



Sci
Spec

thermo
scientific

UHPLC-MS Basic Principles and Applications

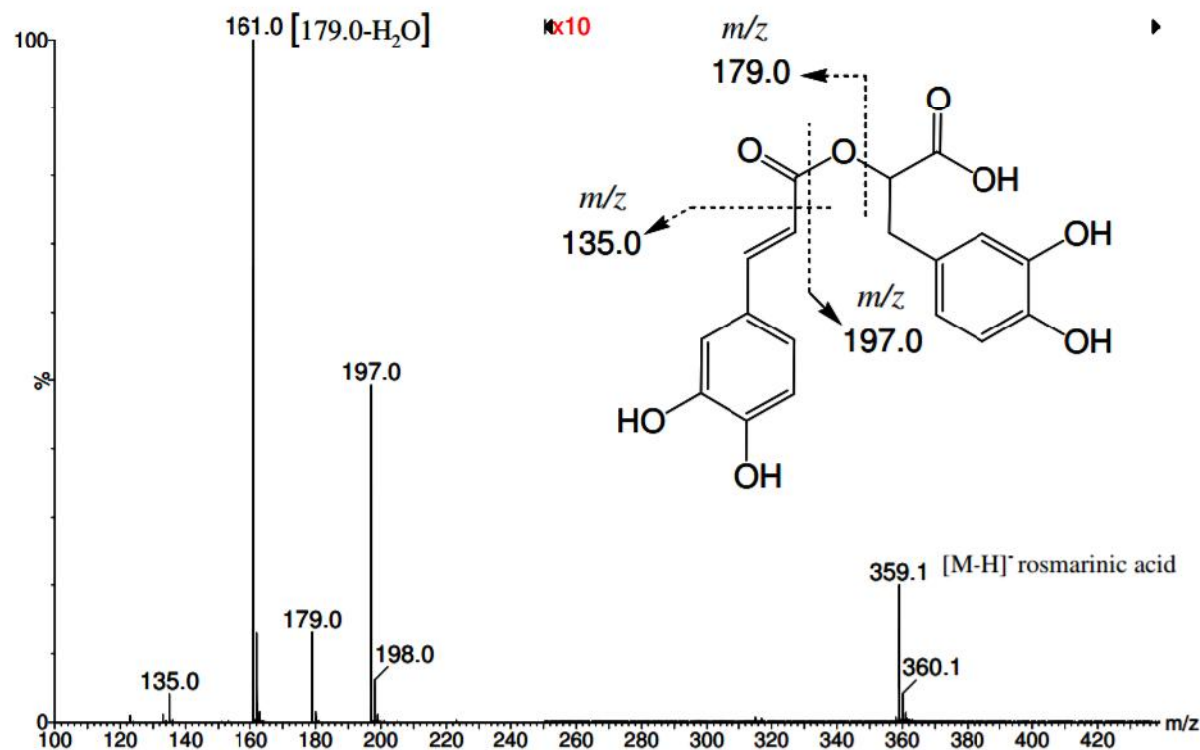
Jitnapa Voranitikul

December, 2017

Product Specialist LC/MS

What does a Mass Spectrometer do?

- It measures mass better than any other technique
- It can give information about chemical structures.



- Pharmaceutical analysis

- Bioavailability studies
- Drug metabolism studies, pharmacokinetics
- Characterization of potential drugs
- Drug degradation product analysis
- Screening of drug candidates
- Identifying drug targets

- Biomolecule characterization

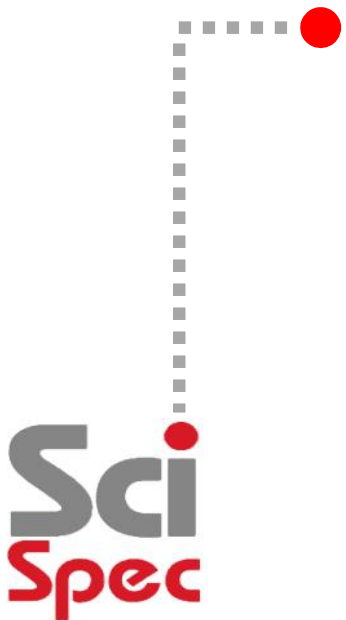
- Proteins and peptides
- Oligonucleotides

- Environmental analysis

- Pesticides on foods
- Soil and groundwater contamination

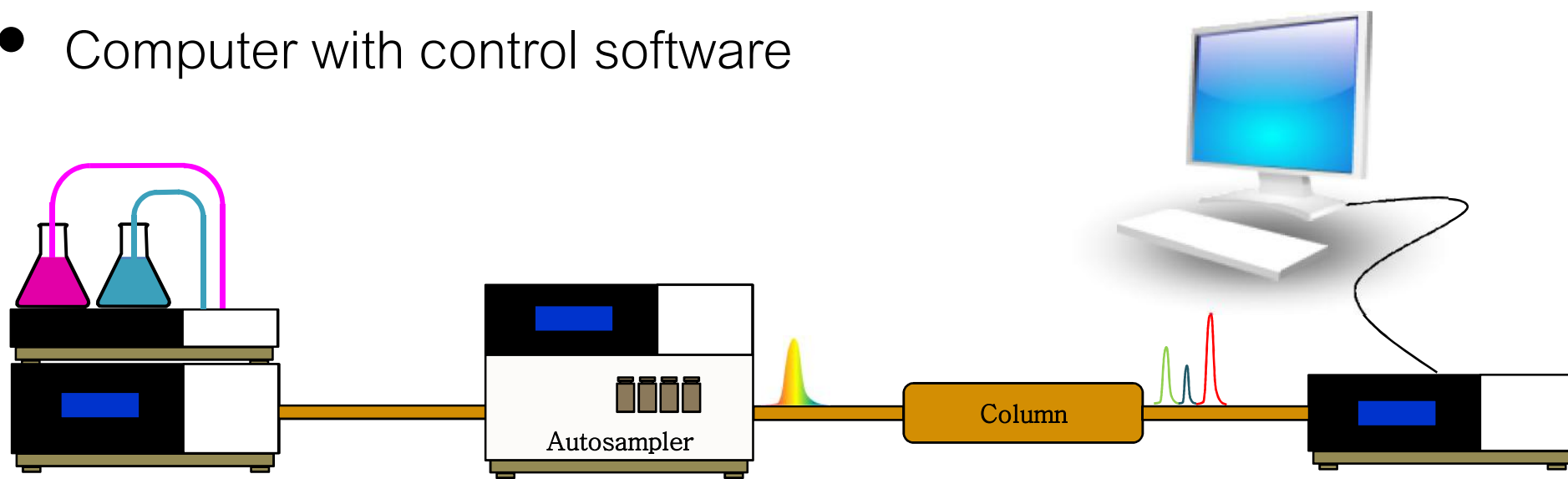
- Forensic analysis/clinical

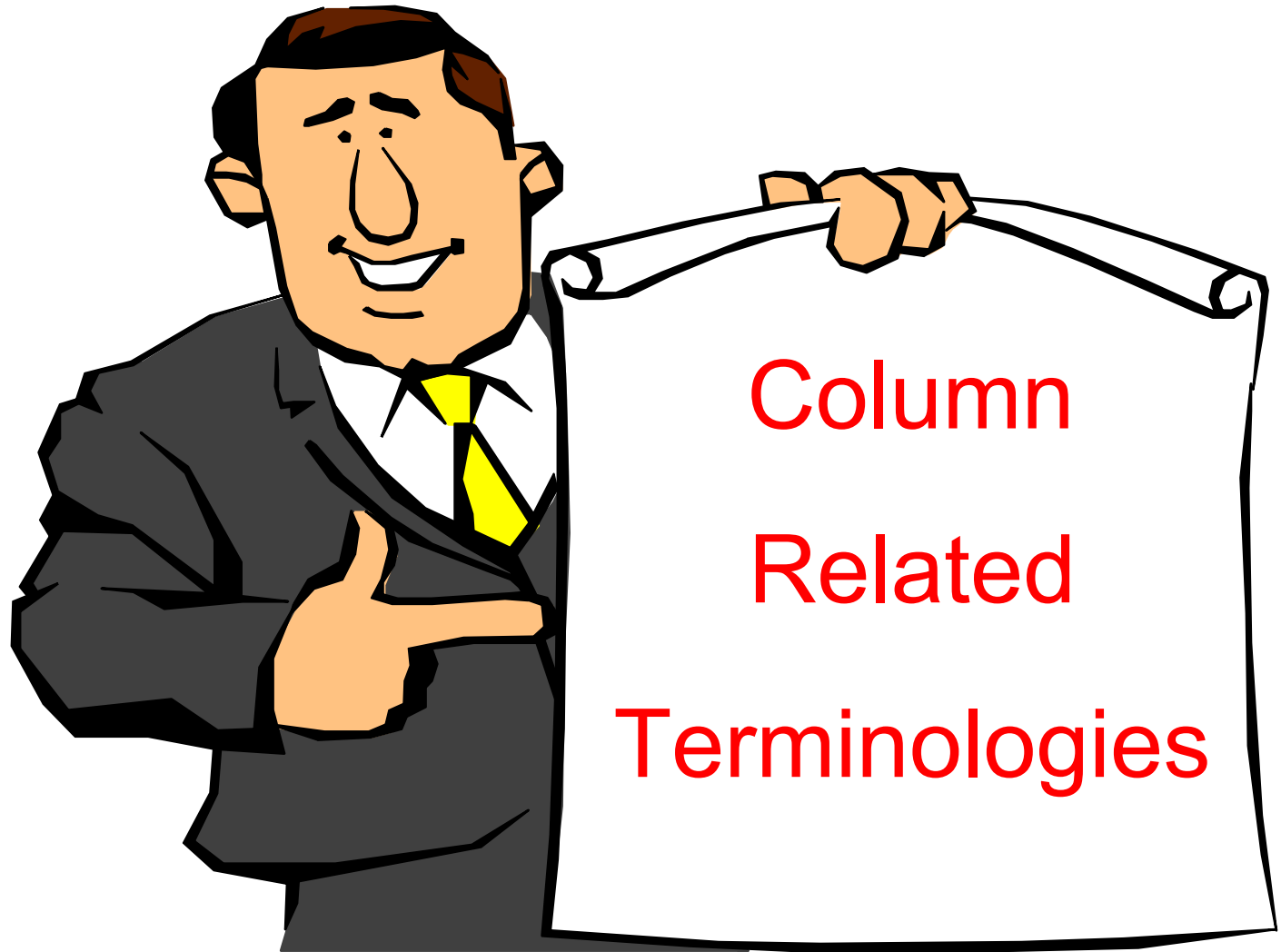
Fundamental of Liquid Chromatography



Your Scientific Specialist

- Pump with Degasser
- Autosampler
- Column (installed in a Column Compartment)
- Detector
- Computer with control software





Column
Related
Terminologies

Sample

The Original Representative Material Which Is To Be Analyzed Also Called The Sample Matrix (Coffee)

Analyte(s)

A Specific Compound(s) Contained In The Sample Which Is(Are) To Be Separated And Analyzed (Caffeine)

Compound

Pure Chemical Component In A Sample, Also Called An Analyte Or Solute

Stationary Phase

The Chromatographic Packing Material Which Is Held In A Fixed Position Usually Packed Into A Column, Or Coated Onto A Surface. It Performs The Chemical Separation (Also Called The Packing Material, The Chromatographic Material, Or The Adsorbent)

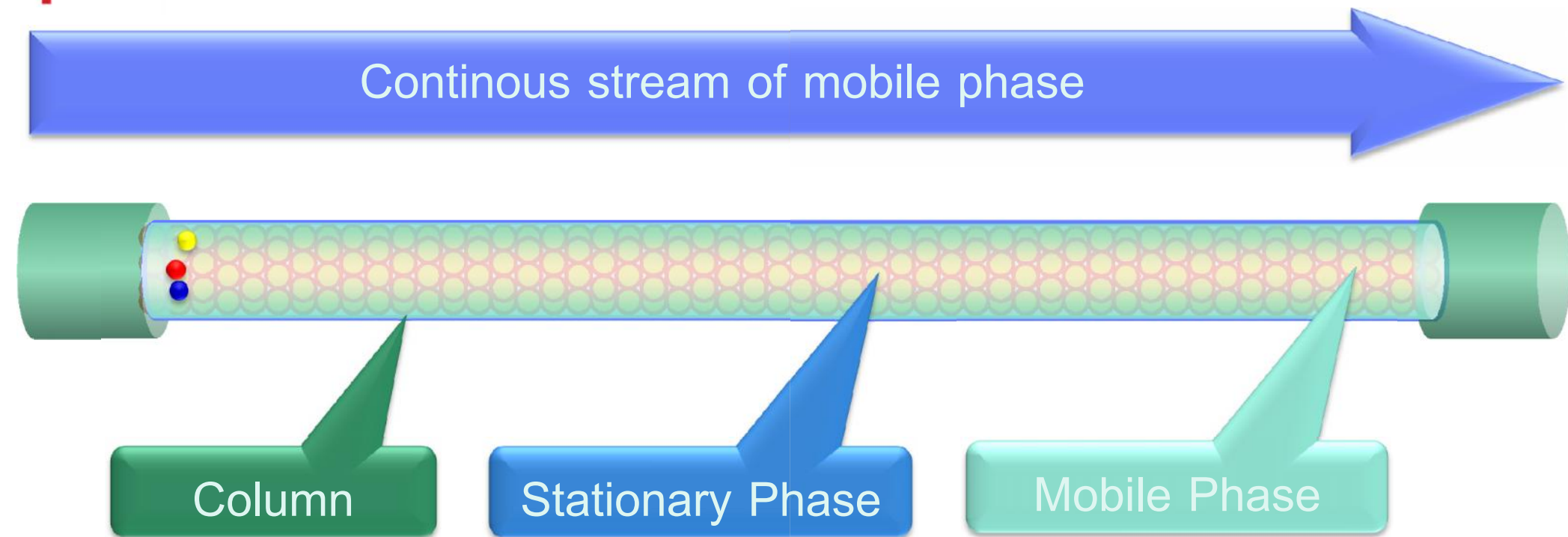
Mobile Phase

Carrier Of The Sample, Moving It Through The Stationary Chromatographic Packing Material. The Mobile Phase Can Be A Liquid (HPLC), Or A Gas (GC)



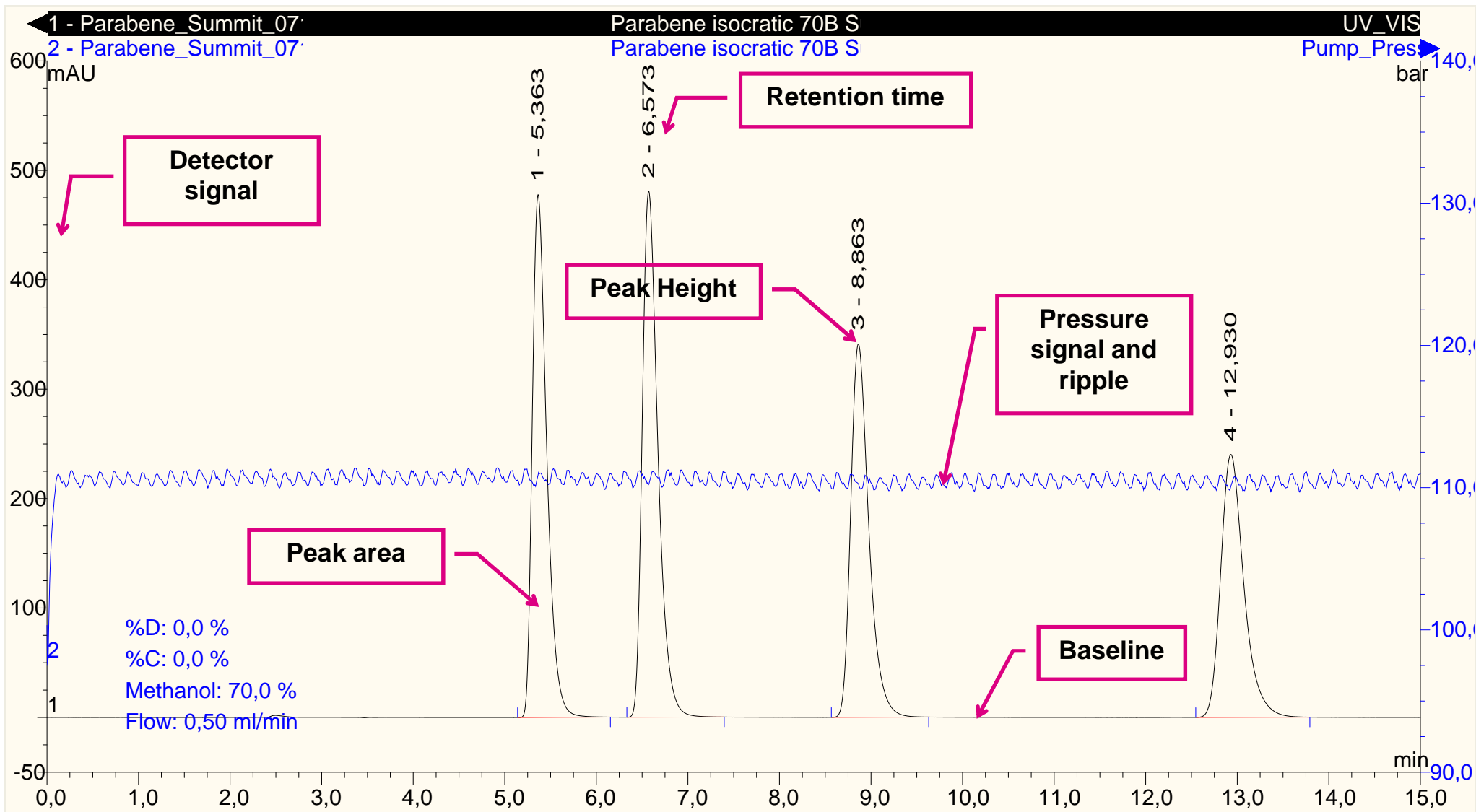
Remember!

The Stationary Phase and The Mobile Phase
will have *OPPOSITE PROPERTIES* to Set-Up Competition
For Sample Matrix and Analytes



- The stationary phase retains analytes due to various interactions.
- When different chemical components pass through the column at different rates they become separated in single zones.

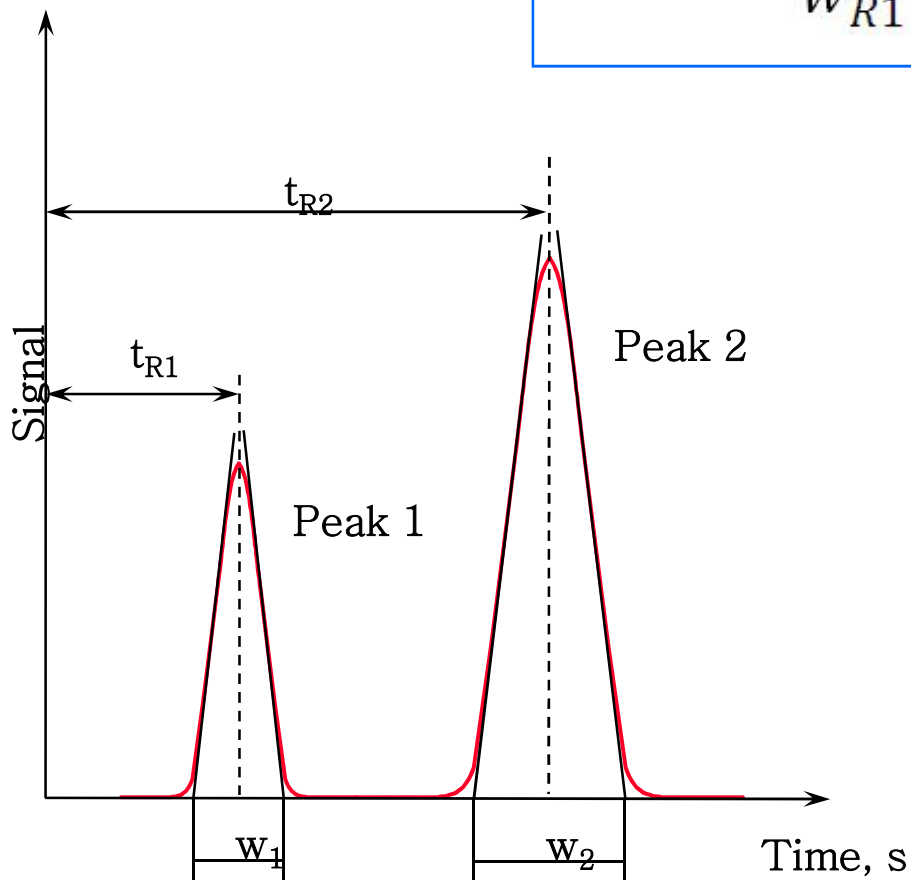
Characteristics of a Chromatogram



Theory of Chromatography

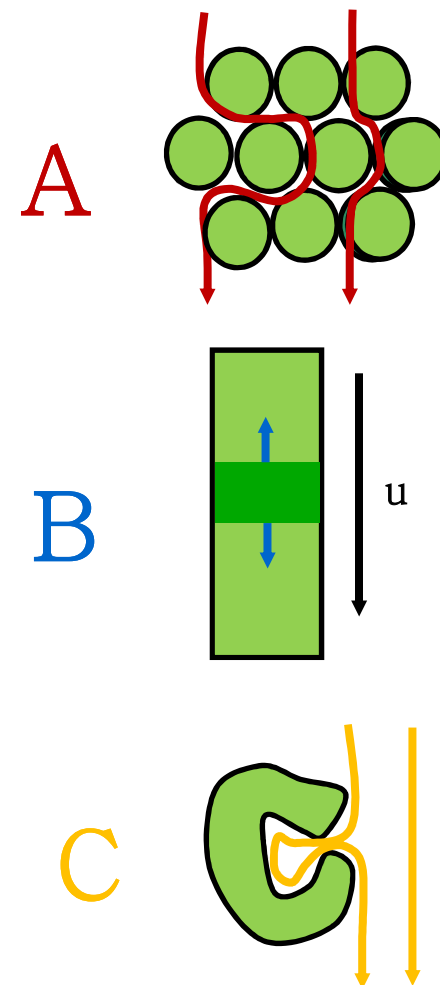
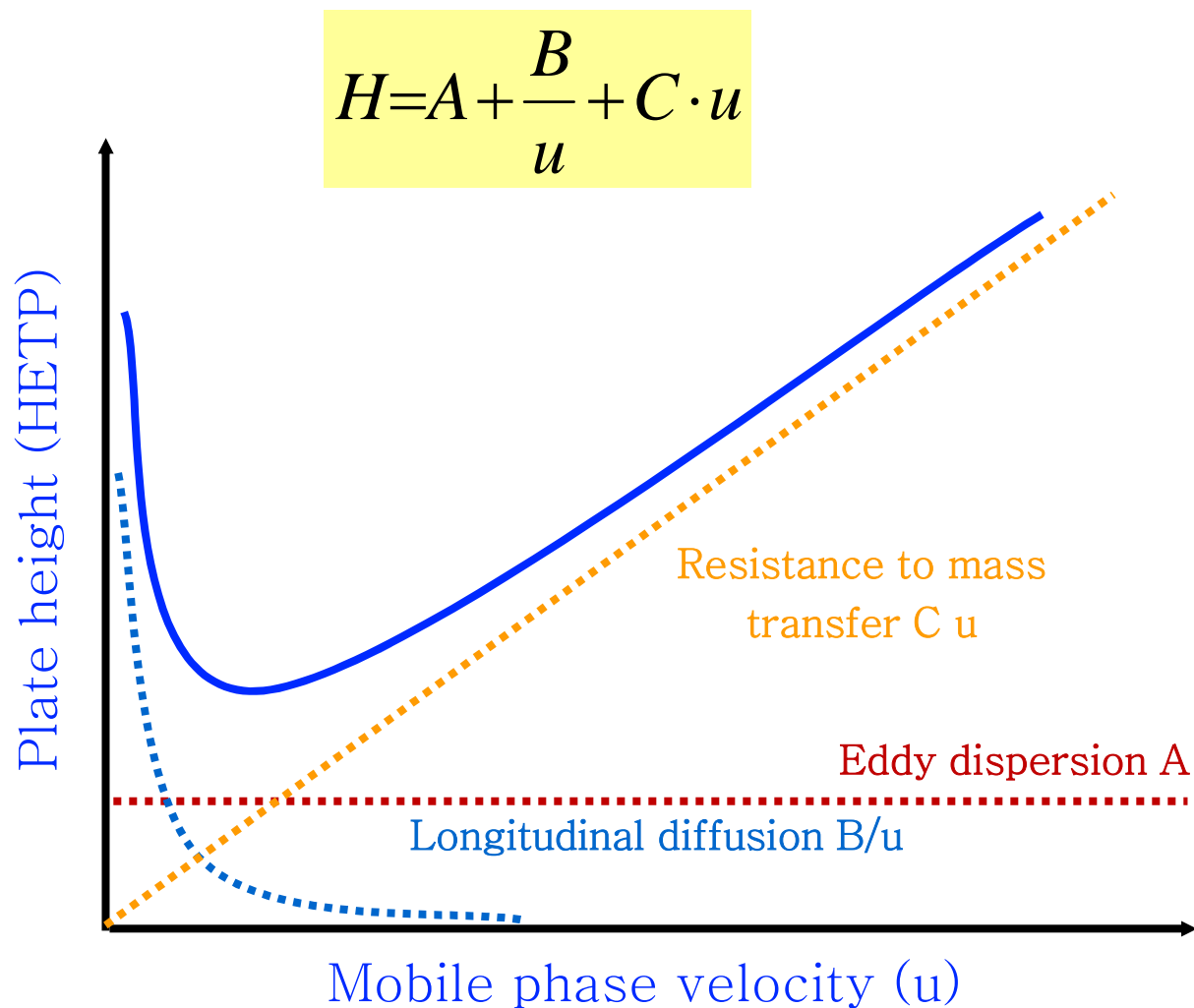
Resolution R of two peaks: Goal of every chromatographic method!

