

Comprehensive Characterization of Macromolecules by Chromatography

Part I **Advanced SEC Separation and Detection**

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1. Introduction into SEC
2. Separation and 2D Chromatography
3. Detection and Information Content
4. Summary

Part II **FFF and Light Scattering**

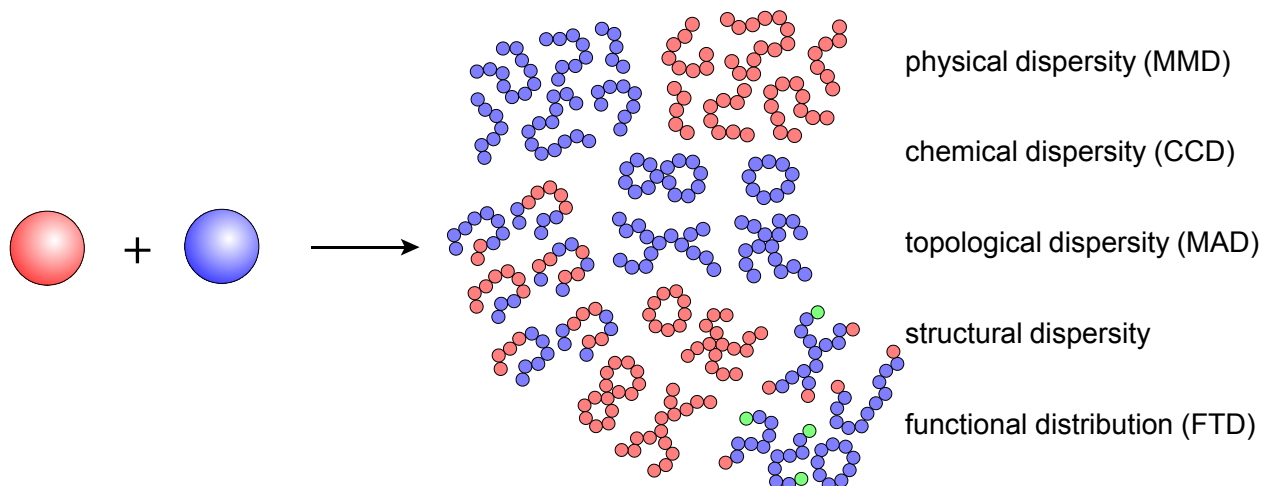
Christoph Johann, Wyatt Technology Europe, 56307 Dernbach, Germany

Introduction

Most polymeric materials are highly complex multi-component materials

even simple polymerization leads to products with multiple property distributions

Analytical Challenges: Determination of distributed properties



Introduction

Characterization Strategy

A) Characterization of bulk materials

requires batch methods

access to bulk properties / property averages

e.g. Light Scattering (LS), Viscometry, Osmometry, Ultracentrifugation (AUC) NMR, IR, ...

B) Characterization of separated fractions

requires comprehensive chromatography

access to property distributions

1) analytical fractionation methods:

E.g. Liquid chromatography (GPC, LAC, LCCC) Ultracentrifugation (AUC) Field flow fractionation: FFF (Gas chromatography: GC) Mass spectrometry: MALDI-ToF

2) detection techniques

e.g. RI, UV, LS, Viscometry, FTIR, NMR, MS

separation - detection combinations determine which distributions can be measured

Introduction

Chromatographic Modes

a) Size exclusion mode: SEC

$$K_{SEC} = \exp(\Delta S/R)$$

$$0 < K_{SEC} < 1 \quad \Delta H = 0$$

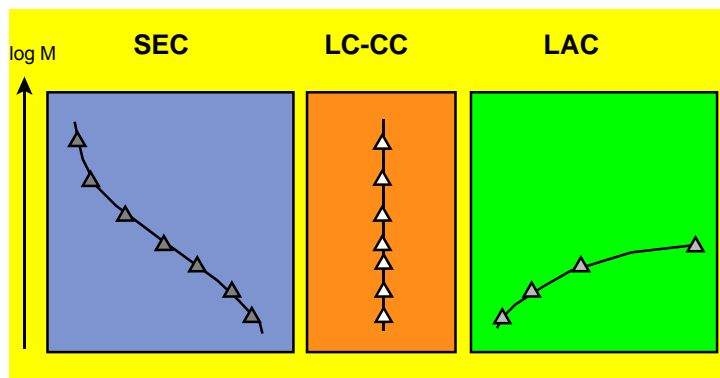
b) Adsorption mode: HPLC

$$K_{HPLC} = \exp(-\Delta H/RT)$$

$$K_{HPLC} > 1 \quad \Delta H \gg T\Delta S$$

c) critical adsorption point: LC-CC

$$K = 1 \quad \Delta H = \Delta S$$



Chromatographic Modes of Separation

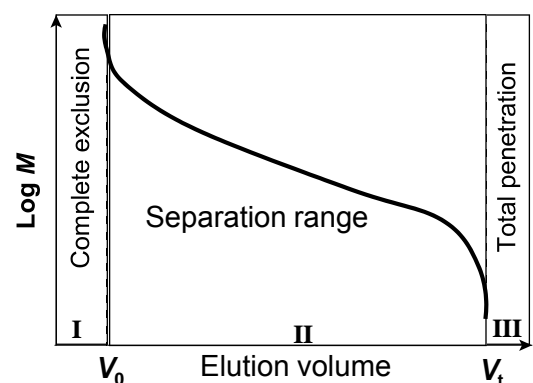
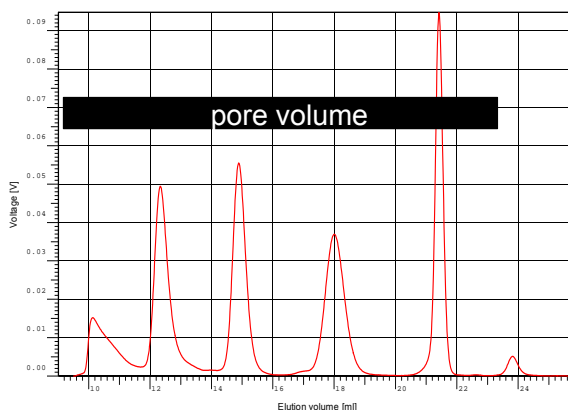
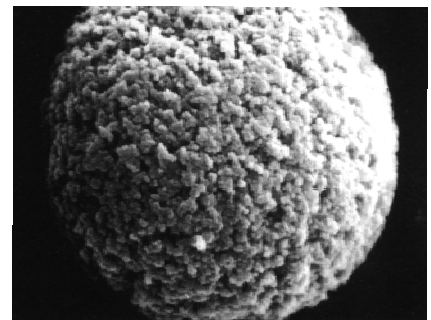
Comparison of Chromatographic Modes

technique	separation governed by	information content	potential problems
SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hydrodynamic volume molecular size in solution <i>diffusion controlled process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> molar mass (MMD) chemical composition (CCD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> calibration dilemma specific interactions
LC-CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chain inhomogeneity defect structures endgroups <i>diffusion and adsorption controlled process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> functionality type (FTD) molecular architecture (MAD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> irreversible adsorption determination of critical adsorption point
HPLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chemical composition endgroup <i>adsorption controlled process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chemical composition (CCD) functionality type (FTD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> molar mass influence partial adsorption large k'

Introduction

SEC Separation Principles

- solutes diffuse between mobile phase and pores in stationary phase
- conformational entropy loss is driving force
- retention based on hydrodynamic size in solution V_h
- molar mass by retention calibration or proper detection method



Introduction

SEC Instrumentation

Special instrumental requirements:

- solvent compatibility
- prevent clogging by solvent evaporation
- multi-detector application
- columns: mainly polymer packing
- often:
 - absolute concentrations required
 - absolute injection volume required

critical modules:

- pumps
- autosamplers
- software



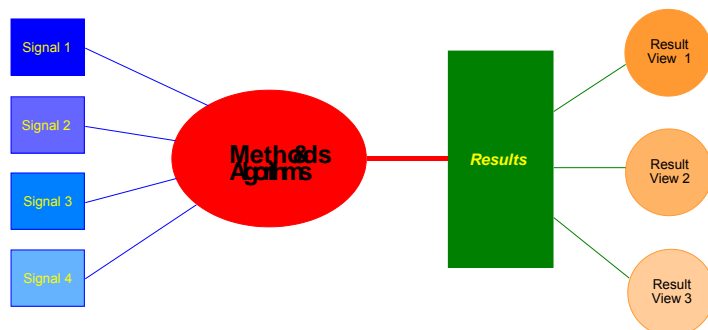
Introduction

SEC Data Systems

Special software requirements:

- long analysis times
- complex data treatment
- multi-signal processing
- determination of distributions
- combination of methods
- multiple vendor support
- integration in existing infrastructure

Plethora of Software Requirements



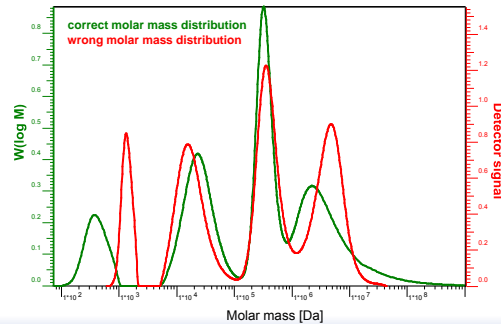
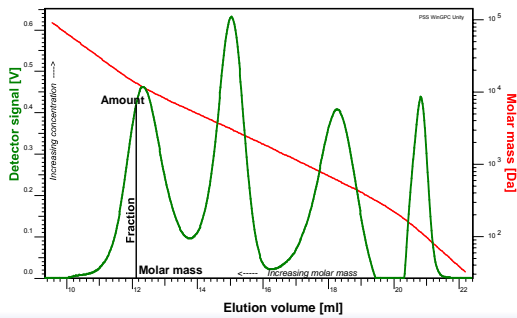
Introduction

Determination of Property Distributions

complete description of properties and contributions

- accurate determination of amounts
- proper measurement/calibration of properties
- accurate results calculation and representation

