

Methods for improving solvent properties

M. Sc. thesis

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ABSTRACT

In hydrometallurgical processes, the separation of nickel and cobalt is challenging. Cyanex 272 dialkyl phosphinic acid is generally used to separate these elements. The most effective separation requires that the reaction mixture be as pure as possible from various interferences such as carboxylic acids. This thesis investigates various possibilities for removing carboxylic acids from the extraction mixture.

Possibility of utilizing different pH isotherms and different water solubilities of carboxylic acids and Cyanex 272 for separation was investigated. Normal phase chromatography was attempted with one minute fractioning and finally molecular catcher was tested. Separation of extractants in these experiments, with these parameters failed.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

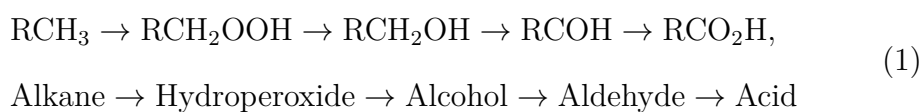
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|----------------------|---|
| α | Separation factor in chromatography |
| A | Aqueous |
| (A336)(CA-12) | [tricaprylmethylammonium][sec-octylphenoxy acetate] |
| Acorga M5640 | 5-nonylsalicylaldoxime |
| Acorga P1 | 5-nonyl-salicylaldoxime |
| ATPS | Aqueous two-phase system |
| BTMBBA | Bis(2,4,4-trimethylpentyl) phosphinic acid |
| Cyanex 272 | Bis(2,4,4-trimethylpentyl)phosphinic acid |
| Cyanex 471 | tri-isobutyl phosphine sulphide |
| DE2HPA | Di-2-ethylhexyl phosphoric acid |
| E | Extraction factor |
| GC-FID | Gas chromatography - Flame Ionization Detector |
| GC-MS | Gas chromatography – Mass Spectrometry |
| HPLC | High performance liquid chromatography |
| ICP-OES | Inductive coupling plasma - Optical emission spectroscopy |
| IL | Ionic liquid |
| LCST | Lower critical solution temperature |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| LIX-622 | 5-dodecylsalicylaldoxime with tridecanol |
| LIX-860 | 5-dodecylsalicylaldoxime |
| k | Retention factor |
| MOAH | Mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbon |
| MOSH | Mineral oil saturated hydrocarbon |
| N | Plate number |
| NNH | Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta Oy |
| NPC | Normal phase liquid chromatography |
| O | Organic |
| OPPA | Di-p-octylphenyl phosphoric acid |
| PTMBBA | (2,4,4-trimethylpentyl) phosphonic acid |
| RPLC | Reverse phase liquid chromatography |
| SEC | Size exclusion chromatography |
| t | Retention time |
| TBP | tri-n-butyl phosphate |
| TOC | Total Organic Carbon |
| UCST | Upper critical solution temperature |
| Versatic 10 | Neodecanoic acid |
| W | Peak width |

1 INTRODUCTION

The chemical separation of nickel and cobalt is problematic as their chemical properties are similar. However, liquid-liquid extraction provides a method that enables cobalt-nickel separation. Commonly dialkylphosphinic acid Cyanex 272 is used.¹

The organic mixture circulates in the process for decades, allowing it to accumulate impurities from the process. W.A. Rickelton, A.J. Robertson and J.H Hillhouse have found out in their article "The significance of diluent oxidation in cobalt-nickel separation" that cobalt can also oxidize solvent. Oxidation products include e.g. carboxylic acids, which have been shown to impair the cobalt-nickel separation factor.²



Reaction 1 can be inhibited by adding substance which reacts with the hydroperoxide radical.²

Nornickel Harjavalta (NNH) has made it possible to map out different ways in which such an organic mixture could be purified and thus restore its separation efficiency of cobalt and nickel to its original level.

Nornickel Harjavalta is a factory in Harjavalta, Finland which is part of the MMC Norilsk Nickel Group. NNH produces metallic nickel, nickel chemicals, and cobalt chemicals.³

2 LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION

As early as 1872, Berthelot and Jungfleisch formulated the theory of the distribution of metals between two immiscible solutions. Thereafter, the liquid-liquid extraction has advanced remarkably and is now applied as part of a number of hydrometallurgical processes.⁴ Today, there are more than 40 different kinds of extracts, of which about a dozen are in everyday use.⁵

2.1 Theory

The extraction process can be described by a simple equation 2



wherein the M metal ion is transferred from the aqueous phase E to the organic phase described by the length marker. Almost all processes are based on the manipulation of this equilibrium reaction, whereby by changing the extractant and the aqueous phase composition, the metals can be transferred between the aqueous phase and the organic phase as desired.

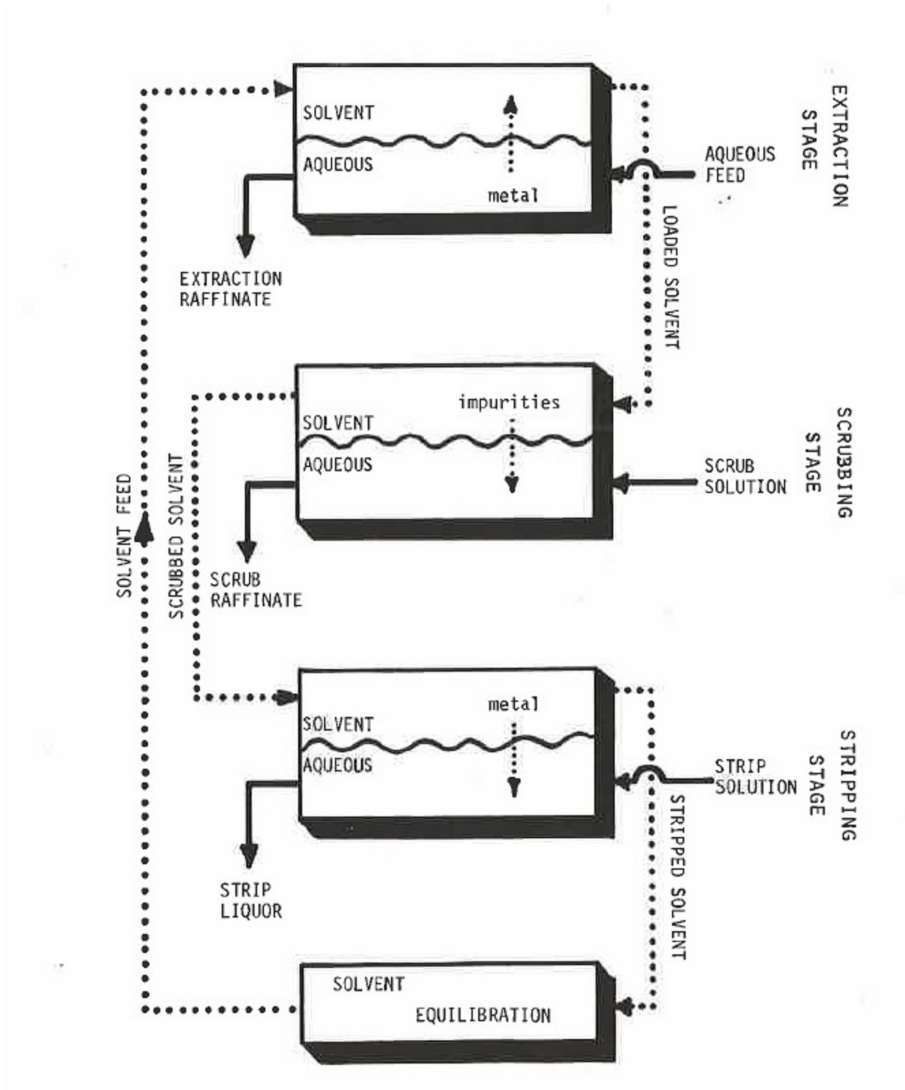


Figure 1: The practical process of solvent extraction.⁴

In the figure, 1 at its simplest is the extraction process. The metal-containing aqueous phase is mixed with the organic phase, the metal-loaded extract mixture is washed away with impurities, after which the metal is transferred back to the aqueous phase. The organic phase can then be directed back to the extraction step.^{4 p.2-3}

2.1.1 Extraction coefficient

The extraction factor E depicts how well the metal is extracted from the solution. It is the ratio of metal concentrations present in different phases and is influenced by, for example, water and organic phase ratio, temperature, concentrations, pH, and metal complexation in phases. With the help of the extraction factor, the separation factor SF can be calculated with equation 3

$$SF = \frac{E_A}{E_B}, \quad (3)$$

wherein subscripts A and B refer to extraction factors for different metals. When the value of the resolution factor is greater than 1, it indicates that the metals can be separated, but not yet how easily, or how many contacts are required for separation.^{4 p.34}

2.1.2 Extractant concentration

The extraction factor increases as the concentration of the extractant increases as long as the concentration of the metals does not increase too high. The metal distribution curve shifts to a lower pH range.^{4 p.26-37}

2.1.3 pH

pH value decreases with all the extractants that release H^+ whereby a larger amount of the extracted metal leads to a lower pH value, which in turn reduces the extraction of the metals. This equilibrium reaction is represented by the equation 4



With balanced extractant concentration E increases as the pH increases, assuming that there are no reactions in the aqueous phase that change the conditions in a direction less favorable to the extraction conditions. The pH value's change also depends on the oxidation rate of the metal and the type of extractant used. If the metal binds to more than one hydrogen or if the metal forms a complex with more than one extractant, more hydrogen is released and the pH changes more in relation to the concentration of the extracted metal. The pH of the system affects both the metal and the extractant. The metal can be hydrolyzed at high pH or form an unrefined complex at low pH. The extractant can be protonated at low pH so that it cannot form a complex with the metal. pH is probably the most important parameter when designing extraction reactions.^{4 p.38-42}

2.1.4 Aqueous phase composition

It can generally be said that if the metal-aqueous phase complex is more stable than the metal and the extractant complex, no extraction occurs. This can also be utilized to reduce the amount of anion forming the complex in the aqueous phase, thereby enhancing extraction.^{4 p.42}

2.1.5 Metal ion concentration

Metal ion concentration effect is well illustrated by the equation of free extractant 5

$$(\text{HA})_F = (\text{HA})_T - (\text{M} \cdot n\text{A}), \quad (5)$$

wherein HA_T is the total concentration of the extractant and $(\text{M} \cdot n\text{A})$ represents the metal bound to extractant. As a result, the increase in the concentration of the metal ion is directly proportional to amount of extractable metal. However, after the organic is phase 100 % loaded or near to 100%, increasing the metal ion is no longer increasing the amount of organic metal, it remains constant. On the other hand, the increase in the amount of metal in the aqueous phase results in a lower E value.^{4 p.45}

2.1.6 Extractant loading

This parameter is essential when planning the extraction process. Generally speaking, it is not advisable to operate with a 100 % loading level because of the increased viscosity of the solution can make it difficult to handle, the desired metal can exit the system with the raffinate, and metals that are not wanted to be extracted, might be extracted. The maximum loading rate depends, among other things, on the amount of extractant and the solubility of the metal complex. The solubility is affected by the solvent used and the modifier. Extraction of the metal does not necessarily increase linearly by only adding the extractant, because the extractant molecules can react with each other to form dimers or polymers. The theoretical 100% charge can be lowered by assuming that all the metal reacts with all the available extractant, but in practice it rarely happens, especially at higher concentrations.^{4 p.46-47}

2.1.7 Calculations and values

The previously mentioned SF value can be used to compare the separation of metals as a function of pH to describe the results of selectivity tests. $\text{pH}_{1/2}$ -values can be used to compare the extraction of metals from different extracts in relation to pH and salt concentration. In addition, the acidity of the different extracts can be compared.

Extraction can be described by many different graphs and distributions, in this thesis a graph is used in which SF values are plotted as a function of pH values. This gives us a good opinion of how well the solutions of the different tests differ at different pH values.

2.1.8 Requirements of extractant

The criteria for selecting a good extract are listed in Gordon M. Ritcey's book Solvent extraction, principles and application to process metallurgy. A good extractant choice should be cheap, has low solubility to aqueous phase, is chemically stable, will not form emulsion, is able to load a lot of metal, relinquishes easily loaded metal, non-flammable, non-volatile and non-toxic, easily soluble in aliphatic and aromatic solvents and reacts kinetically in a desirable manner.^{44 p.70}

2.1.9 Diluent and diluent properties

The organic mixture used in the extraction generally consists of an extractant, a possible modifier and a solvent. The solvent may be polar or nonpolar. Generally speaking, in the more polar solvent, less polymerization of the

extractant occurs. The solvent should be readily available, cheap and meet the chemical and safety requirements set by the extraction process. The flash point of the solvent should be as high as possible and the evaporation rate as low as possible. In regards to solvent density, it should be taken into account, that the density of the organic mixture is not too close to the density of the aqueous phase, thus slowing the phase separation. The loading of metals may increase the viscosity of the solvent, whereby the extraction must be operated at a higher temperature. The potential for interaction with the extractant must be taken into account in the polarity of the solvent, this can lead to reduced leaching stability.^{4 p.186-197} Increasing the dielectric constant often weakens metal extraction.^{6,7} In the solvent, the aliphatic moiety achieves good reaction kinetics, but it is good to have an aromatic portion of reducing the extractant loss to the aqueous phase.⁸ There is no need for a solvent, but in the solutions used in this work, the solvent is always present in 75 - 98 w-% of the organic mixture.

2.1.10 3-phase system and modifiers

The 3-phase system is generated when the solubility of the metal extract agent in the polar hydrocarbon solvent is exceeded. One of the organic phases consists almost entirely of the solvent. In industry, 3-phase systems are generally avoided, but in this thesis, in one experiment, it is intentionally created.⁴ Modifiers are used to improve phase separation, as well as to improve the solubility of the metal complexes, i.e. to prevent emulsion and 3-phase system. Modifiers have also been found to weaken, for example, the selectivity of Ni/Co in the use of Cyanex 272, probably because the modifier interacted with the extractant which reduces the extractant for cobalt extraction.^{4 p.215-218}

2.1.11 Crud

In many liquid-liquid extraction processes, one of the problems is the multi-phase emulsion, crud, formed in the process. Crud formation is a complex process, that can be formed by organic, water and solid phases as well as air. The formation of crud is positively influenced by e.g. purity of the organic phase extractant and solvent relative to other hydrocarbons, for example kerosene often contains unsaturated hydrocarbons. In addition, small particles may have air adsorbed, which can lead to local specific gravity reduction and induce crud formation.⁹

2.2 Extractants

Different types of extractives are listed in table 1

Table 1: Solvent extraction reagents⁵

| Class of extractant | Type | Examples | Manufacturers | Commercial uses |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Acid extractants | Carboxylic acids | Naphthenic acids, Versatic acids | Shell Chemical Co. | Copper/nickel separation, nickel extraction, yttrium recovery |
| | Alkyl phosphoric acids | Dialkyl phosphoric acids and sulphur analogues | Daihachi Chemical Industry Co Ltd (DP-8R, DP-10R, TR-83, MSP-8); Bayer AG (BaySolvex D2E.HPA pure); Albright & Wilson Americas (DEHPA). | Uranium extraction, rare earth separation, cobalt/nickel separation, zinc extraction, etc. |
| | Alkylphosphonic acids | 2-ethylhexyl phosphonic acid 2-ethylhexyl ester and sulphur analogues | Daihachi Chemical Industry Co Ltd (PC-88A); Albright & Wilson Americas (Ionquest 801), Tianjin Beichen, China (P507). | Cobalt/nickel separation, rare earth separation |
| | Alkyl phosphinic acids | Dialkyl phosphinic acids and sulphur analogues | Cytec Inc. (CYANEX 272, 302 and 301); Daihachi Chemical Industry Co Ltd (PIA-8) | Cobalt/nickel separation, zinc and iron extraction, rare earth separation |
| | Aryl sulphonic acids | Dinonyl naphthalene sulphonic acid | King Industries Inc. (Synex 1051) | Magnesium extraction |
| Acid chelating extractants | Hydroxyoximes | Alpha alkaryl hydroxyoximes, beta alkaryl hydroxyoximes | Cognis Inc. (LIX reagents); Cytec Inc. (Acorga reagents) | Copper extraction, nickel extraction |
| | Beta diketones | LIX 54 | Cognis Inc. | Copper extraction from ammoniacal solution |
| | Hydroxamic acids | LIX 1104 | Cognis Inc. | Proposed for nuclear fuel reprocessing, iron extraction and As, Sb and Bi extraction from copper tankhouse electrolytes |
| Basic extractants | Primary amines | Primene JMT, Primene 81R | Rohm & Haas. | No known commercial use |
| | Secondary amines | LA-1, LA-2. | Rohm & Haas. | Uranium extraction, proposed for vanadium and tungsten extraction |
| | Tertiary amines | Various Alamines, in particular Alamine 336. | Cognis Inc. | Uranium extraction, cobalt extraction from chloride media, tungsten extraction, vanadium extraction, etc. |
| | Quaternary amines | Aliquat 336, | Cognis Inc. | Vanadium extraction, other possible uses for chromium, tungsten, uranium, etc. |
| | Mono N-substituted amide | | | Iridium separation from rhodium |
| Solvating extractants and chelating non-ionic extractants | Trialkyl guanidine | LIX 79 | Cognis Inc. | Gold extraction from cyanide solution |
| | Phosphoric, phosphonic and phosphinic acid esters and thio analogues | TBP, DBBP, TOPO, CYANEX 921, CYANEX 923, CYANEX 471X. | Union Carbide, Albright & Wilson, Daihachi Chemical Industry Co Ltd, Cytec Inc. | Refining of U ₃ O ₈ , nuclear fuel reprocessing, Fe extraction, Zr/Hf separation, Nb/Ta separation, rare earth separation, gold extraction |
| | Various alcohols, ketones, esters, ethers, etc. | MIBK etc | Various. | Nb/Ta separation, Zr/Hf separation |
| | Alkyl and aryl sulphoxides | ? | ? | ? |
| | Alkyl and aryl sulphides | di-n-octyl and di-n-hexyl sulphides | Daihachi Chemical Industry Co Ltd (SFI-6), others. | Palladium extraction in PGM refining |

2.2.1 Acidic extractants

The extracting agents that make up the compounds, can be further divided into two subgroups according to their reaction mechanism, others react acidically with a cation exchange mechanism and others form a bidentate chelate with metal ions. Acidic reactants react by changing the hydrogen ion to the metal ion.^{4 p.71} This group also includes Cyanex 272 and Versatic 10, which are the main subjects of interest in this research.



In figure 2 and figure 3 are examples of acidic extractant structures.

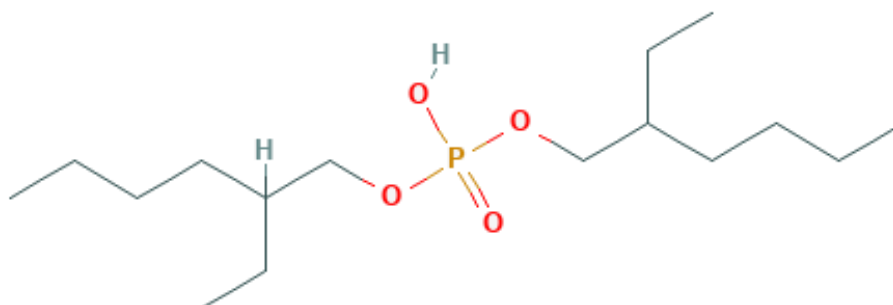


Figure 2: Di-2-ethylhexyl phosphoric acid (D2EHPA)

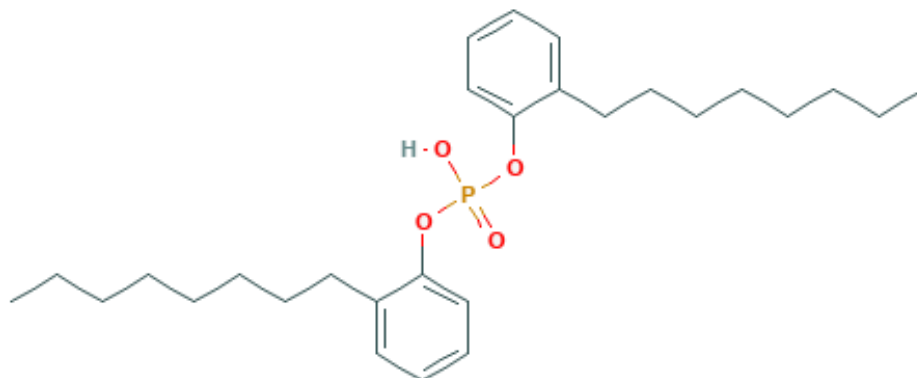


Figure 3: Di-p-octylphenyl phosphoric acid (OPPA)

2.2.2 Chelating extractants

Chelating excipients are capable of forming a bidental ligand with metal ions. These are often used in analytical applications because of their higher cost, but are currently used, for example in the copper industry.⁵ For example, in a study by V. Ramosh and G. N. Rao, metal extraction with commercial LIX 622 was investigated. According to the results, copper was completely extracted¹⁰ In addition, e.g. F. J. Alguacil, A. Cobo and M. Alonso investigated copper extraction from nitrate/nitric acid matrix with Acorga M5640 extract, and they got good results at pH 2.¹¹ In addition, other commercial chelating agents are e.g. Kelex and MSE product groups. In figure 4 and figure 5 are structures of two chelating extractants.

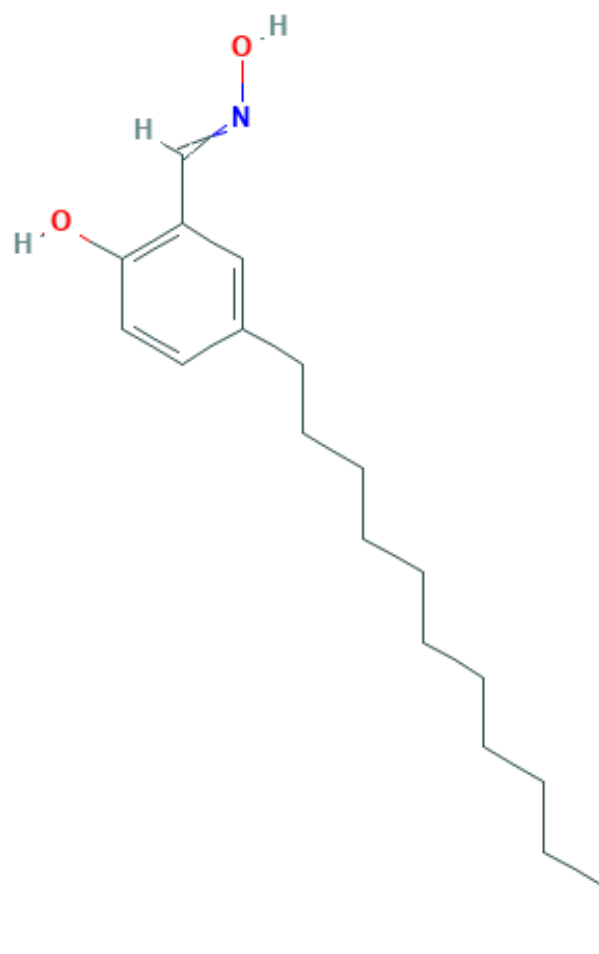


Figure 4: 5-dodecylsalicylaldoxime (LIX 860)

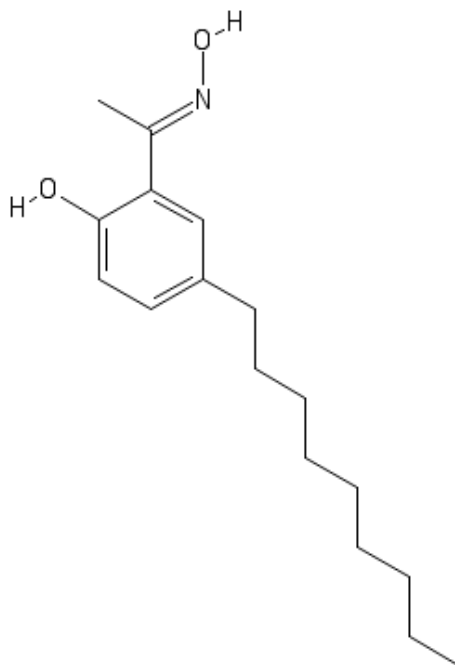
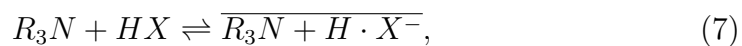


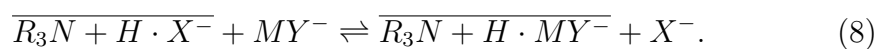
Figure 5: 5-nonyl-salicylaldoxime (Acorga P1)

2.2.3 Extractants involving ion association

For commercial use, the basic extractants are amines and quaternary ammonium halides. The utility of amines depends on the ability of the metal to form an anion complex in the aqueous phase. The amines first turn into a suitable amine salt according to the reaction 7 in the organic phase,



followed by the exchange reaction 8 with the metal-containing aqueous phase.^{4 p.128}



2.2.4 Extractants involving solvation

The electron donation mechanisms can be divided into two main groups according to their structure. Carbon-bound to oxygen and sulfur or oxygen bound to phosphorus. Both act by increasing the solubility of the inorganic material by organic solvation, but with different mechanisms. The phosphorus-bound groups are highly polar and able to compete with water around the metal. On the other hand, ketones and ethers need water to form an organometallic complex.^{4 p.142} In figure 6 and figure 7 are example structures of extractants involving solvation.

