

Basic Theory

Liquid Chromatography MP → Liquid

- ▶ Actively participate in equilibrium process

SP → Quasi/porous solid

- ▶ Most common do reverse-phase chromatography

SP

- ▶ Film thickness → Very small (monolayer)

$$D_m \sim 10D_s$$

$$\text{▶ } B/U \sim 0$$

$$df \sim 0$$

$$\text{▶ } C_s U \sim 0$$

Always carried-out in packed columns

Advantage More versatile than GC

Adaptable to needs

Disadvantage Much less efficient than GC

Diffusion coefficient of analyte is orders of magnitude smaller than in GC

- ▶ Bounced into other molecules → Diffusion rate is small

In liquid phase (not gas)

Improve efficiency Use small particle → Narrow range velocity

- ▶ Dependent on particle diameter (d_p)
- ▶ Smaller particle size = smaller plate height at any given velocity

Compensate for travel distance of analyte to reach surface of SP

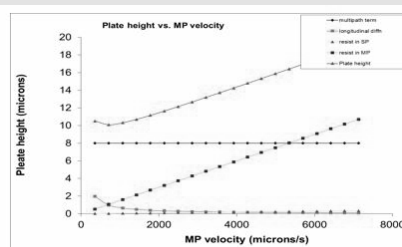
- ▶ Minimize the space between the particles that the analyte have to diffuse across

Analytical LC → $< 5\mu\text{m}$

HPLC → $> 3\mu\text{m}$

UHPLC → $< 3\mu\text{m}$

Theory Equations

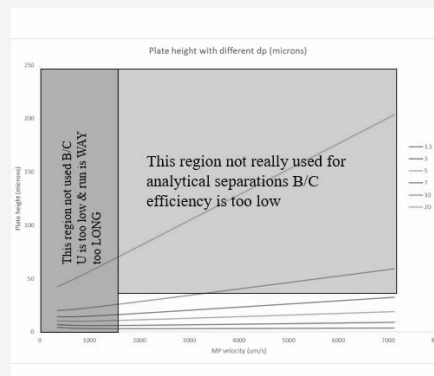


$$A = 2\lambda d_p \quad \frac{B}{U} = \frac{2\gamma D_m}{U} \approx 0$$

$$C_s U = \frac{f_s(k') d_f^2}{D_s} U \approx 0$$

$$C_m U = \frac{f_m(k') d_p^2}{D_m} U$$

LC Velocity Range



Column

Packed Column Packed full of particles

Usually composed of stainless steel, etc.

Length

- ▶ 2-20cm(analytical)
- ▶ Large column → Use for preparative scale
- ▶ Small column → Packed inside a capillary (75-100um diameter) → Couple efficiently to MS



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Page 1 of 13.

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Column (cont)

Efficiency (N)

- ▶ 3000-20000
- ▶ Dramatically lower than GC
- ▶ Rule of thumb (GUESTIMATE ONLY): $N \sim 3500 \cdot L(\text{cm}) / d_p(\mu\text{m})$

Sample Capacity

- ▶ Depending on size of column and packing
- ▶ ~5mg/g \rightarrow C18/silica
- ▶ ~10mg \rightarrow "vanilla" column

Thickness of SP

- ▶ ~ 1-2nm

Resistance to mass transfer in MP and multipath terms dominate

HPLC Column

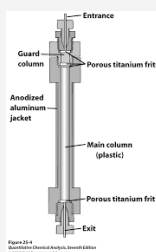


Figure 23-4
Schematic diagram of an HPLC column assembly.
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HPLC System

MP reservoirs	Stores MP in inert glass bottles
	▶ Plastic coated Pyrex bottle (common) \rightarrow \$300/pc
	Degas solvent
	▶ Add element for filtering/degas
	▶ Minimize amount of oxygen dissolved into MP \rightarrow
	Oxygen reactive in high pressure (increase oxidation of analyte)
	▶ Small bubbles can form \rightarrow Result intensive undesirable peaks
	Connected to a computer(pump)
	▶ Control mixing value to produces desired MP mixture

HPLC System (cont)

Analytical Column	Wide variety
	▶ Diameter \rightarrow ~0.5cm (general)
	▶ Length \rightarrow 10-20cm (general)
Injector	Manual
	▶ Syringe with sample
	▶ Inject needle into port and release
	▶ Liquid flow into loop (at atmospheric pressure)
	▶ When rotate lever to 60 degree \rightarrow Rearrange injector (set of valves)
	▶ Switches loop into flow path = swept down into analytical column

