

# **ACD/ChromGenius:**

# Automated Method Selection for LCMS

RTP Seminar June 3, 2004

**Advanced** Chemistry Development, Inc. (ACD/Labs)

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#### Introduction

Who is the ideal candidate for automated method selection?

- What is the usual approach?
- What are the limitations?
- Generation How does ChromGenius work?
- What's new in 8.0?
- Wrapping up

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## The ideal candidate:

- Hundreds to thousands of samples
- So time for method development
- FAST run times are necessary
- Always gradients
- A few standard, or generic, methods
- Restricted column choices
- Almost always LCMS

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# What is the typical approach in HT Labs?

- Generic methods non-targeted approach
- Fast LCMS gradients
- A few methods are used to cover anticipated structural diversity
  - Inject samples under each method and observe the results
  - Or perhaps examine those results and re-inject the samples that didn't work.

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# Challenges associated with Generic Methods

- Problem compounds:
  - Instrument downtime!
- Some compounds elute too early:
  - MW verification, but no purity estimation
  - Minimal resolution, but bad purity estimation
- Scale-up from an "okay" method can be tricky at best



# So Let's Predict the Best Method to Use!

- Design several complementary methods
- Use structure(s) available to choose
- Target:
  - Reasonable k'
  - Resolution from expected impurities



# The Prediction of Chromatography: A Great Challenge

- Complex retention mechanisms
- Fast gradient conditions
- PH issues when organic solvents are present

So how do you go about predicting chromatography under these conditions?

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# LC Simulator and t<sub>R</sub> Prediction.

LC Simulator uses predicted physicochemical parameters to model retention behavior in separations.

LogP

LogD

∞MW, MR, MV

LC simulator uses actual chromatographic data to train the prediction.

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#### **LC Simulator Backbone** Prediction of t<sub>R</sub>s

#### Given an experimental set:





# What are the limitations of this approach?

- Similarity of training set to new compounds
- Number of compounds in training set
- pH issues
- Gradients are not explicitly modeled



# How can ChromGenius help?

- ChromGenius chooses the most relevant training set from *multiple* chromatograms.
- More compounds:
  - Better characterization of separation
  - More PhysChem terms
- and more relevant compounds:
   Similar retention mechanism
   Inherent gradient compensation

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Accuracy of prediction goes up with similarity to training set

- Relevance" of the training compounds has a bearing on the accuracy:
  - Processes that are NOT modeled are "constants"
  - Similar compounds elute at similar elution times – inherent gradient correction

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#### Generic Methods and ChromGenius Under the surface



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### Selection of Methods



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# The Basis of Method Selection

## Minimum k'

- Maximum retention time
- Resolution from expected impurities
- Favored methods versus unfavored



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### An Early Application Collaboration with Specs

- LCMS structure verification and purity measurement
- One high-throughput method
- 100,000 diverse drug-like and "building block" compounds per year
- ONE chromatographic method
- 20% of compounds elute too soon for purity measurement

The challenge is to locate the 'fast eluters' prior to the run so that a different method can be applied.



#### Structure Similarity and Accuracy – 2006 compounds Specs Method 1 Experimental Conditions:

- •Waters 2690 Separation Module
- Waters Symmetry® C18 (2.1 x 50 mm), 3.5 μm, 100 Å
- Column temperature: 30°C
- Flow: 0.7 1.0 ml/min.

• Mobile phase: gradient elution with water/acetonitrile/5% formic acid in water

- start with the ratio 89:10:1 going to 0:99:1 in 4 minutes
- 2 minutes isocratic with 0:99:1
- 1 minute stabilization at initial conditions (89:10:1)
- After 5 min the flow is increased to 1.0 ml/min (!)
- Total run time: 7 minutes

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# Structure Similarity and Accuracy – 2006 compounds

**ChromGenius Calculation Settings** 

- Dice Coefficient Similarity Search
- 25 structure training sets
  pH = 2.88

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## Structure Similarity and Accuracy – 2006 compounds

Each red point is the average of 2006 predictions

Average error goes from 9 to 13% as similarity goes from 0.65 to 0.15



These points represent normal working conditions Visionary Software for Scientists Spectroscopy • Chromatography • PhysChem • Chemical Naming • Drawing • Databasing • Enterprise Solutions



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### Structure Similarity and Accuracy – 2006 compounds



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# Structure Similarity and Accuracy – 2006 compounds





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# How Similar is Dice Coeff. = 0.65?





## Better Analytical Methods Mean Better Purity

- Decisions are based on initial data:
   Use/purify/reject
  - Better estimations of purity lead to better decisions
- Analytical methods are normally scaled up for preparatory work:

Better analytical methods are easier to scale up

...users have better libraries with higher confidence in their measurements.

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### **Tiered Methods**

# Are all methods equally desirable?

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# TFA and Generic Methods

- TFA is great for chromatography.
- TFA is bad for drug discovery:
  - Cytotoxicity at 10 nM concentrations
  - Chemical stability issues
- TFA should be used as an additive on the prep scale only when absolutely necessary.

ChromGenius is designed with "tiered" methods.

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# ChromGenius – Batch versus Single Sample

- ChromGenius is designed to support combichem as well as walk-ups
- Plate data can be input with spreadsheets of method choices as output; or
- Users input sample information manually and view expected chromatograms



### Creating the Database Amassing a Knowledge Base

The methods we ship are excellent

- Your methods may be preferred
- ChrGen databases can be created easily:

ChromManager database conversion

SDF import



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#### Creating the Database OpenLynx Data Conversion

#### Automatic .SDF/.RPT retention time extraction utility

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#### Structure-based Method Selection

Inappropriate methods may mean: Costly reruns >Instrument/analyst time wasted > Delays in the project Inaccurate purity estimations >Incorrect decisions >Missed candidates? ChromGenius can help increase throughput and sample quality

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# What's new in v8.0?

#### Faster calculations

- Enhanced import options
- Improved plate view and report



ChromGenius

#### Can import RT from MassLynx .rpt

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## New SDF calculation options

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### More SDF options

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### Enhanced plate options



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