

Analysis of GC-MS Nylon 6.6 Data Using Multivariate Curve Resolution – Alternating Least Squares

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interest*

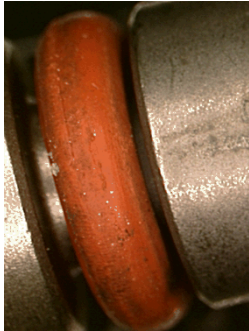
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Polymeric Materials Employed in Service for Decades in Critical High Reliability and Performance Applications



O-rings



Nuclear Power Plant Cable Insulation



Aircraft Wire Insulation



Textiles/Fibers

Study Motivation

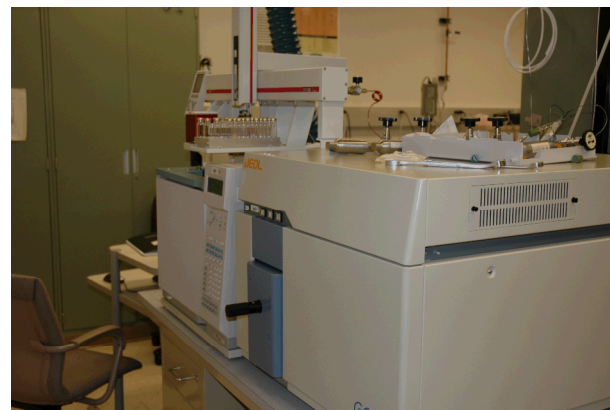
- Nylon 6.6 and related materials degrade as a function of age
- Want to know what trace organics are produced during aging
- Chemists can relate information to probable chemical degradation pathways

- **Goal: Ensure systems still function after 1, 5, 20, 50 years**



Experimental Methods

- Nylon samples aged in sealed containers and accelerated aging
- Head gas sampled (without replacement) from containers after 1, 34, 63, 143, and 243 days of aging
- Cryofocused Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectroscopy (GC-MS) performed on collected gas samples for each age
- Data analysis performed to extract chemical species present in data

