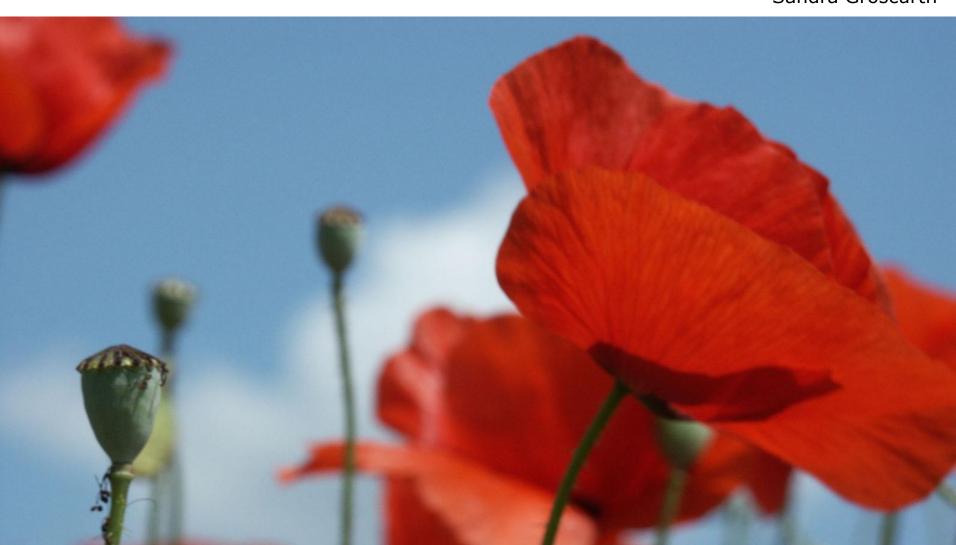
# Tools for Structure Elucidation

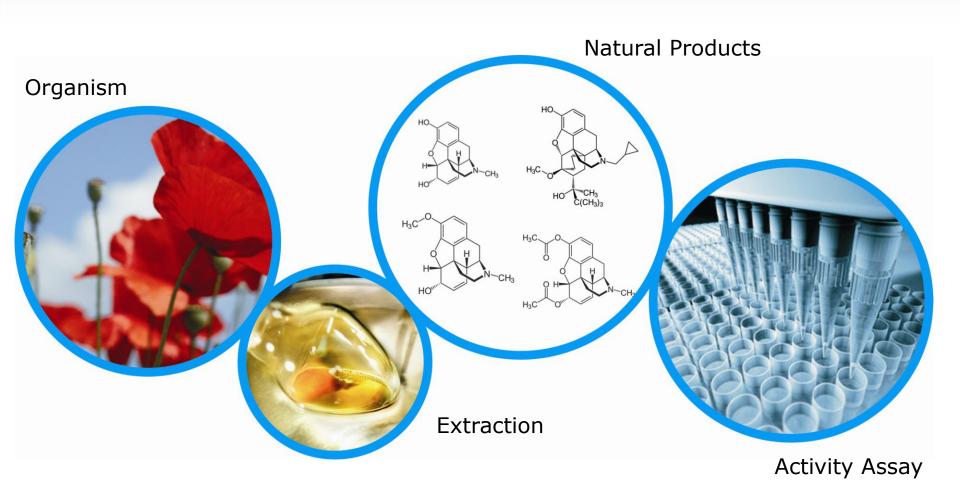


Sandra Groscurth



### Workflow in Natural Product Research





### Characterization of Unknown Structures



HOW 
$$H_3$$
C  $H_3$ 

#### characterization of extracted compounds that show activity:

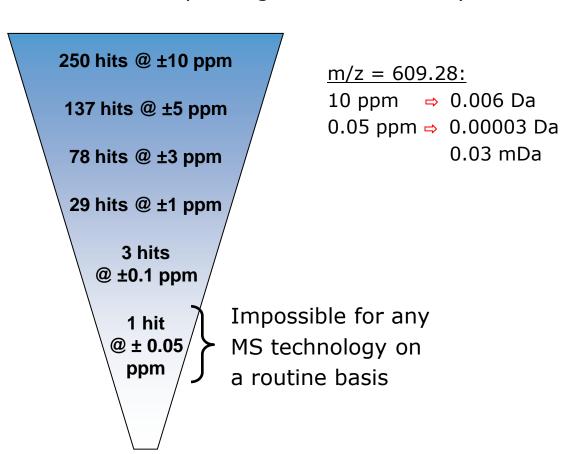
first of all, is it a new compound, is the structure unknown?

- dereplication by MS/MS
- ⇒ molecular formula determination by mass spectrometry

### Structural Characterization by MS



Number of hits depending on mass accuracy



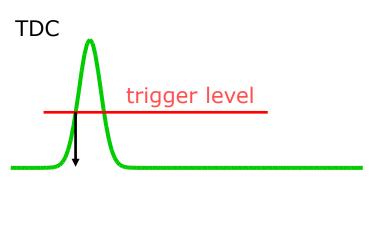


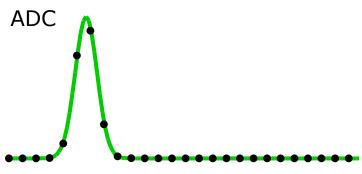
- resolution 20000 FWHM
- accuracy 1–2 ppm

### **Accurate Mass Determination**

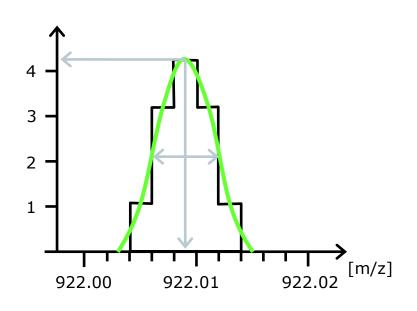


### detection of single ion signal:





2 GHz Digitizer = sampling rate 0.5 ns



### Time to Digital Converter

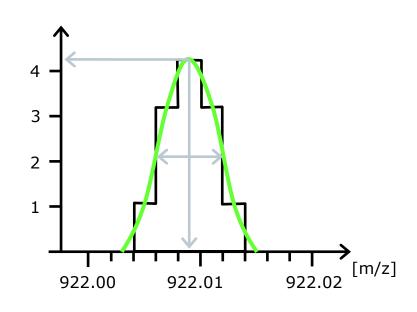


time information of the histogram peak is converted by interpolation and calibration into mass information

mass position = 
$$922.009 \text{ m/z}$$

peak width (FWMH) 
$$= 0.06$$
 Da

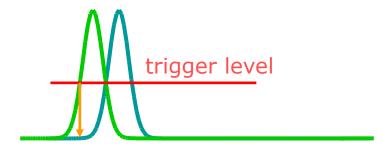
resolution = 
$$\frac{\text{mass position}}{\text{peak width}} = 15400$$

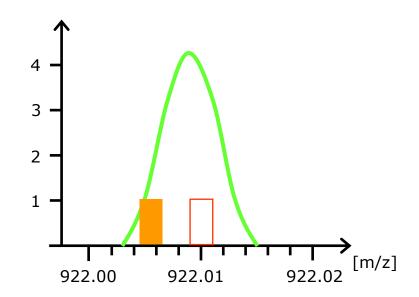


# Time to Digital Converter



with higher sample concentration two or more ions per acceleration pulse may reach the MCP detector





- ⇒ only the first ion causes a trigger event
- the second ion is not converted

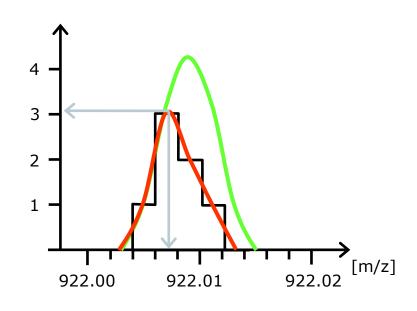
### Time to Digital Converter



with higher sample concentration two or more ions per acceleration pulse may reach the MCP detector

in this example with the same number of ions reaching the detector, only 60% of these ions were converted

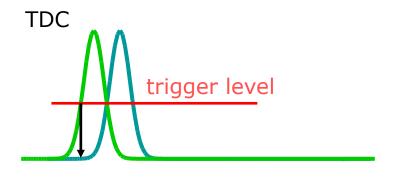
- ⇔ wrong intensity
- wrong mass position

