Improvement in Resolution of Low Melting Point Triglyceride Molecular Species on Chilled Column Isocratic Liquid Chromatography

Tsugihiko Hirano
Hitachi Hokkai Semiconductor Ltd., Nakajima, Nanae-cho, Hokkaido 041-11, Japan

Koretaro Takahashi*
Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University, 3-1-1 Minato-cho, Hakodate 041, Japan

Abstract

An isocratic reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatographic system is used to achieve the separation and improved resolution of individual triglyceride molecular species that are rich in icosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA). The triglycerides are enzymatically synthesized and contain EPA and DHA. Various column temperatures, from -20°C to 20°C, are used to aid in calculation of the changes in chromatographic parameters. It is found that when column temperature decreases, the selectivity values and retention rate values in the equation used to describe resolution exhibit an increasing; however, there is a critical column temperature that gives optimum resolution. For this reason, we concluded that to obtain the best resolution of a triglyceride molecular species with a low melting point, it is important to lower the column temperature near to the critical point.

Introduction

A column oven is sometimes used in high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to decrease retention time ($t_R$) and to increase the theoretical plate number ($N$) (1-3). Plate number decreases when the column is cooled. However, it is often observed that baseline resolution can be obtained for some peaks by cooling the column.

Fish oil contains many more kinds of fatty acids and highly unsaturated fatty acids than vegetable oils, thus it has a more complex triglyceride (TG) composition that may be difficult to resolve using the techniques applied to the separation of vegetable oil samples. However, fish oil has the advantage of a low melting point (approximately 0-5°C), and good resolution can be obtained for lipid species with the use of a column chilling system.

In this article, we discuss the theoretical aspects of improvement in resolution of TG molecular species via reversed-phase HPLC and lowering column temperature.

Experimental

Synthesis of triglyceride-containing icosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid

Icosapentaenoic acid (0.6 mL, 90.9% pure) (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (0.6 mL, 88.0% pure) (DHA) were gifts of Nippon Chemical Feed (Hakodate, Japan). Both chemicals were added to 16 mL glycerin (Wako Pure Chemical; Osaka, Japan). A 0.5M phosphate buffer enzyme solution (0.22 mL) (pH 6.0) that contained 30.4 mg Lipase TOYO (Chromobacterium viscosum) (gift of Asahi Chemical; Fuji, Japan) was added to initiate glyceride synthesis. The mixture was heated at 25°C and magnetically stirred under argon gas for 24 h. Incubation was terminated by adding ethanol. The triglycerides thus synthesized were extracted using ethylether and then rinsed several times with water. Finally, purified triglyceride was obtained after preparative thin-layer chromatography (Kieselgel 60 F254, 20 × 20 cm, 0.5-mm thickness) (E. Merck; Darmstadt, Germany). The mobile phase was composed of n-hexane, ethylether, and acetic acid (70:30:1, v/v/v).

Reversed-phase HPLC

A Hitachi 638-50 liquid chromatograph (Tokyo, Japan) was used. It was equipped with a WakoSil SC18N column (300 × 4 mm, 5 μm) (Wako Pure Chemical) and a Supersphere RP-18 column (250 × 4 mm, 4 μm) (E. Merck) in tandem. The solvent was acetone-acetonitrile (3:2 or 3:1 or 7:1, v/v). The flow rate was 0.7 mL/min. The following column temperatures were used: 20°C, 15°C, 10°C, 5°C, 0°C, -5°C, -10°C, -15°C, -20°C. A Model 750/14 mass detector was obtained from Applied Chromatographic Systems (Cheshire, U.K.). Other conditions were as follows: time constant, 5; attenuation, 2; photomultiplier gain, 1; air pressure of nebulizer, 0.8 kg/cm²; sample volume, 1-2 μL. The outlet of the column was bifurcated to recover each peak fraction. Recovering timing was synchronized with a needle valve using oil red as a marker. Recovered peak fractions (Figure 1) were identified as previously reported (4).

