

# A Recent Advances In HPLC Technique: An Overview

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## Abstract

Currently, chromatography has proved to be an important technology and is traditionally used for analysis purposes. High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) is the main technique used in pharmaceutical and biomedical analyses to separate molecules from heterogeneous solutions and to further characterize molecules before mass spectrometry is used to identify peptides, proteins and other molecules. HPLC is widely used because of its reliability (use of pressure-driven liquid support) and versatility (maintenance of the composition of both mobile and stationary phases). Although rapid separation often leads to very high operating pressure, HPLC instruments are under heavy load. In recent years, core-shell silicon microspheres (which have solid cores and porous shells, also known as fused cores or superficial microspheres) and zirconium packing have been discovered. It is designed for high-performance and fast separation at relatively low pressures, separating small molecules, large molecules and complex samples. High-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC) can provide higher resolution, greater sensitivity, and faster separation times than conventional HPLC, but sometimes it is not reproducible. The rapid resolution liquid chromatography method (RRLC) is not only accurate, but also sensitively and effectively increases the quality and quantity of the sample analysis compared to conventional HPLC. The aim of this review is to highlight the basic aspects of column technology and the developments of nano-boring, micro-boring, RRLC, UPLC, Nano LC. We will also focus on the fundamentals of HPLC.

**Keywords** – Nano-bore, Micro-bore, RRLC, UPLC and Nano and Micro bound chromatography

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## I. Introduction

High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) is one of the most popular and mature analytical techniques and the most widely used separation technique. It has been used in more than 40 years in laboratories around the world in pharmaceutical science, clinical chemistry, food and environmental analysis, synthetic chemistry, etc.<sup>[1-5]</sup> HPLC is primarily popular because of its reliability (the use of pressure-driven liquid support) and its versatility (the possibility to adjust the composition of both stationary and mobile phases).<sup>[6]</sup> The chromatographic mode or separation mechanism depends on the overall interaction relationship between the stationary phase, the mobile phase, and the analyser. The particle-packed column, which is completely porous, or a newly developed core shell particle and monolithic column, is used in conventional or miniaturized HPLC systems. The objective of this review is to highlight the basic aspects and practical considerations of column transformation, conventional (heart cut), complete bi-dimensional LC, and different aspects of microcolumn, nano-liquid, and ultra-performance chromatography (UPLC). It also considers recent progress in column technology and the development of LC miniature instrumentation, chip-based nano-LC systems and the manufacture of microfluid chips using particle-packed HPLC microchips or polymer.

## II. High-Performance Liquid-Chromatography (Hplc)<sup>[7-18]</sup>

HPLC appreciates the constant increase in sales of instruments and publications that describe new innovative applications. Recent areas of development include HPLC system reduction, nucleic acid analysis, intact protein and protein digestion, carbohydrate analysis, and chiral analysis.

### Principle–

The principle of separation between normal phase mode and reverse phase mode is adsorption. When a mixture of components is captured together in a HPLC column, it moves according to its relative affinity to the stationary phase. The components that are more attractive to the absorbent move slower. The components with fewer attractions to the stationary phase move faster. Because two components are not equivalent in relationship to the static phase, the components are separated. It is a method of separating a sample of a mixture into components for identification, quantification and purification of the mixture.

## **Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography**

Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) is a relatively new direction of liquid chromatography. During the history of HPLC, the use of smaller particles as packaging material has trended. It is well known that when the particle size is reduced to less than 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , it increases efficiency and thus resolution, and efficiency does not decrease when the linear speed and flow rate increase. According to Van Damer's equation<sup>[19]</sup>, by using smaller particles, speed and maximum capacity (number of peak resolutions per unit time) can be extended to new limits called ultra-performance. UPLC uses the significant progress in particle chemistry performance, system optimization, detector design, data processing and control. Using particles of sub-2  $\mu\text{m}$  and mobile phases at high linear speeds and instruments with pressures higher than those used in HPLC significantly increased the resolution, sensitivity, and analysis speed. This new category of analytical separation science retains HPLC's practicality and principles, while providing a step-by-step improvement in chromatographic performance.<sup>[20-21]</sup>

In conventional HPLC, the continuous use of smaller packaging materials particles leads to higher column back pressure. Small column diameters of 2.1 mm or 1.0 mm can also cause similar problems and deactivate their use under conventional conditions. To overcome conventional pressure restrictions, shorter columns were used to pack small-diameter particles. However, the widespread use of UPLC in laboratories requires further improvements in some practical aspects, such as sampling introduction, reproduction and detection. Ultrahigh-pressure columns require extremely narrow sample plugs to minimize the contribution of the sample volume to peak expansion. With the advent of UPLC, a new instrumentation system for liquid chromatography was also needed, taking advantage of separation performance (reduction of dead volumes) and stability pressures (approximately 8,000 to 15,000 psi compared to 2,500 to 5,000 psi in HPLC). Efficiency is proportional to the length of the column and inversely proportional to the size of the particle. As a result, the column can be shortened by the same factor as the size of the particle without losing resolution.<sup>[22]</sup>

