



ZirChrom®



# Developing Better HPLC Methods

## "New Zirconia-Based Phases of Improved Performance in LC/MS"

Clayton V. McNeff, Bingwen Yan, Dwight Stoll, *ZirChrom Separations, Inc.*



**ZirChrom**®

1-866-STABLE-1  
[www.zirchrom.com](http://www.zirchrom.com)

... For Peak Performance

**Specialists in High Efficiency, Ultra-Stable Phases for HPLC**



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# Outline

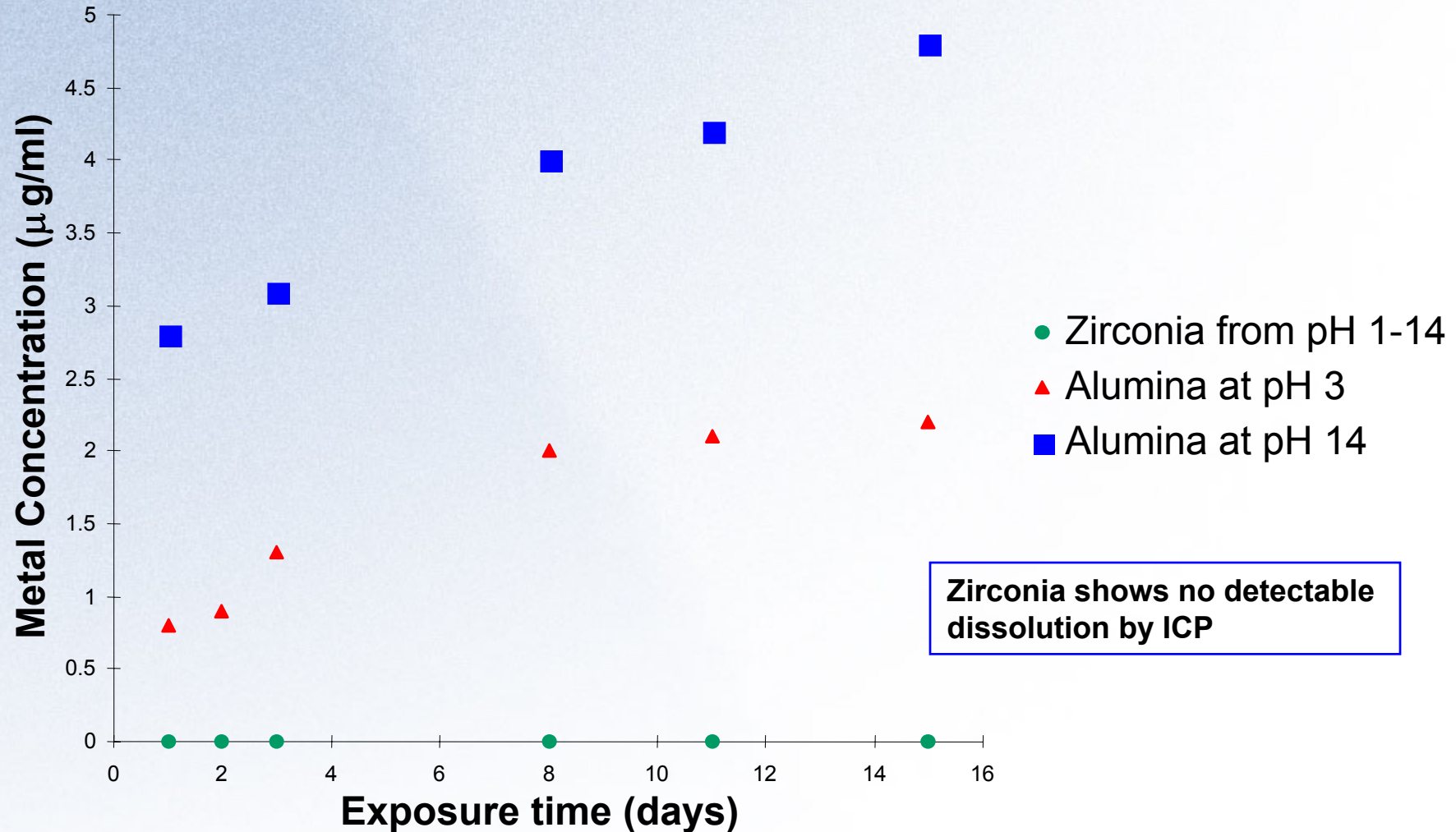
- 1.) Substrate **Zirconia Properties**
- 2.) ZirChrom-CARB, PBD and MS Columns
- 3.) **Synthesis** of RP Zirconia Phases
- 4.) Chromatographic Selectivity Studies
- 5.) **Developing Robust HPLC Separations Using Zirconia**
- 6.) **Column Bleed Study** on ZirChrom-CARB and Silica C18
- 7.) Example Method Development Case Studies

**Conclusions:** New Polymer and Carbon coated zirconia based HPLC Stationary phases provide **different chromatographic selectivity** than silica C18 and are **ideal for MS detection.**



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# Chemical Stability of Zirconia





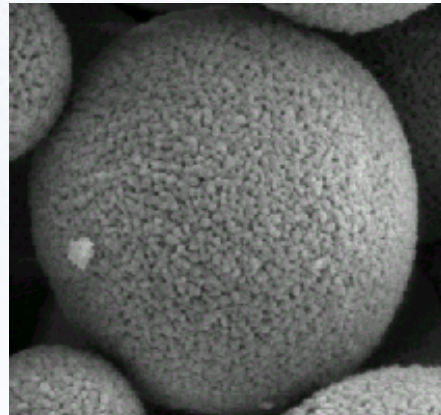
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# 1.) ZirChrom® Particle Properties

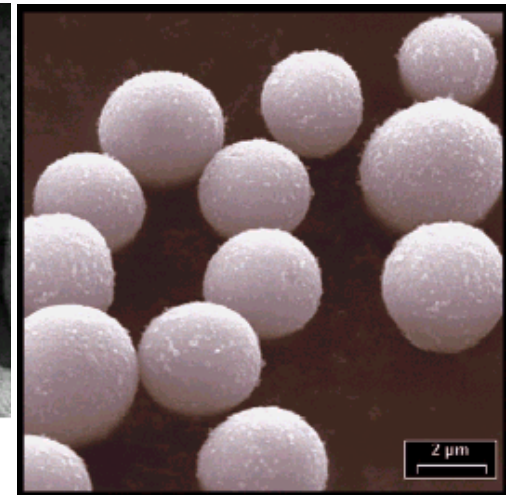
**ZirChrom®-PBD** and **ZirChrom®-MS** are prepared by coating with a layer of highly crosslinked polymer

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

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Property</u>
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, 25



1 μm 25000X



2 μm



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## 2.) ZirChrom Product List

Part #	Product Name	Chromatographic Mode and Uses
ZR01	ZirChrom® -CARB	Reversed-Phase
ZR02	ZirChrom® -PHASE	Normal Phase and SEC
ZR03	ZirChrom® -PBD	Reversed-Phase
ZR04	ZirChrom® -WCX	Weak Cation-Exchanger
ZR05	ZirChrom® -WAX	Weak Anion-Exchanger and Sugar Analysis
ZR06	ZirChrom® -SAX	Strong Anion-Exchanger
ZR07	ZirChrom® -SHAX	Strong Hydrophilic Anion-Exchanger
ZR08	ZirChrom® -PEZ	Cation-Exchanger for Proteins
DB01	DiamondBond™-C18	Reversed-Phase
ZR09	ZirChrom® -PS	Reversed-Phase
EZ01	ZirChrom® -EZ	Reversed-Phase (Lewis acid deactivated)
MS01	ZirChrom® -MS	Reversed-Phase (Lewis acid deactivated)



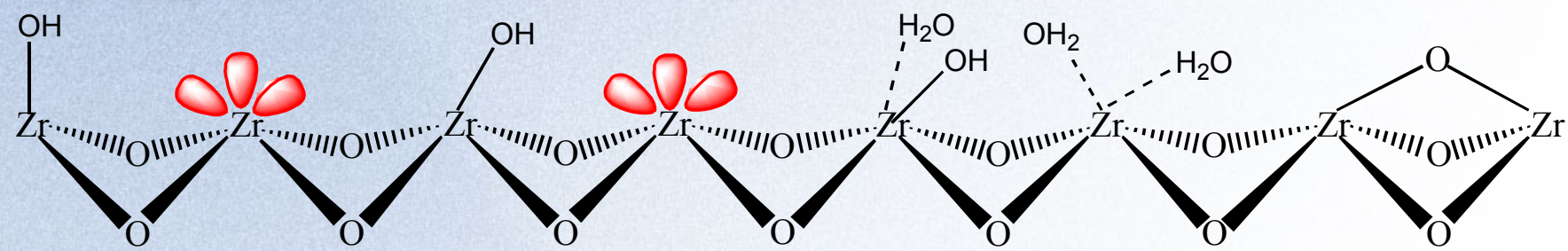
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*Zirconia vs. Silica*  
*The difference is the*  
*surface chemistry.*

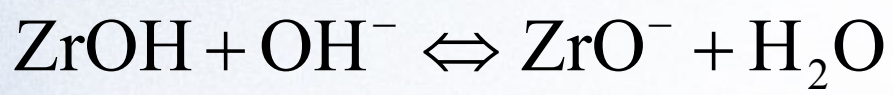


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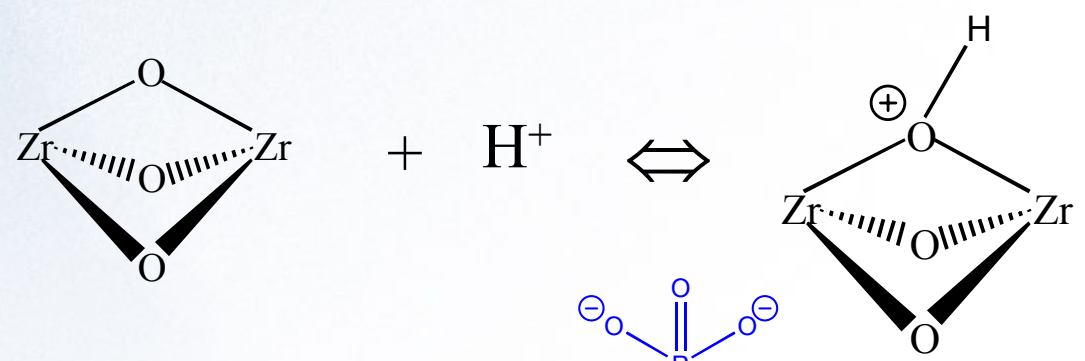
# Surface Chemistry of Zirconia-Based Supports for HPLC



