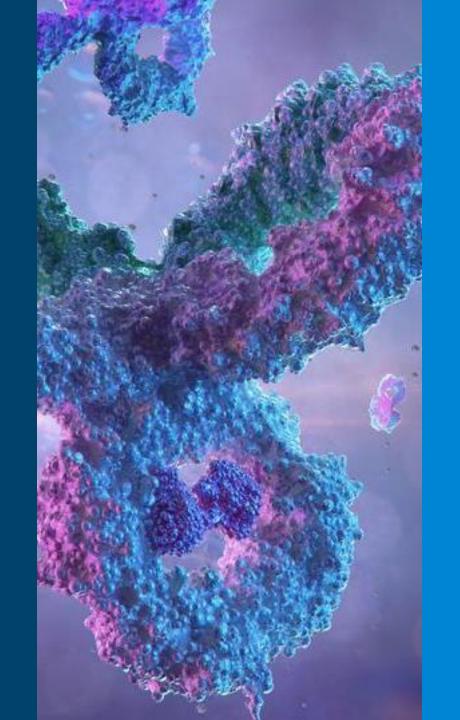
Reversed-Phase for Biomolecules:

From Column Selection to Troubleshooting

Melissa Goodlad, PhD Columns and Supplies Applications Engineer October 5, 2023





Agenda

- Introduction to reversed-phase chromatography
- Column selection
- Protein separations
- Peptide separations
- Oligonucleotide separations



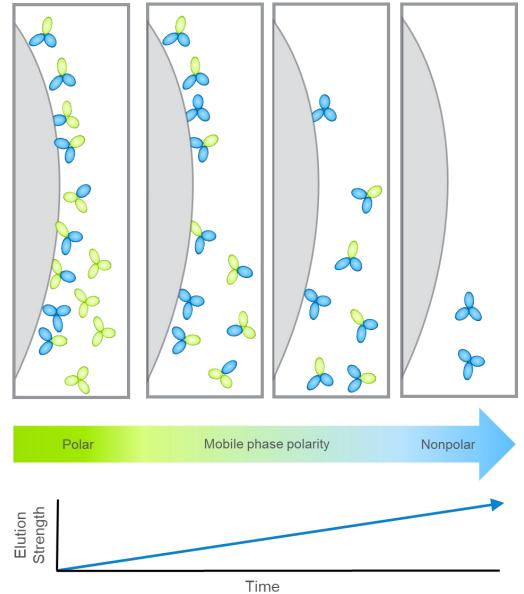


Introduction

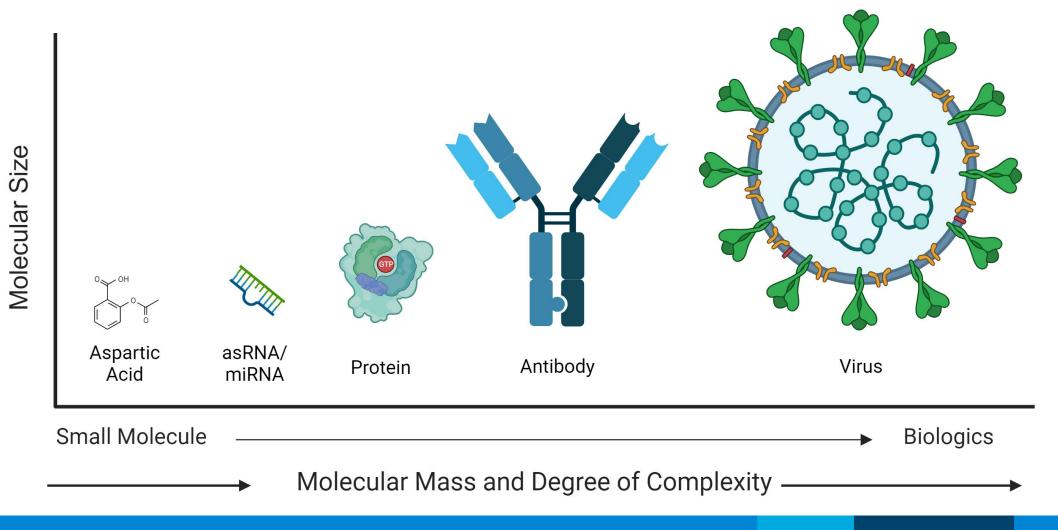
3

What is reversed phase liquid chromatography?

Reversed-Phase LC		
Polarity	Non-polar stationary phase (e.g., C18)	
Mobile Phase	Polar mobile phase H ₂ O/CH ₃ OH, H ₂ O/CH ₃ CN	
Gradient	Decrease retention by decreasing polarity of mobile phase ddH2O ↓ = retention ↑ CH ₃ CN ↑ = retention ↓	
Elution Order	Polar to non-polar	



Introduction RP for biomolecules

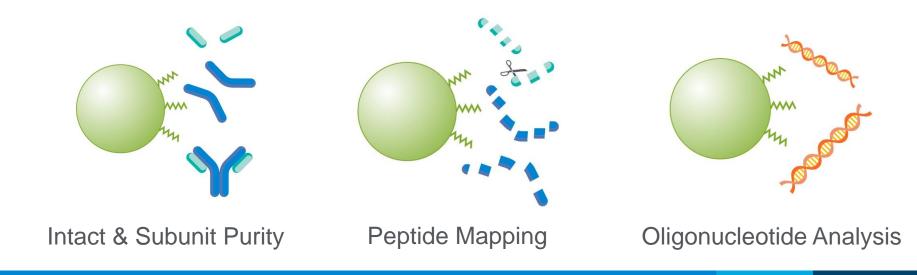




Introduction Critical quality attributes (CQA)

"A CQA is a physical, chemical, biological, or microbiological property or characteristic that should be within an appropriate limit, range, or distribution to ensure the desired product quality. Desired product quality includes clinically safe and efficacious product." – <u>ICH Q8 (R2)</u>

- Any feature of the biotherapeutic, formulation, or packaging that impacts the safety or effectiveness of the medication
- Not every attribute is a critical quality attribute