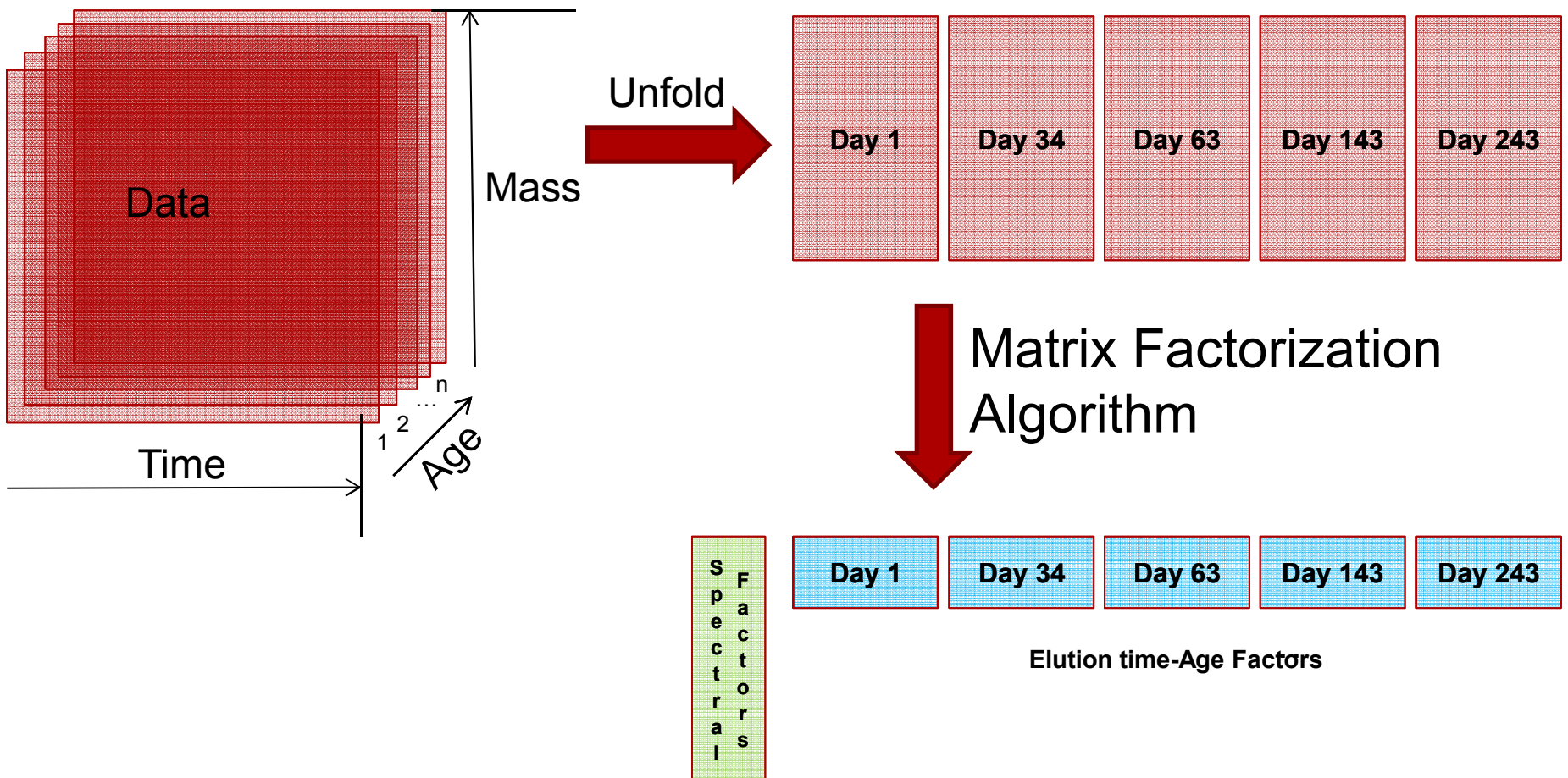


Courtesy of Lance Miller

Data Preparation

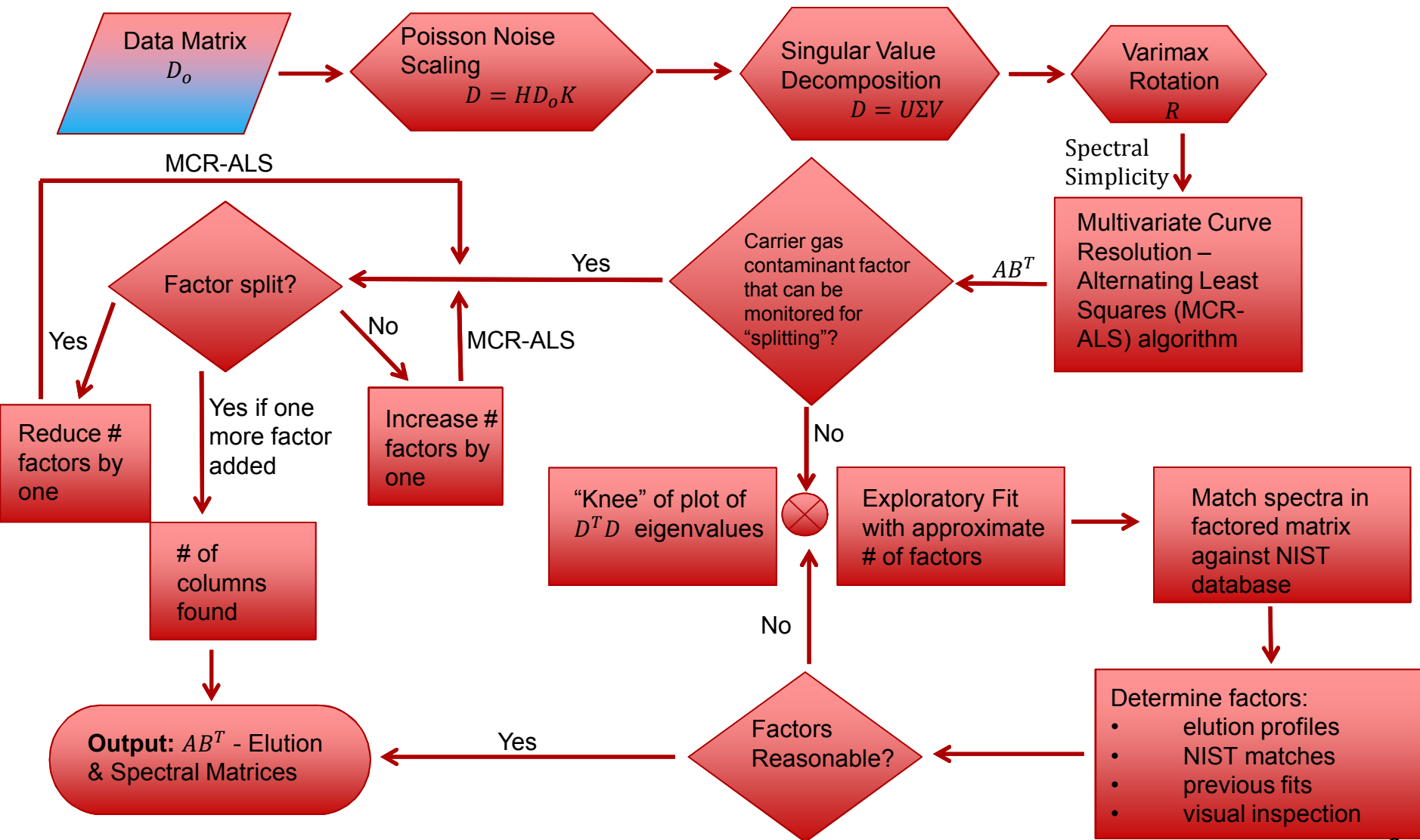
- Reanalysis of previously published data
 - [J Am Soc Mass Spectrom.](#) 2012 Sep;23(9):1579-92. doi: 10.1007/s13361-012-0415-x. Epub 2012 Jun 19.
- Data binned along mass/time axis to 2 second and 1 m/z resolution
- Data forms 3-D matrix of *time* × *mass* × *age*
 - Appended to 2-D matrix along age axis
- Appended matrices analyzed in small time axis intervals (3 minutes)
 - Found to improve quality of fits
- 32, 28, and <20 mass peaks suppressed
 - Contaminants in carrier gas
- Poisson noise correction
 - Data matrix multiplied by diagonal matrix of inverse of row & column averages
 - Scales data such that noise is more uniform

