



CHROMATOGRAPHIC METHOD

CEB 4032/CFB3032: ANALYTICAL
CHEMISTRY/ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTATION

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Chemical
Engineering

Inspiring Potential • Generating Futures

Outline

- Principle of Chromatography
- Classification of **Chromatographic Techniques**
- Qualitative Analysis and Quantitative Analysis
- **Gas Chromatography (GC)** -Principles and Instrumentation
- **Liquid Chromatography (LC)** – Principles and Instrumentation
- **Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)**

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this chapter:

- 1) The **principles** of chromatography and the **classification** of chromatographic method.
- 2) **Qualitative and quantitative analyses** using chromatographic method.
- 3) Principles and instrumentation of **GC, LC and TLC**.

Outline

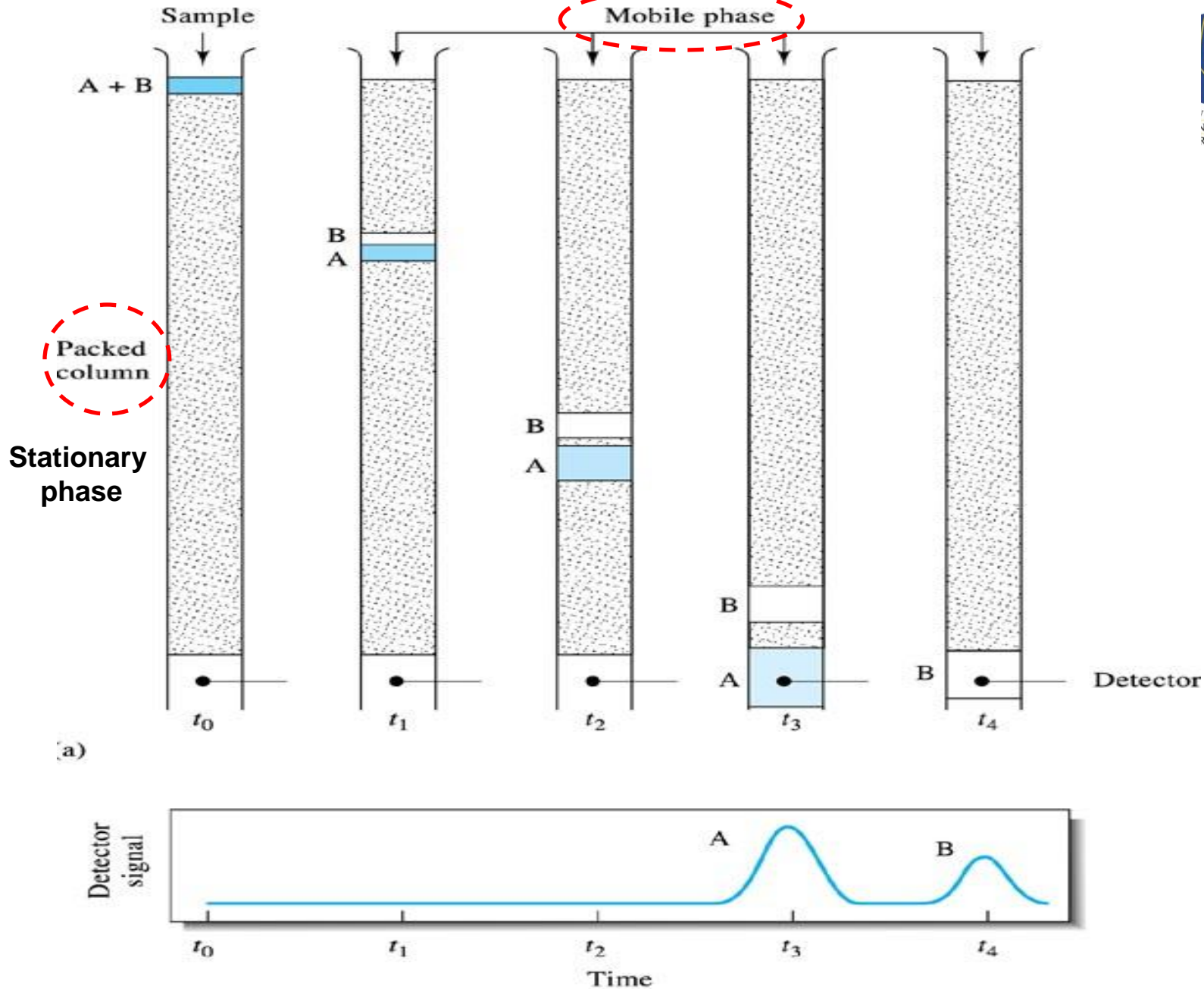
- Principle of Chromatography
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- Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)

Principle of Chromatography

- Chromatography is a **powerful separation method** that finds applications in all branches of science.
- Chromatography encompasses a **diverse and important group of methods** that allow the separation, identification, and determination of closely related components of complex mixtures.
- In all chromatographic separations, the sample is dissolved in a **mobile phase**, which may be a **gas**, a **liquid** or a **supercritical fluid**.

- The mobile phase is then forced through an immiscible stationary phase, which is **fixed** in a place in a **column** or on a **solid phase**.
- The two phases are chosen so that the components of the sample **distribute themselves between the mobile and stationary phases** to varying degrees.
- Components **strongly retained** by the **stationary phase** **move only slowly** with the flow of mobile phase.

- Components are **weekly held** by the stationary phase **travel rapidly**.
- As a consequence of **these differences in migration rates**, sample **components can be separated** and analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively.

