

**PITTCON 2015 Session 60-04**



# **High Resolution, Extreme Field Spectra of Small Molecules with Advanced FAIMS Configuration**

**Differential Ion Mobility Spectrometry:  
New FAIMS Instrumentation and  
Applications  
Sunday March 8 2015, New Orleans, LA**

*Ashley T Wilks  
Owlstone Inc  
761 Main Avenue  
Norwalk, CT*

# “Differentiating” UH-FAIMS

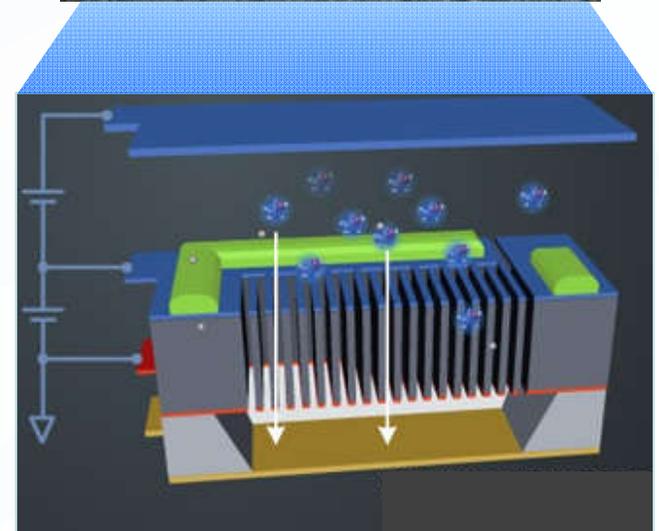
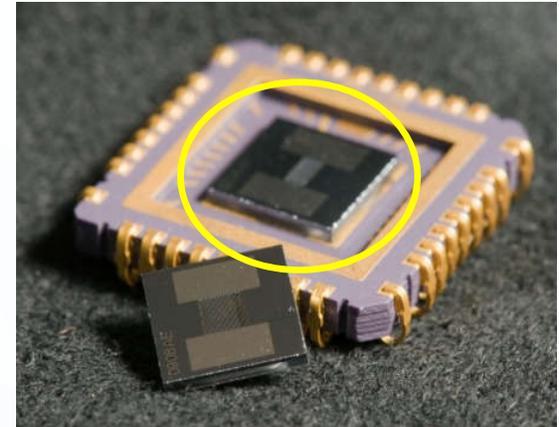


## Ultra High Field Ion Mobility Spectrometry

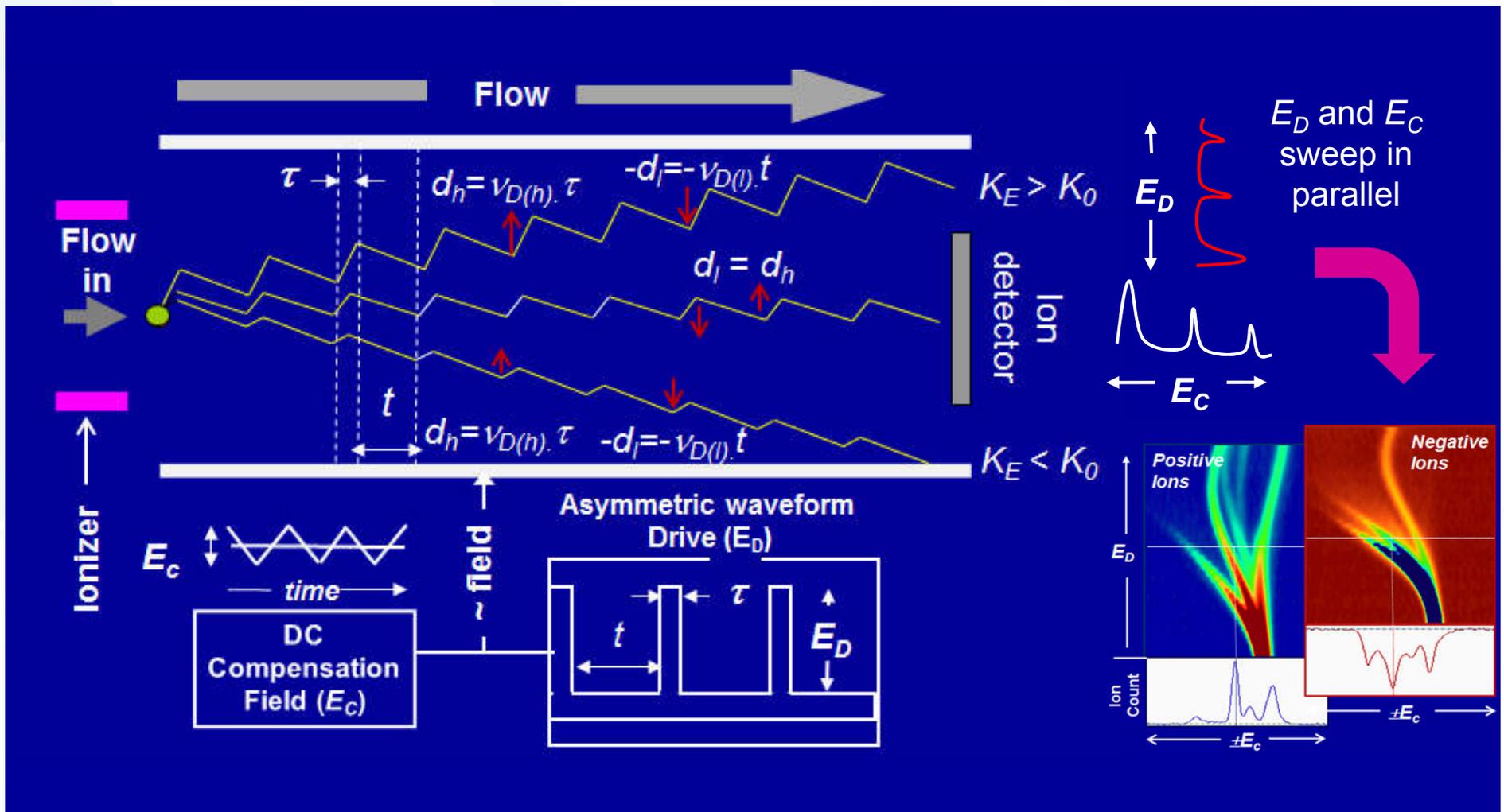
- Foundations in Ion Mobility Spectrometry & variants (Differential Mobility Spectrometry and Field Asymmetric Ion Mobility Spectrometry)
- Filters ions according to behavior in an electric field

## Enabling Tech: 0.7cm<sup>2</sup> planar multi-channel ion filter

- Extreme field operation: to  $>80\text{kV}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ , c.f. to  $\sim 30\text{kV}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$  (DMS) &  $\sim 2\text{kV}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$  (IMS)
- Very high speed ion separation:  $\sim 70\mu\text{s}$ , c.f. to  $\sim 20\text{ms}$  (DMS & IMS)
- Multi-channel **micron-gap** ion separators (physically enabling the use of extreme fields)
- Very High Frequency separation waveforms (25MHz)



