



## Determination of Ferrous Ion in Pure & Pharmaceutical Preparation by Continuous Flow Injection Analysis Via Turbidimetric Utilizing NAG-4SX3-3D Analyzer

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### Abstract

A simple and efficient established method that is characterized by its quickness and high sensitivity for determining ferrous ion in pure and pharmaceutical formulations by generate of dark-blue precipitate using reaction of hexacyanoferrate(III) with ferrous ion in ammonium acetate medium. The equipment NAG-4SX3-3D analyzer was used to quantify turbidity by measuring the incident light attenuation crashing on the precipitate surface granules (0-180 degree). The optimum parameter has been investigated in order to improve the newly created approach's sensitivity.

The linear range (0.1-7) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> with (r=0.9971), (correlation coefficient), percentage linearity (R % = 99.42), and RSD % for the repetition (n=7) also were lower than 0.1 percent for the measurement of ferrous ion, with concentration (1, 4.7 mmol .L<sup>-1</sup>). Whereas L.O.D. = 212.6712 ng/sample from the progressive dilution throughout the calibration graph's lowest concentration linear dynamic range the suggested approach was compared to the traditional method (UV- spectrophotometric at  $\lambda_{max} = 222$  nm of analysis employing the conventional technique of adding by the use of paired t- test (the mean difference between pairs of measurements). It's noticed that with calculated numbers, there wasn't any substantial variation between the values given of any particular firm, t-value at 95% interval from the proposed approach.

**Key word:** Fe (II); turbidity; flow injection analysis ;hexacyanoferrate; Turnbull's blue.

### 1. Introduction

Iron "Fe" is a micronutrient that is required by practically all living things [1]. In photosynthesis and respiration, Chlorophyll generation, nitrate reduction and reactive oxygen species detoxification are just a few of the metabolic activities iron participates and electron transport [2]. Due to its poor solubility, Fe concentrations in natural water sources range from 10-8 mmol in river water to 10-9 mmol in coastal water and 10-13 mmol in ocean water [3]. Ferrous and ferric, the total Fe pool includes both organic and inorganic complexes, colloidal Fe and particulate Fe. Iron is also important to living organisms since it serves as a cofactor for several enzymes[4,5] , including catalase, cytochrome and peroxidase. It is also required for the transport of oxygen and the transfer of electrons. Iron has been established to have a daily dosage of 0.8 mg per kilogram of body weight and at excessive amounts, it can be poisonous [6, 7]. Excess iron causes cancer, organ damage, skin and muscular problems, while iron shortage causes anemia [8]. As a result, identifying trace quantities of iron is critical in order to safeguard

the environment and avoid harmful health impacts from iron accumulating in organs and tissues. There are several analytical methods used to determinate the amount of iron such as flame atomic absorption spectrometry (FAAS) [9], inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry [10], inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry [6], digital image colorimetric [11], atomic absorption spectrometry [12, 13], liquid-liquid micro extraction [14], spectrophotometry [15] , in situ solvent formation micro extraction (ISFME)[16-18] ,chemiluminescence- continuous flow injection analysis[19] etc.

The current investigation was based on the reaction of ferrous ion with potassium hexacyanoferrate (III) to form a blue precipitate using a newly homemade NAG-4SX3-3D analyzer [20-22], for determination of ferrous ion in pure and pharmaceutical preparations.

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## 2. Chemicals and Apparatus

### 2.1. The reagents and the Chemicals utilized

Chemicals of analytical grade reagents were applied in all of the experiments. Ferrous ion  $0.25 \text{ mol.L}^{-1}$  (FLUKA, Germany) was made by dissolving 24.5088 g (250ml) of  $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in distilled water in a little quantity then add 10 ml of concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (in order to avoid transform ferrous ion to ferric ion) followed by the addition of distilled water to the mark. Potassium hexacyanoferrate (III)  $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$   $0.25 \text{ mol.L}^{-1}$  (BDH, UK) was made by dissolving 41.1575 g in 500ml of distilled water.

### 2.2 Apparatus

The resultant output from the attenuation of incident light ( $0-180^\circ$ ) was accumulated using a flow cell manufactured from a handmade NAG-4SX3-3D analyzer. A potentiometric recorder (Siemens, Germany) was used to record the output signals. Ismatic peristaltic pump and six-port injection valve with sample loop (Teflon, variable length). For the conventional approach, an UV spectrophotometric (Shimadzu, Japan) was employed.

## 3. Methodology

Flow injection manifold system for the reaction of ferrous ion with potassium hexacyanoferrate (III) to form a dark- blue precipitate [23-24] was studied, which is shown in figure .1.A

The study has been carried out using experimental conditions,  $4 \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$  of Fe (II) with  $139 \mu\text{L}$  as a sample volume,  $20 \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$  of  $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$  and flow rate  $2.8 \text{ ml.min}^{-1}$  for carrier ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and reagent  $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$ . The carrier stream line ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) passing through the 6-port injection valve carrying the sample Fe(II) Ion  $4 \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$ . The carrier stream line will mix with the reagent line at a Y- junction to form blue precipitate leading to measured response via NAG-4SX3-3D Analyzer as shown in figure .1.A. figure .1.B shows profile of preliminary experiment for assessment of NAG-4SX3-3D. The reaction mechanism is as follows in scheme (1)

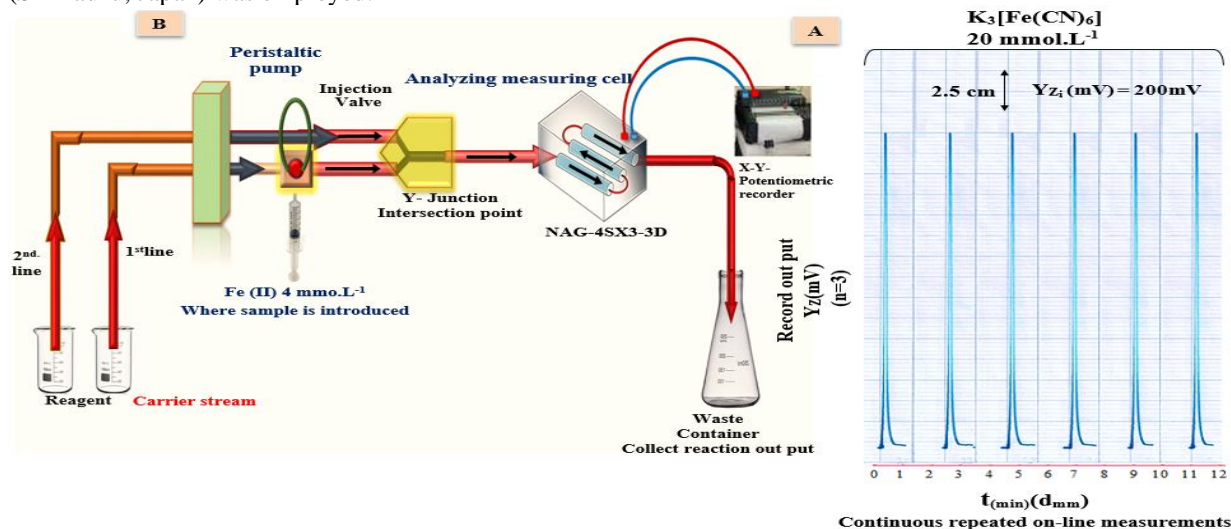
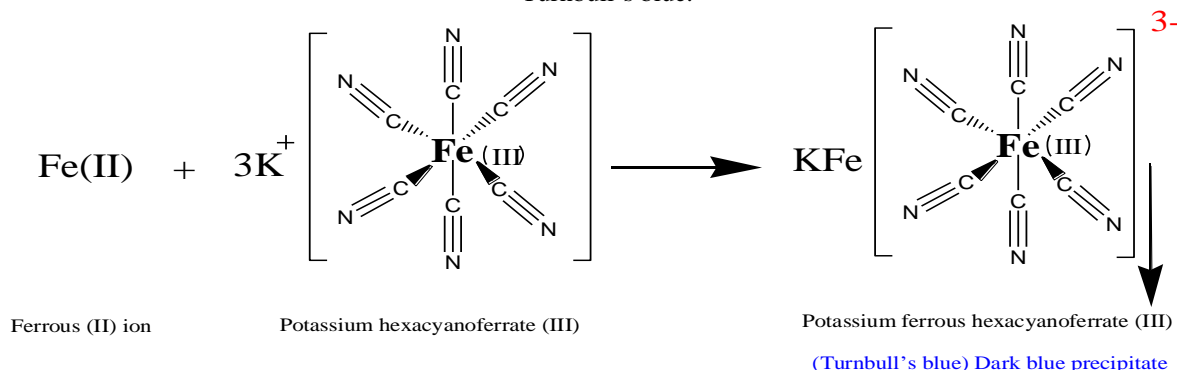


Fig.1.A: Diagram of manifold used for assessment NAG-4SX3-3D via reaction of Fe(II) ion  $40 \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$  with Potassium hexacyanoferrate (III)  $20 \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$  to form Turnbull's blue. B: Profile of preliminary experiment for assessment NAG-4SX3-3D via reaction of Fe(II) ion with Potassium hexacyanoferrate (III) to form Turnbull's blue.



