

WEB346

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## Question

Do  $Mg^{2+}$ , pH, chemical motif (e.g. catecholic, phenolic, 3'-OMe, 4'-OMe) and the choice of enzyme (WT or 4'-variant) influence the observed conversion of flavonoids and phenylpropanoids by the O-methyltransferase PFOMT?

## Introduction

17 different flavonoid and phenyl propanoid substrates were tested for methylation. These substrates can loosely be categorized into four groups by the chemical motif that is to be methylated (e.g. catecholic, phenolic, 3'-OMe, 4'-OMe). Three other factors are studied that might also influence the conversion. The addition of  $Mg^{2+}$ , high (8.6) or low (7.5) pH and the enzyme variant (WT or 3'-variant) that is used are also varied.

A TOTAL OF 96 EXPERIMENTS were conducted to cover each group at least with three independent observations.

$$Mg \times pH \times variant \times motif \\ 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 4 = 32$$

Figure 1: number of groups studied

## Results

### Data

	substrate	value	pH	Mg	variant	motif
1	1	0.00	low	FALSE	WT	A
2	1	0.00	high	FALSE	Y51RN202W	A
3	1	0.07	high	TRUE	WT	A
4	1	0.00	low	TRUE	Y51RN202W	A
5	1	0.04	high	FALSE	WT	A
6	1	0.00	low	FALSE	Y51RN202W	A

Table 1: First rows of dataframe

	labels	motif
1	A	phenolic
2	B	catecholic
3	C	4-O-Me
4	D	3-O-Me

Table 2: Labels in the data.frame and their corresponding motif.

### Significance no enzyme vs. enzyme

Do the amounts of produced product vary significantly between treatments where no enzyme was added and treatments with enzyme? Only ran blanks at high pH with no magnesium added. Subset data to only include high pH, no Mg, no catechols. The catechols

were removed to avoid the bias associated with an autocorrelation between product and catecholic moiety.

FROM THE ANOVA TABLE IT IS CLEAR, that conversion is not due to chance. The p-value for the variant factor is almost 0. This means, that we should be able to use the data for analysis.

```
lm(value ~ variant * motif, data = data.blank %>%
  filter(pH == "high", Mg == F, motif != "B")) %>%
  aov() %>% summary() %>% xtable(., caption = "ANOVA table for comparison of blanks and samples. There is
```

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr(>F)
variant	2	0.01	0.01	66.03	0.0000
motif	2	0.00	0.00	7.72	0.0038
variant:motif	4	0.00	0.00	7.72	0.0008
Residuals	18	0.00	0.00		

Table 3: ANOVA table for comparison of blanks and samples. There is a statistical significance between treatments, where 0 enzyme was added and treatments that contained enzyme (the wt).

