

MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL

Quick Start Guide

What is the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL?	3
PCD	3
Broecker, Herre & Pragst PCDL	4
Kit Contents	5
Where to find more information	7
Before You Begin	8
Installation	8
Required reagents and parts (to run test mix)	9
Alternative configuration	9
Running the Test Mix	10
To run the test mix	11
To bypass mixer and damper	14
Using MassHunter Qualitative Analysis to Identify Compounds	16
To identify compounds using the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program	16
To identify spectrum peaks using the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program (PCDL only)	16
Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search	17
Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula	18
Exercise 2. Process and interpret data with Defined Extracted Ion Chromatograms	25
Exercise 3. Process and interpret data with Find by Molecular Feature Extractor	28
Exercise 4. Process data automatically using Worklist Automation	32
To develop a custom database	35



Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search	36
Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library	37
Exercise 2. Process the data	42
Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions	52
Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search	55
Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file	56
Exercise 2. Optimize the number of data points	61
Exercise 3. Process the data and automate	63
Reference	68
Checkout Test Mix Content	68
Forensics and Toxicology LC Parameters	69
Forensics and Toxicology LC/MS Parameters	71
Forward vs. Reverse Library Search	75

What is the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL?

The MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology Personal Compound Database (PCD) and the accurate mass Personal Compound Database and Library (PCDL), along with the included methods and example test mix data, lets you screen analytes of forensic and toxicological interest in a single LC/MS analysis.

The G6855AA or G3876AA Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL Kit also includes the column and test mix to acquire example data. The search is done on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL.

The PCDL contains accurate mass MS/MS spectra for some compounds, in addition to accurate mass information for all compounds in the PCD.

PCD

The PCD lets you screen over 9000 analytes all in a single LC/MS analysis.

The PCD and example data and method files help minimize method development time for your analysis. The database stores accurate mass values, retention time values, and other information for compounds existing in the database at purchase and for compounds added to the database after purchase. Subsets of the database can also be created. These subsets can contain different lists of compounds which have different retention times associated with them, allowing the database collection to be tailored to the specific needs of your laboratory.

The high mass accuracy of the Agilent time-of-flight (TOF) and tandem quadrupole time-of-flight (Q-TOF) LC/MS instrument provides the capability to screen and identify all compounds in the database that are detected by their exact mass and retention time (if known). Retention times can be a search criterion specified as not required (non-targeted screen), as optional providing a targeted and non-targeted forensic and toxicological screen, or required (targeted screen only).

Broecker, Herre & Pragst PCDL

The *Broecker, Herre & Pragst PCDL* lets you screen more than 9000 analytes with accurate mass database and/or perform a compound library search for over 3000 compounds. The PCDL and example data and method files help minimize method development time for your analysis.

The master Forensics and Toxicology *Broecker, Herre & Pragst PCDL* can be used as is, or as the basis of your own customized PCDL. Your customized PCDL can store the retention times for compounds you analyze. You can add, remove and change the compounds in your PCDL to meet the specific needs of your laboratory and your analyses. Your customized PCDL can also contain both the included library spectra and those that you add.

The high mass accuracy of the Agilent tandem quadrupole time-of-flight (Q-TOF) LC/MS instrument provides the capability to screen all compounds in the library that are detected by their exact mass and retention time (if known). Searching the library can then identify the compounds found by comparison to their accurate product ion mass spectra. Retention times can be a search criterion specified as not required (non-targeted screen), as optional providing a targeted and non-targeted forensic and toxicological screen, or required (targeted screen only). With the Q-TOF, detection of unknowns (compounds not in the library), and identification using the MS/MS spectra, is also possible.

Kit Contents

Quick Start Guides **MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL Quick Start Guide** The Quick Start Guide gives an overview of the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL and tells you how to use it.

MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager Quick Start Guide

The Quick Start Guide gives you an overview of the MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager and tells you how to use it with the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL.

Installation and Supplemental Discs Each kit includes the **MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager** disc. Each kit also contains either the **MassHunter MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD** disc or the **MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL** disc.

MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc This disc contains:

- MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD (**ForTox_AM_PCD.cdb**) or MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL (**ForTox_AM_PCDL.cdb**)
- Test Mix database:
 - ForTox_Std.cdb
- *MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL Quick Start Guide* (PDF)
- Technical notes
- Application notes

What is the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology Drugs PCD or PCDL?

Kit Contents

- TOF/Q-TOF LC/MS methods to run and analyze the test mix:
 - ForTox_TestMix_MS.m, TOF/Q-TOF acquisition method for MS-only analysis (positive mode)
 - ForTox_TestMix_MS_DA.m, TOF/Q-TOF data analysis method for MS-only analysis
 - ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS.m, Q-TOF acquisition method for targeted MS/MS analysis
 - ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS_DA.m, Q-TOF data analysis method for targeted MS/MS analysis
 - ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.m, Q-TOF acquisition method for auto MS/MS analysis
 - ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS_DA.m, Q-TOF data analysis method for auto MS/MS analysis
- Example data files:
 - ForTox_TestMix_MS.d
 - ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS.d
 - ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.d
- Example reports
- MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL Comprehensive Test Mix *Method Setup Guide*

MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager disc This disc contains:

- MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager
- *MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager Quick Start Guide* (PDF)
- Software license agreements
- Example data

Other Parts If you purchase the G6855AA or G3876AA Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL Kit, you also receive these parts.

ZORBAX LC Column (p/n 959757-902) Eclipse Plus C18, 2.1 mm × 50 mm, 1.8 μm.

ZORBAX LC Column (p/n 959758-902) Eclipse Plus C18, 2.1 mm × 100 mm, 1.8 μm.

Poroshell 120 Column (p/n 693775-902) EC-C18, 2.1 mm × 150 mm, 2.7 μm.

LC/MS Forensic/Toxicology Checkout Test Mix (p/n 5190-0556) Test mix containing 13 analytes of interest for your test runs. The contents are listed in “Checkout Test Mix Content” on page 68.

Where to find more information

Application Notes and Publications You can find information about the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL in the application notes and publications included on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc.

Go to <http://www.chem.agilent.com/> for the most current information on Agilent products.

Before You Begin

Installation

To run the test mix

- 1 Check that the Agilent 1200 Infinity Series LC is properly installed and verified.
- 2 On the Agilent 1200 Series Binary Pump SL, check that the mixer and damper are bypassed. See “[To bypass mixer and damper](#)” on page 14 for details.
- 3 Check that the 6500 Series LC/MS (PCD or PCDL) or 6200 Series LC/MS (PCD only) is properly installed and verified.

To do compound and library searches

- 1 Check that the following programs are properly installed:
 - MassHunter Data Acquisition B.05.00 or higher
 - MassHunter Qualitative Analysis B.06.00 or higher
- 2 Install the MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager. Refer to the *MassHunter Personal Compound Database and Library Manager Quick Start Guide*.
- 3 Install the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL:
 - a Insert the database disc into the disc drive.
 - b In the welcome screen, click **Forensics and Toxicology PCD (or PCDL) Installation**.
 - c Read the instructions to install the database, then click the command to install the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL and the Test Mix PCDL.
- 4 Copy the methods from the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc to the **MassHunter\Methods** folder on your computer.

Required reagents and parts (to run test mix)

- Methanol, highest purity
- 5M Ammonium Formate (p/n G1946-85021)
- Formic acid, highest purity

Alternative configuration

The sample methods and data files from the test mix are all based on the configuration described in the installation instructions. A different system configuration will do the library search screening and identification just as well. No retention times are provided with the library. You can create as many custom libraries as you need for your use. These libraries can be named to distinguish your chromatographic conditions and the matrices for which they are intended.

Running the Test Mix

Do the steps in this section if you purchased the G6855AA or G3876AA Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL Kit, and you want to run the test mix to collect example data. Otherwise, use the example data that is included with the PCD or PCDL disc to do the exercises in this guide.

The sample data files provided in the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc were acquired with the test mix on a system with the LC/MS system configured as described in “[Installation](#)” on page 8. Along with the sample data files are the methods with which these data files were acquired. If you review the acquisition method and sample data, you will get a sense of the data acquisition, data processing, and result interpretation you will encounter while using the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL.

To review the Data Acquisition methods, use the MassHunter Data Acquisition program to open these method files:

- [ForTox_TestMix_MS.m](#) for compound searches
- [ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS.m](#) (targeted MS/MS), or [ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.m](#) (auto MS/MS) for library searches (Q-TOF only)

The following Data Acquisition settings for the test mix are listed:

- Data Acquisition method information
- Q-TOF LC/MS settings
- Wellplate sampler settings
- Binary pump settings
- Thermostatted column compartment settings

Note that the method uses two reference ions, which are dispensed from reference bottle A of the calibration delivery system. The two compounds used are from the API-TOF Reference Mass Solution (p/n G1969-85001) and are purine and HP-0921. Prepare the reference ion solution as recommended in the installation guide for your instrument. *Do not use the trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) found in the reference kit.*

If you previously used TFA in your calibrant, make sure little or no TFA signal remains.

To run the test mix

Run the [LC/MS Forensic/Toxicology Checkout Test Mix \(p/n 5190-0556\)](#) to get a better idea of how the database kit will work for you.

- 1 Do a check tune to verify that the instrument operates properly.

Refer to the *Agilent 6200 Series TOF and 6500 Series Q-TOF LC/MS System Quick Start Guide* for instructions to tune the instrument.

- 2 Prepare the Checkout test mix.

The concentration of the test mix stock solution is 100 µg/mL (100 ppm).

- a Dilute 100 µL of the stock solution to 10.0 mL with 10% MeOH:H₂O to create the final solution concentration of 1 µg/mL (1 ppm).
- b Transfer 1 mL of the final sample solution to a standard 2 mL sample vial for analysis.

The final solution is a 1 µg/mL (1 ppm) working solution.

NOTE

For some instrument configurations, this sample concentration is too high. If you consistently see “saturated” warnings listed for some compounds, or if “*” indicators appear routinely above mass peaks in spectra, dilute the sample again by a factor of 10 or more, and inject the diluted sample.

- 3 Prepare mobile phases A and B.

- A= 5 mM ammonium formate in 0.01% formic acid in water
- B= 0.01% formic acid in methanol

- 4 Verify the system configuration.

The checkout method uses the system configuration listed in the next table. If your system deviates from this configuration, adjust the method as needed. Refer to the *Comprehensive Test Mix Method Setup Guide* that is included on the Installation Disc. Set the LC parameters according to “[Forensics and Toxicology LC Parameters](#)” on page 69.

Running the Test Mix

To run the test mix

Column	ZORBAX LC Column (p/n 959758-902), Eclipse Plus C18, 2.1 mm × 100 mm, 1.8 μm.
Wellplate Sampler	h-ALS-SL+, model# G1367C
Pump	Binary Pump – SL, Model 1312B
	If you are using a 1260 Binary Pump, you need to configure with damper and mixer bypassed. See “ To bypass mixer and damper ” on page 14
Column Compartment	Column – SL, Model G1316

- 5 Load the Checkout Test Mix method [ForTox_TestMix_MS.m](#).
- 6 Check that your method is set up to make a 2 μL injection.
- 7 Click **Sample > Run** to do a single sample run, or create a worklist to make multiple injections.
- 8 If you do not see all the peaks after you process your data:
 - a Extend your **Stop time** in the method to 10 minutes.
 - b Check that you detect both reference ions between 10,000 and 100,000 counts, and that their *m/z* values are within a few mDa of the expected *m/z* values.
 - c Make sure your system is tuned and calibrated correctly.
 - d Run the test mix again.

This will not affect your results but will show if retention times are different on your system. There are a number of reasons your retention times can change from those determined by Agilent, such as different instrument delay volume, dead volumes or configuration.

NOTE

Retention times collected with a 1260 Infinity LC binary pump are longer than with the 1290 Infinity LC binary pump because of different delay volumes. The retention times in the [ForTox_Std](#) database were collected on a 1260 Infinity LC binary pump. If you collect data with an 1290 Infinity LC binary pump to use with the Familiarization Exercises, you must change the retention times in the [ForTox_Std](#) database to match those in your data. See “[Forensics and Toxicology LC Parameters](#)” on page 69.

For Library Searches (with PCDL)

- 9 Run the test mix again with the methods [ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS.m](#) and [ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.m](#).

When you run the test mix with these methods, a workflow is simulated for the screening and identification of toxins using library searching. See the application note *Toxicological Screening with the Agilent LC/MS-QTOF and the Personal Compound Database and Library using the “Broecker, Herre and Pragst” Accurate Mass Spectral Library (p/n 5590-6419EN)*.

Running the Test Mix

To bypass mixer and damper

To bypass mixer and damper

You only need to bypass the mixer and damper if you have a 1260 Binary Pump.

The Binary Pump SL is delivered in standard configuration (damper and mixer connected). This step shows how to bypass the damper and mixer and convert the pump to low delay volume mode.

Configurations where only the damper or the mixer is disconnected while the other part is still in line are not supported by Agilent Technologies.

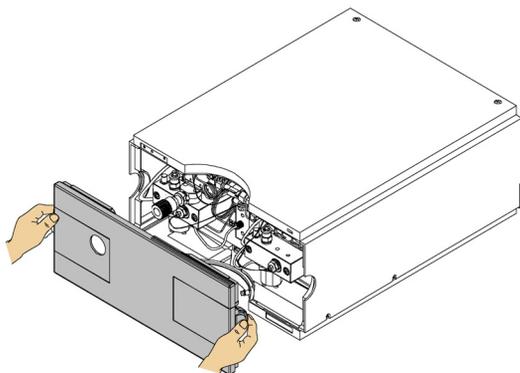
Tools required

- Wrench, 1/4-inch x 5/16-inch (p/n 8710-0510)
- Wrench, open end, 14-mm (p/n 8710-1924)
- Hex Driver, 1/4-inch, slitted (p/n 5023-0240)

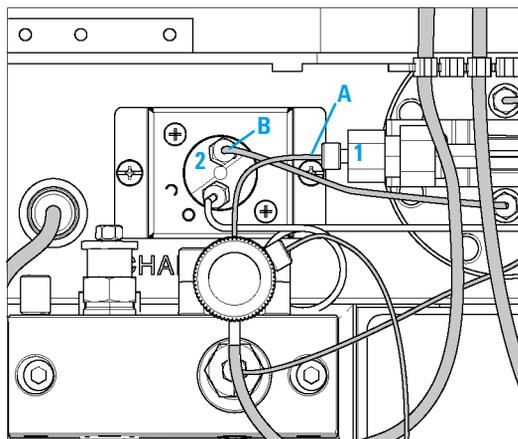
Preparations for this procedure

- Flush the system (water if buffers were used, otherwise IPA).
- Turn the flow off.

