

Supporting information for:

All-Solid-State Potentiometric Sensor Based on Graphene Oxide as Ion-to-Electron Transducer for Nitrate Detection in Water Samples

Renato L. Gil *, Laura Rodriguez-Lorenzo, Begoña Espiña, Raquel B. Queirós

International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory, Avenida Mestre José Veiga, 4715-330 Braga, Portugal

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR ()*: R.L. Gil (renato.gil@inl.int)

KEYWORDS: *graphene oxide; ion-selective electrodes; potentiometry; nitrate; water*

Tables

Table S1. I_D/I_G ratios for CSPE/GO obtained from different surface zones.

Zone	I_D/I_G
1	0.98
2	0.95
3	0.99
4	1.05
5	1.02
6	0.99

Table S2. Repeatability assessment of the potentiometric response of five equally prepared CSPE/GO/ISM sensors (three subsequent calibrations on the same sensor unit).

Electrode no.	Slope (mV dec ⁻¹)	Intercept (mV)
1	-50.4	225.5
	-52.3	222.8
	-54.1	226.4
2	-51.8	206.6
	-52.4	207.1
	-57.4	200.2
3	-52.2	212.2
	-54.4	213.7
	-58.2	209.5
4	-53.4	213.6
	-52.8	218.3
	-52.9	217.7
5	-53.1	217.7
	-53.3	218.9
	-53.2	218.5
Average	-53.5	215.2
SD	2.0	7.3
CV	3.8%	3.4%

CV—Coefficient of variation; SD—Standard deviation.

Table S3. Reproducibility assessment of the potentiometric response of fifteen equally prepared CSPE/GO/ISM sensors (one calibration on each sensor unit).

Electrode no.	Slope (mV dec ⁻¹)	Intercept (mV)
1	-52.3	222.8
2	-52.4	207.1
3	-52.2	212.2
4	-50.6	213.6
5	-53.1	217.7
6	-49.8	223.9
7	-52.4	231.2
8	-52.0	211.3
9	-54.5	232.7
10	-53.3	228.2
11	-53.4	213.6
12	-53.1	217.7
13	-51.4	241.0
14	-53.4	242.9
15	-53.1	243.0
Average	-52.3	223.9
SD	1.5	12.1
CV	2.8%	5.4%

CV—Coefficient of variation; SD—Standard deviation.

Table S4. Comparison of the proposed all-solid-state NO₃[−] ISE based on GO with published reports using different transducers.

Transducer	Recognition element	Slope (mV dec ^{−1})	LOD (μM)	Response time (s)	Long-term drift (mV h ^{−1})	Capacitance (μF)	Lifetime	Ref.
rGO	TDDMA-NO ₃	−57.9	30	10	NR.	NR.	NR.	[35]
Hydrophobic LIG	TDDMA-NO ₃	−58.2	6.0	12.5	0.33 ± 0.04	95.2 ± 8.2	5 weeks	[61]
f-MWCNTs	TDDMA-NO ₃	−57.7	0.025	5	NR.	NR.	NR.	[26]
ErGO/AuNPs	PPy-NO ₃	NR.	6.3	<15	NR.	5.1×10 ^{−3}	65 days	[56]
TTF-NO ₃	NO ₃ ionophore V	−59.4	0.63	NR.	NR.	60.3	NR.	[3]
TrGO	NO ₃ ionophore VI	−60.0	4.0	<5	0.009	5.9×10 ^{−6}	2 weeks	[36]
MWCNTs	Nitron-NO ₃	−55.1	0.028	<10	NR.	49.2	8 weeks	[34]
rGOA	TDDA-NO ₃	−59.1	0.76	NR.	0.056	76.9	NR.	[37]
Graphene	TDDA-NO ₃	−57.4	6.3	<3s	NR.	NR.	N.R.	[54]
GO	TDDA-NO ₃	−53.5	1.9	10	0.32	32.6	3 months	This work

AuNPs: Gold nanoparticles; **ErGO:** Electrochemically reduced graphene oxide; **LIG:** Laser-induced graphene; **GO:** Graphene oxide; **MWCNTs:** Multiwalled carbon nanotubes; **NR.:** Not reported; **PPy:** Polypyrrole; **rGO:** Reduced graphene oxide; **rGOA:** Reduced graphene oxide aerogel; **TDDA-NO₃:** Tetradodecylammonium nitrate; **TDDMA-NO₃:** Tetradodecylmethylammonium nitrate; **TrGO:** Thiol-functionalized reduced graphene oxide; **TTF:** Tetrathiafulvalene.

Table S5. Potentiometric response characteristics of the proposed CSPE/GO/ISM sensors in 10^{-1} M phosphate buffer background (pH 5.0).

