

Application Bulletin 116/4 e

Determination of chromium in small quantities by polarography and adsorptive stripping voltammetry after digestion

Summary

This Application Bulletin describes methods for the polarographic and voltammetric determination of small quantities of chromium in water, effluent water and biological samples. Methods for the sample preparation for various matrices are given.

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 Mercury drop capillary	6.1246.120 6.1226.030 or
		6.1226.050
RE	Ag/AgCI reference electrode Ag/AgCI/KCI (3 mol/L)	6.0728.x20
	Electrolyte vessel Filled with c(KCI) = 3 mol/L	6.1245.010
AE	Pt rod electrode	6.0343.x00

Sample preparation

Reagents

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

- Sulfuric acid, for trace analysis*, w(H₂SO₄) = 96%, CAS 7664-93-9
- Hydrogen peroxide solution, for trace analysis*, w(H₂O₂) = 30%, CAS 7722-84-1
- Hydrochloric acid, for trace analysis*, w(HCI) = 30%, CAS 7647-01-0
- Methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), for analysis, CAS 108-10-1

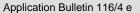
- Sodium diethyl dithiocarbamate trihydrate (NaDDTC), CAS 20624-25-3
- Potassium hydrogen phthalate, for analysis, CAS 877-24-7
- Sodium sulfite, for analysis, CAS 7757-83-7
- Potassium peroxodisulfate, for analysis, CAS 7727-21-
- Potassium permanganate, for analysis, KMnO₄, CAS 7722-64-7
- Sodium hydroxide solution, for trace analysis*, w(NaOH) = 30%, CAS 1310-73-2
- Ultrapure water, resistivity >18 MΩ·cm (25 °C), type I grade (ASTM D1193)
- Water-repellent filter paper, diameter 9 cm
- * e.g., Merck suprapur®, Honeywell Fluka TraceSelect® or equivalent

Solutions

Diluted sulfuric acid	$c(H_2SO_4) = 1.0 \text{ mol/L}$
Sodium diethyl dithiocarbamate solution	w(NaDDTC) = 2 % in water The solution should always be filtered before use.
Potassium hydrogen phthalate buffer (pH 4.0)	c(potassium hydrogen phthalate) = 0.05 mol/L
Potassium permanganate solution	c(KMnO ₄) = 0.02 mol/L
Diluted sodium hydroxide solution	c(NaOH) = 0.1 mol/L

Sample preparation

- For sulfite-free surface or drinking water no special preparation is necessary. The samples can be analyzed directly as described under «Analysis».
- With slightly contaminated waste water UV digestion has proved to be best. Add 10 μ L conc. hydrochloric acid and 50 μ L H₂O₂ to 10 mL of the sample solution and treat in the 909 UV Digester during 90 min at 90°C.





- Water containing also sulfite and Cr(III) next to Cr(VI): In acidic sulfite solution, Cr(VI) is reduced to Cr(III). Since one is primarily interested in the Cr(VI) fraction hexavalent chromium must first be extracted and determined separately.
 - Adjust the sample to pH = 4 with diluted sulfuric acid 1 mol/L.
 - Place 50 mL of this solution in a 100 mL separating funnel with 5 mL of pH 4.0 buffer solution, 2 mL NaDDTC and 10 mL MIBK. Shake vigorously for 2 minutes to extract the Cr(VI).
 - Allow to stand for 15 min, drain off the greater portion of the aqueous phase and filter the MIBK portion via a phase-separating filter into a 50 mL Kjeldahl flask. Rinse the separating funnel with a further 3 mL MIBK and pass this through the filter into the Kjeldahl flask. Add 10 mL distilled water, a glass boiling bead and 2 mL conc. sulfuric acid.
 - Place the Kjeldahl flask in a boiling water bath and drive off the MIBK with a strong stream of nitrogen.
 Rinse the gas inlet tip with distilled water and add 1.8 mL H₂O₂ to the still hot solution.
 - Heat over a Bunsen flame until the H₂O₂ starts to decompose. Stop heating until reaction is completed and the sulfuric acid is finally evaporated down to about 0.5 mL. Digestion is now completed, and the sample may be allowed to cool.
- Biological samples and waste water containing a high proportion of organic matter and chlorides proceed as follows: In the presence of sulfuric acid, Cr(VI) combines with chloride ions to form the volatile complex chromyl chloride (CrO₂Cl₂), whose boiling-point is 117 °C. To avoid loss of chromium owing to evaporation of chromyl chloride, add a spatula-tip of sodium sulfite to the sample before digestion. Digest as described in Application Bulletin 113: «Sample preparation».

