METHOD FOR PREDICTING CHEMICAL OR PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF COMPLEX MIXTURES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field Of The Invention

This invention relates to a method for rapidly predicting the physical and chemical properties of a complex hydrocarbon mixture using a combination of gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

2. Description Of The Related Art

Traditional wet chemistry methods for obtaining physical and chemical properties of a complex hydrocarbon mixture are very time consuming. Hydrocarbon mixtures typically contain many thousands of different chemical compounds so only bulk properties for classes of compounds are usually measured, e.g., distillation range, viscosity, pour point and the like.

Gas chromatography has been used to predict physical and performance properties of hydrocarbon mixtures boiling in the gasoline range. Crawford and Hellmuth, Fuel, 1990, 69, 443-447, describe the use of gas chromatography and principal components regression analysis to predict the octane values for gasolines blended from different refinery streams. Japanese laid-open patent application JP 03-100463 relates to a method of estimating the cetane number for fuel oils by separating an oil sample into its components using gas chromatograpy, measuring the signal strength of ion intensities at characteristic masses in the mass spectrum, and correlating these ion intensities to cetane number using multiple regression analysis.

Combined gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) analysis has been done on crude oils. U.S. patent 5,119,315 discloses a method for aligning sample data such as a mass chromatogram with reference data from a known substance. Williams et al, 12th European Assoc. Organic Geochem., Organic Geochem. Int. Mtg. (Germany 09/16-

20/85); Organic Geochemistry 1986, Vol. 10 (1-3) 451-461, discusses the biodegradation of crude oils as measured by GC/MS analysis.

It would be desirable to have a method for predicting properties of complex hydrocarbon mixtures using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry which method involves analyzing collinear data.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a method for predicting physical, performance, perceptual or chemical properties of a complex hydrocarbon mixture which comprises:

(a) selecting at least one property of the hydrocarbon mixture;

(b) selecting reference samples, said reference samples containing characteristic compound types present in the complex mixture and which have known values for the property or properties selected in step (a);

(c) producing a training set by the steps of:

(1) injecting each reference sample into a gas chromatograph which is interfaced to a mass spectrometer thereby causing at least a partial separation of the hydrocarbon mixture into constituent chemical components;

(2) introducing the constituent chemical components of each reference sample into the mass spectrometer, under dynamic flow conditions;

(3) obtaining for each reference sample a series of time resolved mass chromatograms;

(4) calibrating the mass chromatograms to correct retention times;

(5) selecting a series of corrected retention time windows;

(6) selecting within each retention time window a series of molecular and/or fragment ions, said ions being representative of characteristic compounds or compound classes expected within the retention time window;

(7) recording the total amount of each characteristic compound or compound group selected in step c(6);

(8) forming the data from steps c(6) and c(7) into a X-block matrix;

(9) forming the data selected in (a) for reference samples selected in (b) into a Y-block matrix;

(10) analyzing the data from steps c(8) and c(9) by multivariate correlation techniques including Partial Least Squares, Principal Component Regression or Ridge Regession to produce a series of coefficients;

(d) subjecting an unknown hydrocarbon mixture to steps c(1) and c(3) in the same manner as the reference sample to produce a series of time resolved mass chromatograms;

(e) repeating steps c(4) to c(8) for each mass chromatogram from step (d);

(f) multiplying the matrix from step (e) by the coefficients from step c(10) to produce a predicted value of the property or properties.

The gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) method described above can be used to rapidly predict a wide range of chemical, perceptual, performance and/or physical properties of complex hydrocarbon mixtures such as chemical composition and concentration data on specific components, distillation properties,

viscosity, pour point, cloud point, flash point, octane number, cetane number, viscosity index, color, odor and the like in a short time period.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present method for predicting chemical, perceptual, performance and physical properties for complex hydrocarbon mixtures involves quantitative identification of components using a combination of retention times from a GC analysis coupled with target fragment and/or molecular ions produced by the MS. The MS information is compared to a set of known properties from reference samples which form a training set. By mathematically comparing the experimental data with that of the training set, one may predict the desired properties of the unknown mixture.

GC/MS utilizes a gas chromatograph interfaced with a mass spectrometer. While a chromatographic method such as supercritical fluid chromatography, liquid chromatography or size exclusion chromatography may be used to separate the mixture into components or mixtures of components, gas chromatography, especially capillary gas chromatography is preferred for interfacing with a mass spectrometer. Both GC and MS utilize computer software for instrument control, data acquisition and data reduction. The computer platform should be capable of acquiring at least 2000 mass spectra in about 7 minutes.

The sample mixture to be analyzed is first injected into a GC where the mixture components are separated as a function of retention time, typically on the basis of boiling point. Only partial chromatographic resolution of mixture components is necessary. The GC oven temperature control is usually programmed for samples with a wide boiling range. Separated components may also be identified by a detector such as a flame ionization detector, thermal conductivity detector, atomic emission detector or electron capture detector.

The separated or partially separated components are then transferred to the mass spectrometer under dynamic flow conditions.

Since a GC operates under atmospheric pressure and a MS under vacuum conditions (about 10^{-3}kPa), the instrument interface requires a coupling device such as a molecular separator (e.g., jet, membrane, etc.), open split coupler or capillary direct interface to efficiently transfer sample while minimizing carrier gas effects.

Depending on the nature of the sample, the mixture may be introduced directly into a MS using a direct insertion probe without a prior GC separation step. Other thermal separation techniques not involving a GC may be used to introduce the sample into the mass spectrometer.

In the MS, sample molecules are bombarded with high energy electrons thereby creating molecular ions which fragment in a pattern characteristic of the molecular species involved. A continuous series of mass spectra are obtained over a scan range of at least 10 to at least 450 daltons. The mass spectral data may also be acquired under selected ion monitoring (SIM) mode. In the selected ion mode, care must be taken to select ions representative of the components of interest and to operate under repeatable conditions. A variety of MS instruments may be used including low resolution, high resolution MS/MS (hybrid or triple quadrupole, etc.) ion cyclotron resonance and time of flight. Any ionization technique may be used, such as electron ionization, chemical ionization, multiphoton ionization, field desorption, field ionization, etc., provided that the technique provides either molecular or fragment ions which are suitable for use in the analysis procedure.

The results of sample analysis are a series of ℓ mass spectra. The mass spectra are divided into n time intervals where n is an integer from 1 to ℓ. At least one diagnostic ion is chosen from each of m time intervals where m is an integer from 1 to n. The term "diagnostic ion" refers to an ion which is representative a compound, a chemical class, or a perceptual, performance or physical property correlated thereto. Regardless of whether mass spectral data are obtained in the scan or selected ion monitoring mode, it is important

that they be obtained under conditions which yield diagnostic ions of suitable and repeatable intensity and accuracy.

