

LA-UR- 02-4578

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*Title:* CE-MXRF: THE POWER OF SEPERATION WITH BENCH TOP ELEMENT SENSITIVE DETECTION

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*Submitted to*

Denver X-ray Conference  
Colorado Springs  
**July 29 to Aug. 2, 2002**

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Form 836 (8/00)

CE-MXRF: The Power of Separation with Bench Top Element Sensitive Detection

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Capillary electrophoresis (CE) is a proven separation technique that offers highly efficient separation, rapid analysis, and minute sample consumption. When combined with a element specific detection scheme, it can be used for chemical speciation of biologically and environmentally relevant species such as metal containing proteins.

In this study, a new tool was developed for separation and elemental detection. Specifically, a simple CE apparatus was constructed using a thin-walled fused Si capillary and interfaced with a bench top micro x-ray fluorescence (MXRF) system. X-ray excitation and detection of the separated sample volumes was performed using an EDAX Eagle II micro x-ray fluorescence system equipped with a Rh target excitation source and a SiLi detector. It was demonstrated that the system could be used for the separation and detection of two metals from one another, specifically  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ . Free  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  could also be isolated from  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  bound to cyanocobalamin (Vitamin B-12). Other systems that were explored were the separation of two organics, ferritin from cyanocobalamin as well as the separation of the different Cu and Zn isoforms of metallothionein. CE-MXRF was also used to separate the important serum isoforms of transferrin.

Direct comparisons were made between CE-MXRF system and other elemental separation techniques such as CE-PIXE, CE-synchrotron-XRF, and CE\_ICPMS.

# **CE-MXRF: The Power of Separation with Bench Top Element Sensitive Detection**

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# Capillary Electrophoresis with Element Specific Detection

## CE

- 1) High separation efficiencies
- 2) Small sample volume requirements (nL), of both sample and reagents
- 3) Rapid sample throughput

## CE + Elemental Specific Detection

- 5) Chemical speciation-quantitative evaluation of different forms of a specific element in a complex matrix
- 6) Separation and detection possible in environmentally and biologically relevant environments which contain important metal complexes



# Common CE Elemental Detection Methods

Method	Typical Detection Limits	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>PIXE</b>  (e.g. C. Vogt et al. J. Chromatogr. A 727 (1996) 301-310.)	$10^{-7}$ - $10^{-5}$ M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Simultaneous multi-elemental analysis, <math>Z &gt; 13</math></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limited Access</li><li>Radiolysis inside capillary requires decoupling of separation and detection</li><li>Requires an etched <math>10 \mu\text{m}</math> Si window</li></ul>
<b>Synchrotron-XRF</b>  (e.g. S.E. Mann et al. Anal. Chem. 2000, 72, 1754-1758.)	$\sim 10^{-4}$ M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Simultaneous, on-line, multi-elemental detection, <math>Z &gt; 17</math></li><li>Nondestructive</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limited Access</li><li>Requires a polyethylene window</li></ul>
<b>ICPMS</b>  (e.g. V. Majidi et al. Analyst, May 1998, Vol 123(803-808).)	$10^{-11}$ - $10^{-9}$ M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Simultaneous, on-line, multi-elemental detection</li><li>Isotope specific detection</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Destructive,</li><li>Complicated interface</li><li>Affected by buffer/ matrix effects</li><li>Strong Fe interferences</li></ul>

