

## Quantification of Hydrogen Peroxide in Milk Samples Based on Glassy Carbon Electrode Modified with Fe/Cu Layered Double Hydroxide and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles

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### Abstract

This research aimed to develop a novel sensing platform for hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) quantification in the milk samples. The proposed sensor was fabricated using a glassy carbon electrode modified with Fe-Cu layered double hydroxide (LDH)/magnetic Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles (FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE). The resulting sensor was characterized using field emission scanning, electron microscopy, x-ray diffraction, and infrared spectroscopy, with the addition of the electrochemical methods. After optimization of affecting parameters, the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE exhibited a high electrocatalytic activity for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> electroreduction; and high cathodic peak currents were obtained. The proposed electrode also illustrated a wide linear dynamic domain in the range of 2 to 400 μM; and low limit of detection was calculated to be 0.6 μM.

### Keywords

Nanoparticles; Hydrogen Peroxide; Layered Double Hydroxides; Electrochemical Sensor; Milk Samples.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) has various applications in different areas of science such as environmental, pharmaceutical, clinical, and industrial research and has high antibacterial, and oxidizing characteristics [1-3]. However, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> could simply move and be accumulated in the environment, especially in atmosphere, and in water supplies [4]. This can give rise to the formation of hazardous and dangerous H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub>, and excessive presence of these acids could lead to enhancement of rain acidity level; consequently, it can result in reduction of pH of water resources. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is also a well-known by-product of oxidases biochemical reactions which is regarded as a marker for oxidative stress, and acts as a signaling molecule and defense agent as well [2-4]. Also, according to recent research, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> can lead to a diverse range of diseases such as Alzheimer's, Cancer, and Diabetes. In addition, drinking water, which contains the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, can affect human health and result in vomiting, dizziness, and nausea [3, 4]. As a result, development of a sensitive analytical method is important to quantify the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration in different real environments.

Several reports have been published for determination of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> such as chemiluminescence

[5, 6], colorimetric [7], chromatography, optical spectroscopy [8], and other methods on the basis of electrochemistry [9-12]. In the last few decades, electrochemical approaches have been considered the strategies of choice due to their simplicity, sensitivity and low costs [13]. Regarding the previously reported methods, electrochemical sensors for determination of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are mainly on the basis of biomaterials such as Hemoglobin, Horseradish Peroxidase, and Myoglobin as biorecognition elements. These biosensors have been widely used for selective and sensitive quantification of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [1, 11, 14, 15]. However, although these sensors provide good sensitivity and selectivity, some characteristics such as lack of thermal and chemical stability and low reproducibility of these electrodes due to complex immobilization steps have attracted great attention for determination of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on enzyme-free sensors [15]. As a result, a range of modified electrodes based on nanocomposites, containing metal nanoparticles and new inorganic structures, have been developed for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> sensing [16].

Development of modified electrodes has gained great attention in the field of electrochemical sensors. The main goal of electrode modification is to catalyze and facilitate electron transfer process [16]. Due to unique properties of nanoparticles and

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synthetic inorganic materials, which include low overpotentials and high electron transfer kinetics on the electrode surfaces, high specific surface area and high stability, they have been widely used for preparation of modified electrodes [12].

Layered double hydroxides (LDHs), widely recognized as hydroxide-like materials and/or anionic clays, account for a large number of interlayer charge balancing anions, positively charged hydroxide layers, and water molecules [17, 18]. LDHs have a large number of unique characteristics such as encapsulation ability, high catalytic activity, and ion exchange properties with selective shape [18]. LDHs has received great attention in recent years as promising materials due to their wide range of applications such as catalysts, ion exchanger materials, adsorbents, and electrode modifiers [19]. To explain how these materials can be used in trace level analysis, it should be considered that these materials help desired analytes be confined into an interlayer and small volume on the electrode surface during the analytical measurements [20, 21]. This can improve the results of analytical methods, especially detection limits (LODs). It is also of great importance that these materials can provide high surface area for immobilization of other electrocatalytic reagents to improve sensitivity and selectivity of the electrodes [20, 21]. Several reports have been published in the area of electrochemical sensors, based on LDHs in different biological and environmental applications [22, 23]. Magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) have been used in different areas of analytical and biomedical applications. Examples of these studies include application of these active interfaces to fix biorecognition elements for labeling and detecting lignocellulose activity and gene expression [24, 25]. Iron oxide ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) is particularly popular due to its conductivity, large specific surface area, facile synthesis, and its easy separation from solutions using a magnet [24, 25]. Incorporation of LDHs with  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles could improve surface area and conductivity of the modified electrodes, resulting in improvement of the electrochemical responses.