If the mass spectral data are acquired in the scan mode, the mass range covered during the acquisition should be sufficient to provide acquisition of all of the ions which could be used as diagnostic ions during mathematical treatment of each mass spectral scan. If the mass spectral data are acquired in the selected ion monitoring mode, then care must be taken that the ions selected for monitoring are suitable for use in measuring the components of interest.

The sample mass spectral data are then compared to mass spectral data from a series of reference samples with known physical, performance, perceptual or chemical properties. In order to compare reference mass spectral data with sample mass spectral data, it may be desirable to time align the sample data to help ensure the integrity of the comparison. There are commercially available computer programs for such data alignment, for example, Hewlett-Packard GC/MS software G 1034C version C.01.05.

The reference mass spectral data, and associated properties data, are arranged in matrix form for mathematical treatment as described below. In the case of chemical composition information, one matrix is formed of reference sample ion intensities at given masses and the other matrix contains known ion intensities for molecular fragment ions of known components. The training set for chemical composition data is thus made up of mass spectral data for different components characteristic of components expected to be found in the sample mixtures. Similar training sets can be formed for other chemical or perceptual or performance or physical properties of interest. These training sets form one block or matrix of data (Y-block or properties matrix). The actual sample mass spectral data (which may have been time aligned) form the other block (X-block) or matrix of data. These two matrices are subjected to mathematical treatments known as Partial Least Squares (PLS), or Principal Component Regression (PCR), or Ridge Regression (RR) to obtain a

mathematically describable relationship between the properties data and mass spectral data, known as a model. Coefficients provided by this model are mathematically combined with the suitably treated mass spectral data from samples with unknown desired properties to:

a) predict desired properties;

b) assess the suitability of the model for such predictions, and

c) diagnose the stability and general correctness of the process that yielded the mass spectral data.

PLS/PCR/RR are described in the literature, e.g., Wold S., A. Ruhe, H. Wold, and W. J. Dunn, "The Collinearity Problem in Linear Regression. The Partial Least Squares (PLS) Approach to Generalized Inverses", SIAM J. Sci. Stat. Comput., 1984 5(3), 735-743, or Geladi P., and B. R. Kowalki, "Partial Least Squares Regression: A Tutorial", Anal. Chim. Acta, 1986, 185, 1-17, or Hökuldsson A., "PLS Regression Methods", J. Chemometrics, 1988, 2, 211-228, or in many other articles in journals such as the Journal of Chemometrics or Intelligent Laboratory Systems; Frank, I. and J. Friedman, "A Statistical View Of Some Chemometrics Regression Tools", Technometrics, 1993, Vol. 35, No. 2; Jackson, J. E., "A User's Guide To Principal Components", Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1991; Montgomery, D. C., "Introduction To Linear Regression Analysis", Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1990; and Martens, H., and T. Naes, "Multivariable Calibration", Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1989.

When dealing with a complex mixture, it is necessary to select appropriate masses or groups of masses at specific retention times for a particular compound or classes of compounds. The selection of such masses are the basis for a set of rules which then forms the data for the training set. There are no set procedures for such a selection process. The researcher must select appropriate masses for compounds of interest. For example, paraffinic hydrocarbons yield fragment ions at masses 43, 57, 71, 85, ... daltons, and these masses

may be used as diagnostic of this class of compounds. Moreover, when coupled with retention time data, it is possible to identify concentrations of specific compounds within this class of compounds. In a similar manner, training sets for other chemical, perceptual, performance or physical properties may be developed by correlating compositional data with other properties of interest, e.g., boiling range, viscosity and the like. The result of a mathematical treatment such as PLS/PCR/RR of the training set is a set of coefficients for the properties of interest.

These coefficients are then multiplied by the data matrix for the sample. The result is a prediction of the desired property or properties. The method of the invention is further illustrated by the following examples.

EXAMPLE 1

The method for predicting the performance properties of a complex hydrocarbon mixture is demonstrated in this example using cetane number as the specific property for purposes of illustration. The method is generally applicable to a range of other performance properties as well as physical, perceptual or chemical properties of such mixtures.

The initial consideration is to establish a set of standard GC/MS operating parameters so that the GC/MS analytical data used for predicting properties are obtained under the same operating conditions. The GC/MS instrument used in this example is a Hewlett-Packard 5972 Mass Selective Detector interfaced to a Hewlett-Packard 5890 Series II Gas Chromatograph fitted for use with microbore columns.

The GC/MS operating conditions are summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1

GC CONDITIONS

Column	Phenyl Silicone (such as HP-5) 10m x 0.1mm, 17 micron film thickness
Temperature Program	
Initial Temperature (°C)	35
Initial Time (minutes)	2
Program Rate (°C/minute)	30
Final Temperature (°C)	275
Final Time (minutes)	5
Carrier Gas	Helium
Linear Velocity	25.6
Injection Volume μL	0.5
Split Ratio	500:1
Column Head Pressure, kPa	Approximately 260
Interface Temperature (°C)	295

MASS SPECTROMETER CONDITIONS

Ionization Mode	Electron Ionization, 70 eV nominal
Mass Range Scanned (daltons)	15-450
Cycle Time (minutes)	0.003

In order to predict properties of an unknown hydrocarbon mixture, it is first necessary to select reference samples having known values of the property or properties of interest. These reference samples are used to form a training set as described below. Fourteen different diesel fuel blends were prepared from five typical refinery streams used for blending diesel fuels. These refinery streams are designed as HAGO/KGO (Heavy Atmospheric Gas Oil/Coker Gas Oil), HCISDIST (Hydrocracker Distillate), LOPOUR (Low Pour Point Distillate), CLHO (Cat Light Heating Oil) and SRLGO (Straight Run Light Gas Oil), and the liquid volume percent of the blends as well as the cetane numbers as determined by ASTM 613-86 are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

SAMPLE	CETANE NUMBER*	HAGO/KGO (VOL%)	HCISDIST (VOL%)	LOPOUR (VOL%)	CLHO (VOL%)	SRLGO (VOL%)
A	32.6	24.75	8.75	24.25	42.25	0.00
B	33.5	26.25	9.25	25.75	38.75	0.00
C	34.1	27.25	9.75	27.25	35.25	0.00
D	35.0	29.25	10.25	28.50	32.00	0.00
E	36.3	30.75	10.75	30.00	28.50	0.00
F	37.4	32.00	11.25	31.50	25.25	0.00
G	38.5	33.50	11.75	33.00	21.75	0.00
H	39.2	35.00	12.25	34.25	18.50	0.00
I	40.0	36.50	12.75	35.75	15.00	0.00
J	41.0	38.00	13.25	37.25	11.50	0.00
K	42.0	39.25	13.75	38.75	8.25	0.00
L	43.2	40.75	14.50	40.00	4.75	0.00
M	43.9	42.25	15.00	41.50	1.25	0.00
N	45.3	40.25	14.25	39.50	0.00	6.00
HAGO	44.9					
HCISDIST	43.8					
LOPOUR	44.1					
CLHO	15.0					
SRLGO	54.7					

* as measured by ASTM D 613-86

A data treatment method should be selected prior to obtaining raw GC/MS data. Two types of data treatments which may be used are Chemist's Rules and Hydrocarbon Compound Type Analysis as described, for example, in ASTM D2425-86.

