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A dual-signal amplification strategy for kanamycin based on ordered mesoporous carbon-chitosan/gold nanoparticles-streptavidin and ferrocene labelled DNA

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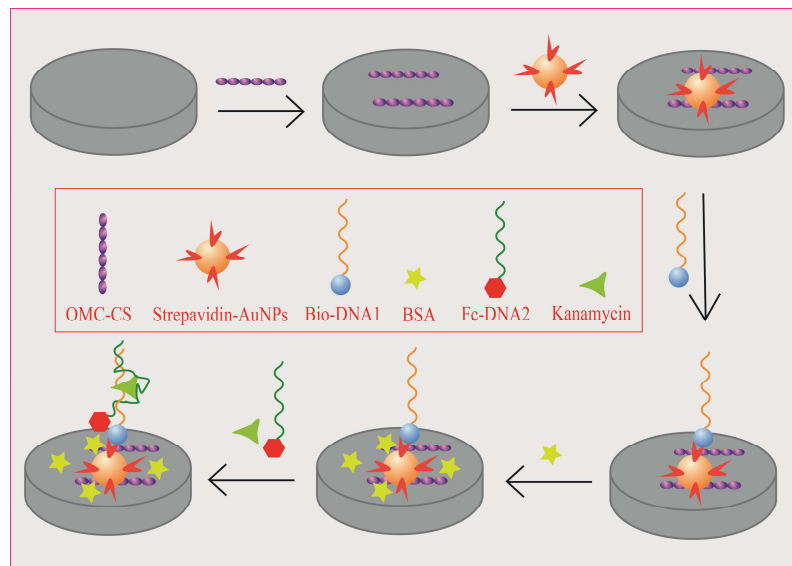
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1 **A dual-signal amplification strategy for kanamycin based on**
2 **ordered mesoporous carbon-chitosan/gold**
3 **nanoparticles-streptavidin and ferrocene labelled DNA**

4

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20 **Abstract**

21 An ultrasensitive electrochemical aptasensor for kanamycin (KAN) detection
22 was constructed with a dual-signal amplification strategy. The aptasensor achieved
23 greatly amplified sensitivity due to the excellent electrical conductivity of the ordered
24 mesoporous carbon-chitosan (OMC-CS)/gold nanoparticles-streptavidin (AuNPs-SA)
25 and DNA2 labelled with ferrocene (Fc-DNA2). The AuNPs-SA was used to
26 immobilize the DNA strand (biotin labelled) with the biotin-streptavidin system. The
27 DNA2 strand containing the KAN aptamer was labelled with ferrocene to increase the
28 current signal on the electrode surface when bound to KAN. Some factors that affect
29 the performance of the aptasensor were optimized, and the proposed aptasensor
30 provided a wide linear range from 1×10^{-10} M to 4×10^{-6} M, with a detection limit as
31 low as 35.69 pM for KAN under the optimized conditions. This aptasensor had
32 satisfactory electrochemical performance with good stability, sensitivity and
33 reproducibility. Additionally, it also displayed a good specificity for KAN without
34 interference from competitive analogues. Furthermore, the constructed aptasensor was
35 successfully used to detect KAN in a real milk sample. The proposed method for
36 KAN detection has great potential for the detection of other antibiotics.

37 **Keywords:** Dual-signal amplification strategy; gold nanoparticles-streptavidin;
38 biotin; ferrocene; aptasensor.

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41

42 **Introduction**

43 Kanamycin (KAN) is an important antibiotic derived from *Streptomyces*
44 *Kanamyceticus* [1-2], which has been extensively used in the treatment of
45 Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial infections in human and animal [3]. KAN
46 residue in food causes serious side effects, such as nephrotoxicity, ototoxicity and
47 antibiotic resistance [4]. To ensure the food safety and quality, the European Union
48 determined that the maximum residue limit of KAN acceptable in milk is 150 µg/kg
49 (257.4 nM) [5]. Accordingly, sufficiently sensitive methods for detection of KAN in
50 milk are necessary to ensure the safety of products for human consumption and thus
51 our health. Recently, many analytical methods have been used to detect the KAN such
52 as gas chromatography [6], capillary electrophoresis (CE) [7], high-performance
53 liquid chromatography (HPLC) [8], solid-phase extraction (SPE) [9], immunoassays
54 [10-11], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) [12] and colloidal gold test
55 strips [13]. However, most of these above-mentioned methods are still limited in
56 application due to the high turnaround time, expensive equipment, complex operation,
57 and tedious sample pretreatment. Therefore, new strategies for sensitive and selective
58 KAN detection are still desired.

59 Aptamers are obtained by in vitro screening [14-15], and can bind to target
60 molecules with high affinity and selectivity for artificial single-stranded DNA or RNA
61 molecules [16-18]. Aptamers have attracted enormous interest in biosensor design due
62 to advantages like excellent stability, low toxicity and ease of synthesis and
63 modification [19-21]. In view of the obvious advantages of aptamers [22], numerous

64 aptasensors have been proposed for use in the fields of clinical diagnosis and food
65 safety, based on colorimetric [23], electrochemical [24], fluorescence [25],
66 chemiluminescence [26], and cantilever array [27] detection.

