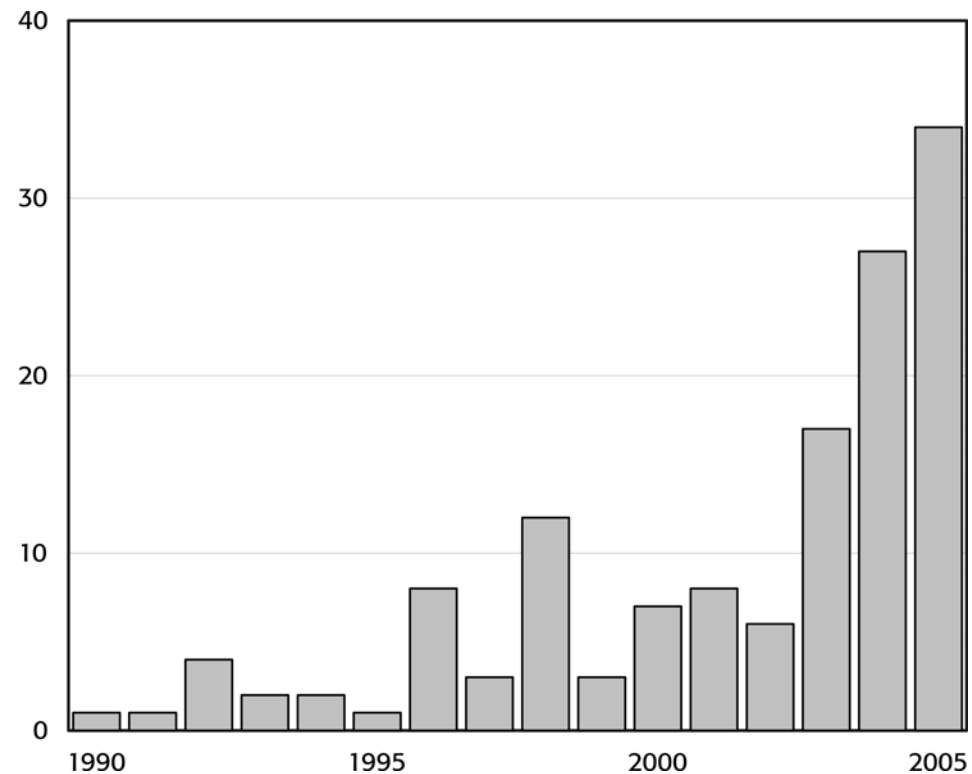




# The novelty of zwitterionic stationary phases for hydrophilic interaction chromatography (HILIC)

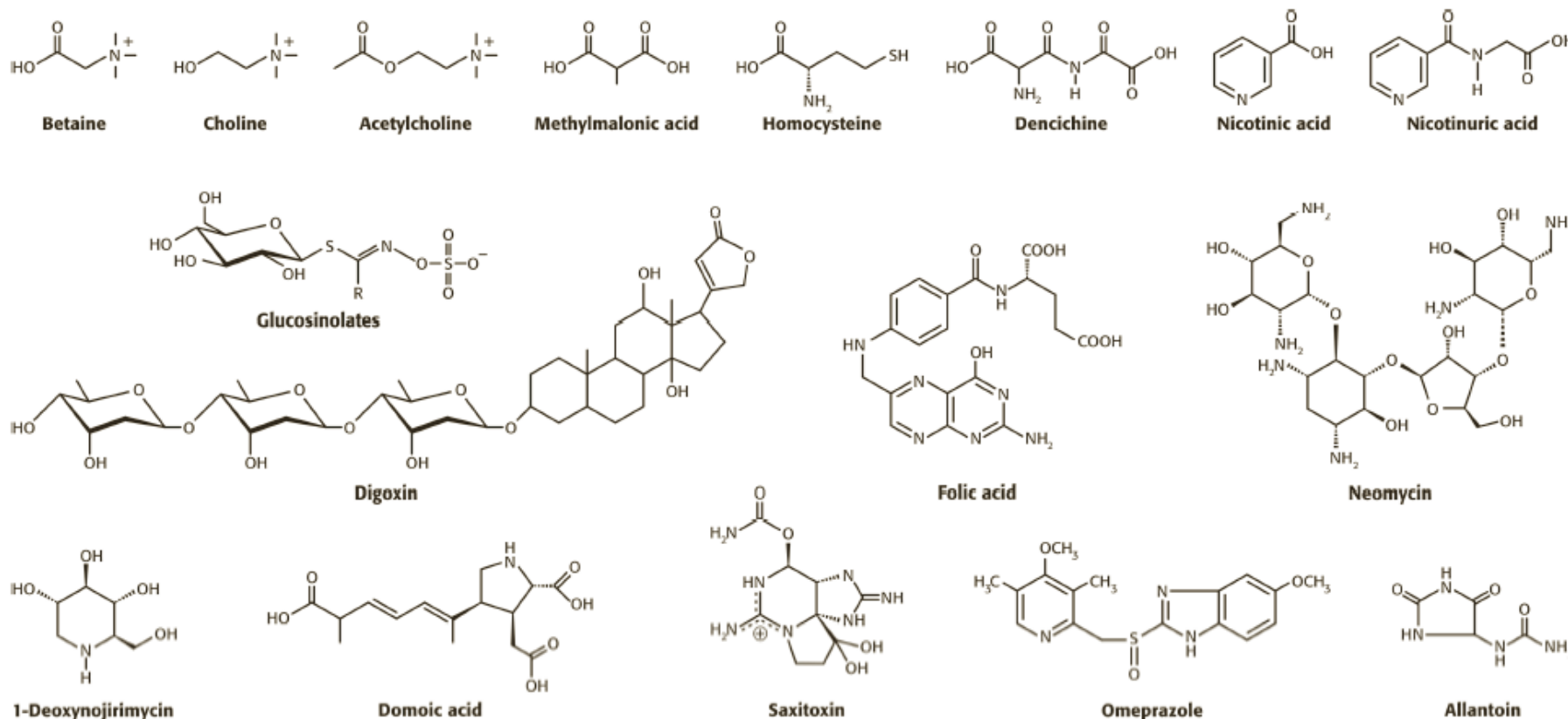
# Increasing interest for HILIC



Annual number of *scientific* HILIC papers <sup>[1]</sup>

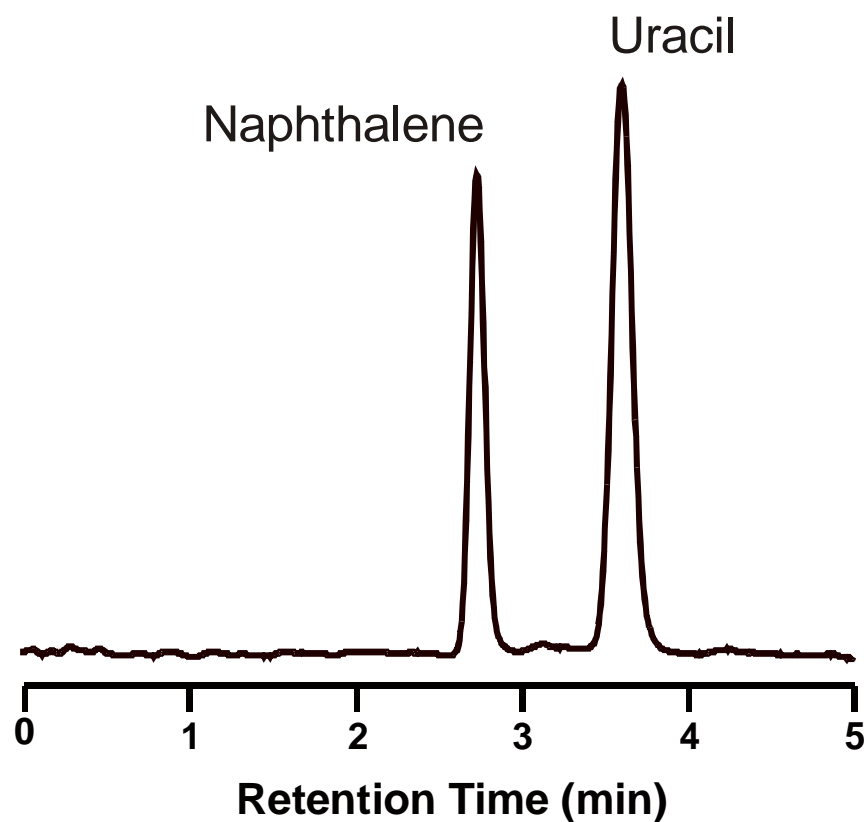
25% published year 2005, **ZIC®-HILIC** introduced 2002

# Numerous of “HILIC compounds” ...



Example of compounds separated by HILIC [1]