Data Array Appending



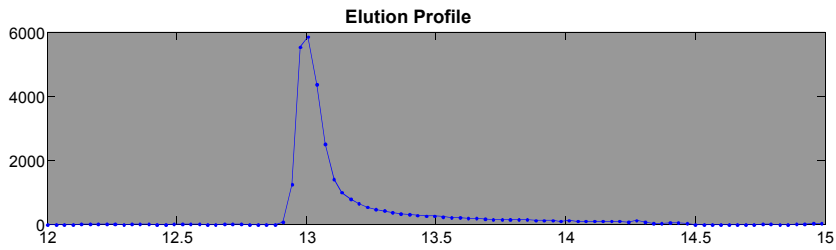
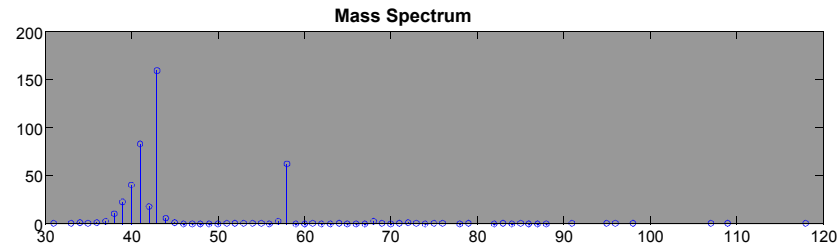
- Many samples analyzed simultaneously

Matrix Factorization Algorithm



Matrix Factorization Output

One Sample

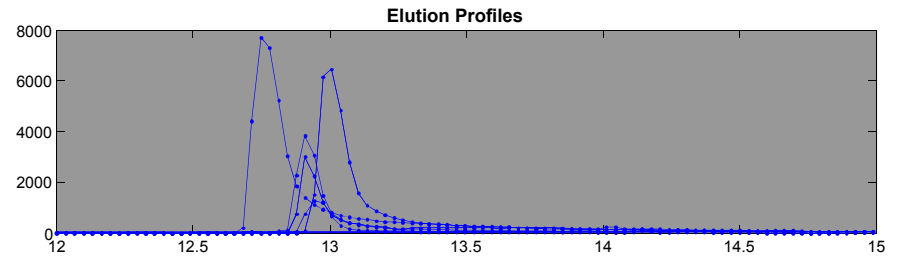
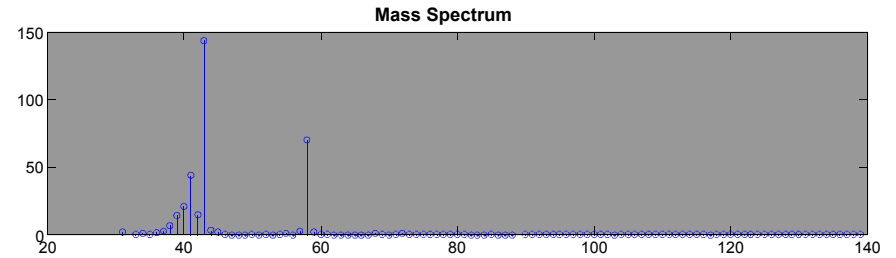


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Day 1

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Unfolded Matrix (5 samples)



