CONTENTS

I Abstract i
II Acknowledgements iii
III Owlstone Limited v
IV Glossary vi
V Abbreviations ix

1 INTRODUCTION 1
1.1 General overview 1
1.1.1 Technology overview 1
1.1.2 Thesis overview 4
1.2 History of ion mobility dependent technology 7
1.2.1 Discovery of ion mobility and early investigations 7
1.2.2 Re-engagement with ion mobility 9
1.2.3 Refinement of IMS and the creation of FAIMS 12
1.3 Miniaturised and *in situ* analytical systems 14
1.4 Operation of IMS 16
1.4.1 Miniaturisation of IMS devices 20
1.5 Operation of FAIMS 23
1.6 FAIMS design 32
1.6.1 Cylindrical separation region 32
1.6.2 Planar separation region 34
1.6.3 Variations on FAIMS design 35
1.7 References 37

2 THEORY 43
2.1 Introduction 43
2.2 Ionisation 44
2.2.1 Formation of positive reactive ions 45
2.2.2 Formation of negative reactive ions 46
2.2.3 Formation of positive product ions 46
2.2.4 Formation of negative product ions 47
2.3 Types of interaction 48
2.3.1 Scattering through direct contact 48
2.3.2 Elastic scattering due to polarisation interaction 49
2.3.3 Resonant charge transfer 49
2.3.4 Change in shape/identity of ion 50
2.3.5 Clustering and de-clustering of ions 51
2.4 Drift velocity 52
2.4.1 Symmetry considerations 53
2.4.2 Momentum transfer theory 54
2.4.3 Drift velocity through constant acceleration 54
2.4.4 Drift velocity through mean free path 56
2.5 Energy 59
2.5.1 Weak or strong field 59

2.5.2 Interactions between ions and neutrals 60
2.5.3 *E*/*N* ratio 60
2.6 Physical properties 63
2.6.1 Residence time 63
2.6.2 Reynolds number and turbulent flow 64
2.7 Position of ions within planar FAIMS 65
2.7.1 Translational position of ion 66
2.7.2 Effective gap height 69
2.7.3 Effect of changing the frequency of waveform 70
2.8 Modifying the geometry of electrodes 72
2.8.1 Modifying the width and length of the separation region 72
2.8.2 Modifying the gap height of the separation region 73
2.9 Diffusional loss 74
2.9.1 Full width at half maximum (FWHM) 76
2.10 Imposed limits of operation 78
2.10.1 Breakdown voltage and Paschen's law 78
2.10.2 Space charge effect 79
2.11 Conclusion 81
2.12 References 82

3 INSTRUMENTATION 85
3.1 Introduction 85
3.1.1 Overview of experiments 85
3.2 Consumables and gauges 86
3.2.1 Gas supply - air 86
3.2.2 Gas supply - nitrogen 87
3.2.3 Pressure regulation 87
3.2.4 Flow controllers and meters 88
3.2.5 Management of humidity and volatiles 88
3.2.6 Flow path 89
3.3 Key apparatus 89
3.3.1 Lonestar unit 89
3.3.2 Owlstone FAIMS sensor 99
3.3.3 Gas chromatography (GC) 100
3.4 Techniques for sample introduction 103
3.4.1 Permeation sources 103
3.5 CASE STUDY 1: Detection of dimethylmethylphosphonate (Experiment 1) ... 108
3.5.1 Experimental set-up and parameters 108
3.5.2 Blank response 111
3.5.3 Stability 114
3.6 CASE STUDY 2: Detection of ethyl acetate within wine (Experiment 2) 115
3.6.1 Experimental set-up and parameters 116
3.6.2 Blank response 118
3.7 References 122

4 PEAK FITTING 123
4.1 Introduction 123
4.1.1 Mixed signals 124
4.1.2 Molecular-ion response 126
4.1.3 Information from a single CV sweep 128
4.1.4 Improving the limit of detection 129
4.1.5 Assumptions and limits 130
4.2 Procedures prior to peak fitting 131
4.2.1 Data organisation 131
4.2.2 Baseline modification 132
4.2.3 Defining a noise threshold 136
4.2.4 Initial peak isolation 137
4.3 Isolation of maximums 137
4.3.1 Initial estimate of peak intensity and position 137
4.3.2 FWHM of the initial peak 138
4.3.3 Constructing and storing the initial peak 139
4.3.4 Further Gaussian peak fits 141
4.4 Peak estimation through differentiation 142
4.4.1 Methodology of peak isolation 142
4.4.2 Effect of smoothing data set 144
4.5 Peak isolation through Successive Gaussians 146
4.5.1 Methodology of Successive Gaussians 146
4.5.2 Results from Successive Gaussian method 148
4.5.3 Prioritisation within Successive Gaussian method 150
4.6 Final peak fit 153
4.6.1 Final peak fit procedure 153
4.6.2 Recording and storing of final peak fit 155
4.7 Limitations of presented peak fitting 155
4.7.1 Limitations: isolation of maximums 156
4.7.2 Limitations: differential 157
4.7.3 Limitations: Successive Gaussians 158
4.8 Tracking peaks 159
4.9 Modification of the original data set 159
4.9.1 Smoothing of data 160
4.9.2 Extending the data set 163
4.10 Conclusions 167
4.11 References 169