## Why HILIC and how?



A hydrophilic stationary phase...

An eluent with high content of organic solvent

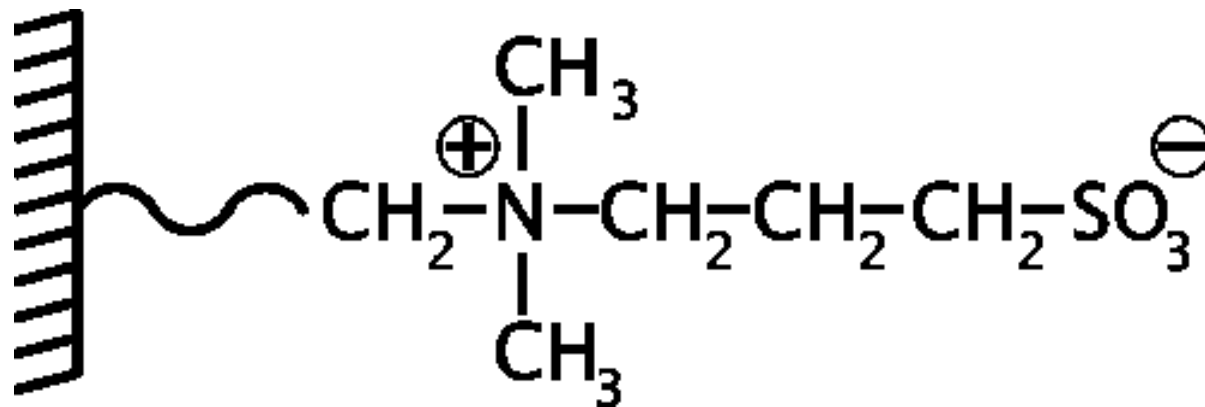
**70% (v/v) acetonitrile**  
**30% (v/v) water**

**ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC** capillary column

## HILIC – The straightforward approach!

- ❖ Water strong solvent, easy controlled
- ❖ Higher solubility of polar compounds
- ❖ Increases ESI-MS sensitivity <sup>[2]</sup>
- ❖ Orthogonal to RP <sup>[3]</sup>

