

Application Bulletin 176/5 e

Determination of lead and tin by anodic stripping voltammetry

Summary

In most electrolytes the peak potentials of lead and tin are so close together, that a voltammetric determination is impossible. Difficulties occur especially if one of the metals is present in excess.

Method 1 describes the determination of Pb and Sn. Anodic stripping voltammetry (ASV) is used under addition of cetyltrimethylammonium bromide. This method is used when:

- · one is mainly interested in Pb
- · Pb is in excess
- Sn/Pb ratio is not higher than 200:1

According to method 1, Sn and Pb can be determined simultaneously if the difference in the concentrations is not too high and Cd is absent.

Method 2 is applied when traces of Sn and Pb are found or interfering Tl and/or Cd ions are present. This method also uses DPASV in an oxalate buffer with methylene blue addition.

Instruments

VA instrument	
capable of operating a Mulit-Mode	
Electrode and supporting DP mode	
909 UV Digester	2.909.0014

Sample preparation

 Ground water, surface waters, mineral waters and drinking waters can usually be analyzed without pretreatment.

Organic matter often interferes with voltammetric determinations and therefore sample solutions usually have to be digested.

- Low polluted waste waters can be digested with the 909 UV-Digester.
 - ο Add 50 μL hydrogen peroxide solution $w(H_2O_2) = 30\%$ and 10 μL hydrochloric acid w(HCI) = 30% to 10 mL acidified sample (pH = 2) and irradiate for 90 minutes at 90°C.
- Samples with organic matter (foods, pharmaceuticals etc.) must be digested.
 - o High-pressure asher
 - Microwave digestion

Both techniques oxidize the sample in a closed digestion vessel by means of a mixture of concentrated mineral acids.

 Open wet digestion with H₂SO₄ and H₂O₂ according to Application Bulletin 113.

Electrodes

WE	Multi-Mode Electrode pro Mercury drop capillary	6.1246.120 6.1226.030 or
		6.1226.050
RE	Ag/AgCl reference electrode Ag/AgCl/KCl (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

Method 1: Determination of lead and tin with cetyltrimethylammonium bromide

Reagents

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

- Hydrochloric acid, w(HCl) = 30%, for trace analysis*, CAS 7647-01-0
- Trisodium citrate dihydrat, for analysis, CAS 6132-04-3



Determination of lead and tin by anodic stripping voltammetry

- Oxalic acid monohydrate, for trace analysis*, CAS 6153-56-6
- Cetyl trimethylammonium bromide, (hexadecyl trimethyl ammonium bromide, CTAB), CAS 57-09-0
- Pb standard stock solution, β(Pb²⁺) = 1 g/L, commercially available
- Sn standard stock solution, β(Sn⁴⁺) = 1 g/L, commercially available
- Ultrapure water, resistivity >18 MΩ·cm (25 °C), type I grade (ASTM D1193)

Solutions

Electrolyte	c(citrate) = 0.1 mol/L c(oxalic acid) = 0.1 mol/L c(HCI) = 0.2 mol/L pH = 2.5 14.7 g sodium citrate and 6.3 g oxalic acid are dissolved in ultrapure water. 10.5 mL hydrochloric acid are added. The solution is made up to 500 mL with ultrapure water.
CTAB solution	c(CTAB) = 0.005 mol/L 0.46 g cetyl trimethylammonium bromide are dissolved in 250 mL ultrapure water

Standard solutions

Pb standard solution	$\beta(Pb^{2+}) = 1 \text{ mg/L}$
Sn standard solution	$\beta(Sn^{4+}) = 1 \text{ mg/L}$
	The solution is diluted with c(HCI) = 0.01 mol/L. It is stable for max. 1 week.

References

- Hernandez Mendez J., Carabis Martinez R., Gonzales Lopez M.E., Simultaneous determination of tin and lead by AC anodic stripping voltammetry at a hanging mercury drop electrode sensitized by cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, Anal. Chim. Acta 138 (1982), 47-54
- Ciszewski A., Lukaszewski Z., The influence on longchain amine and ammonium salts on the anodic

stripping voltammetry of thallium, lead, tin, cadmium, and indium, Anal. Chim. Acta 146(1983), 51-59

Method 1a: Determination of lead in the presence of tin

Theory

In presence of cetyltrimethylammonium bromide it is possible to determine Pb, even when a great excess of Sn is present. The maximum Sn:Pb ratio is approx. 200:1.

