

Exact Mass Tools and Technologies for Qualitative Analysis

For Complete  Confidence

- Principles and definitions of exact mass
- Types of instrumentation used for exact mass measurement
- Practical aspects of exact mass measurement
- Routine exact mass measurement on a Q-Tof Premier™
- I-FIT™ elemental composition determination
- Conclusion

1

1

H

1.008

2

4

He

4.003

3

6

C

12.01

Atomic number

Symbol

Atomic weight

Metal

Semimetal

Nonmetal

1	2											13	14	15	16	17	18
H	He											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
1.008	4.003											10.81	12.01	14.01	16.00	19.00	20.18
3	4											13	14	15	16	17	18
Li	Be											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
6.941	9.012											26.98	28.09	30.97	32.07	35.45	39.95
11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
22.99	24.31											26.98	28.09	30.97	32.07	35.45	39.95
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
39.10	40.08	44.96	47.88	50.94	52.00	54.94	55.85	58.93	58.69	63.55	65.39	69.72	72.61	74.92	78.96	79.90	83.80
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
85.47	87.62	88.91	91.22	92.91	95.94	98.91	101.1	102.9	106.4	107.9	112.4	114.8	118.7	121.8	127.6	126.9	131.3
55	56	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
Cs	Ba	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
132.9	137.3	175.0	178.5	180.9	183.8	186.2	190.2	192.2	195.1	197.0	200.6	204.4	207.2	209.0	209.0	210.0	222.0
87	88	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118
Fr	Ra	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Uun	Uuu	Uub	Uut	Uuq	Uup	Uuh	Uus	Uuo
223.0	226.0	262.1	261.1	262.1	263.1	264.1	265.1	266	269	272	277		289		289		293

6

La

Ce

Pr

Nd

Pm

Sm

Eu

Gd

Tb

Dy

Ho

Er

Tm

Yb

89

Ac

Th

Pa

U

Np

Pu

Am

Cm

Bk

Cf

Es

Fm

Md

No

138.9

140.1

140.9

144.2

146.9

150.4

152.0

157.3

158.9

162.5

164.9

167.3

168.9

173.0

227.0

232.0

231.0

238.0

237.0

244.1

243.1

247.1

247.1

251.1

252.0

257.1

258.1

259.1

(c)1998

Kremer Paul

- Every element found in nature has a unique mass
- Elements are combined to produce compounds with distinct masses and physical properties
- Compounds can be detected by mass spectrometry and thus their masses measured
- If a compound mass can be measured with sufficient accuracy, a unique elemental composition can be inferred – the benefit of exact mass

- There are three main types of mass measurement;
- **Nominal** Sum of the inter masses of the most abundant naturally occurring isotopes of which the ion is comprised
- **Average** Calculated using all the isotopes of each element from which the ion is comprised
- **Exact** Calculated by summing the distinct mass of the individual, most abundant, isotopes of which the ion is comprised

CO = 27.9949

N₂ = 28.0061

C₂H₄ = 28.0313

- These elemental combinations have the same nominal mass but different exact mass
- A nominal mass measurement cannot distinguish these
- If any compounds differ in their elemental compositions by substitution of any of these elements, then the exact mass measurement will show this

- The accuracy of the measurement is quoted as the difference (error) between the measured mass and the calculated mass
- The accuracy is measured in
 - milliDaltons (1mDa = 0.001 mass units)
 - ppm = parts per million = $\Delta m/m \times 10^6$

Example:

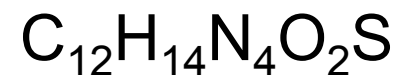
True' mass = 400.0000

Measured mass = 400.0020

Difference = 0.0020 (2 mDa)

$$\text{ppm error} = \frac{0.002}{400} \times 10^6 = 5 \text{ ppm}$$

Sulphamethazine



Nominal	Exact	Average
278	278.0837	278.3313

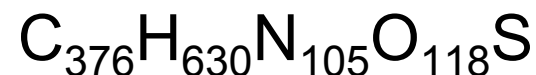
Ketaconazole



Nominal	Exact	Average
530	530.1482	531.4306

The contribution of the ^{37}Cl isotope accounts for much of the difference between the average and exact masses

Ubiquitin



Nominal	Exact	Average
8556	8560.6254	8565.8730

Every 130 H atoms present increases the exact mass by one unit over the nominal mass

- Measurement of mass to 4 decimal places
- High confidence in confirming expected compounds
 - Distinguishes them from compounds of similar mass
- Compound identification
 - Prediction of elemental composition
- Patent submission and publication
 - ACS require better than 5ppm mass accuracy for publication

- Magnetic sector
 - Traditionally used for exact mass measurement
 - Requires experience to produce best results
- ICR-FTMS
 - Can produce excellent results, 1-2 ppm
 - Requires experience to produce best results
- oa-ToF
 - Can produce excellent results, >3ppm RMS
 - Latest systems offer routine exact mass measurement

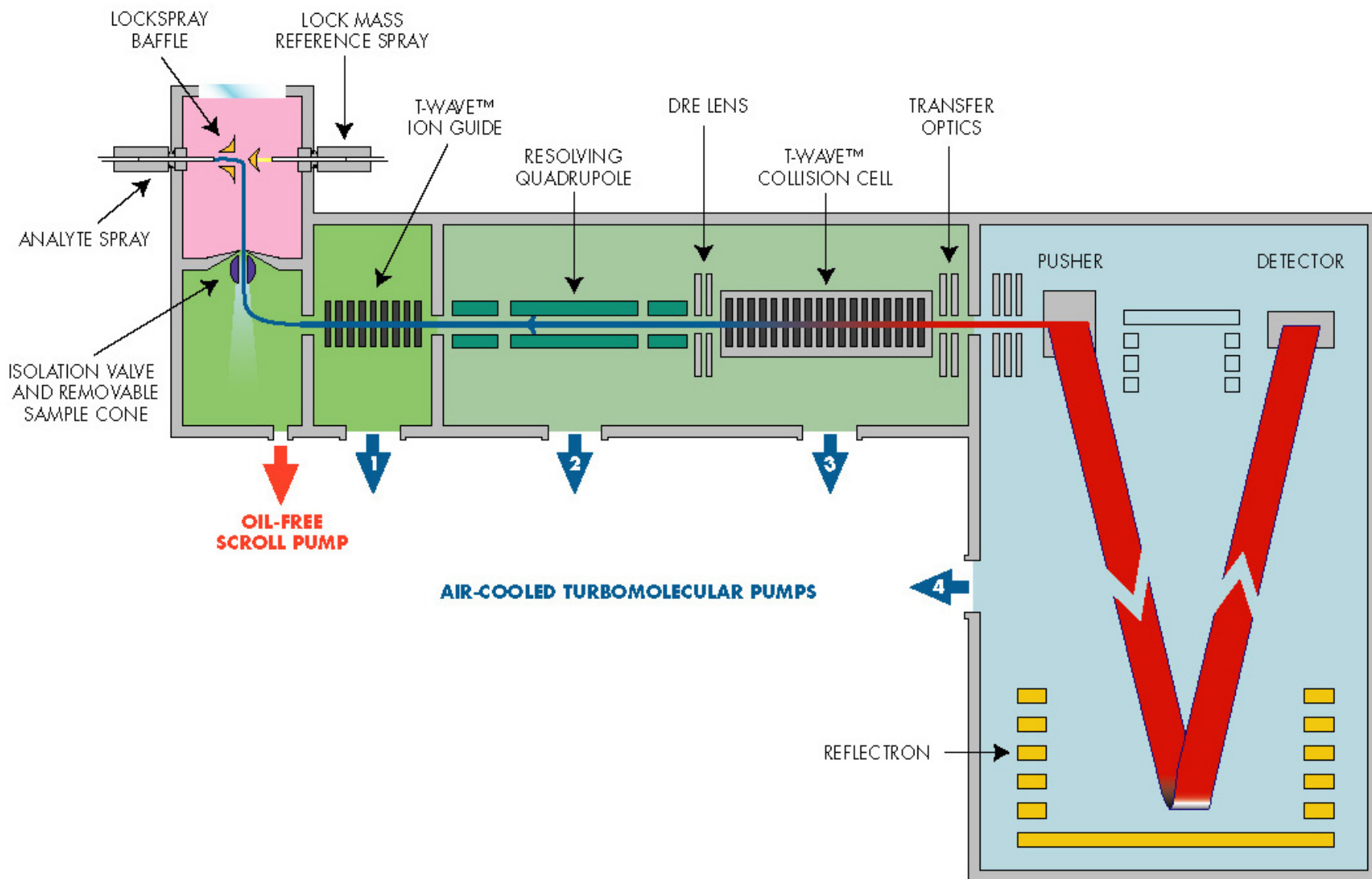
Premier oa-Tof instrumentation



LCT Premier
Benchtop oa-TOF MS



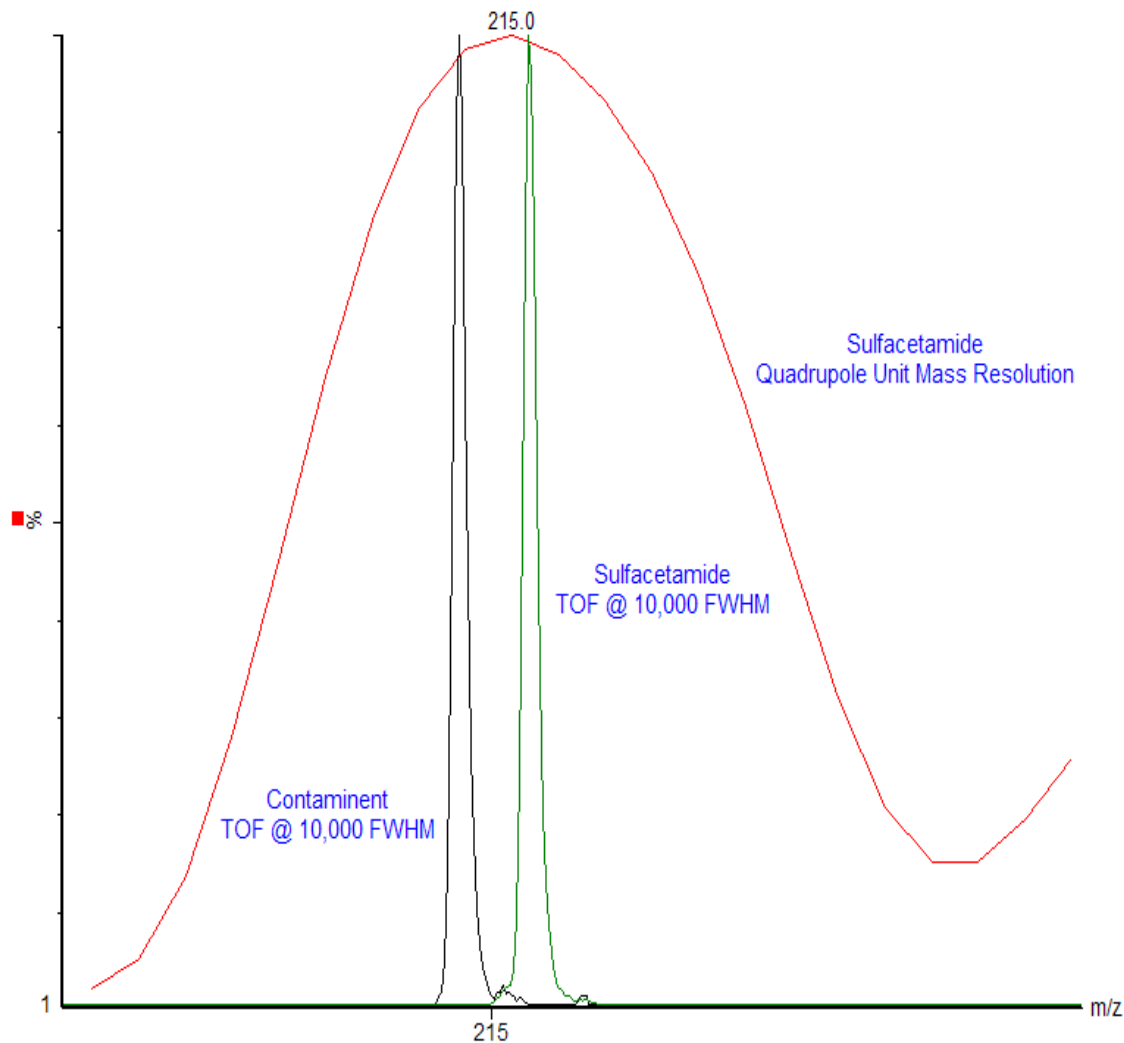
QTOF Premier
oa-TOF MSMS



- Ion abundance
- Resolving power
- Calibration
 - External
 - Internal
- Data manipulation

