

# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Reversed Phase Advanced Features

**Dr. Shulamit Levin**  
Analytical Department

**Medtechnica**

Email: levins@medtechnica.co.il  
shulal@zahav.net.il

Tel: 03-9254040

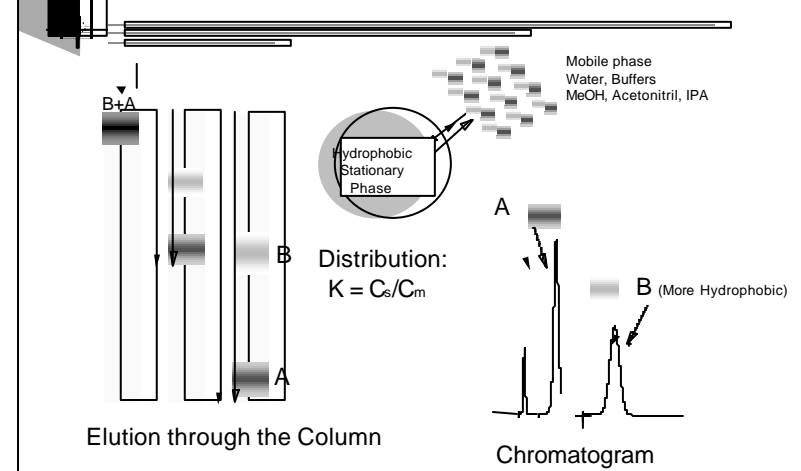
Cell: 052-448632

Fax: 03-9249977

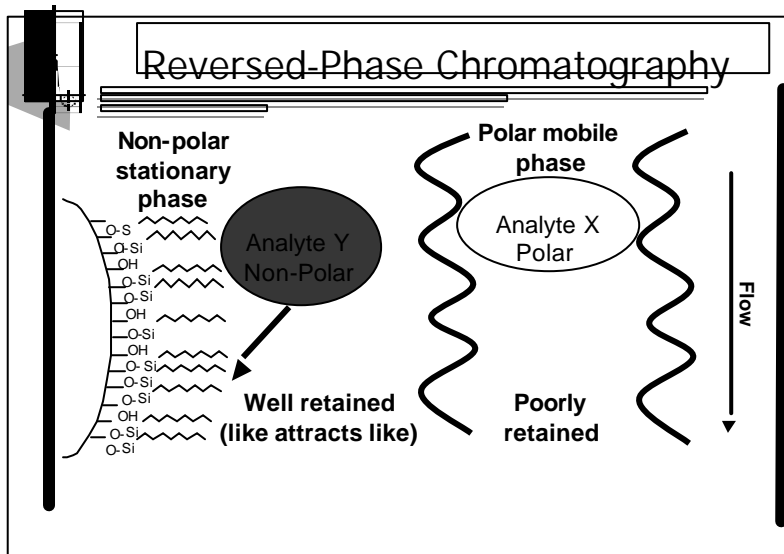
Home page:

<http://www.forumsci.co.il/HPLC>

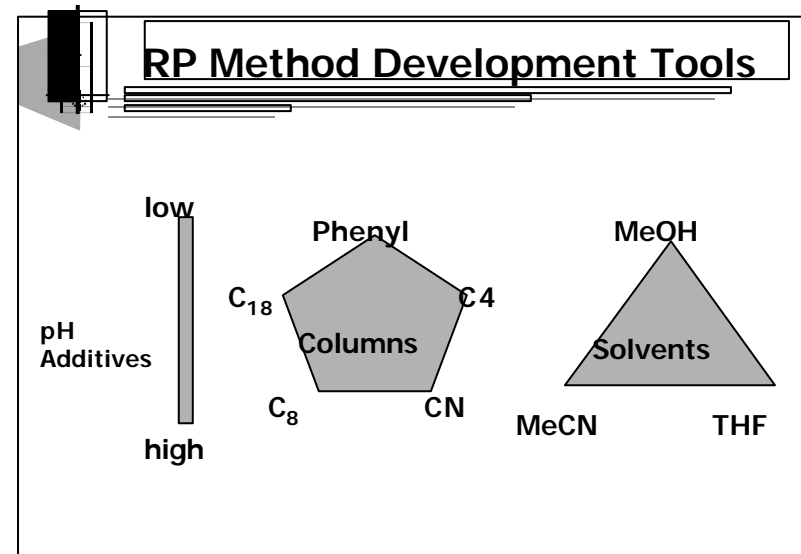
## Chromatographic Process



## Reversed-Phase Chromatography



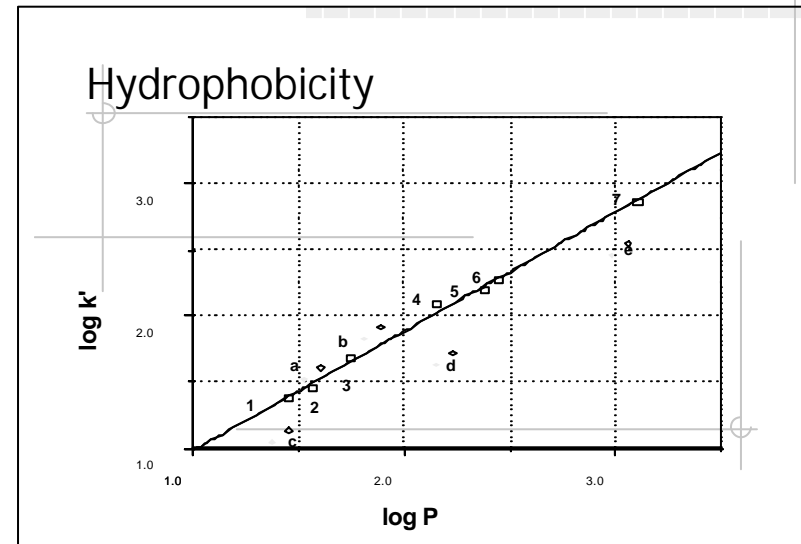
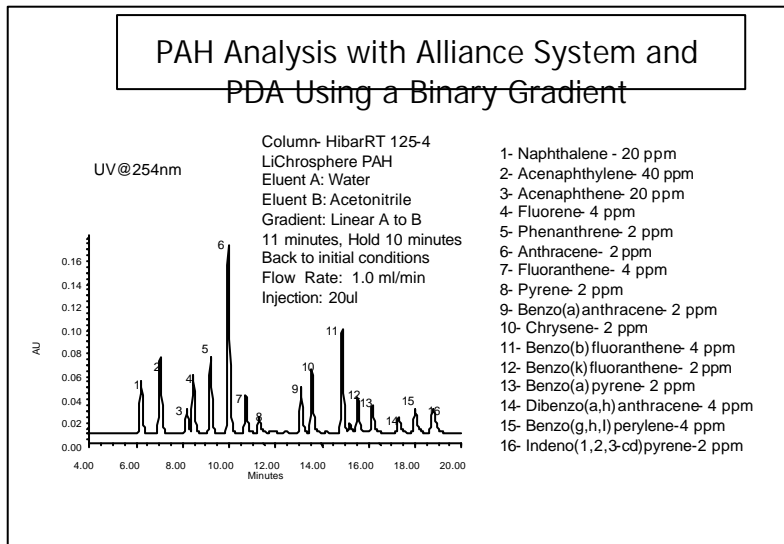
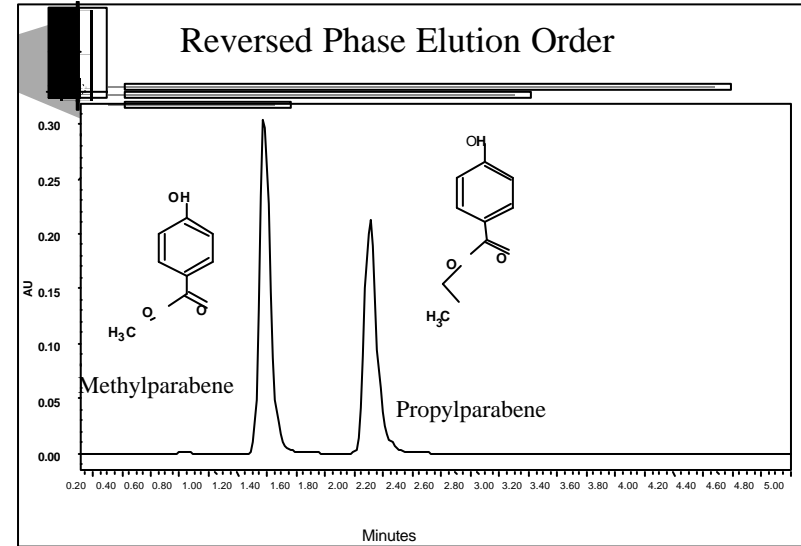
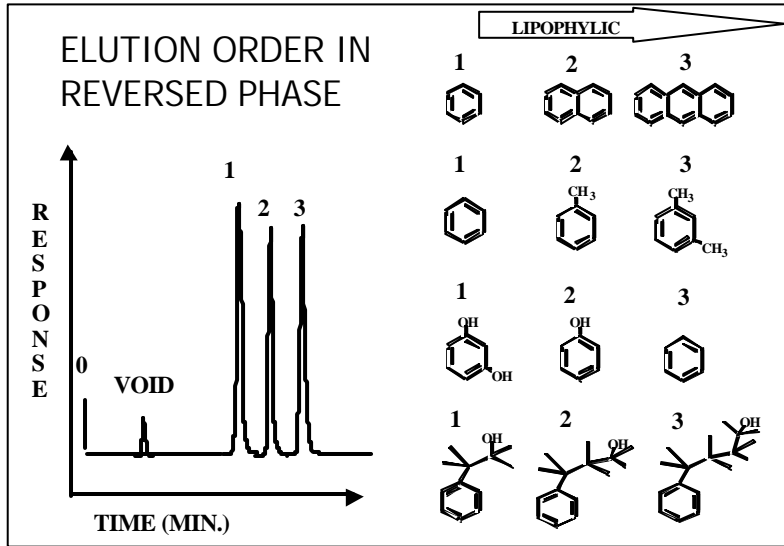
## RP Method Development Tools



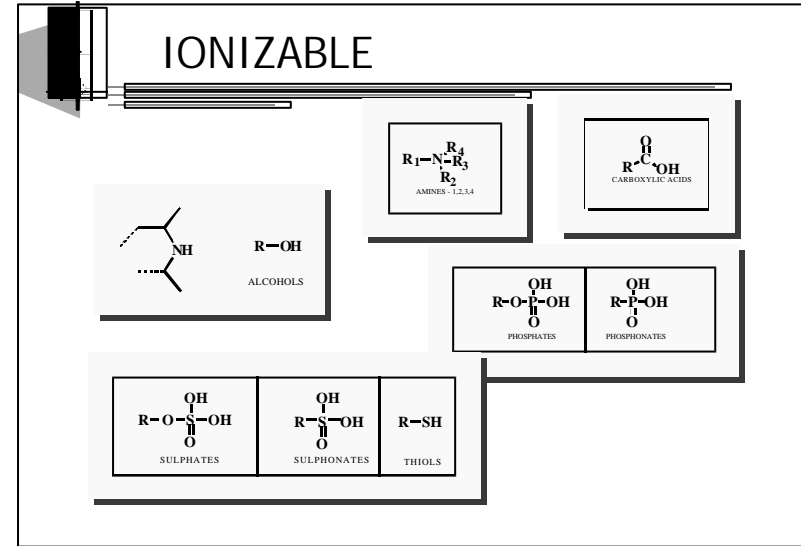
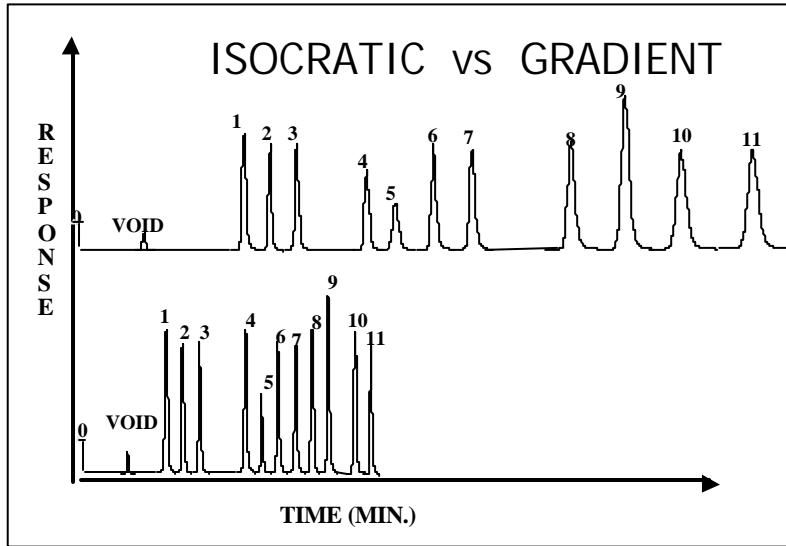
**Dr. Shulamit Levin, Medtechnica**

