

Accepted Manuscript

Determination of halides using Ag nanoparticles-modified disposable electrodes. A first approach to a wearable sensor for quantification of chloride ions

J. Bujes-Garrido, D. Izquierdo-Bote, A. Heras, A. Colina, M.J. Arcos-Martínez



PII: S0003-2670(18)30168-5

DOI: [10.1016/j.aca.2018.01.063](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aca.2018.01.063)

Reference: ACA 235710

To appear in: *Analytica Chimica Acta*

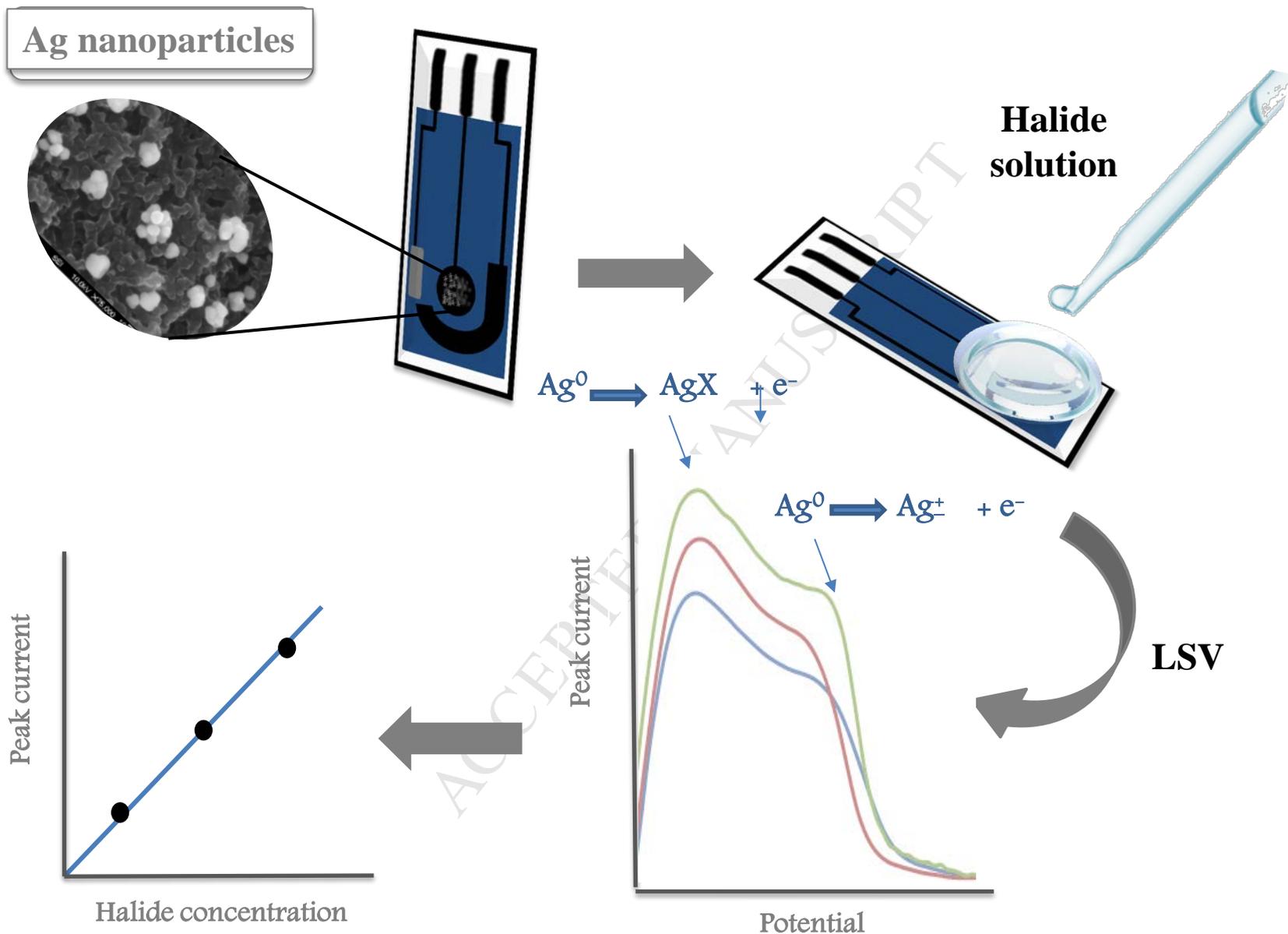
Received Date: 17 July 2017

Revised Date: 24 January 2018

Accepted Date: 27 January 2018

Please cite this article as: J. Bujes-Garrido, D. Izquierdo-Bote, A. Heras, A. Colina, M.J. Arcos-Martínez, Determination of halides using Ag nanoparticles-modified disposable electrodes. A first approach to a wearable sensor for quantification of chloride ions, *Analytica Chimica Acta* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.aca.2018.01.063.

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.



DETERMINATION OF HALIDES USING Ag
NANOPARTICLES-MODIFIED DISPOSABLE
ELECTRODES. A FIRST APPROACH TO A WEARABLE
SENSOR FOR QUANTIFICATION OF CHLORIDE IONS.

J. Bujes-Garrido, D. Izquierdo-Bote; A. Heras, A. Colina, M. J. Arcos-Martínez*

Department of Chemistry. Faculty of Sciences. University of Burgos.

Plaza Misael Bañuelos s/n, 09001 Burgos, Spain, *jarcos@ubu.es

Abstract

This work reports a simple voltammetric method for the determination of chloride, bromide, and iodide ions using screen-printed carbon electrodes modified with silver nanoparticles electrochemically deposited on the working electrode surface. UV/Vis absorption spectroelectrochemistry was used to study the electrodeposition of silver nanoparticles on the working carbon electrode on PET or Gore-Tex® supports, and their subsequent oxidation in the presence of halide ions.

The main figures of merit of the developed sensors, such as reproducibility and detection limit, have been calculated. Reproducibility values of 2.22%, 2.83% and 3.23% were obtained for chloride, bromide and iodide determinations, respectively. Additionally, the lowest detected amount of chloride, bromide and iodide ions were $3.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$ M, $5.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$ M and $5.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$ M, respectively.

Taking into account the relevance of the determination of chloride ion concentration in sweat, the voltammetric method for the determination of halides has been successfully transferred to a Gore-Tex® support to build a first approach to a wearable sensor that facilitates the quantification of this ion in sweat samples. The Gore-Tex® sensor provides a good reproducibility (RSD=1.61 %).

Keywords: Halide ions electrochemical determination; Wearable screen-printed sensors; UV/Vis absorptometric spectroelectrochemistry; Silver nanoparticles; Sweat analysis.

1. Introduction

Halide ions are present in a number of industrial, medical, and environmental processes, playing in most cases an essential role. Therefore, the selective determination of halide ions is significant for monitoring both excessive and deficient concentration levels in natural resources, which can result in different types of pollution and, even, of physiological disorders. For example, cystic fibrosis, acid–base disorders and high blood pressure [1, 2] can be diagnosed by measuring the chloride level in biological systems. Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a common chronic disease one of whose symptoms is related to a high level of chloride in sweat. Thus, the gold standard laboratory test for the diagnosis of CF, along with a genetic analysis is considered the chloride measurement in sweat (sweat test) [3-5].

A number of strategies have been proposed for the determination of halide ions in the environment or in physiological systems, including ion chromatography [6-8], coulometric titrations [9], or spectrometry [10]. Electrochemical analysis also presents a favorable scenario for determining halide ions in biological samples [11]. The most frequently used potentiometric methods were those based on ion selective electrodes [1, 12-20].

In recent years, the substitution of traditional electrodes by new disposable screen-printed electrodes (SPEs) has emerged as an interesting alternative for these determinations with many advantages, such as high sensitivity and selectivity, simplicity and lower costs, as well as the possibility of performing “in situ” analysis. The use of this kind of sensors is scarcely found in the literature for the determination of halide ions in biological samples [21-25]. In addition, electrochemical screen-printed sensors can be considered as promising wearable chemical sensors suitable for diverse applications due to their high performance, inherent miniaturization and low cost [26].

Medical interest for on-body wearable systems arises from the need to monitor patients over long periods of time. As a result, there has been a significant increase in sweat analysis in recent years because it is a non-invasive way of monitoring fluids and electrolyte loss by elite athletes during sport events (rehydration optimization) [27]. This kind of sensors can be used to improve the clinical management of certain pathologies such as CF, for which monitoring pH, chloride and sodium ion concentration can provide valuable information about this disease [28-30].

In a previous work, it was proved that some textile such as Gore-Tex®, is a suitable material as electrodic support to develop screen printed sensors. In fact, a disposable sensor was developed to determine chloride ion [31]. The namely sensor was based on a completely different approach than the sensor proposed in this work. Thus, in that previous work, the Nernstian shift of the voltammetric peak of a control compound, such as ferrocenemethanol, was measured to determine chloride ions, but the sensitivity was rather poor in comparison with the new methodology. Now, we introduce the development of a more sensitive disposable Gore-Tex® sensor based on the oxidation of silver nanoparticles in presence of chloride ions, which takes into account the strong interaction of chloride and silver ions. Regarding chloride determination in sweat samples, to the best of our knowledge, no wearable sensors have been previously described, and therefore, the proposed device could be considered as a first approach to a wearable sensor to determine the chloride ion concentration in synthetic sweat samples. Integrating a circuit into the sensor (lab on a chip), the new sensor could be applied to obtain an early diagnosis of CF disease in a near future.

