



# Method Development

Creating the Perfect Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)



Explore the future

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# Method Development

- Goal: Reproducible method that tracks product performance
- Choose measurement approach (dry vs. suspension)
- Lock down RI
- Vary measurement settings that can influence result
  - Dry: measurement duration, concentration, air pressure
  - Wet: sampler selection, dispersion, duration, concentration, energy (mixing + ultrasound)
- Test method (reproducibility)
  - Meet ISO, USP or internal guidelines
  - Check COV at d10, d50, d90

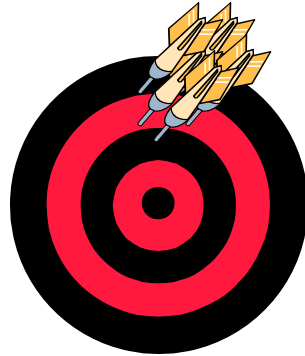
# Goals

- Reproducible method that tracks product performance
- You might have other goals
  - Accuracy: tricky subject, is it the “real” particle size
  - Repeatability: liquid suspension re-circulating in sampler
  - Reproducibility: prepare, measure, empty, repeat
  - Resolution: optimize to find second populations
  - Match historic data (sieves), but quicker, easier technique
- Use structured approach for any decision/choice that may influence result
- Have data to support selections made
- Document process so others (in future) understand the decisions

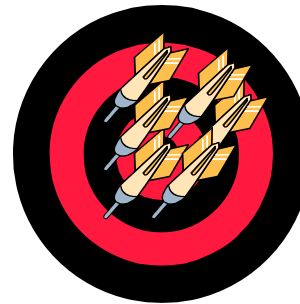
# Accuracy vs. Precision



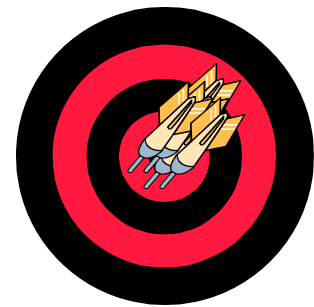
LOW ACCURACY  
LOW PRECISION



LOW ACCURACY  
HIGH PRECISION



HIGH ACCURACY  
LOW PRECISION



HIGH ACCURACY  
HIGH PRECISION

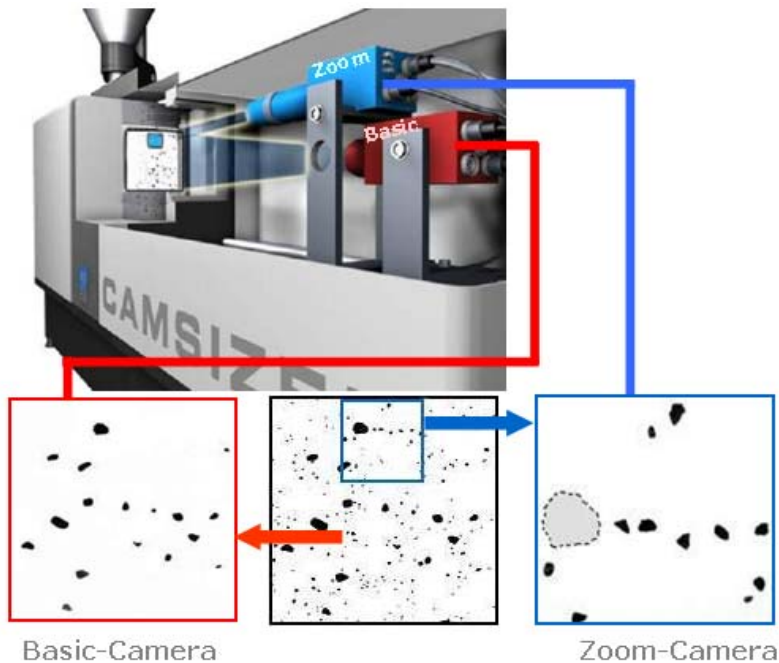
■ (A) Low accuracy, low precision measurements form a diffuse, off-center cluster; (B) Low accuracy, high precision measurements form a tight off-center cluster; (C) High accuracy, low precision measurements form a cluster that is evenly distributed but distant from the center of the target; (D) High Accuracy, high precision measurements are clustered in the center of the target.

# Accuracy

- Is it the “real particle size”?
- Comparison to referee technique
- Microscope (image analysis) is referee technique for particle characterization
- Two kinds of image analysis:
  - Dynamic image analysis; particles flowing
  - Static image analysis; particles sit on slide on automated stage

# Image Analysis: Two Approaches

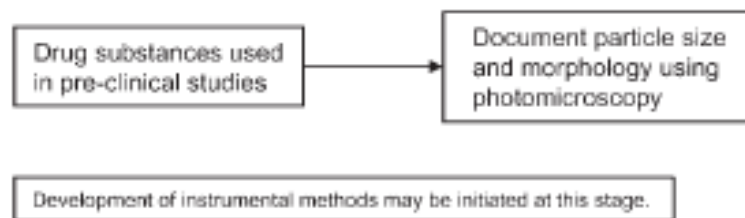
Dynamic:  
particles flow past camera



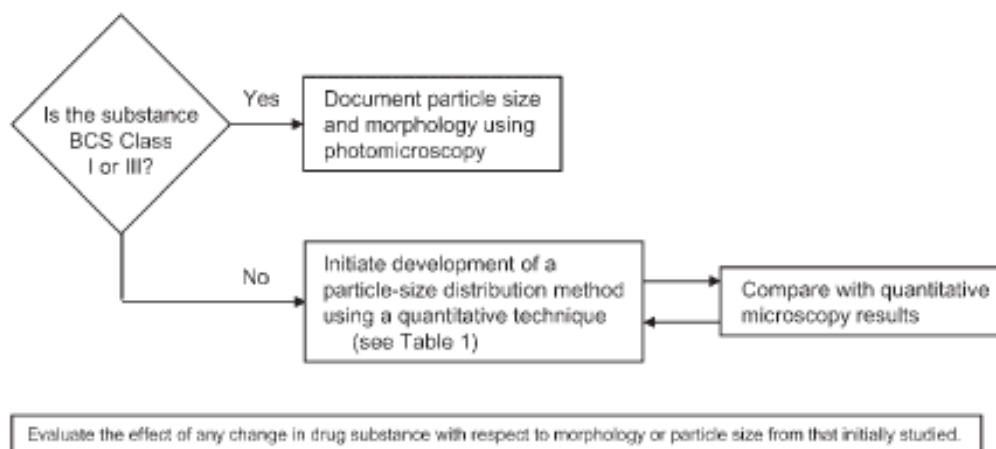
Static:  
particles fixed on slide,  
stage moves slide



# Proposed Pharmaceutical Guidelines

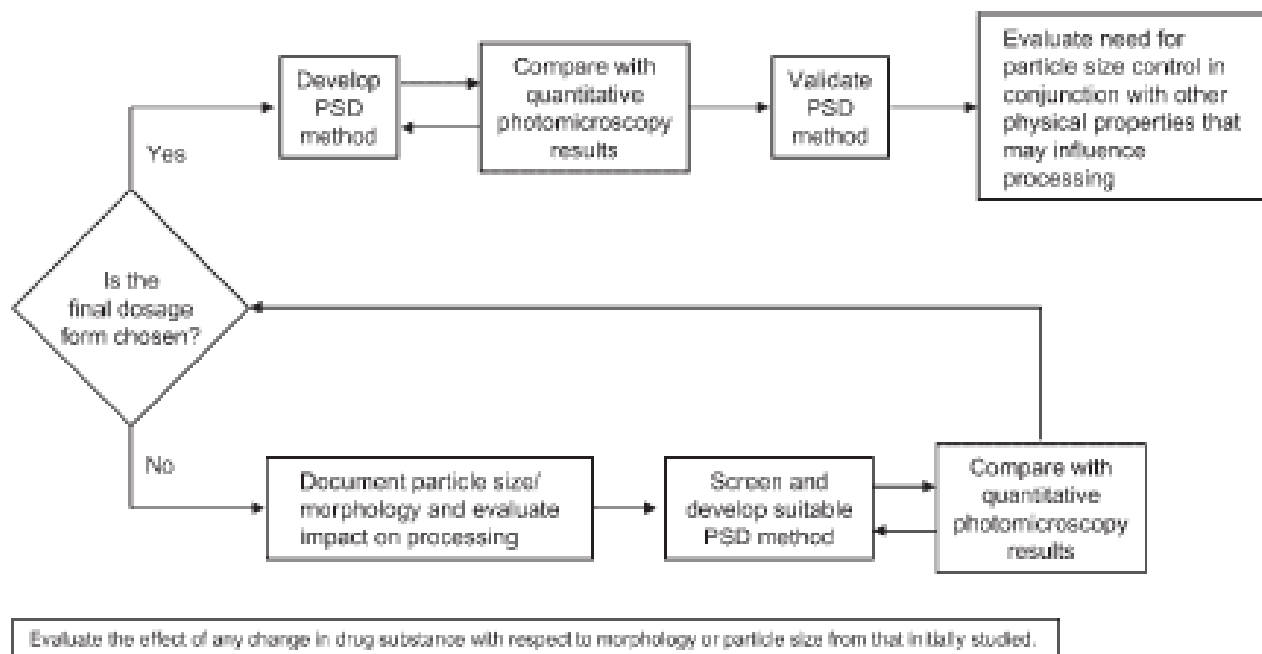


Scheme for outlining particle evaluation for preclinical studies.



