



Fast Extraction and Dilution Flow Injection Mass Spectrometry (FED-FI-MS): Method Design, Applications, and Outlook

Sergio C. Nanita

A composite image showing various agricultural products including a red apple, a green kiwi, a wheat stalk, and green leaves. The image is overlaid with glowing green lines and a grid pattern, suggesting a scientific or technological theme.

**DuPont Crop Protection
Stine-Haskell Research Center
Newark, Delaware, U.S.A.**

What is FED-FI-MS?

Fast Extraction & Dilution Flow Injection Mass Spectrometry

**FED → Simple sample
extraction/preparation
procedure**

**FI-MS → High-throughput
instrumental analysis
technique**

**In principle, the overall technique is:
“Fast Extraction–Dilute & Shoot–ESI–FIA–MS”**

- **High throughput**
- **Quantitative analysis**
- **in complex matrices**
- **At ppb (ng/g) levels**

FED-FI-MS Project Description

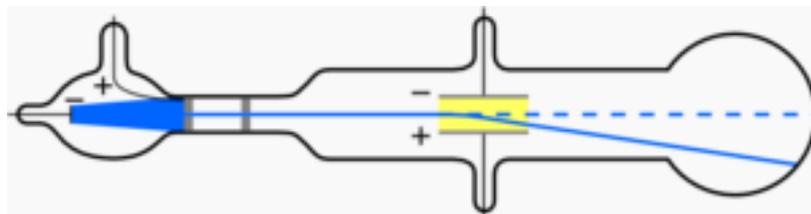
- Concept demonstrated in 2008
- Proposal approved in 2009
- Project fully funded internally by DuPont Co.

Current objective → Develop analytical methodology that:



- Is more efficient
- Reduces environmental footprint
- Could be used beyond DuPont
- Improves screens to ensure responsible use of agrochemicals
- Increases capability to ensure food safety

Mass spectrometry without chromatography?



Cathode ray

Electric field

1897

Early mass spectra

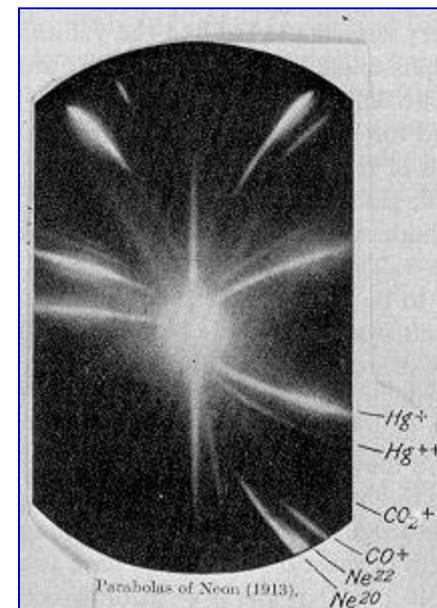


J. J. Thomson

Thomson device replica



www.asms.org



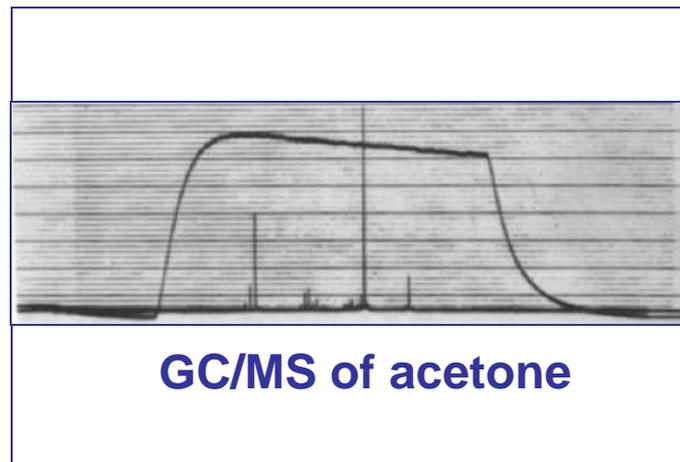
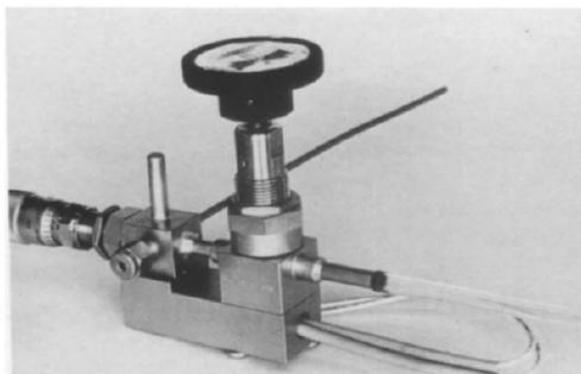
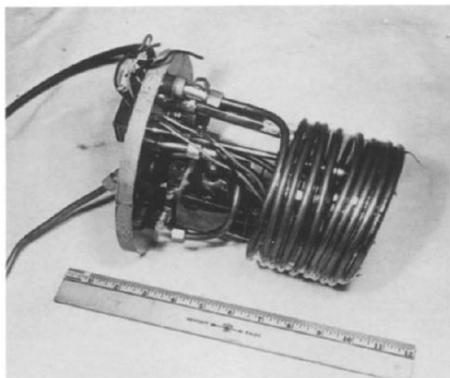
Parabolas of Neon, 1913

Thomson, J.J. *Phil. Mag.* **1897**, 44, 293.

Major historical events for MS with chromatography



Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, 1950's



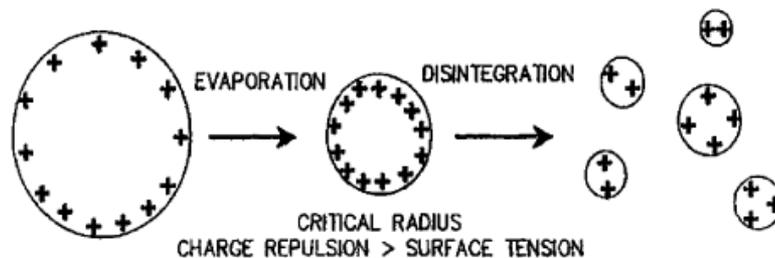
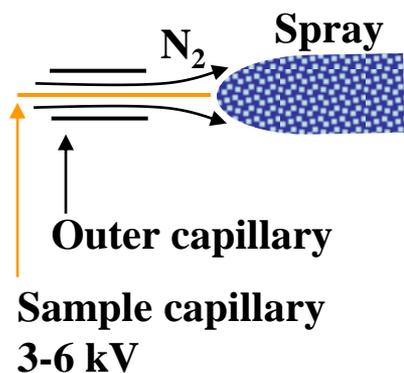
F.W. McLafferty et al – circa 1955

JASMS 1993, 4, 367-371

Liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry

HPLC/APCI/MS, 1970's

HPLC/ESI/MS, 1980's



ESI

J. B. Fenn, et al. *Science* 1989, 246, 64-71

MS analysis without chromatography, 2000's

- Improvements in MS allow direct analysis without HPLC:

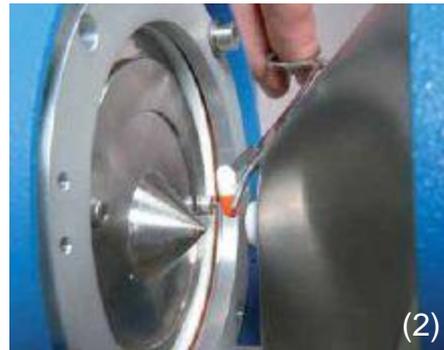
DESI

Purdue University
(R.G. Cooks)



DART

JEOL
(R. Cody)

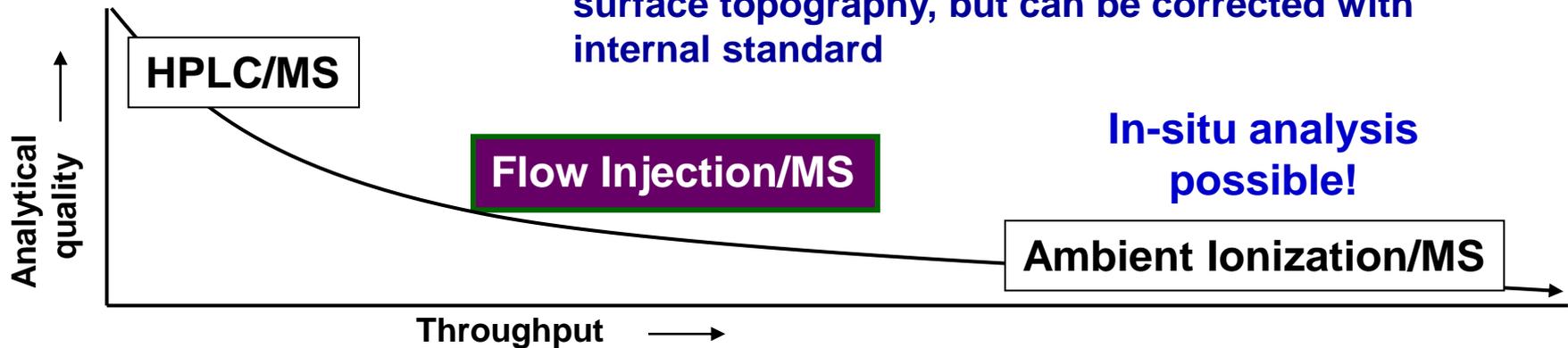


ASAP

Univ. of the Sciences
(C.N. McEwen)



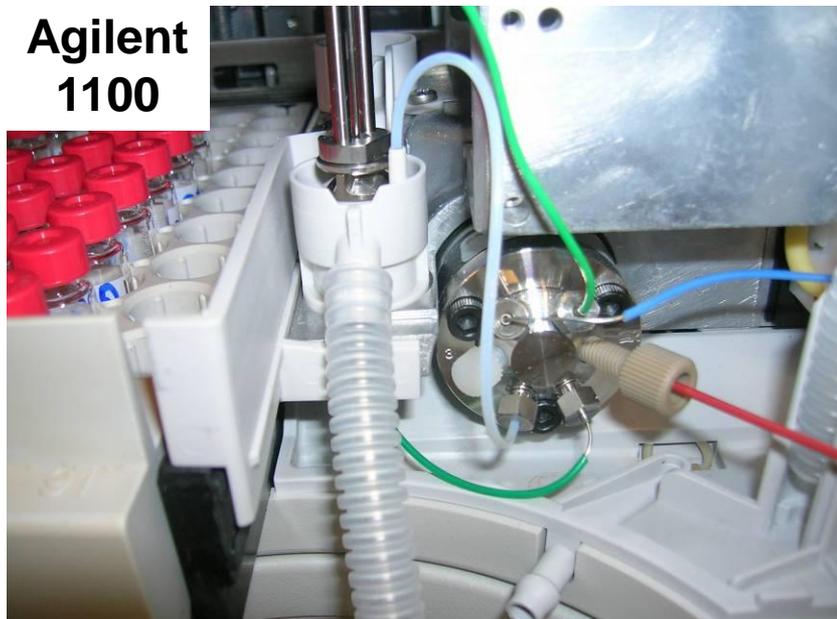
- Suitable for analysis of surfaces or solids
- Quantitation demonstrated: Response affected by sample position, angle, surface topography, but can be corrected with internal standard



Flow Injection Mass Spectrometry Setup

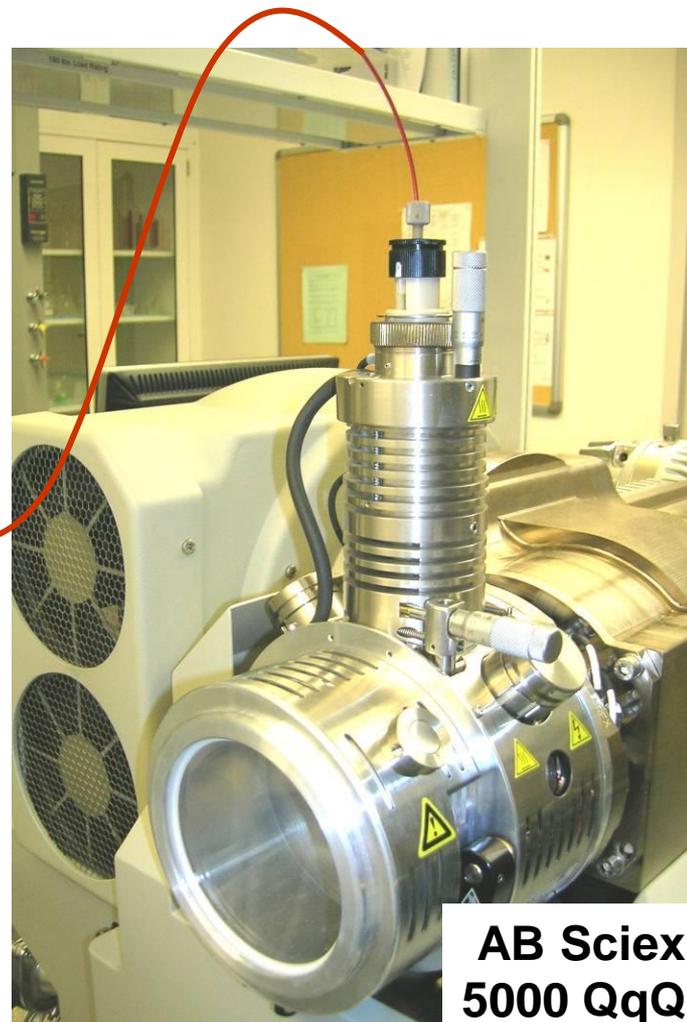
Autosampler

Agilent
1100



- Bypass the column compartment
- Use 1- meter long red PEEK capillary 1/16 in. O.D. and 0.13 mm I.D. (part no. 0890-1915, Agilent Technologies)
- 1- μL injection

ESI Source/Mass Spectrometer

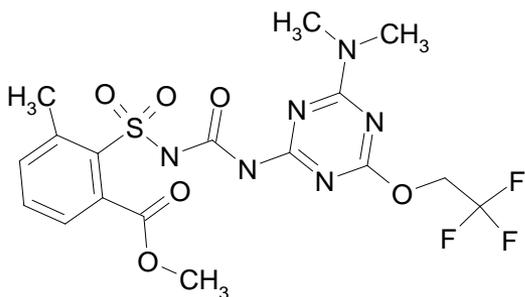


AB Sciex
5000 QqQ

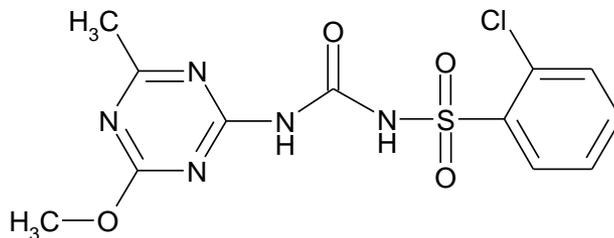
Fast Extraction & Dilution Flow Injection Mass Spectrometry FED-FI-MS