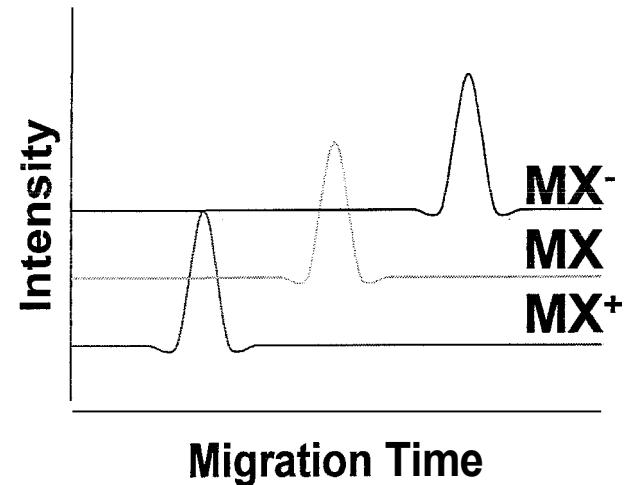
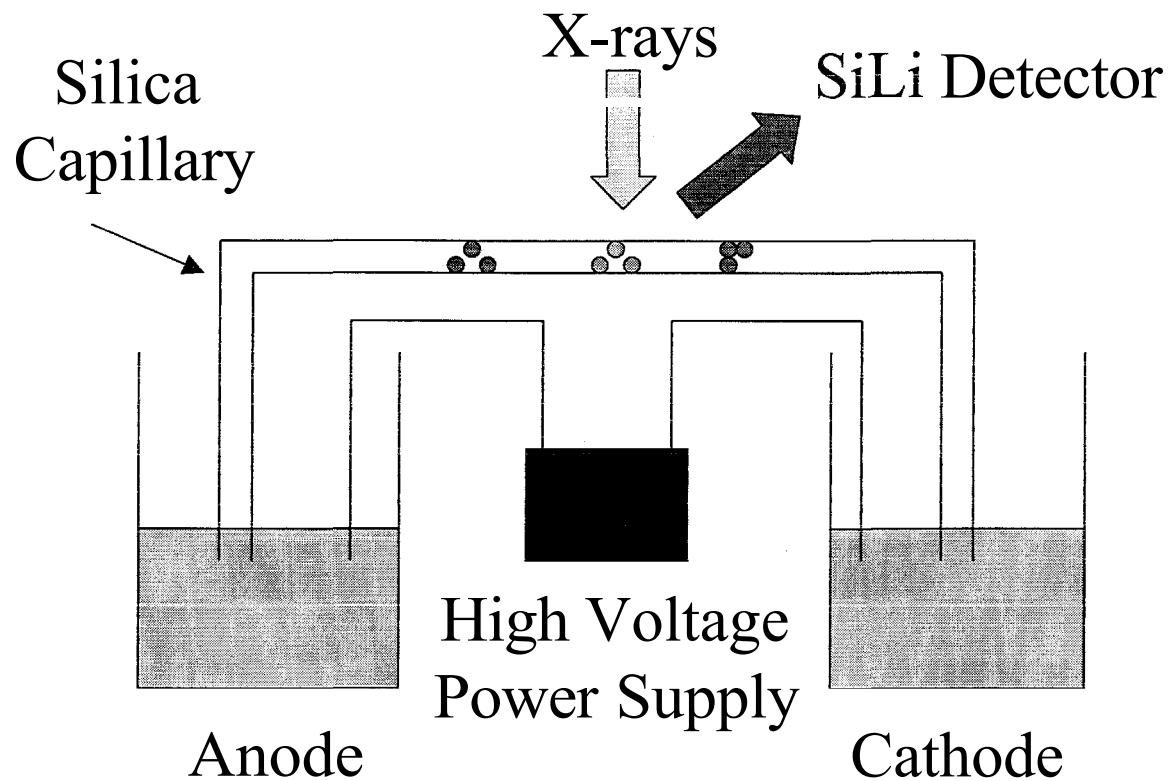
# CEMXRF: A New Tool for Separation and Elemental Detection