Decision tree outlining particle evaluation for Phase I clinical studies

# Proposed Pharmaceutical Guidelines



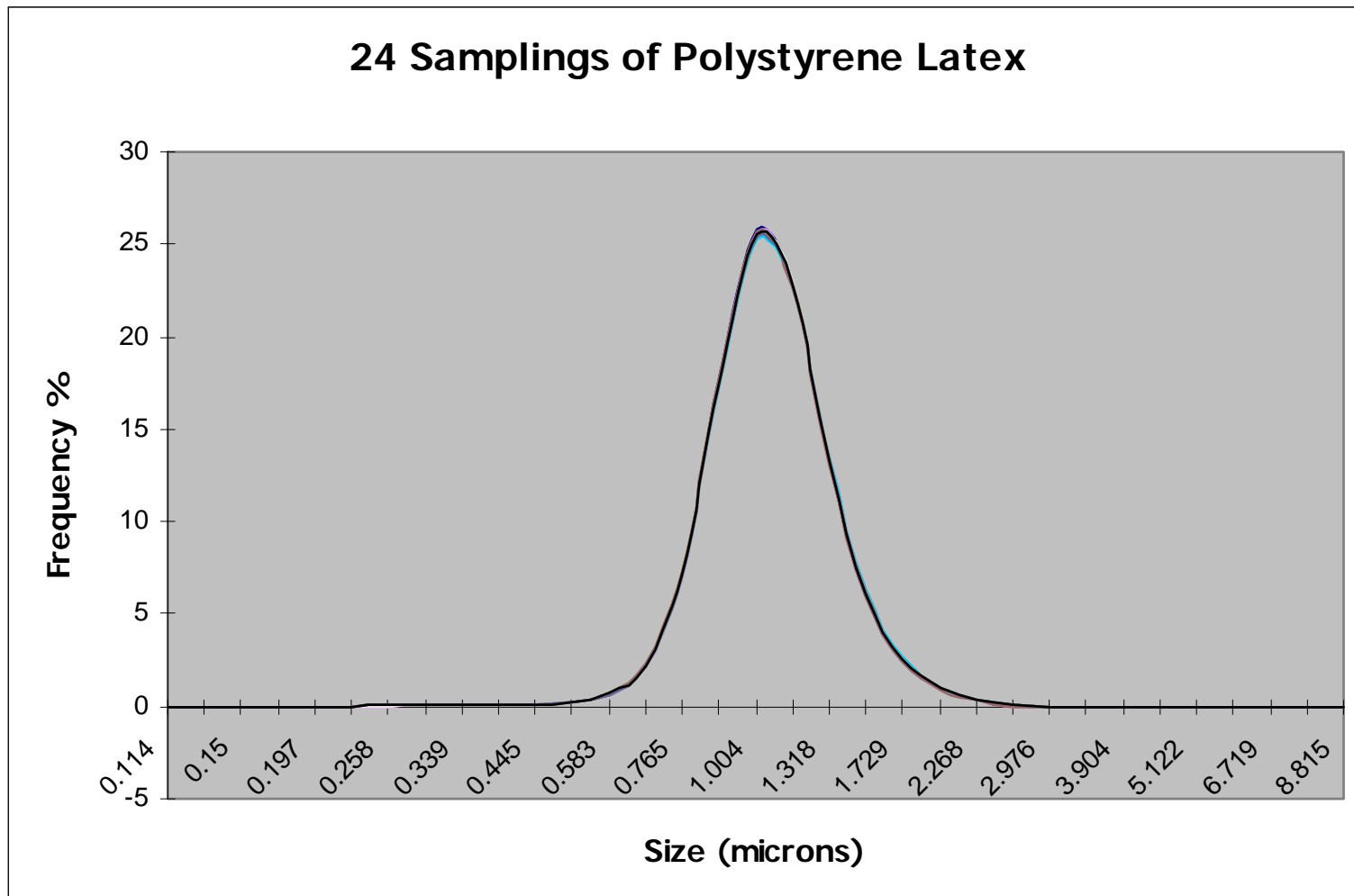
Scheme for outlining particle evaluation for Phase III clinical studies



# Repeatability, Reproducibility

- Repeatability: prepare sample, add to wet sampler, re-circulate, measure same multiple times (suspensions only)
- Reproducibility: prepare sample, measure, drain, repeat (suspensions + dry)

# Precision (Repeatability)



# Reproducibility

■ Reproducibility: prepare, measure, empty, repeat

■ What would be good reproducibility?

- Look at accepted standards

- Measure 3 times, calculated COV at  $d_{10}$ ,  $d_{50}$ ,  $d_{90}$

  - COV (RSD) = st dev/mean \* 100

- ISO13320

  - COV < 3% at median  $d_{50}$

  - COV < 5% at  $d_{10}$  &  $d_{90}$

Note: double all limits

When  $d_{50} < 10 \mu\text{m}$

- USP<429>

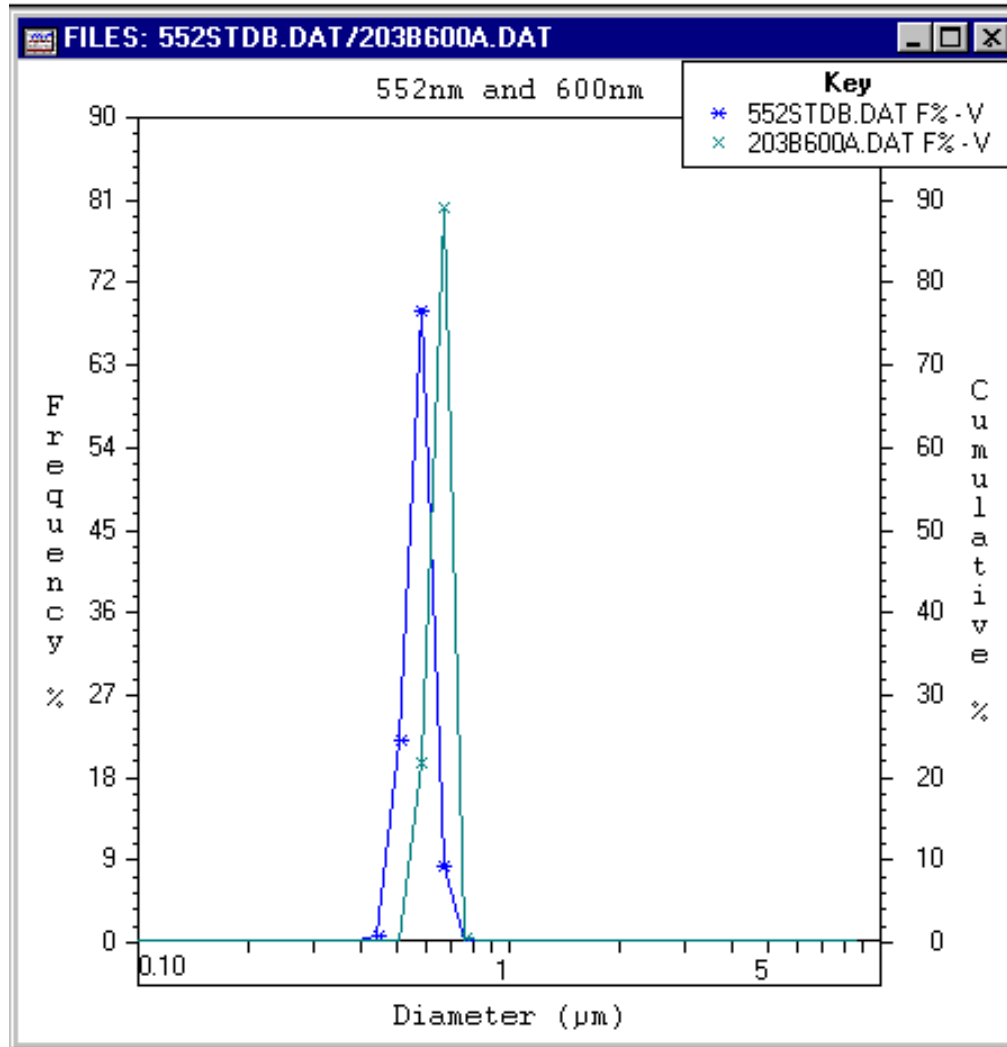
  - COV < 10% at median  $d_{50}$

  - COV < 15% at  $d_{10}$  &  $d_{90}$

# Resolution

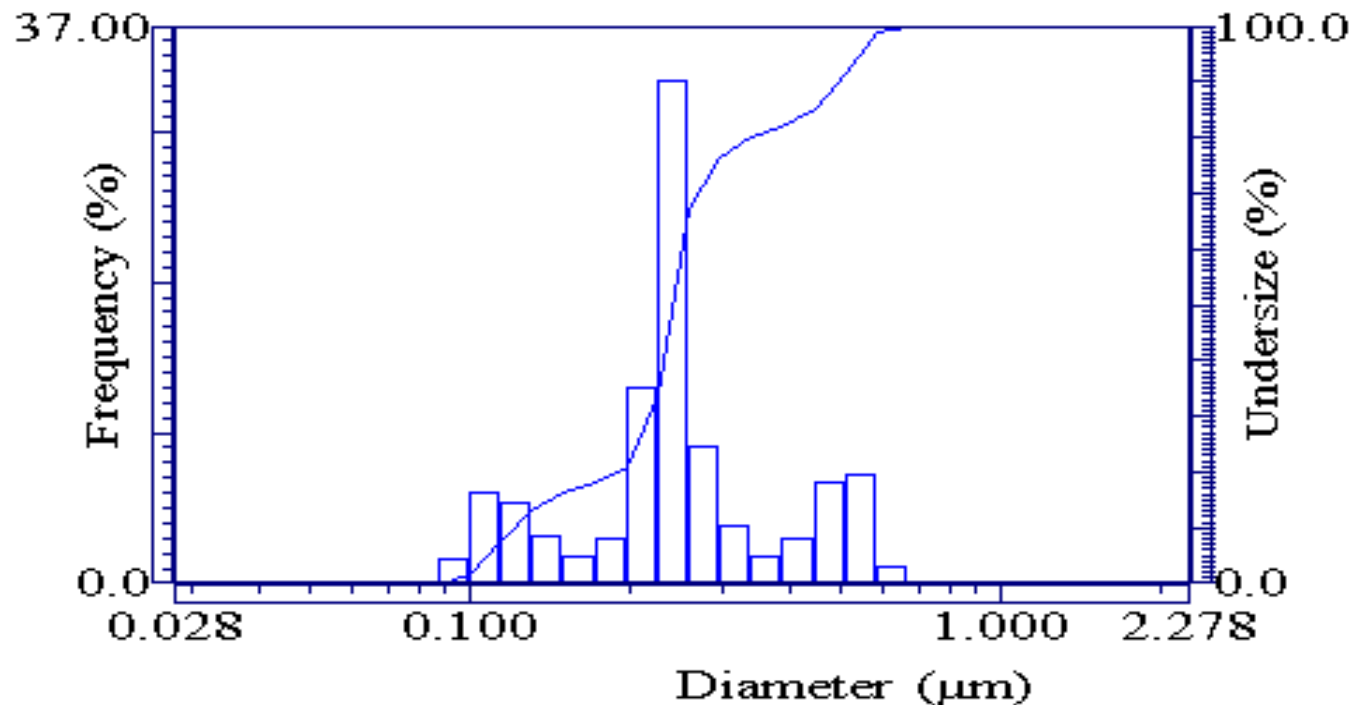
- Ability to measure small differences in particle size
- Small differences between successive samples (different production lots) are most important
- Detection limit of small amount of material outside of main size distribution
- Best defined by user's real-world requirements

