

# Sulfur Dioxide in Wine by Manual Ripper Titration with a Platinum ORP Electrode

Water Analysis Instruments, Thermo Fisher Scientific

## Key Words

Wine analysis, Ripper titration, sulfur dioxide, platinum ORP electrode, iodine titrant standardization, SO<sub>2</sub>.

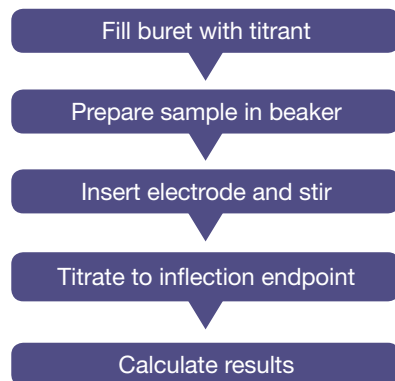
## Goal

The following application note describes a simple way to analyze the sulfur dioxide in wine using a Thermo Scientific™ Orion™ 9778BNWP or 9678BNWP ORP Electrode and the Ripper titration method.

## Introduction

SO<sub>2</sub> is widely used in wine production as a chemical antioxidant and inhibitor of microbial activity. SO<sub>2</sub> in wine is traditionally analyzed by Ripper titration using a color indicator. In this note, the same Ripper titration is performed by using an Orion platinum ORP electrode to signal the endpoint. The color and clarity of red wine does not interfere, thereby improving the results. This method provides a simple solution to SO<sub>2</sub> analysis in wine.

## Basic Titration Workflow



## Recommended Equipment

- Thermo Scientific™ Orion™ Versa Star™ pH/mV meter, Thermo Scientific™ Orion Star™ A Series pH/mV meter, or equivalent Orion pH/mV meter
- Thermo Scientific Orion 9778BNWP Glass Combination Platinum ORP Electrode or Thermo Scientific™ Orion™ Sure-Flow™ 9678BNWP Platinum ORP Electrode
- Stirrer probe (Cat. No. 096019)
- Swing arm stand (Cat. No. 090043)
- Electrode polishing strip (Cat. No. 948201)
- 10 mL burette, burette clamp, ring stand

## Required Reagents and Solutions

- Purchased or prepared Iodine (I<sub>2</sub>) standard titrant solution, 0.01 M (0.02 N)
- Sodium hydroxide (NaOH), 1 N
- 25% sulfuric acid (1+3 H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>)
- Electrode filling solution for ORP electrode (Cat. No. 900011)
- Deionized or distilled water (DI)

Optional:

- Standard sodium thiosulfate solution, 0.01 M (0.01 N)
- Sodium sulfite (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)
- Sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>)

## Meter Setup

Connect Orion electrode and the stirrer probe to the meter. In Setup, select the mV mode, set read type to continuous, and set the stirrer speed to 3. Refer to the Orion meter and electrode user guides for more details.

## Titration setup

Secure the burette on the clamp. Fill the burette with iodine titrant solution and adjust the level to the zero mark. Consider standardizing the titrant before titrating samples. See *Hints and Tips* on the following page.

## Sample Preparation

Make sure the wine sample is at room temperature.

**Total SO<sub>2</sub>:** Add 25.0 mL of wine and 25 mL of 1 N NaOH to a 100 mL beaker. Mix and allow 10 min for hydrolysis then proceed immediately to the *Sample Titration*.

**Free SO<sub>2</sub>:** Add 25.0 mL of wine to a 100 mL beaker. Proceed immediately to the *Sample Titration*.

## Sample Titration

The Ripper titration should be done relatively quickly to avoid loss of SO<sub>2</sub> to the air. Rinse the electrode and stirrer with DI. Immerse the electrode and stirrer at least one inch below the liquid level in the beaker, with the stirrer just below the electrode. Turn on the stirrer. Stir gently so that a vortex is not created. Tap to release air bubbles trapped on the surface of the electrode.

**Total SO<sub>2</sub>:** Add 10 mL of 25% sulfuric acid to the beaker.

**Free SO<sub>2</sub>:** Add 5 mL of 25% sulfuric acid to the beaker.

Watching the mV reading, titrate at moderate speed with the iodine titrant. The mV values will not rise quickly, until near the endpoint (EP). The EP is considered the point where the largest mV change is observed per volume addition of titrant. See the following graph and description of the EP. Depending on the ORP electrode, generally look for the EP to occur between 275 to 375 mV.

Record the volume of titrant used (V<sub>t</sub>) at the EP. Repeat the titration as desired or required by your protocol. After each titration, rinse the electrode and stirrer with DI and tap to remove excess water droplets.

## Quality Control (QC)

Recommended QC procedures may include: standardization of the iodine titrant\*, analysis of SO<sub>2</sub> standard\* or QC sample, and/or replicates.

\*See Application Note #016: Standardization of Iodine Titrant for Ripper Titration of Wines.