# Phemenology



# Significance of High Fields

*for lower MW ions...*



$$T_{eff} = T + \zeta \cdot M \cdot K_0^2 \cdot N_0^2 \cdot (E_D/N)^2 / (3k_b)$$

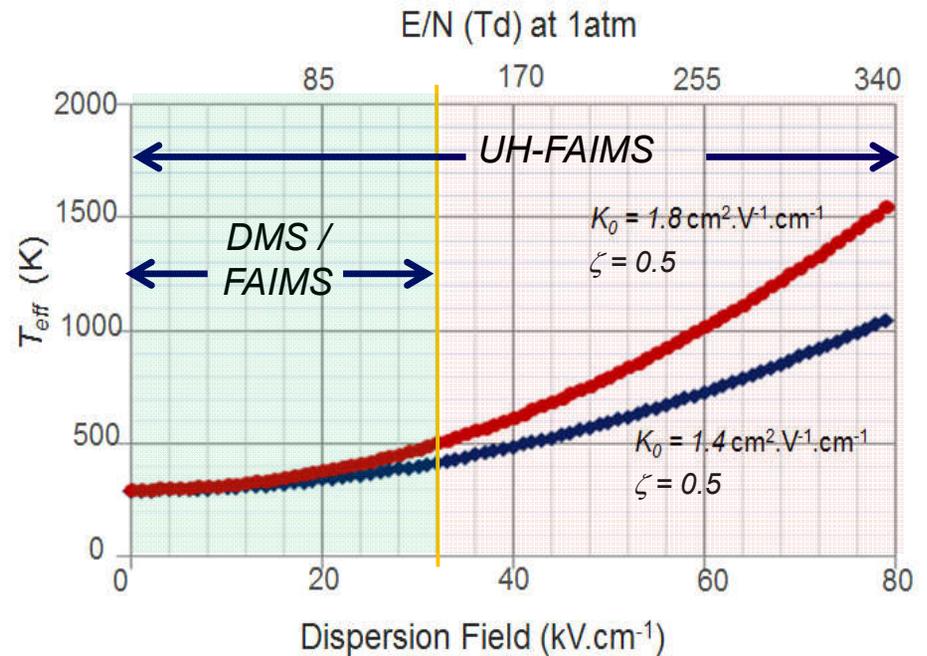
**T** = Drift gas temperature (K)

**M** = Av. MW of carrier gas

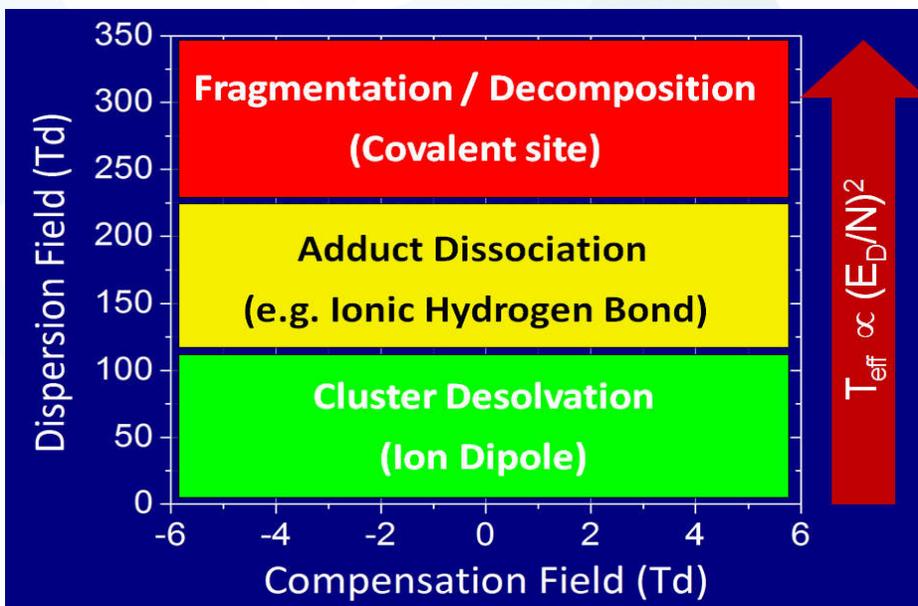
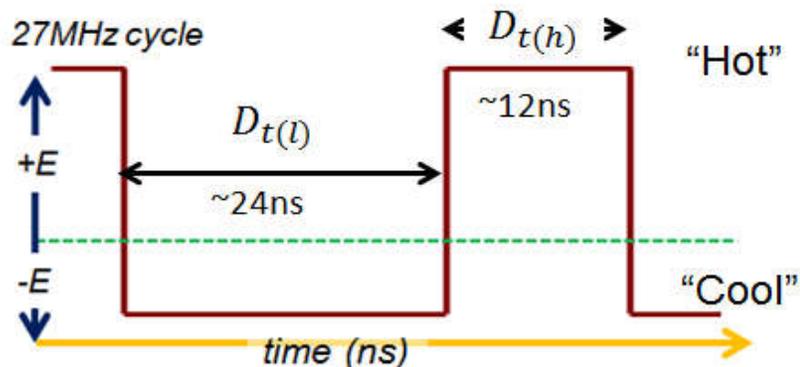
**$E_D/N$**  = Field / number density ( $V \cdot m^2$ )

**$K_{(0)}$**  = Ion Mobility ( $m^2 \cdot V \cdot s^{-1}$ )

**$\zeta$**  = Energy transfer (collisional) efficiency factor



# “In filter” ion chemistry



For hypothetical ion dissociation process -



$$E_A = \Delta H - RT$$

$E_A$  = Association energy

$\Delta H$  = enthalpy of Association

$$k(T_{eff}) = A \cdot \exp - (E_A / R \cdot T_{eff})$$

“In filter” Dissociation when -

$$1/k(T_{eff}) < \sum D_{t(h)}$$

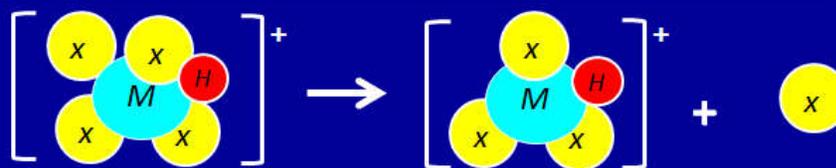
# “In filter” ion chemistry



## “In filter” ion transformations/ reactions...

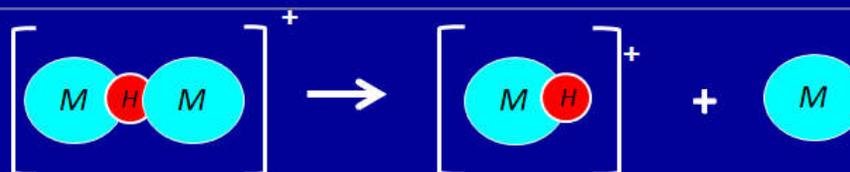
### Desolvation

ion-dipole / ion-induced-dipole



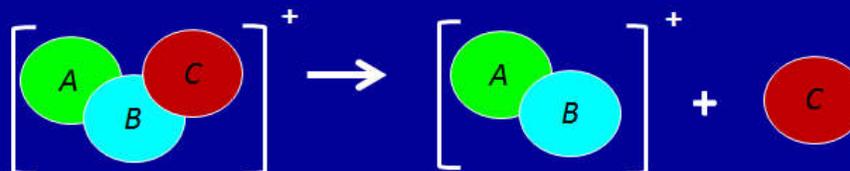
### Adduct dissociation

(e.g., ionic H bond cleavage)



### Fragmentation

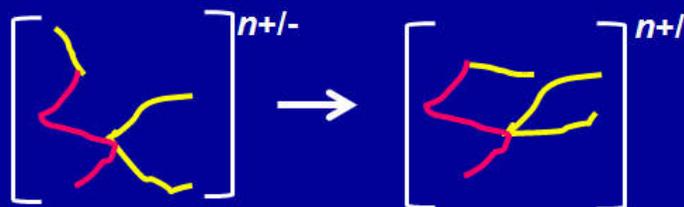
(covalent site)



### Conformational (geometric), e.g.

Barrier to internal rotation

Folding (high MW multi-charged molecular ions (peptides, proteins))



