

Application Bulletin 220/4 e

Determination of platinum and rhodium in the ultratrace range by adsorptive stripping voltammetry

Summary

This Application Bulletin describes an analytical method for the determination of traces of Pt and Rh in the ng/L range by adsorptive stripping voltammetry. Interest in the determination of even minute quantities of platinum and rhodium in environmental materials has greatly increased in recent years. Their emission into the environment from automobile exhaust gas catalytic converters is of great interest. The same applies to the determination of platinum in body fluids and tissue samples following chemotherapeutic treatment for cancer.

Using the hanging mercury drop electrode (HMDE) and the DP (Differential Pulse) measuring mode, determination limits of approx. 0.1 ng/L Pt and 0.5 ng/L Rh can be achieved.

Instruments

VA instrument capable of operating a Multi-Mode Electrode and supporting differential pulse (DP) measuring mode	
909 UV Digester	2.909.0014

Electrodes

WE	Multi-Mode Electrode pro	6.1246.120
	Mercury drop capillary	6.1226.050
RE	Ag/AgCl reference electrode	6.0728.x20
	Ag/AgCl/KCl (3 mol/L)	
	Electrolyte vessel Filled with c(KCl) = 3 mol/L	6.1245.010
AE	Glassy Carbon rod	6.1247.000
	Electrode holder	6.1241.x20

Sample preparation

The determinations described are extremely sensitive to interference by organic substances, which is why all samples (even drinking water) must undergo digestion.

Water, aqueous solutions

In this case UV digestion (irradiation with UV light) has proved to be best.

10 mL sample is acidified with 10 µL w(HCl) = 30% (for trace analysis*) (approx. pH = 2), 50 µL w(H₂O₂) = 30% (for trace analysis*) is added and the solution irradiated in the 909 UV Digester for 90 min. After cooling down the digestion solution can be used directly for the voltammetric determination

Biological materials

There are two suitable digestion methods for materials with a high organic content:

- High-pressure ashing («High-Pressure Asher», HPA)
- Microwave digestion

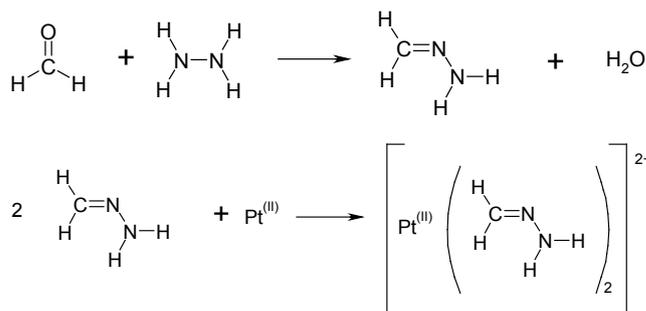
In both cases the sample is oxidized in sealed digestion vessels by a mixture of concentrated acids. The vessels are either heated conventionally (HPA) or by microwave irradiation.

* e.g., Merck suprapur®, Honeywell Fluka TraceSelect® or equivalent

Method 1: Determination of platinum

Summary

Formaldehyde and hydrazine can be condensed to form the corresponding hydrazone, which forms a complex with Pt(II):



This complex is adsorbed on the surface of the HMDE, where it reduces the hydrogen overpotential. The measured signal of the hydrogen reduction is proportional to the concentration of the Pt complex. Owing to the catalytic effect of platinum the determination is extremely sensitive.

Reagents

All of the used reagents must be of purest quality possible (for analysis or for trace analysis*).

- Sulfuric acid, $w(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 96\%$, for trace analysis*, CAS 7664-93-9
- Formaldehyde solution, $w(\text{HCHO}) = 37\%$, CAS 50-00-0
- Hydrazine sulfate $\text{N}_2\text{H}_6\text{SO}_4$, for trace analysis*, CAS 10034-93-2
- Pt(IV) stock solution, $\beta(\text{Pt(IV)}) = 1 \text{ g/L}$, commercially available
- Ultrapure water, resistivity $>18 \text{ M}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ ($25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$), type I grade (ASTM D1193)