Operates at very high pressure

- ▶ If inject sample into septum \rightarrow Shatter syringe

Autosampler

- ▶ Prepare in vials \rightarrow Tightly seal for sample to not evaporate
- ▶ Program computer
- ▶ Runs separation overnight
- ▶ ~100 samples

Detector	Record data and integrate peak area
	▶ Quantitation

High-Pressure Pump	Direct MP through system
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Use high pressure

- ▶ Analytical column is filled with fine particles

Dynamic Mixer	Needed to blend the different fluids (MP)
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Provides the correct percentages of fluids dynamically as the separation goes



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HPLC System (cont)

Guard Column

- Avoid column killers
- Species that strongly store in SP → Never eluted
- Contaminated column
- Can change separation → Destroy separation in terms of its analytical quality

Very small column

- Contains same type of SP as analytical column

Contamination is trapped inside

- Periodically replace cartridges → Preserves analytical column

Optional

Narrow Bore Tubing

Tubes that connects components

Has to be rated for HPLC

- Can handle high pressure
- Has to be narrow bore → Don't want MP to mixing + dilute sample peaks

Use short length as much as possible

If fitting not installed correctly

- Can result in dead volume → Analyte that gets trapped in dead volume = gets broaden

Thermostat Oven

Constant temperature

- 30-45 degrees
- For a given MP → Equilibrium is constant

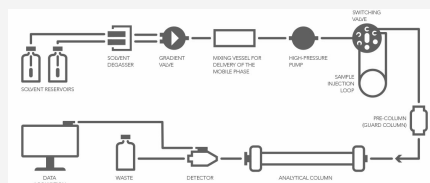
Fraction Collector

Robots that periodically move tubes of the eluted species from detector

Collect in vials

- Sophisticated → Deposit 1 peak per vial
- Less sophisticated → Periodically move from one vial to the next

HPLC System Diagram



Stationary Phase

Control Retention

Control retention → Control distribution constant(K)

Control by:

- Adjust type of MP and SP
- Adjust "strength" of MP and/or SP
- Add additives to MP → Interact specifically with analyte, SP, MP
- MP velocity → Does not alter retention (K or K')

Stationary Phase

Most use silica support particles

- Not great in high pH → Use alumina (high pH resistance)
- Low pH → SP can come off of support (hydrolyzed) → Use polymer support

Almost always a "pure" SP

- Not mixed

Use chemistry reaction to anchor SP to wall/surface

Almost always a "monolayer" SP

- $d_f \sim 0$

Wide range of polarities

- Use chemical reactions to adjust the SP

Can use chiral SP

- Separate enantiomers
- Reasonable environment conditions



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Stationary Phase (cont)

Silane Reaction Use to anchor/bond silicones to silica surfaces

- ▶ In packing materials (particles)
- ▶ FS capillaries

Use to deactivate silanols

Silanol

- ▶ Very reactive
- ▶ Highly polar
- ▶ Expose on surface of silica

Deactivate silanol

- ▶ Use chloro silane
- ▶ Ex: C18
- ▶ Result in silanization of surface

Residual silanol

- ▶ SP is usually of a different polarity (non-polar)
- ▶ Results in tailing of analytical peak

After reacting surface with SP

- ▶ Use a short chain alkyl
- ▶ Take care of residual silanol

If silanol peaks present

- ▶ Column is old
- ▶ Molecules of SP are desorbs or removed from surface

Silanol Interactions

“Standard” silica → SP support particles

- ▶ Has silanols on surface → Si-OH
- ▶ ~50% of Si-OH are reacted to Si-O-Si-C18

Stationary Phase (cont)

Residual Si-OH

- ▶ When close to a metal in the silica
- ▶ Are “acidic” and deprotonate easily leaving a Si-O⁻ on the surface

Act as ion-exchange sites for basic analyte

- ▶ Reverse-Phase MP is not suited to ion-exchange separation
- ▶ Very poor peaks are obtained for basic analyte → Tailing peak

Alternative options

- ▶ Use a high purity silica column → Less acidic silanol
- ▶ Purchase a deactivated silica column

Affects only basic compounds

- ▶ Neutral and acidic compounds does not show tailing

Particle and Surface Area

Terms that dominate:

- ▶ Overall plate height
- ▶ Overall plate number
- ▶ d_p → VD eq.: A and $C_m U$