Example: Conversion of raw signals to molar mass distribution



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The **molecular weight averages** can be calculated from the moments, μ_i , of the molar mass distribution:

$$\mu_i = \int_0^{\infty} M^i \cdot v(M) \cdot dM$$

with: μ_i the i-th moment of the molar mass distribution

The **molar mass averages** are defined and calculated in PSS WinGPC Unity by:

Number average molecular weight:

$$M_n = \frac{\sum h(M) \cdot M}{\sum h(M)} = \frac{\sum v(M) \cdot M}{\sum v(M)} = \frac{\mu_0}{\mu_{-1}}$$

Weight average molecular weight:

$$M_w = \frac{\sum h(M) \cdot M^2}{\sum h(M) \cdot M} = \frac{\sum v(M) \cdot M^2}{\sum v(M) \cdot M} = \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_0}$$

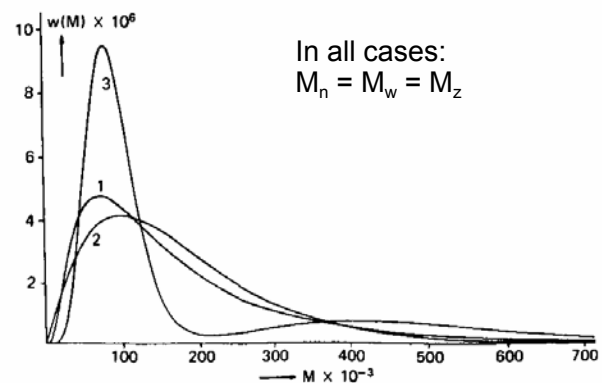
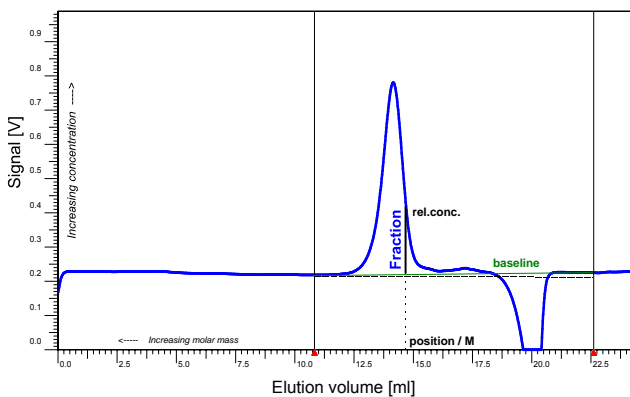
z-average molecular weight:

$$M_z = \frac{\sum h(M) \cdot M^3}{\sum h(M) \cdot M^2} = \frac{\sum v(M) \cdot M^3}{\sum v(M) \cdot M^2} = \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1}$$

Conventional Data Analysis

Determination of fundamental parameters

- Chromatogram: relates apparent concentration to elution volume / retention time
 calibration curve: relates molar mass to chromatographic position
 molar mass distribution: shows mass fraction of molecules of given molar mass



In all cases:
 $M_n = M_w = M_z$

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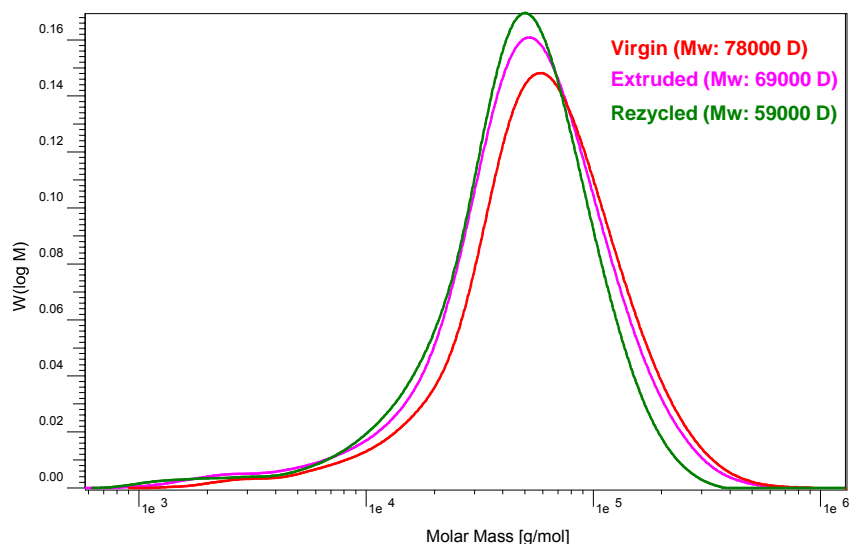
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Conventional Data Analysis

Polymer Degradation during Recycling Processes

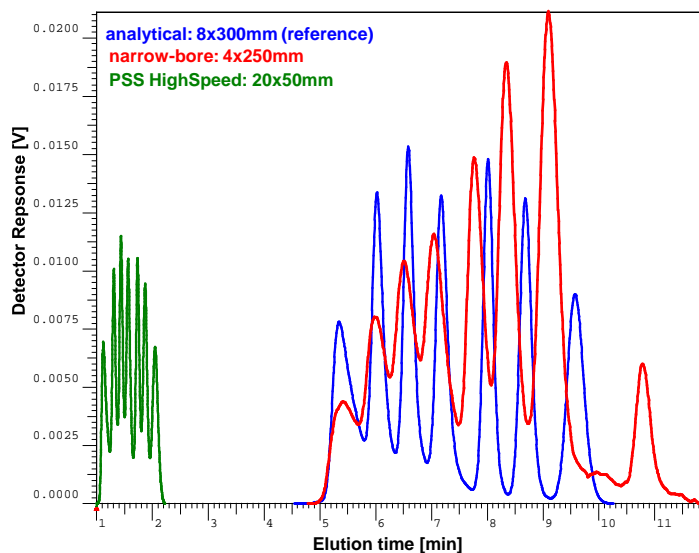
conditions:

system: PSS SECcurity GPC
 eluent: TCM/HFIP
 columns: PSS SDV 5 μ m
 detection: UV@260nm
 software: PSS WinGPC
 analysis in: 35 min / sample



Conventional Data Analysis

Conventional and HighSpeed Analysis



Conventional Data Analysis

Quality Assurance by HighSpeed SEC

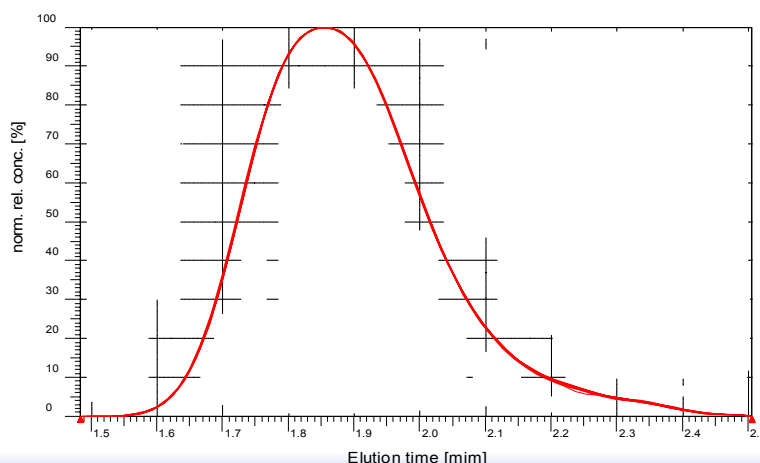
Example: commercial polycarbonate in THF
mw by producer: 30000 g/mol

60 repeats in 2h

column: 2x PSS SDV 5 μ m HighSpeed
calibration: PSS ReadyCal PS standards
detection: UV

HighSpeed result:

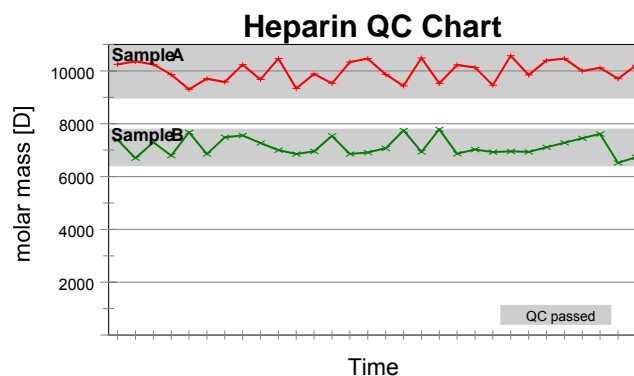
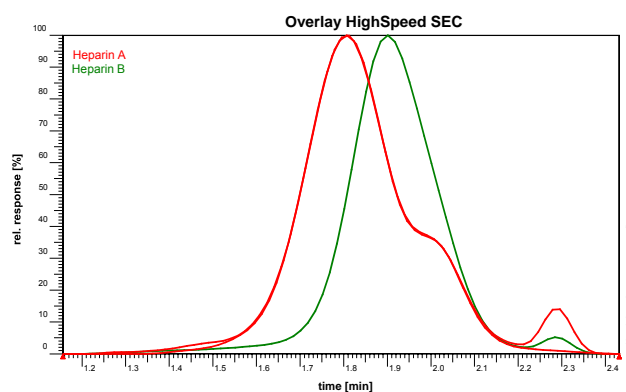
M_w : (29610 \pm 150) g/mol
RSD: 0.5%



Conventional Data Analysis

HighSpeed Heparin Quality Assurance

column: PSS HighSpeed Suprema 100, 10 μ m
analysis time: 2 min
calibration: Heparin endgroup (DAB); PSS WinGPC
detection: RI



- good M_w accuracy
- high reproducibility
- time savings: factor 10
- no change of instrumentation/method

Chromatographic Modes of Separation

Potential problems SEC

Separation range may be increased by using
longer or more columns

Peak capacity:

$$n = 1 + \frac{\sqrt{L}}{4} \cdot \ln \frac{V_p}{V_0}$$

However:

n independent properties require n -dimensional methods for accurate (independent) characterization.

2-Dimensional Chromatography

n independent properties require n -dimensional methods for accurate (independent) characterization.

