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BULK OPTODE SENSORS FOR DETECTION OF LEAD ION



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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Science Program in Chemistry

Department of Chemistry

Faculty of Science

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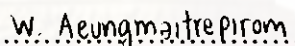
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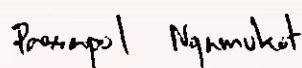
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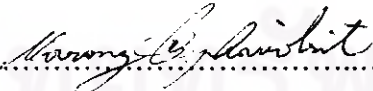
  
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ออปโทดเมมเบรนที่มีสภาพโครงสร้างจากไอโอโนฟอร์ที่มีความจำเพาะสูงกับไอออนตะกั่วโครโมไอโอโนฟอร์ (ETH 5294) และ แคทไอออนเอ็กซ์เชนจ์เจอร์ (KTPCIPB) ในพีวีซี ออปโทดเมมเบรนใช้สำหรับตรวจวัดไอออนตะกั่วโดยเทคนิคการวัดการดูดกลืนแสงในระบบแบบทึบและระบบไหล ศึกษาปัจจัยที่มีผล เช่น พีเอชของสารละลาย ชนิดของสารละลายบัฟเฟอร์ ความเข้มข้นของสารละลายปรับสภาพและสารละลายตัวชะ เวลาในการปรับสภาพและการชะ ไอออนตะกั่วออกจากเมมเบรน และเวลาการตอบสนอง เซนเซอร์นี้ตอบสนองต่อไอออนตะกั่วโดยเปลี่ยนจากสีฟ้าเป็นสีชมพูม่วงในสารละลายบัฟเฟอร์ทริส พีเอช 7.0 ที่มีไอออนตะกั่วความเข้มข้นต่าง ๆ มีช่วงการตอบสนอง  $3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  -  $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$  ไมลต่อลิตร และขีดจำกัดการตรวจวัดเท่ากับ  $2.49 \times 10^{-8}$  ไมลต่อลิตรในระบบแบบทึบ โดยใช้เวลาในการตอบสนอง 30 นาที การตอบสนองในระบบไหลอยู่ในช่วงความเข้มข้น  $1.26 \times 10^{-8}$  -  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  ไมลต่อลิตร ขีดจำกัดการตรวจวัดเท่ากับ  $8.97 \times 10^{-9}$  ไมลต่อลิตร โดยใช้เวลาในการตอบสนอง 15 นาที นอกจากนี้ พบว่า ออปโทดเมมเบรนมีความจำเพาะสูงต่อไอออนตะกั่วมากกว่าไอออนโซเดียม โพแทสเซียม แมกนีเซียม แคลเซียม พรอท และเงิน การประยุกต์ออปโทดในการตรวจวัดไอออนตะกั่วในตัวอย่างน้ำต่าง ๆ ประสบความสำเร็จ และจากการเปรียบเทียบกับ การตรวจวัดด้วยอินดิคทีฟฟลูออโรสโคปออปติคอลลิมิตชันสเปกโทรเมตรี พบว่า ผลการทดลองทั้งสองวิธีไม่แตกต่างกันอย่างมีนัยสำคัญที่ระดับความเชื่อมั่น 95 เปอร์เซ็นต์

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A sensitive optode membrane based on highly lead-selective ionophore, chromoionophore (ETH 5294) and cation exchanger (KTPCIPB) in plasticized PVC was fabricated. The optode membranes were used for determination of  $Pb^{2+}$  by absorption spectrophotometry in batch and flow-through systems. The influence parameters such as pH solution, type of buffer, concentration of conditioning and regenerating solutions, time of condition and regeneration, and response time were studied. This sensor responded to  $Pb^{2+}$  by changing color from blue to pink purple in TRIS buffer containing different concentrations of  $Pb^{2+}$  at pH 7.0. The optode provided the response range of  $3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $5.00 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>  $Pb^{2+}$  with detection limit of  $2.49 \times 10^{-8}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> in batch system within the response time of 30 min. The dynamic range of  $1.26 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>  $Pb^{2+}$  with detection limit of  $8.97 \times 10^{-9}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> were obtained in flow-through system within the response of 15 min. Moreover, the proposed optode membrane showed good selectivity toward  $Pb^{2+}$  over  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Cd^{2+}$ ,  $Hg^{2+}$  and  $Ag^+$ . It was successfully applied to determine  $Pb^{2+}$  in real water samples and the results were compared with inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES). No significant different value was found between both methods at 95% of confidence level.

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## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAS	Atomic absorption spectroscopy
$A$	Absorbance of the chromoionophore for a given equilibrium
$A_{prot}$	Absorbance values of fully protonated of the chromoionophore
$A_{deprot}$	Absorbance values of fully deprotonated of the chromoionophore
aq	Aqueous sample phase
C	Chromoionophore
[C]	Concentration of deprotonated chromoionophore,
[CH <sup>+</sup> ]	Concentration of protonated chromoionophore
[C] <sub>tot</sub>	Total concentration of chromoionophore.
°C	Degree celsius
DL	Detection limit
$D_M$	Distribution coefficient of the analyt M between phase
$D$	Diffusion coefficient
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
g cm <sup>-1</sup>	Gram per centimeter
ICP-AES	Inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry
ICP-MS	Inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry
ISEs	Ion selective electrodes
$J$	Diffusion flux
K	Kelvin
$K_{ML}$	Complexation constant in membrane phase
L	Ionophore
M	Meter
mem	Membrane phase
mg	Milligram
mol kg <sup>-1</sup>	Mole per kilogram
mL	Millilitre
mol L <sup>-1</sup>	Mole per litre

$\text{mol m}^{-3}$	Mole per cubic meter
$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$	Square meter per second
$\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	Mole per square meter second
$\text{mL min}^{-1}$	Mililiter per minute
nm	Nanometre
PVC	Poly(vinyl chloride)
$\text{R}^-$	Cation exchanger or lipophilic anionic sites
RFA	Rapid flow-through analysis
SSM	Separated sample solution method
$t$	Time
THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TRIS	Tris(hydroxymethyl) aminomethane
UV-VIS	Ultraviolet visible spectroscopy
w/w	Weight by weight
WHO	World health organization
$\alpha$	Degree of protonation chromoionphore

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

Many worldwide countries are increasing awareness of environmental problems and decreasing environmental pollutions. In particular, the contamination of heavy metals is one of the serious problems because their low concentrations can cause harmful effect to plants, animals and human. Among heavy metals, lead is a common toxic pollutant in the environment as a result of its use in storage batteries, cable sheath, gasoline antiknock products and paint pigments [1]. The widespread uses cause environmental and health problems. The common technique for determination of lead is atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) because it offers high sensitivity and high accuracy. However, it has some drawbacks because of matrix interference and also the detection limit of instrument is not compatible with the presence of lead in environmental samples. Moreover, World health organization (WHO) guidelines have permitted the maximum allowable lead concentration in drinking water to be  $0.01 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  [2]. Therefore, the highly sensitive, selective and rapid method for determination of trace level of lead is desirable.

The use of chemical optical sensors (optode) for determination of metal ions can be considered as an alternative detection device to other types of sensor, which offer advantages such as simple preparation and procedure, relatively fast response, wide response range, reasonable selectivity and high sensitivity [3-5]. Recently, reviews covering the principles and mechanisms of bulk optode technique have been described [6-7]. The developments of bulk optode technique for determination of lead and other metal ions have been published [8-16]. However, the disadvantage of optical chemical sensors for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  is their relatively long response times at low concentration levels. Meanwhile, the very low detection limit is still demanding.

## 1.2 Research objectives

The objectives of this work were focused on the development of selective determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  using bulk optode sensor and the improvement of response time.

## 1.3 Scope of the research

Initially, the optode membranes containing a lead-selective ionophore, a proton-selective chromoionophore and a cation exchanger (or lipophilic anionic sites) in plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) matrix were prepared. Then, the influences of several parameters on response of optode membrane were carried out. In batch system, the parameters such as pH, types of buffer solution, response time, concentration of regenerating and conditioning solutions, times of condition and regeneration were investigated. The effects of flow rate and response time were investigated in flow-through system. Afterwards, the analytical performance of proposed method was evaluated in parameters of dynamic range and detection limit by using spiked known lead standard in the test solution. Finally, the optimum conditions were applied to real water samples with spiked method.

## 1.4 Benefits of the research

In this work, we expected to see further improvement of the response time for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  at low concentration using lead-selective optode membrane coupling with flow-through cell. Moreover, the proposed method can be applied to determine  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in real water samples.



## CHAPTER II

### THEORY AND LITERATURE REVIEWS

#### 2.1 Chemistry of lead [17]

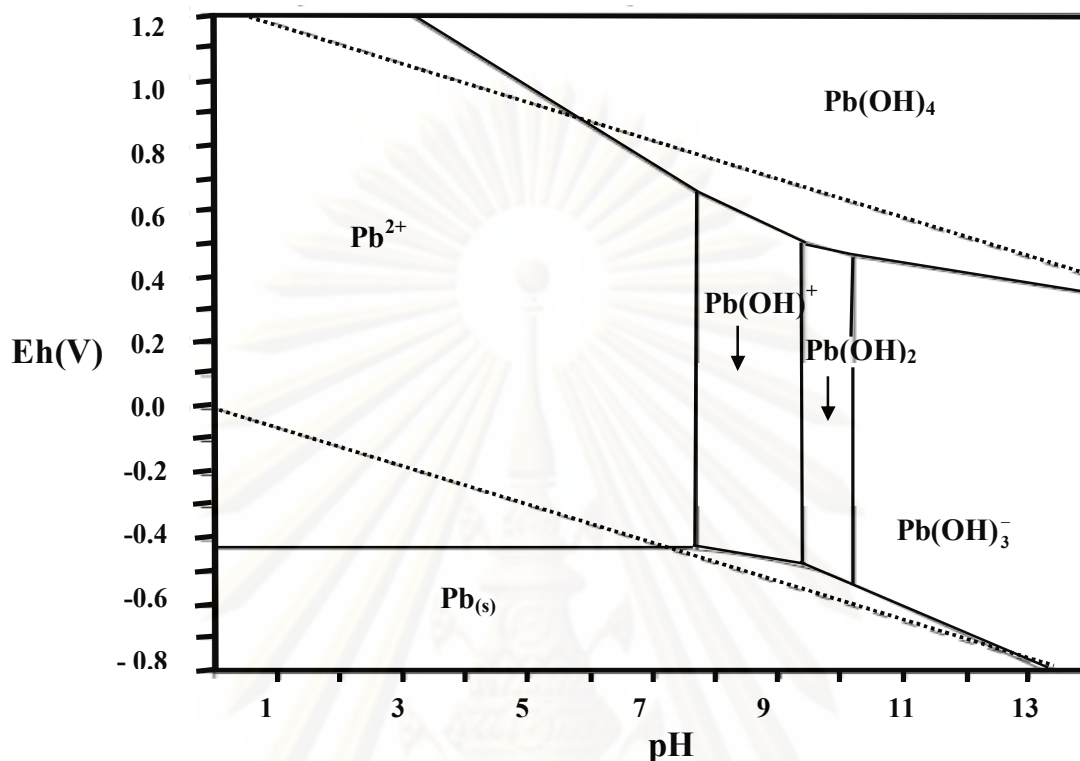
Metal ions in aqueous solution require reaching a state of maximum stability through chemical reactions. Acid-base, precipitation, complexation and oxidation-reduction reactions all provide means through which metal ions in water are transformed to more stable forms. The solubility constant, complexation equilibrium constant, redox potential and pH affect to chemistry of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in aqueous solution.

In this section, lead is represented in a detail of chemical property, principle and mechanism of bulk optode technique, determination of lead and optode membrane for selected metal ions.

Lead is the last member of the carbon family but in keeping with the general tendency for metallic character to increase with atomic number in a family. It shows typical metallic property which has an atomic number of 82, atomic mass of 207.19 and specific gravity of  $11.34 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . It has weak electropositive characteristic and strong electron acceptor property. Lead forms compounds which has the oxidation state (IV) and (II). The former state is found in the organometallic compounds that have considerable environmental significance. Overall, lead compounds show great toxicity and cause environmental problems.  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  forms comparatively covalent bonds with appropriate donor group in complex, generally favoring sulfur and nitrogen over oxygen donor.

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**Figure 2.1** Eh-pH diagram of system Pb-O-H at 298 K,  $10^{-5}$  Pa, modified from atlas of Eh-pH diagrams of Takeno, N. [18].

The Eh-pH diagram for the lead system in water is shown in Figure 2.1. Forms of lead depend on pH and Eh.  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  is the predominant species at relatively high hydrogen-ion activity and low electron activity (an acidic oxidizing medium). In basic reducing medium, with a very low hydrogen-ion activity and relatively high electron activity, lead performs hydrolysis reaction and displays multiple hydrolysis reactions giving  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})^+$ ,  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$  and  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_3^-$ . In oxidizing medium,  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_4$  is the primary species present.  $\text{Pb}(\text{s})$  is stable in very high reducing medium.

Currently, the toxicity of lead in the environment has caused extensive concern. Lead and its compounds play an important role in many industries that cause the pollutant to release environment. Various application and uses of lead are shown in Table 2.1. It can serve as origins of ingested lead in humans which enters our body system through air, water and food resulting lead poisoning. The levels of lead accumulate in air depend on location and weather. It is derived from soil and rocks, fallout, dust and vehicular

exhausts flow into water. Lead is a cumulative poison and can act through long-term ingestion of relatively small quantities which can be retained in the body for long periods, especially in bones. The acute lead poisoning in humans causes severe dysfunction in the kidneys, reproductive system, liver, brain and central nervous system and eventually causes death. Mild lead poisoning causes anemia, headache, sore muscles and irritable [19].

**Table 2.1** Some applications and uses of lead [17]

<b>Application and uses</b>	
<b>As metal</b>	
Batteries	Lead-acid storage batteries are most widely used.
Water pipes	Some many still exist in old construction
Solder	As an alloy
Structural use	Used for roofing, glass mounting, etc.
Radiation shielding	As an alloy, also contains antimony and arsenic
Shot	Some bearing compositions
<b>As inorganic lead</b>	
Glass	Increases index of refraction; gives sparkle to crystal
Paints	White pigment and base, also colored pigments
Stabilizers in plastics	Heat stabilizer in PVC (often as organic acid salt)
<b>As organic lead</b>	
Gasoline additives	Generally phased out in undeveloped nations

According to WHO's guidelines for drinking water, maximum acceptable concentration of toxic metals are low (Table 2.2). Therefore, the determination of toxic metal at low level concentration is important for human health.

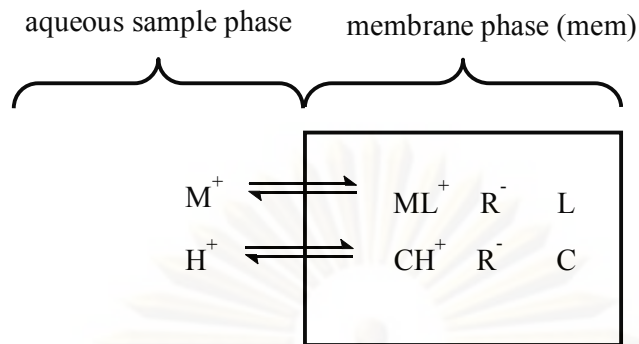
**Table 2.2** WHO's guidelines for drinking-water quality, 2006 [2]

<b>Element</b>	<b>Maximum acceptable concentration (mg L<sup>-1</sup>)</b>
Arsenic (As)	0.01
Barium (Ba)	0.7
Cadmium (Cd)	0.003
Chromium (Cr)	0.05
Copper (Cu)	2.0
Lead (Pb)	0.01
Manganese (Mn)	0.4
Mercury (Hg)	0.006
Nickel (Ni)	0.07
Selenium (Se)	0.01

## 2.2 Principle and mechanism of bulk optode technique

An optode or optrode is an optical sensor device that optically measures a specific substance usually with the aid of a chemical transducer [20].

The principles and mechanisms of bulk optode technique based on plasticized PVC are described in term of selectivity, response time, dynamic measuring range, sensitivity and lifetime [6-7]. Optode membrane incorporates all components necessary for the recognition and extraction of the analyte. The optode membrane would extract the sensed ionic components into a plasticized polymeric membrane by mass transfer where the change of the optical signal of an incorporated component is detected by means of absorption or fluorescence. A simplified schematic representation of optode membrane based on the cation-exchange mechanism is illustrated in Figure 2.2.



**Figure 2.2** The neutral ionophore (L) based optode membrane with neutral chromoionophore (C) and negatively charged sites ( $R^-$ ). Square indicates species in the membrane phase.

All the mathematical description of the optode response is based on the following seven assumptions [6]:

(i) Solid support: the sensing optode membrane is attached on one side to a solid support and contacts the sample solution on the other side. The suitable properties of solid support are chemically inert and impermeable for all species.