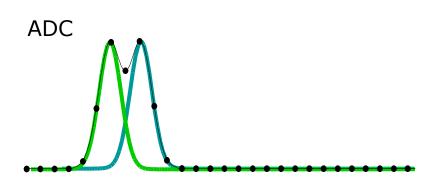


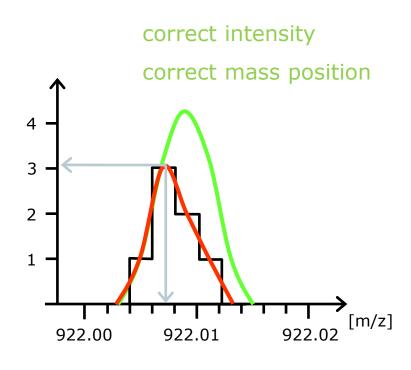
### **Accurate Mass Determination**



#### to avoid dead time effects: different digitizer technology



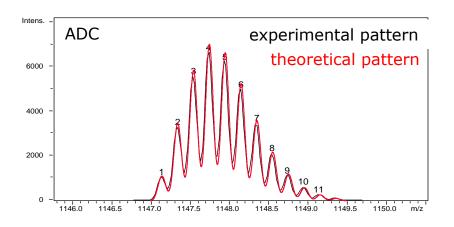


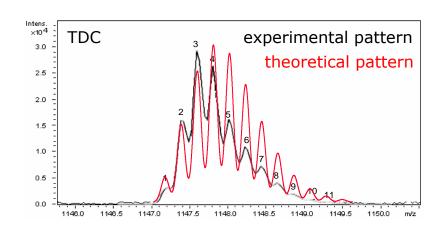


### **Accurate Mass Determination**



#### comparing true isotopic pattern of insulin

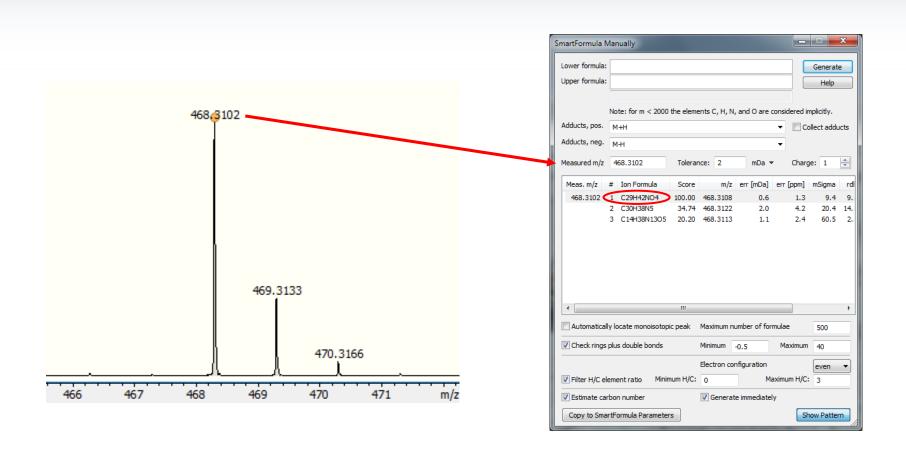




⇒ ADC digitizer technology preferred for any MS instrument

### SmartFormula – MS Data Interpretation

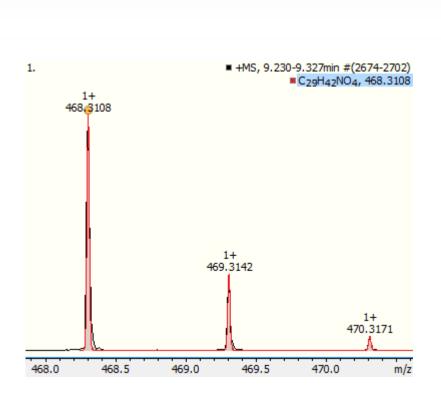


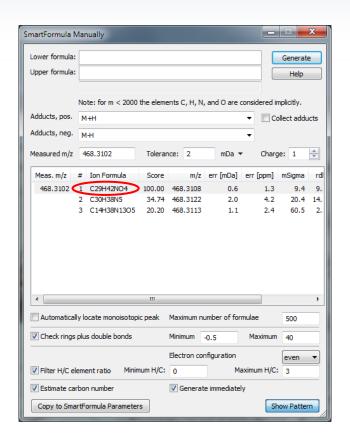


unambiguous elemental composition determination by combined accurate mass and isotopic pattern information

### SmartFormula – MS Data Interpretation





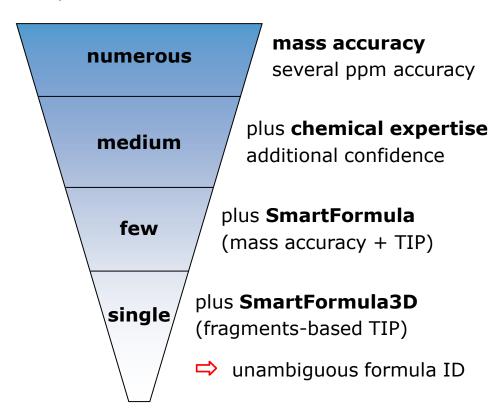


Overlay of **measured** and **simulated** spectrum:

 $\Rightarrow$  sum formula  $C_{29}H_{42}NO_4$  shows perfect match for the isotopic patterns



# possible formulae

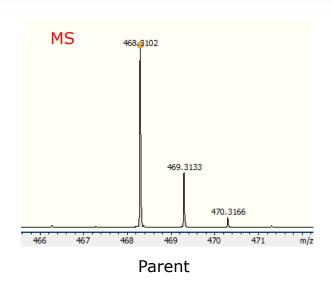


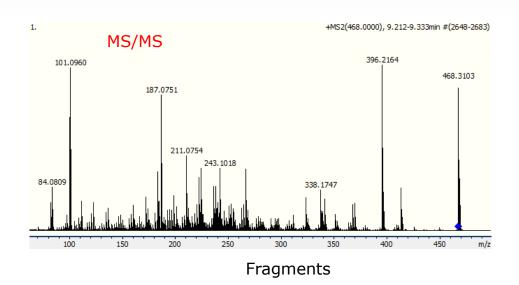
definitive molecular formulae



- resolution 40-60000 FWHM
- accuracy 1 ppm (MS & MS/MS)
- 20 full spectra/sec

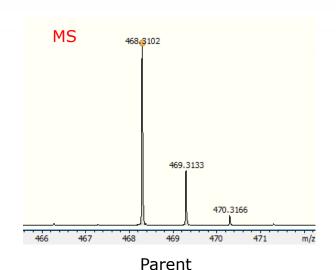


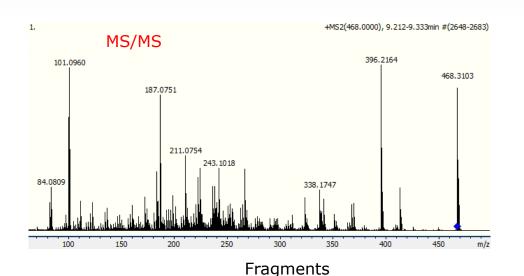


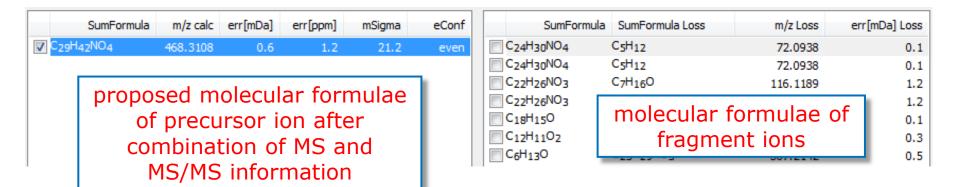


- elemental formulae for parent ions by SmartFormula
- elemental formulae for fragment ions by SmartFormula
- every 'true' fragment formula must be a sub-set of the 'true' parent formula
- SmartFormula3D

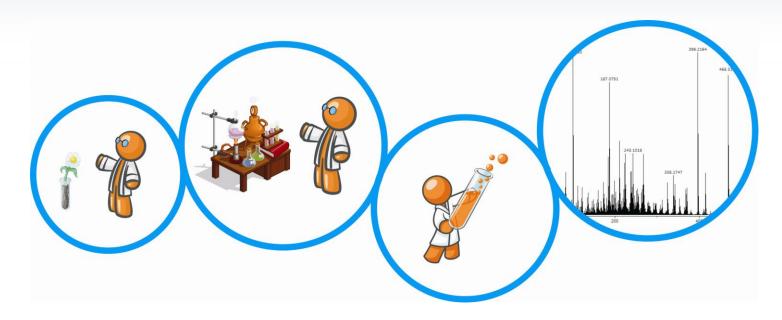












characterization of unknown compound by MS/MS:

molecular formula based on TIP of MS and MS/MS spectra

- $\Rightarrow$  C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>41</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>
- ⇒ structure elucidation by NMR

## NMR Spectra for Structure Elucidation



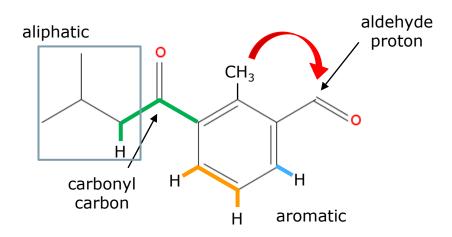
- 1D NMR spectra
  - 1D Proton o 1D Carbon

