



**CABOT**



**ZirChrom<sup>®</sup>**

***The Development and Applications of  
Polymer and Carbon Coated Zirconia-  
based Supports for Reversed Phase LC***

Angelos Kyrlidis, Lynn Toomey, and Elena Khmel'nitskaia,  
*Cabot Corporation*

Dwight Stoll, Clayton V. McNeff, and Peter W. Carr  
*ZirChrom Separations, Inc.*

**DIAMOND BOND<sup>™</sup>**  
HPLC Columns

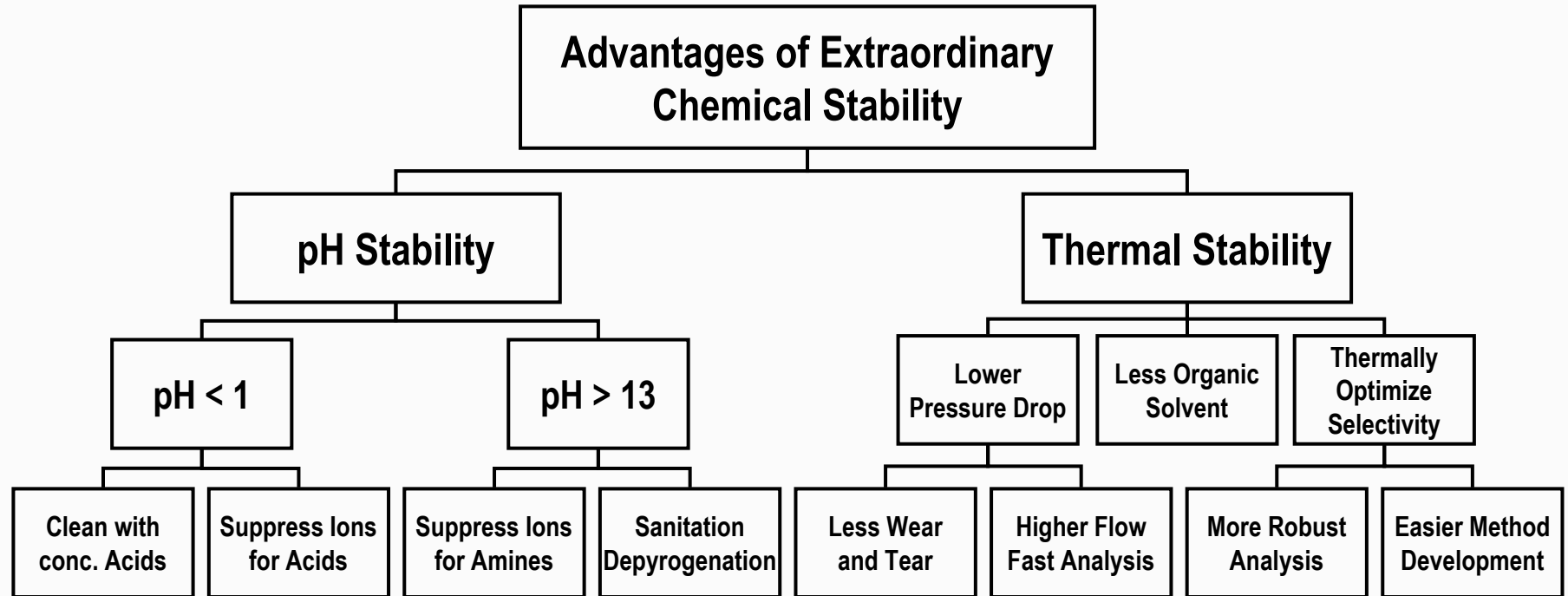
# Outline

---

- Advantages of Stable Phases
- Selectivity Comparison of Zirconia based phases to ODS Silica
- Development of a New Type of Reversed Phase Column: DiamondBond®-C18
- Applications
- Summary



# Why Stable Phases?



Stable Stationary Phases have advantages in terms of Selectivity, Column Lifetime, and Analysis Time

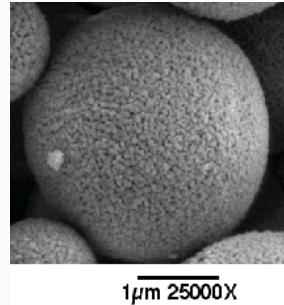
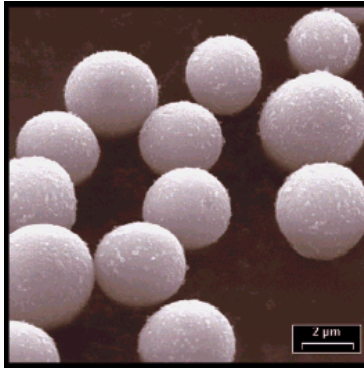
# Improving the Stability of HPLC Phases: History

---

- Pure organic polymers
- Silica “hardened” by coating with alumina or zirconia
- Pure carbon
- Silica improvements
  - Sterically bulk & bidentate ligand
  - Polymer coated silica
  - Hybrid organic-inorganic siliceous composite phase
- Polymer coated porous alumina and zirconia
- Carbon coated zirconia
- **Chemically bonded carbon-coated zirconia**



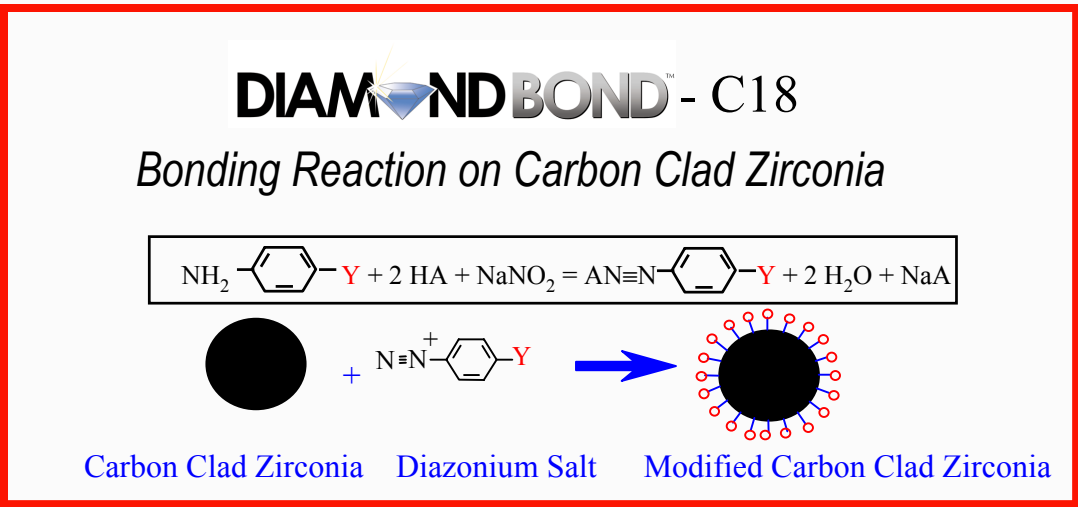
# ZirChrom<sup>®</sup> Particle Properties



Characteristic	Property
Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	22
Pore Volume (cc/g)	0.13
Pore Diameter (Å)	250-300
Porosity	0.45
Density (g/cc)	5.8 (2.5x silica)
Particle Diameters (μ)	3.0, 5.0, 10.0

**ZirChrom<sup>®</sup>-Carb** particles are prepared by coating base particles with a thin layer of carbon using a chemical vapor deposition process