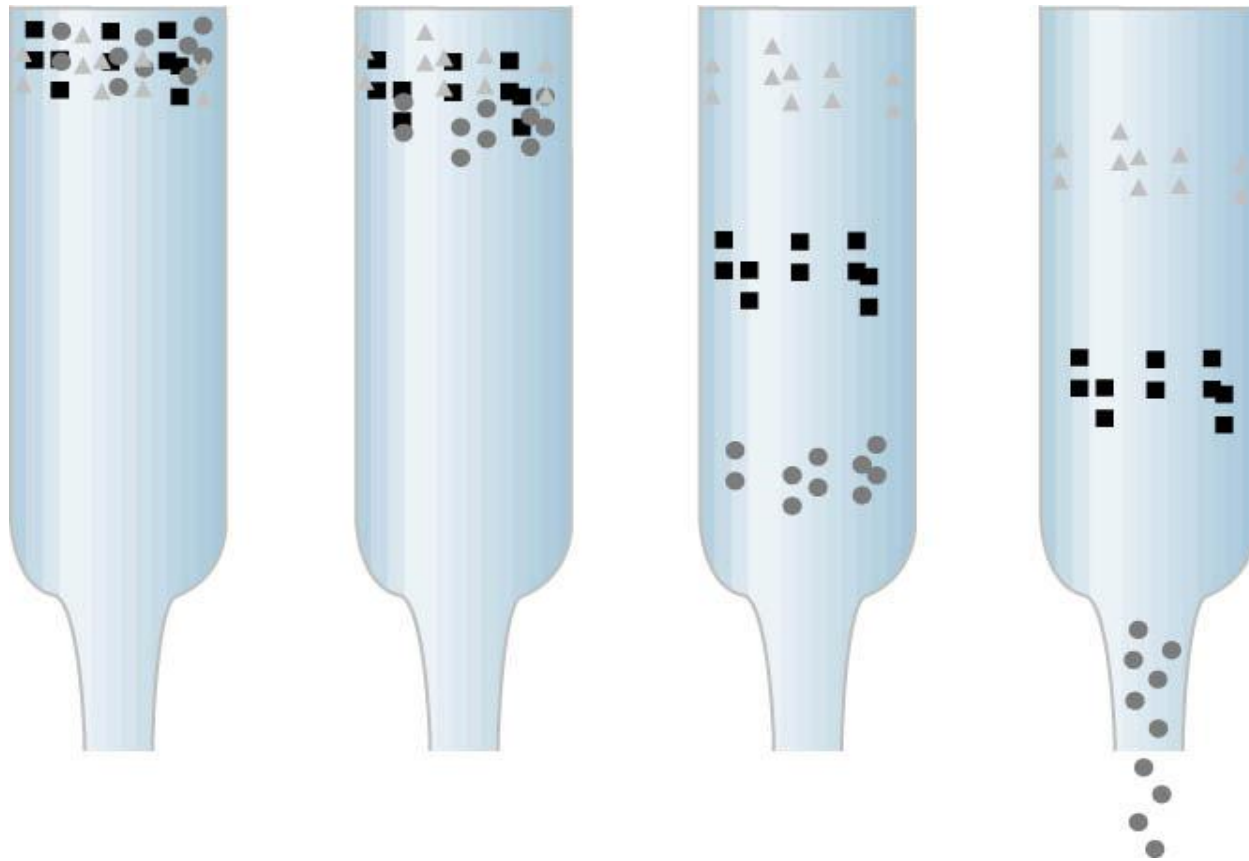


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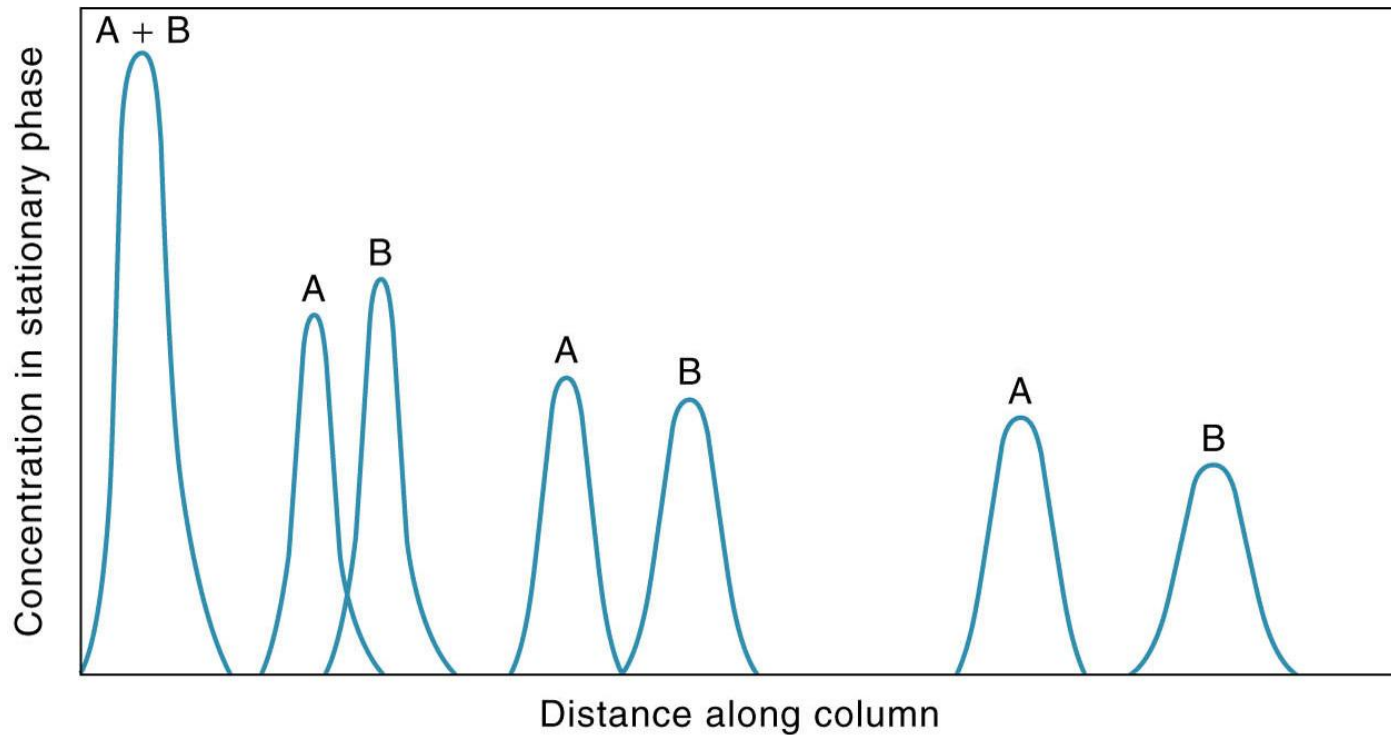


stationary phase

mobile phase



Principle of Chromatographic Separations



Distribution of two substances, A and B, along a chromatographic column in a typical chromatographic separation.

- The two principal types of chromatography are:
 - i. Gas chromatography (GC)
 - ii. Liquid chromatography (LC)

i. Gas Chromatography (GC)

- separates gaseous substances based on **adsorption on or partitioning in** a stationary phase from a gas phase.

ii. Liquid Chromatography (LC)

- separates liquid substances using techniques such as **size exclusion** (separation based on molecular size), **ion exchange** (separation based on charge), **adsorption** and **partitioning** from a liquid phase.

Outline

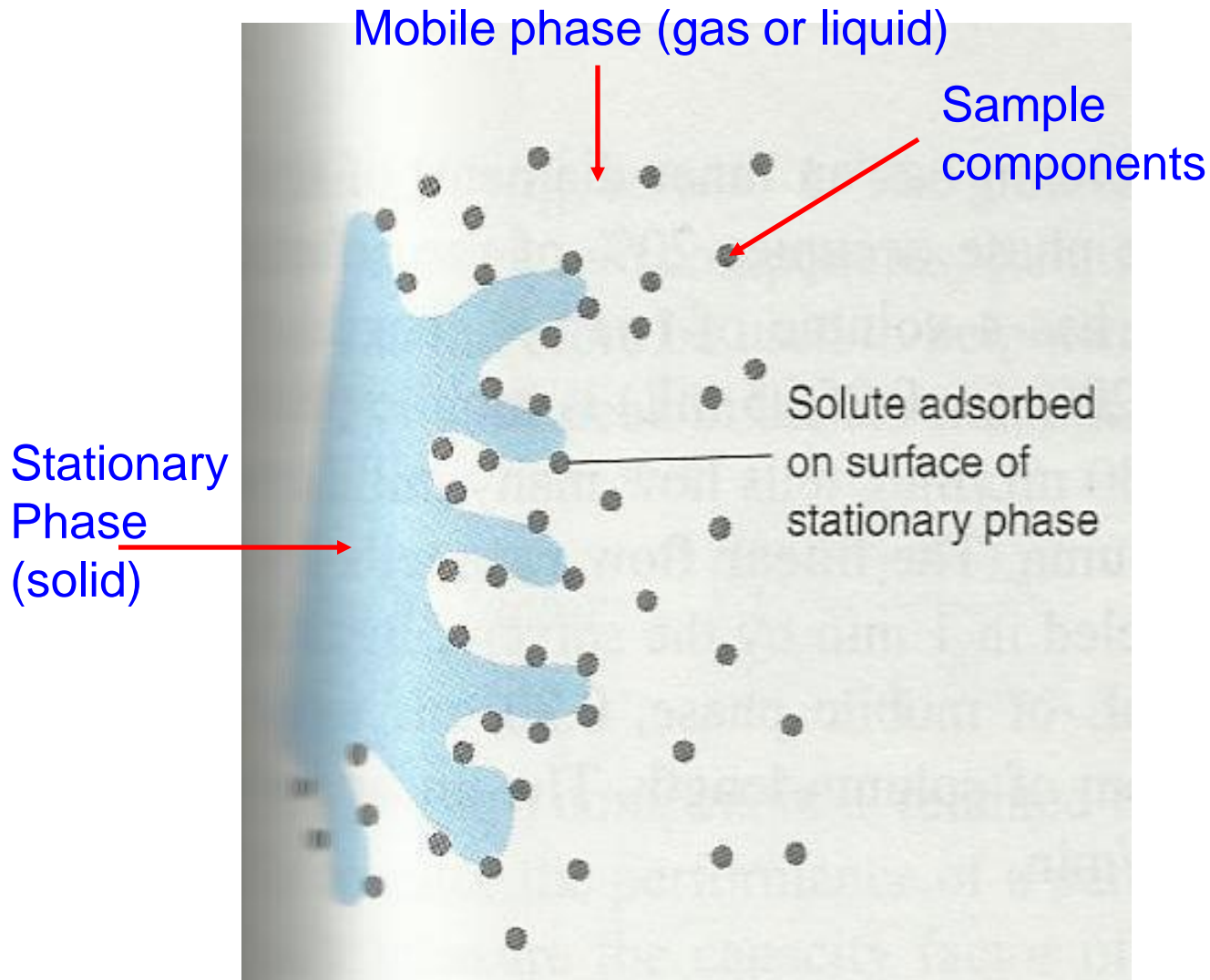
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Classification of Chromatographic Techniques