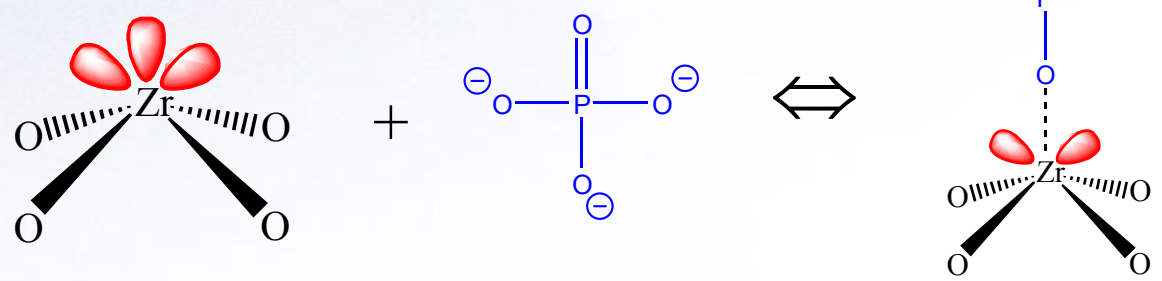
**Brönsted Acid:**



**Brönsted Base:**



**Lewis Acid:**

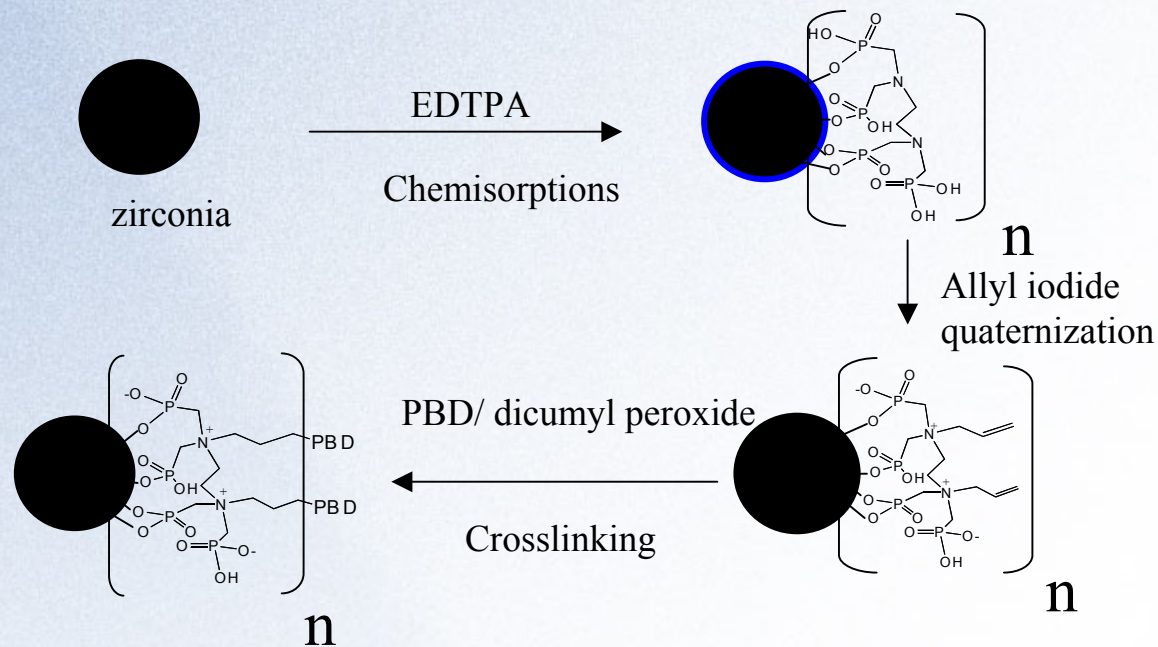








# Synthetic Strategy for ZirChrom-MS

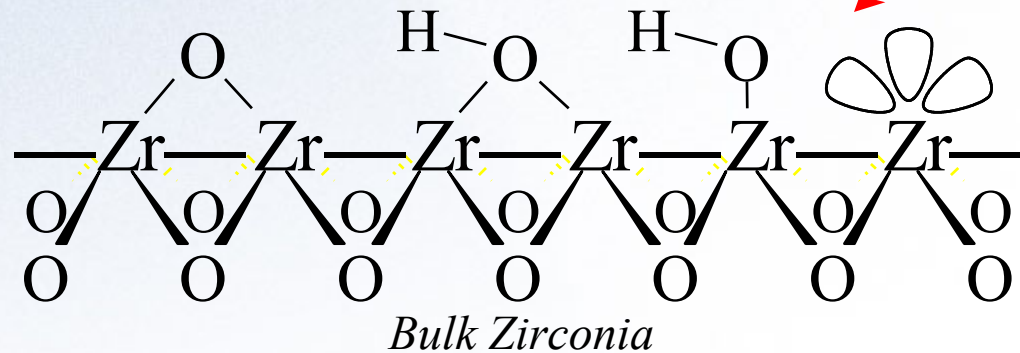
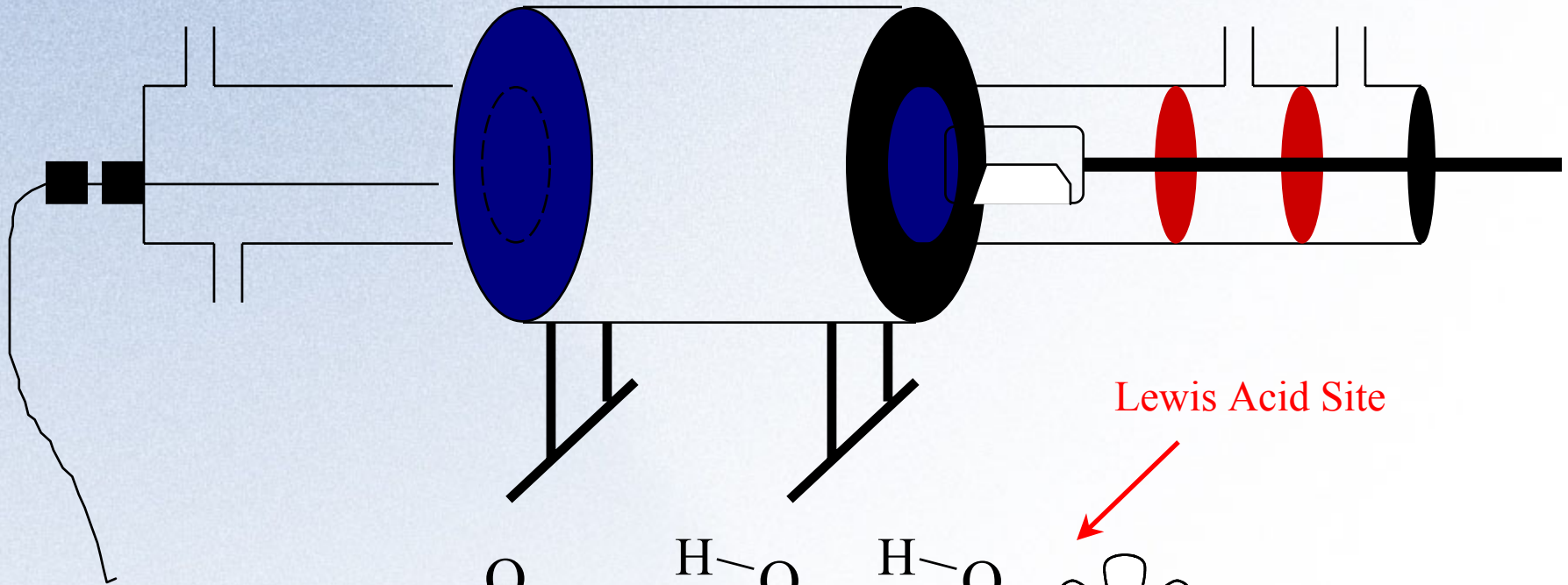


- 1 Chemisorb Ethylenediamine  $N,N,N',N'$ -tetra(methylenephosphonic)acid (EDTPA) to the zirconia surface.
- 2 Quaternize amines on the zirconia surface with allyl iodide
- 3 Coat polybutadiene (PBD) on the chelator-modified zirconia surface and crosslink PBD with allyl group and PBD itself using dicumyl peroxide as initiator



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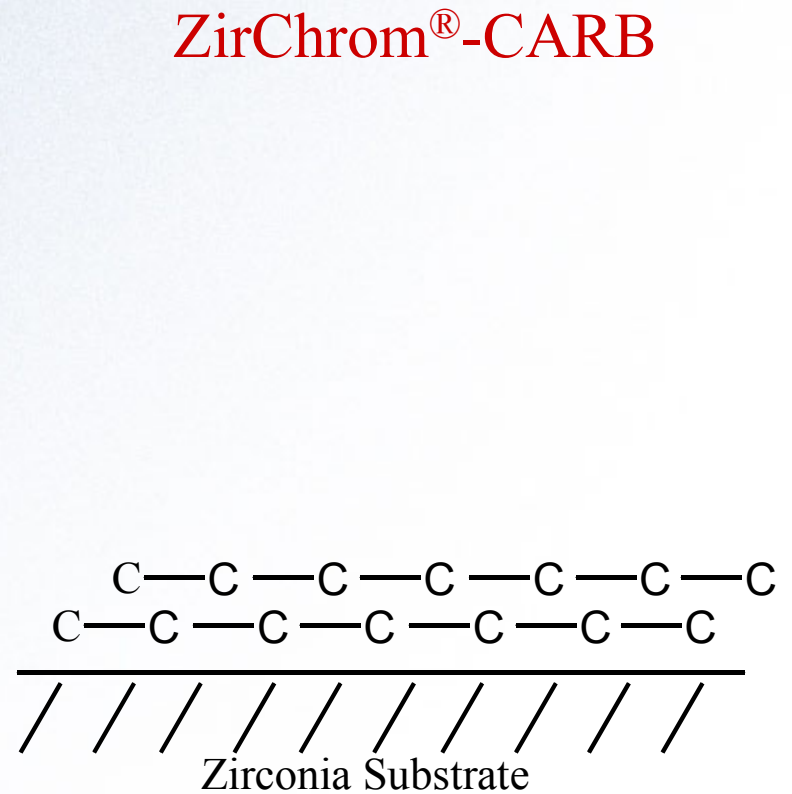
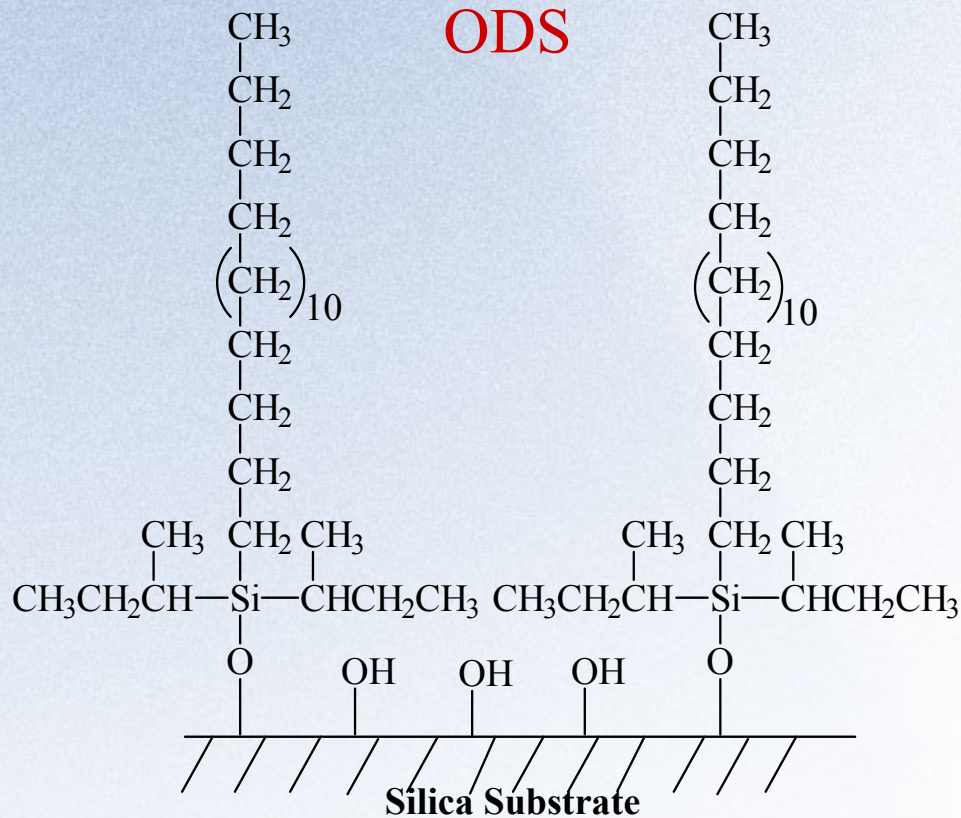
# Synthesis of ZirChrom®-CARB - Carbon Clad Zirconia





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# Chemical Structure of ZirChrom®-CARB





