

# Evaluation of Limonene

## as a possible "green" non polar solvent for alkane replacement



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### Goal : Biorenewable solvents instead of petroleum-based solvents

#### LIMONENE



terpene family  
density 0.837 (density methanol = 0.79)  
viscosity 0.25  
 $\log P_{\text{oct/eau}} = 4.2$  ( $\log P_{\text{oct/eau}}$  heptane = 4.66)  
UV transparency

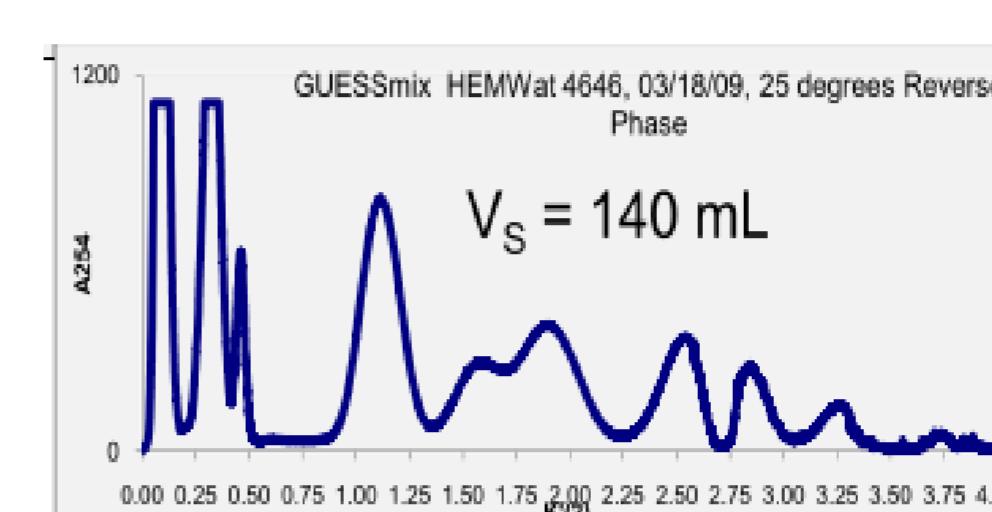
CCC friendly

economic/environment friendly

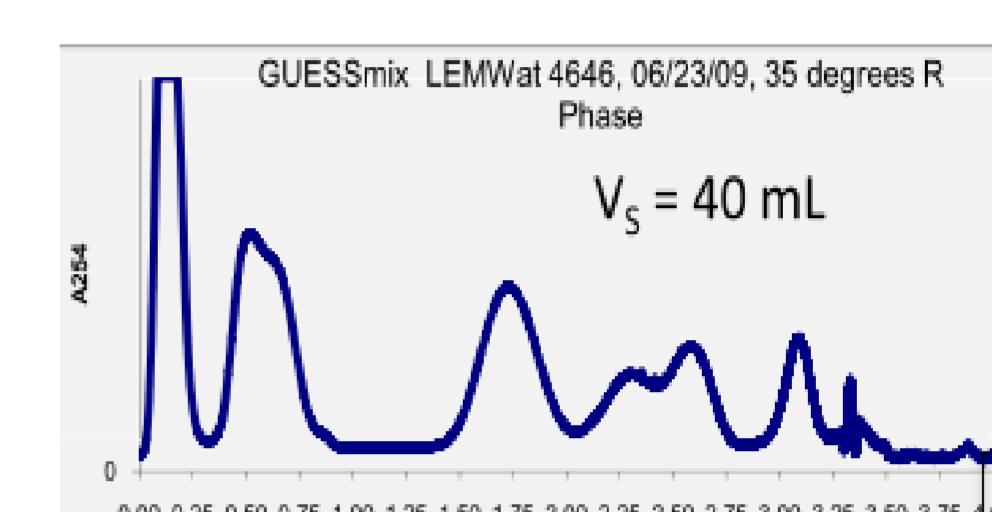
91% of orange essential oil  
non toxic (food flavouring)  
from food waste (70 000 tons per year)

### Preliminary results from Friesen

➤ N. Thompson and J. B. Friesen, Use of renewable solvents in the formulation of CCC separation systems, Communication 4-5, CCC 2010, Lyon, France