* e.g., Merck suprapur®, Honeywell Fluka TraceSelect® or equivalent

Solutions

Hydrazine sulfate solution	$c(\text{N}_2\text{H}_6\text{SO}_4) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$ 0.13 g hydrazine sulfate is dissolved in 10 mL ultrapure water. This solution is stable for max. 1 week.
Electrolyte	$c(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 0.72 \text{ mol/L}$ $c(\text{HCHO}) = 6.7 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol/L}$ $c(\text{N}_2\text{H}_6\text{SO}_4) = 3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol/L}$ Approx. 15 mL ultrapure water and 0.8 mL $w(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 96\%$ are mixed in a 20 mL volumetric flask. After cooling down to room temperature, 0.6 mL $c(\text{N}_2\text{H}_6\text{SO}_4) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$ and 10 μL $w(\text{HCHO}) = 37\%$ are added and the solution is filled to the mark with ultrapure water. This supporting electrolyte must be freshly prepared every day.

Standard solutions

Pt(IV) standard solution	$\beta(\text{Pt(IV)}) = 1 \text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$ This solution is prepared from the Pt(IV) stock solution by dilution with $c(\text{HCl}) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$. Dilutions
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with concentrations below 1 mg/L should be freshly prepared every day.

Analysis

Measuring solution

10 mL (diluted) digested sample

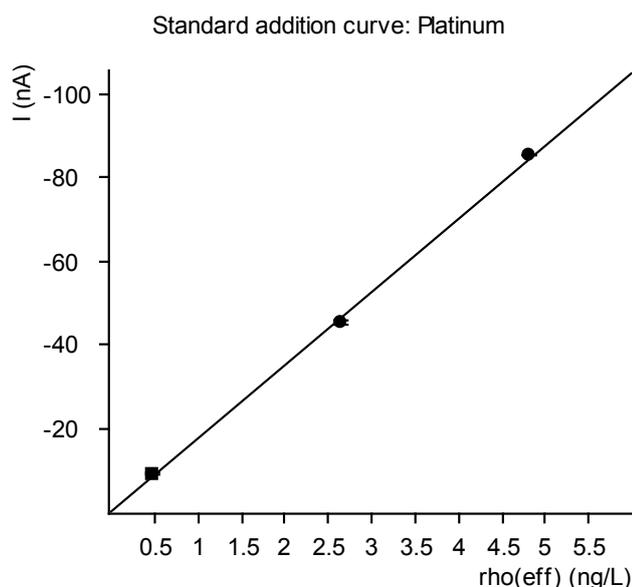
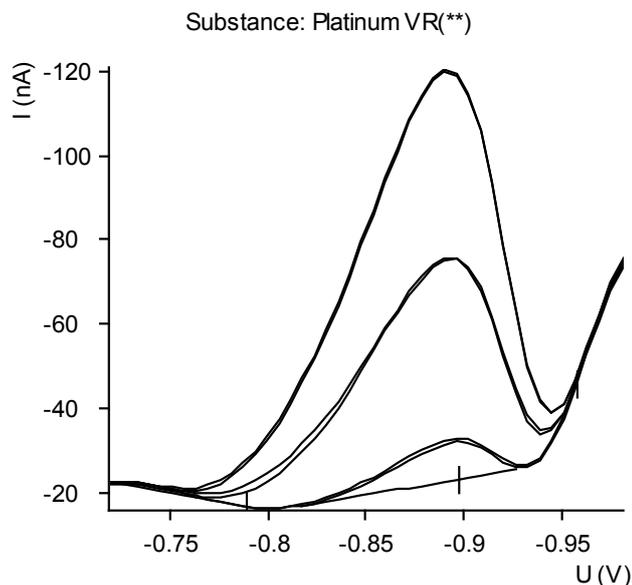
1.5 mL supporting electrolyte

The concentration is determined by standard addition.

Parameters

Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	HMDE
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min^{-1}
Potentiostatic pretreatment	
Potential 1	-0.6 V
Waiting time 1	120 s
Equilibration time	10 s
Sweep	
Start potential	-0.6 V
End potential	-1.1 V
Potential step	0.006 V
Potential step time	0.3 s
Sweep rate	0.02 V/s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V
Substance	
Name	Pt
Characteristic potential	-0.88 V

Example



Results

Sample	Tap water
Sample size	10.0 mL
$\beta(\text{Pt})$	0.6 ng/L

Comments

- Under no circumstances the determination should be carried out with a Pt auxiliary electrode.
- A reference electrode that has already been used together with a Pt electrode should not be used.
- It is very advantageous if all vessels and electrodes are only used for this determination.

