



Considerations for The Analysis of Organic Volatile Impurities in Pharmaceutical Products

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Analyzing OVIs: What is at Stake?

- Ease of Development
- Equipment Availability
- Robustness
- Cost



Analyzing OVIs: Two options

- Headspace
- Direct Injection
- Not Covered:
 - SPME
 - Manual Headspace
 - Ambient Headspace (5966-1473E)



Questions to ask and answer before you start

- Can I use USP <467> to “escape” validation?
 - If yes, you can save yourself a lot of time up front, but it may cost more down the road.
- Is my sample “volatile”?
 - If yes, peaks may interfere with analytes of interest.
- Is my sample “non-volatile”?
 - If yes, residues could cause problems. Favor Headspace.



Questions to ask and answer before you start

- Is my sample thermally labile?
 - If yes, breakdown peaks may interfere with analytes of interest. Favor headspace.
- Is solvent potentially trapped in the sample matrix?
 - If yes, sample must be dissolved or melted.
- What does my method sensitivity need to be?
 - If 1 ng on-column or less, favor headspace



“Volatile” Samples

- Example: non-ionic organic APIs, b.p. < than 200°C.
- Column choice very important
 - sample and impurities should elute far from analytes
- If compound elutes after analytes, don't forget a ramp to elute it
- If sample is not thermally labile, direct injection might be easiest option.



“Non-volatile” Samples

- Example: Organic Salts, excipients, b.p. > 200°C
- Residue problems with direct inject result in:
 - poor peak shape, especially for hydrogen bonding analytes
 - column damage
 - require guard column
 - requires routine maintenance of inlet and column
 - ghost peaks in blanks
- Headspace preferred technique