**Goal: To develop a new tool for separation and elemental detection**

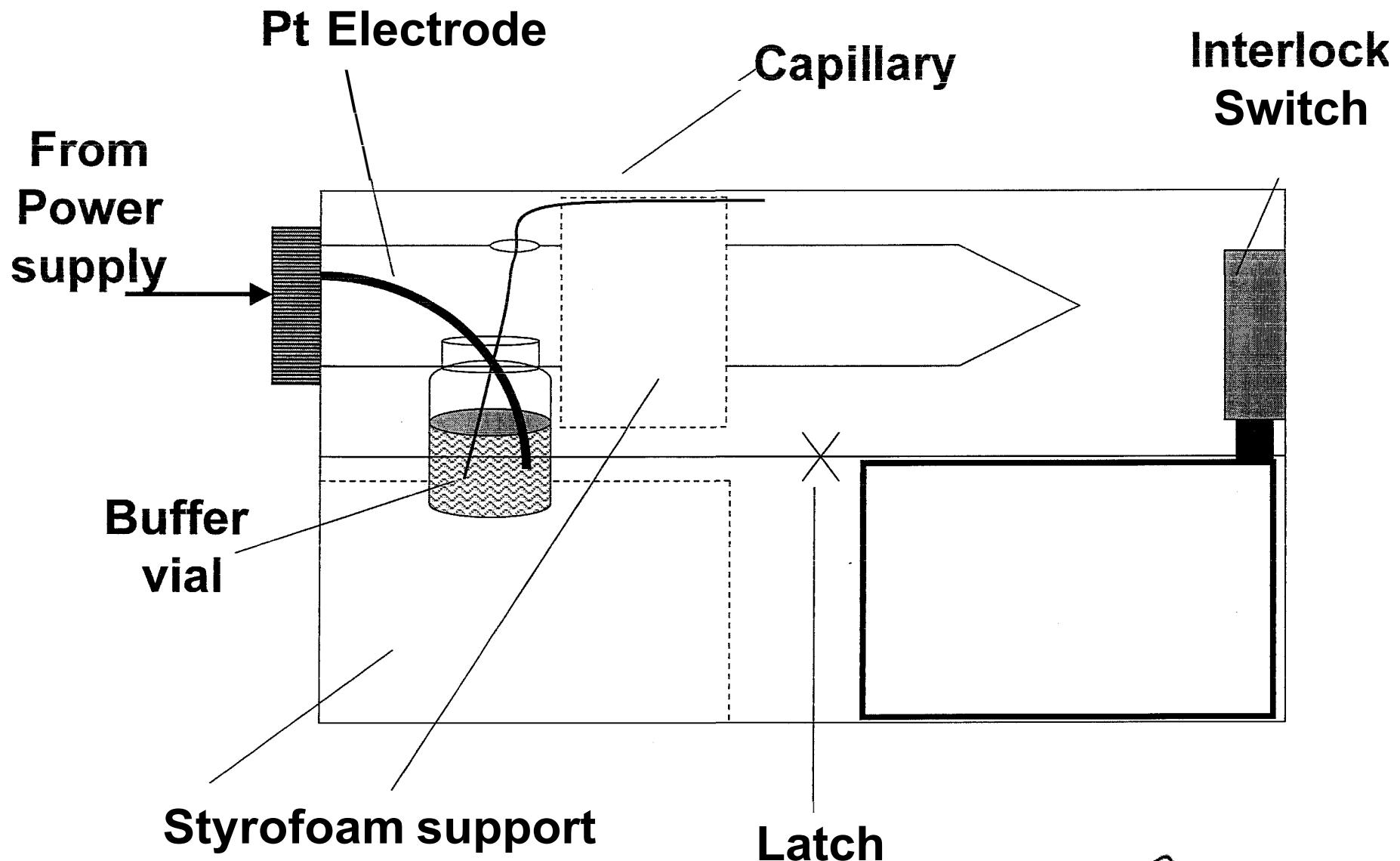
- **Biologically relevant species such as metal containing proteins**
- **Combinatorial library analysis; detection and quantification of binding events between unlabeled proteins and other small molecules**
- **Nondestructive**
- **Bench top Instrumental Interface**



