

FOOD ANALYSIS

Principles and Techniques

Volume 4

Separation Techniques

DIETER W. GRUENWEDEL

JOHN R. WHITAKER

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FOOD ANALYSIS

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Principles and Techniques

A Treatise in Eight Volumes

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Volume 1: Physical Characterization

Volume 2: Physicochemical Techniques

Volume 3: Biological Techniques

Volume 4: Separation Techniques

Volume 5: Proximate Analysis

Volume 6: Physical Techniques

Volume 7: Spectroscopy

Volume 8: Electroanalytical Techniques

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Introduction to the Treatise

Food Analysis: Principles and Techniques was conceived to meet the need for an up-to-date detailed treatment of the methods of modern food analysis. Each chapter, written by an expert in the area, is carefully reviewed to provide as much uniformity of style as possible, yet to allow for individual creativity and the requirements of specific topics. Each chapter addresses first the underlying principles of an area in sufficient detail that those not initially familiar with the method can develop sufficient knowledge of the area to utilize the principles and techniques required. Each chapter then contains numerous examples of the application of the principles in the analysis of compounds of interest in foods.

The treatise is not a handbook of methods of analysis, and the reader should not expect to find a detailed description of the step-by-step procedures to be used in an analysis. The treatise also is not intended as a primary textbook for the instruction of undergraduate students in the principles and techniques of food analysis, although it will prove valuable as a reference source for these students. Rather, the treatise is intended for use by graduate students and by all scientists involved in the analysis of biological materials.

Food analysis has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, in part due to better instrumentation, but also in part because it has recognized the need to understand and to apply the modern principles of analytical techniques—developed in large part by the physicists, the chemists, and the biochemists—to problems associated with

quality assurance, product development, and food safety. In this treatise, we have deliberately sought out authors who are at the cutting edge of their area of science, who understand what the major advances have been, how they can be applied to analysis related to food products, and what the future needs are in analytical techniques.

It is a truism that we all benefit from the availability and application of proper analytical techniques, whether we be scientist or consumer of food products. The need to know whether a particular compound is present, in what quantity, and any adverse effect it may elicit is an ever-present question that must depend for its answer on the most modern analytical techniques available and applied by those familiar with the advantages, limitations, and statistical significance of methods. Determination of the presence of a compound is often required at the picogram and femtogram levels.

Food analysis is a very broad and rapidly developing science. It is impossible to cover every conceivable method, even in a treatise of eight volumes as planned for *Food Analysis: Principles and Techniques*. Yet, it seemed to us that there are a number of areas of food analysis that must be incorporated and that the potential must be provided for additional volumes when emerging analytical techniques have reached a sufficient level of development.

The eight volumes will deal with the following topics:

- Volume 1. Physical Characterization
- Volume 2. Physicochemical Techniques
- Volume 3. Biological Techniques
- Volume 4. Separation Techniques
- Volume 5. Proximate Analysis
- Volume 6. Physical Techniques
- Volume 7. Spectroscopy
- Volume 8. Electroanalytical Techniques

The continuous encouragement, advice, and help of Dr. Maurits Dekker and the dedicated assistance of the staff of Marcel Dekker have provided the climate that made this treatise possible.

It is the authors of each of the chapters who have earned our undying gratitude for their dedication to the principles of excellence, for their desire to educate others in the principles and techniques of food analysis and thereby contribute to the quality and adequacy of the food supply, and in particular for their patience with the editors as this project evolved.

We welcome constructive suggestions from the users of the treatise. We hope that it will make a major contribution to the continued improvement in the application of modern analytical techniques in food analysis.