Spherical Particle

- ▶ Surface area/Volume scales with $1/d_p$
- ▶ ↑ A/V = ↓ Retention
- ▶ More SP packed = ↑ Retention (K') = ↑

Resolving Power (R')

Size

- ▶ Nearly all SP are μm scale silica particles
- ▶ Impacts VD equations



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Stationary Phase (cont)

Porous Particles

- ▶ ↑ Surface area per particle
- ▶ ↑ Amount of SP inside column
- ▶ ↑ Retention and sample capacity = Better R'
- ▶ Smaller the pore → the larger the surface area/g of support

Diffusional Trap of small pores

- ▶ Loss of analyte → Tailing peaks
- ▶ Large MW analyte go into small pores → Never gets eluted

Separation molecules

- ▶ Small molecules ~ 80Å
- ▶ Large proteins ~120-300Å

Normal Phase (NP)

Developed initially

- ▶ Used raw silica as SP → Polar silanol

Separation based

- ▶ Polar-polar interactions with silanol
- ▶ Non-polar elute earlier
- ▶ Polar analyte elute later

In general

- ▶ MP is opposite polarity to SP
- ▶ Works well for polar species only

Reverse Phase (RP)

Use non-polar SP → Silane reaction

- ▶ Use polar MP (Water based)

Separation based

- ▶ Nonpolar-Nonpolar interactions
- ▶ Reverse separation of normal phase
- ▶ Polar species elute first
- ▶ Non-polar species elute later

Stationary Phase (cont)

More popular

- ▶ Organic solvents used for MP → Expensive/dangerous
- ▶ Most analytes are made out of biological origin → Soluble in water-based MP

Controlling Retention

SP

Retention depends on

Polarities

- ▶ Mass of SP
- ▶ Type of SP

Mass

- ▶ Control by chain length
- ▶ Density of SP on silica → % of silanol reacted
- ▶ Surface area → Porosity

Selectivity depends on

- ▶ Type of SP
- ▶ Chain length
- ▶ Linker type/length

Chain Length

- ▶ ↑ Chain length and/or % organic (carbon) load of SP = ↑ Retention (K')

Example

- ▶ C4 → C8 chain
- ▶ Double chain length → Double volume of SP → Double retention

If within the same type of SP

- ▶ Ex: Alkyl chains
- ▶ No significant changes in selectivity
- ▶ Only shrinking/expanding the chromatogram about t_m

- ▶ Shrink c-gram = reduce carbon

- ▶ Stretch c-gram = Increase carbon load



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Controlling Retention (cont)

If analyte is not retained

- ▶ Increase % carbon of SP/chain length

If analyte is excessively retained

- ▶ Reduce % carbon

Significant changes in selectivity → Resolving power

- ▶ By changing the type of SP
- ▶ Overall retention should remain roughly constant
- ▶ Keeping the % carbon constant

Effect of MP Strength

MP plays an active role in retention

- ▶ Distribution constant

Common solvents can be sorted according to their polarity

Polarity of MP

- ▶ Main factors of controlling K → K'

When changing MP strength

- ▶ Can calculate the retention under new MP

Equation (Only for RP):

- ▶ $K'_{\text{new}}/K'_{\text{old}} = 10((P'_{\text{new}} - P'_{\text{old}})/2)$

Equation (Polarity) $P'_{\text{MP}} = \text{Weighted Polarity} =$

$\%A \cdot P'_{\text{IA}} + \%B \cdot P'_{\text{IB}}$

- ▶ PI = Polarity

Equation (Only for NP):

- ▶ $K'_{\text{old}}/K'_{\text{new}} = 10((P'_{\text{old}} - P'_{\text{new}})/2)$

Example

1. Look at K' of first and last peak

▶ $K'_{\text{old}} = (\text{last peak} - \text{first peak})/\text{first peak} \rightarrow K' = (2.8 - 1.8)/1.8 = 0.5$

- ▶ $K'_{\text{new}} \rightarrow$ Want it at 10

2. Replace terms in equation

- ▶ $K'_{\text{new}}/K'_{\text{old}} = 10/0.5 = 20$

Controlling Retention (cont)

3. Old MP polarity

- ▶ If old MP is 20% water/80% Acetonitrile
- ▶ $P'_{\text{old}} = (0.2)(10.2) + (0.8)(5.8) = 6.68$