## Calculation of Free or Total SO<sub>2</sub>

SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in wine sample (mg/L)

$$\text{SO}_2 \text{ (mg/L)} = V_1 \times N_1 \times 25.6$$

V<sub>1</sub> = Volume of iodine titrant used at the endpoint of the titration (mL)

N<sub>1</sub> = Normality of the iodine titrant (certified or standardized value)

## Results - Total SO<sub>2</sub> by Manual Ripper Titration with Orion Platinum ORP Electrode

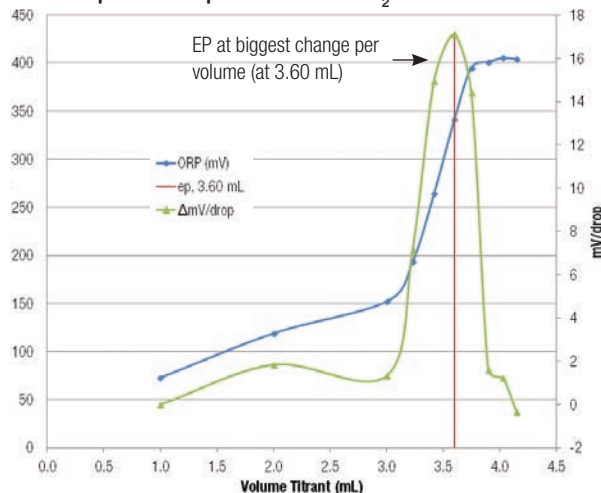
Red Wine Sample	Endpoint Vol (mL)	Total SO <sub>2</sub> (mg/L)
1	3.80	80
2	3.60	76
3	3.65	77
Statistics	avg	78
	Stdev*	2.2
	RSD	2.8%

SO <sub>2</sub> QC Sample	Total SO <sub>2</sub> Result (mg/L)	Within ± 7 mg/L?*
49 mg/L	43	Yes

\* per Zoecklein et. el, anticipated error is ± 7 mg/L

## Endpoint Location – Platinum ORP Electrode

Graph of Endpoint - Total SO<sub>2</sub> in red wine



Note that at the EP, one drop of titrant will generally cause a mV change of >10 mV, while a mV change of >5 mV per drop generally means the EP is near, either quickly approaching or has just been passed. If another drop of titrant causes a smaller change than the last drop, the EP has passed, but if a larger change is observed, the EP is still approaching. Record the volume of titrant used (V<sub>t</sub>) at the EP.

## Hints and Tips for SO<sub>2</sub> Titration with Platinum ORP Electrode

- Per Zoecklein, consider using sodium bicarbonate to minimize loss of SO<sub>2</sub> during titration as follows: After the 10 minute hydrolysis (for total SO<sub>2</sub>) and just before adding the 25% sulfuric acid, quickly add a pinch of sodium bicarbonate (0.5 g or less) to the sample. The solution will fizzle forming a CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere to minimize loss of SO<sub>2</sub>.
- Iodine Titrant Standardization: Iodine titrant solution ages and changes concentration over time. For higher accuracy, standardize the titrant daily or weekly before titrating samples. See Application Note #016: Standardization of Iodine Titrant for Ripper Titration of Wines.
- Refer to the electrode user guide for details on cleaning, storage, and maintenance recommendations to keep the electrode performing well. Main points for electrode care are summarized below.
- Filling solution - each day top up the filling solution in the electrode. On a weekly basis, drain and refill the electrode with filling solution, for best performance.
- Electrode Storage – store the electrode in 4M potassium chloride solution or store in water.
- Periodically clean the ORP electrode by stirring 1 minute in 75% methanol or alcohol. Wipe the platinum sensor gently with a lint free wiper afterwards.
- If periodic cleaning and refilling described above does not maintain or restore performance, clean with 0.1 to 1M HCl or Orion 900023 pH cleaning solution C. Follow directions (user guide or instruction sheet).
- To check the operation of the electrode, immerse the electrode in a portion of the 0.02N iodine titrant. Expect the mV reading to be near 410 mV (± 30 mV) within 1-2 minutes. If not, polish the platinum sensor gently with a lint free wiper, then drain and refill the electrode to restore proper readings.

Daily Care	Weekly Care	As Needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top up fill solution</li> <li>• Store electrode in 4M KCl or water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drain and refill the fill solution</li> <li>• Clean the electrode with 75% methanol or ethanol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean the electrode with HCl or Orion 900023</li> <li>• Measure mV of titrant to check electrode operation</li> </ul>

## References

Zoecklein et al. *Wine Analysis and Production*, Chapman and Hall. 1995.

Napa Valley College. *Laboratory Analysis of Musts and Wines*, Viticulture and Enology Department. 2007.  
<http://www.napavalley.edu/>

To purchase an Orion platinum ORP electrode, or other related products, please contact your local equipment distributor and reference the part numbers listed below.

Product	Description	Part Number
Meters	Thermo Scientific Orion Versa Star pH Benchtop Meter	VSTAR10
	Thermo Scientific Orion Star A211 pH Benchtop Meter	STARA2110
	Thermo Scientific Orion Star A214 pH/ISE Benchtop Meter	STARA2140
Electrodes	Thermo Scientific Orion Combination Platinum ORP Electrode, Glass Body, BNC Waterproof Connector	9778BNWP
	Thermo Scientific™ Orion™ Sure-Flow™ Platinum ORP Electrode, Epoxy Body, BNC Waterproof Connector	9678BNWP
Solutions	Thermo Scientific Orion Electrode Filling Solution for ORP Electrode	900011
	Thermo Scientific Orion pH Electrode Storage Solution	910001
Accessories	Stirrer Probe	096019
	Electrode Storage Sleeve and Base	810017
	Swing Arm Stand	090043
	Thermo Scientific Orion ATC Temperature Probe with Steel Body	927007MD



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