- Ion Abundance
 - The signal must be above a certain level in order to obtain good ion statistics and peak shape
 - The signal must not be too strong as to saturate the detector of the instrument
 - The latest oa-ToF instruments have considerably increased dynamic range performance
 - This delays the onset of detector saturation increasing the sample concentration range over which exact mass measurement can be acquired

- Resolving power
 - The resolving power of a mass spectrometer describes its ability to separate two ions from one another with less than a defined amount of overlap
 - The resolving power required for an exact mass measurement is determined by the m/z values to be resolved and the presence of background interferences
 - It is good practice to operate an oa-ToF instrument at its specified resolving power as this will offer the best compromise between sensitivity, resolution and peak shape



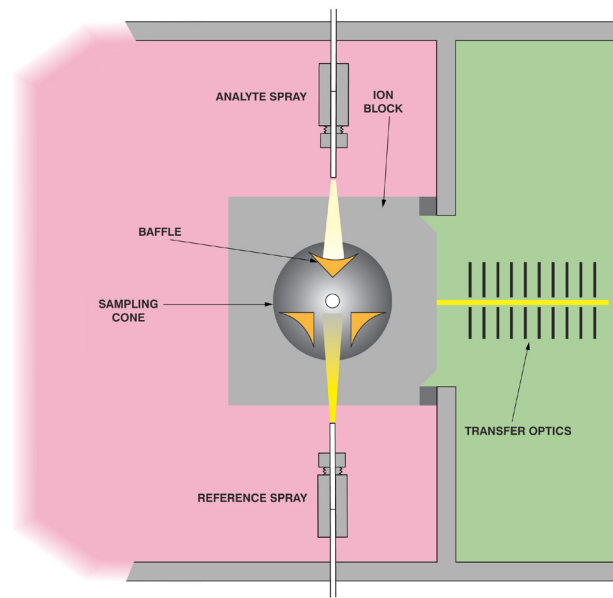
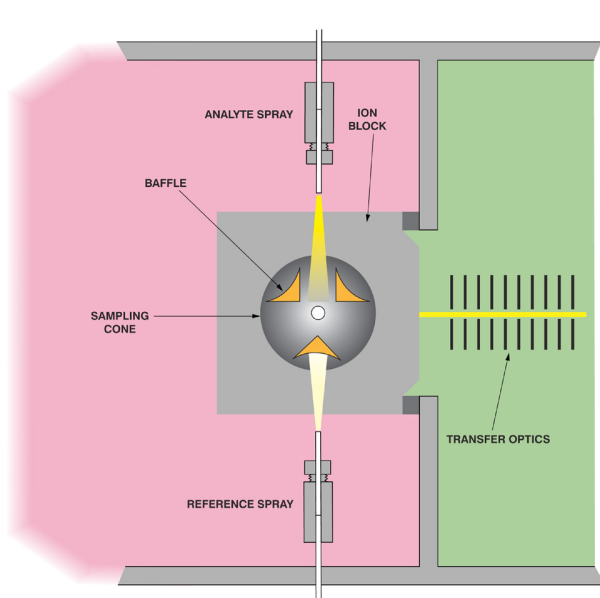
- Unit mass resolution is not sufficient to differentiate these two compounds
- ToF data with a resolving power of >10,000, clearly shows two distinct peaks.
- These can be accurately mass measured to < 3ppm

- Two types of calibration to be considered
 - External
 - Internal
- External
 - Performed prior to analysis
 - Calibrant should have several reference ions, particularly in m/z range of interest, if possible be of same charge state
 - Should cover the required calibrated range, extrapolation generally leads to inferior results
 - Choice of calibrant is generally dictated by the class of samples to be analyzed

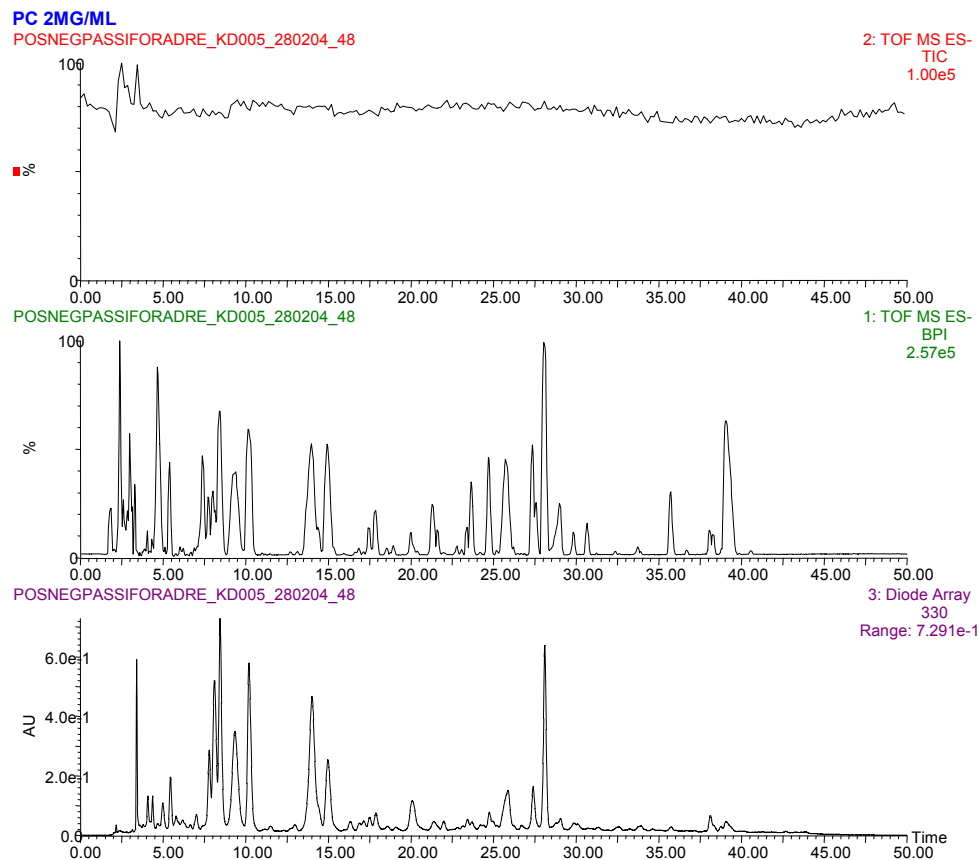
Chemical name	m/z range	Uses
Sodium iodide and Caesium iodide mixture	20 - 4000	ESI pos and neg
Peptide mixture	200 – 3000	ESI pos
Horse heart myoglobin	600 – 16000	ESI pos

- Internal calibration
 - Introduced during sample analysis
 - For oa-ToF instruments a single point 'Lockmass' is sufficient
 - Main purpose is to correction for thermal changes to the environment of the instrument
 - It is very important that the intensity of the Lockmass ion is of a suitable intensity. This can be quite changeling, particularly when the sample introduction is dynamic, for example HPLC or UPLC-MS
 - Waters has a unique solution;

- Introduces a lockmass, at user defined intervals, throughout the course of an experiment
- Available in nanoflow versions



Integrated LockSpray Ion Source

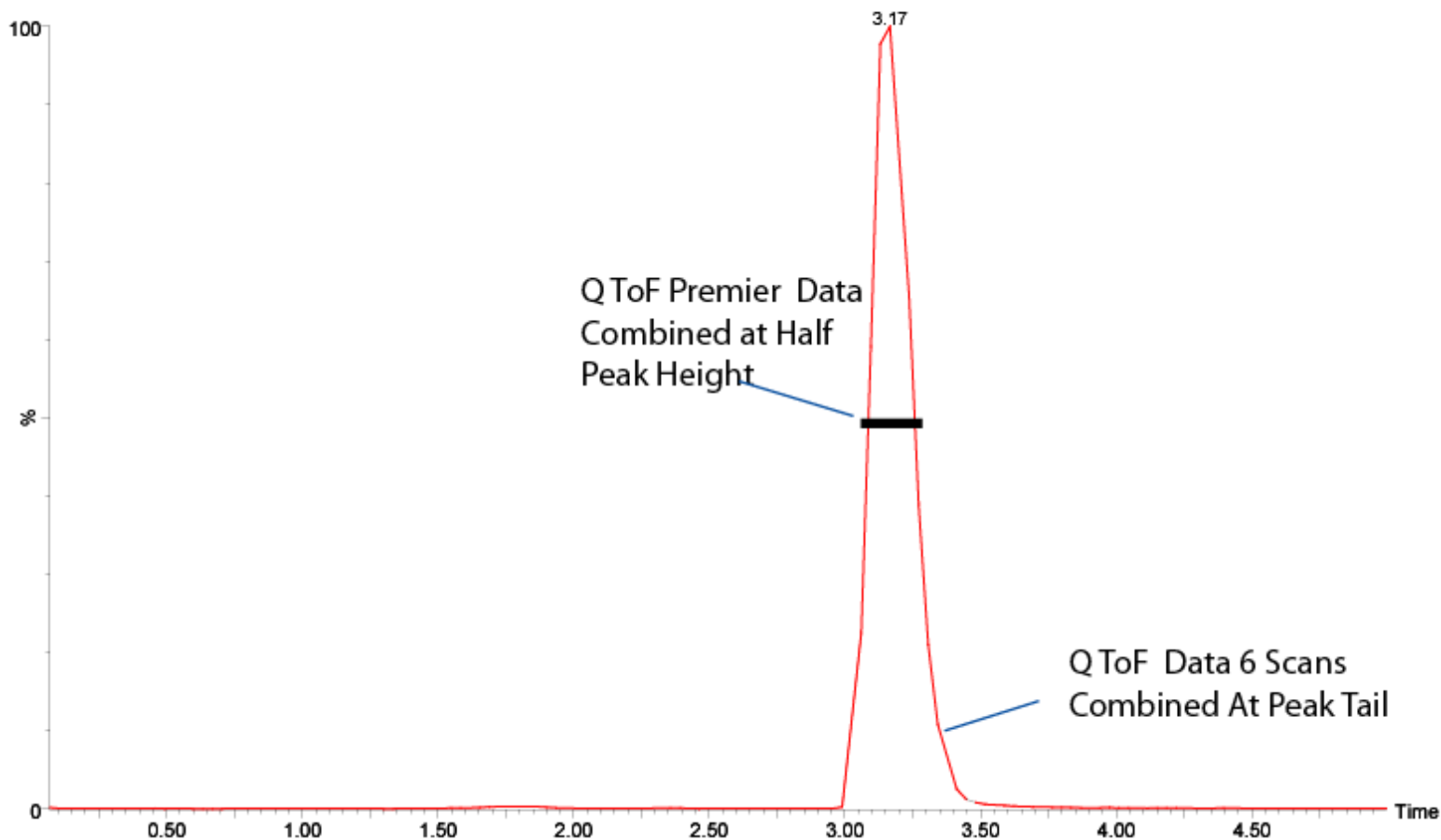


- Easy to use and setup for dedicated exact mass
- No Teeing in post-column removing plumbing issues
- No ion suppression of reference mass
- No interference of masses
- No change in ionisation of reference with LC gradient
- Every spectrum is validated with a reference, removing issues associated with lab conditions and power supply fluctuation

- Data manipulation
- Acquire data
- Baseline subtract to remove interferences near ion of interest
- Centroid ion of interest
- Utilise lockmass for correction of m/z range
- Produce list of potential elemental formulae
- Latest systems automate this procedure