# Resolution: High or Low Technique?



- Resolve size difference between two materials of similar size
- 552nm and 600nm PSL
- Measured separately: high resolution
- Measure together: low resolution, would blend peaks
- Laser diffraction is a “resolution limited” technique

# Resolution Limits

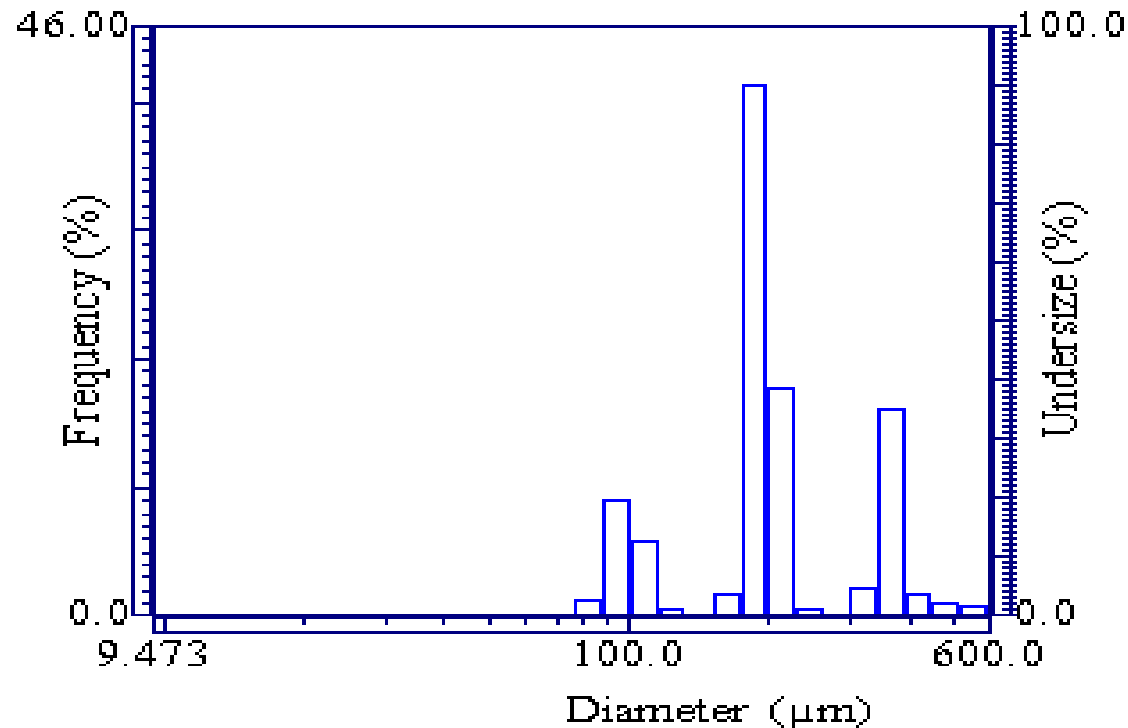


83nm,  
204nm,  
503nm  
PSL

Resolution of multiple modes in a single sample

Next peak 2x of previous size

# Resolution Limits

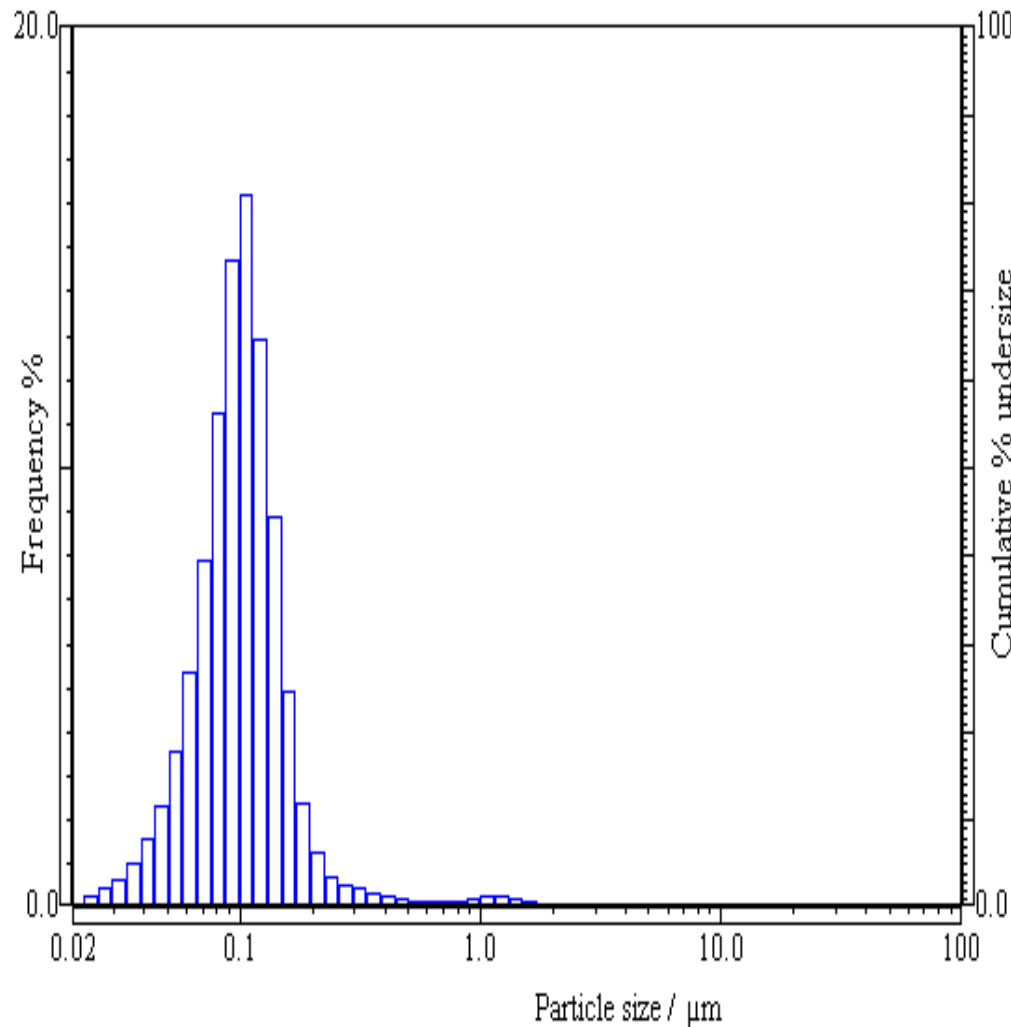


100μm,  
200μm,  
400μm glass beads

Next peak 2x of previous size

Resolution is independent of where you are on size scale

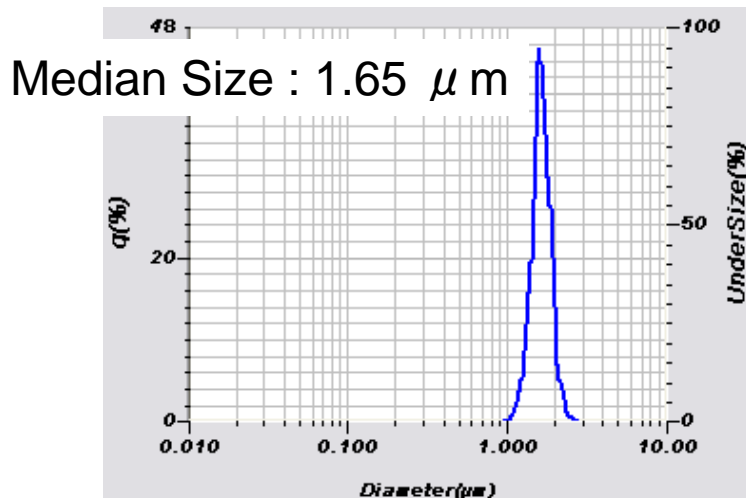
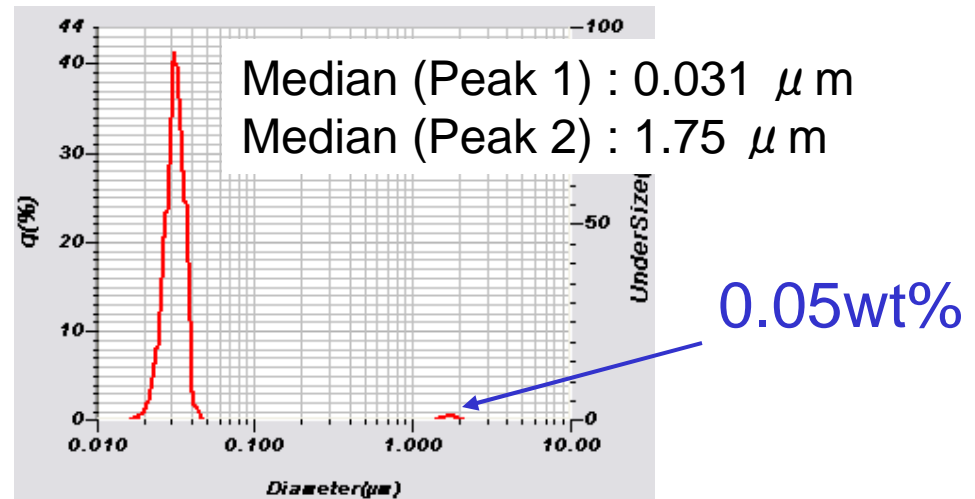
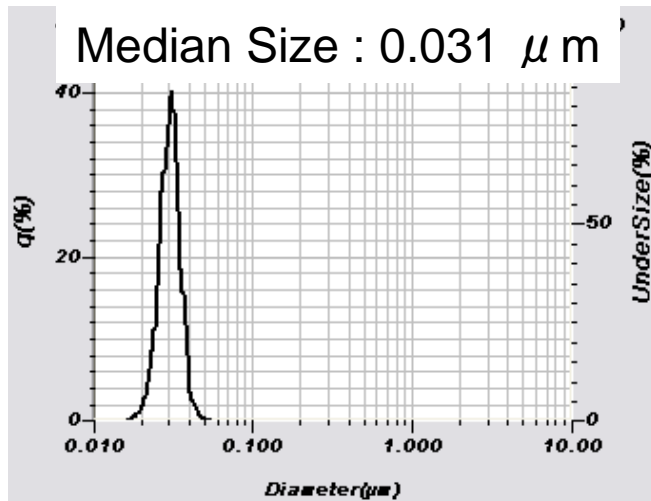
# Resolution: Finding Second Peak