Heptane



Limonene

V<sub>s</sub> is too low  
to allow separation

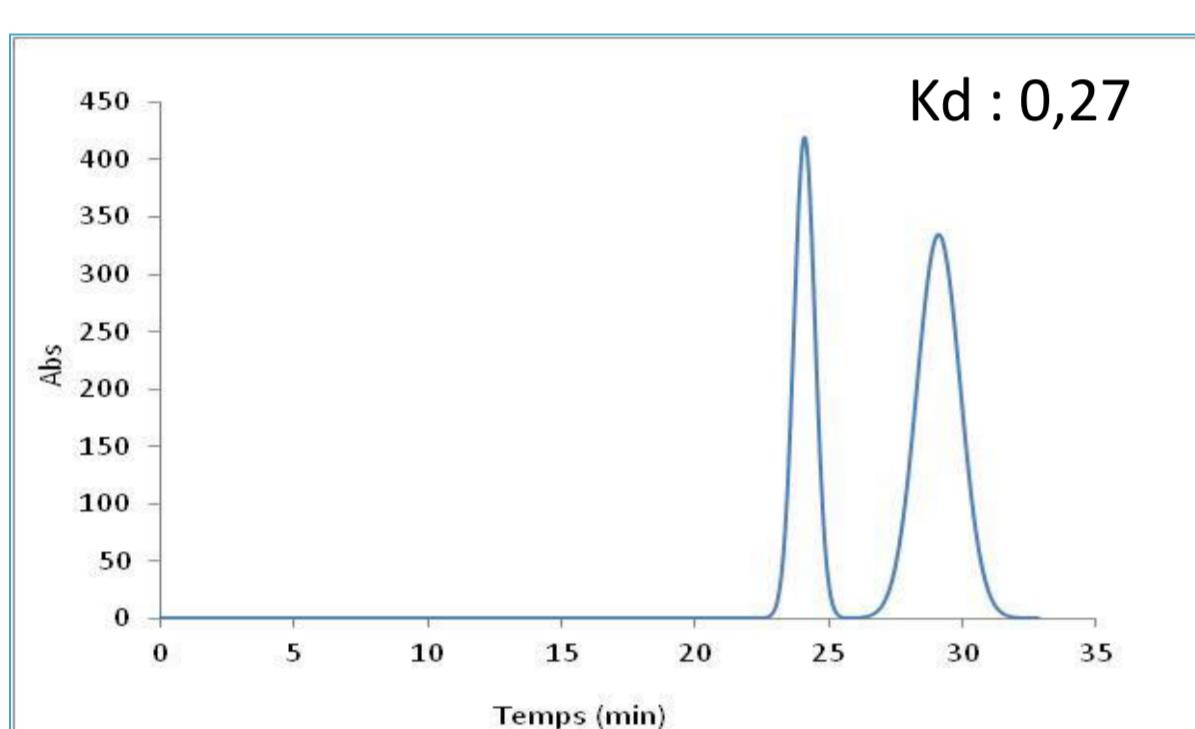
### Hydrostatic instruments

Total substitution:  
possible !!!