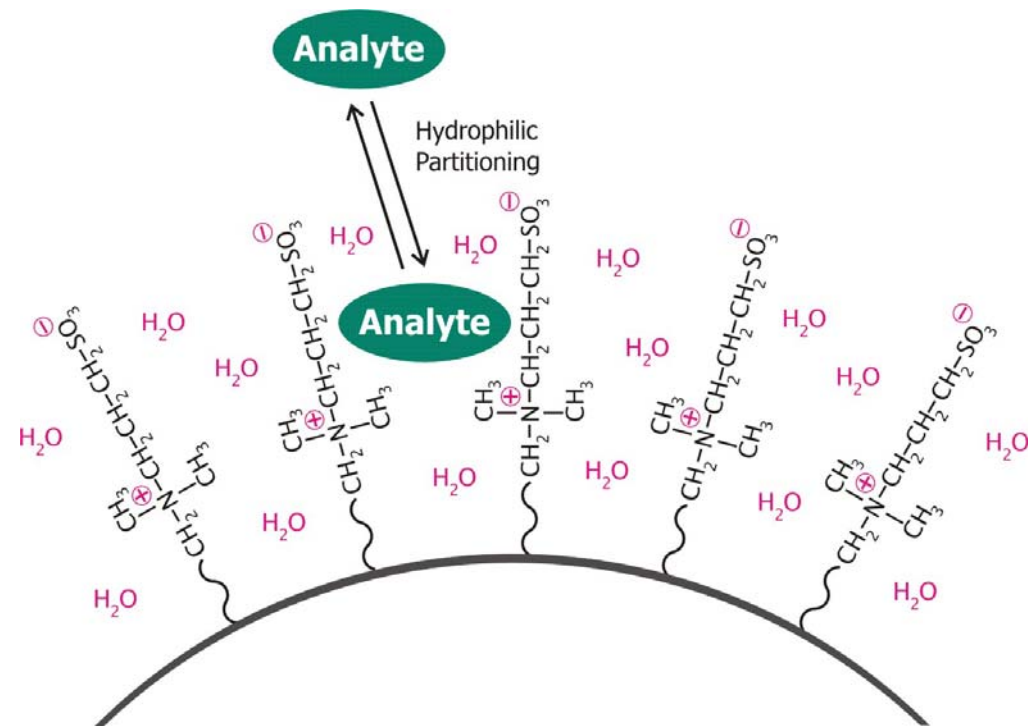
# ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC



The bonded stationary phase

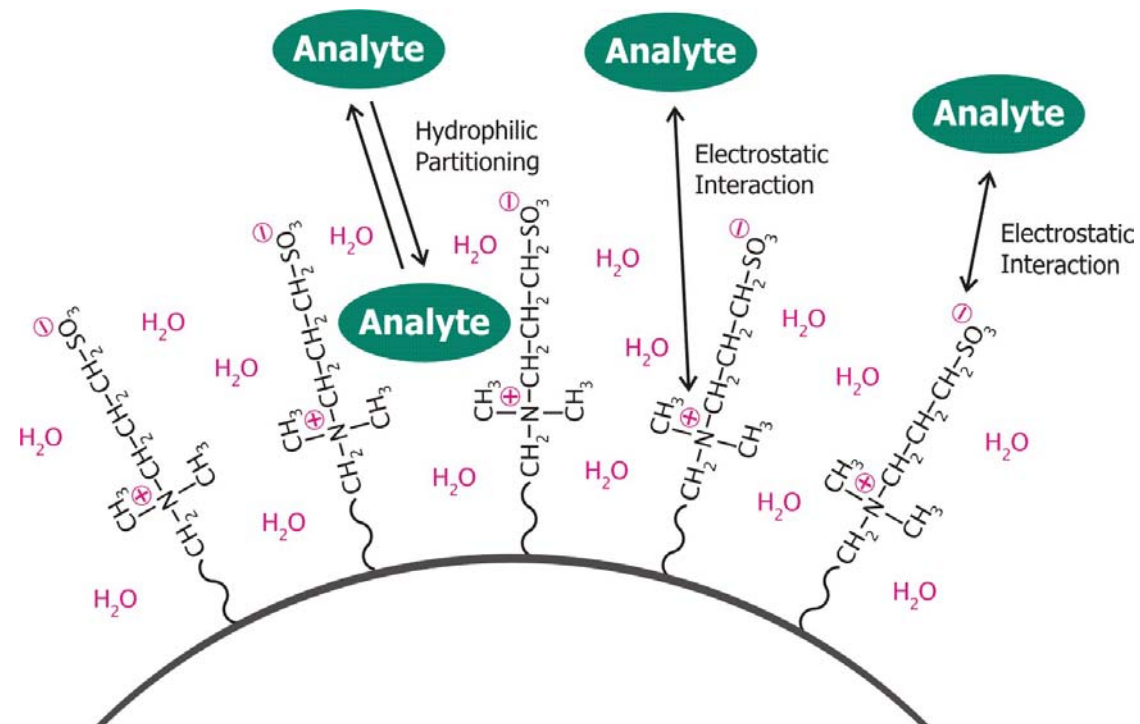
# The HILIC retention process

## Partitioning



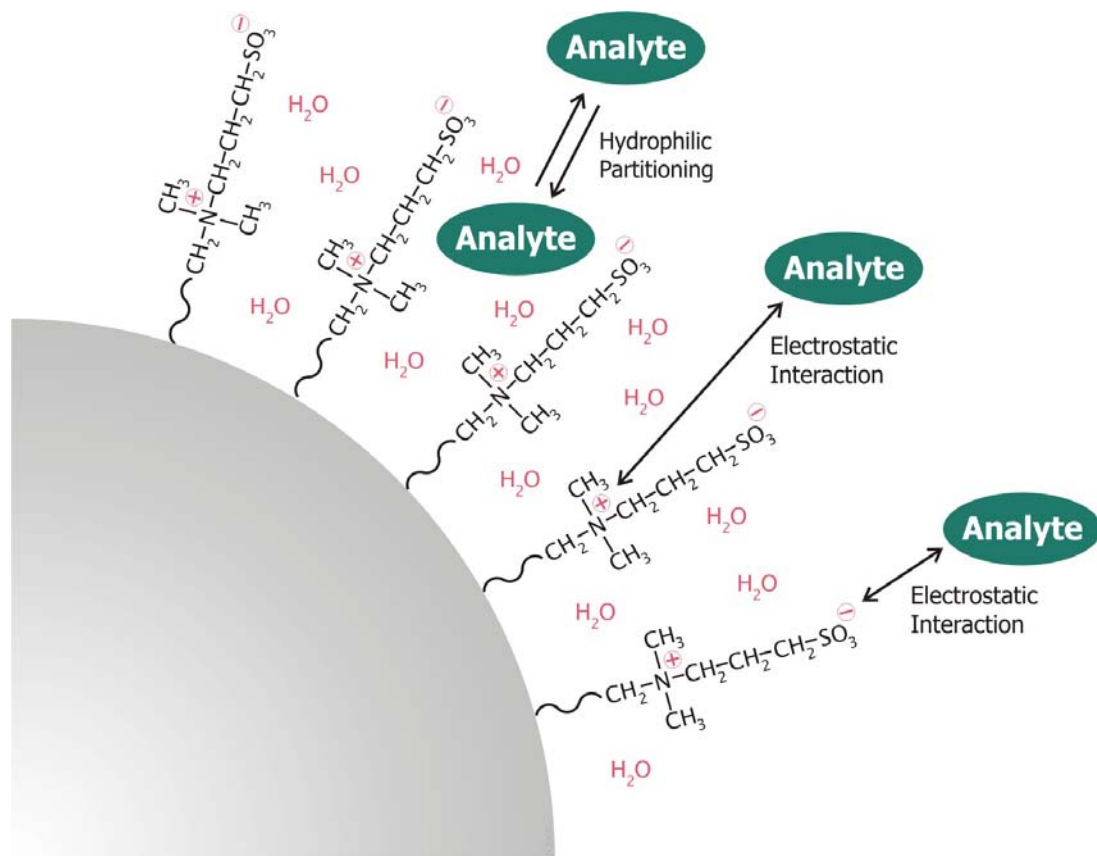
# The HILIC retention process

## Partitioning and electrostatic interaction





# HILIC mechanism – still debated



“HILIC” shown by Samuelsson<sup>[4]</sup> in 1952 for monosaccharides on Amberlite IRA-400

Acronym “HILIC” suggested by Alpert<sup>[5]</sup> 1990

We need:

A water enriched layer in the stationary phase<sup>[6]</sup>

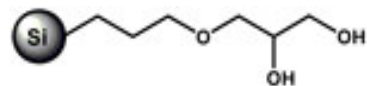
We use:

The zwitterion is acting as “immobilised bulk water”

# Comparison of HILIC stationary phases

## Neutral

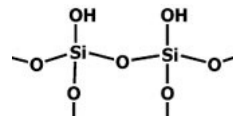
- ❖ No ionic interactions
- ❖ Less selectivity
- ❖ pH-**in**dependent



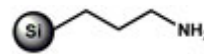
diol

## Charged

- ❖ Good selectivity
- ❖ Strong ionic interactions
- ❖ High [buffer] needed
- ❖ pH dependent



silica

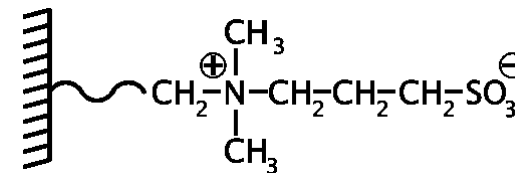


amino

## Zwitterionic

"Charged and neutral"

- ❖ Good selectivity
- ❖ Weak ionic interactions
- ❖ Stable aqueous layer
- ❖ pH-**in**dependent



ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC & ZIC<sup>®</sup>-pHILIC

# Orthogonal separation

## Solid Phase Extraction (SPE) Selectivity

### RP Solid Phase Extraction

- ❖ The sample is diluted in water and applied on SPE
- ❖ Elution by organic solvent

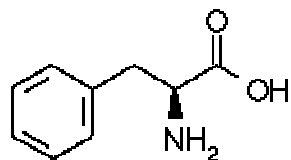
Peak compression on **ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC** column

### ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC Solid Phase Extraction

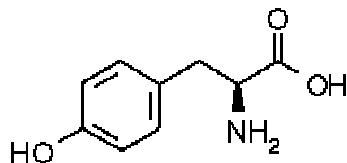
- ❖ The sample is diluted in acetonitrile and applied on SPE
- ❖ Elution by water or a buffer