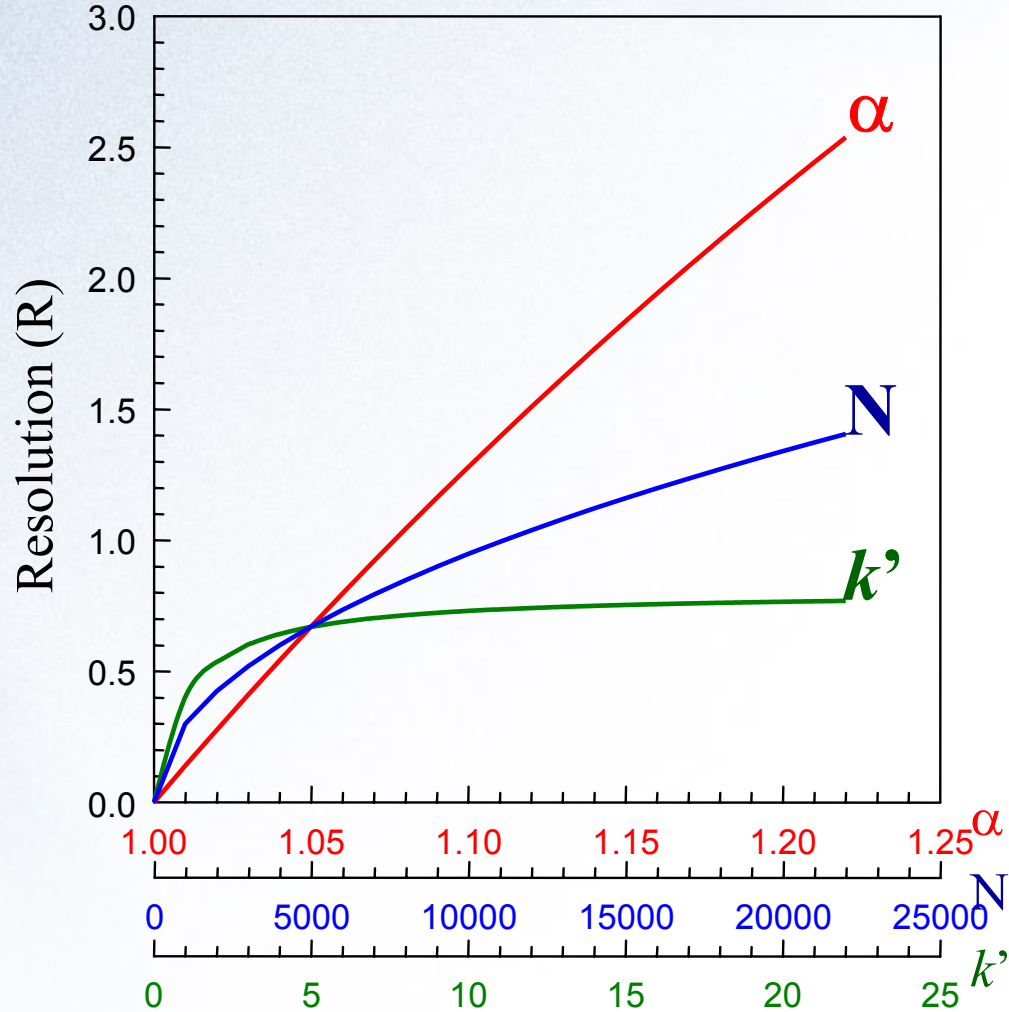
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# 3.) Selectivity: The Key to Success

Efficiency	Retention	Selectivity
↓	↓	↓
$R = \frac{\sqrt{N}}{4}$	$\frac{k'}{k'+1}$	$\frac{\alpha-1}{\alpha}$

$$\alpha = \frac{k_j'}{k_i'}$$

➤ Selectivity ( $\alpha$ ) has the greatest impact on improving resolution.

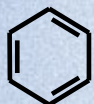




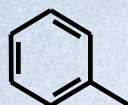
# 4.) Selectivity Comparison Solutes

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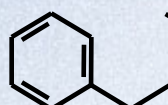
**Nonpolar**



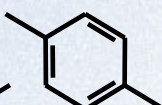
Benzene



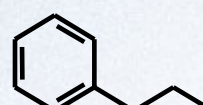
Toluene



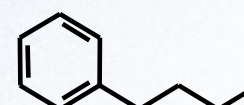
Ethylbenzene



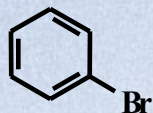
*p*-xylene



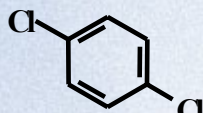
Propylbenzene



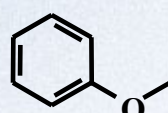
Butylbenzene



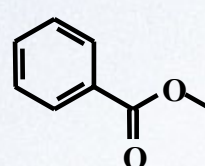
Bromobenzene



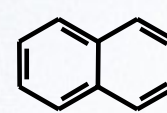
*p*-Dichlorobenzene



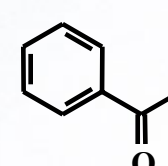
Anisole



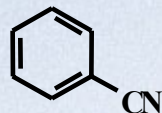
Methylbenzoate



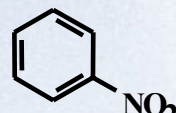
Napthalene



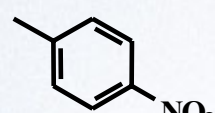
Acetophenone



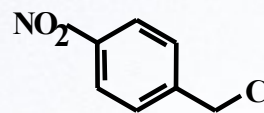
Benzonitrile



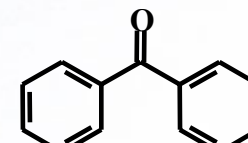
Nitrobenzene



*p*-Nitrotoluene

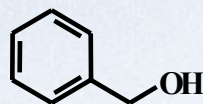


*p*-Nitrobenzyl Chloride

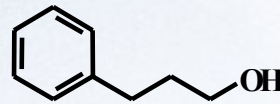


Benzophenone

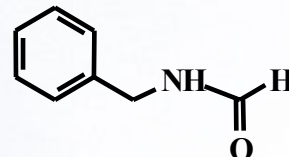
**HB Donor**



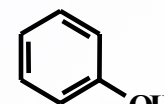
Benzylalcohol



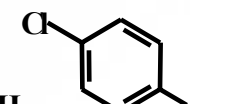
3-Phenyl Propanol



N-Benzyl Formamide



Phenol



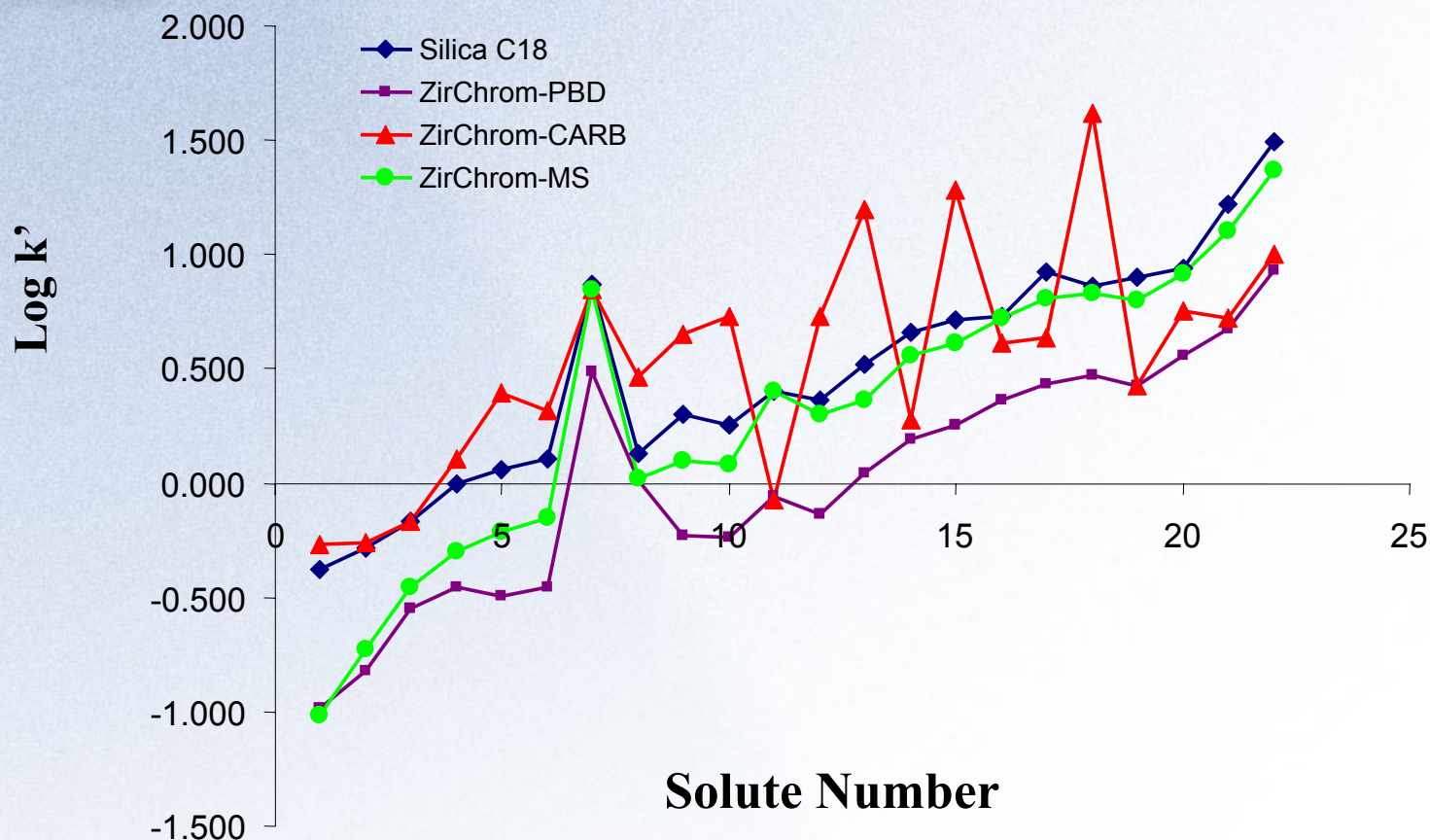
*p*-Chlorophenol

Mobile phase, 40/60 Acetonitrile/Water; Flow rate, 1.0 ml/min.;  
Temperature, 30 °C; Detection at 254nm; 5µl Injection volume.



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# Comparison of Selectivity of ODS, ZirChrom®-PBD, -CARB and -MS



1.) benzyl formamide 2.) benzyl alcohol 3.) phenol 4.) 3-phenyl propanol 5.) p-chlorophenol 6.) acetophenone 7.) benzonitrile 8.) nitrobenzene 9.) methylbenzoate 10.) anisole 11.) benzene 12.) p-chlorotoluene 13.) p-nitrobenzyl chloride 14.) toluene 15.) benzophenone 16.) bromobenzene 17.) naphthalene 18.) ethyl benzene 19.) p-xylene 20.) p-dichlorobenzene 21.) propyl benzene 22.) butyl benzene



# Selectivity Matrix

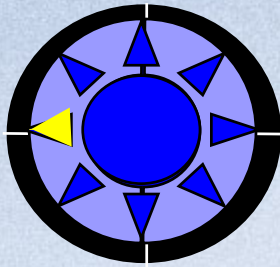
Correlation Coefficient	Waters Xterra (RP18)	Luna	PLRP	Gammabond	ZirChrom-PBD	ZirChrom-CARB	DB-C18	Hypercarb	Discovery BIO Wide Pore C18	ZirChrom-EZ	ZirChrom-MS
Waters Xterra (RP18)	1	0.99	0.96	0.98	0.95	0.71	0.94	0.77	0.96	0.96	0.96
Luna		1	0.98	0.99	0.95	0.70	0.94	0.77	0.96	0.96	0.97
PLRP			1	0.98	0.97	0.70	0.95	0.76	0.98	0.98	0.98
Gammabond				1	0.97	0.70	0.95	0.76	0.98	0.98	0.98
ZirChrom-PBD					1	0.69	0.97	0.77	0.98	0.99	0.99
ZirChrom-CARB						1	0.84	0.97	0.68	0.70	0.70
DB-C18							1	0.90	0.95	0.97	0.97
Hypercarb								1	0.76	0.78	0.77
BIO Wide Pore C18									1	0.99	0.99
ZirChrom-EZ										1	0.998
ZirChrom-MS											1

**Conclusion:** All **CARBON-BASED** Columns have different selectivity for nonelectrolytes. All other column retention is very highly correlated.

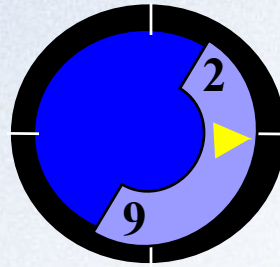
**LC Conditions:** Mobile phase, 40/60 ACN/Water; Flow rate, 1.0 ml/min.; Temperature, 30 °C; Injection volume, 5 µl; Detection at 254 nm.