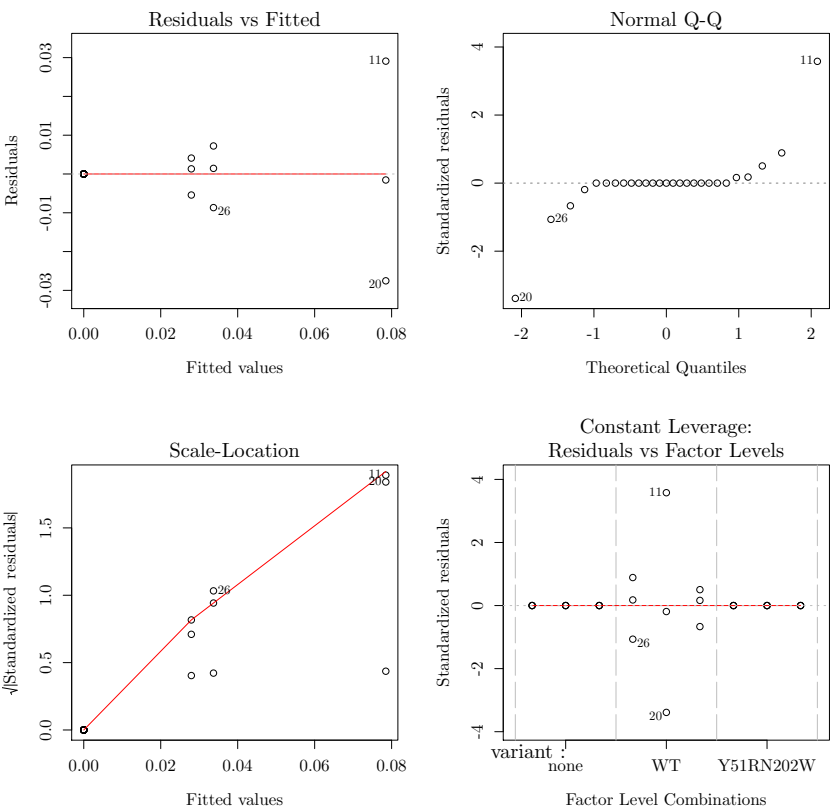


Figure 2: Diagnostic plots of the ANOVA

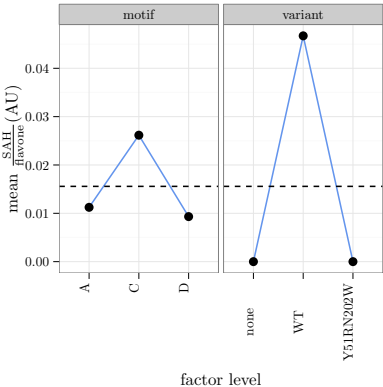


Figure 3: Main effects plot for factors that influence product amount.

Main effects plots

The main effects plots (??) give an overview of what happens. The motif clearly has the biggest influence on conversion. This makes sense, since PFOMT acts on catecholic moieties.

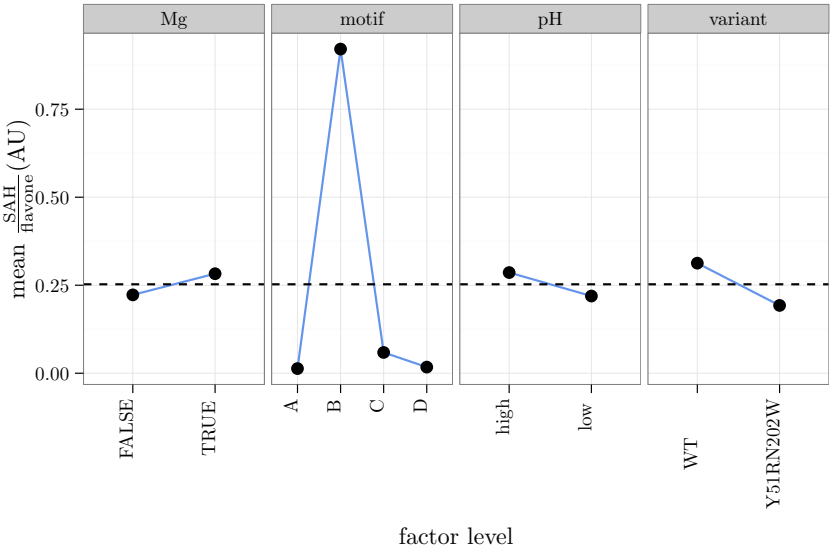


Figure 4: Main effects plots for the factor variables. Clearly the motif seems to have the biggest impact. Catecholic moieties are converted most effectively.

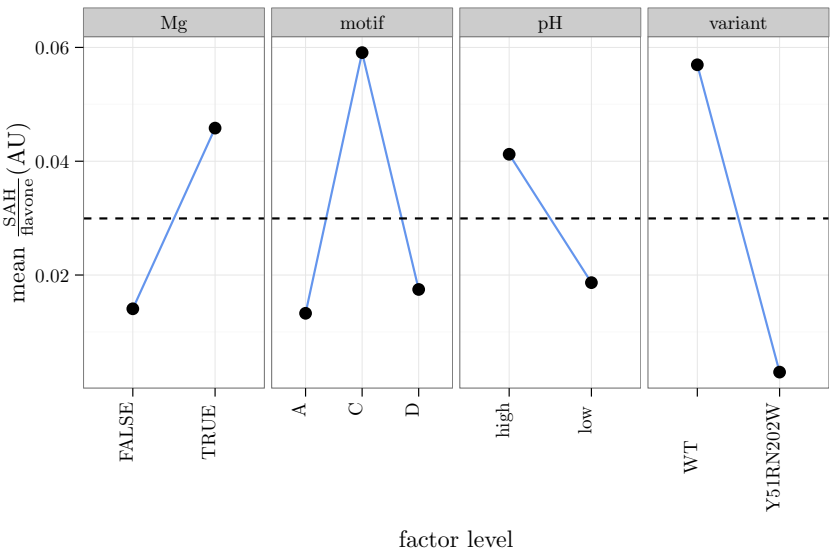


Figure 5: Main effects plot, when catecholic moieties factor is omitted. Phenolics are converted worst. The wildtype has the best activity.