67 To improve the analytical performance of electrochemical biosensor, various
68 nanomaterials have been used in their fabrication [28-30]. Ordered mesoporous
69 carbon (OMC) materials have drawn attention due to their large specific surface area,
70 good conductivity and good biocompatibility [31-35]. Moreover, OMC materials can
71 provide an excellent microenvironment for biomolecules such as DNA and proteins
72 [36], and their high-density edge sites provide a number of favorable sites for electron
73 transport [37]. However, the film forming ability of OMC materials is poor, and thus
74 an additional film-forming material such as chitosan (CS), is required to help form the
75 film. CS is widely used as an immobilization matrix due to its advantages, such as
76 low cost, non-toxicity, antibacterial activity, biocompatibility and biodegradability
77 [38-39]. Gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) are also widely used to construct aptasensors
78 due to their unique properties, including ease of synthesis, high conductivity, and easy
79 control over electrode microenvironment [40-42]. The gold nanoparticles are labelled
80 with streptavidin, which can bind to biotin with high specific affinity (affinity
81 constant up to 10^{15} mol/L) and have high conductivity. Due to this affinity, the method
82 involving the streptavidin-biotin reaction has been widely used [43]. The aptamer is
83 usually labelled with biotin, and then binds with high affinity to the streptavidin that
84 is adsorbed to the electrode to immobilize the aptamer on the electrode [44]. The
85 biotin-labelled DNA1 strand binds to the streptavidin-labelled AuNPs through the

86 high affinity binding between streptavidin and biotin. The ferrocene-label DNA2
87 (Fc-DNA2) strand containing the KAN aptamer specifically binds to the KAN and
88 DNA1 and increases the current signal on the electrode surface. The electrochemical
89 current signal of ferrocene would increase with the increase of the KAN concentration.
90 Here, the functional metal nanoparticles play a dual role in providing signal and
91 recognition target, which makes the detection method step simple and highly
92 sensitive.

93 The purpose of this work is to develop a sensitive and simple method for
94 detecting KAN in milk. A novel electrochemical aptasensor based on ordered
95 mesoporous carbon-chitosan (OMC-CS), gold nanoparticles-streptavidin (AuNPs-SA)
96 and Fc-DNA2 strand was designed for selective and sensitive detection of KAN. The
97 OMC-CS and AuNPs-SA nanocomposites form a strong conductive pathway for
98 electron transfer. The DNA2 strand containing the KAN aptamer is labelled with
99 ferrocene to increase the current signal on the electrode surface when bound to KAN.
100 The proposed aptasensor has a lower detection limit with a wide linear range for KAN,
101 and was successfully applied to milk samples. To the best of our knowledge, there has
102 been no report on aptasensor for KAN detection in the literature.

103 **Experimental**

104 **Reagents and chemicals**

105 The OMC was obtained from Yoshikura nanotechnology Co., Ltd. (Nanjing,
106 China). The AuNPs-SA (20 nm) was purchased from RuiXi Biological Technology
107 Co., Ltd. (Xi'an, China). Kanamycin (KAN), tobramycin, streptomycin, and neomycin

108 were all obtained from Jingchun Co., Ltd. (Tianjing, China). A long strand of DNA
109 that contains the KAN aptamer labelled with ferrocene (Fc-DNA2,
110 5'-ACTTCTCGCAAGATGGGGTTGAGGCTAAGCCGAATACTCCAGT-Fc-3')
111 and the complementary strand of the long strand of DNA labelled with biotin
112 (Bio-DNA1, 5'-Bio-ACTGGAGTATTGCGAGAAGT-3') were purchased from
113 Sangon Biotechnology (Shanghai, China).

114 **Apparatus**

115 A three-electrode system was used, which consisted of an auxiliary electrode
116 (platinum wire), a reference electrode (Ag/AgCl) and a working glassy carbon
117 electrode (GCE, D=3 mm), in CHI 660D electrochemical workstation (Shanghai,
118 China) for all electrochemical measurements. The morphology of the nanocomposites
119 was characterized using a Tecnai G2F20S-TWIN transmission electron microscope
120 and Sirion 200 field emission scanning electron microscope (FEI, Hillsboro, OR,
121 USA).

122 **Preparation of OMC-CS**

123 CS was dissolved in 2.0 M acetic acid solution and then magnetically stirred for
124 8 h or more to obtain a 0.2% CS solution (4 ml, w/v). The pH was adjusted with a
125 NaOH solution to pH 5.0. Then, after adding 2 mg of OMC to the above solution it
126 was sonicated for 1 h until the solution reached a homogeneous stable state. The
127 obtained highly dispersed solution indicated that the OMC-CS suspension had been
128 successfully prepared.

129 **Determination of dissociation constant (Kd)**

130 To determine the binding affinity of the selected aptamer, A fixed concentration
131 of KAN was incubated with increasing concentration of KAN aptamer under mild
132 shaking conditions for 30 min. The unbound KAN aptamer was removed by two
133 gentle washes with selection buffer. The dissociation constant (K_d) value was
134 calculated by employing the nonlinear regression analysis using electroanalytical
135 techniques.

$$136 \quad \frac{i}{\Delta i} = \frac{1}{\Delta i_{\max}} + \frac{1}{K_d \Delta i_{\max} [B]}$$