Day 1

Day 34

Day 63

Day 143

Day 243

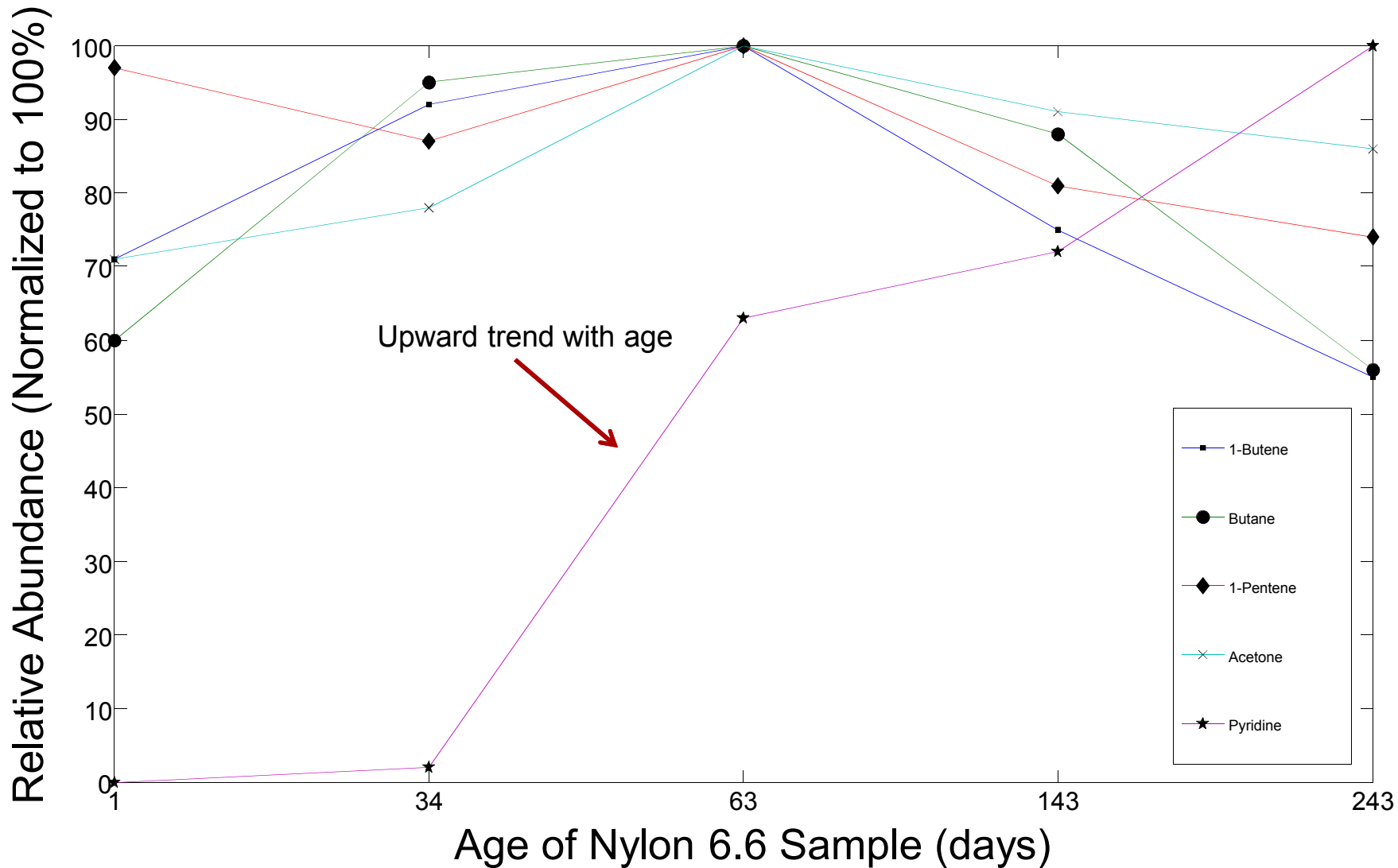
Elution time-Age Factors

RESULTS – UNFOLDED DATA & ISOTOPIC LABELING STUDY

Chemicals in Unfolded Nylon 6.6

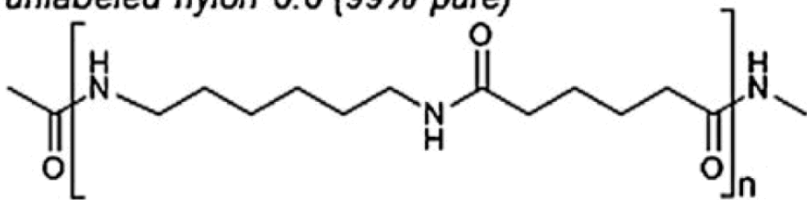
| | Approximate Retention Peak(s) (min) | Total Counts | Angle Cosine (x 1000) | Correlation Coefficient (x 1000) | Notes |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Butane | 9.9-10.3 | 4.2×10^7 | 904 | 906 | |
| 1-Propene, 2-methyl- / 2-Butene / 1-Butene | 9.8-10.2 | 2.2×10^7 | 897 | 948 | |
| Carbon Dioxide | 10.0-13.0 | Saturated | 904 | 934 | Saturated |
| Acetone | 12.8-13.0 | 5.1×10^7 | 829 | 851 | Saturated |
| Acetic acid, methyl ester | 13.0-14.1 | 1.8×10^6 | 703 | 791 | |
| Ethanol | 12.4-12.8 | 6.5×10^6 | 700 | 722 | |
| Cyclopentene | 12.8-14.9 | 1.5×10^6 | 779 | 881 | |
| 1-Pentene | 12.5-13.0 | 3.1×10^6 | 709 | 741 | |
| Methylene chloride | 14.3 | 2.0×10^6 | 753 | 849 | |
| 1,3-Cyclopentadiene | 14.1-14.3 | 1.4×10^6 | 656 | 820 | |
| Trichloromethane | 17.7 | 1.0×10^7 | 846 | 855 | |

Relative Abundance of Chemicals

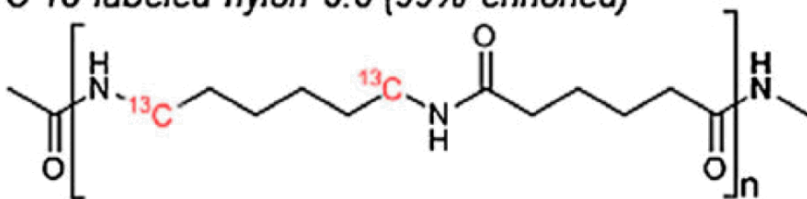


Isotopic Labeling Study

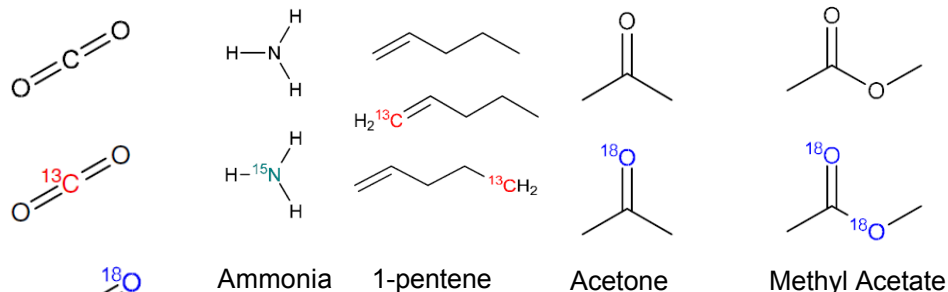
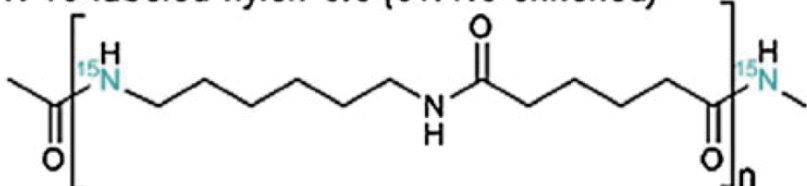
(d) unlabeled nylon 6.6 (99% pure)



(e) C-13 labeled nylon 6.6 (99% enriched)



(f) N-15 labeled nylon 6.6 (51.4% enriched)