Peak compression on **RP** column

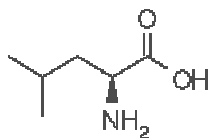
# Separation of zwitterions



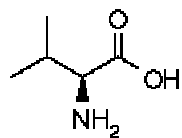
Phenylalanine  $k' = 1.0$



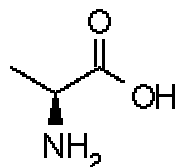
Tyrosine  $k' = 1.5$



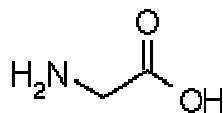
Isoleucine  $k' = 1.3$



Valine  $k' = 1.7$



Alanine  $k' = 2.5$



Glycine  $k' = 3.0$

## Eluent:

70% (v/v) acetonitrile  
30% (v/v) 20 mM NH<sub>4</sub>Ac

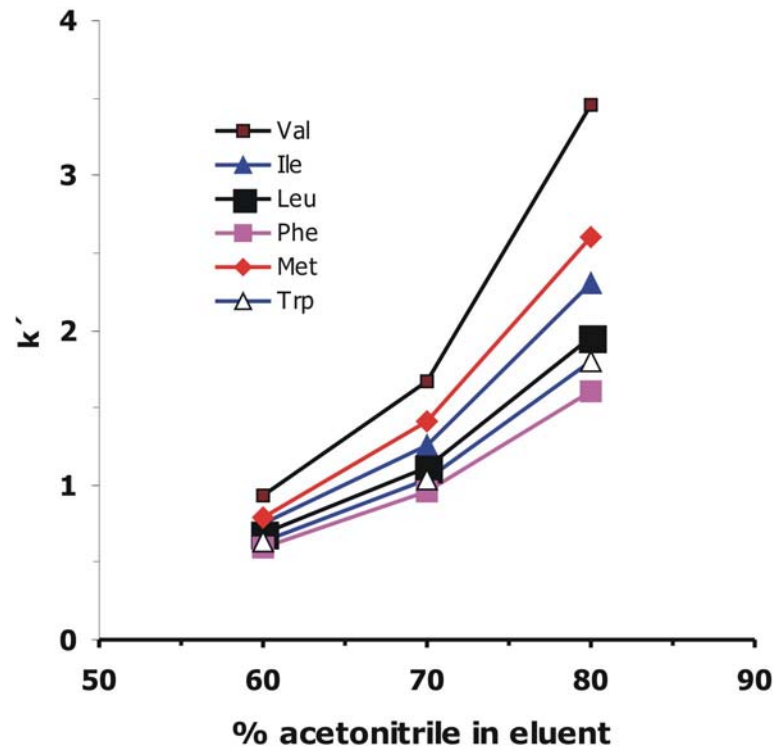
**Flow rate:** 0.5 mL/min

**UV detection:** 206 nm

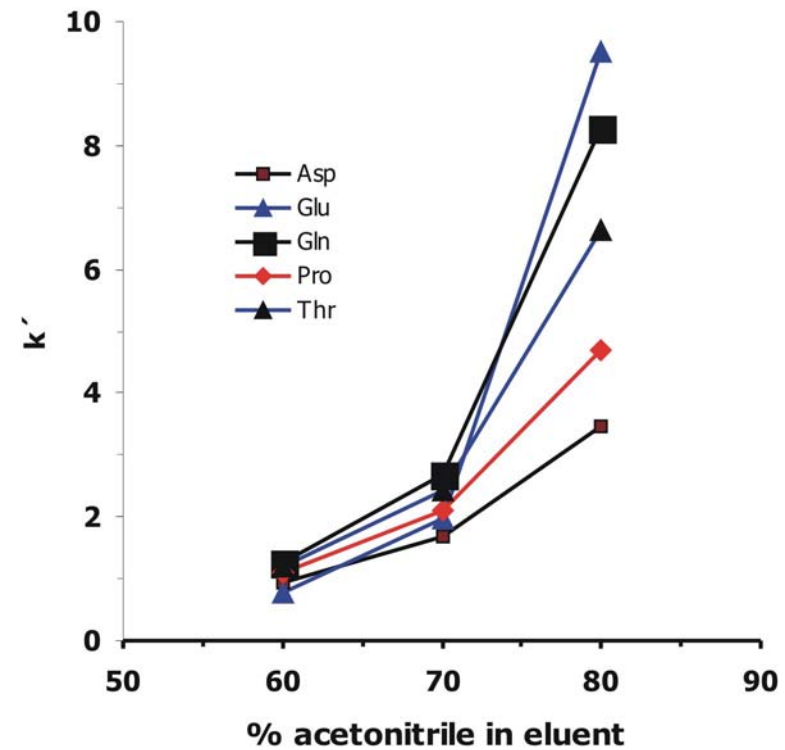
**Injection volume:** 5  $\mu$ L

**ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC** column  
(100 x 4.6 mm, 5  $\mu$ m)

# Amino Acid Retention



Less polar amino acids

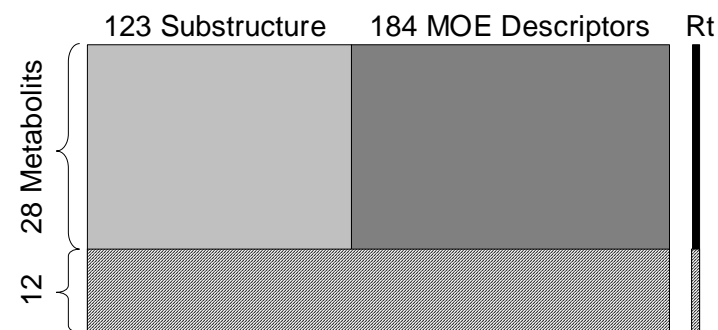
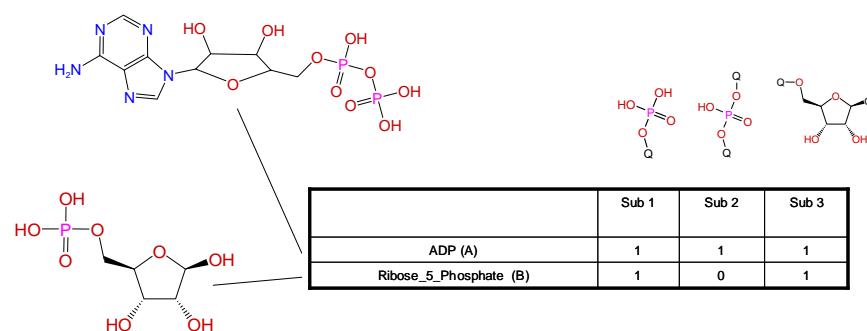