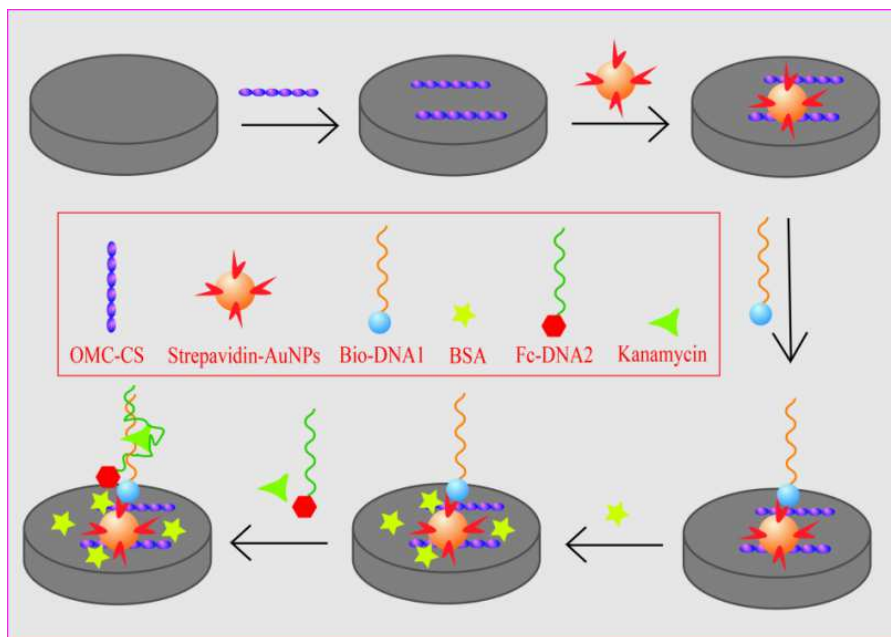
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138 where $[B]$ is the concentration of the target (KAN) in solution, K_d is the
139 dissociation constant for the aptamer/KAN binding, Δi is the variation of the current,
140 and Δi_{\max} is the maximum variation obtained corresponding to saturation.

141 **Construction of the aptasensor**

142 The bared electrode was first polished with 0.05 μm alumina powder and then
143 washed ultrasonically in ethanol, nitric acid and double distilled water. The electrodes
144 were cyclically scanned (-0.1-+1.0 V) and placed in 0.5 M H_2SO_4 solution for
145 activation. Then, 7 μL of the CS-OMC suspension was added dropwise onto the
146 electrode surface. After the electrode was dried, 7 μL of the AuNPs-SA solution was
147 added onto its surface. Subsequently, the dried modified electrode was incubated in
148 Bio-DNA1 for 0.5 h. Afterwards, the electrode was immersed in 0.5% bovine serum
149 albumin (BSA) to block non-specific sites. Ultimately, the solution of Fc-DNA2 and
150 KAN was added dropwise onto the electrode, which was then rinsed with PBS to
151 remove unbound DNA. The schematic illustration of the aptasensor assembled

152 procedure is depicted in Fig. 1.



153

154 Fig. 1. The schematic illustration of the aptasensor assembled procedure.

155 **Electrochemical assay of KAN**

156 The electrochemical signals of the cyclic voltammetry (CV) and differential
 157 pulse voltammetry (DPV) were all measured in electrolyte solution (0.1 M KCl, 5
 158 mM $[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{4-/3-}$) with scanning potentials of -0.6- +0.1 V and 0.0 V - +0.4 V,
 159 respectively.

160 **Sample preparation**

161 The KAN-free milk was first diluted with PBS (pH 7.5), then centrifuged for 10
 162 min (10,000 rpm) and allowed to stand for 10 min. The supernatant of the milk was
 163 collected and filtered through a 0.22 μm sterile Millipore membrane, then the KAN
 164 standard solution was added to the prepared sample solutions of different KAN
 165 concentrations.

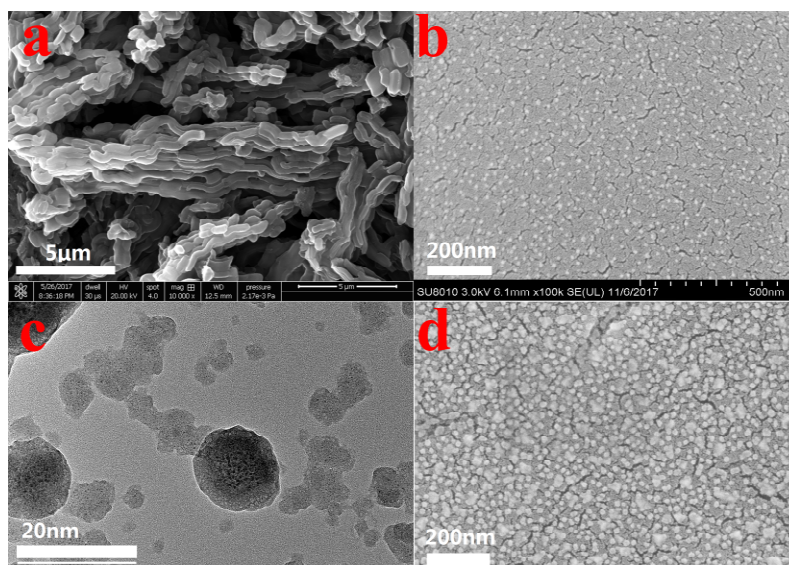
166 **Results and discussion**

167 **Dissociation constant (K_d) measurement**

168 The calculated K_d value obtained of KAN-aptamer is 0.043 nM. The aptamer
169 showed high affinity to KAN, which would enhance the sensitivity of kanamycin
170 detection methods.

171 **Characterization of the nanomaterials**

172 The morphologies of the OMC-CS and SA-AuNPs composites were examined
173 using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy
174 (TEM), respectively. The image shown in Fig. 2 (a) reveals that the OMC-CS is
175 composed of numerous uniformly and orderly-distributed rod-like particles. These
176 particles allow the OMC-CS to possess a high porosity and surface area to provide a
177 better protective microenvironment for the aptamer. The SEM image of AuNPs-SA
178 (Fig. 2 (b)) shows that the AuNPs were separated from each other in the presence of
179 streptavidin molecules. The image presented in Fig. 2 (c) reveals that the AuNPs were
180 successfully labelled with streptavidin. When biotin was added, AuNPs were
181 aggregated through high affinity interaction between streptavidin and biotin (Fig. 2
182 (d)).