Chemist's Rules involve two separate sections: (1) a calibration section to correct retention times, i.e., the time between zero and the time when a given peak occurs; and (2) the actual Rules which are based on a selected series of masses corresponding to prominent compounds or compound types expected in the type of hydrocarbon mixture under investigation. These compounds or compound types

are selected on the basis that they have prominent molecular and/or fragment ions unique to that compound or molecular series. A portion of the Chemist's Rules are shown in Table 3. The full set of Chemist's Rules for Distillates is shown as a table following Example 4.

TABLE 3

RULES(a)	COMPOUND (b)	Mass(c)						RETENTION TIME(d) START	RETENTION TIME(d) END
1	Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	0.400	3.162
2	Cycloparaffins	41	55	69	83	97	111	0.400	3.162
3	Toluene	91	92					0.400	2.860
4	C_nH_{2n-8}	117	131	145	159	163	177	2.851	3.162
5	C_nH_{2n-6}	91	105	119	133	147	161	2.851	3.162
6	C_nH_{2n-12}	141	155	169	183	197	211	2.851	3.162
7	C_nH_{2n-10}	115	129	143	157	171	185	2.851	3.162
8	C_nH_{2n-18}	178	191	205	219	233	247	2.851	3.162
9	n-C8	43	57	71	85	99	114	3.162	3.200
10	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	3.200	4.100
11	Cycloparaffins	41	55	69	83	97	111	3.200	4.100
12	C_nH_{2n-8}	117	131	145	159	163	177	3.200	4.100
13	C_nH_{2n-6}	91	105	119	133	147	161	3.200	4.100
14	C_nH_{2n-12}	141	155	169	183	197	211	3.200	4.100
15	C_nH_{2n-10}	115	129	143	157	171	185	3.200	4.100
16	C_nH_{2n-18}	178	191	205	219	233	247	3.200	4.100
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
137	n-C24	43	57	71	85	99	338	10.912	10.964
138	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.964	14.800
139	Cycloparaffins	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.964	14.800
140	C_nH_{2n-8}	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.964	14.800
141	C_nH_{2n-6}	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.964	14.800

142	C_nH_{2n-12}	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.964	14.800
143	C_nH_{2n-10}	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.964	14.800
144	C_nH_{2n-18}	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.964	14.800

a) Rule number, integer index

b) Compound or group of compounds rule applies to

i-para's	isoparaffins
cyclopara's	alkylated 1 ring cycloparaffins
C_nH_{2n-6}	alkylated benzenes
C_nH_{2n-8}	alkylated indanes
C_nH_{2n-10}	alkylated indenes
C_nH_{2n-12}	alkylated naphthalenes
C_nH_{2n-18}	alkylated phenanthrenes/anthracenes

(c) Masses used in Rule [up to n may be specified; where n is an integer which is equal to the number of masses scanned during the time interval (d) either in full scan mode or selected ion monitoring mode].

(d) Retention time for both starting and ending expected retention times based on historical averages in minutes.

A reference retention time is then determined for each mass spectral ion grouping selected for use in the Chemist's Rules for each of the selected compound types or specific molecules identified in Table 3. Such corrections are necessary due to slight shifts in retention times which may result from column degradation, column head pressure fluctuations, changes in column carrier gas linear velocity, or minor fluctuations in the GC column oven temperatures or other causes. The calibration step generates a series of correction factors for the entire GC/MS data file. The results of applying such corrections are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

MASS (a)	RETENTION TIME (b)	TYPE (c)	LIMIT (d)	CALIBRATION TIME (e)	CORRECTION (f)
92	2.812	P	0.200	2.807	-0.005
106	3.840	P	0.200	3.866	0.026
128	4.800	P	0.200	4.800	0.000
156	5.554	P	0.200	5.536	-0.018
184	6.667	P	0.200	6.675	0.008
226	8.058	P	0.200	8.068	0.010
178	9.000	P	0.300	9.006	0.006
282	9.555	P	0.200	9.559	0.004

(a) Mass or compound selected for the calibration
(b) Expected occurrence time, typically based on average of several analyses
(c) P=peak or maximum occurrence, F=first occurrence of the material
(d) Range (± minutes) for reference compound
(e) Observed retention time for reference material
(f) Correction to be applied between reference materials (column a). Correction for first material is from initial time to calibration time; correction for second material is between first and second reference materials; and last correction is applied to end of data acquisition.

Once the correction coefficients are determined, the actual Rules are then determined. In the case of cetane number prediction, a total of 144 Rules are used based on compound or compound series identification. For each Rule, a set of characteristic mass numbers is determined. These characteristic mass numbers can range from one to n, where n is an integer representing the entire mass range scanned or the number of selected ions monitored. In this case, six characteristic mass numbers are illustrated. The ion intensities of the

masses for each Rule are summed within the upper and lower retention time limits for that Rule. The results are shown for a sampling of the 144 Rules in Table 5 for this demonstration analysis. Table 5 in its entirely is given as a table following Example 4.