Analytes Tested with Prototype Multiresidue Method

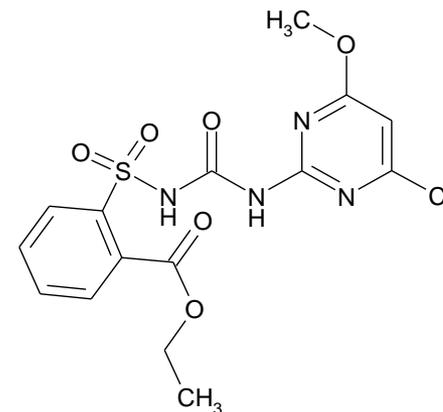
Sulfonylurea Herbicides



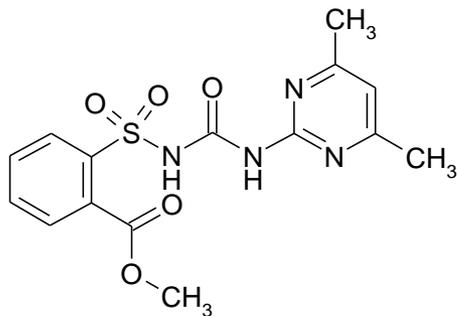
Triflusulfuron methyl



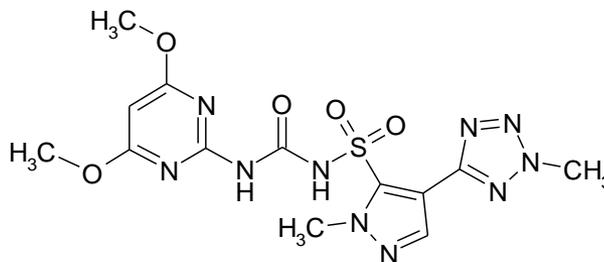
Chlorsulfuron



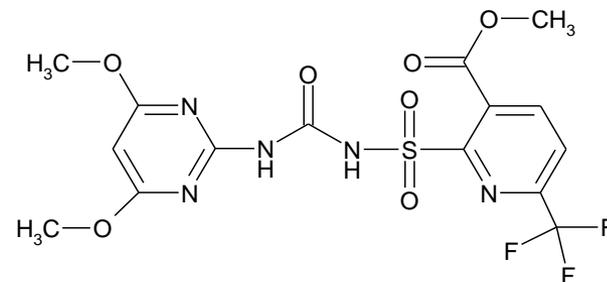
Chlorimuron ethyl



Sulfometuron methyl



Azimsulfuron



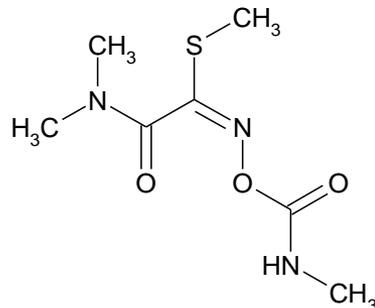
Flupyr sulfuron methyl

Fast Extraction & Dilution Flow Injection Mass Spectrometry

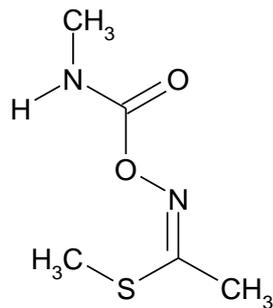
FED-FI-MS

Analytes Tested with Prototype Multiresidue Method

Carbamate Insecticides

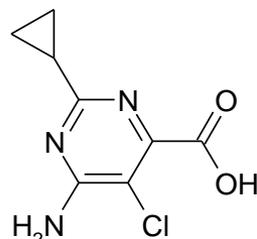


Oxamyl

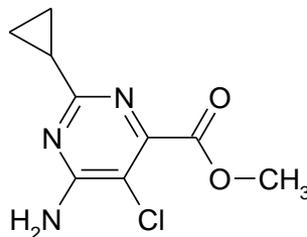


Methomyl

Pyrimidine Carboxylic Acid Herbicides

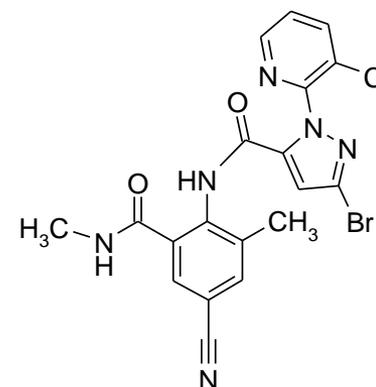


Aminocyclopyrachlor

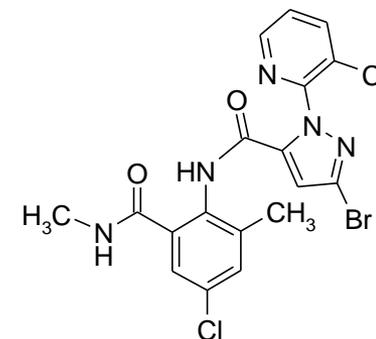


Aminocyclopyrachlor methyl

Anthranilic Diamide Insecticides

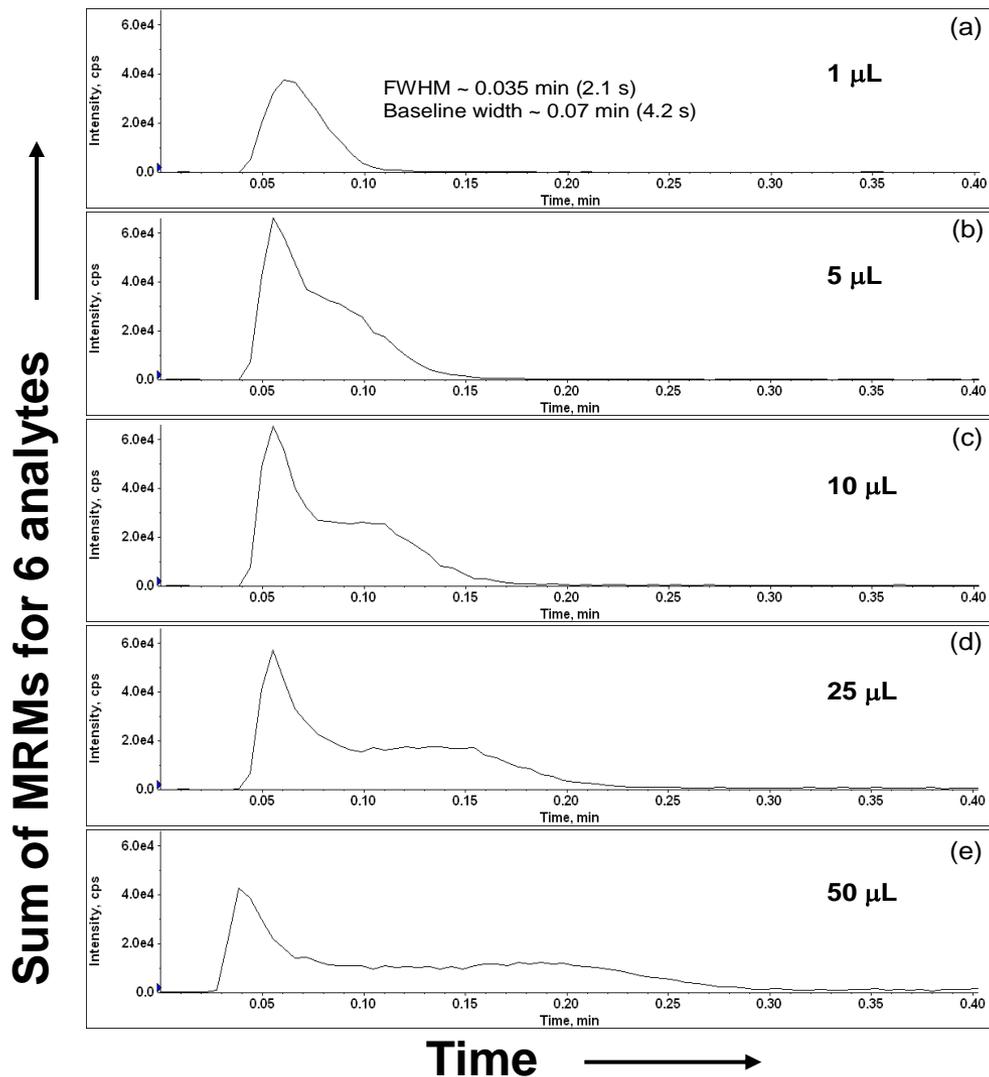


Cyantraniliprole



Chlorantraniliprole

Effect of Injection Volume



- A 1.0 ng/mL mixed standard was prepared in methanol and analyzed with different injection volumes.

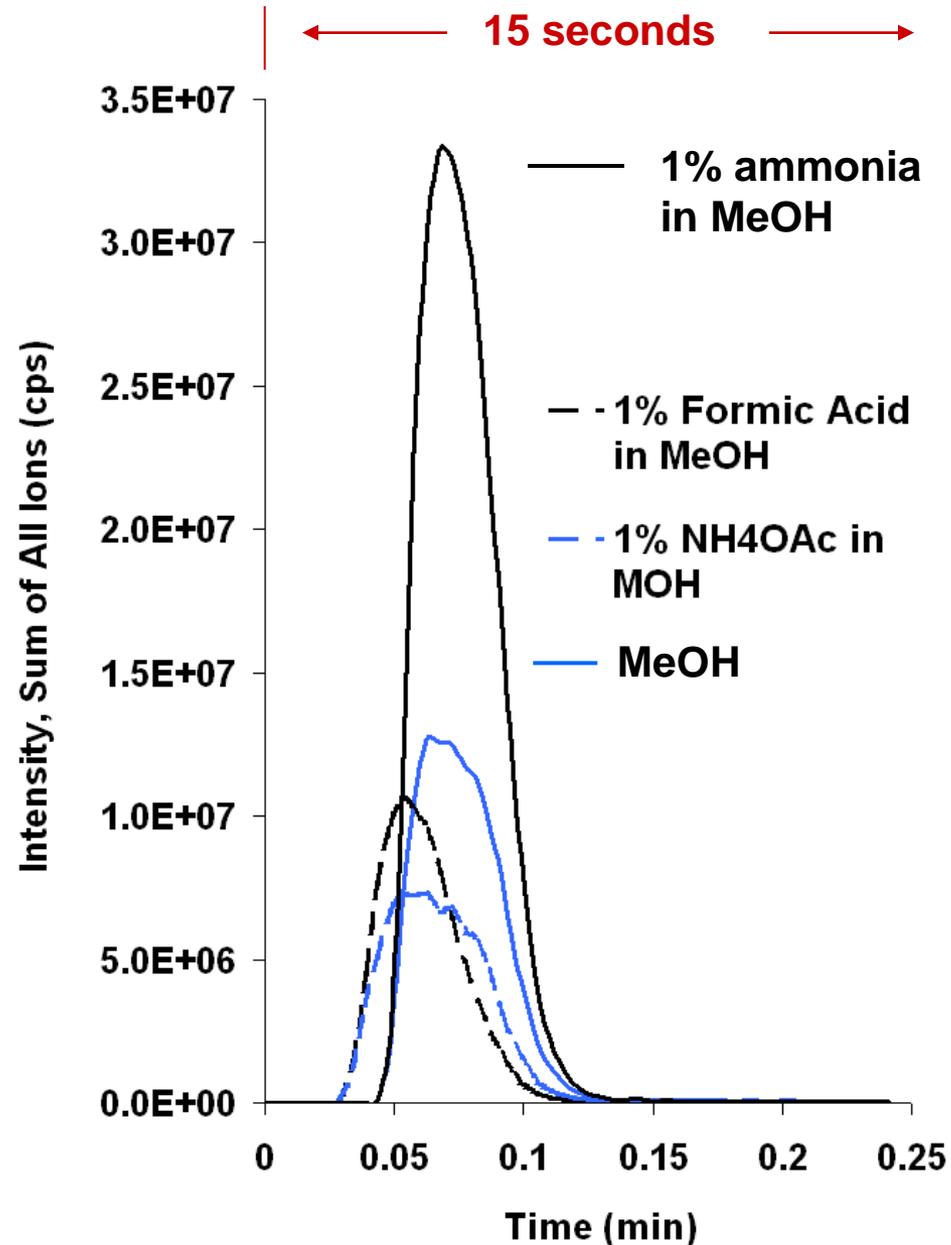
- Small inner diameter PEEK tubing was used to connect autosampler to MS, minimizing dead volume.

- FI/MS/MS ion chromatograms show that 1-5 μL injection volumes are adequate.

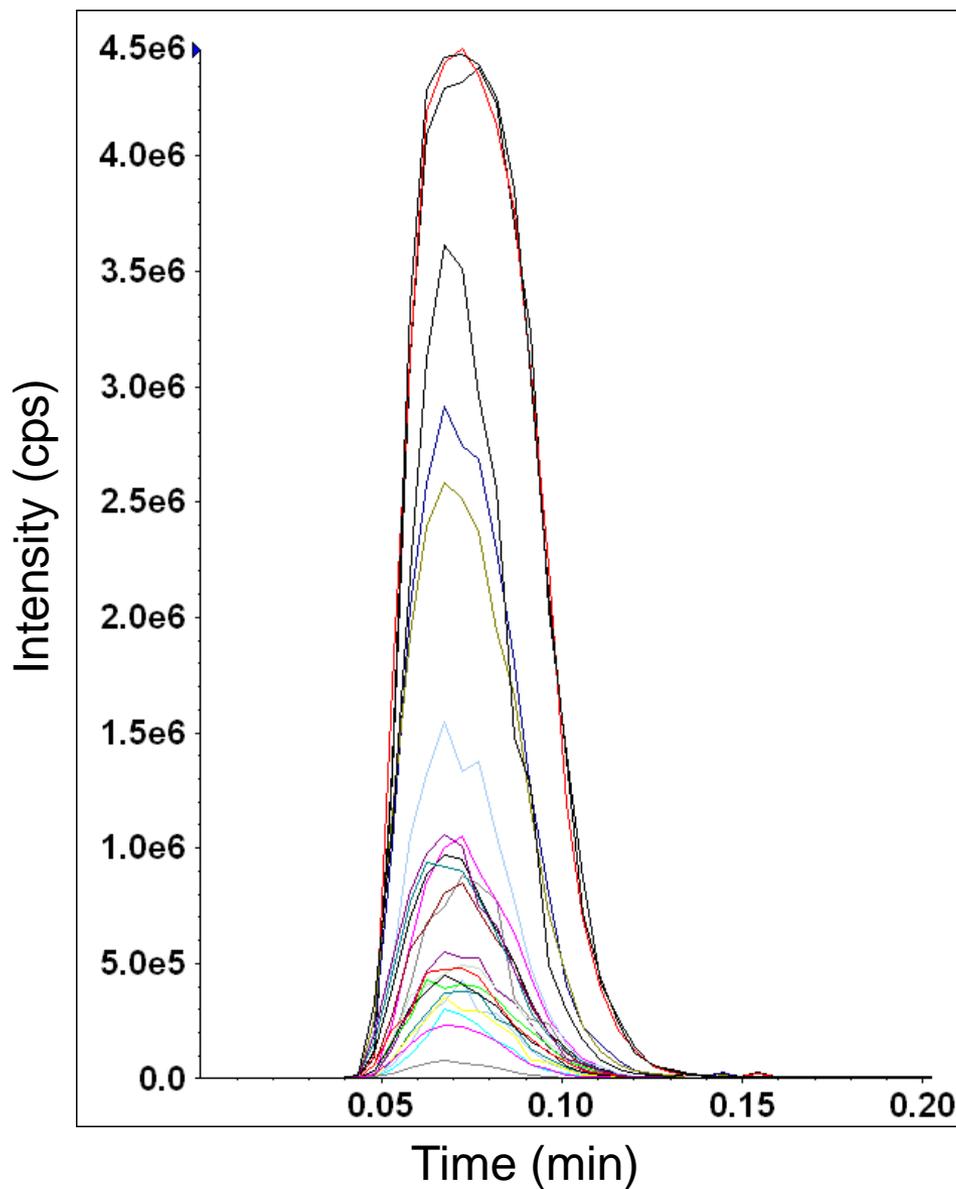
Ionization Efficiency Optimization: AB Sciex 5000 QqQ Mass Spectrometer, ESI source used.

FI-MS advantages

- Can use any solvent
- Easy method development
- Very fast analysis!



