

# **Fatty Acid Analysis by HPLC**

**Technical Note** 

Current interest in fatty acids and trans-fatty acids in food materials has been increasing. Fatty acid is an organic acid found in fats, oils, and lipids. It can be classified according to chaing length, short chain (2-4 carbons), middle chain (5-10 carbons), and long chain (more than 11 carbons). Although gas chromatography is the predominant technique used for fatty acid analysis, high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) plays an important role in applications such as the geometrical isomer separation. By using both HPLC and GC, a better fatty acid profile can be obtained.



		High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)		Gas Chromatography (GC)	
		COSMOSIL C <sub>18</sub>	COSMOSIL Cholester	Gas Chromatography (GC)	
Free fatty acids	Short fatty acids	Good	(HILIC)	Poor	
	Middle and long fatty acids	Excel	Poor		
Fatty acid ester	Short fatty acids	Fair		Poor	
	Middle and long fatty acids	Goo	Excellent		
Position or geometrical isomers of unsaturated fatty acids		Fair	Good	Excellent	
High sensitive analysis		Fair		Excellent	
		[labeling] Excellent		Excellent	
Preparative separation		Excellent		Poor	
Lipids composed of complex fatty acid mixture		Using both HPLC and GC to achieve better fatty acid profiling (*1)			

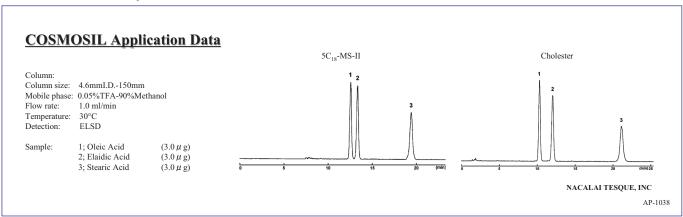
<sup>\*1:</sup> Wakako Tsuzuki and Kaori Ushida, "Preparative Separation of *cis*- and *trans*- Isomers of Unsaturated Fatty Acid Methyl Esters Contained in Edible Oils by Reversed-Phase High-Performance Liquid Chromatography" Lipids (2009) 44: 373-379

# 1. Unsaturated Fatty Acid Analyses by HPLC

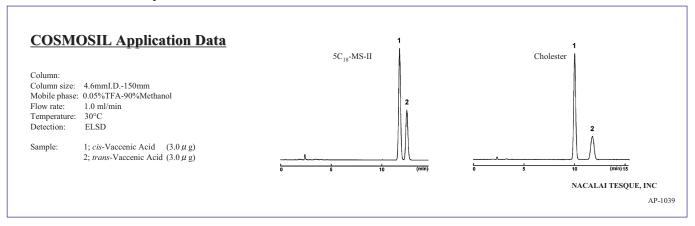
# (1) Geometrical Isomer Separations (cis/trans)

Geometrical isomers (*cis/trans*) are difficult to separate by a C<sub>18</sub> column due to their similar hydrophobicity. COSMOSIL Cholester column can achieve better separation due to higher molecular-shape selectivity.

### · 18:1 cis-9 / trans-9 Fatty Acid



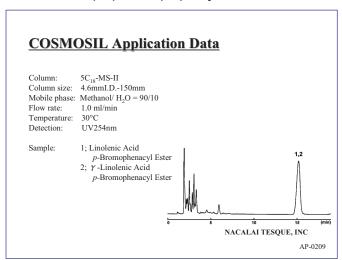
### · 18 :1 cis-11 / trans-11 Fatty Acid

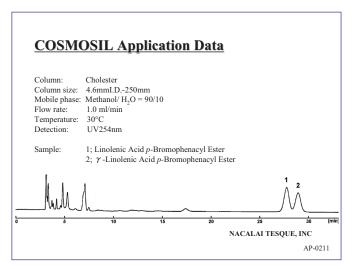


# (2) Positional Isomers

COSMOSIL Cholester column with high molecular-shape selectivity offers improved separation for positional isomers. Labeling can increase detection sensitivity.

· Labeled 18: 3 (n-3) / 18: 3 (n-6) Fatty Acid Ester





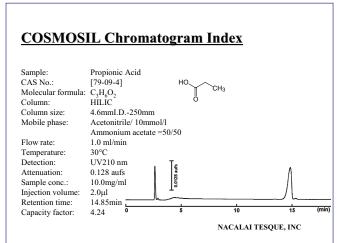
# 2. Free Fatty Acid Analyses by HPLC

Methyl esterification of free fatty acids is required for GC analyses to obtain better peak shapes and lowered boiling points. Derivatization is not required for HPLC analyses.

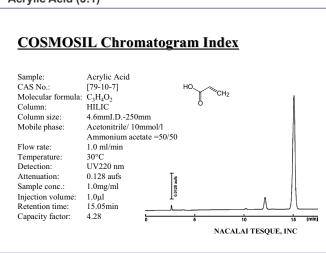
# (1) Short-chain Free Fatty Acids

Short-chain free fatty acids have less retention on C<sub>18</sub> columns. Therefore COSMOSIL C<sub>18</sub>-PAQ column (100% water compatible) and COSMOSIL HILIC column are better for short-chain free fatty acids analyses.