# CE-MXRF



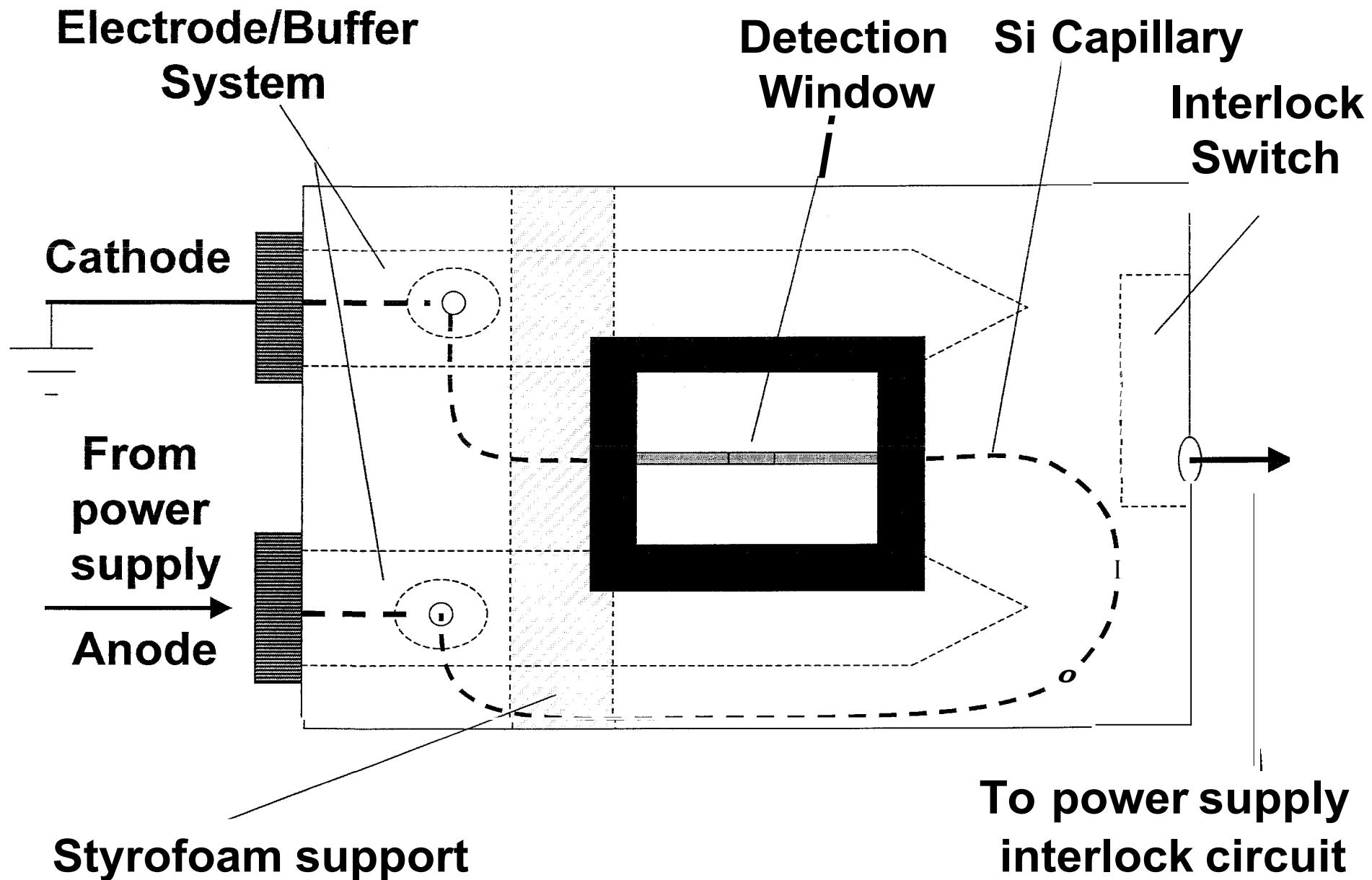
Simultaneous, on-line, multi-elemental detection,  $Z \geq 11$



ANSI

# CHEMISTRY

# • Los Alamos



Interlock

Power Supply

MXRF sample chamber

Rh X-ray  
tube

Detector

XYZ stage

NASA

CHEMISTRY

Los Alamos

# Selection of Capillary Material

Si Tubing	Dimensions			Detection Limit (mg/mL)*			
	O.D. (mm)	I.D. (mm)	Wall Thickness (mm)	Cu	Zn	Fe	Co
TSP167100	0.164	0.097	0.067	0.084	0.154	0.088	0.112
TSP250350	0.362	0.256	0.106	0.046	0.072	0.009	0.031
TSP530660	0.666	0.534	0.132	10.008	0.021	0.010	10.025
TSP075375	0.363	0.075	0.288	1.983	0.488	0.935	1.248