Routine exact mass measurement

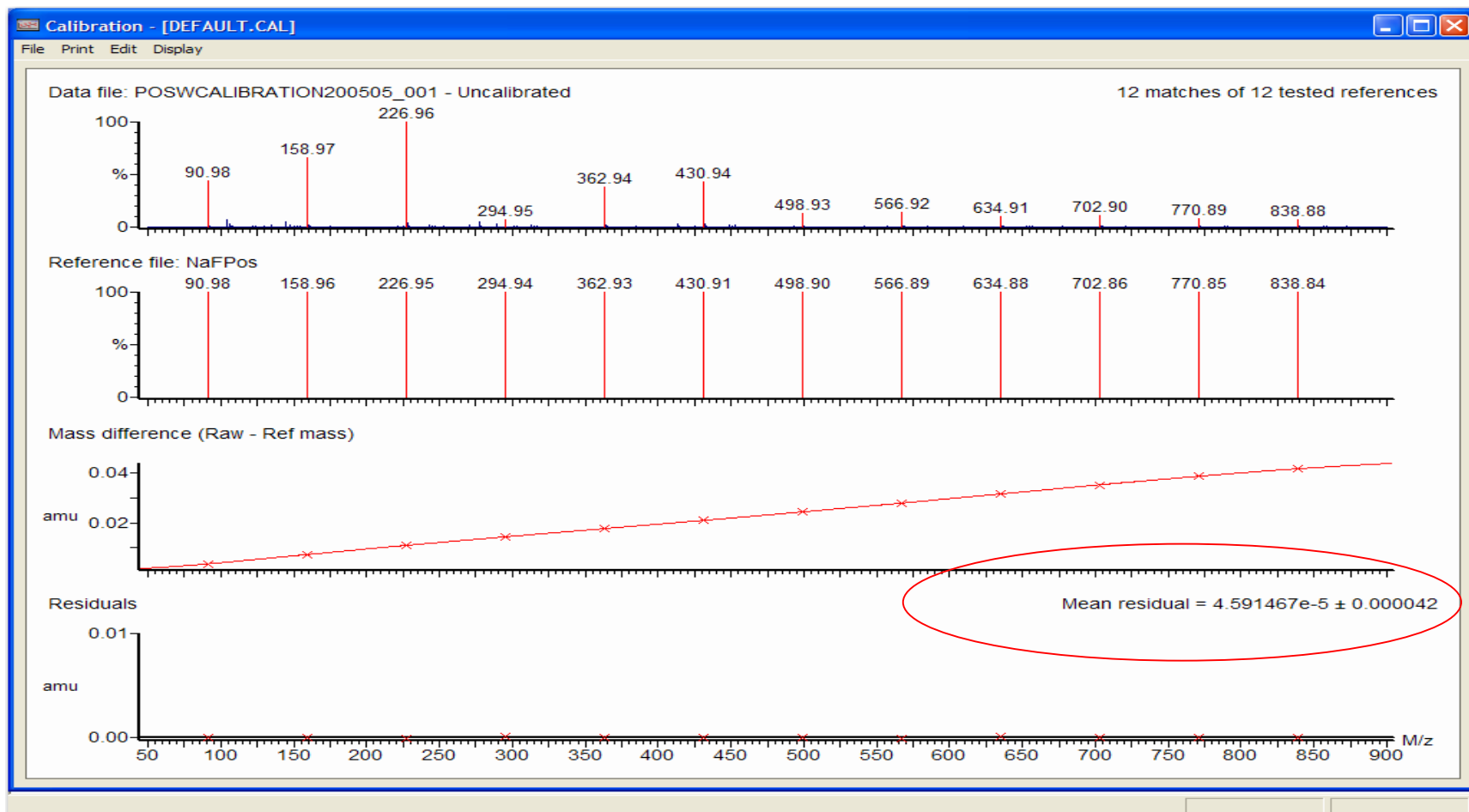
ACQUITY UPLC and Q-Tof Premier



- Mass Spectrometer: Waters Micromass Q ToF Premier™
- Ionization Mode: ESI+ at 3 kV; Sample cone voltage: 30V
- Internal calibration: Sodium formate
- External calibration: Leucine enkephalin, $[M+H]^+$ 556.2771.
- Acquisition Parameters:
 - 50-900 m/z
 - 0.1 second/spectrum; 0.05 second inter scan delay
 - Resolution = >8000 FWHM (V mode) and 15000 FWHM (W mode)

- System: Waters ACQUITY UPLC™
- Column: Waters ACQUITY UPLC™ BEH C₁₈ (100 mm x 2.1 mm, 1.7 µm particle size)
- Mobile phase: MeCN (B) : H₂O (0.1% HCOOH) (A)
- Isocratic: 50(A):50 (B)
- Column temperature: 45°C Flow: 0.4 mL/min
- Analyte: Temazepam

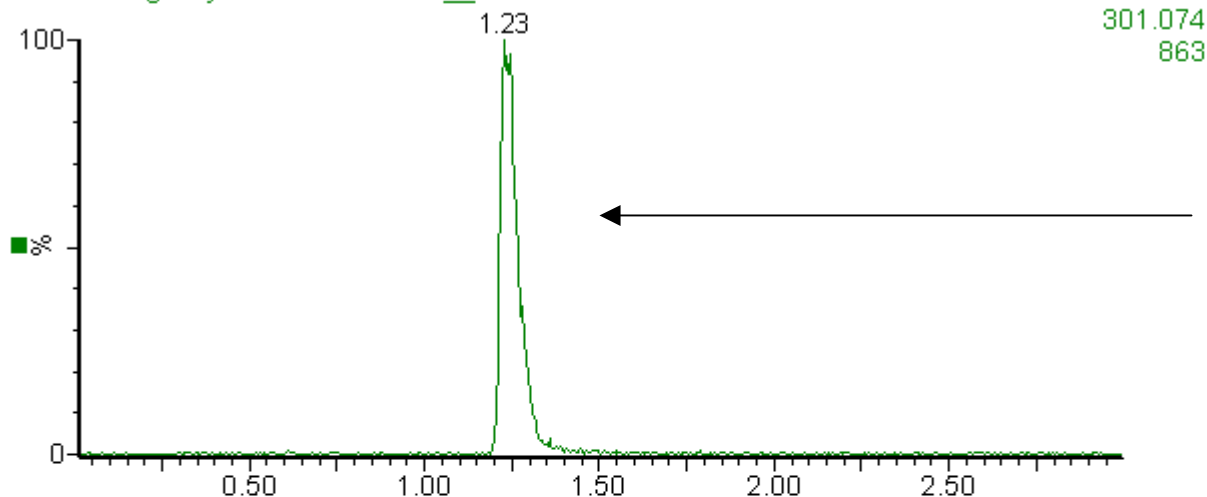
- Q TOF calibrated once in V mode and W mode
- 8 Day Experiment
- 500 samples analysed in V mode
- 630 samples analysed in W mode
- Longevity data processed using MetaboLynx
- Temazepam Linearity Series
 - 0.05 pg/μL to 5000 pg/μL (triplicate injection)