**ZirChrom<sup>®</sup>-PBD** particles are prepared by coating base with a layer of highly crosslinked polymer

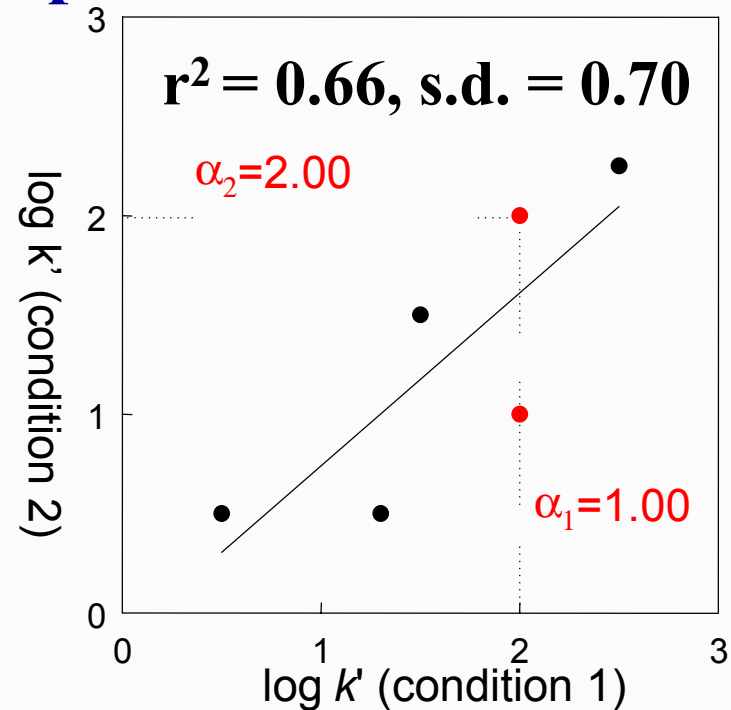
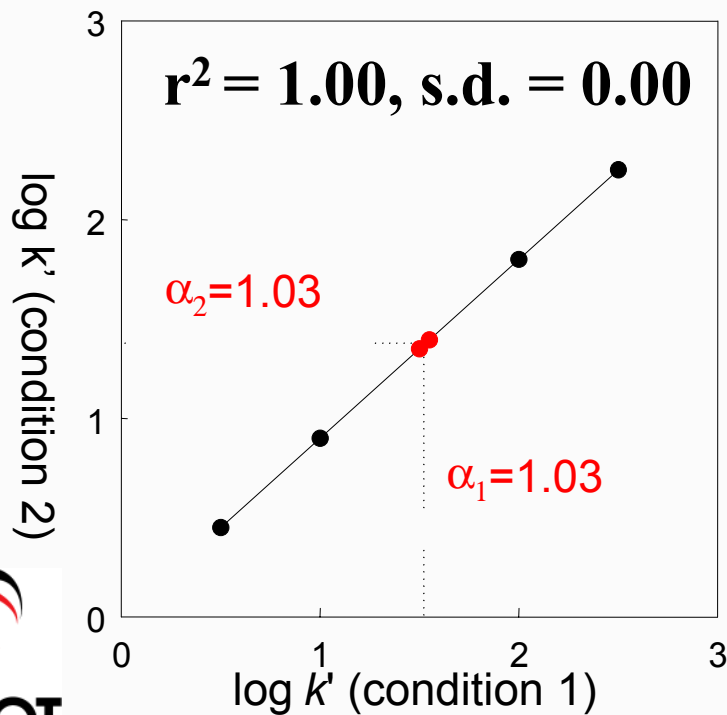


# Adjusting Selectivity in HPLC

- Mobile Phase Composition (B%)
- Mobile Phase Type (ACN, MeOH, THF)
- Stationary Phase Type (C18-SiO<sub>2</sub>, C-ZrO<sub>2</sub>, PBD-ZrO<sub>2</sub>)
- Temperature

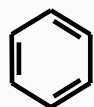
➤ Poor correlations in the  $\kappa$ - $\kappa$  plot indicate **changes in selectivity**.

