by the Departmental Committee on Ethics and Animal Welfare, Faculty of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Sciences, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar.

**Competing interest**

There is no potential competing interest with this study.

**Consent to participate and consent to publish**
All the authors have equally participated in this study and agreed to publish this work in this journal.

**Authors Contribution**

MNH conducted the study and analyzed the samples. NC developed the study design. RUK edited, submitted and revised the paper.

**Data availability**

Data is available in the thesis.

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