



Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry,  
Department of Chemistry  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens



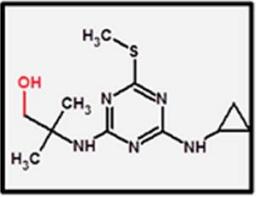
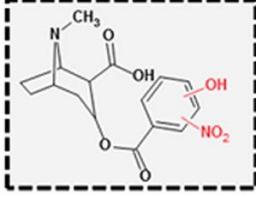
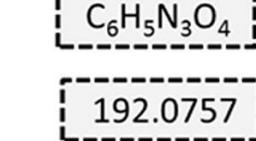
# **Development and Prediction of Liquid Chromatographic Retention Time Indices (RTI) to facilitate non-target identification**

Presenter:

Reza Aalizadeh

# Identification confidence in HRMS

## Example

	Identification confidence	Minimum data requirements
	<b>Level 1: Confirmed structure</b> by reference standard	MS, MS <sup>2</sup> , RT, Reference Std.
	<b>Level 2: Probable structure</b> a) by library spectrum match b) by diagnostic evidence	MS, MS <sup>2</sup> , Library MS <sup>2</sup> MS, MS <sup>2</sup> , Exp. data
	<b>Level 3: Tentative candidate(s)</b> structure, substituent, class	MS, MS <sup>2</sup> , Exp. data
$C_6H_5N_3O_4$	<b>Level 4: Unequivocal molecular formula</b>	MS isotope/adduct
192.0757	<b>Level 5: Exact mass</b> of interest	MS

Retention time prediction is highly useful

Proposed identification confidence levels in high resolution mass spectrometric analysis. Note: MS<sup>2</sup> is intended to also represent any form of MS fragmentation (e.g., MSe, MSn).

Published in: Emma L. Schymanski; Junho Jeon; Rebekka Gulde; Kathrin Fenner; Matthias Ruff; Heinz P. Singer; Juliane Hollender; *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2014**, 48, 2097-2098.

DOI: 10.1021/es5002105

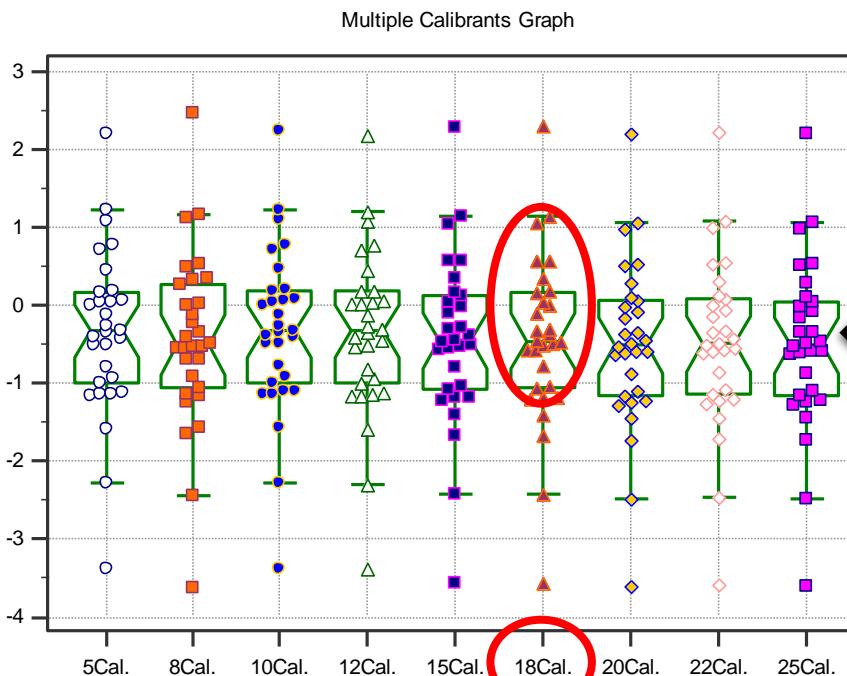
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# Dataset development

- RPLC: Two extensive datasets consist of **1863** and **308 compounds** were developed for (+) and (-) **ESI-LC-HRMS**, respectively  
LC conditions with column (**Acclaim C18**)  
**A:** H<sub>2</sub>O/MeOH 90:10 with 5 mM ammonium formate (for -ESI) & 0.01% formic acid (for +ESI)  
**B:** MeOH with 5 mM ammonium formate (for -ESI) & 0.01% formic acid (for +ESI)

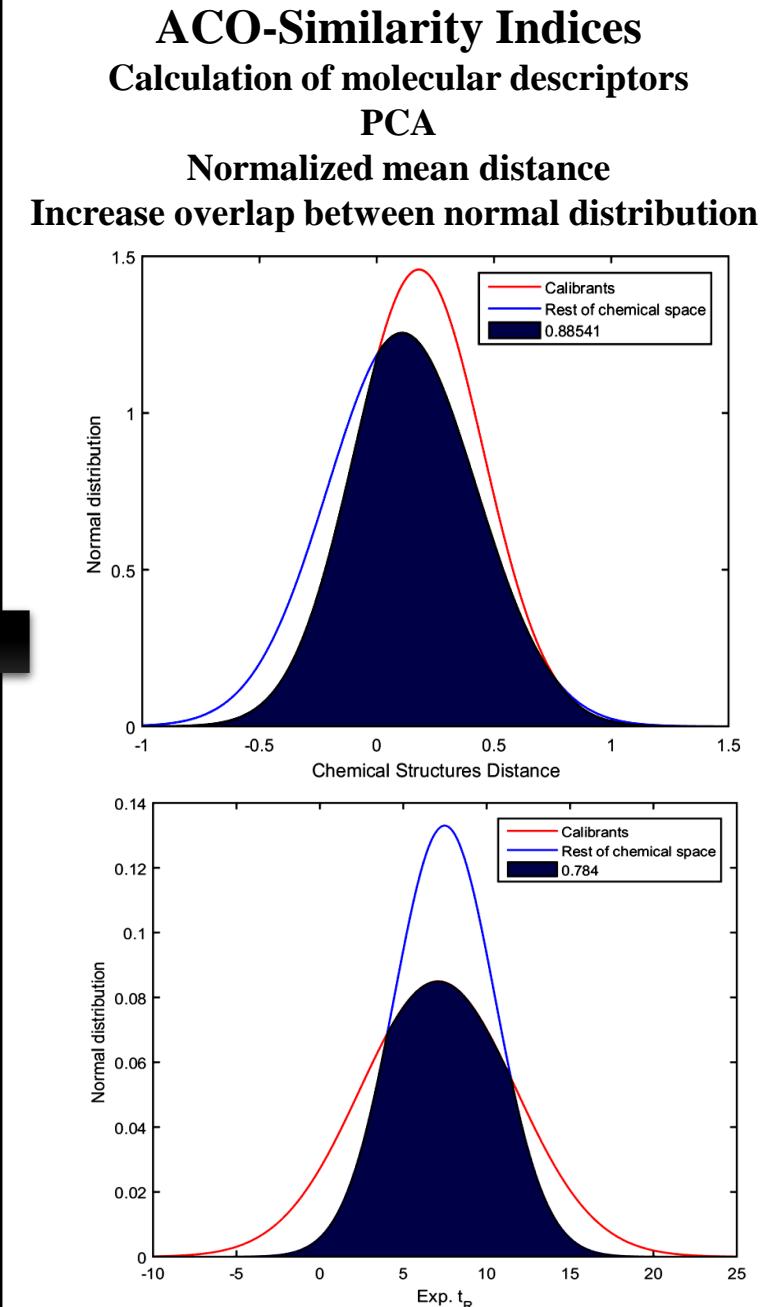
# RTI Calibrants for RPLC-(+)ESI-HRMS

**ACO-Similarity Indices**  
(in-house developed chemometric method for selection of calibrants)



Calibrants	RT (Acclaim C18)
Guanylurea	1.31
Amitrole	1.39
Histamine	1.58
Chlormequat	1.67
Methamidophos	2.76
Vancomycin	3.26
Cefoperazone	4.36
Trichlorfon	5.23
Butocarboxim	6.07
Dichlorvos	7.00
Tylosin	7.88
TCMTB	9.25
rifaximin	10.06
Spinosad A	11.34
Emamectin B1a	12.40
Avermectin B1a	13.64
Nigericin	13.94
Ivermectin B1a	14.40

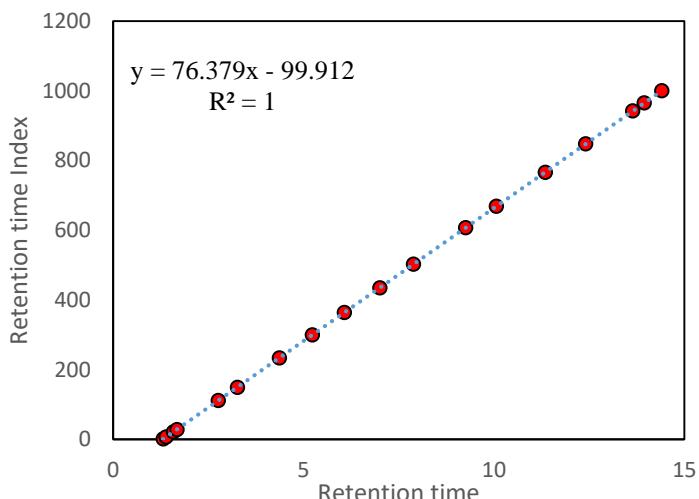
The limit of selection of calibrants was set to 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 22 and 25. Out of these calibrants, 18 were selected as optimum number due to the inclusion of high chemical features and overlap between the Rt observed



# RTI for RPLC-(+)ESI-HRMS

ACO based QSRR models for RTI system using SMILES information

$$RTI = 76.379(RT) - 99.912$$



Predicted by QSRR model developed based on LC conditions with a C18 column (**Acclaim C18**)

A: H<sub>2</sub>O/MeOH 90:10 with 5 mM ammonium formate & 0.01% formic acid .

B: MeOH with 5 mM ammonium formate & 0.01% formic acid

Gradient: 99/1

	Training			Test		
	R2	RMSE	F	R2	RMSE	F
<b>MLR</b>	0.835	92.575	1515.130	0.870	83.184	426.416
<b>SVM</b>	<b>0.861</b>	84.869	1838.745	<b>0.880</b>	80.029	467.038

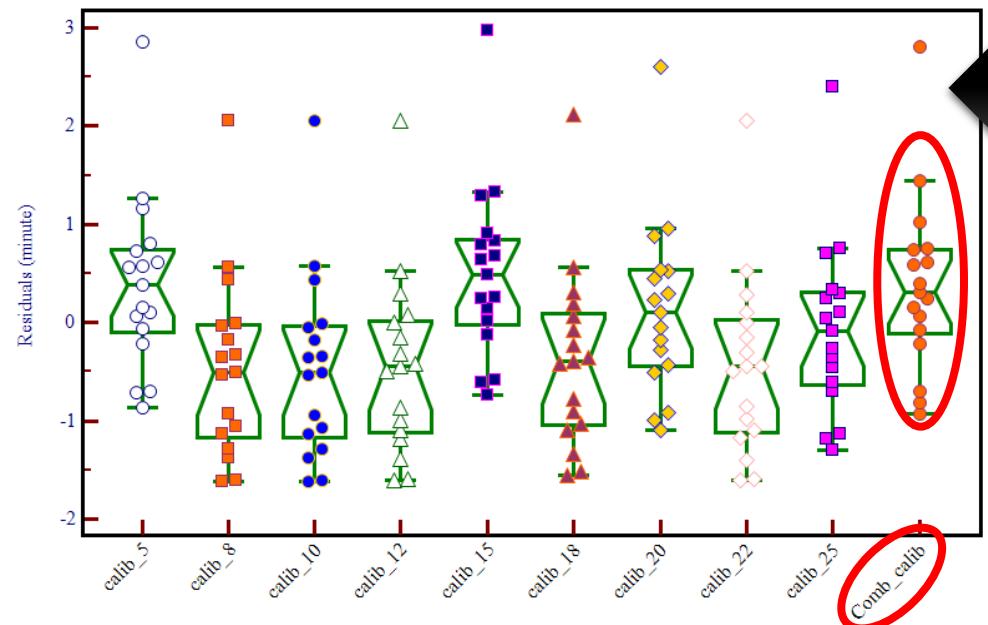
$$RTI = \frac{(RTx - RTmin)}{(RTmax - RTmin)} * 1000$$

