What are sensors and biosensors?

"...a biosensor is a <u>self-contained integrated device</u>, which is capable of providing specific quantitative or semiquantitative analytical information using a <u>biological</u> <u>recognition element</u> (biochemical receptor) which is retained in <u>direct spatial</u> <u>contact with a transduction element</u>."

Technical report "Reccomended definition and classification" IUPAC (Physical Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry Divisions) 2001

A sensor is a device able to transform a physical or chemical info (e.g. concentration of one or more compounds in a solution), into an analytical useful signal



Self-testing



Numbers:

- 85% of the global market for biosensors
- 70 million tests per day worldwide
- 15 billion \$ in 2015
- 30 billion \$ in 2024 (exp.)

The biological element translates the info of the biochemical domain (e.g. concentration) into a chemical or physical signal with a certain selectivity



Tranducers

- electrochemical
- optical
- piezoelectric
- thermal

potentiometric
amperometric
voltammetric
conduttimetric,
impedimetric

Classification of biosensors on the basis of the biological element

Catalytic biosensors catalysis of a chemical reaction ex: enzymes, cells, tissues

Affinity biosensors formation of a stable complex with the ligand ex: antibodies, DNA strands, proteic receptors

Biomimetic biosensors affinity biosensors using a synthethic receptor es: peptides, aptamers, molularly imprinted polymers The most used ISEs for the development of biosensors have been CO_2 and NH_3 probes.

This potentiometric gas-sensors are realised using a pH glass electrode and a reference behind a gas permeable membrane (polytetrafluoroethilene, polypropylene, etc.). A very thin film of a suitable electrolyte is present between the gas permeable membrane and the surface of the pH electrode. Hydrolysis of NH_3 or CO_2 (diffused from the sample) in the electrolyte causes a change in H⁺ that is measured at the electrode.

This is related to the partial pressure of the gas in the sample solution. Immobilisation of a suitable enzyme onto the surface leads to the detection of metabolites in the $10^{-5} - 10^{-2}$ mol/L range.



- Measurement of PCO₂ in routine blood gases
- A modified pH electrode with a CO₂ permeable membrane covering the glass membrane surface
- A bicarbonate buffer separates the membranes
- Change in pH is proportional to the concentration of dissolved CO₂ in the blood



Reaction occuring in the electrolyte solution: $CO_2 + H_2O \iff H_2CO_3 \iff H^+ + HCO_3^-$

Reference electrodes

Ag/AgCl

calomel









Amperometric sensors monitor the current flow when a selected fixed potential is applied at a working electrode with respect to a reference electrode. The current generated by the oxidation (or reduction) of a compound is dependent by:

- heterogeneous rate constant k
- diffusion (mass transfer) of the electroactive specie at the electrode surface
- preceding or following chemical reactions
- surface reactions (adsorption)







Fig. 5.8 Concentration profiles for a membrane-covered electrode. (a) The initial profile; (b) the development of concentration gradients through the different phases during attainment of steady state.







Applied potential -0.7 V vs. Ag/AgCl





Dissolved Oxygen Electrode /Sensor Industrial Type Model : MS DO 714

OXYGEN PROBE

The cathode should possess: high catalytic activity for the reduction of O_2 , (large exchange current), sufficient electrical conductivity (low adsorption of organic impurities or O_2), it should be inert, it should exhibit a large overvoltage for the decomposition of water (no hydrogen liberation), it should permit the required construction operation (e.g. sealing into glass)

Pt and Au are the most used materials

The <u>gas permeable membrane</u> protects the electrodes from contamination, provides for reproducible conditions of oxygen tranport and minimize undesirable changes in electrolyte composition. Ideally, it shoud be with low permeability and high diffusivity for oxygen.

Non-hydratable polymers as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) are generally used. Alternatively elastic rubber or silicone are useful, even though less stable in alkaline medium.

The anode is Ag/AgCl and a neutral or alkaline electrolyte is used in the final assembling.

Conventional carbon based probes:



Printing electrodes: serigraphy





- A. ink; B. squeege;
- C. printing mask;
- D. printing mesh;
- E. frame; F. printed ink



Advantages:

- Dimension
- Disposable
- Low-Cost

DISPOSABLE SCREEN-PRINTED CARBON ELECTRODES















Cyclic voltammetries of ferricyanide (A), cathecol (B), acetamminophene (C), ascorbic acid (D) carried with dfferent screen-printed electrodes: Dupont (a), Ercon (b), Acheson (c) Gwent (d). Supporting electrolyte; KCl 0.1M (A), scan rate 20 mV/s.

