

# WELCOME

First Annual PhyNexus Users Group  
Symposium

August 27, 2014

South San Francisco, California

# Why PhyNexus?

- The personal response
- The PhyNexus corporate mission
  - We apply analytical solutions to biological problems
    - Chemistry for biology and automation
    - Applied to Drug Discovery / Drug Development
  - We install and support solutions, not just products
- Solutions are enabled by technology that we develop - PhyNexus has 26 patents on various technologies and more than 16 more in prosecution.

# Chromatography on a Pipette Tip

Douglas Gjerde

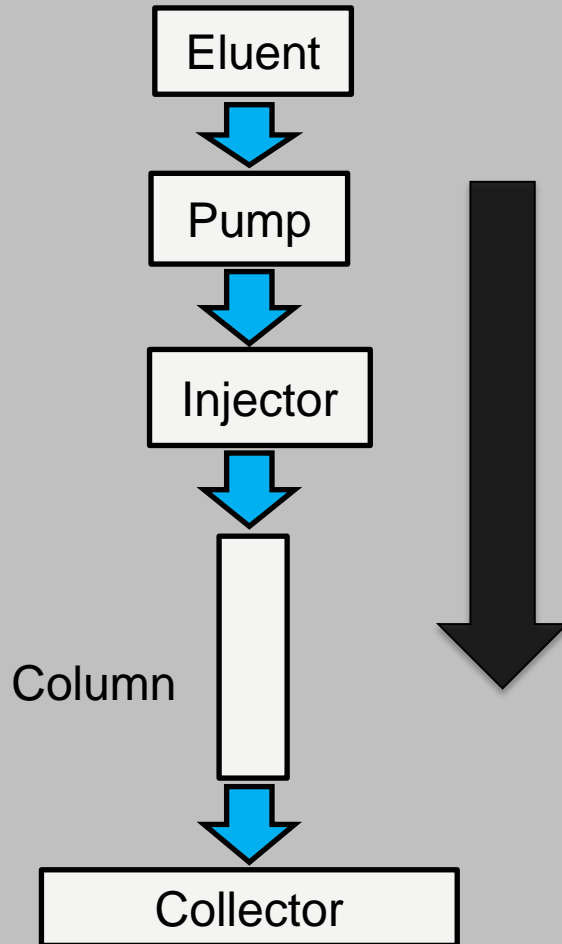
PhyNexus, Inc.

August 27, 2014

# Chromatography on a Pipette Tip

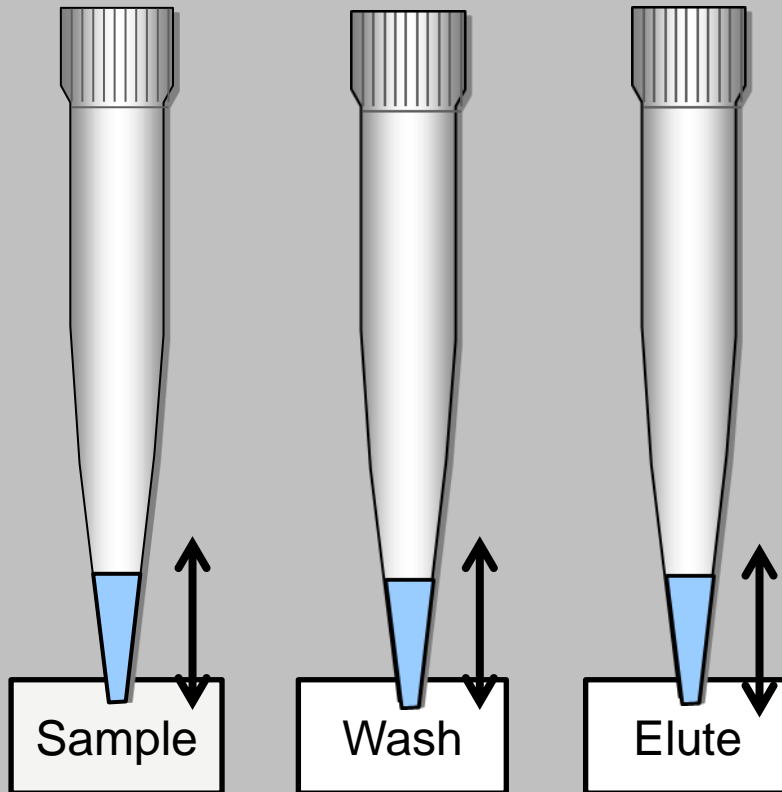
- An affinity column positioned at the end of a pipette/robotic tip
- Chromatographic concepts and principles used but in a novel manner

# Conventional Chromatography



- Mobile phase is pumped down through the system with a pump in a uni-directional flow
- Sample is loaded through an injector at the top of the column
- Chromatographic separation and elution is a top down flow through the column.
- Collection of purified sample is at bottom of column.

# Pipette Tip Chromatography



- Sample and mobile phase enter and exit at the column tip.
- All liquid flow is back and forth flow. This includes sample loading, chromatographic development and elution.
- This is still chromatography, just non-traditional chromatography.

