

Quality Control of Radiopharmaceuticals

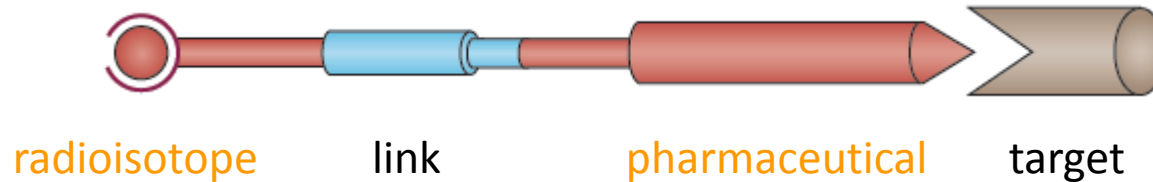
吳世彥

迴旋加速器中心運轉員



Radiopharmaceuticals (RPs)

- = radioisotopes + pharmaceutical



- essential for nuclear medicine practice
- 95% for diagnosis
- quality control to ensure the radiological and pharmaceutical safety and efficacy in accordance with the specifications laid-down

Quality Control of radiopharmaceuticals

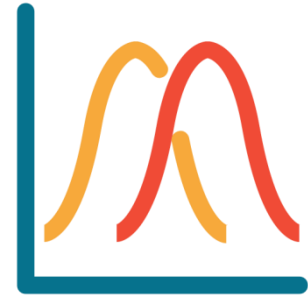
■ *Physicochemical Tests*



physical characteristic



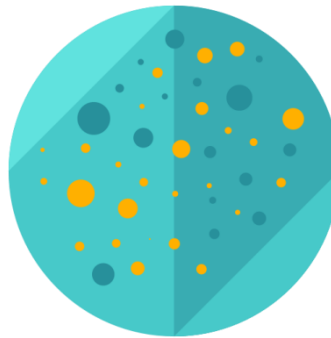
pH and ionic strength



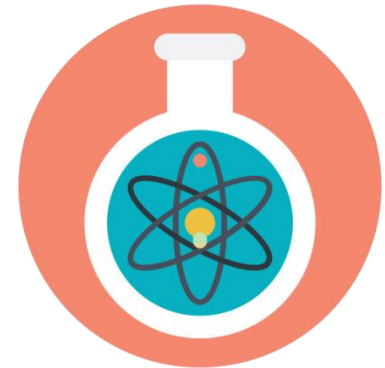
chemical purity



radiochemical purity



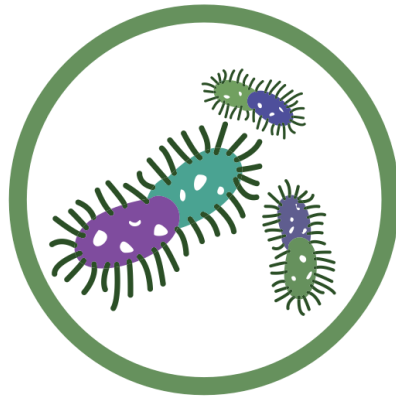
specific activity



radionuclidic purity

Quality Control of radiopharmaceuticals

- *Biological Tests*



Sterility



apyrogenicity

physical characteristic

Color/appearance



Most radiotracers

colorless/clear



^{99m}Tc -sulfur colloid

amber/slight turbid



^{99m}Tc -microsphere

yellowish/turbid



Any change from the original colour and clarity

→ changes in the RPs that would alter its biologic behaviour.

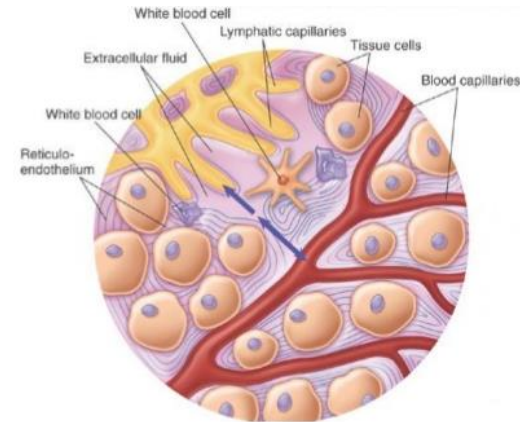


Particle size of RPs suitable for a given purpose

- ^{99m}Tc sulfur colloid
 - # **0.1-1 μm** for liver and spleen imaging
 - # larger aggregated particles



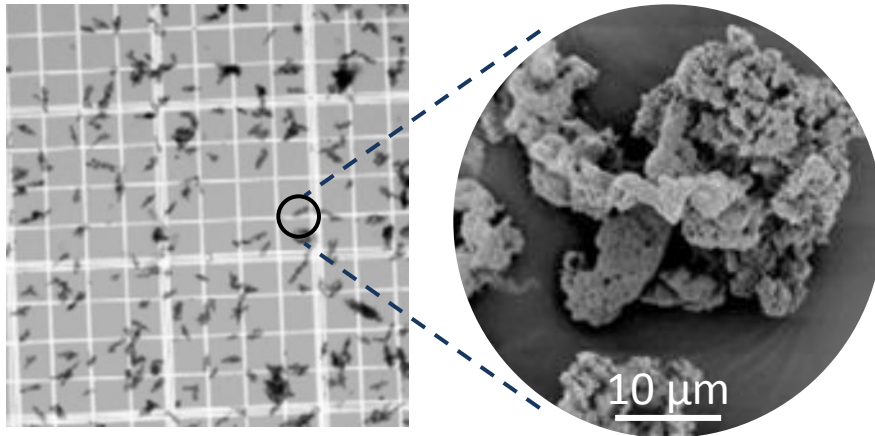
deposit in the lungs



reticuloendothelial system
in the liver

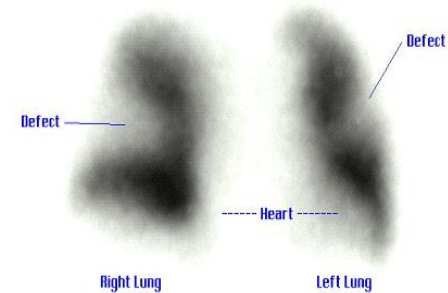
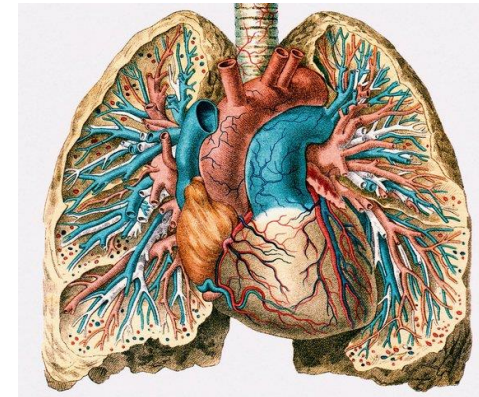
Particle size of RPs suitable for a given purpose

■ ^{99m}Tc -MAA



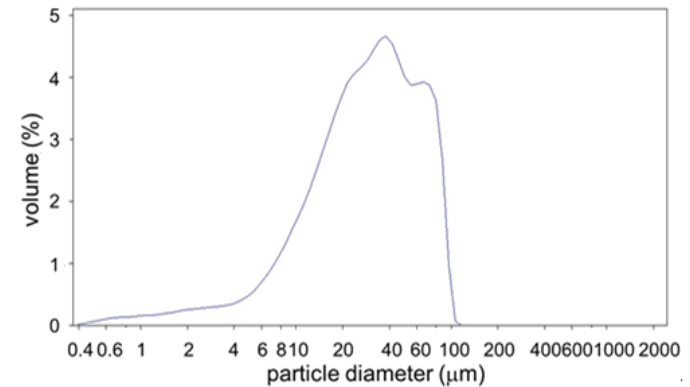
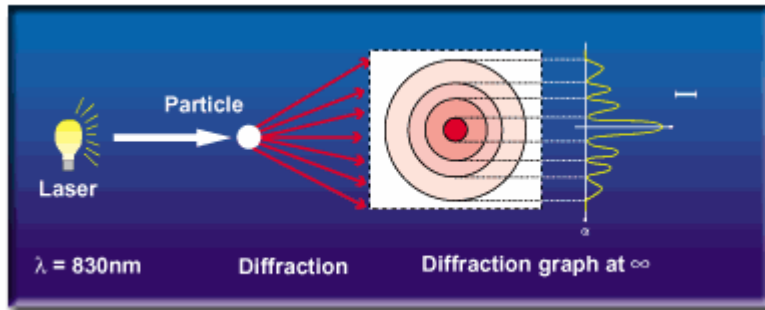
10-90 μm

^{99m}Tc -macroaggregated albumin

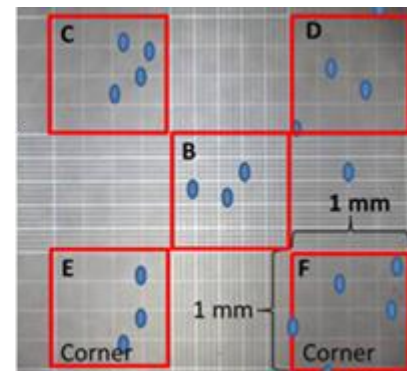
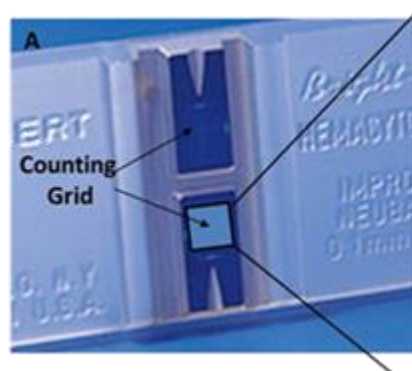


Particle size analysis

- laser diffraction particle size analyzer



- microscope



pH and ionic strength

pH

- an appropriate pH for stability and integrity of RPs

$$\text{pH} = \log \frac{1}{[\text{H}^+]} = -\log[\text{H}^+]$$

- # using a **pH meter** or **pH paper** to measure regularly
- # ideal pH: **7.4** (pH of blood)
- # the range of pH that can be tolerated : **5.5-8**
because of the high **buffer** capacity of the **blood**



pH

- Na*I solution: maintain **alkaline** to prevent sublimation of iodine



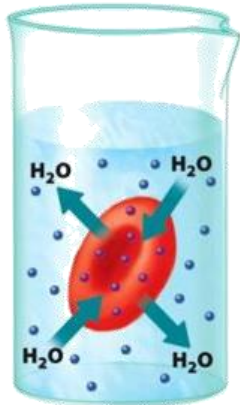
- $^{111}\text{InCl}_3$: maintain **acidic** to avoid the formation of $^{111}\text{In}(\text{OH})_3$



Isotonicity and ionic strength

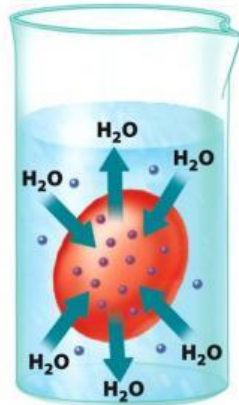
- Appropriate ionic strength is important
 - # suitable for human administration
 - # for providing both stability and physiologic compatibility of RPs
 - # obtained by adding a proper **acid, alkali or electrolyte**

isotonic



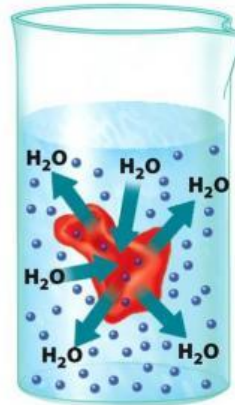
No net loss or gain

hypotonic



Net water gain
Cell swells

hypertonic



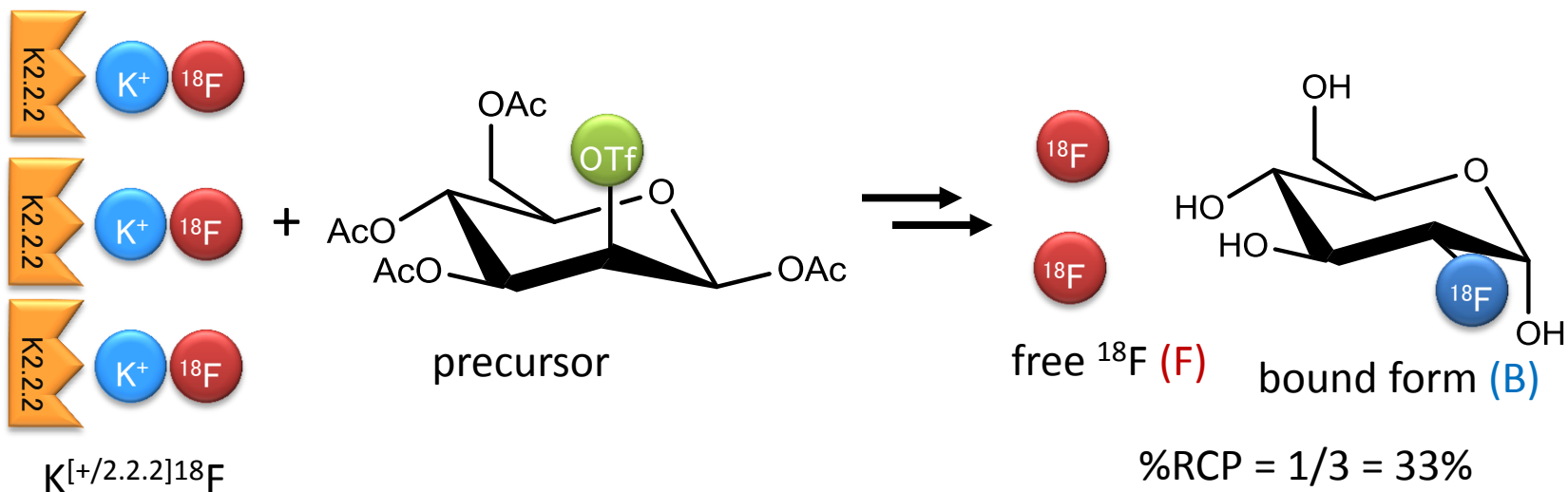
Net water loss
Cell shrinks



An osmometer for initial validation study and for periodic re-check

radiochemical purity

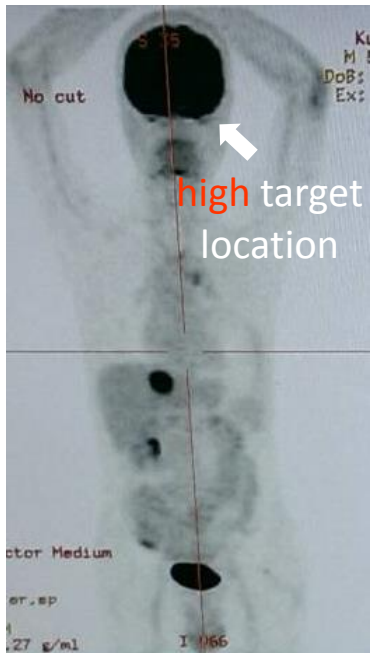
Radiochemical purity (RCP)



