

## Development and Validation Chemometric Assisted Spectrophotometric Method for the Estimation of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime Proxetil

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**Abstract:** Chemometrics is the subdivision of analytical chemistry that uses computational methods for qualitative or quantitative analysis of typically multivariate measurement data. In this study, chemometric assisted UV spectrophotometric method was developed and validated for estimation of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil. Chemometric methods used were principle components regression (PCR) and partial leastsquares regression (PLS) for data analysis. Spectra of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil were recorded between wavelengths of 220 to 320nm with wavelength interval of 0.5 nm in linearity range of 5.0-30.0 µg/ml for both the drugs. The methods were validated as per International Conference on Harmonization Q2 (R1) (ICH) guidelines. These methods were successfully applied for determination of drugs in pharmaceutical formulation (tablet) with no interference of the excipients as indicated by the recovery study results. The proposed methods are simple, rapid and can be easily used as an alternative analysis tool in the quality control as well as in process control of drugs and formulation.

**Keywords:** Ofloxacin, Cefpodoxime proxetil, UV spectroscopy, Chemometrics, PLS, PCR.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Ofloxacin (OFLOX) is a broad-spectrum fluorinated quinolone antibacterial with IUPAC name (RS)-9-fluoro-3-methyl-10-(4-methylpiperazin-yl)-7-oxo-2,3-dihydro-7H-pyrido [1,2,3, -de]-1,4-benzoxazine-6-carboxylic acid (Fig. 1a)<sup>[1]</sup>. It is used in the treatment of respiratory tract infections, pharyngitis, community-acquired pneumonia, mild to moderate bacterial exacerbation, sexually transmitted diseases, acute and uncomplicated urethral and cervical gonorrhea, urethritis, complicated urinary tract infections, prostatitis<sup>[2]</sup>.

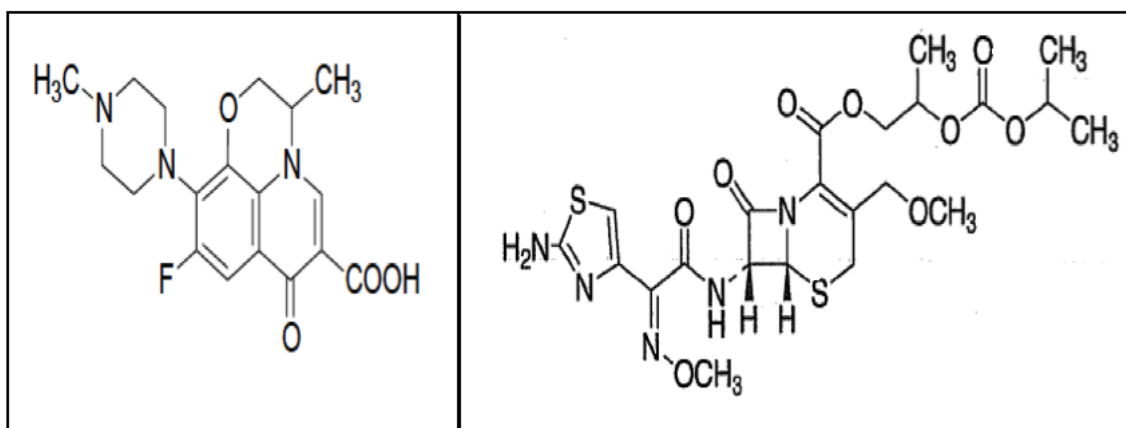


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil

Cefpodoxime Proxetil (CP) is a broad spectrum, orally absorbed third generation cephalosporin antibiotic with IUPAC name 1-(isopropoxycarbonyloxy) ethyl (6R, 7R)-7-[2-(2-amino-4-thiazolyl)-

(Z)-2-(methoxyimino) acetamido]-3-methoxymethyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylate (Fig. 1b) <sup>[1]</sup>. It is used in the treatment of influenza, meningitis, gonorrhea, pneumonia, tuberculosis, acute otitis media, pharyngitis<sup>[2]</sup>.