Screen-Printed Electrodes



Screen-printed electrochemical (bio)sensors

How do we tune them?



TISSUE BASED BIOSENSORS

bovine liver (rich in catalase)

 $2 \text{ H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$

banana (rich in polyphenol oxidase)

dopamine + $O_2 \rightarrow$ dopamine quinone

CELL BASED BIOSENSORS

measurement of ethanol using acetobacter xylinum (O_2 electrode)

Determination of the BOD (biological oxygen demand).

The BOD values indicate the amount of biochemically degradable organic material (carbonaceous demand) and the oxygen used to oxidise sulphides and ferrous ion.

Conventional methods include BOD_5 and BOD_7 which need 5 and 7 days.

BOD biosensors have been developed using Trichosporon cutaneum, Bacillus subtilis, Hansenula anomala, etc.









Spectrophotometric enzymatic kits work as end-point reaction using enzymes in solution









Food Industry

Beer and Spirits Milk and Dairy Products Fruits, Vegetables and Nuts Meat, Poultry, Pork and Fish (Animal Protein) Wine Drinking Water

Molecular Target

Carbohydrates and Sugars Inorganic Ions Lipids (Fats) Amino Acids and Proteins



Enzyme electrode



THE BIOLOGICAL ELEMENT SHOULD HAVE:

SPECIFICITY (HIGH SELECTIVITY) FOR THE ANALYTE(S)

GOOD STABILITY IN OPERATING CONDITIONS (†, pH, μ)

RETENTION OF SUFFICIENT BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY WHEN IMMOBILISED

NO (VERY LOW) INHIBITION BY THE SAMPLE





E....E

adsorption





covalent binding

EEE

entrapment



cross-linking



glutaraldehyde reactions: polimerization and lysine amino group





The immobilised enzyme has always a higher (apparent) $K_{\rm m}$,a shifted and larger optimum pH and lower enzymatic activity compared to the enzyme in solution

Enzyme electrodes are generally classified according to the mechanism of the electron transfer:

1.First generation: the enzyme is immobilised using a membrane that is in contact with the electrode surface. Usually there are other membranes to protect and regulate diffusion. Response time at the stady state is on the order of minutes

2.Second generation: electron transfer occurs via an electrochemical mediator in solution. The mediator shuttles electrons between the enzyme and the electrode. Faster response times.

3. Third generation: direct exchange of electrons between the electrode and the enzyme. Very fast response time.



Second and third generation



A good electrochemical mediator characteristics :

- rapid reaction with the enzyme
- rapid and reversible electron trasfer rate
- low overpotial for the redox reaction
 - pH independent
 - stability in the reaction medium in both redox forms
 - Should not react with the dissolved oxygen in solution
 - no toxicity

Fe ³⁺ + e ⁻ Fe ²⁺	E° = +0,53 V	
Ferrycianide	E° = +0,45 V	
Ferrocene	E° = + 0,165 V	



ferrocene is an excellent mediator for the oxidation of glucose catalysed by glucose oxidase

glucose + $GOD_{ox} \rightarrow gluconolactone$ (gluconic acid) + GOD_{rid} + $2H^+$

```
GOD_{rid} + 2Fe^{+} \rightarrow GOD_{ox} + 2Fe
```

2 Fe - 2 $e^- \rightarrow$ 2 Fe⁺







SIMPLE STEP BY STEP FUNCTION ____



then place a blood sample on the target area.



2. Press the button immediately. The meter is now analysing the sample. Osecs





ACCU-CHEK >

Test Strips

•When blood added, glucose is oxidized by enzyme coated on working electrode

Voltage applied
between working and
reference electrode

•Measure current between working and reference electrode



NATURAL	E(V) vs. SHC	SYNTHETIC	E (V) vs. SHC
Cytochrome a ₃	+0,29	Esacyanoferrate(III)	+0,45
Cytochrome c ₃	+0,24	2,6-dichlorophenol	+0,24
Ubiquinone	+0,10	Indophenolo	+0,24
Cytochrome b	+0,08	Ferrocene	+0,17
Vitamin K ₂	-0,03	N-metilfenazium sulphate	+0,07
Rubredoxin	-0,05	Metilene blue	+0,4
Flavoproteins	da -0,4 a +0,2	Ftalocyanin	-0,02
FAD/FADH ₂	-0,23	Fenosafranin	-0,23
FMN/FMNH ₂	-0,23	Benzyl viologen	-0,36
NAD+/NADH	-0,32	Methyl viologen	-0,46
NADP+/NADPH	-0,32		
ferredossina	-0,43		