Measurement of the viscosity of the eluent

Viscosity was measured on an Ostwald viscometer (Nippon...
According to the law of Martin (6), the following two relationships can be induced:

\[ \ln t_{R1} = (\Delta \mu_{TG1}/RT) \]  
\[ \ln t_{R2} = (\Delta \mu_{TG2}/RT) \]  

where \( \Delta \mu_{TG1} \) and \( \Delta \mu_{TG2} \) are chemical potentials of molecular species adjacent to each other in a chromatographic system (TG1 and TG2). By introducing constants \( (P_1, P_2) \) into Equations 2 and 3, we obtained the following equations:

\[ \ln t_{R1} = (\Delta \mu_{TG1}/RT) - P_1 \]  
\[ \ln t_{R2} = (\Delta \mu_{TG2}/RT) - P_2 \]  

If Equation 4 is subtracted from Equation 5, the following is obtained:

\[ \ln \left( \frac{t_{R2}}{t_{R1}} \right) = \left( \frac{\Delta \mu_{TG2} - \Delta \mu_{TG1}}{RT} \right) + P_1 - P_2 \]  

If \( \Delta \mu_X \) is substituted for \( \Delta \mu_{TG2} - \Delta \mu_{TG1} \) and if \( \alpha \) is substituted for \( t_{R2}/t_{R1} \), the following should hold true:

\[ \ln \alpha = (\Delta \mu_X/RT) + P_1 - P_2 \]  

In terms of column temperature, there might be a certain change in state; that is, there may be a bend or an association of molecules in the mobile phase, the stationary phase, or the solutes. If this is taken into consideration, \( \Delta \mu_X \) is a function of column temperature \( (T) \). Therefore, from Equation 7, the following equation can be derived:

\[ \ln \alpha = (\Delta \mu_X(1)/RT) + P_1 - P_2 \]  

Results and Discussion

The resolution value \( (R_S) \) is often used as an index of resolution in HPLC. \( R_S \) is expressed in the following way:

\[ R_S = \frac{(k_1 / 4)(\alpha - 1) \sqrt{N_1}}{k' + 1} \]  

where \( k_1 \) and \( k_2 \) are capacity factors and \( N_1 \) and \( N_2 \) \( (N_1 = N_2) \) are theoretical plate numbers of the adjacent two peaks (5). Here, selectivity \( (\alpha) \) is defined as \( k_2/k_1 \) and \( k' \) is defined as \( (k_2 + k_1)/2 \).

In this study, we considered the changes in resolution values when column temperature varied by examining each term in Equation 1.

Selectivity

Selectivity \( (\alpha) \) corresponds to the ratio of retention values \( (t_{R1}, t_{R2}) \) of two adjacent peaks \( (TG_1, TG_2) \). For example, \( \alpha = (k_2/k_1) = (t_{R2}/t_{R1}) \).
On the other hand, as shown in Figure 2, there is a linear relationship between \( \ln t' \) and \( 1/T \) such that the following empirical relationships can be obtained:

For DDD, \( \ln t'_R (\text{DDD}) = 2.943 \times 10^3/T - 7.33 \) \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 8}

For EDD, \( \ln t'_R (\text{EDD}) = 2.869 \times 10^3/T - 7.15 \) \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 9}

For EED, \( \ln t'_R (\text{EED}) = 2818 \times 10^3/T - 7.04 \) \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 10}

For EEE, \( \ln t'_R (\text{EEE}) = 2.786 \times 10^3/T - 6.98 \) \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 11}

