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# The Challenge for Analysis



How do we get analytes out of these samples?



# The Answer is Sample Preparation



# Analysis Technique



## Sample Preparation.......



Sample Preparation.......



### **Importance of Sample Preparation**

"Eighty Percent of the Variance in an Assay Usually Arises from the Sample Prep."

R. Stevenson, "Pittcon '98: Part 3, Sample Prep: The Place to Make a Difference" American Laboratory, Vol. 30, No. 14, p. 21, 1998.



# The Important Parameters for Sample Prep

### • Solvent Use

- Amount of solvent consumed for the extraction
- Solvents are expensive; reducing use reduces costs
- Extraction Time
	- Amount of time required for each extraction to occur
	- Reducing extraction time increases lab throughput
- % Recovery
	- Amount of analyte recovered following the extraction
	- Low % recovery yields poor analytical results
- % Relative Standard Deviation (RSD)
	- Measure of reproducibility between extractions
	- Extraction results have greater reproducibility with lower %RSDs

### These Parameters Evaluate SP Techniques

# Important Parameters for Liquid-Solid Extraction



# Three Mechanisms Controlling Extractions



- 1. Transport of analyte X through sample particle, including overcoming analyte-matrix interactions and diffusion though sample particle.
- 2. Transport of analyte from particle surface to extracting fluid, overcoming adsorption energy at particle surface.
- 3. Transport of extracting fluid and analyte away from sample particle.



# Increasing Temperature Accelerates Extraction



Higher temperature results in a curve that reaches maximum extraction yield faster

### Thermo Fisher Scientific Dionex Sample Prep Product Line



Thermo Scientific Dionex ASE 150 and **ASE 350 Accelerated Solvent Extractor** 

Thermo Scientific Dionex AutoTrace 280 Solid-Phase Extraction (SPE) Instrument

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**Thermo Scientific** Dionex SolEx SPE Cartridges



Genevac Rocket Evaporator

# **Novel & Innovative Solutions**

### Sample Preparation is Critical for Sample To Knowledge



# In the Beginning There Was Soxhlet...



(1848 – 1926)

de facto standard for solvent extraction

Slow, high solvent usage

# Now . . . Accelerated Solvent Extraction

- Automates sample preparation for solid and semisolid samples using solvents at elevated temperatures and pressure.
- Operates above the boiling point of extraction solvents by using sealed extraction cells.
- pH Hardened pathways allows use of strong acids and bases for sample pretreatment
- Well established and proven technique that is superior to Soxhlet and approved for U.S. EPA Method 3545A.



**Thermo ScientificTM DionexTM ASETM 350 Accelerated Solvent Extractor system**

# U.S. EPA Method 3545A.... Highlights

#### METHOD 3545A

#### PRESSURIZED FLUID EXTRACTION (PFE)

#### 1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

 $1.1$ Method 3545 is a procedure for extracting water insoluble or slightly water soluble organic compounds from soils, clays, sediments, sludges, and waste solids. The method uses elevated temperature (100 - 180°C) and pressure (1500 - 2000 psi) to achieve analyte recoveries equivalent to those from Soxhlet extraction, using less solvent and taking significantly less time than the Soxhlet procedure. This procedure was developed and validated on a commercially-available. automated extraction system.

 $12$ This method is applicable to the extraction of semivolatile organic compounds, organophosphorus pesticides, organochlorine pesticides, chlorinated herbicides, PCBs, and PCDDs/PCDFs, which may then be analyzed by a variety of chromatographic procedures.

 $1.3$ This method has been validated for solid matrices containing 250 to 12,500 µg/kg of semivolatile organic compounds, 250 to 2500 µg/kg of organophosphorus pesticides, 5 to 250 ug/kg of organochlorine pesticides, 50 to 5000 ug/kg of chlorinated herbicides. 1 to 1400 ug/kg of PCBs, and 1 to 2500 ng/kg of PCDDs/PCDFs. The method may be applicable to samples containing these analytes at higher concentrations and may be employed after adequate performance has been demonstrated for the concentrations of interest (see Method 3500, Sec. 8.0).