In this research, a nanocomposite synthesized from FeCu-LDH and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles was used as electrode modifier for development of electrochemical  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  sensor. Finally, electrochemical behavior of FeCu-LDH@ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  modified electrode was studied for the electroreduction of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  in real milk samples.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### 2.1. Reagents

$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , HCl, NaOH, potassium hydrogen phosphate ( $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$ ), potassium dihydrogen phosphate

( $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ ),  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were purchased from Merck Company (Darmstadt, Germany) and used as received without any further purification. Also, tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS, 98% purity) was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Company.

To preparation of phosphate buffer solution having pH of 7 and 0.1 M concentration, 15.487 g of  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 5.827 g of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  were dissolved in 800 mL of distilled water in a suitable container. Desired pH was adjusted with HCl or NaOH and then diluted with distilled water to 1L.

### 2.2. Instruments

The voltammetry and amperometric experiments were carried out using a Sama 500 potentiostat/galvanostat in connection with a three-electrode system. Also, a saturated Ag/AgCl electrode as a reference electrode, a platinum wire as a counter electrode, and FeCu-LDH@ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /GCE as a working electrode were used. X-ray diffraction analysis was performed with a PANalytical X'Pert PRO MPD diffractometer (PANalytical company, Netherlands), equipped with monochromatized Cu  $\text{K}\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ) at a voltage of 40 kV and a 40 mA current. The Fourier transform-infrared (FT-IR) spectrophotometer was used to record the FT-IR spectra from KBr pellets by VERTEX 70/70v FT-IR (Bruker, Germany) in the frequency range of 400–4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The size and the morphology of synthesized nanocomposites were studied by a field emission scanning electron microscope ((Philips XL-30) at an accelerating voltage of 17 kV. Sonication was performed by a 50/60 Hz, 350W ultrasonic bath (EURONDA S.P.A., Italy). Measurements of pH were carried out using a digital pH meter (Mettler Toledo, model M225, Switzerland).

### 2.3. Synthesis of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ @ $\text{SiO}_2$

The  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were synthesized according to the co-precipitation method [26]. In summary,  $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were added in deionized water under a nitrogen atmosphere, so the ammonia solution (3 mL, 30 % v/v) was added into the solution for 30 min. The  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were formed in this solution under heating at 85 °C for 1 h. The nanoparticles were washed with the mixture of deionized water and ethanol (1:1 v/v) for several times. The resulting  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were isolated and sonicated in 1-propanol for 30 min. Then, Ammonia solution and distilled water were added to the above solution under sonication for 1 h. To increase the magnetic nanoparticles stability, they were coated with  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Therefore, 15 mL of

TEOS was added to this solution and sonicated for 1 h at 50 °C. Finally, the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$  nanoparticles were isolated, washed three times with ethanol and dried (60 °C, 24 h).

#### 2.4. Synthesis of $\text{FeCu-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$

The synthesis of  $\text{FeCu-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanocomposite was carried out on the basis of the previously recommended method [27]. Briefly,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$  was dispersed into aqueous methanol water (1:1 v/v, 60 mL) and sonicated for dispersion. The pH of this solution was adjusted by NaOH solution at 9.5-10. Also, the desired amounts of  $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were dissolved in decarbonated and deionized water and were added drop by drop to the above mentioned solution with a pH in the range of 9.5-10. The resulting slurry was refluxed at 70 °C for 24 h under vigorous stirring. Finally, an external magnetic field was used for collection of the synthesized Cu-Fe LDH@ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , and final sediment was washed with deionized water three times and dried at 50 °C overnight.