(ii) Equilibrium: all optodes are considered as reversible equilibrium system. Further, it is assumed that no membrane components are present in the sample and that the analyte in the membrane phase is completely complexed by ionophore.

(iii) Impurities: impurities in the membrane phase are not considered as a part of the equilibrium system.

(iv) Interface: the size of the interface is assumed to be small as compared with the membrane thickness.

(v) Aggregation, stoichiometry: it is assumed no occur aggregations of the active components in the membrane phase, and that the stoichiometry of the complexes formed does not change in the considered dynamic analyte measuring range.

(vi) State of reference: in most optode membranes the concentration of the components is expressed in  $\text{mol L}^{-1}$  or  $\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ . Optode membranes have been developed for analytes present in different phases, so that for the sample the appropriate state of reference should be chosen.

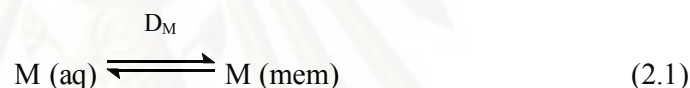
(vii) Activity coefficients: the composition of the bulk membrane is not changed dramatically over the whole analyte measuring range. The activity coefficients of the membrane components are assumed to approach unity or to be constant.

### 2.3 Extraction mechanism

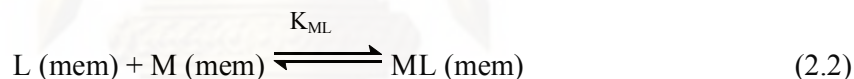
In the extraction process many different equilibrium are concerned. The extensive experience from liquid-liquid extraction system may explain and discuss of the mechanism.

The analyte extraction can be described by a three-step scheme: diffusion of the analyte through the boundary membrane in the sample given by Equation (1), phase transfer and complexation-decomplexation by ionophore (L) followed by Equation (2) and diffusion of the species within the membrane [6].

(i) distribution of the analyt M between the aqueous sample (aq) and the membrane phase (mem)



(ii) complexation in the membrane phase



where  $D_M$  is distribution coefficient of analyte M between phase and  $K_{ML}$  is complexation constant in membrane phase by ionophore (L).

Recently, a novel analytical methodology called rapid flow-through analysis (RFA) based on bulk optode detection was proposed. RFA has been currently expanded for application to neutral ionophore-based ion-selective optodes [21-27]. The theoretical response equation for RFA is basically derived from Fick's law of diffusion and Lambert-Beer's law, which is further modified with the sample dispersion parameter in the flow system and the optode membrane phase, where these two parameters are experimentally obtained in certain systems, for the prediction of real flow-analytical response [3].

The concept of mass transfer is the movement of matter from a higher concentration to a lower concentration. This movement of the material is called diffusion. Diffusion can be represented by a basic equation that is referred to as Fick's law.

Fick's first law defines as a relationship wherein the diffusive flux to the concentration field that the flux goes from regions of high concentration to regions of low concentration:

$$J = -D \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \quad (2.3)$$

where  $J$  is the diffusion flux,  $D$  is the diffusion coefficient ( $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $\phi$  is the concentration ( $\text{mol m}^{-3}$ ) and  $x$  is the position (m).  $J$  measures the amount of substance that will flow through a small area during a small time interval ( $\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ).

Fick's second law predicts how diffusion causes the concentration field to change with time:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} \quad (2.4)$$

where  $t$  is time.

## 2.4 Determination of lead

There is a great deal of demand for monitoring low level of lead in the environment because this toxic metal is now widespread, contaminating virtually the whole biosphere. The majority of lead determinations at the ppm-ppb levels are performed by using atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) [28-30], inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) [31-32], inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) [33-36]. Although these techniques offer high sensitivity and high accuracy but which require well-controlled experimental conditions and are high cost and sophisticated performance. Thus, the numbers of preconcentration followed by spectrophotometric and flow injection spectrometric for determination of lead with

reported detection limit in range of ppb have been employed [37-47]. However, preconcentration step is tedious sample preparation and time-consuming.

In addition to the existing classical methods, a number of potentiometric ion-selective electrodes (ISEs) based on neutral compounds containing oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur donor atoms in molecule used as ionophores for lead selective electrodes have been published [48-59]. However, most of electrodes keep one or two or in some cases or all of the following drawbacks (i) high detection limit, (ii) narrow working concentration range and (iii) serious interferences from various cations such as  $\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  [60, 76].

Meanwhile, the development of bulk optode technique for determination of heavy metal ions include lead ion is one of the techniques in analytical chemistry which offer several advantages such as simple preparation and procedure, wide response range, reasonable selectivity and high sensitive, relatively fast response and no need for separate reference devices [4, 61].

## 2.5 Bulk optode for determination of selected metal ions

A multitude of optode membranes with a PVC matrix have been designed for many analytically relevant ions. The optical sensors for determination of heavy metal ions based on fundamentally different spectroscopic techniques have been presented (Table 2.3). Furthermore, the designs of optode membrane for determination of other metal ions have been presented [62, 66-67, 69-70, 72, 78, 80-81]. Unfortunately, since in 1992 Lerchi et al. [82] designed a new optode membrane that is the first report on lead-selective optode, a few of papers on bulk optode technique for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  have been published so far (Table 2.4). The structure of selective ionophore for heavy metal ions were shown in figures 2.3 and figure 2.4 illustrated selective ionophore for lead ion.



**Table 2.3** Ionophore and some characteristics of optode membrane for selected heavy metal ions in plasticized PVC membrane

Ionophore	Fluoroionophor Chromoionophore	Lipophilic ionic site	Plasticizer	Metal ion	Response time	Working range ( $\text{mol L}^{-1}$ )	Detection limit ( $\text{mol L}^{-1}$ )	Measured signal	Application or Remark	Ref.
-	TTBB	KTpCIPB	NPOE	$\text{Ni}^{2+}$	<40 sec	$10^{-8}$ - $10^{-3}$ at pH 5.5	$8.0 \times 10^{-9}$ at pH 5.5	Fluorescence	Edible oil, water samples	[10]
MTZ	ETH5294	NaTPB	NPOE	$\text{Hg}^{2+}$	< 40 sec	$10^{-9.7}$ - $10^{-4.8}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-11}$ at pH 7.0	Absorbance (batch and flow-through system)	Water samples	[27]
T-pico	ETH 5418	KTFPB	DOS	$\text{Hg}^{2+}$	10 min	$10^{-6.3}$ - $10^{-3.3}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-7}$ at pH 4.7	Absorbance (batch system)	Interference with $\text{Ag}^+$ , $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ , $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , $\text{Ni}^{2+}$	[60]
MBDiBDTC	ETH 5418	KTm(CF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> PB	DOS	$\text{Ag}^+$	500 min	$10^{-8.5}$ - $10^{-4.5}$	$2.5 \times 10^{-9}$ at pH 4.7	Absorbance (flow-through system)	Interference with $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ , Environment sample	[63]
MBTBA	ETH 5418	KTm(CF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> PB	DOS	$\text{Ag}^+$	-	$10^{-6.9}$ - $10^{-6}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-9}$ at pH 4.5	Absorbance (flow-through system)	Interference with $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , water samples	[64]
L2	L2	PTCPB	TOP	$\text{Ag}^+$	2 min	$10^{-4.3}$ - $10^{-2}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$ at pH 5.9	Absorbance (flow-through system)	Interference with $\text{Hg}^{2+}$	[65]

**Table 2.3** Ionophore and some characteristics of optode membrane for selected heavy metal ions in plasticized PVC membrane (continue)

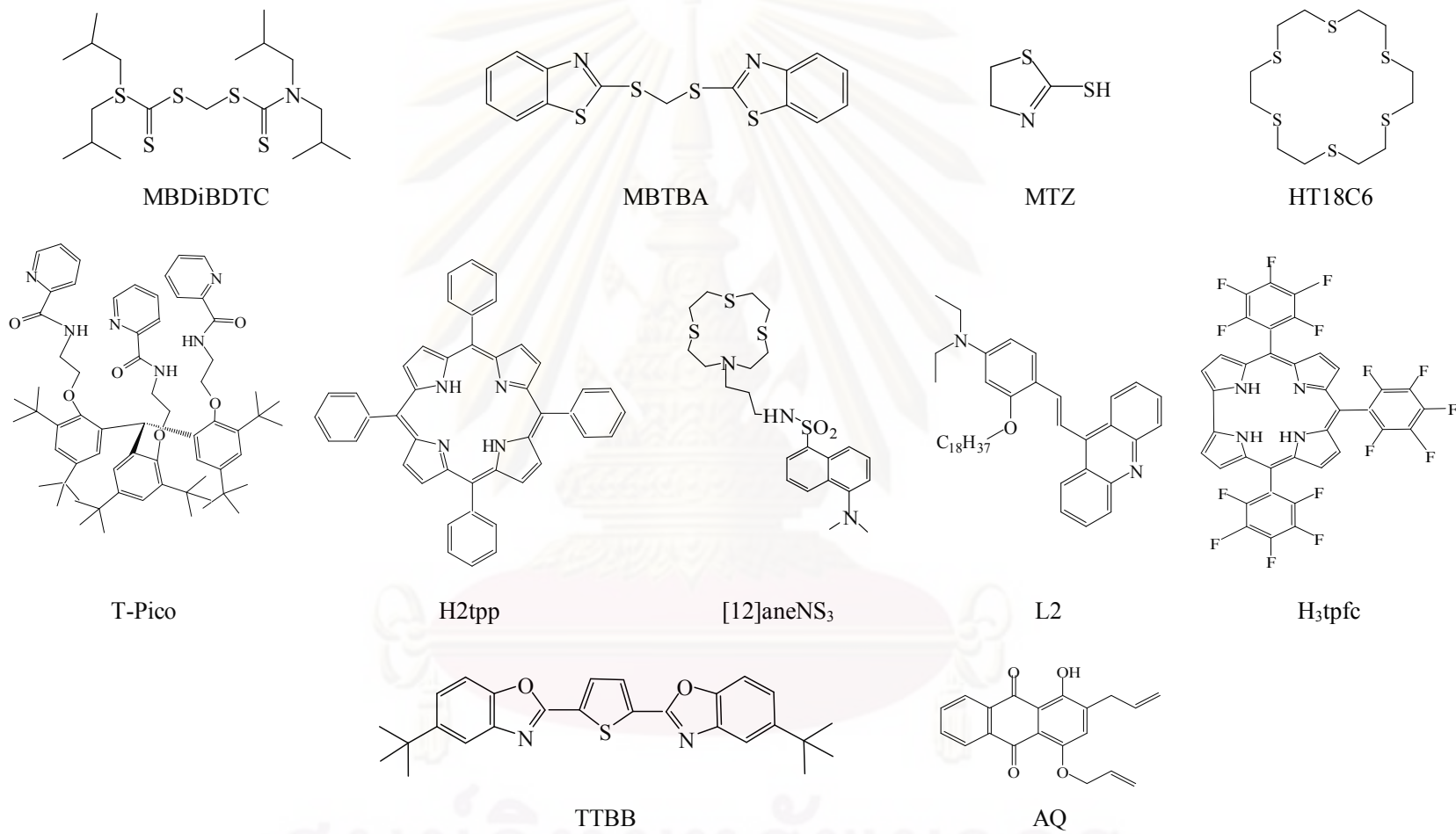
Ionophore	Fluoroionophore Chromoionophore	Lipophilic ionic site	Plasticizer	Metal ion	Response time	Working range (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Detection limit (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Measured signal	Application or Remark	Ref.
HT18C6	Chromoionophore V	NaTPB	DOS	Hg <sup>2+</sup>	5 min	10 <sup>-6.7</sup> -10 <sup>-3.9</sup>	2.0×10 <sup>-7</sup> at pH 4.0	Absorbance	Water samples	[68]
-	H2tpp	KTpCIPB	DOS	Hg <sup>2+</sup>	4 min	10 <sup>-6.6</sup> -10 <sup>-4.3</sup>	4.0×10 <sup>-8</sup> at pH 8.0	Fluorescence	Water samples	[73]
-	AQ	KTpCIPB	NPOE	Cu <sup>2+</sup>	40 sec	10 <sup>-6</sup> -10 <sup>-2</sup>	7.5×10 <sup>-7</sup> at pH 5.5	Fluorescence	Black tea samples	[74]
-	[12]aneNS <sub>3</sub>	KTpCIPB	NPOE	Ag <sup>+</sup>	40 sec	10 <sup>-6.3</sup> -10 <sup>-1.8</sup>	1.0×10 <sup>-7</sup> at pH 6.5	Fluorescence	Medical radiological film, photographical, bleaching solution and water sample	[75]
-	L	NaTPB	DES	Co <sup>2+</sup>	5 min	10 <sup>-6.3</sup> -10 <sup>-1.7</sup>	1.0×10 <sup>-7</sup> at pH 5.0	Fluorescence	Vitamin B12, cobalt cake ,alloy, water sample	[76]
-	Cu-I	NaTFPB	DOS	Ag <sup>+</sup>	15 min	10 <sup>-12</sup> -10 <sup>-8</sup>	4.0×10 <sup>-11</sup> at pH 7.4	Fluorescence (microsphere)	Pond water	[77]
-	H <sub>3</sub> (tpfc)	NaTPB	DOS	Hg <sup>2+</sup>	5 min	10 <sup>-6.9</sup> -10 <sup>-4</sup>	-	Fluorescence	Water samples	[79]

AQ = 1-hydroxy-2-(prop-2'-enyl)-4-(prop-2'-enyloxy)-9,10-anthraquinone	KTm(CF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> PB = Potassium tetrakis [3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]borate
[12]aneNS <sub>3</sub> = 1-(dansylamidopropyl)-1-aza-4,7,10-trithiacyclo dodecane	L = 7-[(5-chloro-8-hydroxy-7-quinolinyl)methyl]-5,6,7,8,9, 10-hexa hydro-2H-1,13,4,7,10 benzodioxatriazacyclo pentadecine-3,11 (4H,12H)-dione
Cu-I = <i>o</i> -xylylenebis( <i>N,N</i> -diisobutyldithiocarbamate	L2 = 9-(4-diethylamino-2-octadecyloxystyryl)acridine
DES = Diethyl sebacate	MBDiBDTC = Methylene bis(diethyldithiocarbamate)
DOS = Bis (2-ethylhexyl)sebacate	MBTBA = Methylene bis(2-thiobenzothiazole)
ETH 5294 = 9-(diethylamino)-5-(octadecanoylimino)-5H-benzo[a] phenoxazine	MTZ = 2-mercapto-2-thiazoline
ETH 5315 = 4-(octadecylamino)azobenzene	NaTFPB = Sodium tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]borate
ETH 5418 = 9-(diethylamino)-5-[4-(15-butyl-1,13-dioxo-2,14-dioxano decyl) henylimino] benzo [a]phenoxazine	NaTPB = Sodium tetraphenylborate
H2tpp = 5,10,15,20 tetraphenylporphyrin	PTCPB = Potassium tetrakis-4-(chlorophenyl)borate
H <sub>3</sub> (tpfc) = 5,10,15-tris(pentafluorophenyl)corrole	TOP = Tris-(2-ethylhexyl) sebacate
HT18C6 = Hexathiacyclooctadecane	T-Pico = Trityl-picolinamide
KTFPB = Potassium tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl] borate	TTBB = 2,5-thiophenylbis(5- <i>tert</i> -butyl-1,3-benzoxazole)
KTpCIPB = Potassium tetrakis (4-chlorophenyl) borate	

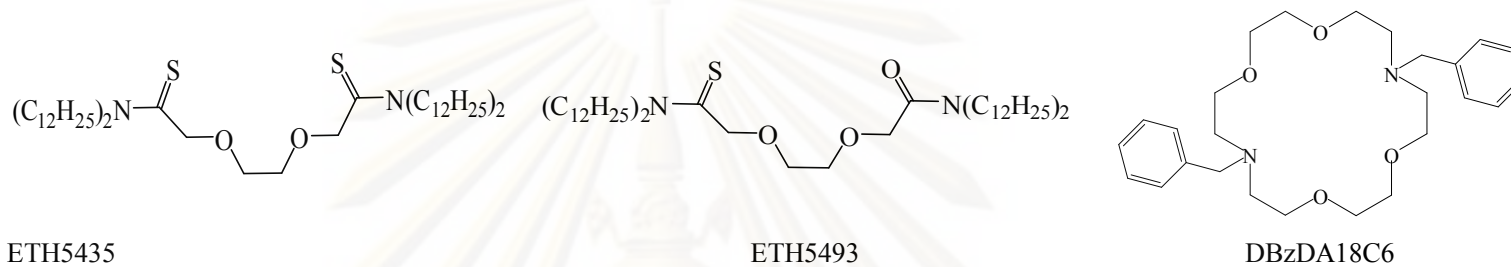
**Table 2.4** Ionophore and some characteristics of optode membrane for lead ion in plasticized PVC membrane