# How does chromatography on a pipette tip work?

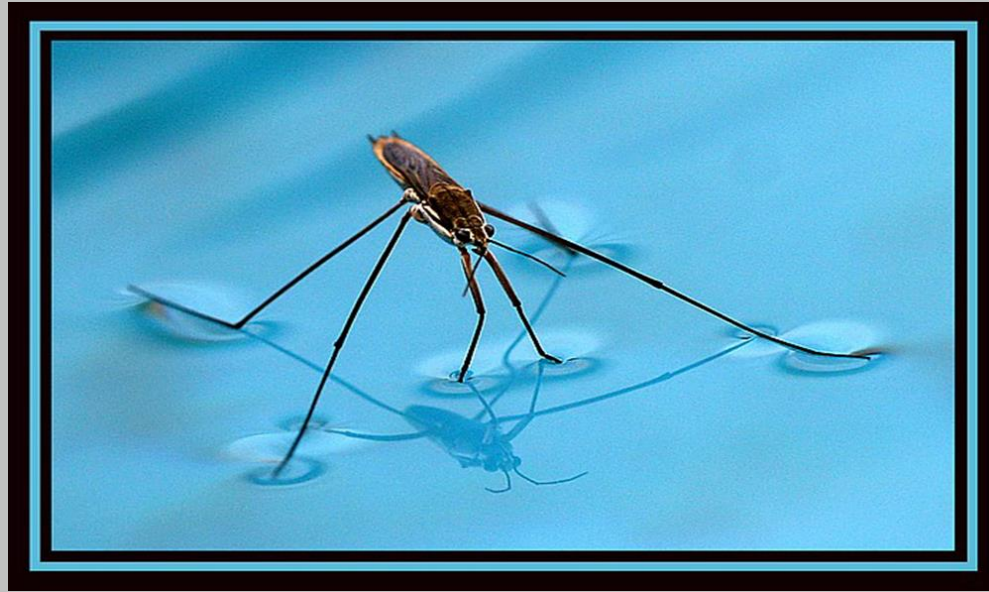
- Physical/mechanical Properties
  - Control the flow of sample and buffers
  - Control the volume of buffers needed
- Separation Chemistry Properties
  - Must operate with back and forth flow
    - Sample loading
    - Separation development
    - Sample elution/recovery

# Physical/Mechanical Properties

- Thin frits
  - Frits are thinner than the bead diameter
  - Virtually no column dead volume
- Hydrophilic frits
  - Will wet and draw up even a single drop of liquid to cover surface of the frit.
  - Hydrogen bonding of water to itself and to the frit.

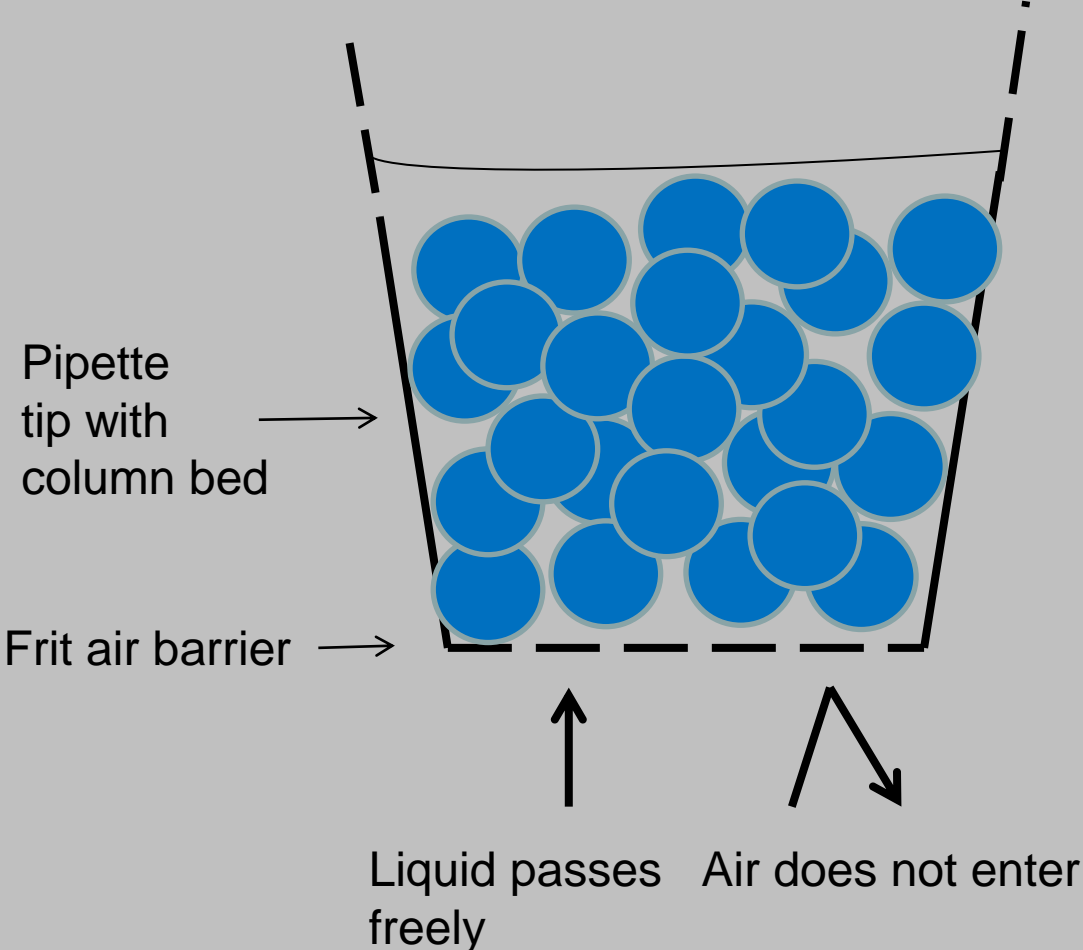


# Hydrogen Bonding of Water



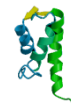
- Intra hydrogen bonding: small insects can actually walk on top of water because of a water surface “skin” produced by water hydrogen bonding
- Inter hydrogen bonding: hydrogen bonding of water with a hydrophilic frit also produces a “skin” with water. This skin is a barrier to air passing through the pipette tip column