- 0.1 micron silica material
- 2% by weight of ~1 micron quartz standard added
- Original slide showed .25%



# Resolution: Recent LA-950 Data\*



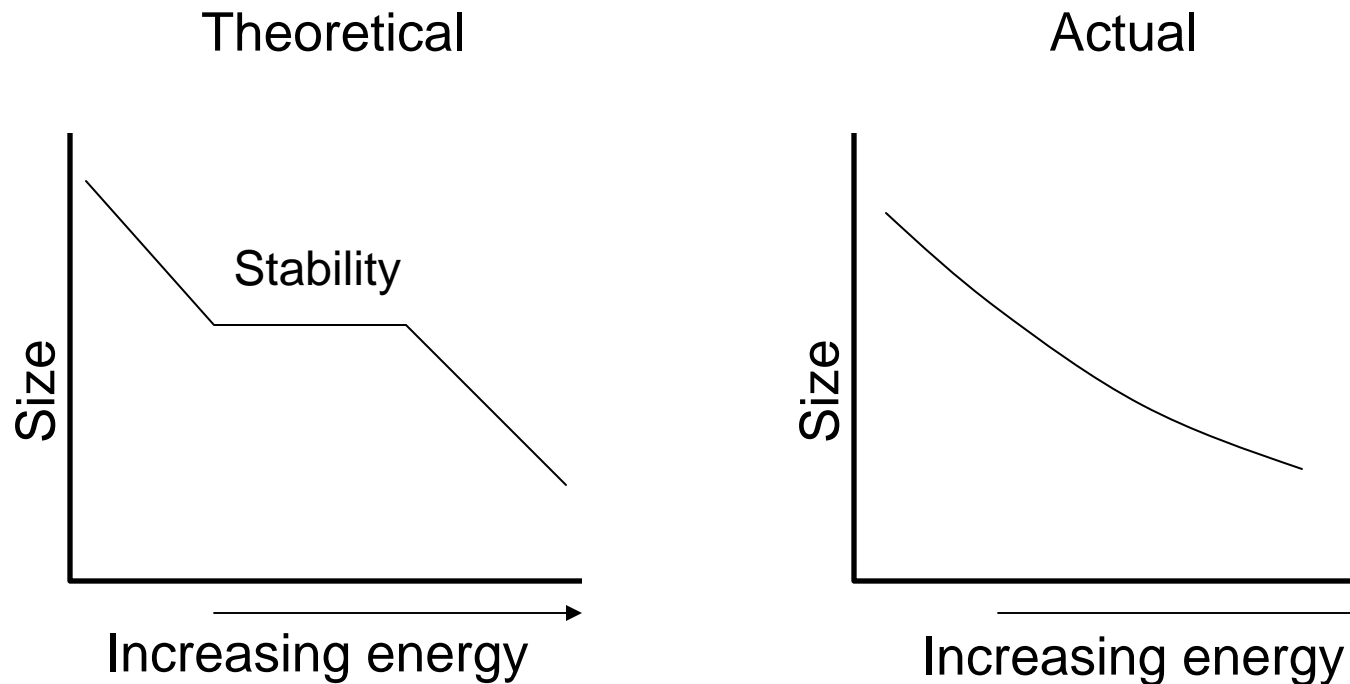
Top left: LUDOX™-50 PSD,  
Lower left: 0.1wt% Geltech 1.5 PSD  
Top right: 0.05wt% Geltech 1.5 in LUDOX  
Result shows both oversize particle detection  
& very good accuracy for both components.

\*See AN179 CMP SLURRY MEASUREMENT  
USING LASER DIFFRACTION

# Method Development: Dry

- First get sampling right & determine RI
- Measure at 3 different pressures (low, medium, high)
- Determine optimum pressure based on good dispersion while not breaking particles
- Can also compare dry vs. wet measurements
- Adjust other settings to optimize sample concentration & duration
- Ideally measure all of powder placed into the sampler
  - Segregation can occur on vibrating tray
  - Constant mass flow rate important for stable concentration during measurement
- Once settings chosen, test reproducibility

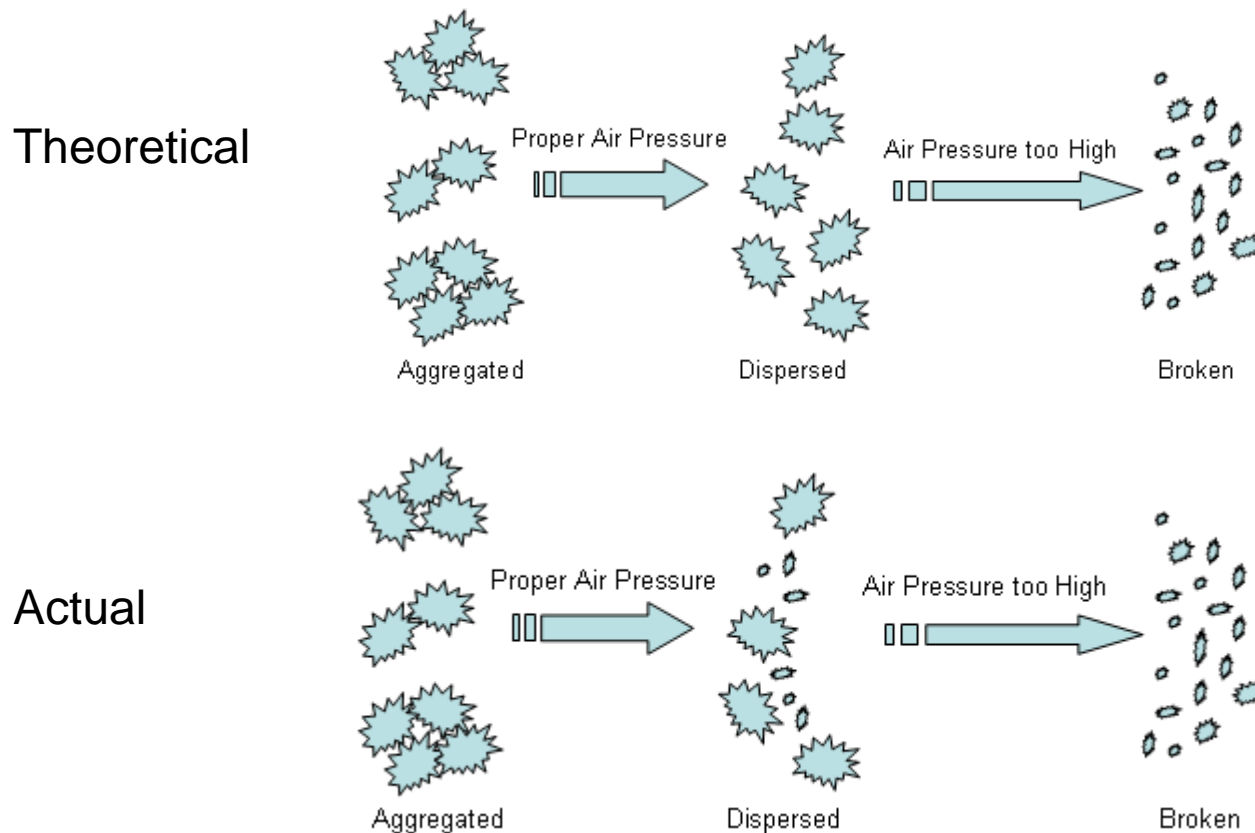
# Size vs. Energy - theoretical vs. actual



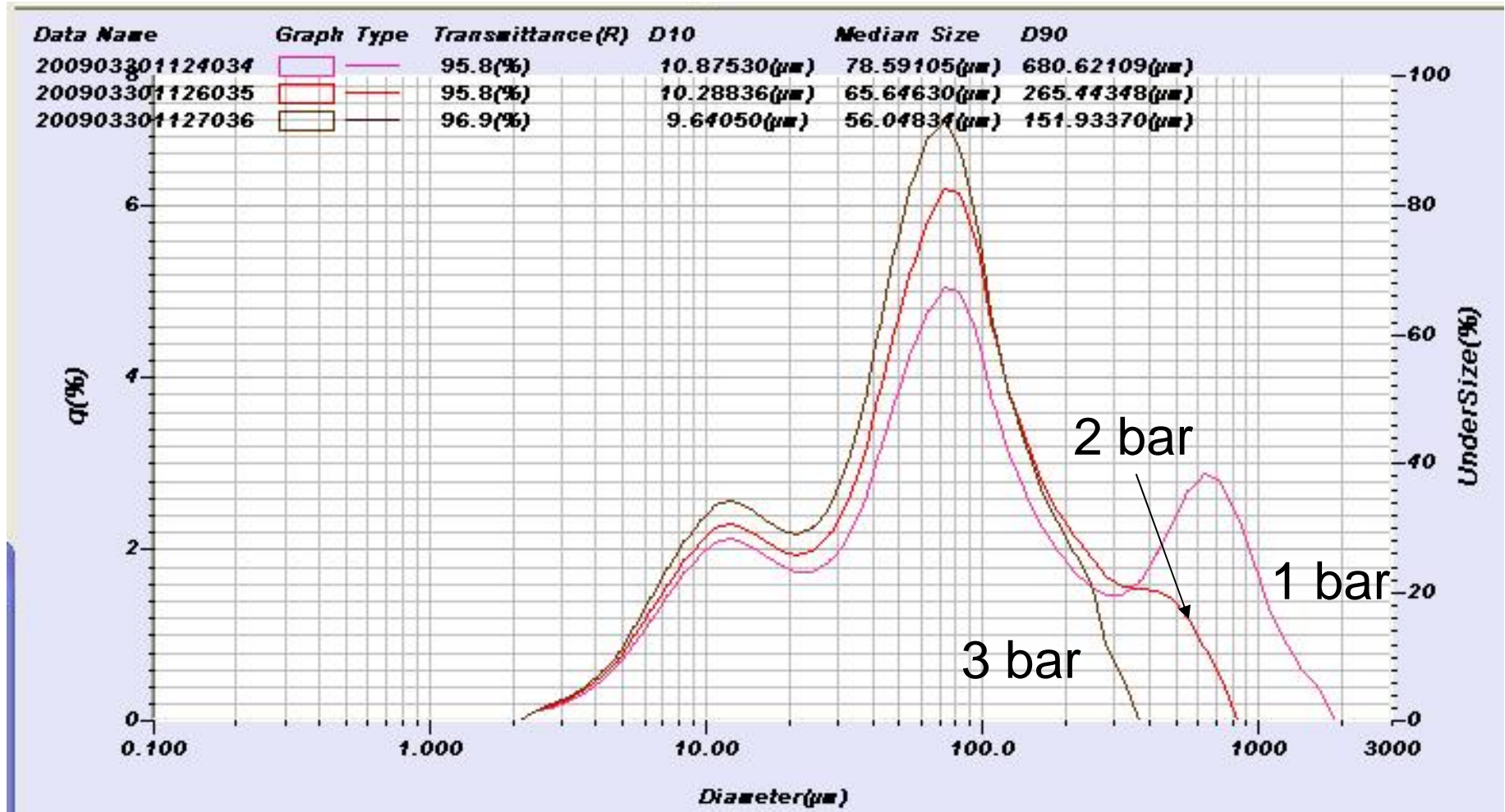
Higher air pressure or longer ultrasound duration