Moreover, in order to better understand the electrochemical process, a deeper study of the electrochemical behavior of different halide compounds was carried out using carbon working electrodes (SPCEs) modified with silver nanoparticles (AgNP). In addition, a spectroelectrochemical study was performed to shed more light on the electrochemical processes that take place during the detection of halides [32], as well as on the influence of the backing material, PET or Gore-Tex®, where the electrode system is printed.

2. Experimental

2.1 Reagents and solutions

All the chemicals were of analytical grade and were used as received without further purification. High-quality water (Milli Q A10 system, Millipore, Bedford, USA) was employed for preparing all solutions.

KCl and NaCl were provided by Sigma-Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany). KBr, KI, KNO₃, AgNO₃, NaH₂PO₄ and urea were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). NaHCO₃, NaNO₃, CaCl₂, MgCl₂, and lactic acid (85%) were supplied from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain).

Synthetic sweat sample was prepared according to a Stefaniak and Harvey research [33]. The used sample was a mixture of bicarbonate $3.0 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, phosphate $2.3 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, Mg²⁺ $8.2 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, K⁺ $6.1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, Ca²⁺ $4.7 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, Na⁺ $3.1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, Cl⁻ $2.3 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, urea $1.0 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ and lactate $1.4 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

C10903P14 (carbon ink) and D2071120D1 (dielectric ink) were purchased from Gwent Electronic Materials (Torfaen, U.K). Electrodag 6037 SS (Ag/AgCl ink) and Electrodag 418 (Ag ink) were supplied by Acheson Colloiden (Scheemda, The Netherlands).

3-Layer Gore-Tex® laminate Waterproof Breathable Ripstop Nylon Fabric was supplied by Rockywoods (Loveland, USA).

2.2 Apparatus

Electrochemical measurements were performed with a μ Autolab electrochemical system with GPES software package to control the instrument, register and perform the analysis of results (Eco Chemie, Utrecht, The Netherlands).

Spectroelectrochemical experiments were carried out using a PGSTAT 302N potentiostat (Eco Chemie B.V., Utrecht, The Netherlands) coupled to a QE65000 spectrometer (Ocean Optics, Florida, USA). The light beam, supplied by a DH-2000 deuterium-halogen light source (Ocean Optics, Florida, USA), was both guided to, and collected from the working electrode surface of the SPCEs by a reflection probe (FCR-7UV200-2-1.5X1SR, Avantes, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands).

2.3 Sensor manufacturing

Home-made SPEs used in this work consist of a carbon working electrode (SPCE, area of 12.56 mm²), a carbon counter electrode and a silver/silver chloride pseudoreference electrode. The carbon ink was used in the conductive paths of SPEs. These electrodes were produced on a DEK 248 printing machine (DEK, Weymouth, UK) using polyethylene terephthalate (PET) of 500 µm thickness or Gore-Tex® as supports, according to the procedure described elsewhere [34]. Both supports were pre-heated to 120 °C for 1 hour before the printing process.

2.4 Silver nanoparticles modified SPCEs preparation and characterization

The working electrode surface was electrochemically modified with AgNP according with the method described in the literature [35].

When analysing the behavior of halides by voltammetric and spectroelectrochemical techniques, AgNP were electrodeposited using chronoamperometry under the following conditions: applying -1.20 V vs screen-printed Ag/AgCl electrode during 20 s in a 200 µL drop of 10⁻⁴ M AgNO₃ prepared in Britton Robinson buffer, pH 2. After the electrodeposition process, AgNP modified SPCEs (AgNP-SPCEs) were thoroughly washed with Milli-Q water.

Meanwhile, when analyzing synthetic sweat sample (Section 3.3), AgNP were electrodeposited using chronoamperometry under the following conditions: applying -1.20 V vs screen-printed Ag/AgCl electrode during 75 s in a 200 µL drop of 5 10⁻³ M AgNO₃, prepared in

Britton Robinson buffer, pH 2. After the electrodeposition process, AgNP modified SPCEs (AgNP-SPCEs) were thoroughly washed with Milli-Q water.

2.5 Voltammetry measurements

Linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) experiments were recorded between -0.20 V and +0.60 V (vs. a screen printed Ag/AgCl pseudoreference electrode), in a 200 μ L droplet of the sample placed onto the surface of the electrode system. The sample droplet contains chloride, bromide or iodide ions, depending on the studied system, and KNO₃ 0.01 M. as supporting electrolyte. The scan rate was 0.01 V s⁻¹ and the step potential was 0.005 V.

2.6 Spectroelectrochemical measurements

Spectroelectrochemical experiments were performed in a near-normal reflection arrangement. For this purpose, a reflection probe was placed in the drop, perpendicular to the electrode surface, for the spectroscopic measurements. This optical configuration allows us to follow the spectroscopic changes that take place on the electrode surface during the electrochemical experiments that were performed in a 200 μ L drop containing chloride ion and KNO₃ using the same parameters than in the LSV experiments. Absorbance data from all spectroelectrochemical experiments were calculated taking as reference spectrum the one at the starting potential of each individual experiment.

3. Results and discussion

The presence of AgNP on the working electrode surface is very useful for determining halides because the oxidation of AgNP can be used to generate silver halides on the electrode surface, according with the procedure described above in section 2.4. Thus, in this work, the working SPCE was modified with AgNP in order to develop a sensor that allows us the sensitive determination of halide ions in solution.

When halide ions were not present in the sample, a single voltammetric peak was obtained due to the oxidation from AgNP to silver (I) ions. However, in the presence of halides, two overlapped voltammetric peaks were obtained, the first one due to silver halides formation on the electrode surface, and the second one due to oxidation from AgNP to silver cations [21] (Figure 1).

There is a different trend in the interaction between silver cations and halide ions. In fact, the oxidation of the different silver halides performed by linear voltammetry suffers a potential shifting to positive values according to the electronegativity of the halides. The higher the electronegativity of the halide, the higher the ionic character of the bond, and consequently, the higher the solubility. This relationship is determined by the solubility product constant (K_{sp}). K_{sp} values at 25 °C of silver chloride, silver bromide and silver iodide are $1.8 \cdot 10^{-10}$, $5.0 \cdot 10^{-13}$ and $8.3 \cdot 10^{-17} \text{ mol}^2 \text{ L}^{-2}$ respectively. Therefore, the smaller the K_{sp} , the stronger the interaction between the silver and the halide anions. In consequence, as can be seen in Figure 1, anodic voltammetric peaks of the different halides emerge at higher overpotentials for the highest soluble silver halide: +0.10 V for silver chloride, +0.05 V for silver bromide, and -0.18 V for silver iodide (Figure 1), confirming the different trend of chloride, bromide and iodide to form silver halides.

Moreover, Figure 1 shows that the second oxidation peak in the overlapped signal, which is related to the oxidation of AgNP to silver (I), exhibits different height depending on the studied halide. In the case of silver chloride, the most soluble halide, the height of the second peak is the highest compared to those of the other halides. This fact can be related to the solubility product constant. Thus, the higher the K_{sp} , the higher the current peak of the second process that is related to the oxidation of nanoparticles. This result is consistent with the higher solubility of silver chloride regarding the other silver halides, taking into account that in a chloride medium there is a larger amount of Ag(I) in solution.

In fact, when the halide concentration increases, this second anodic peak becomes smaller [36], disappearing at higher concentrations of halides from 80 or 100 μM onwards. Iodide was

chosen as a proof of concept to illustrate the redissolution of AgNP due to the fact that iodide solutions show the greatest difference between the two anodic peaks, allowing a clear observation of the phenomenon. When silver halide peak increases in the LSV experiment, Ag(0)/Ag(I) oxidation peak decreases (Figure 2.a). The presence of the halide ions encourages the silver halide formation to a greater extent than the oxidation of Ag(0) to Ag(I) because a lower oxidation potential was required [21]. This behavior can be observed for the three halides at the different concentrations. In the limit case, the halide concentration is so high that all AgNP are involved in the generation of silver halide, and the second anodic peak is not observed because there are no more AgNP.

It is also remarkable that the difference of potential between the first and the second oxidation processes depends on the halide present in solution [24]. Thus, the lower the solubility product constant, the higher the difference in the oxidation peak potentials between the two oxidation processes.

3.1 UV/Vis absorption spectroelectrochemistry study using PET sensors.

A UV/Vis absorptometric spectroelectrochemistry study was carried out in order to obtain a better understanding of the electrochemical process described above. In this way, the electrochemical signal is completely related to the evolution of the absorbance bands in the UV/Vis spectra.

First, the modification of SPCEs with AgNP was followed by UV/Vis absorption spectroelectrochemistry in a near-normal arrangement. Figure 3 shows the spectra evolution obtained concomitantly with AgNP electrochemical deposition. During the first 4 s, an almost flat band is observed, that can be related to the generation of small clusters in the beginning of the experiment. This band evolves to the typical AgNP plasmon band, centered at 420 nm, related to the generation of polydispersed AgNP [37].