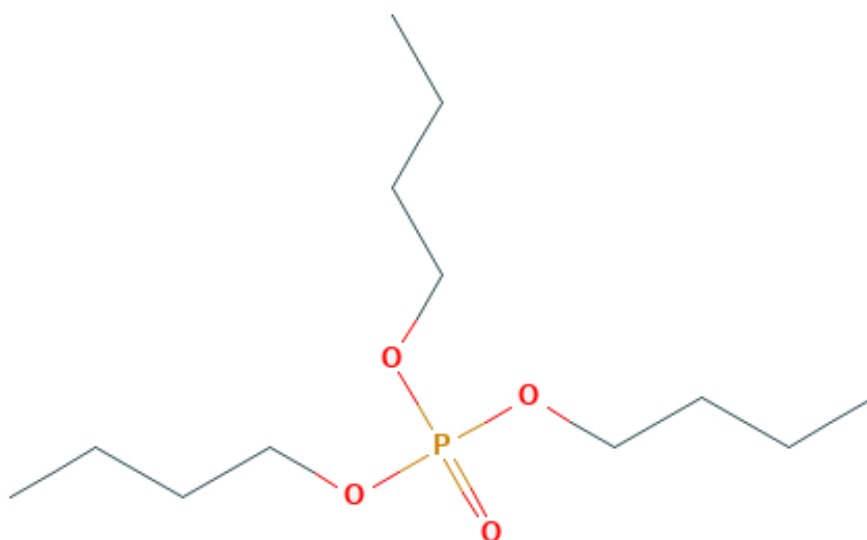


Figure 6: tri-n-butyl phosphate (TBP)

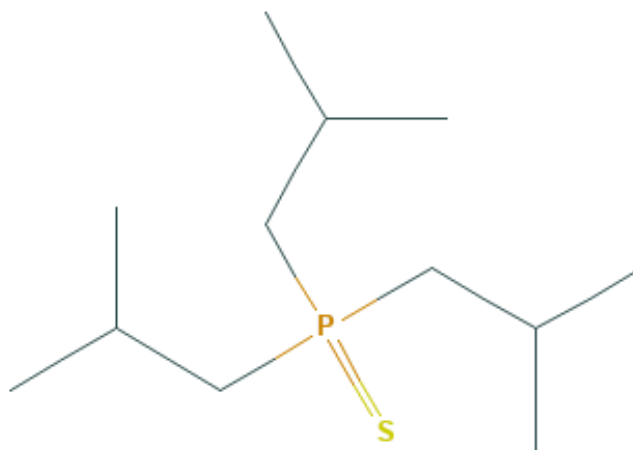


Figure 7: tri-isobutyl phosphine sulphide (Cyanex 471)

2.2.5 Ionic liquids as extractant

Ionic liquids could be a good alternative to traditional extractives. They are stable, non-volatile, non-flammable and can be controlled and adjusted to the desired properties regarding miscibility and polarity. By adjusting the structure of ionic liquids and increasing "trapping" molecules, their suitability for example extraction reactions can be improved. There is still much to be studied in ionic fluids before applying them to the industrial scale.¹² Main problems currently are water solubility. With fluorine IL's can be made more hydrophobic, but fluorine is expensive and can form highly dangerous hydrofluoric acid vapour with water. In addition because of the high viscosity of ionic liquids organic solvents must be used. An aqueous two-phase system

(ATPS) can be used to resolve these issues. In ATPS if temperature is higher than upper critical solution temperature (UCST) or lower than lower critical system temperature (LCST) IL is miscible with water. This allows reaction to occur with metal and IL without diffusing from aqueous layer to organic phase. Upon cooling (or heating) phases separate and metal is extracted to organic phase. Temperature dependant phase transitions are capable of selectively extracting metals.¹³

In the study "Separation of cobalt and nickel using a thermomorphic ionic-liquid-based aqueous biphasic system" by Bieke Onghena, Tomas Opsomera and Koen Binnemans, tributyl(tetradecyl)phosphonium chloride as a IL and NaCl as a salting out agent were used to separate cobalt from nickel in chlorine base mixture. Result shows that cobalt extraction was increased by increasing salting out component and it did not have effect on nickel extraction.¹⁴ In figure 8 and figure 9 are structures of two ionic liquid extractants.

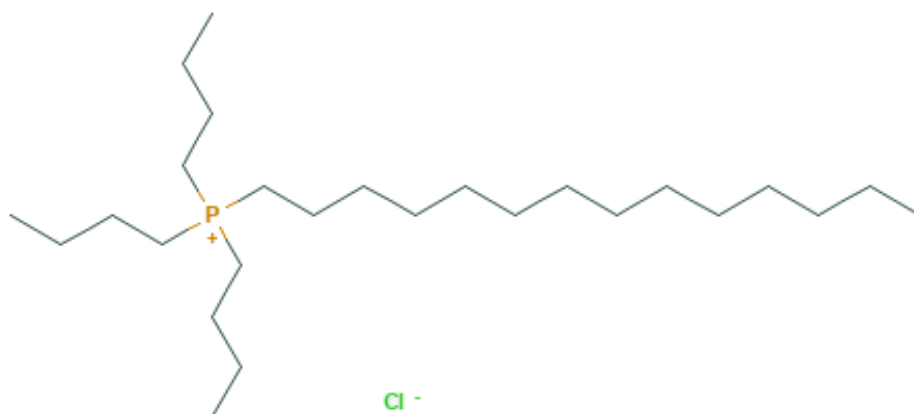


Figure 8: tributyl(tetradecyl)phosphonium chloride

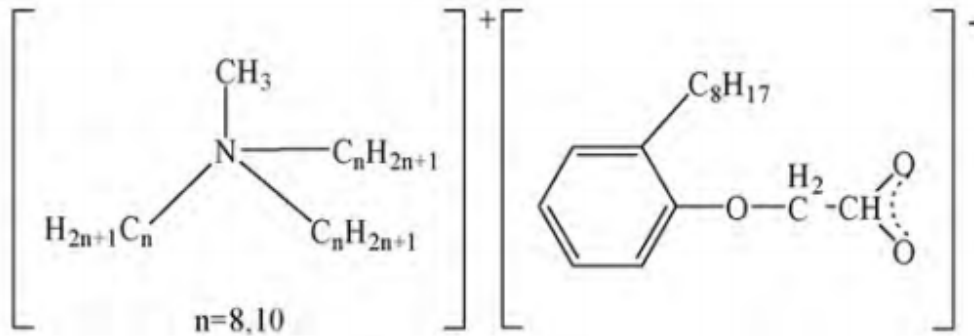


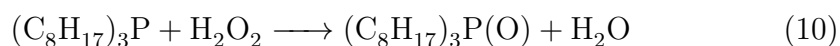
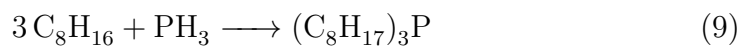
Figure 9: [tricaprylmethylammonium][sec-octylphenoxy acetate] ([A336][CA-12])

2.3 Separation of cobalt and nickel

Separation of cobalt and nickel by hydrometallurgical processes is difficult, but phosphorus-based extracts can be used to separate, up to 1:100 small cobalt concentrations.⁵

2.3.1 Phosphinic acid-based extractants

For example Cyanex extractives are based on phosphine PH₃. After commercial production of phosphines became possible, it opened the potential of producing phosphine derivatives. Phosphine oxides can be prepared by reactions 9 and 10⁵



Mono and dialkylphosphine oxides are obtained by using sterically hindered alkenes or by using a pressure above 4 MPa. Monoalkylphosphine derivatives are treated with hydrogen peroxide to give mono- and dialkylphosphine acids and as an impurity trialkylphosphine.

2.3.1.1 Cyanex 272

Cyanex 272 is currently the best choice when it comes to separating cobalt from nickel and is currently producing a large part of the world's cobalt, but other cations can also be extracted at different pH. The active component of Cyanex 272 is phosphinic acid, so the reaction mechanism is cation exchange. It is readily soluble in many of the solvents in use and is chemically very stable. It is colorless to slightly yellowish orange, has a molecular weight of 290 g/mol, a density of 0.92 kg/dm³ and boiling point above 300 °C Cyanex 272 consists of 85 % bis (2,4,4-trimethylpentyl) phosphine acid which is its active component.¹⁵ The figure 10 shows the molecular structure and in the figure 11 the pH isotherm in the sulfate solution.

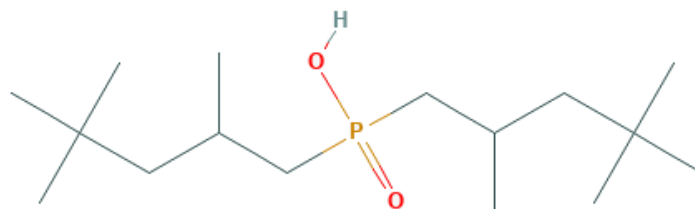


Figure 10: bis 2,4,4-trimethylpentyl phosphinic acid (Cyanex 272)¹⁵

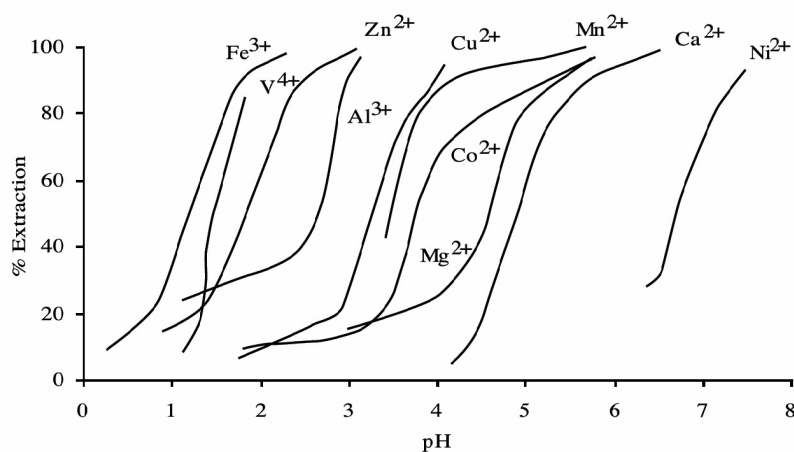


Figure 11: Cyanex 272 pH isotherm in sulphatic solution¹⁵

2.3.2 Carboxylic acids

By looking for the physical and chemical differences between Cyanex 272 and carboxylic acids it might be possible to find one or more ways to separate them. In this thesis Versatic 10 was chosen as a carboxylic acid source. Mainly

because it is one of the commercial mixture of acids that have been shown to reduce extraction efficiency of Cyanex 272.

2.3.2.1 Versatic 10

Versatic 10 also known as neodecanoic acid is a mixture of carboxylic acids, that include for example 2,2,3,5-tetramethylhexanoic acid, 2,4-Dimethyl-2-isopropylpentanoic acid, 2,5-Dimethyl-2-ethylhexanoic acid, 2,2-Dimethyloctanoic acid and 2,2-Diethylhexanoic acid.¹⁶ In figures 12 and 13 are two of aforementioned structures illustrated and in the figure 14 the pH isotherm in the sulfate solution.

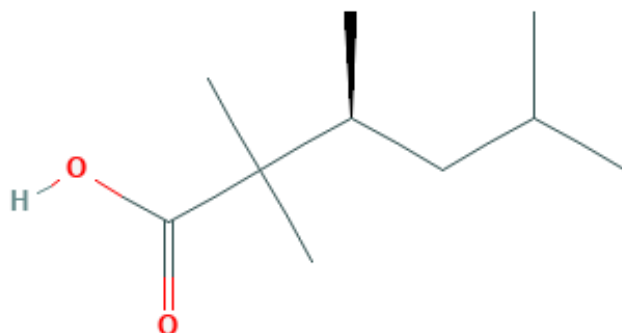


Figure 12: 2,2,3,5-tetramethylhexanoic acid

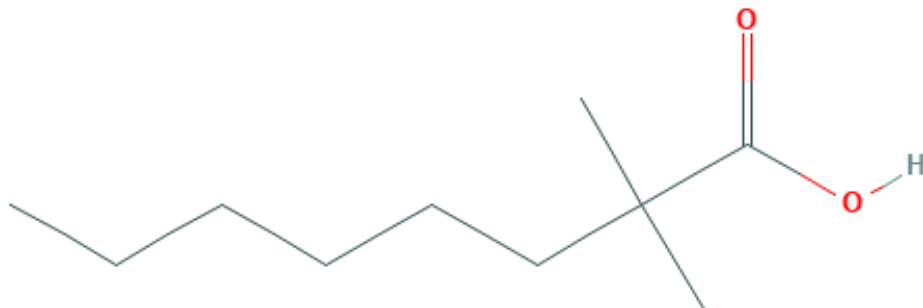


Figure 13: 2,2-Dimethyloctanoic acid

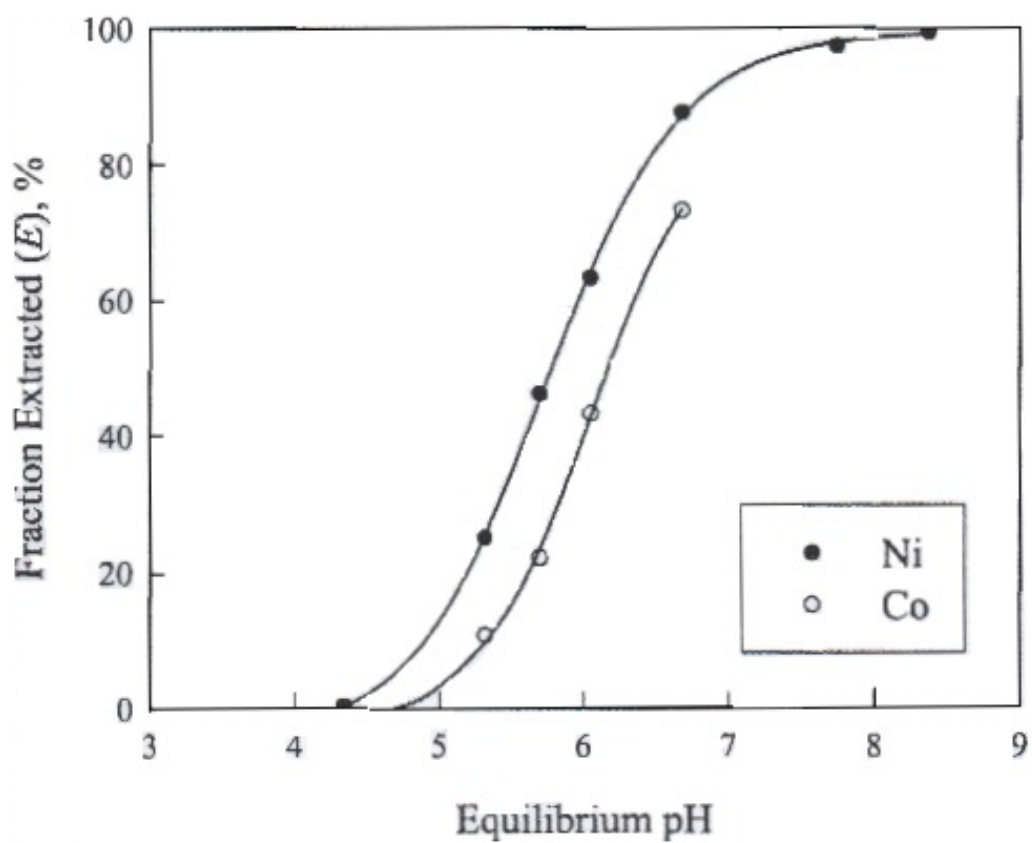


Figure 14: Versatic pH isotherm in sulphatic solution¹⁷

2.3.3 Isooctane solvent

Isooctane i.e. 2,2,4-trimethylpentane is clear, colorless, non-polar solvent with density of $0,69\text{g/dm}^3$ and molecular weight $114,23\text{ g/mol}$. In figure 15 is isooctanes structure.

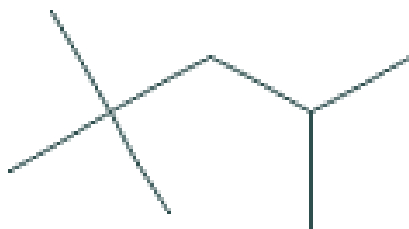


Figure 15: 2,2,4-trimethylpentane¹⁸

3 CHROMATOGRAPHY

Chromatography is a versatile analytical technique widely used in many areas of chemistry. Many substances in practice contain several different components. Chromatography can be used to separate these components using dispersion, hydrogen bond and dipole interactions. Once the mixture is decomposed into its basic components, components can be identified and even different component concentrations can be analyzed.^{19 p.1-5}

3.1 Chromatography practice and instrumentation

A small sample volume is placed on a sample column, where the components pass with the mobile phase, the stationary phase slowing down different components at different times, whereby the elution of the samples, i.e. the output time, varies. The graph generated is called a chromatogram in which the detector response is plotted against time.^{19 p.5-9} The chromatograph has a stationary phase inside the column wherethrough the mobile phase passes. After the column, there is usually a detector to provide a response to the different molecules. In the table 2 most common chromatography columns are listed.^{19 p.8}

Table 2: Common RPLC and GC characteristics^{19 p.9}

| | RPLC | GC (open tubular) |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Column construction | Stainless steel | Quartz with a polyimide coating |
| Column length | 20–250 mm | 10–60 m |
| Column inner diameter | 2.1– 4.6 mm | 0.1–0.5 mm |
| Particle composition | Porous silica (SiO ₂) particles | No particles – open tube |
| Particle size | 1.8–5 μm | No particles – open tube |
| Mobile phase | Solvent mixture (e.g., water mixed with acetonitrile) | He, N ₂ , or H ₂ |
| Stationary phase location | Alkyl chains (C-8 and C-18) bonded to particle surface | Liquid-like polymer film bonded to capillary walls |
| Stationary phase chemistry | Relatively nonpolar and organic in nature | Polysiloxane polymer derivatized with organic moieties |

3.1.1 Chromatographic calculations

From the chromatograms, the distribution constant can be calculated using the standard equation 11

$$K = \frac{[A]_s}{[A]_m}, \quad (11)$$

wherein A_s describes specific analyte in stationary phase and A_m in mobile phase. The time taken for each sample to be injected, from the moment of injection, to the detection time is called the retention time, which is calculated

by the equation 12

$$[t]_r = [t]_s + [t]_m. \quad (12)$$

The retention time is the most important value obtained from the chromatogram. Retention time varies with different columns and different flow rates give different retention times, but their mutual ratio, i.e., the retention factor, is an independent measure of the apparatus calculated by the equation 13

$$k = \frac{[t]_r - [t]_m}{[t]_m}. \quad (13)$$

Generally, the retention of a single component is not the most important thing, but the separation of different components. The degree of separation can be quantified with equation 14

$$\alpha = \frac{[k]_B}{[k]_A}, \quad (14)$$

wherein α is separation factor. Higher separation factor indicates better separation.^{19 p.13-22}

3.1.2 Resolution

Peak resolution is important in order to better quantify different peaks. Overlapping peaks cause distorted results. In practice, overlapping peaks are difficult to detect and almost impossible to quantify except for example with a mass spectrometer. The peak width is usually examined as either a spike or a mid-peak width. In the figure 16 $W_{1/2}$ is width of the peak at half of maximum signal and W_b is baseline spike.^{19 p.24-28} In order to make comparisons between different columns, we use theoretical plate number N . There are no actual plates in chromatography columns like in distillation, but it is

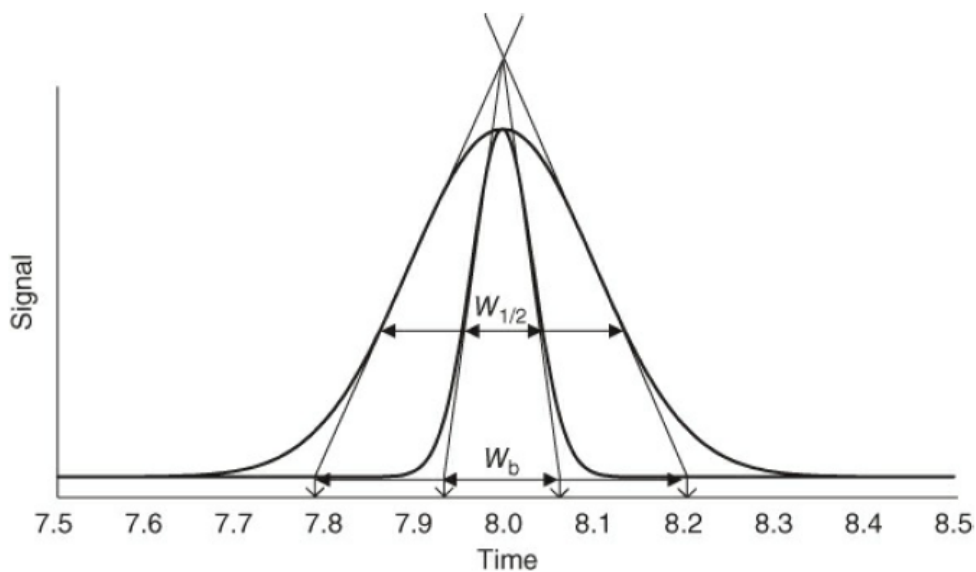


Figure 16: Illustration of peak¹⁹

a good way to measure and compare separation abilities. With equation 15

$$N = 5.54 \left(\frac{[t]_r}{[W]_{1/2}} \right)^2, \quad (15)$$

we can calculate the plate number.

3.1.3 Rate theory

It is commonly believed, that peak propagation is mainly influenced by four factors, diffusion in longitudinal and width direction, "paths" in the column where components pass at different rates, reactions with stationary phase affected by convection and diffusion interactions.^{19 p.36} Diffusion is the random

movement of molecules due to the kinetic energy according to the concentration gradient. The molecules in the stationary tube are distributed according to the normal distribution, the molecules have different diffusion coefficients, so the diffusion effect is also different. Generally speaking, small molecules are distributed more.¹⁹ p.36-40

Rates in chromatography can be divided into three essential magnitudes, the rate at which a molecule that does not adhere to the stationary phase moves (i.e., the mobile phase rate) through the column, column diameter and a particle diameter. Molecules can move through columns at different routes at different velocities.¹⁹ p.42

3.1.4 Open tube with thin stationary phase

In the parabolic flow, the middle molecules move faster, the parabolic effect increases as the pressure increases. If other factors affecting the movement of the molecule are not taken into consideration, the infinitely wide peaks should be taken into account. The speed of the molecules on the edges is practically zero, but according to the concentration gradient, the molecules on the edges tend to move towards the middle, i.e. the radial diffusion narrows the peaks and the faster moving phase expands them. As with many random movements, most molecules move at an average rate of molecules.¹⁹ p.42-45

Longitudinal diffusion of the column expands the peaks, influenced by the diffusion rate of the molecule, and the time spent in the column. The effect of longitudinal diffusion in gas chromatography (GC) can be ignored, because the effect of diffusion in the stationary phase is insignificant compared to the diffusion in the mobile gas phase, this effect cannot be ignored in the liquid.¹⁹ p.47-48

3.1.5 Packed column

The same phenomena that are affecting open column, also affect the packed column. However, there are some differences. The particles reduce longitudinal diffusion, the stationary phase braking effect of the particles is determined experimentally. The size, shape, and material of the particles are affecting factors. The rate is influenced by the packing density and distribution of the column, the molecules of different cavities can move at different speeds, and this, on the other hand, increases the spike. The co-operation between the two phenomena, on the other hand, narrows the peaks. Even on the path of the molecule, the rate in the different parts of the column varies according to figure 17. The slower the diffusion of the molecule radially, the less frequently it changes the route, or moves to the particle retaining. Thus, the radial diffusion of the molecule is inversely proportional to the peak width.^{19 p.56-63}

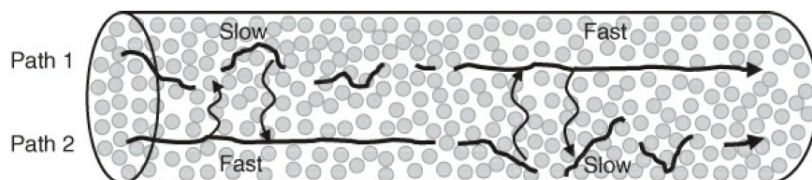


Figure 17: Illustration of molecule movement in packed column^{19 p.61}

3.1.6 Modern liquid chromatography

The most significant change in modern liquid chromatography is that the particles are not solid-stationary-coated, but they are porous. Figure 18 describes events in retention of solution. For solutes to be retained, they must move close to solid particle and diffuse in the particle pores by diffusing through stagnant mobile phase, then diffuse to stationary phase and finally diffuse

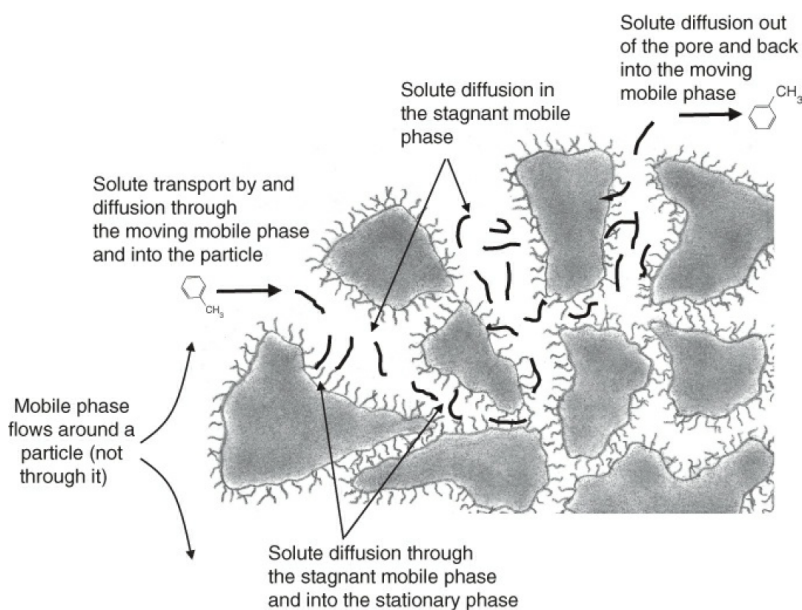


Figure 18: Illustration of molecule adsorption in porous adsorbents¹⁹ p.70

back into the mobile phase. The faster these diffusion occur, the less peak broadening happens.

3.2 Gas chromatography

Gas chromatography is an analysis method developed in the late 1940s to separate and quantify different molecules.²⁰

3.2.1 Theory

When the sample moves through the column, it can interact with the stationary phase, whereby the net velocity of the sample at the interaction site is slightly smaller than the carrier gas. The different components are distributed differently between the stationary phase and the carrier gas, whereby they

elute at different times. In general, a column with liquid in the stationary phase is used.²¹

3.2.2 Sample preparation

In gas chromatography, it is essential that the sample is evaporated at a reasonable temperature. The sample is often subjected to pretreatment prior to gas chromatography analyzes, for example, its evaporation point can be lowered or increased as needed. The purpose of the so-called derivatization reaction is to change the analyte so that it is possible to detect or improve the detectable signal. Derivation reactions can be divided into three main groups: alkylation, acylation and silylation.²² Alkylation is generally used to convert acids to esters by replacing the active hydrogen general reaction mechanism



In silylation, the active hydrogen is replaced by a silyl group which reduces the hydrogen bonding of the molecule and thereby also reduces its boiling point. The silylation reaction acts as a nucleophilic attack of the silyl group as in the figure 19.