4. New MP polarity

- ▶ $P'_{\text{new}} = 2\log(K'_{\text{new}}/K'_{\text{old}}) + P'_{\text{old}}$
- ▶ $P'_{\text{new}} = 2\log(20) + 6.68 = 9.28$

5. Solve new MP components

- ▶ $P'_{\text{new}} = (x)(10.2) + (1-x)(5.8) = 9.98$
- ▶ 79.1% water and 20.9% ACN

Rule of 3

- ▶ Tool to check/estimate results (not used in calculations)
- ▶ Change of 20% water ~ 3x change in K'

MP Gradient

Dynamically adjust MP

Some sample contain wide range of analytes

- ▶ Low or high retention
- ▶ no single MP that will elute them all in a satisfactory range of k'

MP gradient

- ▶ MP strength is initially "weak" → Analyte well retained
- ▶ Those with low retention → Elute at reasonable K'
- ▶ Strengthen MP over the course of separation
- ▶ Strongly retained species can be eluted → At a reasonable K' and R'

MP ≠ constant → Changing strength

- ▶ K and K' ≠ constant
- ▶ Can no longer be predicted



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Controlling Retention (cont)

MP Selectivity	Alter selectivity (α) by changing type of solvent
	Resolving power
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ $R = (\alpha - 1)(K'/(1 + K'))(\sqrt{N}/4)$ ▶ Sensitive to selectivity → Critical pairs in peaks
	Selectivity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Depends on nature of MP ▶ Change selectivity = change type of MP
	Try and keep
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ $P'_{old} \sim P'_{new}$ ▶ Overall retention is roughly the same ▶ Selectivity of peaks change
	Selectivity changes cannot be predicted

Chiral Separation

Basic Theory	Important to bioanalyses and pharmaceutical separation
	Separation of chiral species
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enantio selective
	Chiral SP or chiral additives to MP → Separation of enantiomers
	Possible to separate structural isomers → Strength of interaction changes as a function of isomer

Ion-Exchange

Ionic Species	Small "hard" ions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Inorganic ions ▶ Cannot use ion pairing ▶ Ions can interact with appropriate SP → Ionic SP

Ion-Exchange (cont)

Basic Theory	Ion-exchange
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Equilibrium-based separation ▶ Discrete sorption and displacement process ▶ Carry throughout column
	Column
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Does not use silica particles ▶ Use polymer resin ▶ Attach with a strong anion or cation
Example	Using a strong anion SP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cation exchange column
	1. SP sulfonic acid (IEX resin) → Anion surface particle (SO_3^-)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wash column with acid solution → Cations (H^+) ▶ Sulfonic acid is protonated (SO_3H)
	2. Inject sample with cation analytes → Metal ion (M^{2+})
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Metal ions interact with SP ▶ Metal ions displace some of H^+ from resin
	3. Unbind analyte from SP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Introduce a higher concentration of protons behind analytes → MP gradient ▶ H^+ displace weakly bound analytes the move onto strongly bound analyte (cation) → Exchange process ▶ Cation analytes is displaced off of surface and solubilize in MP



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Ion-Exchange (cont)

4. Analytes move down the column in strength of MP
 - ▶ Each type of analyte elute as a peak
 - ▶ MP ahead of each analyte is too weak → Bound
 - ▶ MP behind each analyte is too strong → Fully displace

Equilibrium Constant

If it behaves like an equilibrium → There is an equilibrium constant

- ▶ Expect to behave like an LC → Produce peaks

Ion-exchange equilibrium constant would behave like a distribution constant

- ▶ Obtain similar result of chromatogram peaks
- ▶ MP controls retention

Equation

$$K_{iex} = \frac{[exchange\&analyte]_s}{[analyte]_m} = C_s/C_m$$

Optimization

Process of Separation

1. Carry out initial separation
 - ▶ Choose a strong MP
 - ▶ Ensure everything is eluted and fast separation
2. Adjust MP strength
 - ▶ Retention of last peak is within the right region
 - ▶ Depending on the complexity of sample
 - ▶ Simple sample → $K' \sim 10$
 - ▶ Complex sample → $K' \sim 20$
 - ▶ Do calculations for an estimate adjusting needed

Optimization (cont)

3. Examine if peaks are within the acceptable region
 - ▶ Examine if all analytes are well resolved
4. Consider if a gradient is required
 - ▶ Presence of large area of empty baseline

