



Research Article

# Aspirin in Food Samples for Separation and Micro Determination of Copper(II) Using Cloud Point Extraction/Solvation Method

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## Abstract

In this work, sensitive method was used for the first time by joining cloud point extraction with solvation system (CPE-SS) using aspirin as the organic reagent to form cloud point layer (CPL). It had a wavelength for final absorbance under  $\lambda_{max} = 293$  nm. Different kinds and concentrations of salting out with different extraction efficiencies were used to enhance the extraction efficiency.  $KNO_3$  as a salting out under 0.1 M showed maximum extraction efficiency in the presence of 40  $\mu$ g of Cu(II). The applications of extraction in this method had required the existence of 0.4 mL of Triton X-100 and heating under 85 °C for 20 minutes to form CPL quantitatively. The effect of different surfactants and various organic reagents to investigate the impact of interferences as well as spectrophotometric determination were also investigated in this study. Chicken, breast, cow meat (beef), cucumber, drainage fish, garden cress and lettuce showed low limit of detection (LOD) 0.018 ppm, limit of quantity (LOQ) 0.060 ppm and RSD% of 0.028 in 2 ppm.

**Keywords:** Aspirin, Cloud point extraction, Copper, Solvent extraction, Separation

## Introduction

Copper is very necessary for the activity of several enzymes. Copper and iron partially require for hematopoiesis for the reason that it is required for ferroxidase (ceruloplasmin) synthesis. In biological systems, copper has an oxidation state of (I or II). The copper quantity in the adult humanoid body is about 70-100 mg. The maximum concentrations in increasing sequence are in the kidney, heart, brain, and liver.

About 50% of total copper are found in Muscle. It is absorbed from food in the upper small intestine [1-4].

Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) is among the cheaper and most available medicines widely used over the entire world for relief of headaches, heat and muscular pains. Salicylate drug can be in effect in lessening the risk of numerous cancers, especially in lung and colon by its functions as an antioxidant and capability to extremists [5, 6].

Different techniques were examined for copper pre-

concentration and separation in different environmental and organic matrices. Methods as solvent micro extraction [7, 8], also used another ion [9], solid phase extraction (SPE) [10], inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry [11], ion chromatography [12], flame and graphite furnace atomic absorbing spectrometry [13] and spectrophotometric methods [14-15] and cloud point extraction (CPE) [16], [17] were described for this purpose. Nevertheless, extraction methods such as LLME or SPE, have most amounts of biological solvent that are particularly toxic volatile, flammable and destructive to the surroundings [18], or large volumes of eluents to guarantee the whole back-extraction of the interested analytes, correspondingly. CPE has appeared as an in effect, sensitive and greener alternative to LLME and SPE [19].

CPE is in general performed by means of solutions of a solitary or a combination of surfactants beyond their critical micelle concentrations (CMC). According to the CPE process of the analytes into the micelle layer, conforming can be obtained by intensifying the temperature beyond the critical temperature (CT). This increased temperature causes the cloud point layer (CPL) formation that is the dehydration consequence of the polar surface of the micelles. It produces a good potential amid micelles. The CPL can be categorized by a smaller volume as compared with the one of the aqueous sample in which preconcentration the analytes of interest [20-22]. Many researchers have reported that successful CPE to separate and determine Cu and other elements in different real samples such as food CPE coupled with flame atomic absorption spectrometry [23] and water combined with ICP-MS [24], by using many surfactants.

Amoxicillin can be applied as a ligand to the determine copper(II) by CPE joined with spectrofluorometric in the presence of Triton X-114 as the surfactant [25]. Applied to extract Cu, Co and Ni in water testers using 2-(5-bromo-2-pyridylazo)-5-(diethyl amino) phenol (5-Br-PADAP) as ligand and Triton X-114 [26]. The study indicates that the CPE has excellent potential in Nano-materials removal from wastewater Triton X-114 suitable for the recovery of Nano sized Copper oxide (NCO) from the water. Removing process of NCO has been affected by the concentrations of Triton X-114 and salt, solution pH as well as incubation temperature and time [27].