# The Pipette Tip Column Frit Air Barrier



# Piston Position and Fluid Flow

- Flow through the column is controlled by pressure and vacuum above the column bed.
  - Frit itself has zero backpressure
  - But flow only starts after a threshold pressure or vacuum is reached
  - Flow stops when no liquid is left in front of the frit. Even with a positive pressure or vacuum above the bed, air does not enter the column
- Software and firmware programming used to control of pipette/syringe piston position
  - Used to produce predictable vacuum and pressure above the column bed
  - Piston position and movement does not match liquid flow (it is not like pipetting liquids)



# Fine control flow of fluid flow through a pipette tip column

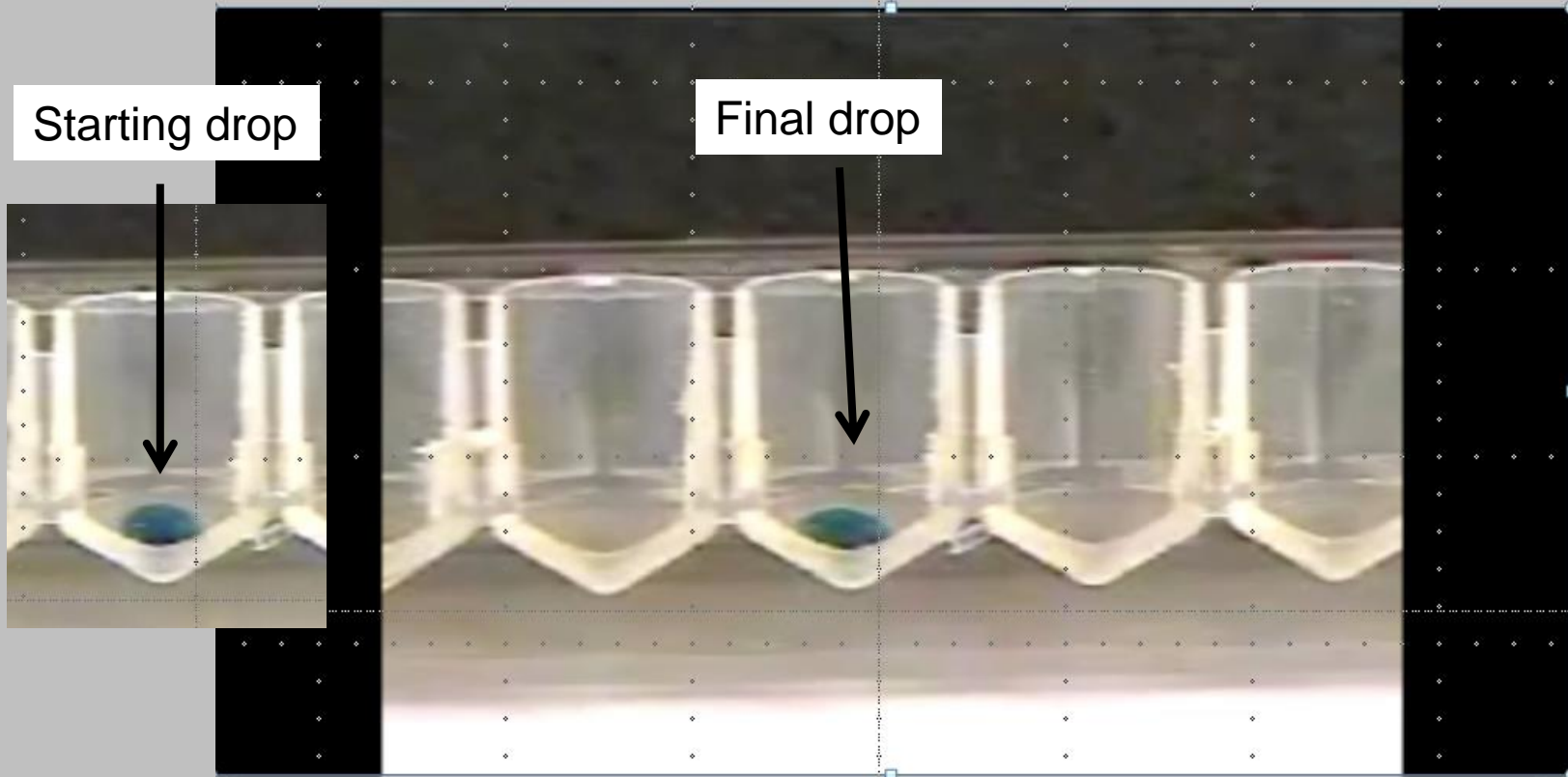


*Tip Concentrating Effect™*



**PhyNexus**

# Fine control flow of fluid flow through a pipette tip column

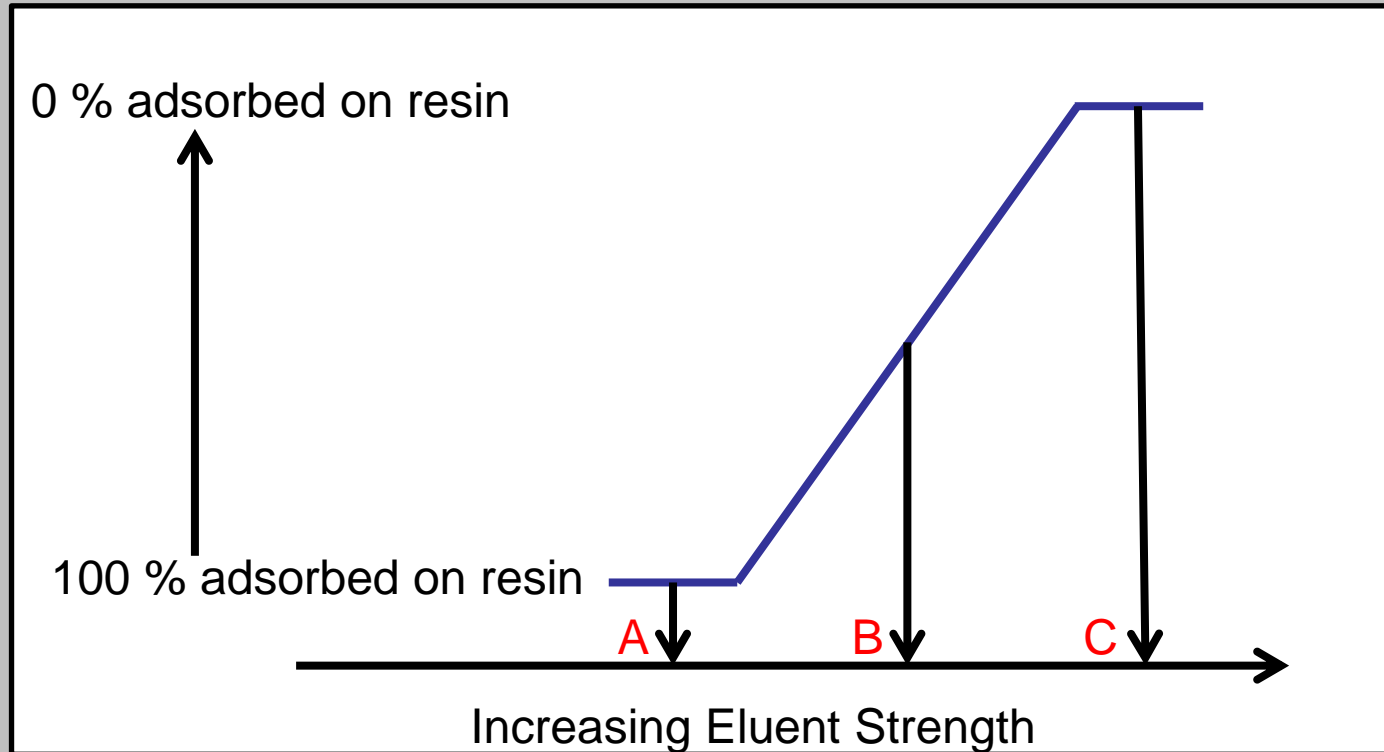


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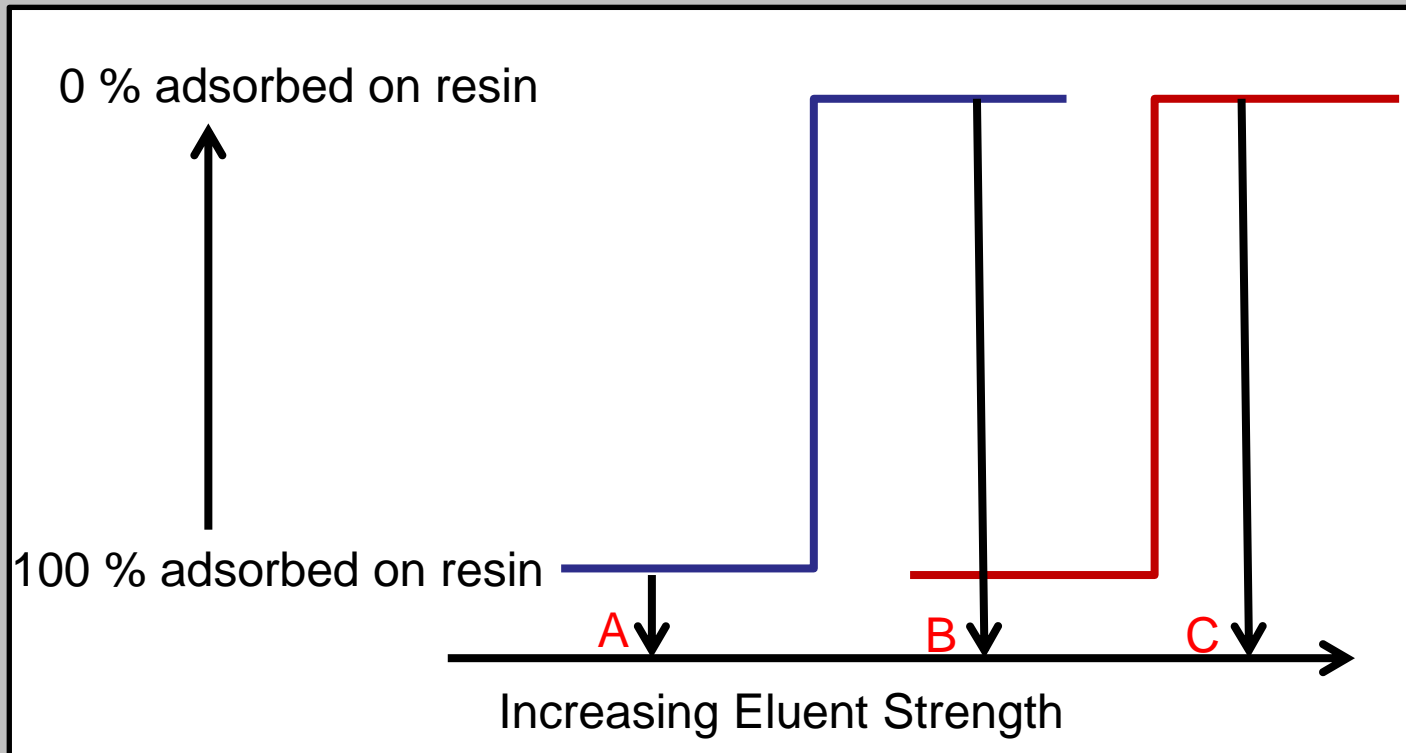
# Separation Chemistry Properties