Possible multidimensional chromatography techniques:

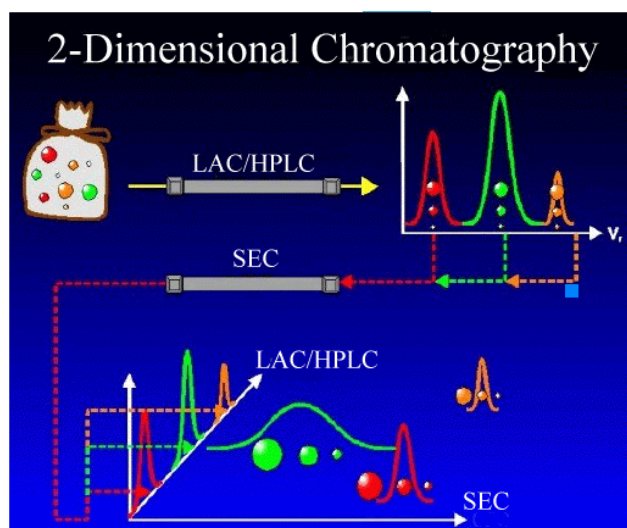
HPLC, SEC, LC-CC, GC, TREF, GPEC,.....

Example:

combination of LAC(HPLC) and SEC:

1st dimension:
LAC/HPLC for separation according to CC

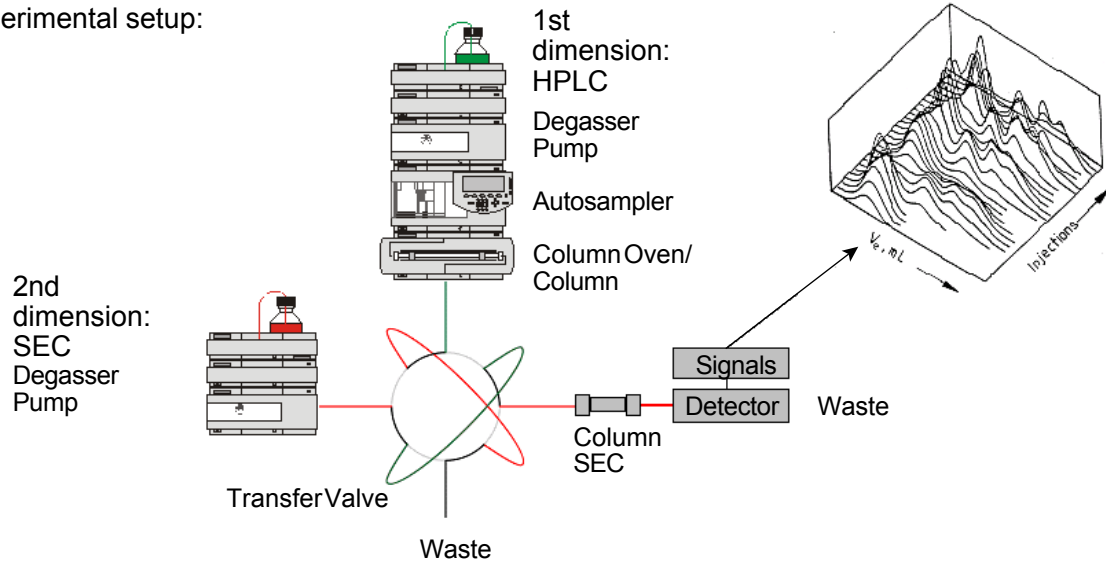
2nd dimension:
SEC for separation according to MM



2-Dimensional Chromatography

Investigation of CCD and MMD

Experimental setup:



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2D Chromatography

GPC Analysis of TPE

sample B failed in the field

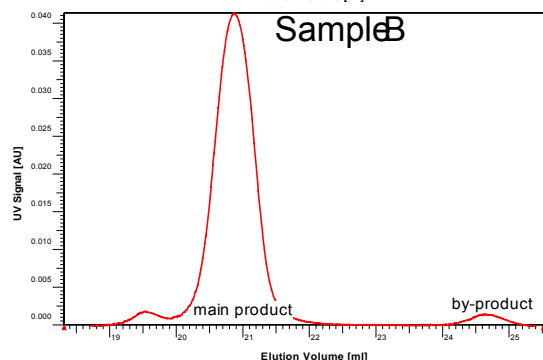
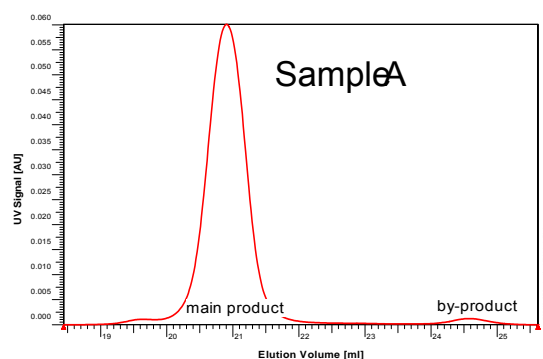
- main product looks very similar
- similar by-products present

GPC does not track performance differences

	sample A	sample B
Mn[kD]	99	90
Mw[kD]	109	103
Mw/Mn	1.08	1.14
Mp[kD]	108	104
by-product	0.8%	1.7%

molar masses by narrow PS calibration

differences due to composition?



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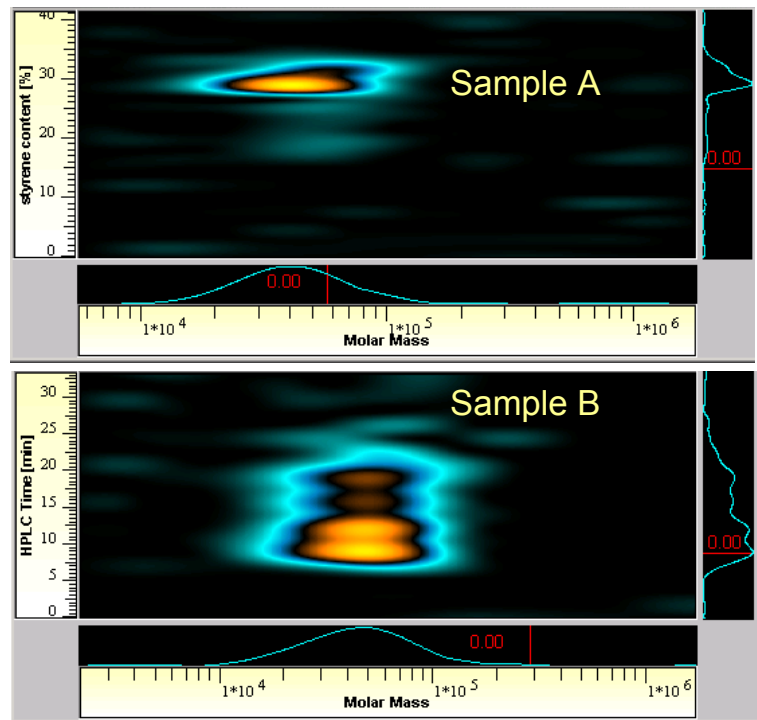
2DChromatography

Comprehensive 2D by HPLCxSEC

HPLC tracking composition
SEC tracking molar mass

2D analysis

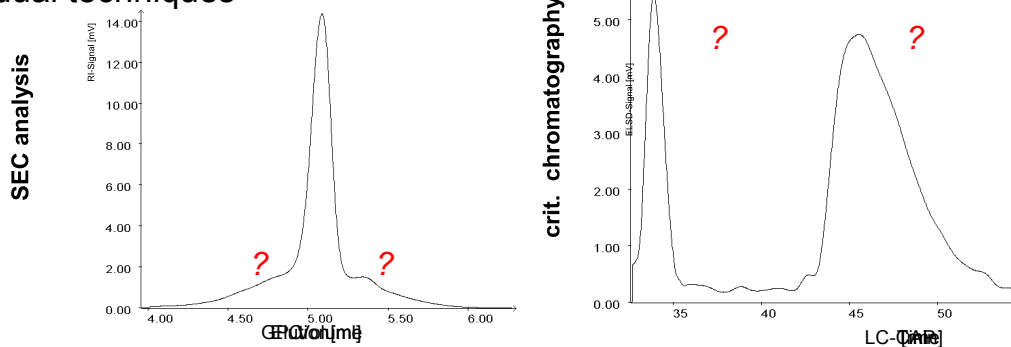
- corroborates similar MMD
- shows similar average PS content
- reveals big differences in CCD
- contour map shows
 - differences easily
 - 2D property distributions



2-Dimension Chromatography

Investigation of by-product in motor oil additives

Individual techniques



observations difficult to explain

2-Dimensional Chromatography

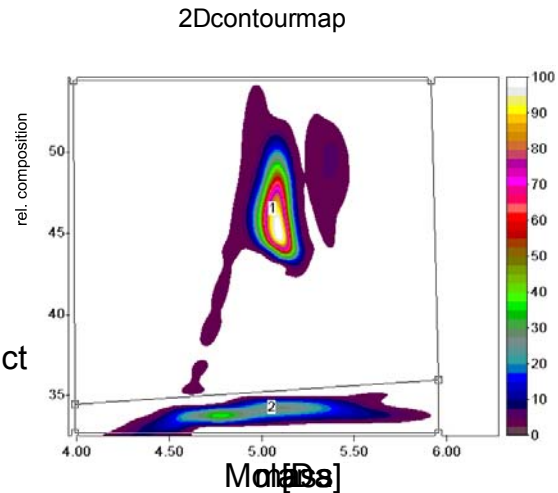
Investigation of by-product in motor oil additives

2D results

- main product (region 1)
- parallel reaction forms region 2

- two different processes
- by-product is homopolymer
- by-product has broad MMD

- reaction mixture contains 60% desired product
- desired product is narrow in CCD and MMD