From Equations 8–11, the following equations can be derived:

\[
\ln \left( \frac{t'_R (\text{DDD})}{t'_R (\text{EEE})} \right) = 0.157 \times 10^3/T - 0.35 \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 12}
\]

\[
\ln \left( \frac{t'_R (\text{DDD})}{t'_R (\text{EED})} \right) = 0.125 \times 10^3/T - 0.29 \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 13}
\]

\[
\ln \left( \frac{t'_R (\text{DDD})}{t'_R (\text{DD})} \right) = 0.074 \times 10^3/T - 0.18 \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 14}
\]

\[
\ln \left( \frac{t'_R (\text{EED})}{t'_R (\text{EEE})} \right) = 0.083 \times 10^3/T - 0.17 \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 15}
\]

\[
\ln \left( \frac{t'_R (\text{EED})}{t'_R (\text{DD})} \right) = 0.051 \times 10^3/T - 0.11 \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 16}
\]

\[
\ln \left( \frac{t'_R (\text{EEE})}{t'_R (\text{DD})} \right) = 0.032 \times 10^3/T - 0.06 \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 17}
\]

Since the left members of Equations 12–17 correspond to \( \ln \alpha \), the empirically derived linear relationships shown in Equations 12–17 corroborate that \( \Delta \mu_x(T) \) from Equation 7A is close to 1. Therefore, the hypothesis is corroborated.

If \( \Delta \mu_x(T) \) is not dependent on \( T \), \( [\Delta \mu_x(T_1)/\Delta \mu_x(T_2)] \) in Equation 18 should be equal to 1. In fact, as shown in Table I, \( [\Delta \mu_x(T_1)/\Delta \mu_x(T_2)] \) is close to 1. Therefore, the hypothesis is corroborated.

### Table I. Relationship Between \( (P_2 - P_1 + \ln \alpha) \) and \( T_2/T_1 \) of the Column

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( T_2/T_1 )</th>
<th>( (P_2 - P_1 + \ln \alpha) )</th>
<th>( (P_2 - P_1 + \ln \alpha) )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( 258/253(1.020) )</td>
<td>0.9919</td>
<td>1.0460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 263/253(1.040) )</td>
<td>1.0099</td>
<td>1.0630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 268/253(1.059) )</td>
<td>1.0480</td>
<td>1.0940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 273/253(1.079) )</td>
<td>1.0645</td>
<td>1.0990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 278/253(1.099) )</td>
<td>1.0882</td>
<td>1.1190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 283/253(1.119) )</td>
<td>1.0930</td>
<td>1.1360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 288/253(1.138) )</td>
<td>1.1252</td>
<td>1.1570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 293/253(1.158) )</td>
<td>1.1378</td>
<td>1.1740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*\( \alpha \) = icosapentaenoyl; D = docosahexaenoyl.

### Column efficiency

The column efficiency is given as the square root of the plate number. The theoretical plate number is as follows:

\[
N = L/H \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 19}
\]

where \( L \) is column length, and \( H \) is height equivalent to a theoretical plate. \( H \) is a function of particle diameter of column packing (\( D_p \)), the overall velocity of the mobile phase (\( u \)), the molecular diffusion coefficient in the mobile phase (\( D_m \)), and the molecular diffusion coefficient in the stationary phase (\( D_s \)). In other words,

\[
H = 1 \left( \frac{1}{(1/C_d d_p^2) + (1/C_m d_s^2 u / D_m)} \right) + \frac{C_d D_m}{u} \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 20}
\]

where \( C_v, C_m, C_d, C_{sv} \) are constants and \( d_p \) is the thickness of the stationary phase. Each term in Equation 20 is defined as follows:

- eddy diffusion
- mobile phase mass transfer
- longitudinal diffusion
- stagnant mobile phase mass transfer
- stationary phase mass transfer

In liquid–liquid chromatography, the stationary phase mass transfer is negligibly small. In other words, \( C_d D_m/u D_s = 0 \). These terms are functions of velocity and the molecular diffusion coefficient in the mobile phase. If we take notice of a certain analytical temperature, all the signs except \( u \) and \( D_m \) can be considered invariable. Thus, we can focus attention on \( u \) and \( D_m \). From the law of Darcy, the following is obtained:

\[
u = \kappa P/L \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 21}
\]

where \( L \) is column length, \( \kappa \) is transmittance, and \( P \) is the depression between both ends of the column. From the law of Kozeny–Carmen (7), \( \kappa \) can be defined in the following way:

\[
k = d_p^2/1000\eta f \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 22}
\]

where \( \eta \) is the viscosity of the solvent (mobile phase), and \( f \) is the totally porous proportion of column packing. By eliminating \( \kappa \) and using the definitions, we obtain the following equation:

\[
u = (d_p^2)P/1000\eta \ln \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 23}
\]