## **Uplc System Adjustments**

### **Smaller Particles Chemistry**

Moreover, the need to overcome the challenge of packaging a reproducible solid column with a particle of 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$ . The interior surface of the column hardware is smoother and the end surface frit needs to be redesigned to retain small particles to resist blocks, and the packing bed uniformity is required. The latter is crucial, especially if short columns are to maintain resolution while achieving the goal of faster separation. Furthermore, at high pressures, if the column diameter is typically 3 to 4.6 mm in the HPLC, friction heating of the mobile phase may cause uneven flow and cause performance losses. UPLCs usually use a smaller diameter column (1–2.1 mm) to minimize the impact of friction heating.<sup>[23-25]</sup>

### **Pump**

As significantly larger range of pressure was required than the current HPLC instrumentation to fully utilize UPLC's high peak capacity. Working with 15 cm long columns packed with 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$  particles, the optimal flow rate to maximize efficiency causes a pressure drop of about 15,000 psi. Therefore, a pump with a smooth and reproducible solvent at these pressures in gradient and isolated separation modes and suitable for solvent compression was required.

### **Sample injection**

The introduction of samples is also important in UPLC. The injection valve used in conventional HPLC instruments, either automatic or manual, is not designed to work under extreme pressure and is difficult to withstand. In order to protect columns from extreme pressure changes, injection processes must be relatively pulse-free. The injection device should also have a minimum sweep volume to reduce potential band spread. It is necessary to use the rapid injection cycle time to exploit the UPLC speed, which in turn requires high sample capacity. Low-volume and minimal transfer injections are also required to fully benefit from the increase in sensitivity.

### **Detector**

The detector has a half-height peak width of less than one second, and a particle-packed column of 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$  poses a major challenge to the detector. To integrate the analyser peak accurately and reproducibly, the detector sampling rate must be sufficiently high to capture sufficient data points. Furthermore, the detector cell must have a minimum dispersion (volume) to maintain separation efficiency. The increase in UPLC detection sensitivity should be 2–3 times higher than the HPLC separation, depending on the detection technique used. Conventional absorption-based optical detectors are concentration. For use in UPLC, standard UV/Visible detector flow cells should be reduced in volume size to maintain concentration and signal and avoid Beer's law limitations. MS detection is significantly enhanced by UPLC. Increased peak concentrations with

reduced chromatographic dispersion at low flow rates (without flow splits) promote greater source ionization efficiency (reducing ion suppression) and increased sensitivity.<sup>[20-22]</sup>

### **Advances In Uplc Instrumentation**

Early research into the development of ultra-high-pressure reverse-phase liquid chromatography methods was done by MacNair et al.<sup>[24,26]</sup> tested an UPLC system related to the packed capillary column with particles of 1.0 or 1.5 μm non-porous ODS modifications. They also invented static split injection technology to achieve high column efficiency and resist high pressures. The working pressure (496.8 MPa, 72,000 psi) used in their experiments was considered to be the highest pressure used in LC. The problem of their ultra-high pressure experiments was the possibility of thermal effects and pressure-dependent retention effects. Using silica capillary chromatography package of 1.5 μm isohexyl-modified (C6) non-porous particles, it was found that only the capillary column should be used in the UPLC to facilitate friction dispersion. The experimental pressure balance injection valves are used to introduce the samples and compare them with the static split injection previously described. The maximum pressure limit is 100 MPa.<sup>[27]</sup>

Standard HPLC technology (pumps, injectors and detectors) simply did not have the necessary capabilities to fully exploit smaller particles of less than 2 μm. However, many of the early UPLC systems required internal modifications to commercial products within the laboratory itself, and also the manufacturing of laboratory column often capillary column, as mentioned above. To address these problems, at the beginning of 2004, the first commercially available UPLC system was described to include these requirements for the separation of various pharmaceutical-related small organic molecules, proteins, and peptides, known as the ACQUITY UPLC system.<sup>[28]</sup>

Acquity UPLC system adjustment includes: a binary solvent manager with two separate series pumps with pressure limits of 15,000 psi, a parallel binary gradient mixed under high pressure, as well as a built solvent degassing and solvent selection valve, a sample manager (including column oven), detector, and a sample organizer. Low dispersion is maintained through the injection process by introducing pressure aid samples. The sample injection cycle is fast (25 s without washing and 60 s with double washing), low injection volumes, low carryover and temperature control (4–40 °C) and contributes to the speed and sensitivity of UPLC analysis.