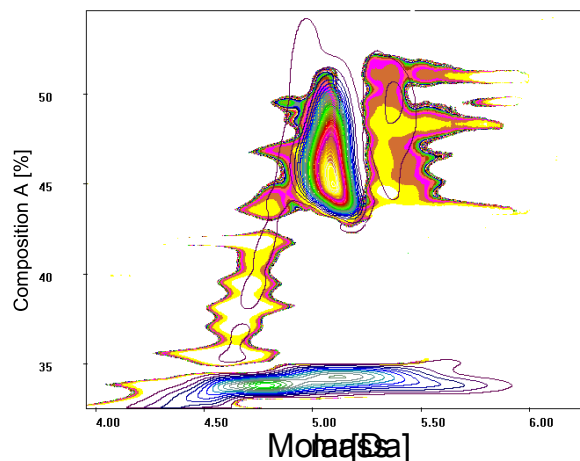
2-Dimensional Chromatography

Investigation of by-product in motor oil additives

2D compositional analysis

overlay of 2D separation
with chemical composition

- supports
- two simultaneous polymerization processes
- desired product is copolymer
- by-product is homopolymer



Multi-Dimensional Chromatography

Investigation of complex plant extracts

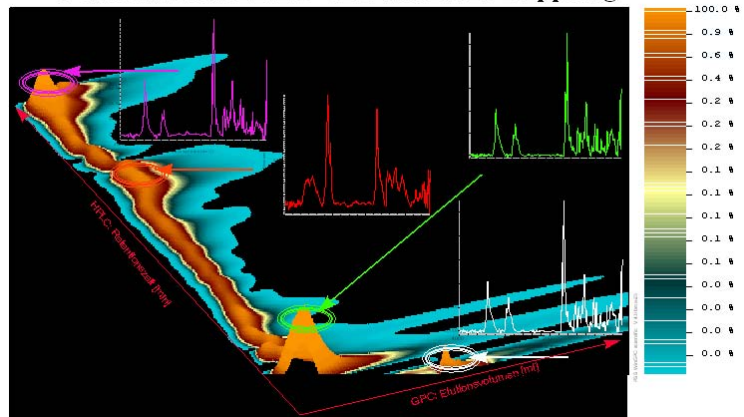
Sample mapping

sample
-chemically complex
-polydisperse in molecular size

high peak capacity due to:

$$n_{2D} = n_1 \cdot n_2$$

2-dimensionale HPLC-GPC mit FTIR-Kopplung



online identification by FTIR library search

2-Dimensional Chromatography

Practical advice

Selection of Separation Techniques:

CE, GC, SFC, TREF, FFF

Destructive methods (GC and SFC) can only be used in the final separation dimension.

Sequence of Separation Methods:

Method with the highest selectivity (for one property) as the first dimension.

Eluent Transfer:

Complete miscibility of the mobile phases is required.

Time Consumption:

1 HPLC run, many SEC runs (time consuming):

with HighSpeed SEC analysis time can be significantly reduced.

Detectability and Sensitivity in the Second Dimension:

Detectors with high sensitivity for detecting the diluted fraction:

ELSD (evaporating light scattering detector) or UV/VIS

Detection Techniques in SEC

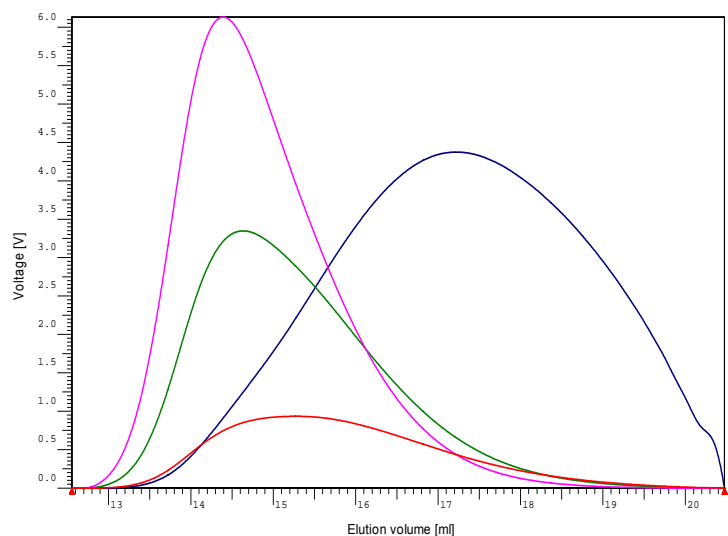
Useful Methodologies

- for MMD: conventional SEC with concentration detection and matching polymer standard
- for CCD: conventional SEC utilizing multiple concentration detection
- for MMD, FTD: on-line analysis of SEC fractions with a mass spectrometer (ESI, MALDI)
- for MMD, MAD: on-line analysis of SEC fractions with a LS detector and/or viscometer
- for CCD, MMD: simultaneous separation and identification by LC-FTIR and NMR detection
- for CCD, MMD, MAD, FTD: comprehensive 2D chromatography with multiple detection

Detection Techniques in SEC

Detector Properties

Detector Signal Characteristics



- $x=0$: concentration detector
- Refractive index detector (RI)
- $x \neq 0$: molar mass sensitive detectors
- On-line light scattering detector
- On-line viscosimeter
- On-line NMR

advanced detector combinations provide comprehensive molecular and structural information

Detection Techniques in SEC

Detector Signal Characteristics

$$U_d = K_d \times \sum_i (k_{Sample} \times C_{Sample} \times M^x)$$

U_d : Signal intensity

K_d : Instrument constant

k_{sample} : Sample dependent parameter
for spectroscopic detectors:
for refractive index (RI) detectors:

k_{sample} = extinction coefficient, κ
 k_{sample} = refractive index increment, dn/dc
note: dependent on solvent composition, T, λ

C_{sample} : Sample concentration

M: Molar mass

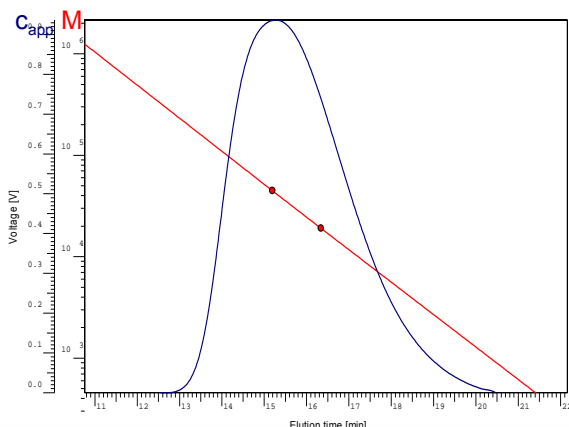
x: Detector dependent
for RI, UV, ELSD:
for on-line LS and MS detectors:
for on-line viscometers:
for on-line NMR, osmometers* :

X = 0
X = 1
X = Mark Houwink coefficient α
X = -1
* not commercially available

Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Multiple Detection in SEC Mode

What we need: $c(V), M_c(V) \rightarrow x_k(M), w(\log M_c), M_{n,c}, M_{w,c}, D_c$
What we have: $c_{app}(V), M(V)$



advantages:

- uses ordinary SEC equipment
- copolymer analysis with same injection
- no additional sample preparation

limitations:

- statistical copolymers
- graft copolymers with high graft density

Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Multiple Detection in SEC Mode

Approach:

Task 1: derive true $c(V)$ from $c_{app}(V)$
needs multi-detector setup with detector calibration

$$\begin{pmatrix} U_1 \\ \vdots \\ U_i \\ \vdots \\ U_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_{11} w_1 & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & f_{ik} w_k \end{pmatrix} \cdot c_{true}$$

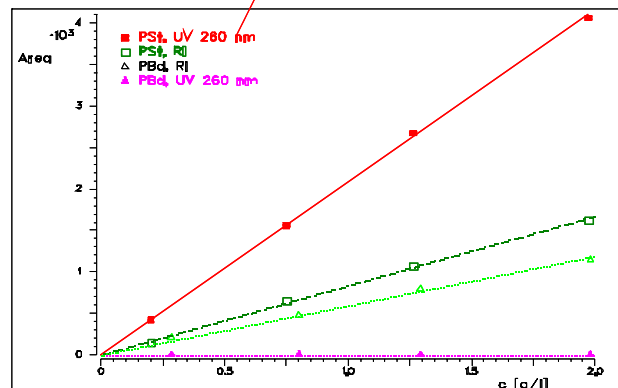
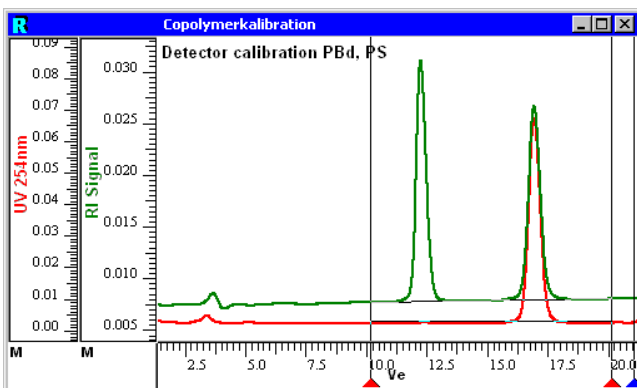
U_i response in detector i
 f_{ik} response factor for component k in detector i
 w_k weight fraction of component k
 c_{true} concentration of sample

→ absolute concentration of all components k in sample

Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Multiple Detection in SEC Mode

Determination of copolymer response factors



Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Multiple Detection in SEC Mode

Determination of comonomer concentrations

$$c_{app} = \sum_k f_{dk} \cdot c_k$$

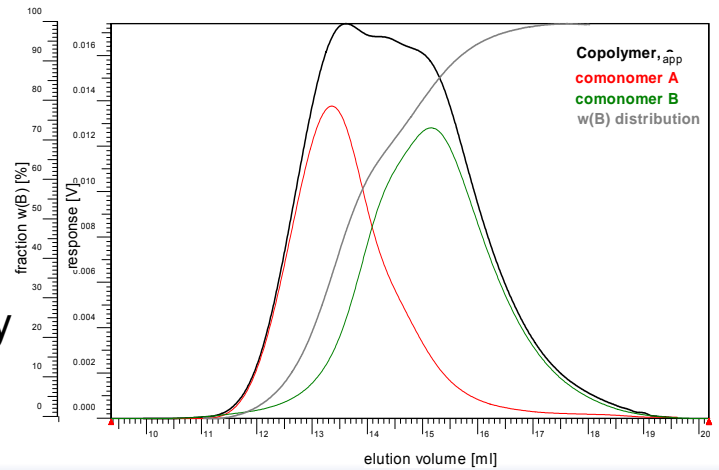
advantages:

- universal approach
- no special equipment necessary

limitation:

- neighbor-group effects

Copolymer Analysis of Apparent Chromatogramm

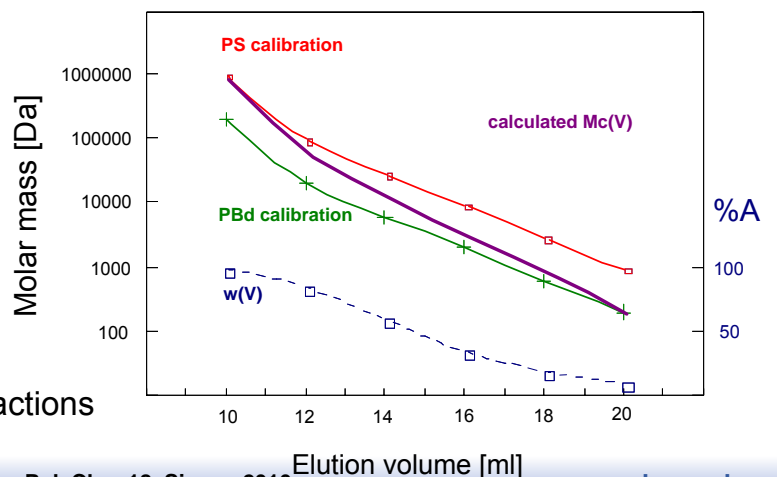


Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Multiple Detection in SEC Mode

Task 2: $M_c(V)$ from homo polymer calibration, or $M_c(V)$ directly from molar mass sensitive detection

$$\lg M_c(V) = \sum w_k(V) \cdot M_k(V)$$



correct for negligible hetero-contact interactions

Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Investigation of ABA block copolymer in SEC Mode

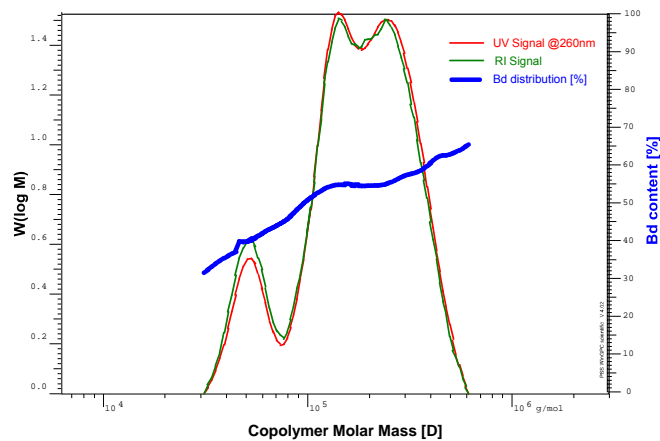
GPC results with PS standards:

M_n 127kDa
M_w 353kDa
PD 2.78

Copolymer results
with multidetection:

M_n 76.3kDa
M_w 222kDa
PD 2.91

by PS and PBd calibration



Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Separation in LAC Mode

Separation of species according to interactivity

composition average:

$$\bar{G} = \mu_1(G) = \frac{\sum c_i \cdot G_i}{\sum c_i}$$

width of distribution:

$$dG = \sqrt{\mu_2(G) - (\mu_1(G))^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum c_i (G_i - \bar{G})^2}{\sum c_i}}$$

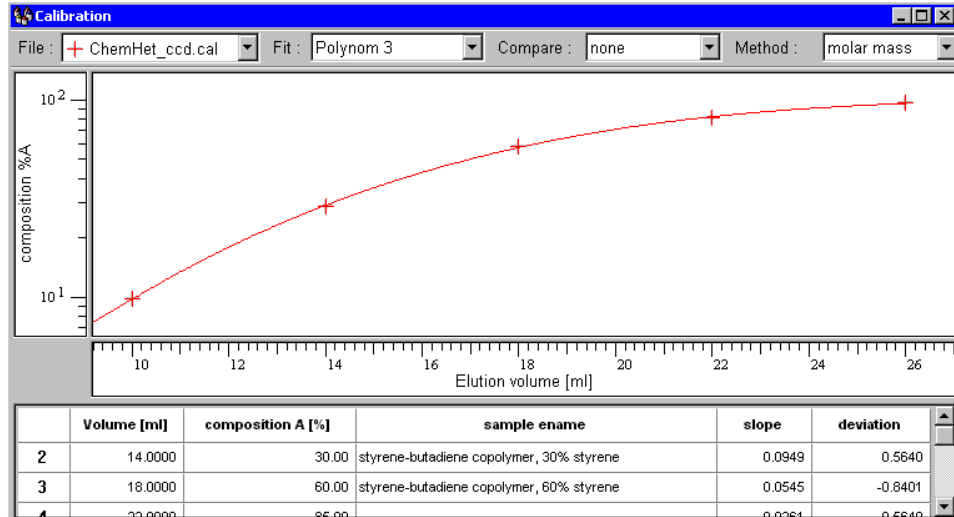
skew of distribution:

$$S = \frac{\frac{\sum c_i (G_i - \bar{G})^3}{\sum c_i}}{2 \left(\frac{\sum c_i (G_i - \bar{G})^2}{\sum c_i} \right)^{3/2}}$$

Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Separation in LAC Mode

Retention calibration:



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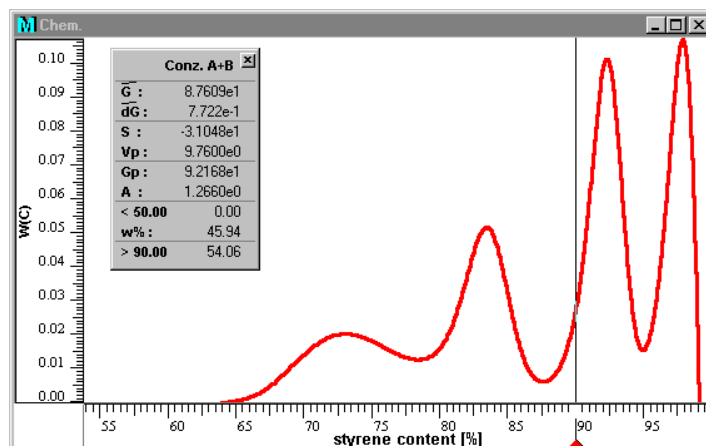
Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Separation in LAC Mode

Mixture of styrene-butadiene copolymers

- good separation
- extensive quantification
- comprehensive heterogeneity information
- determination of high/low fractions

very useful for statistical copolymers



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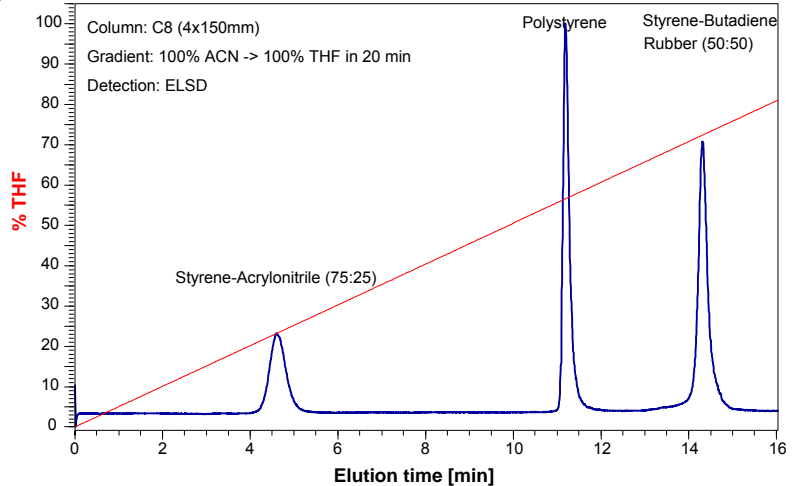
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Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Separation in LAC Mode

mixture of styrene copolymers

- high selectivity of phase system
- well resolved according to sample polarity

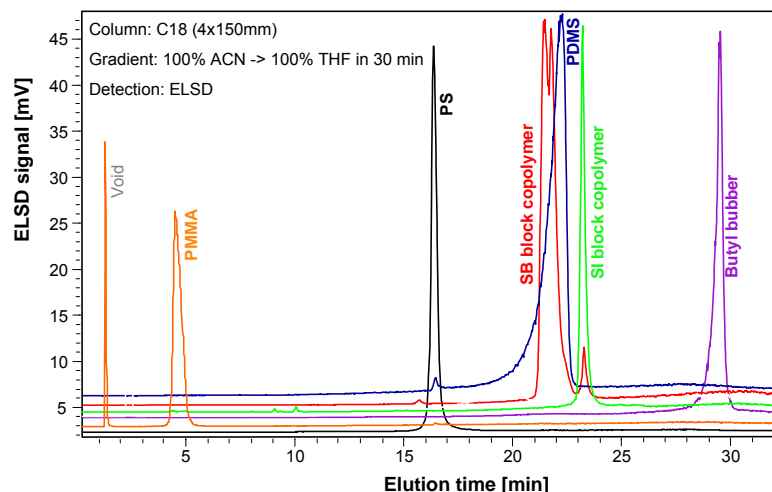


Determination of Chemical Heterogeneity

Separation in LAC Mode

mixture of different polymers

- interaction very selective
- separation based on sample polarity
- simple gradient
- detection needs ELSD (quantification problem)



Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with multiple concentration detection

CCD information

$$U_D = K_D \times \sum_i (k_{Sample} \times c_{Sample})$$

For two components:

$$U_D = K_D \times (k_{Sample1} \times c_{Sample1} + k_{Sample2} \times c_{Sample2}) = k'_{Sample1} \times c_{Sample1} + k'_{Sample2} \times c_{Sample2}$$

and 2 detectors, RI and UV:

$$U_{RI} = k_{Sample1}^{RI} \times c_{Sample1} + k_{Sample2}^{RI} \times c_{Sample2}$$

$$U_{UV} = k_{Sample1}^{UV} \times c_{Sample1} + k_{Sample2}^{UV} \times c_{Sample2}$$

Homopolymers can be used to measure k' for each detector. This allows quantification and molar mass determination.