$$R = 2 * \frac{t_{R2} - t_{R1}}{W_{R1} + W_{R2}}$$

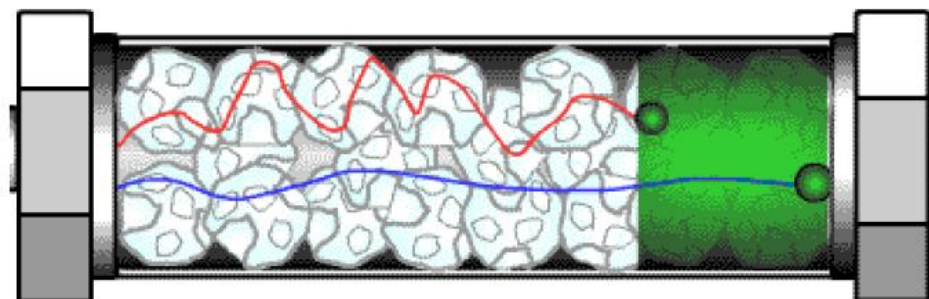


- Distance between the peak centers of two peaks divided by the average base width of the peaks.
- From theory $R > 1.50$ indicates baseline separation.
- In real life $R = 2$ is usually the goal (requested in regulated environment).
- Much more resolution than 2 does not improve separation quality but increases analysis time.

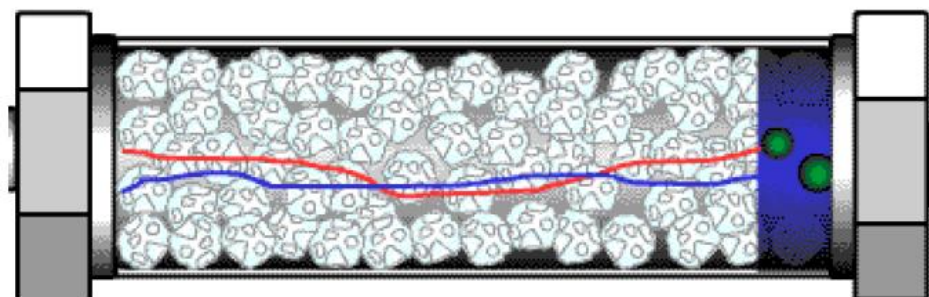
Van Deemter Plot



A Term – Eddy Diffusion



Large Particles



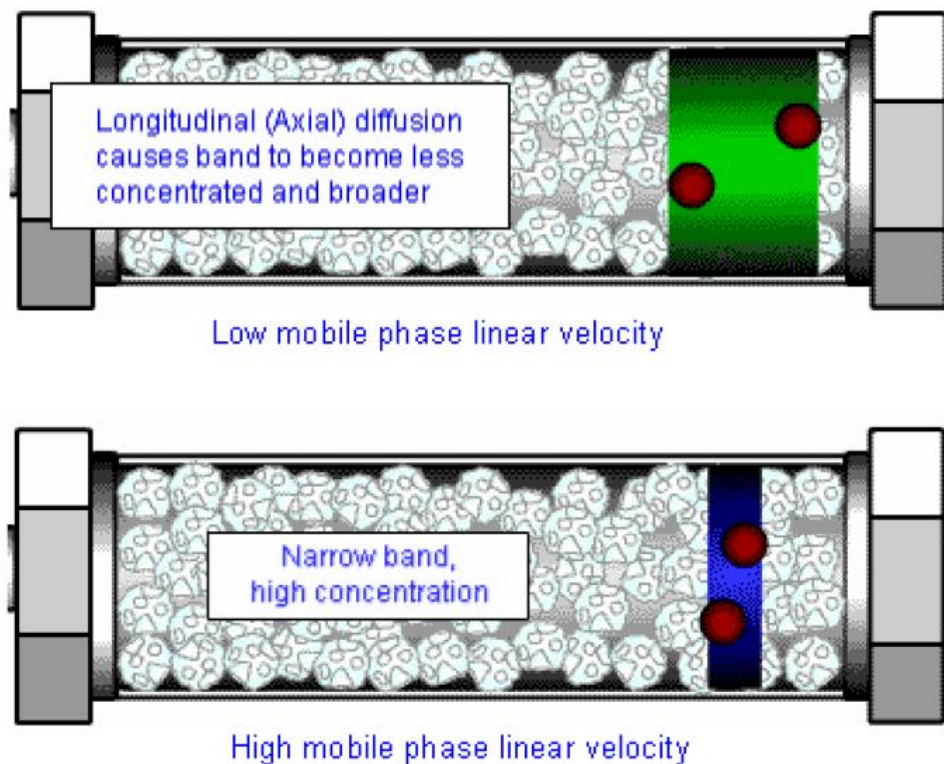
Small Particles

Band broadening due to Eddy Diffusion (A Term) in columns with *large and small particles* – effects on chromatographic peak shape (Efficiency (N))

Minimise Eddy Diffusion by:

- Selecting well packed columns
- Using smaller stationary phase particles
- Using particles with a narrow size distribution

B Term – Longitudinal Diffusion



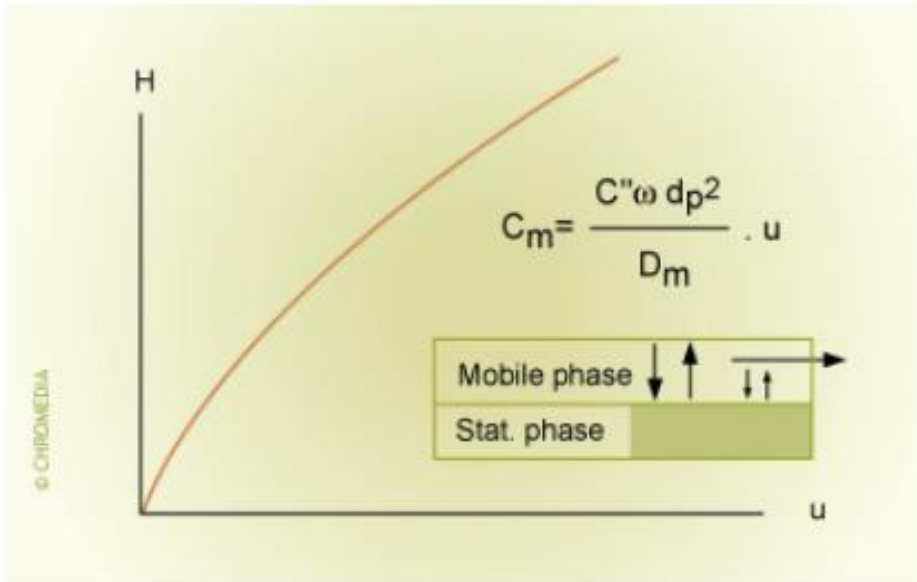
Band broadening due to Longitudinal Diffusion (B Term) in columns with *low and high mobile phase linear velocity* – effects on chromatographic peak shape (Efficiency (N))

Minimise Longitudinal Diffusion by:

- Using higher mobile phase flow rates
- Keep system tubing short and as narrow as possible (careful with back-pressure) (**<0.12mm i.d. is ideal**)
- Use correct nuts, ferrules and fittings wherever possible

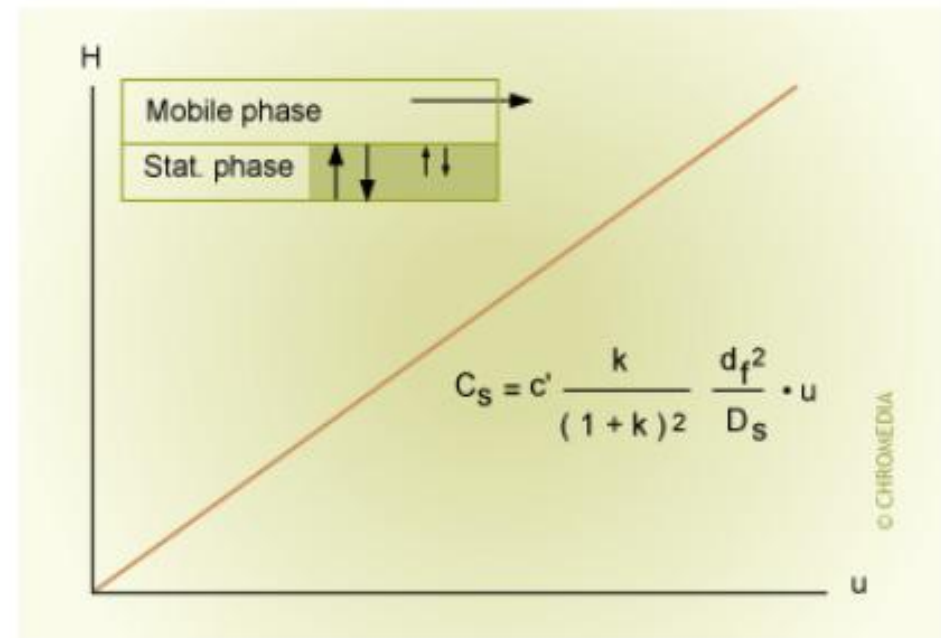
C Term – Mass Transfer

Resistance against mass transfer in mobile phase



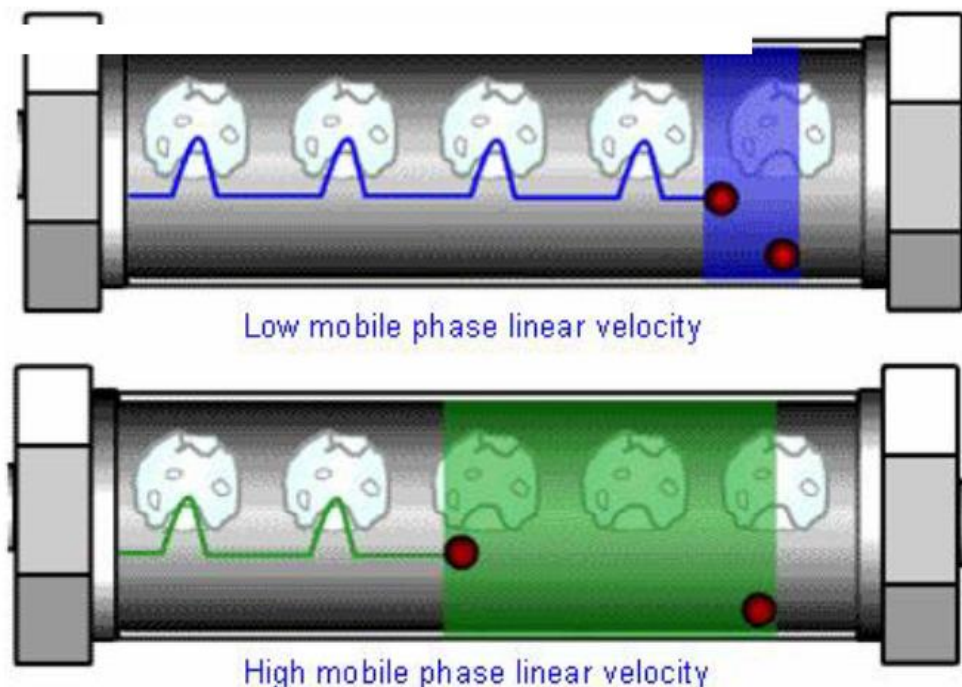
C_m – term, describing the contributions to peak broadening in mobile phase

Resistance Against Mass Transfer in Stationary Phase



C_s – term, describing the contributions to peak broadening in stationary phase

C Term – Mass Transfer



Band broadening due to Mass Transfer (C Term) in columns with *mobile phase linear velocity and stationary phase particle size* – effects on chromatographic peak shape (Efficiency (N))

Minimise Mass Transfer effects by:

- Using smaller (diameter) stationary phase particles
- Using lower mobile phase flow rates
- Heating the column (at higher temperatures the diffusion processes are speeded up and the differences in elution time from the particle pore are reduced)

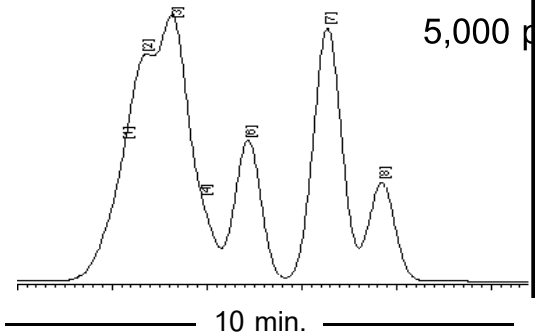
Particle Size Evolution

Late 1960's

40µm pellicular non-porous coated

100-500 psi (7-40 bar)

5,000 plates/meter

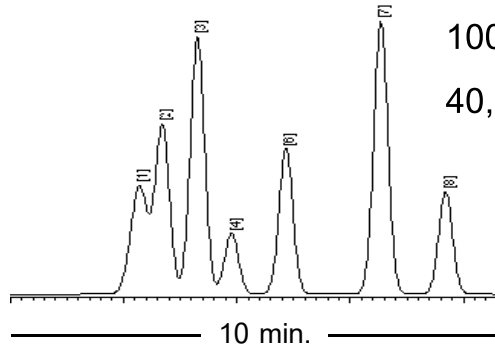


Early 1970's

10µm Irregular micro-porous

1000-2500 psi (70-180 bar)

40,000 plates/meter

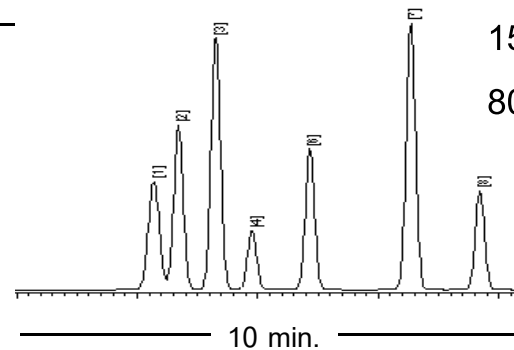


1980's to present day

3.5 - 5µm spherical micro-porous

1500-4000 psi (110-280 bar)

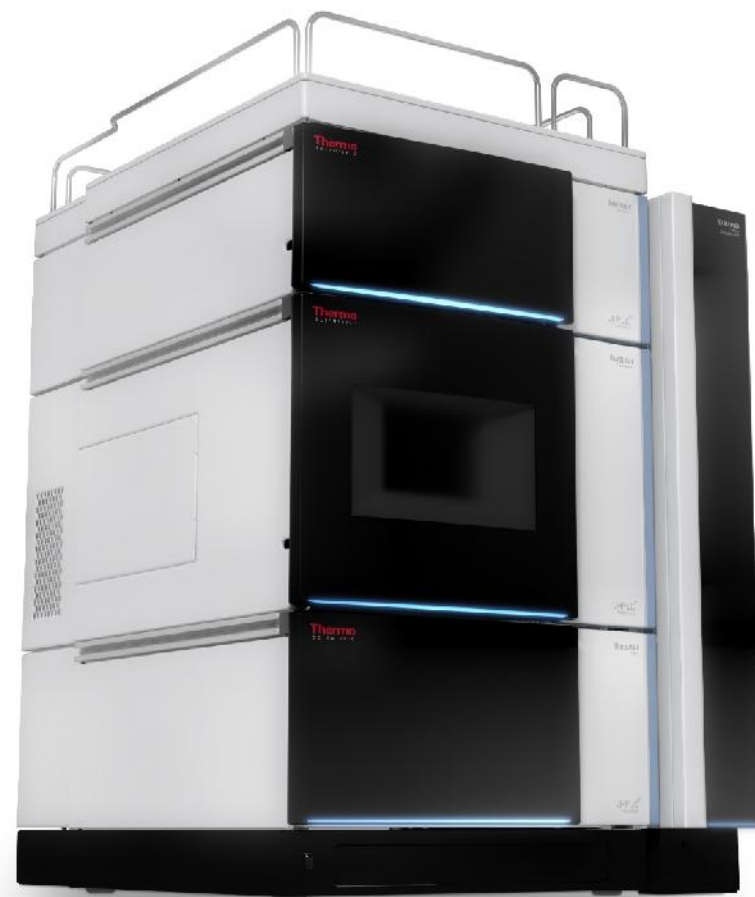
80,000 - 115,000 plates/meter





UltimateTH 3000

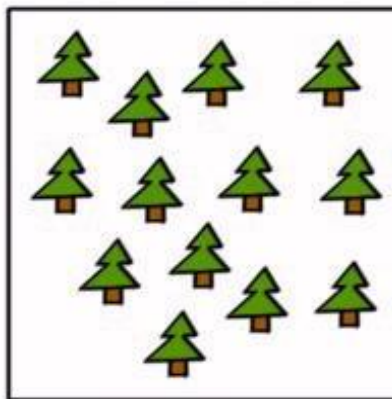
Max Pressure 1000 bar



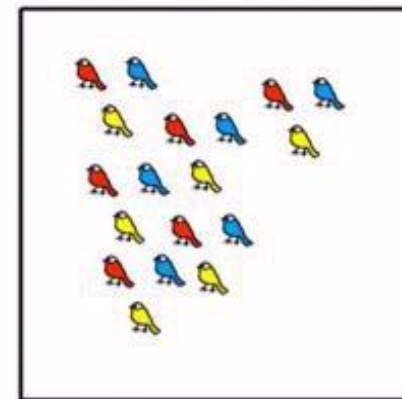
VanquishTH

Max Pressure 1517 bar

Quantitative Qualitative



13 Trees



Blue, Red, and Yellow Birds

- Qualitative analysis
 - Resolved analytes
- Quantitative Analysis
 - Reproducible peak areas

We want a reliable method working on a reliable system!

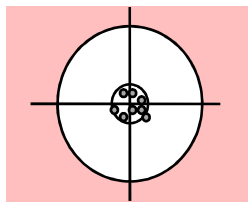
- Accuracy is the degree of closeness of a measured quantity to its true value

⇒ relevance for method transfer

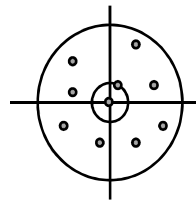
- Precision is the degree of further measurements show the same results

(reproducibility) ⇒ deviation of repeated measurements

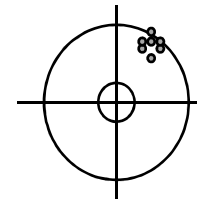
- The target analogy:



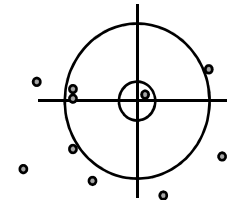
accurate and precise
(ideal result)



accurate, but not precise
(random errors)



precise, but not accurate
(systematic error)



Neither accurate nor precise
(useless)

- A valid method or system is accurate and precise!

The UltiMate™ 3000 LC Systems

Pumps



Autosampler



Column Compartments



Detectors





Fundamental of Mass Spectrometry

What is Mass Spectrometry?

“The basis in mass spectrometry (MS) is the production of ions, that are subsequently separated or filtered according to their **mass-to-charge (m/z) ratio**, and detected. The resulting mass spectrum is a plot of the (relative) abundance of the produced ions as a function of the m/z ratio.”

Niessen, W. M. A.; Van der Greef, J., *Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry: Principles and Applications*, 1992, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, p. 29.