Once AgNP are deposited on the electrode surface, a linear sweep voltammogram was performed from -0.20 V to +0.60 V at $0.01 \text{ V}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$, using the solutions that contain the different

halide ions. Figure 4a shows the spectra between 250 and 800 nm registered during this electrochemical experiment, selecting some significant potential and taking the AgNP spectrum as reference spectrum for chloride ions. Each UV/Vis spectrum was taken every 200 ms. Two absorbance bands evolve during the experiment, one centered at 385 nm and the other centered at 550 nm. We can rationalize these bands in terms of the two phenomena described above: 1) generation of silver chloride on the AgNP surface and 2) oxidation of AgNP to generate Ag(I). The voltabsorptograms at these two significant wavelengths, 385 and 550 nm, plotted together with the voltammogram indicated that the optical signal fully deconvolves the electrochemical process (Figure 4b).

The absorbance at 385 nm starts to increase concomitantly with the first oxidation peak in the LSV, indicating the formation of the AgCl on the NPs surface. Absorbance at this wavelength achieves a constant value after this first oxidation peak, suggesting that AgCl covers the AgNP surface. However, absorbance at 550 nm decreases at potentials related to the second overlapped oxidation peak, indicating the reoxidation of the AgNP electrodeposited on the carbon electrode surface, process that occurs at higher potentials. Thus, the optical signal confirms that first silver cations generated during the oxidation of the AgNP precipitate instantaneously as silver chloride due to the chloride present in the solution, and once it is covered by AgCl, the redissolution of the nanoparticles occurs.

Spectroelectrochemistry also confirms the behavior observed at high halide concentrations shown in Fig. 2a for iodide. Voltabsorptograms of the AgNP oxidation in presence of different KI concentrations, 5 μM , 20 μM , 40 μM and 80 μM (Figure 2.b), show the evolution of the absorbance at 385 nm. At the lower iodide concentrations, two different steps can be clearly observed in the voltabsorptogram, one around -0.20 V that is related with the silver halide formation, and the other one around +0.15 V due to the oxidation of AgNP to Ag(I). In the first redissolution of AgNPs, around -0.20 V, absorbance at 385 nm increases continuously due to the iodide diffusion until the second oxidation potential is reached. At +0.15 V, the second oxidation step is observed, and the absorbance at 385 nm increases with a

different slope than in the first oxidation step, reaching a constant value when the AgNPs are fully oxidized to Ag(I). For the highest iodide concentration, 80 μM (purple line), the absorbance at 385 nm starts to grow at -0.20 V, reaching a maximum and constant absorbance value after the first anodic peak, around -0.1 V, because of the complete consumption of all AgNP deposited on the surface.

3.2 Spectroelectrochemistry measurements using Gore-Tex® sensors

In a previous study [31], it was proved the good properties of Gore-Tex® as substrate for SPEs, but the possibility of electrodepositing AgNP by using this backing support was not explored. Thereby, Gore-Tex® electrochemical sensors have been developed by depositing AgNP onto the working electrode surface and performing LSV in order to determine the chloride concentration following the procedure described above. To carry out a more complete study of the Gore-Tex® sensors, UV/Vis absorption spectroelectrochemistry measurements were performed. For this purpose, the same experiments performed in the PET substrate were carried out using the Gore-Tex® substrate. The UV/Vis absorption spectra obtained during the AgNP electrodeposition on the wearable sensor are very similar to the spectra shown in Figure 3 registered on a PET screen printed electrode. However, absorbance values are lower because the spectroscopic signal of the wearable sensor is affected by the roughness of the backing material since Gore-Tex® surface is rougher than PET surface.

LSV experiments were carried out from -0.20 V to +0.60 V at 0.01 V s⁻¹ and the spectroscopic signal was simultaneously obtained. The voltammetric signals show a similar behavior with respect to the one performed on the PET sensor exhibiting the same peak potential, confirming that the backing material where the electrode system is printed does not modify the electrochemical signal qualitatively.

Moreover, Figure 5 shows the derivative voltabsorptogram at 385 nm together with the linear sweep voltammogram. The similarity of the two responses undoubtedly indicates that the

spectroscopic signal is completely related to the oxidation process observed in the LSV experiment.

3.3 Electrochemical determination of halide ions using PET sensors

Following the procedure described above, once AgNP were electrodeposited onto the working electrode surface, the electrochemical sensor was ready for determining the concentration of the halide in solution by LSV.

The concentration of the halides in the solution is related to the silver halides formed on the electrode surface. A linear relationship was found between the height of the first anodic peak and the halide concentrations, allowing us to quantify the halide ions, even for the chloride case, where the two peaks are in close proximity, but the first peak can be used to obtain a good chloride determination as can be deduced from the figures of merit shown below.

Calibration standards were prepared by spiking known concentrations of each halide in a 0.01 M KNO₃ solution and calibration curves were built by taking the average of 5 measurements for each concentration, in the calibration range shown in Table 1.

In order to characterize the analytical method, the reproducibility was calculated by taking the average of the RSD values obtained from the 5 intensities measured using different sensors for each concentration (Figure 6). Outliers were detected by using PROGRESS program [38], which uses an algorithm based on a least median square (LMS) regression. Once, these outliers points were removed from the calibration set, ordinary least square (OLS) regressions were built with the remaining points. Sensitivity values, obtained from the slope of the regressions are shown in Table 1 and the good reproducibility of the method is supported by the RSD values obtained.

Additionally, the detection limit of the analytical method was obtained for a given probability of false positive (α) and negative (β) of 0.05 [39, 40]. The minimum detectable concentration of each halide is shown in Table 1. In all cases, these values were below the

lowest calibration standard values. Thus, the latter values were taken as average detection limits from an analytical point of view.

Calibration range depends on the amount of AgNP present in the electrode. They could be extended to higher halide concentrations by either increasing the concentration of the AgNO₃ solution or the deposition time used in the AgNP immobilization procedure (described in Section 2.4).

Table 1 Calibration parameters obtained for the determination of halides by LSV in 0.01 M KNO₃ solution.

		Halide		
		Cl⁻	Br⁻	I⁻
Lineal regression	Regression equation	$y = 0.2358 + 0.01930 [\text{Cl}^-]$	$y = 0.1089 + 0.01314 [\text{Br}^-]$	$y = 0.0912 + 0.01048 [\text{I}^-]$
	R²	0.994	0.994	0.991
	RSD %* (n=5)	2.22	2.83	3.23
	S_{xy}	0.0555	0.0332	0.03527
Calibration range (M)		$3.0 \cdot 10^{-6} - 1.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-6} - 0.9 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-6} - 0.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Computed limit of detection (M)		$2.25 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$4.34 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$4.76 \cdot 10^{-6}$
Experimental limit of detection(M)		$3.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$

*Calculated as the average of the RSD values obtained from the 5 intensities measured using different sensors for each concentration

3.4. Application to synthetic sweat samples using Gore-Tex® electrochemical sensors

In order to check the performance of the chloride sensors, a synthetic sweat sample was analyzed by using Gore-Tex® sensors. First, a calibration curve was built.

As in the PET substrate sensors, once the Gore-Tex® sensors were modified with AgNP, 200 μL drops of sample with different concentrations of chloride ion were placed on the electrode surface and LSV was performed. A linear relationship between the height of the first oxidation peak and the chloride ions concentration was obtained. The calibration range was from 0.005 M to 0.06 M and the slope value of this regression was $292.2 \mu\text{A}\cdot\text{M}^{-1}$. Precision was calculated, in the same way as at PET sensors, obtaining a RSD value of 1.61 %.

Once the calibration curve was obtained, a droplet of synthetic sweat sample was placed on the electrode surface and immediately a voltammetric measurement was performed. Next, the height of the oxidation peak was interpolated in the previously built calibration curve and the chloride concentration of the synthetic sweat sample was calculated from the corresponding linear regression. Thus, the chloride concentration was 0.024 ± 0.009 M using the Gore-Tex® sensor. The detected value is in good agreement with the value of chloride content in sweat samples (0.023 M). Therefore, from these results, we conclude that the developed method is both precise and suitable for the analysis of chloride ions.

4. Conclusions

Given the relevance of wearable electrochemical sensors, a Gore-Tex® screen printed voltammetric sensor has been developed for the determination of chloride ions by modifying the working electrode with AgNP. The selectivity of the sensor, which also showed excellent reproducibility (RSD=1.61 %), makes it an appropriate option for monitoring the chloride concentration in sweat.

The development of this new chloride test, which is based on a low cost, non-invasive, easy-to-operate and wearable sensor, could be of great importance in order to obtain an early

diagnosis of, for instance, cystic fibrosis. This first approach to a wearable electrochemical sensor is flexible, comfortable, and biocompatible. Therefore, it could be made commercially available for continuous health monitoring through contact with the human body. This might be done using a circuit integrated on a single chip to develop an electrochemical system capable of measuring, collecting data and processing the information. Sweat storage would not be required since the sweat would be continually available using some substances as pilocarpine to induce it. Moreover, the presence of AgNP in this sensor gives it antimicrobial properties.

