Contents

Chapter 1
Introduction 1

References 3

Chapter 2
Air as an object of analysis 4

2.1. Atmospheric air and sources of atmospheric pollution 4
2.2. General characteristics of air pollutants 5
2.3. Specific features of air as an object of analysis 8
References 9

Chapter 3
Gas chromatography in the analysis of air pollutants 10

3.1. General considerations 10
3.2. Peculiarities of the gas chromatographic analysis of impurities 20
References 23

Chapter 4
Detectors for the gas chromatographic determination of impurities 25

4.1. Principal characteristics of detectors for gas chromatography 25
4.2. Flame ionization detector 28
4.3. Thermionic detector 28
4.4. Photoionization detector 29
4.5. Electron-capture detector 30
4.6. Flame photometric detector 30
4.7. The thermal energie analyser (TEA) detector 31
4.8. Detectors for direct identification of impurities 31
4.9. Hall electrolytic detector 31
References 33

Chapter 5
Collection and pretreatment of samples for chromatographic analysis 35

5.1. Sampling into containers 35
5.2. Use of absorption of contaminants in sample collection 37
5.3. Cryogenic concentration of contaminants 40
5.4. Use of adsorption for contaminant concentration 46
5.4.1. Activated coal and carbon adsorbents 48
5.4.2. Porous polymer adsorbents 50
5.4.3. Sorbents used in gas-liquid chromatography 55
5.4.4. Silica gel 57

5.4.5. Molecular sieves . . . 58
5.4.6. Aluminium oxide . . . 58
5.5. Multilayer sorption traps . . . 59
5.6. Sorbents for passive sampling . . . 59
5.7. Chemisorbents . . . 62
5.8. Trapping of solid particles and aerosols . . . 65
5.9. Preparation of concentration tubes containing solid sorbent . . . 67
5.10. Influence of sampling conditions on the efficiency of sorption of pollutants . . . 70
5.10.1. Properties of analysed compounds . . . 71
5.10.2. Properties of the sorbent used . . . 72
5.10.3. Air flow-rate . . . 78
5.10.4. Air sample volume . . . 78
5.10.5. Concentration temperature . . . 80
5.10.6. Air humidity . . . 80
5.10.7. Coadsorption . . . 80
5.10.8. Concentration in the flow . . . 81
5.11. Desorption of pollutants from the sorbent . . . 83
5.11.1. Solvent extraction . . . 83
5.11.2. Extraction in Soxhlet apparatus and ultrasonic field . . . 85
5.11.3. Thermal desorption . . . 86
5.12. Influence of experimental conditions on the completeness of recovery of pollutants . . . 91
5.12.1. Temperature . . . 96
5.12.2. Humidity . . . 96
5.12.3. Coadsorption . . . 97
5.12.4. Desorption duration . . . 98
5.12.5. Choice of solvent . . . 98
5.13. Increase in desorption efficiency . . . 100
5.13.1. Solvent mixture . . . 100
5.13.2. Two-phase desorption systems . . . 100
5.13.3. Desorption methods . . . 102
5.14. Choice of sampling method . . . 103
5.15. Metrological aspects of air pollutant determination by gas chromatography . . . 108
References . . . 113

Chapter 6
The reactive-sorption method and its application for concentrating pollutans . . . 119

6.1. Concentration of pollutants on solid adsorbents . . . 119
6.2. Reactive-sorption concentration . . . 121
6.3. Use of the reactive-sorption method to enhance the reliability of the determination of pollutants . . . 123
6.3.1. Determination of aggressive gases . . . 123
6.3.2. Determination of nitrogen oxides . . . 124
6.3.3. Determination of sulphur fluorides . . . 125
6.3.4. Determination of hydrocarbons . . . 126
6.4. Diminution of coadsorption of pollutants . . . 127
6.4.1. Dynamics of sorption and coadsorption . . . 127
6.4.2. Diminution of coadsorption . . . 130
6.5. Improvement of chromatographic separation . . . 133
6.6. Moisture removal . . . 134
6.7. Identification of pollutants . . . 135
6.7.1. Determination of hydrocarbons . . . 135

6.7.2. Determination of oxygen-containing compounds . . . 137
6.7.3. Determination of halogen-containing compounds . . . 139
6.7.4. Determination of sulphur-containing compounds . . . 143
6.7.5. Determination of nitrogen-containing compounds . . . 144
6.7.6. Determination of inorganic compounds . . . 145
6.8. Conclusion . . . 146
References . . . 147

Chapter 7
Quantitative methods for the determination of impurities . . . 150

7.1. Preparation of standard mixtures . . . 150
7.1.1. Static methods . . . 150
7.1.2. Dynamic methods . . . 151
7.1.2.1. Methods used to dilute (mix) streams . . . 151
7.1.2.2. Diffusion method (use of diffusion cells) . . . 152
7.1.2.3. Exponential dilution flask method . . . 152
7.1.2.4. Diffusion method using permeation tubes (ampoules) . . . 153
7.1.2.5. Other methods . . . 157
7.1.2.6. Preparation of standard aerosol mixtures . . . 159
7.2. Detector calibration . . . 161
7.3. Calculation of impurity concentrations . . . 161
7.4. Detection limits for air contaminants . . . 162
References . . . 163

Chapter 8
Practical application of gas chromatography to the determination of air pollutants . . . 165

8.1. Carbon oxides . . . 165
8.2. Halides and their derivatives . . . 167
8.3. Nitrogen-containing compounds . . . 170
8.4. Sulphur- and phosphorus-containing compounds . . . 172
8.5. Metals and their derivatives . . . 176
8.6. Low-boiling hydrocarbons . . . 178
8.7. Aromatic hydrocarbons . . . 179
8.8. Polyaromatic compounds . . . 180
8.9. Organic oxy compounds . . . 186
8.10. Amines and nitro compounds . . . 190
8.11. Odorants . . . 194
8.12. Halogenated hydrocarbons . . . 195
8.13. Freons . . . 196
8.14. Chlorine-containing pesticides, polychlorobiphenyls and dioxins . . . 197
8.15. Bis(chloromethyl) ether . . . 198
8.16. Vinyl chloride . . . 199
References . . . 203

Conclusion . . . 208

Subject Index . . . 209