2D NMR spectra

$$\circ$$
 HSQC  $\Rightarrow$   $^{1}J_{CH}$ 

$$\circ$$
 COSY  $\Rightarrow$   $^{3}J_{HH}$ 

$$\circ$$
 HMBC  $\Rightarrow$   $^2J_{CH}/^3J_{CH}$ 



correlations neighboring atoms

### NMR Hardware Developments



rel. sensitivity
1.00
0.01
0.25
0.20
0.07
0.12
0.07

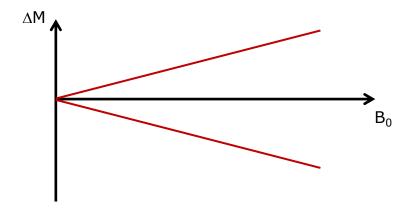
- NMR spectra for structure elucidation are less sensitive
- sample amounts are typically very little

in order to reduce the experimental time

### Increase NMR Sensitivity



increase sensitivity by increasing the magnetic field strength

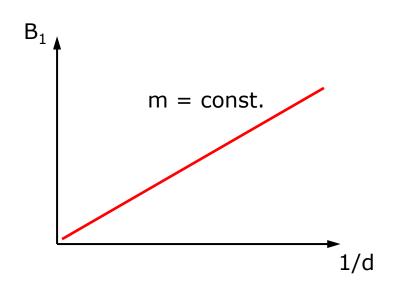


- increase (mass) sensitivity through probe technology
  - small volume probes: increase mass sensitivity
  - CryoProbes: decrease noise and thus increase signal to noise
  - o combine both: best signal to noise and highest mass sensitivity

### Small Volume NMR Probes



benefit of small volume NMR probes: increase mass sensitivity



relevant parameters:

- distance <sup>1</sup>H coil to NMR tube
- diameter of NMR tube

⇒ same number of spins increases sensitivity for small volume probes

### Small Volume NMR Probes



- no problems with solvent impurities (high analyte concentration even with very small sample amounts)
- no problems with solvent suppression (no radiation damping, etc.)
- advantage of working with small sample amounts
  - often easier to get clean samples in small amounts
  - o no danger to overload HPLC columns
  - possibility to use analytical HPLC columns and fraction collect (better separation with small sample amounts)

### Small Volume NMR Probes

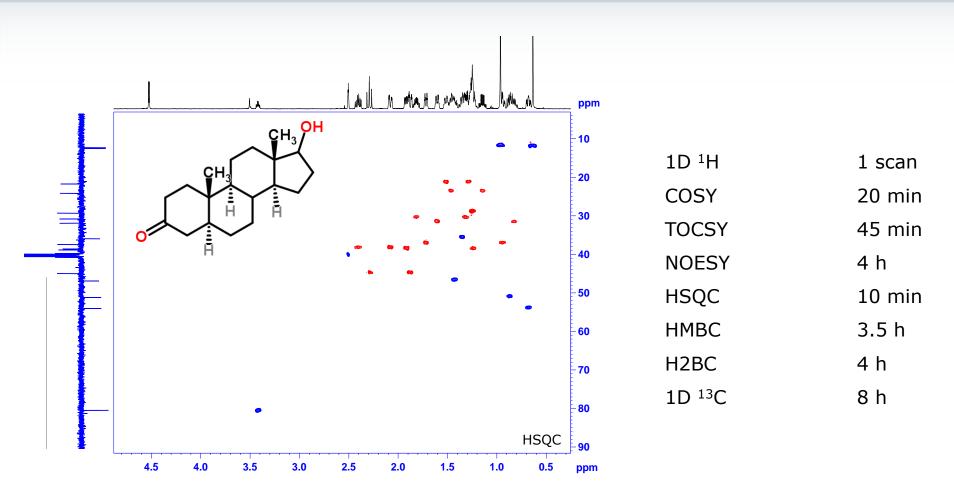


Probehead Diameter [mm]	1	1.7	3	5
Sample Volume [µl]	5	30	180	500
Recommended Concentration [mM]	30	10	2.2	1
Sample Amount [µmol]	0.15	0.30	0.40	0.50
Mass Sensitivity	~ 4	~ 2.8	~ 1.4	1
Experiment Time	1	2	8	16

D.6 mg of compound is enough to acquire all required 1D and
 2D NMR spectra on a 1.7mm RT @ 400 MHz over the weekend

### Small Volume NMR Probes: 1.7mm RT



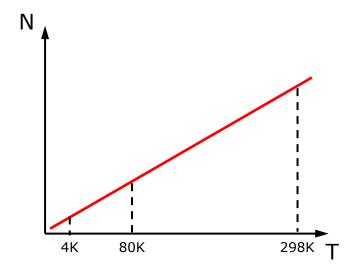


120µg of a Steroid ( $\approx$  350g/mol) in 30µl ( $\approx$  11mM) < 24 h on 600MHz

## Cryogenic NMR Probes



#### benefit of cryogenic NMR probes: decrease noise



$$^{S}/_{N} \sim \frac{M \cdot B_{0}}{\sqrt{R_{c}(T_{c} + TPA) \ + \ R_{s}(T_{s} \ + TPA)}}$$

magnetization static field

'resistance in coil' 'resistance in sample' coil temperature sample temperature

TPA: preamplifiers equivalente noise temperature

cooling NMR coil reduces electronic noise increases signal/noise

# Cryogenic NMR Probes: huge selection



He cooled

CryoProbes	400	500	600	700	800	850	900	950	1000
DCH C-H-D	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>					
TCI H-C/N-D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TCI H-C/N-D 1.7mm		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
QCI H/P-C/N/D		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
QCI H/F-C/N/D		✓	✓	✓					
TXO C/H-N-D		✓	✓	✓	✓				
DUX 2H		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
DUL-C-H-D 10mm	✓	✓	✓						
BBFO		✓							
BBO H&F	✓	✓	✓	✓					

N<sub>2</sub> cooled

CryoProbe Prodigy	400	500	600	700
Prodigy BBO	✓	✓	✓	
Prodigy TCI		✓	✓	✓

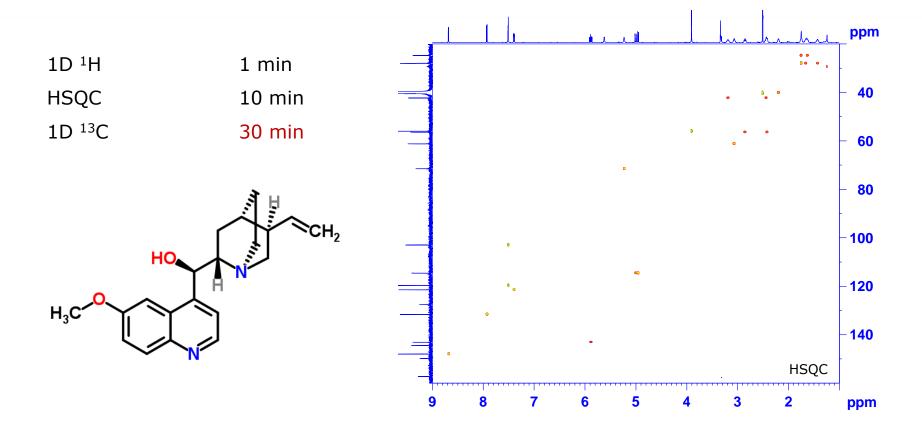
### Highest Versatility: BBO CryoProbe



- <sup>13</sup>C sensitivity 4 \* BBO RT
- <sup>15</sup>N sensitivity 4 \* BBO RT
- ¹H sensitivity 3 \* BBO RT
- observe and inverse detection
- cold preamplifiers for BB/¹H/²H
- z-gradient
- ATM compatible
- 0 ° 80 °C (standard sample temperature range)
- available for 400 700 MHz

### Maximum Carbon Sensitivity: DCH

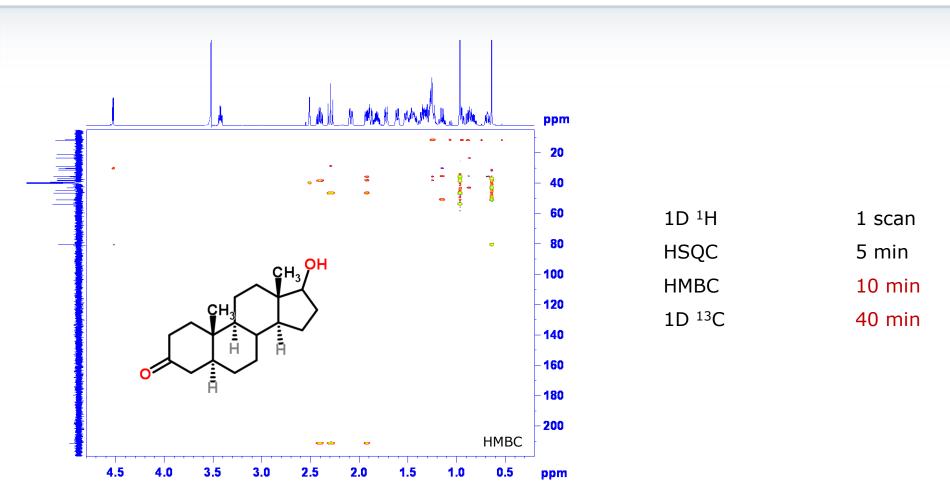




0.5mg of Quinine ( $\approx$  225mol/l) in 600 $\mu$ l ( $\approx$  2.4mM) on 700MHz