5. If needed
 - ▶ Switch MP type to alter selectivity
 - ▶ Gradient to reach acceptable retention and resolution

6. Consider using additives in MP
 - ▶ Help alter selectivity

If MP type/mix strength does not achieve required separation

- ▶ Change SP type
- ▶ May consider type of separation

Summary of MP Effects

Very powerful tool → Versatile

- ▶ Control retention and selectivity

Directly affects distribution constant

↑ MP strength = ↓ K'

MP "strength" is polarity

- ▶ Effect are opposite in RP vs NP
- ▶ RP → Non-polar solvent (organic) = Stronger solvent
- ▶ NP → Polar solvent = Stronger solvent

Ramped MP → Gradient

- ▶ Helps dynamically adjust K'

Useful to make separation less intuitive → $R \downarrow = K' \downarrow$

- ▶ Gradient runs → $R \uparrow = K' \downarrow$



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LC Detectors	
Ideal Detectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High sensitivity ▶ Steep slope High stability ▶ Minimal drift ▶ Minimal noise on baseline Very low DL Long LDR Can accept MP over wide range ▶ Need reference to null out MP gradients Fast response ▶ Independent of MP Easy to use, maintain and repair Inexpensive Selective/universal ▶ Can be either depending on properties Non destructive ▶ Can collect fractions
1λ: UV- Vis Detector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume ▶ ~1-10 uL (very small) ➔ If V is too large, the signal becomes constant and we see a square shaped peak Pathlengths ▶ ~5-10mm ▶ Longer = better Bigger absorbance for same concentration (beer-- lambert law) Window material ▶ Quartz

LC Detectors (cont)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D2 lamps ▶ Good broad UV source ▶ 185-400nm ▶ Spectrometer to isolate narrow band of wavelength ▶ More simple than FAA ➔ UV does not have to compensate for a flame 2 sensors ▶ Sample diode (I) ➔ Intensity coming through the sample ▶ Reference diode (I₀) ➔ Intensity from the light source ▶ Equation ➔ $A = -\log(I/I_0) = -\log(T)$ Chromatogram ▶ Abs vs time ▶ Use peak area for quantitation
Many λ: Photodiode array (PDA) Detector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chromatogram ▶ Collect many chromatograms across many wavelength (a spectrum) Sensitivity ▶ Can choose/use chromatogram that provides the greatest sensitivity for each analyte ▶ Find wavelength where analyte has least interference from neighbouring peaks



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LC Detectors (cont)

Application

- ▶ Useful to verify which peaks is which when MP is changed

Refractive Index (RI) Detector

- Uses refractive index of analyte compared to MP
- ▶ Snell's law
- The rays will bend if there is a mismatch in refractive indices of the outside and the inside
- ▶ When refractive indices match
- Rays not refracted

Chromatogram

- ▶ If RI match (only MP)
- Full intensity reaches sensor
- ▶ If RI does not match (analyte eluting)
- Reduced intensity reaches sensor
- ▶ Plot signal vs time

Properties

- ▶ Universal
- ▶ Sensitivity
- ~3 orders of magnitude less sensitive than UV
- ▶ Absorbance
- Optically silent
- ▶ Reference flow
- Limited gradient capability

LC Detectors (cont)

Evaporative Light Scatter (ELS) Detector

How it works

- ▶ Uses nebulizer to produce aerosol
- ▶ MP evaporates
- Leaves behind analyte fine crystals
- ▶ Scattering of light (usually laser)
- Only when crystals are present

Analyte

- ▶ Needs to produce crystals
- Very low volatility
- ▶ Can work for non-absorbing analytes
- ▶ Response is nearly uniform for all analytes

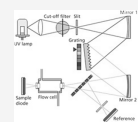
Buffers (MP)

- ▶ Must be volatile
- Restricts choices
- Can't use inorganic buffers:
- Leads to buffer salts

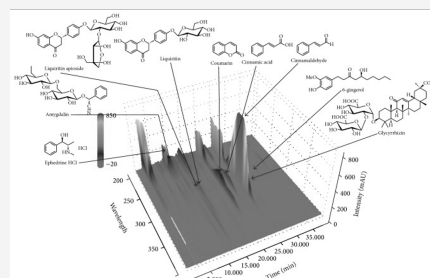
Better than RI detector

- ▶ Higher sensitivity
- ▶ Longer LDR

UV-Vis Detector Diagram



Photodiode Array Chromatogram



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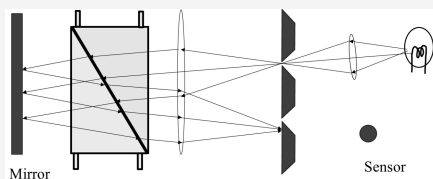
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Refractive Index Detector Diagram