Example chronogram



AB Sciex 5000 QqQ Mass Spectrometer with Electrospray Ion Source

- 12 analytes
- 24 ions monitored
- Injected in example shown:
 $100 \text{ pg} = 10^{-10} \text{ g}$
- Sensitivity limit:
 $100\text{-}500 \text{ fg} = 1\text{-}5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ g}$

FED-FI-MS Analytical Procedure

Method for samples with Low water content

10-g pecan sample extracted with 10 mL of organic solvent, 2 min in GenoGrinder with 3 metal beads

- Fat freeze-out (1h)
- Centrifuge 10 min
- Dilute 1/50
- Flow injection MS

LOQ = 0.05 mg/kg
LOD ~ 0.02 mg/kg



Diluted 1/50

Diluted 1/10

Method for samples with High water content

5-g lemon sample extracted with 25 mL of organic solvent, 2 min in GenoGrinder with 3 metal beads

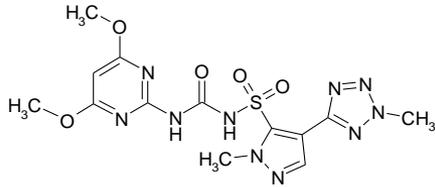
- Centrifuge 10 min
- Dilute 1/10
- Flow injection MS

LOQ = 0.05 mg/kg
LOD ~ 0.02 mg/kg

Extraction solvent = Methanol
Dilution solvent = 98.5% Methanol, 1.5% conc. ammonia

Validation Raw Data

Example, Pecan, Azimsulfuron

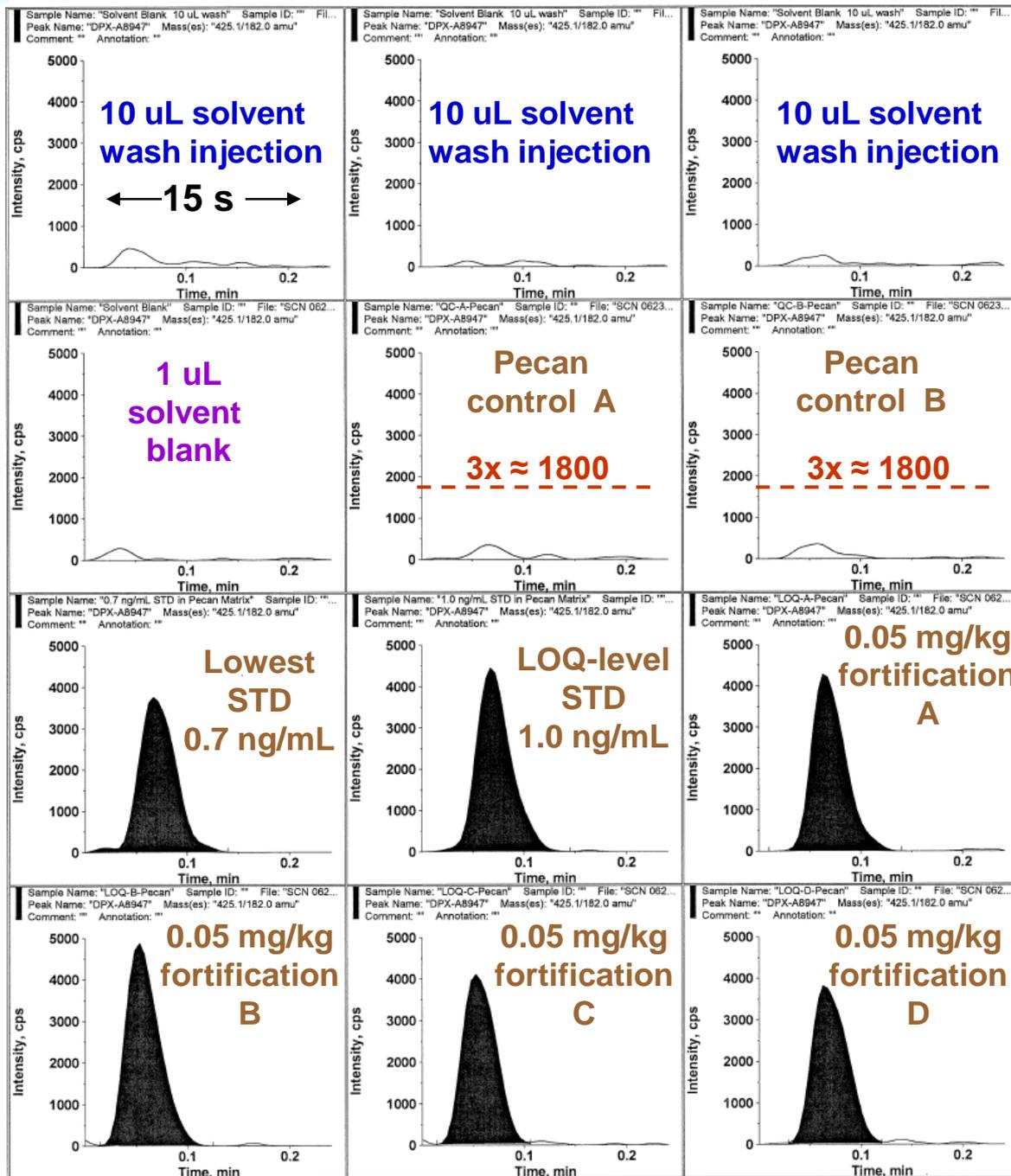


• Quantitative ion transition shown: m/z 425 \rightarrow m/z 182

• Confirmatory ion transition monitored: m/z 425 \rightarrow m/z 156

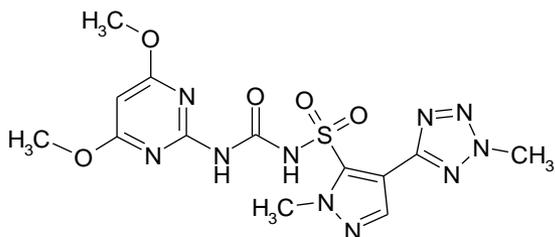
Analyst **2011**, 136, 285.

J. Agric Food Chem. **2011**, in press.



Detection threshold must be defined for each analyte

Validation Raw Data Example, Pecan, Azimsulfuron

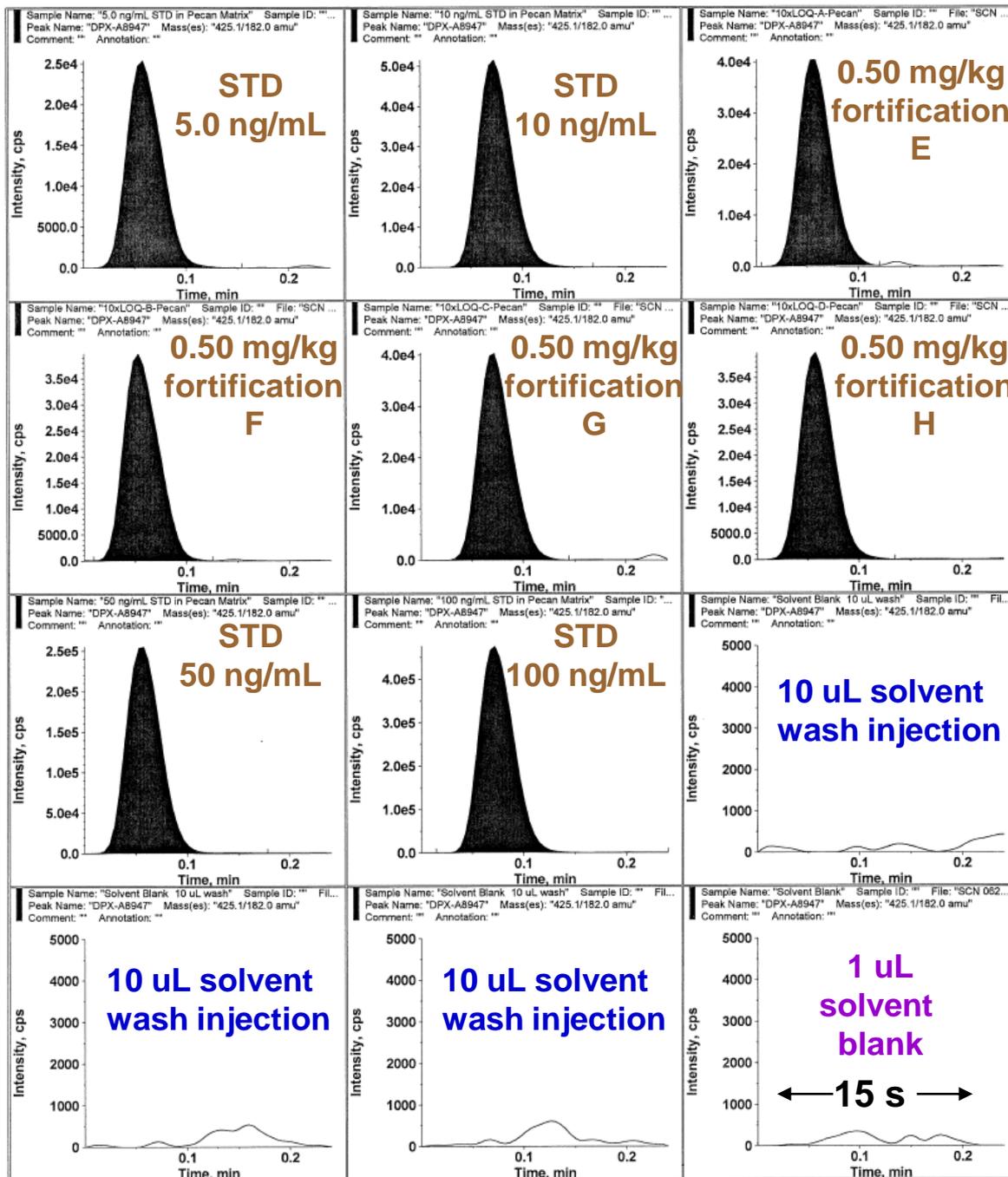


• Quantitative ion transition shown:
 $m/z\ 425 \rightarrow m/z\ 182$

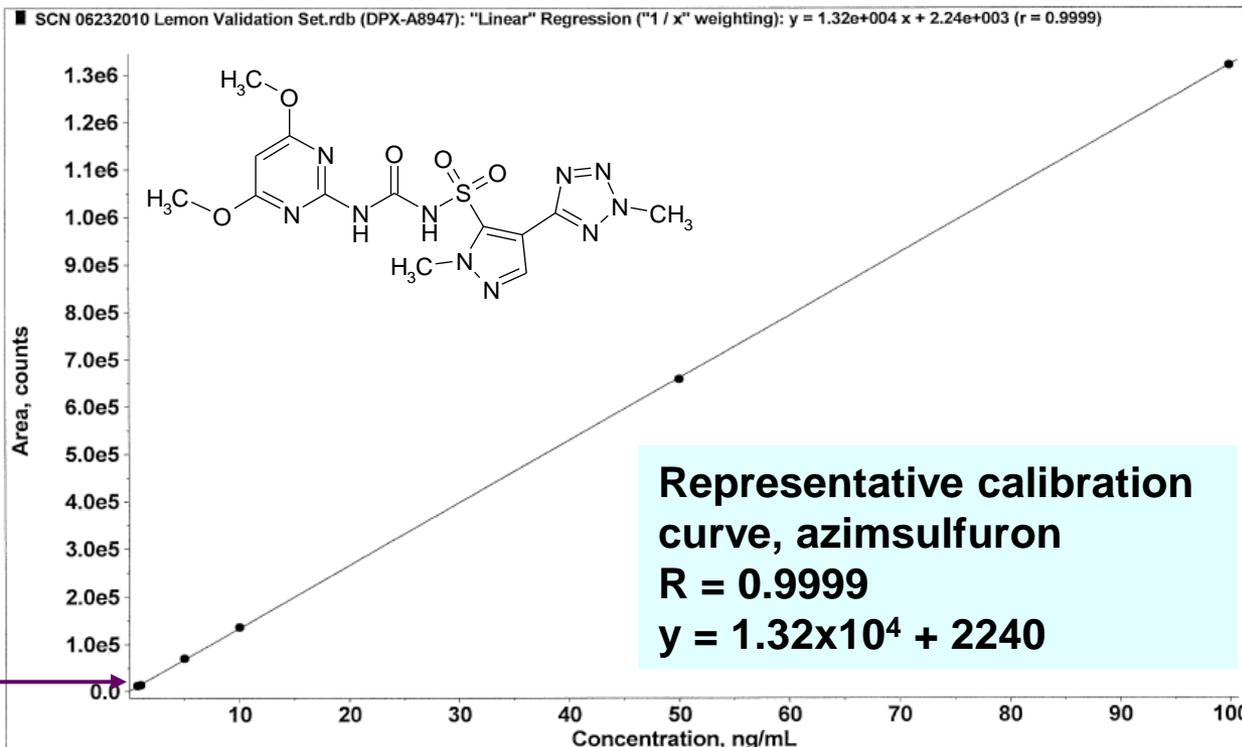
• Confirmatory ion transition monitored:
 $m/z\ 425 \rightarrow m/z\ 156$

Analyst 2011, 136, 285.

J. Agric Food Chem. 2011,
in press.



FED-FI-MS Matrix-Matched Standard Calibration High Water Content (Lemon)



0.7 ng/mL
(0.035 mg/kg)

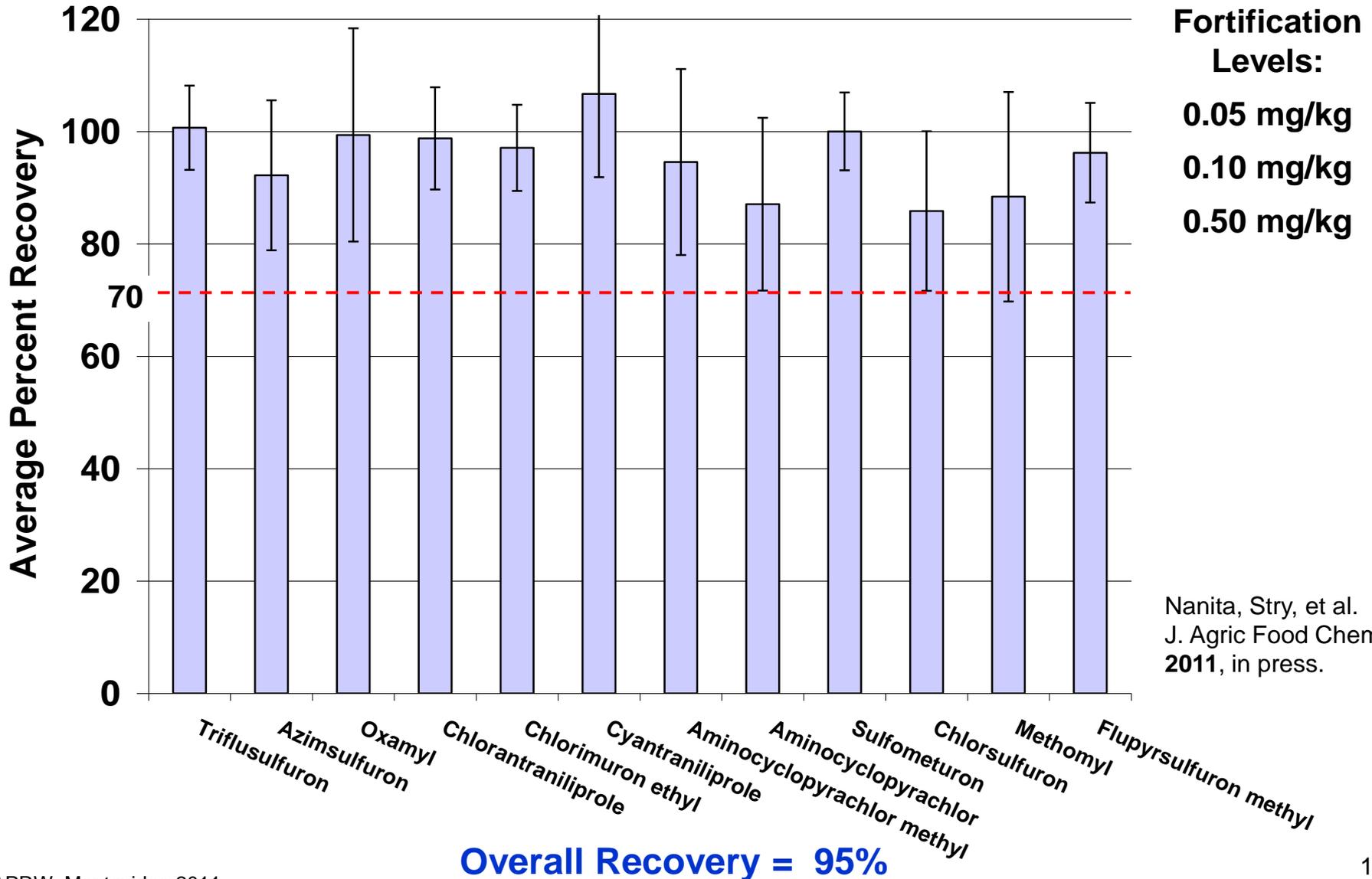
100 ng/mL
(5.0 mg/kg)