levins@medtechnica.co.il

# Reversed Phase HPLC



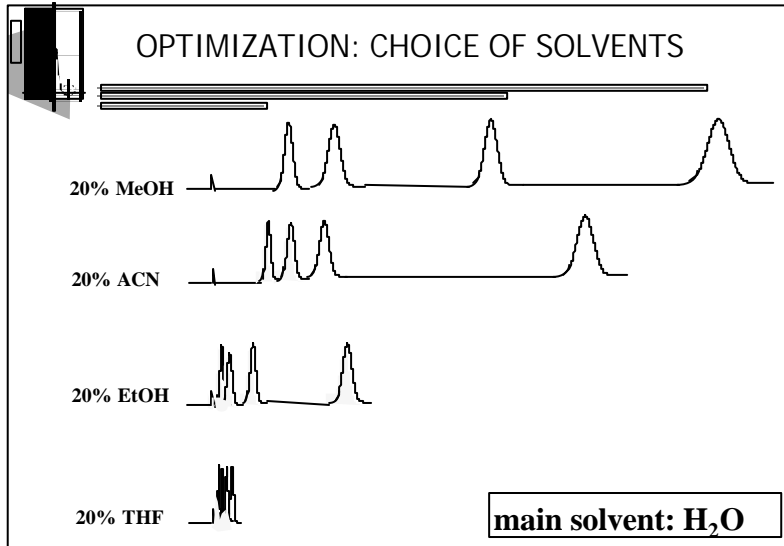
# Reversed Phase HPLC



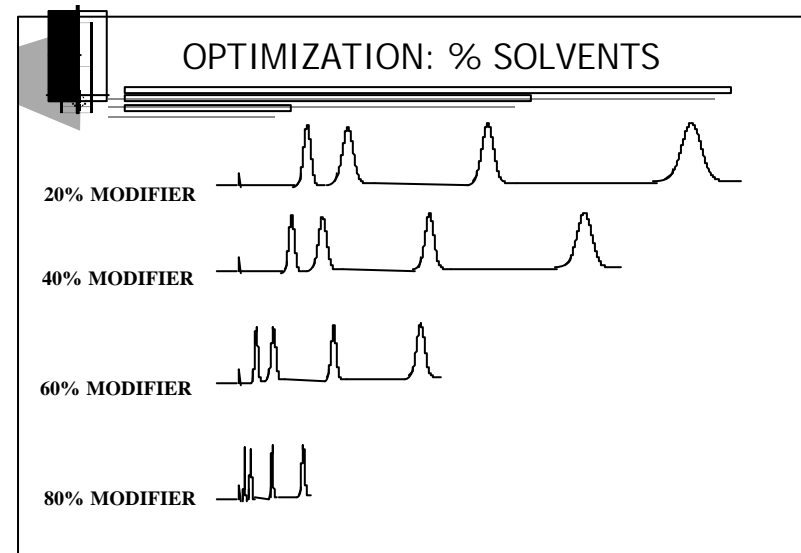
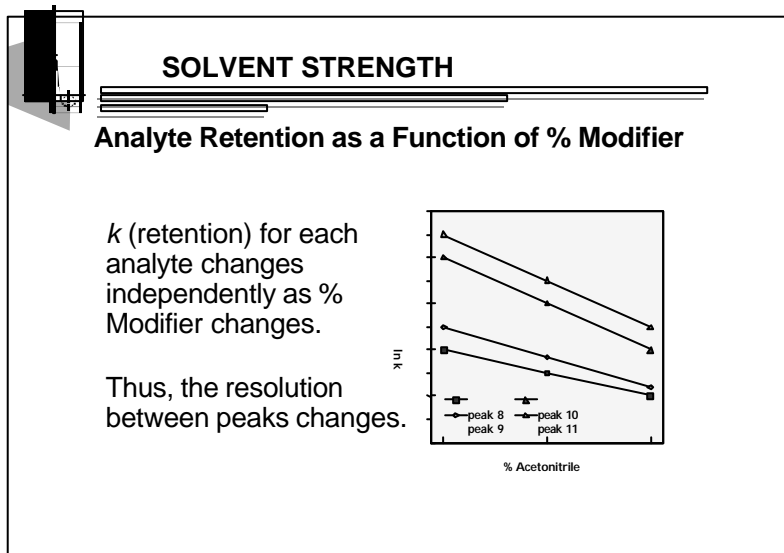
- 
- MOBILE PHASE**
- \* TYPE OF MODIFIER (MeOH, ACN)
  - \* SOLVENT STRENGTH (% modifier)
  - \* pH
  - \* TYPE OF BUFFER (phosphate, acetate)
  - \* IONIC STRENGTH (Salts, buffer concentration)
  - \* ION-PAIRING REAGENTS (alkyl-amines, -sulfonates)

- 
- MOBILE PHASE**
- \* TYPE OF MODIFIER (MeOH, ACN)
  - \* SOLVENT STRENGTH (% modifier)
  - \* pH
  - \* TYPE OF BUFFER (phosphate, acetate)
  - \* IONIC STRENGTH (Salts, buffer concentration)
  - \* ION-PAIRING REAGENTS (alkyl-amines, -sulfonates)

# Reversed Phase HPLC



- ## MOBILE PHASE
- \* TYPE OF MODIFIER (MeOH, ACN)
  - \* SOLVENT STRENGTH (% modifier)
  - \* pH
  - \* TYPE OF BUFFER (phosphate, acetate)
  - \* IONIC STRENGTH (Salts, buffer concentration)
  - \* ION-PAIRING REAGENTS (alkyl-amines, -sulfonates)



# Reversed Phase HPLC

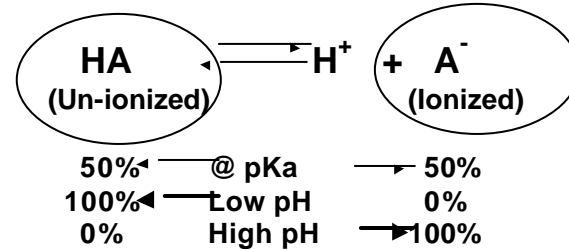
## MOBILE PHASE

- \* TYPE OF MODIFIER (MeOH, ACN)
- \* SOLVENT STRENGTH (% modifier)
- \* pH
- \* TYPE OF BUFFER (phosphate, acetate)
- \* IONIC STRENGTH (Salts, buffer concentration)
- \* ION-PAIRING REAGENTS (alkyl-amines, -sulfonates)

## Ionization of Acids and Bases

Dissociation of Molecule

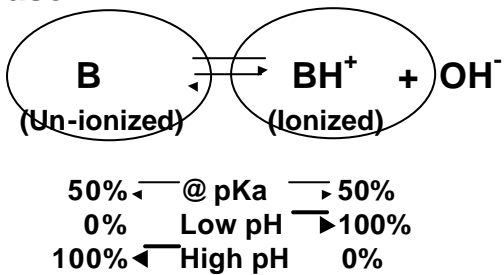
Acid



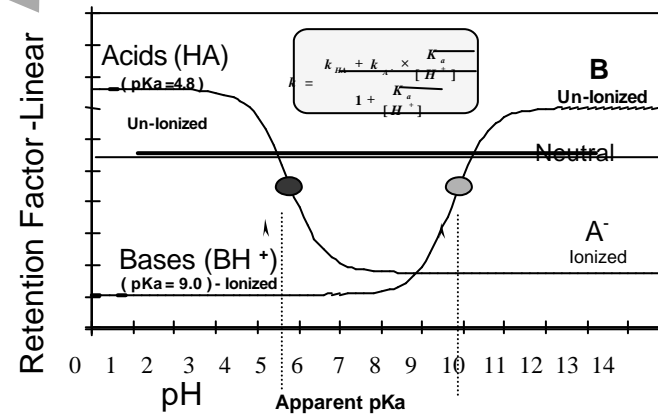
## Ionization of Acids and Bases

Dissociation of Molecule

Base



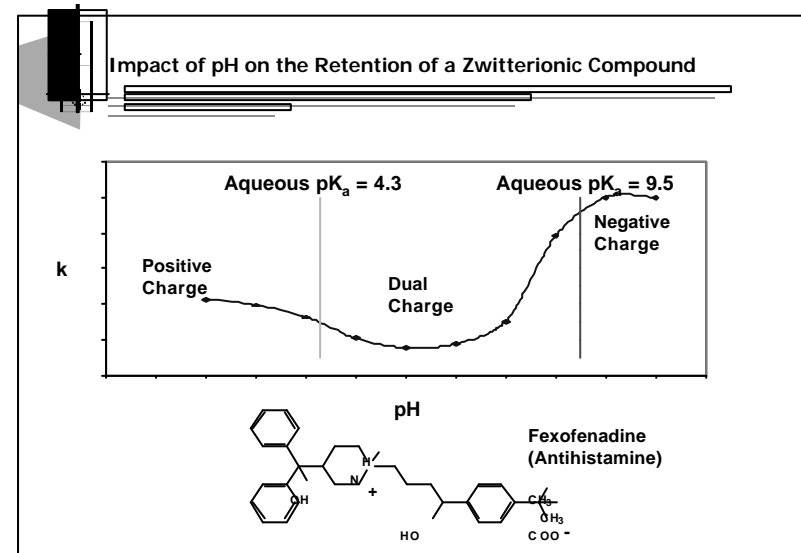
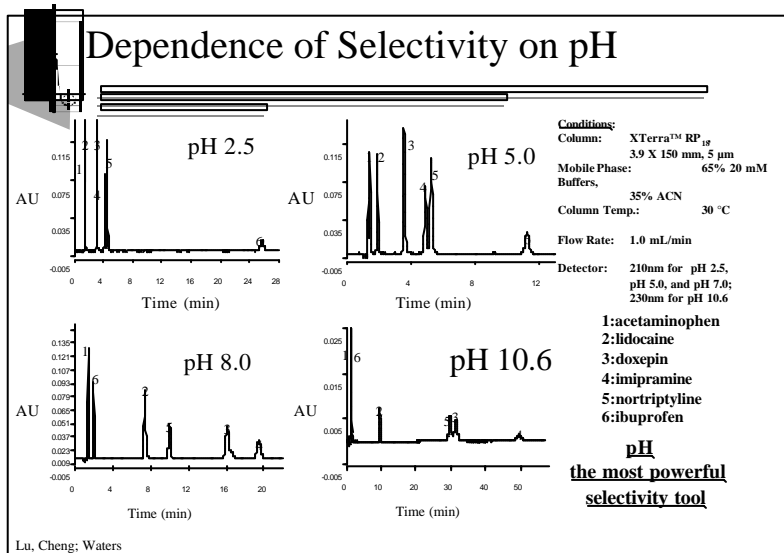
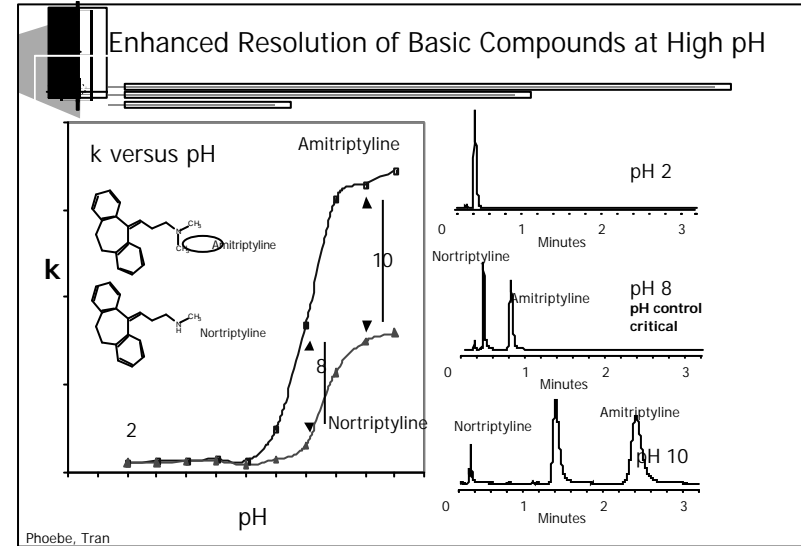
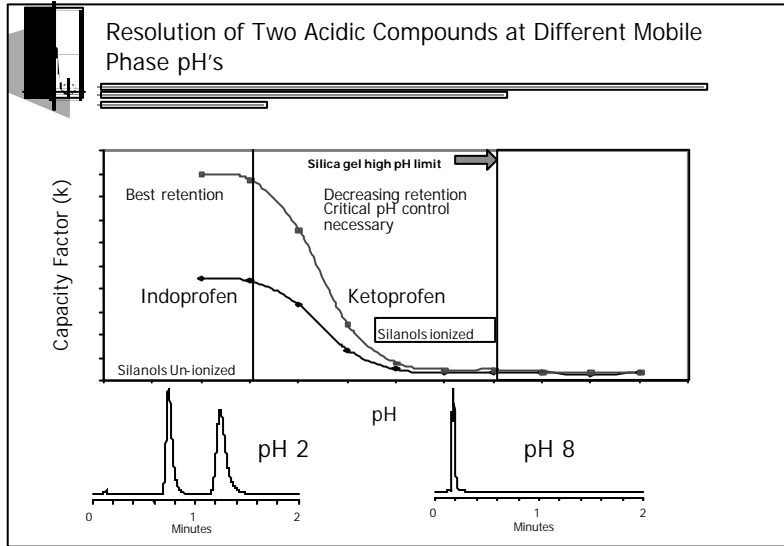
## Retention Factor versus pH for Acids, Bases and Neutrals