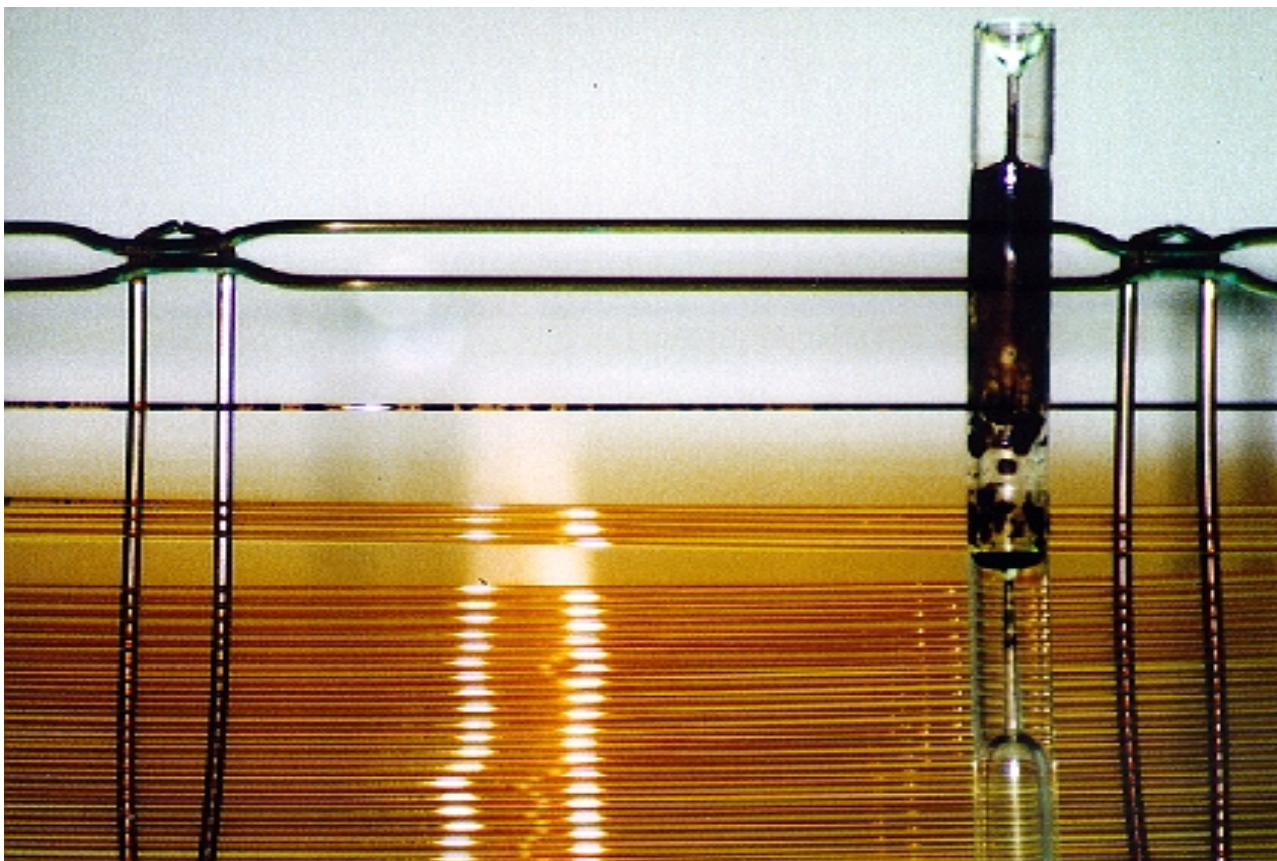


Thermally Labile Samples

- Examples: some epoxides, carbohydrates, peptides, multi -NO₃ many more
- With Direct Inject, breakdown products may result in peaks, or accumulate in the inlet (“caramelize”)
- Same problems as non-volatile residues
- Headspace is preferred



Sample Residues



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Solvents trapped in matrix or ionic?

- Examples: APIs with crystallization step
- Solvents can be trapped in crystal matrix
- Sample must be dissolved or melted to measure total OVIs with either Direct Inject or Headspace
- pH must be adjusted for ionic solvents for quantitative recovery



USP <467> for OVIs

- Method 1: Direct Inject
 - Pluses:
 - Don't have to validate
 - Easily developed
 - Instrumentation usually readily available
 - Initial instrumentation costs are less



USP <467> for OVIs

- Method 1: Direct Inject
 - Minuses:
 - Chloroform hard to detect at 1 ppm
 - % RSD/flame-out problems due to water
 - Compound/matrix may not be suitable for method
 - Residues can cause problems, require increased maintenance
 - Limited to specified conditions
 - External standard method--greater %RSDs



USP <467> for OVIs

- Method IV: Automated Headspace
 - Pluses:
 - Don't have to validate
 - Greater method sensitivity possible
 - Avoid problems inherent with Direct Inject
 - Minuses:
 - Questionable results if sample doesn't dissolve or melt
 - Limited to specified conditions
 - External standard method--greater %RSDs



In-house Methods for OVIs

- Disadvantages
 - Higher development costs
 - Longer time to finished method
 - Cost of validation
 - Risk of improperly developed method
 - Fast GC mostly applicable to Headspace



In-house Methods for OVIs

- Advantages--Especially with Fast HS-GC
 - shorter analysis time (6.5 min, see pub 5968-4586E)
 - quicker turn around time (important for in-process checks)
 - lower long term cost of analysis via higher through-put
 - better resolution possible with smaller I.D. columns.



In-house Methods for OVIs

- Advantages
 - better column selection for shorter run times
 - better reproducibility with use of Internal Standard
 - mitigate matrix effects and handling errors
 - greater method sensitivity
 - more robust methods



Overview of Considerations for Methods Development

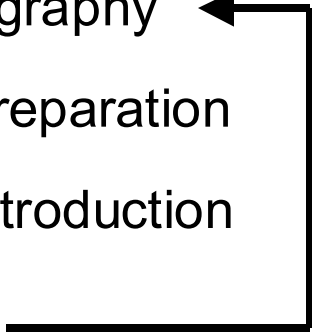
Areas of Optimization

- Sample Preparation
- Sample Introduction
- Chromatography
- **Detection**



Order of Considerations for Methods Development


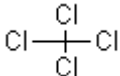
Areas of Optimization

- **Detection**
 - Chromatography
 - Sample Preparation
 - Sample Introduction
 - Repeat
- 



Detection

Areas of Optimization

- MS for qualitative methods development, but mainly FID for Routine QC
- FID limitations
 - Oxidizable bond:
 - C-H good, example: Hexane 
 - C-Cl poor, example: Carbon Tetrachloride 
 - **Target = min 0.1-2 ng on column for robust (10:1) s/n**
 - Stable, linear to 6-7 orders of magnitude