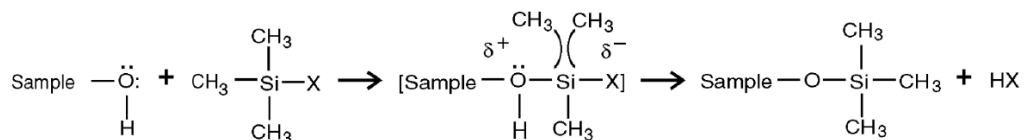
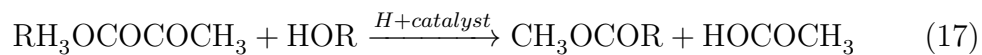


Figure 19: General reaction mechanism for the formation of trialkylsilyl²²

Acylation involves attaching an acyl group to an organic molecule 17



3.2.3 Detectors

One of the strengths of the GC is the low background disturbance of carrier gases, which allows many different detectors to be used for detection. The detectors are divided into selective or universal type by type. Selective detectors only detect certain molecules according to chemical or physical properties. In addition, some selective detectors may specifically detect different atoms or functional groups. The detectors can also be categorized according to whether they detect concentration or mass change between and are they destructive and non-destructive. There are differences between the detectors, also depending on how much samples they can detect, which is illustrated in figure 20.²³

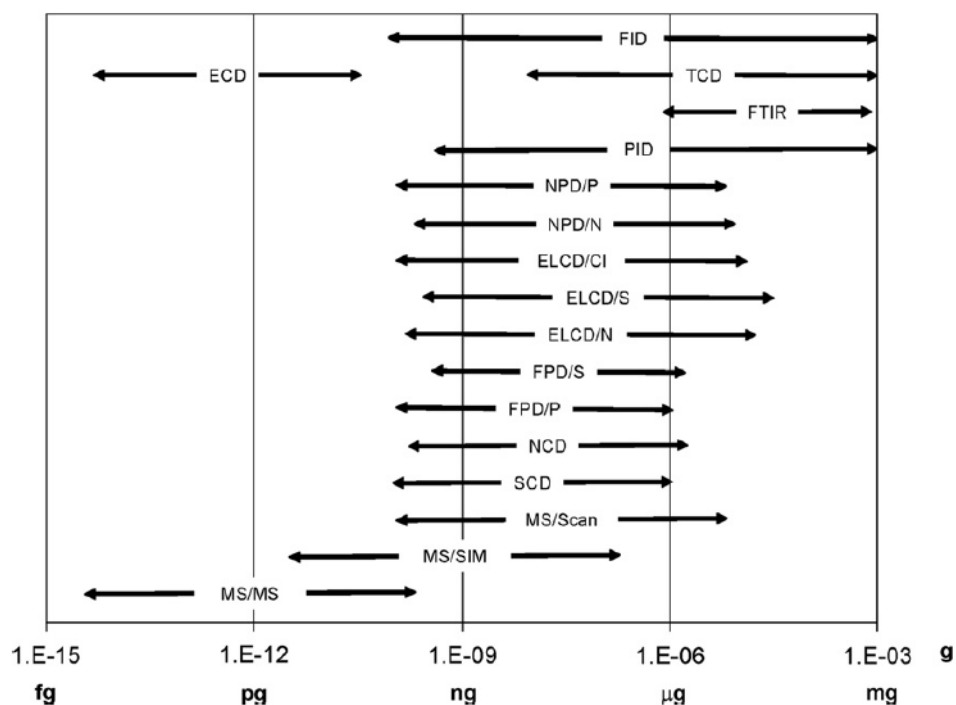


Figure 20: dynamic measuring areas of detectors

23

In this work, mainly flame ionization detector (FID) was used, but the mass spectrometer (MS) was also initially tested for analytical purposes.

3.2.4 Flame ionisation detector

FID is a mass-sensitive destructive detector that corresponds linearly to the amount of carbon flowing through. This accurate, structurally independent carbon detection results in the quantification of components without accurate calibration. For quantification, only one well-known reference sample is needed, which elutes at a different time from the samples. The lower peak of the chromatogram corresponds quite well to the percentage by mass of

the components in the mixture. Even without the known concentration, the areas of different peaks can be compared semi-quantitatively and their mass ratios are obtained.²⁴ In this thesis, data has been analyzed mainly semi-quantitatively, as it provided sufficient knowledge of the experiments. We can see from figure 20 that FID also has dynamic measuring area of seven orders of magnitude.

3.2.5 Inductively coupled mass spectrometer

Inductively coupled mass spectrometer (ICP-MS) is a plasma-based detector that can be used to identify and quantify all sample components. It provides accurate mass percentages of the different elements in the sample and can be detected in significantly smaller quantities than other detectors. In addition, when combined with GC, it generally receives a relatively pure sample for detection, which is directly gaseous.²⁵

3.2.6 Method

The boiling points of the compounds studied at this work, are approximately 300°C, so derivatization was an essential part of sample processing. The basis for sample processing was the silylation recipe used by Anna-Maria Jäpölä in her master's thesis.²⁶ The gas chromatograph was the most practical instrument for analyzing the mixtures of extracts. The elution times of Versatic 10 and Cyanex 272 differed clearly and the method resulted in semi-quantitatively clear changes in the amounts of the excipients.

3.3 Liquid chromatography

Liquid chromatography was another of the main interests of the work. In the wood and paper industry, liquid chromatography has been studied as an analytical method for characterizing acids from a black solution, and they have been successfully separated for analysis purposes.²⁷ For the needs of the food industry, mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons have also been separated from the saturated hydrocarbons by column chromatography.²⁸

3.3.1 Theory

Chromatography is generally described with either equilibrium or kinetic theory. The equilibrium theory operates when mass transfer events are so fast that there is a constant balance state between the stationary phase and the mobile phase. However, in most cases the processes are slow and even if almost immediate reactions occur on small molecules, kinetic theories offer more content and a new perspective.²⁹ Figure 21 illustrates basic partition between organic and aqueous phase. These studies, together with the basic theory of chromatography, provided the starting points for the chromatographic experiments of this work.

3.3.2 Macroscopic and microscopic kinetic theories

Macroscopic theories depict the events of the column as movement of the concentration regions. The column is considered as a single entity and it is assumed that the stationary phase of the packed column is homogeneous, the temperature constant, the mobile phase is not compressed and the stationary

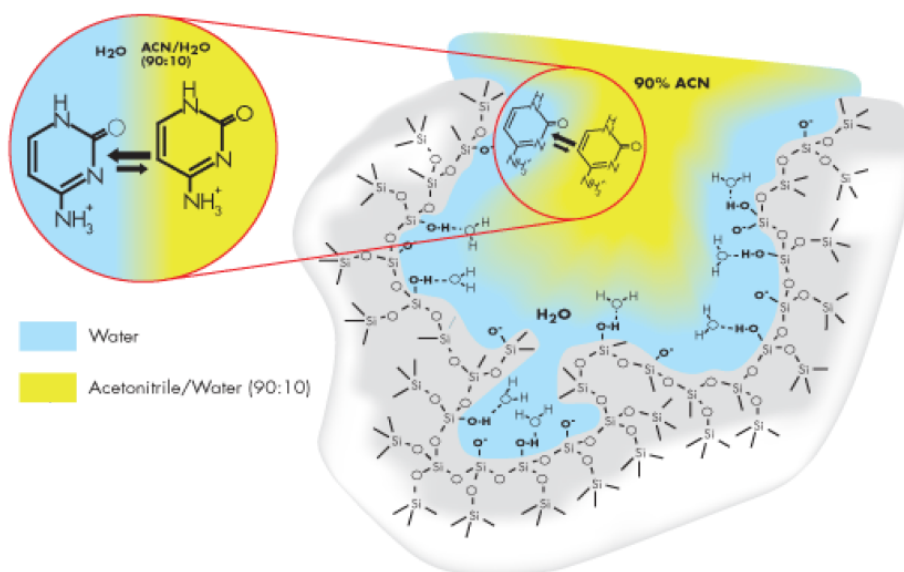


Figure 21: Partition between organic and aqueous phase.³⁰

phase is not expected to diffuse. Microscopic theories describe the movement of a single molecule in a column. The model examines random movement in the mobile phase and random adsorption desorption reactions with the stationary phase.²⁹

3.3.3 Instrumentation

The column should be chemically inert, withstand high pressures, smooth inside and the inside diameter variance must be small. Stainless steel 316 meets these criteria. The column selection is affected by the stationary phase particle size, the hardware and, of course, the analytics that is done. The column is generally 50 mm to 250 mm, usually plate number 5,000 to 10,000 enough for HPLC analysis. Different adsorbents can be packed on the column depending on the intended use, the table 3 lists the most common adsorbents and their properties.³¹

Table 3: Adsorbents³¹

| Types | Bulk structure | Surface chemistry | Synthesis routes Manufacture | Typical properties |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <i>POROUS OXIDES</i> | | | | |
| Silica, amorphous | Network of siloxane groups Disordered pore structure pH range of stability, 1–9 | Silanol groups of various types | Sol-gel processing from tetraethoxysilane or highly pure colloidal silica | Hydrophilic, weakly acidic Weak cation exchanger pI = 2–3 |
| Silica, ordered mesoporous | Long-range order Regular pore structure | Silanol groups of various types | Template assisted synthesis | Hydrophilic, weakly acidic Weak cation exchanger |
| Alumina | Gamma-alumina crystalline pH range of stability, 2–12 | Broensted acid sites, Lewis acid, and Lewis basic sites | Controlled thermal decomposition of gibbsite or boehmite | Amphoteric, anionic and cationic exchange properties pI = 7 |
| Titania | Anatas, rutile Both crystalline, pH range of stability, 1–14 | Broensted and Lewis acid and basic sites | Agglomeration of nanoparticles by spray drying | Amphoteric anionic and cationic exchange properties pI = 5 |
| Zirconia | Crystalline pH range of stability, 1–14 | Broensted and Lewis acid and basic sites | Sol-gel processes (hydrolysis of zirconium compounds, colloidal zirconia) polymerization induces colloidal aggregation processes (coacervation, microencapsulation) | Amphoteric anionic and cationic exchange properties pI = 10–13 |
| Porous (graphitized) carbon | Graphitic structure, mesopores | Graphitelike surface structure with pronounced hydrophobicity | Thermal decomposition of polymers at inert atmosphere to active | Strongly hydrophobic surface properties π - π -interactions |
| Hydroxyapatite | Calciumhydroxy-phosphate crystalline | Cation exchange properties | Agglomeration of nanocrystals | Separation of biopolymers by ion exchange |
| <i>CROSS-LINKED ORGANIC POLYMERS</i> | | | | |
| Poly(acrylamides) | Acrylamide and cross-linker pH range of stability, 0–14 | | Emulsion polymerization | Hydrophilic |
| Poly(styrene divinylbenzene) | Styrene and cross-linker, pH range of stability, 0–14 | | Emulsion polymerization | Hydrophobic |
| Poly(methacrylates) | Methylmethacrylate and cross-linker, pH range of stability, 2–12 | | Emulsion polymerization | Hydrophilic to hydrophobic |
| Poly (saccharides) | Cross-linked agarose and dextrans, cellulose pH range of stability, 0–14 | Hydrophilic to hydrophobic depending on the terminating bonded ligands | | Hydrophilic |
| Poly(vinylalcohols) | Vinylalcohol and cross-linker, pH range of stability, 2–12 | | Emulsion polymerization | Hydrophilic |
| <i>SILICA-ORGANO HYBRIDS</i> | | | | |
| Poly(acrylamide)-poly(styrene) coated silica composite | Gel in a shell structure | | | |
| Silica-organic composites | Amorphous silica with bonded organo constituents | Surface functionality depends on the organic group R | Cohydrolysis and Co-condensation of tetraethoxysilane and organotriethoxysilanes | Hydrophilic to hydrophobic |

Modern liquid chromatography uses porous adsorbents with a high reaction area relative to volume. The reaction surface increases retention and separation of the analytes. In porous materials, the size of the cavities must also

be taken into account, as a basic rule it may be considered that the organic molecule requires a cavity of 8 times the volume of the molecule to allow the molecule to interact in the cavity.³¹

3.3.4 Normal phase chromatography

In normal phase chromatography (NPC), the column is packed with polar inorganic particles and less polar solvent is introduced into the column. Modern columns generally have silica having a silanol on the surface. Silanols are proton donors and they retain molecules with a dipole moment. In the retention process, the molecules and analytes of the solvent compete for positions on the surface of the silica. The mobile phase is generally a mixture of polar and non-polar solvent, whereby adjusting the separation ratio of the solvents of the mixture provides controlled separation. Polar molecules can cling to the stationary phase strongly leading to localization, i.e. hydrogen bonding with silanol. Due to localization, by adjusting the mobile phase ratios, it is possible to selectively separate the molecules.³²

3.3.5 Gradient operation with normal phase chromatography

The gradient run is an high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) process in which the ratio of solvents is changed as a function of time. Run begins with a nonpolar eluent and gradually the proportion of polar solvent is increased. Gradient NPC analysis is harder to predict and repeat than reverse phase chromatography (RPC). Eluent is more readily reacted with the column adsorbent, which may cause the eluent to be demixed, however with temperature control and dry solvents, good reproducibility can be achieved.³³

3.3.6 Detectors

HPLC can be detected using many different detectors, the choice depends on the intended use. The UV-Vis absorption spectrometer is currently used as a general detector. In table 4 are listed the most commonly used HPLC detectors. In addition to direct detection, fractions can be recovered from the run at specific time intervals, and the fractions are treated so that otherwise invisible analytes can be analyzed.³⁴

Table 4: Commonly used detectors³⁴

| Detector | Selectivity | Gradients? | LDR | LOD | Notes |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---|
| UV–Vis | Broad | Yes | 10 ⁴ | pg - ng | Near universal detection of organic compounds at low wavelengths. PDA allows for real-time spectra–peak purity. |
| RI | Very broad | No | 10 ³ | ng - µg | Useful for nontrace analyses of analytes lacking chromophores (e.g., carbohydrates, lipids, and polymers). Requires a very stable HPLC system. |
| ELSD | Very broad | Yes | 10 ² | pg - ng | Requires nonvolatile analytes and volatile mobile phases. Condensation nucleation modification improves detection limits. Nonlinear calibrations may be needed. |
| CAD | Very broad | Yes | 10 ³ | pg - ng | Requires nonvolatile analytes and volatile mobile phases. Larger LDR than ELSD. Nonlinear calibrations may be needed. |
| Conductivity | Selective | Yes (if suppressed) | 10 ³ | ng - µg | Near universal detection of ionic compounds. Suppression required for optimal detection limits and gradient use. |
| Fluorescence | Very selective | Yes | 10 ⁴ | fg - pg | Limited to natively fluorescent or derivatized analytes. Laser-induced fluorescence detection required for optimal detection limits. |
| ECD | Very selective | Limited | 10 ⁵ | fg - pg | Limited to oxidizable or reducible compounds. Excellent sensitivity and linearity. Gradients can degrade sensitivity. |

3.3.7 Ultra violet and visible light spectrometer

The UV-VIS spectrophotometer is a device that measures the intensity of light passing through the sample and compares it with the reference. The difference in intensity gives an absorbance as a result.^{35,34}

4 ADDITIONAL EXPERIMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Separating extractants using different washing techniques and normal phase liquid chromatography were largely emphasized in this thesis, however a molecular catcher technique was tested and a few other methods for separating extractives were considered.

4.1 Molecular catcher

The University of Jyväskylä is able to produce so-called molecular catcher with a 3-D printer. The idea is that a functional group that reacts with the element to be recovered from the solution is immersed in the catcher.

In this thesis, an attempt was made to use metallic zinc as a functional group. The hypothesis was that zinc could react with Versatic 10 to reduce its amount in solution, although the problem might be that Cyanex 272 is also able to react with zinc. The goal was to reduce only Versatic 10 concentration.

Molecular catcher has been successfully used for palladium capture in a study where two different oxidation states of palladium at 30 ppm were obtained

with 100 % yield.³⁶ In this work, however, no attempt was made to capture the metal, but to use metal as a catcher.

4.2 Size exclusion chromatography

Size exclusion chromatography is a method of separating molecules by their size. The column is packed with a porous material in which the size of the cavity is determined by the size of the separatable molecule. Large molecules do not fit in cavities and elude first. The counter on the Nanocomposix website is used to calculate the molecular size.^{37,38} According to the counter, the Versatic 10 diameter would be about 8.4 Å and Cyanex 272 10 Å. Therefore, a molecular sieve or packing material on a column with 9 Å cavities would not slow down Cyanex 272, but might be able to retain the smaller Versatic 10 molecules.

4.3 Reverse phase chromatography

In reverse phase chromatography eluent is more polar than stationary phase and therefore polar compounds elute faster. RPLC is the most commonly used chromatography technique.

4.4 Super critical fluid chromatography

The use of supercritical carbon dioxide as a mobile phase brings a few advantages over conventional liquid chromatography. It works like normal phase chromatography, but it is more effective because of better diffusion and mass transfer. It is generally used with analytes with low water solubility, such as

fatty acids or oil fractions. The sample fraction recovery is easier because the carbon dioxide evaporates after the column. Supercritical fluid poses challenges especially for pump technology, but in principle the same equipment can be used as for liquid chromatography.^{39,40,41}

The supercritical fluid is, in a way, an intermediate between liquid chromatography and gas chromatography, during the work it was found that the liquid chromatographic separation was not successful but gas chromatography was successful. In practice, replacing this work with carbon dioxide in hexane could perhaps help successfully separate the extractants.

5 ANALYTICAL METHODS

5.1 pH

The pH value generally refers to the acidity / alkalinity of the aqueous phase. It is measured on a scale from 0 to 14 and can be interpreted as the activity of the hydrogen ions of the sample if necessary, usually in the aqueous phase and generally as an oxonium ion concentration.⁴² The approximation of the pH value of the sample can be calculated by the equation

$$\text{pH} \approx -\log[\text{H}^+], \quad (18)$$

where $[\text{H}^+]$ represents the hydrogen ion concentration.⁴²

In this work, the theoretical distribution of metals during the experiments was monitored by the pH value, in addition to the selectivity tests, the metal separation factor was interpreted as a function of pH.

5.2 ICP-OES

Frequently used atomic absorption techniques are good when analyzing metals, semi-metals and some non-metals. However, atomic absorption technology cannot analyze one element at a time. Atomic emission technology can simultaneously analyze multiple elements, because it does not require an atomic-specific radiation source. The strengths of the method further include: the concentration range is broad ppb to percent, linear ranges are broad, low assay limits, good repeatability and reproducibility, multiple anions can be analyzed, background disturbance is minimal. In a typical apparatus, the

sample is fed to the ICP by means of a peristaltic pump into a nebulizer which also flows argon gas. The sample is aerosolized in a nebulizer that flows into the nebulizer chamber. In the atomizer chamber, too large droplets run directly through the waste hose into the waste bin and 1-2 % of the sample flows up into the plasma flame.⁴³

With ICP-OES, it is attempted to atomize the sample in the plasma flame, excite the atoms and finally, when the electrons of the atom return to basic state, the atom emits electromagnetic radiation at a specific wavelength. The emission of the sample is spread with prism by different wavelengths, signals of different wavelengths are amplified and detected by a CCD cell as shown in figure 22. The strength of the signal obtained from the cells is compared to known concentrations or directly calibrated directly to calculate the concentration of the sample.

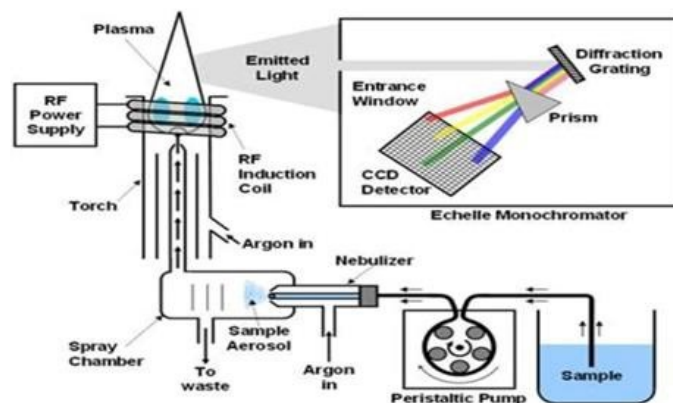


Figure 22: ICP-OES principle⁴³

NNH laboratory performed analyzes of samples from different experiments on a Spectro Argos with pre-made methods with a suitable sample matrix. An extra monitoring solution was prepared to refine the results of high cobalt con-

tent. From the results, metal distributions between the organic and aqueous phases were determined and these results were used e.g. selectivity tests.

5.3 Selectivity tests

By using ICP results, the equation 3 can be used to calculate the separation factor at different pHs and to evaluate the effectiveness of the various novel mixtures in the separation of cobalt and nickel, for example with an extractant mixture of about 20 wt-% active Cyanex at pH 4.7. At equilibrium cobalt was analysed 8977,38 mg/l in organic phase, 655,98 mg/l in aqueous phase and nickel 288,32 mg/l organic phase and 107155 mg/l in aqueous phase

$$5086,24 = \frac{\frac{8977,38}{655,98}}{\frac{288,32}{107155}}, \quad (19)$$

we can calculate that SF at pH 4.7 is 5086,24.

5.4 GC-FID/MS

Extractant mixtures were analyzed on GC-FID/MS device Shimadzu GC-2010 with column Agilent HP-5 19091J-413E with physical measures length 30 m, internal diameter of 0.32 mm and film thickness 0.25 μm . Injector temperature was 290 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, detector 300 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, oven's starting temperature was 100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ with delay time 1.5 minutes. Temperature was ramped up with initial ramping of 6 $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ to $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 180 and after that 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ to 290 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Total analysis time was 62.33 min. The GC-FID device yielded sufficiently accurate results. With pure substances good measuring response was achieved with Versatic 10 and Cyanex 272 and no overlapping signals were measured from derivatization reagents or solvent, results are listed in appendix A pages 75

to 78.

5.4.1 Sample derivatization

Cyanex 272 and Versatic 10 required derivatization. Samples were diluted with n-hexane and dried with rotavapor. 200 μ l 8:2 BSTFA-TMCS and 600 μ l pyridine was added to sample and closed tightly. Samples were heated at 70 °celcius for 30 minutes. Afterwards treated samples were analysed with GC-FID.

5.5 Titration of extractants

Concentrations of one extractant can be determined by titrating the potentiometric acid-base distillation with its active moiety. The acidic Cyanex 272 active moiety bis(2,4,4-trimethylpentyl) phosphinic acid (BTMPPA) hydroxide group can be titrated with sodium hydroxide. The other OH group of the inactive portion (2,4,4-trimethylpentyl) phosphonic acid (TMPPA) also has an equivalent point at the same pH. The second OH group of the inactive portion is only titrated at a higher pH. The calculation is based on the volume of titrant at the first equivalent point where hydroxyl group of BTMPPA is active⁴⁴ Example of titrations and titration values are listed in appendix B

5.6 Total organic carbon

The organic content of the samples can also be measured by TOC analysis. In the analysis, the sample is burned so that all of its carbon is converted to carbon dioxide, which is analyzed by an IR cell. The IR cell signal is compared

to a known standard⁴⁵

The analysis thus determines the organic carbon content and can be used to estimate the total organic matter. A very useful analysis when looking at the relative change of organic matter in the aqueous phase at different points.

6 EXPERIMENTS

The experiments were conducted between the summer of 2018 and spring 2019 at the Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta Research Laboratory and the Department of Applied Chemistry at the University of Jyväskylä. Tests can be divided into three main groups: washing of the extract mixtures, chromatographic separation, and separation using a molecular scraper.

6.1 Initial tests and preparations

Baseline selectivity test was made with pure 22,5 w-% Cyanex272 diluted in isooctane (SUL) and synthetic aqueous (NISO₄). Also to confirm previous results, SUL with 1,5 w-% added Versatic 10 (SULV1.5) was used as an organic phase. All organic solutions were stripped with dilute H₂SO₄ solution in order to remove impurities.

Solutions for the experimentations are listed in table 5. All organic solutions are diluted with isooctane.

Table 5: Solutions for first experimentations

| | Solution | Concentration | Abbreviation |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Synthetic organic | Cyanex 272 | 22 w-% | SUL |
| Synthetic organic with versatic | Cyanex 272 / Versatic 10 | 22 w-% / 1,5 w-% | SULV1.5 |
| Synthetic aqueous | Ni / Co | 120 g/l / 8,3 gl | NiSO ₄ |
| Sodium sulphate solution | Na | 100 g/l | Na ₂ SO ₄ |
| Zinc sulphate solution | Zn | 25 g/l | ZnSO ₄ |
| Magnesium sulphate solution | Mg | 10g/l | MgSO ₄ |
| Sulphuric acid | H ₂ SO ₄ | 200 g/l | H ₂ SO ₄ |
| Sodium hydroxide | NaOH | 50 g/l | NaOH |
| SULV1.5 with zinc loading | SULV1.5 + Zn(stripped) | - | SULV1.5Zn |
| SULV1.5 with mg loading | SULV1.5 + Mg(stripped) | - | SULV1.5Mg |
| SULV1.5 with 1 contacts | SULV1.5 | - | SULV1.5C1 |
| SULV1.5 with 10 contacts | SULV1.5 | - | SULV1.5C10 |

6.2 Using different pH isotherms

The hypothesis was that we could complex Cyanex 272 with zinc or magnesium at a pH where Versatic 10 would not yet form a complex with these metal ions. Then raise the pH as much as possible with the above limitation in mind. Higher pH also increases Versatic 10's water solubility and it may have been possible to transfer it from organic phase to aqueous phase. Additionally experiments without loading process were made with different number of contacts.

6.2.1 Zinc and magnesium loading processes

Loading processes and selectivity tests were conducted in a 1 dm³ glass reactor with built-in heating mantle and flow disturbance plates. Stirring

was implemented with four bladed teflon propeller which was mounted to an electric mixer. Temperature was controlled with water bath which circulated the water through the reactors mantle. Default settings in all the tests were temperature 50 degree celcius, A:O phase ratio 1:1 and stirring rate at 500 rpm. pH value was measured with handheld pH meter from the aqueous phase samples and it was adjusted with 50 g/l NaOH and H₂SO₄ on about 15 minute intervals. For the loading processes 300 ml of aqueous and organic phases were used to make sure that there was enough solution for the selectivity tests.

