

# Non-targeted Analysis using Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry for Evaluation of Chemical Composition of E-Vapor Products

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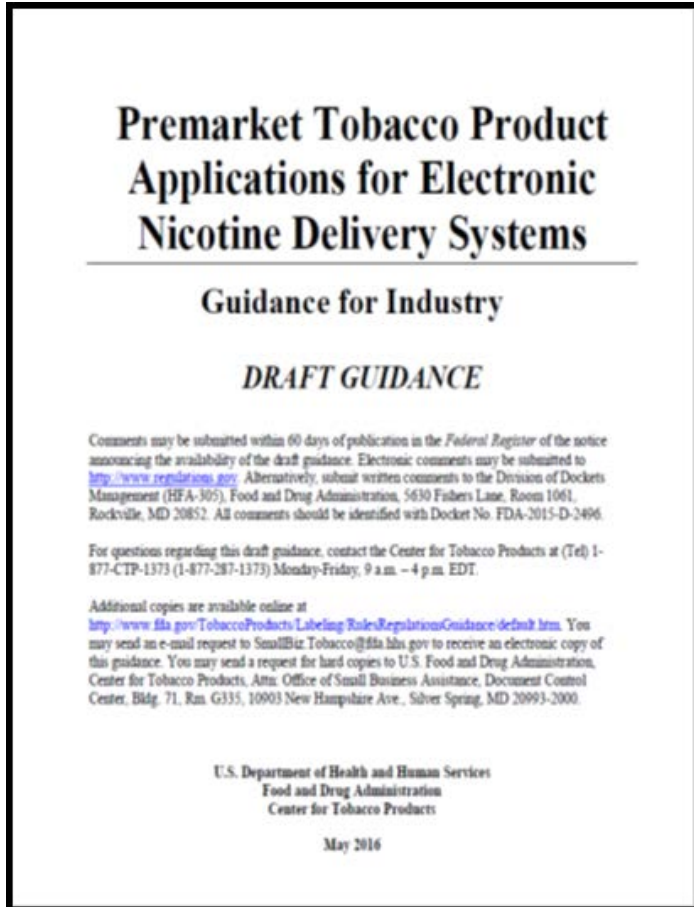
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# FDA draft guidance for PMTA for ENDS

## Section H – Scientific studies and analysis

“FDA also recommends that you **include a complete list of uniquely identified constituents**, including those listed below, as appropriate for your product, and other toxic chemicals contained **within the product or delivered by the product**, such as a reaction product from leaching or aging and aerosol generated through the heating of the product...”

“This information should include the **established shelf life of the product** and changes in pH and constituents **(including HPHCs and other toxic chemicals) over the lifespan of the product...**”



PMTA: Premarket Tobacco Product Application  
ENDS: Electronic Nicotine Delivery System  
HPHC: Harmful and potential harmful constituents



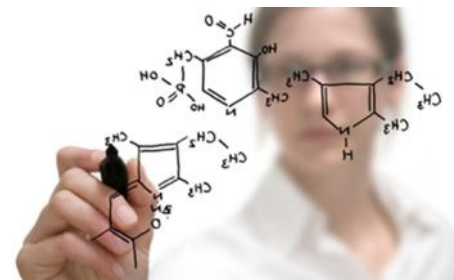
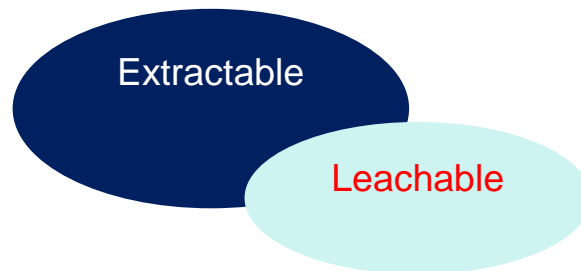
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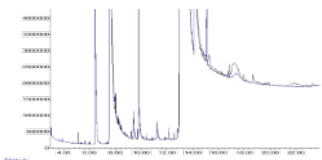
Text in Blue denotes added emphasis

# Approaches for chemical characterization

- Evaluation of device components
  - Extractable and Leachable
- Targeted analysis (Nicotine, Nicotine degradants, HPHCs, etc.)
- Non-Targeted Analysis (NTA)
  - GC/MS profiling (Volatile and semi volatile compounds)
  - LC/MS profiling (Non volatile compounds)
- Data obtained supports risk assessment