# Data rich “snapshot” spectra



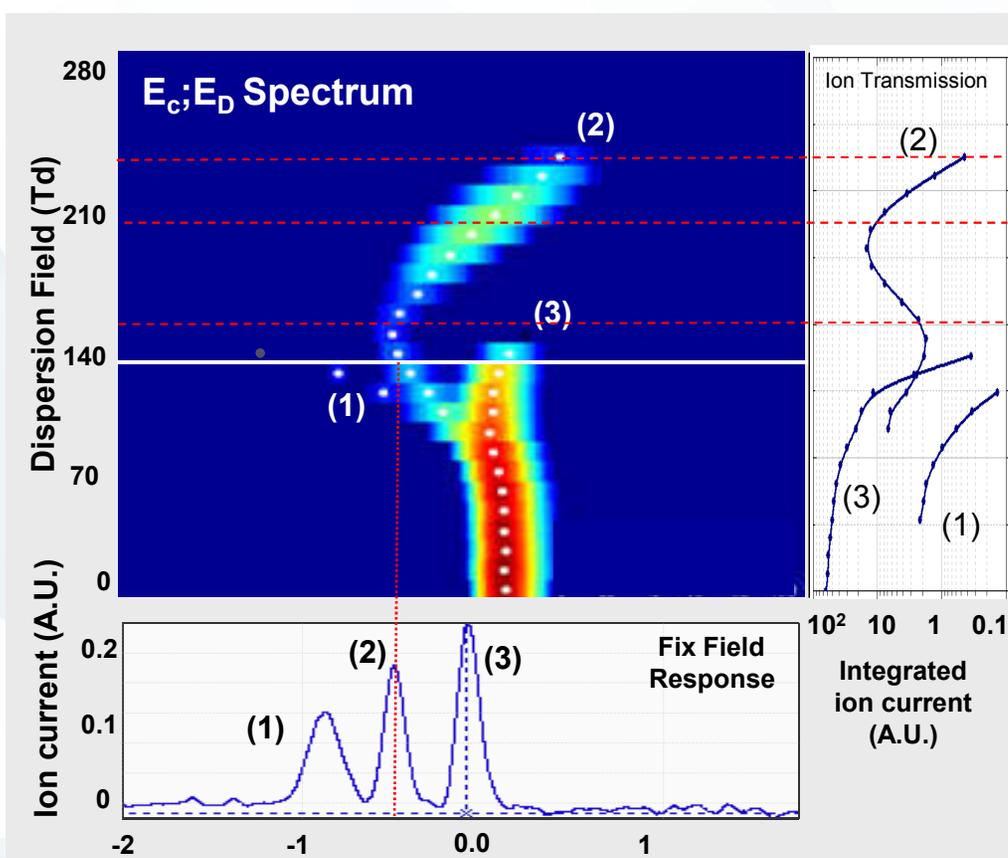
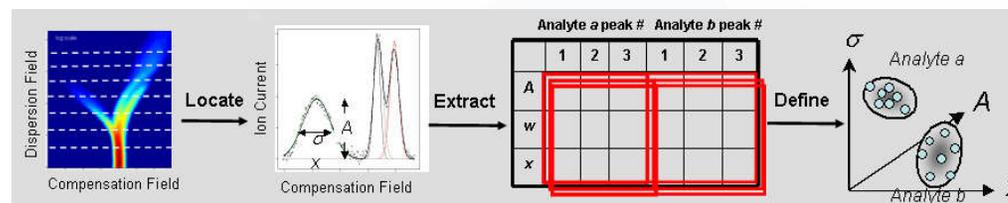
Large amount of information generated and processed extremely rapidly  
Gaussian parameters -

- **Peak Width**
- **Peak Area**
- **Peak Location**

.....as a function of Dispersion Field

## Key Information

Parameter	Information
Peak Width $W_{1/2}(E_D/N)$	Low field mobility Field specific Ion behavior
Ion Transmission $I_A(E_D/N)$	Quantitative Level Field specific Ion behavior (e.g. Ion cluster breakdown)
Peak location $E_c(E_D/N)$	Ion (chemical) identity



# Design Improvements



## Wider Gaps

- Higher flow
- Greater ion transmission without resolution penalty

## Longer channel

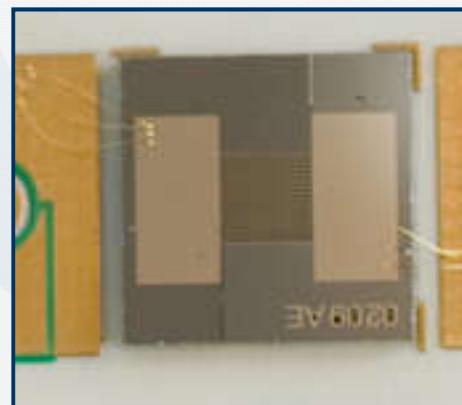
- Increased residence time
- Narrower peak without transmission penalty

## But...

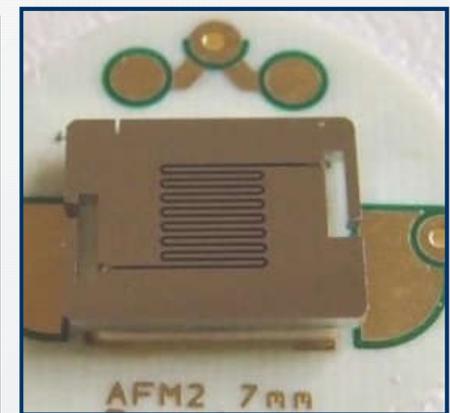
- Need **higher voltage** field drivers to compensate for larger ion filter gap

<i>Material</i>	Silicon vs .Metalized
<i>Gap width (g)</i>	35 vs.50 $\mu$ m
<i>Length (l)</i>	300 vs. 450 $\mu$ m
<i>Area (A)</i>	15 vs. 20mm <sup>2</sup>
<i>DF range (<math>E_D/N</math>)</i>	350Td vs. 320Td
<i>Res. time (<math>t_{res}</math>)</i>	$\sim$ 40 $\mu$ s vs. 75 $\sim$ $\mu$ s