Table 5

CHEMIST'S RULES FOR DISTILLATES WITH CORRECTIONS

Total Raw Abundance (TIC) :	264722694	
Chemist Rule :	120067945	(45.356%)
Air Leakage :	251310	(0.095%)
Avg Scan Rate (Min/Max) :	215	(215/216)
Number of Records :	4168	

Rule[a]	Compound[b]	Masses[c]						Start[d]	End[e]	CStart[f]	Corr[g]	CEnd[h]	Corr[i]	Abundance[j]	
1	Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	0.400	3.162	0.399	-0.001	3.168	0.006	32408	(0.027%)
2	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	0.400	3.162	0.399	-0.001	3.168	0.006	63441	(0.053%)
3	Toluene	91	92					0.400	2.860	0.399	-0.001	2.856	-0.004	223588	(0.186%)
4	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
5	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
6	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
7	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
8	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
9	n-C8	43	57	71	85	99	114	3.162	3.200	3.168	0.006	3.207	0.007	13814	(0.012%)
10	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	121248	(0.101%)
11	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	216183	(0.180%)
12	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
13	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	258820	(0.216%)
14	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
15	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
16	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

137	n-C24	43	57	71	85	99	338	10.912	10.964	10.916	0.004	10.968	0.004	21521	(0.018%)
138	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	10799	(0.009%)
139	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	2092	(0.002%)
140	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
141	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
142	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
143	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14 804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
144	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
														++++++++++	++++++++++
													Sum =	120067945	(100.000%)

a) Rule number, integer index
b) Compound or group of compounds rule applies to:
   cyclopara's — alkylated 1 ring cycloparaffins
   C_nH_{2n-6} — alkylated benzenes
   C_nH_{2n-8} — alkylated indanes
   C_nH_{2n-10} — alkylated indenes
   C_nH_{2n-12} — alkylated naphthalenes
   C_nH_{2n-18} — alkylated phenanthrenes/anthracenes
c) Masses used in Rule (up to n may be specified, where n is an integer which is equal to the number of masses scanned during the time interval (d to e) either in full scan mode or selected ion monitoring mode).
d) start retention time in minutes
e) end retention time in minutes
f) corrected start retention time
g) correction = difference between start and cstart (in minutes)
h) corrected end retention time
i) correction = difference between end and cend (in minutes)
j) Abundance, both as total sum and as normalized percentage based on Chemist's Rules

Total Raw Abundance (TIC):	Total area observed in the GC/MS analysis.
Chemist Rule:	Total area found using the Chemist's Rules; based on experience, should be greater than 30% of total raw abundance.
Air Leakage:	Total ionization due to air (m/z 28, 32, 40, 44) useful diagnostic for instrumental problems.
Average scan rate (Min/Max):	Shows the minimum, average and maximum scan rates during the GC/MS analysis and is a useful diagnostic to identify instrumental problems.
Number of records:	Is the number of mass spectral scans acquired during the analysis.

The analysis summarized in Table 5 is done for each reference sample. The results from these respective analyses form a training set which is subjected to mathematical treatment. The goal is to develop a model that can be used to predict the unknown properties of future samples using their mass spectral data only. The mathematical treatments are described by multivariate correlation techniques such as Projection to Latent Structures (PLS) or otherwise known as Partial Least Squares (PLS), Principal Component Regression (PCR), and Ridge Regression (RR). These techniques are superior to ordinary multiple linear regression in their ability to treat collinearity amongst variables in the X-block or GC/MS data matrix (and Y-block or properties matrix for PLS), and in their ability to handle the quantity of data generated by the Chemist's Rules. Ordinary Multiple Linear Regression cannot be used to treat collinear variables.

PLS/PCR/RR are numerical analysis techniques for detecting and formulating a mathematical structure (model) within a data set comprising observations associated with multiple objects. Each object has associated with it observations for multiple variables, the latter being common to all objects. These multiple variables are assigned into two categories, known as X-block and Y-block. Observations associated with all variables in the X-block are realized from a common process (GC/MS data in this case). Observations associated with variables in the Y-block (known properties in this case) are

realized from processes that may be different for each variable. The data set used to construct this mathematical model is referred to as the model calibration data set.

The common use of PLS/PCR/RR is to apply the model developed from the calibration data set to X-block observations realized for new objects (not in the calibration data set) to predict values for the corresponding variables in the Y-block for these new objects, without having to execute the Y-block processes used in the calibration data set. Using diagnostics that are simultaneously generated by the PLS/PCR/RR model, assessment of whether the new objects can be adequately described by the model, and whether the model is used in an extrapolation mode versus interpolation mode can be performed.

PLS/PCR addresses the collinearity features in the X-block and Y-block, by suitably reducing the dimensionally in both X- and Y-blocks (for PLS), and X-block only (for PCR) to form the model. Collinearity is a term referring to the existence of relationships between variables within the block itself. In the PLS modeling algorithm a number of independent dimensions in the X- and Y-blocks are identified by forming pseudo-variables known as principal components or latent vectors through different sets of linear combinations of original variables in each block. Each set of such combinations constitutes an independent dimension. It comprises a set of coefficients that each value associated with each variable in the block is to be weighted by to arrive at the new value for this dimension. The values for the new, reduced dimensions in the Y-block are regressed onto their counterparts in the new, reduced dimensions of the X-block to arrive at the most parsimonious dimension size (number of latent vectors) and their associated weights, with the final goal of one linear equation generated to permit prediction of Y-block variables using X-block variables. The number of dimensions used to construct the model is determined through optimization of a criterion known as PRESS (Prediction Error Sum of Squares), cumulated by a Cross Validation (CV) technique using the training data set, and, following the general model parsimony principle.

For PCR, the number of independent dimensions in the X-block are first selected and identified in a similar fashion as in PLS by forming principal components. Then, for each variable in the Y-block, a model is obtained by performing ordinary multiple linear regression using the Principal Components as "Prediction Variables".

For Ridge Regression, the collinearity problem is dealt with in a different manner than PLS/PCR. Here a diagonal matrix known as the Lambda Matrix is added to the Covariance Matrix of the X-block with the net effect of stabilizing the numerical computation needed to obtain the model coefficients. The selection of Lambda values is through optimization of PRESS criterion using cross validation of the training set.

Thus, the Chemist's Rule data for the various reference samples and derived from GC/MS analysis form the X-block variables. PLS/PCR/RR treatment may require preliminary reorganization of the X-block data, such as transposition and removal of redundant data and constants or mathematical transformations. The Y-block variables are the property (or properties) to be predicted, and may also require mathematical transformations such as logarithmic or geometric, as well as reorganization. The data blocks may be represented by:

X-Block Matrix

[Chemist's Rules (n samples x 144 columns)]

$$\begin{vmatrix} x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & x_{1,3} & \cdots & x_{1,142} & x_{1,143} & x_{1,144} \\ x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & x_{2,3} & \cdots & x_{2,142} & x_{2,143} & x_{2,144} \\ x_{3,1} & x_{3,2} & x_{3,3} & \cdots & x_{3,142} & x_{3,143} & x_{3,144} \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ x_{n,1} & x_{n,2} & x_{n,3} & \cdots & x_{n,142} & x_{n,143} & x_{n,144} \end{vmatrix}$$

Y-Block Vector
[Measured Property (n samples)]

$$\begin{vmatrix} Y1 \\ Y2 \\ Y3 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ Yn \end{vmatrix}$$

The Y-block may be a single observation per set of Chemist's Rules as shown above, or it may be a n x m matrix of observations, where there are m different properties to be predicted.