Dieter W. Gruenwedel
John R. Whitaker

Preface

The chapters of Volume 4 of *Food Analysis: Principles and Techniques* describe and discuss in detail a number of techniques used in the separation of food components. Separation is often the first essential step in food analysis. Although the classes of food components are limited in number - comprising categories such as proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, nucleic acids, vitamins, pigments, minerals, flavors, food additives - their individual members are in the thousands if not millions. Without employment of separation techniques, their analytical determination would be extremely difficult, in fact impossible. Separation techniques are therefore indispensable in the quantitation, structural analysis, elucidation of in vivo modes of action, or determination of the physical properties of food components.

Food components (or compounds) may be separated on the basis of their relative volatilities. One technique, utilizing differences in volatilities, is distillation. Separation can be achieved via regular distillation under atmospheric pressure or by distillation under reduced pressure, including molecular distillation (Chapter 1). Gas chromatography (Chapter 7) is another separation technique based on the relative volatilities of substances. It takes place in packed or microcapillary-open tubular columns. The rate of migration along the column material is refined further by partitioning the substances to be separated between a stationary phase (liquid) and a mobile phase (inert gas). The separation of ionic compounds, of compounds that can be caused to

ionize by changing the pH or by selectively complexing with ionized compounds, can be undertaken with the help of ion-exchange chromatography (Chapter 2) - one of the oldest types of chromatography - or with the aid of newer techniques such as chromatofocusing chromatography or ligand-exchange chromatography (Chapter 2). Separation can further be achieved by partitioning volatile (Chapter 7) or nonvolatile compounds (Chapter 5) between two immiscible phases, in which one, the stationary phase, may be represented by some "inert" insoluble support material (silica or cellulose) and the other one, the mobile phase, is passed along the stationary phase using a planar (Chapter 5) or columnar (Chapters 2, 4, 6, and 7) mode. Separation by inverted-phase chromatography is readily achieved by first bonding a hydrophobic layer to the "inert" insoluble support material (Chapters 2, 5, and 6). Thin-layer chromatography (Chapter 5), a time-honored separation technique, can be used to separate most types of compounds rapidly, inexpensively, and at microgram, nanogram, or even picogram levels.

Membrane-separation processes are of increasing importance in food analysis as well as in food technology. Since there exist numerous membranes of various pore sizes and stabilities to pressure, heat, and chemical solvents, many food chemicals can be separated from each other with great ease. The principles and applications of membrane-separation processes are described in considerable detail in Chapter 3, particularly from an engineering point of view.

Gel filtration chromatography (Chapter 4) is a separation technique in which compounds are fractionated according to size, based on their relative distribution between the buffer phase outside the gel beads and the buffer phase in the interstices of the pores of the gel beads. Affinity chromatography (Chapter 2) utilizes the specific recognition that may exist between an immobilized ligand (attached to an insoluble, inert matrix) and one of the solutes in a food mixture. Recognition may be as strict as that of an enzyme-substrate or antigen-antibody interaction or as broad as the recognition of a group of compounds, e.g., dehydrogenases that all require NAD^+ as a cofactor. Affinity chromatography is one of the newest and most versatile chromatographic methods.

High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC, Chapter 6) utilizes many of the separation principles pertaining to Chapters 2, 4, and 5. Its superior performance and attractiveness derive from the availability of noncompressible microbeads of uniform size that can be packed uniformly into stainless steel columns and used repeatedly at high pressures, and sometimes high temperatures, with a minimum of effort expended in the regeneration of the packing material. Sometimes separations by HPLC can be achieved within 5-30 min, minimizing thereby peak spreading due to diffusion, eddy effects, irregular packing, and so forth. While Moore and Stein in 1956 separated

the 20 amino acids normally found in protein hydrolysates by chromatography on sulfonated polystyrene polymers in the course of 22-24 h, HPLC separation succeeds in 20 min on the same column material. However, in spite of the undeniable advances in chromatography that have occurred since Tswett first described the technique in 1903 and Martin and Synge determined its principles of operation in 1941, no one doubts that many more major advances are bound to occur regarding this versatile separation technique.

We thank all the authors for their contributions to this volume.

Dieter W. Gruenwedel

John R. Whitaker

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