



Editorial

Editorial on “Characterization of adsorption processes in analytical liquid–solid chromatography” by T. Fornstedt

Fundamental and theoretical research is essential if we are to fully exploit the many processes and mechanisms involved in analytical and preparative separations. The remarkable developments taking place in liquid chromatographic column materials and systems only intensify our need for a simple approach to classifying packing materials and our need for deeper comprehension of the retention mechanisms involved. Appropriate characterization of separation systems can lead us to a fuller understanding of their performance.

Professor Torgny Fornstedt, with whom I have the great pleasure to co-operate, is an expert on the fundamental processes operating in analytical separation systems. The ultimate goal of his review is to describe the theory behind the major linear and nonlinear methods, so allowing characterization of the various adsorption

processes represented in analytical liquid–solid chromatography. A large part of the review deals with those more complicated nonlinear methods that enable complete investigation of all possible interactions. Although the emphasis is on nonlinear methods, two linear ones are discussed as well: the linear solvation energy relationship method and the hydrophobic-subtraction model. Practical applications are detailed in illustrative examples. Professor Fornstedt's review provides the kind of critical discussion that not only deepens our understanding of adsorption processes but also will surely inspire further development of methods in analytical chromatography.

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