# Why is this so?

- Dispersion and milling can be parallel rather than sequential processes



# Pressure Titration





# Dry Method Development Case Studies

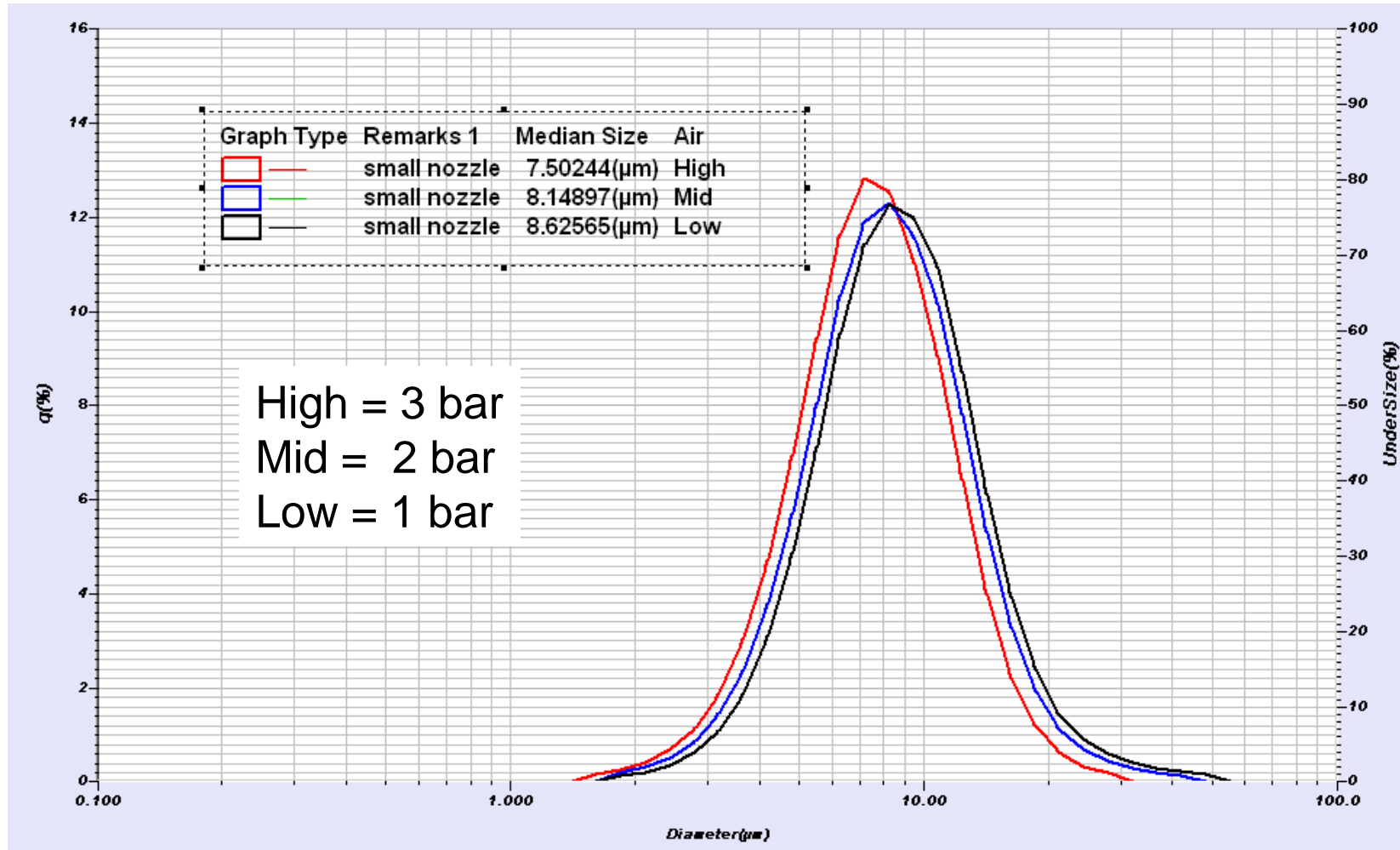
Magnesium Stearate  
Microcrystalline Cellulose

Explore the future

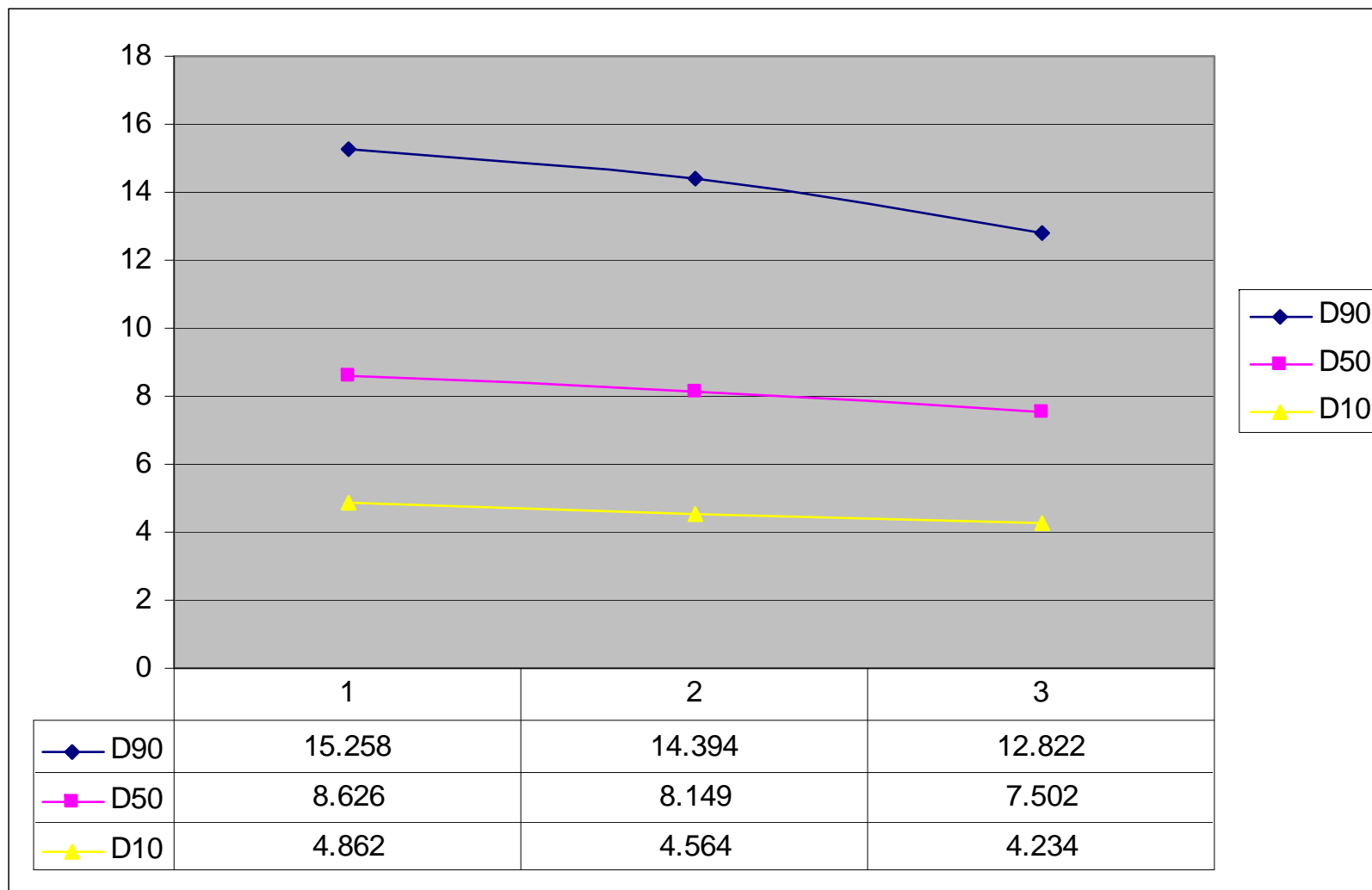
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# Effect of Air Pressure – Mg Stearate