\* Based on sample volume assuming a 0.050 mm MXRF spot size

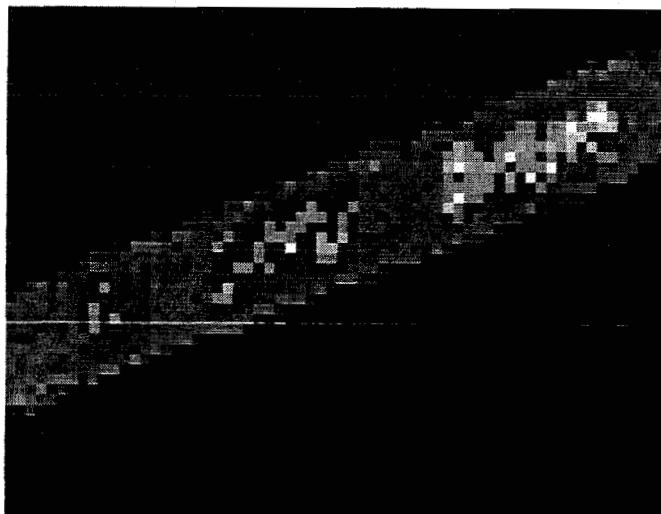
Higher energy X-rays allow detection of species through thin-walled fused silica capillary



# The Polyimide Coating Dilemma

## Issue:

- $\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$  polyimide coating gives stability to fragile Si capillary
- Many means for detection cannot penetrate coating

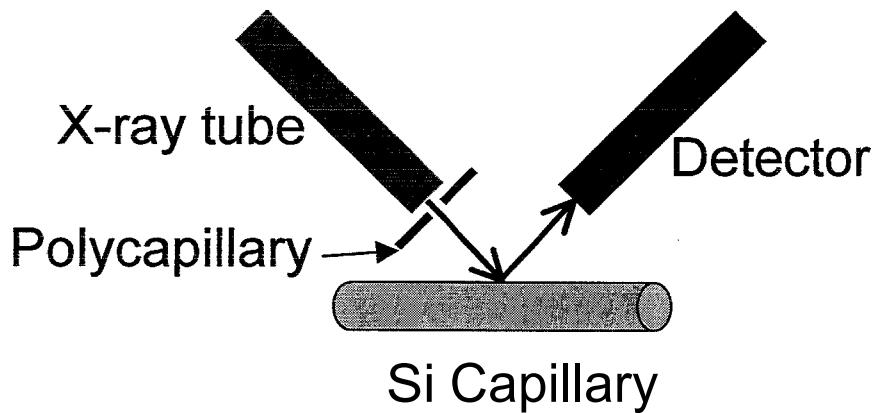


Polyimide Coating Present?	Detection Limit (mg/mL)			
	Cu	Zn	Fe	Co
Yes	0.076	10.064	0.01	10.073
No	0.084	0.154	0.088	0.112

1 ppm    10 ppm    100 ppm

Polyimide coating does not interfere with MXRF detection.