THE INTERACTION PLOT(??) of Mg and pH displays an interaction. When magnesium is added the activity tends to be higher. This effect is more pronounced at low pH values. It is not possible to say whether

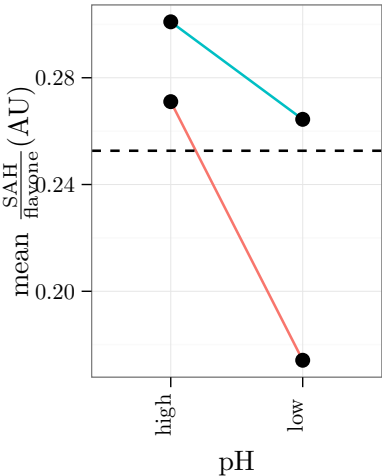


Figure 6: Interaction plot for Mg and pH. The lines suggest an interaction between pH and Mg, but this is not enough evidence to say whether that interaction is significant. red – no magnesium, blue – magnesium added.

this effect is significant without the according statistical test. Indeed the ANOVA results suggest, that there is no significance. In fact there doesn't even seem to be a statistical significance from Mg addition or pH alone.

### Anova

Two-way ANOVA test for simple models and more complex models were prepared. The p-values for the complex model are very low all over. However it is very likely that this is an overinterpretation of the data. The data/experiment might be too complex to derive anything of value from the information. The use of more complex modelling techniques might shed some light. However, when the substrates with catecholic moieties are excluded from the results, there is statistical significance at least for Mg and pH.

```
data.lm <- lm(value ~ pH * Mg, data = WEB346.results)
summary(aov(data.lm)) %>% xtable(., caption = "ANOVA table.")
```

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr(>F)
pH	1	0.11	0.11	0.61	0.4370
Mg	1	0.09	0.09	0.49	0.4837
pH:Mg	1	0.02	0.02	0.12	0.7247
Residuals	92	16.13	0.18		

Table 4: ANOVA table.

```
data.lm <- lm(value ~ pH * Mg * motif * variant,
              data = WEB346.results)
summary(aov(data.lm)) %>% xtable(., caption = "ANOVA table of the most complex model. Significance is even")

data.lm <- lm(value ~ pH * Mg + variant, data = WEB346.results %>%
              filter(motif != "B"))
summary(aov(data.lm)) %>% xtable(., caption = "ANOVA table when catecholics are excluded. At least the data")
```

### Regression Tree

A regression tree can be built from the data. At first glance it shows, that the motif is especially important for conversion. This is trivial, since PFOMT is a 4'-OMT that acts on catecholic motifs. The substrates with catecholic motifs are thus converted more efficiently.

IT SEEMS AS IF THE VARIANT is influenced by pH and metal addition more clearly than the wt-enzyme, since the tree splits up more.

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr(>F)
pH	1	0.11	0.11	24.75	0.0000
Mg	1	0.09	0.09	20.08	0.0000
motif	3	14.31	4.77	1105.42	0.0000
variant	1	0.35	0.35	80.19	0.0000
pH:Mg	1	0.02	0.02	5.07	0.0278
pH:motif	3	0.14	0.05	10.88	0.0000
Mg:motif	3	0.07	0.02	5.24	0.0027
pH:variant	1	0.03	0.03	7.14	0.0096
Mg:variant	1	0.02	0.02	3.52	0.0652
motif:variant	3	0.35	0.12	26.74	0.0000
pH:Mg:motif	3	0.08	0.03	6.49	0.0007
pH:Mg:variant	1	0.02	0.02	4.85	0.0313
pH:motif:variant	3	0.23	0.08	17.67	0.0000
Mg:motif:variant	3	0.20	0.07	15.29	0.0000
pH:Mg:motif:variant	3	0.06	0.02	4.25	0.0084
Residuals	64	0.28	0.00		

Table 5: ANOVA table of the most complex model. Significance is everywhere ... :O

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr(>F)
pH	1	0.01	0.01	4.55	0.0366
Mg	1	0.02	0.02	9.01	0.0038
variant	1	0.05	0.05	26.07	0.0000
pH:Mg	1	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.7082
Residuals	67	0.13	0.00		

Table 6: ANOVA table when catecholics are excluded. At least the data suggest significance for pH and Mg.