Ionophore	Chromoionophore Fluoroionophore	Lipophilic ionic site	Plasticizer	Response time	Working range ( mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Detection limit ( mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Measured signal	Application or Remark	Ref.
Lead IV	TMANB	KTpCIPB	DOS	-	10 <sup>-6.7</sup> -10 <sup>-2.7</sup> in 0.1 M HCl	-	Fluorescence	Interference with Ag <sup>+</sup> and Hg <sup>2+</sup> , water samples	[14]
ETH 5493	ETH 5418	NaTFPB	DOS	15 min	10 <sup>-7.3</sup> -10 <sup>-4.0</sup>	3.0×10 <sup>-9</sup> at pH 5.7	Fluorescence	Interference with Cd <sup>2+</sup> , Drinking water	[15]
-	TBHP	PTCPB	DOP	4 min	10 <sup>-5.3</sup> -10 <sup>-3.4</sup>	6.0×10 <sup>-8</sup> at pH 7.0	Fluorescence	Soil samples	[16]
ETH 5435	ETH 5418	KTm(CF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> PB	DOS	220 min	10 <sup>-8.3</sup> -10 <sup>-2.3</sup>	3.2×10 <sup>-12</sup> at pH 5.68	Absorbance (flow-through system)	Interference with Cd <sup>2+</sup> , Ag <sup>+</sup> and Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> irreversible change in membrane	[82]
ETH 5493	ETH 2439	KTFPB	DOS	-	10 <sup>-7</sup> -10 <sup>-2</sup> at pH 5.0	-	Absorbance	Interference with Cd <sup>2+</sup> , Cu <sup>2+</sup> causes drifting signals	[83]
DBzDA18C6	PAN	NaTPB	NPOE	-	10 <sup>-8.0</sup> -10 <sup>-4.3</sup>	1.0×10 <sup>-8</sup> at pH 5.0	Absorbance	Use long time to regenerate	[84]

- ETH 5435 = *N,N,N',N'*- tetradodecyl-3,6-dioxaoctanedithioamide
- ETH 5493 = *N,N,N',N'*-tetradodecyl-3,6-dioxaoctane-1-thio-8-oxodiamide
- ETH 2439 = 4-[[9-(dimethylamino)-5H-benzo[a]phenoza-zine-5-ylidene] benzeneacetic acid 11-[(1-butyl-pentyl)oxy]-11-oxoundecyl ester
- DOP = Bis-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate)
- DBzDA18C6 = 1,10-dibenzyl-1,10-diaza-18-crown-6
- PAN = 1-(2-pyridylazo)-2-naphthol
- TMANB = 3,3',5,5'-tetramethyl-*N*-(9-anthrylmethyl)benzidine
- NaTFPB = Sodium tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)] borate
- Lead IV = *tert*-butylcalix[4]arene-tetrakis(*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide)
- TBHPP = 5,10,15,20-tetra-(3-bromo-4-hydroxyphenyl)porphyrin



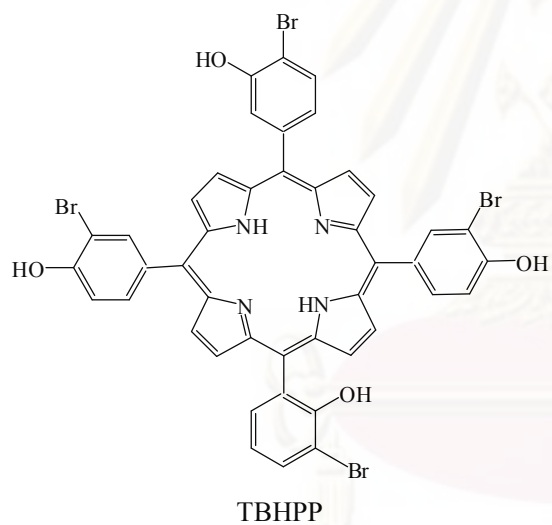
**Figures 2.3** Some ionophores for heavy metal ions.



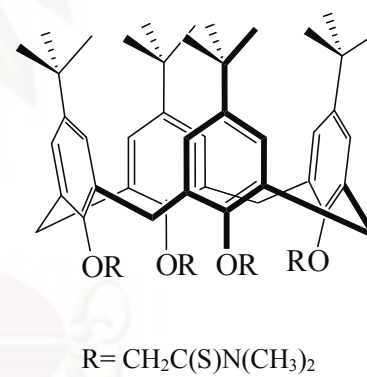
ETH5435

ETH5493

DBzDA18C6



TBHPP



Lead IV

Figures 2.4 Some ionophores for lead ion

Usually, a design of ion-selective optode membrane is focused on the choice of ionophore/fluoroionophore and its optimization. However, one of shortcoming of bulk optode technique for determination of metal ions and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  is their long response time in highly diluted sample solutions and suffers from poor selectivity. Therefore, the high selective optode membrane for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in a short response time is required. The use of better designed optode membrane and the use of flow-through system for determination of analyte ion are proposed to reduce the response time meanwhile the detection limit will be improved.

In this work, the selective optode membrane incorporating *tert*-butylcalix[4]arene-tetrakis (*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide) with sulphur-containing recognition site as lead-selective ionophore, ETH 5294 as proton-selective chromoionophore and potassium tetrakis (4-chlorophenyl) borate as lipophilic anionic sites plasticized in PVC membrane was designed. Then prepared optode membrane was used as sensing device for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in various water samples in batch and flow-through system. The optode membrane was placed in flow-through measuring cell for improving response time and detection limit of lead. These compositions of lead-selective optode membrane and its application have never been studied.



## CHAPTER III

### PREPARATION OF OPTODE MEMBRANE AND ITS RESPONSES

#### 3.1 Components of optode membrane

The major components of optode membrane in this work consist of *tert*-butylcalix[4]arene-tetrakis(*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide) as ion-selective ionophore, 9-(diethylamino)-5-(octadecanoylimino)-5H-benzo[*a*]phenoxazine (ETH 5294) as a proton-selective chromoionophore and potassium tetrakis (4-chlorophenyl) borate (KTPCIPB) as cation exchanger (or lipophilic anionic sites).

*tert*-Butylcalix[4]arene-tetrakis(*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide) is of interest as lead-selective ionophore because the sulphur recognition sites are selective to  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  corresponding well-established ionophores used in potentiometric ion-selective electrodes. Malinowska *et al.* [85] investigated lead-selective electrodes based on thioamide functionalized calix[4]arenes as ionophore. The obtained result showed the electrode based on tetrathioamide functionalized calix[4]arenes or *tert*-butyl calix[4]arene-tetrakis(*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide) had good selectivity for  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in the presence of some transition, alkali, alkaline earth and metal ions. Wroblewski and Brzozka [86] used thioamidecalix[4]arene derivative to prepare potentiometric anion and cation selective membrane. The membrane without added lipophilic salts showed high selectivity for perchlorates over other anions while the added lipophilic salts gave good selectivity towards  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ . Furthermore, Ceresa and Pretsch [87] determined formal complex formation constants of seven ionophores with  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and a series of cations interfering. The result revealed the calix[4]arene ionophore or *tert*-butyl calix[4]arene-tetrakis(*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide) formed a very strong 1:1 complex with  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ .

In order to produce satisfactory characteristics of the optode membrane, the chromoionophore must meet a number of requirements [88]:

- It must be as lipophilic as possible in order to minimize loss through leaching into the aqueous phase ( $\text{Log } P_{\text{TLC}} > 10.6$ ).

- It must have a large molar extinction coefficient (ideally of the order of  $100,000 \text{ l cm}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1}$ ) to allow for sufficient sensitive response from the thin membranes used in optode membrane.

- It must be chemically and photochemically stable under the conditions employed in the application in order to ensure adequate lifetime for sensor membranes.

- Finally, it must not bind cations other than protons so that any UV-VIS spectral changes can be ascribed solely to the proton exchange reaction.

9-(Diethylamino)-5-(octadecanoylimino)-5H-benzo[a]phenoxazine or ETH 5294 is one of phenoxazine dye derivatives that is the most commonly employed as chromoionophore in optode membrane [8, 27, 62, 66]. ETH 5294 is not only chromophore but also proton-selective ionophore. The colors of the protonated form and the neutral form of the chromoionophore are different. Its color change occurs when the metal ions are extracted into membrane while the protons are released from chromoionophore, resulting in a change of the optical properties.

There are two types of lipophilic ionic sites that can be used for preparation optode membrane. Lipophilic cationic sites ( $R^+$ ) used in anion-selective optode membrane are commonly lipophilic tetraammonium salts while tetraphenylborate derivatives as lipophilic anionic sites ( $R^-$ ) are employed for cation-selective system. The lipophilic anionic sites provide the optode membrane with necessary ion-exchange properties, because both the chromoionophore and ionophore are neutral therefore which cannot function as ion exchanger.

Potassium tetrakis (4-chlorophenyl) borate or KTpCIPB is added to make the membrane be permeable only the one charge (positive charge in this work). TpCIPB<sup>-</sup> acts as lipophilic anionic sites in order to maintain the electroneutrality condition within the membrane phase. It is used to allow ionophore extraction of cationic analyte and inhibition of extraction of anions [68]. Furthermore, it has been reported

that the addition of a salt with a highly lipophilic anion (such as potassium tetrakis (4-chlorophenyl) borate) in the membrane phase may ensure a sufficiently high amount of cation in the membrane phase [63].

The nature of the plasticizer is also well known to affect the dynamic concentration range, selectivity behavior of optode membrane and facilitate the transport of analyte ions. In order to have homogenous membrane, plasticizer must be physically compatible with the polymer used in membrane preparation. The appropriate plasticizer must be selected so as to obtain a transparent and flexible membrane, which has the maximum response to the analyte.

Bis(2-ethylhexyl) sebacate or DOS is one of potential plasticizers for preparing optode membrane that has the best response toward analyte ion when compared to the other plasticizers [11, 60, 68, 73].

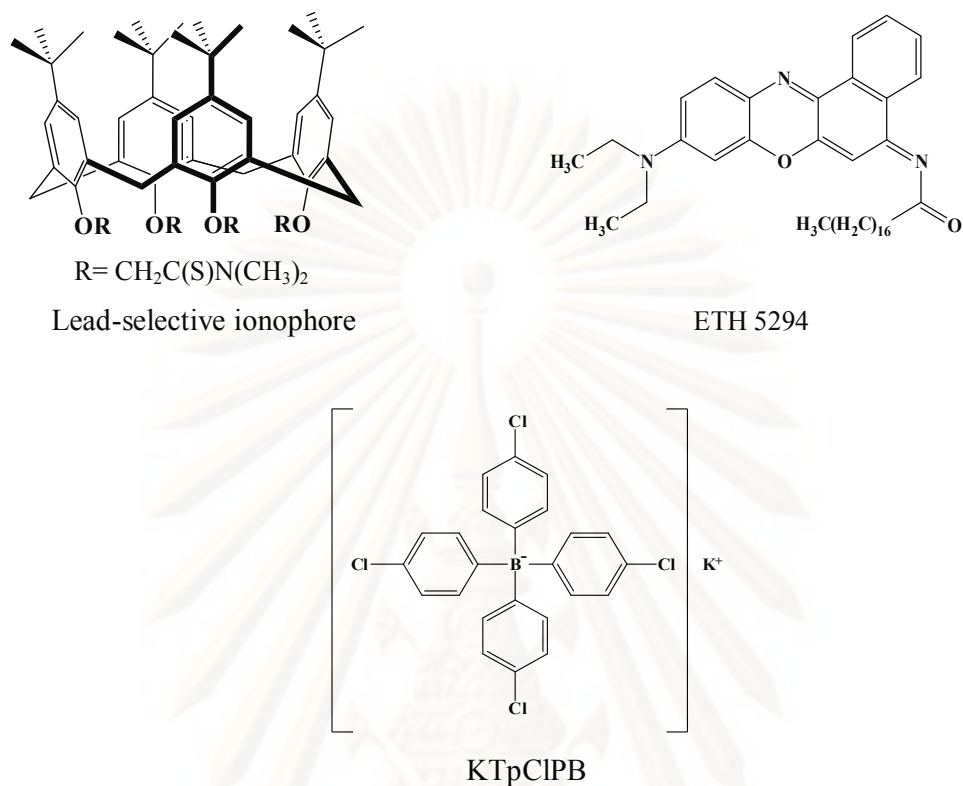
The choice of matrix for the optode membrane is governed by the parameters such as permeability for analyte, mechanical stability and suitability for plasticization of the major components and extractant [89].

Poly (vinyl chloride) or PVC is the most commonly used polymer for optode membrane because it forms fairly stable sensor layers and acts as a good solvent for both chromoionophore and ion exchanger [90].

The best membrane characteristic is usually obtained at ratio 2:1 (w/w) of plasticizer/PVC [10-11, 14, 72-74, 91].

All chemicals used were of selectophore<sup>®</sup> grade and were purchased from Fluka.

The structure of major components of lead-selective optode membrane is shown in Figure 3.1.



**Figure 3.1** Major components of lead-selective optode membrane in this work.

### 3.2 Lead-selective optode membrane preparation

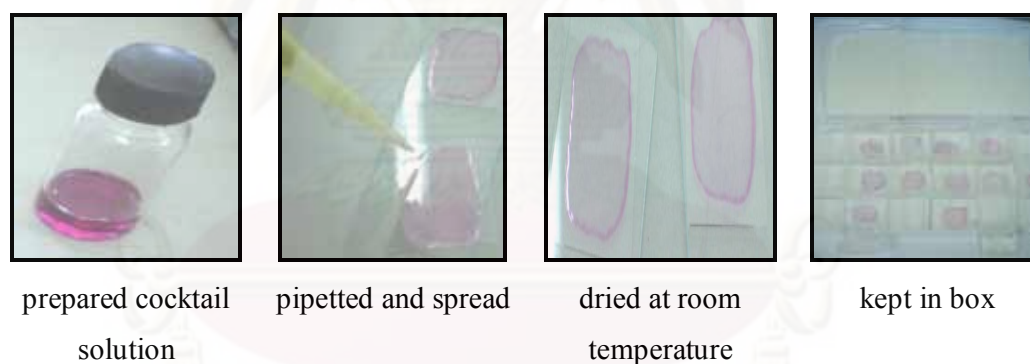
The cocktail solution was prepared as described by Wygladacz et al [92] and Ngeontae et al. [93]. The procedure is as follows:

0.95 mg of *tert*-butylcalix[4]arene-tetrakis(*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide), 0.22 mg of KTpCIPB, 0.12 mg of ETH 5294, 29.57 mg of PVC and 59.14 mg of DOS were dissolved in 2.0 mL of tetrahydrofuran (THF) in a glass vial. The mixture was immediately shaken to obtain clear homogeneous solution. The concentrations of three components are shown in Table 3.1. A typical membrane composition for the optode membrane is always kept in the order of  $C < R^- < L$  [91].

**Table 3.1** The concentration of major components of lead-selective optode membrane

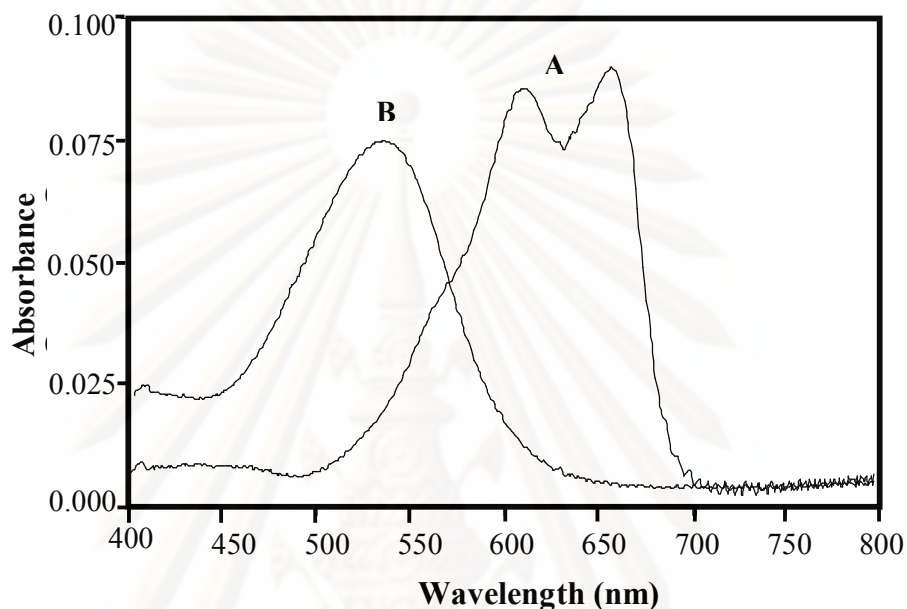
Components	Symbol	mmol kg <sup>-1</sup>
Lead-selective ionophore	L	10.0
Cation exchanger	R <sup>-</sup>	5.0
Proton-selective chromoionophore	C	2.5

An aliquot of 50  $\mu$ L cocktail solution was spread on a square microscope cover glass (22 $\times$ 22 mm) using micropipette at 23 $\pm$ 1  $^{\circ}$ C and 40 $\pm$ 4 % humidity. The homogenous, transparent and pinkish purple membranes were obtained. Prior to spread, the microscope cover glasses were cleaned with THF to remove organic impurities and dust. The membranes were dried at room temperature for at least 30 min before use and the resulting membranes were kept in a box. The lead-selective optode membrane preparation steps are illustrated in Figure 3.2.