Parameter	
Slope (mV dec^{-1})	-51.5 ± 1.4
Intercept (mV)	228.2 ± 4.2
Coefficient of determination (R^2)	0.9979 ± 0.0023
Linear range of response (M)	$3.0 \times 10^{-6} - 10^{-2}$
Limit of detection (M)	2.1×10^{-6}
Response time (s)	10–20
Reproducibility slope (SD, mV)	
Intra-electrode ¹	<1.4
Inter-electrode ²	2.4
Reproducibility intercept (SD, mV)	
Intra-electrode ¹	<4.2
Inter-electrode ²	8.1

¹ Three consecutive calibrations performed on the same sensor; ² Nine calibrations performed from three equally prepared sensors. SD—Standard deviation.

Figures

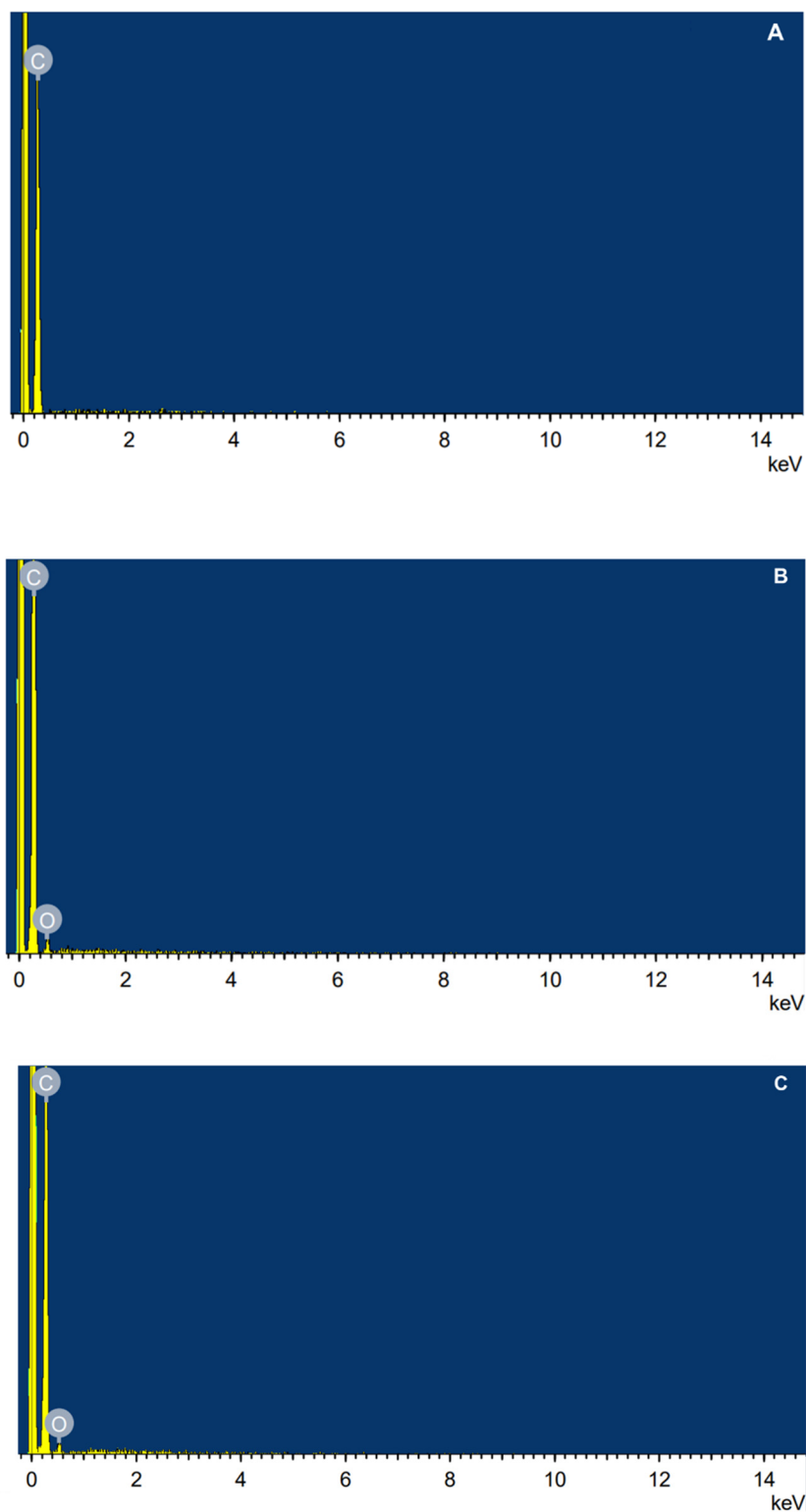


Figure S1. EDS analysis of the (A) CSPE bare electrode, (B) nanosheet and (C) particle in the CSPE/GO bare electrode.