In successful studies, coupled CPE with other extraction method such as solvation method (CPE-SS) was used to extract and determine Ce(III) salting out

of  $\text{KNO}_3$  by means of organic reagent 2,4-Dimethyl pentane-3-one (2,4-DMP) as extractant and 1% Triton X-100 [28]. Or onium system (CPE-OS) that used to separate and determine micro amount of iron and mercury by means of  $\text{N}\alpha$ -Benzoyl-L-arginine ethyl ester hydrochloride (BAEE) from acidic hydrochloric aqueous solution as extractant and non-ionic surfactant 1% Triton X-100. This procedure has low detection limit [29], and liquid-liquid extraction (CPE-LLE) procedure combined with CPE for the extraction trace amount of ions such Ni(II) [30] and Cu(II) in drinking water and serum samples. This method is related to ionic liquid assisted micro emulsion (IL- $\mu$ E-DLLME) by means of ionic liquid 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate ([C4mim] [PF6]). Copper has been reacted with 8-hydroxyquinoline and Triton X-100 as the surfactant [31].

In this work, a sensitive CPE-SS technique has employed the water as the solvents without using any amounts of the organic solvents for feasible using surfactants in analytical chemistry. Instantaneous determination and preconcentration of Cu(II) using aspirin as a selective complexing agent and Triton X-100 were investigated.

## Experimental

### Materials

All chemicals used in this study were from Merck, Germany. Standard solution was prepared using 1 mg/mL of  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  in 100 mL of distilled water. The solution aspirin ligand was prepared in distilled water with Triton X-100 as a surfactant.

### Instruments

A double beam Biochrom spectrophotometer with 1.00 cm quartz cell and WNB7-45 water bath were used for spectroscopic studies and CPT heating along, Dool, CE, HR 200, Japan.

### Preparation of samples

All samples under study were taken from local supermarkets and different places of Euphrates river, An-Najaf, Iraq. A 5 g of a dried sample was places in a 200 mL conical flask with 10 mL of concentrated nitric acid. The mixture was heated at 70 °C for 20 min, cooled and then another of 10 mL of concentrated nitric acid, 5 mL of concentration sulpheric acid and 4 mL hydrogen peroxide were added. After that, the mixture was mixed with a magnetic stirrer and reheated at 85 °C for 20 min, then 10 mL of water was added

till it is colorless indicate that organic matter oxidation. A 100 mL volumetric flask was used to transfer the cooled product with adding distilled water to the mark. A 5 mL of final product was diluted with distilled water to 25 mL conical flask, then added 1 mL of 20% potassium sodium tartrate. The mixture was filtered and transferred to 10 mL volumetric flask and added distilled water for diluting to the mark.

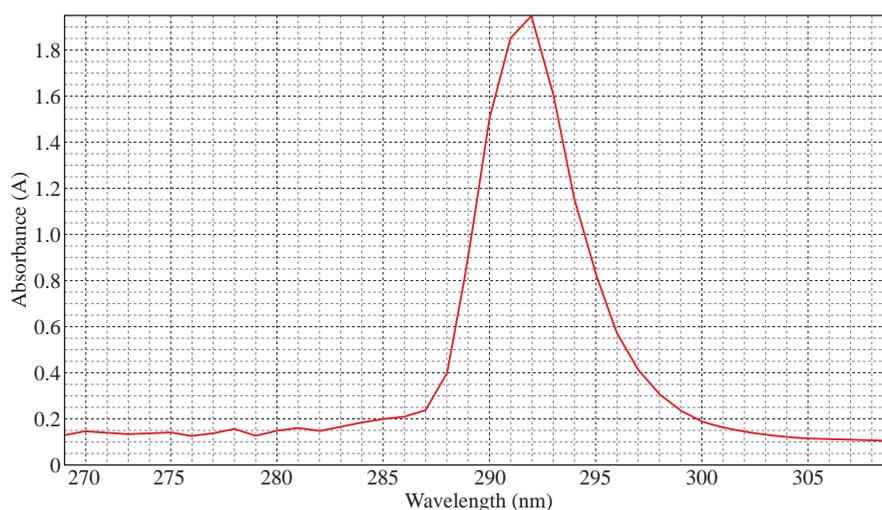
### General method

Aqueous solutions (10 mL each) in volume have the finest quantity of Cu(II) and optimal concentration of  $\text{KNO}_3$  as salting out with  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M of aspirin in the existence suitable volume of surfactant. The solutions heated in a water bath for relevant temperature, time of heating up to cloud point layer (CPL) realization. The absorption of a solvation species is determined at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 293$  nm. Nonetheless, the aqueous solution has been handled along with dithiazone spectrophotometric process. Then, go back to the calibration curve with the purpose of determination the remainder amount of Cu(II) in aqueous phase next to extraction. Afterward, subtract from (40  $\mu\text{g}$ ) to evaluate the transferred quantity of Copper into CPL as solvation species. Subsequently, compute distribution ratio (D) in relation to Equation (1)

$$D = \frac{[\text{Cu(II)}]_{\text{CPL}}}{[\text{Cu(II)}]_{\text{aq.}}} \quad (1)$$

## Results and Discussion

The spectrophotometric study shows that solvation species of Cu(II) with Aspirin extracted into CPL have a wavelength of maximum absorbance equal to of 293 nm (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** UV-Vis absorption spectrum of solvation species of Cu(II) with aspirin.