183

184 Fig. 2. (a) SEM images of OMC-CS; (b) SEM images of SA-AuNPs; (c) TEM images

185 of SA-AuNPs+Bio-DNA1; (d) SEM images of SA-AuNPs+Bio-DNA1.

186 **Electrochemical characterization of the aptasensor**

187 The formation process of the aptasensor was characterized using CV (Fig. 3).

188 Due to the oxidation-reduction reaction on the probe ($[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{4/3-}$), the CV of the

189 bare GCE showed a pair of distinct redox peaks (curve a). With the addition of

190 OMC-CS, the peak current was significantly increased due to the high conductivity of

191 OMC-CS (curve b). Since the AuNPs-SA composites also have excellent conductivity,

192 the peak current of the AuNPs-SA/OMC-CS/GCE showed a higher current after the

193 addition of the AuNPs-SA composites (curve c). The results showed that the OMC-CS

194 and AuNPs-SA composites provided effective electron transporting ability for this

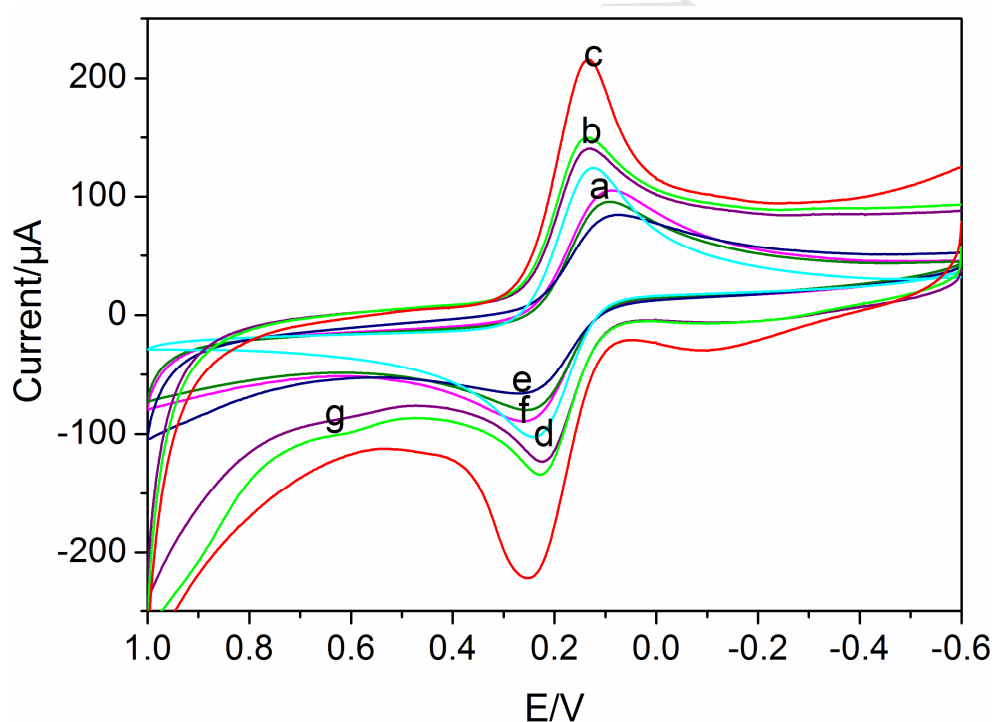
195 aptasensor. When the Bio-DNA1 was immobilized onto the

196 AuNPs-SA/OMC-CS/GCE surface, the peak current was significantly reduced due to

197 the non-conductive nature of oligonucleotides (curve d). When the electrode was

198 soaked in a BSA solution, the current was further decreased due to the formation of an

199 isolating layer of BSA that successfully blocked the adsorption to non-specific sites
 200 (curve e). The amperometric current was increased when Fc-DNA2 was added (curve
 201 f). Since the complementary probe (DNA2) was labelled with ferrocene, the ferrocene
 202 could approach the electrode surface to exchange electron and generate high current
 203 when the Fc-DNA2 hybridizes with DNA1 to form a duplex. Finally, the
 204 amperometric was current further increased when KAN was added (curve g). Since
 205 the combination of aptamer and target made the DNA chain more tightly connected,
 206 making the three level structure of them more firmly combined, making Fc closed to
 207 the electrode surface.



208

209

Fig. 3. CV: (a) bare GCE, (b) OMC-CS/GCE, (c) SA-AuNPs/OMC-CS/GCE, (d)

210

Bio-DNA1/SA-AuNPs/OMC-CS/GCE, (e) BSA/Bio-DNA1/SA-AuNPs/OMC-CS/GCE, (f)

211

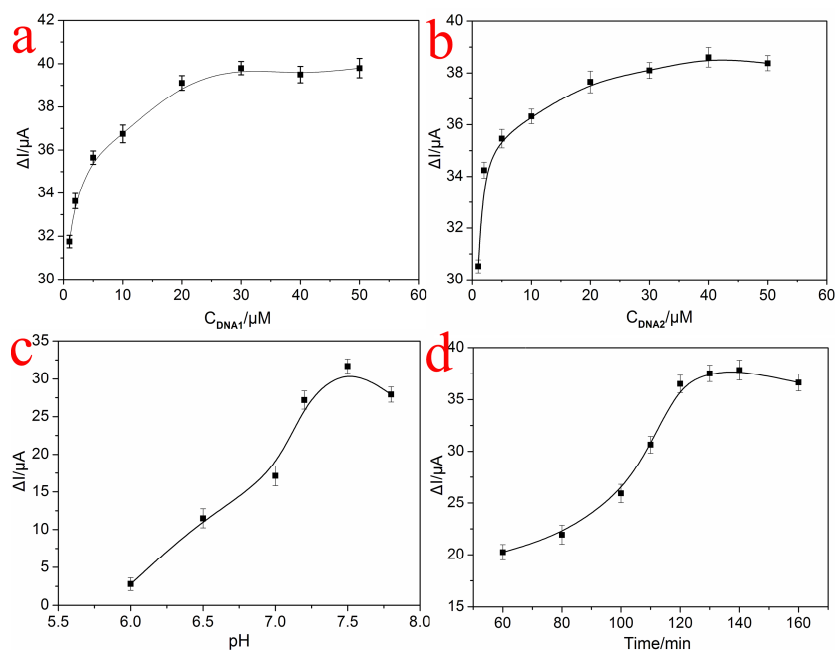
Fc-DNA2/BSA/Bio-DNA1/SA-AuNPs/OMC-CS/GCE, (g) KAN/Fc-DNA2/BSA/Bio-DNA1/