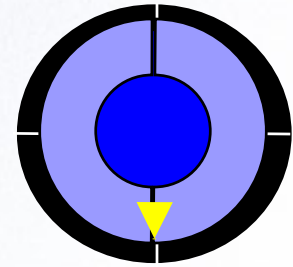
# 5.) Method Development Variables for Silica RP Phases



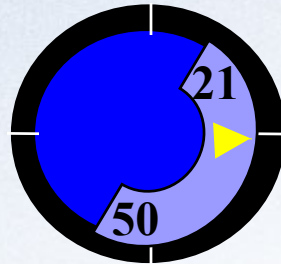
Selectivity



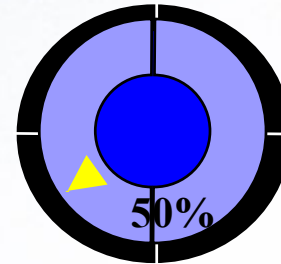
pH (2-9)



Organic Modifier  
Type (many)



Temperature  
up to 50°C

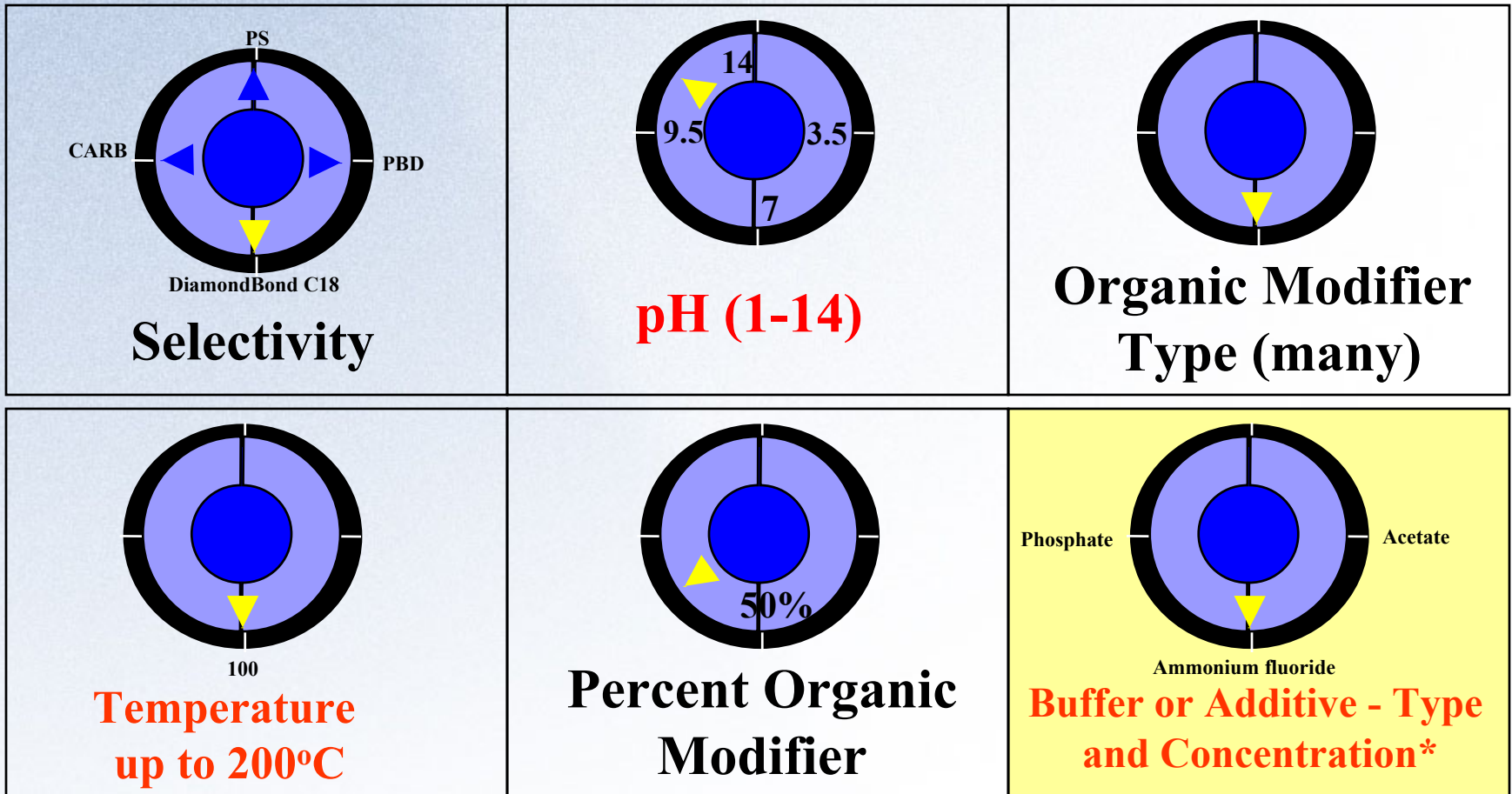


Percent Organic  
Modifier





# Method Development Variables on Zirconia RP Phases



\* Except for ZirChrom EZ and MS



## 6.) Why is Column Bleed Bad in LCMS?

- ➔ At same mass and elution time it can obscure peak of interest and make quantitation difficult, increases L.O.D. and L.O.Q.
- ➔ At same mass and elution time it can cause a chase for “ghost” impurities in sample.
- ➔ At same elution time but **different mass** can cause ionization problems for analyte of interest.

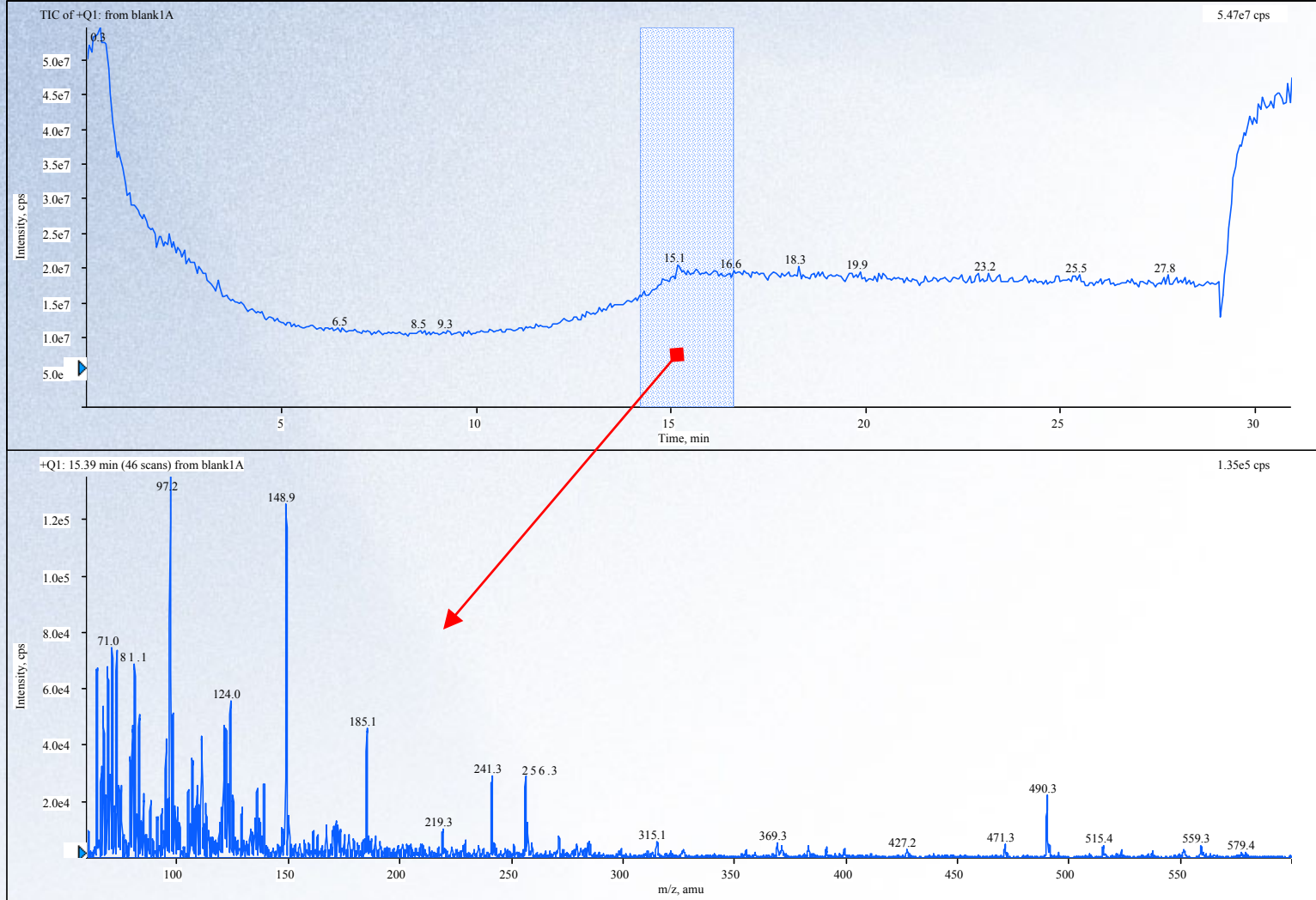


# General Conditions of M.S. Bleed Study

- SCIEX APCI 3000 triple quad in single quad mode at 400 °C.
- Total ion current 60-600 amu.
- Spectra is sum of 30-35 scans in time window.
- Mobile phase gradient 0-100% ACN/buffer in 15 min. plus 14 min. hold at 100%.
- pH 9 = 2mM  $\text{NH}_4\text{Ac}$  +  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ .
- Note pump-column-MS. No injector used.