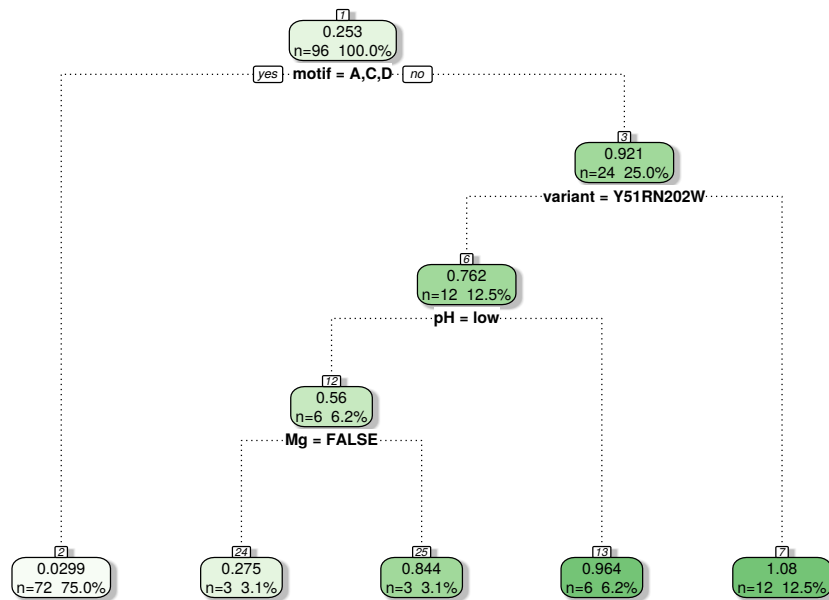
### Linear Models

At first it was checked, if pH and Mg have an influence on the conversion. It does not seem that Mg or pH have any influence on the conversion, as the p-values are much too high. This could be the result of the fact that the conversion reactions were incubated for 16 hours. Possible intricacies in the conversion (due to different reaction velocities) can not be distinguished from one another if the reaction time is so long that all substrate is used up.

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	0.2711	0.0855	3.17	0.0021
pHlow	-0.0969	0.1209	-0.80	0.4247
MgTRUE	0.0299	0.1209	0.25	0.8051
pHlow:MgTRUE	0.0604	0.1709	0.35	0.7247

Table 7: A linear model with pH and Mg as factors is not a lot better than random guesses. p-values are very high. Thus this alone does not explain the variance.

HOWEVER, WHEN THE CATECHOLICS ARE OMITTED as a factor level



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Figure 7: RegressionTree of the data built with the 'rpart'-package. The motif effects the conversion most. It seems that only the variant is influenced by pH and Mg.

it becomes clear that Mg and pH DO in fact influence the conversion.

After backwards selection only the factors pH, Mg, variant and te interactions between variant and Mg and pH are retained.

```

data.lm <- lm(value ~ pH * Mg * variant, data = WEB346.results %>%
  filter(motif != "B"))
data.lm <- MASS::stepAIC(data.lm, direction = "backward")

## Start: AIC=-447.48
## value ~ pH * Mg * variant
##
##              Df Sum of Sq    RSS
## - pH:Mg:variant  1 6.5387e-05 0.11532
## <none>              0.11526
##              AIC
## - pH:Mg:variant -449.44
## <none>          -447.48
##
## Step: AIC=-449.44
## value ~ pH + Mg + variant + pH:Mg + pH:variant + Mg:variant
##
##              Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## - pH:Mg        1 0.0002845 0.11561 -451.26
## <none>          0.11532 -449.44
## - pH:variant   1 0.0075587 0.12288 -446.87

