

Comparison of Calibration Curve Fitting Methods in Absorption Spectroscopy

Wavelength, nm	Spectral bandpass, nm	Absorber width, nm	Absorptivity (x 10)	Absorption Path length	Unabsorbed stray light	Maximum concentration	Random Noise
500	100	100	4	1	=0.0001*	10	<input type="checkbox"/> Photon FALSE <input type="checkbox"/> Detector FALSE

Click the arrows above to change the values

5

σ of errors =STDEV(\$Sheet2.E50:N50)
 Concentration=(A-intercept)/slope
 where A = measured absorbance;
 slope and intercept from first-order fit
 of Absorbance vs Concentration.
 slope= =slope

σ of errors =STDEV(Sheet2.E60:N60)
 Concentration= $(-b^2 + \text{SQRT}(b^2 - 4*a*(c-A)))/(2*a)$
 where A = measured absorbance;
 a, b, and c = coefficients from quadratic fit
 of Absorbance vs Concentration.
 a= =aa

intercept= =intercept

b= =bb

c= =cc

Named variables	
amax	Maximum absorptivity
aw	Absorber width (half-width of the absorption band)
b	Absorption path length
lzero	Incident intensity
sl	Stray light (fraction of incident light)
sw	Source width (spectral bandpass of monochromator)
slope	Slope of straight-line least squares fit to calibration curve
intercept	Intercept of straight-line least squares fit to calibration curve
W	Wavelength
aa,bb,cc	Coefficients of quadratic fit (avoids collision with b=path length)

Minimum C

0

Concentration

=MinC

=H41+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H42+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H43+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H44+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H45+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H46+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H47+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H48+(MaxC-MinC)/9

=H49+(MaxC-MinC)/9

99

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Absorption peak

shape

Gaussian

Lorentzian

σ of errors

=STDEV(\$Sheet2.E76:N76)

Concentration= $a \cdot A^3 + b \cdot A^2 + c \cdot A + d$

where A = measured absorbance;

a, b, c, and d from reversed cubic fit

of reversed data (Concentration vs Absorbance).

a= =\$Sheet2.E73

b= =\$Sheet2.F73
c= =\$Sheet2.G73
d= =\$Sheet2.H73

Absorbance
=Sheet2.E46
=Sheet2.F46
=Sheet2.G46
=Sheet2.H46
=Sheet2.I46
=Sheet2.J46
=Sheet2.K46
=Sheet2.L46
=Sheet2.M46
=Sheet2.N46

Wavelength		Slit function
400	=1-200*ABS((A3-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B3<0;0;B3)
=A3+5	=1-200*ABS((A4-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B4<0;0;B4)
=A4+5	=1-200*ABS((A5-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B5<0;0;B5)
=A5+5	=1-200*ABS((A6-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B6<0;0;B6)
=A6+5	=1-200*ABS((A7-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B7<0;0;B7)
=A7+5	=1-200*ABS((A8-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B8<0;0;B8)
=A8+5	=1-200*ABS((A9-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B9<0;0;B9)
=A9+5	=1-200*ABS((A10-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B10<0;0;B10)
=A10+5	=1-200*ABS((A11-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B11<0;0;B11)
=A11+5	=1-200*ABS((A12-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B12<0;0;B12)
=A12+5	=1-200*ABS((A13-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B13<0;0;B13)
=A13+5	=1-200*ABS((A14-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B14<0;0;B14)
=A14+5	=1-200*ABS((A15-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B15<0;0;B15)
=A15+5	=1-200*ABS((A16-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B16<0;0;B16)
=A16+5	=1-200*ABS((A17-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B17<0;0;B17)
=A17+5	=1-200*ABS((A18-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B18<0;0;B18)
=A18+5	=1-200*ABS((A19-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B19<0;0;B19)
=A19+5	=1-200*ABS((A20-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B20<0;0;B20)
=A20+5	=1-200*ABS((A21-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B21<0;0;B21)
=A21+5	=1-200*ABS((A22-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B22<0;0;B22)
=A22+5	=1-200*ABS((A23-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B23<0;0;B23)
=A23+5	=1-200*ABS((A24-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B24<0;0;B24)
=A24+5	=1-200*ABS((A25-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B25<0;0;B25)
=A25+5	=1-200*ABS((A26-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B26<0;0;B26)
=A26+5	=1-200*ABS((A27-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B27<0;0;B27)
=A27+5	=1-200*ABS((A28-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B28<0;0;B28)
=A28+5	=1-200*ABS((A29-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B29<0;0;B29)
=A29+5	=1-200*ABS((A30-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B30<0;0;B30)
=A30+5	=1-200*ABS((A31-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B31<0;0;B31)
=A31+5	=1-200*ABS((A32-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B32<0;0;B32)
=A32+5	=1-200*ABS((A33-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B33<0;0;B33)
=A33+5	=1-200*ABS((A34-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B34<0;0;B34)
=A34+5	=1-200*ABS((A35-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B35<0;0;B35)
=A35+5	=1-200*ABS((A36-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B36<0;0;B36)
=A36+5	=1-200*ABS((A37-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B37<0;0;B37)