- Chromatography processes can be classified according to the **type of equilibrium process** involved.
- Governed by the **type of stationary phase**.
- Various bases of equilibration are:
 - i. **Adsorption**
 - ii. **Partition**
 - iii. **Ion exchange**
 - iv. **Molecular exclusion**
 - v. **Affinity**

i) Adsorption Chromatography

- The **stationary phase** is a **solid** on which the samples components are adsorbed.
- The **mobile phase** may be a **liquid** (**liquid-solid** chromatography) or a **gas** (**gas-solid** chromatography).
- The components distribute between the two phases through **a combination of sorption and desorption** processes.



Adsorption Chromatography

ii) Partition Chromatography

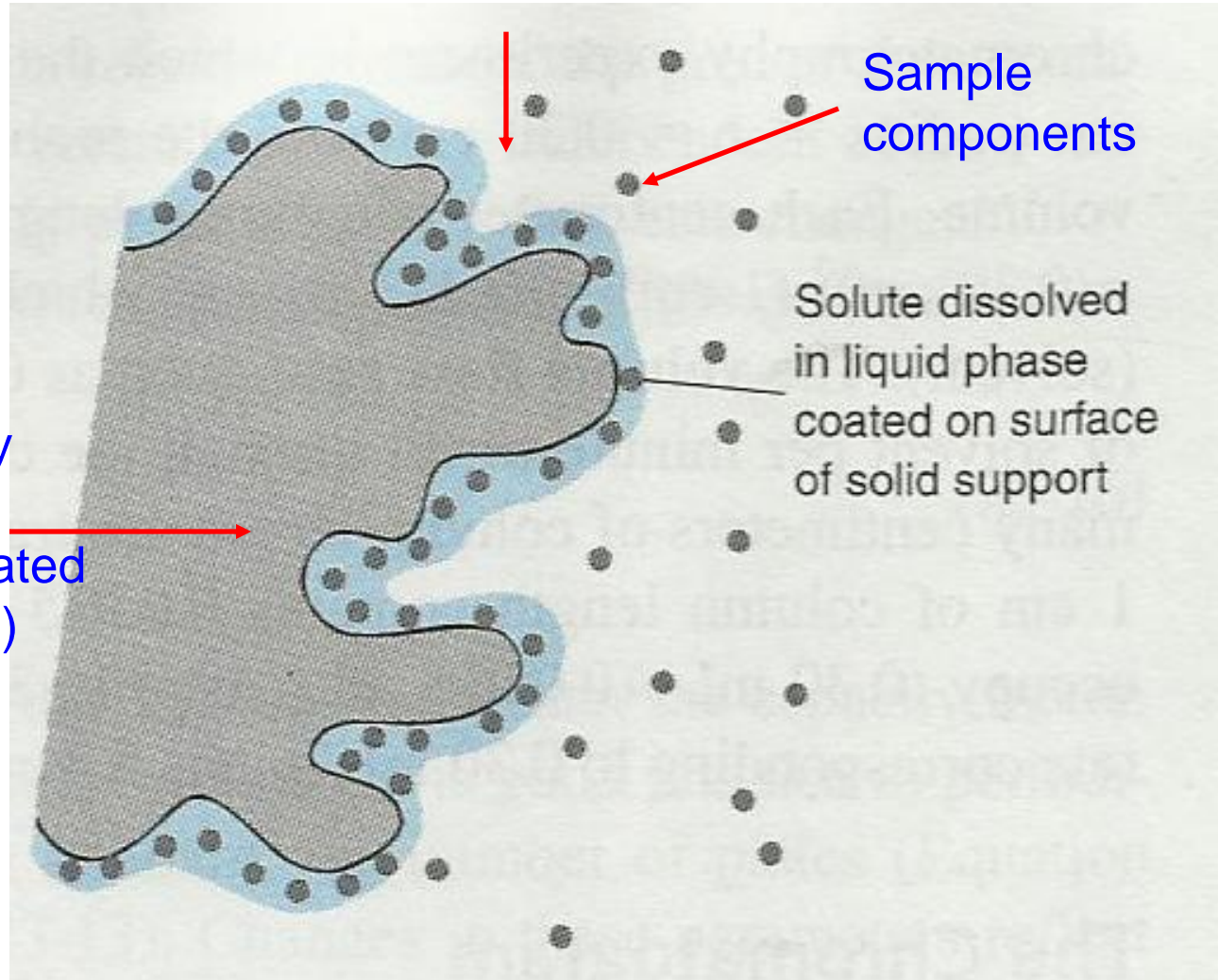
- Stationary phase → **liquid supported on an inert solid.**
- Mobile phase → **liquid** (liquid-**liquid** chromatography) or a **gas** (gas-**liquid** chromatography).
- In liquid-liquid partition:
 - Normal phase chromatography → consists of **polar stationary phase** used with a **nonpolar mobile phase** → favors **retention of polar compounds** and **elution of nonpolar compounds**.
 - Reversed- phase chromatography → consists of **nonpolar stationary phase** used with a **polar mobile phase** → **nonpolar solutes are retained more** and **polar solutes more readily eluted**.