Third generation Conduting salts



Tetracyanochinodimethane (TCNQ)



Figure 1. Schematic drawing of the glucose oxidase molecule, showing the electron-transfer distances involved in the various steps of moving an electron from its two FAD/FADH₂ centers to a metal electrode. Left: the enzyme before modification. Right: the modified enzyme, after chemical attachment of an array of electron-transfer relays.



Struttura dell' l'osmio bipiridile legato a polivinilpiridina

Hystamine Biosensor



PQQ Alcohol Dehydrogenase entrapped in a Os hydrogel



NAD(P)H electrodes

The largest class of redox enzymes known is dehydrogenases which use the NAD(P)H / NAD(P)⁺ couple as cofactor.

Oxidation of NADH at carbon and metal solid electrodes proceeds at high overvoltages (+400/ +700 mV vs. Ag/AgCl) via formation of the radical cation NADH.⁺ . This can give side reactions (dimerisation) and adsorb onto the electrode (carbon).

A soluble mediator can be used to lower the overpotential and increase the electron transfer rate

 $\mathsf{NADH} + \mathsf{Med}_{\mathsf{ox}} \Leftrightarrow \mathsf{NAD}^{+} + \mathsf{Med}_{\mathsf{red}}$

at the electrode surface polarised at the appropriate E :

 $Med_{red} \rightarrow Med_{ox} + ne$

ortho- and para-quinones , quinone imines have been used and incorporated into larger molecules as indophenols, phenazines and phenoxazines

The mediator can be also immobilized at the electrode surface giving a <u>chemically modified electrode</u> for NADH

Sensitivity is excellent, major problems arise from selectivity and stability of the sensors





Bare electrode

Prussian Blue molfifiele biettrode

Prussian Blue modified electrode + H2O2

Selection of the applied potential



Potential selected - 50 mV vs. Ag/AgCl pseudo-ref.

Lysine biosensor, linear range and selectivity

L-lysine + O₂ + H₂O

 $\rightarrow \alpha$ -keto- \mathcal{E} -aminocaproate + NH₃ + H₂O₂



10-4 mol/L Lysine

Fig. 1. Lysine calibration curves using two different immobilization procedures and protective polycarbonate membranes with different porosity. \bigtriangledown BSA/glutaraldehyde on Immobilon and 0.8- μ m polycarbonate: \bigcirc Immobilon only and 0.8- μ m polycarbonate: \bigcirc BSA/glutaraldehyde on Immobilon and 0.03- μ m polycarbonate; \triangle BSA/glutaraldehyde on Immobilon only and 0.03- μ m polycarbonate; \triangle BSA/glutaraldehyde on Immobilon only and 0.05- μ m polycarbonate; \bigcirc Immobilon only and 0.05- μ m polycarbonate; \Box Immobilon only and 0.05- μ m polycarbonate; \Box Immobilon only and 0.03- μ m polycarbonate. Buffer phosphate 0.1M pH 7.0 T = 25°.





Fig. 2. Effect of pH on lysine oxidase activity. The enzyme activity was measured in the following buffers: \bigoplus citrate; \blacktriangledown phosphate; \blacksquare tris; \blacktriangle borax, $T = 25^{\circ}$.





ELECTROCHEMICAL BIOCELLS IN FOOD



Figure 7 Reproducibility and response time of the bioprobe in flow through analysis and FIA. **a** = flow through: Lysine concentration in standard solution. A = $5 \cdot 10^{-5}$ mol/L; B = 10^{-4} mol/L; C = $2 \cdot 10^{-4}$ mol/L. **b** = FIA; S₁ and S₂ foodstaff samples; C = Lysine standard $5 \cdot 10^{-4}$ mol/L.