Oxidation from Cr(III) to Cr(VI)

Oxidation with KMnO₄

- Add 10 mL distilled water and 2 drops KMnO₄ solution to the cooled sulfuric acid and heat to boiling-point.
- Continue adding KMnO₄ drop by drop until the pink color remains. While keeping the total volume constant by adding small amounts of water, allow the solution to boil approx. 5 min.
- Add diluted NaOH solution to the still hot solution to bring the pH value to 5-9.

Now the solution can be cooled and rinsed into the

and adsorptive stripping voltammetry after digestion

polarography vessel with distilled water.

Determination of chromium in small quantities by polarography

Oxidation with K₂S₂O₈

Another possibility is the oxidation with K₂S₂O₈.

- Add 10 mL distilled water and a spatula-tip of K₂S₂O₈ to the cooled sulfuric acid digestion solution
- Boiling slightly, allow solution to boil down to approx.
 0.5 mL, then cool and afterwards fill up to 10 mL.
- The surplus of peroxodisulfate must be boiled off, otherwise traces of peroxide will interfere with the analysis.

Oxidation with UV in the 909 UV Digester at pH 4-6

 To do this, adjust 10 mL of the sample solution to pH 4-6, then add 50 µL H₂O₂. Afterwards expose the sample solution to treatment in the UV Digester at 90°C for 30 min.

Method 1: Polarographic determination of Cr concentrations >10 μg/L

Summary

Higher chromium concentrations are determined at the dropping mercury electrode. Cr(III) must first be wet chemically oxidized. The Cr(IV) content is determined by means of DP polarography.

Reagents

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

- Potassium hydroxide, for trace analysis* w(KOH) = 30%, CAS 1310-58-3
- Ammonia solution, for trace analysis*, w(NH₃) = 25%, CAS 1336-21-6
- Acetic acid, for trace analysis*, w(CH₃COOH) = 96 -100 %, CAS 64-19-7
- Ethylene diamine, for analysis, CAS 107-15-3
- Cr standard stock solution: ß(Cr⁶⁺) = 1 g/L (commercially available)



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Ultrapure water, resistivity >18 MΩ·cm (25 °C), type I grade (ASTM D1193)

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

Solutions

Diluted ammonia	$w(NH_3) = 5\%$	
solution		

Standard solutions

Cr(VI) standard	$\beta(Cr^{6+}) = 1 \text{ mg/L}$
solution	The diluted standard solutions
	(e.g. 1 mg/L Cr) are prepared from
	a standard stock solution by
	dilution in water. They are freshly
	prepared daily.

Analysis

Measuring solution

10 mL (diluted) sample or digestion solution

10 µL ethylene diamine

150 µL acetic acid

200 µL diluted ammonia solution

Adjust the pH value of the solution with KOH or acetic acid to pH 6.8 ± 0.1 . If necessary, allow to cool. The solution is purged with nitrogen for 600 s.

The chromium concentration is determined by means of the standard addition method.

Parameters

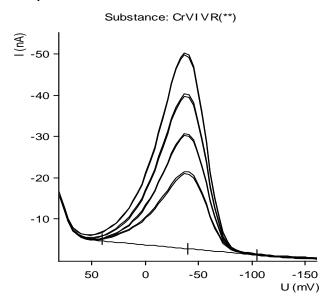
Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	SMDE
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min ⁻¹
Equilibration time	3 s
Sweep	
Start potential	0.10 V
End potential	-0.17 V
Potential step	0.004 V
Potential step time	0.6 s
Sweep rate	0.0067 V/s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V

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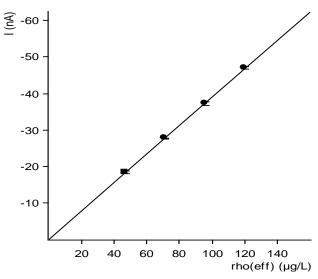
Determination of chromium in small quantities by polarography and adsorptive stripping voltammetry after digestion

Substance	
Name	Cr
Characteristic potential	-0.04 V

Example



Standard addition curve: CrVI



Result

Sample	Waste water
Sample size	10 mL
β(Cr)	47.7 μg/L

Comments

The solution has to be degassed for min. 10 min to prevent interferences from oxygen.