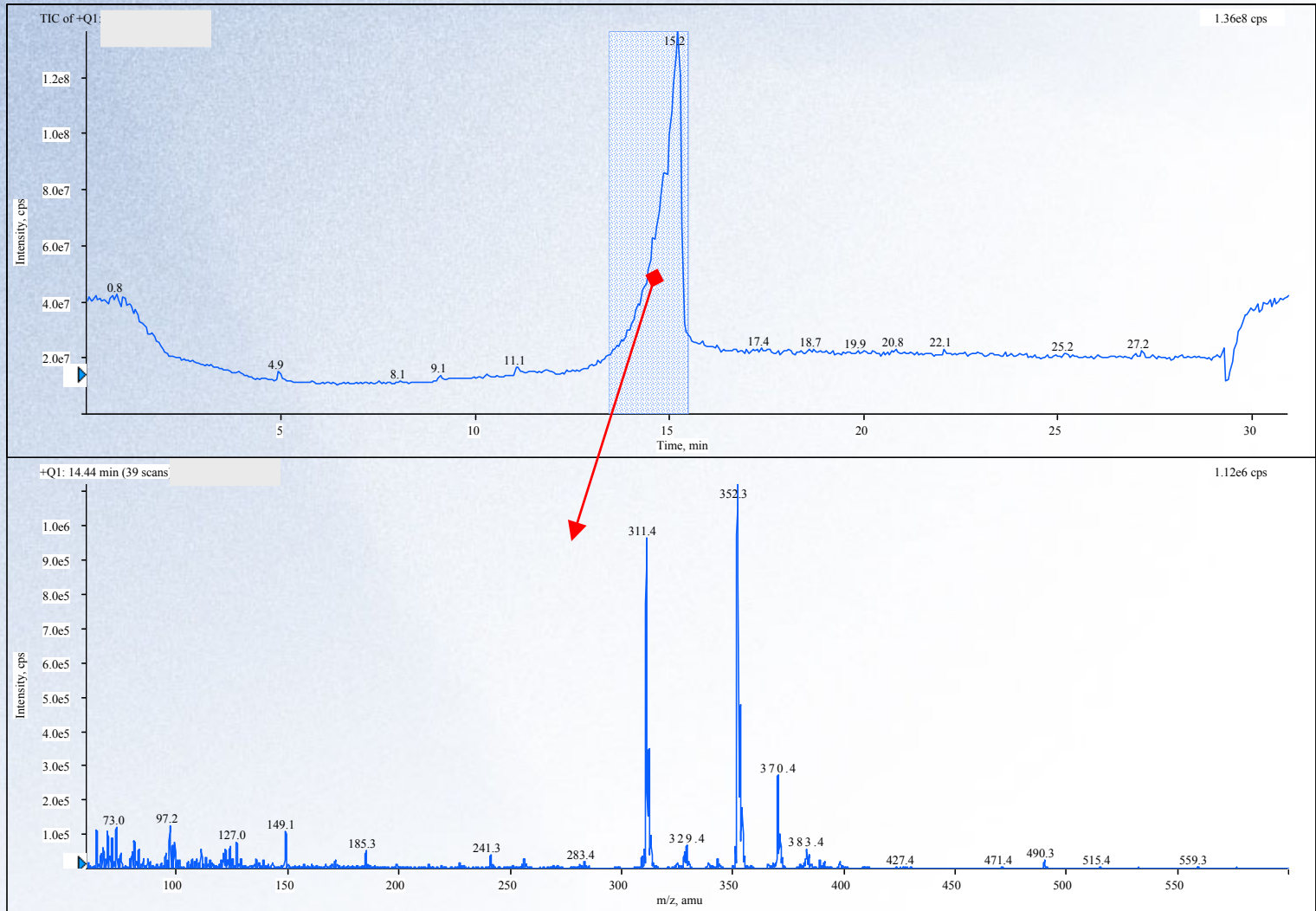
# Blank Gradient at pH 9 and 55 °C



**M.S. different than blank gradient at pH 7 probably due to ionization differences.**



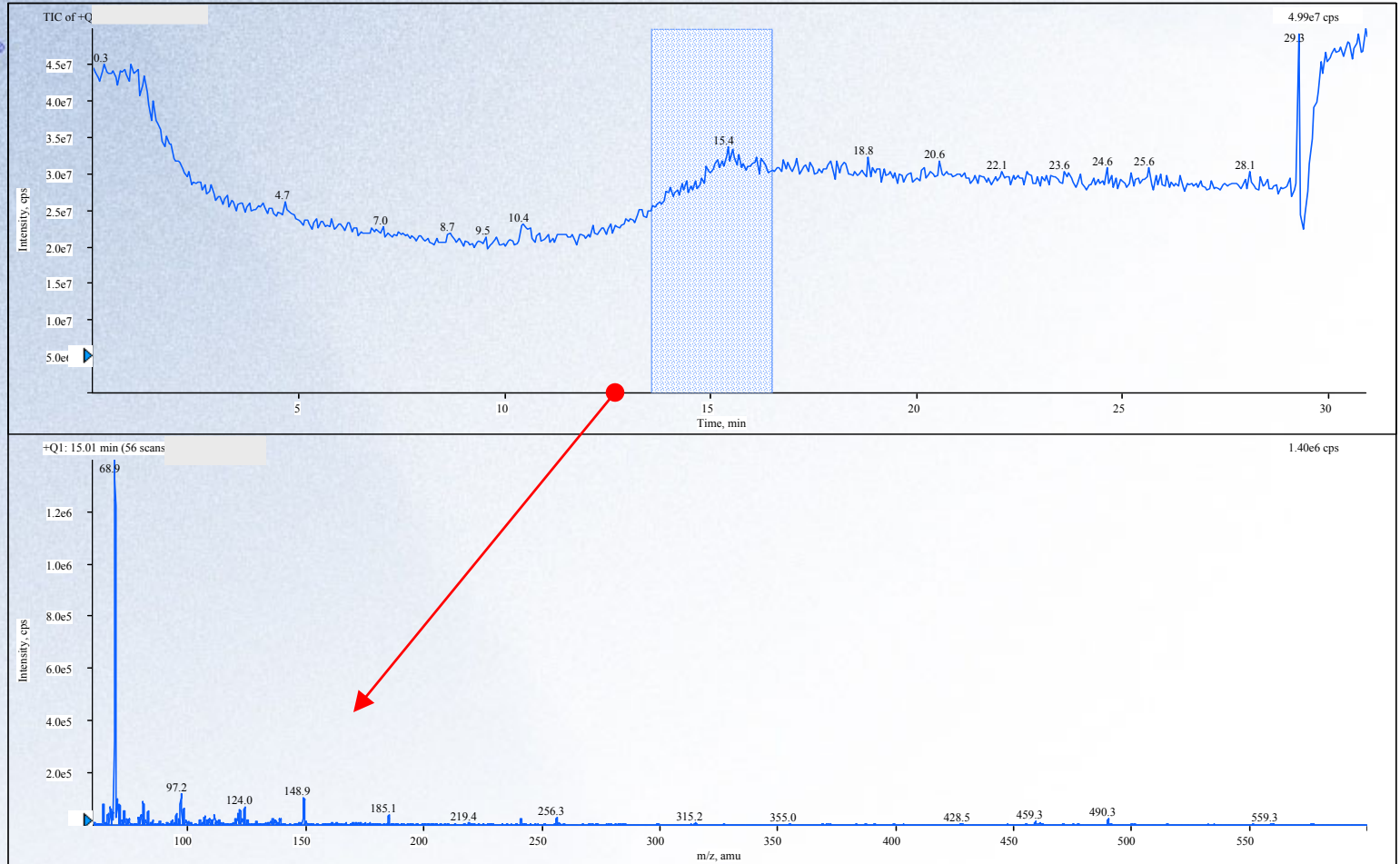
# M.S. Grade SiO<sub>2</sub> (A.) at pH 9 and 55 °C



**Note big peak at 12-15 min. in total ion chromatogram and new peaks in mass spec.**



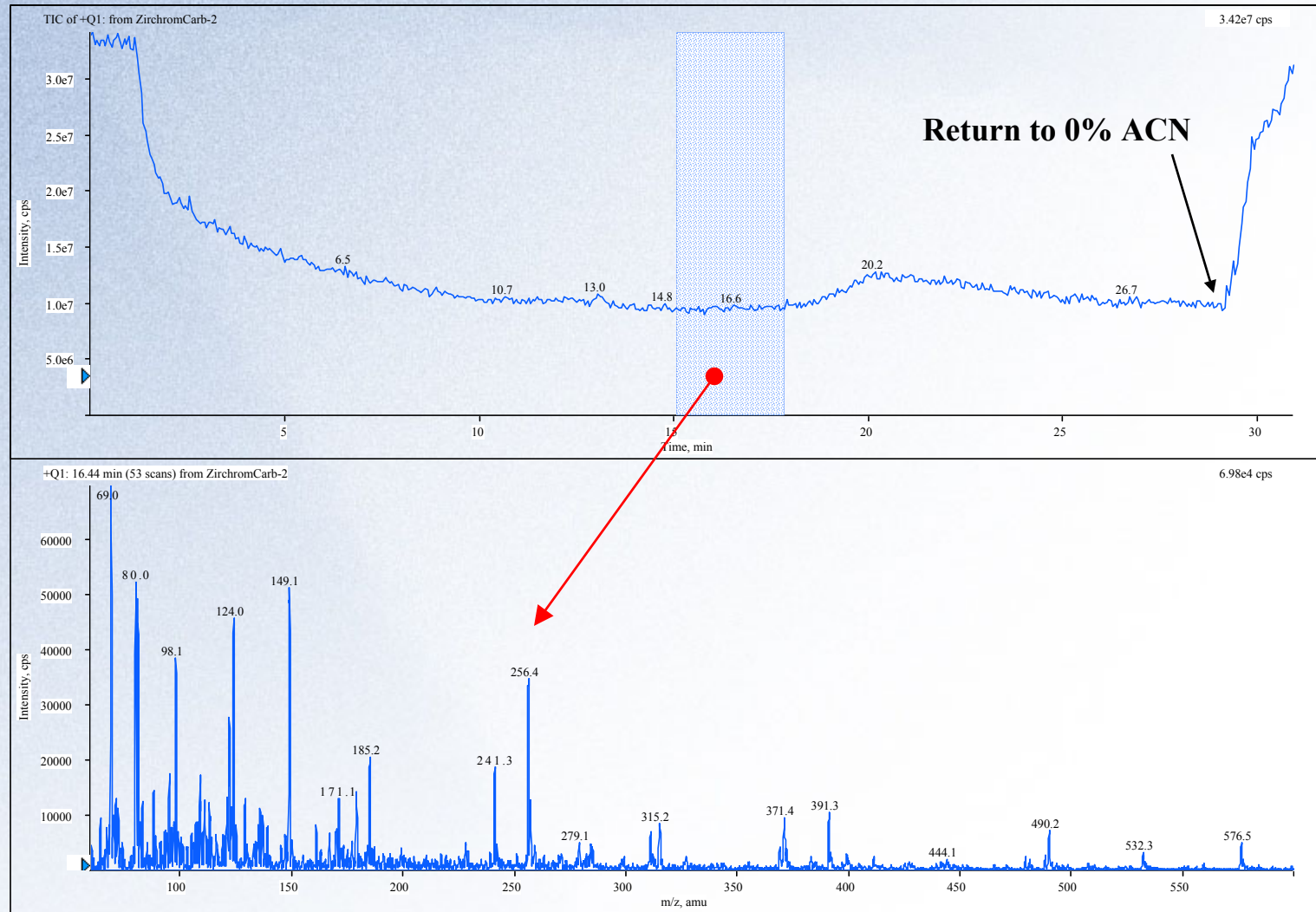
# M.S. Grade SiO<sub>2</sub> (B.) at pH 9 and 55 °C



**Note new peak in total ion chromatogram and increase in mass 69.**



# ZirChrom-CARB at pH 9 and 55 °C



**Total ion chromatogram and mass spectra with ZirChrom CARB nearly identical to blank gradient. No new discernible masses or peaks due to column.**



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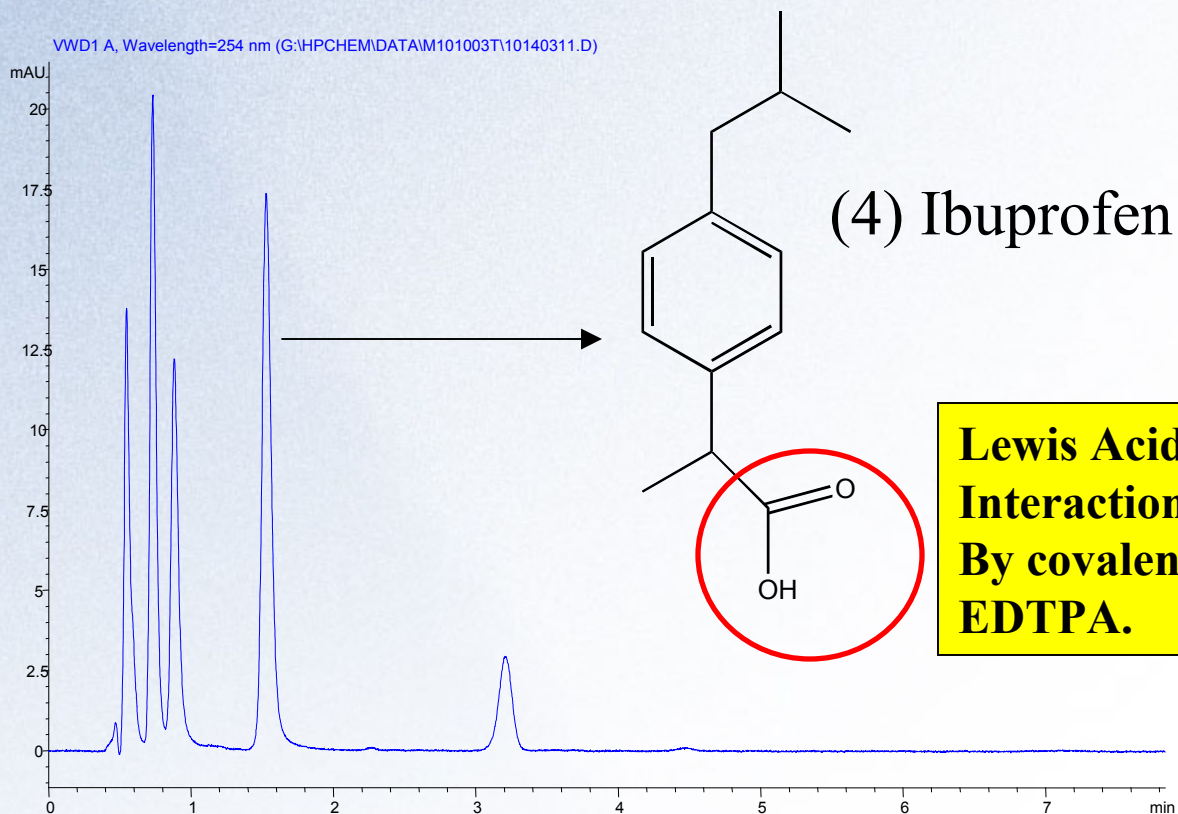
## **7.) Example Method Development Case Studies**