Narrow gap



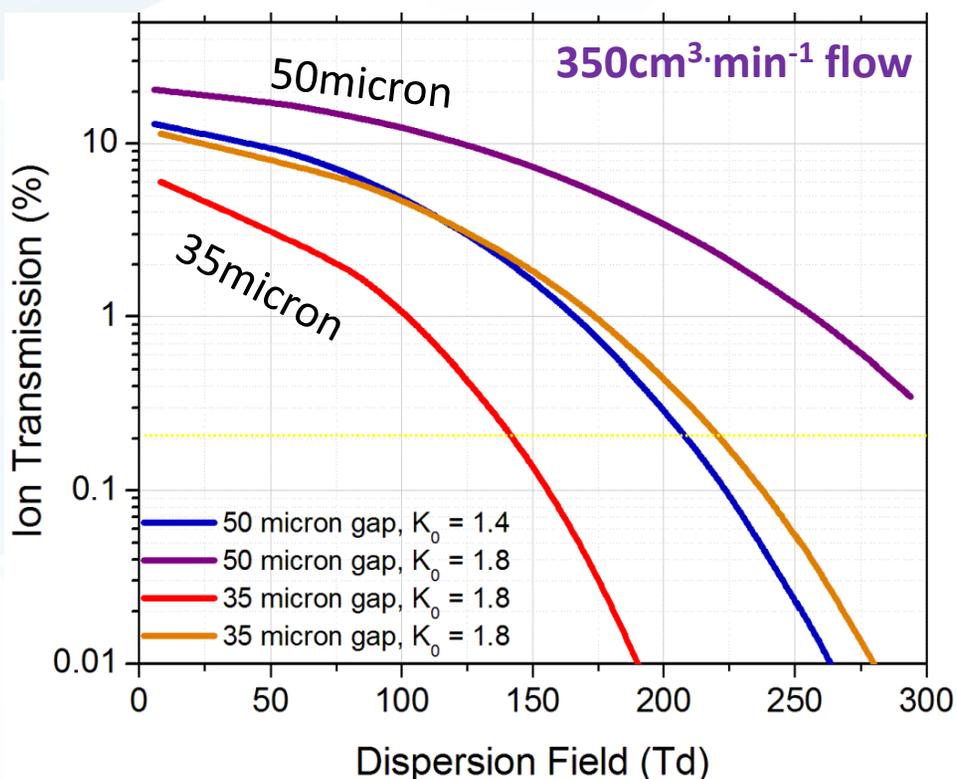
Wide gap



# Design Improvements

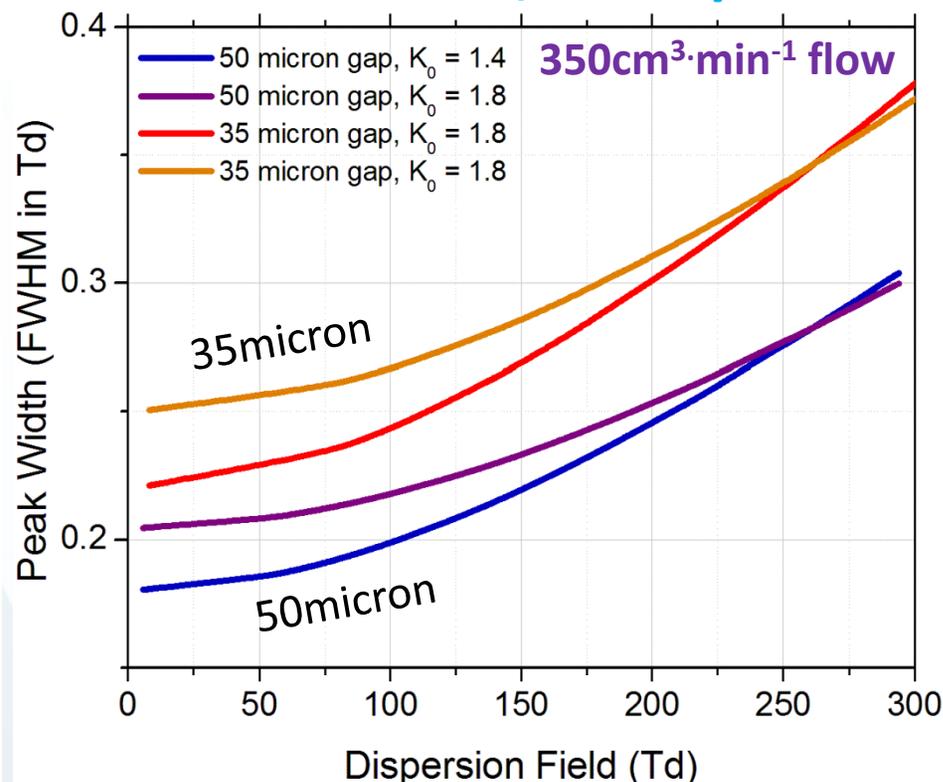


## Ion Transmission



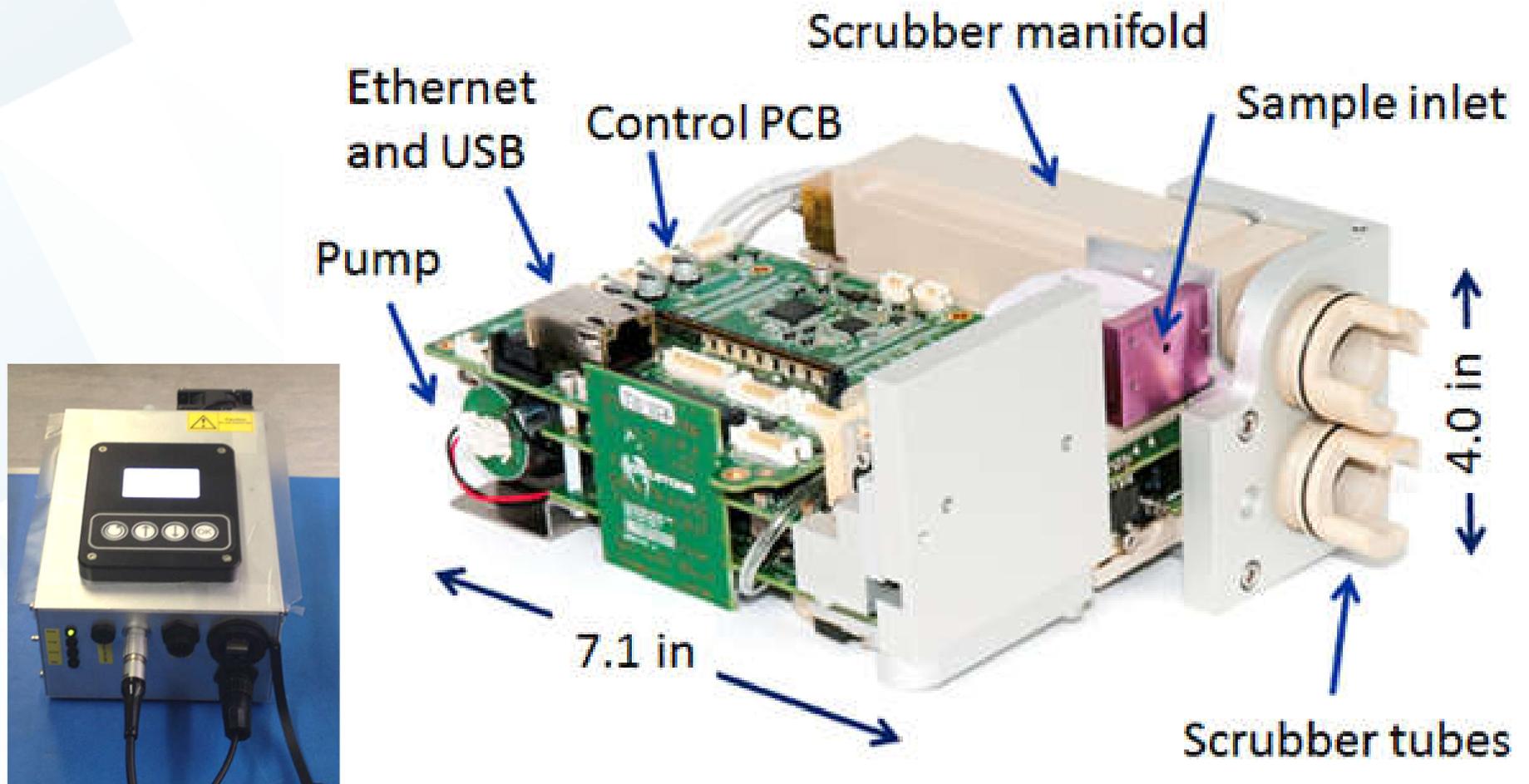
High Field Transmission vastly (~ x50) improved – critical for monomeric ions