### Factors influencing extraction efficiency Type and concentration of salting out

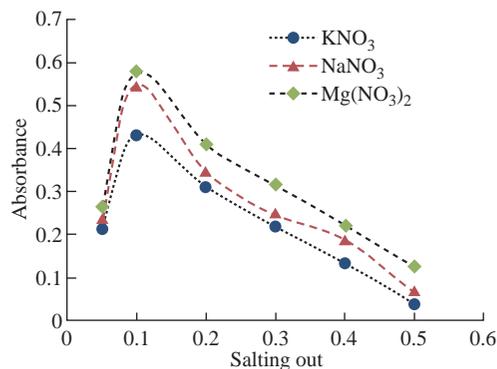
Each sample of aqueous solutions (10 mL) was used in volume comprises (50  $\mu\text{g}$ ) of Cu(II) and increasing concentration of different salting out levels in existence of 0.5 mL of 1% Triton X-100,  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M of aspirin, the solutions has been heated for appropriate temperature and period up to CPL formation. At that point, separated CPL and stream CPL in 5 mL of alcohol.  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 293$  nm was appeared for alcoholic absorption against blank without Cu(II) prepared in the same manner. Aqueous phase has treated concerning dithiazone spectrophotometric method consistent with general technique. The consequences have been depicted in Figs. 2 and 3.

The best concentration was evidenced at 0.1 M for all salting out levels that given higher extraction efficiency of Cu(II) as solvation species with aspirin. That emphasizes the role of kind and concentration salting out on extraction efficiency. They are considered as a thermodynamic factor and control the rate of formation of solvation species.

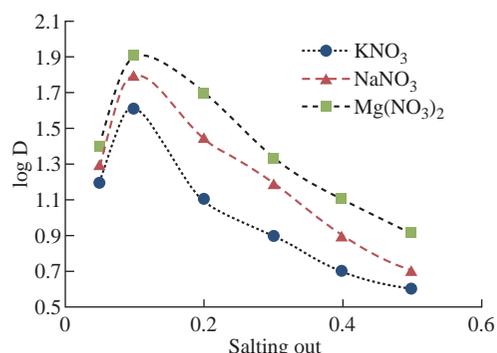
### Copper concentration

A 10 mL of each sample in Cu(II) and 0.1M of  $\text{KNO}_3$  as salting were used in the presence of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M of aspirin and 0.5 mL of surfactant. Electrostatic water bath was used to heat the solutions at 85 °C and for 20 min. Accomplish the experiment in line with the general process. The outcomes have been clarified in Figs. 4 and 5.

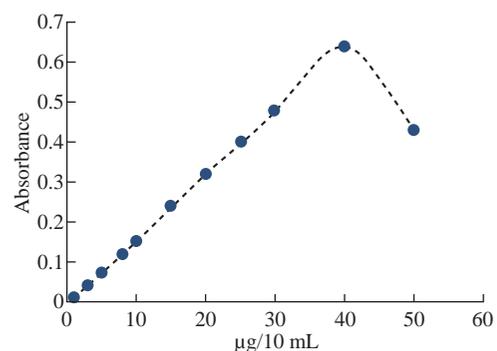
As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, there is a linear relationship within the concentration of Cu(II) and extraction efficiency until optimal concentration



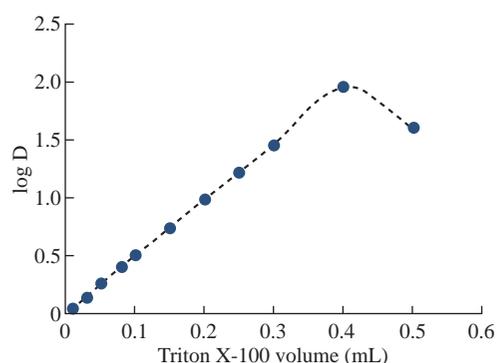
**Fig. 2** Effect of type and concentration of salting out on formation solvation species of Cu(II).