Calibrants	RT (Acclaim C18)	RTI
<b>Guanylurea</b>	1.31	1
<b>Amitrole</b>	1.39	6.111536
<b>Histamine</b>	1.58	20.62643
<b>Chlormequat</b>	1.67	27.50191
<b>Methamidophos</b>	2.76	110.7716
<b>Vancomycin</b>	3.26	148.9687
<b>Cefoperazone</b>	4.36	233.0023
<b>Trichlorfon</b>	5.23	299.4652
<b>Butocarboxim</b>	6.07	363.6364
<b>Dichlorvos</b>	7	434.683
<b>Tylosin</b>	7.88	501.9099
<b>TCMTB</b>	9.25	606.5699
<b>rifaximin</b>	10.06	668.4492
<b>Spinosad A</b>	11.34	766.2338
<b>Emamectin B1a</b>	12.4	847.2116
<b>AvermectinB1a</b>	13.64	941.9404
<b>Nigericin</b>	13.94	964.8587
<b>Ivermectin B1a</b>	14.4	1000

# RTI for LC-(-)ESI-HRMS

## ACO-Similarity Indices

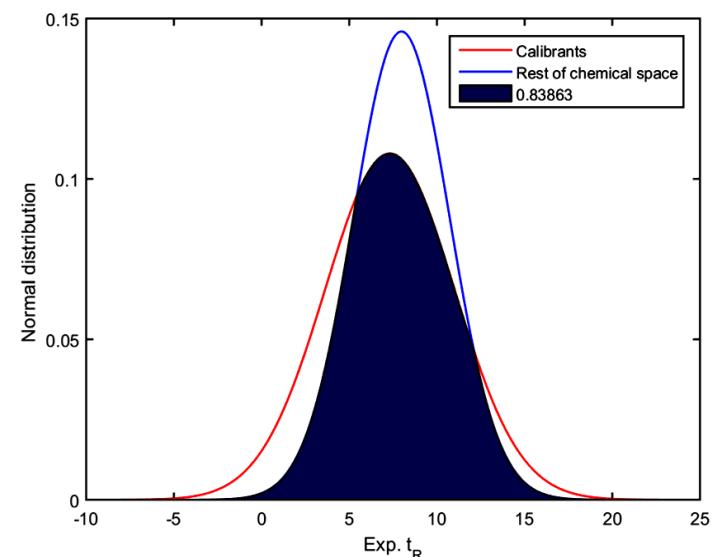
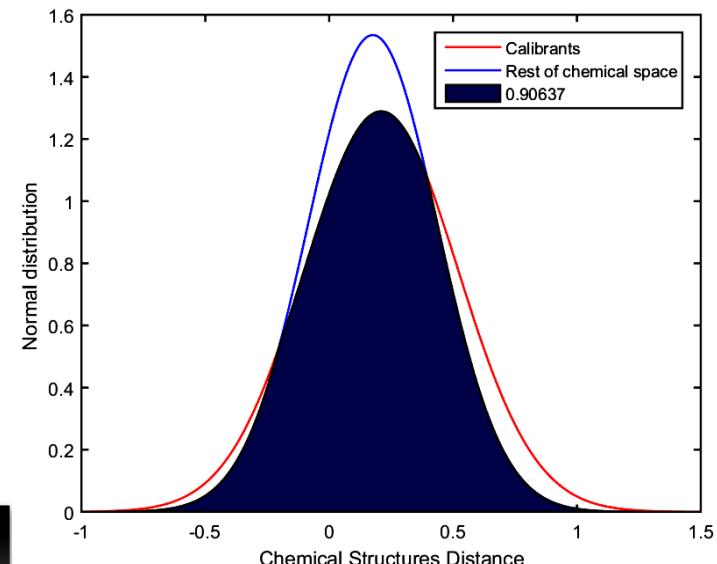
(in-house developed chemometric method for selection of calibrants)



Calibrants	RT (Acclaim C18)
Amitrole	1.67
benzoic acid	2.88
Acephate	3.09
Salicylic acid	3.58
Simazine 2-Hydroxy	4.96
Tepraloxydim	5.26
Bromoxynil	5.35
MCPA	6.49
Valproic acid	7.04
Phenytoin	7.16
Flamprop	7.49
Benodanil	7.99
Dinoterb	8.13
Inabenfide	9.23
Coumaphos	10.98
triclosan	12.02
AvermectinB1a	13.64
salinomycin	14.67

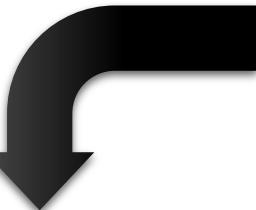
The limit of selection of calibrants was set to 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 22 and 25. Out of these calibrants, 18 were selected as optimum number due to the inclusion of high chemical features and overlap between the Rt observed

## ACO-Similarity Indices

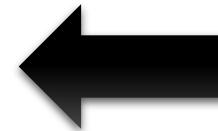
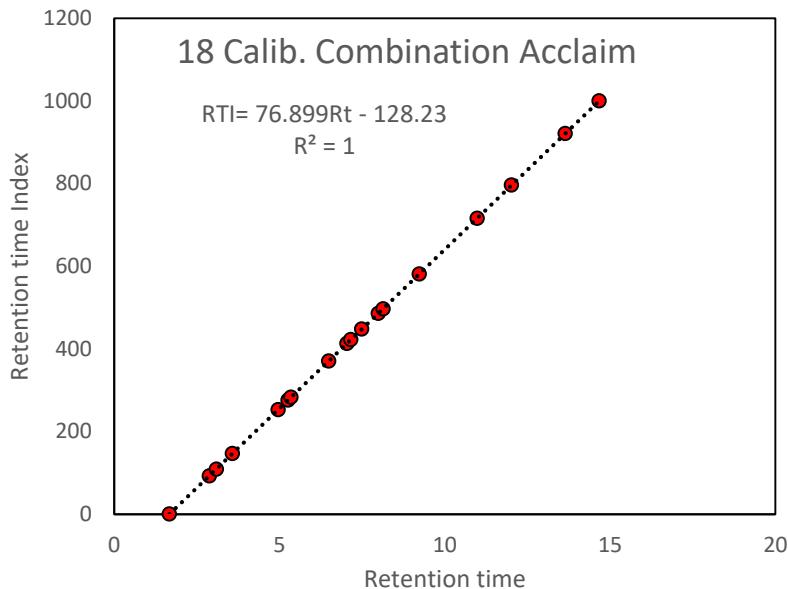
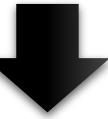


# RTI for RPLC-(-)ESI-HRMS

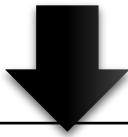
ACO based QSRR models for RTI system using SMILES information



$$RTI = 76.899(Rt) - 128.23$$



$$RTI = \frac{(RTx - RTmin)}{(RTmax - RTmin)} * 1000$$

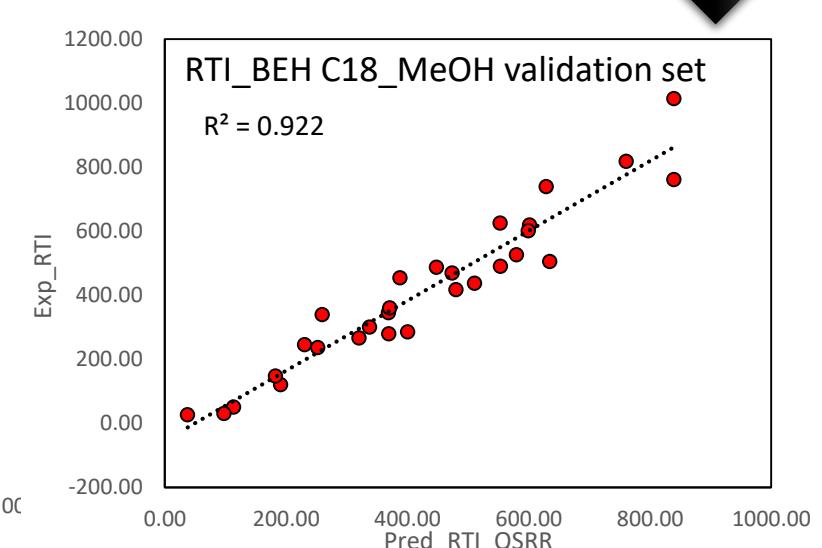
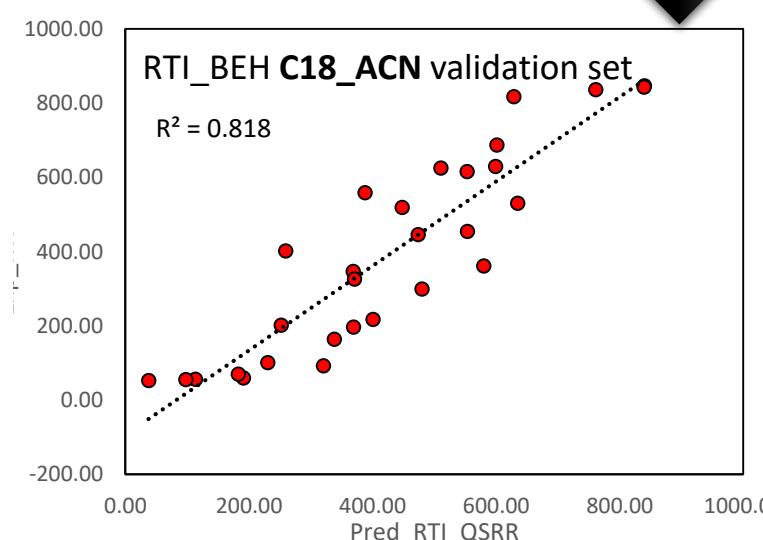
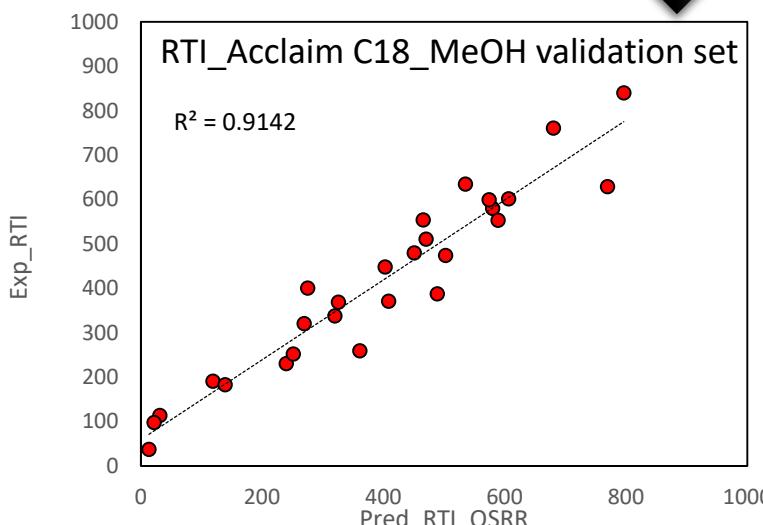
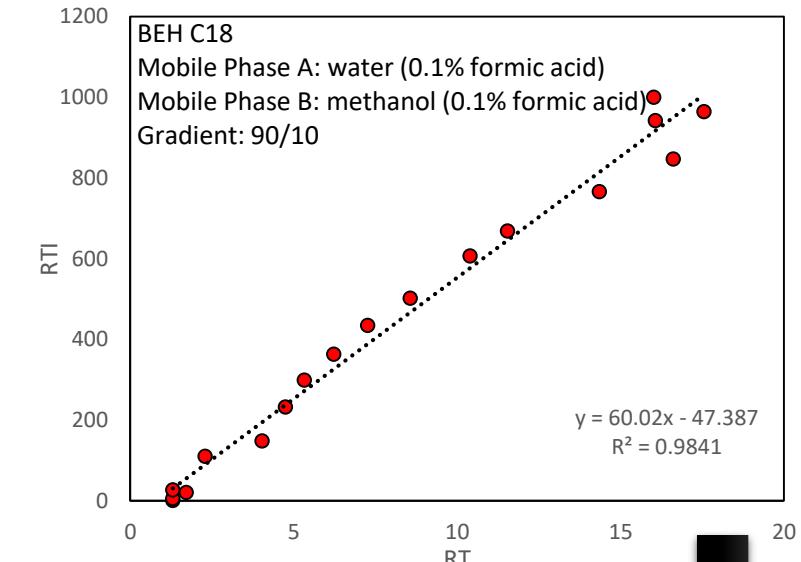
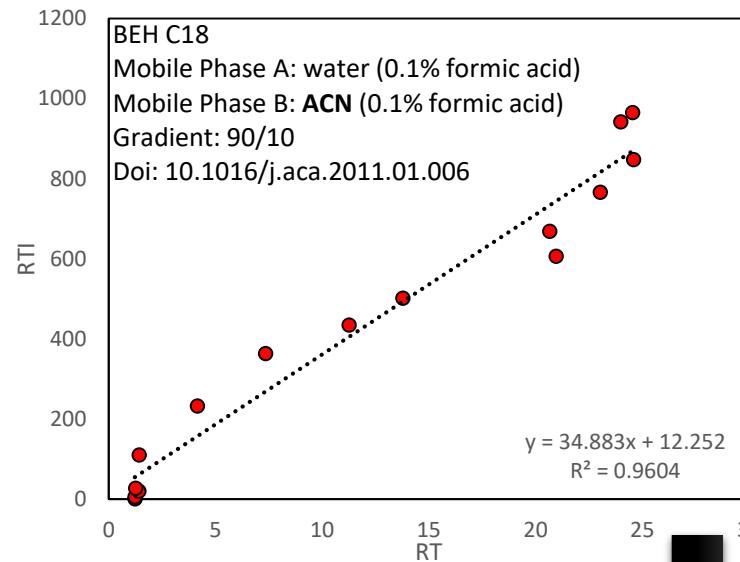
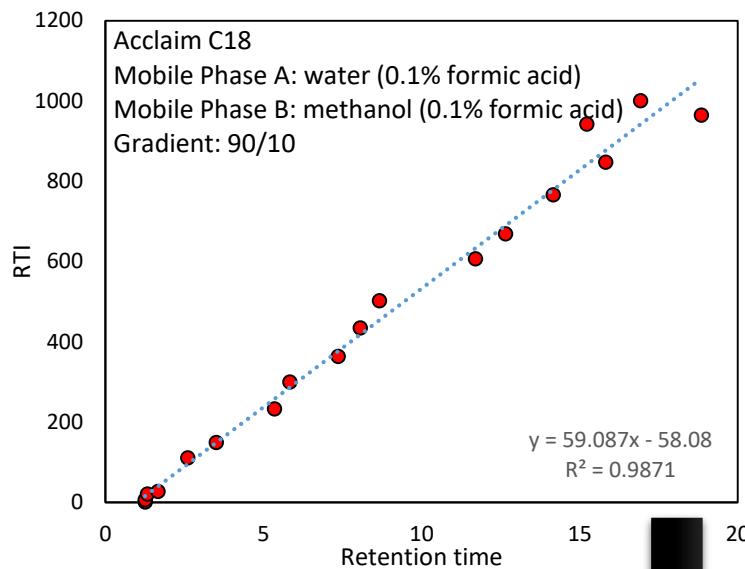