- Operate at very low pressure (10^{-5} to 10^{-7} torr)

(Atmosphere = 760 torr)

- Mass spectrometer work with **IONS**
- Measure gas-phase ions
- Determine the mass are separated according to their mass-to-charge
(m/z) ratio

Generate



Ion Production

Move



Ion Optics

Select



Analyser (Quadrupole, Orbitrap)

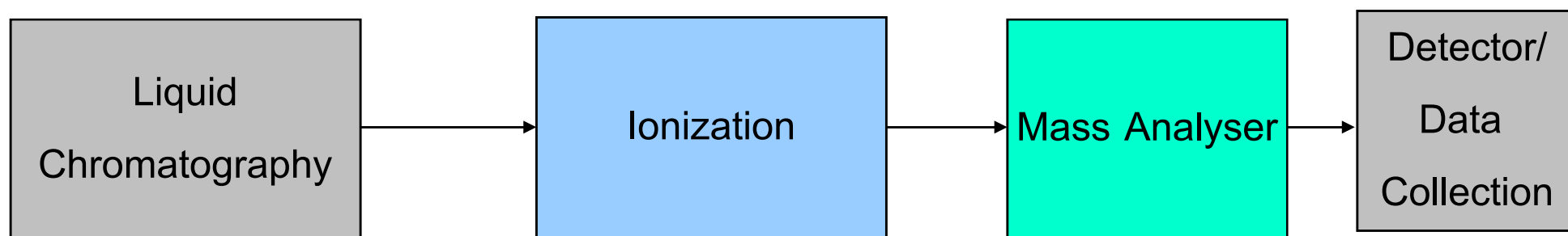
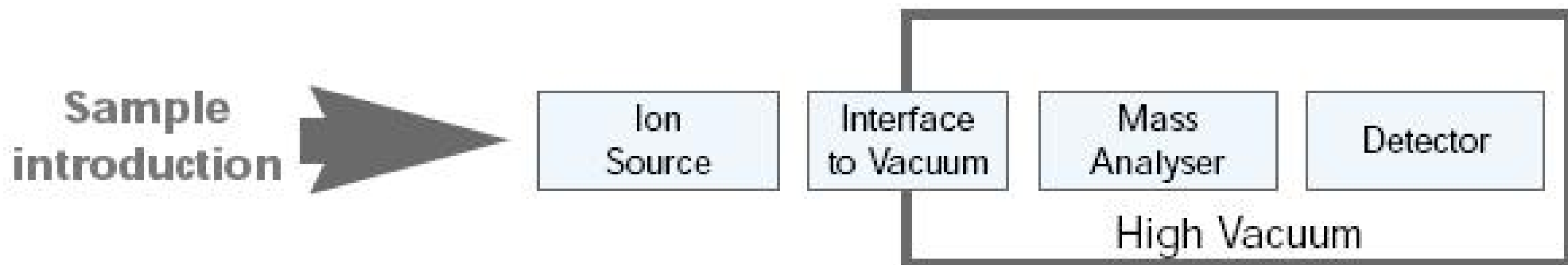
Detect



Electron Multiplier

The lifetime of an ion from the point of formation to detection is approximately 50 to 100 microseconds

Mass Spectrometry – Block Diagram



Very important!

- Many columns

- Many solvent systems

- ESI

- APCI

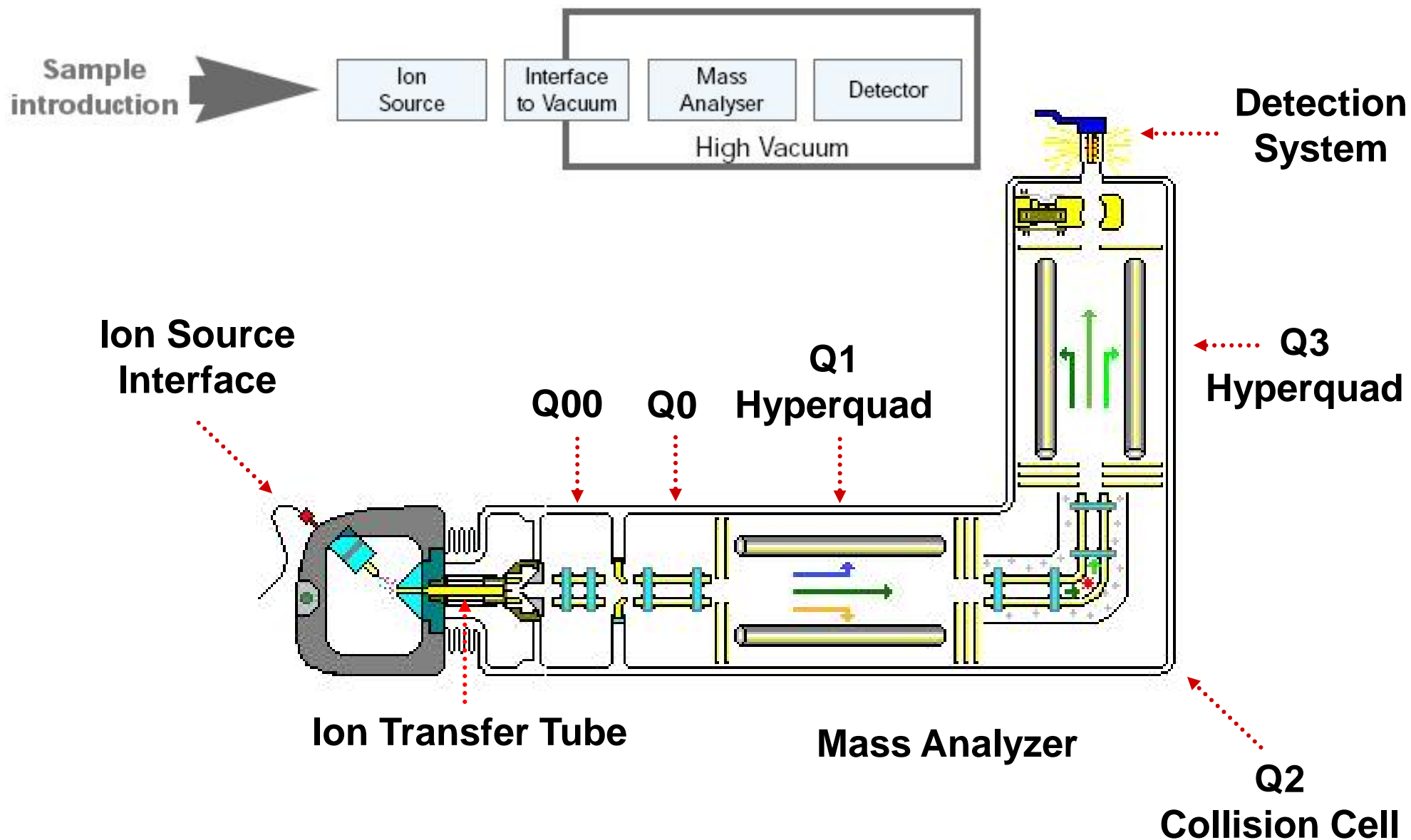
- APPI

- Triple Quadrupoles

- Ion-Traps

- Orbitrap

TSQ Quantum Components



- ION SOURCE

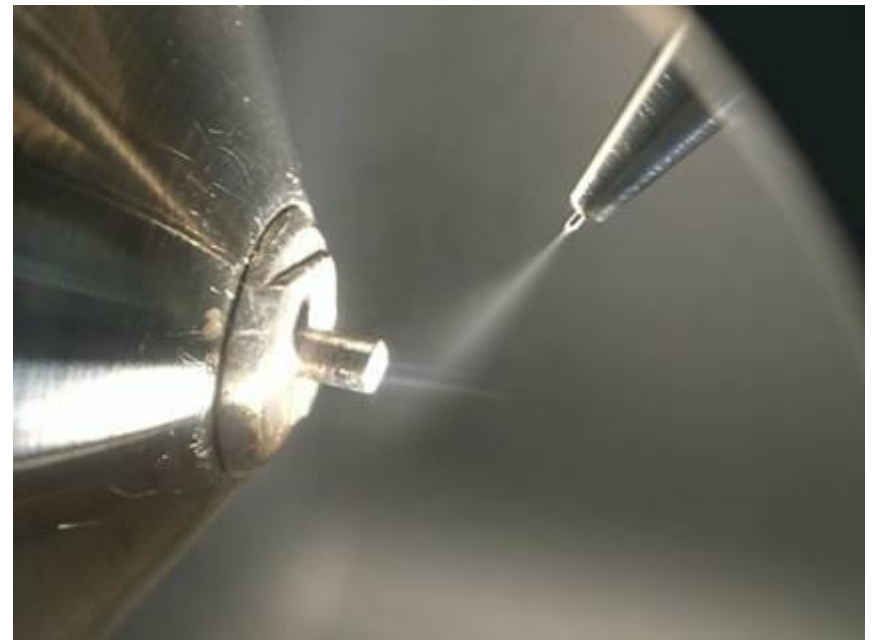
IONIZATION TECHNIQUES



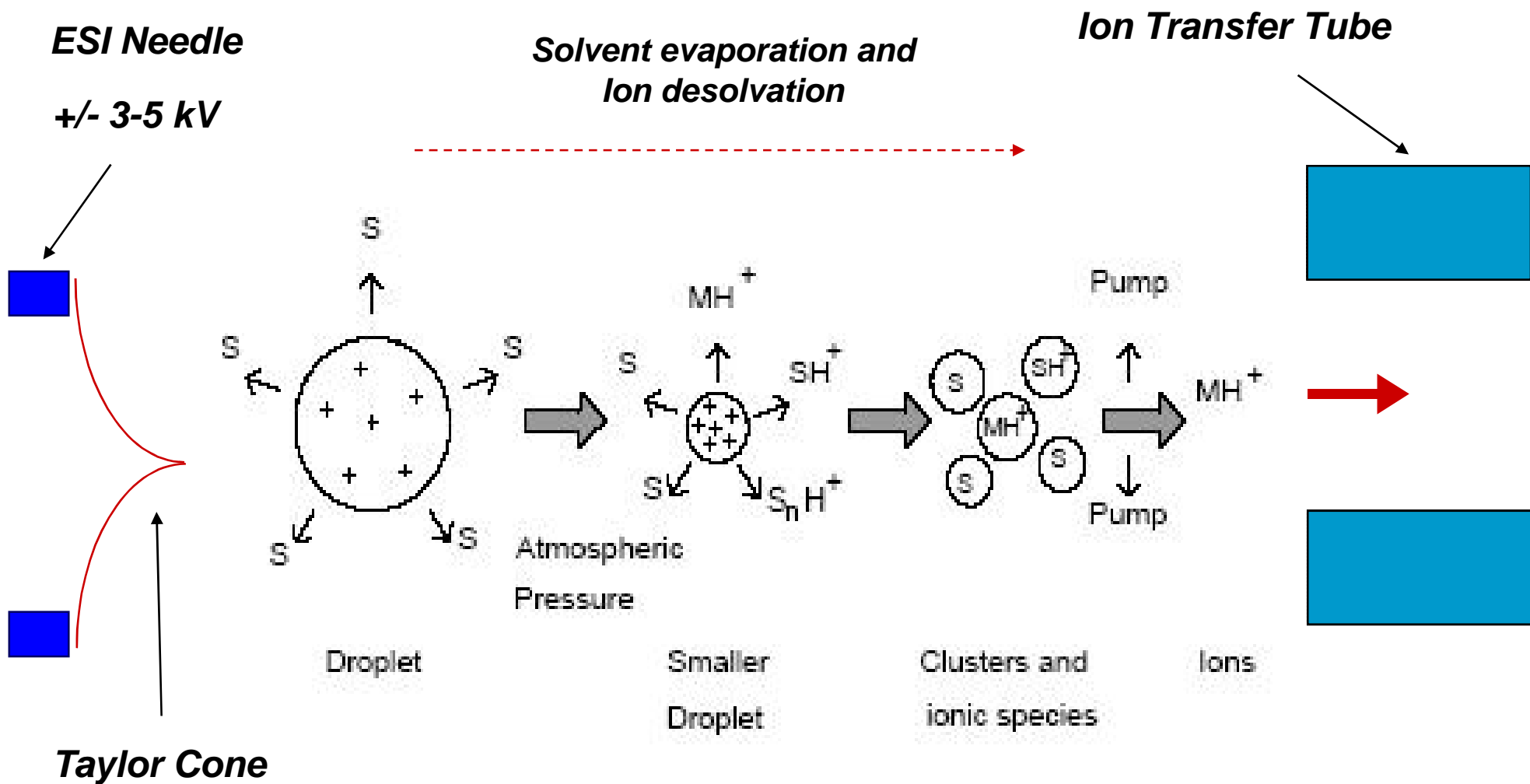
- Electron impact (EI)
- Chemical Ionization (CI)
- Atmospheric Pressure Ionization (API)
 - Electrospray Ionization (ESI)
 - Atmospheric Pressure Chemical Ionization (APCI)
 - Atmospheric Pressure Photo-Ionization (APPI)
- Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization (MALDI)

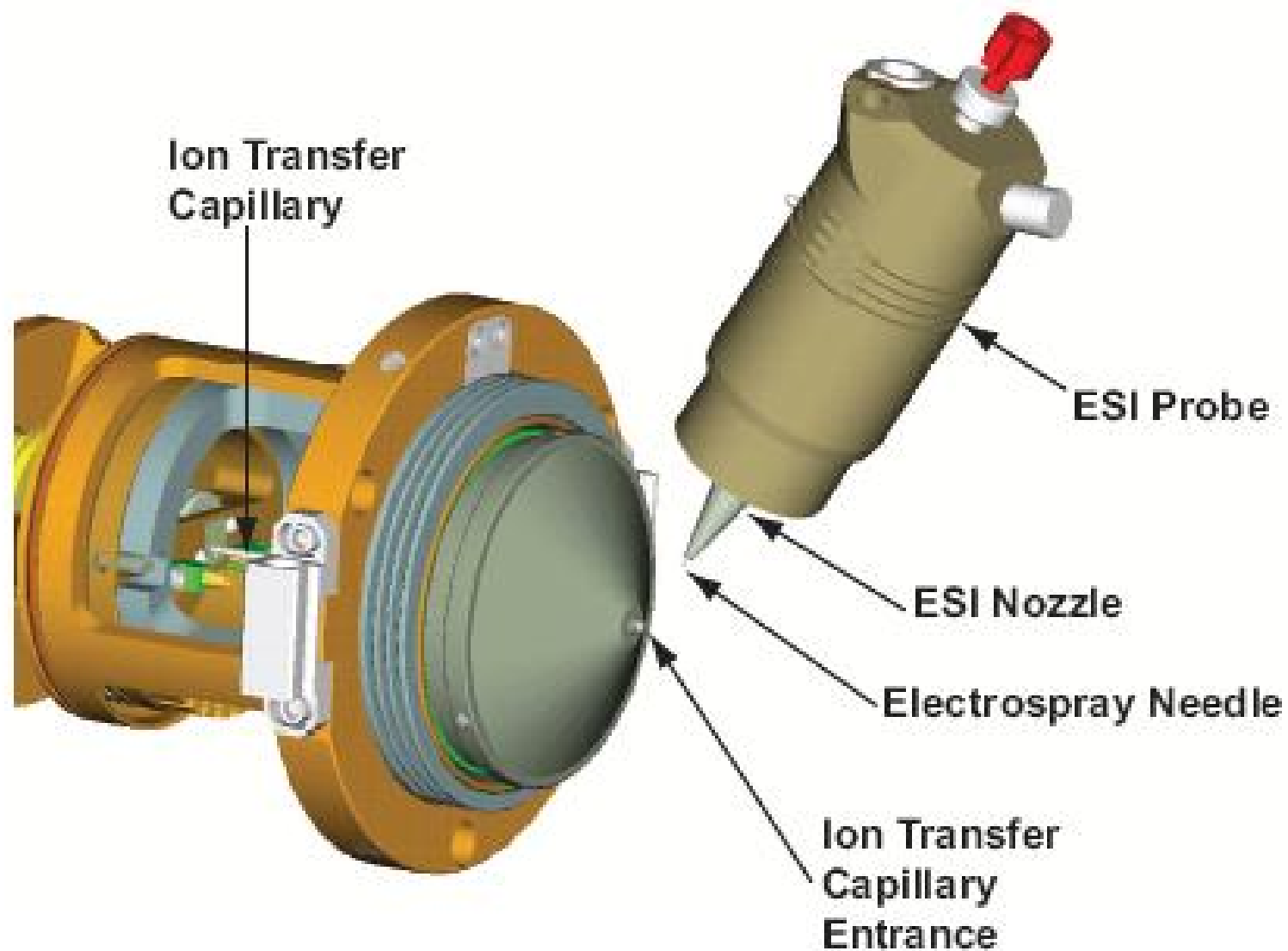
Three Fundamental Processes:

1. Production of **charged** droplets.
2. Droplet **size reduction**, and fission.
3. Gas phase ion formation.



Electrospray Ionization (ESI)





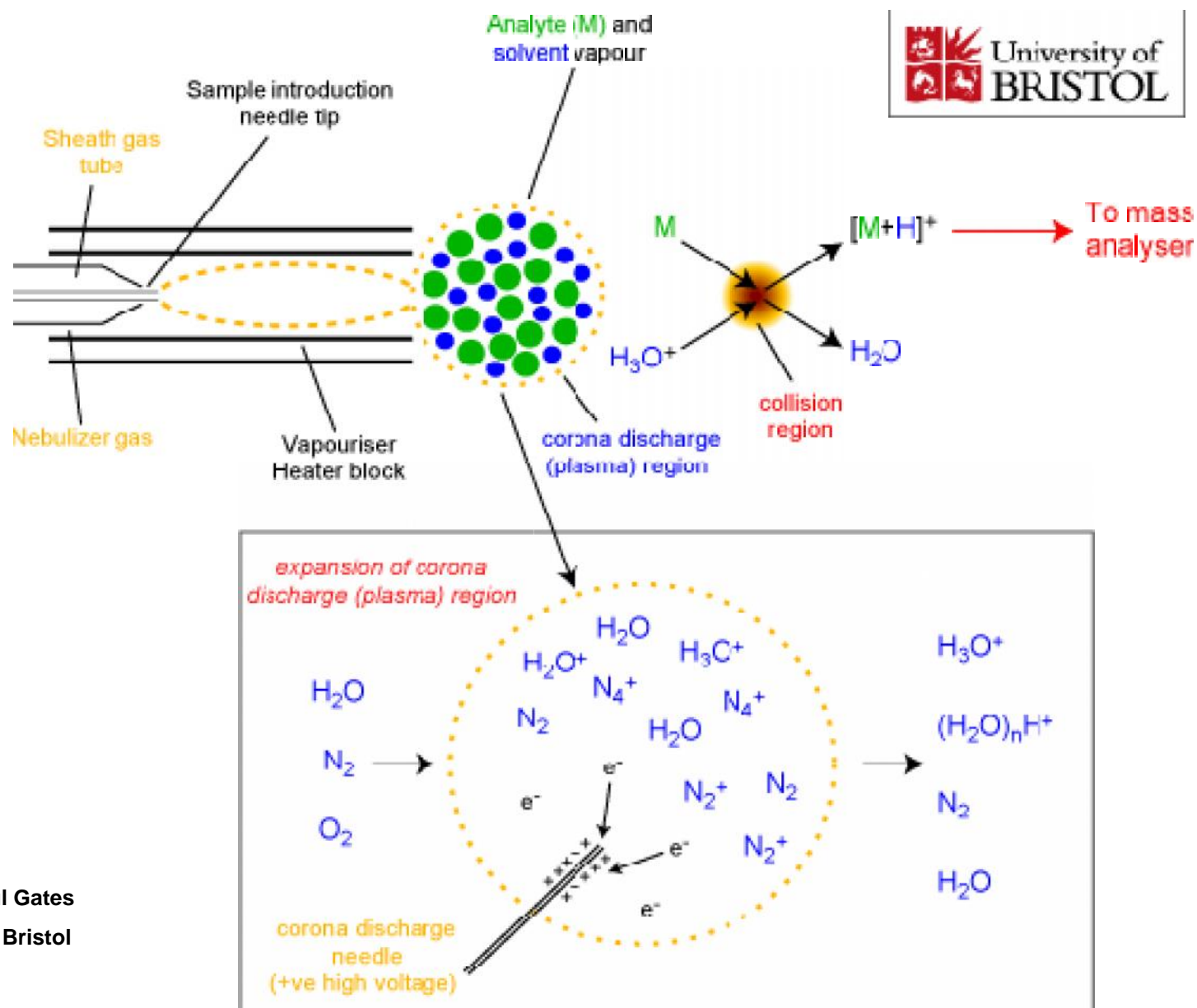
- Gas phase ionization via corona discharge
- APCI is a three-step process:
 1. High voltage (via corona needle) interacts with both the nitrogen carrier gas and the vaporized HPLC solvent to produce primary ions:



2. Through a complex series of reactions primary ions react with solvent molecules forming reagent ions, H_3O^+ and CH_3OH_2^+