## Peak Width (FWHM)



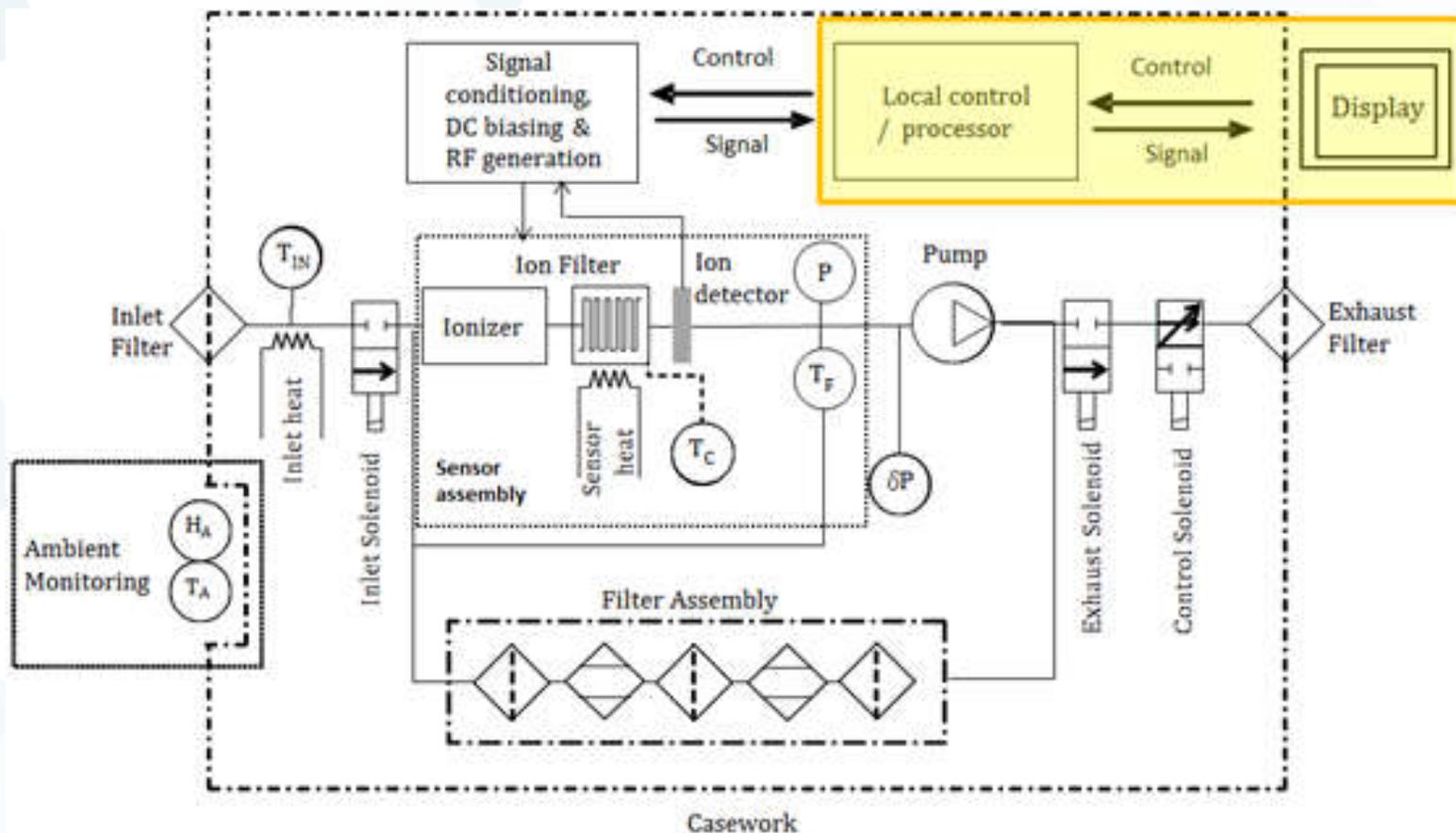
40% reduction in Peak FWHM width (Ion peak separation)

# Wholly integrated -



# VOC / SVOC Detector

## System Configuration



*c.f. Wilks et al, Int. J. Ion Mob. Spectrom. 15 (2012) 199 - 222*

# Case Studies 1 – Organophos.

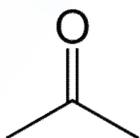


## Reference Controls

Acetone

MW = 48 AMU

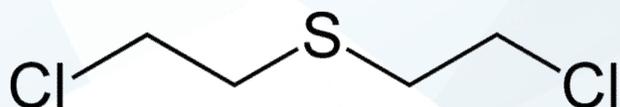
Positive Ion Mode



Bis (2-chloroethyl) sulfide

MW = 159 AMU

Negative Ion Mode



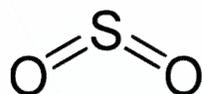
Chlorine MW = 71 AMU

Negative Ion Mode



Sulfur Dioxide MW = 64 AMU

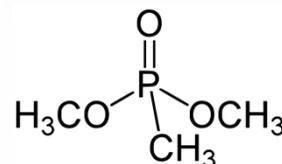
Negative Ion Mode



## Organophos. compounds

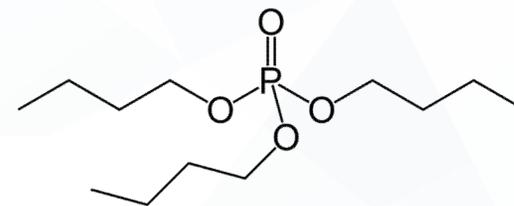
Dimethyl Methyl Phosphonate (DMMP)

MW = 124 AMU



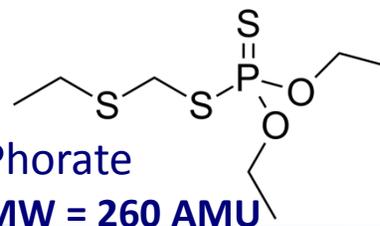
Tributyl Phosphate (TBP)