Dr. Shulamit Levin, Medtechnica

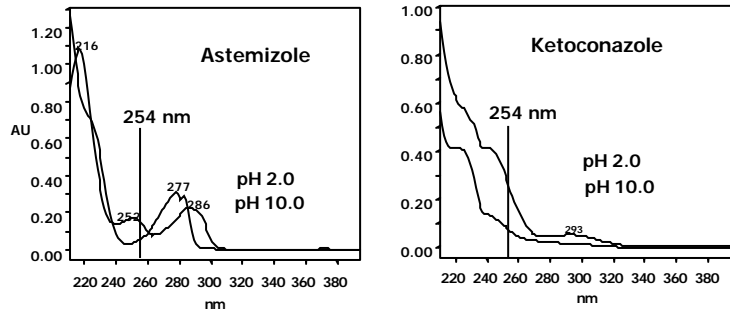
levins@medtechnica.co.il

# Reversed Phase HPLC



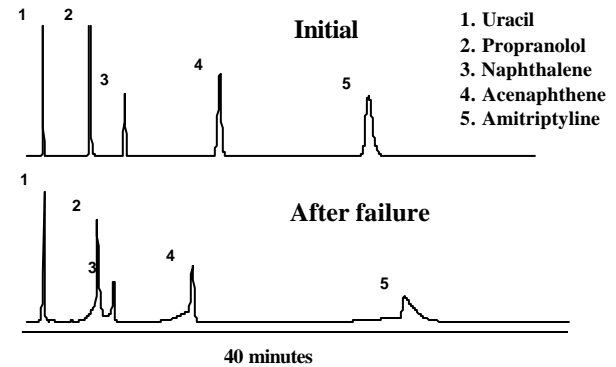
# Reversed Phase HPLC

## UV/Vis Spectral Change Between Ionized and Non-ionized Forms



Phoebe, Tran

## Typical Chromatograms for pH Failure of an Ordinary C<sub>18</sub>-Silica Column



1. Uracil
2. Propranolol
3. Naphthalene
4. Acenaphthene
5. Amitriptyline

40 minutes

## MOBILE PHASE

- \* TYPE OF MODIFIER (MeOH, ACN)
- \* SOLVENT STRENGTH (% modifier)
- \* pH
- \* TYPE OF BUFFER (phosphate, acetate)
- \* IONIC STRENGTH (Salts, buffer concentration)
- \* ION-PAIRING REAGENTS (alkyl-amines, -sulfonates)

## Recommended Buffers for pH's 2-7

Additive or Buffer	pK <sub>a</sub>	pH range (± 1 pH unit)	Volatile or Non-Volatile	Recommended for use with Extended pH Packings
TFA	0.3		Volatile	Yes (0.02-0.1%)
Acetic Acid	4.76		Volatile	Yes (0.1-1.0%)
Formic Acid	3.75		Volatile	Yes (0.1-1.0%)
Acetate	4.76	3.76 – 5.76	Volatile/Non-volatile	Yes (1-10mM) NH <sub>4</sub> , Na, K
Formate	3.75	2.75 – 4.75	Volatile/Non-volatile	Yes (1-10mM) NH <sub>4</sub> , Na, K
Phosphate	2.15	1.15 – 3.15	Non-volatile	Yes
	7.20	6.20 – 8.20	Non-volatile	No for pH's > 7.0 (lower the temperature the longer the column lifetime)

Dr. Shulamit Levin, Medtechnica

levins@medtechnica.co.il

# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Types of Buffers and Ionic Strength

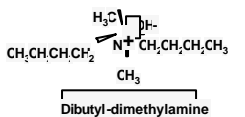
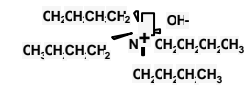
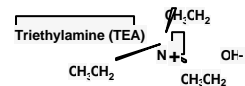
- **pH 10: Borate**
  - 20 mM  $H_3BO_3$
- **pH 7: Phosphate**
  - 20 mM  $K_2HPO_4$
- **pH 4-5: Acetate**
  - 10 mM  $CH_3COONH_4$
  - 100 mM  $CH_3COOH$
- **pH 2-3.5: Phosphate**
  - 20 mM  $H_3PO_4 - KH_2PO_4$

## MOBILE PHASE

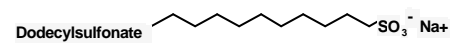
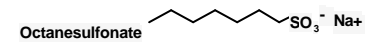
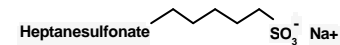
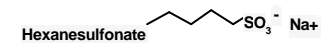
- \* **TYPE OF MODIFIER (MeOH, ACN)**
- \* **SOLVENT STRENGTH (% modifier)**
- \* **pH**
- \* **TYPE OF BUFFER (phosphate, acetate)**
- \* **IONIC STRENGTH (Salts, buffer concentration)**
- \* **ION-PAIRING REAGENTS (alkyl-amines, -sulfonates)**

## Ion Pair Reagent

### Alkylamines



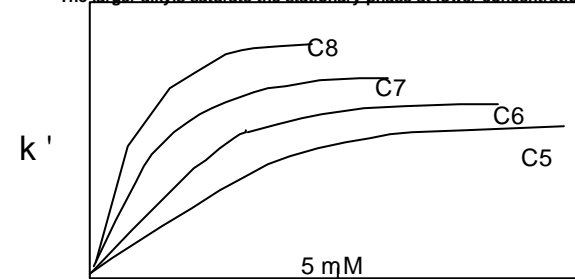
### Alkylsulfonates



## Concentration of Ion-Pair Reagent in the Mobile Phase

**The larger the alkyl, the longer are retention times**

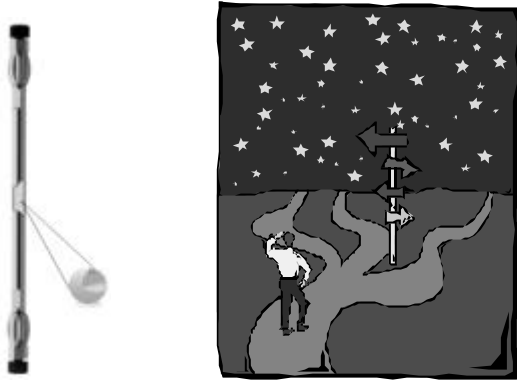
The larger alkyls saturate the stationary phase at lower concentrations



Conc. of Ion Pair Reagent in the Mobile Phase

# Reversed Phase HPLC

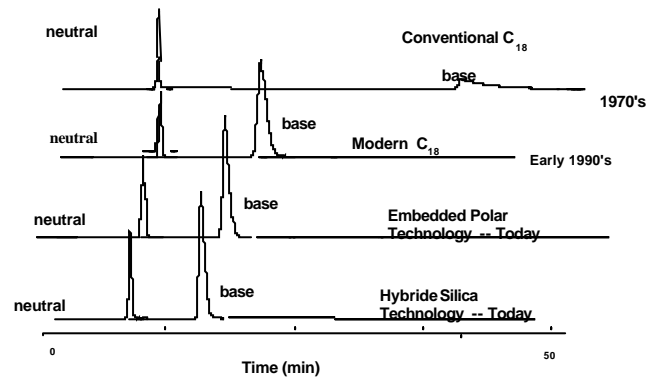
## Stationary Phase Characterization



## The Evolution of the Silica Gel Particle Platform

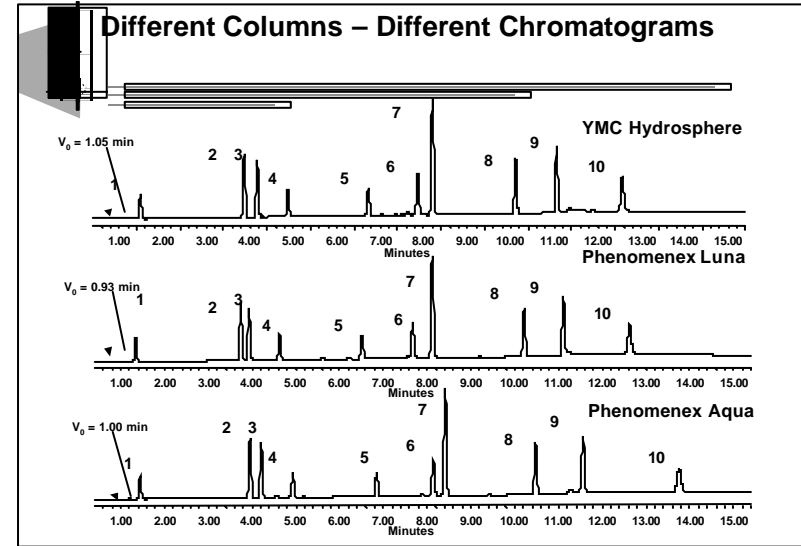
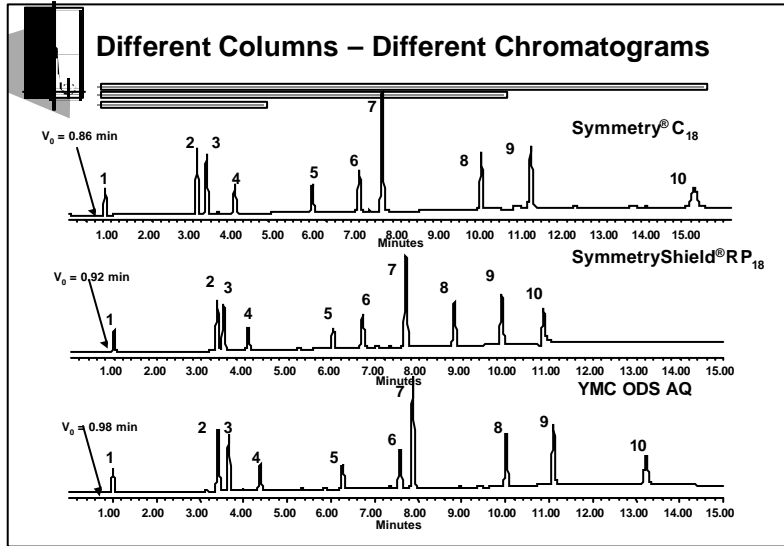
- 1960's Pellicular native silica
- 1970's Irregular 10  $\mu\text{m}$  native silica
- 1980's Spherical 5  $\mu\text{m}$  native silica
- 1990's Spherical 3-5  $\mu\text{m}$  high purity silica
- 2000's Hybride Silica-Gel (co-polymer organic/Inorganic) high purity silica