AMD: Approximating On-column Amount

$$\text{OVI On-column (ug)} = \frac{S \times C \times V_l \times V_{ds} \times \%HS \times F_c}{V_d \times V_{hs} \times F_s}$$

Numerator

S = Sample size, g

C = Minimum concentration of the OVI that needs to be detected in the sample, ug/g

V_l = Sample loop volume, mL, or volume injected in mL (1 μL = 0.001 mL)

V_{ds} = Volume of diluted sample added to headspace vial, mL

%HS = Percent of OVI partitioned into the headspace*

F_c = Flow rate of the column, mL/min

Denominator

V_d = Volume of the diluent used to dilute the sample, mL

V_{hs} = Volume of headspace remaining in the vial after diluted sample is added, mL

F_s = Flow rate of the split vent, mL/min

* If Headspace sample oven temp is greater than 10°C above B.P. of solvent, assume minimum 50% is in headspace.



AMD: Direct Inject v. Headspace

- Extra Sensitivity is money in the bank.

Direct Inject			Headspace	
Sample Size (g)	0.1	0.1	Sample Size (g)	
Solute Conc.(ug/g)	10	10	Solute Conc.(ug/g)	
Amount Inj (mL)	0.001	1	<i>Sample Loop Size (mL)</i>	
		1	<i>Volume of Sample in vial (mL)</i>	
		5	<i>Column Flow</i>	
		50	<i>Percent into Headspace</i>	
Diluent Volume (mL)	1	1	Diluent Volume (mL)	
		19	<i>Volume of Headspace (mL)</i>	
		50	<i>Split Vent Flow</i>	
Amount on Column (ug)	0.0010	0.0026	Amount on Column (ug)	



Chromatography

- Choices

- Column Dimensions

- on-column amount desired (larger diameter = more for headspace)
 - resolution (smaller I.D. + longer = more resolution and/or faster runs)
 - robustness (larger diameter = more)

- Stationary Phase Type

- selectivity (refer to mfgr's solvent tables)
 - durability (less polar = more robust)
 - main component (usually diluent) polarity match



Chromatography

- Choices

- Guard Column?

- Yes.

- Wet-able to water, prevents FID flameouts

- Focus analytes if using splitless and headspace with water present or polarity mismatch between solvent and stationary phase

- Traps non-volatile residues if using splitless

- Favor 30 m x 0.53 or 0.32 mm ID column with G-43 (DB-624) stationary phase for most comprehensive separation, broadest range of solvents, with a guard column



Sample Preparation

- Types of Samples Include
 - drugs/intermediates (organic and organic/ionic)
 - excipients (carbohydrates, inorganics, polymers, gums, gels)
 - tableted forms
 - packaging (inks, foams, plastics)
 - etc...



Sample Preparation Considerations-- Dissolve Your Sample if Possible

- Non-volatile, thermally labile--*headspace preferred.*
- Many samples are polar or organic salts--*water solvent preferred.*
- Many samples are organic--*organic solvent preferred.*
- Many organic solutes are difficult to prepare as standards in water--*organic solvent preferred.*



