



Stable Isotopic Characterization of Pharmaceutical Materials

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Isotopic Characterization of Drug Products and APIs

- Introduction
- Stable Isotopes
 - A. Natural Distribution
 - B. Instrumentation
 - 1. Dual-Inlet Mass Spectrometer (DIMS)
 - 2. Elemental Analyzer MS (EAMS)
- Isotopic Results ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and δD)
 - A. Four OTC Drug Products
 - B. Four APIs

IV. Summary



Is Pharmaceutical Counterfeiting a Problem?

1999

“Counterfeit acetaminophen syrup cost the lives of 109 children in Nigeria, and whilst Third World countries are undoubtedly the most vulnerable to attack, there is clear evidence of highly organized criminal activity affecting most of the developed world.”

(G. Power, Interpol *Intl. Crime Pol. Rev.* – No. 476-477)

2000

*From The Subcommittee on Investigations’ Hearings on
Counterfeit Bulk Drugs*

....Some have estimated that 50-70% of the drugs in some developing countries are counterfeit. The World Health Organization and some industry analysts estimate about 5-8% of drug products shipped to the U.S. are counterfeit, unapproved or substandard.

(Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman)



October 15, 2001

The proceeds from pharmaceutical and other product diversion have significantly underwritten recent terrorist events.

(Atty. D. deKieffer, *Pharm. Anti-Cnterftg Mtg.*, Wash., DC)

2002

Counterfeiting is 'the crime of the 21st century accounting for losses of between \$350B and \$1T annually. Diversion, illegal gray market goods and organized retail theft fit neatly into a set of criminal attacks on the world's best-known brands.

(FBI in *Reconnaissance International*)



Pharmaceutical Phases

- **APIs (or, Drug Substances)**

2. Excipients

3. Drug Products



What Can Stable Isotopic “Fingerprinting” Mitigate?

- 1. Counterfeiting**
- 2. Countertrading**
- 3. Vicarious Liability**
- 4. Theft**



What are Stable Isotopes?

Simply put, they are all
non-radioactive elements.

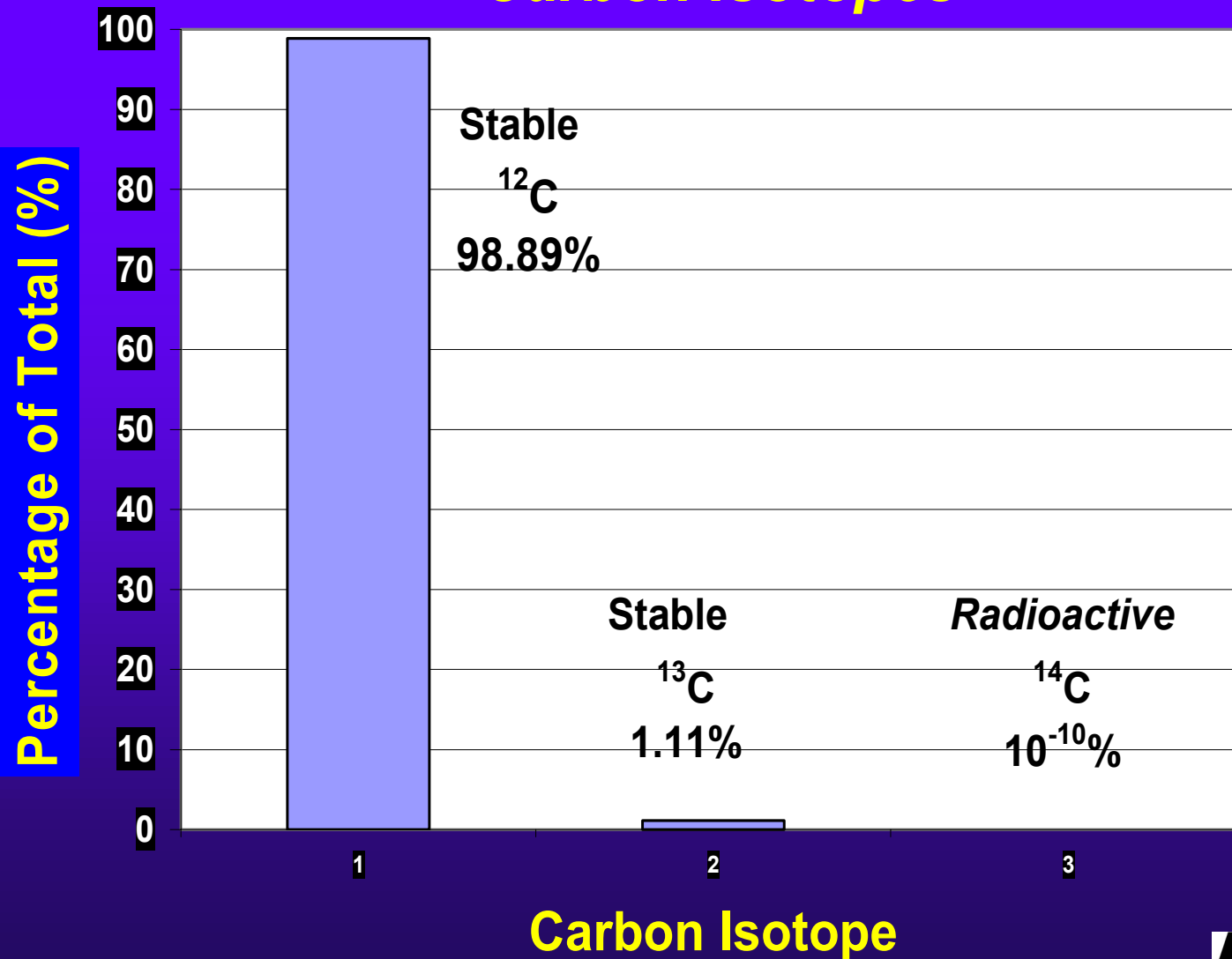


Stable Isotopes as Tracers

- Heavy-and-light pairs of isotopes of one element are used to form a “tracer.” For example, ‘heavy’ carbon and ‘light’ carbon can be used to form a tracer: $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$.
- 252 stable isotopes!