Spectroelectrochemistry was a key tool for obtaining more complete information about the changes on the electrode surface, helping to confirm the processes involved in both the AgNP generation and the reoxidation of silver in the presence of halides.

Acknowledgements

Authors would like to acknowledge funding obtained through the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN), Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) and the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER) (TEC20013-40561-P and MUSSEL RTC-2015-4077-2)

References

- [1] F. Faridbod, M.R. Ganjali, R. Dinarvand, P. Norouzi, Developments in the field of conducting and non-conducting polymer based potentiometric membrane sensors for ions over the past decade, *Sensors*, 8 (2008) 2331-2412.
- [2] F. Qu, N.B. Li, H.Q. Luo, Polyethyleneimine-Templated Ag Nanoclusters: A New Fluorescent and Colorimetric Platform for Sensitive and Selective Sensing Halide Ions and High Disturbance-Tolerant Recognitions of Iodide and Bromide in Coexistence with Chloride under Condition of High Ionic Strength, *Analytical Chemistry*, 84 (2012) 10373-10379.
- [3] C. Vazquez Cordero, Diagnosis of cystic fibrosis, *Anales Espanoles de Pediatria*, 50 (1999) 431-438.
- [4] S.J. Bowen, J. Hull, The basic science of cystic fibrosis, *Paediatrics and Child Health (United Kingdom)*, 25 (2015) 159-164.

- [5] A. Mena-Bravo, M.D. Luque de Castro, Sweat: A sample with limited present applications and promising future in metabolomics, *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*, 90 (2014) 139-147.
- [6] C. Villagrán, M. Deetlefs, W.R. Pitner, C. Hardacre, Quantification of Halide in Ionic Liquids Using Ion Chromatography, *Analytical Chemistry*, 76 (2004) 2118-2123.
- [7] F. Hao, P.R. Haddad, T. Ruther, IC determination of halide impurities in ionic liquids, *Chromatographia*, 67 (2008) 495-498.
- [8] T.K. Malongo, S. Patris, P. Macours, F. Cotton, J. Nsangu, J.M. Kauffmann, Highly sensitive determination of iodide by ion chromatography with amperometric detection at a silver-based carbon paste electrode, *Talanta*, 76 (2008) 540-547.
- [9] E. Cotlove, H.H. Nishi, Automatic titration with direct read-out of chloride concentration, *Clinical chemistry*, 7 (1961) 285-291.
- [10] L.C. Gilday, N.G. White, P.D. Beer, Triazole- and triazolium-containing porphyrin-cages for optical anion sensing, *Dalton Transactions*, 41 (2012) 7092-7097.
- [11] K. Arai, F. Kusu, N. Noguchi, K. Takamura, H. Osawa, Selective determination of chloride and bromide ions in serum by cyclic voltammetry, *Analytical Biochemistry*, 240 (1996) 109-113.
- [12] J.N. Babu, V. Bhalla, M. Kumar, R.K. Mahajan, R.K. Puri, A chloride selective sensor based on a calix[4]arene possessing a urea moiety, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 49 (2008) 2772-2775.
- [13] B.J. Sucman E., Determination of chlorides in foods using ion-selective electrodes: A review, *Canadian journal of analytical sciences and spectroscopy*, 47 (2002) 5.
- [14] K.G. Kumar, K.S. John, C.J. Indira, A chloride ion-selective potentiometric sensor based on a polymeric Schiff base complex, *Indian Journal of Chemical Technology*, 13 (2006) 13-16.
- [15] E. Bakker, Y. Qin, Electrochemical sensors, *Analytical Chemistry*, 78 (2006) 3965-3983.
- [16] V.K. Gupta, Potentiometric sensors for inorganic anions based on neutral carriers, *Arab. J. Sci. Eng.*, 35 (2009) 7-25.
- [17] W.J. Warwick, L. Hansen, Measurement of chloride in sweat with the chloride-selective electrode, *Clinical Chemistry*, 24 (1978) 2050-2053.
- [18] A.W.M. Sweetsur, An ion-selective electrode method for the determination of chloride in milk, *The Analyst*, 99 (1974) 690-692.
- [19] T.V. Shishkanova, D. Sýkora, J.L. Sessler, V. Král, Potentiometric response and mechanism of anionic recognition of heterocalixarene-based ion selective electrodes, *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 587 (2007) 247-253.
- [20] C.Y. Cheng, Z.M. Huang, W.Y. Chung, D.G. Pijanowska, M. Dawgul, Development of Polymeric Resin Ion-exchanger Based Chloride Ion-selective Electrode for Monitoring Chloride Ion in Environmental Water, *Journal of the Chinese Chemical Society*, 59 (2012) 122-131.
- [21] H.S. Toh, C. Batchelor-Mcauley, K. Tschulik, R.G. Compton, Electrochemical detection of chloride levels in sweat using silver nanoparticles: A basis for the preliminary screening for cystic fibrosis, *Analyst*, 138 (2013) 4292-4297.
- [22] G. Colovos, G.S. Wilson, J.L. Moyers, Simultaneous determination of bromide and chloride by cathodic stripping voltammetry, *Analytical Chemistry*, 46 (1974) 1051-1054.
- [23] I. Shain, S.P. Perone, Application of stripping analysis to the determination of iodide with silver microelectrodes, *Analytical Chemistry*, 33 (1961) 325-329.

- [24] M.H. Chiu, W.L. Cheng, G. Muthuraman, C.T. Hsu, H.H. Chung, J.M. Zen, A disposable screen-printed silver strip sensor for single drop analysis of halide in biological samples, *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*, 24 (2009) 3008-3013.
- [25] H.S. Toh, K. Tschulik, C. Batchelor-Mcauley, R.G. Compton, Electrochemical quantification of iodide ions in synthetic urine using silver nanoparticles: A proof-of-concept, *Analyst*, 139 (2014) 3986-3990.
- [26] J.R. Windmiller, J. Wang, Wearable Electrochemical Sensors and Biosensors: A Review, *Electroanalysis*, 25 (2012) 29-46.
- [27] R.M. Morgan, M.J. Patterson, M.A. Nimmo, Acute effects of dehydration on sweat composition in men during prolonged exercise in the heat, *Acta Physiologica Scandinavica*, 182 (2004) 37-43.
- [28] G. Matzeu, L. Florea, D. Diamond, Advances in wearable chemical sensor design for monitoring biological fluids, *Sensors and Actuators, B: Chemical*, 211 (2015) 403-418.
- [29] S. Anastasova, B. Crewther, P. Bemnowicz, V. Curto, H.M. Ip, B. Rosa, G.Z. Yang, A wearable multisensing patch for continuous sweat monitoring, *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*, 93 (2017) 139-145.
- [30] J. Kim, R. Kumar, A.J. Bhandodkar, J. Wang, Advanced Materials for Printed Wearable Electrochemical Devices: A Review, *Advanced Electronic Materials*, 3 (2017).
- [31] J. Bujes-Garrido, M.J. Arcos-Martínez, Development of a wearable electrochemical sensor for voltammetric determination of chloride ions, *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical*, 240 (2017) 224-228.
- [32] T. Kuwana, Electrochemical studies using conducting glass indicator electrodes, *Analytical Chemistry*, 36 (1964) 2023-2025.
- [33] C.J. Harvey, R.F. LeBouf, A.B. Stefaniak, Formulation and stability of a novel artificial human sweat under conditions of storage and use, *Toxicology in Vitro*, 24 (2010) 1790-1796.
- [34] M.A. Alonso-Lomillo, C. Yardimci, O. Domínguez-Renedo, M.J. Arcos-Martínez, CYP450 2B4 covalently attached to carbon and gold screen printed electrodes by diazonium salt and thiols monolayers, *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 633 (2009) 51-56.
- [35] O.D. Renedo, M. Julia Arcos Martínez, A novel method for the anodic stripping voltammetry determination of Sb(III) using silver nanoparticle-modified screen-printed electrodes, *Electrochemistry Communications*, 9 (2007) 820-826.
- [36] R. Zhang, S. Xu, Y. Zhu, J. Luo, X. Liu, D. Tang, One-pot facile preparation of Ag nanoparticles for chloride ion sensing, *Colloid and Polymer Science*, 294 (2016) 1643-1649.
- [37] S.W. Lee, S.H. Chang, Y.S. Lai, C.C. Lin, C.M. Tsai, Y.C. Lee, J.C. Chen, C.L. Huang, Effect of temperature on the growth of silver nanoparticles using plasmon-mediated method under the irradiation of green LEDs, *Materials*, 7 (2014) 7781-7798.
- [38] P.J. Rousseeuw, *Robust Regression and Outlier Detection*, John Wiley and sons, 1989.
- [39] J. Inczédy, T. Lengyel, A.M. Ure, A. Geléncsér, A. Hulanicki, *Compendium of Analytical Nomenclature*, 3rd ed., Port City Press Inc, Baltimore, 2000.
- [40] ISO11843, Capability of detection Genève, Switzerland, Part I 1997 and Part II 2000.

FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig 1: Linear sweep voltammograms recorded from -0.40 to +0.60 V in 0.01 M KNO_3 (magenta line) and in presence of 80 μM of iodide ion (green line), bromide ion (red line) or chloride ion (blue line). Scan rate = 0.01 V s^{-1} . Electrode system printed in PET support.

Fig 2; a) LSV performed from -0.30 V and +0.30 V in 0.01 M KNO_3 in presence of increasing concentrations of KI. (Scan rate = $0.01 \text{ V}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$). b) Voltabsorptograms at 385 nm and registered from -0.35 V to +0.35 V in KNO_3 0.01 M in presence of increasing concentrations of KI. Scan rate = $0.01 \text{ V}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$.

Fig 3: Spectra evolution during AgNP generation applying -1.20 V vs Ag/AgCl SPE during 20 s in a solution 10^{-4} M AgNO_3 , prepared in Britton Robinson buffer. Electrode system printed in PET support.

Fig 4: a) UV-Visible spectra registered during LSV experiment, b) Comparison of the voltabsorptograms at 385 nm (blue line) and at 550 nm (green line) with the LSV experiment performed in 0.01 M KNO_3 in presence of 30 μM chloride ion. Scan rate = $0.01 \text{ V}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$. Electrode system printed in PET support.

Fig 5: Comparison between derivative voltabsorptogram at 385 nm and LSV. Experiment performed in 0.01 M of KNO_3 in presence of 30 μM of chloride ion. Scan rate = $0.01 \text{ V}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$. Electrode system printed in Gore-Tex® support.

Fig 6: Calibration curve for the determination of halides. Linear regressions between the current peak height at +0.10 V, +0.05 V and -0.18 V for AgCl, AgBr and AgI of silver

halides formation against the concentration of the halide ions. Each data point is the mean of five measurements.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Figure 1:

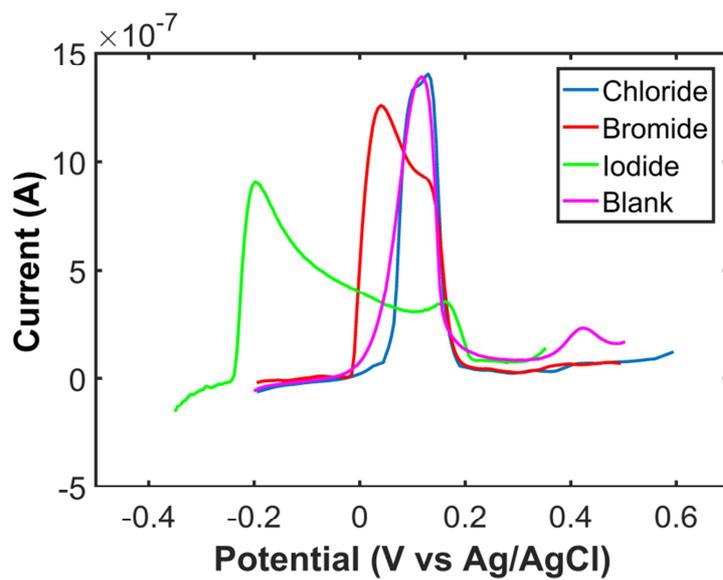
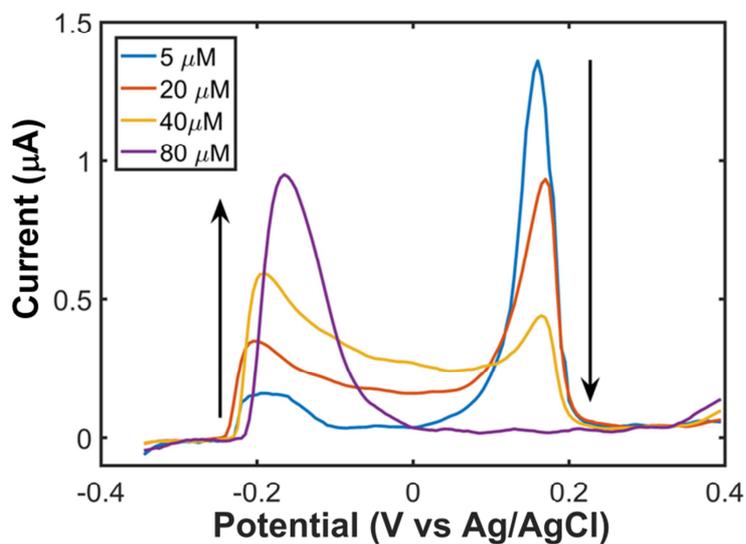


Figure2:

a)



b)

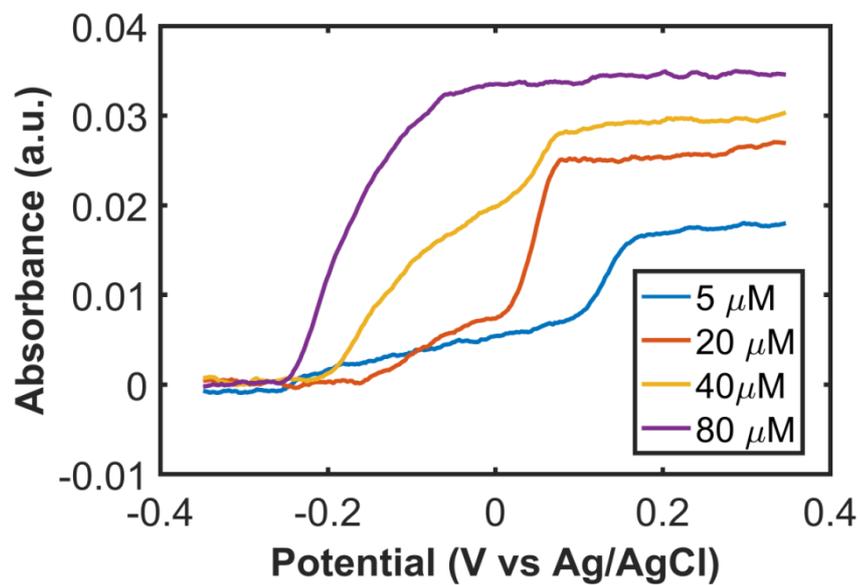


Figure 3:

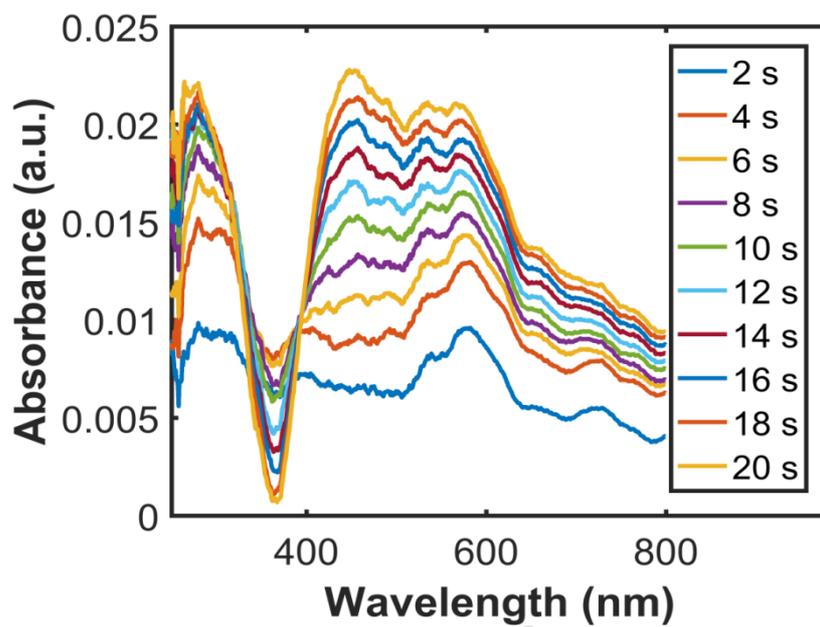
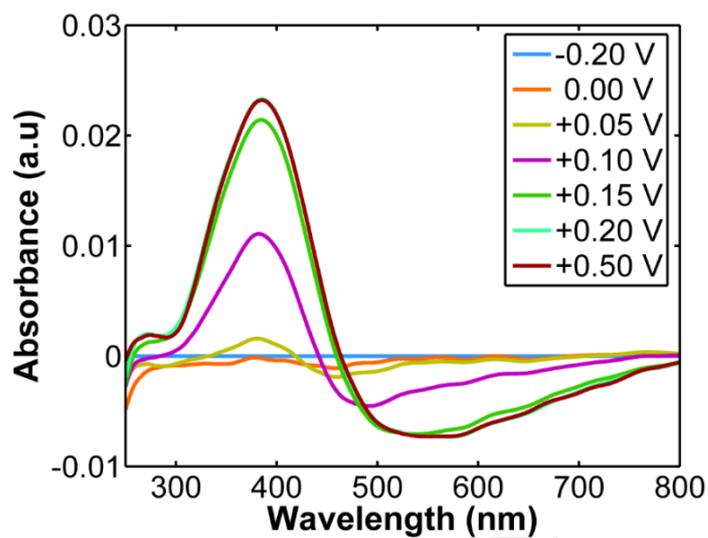