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- The limit of detection in samples is 10 µg/L, the upper limit of the linear range is 1 mg/L Cr. Samples of higher concentrations must be diluted.
- We recommend an evaluation of the curves using the "linear" or "exponential" baseline.
- Weak organically contaminated waste water can be analyzed without digestion.

Methods 2 + 3: Determination of chromium traces using adsorptive stripping voltammetry

Summary

Cr(III) ions or Cr(IV) ions after "in situ" reduction at the mercury electrode, build a complex with DTPA. In this complex the Cr(III) is reduced to Cr(II) and oxidized again catalytically to Cr(III) by nitrate ions. The current flowing during this process can be used for the quantitative determination of Cr.

Reagents

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

- Sodium acetate, for trace analysis*, CAS 127-09-3
- Diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), Titriplex™ V, for analysis, CAS 67-43-6
- Sodium nitrate, NaNO₃, for trace analysis*, CAS 7631-99-4
- Sodium hydroxide solution, for trace analysis*, w(NaOH) = 30 %, CAS 1310-73-2
- Cr standard stock solution: $\Re(Cr^{6+}) = 1 \text{ g/L}$ (commercially available)
- Ultrapure water, resistivity >18 MΩ·cm (25 °C), type I grade (ASTM D1193)
- * e.g., Merck suprapur®, Honeywell Fluka TraceSelect® or equivalent

Solutions

Supporting	c(sodium acetate) = 0.2 mol/L
electrolyte	c(DTPA) = 0.05 mol/L
	$c(NaNO_3) = 2.5 \text{ mol/L}$

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> 1.64 g sodium acetate, 1.96 g DTPA and 21.3 g sodium nitrate are dissolved in ultrapure water and filled up to 100 mL.

Method 2: Cr concentrations between 0.02 and 1.5 µg/kg

Standard solution

Cr(VI) standard $\beta(Cr^{6+}) = 0.02 \text{ mg/L}$ solution Diluted standard solutions are prepared from a standard stock solution by dilution in water. They are freshly prepared daily.

Analysis

Measuring solution

10 mL (diluted) sample

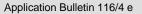
2.5 mL supporting electrolyte

Adjust the pH value of this solution to 6.2 ± 0.1, using diluted NaOH solution.

The chromium concentration is determined by means of the standard addition method.

Parameters

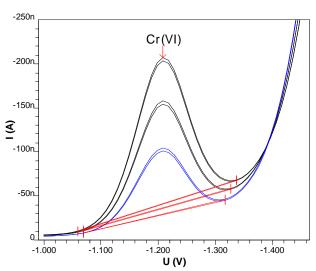
Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	HMDE
Drop size	7
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min ⁻¹
Potentiostatic pretreatment	
Potential 1	-1.0 V
Waiting time 1	60 s
Equilibration time	10 s
Sweep	
Start potential	-1.0 V
End potential	-1.45 V
Potential step	0.01 V
Potential step time	0.3 s
Sweep rate	0.033 V/s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V



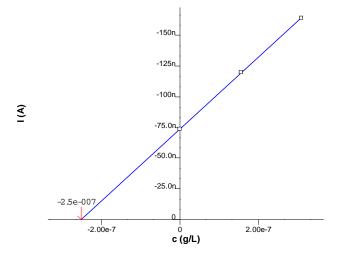


Substance	
Name	Cr
Characteristic potential	-1.25 V

Example







Result

Sample	Tap water
Sample size	10 mL
β(Cr)	0.32 μg/L

Method 3: Cr concentrations between 1 and 5 μg/L

Standard addition solution

Cr(VI) standard	$\beta(Cr^{6+}) = 0.25 \text{ mg/L}$
solution	Diluted standard solutions are
	prepared from a standard stock
	solution by dilution in water. They
	are freshly prepared daily.