# Instrumental Parameters



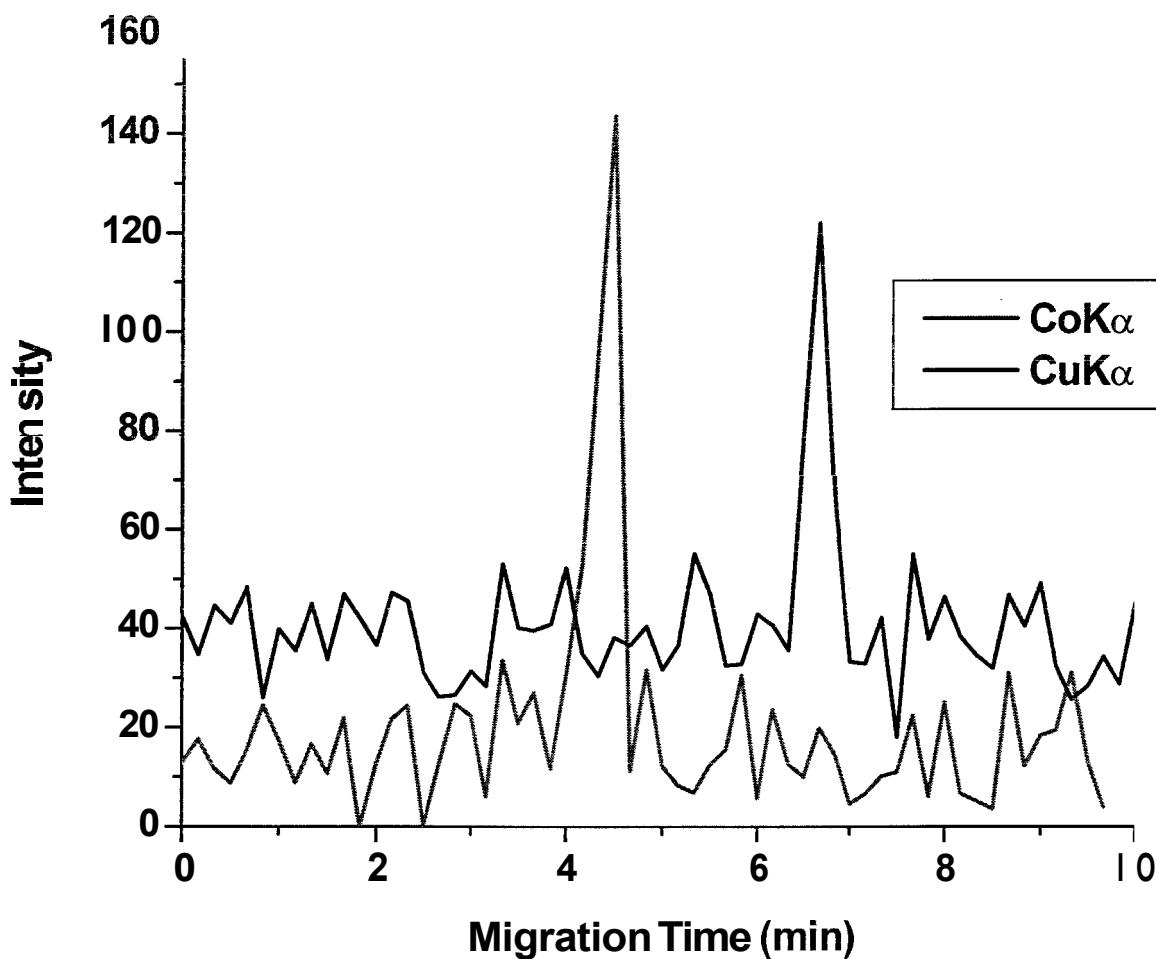
## MXRF

- EDAX Eagle II
- Rh X-ray tube, 40 kV, 1000  $\mu\text{A}$
- Polycapillary focusing optic: 30  $\mu\text{m}$  minimum spot size
- No Vacuum
- SiLi detector
- Spectral Acquisition Rate:  $0.1\text{s}^{-1}$