## $\kappa$ - $\kappa$ plot

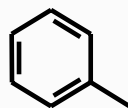


# 22 Non-Ionizable Solutes

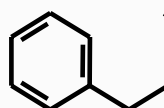
## Nonpolar



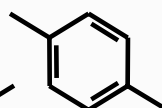
Benzene



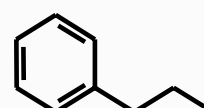
Toluene



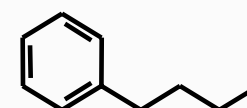
Ethylbenzene



*p*-xylene

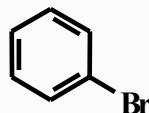


Propylbenzene

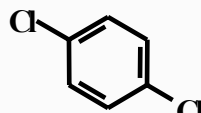


Butylbenzene

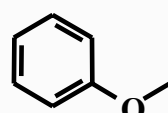
## Polar



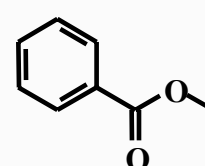
Bromobenzene



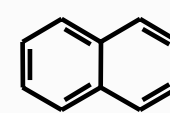
*p*-Dichlorobenzene



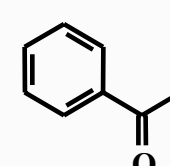
Anisole



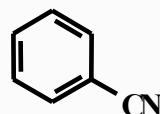
Methylbenzoate



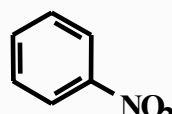
Naphthalene



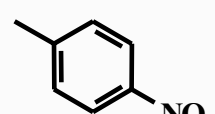
Acetophenone



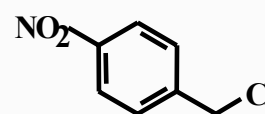
Benzonitrile



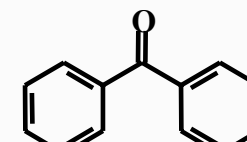
Nitrobenzene



*p*-Nitrotoluene

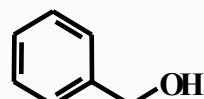


*p*-Nitrobenzyl Chloride

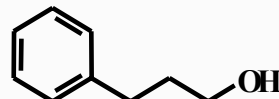


Benzophenone

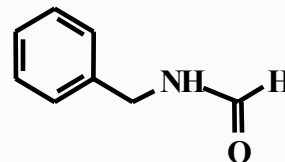
## HB Donor



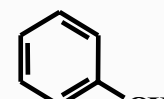
Benzylalcohol



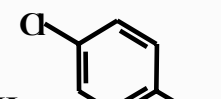
3-Phenyl Propanol



N-Benzyl Formamide

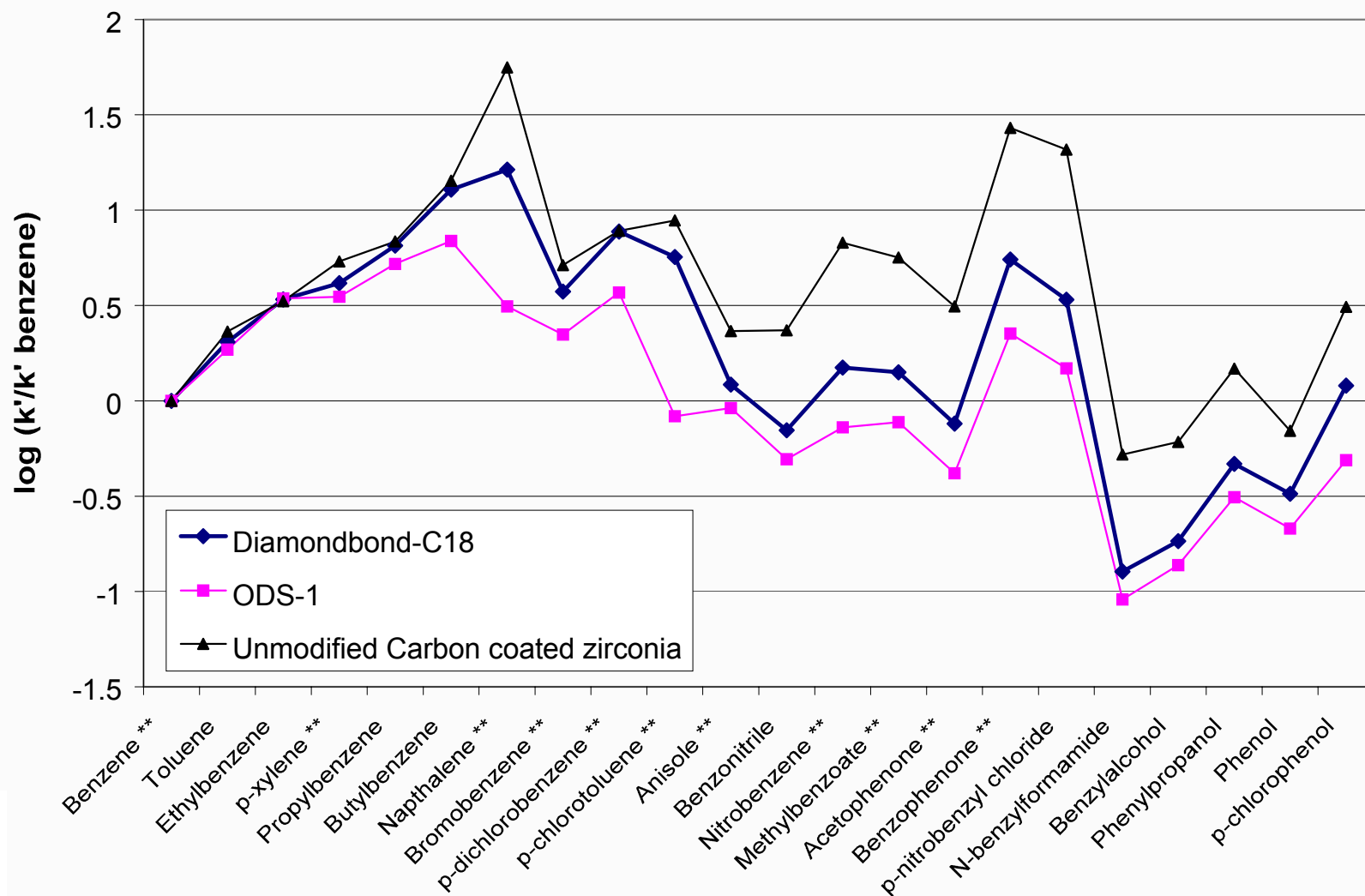


Phenol



*p*-Chlorophenol

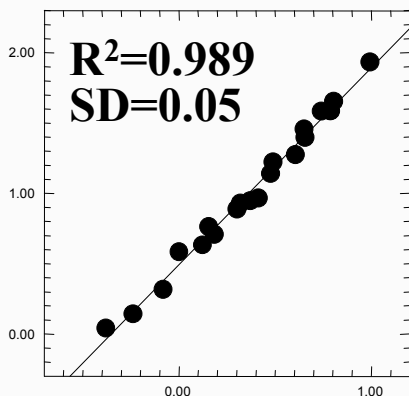
# Selectivity Comparison





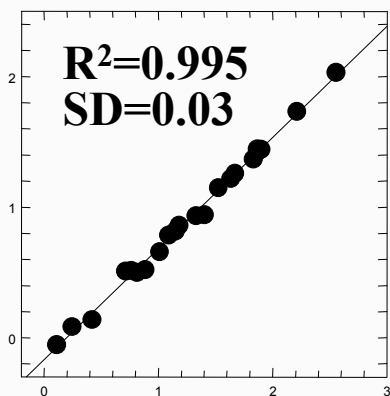
# Comparison of Variables Affecting Selectivity

30% ACN vs. 50% ACN



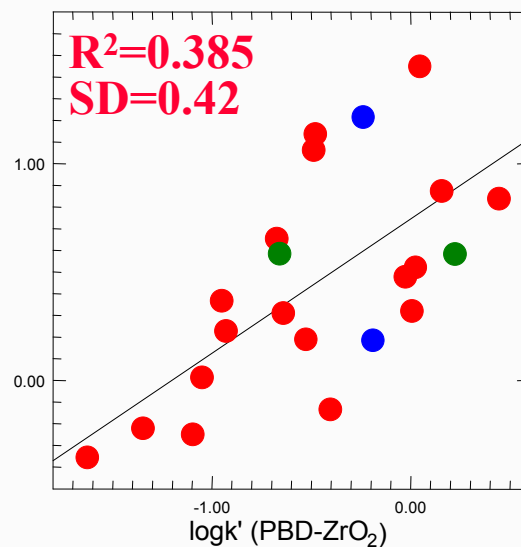
$\log' (50/50 \text{ ACN}/\text{H}_2\text{O})$

80°C vs. 30°C



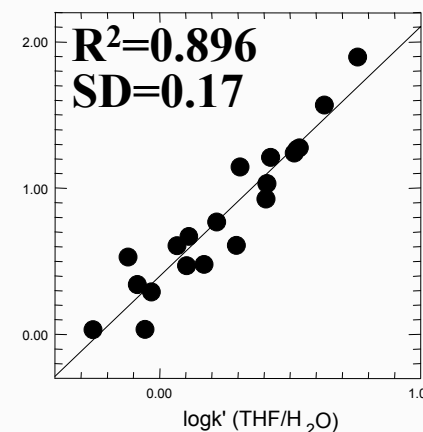
$\log' (\text{C18, } 30^\circ\text{C})$

Stationary Phase Type  
Carbon-ZrO<sub>2</sub> vs.  
PBD-ZrO<sub>2</sub>



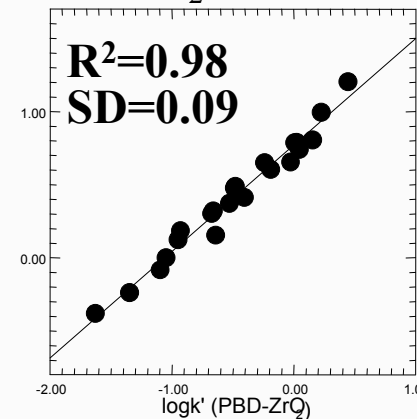
$\log' (\text{PBD-ZrO}_2)$

MeOH vs. THF



$\log' (\text{THF}/\text{H}_2\text{O})$

C18-SiO<sub>2</sub> vs. PBD-ZrO<sub>2</sub>



$\log' (\text{PBD-ZrO}_2)$



❖ Stationary phase type has a large effect on selectivity.

# Regression Data from log k' vs. log k' Plots vs ODS

---

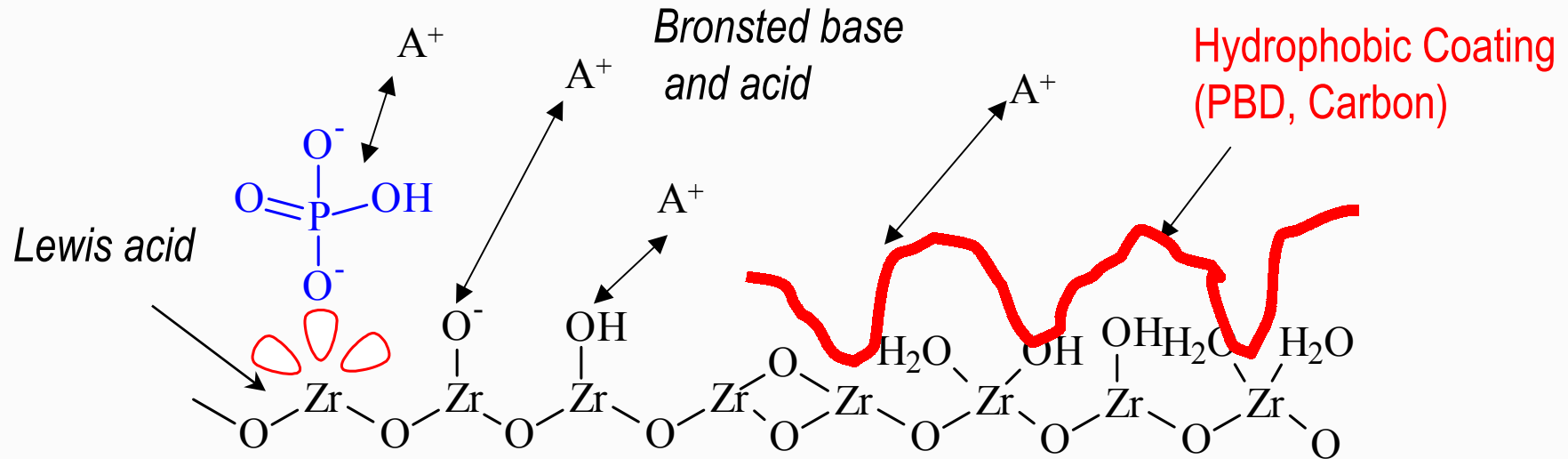
Column	R <sup>2</sup>	Selectivity Difference*
ZirChrom <sup>®</sup> -PBD	0.985	12
DiamondBond <sup>®</sup> -C18	0.889	33
ZirChrom <sup>®</sup> -Carb	0.549	67

