

Current and future trends in Pesticide Residue analysis

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- **A brief history of Pesticide residue analysis**

**Pesticide Control Laboratory, Backweston Laboratory Complex,
Young's Cross, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, Ireland**



Contents

- **1. Where we have come from**
- **2. Where we are now**
- **3. Where we are going**



Where we have come from

- **1999**

GC

HPLC

ECD

PFPD

DAD

**< 50 Pesticides mostly OC's
and OP's**

**Carbendazim and
Thiabendazole**



Where we have come from

- Three analyses required for positive results – screen, confirm and quantify
- 12 different standard mixes to be made up and checked
- Very limited structural data
- High risk of false positives and false negatives



Why change ?

- **Scope too limited to cover the pesticides being used and found in other countries**
- **EU pressure**
- **Residue definitions often include a significant number of metabolites**
- **Development of instruments with Mass Spectrometry detectors at affordable prices**



Scope expansion

- **MS Techniques**

Full scan

TOF

SIM

MS/MS



GC Scope expansion

- **SIM methods using single quadrupole MS detectors**
- **Target ion**
- **Three qualifiers**
- **Using retention time locking for consistent retention times**
- **200 pesticides in one run**



Method

Edit SIM Parameters

Hexachlorobenze

Group: Resolution: ☐ Low ☒ High

Start Time: Cycles/Sec = 3.70

Edit Ion

m/z Dwell (msec) ☐ Plot this Ion

m/z	Dwell	Plot
87.00	20	
93.00	20	
125.00	20	
143.00	20	
191.00	20	

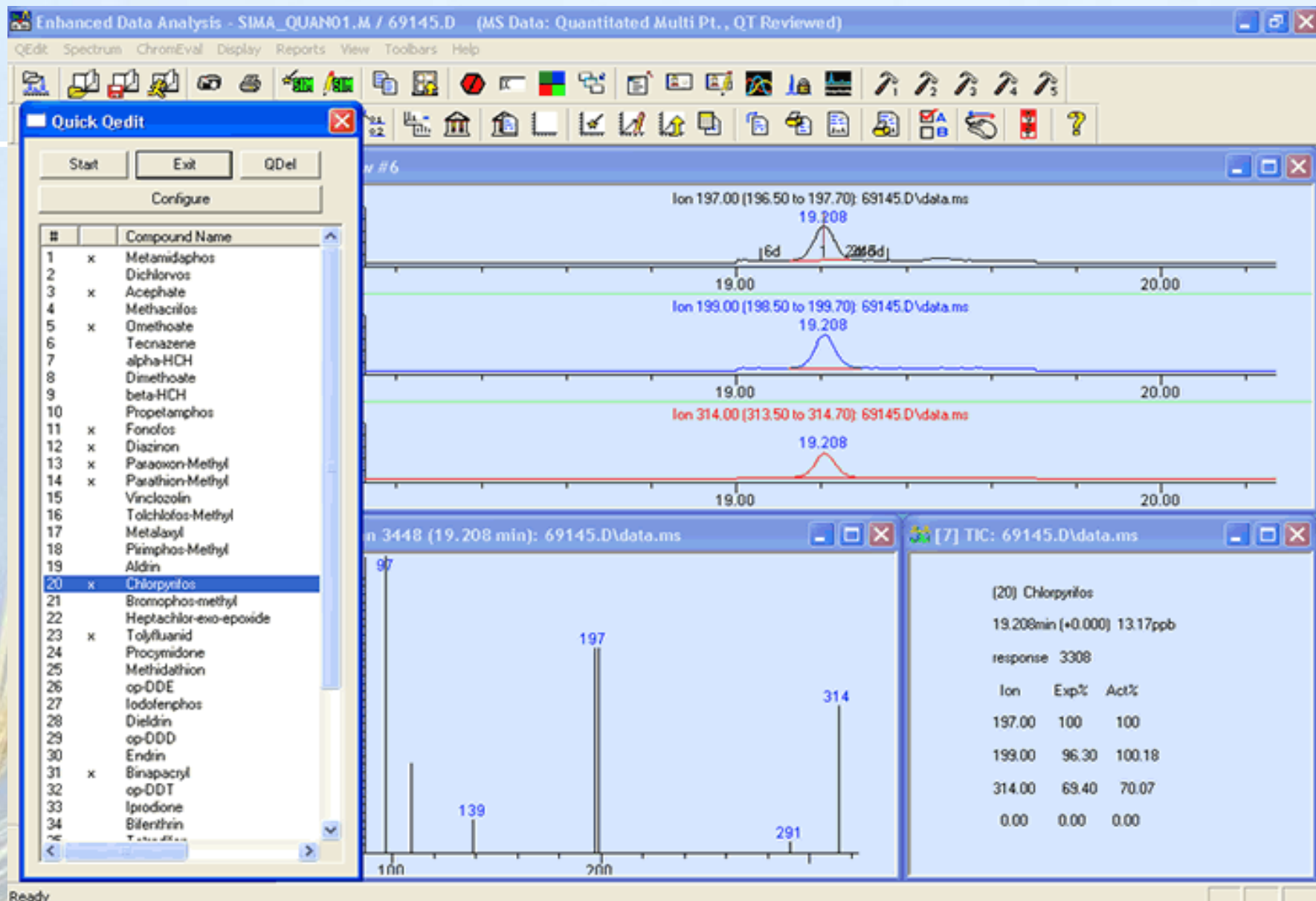
Group	Start Ti...	# of
Dichlorvos	5.00	7
Mevinphos	7.00	7
Methacrifos	8.00	4
Heptenophos	9.00	11
Monocrotophos	11.30	4
Hexachlorobenze	11.92	12
beta-HCH	12.90	5