# · Propanoic Acid (3:0)



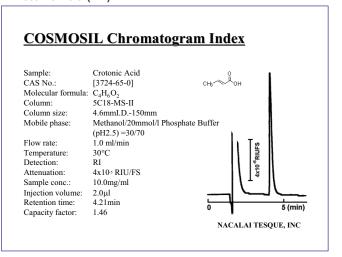
# · Acrylic Acid (3:1)



### · Butyric Acid (4:0)

#### **COSMOSIL Chromatogram Index** n-Butyric Acid Sample: CAS No.: [107-92-6] Molecular formula: C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 5C18-MS-II Column: Column size: 4.6mmI.D.-150mm Mobile phase: Methanol/20mmol/l Phosphate Buffer (pH2.5) =40/60 Flow rate: 1.0 ml/min Temperature: Detection: 30°C Attenuation: 4x10-5 RIU/FS 10.0mg/mlSample conc.: Injection volume: $2.0\mu l$ Retention time: 3.79min (min) 5 1.24 Capacity factor: NACALAI TESQUE, INC

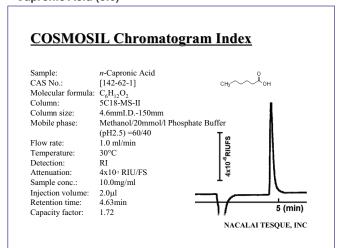
### · Crotonic Acid (4:1)



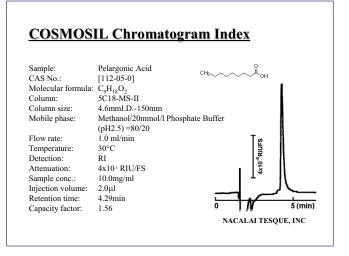
# (2) Middle or Long-chain Free Fatty Acids

COSMOSIL C<sub>18</sub>-MS-II column was used for non-derivatized middle or long-chain free fatty acid analyses.

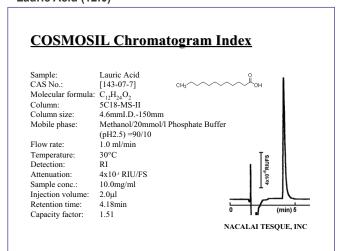
### · Capronic Acid (6:0)



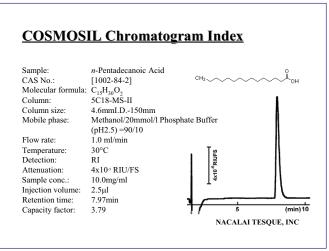
# · Pelargonic Acid (9:0)



# · Lauric Acid (12:0)



# · Pentadecanoic Acid (15:0)



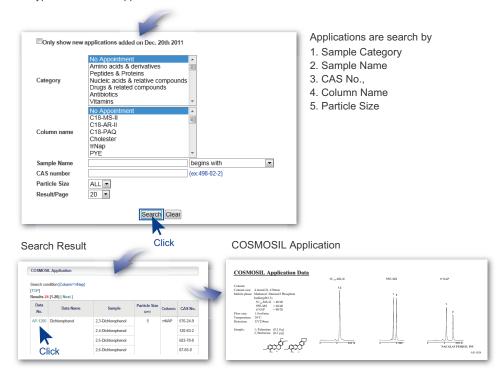
# **Specifications**

Packing Material	C <sub>18</sub> -MS-II	C <sub>18</sub> -PAQ	Cholester	πΝΑΡ	PYE	HILIC
Bonded Phase Structure	H <sub>1</sub> C CH <sub>3</sub>	S OH	H <sub>2</sub> C S <sub>1</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>0</sub> C Si CH <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>3</sub> C Si CH <sub>3</sub>	N NH
Bonded Phase	Octadecyl Group	Octadecyl Group	Cholesteryl Group	Naphtylethyl Group	Pyrenylethyl Group	Triazole
Main Interaction	Hydrophobic Interaction	Hydrophobic Interaction	Hydrophobic Interaction Molecular Shape Selectivity	Hydrophobic Interaction π-π Interaction	Hydrophobic Interaction π-π Interaction Stereoselectivity Charge-tansfer Interaction	Hydrophilic Interaction
Features	Multi-purpose C <sub>18</sub> column     for separation of the widest range of compounds	Compatible with 100% water based mobile phase. Suitable for hydrophilic compounds.	Specialty for structual isomers     Usable under the same condition as C <sub>18</sub>	Stronger π-π interaction than phenyl column	The most powerful π-π interaction	Suitable for highly- polor compounds     Ion-pair reagent is not reqired
Product Code Column Size: 4.6 x 150	38019-81	02486-71	05976-61	08085-41	37837-91	07056-51

# **COSMOSIL Application**

COSMOSIL Application has more than 7,000 applications using COSMOSIL columns. Setting optimal HPLC experimental parameters is the one of the most important processes that requires experience and time. COSMOSIL Application provides you with sample analysis conditions with widely used ODS columns and other specialty columns.

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