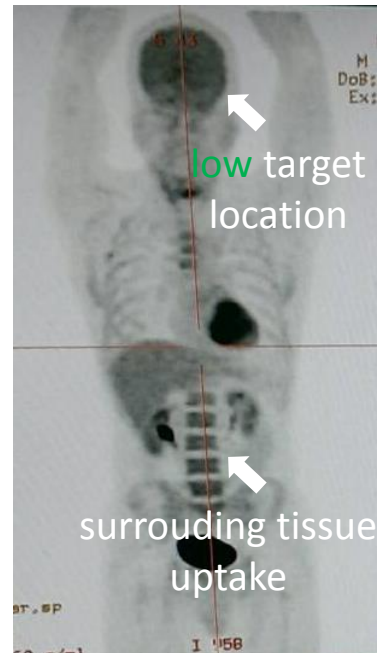
$$\%RCP = \frac{\text{radioactivity of (B)}}{\text{radioactivity of (B) + (F)}} \times 100\%$$

Radiochemical purity (RCP)

high RCP



low RCP



Radiotracer with low RCP



- low target location
- high surrounding tissue uptake



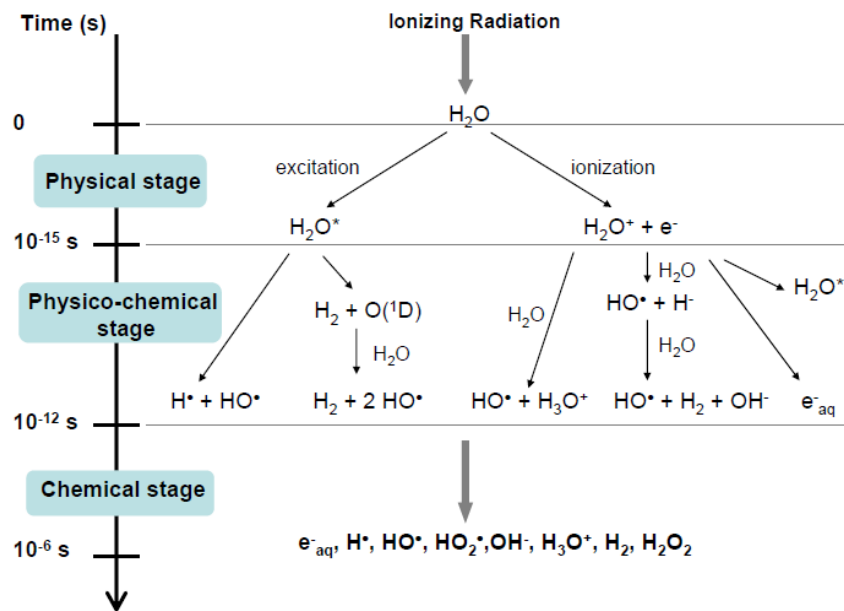
- poor-quality image
- unnecessary radiation dose to the patient

Sources of radiochemical impurities

- free radionuclide
- temperature, pH or light
- the presence of an oxidizing or reducing agent
- radiolysis

Radiation degradation (radiolysis)

■ Radiation degradation (radiolysis)



1. Two hydroxyl radical can combine to form hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) that is converted back to water by the organelle called the peroxisome:



hydrogen peroxide

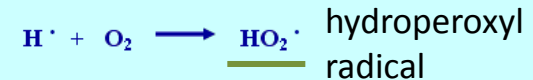
2. The hydrogen radical and the hydroxyl radical can combine to form water:



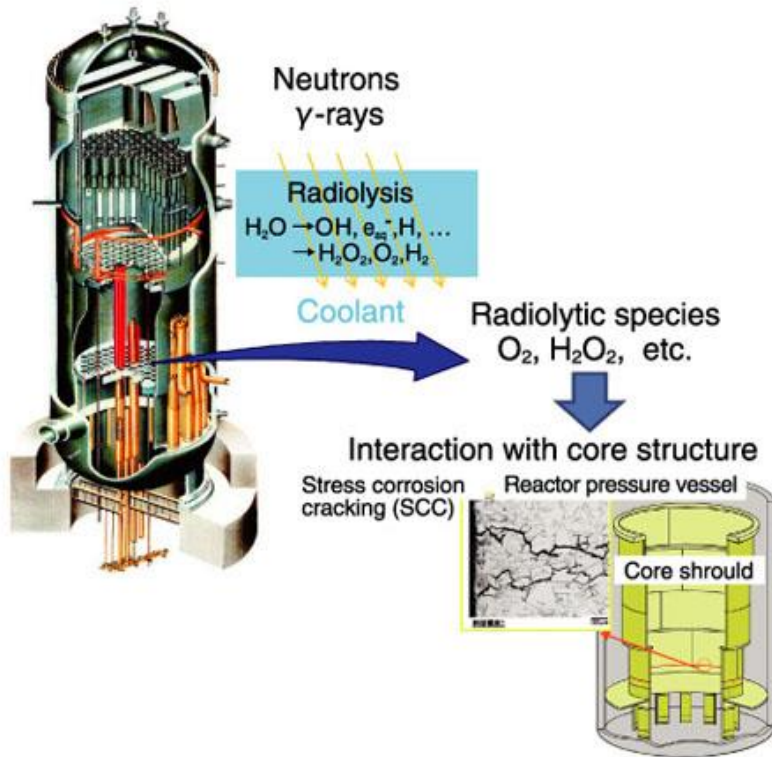
3. The hydrogen ion and hydroxyl ion can combine to form water:



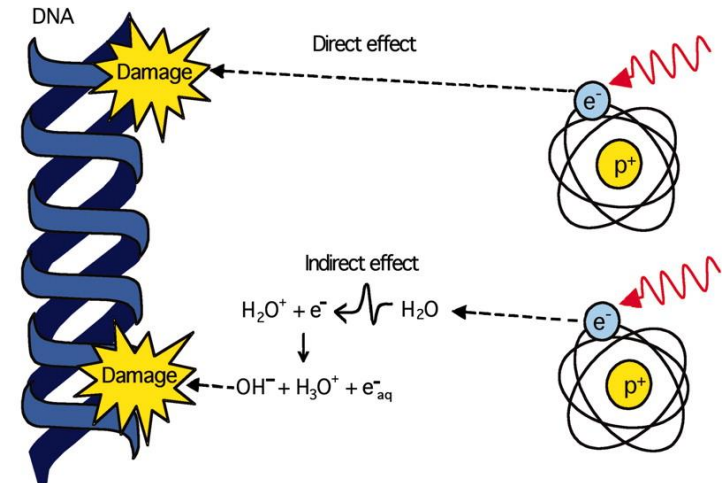
4. The hydrogen free radical can combine with molecular oxygen to form a highly reactive hydroperoxyl radical which continues the chain of radical damage to biomolecules:



damage by radiolysis



Water radiolysis and corrosion in a reactor core



Ionizing radiation induces direct DNA damage and indirect damage through the radiolysis of water.

Radiochemical purity (RCP)

- Radiation degradation depends on
 - # the **specific activity** of the radioactive material
 - # the **type and energy** of the emitted radiation
 - alpha > beta > gamma**
 - # the **half-life** of the radionuclide

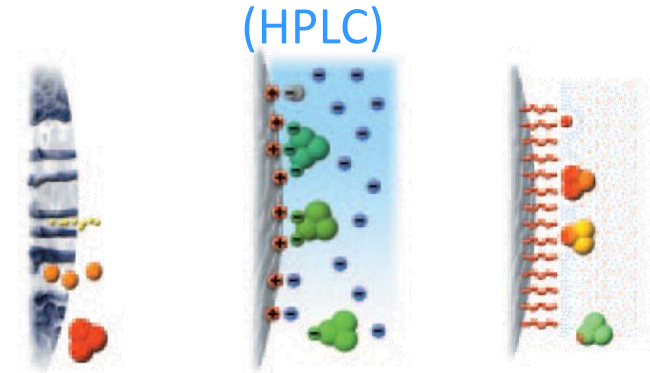
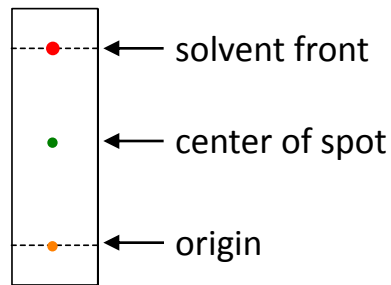
- To maintain the stability of RPs
 - # lower specific activity
 - # by adding ascorbic acid or $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$
 - # stored in the dark under refrigeration.

Radiochemical purity (RCP)

■ Analytical methods for RCP

thin layer chromatography (TLC)

high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)

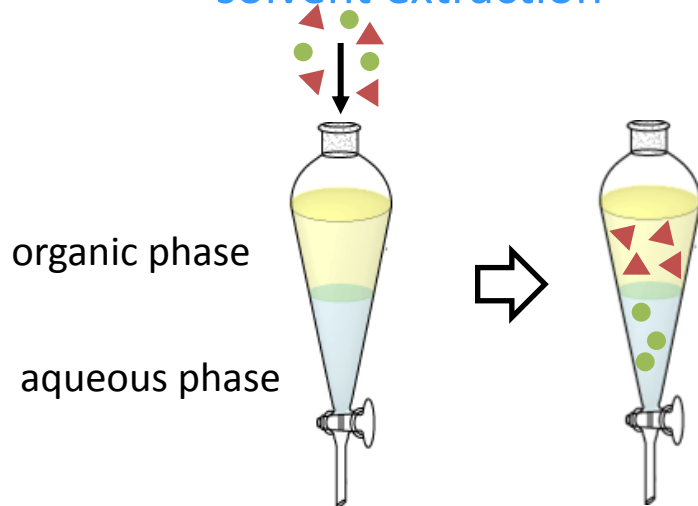


gel filtration

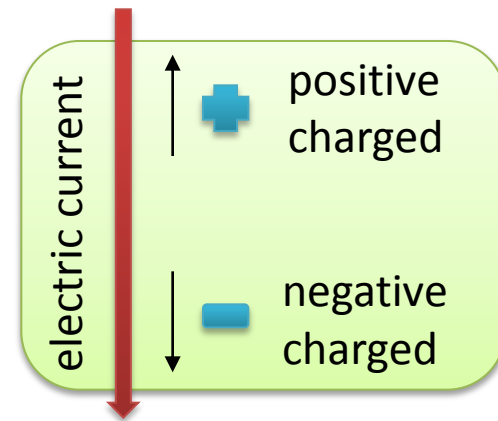
ion exchange

reverse phase

solvent extraction

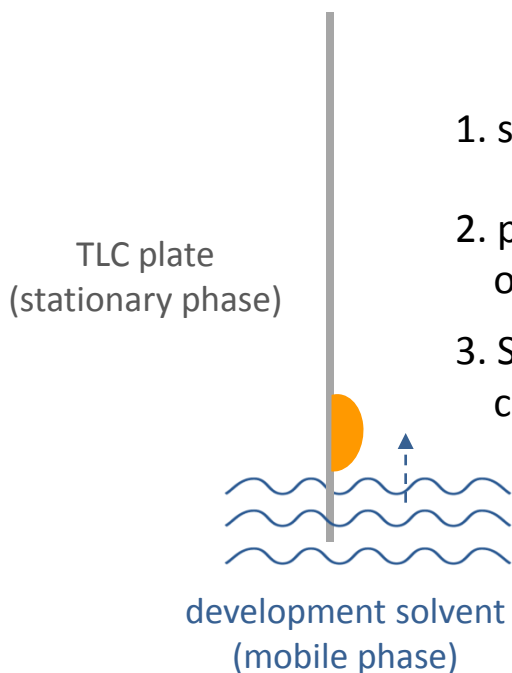


gel electrophoresis

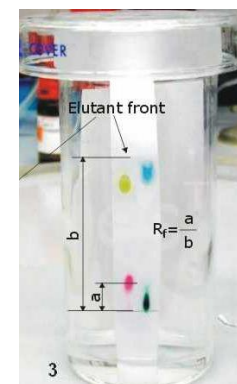
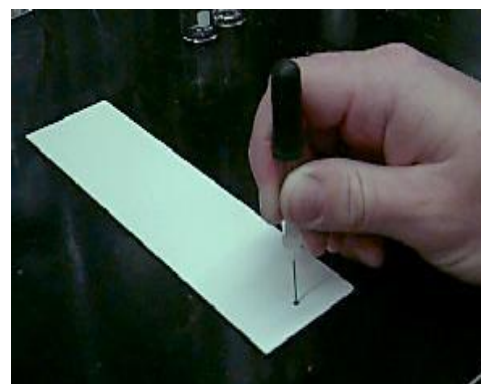
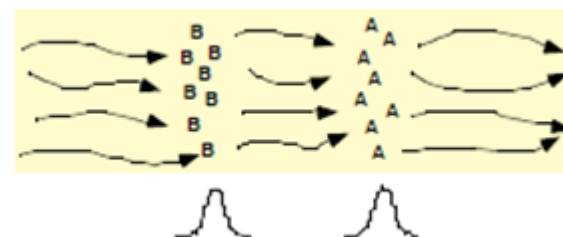


Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

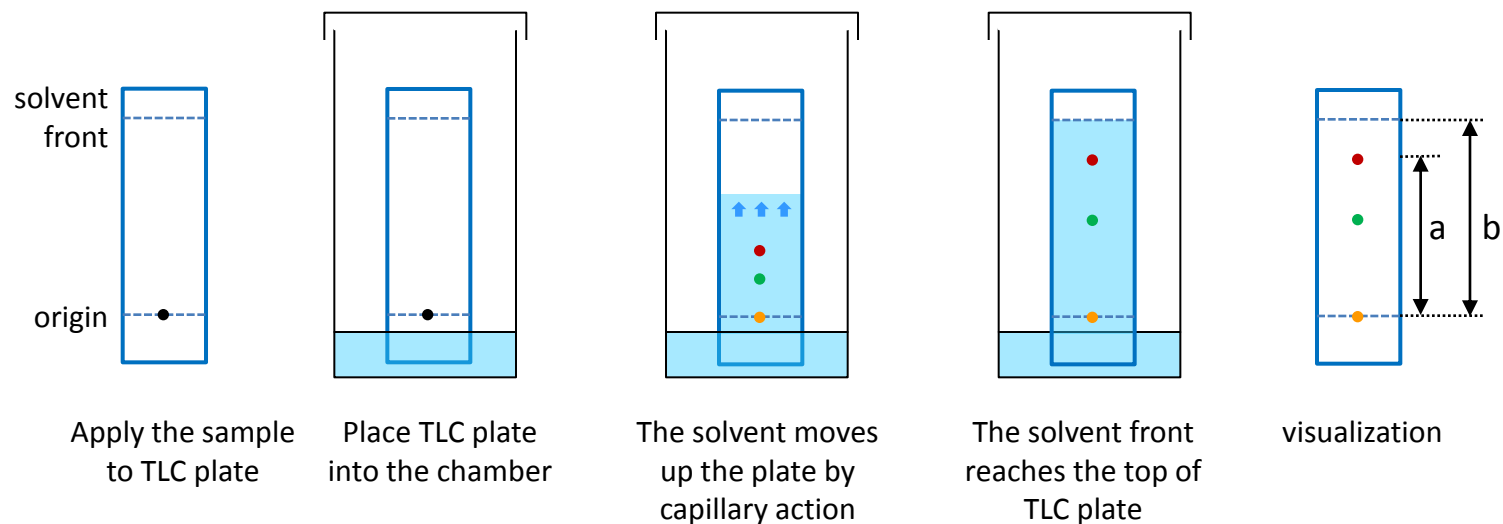
- Thin layer chromatography (TLC) is used to determine
 - # the number of components in a mixture
 - # the identity of compounds
 - # the purity of a compound



1. spot of sample to be analyzed
2. plate is placed into a pool of development solvent
3. Solvent rise up plate by capillary action



Radiochemical purity-analysis methods



$$\text{Retardation factor } (R_f) = \frac{\text{the distance traveled by the compound (a)}}{\text{the distance traveled by solvent front (b)}}$$

- Each radiochemical species travel a characteristic distance, and this is represented as the R_f value .
- R_f values can be used to aid in the identification of a substance by comparison to standards.

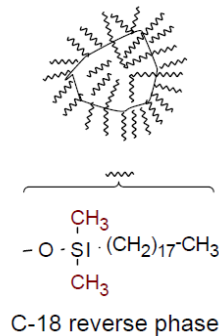
Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

■ Stationary phase and mobile phase

Increasing polarity
↓

- Reverse phase (e.g. C-18)
- Paper
- Cellulose
- Starch
- Calcium sulfate
- Silica gel
- Magnesium oxide
- Alumina
- Activated carbon

Common stationary phases listed
by increasing polarity



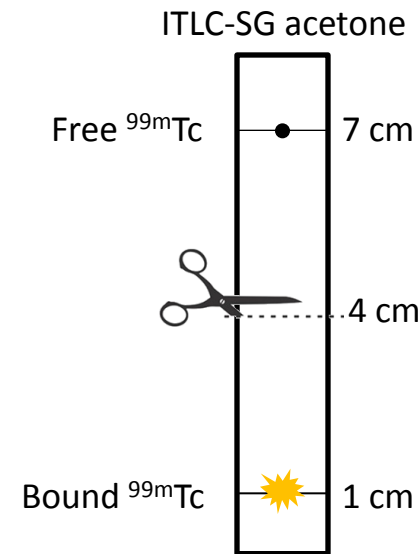
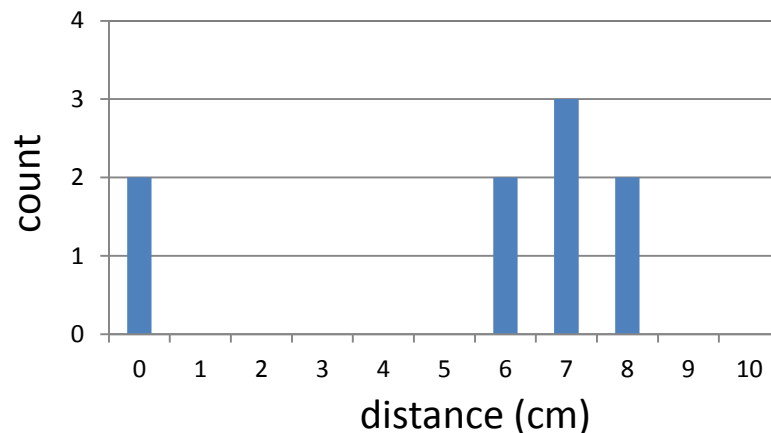
Increasing polarity
↓

- Petroleum ether
- Hexane
- Cyclohexane
- Chloroform
- Dichloromethane
- Ether
- Ethyl acetate
- Acetone
- Ethanol
- Methanol
- Water
- Acetic acid

Common mobile phases listed by
increasing polarity

Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- The TLC plate is cut to determine the number of counts in each region representing specific radiochemical complex or complexes.
- These sections of the TLC plate are then counted individually using the appropriate instrumentation.
- After determination of the number of counts, calculations can be performed to determine the percentage bound and the percentage of radiochemical impurities.

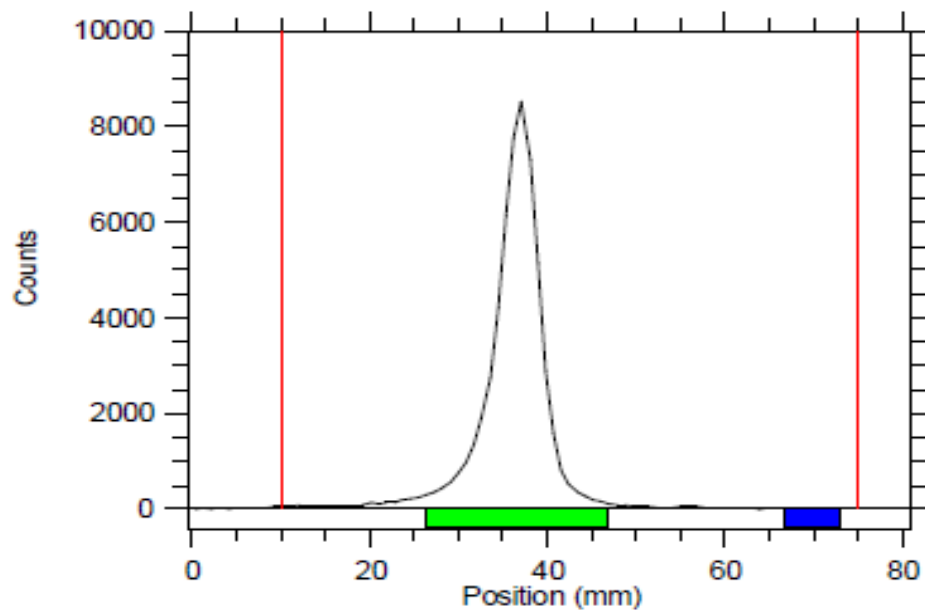


Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Alternatively, intact TLC plate can be scanned with a radiochromatogram scanner.



| Reg | (mm) Start | (mm) Stop | (mm) Centroid | RF | Region Counts | Region CPM | % of Total | % of ROI |
|---------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Rgn 1 | 26.3 | 47.0 | 36.4 | 0.406 | 55205.0 | 55205.0 | 94.49 | 100.00 |
| Blg 2 | 66.7 | 72.9 | 68.9 | 0.907 | | | | |
| 1 Peaks | | | | | 55205.0 | 55205.0 | 94.49 | 100.00 |

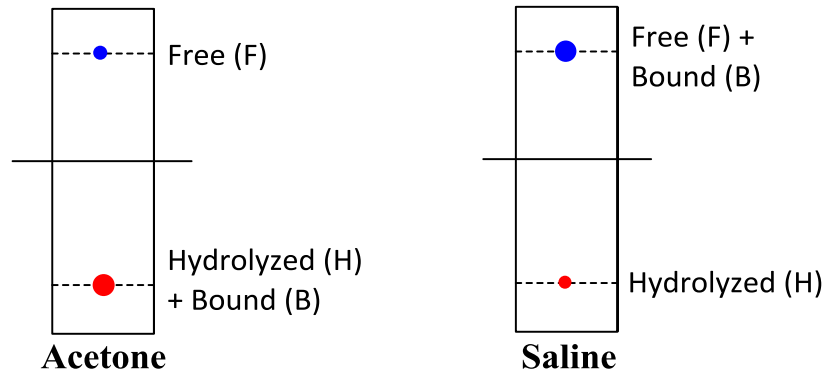


Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Instant thin layer chromatography (ITLC)
 - # a rapid thin layer chromatographic assay developed to determine the labeling efficiency and the radiochemical purity of RPs
 - # Stationary phase (adsorbent):
 - Gelman ITLC-SG strips
 - Whatman 3MM or 31ET paper
 - # Mobile phase: solvent-saline, acetone (methyl ethyl ketone, butanone), etc.
 - # With regard to ^{99m}Tc radiotracers, the three types of radiochemical components to be determined are as follows:
 - (1) free ^{99m}Tc pertechnetate ($^{99m}\text{TcO}_4^-$)
 - (2) hydrolyzed-reduced ^{99m}Tc (insoluble ^{99m}Tc dioxide and/or ^{99m}Tc tin colloid)
 - (3) bound ^{99m}Tc to the ligand of interest.

Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Two chromatography systems (by using acetone and saline as mobile phases) was used to determined the radiochemical purity of ^{99m}Tc -RPs.



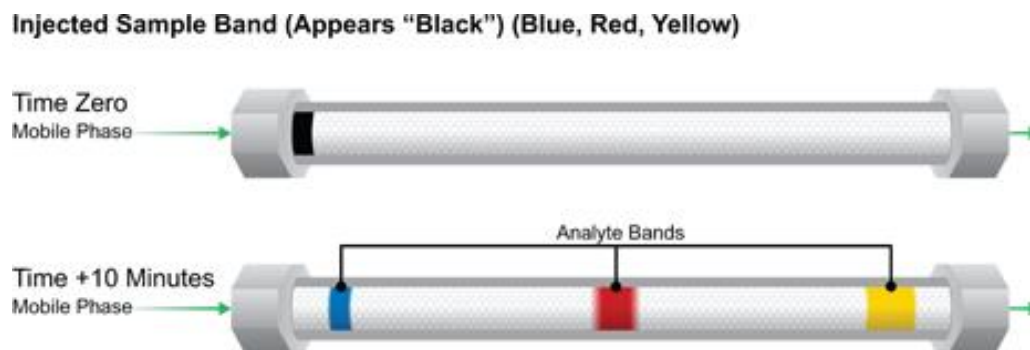
- # $\% \text{Free } ^{99m}\text{Tc} = \frac{F}{[F+(H+B)]} \times 100$, acetone was used as eluant
- # $\% \text{Hydrolyzed } ^{99m}\text{Tc} = \frac{H}{[(F+B)+H]} \times 100$, saline was used as eluant
- # The radiochemical purity of $\% \text{Bound } ^{99m}\text{Tc} = 100\% - [(F(\%) + H(\%))]$

Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)
 - # the most powerful chromatographic technique
 - # high reproducibility, high speed, high resolution and versatility
 - # detection limit: pico and feto gram amounts of sample
 - # analytical and preparative application