More polar amino acids

# Chemical Descriptors for HILIC Retention?

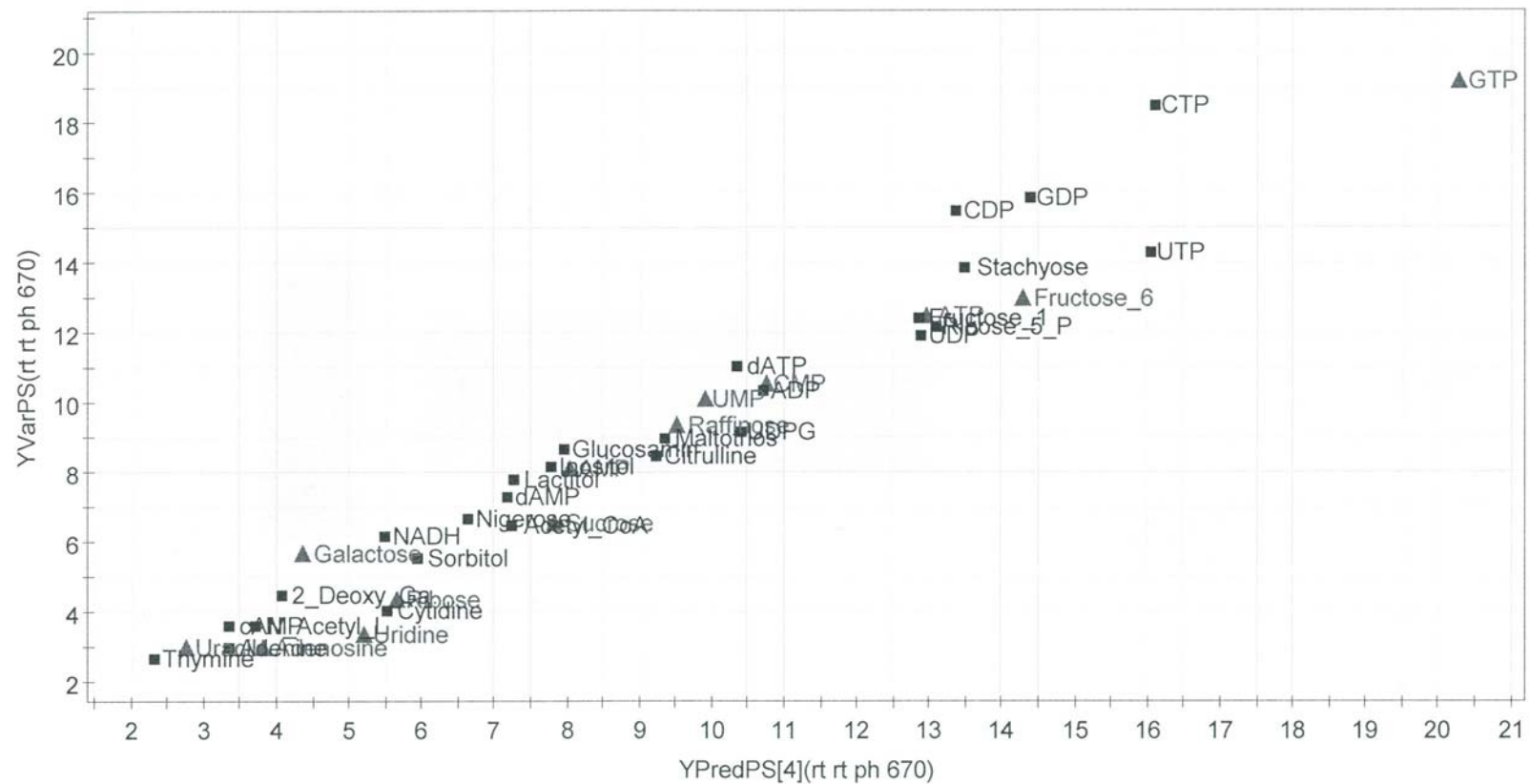
Molecular volume, Hydrophobic regions, Hydrophilic regions, Log P (water/octanol partition coefficient), Hydrogen bonding, Polarizability, Amphiphilic moment etc