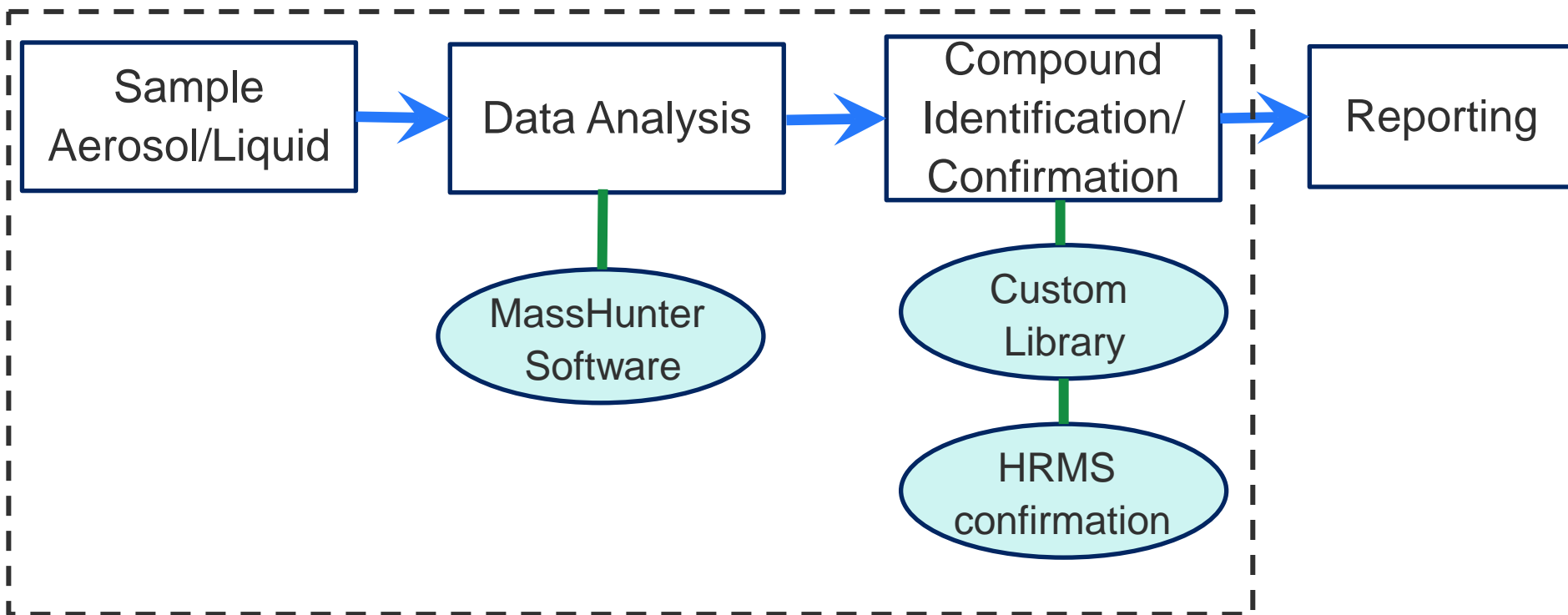
# Non-targeted analysis by GC/MS



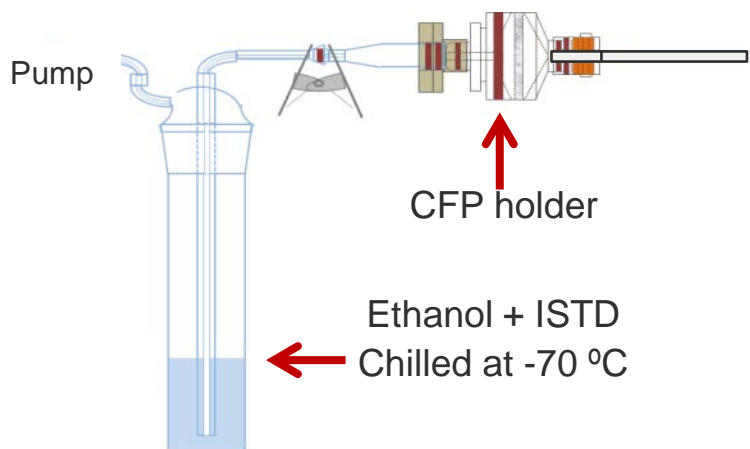
GC/MS Profile



Risk  
Assessment



# Generation of samples : Aerosol and liquid



Analyze Sample  
Extract



GC-MS

## ▪ Aerosol sample collection

- Linear smoking machine (Borgwaldt LX20)
- Puffing regime: 55 cc, 5 s, interval 30 s, square wave, # of puffs - 140
- Collected on a 55 mm Cambridge filter pad (CFP) with a trailing impinger with 10 mL extraction solvent

## ▪ Liquid sample analysis

- Liquid from cartridge (~0.8 g) + 10 mL Extraction solvent
- Extract on rotator for 30 minutes



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ISTD: Internal standard

# GC/MS profiling method

## ■ Instrumentation setup

- GC/MS: Agilent GC/MS (unit mass) in Electron Ionization (EI) mode
- Column: Restek Stabilwax (30m x 0.25mm x 0.25 $\mu$ m) with 5 meter Integra guard
- Run time: 24 min