Analyte	Correlation, R	Linear Equation	Analyte	Correlation, R	Linear Equation
Triflurosulfuron methyl	0.9997	$y = 2.93 \times 10^4 (x) + 2470$	Methomyl	0.9993	$y = 2.86 \times 10^3 (x) + 1240$
Azimsulfuron	0.9999	$y = 1.32 \times 10^4 (x) + 2240$	Oxamyl	0.9997	$y = 1.61 \times 10^3 (x) + 1830$
Chlorimuron ethyl	1.0000	$y = 1.07 \times 10^4 (x) + 321$	Aminocyclopyrachlor	0.9999	$y = 7.91 \times 10^3 (x) + 2680$
Sulfometuron methyl	0.9999	$y = 2.07 \times 10^4 (x) + 1510$	Aminocyclopyrachlor methyl	0.9999	$y = 2.04 \times 10^4 (x) + 5070$
Chlorsulfuron	0.9999	$y = 3.45 \times 10^3 (x) + 1940$	Cyantraniliprole	0.9998	$y = 3.32 \times 10^3 (x) + 557$
Flupyrsulfuron methyl	1.0000	$y = 2.46 \times 10^4 (x) + 3260$	Chlorantraniliprole	0.9999	$y = 6.20 \times 10^3 (x) + 488$

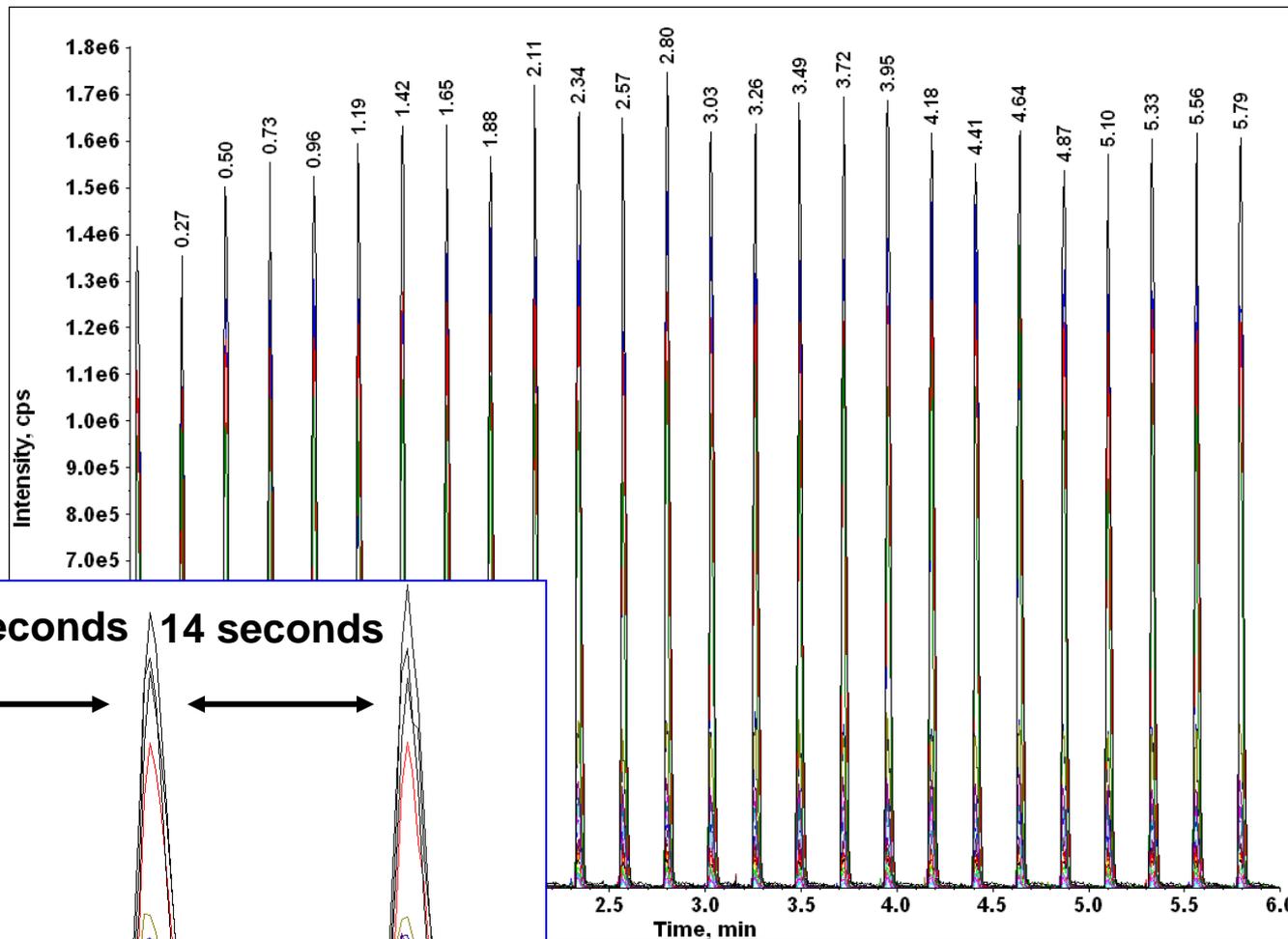
FED-FI-MS Method Validation Recoveries, Food of Plant Origin: Soybean Oil, Corn Meal, Pecan, Lemon

Error bars = 1 σ each direction

N = 28 samples total



FI-MS Throughput Potential



Throughput = 4.3 samples/min possible!
 Validated run time = 15 s, throughput = 1 sample/min

How fast is FED-FI-MS?

- Very fast!
- High throughput!

Sample homogenization is the main limiting step!

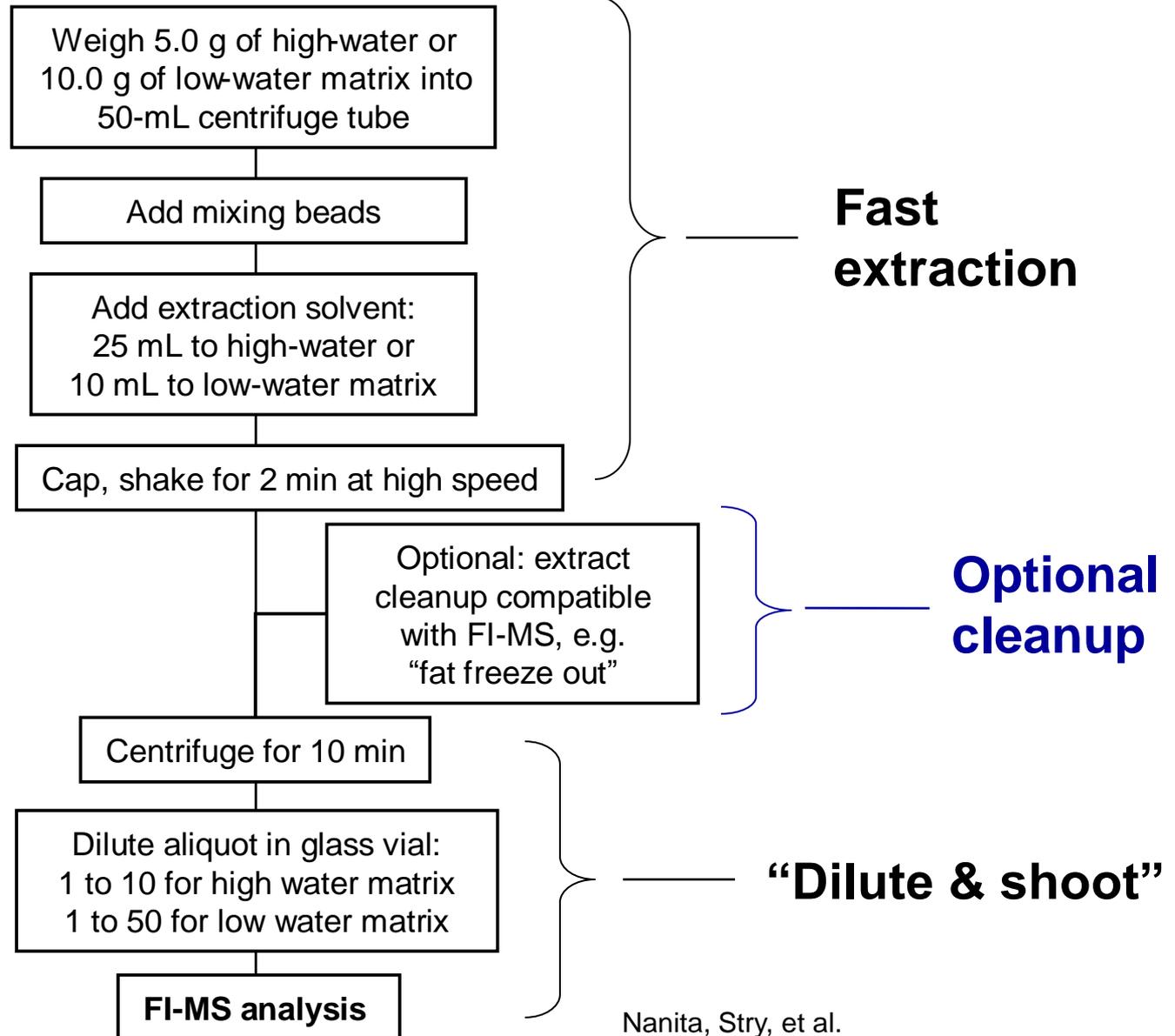


High-throughput and/or multiplex devices needed for sample communitation!

FED-FI-MS Project at DuPont: Most Recent Results – Year 2011



FED-FI-MS Prototype Multiresidue Method



Acetonitrile/Water Phase Separation “Salting Out”

Common
Salt Out

ACN/H₂O mixture $\xrightarrow{\text{NaCl}}$ ACN phase + H₂O phase

Problem for Flow Injection MS:

- NaCl boiling point > 1400 °C
- Analytes form (M+Na)⁺
- (M+H)⁺ signal suppressed

ESI Source
Temperature:
400-500°C



Solution: Ammonium Salts!

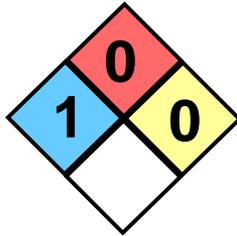
Decomposition Reactions at < 400°C
(ESI Source Temperature):

- $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl (s)} \rightarrow \text{NH}_3\uparrow + \text{HCl}\uparrow$
- $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4 \text{ (s)} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{CONH}_2\uparrow + \text{H}_2\text{O}\uparrow$
- $\text{(NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3 \text{ (s)} \rightarrow 2\text{NH}_3\uparrow + \text{H}_2\text{O}\uparrow + \text{CO}_2\uparrow$

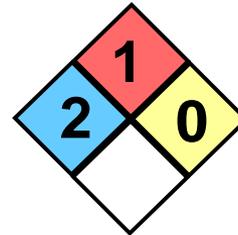
Acetonitrile/Water Salting Out: NH_4^+ Candidates

Most safe
✓

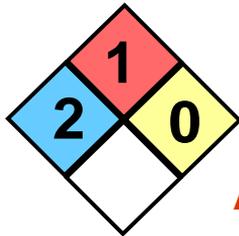
→ NH_4Cl
Ammonium Chloride



HCOONH_4 ← 2nd choice
Ammonium Formate ✓

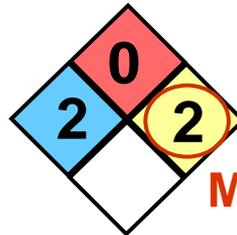


✗ $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$
Ammonium Sulfate



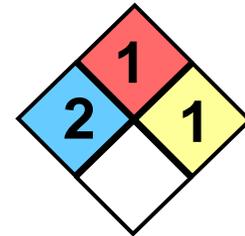
ACN/ H_2O
emulsion layer
observed

✗ $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$
Ammonium Carbonate



Most reactive

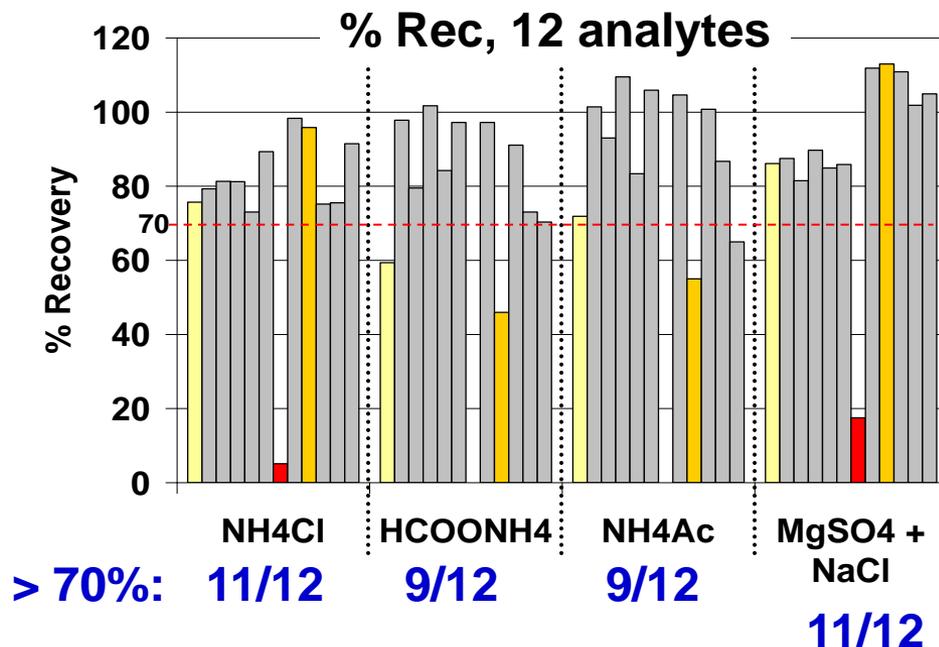
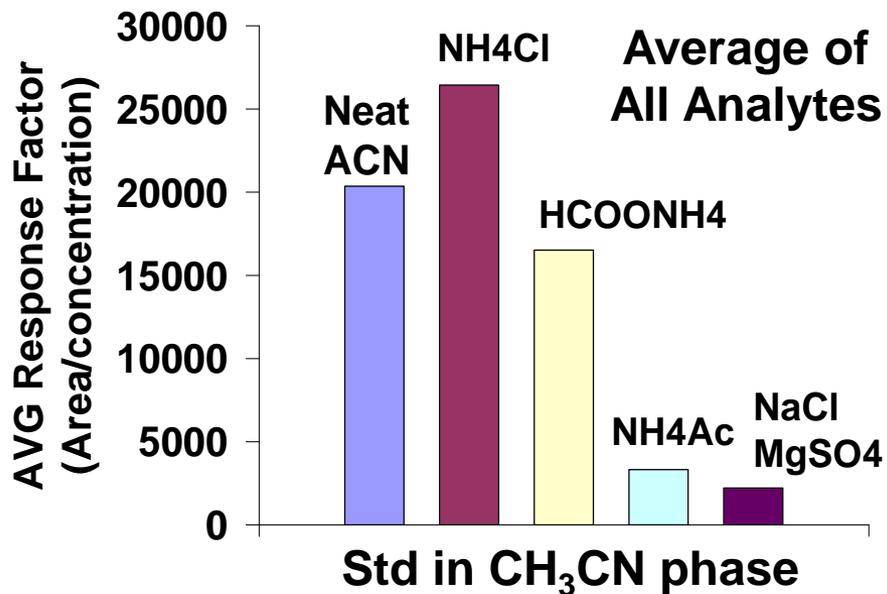
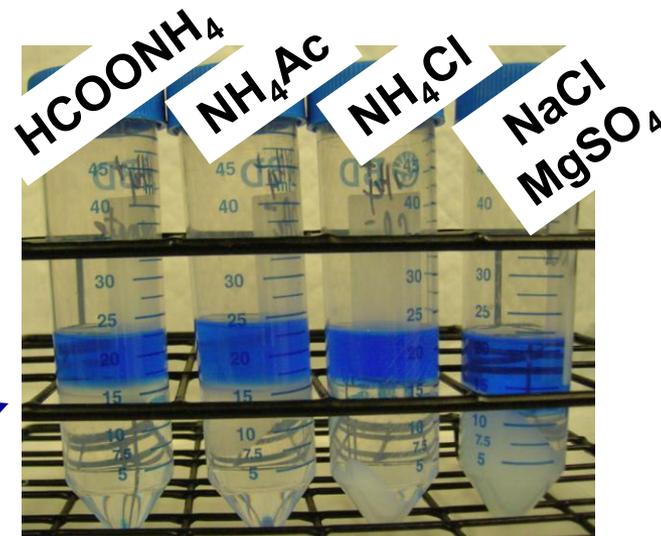
3rd choice ✓
 $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$
Ammonium Acetate