Calibrants	RT (Acclaim C18)	RTI
Amitrole	1.67	1
benzoic acid	2.88	93.07692
Acephate	3.09	109.2308
Salicylic acid	3.58	146.9231
Simazine 2-Hydroxy	4.96	253.0769
Tepraloxoxydim	5.26	276.1538
Bromoxynil	5.35	283.0769
MCPA	6.49	370.7692
Valproic acid	7.04	413.0769
Phenytoin	7.16	422.3077
Flamprop	7.49	447.6923
Benodanil	7.99	486.1538
Dinoterb	8.13	496.9231
Inabenfide	9.23	581.5385
Coumaphos	10.98	716.1538
triclosan	12.02	796.1538
AvermectinB1a	13.64	920.7692
salinomycin	14.67	1000

	Training				Test		
	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	F	Q <sup>2</sup> <sub>LOO</sub>	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	F
ACO-MLR	0.844	1.086	213.86	0.830	0.876	1.109	62.280
ACO-SVM	0.952	0.6231	648.22	0.832	0.884	1.040	54.590

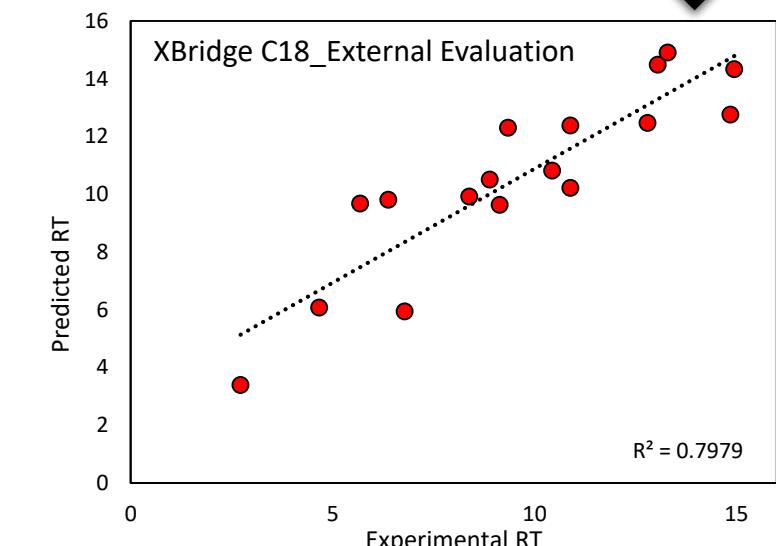
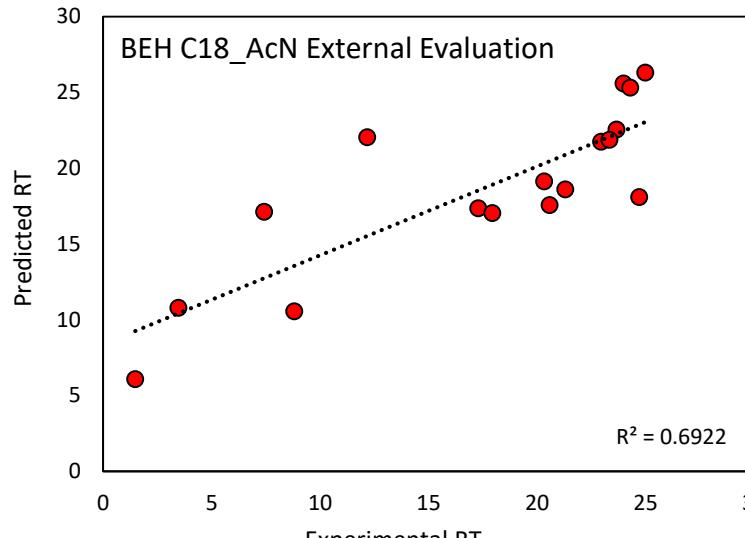
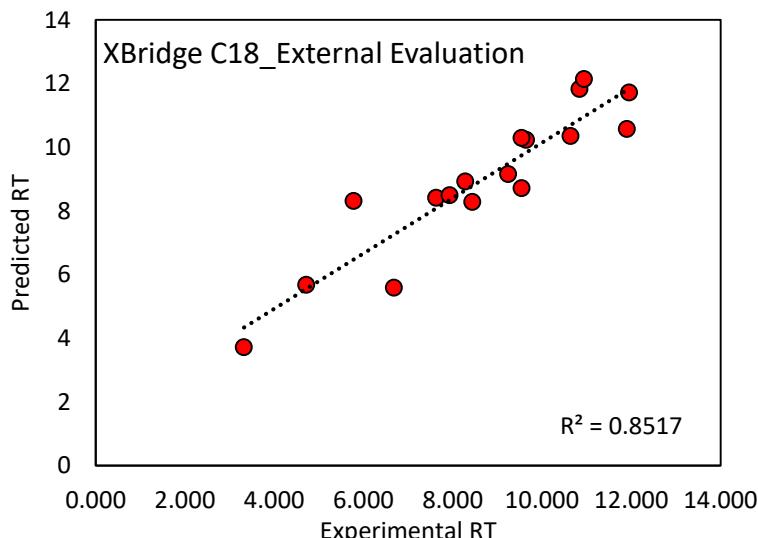
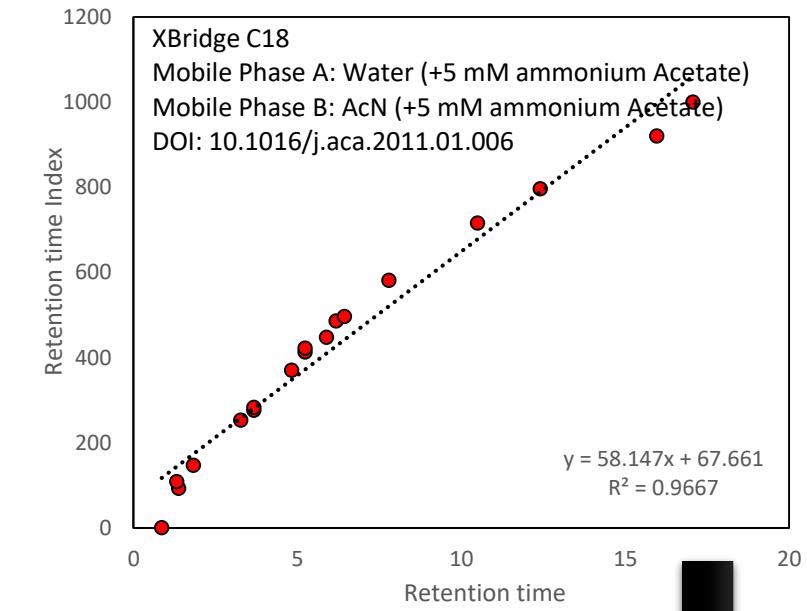
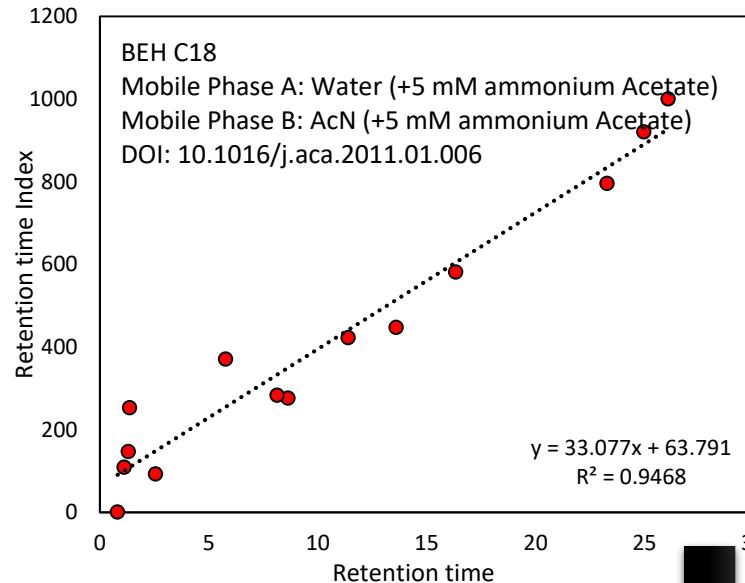
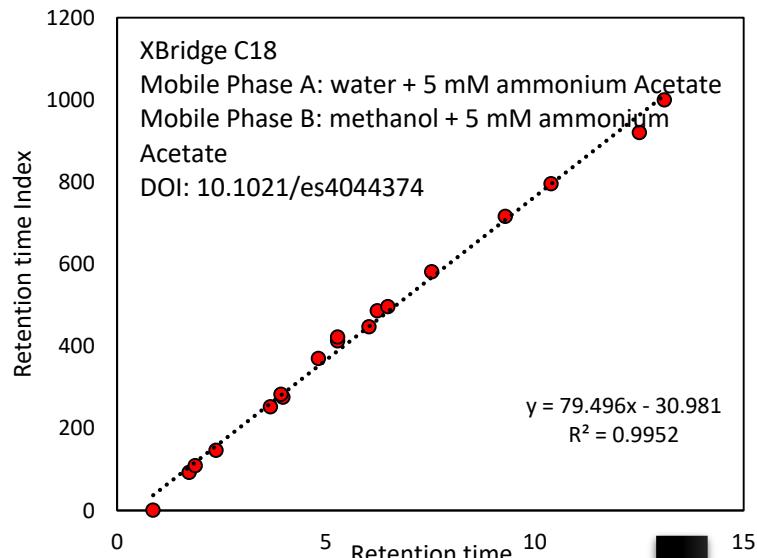
# RTI(+)ESI-LC-HRMS