Directions

To edit a Group, just select it from the above list box. To add a Group, press "Add New Group", then start editing the fields on the left. To delete a Group(s), pick a single or multiple selection from the list above, then press "Delete Group(s)".

Lists the defined groups of ions that will be monitored at each specified group time. [Max 100 Min 1]





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Recovery work

		Mean	s	% RSD
1	Isoproturon	75.0	20.7	27.6
2	Nicotine	65.7	27.7	42.1
3	Propham	102.9	9.2	9.0
4	MCPA Methyl ester	103.4	10.7	10.3
5	Ethoprophos	99.4	6.3	6.4
6	Cyanophos	98.8	7.8	7.9
7	Isazofos	99.2	6.1	6.1
8	Endosulfan ether	94.8	8.2	8.6
9	Cyanazine	84.9	16.8	19.8
10	Chlorthal dimethyl	96.6	6.5	6.7
11	Tetraconazole	109.7	12.2	11.1
12	Sulfur	88.8	63.1	71.1
13	Isodrin	88.5	7.9	9.0
14	Endosulfan lactone	91.9	7.1	7.7



Recovery

		Mean	s	% RSD
15	Metazachlor	91.9	9.9	10.8
16	Paclobutrazol	108.0	8.8	8.2
17	Napropamide	100.3	6.1	6.1
18	Picoxystrobin	99.0	9.1	9.2
19	Profenophos	104.4	9.3	8.9
20	Buprofezin	95.2	3.2	3.4
21	Flamprop isopropyl	99.1	6.5	6.5
22	Cyanofenphos	101.3	6.0	6.0
23	Lenacil	100.4	14.6	14.6
24	Trifloxystrobin	104.6	17.1	16.3
25	Epoxyconazole	105.0	17.2	16.4
26	Bifenox	111.2	26.8	24.1
27	Pyridaben	101.8	8.0	7.9
28	Fenbuconazole	97.4	15.0	15.4



Pro's and cons

- Quantitation possible for overlapping peaks.
- Getting structural information
- Very good sensitivity – down to 10ppb
- Dependent on molecules fragmenting to give unique ions
- Prone to matrix effects.