Scheme (1): The reaction for precipitate formation

#### 4. Result and Discussion

The flow injection manifold system (figure. 1.A) was used to investigate chemical and physical factors in order to identify the conditions for generation the reaction product Turnbull's blue precipitate with the highest repeatability and sensitivity possible. These variables were optimized by keeping all of them constant while changing one at a time.

##### 4. A. Chemical variables

##### 4 .A.1.Effect of variable concentration of $[K_3Fe(CN)_6]$

The effect of varying concentration of  $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$  as a precipitating reagent was carried out using a range of solutions (10-55) mmol. L<sup>-1</sup> and 2.8 mL.min<sup>-1</sup> flow rate for each line. Constant concentration of Fe (II) Ion (4mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) was used with 139  $\mu$ L as sample volume. Table 1.A summarized and presented obtained results; such as relative standard deviation and confidence interval , it demonstrates that an increase in  $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$  concentration leads to increase in the attenuation the incident light on the precipitate particle surface up to 40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>, after this concentration there had been a decrease in the attention of the incident light in mV, this might be owing to the non-accumulation impact of precipitate particles causing a decrease in granule density. So, 40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>  $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$  concentration was selected as the optimal concentration for future investigation. Searching is made to find for highest intercept and lowest or acceptable slope, correlation coefficient and angle value were investigated. The 3-point plot shown that the segment  $S_4$  (40-55) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>, the most acceptable regions to select. While the rest of

segments shows low sensitivity. Table1.B. shown data point within the range can be chosen.

##### 4. A.2. Type of media effect (salt and acid)

The reaction of Fe(II) ion (4mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)-  $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$  (40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) system was investigated in variable media (acid and salt) at (50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) concentration additionally aqueous media(distilled water), flow rate 2.8 ml.min<sup>-1</sup> for each line and sample volume 139  $\mu$ L. The data obtained was plotted in the diagram below. Figure. 2.A, B, in which with varied media, the variations in the energy response of the transducer is given peak heights on average (n = 3) in mV, and response profile. It was found that ammonium acetate was the suitable as a carrier stream for maximum attenuation of the incident light compared to the use of different acids, salts and distilled water. Most likely as a result of an increase in the amount of precipitate particles. due to the present of ammonium acetate that may work as a catalyst for precipitate formation.

##### 4. A.3. Effect of Ammonium acetate salt concentration

Using Fe(II) ion (4 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) -  $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$  (40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) system. Varying concentrations of ammonium acetate (10-60) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> were prepared, 139  $\mu$ L as sample volume and flow rate 2.8 ml.min<sup>-1</sup> for both carrier stream and reagent. From table below, it was discovered that a rise in peak height was associated with an increase in ammonium acetate concentration, which might be attributable to an increase in precipitate granules. Therefore, 50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> was selected as the optimal concentration up to 50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>, S/N-transducer response is reduced as a result. Because some of the precipitate particles' solubility has decreased..

Table 1.A: Effect of potassium hexacyferrate (III) concentration on precipitation of Fe(II) ion, B:Segmentation pattern intercept –slope, correlation coefficient and angle with selected the optimum segment of Fe(II) ion- $[Fe(CN)_6]^{-3}$  system

A					
$[Fe(CN)_6]^{-3}$ mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	$\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV) overall average (n=3)	RSD%	Confidence level at 95 % $\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV)± t SEM		
10	1200	0.11	1200±3.279		
20	1520	0.08	1520±3.006		
30	1648	0.10	1648±4.074		
40	1736	0.06	1736±2.785		
50	1568	0.07	1568±2.608		
55	1160	0.11	1160±3.180		
B					
Segment	$[Fe(CN)_6]^{-3}$ range mmol. L <sup>-1</sup>	Intercept mV	Slope mV/ mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	correlation coefficient (r)	Angle (tangent)
S <sub>1</sub>	10-30	1008.00	22.40	0.9707	87.444
S <sub>2</sub>	20-40	1310.67	10.80	0.9943	84.710
S <sub>3</sub>	30-50	1810.67	- 4.00	-0.4760	-75.964
S <sub>4</sub>	40-55	3194.86	-35.31	-0.9105	-88.378

$\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV):(S/N) energy transducer in mV,  $t_{0.025,2}$ =4.303.

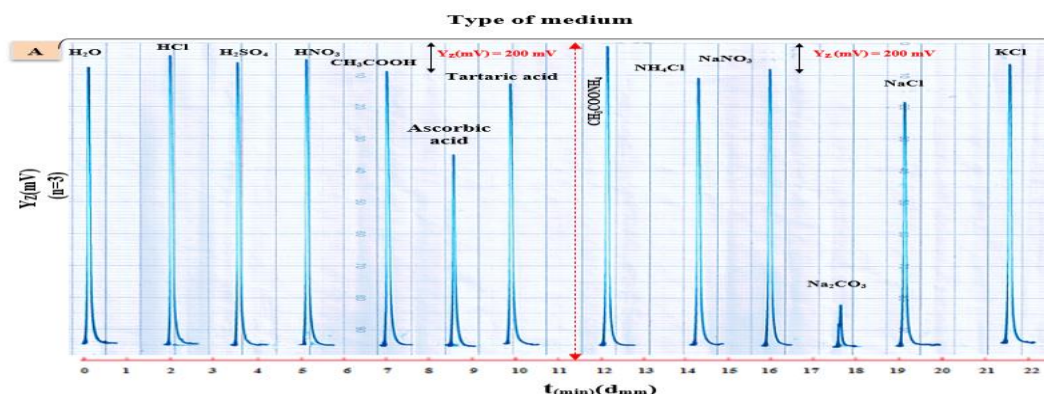


Fig.2.A: Effect type of medium (salt & acid) on A: Response profile  $Y_z$ -  $t_{(\text{minute})(\text{dmm})}$

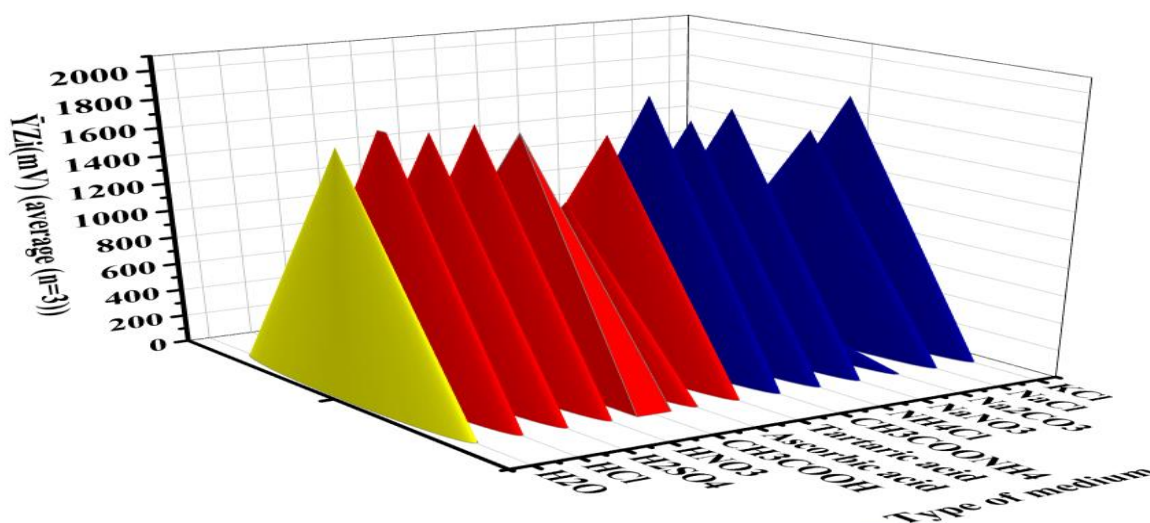


Fig.2.B: Transducer attenuation response for the assessment of NAG-4SX3-3D via formation of Turnbull's blue