- Separation selectivity in chromatography is controlled by isotherm chemistry.
- Isotherms show the mobile phase chemical conditions
  - at which materials are adsorbed to the column media and
  - at which materials are dissolved in solution.

# Gradual Isotherm Chemistry



# Sharp Isotherm Chemistry





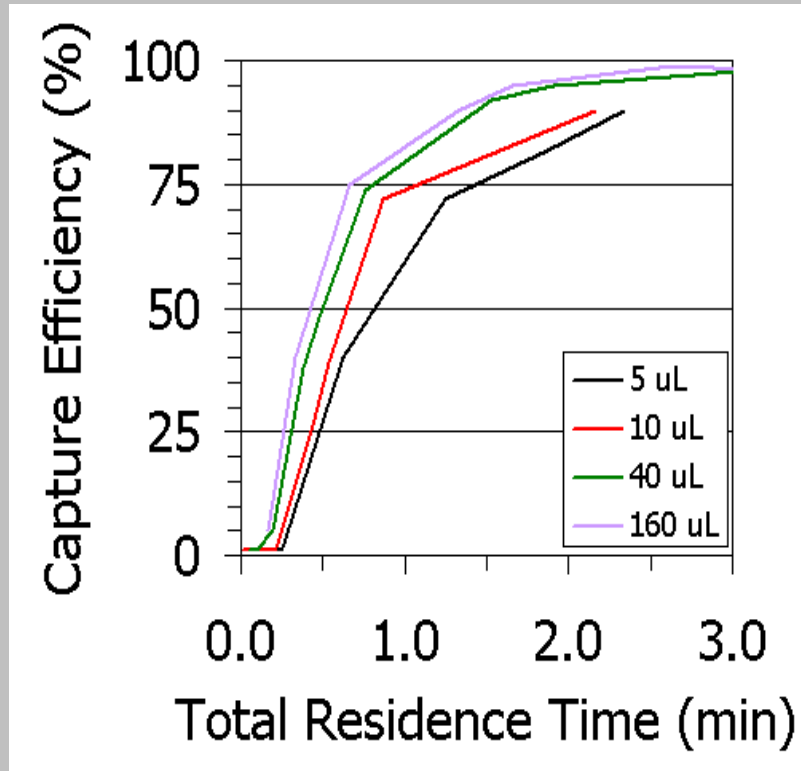
# Sharp Isotherms are Difficult to Achieve

- Biomolecules interact slowly with affinity columns – slow kinetics.
- The problem is exasperated with small columns.
  - Spin columns
  - plates
- Time of interaction may be insufficient and is difficult to control.