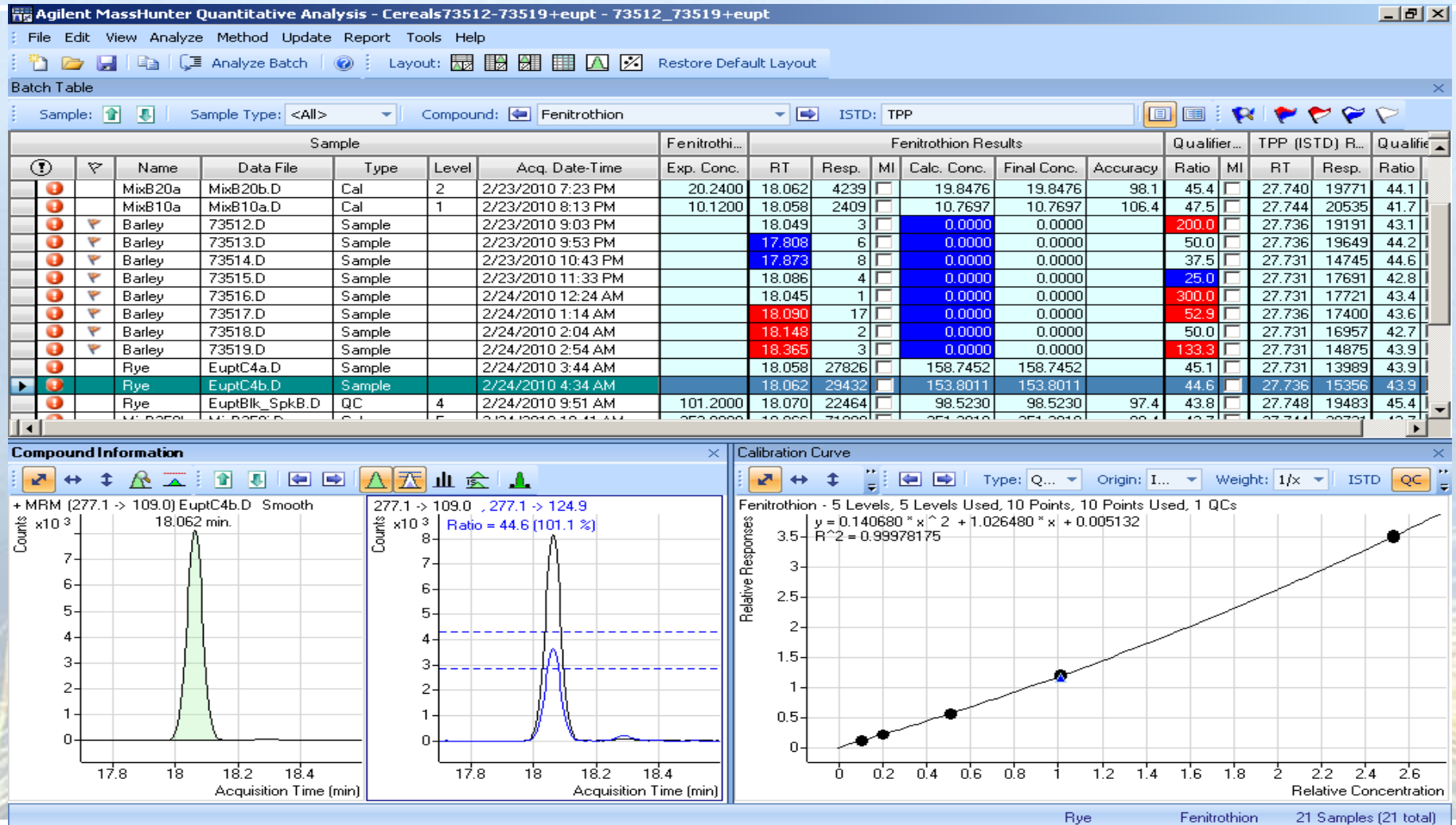


Increasing selectivity and sensitivity

- **GC-MS/MS**
- **All the advantage of SIM methods including retention time locking.**
- **Greater selectivity – One transition for quantitation and one for confirmation**
- **Increased sensitivity – can now see 1ppb easily in food samples**