The results of PLS/PCR/RR treatment of the training set data are a series of coefficients. Raw GC/MS data from an unknown sample (or samples) are then treated by the Chemist's Rules first to correct the retention times and then to form the ion summations. Each value for the Chemist's Rule ion summation is then multiplied by the training set coefficients and summed to generate the prediction of the desired property or properties. Table 6 illustrates the quality of the predicted cetane values for both the training set and the unknown test set.

TABLE 6 - PREDICTED VS. MEASURED CETANE VALUES

SAMPLE	MEASURED*	PREDICTED
	Training Set	
A	32.6	32.3
C	34.1	34.3
D	35.0	35.2
F	37.4	37.2
G	38.5	38.2
I	40.0	40.1
J	41.0	41.2
L	43.2	43.3
HCISDIST	43.8	43.7
CLHO	15.0	15.0
HAGO	44.9	44.9
LOPOUR	44.1	44.1
SRLGO	54.7	54.7
	Test Set	
B	33.5	33.4
E	36.3	36.3
H	39.2	39.1
K	42.0	42.2
M	43.9	44.3
N	45.3	45.2

* measured by ASTM D 613-86

EXAMPLE 2

The procedure of Example 1 was repeated for predicting aniline point for diesel fuel blends. Samples A, C, D, F, G, I, J, L, and N were used to form the training set and samples B, E, H, K, and M formed the test set. The results for the aniline point prediction are summarized in Table 7.

TABLE 7 - PREDICTED VS. MEASURED ANILINE POINT (°C)

MEASURED*	PREDICTED
Training Set	
36.8	37.1
41.6	41.5
43.3	43.3
47.1	47.0
49.2	48.9
52.9	52.8
54.6	54.5
58.7	58.6
61.8	62.2
Test Set	
39.2	39.6
45.8	45.1
51.6	50.8
56.7	56.6
60.3	60.4

* measured by ASTM D 611-82 (1987)

EXAMPLE 3

The procedure of Example 1 was repeated for predicting density for diesel fuel blends. Samples A, C, D, F, G, I, J, L, and N were used to form the training set and samples B, E, H, K, and M formed the test set. The results for density prediction are summarized in Table 8.

TABLE 8 - PREDICTED VS. MEASURED DENSITY AT 15°C (g/ml)

MEASURED*	PREDICTED
Training Set	
0.8820	0.8829
0.8797	0.8793
0.8760	0.8760
0.8684	0.8682
0.8644	0.8641
0.8567	0.8566
0.8531	0.8530
0.8452	0.8445
0.8405	0.8416
Test Set	
0.8836	0.8824
0.8720	0.8718
0.8606	0.8605
0.8490	0.8486
0.8417	0.8408

* measured by ASTM D 5002-89

EXAMPLE 4

The procedure of Example 1 was repeated for predicting distillation T50 values, the temperature at which 50% of the sample has distilled. The training and test sets were as described in Examples 2 and 3. Results are shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9 - PREDICTED VS. MEASURED DISTILLATION T50 (°C)

MEASURED*	PREDICTED
Training Set	
262	262
261	261
259	259
258	258
256	256
257	257
255	255
252	252
254	254
Test Set	
261	262
258	259
255	257
252	254
251	252

* measured by ASTM D 86-90

Other properties of diesel fuel blends such as cloud point, flash point, viscosity, pour point, heat content, distillation characteristics, LTFT, FFFT, etc., could be predicted using the method according to the invention. The subject method can also be used to predict properties of other types of complex hydrocarbon mixtures boiling below 350°C.

COMPLETE CHEMIST'S RULES FOR DISTILLATES

Rule[a]	Compound[b]	Mass[c]						Retention Time[d]	
								Start	End
1	Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	0.400	3.162
2	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	0 400	3.162
3	Toluene	91	92					0.400	2.860
4	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	2 851	3 162
5	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	2.851	3.162
6	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	2.851	3.162
7	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	2.851	3.162
8	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	2.851	3.162
9	n-C8	43	57	71	85	99	114	3.162	3.200
10	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	3.200	4.100
11	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	3.200	4.100
12	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	3.200	4.100
13	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	3.200	4.100
14	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	3.200	4.100
15	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	3.200	4.100
16	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	3.200	4.100
17	n-C9	43	57	71	85	99	128	4.100	4.150
18	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	4.150	4.880
19	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	4.150	4.880
20	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	4.150	4.880
21	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	4.150	4.880
22	CnH2n-12	128	141	155	169	183	197	4.150	4.880
23	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	4.150	4.880

24	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	4.150	4.880
25	n-C10	43	57	71	85	99	142	4.880	4.901
26	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	4.900	5.520
27	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	4.900	5.520
28	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	4.900	5.520
29	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	4.900	5.520
30	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	4 900	5 520
31	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	4 900	5 520
32	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	4 900	5.520
33	n-C11	43	57	71	85	99	156	5.200	5.580
34	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	5.580	6.153
35	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	5.580	6.153
36	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	5.580	6.153
37	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	5.580	6.153
38	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	5.580	6.153
39	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	5.580	6.153
40	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	5.580	6.153
41	n-C12	43	57	71	85	99	170	6.153	6.178
42	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	6.178	6.635
43	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	6.178	6.635
44	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	6.178	6.635
45	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	6.178	6.635
46	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	6.178	6.635
47	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	6.178	6.635
48	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	6.178	6.635
49	n-C13	43	57	71	85	99	184	6.635	6.692
50	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	6.692	7.124
51	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	6.692	7.124

52	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	6.692	7.124
53	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	6.692	7.124
54	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	6.692	7.124
55	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	6.692	7.124
56	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	6.692	7.124
57	n-C14	43	57	71	85	99	198	7.124	7.184
58	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	7.124	7.593
59	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	7.124	7.593
60	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	7.124	7.593
61	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	7.124	7.593
62	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	7.124	7.593
63	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	7.124	7.593
64	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	7.124	7.593
65	n-C15	43	57	71	85	99	212	7.593	7.645
66	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	7.645	8.016
67	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	7.645	8.016
68	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	7.645	8.016
69	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	7.645	8.016
70	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	7.645	8.016
71	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	7.645	8.016
72	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	7.645	8.016
73	n-C16	43	57	71	85	99	226	8.016	8.079
74	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	8.079	8.430
75	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	8.079	8.430
76	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	8.079	8.430
77	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	8.079	8.430
78	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	8.079	8.430
79	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	8.079	8.430