```

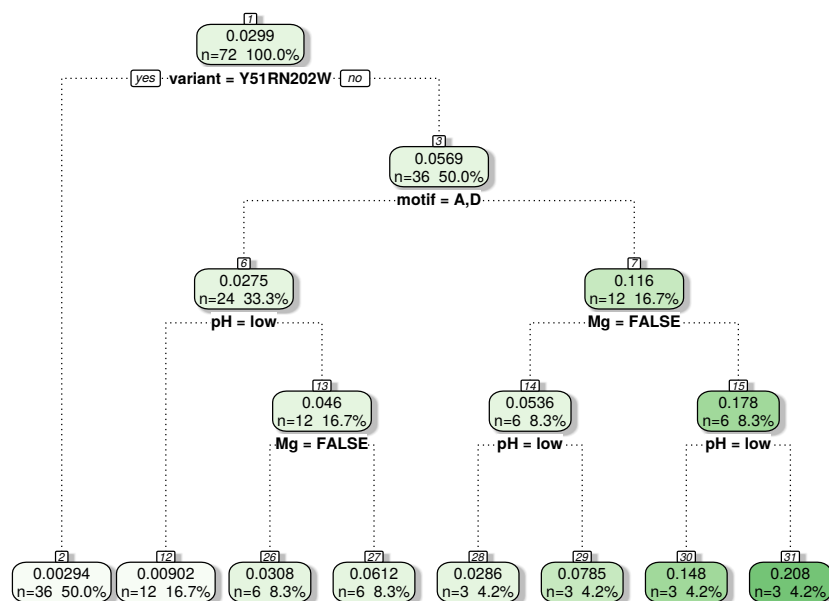
```
## - Mg:variant 1 0.0120562 0.12738 -444.28
##
## Step: AIC=-451.26
## value ~ pH + Mg + variant + pH:variant + Mg:variant
##
##           Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## <none>                0.11561 -451.26
## - pH:variant 1 0.0075587 0.12316 -448.70
## - Mg:variant 1 0.0120562 0.12766 -446.12
```

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr(>F)
pH	1	0.01	0.01	5.23	0.0254
Mg	1	0.02	0.02	10.36	0.0020
variant	1	0.05	0.05	29.98	0.0000
pH:variant	1	0.01	0.01	4.32	0.0417
Mg:variant	1	0.01	0.01	6.88	0.0108
Residuals	66	0.12	0.00		

Table 8: When catecholics are omitted there is significance in the following terms: pH, Mg, variant, pH:variant, Mg:variant

This is a margin note. Notice that there isn't a number preceding the note.

Figure 8: RegressionTree of the data of only substrates with phenolic, 3'-OMe and 4'-OMe moieties. Catecholic substrates are omitted.



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### Model selection using lasso regression

Lasso regression can shrink model coefficients to zero. This helps in variable selection. Variables that were shrunk to 0 tend to have little impact on the prediction capabilities of the model.

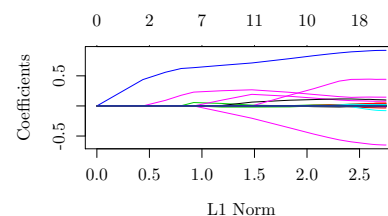


Figure 9: Lasso regression on the model.

### Cross-validation to select best model

After cross-validation only 11 variables have non-zero coefficients and are thus used during prediction. All other variables were shrunk to zero.

```
cv.lasso <- cv.glmnet(x, y, alpha = 1, nfolds = 5)
```

### Answer

- the conversion is not by chance (significance between blank and enzyme treated groups)
- The biggest influence on conversion has the presence of a catecholic moiety (surprise, surprise !)
- There is an effect of Mg and pH (main and interaction effect). However the statistical test don't support this notion. → incubation time too large, this makes results badly interpretable !!! → when catecholic moieties are excluded there is significance for Mg addition and possibly for pH; however no interaction
- data is also very complex with possibly up to four factor interactions
- regression tree used for interpretation → pH and Mg can explain some of the variance

	variable	coefficient
1	(Intercept)	0.0056
2	pHlow	-0.0070
3	MgTRUE	0.0024
4	variantWT	0.0305
5	motifB	0.9095
6	pHlow:variantWT	-0.0247
7	MgTRUE:variantWT	0.0101
8	MgTRUE:motifD	0.0070
9	variantWT:motifB	0.1464
10	variantWT:motifC	0.0376
11	pHlow:MgTRUE:motifB	0.0219
12	pHlow:variantWT:motifB	0.0241
13	pHlow:variantY51RN202W:motifB	-0.6205
14	pHlow:variantWT:motifC	-0.0115
15	MgTRUE:variantWT:motifB	-0.0447
16	MgTRUE:variantY51RN202W:motifB	0.0835
17	MgTRUE:variantWT:motifC	0.1100
18	pHlow:MgTRUE:variantY51RN202W:motifB	0.4433

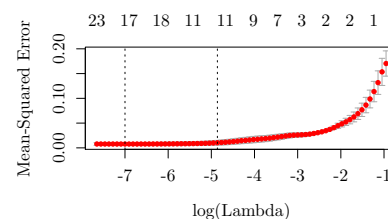


Figure 10: Cross validation results for lasso regression. The best model only needs around 10 variables to describe the data with low error.