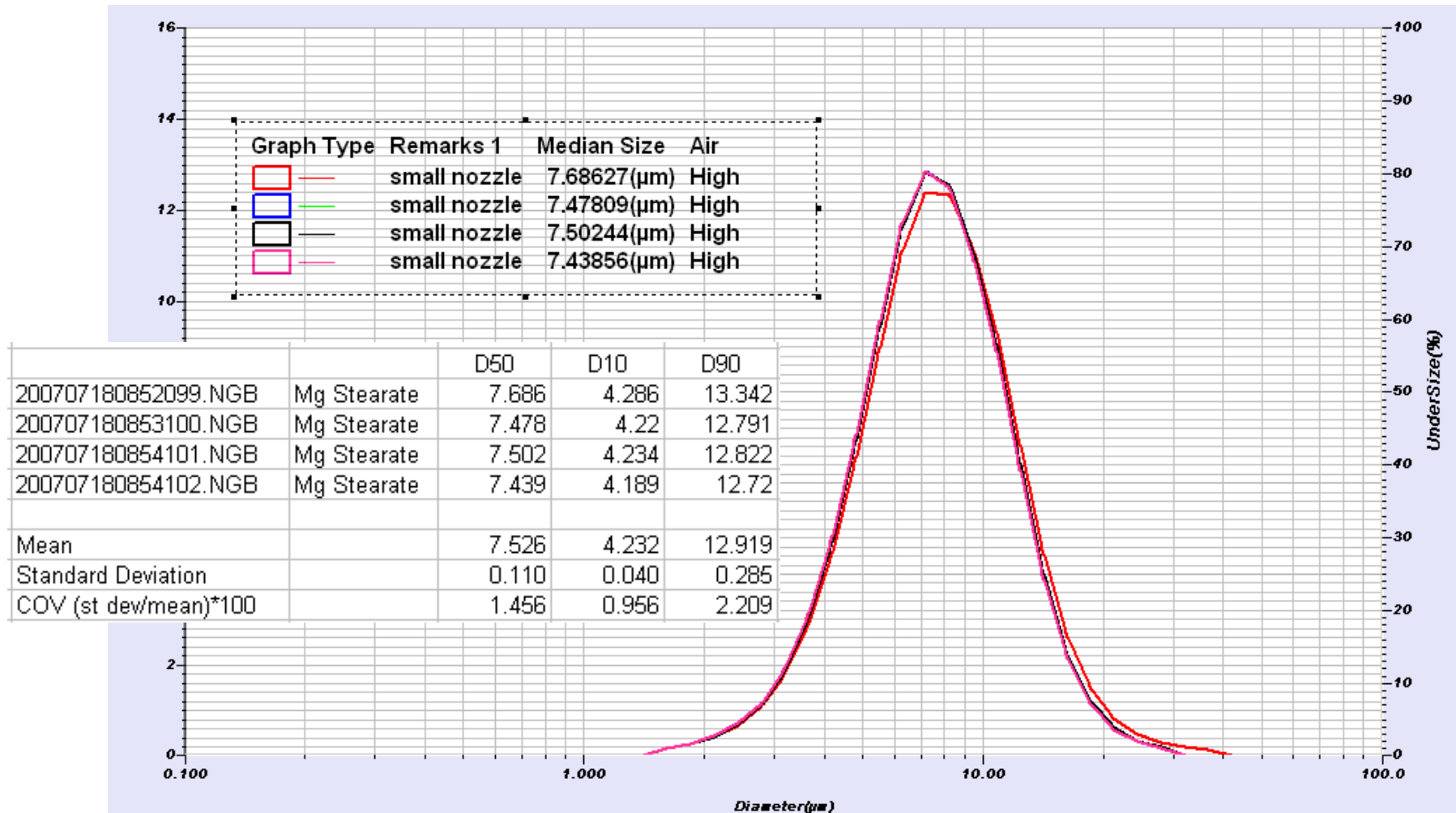


# Effect of Air Pressure – Mg Stearate

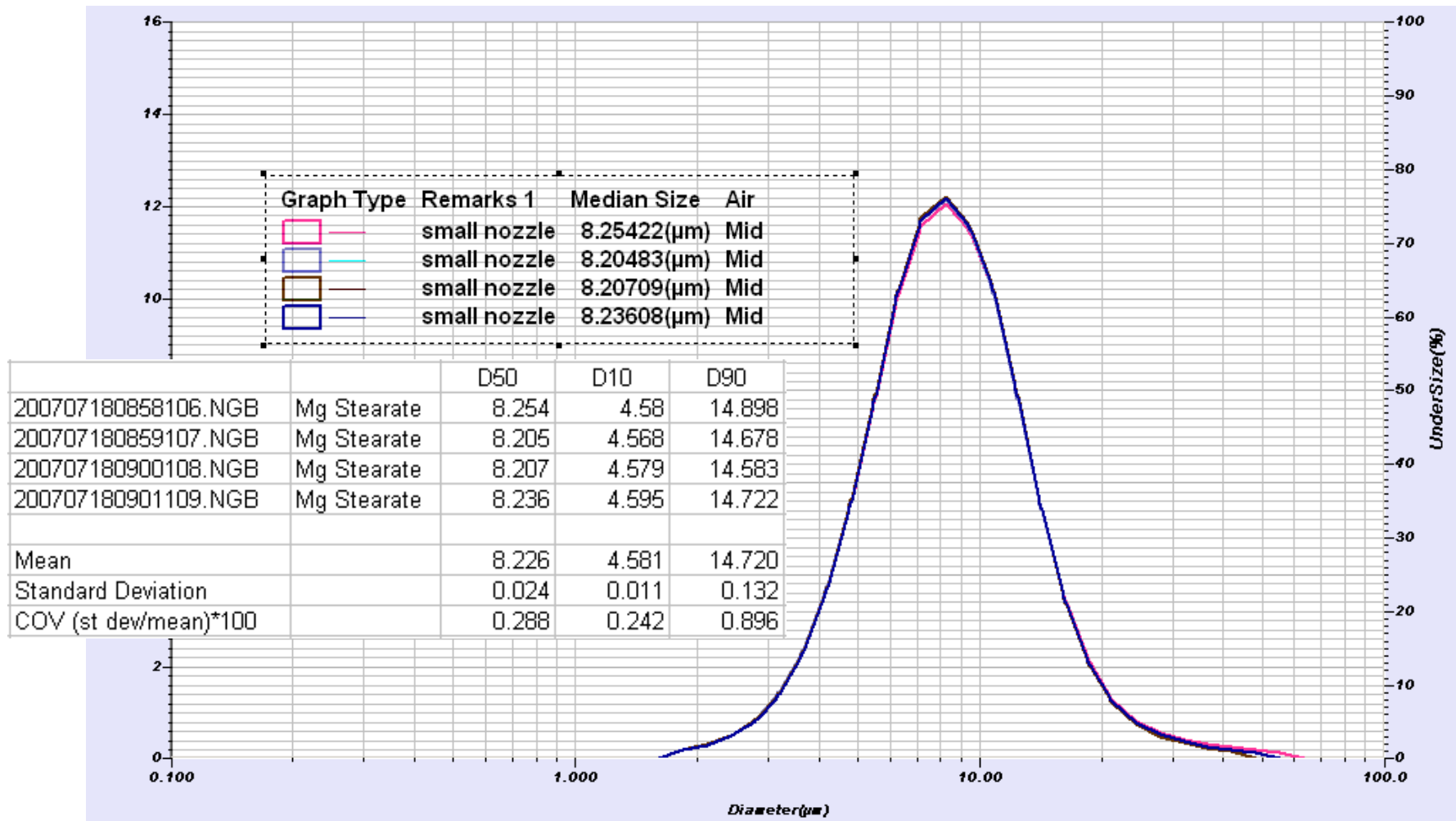




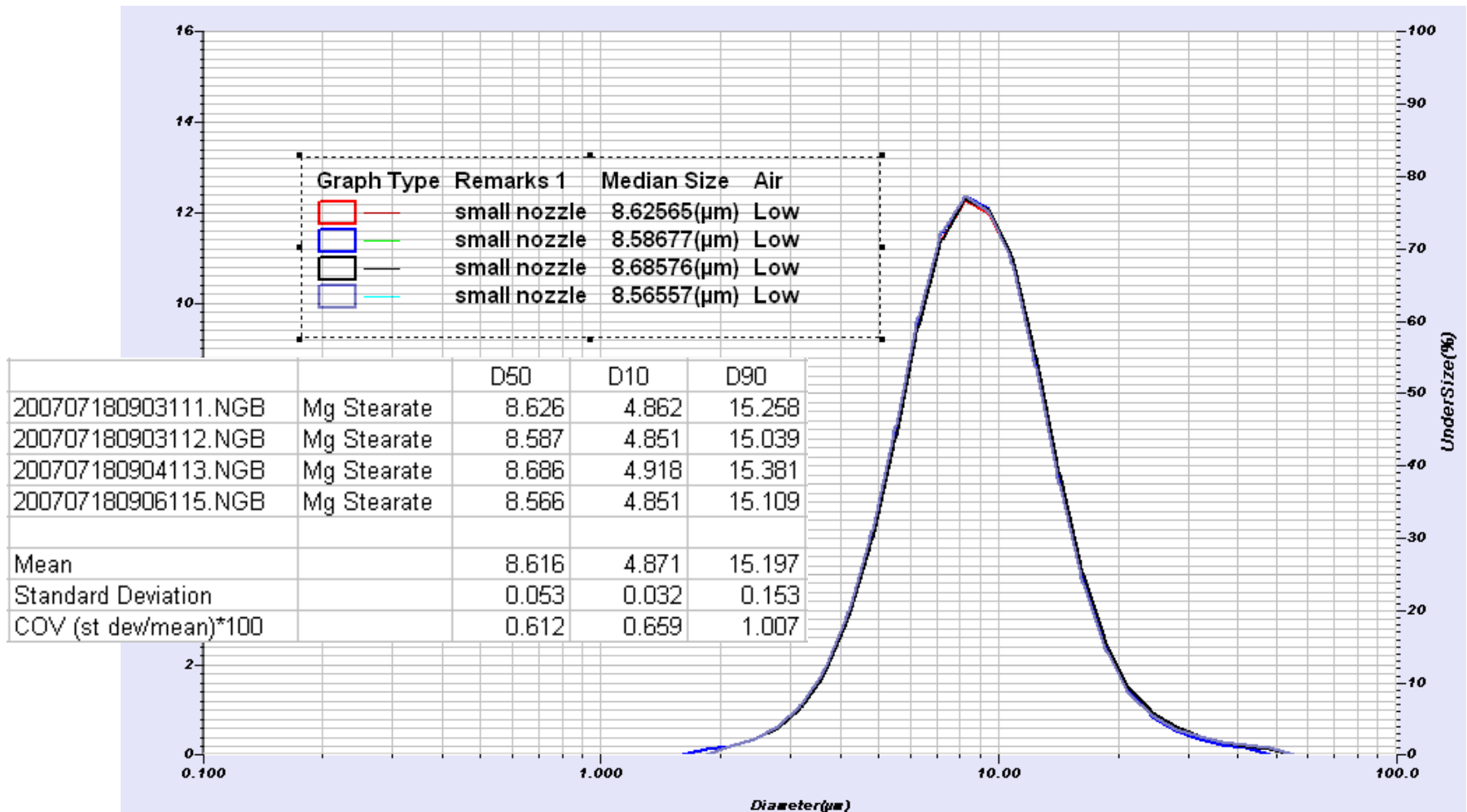
# Reproducibility – Mg Stearate dry, 3 bar