Mobile phase (gas or liquid)

Sample
components

Solute dissolved
in liquid phase
coated on surface
of solid support

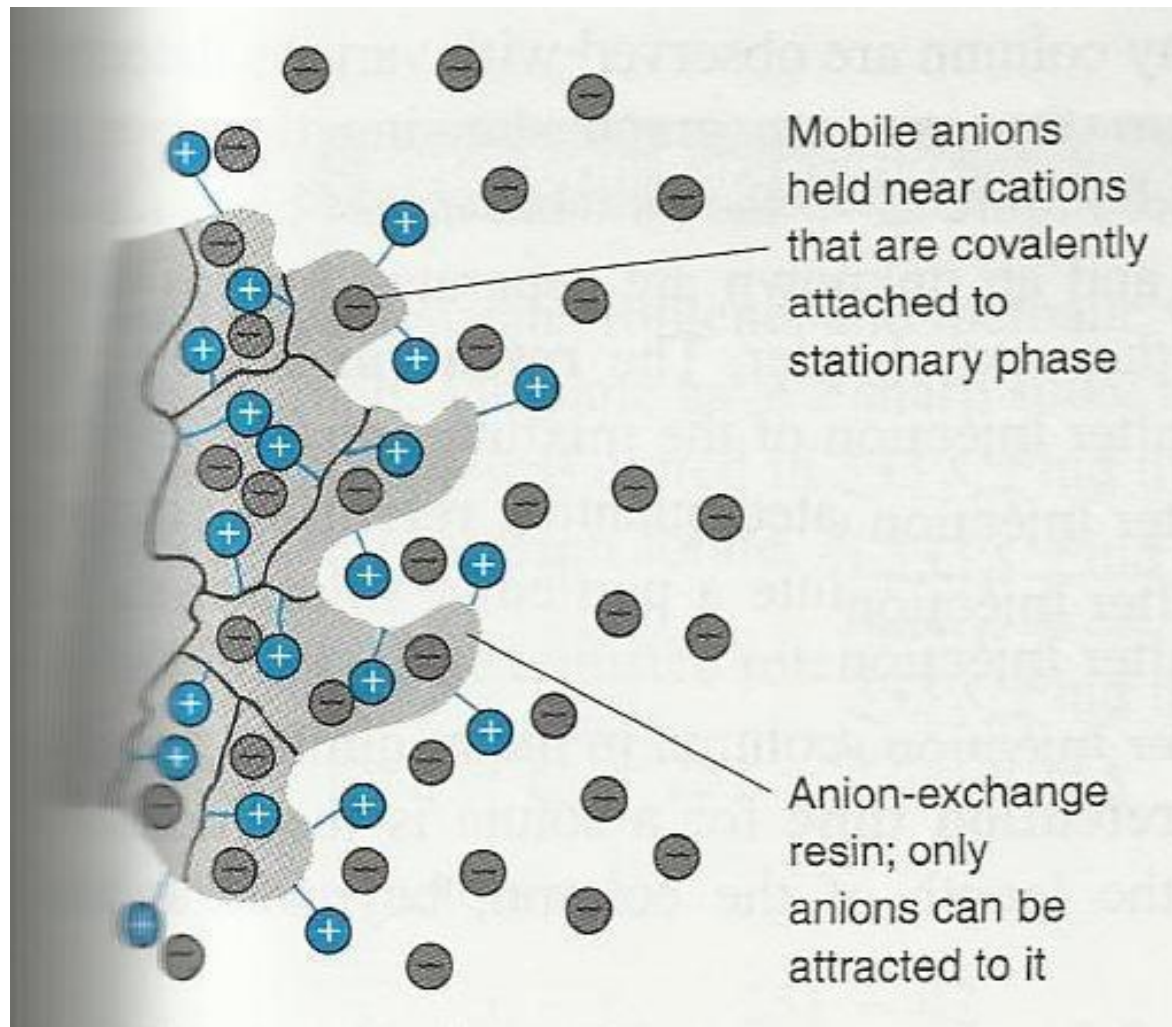
Stationary
Phase
(liquid coated
on a solid)



Partition Chromatography

iii) Ion-Exchange Chromatography

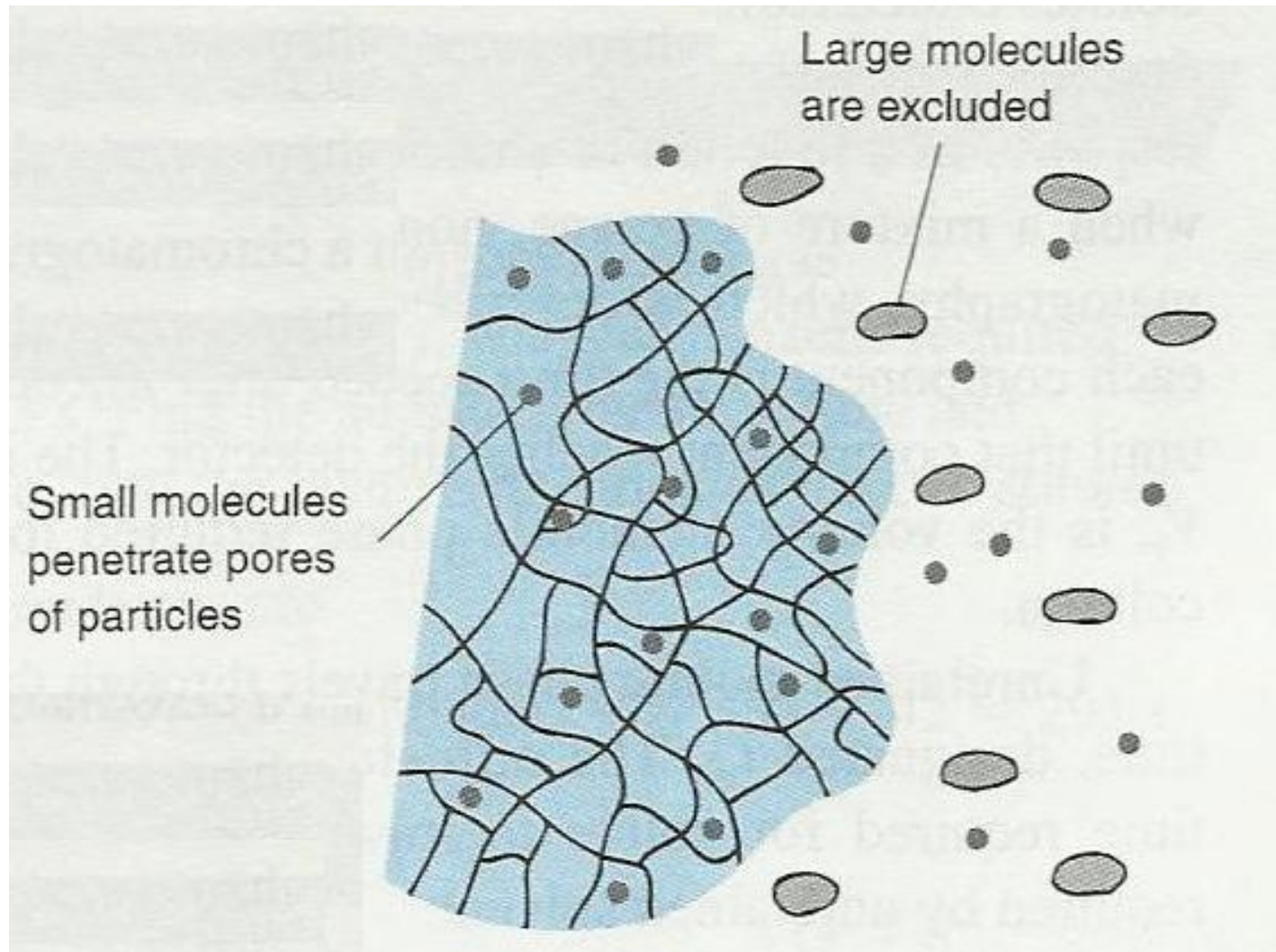
- Uses an **ion exchange resin** as the **stationary phase**.
- The **mobile phase is a liquid**.
- Mechanism of separation → based on **ion exchange equilibria**.
- Solute ions of the **opposite charge** are attracted to the stationary phase by electrostatic force.