Example Degradation Products

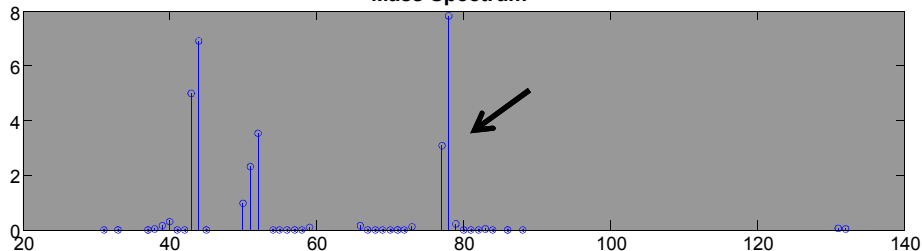
Carbon Dioxide

- Four types of Nylon 6.6 aged in sealed containers:
 - Unlabeled Nylon 6.6
 - ¹³C Labeled
 - ¹⁵N Labeled
 - Unlabeled Nylon 6.6 in ¹⁸O enriched atmosphere
- Aged 1, 34, 63, 153, 243 days
- Trace organics (degradation products) measured via Cryo-GC-MS
- Purpose: Allows chemists to deduce chemical pathway(s) to degradation

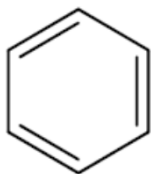
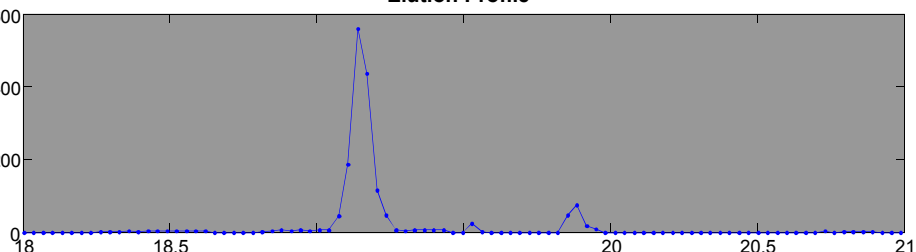
Spectral Shifting from Isotopes

Benzene

Mass Spectrum

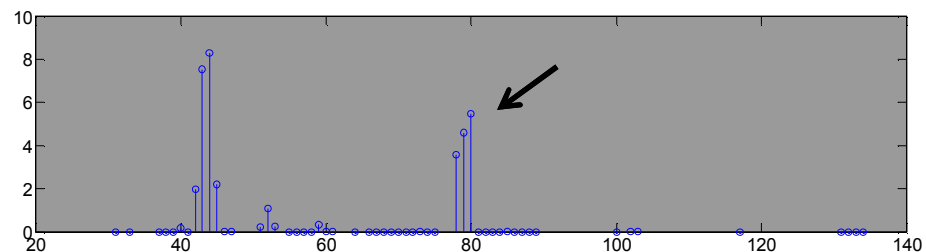


Elution Profile

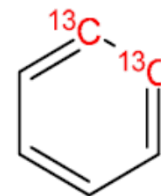
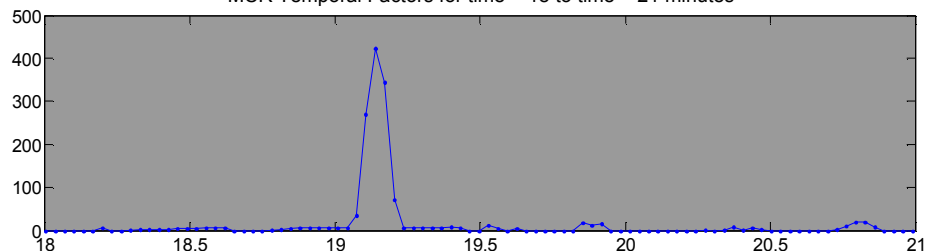


Benzene

Benzene : ¹³C Labeled



MCR Temporal Factors for time = 18 to time = 21 minutes



Benzene: ¹³C

Ratio of Chemical Isotopes

| Species | ¹³ C | ¹⁵ N | ¹⁸ O |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Butene (1- or 2-) | - | - | - |
| Butane | - | - | - |
| Carbon Dioxide | 100:50 100:45 | - | 100:95:55 30:100:90 |
| 1-Pentene | 100:50 25:100 | - | |
| Acetone | - | - | 100:40 100:45 |
| Methyl Acetate | - | - | 75:100:50 |
| Cyclopentene | 100:35 100:35 | - | - |
| 2-Butanone | - | - | - |
| Ethyl Acetate | - | - | Not detected |
| Tetrahydrofuran | - | - | 80:100 75:100 |
| Benzene | 45:55:100 40:40:100 | - | - |

- All species listed present in unlabeled aging study
- Red values from Smith et al., 2012