1 Remove the front cover by pressing the clip fastener on both sides of the cover.



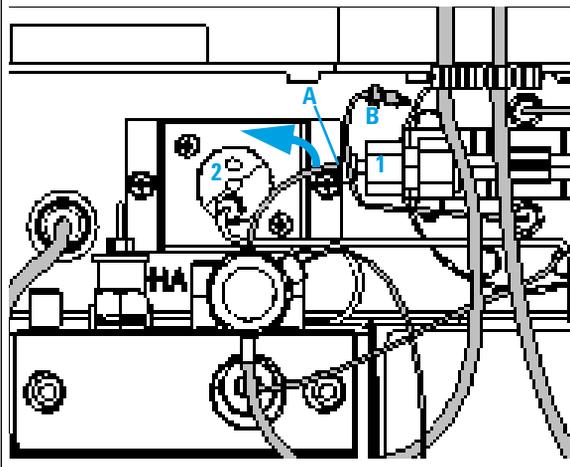
2 Use the 1/4 inch hex driver to remove fitting **B** from port 2 of the pressure sensor.



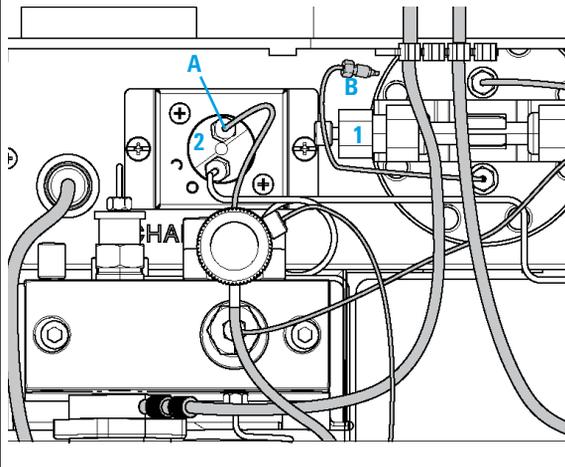
Running the Test Mix

To bypass mixer and damper

- 3** Fold capillary end **B** away. It remains unconnected. Disconnect fitting **A** from outlet **1** of the mixer.



- 4** Connect fitting **A** to port **2** of the pressure sensor. Seal port **1** of the mixer with a plastic blank nut.



Using MassHunter Qualitative Analysis to Identify Compounds

To identify compounds using the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program

Using MassHunter Qualitative Analysis to Identify Compounds

To identify compounds using the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program

- To search the PCD or PCDL to identify compounds (with or without retention times), refer to the online Help for **Identifying Compounds > Search database for a compound**.
- To search the PCD or PCDL to identify compounds from spectrum peaks, refer to the online Help for **Spectrum Tasks > Search database from a spectrum**.

To identify spectrum peaks using the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program (PCDL only)

- To search the PCDL to identify compounds, refer to the online Help for **Identifying Compounds > Search accurate mass library for compounds**.
- To search the PCDL for spectra, refer to the online Help for **Spectrum Tasks > Search accurate mass library for spectra**.

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

The exercises in this section can be done with a TOF or Q-TOF LC/MS, with the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL.

Three exercises are described in this topic to do a compound search. The recommended process is described in “[Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula](#)” on page 18.

Isomeric compounds are identified during routine LC/MS by injecting an authentic sample of each isomer and determining its retention time under the chromatographic conditions used for the analysis. The retention time is needed for identification in cases where the MS-MS spectra of these isomers are very similar. The LC/MS Forensic/Toxicology Checkout Test Mix (p/n 5190-0556) contains three sets of isomers:

- Morphine and Hydromorphone
- Codeine and Hydrocodone
- Methamphetamine and Phentermine

The retention time order of the compounds in the Checkout Test Mix have been determined using the Eclipse Plus C18 column and mobile phases specified in the “[To run the test mix](#)” on page 11. The expected retention time order is:

- Morphine
- Hydromorphone
- Codeine
- Hydrocodone
- Methamphetamine
- MDMA/Methylenedioxymethamphetamine
- Phentermine
- Benzoylcegonine
- PCP/Phencyclidine
- Trazodone
- Carisoprodol
- Alprazolam
- Diazepam

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula

Note that depending on the delay volume the compounds Methamphetamine and MDMA can co-elute (1290 Infinity LC pump) or separate slightly (1260 Infinity LC pump).

Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula

Before you begin, copy the custom database **ForTox_Std.cdb** to **D:\MassHunter\PCDL**, or wherever MassHunter databases are stored.

Use the data file found in the **Example Data** folder on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc. If you have the G6855AA or G3876AA Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL Kit and you ran the test mix (see [“To run the test mix”](#) on page 11), you can use the data file that you acquired. Your results may differ slightly.

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
1 Process the data file for the positive ion test mix. Open the data file.	<p>a Open the Agilent MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program. Click Cancel if you are asked to open a data file.</p> <p>b Process the data file for the positive ion test mix:</p> <p>c Load the method ForTox_TestMix_MS_DA.m.</p> <p>d Open the data file ForTox_TestMix_MS.d. See Figure 1.</p>	

Steps

Detailed Instructions

Comments

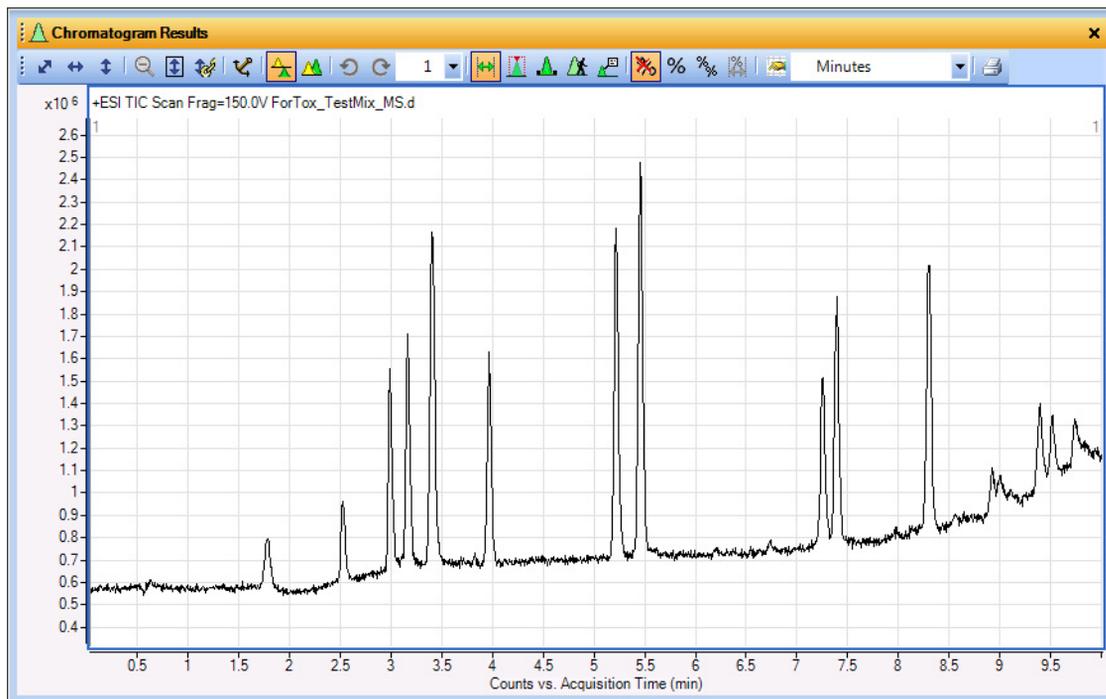


Figure 1 Example Test Mix Total Ion Chromatogram

2 Review the method to become familiar with the settings for Find by Formula. Use the database **ForTox_Std.cdb**.

- a Locate the **Find Compounds by Formula** section in the Method Explorer.
- b Select the custom database **ForTox_Std.cdb**. See Figure 2.
- c Review the settings in this method to become familiar with peak detection, mass tolerances and other settings. If needed, adjust for specific matrices.

The technical note *Forensics and Toxicology Personal Compound Database and Library for Screening and Identification: the Broecker, Herre and Pragst PCDL Accurate Mass Spectral Library* (p/n 5990-6450EN) included on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc describes how to create a custom database, and to add retention times for your compounds and chromatographic conditions to the database.

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula

Steps

Detailed Instructions

Comments

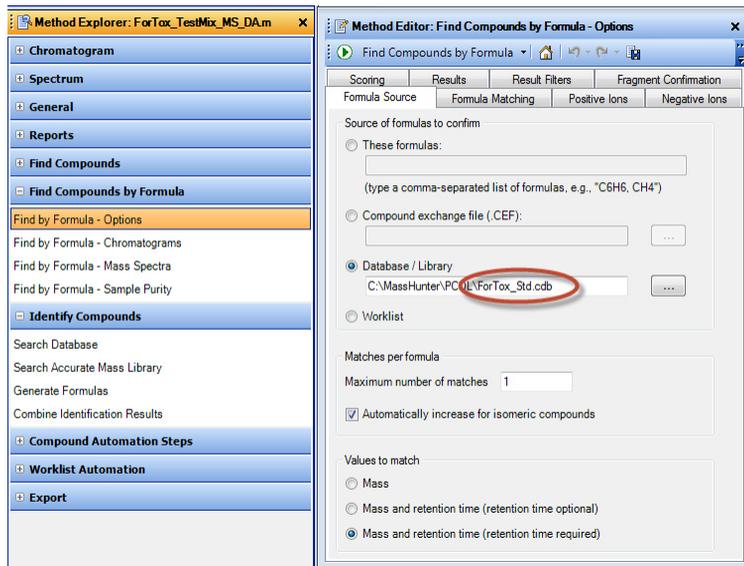


Figure 2 Find by Formula Method Editor Options (Custom Database)

- 3** If the retention times for your sample do not match those in the ForTox_Std database, update the retention times in the database
- a** For **Values to match**, select **Mass**. (Do not select either of the **Mass and retention time** options.)
 - b** Tentatively identify your compounds using the mass option only.
 - c** Update the retention times in a user copy of the ForTox_Std database in MassHunter PCDL Manager. Use the elution order on [page 17](#) to identify the three sets of isomers.
 - d** After the retention times are updated, change **Values to match** back to **Mass and retention time (retention time required)**, then repeat [step 2](#). Continue to [step 4](#)
- See the MassHunter PCDL Manager *Quick Start Guide* for details.

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
4	<p>Check that the desired ion species are present.</p> <p>a In the Positive Ions tab, check that the desired ion species are present. See Figure 3.</p> <p>For example, make sure that the adduct m/z is not shown if the protonated species is desired.</p>	

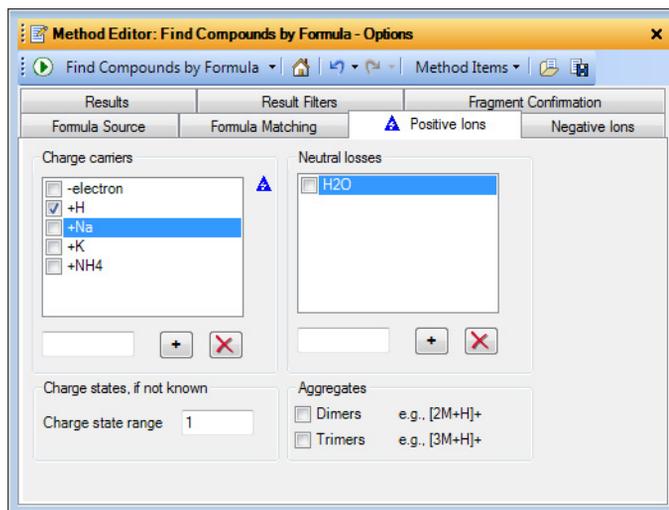


Figure 3 Positive Ions tab.

5	<p>Use the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology Standard PCDL to find compounds in the data file ForTox_TestMix_MS.d.</p> <p>a Open the data file ForTox_TestMix_MS.d.</p> <p>b Click the green arrow () in the Method Editor toolbar.</p>	<p>The Qualitative Analysis program searches each entry in the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology Standard PCDL (ForTox_Std.cdb) to find compounds in the data file.</p> <p>Note in Figure 4 that Phentermine and Methamphetamine are correctly identified using the retention time information. Inspection of the compound list will show similar results for morphine and hydromorphone, and codeine and hydrocodone. These analytes are isobaric and accurate mass alone could not distinguish between each isomeric set.</p>
---	--	--

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula

Steps

Detailed Instructions

Comments

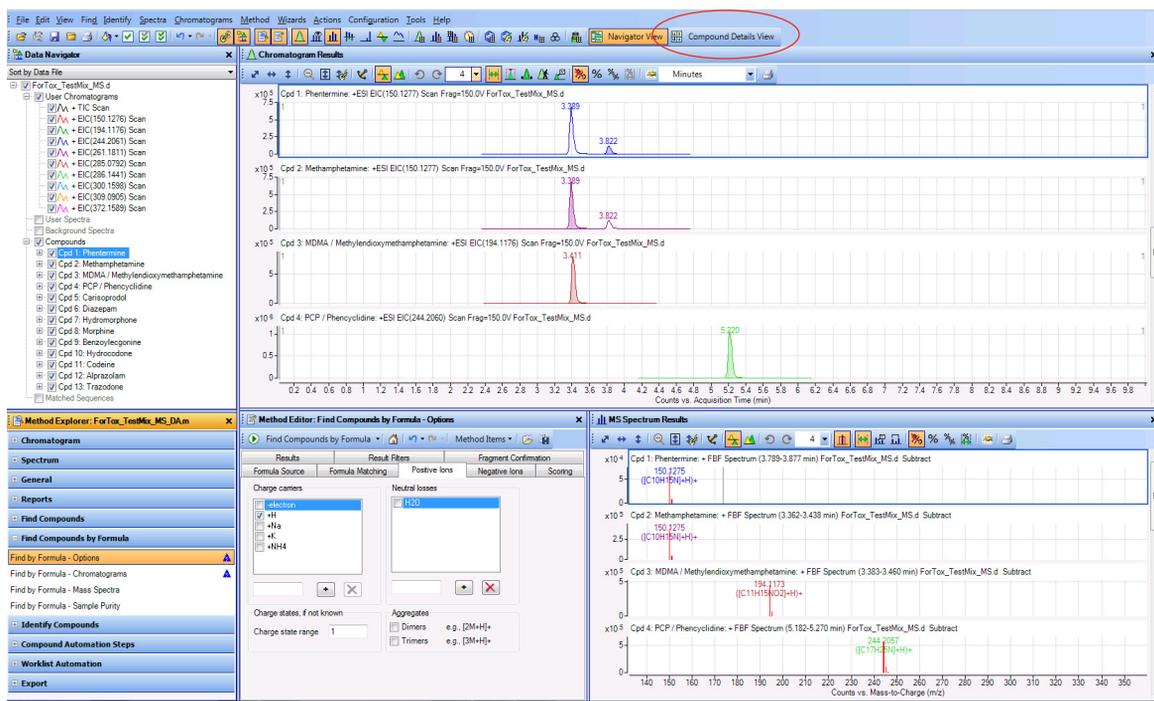


Figure 4 Find By Formula Results using MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology Standard PCDL. (**ForTox_Std.cdb**)

6 Review the Compound Table. Return to the Navigation view when you are done.

- Click **Compound Details View** to switch views. See [Figure 5](#).
- Click or use the arrow keys to move through the Compound Table to review one compound at a time.
- Click Navigator View.