=A37+5	=1-200*ABS((A38-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B38<0;0;B38)
=A38+5	=1-200*ABS((A39-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B39<0;0;B39)
=A39+5	=1-200*ABS((A40-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B40<0;0;B40)
=A40+5	=1-200*ABS((A41-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B41<0;0;B41)
=A41+5	=1-200*ABS((A42-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B42<0;0;B42)
=A42+5	=1-200*ABS((A43-W)/(100))/(2*sw)	=sw*IF(B43<0;0;B43)
		lzero
Total intensity		=SUM(C3:C43)*(1+sl)
Measured absorbance (y)		
Theoretical absorbance		

Polynomial fits are computed by multilinear regression using the LINEST array function. (Fit coefficients are displayed in red)

Noise calculations

Photon Noise

Detector noise

=IF(\$Sheet1.\$I\$3="FALSE";amax/10*(1/(1+((A38-500)/(0.5*aw))^2));amax/10*EXP(-1*((A38-500)/(0.6006*aw))^2))
 =IF(\$Sheet1.\$I\$3="FALSE";amax/10*(1/(1+((A39-500)/(0.5*aw))^2));amax/10*EXP(-1*((A39-500)/(0.6006*aw))^2))
 =IF(\$Sheet1.\$I\$3="FALSE";amax/10*(1/(1+((A40-500)/(0.5*aw))^2));amax/10*EXP(-1*((A40-500)/(0.6006*aw))^2))
 =IF(\$Sheet1.\$I\$3="FALSE";amax/10*(1/(1+((A41-500)/(0.5*aw))^2));amax/10*EXP(-1*((A41-500)/(0.6006*aw))^2))
 =IF(\$Sheet1.\$I\$3="FALSE";amax/10*(1/(1+((A42-500)/(0.5*aw))^2));amax/10*EXP(-1*((A42-500)/(0.6006*aw))^2))
 =IF(\$Sheet1.\$I\$3="FALSE";amax/10*(1/(1+((A43-500)/(0.5*aw))^2));amax/10*EXP(-1*((A43-500)/(0.6006*aw))^2))

Total transmitted intensity

Measured absorbance A =

$amax \cdot b \cdot c =$

Linear Fit

Predicted concentration =

Concentration error (real-predicted)

Concentration error as % of max concentration

Straight-line fit computed via slope and intercept functions =>

Quadratic Fit (absorbance vs concentration)

C

C²

Multilinear regression LINEST(Ameas;E55:N56;0;0)

predicted concentration (using the Quadratic Formula)

error

relative error as percentage of maximum

Reversed quadratic fit (concentration vs absorbance)

A

A²

LINEST(concentrations;E63:N64;0;0) =>

predicted concentration

error

relative error as percentage of maximum

Reversed cubic fit (concentration vs absorbance)