### How Does Accelerated Solvent Extraction Work?



**ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC** 

### What About Thermally Labile Compounds and Carryover?

**Investigations of Thermal Degradation During Accelerated Solvent Extraction (ASE)** John Ezzell, Thermo Risher Scientific, Sunnyvale, CA, USA

Nocelerated Solvent Extraction, ASE, DDT, Endrin, Dicumyl Peroxid<br>Antehod Optimization, Thermally Labile Compounds

To demonstrate that the accelerated solvent extraction technique can be used to extract thermally labile compounds with proper method optimization.

#### Accelerated solvent extraction is a sample preparation

Accelerated solvent extraction is a sample preparation<br>technique that uses elevated temperature and pressure to<br>increase extraction efficiency in solid and semi-solid samples. This technique significantly reduces the amount of simple and solvent required for extraction when compared<br>to traditional techniques such as Soxhlet. Since elevated<br>temperature is used to accomplish the extraction, the effect of thermal degradation was investigated to ascertain the viability of this technique for thermally labile compounds viability of this technique for ulerihany labile compounds.<br>Thermal degradation was not observed for DDT, endrin,<br>and dicumyl peroxide in spiked sand samples at temperatures as high as 150 °C. These results demonstrate the versatility of the accelerated solvent extraction method<br>and show that thermally labile compounds can be<br>extracted in an optimized extraction method.

Accelerated lower case these two is a new extraction<br>method that significantly streamlines sample preparation. A commonly used solvent is pumped into an extraction cell containing the sample, which is then brought to an<br>elevated temperature and pressure. Minutes later, the<br>extract is transferred from the heated cell to a standard collection vial for cleanup or analysis. The entire extraction year for creamp or analysis. The entire<br>extraction process is fully automated and performed in<br>minutes for fast and easy extraction with low solvent consumption

Because extractions are performed at elevated<br>temperatures using the accelerated solvent extraction<br>method, thermal degradation could be a concern. This has been investigated, and no evidence of depradation. has been investigated, and no evidence or degradation<br>has been seen. The experiments reported here include<br>monitoring the stability of thermally labile compounds during standard accelerated solvent extraction conditions  $(100 °C)$  as well as extractions done at higher temperatures (150 °C).



The degradation of DDT and endrin during GC analysis is used as an indication of active sites or exce conditions.<sup>1</sup> DDT breaks down to DDD and DDE, and endrin forms endrin aldehyde and endrin ketone. These same compounds were used to determine if thermal decomposition can occur during the accelerated solvent accomposition can occur uting the accentation technology<br>extraction method. Another temperature sensitive<br>compound was also used as a probe to measure thermal<br>and oxidative decomposition. Dicumyl percoide (DCP) is<br>used as is very sensitive to thermal degradation.

#### · Thermo Scientific" Dionex" ASE" 200 Accelerated

Solvent Extractor syst · Gas chromatoeraph (GC) with electron canture. detector (ECD) · Thermo Scientific<sup>36</sup> Dionex<sup>76</sup> DX-500 HPLC system with AD20 (UV detector