Analysis

Measuring solution

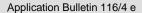
10 mL (diluted) sample

2.5 mL supporting electrolyte

Adjust the pH value of this solution to 6.2 ± 0.1 , using diluted NaOH solution. The chromium concentration is determined by means of the standard addition method.

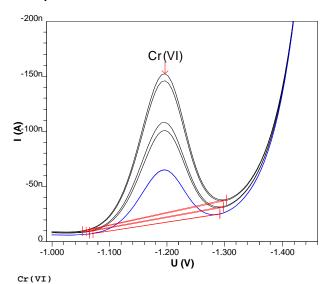
Parameters

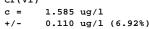
Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	HMDE
Drop size	7
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min ⁻¹
Equilibration time	10 s
Sweep	
Start potential	-1.0 V
End potential	-1.5 V
Potential step	0.01 V
Potential step time	0.3 s
Sweep rate	0.033 V/s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V
Substance	
Name	Cr
Characteristic potential	-1.25 V

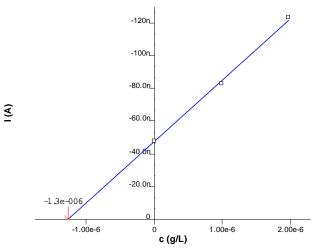




Example







Result

Sample	Sea water
Sample size	10 mL
β(Cr)	1.6 μg/L

Comments

 For methods 2 and 3 chromium should be present as Cr(VI), since with pure Cr(III) solutions peak heights constantly diminish. Sensitivity with the Cr(VI) solutions is far greater than with the Cr(III) solutions.

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 Higher Mg concentrations (>100 mg/L) interfere with the Cr(VI) determination. The background current greatly increases. It is recommended to dilute the sample solutions, e.g. seawater.

References

- Golimowski J., Valenta P., Nürnberg H. W.
 Trace determination of chromium in various water types
 by adsorption differential pulse voltammetry
 Fresenius Z. Anal. Chem. 322, (1985) 315-322
- Scholz F., Lange B., Draheim M., Pelzer J.
 The catalytic adsorptive stripping voltammetric
 determination of chromium
 with DTPA and nitrate
 Fresenius Z. Anal.Chem. 388, (1990) 627-629



Appendix

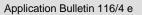
Report for the example determination of chromium according to method 1

Determ. Modified Sample table	: 05281203 : 2000-12-	OHM 746 VA 04 11:59:23	TRACE A User: l Run:	NALYZER ((5.746.0101)	Date: 1999-05-28 Time: 12:03:14
Pos. Ident	.1/S1 I	dent.2/S2	Ident	.3/S3	Method.call	l Sample size/S0 10 mL
Method : A Title : C Remark1 : 1 Remark2 : -	AB116_1 Chromium De LO mL sampl + 200 µL NH	termination e + 10 µL e 3 + NaOH	n. AB116 ethylene -> pH 6.	Part 1 diamine	+ 150 μL ac	
Substance :	CrVI: 47.68: 0.952		Ma Ad	ıss : ld.mass :		Comments
					I.delta	
	$\begin{array}{ccc} 00 & -40 \\ 01 & -40 \\ 10 & -40 \\ 11 & -40 \\ 20 & -40 \\ 21 & -40 \\ 30 & -39 \end{array}$	-18.17	-18.36 -27.57 -37.07	0.2621 0.1061 0.4113	-9.210 -9.499	
Substance	Techn.	Y.reg/off	fset S	lope	Nonlin.	Mean deviat.
CrVI	std.add.	- -1.8236				2.948e-10
C# Workg.co		ark 				
Final result			+/	- Res.dev	7. %	Comments
CrVI =	47.683			0.952	2.00	

Method print for the determination of chromium according to method 1

	Instructions	t/s	Main parameters			Auxiliary parameters		
1 2 3	DOS/M SMPL/M STIR		V.added V.fraction Rot.speed	0.360	mL mL /min	V.total	L	
4 5 6	PURGE (ADD PURGE	600.0						
7 8	STIR SEGMENT	10.0	Rot.speed Segm.name	2000 pol	/min			
9 10 11	ADD>M ADD)3 END		Soln.name	Cr-Std		V.add	0.050 mL	
Meth	nod: AB116_1		SEGMENT					

