



Application Note AN-T-227

Determination of sodium lactate

Comparison of USP–NF 2021, Issue 2 and a modified method for absolute sodium lactate content via titration

Sodium lactate is a salt form of lactic acid used in foodstuffs, cosmetics, paper, clothes, biopolymers, and in medicine. As it is used in many regulated industries, an accurate determination of the lactate content is required and is already covered in several norms. One exemplary monograph by the US Pharmacopoeia (USP) results in high accuracies and well-defined titration curves but uses titrants and solvents that are more costly than necessary. This USP method requires a blank determination, glacial acetic acid and acetic anhydride as solvents, and a solution of perchloric acid in acetic acid as titrant.

In comparison, the presented modified method from Metrohm requires a 1:1 mixture of water and acetone and uses aqueous hydrochloric acid as titrant, resulting in an estimated cost reduction of 40% per titration compared to the USP method (USP–NF 2021, Issue 2). Furthermore, the time needed for each analysis is reduced to just 12% of the USP method (excluding blank determination).

This Application Note presents both methods to determine lactate content and shows the results obtained on an OMNIS system.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLE PREPARATION

Solid sodium lactate (300 mg) is dissolved in 100 mL of deionized water.

USP: Sample equivalent to 300 mg lactate is weighed accurately and dissolved in a 5:1 mixture of acetic anhydride and glacial acetic acid. The sample is

allowed to stand for 20 minutes. Blank samples are also prepared.

Metrohm: Dilute a sample equivalent to 300 mg in a 1:1 mixture of acetone and water.

EXPERIMENTAL

USP: Titrate the blank and sample with 0.1 N perchloric acid until after the first equivalence point.

Metrohm: Titrate the sample directly with 0.1 mol/L HCl solution until after the first equivalence point (EP).



Figure 1. OMNIS Titrator with the digital pH electrode and an OMNIS Dosing Module.

Table 1. Summarized results for the sodium lactate determination (n = 3).

Method	Recovery	RSD (%)
USP	97.77	0.53
Metrohm	96.56	0.93

RESULTS



Figure 2. Exemplary titration curve according to USP of an aliquot of sodium lactate against perchloric acid as titrant.



Figure 3. Exemplary titration curve of an aliquot of sodium lactate against HCl as titrant.

Both methods for the determination of lactate show comparable results. The USP method is slower and more expensive but the obtained EP has a higher potential jump and ERC. However, the method gives a second EP after this region that is unrelated to sodium

lactate. The Metrohm modified method is faster and cost-efficient but shows slightly lower recoveries and the EP is less pronounced. In contrast to the USP method, the Metrohm method does not show a second EP and is therefore less ambiguous as well.

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CONFIGURATION



OMNIS Advanced Titrator with magnetic stirrer

Innovative, modular potentiometric OMNIS Titrator for stand-alone operation or as the core of an OMNIS titration system for endpoint titration and equivalence point titration (monotonic/dynamic). Thanks to 3S Liquid Adapter technology, handling chemicals is more secure than ever before. The titrator can be freely configured with measuring modules and cylinder units and can have a rod stirrer added as needed. If required, the OMNIS Advanced Titrator can be equipped for parallel titration via a corresponding software function license.

- Control via PC or local network
- Connection option for up to four additional titration or dosing modules for additional applications or auxiliary solutions
- Connection option for one rod stirrer
- Various cylinder sizes available: 5, 10, 20 or 50 mL
- Liquid Adapter with 3S technology: Secure handling of chemicals, automatic transfer of the original reagent data from the manufacturer

Measuring modes and software options:

- Endpoint titration: "Basic" function license
- Endpoint and equivalence point titration (monotonic/dynamic): "Advanced" function license
- Endpoint and equivalence point titration (monotonic/dynamic) with parallel titration: "Professional" function license



OMNIS Dosing Module without stirrer

Dosing module for connection to an OMNIS Titrator for extending the system to include an additional buret for titration/dosing. Can be supplemented with one magnetic stirrer or rod stirrer for use as separate titration stand. Freely selectable cylinder unit with 5, 10, 20 or 50 mL.



dEcotrode Plus

Digital, combined pH electrode for OMNIS.

The electrode is suitable for aqueous acid/base titrations.

The fixed ground-joint diaphragm is insensitive to contamination.

Reference electrolyte: $c(\text{KCl}) = 3 \text{ mol/L}$, storage in storage solution.

dTodes can be used on OMNIS Titrators.