> **Thermo** SCIENTIFIC

Thermo Fisher Scientific, Sunnyvale, CA, USA **More Wood** Nocelerated<br>Accelerated Solvent Extraction, ASE, Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons,<br>Polychlorinated Biphenyls, U.S. EPA Method 3545A To demonstrate that the accelerated solvent extraction technique is exhaustive and does not result in carry over or cross contamination in hatween samples **Evangtive Summary** Accelerated solvent extraction is a sample preparation<br>technique that uses elevated temperature and pressure to increase extraction efficiency in solid and semi-solid samples. This technique significantly reduces the amount of time and solvent required for extraction when compared to traditional techniques such as Soxhlet. The accelerated solvent extraction technique ensures a high degree of reproducibility by running each sample individually underthe production by running each sample must<br>almost the preset method conditions. This sequential mode of<br>operation uses a common pathway to collect the extracts and carry-over or cross contamination was investigated to ascertain the viability of this technique for multiple samples processed in a single batch. Two sets of extractions were run on soil and sediment contaminated with PAHs (up to 1,500 mg/kg) and PCBs (up to 3,700 µg/kg) and carryover was not observed. These results demonstrate that the was not observed. These results demonstrate that the<br>accelerated solvent extraction technique is exhaustive and<br>all compounds will be removed from the common extract pathway when using an optimized extraction method. Accelerated solvent extraction (ASE) is an innovative

**Investigation of Carryover or** 

**Solvent Extractor System** 

John Ezzell and Bruce Richter

**Cross-Contamination in the Thermo** 

**Scientific Dionex ASE 200 Accelerator** 

sample preparation technique that combines elevated temperatures and pressures with liquid solvents to achieve heavily loaded soil and sediment samples followed by fast and efficient removal of analytes of interest from various matrices. With accelerated solvent extraction technique, extractions can be done in very short periods of time and with minimal amounts of solvent as compared to conventional sample extraction techniques like Soxhlet or sonication. For example, 10 g samples can<br>be completely extracted in less than 15 min with less than



has been demonstrated to be equivalent to existing extraction methodologies such as Soxhlet and automated Soxhlet for most RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) analytes from solid and semisolid samples.<br>It meets the requirements of U.S. EPA Method 3545, **Pressurized Fluid Extraction** 

With the small amount of solvent used relative to the sample size, carryover or cross-contamination could be potential concerns with the accelerated solvent extraction technique and the Dionex ASE 200. Two sets of experiments were conducted to investigate these concern-The experiments performed included the extraction of extracting blank samples and the dete<br>analytes in both extracts.

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TN 206: Investigation of Thermal Degradation

TN 207: Investigation of Carryover

ASE Does Not Degrade Labile Compounds and is Exhaustive!

# TN 206: Evaluating Thermal Degradation



- Spike DDT and Endrin on sand at 5 ppb level
- Measure recovery and monitor for the presence of DDD, DDE, Endrin Aldehyde and Endrin Ketone
- Monitor the recovery of other temperature sensitive compounds such as o-toluidine and dichlorobenzidine

### TN 207: Investigation of Carryover with PAHs and PCBs

- • 5 g of SRS sample (soil contaminated at 11%, N= 3)
	- $\bullet$ First extract = 106.1% average recovery of PAH by HPLC
	- $\bullet$ MDQ was 0.2 mg/kg, Certified concentration of PAHs ranged from 31 – 1500 mg/kg
	- $\bullet$ Second extract (solvent blank) = PAHs not present
- • 8 g of sediment from NIST(SRM 1939, 35% extractable, N=3)
	- $\bullet$ First Extract = 101.8% average recovery of PCB by GC-ECD
	- $\bullet$ MDQ – 0.1  $\mu$ g/kg, Certified concentration of PCBs ranged from 180 to 3700  $\mu$ g/kg
	- $\bullet$ Second extract (solvent blank) = PCBs not present

# Using the ASE 350

1. Power on, automatic initialization

2. Turn on gas supply, set pressure to 1.03 MPa(150 psi)

3. Select and prepare appropriate solvents

4. Grind and mix samples with dispersants



5. Load samples into cells

6. Prime the system

7. Create/Load Method and Sequence

8: Run the Method or Sequence!

# Selecting Solvents

#### Autoignition Point

Do not use solvent with autoignition point below 200 °C (carbon disulfide, diethyl ether, 1,4-dioxane)

#### Acids

Strong mineral acids should not be used (e.g. hydrochloric acid)

Sulfuric acid and nitric acid can be used at concentrations less than 0.1% by volume.