## Improvement in Peak Shape for Bases



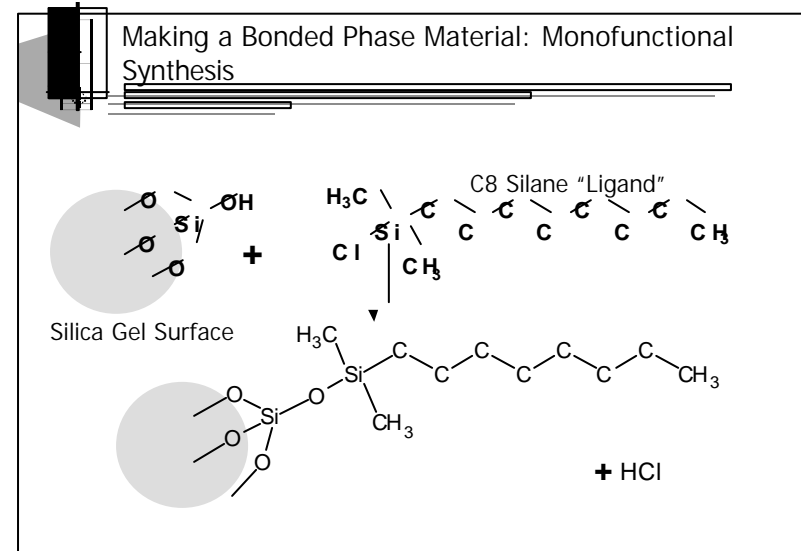
Not all C18's are the same!

# Reversed Phase HPLC



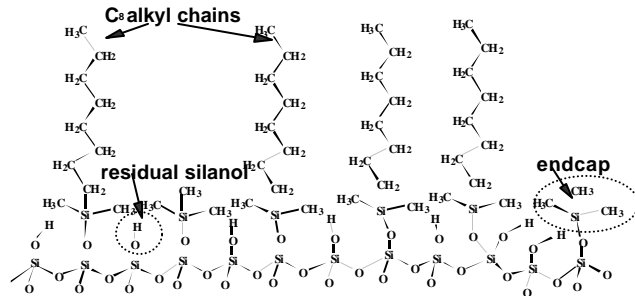
### "Relative" Ranking of C18 Columns Using a Standardized Test

- There are no bad C18 columns.
- There are only different C18 columns.



# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Surface of a Silica Gel Bonded-Phase Packing Material

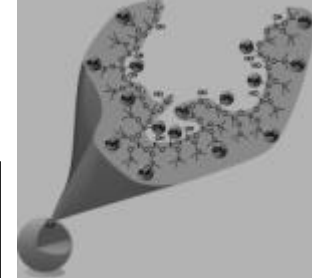


Note: ~50% of the surface silanols remain even with high bonding densities

## Stationary Phase Properties

**CHEMISTRY:**  
**BONDED HYDROCARBON:**  
**C-18, C-8, C-4, C-1, CN, phenyl**  
 \* % COVERAGE  
 \* TYPE OF SILICA GEL

**GEOMETRY**  
 \* SPHERE- IRREGULAR  
 \* PARTICLE DIAMETER  
 \* POROSITY



## Stationary Phase Ligands

### Stationary phase

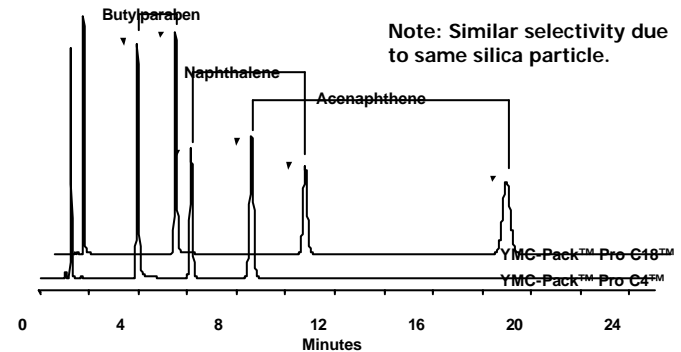
### Functionality

C <sub>18</sub>	-Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>37</sub>
C <sub>8</sub>	-Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>
tC <sub>2</sub>	-SiC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>
Aminopropyl	-Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>
Cyanopropyl	-Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CN
Diol	-Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OCH <sub>2</sub> CH(OH)CH <sub>2</sub> OH

Retention time

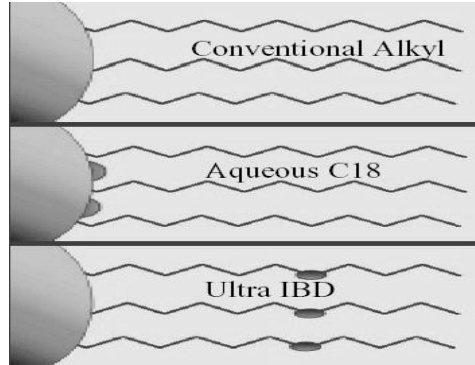
Chain length CN Phenyl NH<sub>2</sub> C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>8</sub> C<sub>18</sub>

## Neutral Compounds: C18 versus C4 (Same Brand - Different Ligands)

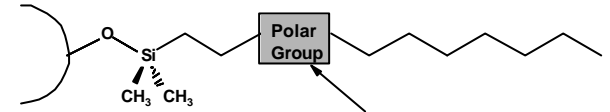


# Reversed Phase HPLC

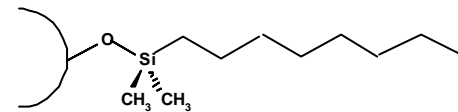
## Type of Ligands



## Reversed-Phase Packing with an Embedded Polar Ligand

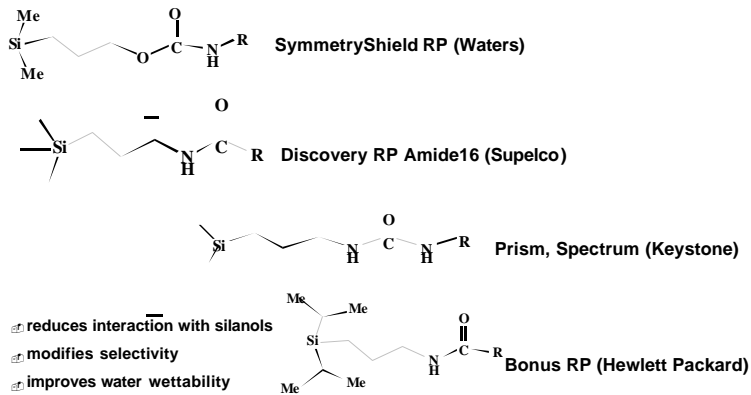


Embedded Polar Group Ligand



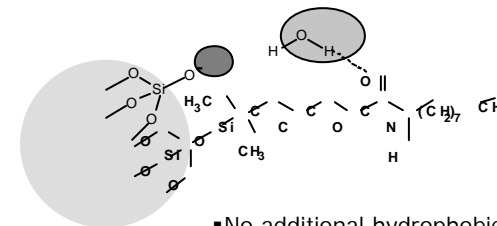
Traditional, Straight Chain Alkyl Ligand

## Commercial Phases with Embedded Polar Group



## Embedded Polar Ligand: Possible Mechanism

Polar group increases water concentration in surface layer



Shields  
Negative  
Silanols

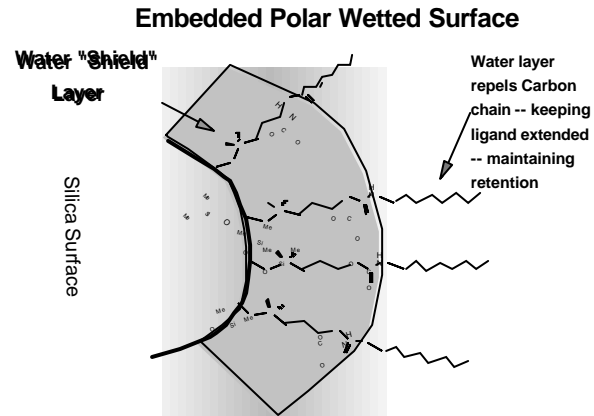
- No additional hydrophobic retention
- Reduced retention of bases
- Reduced peak tailing

Dr. Shulamit Levin, Medtechnica

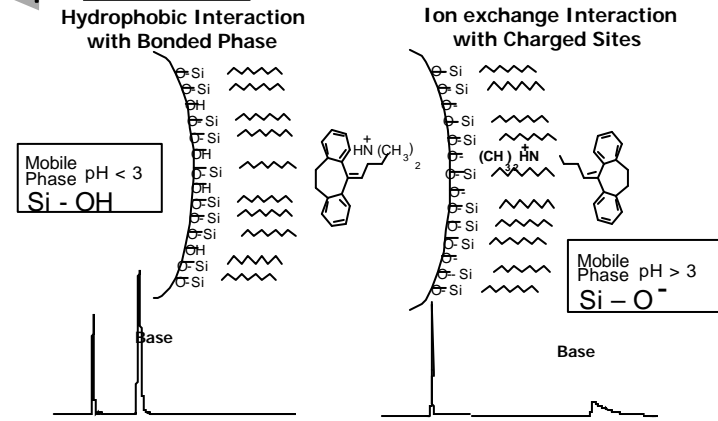
levins@medtechnica.co.il

# Reversed Phase HPLC

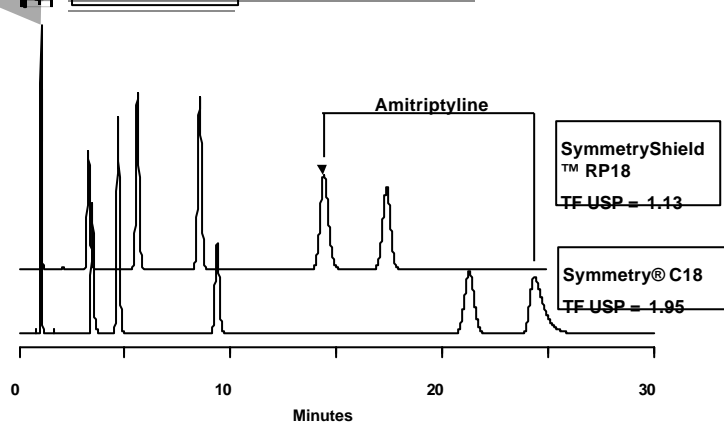
## Embedded Polar Groups



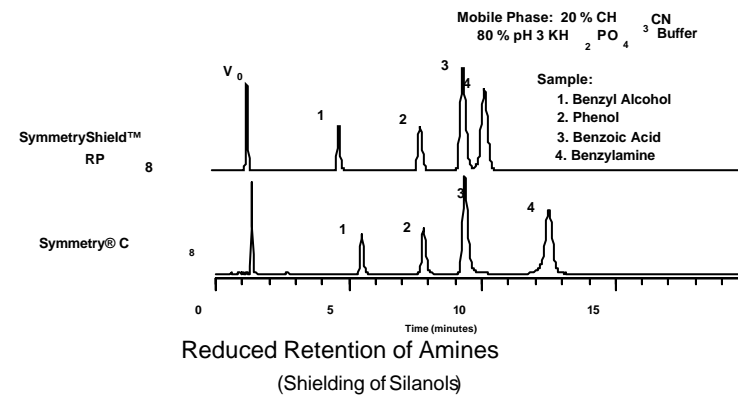
## Mixed-Mode Retention:



## Embedded Polar Ligand versus Linear Alkyl Ligand on Silica Gel



## Impact on Selectivity - Retention

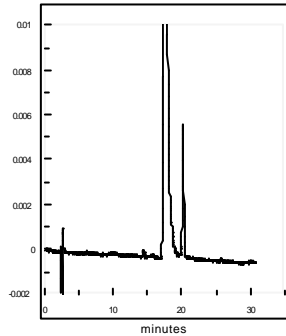
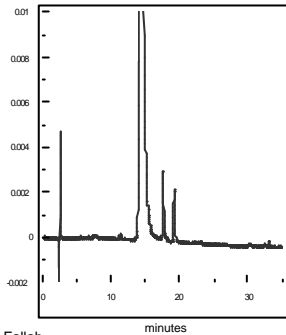


# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Selectivity Difference: Furazolidone Impurities

SymmetryShield™ RP<sub>8</sub>

Symmetry® C<sub>8</sub>



EI Fallah

## Stationary Phase Properties

### CHEMISTRY:

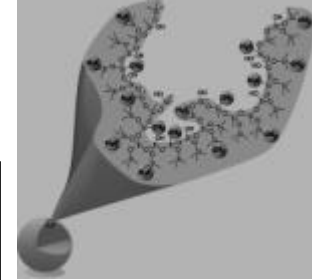
\* BONDED HYDROCARBON:  
C-18, C-8, C-4, C-1, CN, phenyl

\* % COVERAGE

\* TYPE OF SILICA GEL

### GEOMETRY

- \* SPHERE- IRREGULAR
- \* PARTICLE DIAMETER
- \* POROSITY



## CARBON LOAD

Increasing carbon load on a similar geometrical shaped particles increases retention.

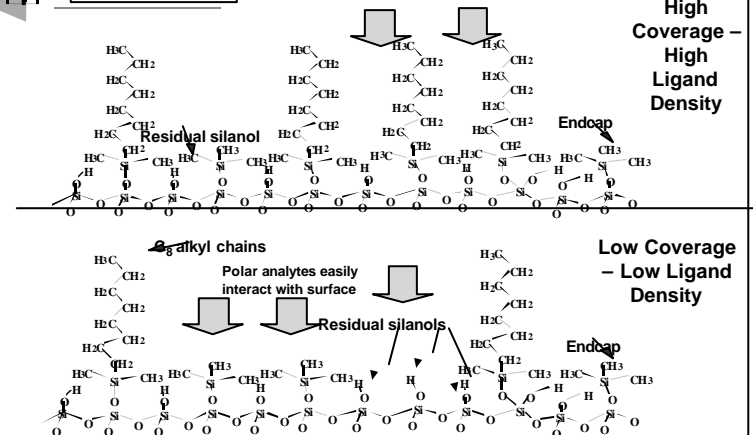
Retention time

Carbon load 5% 7% 9% 12% 15% 17%

Dr. Shulamit Levin, Medtechnica

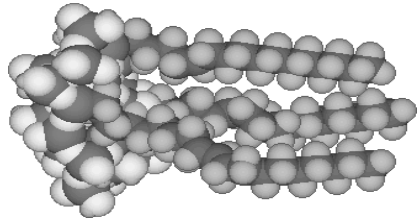
levins@medtechnica.co.il

## Surface of a Silica Gel Bonded Phase Packing Material



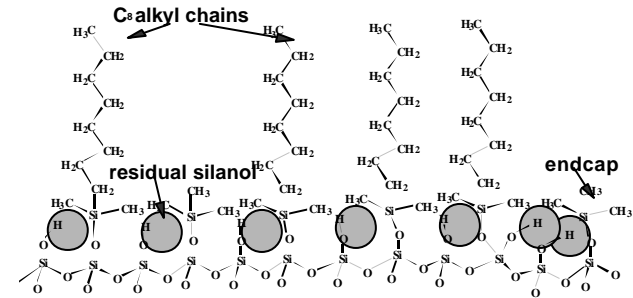
# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Silica based "bonded phases"



Bulky alkylsilane ligands can not react with all available silanols due to the steric hindrance.

## Surface of a Silica Gel Bonded-Phase Packing Material



Note: ~50% of the surface silanols remain even with high bonding densities

## Ligand Density (Surface Coverage)

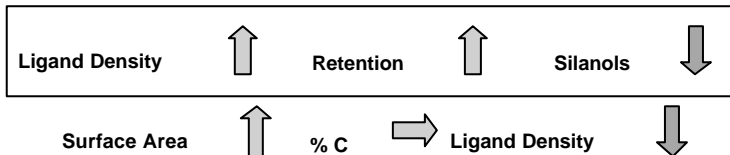
### Ligand Density (Surface Coverage)

	moles/m <sup>2</sup>
Silica Silanols :	6 - 8
Highest Bonding Reported :	4.2
Residual Silanols (Best Case) :	2.0 [ ~ 30% ]
Residual Silanols (Typical) :	> 3.5 [ > 50% ]

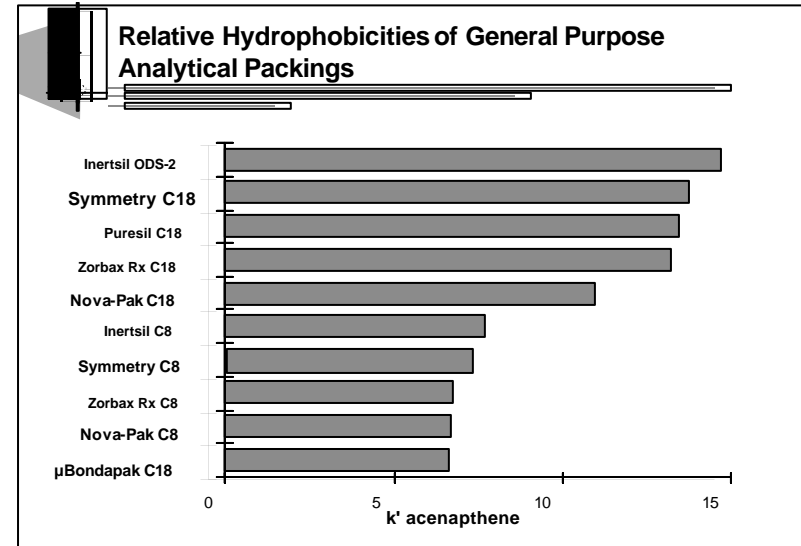
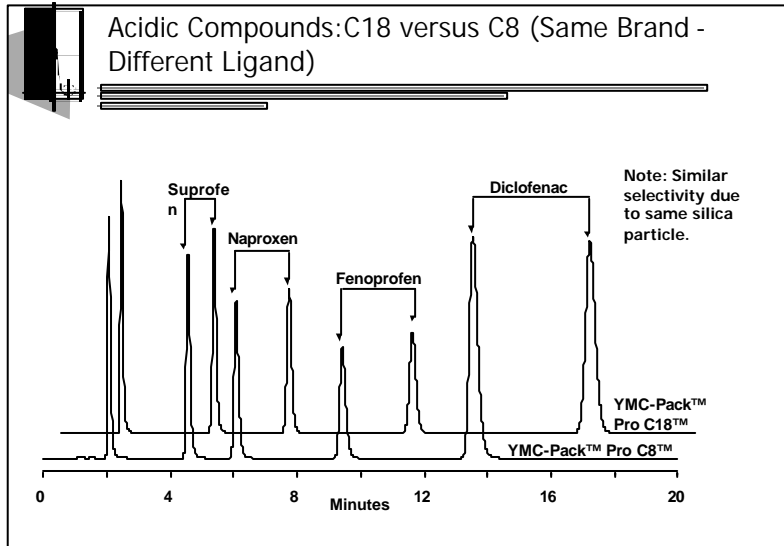
## Better Way to Compare: Ligand Density (Surface Coverage)

$$C = \frac{\%C}{100 \cdot SA \cdot nC \cdot \left[ 1 - \frac{\%C}{100} \cdot \frac{MW - 1}{nC \cdot 12} \right]} = \text{mmoles/m}^2$$

SA - Specific Surface Area      %C - % Carbon Load  
MW - Molecular Weight of Ligand      nC - # of Carbon Atoms in Ligand



# Reversed Phase HPLC



### Stationary Phase Properties

**CHEMISTRY:**

- \* BONDED HYDROCARBON: C-18, C-8, C-4, C-1, CN, phenyl
- \* % COVERAGE
- \* TYPE OF SILICA GEL: Native/Synthetic/Pure

**GEOMETRY**

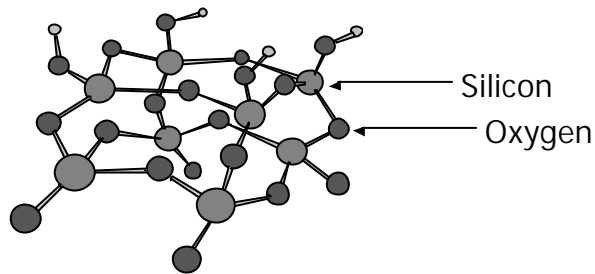
- \* SPHERE- IRREGULAR
- \* PARTICLE DIAMETER
- \* POROSITY

### Types of Silica

- ◆ Silanols
- ◆ pH stability
- ◆ Metal content
- ◆ Temperature stability

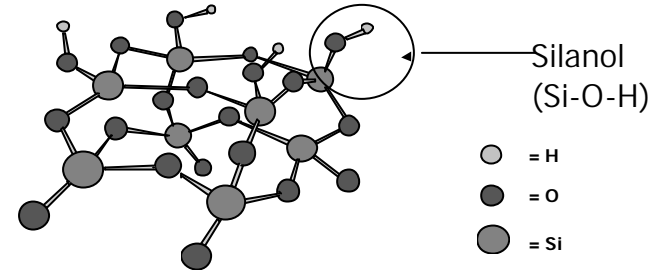
# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Structure of Silica Gel



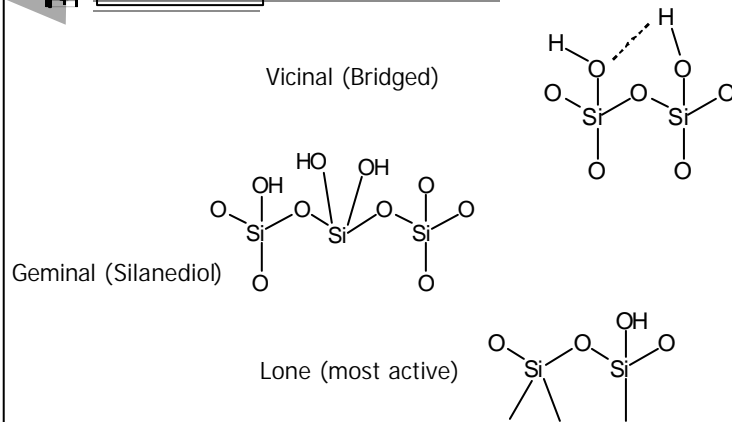
- Amorphous, porous matrix of silicon atoms joined together with oxygen atoms to form "siloxane bonds" = (Si-O-Si)