Figure 4:

a)



b)

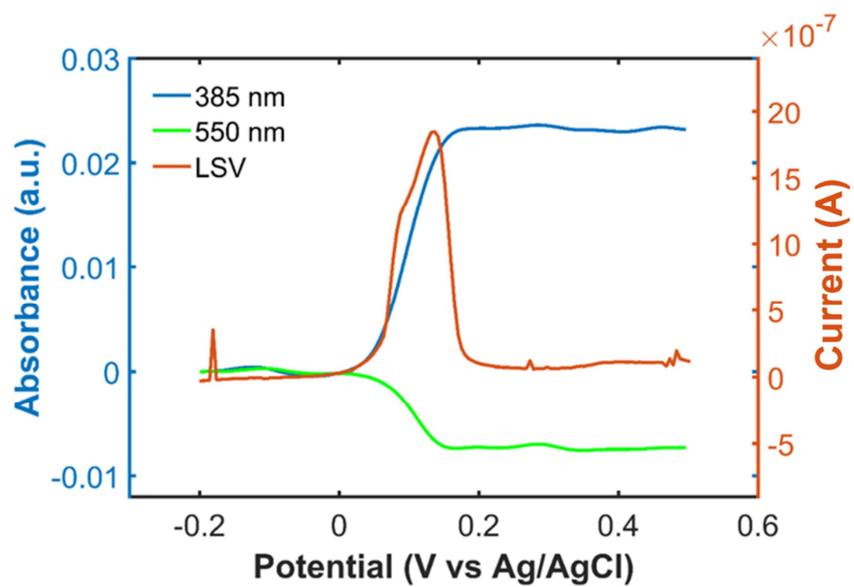


Figure 5:

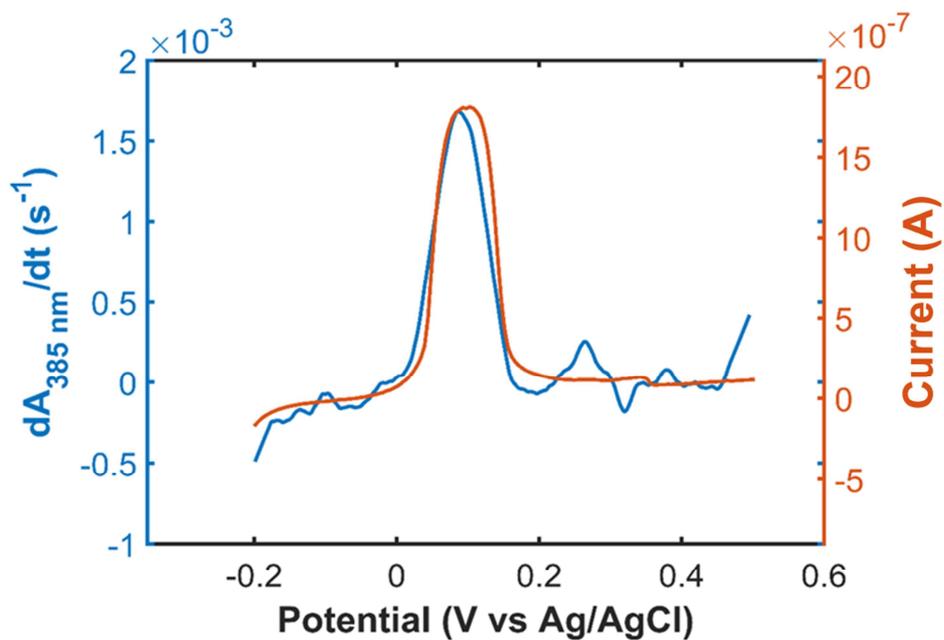
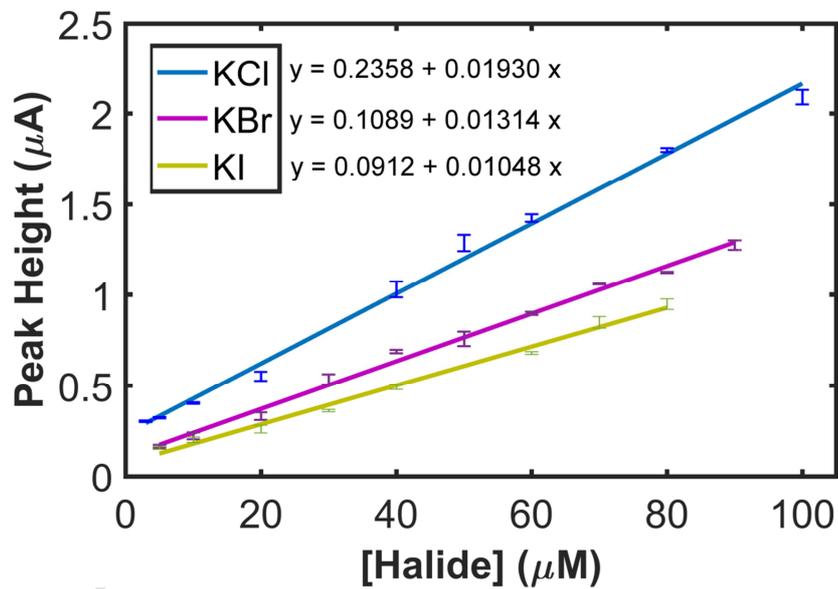
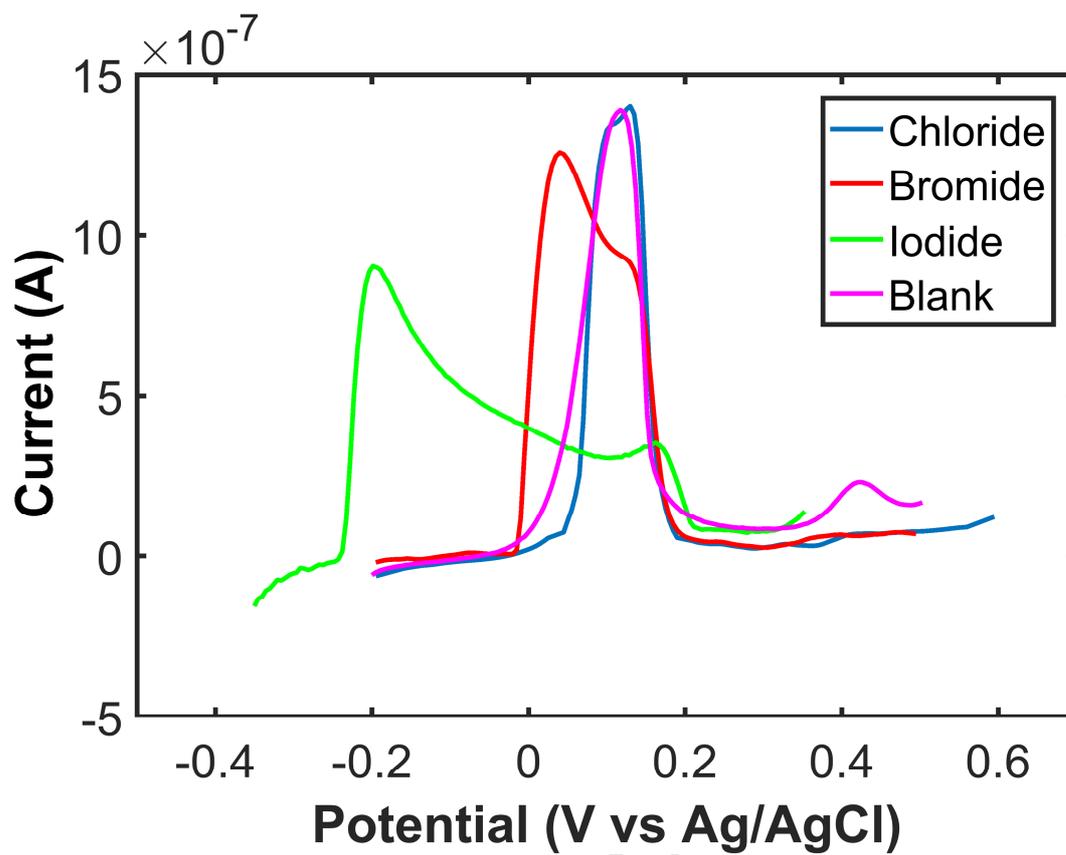
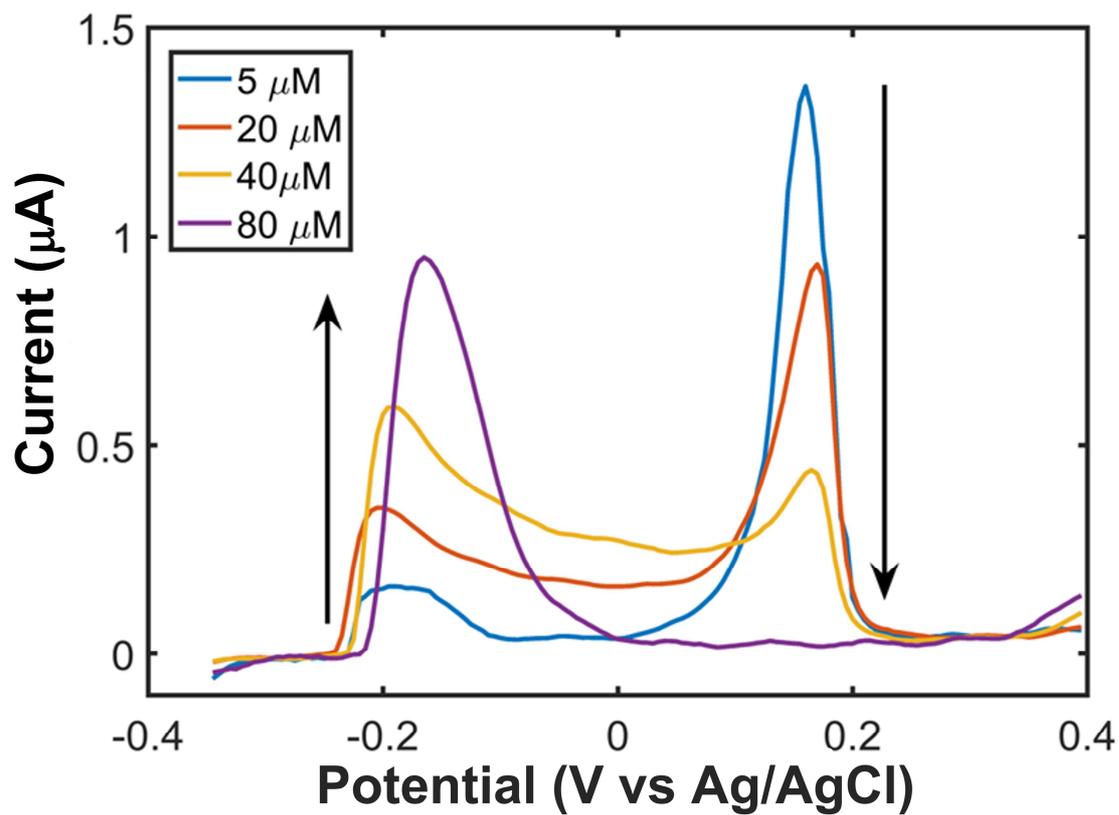
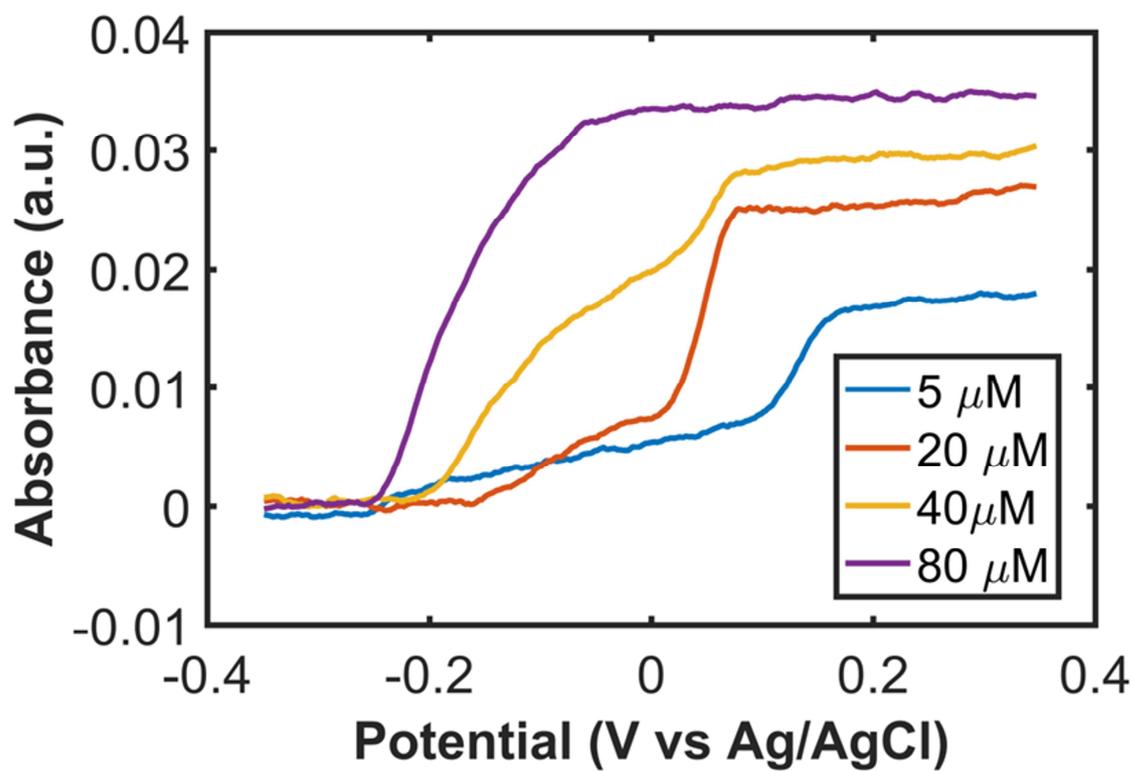