Weak Acids such as phosphoric or acetic acid can be used as extraction solvents in small percentages (< 5% by volume.





n-Hexane Methanol

#### **Quality**

Use HPLC or pesticide grade organic or aqueous solvents.

Solvents do not need to be degassed.

#### Bases

Strong bases such as sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide can be used at concentrations less than 0.1% by volume.

Weak bases such as ammonia can be used at small percentages (< 5% by volume)

# The Importance of Grinding Samples



Samples with large particle sizes should be ground prior to extraction.

This exposures more surface area that can be exposed to the solvent and improves extraction efficiency.

# The Importance of Grinding Samples

Hexane: IPA, 125 °C, gravimetric analysis Extraction of Fat From Mozzarella Cheese



# Mixing the Sample – Dispersants and Resins



ASE Prep DE

Pelletized DE is used as a drying and dispersing agent for solid and semisolid samples. Prevents sample adhesion and compaction.



ASE Prep Cr H<sup>+</sup> Form

Cation exchange resin in the hydrogen form that neutralizes strong bases in samples that have been pretreated using base hydrolysis.



ASE Prep MAP

Uses a proprietary polymer to absorb moisture in wet samples.



#### ASE Prep Cr Na<sup>+</sup> Form

Cation exchange resin in the sodium form that neutralizes strong mineral acids in samples that have been pretreated using acid hydrolysis.



# ASE Prep Sorbents



# Selecting the Sample Cell



Stainless Steel Extraction Cells

1 mL, 5, mL, 10 mL, 22 mL, 34 mL, 66 mL, 100 mL

#### Dionium Extraction Cells

66 mL, 100 mL

# International Agency Acceptance of ASE



### United States

U.S. EPA Method 3545A (OCP, OPP, BNA, TPH, PCDD, herbicides and semi-volatiles)

U.S. EPA Method 8267 (Toxaphene)

U.S. EPA Method 6860 (Perchlorate)

NOAA Method NWFS-NWFSC-59 (Hydrocarbons)

ASTM D-7210 (Polymer Additives)



National Standard NMX-AA-146-SCFI-2008 forPAHs in soils and sediments



### **China**

Method GB/T 19649-2006 for 475 pesticides in grains and grain products

Method GB/T 23376-2009, pesticides in tea leaves

Method GB/T22996-2008, ginsenosides in ginseng



Method L00.00-34 for pesticides in foodstuffs

# Key ASE Applications Summary



### **Environmental Market**



- PAHs & PCBs in Soils, Sediments, and  $1$ **Tissue**
- Dioxins in Dust, Brick, Sediment, and Ash  $\overline{2}$
- $3<sub>l</sub>$ Flame Retardants in Electronic Waste and **Dust**
- **BNAs in Soils and Sediments**  $\overline{4}$
- **Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Soils**  $5<sub>1</sub>$
- Pesticides in Soil, Sediments, and Tissue 6.
- **Toxaphene in Fish Tissue**  $\mathbf{7}$
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Tissue  $\mathbf{B}$
- Persistent organic pollutants in sludges 9





**Government Agencies** 

**Water Treatment Plants** 



# PAHs and PCBs

### **Simultaneous extraction and clean-up of PAH and PCB from mussels\* and soil\***



\* Spiked samples with EPA 8270 PAH Base-Neutral Surrogate Mix, PAH Spike Mix, PCB surrogate (2,4,5,6-Tetrachloro-m-xylene) and Aroclor 1254.

### Extraction of PAHs and PCBs From Mussel & Soil



Table 2. Data for mussel and soil samples extracted by Method 1.