Acetonitrile/Water “Ammonium Salting Out”

- NH_4^+ Salt Out
- 10 mL of H_2O
- 10 mL of CH_3CN
- 5.0 g of NH_4^+ salt
- Shaken for 1 min
- Centrifuged for 5 min

CH_3CN phase
in blue
(dye added for picture)

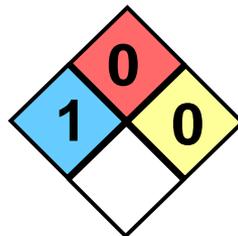


NH₄Cl Selected for Salting Out

Best choice: NH₄Cl ✓

- #1 in safety
- Good ACN/H₂O phase separation
- Best recoveries
- Best MS instrument response
- Affordable → 99.5% pure costs ~ \$60/kg
5g = \$0.30/sample

NH₄Cl
Ammonium Chloride



FED-FI-MS method with NH_4Cl salting out

Matrices tested

- Milk
- Eggs
- Blood plasma
- Urine

5 g NH_4Cl

9 mL H_2O

1 g sample

10 mL CH_3CN

Fast Extraction
1-min shaking by hand

Dilution factor = 5
(200 μL aliquot + 800 μL diluent)

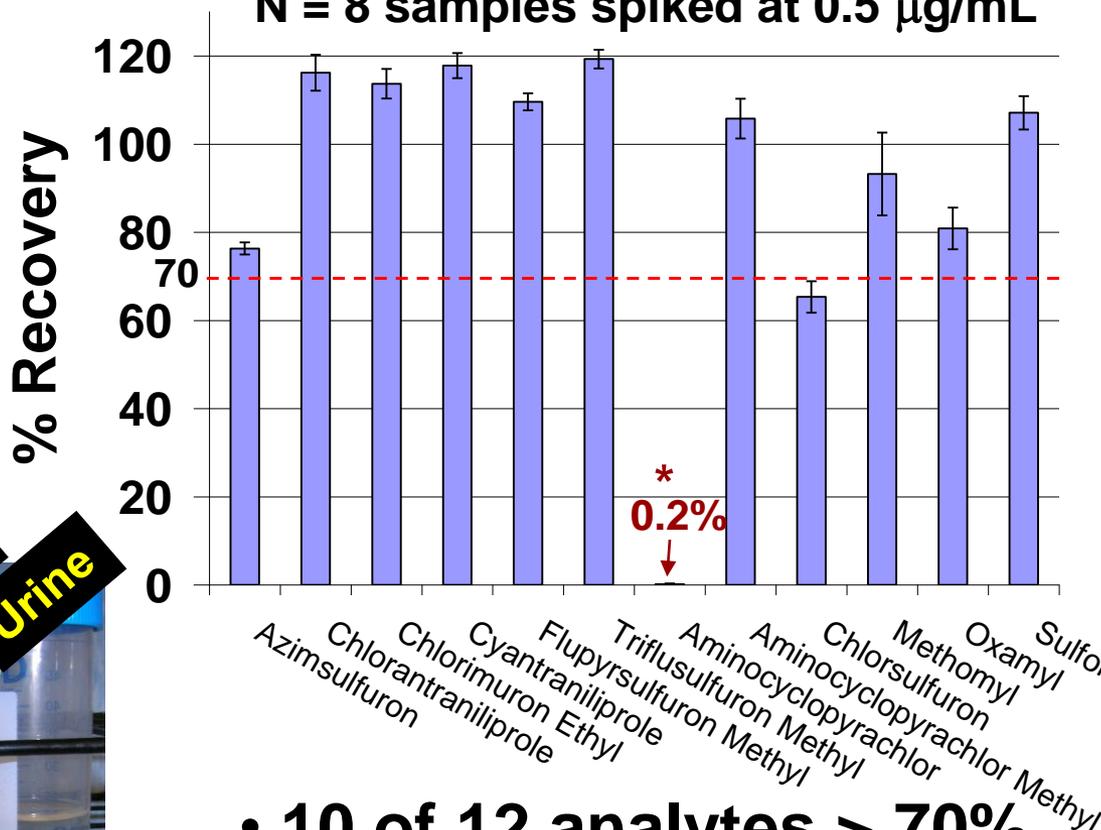
**Dilution of aliquot
from CH_3CN phase**

Instrument: AB Sciex 5000 QqQ MS/MS

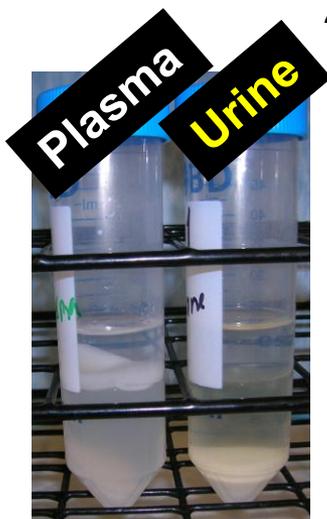
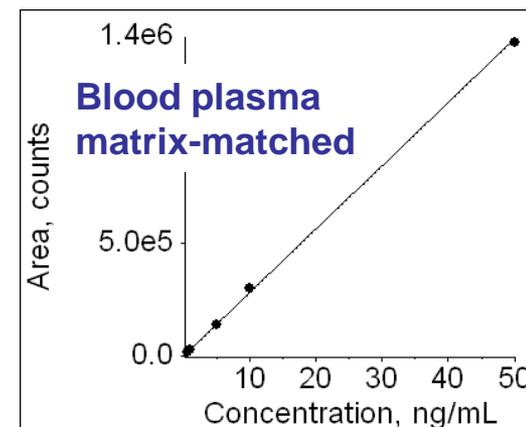
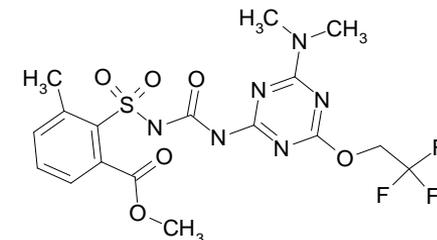
FED-FI-MS with NH₄Cl Salting Out

Body fluids: Rat blood plasma & urine

N = 8 samples spiked at 0.5 μg/mL

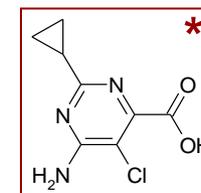


Example calibration:
Triflusulfuron methyl



- 10 of 12 analytes > 70%
- 11 of 12 analytes > 60%

Overall Recovery (11 of 12) = 100%

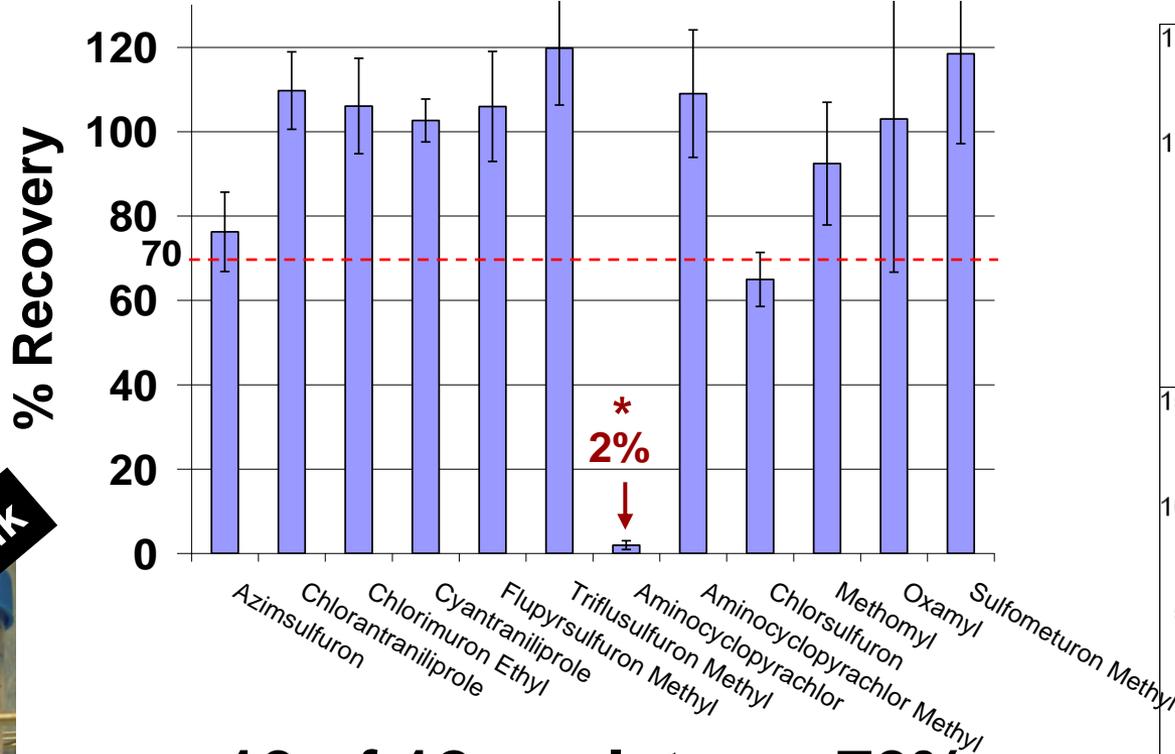


Remains in
aqueous
phase

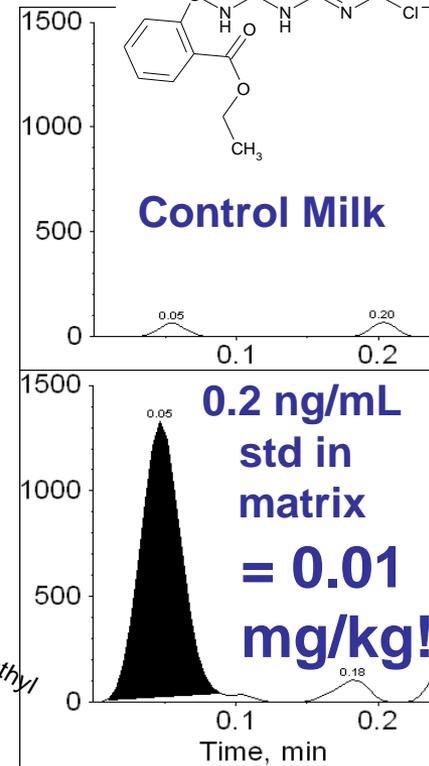
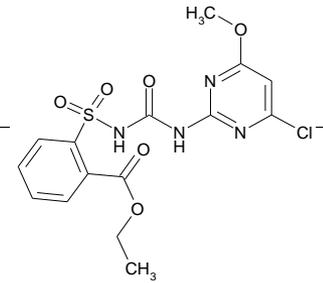
FED-FI-MS with NH₄Cl Salting Out

Food of animal origin: milk and eggs

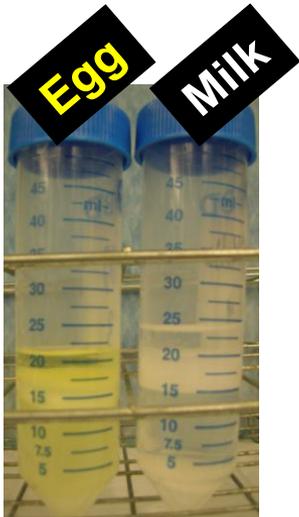
N = 8 samples spiked at 0.5 mg/kg



Example chromatograms:
Chlorimuron ethyl

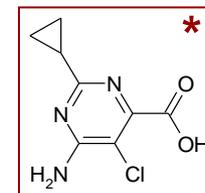


• LOD & LOQ to be determined



- 10 of 12 analytes > 70%
- 11 of 12 analytes > 60%

Overall Recovery (11 of 12) = 101%

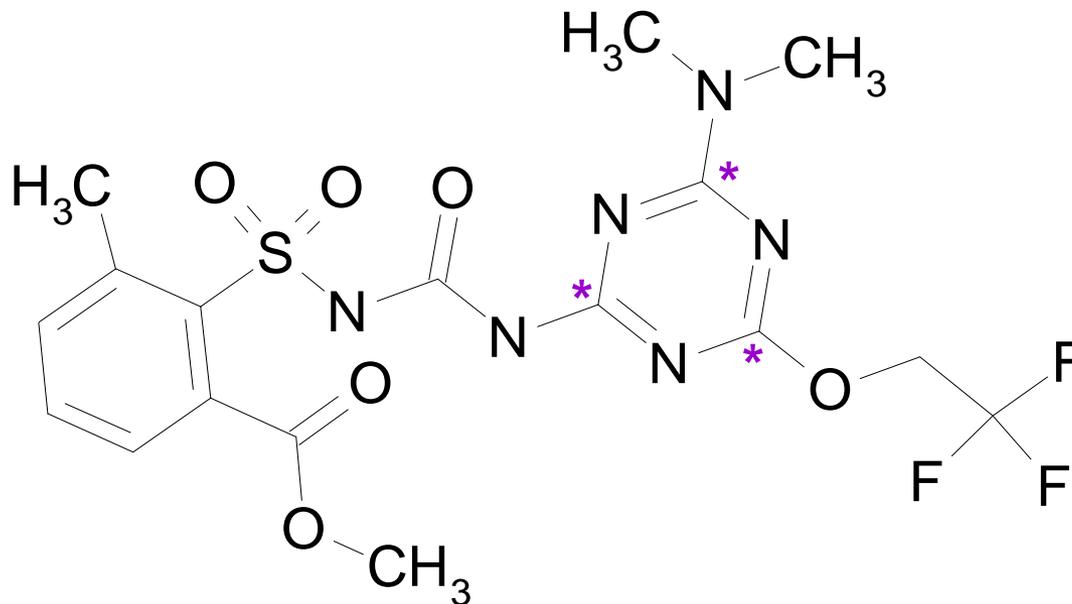


Remains in aqueous phase

Isotope-labeled standard

Just received at my laboratory!