- If during the preparation of the supporting electrolyte the solution is not allowed to cool down to room temperature before the addition of the hydrazine sulfate and formaldehyde then an interfering peak will appear in the voltammogram at the peak potential of platinum.
- Pt(IV) is reduced to Pt(II) by the supporting electrolyte.
- With a deposition time of 120 s the limit of detection for Pt is approx. 0.1 ng/L.
- The sensitivity of the method could not be increased by using other measuring modes (square wave (SQW) and alternating current (AC)).
- With a deposition time of 60 s the working range is linear up to 200 ng/L Pt.
- With higher concentrations of nitrate the Pt peak is lost in the increase of the baseline. For example, 0.16 mol/L NO_3^- reduces the recovery of 5 ng/L Pt by 50%.

References

- Z. Zhao, H. Freiser
Differential pulse polarographic determination of trace levels of platinum
Anal. Chem. 58 (1986) 1498–1501.
- K. Hoppstock, F. Alt, K. Cammann, G. Weber
Determination of platinum in biotic and environmental materials. Part II: A sensitive voltammetric method
Fresenius Z. Anal. Chem. 335 (1989) 813–816.
- C. M. G. van den Berg, G. S. Jacinto
The determination of platinum in sea water by adsorptive cathodic stripping voltammetry
Anal. Chim. Acta. 211 (1988) 129–139.

Method 2: Determination of rhodium

Summary

In a hydrochloric acid solution rhodium forms a complex with formaldehyde that can be adsorbed on the HMDE. The adsorbed complex reduces the hydrogen overpotential at the mercury electrode and thus catalyzes the reduction of hydrogen. The signal of the hydrogen reduction is used for the determination; its size is proportional to the concentration of the Rh complex. The catalytic effect of the rhodium explains the extreme sensitivity of the method.

Reagents

All of the used reagents must be of purest quality possible (for analysis or for trace analysis*).

- Hydrochloric acid, $w(\text{HCl}) = 30\%$, for trace analysis*, CAS 7647-01-0
- Formaldehyde solution, $w(\text{HCHO}) = 37\%$, CAS 50-00-0
- Rh(III) stock solution, $\beta(\text{Rh(III)}) = 1 \text{ g/L}$, commercially available
- Ultrapure water, resistivity $>18 \text{ M}\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ (25 °C), type I grade (ASTM D1193)

* e.g., Merck suprapur®, Honeywell Fluka TraceSelect® or equivalent

Standard solutions

Rh(III) standard-solution	$\beta(\text{Rh(III)}) = 1 \text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$ This solution is prepared from the Rh(III) stock solution by dilution with $c(\text{HCl}) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$. Dilutions with concentrations below 1 mg/L should be freshly prepared every day.
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Analysis

Measuring solution

10 mL (diluted) digested sample

200 μL $w(\text{HCl}) = 30\%$

10 μL $w(\text{HCHO}) = 37\%$

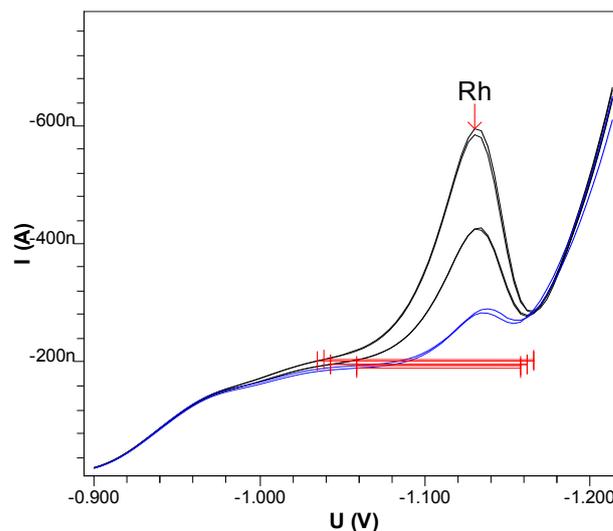
The concentration is determined by standard addition.