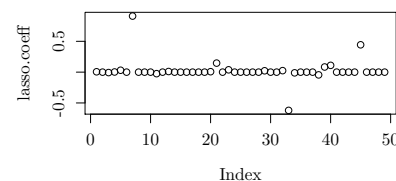


Figure 11: The variables that have non-zero coefficients.

Table 9: Variables and coefficients that were retained. Non-zero coefficients not shown.



### Conversion of substrates

The conversion of the substrate in % is of interest.

### Calculation of SAH and SAM concentration

The SAH and SAM concentration were estimated from the area-under-curve (AUC) of the SAM and SAH peaks. The displayed formula also already include the conversion.  $x_{SAH}$  is a direct measure for the conversion.

0.4 mM substrate and 0.5 mM biologically active SAM were added. That means the substrate conversion can be estimated by  $conversion = \frac{0.4mM}{0.5mM \times x_{SAH}}$ .

### Phenolic substrates

$$A_{SAM} + A_{SAH} = 1 \approx 500uM$$

$$x_{SAH} = \frac{A_{SAH}}{A_{SAM} + A_{SAH}}$$

$$c_{SAH} = x_{SAH} \times 500uM$$

Figure 12: Calculation of specific activity.

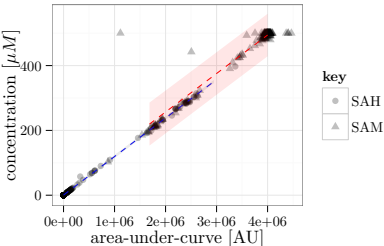


Figure 13: Estimated SAH and SAM concentration plotted against the AUC. Linear best-fit models with 95% prediction intervals are included.

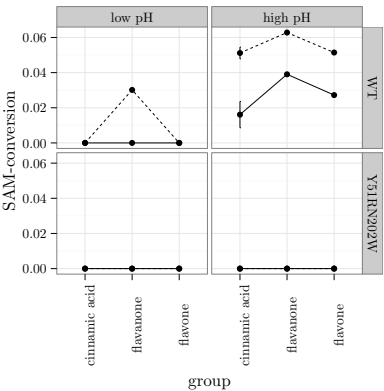


Figure 14: Comparison of conversion of phenolic substrates. dashed line – 10 mM Mg, solid line – no Mg

*3'-O-methyl substrates*

*4'-O-methyl substrates*

*catecholic substrates*

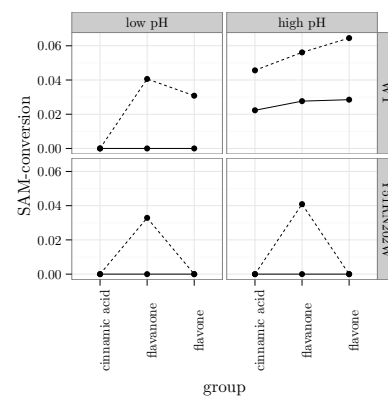


Figure 15: Comparison of conversion of 3'-O-methyl substrates. dashed line – 10 mM Mg, solid line – no Mg

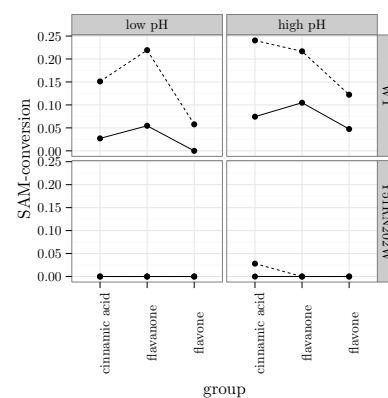


Figure 16: Comparison of conversion of 4'-O-methyl substrates. dashed line – 10 mM Mg, solid line – no Mg

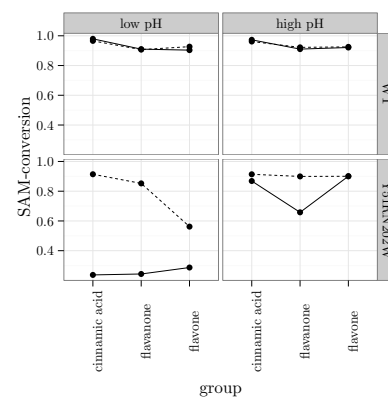


Figure 17: Comparison of conversion of catecholic substrates. dashed line – 10 mM Mg, solid line – no Mg