Natural Distribution of Carbon Isotopes

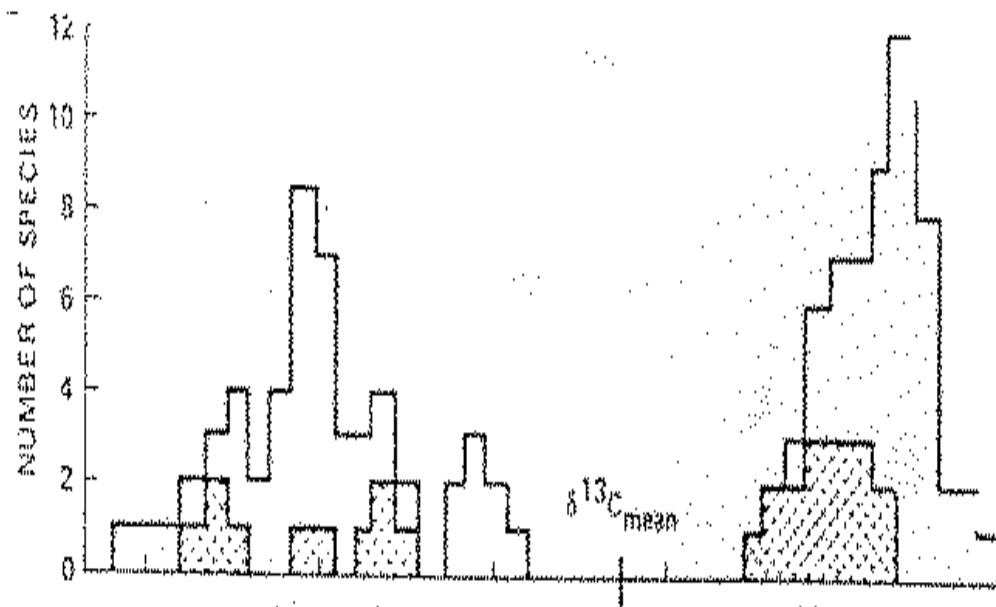


Major Classes of Organic Carbon

C3

C4

Carbon isotope biogeochemistry of hydrocarbons



-27

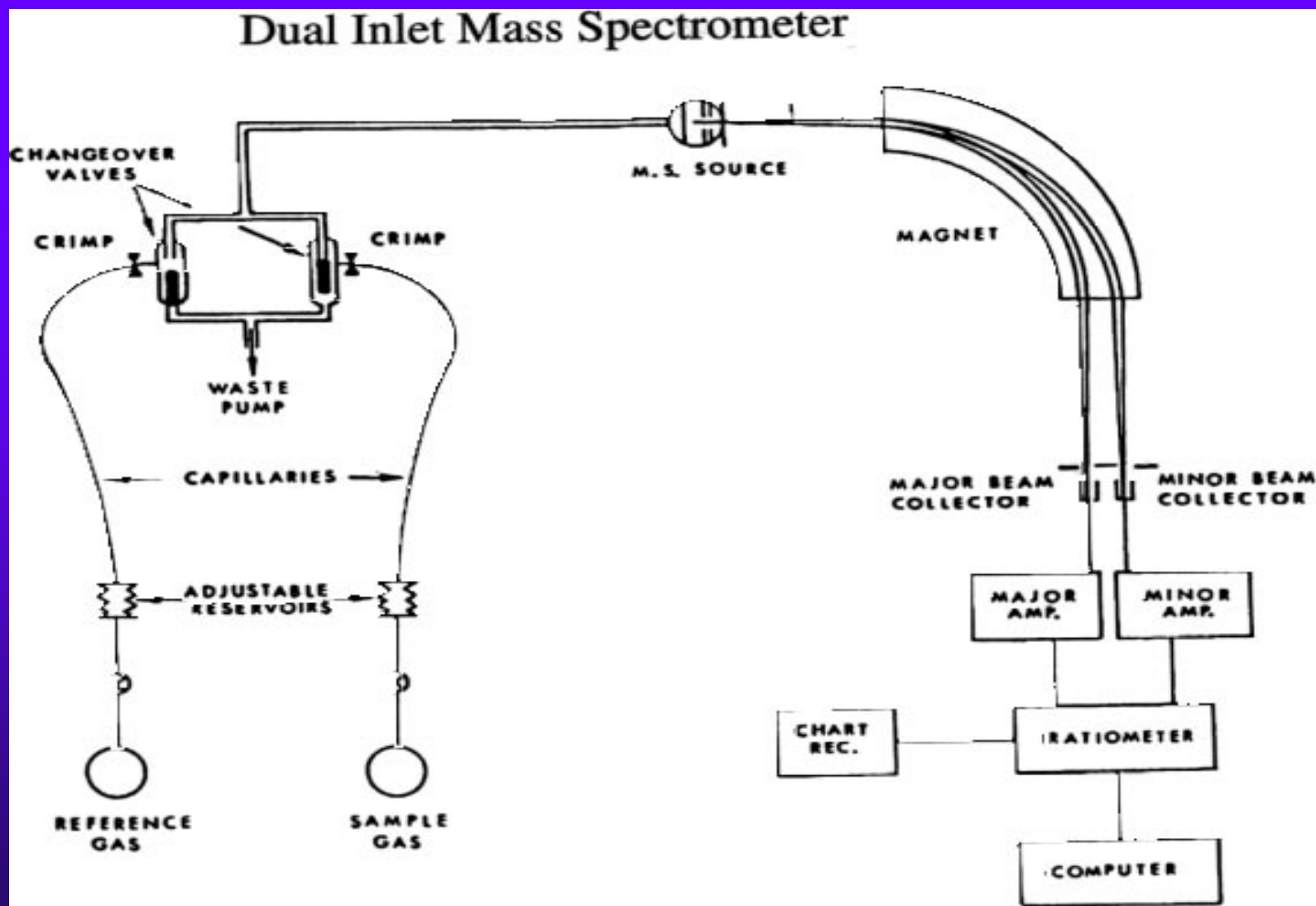
-12

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰ vs VPBD)

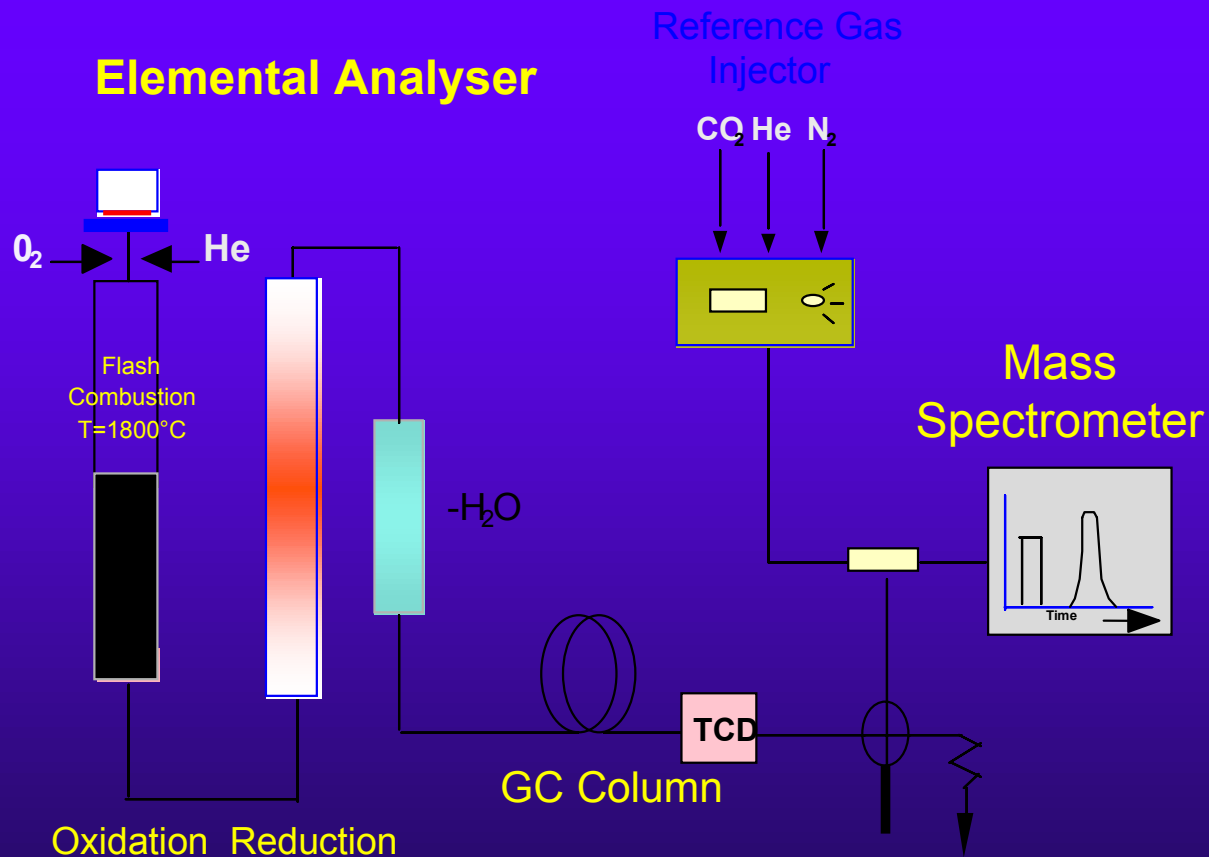


(Des Marais, D., 1980, *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta*, 44:2075-2086)

How Are Isotopes Measured?



Elemental Analyzer/Mass Spectrometer (EAMS)





Units: Definition of δ

$$\delta^{13}\text{C} (\text{‰}) = \left(\frac{R_{\text{smpl}}}{R_{\text{std}}} - 1 \right) * 1000$$

where,

R_{smpl} = $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ of a sample, and

R_{std} = $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ of an intl. standard (e.g., VPDB).

(That is, the δ -notation represents a part-per-thousand difference from a standard.)



MIT-Micromass Analgesic-Isotope Study

I. Acetaminophen ($\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{NO}_2$)

A. Acetaminophen 1 ($n = 30$)

B. Acetaminophen 2 ($n = 3$)

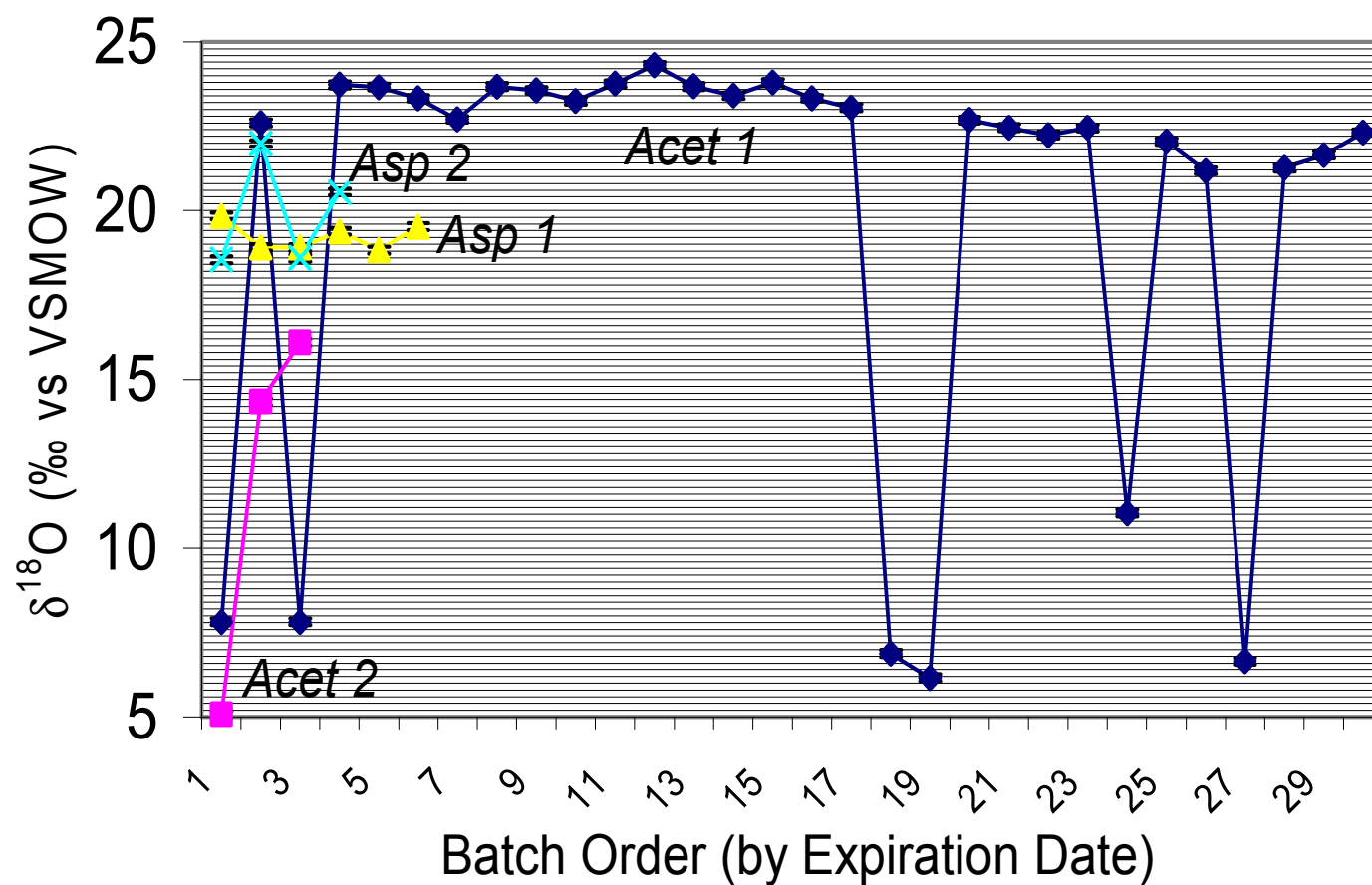
II. Aspirin ($\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{O}_4$)