## ■ Method applications

- Analysis of aged samples
- Stability assessment
- Stress testing



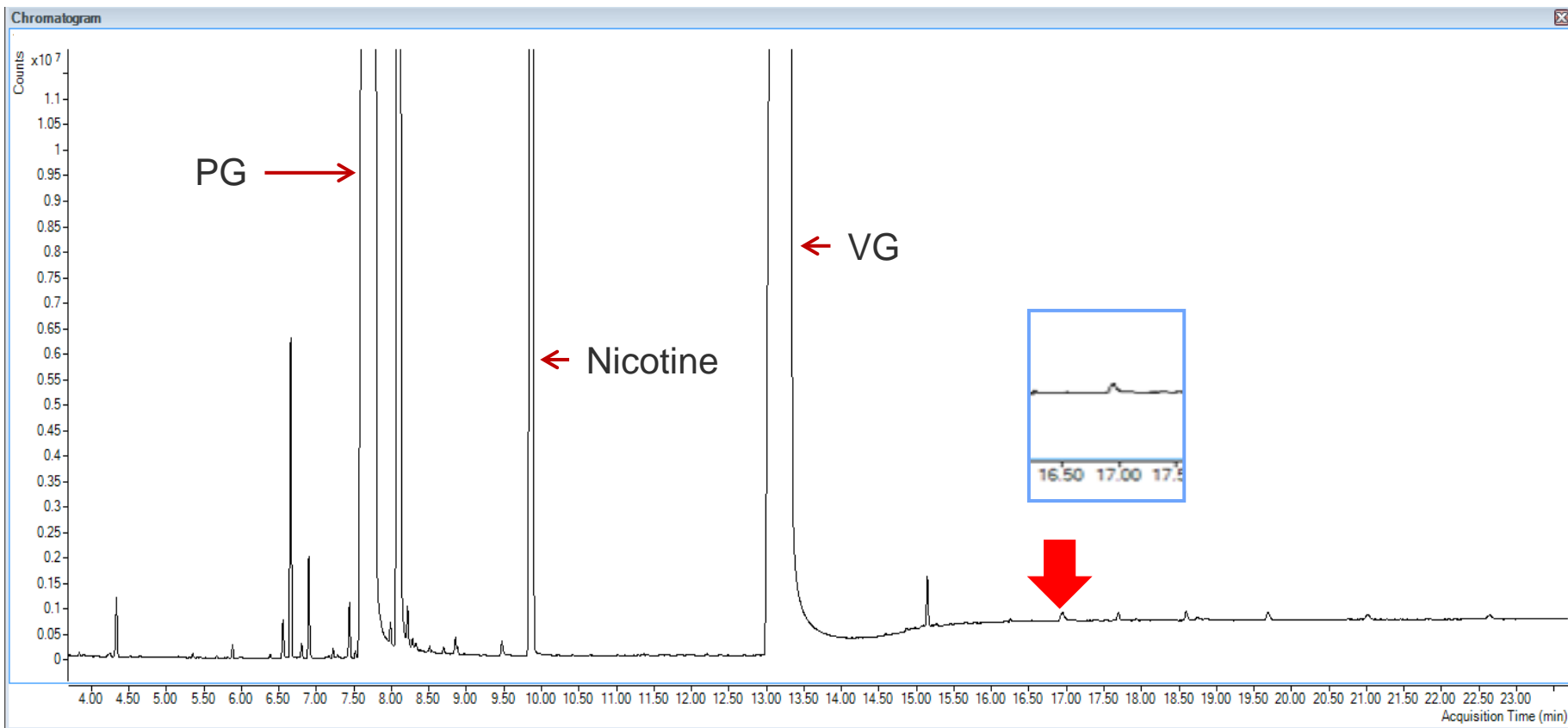
Agilent GC-MS



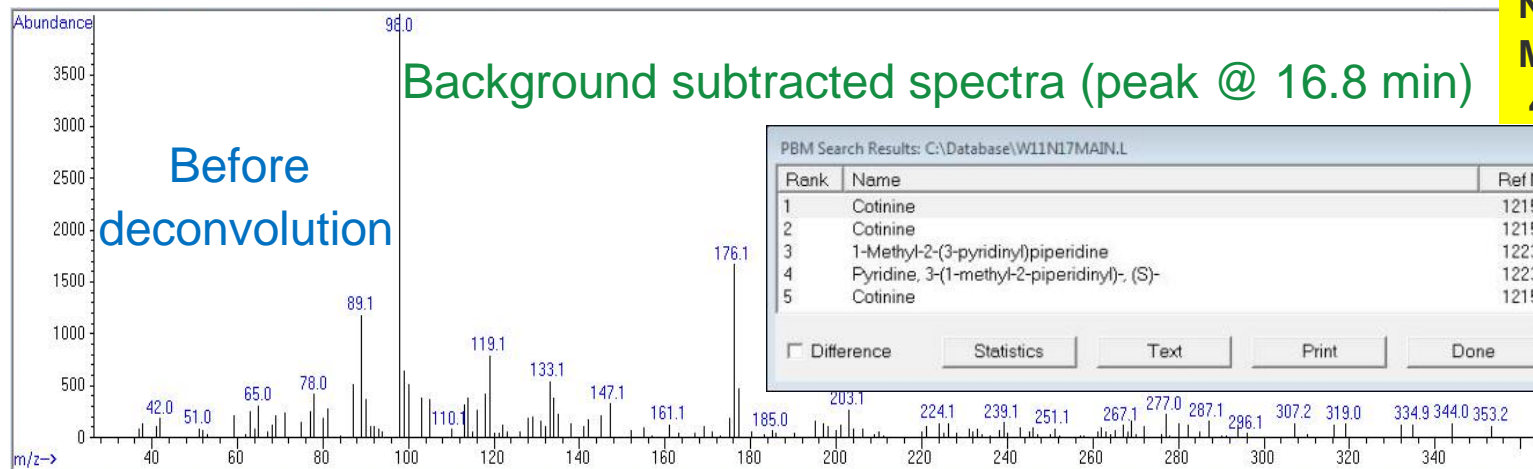
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# GC/MS chromatogram: Aerosol of commercial e-vapor product



# MS deconvolution and library search

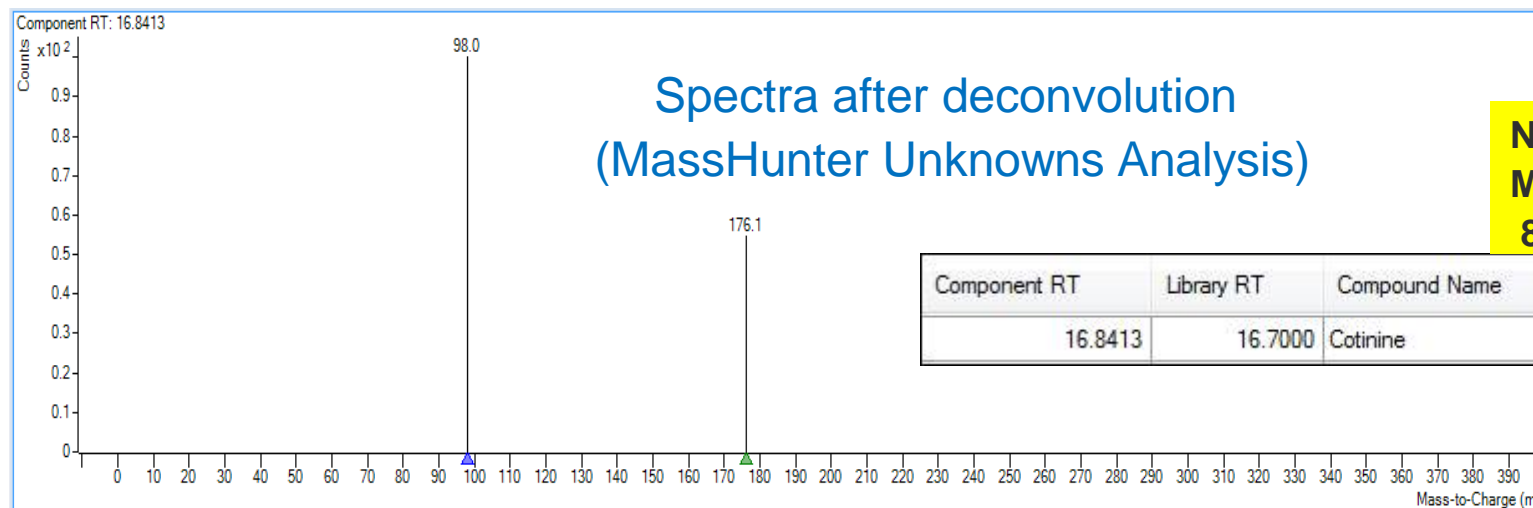


NIST library  
Match Quality  
40-47%

PBM Search Results: C:\Database\W11N17MAIN.L

Rank	Name	Ref No.	MW	Qual
1	Cotinine	121541	176	47
2	Cotinine	121537	176	42
3	1-Methyl-2-(3-pyridinyl)piperidine	122336	176	42
4	Pyridine, 3-(1-methyl-2-piperidinyl)-, (S)-	122334	176	42
5	Cotinine	121542	176	40