Parameters

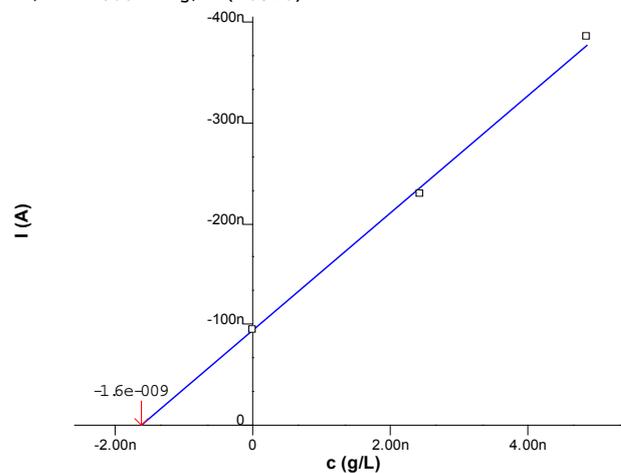
Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	HMDE
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min^{-1}
Potentiostatic pretreatment	
Potential 1	-0.7 V
Waiting time 1	60 s
Equilibration time	10 s
Sweep	
Start potential	-0.9 V
End potential	-1.23 V
Potential step	0.004 V
Potential step time	0.3 s
Sweep rate	0.013 V/s

Pulse amplitude	0.05 V
Substance	
Name	Rh
Characteristic potential	-1.15 V

Example



Rh
 $c = 1.655 \text{ ng/l}$
 $+/- 0.071 \text{ ng/l (4.31\%)}$



Results

Sample	Tap water
Sample size	10.0 mL
$\beta(\text{Rh})$	1.7 ng/L

Comments

- As the Rh peak lies in the hydrogen increase region it is recommended that only the front half of the peak is evaluated.

- With a deposition time of 120 s the determination limit for Rh is approx. 0.5 ng/L.
- With a deposition time of 60 s the working range is linear up to 500 ng/L Rh.
- The presence of nitrate does not interfere with the determination but displaces the potential of the Rh peak towards more negative values.

References

- E. Helmers, N. Mergel
Platinum and rhodium in a polluted environment: Studying the emissions of automobile catalysts with emphasis on the application of CSV rhodium analysis
Fresenius J. Anal. Chem. 362 (1998) 522–528
- C. León, H. Emons, P. Ostapczuk, K. Hoppstock
Simultaneous ultratrace determination of platinum and rhodium by cathodic stripping voltammetry
Anal. Chim. Acta. 336 (1997) 99–104

Method 3: Simultaneous determination of rhodium and platinum

Summary

Rhodium and platinum can also be determined if they are both present in the same solution. As hydrazine interferes with the Rh determination, rhodium is first determined in hydrochloric acid solution without hydrazine sulfate. Afterwards the hydrazine sulfate solution and dilute sulfuric acid are added and the Pt determination is carried out.

Reagents

All of the used reagents must be of purest quality possible (for analysis or for trace analysis*). Only high purity water should be used.

- Hydrochloric acid, $w(\text{HCl}) = 30\%$, for trace analysis*, CAS 7647-01-0
- Sulfuric acid, $w(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 96\%$, for trace analysis*, CAS 7664-93-9
- Formaldehyde solution, $w(\text{HCHO}) = 37\%$, CAS 50-00-0
- Hydrazine sulfate, $\text{N}_2\text{H}_6\text{SO}_4$, for trace analysis*, CAS 10034-93-2

- Rh(III) stock solution, $\beta(\text{Rh(III)}) = 1 \text{ g/L}$, commercially available
- Pt(IV) stock solution, $\beta(\text{Pt(IV)}) = 1 \text{ g/L}$, commercially available
- Ultrapure water, resistivity $>18 \text{ M}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ (25 °C), type I grade (ASTM D1193)

* e.g., Merck suprapur®, Honeywell Fluka TraceSelect® or equivalent

Solutions

Hydrazine sulfate solution	$c(\text{N}_2\text{H}_6\text{SO}_4) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$ 0.13 g hydrazine sulfate is dissolved in 10 mL ultrapure water. This solution is stable for max. 1 week.
Diluted sulfuric acid	$c(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 2 \text{ mol/L}$ The diluted sulfuric acid is prepared from $w(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 96\%$ by dilution with ultrapure water.