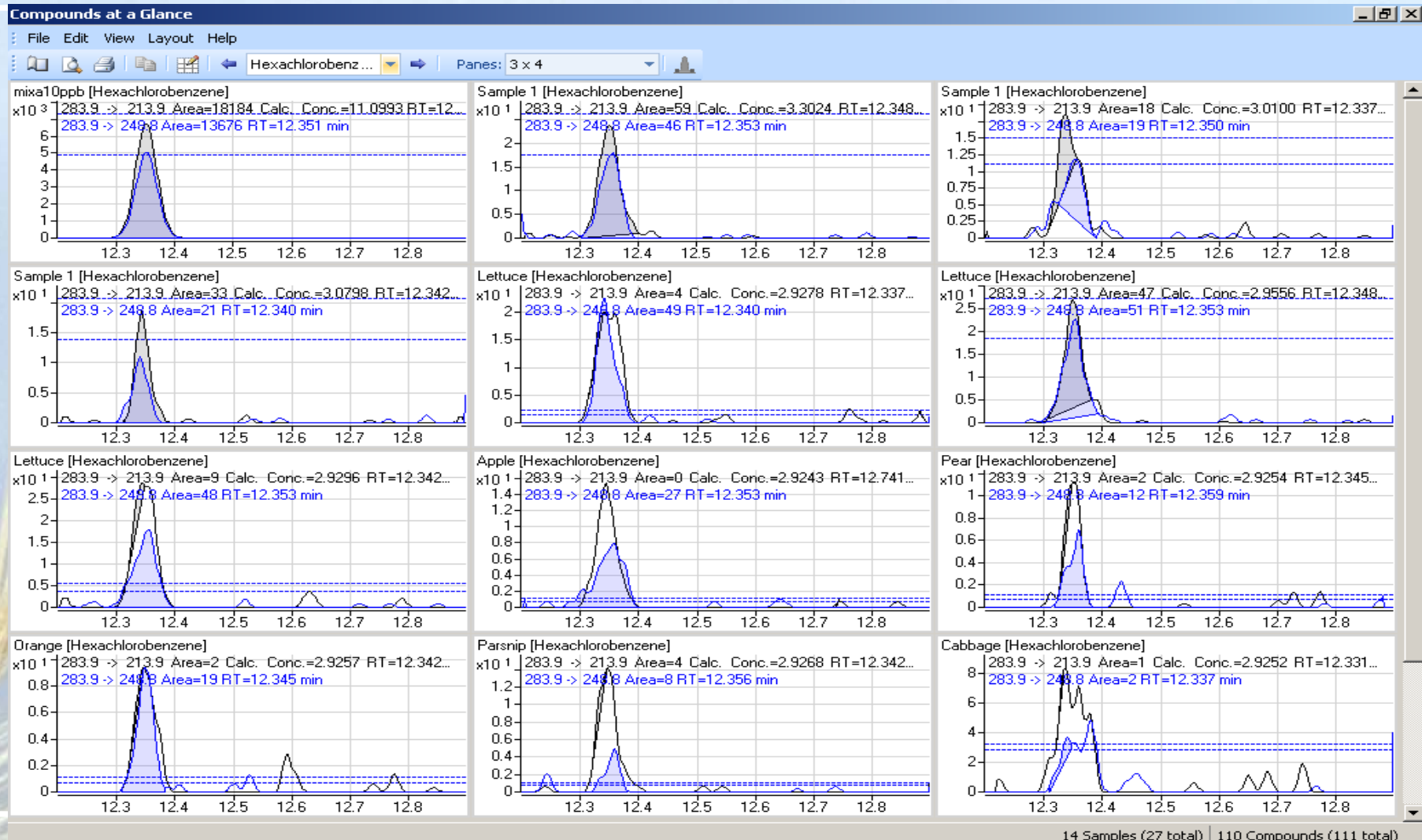
Data



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Data



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Recovery work

	Mean	s	% RSD
Aldrin	93.8	10.6	11.2
Azinphos ethyl	95.3	10.9	11.4
Azinphos methyl	95.3	12.0	12.6
Bromophos ethyl	96.1	12.1	12.5
Bromophos methyl	96.4	12.7	13.2
Chlorbenzilate	97.1	12.4	12.7
Chlordane cis	96.4	12.3	12.8
Chlordane trans	100.3	13.0	12.9
Chlorfenvinphos	98.0	12.2	12.4
Chlorpyrifos	98.8	10.6	10.7
Chlorpyrifos methyl	96.8	11.1	11.4
Coumaphos	97.0	12.0	12.4
CyfluthrinI	92.0	9.4	10.2