**Figure 3.2** Lead-selective optode membrane preparation steps.

The absorption measurement of lead-selective optode membrane was carried out on a UV-VIS spectrophotometer (HP 8453, Hewlett-Packard). The optode membrane was conditioned by immersing in 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl solution for 5 min in order to transform chromoionophore in membrane to completely protonated form resulting in a change color from pinkish purple to blue. The characteristic absorption bands of protonated chromoionophore were found at 616 and 660 nm as shown in Figure 3.3 A. The fully deprotonated form of chromoionophore was prepared by

immersing an optode membrane in a 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> NaOH solution for 5 min. The maximum absorption at 545 nm (Figure 3.3 B) was found.



**Figure 3.3** Absorption spectra of lead-selective optode membrane in fully protonated form (A) and fully deprotonated form (B) of chromoionophore.

### 3.3 Optode membrane response

The optode membrane for determination of Pb<sup>2+</sup> in this work based on absorption spectrophotometry technique. A microscope cover glass without membrane was used as blank reference for absorbance measurement between 400-800 nm.

The optode membrane response can be defined as

$$\alpha = \frac{[C]}{[C]_{tot}} \quad (3.1)$$

$$(1 - \alpha) = \frac{[CH^+]}{[C]_{tot}} \quad (3.2)$$

where  $[C]$  is the concentration of deprotonated chromoionphore,  $[CH^+]$  is the concentration of protonated chromoionphore and  $[C]_{tot}$  is the total concentration of chromoionphore. The degree of protonation chromoionphore ( $\alpha$ ) is used to present the response function of optode membrane in absorbance mode. The measured absorbance at 660 nm corresponding to the protonated chromoionphore is directly related to the membrane response. If the optode membrane complies with Beer's law [94]:

$$\alpha = \frac{A_{prot} - A}{A_{prot} - A_{deprot}} \quad (3.3)$$

where  $A$  is the absorbance of the chromoionphore for a giving equilibrium,  $A_{prot}$  and  $A_{deprot}$  are the absorbance values of fully protonated ( $\alpha = 0$ ) and fully deprotonated ( $\alpha = 1$ ) chromoionphore, respectively.

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## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the optimization and influence parameters of optode membrane response were studied in batch and flow-through systems. Furthermore, the analytical performance of proposed optode and the application for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in real water samples under suitable conditions were evaluated.

#### 4.1 Chemicals and apparatus

All chemical used were analytical-reagent grade and were used without further purification. The chemicals list is shown in Table 4.1

**Table 4.1** Chemicals list

Chemicals	Supplier
Citric acid monohydrate, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_8\text{O}_7 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	MERCK
Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt dihydrate, $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_8\text{N}_2\text{Na}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	MERCK
Hydrochloric acid 37%, HCl	MERCK
Lead nitrate, $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$	CARLO ERBA
Magnesium nitrate, $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	FLUKA
Mercury nitrate, $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$	MERCK
Nitric acid 65%, $\text{HNO}_3$	MERCK
Pb standard solution ( $1000 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ )	MERCK
Potassium nitrate, $\text{KNO}_3$	BDH
Silver nitrate, $\text{AgNO}_3$	BDH
Sodium acetate, $\text{CH}_3\text{COONa}$	CARLO ERBA
Sodium hydroxide, NaOH	CARLO ERBA
Sodium nitrate, $\text{NaNO}_3$	CARLO ERBA
Tris(hydroxymethyl) aminomethane, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_3$	MERCK
Tri sodium citrate, $\text{Na}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}_7 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	FISHER



The visible spectra and absorbance measurements were recorded on a Hewlett Packard diode array spectrophotometer, model 8453 (USA). Inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometric measurements were performed on Perkin Elmer, model PLASMA-1000 (USA). The pH values of sample solution were determined with a pH glass electrode, Orion 2 star, model 9162BNWP and a pH meter, Orion, OR3557 (Taiwan).

## 4.2 Preparation of chemical solutions

All aqueous solutions were prepared using ultrapure water from Milli-Q purify-cation system (Millipore).  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> of buffer solutions used were: (1) TRIS buffer (Tris (hydroxymethyl)-aminomethane), (2) acetate buffer (sodium acetate) and (3) citrate buffer (Tri sodium citrate), were prepared and adjusted to appropriate pHs with 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl or 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> NaOH or 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> citric acid.

A stock solution of  $1.0 \times 10^{-2}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup> was prepared by dissolving an appropriate amount of Pb(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with Milli-Q water in an appropriate volumetric flask. Test solutions of Pb<sup>2+</sup> were prepared by dilution of Pb<sup>2+</sup> stock solution with buffer solution.  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup> solution was diluted to concentration below  $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> with same buffer solution. The Pb<sup>2+</sup> solutions were buffered in order to provide nearly constant ionic strength. The low level concentration of measuring ions was studied therefore the activity coefficients in the aqueous solution were assumed to be constant so that the concentration of measuring ions was used for calculations.

Glasswares were pretreated with 5% HNO<sub>3</sub> overnight before used.

## 4.3 Extraction study in batch system

The influence of several parameters such as pH, type of buffer solution, concentration of conditioning and regenerating solutions, time of condition and regeneration, and response time were investigated.

### 4.3.1 General procedure for absorbance measurements

The absorbance measurements of the optode membrane were performed in three steps as following:

Step 1. An optode membrane was conditioned by immersing in a 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl, as conditioning solution, for 5 min to obtain fully protonated chromoionophore and then rinsed with Milli-Q water. The absorbance of the conditioned optode membrane was recorded at 660 nm ( $A_{prot}$ ) when a cover glass without membrane was used as blank [63, 66, 82].

Step 2. The conditioned optode membrane was rinsed with Milli-Q water and then exposed to a Pb<sup>2+</sup> solution for 30 min or until equilibrium is achieved and then rinsed with Milli-Q water. The absorbances of the optode membrane were measured over the wavelength range of 400-800 nm.

Step 3. This optode membrane was regenerated by immersing in a regenerating solution to elute Pb<sup>2+</sup> from the membrane and then rinsed with Milli-Q water. This membrane can be used in the first step. The same process was repeated for 3 times.

A fully deprotonated chromoionophore membrane was prepared by immersing in a 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> NaOH for 5 min and then rinsed with Milli-Q water. The absorbance of this optode membrane was also recorded at 660 nm ( $A_{deprot}$ ).

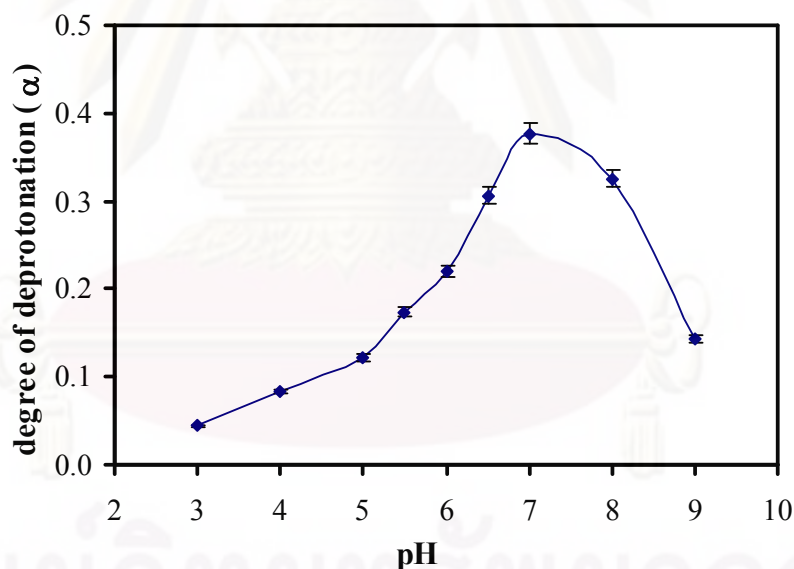
The measured absorbance is directly related to the membrane response, thus  $\alpha = (A_{prot} - A)/(A_{prot} - A_{deprot})$  [94]. The characteristic function of optode membrane showed a sigmoidal shape as predicted by theory which relate to response of optode membrane as  $(1-\alpha)$  or  $\alpha$  versus logarithm of concentration of Pb<sup>2+</sup>. The experimental data was fitted on response curve of optode membrane by varying value of ion-exchange constant ( $K_{exch}^{opt}$ ).

### 4.3.2 Effect of pH

One of the effective variables on response of optode membrane is pH of solution because the responses characteristics of optode membrane such as sensitivity, response concentration range and detection limit depend on the solution pH [83].

The effect of pH on response of optode membrane was carried out over the pH range of 3.0 - 9.0 which contained  $3.16 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$ . The pH of buffer solutions was adjusted by either  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HCl}$  or  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ NaOH}$ . The absorbance of optode membrane was recorded at 660 nm after equilibration for 30 min. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

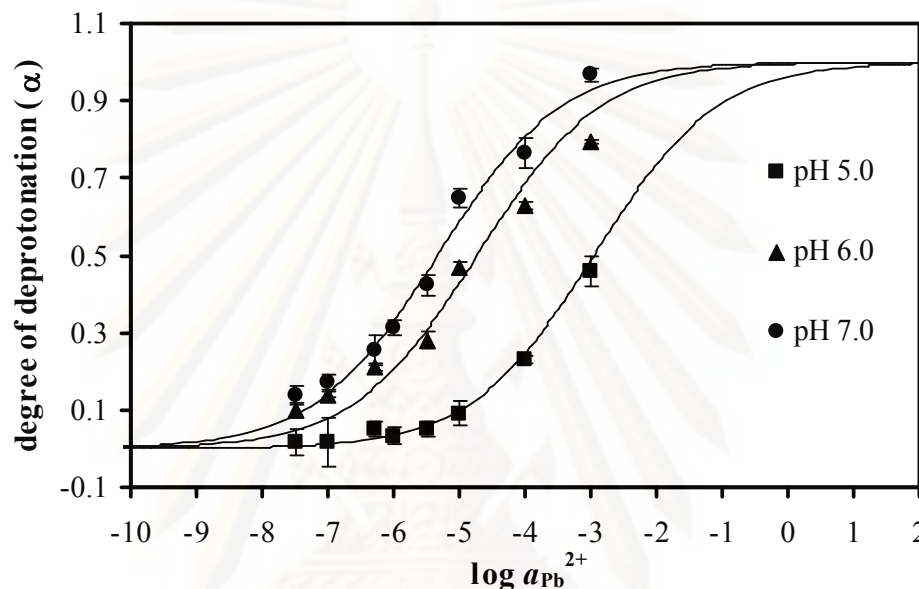
Figure 4.1 illustrated the degree of deprotonation ( $\alpha$ ) or the response as a function of pH. The degree of deprotonation increased from pH 3.0 to pH 7.0. The maximum response was obtained at pH 7.0. At pH > 7.0, the reduced response may be due to hydrolysis of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ . Moreover, the  $\text{pK}_a$  of chromoionophore is  $11.41 \pm 0.03$  in DOS-PVC membrane [95], resulting in a partial deprotonation of chromoionophore at high pH and formation of  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_x$  species. The decreased response at low pH due to the extraction of proton ( $\text{H}^+$ ) from the aqueous solution into the membrane.



**Figure 4.1** The effect of pH on the response of optode membrane at 660 nm in the presence of  $3.16 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ .

Subsequently experiment, the responses of optode membrane to different concentrations of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  ( $1.00 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $3.16 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ) at pH 5.0, 6.0, 7.0 were carried out because the degree of deprotonation sharply increased in these pH ranges. The absorbance of optode membrane was recorded at 660 nm after equilibration for 30 min. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

The response curve, as shown in Figure 4.2, shifted from lower to higher  $\alpha$  value as pH of solution increased from 5.0 to 7.0. The best result was obtained at pH 7.0 because provide lower working concentration range and wide response range. Therefore, pH 7.0 was chosen as the working pH.



**Figure 4.2** The response of lead-selective optode membrane at pH 5.0, 6.0, 7.0 in various concentrations of  $Pb^{2+}$ .

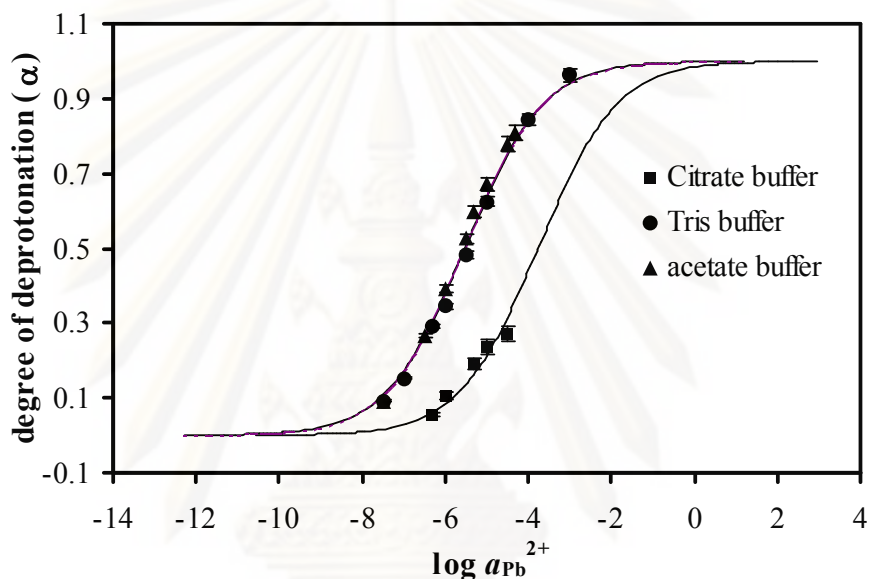
#### 4.3.3 Type of buffer

The response of optode membrane is based on  $Pb^{2+}$  and  $H^+$  exchange between membrane and aqueous phases. So the pH of test solution has to be kept constant by buffering. Thus, the used buffer solution in the experiment should not interference the measurement of  $Pb^{2+}$  system.

Type of buffer solution was investigated by using  $1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  of acetate, citrate and TRIS buffers adjusted pH by  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  acetic or citric or HCl or  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  NaOH to pH 7.0. The concentrations of  $Pb^{2+}$  in the range of  $1.00 \times 10^{-3} - 3.16 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  were used. The absorbance of optode membrane was recorded at 660 nm after equilibration for 30 min. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

Figure 4.3 showed the responses of optode membrane in different buffer solutions at pH 7.0. The lower response in citrate buffer was observed probably due to

the complex formation between  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and citrate [96]. Although the response in acetate buffer was good enough as in TRIS buffer but the pH of acetate buffer should be in the range of 3.0-6.2 [97]. The response of optode membrane in TRIS buffer had greater response range than those of acetate buffer and citrate buffer. Therefore, TRIS buffer was selected as buffer solution for further studies.



**Figure 4.3** The different types of buffer solutions on response of optode membrane.

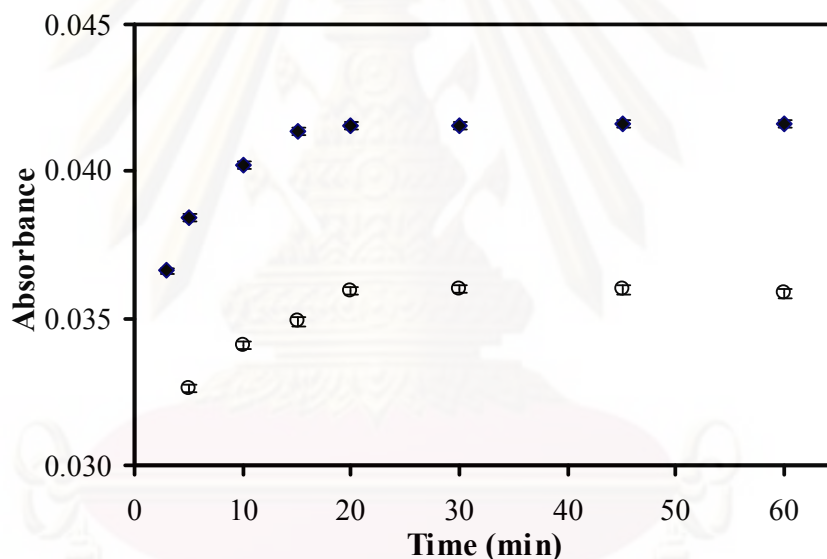
#### 4.3.4 Response time

One of the important parameters of optode membrane is its response time. The response time of the optode membrane was controlled by the time required for analyte to diffuse from bulk of solution toward the membrane adducting by ionophore. The response time of the proposed optode membrane was defined as the time required to reach 99% ( $t_{99}$ ) of steady signal absorbance. It would be desirable for the optode membrane to have a short response time. The response time of the optode membrane depended on the membrane thickness, membrane composition, activity of the measuring ion and pH of the measurement [88].