Note that multiple IDs flags are shown for Codeine due to the close retention time of its isomer hydrocodone. Hydrocodone will also show a multiple IDs flag if the **Do not match if score is <70** option, in the Find Compounds by **Formula > Options > Result Filters** tab, is unmarked. The Find by Formula score is very different for the two analytes, which allows for correct identification.

Steps

Detailed Instructions

Comments

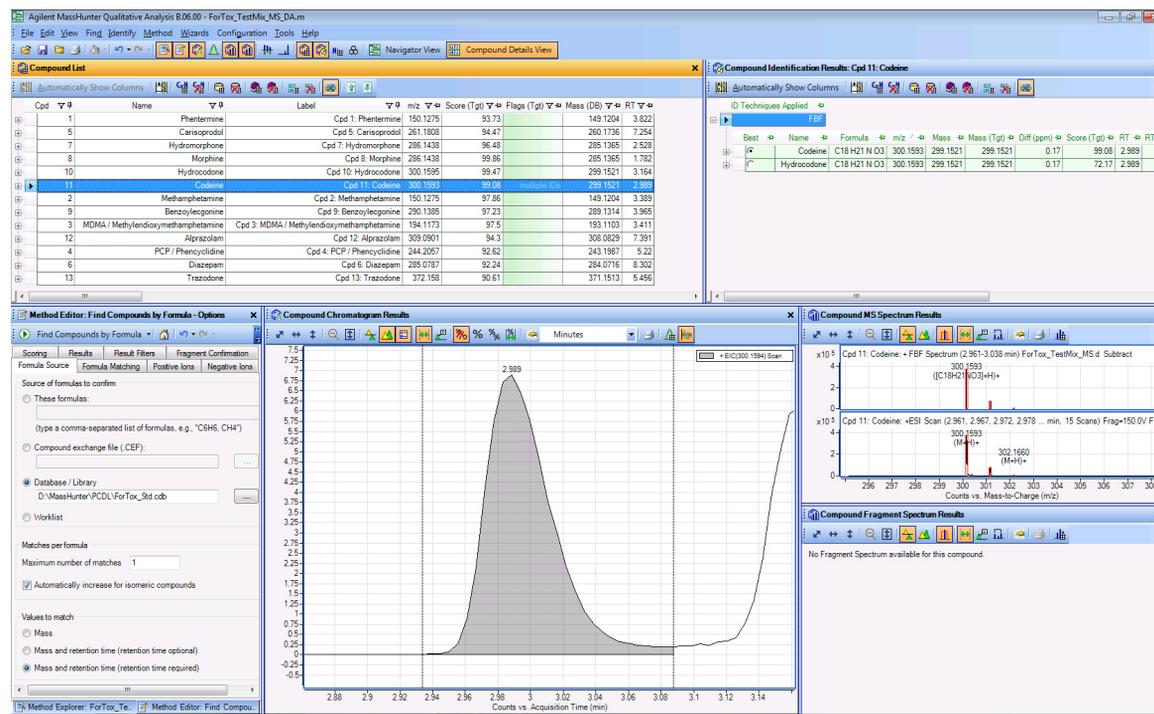


Figure 5 Compound Details view.

7 Export the compound list as a spreadsheet in text format.

- Select all rows.
- Right-click anywhere in the compound list and select **Export**. See Figure 6.
- For **File type**, select **Data as Text file (*.txt; *.csv)**.
- Click **OK**.

The spreadsheet file appears in the data file folder with the same name as the data file.

You will use this file in a later exercise for Targeted MS/MS analysis.

The **ForTox_TestMix_MS.csv** test mix data file in Excel format is included.

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula

Steps

Detailed Instructions

Comments

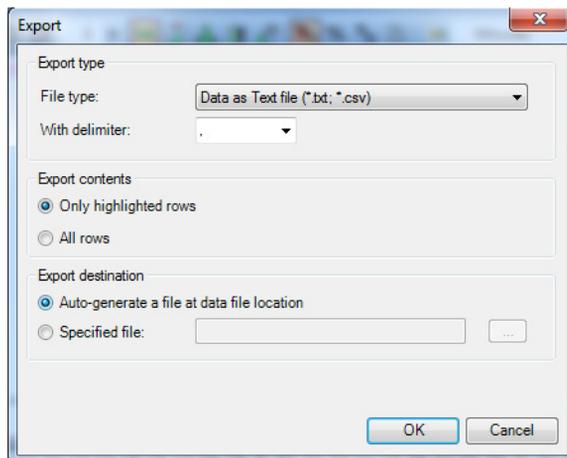


Figure 6 Export Find by Formula results to a Text file.

-
- 8** Remove the results prior to the next exercise and close the Compound List.
- a** Click **Find >Delete Find Compound Results** to remove the results
 - b** Close the Compound List to free up display space.
-

Exercise 2. Process and interpret data with Defined Extracted Ion Chromatograms

In this exercise, you process the data file **ForTox_TestMix_MS.d**.

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
1	Process the data file for the positive ion test mix. a In Method Explorer, click Chromatogram > Define Chromatograms . See Figure 8 .	A list of the exact m/z values of the compounds in the mixture is displayed in the Chromatograms > Define Chromatograms section.

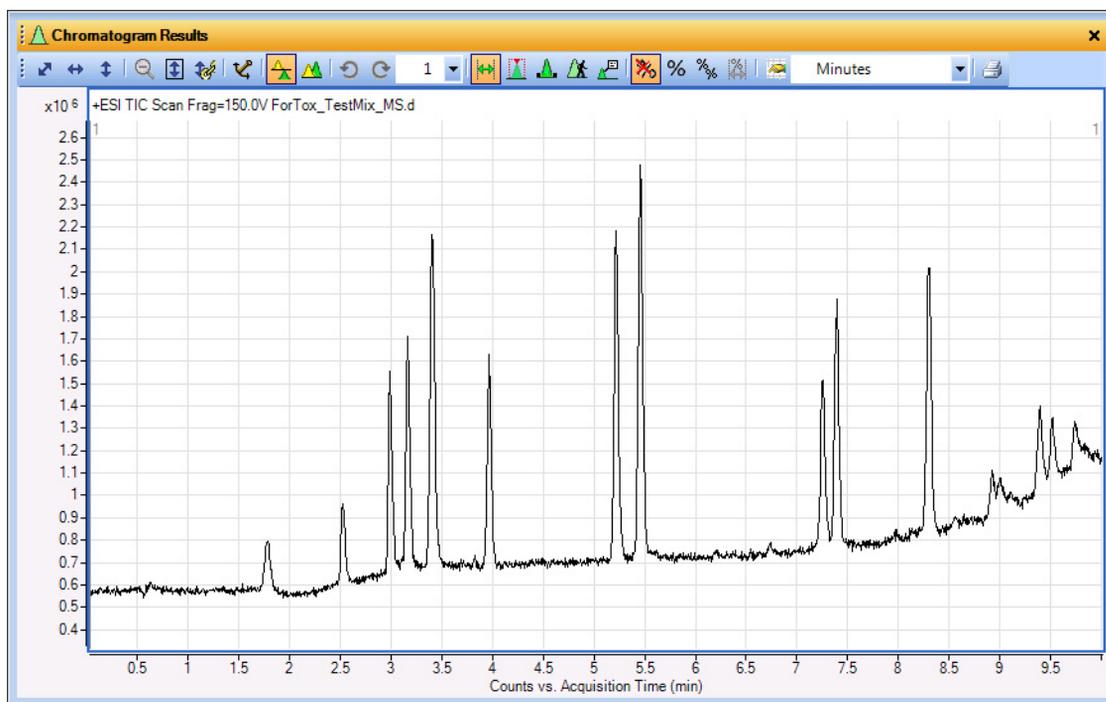


Figure 7 Example Test Mix Total Ion Chromatogram

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

Exercise 2. Process and interpret data with Defined Extracted Ion Chromatograms

Steps

Detailed Instructions

Comments

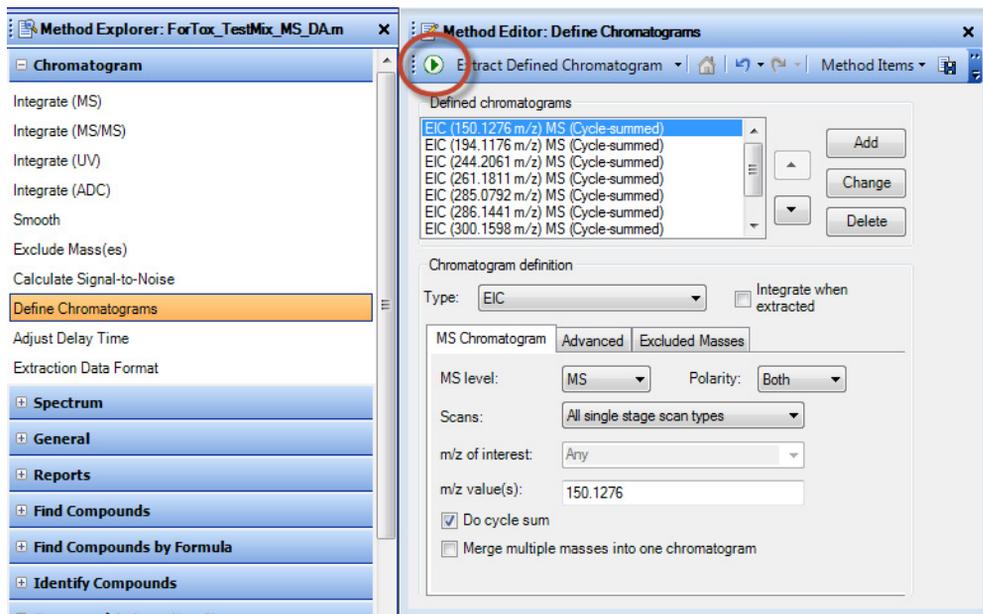


Figure 8 Define Chromatograms section selected. Click the green arrow (circled) to extract the ions.

2 Extract the ions.

a Click the green arrow in the Method Editor toolbar.

After the chromatograms are extracted, they are displayed in the Chromatogram Results window, as seen in [Figure 9](#), if the view is in List Mode. In [Figure 9](#), you can see the major peak in each EIC.

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search
Exercise 2. Process and interpret data with Defined Extracted Ion Chromatograms

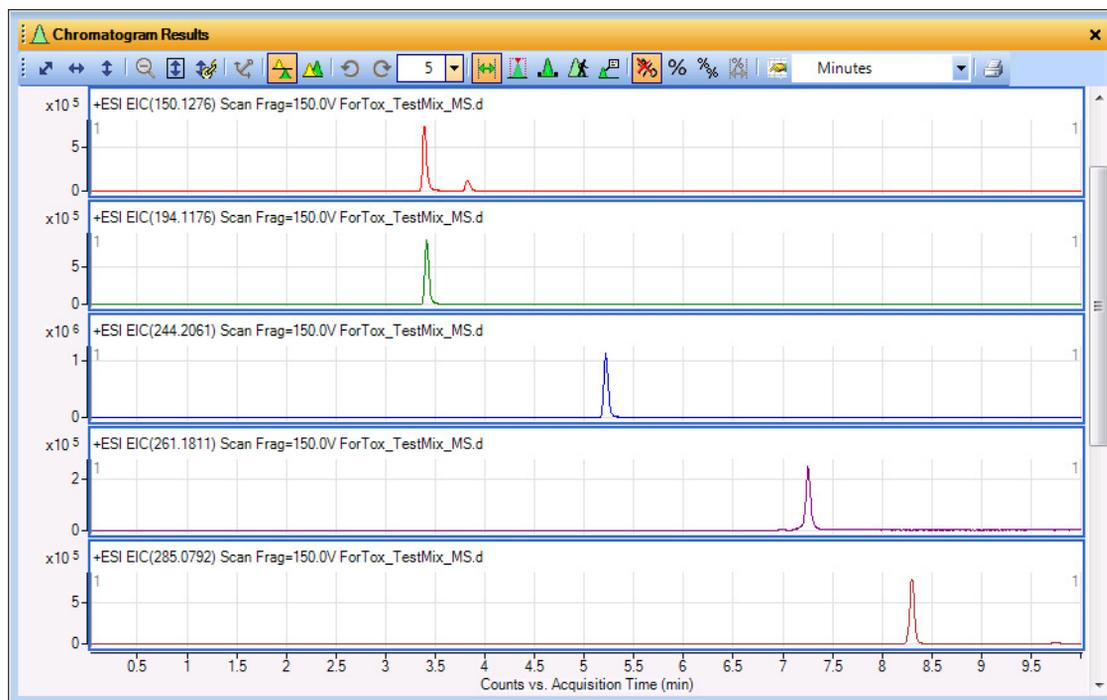


Figure 9 Extracted Ion Chromatograms

Exercise 3. Process and interpret data with Find by Molecular Feature Extractor

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
1	<p>Review the settings for Find by Molecular Feature. Make sure that only protonated species are selected.</p> <p>a Locate the Find Compounds by Molecular Feature section in the Method Explorer.</p> <p>b In the Method Editor, review all settings in the Find Compounds by Molecular Feature tabs. These will have to be adjusted per sample type and according to sample matrices.</p> <p>c Click Find by Molecular Feature > Ion Species and make sure that only the protonated species is checked. If +Na is checked duplicate compound entries will be found. See Figure 10.</p>	<p>If the retention times are not the same in your sample, the retention times in the ForTox_Std database needs to be updated. See the Comments for step 2 in “Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula” on page 18.</p> <p>The ability to select ion species is one of the reasons Find by Formula is the preferred method for compound searches.</p>

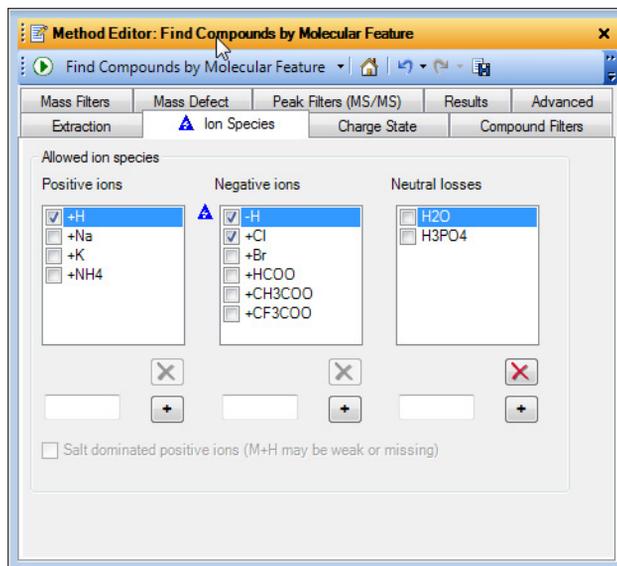


Figure 10 Ion Species tab.