The combination of CP and OFLOX has a double mode of action, OFLOX prevents nucleic acid synthesis, while CP inhibits cell wall synthesis and work synergistically with improved patient compliance <sup>[2]</sup>. Cefpodoxime proxetil and Ofloxacin are formulated together in the form of tablet.

Chemometrics is the subdivision of analytical chemistry that uses computational methods for qualitative or quantitative analysis of typically multivariate measurement data <sup>[3]</sup>.

Multivariate statistical analysis methods presume that there is a linear relationship between absorbance and component concentrations. Each method has a calibration step in which the relationship between the spectra and the component concentrations is elucidated from a set of reference samples (calibration set). This step is followed by a prediction step in which the results of the calibration are used to calculate the concentrations from sample spectrum of Validation set<sup>[4]</sup>. PLS-1 is a tool for the resolution of mixtures and was developed by S.Wold<sup>[5]</sup>.

Literature survey reveals that there are few reported methods for estimation of CP and OFLOX alone and in combination with other drugs by HPLC <sup>[2,6-7]</sup> and UV spectrophotometry<sup>[8-11]</sup>. To the best of our knowledge no chemometric assisted UV spectrophotometric method was reported for simultaneous estimation of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil in combination hence the work was undertaken. The multivariate calibration methods investigated in this manuscript include the two most common methods, Principal component regression (PCR) and Partial least squares (PLS) for the determination of OFLOX and CP.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *Instrumentation:*

Double-beam UV-visible spectrophotometer (JASCO V-730, Japan), with matched pair of 1-cm quartz cells was used. 'Spectra Manager' software was utilized for spectra analysis. Computations of PCR and PLS were carried out by using Unscrambler X-10.3 (64 bit) trial version. Microsoft Excel 2010 was used for calculations and storing absorbance data.

### *Reagents and chemicals:*

Pure drug samples of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil were provided by Twilight Litaka Pharma Ltd, (Pune, MH, India) and Aristo Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, (Mumbai, MH, India), respectively as gift samples. The marketed formulation, CEPODEM-O (Malik Lifesciences Pvt. Ltd, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India) was procured from local market containing Ofloxacin IP 200 mg and Cefpodoxime proxetil 200 mg. Methanol used was of analytical grade (Loba Chemie, Mumbai, MH, India).

### *Preparation of Standard stock solution:*

Stock solution of OFLOX and CP were prepared by dissolving accurately weighed 10 mg of standard drugs in 10 ml of methanol, separately (1000 µg/ml). Further 5 ml of these solutions were pipetted and diluted to 50 ml (100 µg/ml).

### *Working standard solution:*

From stock solutions (100 µg/ml) of OFLOX and CP, working standard solutions of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 µg/ml for both drugs were obtained.

### *Preparation of Calibration and Validation sets:*

A total set of 45 mixtures were prepared by combining working standard of OFLOX and CP in their linear concentration range of 5.0-30.0 µg/ml for both the drugs. From these 30 mixtures were used for calibration set and 15 mixtures were used for validation set (Table No 1). The validation set was randomly selected and its prediction data is presented in Table No 2. The absorbance spectra were recorded in range of 220- 320 nm at 0.5 nm interval. The PCR and PLS models were developed utilizing absorption data using Unscrambler software. The first step in multivariate methods (PCR and PLS) involves constructing the calibration matrix. To confirm good predictability of generated model the RMSE plot versus number of factors (PLS method) as indicated in Fig. 2. Mean centering of the

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data was done for getting the optimum results. Leave one out (LOO) cross validation was used in our study for optimizing the number of PCR and PLS components and is calculated using below formula,

$$RMSECV = \sqrt{\sum \frac{(C_{act} - C_{pre})^2}{I_c}}$$

Where,

RMSECV = Root mean square error of cross validation

Cact = actual concentration of calibration set

Cpre = predicted concentration of validation set

Ic = Total number of samples in calibration set

The selection of the optimum number of LVs was a very important preconstruction step, if the number of factors retained was more than required, more noise would be added to the data; if the number retained was too small, meaningful data that could be necessary for the calibration might be lost<sup>[12]</sup>. After the PLS model has been constructed, it was found that the optimum number of LVs described by the developed models was two as shown in Fig. 2.