Table 2.A: Effect of variation ammonium acetate concentration on precipitation of Fe(II) ion, B: Segmentation pattern intercept -slope, correlation coefficient and angle with selected the optimum segment of Fe(II) ( $4\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$ )- $[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{3-}$  ( $40\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$ ) system

A					
$[\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4]$ $\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$	$\bar{Y}_z(\text{mV})$ overall average, (n=3)	RSD%	Confidence level at 95 % $\bar{Y}_z(\text{mV}) \pm t \text{ SEM}$		
10	1784	0.10	$1784 \pm 4.422$		
30	1776	0.07	$1776 \pm 3.279$		
40	1792	0.08	$1792 \pm 3.602$		
50	1872	0.06	$1872 \pm 3.006$		
60	1696	0.10	$1696 \pm 4.298$		
B					
Segment	$[\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4]^{3-}$ $\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$	Intercept mV	Slope $\text{mV}/\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$	correlation coefficient(r)	Angle (tangent)
S <sub>1</sub>	10-40	1779.43	0.17	0.3273	9.728
S <sub>2</sub>	30-50	1621.33	4.80	0.9333	78.232
S <sub>3</sub>	40-60	2026.67	- 4.80	-0.5447	-78.232

$\bar{Y}_z(\text{mV})$ :(S/N) energy transducer in mV,  $t_{0.025,2}=4.303$

Most of the particles will be in the form of big sized particulate, mainly it could not be in the form of nucleus which in turn not to collect in its packed blocked form and that will not help in agglomeration causing a decrease of attenuation of incident light. The results corresponding with slope-intercept-correlation coefficient and angle calculation (table

2.B), S<sub>3</sub> is a category in which the segment of choice can be made (i.e.;40-60  $\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$ ). The selected segment contains 50  $\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$



#### 4. B. Physical variables

##### 4. B.1. Effect of flow rate

The flow rate of the carrier stream was optimized through a series of studies. (ammonium acetate) 50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> and reagent stream K<sub>3</sub>[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>] 40mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> using (4 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) at 139 μL as sample volume. As demonstrated in figure.3.A, there was an increase in dilution and dispersion at low flow rates, which might lead to an increase in peak base width (Δt<sub>B</sub>). To achieve a maximal reaction, a flow rate of 2.5ml.min<sup>-1</sup> was employed for both the carrier and reagent streams. Figure.3.A is showing variation of flow rate versus

S/N energy transducer output response profile of NAG-4SX3-3D analyser. The result obtained were tabulated in table 3.A. On the basis of intercept – slope correlation coefficient and angle, This might be seen in table 3.B and figure.3.B in which that section is S<sub>4</sub> ( i.e.; 2.5-3 ml.min<sup>-1</sup>) was the optimum and 2.5 ml.min<sup>-1</sup>, the optimal flow rate for both the carrier and reagent streams was discovered within the designated segment and was employed in further trials.

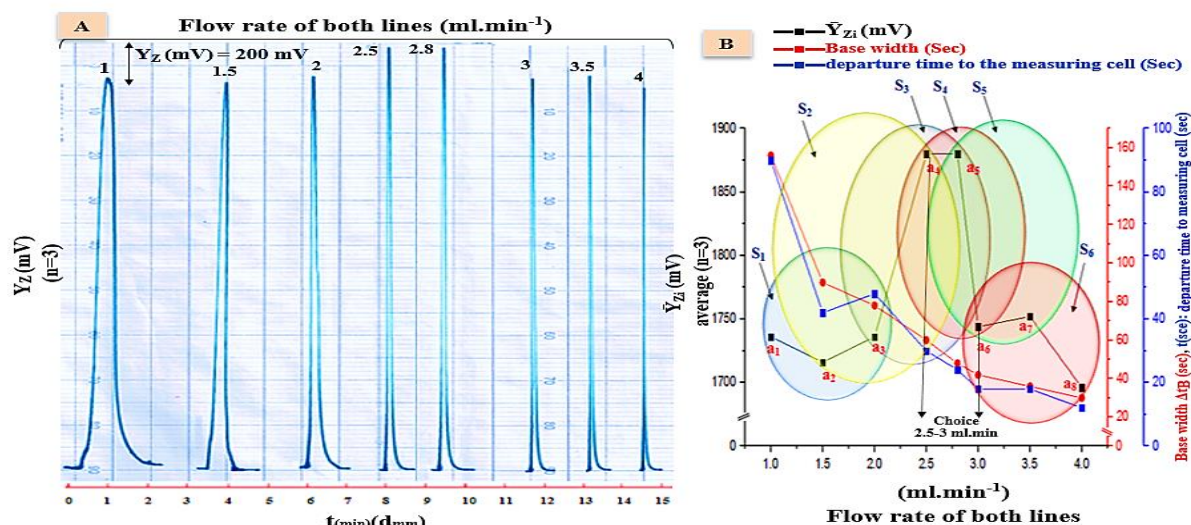


Fig.3. A: Response profile of effect flow rate on transducer attenuation response for the assessment of NAG-4SX3-3D via formation of Turnbull's blue. B:  $\bar{Y}_Z$  (mV) output of (S/N) energy transducer response and three data point as one segment with optimum choice

Table 3.A: Effect of flow rate variation on precipitation of Fe(II), B: Segmentation pattern intercept –slope, correlation coefficient and angle with selected the optimum segment of Fe(II) ion (4mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)-[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>-3</sup>(40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)- [CH<sub>3</sub>COONH<sub>4</sub>] (50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) system, at 139 μL sample volume.

A									
Pump speed	Flow rate ml.min <sup>-1</sup> for each line	$\bar{Y}_{Zi}$ (mV) overall average (n=3)	RSD%	Confidence level at 95% $\bar{Y}_{Zi}$ (mV)± t SEM	Δt <sub>sec</sub>	V <sub>add</sub> (ml) at flow rate	C (mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> )	D.F	t <sub>sec</sub>
5	1.0	1736	0.05	1736±2.062	156	5.339	0.104	38.4101	90
10	1.5	1716	0.07	1716±3.006	90	4.639	0.120	33.3741	42
15	2.0	1736	0.08	1736±3.354	78	5.339	0.104	38.4101	48
20	2.5	1880	0.05	1880±2.534	60	5.139	0.108	36.9712	30
25	2.8	1880	0.08	1880±3.602	48	4.619	0.120	33.2302	24
30	3.0	1744	0.07	1744±3.155	42	4.339	0.128	31.2158	18
35	3.5	1752	0.08	1752±3.279	36	4.339	0.128	31.2158	18
40	4.0	1696	0.10	1696±4.174	30	4.139	0.134	29.7770	12
B									
Segment	Flow rate ml.min <sup>-1</sup>	Intercept mV	slope mV/ mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	correlation coefficient (r)	Angle (tangent)				
S <sub>1</sub>	1-2	1729.33	0.00	0.00	0.00				
S <sub>2</sub>	1.5-2.5	1449.33	164.00	0.916	89.651				
S <sub>3</sub>	2-2.8	1367.18	191.02	0.929	89.700				
S <sub>4</sub>	2.5-3	2527.79	-250.53	-0.803	-89.771				
S <sub>5</sub>	2.8-3.5	2240.31	-144.62	-0.683	-89.604				
S <sub>6</sub>	3-4	1898.67	-48.00	-0.792	-88.807				

$\bar{Y}_{Zi}$ (mV):(S/N) response of energy transducer in mV,  $t_{0.025,2}$ =4.303, Δt<sub>sec</sub>: Base width of peak (second), t<sub>sec</sub>: the dewatering time from the injection valve into metering cell, C: Concentration, Df: Dilution factor at flow cell

#### 4.B.2. Effect of sample volume

Using the most effective parameters discovered in previous studies. The sample volume effect (Fe (II) ion 4 mmol. L<sup>-1</sup>) as analyte was used. Different length of teflon tube (10.4-35.8 cm) of diameter 0.5 mm was utilized to determine the best sample volume to use throughout the procedure. The result obtained were listed in table 4.A. it was observed that, the increase of the base width ( $\Delta t_B$ ) with increasing the length of sample volume. Due to the considerable time it takes for the carrier stream to pass through the injection

valve, the flow is restricted, resulting in an increase in the dispersion of precipitate particles segment and a rise in the base width ( $\Delta t_B$ ). A compromise in this study was made to chosen 175  $\mu\text{L}$  as suitable most convenient of sample volume. On the basis of intercept – slope – correlation coefficient and angle calculation which is shown in table 4.B in which that segment S<sub>4</sub> (i.e.; 141-281  $\mu\text{L}$ ) was the chosen segment and 175  $\mu\text{L}$  with in the chosen segment was the optimum sample volume and will be used for further experiments.