#### Heptane

Mode descendant  
2500 rpm 2ml.min-1

Sf : 69%

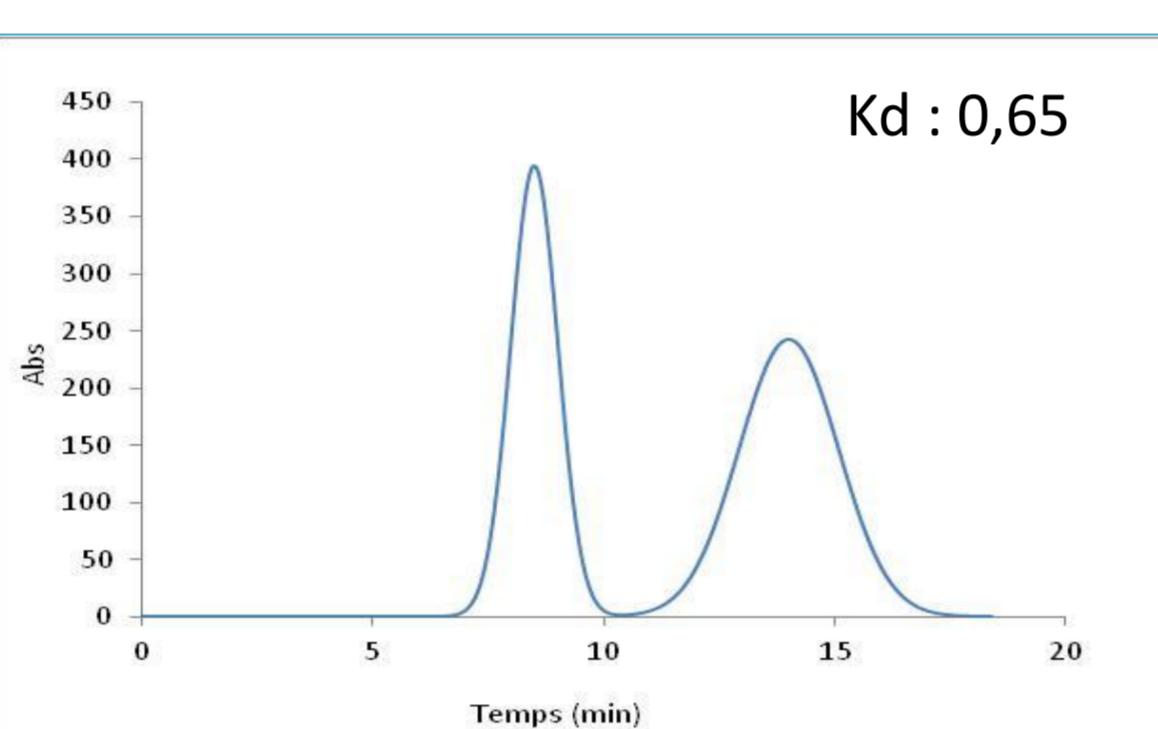


Rs : 1,72 P = 65 bars

#### Limonene

Mode ascendant  
2500 rpm 2ml.min-1

Sf=52%



Rs : 1, 84 P = 15 bars  
better resolution because higher Kd

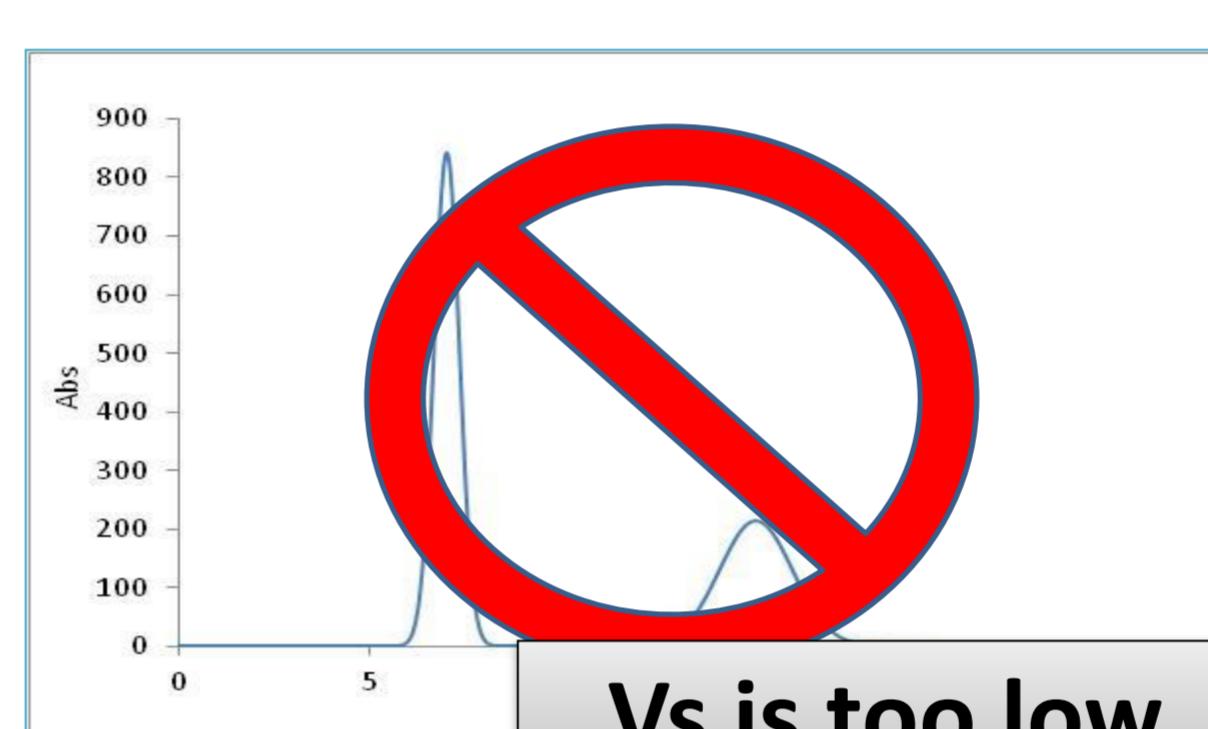