Detection Techniques in SEC

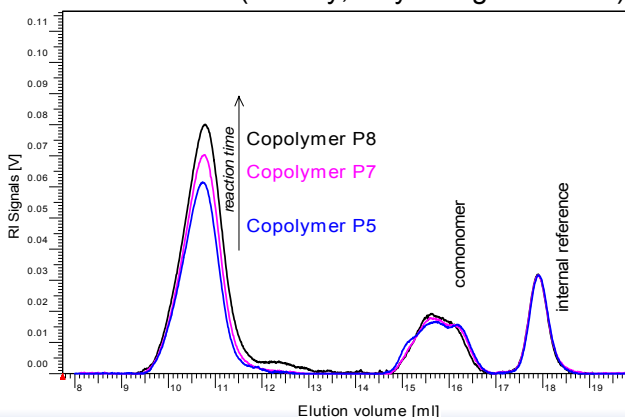
SEC with multiple concentration detection

CCD information

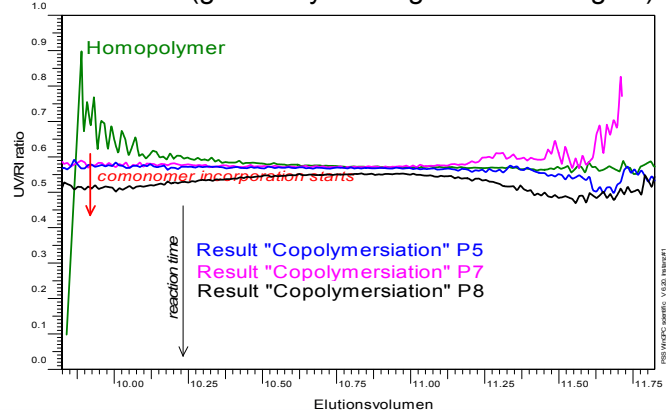
Example 1, qualitative:

block-copolymers from a kinetic run,
2 different monomers were used,
samples were drawn after different reaction times (P1-P8)

raw data view (overlay, only RI signal shown)



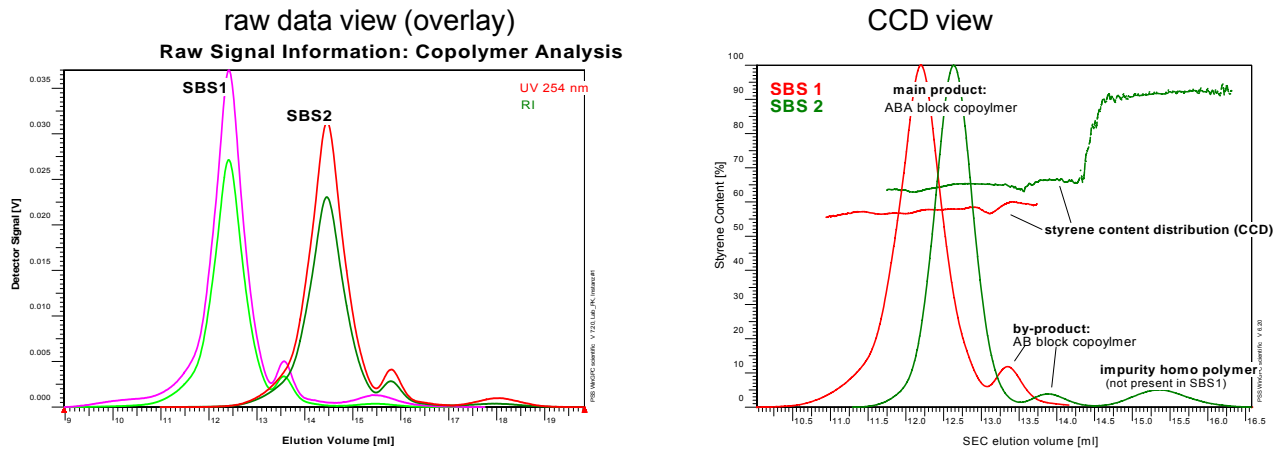
CCD view (gained by ratioing UV and RI signal)



Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with multiple concentration detection: CCD information

Example 2, quantitative analysis



MMD of copolymer can be measured by establishing a copolymer calibration curve

Requirements: CCD, calibration curve PS, calibration curve PBd

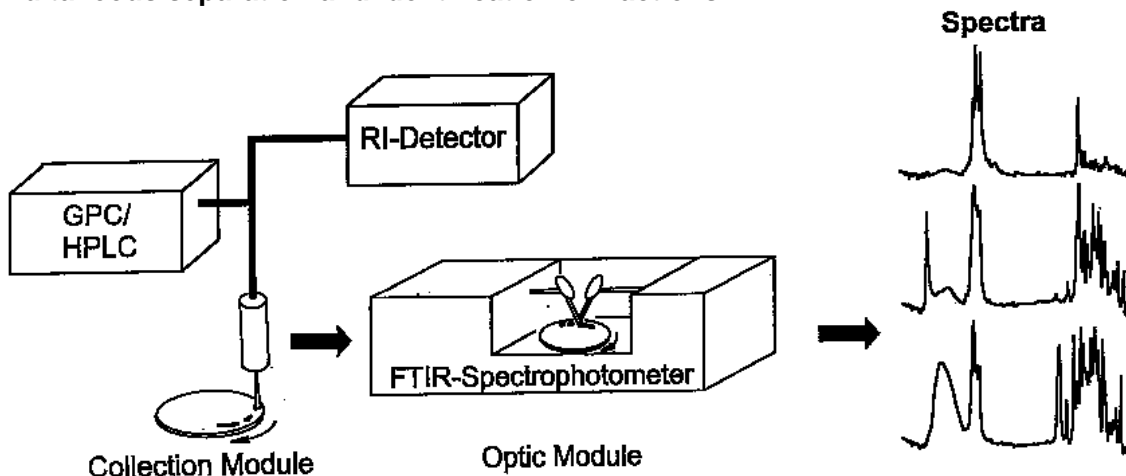
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Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with FTIR detection: CCD, MMD information

Simultaneous separation and identification of fractions



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Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with FTIR detection:

CCD, MMD information

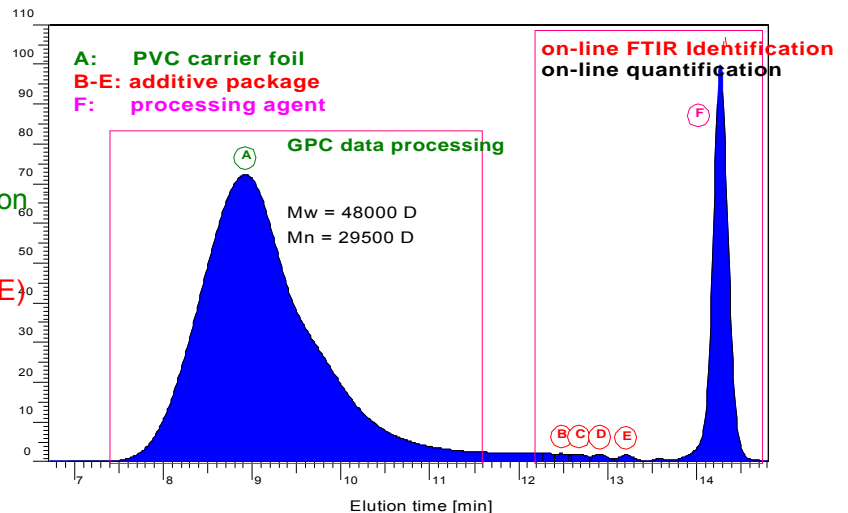
type and nature of the polymer used (peak A: PVC)

molar masses and molar mass distribution of the polymer (peak A)

identification of the additives (peaks B - E)

quantification of all additives in the packaging foil

identification and quantification of the processing agent (peak F)



SEC with MS Detection

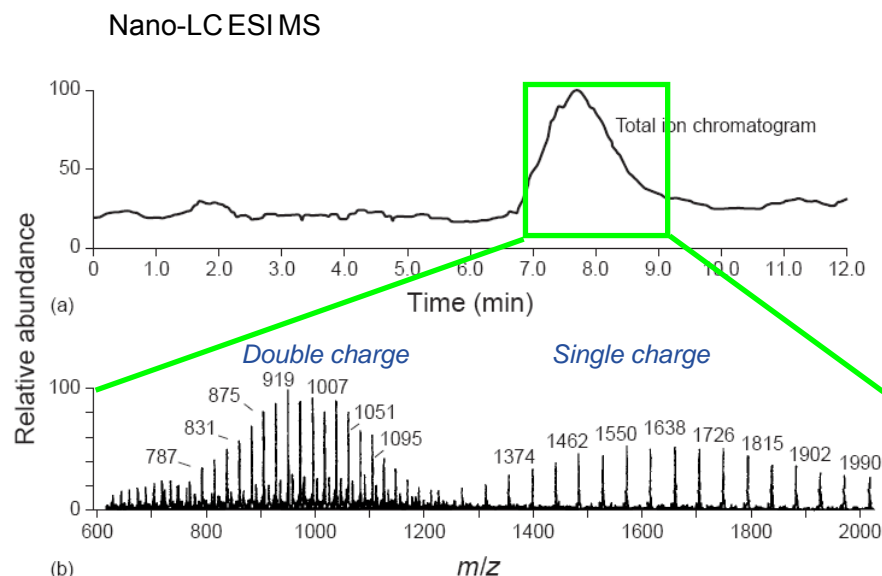
Basics

MS advantages:

- absolute molar mass
- repeat unit identification
- endgroup determination
- structure elucidation

disadvantages:

- hmw limitations
- discrimination (MALDI)
- multiple charges (ESI)
- copolymers difficult



W. Simonsi (1993) Polym. Mater. Sci. Eng., 6, 412

SEC with MS Detection

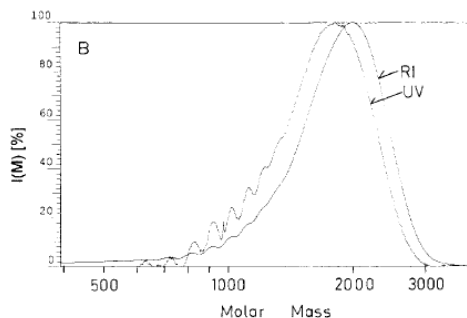
Basics

MALDI advantages:

- absolute molar mass
- repeat unit identification
- endgroup determination
- structure elucidation
- high molar mass range

disadvantages:

- matrix influences
- discrimination in polydisperse samples
- only offline mode (spotting)
- copolymers difficult



Matrix: 10,21 mg DHB / 1 ml THF
Kritac Compact MALDI 3 VCO; Run PMMA0038 4 Jan 04 21:17 +Ref H5 Pwr 01
Sample 16: 4,5 mg PMMA 2030 / 1 ml THF

100% - 49 mV (pulse: 4947 mV) Shots 1-100 Smooth Avg 5

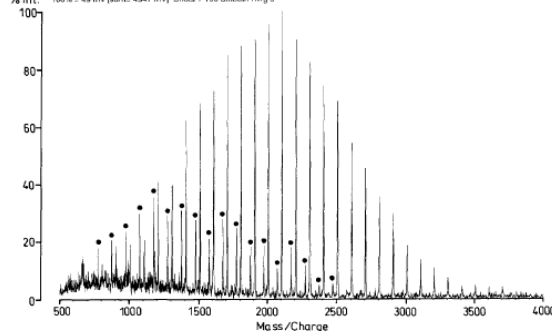


Figure 4 MALDI-MS spectrum of a PMMA calibration standard (sample 3); full circles indicate the cyclic oligomers

GPC-MALDI of PMMA
Ref.: Gores, Pasch; *Polymer* 36, 1999

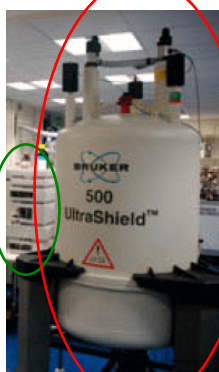
SEC with NMR Detection

Basics

NMR can be used as a (universal) chemical detector
NMR is a chemical sensor looking at local chemical environment
ideal for structure elucidation: chemical shift, J coupling

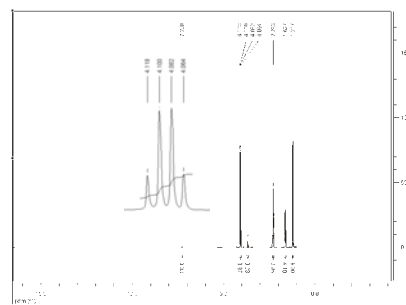
High-field NMR coupling

- non-destructive
- super-conductivemagnet
- highresolution
- small differences obvious
- expensive
- complex
- large
- time-consuming
- interfacing difficult
- high operational cost
- expert knowledge required



Low-field NMR detection

- non-destructive
- permanent magnet
- low resolution
- major sample characteristics
- inexpensive
- simple to use (detector)
- small benchtop
- low operation cost
- flexible
- modular setups
- saves sample prep time

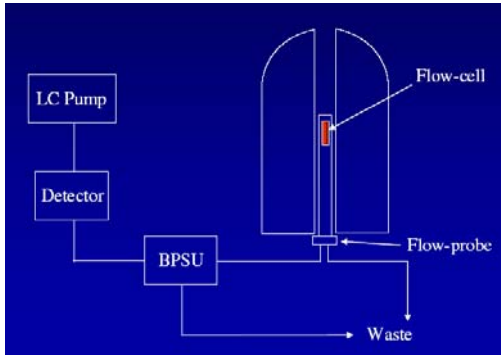


SEC with NMR Detection

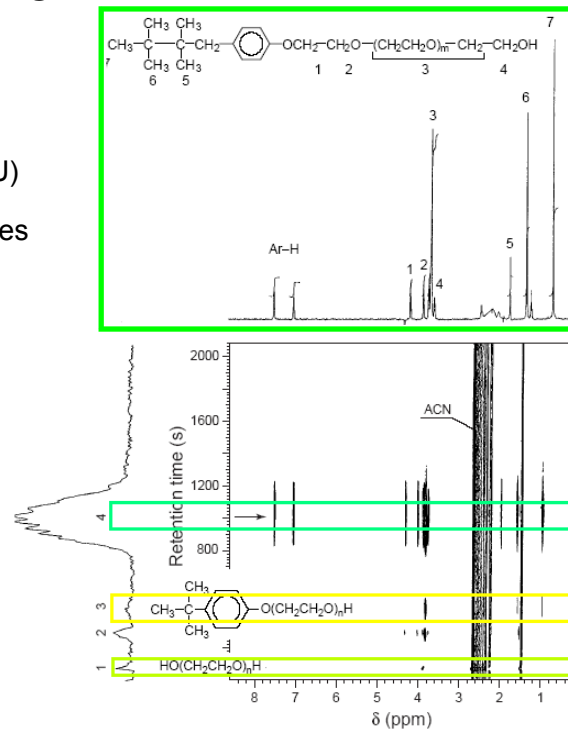
High-Field NMR Coupling to HPLC

Sample: non-ionic surfactants

- samples have been stored in storage valve (BPSU)
Offline NMR scans
- solvent signals eliminated by NMR pulse sequences



Ref.: Pasch/Hiller (1996), Macromolecules, 2, 6556



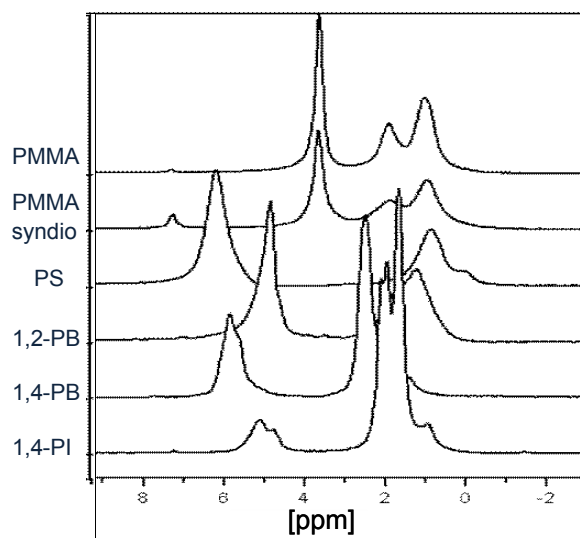
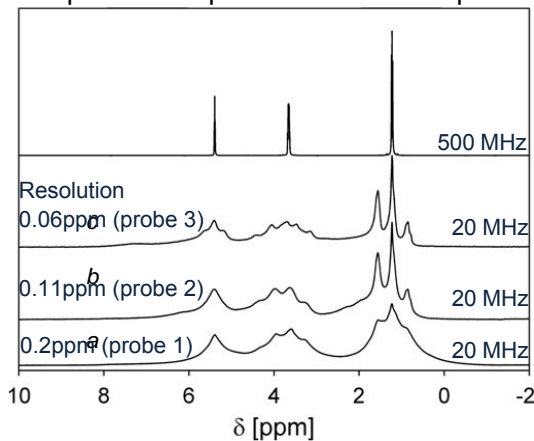
SEC with NMR Detection

Current Status

base NMR: Bruker TopSpin, 20 MHz magnet
automatic suppression of solvent peaks
0.2ml probe
scan time: 2 secs

run on: PSS SECcurity GPC system, single PSS SDV 5µm column, THF
typical SEC injection conditions

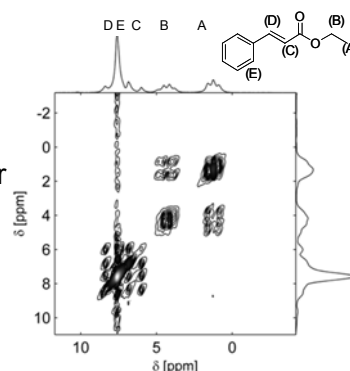
Comparison of spectra with different probes



Current Developments

- 60MHz permanent magnet
- probe optimization
- PSS WinGPC software solutions
- investigation of limitations (2D NMR)

2D-COSY spectrum
Cinnamic Acid Ethylester
measuring time: 8h
connectivities visible



Intended Use

- Teaching and training for high-end NMR, or nano-money NMR (nm-NMR)
- Fast, quantitative analysis for known systems (food, wine, ...) high throughput via flow probe
- "In-lab NMR" for fast batch chemical detection and quantification
- at-site NMR, close to reactor, moveable, flow probe, sensitivity 0,2 %
- low-field GPC-NMR for synthetic or bio-polymers
- low-field GPC-NMR: quantitative and chemical selective
- low-field GPC-NMR currently under development at PSS, Bruker & KIT

Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with a light scattering detector: MMD, MAD information

Theoretical Background Light Scattering:

for monodisperse samples, diluted solutions, particle size $< \lambda/20$

$$R(\theta) = K \cdot c \cdot M$$

K: Optical constant, includes refractive index increment $(dn/dc)^2$
M: Molar Mass
c: Concentration

for polydisperse samples with larger particle size (non-isotropic scatterer):

$$K \cdot c / R(\theta) = 1/M_w [1 + 16/3 \pi^2 / \lambda^2 \langle R^2 \rangle_z \sin^2(\theta/2)] + 2 A_2 \cdot c$$

Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with a light scattering detector: MMC, MAD information