Difference                   



NIST library  
Match Quality  
88%

Component RT	Library RT	Compound Name	Match Factor
16.8413	16.7000	Cotinine	88.0

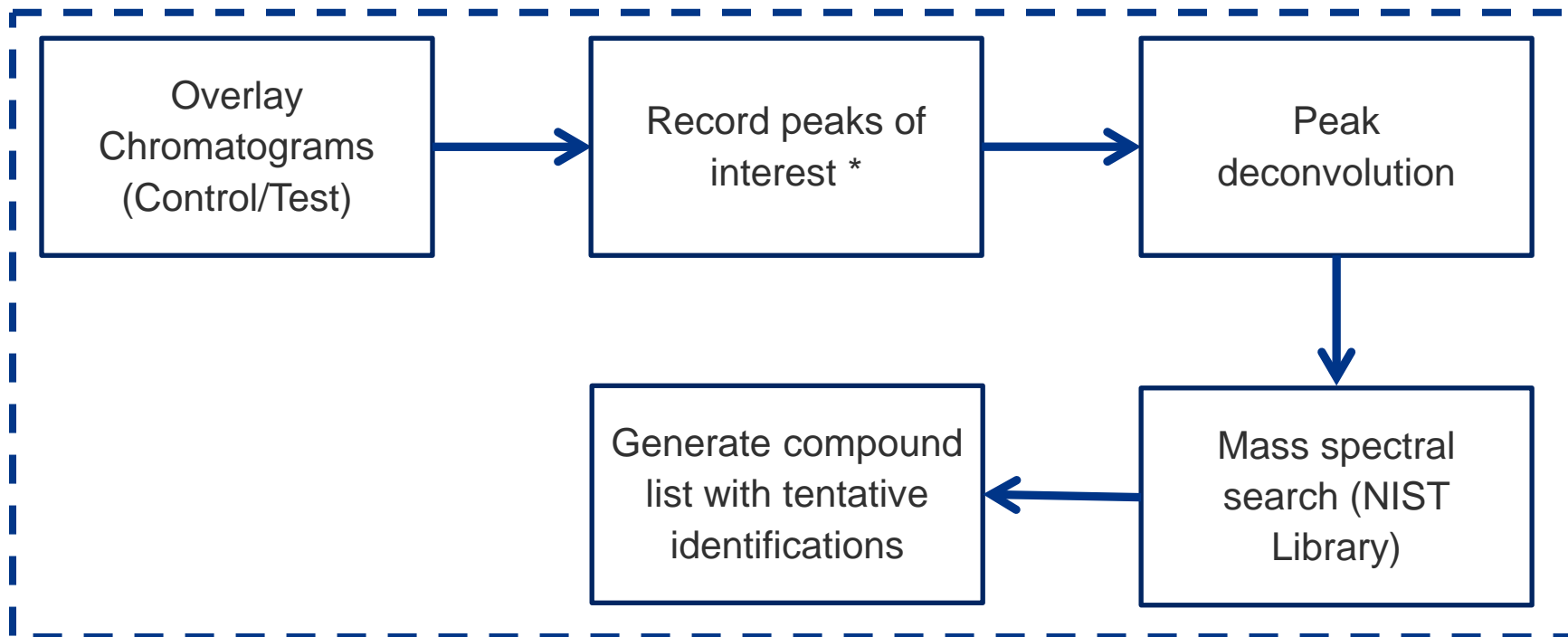
Mass spectral deconvolution: Important tool for improved identification from Library





# GC/MS profiling data analysis

## Automation by MassHunter Unknowns Analysis Software



Example : Aerosol and liquid analysis (6 replicates each)

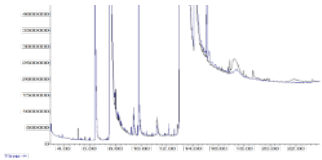
- # of total peaks ~10-100 per analysis
- **Manual process: ~ 6 hours**
- **Automated process: ~ 2 hours**



# Other tools to support GC/MS data processing

- AMDIS used for deconvolution and ChemStation as secondary verification tools
- Compounds are confirmed using unit mass and HRMS with reference standard when available
- Established an in-house custom mass spectral library including information:
  - Mass spectra
  - Retention time
  - Compound name
  - Formula
  - CAS number