	Pol							
	Instructions	t/s	Main paramet	ers	Auxiliary pa	rameters		
1 2 3	OPURGE OSTIR (REP	3.0						
4 5	SMDE DPMODE		Drop size U.ampl	4 -50 mV	t.meas	20.0 ms		
-			t.step	0.60 s	t.pulse	40.0 ms		
6	SWEEP	42.6	U.start U.end	100 mV -170 mV	U.step Sweep rate	4 mV 6.667 mV/s		

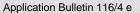




7 0MEAS 8 REP)1 9 PURGE 10 STIR 11 END	U.standby Rot.speed		mV /min		
Method: AB11	6_1 SUE	BSTANCES			
Recognit			Display / Pl		
U.verify U.tol (+ U.width U.width I.thresh	-40 mV /-) 30 mV min 10 mV max 200 mV old 200 pA		I.scale U.div U.begin U.end	auto 50.00 r 80 r -160 r	nV/cm nV nV
Baseline			Evaluation		
Type Scope dU.front S.front dU.rear S.rear	linear whole auto auto auto auto		Mode Quantity Sign. digits	7.77	
Calibration	1999-05-28 12:17:00		Coefficients		
Technique Curve type	std.add.		Y.reg Slope Nonlin.	-1.823e-0	08 92
	Additions		Mean dev.	2.95e	
Soln.name	Cr-Std				
	10 mg/L g/L g/L g/L	g/L g/L g/L	g/I g/I g/I g/I	1	g/L g/L g/L
Method: AB116	_1 CALCULA max. 15	ATION lines			
Quantity	Formula (R##, C##, A‡	‡#)		Res.unit	Sig.dig.
CrVI	R1000=MC:CrVI			#g/L	5

Report for the example determination of chromium according to method 2 $\,$

Report for the example determination of chromium according to method 2							
Sample ID Creator method Creator determ.	: 11271032_tap : tap water : : :	water.dth Date: Date:	2000-11-2	7	Time: Time: Time:	10:32:35	
Method Title	: AB 116 M2.mth : AB 116/3 Dete : 10 mL sample :	rmination of	Cr (Meth porting e	od 2) lectrolyte			
Sample amount Cell volume	: 10.000 mL : 12.500 mL						
Substance	: Cr(VI) : 252.741 ng/L : 8.247 ng/L : 3.159 ng						
	nA I.mean						
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	-121.3 -119.9	1.795	0.0				
	-165.6 -164.1	2.045	-44.3				





3 - 2 -1.208 -162.7

Substance Calibr. Y.reg/offset Slope Mean deviat. Corr.Coeff. std.add. -7.375e-008 -2.918e-001 2.362e-009 0.99929

+/- Res. dev. % Final results Comments

= 0.316 ug/l0.010 3.263

Method print for the determination of chromium according to method 2

Method parameters

Method : AB116_2_Det of CrVI with HMDE.mth
Title : Determination of Chromium(VI). AB116 part 2
Remark1 : 10ml sample + 2.5ml buffer --> pH 6.2 ± 0.1 with NaOH
Remark2 : buffer:: 0.2mol/l sodium acetate + 0.05mol/l DTPA + 2.5 mol/l NaNO3

Calibration : Standard addition Technique : Batch Addition : Manual

Sample ID : oxydized sample Sample amount (mL): 10.000

Cell volume (mL): 12.500

Voltammetric parameters

Highest current range

: 10 mA

Mode : DP - Differential Pulse

: 100 nA Lowest current range Electrode : HMDE Drop size (1..9) Stirrer speed (rpm) : 2000 Initial electr. conditioning : No No. of additions

No. of replications : 2 Measure blank : No Addition purge time (s) : 10

Initial purge time (s)

Conditioning cycles Start potential (V)

0.000 End potential (V) 0.000 No. of cycles

Hydrodynamic (measurement) Cleaning potential (V) 0.000 Cleaning time (s) 0.000 Deposition potential (V)
Deposition time (s) -1.000 60.000

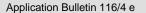
Equilibration time (s) 10.000 Start potential (V) -1.000 End potential (V)
Voltage step (V)
Voltage step time (s)
Sweep rate (V/s)
Pulse amplitude (V) -1.4500.010 0.300 0.033 Pulse time (s)

: Cell off after measurement Yes

Peak evaluation

Regression technique : Linear Regression Peak evaluation : Height

Peak evaluation
Minimum peak width (V.steps) : 5
Minimum peak height (A) : 1.000e-010
Reverse peaks : No



Time:



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Smooth factor : 4 : Yes Eliminate spikes

Substances

Cr(VI) : -1.250 V +/- 0.050 V

Standard solution : 1 2 Addition volume (mL) : 0.100 20.000 ug/L

default.