## What are Silanols?

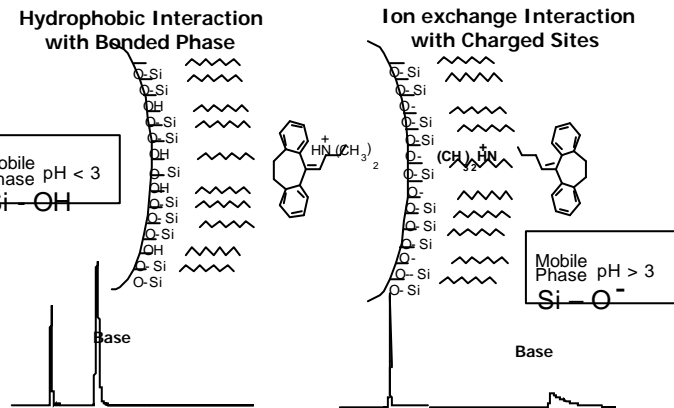


- Residual unreacted surface hydroxyl groups left over from polymerization
- Reactive sites for use in bonding ligands (C18) to the silica gel surface

## Surface Silanols Found on Silica Gel



## Mixed-Mode Retention:



Dr. Shulamit Levin, Medtechnica

levins@medtechnica.co.il

# Reversed Phase HPLC

### Bonded Phase on Particles

**Silica Gel C18 Materials**  
1/2 free silanols

**XTerra™ C18 Materials**  
1/3 free silanols

### Bonded Hybrid versus Bonded Silica Gel Surfaces

**C<sub>18</sub>-Bonded Silica Gel**

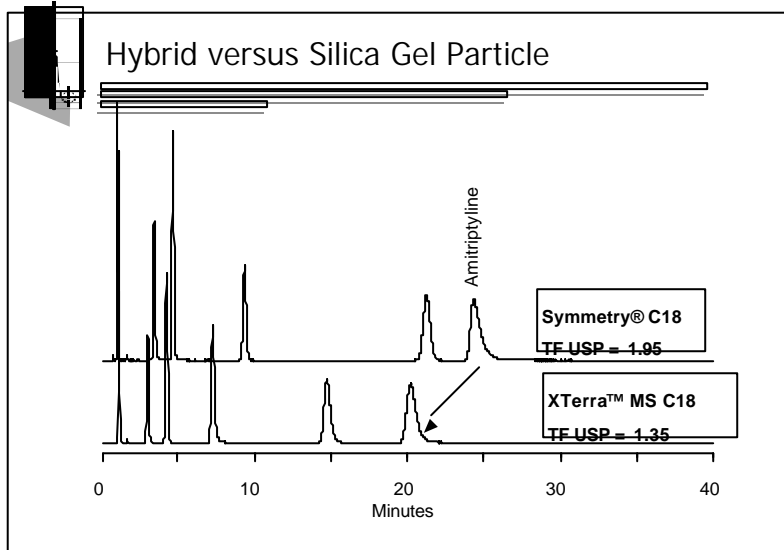
$$\frac{1}{2} -\text{OSi}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{R}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} -\text{OH}$$

**C<sub>18</sub>-Bonded Hybrid**

$$\frac{1}{3} -\text{OSi}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{R}$$

$$\frac{1}{3} -\text{CH}_3$$

$$\frac{1}{3} -\text{OH}$$


### PERFORMANCE BY ONE PEAK

**ASYMMETRY FACTOR**

$$A_f = \frac{B_{(10\%h)}}{A_{(10\%h)}}$$

**RETENTION FACTOR or CAPACITY RATIO**

$$k' = \frac{t_R - t_0}{t_0} \quad k' = f \frac{C_s}{C_m}$$

**TAILING FACTOR**

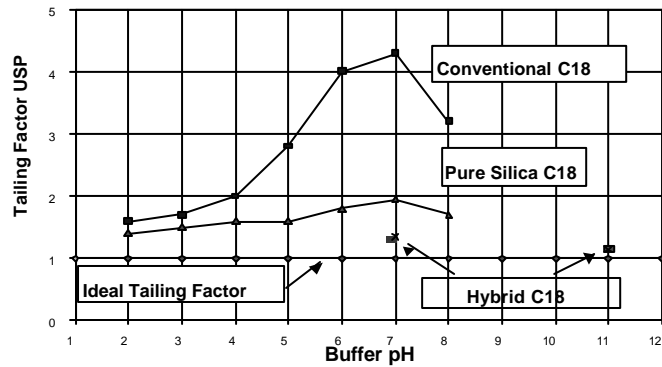
$$T_f = \frac{A + B}{2A} \quad (5\% h)$$

**NUMBER OF THEORETICAL PLATES**

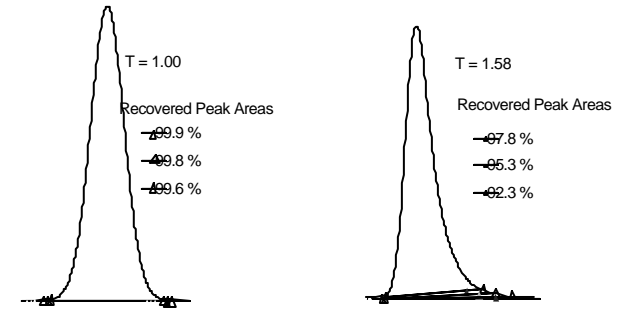
$$N = 16 \left( \frac{t_R}{W} \right)^2$$

# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Amitriptyline Peak Tailing Over Extended pH Range 1-12



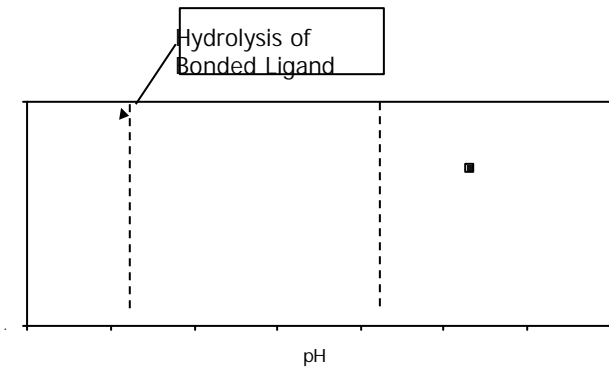
## Integration Errors Caused by Tailing



## Types of Silica

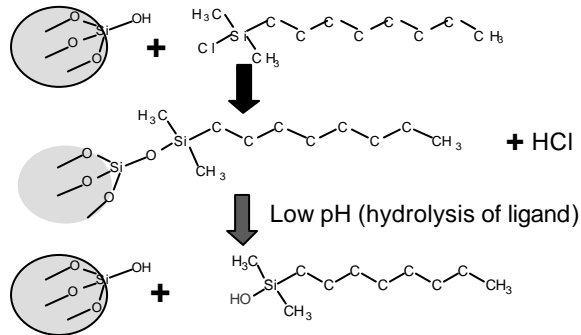
- ◆ Silanols
- ◆ pH stability
- ◆ Metal content
- ◆ Temperature stability

## pH Limitations of Silica Based Packing Materials

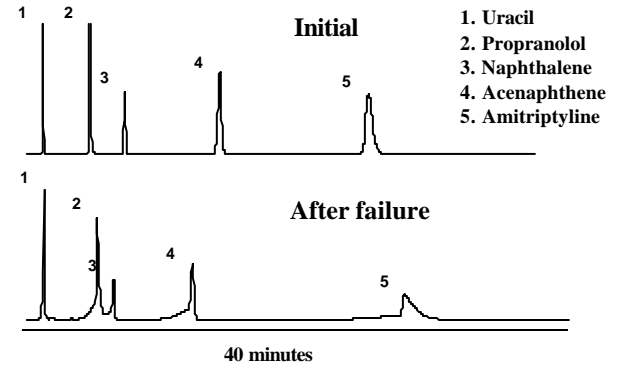


# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Hydrolysis of a Bonded Phase Material: Monofunctional Ligand



## Typical Chromatograms for Reference C<sub>18</sub>-Silica Column



## Types of Silica

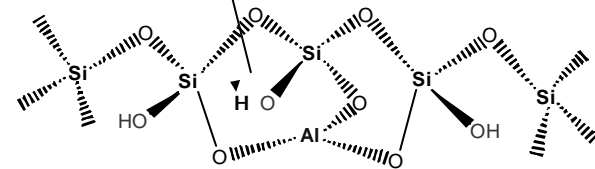
- ◆ Silanols
- ◆ pH stability
- ◆ Metal content
- ◆ Temperature stability

## Metal Content in Silica

### Aluminum in the Silica Gel Lattice

Bronsted Acid

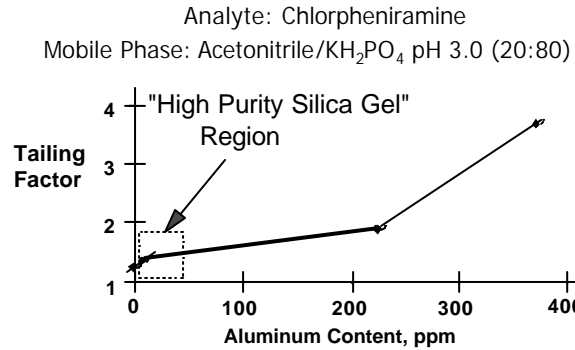
3D top view of silica particle surface with silanols pointing upward



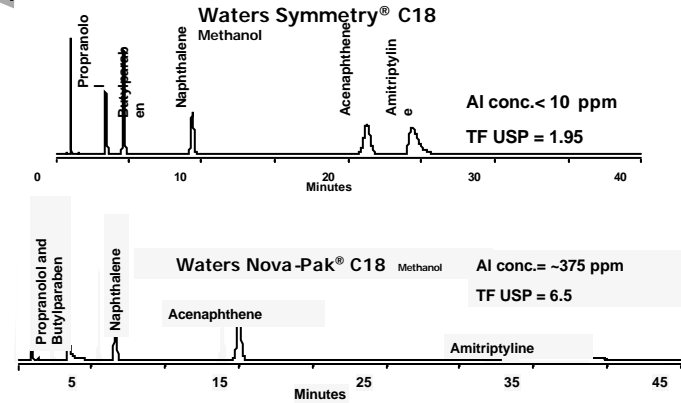
Metal available for chelation

# Reversed Phase HPLC

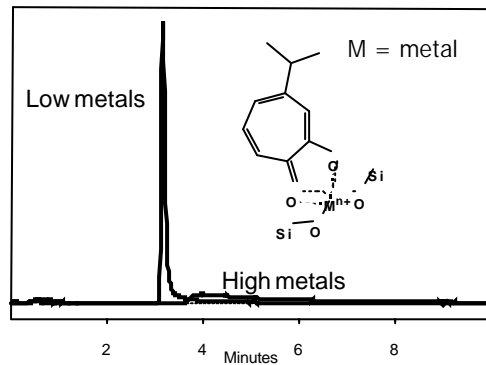
## Correlation Between Base Tailing and Aluminum Content of Silica Gel



## Correlation between Metal Content of Silica Gel and Peak Retention and Shape



## Peak Shapes of Chelating Agent (Hinokitiol)



## Types of Silica

- ◆ Silanols
- ◆ pH stability
- ◆ Metal content
- ◆ Temperature stability

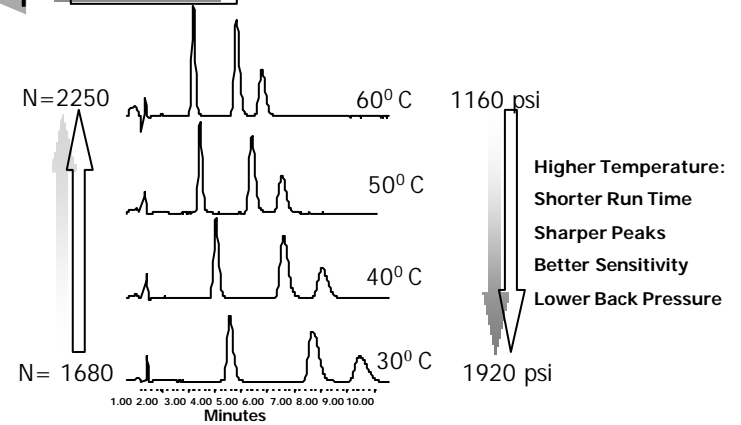
# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Temperature Effects on Resolution

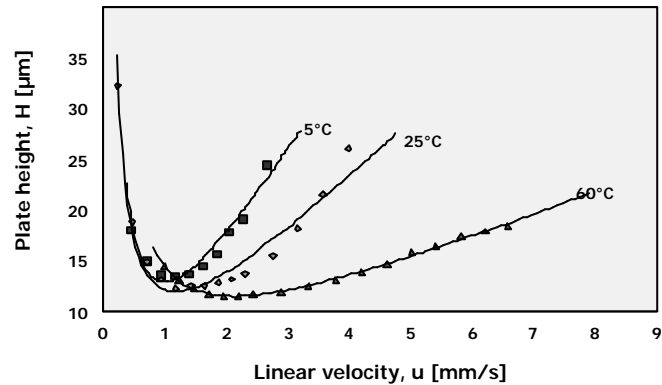
Resolution can be temperature dependent

Temperature can be a critical parameter to control in order to achieve reproducible separations.