5 CASE STUDY 1: Characterisation of parameters influencing the performance of the Owlstone FAIMS sensor 171
5.1 Introduction 171
5.1.1 General properties of DMMP 172
5.1.2 The response of DMMP in a FAIMS system 173
5.2 Operation 174
5.2.1 Data collection 174
5.2.2 Calculation of errors 175
5.2.3 Equivalent *E*/*N* 176
5.3 Preliminary investigations 179
5.3.1 Ion intensity of reactant ion peak 179
5.3.2 CV position of reactant ions 181
5.3.3 FWHM of reactant ions 184
5.4 Introduction of DMMP 185

5.4.1 DF sweeps with DMMP 186
5.5 Constant *E*/*N* with DMMP 189
5.5.1 Ion intensity at a constant *E*/*N* 192
5.5.2 Compensation voltage at a constant *E*/*N* 196
5.5.3 FWHM at a constant *E*/*N* 204
5.6 Conclusion 207
5.7 References 212

6 CASE STUDY 2: Detection of ethyl acetate in wine 213
6.1 Introduction 213
6.2 The grading of wine 213
6.3 Ethyl acetate in wine 216
6.4 Ethyl acetate 218
6.5 Experimental set-up 219
6.6 Preliminary work 219
6.6.1 Optimisation of DF and carrier flow 220
6.6.2 GC column temperature and splitless injection 221
6.7 Data collection 222
6.8 Initial testing 225
6.8.1 Distilled water spiked with ethyl acetate 227
6.8.2 Wine spiked with ethyl acetate 229
6.9 Reason for reduction in signal 231
6.10 Further optimisation of the analysis of ethyl acetate 236
6.11 Elevated pressure of carrier flow 237
6.11.1 Equivalent *E*/*N* under an elevated pressure 238
6.11.2 Equivalent DF using an elevated pressure carrier flow 241
6.11.3 Increased losses attributable to diffusion 244
6.11.4 Detection of ethyl acetate using high pressure carrier flow 248
6.12 Conclusion 251
6.13 References 254

7 CONCLUSIONS 257
7.1 Discussion and further work 257
7.1.1 Theory related to FAIMS 257
7.1.2 Peak fitting 259
7.1.3 Characterisation of parameters 260
7.1.4 Detection of ethyl acetate in wine 261
7.2 Concluding remarks 262

APPENDIX A: Solvent effect 265
APPENDIX B: Momentum transfer theory 268
APPENDIX C: Drift velocity 273
APPENDIX D: Energy resulting from interactions of ions and neutrals 275
APPENDIX E: Pressure and ion motion within separation region 277
E.I Pressure effects on longitudinal ion motion 277
E.II Pressure effects on transverse ion motion 279
APPENDIX F: Waveforms 280
F.I Suitable waveform 280
F.II Practical waveforms 283
APPENDIX G: Modelling permeation rates from permeation sources 286

APPENDIX H: Tracking peaks 289
H.I Situation 289
H.II Worked example 290
H.III Isolating desired data 292
H.IV Creating replacements for missing data 295
H.V Curve fit and extraction of equation 299
H.VI Summary 302
APPENDIX I: Ion velocity and displacement with respect to *E*/*N* 303
Appendix references 307

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1 Schematic and photograph of Lovelock's vapour anemomete 10
Figure 1.2 Pictorial representation of the apparatus created by Albritton 11
Figure 1.3 Schematic of a simple IMS device 16
Figure 1.4 High resolution IMS/MS and lightweight chemical detector 20
Figure 1.5 Hypothetical example of selectivity by choice of carrier gas 22
Figure 1.6 Ideal waveform for use within a FAIMS 24
Figure 1.7 Plot of mobility vs. E/p for ions in helium 25
Figure 1.8 Typical mobility characteristics of the three different α identities 26
Figure 1.9 Different effective trajectories of the three alpha identities 26
Figure 1.10 Typical response from a FAIMS device 30
Figure 1.11 Positive mode response after introducing acetone.. 30
Figure 1.12 Two ions responses with different FWHM 31
Figure 1.13 Cylindrical FAIMS device 33
Figure 1.14 Domed cylindrical FAIMS device 34
Figure 1.15 Photograph of micro-machined FAIMS 35