Standard solutions

Rh(III) standard solution	$\beta[\text{Rh(III)}] = 1 \text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$ The solution is prepared from the Rh(III) standard stock solution by dilution with $c(\text{HCl}) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$. Dilutions with concentrations below 1 mg/L should be freshly prepared every day.
Pt(IV) standard solution	$\beta[\text{Pt(IV)}] = 1 \text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$ The solution is prepared from the Pt(IV) standard stock solution by dilution with $c(\text{HCl}) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$. Dilutions with concentrations below 1 mg/L should be freshly prepared every day.

Analysis

Measuring solution for the Rh determination

10 mL (diluted) digested sample

200 μL $w(\text{HCl}) = 30\%$

10 μL $w(\text{HCHO}) = 37\%$

The concentration of Rh is determined by standard addition using the parameters specified in method 2.

Measuring solution for the Pt determination

Measuring solution from the Rh determination

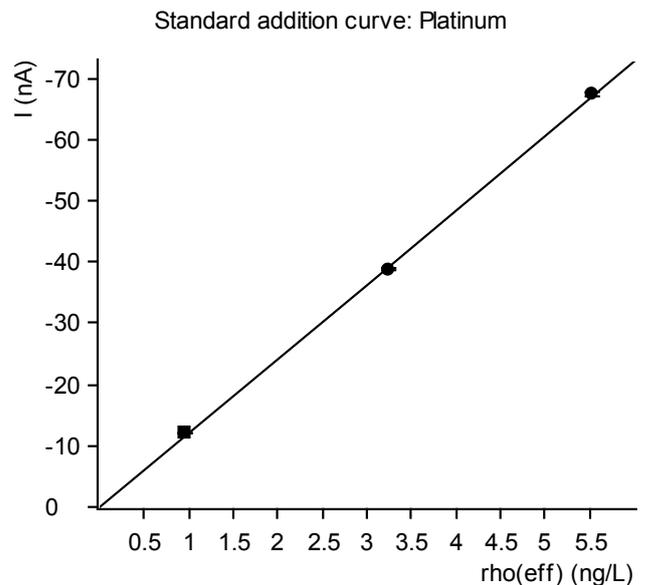
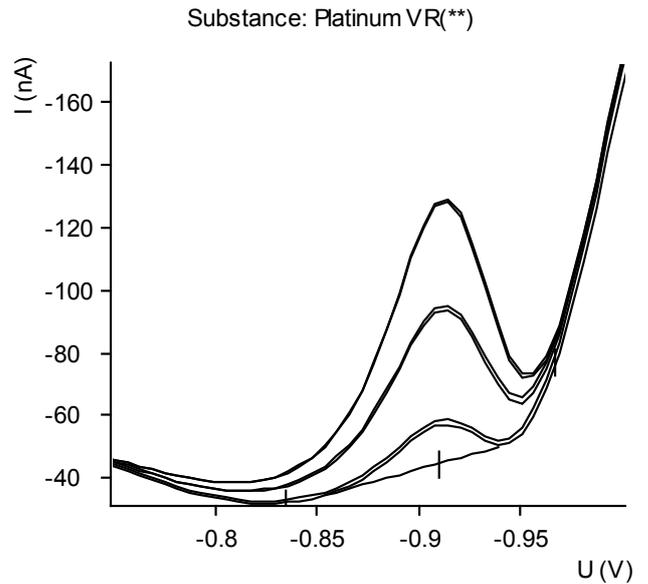
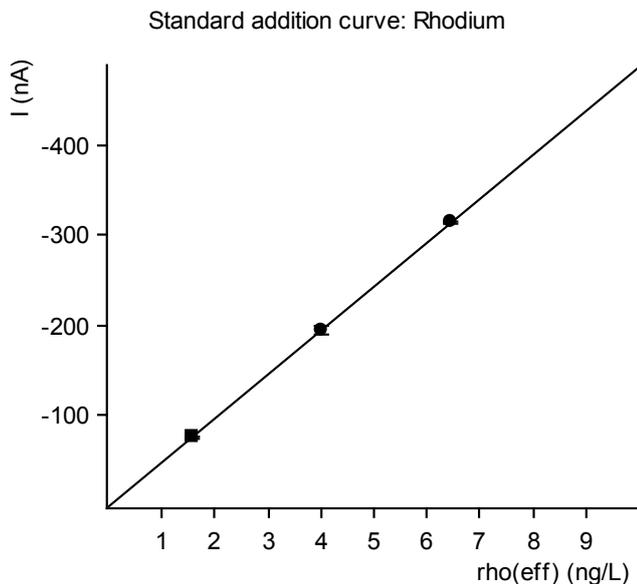
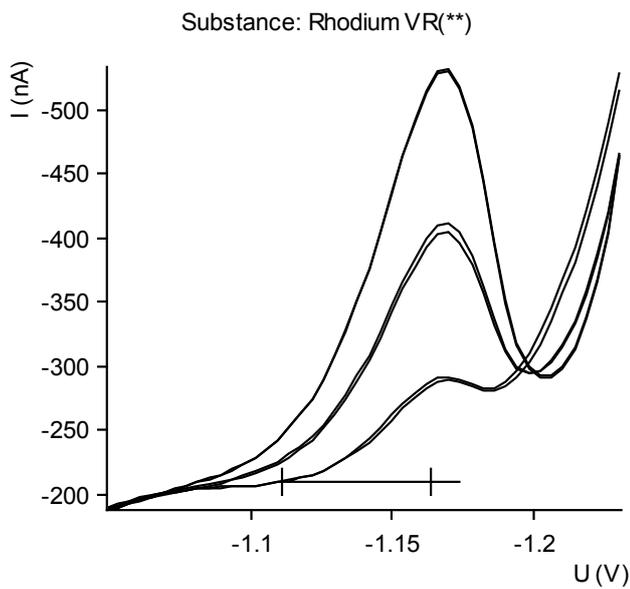
15 μL $c(\text{N}_2\text{H}_6\text{SO}_4) = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$