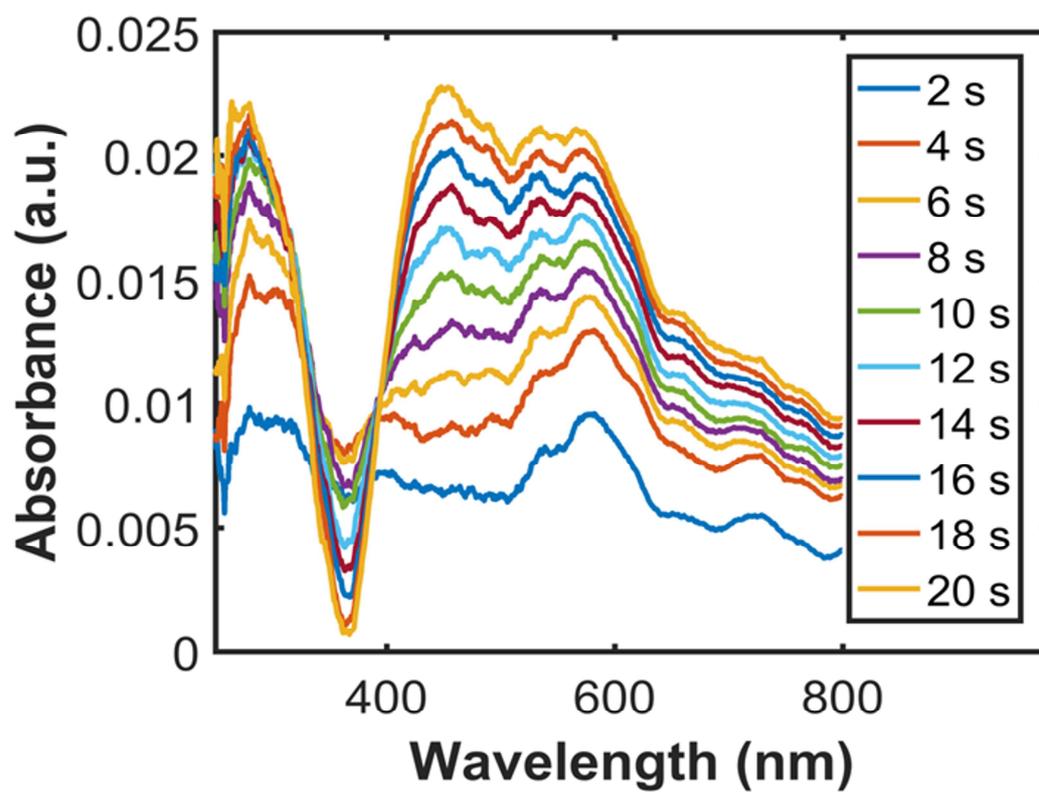
Figure 6:

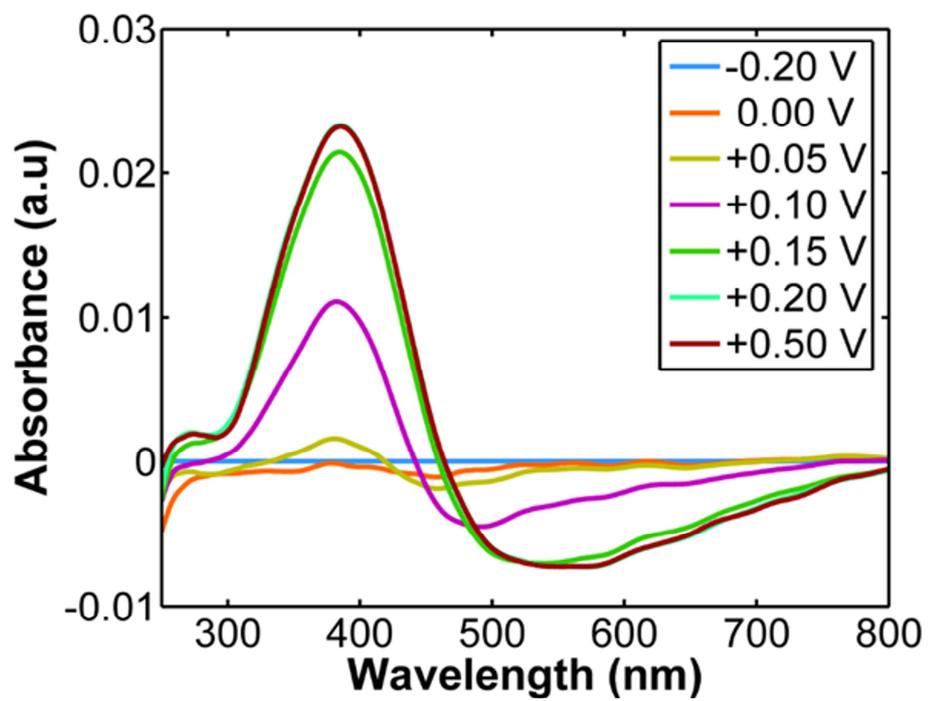


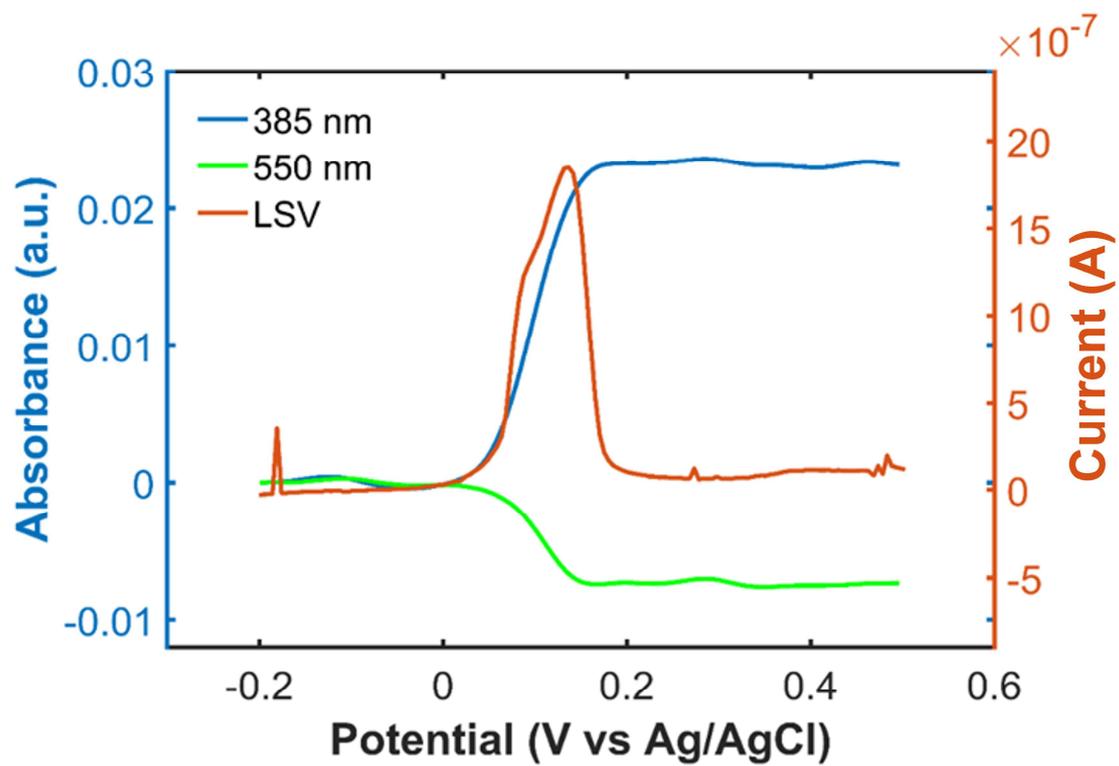


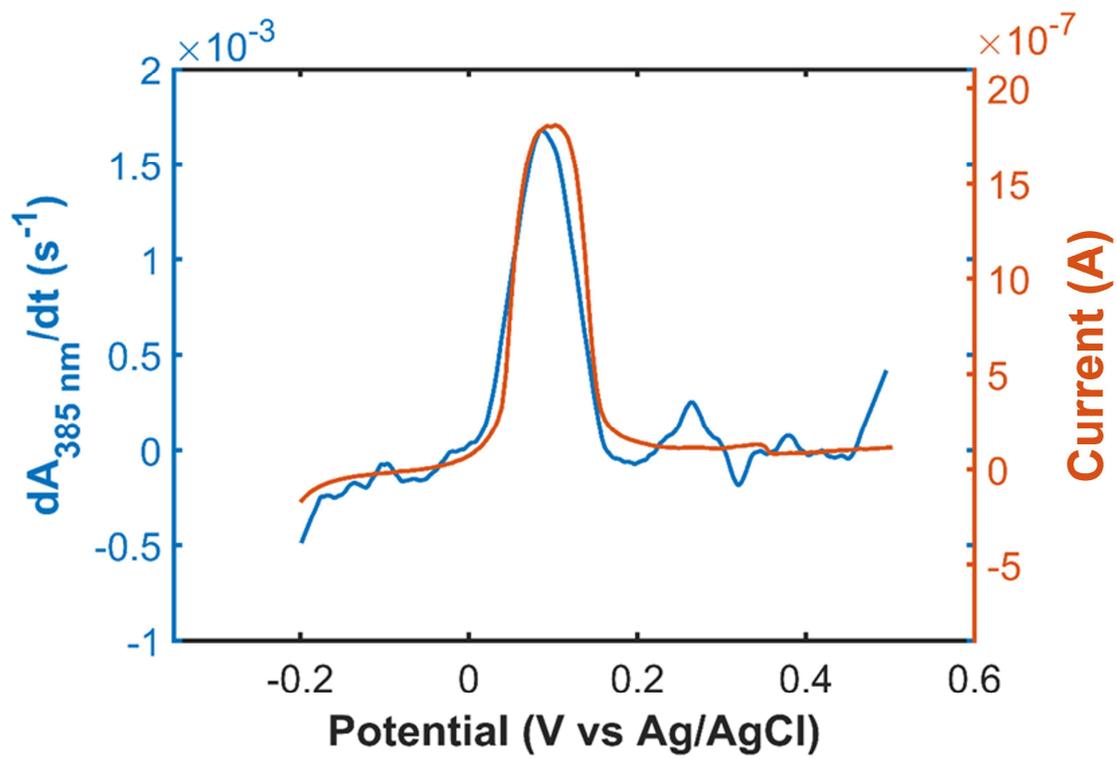


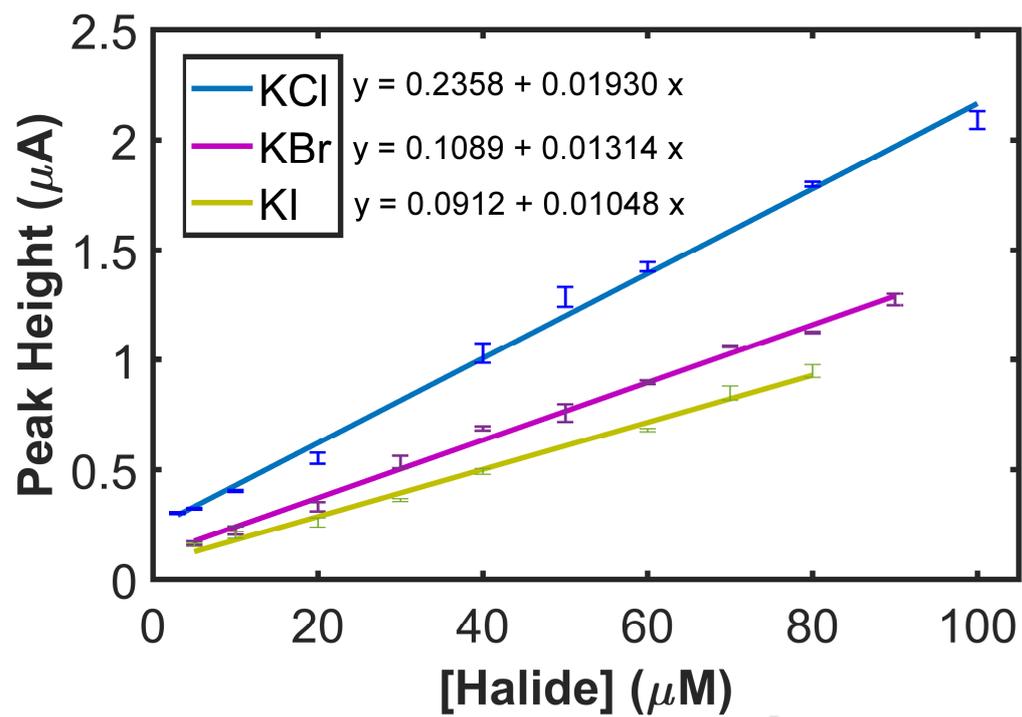












Highlights

- Voltammetric screen-printed electrodes to halide ions determination by modifying the working electrode with AgNP.
- New, simple and flexible and biocompatible Gore-Tex® wearable electrochemical sensor for voltammetric determination of chloride ions.
- Spectroelectrochemistry monitors the electrodeposition and redissolution processes.
- Successful determination of chloride ions in sweat samples.