A

A²

A³

LINEST(concentrations;E70:N72;0;0) =>

predicted concentration
error
relative error as percentage of maximum

Random Noise calculations

Photon noise
=SQRT(Izero)/2000

Detector noise
1.00E-03

=\$Sheet1.H41

=\$Sheet1.H42

=C3*10^(-D3*b*E\$2)
=C4*10^(-D4*b*E\$2)
=C5*10^(-D5*b*E\$2)
=C6*10^(-D6*b*E\$2)
=C7*10^(-D7*b*E\$2)
=C8*10^(-D8*b*E\$2)
=C9*10^(-D9*b*E\$2)
=C10*10^(-D10*b*E\$2)
=C11*10^(-D11*b*E\$2)
=C12*10^(-D12*b*E\$2)
=C13*10^(-D13*b*E\$2)
=C14*10^(-D14*b*E\$2)
=C15*10^(-D15*b*E\$2)
=C16*10^(-D16*b*E\$2)
=C17*10^(-D17*b*E\$2)
=C18*10^(-D18*b*E\$2)
=C19*10^(-D19*b*E\$2)
=C20*10^(-D20*b*E\$2)
=C21*10^(-D21*b*E\$2)
=C22*10^(-D22*b*E\$2)
=C23*10^(-D23*b*E\$2)
=C24*10^(-D24*b*E\$2)
=C25*10^(-D25*b*E\$2)
=C26*10^(-D26*b*E\$2)
=C27*10^(-D27*b*E\$2)
=C28*10^(-D28*b*E\$2)
=C29*10^(-D29*b*E\$2)
=C30*10^(-D30*b*E\$2)
=C31*10^(-D31*b*E\$2)
=C32*10^(-D32*b*E\$2)
=C33*10^(-D33*b*E\$2)
=C34*10^(-D34*b*E\$2)
=C35*10^(-D35*b*E\$2)
=C36*10^(-D36*b*E\$2)
=C37*10^(-D37*b*E\$2)

=C3*10^(-D3*b*F\$2)
=C4*10^(-D4*b*F\$2)
=C5*10^(-D5*b*F\$2)
=C6*10^(-D6*b*F\$2)
=C7*10^(-D7*b*F\$2)
=C8*10^(-D8*b*F\$2)
=C9*10^(-D9*b*F\$2)
=C10*10^(-D10*b*F\$2)
=C11*10^(-D11*b*F\$2)
=C12*10^(-D12*b*F\$2)
=C13*10^(-D13*b*F\$2)
=C14*10^(-D14*b*F\$2)
=C15*10^(-D15*b*F\$2)
=C16*10^(-D16*b*F\$2)
=C17*10^(-D17*b*F\$2)
=C18*10^(-D18*b*F\$2)
=C19*10^(-D19*b*F\$2)
=C20*10^(-D20*b*F\$2)
=C21*10^(-D21*b*F\$2)
=C22*10^(-D22*b*F\$2)
=C23*10^(-D23*b*F\$2)
=C24*10^(-D24*b*F\$2)
=C25*10^(-D25*b*F\$2)
=C26*10^(-D26*b*F\$2)
=C27*10^(-D27*b*F\$2)
=C28*10^(-D28*b*F\$2)
=C29*10^(-D29*b*F\$2)
=C30*10^(-D30*b*F\$2)
=C31*10^(-D31*b*F\$2)
=C32*10^(-D32*b*F\$2)
=C33*10^(-D33*b*F\$2)
=C34*10^(-D34*b*F\$2)
=C35*10^(-D35*b*F\$2)
=C36*10^(-D36*b*F\$2)
=C37*10^(-D37*b*F\$2)