# Chromatography on a Pipette Tip

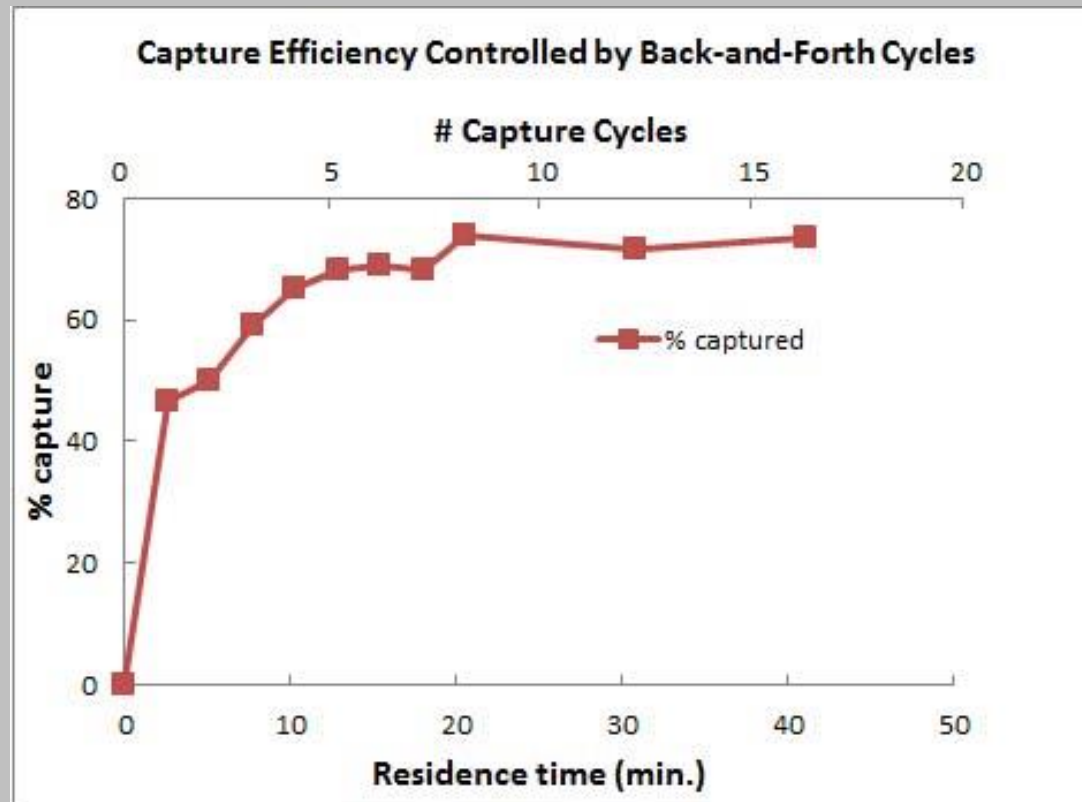
- Time of interaction is easily controlled with back and forth flow.
- Time of interaction is sufficient with several cycles
  - Active transport of sample molecules to resin functional groups
  - Multiple chances of interaction
- Sufficient time is defined as time necessary to drive the equilibrium interaction of sample and column to completion.

# Capture Efficiency is Related to Residence Time



Capture efficiency of IgG as a function of residence time for 5, 10, 40, 160  $\mu$ L bed Pro A columns.

# Capture Efficiency is Related to Number of Cycles

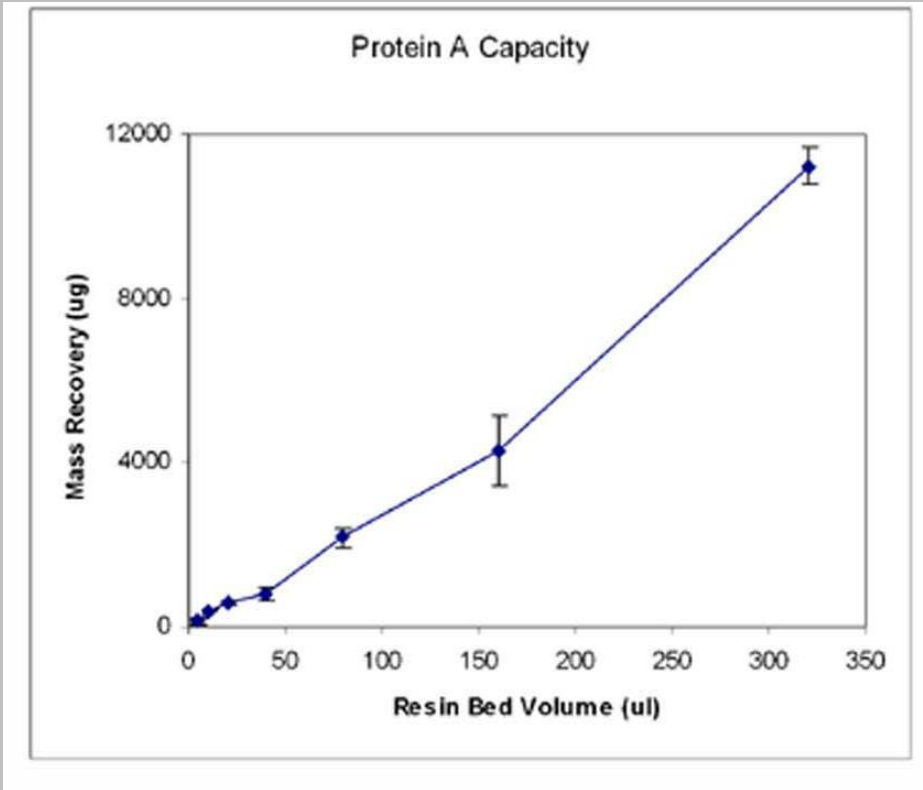


Capture of lysozyme using 200+ 5  $\mu$ L bed Cation Exchange column.  
Equilibrium binding is achieved with 5 cycles of capture.

# Chromatography on a Pipette Tip

- Since interaction is complete to equilibrium in back and forth flow, separations are:
  - Independent of column diameter
  - Independent on packing uniformity
  - Independent on amount of resin in the column
  - Independent of flow rate
  - Only dependent on column and mobile phase chemistry.
- Result: A novel, powerful type of chromatography.
- Mimics very large diameter traditional column chromatography where the residence times are long.