0.675 mL $c(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 2 \text{ mol/L}$

After the addition of the hydrazine sulfate solution the mixture is stirred for 60 s. The diluted sulfuric acid is then added and the platinum is determined under the conditions given in method 1.

The Pt concentration is determined by standard addition.

Examples



Results

Sample	Tap water
Sample size	10.0 mL
$\beta(\text{Rh})$	1.6 ng/L
$\beta(\text{Pt})$	1.1 ng/L

Comments

- Under no circumstances should the determination be carried out with a Pt auxiliary electrode.
- A reference electrode that has already been used together with a Pt electrode should not be used.

- It is very advantageous if all vessels and electrodes are only used for this determination.
- In order to avoid heating the measuring solution and the enlargement of the interference peak at the Pt potential associated with this, the sulfuric acid is added in dilute form.

References

- E. Helmers, N. Mergel
Platinum and rhodium in a polluted environment: Studying the emissions of automobile catalysts with emphasis on the application of CSV rhodium analysis
Fresenius J. Anal. Chem. 362 (1998) 522–528.
- C. León, H. Emons, P. Ostapczuk, K. Hoppstock
Simultaneous ultratrace determination of platinum and rhodium by cathodic stripping voltammetry
Anal. Chim. Acta. 336 (1997) 99–104

Report for the example determination of Rh in tap water (spiked sample) after UV digestion according to method 2

===== METROHM 797 VA COMPUTRACE (Version 1.0.0.1) (Serial No. 0) =====

Determination : 11221804_20001122_2_9.dth
 Sample ID : 20001122_2_9
 Creator method : Date : Time:
 Creator determ.: Date : 2000-11-22 Time: 18:04:05
 Modified by : --- Date : Time:

Method : AB 220_2 Det of Rh.mth
 Title : Determination of Rhodium
 Remark1 : 10 mL sample + 200 uL HCl (30 %) + 10 uL Formaldehyd
 Remark2 : tap water (22.11.2000/2 pos. 9)

Sample amount : 10.000 mL
 Cell volume : 10.210 mL

Substance : Rh
 Conc. : 1.621 ng/L
 Conc.dev. : 0.070 ng/L (4.31%)
 Amount : 16.547 pg
 Add.amount : 25.000 pg