#### 2.5. Preparation of $\text{Fe-Cu LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$

The GCE was first freed from every contaminant by careful polishing on alumina slurry and Buehler polishing cloth. Ultrasonic rinsing and water were used to remove the alumina residues from the GCE electrode surface. Then, the as-prepared electrode was allowed to be dried in air at ambient temperature and was immediately modified with 6  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{FeCu LDH}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanocomposite (2 mg  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ ). After GCE was dried, the  $\text{FeCu-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$  became ready for subsequent electrochemical experiments. In this method, the modifier (LDH composite) was stabilized fast and easily by physical adsorption on the electrode surface (drop casting) through intermolecular interactions such as Van Der Waals forces, Hydrogen bonding,  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions, etc.

#### 2.6. Standard solutions and real samples

Stock solutions of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (100 mM) were daily prepared in water and stored at 4.0 °C. Working solutions were made by dilution of a certain amount of the stock solution. In addition, the milk sample was obtained from local market and was diluted 5 times with phosphate buffer solution (0.1 mol  $\text{L}^{-1}$ , pH 7.0). It was then spiked with given concentrations of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

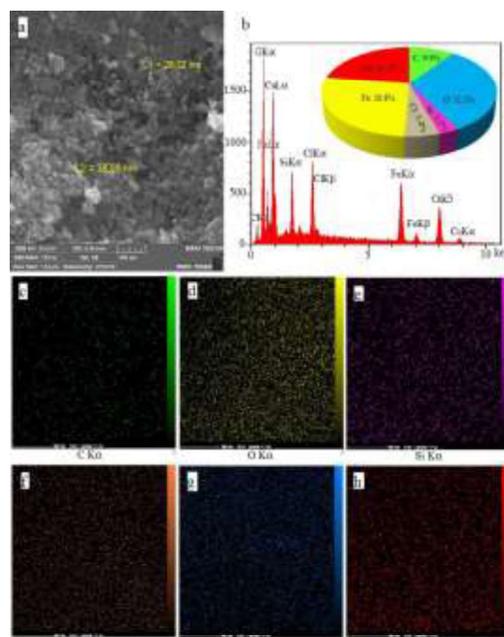
### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Structure and morphology characterization

Morphology and FESEM images of Cu-Fe LDH@ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  with the point energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) analysis and EDS image mapping of the elements were shown in Fig. 1(a-h). In Fig. 1a, average thickness and length of

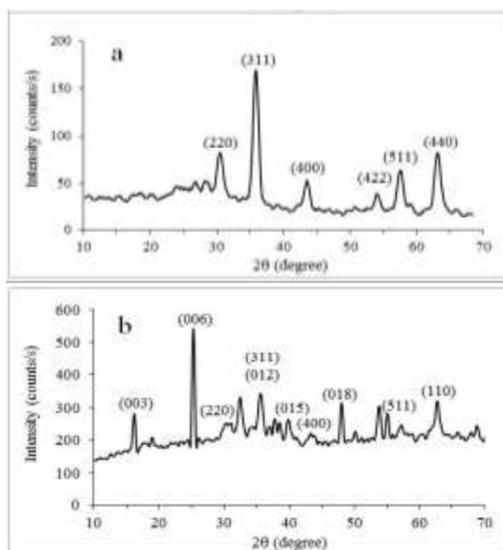
layers in the structure were obtained as approximately 35 nm and 200 nm, respectively, using the image J software. The observed accumulation in this image is probably due to the presence of magnetic nanoparticles.