© 2004 Waters Corporation

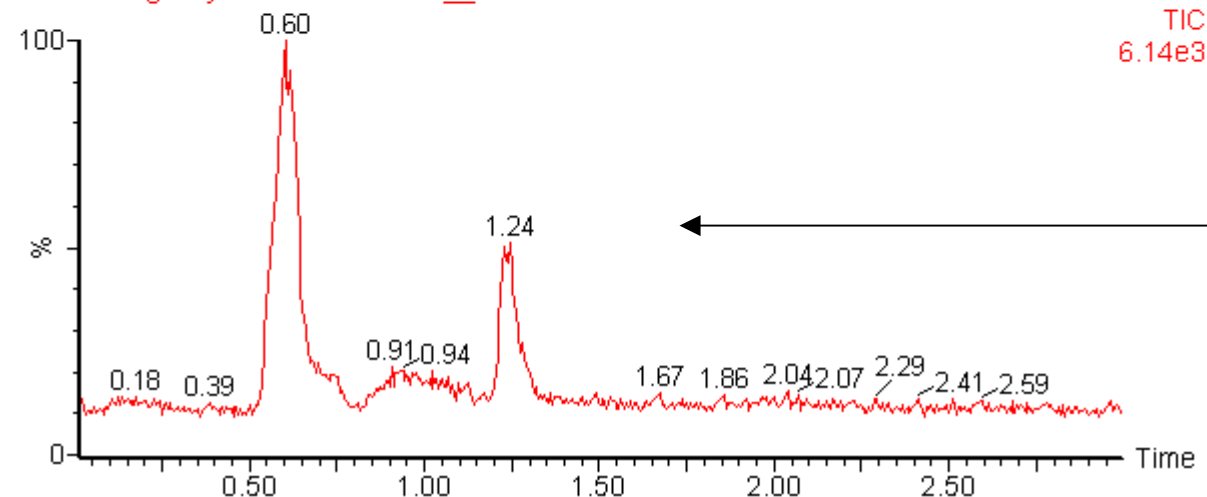
Temazepam 500.0 pg/ul

MikeMILongevitywmodeMS230505_024



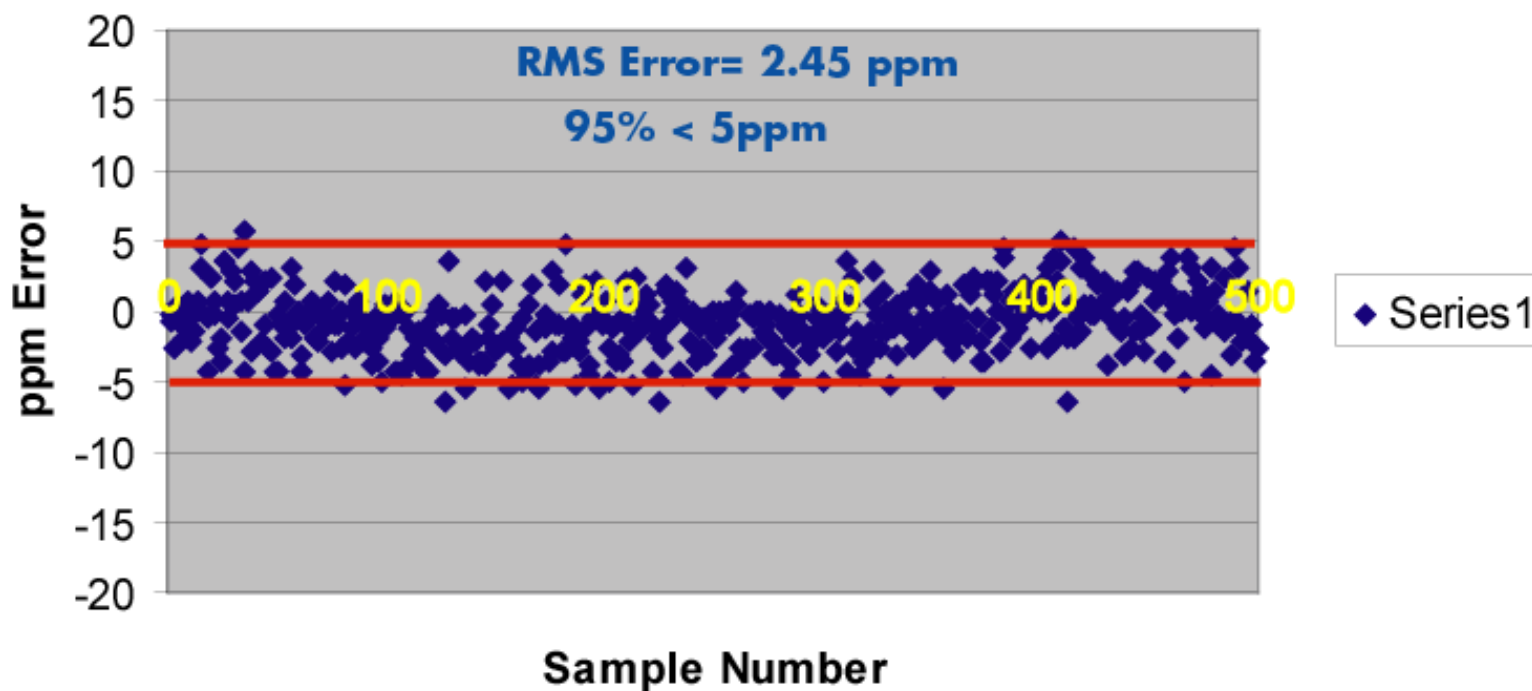
Extracted ion
chromatogram

MikeMILongevitywmodeMS230505_024

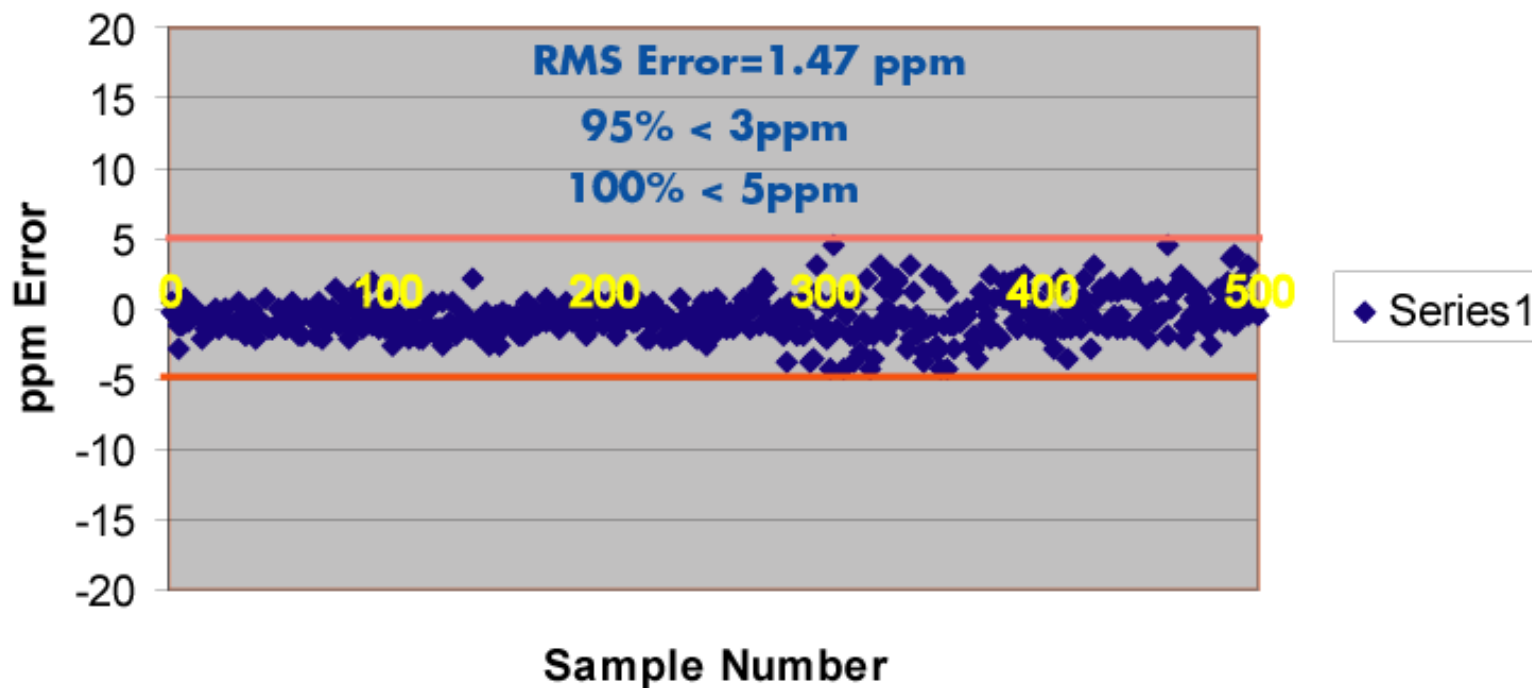


Full scan MS

Q TOF Premier Longevity Performance V Mode Temazepam in Plasma



Q TOF Premier Longevity Performance W Mode Temazepam in Plasma



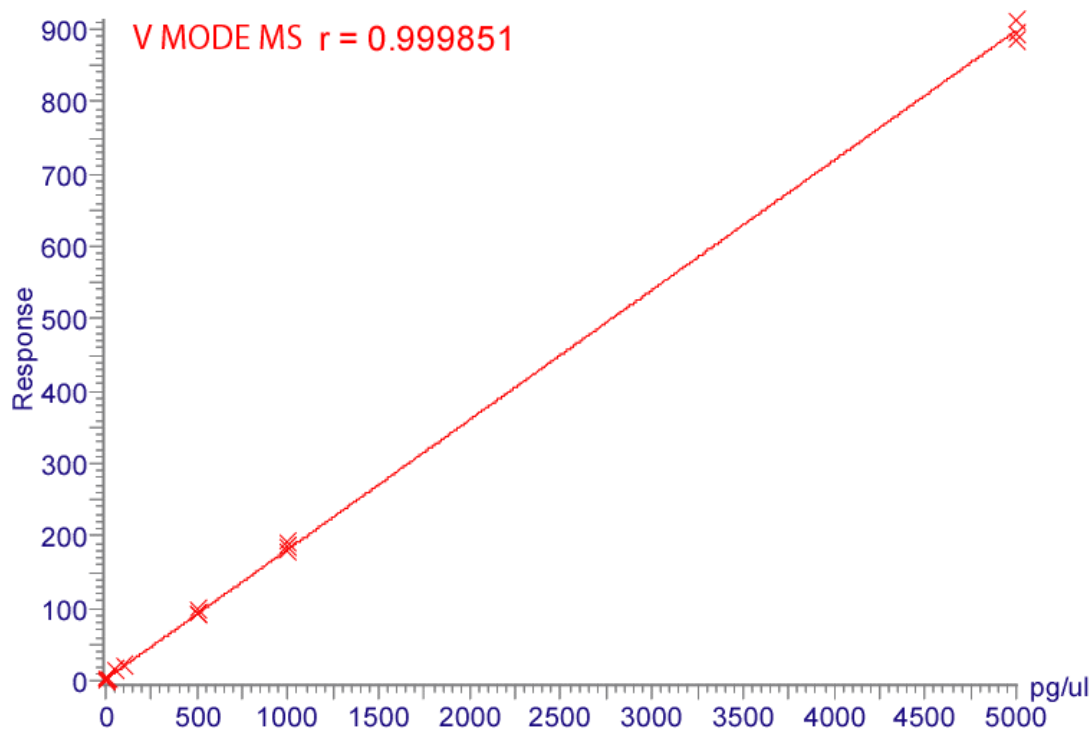
Compound name: temazepam

Correlation coefficient: $r = 0.999851$, $r^2 = 0.999702$

Calibration curve: $0.17925 * x + 2.18854$

Response type: External Std, Area

Curve type: Linear, Origin: Include, Weighting: Null, Axis trans: None



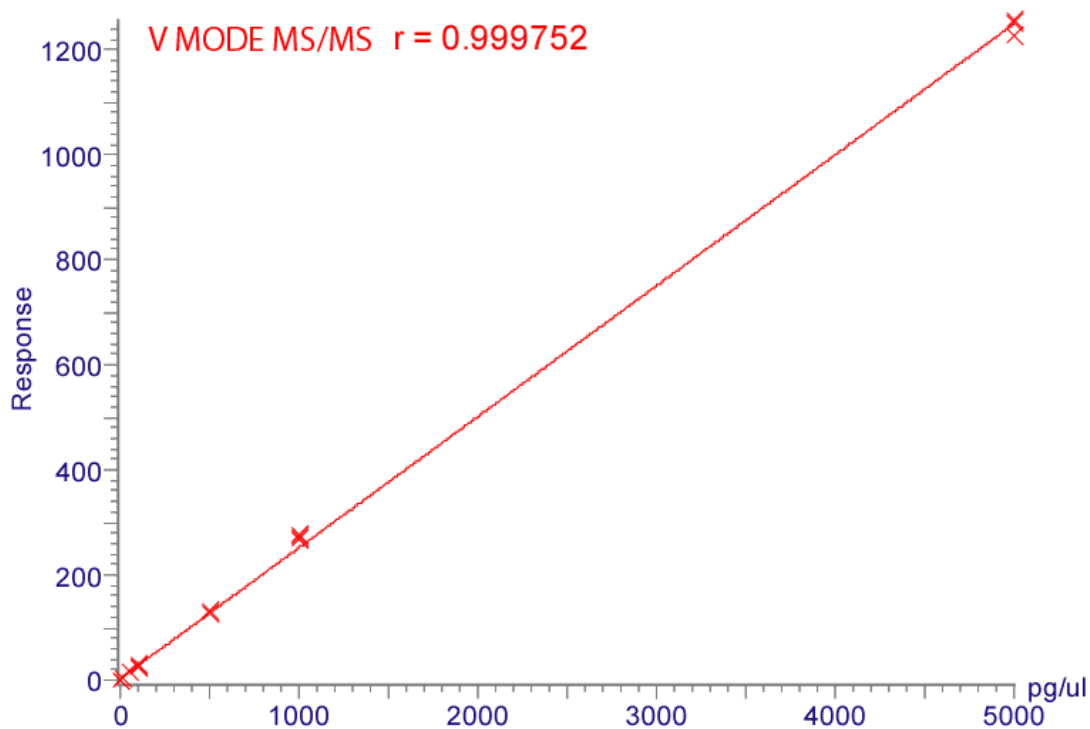
Compound name: temazepam

Correlation coefficient: $r = 0.999752$, $r^2 = 0.999505$

Calibration curve: $0.249357 * x + 2.91198$

Response type: External Std, Area

Curve type: Linear, Origin: Include, Weighting: Null, Axis trans: None



- MS linearity over 4 orders of magnitude has been shown where $r = 0.9998$
- MS/MS linearity over 4 orders of magnitude has been shown where $r = 0.9997$
- Routine, automated exact mass measurement is achievable
 - No recalibration required
 - >1000 spiked plasma samples analysed
 - RMS error V mode = 2.45 ppm
 - RMS error W mode = 1.47 ppm

Using exact mass

- With an exact mass measurement, an elemental composition can be calculated
- The better the accuracy on the measurement (<3ppm), the fewer possible elemental compositions for a given set of elements
- However, the higher you go in mass, the number of possibilities go up (even with good accuracy)
- Results in a long list for users to look through

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions				
104900 formula(e) evaluated with 148 results within limits (all results (up to 1000) for each mass)				
Elements Used:				
C: 0-500 H: 0-500 N: 0-20 O: 0-20 S: 0-10 Cl: 0-10 Br: 0-10				
Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	Formula
556.2771	556.2771	0	0	C24 H43 N9 S2 Cl
	556.2771	0	0	C39 H39 N Cl
	556.2771	0	0	C28 H38 N5 O7
	556.277	0.1	0.2	C16 H39 N15 O3 S Cl
	556.2772	-0.1	-0.2	C13 H42 N13 O7 S2
	556.2772	-0.1	-0.2	C17 H45 N11 O3 Cl3
	556.2773	-0.2	-0.4	C21 H46 N7 O4 S3
	556.2768	0.3	0.5	C21 H48 N3 O9 Cl2
	556.2774	-0.3	-0.5	C25 H49 N5 S Cl3
	556.2768	0.3	0.5	C13 H39 N19 O Br
	556.2768	0.3	0.5	C26 H52 N O4 Cl Br
	556.2775	-0.4	-0.7	C29 H50 N O S4
	556.2767	0.4	0.7	C28 H46 N O6 S2
	556.2776	-0.5	-0.9	C13 H34 N17 O8
	556.2776	-0.5	-0.9	C24 H35 N13 O Cl
	556.2765	0.6	1.1	C31 H43 N3 O2 S Cl
	556.2765	0.6	1.1	C20 H42 N7 O9 S
	556.2765	0.6	1.1	C16 H47 N11 O2 S3 Cl
	556.2778	-0.7	-1.3	C21 H38 N11 O5 S
	556.2763	0.8	1.4	C12 H38 N13 O12
	556.2763	0.8	1.4	C23 H39 N9 O5 Cl
	556.2763	0.8	1.4	C28 H43 N7 Br
	556.278	-0.9	-1.6	C14 H46 N13 O2 S4
	556.278	-0.9	-1.6	C29 H42 N5 O2 S2
	556.2761	1	1.8	C11 H40 N19 O S Cl2
	556.2781	-1	-1.8	C22 H44 N7 O5 Cl2
	556.2782	-1.1	-2	C27 H48 N5 Cl Br
	556.2783	-1.2	-2.2	C30 H48 N O2 S Cl2
	556.2759	1.2	2.2	C27 H50 N3 Cl4
	556.2783	-1.2	-2.2	C19 H47 N5 O9 S Cl
	556.2758	1.3	2.3	C25 H30 N15 O
	556.2758	1.3	2.3	C23 H47 N5 O4 S2 Cl
	556.2784	-1.3	-2.3	C24 H51 N3 O4 S Br
	556.2758	1.3	2.3	C27 H42 N O11
	556.2785	-1.4	-2.5	C14 H38 N17 O3 S2
	556.2757	1.4	2.5	C20 H47 N9 O2 S Br
	556.2785	-1.4	-2.5	C29 H34 N9 O3
	556.2756	1.5	2.7	C26 H44 N7 S Cl2
	556.2756	1.5	2.7	C15 H43 N11 O7 S Cl
	556.2786	-1.5	-2.7	C37 H38 N3 S
	556.2755	1.6	2.9	C12 H43 N15 O5 Br