- For non-ionizable solutes:
  - ZirChrom-Carb and Diamondbond-C18 columns have very different selectivities from traditional C18-Silica HPLC columns
  - ZirChrom-PBD has selectivity similar to C18-Silica
- For ionizable solutes the picture is very different



\*S=100(1-R<sup>2</sup>)<sup>0.5</sup>, as described by U. Neue at FACSS meeting

# Zirconia Has Unique Surface Chemistry

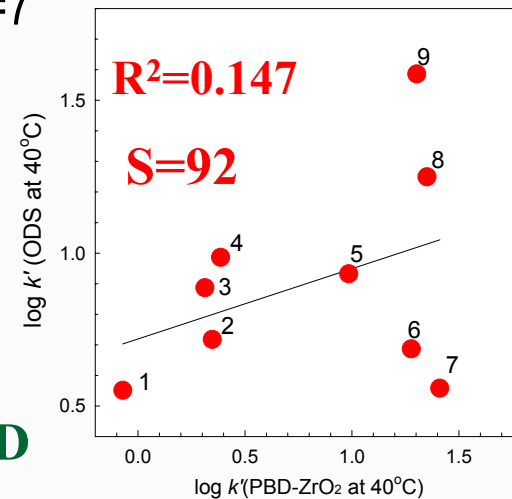
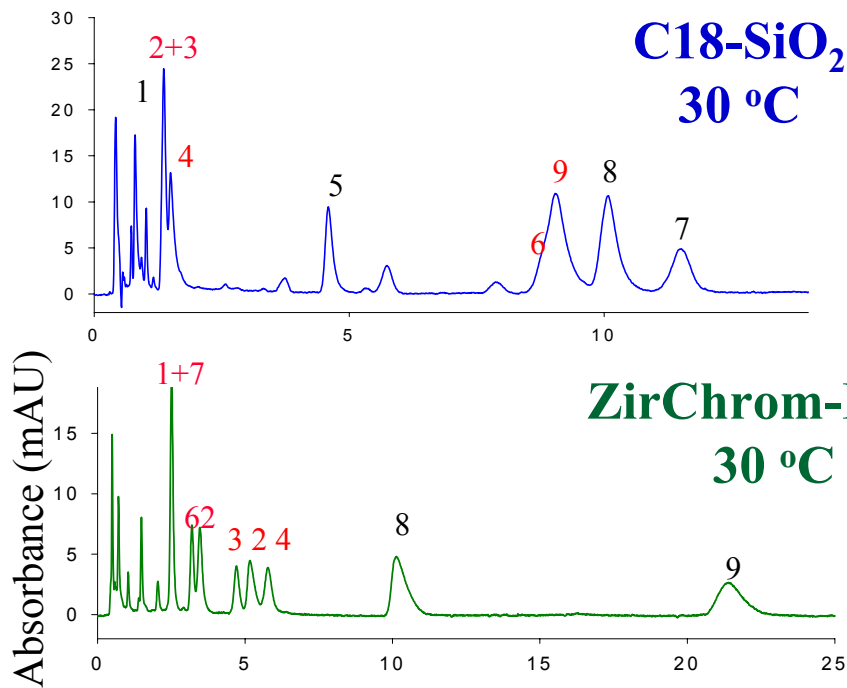


- Zirconia by itself has very rich surface chemistry
- Coated zirconia phases (Carbon and PBD) have mixed surface properties
- The retention of various basic and acidic analytes can be fine tuned by changing pH, buffer, salt concentration, in addition to mobile phase modifier concentration and type



# Antihistamine Drug Selectivity Comparison

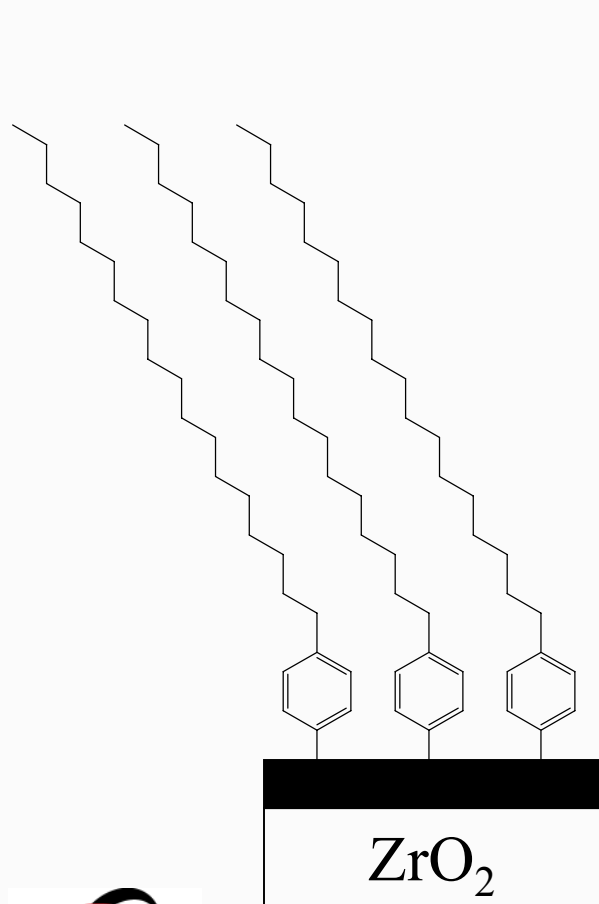
Mobile Phase: 40/60 Acetonitrile/25 mM Phosphate, pH=7



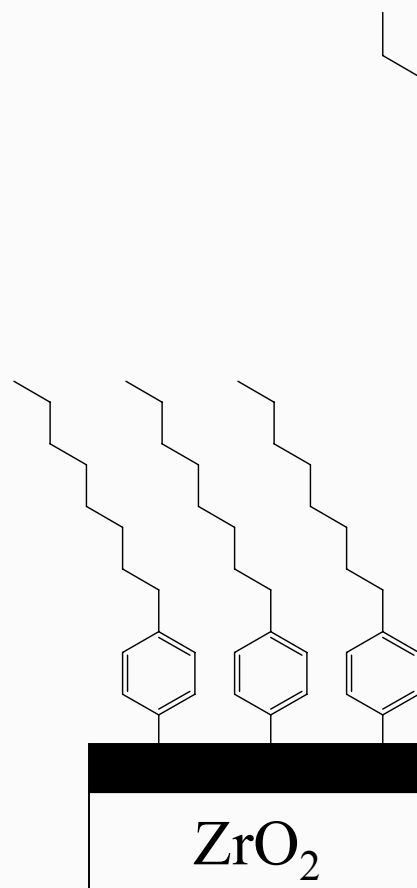
- The selectivity of zirconia based columns towards **ionizable** compounds becomes very different from that of traditional silica columns when Lewis base buffers are used