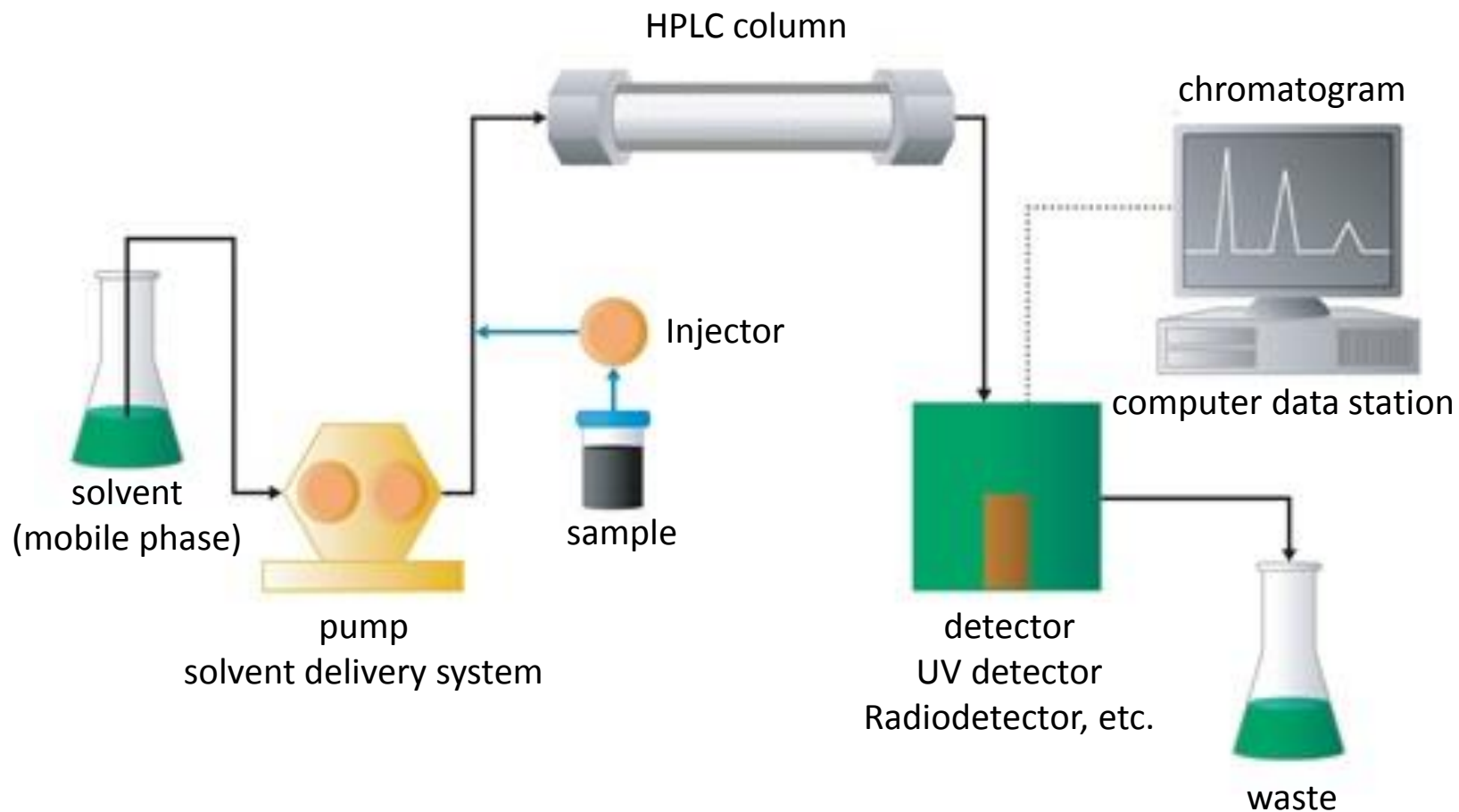
Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)
 - # Principle: Each component in the sample interacts slightly differently with the adsorbent material, causing different flow rates for the different components and leading to the separation of the components as they flow out the column.



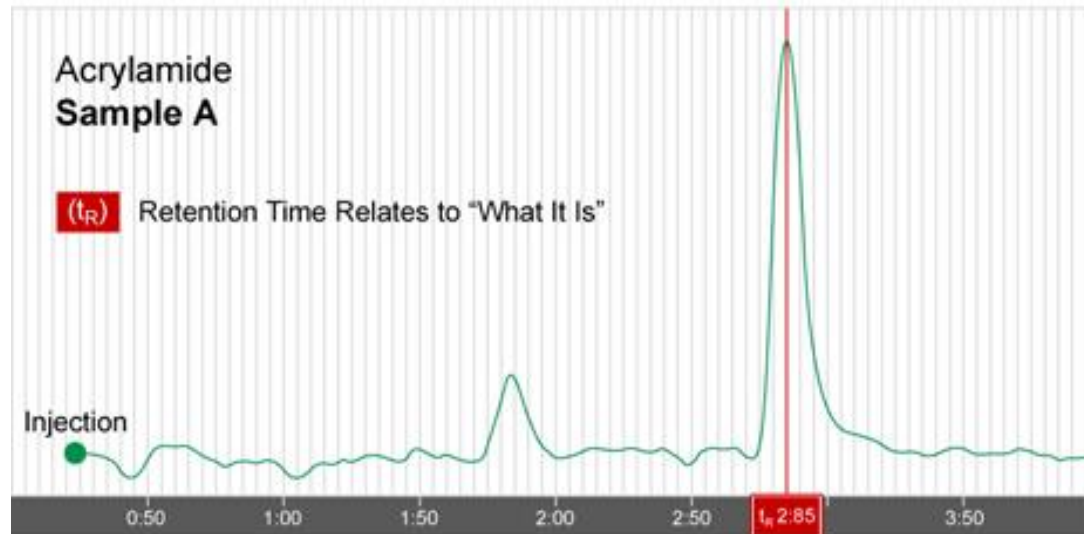
Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- HPLC system



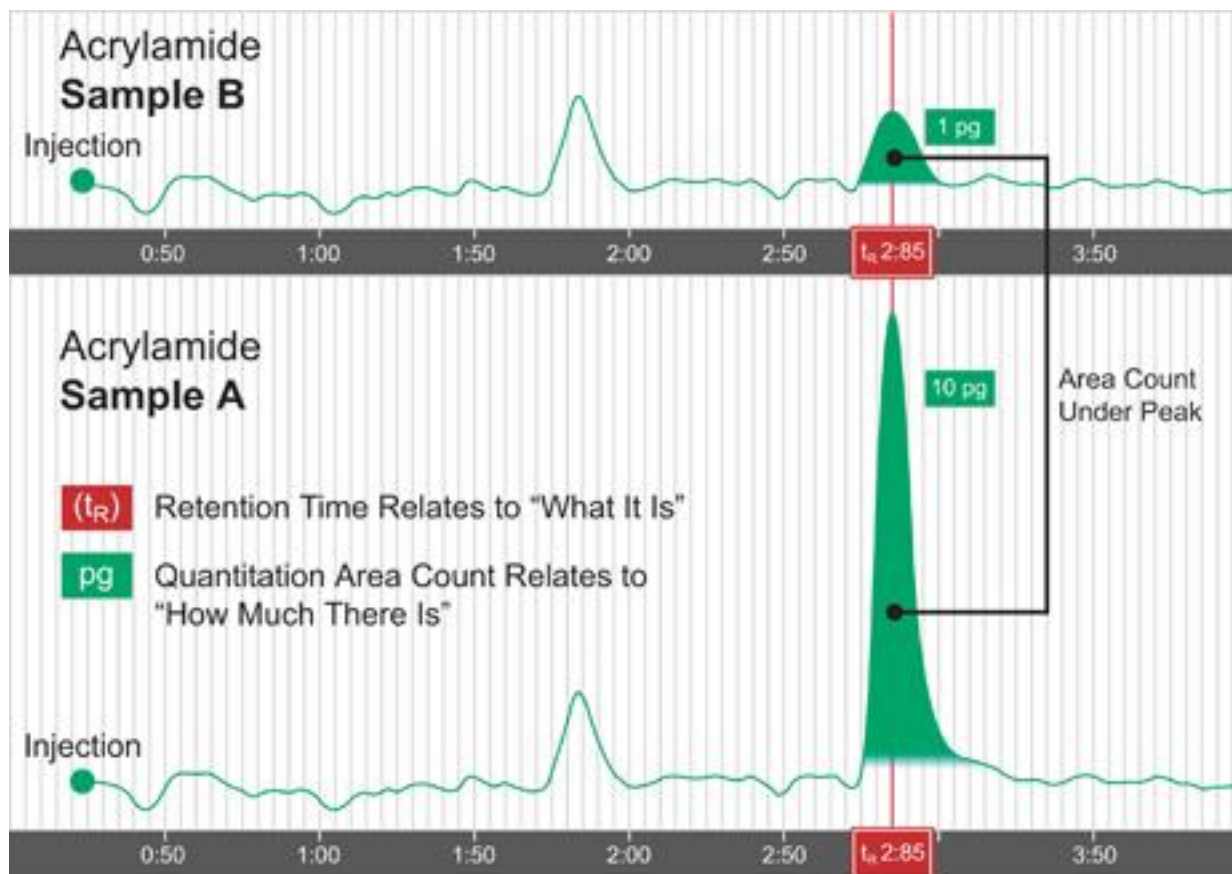
Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Identifying and quantitating compounds by HPLC
 - # Retention time (t_R): Each elutes at a specific location, measured by the elapsed time between the moment of injection [time zero] and the time when the peak maximum elutes.
 - # t_R of the same substance is always the same in the same condition .



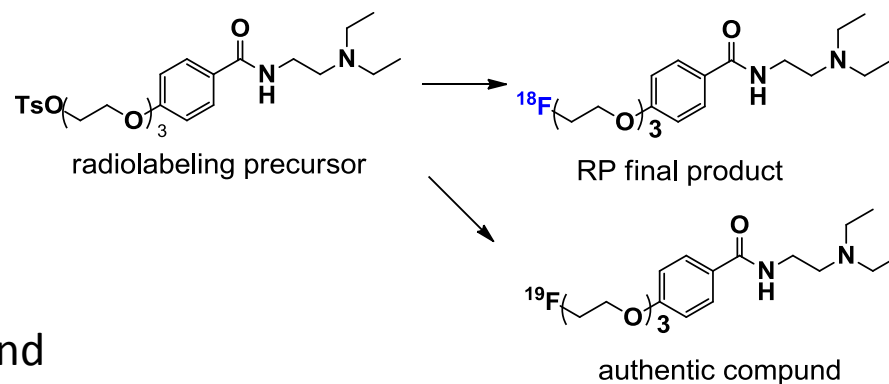
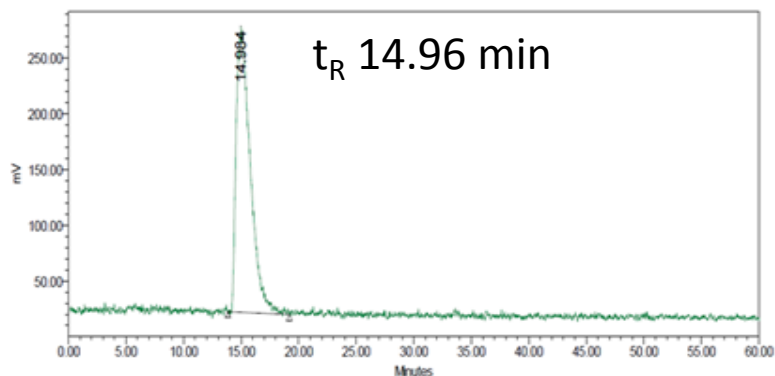
Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Identifying and quantitating compounds by HPLC

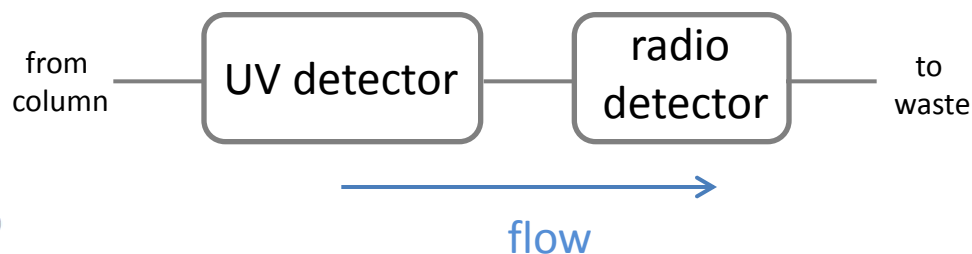
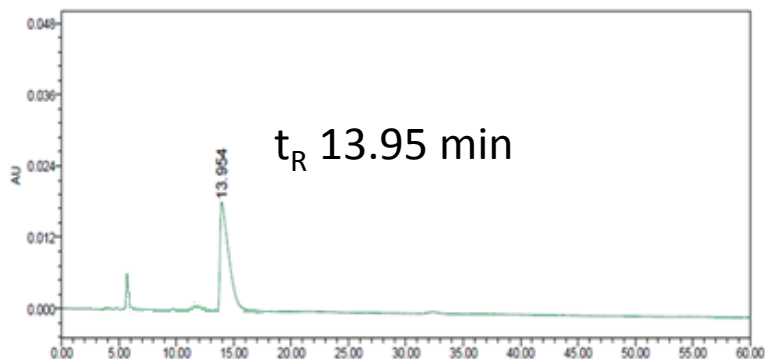


Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

(A) Radio-chromatogram of RP final product



(B) UV-chromatogram of authentic compound

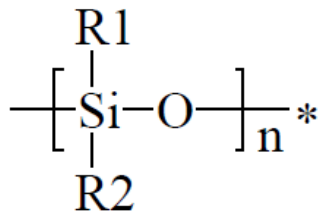


Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Types

- # Normal phase HPLC nonpolar solvent/polar column

- # Reverse phase polar solvent/nonpolar column



solute polarity: $A > B > C$

Normal phase HPLC

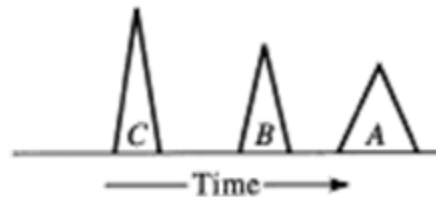
Reverse phase HPLC

low polarity mobile phase

high polarity mobile phase

Normal phase R is cyano, diol, amino

Reversed phase R is C8 or C18 hydrocarbon



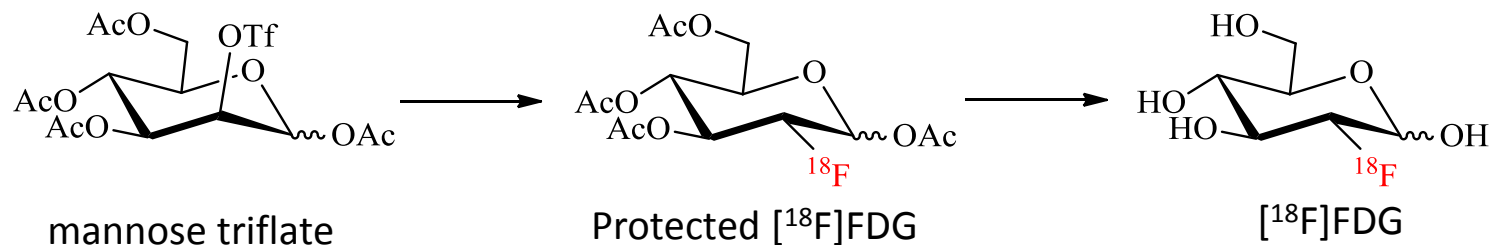
- Mobile phase

- # Isocratic elution: single mobile phase composition

- # Gradient elution: solvent polarity (composition) continuously varied

[¹⁸F]FDG (2-[¹⁸F]Fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose)

- The radiochemical purity of [¹⁸F]FDG can be determined by radio-TLC and HPLC system equipped with UV detector and radioactive detector.