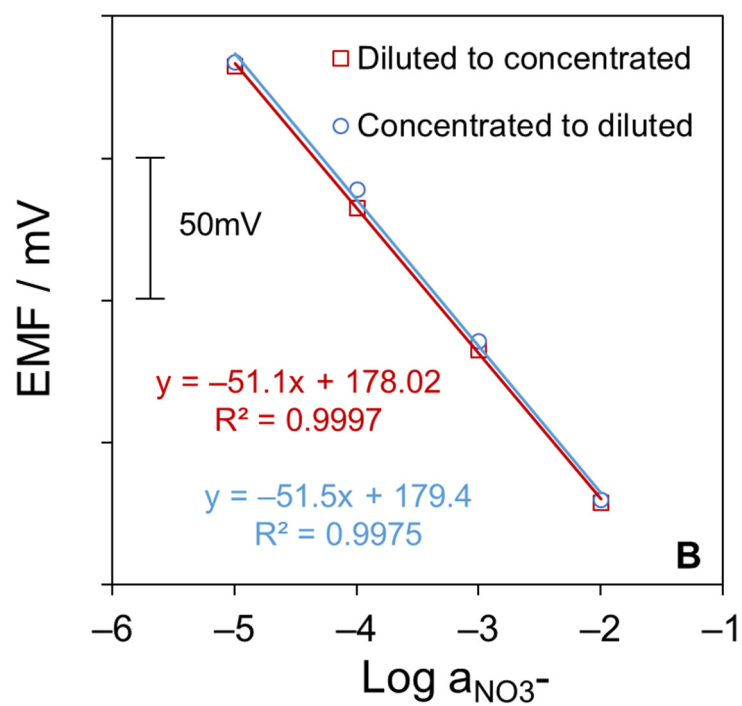
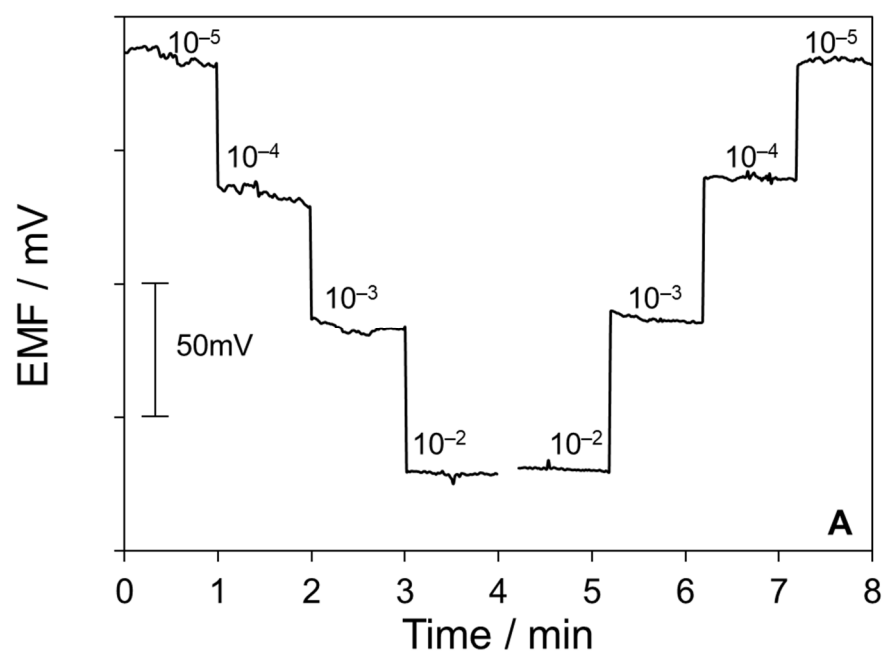


Figure S2. (A) Reversibility of CSPE/GO/ISM sensor by calibration from low to high analyte activities and vice-versa. (B) Corresponding calibrations graphs.