**Fig. 3** Effect of type and concentration of salting out on extraction efficiency of Cu(II) and D-value.



**Fig. 4** Effect of Cu(II) concentration on stability of solvation species.



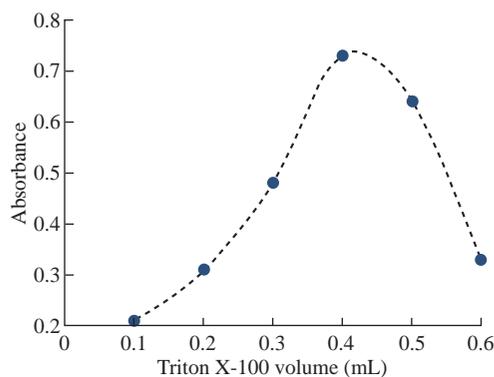
**Fig. 5** Effect of Cu(II) concentration on D-values.

40 µg/mL that gives greater efficiency. Increasing in concentration of Cu(II) gives an intensification

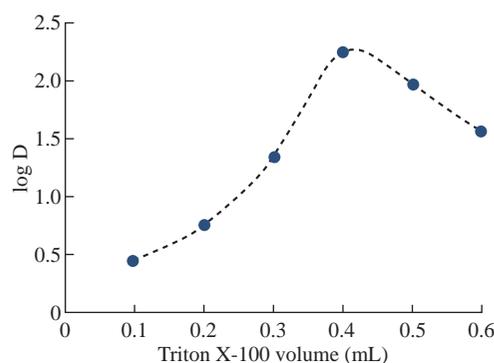
in the rate of formation of solvation species. More concentration than optimal magnitude has effects of diminishing extraction efficiency because it raises the rate of backward direction of thermodynamic steadiness and lessens solvation species formation concerning mass action law.

### Surfactant volume

By following general method, the absorbance curves of 40 µg of Cu(II) in 10 mL in aqueous solutions in existence of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M of aspirin and 0.1 M of  $KNO_3$  as salting out with increasing volumes of 1% Triton X-100 as a surfactant were shown in Figs. 6 and 7. Higher extraction efficiency was observed with finest surfactant volume (0.4 mL) which accomplishes our status of analytical micelles concentration CMC to create the finest CPL with the finest features to extract solvation species quantitatively. Any volume less than the finest level was not tolerable for CMC to facilitate any volume more than optimum volume effect of dropping extraction efficiency since declining CPL properties is in effect of diffusion of micelles.



**Fig. 6** Effect of surfactant volume on formation CPL with best properties.



**Fig. 7** Effect of surfactant volume on extraction efficiency and D-values.

### Temperature

The general method was applied to determine the rising temperature for Cu(II). The absorbance

consequences are shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

Afterword, extraction constant ( $K_{ex}$ ) is possibly calculated in relation to equation (2). The results were as in Fig. 12.

$$K_{ex} = D/([Cu(II)][aspirin]) \quad (2)$$

The results of thermodynamic data for extraction Cu(II) according a straight slope line (Fig. 10) and relations of thermodynamic (Table 1). They were shown formation solvation species with endothermic reaction. The low value of enthalpy of extraction ( $\Delta H_{ex}$ ) with good binding for solvation species with high

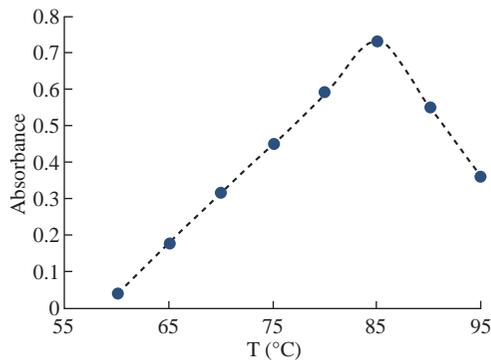


Fig. 8 Effect of temperature on formation CPL.

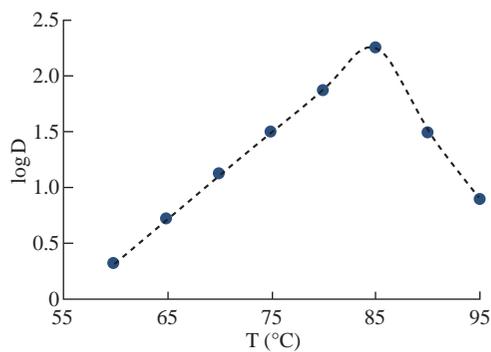


Fig. 9 Effect of temperature on extraction and D-values.