MW = 266 AMU



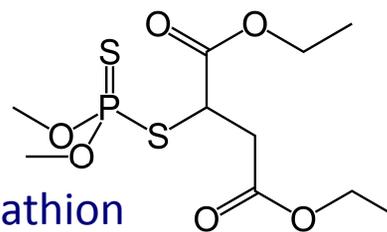
Phorate

MW = 260 AMU



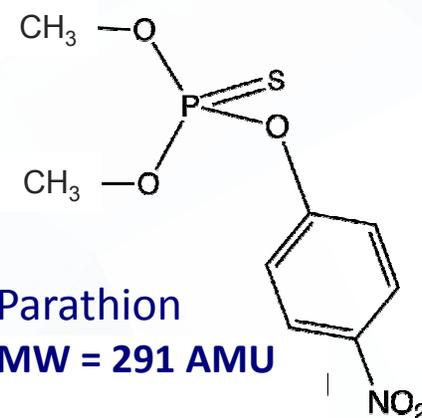
Malathion

MW = 330 AMU

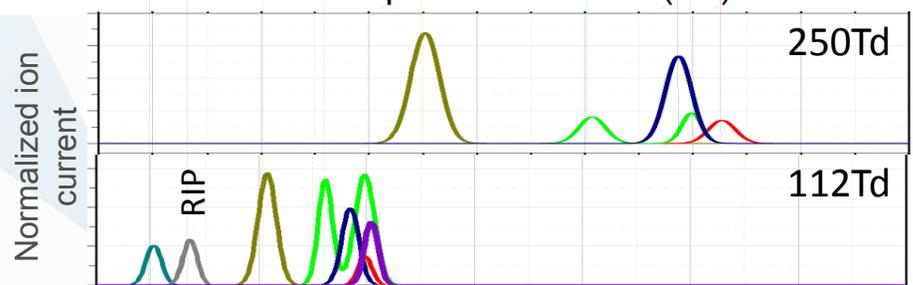
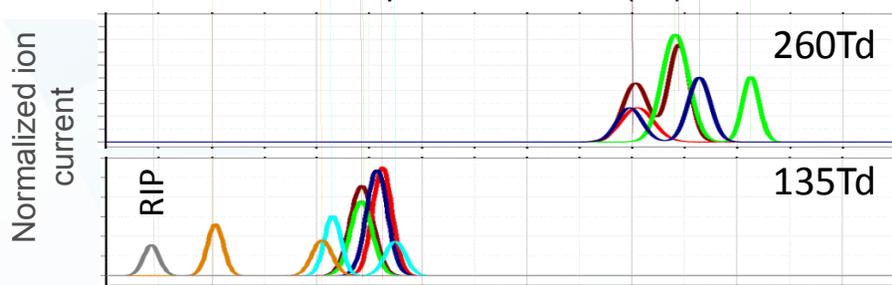
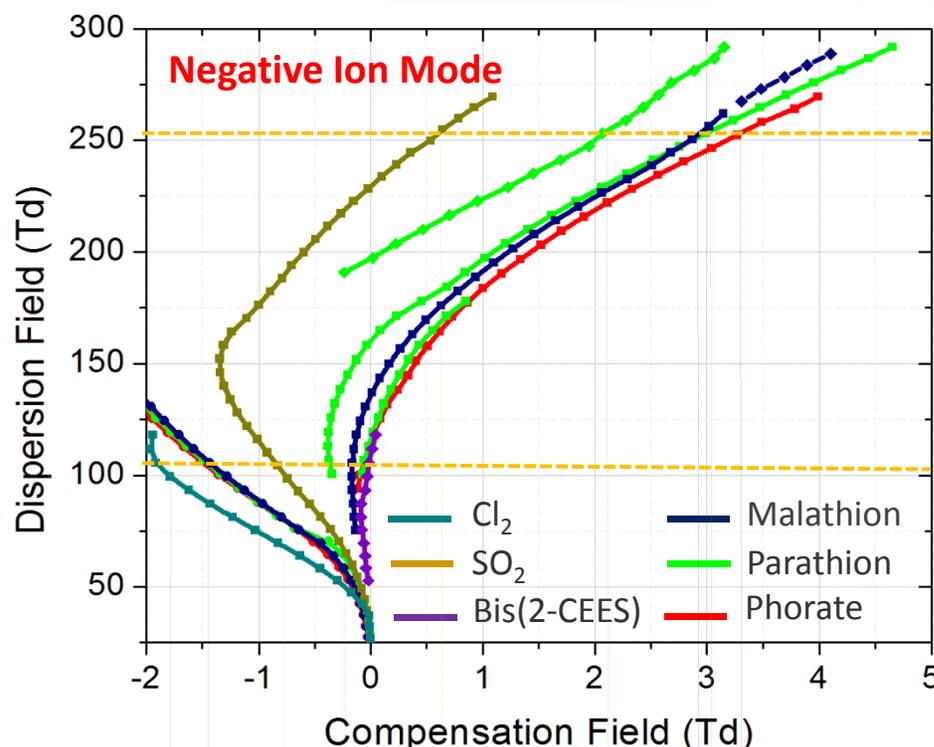
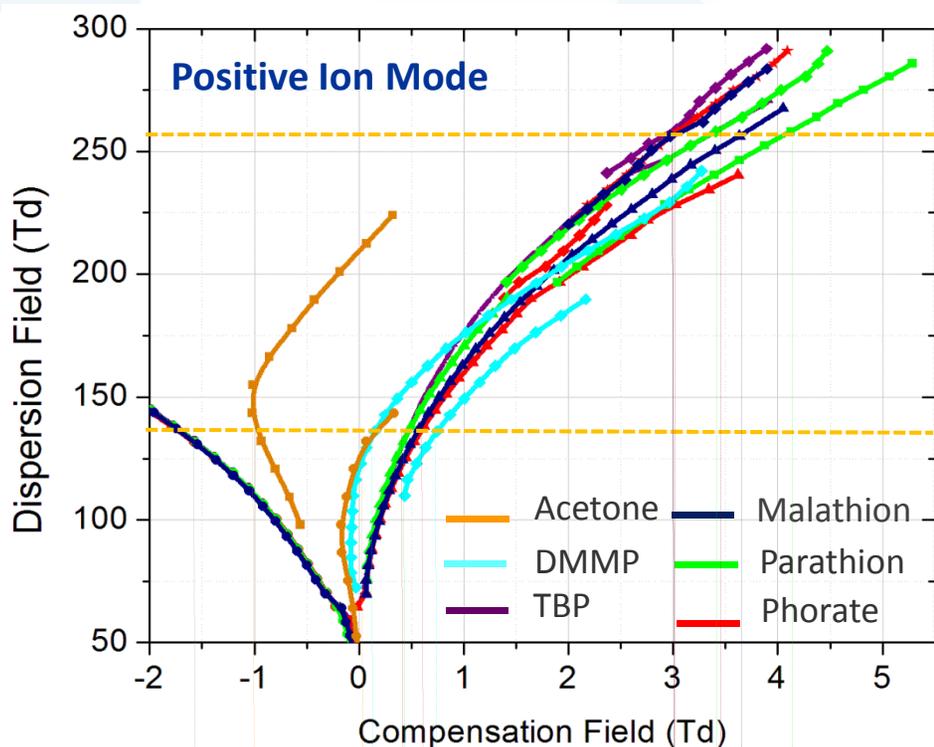


Parathion

MW = 291 AMU

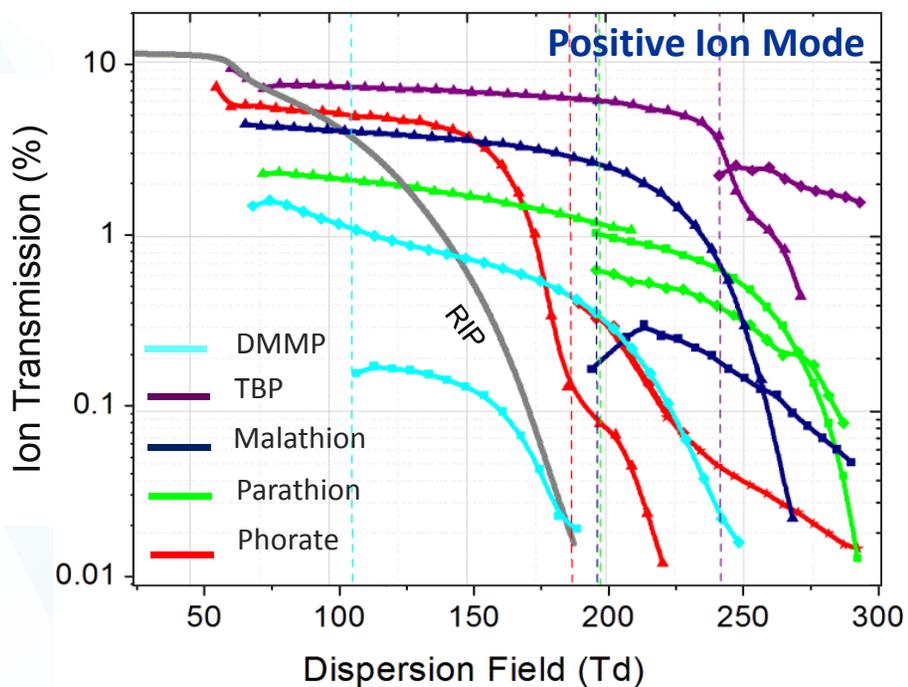


# Organophos

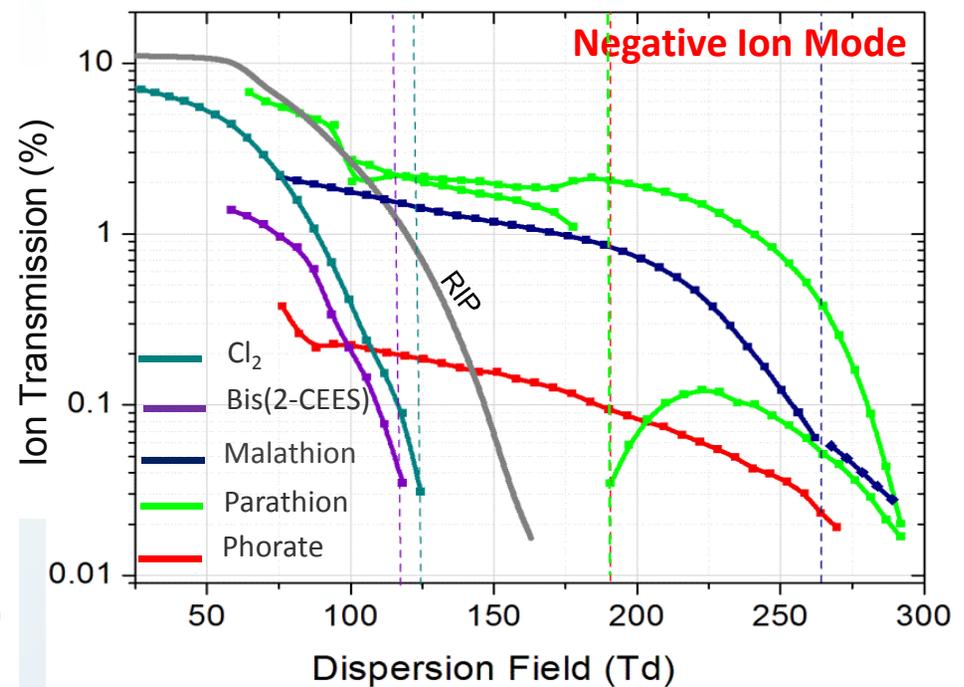


# Interpretation

Ion Transmission profiles help with interpretation of Dispersion Spectra



Field induced ion chemistry beyond breakdown of the proton bound dimer?