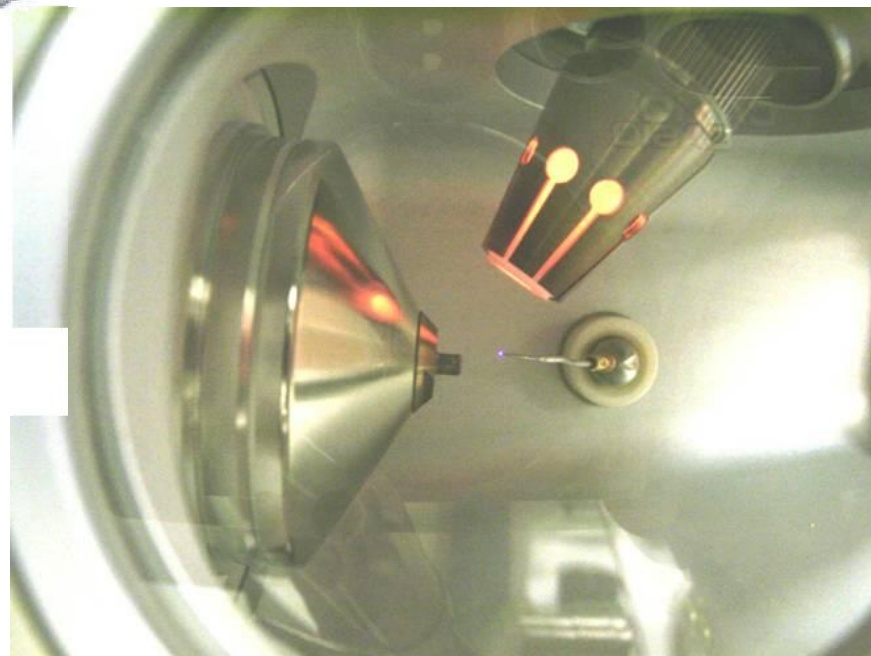
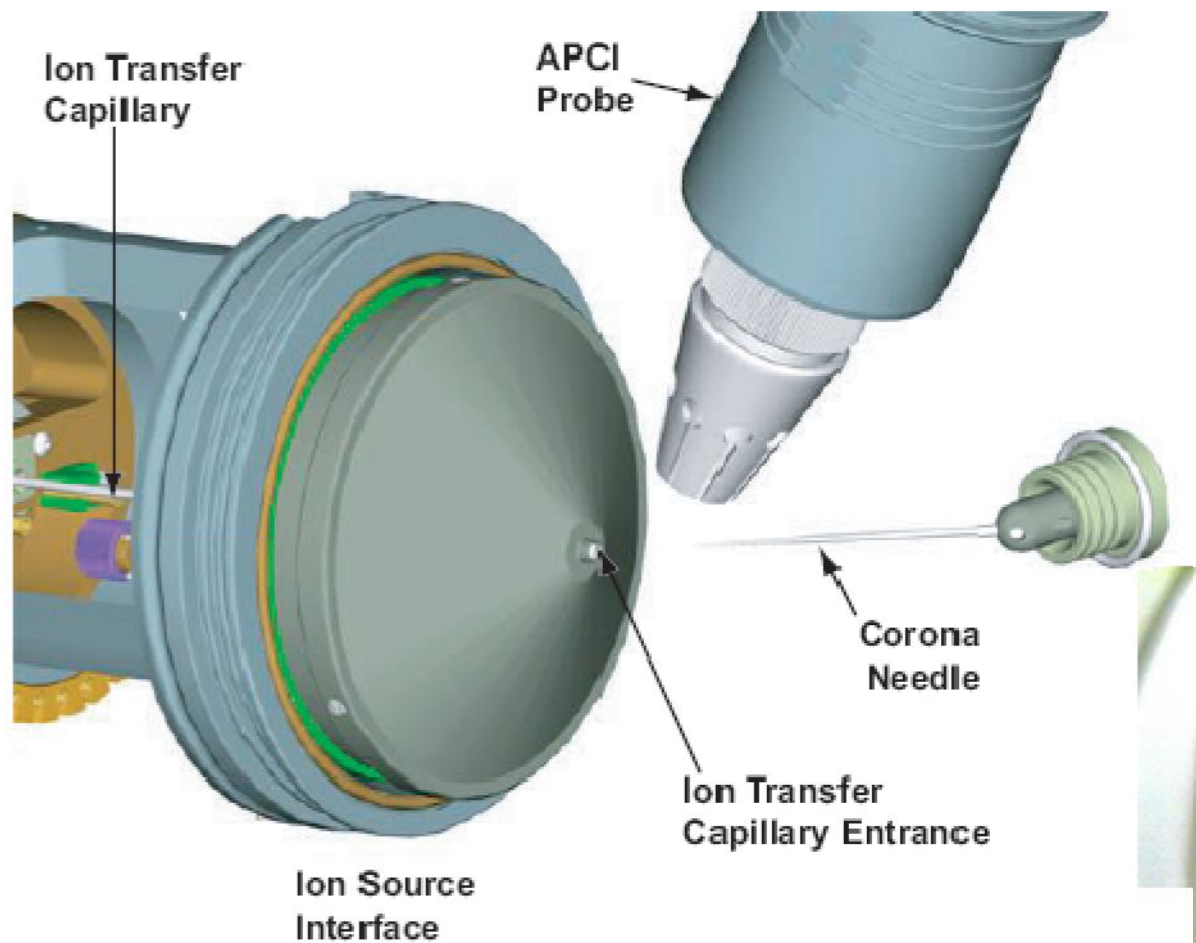
3. Reagent ions react with analyte molecules forming $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ in positive ion mode or $(\text{M}-\text{H})^-$ in negative ion mode:





© 2004 Dr. Paul Gates
University of Bristol

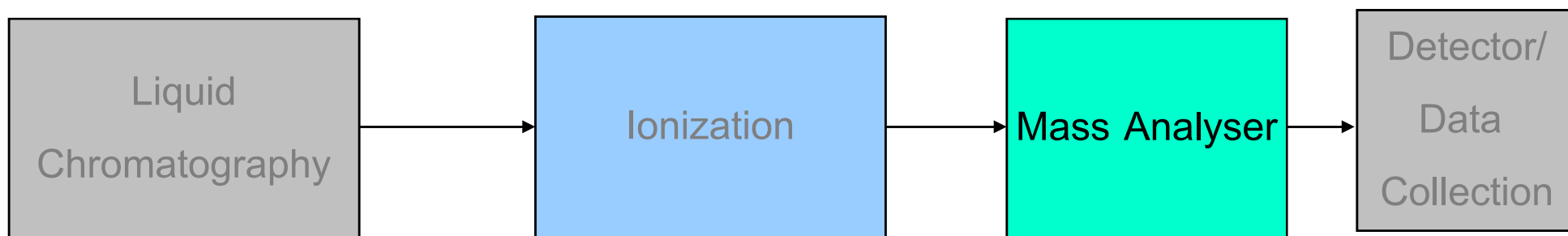
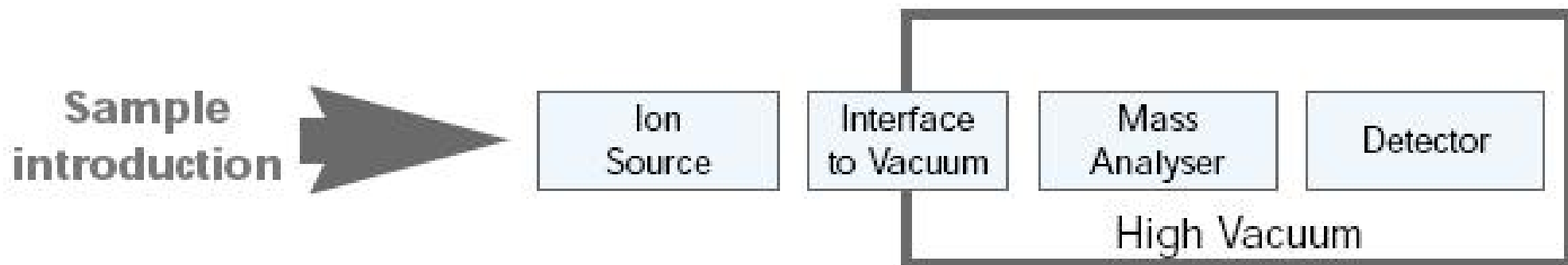
Ion Max Source Design - APCI Probe



Which is Best?

- It depends on the exact application.
- Increasing polarity and molecular weight and thermal instability favors electrospray.
 - Most drugs of abuse are highly polar and are easily analyzed using electrospray.
 - High molecular weight proteins also require electrospray
- Lower polarity and molecular weight favors APCI or APPI.
 - Lower background, but compounds must be more thermally stable.

Mass Spectrometry – Block Diagram



- Triple Quadrupoles
- Ion-Traps
- Orbitrap

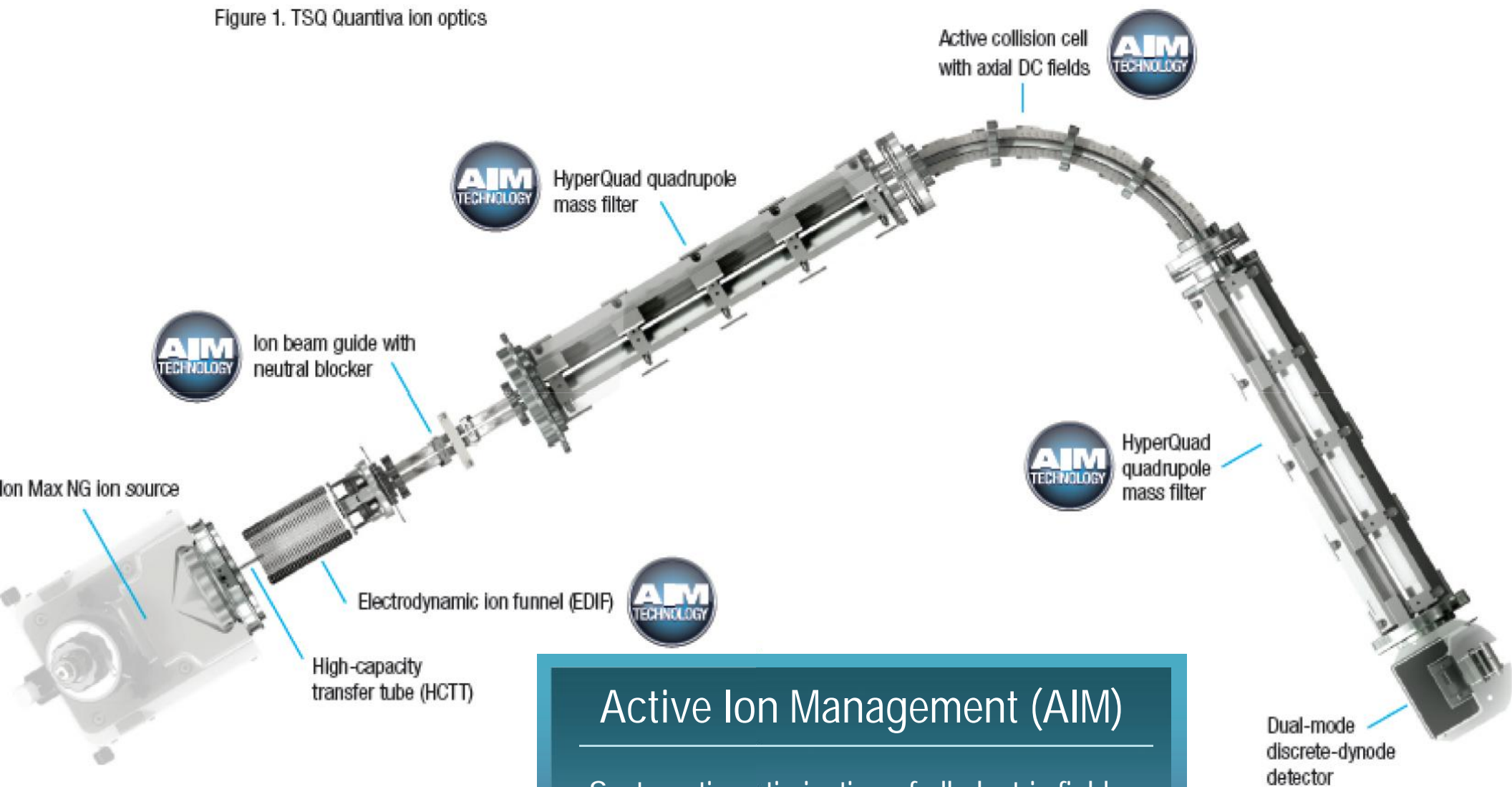


- MASS ANALYSER

QUADRUPL

- Operate under high vacuum (keeps ions from bumping into gas molecules)
- Actually measure mass-to-charge ratio of ions (m/z)
- Key specifications are [resolution](#), [mass measurement accuracy](#), and [sensitivity](#).
- Several kinds exist: for [ion traps](#), [quadrupole](#), [time-of-flight](#) and [orbitrap](#) are most used.

Figure 1. TSQ Quantiva ion optics



Active Ion Management (AIM)

Systematic optimization of all electric fields, in concert, to produce breakthrough performance.

Thermo
S C I E N T I F I C

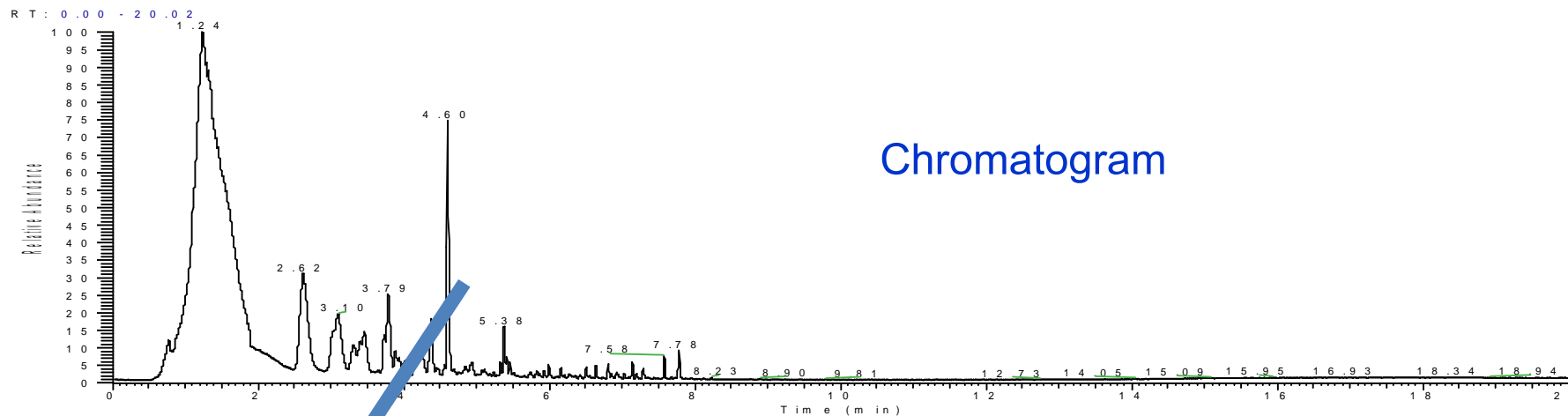
TSQ Quantiva Triple-Stage Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFB14D8pkoc>

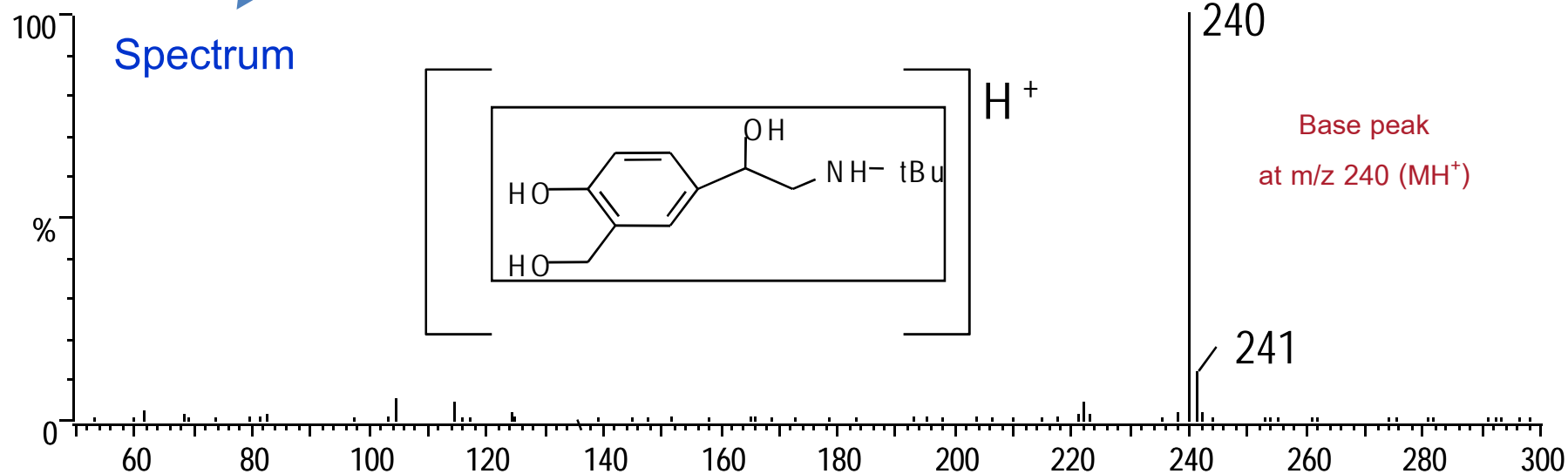
Scan Modes

Scan Mode	Q1	Q2	Q3	Purpose
Full Scan	Scanning	Pass All	Pass All	MW Info.
SIM	Fixed m/z	Pass All	Pass All	Quantitation
Product	Fixed m/z	Pass All (+ CE)	Scanning	Structural Info.
SRM	Fixed m/z	Pass All (+ CE)	Fixed m/z	Targeted Quantitation
Neutral Loss	Scanning	Pass All (+ CE)	Scanning	Analyte Screening
Precursor	Scanning	Pass All (+ CE)	Fixed m/z	Analyte Screening



N L :
7 . 3 5 E 7
T I C : M S
H S - h e l i n -
1 0 2 4 - 1

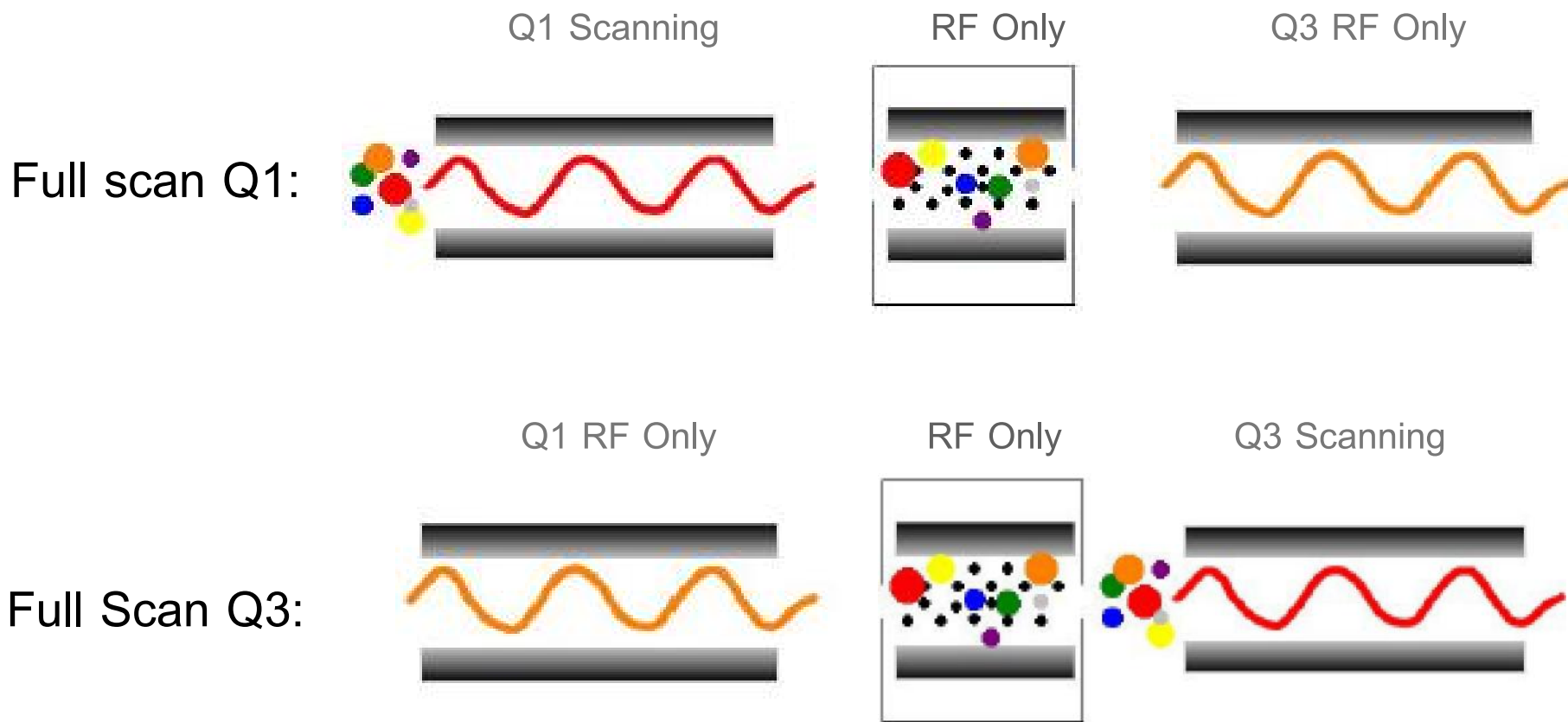
One Click



Full Scan (Q1 or Q3)

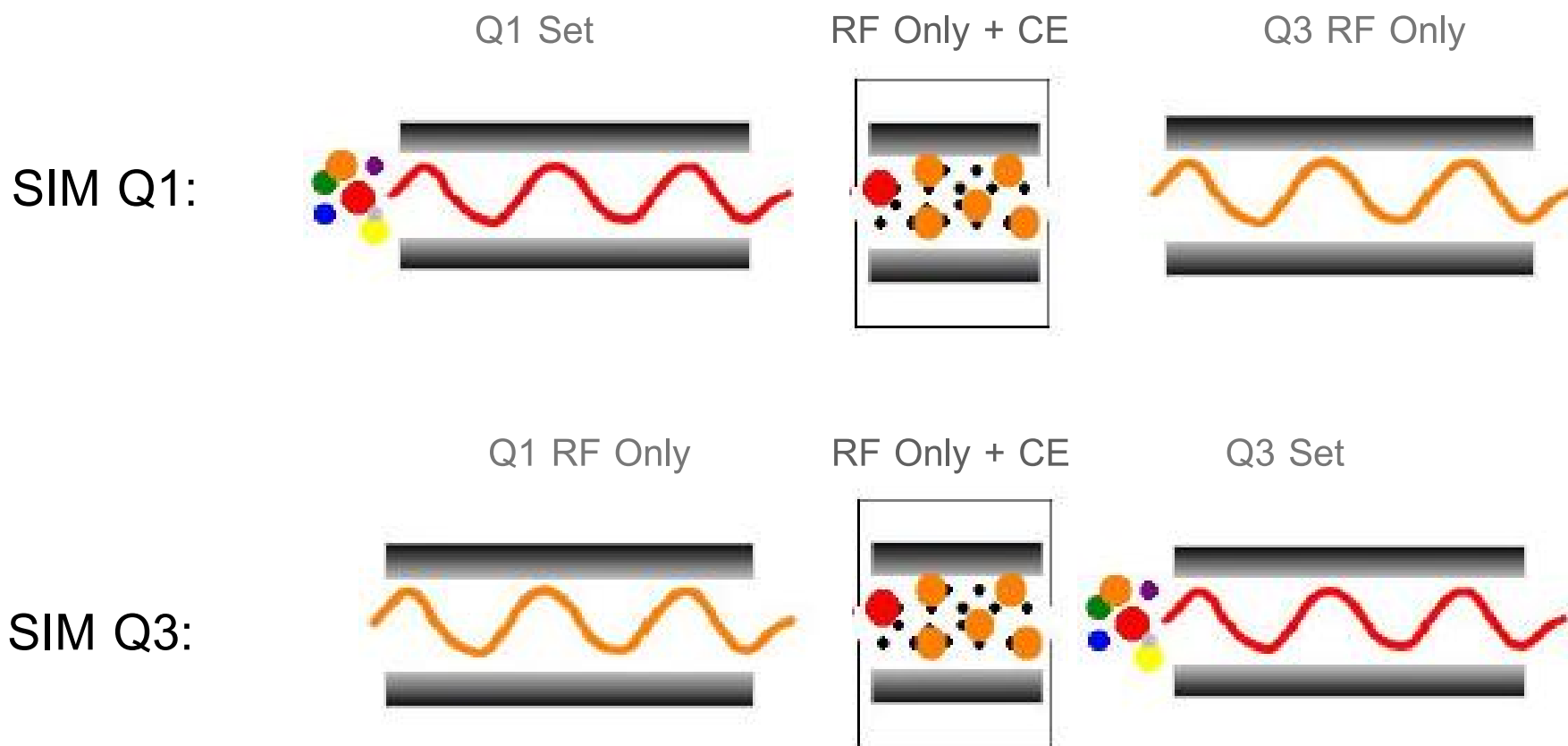
Full Scan Mode

Purpose: Survey scan of a chromatographic peak



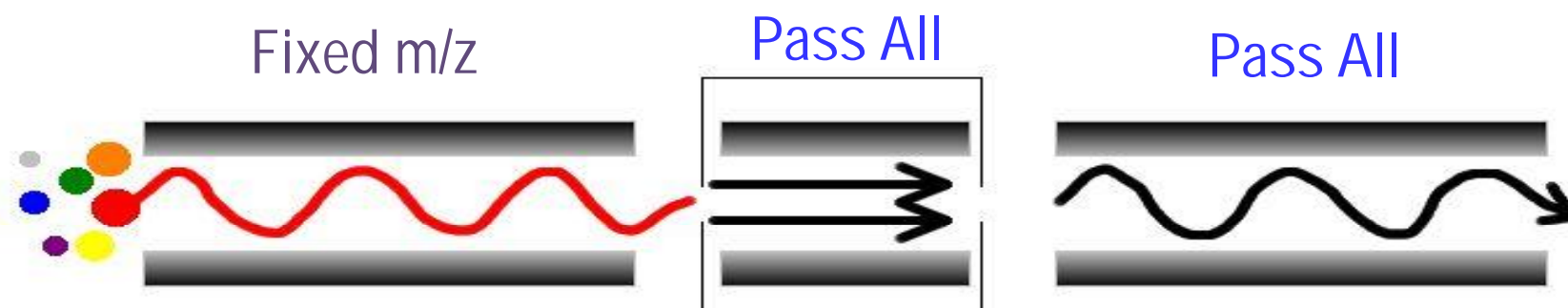
SIM Mode

Purpose: Quantitation on a specific m/z range of ions



Selected Ion Monitoring – SIM

SIM is in essence a full scan acquisition on a relatively narrow mass window (defined as center mass / scan width)