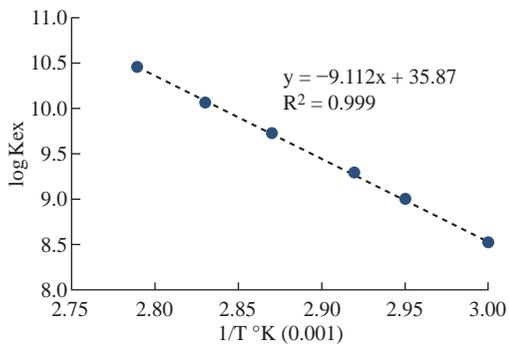


Fig. 10 Temperature based on extraction constant of Cu(II) in solvation species.

Table 1 Thermodynamic data for extraction Cu(II) according to applied method CPE

$\Delta H_{ex}$ (KJ / mole)	$\Delta G_{ex}$ (KJ / mole)	$\Delta S_{ex}$ (J / mole. K)
0.1759	-71.625	200.000

stability were observed. Nevertheless, the high value of entropy of extraction ( $\Delta S_{ex}$ ) demonstrates that the extraction method depends on entropy in the formation of solvation species.

### Heating time

Each sample of aqueous solutions (10 mL) was at the optimum condition of 40  $\mu$ g of Cu(II) in different heating times. The absorbance results were shown in Figs. 11 and 12. It was observed that the most likely heating time was 20 min. Heating period stands for the kinetic side of extraction provides the necessary energy for aggregation micelles with proper dehydration. More time in optimal value increases micelles diffusion and decreases extraction efficiency.

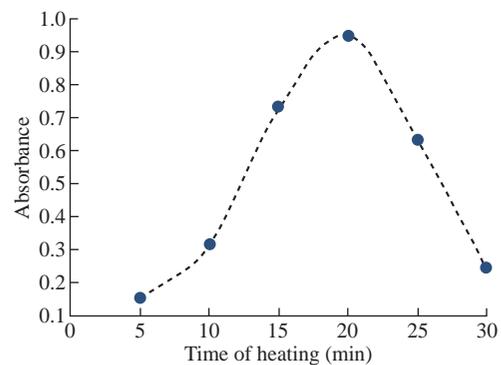


Fig. 11 Relation of heating time and formation of CPL.

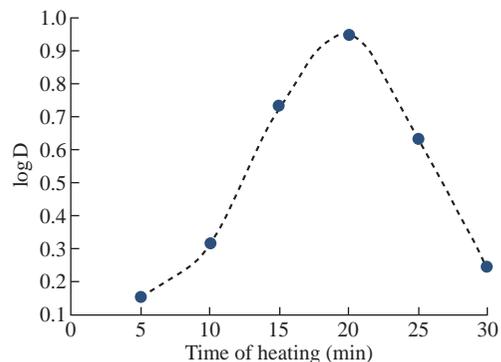


Fig. 12 Heating time with D- values.

### Effect of surfactant kind

Each sample of aqueous solutions (10 mL) was at the optimum condition of 40  $\mu$ g of Cu(II), 0.1 M of  $KNO_3$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M of aspirin and 0.5 mL of different surfactants. The results reveal that there was a significant relationship between surfactant kind and extraction efficiency that used tweens appear lower in Distribution ratio (D). Different surfactants give different CPL with different features and various extraction efficiencies to be different in micelles structure as well as each surfactant needs special

conditions to form CPL. Tween-40 gives high D value that may use in other studies after controlled conditions reaction.

### Effect of organic reagent

The sample (10 mL) was treated at optimum condition of 40  $\mu\text{g}$  of Cu(II), 0.1 M  $\text{KNO}_3$ , 0.4 mL of surfactant Triton X-100 and  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M of different organic reagents. The results were in Table 3. It was illustrated that organic reagent was very imperative in the formation of solvation species. Different absorbance and D-values with different organic reagents with new solvation species were observed. It

**Table 2** Effect of surfactant kind on extraction efficiency of Cu(II) according to solvation system

Surfactant	Absorbance $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 293 \text{ nm}$	Distribution ratio (D)
Tween-40	0.410	85.670
Tween-20	0.310	72.430
Tween-80	0.222	31.57

**Table 3** Effect of organic reagents on extraction efficiency of Cu(II) according to solvation system

Organic reagent	$\lambda_{\text{max}}(\text{nm})$	Absorbance	D
Tributyle phosphate (TBP)	291	1.701	65.160
BAEE	292	1.850	72.720
Aspirin	293	1.951	91.200
Rhodamine 6-G	555	2.308	180.740