The limit of detection in the absence of Sn is 1 μ g/L of Pb. With high excess of Sn the limit of detection is 5 μ g/L of Pb.

Analysis

Measuring solution

5 mL (diluted) sample (mix while stirring without nitrogen) 5 mL electrolyte

0.05 mL CTAB solution

The concentration is determined by standard addition.

Parameters

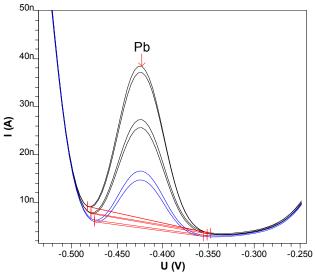
i didilieters	
Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	HMDE
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min ⁻¹
Potentiostatic pretreatment	
Potential 1	-0.48 V
Waiting time 1	90 s
Equilibration time	20 s
Sweep	
Start potential	-0.53 V
End potential	-0.25 V
Potential step	0.004 V
Potential step time	0.2 s
Sweep rate	0.02 V/s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V
Substance	
Name	Pb
Characteristic potential	-0.42 V

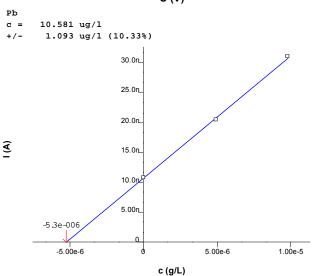
^{*} e.g., Merck suprapur®, Honeywell Fluka TraceSelect® or equivalent



Example

Determination of Pb in presence of Sn (200 fold excess)





Results

Sample size	5.0 mL
β(Pb)	10.6 μg/L

Method 1b: Determination of tin and lead simultaneously

Theory

In presence of cetyltrimethylammonium bromide it is possible to determine Pb and Sn simultaneously. The maximum Pb:Sn ratio is appr. 50:1. The simultaneous determination of tin and lead is only possible if Cd is absent.

The limit of detection for Pb is 1 μ g/L. The limit of detection for Sn is 10 μ g/L.

Analysis

Measuring solution

5 mL (diluted) sample (mix while stirring without nitrogen)

5 mL electrolyte

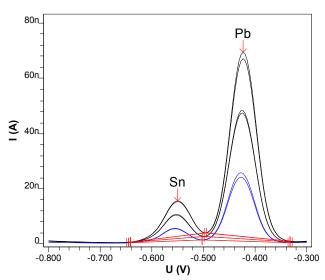
0.05 mL CTAB solution

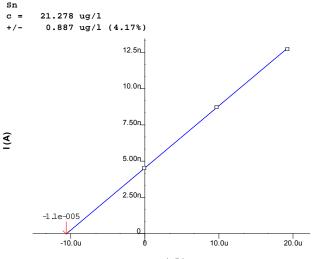
Parameters

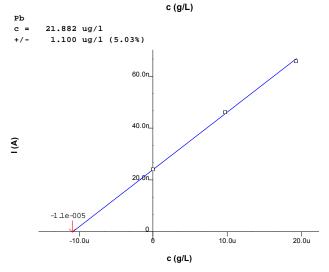
Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	HMDE
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min ⁻¹
Potentiostatic pretreatment	
Potential 1	-0.7 V
Waiting time 1	90 s
Equilibration time	20 s
Sweep	
Start potential	-0.8 V
End potential	-0.3 V
Potential step	0.004 V
Potential step time	0.2 s
Sweep rate	0.02 V/s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V
Substance	
Name	Sn
Characteristic potential	-0.55 V
Name	Pb
Characteristic potential	-0.42 V



Example







Results

Sample size	5.0 mL
$\beta(Sn)$	21.3 μg/L
β(Pb)	22.4 μg/L

Method 2: Determination of lead and tin with methylene blue

Theory

Traces of Sn and Pb can be determined in oxalate buffer in presence of methylene blue. Interferences by Cd or Tl can be eliminated by modifying the pH and an intermediate electrolysis procedure.