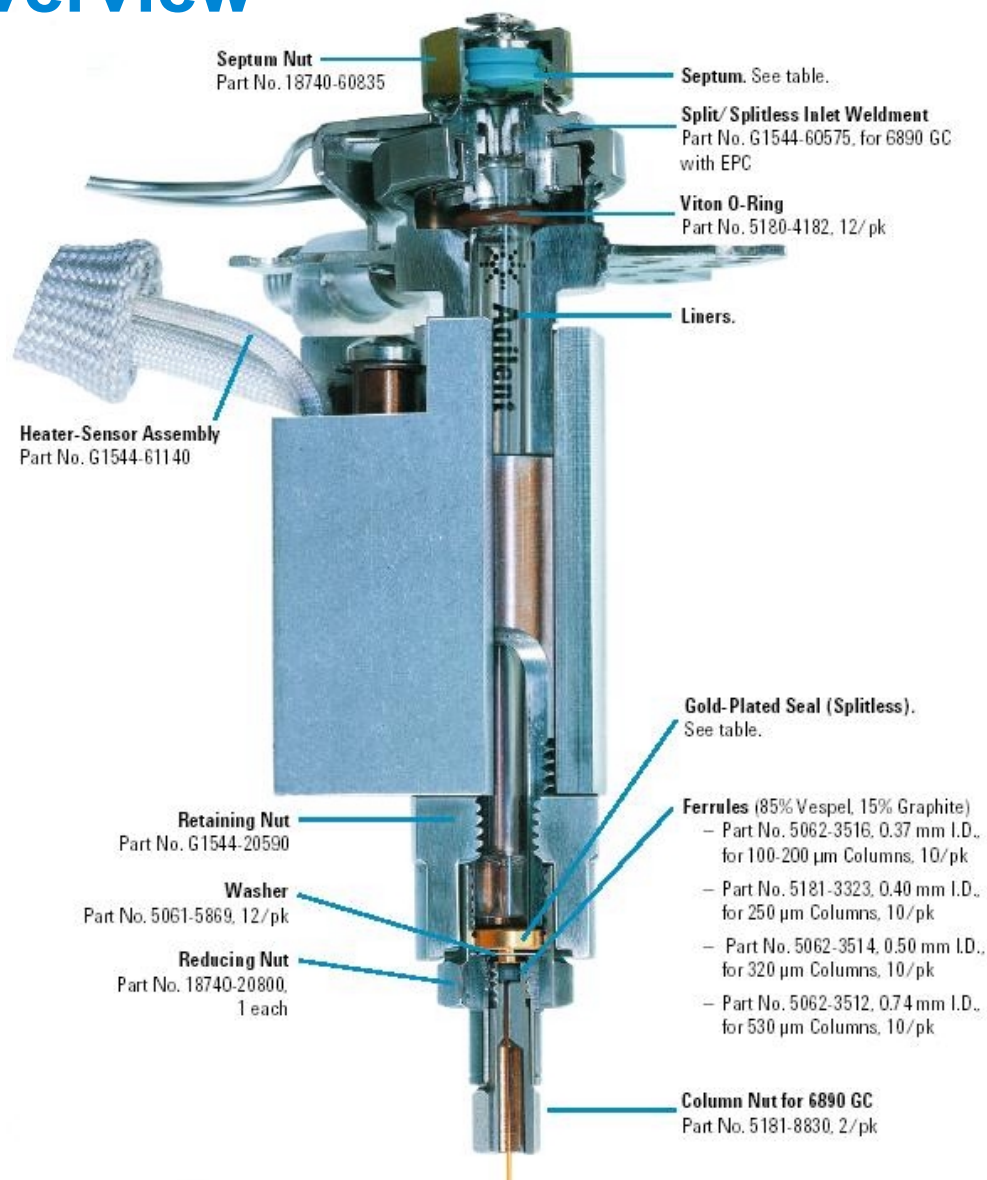
Tips for Methods Development

- Direct Inject
 - Avoiding Inlet Related Problems
 - Avoiding Interfering Peaks
 - Avoiding Detector Problems
- Headspace
 - Times, Temps, Flows



Split Splitless Inlet Overview

- Split/Splitless Operation (video)
- Common Problems/Solutions
- Benchmark Settings