\*\*Surrogate Spike

### Recovery Ranges from 83 – 107 %

### **Food and Beverage Market**



- Acrylamide in Bread and Chips 1.
- Total fat from dairy, powdered milk, meat,  $\overline{2}$ and infant formula
- Mycotoxins from wheat and corn 3.
- Fat from chocolate and oil seeds  $\overline{4}$
- Total unbound fat in snack foods 5.
- Pesticides from oyster tissue  $6$
- Pesticides in multiple types of food samples  $\mathcal{I}$
- Perchlorate in vegetation  $\bf{8}$
- Active ingredients in dietary supplements 9
- Pollutants in dietary supplements  $10$



- **Government Agencies**
- **Dietary Supplements**



**Food Manufacturers** 

# Dioxins and Furans – Fish Tissue (CRM)



ASE yields equivalent results to Soxhlet while using less time and solvent

# Pesticides from Oyster Tissue



ASE Prep MAP yields higher recoveries than sodium sulfate

# Pesticides in Food

### **Recovery of polychlorinated pesticides in raw banana**



# Pesticides in Food

### **Recovery of polychlorinated pesticides in raw potatoes**



### Fat Extraction from Food using Acid Hydrolysis, GC-MS Data



pH Hardened Pathways Allow the Use of Acids

## Extraction of Perchlorate from Vegetation

- Challenging for sample preparation
- Many interferences can be co-extracted
- EPA method labour intensive and time consuming\*
	- 20 h for extraction
	- 20+ h for cleanup
- Can ASE® be used to address labour and time?

\*Ellington and Evans, *J. Chromatography. A,* **2000,** *898* 193–199

### **Off-line Cleanup**

- Oven-dried samples (5 g) mixed with diatomaceous earth
- Extraction with standard ASE® conditions
	- D. I. water, 125 °C, 1500 psi, 17-min total time
- SPE cleanup of extracts with alumina and C<sub>18</sub>

### **In-line Cleanup**

- Oven-dried samples (5 g) mixed with diatomaceous earth
- Samples loaded into cell containing alumina/C18 in outlet
- Extracted with standard ASE conditions
	- D. I. water, 125  $\degree$  C, 1500 psi, 17-min total time
- Extracts analyzed without cleanup

## Schematic of In-Line Cleanup in ASE® Cell



### Perchlorate Conclusion

- ASE<sup>®</sup> can be used as a sample extraction/cleanup procedure prior to the determination of perchlorate in soils and plant materials
	- Alumina/ $C_{18}$  in ASE cell (in-line) can provide clean extracts ready for analysis
	- Total time is less than 20 min for extraction and cleanup
- Automation of ASE improves the precision of the analytical scheme and increases sample capacity
- Same ASE instrument can be used for both ionic and non polar contaminants

## ASE® Extraction of Mycotoxins

- Naturally occurring toxins produced by moulds
- Over 400 have been identified
	- Based on toxicity and occurrence the following are of highest concern
	- Aflatoxins, Vomitoxin, Fumonisin, Zearalenone, T-2 Toxin
- In the livestock industry mycotoxins are found predominantly in animal feeds

## Extraction of Fumonisin from ASE® Conditions



# Recovery of Fumonisin from Corn Meal Recovery of Fumonisin from Corn Meal



### Extraction of Aflatoxins from ASE® Conditions



### Recovery\* of Spiked Aflatoxins



# The Effects of Solvent Selection

Fat Determination in Powdered Infant Formula (SRM 1846)



100 ºC, 3 static cycles, gravimetric analysis

# The Effects of Temperature

### Fat Extraction from Powdered Infant Formula (SRM 1846)

100 vs.125 ºC, 3 static cycles, gravimetric analysis



### Solvent Selectivity in ASE



What does selectivity achieve?