The limit of detection of Sn and of Pb is 1 μ g/L.

Reagents

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

- Hydrochloric acid, w(HCl) = 30%, for trace analysis*, CAS 7647-01-0
- Di-ammonium oxalate monohydrate, for analysis, CAS 6009-70-7
- Ammonium chloride, NH₄Cl, for trace analysis*, CAS 12125-02-9
- Methylene blue, C.I. 52015, CAS 61-73-4
- Sn standard stock solution, β(Sn⁴⁺) = 1 g/L, commercially available
- Pb standard stock solution, β(Pb²⁺) = 1 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

Electrolyte	c(oxalate) = 0.14 mol/L
	$c(NH_4CI) = 0.17 \text{ mol/L}$
	c(HCI) = 0.15 mol/L
	pH = 1.6
	19.2 g ammonium oxalate and
	9.2 g ammonium chloride are



	dissolved in ultrapure water. 15.8 mL hydrochloric acid are added. The solution is made up to 1000 mL with ultrapure water
Methylene blue solution	β(methylene blue) = 1g/L 0.1 g methylene blue are dissolved in 100 mL ultrapure water. The solution is stable for one week.
Pb standard solution	$\beta(Pb^{2+}) = 1 \text{ mg/L}$
Sn standard solution	$\beta(Sn^{4+}) = 1 \text{ mg/L}$
	The solution is diluted with c(HCI) = 0.01 mol/L. It is stable for max. 1 week.

A 100 l	
Anal	ysis

Measuring solution

5 mL (diluted) sample

5 mL electrolyte

0.05 mL methylene blue solution

The pH of the solution should be 1.8.

The concentration is determined by standard addition.

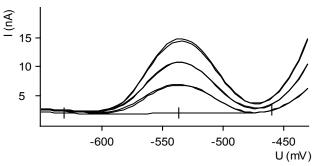
Parameters

Voltammetric	
Electrode operating mode	HMDE
Measuring mode	DP – Differential pulse
Stirring rate	2000 min ⁻¹
Potentiostatic pretreatment	
Potential 1	-0.8 V
Waiting time 1	90 s
Potential 2	-0.58 V
Waiting time 2	20 s
Equilibration time	10 s
Sweep	
Start potential	-0.8 V
End potential	-0.25 V
Potential step	0.004 V
Potential step time	0.2 s
Sweep rate	0.02 V/s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V
Substance	

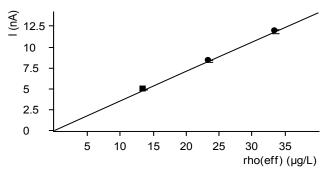
Name	Sn
Characteristic potential	-0.54 V
Name	Pb
Characteristic potential	-0.4 V

Example

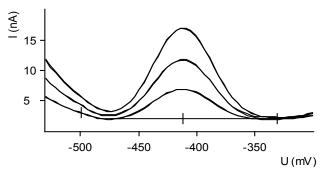
Substance: Sn VR(**)



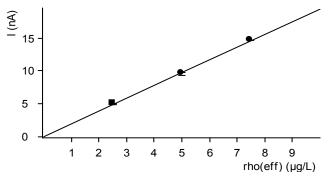
Standard addition curve: Sn

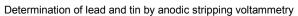


Substance: Pb VR(**)



Standard addition curve: Pb







Results

Sample size	5.0 mL
β(Sn)	27.4 μg/L
β(Pb)	5.1 μg/L

Comments

- If the tin excess is great, one must work with two segments, intermediate electrolysis (intermediate electrolysis potential approx. -540 mV) and perhaps two standard addition loops.
- If the sample contains TI, the Pb peak can be adjusted to more positive values by raising the pH value to 2.4 (addition of ammonia solution w(NH₃) = 25%). One must work fast because at this pH value tin already hydrolyses. The peak potentials are:

Pb	-0.37 V
TI	-0.41 V
Sn	-0.54 V

A good separation under these conditions can still be performed when the ratio Sn:TI lies at 1:2. Lead cannot be determined.