From the law of Wilke–Chang (7), \( D_m \) is approximated by the following equation:

\[
D_m = (7.4 \times 10^{-8}) (\psi M)^{0.5} \eta V_1^{0.6} \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq 24}
\]
where $M$ is the molecular weight of the solvent, $V_1$ is the molecular volume, and $\psi$ is the association modulus. In general, when the temperature changes, the viscosity ($\eta$) of the solvent (mobile phase) also changes. There is a linear relationship between the logarithm of viscosity and the reciprocal value of temperature which is expressed as follows (the law of Andrade):

$$
\eta = A e^{\Delta E/RT} \quad \text{Eq 25}
$$

where $A$ is a constant, $\Delta E$ is the activation energy for flow; and $R$ is the gas constant. As shown in Figure 3, Equation 25 was empirically borne out by the present data. In HPLC systems in general, changes in overall flow rate ($u$) suppressed by changes in viscosity ($\eta$) of solvent owing to temperature ($T$) change are compensated for by changing the solvent pressure simultaneously. Therefore, $u$ is considered to be constant. In Equation 20, $H$ can be considered to be a function of $D_m$. By eliminating $\eta$ through substitution of Equation 25 in the definition of stagnant mobile phase mass transfer and using that of stationary phase mass transfer in Equation 24, we can differentiate the equation and the following will be obtained:

$$
\frac{1}{C_mD_p^2u} \left( \frac{1}{C_c d_p} + \frac{D_m}{C_m d_p^2u} \right)^2 + \frac{C_{sm} d_p^2u}{D_m^2} > C_d (>0) \quad \text{Eq 28}
$$

$H$ becomes large when $D_m$ becomes small.

$$
\frac{\partial H}{\partial D_m} < 0 \quad \text{Eq 29}
$$

On the other hand, when $T$ is large and when the following relationship is true,

$$
 \frac{1}{C_mD_p^2u} \left( \frac{1}{C_c d_p} + \frac{D_m}{C_m d_p^2u} \right)^2 + \frac{C_{sm} d_p^2u}{D_m^2} < C_d \quad \text{Eq 30}
$$

$H$ becomes small when $D_m$ becomes small.

$$
\frac{\partial H}{\partial D_m} > 0 \quad \text{Eq 31}
$$

By the differentiation theory of composite function,

$$
\frac{\partial H}{\partial T} = \frac{\partial (H/\partial D_m)}{(\partial D_m/\partial T)} \quad \text{Eq 32}
$$

should hold true. By differentiating Equation 19 with respect to $T$, we obtained the following equation:

$$
\frac{\partial N}{\partial T} = -\left( \frac{L}{H} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\partial H}{\partial T} \right) \quad \text{Eq 33}
$$

By substituting Equations 32, 27, and 26 into Equation 33, we obtained Equation 34:

$$
\frac{\partial N}{\partial T} = \frac{L(1+\Delta E/RT)}{H^2T} \times \left( \frac{1}{C_mD_p^2u} \left( \frac{1}{C_c d_p} + \frac{D_m}{C_m d_p^2u} \right)^2 + \frac{C_{sm} d_p^2u}{D_m^2} - \frac{C_d}{u} \right) \quad \text{Eq 34}
$$

Therefore, when $T$ is low and when the inequality in Equation 28 is true, $N$ becomes small in accordance with the decrease in $T$. In other words,

$$
\frac{\partial N}{\partial T} > 0 \quad \text{Eq 35}
$$

On the other hand, when $T$ is large and when the inequality in Equation 30 is true, $N$ becomes large with a decrease in $T$:

$$
\frac{\partial N}{\partial T} < 0 \quad \text{Eq 36}
$$

From the results demonstrated so far, we can induce the following points:

(a) $\partial D_m/\partial T$ an increasing function. When $T$ becomes infinitely large, $\partial D_m/\partial T$ will be $7.4 \times 10^{-8} (\psi M)^{0.5}/V_1^{0.5}A$; that is, if $T$ decreases, $D_m$ will also decrease.