A. Aspirin 1 ($n = 6$)

B. Aspirin 2 ($n = 4$)

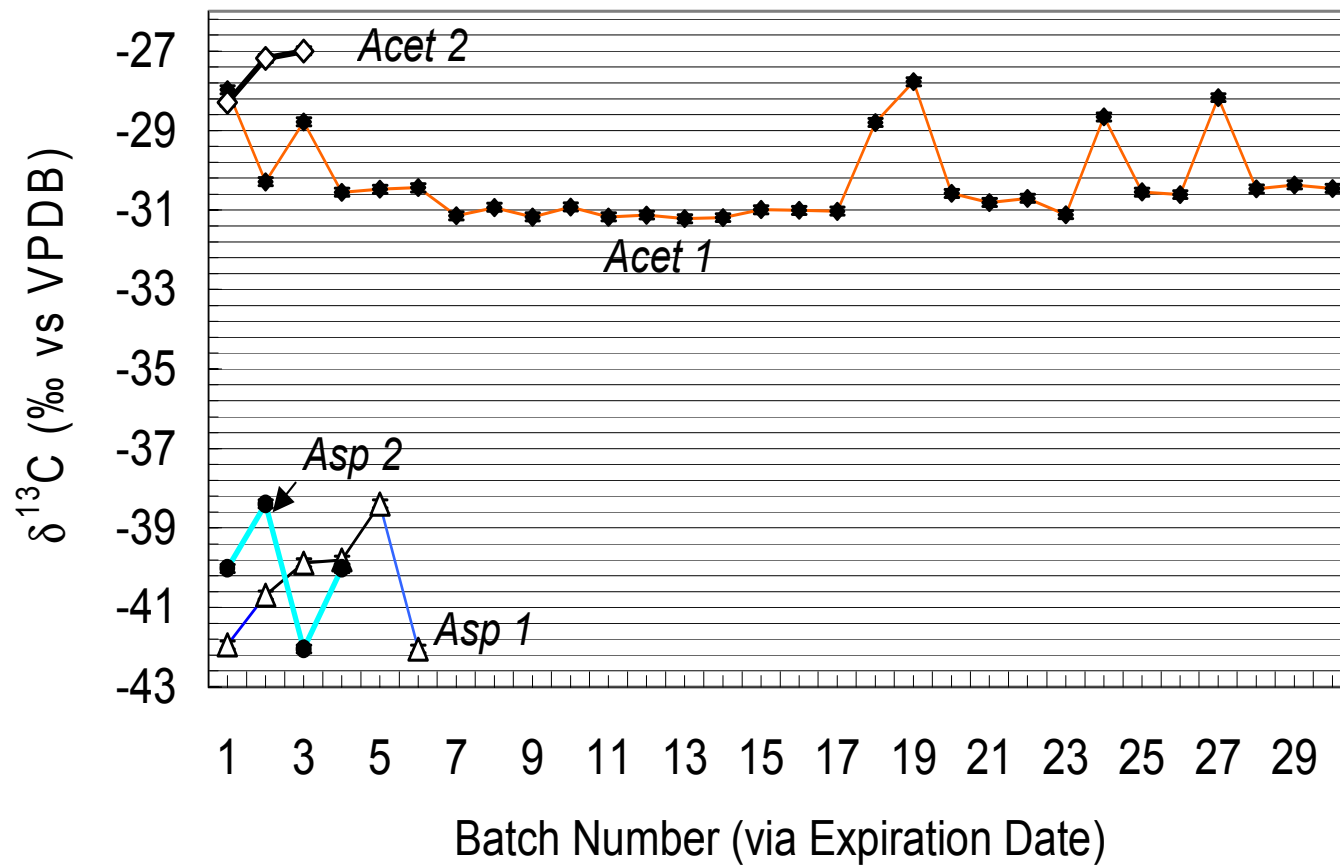


$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ Records by Batch Order



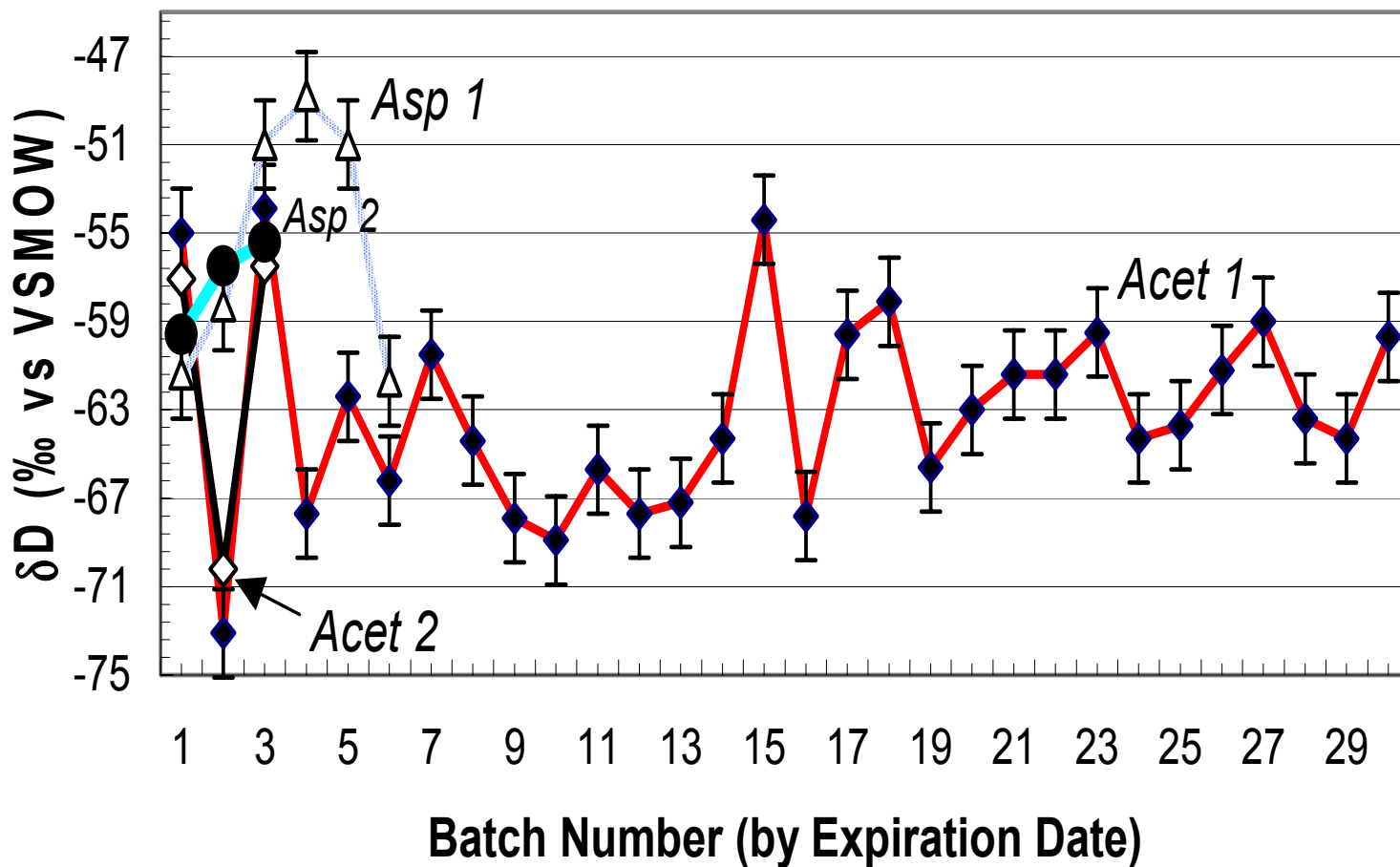


$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ Records by Batch Order

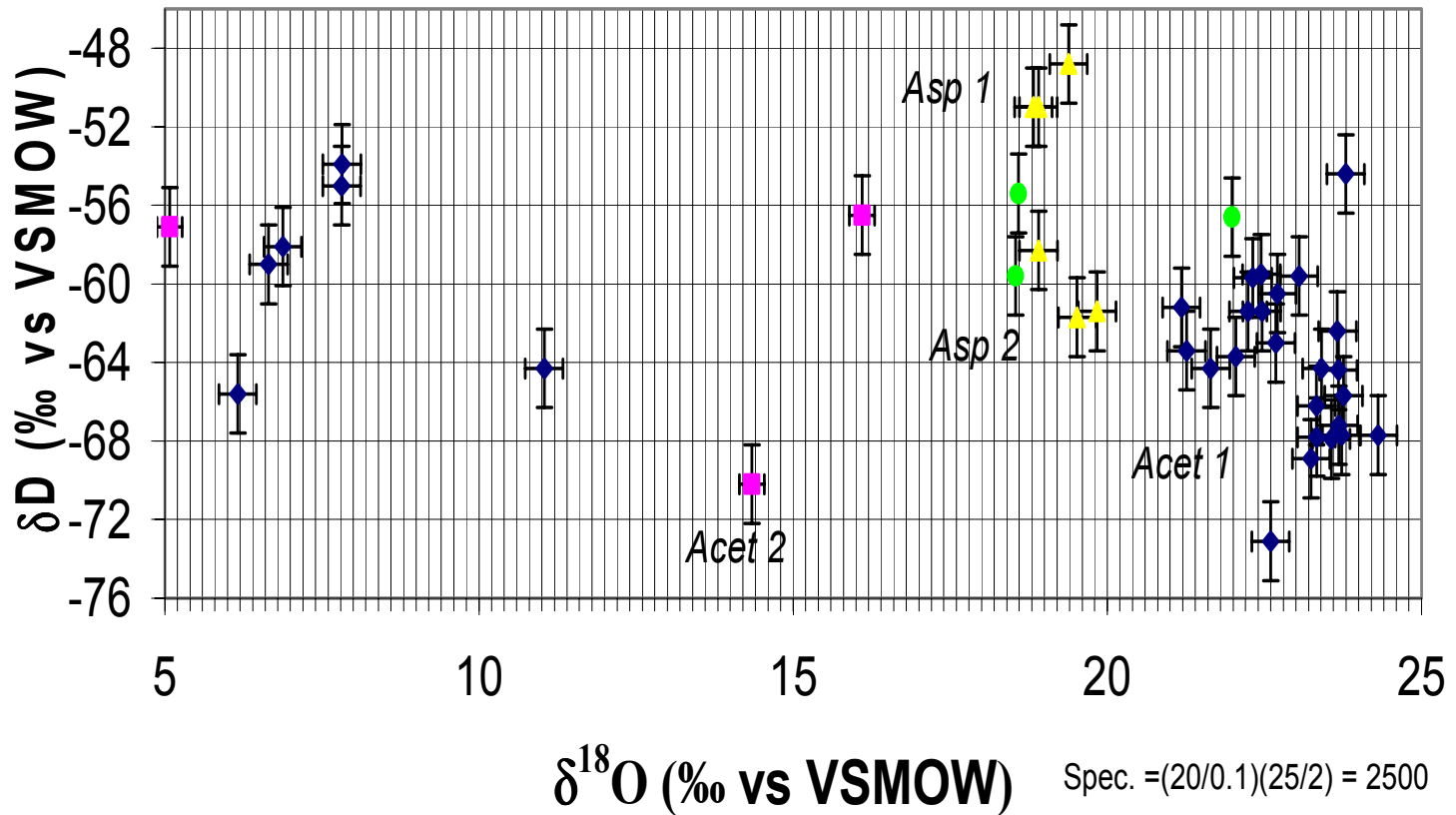




δD Records by Batch Order

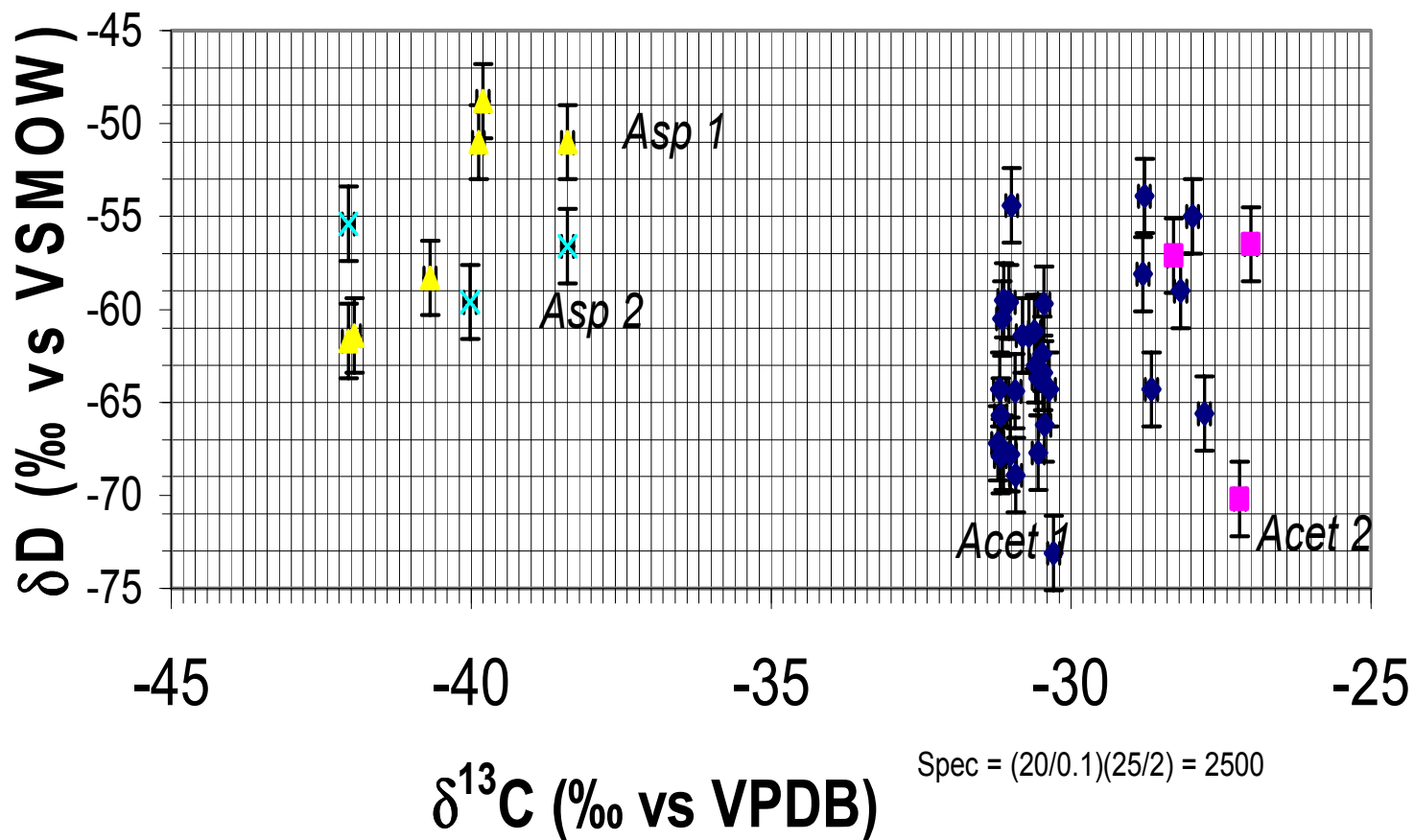


δD vs $\delta^{18}O$: Analgesics



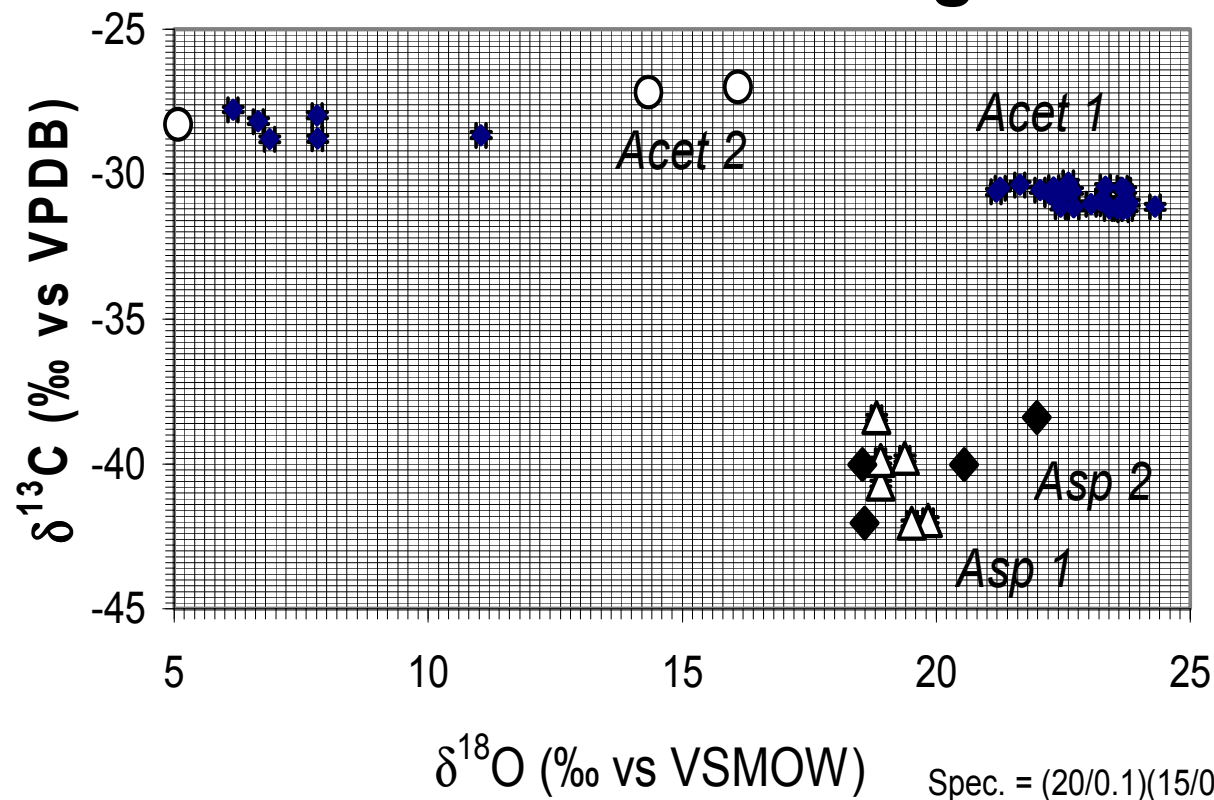


δD vs $\delta^{13}C$: Analgesics



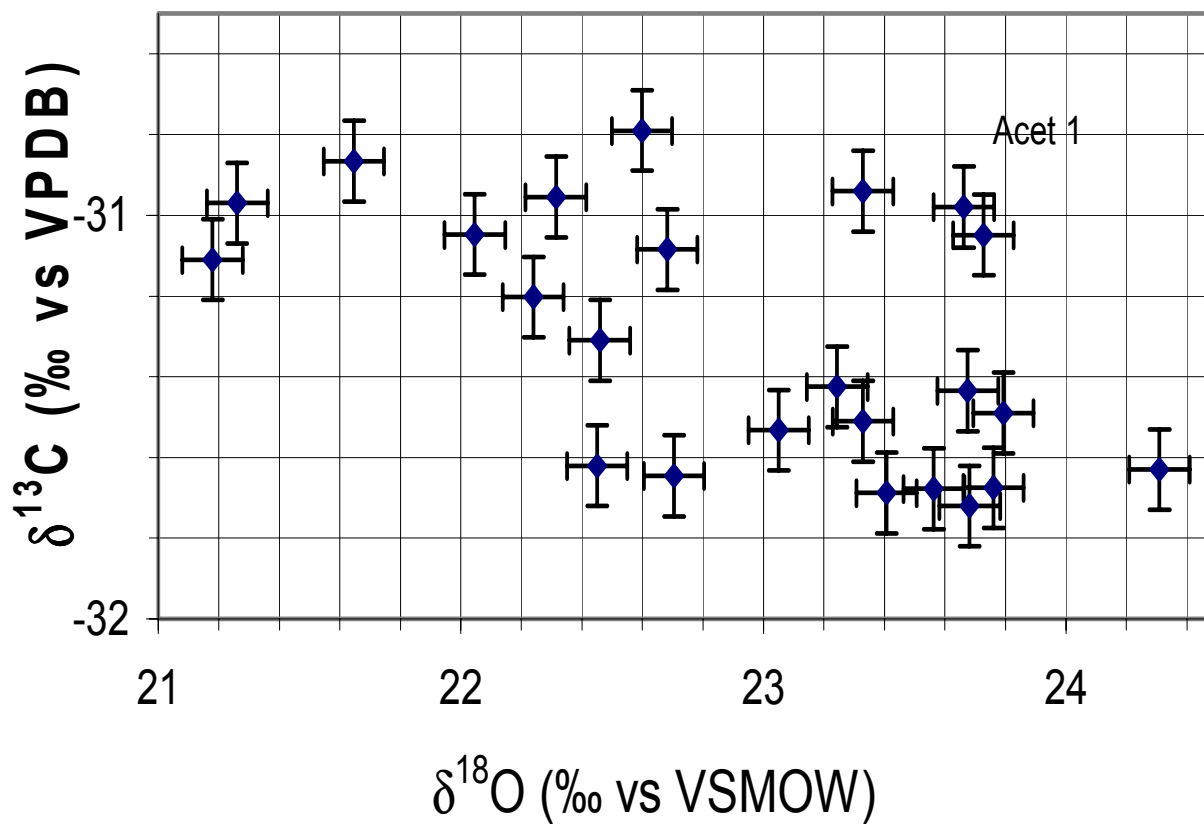


$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ vs $\delta^{18}\text{O}$: Analgesics





$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ vs $\delta^{18}\text{O}$: Analgesics, Focused Plot