Figure 2.1 Defininition of geometry and orientation of example separation region 44
Figure 2.2 DF sweeps of methyl salicylate in positive and negative polarity 50
Figure 2.3 Dimethylmethylphosphonate monomer and dimer peak positions 61
Figure 2.4 Townsend scaled dimethylmethylphosphonate monomer and dimer peak 62
Figure 2.5 An idealised asymmetric waveform 66
Figure 2.6 Cut away through the length of a separation region 70
Figure 2.7 Diffusion loss 75
Figure 2.8 FWHM and residence time 77
Figure 2.9 Breakdown voltage 79

Figure 3.1 Owlstone Lonestar unit 90
Figure 3.2 Internal flow path within a Lonestar unit 92
Figure 3.3 Sample line flow dependence 94
Figure 3.4 Unit housing Owlstone FAIMS sensor 97
Figure 3.5 Internal flow path within a Lonestar for high pressure studies 98
Figure 3.6 a) Owlstone FAIMS sensor chip b) sensor close-up c) SEM image of sensor . 99
Figure 3.7 Layout of Owlstone FAIMS sensor 100
Figure 3.8 The SRI-GC 101
Figure 3.9 Schematic illustrating the union between the SRI-GC and FAIMS unit 102
Figure 3.10 A permeation source with components listed 103
Figure 3.11 Owlstone vapour generator 105
Figure 3.12 Mass loss of several permeation sources 107
Figure 3.13 a) Flow path of Experiment 1, b) photograph of apparatus 109
Figure 3.14 Blank DF sweeps from Experiment 1 112
Figure 3.15 The RIP from the positive mode 113
Figure 3.16 Two CV sweeps from Experiment 1 114
Figure 3.17 a) CVof five DF sweeps b) Peak intensity of five DF sweeps 115
Figure 3.18 a) Flow path of Experiment 2, b) photograph of apparatus 116
Figure 3.19 Contour fill plot of blank response 118
Figure 3.20 CV sweeps taken at the beginning of the blank run 119

Figure 3.21 CV positions and peak intensity of the peak ion response 120
Figure 3.22 CV sweeps corresponding to features highlighted in Figure 3.33.....121
Figure 4.1 Simulated CV sweep.....124
Figure 4.2 Simulated CV sweep typical of unresolved ion species 125
Figure 4.3 Manufactured response representative of three ion species 126
Figure 4.4 a) to e) CV spectra of the five regulated Haloacetic acids f) ESI-MS of the same solution. g) ESI-FAIMS-MS of the same solution 127
Figure 4.5 CV sweep of the Reactive Ion Peak 128
Figure 4.6 Example of a single CV sweep from an unmodified experimental run.....132
Figure 4.7 Data points attribted to ion response and background noise 134
Figure 4.8 The fitted curve to non-window region depicted in Figure 4.7 135
Figure 4.9 Noise threshold and baseline corrected raw data.....136
Figure 4.10 Points used to discover the eventual estimate for the FWHM.....139
Figure 4.11 Baseline corrected data and initial Gaussian peak.....140
Figure 4.12 a) Initial peak b) second peak fitted minus the initial peak, c) to e) process continues f) baseline corrected data is plotted alongside Gaussians fitted...141
Figure 4.13 a) Second differential from unsmoothed data, b) resultant peak fit c) second differential and peaks made from smoothed data set, d) resultant peak fit. .145
Figure 4.14 Contour plot of the confidence array. 148
Figure 4.15 Highlighted region of Figure 4.14. 149
Figure 4.16 Original CV spectra alongside peak fits 150
Figure 4.17 An example of the Successive Gaussian method 152
Figure 4.18 Peaks fitted using FMINSEARCH 154
Figure 4.19 Simulated response from three ion species and returned erroneous FWHM 157
Figure 4.20 CV sweep from a thermal desorption-gas chromatography-FAIMS experiment. 160
Figure 4.21 a) to c) CV sweeps with successively greater levels of smoothing 162
Figure 4.22 The original data points with interpolated and extrapolated data.....164
Figure 4.23 Differential and peaks from non-interpolated and interpolated data.....166