## CE

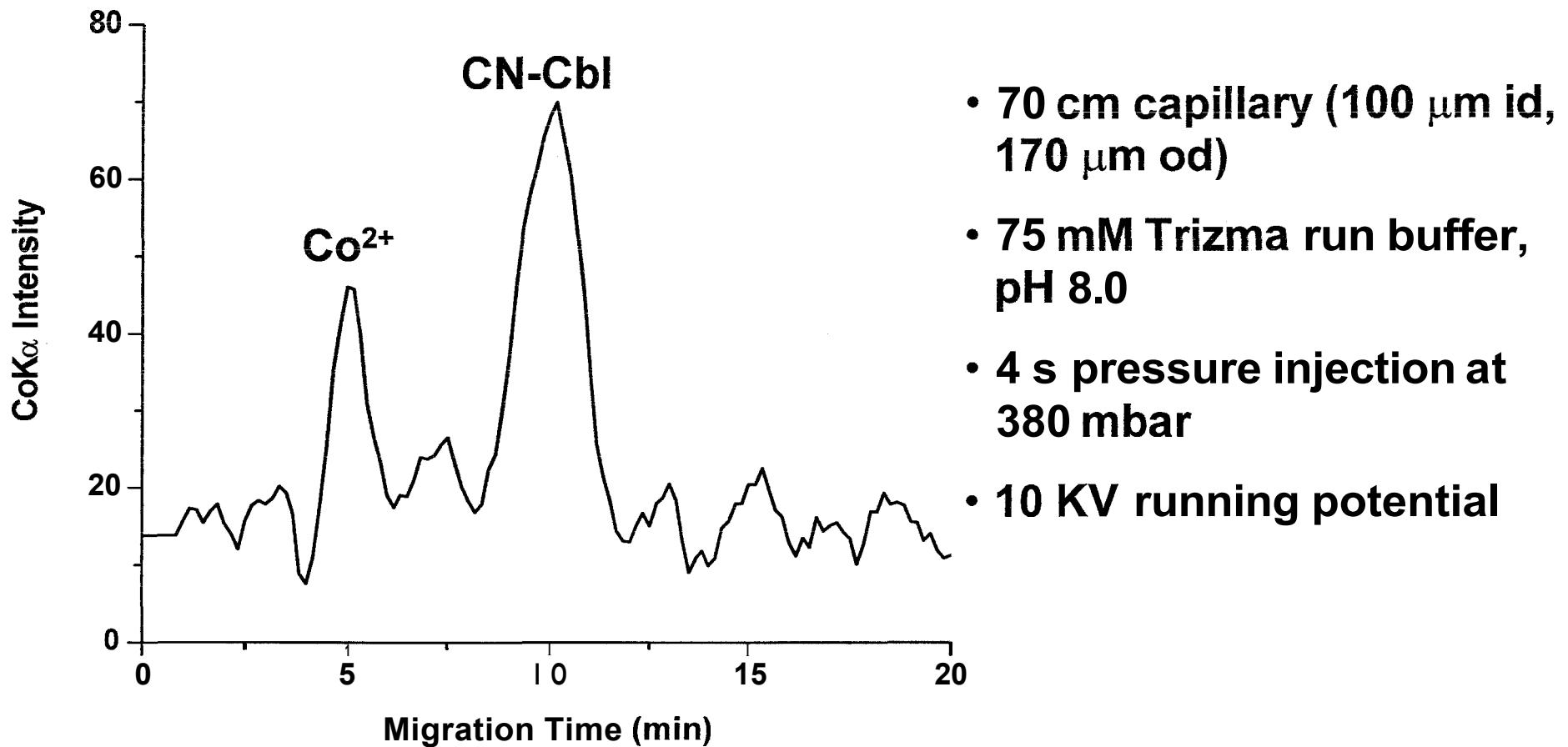
- Fused Silica Capillary; 100  $\mu\text{m}$  o.d., 170  $\mu\text{m}$  i.d.
- Capillary length 70 cm (61 cm to detection window)