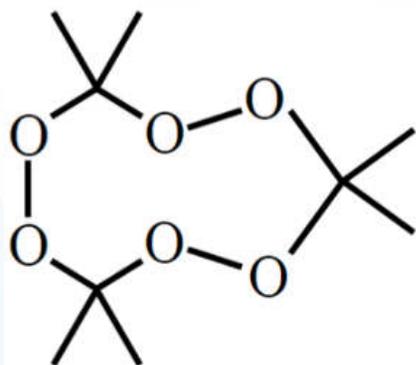
High Field induced ion chemistry seems to be observed in malathion and parathion

# Case Studies 2 – Explosives



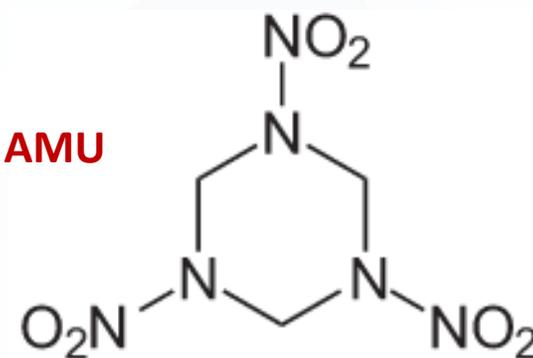
Acetone Peroxide Trimer (TATP)

MW = 222 AMU



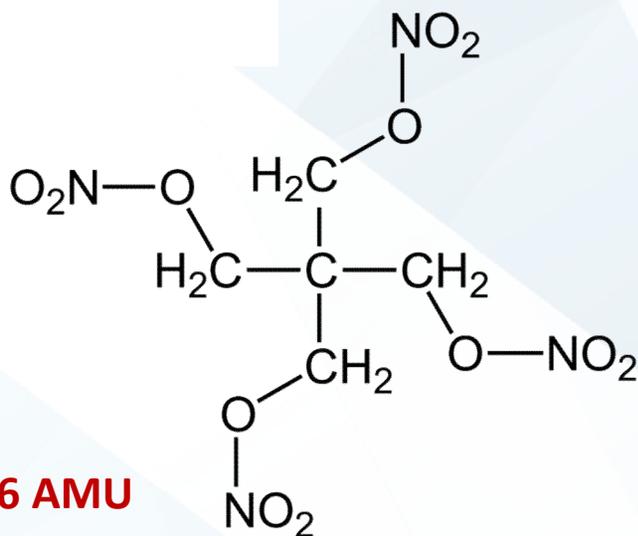
RDX

MW = 222 AMU



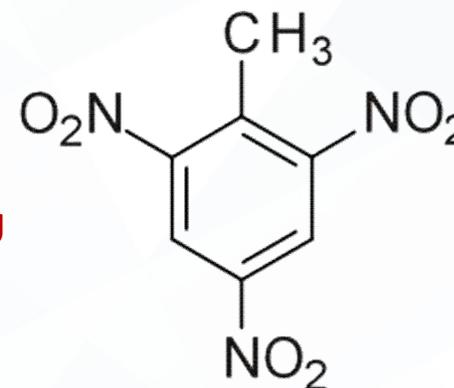
PETN

MW = 316 AMU

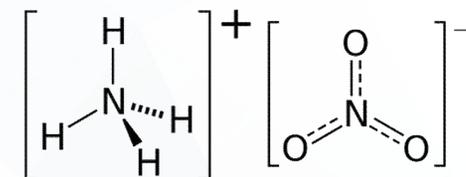


TNT

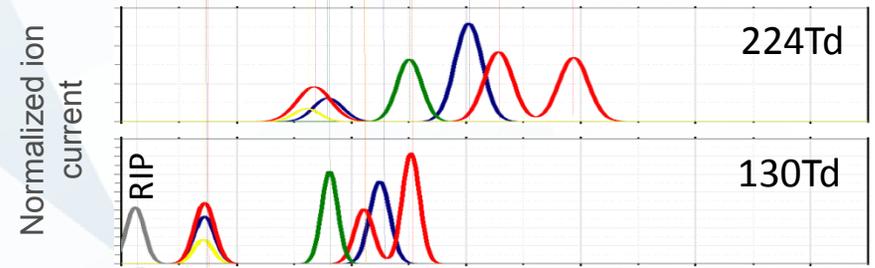
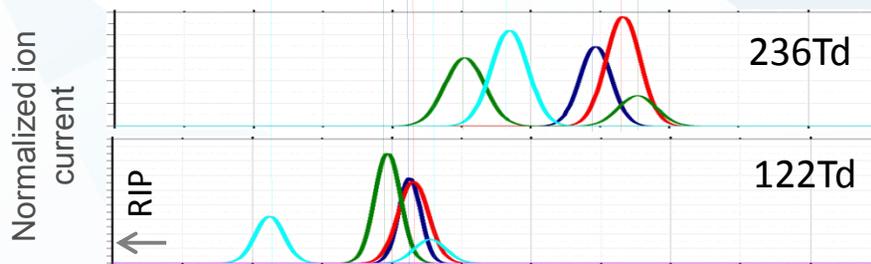
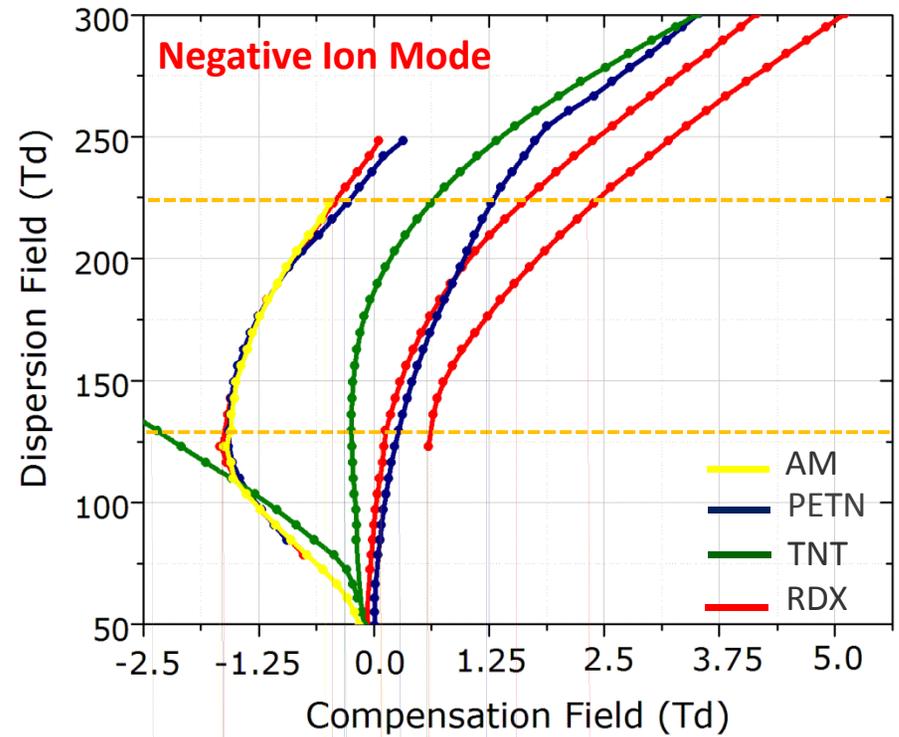
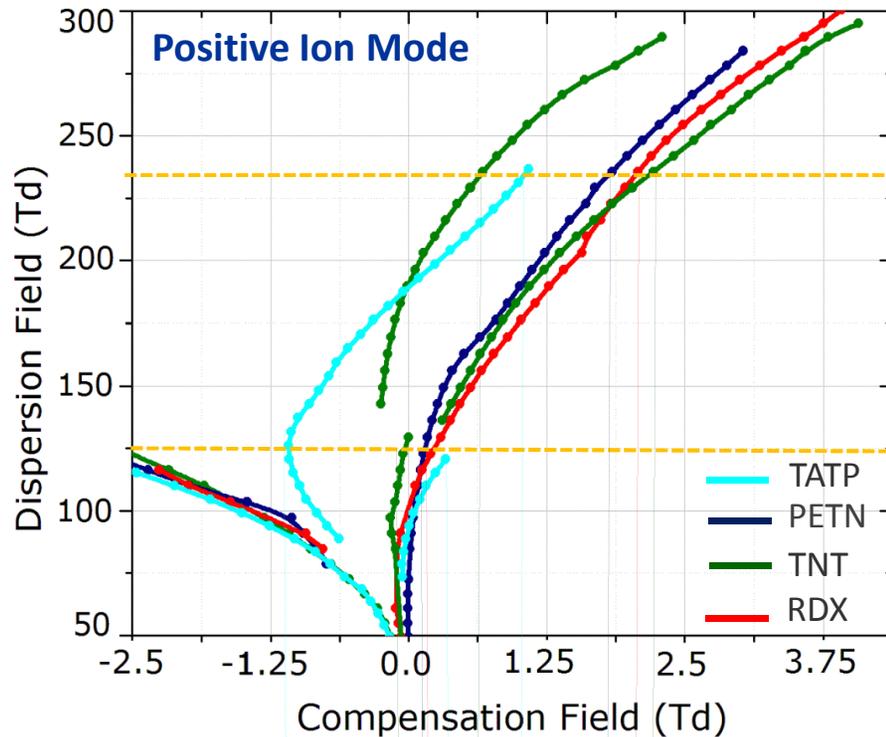
MW = 227 AMU