## Maximum Mass Sensitivity: 1.7 CryoProbe



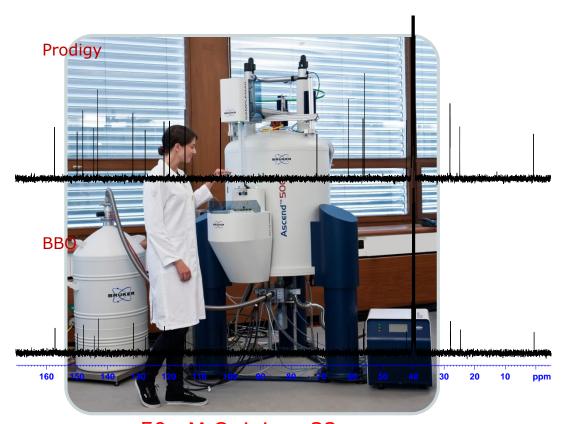


120µg of a Steroid ( $\approx$  350g/mol) in 30µl ( $\approx$  11mM) < 2 h on 600MHz

### CryoProbe Prodigy



#### CryoProbe Prodigy: alternative at medium field

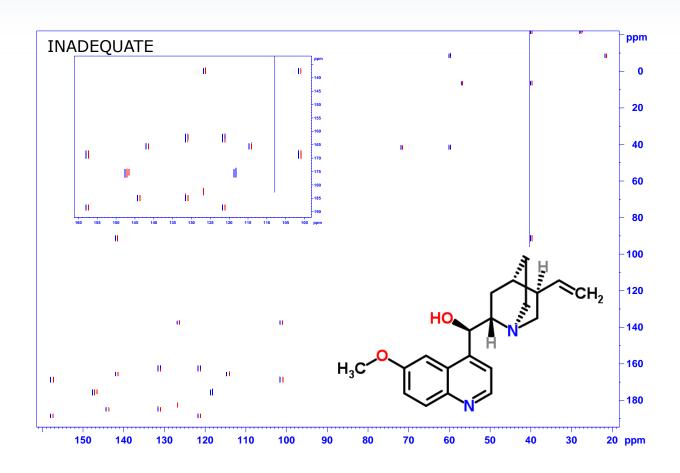


50mM Quinine, 32 scans

- liquid nitrogen for cryo-cooling
- small footprint
- Prodigy BBO
- Prodigy TCI
- ⇒ ¹³C sensitivity 2-3 \* BBO

## CryoProbe Prodigy: <sup>13</sup>C sensitivity





17.5mg of Quinine ( $\approx$  225g/mol) in 600µl ( $\approx$  100mM): expt. time 16 h

### Summary NMR Probes



#### small volume probes

- increasing mass sensitivity
- 1.7mm RT
- 1mm RT

#### cryogenic probes

decrease noise and increase signal/noise

#### N<sub>2</sub> cooled

Prodigy

⇒ sensitivity boost at affordable price

#### He cooled

BBO

⇒ highest versatility

DCH

highest carbon sensitivity

• 1.7mm

⇒ highest mass sensitivity



### NMR - Workflow for Structure Elucidation



1D Proton, 1D Carbon functional groups



2D HSQC

<sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> correlation (CH, CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>)



2D COSY

<sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> correlation

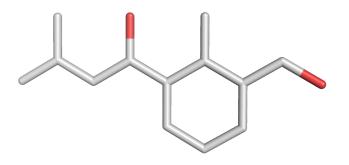


2D HMBC, 2D TOCSY

<sup>2</sup>J<sub>CH</sub>/<sup>3</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> correlation, spin system

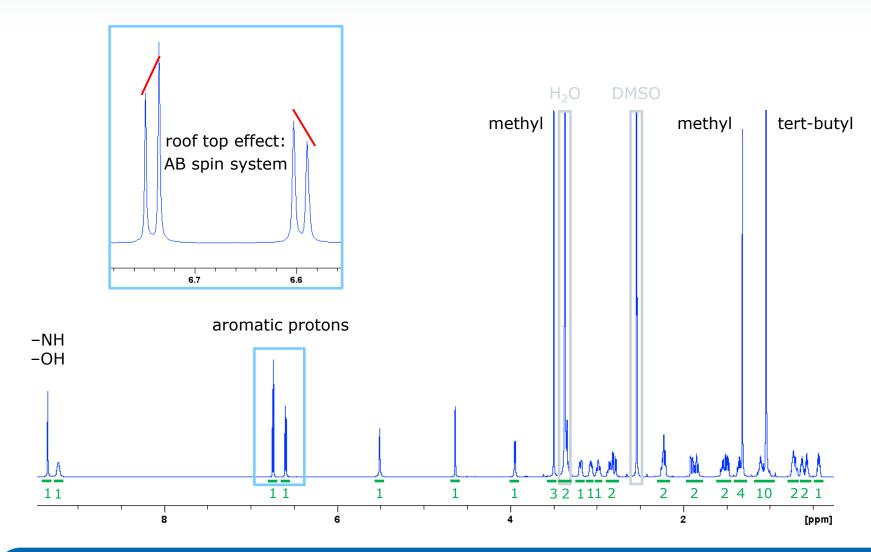


2D ROESY, 2D NOESY through space correlation



# NMR Spectroscopy – 1D Proton



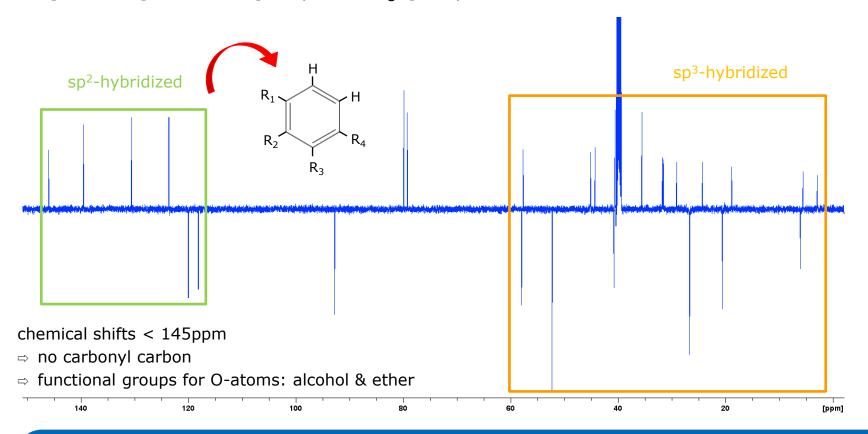


# NMR Spectroscopy – 1D Carbon



APT (Attached Proton Test) spectrum for assigning multiplicities in <sup>13</sup>C spectra

- ⇒ positive signals: CH<sub>2</sub>-groups & quaternary C
- ⇒ negative signals: CH-groups & CH<sub>3</sub>-groups

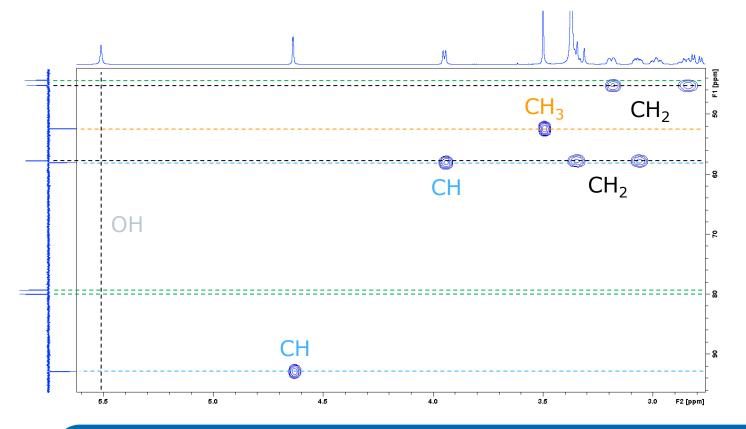


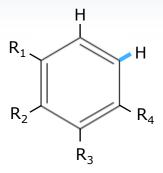
## NMR Spectroscopy – 2D HSQC



HSQC spectrum  $\Rightarrow$   $^{1}J_{CH}$  correlation

(identifying protons & carbons that are bound to each other)





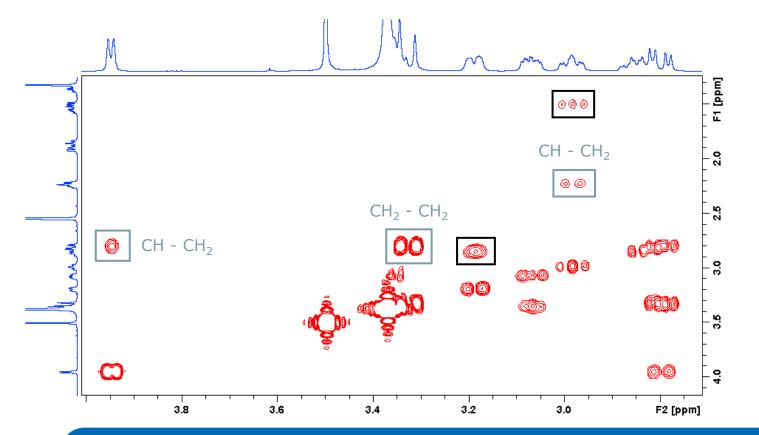
5x CH<sub>3</sub>
 9x CH<sub>2</sub>
 4x CH sp³
 2x CH sp²
 5x C sp³
 4x C sp²
 2x OH/NH

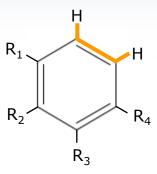
## NMR Spectroscopy – 2D COSY



COSY spectrum ⇒ <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> correlation