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
2 Search the data file to generate a compound list. Use the model settings.	<p>a Click the green arrow () in the Method Editor toolbar.</p>	<p>The Molecular Feature Extractor (MFE) “mines” the data file for all possible compounds and uses a “first principle” approach. Once the possible compounds have been separated and identified from probable background interferences, a compound list is generated.</p> <p>All possible analytes according to the method settings will be extracted.</p> <p>Figure 11 illustrates the results for Find by Molecular Feature.</p>
3 Search the PCD or PCDL for the selected compounds.	<p>a In the Data Navigator, click the Compounds line to select all compounds that were generated by MFE and which are shown.</p> <p>b When all the compounds are selected, right-click the selected compounds and click Search Database for Compounds from the shortcut menu (Figure 11).</p>	<p>If the Advanced tab is not visible, click Configuration > User Interface Configuration and then mark the Accurate mass (TOF, Q-TOF) and Show advanced parameters check boxes.</p>

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

Exercise 3. Process and interpret data with Find by Molecular Feature Extractor

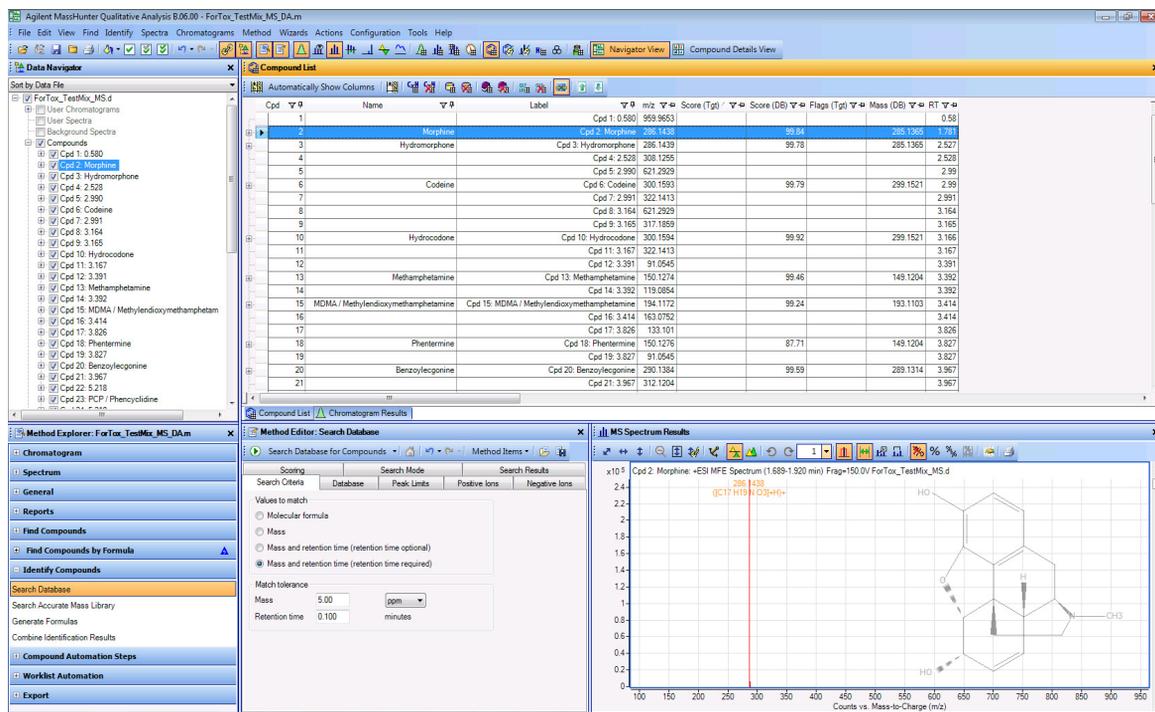


Figure 12 Find by Molecular Feature Database Search. Use the tools at the top of the Compound List window to hide columns, auto-size the column widths, and sort the list.

Exercise 4. Process data automatically using Worklist Automation

After you decide the correct settings for all aspects of the Find Compounds algorithms and Search Database algorithms (such as those described in the application note 5990-4252EN), you can save these settings to one convenient Qualitative Analysis method for repetitive and consistent data manipulation from week to week.

The Worklist Automation feature of the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program lets you take advantage of the ability to save reprocessing options. This topic describes how you can set up Worklist Automation to automatically process a data file with the Find by Molecular Feature algorithm, search the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL, and send the report of results to a specific printer or data file location.

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
1 Open the automation worklist.	a In the Method Explorer, click Worklist Automation > Worklist Actions .	The Method Editor shows a list of automatic Qualitative Analysis actions that will be executed in the order shown.
2 Add actions to the worklist.	a Copy the actions that you want the method to do from the Available actions list to the Actions to be run list. See Figure 13 .	Note that if Search Database for Compounds is selected as an action to be run, then make sure that in the Find Compounds by Molecular Feature > Results tab, the Highlight All Compounds option is selected.

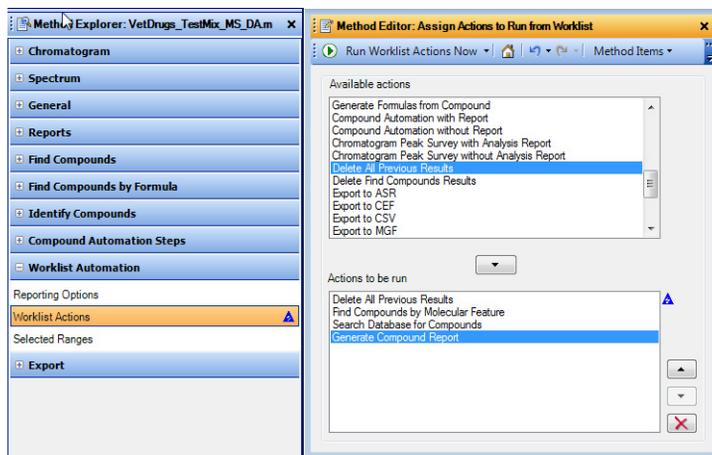


Figure 13 Method Editor with list of selected actions

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
3	<p>If you chose Generate Compound Report, then modify the reporting options.</p> <p>a From the Worklist Automation list, click Reporting Options.</p> <p>b In the Method Editor, in the Reporting Options section, set your reporting options. See Figure 14.</p>	

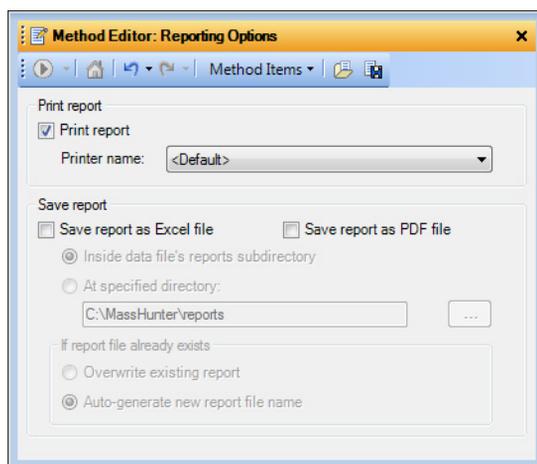
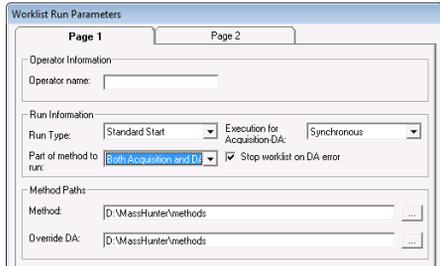


Figure 14 Reporting Options

4	<p>Save the method settings to an acquisition method.</p> <p>a In the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program, click Method > Save As.</p> <p>b Browse to the folder on your system that contains the Data Acquisition method that you want to automate.</p> <p>c Click the name of the Data Acquisition method that you want to automate and click Save.</p>	<p>The Qualitative Analysis method is now attached and is an integral part of the Data Acquisition method.</p>
---	--	--

Familiarization Exercises - Compound Search

Exercise 4. Process data automatically using Worklist Automation

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
5 Create a Data Acquisition worklist, and then run the worklist.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">In the MassHunter Data Acquisition program, click Worklist > Worklist Run Parameters.For Part of method to run, select Both Acquisition and DA.Select whether Execution for Acquisition-DA is to be Synchronous or Asynchronous.Save the worklist.Run the worklist.	 <p>Figure 15 Worklist Run Parameters window</p>

The Qualitative Analysis steps defined and set up under **Actions to be Run** in the Method Editor will run automatically during the sample acquisition without any user intervention.

Using worklist automation, features of the MassHunter Data Acquisition program for TOF and Q-TOF with the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program and in combination with the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL, samples can be screened for and reported automatically.

You can create smaller and more focused custom databases from the larger MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL for a specific industry needs such as work-place drug testing.

NOTE

Some compounds in the database will only ionize using specific LC/MS sources, such as electrospray or APCI.

To develop a custom database

The use of a smaller and more focused database to screen samples can be a powerful tool to detect and identify specific analytes that are required by various regulatory agencies, such as governmental work-place drug testing. After a custom database of targeted compounds is created, single standards of those compounds must be analyzed using a standard chromatography method, retention times recorded, and detection limits determined.

- Run standards of targeted compounds and create custom databases from the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL.

The technical note *Forensics and Toxicology Personal Compound Database and Library for Screening and Identification: the Broecker, Herre and Pragst PCDL Accurate Mass Spectral Library* (p/n 5990-6450EN) included on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc describes how to create a custom database, and to add retention times for your compounds and chromatographic conditions to the database.

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

The use of Targeted MS/MS has many advantages.

Refer to the MassHunter Data Acquisition online Help and user guides to learn more about how Targeted MS/MS works.

- Only one run is needed both to screen for compounds using accurate mass database searching and to perform a library search for identification.
- Targeted MS/MS always performs MS/MS acquisition at exactly the specified m/z value over the specified time range in the run. If the target is present, even in a complex matrix and of low abundance, the precursor of the target compound will be fragmented and an MS/MS spectrum will be obtained. If you use Auto MS/MS mode instead (see “Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search” on page 55), the precursor in the mass spectrum must satisfy certain “on-the-fly” rules in order to be chosen for fragmentation. Under some conditions of high sample complexity and low precursor intensity, or if multiple adducts are formed, Auto MS/MS operation can miss desired precursors.
- The number of precursors that can be examined in any cycle is limited. If the number of targets is too large, or the chromatography too fast for good integration or peak detection, divide the target list over multiple methods and inject the sample repetitively.
- To acquire spectra of compounds that are not listed in the acquisition method or are not present in the database/library, use Auto MS/MS. Targeted MS/MS operation does not acquire MS/MS spectra on unexpected targets, only on what is on the precursor list in the method.

In these exercises, you process the data file **ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS.d**. Use the example data file found in the **Example Data** folder on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc. If you have the G3876AA MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL Kit and you ran the test mix, you can use the data file that you acquired. Your results can differ slightly.

This section consists of three exercises:

- Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library
- Exercise 2. Process the data
- Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library

In this exercise you use the compound information found in the previous exercises using Find by Formula.

You have screened the compounds by match to the accurate MS mass and isotope pattern in the library. You now confirm the identifications with an MS/MS experiment.

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
1 Create a template file in .csv format. See Figure 17. Then open the template in Excel.	<p>a Open the MassHunter Data Acquisition program.</p> <p>b In the Method Editor pane, right-click the table in the Targeted List tab and click Add to add a row.</p> <p>c Change the Iso. Width to Narrow (~1.3 m/.z).</p> <p>d For Delta Ret. Time window, type 0 . 5.</p> <p>e Right-click the table in the Targeted List tab and select Export. See Figure 16.</p> <p>f For File type, select text (*.csv).</p> <p>g Select a file name and location.</p> <p>h Click OK.</p> <p>i In Excel, open the template .csv file that you just created. See Figure 17.</p>	

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library (continued)

Step

Detailed Instructions

Comments

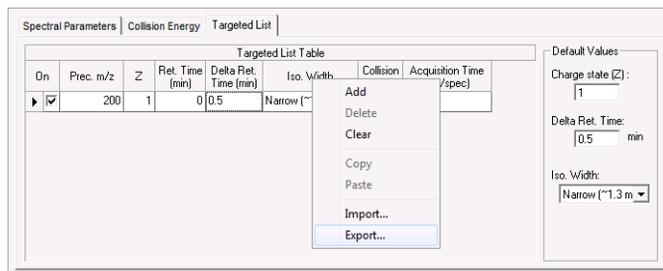


Figure 16 Targeted List tab, Export listed in shortcut menu

TargetedMSMSTable							
On	Prec. m/z	Z	Ret. Time	Delta Ret.	Iso. Width	Collision Energy	Acquisition Time (ms/spec)
TRUE	200	1	0	0.5	Narrow (~1.3 m/z)		

Figure 17 Template .csv file

2 Create exact mass column in the Compounds List results file that you saved previously, and add to the template file. See [Figure 18](#).

- a Start the Excel program, and open the spreadsheet file that you exported from the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program in “[Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula](#)” on page 18.
- b Add a column called **Prec. m/z**.
- c Set the formula for this column to be the **Mass(tgt)** value plus 1.00727645 (the mass of hydrogen minus an electron). This value represents the exact mass of the protonated compound found in the library.
- d Copy all **Prec. m/z** values to the template .csv file.

The base peak column in the compound list table is the measured m/z of the largest mass peak in the spectrum for this “found” compound. However, in samples with matrix, the base peak may not be the protonated ion. Using the calculated exact mass for the targeted MS/MS analysis is by far a better approach.