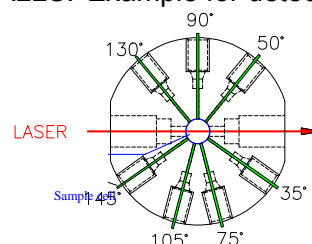
Theoretical Background Light Scattering:

$$K \cdot c/R(\theta) = 1/M_w [1 + 16/3 \pi^2/\lambda^2 \langle R^2 \rangle_z \sin^2(\theta/2)] + 2 A_2 \cdot c$$

Light scattering techniques:

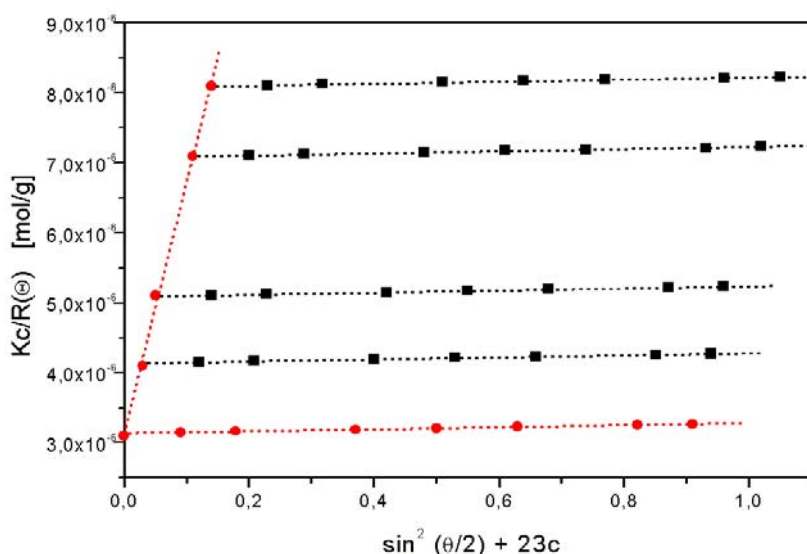
- LALLS: Low angle laser light scattering
- RALLS: Right angle laser light scattering
- MALLS: Multi angle laser light scattering

MALLS: Example for detector cell



Detection Techniques in SEC

Theoretical Background Light Scattering:



Zimm Plot:

7 scattering angles: 35° to 145°
4 concentrations

Results:

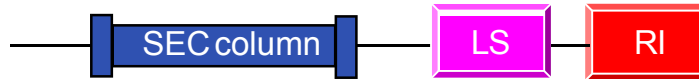
Intercept: $1/M_w$
Slope angular dependence: $\langle R^2 \rangle_z$
Slope concentration dep.: A_2

All bulk properties, no distribution information!

Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with a light scattering detector:

MMD, MAD information

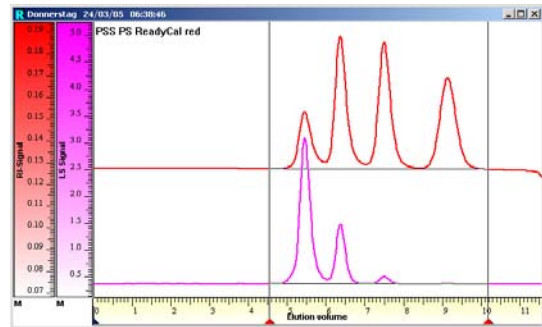


LS can be MALLS, RALLS, LALLS

LS signal: $U(LS) = K' \cdot (dn/dc)^2 \cdot c \cdot M$

RI signal: $U(RI) = K'' \cdot c$

$$\frac{LS - Signal}{RI - Signal} \rightarrow M \cdot (dn / dc)^2$$



Molar Mass	1.090.000	130.000	17.800	1.620 D
Concentration	0.6334	1.2669	1.2669	1.2669 mg/ml

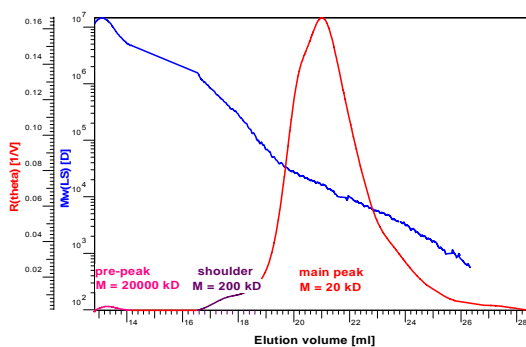
Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with a light scattering detector:

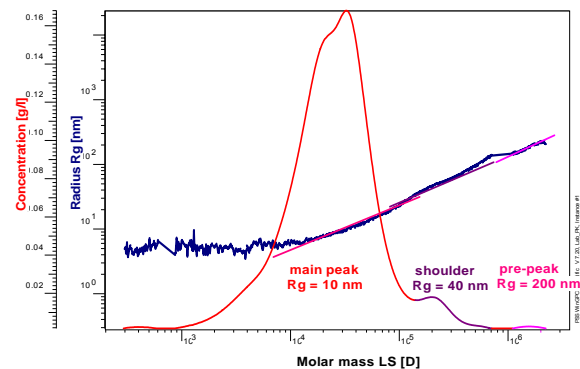
MMD, MAD information

PVB (Poly-vinyl butyral) sample: SEC-MALLS

Results on-line Zimm plot:



molar mass measured for every fraction
MMD



radius of gyration measured for every fraction
MAD

Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with a viscometer detector: MMD, MAD information

Theoretical Background:

SEC separates according to hydrodynamic volume

$$V_{h,1} = V_{h,2}$$

$$[\eta]_1 \cdot M_1 = [\eta]_2 \cdot M_2$$

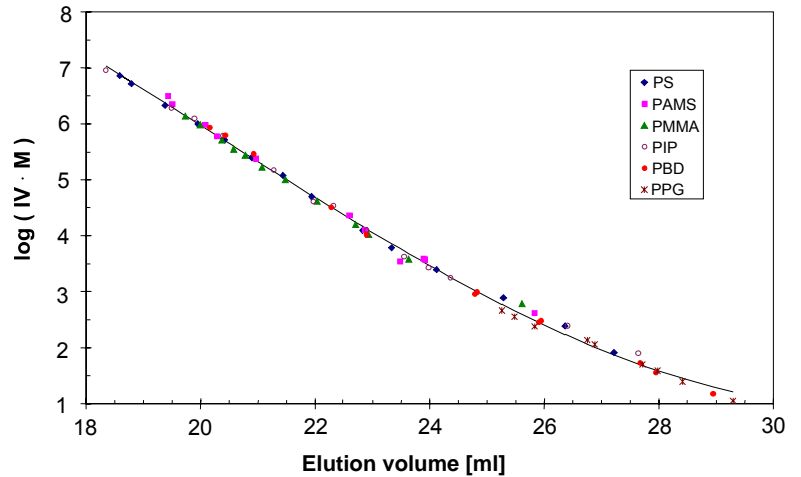
A chance to solve the calibration dilemma:
Universal calibration curve

$$M_2 = [\eta]_1 \cdot M_1 / [\eta]_2$$

$$[\eta]_2 = K \cdot M_2^\alpha \quad \text{Mark-Houwink equation}$$

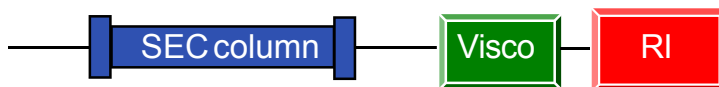
Structure information

Universal Calibration of Different Polymers



Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with a viscometer detector: MMD, MAD information

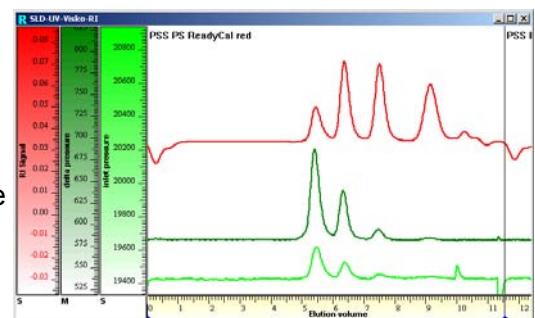


Viscometer signal: $U(V) = K' \cdot [\eta] \cdot c$

RI signal: $U(RI) = K'' \cdot c$

$$\frac{\text{Visco} - \text{Signal}}{\text{RI} - \text{Signal}} \rightarrow [\eta]_{\text{Sample}} \rightarrow M \text{ from universal calibration curve}$$

MMD



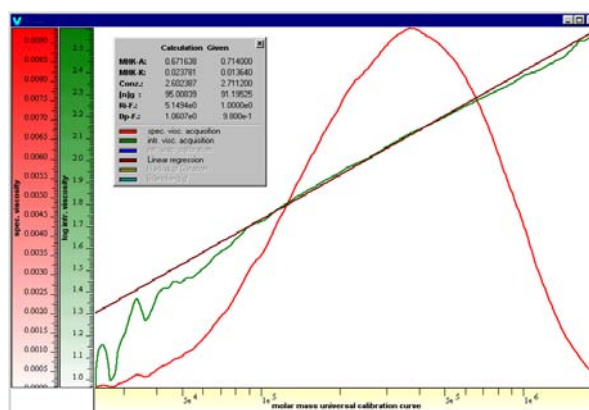
Detection Techniques in SEC

SEC with a viscometer detector: MMD, MAD information

Structure information, MAD:

$$[\eta] = K \cdot M^\alpha \quad \text{Mark-Houwink equation}$$

$\alpha = 2$	rigid rod
$1 > \alpha > 0,5$	random coil
$\alpha = 0,5$	random coil, Theta-conditions
$\alpha = 0$	solid sphere



Branching coefficient g' : $g' = \{[\eta]_{\text{branched}}/[\eta]_{\text{linear}}\}_M$

Conclusions

- comprehensive SEC/GPC is an established and versatile method
- plethora of LC and detection methods for structure investigation
- information request determines chromatographic strategy
- in-depth characterization of MMD, CCD, FTD, MAD, etc possible
- combination of LC modes opens new horizons
- increase of peak capacity by 2D chromatography
- unbiased investigation of property distributions
- mapping of samples or property quantification in 2D
- information-rich detectors add identification to separation