VR	V	nA	I.mean	Std.Dev.	I.delta	Comments
1 - 1	-1.138	-96.2	-94.8	1.945	0.0	
1 - 2	-1.134	-93.4				
2 - 1	-1.130	-229.0	-229.8	1.152	-135.0	
2 - 2	-1.134	-230.6				
3 - 1	-1.130	-392.3	-386.0	8.820	-156.2	
3 - 2	-1.130	-379.8				

Substance	Calibr.	Y.reg/offset	Slope	Mean deviat.	Corr.Coeff.
Rh	std.add.	-9.425e-008	-5.815e+001	6.243e-009	0.99858

Final results	+/-	Res. dev.	%	Comments
Rh: default	=	1.655 ng/l	0.071	4.314

Method print for the determination of Rh according to method 2

Method parameters

Method : AB 220_2 Det of Rh.mth
 Title : Determination of Rhodium
 Remark1 : 10 mL sample + 200 uL HCl (30 %) + 10 uL Formaldehyd
 Remark2 : tap water (22.11.2000/2 pos. 9)

Calibration : Standard addition
 Technique : Batch
 Addition : Manual

Sample ID : 20001122_2_9
 Sample amount (mL): 10.000
 Cell volume (mL): 10.210

Voltammetric parameters

Mode : DP - Differential Pulse
 Highest current range : 10 mA
 Lowest current range : 100 nA
 Electrode : HMDE
 Drop size (1..9) : 4
 Stirrer speed (rpm) : 2000
 Initial electr. conditioning : No
 No. of additions : 2
 No. of replications : 2
 Measure blank : No
 Addition purge time (s) : 30
 Initial purge time (s) : 300

Conditioning cycles
 Start potential (V) : -1.200
 End potential (V) : -0.100
 No. of cycles : 0

Hydrodynamic (measurement) : No
 Cleaning potential (V) : -0.100
 Cleaning time (s) : 0.000
 Deposition potential (V) : -0.700
 Deposition time (s) : 60.000

Sweep
 Equilibration time (s) : 5.000
 Start potential (V) : -0.900
 End potential (V) : -1.210
 Voltage step (V) : 0.004
 Voltage step time (s) : 0.300
 Sweep rate (V/s) : 0.013
 Pulse amplitude (V) : 0.050
 Pulse time (s) : 0.040

Cell off after measurement : Yes

Peak evaluation

Regression technique : Linear Regression
 Peak evaluation : Height
 Minimum peak width (V.steps) : 5
 Minimum peak height (A) : 1.000e-010
 Reverse peaks : No
 Smooth factor : 1
 Eliminate spikes : Yes

Substances

Rh : -1.180 V +/- 0.050 V

Standard solution : 1 1.000 ug/L
 Addition volume (mL) : 0.025

default : Final result (Rh) =
 Conc * (10.21 / 10) * (1e+009 / 1) + 0 - 0

Baseline

Substance	Addition	automatic	start (V)	end (V)	type	scope
Rh	Sample	yes	---	---	linear	frontEnd
	Addition 1	yes	---	---	linear	frontEnd
	Addition 2	yes	---	---	linear	frontEnd

Report for the example determination of Rh and Pt in tap water (spiked sample) after UV digestion according to method 3

===== METROHM 746 VA TRACE ANALYZER (5.746.0101) =====
 Determ. : 11221713 User: Date: 2000-11-22
 Modified : no Run : 0 Time: 17:13:37
 Sample table: -

Pos.	Ident.1/S1	Ident.2/S2	Ident.3/S3	Method.call	Sample size/S0
8	Auf221100_2				10 mL

Method : AB220R+P
 Title : Determination of Rhodium and Platinum. AB 220
 Remark1 : Aufschluss 22.11.2000/2 Pos.8
 Remark2 : tap water

Substance	Mass conc.:	MC.dev.	Cal.dev.	Mass	Add.mass	V0.sample	Comments
Rhodium	1.600 ng/L	0.059 ng/L (3.66%)	-	16 pg	25 pg	10 mL	-----

VR	U/mV	I/nA	I.mean	Std.dev.	I.delta	Comments
00	-1163	-75.84	-76.76	1.309		front overlapping
01	-1162	-77.69				front overlapping
10	-1167	-197.2	-193.9	4.652	-117.2	
11	-1167	-190.6				
20	-1168	-312.6	-313.6	1.417	-119.6	
21	-1168	-314.6				