# DiamondBond®: A New Family of Stable Phases

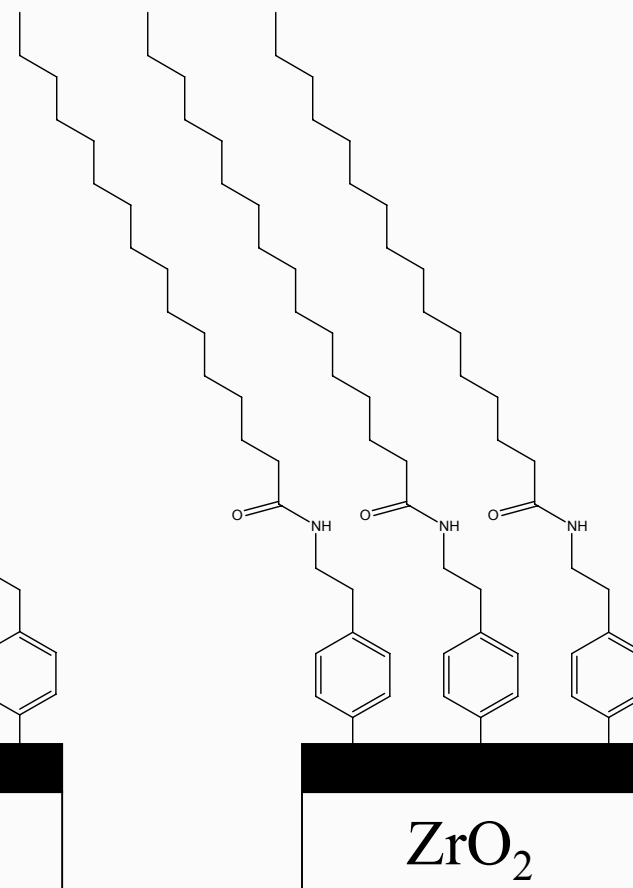
---



DB-C18



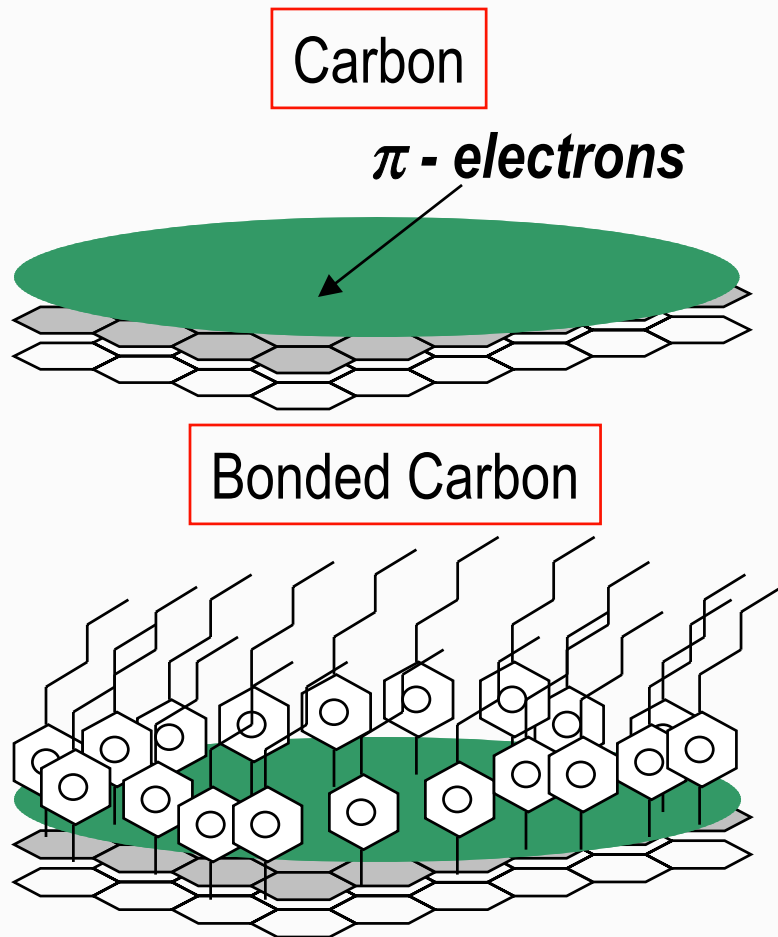
DB-C8



DB-Amide18



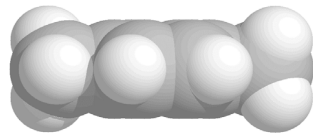
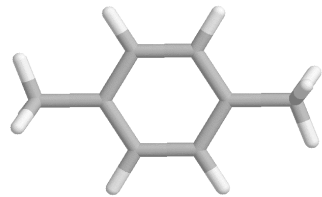
# Why are Bonded Carbons Unique?



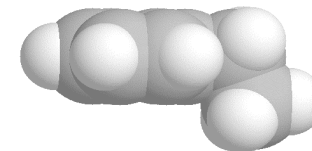
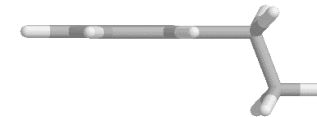
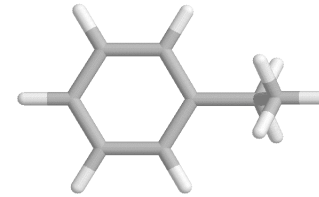
- Carbon surfaces have  $\pi$ -electrons which increase retention of certain types of analytes:
  - fused polyaromatics (e.g. naphthalene, etc)
  - polar molecules (e.g. amides, ketones, alcohols, etc)
- Surface modified carbon surfaces combine some of these interactions with interactions specific to the bonded surface groups.
- Bonded Carbons maintain the high pH and thermal stability that is inherent in the C-C bond.

# Shape Makes a Difference

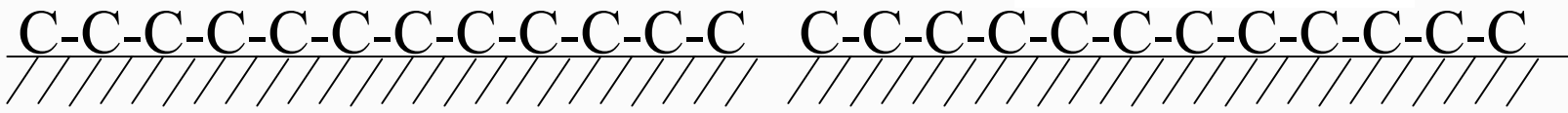
p-xylene



ethylbenzene



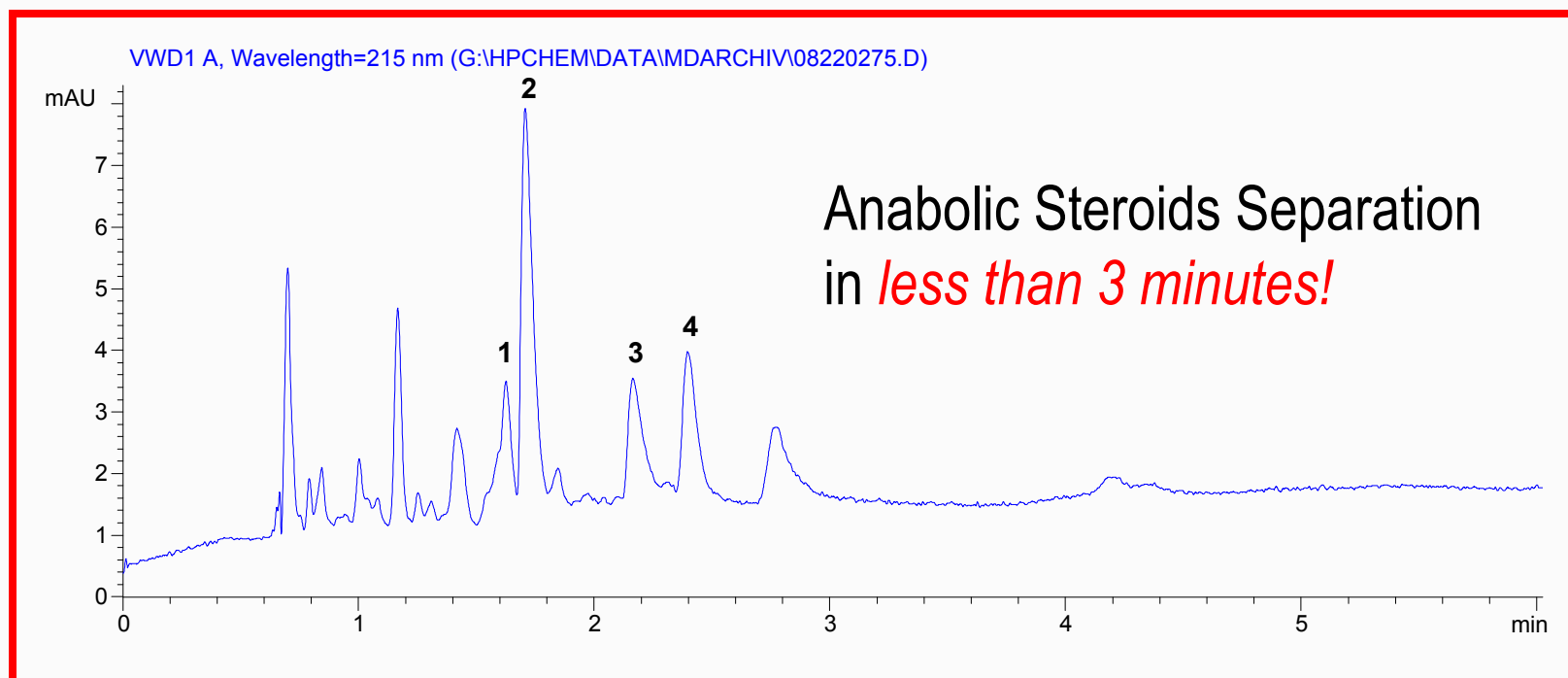
$\alpha_{\text{ODS}}=1.03$   
 $\alpha_{\text{CARB}}=1.58$   
 $\alpha_{\text{DB-C18}}=1.22$