Recovery work

Cypermethrin	96.2	11.0	11.5
Deltamethrin	93.9	19.0	20.3
Diazinon	96.1	12.6	13.1
Dichlorvos	91.0	14.1	15.5
Dieldrin	94.7	15.9	16.8
Dimethoate	104.9	15.2	14.5
Endosulfan alpha	93.5	20.5	21.9
Endosulfan beta	96.8	12.5	12.9
Endrin	97.7	11.4	11.7
Ethion	95.9	11.5	12.0
Fenchlorphos	96.8	12.0	12.4
Fonofos	97.6	12.5	12.8
HCB	88.1	13.4	15.2
Heptachlor	95.5	12.3	12.9
Heptachlor epoxide exo	95.7	12.8	13.4

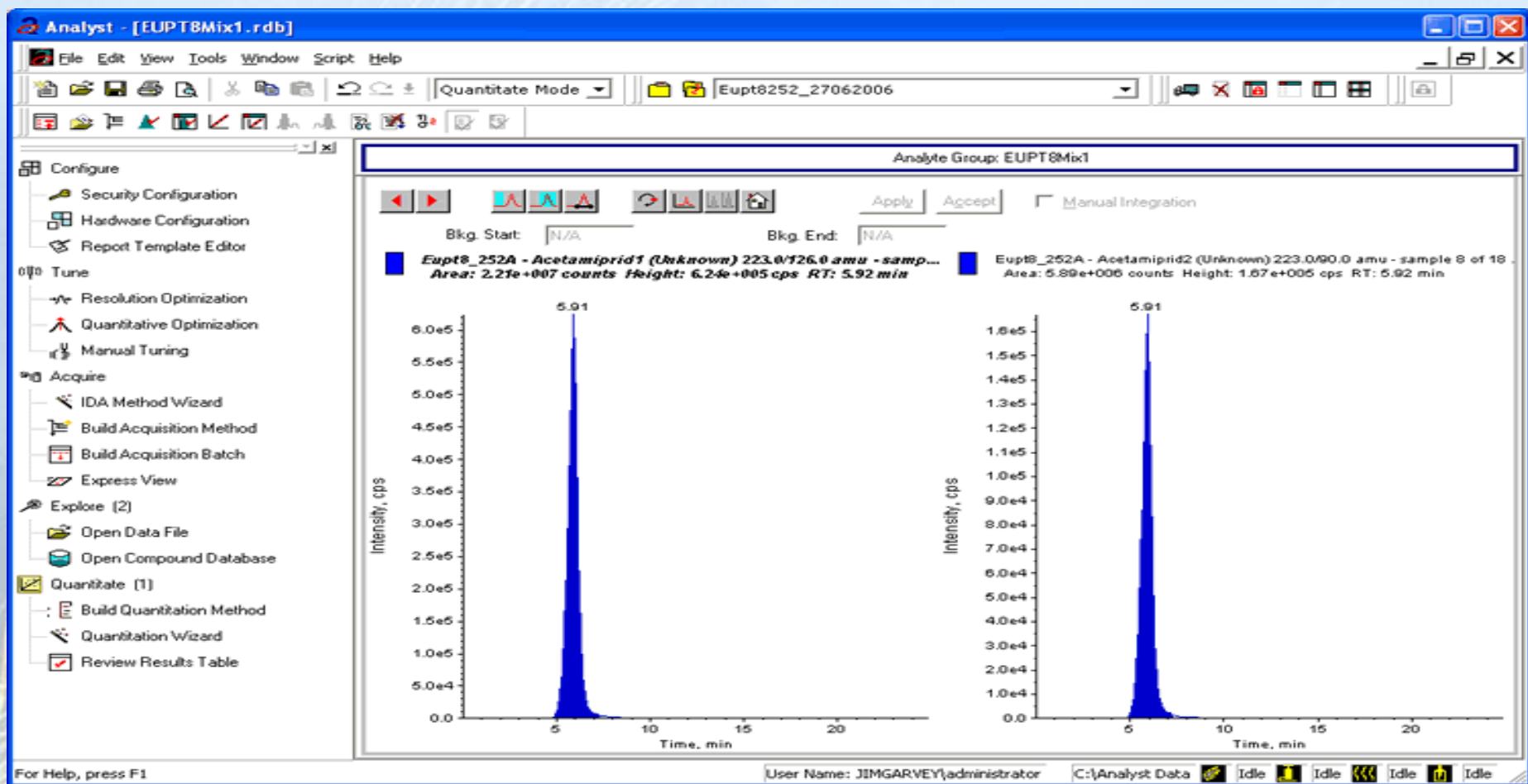
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LC Scope expansion