(b) When $T$ is large (when $D_m$ is large) and when the ini-
equality in Equation 30 is true, \( \partial N/\partial T \) becomes negative. In this temperature range, \( N \) increases in accordance with the decrease in \( T \).

(c) On the other hand, when \( T \) is low (when \( D_m \) is small) and when the inequality in Equation 28 is true, \( \partial N/\partial T \) becomes positive. In this temperature range, \( N \) decreases in accordance with the decrease in \( T \).

(d) By combining points b and c, we can say that in a high \( T \) range (in the range where Equation 30 is true), \( N \) increases in accordance with the decrease in \( T \). However, when \( T \) becomes significantly low (in the range where Equation 28 is true), \( N \) decreases with a decrease in \( T \).

(e) If \( \partial N/\partial T = 0 \) as a critical temperature (\( T_c \)), \( T_c \) is the optimum temperature for obtaining the best \( N \) value. In the present study, \(-15^\circ C \) corresponds to this \( T_c \), as can be seen in Figure 4.

(f) If \( T \) reaches the range where orientation of molecules occur (i.e., when a change in states takes place), the solubility of TG decreases. The efficiency in partition between both phases (the mobile and stationary phases) also decreases. It is thought that much time is required to reach a partition equilibrium. The theoretical plate number is thought to consequently decrease at this state.

(g) The phenomenon in point f can be explained in the following way: the modulus of \( D_m \) in Equation 24 decreases when there is a change in the state of the solvent. In other words, the coefficient in Equation 24 is thought to decrease at this state.

(h) As mentioned previously, when \( D_m \) decreases because of a change of state of the solvent, \( T_c \) increases (since \( T_c \) is the temperature that gives \( \partial N/\partial T = 0 \) in Equation 24), and if \( D_m \) decreases, \( T_c \) increases from the proportional relationship between \( T \) and \( D_m \).

(i) As seen in Figure 3, a discrepancy was observed below \(-15^\circ C \) (at \(-20^\circ C \), which corresponds to 3.95 on the x-axis). This suggests that a change in state at this temperature range should occur.

(j) Above the temperature at which a change of state occurs (e.g., above \(-15^\circ C \) in this study), Equation 30 should be true. In this temperature range, a lower \( T \) results in a better \( N \) value, and when the change of state starts to take place, \( T_c \) increases and suppresses the optimum value of \( N \).

Based on our observations to this point, in order to obtain the best \( N \) value, we deduce the following points:

(a) Solvents of the mobile phase should be low in molecular weight and viscosity but high in solubility of TG. These three factors should be well balanced at a high level (solvents that have a high \( D_m \) value should be selected).

(b) Solvents in the mobile phase should be resistant to changes in state at lower temperatures. It is desirable to select solvents that have a lower temperature at which they change state than to select solvents with a high or low \( T_c \) value.

(c) The temperature that gives \( \partial N/\partial T = 0 \) (i.e., \( T_c \)) is the best analytical temperature to obtain \( N_{\text{max}} \). However, \( T_c \) depends on \( u \), which is the flow rate of the mobile phase. Therefore, if we take this into consideration, we can consider the following condition should be the best; in other words, when \( \partial N/\partial \beta = 0 \) (\( \beta = D_m/u \)), \( \beta \) gives the optimum condition:

\[
\delta/\beta = -(L/H^2)(\partial H/\partial \beta) = \sqrt{\frac{L}{H}}\left(\frac{1}{C_m d_p^2} + \frac{C_m d_p^2}{\beta^2 - C_d}\right)
\]

Eq 37

The retention rate

The retention rate was defined as \( k/(k' + 1) \). For convenience sake, we will define \( \delta \) as follows:

\[
\delta = k/(k' + 1) = 2k/(k_1 + k_2 + 2)
\]