When transferring HPLC methods to UPLC, the ACQUITY UPLC calculator is used to transfer and optimize quickly and automatically. In order to migrate a successful method, there are two simple steps a) adjust column size and length to maintain  $L/d_p$  constant; and (b) correct scale of flow rate for new column geometry, particle size and separation time.

### **Nano and Micro Bore high-performance liquid chromatography:**

Analysing very small samples is always a challenge. Nano bore High Performance Liquid Chromatography allows for solutions that allow high-quality of the femtomole level for reliable identification and quantification. Recently, a nano column has been identified at a size of 75 μm and has flow rates of up to 300 nL/minute, and is used in nano drilling applications. The Microhole HPLC column has a flow rate of about 1 mm and 50–75 L per minute. In addition, nano drilling and microdrilling column can be fully used in mass spectrometry detection systems, particularly in the analysis of peptides in biological matrices. In the analysis of high-performance liquid chromatography in microbores, the refractive index gradient detector is expressed as a universal detector. At the same time, the amount of carbohydrates injected with low ng and low ppm is detected at the baseline level of 3x root-mean square noise. The classic microbore high-performance liquid chromatography separating fructose from sucrose and detecting the refractive index gradient (RIG) were reported. The introduction of a position-sensitive detector (PSD) in RIG detector design and experimental considerations are reported. Both devices have potential in industrial and clinical application.<sup>[29,30,31,32,33]</sup>

### **Rapid resolution liquid chromatography:**

The RR-LC system is designed to provide the fastest analysis speed, resolution, and maximum pressure in a minimum bar. In the pharmaceutical industry, rapid resolution analysis has become a normal method. It provides excellent peak shape, improved reproducibility, high sensitivity, high-speed detection with low analysis cost, and is valuable for quality control of herbal medicines. High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) improved the separation resolution and time reduction of analysis. To continue improving, column proficiency must be enhanced. The relationship between separation efficiency and the linear velocity and size of mobile phases was studied in detail in the early 1970s. The use of shorter length columns leads to a shorter analysis time. However, the loss of the theoretical plate may result from the short columns, so that a complex mixture of components requires a reduction in chromatographic resolution. In order to balance potential resolution loss and the use of smaller particles, columns became more efficient. Smaller particles packed

with long-range columns result in higher efficiency and resolution, while new RRLC technology significantly reduces analysis time without losing chromatographic resolution.<sup>[34,35,36]</sup>

**Table.1 Different characteristics of New Amendments in HPLC Technique**

Characteristics	Particle size	Analytical column	Flow rate	Injection volume	Column dimensions (Length×I.D)	Column temperature
HPLC	3 to 10 μ	XTerraC18, Alltima C18	0.01-5mL/min	5μL	150 X 3.2 mm	30 °C
UPLC	Less than 2 μ	Acquity UPLC C18, C8, rp	0.6 mL/min	2μL	150 X 2.1 mm	65 °C
RRLC	1.8 μ	ZORBAX Eclipse XDB-C18 RRHT	0.2 – 20 μL/min	1.5 μL	2.1 - 4.6mm	Up to 100°C
Nano LC	1.7 -3 μ	Capillary HPLC, Micro HPLC	20-200 nL/min	10 nL-125 μL	125 mm X 0.05mm - 4.6mm	25°C-35°C

The existing HPLC system includes a high-pressure solvent delivery system, sample auto-injector, separation column, detector (usually UV or DAD), computer control and display of the system results. Many systems include columns with ovens and pre-columns to control the column temperature and protect analytical columns from impurities. The actual separation occurs in a column filled with chemically modified 3.5-10 μm (usually silicon) particles. The mobile phase is pumped through the column with a high-pressure pump and separated from the analytical sample depending on its degree of interaction with the particles. It is essential to choose the appropriate static and mobile phases to achieve the desired separation. The practical application of HPLC is supported by a knowledge of the concepts of chromatography theory, especially the measurement of chromatography conservation and factors that influence resolution. The drug storage of a given packaging material and the eluent can be expressed as a storage time or storage volume, but both depend on various factors such as flow rate, column length and column diameter. The retention is described as a column capacity ratio ( $k$ ) independent of these factors. The column capacity ratio of a compound (A) is defined by an equation  $k_A = \frac{V_A - V_0}{V_0} = \frac{t_A - t_0}{t_0}$

Where,  $V_A$  is the elution time of A and  $V_0$  is the Elution volume of a non-retained compound (i.e. Void volume). At constant flow rate, retention time ( $t_A$  and  $t_0$ ) can be used instead of retention Volumes.<sup>[13, 15, 17, 18]</sup>

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