In order to prove the existence of  $\text{CuFe-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  (Cu and Fe elements) and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles (Fe and O elements) in the structure, the point energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) analysis and EDS image mapping of the elements were shown in the figure. 1 (c-h). In EDS results (Fig. 1b), Fe and Cu elements were existed with amounts of Cu (22.5 wt %) and Fe (26.8%); also other elements such as O (32.3 wt%), Si (3.1%), Cl (5.49%) and C (9.9%) were in the structure. The EDS image mapping showed uniform distribution of all elements (Fig. 1c-h).



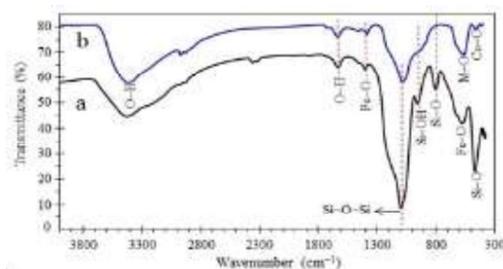
**Fig. 1.** (a) FESEM image of  $\text{FeCu-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  (b) EDS analysis of  $\text{FeCu-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  (c-h) Distribution map of elements in  $\text{FeCu-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .

X-ray diffraction patterns of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{FeCu-LDH}@\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  were investigated to show the structure of the nanocomposite (Fig. 2a-b). The diffraction peaks at  $2\theta$  values of 30.1 (220), 35.4 (311), 43.2 (400), 53.8 (422), 56.9 (511) and 63.0 (440) are in  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  XRD pattern (Fig. 2a) [28]. In Fig. 2b, the special reflection peaks, appeared at  $2\theta$  values of 16.1, 25.2, 35.039.7, 47.9, and 60.3, are related to the (003), (006), (012), (015), (018), and (110) crystal planes, respectively, which are the characteristics of LDH structure [29]. In this figure, the diffraction peaks at  $2\theta$  values of 30.1 (220), 35.4 (311), 43.2 (400), and 56.9 (511) can confirm presence of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles in Fe-Cu LDH@ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  structure.



**Fig. 2.** XRD spectrum of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  NPs and  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .

The FT-IR spectra of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  were displayed in the range of  $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in Fig. 3a-b. The strong absorption bands at  $1100$  and  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 3a) were assigned to the stretching vibration bonds in  $\text{Si-O-Si}$  and  $\text{Si-O}$ , respectively that confirmed the presence of  $\text{SiO}_2$  followed by the iron core containing  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  in the structure. The peaks of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  at  $588\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were related to the vibration of  $\text{Fe-O}$  bond in  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles [30-31]. In Fig. 3b, the broad strong band at  $3435\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was ascribed to  $\text{O-H}$  stretching vibrations of the LDH surface and interlayer water molecules that were found at a lower frequency compared with free water [32-33]. The absorption bands at  $554$  and  $415\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were ascribed to  $\text{M-O-H}$  and  $\text{O-M-O}$  lattice vibrations, respectively (M is a metal (Fe and Cu)). The strong bond at  $1100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is weak in Fig. 2b which can confirm bonding of Si with LDH and formation of  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ . The weak absorption bond at  $446\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is related to  $\text{Cu-O}$  vibrations in LDH. According to these results and all variations in two figures, it can be concluded that  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  was successfully synthesized.

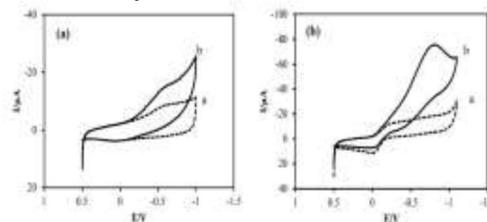


**Fig. 3.** FT-IR spectra of (a)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and (b)  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .

### 3.2. Electrochemical behavior of the $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$

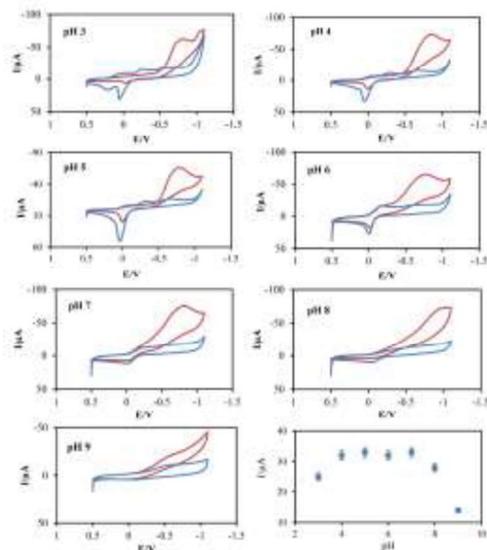
#### 3.2.1. Cyclic voltammetric behavior of $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$

To distinguish the effects of the modifier components, the electrochemical behavior of GCE and  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$  for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  determination were compared using cyclic voltammetry (Fig. 4). As can be seen, for the bare GCE, there was a small reduction peak, while  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$  showed an irreversible reduction peak at  $-0.60\text{ V}$  with an obvious current increase compared with the bare electrode.



**Fig. 4.** The CV responses of (a) blank solution and (b)  $50\text{ }\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on a: bare GCE, and b:  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$  in  $0.1\text{ M}$  phosphate buffer ( $\text{pH } 7.0$ ) at  $50\text{ mV/s}$  scan rate.

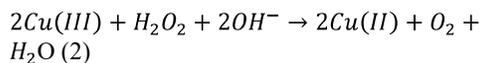
The enhancement, observed in electro-reduction peak current of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on the  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$ , can be explained by an increase in specific surface area, electrocatalytic effect and an improvement in conductivity.



**Fig. 5.** The CV response of  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$  in the presence of  $50\text{ }\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  at  $50.0\text{ mV s}^{-1}$  scan rate at various pHs from  $3.0$  to  $9.0$  and the plot of cathodic peak current of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  at  $\text{FeCu-LDH@Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{GCE}$  vs.  $\text{pH}$ .

In general, the electrocatalytic oxidation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on the surface of electrode can be occurred through an  $\text{EC}^+$  mechanism as follows [34]:





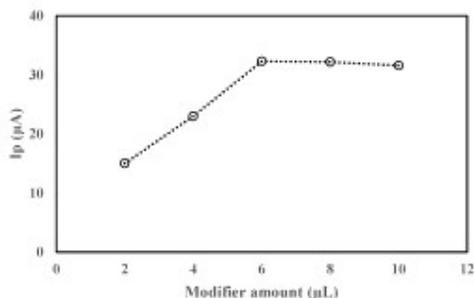
Moreover, the presence of Fe in bimetallic LDH can provide more catalytic active sites and the synergistic effect, which more promote the above electrochemical oxidation.

### 3.2.2. Effect of pH

The pH of electrolyte is an important variable in electrocatalytic processes. In this work, pH effect was investigated in the range of 3.0 to 9.0, and the results were shown in Fig. 5. As can be seen, as the pH of electrolyte increases from 3.0 to 7.0, electro-reduction peak currents of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE go up which is followed with a slight decrease in the range of 8.0 to 9.0. Therefore, pH 7.0 was selected in subsequent experiments.

### 3.2.3. Influence of the amount of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

It has been proved that the amount of modifier has a significant effect on electrochemical responses of modified electrodes. To maximize the results, different amounts of the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> were investigated in the range of 2 to 10  $\mu\text{L}$  (2 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) on the peak current of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ). The results showed that the electrochemical signals significantly depended on the modifier amount on the electrode surface. According to the results, electrocatalytic peak currents increased by drop casting of the different amounts of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> up to 6  $\mu\text{L}$ . However, when the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> amounts were higher than 6  $\mu\text{L}$ , the electrocatalytic currents did not significantly change. Hence, a GCE coated with 6  $\mu\text{L}$  of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was used for subsequent experiments.