Table 4.A: Effect of the sample volume variable on precipitation of Fe (II) ion. B: Segmentation pattern intercept–slope, correlation coefficient and angle with selected the optimum segment of Fe(II) (4mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)-[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>(40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)- CH<sub>3</sub>COONH<sub>4</sub> (50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) system at 2.5 ml.min<sup>-1</sup> flow rate for each line

A									
Length of sample segment cm r= 0.5	Sample volume $\mu\text{L}$	$\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV) overall average, (n=3)	RSD%	Confidence level at 95% $\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV)± t SEM	$\Delta t_{\text{sec}}$	V <sub>add</sub> (ml) at flow rate	C (mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> )	D.F	t <sub>sec</sub>
10.4	82	1080	0.11	1080±3.080	50	4.249	0.077	51.813	24
14.6	115	1552	0.10	1552±3.900	54	4.615	0.100	40.130	27
17.7	139	1880	0.06	1880±3.006	59	4.917	0.110	36.372	31
18	141	1960	0.08	1960±3.677	63	5.391	0.105	38.234	34
22.3	175	2020	0.08	2020±4.149	64	5.508	0.127	31.476	36
35.8	281	2320	0.09	2320±4.919	65	5.698	0.197	20.276	37
B									
Segment	Sample volume $\mu\text{L}$	Intercept mV	slope mV/ mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	correlation coefficient(r)	Angle (tangent)				
S <sub>1</sub>	82-139	-69.74	14.05	0.9999	85.929				
S <sub>2</sub>	115-141	-156.70	14.84	0.9932	86.145				
S <sub>3</sub>	139-175	1506.24	2.95	0.8491	71.626				
S <sub>4</sub>	141-281	1576.00	2.63	0.9969	69.2046				

$\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV):(S/N) energy transducer in mV,  $t_{0.025,2}$ =4.303,  $\Delta t_{\text{sec}}$ : Base width of peak (sec), t<sub>sec</sub>: the dewatering time from the injection valve into metering cell, 0\*: Without coil, C: Concentration, Df: Dilution factor at flow cell.

#### 4. B.3. The impact of a delay reaction coil on the S/N response curve

Table 5.A: Effect of the variation of reaction coil on precipitation of Fe (II) ion. B: Segmentation pattern intercept–slope, correlation coefficient and angle with selected the optimum segment of Fe (II) (4mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)-[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>(40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)- CH<sub>3</sub>COONH<sub>4</sub> (50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) system at 2.5 ml.min<sup>-1</sup> flow rate for each line and 175 $\mu\text{L}$  sample volume.

A									
Coil length Centimeter r=1 mm	Coil length $\mu\text{L}$	$\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV) overall average, (n=3)	RSD%	Confidence level at 95% $\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV)± t SEM	$\Delta t_{\text{sec}}$	V <sub>add</sub> (ml) at flow rate	C (mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> )	D.F	t <sub>sec</sub>
Without	0	2020	0.05	2020± 2.584	63	5.425	0.129	31.000	35
10	314	1860	0.07	1860±3.006	64	5.333	0.127	31.000	40
20	628	1880	0.08	1880±3.602	65	5.592	0.125	31.952	45
25	785	1800	0.09	1800±4.174	66	5.675	0.123	32.429	50
30	942	1780	0.11	1780±4.695	67	5.758	0.122	32.905	56
B									
Segment	Coil length $\mu\text{L}$	Intercept mV	slope mV/ mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	correlation coefficient (r)	Angle (tangent)				
S <sub>1</sub>	0-785	1992.54	-0.24	- 0.8881	- 13.360				
S <sub>2</sub>	314-942	1922.29	-0.14	- 0.7789	- 7.875				

$\bar{Y}_{zi}$ (mV):(S/N) energy transducer in mV,  $t_{0.025,2}$ =4.303,  $\Delta t_{\text{sec}}$ : Base width of peak (sec), t<sub>sec</sub>: the dewatering time from the injection valve into metering cell, C: Concentration, Df: Dilution factor at flow cell.

Fe(II) ion (4 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) and K<sub>3</sub>[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>] (40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) system was used. 175 μL as the injection sample volume and flow rate 2.5 ml.min<sup>-1</sup> for carrier stream (ammonium acetate 50 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) and reagent stream. At variable coil length (0, 314, 628, 785, and 942) μL as shown in table 5.A reaction coil attached after Y- junction. The purpose in why conducting this study is because of having the rearrangement of precipitate particles. As a result, it was observed that utilizing variable volume (different length of reaction coil) will result in dilution of sample zone reaction product, resulting in a distribution when using a very high volume, resulting in a highly dispersed of precipitate, resulting in a weaker signal because sample zone takes longer time duration of precipitate species in front of the detector, as shown in table 5. A. Therefore; there was no need to connect a coil between Y- junctions to measuring cell. On the basis of slope- intercept, correlation coefficient and angle which might be seen in table 5.B in which that segment S<sub>1</sub> (i.e.; 0-785 μL ) was the optimum and 0 μL (without reaction coil ) , the optimal delay response coil was found inside the designated segment and was utilized in further testing.

### 5. The effect of Fe (II) ion concentration on the output of energy transducers of divergent light

Under the established optimum chemical and physical variables, a series of Fe (II) ion solutions (0.1-25) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> were prepared; it's what the X-axis will look like "Independent variable". The attenuation of incident light was measured using the NAG-4SX3-3D, which produced S/N energy transducer responses as Y-"represent the dependent variable" as shown in figure.4.A, with the peak height of response increasing as the concentration of analyte rose. Figure 4.C depicts a profile. Its represented by scatter-plot at range (0.1-25) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> (i.e. All twenty points were chosen with the

correlation coefficient  $r = 0.8592$  as shown in table 6 a rise in Fe(II) ion concentration induces an increase in precipitate particles, according to the analytical range. Up to 10 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>, a broad in maxima of peak height was noticed, because an increase of precipitate particles , as a consequence of the decrease in interstitial gaps and reflecting surface, as well as the increase in particle size, particles move slowly, resulting in a prolonged time duration of particles in front of the detector, resulting in a distorted response. Figure.4.B. Analytical range (dynamic range) (0.1-15) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> (n=18) with  $r = 0.9342$ , working range (0.1-10) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> (n=17) with  $r = 0.9874$  and linear range (linear dynamic range) (0.1-7) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> (n=16) with  $r = 0.9973$ .

To enhance the assessment of mathematical formulations, a shorter range should be chosen while looking for a better representation. Table 6 tabulates all the results obtained that covers the calibration range including the correlation coefficient, coefficient of determination, percentage capital R- squared and t-table. With  $r = 0.9973$  and  $R^2 = 99.45$ , the best linear equation for the relationship between Fe (II) ion concentration and divergent light exists. On the form:

$$\hat{Y}_{zi}(\text{mV}) = 24.816 \pm 82.3918 + 539.9350 \pm 22.9292 [\text{Fe (II)}] \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$$

The output of the scatter plot was able to articulate the acquired results from n=16. The development of the developed strategy for determining Fe (II) ion was compared to the traditional method (reference method) [19] namely UV-spectrophotometric method that based on the absorbance measurements at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 222 \text{ nm}$  as show in table 6. The best linear ranging from 0.1 to 3.5 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> of n=11 with correlation coefficient of 0.9971 and  $R^2 = 99.43$  (table 6).