(identifying CH<sub>x</sub>-fragments that are covalently bound)





geminal correlations

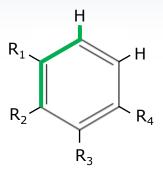
⇒ no additional information

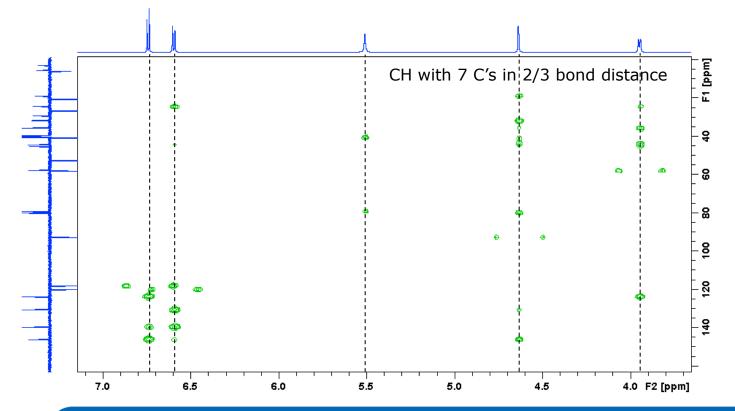
vicinal correlations

## NMR Spectroscopy – 2D HMBC



HMBC spectrum  $\Rightarrow$   $^2J_{CH}/^3J_{CH}$  correlation (connecting  $CH_x$ - fragments with neighbored carbons)





information
about
quaternary
carbons

## Putting together the fragments



1D Proton, 1D Carbon functional groups



<sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> correlation (distinguish CH, CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>)



2D COSY

<sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> correlation



2D HMBC, 2D TOCSY
<sup>2</sup>J<sub>CH</sub>/<sup>3</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> correlation, spin system

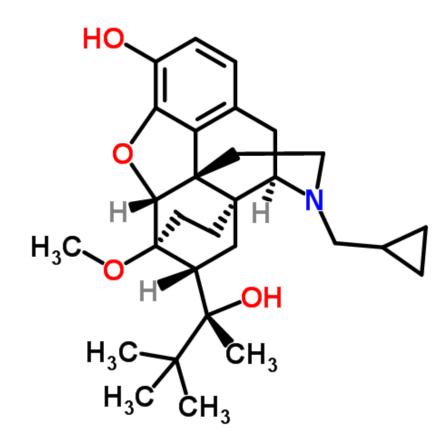
application of the rule of doublebond equivalents (DBE):

- 10 DBE for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>41</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>
- 3 DBEs C=C
- $\Rightarrow$  7 ring closure left for  $C_{29}H_{41}NO_4$

# NMR Spectroscopy – 2D Structure



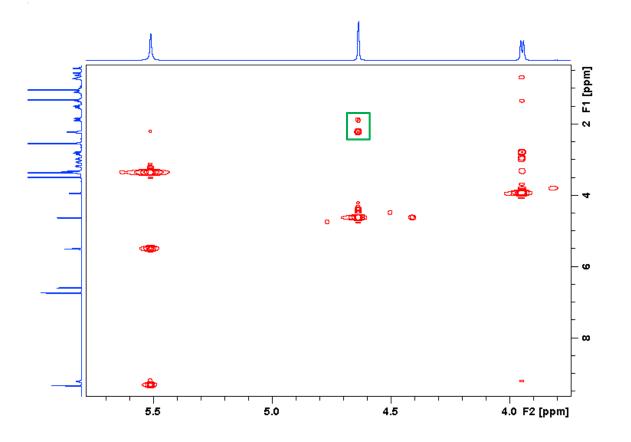
... after quite some detective work ...

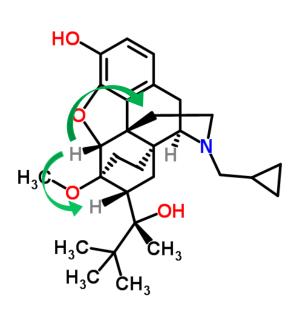


# NMR Spectroscopy – 2D NOESY



ROESY / NOESY spectrum ⇒ through space correlation (stereochemistry and 3D structure)

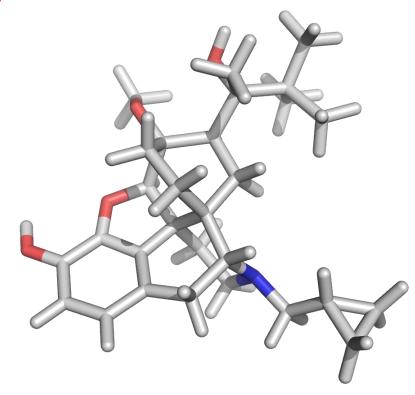




## NMR Spectroscopy – 3D Structure



#### 3D structure of Buprenorphine

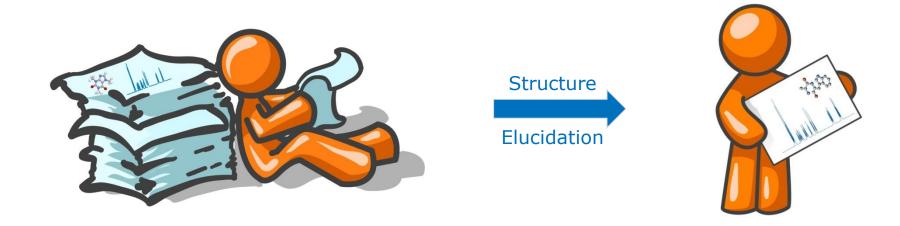


small volume NMR probes allow acquisition of all 1D & 2D spectra required for structure elucidation on only **0.6** mg of compound within one weekend

### Computer Assisted Structure Elucidation



structure elucidation is a time-consuming and challenging task



a lot of analytical data have to be analyzed in order to find the right structure

computer assisted data interpretation

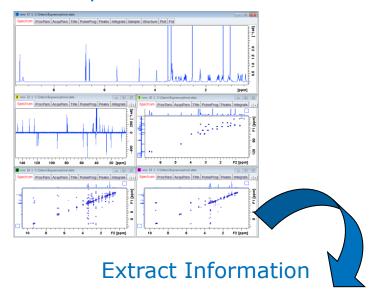
for small organic molecule NMR:

CMC-se

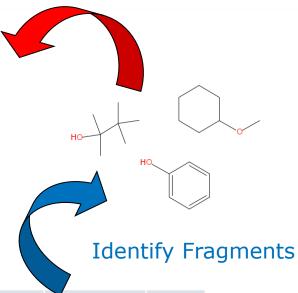
### Manual Structure Elucidation



#### Acquired Data

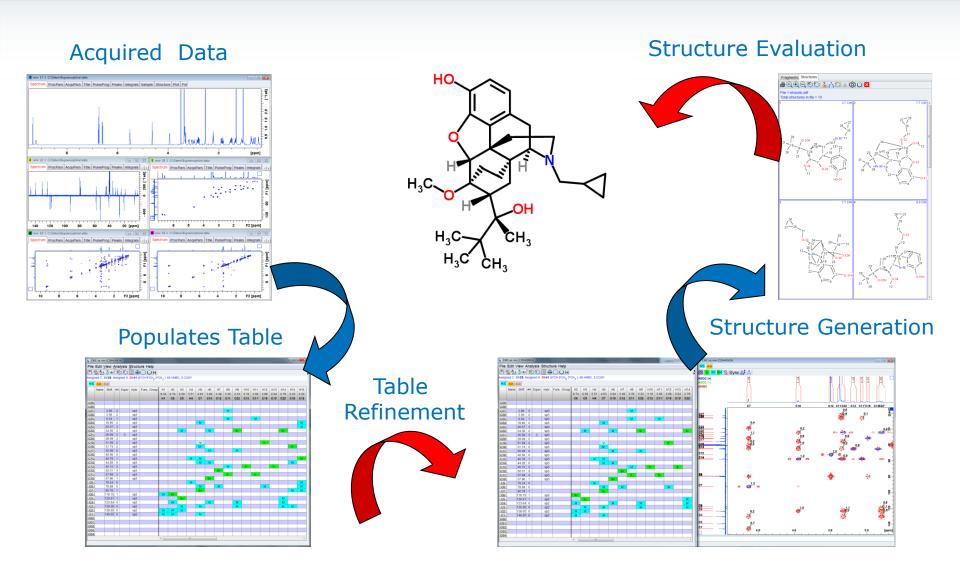


#### Generate Structure



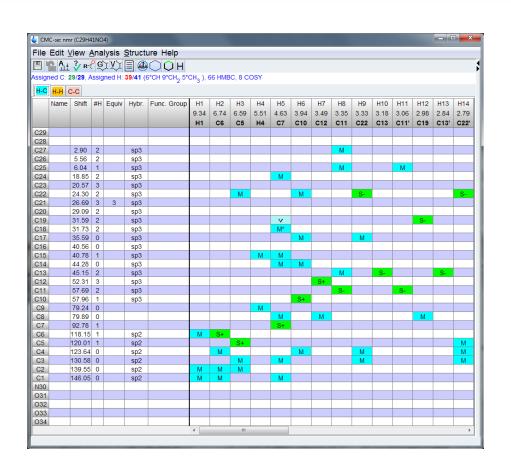
						НМВС	
21	26.69	1.04	3	sp <sup>3</sup>	tert-butyl	16, 9	
12	52.31	3.49		sp <sup>3</sup>	methoxy	8	
5	120.01	6.59		sp <sup>2</sup>	aromatic	2, 3, 22	
6	118.15	6.74		sp <sup>2</sup>	aromatic	1, 2, 4	
18	31.73	2.23		sp <sup>2</sup>		3, 7, 14	13
18'	31.73	1.90		sp <sup>2</sup>		3, 7, 14	13
15	40.78	2.22		sp <sup>3</sup>		7, 8, 9, 23, 24	19







