



## What is chromatography?

Chromatography – **physical separation method** in which compounds are partitioned between two phases - **stationary** and **mobile** (moving through stationary in a given direction)

In column chromatography, it takes different time for different compounds to pass through a column leading to a separation.

Compounds stronger retained by stationary phase elute later.















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# Chromatographic parameters

Chromatographic resolution – shows separation efficiency between two peaks

$$R = \frac{t_{r,B} - t_{r,A}}{0.5(w_{B} + w_{A})} = \frac{2\Delta t_{r}}{w_{B} + w_{A}}$$

Retention factor – shows efficiency of analyte retention by a column

$$k' = \frac{t_{\rm r} - t_{\rm m}}{t_{\rm m}} = \frac{t_{\rm r}'}{t_{\rm m}}$$

Column efficiency – provides a quantitative measure of the extent of band (peak) broadening

$$N = 5.545 \left(\frac{t_{\rm r}}{w_{1/2}}\right)^2$$

Chromatography

### Task 1

Retention times of ethylbenzene and o-xylene are 12.25 and 12.70 min, respectively. Full width at half maximum (FWHM) of both peaks are 0.20 min. Determine retention factors, resolution between 2 peaks and column efficiency if dead time  $(t_m)$  is 1.55 min



#### Qualitative analysis by chromatography

**By retention times** – comparison of retention times of individual compounds with retention times of chromatographic peaks (rule – retention time is constant at constant separation parameters)

**By Kovats indices** – retention factors against n-alkanes (for gas chromatography only)

**Using spectral data** collected from spectral detectors – comparison of collected spectra with spectra of individual compounds using mass spectra library or database



## Kovats retention indices

 $RI = X \times 100 + \frac{(RT_A - RT (n - alkane X))}{(RT (n - alkane X) - RT (n - alkane X + 1))} \times 100$ 

Where:

X – number of n-alkane eluted before analyte

X+1 – number of n-alkane after before analyte

RT – retention time, min





### Task 3

According to NIST library, Kovats retention index of phenol is 955. According to chromatogram of n-alkanes mixture, retention times of  $n-C_9$  and  $n-C_{10}$  are 9.55 and 11.32 min, respectively. Calculate retention time of phenol.

$$955 = 900 + \frac{X - 9.55}{11.32 - 9.55} \times 100$$

X = 0.55 (11.32 - 9.55) + 9.55 = 10.52 min



## Identification by spectral data







#### Quantitative analysis by chromatography

**By normalization** - percentage of analyte is calculated as its peak area divided by a sum of all the peaks detected on chromatogram

**External standard calibration** – different concentrations of analyte are analyzed to get a calibration curve: S = f (C)

**Internal standard calibration** – solutions having different ratios of analyte and internal standard concentrations are analyzed to get a calibration curve:  $S/S_{is} = f(C/C_{is})$ . In most cases  $C_{is}$  is constant during all analyses.

**Standard addition** – a known concentrations of analytes are introduced into the sample to get a calibration curve and measure the concentration of analyte.




Chromatography

## Task 4

Sample of solvent was analyzed by gas chromatography with mass spectrometric detection. On chromatogram, peaks of ethyl acetate, toluene, iso-propanol and o-xylene were detected. Their peak area are 4260, 3120, 11600 and 700 a.u., respectively. Calculate mass concentrations of all detected compounds.

Total Peak Area = 4260 + 3120 + 11600 + 700 = 19680

% ethyl acetate = 
$$\frac{4260}{19680} \times 100\% = 21.6\%$$