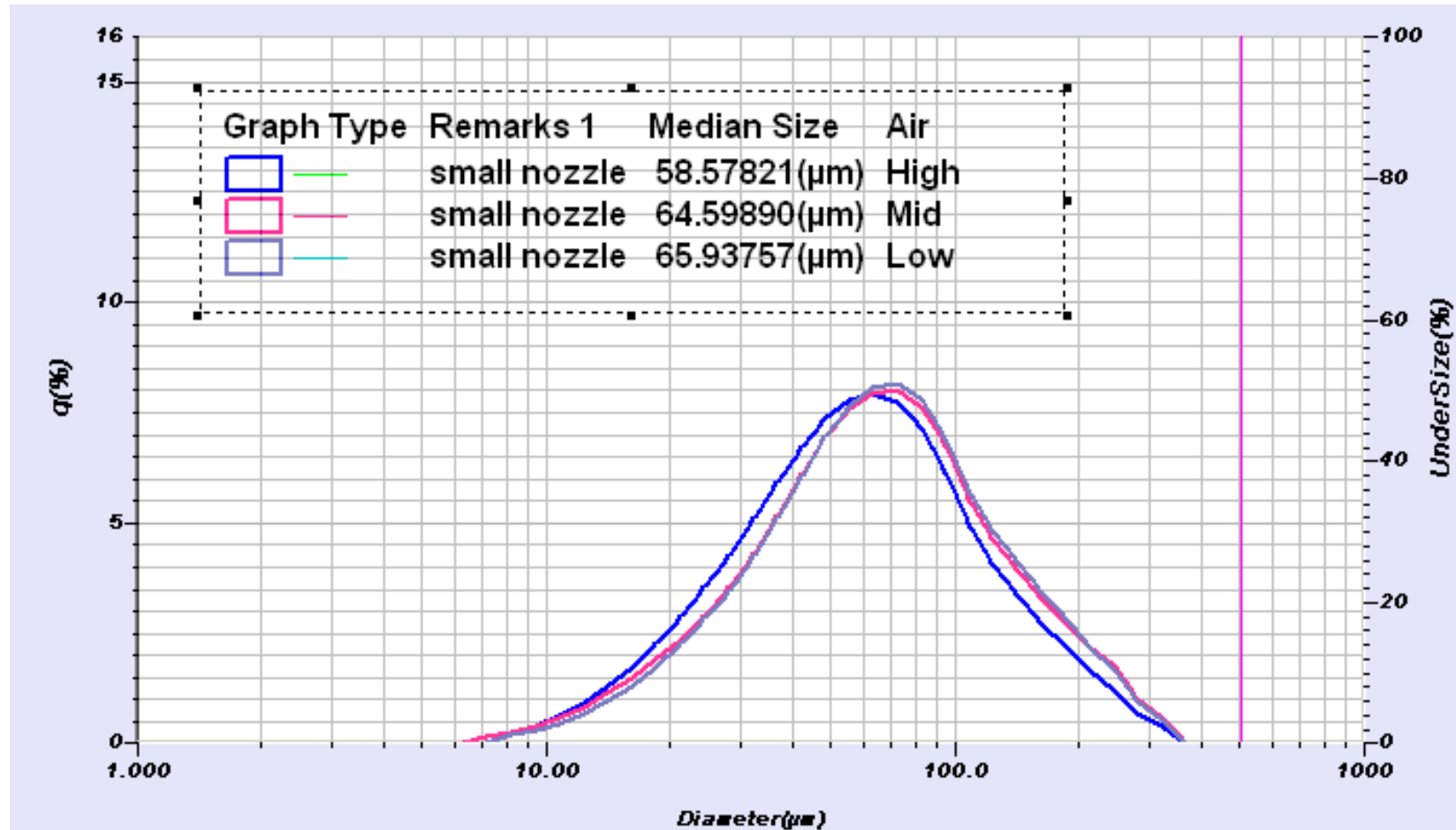
# Reproducibility – Mg Stearate dry, 2 bar



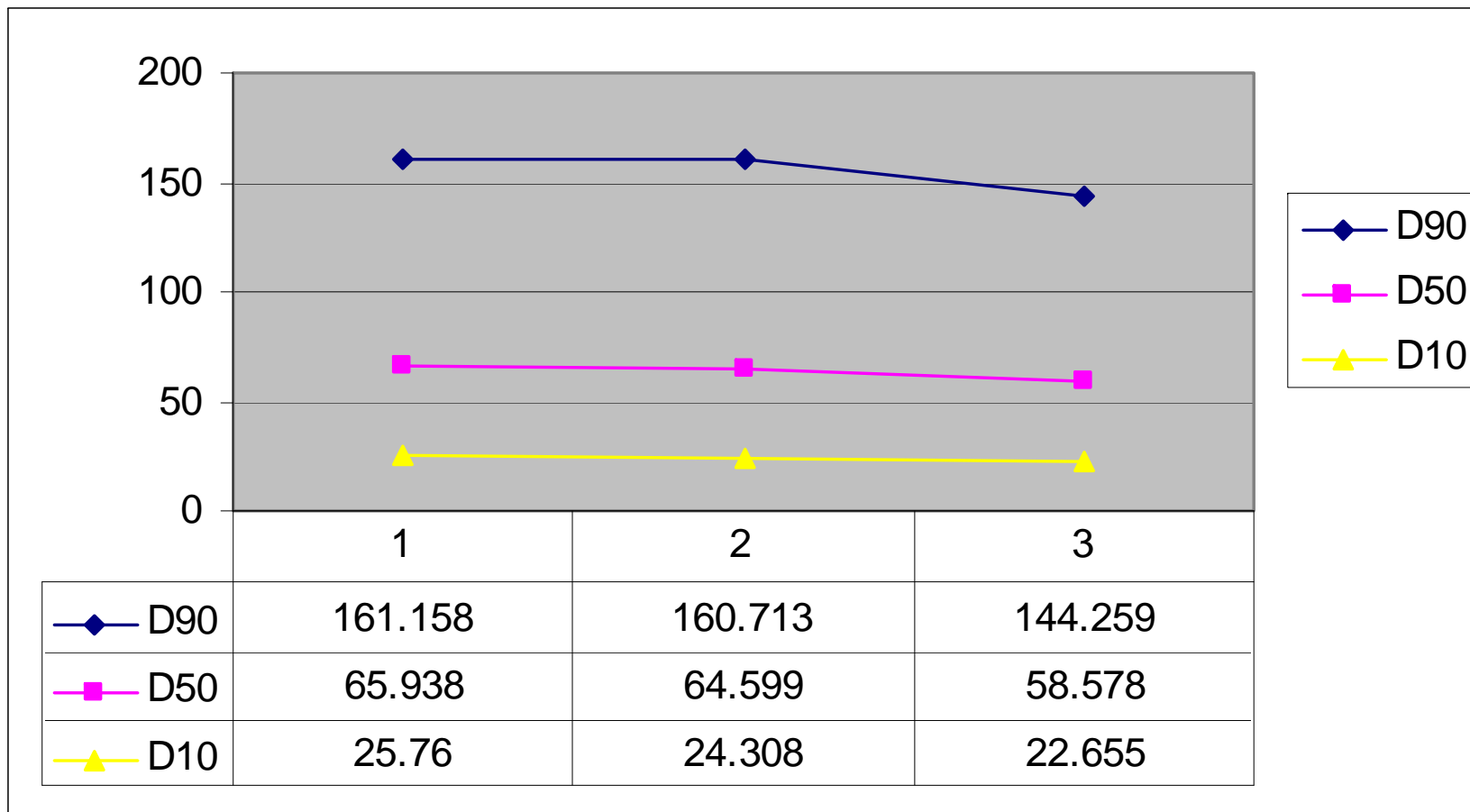
# Reproducibility – Mg Stearate dry, 1 bar



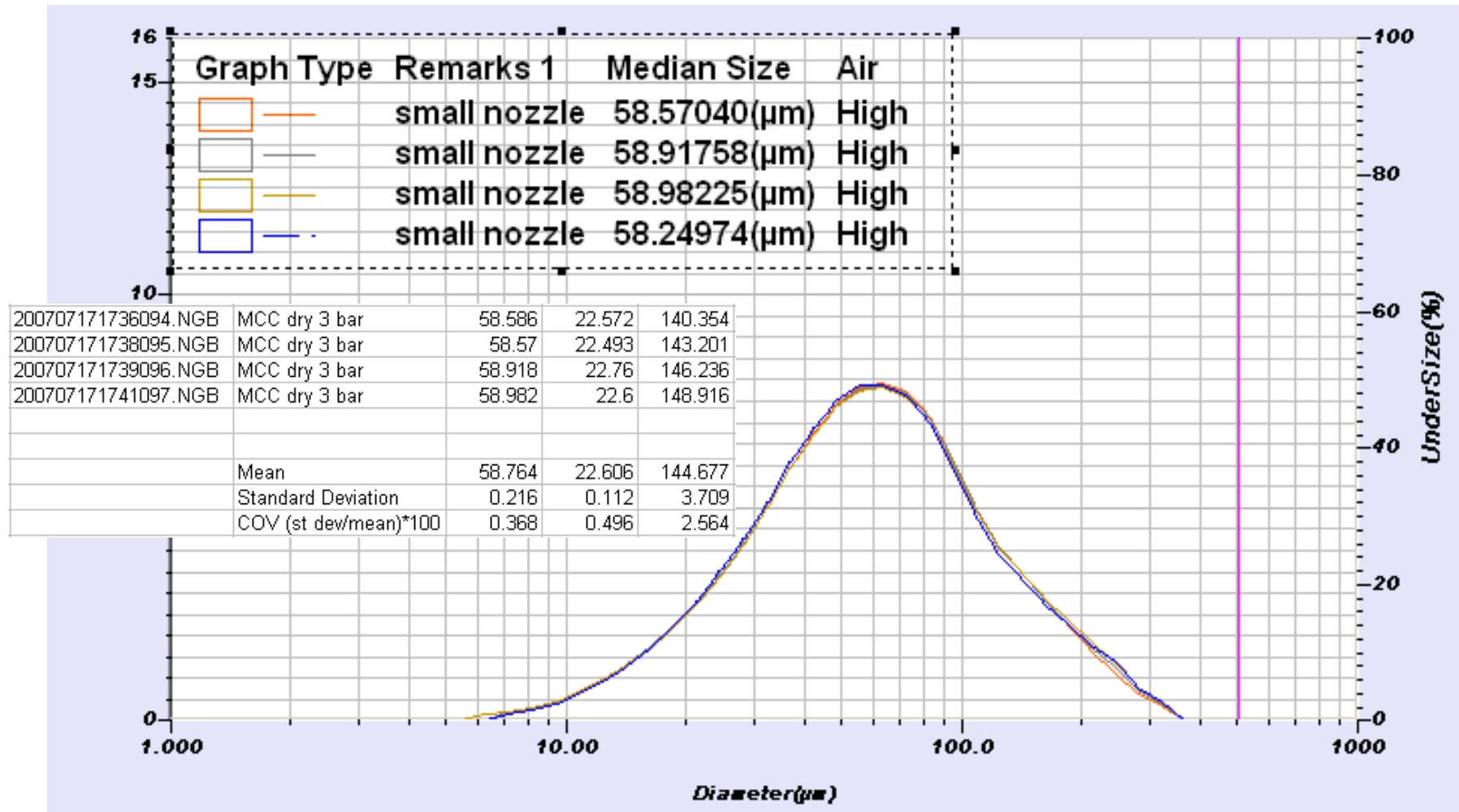
# Effect of Air Pressure - MCC



# Effect of Air Pressure - MCC



# Reproducibility – MCC dry, 3 bar



# Calculation Automation

## From LA-950 Software

**Select Summary Items**

Item List

- Test or Assay Number
- Remarks 1
- Remarks 2
- Remarks 3
- Remarks 4
- Remarks 5
- Remarks 6
- Remarks 7
- Remarks 8
- Remarks 9
- Remarks 10