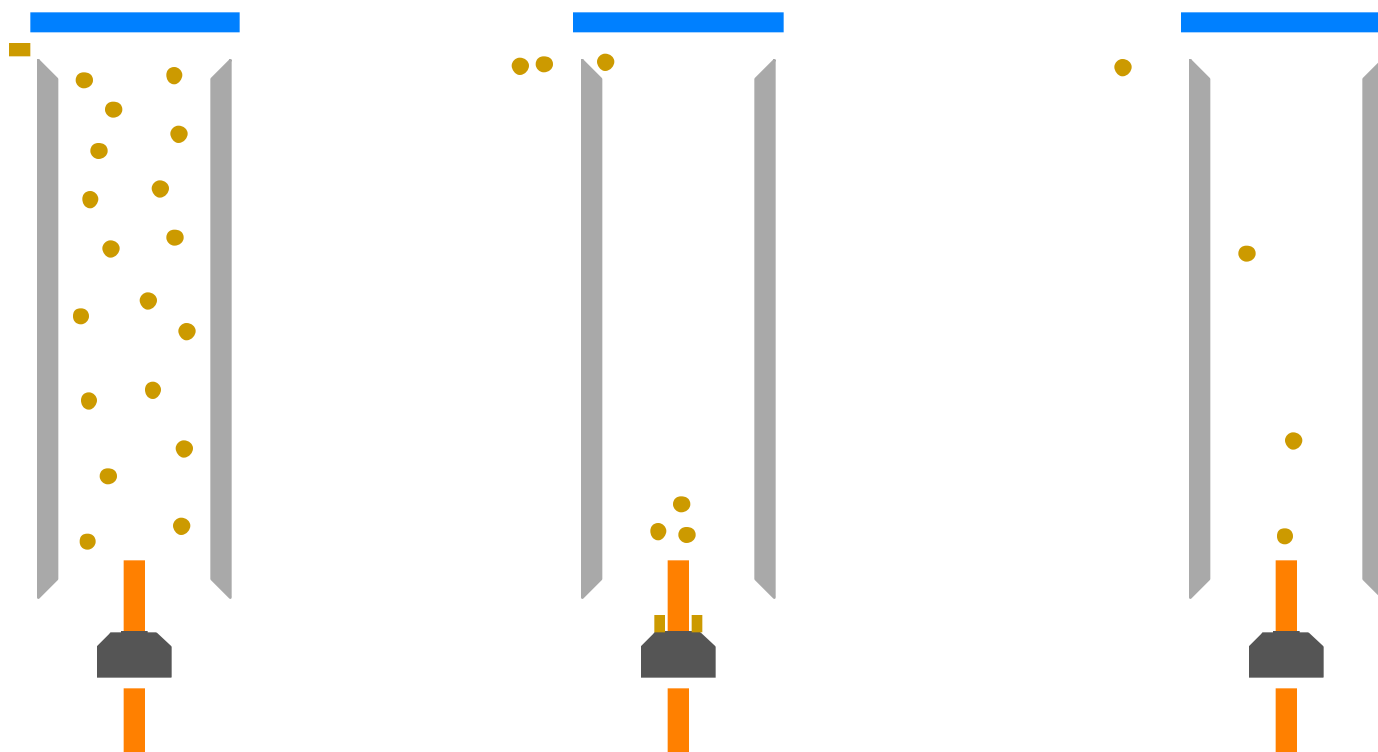


Direct Inject Tips

- Avoiding Inlet Related Problems
 - Use Deactivated glass wool for residues ONLY if OVIs are non-polar (hexane, CHCl_3 okay, methanol not okay)
 - Especially if you use water, use a guard column
 - minimizes split peaks, poor peak shape
 - Don't use water as solvent if possible--Backflash
 - If water is required, use low injection temp (140°C)



Direct Inject Tips--Backflash



Direct Inject Tips

- Avoiding Inlet Related Problems
 - Keep inlet temperature low enough to avoid sample degradation. Start at 200°C and decrease if necessary.
 - Use 0.53 mm ID columns (more forgiving)
 - Use 4 mm ID liner, single or dual taper (preferred)
 - Replace split vent line trap when RTs and %RSDs become erratic



Direct Inject Tips

- Avoiding Interfering Peaks
 - Column temperature at a minimum of 10°C below solvent boiling point
 - Use GC grade solvents (some LC grade may have interferences)
 - Purge on at 0.25-0.5 min, split flow 50 ml/min minimum



Direct Inject Tips

- Avoiding Interfering Peaks
 - Use solvents that elute well before (MeOH, Pentane, Diethyl Ether) or well after analytes of interest (DMF, DMA, DMSO)
 - DMSO harder to work with, but lower boiling solvents may have more interfering peaks than higher boiling solvents
 - Verify peak retention time with 0.05-0.1% solution



Direct Inject Tips

- Avoiding Interfering Peaks
 - Keep inlet temperature low enough to avoid sample degradation. Start at 200°C and decrease if necessary.
 - Stay ahead of the problem. Routinely clean inlet, clip 1/4-1/2 m from guard column after each full sequence.
 - Use chambered liner and 1 ul or less injection



Direct Inject Tips

- Avoiding Detector Problems
 - FID is very “forgiving,” but...
 - Flameout (common with water injections)
 - Use guard column to “spread out” water peak
 - Use proper detector flows on FID
 - 5890: Air 300 ml/min, H₂ = 35 ml/min, N₂ + Column = 30 mL/min
 - 6890: Air 400 ml/min, H₂ = 30 ml/min, N₂ + Column = 30 mL/min (auto light function helpful)
 - Clean/replace jet when flame-out problems persist