**Table 1.** Concentration data of the different mixtures of OFLOX and CP used in the calibration set and validation set.

Mixture No.	OFLOX µg/ml	CP µg/ml	Mixture No	OFLOX µg/ml	CP µg/ml
1c	5	5	24c	20	30
2c	5	10	25c	25	5
3c	5	15	26c	25	10
4c	5	20	27c	25	15
5c	5	25	28c	25	20
6c	5	30	29c	25	25
7c	10	5	30c	25	30
8c	10	10	1v	5	25
9c	10	15	2v	5	20
10c	10	20	3v	8	14
11c	10	25	4v	10	15
12c	10	30	5v	10	25
13c	15	5	6v	12	6
14c	15	10	7v	13	17
15c	15	15	8v	14	12.5
16c	15	20	9v	15	0
17c	15	25	10v	15	8
18c	15	30	11v	15	10
19c	20	5	12v	16.5	18
20c	20	10	13v	16	18
21c	20	15	14v	20	5
22c	20	20	15v	20	13
23c	20	25			

\*1c to 30c calibration set; 1v to 15v validation set

**Table 2.** Concentration data of the different mixtures used in the validation set along with its prediction data

Expected Conc. (µg/ml)		PCR				PLS			
		Predicted Conc. (µg/ml)		% Recovery		Predicted Conc. (µg/ml)		% Recovery	
OFL	CP	OFL	CP	OFL	CP	OFL	CP	OFL	CP
5	25	5.142	24.698	102.84	98.79	5.142	24.698	102.84	98.79
5	20	5.223	20.122	104.46	100.61	5.223	20.122	104.46	100.61
8	14	8.247	13.419	103.09	95.85	8.247	13.419	103.09	95.85
10	15	9.993	14.459	99.93	96.39	9.993	14.459	99.93	96.39
10	25	9.631	24.767	96.31	99.06	9.631	24.767	96.31	99.06

12	6	12.352	5.895	102.93	98.25	12.352	5.895	102.93	98.25
13	17	13.176	17.002	101.35	100.01	13.176	17.002	101.35	100.01
14	12.5	14.385	12.630	102.75	101.04	14.385	12.630	102.75	101.04
15	0	15.512	-0.507	103.41	0	15.512	-0.507	103.41	0
15	8	14.669	7.653	97.79	95.66	14.669	7.653	97.79	95.66
15	10	14.966	9.933	99.76	99.33	14.966	9.933	99.76	99.33
16.5	18	16.831	17.750	102.00	98.61	16.831	17.750	102.00	98.61
16	18	15.797	18.232	98.73	101.28	15.797	18.232	98.73	101.28
20	5	19.468	5.481	97.34	109.62	19.468	5.481	97.34	109.62
20	13	19.574	13.611	97.87	104.7	19.574	13.611	97.87	104.7