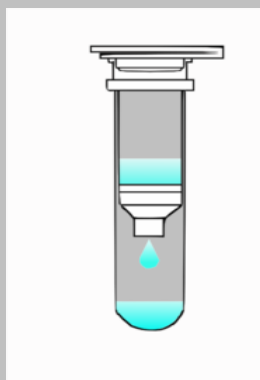
# Back-and-forth flow make columns scaling predictable



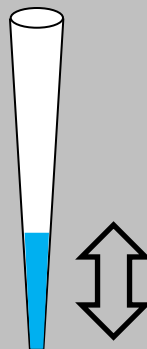
- Linear relationship between resin bed volume and recovery
- Measured dynamic binding capacity of  $29\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$  is equivalent to manufacturer's specifications
- Resin performance is not compromised by miniaturization
- Conditions developed can be applied to all column bed sizes, including large scale manufacturing

# PhyTip Columns Concentrate the Sample

Compare purification of an antibody protein with a 200  $\mu\text{L}$  bed Pierce NAb spin column and a 20  $\mu\text{L}$  bed PhyTip column



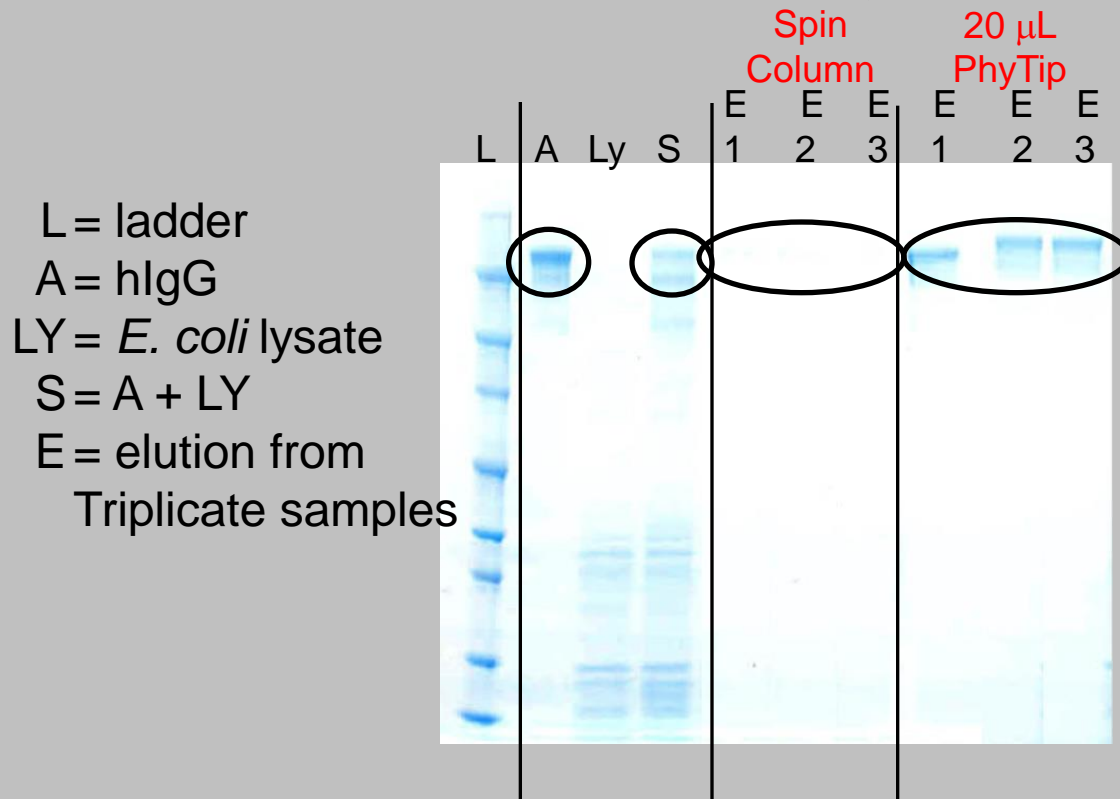
Spin column



20  $\mu\text{L}$  bed column

*Tip Concentrating Effect™*

# Spin Column vs. 20 $\mu$ L PhyTip 200+ ProA column



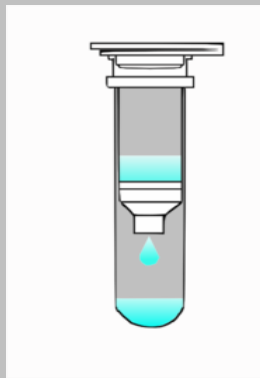


# Chromatography on a Pipette Tip

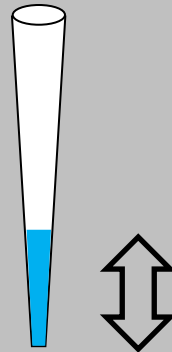
## Tip Concentrating Effect

- Question: What happens when you decrease the column size to 5  $\mu\text{L}$  from 20  $\mu\text{L}$ ?
- Answer: The PhyTip Column Tip Concentrating Effect becomes stronger.
- The Tip Concentrating Effect is counter intuitive:
  - To increase the concentration of recovered protein, use a smaller column
  - 5  $\mu\text{L}$  bed is a very small column bed but will give very high sample concentrations

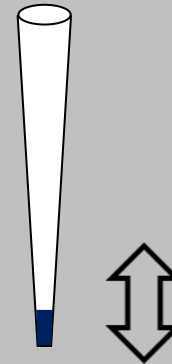
# Tip Concentrating Effect increases using a 5 $\mu\text{L}$ bed PhyTip column