Conclusions

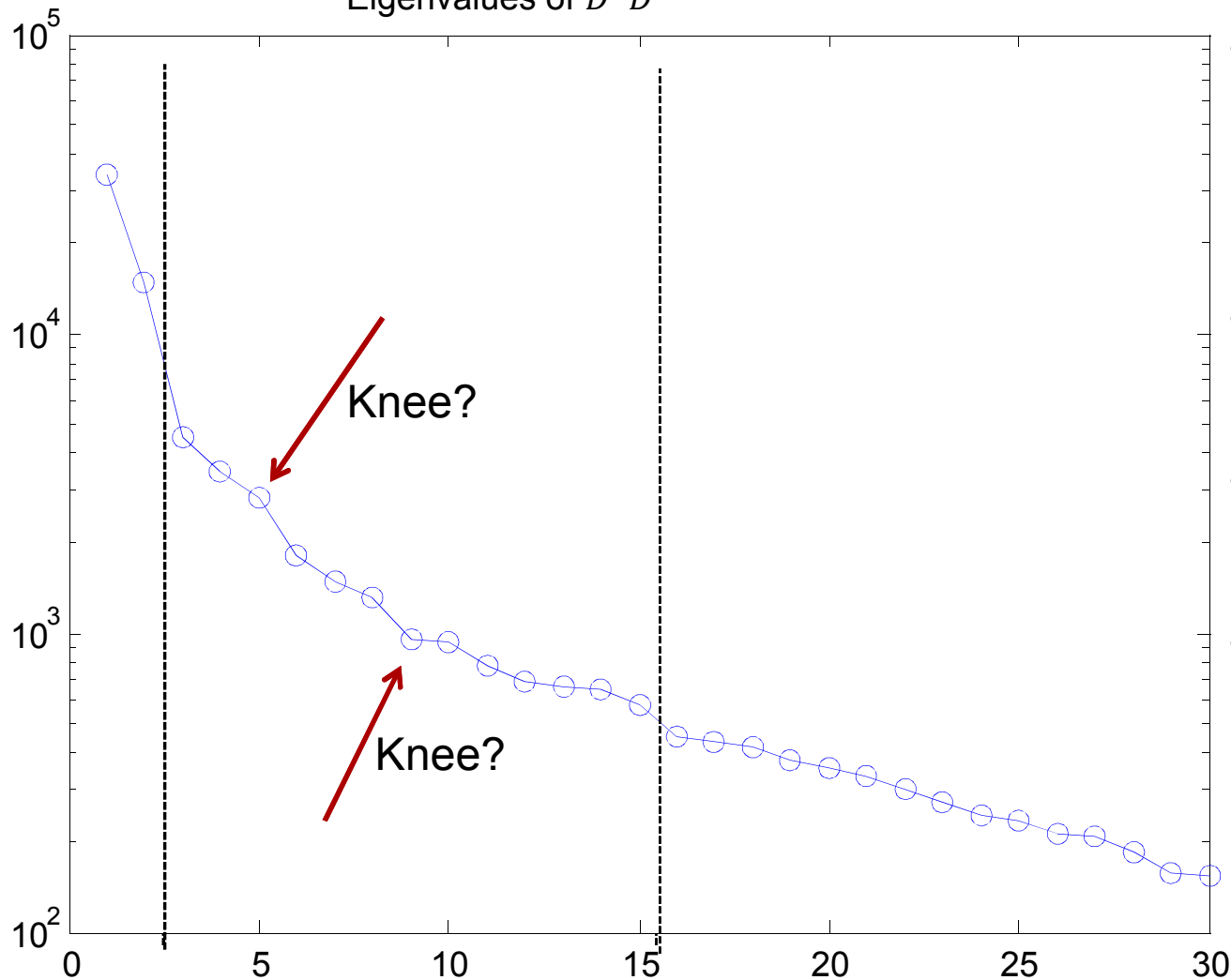
- Found all chemicals reported in Smith et al., 2012 paper except Tetrahydropyran & Ammonia
 - Ammonia not found because of process data filtering
- Relatively fast analysis (hours not days)
- Resolution of co-eluted chemical species
- Easier quantitative measurements
- Good agreement between Smith et al. 2012 paper and data analysis
 - ^{18}O data noisy and difficult to analyze
- Isotopic spectral shifting identified in factored data
- Some isotopic ratios match Smith paper; some different

Future Work

- Apply method to analyze EVA degradation data
- Explore weighing methods to correct saturated data
- Move towards automated analysis
 - Algorithms to identify number of columns in fit
- Verify quantitative measurements by solutions “spiked” with known chemical ratios

Example of $D^T D$ Eigenvalue Plot

Eigenvalues of $D^T D$



- Number of eigenvalues equals number of significant columns in factored matrices
- Ideally curve comes to pronounced “knee”
- Often knee is difficult to see or missing
- Examine fits with different numbers of columns

Sensitivity to Underfit / Overfit

Underfit

- Miss chemical signals present in data
- Slightly overestimate number of counts

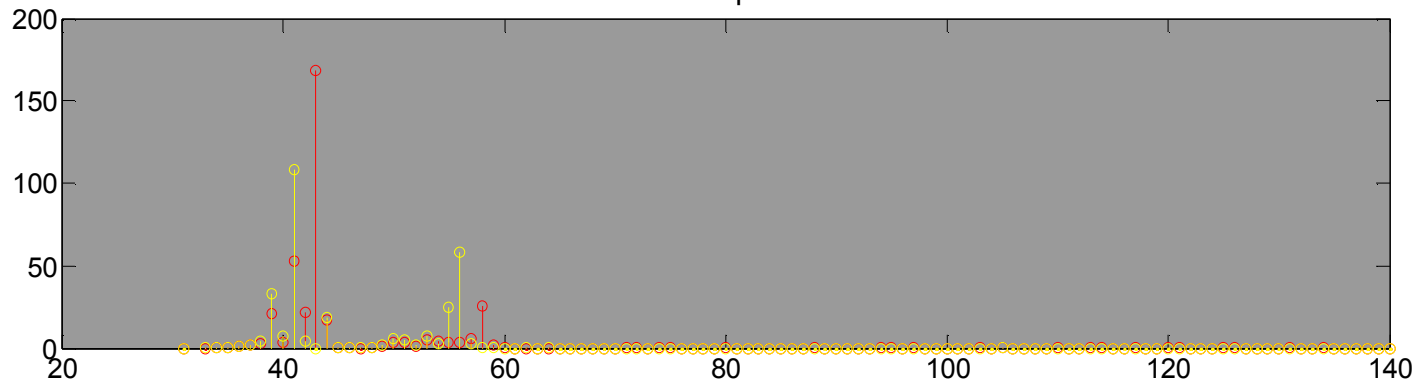
Overfit

- Create false chemical signals not present in data
- Slightly underestimate number of counts