80	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	8.079	8.430
81	n-C17	43	57	71	85	99	240	8.430	8.476
82	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	8.476	8.808
83	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	8.476	8.808
84	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	8.476	8.808
85	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	8.476	8.808
86	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	8 476	8.808
87	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	8.476	8.808
88	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	8 476	8.808
89	n-C18	43	57	71	85	99	254	8.808	8.866
90	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	8.866	9.187
91	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	8.866	9.187
92	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	8.866	9.187
93	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	8.866	9.187
94	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	8.866	9.187
95	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	8.866	9.187
96	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	8.866	9.187
97	n-C19	43	57	71	85	99	268	9.187	9.234
98	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	9.234	9.523
99	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	9.234	9.523
100	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	9.234	9.523
101	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	9.234	9.523
102	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	9.234	9.523
103	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	9.234	9.523
104	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	9.234	9.523
105	n-C20	43	57	71	85	99	282	9.523	9.578
106	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	9.578	9.860
107	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	9.578	9.860

108	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	9.578	9.860
109	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	9.578	9.860
110	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	9.578	9.860
111	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	9.578	9.860
112	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	9.578	9.860
113	n-C21	43	57	71	85	99	296	9.860	9.912
114	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	9.912	10.163
115	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	9.912	10.163
116	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	9.912	10.163
117	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	9.912	10.163
118	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	9.912	10.163
119	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	9.912	10.163
120	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	9.912	10.163
121	n-C22	43	57	71	85	99	310	10.163	10.266
122	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.266	10.519
123	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.266	10.519
124	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.266	10.519
125	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.266	10.519
126	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.266	10.519
127	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.266	10.519
128	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.266	10.519
129	n-C23	43	57	71	85	99	324	10.519	10.619
130	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.619	10.912
131	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.619	10.912
132	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.619	10.912

133	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.619	10.912
134	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.619	10.912
135	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.619	10.912
136	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.619	10.912
137	n-C24	43	57	71	85	99	338	10.912	10.964
138	i-Para's	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.964	14.800
139	Cyclopara's	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.964	14.800
140	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.964	14.800
141	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.964	14.800
142	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.964	14.800
143	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.964	14.800
144	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.964	14.800

a) Rule number, integer index

b) Compound or group of compounds rule applies to

i-para's	isoparaffins
cyclopara's	alkylated 1 ring cycloparaffins
C_nH_{2n-6}	alkylated benzenes
C_nH_{2n-8}	alkylated indanes
C_nH_{2n-10}	alkylated indenes
C_nH_{2n-12}	alkylated naphthalenes
C_nH_{2n-18}	alkylated phenanthrenes/anthracenes

c) Masses used in Rule (up to n may be specified, where n is an integer which is equal to the number of masses scanned during the time interval (d) either in full scan mode or selected ion monitoring mode).

d) Retention time for both starting and ending expected retention times based on historical averages in minutes.

COMPLETE CHEMIST'S RULES FOR DISTILLATES WITH CORRECTIONS

Total Raw Abundance (TIC) :	264722694	
Chemist Rule :	120067945	(45.356%)
Air Leakage :	251310	(0.095%)
Avg Scan Rate (Min/Max) :	215	(215/216)
Number of Records :	4168	

Rule[a]	Compound[b]	Masses[c]						Start[d]	End[e]	CStart[f]	Corr[g]	CEnd[h]	Corr[i]	Abundance[j]	
1	Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	0.400	3.162	0.399	-0.001	3.168	0.006	32408	(0.027%)
2	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	0.400	3.162	0.399	-0.001	3 168	0.006	63441	(0.053%)
3	Toluene	91	92					0.400	2.860	0.399	-0 001	2.856	-0.004	223588	(0.186%)
4	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3 168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
5	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
6	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
7	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
8	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	2.851	3.162	2.847	-0.004	3.168	0.006	0	(0.000%)
9	n-C8	43	57	71	85	99	114	3.162	3.200	3.168	0.006	3.207	0.007	13814	(0.012%)
10	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	121248	(0.101%)
11	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	216183	(0.180%)
12	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	3.200	4.100	3.207	0 007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
13	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	258820	(0.216%)
14	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
15	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
16	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	3.200	4.100	3.207	0.007	4.119	0.019	0	(0.000%)
17	n-C9	43	57	71	85	99	128	4.100	4.150	4.119	0.019	4.168	0.018	15498	(0.013%)
18	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	4.150	4.880	4.168	0.018	4.878	-0.002	660755	(0.550%)
19	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	4.150	4.880	4.168	0.018	4.878	-0.002	1333269	(1.110%)
20	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	4.150	4.880	4.168	0.018	4.878	-0.002	22151	(0.018%)
21	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	4.150	4.880	4.168	0.018	4.878	-0.002	1218922	(1.015%)

22	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	4.150	4.880	4.168	0.018	4.878	-0.002	0	(0.000%)
23	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	4.150	4.880	4.168	0.018	4.878	-0.002	28008	(0.023%)
24	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	4.150	4.880	4.168	0.018	4.878	-0.002	0	(0.000%)
25	n-C10	43	57	71	85	99	142	4.880	4.901	4.878	-0.002	4.899	-0 002	289888	(0.241%)
26	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	4.900	5.520	4.898	-0.002	5 503	-0.017	1533824	(1.277%)
27	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	4.900	5.520	4.898	-0 002	5 503	-0.017	2925819	(2.437%)
28	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	4.900	5 520	4 898	-0 002	5 503	-0.017	338162	(0 282%)
29	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	4 900	5 520	4 898	-0 002	5 503	-0 017	2910452	(2.424%)
30	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	4 900	5 520	4 898	-0 002	5 503	-0 017	2805	(0.002%)
31	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	4 900	5 520	4 898	-0 002	5 503	-0 017	188499	(0.157%)
32	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	4.900	5.520	4 898	-0 002	5 503	-0.017	0	(0.000%)
33	n-C11	43	57	71	85	99	156	5.200	5.580	5.191	-0 009	5.563	-0 017	1652225	(1.376%)
34	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	5.580	6.153	5.563	-0 017	6 149	-0.004	2464586	(2.053%)
35	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	5.580	6.153	5.563	-0.017	6.149	-0.004	3570701	(2.974%)
36	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	5.580	6.153	5.563	-0.017	6.149	-0.004	1070407	(0.892%)
37	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	5.580	6.153	5.563	-0 017	6.149	-0.004	4083260	(3.401%)
38	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	5.580	6.153	5.563	-0.017	6.149	-0.004	53301	(0.044%)
39	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	5.580	6.153	5.563	-0.017	6.149	-0.004	513956	(0.428%)
40	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	5.580	6.153	5.563	-0.017	6.149	-0.004	0	(0.000%)
41	n-C12	43	57	71	85	99	170	6.153	6.178	6.149	-0.004	6.175	-0.003	102837	(0.086%)
42	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	6.178	6.635	6.175	-0.003	6.642	0.007	2177892	(1.814%)
43	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	6.178	6.635	6.175	-0.003	6.642	0.007	3170290	(2.640%)
44	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	6.178	6.635	6.175	-0.003	6.642	0.007	2141612	(1.784%)
45	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	6.178	6.635	6.175	-0.003	6.642	0.007	2762976	(2.301%)
46	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	6.178	6.635	6.175	-0.003	6.642	0.007	101796	(0.085%)
47	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	6.178	6.635	6.175	-0.003	6.642	0.007	808048	(0.673%)
48	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	6.178	6.635	6.175	-0.003	6.642	0.007	1665	(0.001%)
49	n-C13	43	57	71	85	99	184	6.635	6.692	6.642	0.007	6.700	0.008	911705	(0.759%)
50	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	6.692	7.124	6.700	0.008	7.133	0.009	2349382	(1.957%)
51	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	6.692	7.124	6.700	0.008	7.133	0.009	3248319	(2.705%)
52	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	6.692	7.124	6.700	0.008	7.133	0.009	3468731	(2.889%)
53	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	6.692	7.124	6.700	0.008	7.133	0.009	2383596	(1.985%)