=C38*10^(-D38*b*E\$2)	=C38*10^(-D38*b*F\$2)
=C39*10^(-D39*b*E\$2)	=C39*10^(-D39*b*F\$2)
=C40*10^(-D40*b*E\$2)	=C40*10^(-D40*b*F\$2)
=C41*10^(-D41*b*E\$2)	=C41*10^(-D41*b*F\$2)
=C42*10^(-D42*b*E\$2)	=C42*10^(-D42*b*F\$2)
=C43*10^(-D43*b*E\$2)	=C43*10^(-D43*b*F\$2)
=SUM(E3:E43)+sl*\$C\$45	=SUM(F3:F43)+sl*\$C\$45
=LOG(ABS((lzero+E78+E82)/(E45+E79+E83));10)	=LOG(ABS((lzero+F78+F82)/(F45+F79+F83));10)
=E2*\$D\$23*b	=F2*\$D\$23*b
=(E46-intercept)/slope	=(F46-intercept)/slope
=E2-E48	=F2-F48
=E49/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)	=F49/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)
	slope= Intercept= R2=
=E2	=F2
=E55^2	=F55^2
{=LINEST(Ameas;E55:N56;0;0)}	{=LINEST(Ameas;E55:N56;0;0)}
=(-bb+SQRT(bb*bb-4*aa*(cc-E46)))/(2*aa)	=(-bb+SQRT(bb*bb-4*aa*(cc-F46)))/(2*aa)
=E58-E2	=F58-F2
=E59/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)	=F59/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)
=E46	=F46
=E63^2	=F63^2
{=LINEST(concentrations;E63:N64;0;0)}	{=LINEST(concentrations;E63:N64;0;0)}
=\$E\$65*E64+\$F\$65*E63+\$G\$65	=\$E\$65*F64+\$F\$65*F63+\$G\$65
=E66-E2	=F66-F2
=E67/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)	=F67/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)
=E63	=F63
=E70^2	=F70^2
=E70^3	=F70^3
{=LINEST(concentrations;E70:N72;0;0)}	{=LINEST(concentrations;E70:N72;0;0)}

=E\$73*E72+\$F\$73*E71+\$G\$73*E70+\$H\$73
=E74-E2
=E75/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)

=E\$73*F72+\$F\$73*F71+\$G\$73*F70+\$H\$73
=F74-F2
=F75/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)

Photon noise in Izero and I, respectively (if "Photo" is checked under "Random Noise")

=IF(\$Sheet1.\$H\$3="TRUE";\$D\$79*(2.5*(RAND()-RAND()));0) =IF(\$Sheet1.\$H\$3="TRUE";\$D\$79*(2.5*(RAND()-RAND()));0)
=IF(\$Sheet1.\$H\$3="TRUE";SQRT(E45)*(2.5*(RAND()-RAND())/1000);0) ###

Detector noise in Izero and I, respectively (if "Detector" is checked under "Random Noise")

=IF(\$Sheet1.\$H\$4="TRUE";\$D\$82*(2.5*(RAND()-RAND()));0) =IF(\$Sheet1.\$H\$4="TRUE";\$D\$82*(2.5*(RAND()-RAND()));0)
=IF(\$Sheet1.\$H\$4="TRUE";\$D\$82*(2.5*(RAND()-RAND()));0) =IF(\$Sheet1.\$H\$4="TRUE";\$D\$82*(2.5*(RAND()-RAND()));0)

Concentration

=\$Sheet1.H43	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C3*10^(-\$D3*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C4*10^(-\$D4*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C5*10^(-\$D5*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C6*10^(-\$D6*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C7*10^(-\$D7*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C8*10^(-\$D8*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C9*10^(-\$D9*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C10*10^(-\$D10*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C11*10^(-\$D11*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C12*10^(-\$D12*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C13*10^(-\$D13*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C14*10^(-\$D14*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C15*10^(-\$D15*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C16*10^(-\$D16*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C17*10^(-\$D17*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C18*10^(-\$D18*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C19*10^(-\$D19*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C20*10^(-\$D20*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C21*10^(-\$D21*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C22*10^(-\$D22*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C23*10^(-\$D23*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C24*10^(-\$D24*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C25*10^(-\$D25*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C26*10^(-\$D26*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C27*10^(-\$D27*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C28*10^(-\$D28*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C29*10^(-\$D29*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C30*10^(-\$D30*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C31*10^(-\$D31*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C32*10^(-\$D32*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C33*10^(-\$D33*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C34*10^(-\$D34*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C35*10^(-\$D35*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C36*10^(-\$D36*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=\$C37*10^(-\$D37*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###