*Is it possible to predict retention from chemical structure?*

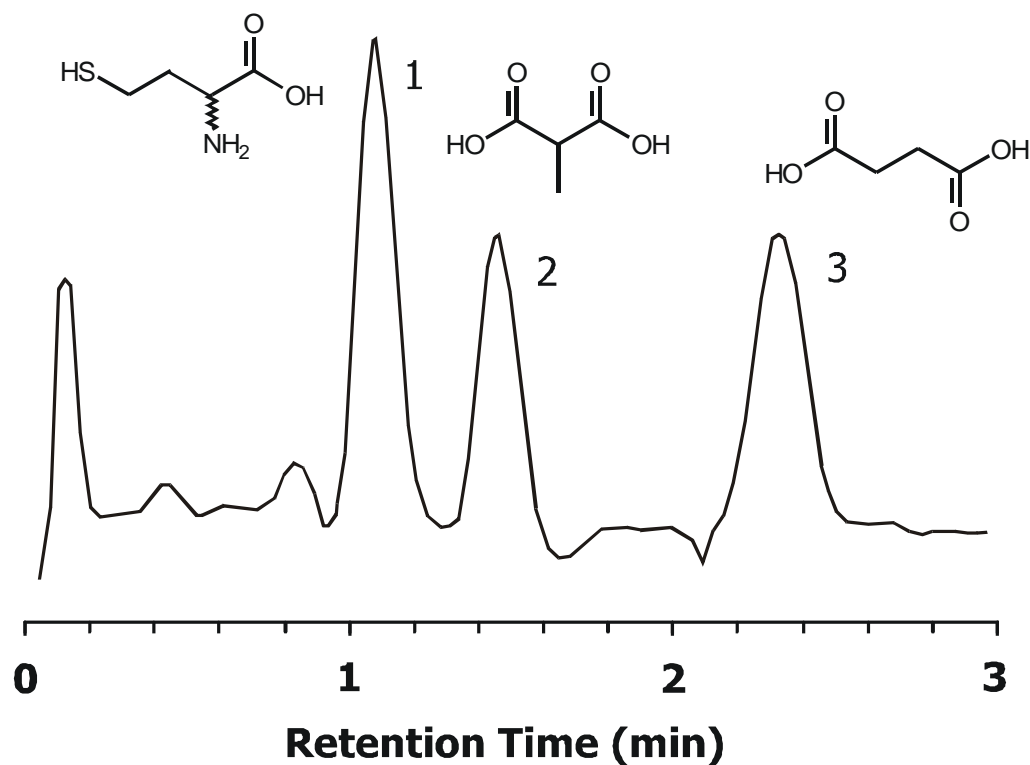


J. Gullberg *et al*, manuscript in prep

# Predicted vs found ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC retention



# ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC for biosamples



Homocysteine (1), Methylmalonic Acid (2)  
and Succinic Acid (3)

Precipitate plasma  
proteins in  
acetonitrile<sup>[7]</sup>

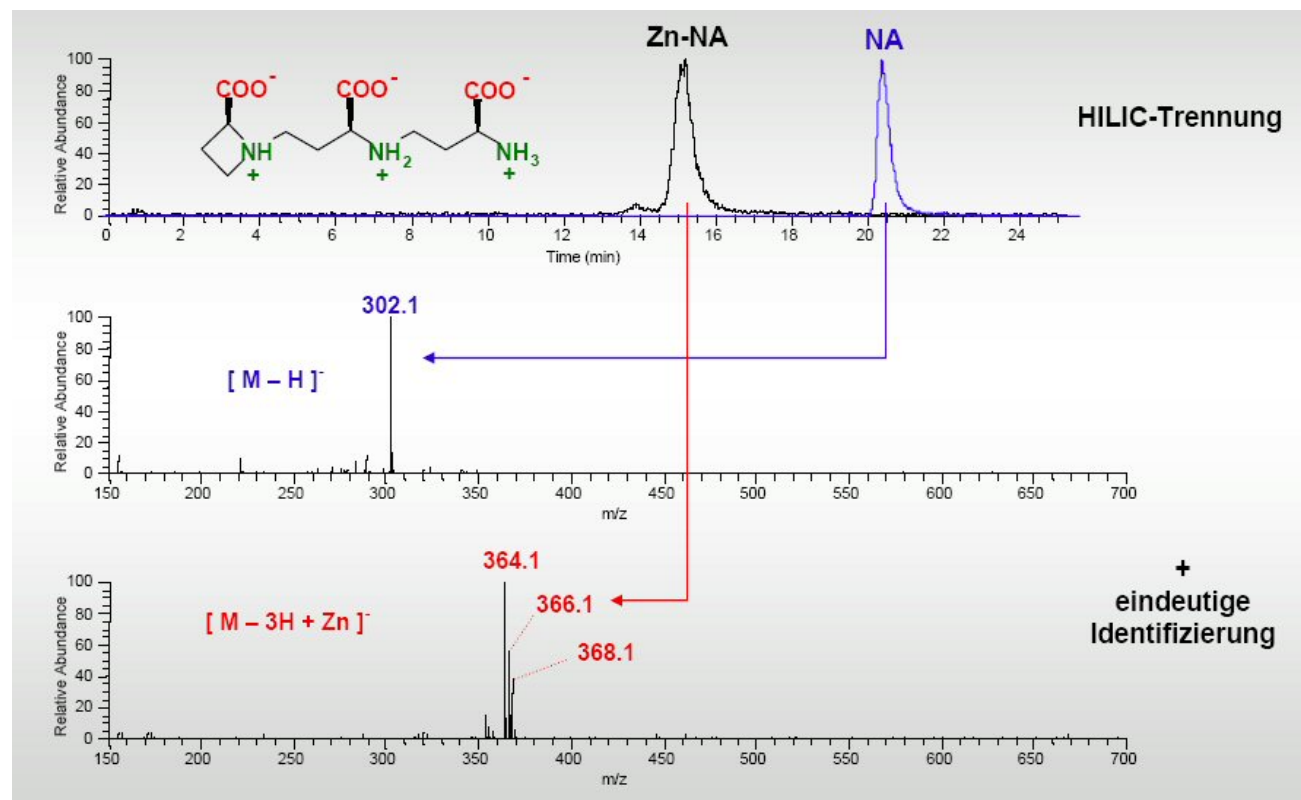
Centrifugate

Inject



# ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC gradients

Günther Weber, [www.isas.de/](http://www.isas.de/)



ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC-Säule (150×1.0 mm) mit Vorsäule (14×1.0 mm), 5µm, 5µL Injektionsvolumen

Binärer Gradient (0.15 mL / Min.):