Headspace Primer

- The amount of solute partitioning into the gas phase over liquid for trace solutes is approximated by Henry's Law: $c = kP$
 - c = concentration (mol/L) of solute above liquid
 - k = Henry's Law constant for solute (mol/L•atm)
 - P = Pressure (atm) over the solution
- k is temperature dependent, increase temperature, increase k , increase concentration of solute in headspace above liquid



Headspace Primer

- In practical terms...
 - %RSD can be decreased by increasing HS sample oven temperature above solute b.p., 5-10°C
 - diluent temperature, decomposition temperature, or vial septa defines upper temperature limit
 - choose a diluent with a boiling point well above the solute of interest (DMSO)
 - if necessary, modify solution to change k (salt in H₂O for organics)



Diluent Choice

- Water B.P. 100°C
- DMSO B.P. 189°C



Headspace Times & Temps

- HP7694 tips -- Start with Defaults
 - Valve and transfer line temps 5°C above b.p. of diluent
 - HS Sample oven temperature
 - 5-10°C below diluent b.p. max, better 20-40°C
 - melt or dissolve sample if solid



Headspace Times & Temps

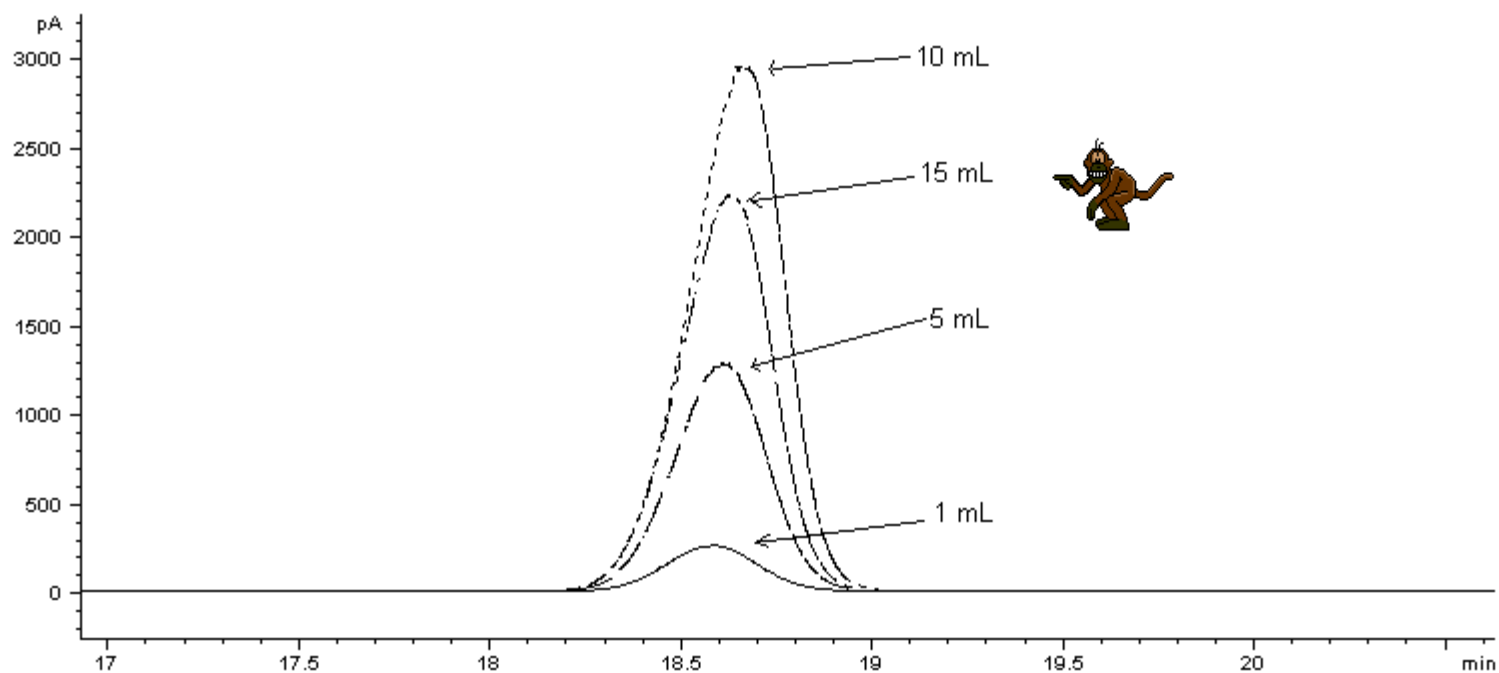
- HP7694 tips -- Start with Defaults
 - Vial equilibration
 - 15 min to start, 1 mL sample, 10 mL vial
 - more mass = more time required
 - use parameter increment function
 - use shaking