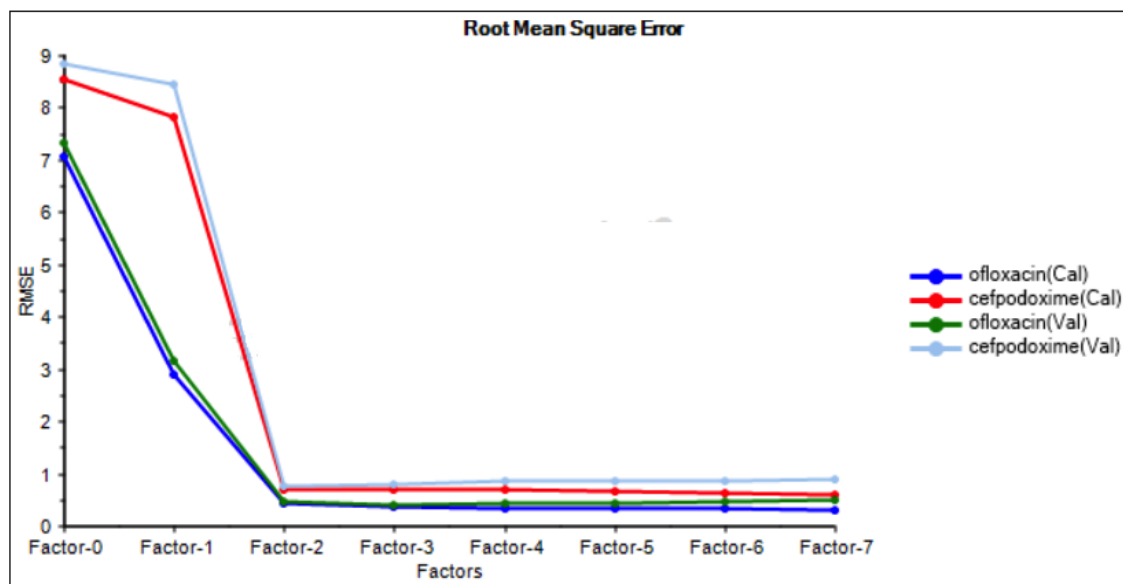


Fig. 2. Plot of RMSE versus number of factors by PLS method

#### Method validation:

Developed method was validated as per ICH Q2 (R1) guidelines in terms of linearity, assay, accuracy, precision and limit of detection and quantitation<sup>[13]</sup>. Results were predicted using developed PCR and PLS models.

#### Linearity:

The linearity was determined by analyzing six solutions over the concentration range of 5-30 $\mu$ g/ml for OFLOX and CP. Five replicates per concentrations were analyzed respectively Fig.3 represents linearity curves for both the drugs.

#### Assay:

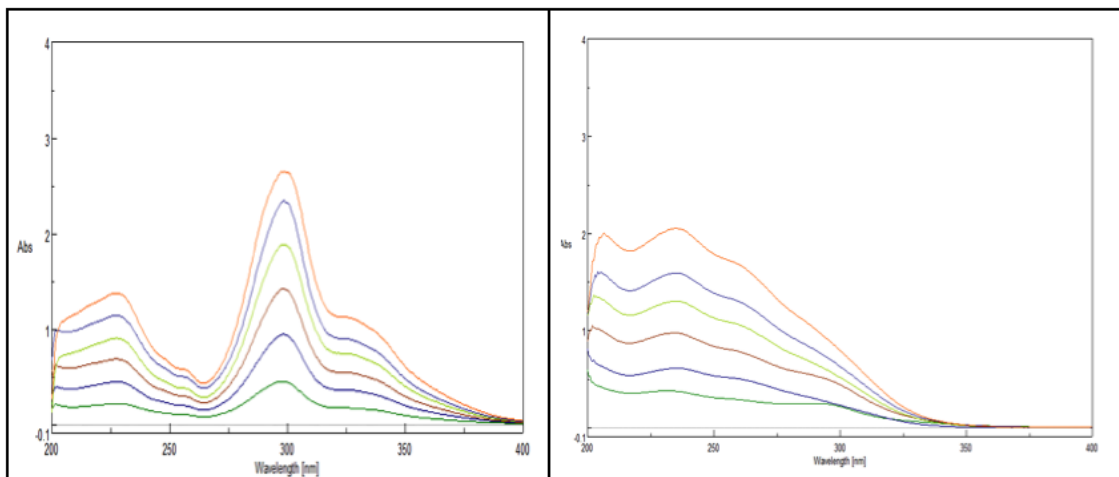
10 tablets of CEPODEM-O were accurately weighed and finely powdered. Tablet powder equivalent to 10 mg of OFLOX (10 mg of CP) was taken and transferred to 10 ml volumetric flask and was diluted to 10 ml with methanol. The solution was sonicated, filtered and 1 ml of filtrate solution was diluted to 10 ml with methanol. Further 1 ml of this solution was diluted to 10 ml with methanol to get final concentration of 10  $\mu$ g/ml for both the drugs. The procedure was repeated 6 times for tablet formulation. The assay results are presented in Table No 3.