Ion-exchange Chromatography

iv) Molecular Exclusion Chromatography

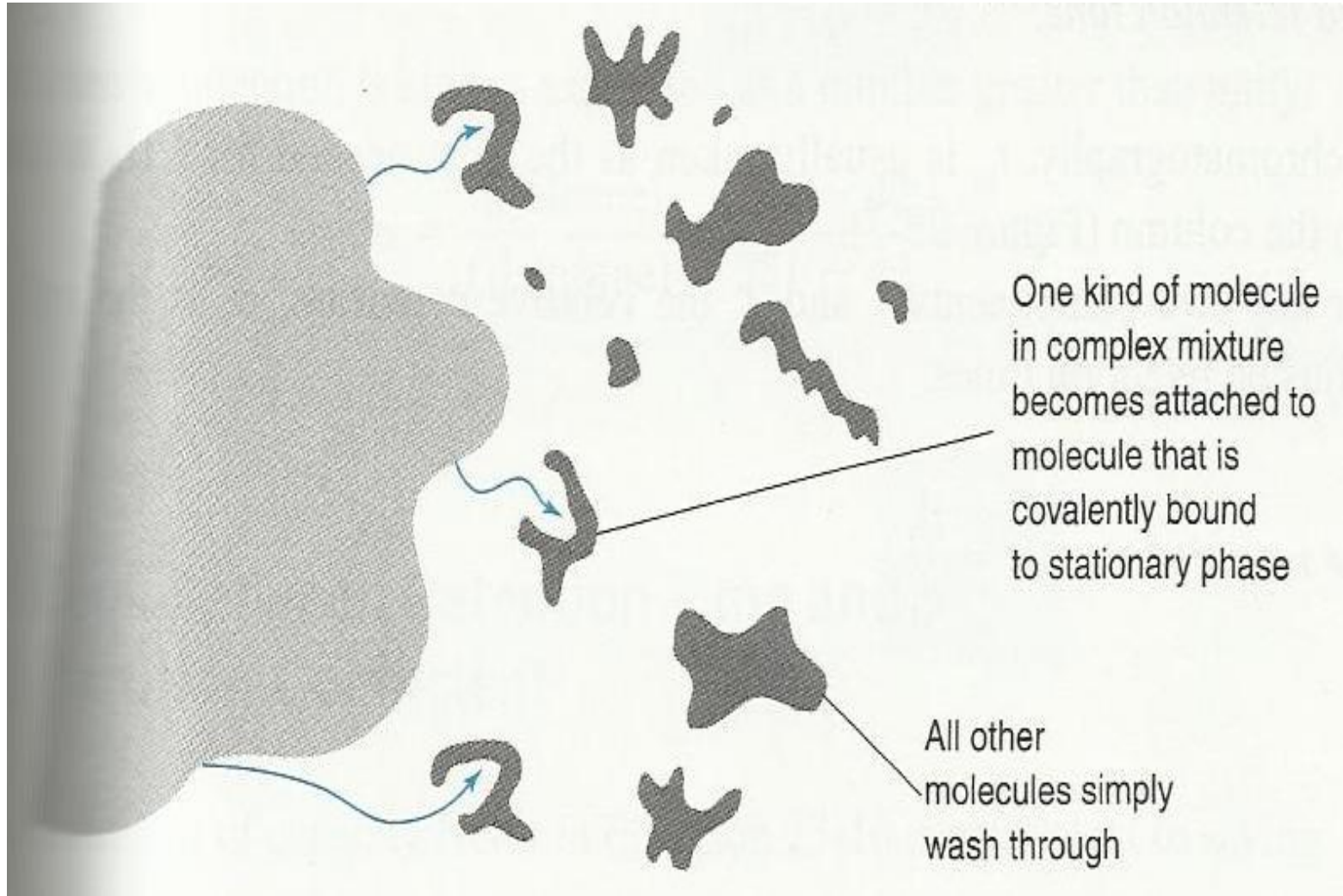
- This technique **separates molecules by size**, with the **larger solutes passing** through most quickly.
- The **pores are small** enough to **exclude large solute molecules** → the large molecules pass **without entering the pores**.
- The **small molecules take longer time** to pass through the column → they enter the gel and therefore must flow through a larger volume before leaving the column.



Molecular Exclusion Chromatography

v) Affinity Chromatography

- Most selective kind of chromatography.
- Employs **specific interactions between one kind of solute molecule** and a **second molecule** that is covalently attached (immobilized) to the stationary phase.
- The immobilized molecule might be an **antibody** to a particular protein.
- When a mixture containing a thousand protein is passed through the column → **only one protein** that reacts with the antibody bonds to the column.



Affinity Chromatography



Classification of Column Chromatographic Methods

TABLE 30-4

Classification of Column Chromatographic Methods

General Classification	Specific Method	Stationary Phase	Type of Equilibrium
Gas chromatography (GC)	Gas-liquid (GLC)	Liquid adsorbed or bonded to a solid surface	Partition between gas and liquid
	Gas-solid	Solid	Adsorption
Liquid chromatography (LC)	Liquid-liquid, or partition	Liquid adsorbed or bonded to a solid surface	Partition between immiscible liquids
	Liquid-solid, or adsorption	Solid	Adsorption
	Ion exchange	Ion-exchange resin	Ion exchange
	Size exclusion	Liquid in interstices of a polymeric solid	Partition/sieving
	Affinity	Group-specific liquid bonded to a solid surface	Partition between surface liquid and mobile liquid
Supercritical fluid chromatography (SFC) (mobile phase: supercritical fluid)		Organic species bonded to a solid surface	Partition between supercritical fluid and bonded surface