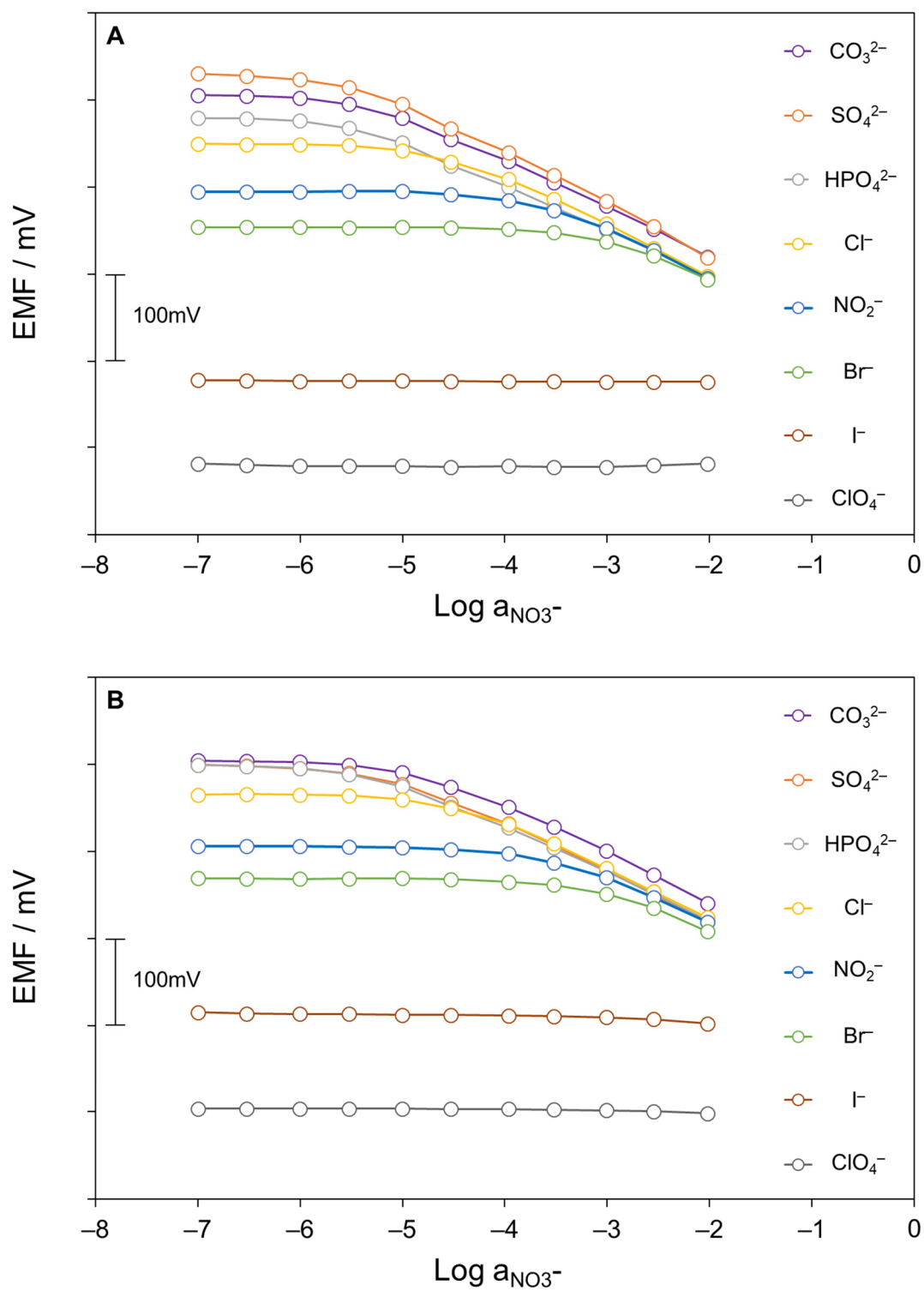


Figure S3. Potentiometric response of CSPE/ISM (A) and CSPE/GO/ISM (B) sensors towards the nitrate ion in the presence of different interfering anions at fixed concentration (10^{-2} M).