The response time of optode membrane was investigated by using TRIS buffer solution at pH 7.0 containing  $1.00 \times 10^{-5}$  or  $3.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$ . The absorbance of

optode membrane was recorded at 545 nm over a period of 60 min by recording every 5 min intervals. This wavelength was chosen because the change of absorption increased when the concentration of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  increased. In addition, it was easy to observe the steady signal absorbance at 99%. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

Figure 4.4 illustrated the change of absorption at 545 nm of optode membrane with different concentrations of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  versus response time. The observation of 99% steady signal absorbance was found within 15 and 30 min for  $1.00 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $3.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$ , respectively. Therefore, the response time of 30 min was chosen for batch system.



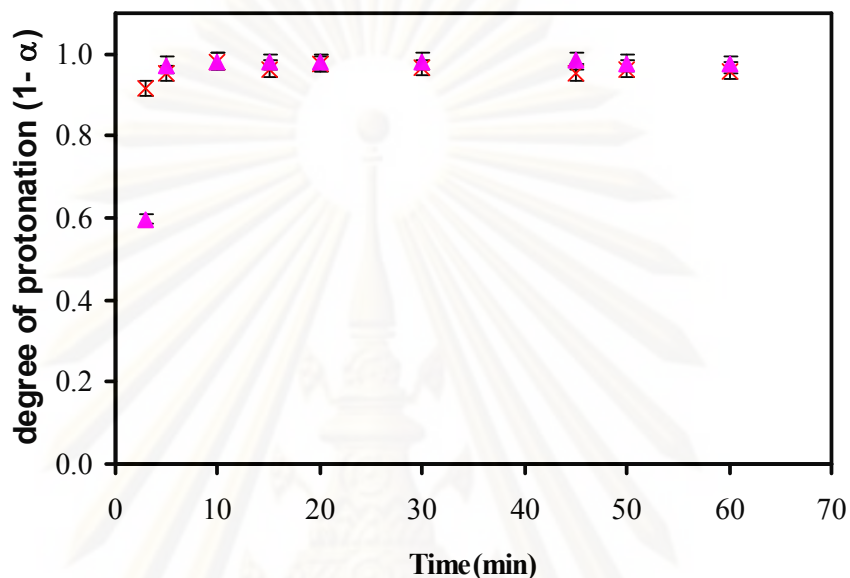
**Figure 4.4** Response time of optode membrane in the presence of  $\circ 1.00 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $\blacklozenge 3.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ .

#### 4.3.5 Type of conditioning solution

Conditioning solution was investigated by using  $1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  TRIS buffer and  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  HCl in order to obtain fully protonated chromoionophore. The absorbance of conditioned optode membrane was recorded at 660 nm between 5-60 min. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

Figure 4.5 showed the absorbance of optode membrane in function of time with different conditioning solutions. It was found that  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  HCl was suitable

conditioning solution because it provided a short time to reach maximum absorbance within 5 min.



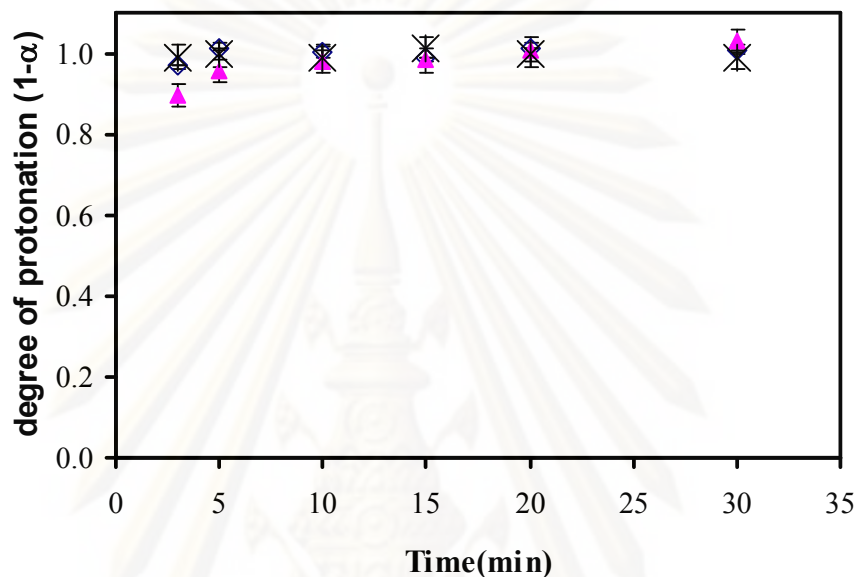
**Figure 4.5** The response of optode membrane at 660 nm as a function of time in different conditioning solutions; ▲  $1.00 \times 10^{-3}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Tris buffer, × 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl.

#### 4.3.6 Type of regenerating solution

Several reagents such as HCl, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and EDTA were used as regenerating reagents. HCl and HNO<sub>3</sub> were considered because Pb<sup>2+</sup> was less extracted by optode membrane at low pH (obtained result in Figure 4.1). EDTA was chosen as regenerating solution because the formation constant between EDTA and Pb<sup>2+</sup> is high [98]. The efficiency of the regenerating solution was considered as the regeneration time which was defined as the time taken for reaching the baseline signal (the signal observed in 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl as conditioning solution), where the minimum absorbance has been reached at the wavelength of 545 nm.

The experiment of regenerating step was studied by soaking an optode membrane in TRIS buffer solution at pH 7.0 containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup> and then rinsed with Milli-Q water. After that the optode membrane was immersed in 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> of the chosen regenerating solution. The absorbances of optode membranes in

different regenerating solutions were recorded at 545 nm versus time. The experiments were performed in triplicate. The results were shown in Figure 4.6.



**Figure 4.6** The response of optode membrane at 545 nm as a function of time in different regenerating solutions; ♦ 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl, ▲ 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> EDTA, × 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub>.

It was found that all reagents could fully regenerate optode membrane within 3-5 min. In case of HCl solution, the color of the regenerated membrane did not change after immersing in Pb<sup>2+</sup> solution at any response time. Therefore, HCl solution was not suitable to use as a regeneration solution. In case of EDTA and HNO<sub>3</sub> solutions, EDTA took longer than HNO<sub>3</sub> reagent at the same concentration. Thus, HNO<sub>3</sub> solution was used as regenerating solution. However, while the concentration of HNO<sub>3</sub> was increased up to 1.00 mol L<sup>-1</sup> for accelerating and completing regenerated optode membrane, the result of regeneration of membrane remained the same. Therefore, 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub> was chosen as regenerating solution within 3 min.

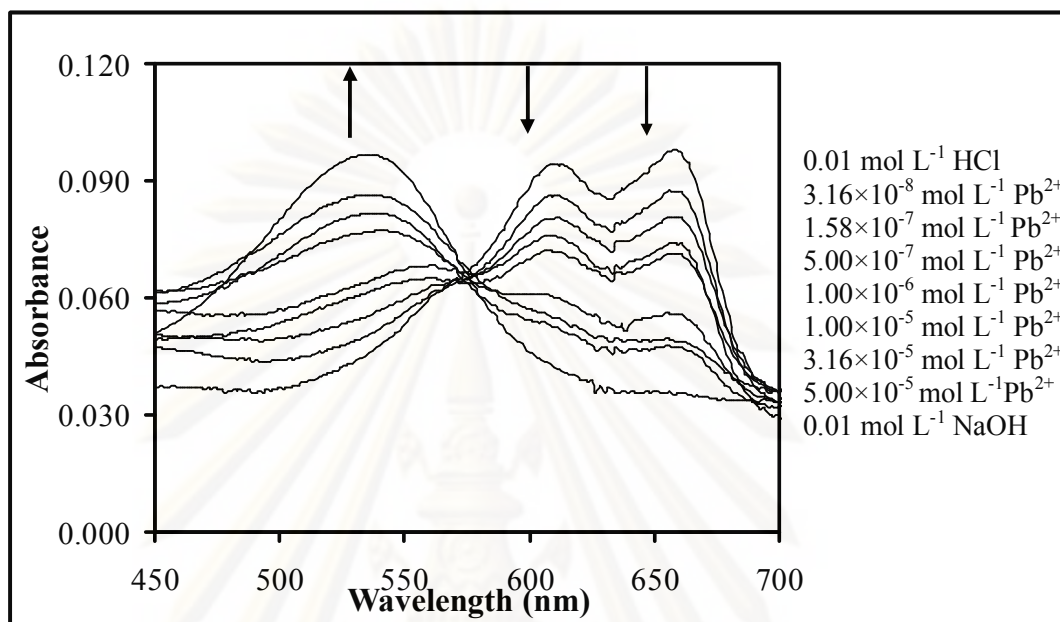


#### 4.3.7 Response behavior

The diversities of designed optode membrane in plasticized PVC membrane with high selectivity for  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  have been described [82]. Their response behavior was based on a cation-exchange system.

In this work, the proposed optode membrane contained *tert*-butyl calix[4]arene-tetrakis (*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide) (L) as lead-selective and ETH 5294 (C) as proton-selective chromoionophore. In order to keep the electroneutrality of the membrane, KTpCIPB cation exchanger ( $\text{R}^-$ ) was also incorporated into membrane. The response of the proposed optode membrane was based on cation-exchange mechanism. The response process can be described by the followings:

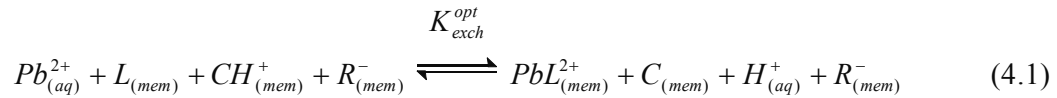
The extraction of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  from sample solution into membrane phase and its complexation by ionophore (L) with the subsequent release of hydrogen ion from chromoionophore ( $\text{CH}^+$ ) into aqueous sample phase. Therefore, the absorption spectra of the optode membrane were changed after equilibration in conditioning solution, TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing different concentrations of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in the range of  $3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  -  $5.00 \times 10^{-3}$  mol  $\text{L}^{-1}$ . The absorption spectra of the optode membrane were recorded in comparison with the absorption spectrum of fully protonated chromoionophore (0.01 mol  $\text{L}^{-1}$  HCl) and the absorption spectrum of fully deprotonated chromoionophore (0.01 mol  $\text{L}^{-1}$  NaOH). The results were shown in Figure 4.7.



**Figure 4.7** Absorption spectra of the proposed optode membranes after equilibration in TRIS buffer (pH 7.0) solution containing different concentrations of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ .

The absorption spectrum of the fully protonated membrane showed two absorption bands at 616 and 660 nm which correspond to protonated form of chromoionophore ( $\text{CH}^+$ ) and the color of membrane was blue. When the concentration of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  increased, the deprotonation of chromoionophore occurred resulting in a change from blue to pink purple. Thus, a reduction in the absorption band at 616 and 660 nm and an increase in the absorption band at 545 nm were occurred.

If 1:1 ratio was assumed for the complexation of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and ionophore (L) in the membrane phase, the overall equilibrium between membrane phase (mem) and aqueous solution (aq) can be described by Equation (4.1):



The ion-exchange constant ( $K_{exch}^{opt}$ ) corresponding to the upper equilibrium was expressed by Equation (4.2):

$$K_{exch}^{opt} = \frac{[PbL^{2+}][H^+][C]}{[Pb^{2+}][CH^+][L]} \quad (4.2)$$

where  $PbL^{2+}$  and  $CH^+$  represented the ionophore-lead complex and the protonated chromoionophore, respectively. The concentration term referred to the concentration of each species expressed in Equation (4.1). For electroneutrality reasons, the sum of the concentration of two cations must be equal to the total concentration of the accessible cation exchanger  $[R^-]_{tot}$  in the membrane,

$$[R^-]_{tot} = [PbL^{2+}] + [CH^+] \quad (4.3)$$

According to  $\alpha$  value which may be defined as the ratio of concentration deprotonated chromoionophore,  $[C]$ , in relation to the total amount present in membrane,  $[C]_{tot}$ , thus, [94]

$$\alpha = \frac{[C]}{[C]_{tot}}; (1 - \alpha) = \frac{[CH^+]}{[C]_{tot}} \quad (4.4)$$

In fact the detectable species in the membrane phase was the chromoionophore. Its absorbance was determined at the wavelength of the maximum absorption of its protonated form. Typically, the degree of protonation of chromoionophore was used to present the response function of optode membrane in absorbance mode. The measured absorbance was directly related to the membrane response, if the optode membrane complies with Beer's law: [94]

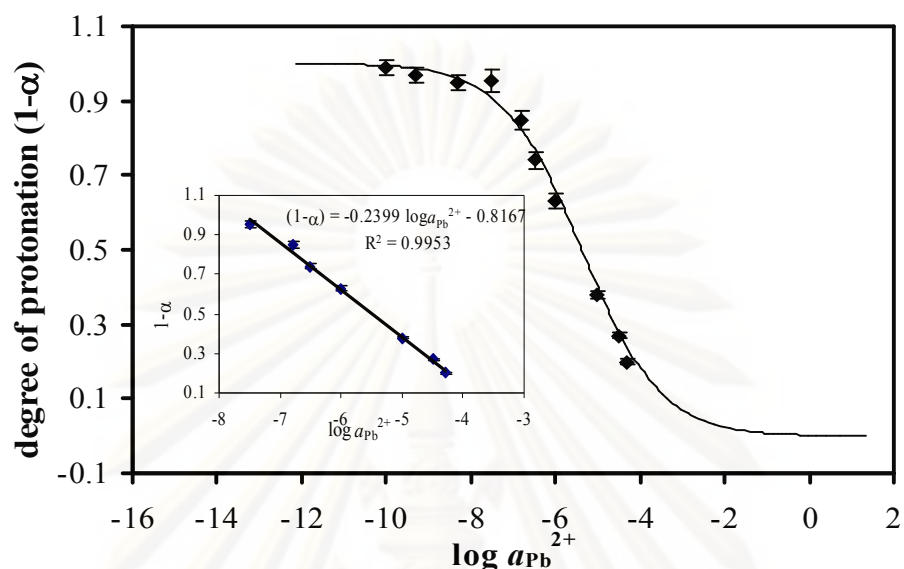
$$\alpha = \frac{A_{prot} - A}{A_{prot} - A_{deprot}} \quad (4.5)$$

where  $A$  was the absorbance of the chromoionophore for a giving equilibrium,  $A_{prot}$  and  $A_{deprot}$  were the absorbance values at the fully protonated ( $\alpha=0$ ) and fully deprotonated ( $\alpha=1$ ) chromoionophore, respectively. The response function for  $Pb^{2+}$  can be derived as follows in Equation (4.6): [6]

$$a_{Pb^{2+}} = \frac{1}{K_{exch}^{opt}} \left( \frac{\alpha a_{H^+}}{1-\alpha} \right)^z \left[ \frac{R_{tot}^- - (1-\alpha)C_{tot}}{z(L_{tot} - \frac{n}{z}\{R_{tot}^- + (1-\alpha)C_{tot}\})^n} \right] \quad (4.6)$$

where  $z$  was the charge of  $Pb^{2+}$  ( $z = 2$ ) and  $n$  was the ion-ionophore complex stoichiometry ( $n = 1$ ). The logarithmic form of Equation (4.6) showed the dependence between the activity of  $Pb^{2+}$  and the degree of protonation of chromoionophore ( $1-\alpha$ ) since all the other terms were constant for each analytical system. Plotting  $(1-\alpha)$  versus  $\log a_{Pb^{2+}}$  a sigmoidal curve was obtained. All calculated curves were fitted to the experimental data by varying  $K_{exch}^{opt}$  in Equation (4.6). This confirmed the validity of Equation (4.1) in explaining the response mechanism of the proposed optode membrane toward  $Pb^{2+}$  and stoichiometry obtained in the solution phase. The response of the optimized optode membrane of  $Pb^{2+}$  was shown in Figure 4.8.