- Isolates only the analytes of interest
- Retains or removes interfering compounds



Tobacco Extracts **Blueberry Extracts** 

How to make extractions selective

- Solvent choice adjust polarity
- Adding sorbents alumina for fat retention
- Lowering temperature less coextractables

### Use of Adsorbents Improves Selectivity

**Accelerated Solvent Extraction Techniques for In-Line Selective Removal of Interferences** 



 $\label{thm:2} \begin{minipage}[t]{0.9\linewidth} \hspace*{-0.1cm} \textbf{Interferences may be extracted along with desired} \\ \textit{analytes during an extraction process. These unwanted} \\ \textit{co-extractables may interfere with analytic detection} \end{minipage}$ or decrease instrument performance. Traditionally, of the contatographic techniques such as gel-permeation<br>chromatography (GPC) or a glass column packed with<br>specific adsorbents are used to purify sample extracts prior to separation and analysis. Recent advances using accelerated solvent extraction systems, as described in<br>several publications, 1,3-10,12-17 include procedures for several publications, "include procedures for<br>selective removal to prevent the extraction and the selective removal to provide the sample with CL3 has been<br>thus combining extraction and purification into a single step. sho

fractionate linids from biological samples.

This note is intended to serve as a guide to develop accelerated solvent extraction methods. For more information, please refer to the original publication cited with each method described below, or contact us.

In an effort to eliminate post-extraction elemna steps,<br>we and others have researched the addition of various<br>adsorbents to the extraction cell. For many sample types, this approach has proven successful in producing clean extracts that are ready for direct analysis. For example,<br>nonpolar lipids are often co-extracted from fish tissue.<br>Adding alumina (aluminum oxide, Al,O<sub>p</sub> acidic, activated by placing in a drying oven at 350 °C for 15 h) to the extraction cell before adding the sample or sample mixture<br>has been shown to prevent the extraction of unwanted<br>lipids. Mixing the sample with CI8 resin (1:2) has been thus combining extractors and parthesions into a single step. shown to retain organic contaminants (CLE bonded sinks<br>This application roote summarizes seven accelerated solvent 3.5–70 pm diameter, and providy of 60 Å, fro solvent extraction solvent choice impacts the retention<br>of unwanted components. For example, a mixture of hexane/acetone (1:1) is a common solvent for extractory and according problem for extractory and the problem and the state of

**Selective Extraction of Nonpolar Compounds** 

extraction, a cleanup step is usually required to removco-extracted lipids. Adding alumina to an extraction cell and extracting with hexane can prevent the extraction of<br>interferences. However, if hexane/acctone  $\left(1{:}1\right)$  is used as the extraction solvent, almost no lipid material will be<br>retained on the alumina. Table 1 lists two types of fat retainers and the rational alone 1 issue two types or fat<br>retainers and the ratio of each required to retain fat when<br>taing nonpolar solvents. Table 2 lists common adsorbents<br>that are used for selective extraction of compo

Silica Gel Removes nonpolar lipids **Adsorbent and UsesCarbon**  Removes organics and nonpolar compoundsCopper Removes sulfur Ion-exchange ResinsRemoves organics, ionic interferences for IC and IC/MS analysis $C_8$  -  $C_{18}$  Resin Removes organics, polar<br>compounds, lipids, colors Acid-impregnatedSilica GelRemoves lipidsAlumina Removes nonpolar lipids, colorsFlorisil Removes nonpolar lipids

**Thermo** 

TN 210: In-Line Removal of Interferences Silica Gel

In-Cell Adsorbents May Eliminate the Need for Offline Clean Up Procedures

# ASE In-Line Clean-up

### **Schematic of the Cell**



# Use of Adsorbents Improves Selectivity



Preparation of the Extraction Cell for the Selective Extraction of PCBs from Fish Meal

Preparation of the Extraction Cell for the Selective Extraction of Perchlorate from Vegetation

### Integrated Clean-Up: Salmon Extracts



Extracts With and Without In-Cell Clean-Up of Fish Tissue Using Alumina, Silica Gel, and Acidic Silica Gel (40%  $\rm H_2SO_4$ )

### **ASE reduces Extraction Time**



Extraction times are based on a per sample basis. This estimate of time does not include sample weighing, sample loading, or sample concentration.

\*Requires cooling and offline filtration which adds ~40 minutes of processing time per sample

### **ASE reduces Solvent Use**



Solvent usage is determined on a per sample basis.

# Sample Preparation Productivity





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