### Hydrodynamic instruments

Direct substitution  
not possible

#### Limonene

Mode ascendant  
1200 rpm 1ml.min-1

Sf=20%

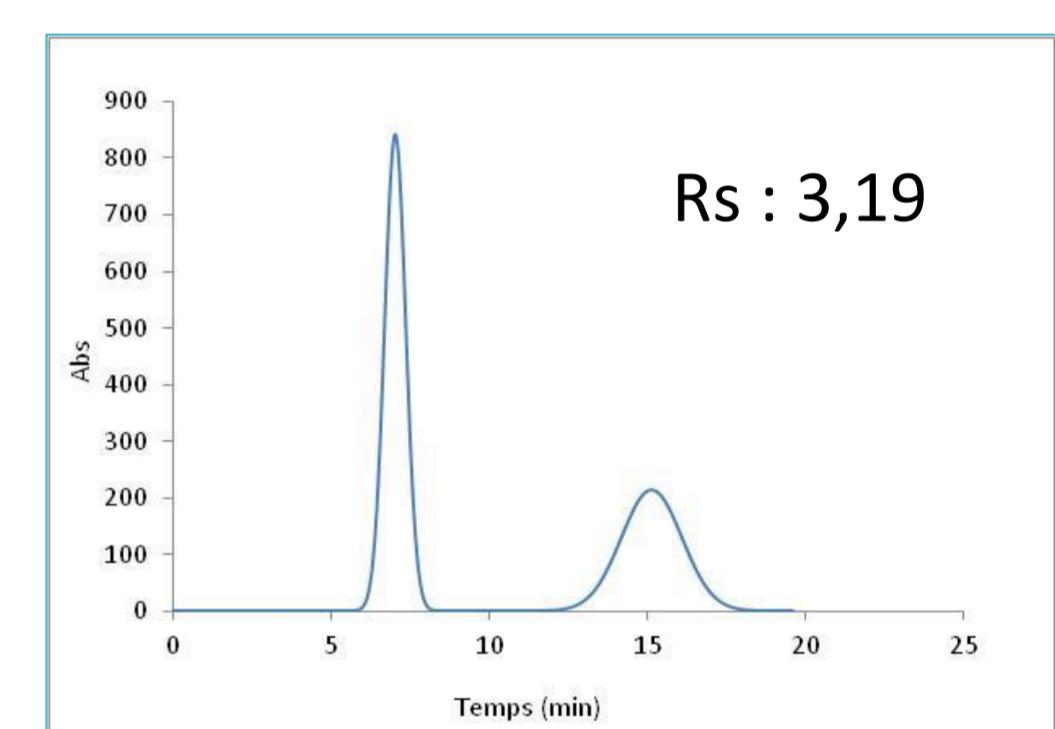


V<sub>s</sub> is too low

#### Heptane

Mode descendant  
1200 rpm 2ml.min-1