Relative activity of 3 different purified lysine oxidase

compound	Yamasa	SIGMA	Univ. of Athens
Lysine	100	100	100
Phenylalanine	14	42	6
Arginine	2	17	0
Ornithine	3	14	0
Histidine	0	15	0
Furosine	0	0	0
Piridosine	0	0	0
Norleucine	3	17	3
AGPA*	0	0	0

Microwave hydrolysis + biosensor, analysis time 30 min

Sample	Amino-acid analysis (mM)	L-lysine biosensor (mM)	Recovery (%)			
Milk	1.684	1.493 ± 0.014	88.66			
pasta	0.299	0.308 ± 0.012	103.01			

Lactic acid monitoring during mozzarella cheese manufacturing

In mozzarella cheese manufacture L-Lactic acid is the main product of

lactose fermentation generated by selected cultures of lactic acid bacteria. A progressive acidification of the curd md the whey occurs and had to be carefully controlled.

Particularly, the pH of the "stretching point" is important in order to avoid loss of fats, a decrease in yield and low reproducibility of themanufacturing.

Optimum pH is 4.9 for water-buffalo milk and 5.1 for cow milk. At these pH values there is a great increase in the buffer capacity due to case in (isoelectric point pH \sim 5) and low molecular weight acids

A sensitive measurement of lactic acid in real time can be useful in the

optimization of the mozzarella cheese manufacture



в



 $\overline{}$

Biogenic amines

 $R-CH_2-NH_2 + O_2 + H_2O \longrightarrow R-CHO + NH_3 + H_2O_2$



Total amines (mg/mL), expressed as equivalents of Put, measured in apricot samples using DAO biosensor^a.

		Storage time 20 days, temp. $0 \pm 1^{\circ}C$							
variety	at harvest	LDPE	Super L	air					
Pellecchiella									
ripening time I	5.6 ± 0.5	$\textbf{3.0}\pm\textbf{0.2}$	2.9 ± 0.6	3.4 ± 0.6					
ripening time II	5.5 ± 0.2	$\textbf{3.1}\pm\textbf{0.4}$	$\textbf{3.0}\pm\textbf{0.7}$	$\textbf{3.6}\pm\textbf{0.0.2}$					
Boccuccia									
ripening time I	5.2 ± 0.2	$\textbf{2.2}\pm\textbf{0.1}$	$\textbf{3.7}\pm\textbf{0.7}$	4.9 ± 0.2					
ripening time II	5.1 ± 0.2	4.6 ± 0.8	4.6 ± 0.4	5.1 ± 0.1					

 $alcohol + O_2 \longrightarrow aldehyde + H_2O_2$

Immobilization: PEI on Pall Immunodyne

Storage: 1% sucrose

Optimised operative conditions: 0.1 M phosphate buffer pH 7.0 + 0.02%Tween. Flow rate 1 mL/min; injection loop 500 μ L.

Analitycal performances:

detection limit 10⁻⁶ mol/L linearity 2 x 10⁻⁶ / 10⁻³ mol/L stability: 20% decrease after 200 samples

glycerol + ATP(Mg²⁺) $--GK \rightarrow$ glycerol-3-P + ADP

glycerol-3-P + O_2 + $H_2O \longrightarrow glycerone-3-P + H_2O_2$

Immobilization: GK on aminopropyl glass beads (via glutaraldehyde), GPO on Immunodyne

Storage: DEAE-dextran/lactitol (1/5%)

Optimised operative conditions: 0.1 M borate buffer pH 8.5 + 3 mM ATP(Mg²⁺) + 0.02% Tween. Flow rate 0.5 mL/min; injection loop 250 μ L.

Analitycal performances:

detection limit 10⁻⁶ mol/L linearity 2.5 x 10⁻⁶ / 5 x 10⁻⁴ mol/L stability: 40% decrease after 200 samples

Fructose

fructose + 2 PMS⁺ \rightarrow ketofructose + 2 PMSH



PMSH \longrightarrow +100 mV (Pt) \rightarrow PMS⁺ + e⁻

Immobilization: BSA-glutaraldehyde on Immobilon AV **Storage**: DEAE-dextran/lactitol (1/5%) **Optimised operative conditions**: 0.1 M citrate/phosphate buffer pH 4.5 + 0.02% Tween. Flow rate 0.5 mL/min; injection loop 100 μ L. **Analitycal performances**: detection limit 5 x 10⁻⁷ mol/L linearity 10⁻⁶ / 8 x10⁻⁴ mol/L stability: 30% decrease after 200 samples







Fructose:Glucose ratio during alcoholic fermentation



Nanotechnology is science, engineering, and technology conducted at the nanoscale, which is about 1 to 100 nanometer



Nanomaterials



Pros



- ✓ Different chemical nature
- ✓ Different morphologies
- ✓ High surface/volume ratio
- ✓ High functionalizability
- ✓ Easy interfaceability
- ✓ Size/morphology dependent properties → tunability



Figure 1: Schematic illustration of structural dimensionality of nanomaterials with expected properties.