Column Selection

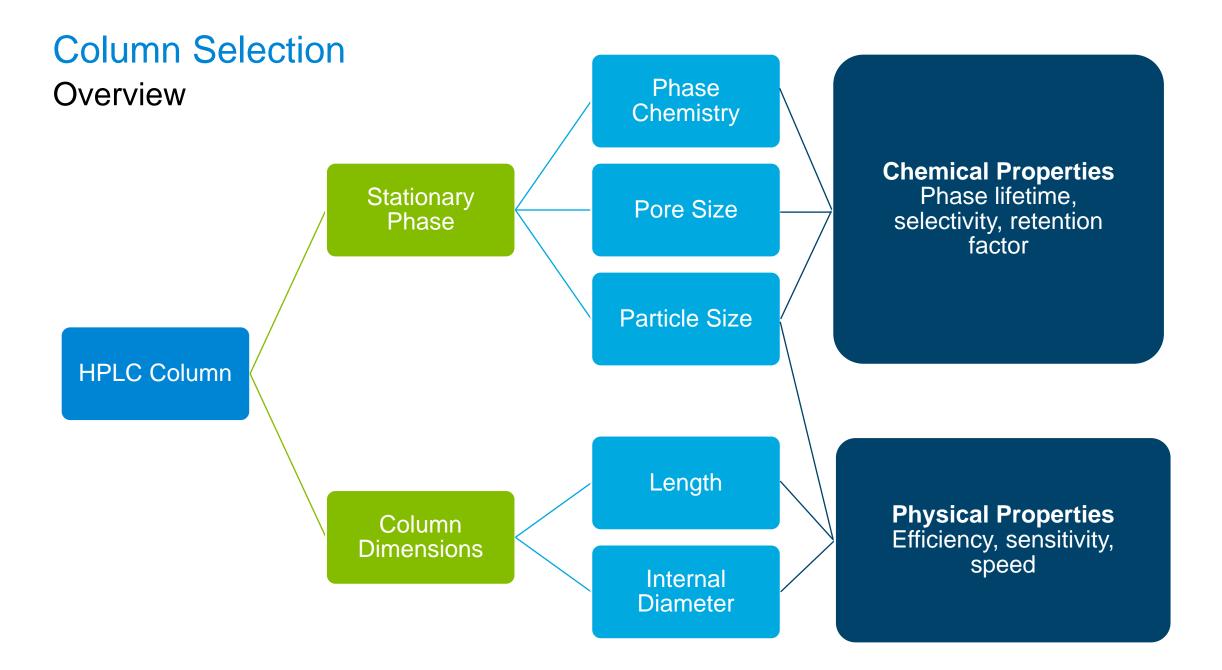








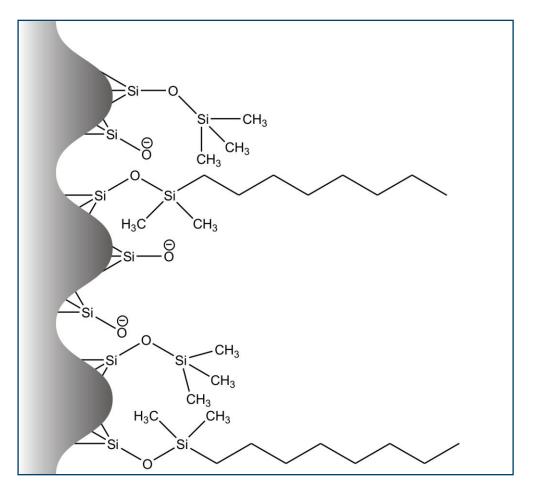
October 5, 2023



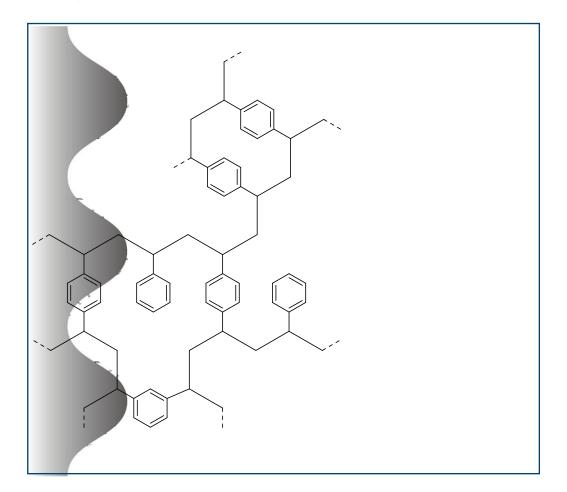


Column Selection Base chemistry

Silica



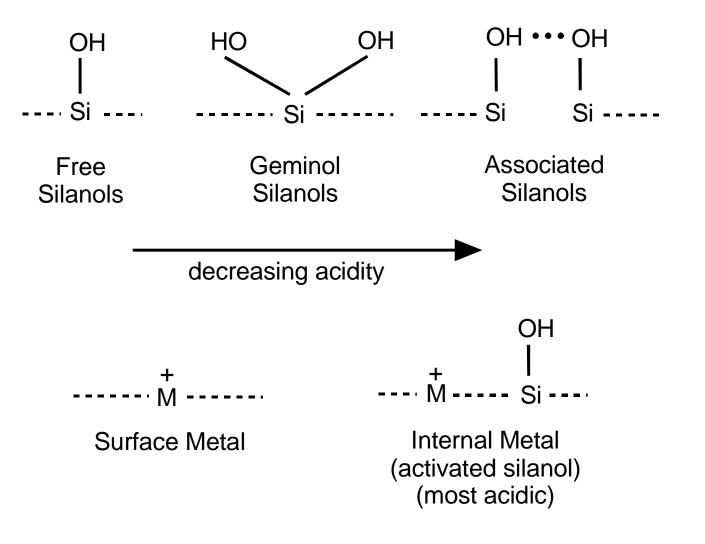
Polymeric





Column Selection Base chemistry: silica

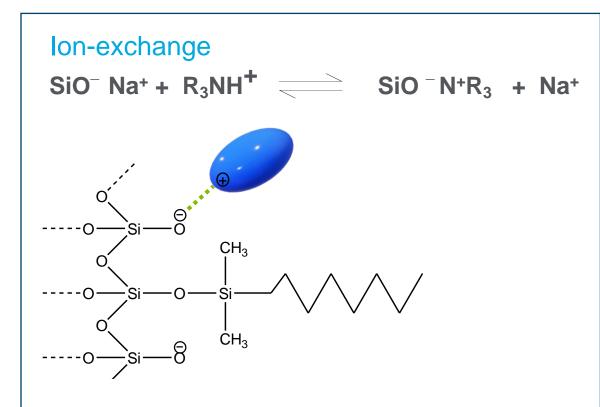
- Bonding is never complete, a significant amount of the silica surface is still bare
- Free silanols on the surface have varying acidity depending on their structure
- Metal impurities introduce the strongest acidic sites



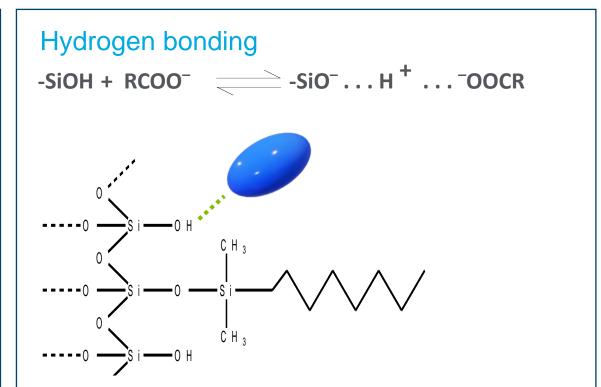


Column Selection

Silica: Potential secondary interactions



Ionized silanols (SiO⁻) will ion-exchange with protonated bases (R₃NH⁺) which can cause tailing and method variability. This occurs most often at mid pH where silanols are ionized.



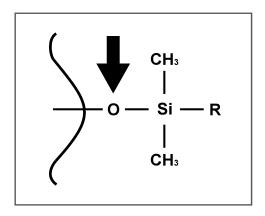
Unprotonated acids can compete for H⁺ with protonated silanols. This can occur at low pH.

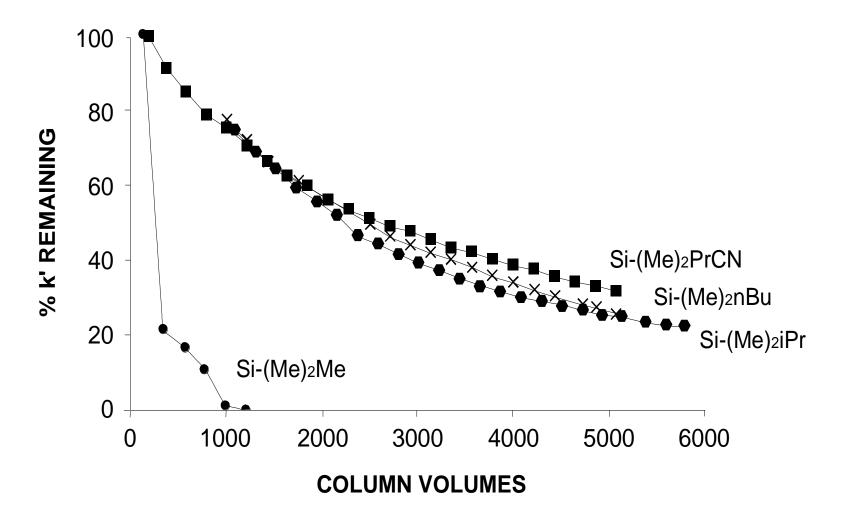


Column Selection Column lifetime

Low pH methods

 Breaking of siloxane bond reduces column lifetime, especially with short chain alkyl ligands





Kirkland, J.J., J.L. Glajch, and R.D. Farlee, Analytical Chemistry (1989), 61, 2.

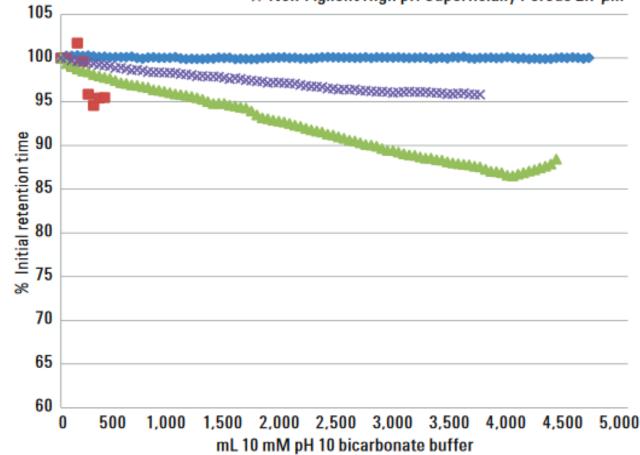


Column Selection Column lifetime

Agilent InfinityLab Poroshell 120 HPH C-18 Agilent InfinityLab Poroshell 120 EC-C18 Non-Agilent Totally Porous Hybrid (3 µm) × Non-Agilent High pH Superficially Porous 2.7 µm

High pH methods

High pH methods can lead to the dissolution of the silica stationary phase







Column Selection Silica modifications

Conventional Silica

Hydrolytically unstable, free silanols

Sterically Protected

Alkyl groups sterically block silanols and protect siloxane bond pH range: 1.0-8.0

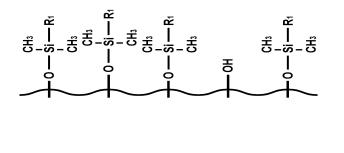
Columns: Zorbax 300 Stable Bond (SB), AdvanceBio RP-mAb (SB)

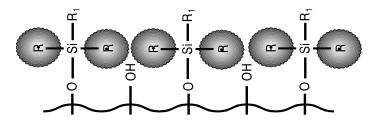
Extensive Endcapping

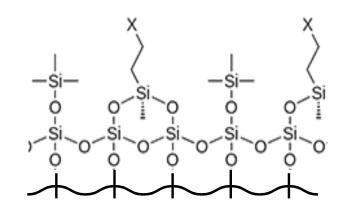
Double endcapping and/or bidentate bonding improves peak shape of basic compounds and high pH stability

pH ranges: 2.0-11.5, 3.0-11.0

Columns: Zorbax 300 Extend, AdvanceBio Oligonucleotide



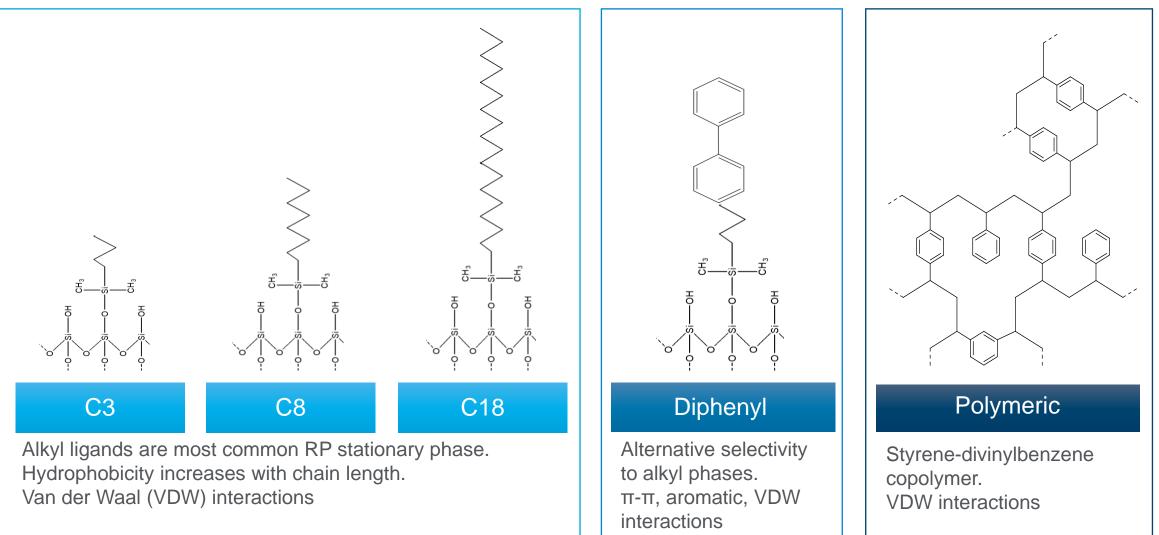






Column Selection

Basic phase chemistry





Column Selection Pore size

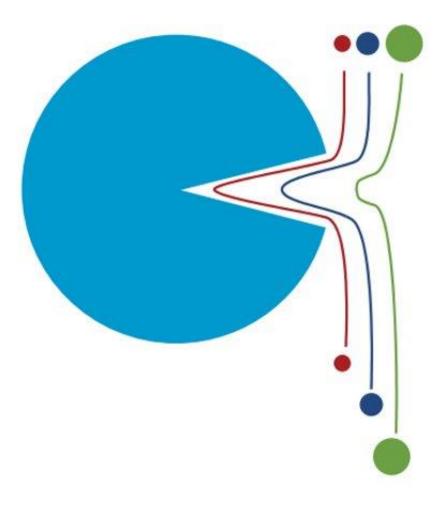
As a general rule, the pore size should be 3X the hydrodynamic radius of your analyte

