

> Introduction:

- High quality and comprehensive reference mass spectral libraries provide a fast and reliable means of compound identification.
- The most challenging part of building such a library is the need for expert spectrum evaluation such as confirming molecular ions, examining fragmentation ions, impurities, and contaminants.
- However, because mass spectra of isomers and analogues might be similar and especially because molecular ions are not always present in the spectra, the collection and use of retention indices (RI) become very important. Here, we present how we perform manual inspection and use RI to ensure quality spectra for the library.

> Methods:

- We analyzed authentic compounds using GC/MS, then extracted spectra and their RI values from GC/MS data using the AMDIS program.
- Each spectrum was manually evaluated to ensure that product ions matched with the compound structure. Importantly, each spectrum was compared with spectra of similar compounds in the NIST mass spectral library and 5 other libraries using the hybrid search method. The MS Interpreter program was used to assign peaks with product ions to help examine the spectrum.
- The experimental RI of each spectrum was compared with the artificial intelligence-predicted retention index (AIRI), computed by a deep neural network that takes a molecular structure as input and outputs a predicted RI.
- All software tools used in this study may be freely downloaded from https://chemdata.nist.gov.

More Than 43,400 High Quality Spectra Added to a Comprehensive Electron **Ionization (EI) Mass Spectral Library**

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