Spin column

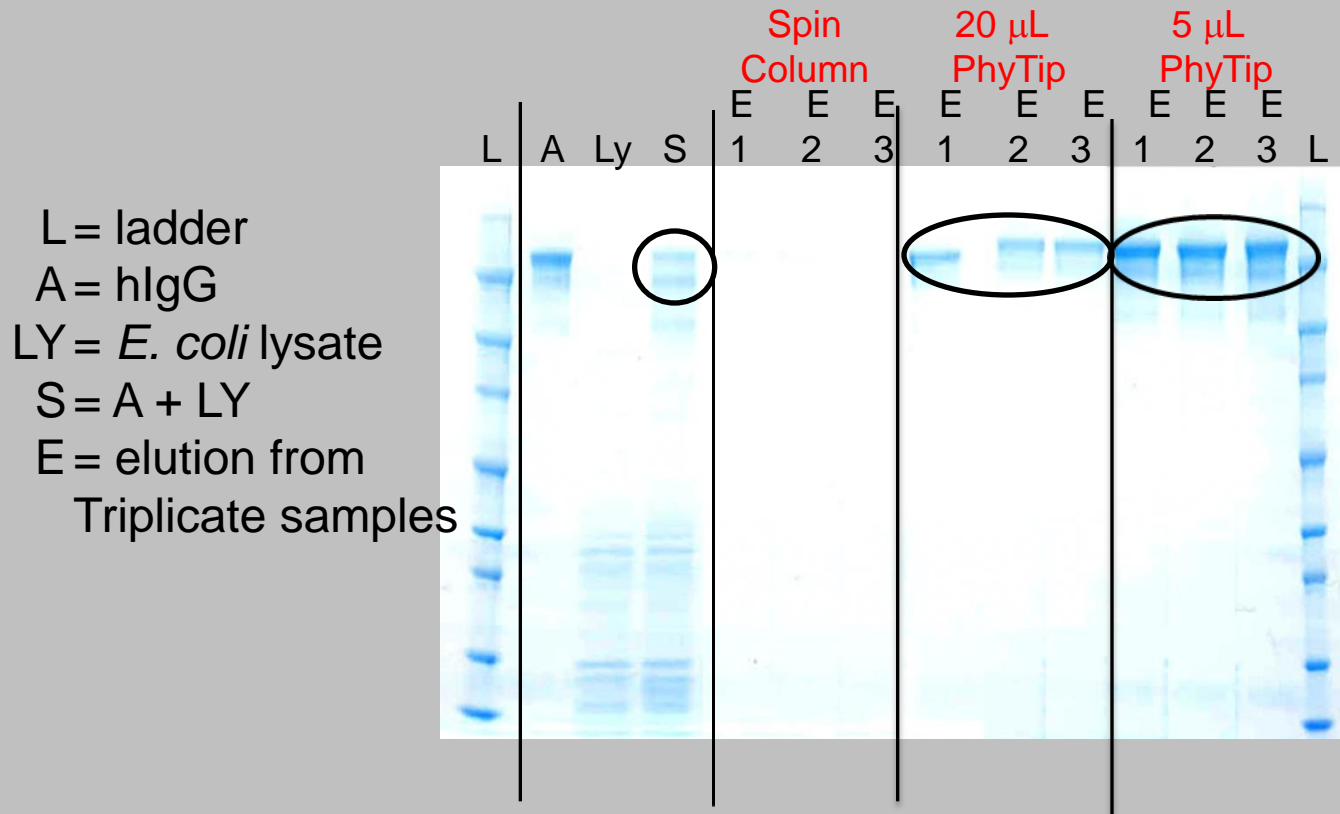


20  $\mu\text{L}$  bed column



5  $\mu\text{L}$  bed column

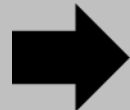
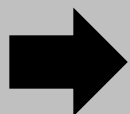
# Spin Column vs. 20 $\mu$ L PhyTip and 5 $\mu$ L 200+ ProA column



Tip Concentrating Effect™

# Antibody recovery from ProA Spin column and 20 $\mu$ L PhyTip<sup>®</sup> column vs. 5 $\mu$ L ProA PhyTip<sup>®</sup> column HPLC data

|              | Vol. ( $\mu$ L) | mAU <sup>2</sup> | [ ] (mg/mL) | Mass ( $\mu$ g) | % rec. |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|
| Pierce-1     | 434             | 190.3            | 0.08        | 36              | 71     |
| Pierce-2     | 440             | 170.5            | 0.07        | 30              | 59     |
| Pierce-3     | 441             | 163.6            | 0.06        | 27              | 55     |
| 20 $\mu$ L-1 | 74              | 690.4            | 0.46        | 35              | 69     |
| 20 $\mu$ L-2 | 69              | 704.2            | 0.47        | 33              | 66     |
| 20 $\mu$ L-3 | 72              | 762.2            | 0.52        | 38              | 75     |
| 5 $\mu$ L-1  | 15              | 272.2            | 1.45        | 22              | 45     |
| 5 $\mu$ L-2  | 16              | 259.2            | 1.35        | 22              | 45     |
| 5 $\mu$ L-3  | 17              | 273.2            | 1.45        | 25              | 50     |



# Chromatography on a Pipette Tip

## Tip Concentrating Effect

- Operates with any “on/off type” high selectivity resin (sharp isotherm chemistry)
  - ProA/ProG
  - IMAC
  - Streptavidin
  - Ion exchange
  - Ion pairing / reverse phase
  - Any column/analyte chemistry where the isotherms are sharp i.e. they change rapidly and completely with changes in solvent composition
- Match bed size to sample concentration and volume to load up the bed

# This Meeting

- How is PhyNexus technology used?
- What's new?
- What's on the horizon?