TLC: silica plate; acetonitrile/water 95/5; ($R_f = 0.4-0.5$)

HPLC: Lichrosorb-NH₂ column or carbohydrate column

mobile phase: acetonitrile:water 85:15

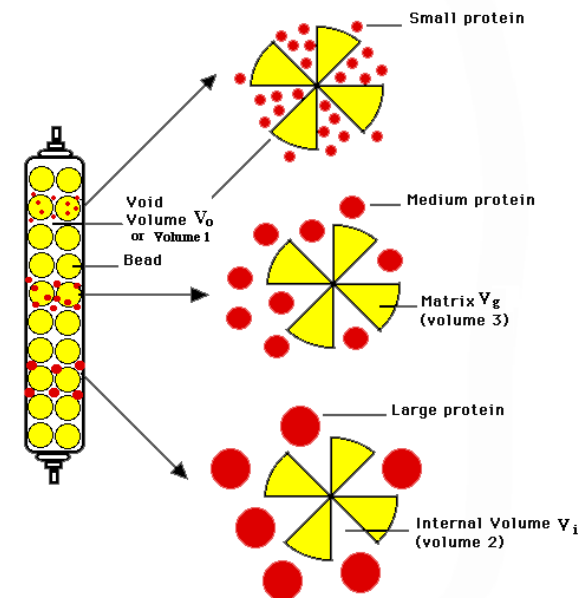
Ion exchange chromatography: Dionex PA 100 column, 0.1 M NaOH solution

Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Gel permeation chromatography (size exclusion chromatography)
 - # Principle: separation is based upon **molecular size** and **shape** of the species in the sample.
 - # The chromatographic media used in this technique are porous, polymeric organic compounds with molecular sieving properties.

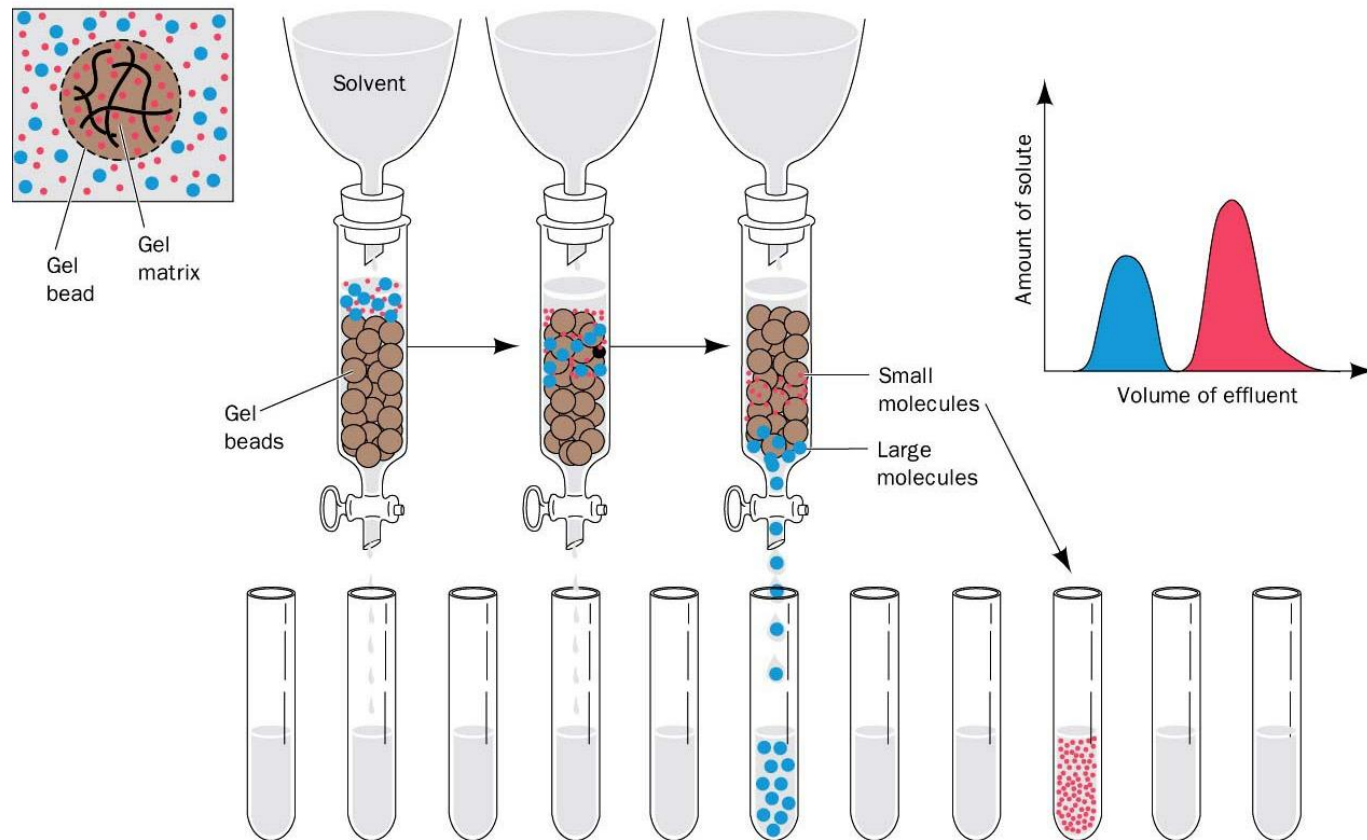
sample:

- Radiolabel proteins
- ^{99m}Tc -radiopharmaceuticals

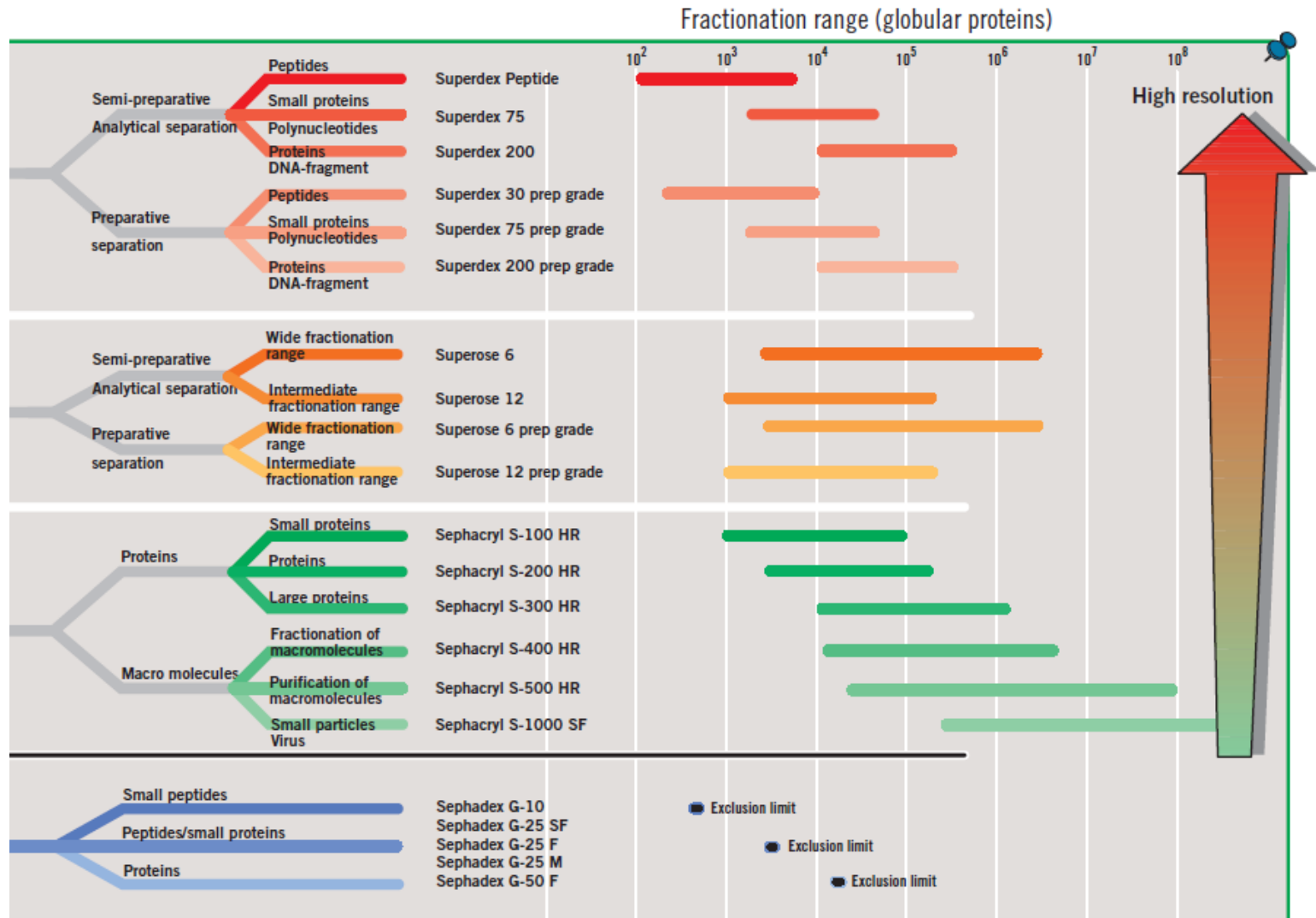


Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

- Gel permeation chromatography (size exclusion chromatography)



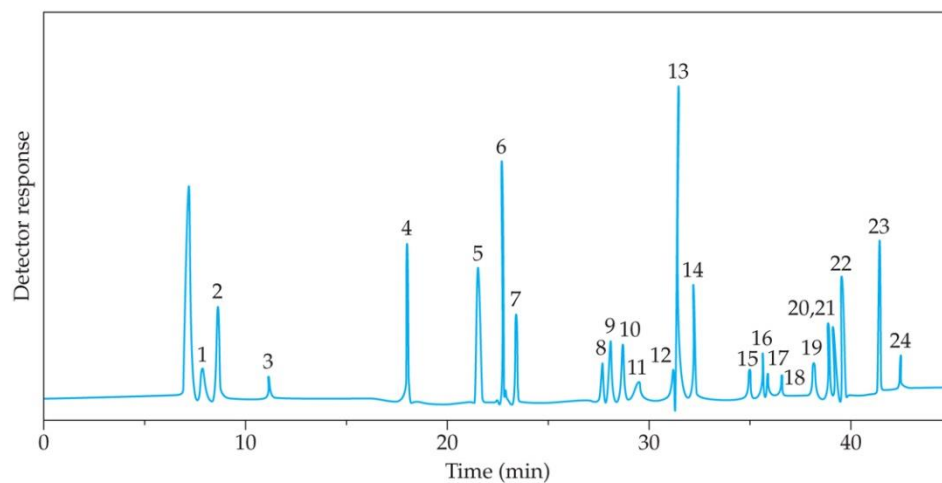
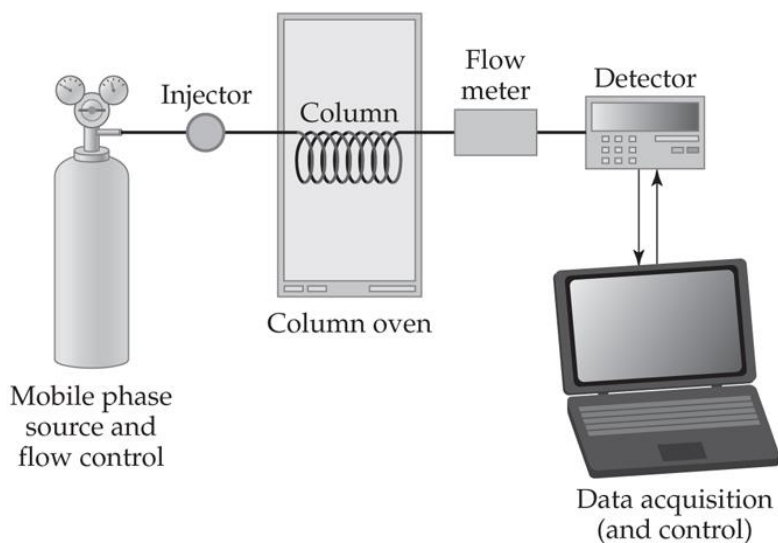
Radiochemical purity-analysis methods



Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

■ Gas chromatography (GC)

used to identify (compare to standards), separate, and quantify (use peak area) samples that can be vaporized without decomposition.