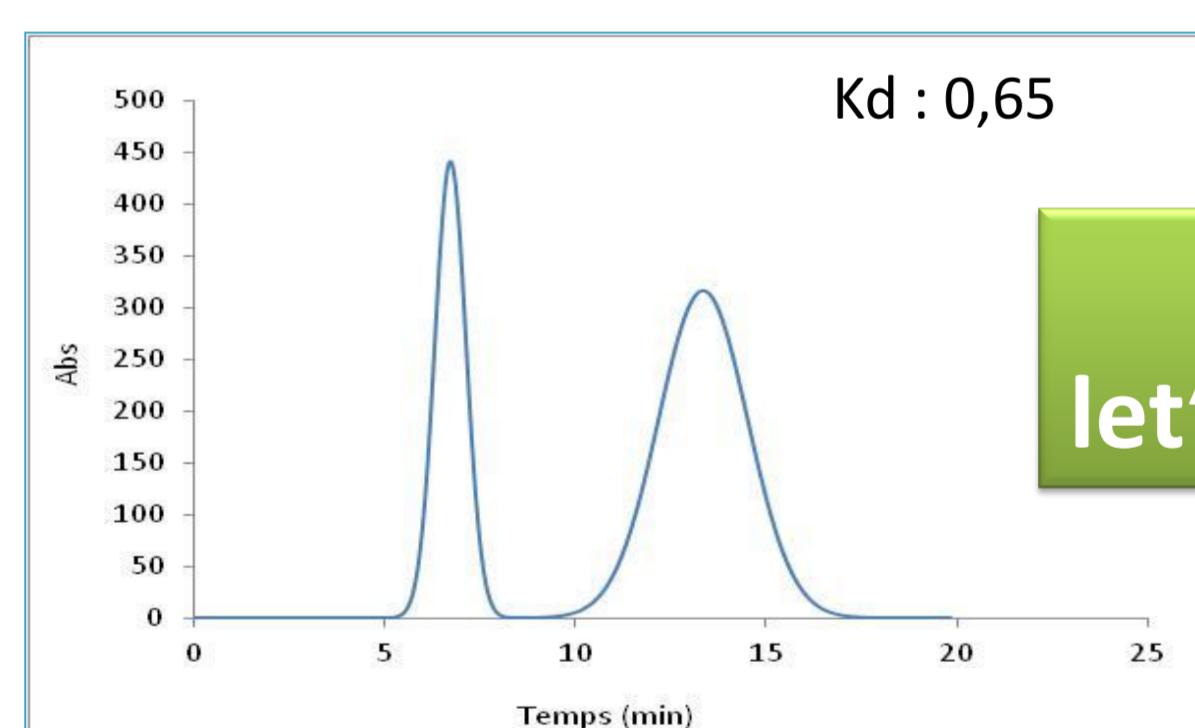
Sf : 80%



#### Limonene

Mode ascendant  
3000 rpm 2ml.min-1

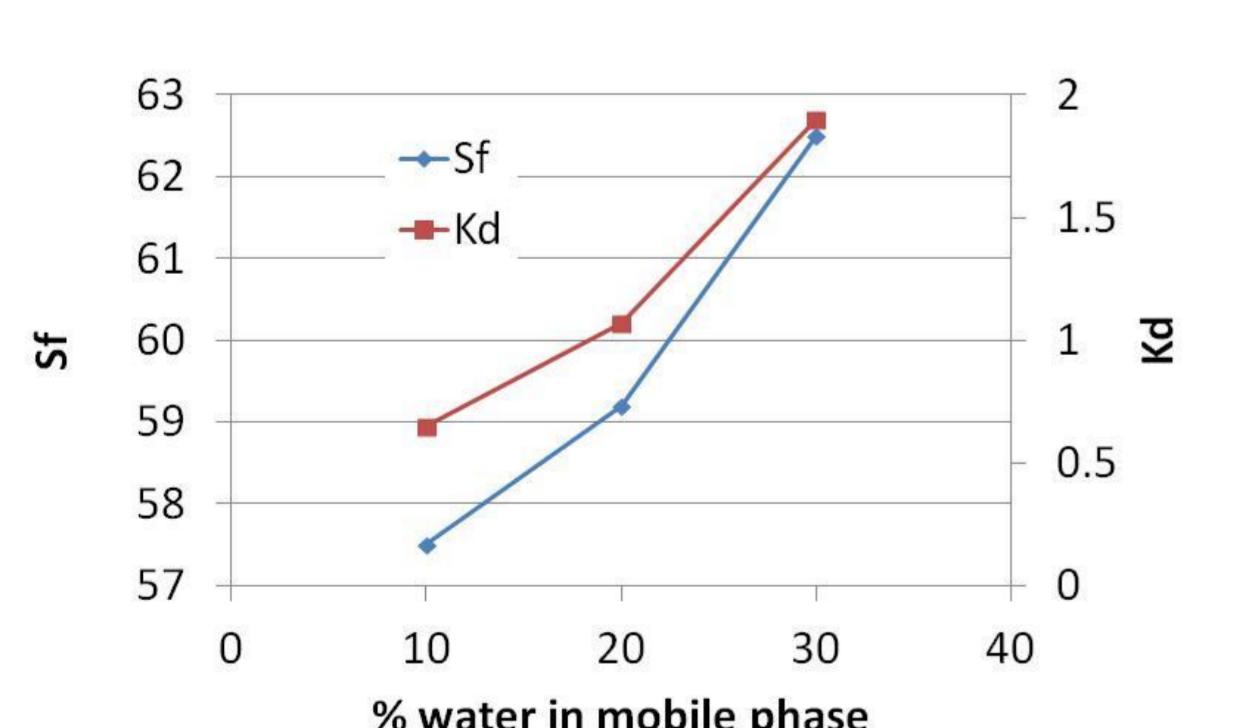
Sf=57%



Rs : 2.44 P = 17 bars  
better resolution because higher Sf

not an issue  
in hydrostatic instruments

modification of mobile phase (MeOH/water) ;  