Triflusulfuron Methyl



* Heavy isotopes (¹³C)

Molecular weight = 495 Da (3 Da from heavy isotopes)

New instrument acquisitions: High resolution mass spectrometers



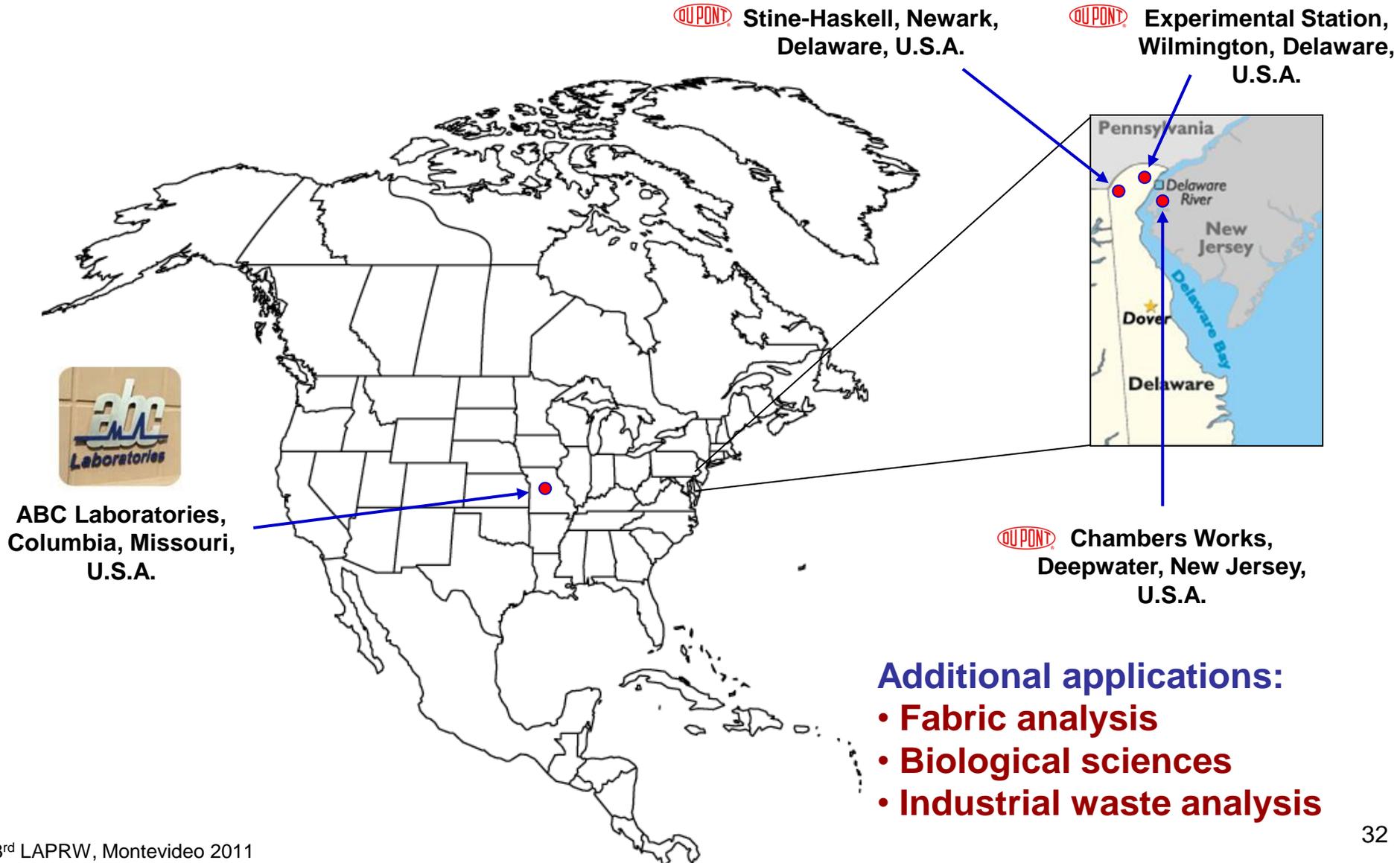
**Thermo
LTQ-Orbitrap Velos**



**Agilent
6538 Q-TOF**

**Just arrived at
DuPont Stine-Haskell Research Center!**

DuPont Flow Injection Mass Spectrometry Analytical Method Map as of May 2011



DuPont Chambers Works Deepwater, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Method by
Amber Wellman

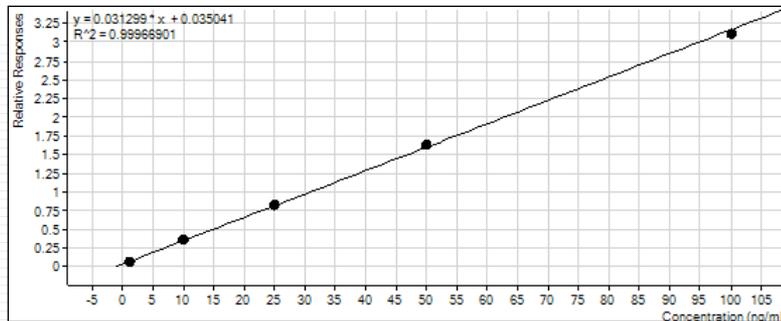
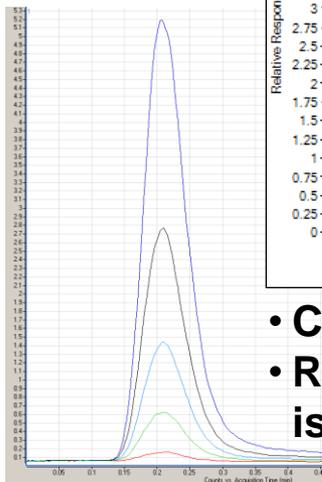
**APPLICATION:
Industrial
waste
analysis**

Trace-level analysis of industrial
chemical in complex waste samples

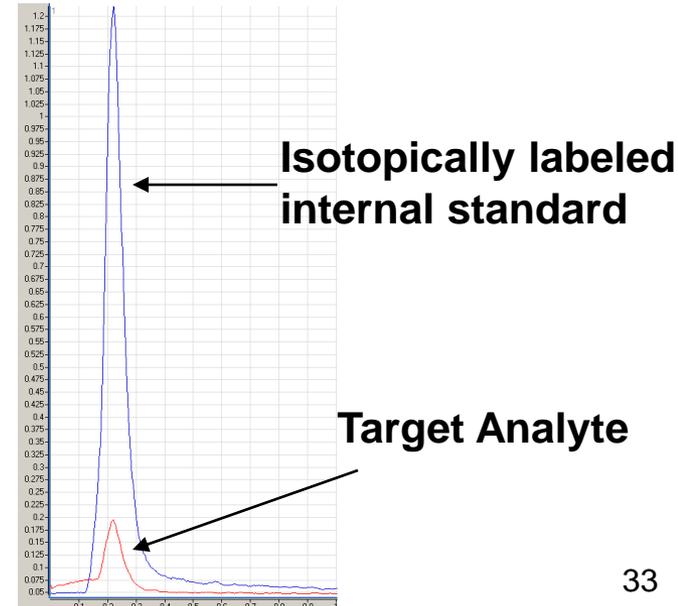
1. Liquid waste sample diluted
2. Direct FI/MS/MS analysis



- Instrument: **Agilent 6460 triple quadrupole**
- Method under development: **Rapid screening tool**
- Method LOQ needed: **20 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (ppm)**
- Analyte easily detected in diluted sample at **20 ng/mL (ppb) – 1000-fold dilution**



- Calibration range from 1-100 ng/mL
- Relative response calculated using isotopically labeled internal standard



DuPont Experimental Station Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.A.

Method by
Michael Gagnon

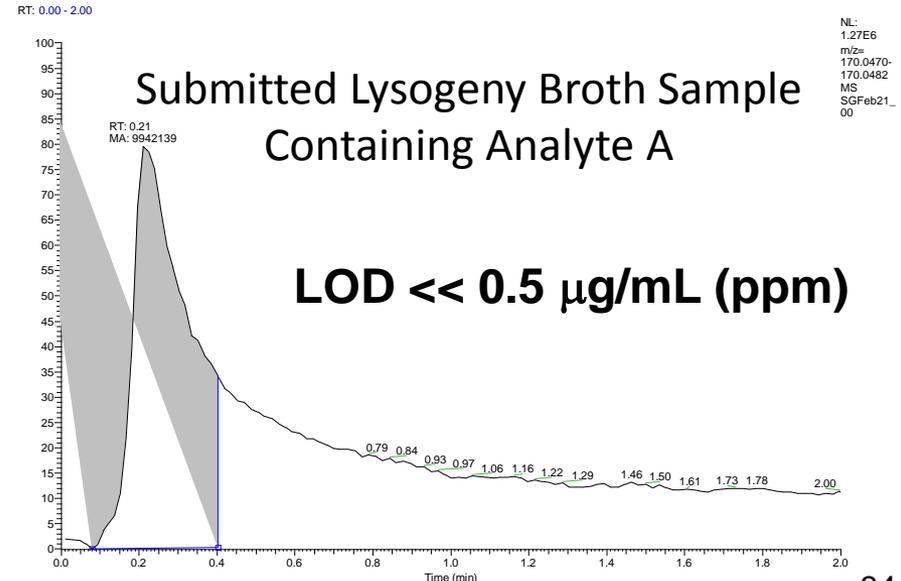
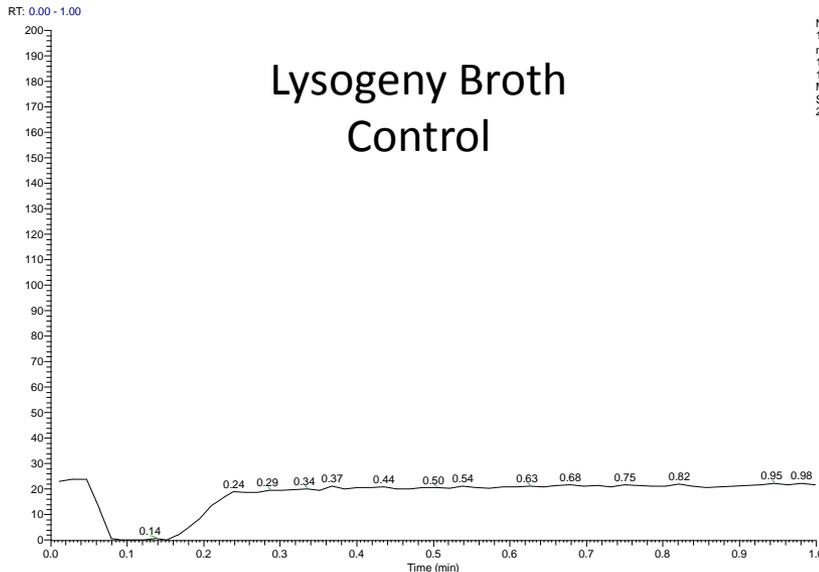
APPLICATION:
Biological
sciences,
genomics

Trace-level screening of small molecule in complex bacteria culture and lysogeny broth media

- Direct high-resolution FI-MS analysis



- Instrument: Thermo Orbitrap Exactive
- Qualitative screening
- Method fully implemented
- Accurate mass range = 0.0012 m/z units = 1.2 mDa



ABC Laboratories Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A.

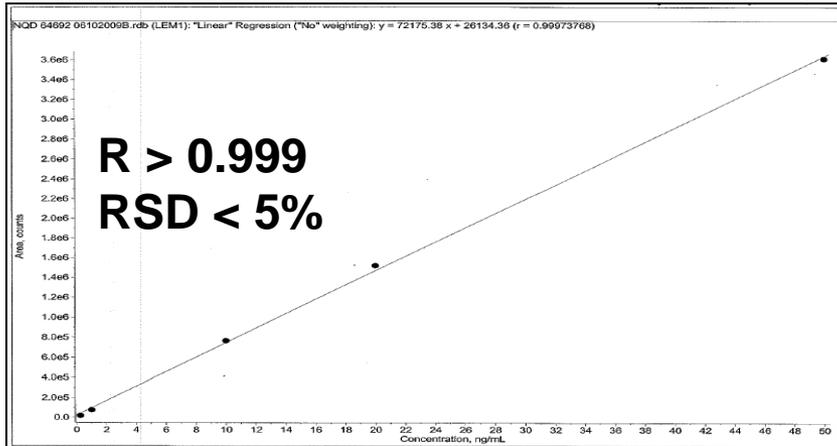
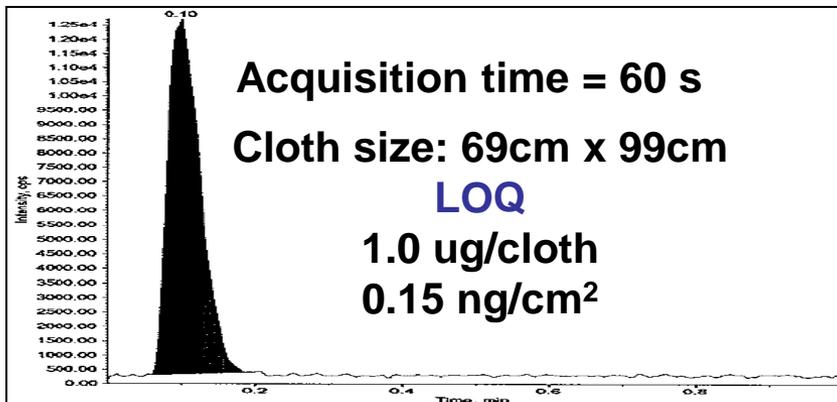
Method by
Lisa Swaim

Turf Transferable Residue Study for
Experimental Fungicide

1. Cotton fabric extracted with methanol
2. Direct FI/MS/MS analysis of extract



**APPLICATION:
Agrochemical
R&D**



**AB/Sciex API-5000 QqQ MS
Method Validation Results**

Avg Recovery LOQ = 109%
Avg Recovery Overall = 106%
Minimum = 100%
Maximum = 113%
RSD = 4.3%

15 samples, single analysis

Cotton Fabric Samples from the Field
> 300 samples analyzed
Field fortifications avg rec = 99% ± 5%

FED-FI-MS Summary

Advantages

- Increased throughput
- 15 s data acquisition time.

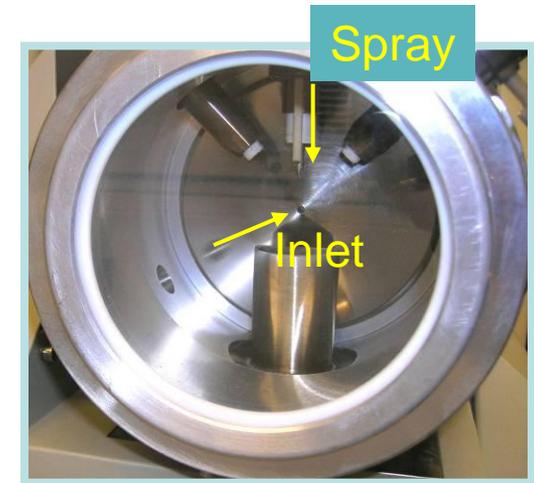
- Less solvent
- ~ 0.4 L/1000 sample injections.
 - No liquid waste.

Simpler methods

- Eliminates the need for columns, and other HPLC components.

Requirements

- Matrix-matched standards
- Highly-sensitive and rugged MS instrument
- **Highly-selective fragmentation**
- Avoid non-volatile salts like those containing Na⁺, K⁺



Matrices successfully tested thus far:

“SPE-FI-MS”

Anal. Chem. **2009**, 81, 3134

- **Corn grain**
- **Water (LOQ = 0.1 µg/L)**
- **Lemon**
- **Pecan**

“Dilute & Shoot”

JAFIC **2011**, in press

- **Soybean oil**
- **Corn meal**
- **Lemon**
- **Pecan**

“NH₄Cl Salting Out”

Unpublished

- **Plasma**
- **Urine**
- **Milk**
- **Eggs**

LOQ
10 ppb?

“Customized FI-MS methods”

Unpublished

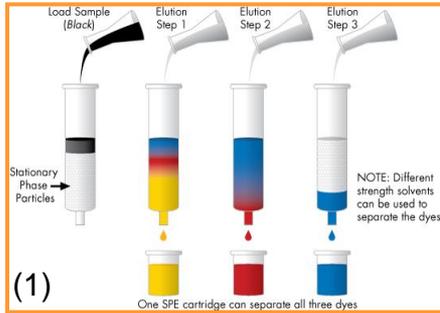
- **Bacteria culture**
- **Industrial waste**
- **Cotton fabric**

Evolution of Trace-Level (ppb) Quantitative Multiresidue Analysis

Liquid-Liquid Extractions



SPE



QuEChERS d-SPE



"Dilute & Shoot"



Larger

Smaller

1950's – 1980s

1980s – 2000s

2010 →

GC/FID
GC/MS
LC/UV

LC/MS

FI-MS

Slower

Faster

Analytical Toolbox Today

All technologies are available and useful!