Eq 38

Since \( k_1 = (t_{R1}' - t_0)/t_0 \) and \( k_2 = (t_{R2}' - t_0)/t_0 \), the following equation should be true:

\[
\delta = 2(t_{R1}' - t_0)/(t_{R1}' + t_{R2}')
\]

Eq 39

\( t_0 \) can be defined in the following manner:

\[
t_0 = L/\eta
\]

Eq 40

If we substitute Equation 23 into Equation 40, the following equation will be obtained:

\[
t_0 = 1000\eta L^2/P_d^2
\]

Eq 41

In most cases, HPLC hardware compensates for solvent pressure to get a constant flow even though \( \eta \) changes because of a temperature change. Therefore, \( t_0 \) does not change even though \( T \) changes. By adjusting Equation 41, we obtain the following equations:
As shown in Figure 5, it is obvious that there is a linear relationship between $P$ and $\eta$ when $t_0$ is constant. Also, it can be seen from Table II that the values of $P/t$, which correspond to $P/\eta(t=\infty)$, are almost constant despite the temperature employed. Therefore, it is clear that $t_0$ is not affected by $T$. However, if we take a precise look at the data of $t_0$, as illustrated in Figure 6, in an expanded form, $t_0$ increases with the decrease in $T$. This contradiction can be explained by the following points:

(a) Strictly speaking, when $T$ changes, the volume of the stationary phase changes so as to affect $t_0$. For example, when $T$ decreases, $d^*$ in Equation 41 decreases and $t_0$ increases.

(b) When $T$ is lowered, the kinetic energy of the stationary and mobile phase molecules decreases and affects the van der Waals force among these molecules. This will make the molecules attract much easier. If the attraction of molecules starts to take place, the available volume of the column will increase. This phenomenon can be explained as follows: when $T$ decreases, the column volume increases in Equation 41, resulting in an increase in $t_0$.

(c) Partition of the solvent (the solvent used for sample dilution) itself may occur. If we denote the time required for a solvent to elute as $t_0'$, Equation 44 can be obtained by the law of Martin (6):

$$\ln t_0' \approx \Delta \mu_0/RT$$

However, Equation 44 can only be used when the solvent has a lower solubility than the mobile phase and when its affinity to the stationary phase is strong (i.e., when $\Delta \mu_0$ is large). This point can be checked by noting whether there is a separation between the loading shock and the solvent peak on the chromatogram. If there is no separation even when $T$ varies, the effect of Equation 44 is negligible. The phenomenon of $t_0$ increasing in accordance with a decrease in $T$ is attributed to the interactions of the above three factors. In fact, point c was consistent with the actual observations seen with $n$-hexane.

**Figure 5.** Relationship between column pressure and viscosity of the mobile phase. Measured by the flow time (s) of the mobile phase (acetone-acetonitrile, 3:2) as measured with an Ostwald viscometer.

**Figure 6.** Relationship between the time ($t_0$) required for the solvent to pass through the column versus column temperature ($T$). Acetone-acetonitrile (3:2) was used as the mobile phase.

**Figure 7.** Relationship between logarithm of the time required for the solvent to pass through the column versus the reciprocal value of the column temperature ($1/T$). Acetone-acetonitrile (3:2) was used as the mobile phase.

**Table II. Values of Column Pressure and Flow Time of the Mobil Phase on Ostwald Viscometer at Various Absolute Column Temperatures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column temp.</th>
<th>Column pressure (kg/cm²)</th>
<th>Flow time (s)</th>
<th>$P/t$ (kg/cm² s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>293 (20°C)</td>
<td>142.9</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288 (15)</td>
<td>148.0</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283 (10)</td>
<td>156.9</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>278 (5)</td>
<td>160.0</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>273 (0)</td>
<td>162.7</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>268 (-5)</td>
<td>169.9</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>263 (-10)</td>
<td>175.0</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>258 (-15)</td>
<td>184.3</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>253 (-20)</td>
<td>203.6</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Same mobile phase as in Figure 5 was used.*
By substituting Equations 50–52 into Equation 39, we find that
\[
\delta = 2 \left( e^{(\Delta \mu_{TG_1}/RT-q_1)} - e^{(\Delta \mu_{o}/RT-q_0)} \right) \quad \text{Eq 53}
\]