The Combination Lock Analogy For Dynamic Range and Specificity

Combination Lock:

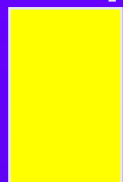
A combination lock has 4 tumblers each with 10 numbers:
Thus, the lock has 10^4 (=10,000) combinations.

Pharmaceutical Product Integrity:

Analogously, imagine a pharmaceutical which contains C, N, O, and H and each of their isotopic dynamic ranges is ~ 100 . With that, there are $\sim 100^4 = 100$ million possible unique “isotopic combinations” for that drug – via bulk isotopic analyses; many more via compound-specific isotope analysis!

Specificity of the Isotopic Approach

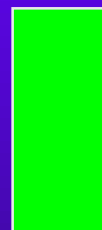
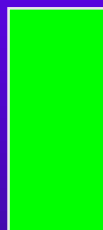
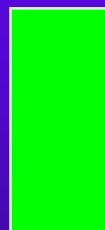
I. Bulk Isotopes (Dual Inlet)



(1/1000)

1:1000

II. Bulk Isotopes (Elemental Analyzer/MS)



1/100

1/100

1/100

1/100

1:100M

III. Bulk + Molecular Isotopes (irmGCMS)



(1/100)

(1/100)

(1/67)

(1/67)

(1/67)

(1/67)

(1/67)

1:5.0Tr



Perspective on Multi-Isotope Product Integrity

Isotopic Ranges (1s Precision)

Isotope	Typical $\Delta\delta$	Maximum $\Delta\delta$	Analgesic $\Delta\delta$
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	15 (0.1)	80 (0.02)	20 (0.1)
δD	80 (2)	450 (1.5)	25 (2)
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	20 (0.1)	100 (0.2)	20 (0.1)

Specificity 1.2 M

600 M

500 K

What Causes the Variations in ^{18}O ? Partially, Natural Variations in Rain.

$\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O} =$