# 0.1 mg/mL Cu<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> in de-ionized H<sub>2</sub>O

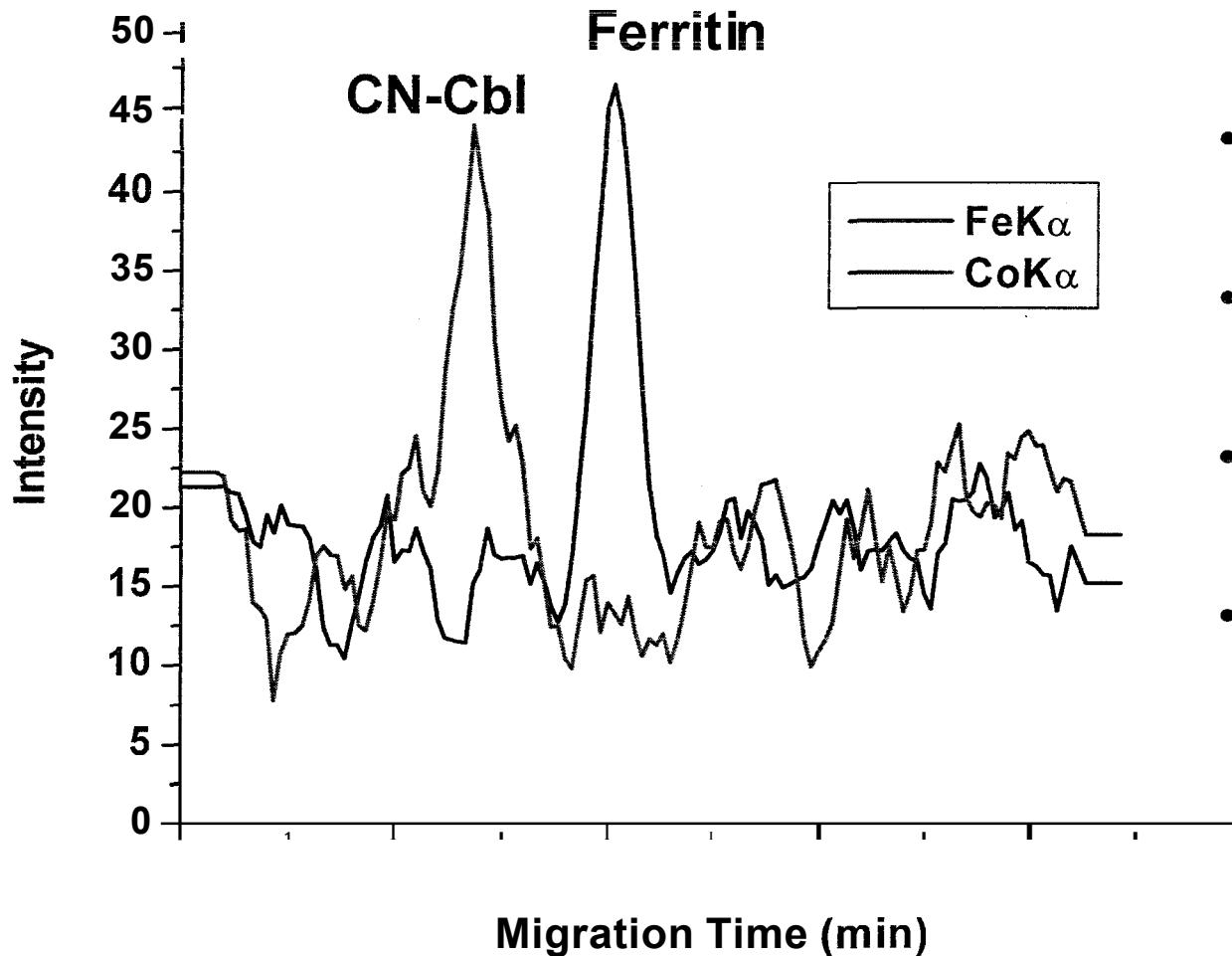


- 70 cm capillary (100  $\mu$ m id, 170  $\mu$ m od)
- 50 mM NH<sub>4</sub>Ac run buffer, pH 4.5
- 4 s pressure injection at 380 mbar
- 10 KV running potential

# 0.2 mg/mL $\text{Co}^{2+}$ and 13.8 mg/mL Cyanocobalamin (CN-Cbl)



# 1.16 mg/mL Ferritin and 13.8 mg/mL Cyanocobalamin (CN-Cbl)



- 70 cm capillary (100  $\mu\text{m}$  id, 170  $\mu\text{m}$  od)
- 100 mM Trizma run buffer, pH 8.5
- 4 s pressure injection at 253 mbar
- 9.5 KV running potential

# Summary

- A simple CE apparatus was constructed using thin-walled fused Si capillary and interfaced with a bench top MXRF system
- CEMXRF was successfully used for metal/metal, free metal/metal complex, multiple metal complex, and biological isoform separations.
- CEMXRF overcomes many shortcomings of other CE-elemental analysis techniques
  - Nondestructive
  - Bench top analysis with simple interface
  - Fe detection
  - Minimal matrix interferences

# The Next Step...

- Optimize System to decrease operating detection limits
  - Monochromatic excitation
  - Capillary modification
- Explore possibilities of simultaneous, dual detection methods
- Further explore other biologically relevant systems

# Acknowledgements

**Cris Lewis, LANL, C-ACS**

**Vahid Majid, LANL, C-AAS**

**Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) Research  
Postdoctoral Fellowship Program**