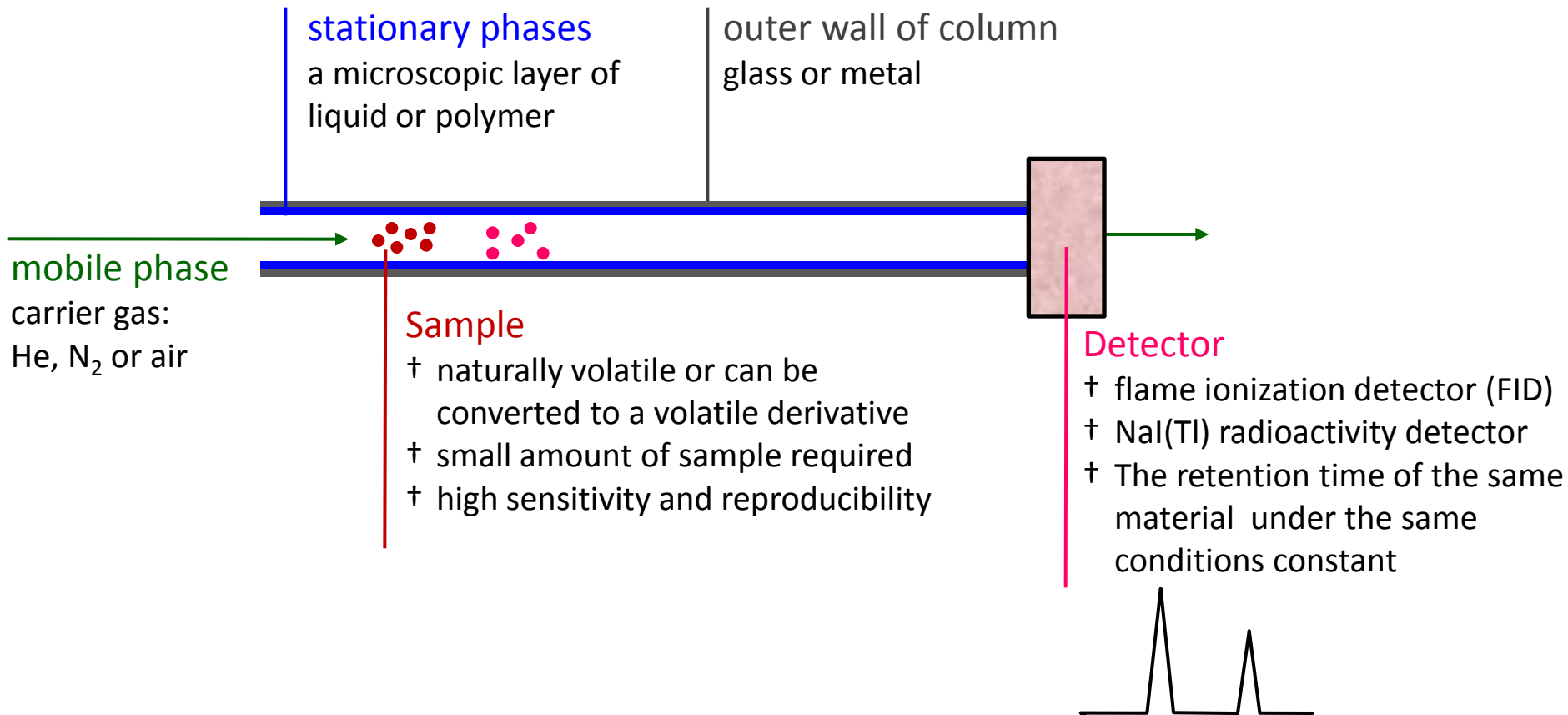


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Radiochemical purity-analysis methods

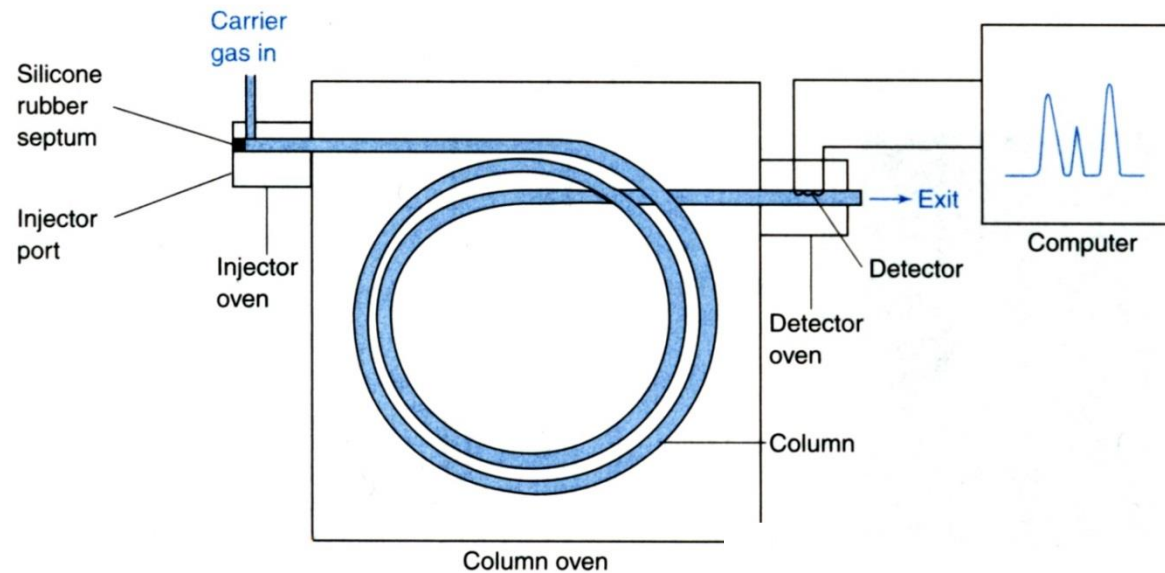
■ Gas chromatography (GC)



Radiochemical purity-analysis

■ GC instruments and process

- Volatile liquid or gas injected through septum into heated port
- Sample rapidly evaporates and is pulled through the column with carrier gas
- Column is heated to provide sufficient vapor pressure to elute analytes
- Separated analytes flow through a heated detector for observation



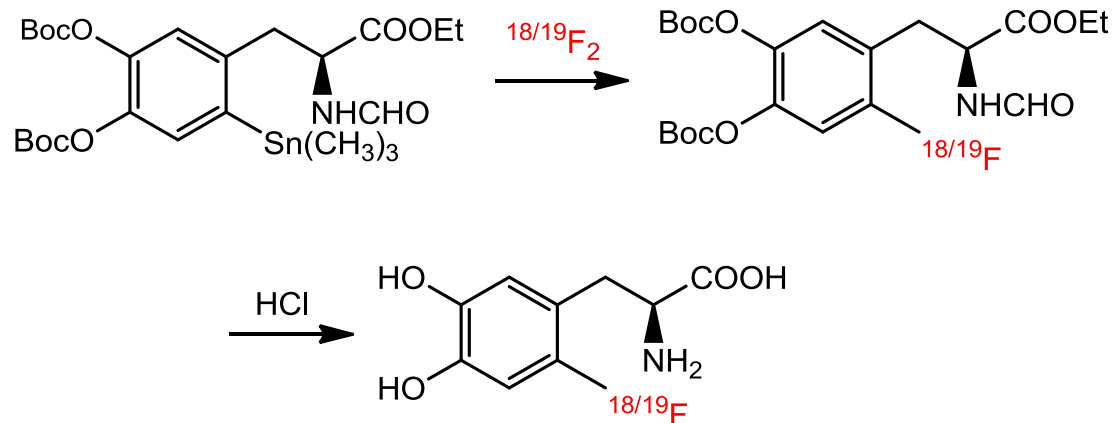
Radiochemical purity-analysis

- Gas chromatography – residual solvent
 - # Identification and quantification of residual solvents (acetonitrile, ethanol, and perhaps DMSO) in the final solution may be performed with a gas chromatograph.
 - # No more than 0.04% acetonitrile and 0.5% ethanol (based upon USP and Ph. Eur. specifications)

Specific activity

Specific activity (SA)

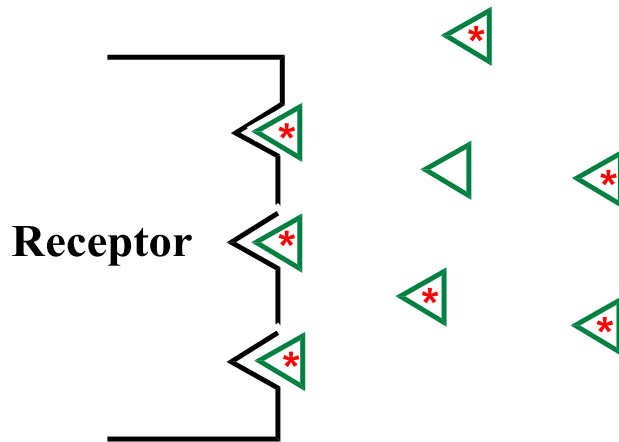
- defined as the quantity of radioactivity per unit mass (radioactive plus nonradioactive) of an element, molecule or a compound (including those of biological origin).
 - # should be stated on the label of/the individual dose with respect to a specified time.
 - # expressed as MBq/ μ mol, GBq/ μ mol or Ci/ μ mol



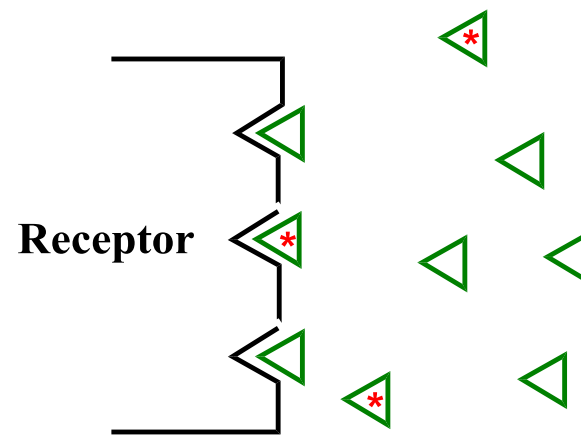
The specific activity of $[^{18}\text{F}]$ FDOPA prepared using electrophilic $[^{18}\text{F}]$ F₂ is $\sim 1,700$ mCi/mmol (USP 100 mCi/mmol), which is much lower than what is routinely obtained with radiotracers synthesized using nucleophilic $[^{18}\text{F}]$ fluoride.

Specific activity (SA)

- Why is high specific activity important?



high specific activity



low specific activity

Specific activity (SA)

■ Importance

- # **Receptor ligands**: requires a high SA, because the receptor concentration is low in general.
- # High SA is not necessary, if the **similar materials are abundant** in the body.
Example: glucose derivatives, amino acids, fatty acids, nucleoside, etc.
- # However, high specific activity can cause more radiolysis in the labeled compound.
- # Particularly important when administering radiotracers that are toxic at low doses.

Specific activity (SA)

- Radioisotopes

- # ^{11}C :

- theoretical maximum specific activity: 9.2×10^6 Ci /mmol

- However, ^{11}C -labeled radiotracers show a rapid loss of SA over time

- Ex.) every 3 min. \rightarrow 10% of the radioactivity \downarrow

- 10% of the specific activity \downarrow

- # ^{18}F ($^{18}\text{F}^-$):

- theoretical maximum value: 1.7×10^6 Ci/mmol

- actual value: 1×10^4 Ci/mmol

- # $^{18}\text{F}_2$:

- due to F_2 carrier gas \rightarrow low SA

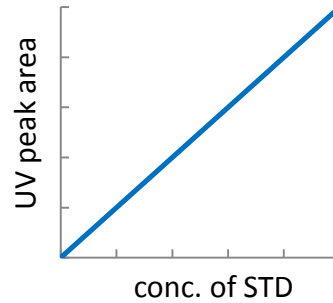
FDOPA QC-specific activity

1



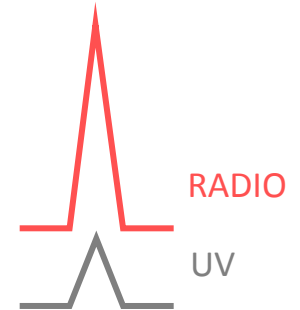
STD at different conc.