□ Advantages

- ▣ Targeted analyte monitoring
- ▣ High duty cycle

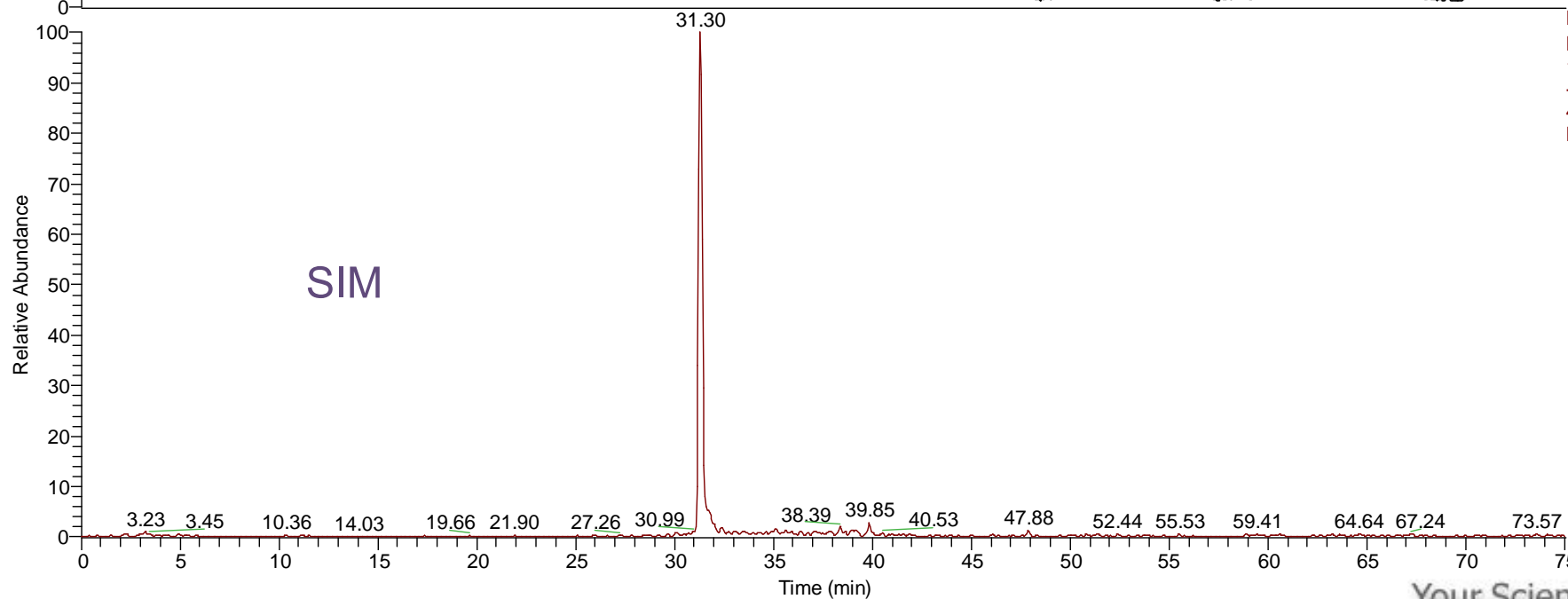
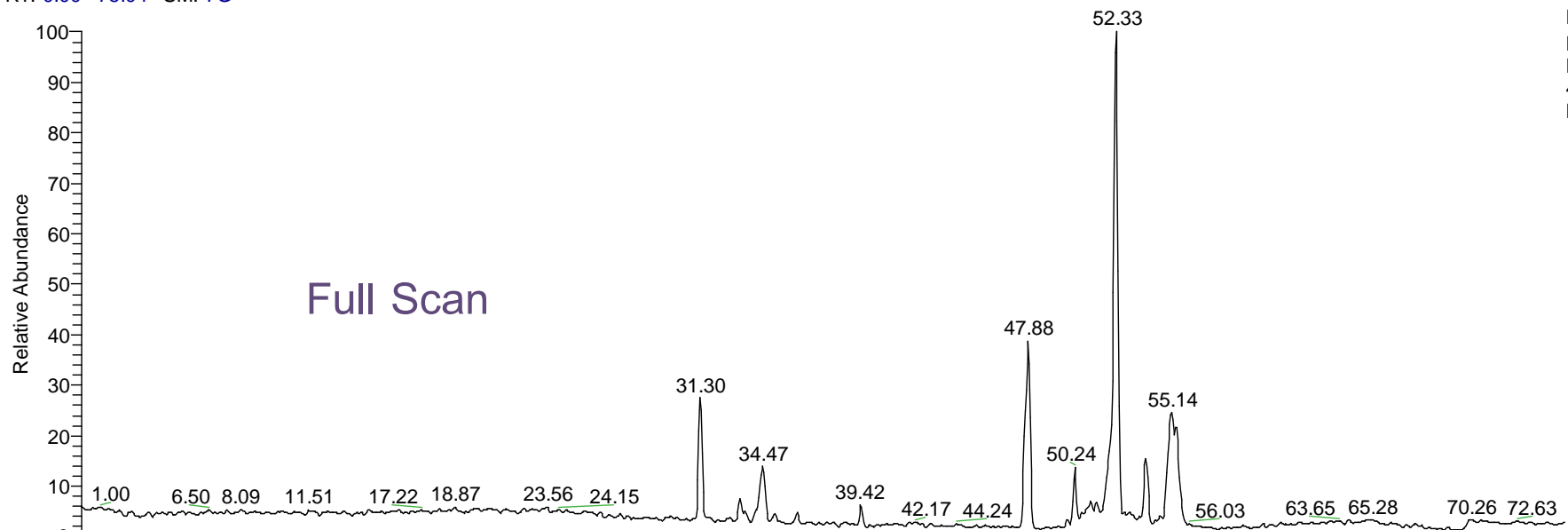
□ Disadvantages

- ▣ Can suffer from interferences
- ▣ Not as sensitive or selective as SRM

Full Scan versus SIM

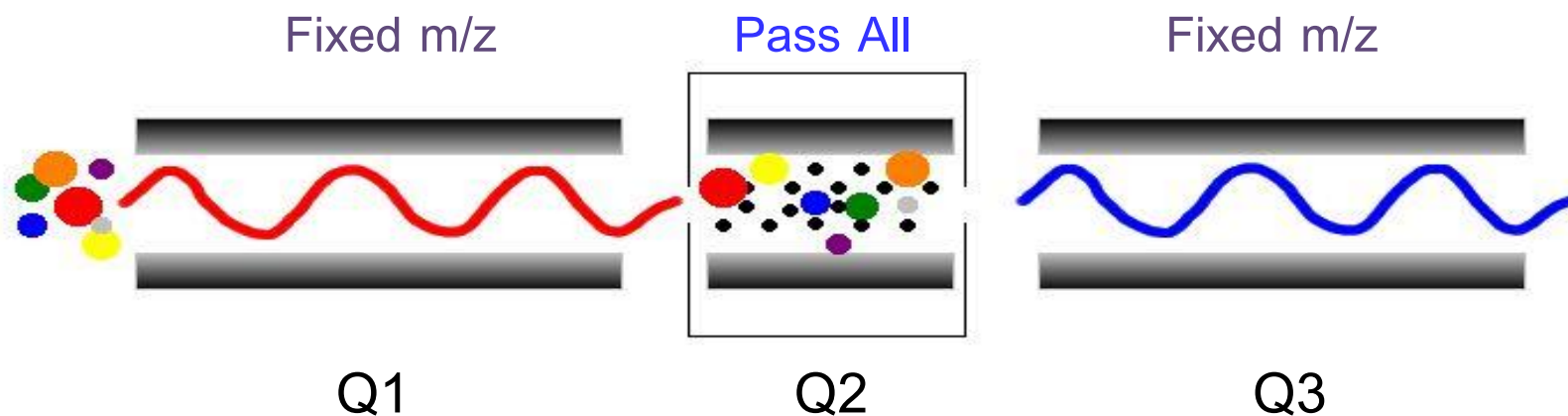
RT: 0.00 - 75.04 SM: 7G

NL: 2.91E8
Base Peak F: + c
NSI Full ms [
400.00-1800.00]
MS data14



NL: 7.97E7
Base Peak m/z=
1030.90-1031.90 F:
+ c NSI Full ms [
400.00-1800.00]
MS data14

Selected Reaction Monitoring (SRM)



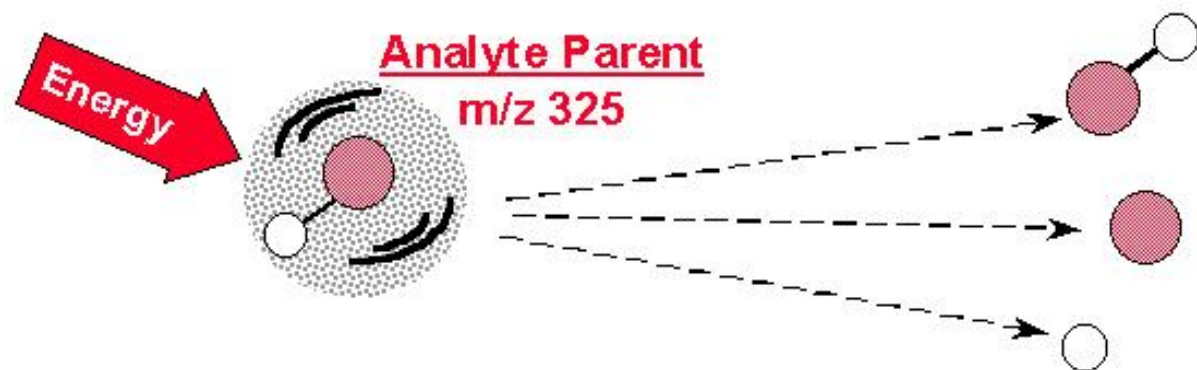
□ Advantages

- ▣ Targeted analyte monitoring
- ▣ High duty cycle
- ▣ “Simultaneous” monitoring of multiple transitions

□ Disadvantages

- ▣ No structural information

The Need for True MS/MS



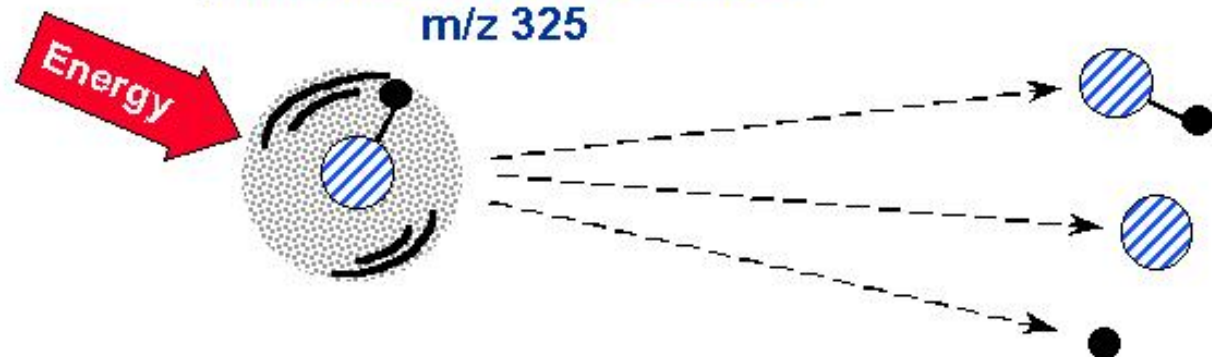
m/z 325 Intact Analyte Parent

m/z 175 Analyte CID Product A

m/z 150 Analyte CID Product B

Different compounds having the same parent m/z have different structures. True MS/MS facilitates Monitoring of a Single Reaction (SRM) for interference free quantitation of analytes in matrix.

Matrix (interference) Parent
m/z 325



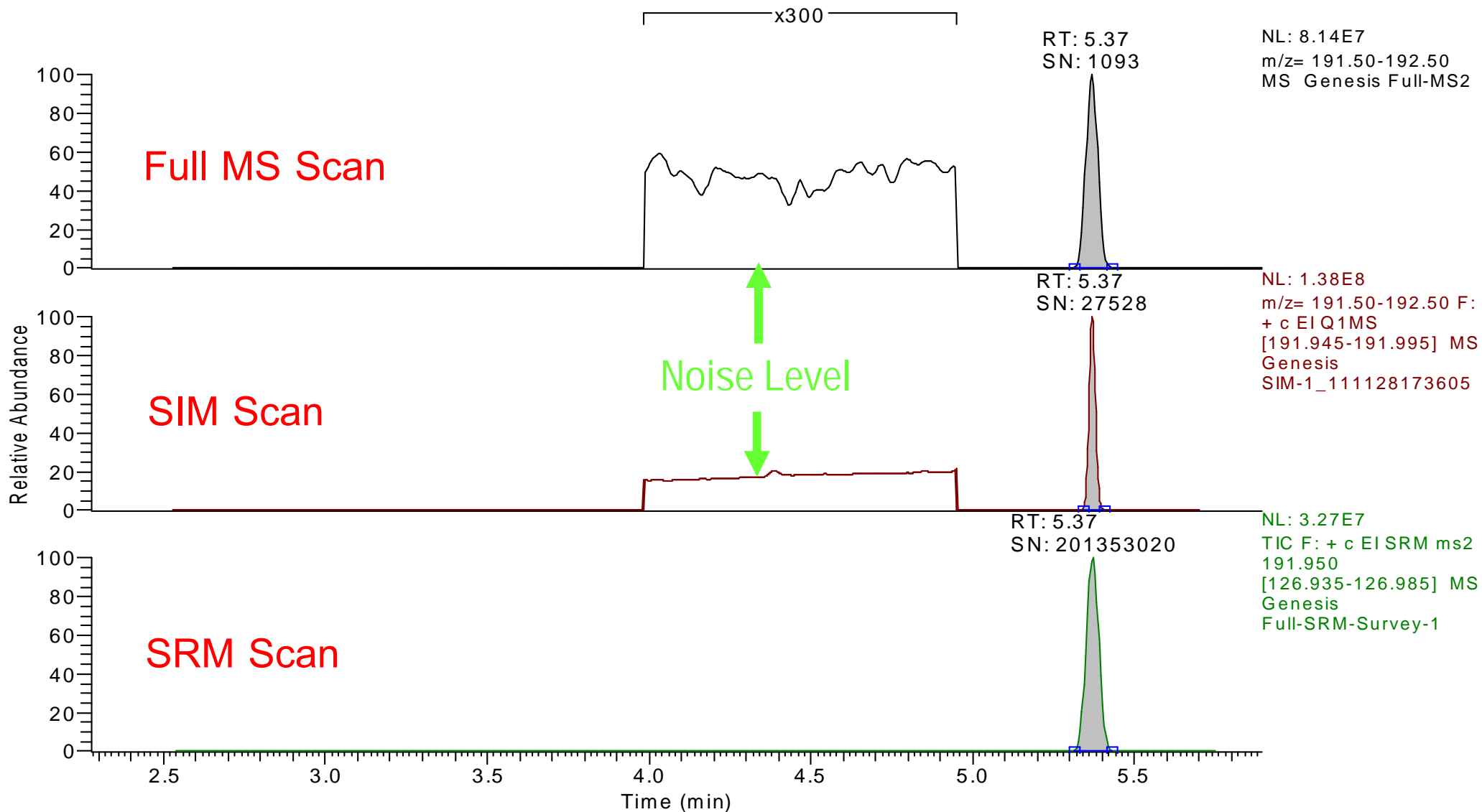
m/z 325 Intact Matrix Parent

m/z 185 Matrix CID Product A

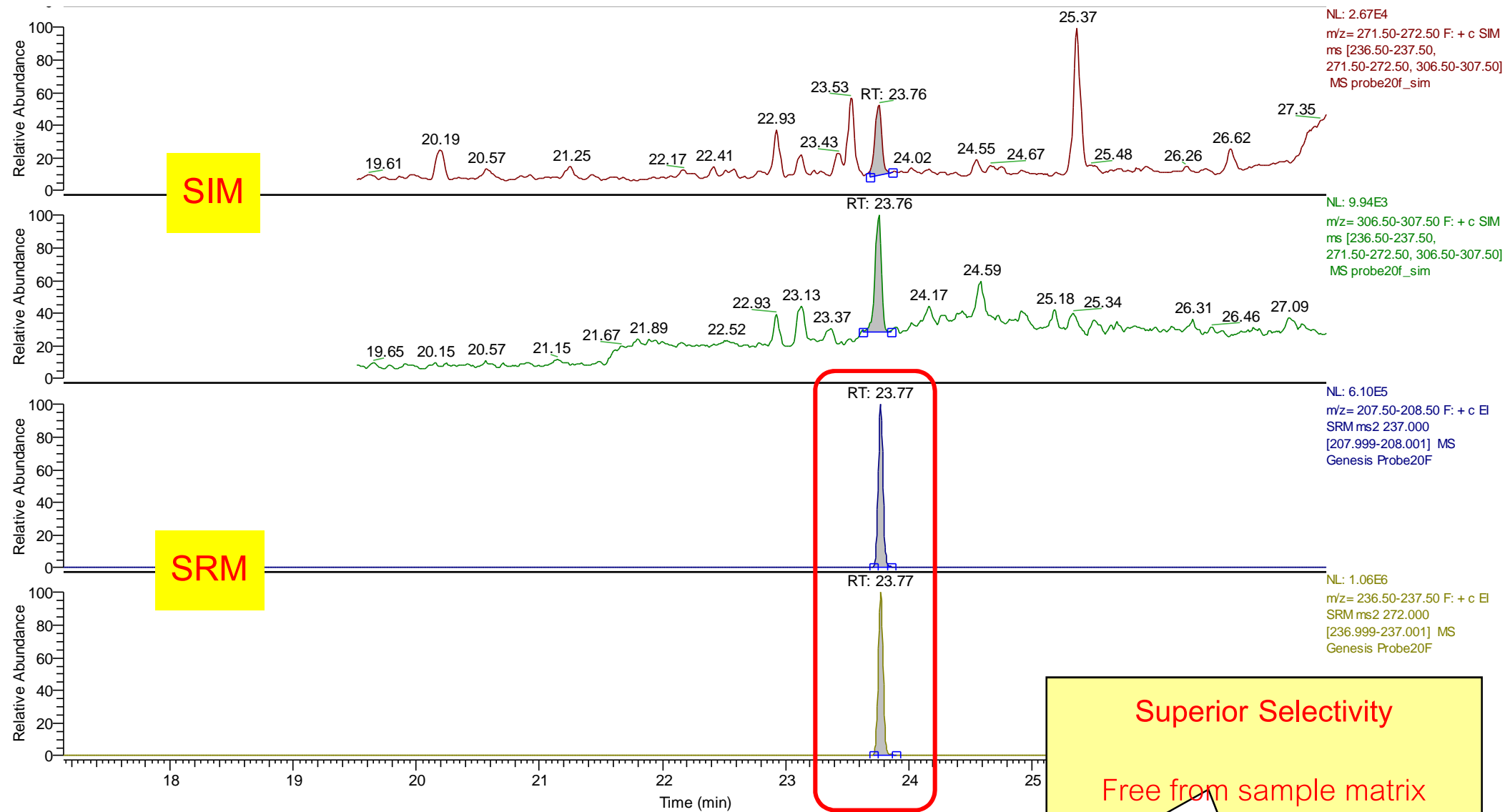
m/z 140 Matrix CID Product B

SRM Selectivity in Complex Matrices

RT: 2.28 - 5.89 SM: 15G



Comparison of SIM and SRM





Applications of Triple Quadrupole LC-MS/MS

Confident Quantitation

Any compound, any matrix, any user.



ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

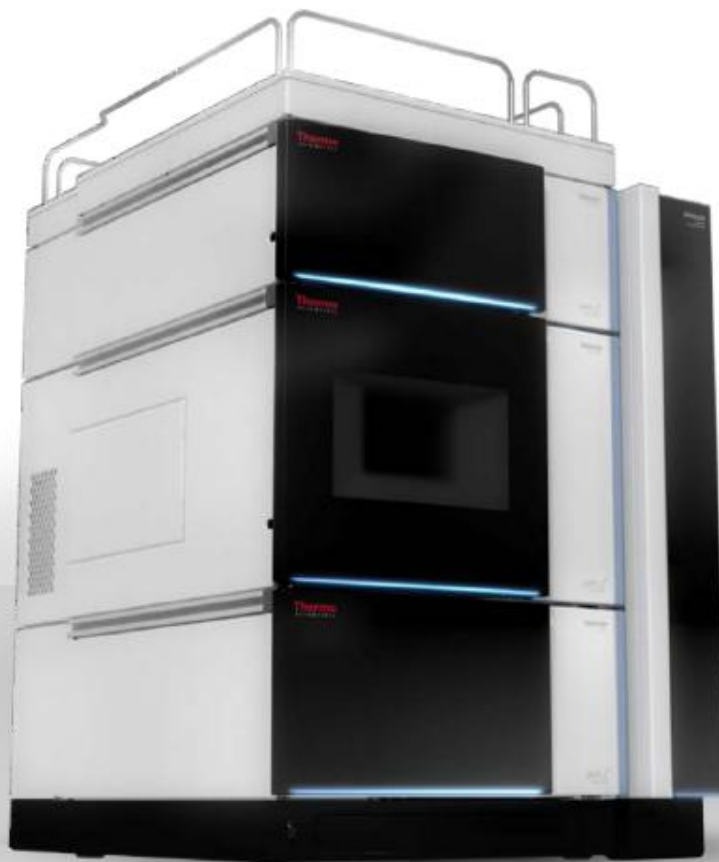
LC-MS/MS Quantitation of ~100 Drugs of Abuse in Urine in Under Two Minutes on the Thermo Scientific™ TSQ Quantis™ MS

The world leader in serving science

Your Scientific Specialist



- Large number of samples
 - Need to reduce analysis times
- Reduce false positives (immunoassays)
 - LC-MS/MS has high selectivity
- Reduce costs
 - Multi-class drugs of abuse require multiple immunoassays
 - Still may require LC-MS/MS confirmation
- Thermo Scientific™ Vanquish™ Horizon UHPLC and TSQ Quantis™ MS can meet these requirements



Vanquish Horizon UHPLC Platform:

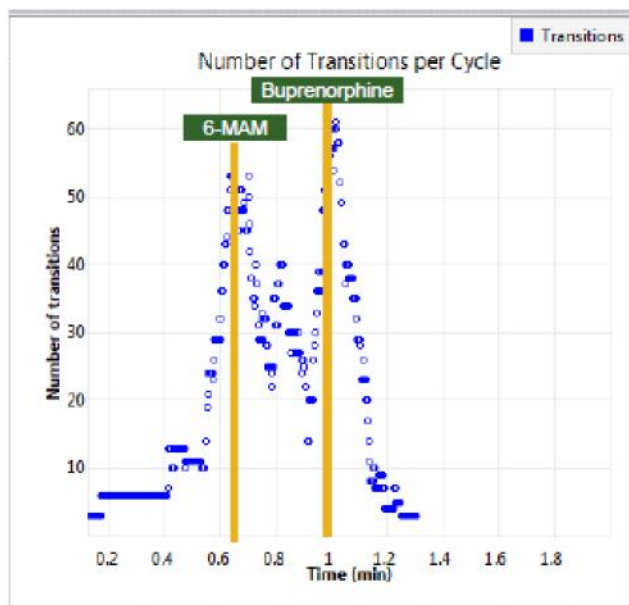
- Maximize UHPLC separations with 1500 bar (22,000 psi) pump pressure limit
- Unmatched retention time performance via parallel dual piston principle
- Ultra-low Gradient Dead Volume (35 uL) for faster separations
- Viper-based, tool-free fluidic connections
- Biocompatible, iron-free flow path
- Sample pre-compression for better injection reproducibility and longer column lifetimes
- Standard AS capacity: 4 racks (216 vials); expandable Charger module for up to 20 well plates)
- New column thermostating technology
- Removable doors for easy access

- Thermo Scientific™ Vanquish™ Horizon UHPLC
 - Column: 2.1 x 50 mm, 1.9 um Hypersil Gold AQ
 - Column Temp: 40 C
 - Mobile Phase: [A] H₂O + 0.1% HCOOH; [B] ACN + 0.1% HCOOH
 - **Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min (no split)**
 - Gradient: see table
 - Injection Volume: 2 uL

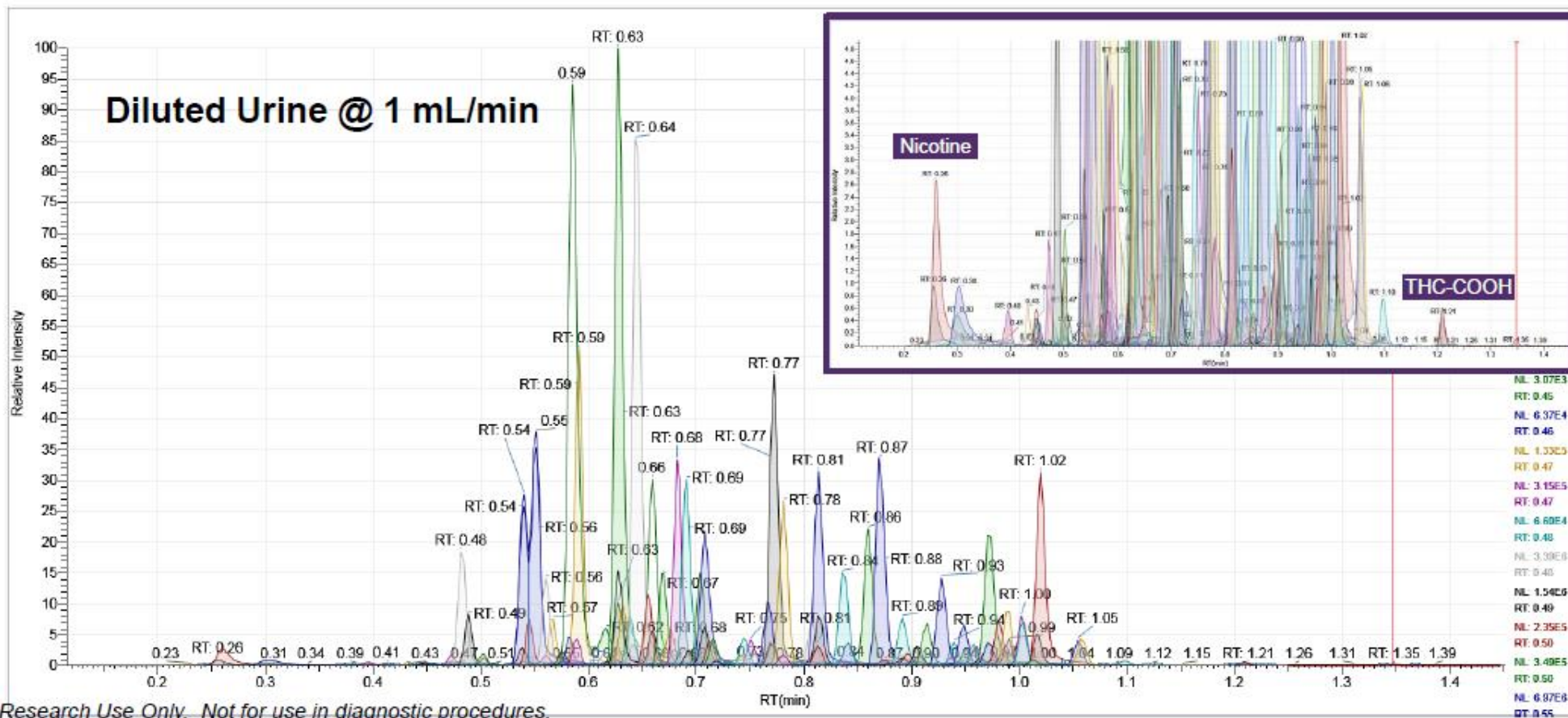
No	Time	Flow [ml/min]	%B	Curve
1	0.000		Run	
2	0.000	1.000	0.0	5
3	0.400	1.000	22.5	5
4	0.950	1.000	75.2	5
5	1.450	1.000	75.2	5
6	1.470	1.000	0.0	5
7	1.490	1.000	0.0	5
8	1.510	1.200	0.0	5
9	2.150	1.200	0.0	5
10	2.200	1.000	0.0	5

Note: total LC runtime is 2.2 minutes for ~100 drugs of abuse

- Thermo Scientific™ TSQ Quantis™ MS
 - Ionization Mode: HESI, Positive ion mode
 - MS Acquisition Mode: Selective Reaction Monitoring (SRM) – see # Transitions vs. RT below
 - Cycle time: 0.15 s
 - Quad Isolation (Q1,Q3) = Unit (0.7 Da FWHM)

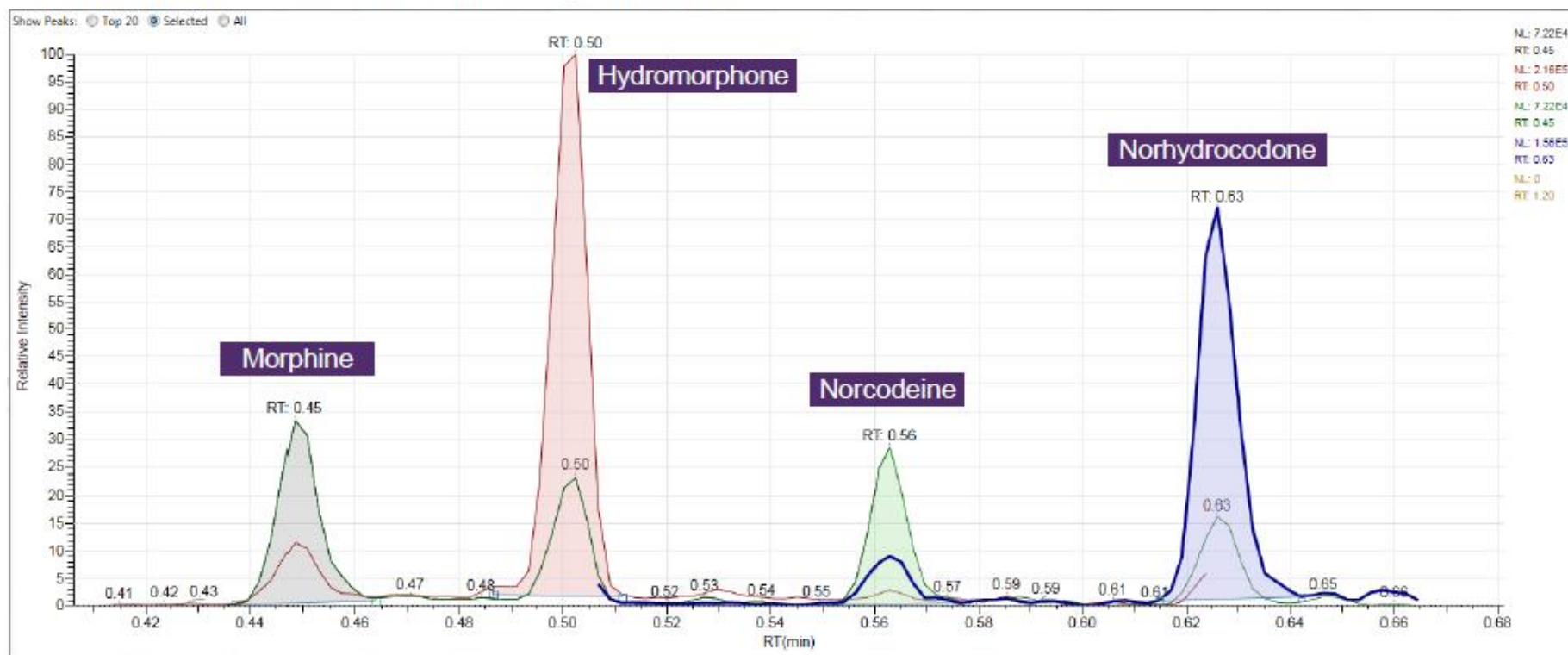


Note: elution of 6-MAM & Buprenorphine occur at the times of highest # SRM transitions (i.e., during lowest dwell times)



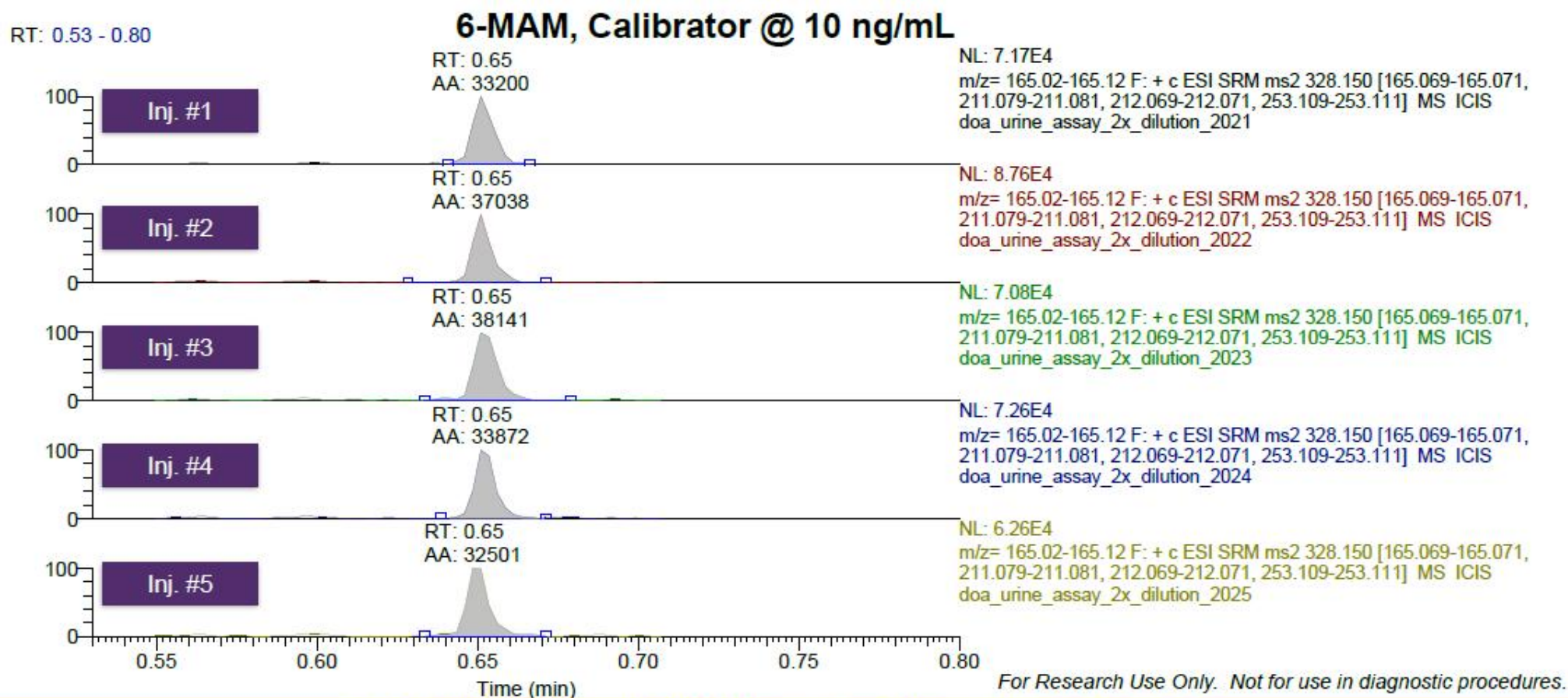
SRM chromatograms of ~100 drugs of abuse in under 1.3 minutes [THC-COOH elutes at 1.21 min, inset]

Separation of opiate isomers @ m/z 286

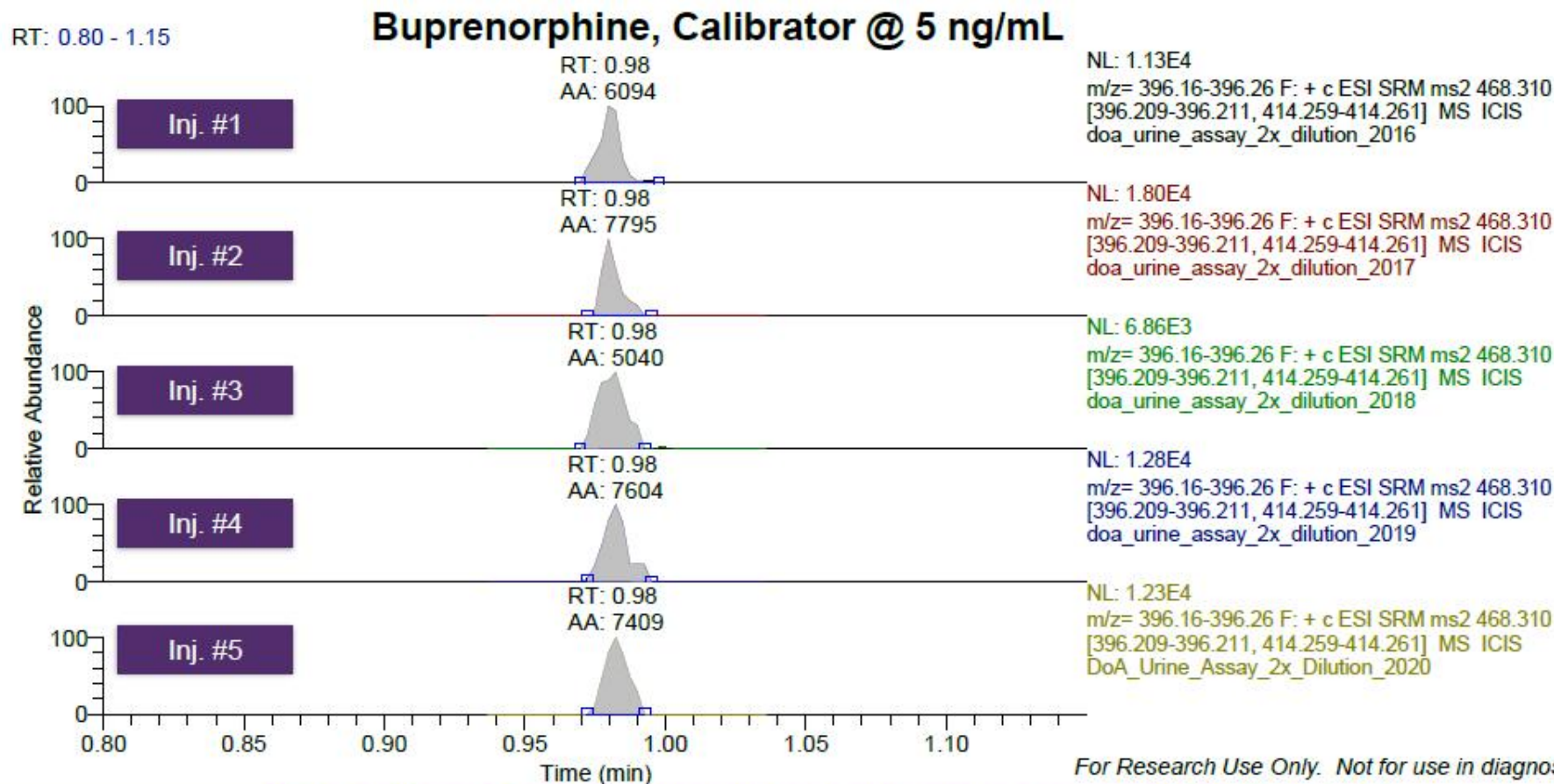


For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

Opiate isomers at m/z 286 are well separated in under 12 s [typical LC peak = 1.2 s wide]



- 1:2 dilution of 10 ng/mL 6-MAM in urine, 2 uL injections [%CV = 8.5%];
- Dwell Time = 1.63 ms (50 simultaneous SRM transitions w/ 0.15 s SRM Cycle Time)



- 1:2 dilution of 5 ng/mL Buprenorphine in urine, 2 uL injections [%CV = 16.5%];
- Dwell Time = 0.82 ms (60 simultaneous SRM transitions w/ 0.15 s SRM Cycle Time)

HIGH RESOLUTION MASS ANALYSER

- ORBITRAP



- Nominal Mass

The mass of an ion with a given empirical formula calculated using the integer mass numbers of the most abundant isotope of each element



- Exact Mass

The mass of an ion with a given empirical formula calculated using the exact mass of the most abundant isotope of each element

Ex : M=249	$C_{20}H_9^+$	249.0070
	$C_{19}H_7N^+$	249.0580
	$C_{13}H_{19}N_3O_2^+$	249.1479



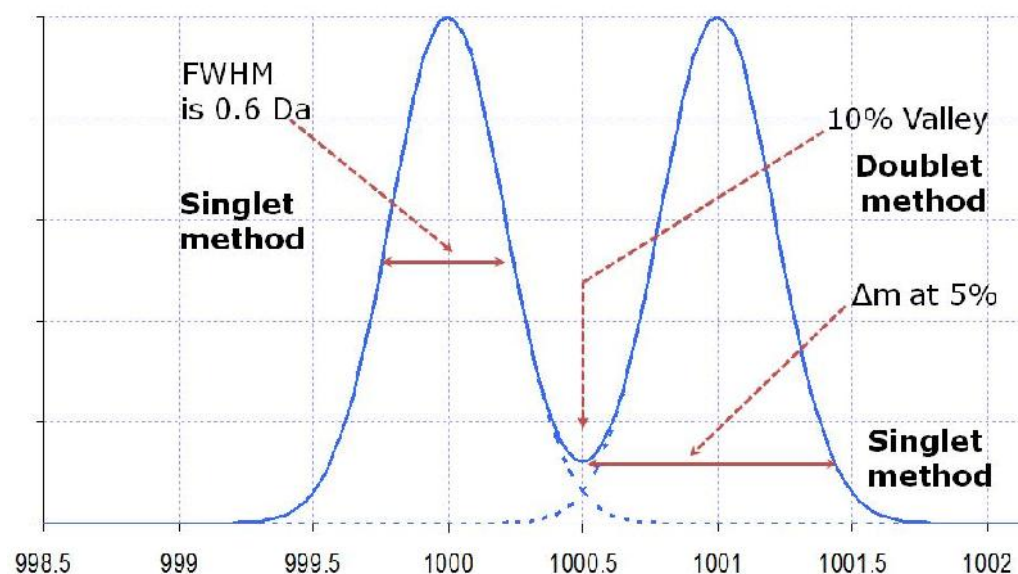
- MASS RESOLUTION

Mass Resolution: What is it?

- Ability of a mass spectrometer to distinguish between ions of nearly equal m/z ratios (isobars).

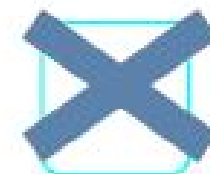
$$R = \frac{m}{\Delta m}$$

- m - measured mass
- Δm - peak width measured at 50% peak intensity (Full Width Half Maximum)
 - or the mass difference between two adjacent peaks of equal intensity, in this case pw @ 10% valley definition is used.