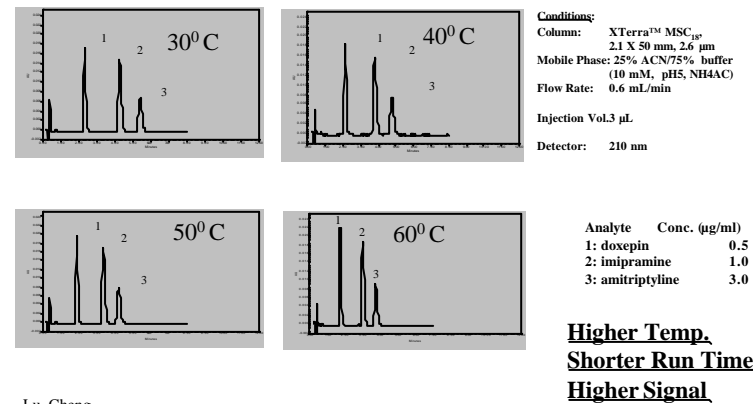
## Effect of Temperature (Isocratic separations)



## Effect of Temperature on Column Efficiency



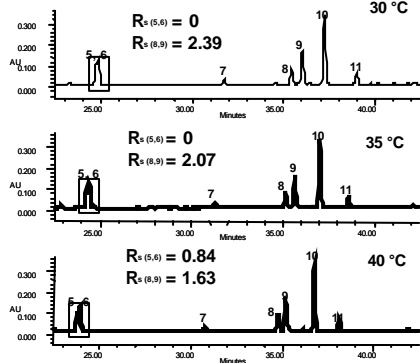
## Dependence of Retention on Temperature



Lu, Cheng

# Reversed Phase HPLC

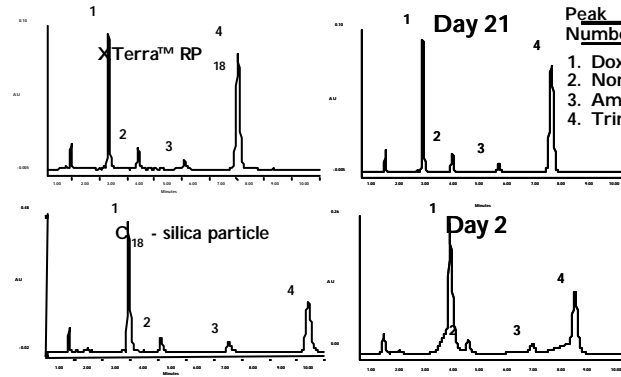
## Temperature Effects on Resolution - Gradient



**Conditions**

- Column: Symmetry300™, C 5 μm, 3.9x150mm
- Sample: Tryptic digests of bovine cytochrome
- Injection: 20 μL
- Mobile Phase: Solvent A: 0.1% TFA in water; Solvent B: 0.1% TFA in acetonitrile
- Gradient: 0-45 min., 0-30% B
- Flow rate: 0.75 mL/min.
- Detection: 214 nm

## High Temperature Phosphate Buffer Test



Peak Number	USP Tailing Factor
1. Doxepin	1.2
2. Nortriptyline	1.1
3. Amitriptyline	1.1
4. Trimipramine	1.0

Tricyclic Antidepressant Separation

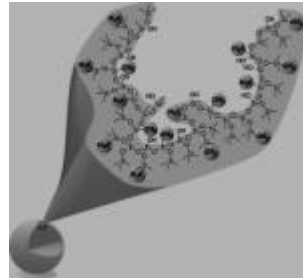
## Stationary Phase Properties

### CHEMISTRY:

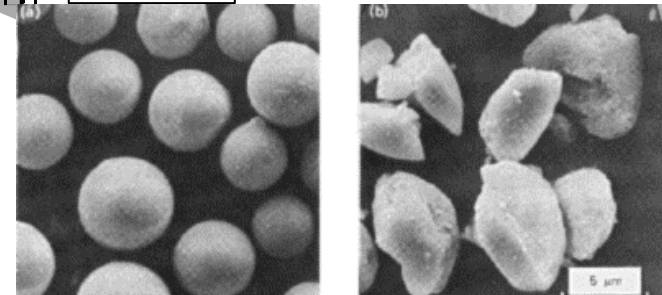
- \* BONDED HYDROCARBON: C-18, C-8, C-4, C-1, CN, phenyl
- \* % COVERAGE
- \* TYPE OF SILICA GEL

### GEOMETRY

- \* SPHERE IRREGULAR
- \* PARTICLE DIAMETER
- \* POROSITY



## Spherical and Irregular particles



□ Electron microphotograph of spherical and irregular silica particles. [W.R.Melander, C.Horvath, Reversed-Phase Chromatography, in HPLC Advances and Perspectives, V2, Academic Press, 1980]

# Reversed Phase HPLC

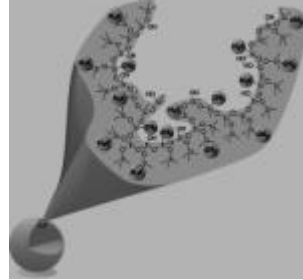
## Stationary Phase Properties

### CHEMISTRY:

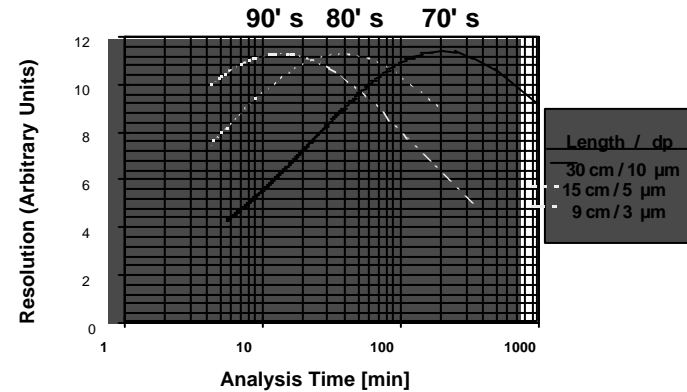
- \* BONDED HYDROCARBON:  
C-18, C-8, C-4, C-1, CN, phenyl
- \* % COVERAGE
- \* TYPE OF SILICA GEL

### GEOMETRY

- \* SPHERE- IRREGULAR
- \* PARTICLE DIAMETER
- \* POROSITY

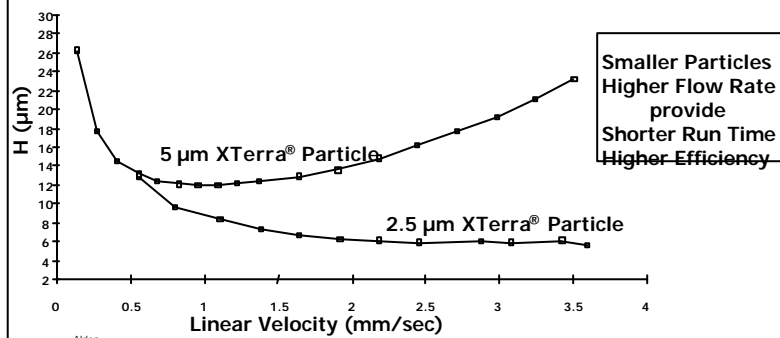


## Resolution - Time Diagram

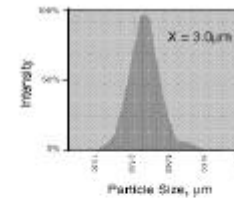


## Comparison of the van Deemter Plots for 5 μm and 2.5 μm XTerra® MS C<sub>18</sub> Particles

(50/50, acetonitrile / water mobile phase)

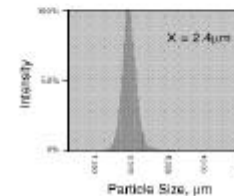


## Challenge of producing smaller particles



Contains a proportion  
of 2 μm particles

Both are commercial '2 μm' packings

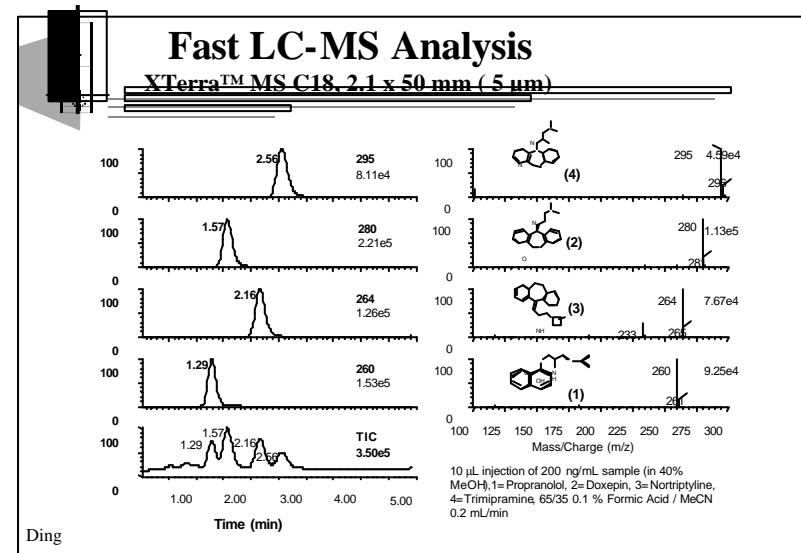
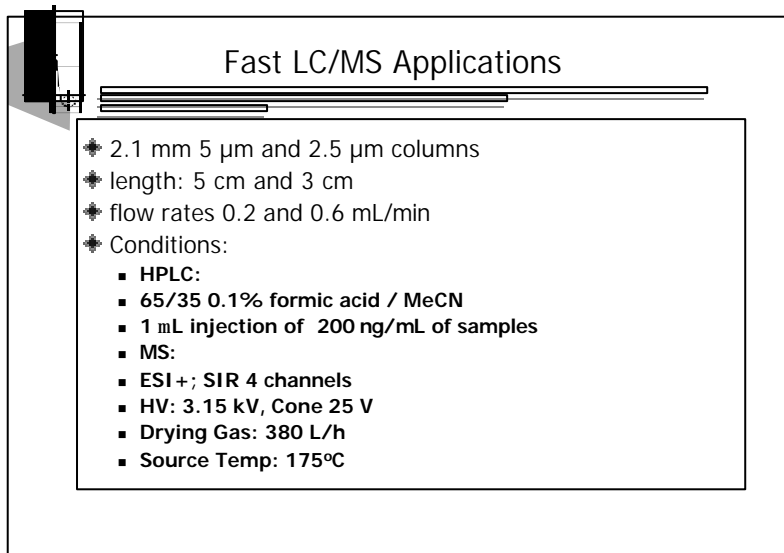
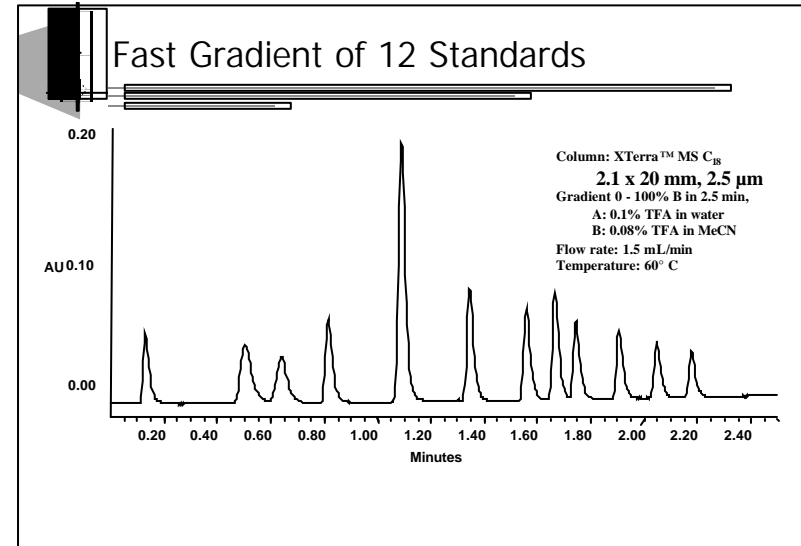
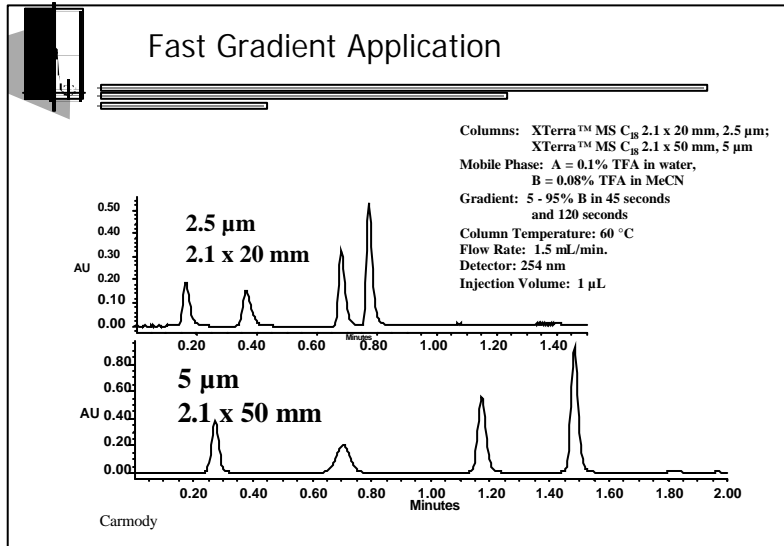