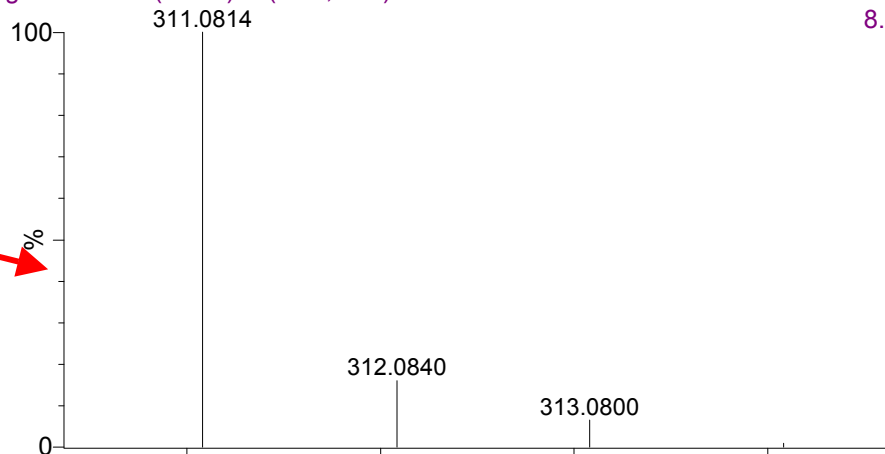
- For every elemental composition determined an i-FIT™ value is calculated
 - Calculation uses both **isotope pattern** and **mass**
 - Generally, lower the i-FIT™, better the match
- Valency state is set automatically for ESI & APcl
 - ESI & APcl generates even electron state for molecular ion (N-Rule)
- Applies filtering to aid simplification of results list
 - Carbon, Cl & Br
 - Simplifies the results list by aiding the removal of incorrect answers

8 Compound Test Mix, ES+

gradtest010 (4.753) Is (1.00,0.00) C₁₂H₁₅N₄O₄S

1: TOF MS ES+
8.10e12

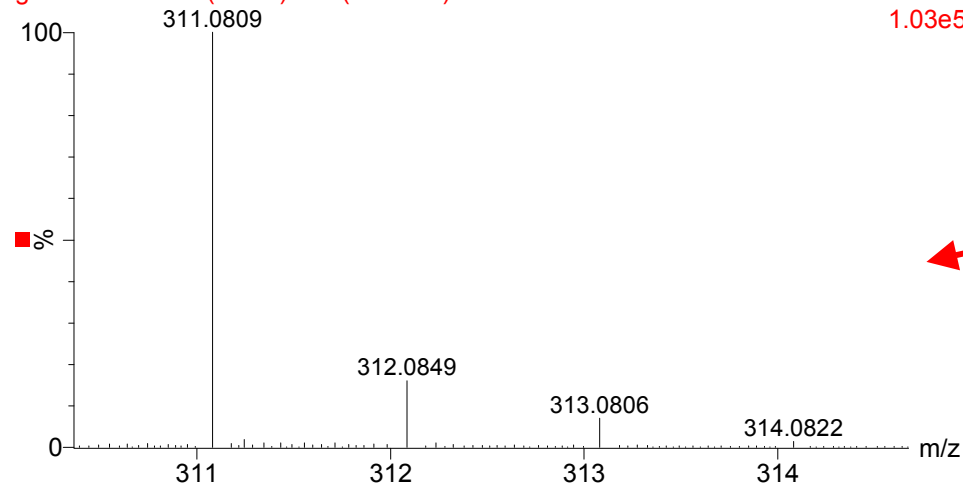
Theoretical
isotope pattern



gradtest010 101 (4.716) Cm (100:105)

1: TOF MS ES+
1.03e5

Experimental
isotope pattern



Elecomp Parameters

The screenshot shows the 'Parameters' dialog box with the 'General Parameters' tab selected. The dialog is divided into several sections: 'Tolerance', 'Double Bond Equivalent', 'Mass Mode', 'Electron State', 'Results', and 'Filters'. Red arrows point from text annotations to specific settings in the dialog.

Tolerance: ☐ MilliDaltons: 5, ☒ PPM: 10, Minimum % RA: 80

Double Bond Equivalent: Minimum: -1.5, Maximum: 50

Mass Mode: ☒ Monoisotopic, ☐ Chemical, ☐ Nominal

Electron State: ☐ Both odd and even, ☐ Odd electron only, ☒ Even electron only

Results: ☐ Display only valid results, No. results to display: ☐ All 10, Criterion: ☒ i-FIT, ☐ Mass Difference

Filters: ☐ Carbon 5, ☐ Cl & Br, ☐ Sulphur

Buttons at the bottom: Reset To Defaults, OK, Cancel

Set a mass
measure
tolerance

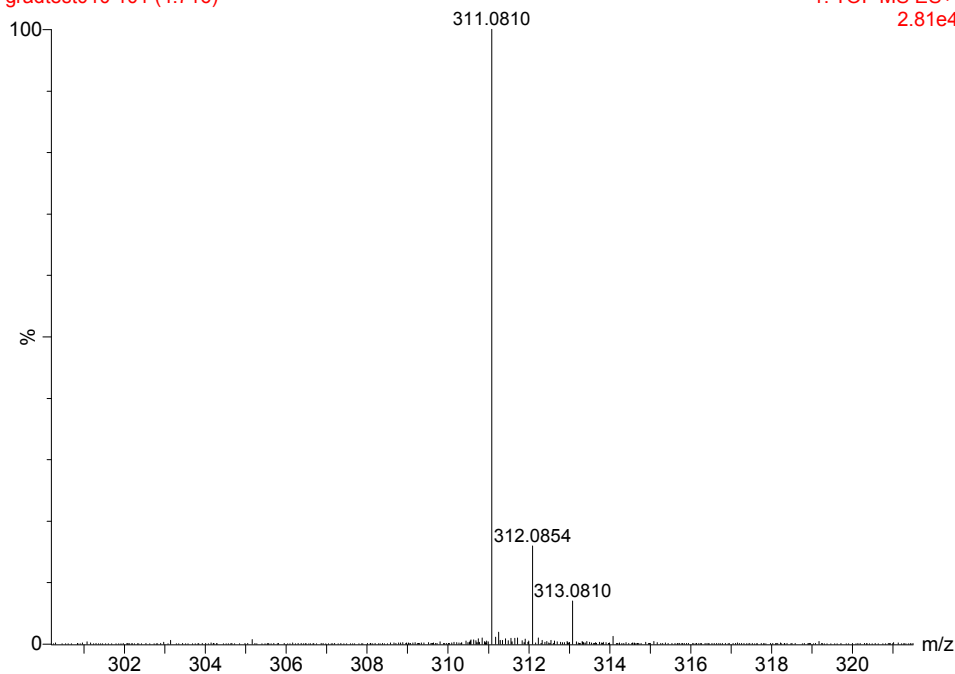
Rank results on
Mass Difference
or i-FIT™

Automatically
assign the valency
state based on
data type

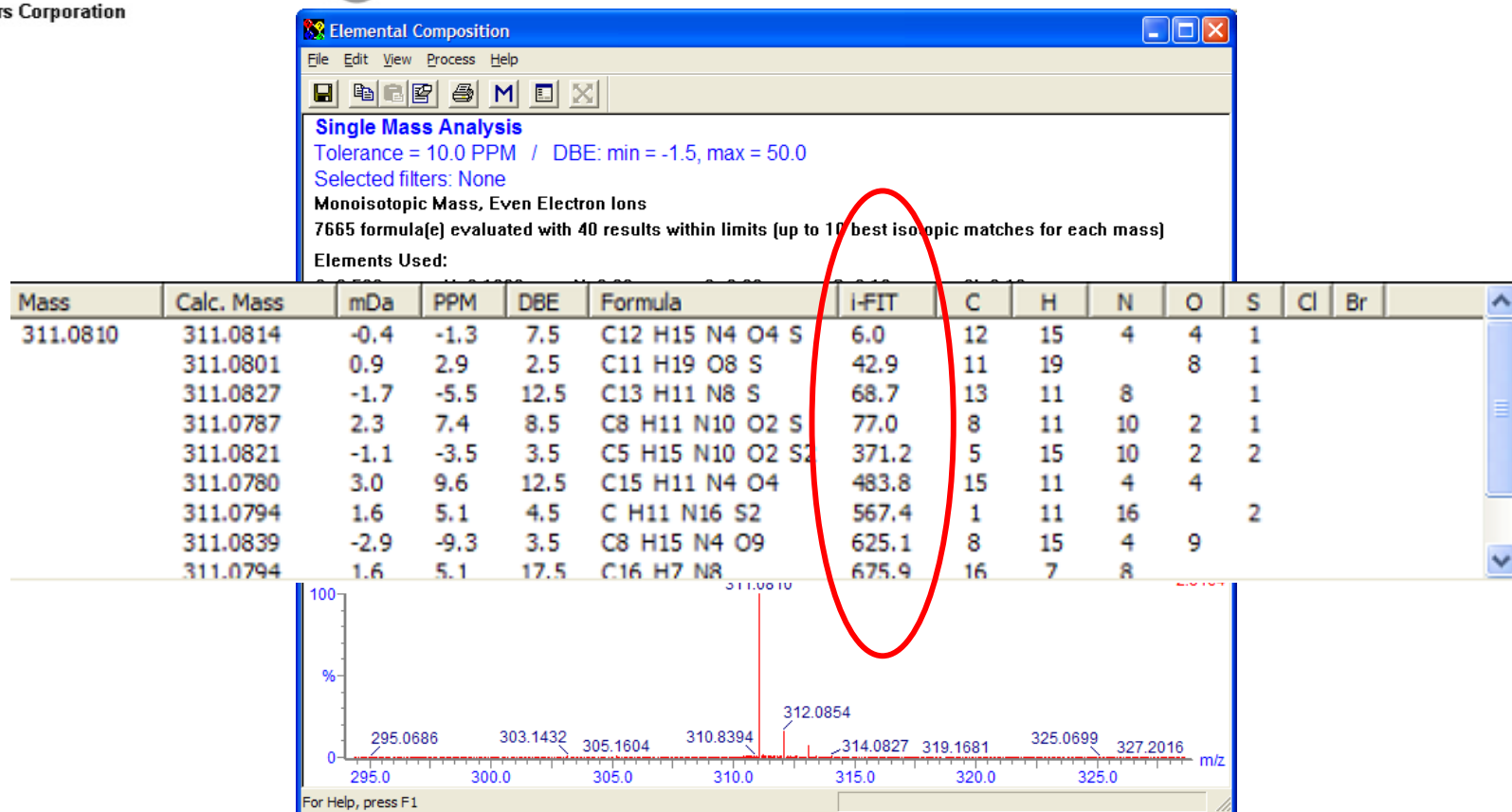
Apply filtering
technology to aid
simplification of the
results list