- a.) ZirChrom-MS
- b.) ZirChrom-PBD
- c.) ZirChrom-CARB





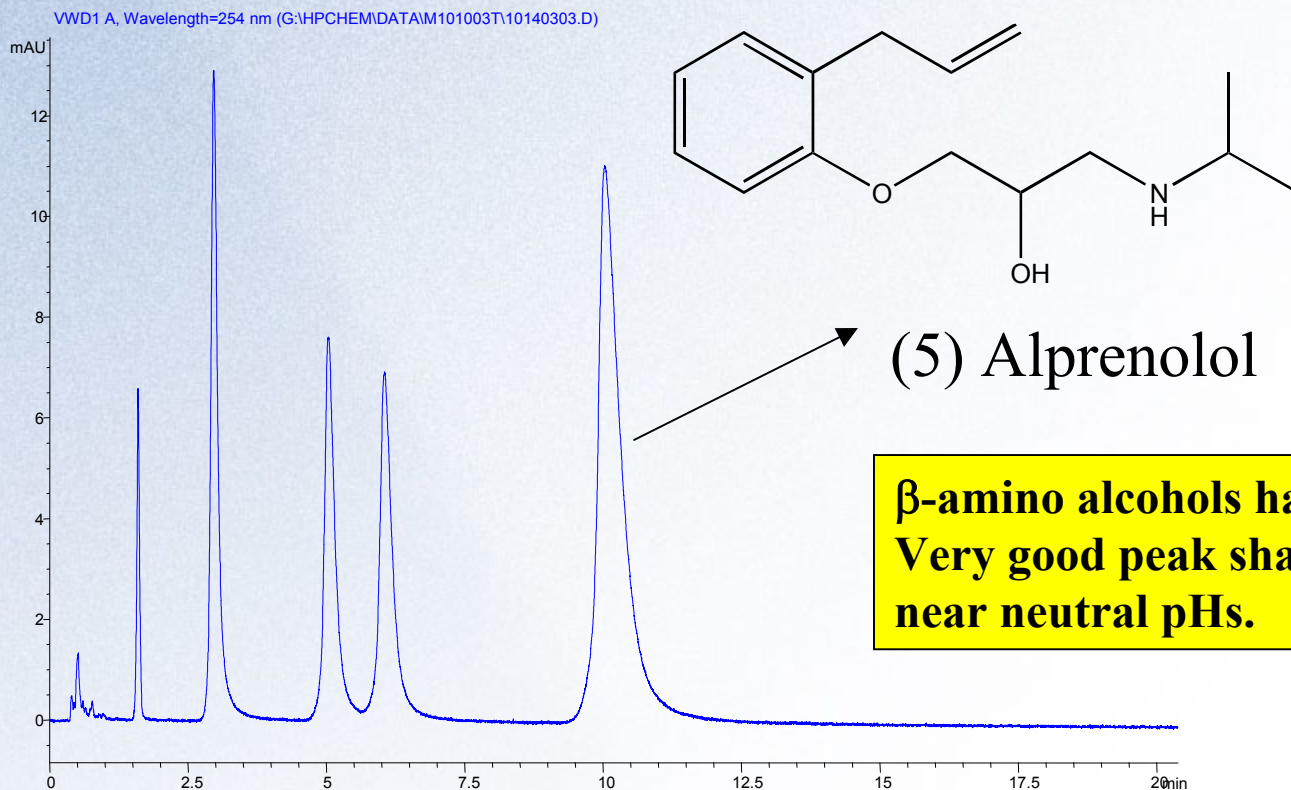
# Separation of Acidic Compounds on ZirChrom-MS



**Chromatographic Conditions:** Column Dimension: 50X4.6 MS101003T; Mobile phase, Machine-mixed 40/60 ACN/10 mM ammonium acetate pH=5. Flow rate: 1 ml/min, Temperature, 35° C; Injection volume: 5 µl; Solutes eluted in order, (1) Acetaminophen, (2) Ketoprofen, (3) Naproxen, (4) Ibuprofen, (5) Impurity; Detection, 254 nm. Pressure drop, 68 bar.



# Separation of $\beta$ -Blockers on ZirChrom-MS



**Chromatographic Conditions:** Column Dimension: 50X4.6 MS101003T; Mobile phase: Machine-mixed 65/35 ACN/10 mM ammonium acetate pH=5; Flow rate: 1 ml/min; Temperature, 35° C; Injection volume: 5  $\mu$ l. Solutes eluted in order: (1) Lidocaine, (2) Atenolol, (3) Metoprolol, (4) Oxprenolol, (5) Alprenolol  
Detection: 254 nm; Pressure drop, 59 bar.



# Fast Analysis of Glyburide for LC/MS on ZirChrom-PBD

Current method: Isocratic elution in acetic acid buffer on C18-silica

Problem: Analysis time is too long

Customer Goal: Reduce analysis time by a factor of 2

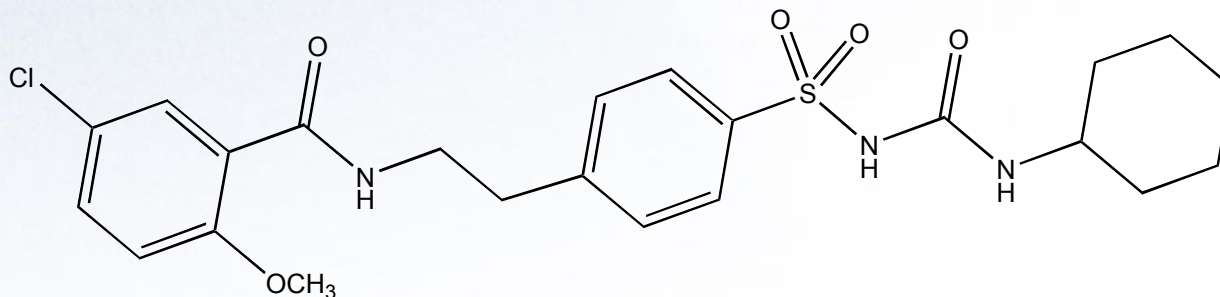
## Starting Conditions

Mobile phase: ACN/Acetic acid, pH 3.3

Flow rate: 0.8 ml/min.

Temperature: 75 °C

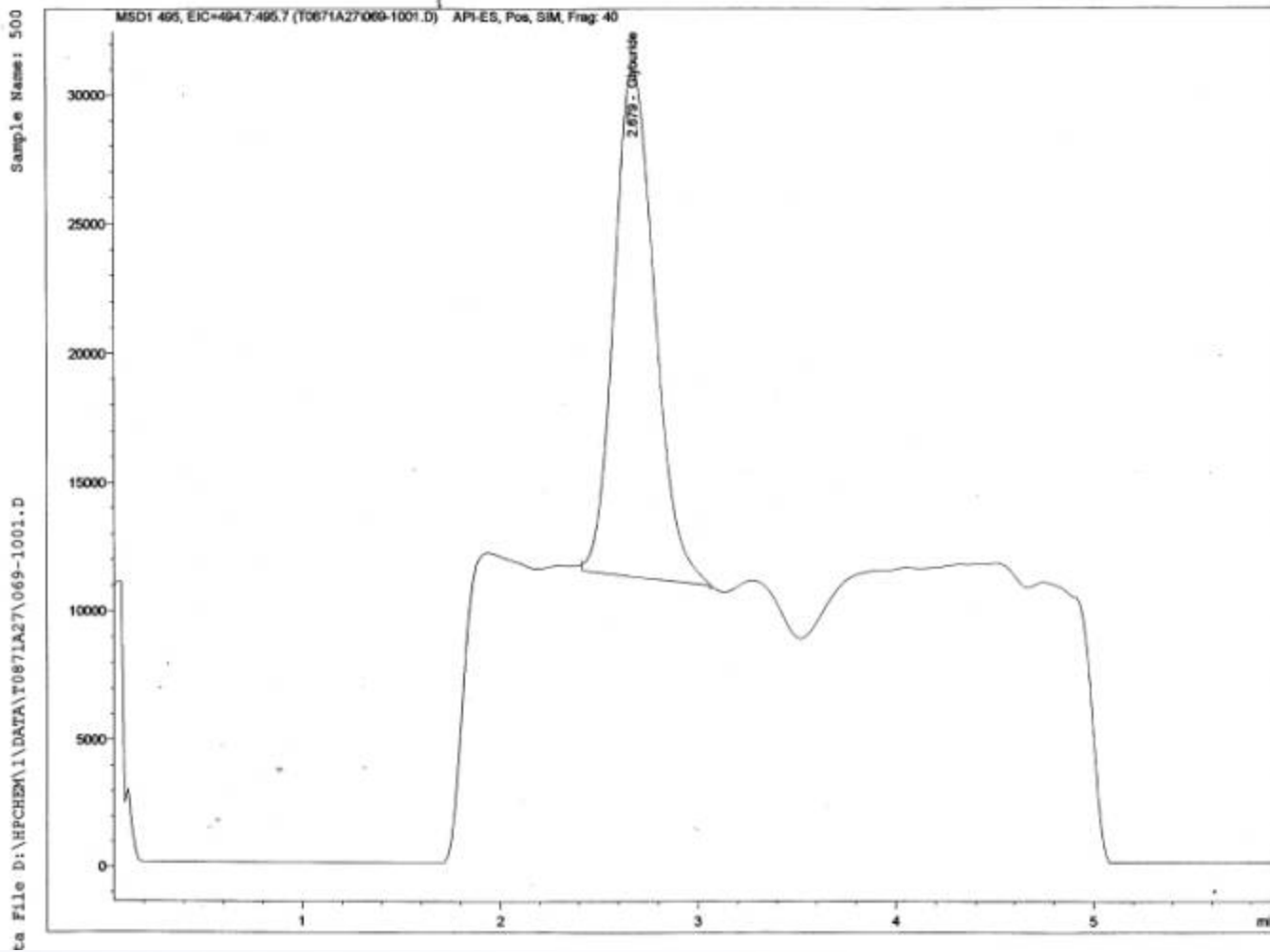
Detection: 254 nm





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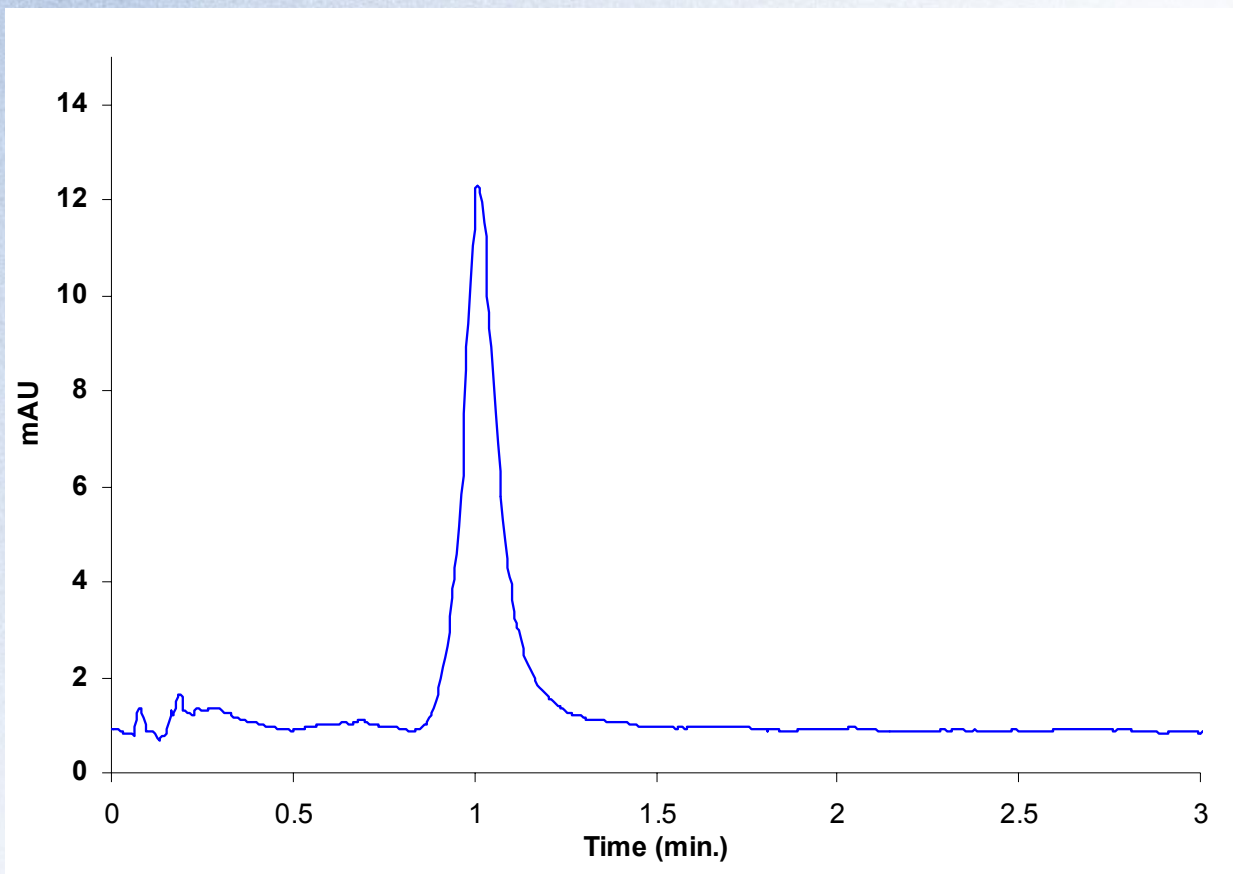
# C18-Silica Method





