



Application Note AN-V-215

# Zinc in drinking water with the scTRACE Gold

## Straightforward determination over a wide concentration range

At zinc concentrations above 3 mg/L, the quality of drinking water deteriorates, and an undesirable astringent taste is detectable. No health-based guideline value is required for zinc as it is an essential trace element for humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has set a maximum concentration of 5 mg/L as the limit value of Zn in drinking water.

The anodic stripping voltammetric method with an overall determination time of less than 10 minutes is fast, very sensitive, and can be applied for a wide range of concentrations. Without applying any

deposition time, the limit of detection is around 1 µg/L. This value can be lowered further when the deposition time is increased. When a reductive determination is carried out, the linear range of the method can be extended to 1.5 mg/L. The excellent performance of the method is due to the unique design and architecture of the scTRACE Gold electrode. This sensor does not require extensive maintenance such as mechanical polishing. Measurements can be performed in the laboratory or alternatively in the field. This method is suited for manual and automated systems.

## SAMPLE

Drinking water, mineral water

## EXPERIMENTAL

The water sample and the supporting electrolyte are pipetted into the measuring vessel. The determination of zinc is carried out with the 884 Professional VA or with the 946 Portable VA Analyzer using the parameters specified in **Table 1**. The concentration is determined by two additions of a zinc standard addition solution.

The scTRACE Gold is electrochemically activated prior to the first determination.



**Figure 1.** 946 Portable VA Analyzer



**Figure 2.** 884 Professional VA fully automated for VA analysis

**Table 1.** Parameters

| Parameter             | Setting                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Mode (884) Mode (946) | DP – Differential Pulse SQW – Square wave |
| Start potential       | -1.05 V                                   |
| End potential         | -0.45 V                                   |
| Peak potential Zn     | 0.06 V                                    |

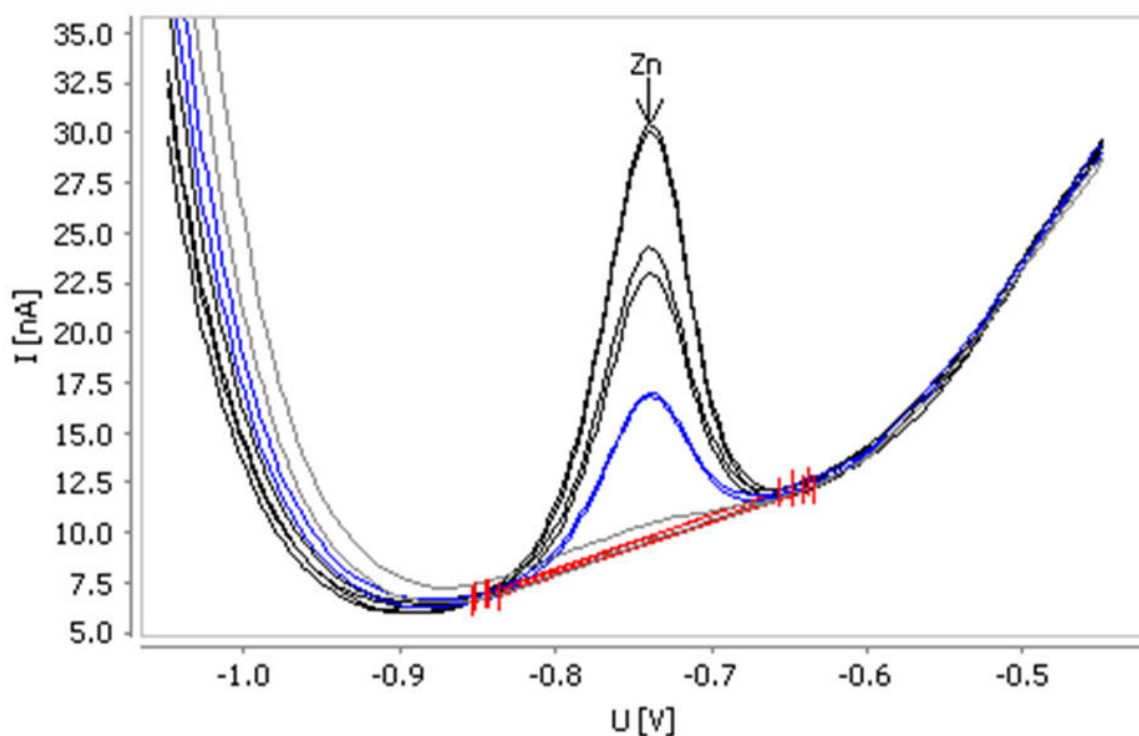
## ELECTRODES

- scTRACE Gold

## RESULTS

Without deposition time, this method is suitable for the determination of zinc in water samples in

concentrations from  $\beta(\text{Zn}) = 1\text{--}50\text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$ .

**Figure 3.** Determination of zinc in mineral water spiked with 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (0 s deposition time)

**Table 2.** Results

| Sample                               | Zn (µg/L) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Mineral water spiked with 10 µg/L Zn | 10.8      |

Internal references: AW VA CH4-0573-112018; AW VA CH4-0575-122018

## CONTACT

Metrohm AG  
Ionenstrasse  
9100 Herisau

[info@metrohm.com](mailto:info@metrohm.com)

## CONFIGURATION



### 884 Professional VA manual for Multi-Mode Electrode (MME)

884 Professional VA manual for Multi-Mode Electrode (MME) is the entry-level instrument for high-end trace analysis with voltammetry and polarography with the Multi-Mode Electrode pro or the scTRACE Gold or the Bismuth drop electrode. The proven Metrohm electrode methods in combination with a high-performance potentiostat/galvanostat and the extremely flexible viva software open up new perspectives for the determination of heavy metals. The potentiostat with a certified calibrator readjusts itself automatically before each measurement, thus guaranteeing maximum precision.

Determinations with rotating disc electrodes can also be performed with the instrument, e.g. determinations of organic additives in electroplating baths with "Cyclic Voltammetric Stripping" (CVS), "Cyclic Pulse Voltammetric Stripping" (CPVS), and chronopotentiometry (CP). The replaceable measuring head enables rapid changes between the various applications with different electrodes.

The **viva** software is required for control, data collection, and evaluation.

The 884 Professional VA manual for MME is supplied with extensive accessories and a measuring head for the Multi-Mode Electrode pro. Electrode set and **viva** license need to be ordered separately.



### VA electrode equipment with scTRACE Gold for Professional VA instruments

Complete electrode set for the determination of arsenic or mercury. Includes holders for scTRACE Gold, scTRACE Gold, stirrer and measuring vessel.



#### 946 Portable VA Analyzer (scTRACE Gold)

Portable metal analyzer for the determination of heavy metals such as arsenic, mercury, copper, lead, zinc, nickel, cobalt, iron, bismuth or antimony in the trace range. Instrument version for the scTRACE Gold. The system is comprised of potentiostat and separate measuring stand with integrated stirrer and replaceable electrode. The instrument is operated with the Portable VA Analyzer software. The power is supplied via the USB connector and via the integrated rechargeable battery. The instrument is supplied with all required accessories in a carrying case.