Chromatography

Low Resolution



High Resolution



Time

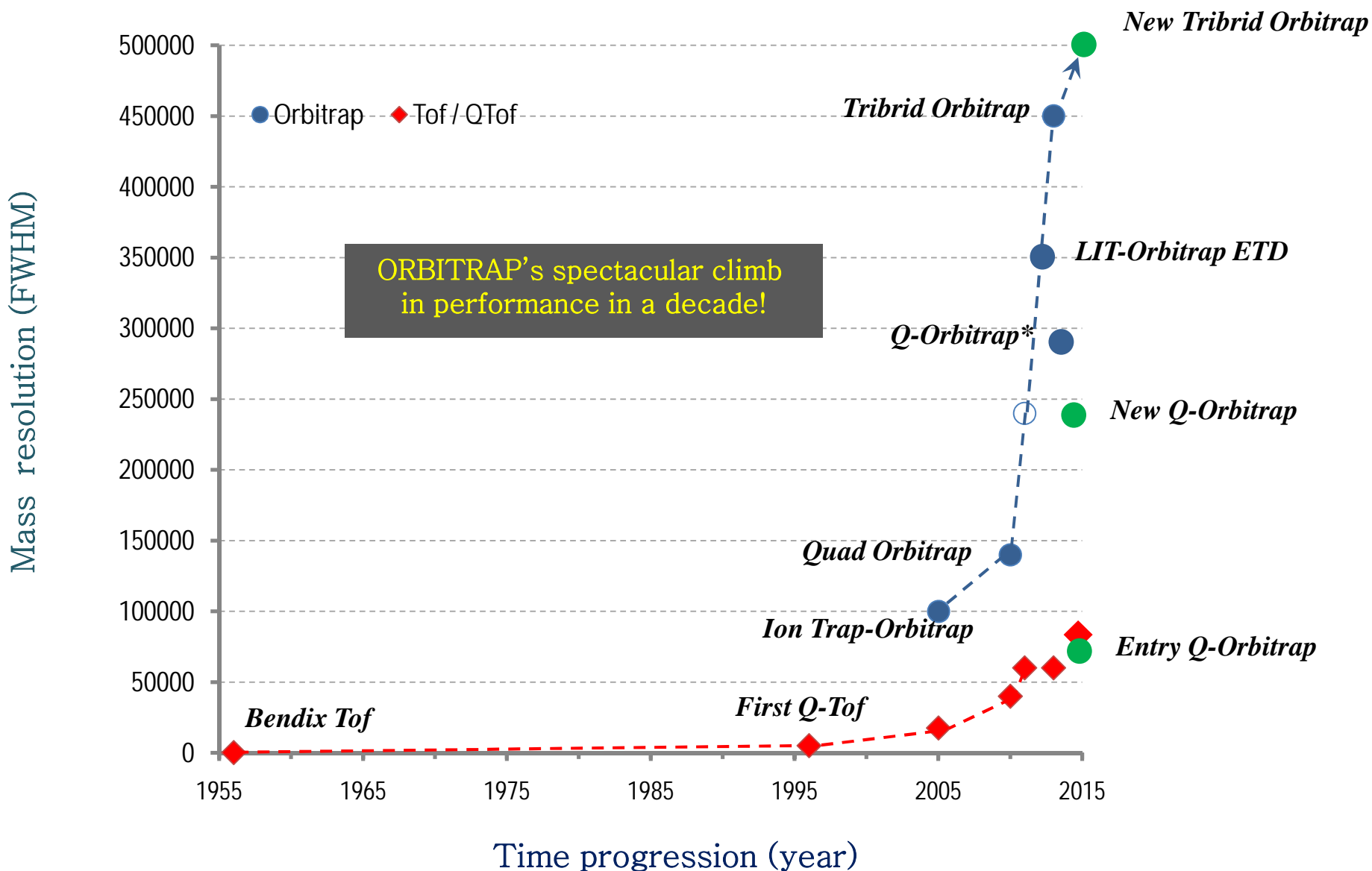
Mass Resolution: What is it?

- At minimum the resolution of the mass analyzer should be sufficient to separate two ions differing by one mass unit anywhere in the mass range scanned (unit mass resolution).
- Typical values of resolution for low resolution mass analyzers (e.g. quadrupoles and ion traps) are below **5000**.
- High resolution instruments have a resolution exceeding **15000**.

Mass Resolution: What is it?

Mass spectrometer	Resolving Power (FWHM)
FT-ICR-MS	1,000,000
Orbitrap	500,000
HR-ToF	60,000
Magnetic Sectors	10,000
Quadrupole / IonTrap in UltraZoom mode	5,000
Quadrupole / IonTrap	1,000

Commercial High Resolution MS Technology Race





- MASS ACCURACY

Mass Accuracy: What is it?

- Mass accuracy is the precision of which the mass is measured by the mass spectrometer.
- Typical way of reporting mass error in ppm (relative mass error):

$$\text{mass error} = \left(\frac{\text{exact mass} - \text{measured mass}}{\text{exact mass}} \right) * 10^6$$

- Absolute mass error can be used (mDa).
- Main advantage: the possibility to determine the elemental composition of individual molecular or fragment ions, a powerful tool for the structural elucidation or confirmation.

Mass Accuracy

- Accurate mass measurements take advantage of the fact that the combination of elements contained in a molecule have a very specific, non-nominal molecular weight:

- Carbon has a mass of 12.0000
- Hydrogen has a mass of 1.0078
- Oxygen has a mass of 15.9949
- Nitrogen has a mass of 14.0031

Element	Isotope Nominal Mass	Relative Abundance (%)	Average Mass	Exact mass
H	1	100	1.008	1.0078
	2	0.016		2.041
C	12	100	12.011	12
	13	1.08		13.0034
N	14	100	14.007	14.0031
	15	0.38		15.0001
O	16	100	15.999	15.9949
	17	0.24		16.9991
F	19	100	18.998	18.9984
P	31	100	30.974	30.9738
S	32	100	32.06	31.9721
	33	0.78		32.9715
	34	4.4		33.9679
Cl	35	100	35.453	34.9689
	37	32.5		36.9659
Br	79	100	79.904	78.9183
	81	98		80.9163
I	127	100	126.905	126.9045

Mass accuracy depends on resolution

Higher resolution allows for better mass accuracy

- Typical mass accuracy capability for various MS types:

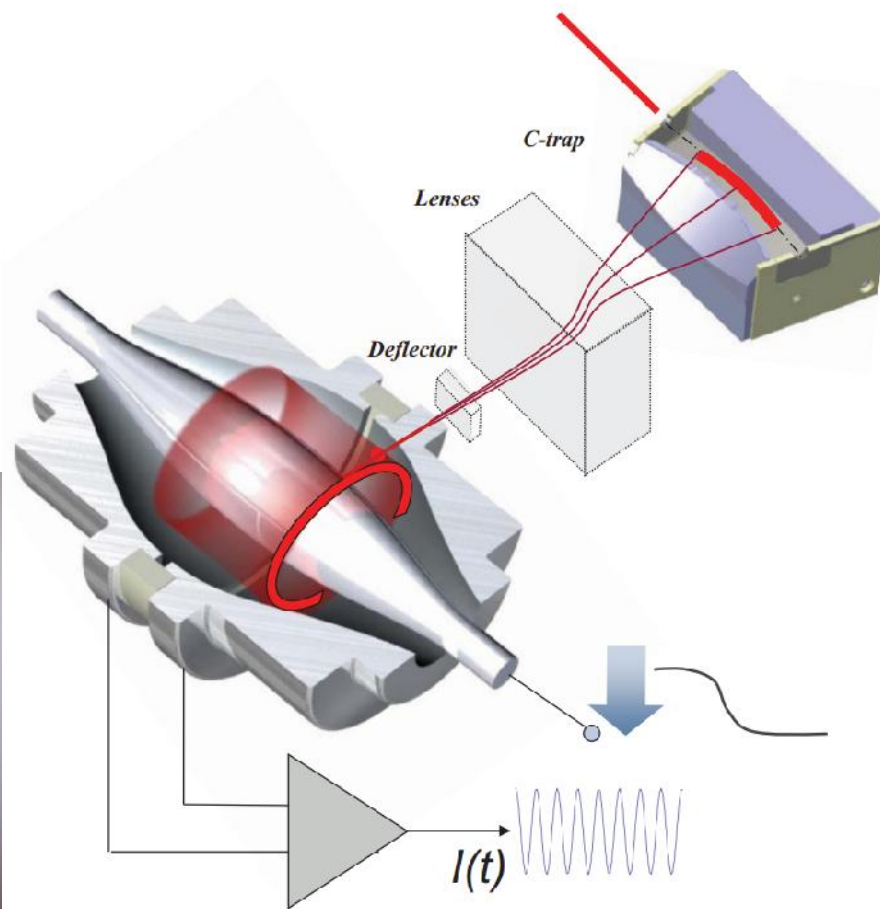
Type	Mass Accuracy
FT-ICR-MS	0.1 - 1 ppm
Orbitrap	0.5 - 1 ppm
Magnetic Sector	1 - 2 ppm
TOF-MS	3 - 5 ppm
Q-TOF	3 - 5 ppm
Triple Quad	3 - 5 ppm
Linear IonTrap	50-200 ppm (10 ppm in Ultra-Zoom)

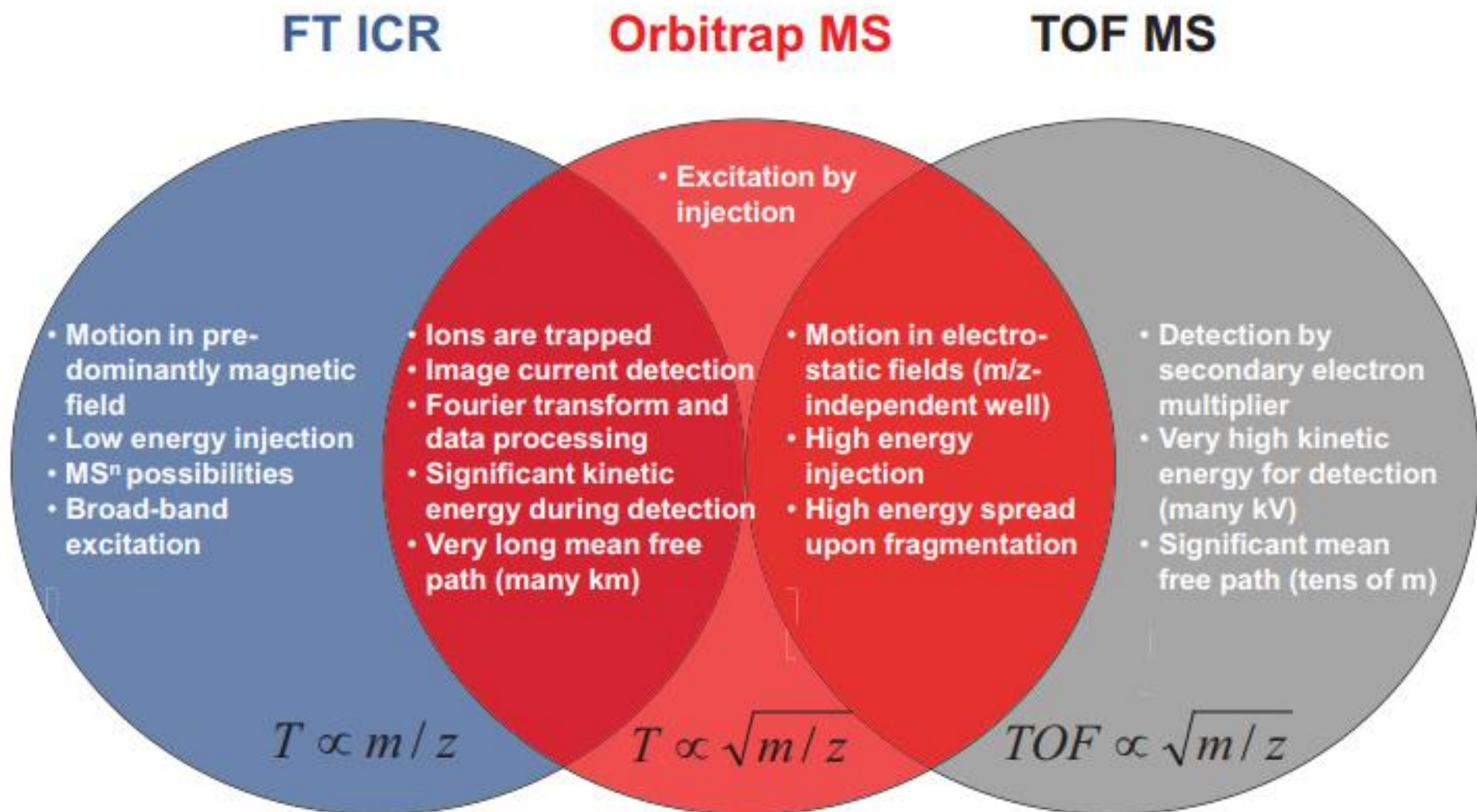
Source: Metabolomics Fiehn's lab

Electrostatic Axially Harmonic Orbital Trapping: A High-Performance Technique of Mass Analysis

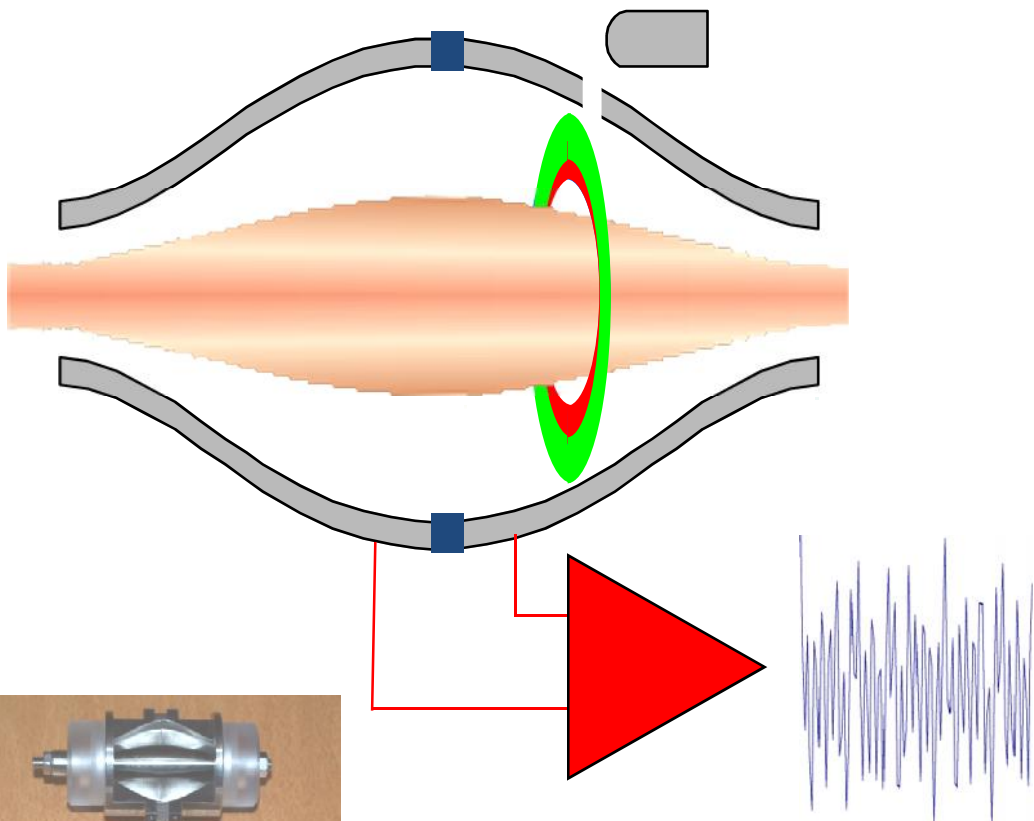
Alexander Makarov*

HD Technologies Ltd., Atlas House, Simonsway, Manchester, M22 5PP, U.K.

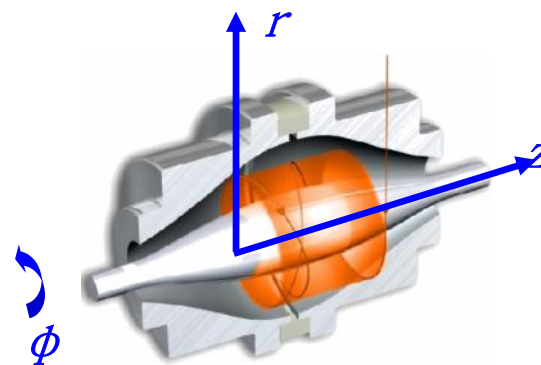




Orbitrap Mass Analyzer: Principle of Operation



$$\check{S}_z = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m/q}}$$



Hyper-logarithmic potential distribution:
"ideal Kingdon trap"

$$U(r, z) = \frac{k}{2} \cdot \{z^2 - r^2/2 + R_m^2 \cdot \ln(r/R_m)\}$$

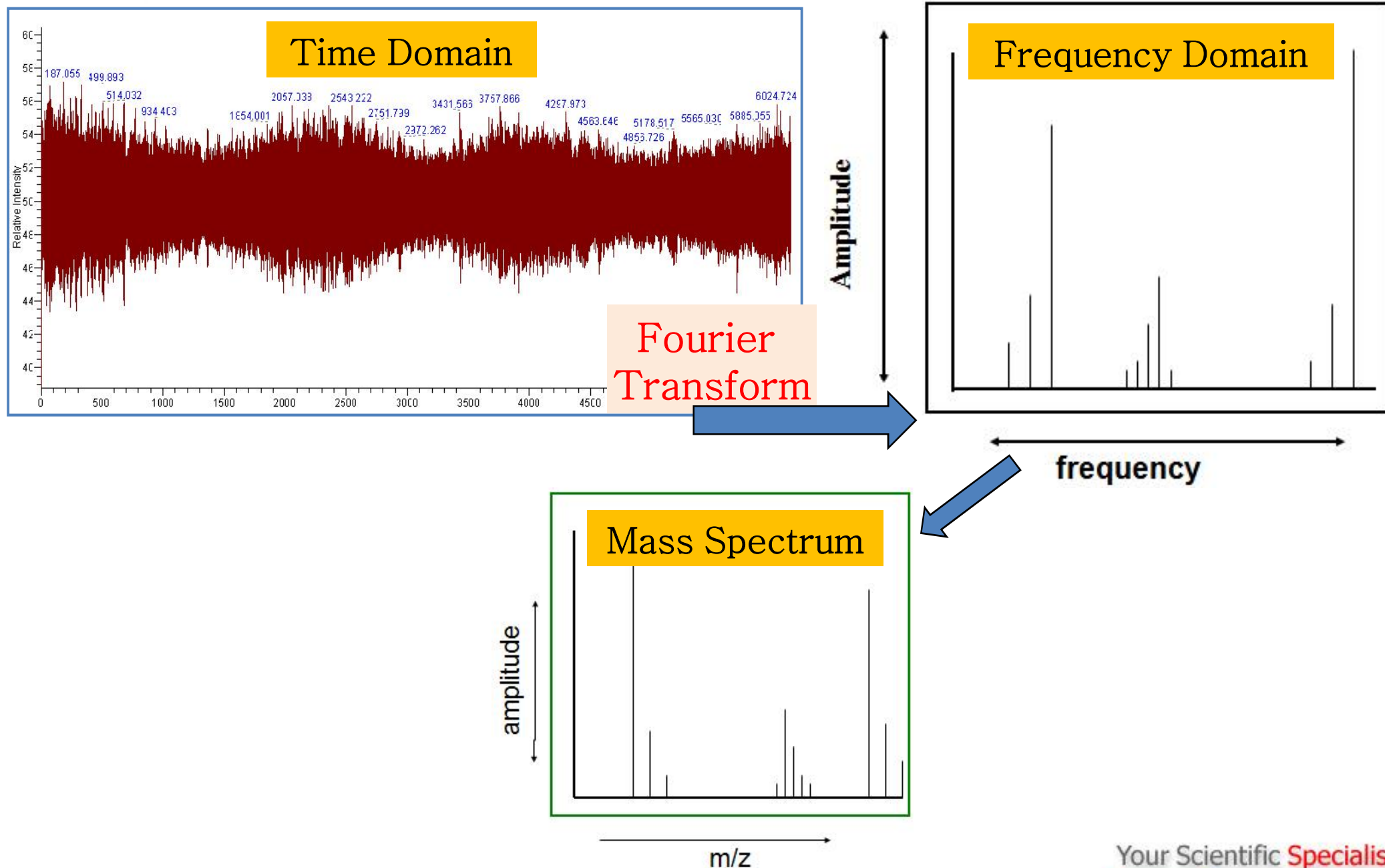
■ Characteristic frequencies:

- Frequency of rotation
- Frequency of radial oscillations r
- Frequency of axial oscillations z

$$\check{S}_r = \frac{\check{S}_z}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\left(\frac{R_m}{R}\right)^2 - 1} \quad \check{S}_\phi = \check{S}_z \sqrt{\left(\frac{R_m}{R}\right)^2 - 2}$$

Makarov A. *Anal. Chem.* 2000, 72, 1156–1162.