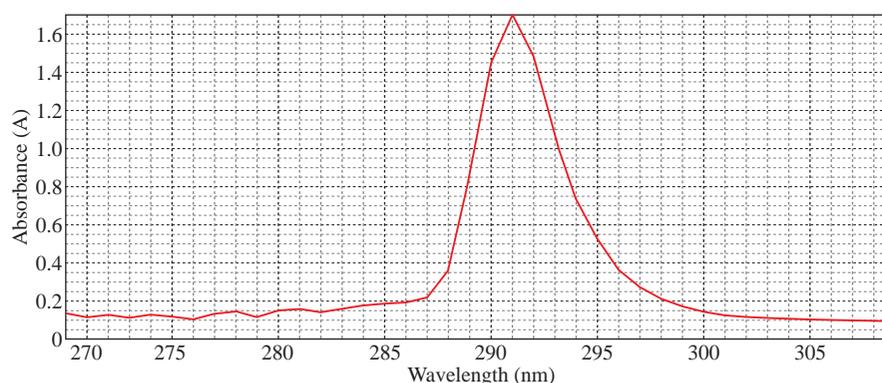
has a specific wavelength for maximum absorbance with  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 293 \text{ nm}$  so that each organic reagent needs special conditions to form solvation species. The depictions of the spectrum for each organic reagents were shown in Figs. 13-15.

### Interferences effect

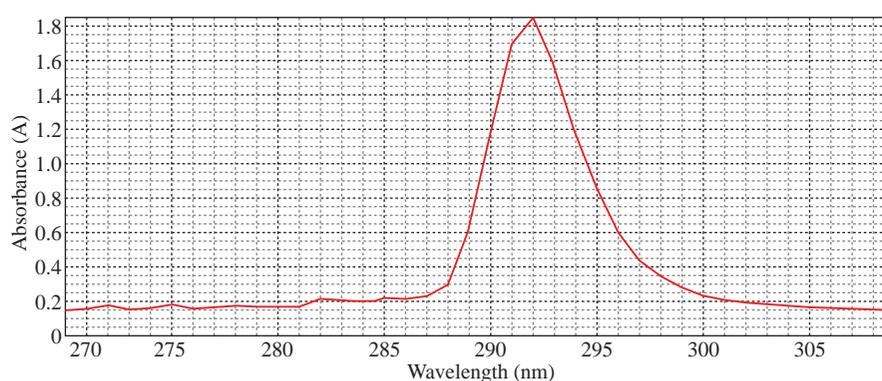
All samples contain 40  $\mu\text{g}$  of Cu(II), 0.1 M of  $\text{KNO}_3$ , 0.4 mL of surfactant Triton X-100 and  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M of aspirin as organic reagents in existence of 0.01 M of different foreign metal cations in 10 mL solution. The wavelength for maximum absorbance was with  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 293 \text{ nm}$ . The results have been summarized in Table 4. It was shown presence of all foreign metal cations in side by side with Cu(II) to decrease extraction efficiency of Cu(II). This interferences behavior was because these metal cations participate Cu(II) in the formation of solvation species. This indicates

**Table 4** Effect of interferences on extraction efficiency of Cu(II) according to solvation system

Interferences	Absorbance	Distribution value (D)
Cd(II)	0.624	61.81
Zn(II)	0.574	58.56
Ni(II)	0.486	46.33
Co(II)	0.741	64.42
Pb(II)	0.544	62.61
Hg(II)	0.422	38.27



**Fig. 13** Solvation method with TBP.



**Fig. 14** Solvation method with BAEE.

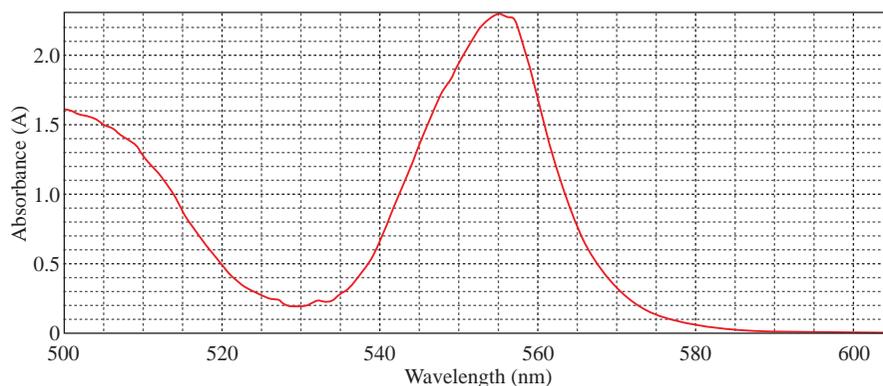


Fig. 15 Solvation method with Rhodamine 6-G.

the consumption of some salting out levels of  $\text{KNO}_3$  and aspirin. Decreases of the concentration of  $\text{KNO}_3$  and aspirin down the necessary for the formation of solvation species of Cu(II) and declines the extraction efficiency of Cu(II) [32].