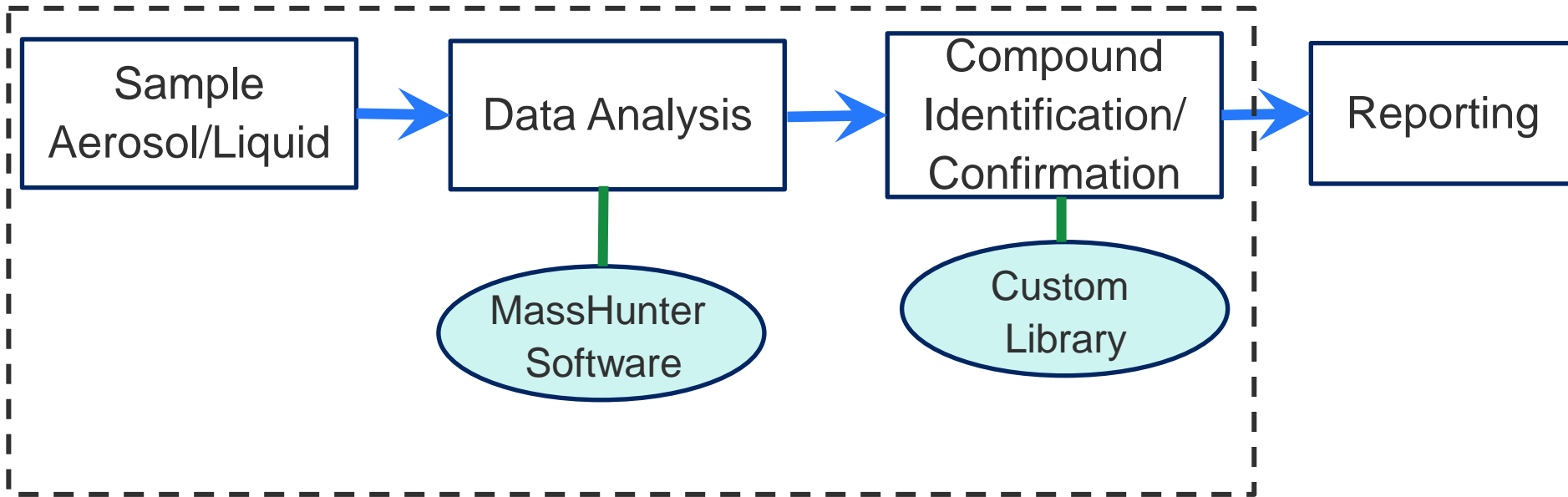
# Non-targeted analysis by GC/MS



GC/MS Profile



Risk  
Assessment



GC/MS profiling method validation



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# GC/MS profiling method validation

- Validation compounds were selected by classification (e.g., flavors, degradation products, etc.) and retention time
- Matrices representing wide range of PG/VG concentrations were included
- All matrices were fortified using the validation compounds

Compound Name
Hydroxyacetone
Piperonal
2,3,5-trimethylpyrazine
Menthone
(E)-Beta-damascone
Cinnamic acid methyl ester
Myosmine
Cotinine

## Unfortified e-liquid matrices<sup>1</sup>

50/50/15 – PG/VG/H<sub>2</sub>O + 2.5% NBW

50/50/0 – PG/VG/H<sub>2</sub>O + 2.5% NBW

50/50/15 – PG/VG/H<sub>2</sub>O + 0% NBW

80/20/15 – PG/VG/H<sub>2</sub>O + 0% NBW

20/80/15 – PG/VG/H<sub>2</sub>O + 0% NBW

Flavored e-liquids (n=2)

<sup>1</sup> NBW = Nicotine by weight



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# GC/MS profiling method validation

Validation Parameter	Elements Evaluated
Calibration	NA
Accuracy	✓
Instrument precision	✓
Repeatability and Intermediate precision	✓
Reproducibility	NA
Selectivity	✓
LOD	✓
LOQ	NA
Robustness	✓
Stability	✓
System suitability	✓

NA: Not Applicable

**Follows FDA recommendations for validation of Chemical method\***



# Critical method validation results

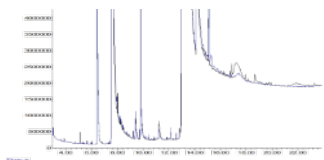
Validation Parameter	Established Criteria
Precision & Accuracy (n=6, 3 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- %RSD <math>\leq</math> 8.5 for all matrices/concentration levels</li><li>- Estimated concentrations* range - 0.5 to 2 times the actual value</li></ul>
Selectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- &gt;99% compounds were identified with library match quality of 85 or higher</li><li>- Compounds that increase by 1.4 fold can be detected by this method</li></ul>
LOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 0.7 ppm</li></ul>