Small molecules

- 80 120 Å
- Maximizes loading and retention

Peptides, proteins, other large biomolecules

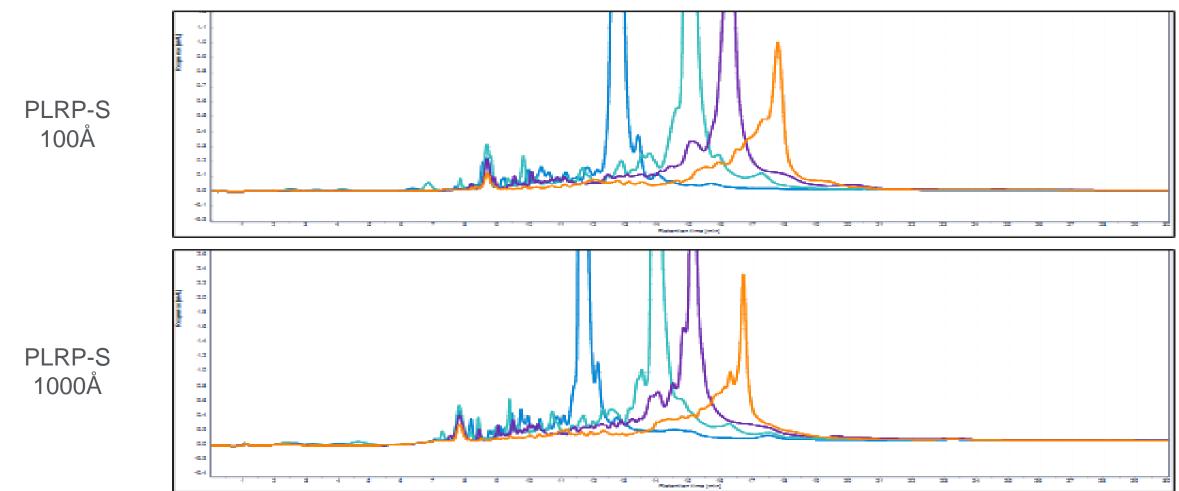
- 120 Å (Peptides, small oligonucleotides)
- 300 Å to 450 Å (Proteins, mAb)
- 1000 Å (Larger proteins, larger oligonucleotides)
- 4000 Å (mRNA, pDNA, VLP)
- Maintain high efficiency





Column Selection Pore size

25 mer, 50 mer, 75 mer, 100 mer

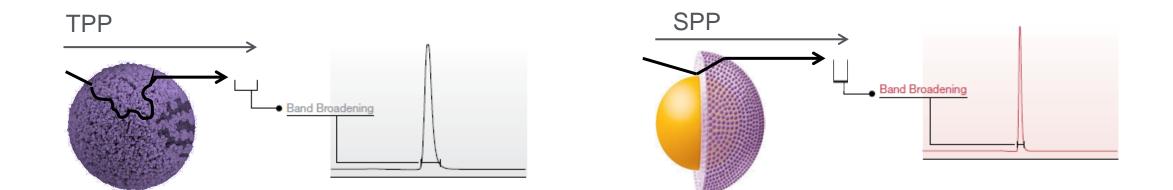




Column Selection

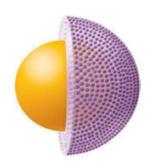
Totally porous particles (TPP) vs. superficially porous particles (SPP)

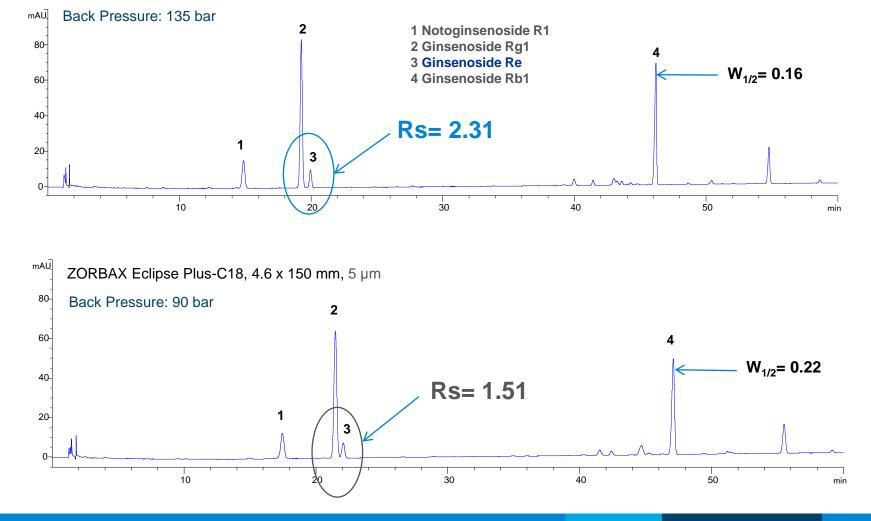
- Analytes travel though the particle more efficiently
- High efficiency allows you to use a larger SPP (i.e., 2.7um) for nearly equivalent performance to a smaller sub-2 um (STM) TPP column
- Using a larger particle allows for lower backpressure than comparably efficient totally porous STM columns and flexible use on HPLC or UHPLC systems





Column Selection TPP vs. SPP



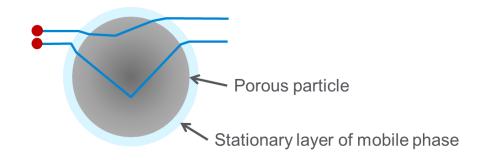


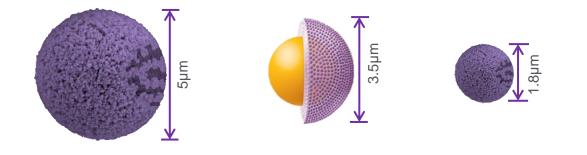
Poroshell 120 EC-C18, 4.6 x 150 mm, 4 µm



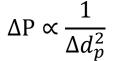
Column Selection Particle size

- Stationary phase mass transfer is the diffusion of
- Smaller particles have short, more efficient paths





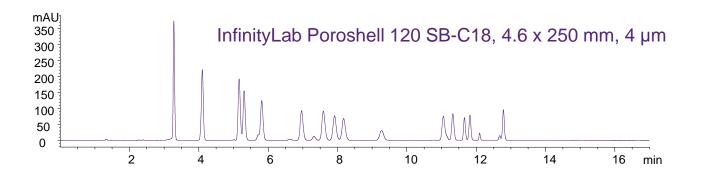
Particle diameter (d_p)

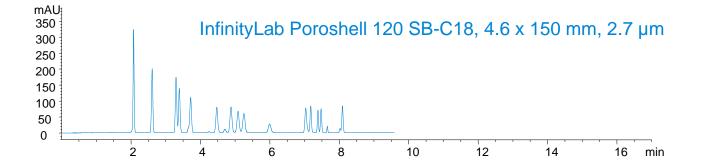


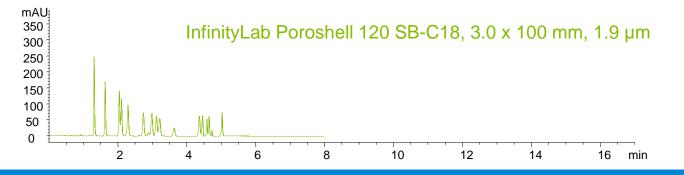
Increasing resolution, pressure



Column Selection Particle Size







HPLC (4 µm)	Value	Difference
Run time	14 min	
Response / injection volume	80 mAU / µl	
Solvent consumption	21 mL	
Samples per 8 h day	24	

UHPLC (2.7 μm)	Value	Difference
Run time	8.75 min	- 37.5%
Response / injection volume	113 mAU / µl	+ 41%
Solvent consumption	13.1 mL	- 37.5%
Samples per 8 h day	48	+24

LD UHPLC (1.9 µm)	Value	Difference
Run time	5.25 min	- 62.5%
Response / injection volume	295 mAU / µl	+ 269 %
Solvent consumption	3.36 mL	- 84 %
Samples per 8 h day	80	+56



Column Selection Column dimensions

Inner diameter (ID)

Optimum Flow Rate	Recommended Use
1.00-1.25 mL/min	Legacy methods
0.8-1.0 mL/min	Lower solvent use
0.4-0.5 mL/min	MS applications, lowest solvent use
	1.00-1.25 mL/min 0.8-1.0 mL/min

Column length

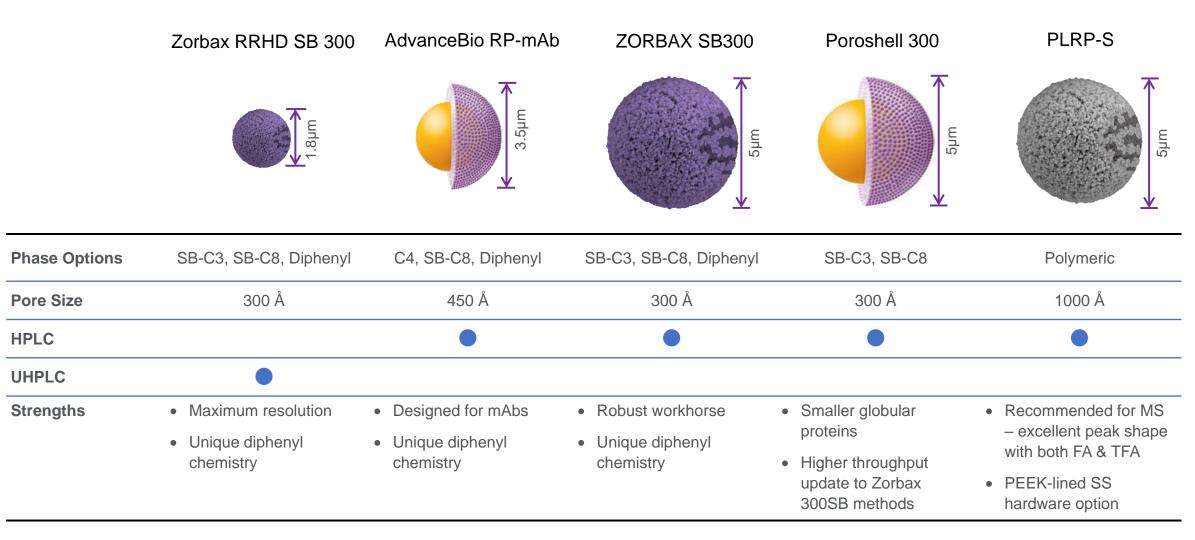
Column Length	Recommended Use	
50 mm	High throughput	
100 mm	High resolution	
≥150 mm	Ultra-high resolution	