54	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	6.692	7.124	6.700	0.008	7.133	0.009	1725420	(1.437%)
55	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	6.692	7.124	6.700	0.008	7.133	0.009	1994509	(1.661%)
56	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	6.692	7.124	6.700	0.008	7.133	0.009	13935	(0.012%)
57	n-C14	43	57	71	85	99	198	7.124	7.184	7.133	0.009	7.193	0.009	1111453	(0.926%)
58	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	7.124	7.593	7.133	0.009	7.602	0.009	3370658	(2.807%)
59	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	7.124	7.593	7.133	0.009	7.602	0.009	3986691	(3.320%)
60	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	7.124	7.593	7.133	0.009	7.602	0.009	2857090	(2.380%)
61	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	7.124	7.593	7.133	0.009	7.602	0.009	1811945	(1.509%)
62	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	7.124	7.593	7.133	0.009	7.602	0.009	2979805	(2.482%)
63	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	7.124	7.593	7.133	0.009	7.602	0.009	2321206	(1.933%)
64	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	7.124	7.593	7.133	0.009	7.602	0.009	20724	(0.017%)
65	n-C15	43	57	71	85	99	212	7.593	7.645	7.602	0.009	7.654	0.009	1011272	(0.842%)
66	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	7.645	8.016	7.654	0.009	8.026	0.010	1865267	(1.554%)
67	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	7.645	8.016	7.654	0.009	8.026	0.010	2680266	(2.232%)
68	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	7.645	8.016	7.654	0.009	8.026	0.010	1237345	(1.031%)
69	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	7.645	8.016	7.654	0.009	8.026	0.010	1171815	(0.976%)
70	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	7.645	8.016	7.654	0.009	8.026	0.010	3113998	(2.594%)
71	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	7.645	8.016	7.654	0.009	8.026	0.010	1671775	(1.392%)
72	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	7.645	8.016	7.654	0.009	8.026	0.010	11492	(0.010%)
73	n-C16	43	57	71	85	99	226	8.016	8.079	8.026	0.010	8.089	0.010	881371	(0.734%)
74	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	8.079	8.430	8.089	0.010	8.438	0.008	1784488	(1.486%)
75	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	8.079	8.430	8.089	0.010	8.438	0.008	2478286	(2.064%)
76	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	8.079	8.430	8.089	0.010	8.438	0.008	740960	(0.617%)
77	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	8.079	8.430	8.089	0.010	8.438	0.008	890433	(0.742%)
78	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	8.079	8.430	8.089	0.010	8.438	0.008	2293832	(1.910%)
79	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	8.079	8.430	8.089	0.010	8.438	0.008	1338765	(1.115%)
80	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	8.079	8.430	8.089	0.010	8.438	0.008	73336	(0.061%)
81	n-C17	43	57	71	85	99	240	8.430	8.476	8.438	0.008	8.484	0.008	826222	(0.688%)
82	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	8.476	8.808	8.484	0.008	8.814	0.006	1639560	(1.366%)
83	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	8.476	8.808	8.484	0.008	8.814	0.006	2111240	(1.758%)
84	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	8.476	8.808	8.484	0.008	8.814	0.006	477791	(0.398%)
85	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	8.476	8.808	8.484	0.008	8.814	0.006	615812	(0.513%)

86	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	8.476	8.808	8.484	0.008	8.814	0.006	1564845	(1.303%)
87	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	8.476	8.808	8.484.	0.008	8.814	0.006	854998	(0.712%)
88	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	8.476	8.808	8.484	0.008	8.814	0.006	243918	(0.203%)
89	n-C18	43	57	71	85	99	254	8.808	8.866	8.814	0.006	8.872	0.006	668888	(0.557%)
90	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	8.866	9.187	8.872	0.006	9.192	0.005	1319602	(1.099%)
91	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	8.866	9.187	8.872	0.006	9.192	0.005	1693248	(1.410%)
92	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	8.866	9.187	8 872	0.006	9.192	0.005	327028	(0.272%)
93	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	8 866	9 187	8 872	0 006	9 192	0 005	454840	(0.379%)
94	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	8 866	9 187	8 872	0 006	9 192	0 005	781816	(0.651%)
95	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	8 866	9 187	8 872	0 006	9.192	0 005	451709	(0.376%)
96	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	8.866	9.187	8.872	0.006	9 192	0.005	707048	(0.589%)
97	n-C19	43	57	71	85	99	268	9.187	9.234	9.192	0.005	9.239	0.005	472812	(0.394%)
98	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	9.234	9.523	9.239	0.005	9.527	0.004	846072	(0.705%)
99	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	9.234	9.523	9.239	0.005	9.527	0.004	1183659	(0.986%)
100	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	9.234	9.523	9.239	0.005	9.527	0.004	200520	(0.167%)
101	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	9.234	9.523	9.239	0.005	9.527	0.004	287782	(0.240%)
102	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	9.234	9.523	9.239	0.005	9.527	0.004	623931	(0.520%)
103	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	9.234	9.523	9.239	0.005	9.527	0.004	239295	(0.199%)
104	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	9.234	9.523	9.239	0.005	9.527	0.004	741840	(0.618%)
105	n-C20	43	57	71	85	99	282	9.523	9.578	9.527	0.004	9.582	0.004	333899	(0.278%)
106	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	9.578	9.860	9.582	0.004	9.864	0.004	550035	(0.458%)
107	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	9.578	9.860	9.582	0.004	9.864	0.004	752095	(0.626%)
108	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	9.578	9.860	9.582	0.004	9.864	0.004	63033	(0.052%)
109	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	9.578	9.860	9.582	0.004	9.864	0.004	188706	(0.157%)
110	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	9.578	9.860	9.582	0.004	9.864	0.004	479998	(0.400%)
111	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	9.578	9.860	9.582	0.004	9.864	0.004	94768	(0.079%)
112	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	9.578	9.860	9.582	0.004	9.864	0.004	455952	(0.380%)
113	n-C21	43	57	71	85	99	296	9.860	9.912	9.864	0.004	9.916	0.004	224895	(0.187%)
114	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	9.912	10.163	9.916	0.004	10.167	0.004	337240	(0.281%)
115	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	9.912	10.163	9.916	0.004	10.167	0.004	459847	(0.383%)
116	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	9.912	10.163	9.916	0.004	10.167	0.004	40739	(0.034%)
117	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	9.912	10.163	9.916	0.004	10.167	0.004	62686	(0.052%)

