Measurement of sulfate (SO₄) in water

The sulfur usually present in nature in the form of ion SO_4^{-2} combined with positive ions, which presented in water. Its concentrations range from little milligrams to hundred milligrams.

Method of measurement:

The method used in measurement SO_4^{-2} is weighting method in burning precipitate:-

- 1. Take 50 ml from water sample and put it clean glass beaker.
- 2. Add 1 ml of diluted Hcl in rate of 1:1 (equal amount of acid and sample water).
- 3. Heat the beaker until boiling degree, during the boiling add some amount from Barium chloride (Bacl₂) with mobilizing, and continues shaking until forming white precipitate.

$$Bacl_{2} + SO_{4}^{-2} \xrightarrow{Boiling} BaSO_{4} \downarrow + CL$$
White precipitate

- 4. Put the beaker on hot surface with 80-90 c° for period not less than 2 hours.
- 5. Filtrate the forming precipitate by filter paper.
- 6. Put the precipitate with filter paper in known weight ceramic bowl and put it in oven in $800~\rm c^\circ$ for 1 hour to complete the burning process.
- 7. After extract the bowl from oven; cool it to the room temperature, then weight it with the precipitate accurately.
- 8. Calculate the amount of resulted SO_4^{-2} but using the following equation.

$$SO_4^{-2} \text{ mg/l} = \frac{4/1.5 \text{ *weight of precipitate * 1000}}{\text{Sample volume}}$$