#### **The Correlation Table**

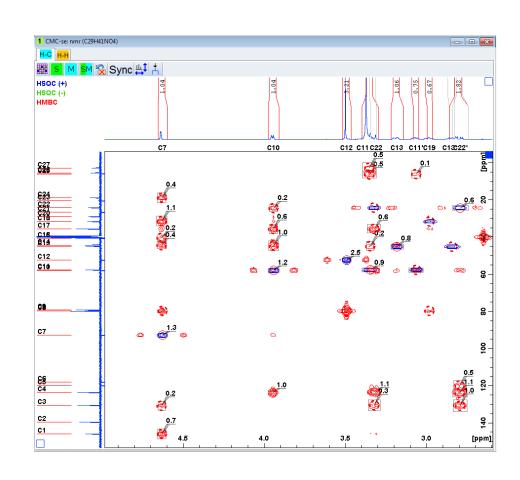


- automatically populated
- all atoms from the molecule included as rows or columns
- filled in cells indicated the presence of correlations
- fully editable by the user
- convenient way for organizing the data for structure elucidation

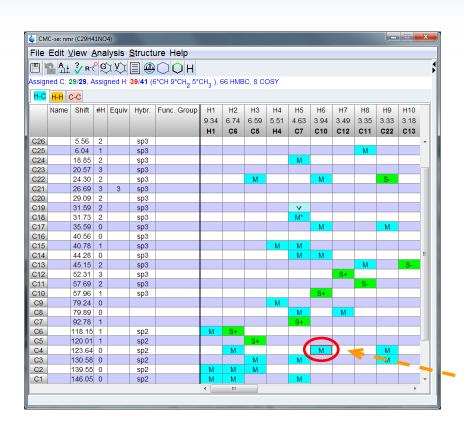


### **The Combined Spectra Display**

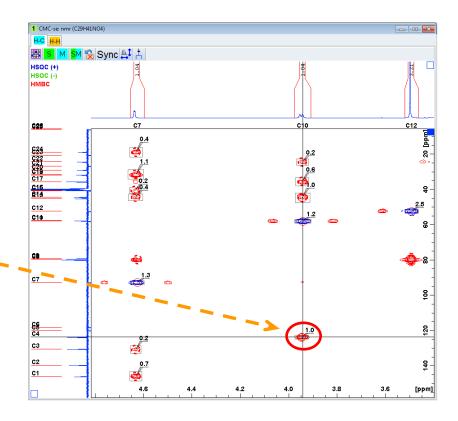
- all data from the project included in a single screen
- all automatically picked peaks are displayed
- manual corrections to the automatic data analysis are possible through this window
- correlated cursor between all windows for data evaluation







 modifications in the spectra display and correlation table are synchronized  clicking on a peak in the data results in that cell being highlighted in the table and vice versa

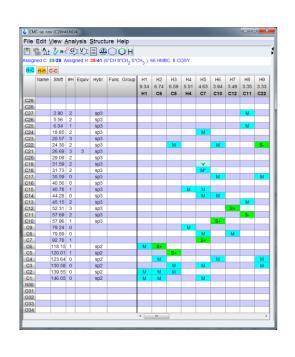


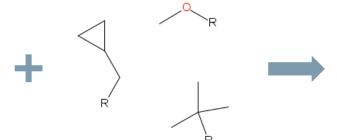


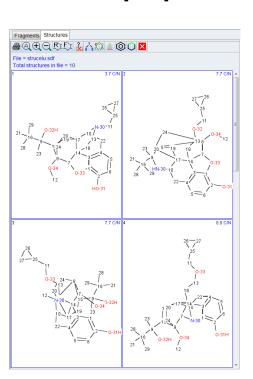
#### **NMR** information

#### **MS** information

#### structure proposals



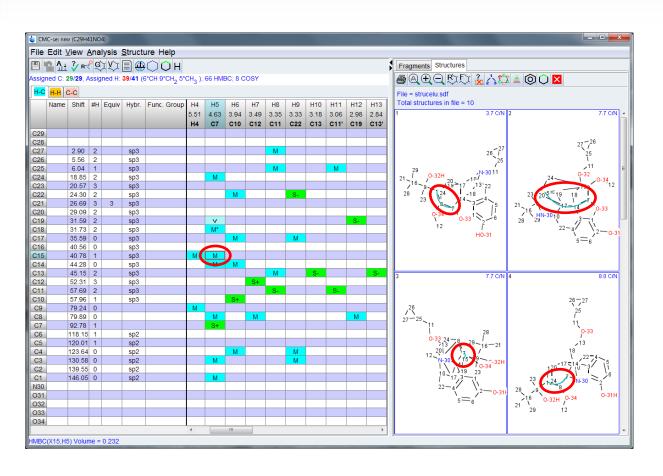




correlation table

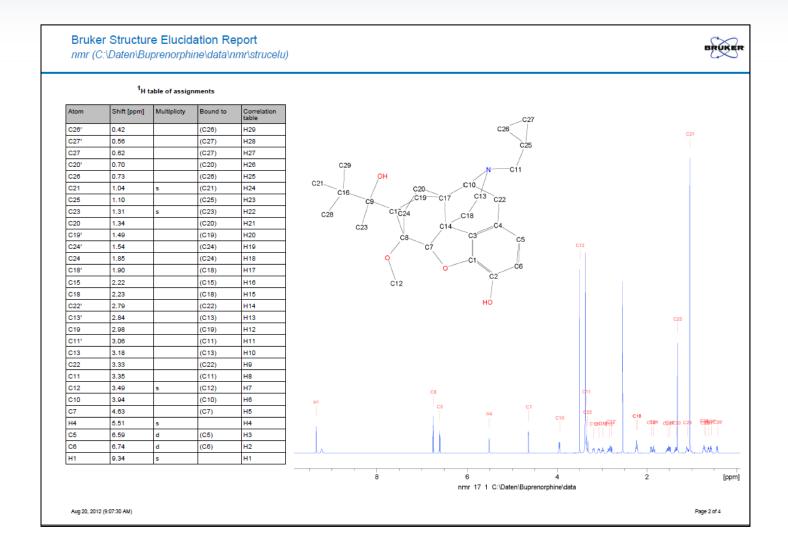
fragments (optional)





- generated structures are linked to the correlation table
- individual or multiple correlations can be viewed on all structure proposals





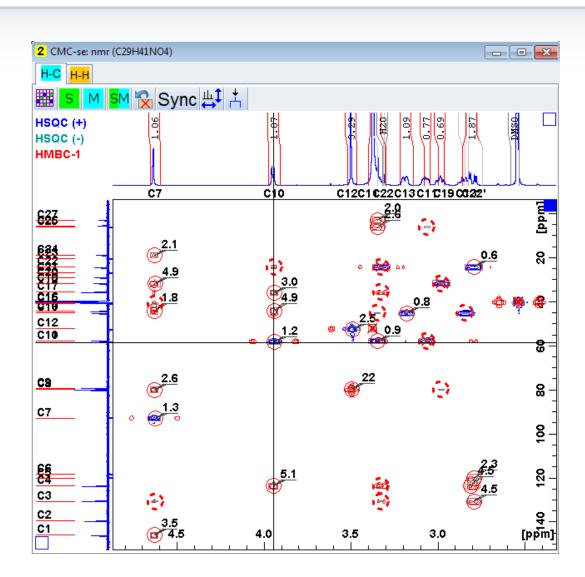




## Automated Data Analysis



- S/N estimation
- peak picking
- artifact removal
- solvent signal search
- build correlation lists
- find common frequencies





#### <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HSQC spectrum

- multiplicity edited
  - negative signals ⇒ CH<sub>2</sub>-group
  - positive signals ⇒ CH- or CH<sub>3</sub>-group
- quantitative
  - o integration of peaks ⇒ distinguish CH- from CH<sub>3</sub>-groups
  - integral check with 1D <sup>1</sup>H spectrum
- <sup>13</sup>C chemical shift
  - o chemical shift < 60 ppm sp<sup>3</sup> hybridized
  - chemical shift > 100 ppm sp² hybridized





proton distribution carbon hybridization

molecular formula

 $C_{29}H_{41}NO_4$ 



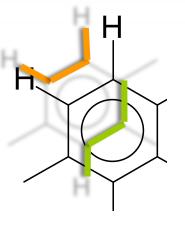
- $5* CH_3 \Rightarrow sp^3 hybridized$
- $9* CH_2 \Rightarrow 9* sp^3 / 0* sp^2$  hybridized
- 6\* CH  $\Rightarrow$  4\* sp<sup>3</sup> / 2\* sp<sup>2</sup> hybridized
- 9\* C  $\Rightarrow$  5\* sp<sup>3</sup> / 4\* sp<sup>2</sup> hybridized



HMBC and COSY cross peaks for connection of heavy atoms

HMBC (required) 2J - 3J

COSY (optional) 3J



- $CH_3 \Rightarrow one neighboring carbon atom <math>\Rightarrow 0-1 COSY, 0-2 HMBC correlations$
- $CH_2 \Rightarrow two neighboring carbon atoms <math>\Rightarrow 0-2 COSY, 0-4 HMBC correlations$

• ...