The Chromatogram

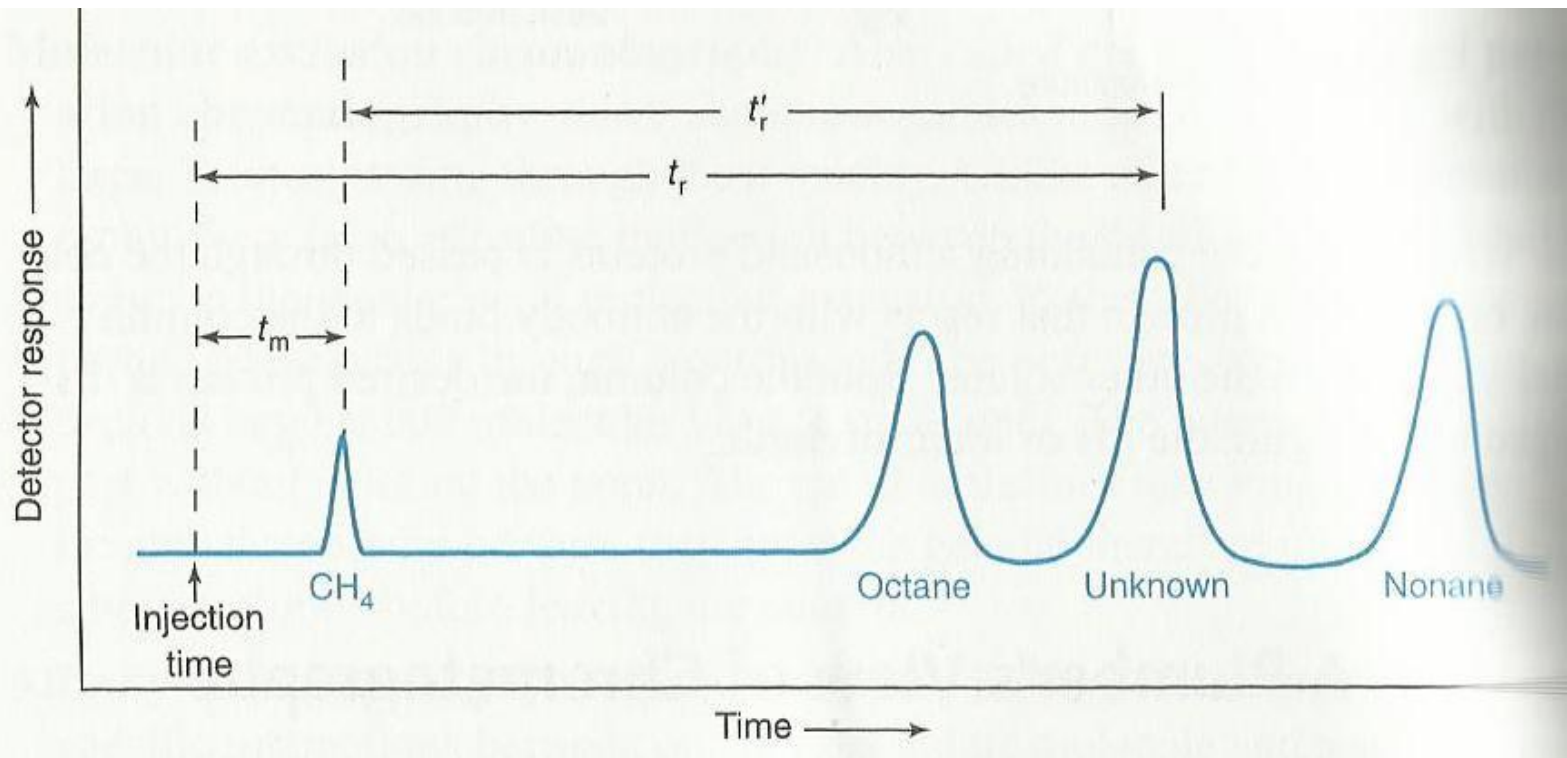
- Solutes eluted from a chromatography column are observed with various detectors.
- A **chromatogram** is a graph showing the **detector response** as a function of **elution time**.
- **Retention time**, t_r for each component is the time needed after **injection** of the mixture into the column until that component **reaches the detector**.

- Unretained mobile phase travels through the column in the **minimum possible time** $\rightarrow t_m$
- The **adjusted retention time, t'_r** for a solute is the time required for solute to **travel the length of the column**, beyond the time required by unretained solvent.

$$t'_r = t_r - t_m$$

- The **relative retention, $\alpha = t'_{r2}/t'_{r1}$**
- Where $t'_{r2} > t'_{r1}$; so $\alpha > 1$. The **greater the relative retention**, the **greater the separation** between two components.

Schematic gas chromatogram showing measurement of retention times



- Capacity factor: $k' = (t_r - t_m)/t_m$

$$k' = \frac{\text{time solute spends in stationary phase}}{\text{time solute spends in mobile phase}}$$

- Relative retention, α , can also be expressed as

$$\alpha = t'_{r2}/t'_{r1} = k'_2/k'_1$$

- The **longer** a component is **retained** by the column, the **greater** the capacity factor.

Example 1

A mixture of benzene, toluene and methane was injected into a gas chromatograph. **Methane** gave a sharp spike in **42.0 s**, whereas **benzene** required **251 s** and **toluene** was eluted in **333 s**.

Find the **adjusted retention time** and **capacity factor** for each solute.

Also, find the **relative retention** of the **two solutes**.

Solution

The adjusted retention times, t'_r , are

Benzene: $t'_r = t_r - t_m = 251 - 42 = 209 \text{ s}$

Toluene: $t'_r = 333 - 42 = 291 \text{ s}$

The capacity factors, k' , are

Benzene: $k' = (t_r - t_m)/t_m = (251 - 42)/42 = 5.00$

Toluene: $k' = (333 - 42)/42 = 6.93$

- The relative retention is always expresses as a number greater than unity.

$$\alpha = \frac{t'_r(\text{toluene})}{t'_r(\text{benzene})} = \frac{333-42}{251-42} = 1.39$$

Efficiency of Separation

- Two factors contribute to **how well compounds** are separated by chromatography.
 - i. One is the **difference in elution times** between peaks: the **further apart**, the **better their separation**.
 - ii. How **broad the peaks** are: the **wider the peaks**, the **poorer their separation**.
- Two methods: i) Resolution, ii) Theoretical plates

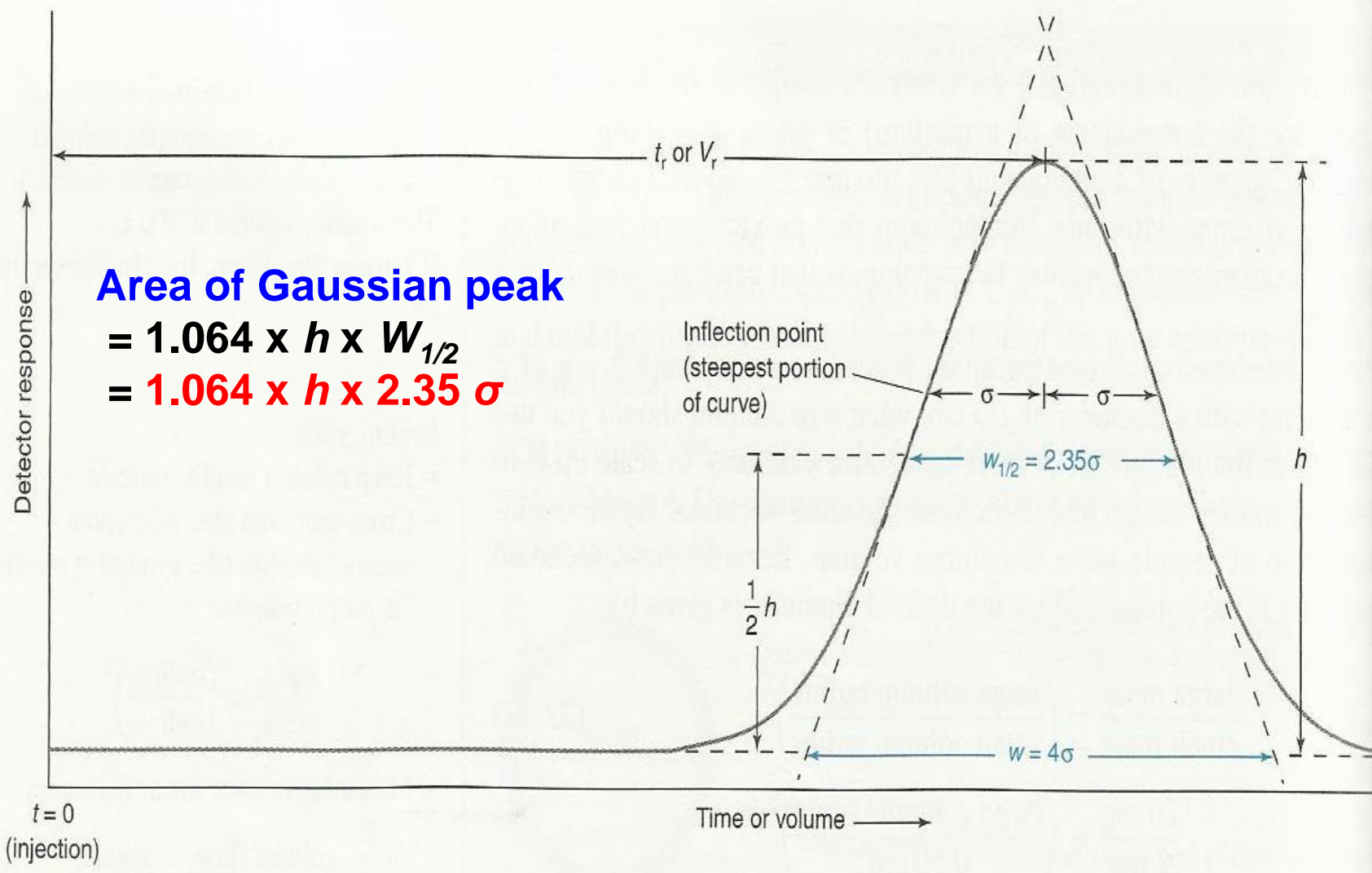
i) Resolution (Peak Broadening)