Table 6: Summary of linear regression data for the variations of the (S/N) energy transducer response with Fe (II) ion concentration using the first degree equation of the form  $\hat{Y} = a + b x$  at optimum conditions

Type of mode	Range of [Fe (II)] ion mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> (n)	$\hat{Y}_{zi} = a \pm S_a + b(\Delta y / \Delta x_{\text{mmol.L}^{-1}}) \pm S_b t$ [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> at confidence level 95%, n-2	r, r <sup>2</sup> , R <sup>2</sup> %	t <sub>tab</sub> at 95%, n-2	Calculated t-value $t_{\text{cal}} = t / \sqrt{(n-2) / (1-r^2)}$
Developed method using NAG - 4SX3 - 3D analyser					
UV- Spectrophotometer at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 222 \text{ nm}$ .					
Linear range or linear dynamic range	0.1-7 (16)	24.8160±82.3918+539.9350±22.9292 [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.9973, 0.9945, 99.45	2.145 << 50.510	
	0.1-3.5 (11)	-0.0222±0.0527+0.5087±0.0291 [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.9971, 0.9943, 99.43	2.262 << 39.455	
Working range or calibration range	0.1-10 (17)	158.3580±180.7623+481.8330±42.5651 [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.9874, 0.9749, 97.49	2.131 << 24.123	
	0.1-4 (12)	0.0006±0.0708+0.4846±0.0340 [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.9951, 0.9902, 99.02	2.228 << 31.749	
Dynamic range or analytical range	0.1-15 (18)	512.8604±387.8074+352.5874±71.3613 [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.9342, 0.8727, 87.27	2.120 << 10.475	
	0.1-4.5 (13)	0.0378±0.1087+0.4498±0.0461 [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.9883, 0.9767, 97.67	2.201 << 21.460	
Scatter plot	0.1-25 (20)	1011.8339± 523.2435+201.1596±59.3107 [Fe (II)]mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.8592, 0.7383, 73.83	2.101 << 7.126	
	0.1-5 (14)	0.0814±0.1440+0.4133±0.0547 [Fe (II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	0.9786, 0.9577, 95.77	2.179 << 16.4763	

n: no. of measurement,  $\hat{Y}_{zi}$  (mV); estimated response(n=3) in mV for developed method, r: correlation coefficient, r<sup>2</sup>: coefficient of determination, R<sup>2</sup>% (percentage capital R-squared): explained variation as a percentage / total variation,  $t_{\text{tab}} = t_{0.05/2, n-2}$  and volume of measuring cell 1 ml for UV-SP

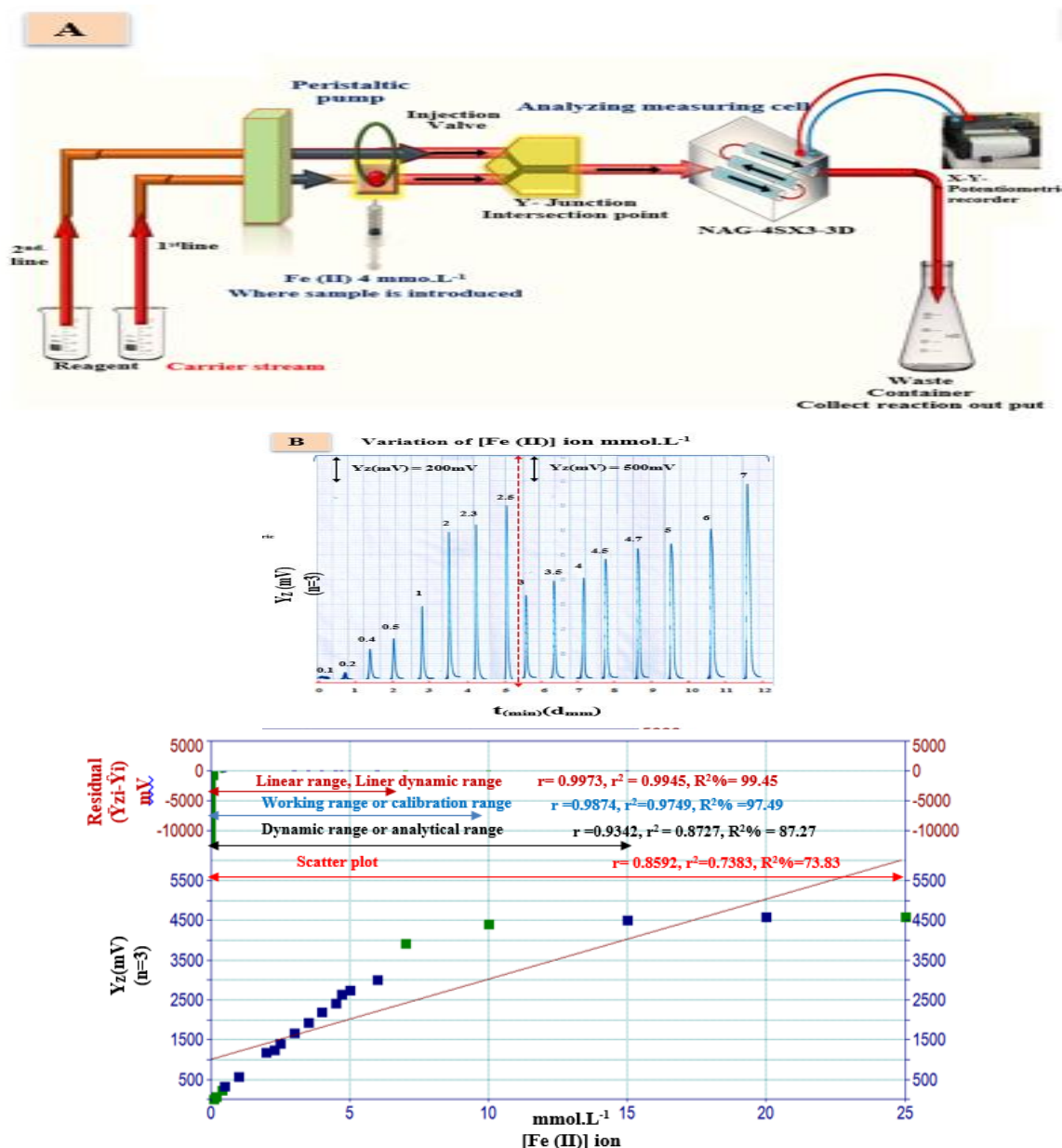


Fig. 4: A: Flow gram system used for the determination of [Fe (II)] ion. B: Some of profiles versus time, potentiometric scanning speed  $1\text{cm}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ ; C: Different range for the effect of Fe (II) ion concentration on attenuation of incident light using NAG-4SX3-3D for cell A: scatter plot (0.1-25)  $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  for  $n=20$ , dynamic range (0.1-15)  $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  for  $n=18$ , working range (0.1-10)  $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  for  $n=17$  and linear range (0.1-7)  $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  for  $n=16$  against Fe (II) ion concentration, using Fe (II) ion-  $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$  ( $40\text{ mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ) -  $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$  ( $50\text{ mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ) system.  $\hat{Y}_z$  (mV); Estimated response ( $n=3$ ) in (mV) for developed method,  $r$ : correlation coefficient,  $r^2$ : coefficient of determination,  $R^2\%$  (percentage capital R-squared): explained variation as a percentage / total variation,  $\hat{Y}_{zi}$  (mV): output (S/N) of energy transducer response in mV.

**Table 7: Detection Limit of Fe (II) ion using 175  $\mu\text{L}$  as an injection sample and optimum parameters**

Practically, the minimum concentration in a scatter plot is based on steady dilution		Theoretical based on the value of slope $x=3S_b/\text{slope}$	Theoretical based on the linear equation $\hat{Y} = Y_b + 3S_b$	Limit of quantitative L.O. Q $\hat{Y} = Y_b + 10S_b$
Newly developed method ( $0.008\text{ mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ )	Classical method ( $0.005\text{ mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ )			
212.6712 ng/sample	7.5954 $\mu\text{g}/\text{sample}$	0.08865954 $\mu\text{g}/\text{sample}$	13.23705954 $\mu\text{g}/\text{sample}$	44.12345954 $\mu\text{g}/\text{sample}$

$\hat{Y}$ : Estimated response (mV), X :value of LOD based on the slope(depend on analytical range ) ,  $S_b$  :standard deviation of blank( $n=13$ ),  $Y_b$ : average response for blank= intercept (a),  $S_b$ : standard deviation equal to  $S_{y/x}$  (residual), (LOD depend on linear equation of linear range due to low  $S_{y/x}$ ).