Our research focus:
High-throughput, efficient, green methods

FED-FI-MS

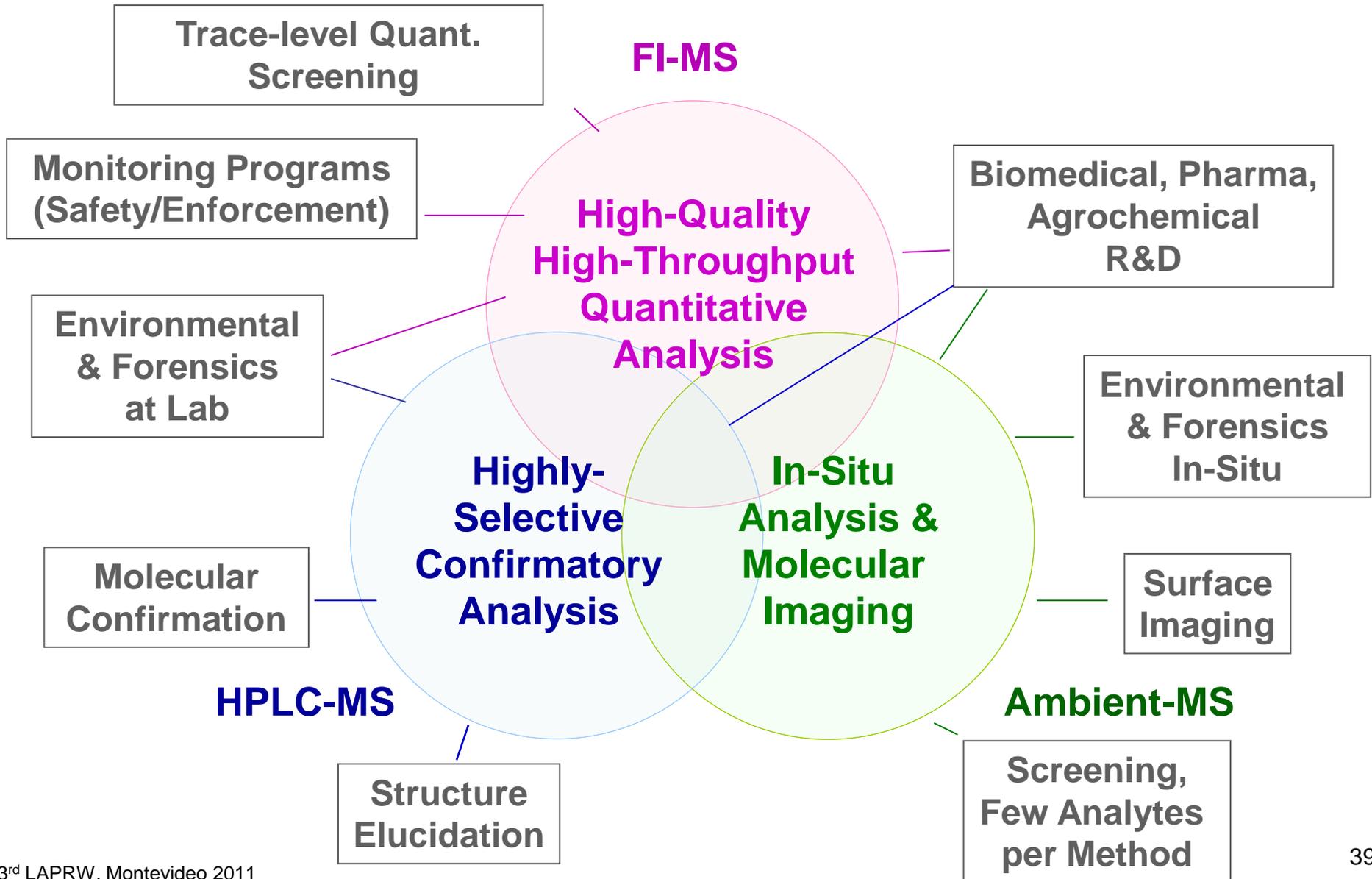


GC/FID
GC/MS
LC/UV

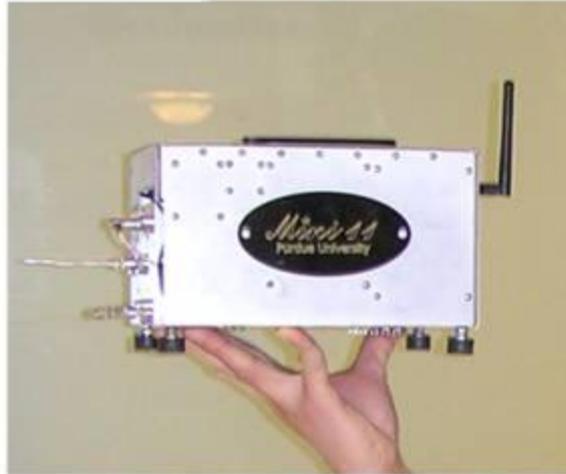
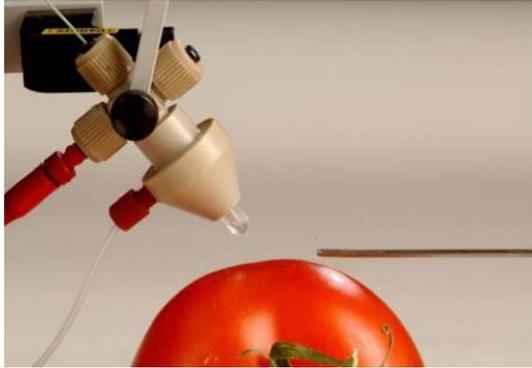
LC/MS

FI-MS

Applications of Sample Introduction Technology in MS: Sergio Nanita's Perspective 2011-2020



The Future of Pesticide Residue Analysis...



Ambient ionization

+

Portable MS

=

In-situ analysis!

- **DESI**
- **Paper Spray Ioniz.**
- **Many other methods**

- **4 kilograms**
- **Battery operated**

- **Pre-harvest**
- **At supermarket**
- **At home?**

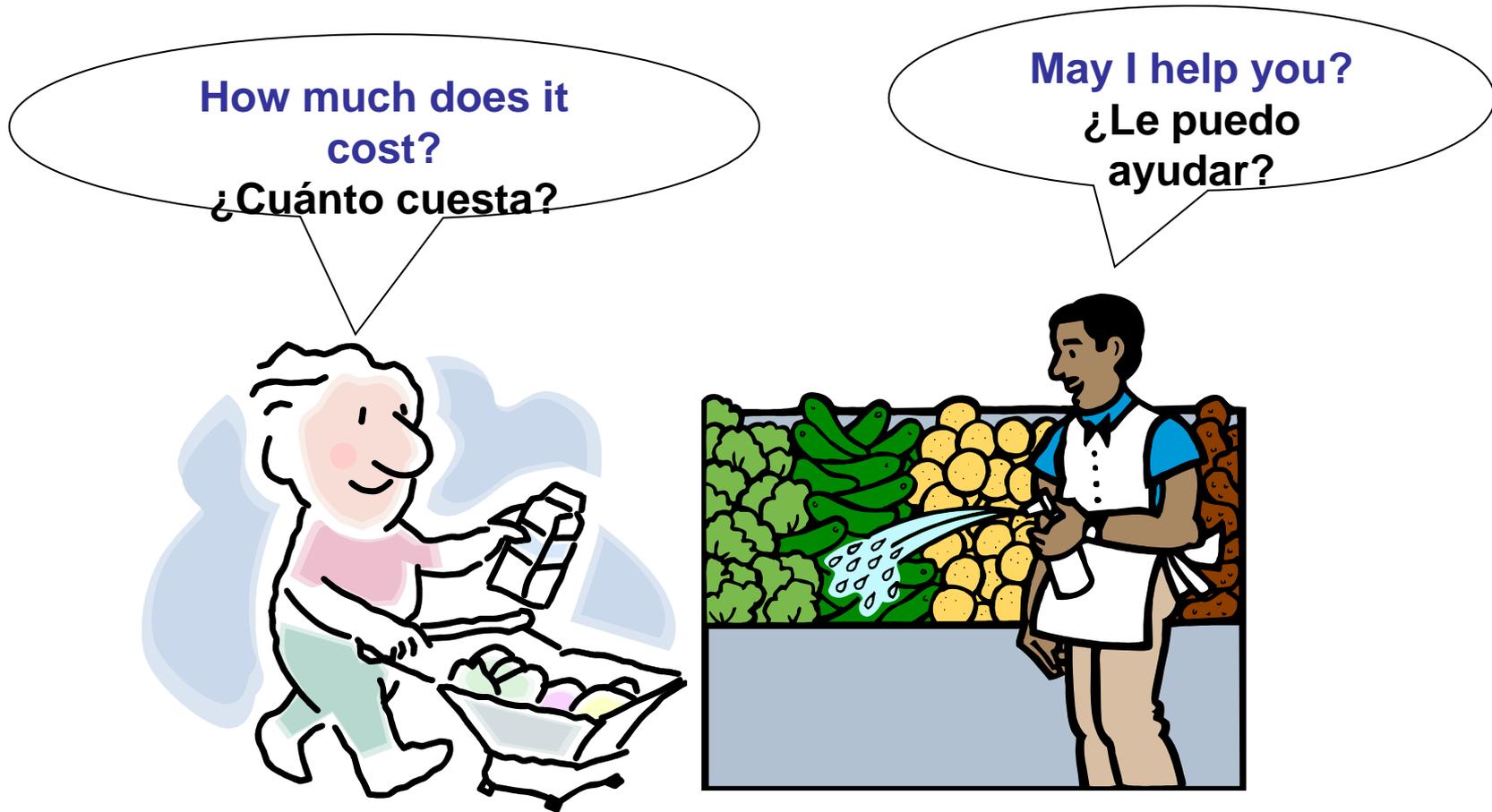
- **Not science fiction anymore**
- **Many academic research groups engineering miniature MS instruments**
- **Highlighted in this slide – work of Prof. R. Graham Cooks' group, Purdue Univ.**

<http://aston.chem.purdue.edu>

R.G. Cooks et al. *Faraday Discussions* , 2011 , 149, 247 -267

Conversation at the supermarket today

Conversación en el supermercado de hoy

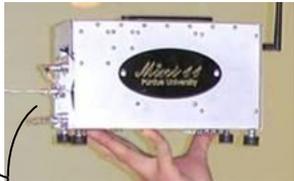


Conversation at the supermarket of the future

Conversación en el supermercado del futuro

Please bring the portable MS
Por favor traiga el MS portátil

May I help you?
¿Le puedo
ayudar?



Acknowledgements

FED-FI-MS Research Collaborators

DuPont Stine-Haskell Research Center (Core Team)

Anne Pentz
Joseph McClory
James Stry
John May

**DuPont
Chambers Works**
Amber Wellman

**DuPont
Experimental
Station**
Michael Gagnon

ABC Laboratories
Lisa Swaim
Bob Plastridge
Del Koch
Clark Chickering
Emily Vogl

DuPont Management Sponsors

Teri Gray (2009-2010)
Peter Stchur (2010-present)



The miracles of science
Los milagros de la ciencia

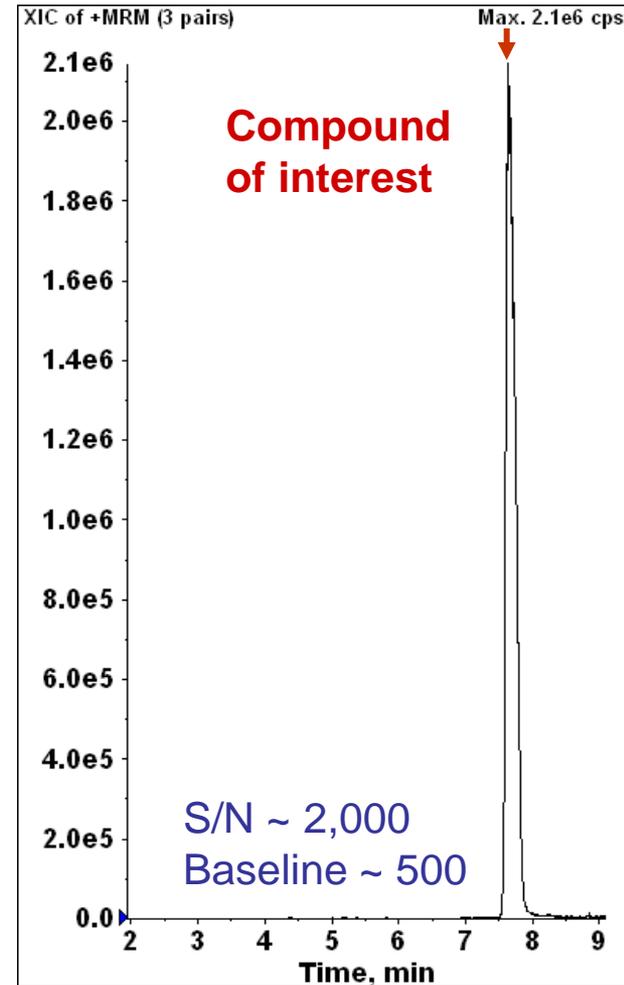
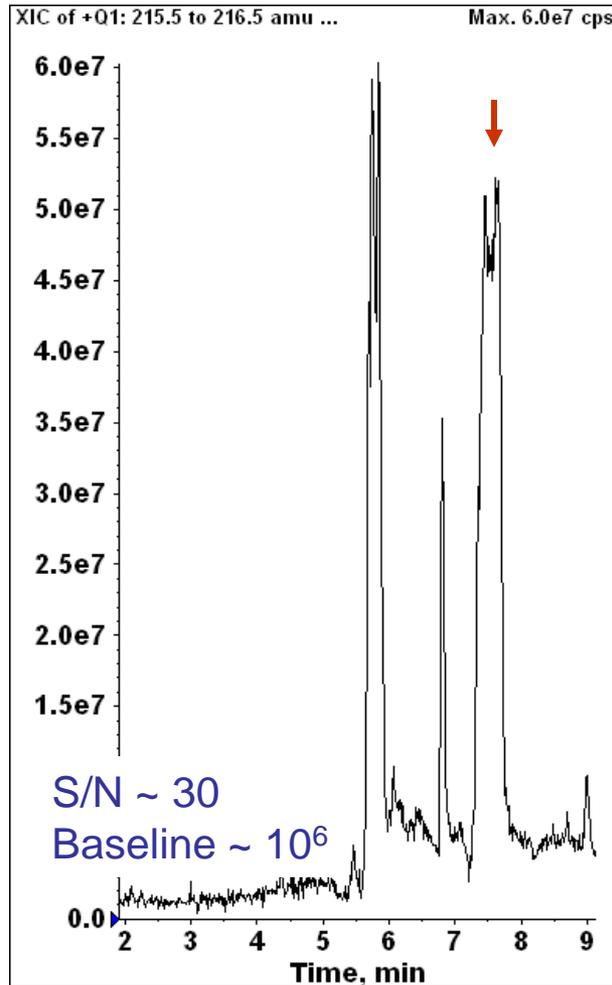
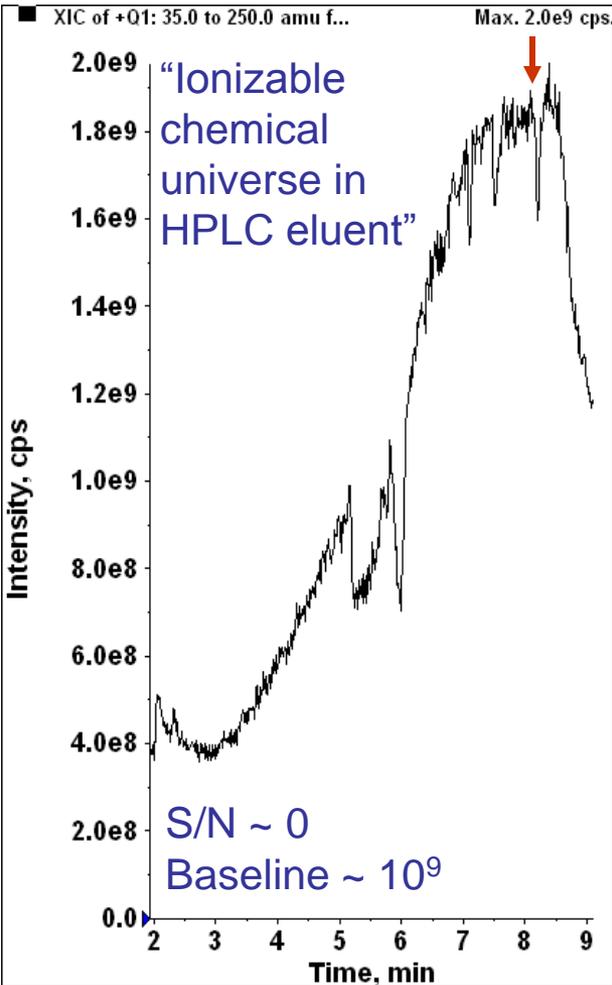
EXTRA SLIDES

Selectivity for Quantitative Analysis

Mass Spectrum (Full MS Mode)

Single m/z Data (SIM Mode)

Single Fragment Data (MS/MS Mode)



