#### LC Technical Note

LT173 GL Sciences Inc.

# Analysis of Organic Acid Using InertSphere FA-1 - A Postcolumn BTB Method

Organic acids are used as sour flavorings, antioxidants, and antibacterial agents in foods, and their properties are attracting significant attention. In this report, InertSphere FA-1 was used in the analysis of organic acids and separation was made using ion exclusion mode; which is the most commonly used method for organic acid analysis. The sulfonic acid group on the column repels organic acids ionically and elution is made in order from the smallest pKa.

In addition, a post-column method using BTB was used, which has high selectivity and is resistant to contaminantants. A simple pretreatment method with detection using a visible absorption wavelength (440 nm) offers high-precision analysis with fewer interfering peaks due to the presence of contaminants.

(Y. Yui)

## **Example: Measurement of standards**







# **Examples of pretreatment and analysis of organic**



\*The assay conditions for each application are the same as the analysis of the standard example on the previous page,, only the injection volume is changed.

### What is ion exclusion mode?



Ion exclusion mode is a method to perform separation by ionic exchange group of the packing materials and strength of repulsive force between ion of target component.

#### **Determinants of separation time**

1. [Penetration into the pores] The penetration power into the pore is determined by the size of the charge (pKa value)

#### Higher pKa = greater penetration

2. [Electrostatic exclusion due to the negative charge of the packing material]

Molecules with a large negative charge (small pKa) and are subject to large electrostatic exclusion and elute more quickly.

Small pKa = fast elution

Because molecules are separated by ionic strength, the stronger the anionic strength, the faster the elution. Elution order

## With the BTB (bromothymol blue) method

Because detection using the BTB method is made using a visible wavelength at 440 nm, even samples such as crops and dressings that contain many contaminants can be analyzed. A highly selective assay is available. (see Technical note No. 1)



### Column

Analytical column: InertSphere FA-1 9 µm, 300 x 7.8 mm I.D. Cat.No. 5020-11003

Guard column: InertSphere FA-1 Guard 9 µm, 50 x 6.0 mm I. D. Cat.No. 5020-10998 

- Base Material
- : Styrene-divinylbenzene-based polymer Particle size
- Functional Group
- :9 µm : Sulfonic acid group
- Counter-ion
- : H+
- Degree of linking
- :8%
- USP code
- :L17

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