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Pharmaceutical applications of UV/Visible

Spectroscopy

Ultraviolet/Visible Spectroscopy?

 Ultraviolet/Visible (UV/Vis) light spectroscopy measures the absorbance of light by a sample in UV/Vis ranges to identify it.

Advantages:

- Easy to use: simple design of instrument.
- Fast results: quickly analyzes HPLC results [UV lamp].
- Maintains sample integrity: UV/Vis is a non-destructive technique compared to FTIR (Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy).
- Highly sensitive in detecting organic compounds.

~: Applications :~

1. Structure inspection of organic compounds:

- Inspect organic molecules. From the location and combination of peaks, we find whether:
 - the compound is saturated or unsaturated.
 - hetero atoms are present or not.

...etc.

2. Detection of Impurities:

- Catalysts used in the reaction may still in the end product in small amounts as impurities.
- Additional peaks can be observed due to impurities in the sample compared with that of standard raw material.
- By also measuring the absorbance at λ_{max} of an impurity, the impurity can be detected.
- Ex: Benzene appears as a common impurity in cyclohexane. Its presence can be easily detected by its absorption at λ_{max} 255 nm.

3. Qualitative analysis:

- Used for compounds that absorb UV/Vis radiation.
- Identification is done by comparing the absorption spectrum with the spectra of known compounds.
- Ex:
 - used for characterizing:
 - aromatic compounds.
 - aromatic olefins.

4. Quantitative analysis:

- Used for compounds that absorb UV//Vis radiation.
- This determination is based on Beer's law which is as follows:

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A = log I_0 / I_t = log 1 / T = -log T = abc = \epsilon bc
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Where:

- **E** is molar absorptivity.
- c is concentration.
- b is the length of the cuvette used in UV spectrophotometer.
- Other methods for quantitative analysis are as follows:
- I. difference spectrophotometric method. [variable length]
- II. calibration curve method. [used in labs]

5. Dissociation constants of acids and bases:

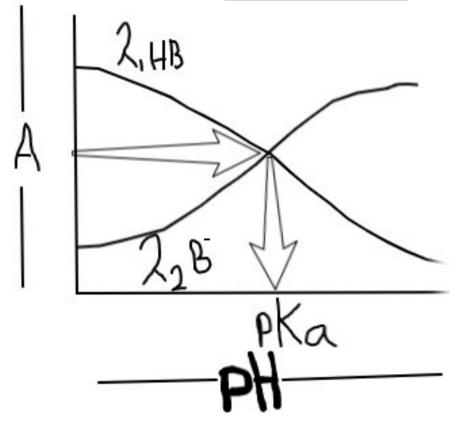
Consider the weak acid HB during its dissociation:

$$HB <===> H^{+} + B^{-}$$

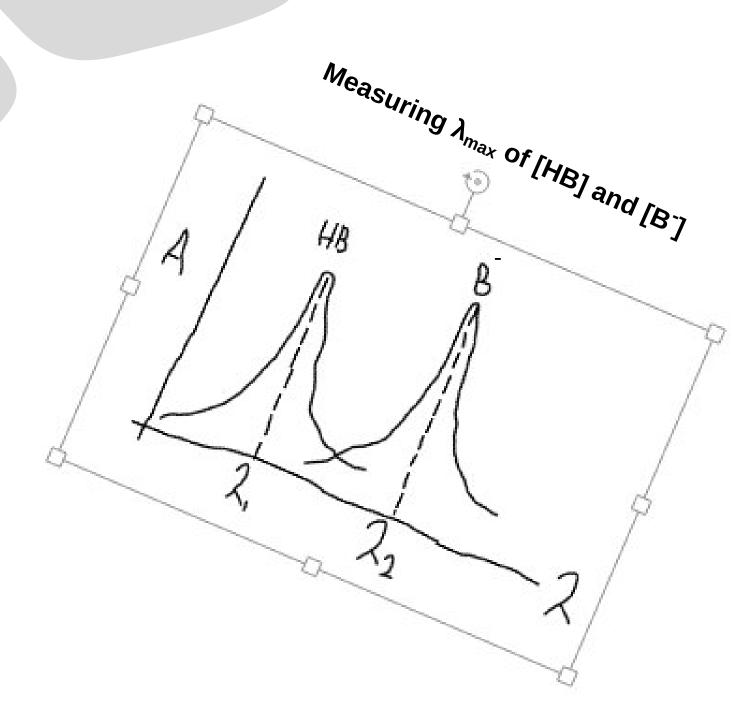
$$K_{a} = [H^{+}][B^{-}] / [HB]$$

$$- log Ka = - log ([H^{+}]) - log ([B^{-}] / [HB])$$
So, $pK_{a} = pH - log ([B^{-}] / [HB])$
From the above,

when [B] = [HB], $pK_a = pH - log(1)$ and log(1) = 0.so, $pK_a = pH$ at this point. Measuring real-time changes in Absorbance of [HB] and [B $^{-}$] at λ_{max} of each one of them.



The pH at this point is pK_a



6. Chemical kinetics:

The UV radiation is passed through the reaction cell and the absorbance changes can be observed.

7. As HPLC detector:

- A UV/Vis spectrophotometer may be used as a detector for HPLC (high-performance liquid chromatography) (ie: UV lamp).
- The presence of an analyte gives a response which can be assumed to be proportional to the concentration.

8. Molecular weight determination:

- Molecular weights can be measured spectrophpotometrically by preparing a suitable derivative of unknown compound.
- For example,

if we want to determine the molecular weight of amine:

- it is converted in to amine picrate.
- known weight of amine picrate is dissolved in a litre of solution.
- its optical density is measured at λ_{max} 380 nm.

After this, the concentration of the solution in moles per litre (Molar) can be calculated by using the following formula:

• "c" can be calculated using above equation, the weight "w" of amine picrate is known.

$$C = \frac{\log I_0 / I_t}{\epsilon_{\text{max}} \times 1}$$

From "c" and "w",
 molecular weight of amine picrate can be calculated:
 c = number of moles / volume in Liter
 "c" is known, volume is 1 Liter. So, moles can be calculated.
 And "w" represents these moles.
 So, mol.wt of amine picrate
 can be calculated by cross multiplication.

 And the molecular weight of amine can be calculated using the molecular weight of amine picrate.

~: References :~

- Dr. Adel's handout. [;
- Dr. Ahmed's inspiration.
- https://www.pharmatutor.org/pharma-analysis/analytical-aspects-of-uv-visible-spectroscopy/applications.html
- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322935261_Ultraviolet_spectroscopy_and_its_ pharmaceutical_applications-_A_brief_review
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