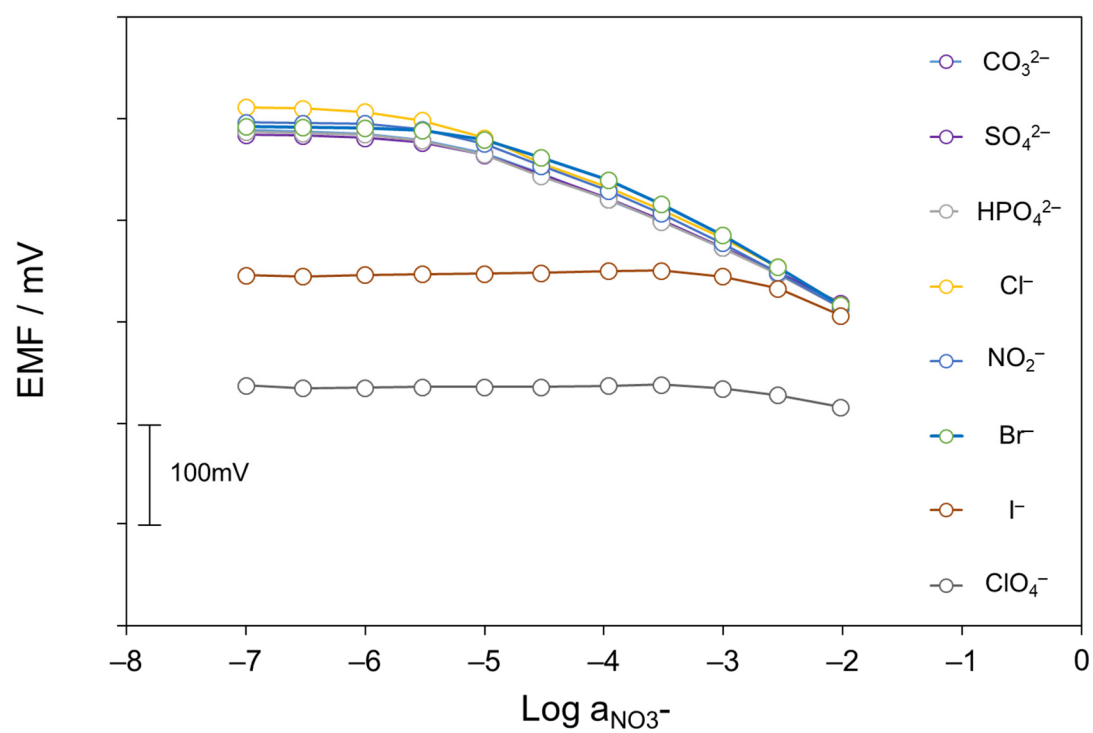


Figure S4. Potentiometric response of CSPE/GO/ISM sensors towards the nitrate ion in the presence of different interfering anions at fixed concentration (10^{-4} M).

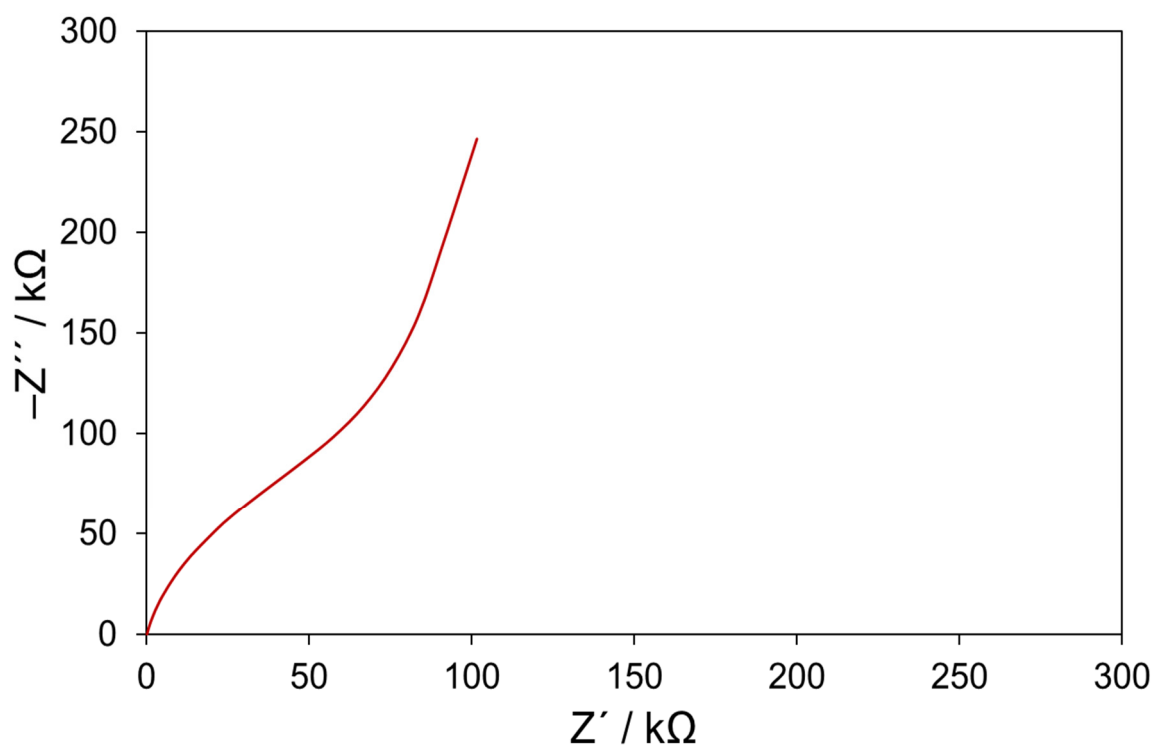


Figure S5. Nyquist plot of CSPE/GO bare electrode in 10^{-1} M NaNO_3 solution. Frequency range: 0.1 Hz to 100 kHz; E_{DC} : OCP; ΔE_{AC} : 10 mV.