- **MS/MS methods using triple quadrupole MS detectors**
- **Quantitation transition**
- **Confirmation transition**
- **155 pesticides in one run**

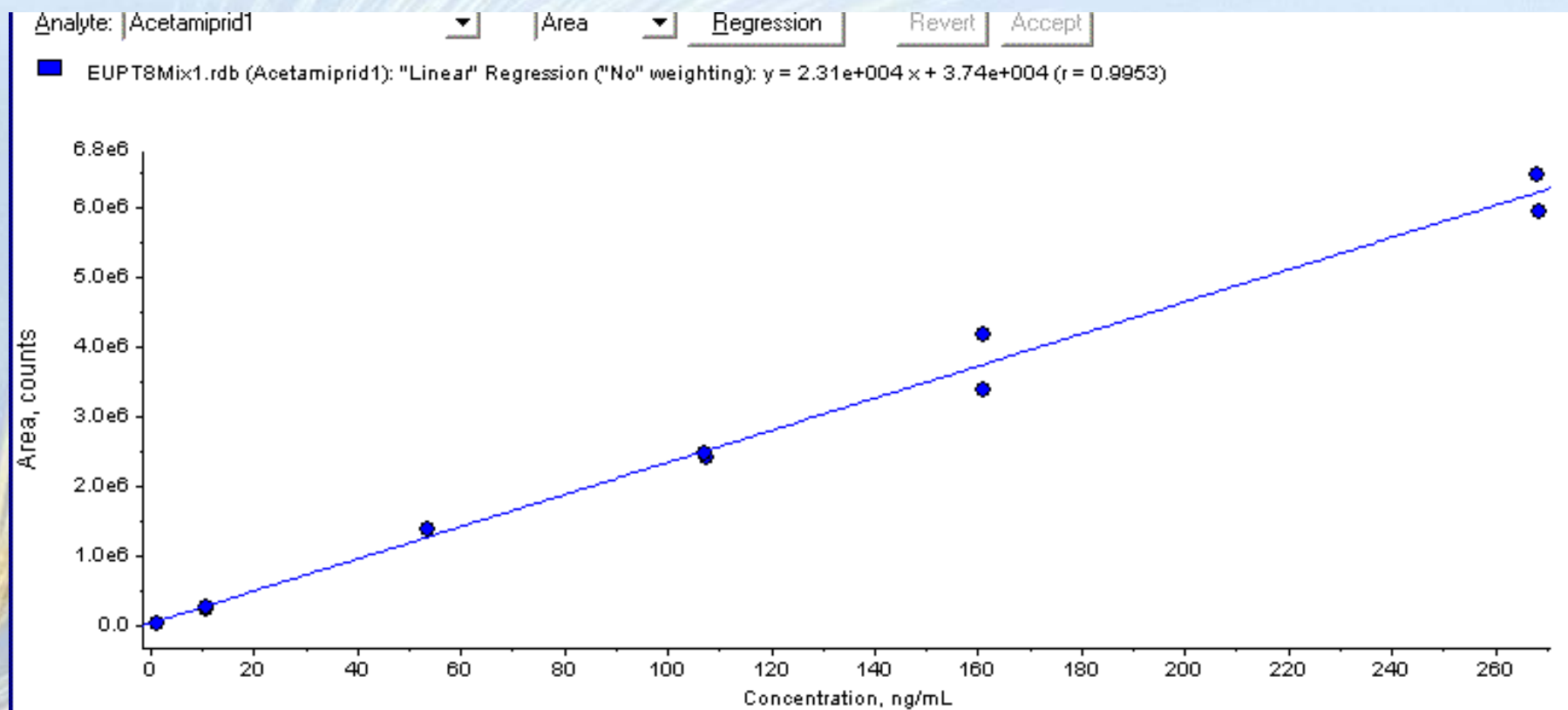




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Linearity



Recovery work

Compound	Mean	s	%RSD
Acetamiprid	98.9	10.5	10.6
Aldicarb	113.7	52.3	46.0
Amidosulfuron	114.9	26.0	22.6
Azoxystrobin	99.8	14.4	14.4
Carbaryl	104.9	12.6	12.0
Carbendazim	100.1	10.3	10.2
Carbofuran	103.3	13.2	12.8
Clofentezine	103.6	16.3	15.7
Ethofumesate	104.7	17.9	17.1
Fenhexamid	102.1	11.6	11.4
Fenpropimorph	104.1	11.8	11.4
Fenpyroximate	101.2	16.6	16.4
Flazasulfuron	143.4	47.3	32.9
Hexythiazox	100.1	14.9	14.9
Imazalil	96.3	15.6	16.2



Recovery work

Imidacloprid	103.8	12.8	12.3
Isofenphos	105.7	24.4	23.1
Mepanipyrim	100.3	10.7	10.7
Methamidophos	57.8	12.0	20.8
Methidathion	108.8	26.7	24.6
Methiocarb	103.7	13.6	13.2
Methomyl	99.5	11.7	11.8
Oxamyl	95.6	13.6	14.2
Pymetrozine	73.9	12.6	17.1
Pyridaphenthion	101.6	10.2	10.1
Quinoxifen	101.3	13.0	12.8
Rotenone	103.7	12.2	11.7
Spinosad	97.7	14.7	15.0
Thiabendazole	100.3	10.3	10.2
Thiacloprid	101.1	13.0	12.8



Improvement

	1999	2010
No of Pesticides	55	350
Analyses / result	3	1