## 6. Limit of detection (LOD)

Using three different approaches methods as shown in table (7) [24]

## 7. Repeatability

The accuracy reached by the whole test technique (figure. 5) is calculated by averaging measurements of two Fe (II) ion concentrations, each repeated seven times. This means the relative standard deviation was less than one percent. Figure 5 depicts a response profile for the concentrations utilized.

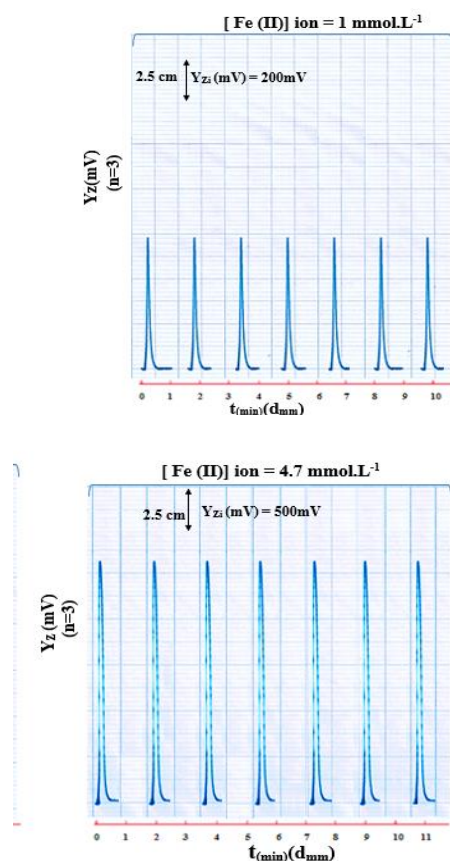


Fig.5:  $\bar{Y}_{Zi}$  (mV) –  $t_{(Sec)}(d_{mm})$  profile of seven successive measurement with a repeatability of profile for 1 and 4.7 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> concentration of [Fe(II)]ion using potassium hexacyanoferrate (III) (40 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>), using 175  $\mu$ L as injection loop and 2.5 ml.min<sup>-1</sup> flow rate for each line

## 8. Determination of ferrous ion in drugs using a homemade NAG-4SX3-3D analyzer

The approach that has been established was used for the determination of Fe(II) ion in four different kind of Fe(II) ion from four well known drug manufactures (Ferrous sulfate, 200 mg, actives), ( FEFOL, 150 mg, MEDIA), ( FE- Folic, 150 mg, BRAUN) and ( Fol Iron, 150 mg, pyxus) using

NAG-4SX3-3D analyser and compared with classical spectrophotometric method against the measurement of  $\lambda_{max}$  at 222nanometre ( figure.6).

Preparing a series of solutions from each medicinal substance was used as the standard addition approach. The measurements were conducted by both methods. A series of Fe(II) ion solution were prepared of pure formulation (Ferrous sulfate) 0.01 mol.L<sup>-1</sup>, first adding 1 ml to each of the five volumetric flasks (10 ml), then gradually increasing the capacity of each flask (250 mmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) standard Fe(II) ion ( 0, 0.04, 0.06, 0.08 and 0.1 ) ml which equivalent to (0, 1, 1.5, 2 and 2.5 ) mmol.L<sup>-1</sup> for both NAG-4SX3-3D analyser and classical UV-Spectrophotometric method. Flask no.1is the sample figure.7 shows the response profile for this study. Table 11.A summarizes the findings of the standard additions technique for the four samples based on the quantity of Fe (II) ion in pharmaceutical medication. While the data in table 11.B summarizes the results for two methods, displaying the practical content of active component at a 95% confidence level, determination efficiency, and paired t-test for comparison of two pathways.

**Individual paired t-test** ; a comparison of the newly developed approach to the official quoted value  $\mu_0$  (150 mg for MEDIA-jordan, BRAUN-India and pyxus-India, and 200 mg for actavis-UK as shown in table 11.A by calculated  $t_{cal}$  of each individual company a hypothesis can be estimated as follow:-

$H_0$  ( Null hypothesis): for sample no. 1:  $\mu_0 = \underline{W}_1$  for actavis- UK

for sample no. 2:  $\mu_0 = \underline{W}_2$  for MEDIA-jordan

for sample no. 3:  $\mu_0 = \underline{W}_3$  for BRAUN- India

for sample no. 4:  $\mu_0 = \underline{W}_4$  for pyxus-India

i.e: There is no significant difference between the means of practical content for four different companies ( $\underline{W}_i$ ) and quoted value ( $\mu_0 = 200$  mg or 150 mg)

Against

$H_1$  (alternative hypothesis):  $\mu_0 \neq \underline{W}_i$  for four different companies

i.e: There is a significant difference between the quoted value and means of practical content for four different companies.

For the result obtained that there is  $t_{tab} > t_{cal}$  at 95 % confidence level for four drugs, which means no significant different between the quoted value (150 mg or 200 mg) and calculated t-value.

**Secondary paired t- test:** By combining a created way of analysis (i.e., utilizing the NAG-4SX3-3D analyser) with a traditional approach, a paired t-test was performed across samples from four distinct organizations (i.e: UV-spectrophotometric). Considering individual differences between manufacturers.

A hypothesis can be estimated as a follow:

Null hypothesis  $H_0$  :  $\mu_{\text{NAG-4SXS-3D analyzer}} =$

$\mu_{\text{UV Spectrophotometric}}$

Against

Alternative hypothesis  $H_1$ :  $\mu_{\text{NAG-4SXS-3D}}$

$\text{analyzer} \neq \mu_{\text{UV-Spectrophotometric}}$

Since calculation  $t_{\text{cal}}$  of  $1.8472 < 4.303$  at 95 % confidence level. Therefore;  $H_0$  is accepted against  $H_1$

i.e.: that there is no significant difference between two methods.

**Individual paired t-test:** Developed method (NAG-4SXS-3D-CFI Analyzer) there is no

significant difference between the means for ferrous (II) ion for four samples and theoretical value, i.e.:  $H_0$  is accepted

In addition, take use of the benefits of employing the f-test (scheme 2) to determinate which approach is more exact than others. The established new attained approach is considerably more exact than the ordinary classical method stated in the referenced literature [classical method], according to the results of Scheme 2. Since, variation of newly developed method ( $S_1^2=501.191$ ) lower than a variant of the traditional approach ( $S_2^2=577.710$ )

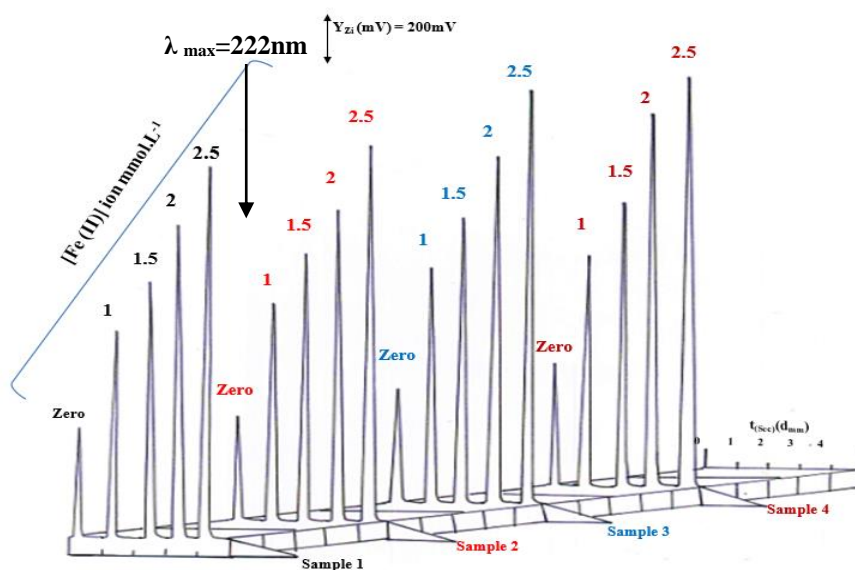


Fig.6: Absorbance of the Fe (II) ion's UV spectrum at a concentration of  $2 \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$  with a maximum of 222 nm