Substance :	Platinum	Comments
Mass conc.:	1.062 ng/L	-----
MC.dev. :	0.050 ng/L (4.7%)	Mass : 10.62 pg
Cal.dev. :	-	Add.mass : 25 pg
		V0.sample: 10 mL

VR	U/mV	I/nA	I.mean	Std.dev.	I.delta	Comments
00	-910	-12.01	-12.09	0.1041		front overlapping
01	-910	-12.16				front overlapping
10	-912	-38.77	-38.68	0.1339	-26.59	front overlapping
11	-912	-38.58				front overlapping
20	-913	-66.97	-67.13	0.2241	-28.45	front overlapping
21	-913	-67.29				front overlapping

Substance	Techn.	Y.reg/offset	Slope	Nonlin.	Mean deviat.
Rhodium	std.add.	-7.626e-08	-48.67		2.673e-09
Platinum	std.add.	-1.176e-08	-12.12		5.902e-10

Final results	+/-	Res.dev.	%	Comments
Rhodium =	1.5997 ng/L	0.059	3.66	
Platinum =	1.0621 ng/L	0.050	4.70	

Method print for the determination of Rh and Pt according to method 3

===== METROHM 746 VA TRACE ANALYZER (5.746.0101) =====
 Method: AB220R+P.mth OPERATION SEQUENCE
 Title : Determination of Rhodium and Platinum. AB 220

	Instructions	t/s	Main parameters	Auxiliary parameters
1	SMPL>M		V.fraction mL	V.total L
2	DOS>M		Soln.name	V.add 0.210 mL
3	REM		+200 uL HCl (30%), 10 uL	Formaldehyde (36.5%)
4	PURGE			
5	STIR	300.0	Rot.speed 2000 /min	
6	(ADD			
7	PURGE			
8	STIR	30.0	Rot.speed 2000 /min	
9	(REP			
10	SEGMENT		Segm.name DPCSV_Rh	
11	REP)1			
12	ADD>M		Soln.name Rh_Std	V.add 0.025 mL
13	ADD)2			
14	STIR		Rot.speed 2000 /min	
15	DOS>M		Soln.name Hydrazin	V.add 0.015 mL
16	STIR	60.0	Rot.speed 2000 /min	
17	DOS>M		Soln.name 2M H2SO4	V.add 0.675 mL
18	PURGE	30.0		
19	(ADD			
20	PURGE			
21	STIR	30.0	Rot.speed 2000 /min	
22	(REP			
23	SEGMENT		Segm.name DPCSV_Pt	
24	REP)1			
25	ADD>M		Soln.name Pt_Std	V.add 0.025 mL
26	ADD)2			
27	END			

Method: AB220R+P SEGMENT DPCSV_Rh

	Instructions	t/s	Main parameters	Auxiliary parameters
1	0PURGE			
2	STIR	5.0	Rot.speed 2000 /min	
3	HMDE		Drop size 4	Meas.cell normal
4	DPMODE		U.ampl -50 mV	t.meas 20.0 ms
			t.step 0.30 s	t.pulse 40.0 ms
5	MEAS	60.0	U.meas -700 mV	
6	OSTIR	10.0		
7	FSWEEP	25.8	U.start -900 mV	U.step 4 mV
			U.end -1230 mV	Sweep rate 13.33 mV/s
8	OMEAS		U.standby mV	
9	END			

Method: AB220R+P SEGMENT

DPCSV_Pt

	Instructions	t/s	Main parameters		Auxiliary parameters	
1	OPURGE					
2	STIR	5.0	Rot.speed	2000 /min		
3	HMDE		Drop size	4	Meas.cell	normal
4	DPMODE		U.ampl	-50 mV	t.meas	20.0 ms
			t.step	0.30 s	t.pulse	40.0 ms
5	MEAS	60.0	U.meas	-600 mV		
6	OSTIR					
7	FSWEEP	26.1	U.start	-600 mV	U.step	6 mV
			U.end	-1100 mV	Sweep rate	20 mV/s
8	OMEAS		U.standby	mV		
9	END					