If we differentiate Equation 53 with respect to \( T \),
\[
\frac{\partial \delta}{\partial T} = \frac{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)(e^{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0})}{\left[1 + e^{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0}ight] + (\Delta \mu_2 - \Delta \mu_1)}
\]
\[
\left[1 - e^{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0}\right] \{e^{(\Delta \mu_2 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0} \}
\]
\[
/\left[1 + e^{(\Delta \mu_1 - \Delta \mu_2)/RT+q_2-q_0} \right]^{2} RT^2/2
\]

The focus of our study is the resolution of adjacent peaks with close retention times. Therefore, \( \Delta \mu_{TG_2} - \Delta \mu_{TG_1} \approx 0 \). If this equation is substituted into Equation 54,
\[
\frac{\partial \delta}{\partial T} = \frac{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)(e^{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0})}{\left[1 + e^{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0} \right] + (\Delta \mu_2 - \Delta \mu_1)}
\]
\[
\left[1 - e^{(\Delta \mu_0 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0}\right] \{e^{(\Delta \mu_2 - \Delta \mu_1)/RT+q_1-q_0} \}
\]
\[
/\left[1 + e^{(\Delta \mu_1 - \Delta \mu_2)/RT+q_2-q_0} \right]^{2} RT^2/2 < 0
\]

should be true since \( \Delta \mu_0 < \Delta \mu_{TG_1} \). From Equations 54 and 55, the following two points pertaining to \( \delta \) can be derived:
(a) Equation 55 demonstrates that when \( T \) decreases, \( \delta \) increases between the adjacent two peaks (i.e., \( TG_2 \) and \( TG_1 \)).
(b) However, this effect becomes moderate when the difference in retention times between the molecular species becomes significantly large (i.e., when \( \Delta \mu_{TG_2} - \Delta \mu_{TG_1} \) is significantly large).

Mathematically, when \( \Delta \mu_{TG_2} - \Delta \mu_{TG_1} \) increases, the second term of the numerator in Equation 54 is offset so \( \delta \partial T \) decreases. In fact, as illustrated in Figure 8, this was found to be true experimentally. For the term \( \delta \approx (k_1/(k' + 1)) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{k_1}{k_1} \right) \),

---

**Table III. Time Required to Detect the Solvent Peak and the Loading Shock**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solvent peak (min)</th>
<th>Loading shock (min)</th>
<th>Solvent peak (min)</th>
<th>Loading shock (min)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acetone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.24</td>
<td>7.26</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>6.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.20</td>
<td>7.26</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>6.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>7.29</td>
<td>6.64</td>
<td>6.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>7.28</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>6.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.24</td>
<td>7.24</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>6.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>7.24</td>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>6.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n-Hexane

| 13.15              | 7.12                | 10.07              | 6.68                |
| 13.12              | 7.08                | 10.06              | 6.66                |
| 13.11              | 7.14                | 10.03              | 6.67                |
| 13.20              | 7.08                | 10.03              | 6.70                |
| 13.26              | 7.14                | 10.03              | 6.70                |

Mean 13.17 7.11 10.04 6.68

(Table III), which is less soluble in the mobile phase than acetone. However, in acetone, \( t_0 = t_0' \) despite the temperature used (Table III). Acetone is generally used for the molecular species analysis of lipids. When it is used, we can neglect point c.

