

Application Note —

Water Analysis in an Alcohol-Brine Solution with a ChemView® Photometer

Purpose: Measurement of water in a multiple alcohol and brine solution with a ChemView® photometer.

Experimental: PS-2E fiber optic diode array NIR spectrometer, 2 m low-OH optical fibers, HeaterCell at 30°C with 5 mm quartz cuvette.

Samples: Characterized production samples at top right.

Near-infrared (NIR) spectra are rich in chemical information. These spectra are complex with overlapping peaks from water and alcohols, as shown at middle right.

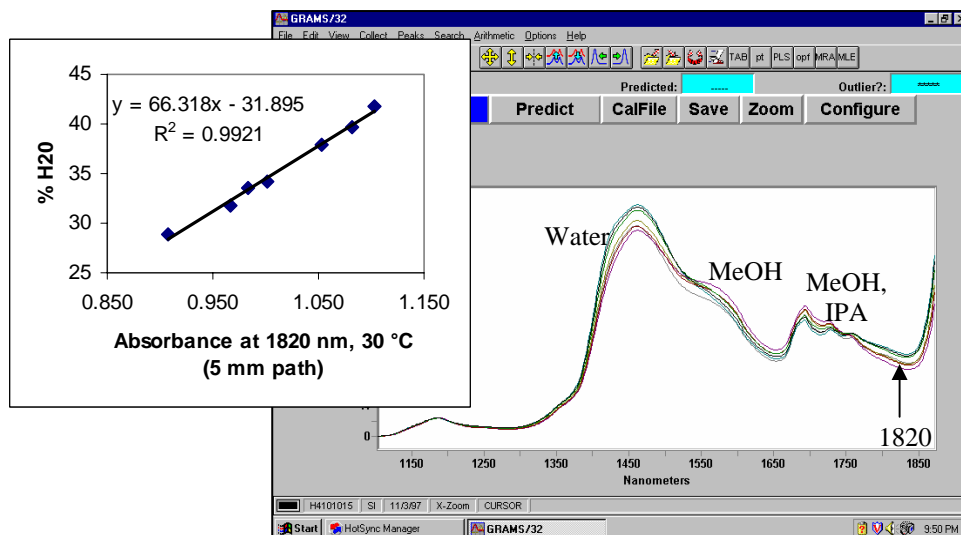
A careful analysis of the spectra reveals that a single wavelength at 1820 nm measures water with minimal interferences from methanol and isopropanol.

This wavelength is sensitive to water because it lies between the O-H peak from water at 1440 nm and the intense H-O-H peak near 1930 nm. It is, however, at a longer wavelength than the nearby alcohol peaks. It is also much less intense than the main water peak at 1440 nm, thereby allowing a probe to be used with a longer optical path, such as 5 mm, for better sensitivity.

Lastly, an added benefit in using this longer wavelength for water is its low sensitivity to sample temperature changes. Variation of ± 5 °C changes the predicted water content by less than 0.7% (without correcting for temperature). ChemView® can measure the sample temperature input from an RTD and make this correction, if needed.

Conclusions: These results indicate that a ChemView® fiber optic filter photometer with an analyzing wavelength of 1820 nm and a reference wavelength near 1050 nm can analyze water in the presence of alcohols and salt.

Sample	Water	Methanol	Isopropanol	NaCl (wt%)
1	37.9	51.2	10.9	4.12
2	28.8	63.2	8.0	0.36
3	34.2	44.2	21.6	4.83
4	31.7	54.4	13.9	2.02
5	41.6	38.7	19.7	3.15
6	33.5	51.7	14.8	0.95
7	39.6	42.8	17.6	2.66



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