SULV1.5 was stirred with ZnSO₄ solution and pH value was raised to 3.1. When desired pH value was reached, aqueous phase was removed and organic phase was washed two times with deionised water, the pH of which was adjusted to 8.0. After washing, Zn was stripped with 200g/l H₂SO₄ and selectivity tests were performed. Mg was processed in similar fashion, but pH value was raised to 6.1. Both pH values were chosen from Cyanex 272 and Versatic 10 pH isotherms. From these experiments SULV1.5Zn and SULV1.5Mg were produced.

Additionally experiments without metal shielding were made by substituting ZnSO₄ with Na₂SO₄ and washing one time and 10 times with deionised water, the pH of which was adjusted to 8.0. From these experiments SULV1.5C1 and SULV1.5C10 were produced.

6.2.2 Selectivity tests and analysis

The selectivity experiments were carried out with all the different organic materials and the synthetic nickel cobalt mixture (NiSO₄). All the selectivity tests were similar to one another, except for the first equilibrium pH which had

fluctuation between experiments. Aqueous solution was first added to reactor and stirred. Organic phase was slowly added and stirred with NiSO₄ solution for 15 min. The equilibrium pH was measured and 0-sample taken from both aqueous and organic phase. After that pH value was slowly raised and samples taken from points 4.4-5.8 with 0.3 increments except the last two points which were 5.6 and 5.8. ICP analysis with both organic and aqueous methods were performed and results were used to calculate Co/Ni SFs with equation 3. With these results pH isotherms were drawn and compared. Results are listed in appendix D.

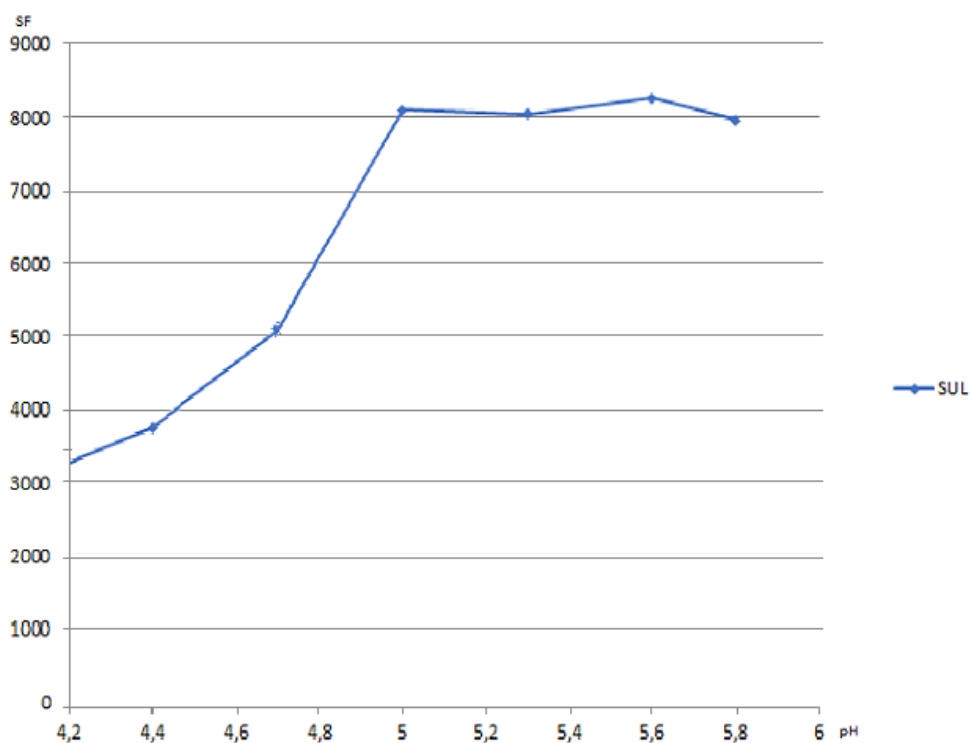


Figure 23: Co/Ni isotherm with 22w-% Cyanex 272

With SUL pH isotherm in figure 23 we noticed that pH value 5.0 and above

gives the best separation factor, which is confirmed in the literature¹⁵

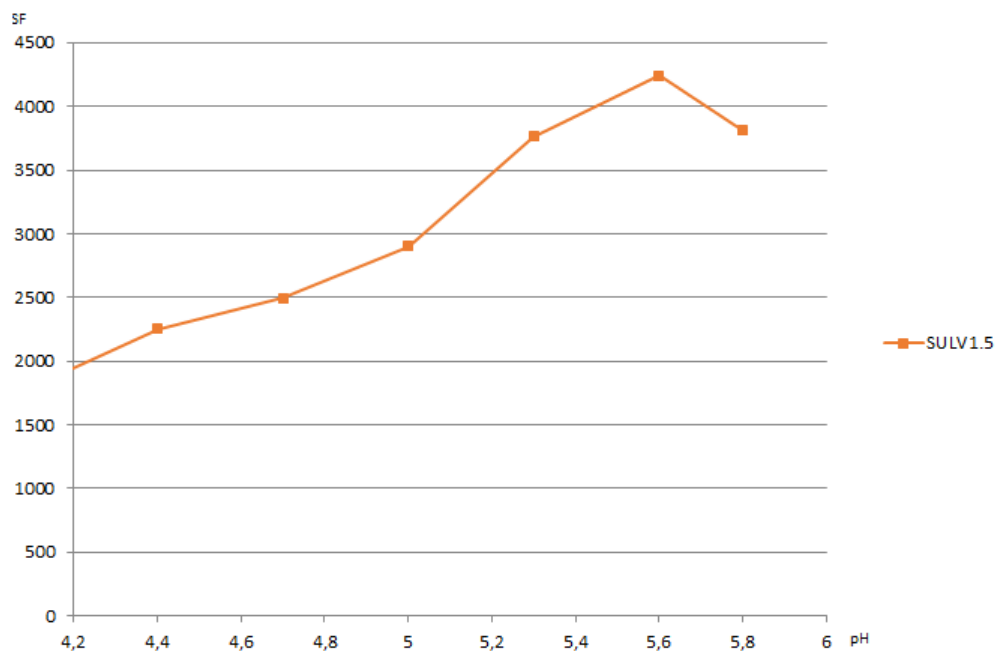


Figure 24: Co/Ni isotherm with 22w-% Cyanex 272 1,5w-% Versatic 10

Increasing concentration of carboxylic acids in solvent lowers Co/Ni separation factor in isotherm in figure 24 which is confirmed in the literature.²

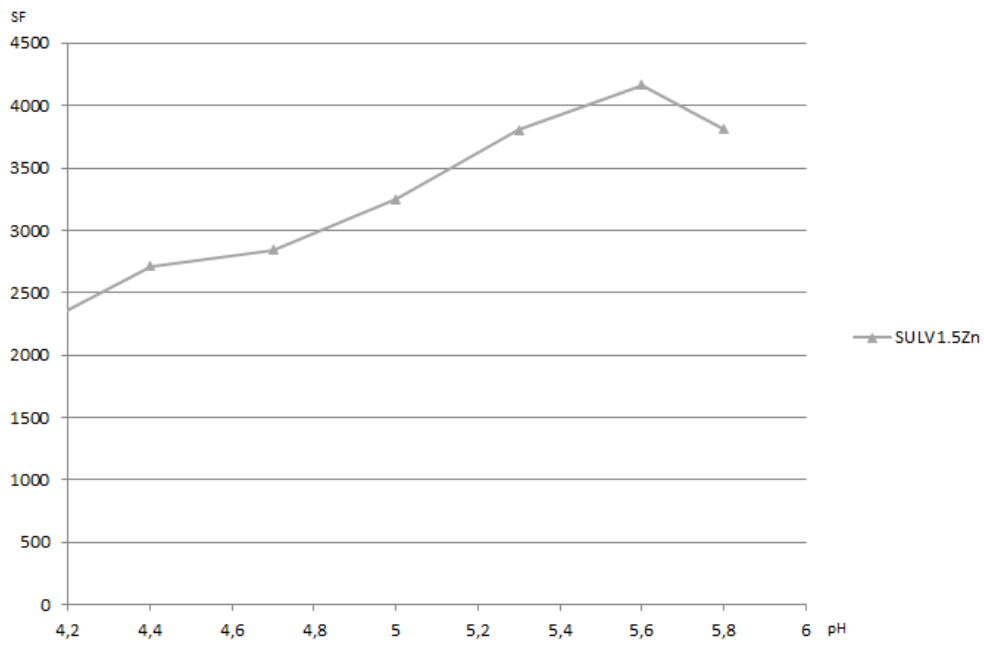


Figure 25: Co/Ni isotherm with zinc treated solvent

According to figure 25 zinc treatment of the solvent did not seem to have effect on separation factor compared to the isotherm presented in figure24

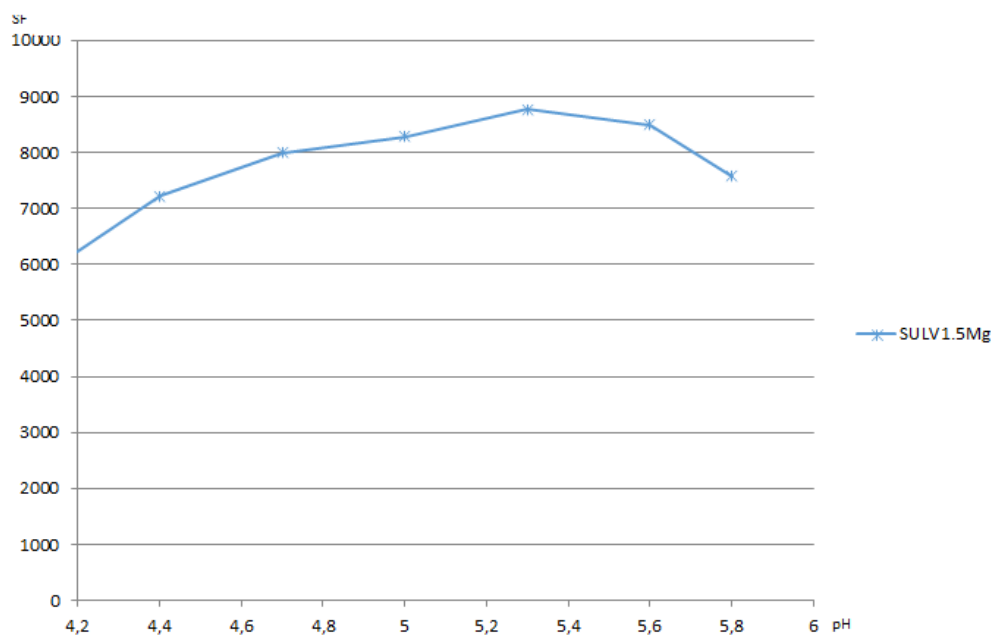


Figure 26: Co/Ni isotherm with magnesium treated solvent

| | Versatic Area | STD Area |
|-------------|---------------|----------|
| SULV1.5V | 2026 | 2152 |
| SULV1.5V Mg | 2091 | 2152 |

Table 6: GC-FID peak areas for SULV1.5 and SULV1.5 Mg

Magnesium treatment of the solvent in isotherm presented in the figure 26 resulted in higher separation factor than in the experiment with only Cyanex 272 in the figure 23 which induced retesting the results and more detailed analysis of the samples with GC-FID. Results are shown in figure 6. Heneicosane acid was used as a standard. A more detailed analysis of ICP results revealed that more cobalt was loaded in to the solvent than in Cyanex 272 isotherm in the figure 23.

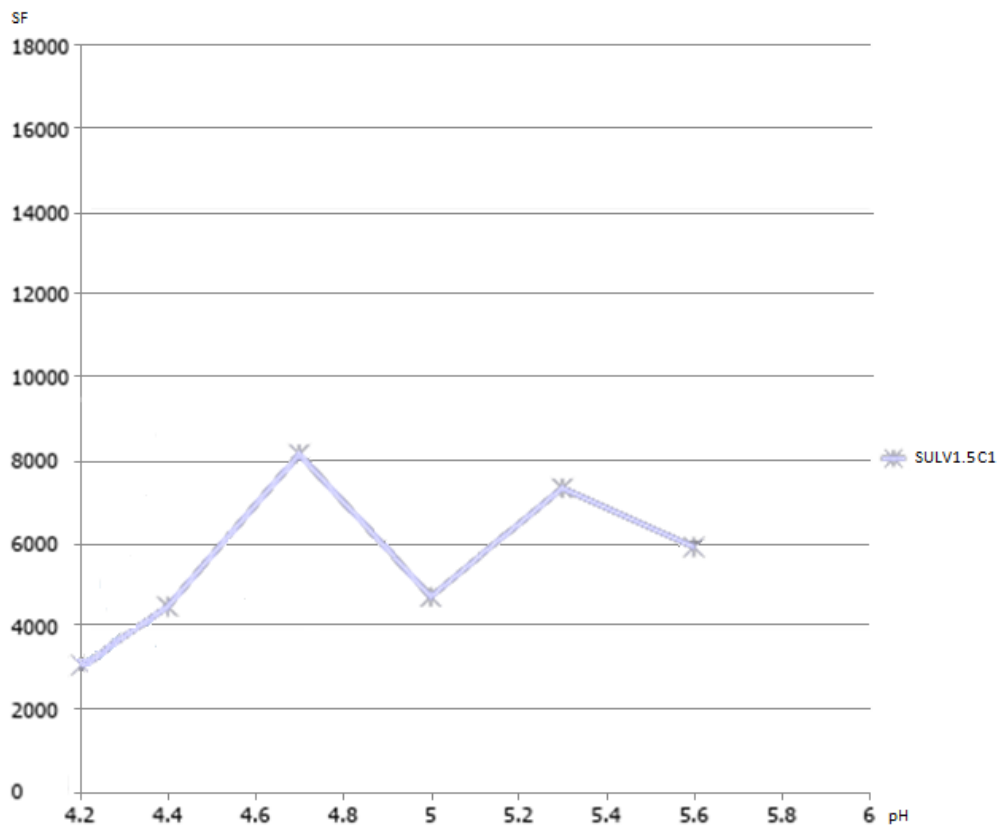


Figure 27: Co/Ni isotherm with single wash

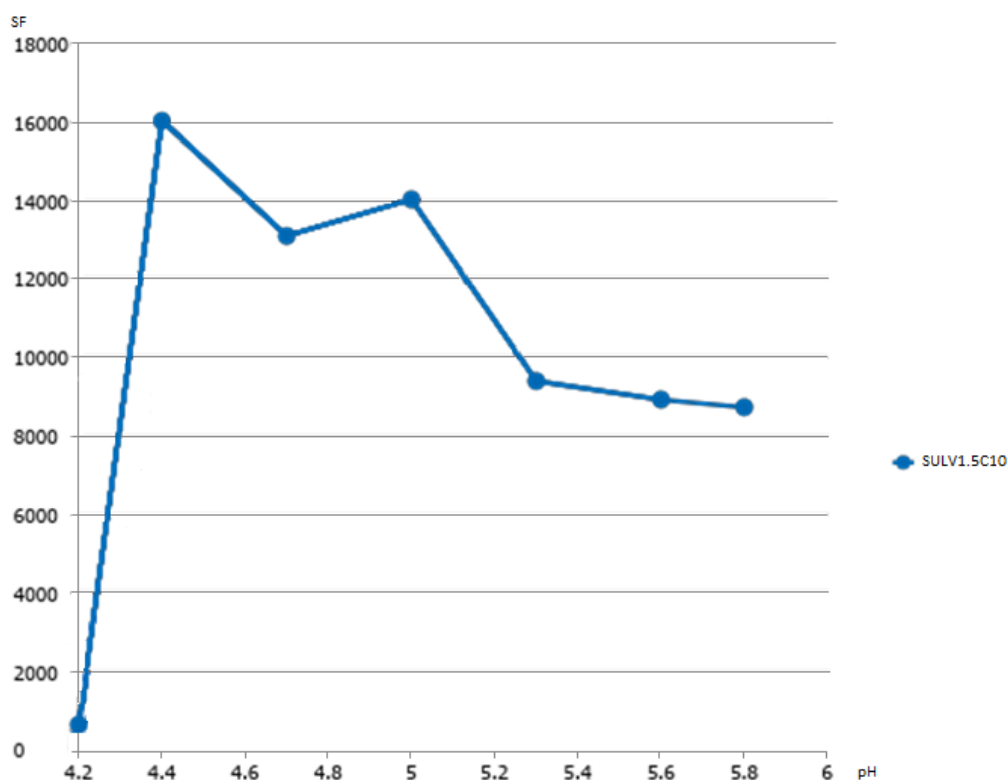


Figure 28: Co/Ni isotherm with 10 wash

Both washing experiment isotherms presented in the figures 27 and 28 resulted in larger than expected values with separation factor. A more detailed analysis of ICP results revealed that significantly less nickel was loaded in to the solvent than in Cyanex 272 isotherm in the figure 23.

6.3 Using different water solubilities of extractants to separate them

Water solubilities of Cyanex 272 and Versatic 10 increase as the pH value increases. Hypothesis was that water solubility of Versatic 10 would be higher

at lower pH, than Cyanex 272, therefore, enabling washing at that pH. Experiments were conducted with Cyanex 272, Versatic 10 and with different mixtures of these extractants. Solutions for these experiments are listed in table 7. Pure solvents were analysed with titration, mixtures with GC-FID and aqueous layer for total organic carbon.

Table 7: Solutions for second experimentations

| | Solution | Concentration (w-%) | Abbreviation |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 40 w-% Versatic 10 | Versatic 10 | 40 | V40 |
| 25 w-% Cyanex 272 | Cyanex 272 | 25 | C25 |
| 25 w-% Cyanex 272 10 w-% Versatic 10 | Cyanex 272 / Versatic 10 | 25 / 10 | C25V10 |
| 25 w-% Cyanex 272 10 w-% Versatic 10 | Cyanex 272 / Versatic 10 | 25 / 1,5 | C25V1.5 |

6.3.1 Experiments and analysis

Experiments were conducted with similar equipment as the selectivity tests. pH value was increased in 1.0 increments. In the first test pH was increased from 3.0 to 8.0 and samples were taken from each point. In second test steps from 8.0 to 12.0 were tried, but pH value changed from 8.0 to 12.0 with a single small NaOH addition. Titration results are listed in appendix C and TOC results in appendix D.

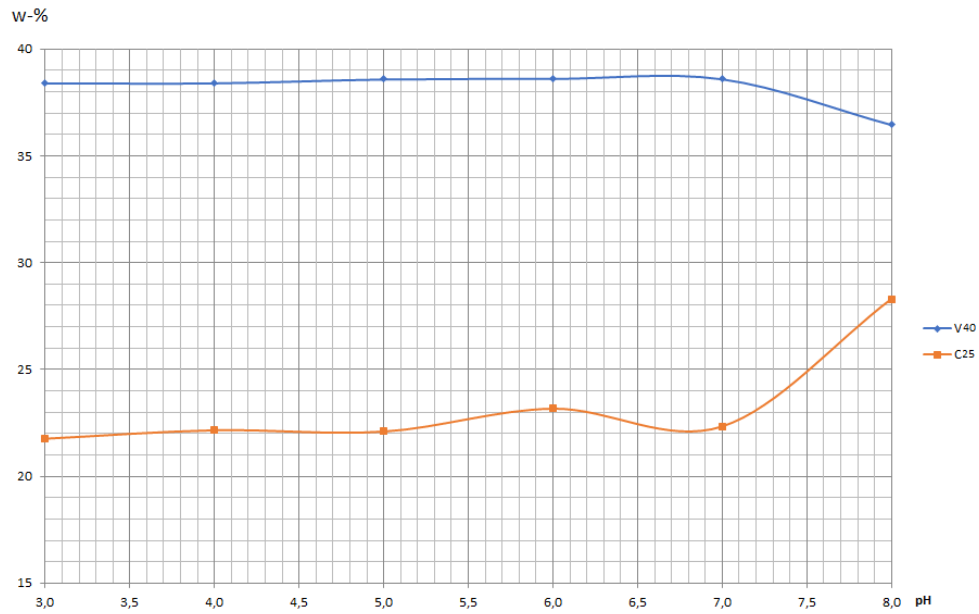


Figure 29: Extractant concentration titration vs pH graph

In the figure 29 are presented the extractant concentrations of the pure Cyanex 272 and Versatic 10 solvents. with Versatic 10 we measure downward trend in concentration at pH values higher than 7.0. In Cyanex 272 there is clear uptrend.

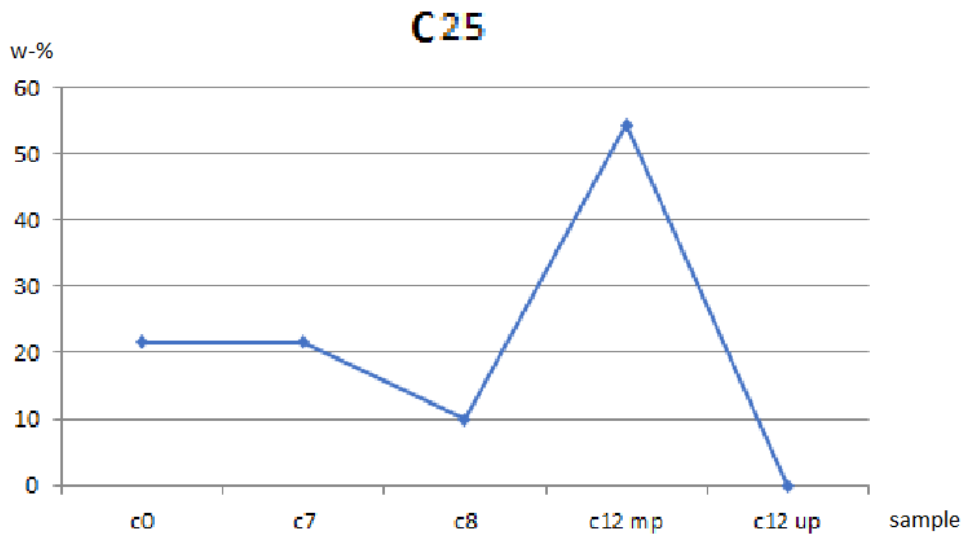


Figure 30: C25 concentration titration vs pH graph

In additional experiments with the first C25 solution at pH 8.0-12.0 in figure 30 a 3-phase system is generated clearly after 8.0. At pH 8.0 results contradict with the previous experiment where there was a rising trend in concentration. Results indicate that Cyanex 272 concentration has increased in the middle phase and decreased in the uppermost phase.

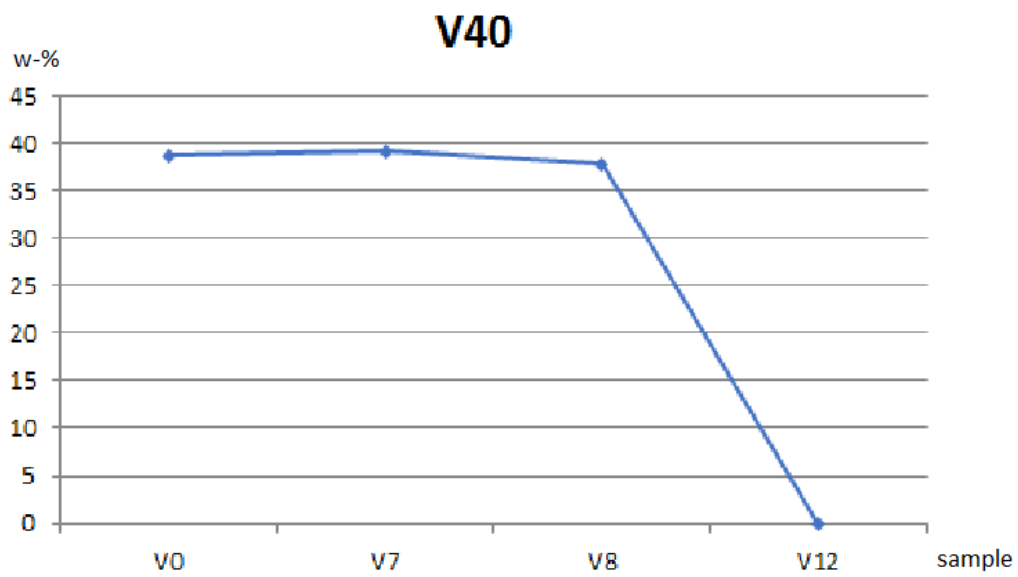


Figure 31: V40 concentration titration vs pH graph

In figure 31 are presented the results of the titration test for solvent containing 40 w-% Versatic 10. It is clear, that all Versatic 10 migrates to aqueous phase.

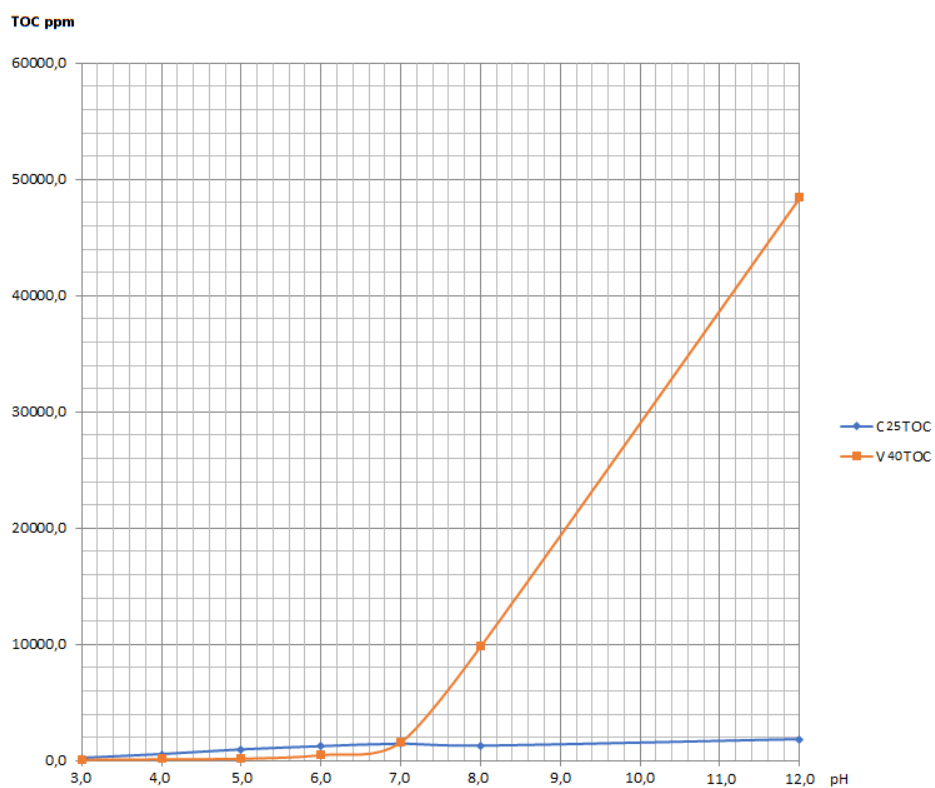


Figure 32: Aqueous TOC vs pH graph

In figure 32 are presented the TOC analysis results of aqueous phase at different pH values. Solvents contained 25 w-% Cyanex 272 and 40 w-% Versatic 10. TOC results show similar trends as the titration results. Versatic concentration increases significantly at pH 8.0.