\* Calculated on the basis of manual response factor of internal standard

**Validation results demonstrate that method is fit for purpose**



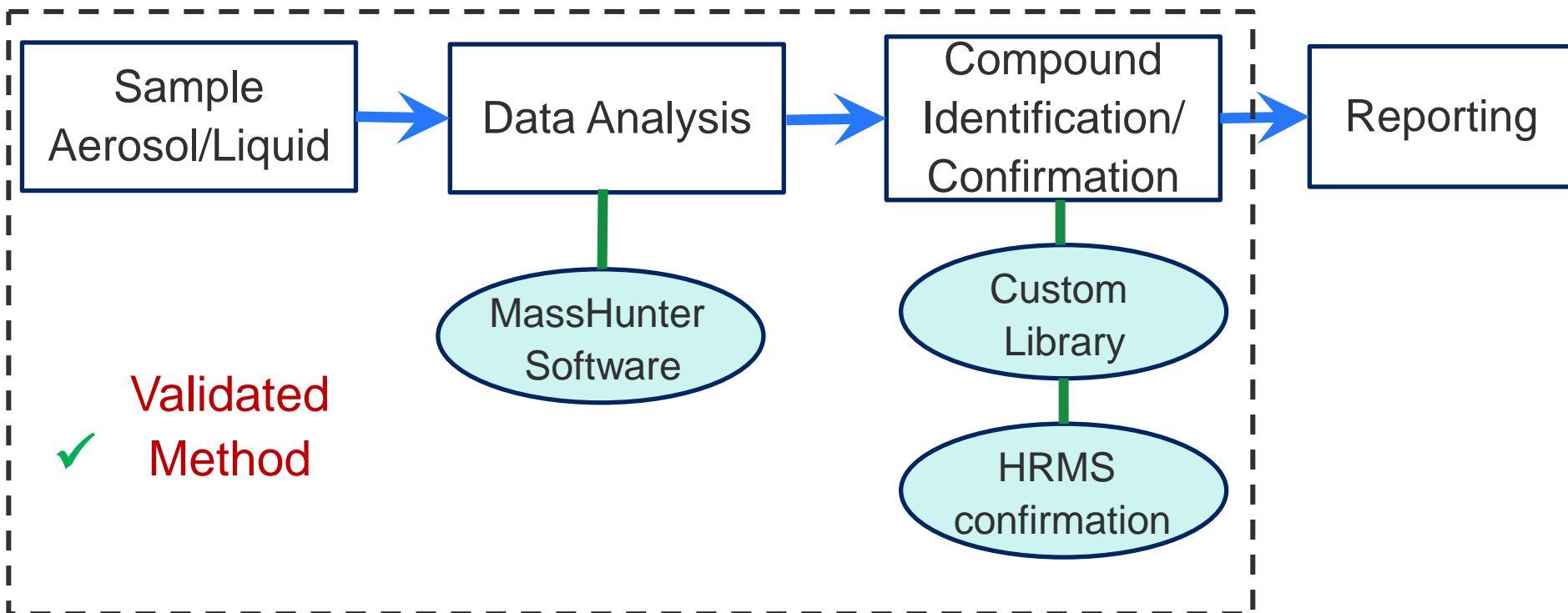
# Non-targeted analysis by GC/MS



GC/MS Profile



Risk  
Assessment





# HRMS – Orbitrap for identification of unknowns

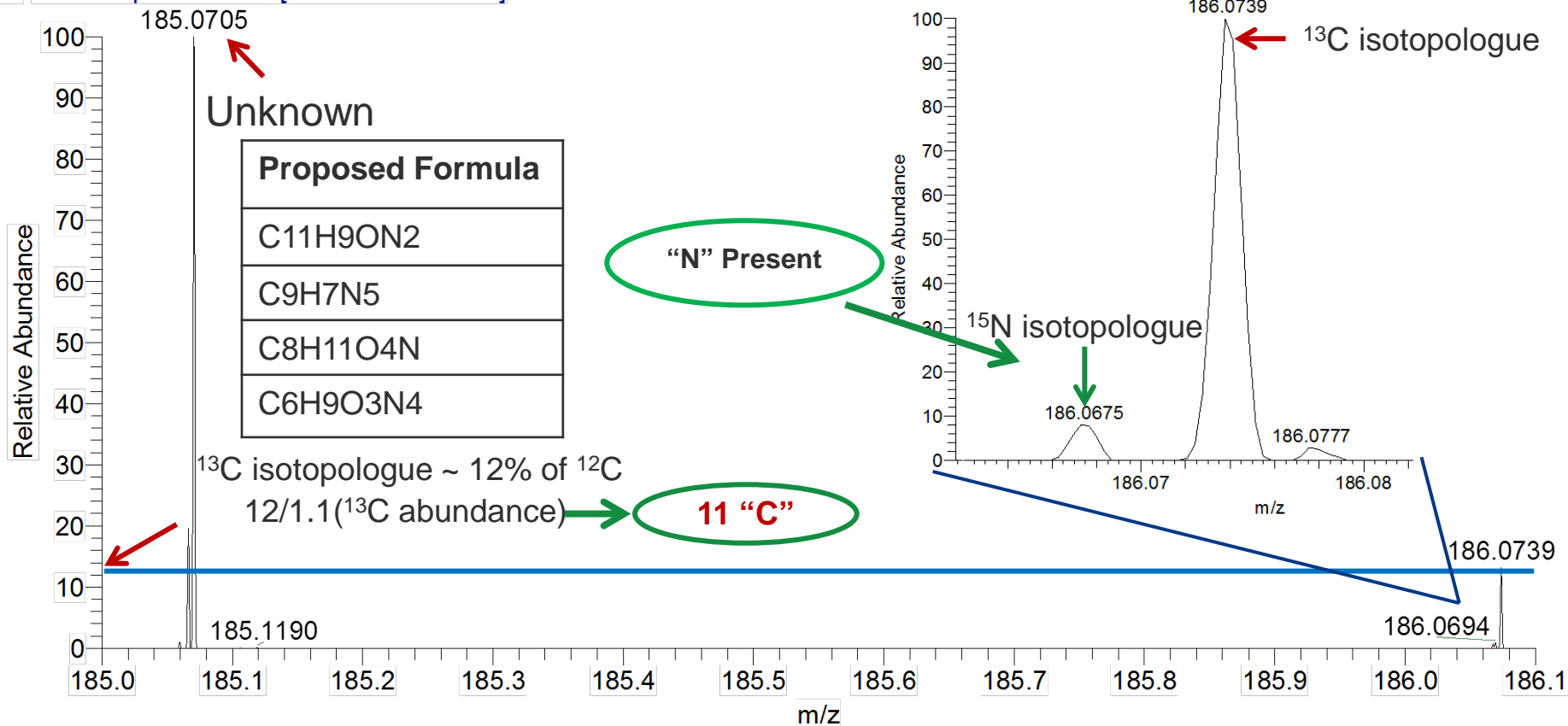
- Resolving power up to 100,000 for small molecule identification
- Offers high resolution and sensitivity in full scan mode
- High mass accuracy and isotope fingerprint (e.g.,  $^{15}\text{N}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) can be used to confirm formulas
- Ion source - Electron ionization (EI) and Chemical ionization (CI)



ThermoFisher Q-Exactive  
GC-Orbitrap

# Example: HRMS identification of an unknown

T: FTMS + p CI Full ms [50.0000-750.0000]