100% limonene



no pressure:  
we can modulate  
the retention !!!

better resolution because  
higher Kd and higher Sf

$\varphi_m$  : MeOH/water 90/10  
 $\rho = 0,81$

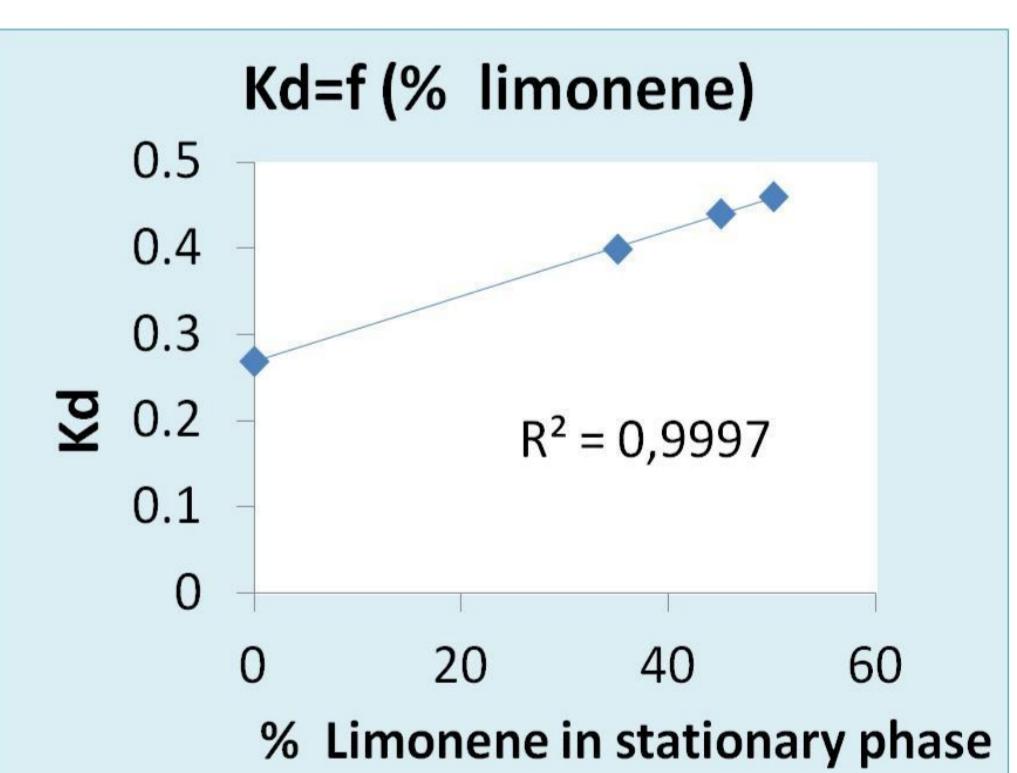
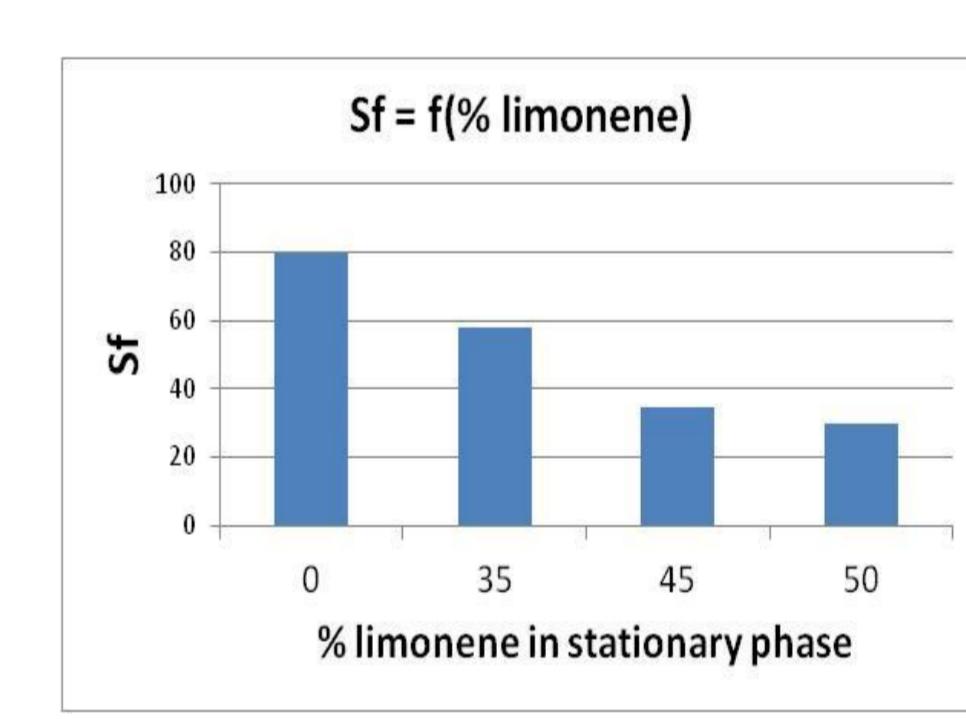
Density  
Issue