8 Compound Test Mix, ES+

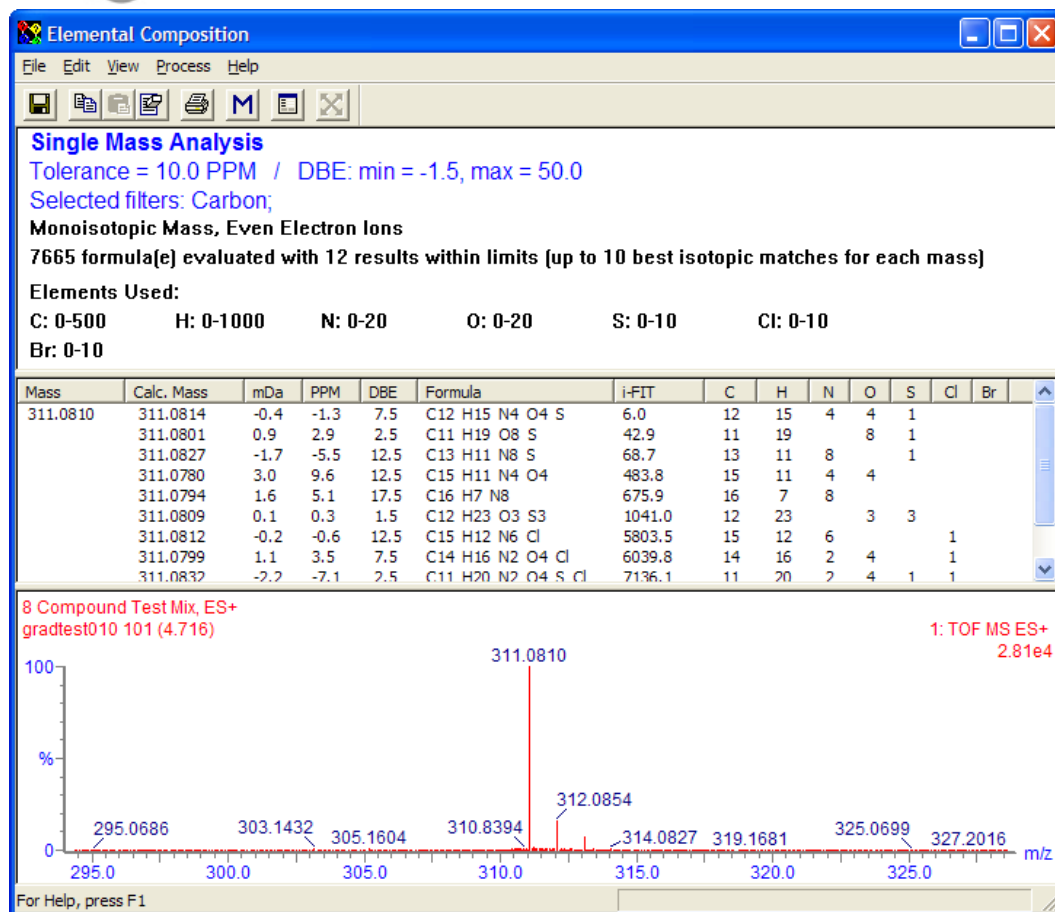
gradtest010 101 (4.716)

1: TOF MS ES+
2.81e4

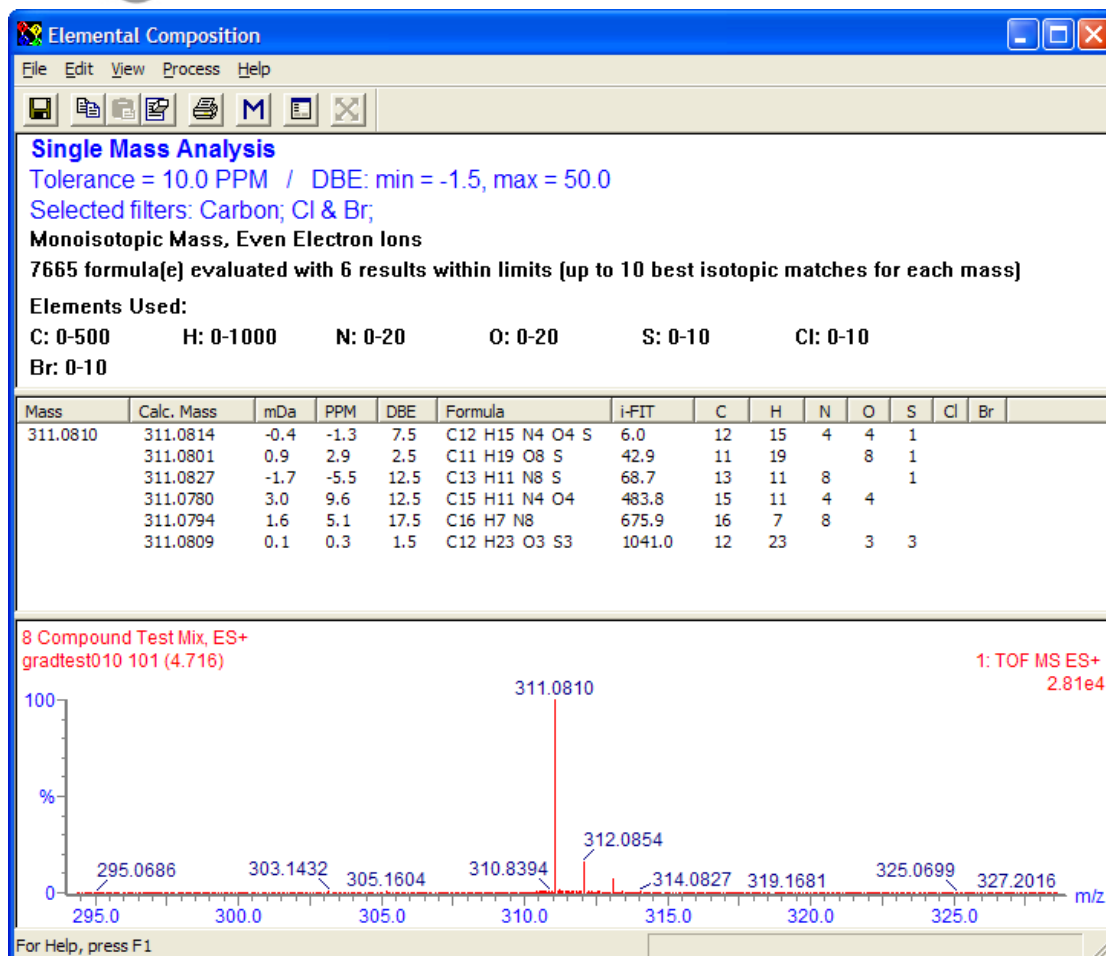
- An exact mass spectrum for a particular ion is generated
- The monoisotopic peak is selected for elemental composition calculation (note, the correct mass is m/z 311.0814)



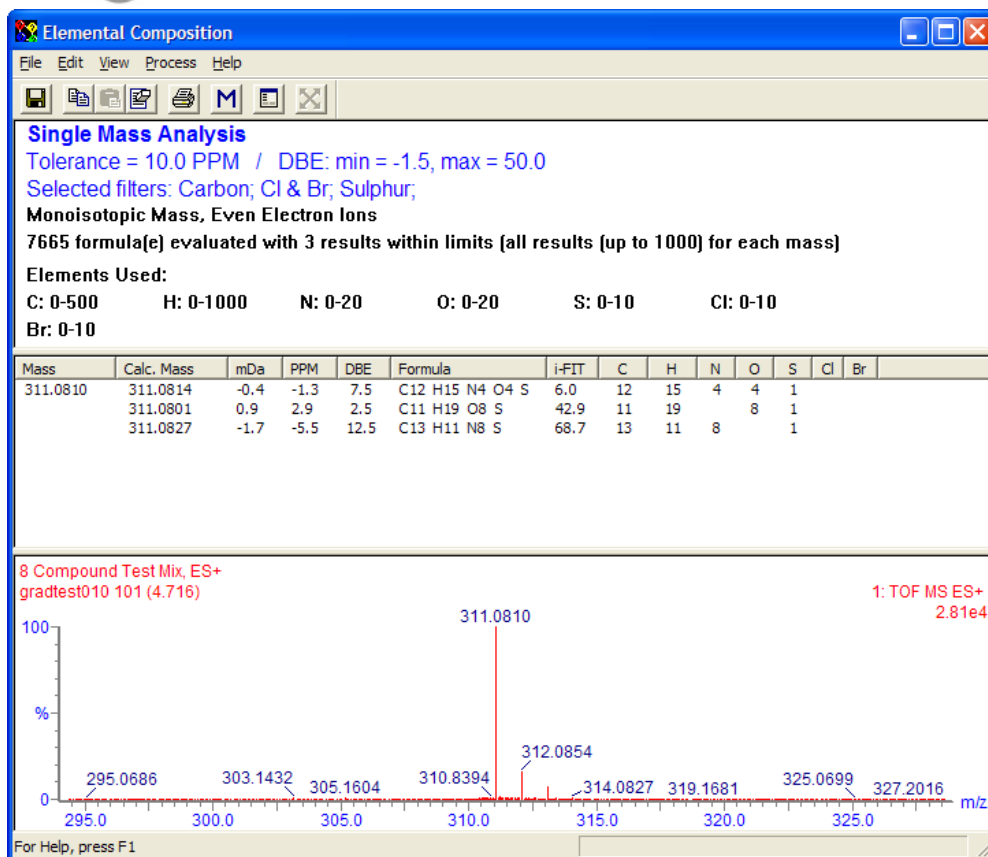
- Using No Filters, 40 results were returned within a 10ppm tolerance
- Based on elements C₅₀₀H₅₀₀N₂₀O₂₀S₁₀Cl₁₀Br₁₀
- No. 1 is the correct elemental composition (C₁₂H₁₅N₄O₄S, m/z 311.0814)



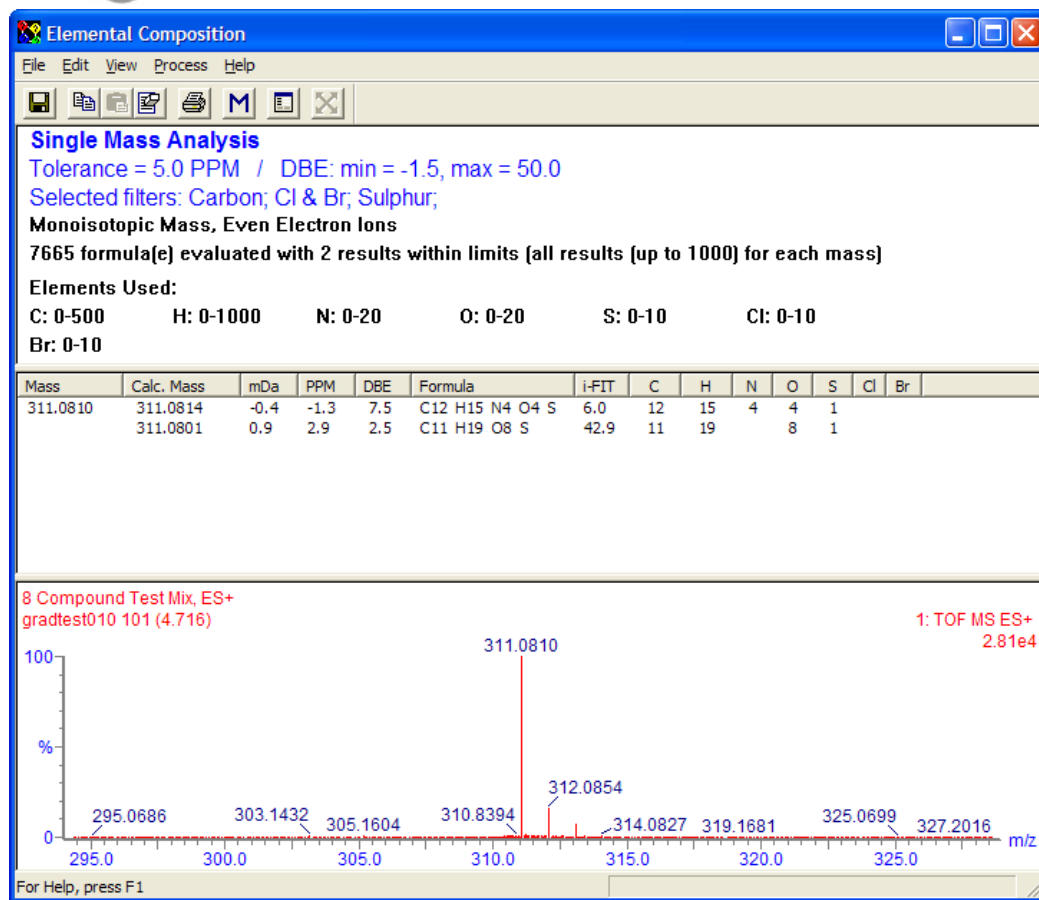
- Application of the Carbon Filter reduces list to 12 hits
- Only considers $^{12}\text{C} \pm 4$