LC-MS

Properties

Electrospray

- ▶ Sample goes through nebulizer
- ▶ High voltage is applied → Produces charged droplets

Fine metal capillary tube

- ▶ ~0.5-1mm
- ▶ Connected to the outlet
- ▶ Charged with high voltage

Signal

- ▶ MP is pumped
- ▶ Charged droplets are attracted to MS interface
- ▶ Droplets dry down in flight
- charge density ↑ until charge repulsion causes coulombic explosion

Single

Mass spectrum

Quadrupole

- ▶ Simple

MS

- ▶ MP evaporates away
- Leaves $[M+H]^+$ ions → no fragments

Problem

- ▶ Difficult for definitive ID
- ▶ Potential m/z overlap

Triple

Allows the production of fragments

Quadrupole

- ▶ Contains Q1, Q2(CID) and Q3

MS

Q1 → Parent ions are selected

Q2(CID) → Collision induced dissociation → Selected ions collide with Ar/He/N₂ (Creates fragments)

Q3 → Fragment ions are filtered/scanned → Detected to produce mass spectrum

LC-MS (cont)

Mass spectrum

- ▶ Scanning mode → Produce full spectrum → For method development
- ▶ Multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) → Only selected fragments are measured → For quantitation

Better than single quadrupole

- ▶ Lower DL
- Less interferences
- ▶ Longer LDR
- ▶ Allows positive ID of analyte
- ▶ Better selectivity with MRM

Problem

- ▶ Q3 scans across m/z range pretty slowly (1-30 spectra/s)
- ▶ Lowering resolution allows faster scanning → Can't get a full detailed spectrum

QTOF MS

Quadrupole time of flight MS

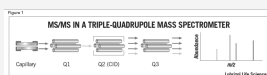
Advantage

- ▶ Can scan 10000 spectra/s
- Many are averaged together to improve quality (better than QQQ)
- ▶ Allows more analytes to be measured simultaneously
- ▶ Higher mass accuracies and resolution
- Permits greater ID power
- ▶ LDR > 5 orders of magnitude

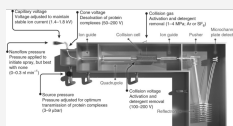
Problem

- ▶ Not as precise as QQQ
- ▶ Expensive

Triple Quadrupole Detector Diagram



QTOF MS Detector Diagram



Summary and Applications

Advantage MP plays a critical role in controlling separation

- ▶ Retention → "Strength"
- ▶ Selectivity → "Type"

Wide range of MP available

- ▶ Diverse set of separation conditions
- ▶ Within the same SP and column
- ▶ Allow to quickly try different separation conditions

conditions

- ▶ Allow to quickly arrive to a newer optimization separation

No requirements of volatile analyte

- ▶ Needs to be soluble in MP

Wider range of SP available

- ▶ Can choose type
- ▶ Can change particle size
- ▶ Can choose the amount of SP/unit of column

Easy to collect purified analyte

Disadvantage Much lower N compared to GC-FSOT

- ▶ Degrades R and ↑ Overlapping peaks
- ▶ Many LC have low N → 1000-5000

Detector Comparison Selective or universal

DL

LDR

Summary and Applications (cont)

Cost

- ▶ Purchase
- ▶ Maintenance

Sample capacity

Immune from MP gradients?

Amendable to using IS?

Key Factors if LC is useful

1. Analytes soluble in liquid MP

2. Concentration of analytes are high enough

- ▶ Can load larger volumes/concentration on columns
- ▶ Combine with sensitive detectors

3. Does sample require a high R' separation

- ▶ GC favored over LC

4. Need to recover analyte

- ▶ LC > GC

5. Slower than GC

Applications

Anti-doping and forensics

Pharmaceutical

- ▶ Process control
- ▶ Quality control
- ▶ R&D
- ▶ Metabolic
- ▶ Proteomic

Food and Beverages

- ▶ Vitamins
- ▶ Pesticides
- ▶ Contaminants

Environmental

- ▶ Pesticides
- ▶ Industrial materials



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Summary and Applications (cont)

R&D

- Organic synthesis
- Catalysis

Industrial

- Feedstock



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cheatography.com/shaylannxd/

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Page 13 of 13.

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