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library (continued)

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
e	<p>From the compound list Excel file, copy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Z values the retention times the delta retention times the iso widths <p>The template .csv file now looks similar to Figure 18.</p>	<p>The collision energy values should be the same as the three energies in the library (10, 20 and 40 eV), as described in the application note <i>Toxicological Screening with the Agilent LC/MS-QTOF and the Personal Compound Database and Library using the "Broecker, Herre and Pragst" Accurate Mass Spectral Library</i> (p/n 5590-6419EN). However, for real samples, the duty cycle of the Q-TOF LC/MS can be negatively affected if you measure at 2 or 3 collision energies.</p> <p>The alternative is to use a collision energy calculation which is calculated from a linear fit of the collision energy to the m/z of the precursor ion as described in "Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search" on page 55.</p>
f	<p>Save the template .csv file.</p> <p>The compound list Excel file and the template .csv file used in these examples can be found on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL disc under Example Reports, as ForTox_TestMix_MS.csv and ForTox_TestMix_TMSMSimport.csv.</p>	

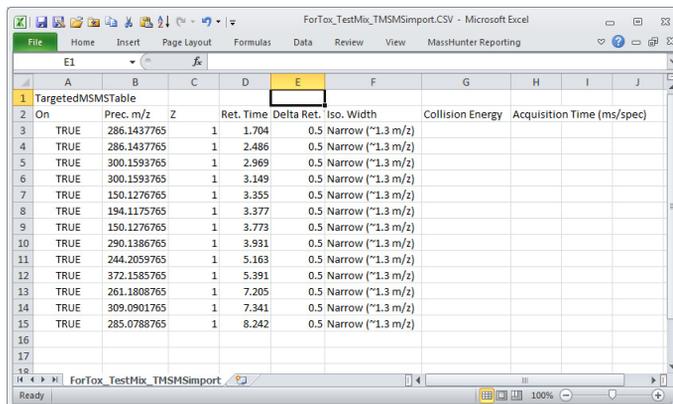


Figure 18 Template .csv after retention time and accurate mass are added

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library (continued)

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
3	<p>Open the Compounds List results file that you saved in "Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula" on page 18, and then import the values from the template .csv file that you just created. Run the newly saved Targeted MS/MS method.</p>	
	<p>a Use Excel to open the spreadsheet file that you saved in "Exercise 1. Process and interpret data with Find by Formula" on page 18. This spreadsheet file is in the same folder as the data file that was processed in that exercise.</p> <p>b In the Data Acquisition program, right-click the Targeted Mass tab and select Import.</p> <p>c Import the values from the template .csv file that you just created.</p> <p>d Save this Targeted MS/MS method as the method to use to identify the compounds found by library search.</p> <p>e Run the sample again with the newly saved Targeted MS/MS method.</p>	

Figure 19 shows the total ion chromatogram of the targeted MS/MS data. The alternation of single-MS to MS/MS is seen in the signal intensity change across peaks that are targeted. This acquisition was done with a delta retention time window of 0.5 minutes. The data shows that this setting causes the acquisition program to collect MS/MS spectra from 0.25 minutes before the peak to 0.25 minutes after the peak. If chromatographic reproducibility is excellent, this window can be reduced, which increases the duty cycle by reducing overlapping peaks.

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 1. Confirm identification by search of the MS/MS Library

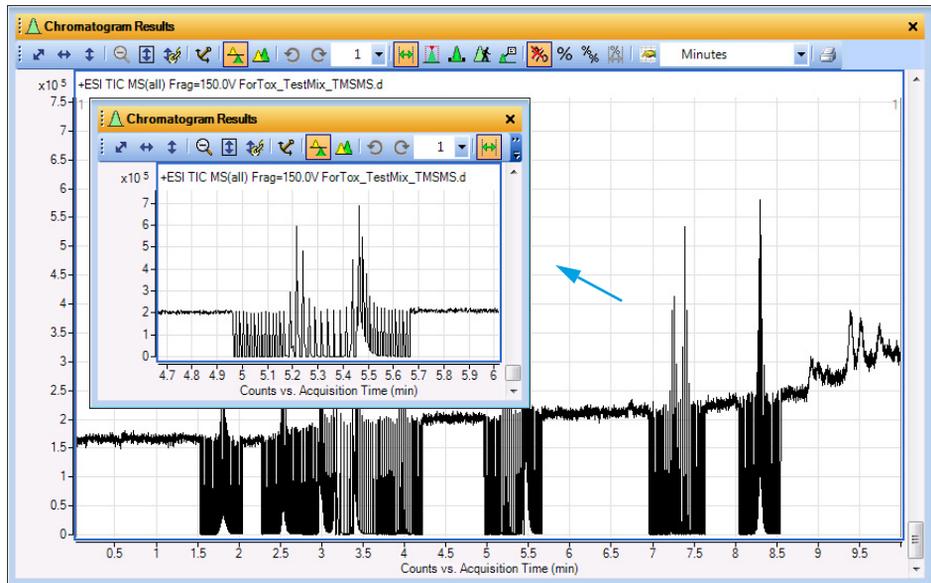


Figure 19 Total ion chromatogram from a typical targeted MS/MS data shows sawtooth pattern from alternating MS and MS/MS scans.

Exercise 2. Process the data

You can process the data in one of several ways. The steps used in this topic support automated data processing. Processing the data file consists of these steps:

- Find compound using “Find Compounds by Formula”
- Identify compounds using “Search Accurate Mass Library”
- Generate Compound Report
- Print Compound Report

You find the best match for the single-MS precursor ion, based on accurate mass and isotope information. Then you search the MS/MS library to find the best match for the MS/MS spectrum.

Exercise 2. Process the data

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
1	<p>Update settings for Find Compounds by Formula so that all compounds will be found.</p> <p>a Start the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program</p> <p>b Open the Method Editor.</p> <p>c Open the data analysis method ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS_DA.m.</p> <p>d Click Find Compounds by Formula > Options, and then on the Formula Source tab, set the Database/Library path to the Forensics and Toxicology Standard Library. See Figure 20.</p> <p>e On the Results tab, select Extract MS/MS spectrum and Separate MS/MS spectrum per CE. See Figure 21.</p>	

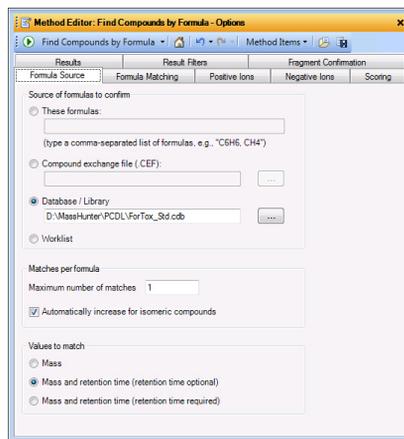


Figure 20 Formula Source tab

Make sure that in the **Find by Formula - Options > EIC Integration** tab, the integration option is set to either **Agile** or **MS/MS**. For each new analysis or matrix, do a compound search with each of these integrators before you select the integrator that gives you the best results.

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 2. Process the data

Exercise 2. Process the data (continued)

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
<p>2 Search the ForTox_Std.cdb library. As search criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add collision energy.• Set to use both a minimum forward score and a minimum reverse score.	<p>a In the Method Explorer, click Identify Compounds > Search Accurate Mass Library.</p> <p>b In the Settings tab, browse to select ForTox_Std.cdb.</p> <p>c In the Peak Filters tab, set the Absolute height to 5 counts and the Relative height to 1% of largest peak. See Figure 22.</p> <p>d In the Search Criteria tab, mark the check box for Collision energy. See Figure 23.</p>	<p>If you customized your newly created PCDL, you can select it instead.</p> <p>If you do not see the Search Criteria tab, make sure that Show advanced parameters is selected in the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program. See step 3 on page 29.</p>

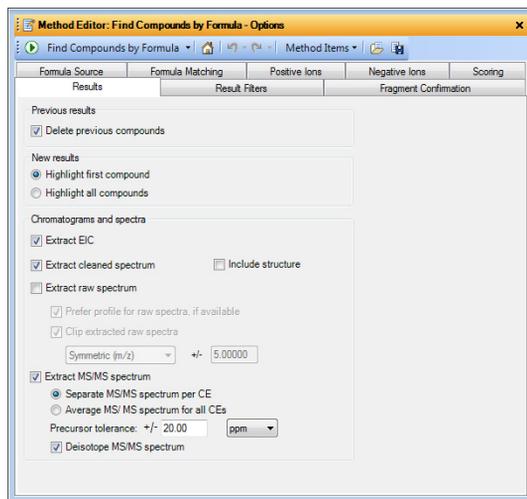


Figure 21 Results tab

Exercise 2. Process the data (continued)

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
------	-----------------------	----------

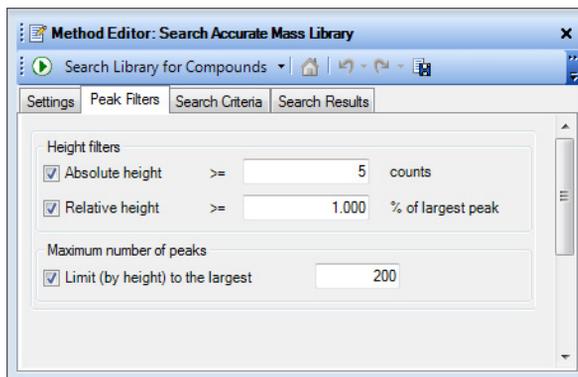


Figure 22 Peak Filters tab.

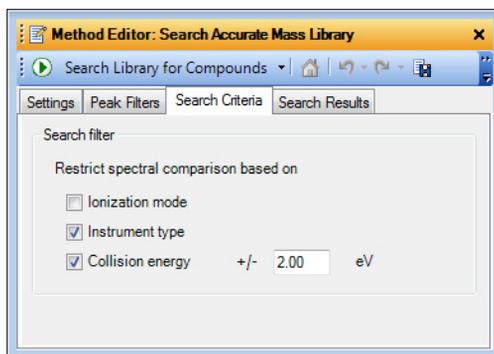


Figure 23 Search Criteria tab with the Collision energy check box marked.

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 2. Process the data

Exercise 2. Process the data (continued)

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
	<p>e In the Search Results tab, mark the Minimum forward score and Minimum reverse score check boxes and set the forward score to 25 and reverse score to 50.</p>	<p>See “Forward vs. Reverse Library Search” on page 75 for more information.</p> <p>The score settings can seem too low, but these settings let you detect any issues that can occur as you become familiar with these techniques. For real methods, a forward score of 50 and a reverse score of 70 are typical. For each analysis and matrix type, review and update the Matching criteria settings in the Results filters tab in the Find by Formula Options.</p>

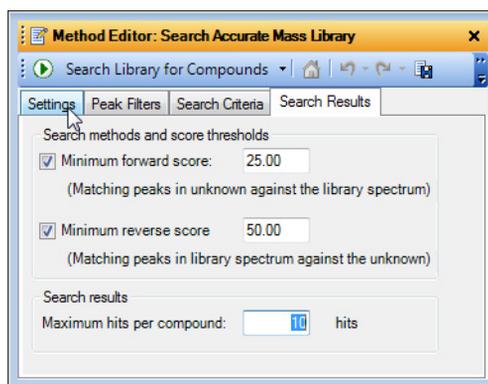


Figure 24 Search Results tab

<p>3 Set up the method to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Find all of the compounds in the text mix by Find by Formula.Do a library search.	<p>a In the Method Explorer, click Compound Automation Steps > Find and Identify.</p> <p>b In the Options tab, select these options as shown in Figure 25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Find by FormulaSearch a library for each compoundShow only identified compounds	<p>If they are not, make sure that the mix is prepared fresh and run within 4 hours of preparation, and that your system background has been reduced as much as possible.</p> <p>Note that setting the Matching criteria in the Results filters tab in the Find by Formula options can prevent small impurities from being reported.</p>
--	--	--

Exercise 2. Process the data (continued)

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
------	-----------------------	----------

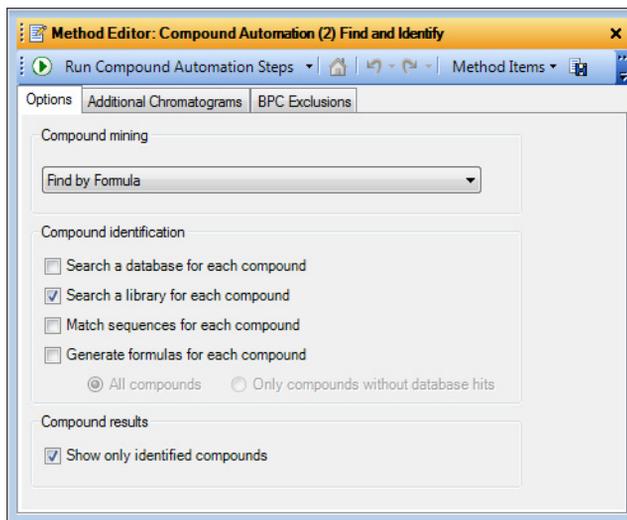


Figure 25 Options tab for Compound Automation Find and Identify

4 Set up report options to produce a report that shows the MS/MS peak table and spectra.

- In the Method Editor, click **Reports > Common Reporting Options**.
- For **Compound report template**, select **CompoundReport.xltx**.
See [Figure 26](#).
- In the Method Explorer, click **Compound Automation Steps > Compound Report**.
- Under **Compound spectrum (MS/MS)**, mark the check boxes for **Show MS/MS spectrum** and **Show MS/MS peak table**.
See [Figure 27](#).
- Save the method.

[Figure 28](#) and [Figure 29](#) shows the first two pages from the report for the Targeted MS/MS analysis on the **ForTox_TestMix_TMSMS.d** (found on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc). A copy of this report is also available in the report folder as a PDF file.

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 2. Process the data

Exercise 2. Process the data (continued)

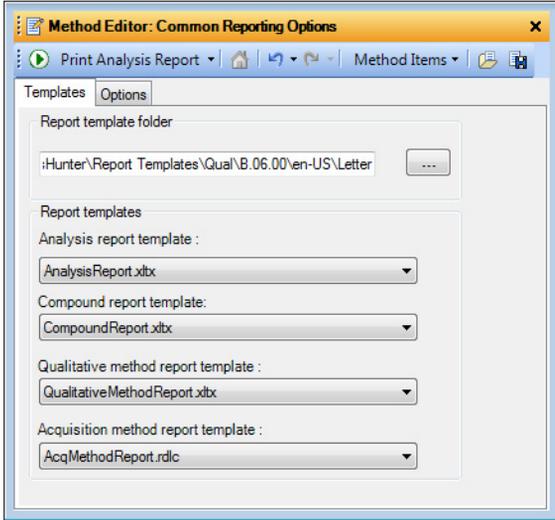
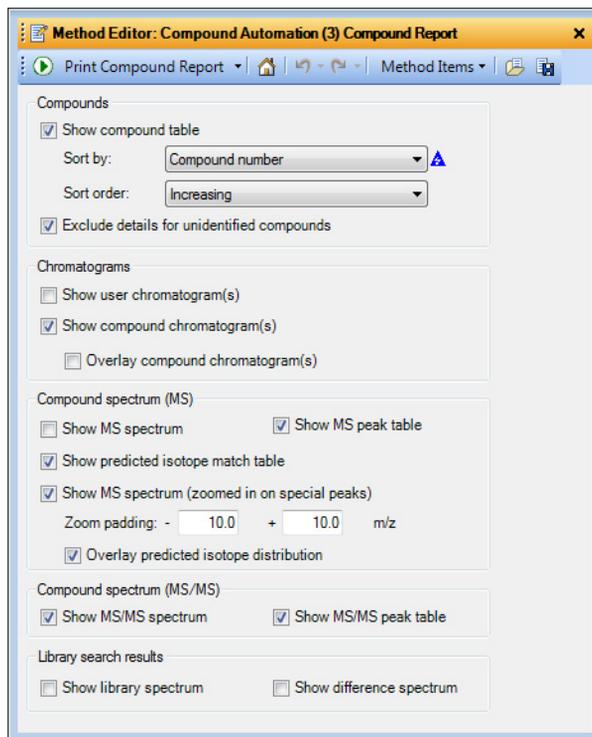
Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
		

Figure 26 Template tab in Common Reporting Options.