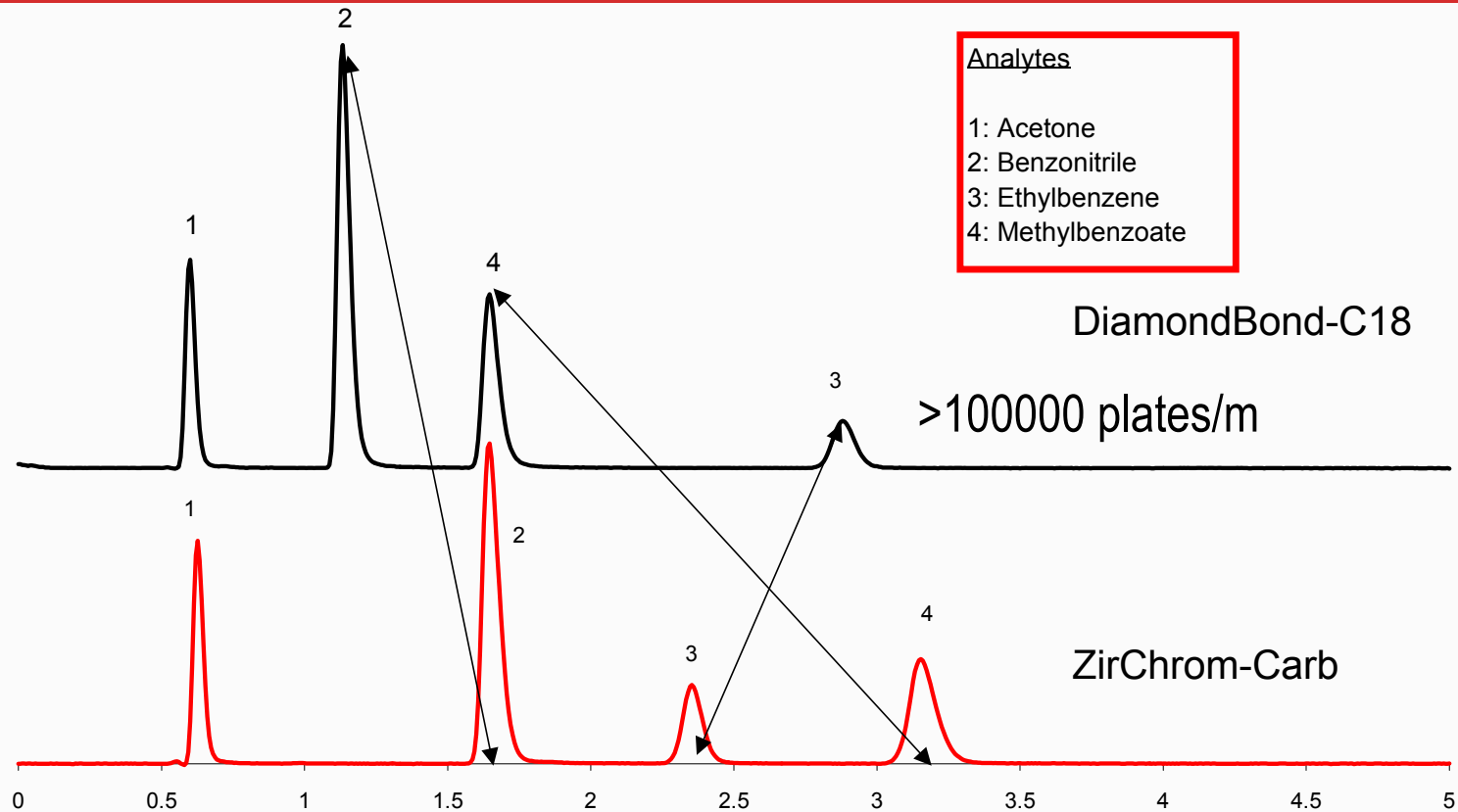


# Shape Selectivity: Anabolic Steroids

**LC Conditions:** Column, 150 x 4.6 DiamondBond-C18; Mobile phase, 60/40 ACN/Water; Flow rate, 2.0 ml/min.; Temperature, 100 °C; Injection volume, 10ul; Detection at 215nm; Solutes: 1=Epietiocholanolone, 2=Etiocholanolone, 3=Androsterone, 4=Epiandrosterone