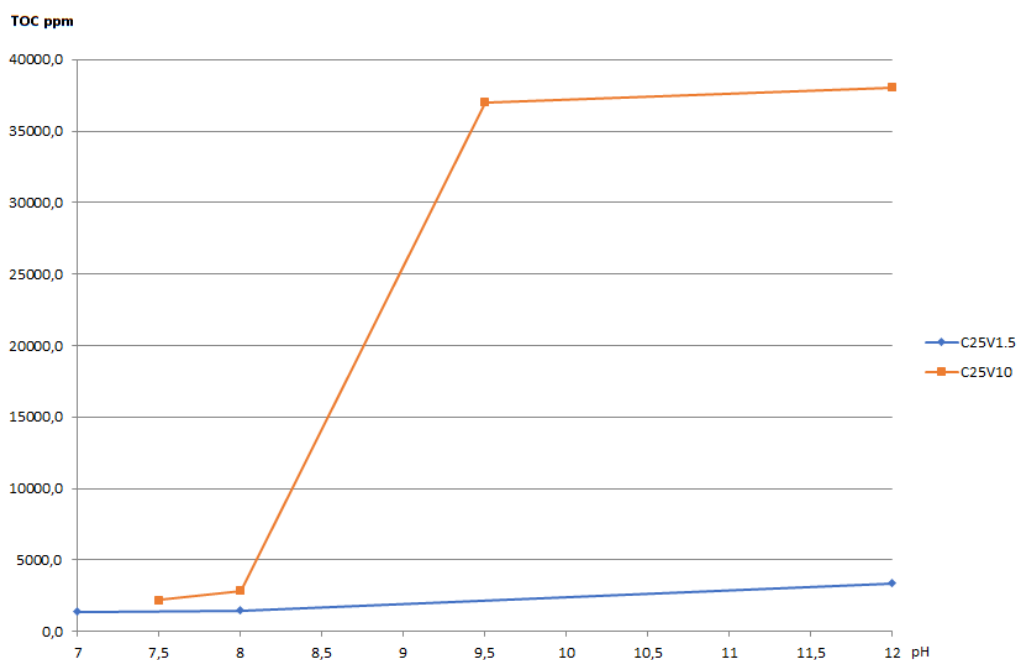


Figure 33: C25V1.5 and C25V10 vs pH graph

In figure 33 are presented TOC results aqueous phase at different pH values. One mixture of extractants contained 25 w-% Cyanex 272 and 10 w-% Versatic 10 and the other 25 w-% Cyanex 272 and 1.5 w-% Versatic 10. Organic phase analysis were carried out with GC-FID, results are listed in appendix A pages 79 to 85.

6.4 Separating Cyanex 272 from Versatic 10 with liquid chromatography

Hypothesis was that, bulkier Cyanex 272 would have been less polar, therefore separation with liquid chromatography would have been possible.

6.4.1 Experiments and analysis

Experiments were performed with Hewlett Packard 1100 series HPLC system and Luna 2u Silica (2) 100A column. Gradient method started at point 100:0 % hexane to methanol ratio. Mixture was then changed by incrementally adding methanol concentration. Two methods produced similar results which are illustrated in figure 34. Blue and orange colored boxes represent a time window when both extractants eluted. At first detection was tried with UV-VIS, but no clear signal was produced with either Cyanex 272 or Versatic 10. Samples were taken with fractioning and analysed with GC-FID. Initially, tests with pure solvents were carried out to ensure that both reagents eluted within allotted timeframe. It was concluded that with this experimental setup separation was not possible.

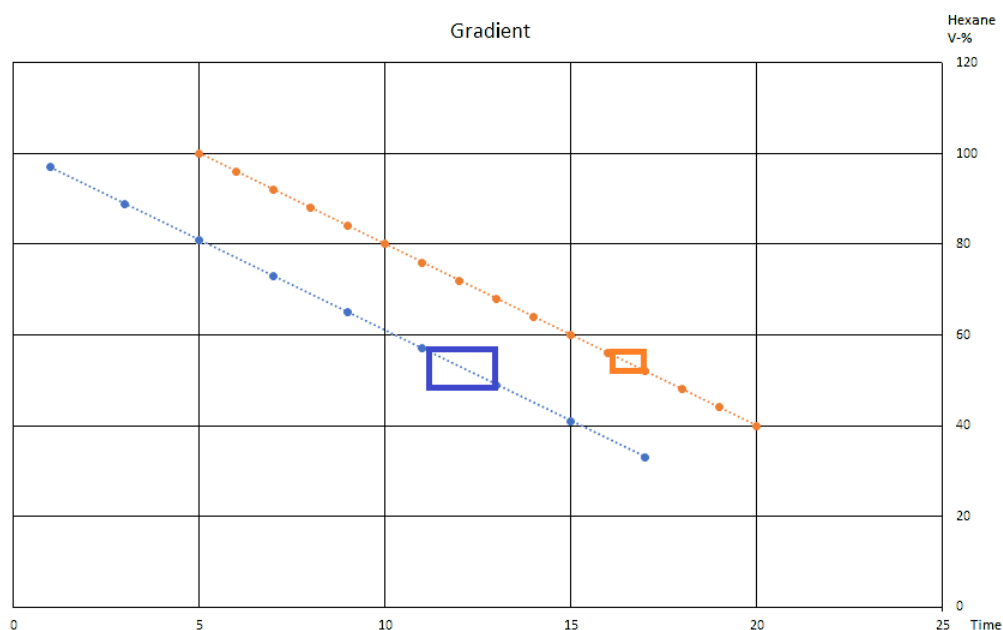


Figure 34: HPLC gradient method illustration

6.5 Removing Versatic 10 with 3-D manufactured molecular catcher

Hypothesis was that Versatic 10 would react with zinc thus reducing its concentration.

6.5.1 Experiments and analysis

In Jyväskylä University's chemistry department, a molecular catcher was produced. Solutions in table 8 were prepared and forced through molecular catcher.

Table 8: Solutions for third experimentations

| | Solution | Concentration (w-%) | Abbreviation |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 10 w-% Versatic 10 | Versatic 10 | 10 | V10 |
| Synthetic organic with versatic | Cyanex 272 / Versatic 10 | 22 w-% / 1,5 w-% | SULV1.5 |
| SULV1.5 with pH adjusted to 5.5 | Cyanex 272 / Versatic 10 | 22 w-% / 1,5 w-% | SULV1.5ph55 |
| SULV1.5 with cyanex-zinc complexation | Cyanex 272 / Versatic 10 | 22 w-% / 1,5 w-% | SULV1.5Zn |

GC-FID Analysis in appendix A showed no change in extractant concentrations before or after the filtration.

7 RESULTS ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY

None of the experiments produced the desired outcome, however there were some interesting observations made.

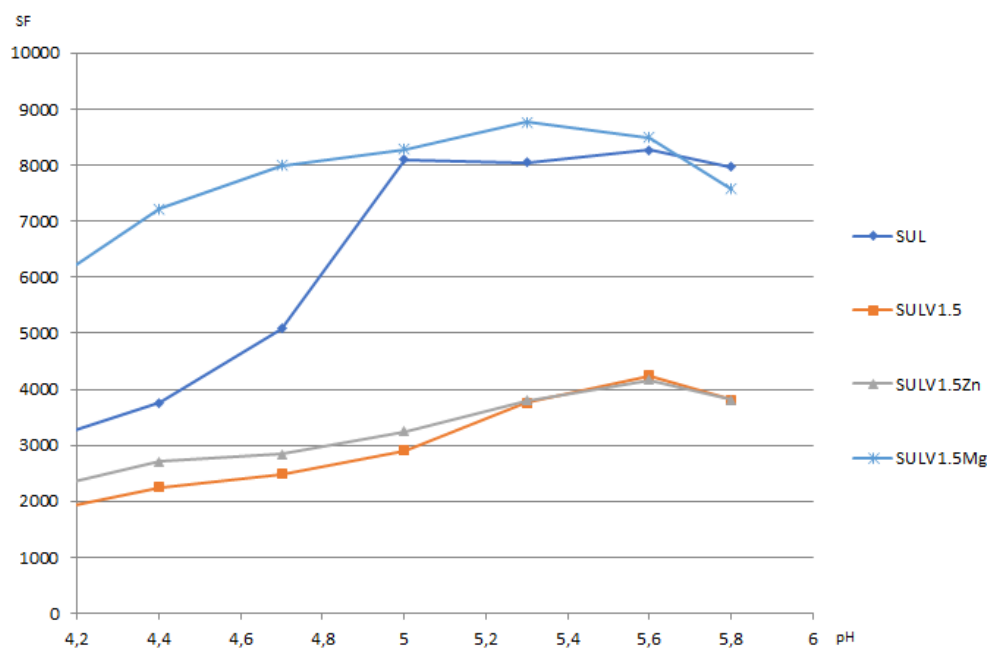


Figure 35: Co/Ni isotherms with loading experiment results

Figure 35 indicated, that magnesium handling would improve separation factor beyond pure Cyanex 272. Also from figures 27 and 28 we also find interestingly high separation factors. From figures 32 and 29, we can deduce, that some organic carbon is transferring to aqueous layer even at pH values 4-6, however no loss in Cyanex 272 concentration is detected. In the future, if similar experiments are made experimenter should observe volume changes in organic phase.

In water solubility experiments contradicting results were probably caused by slightly erroneous sampling. In second test, we found that 3-phase system was produced, it is likely that at pH value 8, there already were three phases even if they were nearly homogenous. And in the first test, sample was taken from the middle phase and in the second from the upper phase. In future tests,

it should be noted that with derivatization there were slight change in color of samples where there were Cyanex 272 and Versatic. It would be useful to know, if both of them caused the coloring or only other one. This might create an opportunity to analyze samples with UV-Vis after derivatization or perhaps some other reagents.

In order to successfully separate extractants I recommend following procedures. Chromatographic techniques size exclusion, supercritical CO₂ chromatography and if possible reverse phase chromatography. TGA analysis and mathematical modeling of system might produce useful information. To continue water solubility experiments with focus on pH range 8-12, there might be a zone where only versatic migrates to aqueous layer. Finally molecular catcher could work with experiment parameters where catcher is imbued with functional group that is able to react with metal part of the metal-versatic complex.

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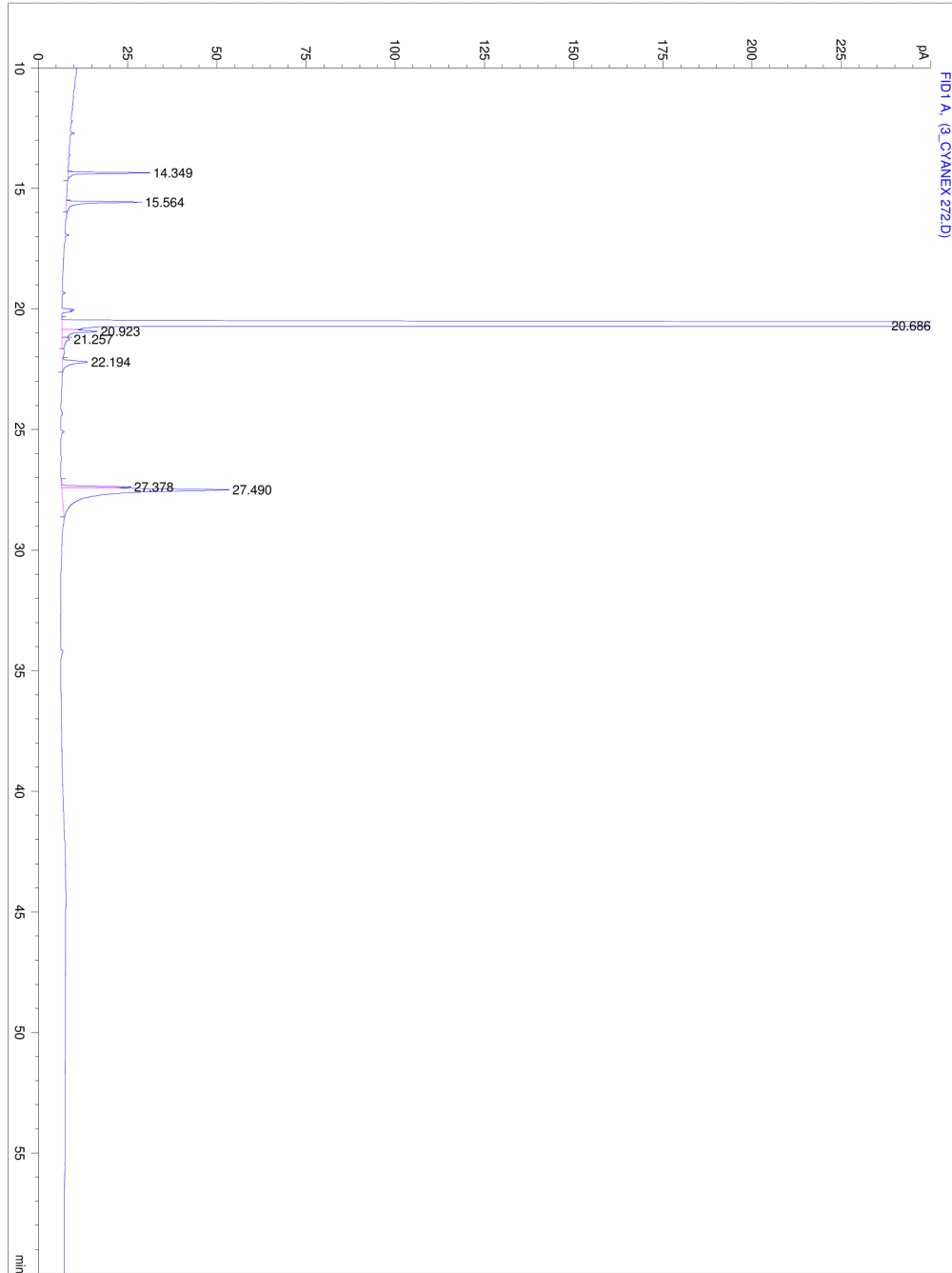
Appendices

A

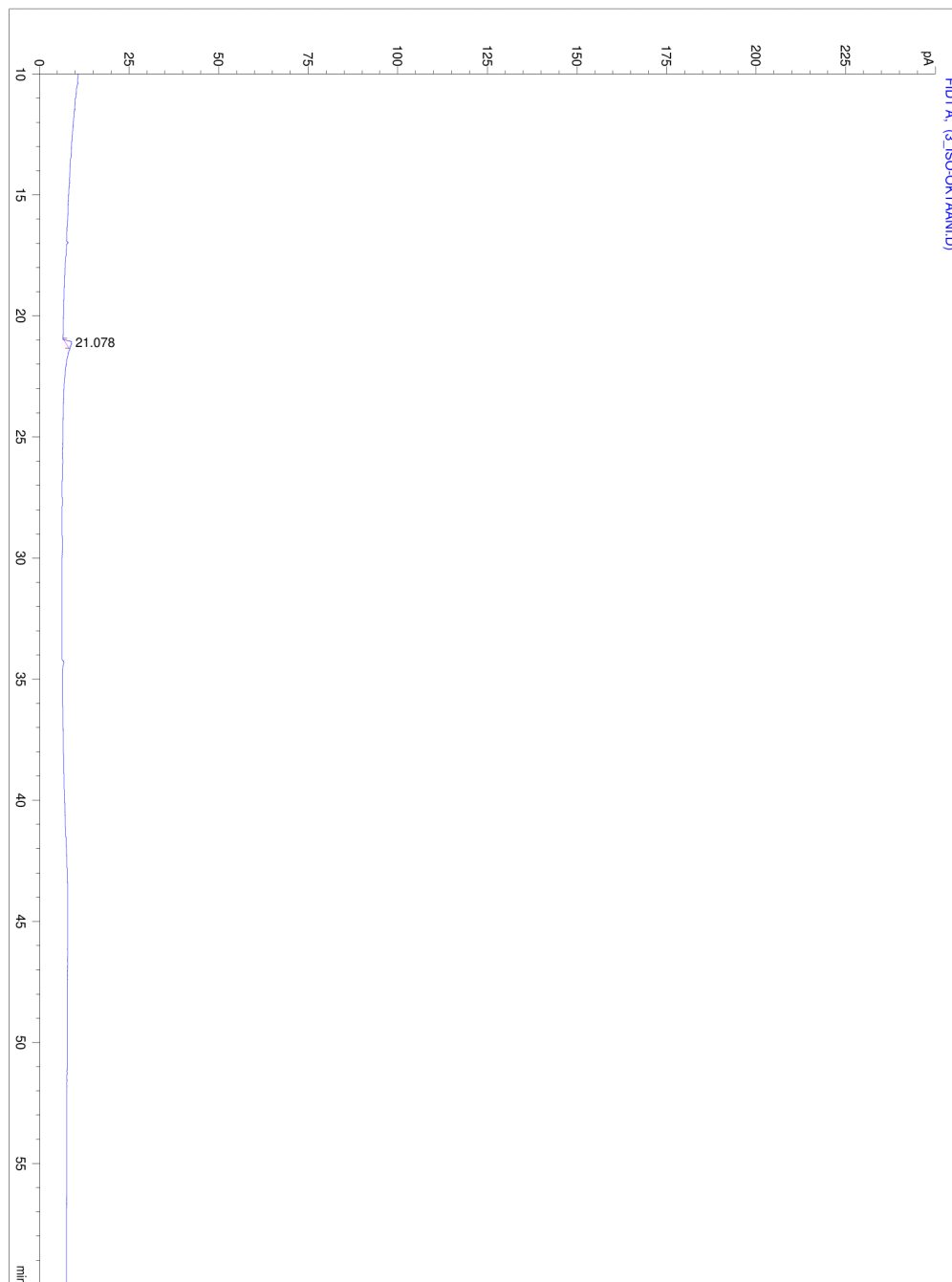
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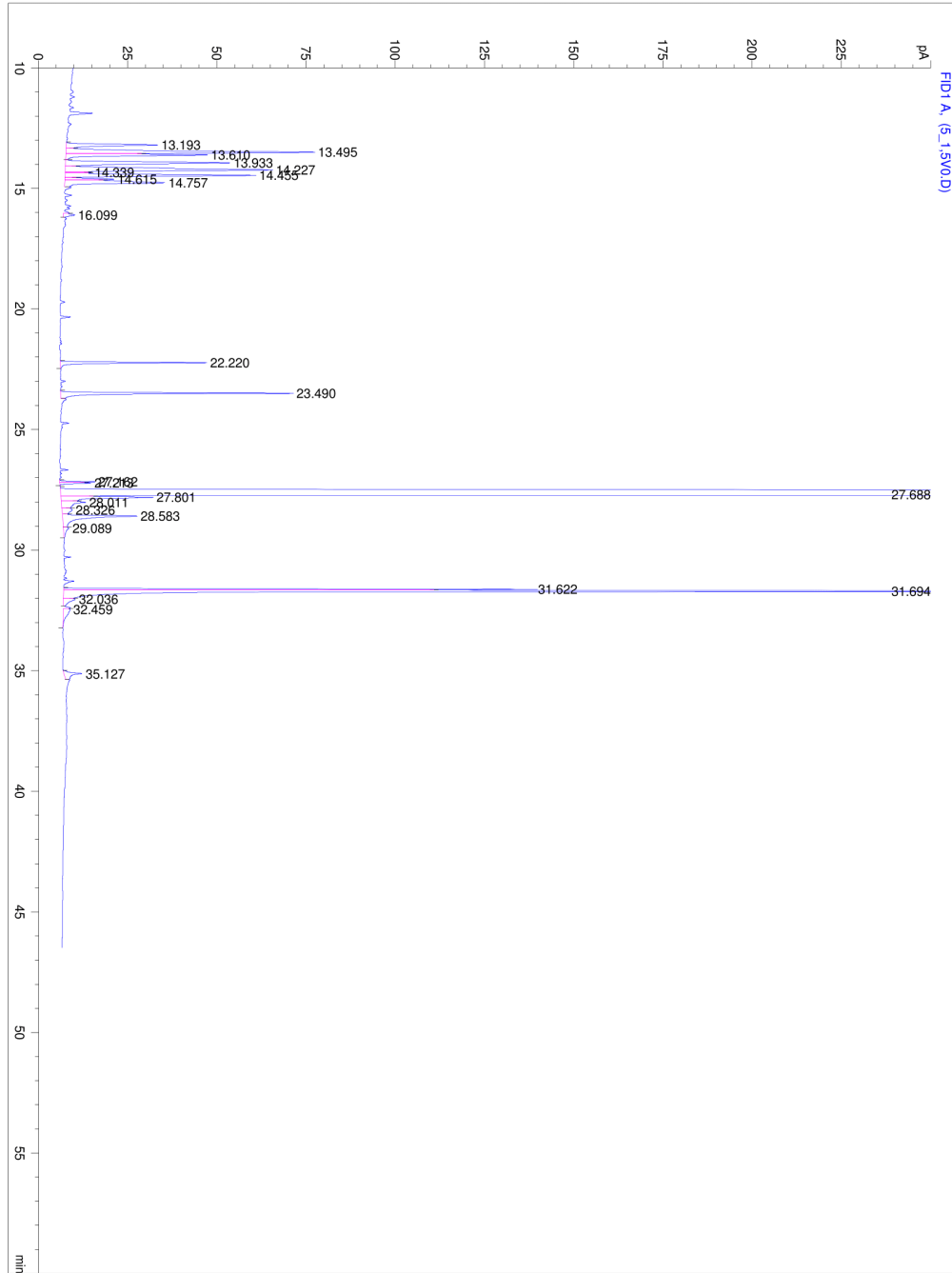
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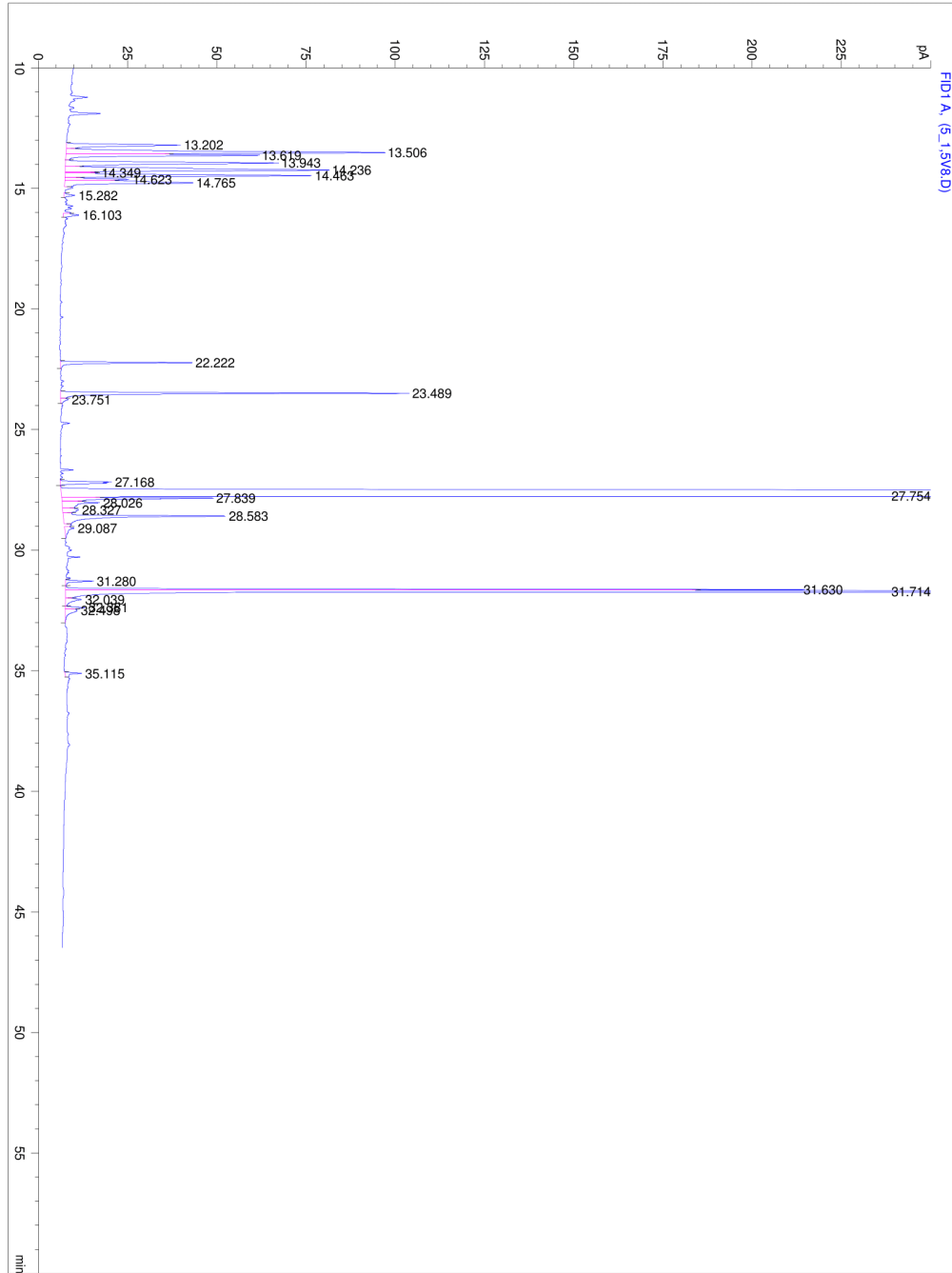
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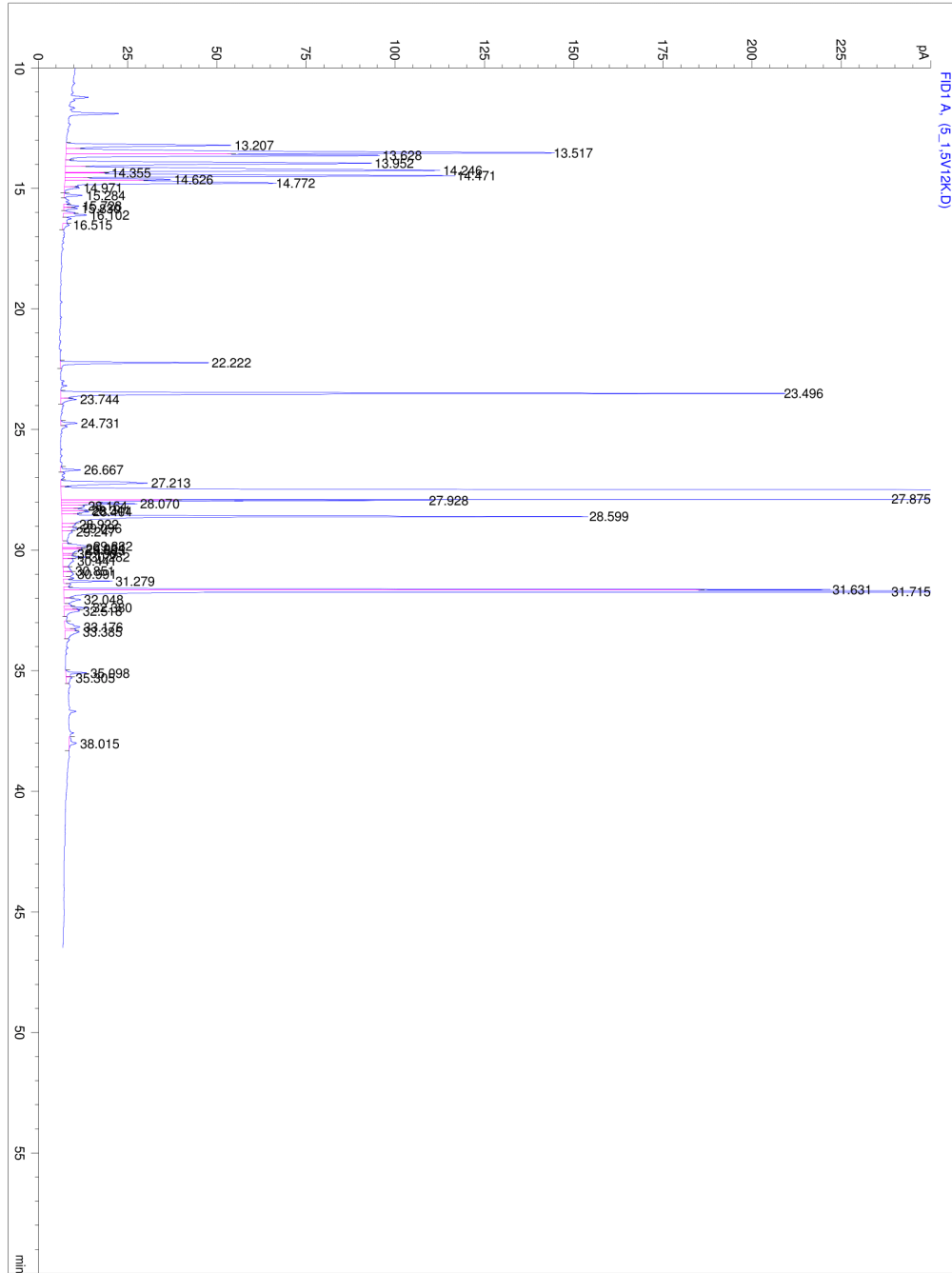
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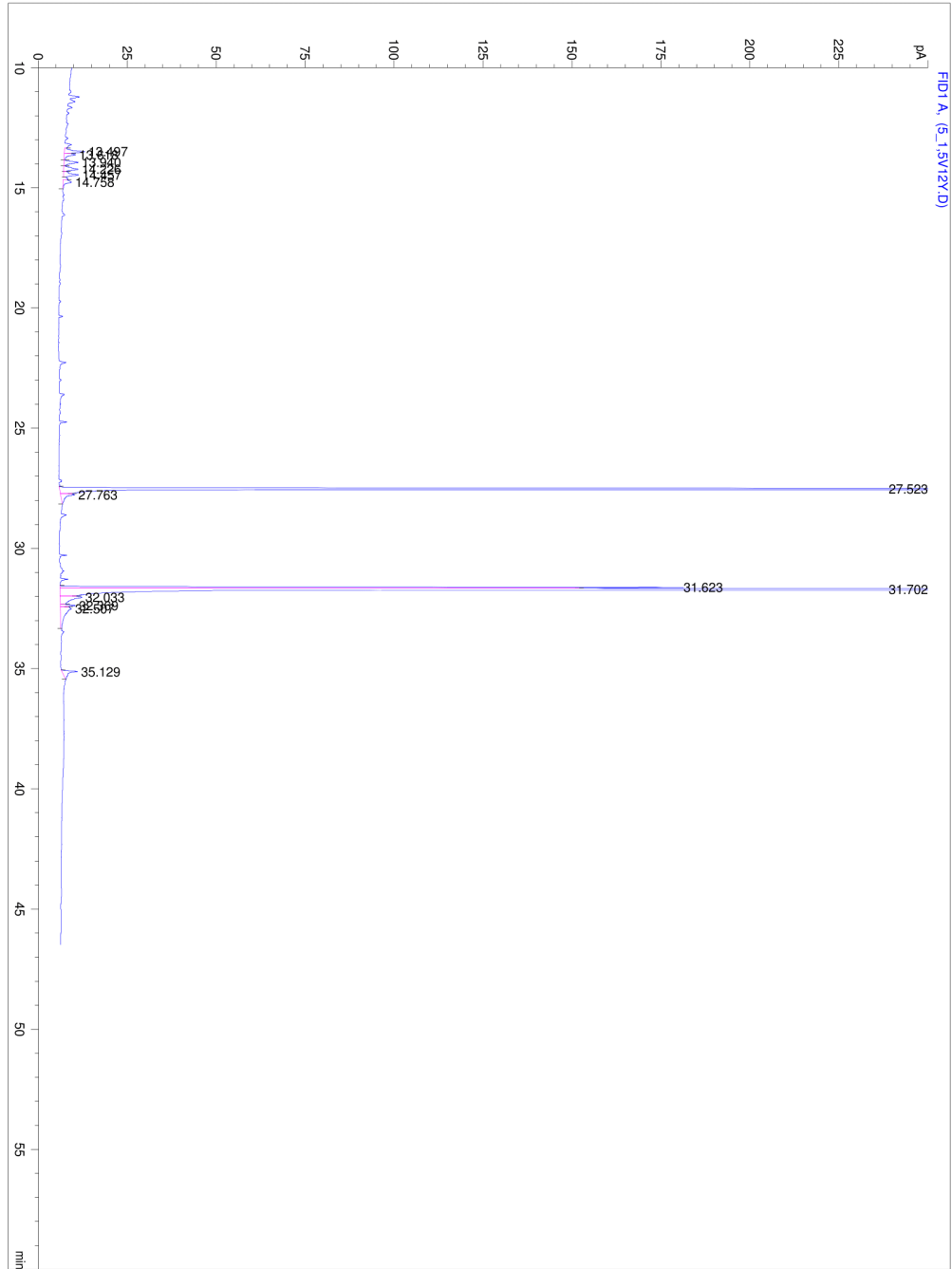
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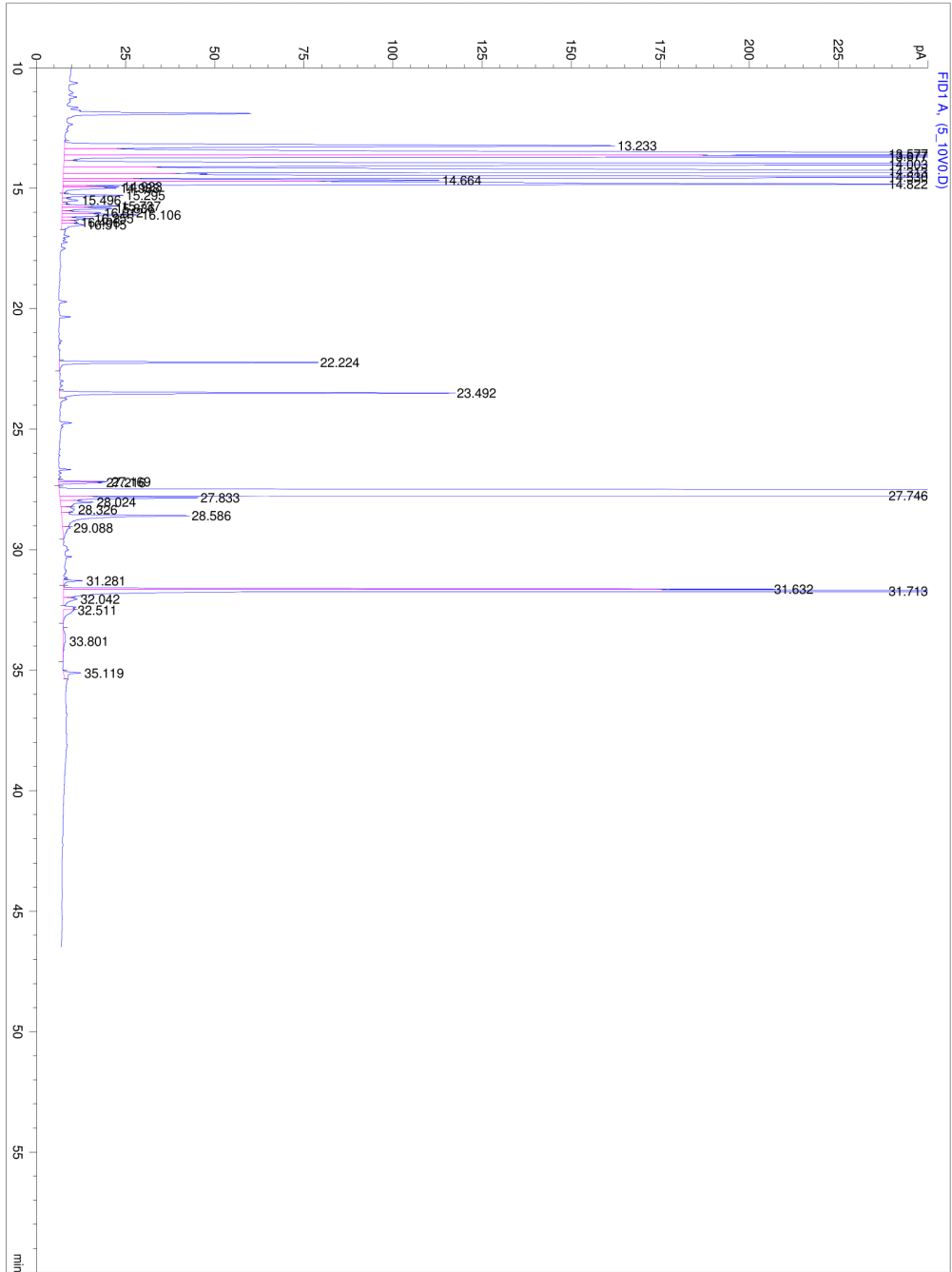
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Sample Name: 1.5V12K