Structural Data	No	Yes
No of standards	13	4



Extraction and clean-up

Method	Extraction	Clean-up
Fruit and veg	(1) Mini-Luke (2) CAN/Buffer	GPC DSPE
Cereals	Ethyl Acetate	GPC
Fats	ACN/Acetone	GPC
Milk	ACN/Buffer	DSPE
Eggs	ACN/Buffer	DSPE
Honey	Mini-Luke	GPC



Older methods

- **Used GPC for clean-up**
- **Long and tedious**
- **1.5 days before the samples is ready for analysis**



QuEChERS

- **Developed by Lehotay et al in 2005**
- **Two steps**
- **Extraction with Acetonitrile and buffer**
- **DSPE clean-up**



QuEChERS



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Pro's and cons

- **Reduces extraction and clean-up time down to a few minutes**
- **Applicable to a wide range of pesticides**
- **ACN as a solvent is not ideal for GC work**
- **Samples can be quite dirty**
- **Many variations now exist**



Where are we now ?

- **MRM's which allow each sample to be analysed for on average 350 – 400 pesticides**
- **Faster extraction and clean-up**
- **Recovery for every pesticide in each batch**
- **Less standard mixes, though more complicated mixes**
- **Fast GC and LC analysis**



Where to now ?

- **High mass accuracy MS – TOF**
- **Excellent screening tool**
- **Poor for quantitation**