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# Final Glyburide Separation



**LC Conditions:** Mobile phase, 30/70 ACN/20mM Acetic acid, pH 3.3; Flow rate, 0.80 ml/min.; **Temperature, 70 °C**; Injection volume, 1  $\mu$ l; Detection at 240 nm; Column, 50mm x 2.1mm i.d. ZirChrom®-PBD, backpressure = 126 bar

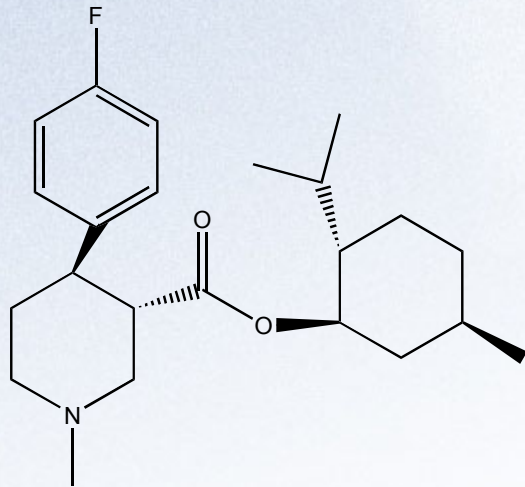


# Fast Diastereomer Separation on ZirChrom-CARB

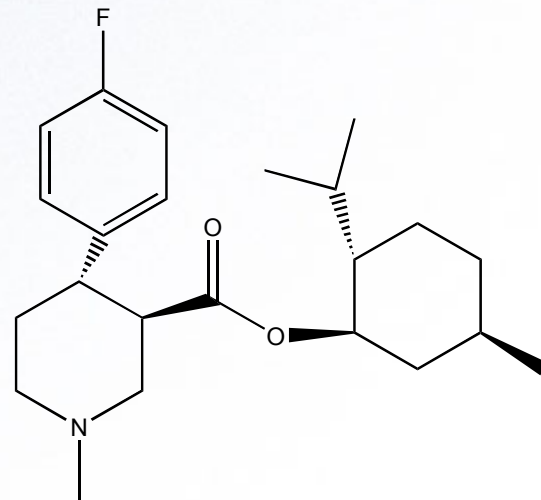
Current method: Methanol gradient with phosphate buffer at pH 3.5 on a Zorbax SB-CN column

Problem: Very little resolution, even with a run time of 20 minutes

Customer Goal: Improve resolution of diastereomers and reduce analysis time by a factor of 2



Diastereomer #1



Diastereomer #2



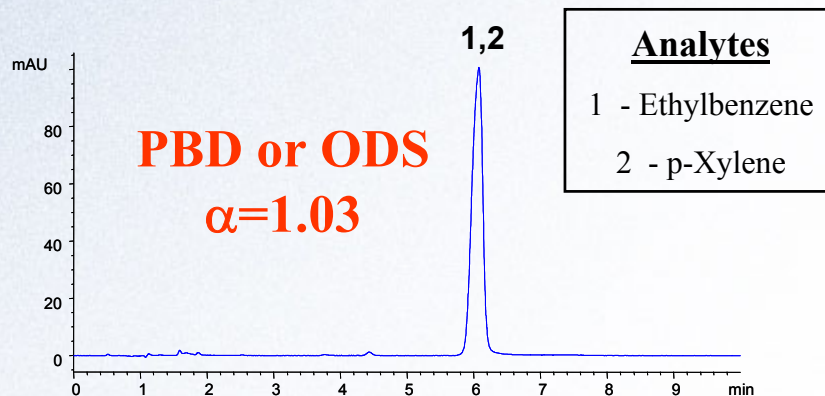
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# Carbon Has Unique Selectivity

## LC Conditions

Column: ZirChrom®-PBD, 100 x 4.6 mm

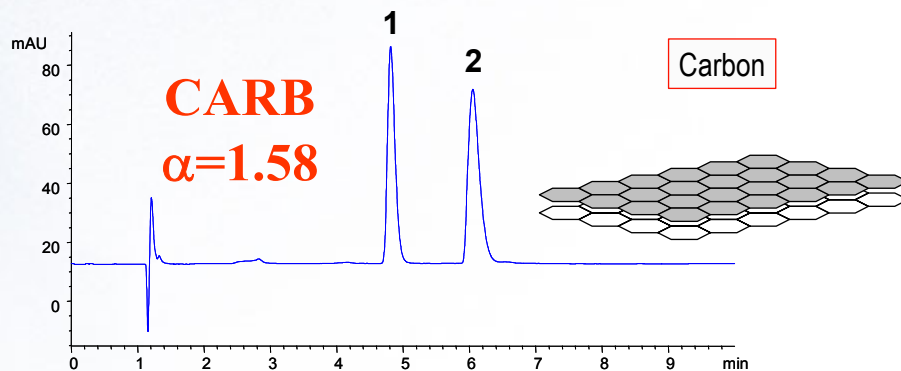
Mobile phase:	Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min.
35/65 A/B	Temperature: 30 °C
A: ACN	Injection volume: 5 µL
B: Water	Detection: 254 nm



## LC Conditions

Column: ZirChrom®-CARB, 100 x 4.6 mm

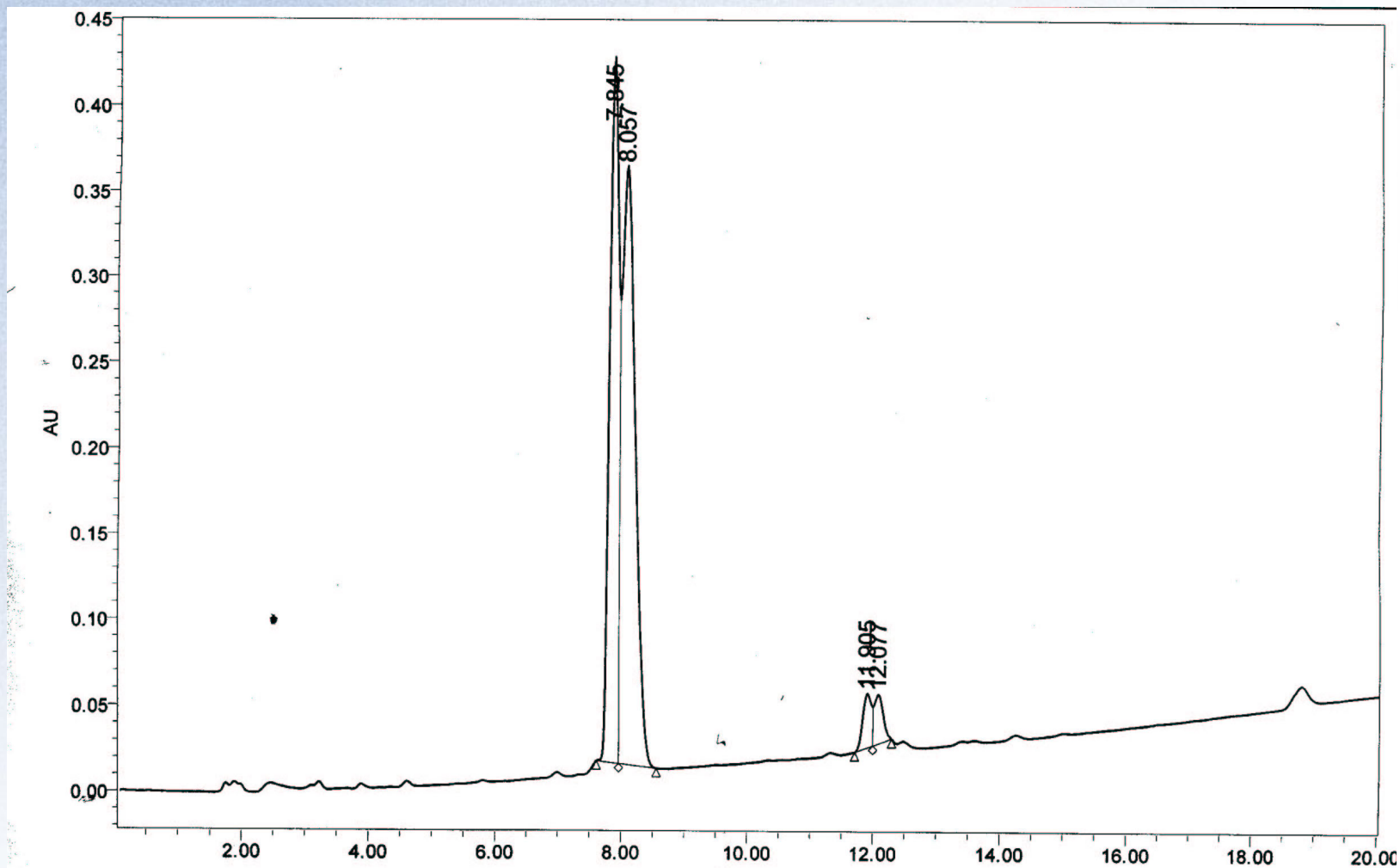
Mobile phase:	Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min.
32.5/67.5 A/B	Temperature: 60 °C
A: ACN	Injection volume: 5 µL
B: Water	Detection: 254 nm





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# C18-Silica Method







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# Method Development Strategy

1. ZirChrom-CARB will provide the best selectivity for diastereomers
2. Elevated temperature and strong solvents can be used to improve peak shape
3. A high pH buffer can be used to deprotonate the amine functionalities

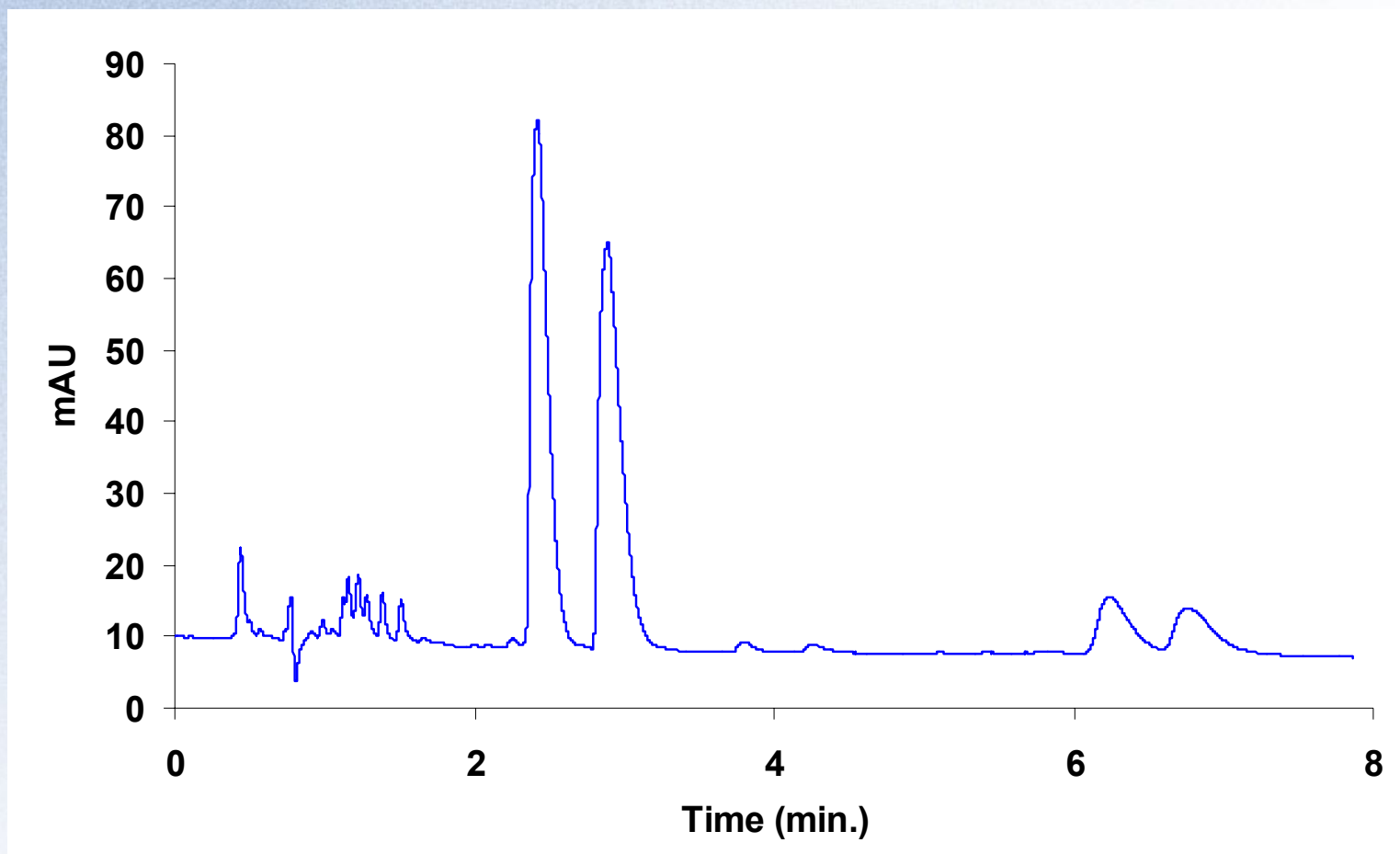
## Starting Conditions:

Column:	ZirChrom-CARB	Temperature:	80 °C
Mobile phase:	Gradient elution from 10-90% B	Detection:	240 nm
	A: Water	Injection vol.:	5 µl
	B: ACN		



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# The Final Separation



**LC Conditions:** Column, 150 mm x 4.6 mm i.d. ZirChrom-CARB; Mobile phase, 35/35/30 ACN/Butanol/10mM Diethylamine, pH 11.2; Flow rate, 2.00 ml/min.; Temperature, 80 °C; Injection volume, 5 µl; Detection at 265 nm.



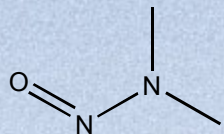
# Advantages of the Zirconia-Based Solution

- This method capitalizes on the unique selectivity of ZirChrom-CARB to give a fast separation with excellent resolution for these structurally similar analytes.
- The chemical stability of ZirChrom-CARB allows the use of high pH and high temperatures to improve peak shape and reduce analysis time.
- The customer, a senior analytical chemist in method development, was particularly impressed with the good resolution of these diastereomers.

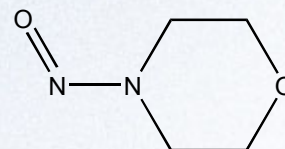


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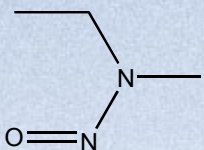
# 9 Nitrosamines Analysis



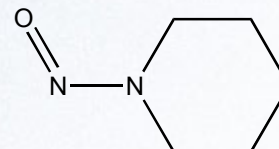
**N-nitrosodimethylamine**



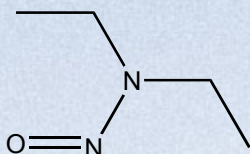
**N-nitrosomorpholine**



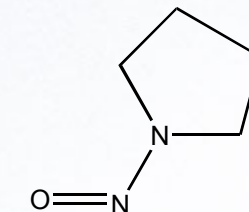
**N-nitroso-n-ethylmethylamine**



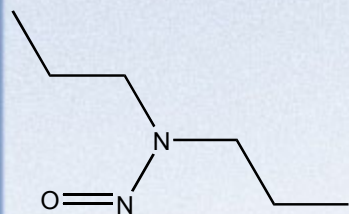
**N-nitrosopiperidine**



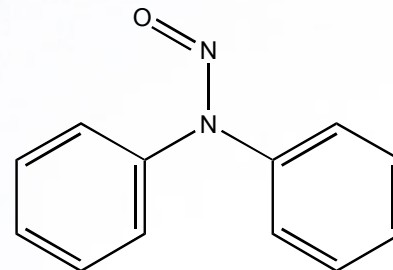
**N-nitrosodimethylamine**



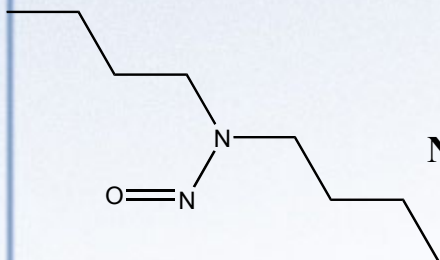
**N-nitrosopyrrolidine**



**N-nitrosodi-n-propylamine**



**N-nitrosodiphenylamine**



**N-nitrosodi-n-butylamine**



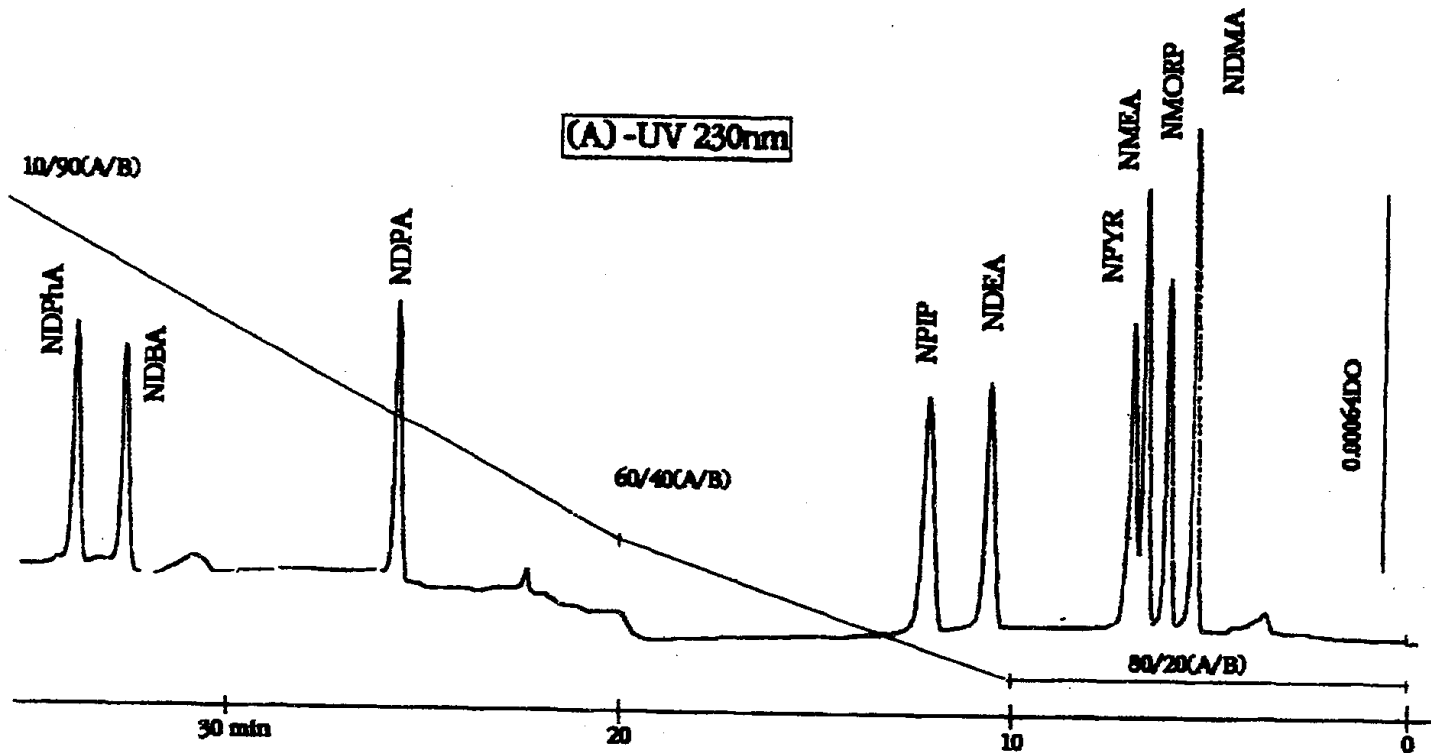
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# Nitrosamines (Supelco Test Mix)

Peer-reviewed Silica-based RPLC Method

88

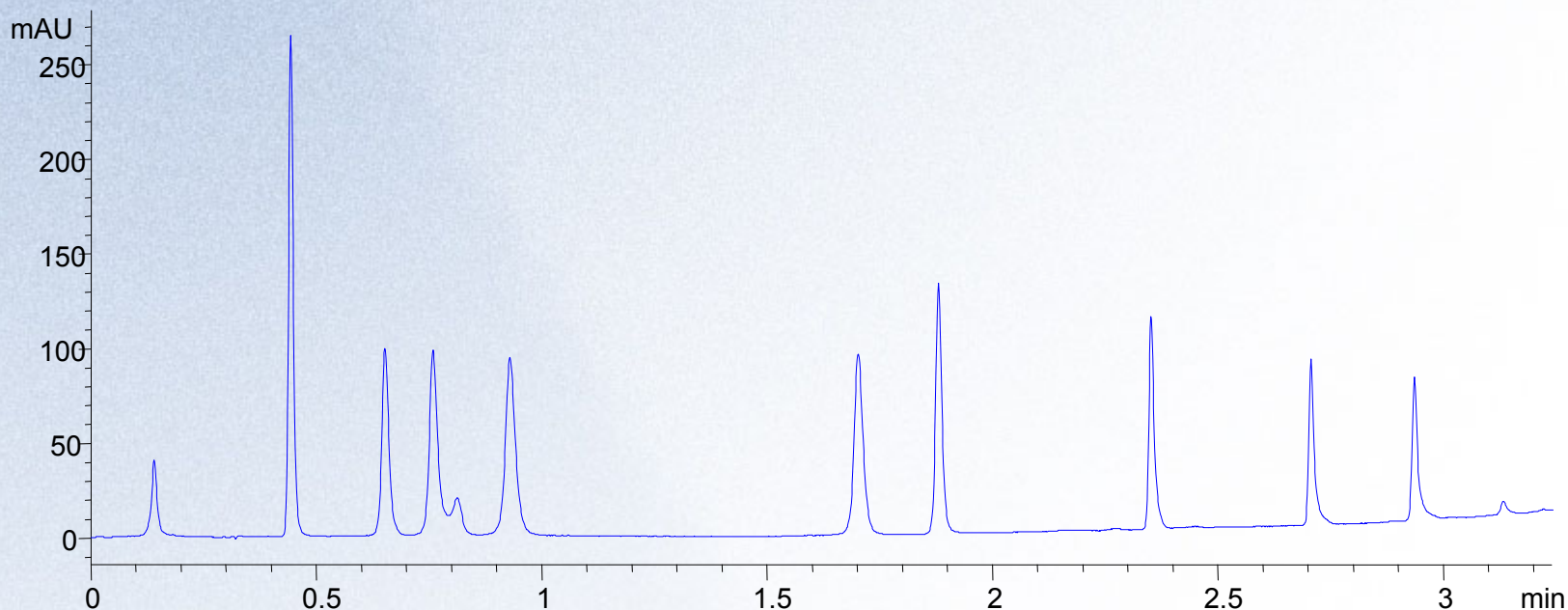
*G. Bellec et al. / J. Chromatogr. A 727 (1996) 83–92*





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## A *Fast* Zirconia-based Method at pH 9.5



Column: DiamondBond C18, 100 × 4.6 mm

Mobile Phase: 2.5-90%B from 1-3 minutes

A: 10mM Ammonium hydroxide, pH 9.5

B: 100% Acetonitrile

Flow rate: 4.0 mL/min.

Temperature: 75 °C

Injection volume: 1.0 µL

Detection: 230 nm

Back Pressure: 200 bar



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# Conclusions

- **Zirconia based columns are *chemically and thermally robust*.**
- **Zirconia-based columns often have *very different chromatographic selectivity* than silica C18, which is extremely useful for method development.**
- **ZirChrom-CARB shows “*No-Bleed*” by MS under highly aggressive LC conditions (pH 9, 55 °C).**
- **ZirChrom-CARB has *excellent selectivity* for diastereomeric compounds.**
- **The *new* ZirChrom-MS column is a stable zirconia-based column designed for HPLC MS applications.**



# Acknowledgements

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