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**Figure 4.8** Response of the optode membrane in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-8}$ - $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> of Pb<sup>2+</sup>.

The corresponding response calculated with Equation (4.6) and  $\log K_{exch}^{opt} = -9.2$  as the function of the degree of protonation  $(1-\alpha)$  values obtained with  $\alpha = (A_{prot} - A)/(A_{prot} - A_{deprot})$  from the absorbance at 660 nm were obtained as a curve with linear regression equation of  $(1 - \alpha = -0.2399 \log a_{Pb^{2+}} - 0.8167)$ . The curve can serve as the calibration for determination of Pb<sup>2+</sup> concentration. Moreover, the dynamic range was clearly obtained from  $3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $5.00 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup>.

#### 4.3.8 Repeatability and reproducibility

Optode repeatability and reproducibility are two of their important characteristic features, both of which were investigated. The repeatability of the optode sensor was performed by repetitive exposing the single optode membrane, which was prepared from the same cocktail solution. The single optode membrane was conditioned in 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl then immersed in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup> under the optimum conditions. The absorption of optode membrane was recorded at 545 nm. The optode membrane was regenerated in 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub> solution after each measurement. The obtained result for

absorbance measurement at 545 nm and the relative standard deviation (R.S.D.) values of single optode membrane were summarized in Table 4.2 (n = 10).

**Table 4.2** Absorbance from single optode membrane in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$  under the optimum conditions

No. of replicate	Absorbance at 545 nm
1	0.090
2	0.090
3	0.089
4	0.087
5	0.087
6	0.087
7	0.087
8	0.085
9	0.084
10	0.084
mean	0.087
SD	0.002
% R.S.D	2.3

The relative standard deviation (R.S.D.) of absorbance was 2.3 % (n=10), indicated that the optode sensor have good repeatability.

The reproducibility was evaluated by measuring absorbance of twelve membranes, which were prepared in the same batch of the cocktail solution. The membranes were conditioned in  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HCl}$  after that they were exposed in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$  at optimized conditions. Each membrane was performed in triplicate. The absorbance of the optode membranes were recorded at 545 nm. The results were shown in Table 4.3.

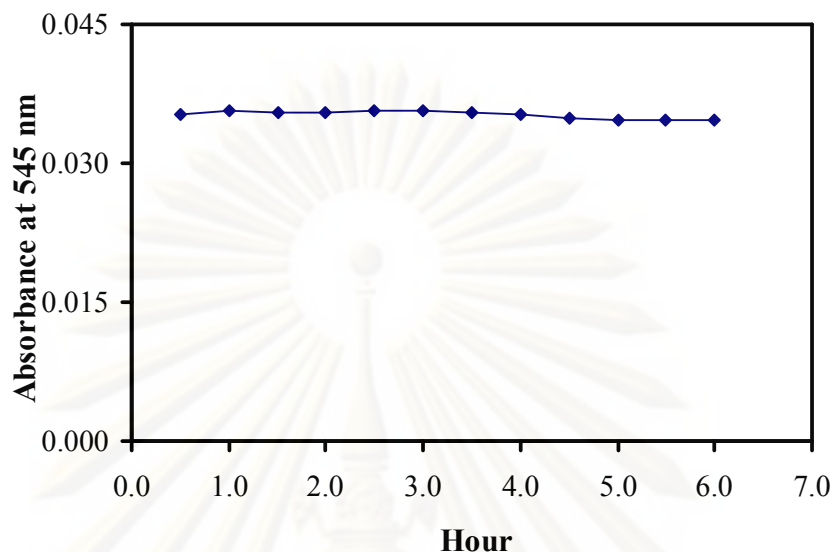
**Table 4.3** Absorbance from different optode membranes in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup> under the optimum conditions

No. of membrane	Mean absorbance at 545 nm
1	0.048
2	0.050
3	0.050
4	0.047
5	0.048
6	0.049
7	0.047
8	0.049
9	0.051
10	0.052
11	0.051
12	0.048
mean	0.049
SD	0.002
% R.S.D	4.1

The relative standard deviation (R.S.D.) of absorbance was 4.1% (n=12), indicated the acceptable reproducibility of the procedure used for preparation of optode membranes.

#### 4.3.9 Short term stability and life time

The *short-term stability* of the optode membrane was defined as its stability of absorbance of optode membrane for at least 6 h in solution. [12, 60, 75] The optode membrane was immersed in TRIS buffer at pH 7.0, then the absorbance of this membrane was recorded at 660 nm over a period of 6 h by recoding every 30 min intervals (n=12). The results obtained were shown in Figure 4.9.

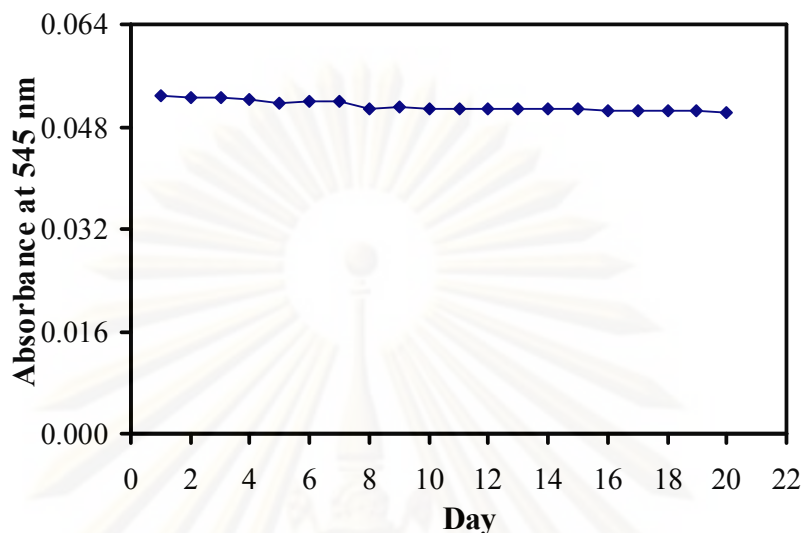


**Figure 4.9** The short term stability of optode membrane in TRIS buffer solution at pH 7.0 over a period of 6 h.

The results showed that R.S.D. was only 1.0 % and a good short-term stability at least 6 h.

The *life time* of the optode membrane described by its stability of absorbance of optode membrane for at least a period of 30 days when the optode membrane was not in use (membrane was kept in ambient condition) [12, 60, 76] The absorbance of the optode membrane was daily recorded at 545 nm for a period of 30 days in comparison with the absorption values of a freshly prepared optode membrane. The optode membrane should keep in dark for long term study. The results were illustrated in Figure 4.10.





**Figure 4.10** The life time of optode membrane kept in ambient condition for a period of 20 days.

The observed absorption changed by 1.7, 3.9, 4.8 and > 10 % (with respect to the first day) after 7, 15, 20 and 30 days, respectively. The R.S.D was 1.6 % for 20 absorption values. Therefore, the life time of optode membrane which stored in ambient condition was at least 20 days when not in use. However, the prepared optode membrane would be used in the practice within 7 days.

#### 4.3.10 Selectivity

The selectivity behavior was obviously one of the most important characteristics of an ion-selective optical sensor, which was the relative response of optode membrane for the analyte ion over the other interfering ions present in solution. Thus, the influence of the common interfering ions on response of the proposed  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  optode membrane was investigated. The selectivity coefficient depends on pH and degree of protonation of chromoionophore [83]. The common interfering ions were induced to study of selectivity by the relative stabilities of the ion-ionophore complexes [87]. The optical selectivity of the proposed optode membrane over common interfering ions was carried out by separated sample solution method (SSM) [94]. The response of optode membrane in the presence of different concentrations of each interfering ion was measured and selectivity coefficients

( $K_{Pb,M}^{opt}$ ) determined by graphically plotting the corresponding  $(1-\alpha)$  versus log concentration of interfering ions ( $\log C_M$ ) followed by Equation (4.7).

$$K_{Pb,M}^{opt} = \frac{z^M}{2} \frac{K_{exch}^M}{K_{exch}^{Pb}} \left( \frac{\alpha a_{H^+}}{1-\alpha} \right)^{2-z^M} \frac{\left( [L_{tot}] - \frac{n_M}{z^M} \{ [R_{tot}^-] - (1-\alpha)[C_{tot}] \} \right)^{n_M}}{\left( [L_{tot}] - \frac{n_{Pb}}{2} \{ [R_{tot}^-] - (1-\alpha)[C_{tot}] \} \right)^{n_{Pb}}} \quad (4.7)$$

where  $z^M, z^{Pb}$  were the charge of the ion interfering ion M and  $Pb^{2+}$ ,  $n_M, n_{Pb}$  were the ion interfering-ionophore complex stoichiometry and lead-ionophore complex stoichiometry, respectively.

The response of optode membrane of interfering ions was evaluated by preparing different concentrations of metal ions in TRIS buffer solution at pH 7.0 as follows:

$3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $1.00 \times 10^{-3}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup>

$3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $1.00 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Ag<sup>+</sup>

$3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $1.00 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Hg<sup>2+</sup>

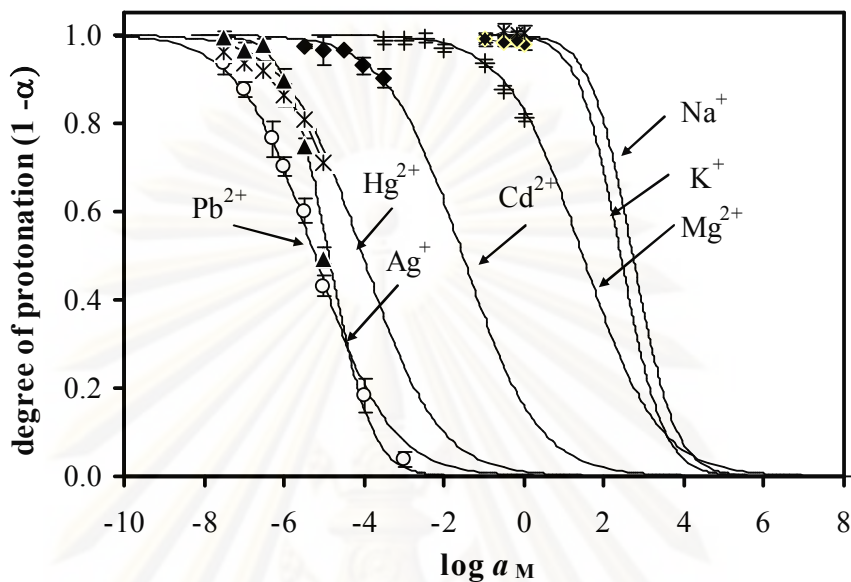
$1.00 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $3.16 \times 10^{-4}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Cd<sup>2+</sup>

$3.16 \times 10^{-4}$  to 1.00 mol L<sup>-1</sup> Mg<sup>2+</sup>

0.01 to 1.00 mol L<sup>-1</sup> Na<sup>+</sup>

0.01 to 1.00 mol L<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>+</sup>

The optode membrane was conditioned in 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl for 5 min then rinsed with Milli-Q water. The conditioned optode membrane was immersed in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing different concentrations of interfering ions as mentioned above. The absorbance of each optode membrane in different concentrations of interfering ions was recorded at 660 nm. The response of optode membranes were illustrated in Figure 4.11.



**Figure 4.11** Response curves of the optode membrane in various interfering ions at pH 7.0.

The selectivity coefficients given in Table 4.4 were calculated at the highest sensitivity ( $\alpha = 0.5$ ). The  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  show high selectivity over hard alkaline metals:  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and transition metals:  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^+$  due to its specific binding capability from ionophore results [87].

**Table 4.4** The ion-exchange constant ( $K_{\text{exch}}^{\text{opt}}$ ) and selectivity coefficients ( $K_{\text{Pb},M}^{\text{opt}}$ ) of the proposed optode membrane in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing various concentrations of metal ions

Interfering ions	$\log K_{\text{exch}}^M$	$\log K_{\text{Pb},M}^{\text{opt}}$
$\text{Pb}^{2+}$	-9.30	0
$\text{Ag}^+$	-2.20	-0.35
$\text{Hg}^{2+}$	-10.50	-1.20
$\text{Cd}^{2+}$	-13.00	-3.70
$\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-9.80	-6.70
$\text{K}^+$	-9.50	-7.65
$\text{Na}^+$	-16.00	-7.95

#### 4.4 Extraction study in flow-through system

One of drawbacks for  $Pb^{2+}$  determination at lower concentration using bulk optode technique was relatively long response time. The time limiting step was not the diffusion within the membrane phase but the convective mass transport from the bulk of sample solution until the required absolute of analyte ion was reached [82]. The shorter response time was feasible by replacing the batch system to a continuous flow system [6]. Moreover, the use of better designed measuring cell and the use more than two but thinner membranes in contact with the sample solution or fluorescence measurements will reduce the response time [82]. So the flow-through measuring cell was designed in order to decrease the time required to reach equilibrium of lower concentration of  $Pb^{2+}$ .

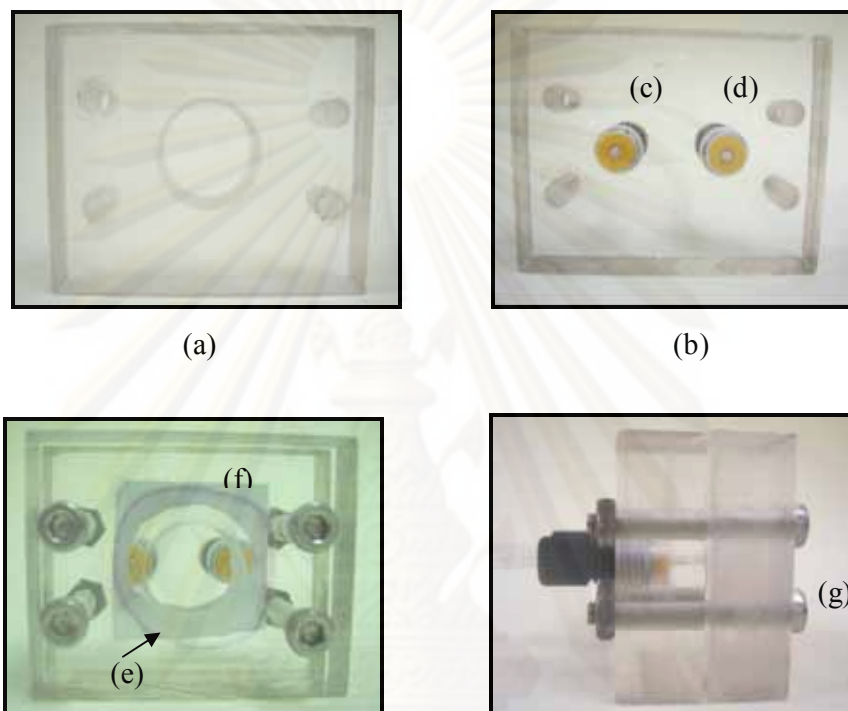
The influence parameters such as response time and flow rate were investigated in flow-through system. The absorption measurement was similar to batch system, but the optode membrane was placed in flow-through cell and connected to peristaltic pump.

##### 4.4.1 Home made flow-through cell

The home made flow-through cell (Figure 4.12 and Figure 4.13) consisted of the rectangular 38 mm × 30 mm acrylic block of 10 mm height with cylindrical opening of 12 mm diameter in the middle (a), rectangular 38 mm × 30 mm acrylic block of 10 mm height as optical window (b) with inlet (c) and outlet tubes (d), rectangular 20 mm × 25 mm vacuum plastic sheet as seal gasket with elliptical opening of 17 mm (e), cover glass slide as support for optode membrane (f). All of part of flow-through cell was fixed screws for clamping the block (g). The flow-through cell system consists of a peristaltic pump Ismatec model ISM 827 (h), home made flow-through cell and connecting Tygon tubing R3607 (2.79 mm i.d.) (i), Teflon FEP tubing (0.50 mm i.d.) (j).