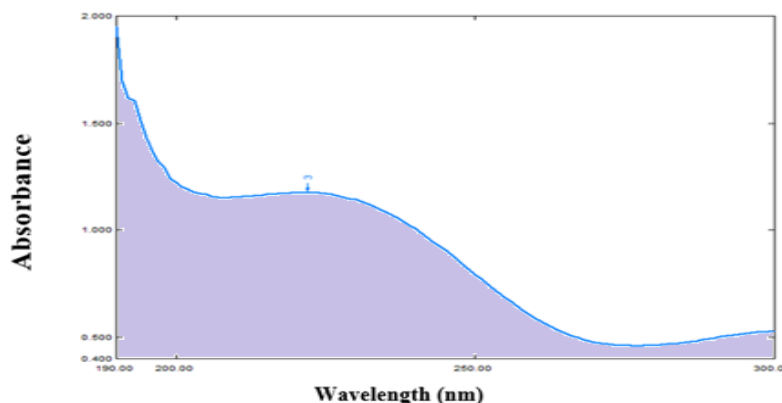


Fig.7: Profile – time for standard addition method using four different companies:

Sample 1: Ferrous sulfate, 200 mg, actavis, UK

Sample 2: FEFOL, 150mg, MEDIA, Jordan

Sample 3: FE-Folic, 150mg, BRAWN, India

Sample 4: FoL Iron, 150 mg, pyxus, India

Table 11.A: Standard addition results for the determination of Fe (II) in four samples of drug using NAG - 4SX3 - 3D analyzer for developed method and UV- Spectrophotometer method (Classical method)

No. of sample	Commercial Name, Company Content Country	Type of method										
		Developed method using NAG - 4SX3 - 3D analyzer (mV)										
		UV- Spectrophotometer at $\lambda_{max} = 222nm$ .										
		Confidence interval For the average weight of Tablet $\bar{w}_i \pm 1.96 \sigma_{n-1}/\sqrt{n}$ at 95% (g)	Weight of Sample equivalent to 0.1519 gm (10 mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> ) of the active ingredient $W_i(mg)$	Theoretical content for the active ingredient at 95% (mg) $W_i \pm 1.96 \sigma_{n-1}/\sqrt{n}$	[Fe(II)] mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>					Equation of standard addition at 95% for n-2		r
					0	0.04ml	0.06 ml	0.08 ml	0.1ml	$\hat{Y}_i(mV)=a \pm s_a t + b \pm s_b t$ [Fe(II)]mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	$\hat{Y}_i = a \pm s_a t + b \pm s_b t$ [Fe(II)]mmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	r <sup>2</sup>
			0	1	1.5	2	2.5		R <sup>2</sup> %			
1	Ferrous sulfate actavis Fe(II)=200mg UK	0.4457±0.0071	0.3385	200±3.2057	465	880	1080	1340	1592	$\hat{Y}_{zi}(mV)=443.2160 \pm 80.9851 + 448.703 \pm 49.2857 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9982	
												0.9964
					0.56	1.06	1.34	1.63	1.92	$\hat{Y}_{zi}=0.5392 \pm 0.0633 + 0.5449 \pm 0.0386 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9993	
												0.9985
												99.85
2	FEFOL MEDIA Fe(II)=150 mg Jordan	0.4586±0.0029	0.4644	150±0.9437	450	940	1140	1336	1600	$\hat{Y}_{zi}(mV)=461.4590 \pm 66.0075 + 451.2430 \pm 40.1670 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9988	
												0.9977
					0.51	1.10	1.33	1.60	1.84	$\hat{Y}_{zi}=0.5332 \pm 0.0748 + 0.5305 \pm 0.0455 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9989	
												0.9978
												99.78
3	FE-FOLIC BRAWN Fe(II)=150mg India	0.4556±0.0037	0.4614	150±1.2182	500	1010	1220	1480	1760	$\hat{Y}_{zi}(mV)=497.0270 \pm 56.6428 + 497.8380 \pm 34.4716 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9993	
												0.9986
					0.37	1.21	1.24	1.46	1.68	$\hat{Y}_{zi}=0.4935 \pm 0.4070 + 0.4989 \pm 0.2477 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9654	
												0.9319
												93.19
4	FOLIRON Pyxus Fe(II)=150mg India	0.5795±0.0069	0.5869	150±1.7878	530	998	1220	1592	1745	$\hat{Y}_{zi}(mV)=514.9190 \pm 147.5525 + 501.4860 \pm 89.7960 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9953	
												0.9906
					0.54	1.04	1.33	1.58	1.86	$\hat{Y}_{zi}=0.5303 \pm 0.0391 + 0.5284 \pm 0.0239 [Fe(II)]mmol.L^{-1}$	0.9997	
												0.9994
												99.94

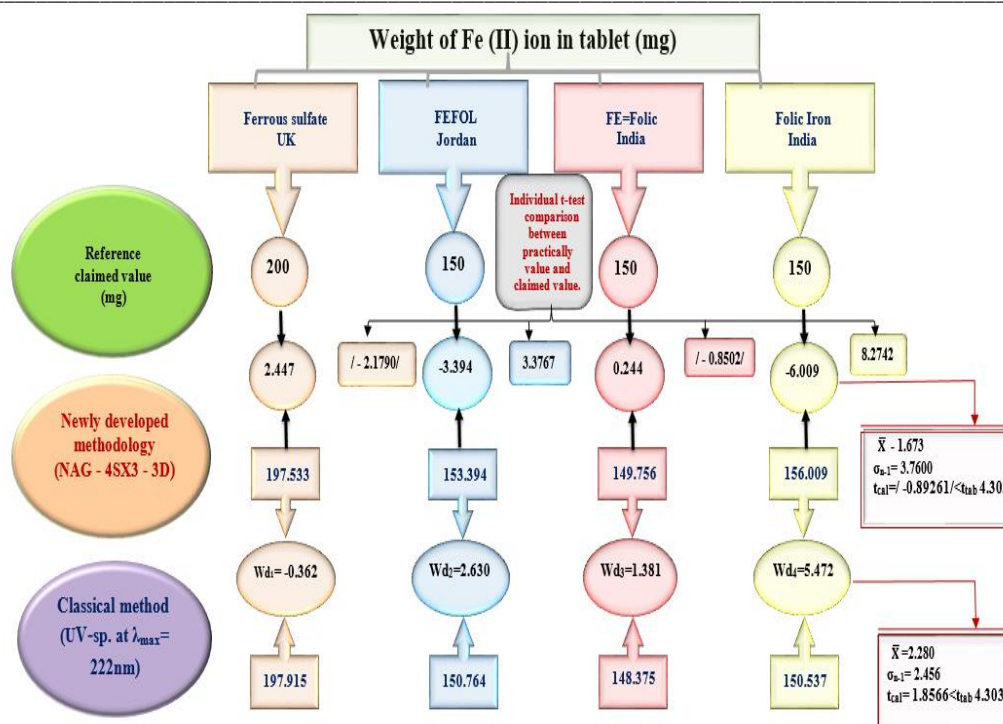
$\hat{Y}_{zi}$ : Response in mV for the developed technique and without unit for the UV-Sp. method., r: correlation coefficient, r<sup>2</sup>: coefficient of determination, R<sup>2</sup>% (R-squared as a percentage): Variation clearly explained as a percentage / total variable,  $t_{tab} = t_{0.5/2, \infty} = 1.96$  at 95%,  $t_{tab} = t_{0.05/2, 3} = 3.182$  for n=5, UV -Sp.: UV -Spectrophotometric method, using volume of cell (quartz) 1 ml in UV-Spectrophotometric method.