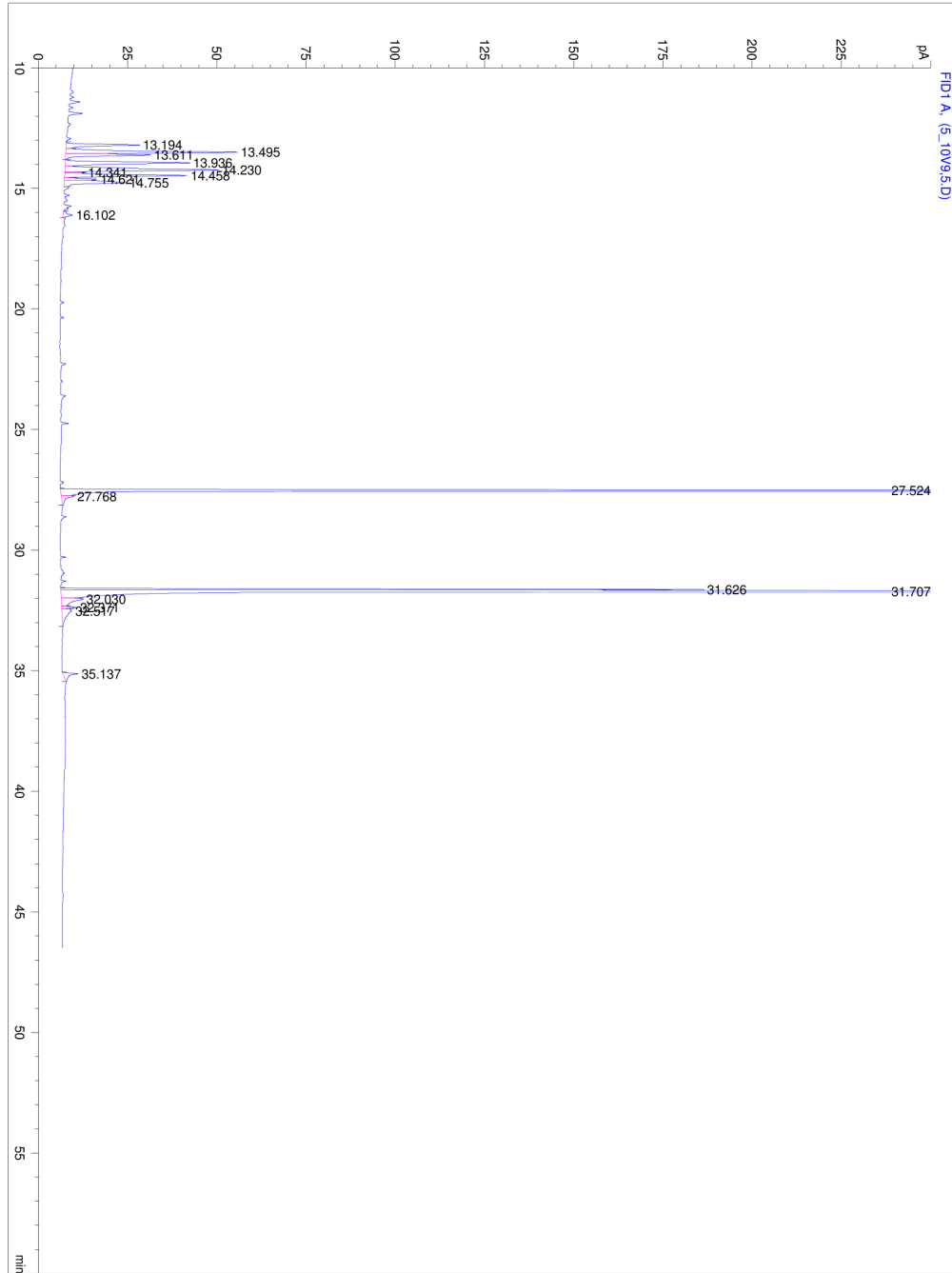
Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE 2018-10-24 14-06-47\5_1,5V12Y.D
Sample Name: 1.5V12Y



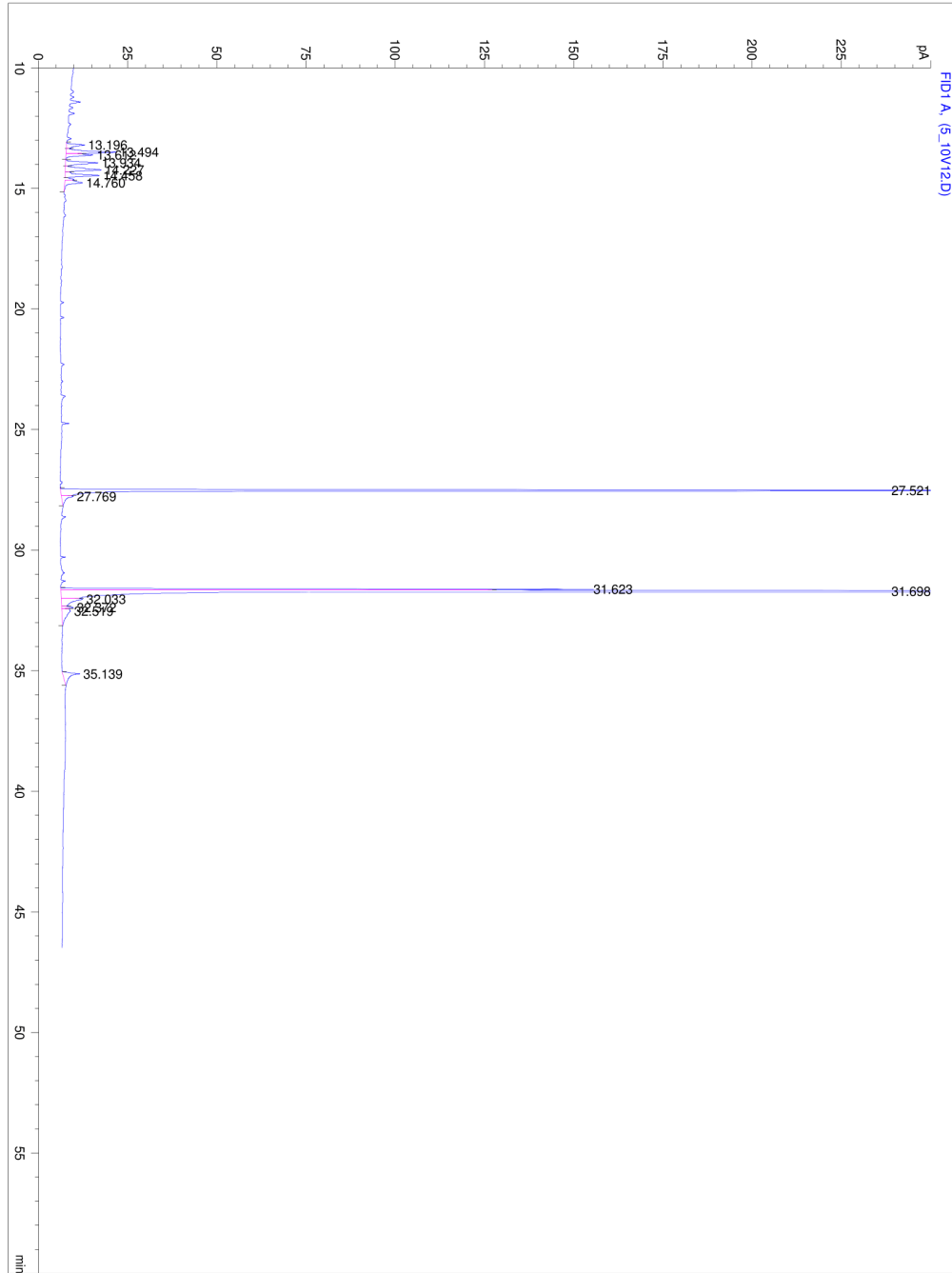
Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE 2018-10-24 14-06-47\5_10V0.D
Sample Name: 10V0

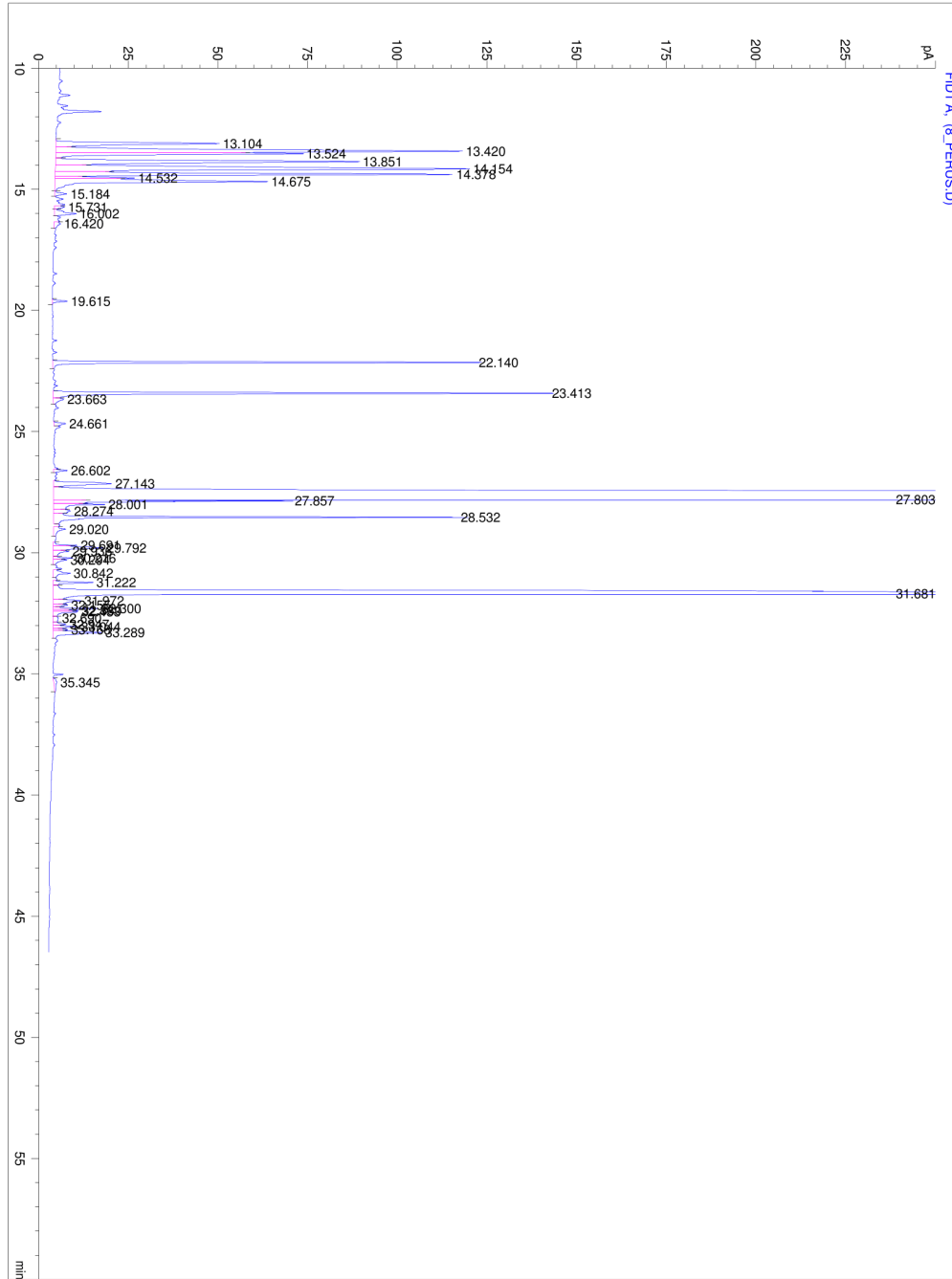


Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE 2018-10-24 14-06-47\5_10V9,5.D
Sample Name: 10V9.5

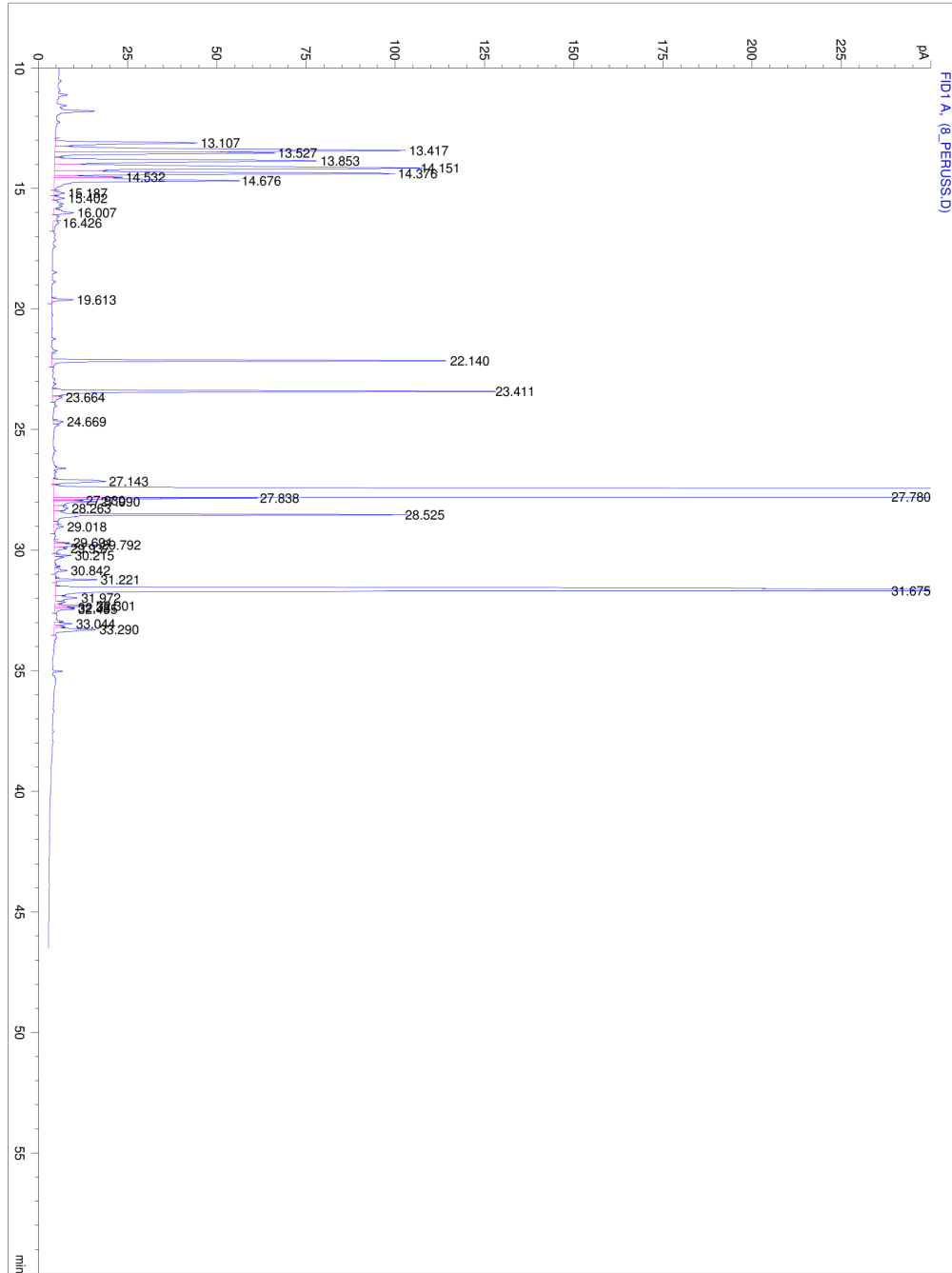


Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE 2018-10-24 14-06-47\5_10V12.D
Sample Name: 10V12

