



The University of Sistan & Baluchestan
Graduate School

The Dissertation of Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry

Title:

**Determination of Cyanide and
Simultaneous Analysis of Ascorbic
Acid, Dopamine and Uric Acid Using
Flow Injection Analysis-Flame Atomic
Absorption Spectrometry and Using
Electrochemical Method Based on
Silver and Silver Hexacyanoferrate
Nanoparticles**

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Dedicated to:

my wife

my parents

and

everyone who thought me

any things

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Abstract

This dissertation has two parts:

In part I, rapid flow injection–flame atomic absorption spectrometry for cyanide detection is described. Different AgX (X= Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻ and N₃⁻) and Ag₃PO₄ solid-phase reagents (SPR) were tested for indirect determination of cyanide. In a single-line FIA system, the cyanide was allowed to react with AgX SPR, which in turn changed Ag ions in AgX to silver cyanide complexes in a sodium hydroxide carrier stream. The eluent containing the analyte as silver cyanide complexes was measured by FAAS. Variable parameters such as carrier pH, flow rate, loop volume, reactor composition and reactor temperature were optimized. The calibration curves were linear up to 30 and 18 mg L⁻¹ with a detection limit of 0.05 and 0.04 mg L⁻¹ for AgX and Ag₃PO₄, respectively. The sampling rate and the relative standard deviation were <1.09% and <1.07 and >200 and 220 h⁻¹, for AgX and Ag₃PO₄, respectively. The method was applied to the determination of cyanide in electroplating wastewater.

In part II, Ag and Ag₄[Fe(CN)₆] nanoparticles were synthesized and utilized for detection of cyanide and simultaneous determination of ascorbic acid, dopamine and uric acid.

Silver nanoparticles were prepared and embedded in the three dimensional network of a mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane (MPS) sol-gel. A clean gold electrode was immersed in a hydrolyzed MPS sol–gel solution containing Ag nanoparticles to assemble three-dimensional silica gel. Thus, modified electrode was prepared to detect cyanide based on the specific reaction of Ag nanoparticle and CN⁻. The size of Ag nanoparticles and silica pores was examined by atomic force microscopy and found to be around 34.5 nm and 91.3 nm, respectively.

The performance and factors influencing the performance of the resulting sensor were studied in detail. The detection limit of the sensor was $1.4 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, and the linear range was from 1.5×10^{-6} to $2.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

Silver hexacyanoferrate

A silver hexacyanoferrate nanoparticles/carbon nanotubes modified glassy carbon electrode was fabricated and then successfully used for the cyanide determination and simultaneous determination of ascorbic acid, dopamine and uric acid by square wave and cyclic voltammetry. A detailed investigation by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and electrochemistry was performed in order to elucidate the preparation process and properties of the nanocomposites. The size of silver hexacyanoferrate nanoparticles was determined by TEM around 27 nm. The practical analytical utilities of the modified electrode were demonstrated by the determination of cyanide in industrial wastewater and of ascorbic acid, dopamine and uric acid in urine and human blood serum samples.

Keywords: Flow injection analysis, Solid-phase reactor, Cyanide, Ascorbic acid, Dopamine, Uric acid, Silver and Silverhexacyanoferrate nanoparticles.

Contents

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
Part I: Determination of Cyanide Using silver salts solid-phase reactor FIA-FAAS	
CHAPTER ONE: Cyanide; Properties, Importance and Its Determination Methods	
1.1. Introduction.....	3
1.2. Physicochemical properties of cyanides.....	3
1.3. Cyanide in industry.....	4
1.4. Cyanide releases to environment and its risks.....	5
1.5. Cyanide recovery and removal technologies.....	8
1.6. Biological mechanisms of cyanide toxicity.....	10
1.7. Metabolism and detoxification of cyanide.....	12
1.8. Treatment of poisoning.....	13
1.9. Determination of cyanide.....	14
1.9.1. Classical methods.....	14
1.9.2. Instrumental methods.....	15
1.9.2.1. Spectrophotometric methods.....	16
1.9.2.2. Chromatographic methods.....	18
1.9.2.3. Raman spectroscopy.....	19
1.9.2.4. Luminescence methods.....	20
1.9.3. Electrochemical methods and biosensors.....	21
1.9.4. Flow injection method.....	25
1.9.4.1. Homogeneous flow injection system.....	25
1.9.4.2. Heterogeneous flow injection system (indirect methods).....	29
1.9.5. Nanoparticles.....	30