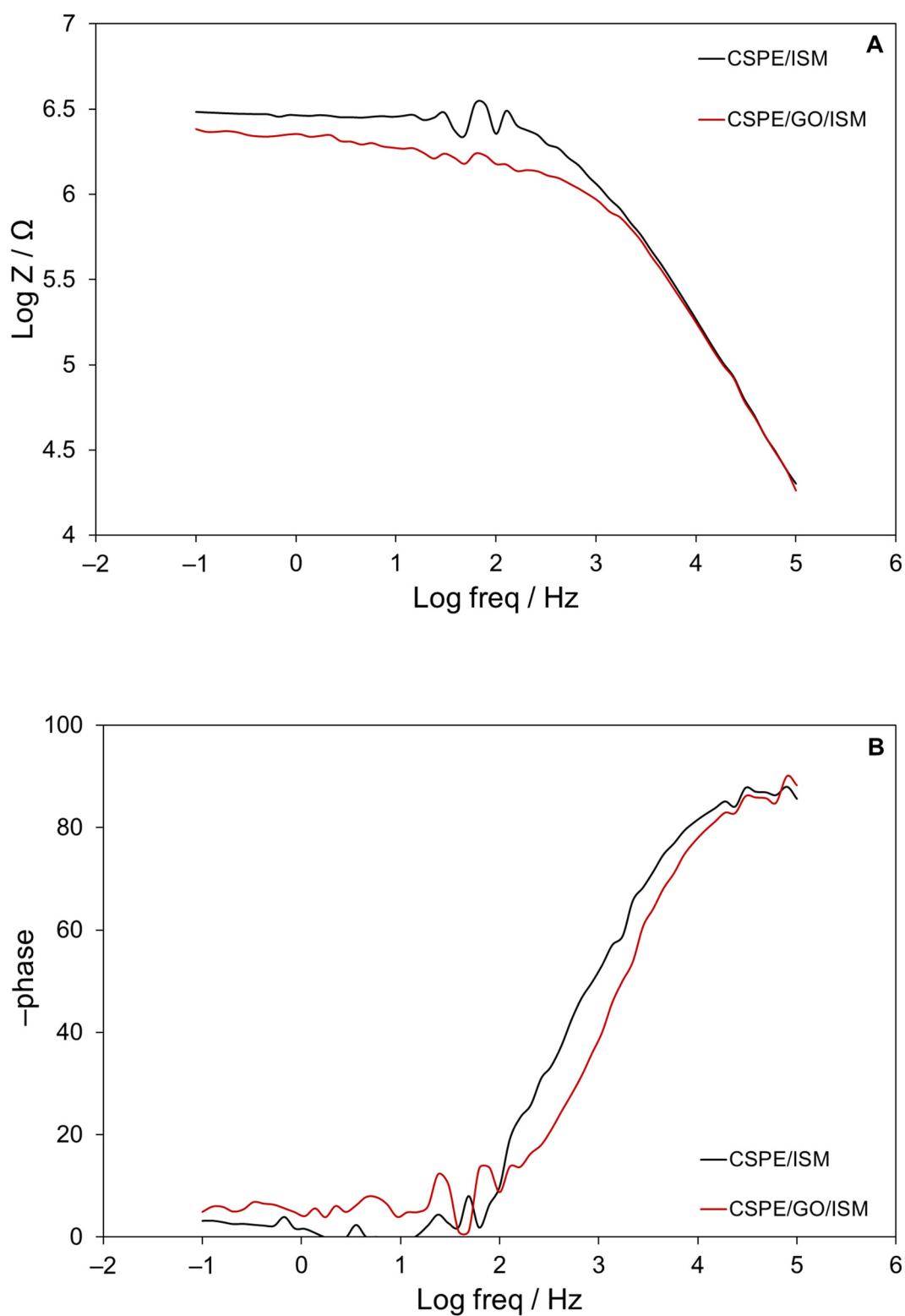


Figure S6. Electrochemical impedance bode plots for **(A)** impedance magnitude ($\text{Log } Z$) and **(B)** phase angle vs. $\text{Log frequency } (f)$ in 10^{-1} M NaNO_3 solution. Frequency range: 0.1 Hz to 100 kHz; E_{DC} : OCP; ΔE_{AC} : 10 mV.