### Stoichiometry

In order to know the most likely structure of extracted solvation species into CPL, follow two types of spectrophotometric methods based on slope analysis and slope ratio. The consequences of these two methods were explained in Figs. 16-18. The results illustrated that there is a solitary molecule of aspirin binding with nitrate compound of Cu(II) [aspirin;  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ].

### Analysis of food samples

The developed procedure for separation and

determination of Cu(II) were from various foods to test its applicability. The masking agents (KI and KF) will be added in 0.01M. The fallouts are explained in Fig. 19. Table 5 has details of the analytical parameters of the calibration curve of this applied method (CPE-SS).

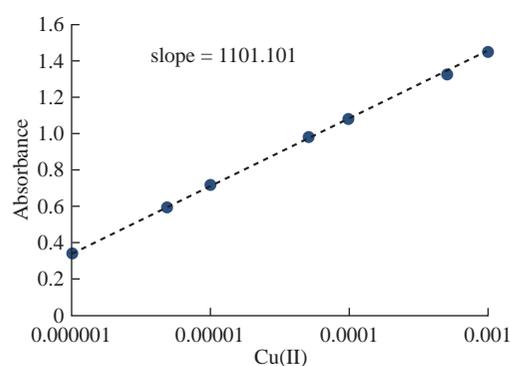


Fig. 17 Slope ratio method effect of Cu(II) Concentration.

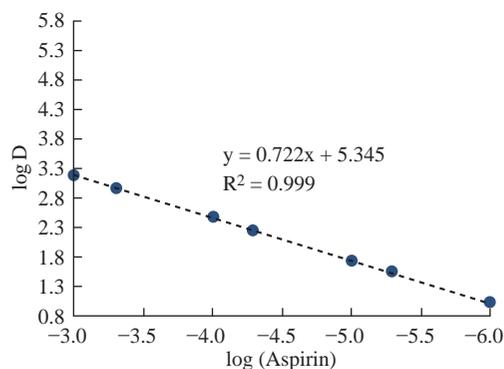


Fig. 16 Slope analysis method.

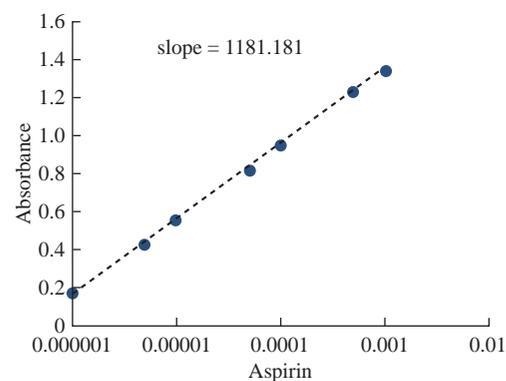


Fig. 18 Slope ratio method effect of aspirin concentration.

Table 5 Method validation of the determination of Cu(II) using CPE procedure according to solvation system

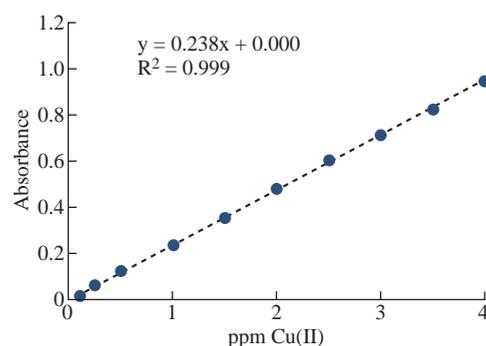
Parameter	Cu(II)	Parameter	Cu(II)
$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (nm)	293	LOD (ppm)	0.0180
Degree of freedom	8	LOQ (ppm)	0.0600
Determination coefficient ( $R^2$ )	0.999	Molar absorptivity (L/mol.cm)	66306.80
RSD% (n = 6) at 2 ppm	0.028	Sandell's sensitivity ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ )	$42 \times 10^{-10}$
Regression equation with extraction	$Y = 0.2382X + 0.0009$	Slope	0.2382