CI spectra to confirm the molecular ion and formula for the unknown compound

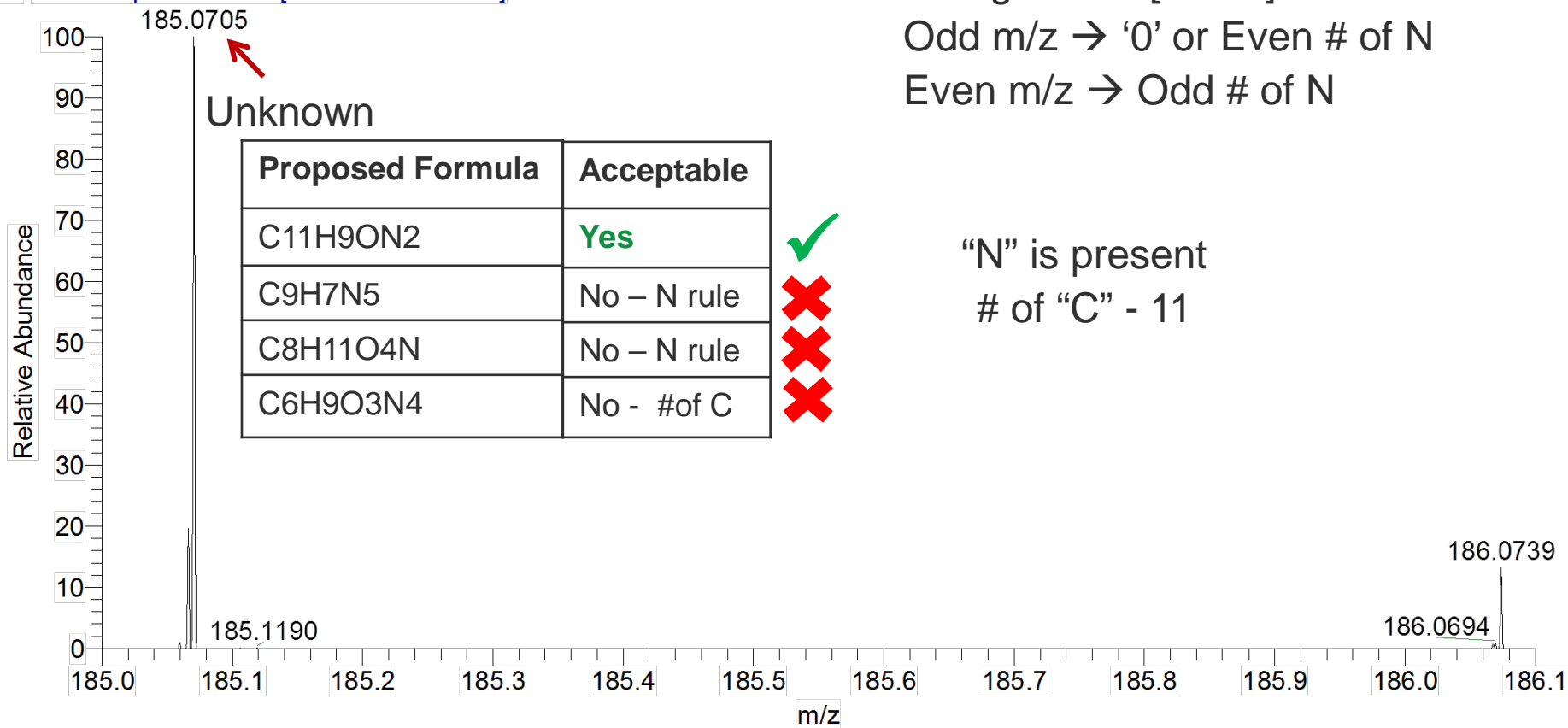


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# Example: HRMS identification of an unknown

T: FTMS + p CI Full ms [50.0000-750.0000]



Confirmation of molecular formula based on exact mass and isotopologues



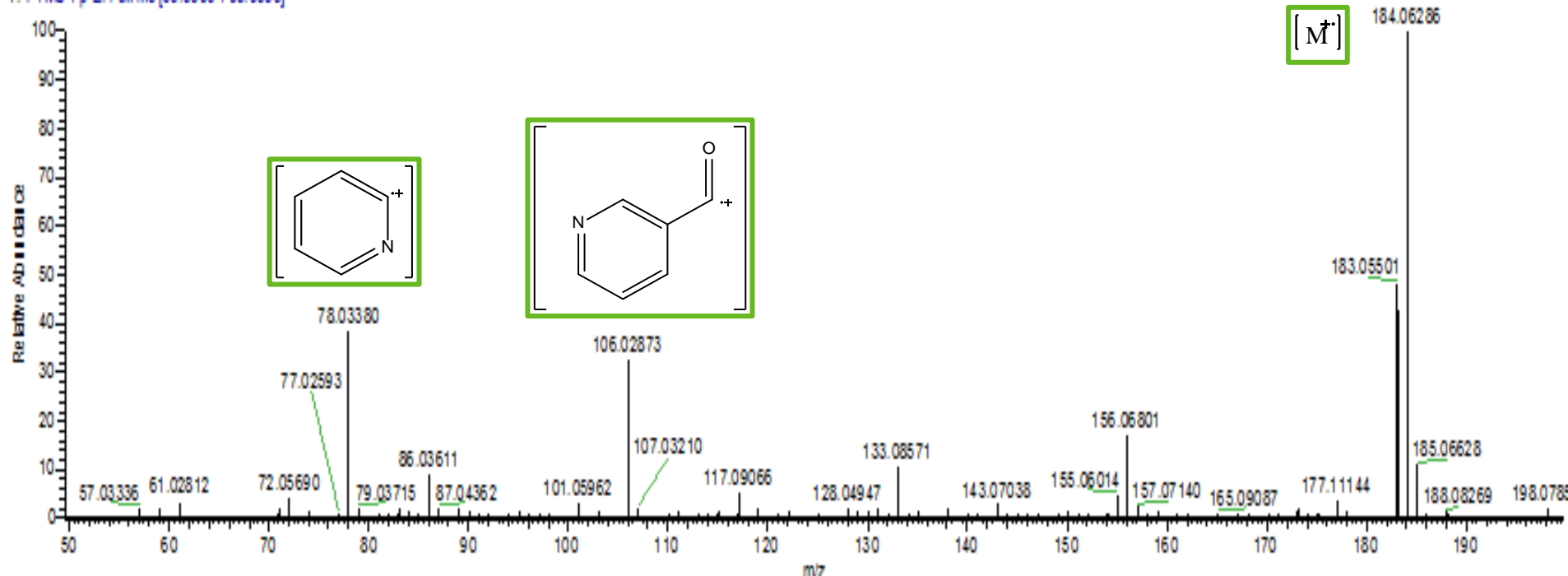
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# Proposed structures and confirmation

- Fragmentation patterns for EI and CI spectra were evaluated to propose structure

T: FTMS +p EI Full ms [50.0000-700.0000]

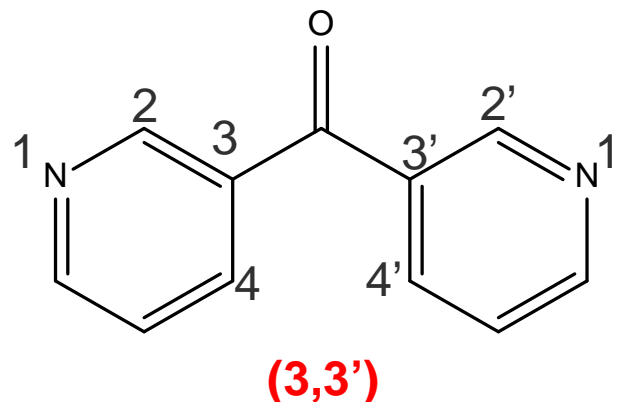


EI – Spectral fragmentation were assigned



# Proposed structures and confirmation

- Fragmentation patterns for EI and CI spectra were evaluated to propose structure
- Multiple structures are possible
- Available isomers were ordered from commercial sources