212

SA-AuNPs/OMC-CS/GCE.

213 **Optimization the performance of aptasensor**

214 In order to achieve a satisfactory detection performance, the effect of several
215 factors, including the DNA1 concentration, DNA2 concentration, pH value of the
216 working solution and incubation time, were investigated and optimized. As shown in
217 Fig. 4 (a-b), DNA1 and DNA2 at different concentrations were selected to examine
218 the effect of the aptamer concentration on the current signal. As anticipated, the
219 current difference (ΔI) was increased with the increase of the concentration of either
220 DNA1 or DNA2, and the ΔI reached the maximum value at a DNA concentration of
221 20 μM . Thus, 20 μM was the optimal concentration of DNA1 or DNA2 used for the
222 aptasensor fabrication. The effect of pH on the aptasensor response was also studied
223 with a different pH electrolyte solution (6.0-7.8). The ΔI initially increased and then
224 decreased with the increase of the pH value, and the maximum ΔI value was obtained
225 at pH 7.5 (Fig. 4 (c)). Thus, 7.5 was selected as the pH of the electrolyte solution used
226 in the construction of the aptasensor. The incubation time during the functionalization
227 was also investigated with the aim of achieving a fast detection. A series of
228 BSA/Bio-DNA1/AuNPs-SA/OMC-CS/GCE were incubated for 60, 80, 100, 110, 120,
229 130, 140 and 160 min. As shown in Fig. 4 (d), the active sites for KAN binding
230 appear to have reached saturation after 120 min, as the ΔI increased with time until it
231 became stable after 120 min. Therefore, the optimal incubation time of 120 min was
232 chosen for subsequent experiments.



233

234

Fig. 4. Effect of experimental conditions: (a) the concentration of DNA1, (b) the

235

concentration of DNA2, (c) pH of the electrolyte solution, (d) the incubation time of DNA1.

236

237

In order to gain an insight into the influence of the interaction between the four test conditions on the detection performance of the aptasensor, a combination of the

238

results of single factor test with those of the quadratic orthogonal rotation test was

239

used to optimize the experimental conditions. The coded independent variables (X_1 ,

240

X_2 , X_3 , X_4) and uncoded variables (X_1 = inhibition time/min, X_2 = pH of the bottom,

241

X_3 = concentration of DNA1/ μM and X_4 = concentration of DNA2/ μM) with their

242

variation levels are shown in Table S1. The arrangements of the test and response

243

results are shown in Table S2.

244

Table S1 Test factors and levels.

Independent variables	Levels of variation				
	-2	-1	0	1	2
X_1 = inhibition time/min	80	100	120	140	160
X_2 = pH of the bottom	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.1
X_3 = concentration of	10	15	20	25	30
X_4 = concentration of	10	15	20	25	30

245

Table S2 Quadratic orthogonal rotation combination design and response.

Assay	Independent variable coded				Response
	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	Current difference/ μ A
1	1	1	1	1	30.77
2	1	1	1	-1	30.54
3	1	1	-1	1	30.02
4	1	1	-1	-1	28.87
5	1	-1	1	1	29.43
6	1	-1	1	-1	31.29
7	1	-1	-1	1	27.60
8	1	-1	-1	-1	26.10
9	-1	1	1	1	27.23
10	-1	1	1	-1	26.97
11	-1	1	-1	1	26.59
12	-1	1	-1	-1	25.90
13	-1	-1	1	1	13.04
14	-1	-1	1	-1	12.47
15	-1	-1	-1	1	12.89
16	-1	-1	-1	-1	12.21
17	2	0	0	0	12.50
18	-2	0	0	0	37.48
19	0	2	0	0	15.17
20	0	-2	0	0	23.52
21	0	0	2	0	37.69
22	0	0	-2	0	40.50
23	0	0	0	2	35.97
24	0	0	0	-2	38.40
25	0	0	0	0	44.37
26	0	0	0	0	47.79
27	0	0	0	0	46.26
28	0	0	0	0	44.88
29	0	0	0	0	48.40
30	0	0	0	0	45.96
31	0	0	0	0	50.46
32	0	0	0	0	46.88
33	0	0	0	0	48.94
34	0	0	0	0	46.52
35	0	0	0	0	47.24
36	0	0	0	0	45.69