: Final result (Cr(VI)) = Conc * (12.5 / 10) * (1e+006 / 1) + 0 - 0

Baseline

Substance Addition automatic start (V) end (V) type scope _____

Cr(VI) Sample ves linear wholePeak Addition 1 yes Addition 2 yes linear wholePeak linear

Report for the example determination of chromium according to method 3

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

Determination : 11271458_sea water.dth

Sample ID

Creator method :

2000-11-27 Creator determ.: Date : Time: 14:58:48 Time: 13:37:11 Modified by Date : 2017-07-10

: AB 116 M3.mth Method

: 10 mL sample + 2.5 mL supporting electrolyte : Remark1

Remark2

Sample amount : 10.000 mL Cell volume : 12.500 mL

: Cr(VI) : 1.268 ug/L : 0.088 ug/L : 15 840 --Substance Conc. Conc.dev. (6.92%)

: 15.849 ng : 12.500 ng Amount Add.amount

nA I.mean Std.Dev. I.delta Comments -47.5 0.372 1 - 1 -1.196 -47.8 0.0

-1.196 -48.0 -79.5 -86.1 4.691 -1.196 -1.190 -82.8 -35.1 -123.3 3.956 -1.196 -126.1 -1.196 -120.5

Substance Calibr. Y.reg/offset Slope Mean deviat. Corr.Coeff. std.add. -4.746e-008 -3.743e-002 3.655e-009 0.99582 Cr(VI)

Final results +/- Res. dev. 용 Comments

Cr(VI):

= 1.585 ug/l0.110 6.923 default

Method print for the determination of chromium according to method 3

Method parameters

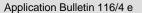
: AB116_3_Det of CrVI with HMDE.mth

: Determination of Chromium(VI). AB116 part 3 : 10ml sample + 2.5ml buffer --> pH 6.2 ± 0.1 with NaOH : buffer.: 0.2mol/l sodium acetate + 0.05mol/l DTPA + 2.5 mol/l Remark1

Remark2

NaNO3

Calibration : Standard addition Technique : Batch Addition : Manual





Sample ID : oxydized sample Sample amount (mL): 10.000 Cell volume (mL): 12.500 Voltammetric parameters : DP - Differential Pulse : 10 mA Highest current range : 100 nA Lowest current range Electrode : HMDE : 4 : 2000 Drop size (1..9) Stirrer speed (rpm) Initial electr. conditioning : No No. of additions No. of replications Measure blank : No Addition purge time (s) : 10 Initial purge time (s) 300 Conditioning cycles Start potential (V) 0.000 End potential (V) 0.000 No. of cycles Hydrodynamic (measurement) Hydrodynamic (measurement, Cleaning potential (V) Cleaning time (s) Deposition potential (V) No 0.000 0.000 -1.000 Deposition time (s) 0.000 Sweep Equilibration time (s) 10.000 Start potential (V) -1.000 End potential (V)
Voltage step (V)
Voltage step time (s)
Sweep rate (V/s)
Pulse amplitude (V) 0.010 0.300 0.033 0.050 Pulse time (s) 0.040 Cell off after measurement Peak evaluation ______ Regression technique : Linear Regression Peak evaluation : Height Minimum peak width (V.steps)
Minimum peak height (A) Minimum peak height (A) : 1.000e-010 Reverse peaks : No Smooth factor : 4 : Yes Eliminate spikes Substances : -1.250 V +/- 0.050 V Cr(VI) Standard solution : 1 1.000 mg/L Addition volume (mL) : 0.100 : Final result (Cr(VI)) = Conc * (12.5 / 10) * (1e+006 / 1) + 0 - 0 default Baseline Substance Addition automatic start (V) end (V) type Sample yes --- li:
Addition 2 yes --- li: linear wholePeak linear wholePeak linear wholePeak