Meanwhile, as seen in Figure 7, \( \ln t_0' \approx 1/T \) can be empirically derived. If we make this relationship into an equation by using \( \Delta \mu_0/RT \) as a coefficient and \( q_0 \) as a constant, the following equation can be obtained:

\[
\ln t_0' = \Delta \mu_0/RT - q_0 \quad \text{Eq 45}
\]

Based on the law of Martin (6), the following equations can be derived:

\[
\ln t_{01}' = \Delta \mu_{TG_1}/RT \quad \text{Eq 46}
\]

\[
\ln t_{02}' = \Delta \mu_{TG_2}/RT \quad \text{Eq 47}
\]

By using these equations and defining \( q_1 \) and \( q_2 \) as constants, Equations 48 and 49 can be obtained:

\[
\ln t_{01}' = \Delta \mu_{TG_1}/RT - q_1 \quad \text{Eq 48}
\]

\[
\ln t_{02}' = \Delta \mu_{TG_2}/RT - q_2 \quad \text{Eq 49}
\]

By substitution and rearrangement of Equations 45, 48, and 49, the following equations are obtained:

\[
t_0' = e^{(\Delta \mu_0/RT-q_0)} \quad \text{Eq 50}
\]

\[
t_{01}' = e^{(\Delta \mu_{TG_1}/RT-q_1)} \quad \text{Eq 51}
\]

\[
t_{02}' = e^{(\Delta \mu_{TG_2}/RT-q_2)} \quad \text{Eq 52}
\]

**Figure 8. Relationship between \( k_1/[k' + 1] = 2k_1/[k_0+k_2+2] \) versus column temperature (T). E, icosapentaenoyl; D, docosahexaenoyl; K, capacity factor.**
2k/(k_1+k_2+2)), that is, the retention rate, we can conclude that the lower the T, the larger the value of δ becomes. If we consider Equation 1 again,

\[ R_s = \frac{(k_1 / 4)(\alpha - 1)}{N_1 / (k' + 1)} \]

\[ = \frac{1}{4}(\alpha - 1)\sqrt{N_1 / \delta} \]

we can deduce the following by summing up the explanation:

• Since \( \partial \alpha / \partial T < 0 \) in term \((\alpha - 1)\), it is obvious that when \( T \) decreases, \( \alpha \) increases. Therefore, it is better to lower \( T \) pertaining to this term.

• In a higher \( T \) range, \( \partial N / \partial T < 0 \) should be true for \( N_1 \). Therefore, \( N \) increases when \( T \) decreases. However, when \( T \) is below the critical temperature, \( \partial N / \partial T > 0 \) should be true. Therefore, in this case, when \( T \) decreases, \( N \) also decreases. \( T_c \) is the temperature that gives \( N / T = 0 \) and satisfies the following relationship:

\[ Eq \ 57 \]

where \( D_m \) is a function of \( T \), and all others are constants under a certain analytical condition. In this study, \(-15^\circ C\) is considered to be the value of \( T_c \) that gives the best value of \( N \) (Figure 4).

• In term \( \delta = k_1 / (k' + 1) = 2k_1 / (k_1 + k_2 + 2) \), \( \partial \delta / \partial T < 0 \) should be true. Therefore, when \( T \) decreases, \( \delta \) increases. For this reason, it is better to lower \( T \).

By summing up these points, we can conclude that terms \((\alpha - 1)\) and \( \delta \) provide good resolution when \( T \) is low. However, when \( T \) reaches the critical temperature, \( \sqrt{N_1} \) decreases and suppresses \( R_s \). (Strictly speaking, \( \partial R_s / \partial T = 0 \) should be \( T_c \)). In fact, the critical temperature for \( R_s \) was between \(-15^\circ C\) and \(-20^\circ C\) in this study (data not shown).

We can conclude that the lowest temperature of the column without exceeding the critical temperature is best for the analysis of molecular species of TG rich in EPA and DHA by isocratic reversed-phase HPLC.

Unlike the analytical system introduced by Scott and Lawrence (8), we recognized the significant advantage of improving \( R_s \) through lowering column temperature. The only disadvantage that we found in lowering \( T \) is elevated retention times. Gradient elution may be useful in this system. Theoretical aspects of improving resolution of TG species with low melting points will be reported elsewhere.

References