Exercise 2. Process the data (continued)

Step**Detailed Instructions****Comments**

**Figure 27** Compound Report dialog box.

When the method is run, a report is generated that includes a summary (Figure 28) as well as details for each compound found in the library (Figure 29). Note that the isotope abundance and mass accuracy are taken from the single-MS spectra in the data and not the MS/MS. These values (isotope abundance and mass accuracy) come from molecular formula generation. In addition, Figure 29 shows the mass accuracy of each precursor. Again the MFG Diff (ppm) comes from the single-MS spectra and the DB Diff (ppm) comes from the precursor ion in the MS/MS spectrum.

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 2. Process the data

You can use these reports to determine the presence of a specific compound in your sample. The data file can be inspected manually as well as to determine if anything was missed, or to get further supporting information that may be in the data but is not being reported.

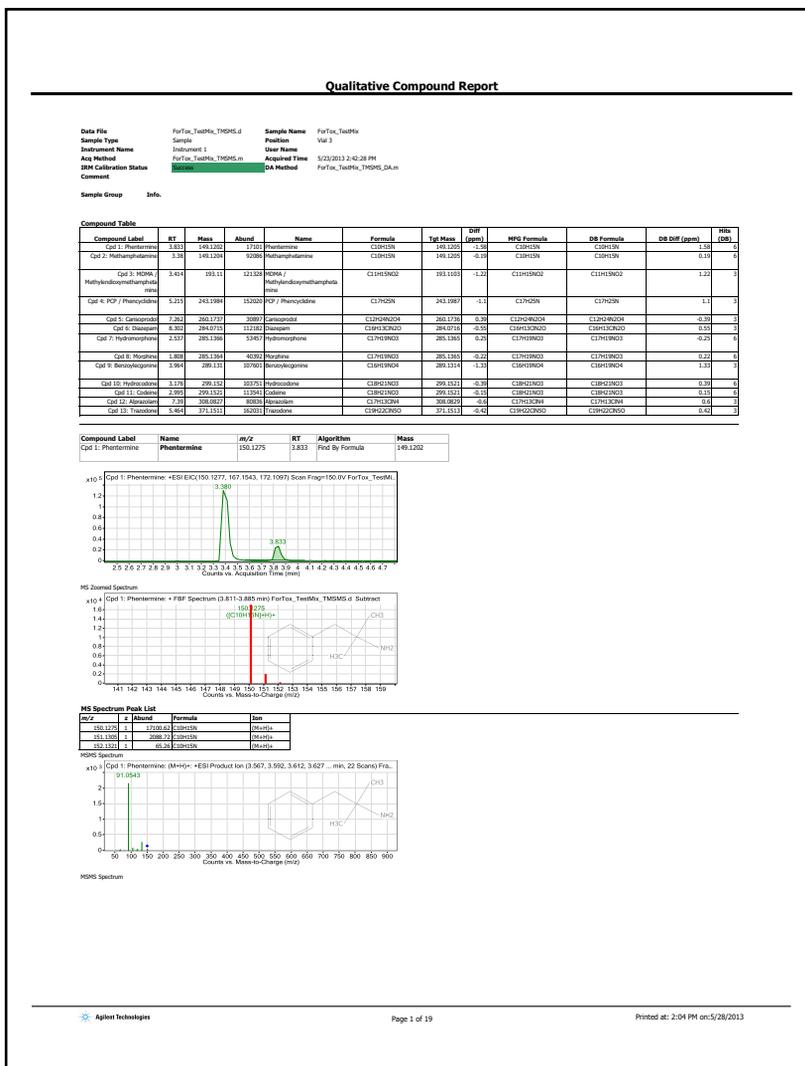
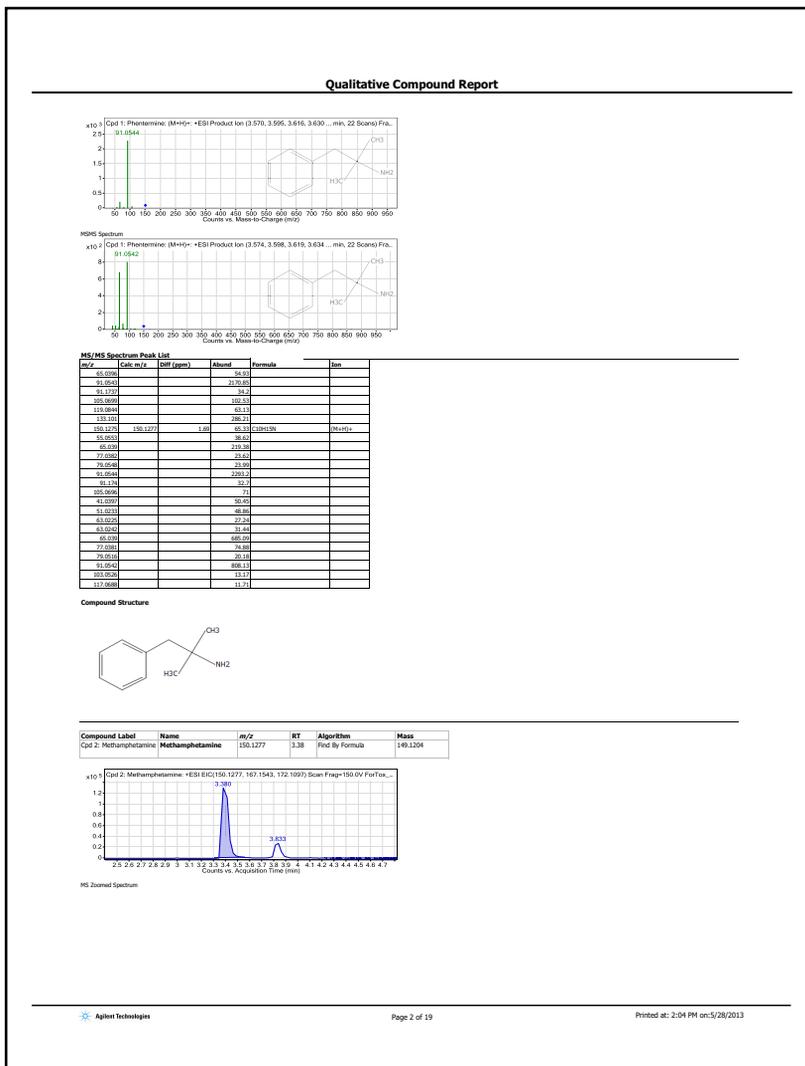


Figure 28 Page 1 of the Test Mix Compound report.

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search
 Exercise 2. Process the data



Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions

The ability to automate the process and run these steps in a workflow can be very useful, especially when you need to analyze many samples.

Automation is done by the use of worklist actions.

Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions

Step	Detailed Instruction	Comments
1	<p>Set up a worklist to create a compound report.</p> <p>a In Method Explorer, click Worklist Automation > Worklist Actions.</p> <p>b Select these Actions to be run:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compound Automation without Report • Generate Compound Report 	<p>The Compound Automation without Report action includes most of the other available actions, so they do not need to be selected. Some data files can require long processing time, so you may want to do the compound automation and report generation in separate steps.</p>

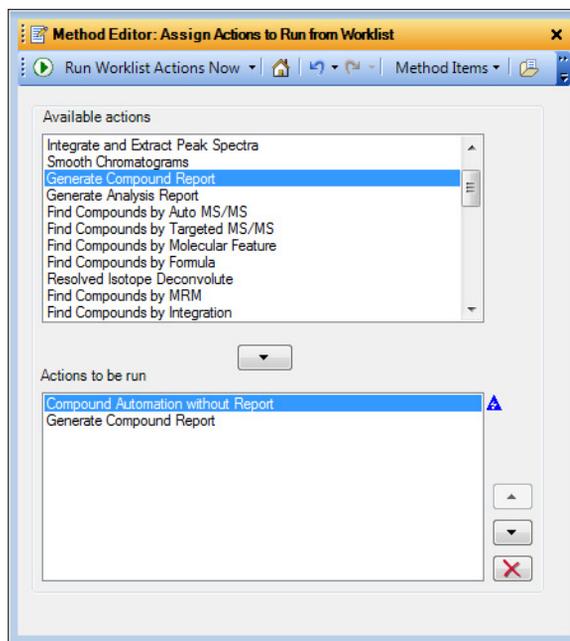


Figure 30 Assign Actions to Run from Worklist dialog box.

Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions (continued)

Step	Detailed Instruction	Comments
2	<p>Set print options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the Method Explorer, click Worklist Automation > Reporting Options. Select whether to print the report, save to a file (Excel file or PDF), or both. See Figure 31. Save the method. 	

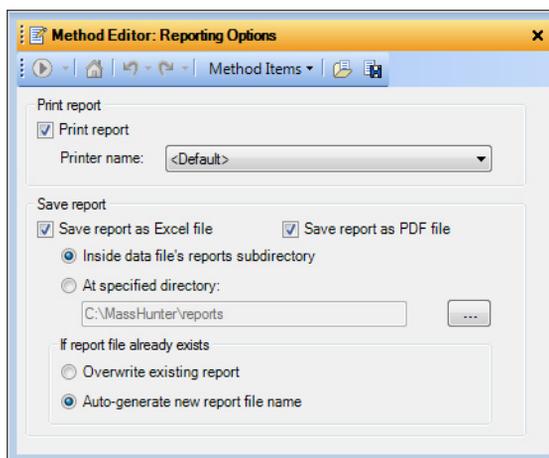


Figure 31 Reporting Options dialog box.

3	<p>Attach the method to an acquisition method.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program, click Method > Save As. Browse to the folder on your system that contains the Data Acquisition method that you want to automate. Click the name of the Data Acquisition method that you want to automate and click Save. The Qualitative Analysis method is now attached and is an integral part of the Data Acquisition method. 	
---	--	--

Familiarization Exercises - Targeted MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions

Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions (continued)

Step	Detailed Instruction	Comments
4	<p>Check that the method will run correctly when you use it within a worklist.</p>	<p>a In Method Explorer, click Worklist Automation > Worklist Actions.</p> <p>b Click the green arrow to run the worklist actions.</p> <p>c Check the report to make sure that the method options are correctly set.</p>

When you set up a worklist in Data Acquisition, add the data analysis method you just created under the column **Override DA Method**. Refer to the MassHunter Data Acquisition user guides and online Help for more information.

If you do not see the column for **Override DA Method** in the worklist, it may be hidden between the Method and Data File columns. Move the mouse pointer to the boundary between these two columns. When the pointer changes to a double-sided arrow, move the column boundary to the right until you see the **Override DA Method** column.

Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

The use of Auto MS/MS has many advantages.

- Only one run is needed to both screen for compounds using accurate mass database search, and do a library search for identification.
- For a complex sample, a large database can result in a high number of hits, which is difficult for Targeted MS/MS to handle because of the burden on the duty cycle for the instrument, especially as two or three collision energies (10 and 20 or 10, 20 and 40 eV) are collected for each MS/MS peak. Auto MS/MS eliminates this problem because false positives are removed with the library search. However, lower library scores are expected because the collision energies do not exactly match those of the library spectra, which are measured at 10, 20 and 40 eV.
- Auto MS/MS can collect MS/MS spectra of potentially important compounds that are not currently in the PCDL. The ability to archive and retrieve these spectra can be useful, for example, in post-mortem analysis where time has passed and another toxin is now suspected to be present.

Refer to the MassHunter Data Acquisition online Help and user guides to learn more about how Auto MS/MS works.

Use the example data file **ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.d** found in the **Example Data** folder on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL disc. If you have the G3876AA MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL Kit and you ran the test mix, you can use the data file that you acquired. Your results can differ slightly.

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file

In this step, you use Find Compounds by Formula to screen the compounds by match to the accurate MS mass and isotope pattern in the PCDL.

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file

Step	Detailed Instructions	Comments
1 Open the ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.d file.	<p>a Open the Agilent MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program. Click Cancel if you are asked to open a data file.</p> <p>b Load the data analysis method ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS_DA.m.</p> <p>c Open the data file ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.d. See Figure 33.</p>	<p>This chromatogram is different than for Targeted MS/MS. In Auto MS/MS mode, single-MS data is collected in a survey scan, and when an ion meets the criteria that you set, an MS/MS analysis is done under the conditions specified in the method. In this example the collision energy uses a collision energy calculation described below.</p> <p>For an example of Auto MS/MS results, see ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.d on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCDL disc. It was run with a linear fit of the collision energy to the m/z of the precursor ion.</p> <p>Figure 32 shows the Collision Energy tab for Auto MS/MS. In this example, the actual collision energy is calculated as $6 * \frac{m}{z} \text{ of the precursor ion} + 4 = 22 \text{ eV}$. The precursor m/z value is taken from the Auto list and both that value and the charge are recorded with the data file. Therefore, if $z=2$, the nominal mass of the compound is 598 (for a di-protonated molecule), but the collision energy would still be 22 eV. Note that the graph in Figure 32 reflects the last available settings for the Use Table function, and does not reflect the Use Slope function as marked in the figure.</p>

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file (continued)

Step

Detailed Instructions

Comments

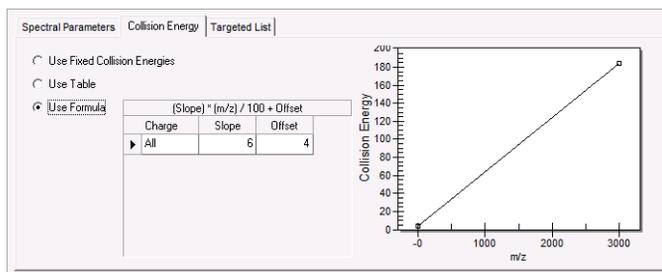


Figure 32 Collision Energy tab showing calculated values

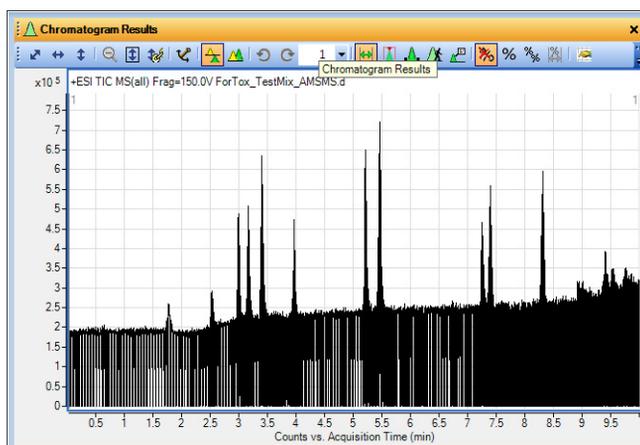


Figure 33 Total ion chromatogram of the test mix run with auto MS/MS settings.