Table 3. Assay of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil by PCR and PLS methods

Drug	Amount taken ( $\mu$ g/ml)	Amount found ( $\mu$ g/ml)		% Mean $\pm$ SD		% RSD	
		PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS
OFLOX	10	10.2192	10.2192	10.275 $\pm$ 0.045	10.275 $\pm$ 0.045	0.437	0.437
		10.2342	10.2342				
		10.2639	10.2639				
		10.2863	10.2863				
		10.3410	10.3409				
		10.3086	10.3086				

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CP	10	10.0782	10.0782	10.293 ± 0.140	10.293 ± 0.140	1.360	1.360
		10.2130	10.2130				
		10.2665	10.2666				
		10.3300	10.3300				
		10.4737	10.4737				
		10.4013	10.4013				



**Fig. 3.** Linearity curves of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil

**Accuracy:**

Accuracy was carried out at 3 different levels of 50, 100 and 150 % of assay concentration by adding standard solution to sample solution and calculations for recovery results are presented in Table No 4.

**Table 4.** Accuracy data of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil by PCR and PLS methods.

Level	Amount taken (µg/ml)	Amount found (µg/ml)		% Mean ± SD		% RSD	
Accuracy data of Ofloxacin by PCR and PLS							
		PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS
50%	15	14.7854 14.8296 14.8389	14.7855 14.8296 14.8390	14.817± 0.028	14.818 ± 0.028	0.1880	0.188
100%	20	20.0413 20.1126 20.1362	20.0415 20.1129 20.1364	20.096 ± 0.049	20.096 ± 0.049	0.2438	0.243
150%	25	24.8258 24.8065 24.8667	24.8260 24.8068 24.8669	24.833 ± 0.030	24.833 ± 0.030	0.1208	0.120
Accuracy data of Cefpodoxime proxetil by PCR and PLS							
		PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS
50%	15	14.6270 14.6269 14.6405	14.6268 14.6267 14.6403	14.631 ± 0.007	14.631 ± 0.007	0.004	0.004
100%	20	19.7228 19.6896 19.6925	19.7223 19.6892 19.6920	19.701 ± 0.018	19.701 ± 0.018	0.009	0.091
150%	25	24.9871 25.0168 25.0293	24.9866 25.0163 25.0288	25.011 ± 0.021	25.010 ± 0.021	0.008	0.083

**Precision:**

Precision was carried at concentration levels of 5µg/ml, 10µg/ml and 15µg/ml in three replicates. The results of which are presented in Table No 5. Recovery and % RSD was calculated.

**Table 5.** Results obtained by applying PCR and PLS calibration methods to precision of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil.