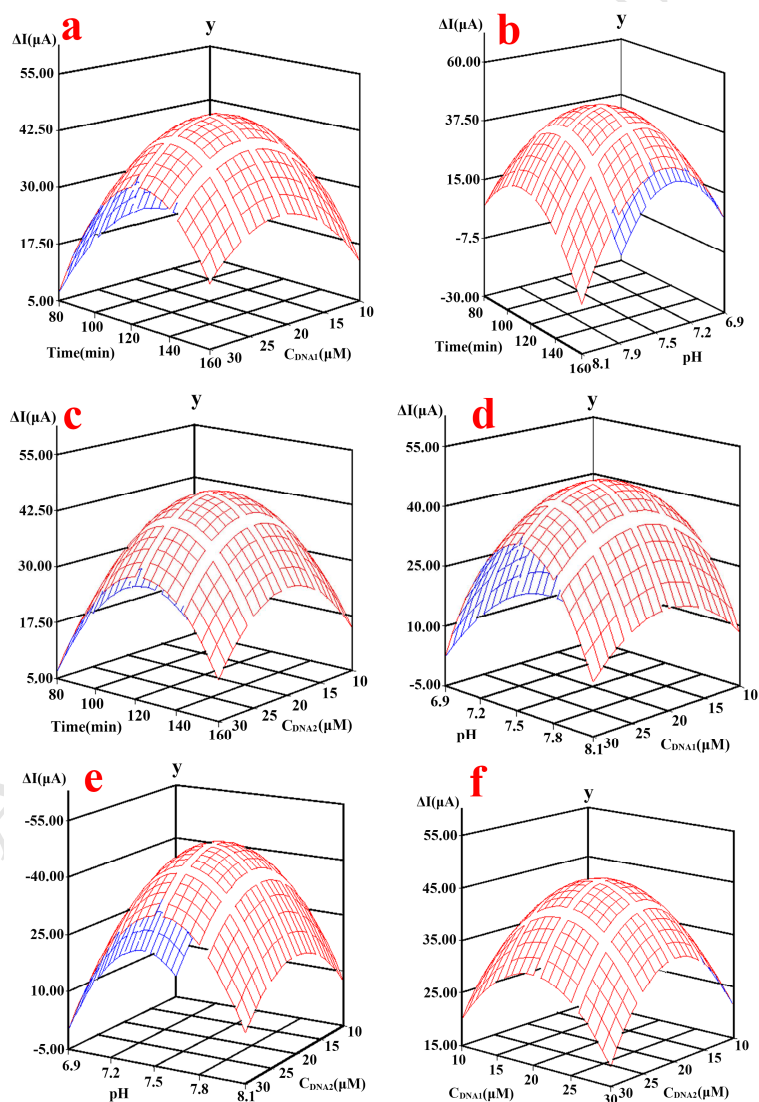
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The response surfaces of the test results are shown in Fig. 5. These results reveal

247

that with the increase of the pH value, the response current initially increased and then

248 decreased, the maximum ΔI occurred at pH 7.5. Meanwhile, with the increase of the
 249 concentration of DNA1 and DNA2, the ΔI of response also initially increased and
 250 tended to be stable up to the concentration of 20 μM . This might be due to the limited
 251 electrode area leading to excessive accumulation of DNA, which thus hinders the
 252 electron transfer of the electrode surface. In addition, when the incubation time of
 253 DNA1 exceeded 120 min, the ΔI decreased slightly, but the basic trend was almost
 254 stable. Overall, the test results did not change compared to the single condition
 255 control.



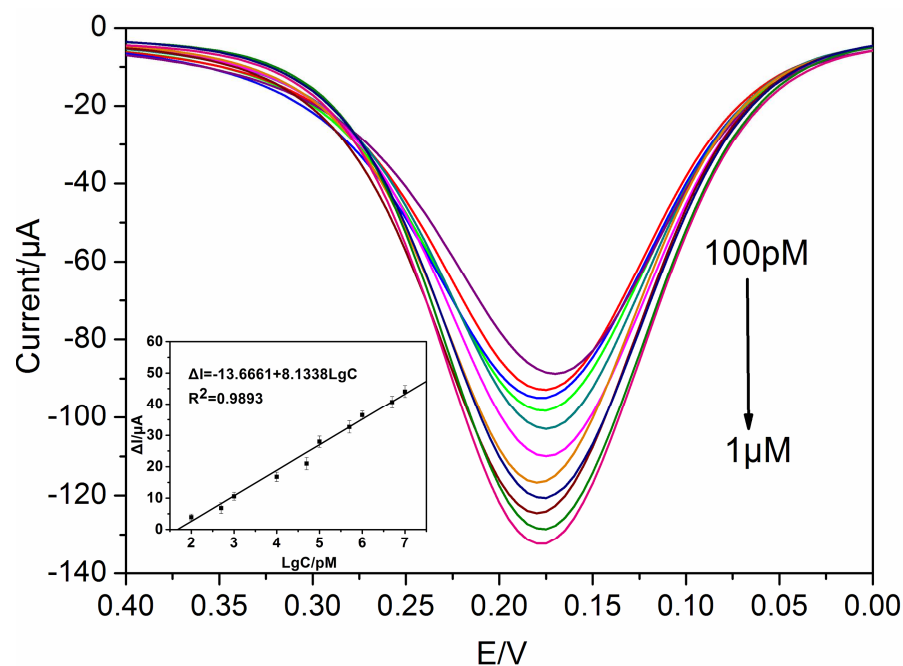
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257

Fig. 5. Response surface of parameter optimization in orthogonal experiment.

258 Electrochemical detection of KAN

259 Under optimal conditions, a series of KAN standard solutions at different
260 concentrations were studied by DPV to investigate the analytical capabilities of the
261 developed aptasensor. KAN can bind the aptamer with higher affinity, and the part
262 strand of DNA1 and Fc-DNA2 that are complementary to it can hybridize to it. The
263 results revealed that as the concentrations of KAN and Fc-DNA2 increased, a larger
264 surface area of the ferrocene became exposed. Thus, the peak current detected by
265 DPV gradually increased with the increase of the concentration of KAN (Fig. 6). In
266 the range from 100 pM to 1 μ M, the linear analysis of KAN generated the following
267 equation: $y = -13.6661 + 8.1338x$, and a correlation coefficient of 0.9893. The detection
268 limit was determined to be 35.69 pM (S/N = 3), which is much lower than the
269 concentration the European Union determined to be maximum KAN maximum
270 acceptable contamination level (257.4 nM) in milk [5]. Compared to the previously
271 reported methods [45-51], the method developed here is superior with respect to its
272 detection limit, and it is rapid and facile (Table 1).