2 Extract chromatograms to get a clearer picture of the data.

- a Right-click the chromatogram window, then click **Extract Chromatograms**.
- b For **Type**, select **TIC**.
- c In the MS Chromatogram tab, for **MS level**, select **MS**.
- d For **Polarity**, select **Positive**.
- e For **Scans**, select **Scan**. See [Figure 34](#).
- f Click **OK**.

Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file (continued)

Step

Detailed Instructions

Comments

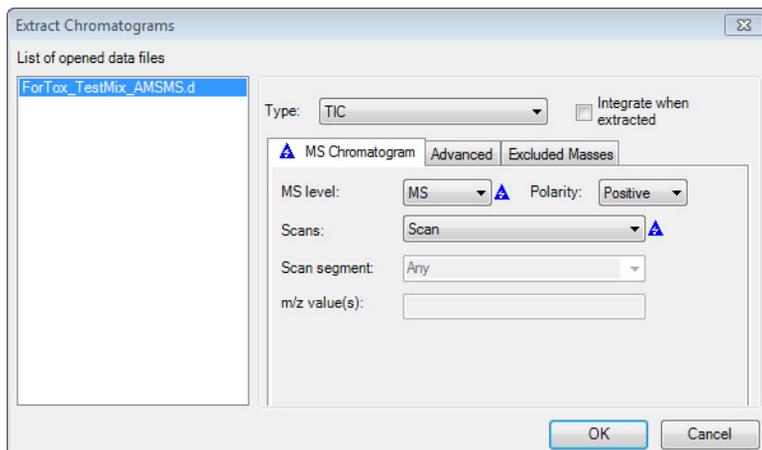


Figure 34 Extract Chromatograms setting for MS.

3 Extract MS/MS data.

a Repeat [step 2](#), but change the **MS level** to **MS/MS**. See [Figure 35](#)

When you compare the MS and MS/MS chromatograms, you can see that in MS mode, data across the peak is collected, while in MS/MS mode, data across specific points of the peak based on the acquisition settings are collected. See [Figure 36](#).

Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file (continued)

Step

Detailed Instructions

Comments

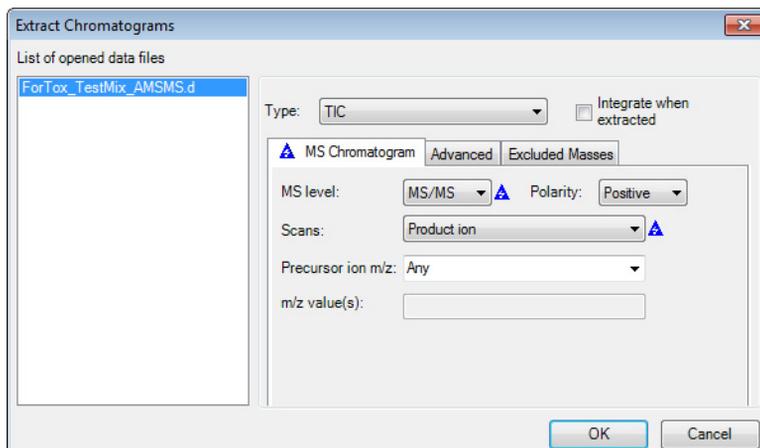


Figure 35 Extract Chromatograms setting for MS/MS.

Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 1. Learn about the content of an Auto MS/MS data file

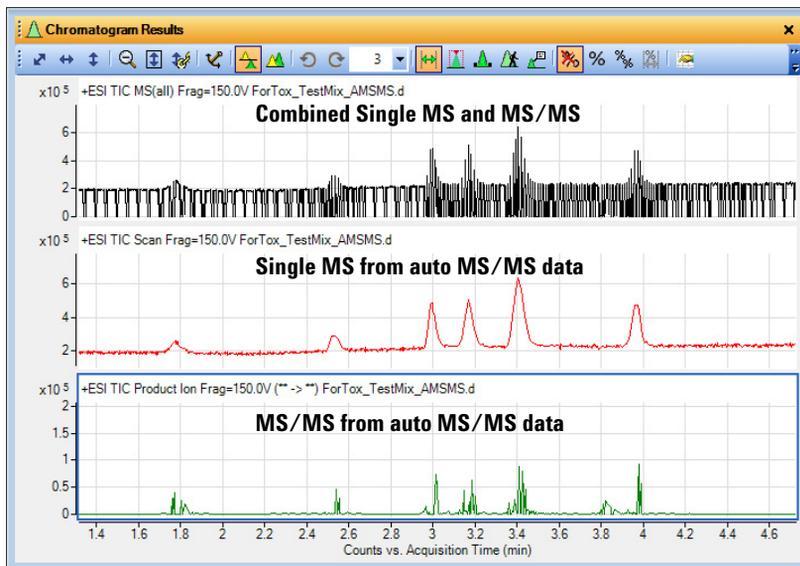


Figure 36 The top chromatogram shows all of the data points for single-MS and MS/MS. Note that MS/MS data points have lower total signal because ions in a narrow mass range are isolated for fragmentation. The middle chromatogram shows the single-MS only and it is clear that the Q-TOF LC/MS is collecting mostly single-MS data. The bottom chromatogram is created by connecting all points where MS/MS spectra were acquired.

Exercise 2. Optimize the number of data points

The number of data points for the single-MS and the MS/MS in Auto MS/MS mode depend on the acquisition settings. The more spectra per second that are collected, the fewer transients per spectrum, and the lower the signal. Spectral parameters can be adjusted in the MassHunter Data Acquisition program, in the Acquisition tab. You want to find the balance between missing compounds due to low sensitivity, or missing compounds because of slow cycle time.

Figure 37 shows the spectra parameters that are typically used for Auto MS/MS.

The screenshot displays the 'Spectral Parameters' tab in the MassHunter Data Acquisition software. It is divided into two main sections: 'MS' and 'MS/MS'. Each section has a 'Mass Range' and an 'Acquisition Rate/Time' sub-section. The 'MS' section shows a Min Range of 50 m/z and a Max Range of 1000 m/z. The 'Acquisition Rate/Time' for MS is set to a Rate of 10 spectra/s, a Time of 100 ms/spectrum, and 1285 Transients/spectrum. The 'MS/MS' section shows a Min Range of 40 m/z and a Max Range of 500 m/z. The 'Acquisition Rate/Time' for MS/MS is set to a Rate of 5 spectra/s, a Time of 200 ms/spectrum, and 2615 Transients/spectrum. At the bottom, the 'Isolation Width' is set to 'Narrow (~1.3 m/z)'.

Parameter	MS Value	MS/MS Value
Min Range (m/z)	50	40
Max Range (m/z)	1000	500
Rate (spectra/s)	10	5
Time (ms/spectrum)	100	200
Transients/spectrum	1285	2615
Isolation Width	Narrow (~1.3 m/z)	

Figure 37 Spectral parameters for Auto MS/MS

- 1 In the Data Acquisition program, click the **Acquisition** tab.
- 2 In the **Precursor Selection I** tab, select the conditions for acquisition of MS/MS spectra. See Figure 38.
 - **Max Precursor Per Cycle** determines how many co-eluting ions are selected for MS/MS. Too many will negatively affect the cycle time. Too few will cause ions to be missed.
 - **Precursor Threshold** selection depends on the background of the system and how sensitive you want the analysis to be. Lower settings will find more spectra, but compounds can be missed because the system is burdened with MS/MS collection for low level ions while an ion of interest is eluting. Also, lower settings can increase the collection of lower quality spectra because of weak precursor ion signal.

Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 2. Optimize the number of data points

- **Active Exclusion** causes the ions to be selected as a peak elutes only n times (in Figure 38, $n = 2$). If *not* enabled, lower level ions can be missed. If enabled with too long a time before release, spectra near the top of the peak can be missed and the quality of the MS/MS can suffer.
- **Static Exclusion Range List** excludes the range of ions that you specify. In Figure 38, reference ions and m/z above 600 are excluded. Use this setting if you expect only smaller molecules to be in your sample.

Refer to the Data Acquisition program online Help and user guides for detailed explanation of these parameters.

The screenshot shows the 'Precursor Selection I' tab with the following settings:

- Spectral Parameters:** Max Precursor Per Cycle: 3
- Precursor Threshold:** Abs. Threshold: 1000 counts; Rel. Threshold (%): 0.05 %
- Active Exclusion:** Enabled; Excluded after: 2 Spectra; Released after: 0.05 min
- Static Exclusion Range List:** A table with columns 'Start m/z' and 'End m/z'. The table contains two rows: one with 50 and 125, and another with 600 and 1000.

Static Exclusion Range Table	
Start m/z	End m/z
50	125
600	1000

Figure 38 Precursor Selection I tab

- 3 In the **Precursor Selection II** tab, select the charge states to include.

The inclusion of only charge state of 1 is used for the test mix and applies to most small molecule drugs and toxins. The other parameters in this tab are useful for more advanced data-dependent operation. Please see the MassHunter Data Acquisition online Help and user guides for more information.

- 4 In the **Preferred/Exclude** tab, define the ions that you want to include or exclude in the search.

The ions in the list of preferred or excluded ions must have an associated mass window (in ppm), retention time and retention time window. For example, if you have peaks that elute in your blank, you may want to exclude them when collecting MS/MS. No ions were preferred or excluded for the test mix analysis.

Exercise 3. Process the data and automate

Before you finalize the data processing method to run as an automated worklist, you manually process the data first.

Data processing for Auto MS/MS is the same as for that of Targeted MS/MS.

The steps for Auto MS/MS analysis include:

- Find compounds by “Find by Formula”.
- Identify compounds by “Search Accurate Mass Library”.
- Generate Compound Report.
- Print Compound Report.

Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 3. Process the data and automate

Exercise 3. Process the data and automate

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
<p>1 Process data for Auto MS/MS as you would for Targeted MS/MS, except that you omit the collision energy in the library search options. Update settings for Find Compounds by Auto MS/MS so that all compounds will be found.</p>	<p>a Start the MassHunter Qualitative Analysis program.</p> <p>b Open the Method Editor.</p> <p>c Select only these options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find by Formula• Search a library for each compound• Show only identified compounds• MS/MS Spectra (in the Results tab) <p>See Figure 39.</p> <p>d In the Search Criteria tab, <i>clear</i> the check box for Collision energy.</p> <p>See Figure 40.</p> <p>To automate the process, do the steps in “Exercise 3. Automate the process with worklist actions” on page 52.</p>	<p>Note that MS/MS peaks triggered on adduct ion species will produce spectra that will not match to the library spectra and will result in a library score of zero.</p> <p>An auto MS/MS acquisition by its very nature is an untargeted process. It can examine only a relatively few precursors at any one instant, and can select adducts which do not fragment well under the conditions selected.</p> <p>As a result, an auto MS/MS analysis can produce library search results in which some compounds are missed in certain circumstances.</p> <p>For these cases, place entries on the auto MS/MS preferred/exclude list during specific elution time ranges to increase the chances of selecting the desired precursors or to exclude unwanted precursors. Refer to the MassHunter Q-TOF Acquisition documentation or online Help for more information.</p> <p>The first two pages form the results report for the Auto MS/MS analysis on ForTox_TestMix_AMSMS.d (found on the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL disc) is shown in Figure 41 and Figure 42.</p> <p>A copy of this report is also available on the report disc as a PDF file.</p>

Exercise 3. Process the data and automate (continued)

Steps	Detailed Instructions	Comments
-------	-----------------------	----------

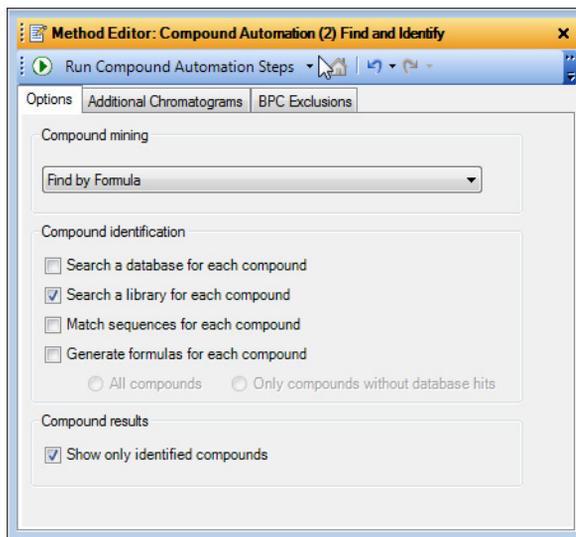


Figure 39 Find and Identify options for Auto MS/MS.

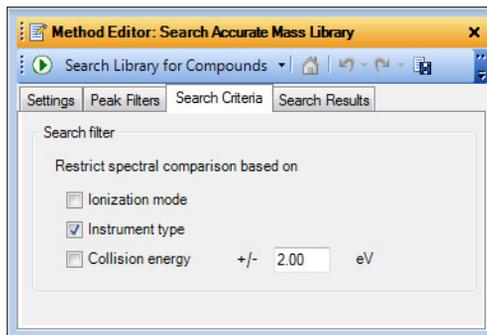


Figure 40 Search Criteria tab with Collision energy check box cleared.