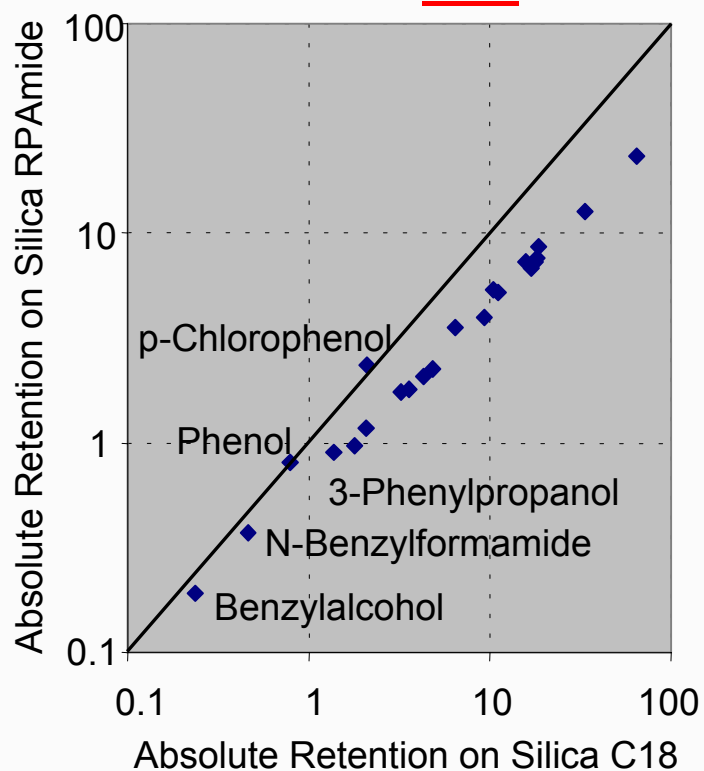
# Test Chromatogram on DB-C18



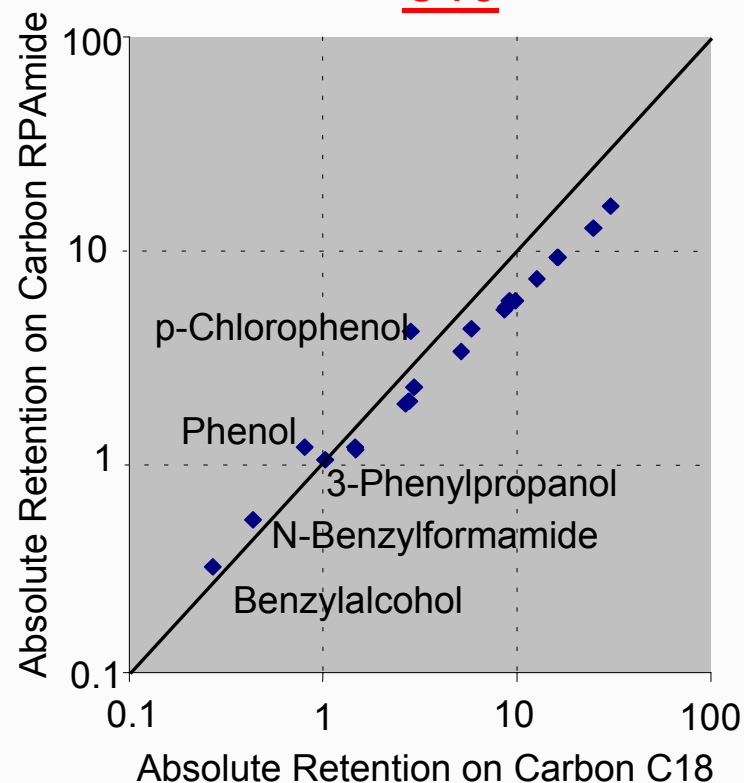
**LC Conditions:** Column dimension, 50 x 4.6 mm id.; Mobile phase, 37.5/5/57.5 ACN/THF/Water; Temperature, 60 °C; Flow rate, 1.0 ml/min.; Injection volume, 5 µl; Detection at 254 nm.

# Effect of Polar Embedded Amide

Silica Amide  
vs. C18

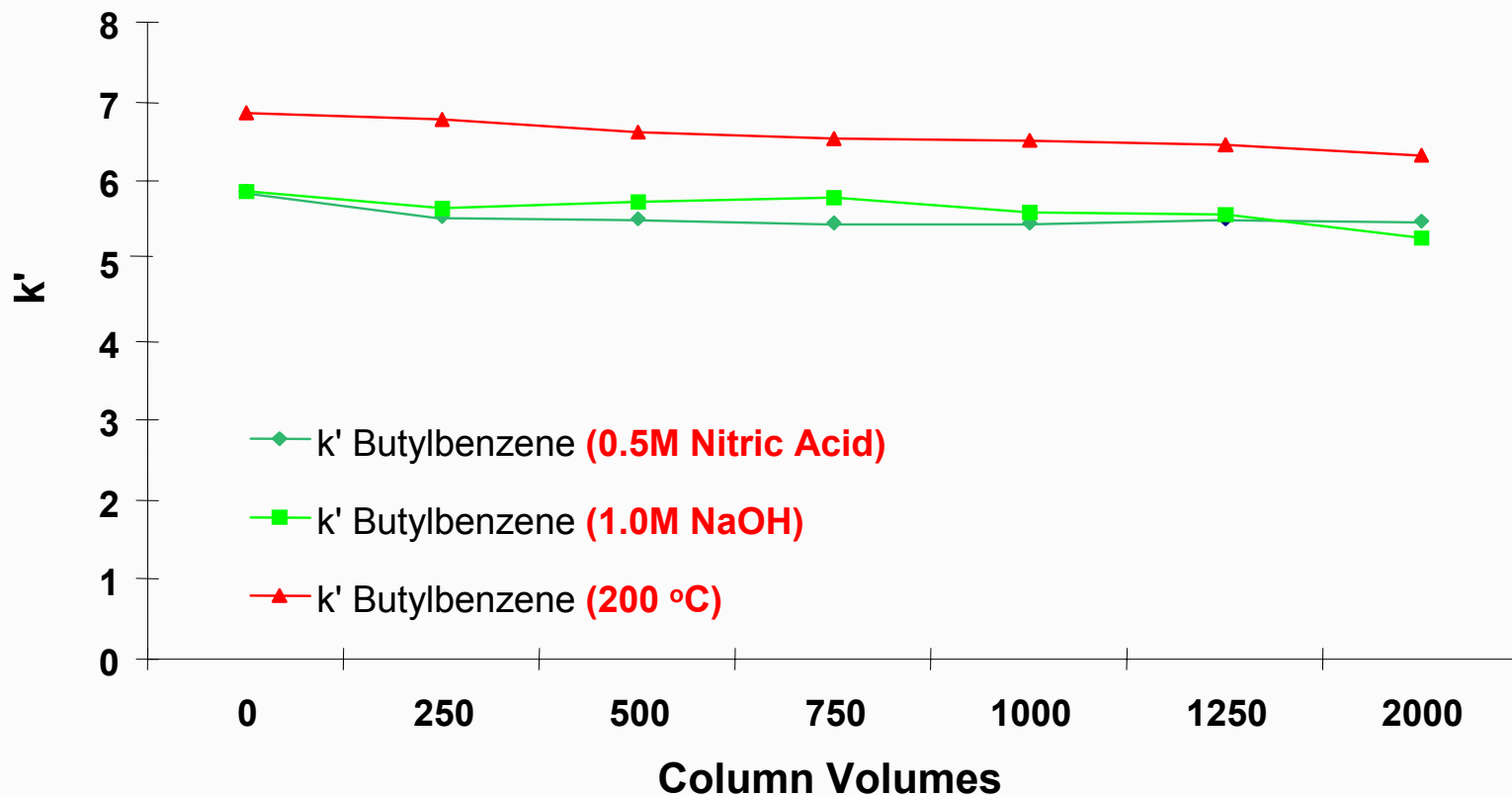


Carbon Amide vs.  
C18



**RPAmide** shows increased retention of HB Donors on silica and carbon-based phases

# DiamondBond-C18 Stability



## LC Conditions:

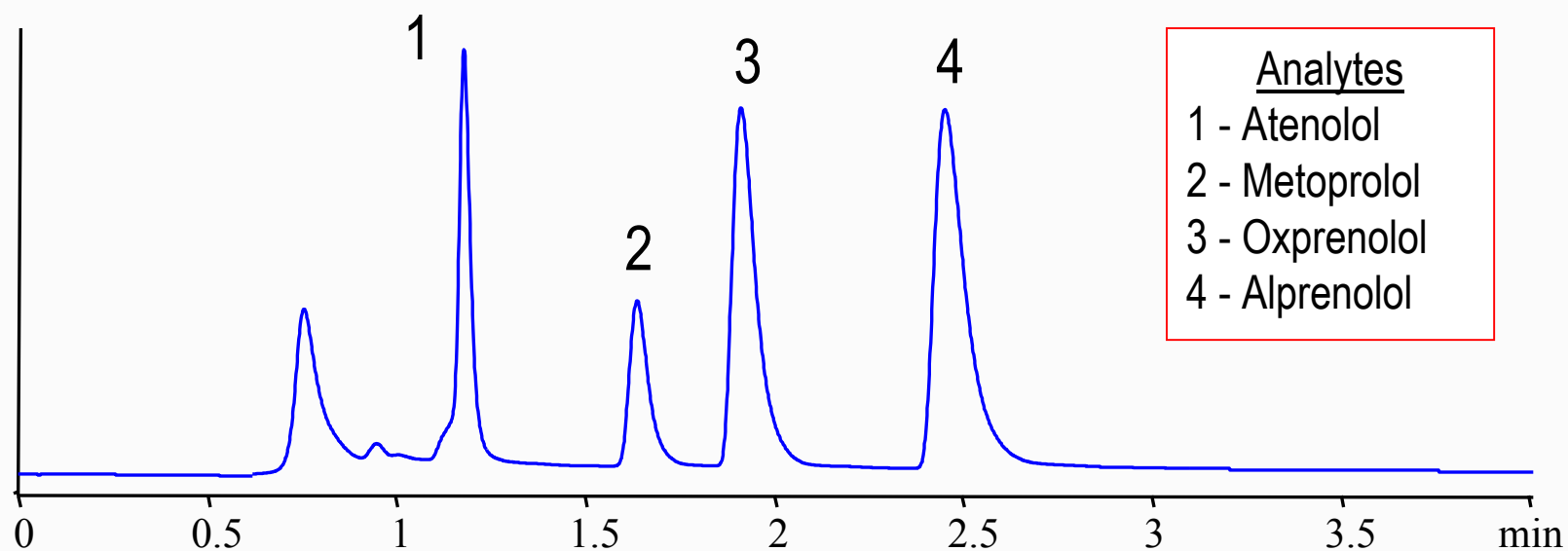
**Base Stability**—DiamondBond™ Phase A, 30 x 4.6 mm id; Mobile phase, 50/50 ACN/Water; Flow rate, 1.0 ml/min.; Temperature, 30 °C; Injection volume, 5ul; Detection at 254nm.