 $\sim 18\text{‰}$

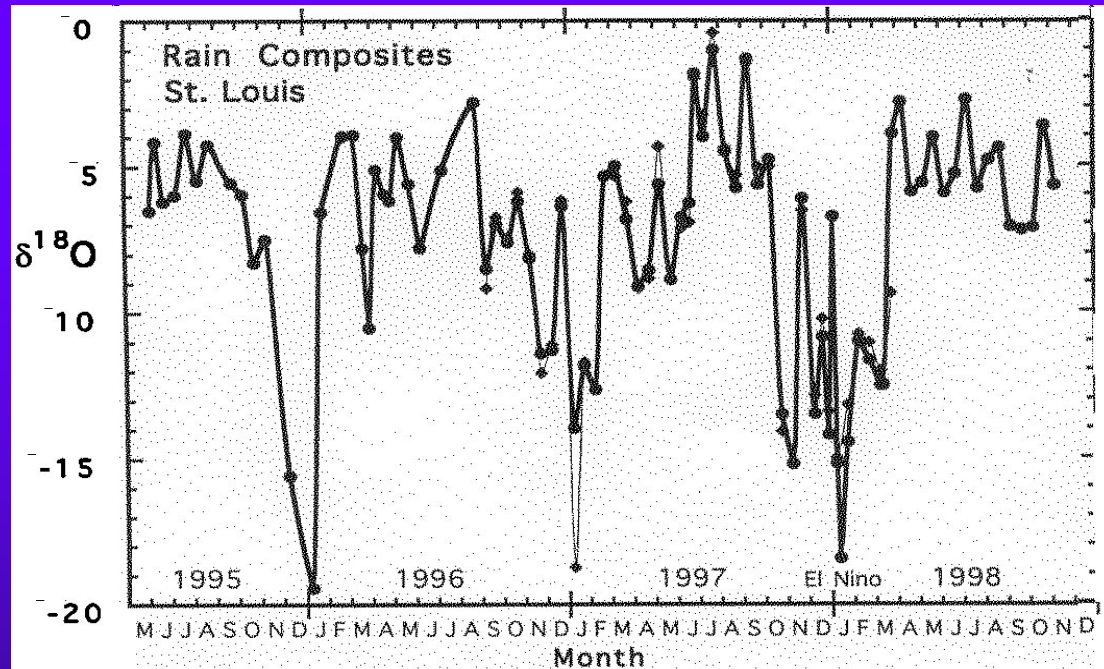


Figure 3.12 Graph of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of semi-monthly composites of meteoric precipitation for two rain gauges in St. Louis, Missouri, notably Ladue (circles) and Washington University (diamonds). For most of the year, the precipitation is within a few per mil of the yearly average $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of about -6.8 . However, sharp negative deviations from this average occur in winter months, showing the influence of polar air masses. The large amount and duration of depleted precipitation in the El Nino winter of 1997–1998 is remarkable and unexpected because temperatures were well above normal for this period.