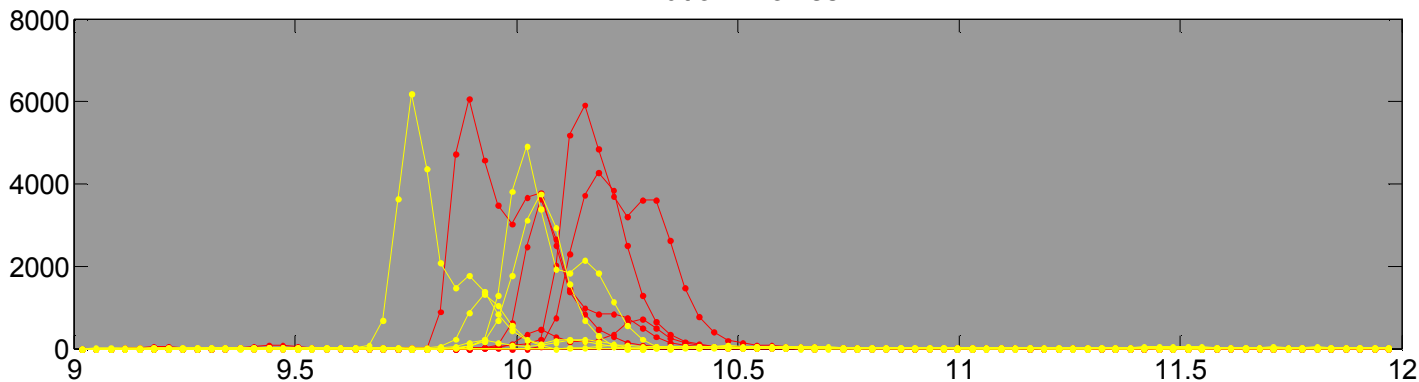
- Counts found empirically to be relatively stable if data overfit or underfit
- When in doubt, it's better to overfit the data and use NIST matches to discard false matches

Co-eluted Chemicals

Mass Spectra



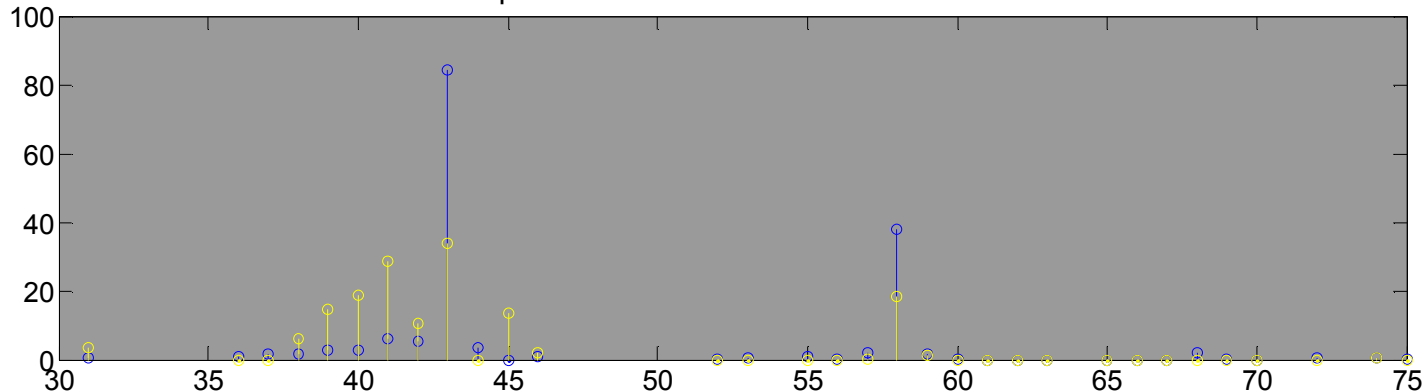
Elution Profiles



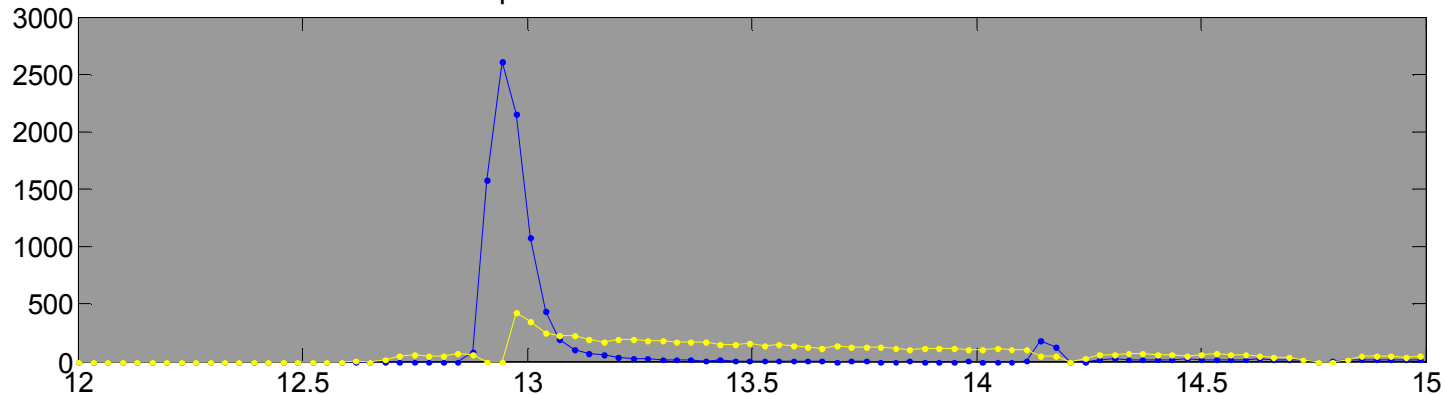
- Able to resolve co-eluted chemical species
- Difficult to do with traditional analysis