Potential drawbacks



- ? Waste disposal
- ? Potential toxicity

Nanomaterials employed in electrochemical sensor



Carbon based nanomaterials:

- Nanotubes
- Fullerenes
- Graphene
- Etc...

Graphene-like nanomaterials:

- e.g. Transition Metal Dicalchogenised (TMD)





Nanoparticles:

- Metal nanoparticles
- Metal Oxide nanoparticles



CARBON NANOTUBES

CHARACHERISTICS





- oprous structure;
- high mechanichal strenght;
- easy to be modified;



GRAPHENE: THE CARBON-BASED 'WONDER MATERIAL'

Since its discovery in 2003, graphene has been a hot topic in chemistry and materials science research. It's been linked with water purification, electronics, and biomedical applications. However, how close are we really to using graphene in our day-to-day lives? This graphic looks at its properties, uses, and future.

WHAT IS GRAPHENE?



Graphene is a single layer of graphite, the carbon-based material found in pencil leads. Graphite has been known for centuries, but graphene was only isolated in 2003, by shearing layers off of graphite using sellotape. It's a single atom-thick layer of carbon atoms, that are arranged in a flat, hexagonal lattice structure.

200X STRONGER

THAN STEEL

THE PROPERTIES OF GRAPHENE

THIN AND

LIGHTWEIGHT

Graphene's 'wonder material' reputation stems from its superlative properties. It is a million times thinner

than a piece of paper, yet stronger than diamond, and 200 times stronger than steel, due to the strong

carbon-carbon bonds. It's also a flexible material, and conducts heat and electricity better than copper.

Being only one atom thick, almost 98% of visible light passes through graphene, making it transparent.



VERY HIGH

TRANSPARENCY

POTENTIAL USES OF GRAPHENE

TOUCH SCREENS IN DEVICES

Graphene's transparency and conductivity means that it can be used in displays and touchscreens. However, currently these are more expensive to produce than the currently used material, indium tin oxide.

WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS

Graphene allows water to pass through it, but not other liquids and gases, so it can be used in water purification. Researchers are working on a device that could be capable of filtering salt from sea water.

IN ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Graphene has been touted as silicon's successor, and has been used to make very fast transistors. However, its conductivity cannot be 'switched off' as silicon's can. Other 2D materials seem more promising.

MEDICAL SENSORS & DRUG DELIVERY

Several biomedical applications are being explored for graphene, including drug delivery, cancer therapy, and its use as a sensor. However, its toxicity profile must be investigated before any clinical uses.

ENERGY STORAGE & COMPOSITES

Graphene-based energy storage devices are possible. It can also substitute for graphite in normal batteries, improving efficiency. Additionally, it can be added to materials to make them stronger and more lightweight.



HIGH ELECTRICAL

CONDUCTIVITY

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HIGH THERMAL

CONDUCTIVITY



Carbon based nanomaterials (Carbon Black, CB)

Nano Carbon Black





Faster eletron transfer

SelectivitySensitivity

Reproducibility

Improving separation performance

CB compared with other nanomaterials:

Very low cost No synthesis No impurities due to synthesis Easily dispersible Large number of defect sites



SPE CBNPs for direct analysis of carbamates in grain samples



Nano carbon black-based screen printed sensor for carbofuran, isoprocarb, carbaryl and fenobucarb detection: application to grain samples



Flavio Della Pelle, Claudia Angelini, Manuel Sergi, Michele Del Carlo, Alessia Pepe, Dario Compagnone^{*}

Nano carbon black-based screen printed sensor for carbofuran, isoprocarb, carbaryl and fenobucarb detection: application to grain samples





1 mmol L⁻¹ **ferricyanide** solution in 0.1 mol L⁻¹ KCl of SPE CV performed at 5, 10, 25, 50, 75, 100,150 and 200 mV s⁻¹

SPE CBNPs for direct analysis of carbamates in grain samples





Isoprocarb











Metolcarb







SPE CBNPs for direct analysis of carbamates in grain samples

SPE-CBNPs CMs Calibration, Reproducibility and Fouling resistance



Peak intensity (RSD, n=7): < 0.9 %

Peak potential (RSD, n =7): < 4,8 %

Inter electrode reproducibility (RSD, n=10): < 6.6 % p.i and < 3,4 % p.E.