0 – 3 Min.: 100% A

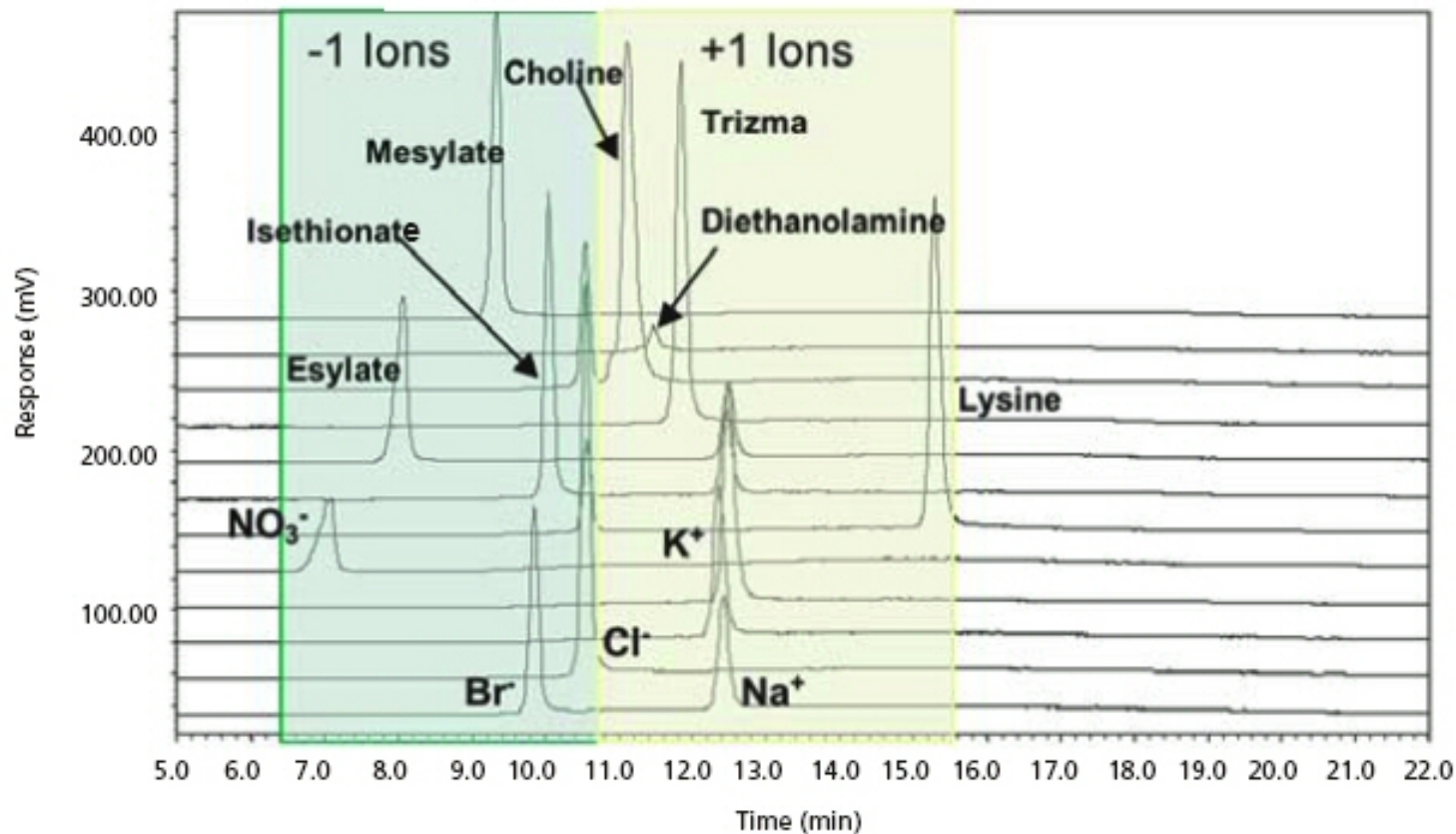
3 – 33 Min.: lin. Gradient auf 30% A + 70% B

33 – 40 Min.: 30% A + 70% B

A: 10 mM Ammoniumacetat+Acetonitril (10+90), pH 7.3

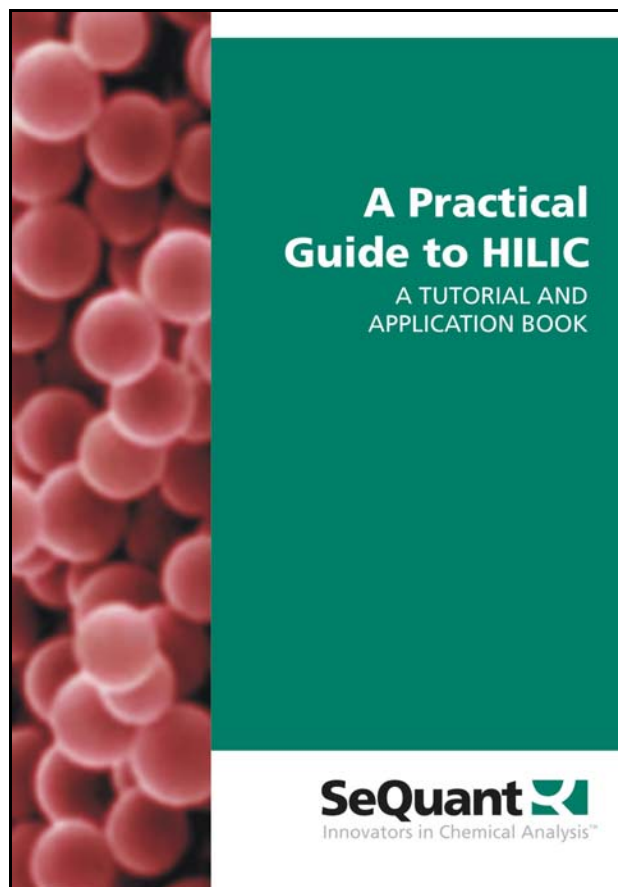
B: 30 mM Ammoniumacetat+Acetonitril (80+20), pH 7.3

# Simultaneous separation of salts



**ZIC<sup>®</sup>-HILIC** gradient elution and ELSD detection [8]

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