 If the sample contains Cd, the pH value can be lowered to 1.6 with hydrochloric acid (w(HCI) = 30%). The Sn peak adjusts then to more positive values improving the separation between Cd and Sn. The Pb and the TI concentration should, however, not be too high. The peak potentials are:

Pb	-0.40 V
TI	-0.50 V
Sn	-0.60 V

For separation, it is better to perform an intermediate electrolysis (intermediate electrolysis potential approx. - 580 mV). An excess Cd:Pb of 50:1 does not show any interference.



Appendix

Report for the example determination of Pb in the presence of excess Sn according to method 1a

```
====== METROHM 797 VA COMPUTRACE (Version 1.0.0.1) (Serial No. 0) ========
Determination : 06161543_Pb(excessSn200).dth
 Sample ID
                 : Pb(excessSn200)
Creator method:
Creator determ:
                                       Date :
                                                                     Time:
                                       Date : 1999-06-16
                                                                     Time:
                                                                             15:43:09
                                       Date :
Modified by
                                                                     Time:
             : AB176_1a.mth
Method
 Title
                 : Determination of Lead, AB176 method la
               : 5ml sample + 5ml electrolyte + 50µl cetyltrimethylammoniumbromide

: el.: 0.lmol/l trisodiumcitrate + 0.lmol/l oxalic acid + 0.2mol/l HCl
Remark1
Remark2
Sample amount : 5.000 mL Cell volume : 10.050 mL
 Substance
               : Pb
 Conc.
                     5.264 ug/L
 Conc.dev.
                     0.544 ug/L
                                      (10.33%)
                 : 52.904 ng
 Amount
Add.amount
                : 50.000 ng
 VR
        V
                 nΑ
                          I.mean Std.Dev. I.delta
        -0.423
                 11.57
                           10.80
                                      1.096
                                                  0.00
1 - 2
2 - 1
        -0.423
                  10.02
                  21.18
                           20.44
                                    1.040
                                                  9.64
        -0.423
 2 - 2
        -0.423
                  19.71
                  30.37
        -0.423
                           31.01
                                    0.907
                                               10.57
        -0.423
             Calibr.
                             Y.reg/offset
                                                 Slope Mean deviat. Corr.Coeff.
 Substance
               std.add.
                              1.072e-008 2.036e-003
                                                          1.350e-009
Final results
                                          +/- Res. dev.
                                                          용
                                                                  Comments
Ph:
                    = 10.581 \text{ ug/l}
                                          1.093
default
                                                       10.329
```

Method print for the determination of Pb according to method 1a

Method parame							
Method Title Remark1 ide Remark2 /1 HC1	: AB176_1a_Det of Determination of Sml sample + 5	: AB176_1a_Det of Pb.mth : Determination of Lead. AB176 method 1a : 5ml sample + 5ml electrolyte + 50µl cetyltrimethylammoniumbrom					
Calibration Technique Addition	: Standard addition : Batch : Manual						
Sample ID Sample amount Cell volume (r	(mL): 5.000						
Voltammetric p							
Mode		: DP - Differential Pulse					
Highest current		: 1 mA : 100 nA					
Electrode Drop size (19) Stirrer speed (rpm)		: HMDE : 4 : 2000					
Initial elect	r. conditioning	: No					
No. of additions No. of replications		: 2 : 2					



```
Measure blank
                                      : No
Addition purge time (s)
                                     : 30
Initial purge time (s)
                                             300
Conditioning cycles
Start potential (V)
                                           0.000
End potential (V)
                                           0.000
No. of cycles
Hydrodynamic (measurement)
                                            No
Cleaning potential (V)
Cleaning time (s)
                                         -0.200
Deposition potential (V)
                                          -0.480
Deposition time (s)
                                         90.000
Sweep
Equilibration time (s)
Start potential (V)
                                          -0.530
End potential (V)
                                          -0.250
Voltage step (V)
Voltage step time (s)
Sweep rate (V/s)
Pulse amplitude (V)
                                          0.004
                                           0.200
                                          0.020
                                           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)
                                     : 5.000e-010
Reverse peaks
Smooth factor
                                     : No
                                     : 4
Eliminate spikes
                                     : Yes
Substances
 ______
                         : -0.420 V +/- 0.050 V
Pb
Standard solution : 1 1 Addition volume (mL) : 0.050
                               1.000~\mathrm{mg/L}
                         : Final result (Pb) = Conc * (10.05 / 5) * (1e+006 / 1) + 0 - 0
Lead
Baseline
Substance Addition automatic start (V) end (V) type scope
          Sample yes --- ---
Addition 1 yes --- ---
Addition 2 yes --- ---
                                                  linear wholePeak
linear wholePeak
linear wholePeak
       Sample
```