118	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	9.912	10.163	9.916	0.004	10.167	0.004	187479	(0.156%)
119	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	9.912	10.163	9.916	0.004	10.167	0.004	33918	(0.028%)
120	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	9.912	10.163	9.916	0.004	10.167	0.004	482808	(0.402%)
121	n-C22	43	57	71	85	99	310	10.163	10.266	10.167	0.004	10.270	0.004	169840	(0.141%)
122	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.266	10.519	10.270	0.004	10.523	0.004	148458	(0.124%)
123	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.266	10.519	10.270	0.004	10.523	0.004	231145	(0.193%)
124	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.266	10.519	10.270	0.004	10.523	0.004	5987	(0.005%)
125	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.266	10.519	10.270	0.004	10.523	0.004	8802	(0.007%)
126	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.266	10.519	10.270	0.004	10.523	0.004	25518	(0.021%)
127	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.266	10.519	10.270	0.004	10.523	0.004	2125	(0.002%)
128	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.266	10.519	10.270	0.004	10.523	0.004	273607	(0.228%)
129	n-C23	43	57	71	85	99	324	10.519	10.619	10.523	0.004	10.623	0.004	83101	(0.069%)
130	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.619	10.912	10.623	0.004	10.916	0.004	43464	(0.036%)
131	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.619	10.912	10.623	0.004	10.916	0.004	38319	(0.032%)
132	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.619	10.912	10.623	0.004	10.916	0.004	0	(0.000%)
133	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.619	10.912	10.623	0.004	10.916	0.004	0	(0.000%)
134	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.619	10.912	10.623	0.004	10.916	0.004	0	(0.000%)
135	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.619	10.912	10.623	0.004	10.916	0.004	0	(0.000%)
136	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.619	10.912	10.623	0.004	10.916	0.004	47617	(0.040%)
137	n-C24	43	57	71	85	99	338	10.912	10.964	10.916	0.004	10.968	0.004	21521	(0.018%)
138	i-Paraffins	43	57	71	85	99	113	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	10799	(0.009%)
139	Cyclopara.	41	55	69	83	97	111	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	2092	(0.002%)
140	CnH2n-8	117	131	145	159	163	177	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
141	CnH2n-6	91	105	119	133	147	161	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
142	CnH2n-12	141	155	169	183	197	211	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
143	CnH2n-10	115	129	143	157	171	185	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
144	CnH2n-18	178	191	205	219	233	247	10.964	14.800	10.968	0.004	14.804	0.004	0	(0.000%)
														++++++++++	++++++++++
													Sum =	120067945	(100.000%)

a) Rule number, integer index
b) Compound or group of compounds rules applies to:
   cyclopara's — alkylated 1 ring cycloparaffins
   C_nH_{2n-6} — alkylated benzenes
   C_nH_{2n-8} — alkylated indanes
   C_nH_{2n-10} — alkylated indenes
   C_nH_{2n-12} — alkylated naphthalenes
   C_nH_{2n-18} — alkylated phenanthrenes/anthracenes
c) Masses used in Rule [up to n may be specified, where n is an integer which is equal to the number of masses scanned during the time interval (d to e) either in full scan mode or selected ion monitoring mode].
d) start retention time in minutes
e) end retention time in minutes
f) corrected start retention time
g) correction = difference between start and cstart (in minutes)
h) corrected end retention time
i) correction = difference between end and cend (in minutes)
j) Abundance, both as total sum and as normalized percentage based on Chemist's Rules.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for predicting physical, perceptual, performance or chemical properties of a complex hydrocarbon mixture which comprises:

(a) selecting at least one property of the hydrocarbon mixture;

(b) selecting reference samples, said reference samples containing characteristic compound types present in the complex hydrocarbon mixture and which have known values of the property or properties selected in step (a);

(c) producing a training set by the steps of:

(1) injecting each reference sample into a gas chromatograph which is interfaced to a mass spectrometer thereby causing at least a partial separation of the hydrocarbon mixture into constituent chemical components;

(2) introducing the constituent chemical components of each reference sample into the mass spectrometer, under dynamic flow conditions;

(3) obtaining for each reference sample a series of time resolved mass chromatograms;

(4) calibrating the mass chromatograms to correct retention times;

(5) selecting a series of corrected retention time windows;

(6) selecting within each retention time window a series of molecular and/or fragment ions, said ions being representative of characteristic compounds or molecular classes expected within the retention time window;

(7) recording the total amount of each characteristic compound or compound group selected in step c(6);

(8) forming the data from steps c(6) and c(7) into a X-block matrix;

(9) forming the data selected in (a) for reference samples selected in (b) into a Y-block matrix;

(10) analyzing the data from steps c(8) and c(9) by multivariate correlation techniques including Partial Least Squares, Principal Component Regression, or Ridge Regression to produce a series of coefficients;

(d) subjecting an unknown hydrocarbon mixture to steps c(1) to c(3) in the same manner as the reference sample to produce a series of time resolved mass chromatograms;

(e) repeating steps c(4) to c(8) for each mass chromatogram from step (d);

(f) multiplying the matrix from step (e) by the coefficients from step c(10) to produce a predicted value of the property or properties.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the gas chromatograph is a capillary gas chromatograph and the mass spectrometer is a quadrupole mass spectrometer.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer are operated under repeatable conditions.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of a series of molecular and/or fragment ions characteristic of compounds or compound classes is accomplished using Chemist's Rules.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of a series of molecular and/or fragment ions characteristic of compounds or compound classes is accomplished using Hydrocarbon Type Analysis.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein data from the gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer are stored in a computer.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein data from steps (c) to (f) are treated in a computer.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein other chemical, performance, perceptual or physical properties of the hydrocarbon mixture are selected.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the data are collinear.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the multivariate correlation technique is Partial Least Squares.