Column Selection

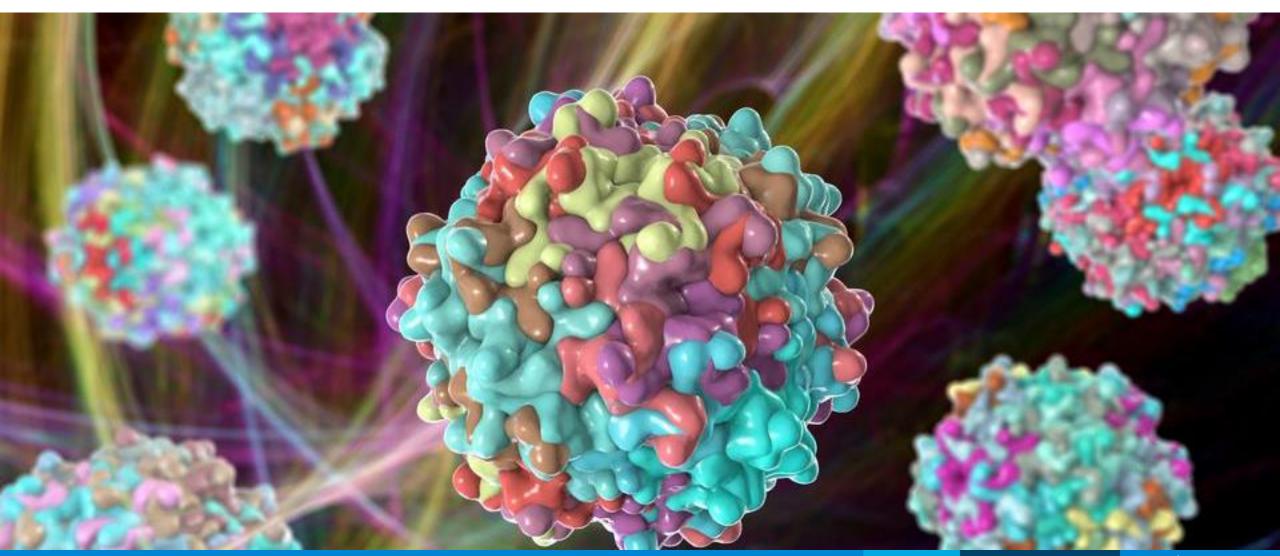
Biocolumns for reversed-phase separations





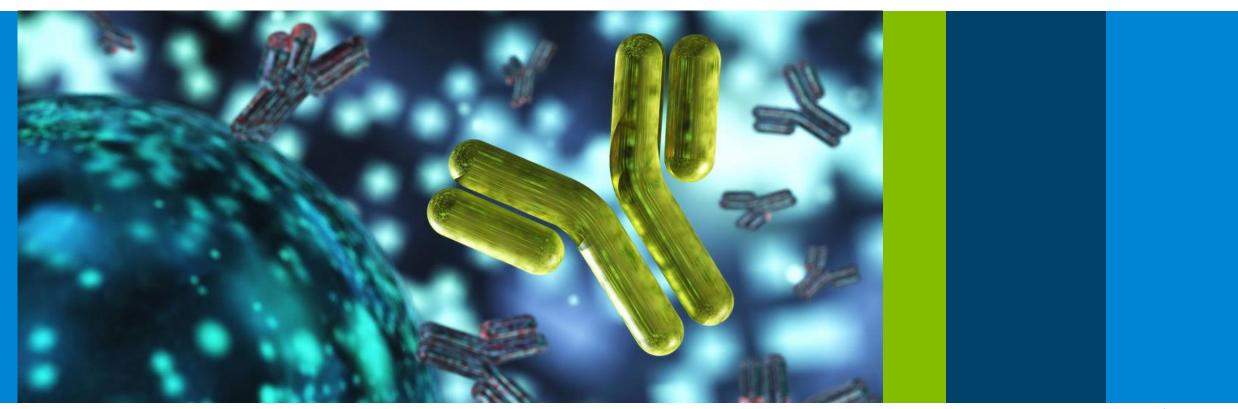
Bioseparations

Proteins, peptides, and oligonucleotides





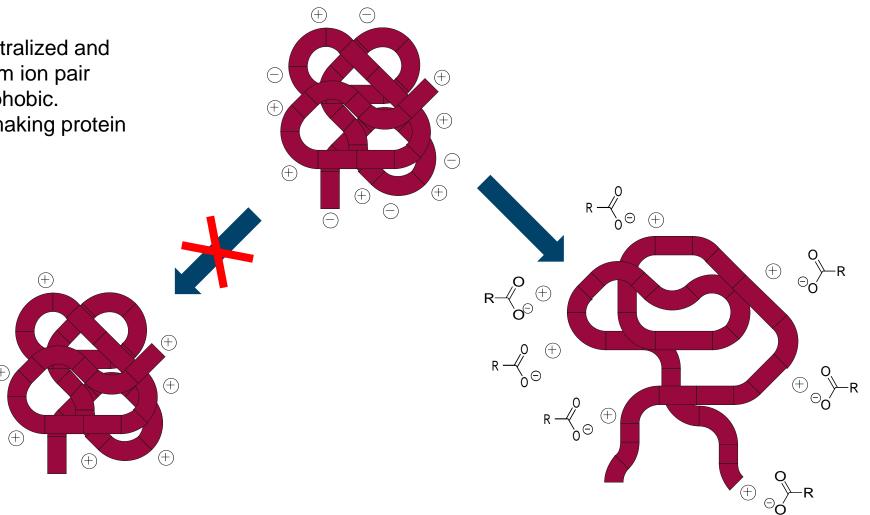
Bioseparations Proteins





Proteins Ion-pair effect on proteins

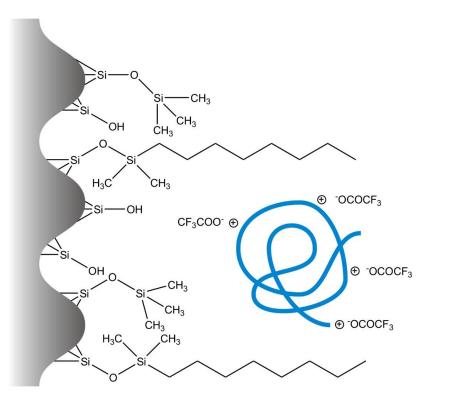
Carboxylate groups are neutralized and protonated basic groups form ion pair making protein more hydrophobic. Conditions are denaturing making protein larger in solution.





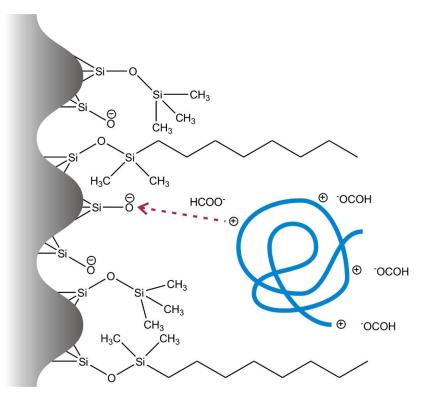
Mobile phase modifiers

Trifluoroacetic Acid (TFA), UV analysis



TFA blocks silanol interaction, enabling good peak shape.

Formic Acid, MS Analysis

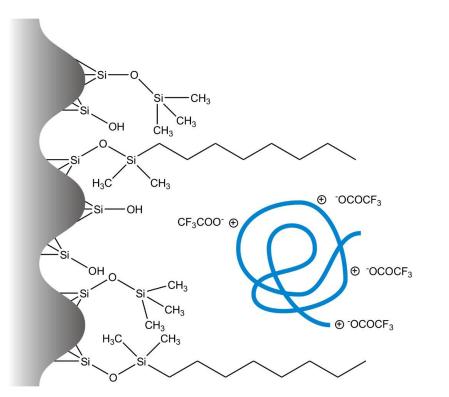


Formic acid weakens but doesn't block silanol interaction.



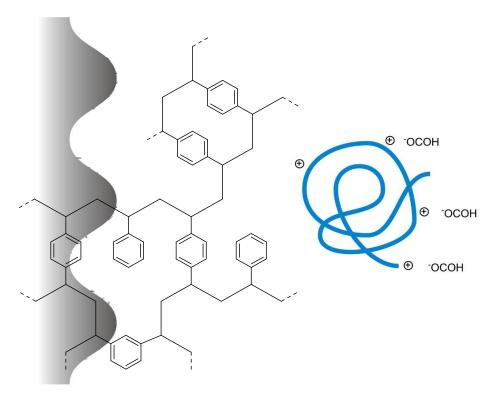
Mobile phase modifiers

Trifluoroacetic Acid (TFA), UV analysis



TFA blocks silanol interaction, enabling good peak shape.

Formic Acid, MS Analysis



Excellent peak shape with formic acid



Proteins Column selection

Base particle chemistry – polymer or silica?

- PLRP-S has excellent peak shape with both formic acid and TFA.
- Stable Bond silica phases for longer column lifetime at low pH

Bonded phase chemistry – C3, C4, C8, or diphenyl?

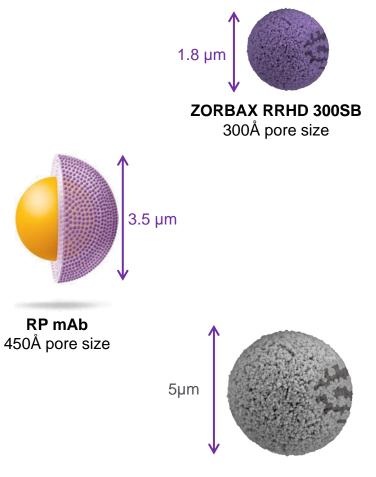
- The larger the protein, the shorter the alkyl chain should be
- Diphenyl offers a unique selectivity option

Particle size – < 2μ m to 5μ m or higher

• Smaller particles give high resolution, but also higher back pressure

Pore size – anywhere from 300-1000Å!

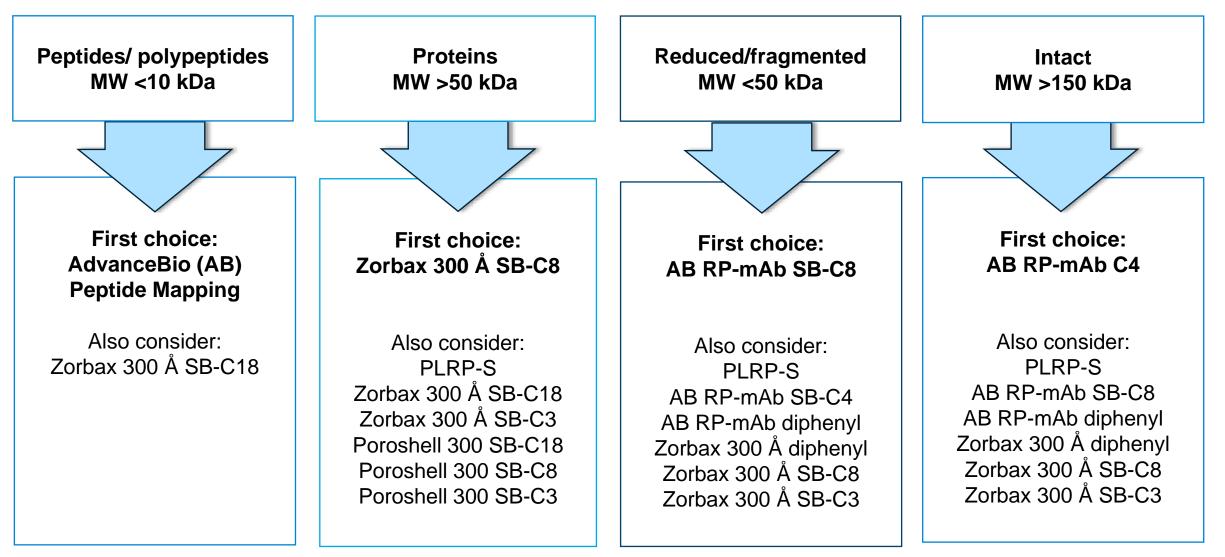
- Pores should be \geq 3x the hydrodynamic radius of the protein
- 300-500Å most common, but 1000Å increasing in popularity