Ammonium  
Nitrate (ionic)  
MW = 80 AMU



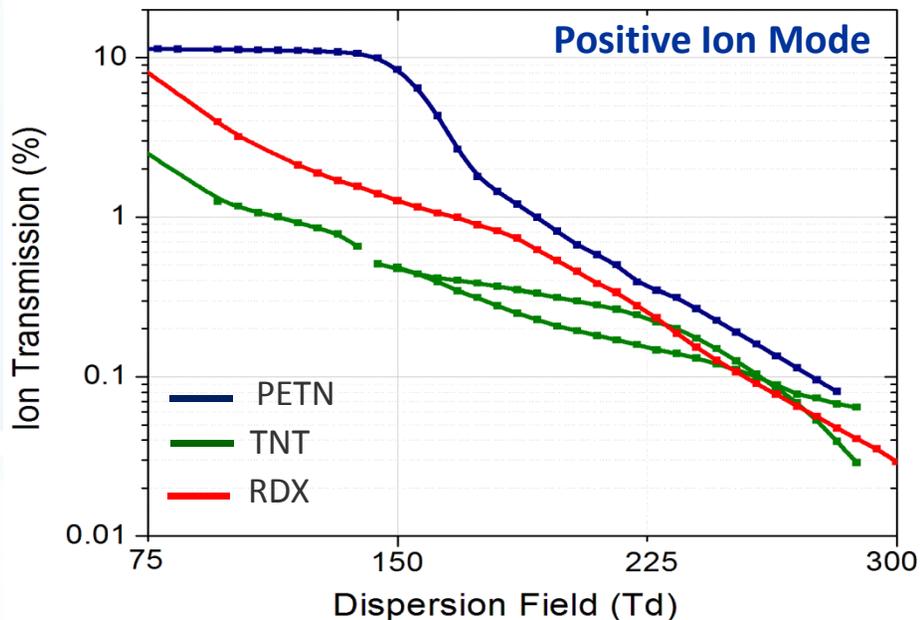
# Exps



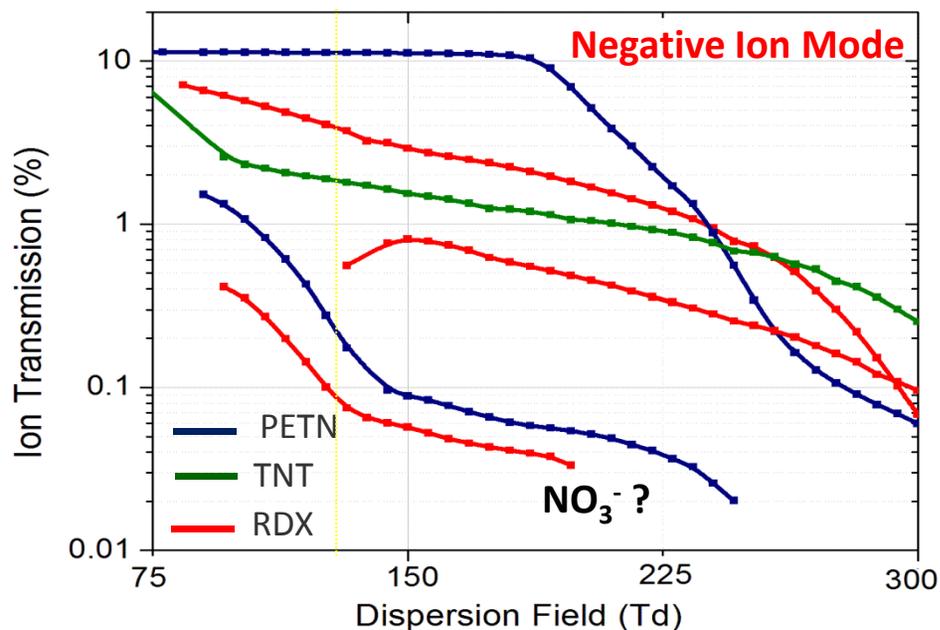
# Interpretation



Again - Ion Transmission profiles help with interpretation of Dispersion Spectra



Positive ions observed but not the prominent case (neg ion current ~10x pos ion current)



Selective cleavage of NO<sub>2</sub> in PETN & RDX with NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> Formation?

# Summary



- New system configuration for “detector” type application – specifically **VOCs** and **SVOCs**
- Developed with a view of application as Selective GC detector (comparable sensitivity to NPD and ECD detectors (**sub-ppb** by volume detection of **OPs** and **sub-nanogram** real time detection of **Explosive** compounds
- Critical design aspects -
  - **New generation waveform drivers**
  - **Wider ion channels (enabling much better exploitation of high field ion chemistry by dramatically improving high field ion transmission)**
  - **Novel low power design**
  - **Higher Voltage (to compensate for broader filter gap)**
  - **Better “quality” separation waveforms**

# Acknowledgements



## Owlstone Team



**Owlstone Inc**  
761 Main Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06851  
USA  
(+ 1) 203 908 4848

## Useful References

*A. A. Shvartsburg (2009) Differential Ion Mobility Spectrometry. CRC Press, Boca Raton*

*E. V. Krylov, E. G. Nazarov, R. A. Miller (2007) Differential mobility spectrometer: Model of operation. Int J Mass Spectrom 266:76–85*

*E. V. Krylov, E. G. Nazarov, R. A. Miller (2007) Differential mobility spectrometer: Model of operation. Int J Mass Spectrom 266:76–85*

*An X, Eiceman GA, Rodriguez JE, Stone JA (2011) Gas phase fragmentation of protonated esters in air at ambient pressure through ion heating by electric field in DMS. Int J Mass Spectrom 303:181–190*

**Owlstone Ltd**  
127 Cambridge Science Park  
Milton Road  
Cambridge CB4 0GD, UK  
(+ 44) 1223 428 200