Familiarization Exercises - Auto MS/MS Analysis with Identification by Library Search

Exercise 3. Process the data and automate

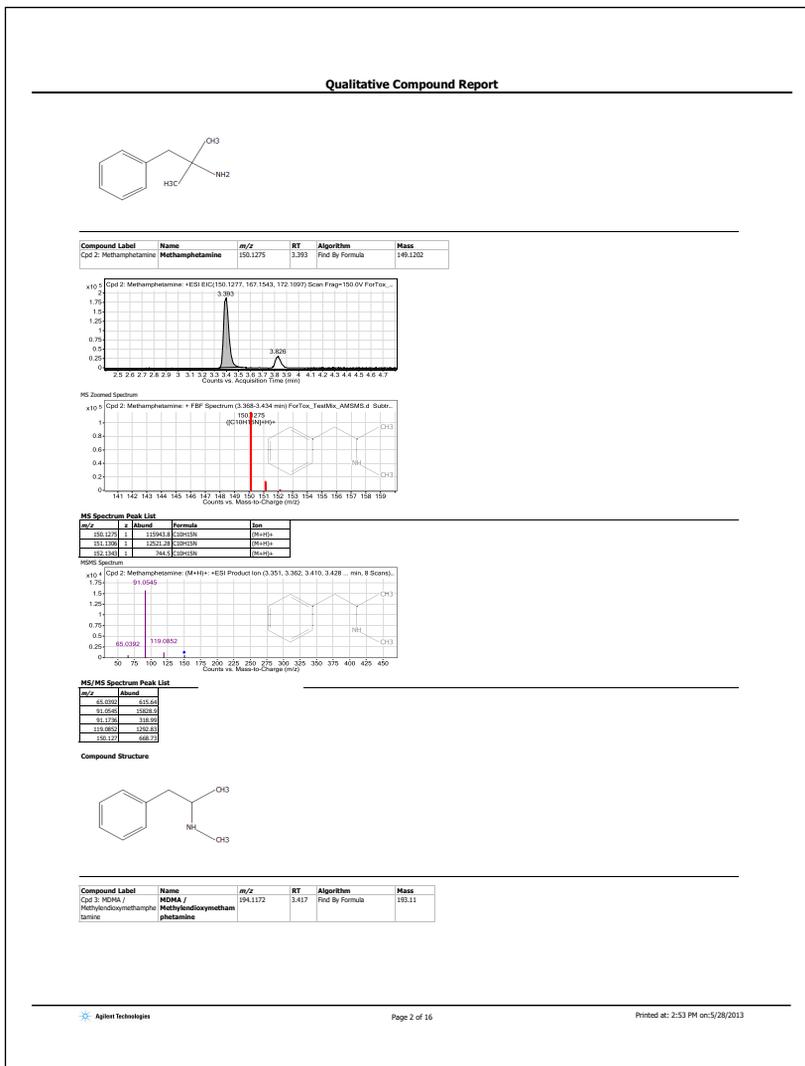


Figure 42 Page 2 of Auto MS/MS analysis report

Reference

Checkout Test Mix Content

Reference

Checkout Test Mix Content

The content of the Checkout Test Mix is listed here.

Table 1 LC/MS Forensic/Toxicology Checkout Test Mix (p/n 5190-0556) Basic Compounds

#	Chemical Name/CAS #	Concentration / Units	Tolerance (+/-)	Formula	Mass
1	PCP/Phencyclidine/77-10-1	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ N	243.1987
2	Methamphetamine/537-46-2	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₀ H ₁₅ N	149.12045
3	MDMA/Methylenedioxyampheta mine/69610-10-2	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₁ H ₁₅ NO ₂	193.11028
4	Phentermine/122-09-8	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₀ H ₁₅ N	149.12045
5	Benzoylcegonine/519-09-5	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₆ H ₁₉ NO ₄	289.32636
6	Alprazolam/28981-97-7	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ ClN ₄	308.08287
7	Diazepam/439-14-5	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₆ H ₁₂ ClN ₂ O	284.07164
8	Codeine/76-57-3	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₇ H ₂₁ NO ₂	299.15214
9	Morphine/57-27-2	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₇ H ₁₉ NO ₃	285.3380
10	Hydrocodone/125-29-1	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₇ H ₂₁ NO ₂	299.15214
11	Hydromorphone/466-99-9	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₇ H ₁₉ NO ₃	285.33766
12	Carisoprodol/78-44-4	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₂ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₄	260.32996
13	Trazodone/19794-93-5	100.0 µg/mL	0.5%	C ₁₉ H ₂₂ ClN ₅ O	371.15129
	Acetonitrile	Solvent		C ₂ H ₃ N	41.05192

Forensics and Toxicology LC Parameters

Binary Pump Parameters

Binary Pump

Name	BinPump	Model	G1312B
Ordinal #	1	Options	SSV
Stop Time (min)	10	Post Time (min)	3.5
Flow (ml/min)	0.4	Pressure Min (bar)	0
Pressure Max (bar)	600	Max Flow Gradient (ml/min)	100
Solvent A	5mM AF +0.01% FA	Solvent B	0.01% FA
Solvent Ratio A	95	Solvent Ratio B	5
Solvent Type A1		Solvent Type B1	
Solvent Type A2		Solvent Type B2	
Compress. A (*10⁻⁶/bar)	100	Compress. B (*10⁻⁶/bar)	115
Stroke A (µl)	Auto	Stroke B (µl)	Auto
Stroke Synchronization			
Contact 1	Off		
Contact 2	Off		
Contact 3	Off		
Contact 4	Off		

Pump Time Table

Time	Flow	Pressure	Solv Ratio B
0.5	0.4	No Change	5
1.5	No Change	No Change	30
5.5	No Change	No Change	60
11	0.4	No Change	95

Signals

Description
Pressure
Solvent% B

Reference

Forensics and Toxicology LC Parameters

Well Plate Sampler parameters

Wellplate Sampler

Name	h-ALS-SL	Model	G1367C
Ordinal #	1	Options	THM
Stop time (min)	As Pump	Post Time (min)	Off
Injection Type	Needle Wash	Injection Volume (µl)	2
Overlap Time (min)	Disable Overlapped Injection	Draw Position (mm)	0
Draw Position Detection	0	Draw Speed (µl/min)	100
Eject Speed (µl/min)	100	Flush Out Factor	5
Automatic Delay Volume Reduction	No	Equilibration Time (sec)	0
Wash Vessel	N/A	Wash Location	FlushPort
Wash Time (sec)	10	Wash Cycles	N/A
Contact 1	Off		
Contact 2	Off		
Contact 3	Off		
Contact 4	Off		

Column Compartment parameters

Thermostated Column Compartment

Name	Column-SL	Model	G1316B
Ordinal #	1	Options #	10Port2Pos
Stop time (min)	No Limit	Post Time (min)	Off
Left Temp. (°C)	60	Right Temp. (°C)	60
Left Ready (°C)	When Temp Within Set Point +/- 0.8	Right Ready (°C)	When Temp Within Set Point
Valve Position	1		
Contact 1	Off		
Contact 2	Off		
Contact 3	Off		
Contact 4	Off		

Forensics and Toxicology LC/MS Parameters

Source parameters

Source Parameters

Parameter	Value
Gas Temp (°C)	350
Gas Flow (l/min)	12.0
Nebulizer (psi)	30

Scan Segments

Scan Seg #	Ion Polarity
1	Positive

Scan Segment 1

Scan Source Parameters

Parameter	Value
VCap	3500
Fragmentor	120
Skimmer1	65.0
OctopoleRFPeak	750

ReferenceMasses

Ref Mass Enabled	Enabled
Use Bottle A RefNebulizer	True
Ref Nebulizer	7

AutoRecalibration

Average Scans	1
Detection Window	100
Min Height	1000

Reference Masses

<Positive>
121.05087300
922.00979800

Chromatograms

Chrom Type	Label	Offset	Y-Range
TIC	TIC	15	5000000
EIC	EIC	15	5000000

Reference

Forensics and Toxicology LC/MS Parameters

LC/MS parameters for MS acquisition

TOF/Q-TOF Mass Spectrometer

Component Name	MS Q-TOF	Component Model	G6520A
Ion Source	Dual ESI	Tune File	AutoTune.tun
Stop Mode	NoLimit	Stop Time	30.00
Can wait for temp.	Enable	Fast Polarity	N/A
MS1CentroidDataAbsThreshold	500	MS1CentroidDataRELThreshold	0.010
MS2CentroidDataAbsThreshold	5	MS2CentroidDataRELThreshold	0.010

Time Segments

Time Segment #	Start Time	Diverter Valve State	Storage Mode	Ion Mode
1	0.0 MS		Both	Dual ESI

Time Segment 1

Acquisition Mode MS1

Min Range	50
Max Range	1000
Scan Rate	3.00

LC/MS parameters for Targeted MS/MS analysis

TOF/Q-TOF Mass Spectrometer

Component Name	MS Q-TOF	Component Model	G6520A
Ion Source	Dual ESI	Tune File	AutoTune.tun
Stop Mode	NoLimit	Stop Time	30.00
Can wait for temp.	Enable	Fast Polarity	N/A
MS1CentroidDataAbsThreshold	200	MS1CentroidDataRELThreshold	0.010
MS2CentroidDataAbsThreshold	5	MS2CentroidDataRELThreshold	0.010

Time Segments

Time Segment #	Start Time	Diverter Valve State	Storage Mode	Ion Mode
1	0.0 MS		Centroid	Dual ESI

LC/MS parameters for Targeted MS/MS analysis (continued)

Time Segment 1

Acquisition Mode TargetedMS2

MS Min Range	50
MS Max Range	1000
MS Scan Rate	10.00
MS/MS Min Range	40
MS/MS Max Range	1000
MS/MS Scan Rate	5.00
Max Time Between MS	0.0
Use Fixed Collision Energies	10.00,20.00,40.00

Targeted Mass List

Mass	Z	Ret. Time	Delta ret. time	Isolation width	Collision energy	Acquisition Time
286.143777	1	1.78	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
286.143777	1	2.52	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
300.159377	1	2.99	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
300.159377	1	3.16	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
150.127677	1	3.39	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
194.117577	1	3.41	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
150.127677	1	3.82	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
290.138677	1	3.96	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
244.205977	1	5.21	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
372.158577	1	5.41	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
261.180877	1	7.20	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
309.090177	1	7.38	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		
285.078877	1	8.29	0.50	Narrow (~1.3 amu)		

Reference

Forensics and Toxicology LC/MS Parameters

LC/MS parameters for Auto MS/MS analysis

TOF/Q-TOF Mass Spectrometer

Component Name	MS Q-TOF	Component Model	G6520A
Ion Source	Dual ESI	Tune File	AutoTune.tun
Stop Mode	NoLimit	Stop Time	30.00
Can wait for temp.	Enable	Fast Polarity	N/A
MS1CentroidDataAbsThreshold	200	MS1CentroidDataRELThreshold	0.010
MS2CentroidDataAbsThreshold	5	MS2CentroidDataRELThreshold	0.010

Time Segments

Time Segment #	Start Time	Diverter Valve State	Storage Mode	Ion Mode
1	0.0 MS		Centroid	Dual ESI

Time Segment 1

Acquisition Mode AutoMS2

MS Min Range	50
MS Max Range	1000
MS Scan Rate	10.00
MS/MS Min Range	40
MS/MS Max Range	500
MS/MS Scan Rate	5.00
Isolation Width MS/MS	Narrow (~1.3 amu)

Ramped Collision Energy

Slope	6.000
Offset	4.00

Ramped Collision Energy

Charge	Slope	Offset
All	6	4

Precursor Selection

Max Precursors Per Cycle	3
Threshold (Abs)	1000
Threshold (Rel)	0.050
Precursor abundance based scan speed	No
Purity Stringency (%)	100.000
Purity Cutoff (%)	30.000
Isotope Model	Common
Active exclusion enabled	Yes
Active exclusion excluded after (spectra)	2
Active exclusion released after (min)	0.05
Sort precursors	By abundance only

Static Exclusion Ranges

StartMZ	EndMZ
50.00	125.00
600.00	1000.00

Static Exclusion Ranges

Charge State Preference
2
1

Forward vs. Reverse Library Search

The forward search compares the Target spectrum to the library. The reverse search compares the library spectra to the Target spectrum. Scores depend on which search is done. High scores are achieved when the bulk of the ion signal is assigned.

In a *forward* search, peaks in Target spectrum are compared to peaks in Library spectrum. Forward search penalizes peaks that are in Target but not in Library AND the peaks that are in Library but not in Target.

A low score for a forward search indicates noise and/or impurities.

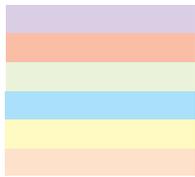
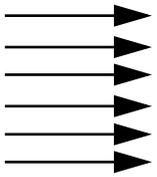
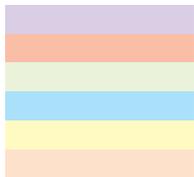
In a *reverse* search, peaks in Library spectrum are compared to peaks in Target spectrum. Reverse search only penalizes peaks that are in Library but not in Target.

A reverse search works well for weak or noisy signals if all library ions are included at the approximate correct abundance.

A low reverse search indicates a bad match.

Table 3 shows some examples of product ion conditions and results.

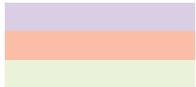
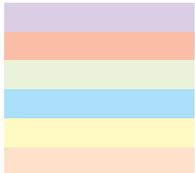
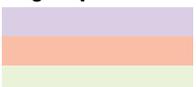
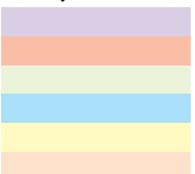
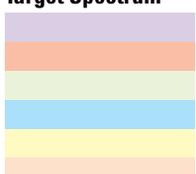
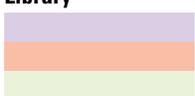
Table 3 Example product ion conditions and search results

Search	Condition	Score	
Forward	<p>Target Spectrum</p> 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Library</p> 	High
<p>All of the product ions in the sample spectrum are found in the library and vice versa.</p>			

Reference

Forward vs. Reverse Library Search

Table 3 Example product ion conditions and search results (continued)

Search	Condition	Score
Forward	<p>Target Spectrum</p>  <p>→ → →</p> <p>Library</p> 	Low
	<p>All of the product ions in the sample spectrum are found in the library, but only some of the product ions in the library are found in the sample spectrum.</p>	
Reverse	<p>Target Spectrum</p>  <p>← ← ← ← ← ←</p> <p>Library</p> 	Low
	<p>Only some of the product ions in the library are found in the sample spectrum.</p>	
Reverse	<p>Target Spectrum</p>  <p>← ← ←</p> <p>Library</p> 	High
	<p>All of the product ions in the library are found in the sample spectrum.</p>	

In This Guide

This Quick Start Guide describes how to use the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL.

This information is subject to change without notice. Agilent Technologies shall not be liable for errors contained herein or for incidental or consequential damages with the furnishing, performance or use of this material. Agilent specifically disclaims any warranties for any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

This guide is valid for the B.04.02 revision or higher of the MassHunter Forensics and Toxicology PCD or PCDL, until superseded.

© Agilent Technologies, Inc. 2013

Printed in USA
Revision A, June 2013



G6855-90008