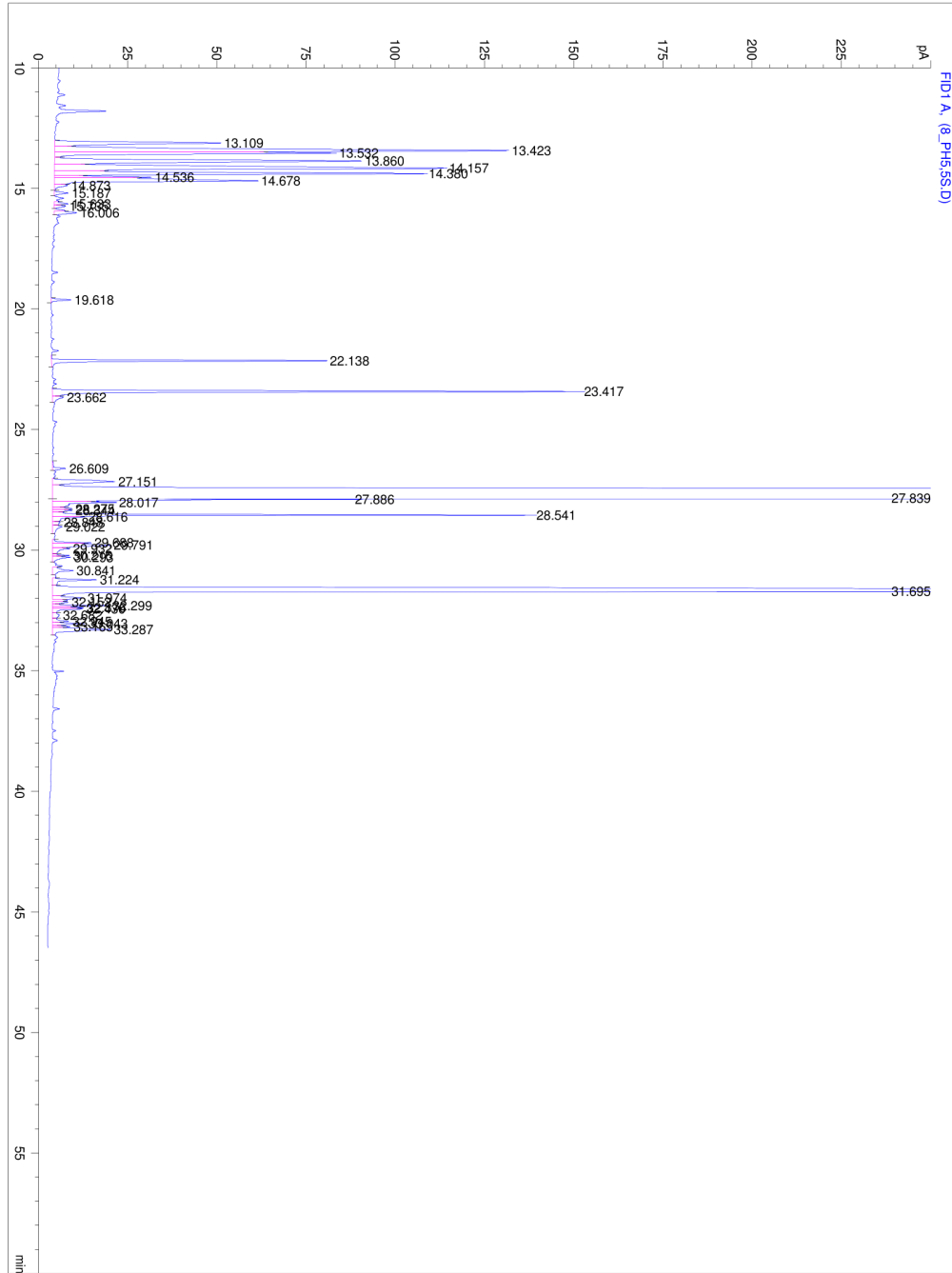


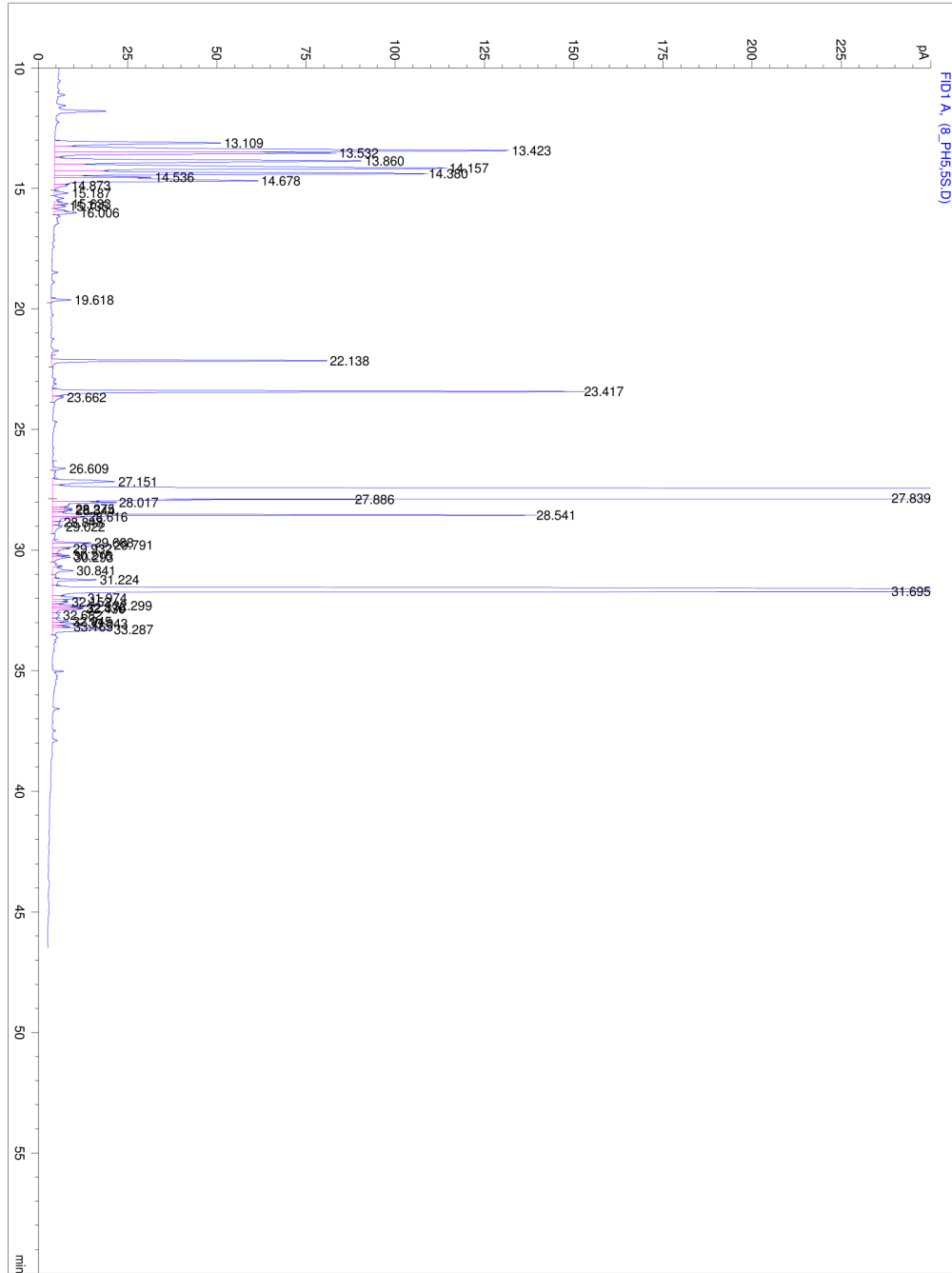


Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE2 2018-12-21 17-57-30\8_PERUSS.D
Sample Name: SULVI5 FILTERED

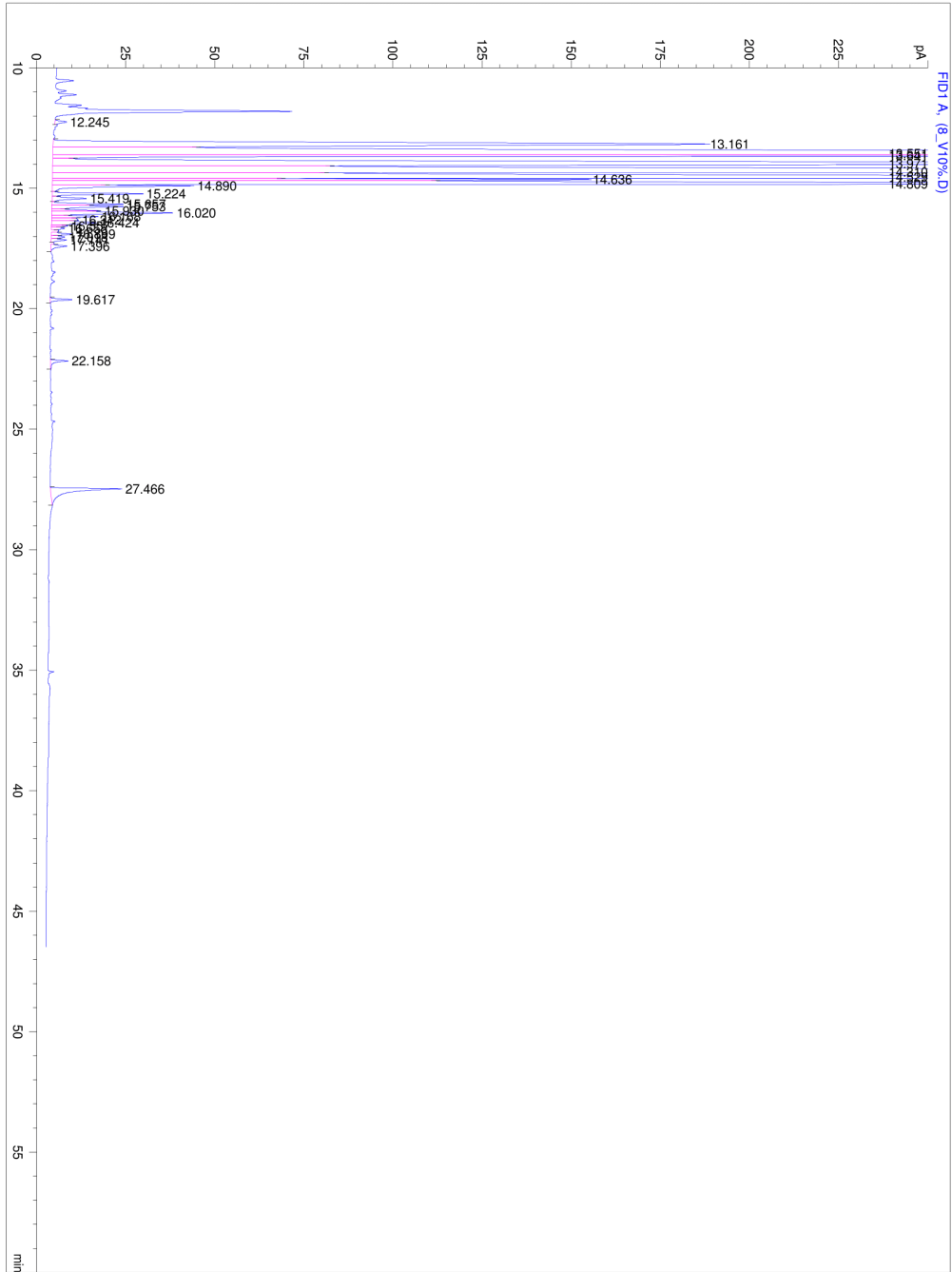


Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE2 2018-12-21 17-57-30\8_PH5,5S.D
Sample Name: SULVI.5pH55

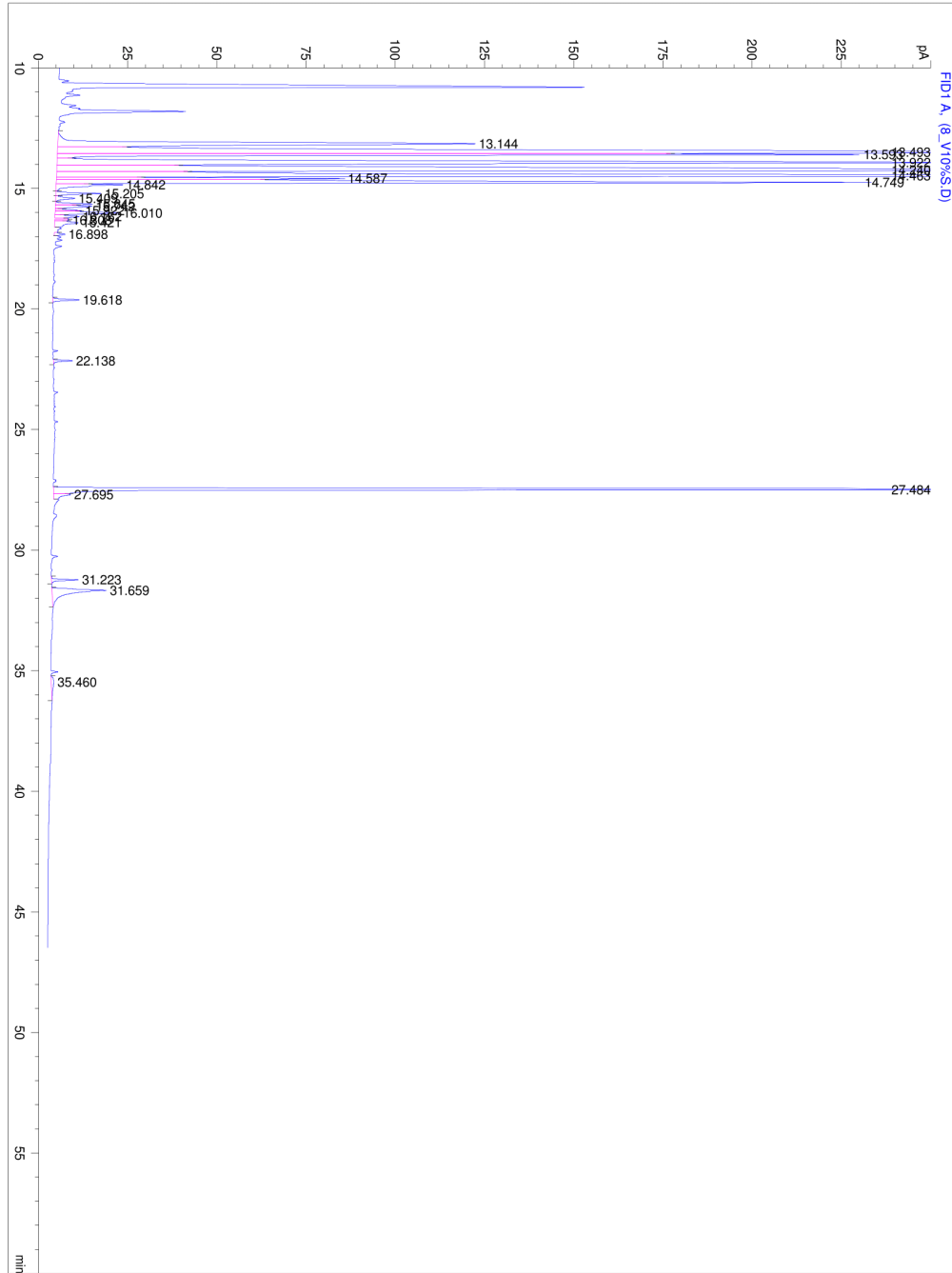




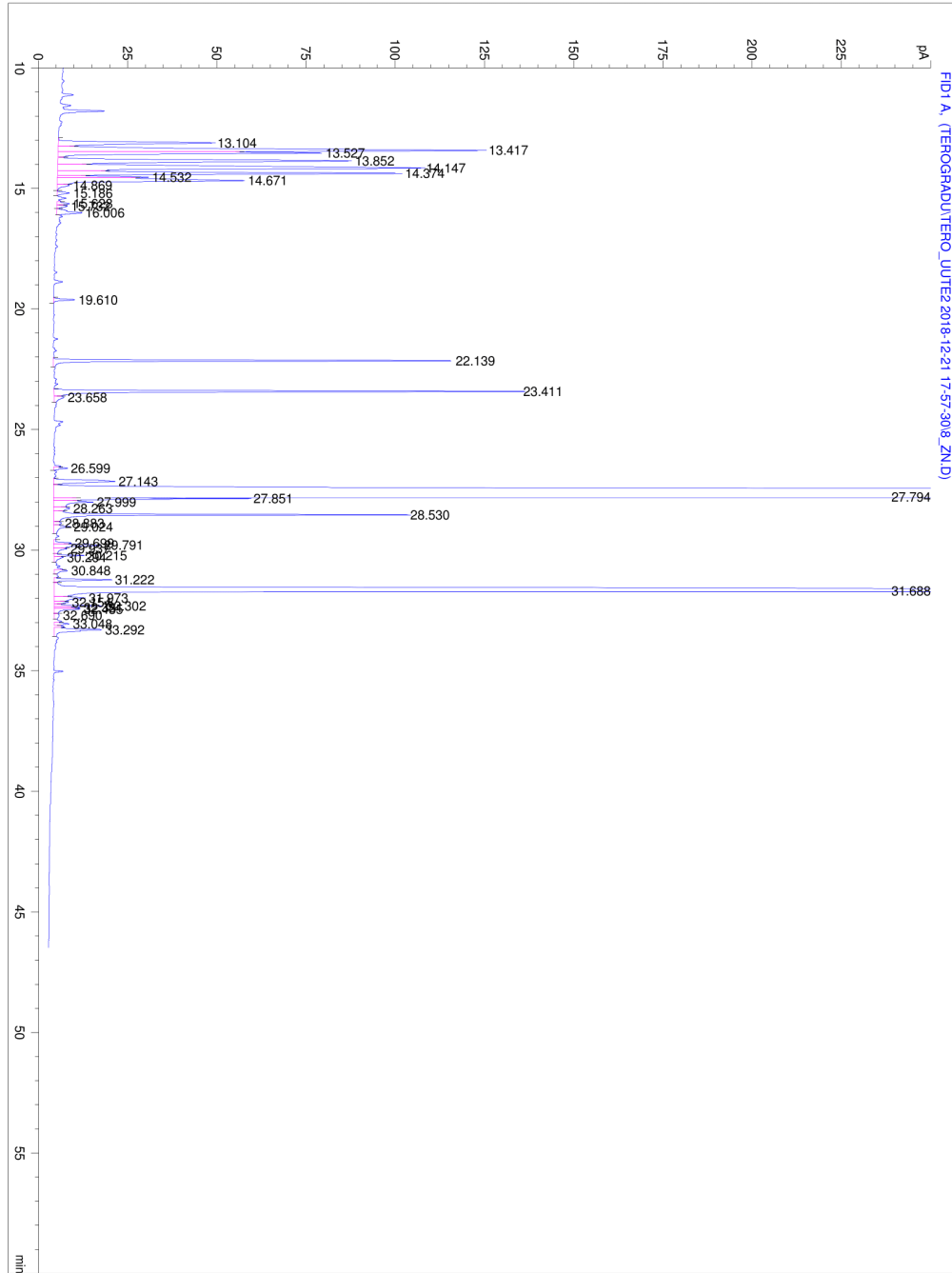
Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE2 2018-12-21 17-57-30\8_V10%.D
Sample Name: V10

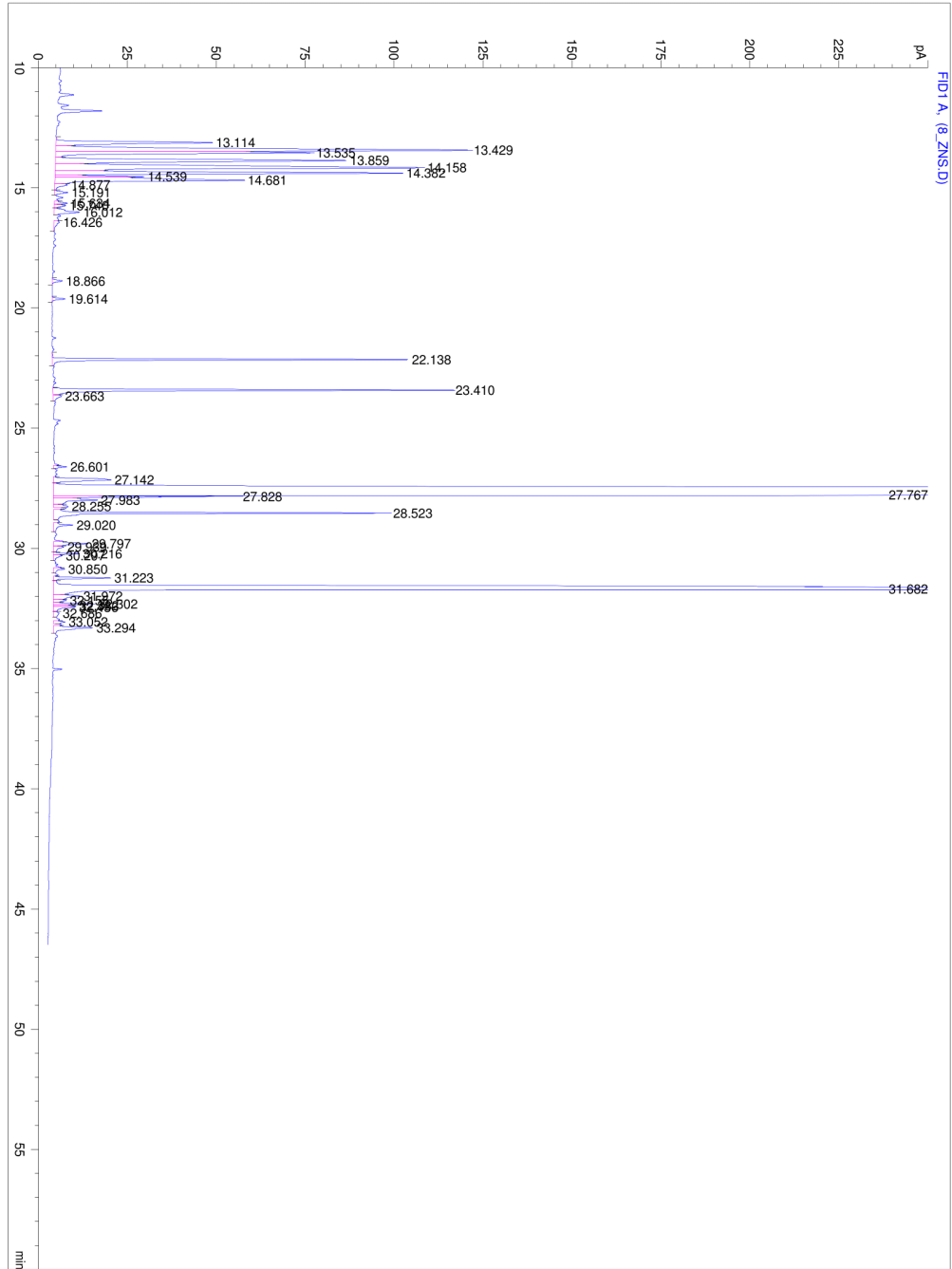


Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE2 2018-12-21 17-57-30\8_V10%S.D
Sample Name: V10FILTERED



Data File D:\CHEM32\1\DATA\TEROGRADU\TERO_UUTE2 2018-12-21 17-57-30\8_ZN.D
Sample Name: sulv1.5zn