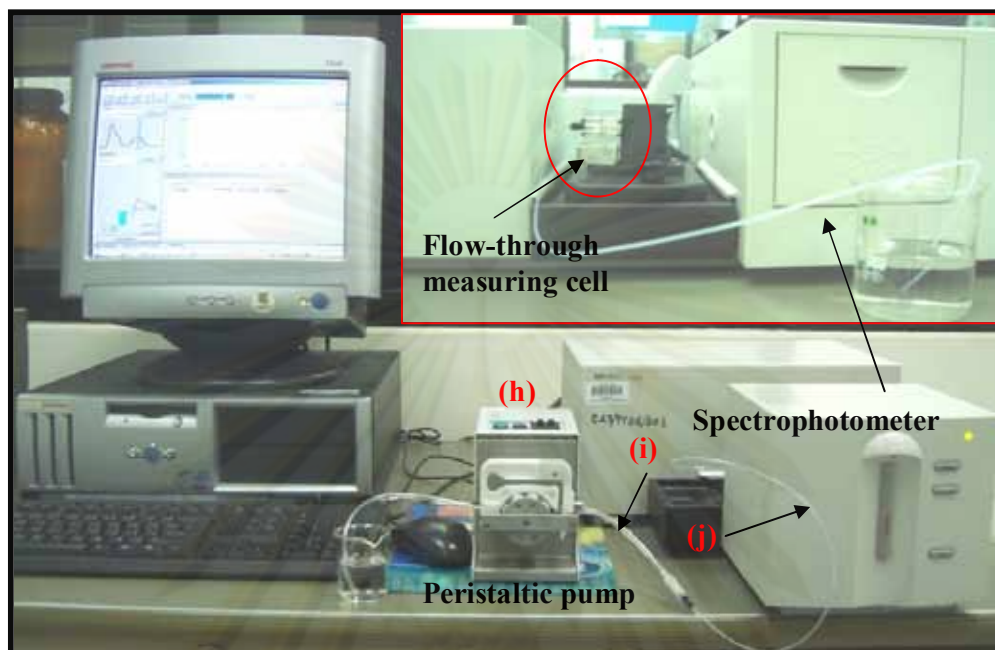
The arrangement of conditioned experiment was performed by setting the flow-through cell in optical path area of the spectrophotometer. The reference of flow-through cell consisted of a glass slide without membrane. Prior to analysis, flow-

through cell system was cleaned by  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HNO}_3$  and followed by Milli-Q water for 5 min.



**Figure 4.12** Parts of home made flow-through cell (a) acrylic block; (b) optical window; inlet (c) and outlet tubes (d); seal gasket (e); optode membrane (f); fixing screws (g).

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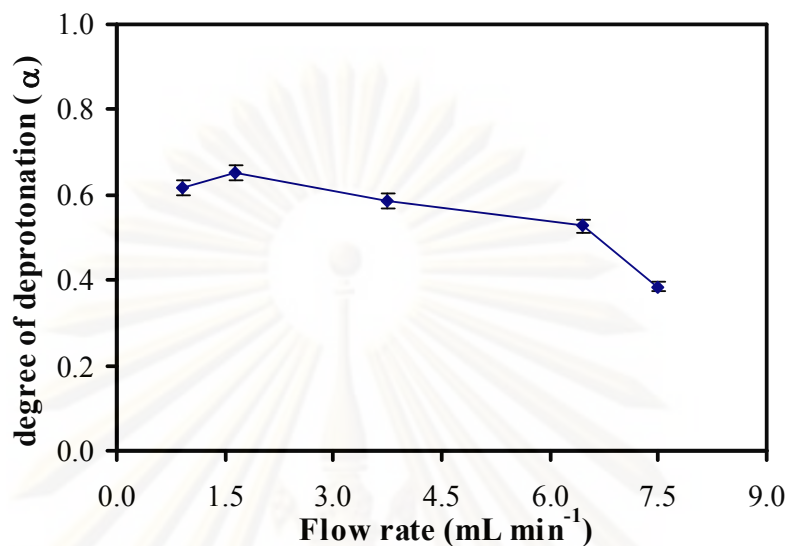


**Figure 4.13** The arrangement of flow-through cell system; peristaltic pump (h); home made flow-through cell and connecting Tygon tubing (i), Teflon FEP tubing (j) in optical path area of the spectrophotometer.

#### 4.4.2 Effect of flow rate

The flow rate of solution was an important parameter in flow-through system that affected equilibration of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  from solution into membrane.

A membrane was placed in the flow-through measuring cell.  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  HCl was passed through the membrane at a flow rate of  $1.6 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  for 3 min in order to let chromoionophore be fully protonated form then milli-Q water was passed through the membrane at a flow rate of  $1.6 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  for 3 min. TRIS buffer solution at pH 7.0 containing  $1.00 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$   $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  was passed through the membrane at different flow rates from  $0.9$  to  $7.5 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  for 30 min. The absorbance of each optode membrane was recorded at 660 nm. The response ( $\alpha$ ) of membrane in various flow rates was determined. The response of optode membrane versus difference of flow rate of solution was illustrated in Figure 4.14.

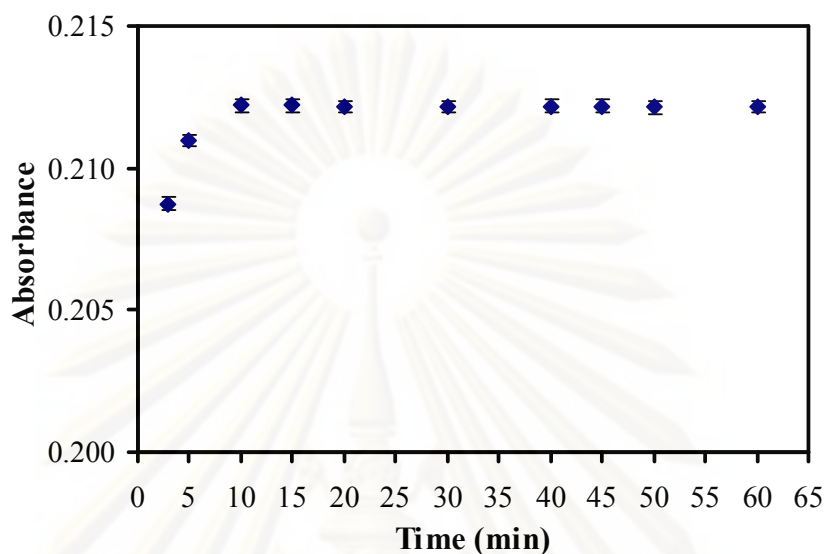


**Figure 4.14** The response of optode for  $1.00 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$  at different flow rates of 0.9–7.5  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$ .

The response of optode membrane decreased as the flow rate increased in the range of 3.8 – 7.5  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$  because of less contact of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  with recognition sites of ionophore in optode membrane. The maximum degree of deprotonation was obtained at a flow rate of 1.6  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$ . Therefore, a flow rate of 1.6  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$  was chosen due to high response and less time-consuming of sampling solutions.

#### 4.4.3 Response time

A membrane was placed in the flow-through measuring cell. 0.01  $\text{mol L}^{-1}$  HCl was passed through the membrane at a flow rate of 1.6  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$  in order to let chromoionophore be fully protonated form then milli-Q water was passed through the membrane for 3 min. TRIS buffer solution at pH 7.0 containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$  was passed through the membrane at a flow rate of 1.6  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$ . The absorbance of the optode membrane was recorded at 545 nm. The experiments were performed in triplicate. The response time of the optode membrane was shown in Figure 4.15.



**Figure 4.15** Response time of the optode membrane in Tris buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$  at a flow rate of  $1.6 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$ .

The response time in flow-through system was improved in comparison with batch system. The response time of the optode membrane to reach 99% of steady signal absorbance was within 15 min. It probably due to the better diffusion of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  from sample solution to membrane phase and the convective mass extraction in a continuous flow-through system which can be described by using well-known Fick's law.

#### 4.4.4 Repeatability and reproducibility

A membrane was placed in the flow-through measuring cell.  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HCl}$  was passed through the membrane at a flow rate of  $1.6 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  in order to let chromoionophore be fully protonated form for 3 min and milli-Q water was then passed through the membrane for 3 min. TRIS buffer solution at pH 7.0 containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$  was passed through the membrane at a flow rate of  $1.6 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  for 15 min. The absorbance of the optode membrane was recorded at 545 nm. After each measurement, the regenerating step was studied by pass in  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HNO}_3$  at a flow rate of  $1.6 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  and of milli-Q water was then passed through the membrane for 3 min. The absorbance of the optode membranes was recorded at



545 nm. The relative standard deviation (R.S.D.) values of the optode membrane were summarized in Table 4.5 (n=10).

**Table 4.5** Absorbances of single optode membrane in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> Pb<sup>2+</sup> at a flow rate of 1.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>

No. of replicate	Absorbance at 545 nm
1	0.087
2	0.087
3	0.086
4	0.087
5	0.086
6	0.086
7	0.086
8	0.086
9	0.086
10	0.086
mean	0.086
SD	0.001
% R.S.D	1.2

The reproducibility was evaluated by measuring absorbance of nine membranes, which were prepared in the same batch of the cocktail solution. The experiment was performed as the same manners of the repeatability (each membrane was performed in triplicate). The obtained results were shown in Table 4.6.

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**Table 4.6** Absorbances of several optode membranes in TRIS buffer solution (pH 7.0) containing  $3.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Pb}^{2+}$  at a flow rate of  $1.6 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$

No. of membrane	Mean absorbance at 545 nm
1	0.235
2	0.222
3	0.220
4	0.223
5	0.220
6	0.228
7	0.234
8	0.221
9	0.230
mean	0.226
SD	0.006
% R.S.D	2.7

The relative standard deviation (R.S.D.) of absorbance for single optode and several optode membranes were 1.2 % (n=10) and 2.7 % (n=9), respectively. The results indicated that repeatability and reproducibility of optode sensor were acceptable.

The optimized conditions and the analytical parameters of the optode membrane for  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  were summarized in Table 4.7.

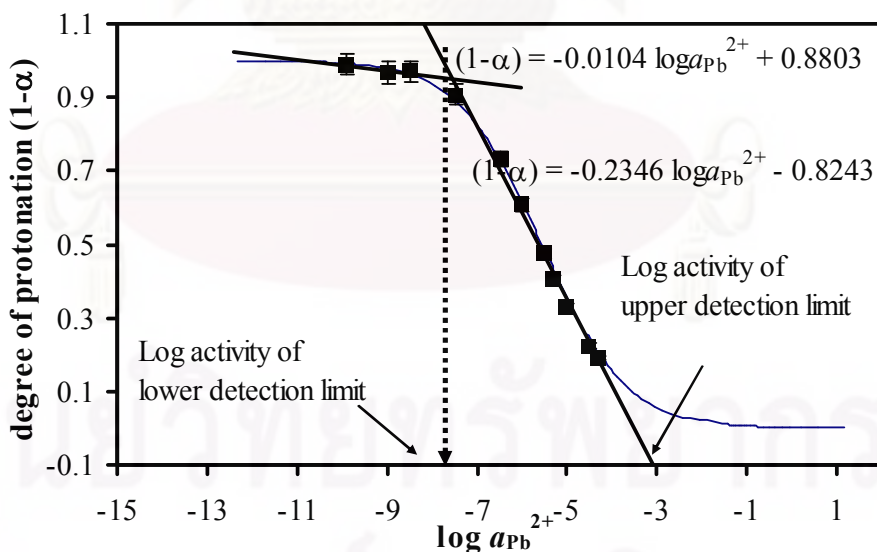
**Table 4.7** Specifications of optode membrane for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ 

Parameter	Value or range	
	Batch	Flow
pH and type of buffer	TRIS buffer of pH 7.0	TRIS buffer of pH 7.0
Conditioned condition	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl for 5 min	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl for 3 min
Response time	30 min	15 min
Regenerated condition	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub> for 3 min	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub> at 1.6 mL min <sup>-1</sup> for 3 min
Sample flow rate	-	1.6 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
Repeatability	2.3% R.S.D. (n=10) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> Pb <sup>2+</sup>	1.2% R.S.D. (n=10) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> Pb <sup>2+</sup>
Reproducibility	4.1% R.S.D. (n=12) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> Pb <sup>2+</sup>	2.7% R.S.D. (n=9) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> Pb <sup>2+</sup>
Stability (life time)	Optode membrane kept in ambient condition, ~20 days	

#### 4.5 Analytical performance of the proposed method

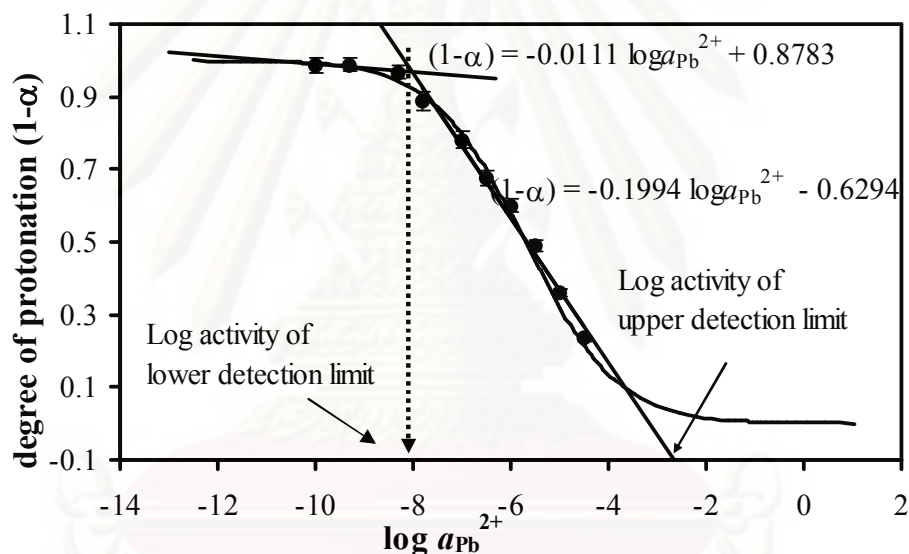
The extended of working range for determination of analyte ion using bulk optode technique depends on pH, membrane composition, charge of analyte and stoichiometry of complexation in membrane [91]. The linearity part of the sigmoidal response curve is usually employed for analysis, defined as linearity between a lower and an upper detection limit. The detection limit or the lower detection limit can be estimated from different approximates: (i) the loss of sensitivity due to the sigmoidal shape of the response function at low analyte concentrations and (ii) the interference from other ions present [7, 91]. Using the first approximation, it has been defined through: (a) the standard deviation of background signal [82]; (b) the variation of a given fraction of the maximum slope of response function [27, 63] and (c) the intersection point of two linear functions of maximum and minimum slope [100]. The upper detection limit can be described in analogy with previous definitions (b) and (c).

In this work, the detection limit was obtained by using the approximation of the loss of sensitivity which was defined in (c). [70, 101-103]. This approximation offered two advantages; a simple calculation and an interpolation with less error [102]. In order to determine the detection limit, two series of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  standard solutions were prepared. One maximum slope zone (8 standards,  $3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $5.00 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>) with the obtained linear functions was  $(1-\alpha) = -0.2346 \log a_{\text{Pb}^{2+}} - 0.8243$ , and another one in the minimum slope zone of lower concentration (3 standards,  $1.26 \times 10^{-10}$  to  $3.16 \times 10^{-9}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>) with the obtained linear functions was  $(1-\alpha) = -0.0104 \log a_{\text{Pb}^{2+}} + 0.8803$  (as shown in Figure 4.16). The lower detection limit was defined as the concentration that corresponded to the intersection of two linear functions of maximum slope and minimum slope. The interception of both functions gave a lower detection limit (DL) of  $2.49 \times 10^{-8}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>. A practical upper detection limit obtained from the intercept of the linear calibration function with the axis of abscise was found at  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>. The central zone of sigmoidal response curve showed a straight line that was a dynamic range. Dynamic range of  $3.16 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $5.00 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> in batch system was obtained.



**Figure 4.16** Sigmoidal response curve of the optode membrane with the intersection of two linear functions for determination of detection limit in batch system.

In flow-through system, two series of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  standard solutions were prepared. One in the maximum slope zone (7 standards,  $1.26 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>) with the obtained linear function was  $(1-\alpha) = -0.1994 \log a_{\text{Pb}^{2+}} - 0.6294$ , and another one in the minimum slope zone of lower concentrations (3 standards,  $1.00 \times 10^{-10}$  to  $5.00 \times 10^{-9}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>) with the obtained linear function was  $(1-\alpha) = -0.0111 \log a_{\text{Pb}^{2+}} + 0.8783$  (as shown in Figure 4.17). The interception of both functions gave a lower detection limit (DL) of  $8.97 \times 10^{-9}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> and the obtained value of upper limit was  $3.16 \times 10^{-3}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>. A dynamic range of  $1.26 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $3.16 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> was obtained.