Fouling (peaks RSD): DPV (n = 30, 250 μ M) 96 % v.s.32 % CV (n = 20, 500 μ M) 94 % v.s 15 % Nano carbon black-based screen printed sensor for carbofuran, isoprocarb, carbaryl and fenobucarb detection: application to grain samples

Pesticide recoveries in grain samples

Recoveries : 78–102% Correlation: r= 0.952

Accuracy: relative error between 9.0% and -7.8%

UNIVERSITĂ DEGLI STUD

DI TERAMO

Analyte Spiked $(m q V q^{-1})$	UHPL C-MS/MS recovery (%) ^a					CB-SPE recovery (%) ^a				Relative error (%)					
$(mg Kg^{-1})$	HW	нюо	SW	SWO	MZ	HW	нжо	SW	SWO	MZ	HW	HWO	SW	SWO	MZ
CA															
0	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOI					
0.25	82 ± 6	87 ± 3	83 ± 9	89 ± 12	82 ± 15	88 ± 1	84 ± 4	76 ± 7	93 ± 8	85 ± 12	- 6.8	3.1	9.0	- 4.1	- 3.8
0.50	85 ± 2	84 ± 13	83 ± 2	81 ± 8	93 ± 7	88 ± 3	88 ± 11	80 ± 5	80 ± 6	90 ± 4	- 3.4	- 4.7	3.4	0.6	3.1
0.75	82 ± 10	78 ± 7	84 ± 1	82 ± 7	80 ± 4	85 ± 5	80 ± 9	87 ± 8	81 ± 9	84 ± 2	- 3.7	- 2.3	- 3.0	1.2	- 5.6
CF															
0	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOI					
0.25	80 ± 14	102 ± 10	83 ± 10	82 ± 14	81 ± 8	86 ± 9	97 ± 7	86 ± 6	79 ± 10	80 ± 9	- 7.8	4.8	- 3.7	3.4	1.9
0.50	78 ± 7	96 ± 6	78 ± 5	78 ± 5	79 ± 13	81 ± 4	100 ± 2	81 ± 3	80 ± 5	83 ± 1	- 3.3	- 4.8	- 3.6	- 2.9	- 5.6
0.75	79 ± 9	100 ± 9	84 ± 11	99 ± 131	79 ± 16	82 ± 5	100 ± 5	87 ± 7	100 ± 8	84 ± 9	- 3.4	- 0.6	- 3.1	- 0.7	- 6.4
IC															
0	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOI					
0.25	82 ± 5	80 ± 8	78 ± 8	84 ± 5	79 ± 8	82 ± 5	81 ± 6	82 ± 2	86 ± 9	80 ± 5	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 5.3	- 2.4	- 1.2
0.50	82 ± 7	85 ± 4	79 ± 2	78 ± 8	79 ± 5	81 ± 8	85 ± 4	81 ± 4	82 ± 6	78 ± 8	1.3	- 0.2	- 3.0	- 4.5	1.6
0.75	96 ± 2	96 ± 6	80 ± 3	95 ± 2	92 ± 14	96 ± 4	98 ± 9	80 ± 3	96 ± 4	97 ± 1	0.0	- 2.0	- 4.9	- 1.8	- 5.6
FB															
0	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOI					
0.25	83 ± 9	87 ± 7	83 ± 15	80 ± 4	87 ± 9	84 ± 5	92 ± 4	80 ± 13	79 ± 4	88 ± 3	- 0.9	- 5.3	8.0	4.5	- 0.9
0.50	79 ± 12	78 ± 9	97 ± 2	78 ± 5	80 ± 9	78 ± 8	82 ± 11	102 ± 0	78 ± 2	78 ± 6	7.7	- 5.7	- 5.2	4.7	5.1
0.75	89 ± 11	78 ± 8	102 ± 7	94 ± 13	79 ± 13	84 ± 11	$81~\pm~10$	99 ± 3	96 ± 9	84 ± 11	5.6	- 4.1	3.3	- 2.5	- 6.8

^a Mean value (n = 3) of three different extracts were employed for the recovery and relative error calculation for both CB-SPE and UHPLC-MS/MS methods.