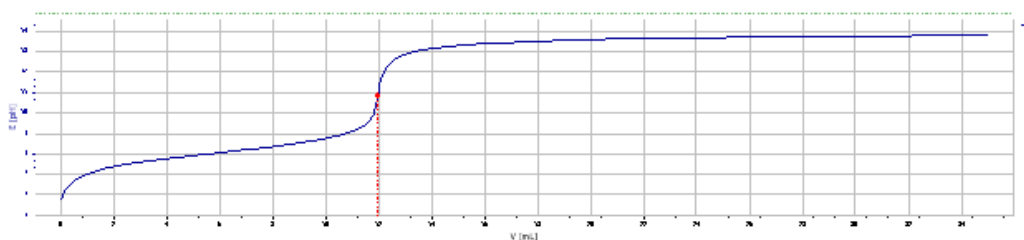




B

[Read-Only] - Results Editor LabX

Measured Values



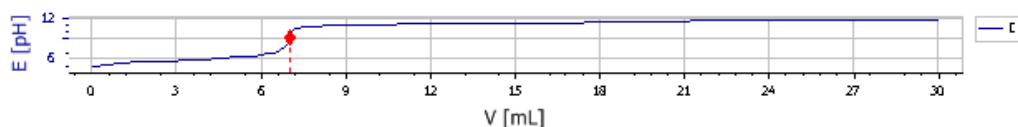
| t [s] | V [mL] | E [pH] | dV/dt [mL/s] | T [°C] | dE/dV [pH/mL] | log dE/dV [log (pH/mL)] | EQP Name | BETA Name | Buffer capacity [mmol/(L*pH)] |
|-------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|---------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 5,759 | | 25 | | | | | |
| 15 | 0,05 | 5,938 | 0,003 | 25 | | | | | |
| 24 | 0,1 | 6,078 | 0,005 | 25 | | | | | |
| 31 | 0,162 | 6,225 | 0,008 | 25 | | | | | |
| 38 | 0,229 | 6,338 | 0,01 | 25 | | | | | |
| 45 | 0,342 | 6,506 | 0,017 | 25 | 1,43 | 0,15 | | | |
| 50 | 0,445 | 6,621 | 0,019 | 25 | 1,16 | 0,07 | | | |
| 56 | 0,606 | 6,764 | 0,026 | 25 | 0,9 | -0,04 | | | |
| 62 | 0,799 | 6,9 | 0,034 | 25 | 0,71 | -0,15 | | | |
| 67 | 1,04 | 7,027 | 0,046 | 25 | 0,55 | -0,26 | | | |
| 73 | 1,378 | 7,175 | 0,059 | 25 | 0,42 | -0,38 | | | |
| 78 | 1,756 | 7,302 | 0,074 | 25 | 0,32 | -0,49 | | | |
| 84 | 2,256 | 7,437 | 0,088 | 25 | 0,25 | -0,6 | | | |
| 89 | 2,756 | 7,548 | 0,102 | 25 | 0,21 | -0,69 | | | |
| 94 | 3,256 | 7,645 | 0,104 | 25 | 0,18 | -0,75 | | | |
| 99 | 3,756 | 7,73 | 0,106 | 25 | 0,16 | -0,79 | | | |
| 104 | 4,256 | 7,809 | 0,111 | 25 | 0,15 | -0,82 | | | |
| 108 | 4,756 | 7,886 | 0,116 | 25 | 0,15 | -0,83 | | | |
| 113 | 5,256 | 7,958 | 0,102 | 25 | 0,14 | -0,85 | | | |
| 118 | 5,756 | 8,03 | 0,109 | 25 | 0,14 | -0,85 | | | |
| 122 | 6,256 | 8,098 | 0,111 | 25 | 0,14 | -0,85 | | | |
| 127 | 6,756 | 8,171 | 0,093 | 25 | 0,14 | -0,84 | | | |
| 132 | 7,256 | 8,244 | 0,098 | 25 | 0,15 | -0,83 | | | |
| 137 | 7,756 | 8,321 | 0,1 | 25 | 0,16 | -0,81 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|--------|-------|----|------|-------|------|--|
| 142 | 8,256 | 8,401 | 0,1 | 25 | 0,16 | -0,78 | | |
| 147 | 8,756 | 8,488 | 0,096 | 25 | 0,18 | -0,75 | | |
| 152 | 9,256 | 8,584 | 0,091 | 25 | 0,2 | -0,69 | | |
| 158 | 9,756 | 8,697 | 0,077 | 25 | 0,24 | -0,61 | | |
| 164 | 10,256 | 8,827 | 0,079 | 25 | 0,32 | -0,5 | | |
| 171 | 10,756 | 8,997 | 0,075 | 25 | 0,47 | -0,33 | | |
| 177 | 11,072 | 9,14 | 0,052 | 25 | 0,65 | -0,19 | | |
| 184 | 11,296 | 9,276 | 0,034 | 25 | 0,87 | -0,06 | | |
| 190 | 11,464 | 9,412 | 0,027 | 25 | 1,18 | 0,07 | | |
| 198 | 11,589 | 9,547 | 0,016 | 25 | 1,68 | 0,23 | | |
| 206 | 11,682 | 9,681 | 0,011 | 25 | 2,35 | 0,37 | | |
| 216 | 11,753 | 9,828 | 0,007 | 25 | 3,05 | 0,48 | | |
| 227 | 11,803 | 9,958 | 0,005 | 25 | 3,6 | 0,56 | | |
| 241 | 11,853 | 10,127 | 0,004 | 25 | 4,6 | 0,66 | | |
| 271 | 11,903 | 10,441 | 0,002 | 25 | 5,94 | 0,77 | | |
| 301 | 11,953 | 10,793 | 0,002 | 25 | 6,68 | 0,82 | | |
| | 11,964113 | 10,878 | | | | | EQP1 | |
| 331 | 12,003 | 11,177 | 0,002 | 25 | 6,49 | 0,81 | | |
| 362 | 12,053 | 11,509 | 0,002 | 25 | 5,46 | 0,74 | | |
| 383 | 12,103 | 11,726 | 0,002 | 25 | 4,24 | 0,63 | | |
| 395 | 12,153 | 11,868 | 0,004 | 25 | 3,38 | 0,53 | | |
| 407 | 12,226 | 12,076 | 0,006 | 25 | 2,57 | 0,41 | | |
| 416 | 12,276 | 12,198 | 0,005 | 25 | 2,26 | 0,35 | | |
| 424 | 12,34 | 12,323 | 0,008 | 25 | 1,88 | 0,27 | | |
| 431 | 12,426 | 12,453 | 0,012 | 25 | 1,53 | 0,18 | | |
| 438 | 12,542 | 12,584 | 0,017 | 25 | 1,19 | 0,08 | | |
| 445 | 12,703 | 12,719 | 0,023 | 25 | 0,87 | -0,06 | | |
| 451 | 12,919 | 12,847 | 0,034 | 25 | 0,63 | -0,2 | | |
| 458 | 13,239 | 12,978 | 0,046 | 25 | 0,42 | -0,38 | | |
| 464 | 13,724 | 13,108 | 0,078 | 25 | 0,26 | -0,59 | | |
| 470 | 14,224 | 13,203 | 0,082 | 25 | 0,17 | -0,77 | | |
| 476 | 14,724 | 13,276 | 0,086 | 25 | 0,13 | -0,9 | | |
| 481 | 15,224 | 13,334 | 0,093 | 25 | 0,1 | -1 | | |
| 486 | 15,724 | 13,38 | 0,093 | 25 | 0,08 | -1,08 | | |
| 491 | 16,224 | 13,418 | 0,096 | 25 | 0,07 | -1,15 | | |
| 496 | 16,724 | 13,453 | 0,102 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,22 | | |
| 500 | 17,224 | 13,481 | 0,122 | 25 | 0,05 | -1,27 | | |
| 504 | 17,724 | 13,507 | 0,116 | 25 | 0,04 | -1,35 | | |
| 508 | 18,224 | 13,529 | 0,125 | 25 | 0,04 | -1,37 | | |
| 511 | 18,724 | 13,547 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,04 | -1,38 | | |
| 515 | 19,224 | 13,567 | 0,119 | 25 | 0,04 | -1,38 | | |
| 518 | 19,724 | 13,582 | 0,156 | 25 | 0,04 | -1,4 | | |
| 546 | 20,224 | 13,619 | 0,018 | 25 | 0,04 | -1,44 | | |
| 549 | 20,724 | 13,627 | 0,156 | 25 | 0,03 | -1,51 | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------|-------|----|------|-------|--|--|
| 552 | 21,224 | 13,638 | 0,152 | 25 | 0,03 | -1,6 | | |
| 555 | 21,724 | 13,65 | 0,152 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,69 | | |
| 558 | 22,224 | 13,66 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,75 | | |
| 561 | 22,724 | 13,67 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,71 | | |
| 564 | 23,224 | 13,68 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,75 | | |
| 568 | 23,724 | 13,688 | 0,143 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,79 | | |
| 570 | 24,224 | 13,696 | 0,2 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,8 | | |
| 574 | 24,724 | 13,703 | 0,139 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,81 | | |
| 577 | 25,224 | 13,711 | 0,192 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,83 | | |
| 580 | 25,724 | 13,718 | 0,185 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,84 | | |
| 583 | 26,224 | 13,728 | 0,172 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,87 | | |
| 586 | 26,724 | 13,731 | 0,172 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,89 | | |
| 589 | 27,224 | 13,738 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,93 | | |
| 592 | 27,724 | 13,744 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,95 | | |
| 595 | 28,224 | 13,75 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,96 | | |
| 598 | 28,724 | 13,755 | 0,161 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,96 | | |
| 601 | 29,224 | 13,76 | 0,161 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,01 | | |
| 604 | 29,724 | 13,765 | 0,156 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,03 | | |
| 607 | 30,224 | 13,77 | 0,156 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,05 | | |
| 610 | 30,724 | 13,774 | 0,152 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,06 | | |
| 613 | 31,224 | 13,778 | 0,152 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,07 | | |
| 616 | 31,724 | 13,782 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,09 | | |
| 619 | 32,224 | 13,787 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,1 | | |
| 622 | 32,724 | 13,791 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,1 | | |
| 626 | 33,224 | 13,794 | 0,143 | 25 | | | | |
| 628 | 33,724 | 13,798 | 0,2 | 25 | | | | |
| 632 | 34,224 | 13,802 | 0,139 | 25 | | | | |
| 635 | 34,724 | 13,806 | 0,192 | 25 | | | | |
| 638 | 35 | 13,808 | 0,102 | 25 | | | | |

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Measured Values



| t [s] | V [mL] | E [pH] | dv/dt [mL/s] | T [°C] | dE/dv [pH/mL] | log dE/dv [log] | EQP Name | BETA Name | Buffer capacity |
|-------|----------|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 4,817 | | 25 | | | | | |
| 5 | 0,05 | 4,814 | 0,01 | 25 | | | | | |
| 8 | 0,1 | 4,826 | 0,016 | 25 | | | | | |
| 14 | 0,225 | 4,976 | 0,019 | 25 | | | | | |
| 19 | 0,275 | 5,015 | 0,01 | 25 | | | | | |
| 25 | 0,4 | 5,109 | 0,022 | 25 | 0,64 | -0,19 | | | |
| 31 | 0,586 | 5,211 | 0,03 | 25 | 0,55 | -0,26 | | | |
| 38 | 0,927 | 5,344 | 0,047 | 25 | 0,4 | -0,4 | | | |
| 45 | 1,41 | 5,482 | 0,065 | 25 | 0,27 | -0,57 | | | |
| 51 | 1,91 | 5,588 | 0,083 | 25 | 0,2 | -0,69 | | | |
| 57 | 2,41 | 5,681 | 0,079 | 25 | 0,18 | -0,75 | | | |
| 64 | 2,91 | 5,771 | 0,077 | 25 | 0,17 | -0,77 | | | |
| 70 | 3,41 | 5,858 | 0,091 | 25 | 0,17 | -0,76 | | | |
| 76 | 3,91 | 5,954 | 0,091 | 25 | 0,19 | -0,71 | | | |
| 83 | 4,41 | 6,062 | 0,071 | 25 | 0,23 | -0,64 | | | |
| 91 | 4,91 | 6,185 | 0,063 | 25 | 0,29 | -0,53 | | | |
| 100 | 5,41 | 6,34 | 0,054 | 25 | 0,41 | -0,39 | | | |
| 113 | 5,789 | 6,509 | 0,029 | 25 | 0,55 | -0,26 | | | |
| 124 | 6,001 | 6,63 | 0,019 | 25 | 0,68 | -0,16 | | | |
| 135 | 6,186 | 6,754 | 0,016 | 25 | 0,86 | -0,07 | | | |
| 146 | 6,357 | 6,89 | 0,015 | 25 | 1,12 | 0,05 | | | |
| 158 | 6,501 | 7,032 | 0,012 | 25 | 1,49 | 0,17 | | | |
| 171 | 6,612 | 7,186 | 0,008 | 25 | 1,89 | 0,28 | | | |
| 186 | 6,681 | 7,327 | 0,005 | 25 | 2,31 | 0,36 | | | |
| 204 | 6,731 | 7,474 | 0,003 | 25 | 2,7 | 0,43 | | | |
| 220 | 6,781 | 7,621 | 0,003 | 25 | 2,97 | 0,47 | | | |
| 242 | 6,831 | 7,809 | 0,002 | 25 | 3,94 | 0,6 | | | |
| 249 | 6,881 | 7,906 | 0,007 | 25 | 5,89 | 0,77 | | | |
| 280 | 7,006 | 8,576 | 0,004 | 25 | 8,42 | 0,93 | | | |
| | 7,032436 | 8,999 | | | | | EQP1 | | |
| 310 | 7,056 | 9,377 | 0,002 | 25 | 7,6 | 0,88 | | | |
| 339 | 7,106 | 9,947 | 0,002 | 25 | 5,32 | 0,73 | | | |
| 367 | 7,156 | 10,256 | 0,002 | 25 | 4,54 | 0,66 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|--------|-------|----|-------|-------|--|--|
| 376 | 7,206 | 10,358 | 0,005 | 25 | 4,3 | 0,63 | | |
| 387 | 7,331 | 10,517 | 0,011 | 25 | 2,63 | 0,42 | | |
| 397 | 7,501 | 10,651 | 0,016 | 25 | 1,23 | 0,09 | | |
| 403 | 7,78 | 10,744 | 0,048 | 25 | 0,55 | -0,26 | | |
| 409 | 8,28 | 10,865 | 0,082 | 25 | 0,21 | -0,68 | | |
| 414 | 8,78 | 10,94 | 0,104 | 25 | 0,1 | -1,02 | | |
| 422 | 9,28 | 10,988 | 0,067 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,2 | | |
| 425 | 9,78 | 10,972 | 0,192 | 25 | 0,07 | -1,14 | | |
| 430 | 10,28 | 11,016 | 0,1 | 25 | 0,09 | -1,06 | | |
| 440 | 10,78 | 11,096 | 0,052 | 25 | 0,1 | -0,99 | | |
| 445 | 11,28 | 11,147 | 0,1 | 25 | 0,11 | -0,95 | | |
| 452 | 11,78 | 11,218 | 0,077 | 25 | 0,1 | -0,98 | | |
| 455 | 12,28 | 11,238 | 0,185 | 25 | 0,04 | -1,4 | | |
| 458 | 12,78 | 11,246 | 0,185 | 25 | -0,01 | -2,01 | | |
| 461 | 13,28 | 11,265 | 0,167 | 25 | -0,04 | -1,44 | | |
| 464 | 13,78 | 11,226 | 0,161 | 25 | -0,05 | -1,32 | | |
| 468 | 14,28 | 11,123 | 0,125 | 25 | -0,04 | -1,42 | | |
| 471 | 14,78 | 11,188 | 0,147 | 25 | -0,02 | -1,73 | | |
| 478 | 15,28 | 11,188 | 0,068 | 25 | 0 | -3,21 | | |
| 481 | 15,78 | 11,182 | 0,152 | 25 | 0,03 | -1,53 | | |
| 485 | 16,28 | 11,192 | 0,135 | 25 | 0,05 | -1,29 | | |
| 488 | 16,78 | 11,216 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,05 | -1,31 | | |
| 492 | 17,28 | 11,231 | 0,128 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,22 | | |
| 496 | 17,78 | 11,31 | 0,122 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,26 | | |
| 500 | 18,28 | 11,334 | 0,143 | 25 | 0,05 | -1,27 | | |
| 503 | 18,78 | 11,317 | 0,156 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,24 | | |
| 507 | 19,28 | 11,342 | 0,125 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,22 | | |
| 510 | 19,78 | 11,388 | 0,143 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,21 | | |
| 540 | 20,28 | 11,452 | 0,017 | 25 | 0,07 | -1,16 | | |
| 544 | 20,78 | 11,47 | 0,122 | 25 | 0,06 | -1,26 | | |
| 548 | 21,28 | 11,478 | 0,132 | 25 | 0,03 | -1,5 | | |
| 553 | 21,78 | 11,49 | 0,102 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,69 | | |
| 556 | 22,28 | 11,504 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,71 | | |
| 559 | 22,78 | 11,505 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,62 | | |
| 562 | 23,28 | 11,53 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,03 | -1,59 | | |
| 566 | 23,78 | 11,547 | 0,125 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,7 | | |
| 569 | 24,28 | 11,545 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,02 | -1,79 | | |
| 573 | 24,78 | 11,551 | 0,122 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,98 | | |
| 576 | 25,28 | 11,564 | 0,152 | 25 | 0 | -2,81 | | |
| 579 | 25,78 | 11,551 | 0,147 | 25 | 0 | -3,3 | | |
| 583 | 26,28 | 11,566 | 0,135 | 25 | 0 | -2,95 | | |
| 587 | 26,78 | 11,553 | 0,139 | 25 | 0 | -2,52 | | |
| 590 | 27,28 | 11,551 | 0,192 | 25 | 0 | -3,44 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------|-------|----|------|-------|--|--|--|
| 593 | 27,78 | 11,558 | 0,185 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,27 | | | |
| 596 | 28,28 | 11,561 | 0,185 | 25 | | | | | |
| 600 | 28,78 | 11,565 | 0,128 | 25 | | | | | |
| 603 | 29,28 | 11,576 | 0,161 | 25 | | | | | |
| 606 | 29,78 | 11,581 | 0,161 | 25 | | | | | |
| 609 | 30 | 11,589 | 0,069 | 25 | | | | | |
| 580 | 25,724 | 13,718 | 0,185 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,84 | | | |
| 583 | 26,224 | 13,728 | 0,172 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,87 | | | |
| 586 | 26,724 | 13,731 | 0,172 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,89 | | | |
| 589 | 27,224 | 13,738 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,93 | | | |
| 592 | 27,724 | 13,744 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,95 | | | |
| 595 | 28,224 | 13,75 | 0,167 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,96 | | | |
| 598 | 28,724 | 13,755 | 0,161 | 25 | 0,01 | -1,96 | | | |
| 601 | 29,224 | 13,76 | 0,161 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,01 | | | |
| 604 | 29,724 | 13,765 | 0,156 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,03 | | | |
| 607 | 30,224 | 13,77 | 0,156 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,05 | | | |
| 610 | 30,724 | 13,774 | 0,152 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,06 | | | |
| 613 | 31,224 | 13,778 | 0,152 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,07 | | | |
| 616 | 31,724 | 13,782 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,09 | | | |
| 619 | 32,224 | 13,787 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,1 | | | |
| 622 | 32,724 | 13,791 | 0,147 | 25 | 0,01 | -2,1 | | | |
| 626 | 33,224 | 13,794 | 0,143 | 25 | | | | | |
| 628 | 33,724 | 13,798 | 0,2 | 25 | | | | | |
| 632 | 34,224 | 13,802 | 0,139 | 25 | | | | | |
| 635 | 34,724 | 13,806 | 0,192 | 25 | | | | | |
| 638 | 35 | 13,808 | 0,102 | 25 | | | | | |

C

| Titration results (w-%) | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| Sample | pH | 3,0 | 4,0 | 5,0 | 6,0 | 7,0 | 8,0 |
| C25 | | 21,77 | 22,16 | 22,1 | 23,17 | 22,34 | 28,28 |
| V40 | | 38,42 | 38,42 | 38,6 | 38,63 | 38,61 | 36,46 |
| Additional experiments | | | | | | | |
| Sample | pH | 3,0 | 7,0 | 8,0 | 12,0 mp | 12,0 up | |
| C25 | | 21,546 | 21,552 | 9,972 | 54,392 | 0 | |
| V40 | | 38,696 | 39,227 | 37,794 | 0 | | |

D

| Sample | Co | Ni | Sample | Co | Ni | Sample | Co | Ni |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|
| | mg/L | mg/L | | mg/L | mg/L | | mg/L | mg/L |
| Ni-Co | 8674,49 | 123333 | SULV1.5 0OF | 135,17 | 12,75 | SULV1.5C10 OF0 | 34,66 | 0,75 |
| SUL0 OF | 130,99 | 4,36 | SULV1.5 0VF | 8112,62 | 116303 | SULV1.5C10 VF0 | 8169,67 | 114185 |
| SUL0 VF | 8063,88 | 113528 | SULV1.5 1OF | 7961,78 | 191,69 | SULV1.5C10 OF1 | 6710,31 | 16,6 |
| SUL1 OF | 7844,58 | 135,93 | SULV1.5 1VF | 2064,66 | 111995 | SULV1.5C10 VF1 | 2710,44 | 107517 |
| SUL1 VF | 1667,38 | 108601 | SULV1.5 2OF | 8593,27 | 319,51 | SULV1.5C10 OF2 | 5087,68 | 10,88 |
| SUL2 OF | 8977,38 | 288,32 | SULV1.5 2VF | 1167,16 | 108136 | SULV1.5C10 VF2 | 3659,68 | 102528 |
| SUL2 VF | 655,98 | 107155 | SULV1.5 3OF | 9441,87 | 364,15 | SULV1.5C10 OF3 | 6705,74 | 19,17 |
| SUL3 OF | 9396,48 | 634,53 | SULV1.5 3VF | 980,76 | 109814 | SULV1.5C10 VF3 | 2571,35 | 103149 |
| SUL3 VF | 193,2 | 105712 | SULV1.5 4OF | 10039,4 | 627,19 | SULV1.5C10 OF4 | 8175,25 | 75,31 |
| SUL4 OF | 9624,75 | 753,67 | SULV1.5 4VF | 463,4 | 108911 | SULV1.5C10 VF4 | 1212,23 | 104983 |
| SUL4 VF | 166,1 | 104634 | SULV1.5 5OF | 9977,32 | 802,95 | SULV1.5C10 OF5 | 8059,72 | 89,98 |
| SUL5 OF | 10107,2 | 866,42 | SULV1.5 5VF | 317,84 | 108470 | SULV1.5C10 VF5 | 1044,45 | 104141 |
| SUL5 VF | 147,32 | 104476 | SULV1.5 6OF | 10108,7 | 1526,07 | SULV1.5C10 OF6 | 8404,4 | 102,71 |
| SUL6 OF | 9776,75 | 1019,39 | SULV1.5 6VF | 183,95 | 105783 | SULV1.5C10 VF6 | 974,39 | 104013 |
| SUL6 VF | 121,8 | 101158 | SULV1.5Zn 0OF | 92,47 | 4,37 | SULV1.5C1 OF0 | 2,8 | 25,78 |
| SULV1.5Mg 0OF | 214,13 | 10,5 | SULV1.5Zn 0VF | 8370,93 | 120865 | SULV1.5C1 VF0 | 8021,25 | 111504 |
| SULV1.5Mg 0VF | 7722,6 | 111455 | SULV1.5Zn 1OF | 8719,85 | 178,64 | SULV1.5C1 OF1 | 4330,35 | 33,84 |
| SULV1.5Mg 1OF | 8494,18 | 58,59 | SULV1.5Zn 1VF | 2003,3 | 111362 | SULV1.5C1 VF1 | 4455,78 | 104494 |
| SULV1.5Mg 1VF | 1704,56 | 103592 | SULV1.5Zn 2OF | 9812,38 | 331,12 | SULV1.5C1 OF2 | 7087,72 | 66,55 |
| SULV1.5Mg 2OF | 9601,75 | 97,19 | SULV1.5Zn 2VF | 1141,88 | 109505 | SULV1.5C1 VF2 | 2386,14 | 99774 |
| SULV1.5Mg 2VF | 960,92 | 100430 | SULV1.5Zn 3OF | 10308,6 | 431,14 | SULV1.5C1 OF3 | 8699,55 | 87,21 |
| SULV1.5Mg 3OF | 9885,5 | 129,35 | SULV1.5Zn 3VF | 800,71 | 108786 | SULV1.5C1 VF3 | 1166,49 | 95177 |
| SULV1.5Mg 3VF | 725,93 | 101184 | SULV1.5Zn 4OF | 10622,2 | 583,11 | SULV1.5C1 OF4 | 9508,07 | 316,27 |
| SULV1.5Mg 4OF | 10241,2 | 179,1 | SULV1.5Zn 4VF | 509,75 | 106430 | SULV1.5C1 VF4 | 622,76 | 97165,1 |
| SULV1.5Mg 4VF | 513,08 | 101451 | SULV1.5Zn 5OF | 10992,9 | 815,69 | SULV1.5C1 OF5 | 9767,38 | 154,42 |
| SULV1.5Mg 5OF | 10483,1 | 291,14 | SULV1.5Zn 5VF | 335,2 | 103638 | SULV1.5C1 VF5 | 799,05 | 92389,4 |
| SULV1.5Mg 5VF | 329,97 | 99026,6 | SULV1.5Zn 6OF | 11209 | 1175,41 | SULV1.5C1 OF6 | 9896,79 | 401,79 |
| SULV1.5Mg 6OF | 10701,4 | 528,74 | SULV1.5Zn 6VF | 256,11 | 102392 | SULV1.5C1 VF6 | 386,48 | 92448,9 |
| SULV1.5Mg 6VF | 195,85 | 99392,8 | | | | | | |

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|-----|--------------|--|---|
| TOC | C25V1.5 0 | | TOC:189,4mg/L TC:190,9mg/L IC:1,505mg/L |
| TOC | C25V1.5 pH7 | | TOC:1534mg/L TC:1538mg/L IC:3,076mg/L |
| TOC | C25V1.5 pH8 | | TOC:1613mg/L TC:1628mg/L IC:15,15mg/L |
| TOC | C25V1.5 pH12 | | TOC:3755mg/L TC:3962mg/L IC:206,2mg/L |
| TOC | C25V10 0 | | TOC:222,0mg/L TC:223,6mg/L IC:1,556mg/L |
| TOC | C25V10 pH7.5 | | TOC:2465mg/L TC:2482mg/L IC:16,20mg/L |
| TOC | C25V10 pH8 | | TOC:3188mg/L TC:3188mg/L IC:0,000mg/L |
| TOC | C25V10 pH9.5 | | TOC:41505mg/L TC:41507mg/L IC:2,002mg/L |
| TOC | C25V10 pH12 | | TOC:42672mg/L TC:42677mg/L IC:5,336mg/L |
| TOC | TC100 | | TOC:111,8mg/L TC:111,9mg/L IC:0,08118mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH3.0 | | TOC:247,2mg/L TC:248,5mg/L IC:1,235mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH4.0 | | TOC:612,4mg/L TC:613,5mg/L IC:1,114mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH5.0 | | TOC:1051mg/L TC:1052mg/L IC:1,269mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH6.0 | | TOC:1353mg/L TC:1354mg/L IC:1,369mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH7.0 | | TOC:1587mg/L TC:1590mg/L IC:3,141mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH8.0 | | TOC:1405mg/L TC:1418mg/L IC:12,35mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH7.0 | | TOC:1314mg/L TC:51,14mg/L IC:0,09105mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH8.0 | | TOC:1326mg/L TC:51,82mg/L IC:0,2917mg/L |
| TOC | C25 pH12.0 | | TOC:1856mg/L TC:74,12mg/L IC:2,021mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH3.0 | | TOC:148,6mg/L TC:149,2mg/L IC:0,6130mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH4.0 | | TOC:194,9mg/L TC:195,6mg/L IC:0,7117mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH5.0 | | TOC:243,6mg/L TC:244,5mg/L IC:0,8798mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH6.0 | | TOC:583,9mg/L TC:584,9mg/L IC:1,043mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH7.0 | | TOC:1805mg/L TC:1807mg/L IC:1,481mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH8.0 | | TOC:10851mg/L TC:10855mg/L IC:4,325mg/L |
| TOC | TC100 | | TOC:110,4mg/L TC:110,4mg/L IC:0,04349mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH7.0 | | TOC:2819,522mg/L TC:505,7mg/L IC:0,1653mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH8.0 | | TOC: 13016,15mg/L TC:109,5mg/L IC:0,08037mg/L |
| TOC | V40 pH12.0 | | TOC:48433,99mg/L TC:1886mg/L IC:5,016mg/L |
| TOC | TC100 | | TOC:106,8mg/L TC:106,8mg/L IC:0,01505mg/L |