=C38*10^(-D38*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=C39*10^(-D39*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=C40*10^(-D40*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=C41*10^(-D41*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=C42*10^(-D42*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=C43*10^(-D43*b*G\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=SUM(G3:G43)+sl*G\$45	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=G2*\$D\$23*b	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=(G46-intercept)/slope	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=G2-G48	=H2-H48	=I2-I48	=J2-J48	=K2-K48	=L2-L48	=M2-M48	=N2-N48
=G49/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=SLOPE(E\$46:N\$46;E\$2:N\$2)							
=INTERCEPT(E\$46:N\$46;E\$2:N\$2)							
=RSQ(E\$46:N\$46;E\$47:N\$47)							
=G2	=H2	=I2	=J2	=K2	=L2	=M2	=N2
=G55^2	=H55^2	=I55^2	=J55^2	=K55^2	=L55^2	=M55^2	=N55^2
{=LINEST(Ameas;E55:N56;0;0)}							
=(-bb+SQRT(bb*bb-4*aa*(cc-G46)))/(2*aa)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=G58-G2	=H58-H2	=I58-I2	=J58-J2	=K58-K2	=L58-L2	=M58-M2	=N58-N2
=G59/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=G46	=H46	=I46	=J46	=K46	=L46	=M46	=N46
=G63^2	=H63^2	=I63^2	=J63^2	=K63^2	=L63^2	=M63^2	=N63^2
{=LINEST(concentrations;E63:N64;0;0)}							
=\$E\$65*G64+\$F\$65*G63+\$G\$65	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=G66-G2	=H66-H2	=I66-I2	=J66-J2	=K66-K2	=L66-L2	=M66-M2	=N66-N2
=G67/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=G63	=H63	=I63	=J63	=K63	=L63	=M63	=N63
=G70^2	=H70^2	=I70^2	=J70^2	=K70^2	=L70^2	=M70^2	=N70^2
=G70^3	=H70^3	=I70^3	=J70^3	=K70^3	=L70^3	=M70^3	=N70^3
{=LINEST(concentrations;E70:N72;0;0)}	###						

###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
=G74-G2	=H74-H2	=I74-I2	=J74-J2	=K74-K2	=L74-L2	=M74-M2	=N74-N2	
=G75/MAX(\$E\$2:\$N\$2)	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###

###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###

###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###
###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###

Introduction

The purpose of this simulation is to compare three methods of least-squares spectrophotometry calibration curves with varying degrees of non-linearity and unabsorbed stray light (see Background information, below). The operation is based on Beer's Law; it computes the measured absorbance and plots the absorbance versus concentration for a simulated series of simulated absorber concentrations. The simulation is performed using a spectrophotometer with variable spectral bandpass and unabsorbed stray light. Parameters include path length, half-width of the absorber, the slit width of the monochromator, and the number of scans. (Number wheels below each of these parameters allow you to change the values). The analytical curves change dynamically as the variables are changed). The three different least-squares methods, shown from left to right:

1. A first-order (straight line) fit of measured absorbance (y-axis) vs concentration (x-axis). This is a common and straightforward method, but it obviously can not compensate for non-linearity. The concentration of unknown samples is given by $(A - \text{intercept}) / \text{slope}$ where A is the absorbance, slope and intercept from the first-order fit.

ares curve fitting to absorption
ty due to polychromaticity and
ion is similar to "Instrumental Deviation
nalytical curve (absorbance vs
is measured in an absorption
y light, given the maximum absorptivity,
tor, and the percent stray light.
; values quickly without typing. The
; calibration curve is fit using three

oncentration (x-axis). The is the most
ate for non-linearity. This fit is
;ells G51, G52, and G53). The
ere A is the measured absorbance and