**Acid Stability**—DiamondBond™ Phase A, 50 x 4.6 mm id; Mobile phase, 50/50 ACN/Water; Flow rate, 1.0 ml/min.; Temperature, 30 °C; Injection volume, 5ul; Detection at 254nm.

**Temperature Stability**-- DiamondBond™ Phase B, 50 x 4.6 mm id; Mobile phase, 50/50 ACN/Water; Flow rate, 1.0 ml/min.; Temperature, 30 °C; Injection volume, 5ul; Detection at 254nm.



# High pH Stability - Beta Blockers



## LC Conditions:

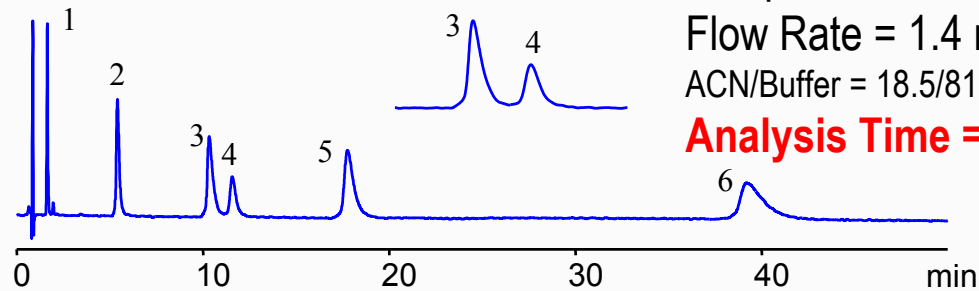
20/20/60 ACN/THF/200 mM TMAH and 200 mM NaCl, **pH 13.3**

Flow Rate: 1 ml/min. Temperature: 75 °C. Injection Volume: 5 ul

Detection: 254 nm.



# High Temperature Stability - Speed



**Resolution (min; 3,4) = 2.2**

Temperature = 21 °C

Flow Rate = 1.4 ml/min.

ACN/Buffer = 18.5/81.5

**Analysis Time = 43 min.**

Analytes:

1 = Barbitol

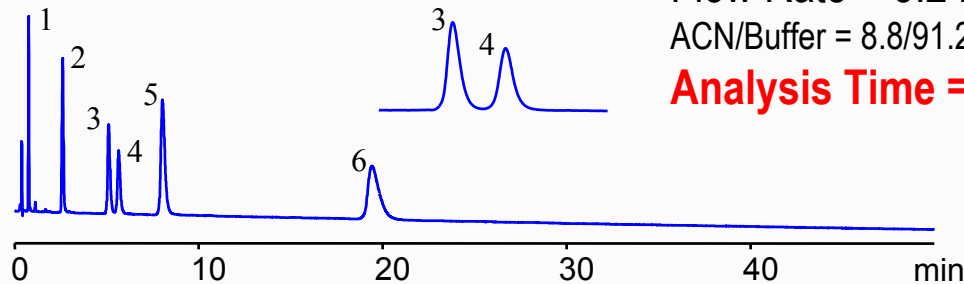
2 = Butabarbital

3 = Pentobarbital

4 = Carbromal

5 = Secobarbital

6 = Methohexital



**Resolution (min; 3,4) = 2.2**

Temperature = 80 °C

Flow Rate = 3.2 ml/min.

ACN/Buffer = 8.8/91.2

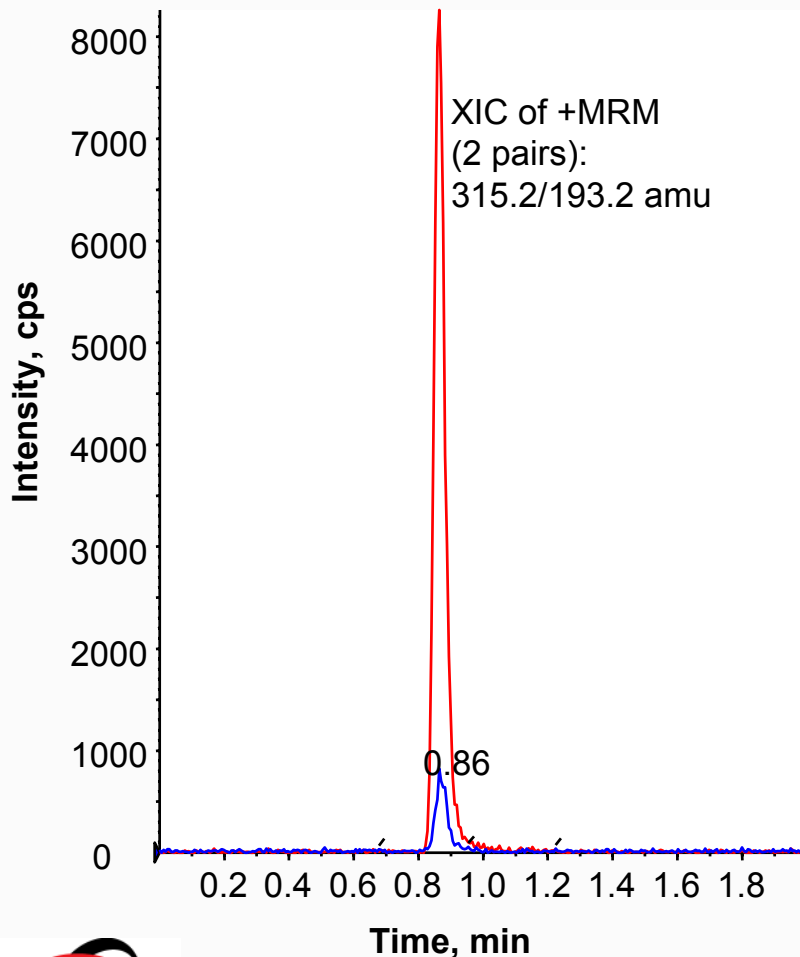
**Analysis Time = 21 min.**



**Mobile Phase:** ACN/5mM Ammonium phosphate, pH 7.0

**Pressure drop = 195 bar**

# Application in LC/MS/MS



## THC in Saliva by LC/MS/MS<sup>†</sup>

- Blue – THC (tetrahydrocannabinol parent drug)
- Red – D3 THC (Internal Standard)
- Column – 50mm X 4.6mm DBC18
  - 80° C @ 1.5 mL/min
  - Solvent A – 20mM NH<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub> in 70% Acetonitrile, 30% aqueous (0.1% acetic acid, pH 4.5)
  - Solvent B – Acetonitrile
- Isocratic 35% A, 65%B – 25 ul injection

<sup>†</sup> Data Courtesy R. Clouette - Clinical Reference Laboratories



# Summary

---

- All zirconia-based supports have surface chemistry that enables unique separations
- Even bonded zirconia-based phases are extremely stable:
  - Low pH and High pH applications
  - High Temperature / Fast HPLC
- Both “normal” and high pH, high temperature applications are possible on these new materials
  - LC/MS pharmaceutical applications enabled by this technology