Detector Saturation

MCR Mass Spectral Factors for time = 12 to time=15 minutes



MCR Temporal Factors for time = 12 to time = 15 minutes



- High spectral and spatial correlation
- Detector is registering maximum counts at 43 m/z
- Algorithm resolves as separate column

Relative % of Chemicals

| | Day 1 | Day 34 | Day 63 | Day 143 | Day 243 | Notes |
|----------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------------|
| 1-Butene | 71 | 92 | 100 | 75 | 55 | |
| Butane | 60 | 95 | 100 | 88 | 56 | |
| Carbon Dioxide | 100 | 60 | 45 | 35 | 28 | Strong trend |
| 1-Pentene | 97 | 87 | 100 | 81 | 74 | |
| Acetone | 71 | 78 | 100 | 91 | 86 | |
| Methyl Acetate | 30 | 40 | 100 | 96 | 87 | |
| Cyclopentene | 80 | 78 | 98 | 77 | 100 | |
| 2-Butanone | 29 | 51 | 90 | 100 | 81 | |

Relative % of Chemicals

| | Day 1 | Day 34 | Day 63 | Day 143 | Day 243 | Notes |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Trichloromethane | 100 | 49 | 32 | 33 | 31 | |
| Tetrahydrofuran | 66 | 80 | 82 | 100 | 93 | |
| Benzene | 70 | 70 | 100 | 90 | 77 | |
| 2-Pentanone | 47 | 61 | 100 | 86 | 69 | |
| Tetrahydropyran | | | | | | |
| Pyridine | 0 | 2 | 63 | 72 | 100 | Strong trend |
| 2-Hexanone | 61 | 72 | 100 | 93 | 72 | |
| Toluene | 31 | 56 | 100 | 94 | 72 | |
| Cyclopentanone | 36 | 64 | 86 | 100 | 86 | |

Conclusions

- Found all chemicals reported in Smith et al., 2012 paper except Tetrahydropyran & Ammonia
 - Ammonia not found because of process data filtering
- Relatively fast analysis (hours not days)
- Resolution of co-eluted chemical species
- Easier quantitative measurements

Chemicals in Unfolded Nylon 6.6

| | Approximate Retention Peak(s) (min) | Total Counts | Cosine | Correlation | Notes |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 2-Butanone | 16.4-16.6 | 7.9×10^6 | 860 | 914 | |
| Tetrahydrofuran | 17.7-17.9 | 4.4×10^6 | 867 | 890 | |
| Silanol, trimethyl- | 15.8-16.4 | 1.1×10^7 | 830 | 876 | |
| Silicone Species (Column Bleed) | 19.8-20.0 | 3.3×10^6 | 546 | 551 | Low Cos/Corr scores |
| Butane, 1-chloro- | 18.8-19.8 | 4.0×10^6 | 788 | 834 | |
| 2-Pentanone | 20.4-20.9 | 4.2×10^6 | 711 | 791 | |
| Benzene | 19.0-19.2 | 1.1×10^6 | 719 | 826 | |
| Pyridine | 23.6 | 7.0×10^5 | 902 | 909 | |
| Butanoic acid, methyl ester | 21.4-22.3 | 3.7×10^6 | 677 | 727 | |
| n-Propyl acetate | 21.8-21.9 | 3.5×10^5 | 680 | 793 | |
| Tetrahydropyran | | | | | Reported in Smith et al., 2012 |

| | Approximate Retention Peak(s) (min) | Total Counts | Cosine | Correlation | Notes |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|-------------|-------|
| Toluene | 24.6-24.7 | 4.7x10 ⁶ | 884 | 889 | |
| Cyclopentanone | 26.1 | 1.9x10 ⁶ | 712 | 747 | |
| 2-Hexanone | 24.7-26.7 | 1.1x10 ⁶ | 613 | 751 | |
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| | | | | | |

Ratio of Chemical Isotopes

| | ¹³ C | ¹⁵ N | ¹⁸ O | Control | Notes |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 2-Pentanone | 85:100 | - | - | Present | Noisy ¹⁸ O |
| Tetrahydropyran | 100:100 | - | 100:40 | Present | |
| Pyridine | 35:100 | 85:100 | - | Present | Noisy ¹⁸ O |
| Butyric acid, methyl ester | - | - | Not detected | Present | |
| <u>n-Propyl acetate</u> | - | - | Not detected | Present | |
| 2-Hexanone | 100:60 | - | Not detected | Present | Noisy ¹³ C |
| Toluene | - | - | - | Present | |
| Cyclopentanone | 100:30 | - | Not detected | Present | |