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
----------------------	-------------

CHAPTER TWO: Flow Injection Analysis

2.1. Theoretical aspects of flow analysis.....	33
2.2. Classification of flow systems.....	34
2.2.1. Continuous flow analysis (CFA).....	34
2.2.2. Flow Injection Analysis (FIA).....	35
2.2.3. Sequential injection analysis.....	36
2.3. Dispersion.....	37
2.3.1. Empirical assessment of the sample dispersion.....	38
2.3.2. Influence of the different parameters on the dispersion.....	39
2.4. Essential elements of an FIA assembly.....	40
2.4.1. Propelling unit.....	40
2.4.2. Injector.....	41
2.4.3. Transport system.....	42
2.4.4. Reactor and mixing device.....	42
2.4.5. Detector.....	43
2.5. Solid-phase reactors.....	44

Experimental Section of Part I

CHAPTER THREE: Determination of Cyanide Using AgX (X=Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻ and N₃⁻)

SPR-FIA-FAAS

3.1. Proposed method.....	48
3.2. Reagents and solutions.....	48
3.3. Instrumentation.....	49
3.4. The solid-phase reactor.....	50
3.5. Results and discussion.....	50

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
3.5.1. Optimization of variables.....	50
3.5.1.1. Optimization of flow rate.....	51
3.5.1.2. Optimization of carrier ph.....	52
3.5.1.3. Optimization of solid-phase reactor composition.....	52
3.5.1.4. Optimization of loop volume.....	53
3.5.1.5. Optimization of reactor temperature.....	54
3.5.2. Interference study.....	54
3.5.3. Evaluation of the method.....	57
3.5.4. Precision and accuracy of proposed method.....	57
3.5.5. Recovery tests.....	58
3.5.6. Application to industrial samples.....	58
3.6. Conclusions.....	60
 CHAPTER FOUR: Indirect Determination of Cyanide by FIA-FAAS Using Ag_3PO_4-packed Column	
4.1. Introduction.....	62
4.2. Reagents and solutions.....	62
4.3. Instrumentation.....	63
4.4. Solid-phase reactor.....	63
4.5. Results and discussion.....	63
4.5.1. Optimization of variables.....	63
4.5.2. Effect of calcium and lanthanum ions as releasing agents.....	67
4.6. Sample matrix interference.....	67
4.7. Evaluation of the method.....	69
4.8. Precision and accuracy of the proposed method.....	70

Content	Page
4.9. Recovery tests.....	70
4.11. Conclusions.....	71
References of Part I	72

Part II: Preparation of Modified electrodes Using Silver and Silver Hexacyanoferrate Nanoparticles and Their Application for Determination of Cyanide and Simultaneous Analysis of Ascorbic Acid, Dopamine and Uric Acid

CHAPTER FIVE: Chemically Modified Electrodes and Metal Nanoparticles

5.1. Introduction.....	82
5.2. Methods of electrode modification.....	82
5.2.1. Covalent attachment of a monolayer.....	83
5.2.2. Coating the electrode with films of polymers.....	83
5.2.3. Bulk modification of composite carbon materials.....	83
5.2.4. Sol-gel encapsulation.....	84
5.2.5. Physical adsorption.....	84
5.3. Introduction to nanoparticles.....	86
5.4. Properties and applications of metal nanoparticles.....	87
5.5. Application of nanoparticles in chemical analysis.....	89
5.6. The production of metal nanoparticles.....	91
5.6.1. Microemulsion method.....	92
5.6.2. Sol-gel method.....	94

CHAPTER SIX: Investigation of a New Electrochemical Cyanide Sensor Based On Ag Nanoparticles Embedded In a Three-Dimensional Sol-Gel