PLRP-S 100Å, 300Å, 1000Å pore sizes



Initial column selection





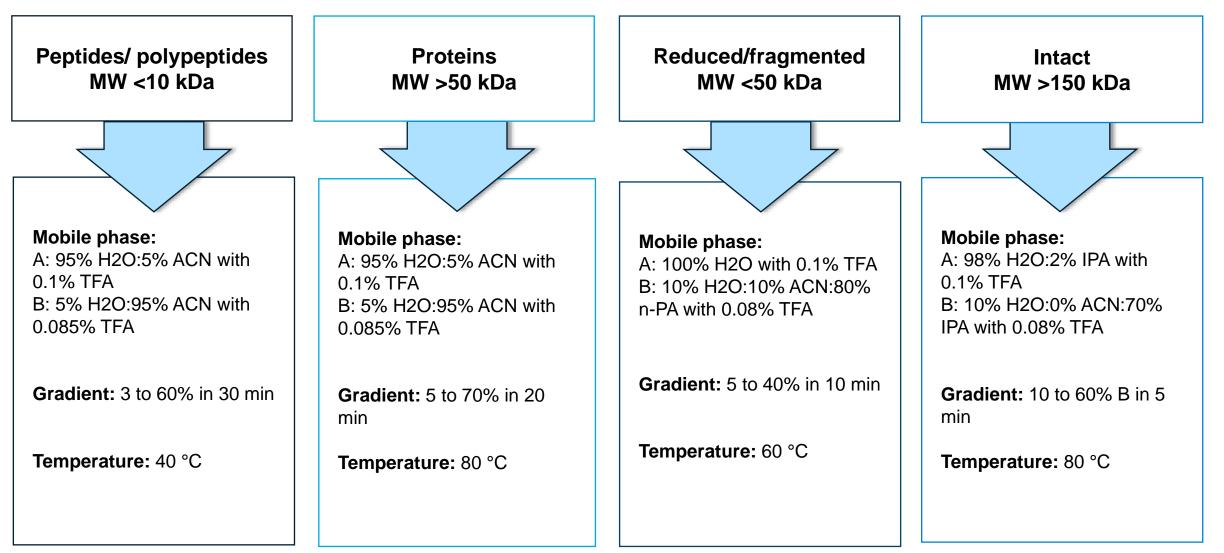
Initial method conditions

- Start at low pH with simple aqueous/organic gradient
- Typically, a water: acetonitrile with 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) gradient is used to elute all components of interest.
- A typical high-resolution gradient on a 300 Å pore size column requires 30 to 50 min.
- For LC/MS methods, TFA can reduce detector sensitivity and is often replaced with ammonium formate/formic acid.





Initial separation conditions





Proteins Method optimization

Method Optimization



Temperature	 Increase temperature reduces mobile phase viscosity and improves peak shape
Gradient Steepness	 A steeper gradient can shorten a long method A shallower gradient improves resolution
Mobile Phase	 Methanol and isopropyl alcohol (IPA) are alternative to ACN RP mAb often has improved resolution with some IPA Change concentration of ion-pair reagent Changing to a more hydrophobic ion-pair reagent

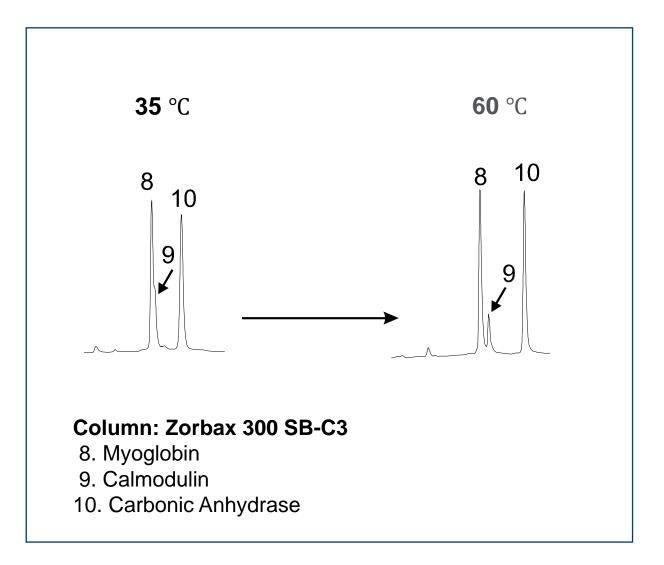
Particles

• Smaller particles or SPP particles can improve resolution



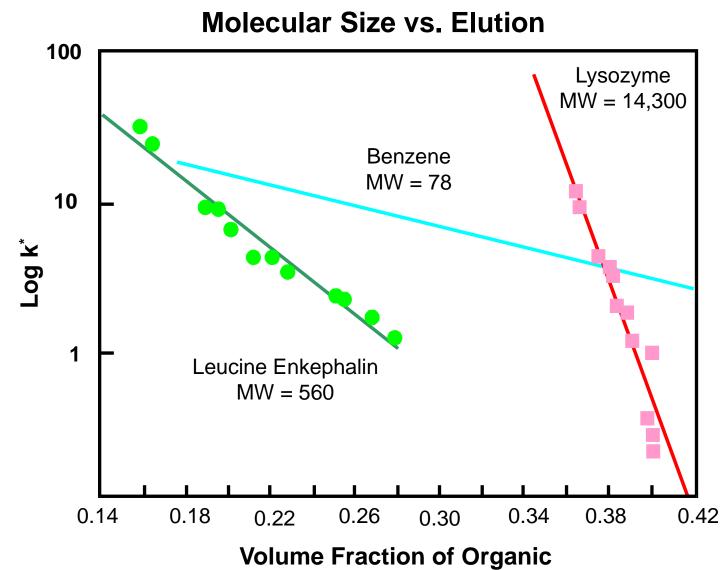
Improving resolution: temperature

 Increasing the method temperature can sometimes improve resolution





Improving resolution: gradient

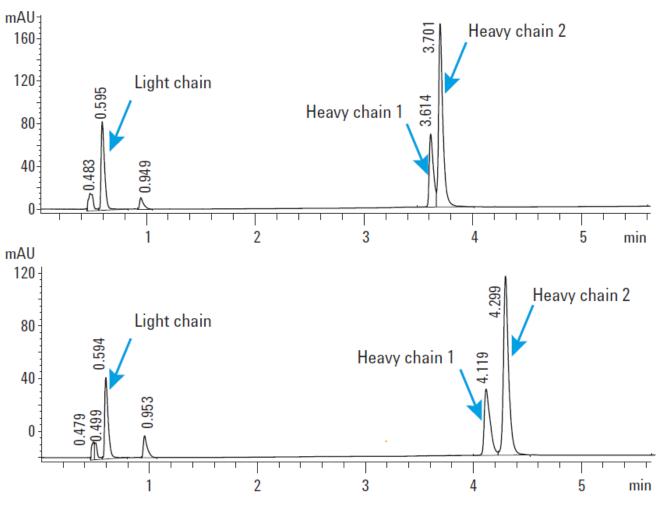




Improving resolution: gradient

Column: ZORBAX RRHD 300-Diphenyl

Time (min)	Gradient 1 %B	Gradient 2 % B
0	1	1
2	20	20
5	70	50

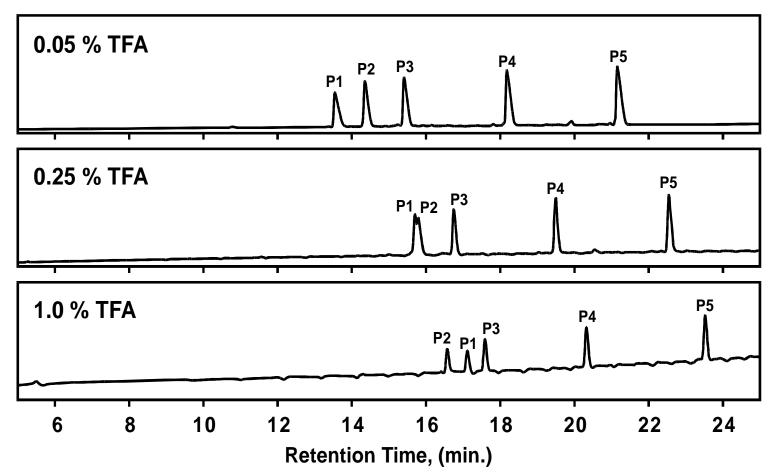


Gradient 2: Heavy chain peaks are more resolved.



Improving resolution: change mobile phase

Effect of TFA Concentration on RP Peptide Separation



Conditions

Column: Zorbax 300SB-C8, 4.6 x 150 mm

Mobile Phase: A= H_2O and TFA, B= ACN and TFA

Gradient: 0-30% B in 30 min.

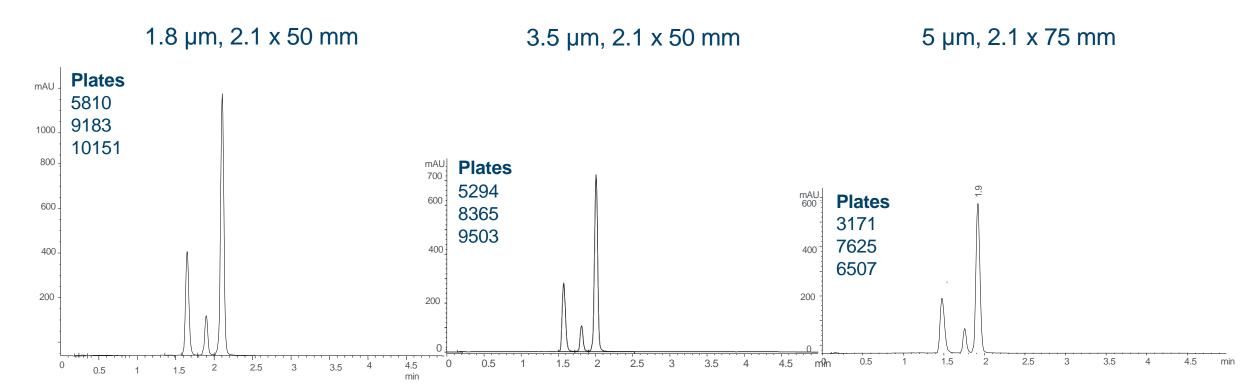
Flow: 1 mL/min.