Centered at 2.4 μm  
Narrower distribution  
(Waters proprietary technology)

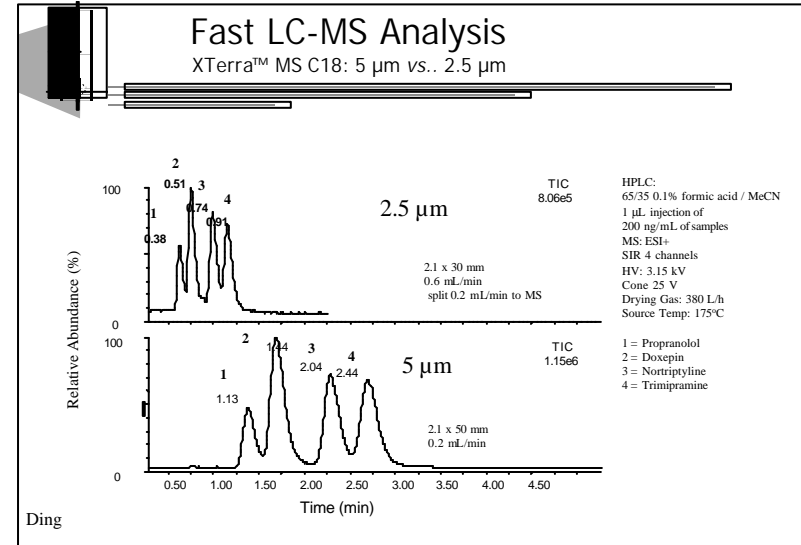
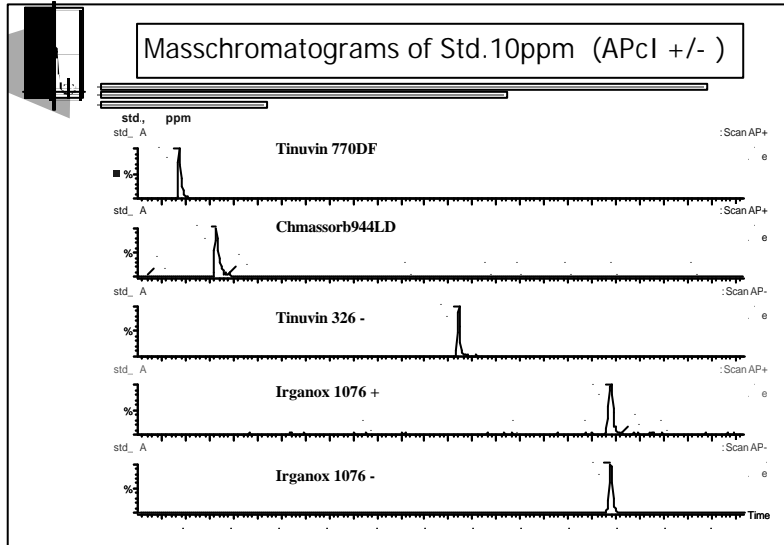
Dr. Shulamit Levin, Medtechnica

levins@medtechnica.co.il

# Reversed Phase HPLC



# Reversed Phase HPLC



### Stationary Phase Properties

**CHEMISTRY:**

- \* BONDED HYDROCARBON:  
C-18, C-8, C-4, C-1, CN, phenyl
- \* % COVERAGE
- \* TYPE OF SILICA GEL

**GEOMETRY**

- \* SPHERE- IRREGULAR
- \* PARTICLE DIAMETER
- \* POROSITY

### Pore size, shape and distribution

\* Macroporous spherical silica particle. [K.K.Unger, Porous silica, Elsevier, 1979]

Pore size defines an ability of the analyte molecules to penetrate inside the particle and interact with its inner surface. This is especially important because the ratio of the outer particle surface to its inner one is about 1:1000. The surface molecular interaction mainly occurs on the inner particle surface.

# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Pore Size

- ✦ Most silica gel packings are porous
  - >99% of the surface area is contained within the particle (not on the surface)-"Where the chromatography happens."
- ✦ Rules of Thumb
  - "The smaller the pore size, the greater the surface area."
    - ♦ (100 Å approx. 300 m<sup>2</sup>/gram)
    - ♦ (300 Å approx. 100 m<sup>2</sup>/gram)
  - "The greater the surface area, the greater the retention."
- ✦ A typical 15 cm column holds a surface area of ~100-300 square meters

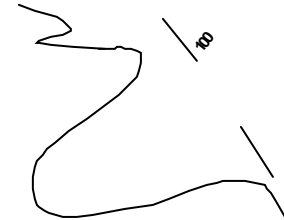
## Silica Gel Pore Structure

- \* Silica is Porous
- \* Pore Size, or nm --distribution
- \* Specific Pore Volume, mL/g

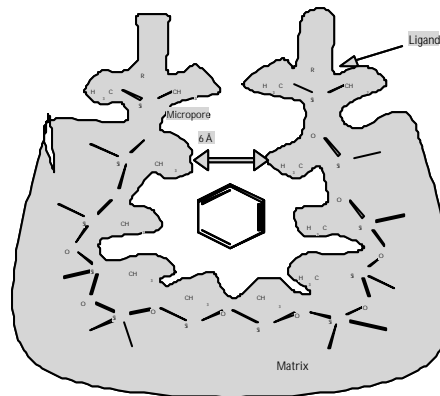
Range: 0.3 -- 1.3 mL/g

SV Particle Strength

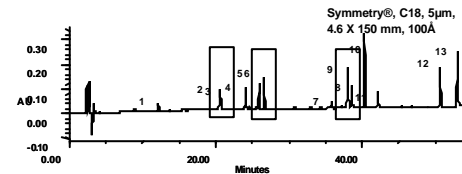
Analyte MW	Pore Size Recommendation
< 3,000	60 - 130 (6 - 13 nm)
3,000 - 10,000	100 (10 nm)
>10,000	300 - 1,000 (30 - 100 nm)
Very Large	non-porous



## Exclusion – Inclusion Effects

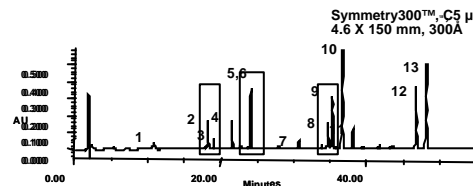


## Pore Size Effects on Resolution



### Conditions

- Sample: Tryptic digests of cytochrome (bovine)
- Injection: 20 µL
- Mobile Phase:
- Solvent A: 0.1% TFA in water
- Solvent B: 0.1% TFA in acetonitrile
- Gradient: 0-50 min., 0-30%B
- Temperature: 35 °C
- Flow Rate: 0.75 mL/min.
- Detection: 214 nm



-Different pore sizes change selectivity.

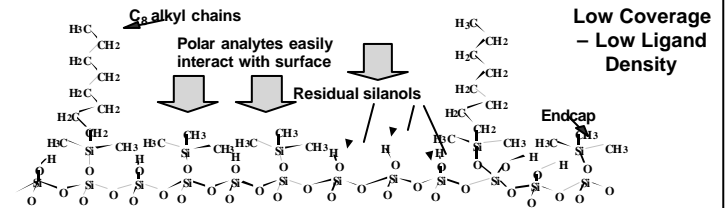
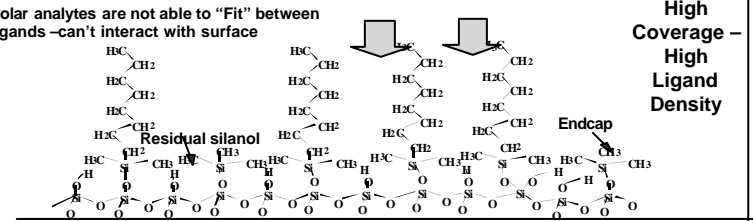
# Reversed Phase HPLC

## Polarity/Aqueous Columns:

- Low ligand density
- High pore volume

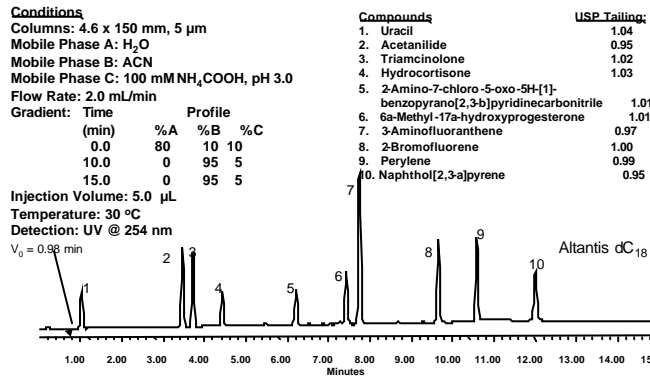
## Mechanism of Retention of Polar Compounds on Aqueous Columns

Polar analytes are not able to "Fit" between ligands – can't interact with surface



## Polar Compounds - Aqua Columns

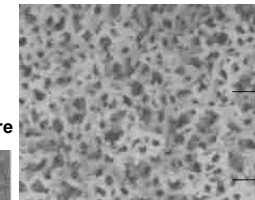
### Polar and Non-Polar Compounds Test Mix



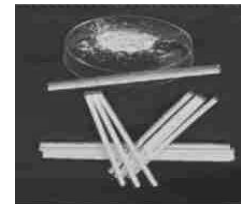
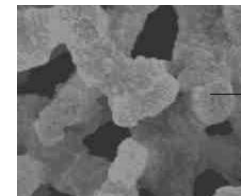
## Chromolith Packing

By utilizing an innovative new "Gel-Sol" technology, a silica gel polymer is formed, which after ageing, is dried into the required form of a straight rod of highly porous silica with a bimodal pore structure.

Chromolith macropore structure



Chromolith mesopore structure



# Reversed Phase HPLC