Report for the example determination of Pb and Sn according to method 1b

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

Sample ID Creator method	: Date: Time:
Creator determ Modified by	
	 Determination of Sn and Pb. AB176 method 1b 5ml sample + 5ml electrolyte + 50µl cetyltrimethylammoniumbromide
Sample amount Cell volume	
Substance Conc. Conc.dev. Amount Add.amount	: 10.586 ug/L : 0.441 ug/L (4.17%) : 106.390 ng
VR V	nA I.mean Std.Dev. I.delta Comments



1 - 1 -0.554	4.42	4.52	0.145	0.00		
1 - 2 -0.554 2 - 1 -0.554 2 - 2 -0.554	8.59	8.71	0.167	4.19		
3 - 1 -0.550 3 - 2 -0.550	12.84	12.71	0.184	4.00		
Substance Conc. Conc.dev. Amount Add.amount	: 10.887 : 0.547 : 109.410	7 ug/L) ng	(5.0	3%)		
VR V	nA 1	[.mean	Std.Dev.	I.delta	Comments	
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$						
2 - 1 -0.423 2 - 2 -0.423	45.69	46.13	0.615	22.09		
3 - 1 -0.423 3 - 2 -0.423	66.87	65.76	1.564	19.64		
Substance	Calibr.	Y.re	g/offset	Slop	e Mean devia	t. Corr.Coeff.
Sn	std.add.	4.	538e-009	4.287e-00	4 2.133e-0	10 0.99940 09 0.99854
Final results			+	/- Res. dev	. % Coi	mments
Sn: default	= 21	L.278	ug/l 0	.887	4.170	
Pb: default	= 21	L.882	ug/l 1	.100	5.026	

Method print for the determination of Pb and Sn according to method 1b

Method paramet	ers						
Title Remarkl ide	: AB176_lb_Det of : Determination o : 5ml sample + 5m						
/1 HCl	: el.: 0.1mol/l trisodiumcitrate + 0.1mol/l oxalic acid + 0.2						
Calibration Technique Addition	: Standard additi : Batch : Manual	on					
Sample ID Sample amount (Cell volume (mL	mL): 5.000						
Voltammetric pa							
Mode		: DP - Differential Pulse					
Highest current Lowest current	range range	: 1 mA : 100 nA					
Electrode Drop size (19 Stirrer speed (: HMDE : 4 : 2000					
Initial electr.	conditioning	: No					
No. of addition No. of replicat		: 2 : 2					
Measure blank Addition purge	time (s)	: No : 30					
Initial purge t	ime (s)	: 300					
Conditioning cy Start potential End potential (No. of cycles	(V)	: 0.000 : 0.000 : 0					



```
Hydrodynamic (measurement)
                                                No
-0.250
Cleaning potential (V)
Cleaning time (s)
                                                0.000
Deposition potential (V)
Deposition time (s)
                                                -0.700
                                               20.000
Equilibration time (s)
Start potential (V) End potential (V)
                                                -0.800
                                                -0.300
Voltage step (V)
Voltage step time (s)
                                                0.004
                                                0.200
Sweep rate (V/s)
Pulse amplitude (V)
                                                 0.020
                                                 0.050
Pulse time (s)
                                                0.040
Cell off after measurement
                                                   Yes
Peak evaluation
Regression technique
                                         : Linear Regression
                                          : Height
Peak evaluation
Minimum peak width (V.steps)
Minimum peak height (A)
Peak evaluation
                                           : 5.000e-010
Reverse peaks
                                           : No
Smooth factor
                                           : 4
Eliminate spikes
                                           : Yes
Substances
                              : -0.550 V +/- 0.050 V
                          : 1 1.
: 0.100
Standard solution
                                    1.000 mg/L
Addition volume (mL)
                              : Final result (Sn) = Conc * (10.05 / 5) * (1e+006 / 1) + 0 - 0
Pb
                              : -0.420 V
                                             +/- 0.050 V
                             : 2 1.000 mg/L
: 0.100
Standard solution
Addition volume (mL)
                               : Final result (Pb) = Conc * (10.05 / 5) * (1e+006 / 1) + 0 - 0
Lead
Baseline
Substance Addition automatic start (V) end (V) type

Sn Sample yes --- --- linear
Addition 1 yes --- linear
                                                                           scope
                                                             linear wholePeak
linear wholePeak
            Addition 2 yes
                                                             linear
                                                                            wholePeak
         Sample yes
                                    ______
                                                           linear wholePeak
linear wholePeak
linear wholePeak
Pb
                           yes ---
            Addition 1 yes
Addition 2 yes
                                       ---
```