Temp.: 40°C



Proteins

Improving resolution: particle size



Column: ZORBAX 300 SB-C18 Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min

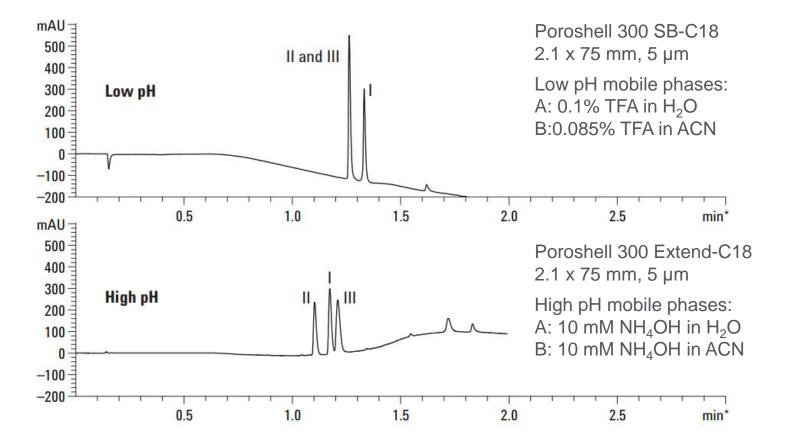


Proteins

Mid and high pH low pH methods

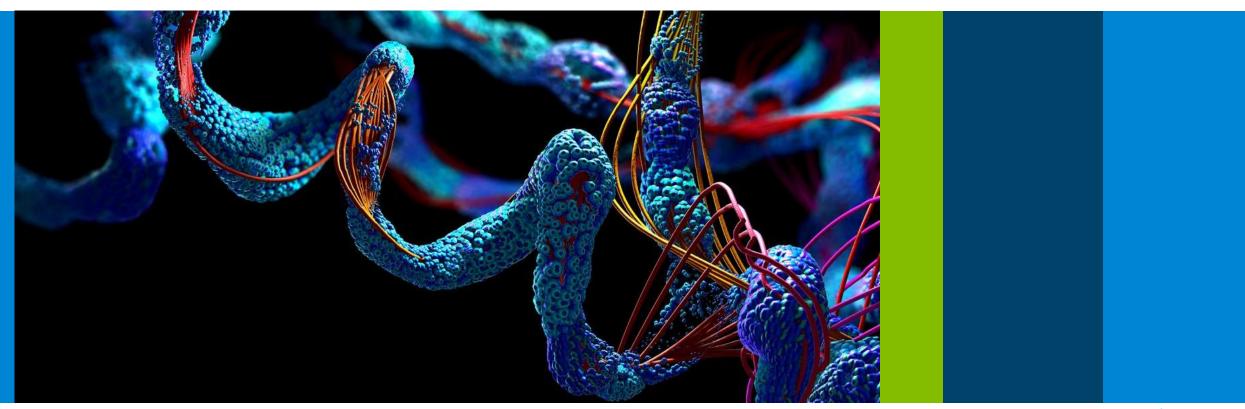
- If an optimized, low pH method does not provide an ideal separation, then mid or high pH mobile phase can be used.
- At high pH, selectivity is often very different because acidic amino acids become negatively charged and some basic amino acids may lose their charge.

Separation of Angiotensin I, II and III at Low and High pH





Bioseparations Peptide mapping

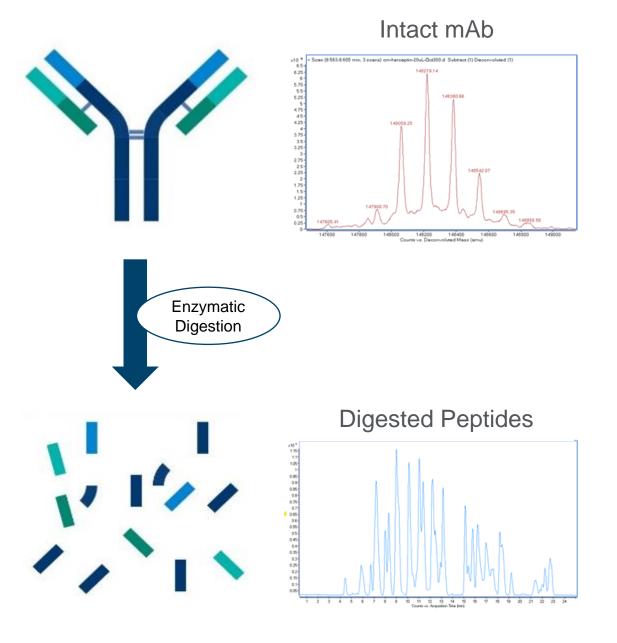




Peptide Mapping CQAs

Peptide mapping:

- Confirms primary structure & detects alterations in structure
- Demonstrates process consistency
- Stability studies
- Used to indentify multiple CQA





Peptide Mapping Column selection

Instrument capabilities and requirements

- UV vs MS detection *or both*
- Pressure capabilities

Mobile phase requirements

- High pH required for sample?
- TFA vs Formic acid

Sample

- Hydrophilic vs hydrophobic peptides
- Larger polypeptides present

Column dimensions

- Generally, prefer longer columns, especially for more complicated maps
 - 50, 150, and 250 mm lengths available
- Use 2.1 mm ID. for MS-sensitivity
 - 3.0 and 4.6 mm ID also available
- Smaller pore sizes with higher surface area are ideal, usually 100-150 Å

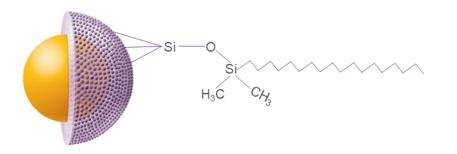




Peptide Mapping Column Selection

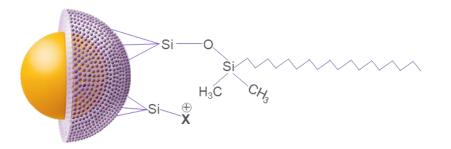
AdvanceBio Peptide Mapping

- Traditional C18 chemistry
- Good retention of small, hydrophilic peptides
 → most things retained longer
- Solid all-around option
- BioInert hardware option with AdvanceBio EC-C18 in PEEK-lined stainless steel



AdvanceBio Peptide Plus

- Charged surface C18 chemistry
- Good elution of larger, hydrophobic peptides
 → most things elute earlier
- Alternate selectivity, especially for deamidated peptides
- Excellent peak shape with formic acid mobile phase and under high loading conditions
- Helps identify low abundance peptides, such as from host cell proteins or impurities



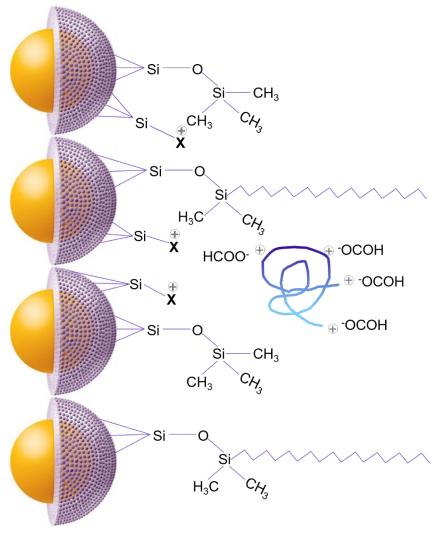




Peptide Mapping

Charged surface stationary phase

The small amount of positive charge enables formic acid as mobile phase and improves MS sensitivity

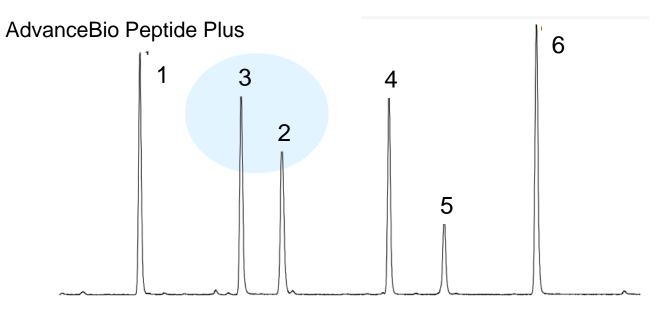


Agilent AdvanceBio Peptide Plus (CS C18)

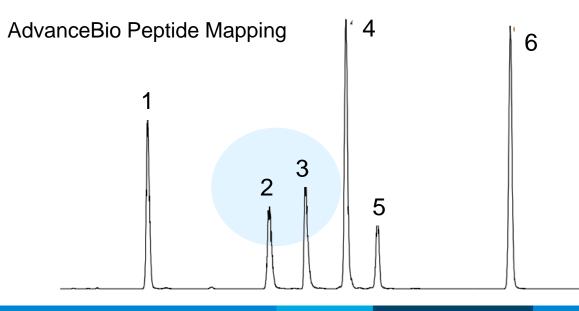


Peptide Mapping Selectivity

Peptides elute in different order (sometimes with better resolution too) due to different column chemistries.



Peak	Peptide Sequence
1	RPPGFSPFR
2	Glp-LYENKPRRPYIL
3	DRVYIHPFHL
4	GLILVGGYGTR
5	GILFVGSGVSGGEEGAR
6	LTILEELR







Peptide Mapping Starting conditions

Starting Conditions

Mobile Phases	A: 0.1% TFA in H ₂ O B: 0.85% TFA in ACN	 Low pH suppresses ionization of silanols to reduce peak tailing Helps denature peptide fragments, improving resolution ACN allows for low UV detection
Gradient	0-60% B in 45 minutes	 Most peptides elute with less than 60% ACN
Temperature	30-50 °C	 A slightly elevated temperature improves mobile phase viscosity



Peptide Mapping Method Optimization

Method Optimization



Temperature	 Increase temperature → narrower peaks Some hydrophobic peptides may need temperatures 60-80 °C for maximum recovery
Gradient Steepness	 A steeper gradient can shorten method A shallower gradient improves resolution
Flow Rate	 Reducing flow rate can improve resolution Increasing flow rate can shorten a long method
Column Length	Longer columns can increase resolution



Peptide Mapping Method optimization

Gradient Steepness

mAU **15** minute gradient 40 × 35 42 peaks **30** · 25 -20 15 10 5 -0 -5 12 8 10 14 min 2 6 0 Δ mAU 40 **40** minute gradient 35 56 peaks 30 25 20 15 10 5 0 -5 10 20 25 30 35 5 15 min 0