**Fig. 6.** Influence of the amount of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

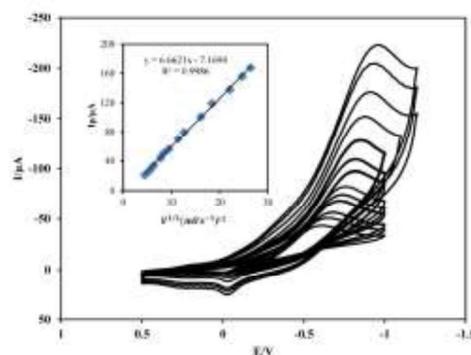
### 3.2.4. Influence of scan rate

In order to investigate the electrode reaction mechanism, the effect of potential scan rate ( $\nu$ ) on the peak potential and the peak current was studied in different scan rates. According to the results, as scan rates increase, cathodic peak currents go up (Fig. 7). Also, a good linearity between peak currents and square root of scan rates was observed with high correlation coefficient. These results

show that electro-reduction of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE is controlled under diffusion mechanism according to the following equation [11]:

$$I_p = 6.6621 \nu^{1/2} - 7.1694 \quad (R^2 = 0.9986)$$

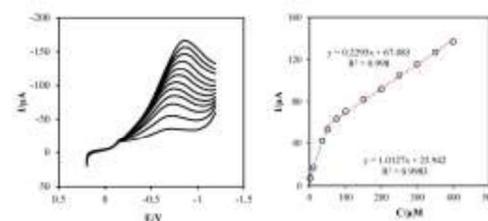
Furthermore, the reduction peak potentials were shifted toward more negative values which were expected for an irreversible electrode reaction [11].



**Fig. 7.** The CV responses of 50  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) at various scan rates (5 to 400 mV/s). Inset: plot of the peak current versus the square root of scan rate.

### 3.3. Analytical performance

To test the practical applicability of the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE, different analytical parameters such as linear range, limit of detection, stability, repeatability, and reproducibility were studied. It was observed that the reduction peak current of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  increases with an increment in its concentration within the range of 2 to 400  $\mu\text{M}$  in two linear ranges of 2-50  $\mu\text{M}$  and 50-400  $\mu\text{M}$  (Fig. 8).



**Fig. 8.** The DPV responses of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE in 0.1 M phosphate buffer at pH 7.0 with different concentrations of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (2-400  $\mu\text{M}$ ). Inset: plot of the peak current versus concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

The limit of detection for FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE was calculated to be 0.60  $\mu\text{M}$ , based on signal-to-noise ratio of 3. To investigate the repeatability of the response of the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE toward  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  detection, five CV experiments were repeated consecutively on the same condition. The relative standard deviation was calculated to be 4.63%, indicating great repeatability of the responses of the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE. In the next experiment, CV responses of five different independently prepared

FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCEs were performed under the same experimental conditions. The obtained RSD% of 5.78% showed high reproducibility of the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE. The stability of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE was investigated by recording the CV responses of 50 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> within ten days. After ten days, just 6% decrease of the signal was observed in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> reduction signal that confirms good stability of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE.

**Table 1:** Determination of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in milk samples.

Sample	Spiked (μM)	Found (μM) <sup>a</sup>	RSD (%)	Recovery (%)
1	5.00	4.88	6.78	97.60
2	25.00	25.44	6.43	101.76
3	50.00	49.20	4.76	98.40
4	175.00	174	5.12	99.43

<sup>a</sup> Average of three determinations.

In addition, the proposed FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE was applied for determination of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in milk samples. Here, milk samples were analyzed using the DPV method. Then, the milk samples were spiked with 5, 25, 50, and 175 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and analyzed by DPV at the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE. The results of recoveries and RSDs for the spiked milk samples are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 2:** Comparison of different modified electrodes for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> determination.