Report for the example determination of Pb and Sn according to method 2

Report for the example determination of Pb and Sn according to me	etnou z
======================================) ====================================
Pos. Ident.1/S1 Ident.2/S2 Ident.3/S3 Method.cal sample	5 mL
Method : AB176_2 Title : Det.of Sn and Pb with methylene blue. AB176 part Remark1 : 5 ml sample + 5 ml electrolyte + 50 µl methylene Remark2 : el.: 0.14mol/l oxalate + 0.17mol/l NH4Cl + 0.15m	2 blue (1g/l)
Substance : Sn Mass conc.: 27.41 ug/L	Comments
VR U/mV I/nA I.mean Std.dev. I.delta	Comments



				4.824	0.0222		
	10		8.227		0.0871	3.342	
	20	-536 -536 -536	11.41	11.55	0.1883	3.381	
Substance : Mass conc.: MC.dev. : Cal.dev. :	5	.228 ug/	L (4.51	8) A	dd.mass :	25 ng	Comments
	VR	U/mV	I/nA	I.mean	Std.dev.	I.delta	Comments
	00	-412 -413			0.0987		
	10	-412 -412	9.579	9.435	0.2038	4.470	
	20		14.24	14.26	0.0323	4.823	
Substance		n. Y			Slope	Nonlin.	Mean deviat.
Sn Pb	std.a	add.	4.804e	-09	3.522e-04 0.001938		1.114e-10 1.789e-10
Final results				+/	- Res.dev.	%	Comments
					0.904		

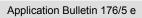
Method print for the determination of Pb and Sn according to method 2

	Instructions	t/s	Main parame	ters	Auxiliary	parameters
1 2 3 4	DOS/M REM SMPL/M PURGE		5mL sample	5.050 mL + 5 mL electr mL		L meth. blue L
5	STIR	300.0	Rot.speed	2000 /min		
6	(ADD					
7	PURGE					
8	STIR	30.0	Rot.speed	2000 /min	:	
9	0PURGE					
10	(REP					
11	SEGMENT		Segm.name	asvSn		
12	REP)1		_			
13	PURGE					
14	STIR		Rot.speed	2000 /min		
15	ADD>M		Soln.name	Pb-std	V.add	0.025 mL
16	ADD>M		Soln.name	Sn-std	V.add	0.100 mL
17	ADD)2					
18	END					

Method: AB176_2 SEGMENT asvSn ______

	Instructions	t/s	Main paramete	rs	Auxiliary parameters		
1 2 3	STIR HMDE DPMODE	2.0	Rot.speed Drop size U.ampl t.step	2000 /min 4 50 mV 0.20 s	Meas.cell t.meas t.pulse	normal 20.0 ms 40.0 ms	
4 5 6	MEAS MEAS OSTIR	90.0 20.0 10.0	U.meas U.meas	-800 mV -580 mV	0.64126	1010 1	
7	SWEEP	28.2	U.start U.end	-800 mV -250 mV	U.step Sweep rate	4 mV 20 mV/s	
8 9	OMEAS END		U.standby	mV	_		

Method: AB176_2 CALCULATION max. 15 lines





Determination of lead and tin by anodic stripping voltammetry

Quantity	Formula (R##, C##, A##)	Res.unit	Sig.dig.
Sn	R1000=MC:Sn	#g/L	5
Pb	R1001=MC:Pb	#g/L	5