(Criss, R. E. 1999, *Principles of Stable Isotope Distribution*)



FDA-MIT Study of Four APIs:

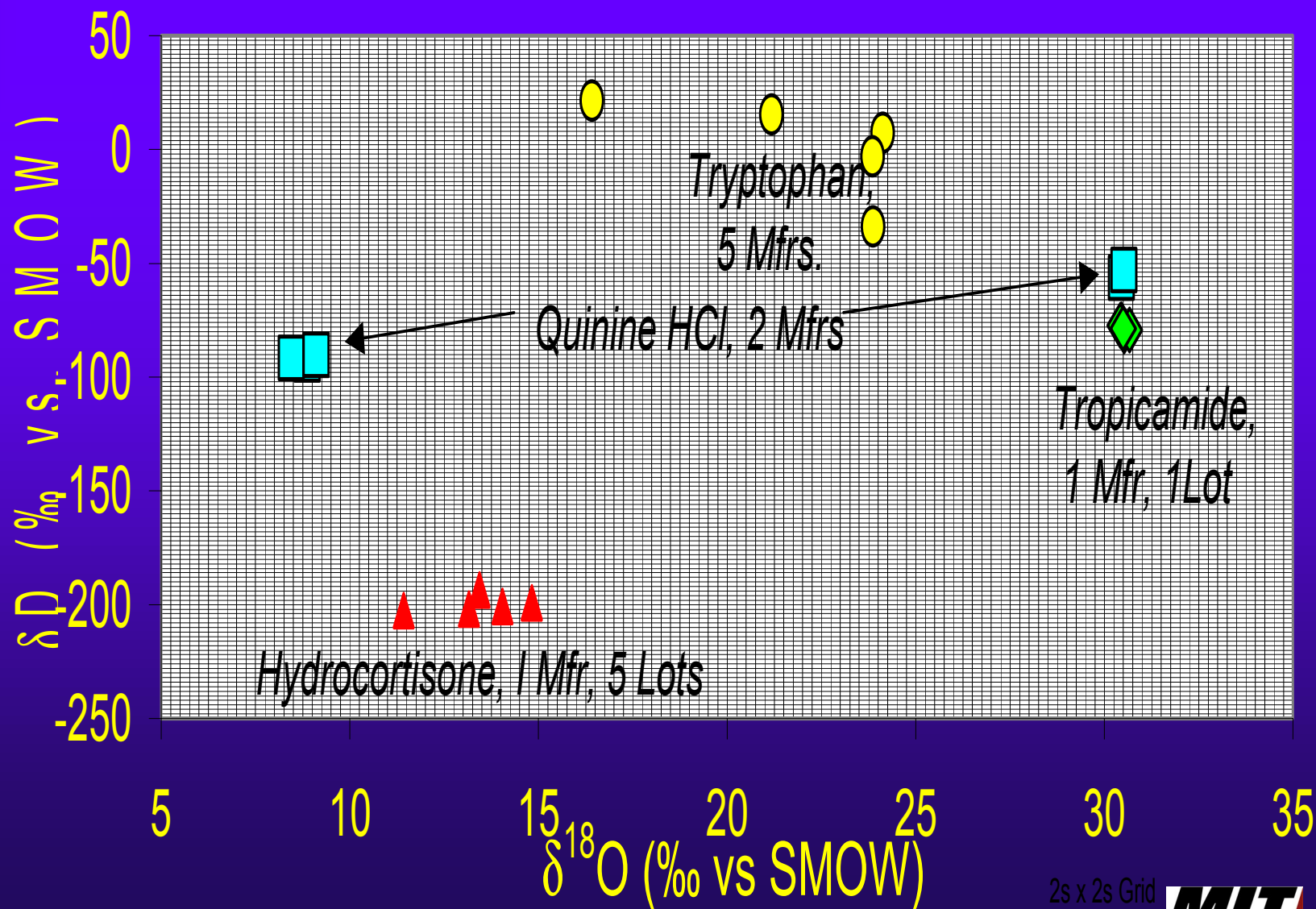
1. Hydrocortisone

2. Quinine HCl

3. Tryptophan

4. Tropicamide

FDA-MIT Study of APIs: δD vs. $\delta^{18}O$



ANTHROPOGENIC PATHWAY OF ELEMENTS

NATURAL MATERIALS
Inorganic Elements
Natural Organics Materials



INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS
Industrial Raw Materials
Synthetic Intermediates
Manufactured Products



METABOLITES
In Vivo
Environmental



SUMMARY

1. **“Isotopic Fingerprinting”** is a highly-specific means of characterizing of industrial (*viz.*, pharmaceutical) materials and thereby identifying and protecting these materials.
2. **“Scatter”** is good when establishing isotopic fingerprints.
 - A. **Dynamic Range Variations**: All sample suites of drug substances measured show significant DR variations for the isotopes analyzed (*viz.*, ^{13}C , ^{15}N , ^2H , ^{18}O).
 - B. **Batch-Series Variations** in δ -values were both continuous and episodic (“spikey”).
Dift. raw materials & variable synthesis cndtns.



3. **Specificity**: Isotopic crossplots show that the combined DRs of these analgesic drugs yield $\sim 5 \times 10^5$ possibilities or “combinations.” Can be much higher as seen in FDA APIs.

4. **Industrial Batch Products**: The present work on ethical pharmaceuticals focuses on multi-isotopic identification of batch-produced products (patents pending).



Acknowledgements

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Dennis Coleman Todd Coleman Steve Pelphrey

Patents Pending: G8 & Australia

***Isotope Product Authenticity, “Natural Labeling”
(Multi-Isotopic Identification of Batch-Produced
Industrial Products)***



*Literature Available at the
Back of the Room.*