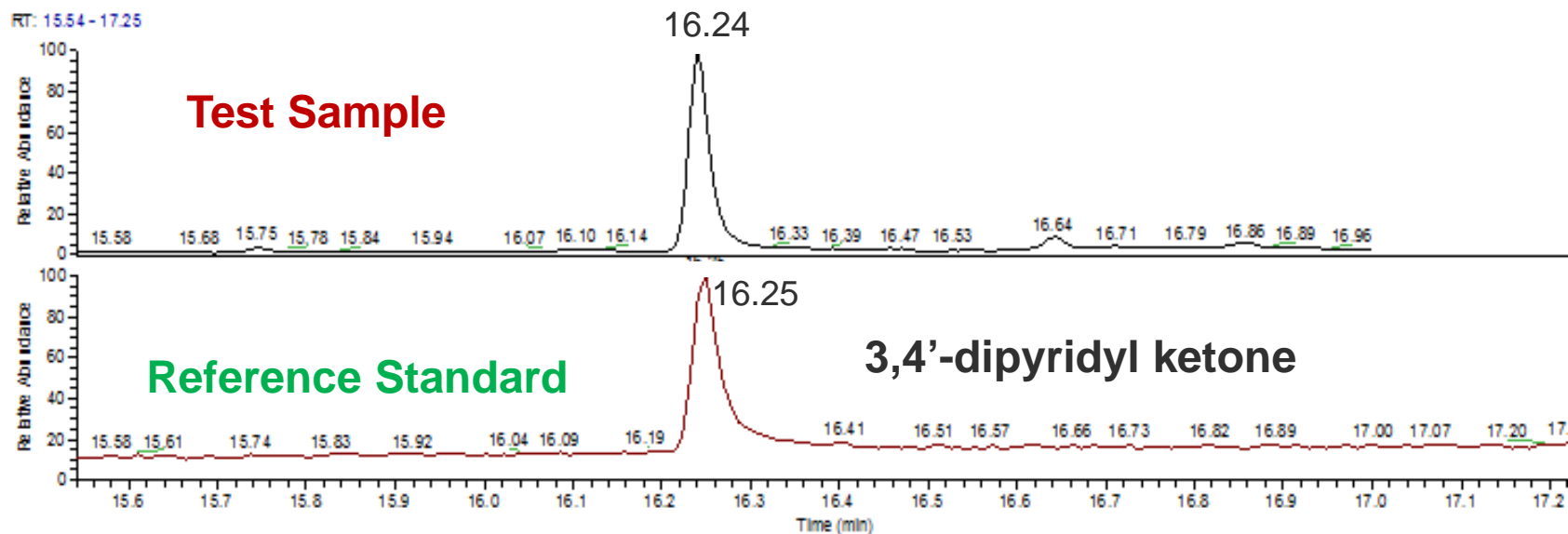
Other possible isomers:

**(3,4')**, (2,2'), **(2,3')**, **(4,4')**, (2,4')

Isomer std.	3,4'	2,3'	3,3'	4,4'
GC/MS Retention time (min)	16.25	16.35	16.63	16.85

# Confirmation by reference standard

Total ion chromatogram (GC/HRMS)



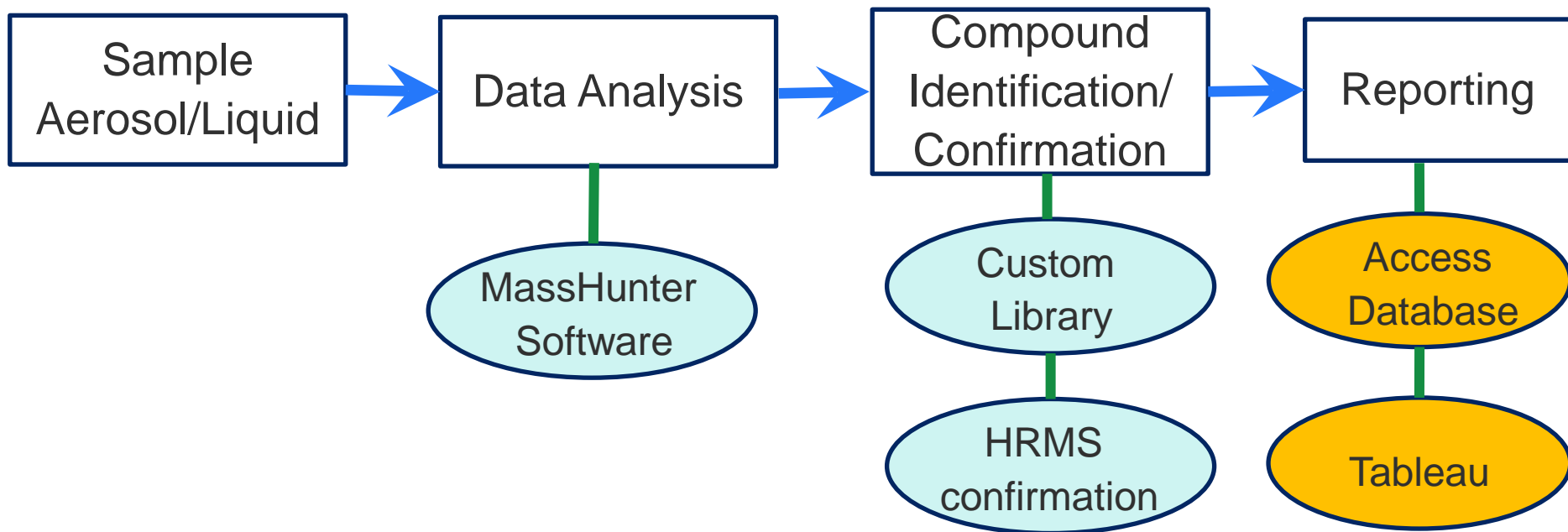
Identity was confirmed by reference standard match with Mass spectra & Retention time



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# Non-targeted analysis for chemical characterization



✓ Validated Method

✓ Compound Confirmation

Data Storage & Visualization



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HRMS: High Resolution Mass Spectroscopy

# Conclusion

- Automated workflows were developed for data analysis and reporting
- High resolution accurate mass spectrometry was used for compound identification and confirmation
- Non-targeted GC/MS analysis approach is applicable for chemical characterization of e-vapor aerosol and liquids formulations





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