Transition Metal Dichalcogenides and their hybrid nanomaterials

Electrode preparation methods





D. Rojas, F. Della Pelle, M. Del Carlo, E. Fratini, A. Escarpa, D. Compagnone. Microchim. Acta. 186 (2019) 363.



126651.



F. Della Pelle, **D. Rojas**, F. Silveri, G. Ferraro, E. Fratini, A. Scroccarello, A. Escarpa, D. Compagnone. Microchim. Acta. 187 (2020) 296.

Biosensors based on enzyme inhibition

There is a great demand for rapid and sensitive analytical methods for the determination of mercury and related compounds in environmental samples. The environmental risk and toxicological concern of mercury and its compounds, especially methylmercury, have stimulated the research into various new methods of trace analysis.

Many enzymes are inhibited specifically by low concentrations of certain chemical substances.

Toxicity of mercury depends on its chemical form. For example methyl mercury is more toxic than HgII (1).



Typical current-time curves obtained in the absence (A) and in the presence (B) of inhibitor.




Biosensor for organophosphate and carbamates pesticides (phytochemicals)

High acute toxicity (200.000 deaths/year in the 80s)

High chronic toxicity

Moderate persistence

Mechanism of action: inhibition of acetylcholinesterase (AChE)

Classical methods:

GC-NPD o GC-MS, LC-MS

Scheme of the measurement



$$RA\% = 100 * \frac{(I_0 - Is)}{I_0}$$



Working electrode reactions pathway



Ability to detect at ng/mL; Project PON target molecules: Diclorvos (organophosphate) Pirimifos-metile (thiophosphate) Mechanism of AChE inhibition k_1 k_2 k_3

E = enzyme; CX = carbamate or organophosphate; X = leaving group; $K_d = k_{-1} / k_1 k_2$ carbamoylation or phosphroylation rate constant; $k_3 = decarbamylation$ or dephosphorilation rate constant; $k_i = bimolecular$ rate constant

 \rightarrow EC + X

E + C

ECX

k,

k₋₁

F + CX

Dichlorvos

 $CH_3 - 0$ $H_2 - 0$ $CH_3 - 0$ $CH_2 - 0$

2,2-Dichlorovinyl dimethyl phosphate

- Commercial formulation **Didivane**[®] is used as broad spectrum grain protectant insecticide.
- Effective in controlling a wide range of insects that attack stored grain products.
- It provides long-term protection against re-infestation from insects.

The European Union regulates the maximum adsmissible level in **durum wheat** at **2 mg/Kg** (European Directive 2001/57/CE)

Quantitative Usage for dichlorvos

The annual agricultural use of dichlorvos was estimated as 248,000/year during 90' (ATSDR, 1997). Estimates done in late 1990s indicate that 60% of dichlorvos used worldwide was for plant protection, 30% was for public hygiene and vector control, and **10% to protect stored crops** (**WHO**, **1999**).

Extraction + assay protocol



Matrix effect on the RA% and the I%

Experimental conditions: Extraction in measuring buffer (1g/10ml)

Phosphate buffer pH 7.4, KCl 100 mM 10% matrix AChE 0.125 U/ml, Ach 0.3 mM Incubation time: 10 min.

 $RA\% = 100 - (I_0 - I_s/I_0) + 100$



Experimental conditions:

Phosphate buffer pH 7.4, KCl 100 mM 10% matrix AChE 0.125 U/ml, Ach 0.3 mM 200 ng/ml dichlorvos Incubation time: 10 min.





Recovery from spiked samples (2 mg/Kg)

Experimental conditions:

Spiked samples Extraction:1g **whole grains sample** in 10ml buffer AChE 0.125 U/ml, Ach 0.3 mM Incubation time: 10 min.

n=5



Mean I%: 21.0±1.3 Mean I%: 19.2±1.2

Mean recovery: 81.3 \pm 5.8 Mean recovery: 79.5 \pm 3.5

Milled grains

Experimental conditions:



I%_{LOD}=8% !!