2



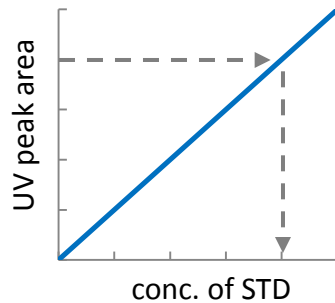
standard curve

3



analysis of ^{18}F -FDOPA

4



UV peak area



conc. of FDOPA
($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$)

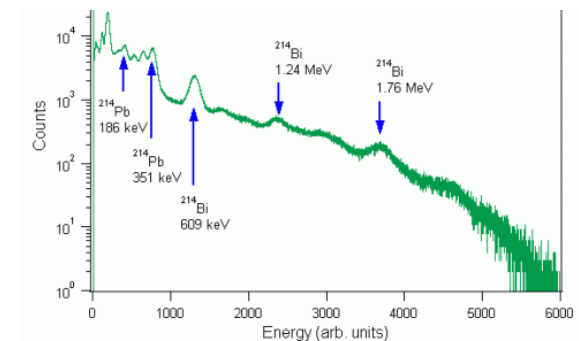
5

$$\text{SA} = \frac{\text{radioactivity (mCi/mL)}}{\text{conc. of FDOPA } (\mu\text{g}/\text{mL})}$$

Radionuclidic purity

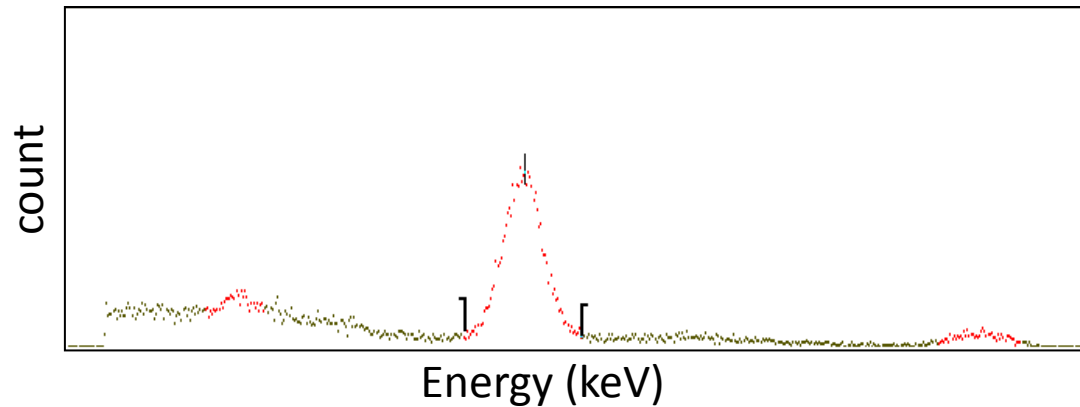
Radionuclidic purity

- the ratio of the stated radionuclide activity to the total radioactivity
- Necessity
 - # reduce unnecessary radiation dose to the patient
 - # not to degrade the image quality
- Measurement
 - # Half-life
 - # Individual characteristic radiations emitted by individual radionuclides
 - γ -ray emission radionuclide: multi-channel analyzer (MCA)
 - pure β emission radionuclide: β -spectrometer or liquid scintillation counter



Radionuclidic purity

- multi-channel analyzer



```
*****  
*****          P E A K   W I T H   N I D   R E P O R T          *****  
*****
```

```
Detector Name:  DET01  
Sample Title:   FDG  
Peak Analysis Performed on:  2014/2/22  09:58:32 AM  
                          Peak Analysis From Channel:    35  
                          Peak Analysis To Channel:      1024  
Tentative NID Library:  C:\GENIE2K\CAMFILES\GMSF18.NLB  
Peak Match Tolerance :   20.000 keV
```

| | Peak No. | ROI Start | ROI End | Peak Centroid | Energy (keV) | Net Peak Area | Net Area Uncert. | Continuum Counts | Tentative Nuclide |
|---|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| F | 1 | 81- | 114 | 100.51 | 159.69 | 3.85E+002 | 49.55 | 1.90E+003 | |
| F | 2 | 232- | 300 | 267.05 | 500.30 | 6.78E+003 | 93.32 | 1.17E+003 | F-18 |
| F | 3 | 510- | 558 | 532.89 | <u>1043.97</u> | <u>4.34E+002</u> | 28.51 | 2.70E+002 | <u>.....</u> |

Radionuclidic purity

- Impurities arise from

- # the radionuclides produced by various nuclear reactions in a target as well as the impurities in the target material.

- # Fission of heavy elements in the reactor

- # Mother radionuclide

- # Example

^{123}I : produced by $^{124}\text{Te}(p, 2n)^{123}\text{I}$ reaction; $^{124}/^{126}/^{130}\text{I}$ may be generated.

$^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99}\text{Tc}$ contamination in $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ elution

! 0.15 $\mu\text{Ci } ^{99}\text{Mo}/\text{mCi } ^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$

Chemical purity

Chemical purity

- Chemical identity and purity address non-radioactive materials in the radiopharmaceutical, including **by-products, solvents and other residual components** used in the production process.
 - # Impurity example: Al in ^{99m}Tc eluate; Kryptofix 2.2.2 in ^{18}F -FDG; Stavudine in ^{18}F -FLT
- Problems that can occur in the presence of impurities: **the human body side effects, pharmacological or toxic effects.**
- Determination: gas chromatography, HPLC, spectrophotometry, ion exchange and solvent extractions, etc.
 - * Additive(additives), Acid, alkali, buffer is not considered an impurity.

Biological test

Biological tests

■ Sterility

- # absence of any viable bacteria or microorganisms in radiotracers
- # prohibit completion of the sterility testing before the release of finished products, due to the short half-lives of most radionuclide.

■ Method of sterilization

Autoclaving

- 121°C heated to 15-20 minutes.
- For thermally stable, water-soluble radiopharmaceuticals: $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4^-$, $^{111}\text{In-DTPA}$, $^{111}\text{In-chloride}$, $^{67}\text{Ga-citrate}$

Membrane filtration

- 0.22 μm aseptic membrane filter
- for heat-labile or short-lived radiotracers

Biological tests

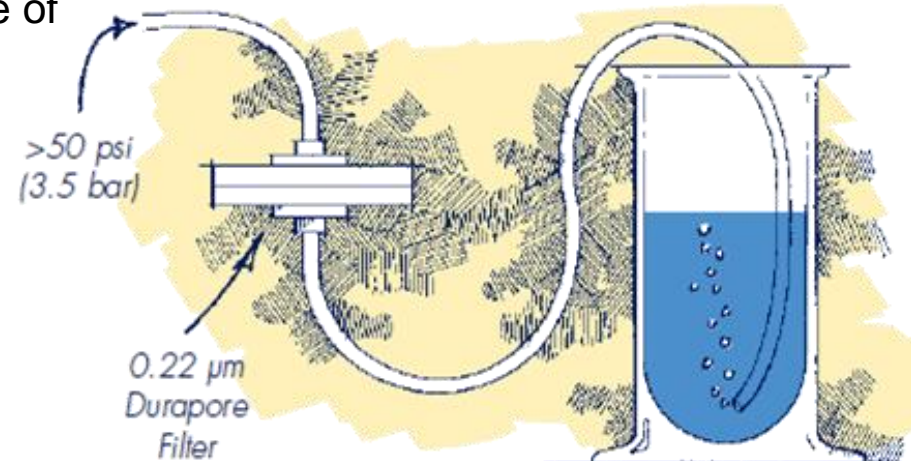
■ Sterility test

- # US FDA has recommended a 30-hr window for ^{18}F -FDG within which the sterility test must be started
- # tested by incubating the test sample with both **Soybean Casein Digest Medium (SCD)** at 20~25°C and **Fluid Thioglycollate Medium (FTM)** at 30-35°C for 14 days.
- # **SCD** is a culture media for **aerobic bacteria and fungi** while **FTM** is a media for **anaerobic bacteria**.
- # Turbidity in the media would be indicative of the presence of a microbial contaminant.
- # If no evidence of microbial growth is found, the product to be examined complies with the test for sterility.

Biological tests

■ Bubble-Point Test

- # Filter integrity test of membrane should be done before and after filtration
- # the most commonly used method for the membrane integrity testing
- # A bubble point is the measure of the amount of air pressure required to force an air bubble through a wetted pore.
- # The pressure at which a steady stream of bubbles is noticed is referred to as the bubble point and it should be a standard value (e.g., > 50 psi) for a specific pore-size of a membrane filter.



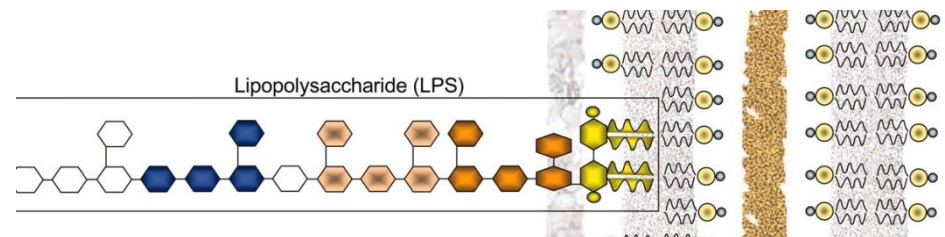
Biological tests

■ Pyrogen:

- # a substance that **induces fever**, e.g. polysaccharides, dead bodies or proteins produced by the metabolism of microorganism.

■ Endotoxin

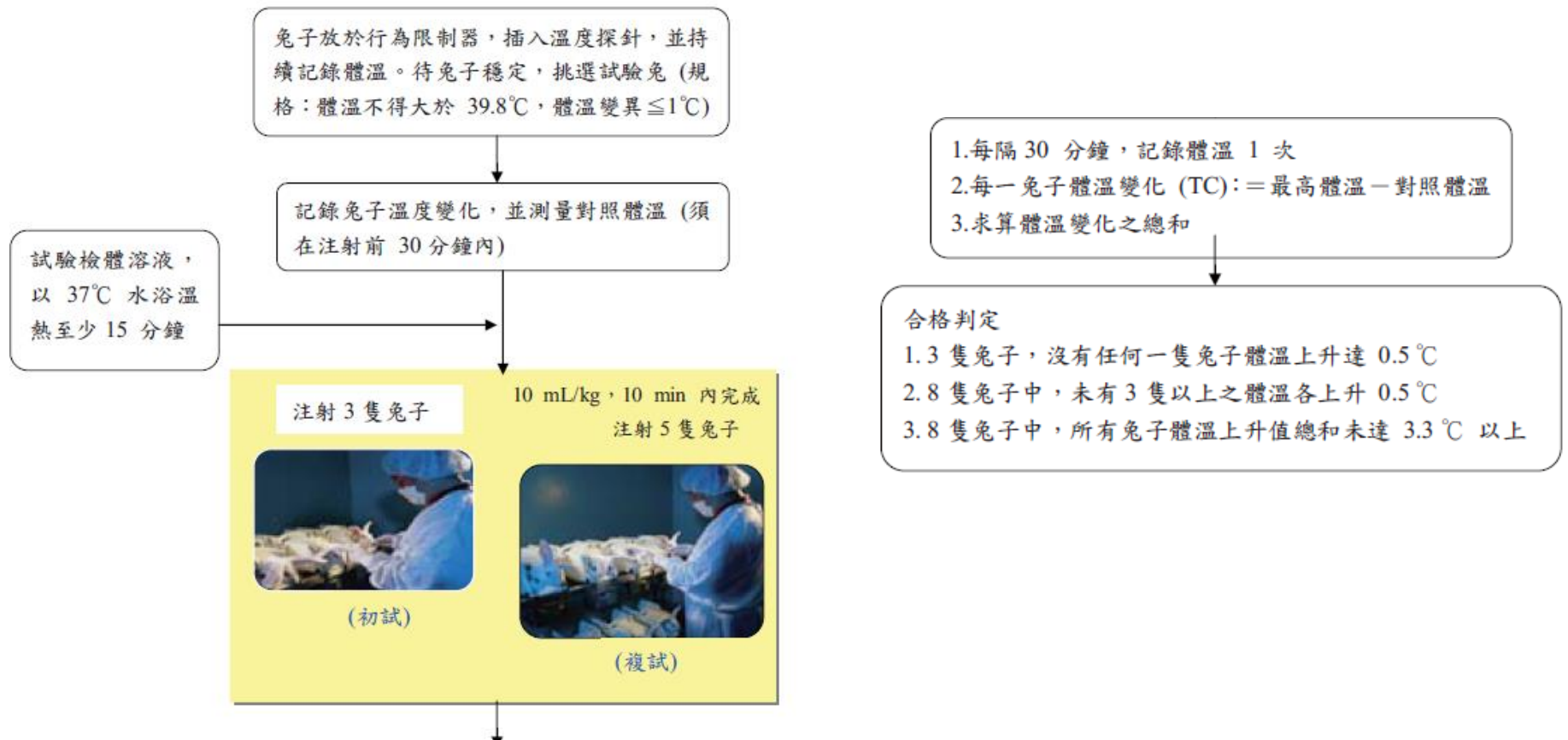
- # **lipopolysaccharide** complex that forms the outer envelope of gram-negative bacteria
- # The presence of endotoxin in the bloodstream can cause **fever, inflammation, and irreversible shock**.
- # The radiopharmaceutical limit was set at **175 EU** per adult dose for IV or IM injection.
- # heat stable to 250°C



Biological tests

■ Bacterial Endotoxin Test

USP Rabbit Test

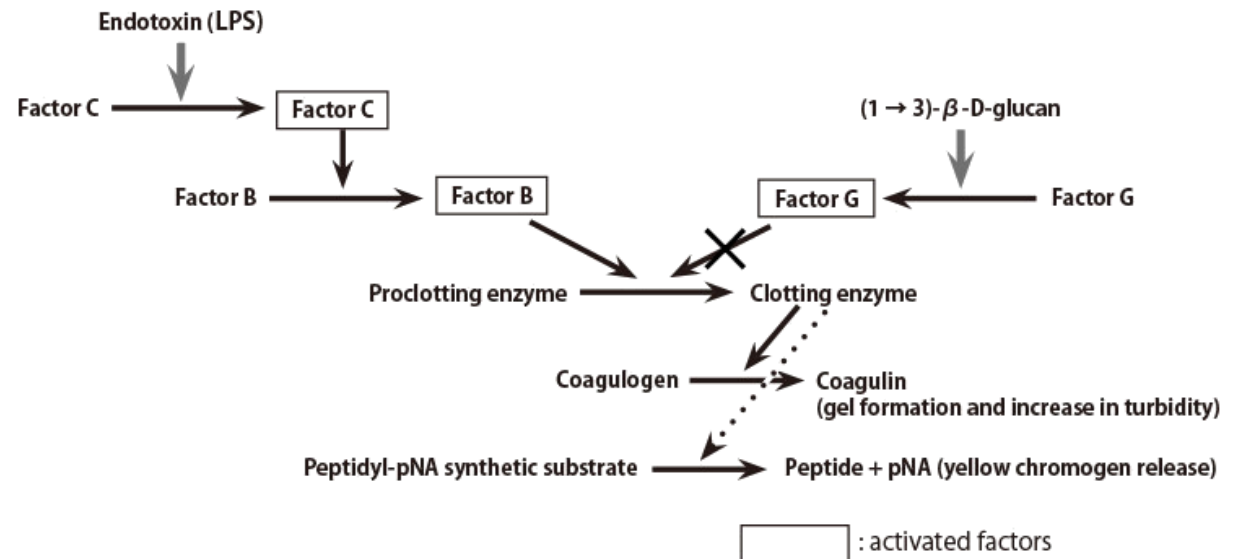


Biological tests

■ Bacterial Endotoxin Test

Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) Endotoxin Test

- *Limulus* Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) : an aqueous extract of blood cells of horseshoe crab (蟹)