• sp<sup>2</sup> hybridized carbon has to have a sp/sp<sup>2</sup> hybridized neighbor



#### Sies b both both a cheat exertion:

$$H_3$$
C -  $CH_2$  €OSY:  $COSYH_3$ C -  $H_3$ Ç -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  =

 $\Rightarrow$  2J  $H_1$ MBC  $H_3$ C: -  $H_3$ C -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  -

 $\Rightarrow$  3J  $H_1$ MBC  $H_3$ C: -  $H_3$ C -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  -

 $\Rightarrow$  2J  $H_3$ C -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  =

 $\Rightarrow$  2J  $H_3$ C -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  =

 $\Rightarrow$  2J  $H_3$ C -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  -

 $\Rightarrow$  3J  $H_3$ C:  $H_3$ C -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  -

 $\Rightarrow$  3J  $H_3$ C:  $H_3$ C -  $CH_2$  -  $CH$  -

too few correlations: only fragments build up

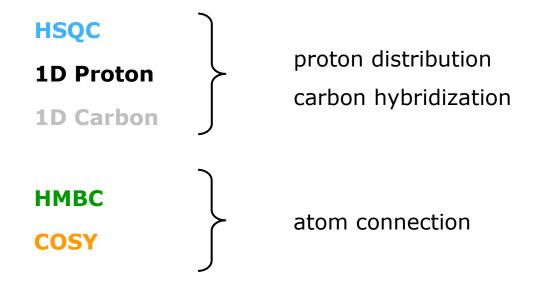
too many correlations: even more possibilities

$$H_3C - X - CH_2 - \Rightarrow COSY$$
:  $H_3C - X - CH_2 - CH =$ 

$$\Rightarrow ^2J \text{ HMBC}: H_3C - X - CH_2 - CH -$$

$$\Rightarrow ^3J \text{ HMBC}: H_3C - X - CH_2 - X - CH -$$

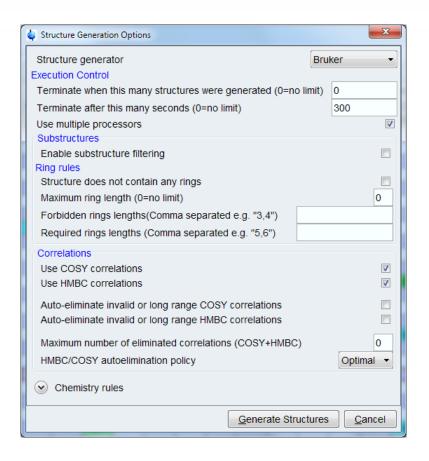




- HMBC correlations are essential to assemble a molecular structure from individual atoms
- number of structure proposals depends on the number of (ambiguous/unambiguous) correlations

### Adjustments for Structure Generation

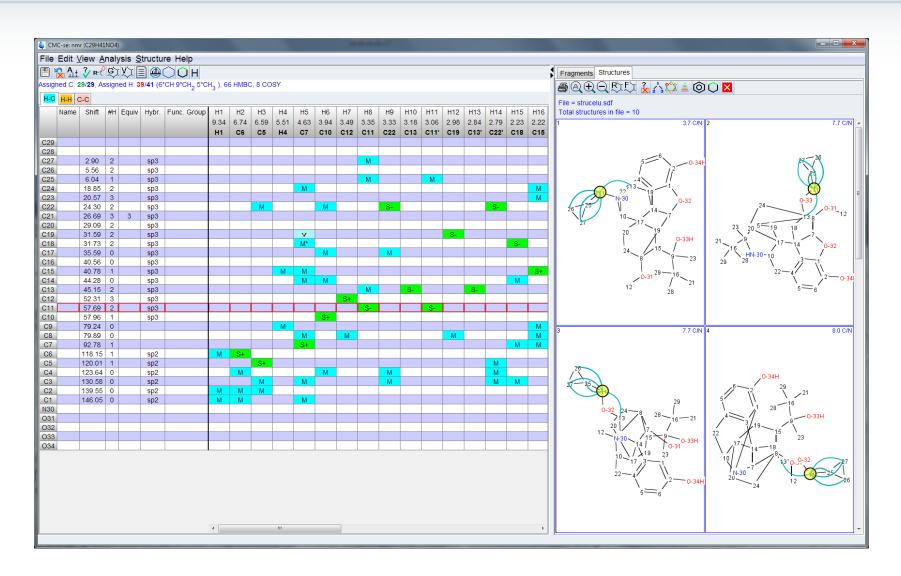




- long range correlations have to be taken into account
  - increasing number of correlations that are autoeliminated by the software step by step
- information about rings length
- information about substructures (MS fragments)

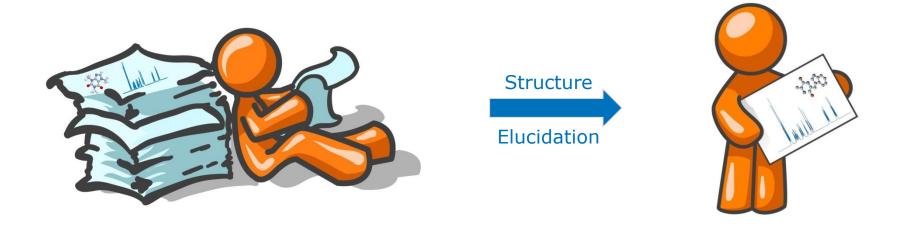
## **Evaluating Structure Proposals**







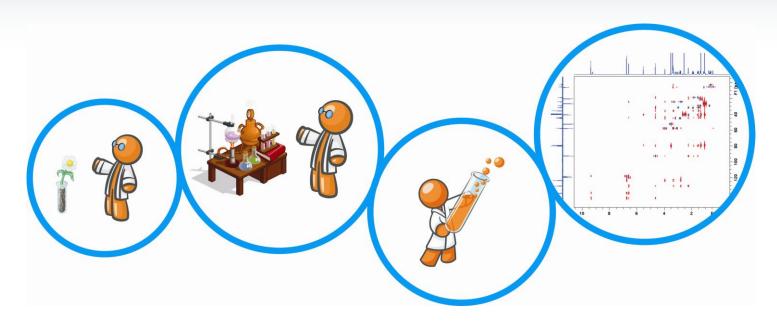
as structure elucidation is a time-consuming and challenging task ...



- CMC-se significantly speeds up the process of data analysis
- CMC-se organizes the workflow
- CMC-se generates structure proposals that all fit the experimental data

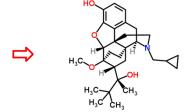
### Structure Elucidation of Natural Products