Use of recombinant acetylcholinesterase (rAChE)

rAChE: Mutant AChE from Drosophila melanogaster Clone B3 specific for dichlorvos Fournier D et al. Protein Engineering, Vol. 15, No. 1, 43-50, January 2002



Pirimiphos methyl



Solubility in water: 5 mg/l S. methanol, ethanol, acetone: all proportions

(O-[2-(diethylamino)-6-methyl-4-pyrimidinyl]O,O-dimethylphosphorothioate)

- Commercial formulation Actellic[®] is used as broad spectrum grain protectant insecticide.
- Effective in controlling a wide range of insects that attack stored grain products.
- It provides long-term protection against re-infestation from insects.



Quantitative Usage Analysis for Pirimiphos-Methyl (EPA 1989-1997)

Total annual USA usage was 12,000 pounds active ingredient (a.i.). Total usage is allocated mainly to **stored corn grain** (39%), **stored sorghum grain** (15%), **corn seed** (5%) and **sorghum seed** (5%).

In **Europe** it is mainly used for wheat, corn, barley (45% in Scotland and ireland) storage.

In **italy** the major durum wheat transforming brands indicate pirimiphos methyl as a pest control chemical for post-harvest storage.

Effect of methanol and acetone on the Residual Activity of AChE

Experimental conditions:

Phosphate buffer pH 7.4, KCl 100 mM AChE 0.125 U/ml, Ach 0.3 mM Incubation time: 10 min.

 $RA\% = 100 - (I_0 - I_s/I_0) + 100$



Oxidation of pirimiphos methyl





Inhibition obtained with 250 ng/ml of pirimiphos methyl using different concentration of NBS and AA.

NBS-AA ug/ml	I% (n=3)	SD	CV%
5	31.5	2.2	6.9
10	28.6	2.4	8.3
25	28.2	3.1	10.9

Paper as substrate



From Paper to E-Paper

Few and easy steps



Hydrophilicity matters



... also the cost!

Costs of the components for producing one device (all the costs have to be intended in Euro).

Substrate	Ag/AgCl ink	Carbon ink	Insulator	Substrate	Total cost	Saving
Polyester	0.010	0.007	0.003ª	0.013	0.033	45%
Whatman #1			0.001 ^b	0.007	0.025	30%
Office paper			0.001 ^b	0.0001	0.018	1

h Maria

^b Wax.

^c Calculated as 1 – [Office paper/Other] × 100.

It depends on what you need and you have!



Too many steps

Which E-Paper?

Porous



Non porous



Anyway, paper is the substrate... we need to make these strips ad-hoc

Office paper for ethanol



S. Cinti et al. Anal. Chim. Acta 960 (2017) 123-130

Detection mechanism



Optimization



Calibration curve



Accordance with label

Detection of ethanol in commercial beers.

Beer	Lager Best Bräu, Poland	Weiss Franziskaner, Germany	Pilsner Ceres, Denmark	Alcohol free Tourtel, Italy	
Label [ethanol]/% _{vol} (M) Found [ethanol]/% _{vol} (M)	4.7% (0.805 M) 4.7 ± 0.4 (0.805 ± 0.075)	5% (0.856 M) 5.0 ± 0.4 (0.86 ± 0.07)	4.6% (0.787 M) 4.4 ± 0.2 (0.75 ± 0.04)	<0.5% (0.086 M) 0.34 ± 0.03 (0.059 ± 0.004)	
RSD/%	(0.805 ± 0.075) 9.3	8.1	5.3	(0.055 ± 0.004) 6.8	

3-D paper origami for pesticides

Filter paper + office paper



butyrylcholinesterase, alkaline phosphatase, and tyrosinase

F. Arduini et al. Biosens. Bioelectron. (2018) DOI:10.1016/j.bios.2018.10.014



Measurements, e.g. Atrazine



E.g. paraoxon detection



Paper + laser induced graphene + electrochemistry



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POP-UP fabrication



POP-UP fabrication



Measure set-up



Analytical performances





Multianalita (zuccheri, alcol, acidi organici) Universal Sensor

Etanolo





Acido lattico, monouso (Sens-Lab)



Sucrose
$$\xrightarrow{invertase}$$
 $(\alpha - D - Glucose)$ $\xrightarrow{buffer, ph5} \beta - D - Glucose + Fructose$
 $\beta - D - Glucose + O_2 \xrightarrow{Glucose Oxidase} D - Gluconic Acid + H_2O_2$