Figure 5.1 DMMP response in positive polarity.....173
Figure 5.2 Example peak fitting of DMMP at DF strengths of a) 10 b) 30 and c) 50%...175
Figure 5.3 DF sweep of DMMP at a pressure of 120 kPa 178
Figure 5.4 Peak of RIP response at a) flow rate 2.5 l/min and b) pressure of 120 kPa ...180
Figure 5.5 CV displacement of the same data presented within Figure 5.4 182
Figure 5.6 FWHM of the same data presented within Figure 5.4.....184
Figure 5.7 Full DF sweeps at various flow rates.....186
Figure 5.8 Full DF sweeps at various carrier flow pressures.....187
Figure 5.9 Full DF sweeps at various carrier flow humidities.....188
Figure 5.10 Total product ion area at an *E*/*N* of 110.2 Td 191
Figure 5.11 a) Monomer and b) dimer intensity at variable pressures and flow rates.....193
Figure 5.12 a) Monomer and b) dimer intensity at variable pressures and flow rates.....195
Figure 5.13 CV displacement of the a) monomer and b) dimer DMMP ion species.....197
Figure 5.14 CV displacement of the a) monomer and b) dimer DMMP ion species.....200
Figure 5.15 FWHM of the a) monomer and b) dimer DMMP ion species.....204
Figure 5.16 FWHM of the a) monomer and b) dimer DMMP ion species.....206
Figure 5.17 Plots originally from a) Figure 5.11 and b) Figure 5.14.....210

Figure 6.1 Percentage of judgements correctly identified 215
Figure 6.2 Surface plot of data.....223
Figure 6.3 Ion response versus retention time 224
Figure 6.4 The response obtained in the GC-FAIMS system 227

Figure 6.5 Responses from samples of distilled water spiked with ethyl acetate..... 229
Figure 6.6 Response obtained in the GC-FAIMS system..... 230
Figure 6.7 Signal isolated at peak response of ethyl acetate 232
Figure 6.8 Ethyl acetate spiked solutions with various solvents 233
Figure 6.9 The response obtained for ethyl acetate within distilled water, and wine..... 235
Figure 6.10 CV of peak response of ethyl acetate from the GC-FAIMS system. 239
Figure 6.11 Ion response of ethyl acetate solvents of distilled water and 12% ethanol ... 242
Figure 6.12 Responses obtained from the GC-FAIMS system 243
Figure 6.13 Responses obtained for high concentrations of ethyl acetate..... 245
Figure 6.14 Reponses obtained from the GC-FAIMS system..... 246
Figure 6.15 Reponses obtained from the GC-FAIMS system..... 247
Figure 6.16 The response from ethyl acetate at various concentrations..... 249
Figure 6.17 Peak intensity of ethyl acetate response at various concentrations..... 250

Figure F.1 Waveform profile utilised by an Owlstone FAIMS sensor..... 284
Figure G.1 Schematic of permeation source..... 286
Figure H.1 The ion intensities of fitted peaks displayed in CV order 291
Figure H.2 The CV position of the maximum of fitted peaks 291
Figure H.3 Fitted maximum peak intensity during an EDF experiment. 292
Figure H.4 CV positions of the maximum fitted peak..... 293
Figure H.5 Data as depicted within Figure H.4 includiing the mean CV value 294
Figure H.6 This is the same data as in Figure H.3 with only suitable CV positions 295
Figure H.7 Nearest neighbour running mean 297
Figure H.8 Filtered data shown alongside replacement data..... 298
Figure H.9 The natural logarithm and line of best fit of the amended data..... 299
Figure H.10 Raw data plotted alongside fitted exponential 300
Figure H.11 Linear and higher order line of best fit of the Ln of the amended data..... 301
Figure I.1 The velocity and displacement of two ions..... 304
Figure I.2 The velocity and displacement of two ions..... 305
Figure I.3 The velocity and displacement of two ions..... 306

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1 Chapter contents.....6

Table 3.1 List of experiments.....86
Table 3.2 Technical specifications of Owlstone Lonestar 91
Table 3.3 Settings available through the Lonestar software 96
Table 3.4 Characteristics of the Lonestar FAIMS sensor 100
Table 3.5 Technical specifications of Owlstone vapour generator. 106
Table 3.6 Experimental parameters of Experiment 1.....110
Table 3.7 Experimental parameters of Experiment 2.....117

Table 5.1 General properties of DMMP 172
Table 5.2 Permanent dipole moments and bond lengths of H_2O, O_2 and N_2.....199
Table 5.3 Time between succesful ion and water molecule interactions.....202

Table 6.1 General properties of ethyl acetate.....218
Table 6.2 List of proton affinities 218
Table 6.3 Operational settings of initial testing for the detection of ethyl acetate.....226

Table H.1 Selection of filtered data from example data set. 297