

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)

$$D_m \sim 10D_s$$

- ▶ $B/U \sim 0$

$$df \sim 0$$

- ▶ $C_s U \sim 0$

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

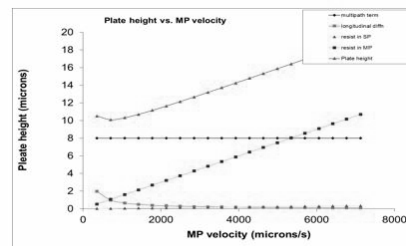
- ▶ Minimize the space between the particles that the analyte have to diffuse across

Analytical LC → $< 5\mu\text{m}$

HPLC → $> 3\mu\text{m}$

UHPLC → $< 3\mu\text{m}$

Theory Equations

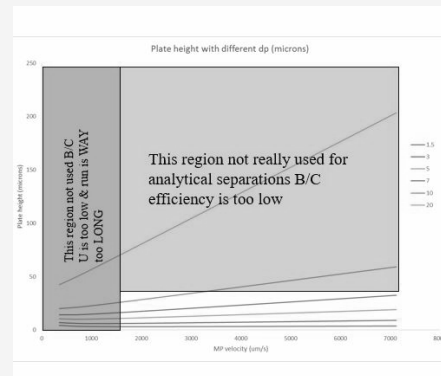


$$A = 2\lambda d_p \quad \frac{B}{U} = \frac{2\gamma D_m}{U} \approx 0$$

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

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

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 → Packaged inside a capillary (75-100um diameter) → Couple efficiently to MS



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Column (cont)

Efficiency (N)

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

Sample Capacity

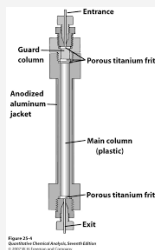
- ▶ Depending on size of column and packing
- ▶ ~5mg/g \rightarrow C18/silica
- ▶ ~10mg \rightarrow "vanilla" column

Thickness of SP

- ▶ ~ 1-2nm

Resistance to mass transfer in MP and multipath terms dominate

HPLC Column



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

Use high pressure

- ▶ Analytical column is filled with fine particles

- Dynamic Mixer** Needed to blend the different fluids (MP)

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

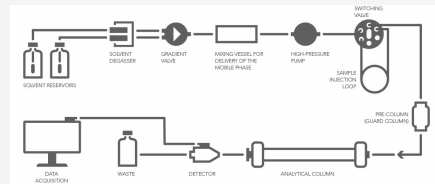
- ▶ 30-45 degrees
- ▶ For a given MP → Equilibrium is constant

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

Equation (Polarity) $P'_{MP} = \text{Weighted Polarity} = \%A * P_{IA} + \%B * P_{IB}$
 ▶ PI= Polarity

Equation (Only for NP):
 ▶ $K'_{old}/K'_{new} = 10((P'_{old}-P'_{new})/2)$

Example

1. Look at K' of first and last peak
 ▶ $K'_{old} = (\text{last peak} - \text{first peak})/\text{first peak} \rightarrow K' = (2.8-1.8)/1.8 = 0.5$
 ▶ $K'_{new} \rightarrow$ Want it at 10
2. Replace terms in equation
 ▶ $K'_{new}/K'_{old} = 10/0.5 = 20$

Controlling Retention (cont)

3. Old MP polarity
 ▶ If old MP is 20% water/80% Acetonitrile
 ▶ $P'_{old} = (0.2)(10.2) + (0.8)(5.8) = 6.68$

4. New MP polarity
 ▶ $P'_{new} = 2\log(K'_{new}/K'_{old}) + P'_{old}$
 ▶ $P'_{new} = 2\log(20) + 6.68 = 9.28$

5. Solve new MP components
 ▶ $P'_{new} = (x)(10.2) + (1-x)(5.8) = 9.98$
 ▶ 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

Dynamically adjust MP

Gradient

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

- ▶ $R = (\alpha - 1)(K'/(1 + K'))(\sqrt{N}/4)$
- ▶ Sensitive to selectivity → Critical pairs in peaks

Selectivity

- ▶ Depends on nature of MP
- ▶ Change selectivity = change type of MP

Try and keep

- ▶ $P_{old} \sim P_{new}$
- ▶ Overall retention is roughly the same
- ▶ Selectivity of peaks change

Selectivity changes cannot be predicted

Chiral Separation

Basic Important to bioanalyses and pharmaceutical separation

Theory

Separation of chiral species

- ▶ 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

- ▶ Inorganic ions
- ▶ Cannot use ion pairing
- ▶ Ions can interact with appropriate SP → Ionic SP

Ion-Exchange (cont)

Basic Ion-exchange

Theory

- ▶ Equilibrium-based separation
- ▶ Discreet soption and displacement process
- ▶ Carry throughout column

Column

- ▶ Does not use silica particles
- ▶ Use polymer resin
- ▶ Attach with a strong anion or cation

Example Using a strong anion SP

- ▶ Cation exchange column

1. SP sulfonic acid (IEX resin) → Anion surface particle (SO_3^-)

- ▶ Wash column with acid solution → Cations (H^+)
- ▶ Sulfonic acid is protonated (SO_3H)

2. Inject sample with cation analytes → Metal ion (M^{2+})

- ▶ Metal ions interact with SP
- ▶ Metal ions displace some of H^+ from resin

3. Unbind analyte from SP

- ▶ 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 displace off of surface and solubilize in MP



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Ion-Exchange (cont)

- 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

- Carry out initial separation
 - ▶ Choose a strong MP
 - ▶ Ensure everything is eluted and fast separation
- 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)

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

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

- 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**
- 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**
- 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)

- 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**
- 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 peak 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

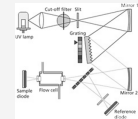
Buffers (MP)

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

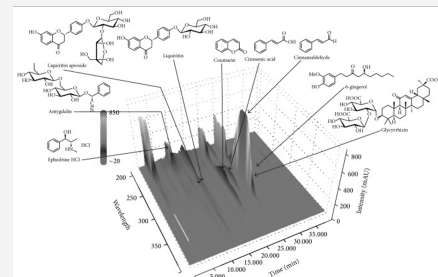
Better than RI detector

- ▶ Higher sensitivity
- ▶ Longer LDR

UV-Vis Detector Diagram



Photodiode Array Chromatogram



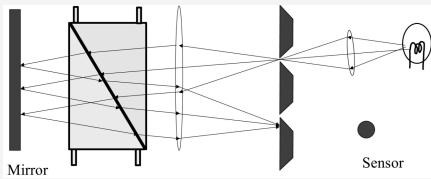
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Refractive Index Detector Diagram



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

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

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



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Page 11 of 13.

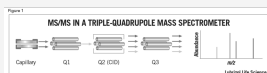
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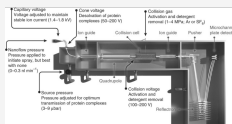
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Triple Quadrupole Detector Diagram



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
- ▶ 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 Selective or universal

Comparison

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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Page 12 of 13.

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Summary and Applications (cont)

R&D

- ▶ Organic synthesis
- ▶ Catalysis

Industrial

- ▶ Feedstock



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