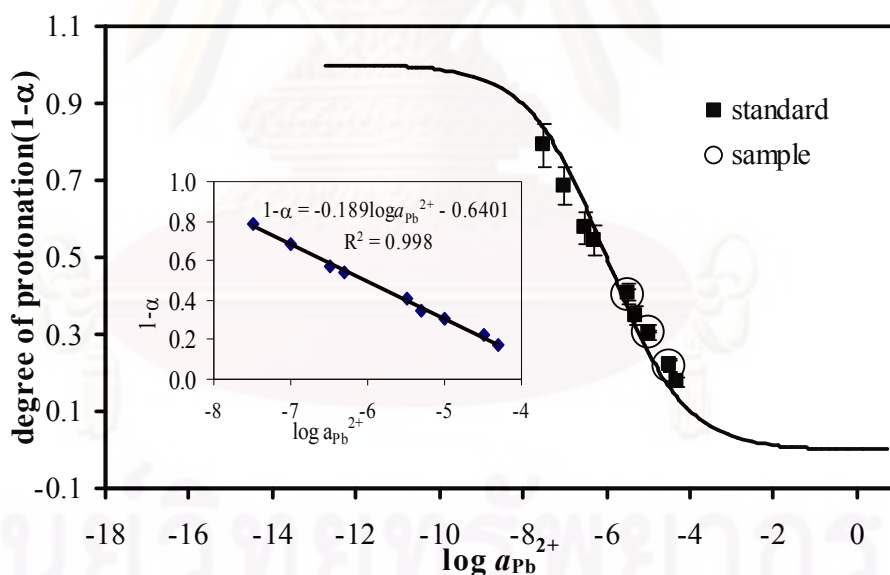
**Figure 4.17** Sigmoidal response curve of the optode membrane with the intersection of two linear functions for determination of detection limit in flow-through system.

#### 4.6 Real water samples analysis

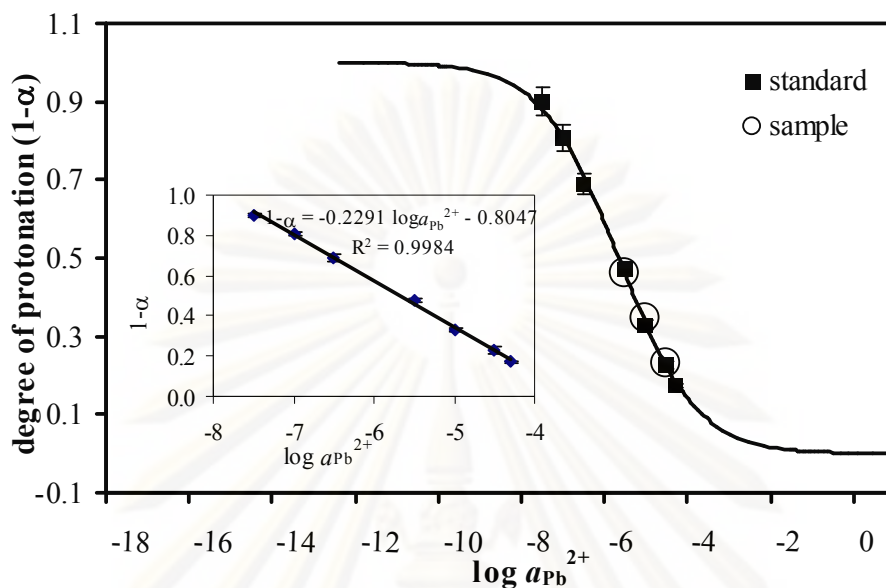
The practical application of the proposed optode membrane to determine  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in real water samples was demonstrated under the optimum conditions. The results obtained were compared with the results determined by ICP-OES (inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry).

The water samples (pond water and tap water) were collected in the polyethylene bottles and adjusted to pH 2 with nitric acid. Pond water sample was filtered to remove particles before use. The spiked method was evaluated to determine  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in water samples. Standard  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  at different concentrations was spiked into 50 mL of water sample. The water samples were diluted with TRIS buffer to pH 7.0 in a final volume of 100 mL. The absorbance measurements of the optode membrane were performed in both batch and flow-through systems under the optimum conditions as summarized in Table 4.7. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

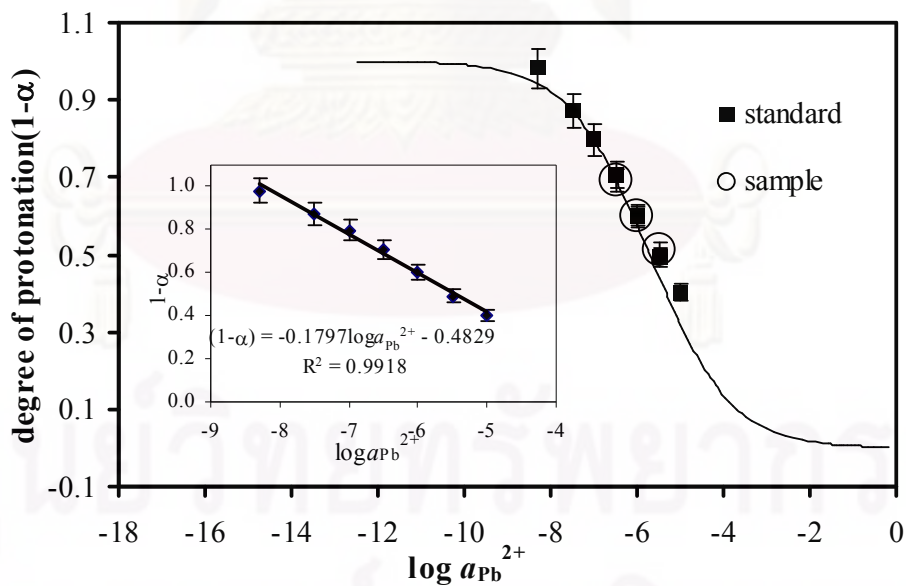
The results of batch system were illustrated in Figure 4.18 and Figure 4.19 for pond water and tap water, respectively and for flow-through systems, the results were illustrated in Figure 4.20 and Figure 4.21 for pond water and tap water, respectively. The determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in pond water and tap water by batch and flow-through measurements were summarized in Table 4.8



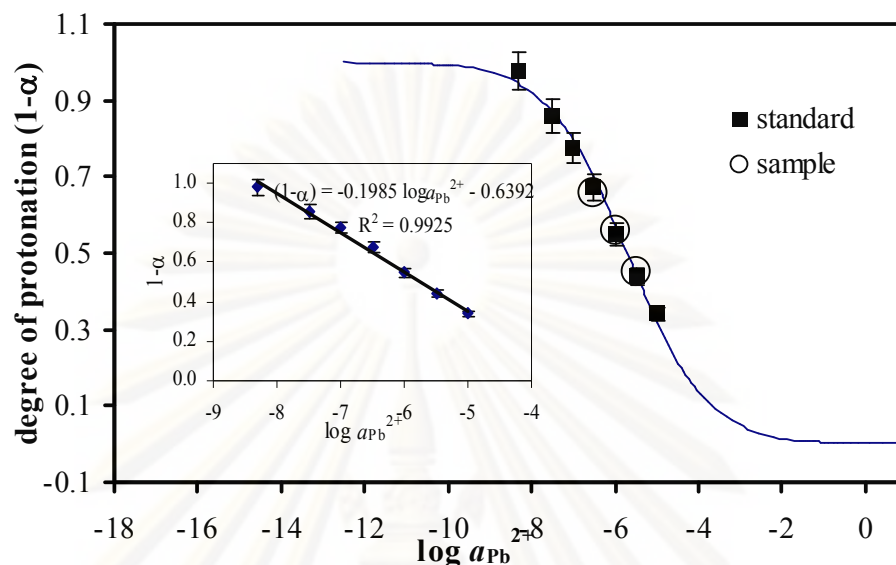
**Figure 4.18** The response curve plot of the degree of protonation versus log activity of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ . The inset figure showed a calibration curve used to determine  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in pond water sample in batch system.



**Figure 4.19** The response curve plot of degree of protonation versus log activity of  $Pb^{2+}$ . The inset figure showed a calibration curve used to determine  $Pb^{2+}$  in tap water sample in batch system.



**Figure 4.20** The response curve plot of degree of protonation versus log activity of  $Pb^{2+}$ . The inset figure showed a calibration curve used to determine  $Pb^{2+}$  in pond water sample in flow-through system.



**Figure 4.21** The response curve plot of degree of protonation versus  $\log$  activity of  $Pb^{2+}$ . The inset figure showed a calibration curve used to determine  $Pb^{2+}$  in tap water sample in flow-through system.

**Table 4.8** The determination of  $Pb^{2+}$  in real water samples in batch system and flow-through system

Sample	Batch system			Flow-through system		
	Added ( $mg L^{-1}$ )	Found $\pm$ SD ( $mg L^{-1}$ ) <sup>a</sup>	Recovery (%)	Added ( $mg L^{-1}$ )	Found $\pm$ SD ( $mg L^{-1}$ ) <sup>a</sup>	Recovery (%)
Pond water	-	< DL	-	-	< DL	-
	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(3.06 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	97	$3.16 \times 10^{-7}$	$(2.88 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-7}$	91
	$1.00 \times 10^{-5}$	$(0.97 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-5}$	97	$1.00 \times 10^{-6}$	$(0.93 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	93
	$3.16 \times 10^{-5}$	$(2.95 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-5}$	93	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(2.88 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	91
Tap water	-	< DL	-	-	< DL	-
	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(3.02 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	96	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(2.87 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	91
	$1.00 \times 10^{-5}$	$(0.96 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-5}$	96	$1.00 \times 10^{-5}$	$(0.91 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-5}$	91
	$3.16 \times 10^{-5}$	$(3.05 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-5}$	97	$3.16 \times 10^{-5}$	$(3.19 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-5}$	101

<sup>a</sup> mean value of three determinations

DL = Detection limit



The proposed optode membrane was successfully applied to determine  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in different real water samples under the optimum conditions either batch system or flow-through system with the satisfied recoveries. Sample throughput in flow-through system was 4 samples  $\text{h}^{-1}$ . The statistical  $t$ -test was used to compare the experimental means obtained from the proposed optode membrane and ICP-OES. The results were summarized in Table 4.9. No significant different value ( $t_{\text{critical}} = 4.30 > t_{\text{exp}} = 1.00-3.42$ ,  $n=3$ , 95% of confidence level) was found between both methods.

**Table 4.9** The comparison results of the proposed bulk optode technique and ICP-OES for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in real water samples

Sample	Added	Bulk optode		ICP-OES	$t$ -staistic ( $t_{0.05,3} = 4.30$ )
		Found $\pm$ SD ( $\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) <sup>a</sup>	Recovery (%)	found $\pm$ SD ( $\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) <sup>a</sup>	
Drinking water (1)	-	< DL	-	< DL	-
	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(3.19 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	101	$(3.16 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	2.61
	$5.01 \times 10^{-6}$	$(4.82 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	96	$(4.66 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	1.86
Drinking water (2)	-	< DL	-	< DL	-
	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(3.13 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	99	$(3.36 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-6}$	1.90
	$5.01 \times 10^{-6}$	$(4.99 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	97	$(5.06 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	1.00
Pond water	-	< DL	-	< DL	-
	$1.00 \times 10^{-6}$	$(0.92 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	92	$(1.01 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	3.24
	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(2.89 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	91	$(3.25 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	3.42
	$1.00 \times 10^{-5}$	$(9.33 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	93	$(9.75 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	1.06
Tap water	-	< DL	-	< DL	-
	$1.00 \times 10^{-6}$	$(0.91 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	91	$(1.08 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	1.11
	$3.16 \times 10^{-6}$	$(2.87 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	91	$(3.18 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	1.01
	$1.00 \times 10^{-5}$	$(9.66 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	97	$(9.55 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	1.74

<sup>a</sup> mean value of three determination

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

The objectives of this work were focused on the development of selective determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  using bulk optode technique and the improvement of response time. The sensitive optode membrane based on *tert*-butyl calix[4]arene-tetrakis (*N,N*-dimethylthioacetamide) as lead-selective ionophore, ETH 5294 as proton-selective chromoionophore and KTpClPB as cation exchanger in plasticized PVC membrane was fabricated. The preparation of the membrane was simple and easy. The determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  via cation-exchange mechanism in batch and flow-through measurement was studied with absorption spectrophotometry technique. The optode membrane responded to  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  by changing color from blue to pink purple after equilibration in TRIS buffer (pH 7.0) solution containing different concentrations of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and can be regenerated with dilute nitric acid solution. The optode membrane showed high selectivity towards  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  over  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ag}^+$ .

The analytical parameters of the optimized optode membrane used for the determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  were summarized in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1** Analytical parameters of the optimized optode membrane used for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$

Parameter	Value or range	
	Batch	Flow
pH and type of buffer	TRIS buffer of pH 7.0	TRIS buffer of pH 7.0
Conditioned condition	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl in 5 min	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl in 3 min
response time	30 min	15 min
Regenerated condition	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub> for 3 min	0.01 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub> at 1.6 mL min <sup>-1</sup> for 3 min
sample flow rate	-	1.6 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
Dynamic range	3.16×10 <sup>-8</sup> to 5.0×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> of $\text{Pb}^{2+}$	1.26×10 <sup>-8</sup> to 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> of $\text{Pb}^{2+}$
Detection limit (DL)	lower DL 2.49×10 <sup>-8</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> upper DL 1.0×10 <sup>-3</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup>	lower DL 8.97×10 <sup>-9</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> upper DL 3.16×10 <sup>-3</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup>
Repeatability	2.3% R.S.D. (n=10) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup>	1.2% R.S.D. (n=12) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup>
Reproducibility	4.1% R.S.D. (n=10) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup>	2.7% R.S.D. (n=9) with 3.16×10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup>
Stability (life time)	Optode membrane kept in ambient condition ~ 20 days	

Furthermore, the proposed method can be applied to determine  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in real water samples with high accuracy and the results were compared with well-established inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES). No significant different value ( $t_{critical} = 4.30 > t_{exp} = 1.00-3.42$ , n=3, 95% of confidence level) was found between both methods.

Finally, we success to improve of the response time and detection limit for determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  using lead-selective optode membrane coupling with flow-through cell.

### Suggestion in the future works

The response time and the detection limit for determination of  $Pb^{2+}$  can be improved by

- using the spin-on device to cast thinner optode membrane,
- varying the ratio of the composition of major components,
- optimizing temperature and humidity during preparation of optode membrane,
- modifying flow-through cell,
- using more than one optode membrane in both batch and flow-through systems,
- using fluorescence measurement,
- fabricating the optode sensors as single functional micrometer-sized particles

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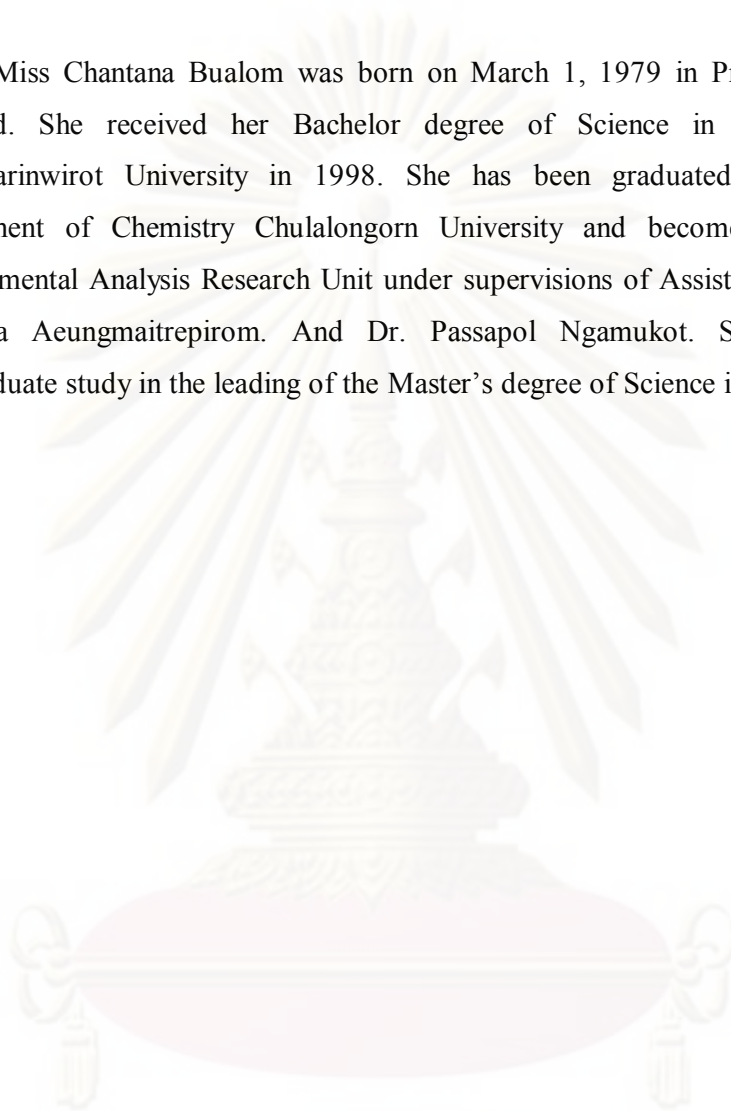
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