6.1. Reagents and solutions.....	99
----------------------------------	----

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
6.2. Instrumentation.....	99
6.3. Preparation of Ag nanoparticles in MPS sol–gel (AgNPs–MPS sol–gel).....	100
6.4. Electrode modification.....	100
6.5. Results and discussion.....	102
6.5.1. UV–vis and AFM characterization.....	102
6.5.2. Electrochemical characteristics of modified electrode.....	104
6.5.3. Electrochemical behavior of CN [−] at AgNPs modified electrode.....	105
6.6. Optimization of the variables.....	109
6.6.1. Optimization of the film composition.....	109
6.6.2. Optimization of the self-assembly time.....	110
6.6.3. Optimization of the cell pH.....	110
6.6.4. Optimization of the supporting electrolyte.....	110
6.7. Analytical utility.....	111
6.7. Calibration curve, linear range and detection limit of the method.....	111
6.7.2. Interferences study.....	113
6.7.3. Reproducibility and stability of the modified electrode.....	114
6.7.4. Application to industrial samples and recovery test.....	115
6.8. Conclusions.....	116
 CHAPTER SEVEN: Cyanide Determination Using Glassy Carbon Electrode Modified With CNT and Ag₄[Fe(CN)₆] Nanoparticles	
7.1. Introduction.....	119
7.2. Reagents solutions.....	120
7.3. Instrumentation.....	120
7.4. Preparation of AgHCFNPs.....	120

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
7.5. Electrode modification.....	121
7.6. Results and discussion.....	122
7.6.1. TEM characterization of AgHCFNPs.....	122
7.6.2. Electrochemical characteristics of modified electrode.....	123
7.6.3. Electrochemical behavior of CN ⁻ at GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs modified electrode.....	124
7.7. Optimization of the variables.....	125
7.7.1. Optimization of the CNT/AgHCFNPs ratio in the modifier film.....	125
7.7.2. Optimization of the cell pH.....	127
7.8. Analytical utility.....	127
7.8.1. Calibration curve, linear range and detection limit of the method.....	127
7.8.2. Interferences study.....	130
7.8.3. Reproducibility and stability of the modified electrode.....	131
7.8.4. Application to industrial samples and recovery test.....	131
7.9. Conclusions.....	133
 CHAPTER NINE: Simultaneous Determination of Ascorbic Acid, Dopamine and Uric Acid Using a GC/CNT/AgHCFNPs Electrode	
8.1. Ascorbic acid.....	135
8.2. Dopamine.....	136
8.3. Uric acid.....	136
8.4. Determination of AA, DA and UA.....	138
8.5. Proposed method.....	140
8.6. Reagents and instrumentation.....	141
8.7. Preparation of AgHCFNPs and electrode modification.....	141
8.8. Results and discussion.....	142

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
8.8.1. Electrochemical characteristics of modified electrode.....	142
8.8.2. Electrocatalytic oxidation of DA, UA and AA.....	144
8.8.3. The effect of CNT-AgHCFNPs composition.....	147
8.8.4. Effect of pH on the oxidation of AA, DA and UA in a ternary mixture.....	148
8.9. Analytical utility.....	149
8.9.1. Simultaneous determination of AA, DA and UA.....	149
8.9.2. Interference study.....	153
8.9.3. Real sample analysis and recovery tests.....	153
8.10. Conclusions.....	154
References of Part II	157

LIST OF TABLES

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
Table 1-1. Use of cyanide compounds in manufacturing industries.....	6
Table 1-2. Toxic effects of hydrogen cyanide.....	11
Table 3-1. Influence of foreign compounds.....	55
Table 3-2. Analytical figures of merits for four solid-phase reagents.....	56
Table 3-3. Analytical features of some FIA-FAAS systems used for CN ⁻ determination.....	56
Table 3-4. Precision and accuracy of proposed method (AgN ₃ SPR)	57
Table 3-5. Results of recovery tests.....	58
Table 3-6. Analysis of samples from different industrial electroplating wastewater samples.....	59
Table 4-1. Tolerance limits for foreign compounds.....	68
Table 4-2. Precision and accuracy of the proposed method.....	70
Table 4-3. Results of recovery test.....	70
Table 4-4. Results of analysis of samples from different industrial electrolytic baths.....	71
Table 6-1. The effects of various possible interference ions on the analysis of 1.5×10 ⁻⁵ mol L ⁻¹ cyanide.....	113
Table 6-2. Data obtained for reproducibility test.....	114
Table 6-3. Results of recovery tests.....	115
Table 6-4. Analysis of sample from different industrial Electroplating waste waters.....	117
Table 6-5. Comparison the proposed method with other electroanalytical methods for cyanide determination.....	117