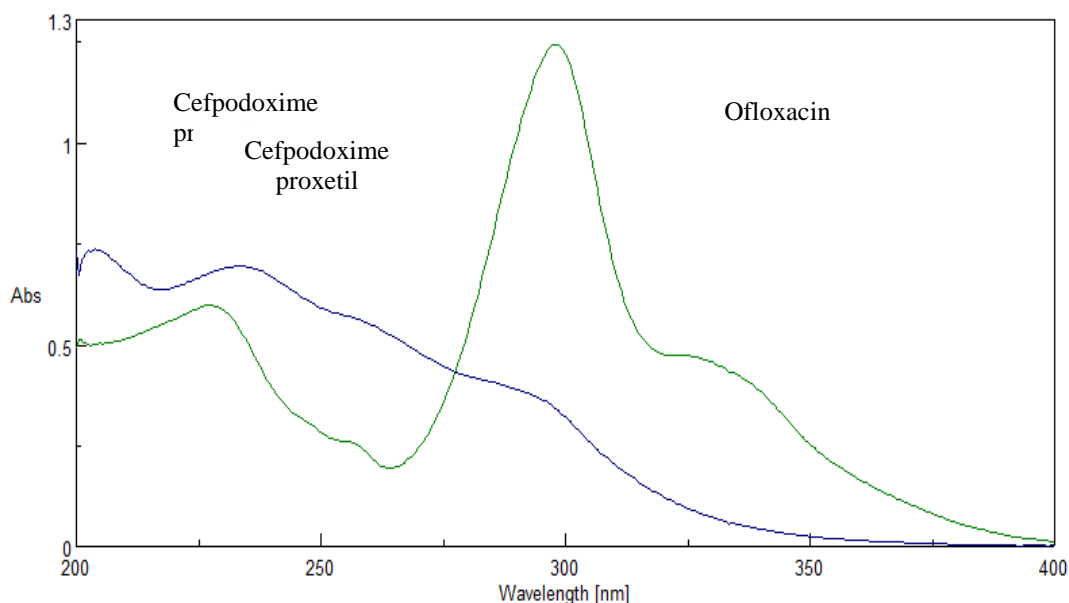
Conc of OFLOX	Conc of CP	Amount found of OFLOX ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )		Amount found of CP ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )		% Recovery of OFLOX		% Recovery of CP		%RSD of OFLOX		%RSD of CP	
		PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS	PCR	PLS
5	5	5.07	5.07	5.10	5.10	101.6	104.6	102.0	102.0	1.49	1.49	1.37	1.37
	5	5.13	5.13	5.18	5.18	102.6	107.8	103.7	103.7				
	5	4.98	4.98	5.04	5.04	99.6	97.5	100.9	100.9				
10	10	9.65	9.65	9.95	9.95	96.5	96.5	99.5	99.5	1.35	1.35	0.97	0.97
	10	9.91	9.91	10.14	10.14	99.1	99.1	101.4	101.4				
	10	9.83	9.83	10.09	10.09	98.3	98.3	100.9	100.9				
15	15	14.95	14.95	15.79	15.79	99.7	99.7	105.3	105.3	0.64	0.64	0.22	0.22
	15	14.76	14.76	15.72	15.72	98.4	98.4	104.8	104.8				
	15	14.87	14.87	15.74	15.73	99.1	99.1	104.9	104.9				

**Limit of detection and quantification (LOD and LOQ):**

The limit of detection and quantitation was calculated from the linearity data using the formula  $\text{LOD} = 3.3 \sigma / S$  and  $\text{LOQ} = 10 \sigma / S$  where  $\sigma$  is standard deviation of the y intercept of linearity equation and S is slope of the calibration curve of the analyte.

**3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The overlay of absorption UV spectra of pure OFLOX and CP recorded in methanol in wavelength range of 220-320 nm is shown in the Fig 4. The results depicted good coefficient of determination values ( $R^2$ ) and root mean square error of calibration (RMSEC). The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) for the relationship between actual values and predicted values of both drugs was higher than 0.9903 indicating good accuracy of the developed method while RMSEC values obtained were relatively low which indicate acceptable precision of analytical method. The generated model showed RMSEC value of 0.4297.

**Fig. 4.** Overlaid spectra of Ofloxacin and Cefpodoxime proxetil

Linearity of both the drugs was observed between the ranges of 5.0-30.0  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . Assay results showed almost 100 % recovery with % RSD of less than 2, while accuracy results were also showed 100 % recovery at various levels. % RSD for accuracy results was also less than 2 by both PCR and PLS methods. Method was precise. The LOD and LOQ were found to be 1.270 and 3.849 for Ofloxacin and 1.482 and 4.491 for Cefpodoxime proxetil, respectively.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The proposed method is simple, accurate and suitable for analysis of OFLOX and CP. However, the chemometric methods are less expensive and do not require sophisticated instrumentation and prior separation steps hence, is beneficial than reported HPLC methods. In addition, the proposed methods can be applied for analysis of drugs in quality control lab as well as for in process quality control.

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