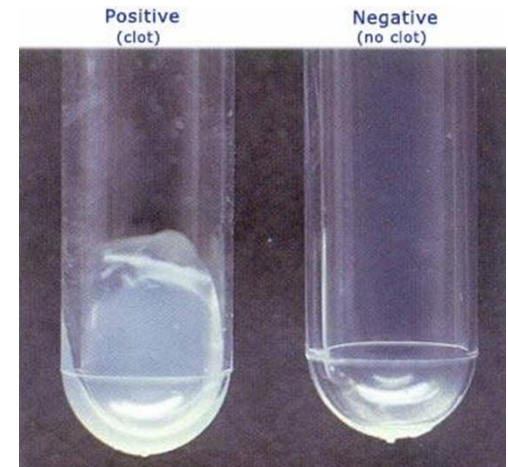
Biological tests

■ Bacterial Endotoxin Test

Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) Endotoxin Test

- Mix 0.1 ml of LAL and test sample at pH 6 to 8.
- The reaction takes place within 15 to 60 min after mixing and depends on the concentration of endotoxin
- three basic LAL test methodologies:
 - (1) The gel-clot method
 - (2) The chromogenic method
 - (3) The turbidimetric method

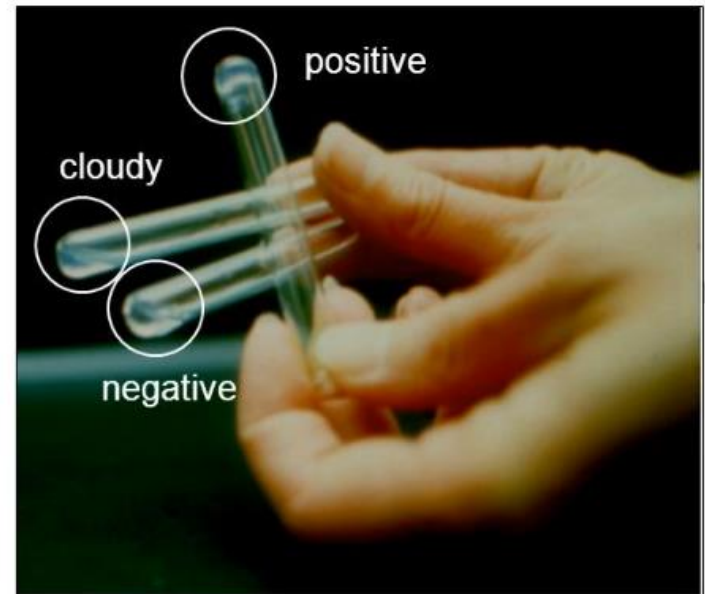
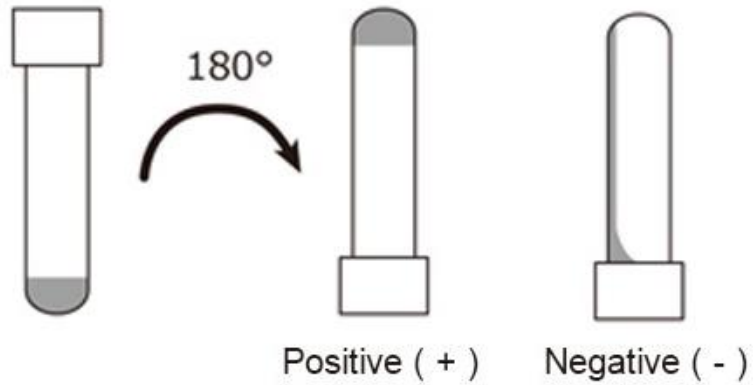
} Photometric method



The gel-clot method

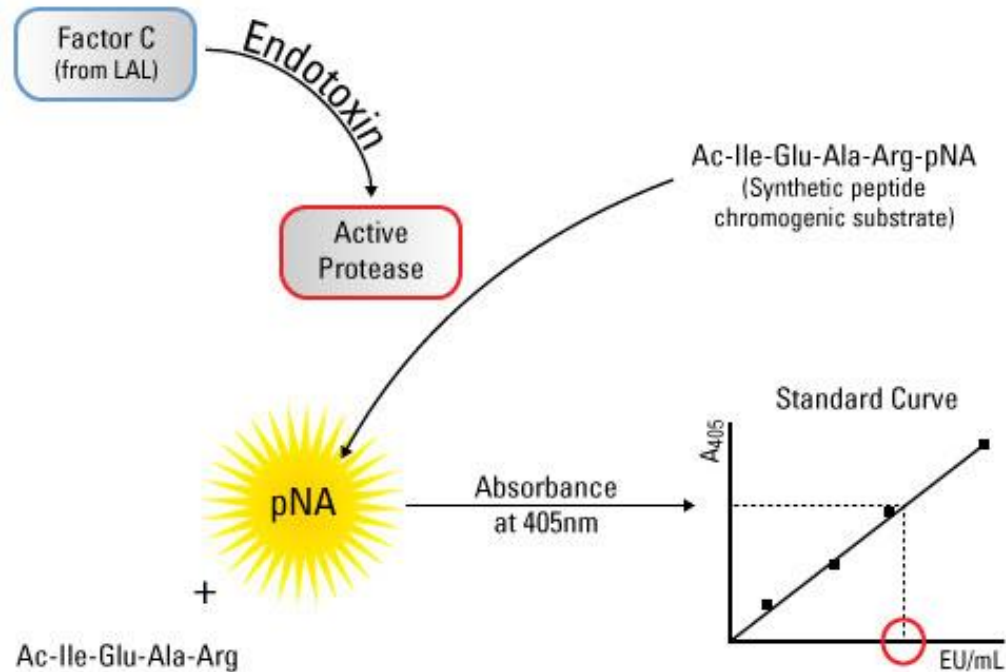
Biological tests

- Gel-clot technique



Biological tests

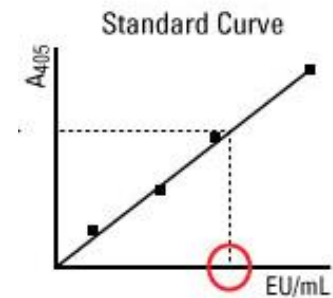
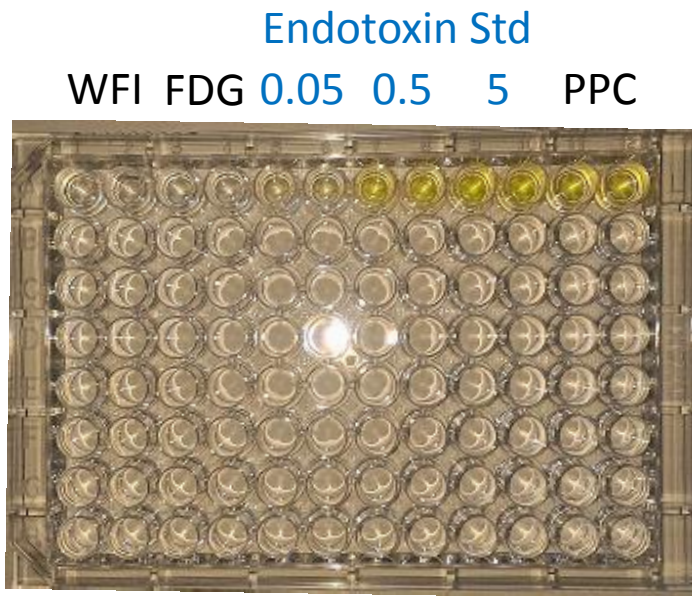
■ Chromogenic Endotoxin Quantitation



LAL Chromogenic Endotoxin Quantitation reaction scheme. A small volume of the sample is combined with the LAL, and endotoxins in the sample activate the proteolytic activity of Factor C. When the chromogenic substrate is added, the activated protease catalyzes the cleavage of p-nitroalanine (pNA), resulting in yellow color that can be quantitated by measuring the absorbance at 405nm and extrapolating against a standard curve.

Biological tests

- Chromogenic Endotoxin Quantitation



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Thank you....



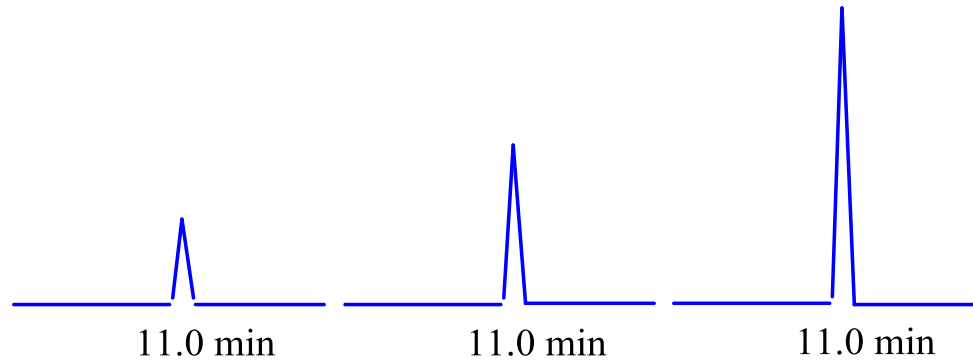
References

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Specific activity (SA)

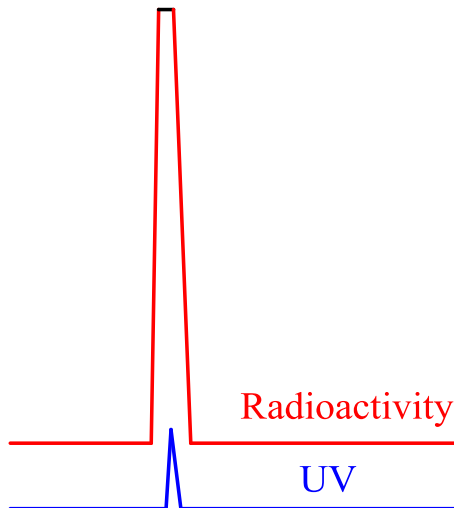
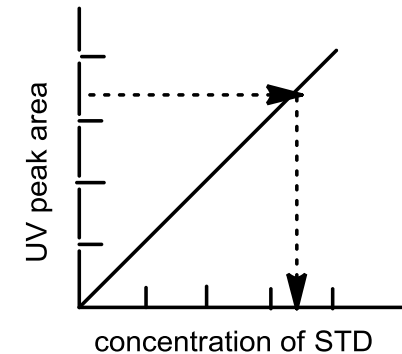
HPLC method

Standard: UV detector



HPLC analysis of cold standards (different concentration)

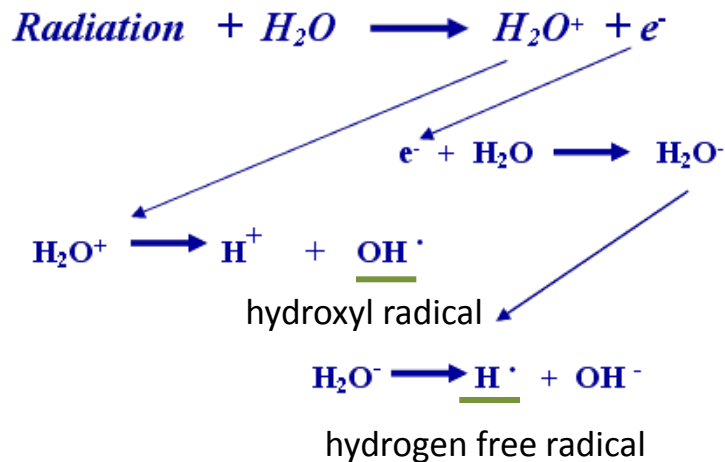
Standard curve



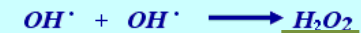
- 1) Inject pure radiotracer, record time and radioactivity injected
- 2) Measure UV area of radiotracer, calculate the amount of radiotracer injected according to the standard curve
- 3) Calculate the specific activity:

Specific activity = radioactivity/amount of radiotracer (time decay corrected to the end of synthesis time)

Radiation degradation (radiolysis)



1. Two hydroxyl radical can combine to form hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) that is converted back to water by the organelle called the peroxisome:

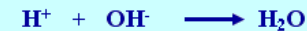


Hydrogen peroxide

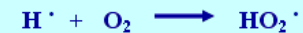
2. The hydrogen radical and the hydroxyl radical can combine to form water:



3. The hydrogen ion and hydroxyl ion can combine to form water:



4. The hydrogen free radical can combine with molecular oxygen to form a highly reactive hydroperoxyl radical which continues the chain of radical damage to biomolecules:



Hydroperoxyl radical

Quality control of ^{99m}Tc -radiotracers By ITLC

| | Solid Phase / Mobile Phase | Rf Radio-pharmaceutical | Rf Impurity |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pertechnetat | ITLC-SG/0.9% NaCl | Front | Start |
| ^{99m}Tc -DMSA | ITLC-SG/ 2- Butanone | Start | Front |
| ^{99m}Tc -Diphosphonates MDP, DPD, HEDP | A) ITLC-SG/ 1M NaAcetate B) ITLC-SG/ 2-Butanone | Front Start | Start Front |
| ^{99m}Tc -DTPA | A) ITLC-SG / NaCl B) ITLC-SG / 2-Butanone | Front Start | Start Front |
| ^{99m}Tc -ECD | Ethylacetate / Baker Silica gel | Front | Start |
| ^{99m}Tc -HMPAO | A) ITLC-SG/ 2-Butanone B) ITLC-SG/ 0.9% NaCl | Front Start | Start Front |
| ^{99m}Tc -IDA-Derivates | A) saturated saline solution / ITLC-SG B) 50% Acetonitril / ITLC-SG | Start Front | Front Start |
| ^{99m}Tc -Colloids | ITLC-SG / 2-Butanone | Start | Front |
| ^{99m}Tc -MAA | ITLC-SG / 2-Butanone | Start | Front |