273

274 Fig. 6. DPV responses to different concentrations of KAN (1×10^{-10} to 1×10^{-6} M), the inset

275

describes calibration curve for KAN detection.

276

Table 1 Comparison with other KAN detection methods

Detection method	Linear range (nM)	Limit of detection (nM)	References
Colorimetry	85.83-103.00	4.5	[42]
Colorimetry	5-100	4	[43]
Fluorescence	100- 2×10^4		
Spectrophotometric	2-60	0.612	[44]
ELISA	1-500	1	[45]
Photoelectrochemical aptasensor	-	1.76	[46]
Electrochemical aptasensor	1-230	0.2	[47]
Electrochemical aptasensor	$1-1 \times 10^5$	0.87	[48]
Electrochemical aptasensor	0.1-1000	0.03569	This work

277 **Specificity, stability, reproducibility and regeneration of the aptasensor**

278 Selectivity is one of the important factors which had been tested in this work to

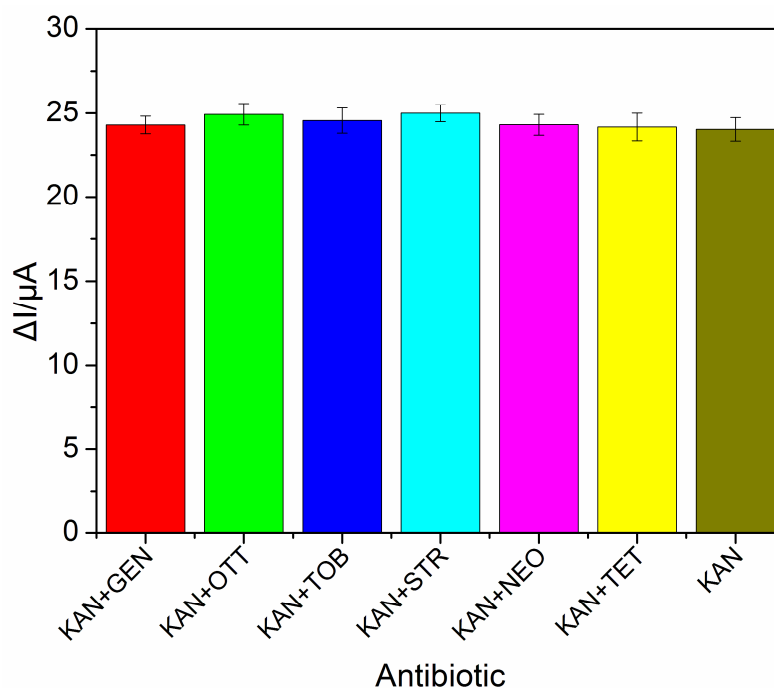
279 evaluate the performance of the developed biosensor. A KAN solution of 100 nM,

280 containing 10 μ M of other antibiotics (streptomycin (STR), gentamicin (GEN),

281 neomycin (NEO), tobramycin (TOB) and oxytetracycline (OTT)) as interferences

282 substances, was analyzed using the aptasensor and the results are shown in Fig. 7. The

283 results reveal that the current change in the presence of these interferents was less
 284 than 4.3%, which indicated that the aptasensor has a good specificity for KAN and
 285 interference resistance to other antibiotics.



286

287 Fig. 7. Selectivity assessment of the aptasensor. KAN: kanamycin, TOB: tobramycin, GEN:
 288 gentamicin, OTT: oxytetracycline, NEO: neomycin, STR: streptomycin and TET: tetracycline.

289 Reproducibility is another important factor in aptasensor performance. To
 290 evaluate reproducibility, five aptasensors were prepared in the same way for the
 291 detection of KAN. The calculated percent relative standard deviation (RSD) was
 292 3.82%, indicating that the aptasensor-based assay had a good reproducibility.

293 To test the stability of the aptasensor, five electrodes were prepared and stored at
 294 4 °C and then used to detect KAN. The results of the KAN detection analysis revealed
 295 that the measurement of the same concentration decreased only 5.61% after four-week
 296 storage of the aptamer, which indicated that the aptasensor had a good stability. This
 297 might be due to the stability of the DNA-aptamer and the high affinity between

298 streptavidin and biotin.

299 To evaluate the regenerability of the aptasensor, the aptasensor that have been
300 used for the detection of KAN was immersed into a glycine-hydrochloric acid
301 solution (0.2 M, pH 2.0) for 1 min to break the aptamer-KAN linkage. Afterwards, the
302 aptasensors were prepared for the detection of KAN. Following the detection of KAN,
303 the aptamer-KAN complex was again immersed into the glycine-hydrochloric acid
304 solution. After five regeneration cycles, the current response of the aptasensor
305 retained about 90.41% of its original response value (with a RSD of 4.06%),
306 indicating that this aptasensor has a good regenerability.

307 **KAN detection in milk**

308 To study the applicability and precision of the developed aptasensor with real
309 samples, different concentrations of KAN were detected by the standard addition
310 methods in biological fluid (milk) samples containing various interfering substances
311 and their recoveries were calculated. The milk sample was centrifuged to remove
312 interfering substances, such as fat. The centrifugal conditions were optimized by
313 quadratic orthogonal rotation experiments. The data presented in Table S3 shows the
314 level of the experimental factors, and that in Table S4 shows the experimental
315 arrangements and results. The results presented in Fig. S1 show the response surfaces
316 of the centrifugal conditions, the optimal centrifugal speed was 10000 r/min, the
317 optimal centrifugal time and standing time were all 10 min. The aptasensor was used
318 to analyze the recorded response signals. As the data shown in Table 2 reveals, the
319 recoveries ranged from 92.86 to 104.91% with a RSD of less than 5.04%. Thus, the

320 proposed aptasensor recognized the target with high selectivity and reliability even in
 321 a complex biological environment like milk.