Myoglobin tryptic digest

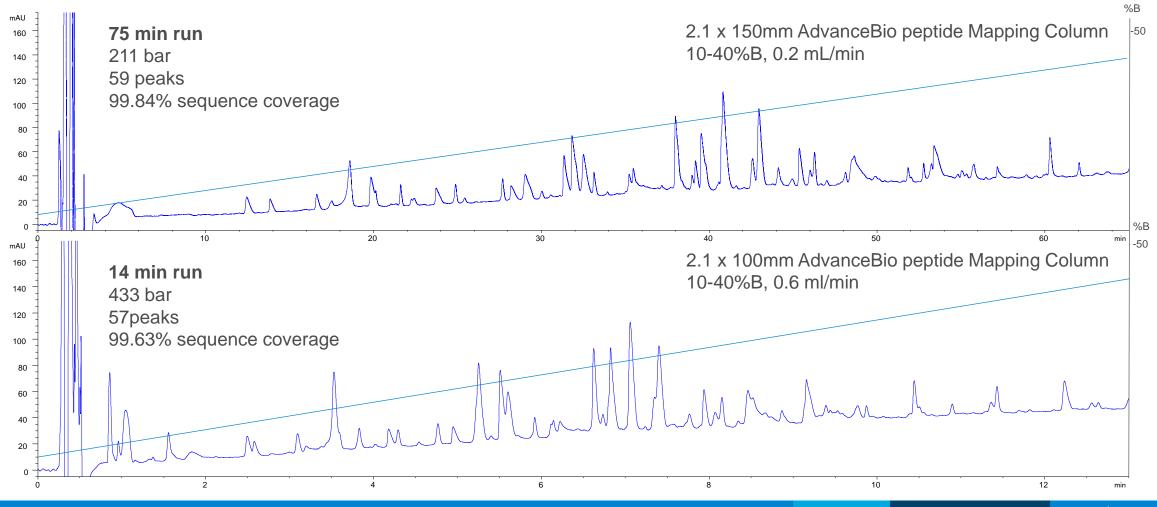
Column:

AB Peptide Mapping, 2.1 x 150 mm



Peptide Mapping Method optimization

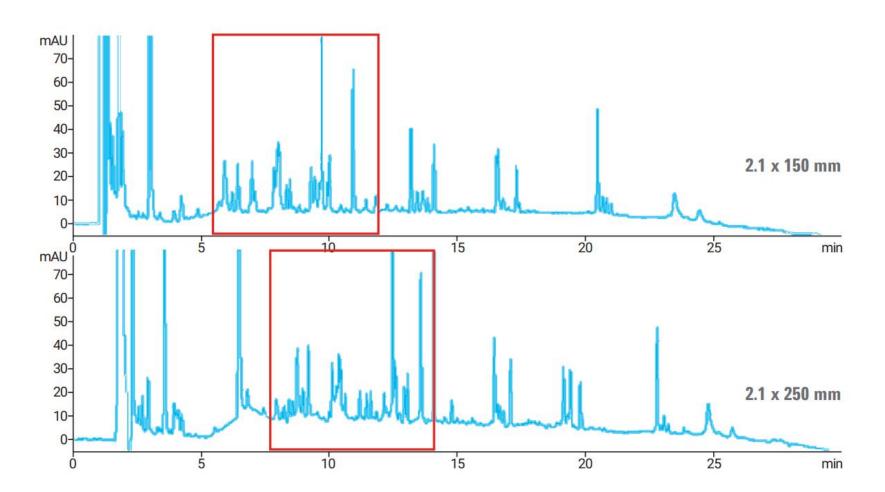
Flowrate





Peptide Mapping Method optimization

Column Length

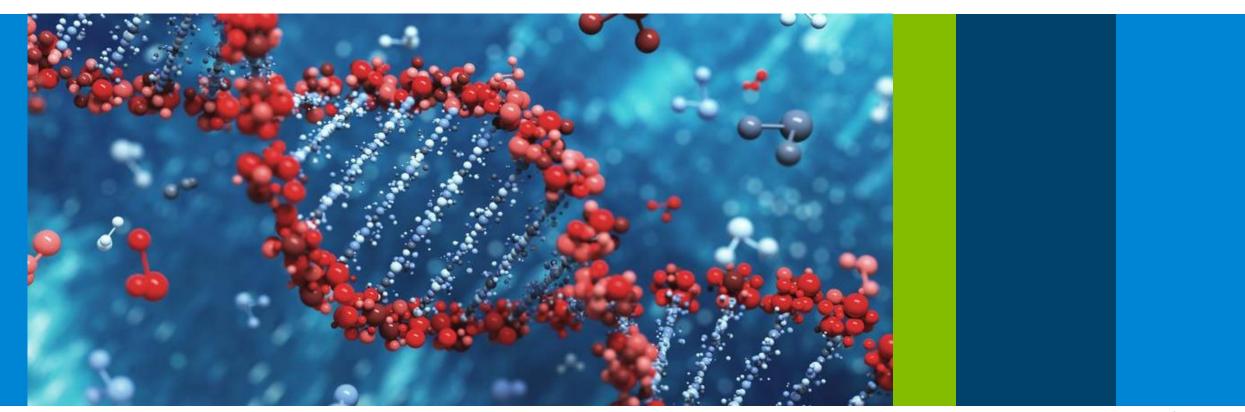


Myoglobin tryptic digest

Column: AB Peptide Mapping, 2.1 x 150 mm & 2.1 x 250 mm

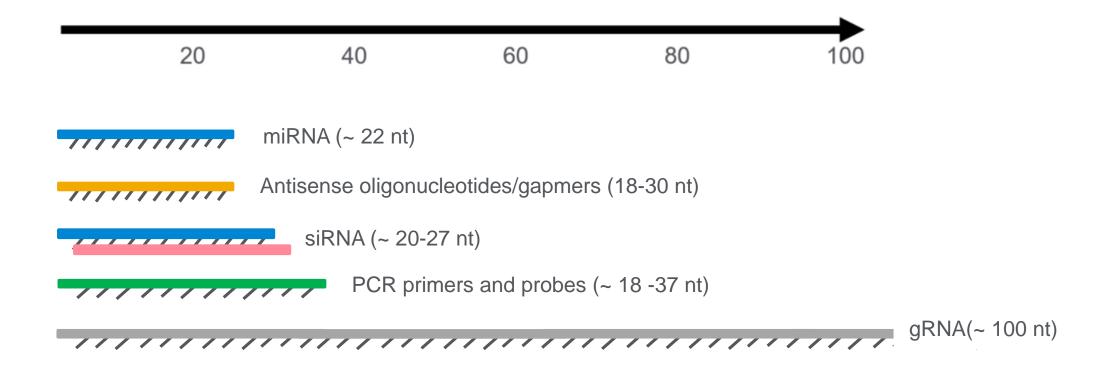


Bioseparations Oligonucleotides





Oligonucleotides represent a diverse set of therapeutics

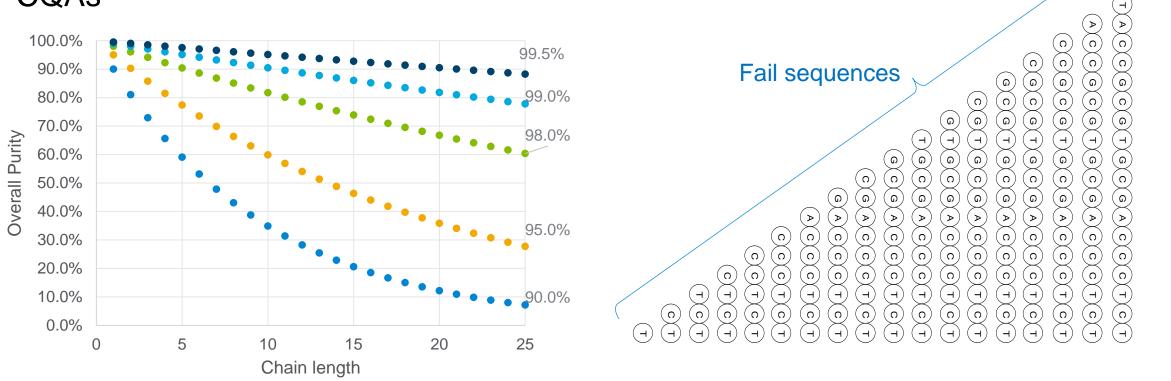


Oligonucleotides come in many shapes and sizes ! ...

... the linear length of 1,000 nt mRNA would be ~ 300 nm.



Oligonucleotides CQAs



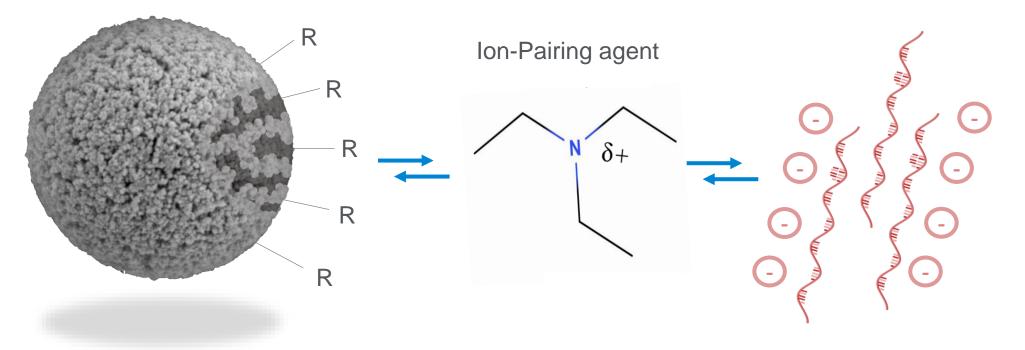
- As many oligos are synthesized, failed sequences in addition to synthesis-related impurities ranging from acetylation byproducts to depurination must be separated from the target sequence.
- Therapeutic oligos can range from short single or double strand oligos (13-25 nucleotides, or bases) to mRNA with thousands of nucleotides.



Oligonucleotides Ion-paired reversed-phase (IP-RP) chromatography

Hydrophobic interface

Anion (acidic) backbone



Anionic phosphate backbone has no interaction with the hydrophobic reverse phase media on its own. Introduction of alkylamine ion-pairing agent in the mobile phase facilitates the interaction and retention of oligos with the hydrophobic RP stationary phase.

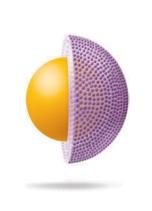


Oligonucleotides

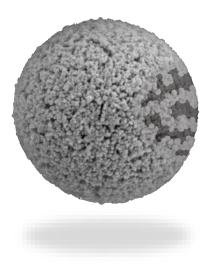
Ion-paired reversed-phase chromatography

- Ion-paired reversed-phased (IP-RP) HPLC uses ion-pairing reagents to increase hydrophobicity of anionic oligonucleotides
- Method conditions tend to have neutral mobile phases and an elevated temperatures

AdvanceBio Oligonucleotide 2.7 μm, Pore Size 120 Å



PLRP-S 1000Å 5.0 μm, Pore Size 1000Å



pH range: 3-11 Maximum Temp: 65 °C

pH range: 1-14 Maximum Temp: 200 °C

Other particle sizes: Other pore sizes: 10μm, 15-20μm, 30μm 100Å, 300Å, 4000Å



Oligonucleotides Column selection

Base particle chemistry – polymer or silica?

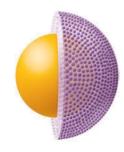
- PLRP-S is stable at high temperatures and pressures
- AB Oligonucleotide stationary phase has proprietary endcapping to increase pH stability

Pore size – anywhere from 100-4000Å!