Table 6 gives information regarding amount of Cu(II) by applied method (CPE-SS) in the food and water

**Table 6** Determination of Cu(II) in real samples according to applied method

No.	Samples	Dithiazone method	Applied method*	RSD%
1	Celery	2.00	1.99	0.31
2	Chicken (Breast)	1.20	1.19	0.54
3	Cow meat (Beef) 1	0.50	0.51	0.07
4	Cow meat (Beef) 2	0.60	0.56	0.12
5	Cucumber 1	3.00	3.20	0.06
6	Cucumber 2	3.100	3.30	0.07
7	Drainage fish	1.10	1.20	0.40
8	Garden Cress	2.30	2.41	0.34
9	Lettuce	2.80	2.79	0.02
10	River water 1	0.20	0.30	0.03
11	River water 2	3.50	3.20	0.02
12	Tomato	1.60	1.56	0.03

\*Values given represent the average of six analyses of each sample



**Fig. 19** Calibration curve of applied method to determine Cu(II) in real samples.

samples [33].

### Comparison with other studies

The applicability of the various methods coupled with CPE was successfully confirmed by separation, preconcentration of tiny Cu(II) quantity and determination it in water and food testers. Acceptable results are obtained in Table 7.

**Table 7** Procedures using cloud point extraction prior copper determination in real samples

Ligand	Sample volume (mL)	RSD%	Samples	Applied method	Surfactant	LOD (ppm)	Ref.
Me-BTABr	10	2.6	water	CPE / FAAS	Triton X-114	1.08	[34]
TAN	50	--	water	CPE / FAAS	Triton X-114	0.27	[35]
O,O-DDTP	10	--	Drinking and rainwater, serum and human hair	CPE / FAAS	Triton X-100	0.94	[36]
PAN	10	--	Tap water, snow water, and flavor wines	CPE / CE	Triton X-114	0.26	[37]
A-O,O-DDTP	40	--	Riverine water, sea water and enriched water reference materials	CPE / ICP-MS	Triton X-114	0.03	[38]
PTU	15	1.4	Food	CPE / FAAS	Triton X-114	1.6 ng/mL	[39]
MPMP	25	1.8	Rice flour and water samples	CPE-FI / FAAS	Triton X-114	0.15	[40]
MPKO	15	1.2	Food	CPE/ FAAS	Triton X-114	1.6 ng/mL	[41]
BDAP	10	--	Apple leaves, spinach leaves and tomato leaves	CPE/ FAAS	Triton X-114	0.1	[42]
IYPMI	15	2.7	Food	CPE/ FAAS	Triton X-100	1.6 ng/mL	[43]
NDTT	10	2.1	Water	CPE/ FAAS	Triton X-114	0.22 ng/mL	[44]
Aspirin	10	0.028	Food	CPE/Uv-Vis	Triton X-100	0.018	this work

LOD: limit of detection; TAN: 1-(2-thiazolylazo)-2-naphthol; PAN: 1-(2-pyridylazo)-2-naphthol; O, O-DDTP: O, O-diethyldithiophosphate; A-O, O-DDTP: ammonium O, O-diethyl-dithiophosphate; Me-BTABr: 2-[2'-(6-methylbenzothiazolylazo)]-4-bromophenol; 63Cu; 65Cu; FAAS: Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrometry; ICP-MS: Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry; CE: Capillary Electrophoresis; PTU: 4-hydroxy-2-mercapto-6-propylpyrimidine; MPMP: 2-[(2-mercaptophenylimino) methyl]-phenol; MPKO: methyl-2-pyridylketone oxime; BDAP: 2-(2'-benzothiazolylazo)-5-(N, N-diethyl) aminophenol; IYPMI: 3-((indolin-3-yl) (phenyl) methyl) indoline; NDTT: 6-(2-naphthyl)-2, 3-dihydro-as-triazine-3-thione.

## Conclusions

Aspirin medical reagent has been efficaciously employed to preconcentrate, separate, and determine Cu(II) utilizing cloud point extraction/solvation system. The method has enhanced the presentation of UV-Vis detection considerably. Aspirin reagent to extract and determinate Cu(II) through CPE-SS exhibits exciting features were used. The technique was the safest and very cost-effective since it requires lower equipment and running costs and a small amount of surfactant of about 0.4 mL. It also has uncomplicatedness in apparatus with accurateness. Aspirin proved to be encouraging to be applied in preconcentration processes including diverse methods as in solid-phase extraction, and cloud-point extraction/solvation system.

## Acknowledgments

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## Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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