Electrode	LOD (μg/L)	Linear Range	Ref.
GCE/Au-GS	10.0	0.03-5000	[35]
SPCE/GS-afion/Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Au-HRP	12.0	0.02-2500	[36]
AgNP/rGO/GCE	31.3	100 - 100000	[37]
AgNP/GN-R/GCE	28	100 - 40000	[38]
Cu <sub>2</sub> O-rGO/GCE	21.7	30 - 12800	[39]
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C-Cu/GCE	32.6	80-372000	[40]
Hb-MCMS/GCE	21	69 - 3000	[41]
Fe/CA/CPE	500	1000-50000	[42]
Ni/[(Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup> /CPE	340	600 -6000 , 17000-54000	[43]
G/Fe <sub>4</sub> POM-poly(1,8 DAN)/GO	2000	Up to 50000	[44]
α <sub>2</sub> - K <sub>7</sub> P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> VO <sub>62</sub> /GCE	40	100-20000	[45]
FeCu-LDH@Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /GCE	0.6	2-400	This work

According to the results, recoveries, obtained in the range of 97.80% to 101.76 %, indicate that the developed sensor is reliable for the quantification

of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in milk samples without a substantial matrix effect.

Finally, figure of merits of the proposed electrode for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> determination and some reported sensors by others were compared (Table 2) [35-45]. As can be seen, the responses of the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE were comparable to those of the reported sensors in terms of linear dynamic range and limit of detection.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In this research, the construction of FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE and its application for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> determination were described. To achieve this goal, operative parameters in the electrochemical detection were completely studied and optimized. The proposed sensor illustrated very sensitive results in comparison with those of the bare GCE. Remarkable current sensitivity and low limit of detection of the FeCu-LDH@Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GCE for the detection of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> can provide promising sensing applications compared with unmodified and other enzyme based reported sensors in the real samples.

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#### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## تعیین مقدار هیدروژن پراکسید در نمونه‌های شیر بر پایه الکتروکاتالیست کربن اصلاح شده با $Fe_3O_4$ و نانوذرات $Fe/Cu$ دوگانه لایه‌ای

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### چکیده

هیدروژن پراکسید ( $H_2O_2$ ) کاربرد گسترده‌ای در صنایع مختلف نظیر نساجی، دارویی، بالینی و مواد غذایی دارد. هیدروژن پراکسید به‌طور معمول در غلظت حدود ۶٪ استفاده می‌شود، اما در غلظت بالاتر می‌تواند اکسید کننده، خورنده و سمی باشد. در این تحقیق، یک حسگر الکتروشیمیایی جدید مبتنی بر نانوکامپوزیت هیدروکسید لایه‌ای دوگانه فلزات  $Cu/Fe$  تثبیت شده بر روی بستر مغناطیسی با موفقیت ساخته شده و برای تشخیص  $H_2O_2$  مورد استفاده قرار می‌گیرد. جهت بررسی ساختار و ویژگی نانوکامپوزیت تهیه شده از میکروسکوپ الکترونی روبشی، پراش اشعه ایکس، ولتامتری چرخه‌ای و ولتامتری پالس تقاضلی استفاده شد. سپس نانوکامپوزیت بر روی الکتروکاتالیست کربن شیشه‌ای تثبیت و فعالیت الکتروکاتالیستی آن در احیاء  $H_2O_2$  مورد بررسی قرار گرفت. عوامل موثر بر فعالیت الکتروکاتالیستی (مقدار اصلاح‌گر، pH محلول و زمان آنالیز) بررسی و بهینه‌سازی شد. تحت شرایط بهینه، هیدروژن پراکسید یک جریان احیایی خطی از خود نشان داد. هم‌چنین حدتشخیص ۳ میکرومولار و تکرارپذیری حسگر تهیه شده در محدوده ۲ تا ۴۰ میکرومولار به دست آمد. در نهایت حسگر مربوطه به‌صورت موفقیت آمیز برای تعیین هیدروژن پراکسید با محاسبه بازیابی در نمونه شیر مورد مطالعه قرار گرفت.

### واژه‌های کلیدی

نانوذرات؛ هیدروژن پراکسید؛ هیدروکسید لایه‌ای دوگانه؛ حسگر الکتروشیمیایی؛ نمونه‌های شیر.