$\varphi_s$  : Limonene  
 $\rho = 0,84$

adding limonene  
= lower Sf

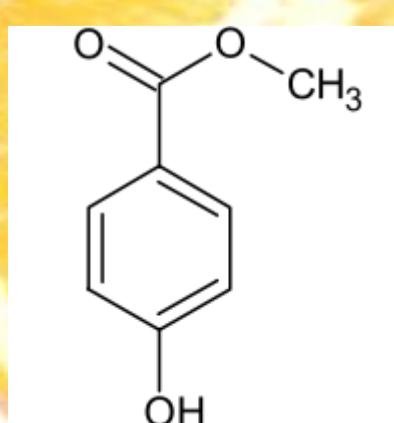
BUT

adding limonene  
= higher K



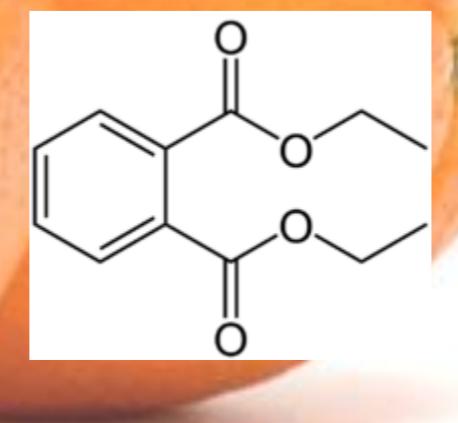
### Test description

Solutes : methylparaben (unretained) et diethylphthalate



Stationary Phase  $\varphi_s$ : Heptane or limonene

Mobile Phase  $\varphi_m$  : MeOH/water (90/10)



### Conclusion

- Limonene is much denser than heptane (lower apolar phase)
- Isodensity can be an issue with hydrodynamic columns
- Hydrostatic CCC columns are recommended
- Limonene can efficiently substitute heptane in some cases