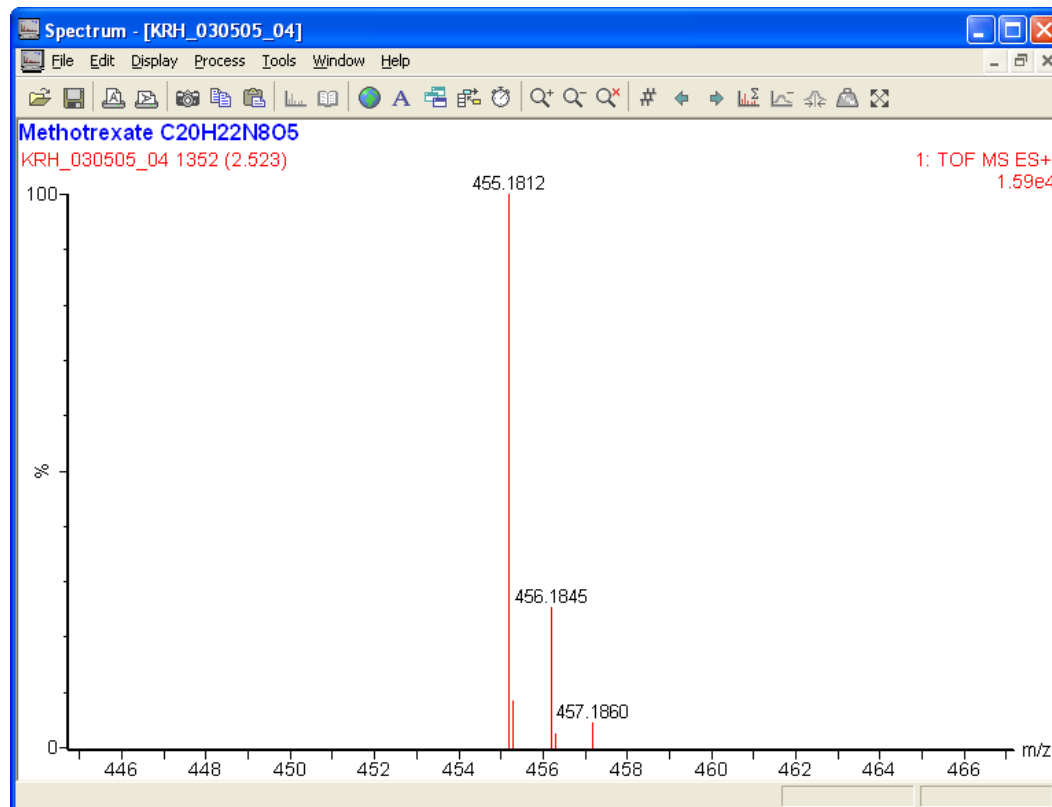
- Application of the Carbon and Cl & Br Filter reduces list to 6 hits
- In this example removes any entrants that contain Cl and Br



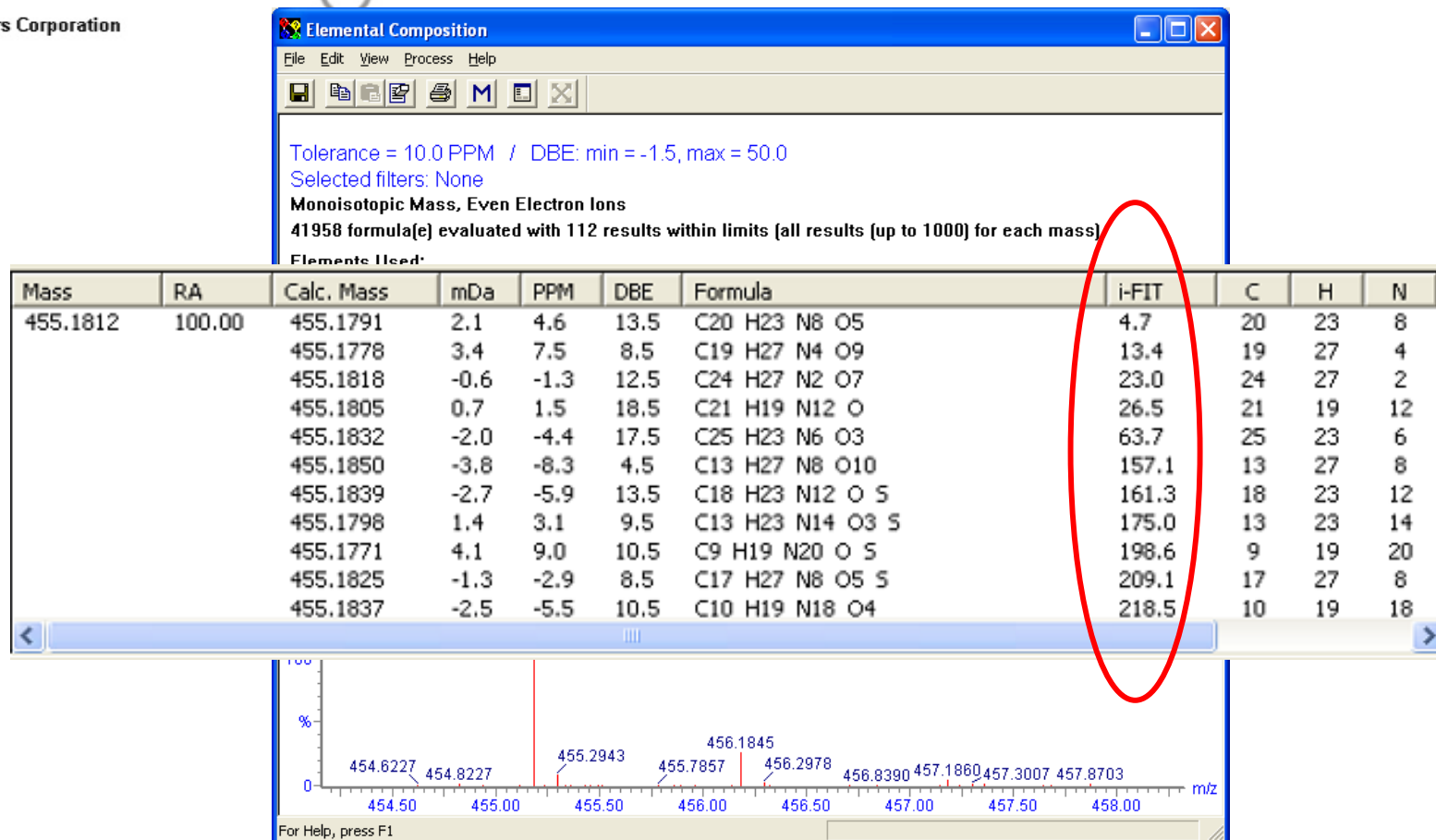
- Application of the Carbon, Cl & Br filters reduces the list to only 3 possibilities !
- No.1 is the correct result
- i-FIT for No.1 is significantly different from other results



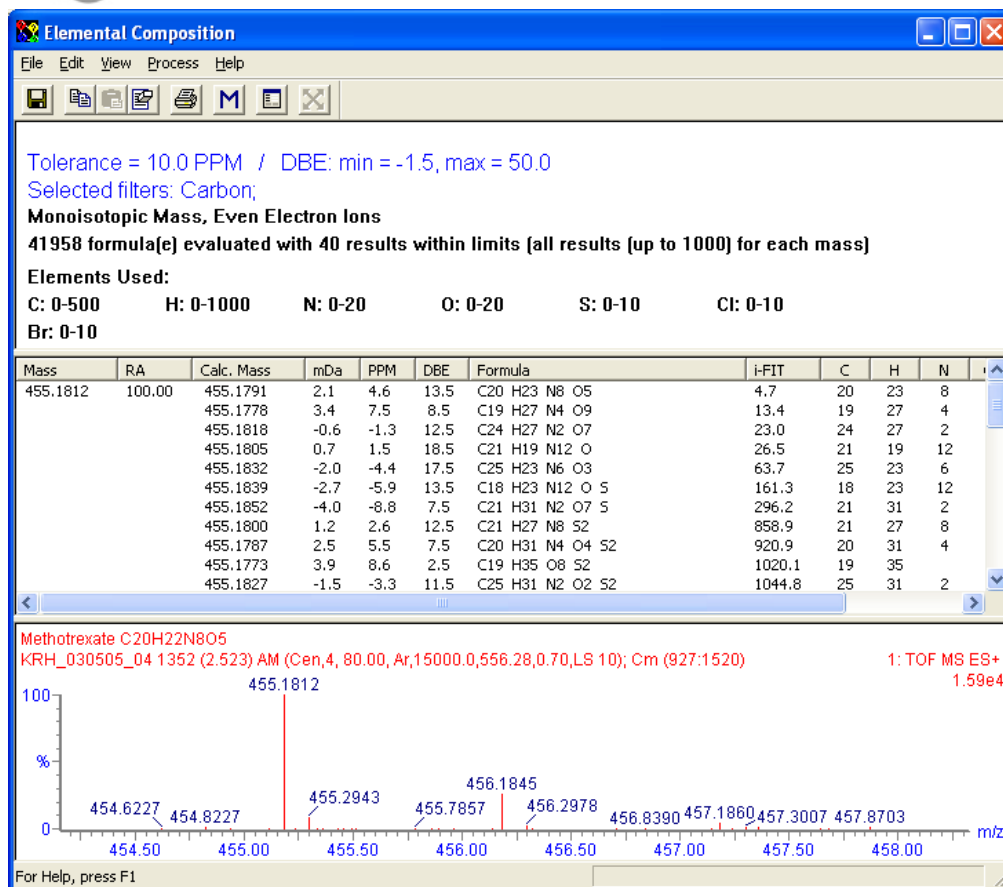
- Set the exact mass tolerance to 5ppm reduces the results list to only 2 possibilities !