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
Table 7-1. Decreasing in I_{pc} for Fe(III)/Fe(II) or increasing in I_{pc} for $Ag(CN)_2^-$ for compositions with different ratios of mg CNT/mL AgHCFNPs.....	126
Table 7-2. Comparison the proposed method with other electroanalytical methods for cyanide determination.....	130
Table 7-3. The effects of various possible interference ions on the analysis of cyanide.....	130
Table 7-4. Data obtained for reproducibility test.....	131
Table 7-5. Results of recovery tests.....	132
Table 7-6. Analysis of sample from different industrial Electroplating waste waters.....	132
Table 8-1. Comparison of E_{pa} and I_{pa} at the surface of different electrodes.....	146
Table 8-2. Cyclic voltammetric data of compositions with different ratios mg CNT/mL AgHCFNPs.....	147
Table 8-3. Analytical characteristics for simultaneous determination of AA, DA and UA by proposed method.....	152
Table 8-4. Determination of AA, DA and UA in real samples using GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs electrode.....	155
Table 8-5. Comparison the proposed method with other electroanalytical methods.....	156

LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 1-1. Schematic diagram of a complete-mix-air-stripping cyanide recovery system.....	8
Figure 1-2. Schematic illustration of enzymatic biotransformation of cyanide.....	13
Figure 1-3. Reaction scheme of the titrimetric method for cyanide determination....	15
Figure 1-4. Schematic diagram of the single-line flow system.....	29
Figure 2-1. Stimulus-response in flow systems.....	34
Figure 2-2. Typical SIA manifold.....	36
Figure 2-3. Effect of dispersion on a sample's flow profile at different times during a flow injection analysis.....	37
Figure 2-4. Typical FIA curve (diagram) showing characteristic parameters.....	38
Figure 2-5. Schematic diagram of a peristaltic pump.....	41
Figure 2-6 (a) Rotary injection valve in the filling (b) and injection positions.....	41
Figure 3-1. Schematic diagram of the single-line flow system used for the determination of cyanide.....	49
Figure 3-2. Influence of the carrier flow rate on analytical signal.....	51
Figure 3-3. Influence of the carrier stream pH on analytical signal.....	52
Figure 3-4. Influence of the AgX:silica ratio on analytical signal.....	53
Figure 3-5. Influence of the loop volume on analytical signal.....	54
Figure 4-1. Influence of the carrier stream pH on the analytical signal.....	64
Figure 4-2. Influence of the carrier flow rate on the analytical signal.....	65
Figure 4.3. Influence of solid Ag_3PO_4 (% m/m suspended on silica gel beads) on the analytical signal.....	65
Figure 4-4. Influence of the loop volume on the analytical signal.....	66

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 4-5. Influence of the reactor temperature on the analytical signal.....	66
Figure 4-6. Influence of La^{3+} and Ca^{2+} concentrations on the removal of phosphate interference on the analytical signal.....	68
Figure 4-7. Calibration graph for cyanide determination using Ag_3PO_4 solid-phase reagent under optimum conditions.....	69
Figure 5-1. Various forms of nanostructures with typical dimensions.....	86
Figure 5-2. Procedure of a noncompetitive heterogeneous electrochemical immunoassay based on a gold nanoparticle.....	91
Figure 5-3. Proposed mechanism for the formation of metal particles by the microemulsion approach.....	93
Figure 5-4. Precursors favoring the formation of dimers and 2-D and 3-D structural moieties in sol-gel processing of silicon alkoxides.....	95
Figure 6-1. Schematic representation for the immobilization of Ag NPs–MPS sol-gel onto gold electrode.....	101
Figure 6-2. The UV–vis spectrum of the AgNPs prepared in sol–gel medium.....	101
Figure 6-3. AFM images of AgNPs doped silica composite.....	103
Figure 6-4. Cyclic voltammograms of BGE; GE/sol–gel; GE/sol–gel/AgNPs.....	104
Figure 6-5. Cyclic voltammograms of a GE/sol–gel/AgNPs in absence and presence of cyanide.....	105
Figure 6-6. A) Cyclic voltammograms of a GE/sol–gel/AgNPs at various scan rates.....	107
Figure 6-7. Cyclic voltammograms at film compositions with different MPS to AgNO_3 molar ratio.....	109
Figure 6-8. Effect of solution pH on ΔI_{pc}	111