Headspace Times & Temps & Volumes

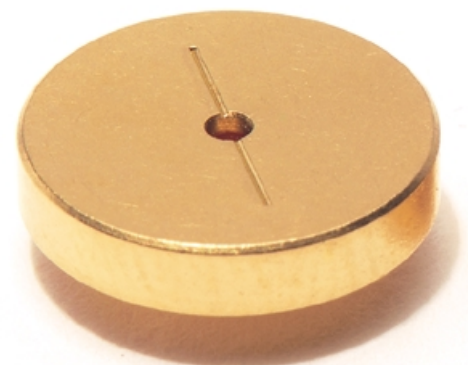
- Sample Oven Temp, 80°C
- Time, 15 min

Time	Volume	Toluene Area
15 min	1	4439
15 min	5	22332
15 min	10	52608
15 min	15	38981



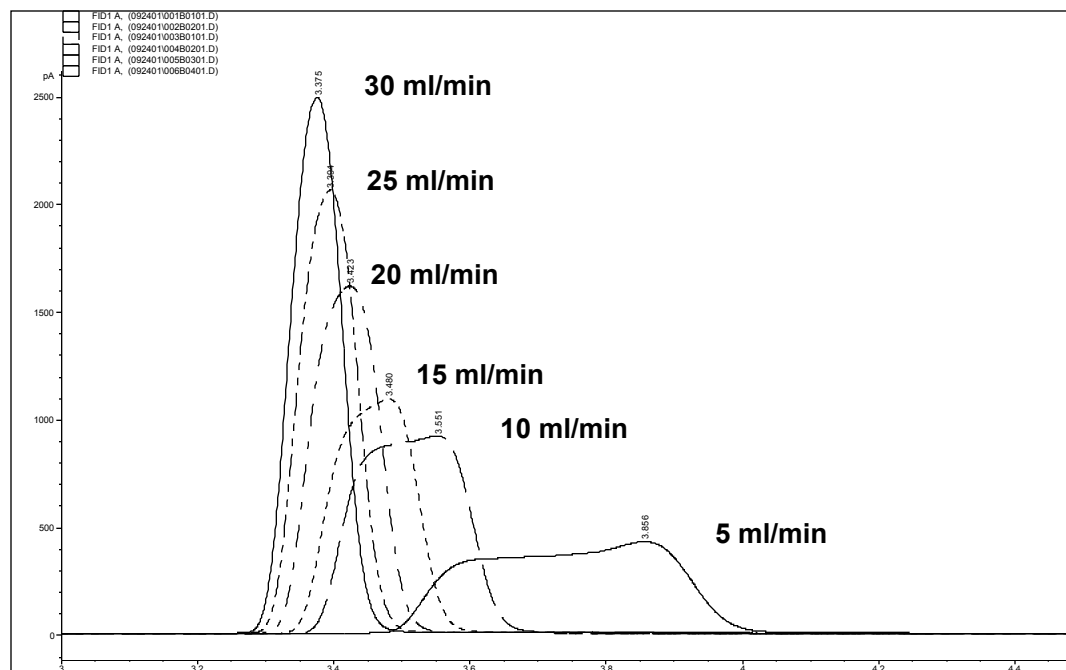
Headspace Times & Temps & Flows

- Vial pressurization, loop fill, 0.2 min @
 - 1 mL loop, 20 mL/min transfer line flow
 - 3 mL loop, 60 mL/min transfer line flow
 - 40 mL/min minimum total flow through inlet to avoid problems
 - Use single channel gold seal
- Vial pressure--about 2 psi above carrier pressure.