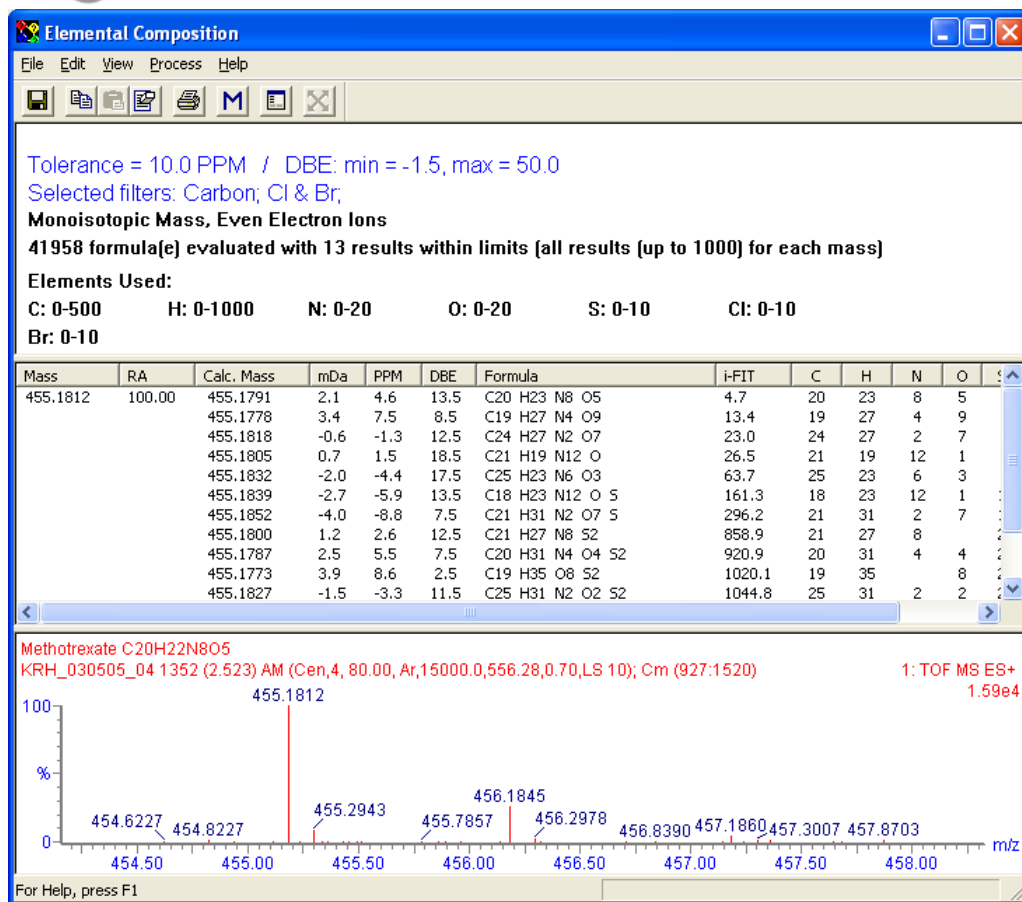
- The monoisotopic peak is selected for elemental composition calculation (note, the correct mass is m/z 455.1791, C₂₀H₂₃N₈O₅)
- The error on the mass measurement is 4.6ppm



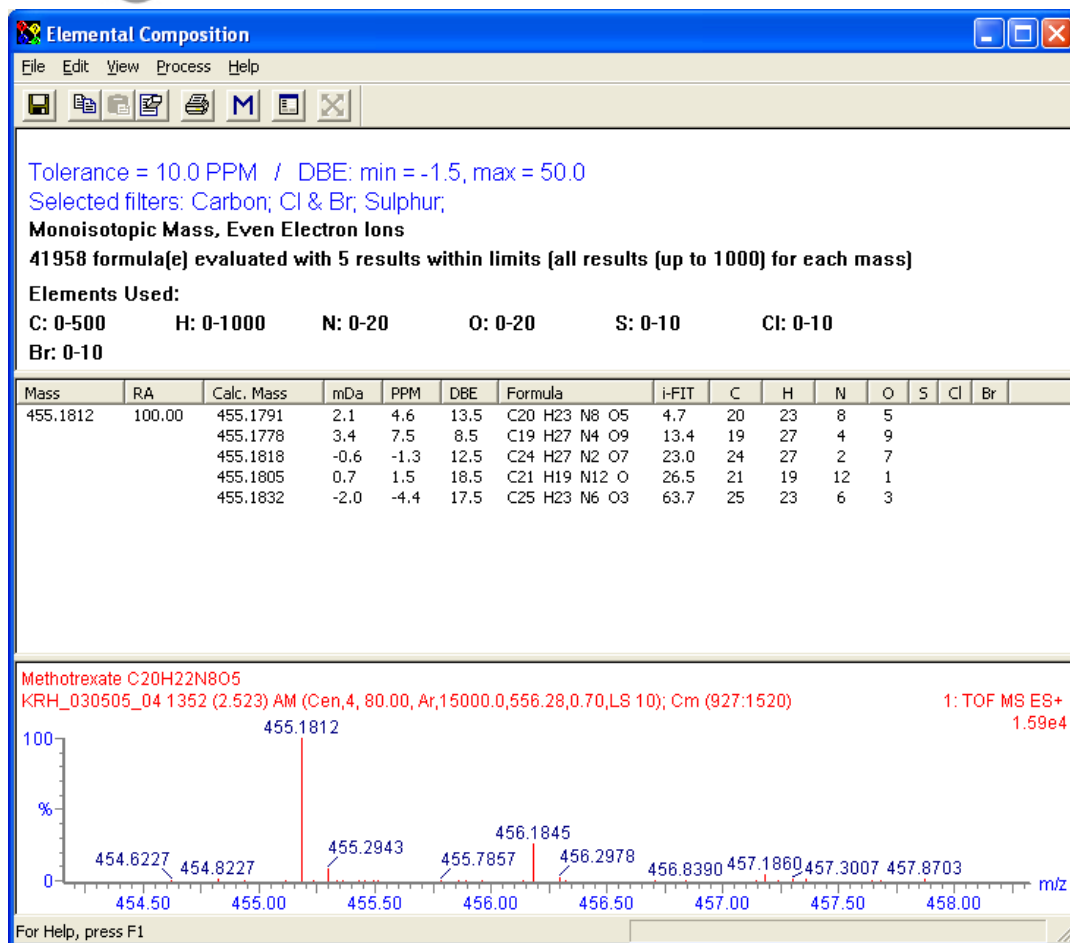
- 112 results within 10ppm tolerance (using $C_{500}H_{1000}N_{20}O_{20}S_{10}Cl_{10}Br_{10}$)
- Correct answer top with i-FIT of 4.7



- Application of Carbon filter reduces results list to 40

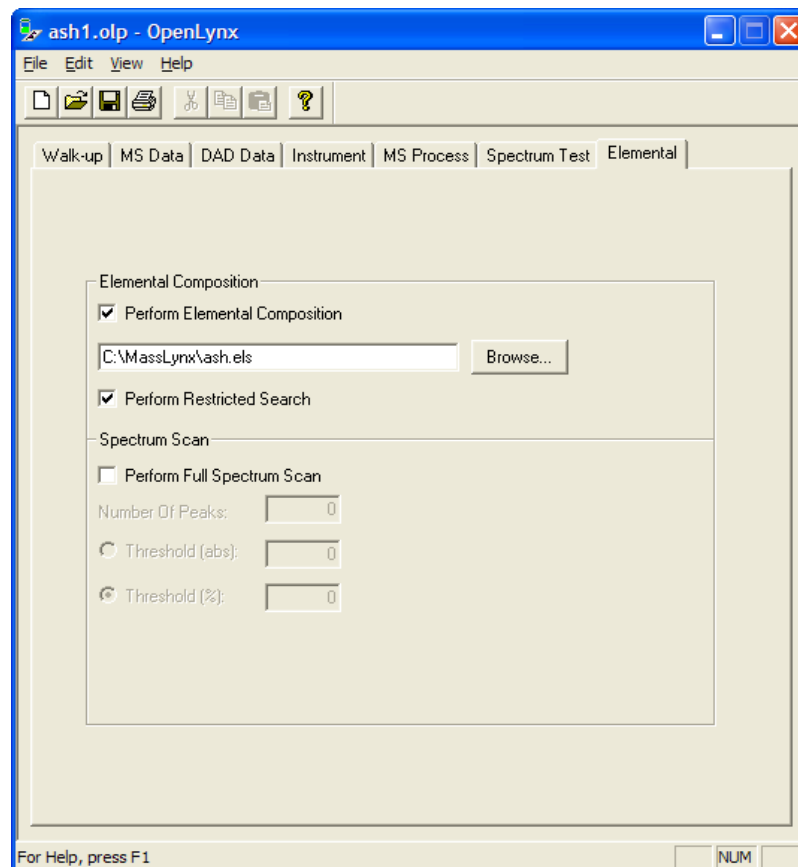


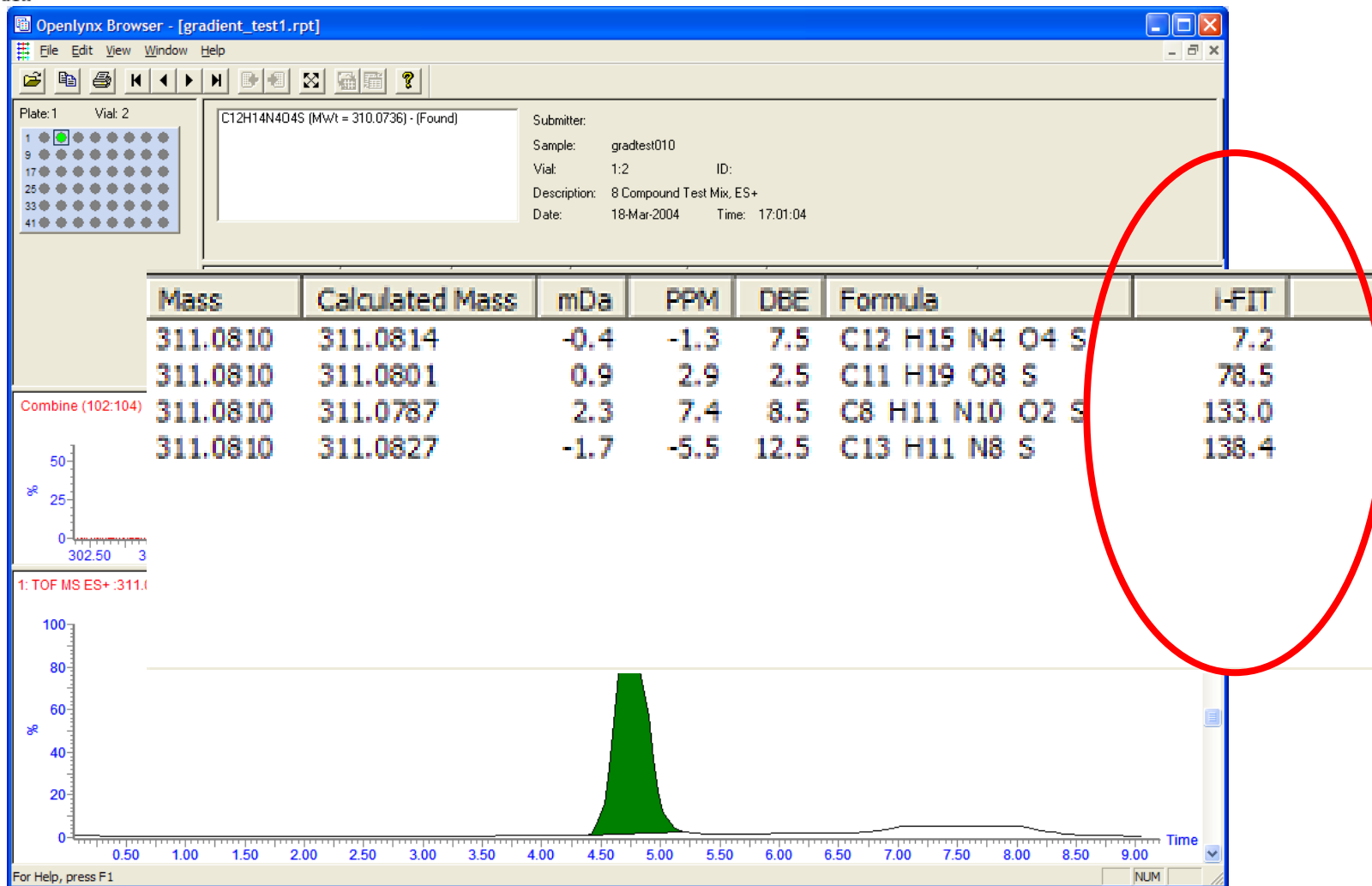
- Application of Carbon and Cl & Br filter reduces results list to 13



- Application of Carbon, Cl & Br and sulphur filter reduces results list to only 6 results from 112

- The i-FIT calculation and filtering technology has been applied to OpenLynx Application Manager
- Works in Open Access or batch processing mode
- The functionality is applied to aid simplification of the elemental composition results list





- Benefits of mass measurement to 4 decimal places
 - High confidence in confirming expected compounds
 - Compound identification
 - Patent submission and publication
- oa-Tof instruments are ideally suited to routine exact mass measurement and semi-quantitative applications
- i-FIT software can provide confident element compositions determinations

“Methodology for accurate mass measurement
of small molecules”

Available from the British mass spectrometry society

www.bmss.org.uk/