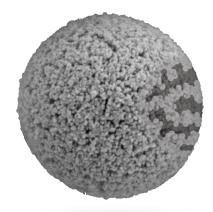
• Pores should be \geq 3x the hydrodynamic radius of the oligo

Particle size – < 2µm to 5µm or higher

- Smaller particles give high resolution, but also higher back pressure
- Larger particle sizes can increase binding capacity for particles with large pores



AdvanceBio Oligonucleotide 2.7 μm, Pore Size 120 Å

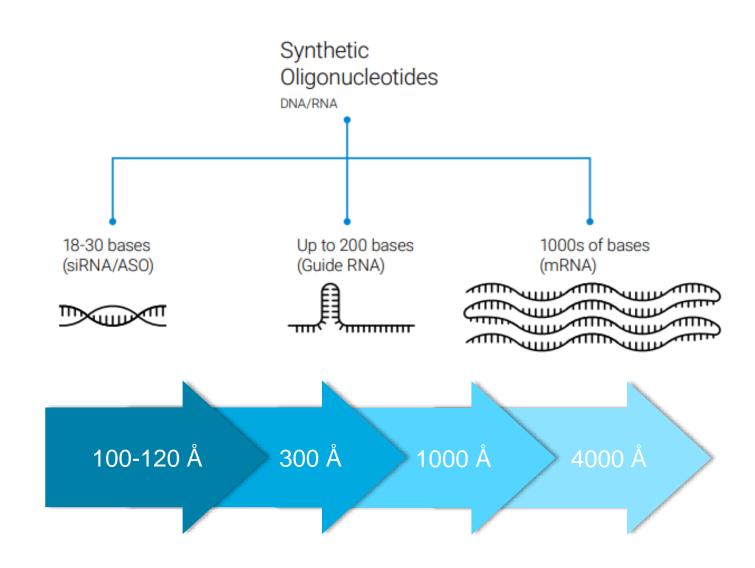


PLRP-S 1000Å 5.0 μm, Pore Size 1000Å



Oligonucleotides Pore size

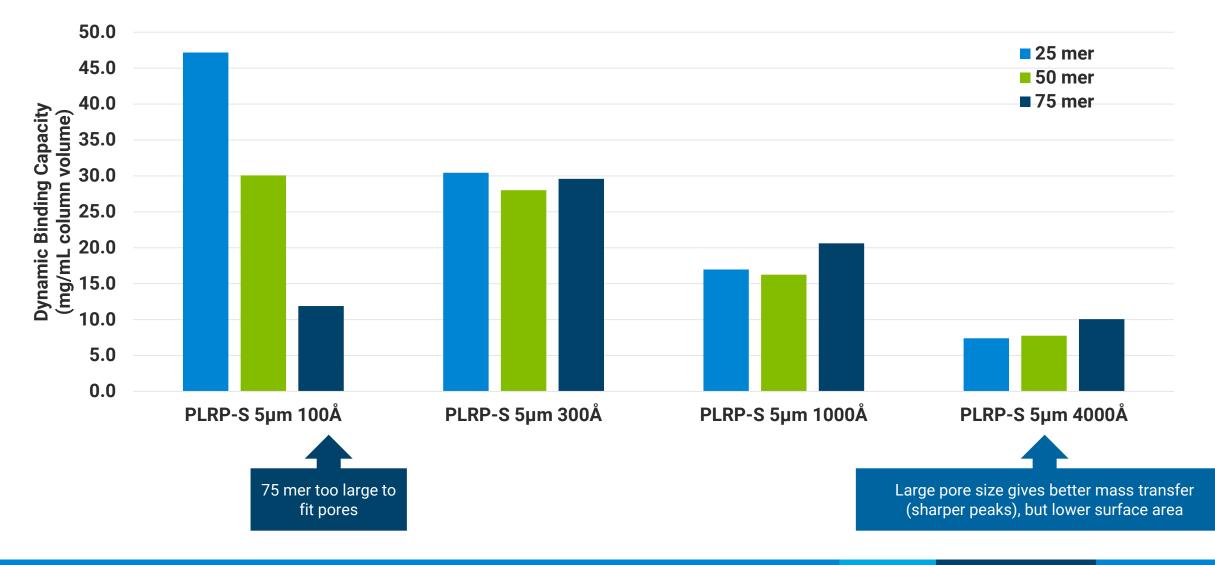
- Purification requires determination of the optimal pore size to ensure effective mass transfer of an oligonucleotide in solution.
- Determining the balance between pore size and binding capacity is important for ensuring the highest resolution and yield.





Oligonucleotide

Effect of pore size on oligonucleotide binding capacity





Oligonucleotides Starting conditions



Starting Conditions

Mobile Phases (UV)	A: 100 mM TEAA in H ₂ O B: ACN
Mobile Phases (MS)	A: 15 mM TEA & 400 mM HFIP in H ₂ O B: Methanol
Gradient	0 to 1 min, 10% B 1 to 10 min, 10 to 40% B 10 to 11 min, 40 to 95% B
Temperature	60 °C





Method Optimization

Oligonucleotides

Method optimization

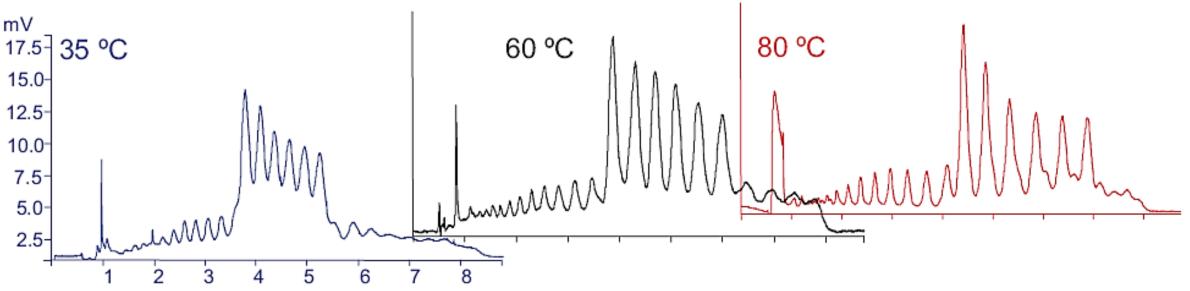
Temperature	 Increase temperature reduces secondary oligo structures Reduces mobile phase viscosity and secondary column interactions → improved peak shape
Gradient Steepness	 A steeper gradient can shorten method A shallower gradient improves resolution
Ion-Pairing Reagent	 Amines with longer alkyl chains can increase oligo hydrophobicity and increase retention Increasing the concentration of ion-pairing buffer can increase retention
Column Length	Longer columns can increase resolution



Oligonucleotides Method optimization

Temperature

Sharper peaks are obtained by running at a higher temperature to denature the oligos



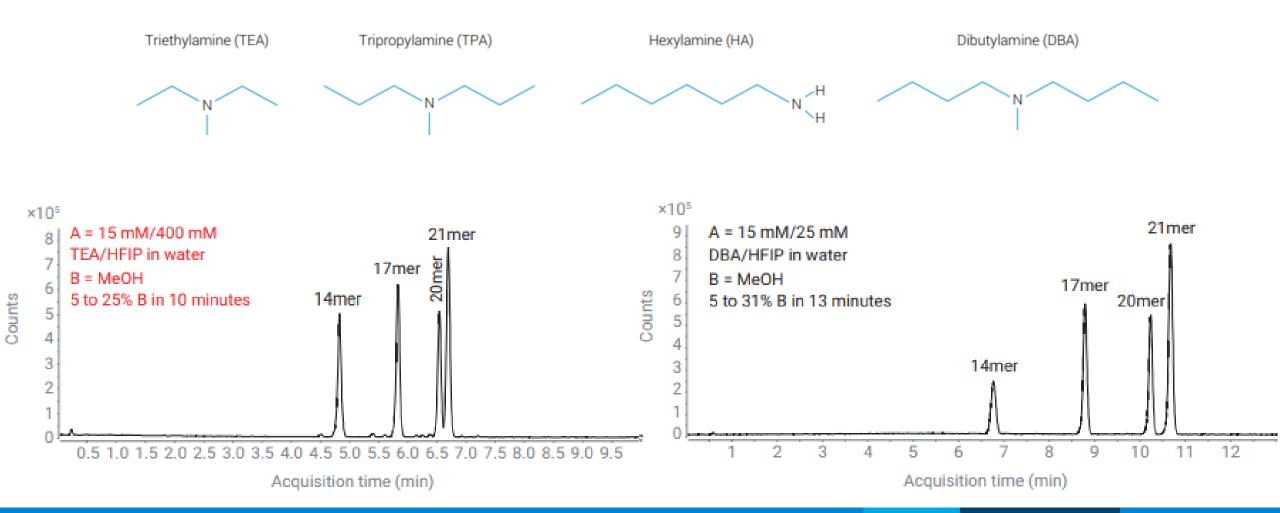
Poly dT 19-24 ladder,

PLRP-S 50 x 4.6mm, 3um, 100A 5%B per minute over 6 mins. A: 100mM TEAA B: 100mM TEAA 75:25 Water: ACN



Oligonucleotides Method optimization

Ion Pairing Reagent







Thank you!

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Biocolumn Resources

Biocolumn Catalog: <u>Agilent BioHPLC Columns and Consumables – Your Resource for Biomolecule Analysis</u>

Biocolumn CQA Application Compendiums:

- Agilent Biocolumns Application Compendium Critical Quality Attributes
- Agilent Biocolumns Application Compendium Intact and Subunit Purity
- <u>Agilent-NISTmAb_Application-Compendium-Intact Analysis</u>
- <u>Agilent-NISTmAb_Application-Compendium-Variant-Analysis</u>
- <u>Agilent Biocolumns Application Compendium Aggregate/Fragment Analysis</u>
- Agilent Biocolumns Application Compendium Titer Determination

Biocolumn User Guides: Bio LC Column User Guides | Agilent





Agilent Resources for Support

- Resource page http://www.agilent.com/chem/agilentresources
 - Quick reference guides, product catalogs
 - Online selection tools, "How-to" videos
 - Column user guides <u>https://www.agilent.com/en-us/support/liquid-</u> <u>chromatography/kb005965</u>
- Tech support: http://www.agilent.com/chem/techsupport
- InfinityLab LC Supplies catalog (<u>5991-8031EN</u>)
- Agilent University http://www.agilent.com/crosslab/university
- YouTube Agilent Channel
- Your local product specialists
- Subscribe to Agilent Peak Tales podcasts at peaktales.libsyn.com







Contact Agilent Chemistries and Supplies Technical Support



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1-800-227-9770 option 3, option 3:
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Option 2 for LC and LC/MS columns and supplies
Option 3 for sample preparation, filtration and QuEChERS
Option 4 for spectroscopy supplies
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Questions?