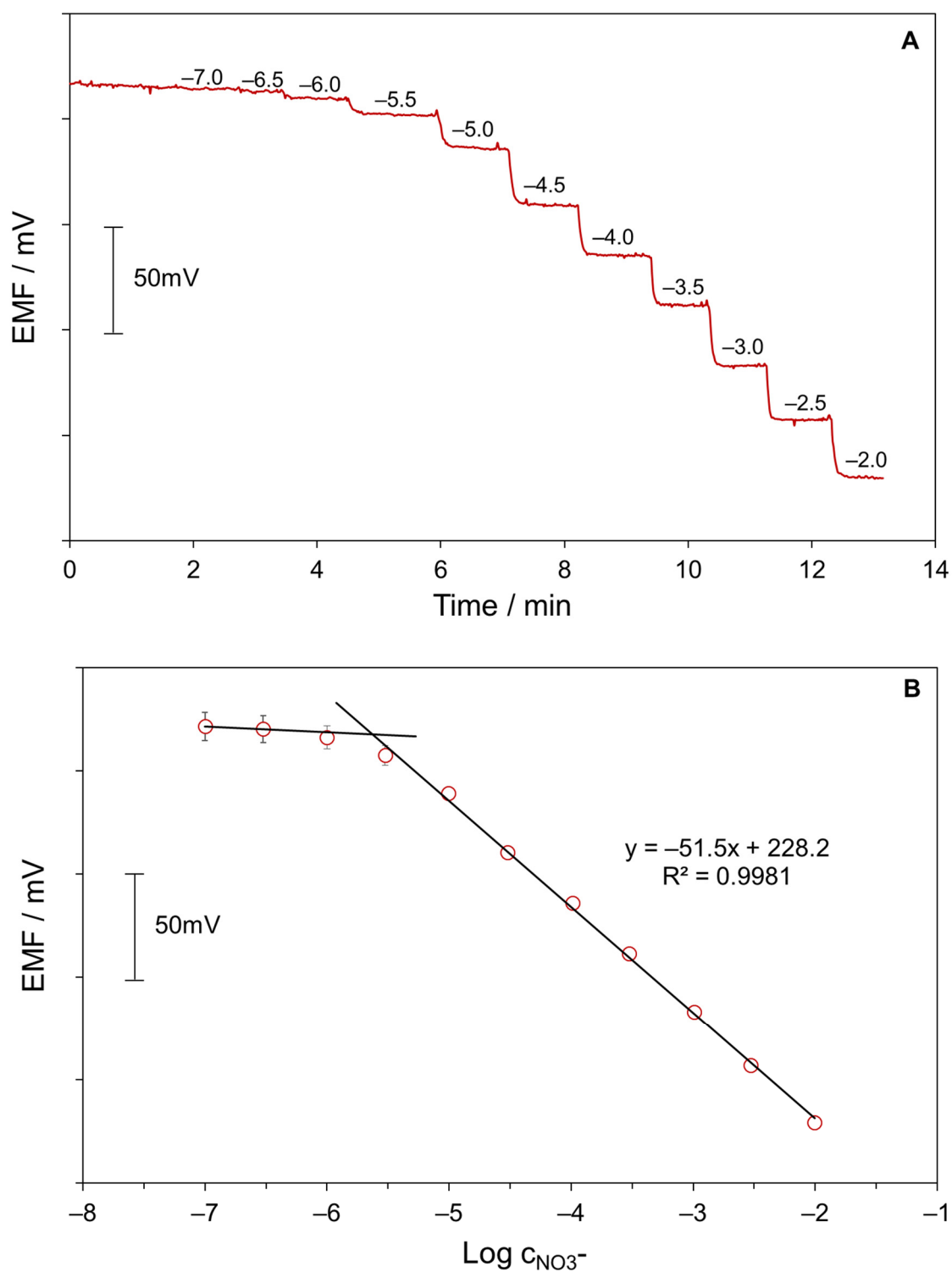


Figure S7. (A) Dynamic response of one CSPE/GO/ISM sensor in steady-state mode at increasing NO_3^- concentrations and using the commercial Ag/AgCl reference electrode (logarithmic concentrations are indicated above each trace). (B) Corresponding calibration graph whose error bars refer to the average of three successive calibrations. Background: phosphate buffer 10^{-1} M at pH 5.0 ($I = 10^{-1}$ M).