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 6-9. The effects of different supporting electrolytes on ΔI_{pc}	111
Figure 6-10. Cyclic voltammograms of a GE/sol-gel/AgNPs electrode with various concentrations of cyanide.....	112
Figure 6-11. Typical calibration curve obtained at the GE/sol-gel/AgNPs electrode.....	113
Figure 6-12. Variation of sensor response to the cyanide ($[CN^-]=1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ M) during two months.....	115
Figure 7-1. A typical TEM image of the prepared AgHCFNPs.....	122
Figure 7-2. Cyclic voltammograms of the GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs electrode in BBS with pH 8.0 and at various scan rates.....	124
Figure 7-3. Cyclic voltammogram of a GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs in BBS at pH 8.0 in absence and presence of cyanide.....	124
Figure 7-4. Effect of pH on the cyanide determination.....	126
Figure 7-5. Typical square wave voltammograms obtained at the modified electrode with different concentration of cyanide.....	129
Figure 7-6. Two calibration plots obtained for cyanide determination.....	129
Figure 7-7. Variation of electrode response to the cyanide during two weeks.....	132
Figure 8-1. Ascorbic acid and its oxidation product.....	135
Figure 8-2. Biosynthesis of dopamine from the essential amino acid L-tyrosine and formation of uric acid from purine.....	137
Figure 8-3. CVs of the GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs electrode in CABS with pH 2.0 and at various scan rates.....	143

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 8-4. CVs of AA, DA and UA at the surface of bare GC, GC/CNT and GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs electrode.....	146
Figure 8-5. Effect of pH on the peak separation and peak current for the oxidation of AA, and UA.....	148
Figure 8-5. CVs for the mixture containing AA, DA and UA with different concentrations at the GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs modified electrode.....	150
Figure 8-7. CVs for the mixture containing AA, DA and UA with different concentrations at the GC/CNT modified electrode.....	151
Figure 8-8. CVs of the mixture containing AA, DA and UA at the GC/CNT-AgHCFNPs electrode in CABS.....	152

Abbreviations

ΔE_p	Potential peak separation
$\uparrow \Delta I_{pc}$	Increasing in I_{pc}
$\downarrow \Delta I_{pc}$	Decreasing in I_{pc}
A	Surface area of the electrode
AA	Ascorbic acid
AdSV	Adsorptive stripping voltammetry
AFM	Atomic force microscopy
AFM	Atomic force microscopy
AgHCFNPs	Silver hexacyanoferrate nanoparticles
AgNPs	Silver nanoparticles
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
BBS	Borax buffer solution
BGE	Bare gold electrode
C.S.	Carrier stream
CABS	Chloroacetate buffer solution
CFA	Continuous flow analysis
CGC-ECD	Capillary gas chromatography–electron capture detector
CMCPE	Chemically modified carbon paste electrode
CMEs	Chemically modified electrodes
CNMetHb	Cyanmethemoglobin
CNT	Carbon nanotube
CV	Cyclic voltammetry
CVs	Cyclic voltammograms
D	Dispersion coefficient

DA	Dopamine
DC	Direct current
DDW	Doubly distilled water
DL	Detection limit
<i>F</i>	Faraday constant
FAAS	Flame atomic absorption spectrometry
FIA	Flow injection analysis
GC	Gas chromatography
GC	Glassy carbon electrode
GE	Gold electrode
HC	Holding coil
HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
HRP	Horseradish peroxidase
IC	Ion chromatography
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
I_{pa}	Anodic peak current
I_{pc}	Cathodic peak current
ISEs	Ion selective electrodes
LOQ	Limit of quantitation
LRRS	Low – resolution Raman spectroscopy
LRSEERS	Low-resolution surface-enhanced Raman scattering
MCEC	Microchip electrochromatography
MHCF	Metal hexacyanoferrate
MPS	Mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane
MWCNT	Multi-walled carbon nanotube