- Solute moving through a chromatography column tends to **spread into Gaussian shape** with **standard deviation σ** .
- The longer a solute spends passing through a column, the broader the band become.
- Common measures of breadth are:
 - i. the width $w_{1/2}$ measured at **height equal to half of the peak height**.
 - ii. The width w at the **baseline between tangents drawn to the steepest parts of the peak**.
- For Gaussian peak, it is possible to show that **$w_{1/2} = 2.35\sigma$ and $w = 4\sigma$**

Area of Gaussian peak

$$= 1.064 \times h \times W_{1/2}$$

$$= 1.064 \times h \times 2.35 \sigma$$



Idealized Gaussian chromatogram showing how w and $w_{1/2}$ are measured. The value of w is obtained by extrapolating the tangents to the inflection points down to the baseline

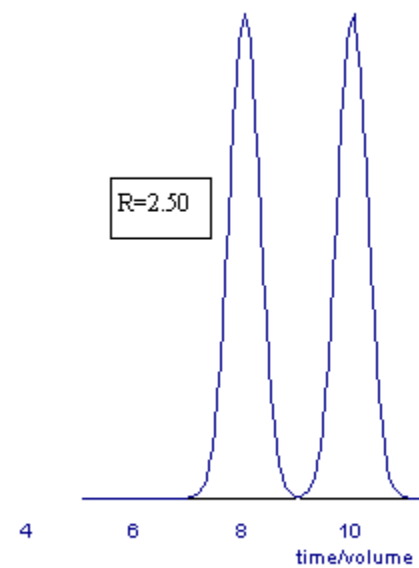
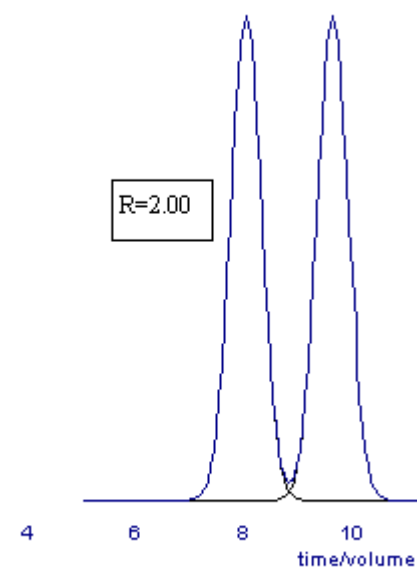
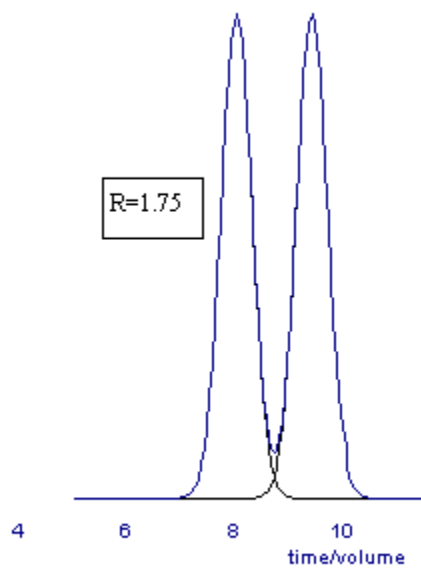
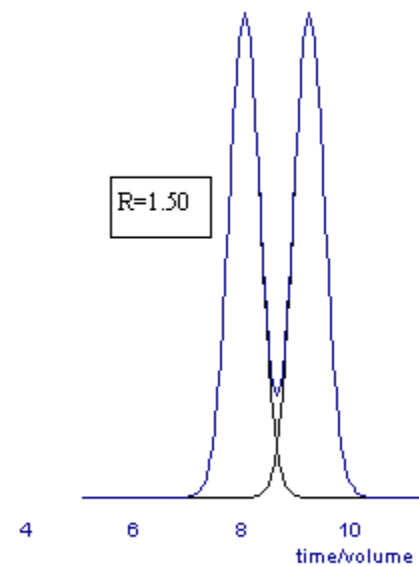
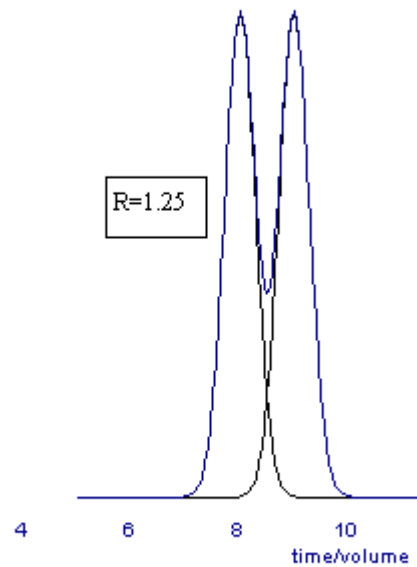
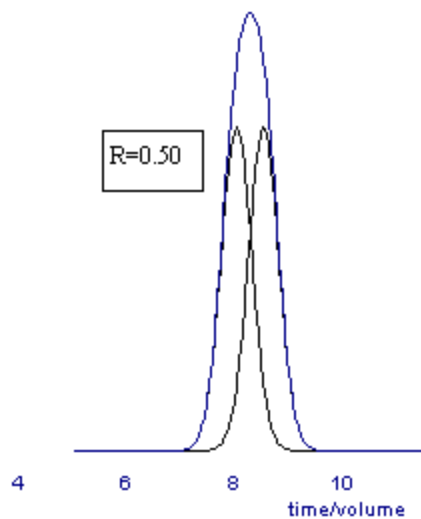
- In chromatography, the resolution **of** two peaks from each other is defined as:

$$\text{Resolution} = \frac{\Delta t_r}{W_{av}} \quad \text{The ability to resolve two consecutive peaks}$$

Δt_r = separation between peaks

W_{av} = average width of the two peaks in corresponding units $[(w_1 + w_2)/2]$.

- A value of **1.0 results in 2.3 % overlap** of two peaks of equal width → **minimum for a separation** to allow good quantitation.



Example 2

A peak with a retention time of **407 s** has a width at the base of **13 s**. A neighboring peak is eluted at **424 s** with a width of **16 s**.