FED-FI-MS Blind Test

Sample Name	Analyte Peak Name	Calculated Concentration (ng/mL)	Analyte Added (mg/kg)	Analyte Reported (mg/kg)	Accuracy: Passed, Failed, or Percent %
Pecan #10	Triflurosulfuron methyl	24.3	1.200	1.22	102
Pecan #10	Azimsulfuron	No Peak	n.a	< LOD	Passed
Pecan #10	Chlorimuron ethyl	0.947	0.065	0.047	72
Pecan #10	Flupyrasulfuron methyl	26.9	1.500	1.35	90
Pecan #10	Sulfometuron methyl	No Peak	n.a	< LOD	Passed
Pecan #10	Chlorsulfuron	No Peak	n.a	< LOD	Passed
Pecan #10	Aminocyclopyrachlor	8.76	0.600	0.44	73
Pecan #10	Aminocyclopyrachlor methyl	1.48	0.080	0.074	93
Pecan #10	Methomyl	1.74	0.080	0.087	109
Pecan #10	Oxamyl	No Peak	n.a	< LOD	Passed
Pecan #10	Cyantraniliprole	No Peak	n.a	< LOD	Passed
Pecan #10	Chlorantraniliprole	No Peak	n.a	< LOD	Passed

n.a. = Analyte not added

LOQ = 0.05 mg/kg
LOD ~ 0.02 mg/kg

Summary Results for 20 Samples (Lemon & Pecan)

FED-FI-MS passed for all 12 analytes

- Zero false positive
- Zero false negative
- 240 accurate results (20 samples x 12 analytes)
- Average accuracy for all compounds detected = 88%

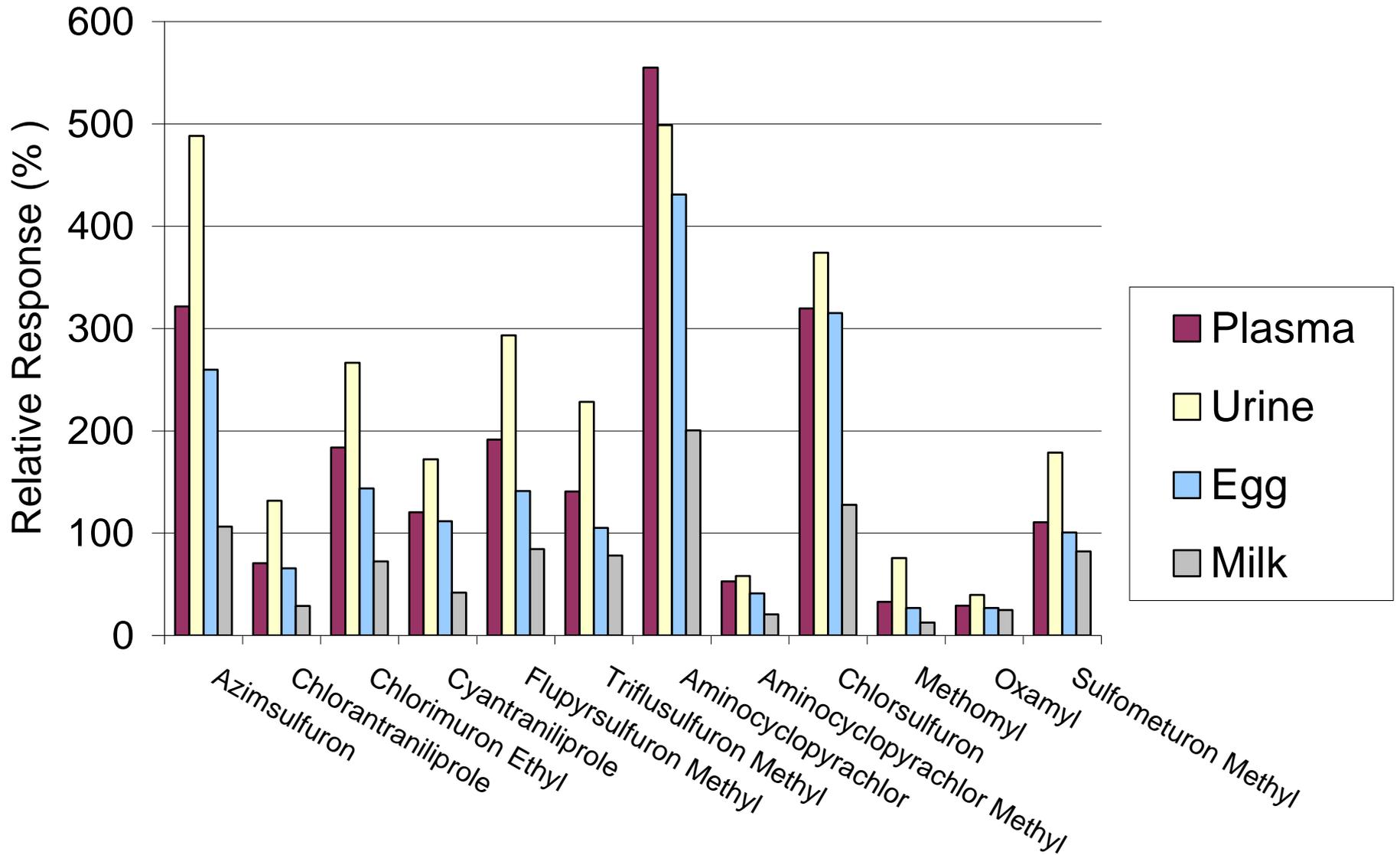
Matrix Effects in FED-FI-MS

Table 4. Matrix Effects as a Function of Dilution Factors in the FED-FI-MS Method

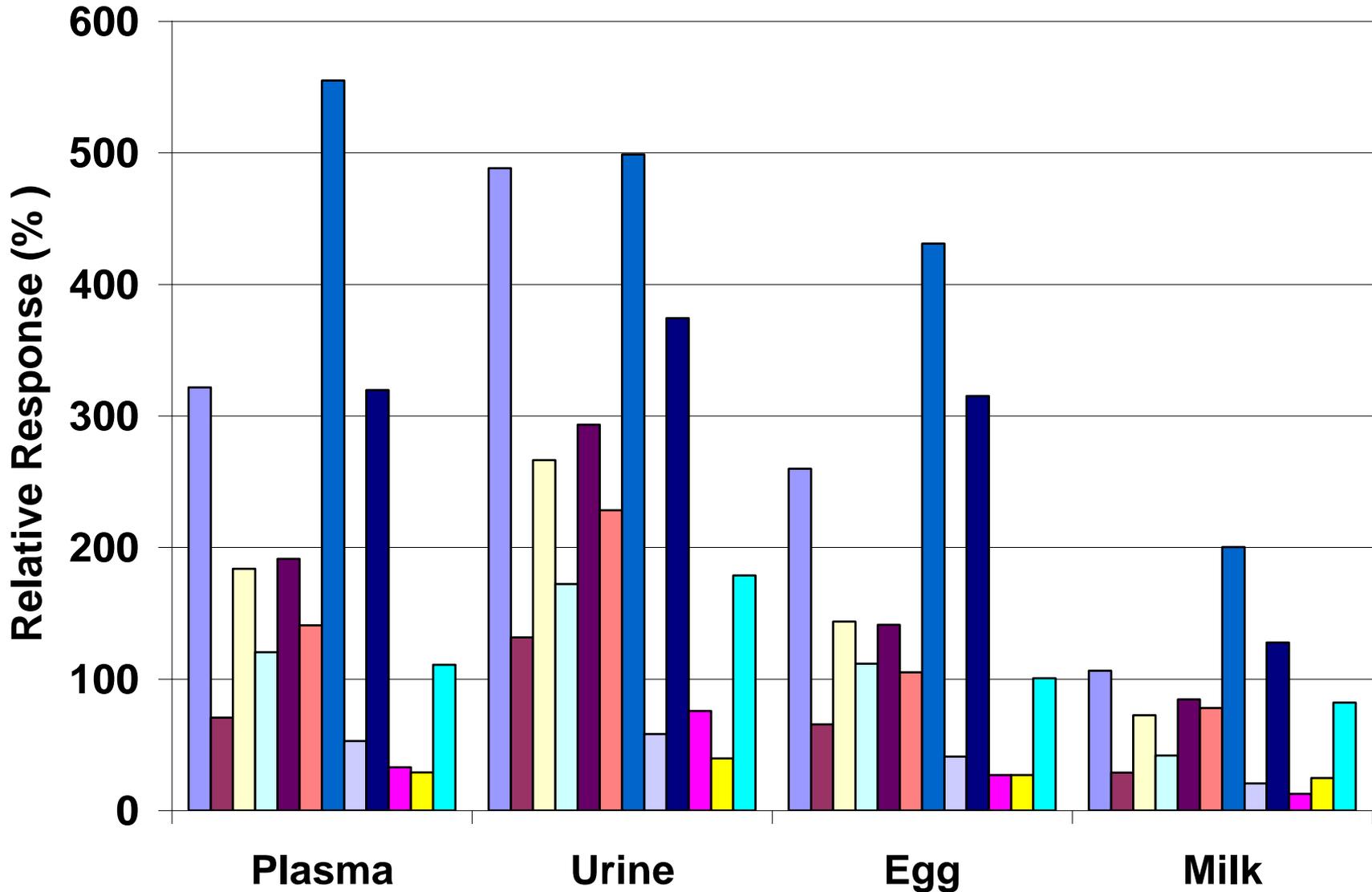
dilution factor ^b	matrix equivalent ^c (mg/mL)	relative response ^a (%)											
		triflurosulfuron		chlorimuron		sulfometuron		flupyrsulfuron		aminocyclopyrachlor		cyantrani-	
		methyl	azimsulfuron	ethyl	methyl	chlorsulfuron	methyl	pyrachlor	methyl	methomyl	oxamyl	liprole	liprole
Lemon Matrix													
2000	0.1	87	92	89	88	80	91	93	145	191	119	79	85
1000	0.2	94	101	90	87	86	101	110	156	305	163	83	85
200	1.0	71	90	78	61	70	72	106	151	290	93	49	54
100	2.0	73	95	81	69	80	77	112	167	344	109	44	52
20	10	37	56	45	36	45	39	61	91	186	65	22	23
10	20	20	34	24	20	29	21	35	53	117	33	10	14
Pecan Matrix													
10000	0.1	96	103	99	92	98	98	108	98	128	135	84	93
5000	0.2	103	107	107	96	101	73	97	105	131	128	85	98
1000	1.0	91	91	89	84	83	55	101	119	117	123	58	80
500	2.0	76	88	72	71	77	48	104	112	156	118	45	63
100	10	43	59	48	43	47	52	88	75	108	95	18	25
50	20	40	55	40	40	46	38	86	69	98	81	12	20
Corn Meal Matrix													
10000	0.1	104	102	113	103	98	78	110	88	85	82	96	101
5000	0.2	97	95	111	97	95	67	103	76	87	68	89	95
1000	1.0	80	81	90	78	83	60	91	86	112	62	72	82
500	2.0	73	78	79	70	71	53	86	87	148	65	63	66
100	10	44	59	52	43	56	51	91	75	150	50	33	35
50	20	36	49	44	36	44	37	70	73	161	41	27	28
Soybean Oil Matrix													
10000	0.1	106	96	101	107	95	82	85	96	101	97	89	96
5000	0.2	104	101	108	97	95	89	80	102	108	91	84	98
1000	1.0	134	118	124	122	103	63	87	132	148	122	86	111
500	2.0	117	97	107	113	92	61	77	141	148	124	70	88
100	10	110	82	86	126	73	85	60	95	122	155	48	59
50	20	91	69	67	120	58	82	52	99	132	149	37	46

^a Results expressed relative to the response obtained for a neat standard; bold text = 80–120% (matrix effect not significant); results <80% show significant matrix suppression; results >120% show significant matrix enhancement. ^b Dilution factor applied to the original extract prior to analysis. ^c Matrix equivalent is a measurement of how much matrix is contained in the injected sample, here defined as ME = (SW/EV) ÷ DF, where ME = matrix equivalent (mg/mL), SW = sample weight (mg), EV = extract volume (mL), and DF = dilution factor prior to injection.

Standards in Matrix Response as Percent (%) of Response of Standards in ACN Phase from Neat Solvent NH4Cl Salt Out



Standards in Matrix Response as Percent (%) of Response of Standards in ACN Phase from Neat Solvent NH4Cl Salt Out



SPE-FI-MS: Method Validated for Corn, Lemon, Pecan, and Water

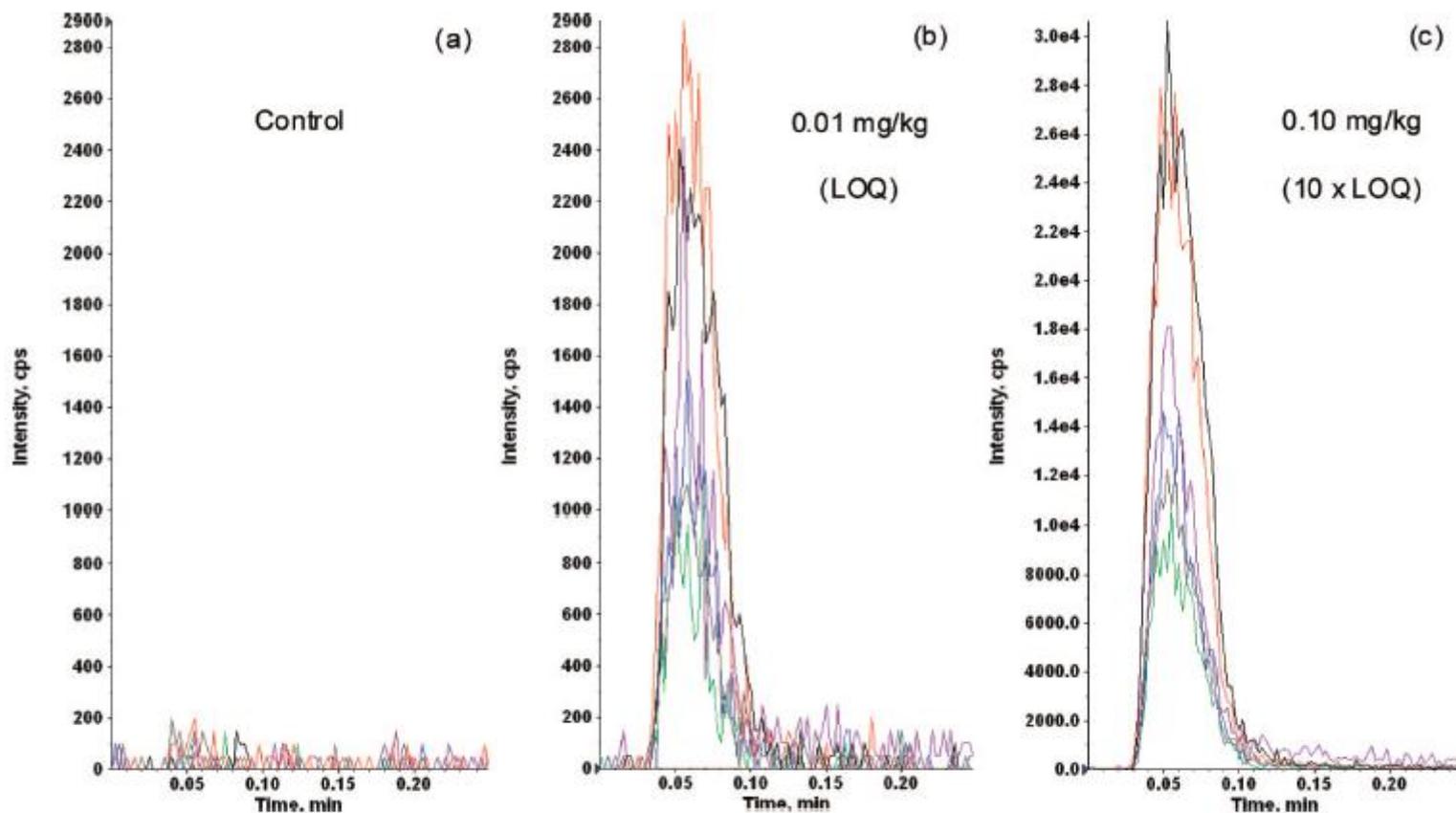


Figure 5. Multianalyte flow injection MS/MS ion chromatograms³⁶ obtained for corn samples during method validation: (a) control, (b) 0.01 mg/kg fortification, and (c) 0.10 mg/kg fortification. The relative response observed for the analytes was as follows: sulfometuron-methyl \approx triflusulfuron-methyl > methomyl > rimsulfuron > oxamyl > flupyr-sulfuron.