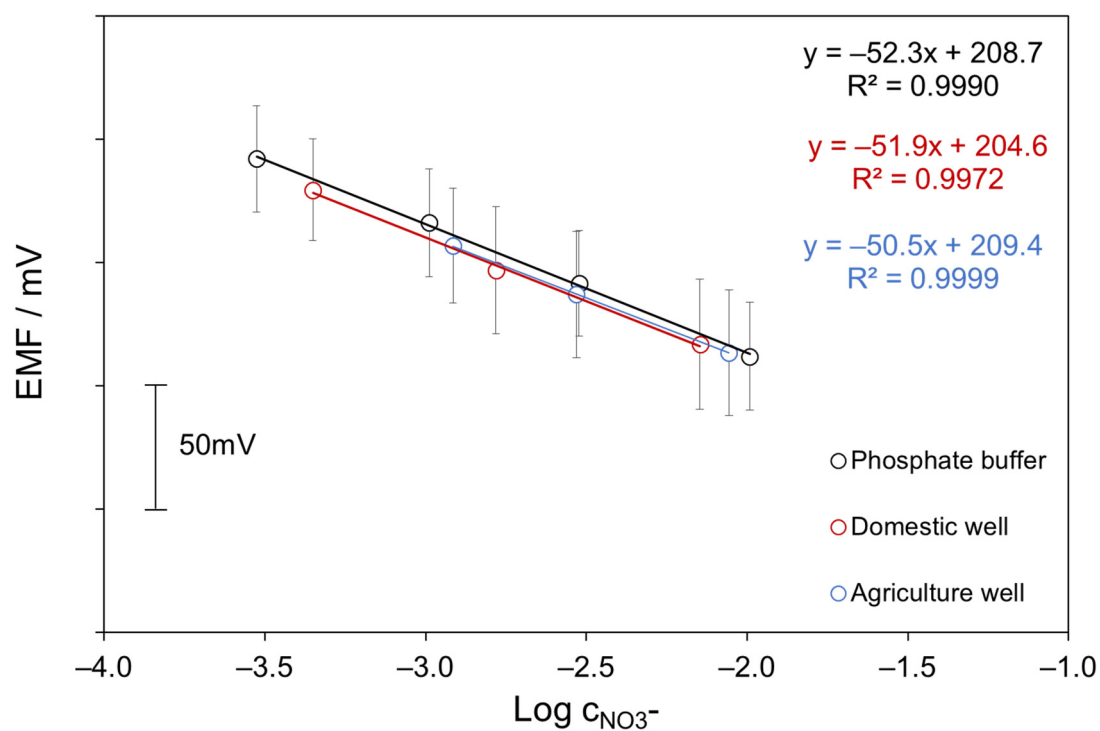


Figure S8. Dynamic calibration curves of CSPE/GO/ISM sensors towards the nitrate ion in different backgrounds (phosphate buffer and well water samples).

References

35. Tang, W.; Ping, J.; Fan, K.; Wang, Y.; Luo, X.; Ying, Y.; Wu, J.; Zhou, Q. All-solid-state nitrate-selective electrode and its application in drinking water. *Electrochim. Acta* **2012**, *81*, 186-90. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2012.07.073>.
61. Hjort, R.G.; Soares, R.R.A.; Li, J.; Jing, D.; Hartfiel, L.; Chen, B.; Van Belle, B.; Soupir, M.; Smith, E.; McLamore, E.; Claussen, J.C.; Gomes, C.L. Hydrophobic laser-induced graphene potentiometric ion-selective electrodes for nitrate sensing. *Mikrochim. Acta* **2022**, *189*, 3, 122. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00604-022-05233-5>.
26. Yuan, D.; Anthis, A.H.C.; Ghahraman Afshar, M.; Pankratova, N.; Cuartero, M.; Crespo, G.A.; Bakker, E. All-solid-state potentiometric sensors with a multiwalled carbon nanotube inner transducing layer for anion detection in environmental samples. *Anal. Chem.* **2015**, *87*, 17, 8640-45. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.analchem.5b01941>.
56. Chen, M.; Zhang, M.; Wang, X.; Yang, Q.; Wang, M.; Liu, G.; Yao, L. An all-solid-state nitrate ion-selective electrode with nanohybrids composite films for in-situ soil nutrient monitoring. *Sensors* **2020**, *20*, 2270. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s20082270>.
3. Pięk, M.; Piech, R.; Paczosa-Bator, B. Improved nitrate sensing using solid contact ion selective electrodes based on TTF and its radical salt. *J. Electrochem. Soc.* **2015**, *162*, 10, B257-B63. <https://doi.org/10.1149/2.0631510jes>.
36. Liu, Y.; Liu, Y.; Meng, Z.; Qin, Y.; Jiang, D.; Xi, K.; Wang, P. Thiol-functionalized reduced graphene oxide as self-assembled ion-to-electron transducer for durable solid-contact ion-selective electrodes. *Talanta* **2020**, *208*, 120374. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.talanta.2019.120374>.
34. Hassan, S.S.M.; Eldin, A.G.; Amr, A.E.E.; Al-Omar, M.A.; Kamel, A.H.; Khalifa, N.M. Improved solid-contact nitrate ion selective electrodes based on multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) as an ion-to-electron transducer. *Sensors* **2019**, *19*, 3891. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s19183891>.
37. Kim, M.-Y.; Lee, J.-W.; Park, D.J.; Lee, J.-Y.; Myung, N.V.; Kwon, S.H.; Lee, K.H. Highly stable potentiometric sensor with reduced graphene oxide aerogel as a solid contact for detection of nitrate and calcium ions. *J. Electroanal. Chem.* **2021**, *115553*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelechem.2021.115553>.
54. Zhang, L.; Zhang, M.; Ren, H.; Pu, P.; Kong, P.; Zhao, H. Comparative investigation on soil nitrate-nitrogen and available potassium measurement capability by using solid-state and PVC ISE. *Comput. Electron. Agric.* **2015**, *112*, 83-91. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2014.11.027>.