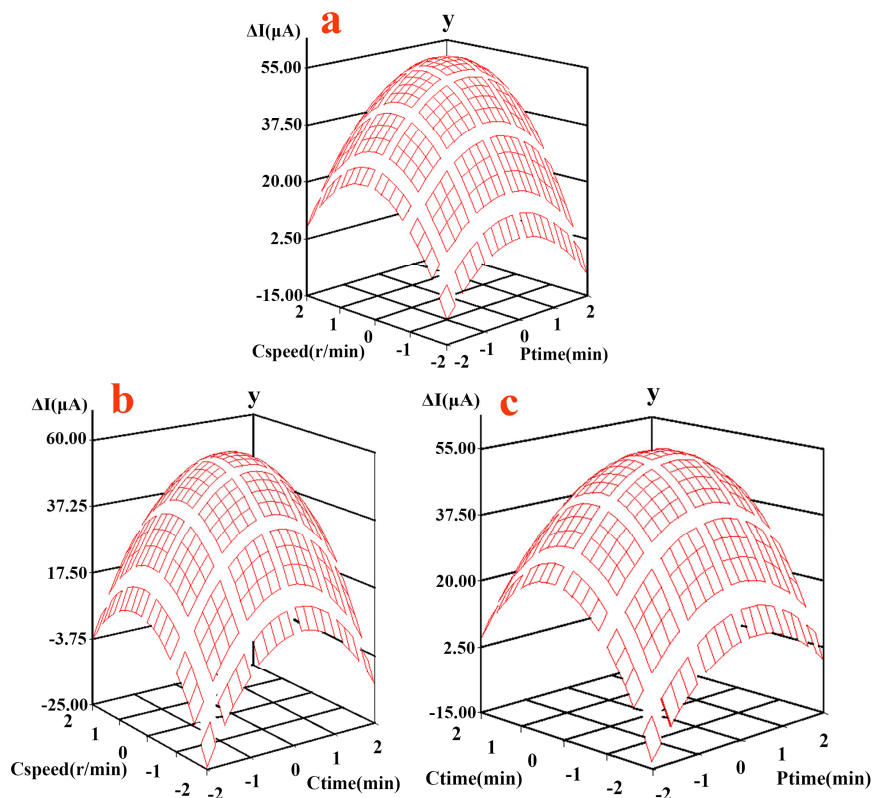
322 Table S3 Experimental factors level coding.

Independent variables	Levels of variation				
	-1.682	-1	0	1	1.682
X ₁ = centrifugal	8320	900	1000	1100	1168
X ₂ = centrifugal time/min	5	7	10	13	15
X ₃ = standing time/min	5	7	10	13	15

323 Table S4 Experimental arrangements and results.

Assay	Independent variable coded			Response
	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	Current difference/ μ A
1	1	1	1	50.47
2	1	1	-1	49.68
3	1	-1	1	48.59
4	1	-1	-1	47.07
5	-1	1	1	25.28
6	-1	1	-1	24.34
7	-1	-1	1	24.07
8	-1	-1	-1	23.13
9	1.682	0	0	50.89
10	-1.682	0	0	24.23
11	0	1.682	0	51.18
12	0	-1.682	0	26.06
13	0	0	1.682	51.20
14	0	0	-1.682	40.86
15	0	0	0	50.16
16	0	0	0	51.30
17	0	0	0	50.40
18	0	0	0	50.92
19	0	0	0	49.47
20	0	0	0	50.45

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Fig. S1. Response surface of sample processing conditions orthogonal experiment.

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Table 2 Recovery and RSD of KAN in spiked milk samples

Milk found(μM)	Added(μM)	Total found(μM)	Recovery (%)	RSD (% , n=3)
No detected	0.00000	0.00000	-	-
No detected	0.00500	0.00474	94.80	3.36
No detected	0.01000	0.01032	103.20	5.04
No detected	0.05000	0.04643	92.86	3.26
No detected	0.10000	0.10491	104.91	2.10
No detected	0.50000	0.52138	104.276	4.35

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329 Conclusions

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In this study, a novel aptasensor for the quantitative detection of KAN based on

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OMC-CS and AuNPs-SA was successfully fabricated. The OMC-CS and AuNPs-SA

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nanocomposite not only greatly enhanced the quantity of immobilized biomolecules,

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such as the aptamers, but also significantly improved the amperometric signal of the

334 aptasensor. The designed aptasensor showed a considerably low detection limit (35.69
335 pM) and a wide linear response range (1×10^{-10} - 1×10^{-6} M). The developed aptasensor
336 showed good repeatability, specificity, reproducibility, and a long-term stability of up
337 to four weeks. The aptasensor was successfully applied for KAN detection with high a
338 recovery ranging from 92.86 to 104.91% in complex real milk samples. It is
339 anticipated that the application of the developed aptasensor could be further extended
340 to simple and real-time detection of other antibiotics.

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Highlights

- 1) An ultrasensitive electrochemical aptasensor for kanamycin (KAN) detection was constructed with a dual-signal amplification strategy.
- 2) DNA strand (biotin labelled) was immobilized with the biotin-streptavidin system.
- 3) This aptasensor shows good analytical performance in KAN analysis.