Sample Introduction--Conditions

- Conditions--Agilent 7694 Headspace Autosampler
 - Transfer line flow, peak shape of 500 ppm Acetone, DMSO/H2O
 - Minimum 25 mL/min, actual 30 mL/min



Headspace Times & Temps

- HP7694 tips -- Start with Defaults
 - Loop equilibration, 0.05 min
 - Sample inject, 1 min (at aforementioned flow minimums)



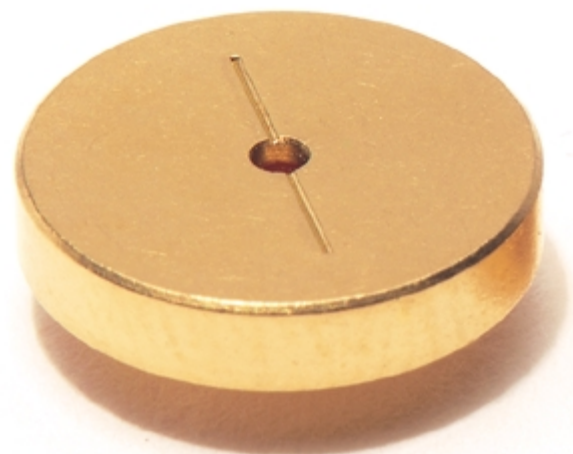
Headspace & GC Flows

- Avoiding Inlet Related Problems
 - Use 2.0 mm ID straight tube liner (decreases expansion volume). No glass wool. No cup liners.
 - Keep temp at or slightly above temp of transfer line
 - Flow from transfer line adds to total flow in inlet. Chemstation flow will not reflect actual split vent flow on non-EPC controlled units.
 - Measure actual split flow



Headspace & GC Flows

- Avoiding Inlet Related Problems
 - 1 mL loop, minimum 20 mL/min transfer line flow
 - 3 mL loop, minimum 60 mL/min transfer line flow
 - 40 mL/min minimum total flow through inlet to avoid problems
 - Use single channel gold seal



Headspace Misc. Tips

- Keep spares of transfer line needle
- When inserting transfer line into inlet prevent coring/particles:
 - slightly loosen septa nut
 - insert needle (use strain relief fitting)
 - tighten
 - leave transfer line installed



Headspace Misc. Tips

- When sample oven temp is
 - below 125°C, use Gray PTFE/black septa (easy seal)
 - between 125-180°C, use Tan PTFE/white septa
- Use caps with safety feature
- 10 mL vials fine for most work
- Multiple injections, use single puncture option (not advisable in most cases).
- If option, use sample shaking



MS Development Tips

- Use same length, but smaller ID column with same Beta ($B = r/2d_f$).
 - Example: DB-624
 - 0.53 mm ID, 3.0 film
 - 0.32 mm ID, 1.8 film
 - 0.25 mm ID, 1.4 film
- Program transfers easily (keep same linear velocity, temperature program)



Active Analyte Tips

- Organic acids or amines
 - use a 0.1-1% acid or amine which is more volatile (acetic/ethylamine) if the drug is stable in this solution.
- Derivatize in situ.
 - Organic acids, try BF_3 in MeOH



Internal Standard Tips

- Use an IS when possible to mitigate effects of sample handling and matrix.
- Pick IS with similar chemical characteristics (functional group and volatility).
- Remember boiling points!



AMD: Sample Prep Tips

- Use Class A volumetric pipettes for the best accuracy
- Weigh standards instead of using volumetric when temperature changes are possible
- Minimize matrix effects by using 10:1 rule
 - 10X more diluent than sample.
 - 100 ± 10 mg sample, 1000 mg diluent
 - ± 10 mg/1000 mg = $\pm 1\%$



Wrapping it up

- Start with what is at stake
 - time available
 - equipment availability
 - desired robustness
 - cost (initial and long term)
- Determine sample attributes
- Determine sensitivity required
- Choose your method, USP or In-house.



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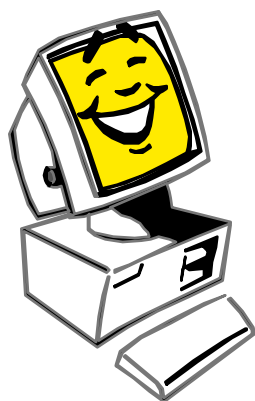
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