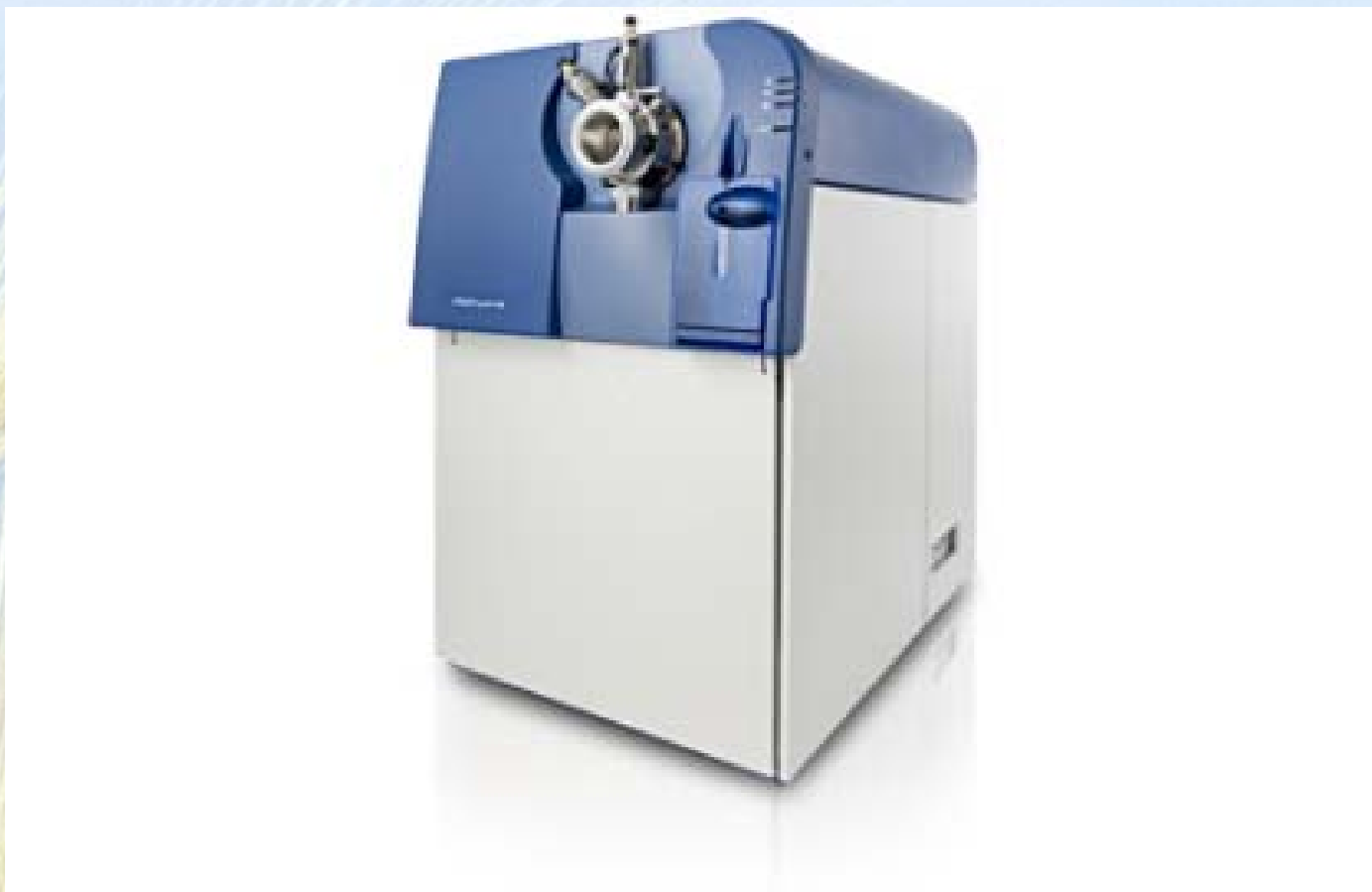


What if ?

- We had an instrument which:
- Had a mass accuracy of 1ppm or better
- The quantitation power of a triple quad
- The sensitivity of a triple quad
- Wouldn't that be good ?



TripleTOF



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Potential

- One instrument capable of:
- Pure screening for unknowns
 - And / or
- Targetted analysis
- With
- Quantitation and high sensitivity



A GC equivalent

- Well on the road to development
- Possibly on the market next year
- Initial results are said to be very good



Is there a downside ?

- **Instrumentation is now so sensitive that environmental background levels of pesticides are frequently seen in laboratories.**
- **Methods need to be validated at much lower concentrations which increases the difficulty of the validation**





- **Thank you**

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