Many Ions Generate a Complex "Transient"



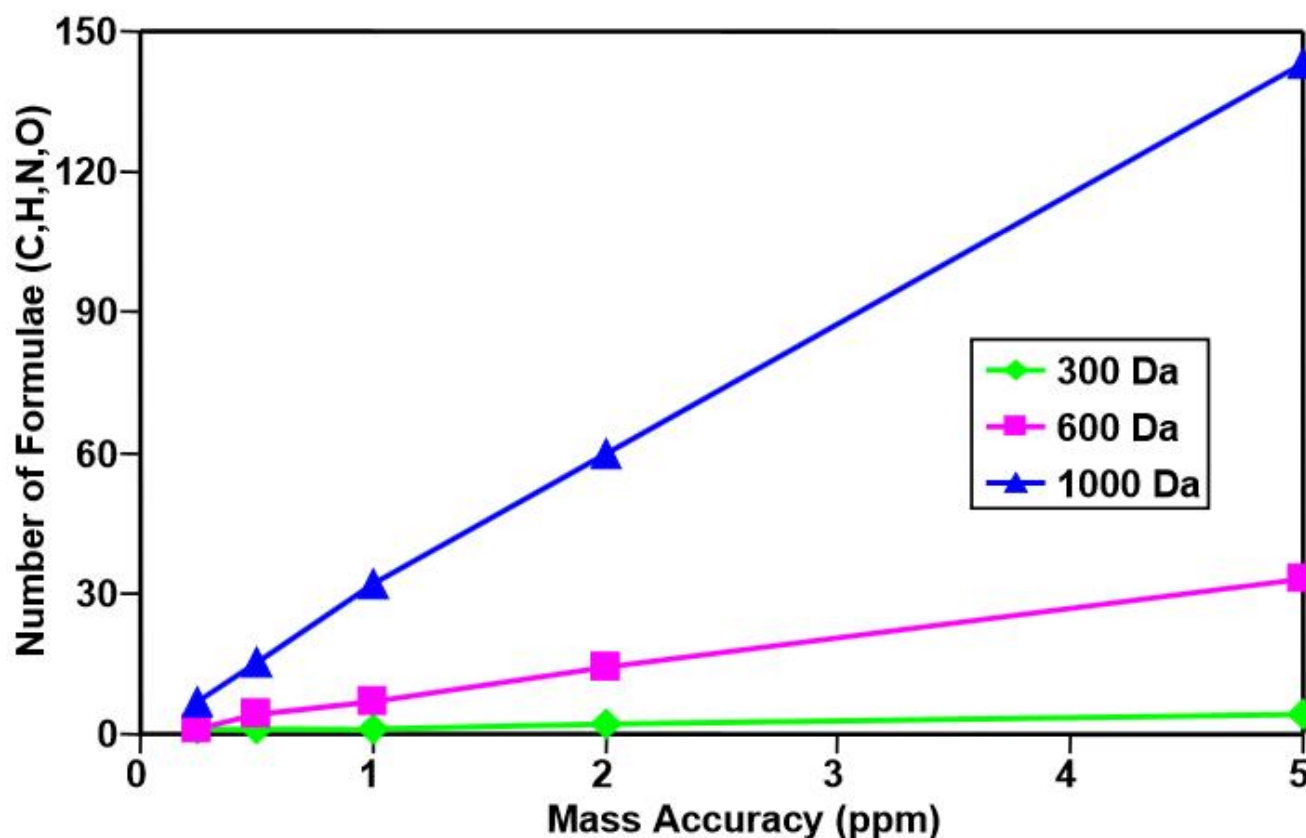


ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

Importance of High Mass Resolution & Mass Accuracy – Unknown Compounds Identification

- Accurate mass measurement is the experimentally determined mass measured to an appropriate degree of accuracy and precision (*Gross, J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom., 1994*)
- Accurate mass measurements narrow down the list of possible formulae for a particular molecular weight
- Mass spectrum and analyst complete the picture:
 - Isotope distributions indicate/eliminate elements (e.g. Cl, Br, Cu)
 - User-supplied info eliminates others (e.g. no F, Co)
 - Suggested formula has to make chemical sense: ($C_6H_{28}O_2$ is not reasonable nor is $Cl_3H_2Co_4$)

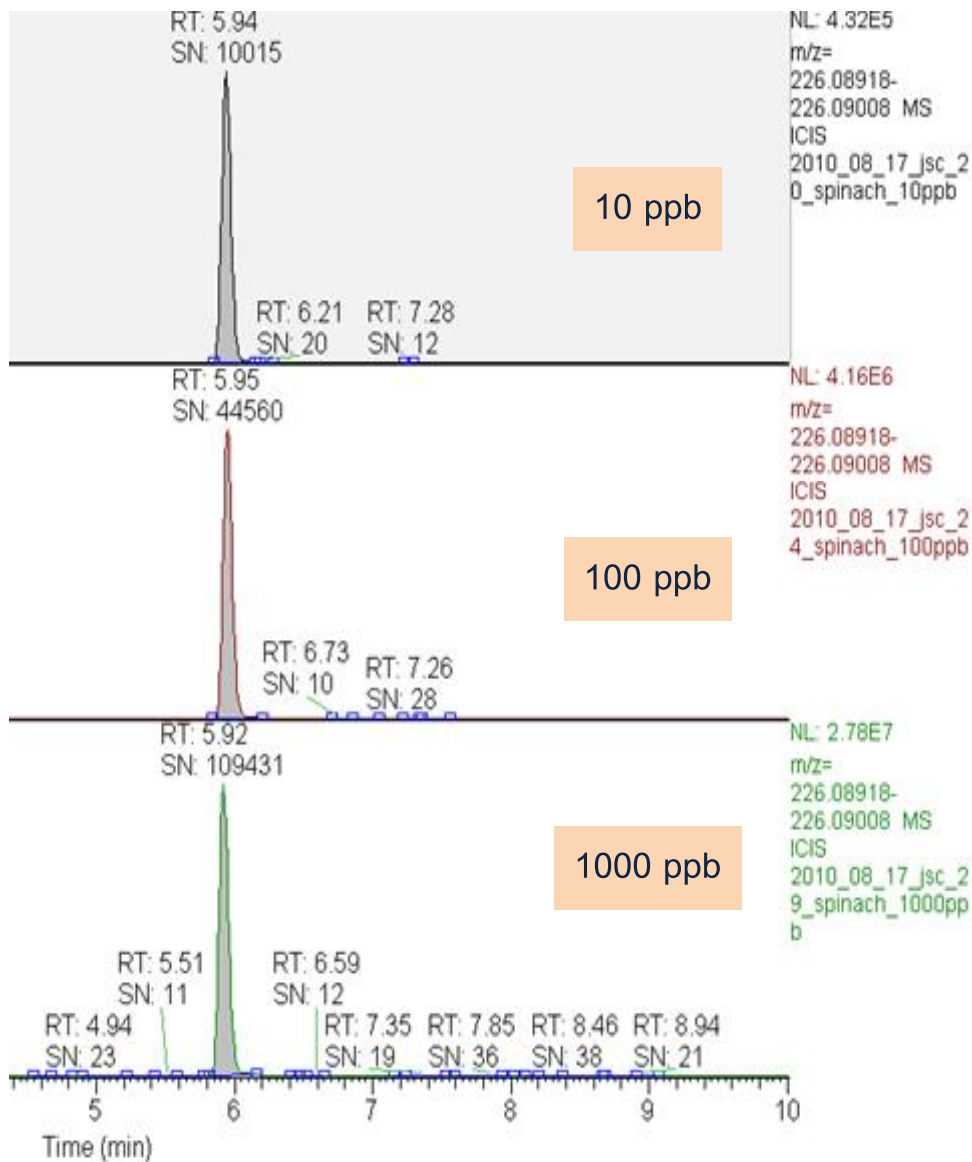
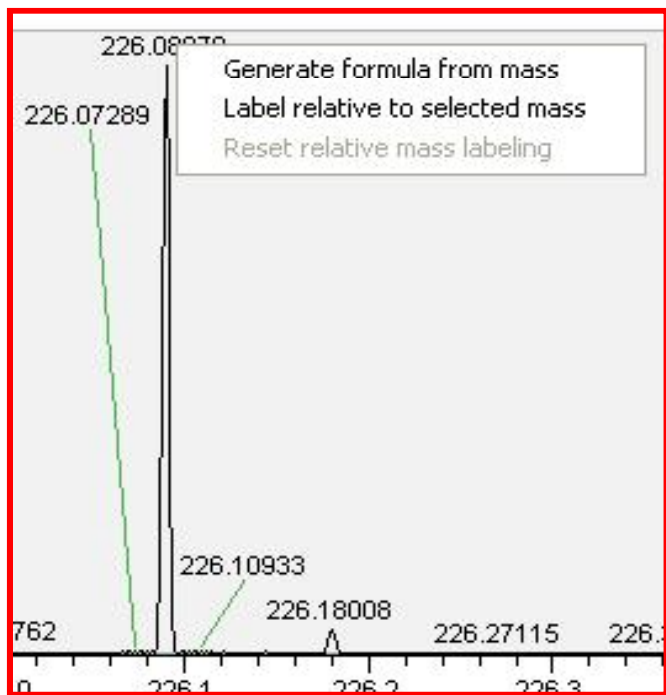
- The effect of mass accuracy and molecular weight on the number of potential chemical formulae.



Generate Formula from Monoisotopic Mass

0.549 ppm Mass Accuracy

Right click on mass
Then select
Generate formula form mass



Elemental composition

Single mass

Mass:

Mag. results:

Idx	Formula	RDB	Delta ppm
1	C ₁₄ H ₁₆ O N ₂ Cl ₂	7.5	0.454

File... List Simulate

Limits

Charge:

Nitrogen-Rule:

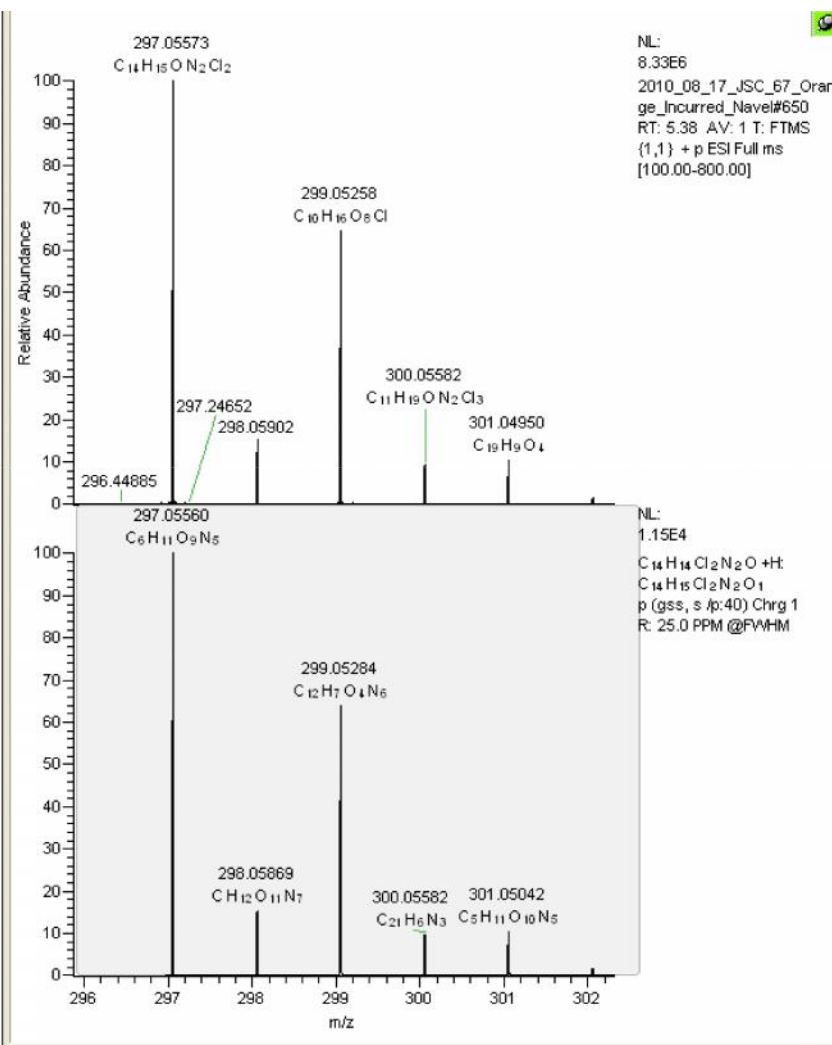
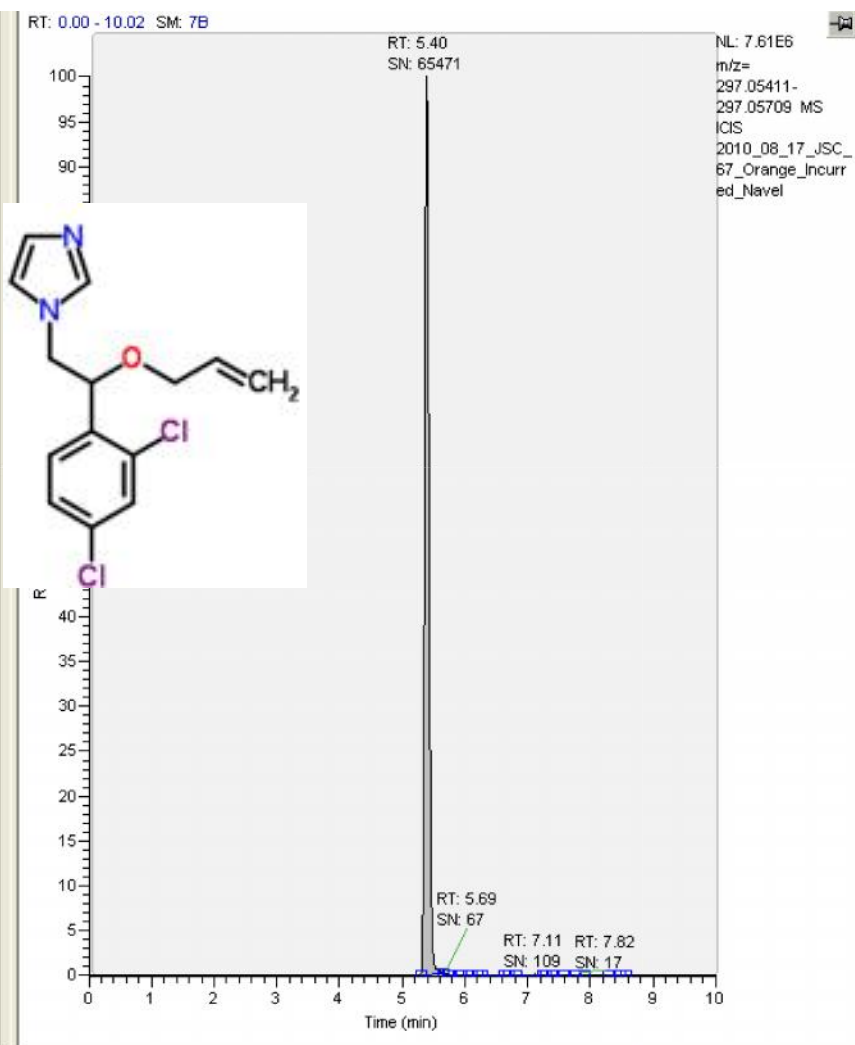
Mass tolerance: ppm

RDB equiv:

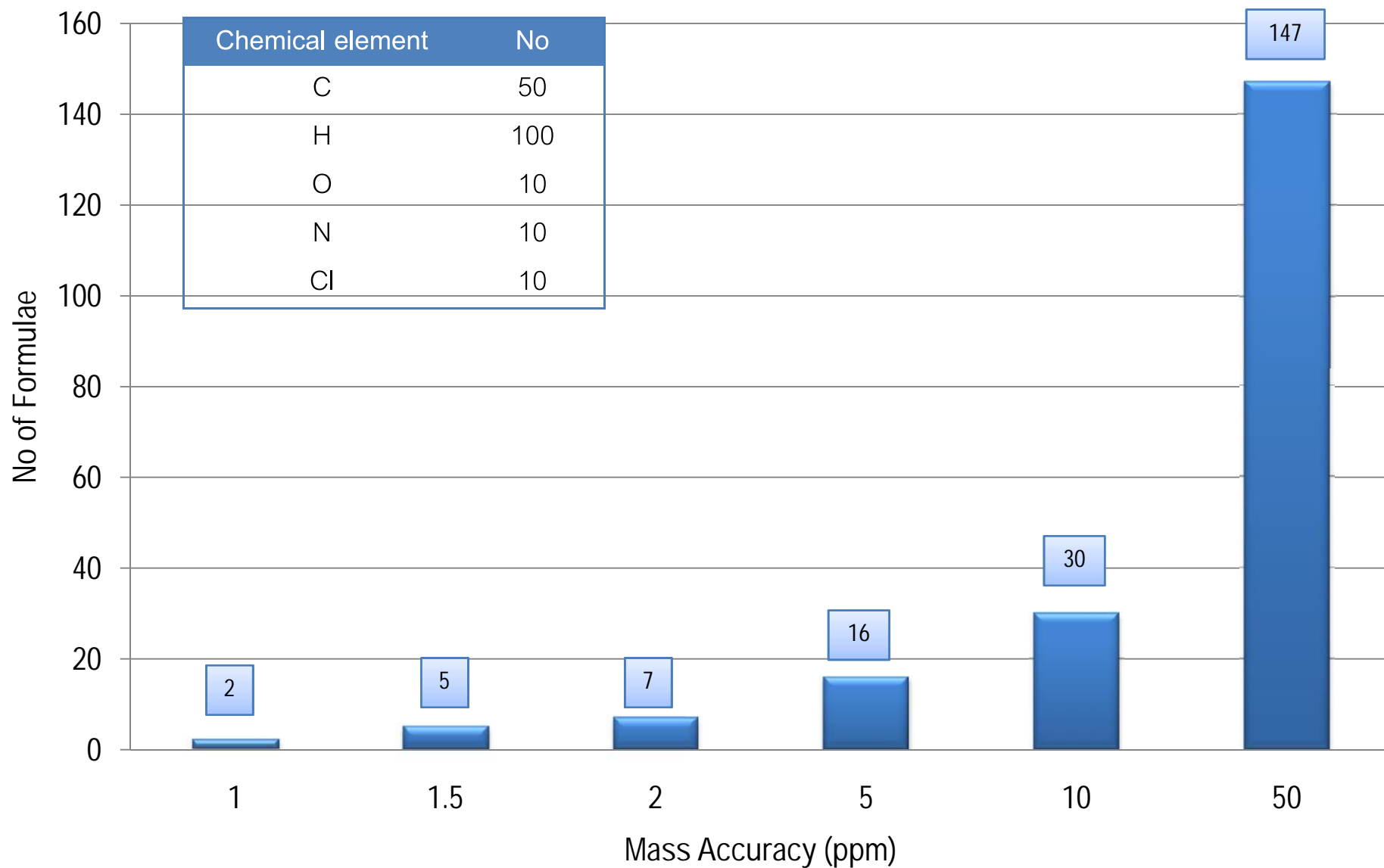
Elements in use

Isotope	Min	Max	DB eq.	Mass
14 N	0	2	0.5	14.003
16 O	0	15	0.0	15.995
12 C	0	30	1.0	12.000
1 H	0	60	-0.5	1.008
35 Cl	0	10	-0.5	34.969

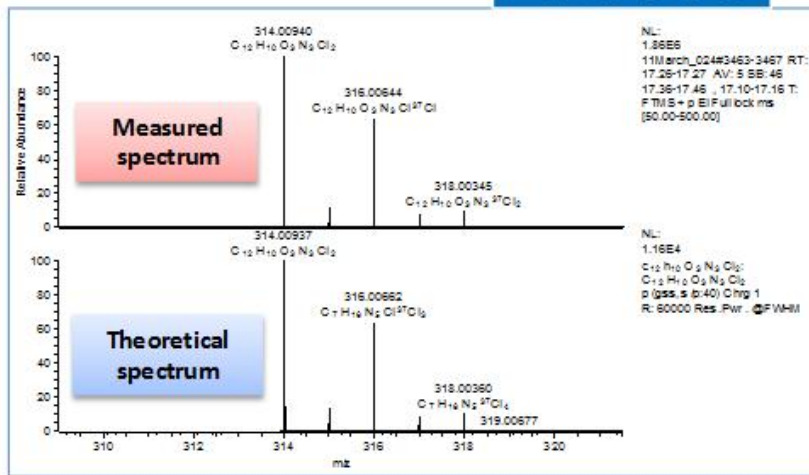
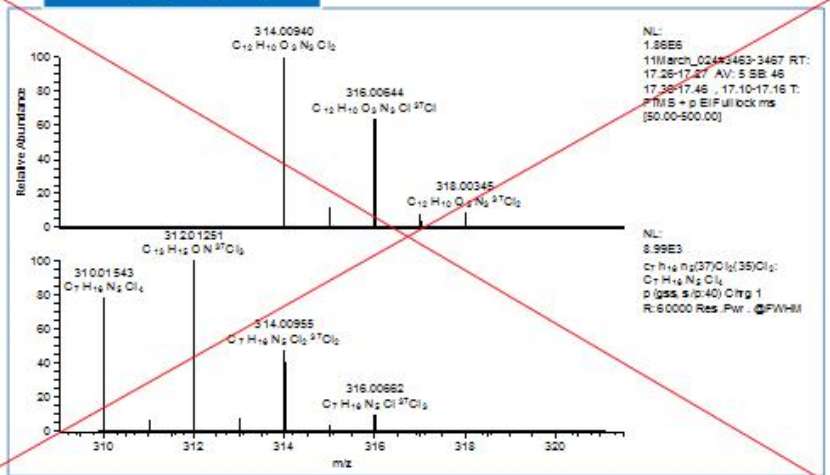
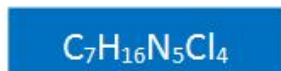
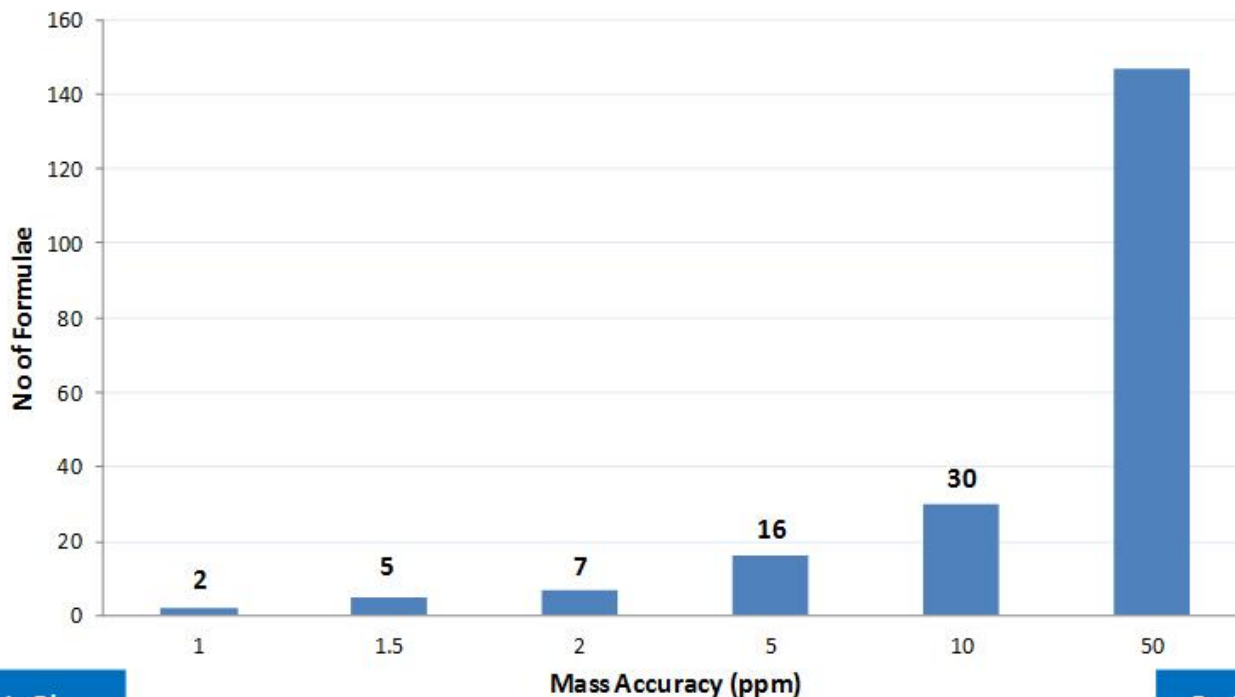
Load... Save as... Apply Help

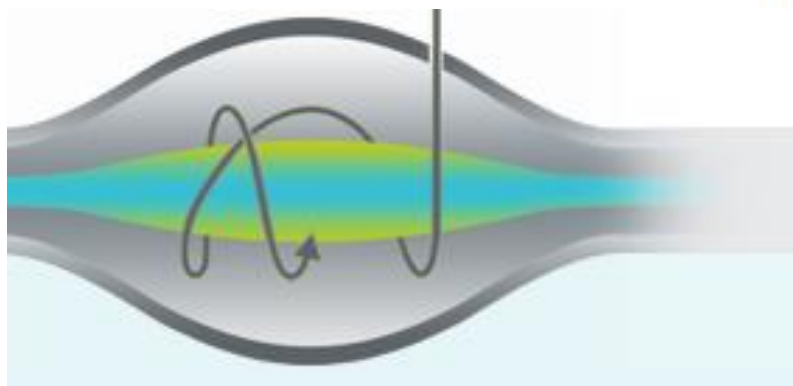


Elemental Composition Statistics



Compound ID confirmation through Isotopic Pattern Match





<http://planetorbitrap.com/>

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Questions?