Table 11.B: Summary of results for practical content, efficiency (Rec percent) for determining Fe (II) ion in three drug samples, and t-test for comparing two techniques

No. of sample	Type of method			Individual t-test between claimed value & practical value ( $\bar{W}_{i(mg)} - \mu$ ) $\sqrt{n} / \sigma_{n-1}$	Paired t –test Compared between three methods	
	Developed method using NAG - 4SX3 - 3D Analyzer				$t_{cal} =$ $\bar{w}d \sqrt{n} / \sigma_{n-1}^*$	$t_{tab}$ at 95% confidence level (n-1)
	UV- Spectrophotometer at $\lambda_{max} = 222nm.$					
	Practical concentration ( mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> ) in 10 ml ----- Practical concentration ( mmol.L <sup>-1</sup> ) in 100 ml ----- Practical weight of Fe(II)ion in ( g )	Weight of Fe(II)ion in each sample (g) $\bar{W}_{i(g)} \pm 4.303 \sigma_{n-1} / \sqrt{n}$	Efficiency of determination Rec.%			
1	0.9878 ----- 9.8777 ----- 0.15005	0.15005±0.0037	98.78%	/-2.179/< 4.303	Newly developed methodology and quoted value (reference method)	
	0.9896 ----- 9.8958 ----- 0.15032	0.15032±0.0025	98.96%			
2	1.0226 ----- 10.2264 ----- 0.15535	0.15535± 0.0044	102.26%	3.3767< 4.303	$\bar{X}d = -1.678$ ----- $\sigma_{n-1}^* = 3.7600$ /- 0.8926/ < 3.182	
	1.0051 ----- 10.0510 ----- 0.1527	0.1527 ± 0.0018	100.51%			
3	0.9984 ----- 9.9837 ----- 0.15166	0.15166±0.0013	99.84%	/-0.8502/< 4.303	Newly developed methodology and UV- spectrophotometric ( classical method)	
	0.9892 ----- 9.8917 ----- 0.1503	0.1503±0.0024	98.92 %			
4	1.0270 ----- 10.2680 ----- 0.1560	0.15160±0.0031	102.70%	0.2742 < 4.303	$\bar{X}d = -2.2803$ ----- $\sigma_{n-1}^* = 2.4563$ 1.8566 < 3.182	
	1.0036 ----- 10.0358 ----- 0.1525	0.1525±0.0024	100.36%			
		150.5370±2.38				

$\mu$ : claim value (200mg & 150 mg),  $\bar{w}_i$ : practically weight in mg,  $\bar{X}d$ : average of difference between two type of method (developed & classical),  $\sigma_{n-1}$ : standard deviation of different (paired t-test), n : ( no. of sample ) = 4,  $t_{tab} = t_{0.05/2, 2} = 4.303$  (for individual t-test & paired t-test), classical method: UV-Spectrophotometric method.





Scheme 2: Set of results for comparison between practically content and claimed value (Individual t-test) and a comparison of two techniques (Paired t-test), in addition to F-test.  $t_{tab} = t_{0.025, 2} = 4.303$ ,  $F_{tab} = F_{0.95, 0.1, 0.2} = F_{0.95, 1, 3} = 10.13$ ,  $\bar{Wd}$ : the average of the two approaches' differences (developed & classical),  $Wd$ : different between two methods,  $\sigma_{n-1}$ : the difference standard deviation (paired t-test),  $\sigma_{n-1}$ : standard deviation for Individual t-test.

#### 4. A.4.1. Statistically data treatment using analysis of variance one way- ANOVA

One way ANOVA treatment that is used to compare three or more means but it contains only one variable was used. Assessment of NAG- 4SX3-3D analyzer via the via reaction of Fe (II) ion with  $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$  in the presence of  $CH_3COONH_4$  for analysis of Fe (II) in different pharmaceutical and compared with two classical method (i.e., official method & UV-spectrophotometric method) (scheme 4.3).

Assumption for the F- test when three or more means are compared. The first estimate is called variance between – groups (SSB) or (SB2). The second estimate, the within-group variance (SSW) or (SW2), is calculated using data and is unaffected by mean differences. (i.e.  $S_i^2 = \sigma_{n-1}^2$ ).

If there are no variations in the means, the variance between groups will be significantly greater than the variance within groups.

The F- test, the value will be higher than 1 and the null hypothesis would be rejected and accepted alternative hypothesis, the approach is known as analysis of variance “ANOVA”. [26-28]

ANOVA test was applied at  $\alpha = 0.05$  (95% confidence level). ANOVA hypothesis testing and sample comparison of ferrous ion are given in table 12.

The first hypothesis (Null hypothesis) ( $H_0$ )

$$H_0 = \mu_{\text{activist -UK sample}} = \mu_{\text{MEDIA -Jordan}} = \mu_{\text{BRAWN-India}} = \mu_{\text{pyxus - India}}$$

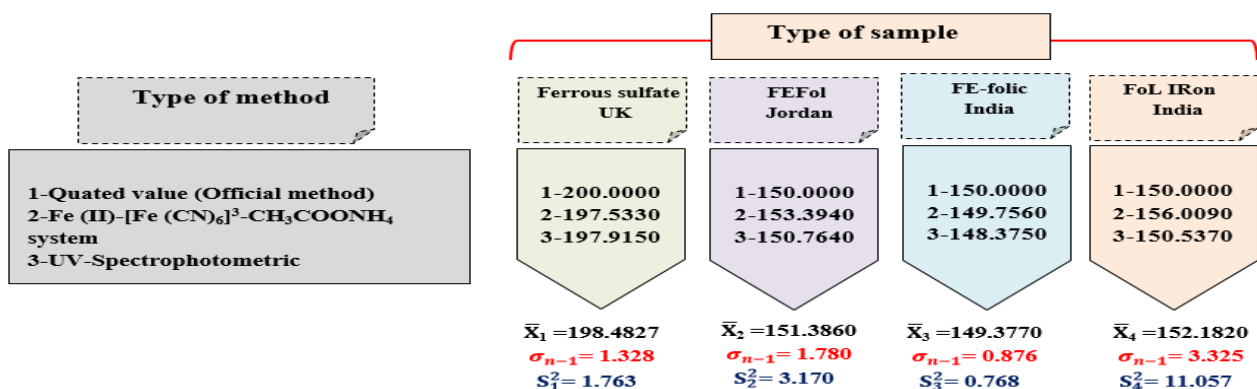
Means there is no significant difference between all used mean of each samples from different companies concerning the output results. The alternative proposed is that there is a significant difference between all mean of values.

$H_1$  (alternative hypothesis)

$$H_1: \mu_{\text{activist - UK sample}} \neq \mu_{\text{MEDIA-Jordan}} \neq \mu_{\text{BRAWN-India}} \neq \mu_{\text{pyxus - India}}$$

The result obtain that were summarized in table 12 shown that no substantial difference exists between the means of each samples gotten from all data, the value of  $F_{cal} (1.1527) < F_{tab} (10.13)$ .

Consequently, the alternative hypothesis will be rejected, whereas the null hypothesis will be accepted. This means that for four samples, there is no clear differentiation between four distinct firms.



Scheme 4.3: Summed up the results for two different methods in addition to quoted value and four different samples for ANOVA,  $\bar{X}$ : average of values,  $\sigma_{n-1}$ : standard deviation,  $s^2$ = variance

Table 12: ANOVA results for comparison between two different samples from four different Companies

Source	Total of squares (SSq)	Df	Squared mean (MSq)	F <sub>cal</sub>	F <sub>critical</sub>
Between group	SS <sub>B</sub> =5089.314	3	MS <sub>B</sub> =1696.438	404.9357 > 4.066181	
Within groups	SS <sub>W</sub> =33.51521	8	MS <sub>W</sub> =4.18940		
Total	5122.829	11			

df = degree of freedom,  $F_{tab} = F_{0.95, V1, V2} = F_{0.95, 2, 9} = 4.066$  at 95% confidence level, K= number of group =4, N=number of measurements or sum of the samples for the groups (i.e) = $n_1+n_2+\dots+n_i=12$ , SS<sub>B</sub> = The total of squares between group, SS<sub>W</sub> = The total of squares within group, MS<sub>B</sub> = SS<sub>B</sub>/ K-1 & MS<sub>W</sub> = SS<sub>W</sub>/ N-K, F<sub>cal</sub> = MS<sub>B</sub> / MS<sub>W</sub>

## CONCLUSION

In comparison to the classical approach, the suggested method employs less expensive apparatus and reagents.

Using the NAG-4SX3-3D analyser, a more effective and quicker determination was accomplished in this research. For all samples, the RSD % was less than 1 %, indicating that the suggested approach is accurate sufficient. The standard addition approach was utilized, to prevent the matrix effect. This approach may also be used to determine ferrous ion in pure and pharmaceutical formulations, it also offers the advantage of excellent sensitivity is achieved without the need for heating or extraction. The results of the statistical analysis are consistent with those obtained using the traditional method.

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## Conflicts of interest

"There are no conflicts to declare".

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