Find the **resolution** for these two components.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Resolution} &= \frac{\Delta t_r}{w_{av}} = \frac{424 - 407}{\frac{1}{2}(13 + 16)} \\ &= 1.2\end{aligned}$$

ii) Theoretical Plates

- The **band broadening** that occurs in column chromatography is the results of several factors → influence the efficiency of separations.
- **Theoretical plates**
 - i. separation efficiency → number of theoretical plate in the column.
 - ii. concept defined from distillation column → **each theoretical plate** in chromatography can be thought of as representing a **single equilibrium step**.
 - iii. for **high efficiency**, **large number of plate** is necessary.
 - iv. **plate height, H** = length of a column divided by the number of theoretical plates

- For a solute emerging from a column of length , L, the **number of theoretical plate or efficiency, N**:

$$N = \frac{L}{H} = \frac{L^2}{\sigma^2}$$

where H = plate height

- $\sigma = w/4$, therefore,

$$N = \frac{16 L^2}{w^2}$$

- If we express L and w in units of time instead of length, the most useful equation for N:

$$N = 16 \left(\frac{t_r}{w} \right)^2$$

Where t_r = retention time of the peak and w – the width at the base (unit of time)

- If we use the width at half-height instead of the width at the base, we get

- number of theoretical plate or efficiency, N:

$$N = \frac{5.55 t_r^2}{w_{1/2}^2}$$

Example 3

A solute with a retention time of **407 s** has a width at the base of **13.0 s** on a column of **12.2 m** long.

Find the **number of plates** and **plate height**.

Solution

Number of plates, N

$$\begin{aligned} N &= 16 \left(\frac{t_r}{w} \right)^2 \\ &= 16 \times (407^2 / 13^2) \\ &= 1.57 \times 10^4 \end{aligned}$$

Plate height

$$\begin{aligned} H &= L/N \\ &= 12.2 \text{ m} / 1.57 \times 10^4 \\ &= 0.780 \text{ mm} \end{aligned}$$

Resolution and Number of Plates

- The greater the resolution, the better the separation between two peaks.
- The relationship between the number of plates on a column and the resolution is

$$\text{Resolution} = \frac{\sqrt{N}}{4} \left(\frac{\alpha-1}{\alpha} \right) \left(\frac{k'_2}{1+k'_{av}} \right)$$

N = number of theoretical plate

α = relative retention of two peaks

k'_2 = capacity factor for the more retained component

k'_{av} = average capacity factor for both component

Example 4

Two solute have a relative retention of $\alpha = 1.08$ and capacity factor $k'_1 = 5.00$ and $k'_2 = 5.40$. The number of theoretical plates is nearly the same for both compounds.

How many plates are required to give a resolution of 1.50? If the plate height is 0.200 mm, how long must the column could be ?.

Solution

$$\text{Resolution} = \frac{\sqrt{N}}{4} \left(\frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha} \right) \left(\frac{k'_2}{1 + k'_{av}} \right)$$

$$1.5 = \frac{\sqrt{N}}{4} \left(\frac{1.08 - 1}{1.08} \right) \left(\frac{5.4}{1 + [(5.4 + 5.0)/2]} \right)$$

$$N = 8.65 \times 10^3 \text{ plates}$$

For a resolution of 1.5, the length of column required is

$$0.20 \text{ mm/plate} \times 8.65 \times 10^3 \text{ plates} = 1.73 \text{ m}$$

$$N = L/H$$

$$L = N \times H$$

Example 5

Ethanol and methanol are separated in a capillary GC column with retention times of **370** and **385 s**, respectively, and base width w of **16** and **17 s**. An unretained air peak occurs at **10 s**.

Calculate the **relative retention** and the **resolution**.

Solution

$$t_{r1} = 370 \text{ s}, t_{r2} = 385 \text{ s}, t_m = 10 \text{ s}, w_1 = 16 \text{ s}, w_2 = 17 \text{ s}$$

$$k' = (t_r - t_m) / t_m$$

$$k'_1 = (370 - 10) / 10 = 36$$

$$k'_2 = (385 - 10) / 10 = 37.5$$

$$\text{Relative retention, } \alpha = t'_{r2} / t'_{r1} = k'_2 / k'_1 = 37.5 / 36 = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Resolution} &= \Delta t_r / w_{av} \\ &= (385 - 370) / [(16 + 17) / 2] \\ &= 0.9 \end{aligned}$$

Summary

- i. Adjusted retention time, $t'_r = t_r - t_m$
- ii. Relative retention, $\alpha = t'_{r2}/t'_{r1} = k'_2/k'_1$
- iii. Capacity factor, $k' = (t_r - t_m)/t_m = t'_r/t_m$
- iv. Number of plates, $N = 16 t_r^2/w^2 = 5.55 t_r^2/w_{1/2}^2$
- v. Plate height, $H = L/N$
- vi. Resolution = $\Delta t_r/w_{av}$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{N}}{4} \left(\frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha} \right) \left(\frac{k'_2}{1 + k'_{av}} \right)$$

Exercise

Q1. A chromatogram of a mixture of Species A and B provided the following data:

	Retention time, min	Width of Peak Base (W), min
Nonretained	3.10	-
A	13.3	1.07
B	14.1	1.16

Calculate:

- The resolution of these two species.
- The relative retention, α .
- The number of plate from each species.

Exercise

Q2. Consider a chromatography experiment in which two components with capacity factors $k'_1 = 4.00$ and $k'_2 = 5.00$ are injected into a column with $N = 1.00 \times 10^3$ theoretical plates. The retention time for the less-retained component is $t_{r1} = 10.0$ min.

- a) Calculate t_m and t_{r2} .
- b) Find $w_{1/2}$ (width at half height) and w (width at the base) for each peak.

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Qualitative Analysis

- A chromatogram provides only a **single piece of qualitative information** about each species in a sample.
- It is widely used tool for **recognizing the presence and absence** of components of a mixtures.
- If the sample **does not produce a peak** at the same retention time as standard run under identical conditions → the **compound is absent** or is **present at a concentration level below the detection limit**.

Quantitative Analysis

- Quantitative column chromatography is based on a comparison of either the **height or the area** of the analyte peak with that of **one or more standards**.
 - i. Analyses based on **Peak Height**
 - ii. Analyses based on **Peak Areas**
 - iii. **Calibration** and **Standards**
 - iv. The **Internal-Standard** Method
 - v. The **Area-Normalization** Method

i) Analyses based on Peak Height

- The height of a chromatographic peak is obtained by connecting the baselines on either side of the peak by a straight line and measuring the perpendicular distance from this line to the peak.
- Relative error \rightarrow 5-10%

ii) Analyses based on Peak Areas

- Areas are a more satisfactory analytical parameter than peak heights → are independent to the broadening effects → usually preferred method for quantification.
- % Error = 2 - 5%

iii) Calibration and Standards

- Involves preparation of a **series of external-standard solutions** that approximate the composition of unknown.
- Chromatograms for the standards are then obtained and **peak heights or areas are plotted as a function of concentration**.
- A plot of data should yield a **straight line** passing through the origin, determination are based on this **calibration curve**.

iv) The Internal-Standard Method

- In this procedure, a careful measured quantity of an **internal-standard substance** is introduced into each standard and sample, and the ratio of analyte to internal standard peak areas (or heights) serves as the analytical variable.
- Precision better than 1%

v) The Area-Normalization Method

- Complete elution of all components of the sample is required.
- The areas of all eluted peaks are computed; the concentration of the analyte is found from the **ratio of its area to the total area of all peaks**.
- Has limited applications.