#### characterization of unknown compound by NMR:

structure elucidation based on 1D and 2D NMR spectra



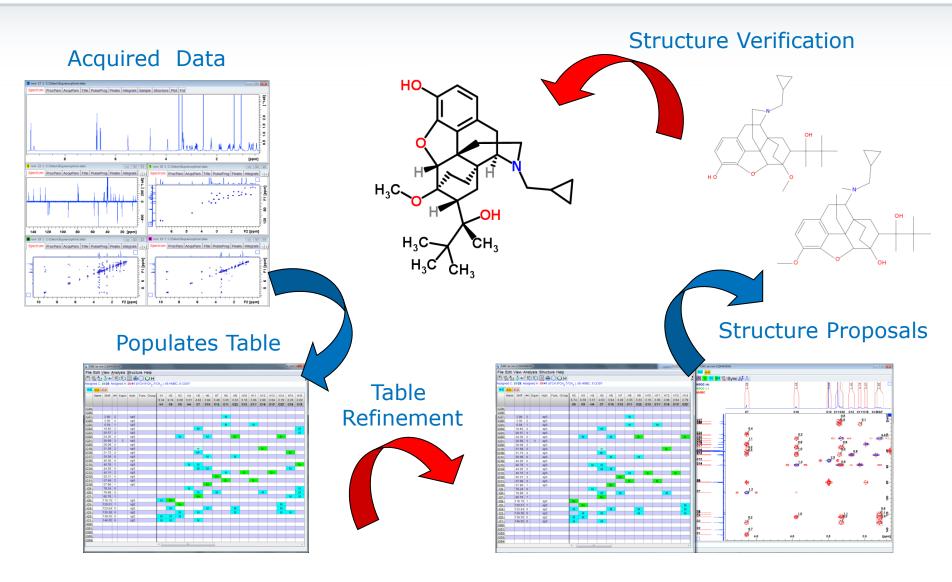
⇒ synthesizing natural product

## Synthesis of Buprenorphine

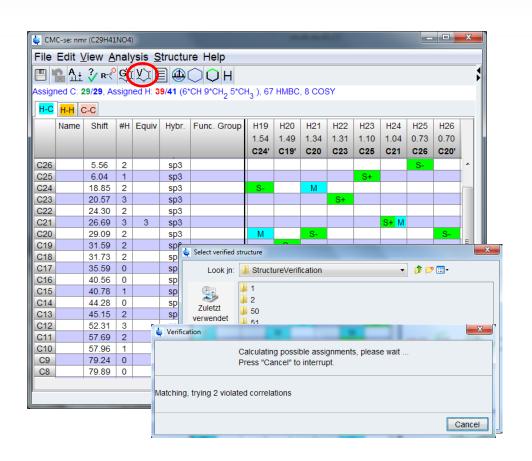


⇒ verifying synthesis steps by NMR







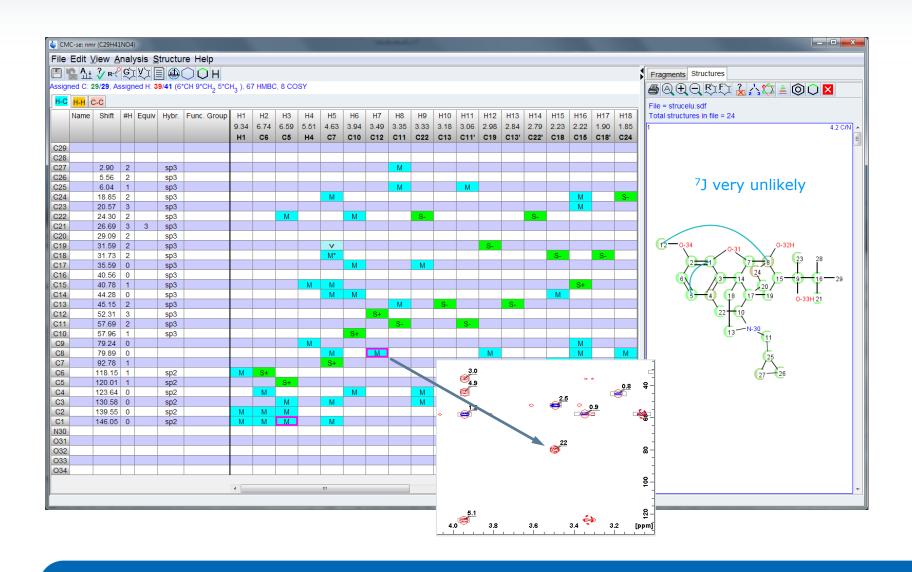


#### <u>Pepitiyaser a otneeta pi corp tastalle</u>

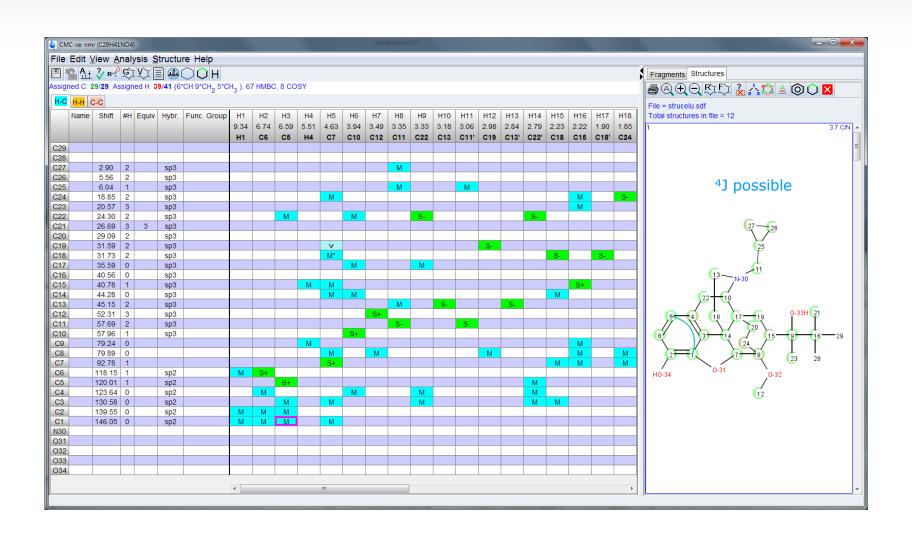
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- ianutlouchea teal dispoleirottimea ficom of long værnigfiet actoione lautiroprosse
- perform automated spectra analysis
- manually inspect and refine correlation table

Verify structure proposals based on the correlation table

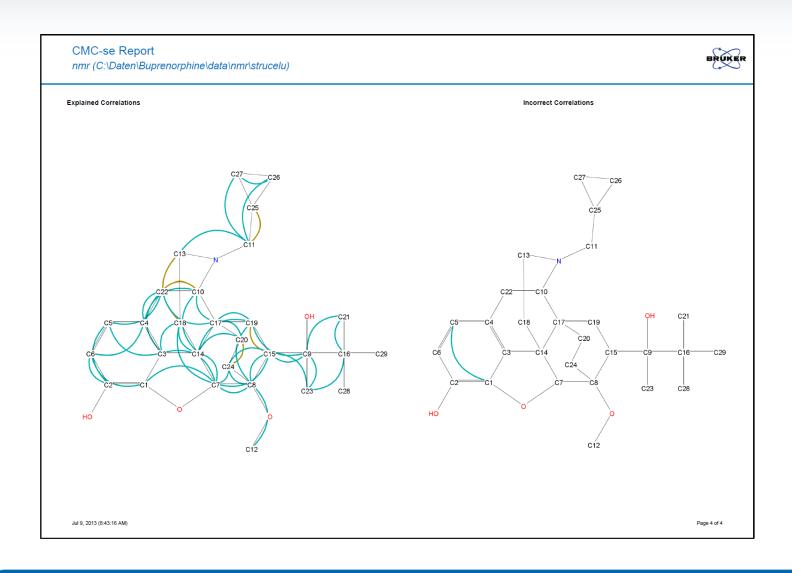












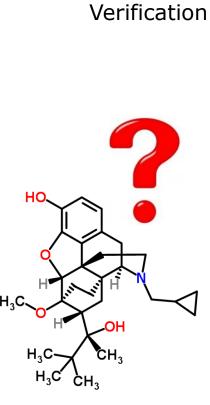




Synthesized

Compound





Structure



### Input:

- full set of NMR spectra
- molecular structures

#### Output:

possible assignment

## Summary Tools for Structure Elucidation



#### mass spectrometry:

- ADC digitizer technology for accurate mass determination
- software package SmartFormula:
  - analysis of accurate mass and TIP for MS and MS/MS

#### NMR spectroscopy:

- small volume probes: increase mass sensitivity
- cryoProbes: decrease noise and thus increase signal to noise
- software package CMCse:
  - assisted structure verification and elucidation
  - automated analysis of 1D and 2D NMR spectra

## Acknowledgment



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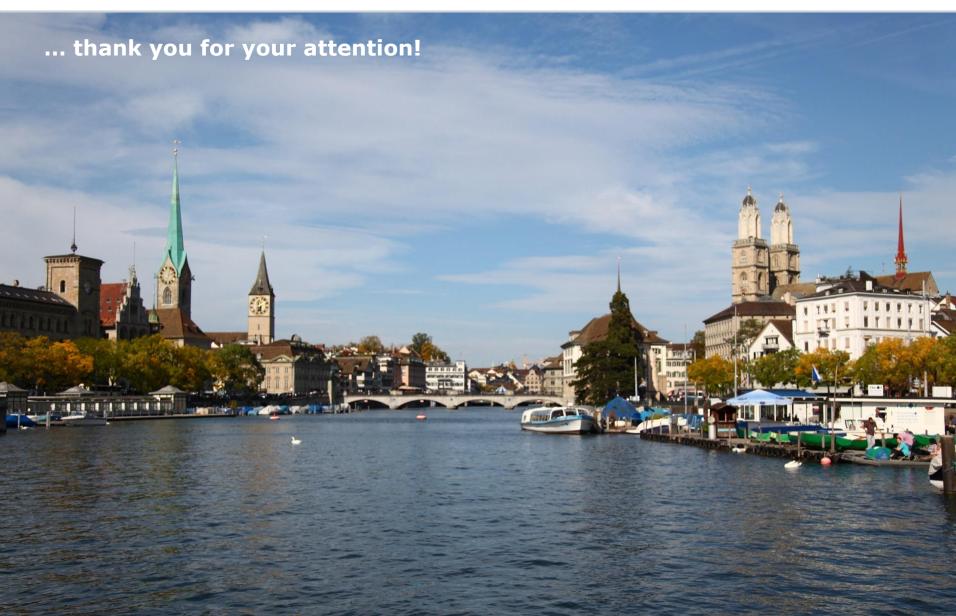


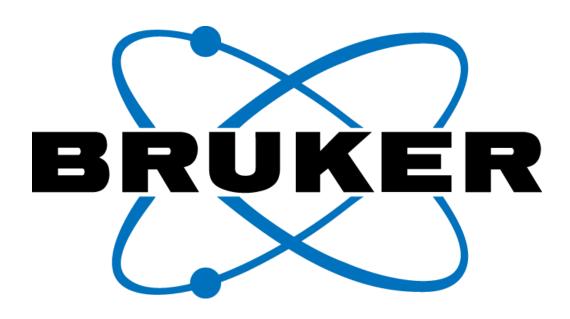
Application & Development Team



# Acknowledgment







Innovation with Integrity