## Different LC conditions and the external validation accuracy



# RTI(-)ESI-LC-HRMS

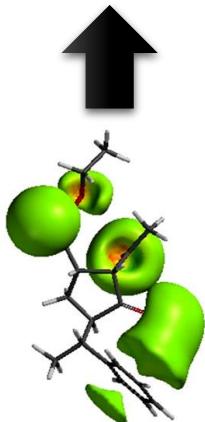
## Different LC conditions and the external validation accuracy



# Prediction of RTI workflow

**Affinity Propagation**  
(Training (80%) & Test (20%) set)  
(doi:10.1126/science.1136800)

Molecular  
Descriptors  
(Molecule version 1.0)

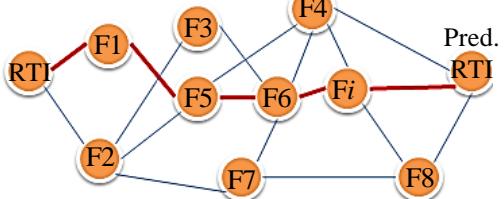


Opt. by semi-empirical  
Energy = -687.77 KJ/mol  
PSA = 48.527 Å<sup>2</sup>

SMILES  
+  
Exp. RTI

**Ant Colony Optimization  
(ACO)**

(For selecting relevant molecular descriptor)  
(doi:10.1016/j.chemolab.2009.05.005)11

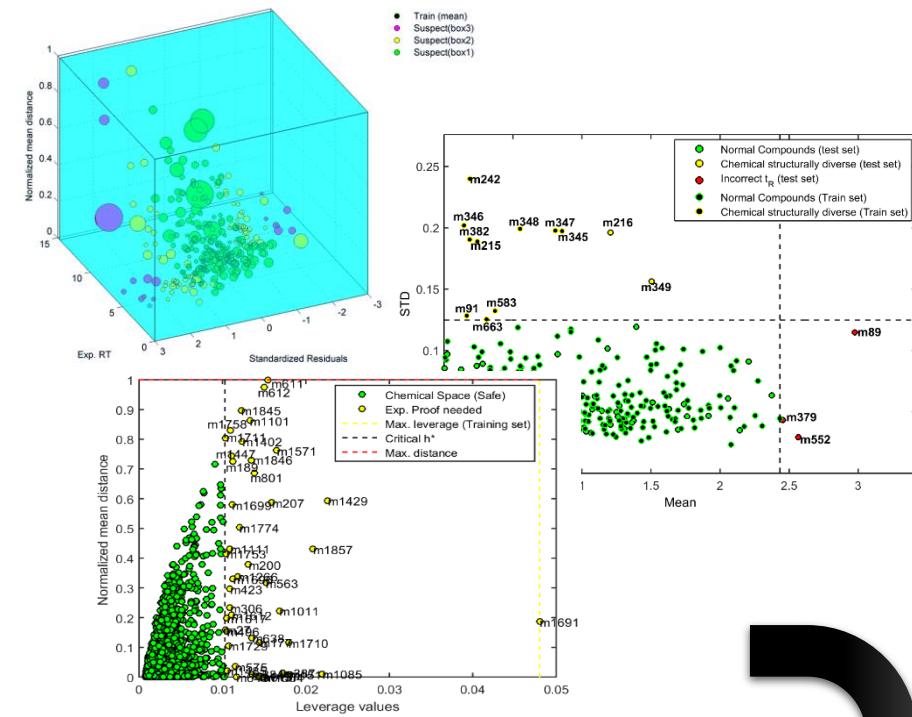


**Linear and Non-linear  
Regressions**

(Multiple Linear Regressions (MLR)  
Support Vector Machine (SVM))

**Evaluation of Internal  
and External Accuracy**

(doi:10.1021/ci200211n)  
(doi:10.1021/ci300084j)  
(doi:10.1002/jcc.23231)



**Application to Suspect List**



**Applicability Domain**  
(OTrAMS)  
(Monte Carlo Simulation)  
(DOI: 10.1002/jcc.21351)  
(Chemical Space Failure)  
(DOI: 10.1039/C6EM00679E)

**RTI Predicted  
for Suspect List**  
(Rejected or Accepted)

# Evaluation of RTI (+ESI) system by

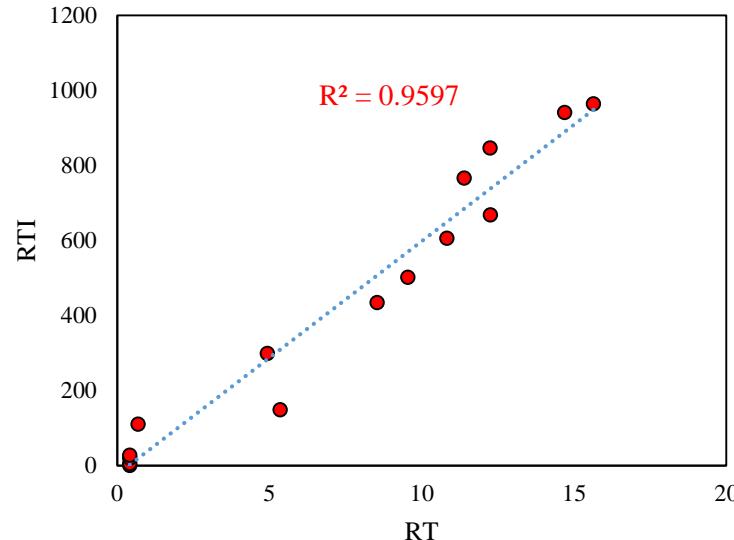
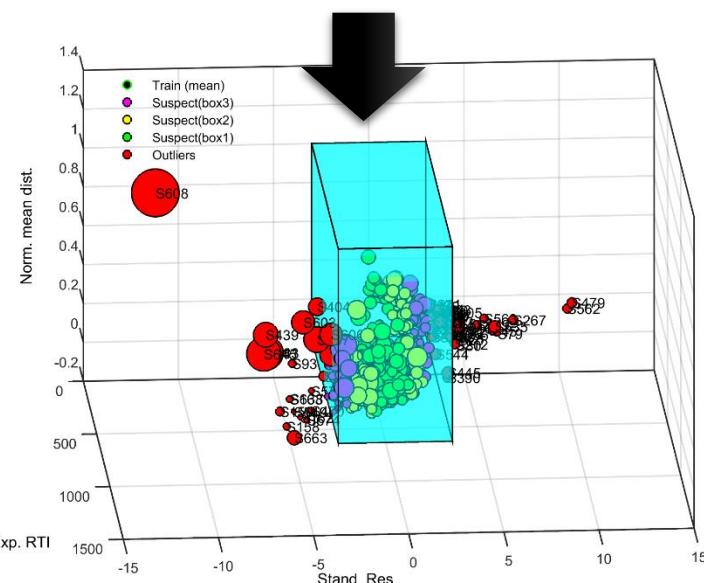
*Department Effect-Directed Analysis,*

*Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ*

Different LC conditions and the external validation accuracy



$$\text{RTI} = 62.17\text{RT} - 23.532$$



**676 compounds (external set)**  
**500 compounds  $\Delta\text{RT} < 2 \text{ min}$**   
**176 (67) compounds  $\Delta\text{RT} > 2 \text{ (3) min}$**



LC conditions

**Column:**

**Molibe phase:**

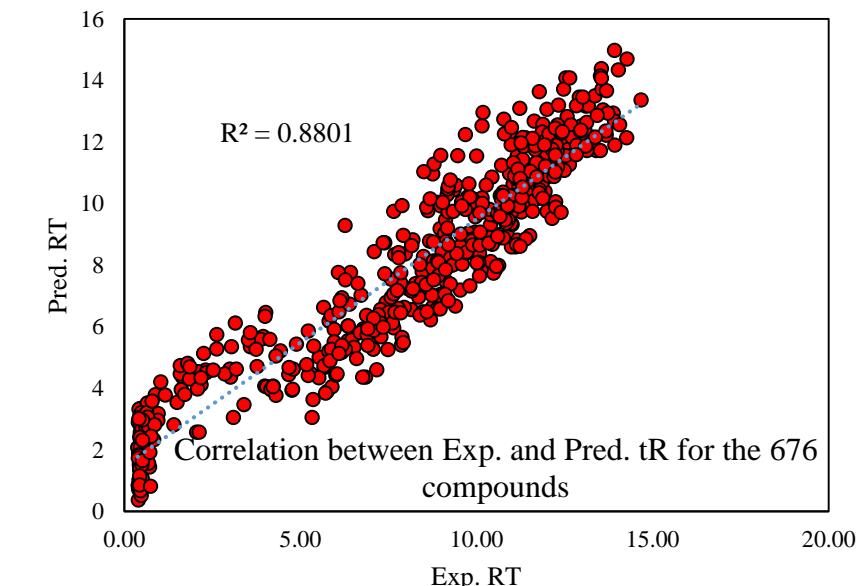
**Gradient:**

Phenomenex Kinetex C18 EVO 50x2.1 mm, 2.6  $\mu\text{m}$ , precolumn 4x2.1 mm, 2.6  $\mu\text{m}$

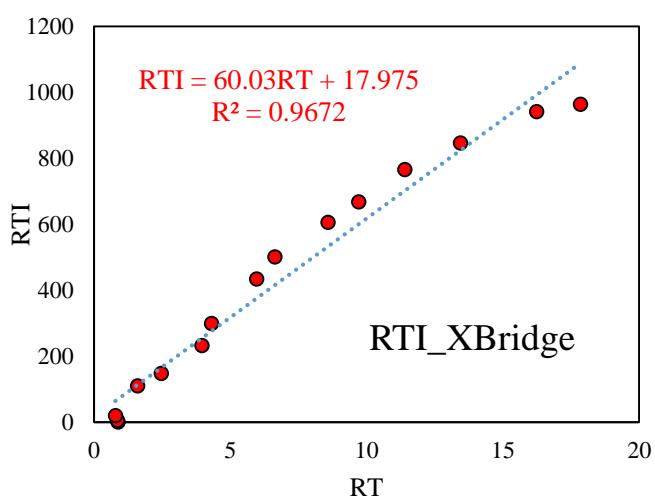
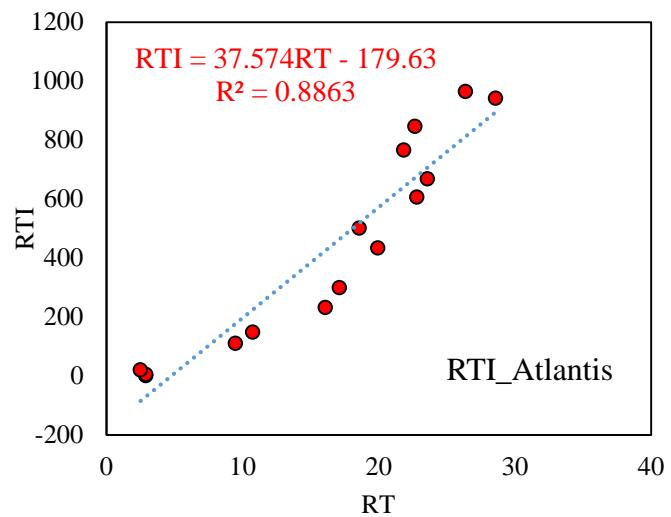
A Water 0.1% formic acid

B Methanol containing 0.1% formic acid

time (min)	A	B
0.00	95	5
1.00	95	5
13.00	0	100
24.00	0	100



# Evaluation of RTI (+ESI) system by Eawag



LC conditions

Column:

Molibe phase:

Gradient:

Column:

Molibe phase:

Gradient:

XBridge C18 3.5um, 2.1x50mm with pre-column, Waters

A Nanopure water +0.1% Formic acid

B MeOH +0.1% Formic acid

90/10 at 0 min, 50/50 at 4 min, 5/95 at 17 min, 5/95 at 25 min, 90/10 at 25.1 min, 90/10 at 30 min

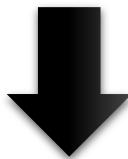
Atlantis T3 3um, 3.0x150mm with pre-column, Waters

A Nanopure water +0.1% Formic acid

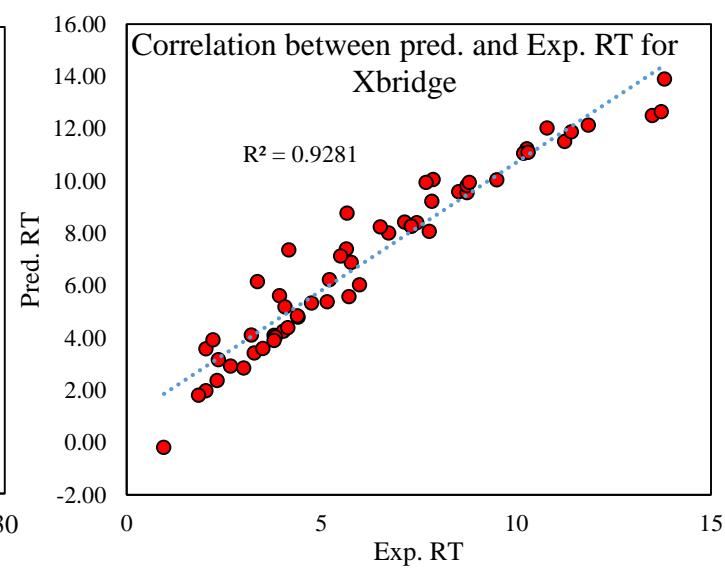
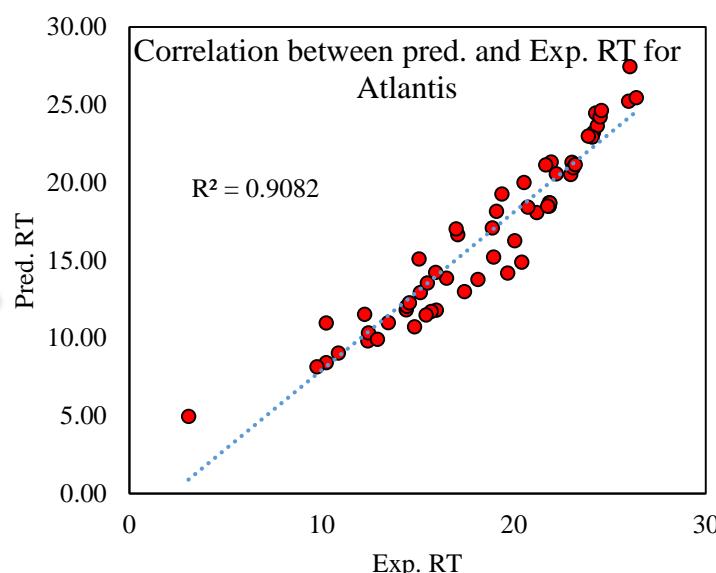
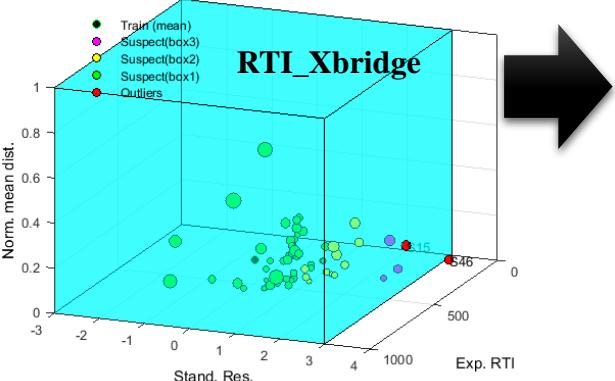
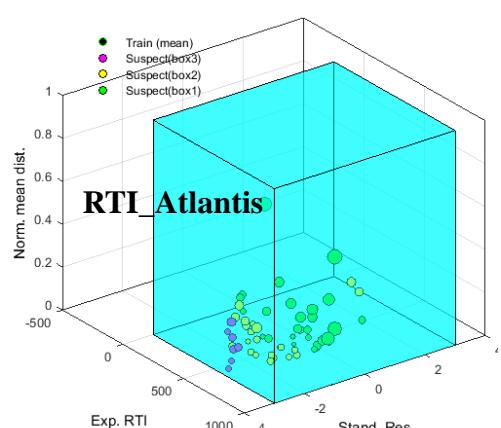
B MeOH +0.1% Formic acid

95/5 constant for 3 min, 5/95 at 22 min, 5/95 at 30 min, 95/5 at 30.1 min, 95/5 at 30 min

52 comp  $\Delta RT < 2$  min  
7 comp  $\Delta RT > 2$  min

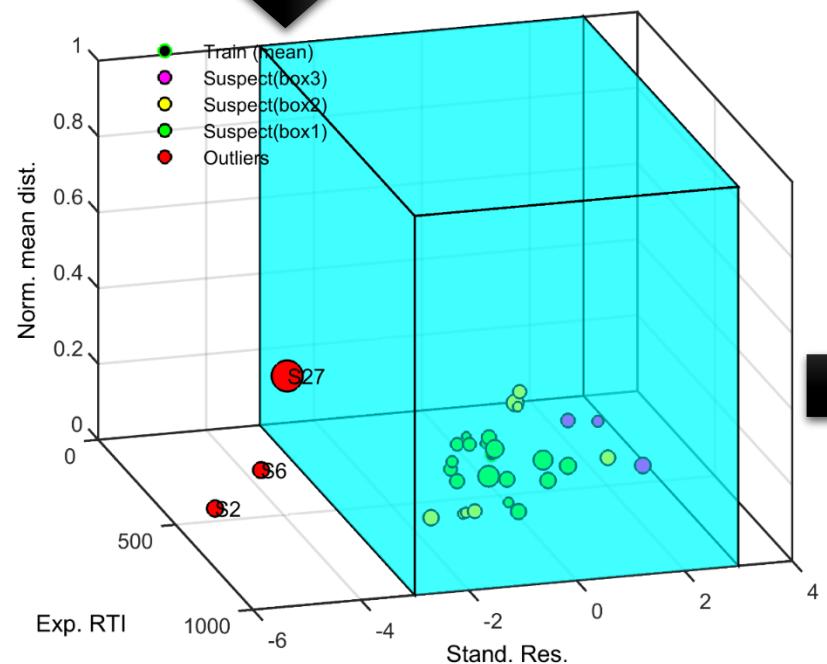


54 comp  $\Delta RT < 2$  min  
3 (2) comp  $\Delta RT > 2$  (3) min

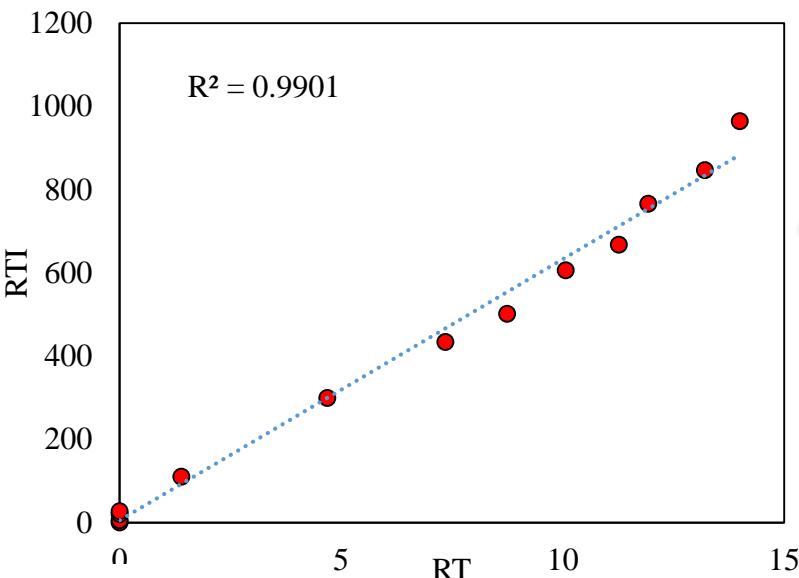


# Evaluation of RTI (+ESI) system by *Universitat Jaume I*

$$\text{RTI} = 62.705\text{RT} + 5.5564$$



**24/30 comp  $\Delta\text{RT} < 2 \text{ min}$**   
**3 (3) /30 comp  $\Delta\text{RT} > 2 \text{ (3) min}$**



LC conditions

Column:

Molibte phase:

A

Waters Cortecs C18 2.1x100 mm, 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$

B

H<sub>2</sub>O 0.01% HCOOH

MeOH 0.01% HCOOH

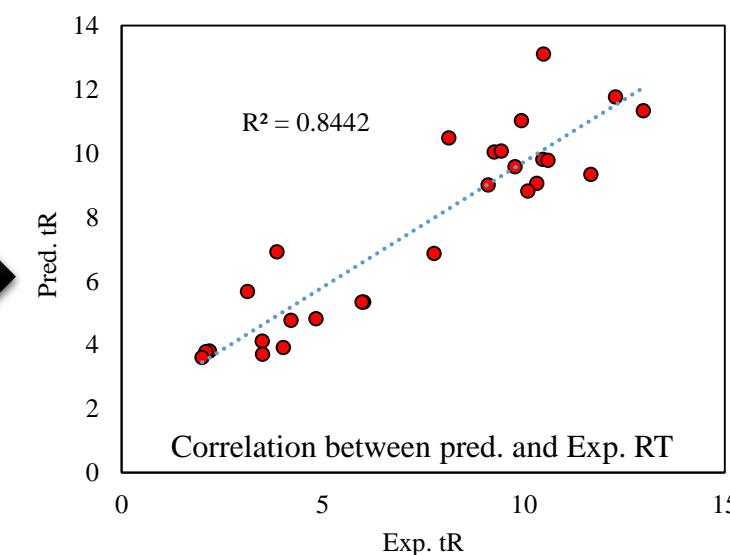
10 %B(0);10 %B-90% over

14min;90% B(2);90 %B-10% over

0.1min;10% B(2)

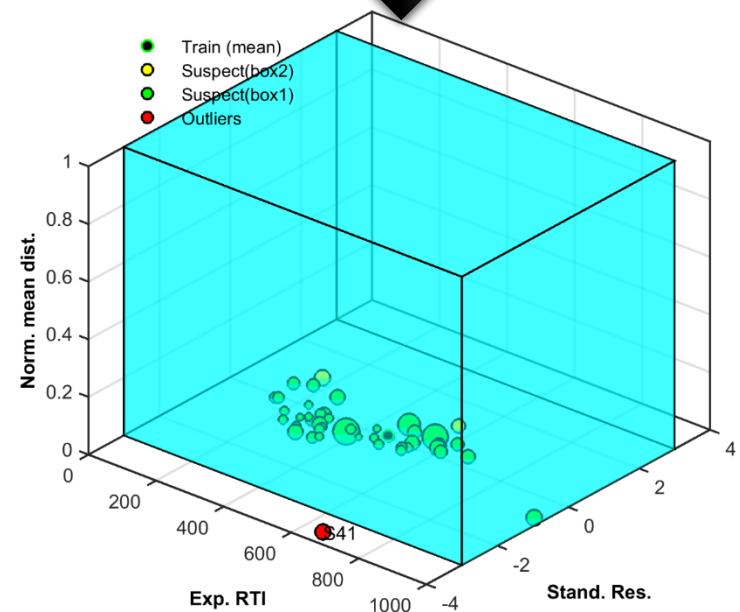
Gradient:

Gradient:



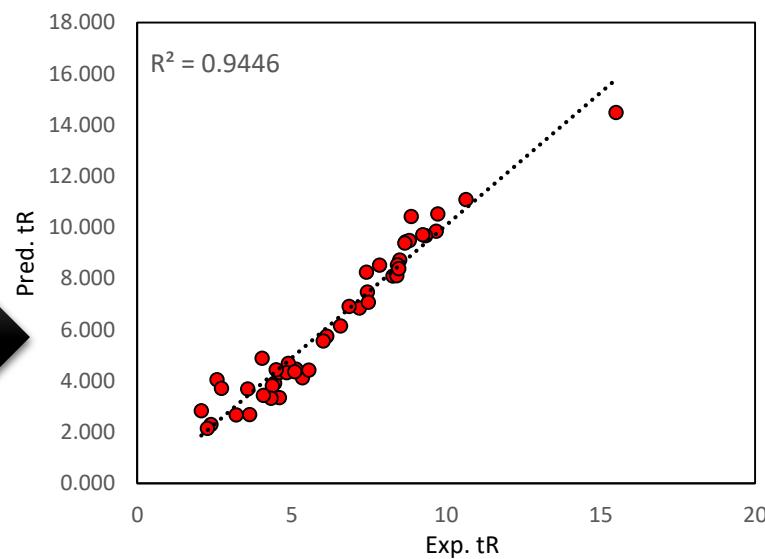
## Evaluation of RTI (+ESI) system by *SLU*

$$\text{RTI} = 63.1008\text{RT} - 1.4603$$



Waters, Acquity UPLC HSS T3 1,8 um; 2,1 x 100 mm	
Column:	
Mobile phase:	H2O, 0,01% formic acid, 5mM
A	ammonium formate
B	Acetonitrile. 0,01% formic acid
Gradient:	
Time	%A
0	95
0.5	95
16	5
16.1	1
19	1
19.1	95
21	95

**44/47 comp  $\Delta RT < 1$  min  
2/47 comp  $1 < \Delta RT < 2$  min  
1/47 comp  $\Delta RT > 3$  min**

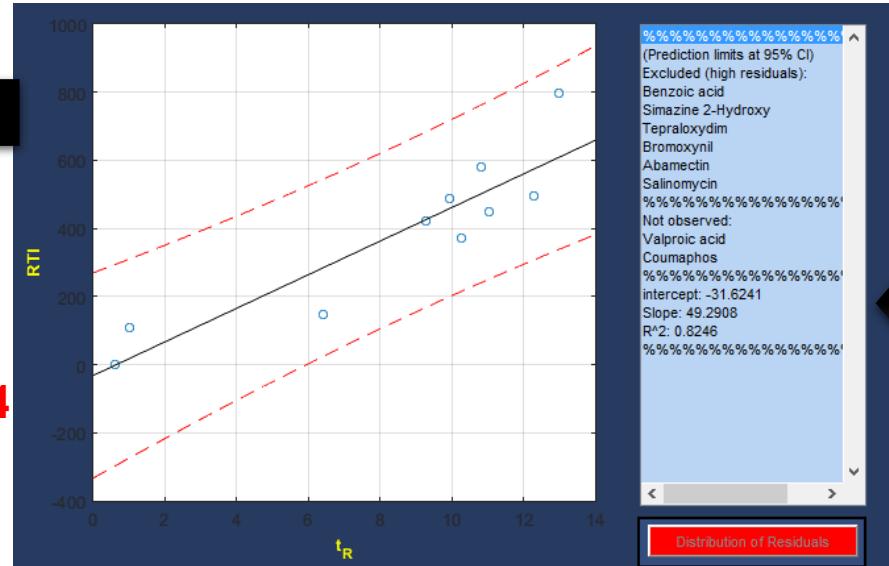
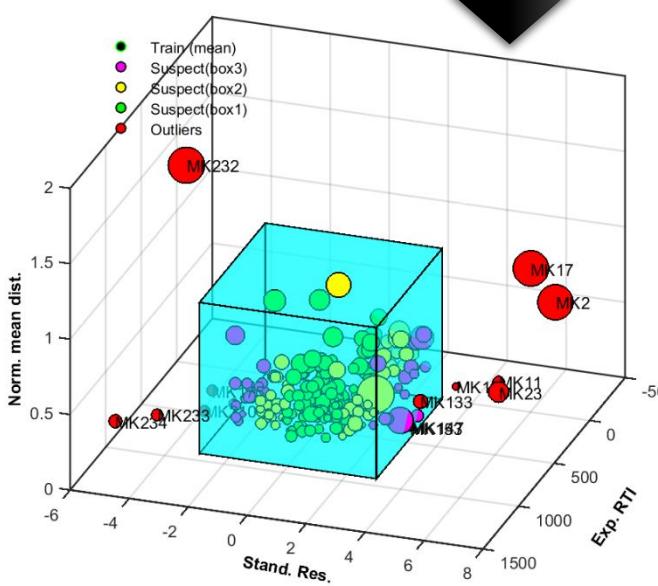


# Evaluation of RTI (-ESI) system by Department Effect-Directed Analysis, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ

## Different LC conditions and the external validation accuracy

(Prediction limits at 95% CI)  
 Excluded (high residuals):  
 Benzoic acid  
 Simazine 2-Hydroxy  
 Tepraloxydim  
 Bromoxynil  
 Abamectin  
 Salinomycin  
 Not observed:  
 Valproic acid  
 Coumaphos  
 intercept: -31.6241  
 Slope: 49.2908  
 R<sup>2</sup>: 0.8246

$$RTI = 49.30t_R - 31.624$$



**234 compounds (external set)**  
**185 compounds ΔRT<2 min**  
**36 (13) compounds ΔRT>2 (3) min**

LC conditions

Column:

Mobile phase:

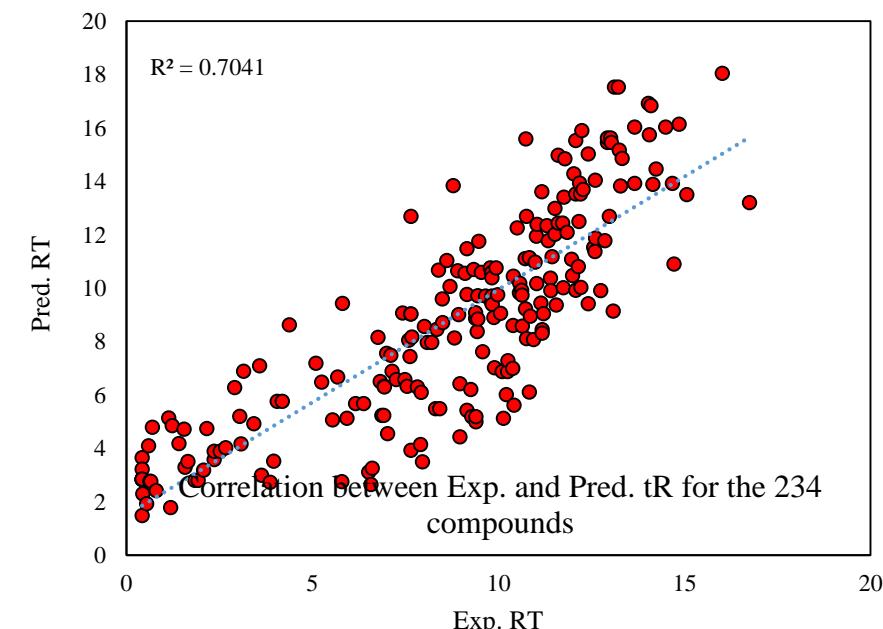
Gradient:

Phenomenex Kinetex C18 EVO 50x2.1 mm, 2.6 µm, precolumn 4x2.1 mm, 2.6 µm

A Water 0.1% formic acid

B Methanol containing 0.1% formic acid

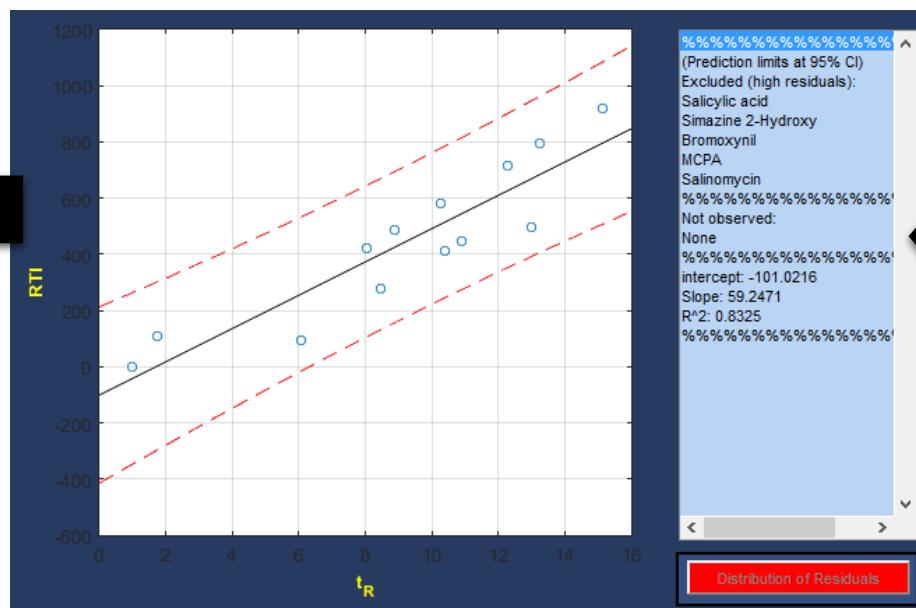
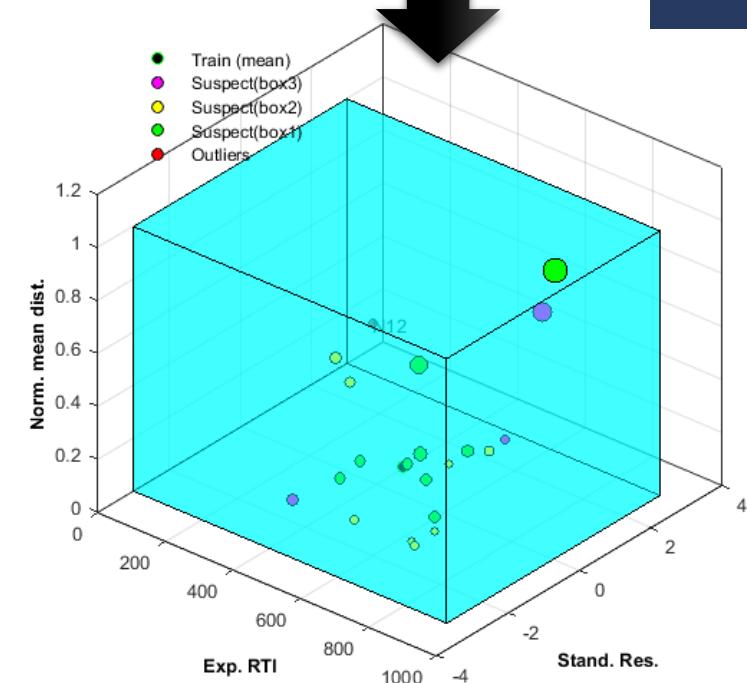
time (min)	A	B
0.00	95	5
1.00	95	5
13.00	0	100
24.00	0	100



# Evaluation of RTI (-ESI) system by *Universitat Jaume I*

(Prediction limits at 95% CI)  
 Excluded (high residuals):  
 Salicylic acid  
 Simazine 2-Hydroxy  
 Bromoxynil  
 MCPA  
 Salinomycin  
 Not observed:  
 None  
 intercept: -101.0216  
 Slope: 59.2471  
 R<sup>2</sup>: 0.8325

**RTI = 59.247( RT ) - 101.0216**



LC conditions

Column:

Mobile phase:

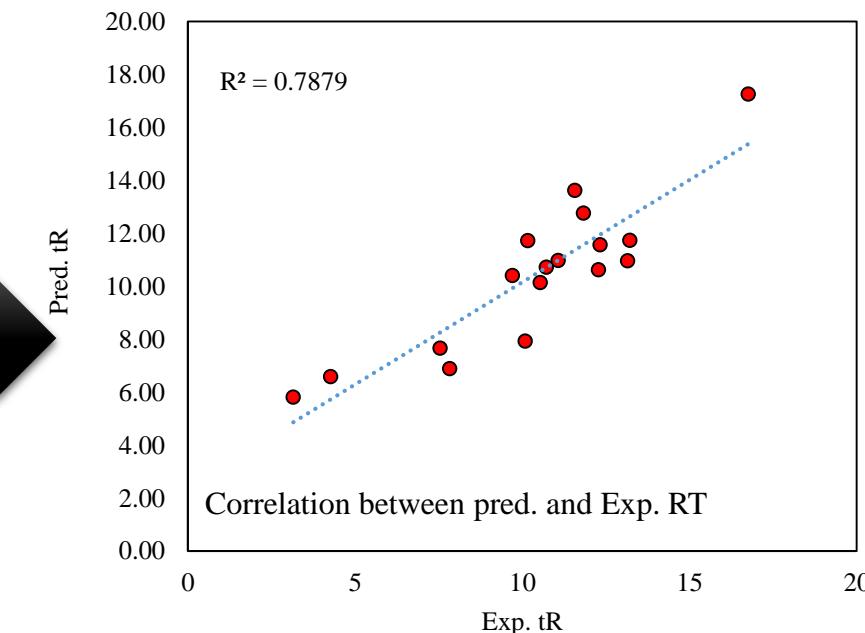
A

Waters Cortecs C18 2.1x100 mm, 2.7 µm  
 H<sub>2</sub>O 0.01% HCOOH  
 MeOH 0.01% HCOOH  
 10 %B(0);10 %B-90% over  
 14min;90% B(2);90 %B-10% over  
 0.1min;10% B(2)

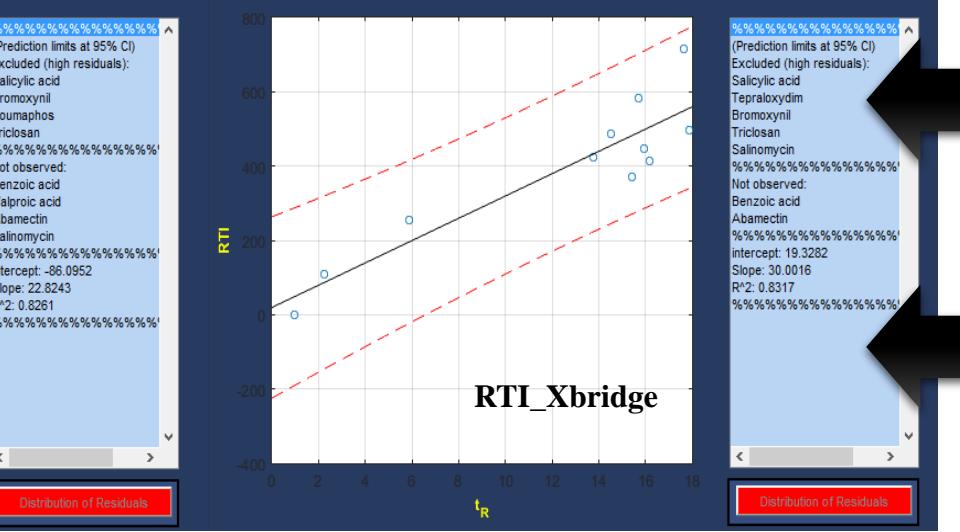
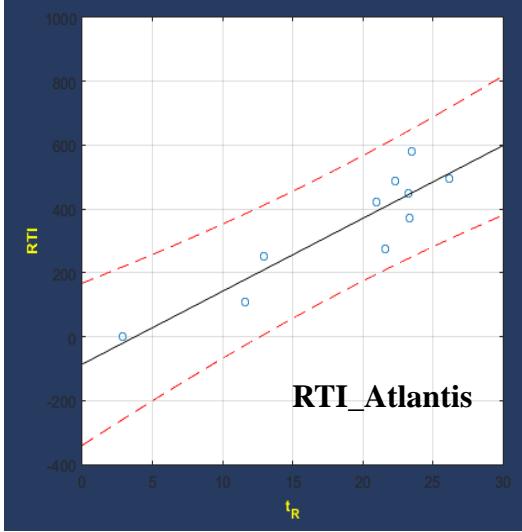
Gradient:

B

21 compounds (external set)  
 17/21 comp ΔRT<2 min  
 3 (1) /30 comp ΔRT>2 (3) min



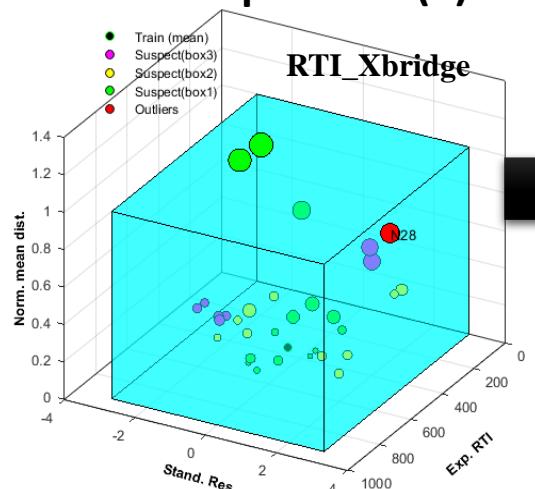
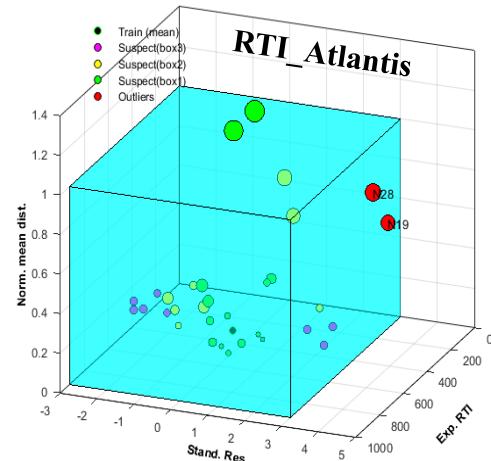
# Evaluation of RTI (-ESI) system by Eawag



15 comp  $\Delta RT < 2$  min  
18 comp  $\Delta RT > 2$  min



16 comp  $\Delta RT < 2$  min  
17 comp  $\Delta RT > 2$  (3) min



LC conditions

Column:

Mobile phase:

Gradient:

Column:

Mobile phase:

Gradient:

XBridge C18 3.5um, 2.1x50mm with pre-column, Waters

A Nanopure water +0.1% Formic acid

B MeOH +0.1% Formic acid

90/10 at 0 min, 50/50 at 4 min, 5/95 at 17 min, 5/95 at 25 min,  
90/10 at 25.1 min, 90/10 at 30 min

Atlantis T3 3um, 3.0x150mm with pre-column, Waters

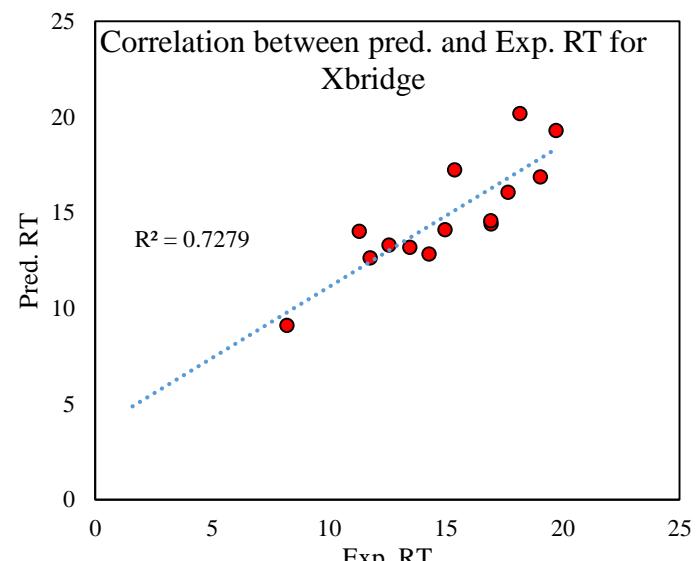
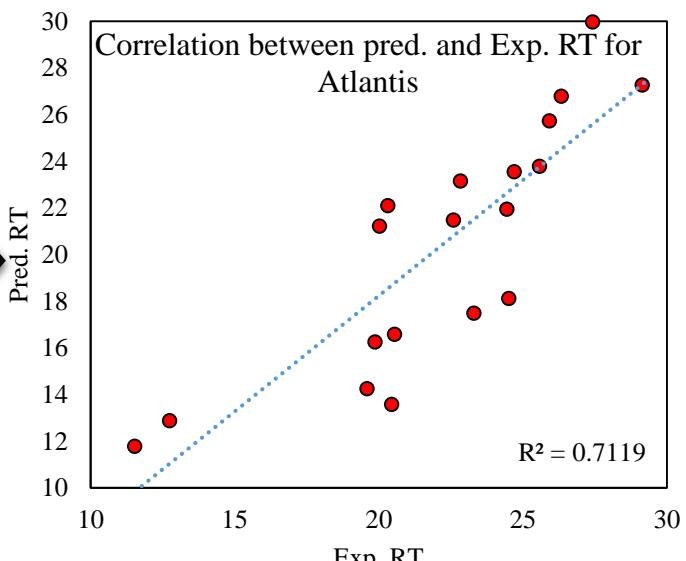
A Nanopure water +0.1% Formic acid

B MeOH +0.1% Formic acid

95/5 constant for 3 min, 5/95 at 22 min, 5/95 at 30 min, 95/5 at  
30.1 min, 95/5 at 30 min

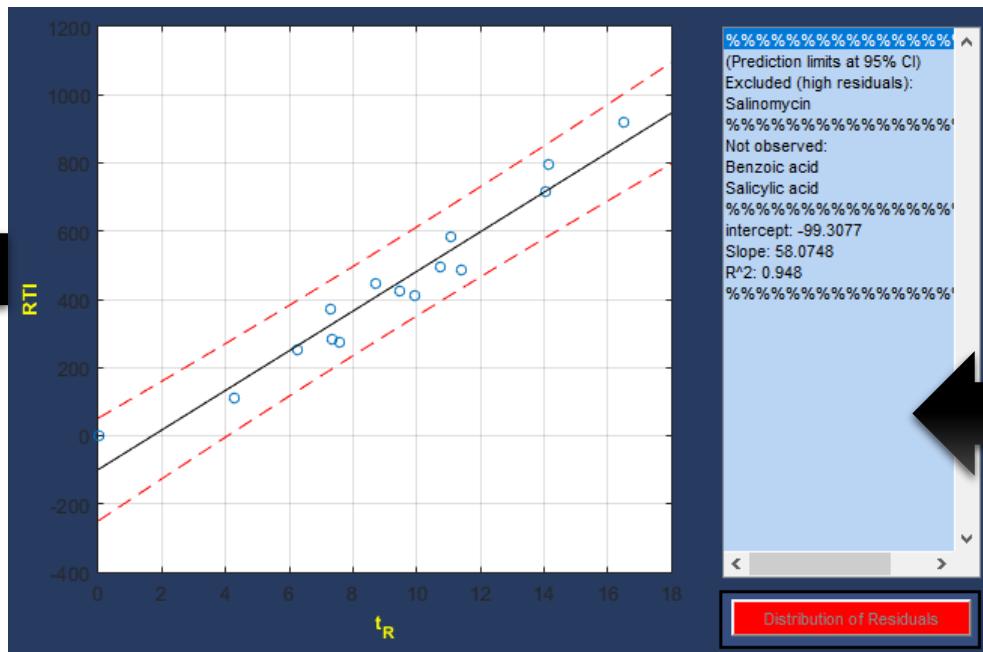
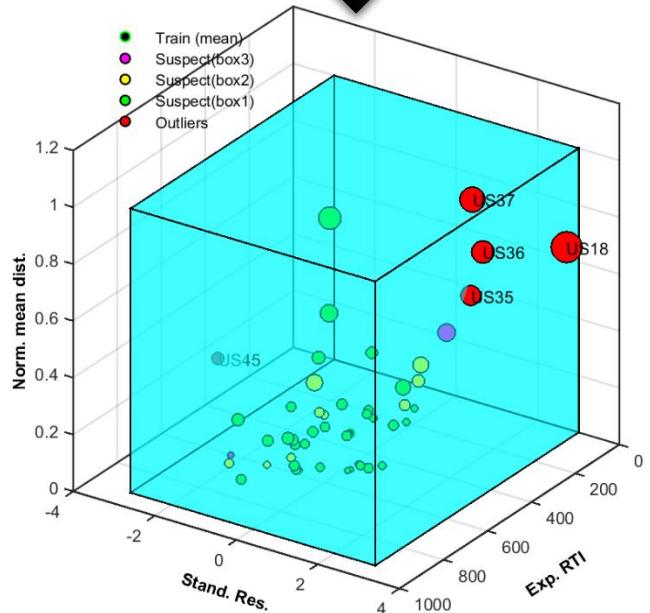


**10 of compounds were Surfactant.  
3 of them were belonging to -ESA  
class of compounds.**



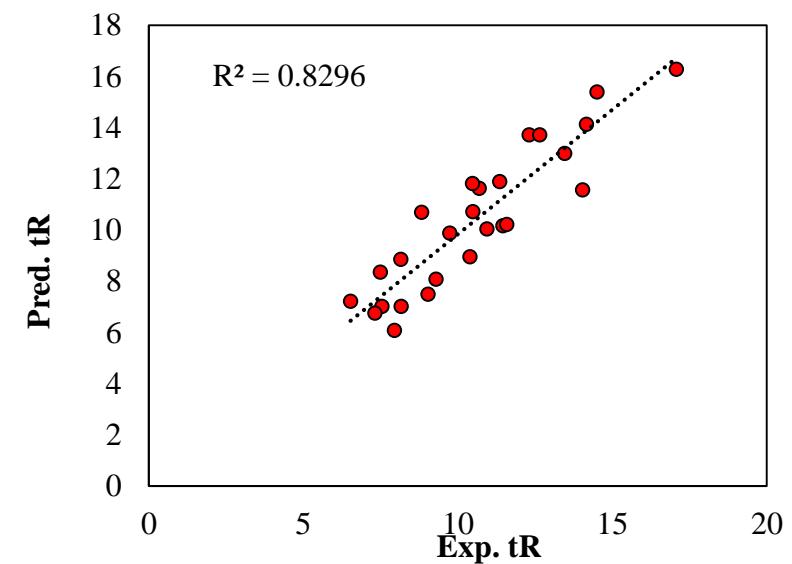
# Evaluation of RTI (-ESI) system by UC-Davis(indoor dust project)

**RTI = 58.0748 RT -99.3077**



Column:	Zorbax Eclipse Plus (100 mm length, 2.5 mm ID, 1.8 $\mu$ m particle size)	
Mobile phase:	A	MiliQ + 1 mM ammonium fluoride
	B	acetonitrile
Gradient:	Time	%B
	1.5	2
	15	100
	20	2
Flow rate	350 $\mu$ l/min	

33/49 comp  $\Delta RT < 1$  min  
9/49 comp  $1 < \Delta RT < 2$  min  
2(5) comp  $\Delta RT > 2$  (3)min



# Harmonizing the Retention Time between Laboratories – Use of RTI in suspect screening and Retrospective Analysis

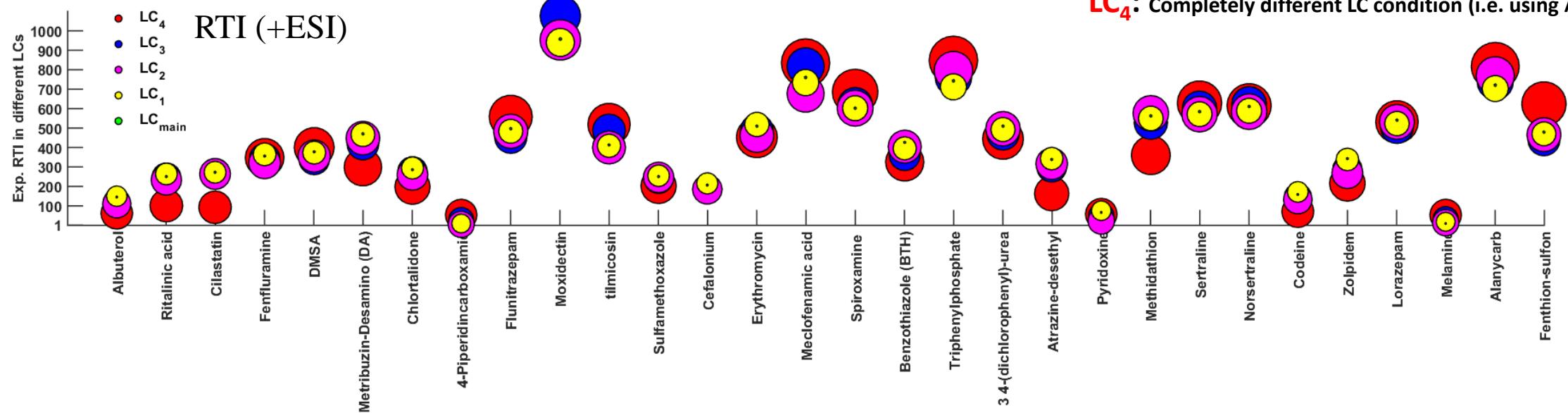
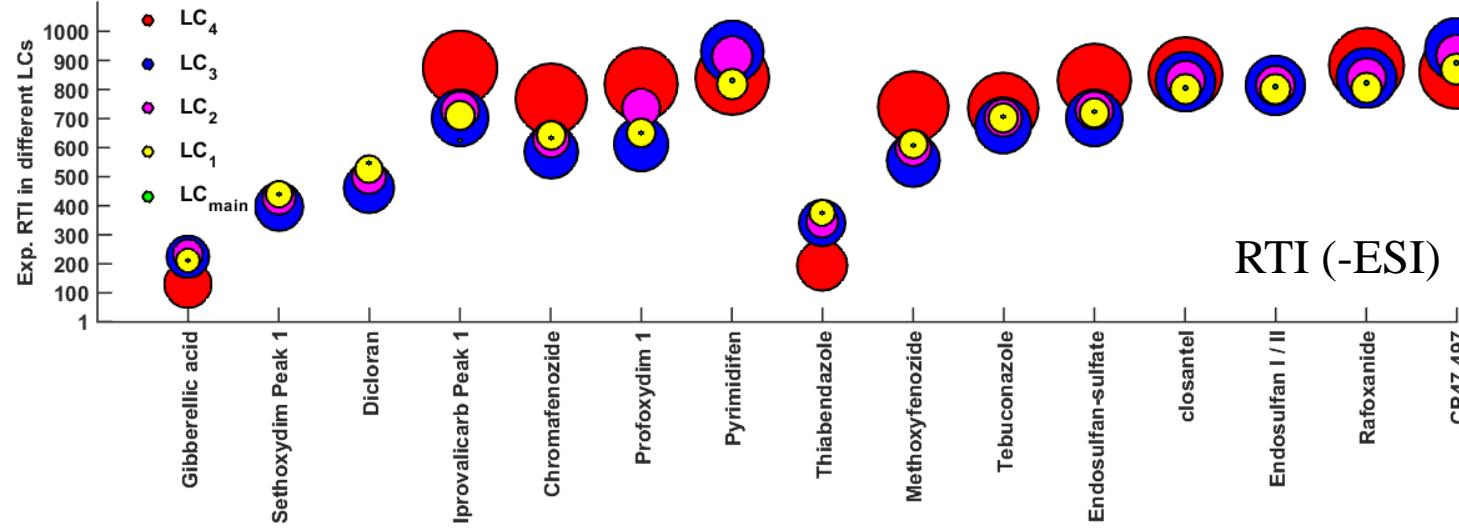
Name	tR_TUM	tR_UOA	tR_UFZ	RTI_UOA	RTI_TUM	RTI_UFZ
atrazine	27.69	8.16	9.88	523.34	506.15	590.71
benzophenone-3	31.16	10.83	11.89	727.27	668.91	715.67
Boscalid	29.84	9.4	11.23	618.05	606.99	674.64
carbamazepine	26.45	7.36	9.54	462.20	448.00	569.60
Carbetamide	25.81	6.58	6.60	402.70	418.00	386.80
Carbofuran	27.17	7.01	7.2	435.50	481.75	424.09
Carboxin	27.84	7.46	NA	469.88	513.18	NA
chlorbromuron	29.70	9.55	NA	629.51	600.42	NA
Chlorfenvinphos	31.15	10.97	12.48	737.97	668.44	752.35
chloridazon	24.49	5.34	6.53	307.95	356.04	382.44
Chlorotoluron	27.34	7.98	9.64	509.59	489.73	575.79
Chlorpropham	30.28	9.78	11.3	647.08	627.63	678.99

Name	tR_UOA	tR_Eawag	RTI_UOA	RTI_Eawag
Ranitidine	3.14	2.04	139.92	140.44
Atenolol	3.09	2.04	136.10	140.44
Gabapentin	3.78	3.01	188.80	198.67
Benzotriazol	4.76	3.79	263.65	245.49
Tramadol	4.88	4.03	272.82	259.90
Fenofibrate	12.55	13.81	858.64	846.99
Sotalol	2.96	1.85	126.17	129.03
Carbamazepin	5.81	6.52	343.85	409.37
Dimethenamid	9.26	8.74	607.36	542.64
Acetochlor	10.23	10.20	681.45	630.28
Fluoxetine	8.60	8.06	556.95	501.96



Compound Samples tR	tR_UJI	tR_UoA	RTI_UOA	RTI_UJI
BAYg5919	9.45	9.08	593.61	573.84
Clindamycinsulfoxide	6.10	5.18	295.73	363.78
14-Hydroxy-clarithromycin	8.65	7.32	459.18	523.68
Norcitalopram	7.87	6.63	406.48	474.77
$\alpha$ -Hydroxymidazolam	8.99	8.43	544.00	540.00
5-Hydroxy-propafenone	7.93	6.62	405.72	478.53
N-Desisopropyl-propafenone	7.2	5.96	355.31	432.76
Met D617 verapamil	7.38	6.09	365.24	444.04
N-Desmethyldiltiazem	8.69	5.83	345.38	526.19
O-Desmethyldiltiazem	7.01	7.30	457.66	420.84
N,N-Didesmethyldiltiazem	7.15	5.93	353.02	429.62
O-Deacetyldiltiazem	7.60	6.51	397.32	457.84
O-Deacetyl-O-desmethyl diltiazem	5.97	6.67	409.50	355.60
10-Hydroxycarbazepine	7.04	5.96	355.34	422.72
Norquetiapine	8.48	7.37	463.01	513.02
Quetiapine N-oxide	8.76	7.58	479.04	530.58
Met 590 clarithromycin	8.05	6.68	410.30	486.05
O-Desalkyl Quetiapine carboxylic acid	8.91	7.70	488.21	539.98

# Cloud plot of unification rate for Exp. RTI ( $\pm$ ESI)



The larger it gets, the less accurate is the LC condition

RTI is reliable in all LC conditions except LC<sub>4</sub>

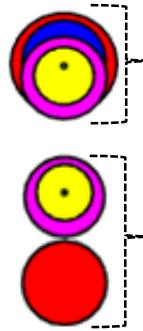
**LC<sub>main</sub>:** The main LC conditions used to develop dataset and RTI

**LC<sub>1</sub>:** Same gradient elution program and mobile phase (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O), and different stationary phase

**LC<sub>2</sub>:** Same mobile phase (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O), and different stationary phase and gradient elution program

**LC<sub>3</sub>:** Different mobile phase (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (different pH)) stationary phase and gradient elution program

**LC<sub>4</sub>:** Completely different LC condition (i.e. using ACN)



For more details about the evaluation of UOA RTI system  
and LC quality assessment as well as application of RTI  
in non-target/suspect screening:

**Thursday 22.6.2017 - NORMAN: Suspect and non-target  
screening with high resolution mass spectrometry– current  
status and new developments**

10:45 Progress with the retention time prediction/index in liquid  
chromatography Prof. Nikolaos Thomaidis, UoA

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Hollender**



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Prof. Thomas Young



Dr. Peter Haglund



Prof. Adrian Covaci



Dr. Pablo Gago Ferrero

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University of Athens

**Dr. Sylvia Grosse  
Birgit Beck  
Nikiforos Alygizakis**

And all other labs participated and used  
UOA RTI in Norman Collaborative Trial in  
Non-Target Screening of the Indoor Dust