Summary Items

- Sample Name
- Material
- Source
- Lot Number
- D(v,0.1)
- D(v,0.5)
- D(v,0.9)

Add >> Delete

Clear Up Down

Font: MS Sans Serif Font Open

Orientation: ☒ Portrait ☐ Landscape

☒ Show Summary Averages ☒ Show Summary Std. Dev.

☒ Show Coefficient of variation(Relative Std. Dev.)

Validation

Specification: USP 429

D(v,0.1) Range (± %)

D(v,0.5) Range (± %)

D(v,0.9) Range (± %)

D(v,0.1) >= 70µm 15 10 15

D(v,0.5) <= 10µm 30 20 30

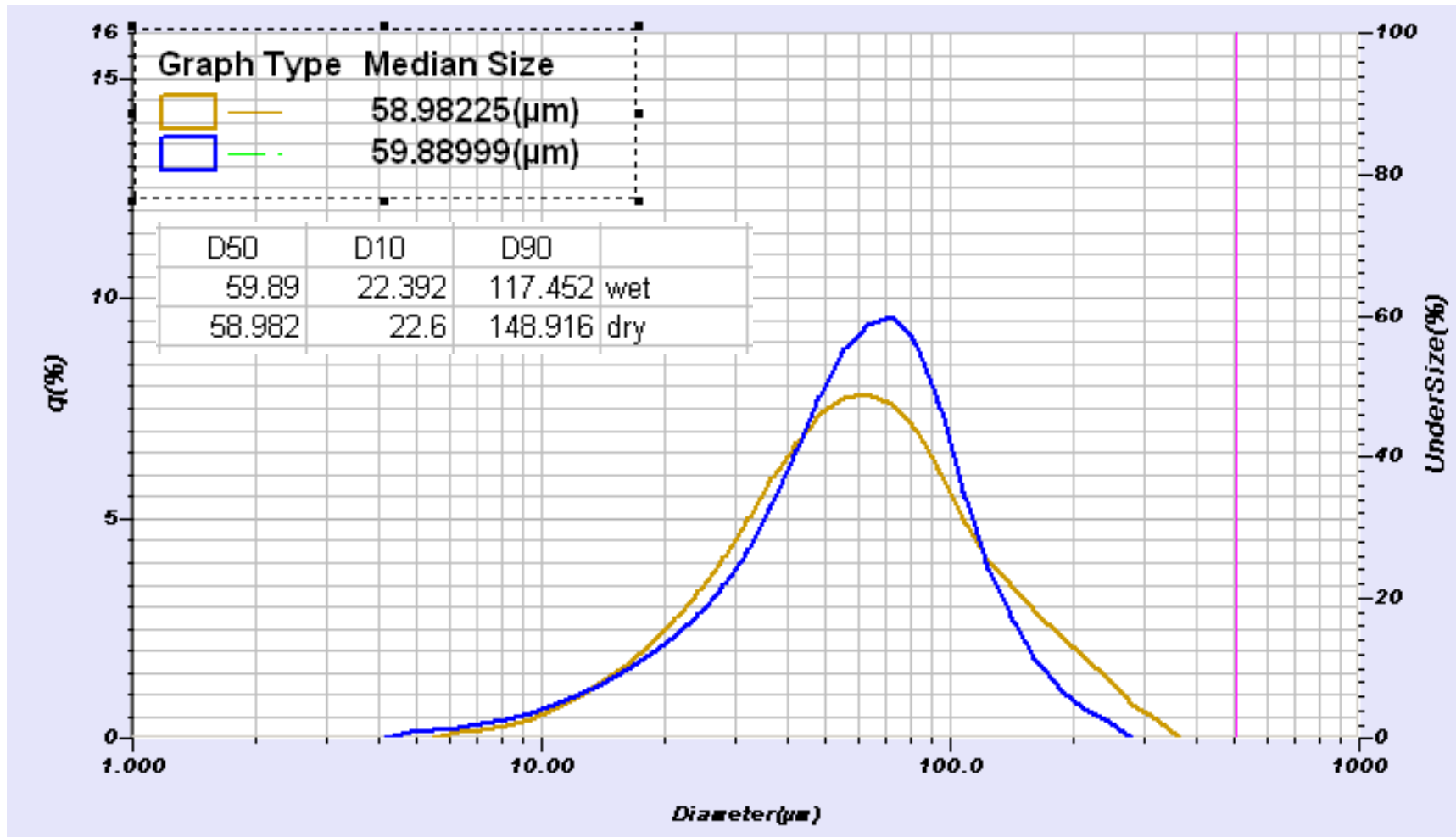
Save As Cancel OK

**Summary Report**

Export Summary Print Summary Edit Layout Best Fit Columns Hide Selected Exit

Sample Name	Material	Source	Lot	D(v,0.1)	D(v,0.5)	D(v,0.9)
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.052	0.052	0.052
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.052	0.052	0.052
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.052	0.052	0.052
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.045	0.045	0.045
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.045	0.045	0.045
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.045	0.045	0.045
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.040	0.040	0.040
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.039	0.039	0.039
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.040	0.040	0.040
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.048	0.048	0.048
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.048	0.048	0.048
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.048	0.048	0.048
Sample 4	PinnoThin TG Powde	Herbalife		0.045	0.045	0.045
Average				0.046	0.046	0.046
Std. Dev.				0.005	0.005	0.005
CV (%)				9.805	9.805	9.805
USP 429 (30.0, 20.0, 30.0)				PASSED	PASSED	PASSED

# MCC Wet vs. Dry



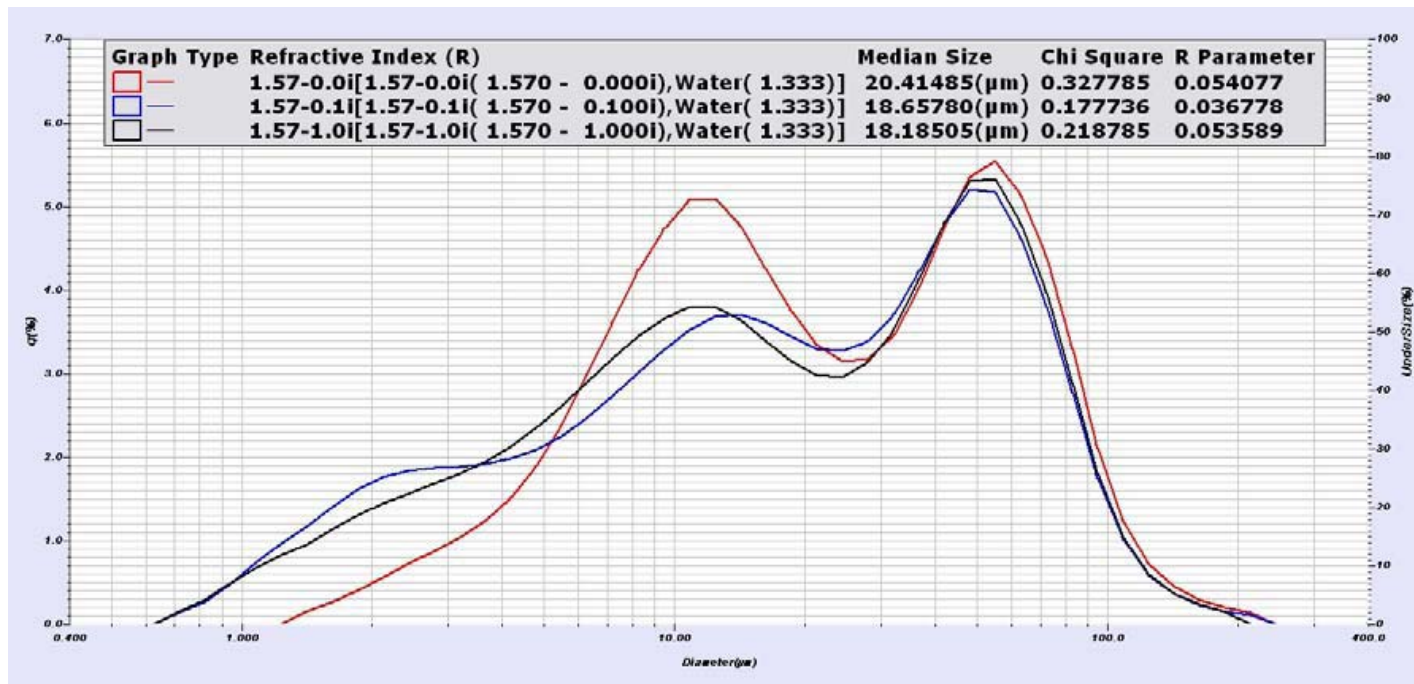


# Method Development -Wet

- First determine RI
- Choose solvent (water, surfactants, hexane, etc.)
- Sampler selection: sample volume
- Pump & stirrer settings
- Concentration
- Measurement duration
- Does the sample need ultrasound?
  - Document size-time plot
  - Disperse sample, but don't break particles
  - Check for reproducibility

# Determine RI

- Real component via literature or web search, Becke line, etc.
- Measure sample, vary imaginary component to see if/how results change
- Recalculate using different imaginary components, choose value that minimizes R parameter error calculation

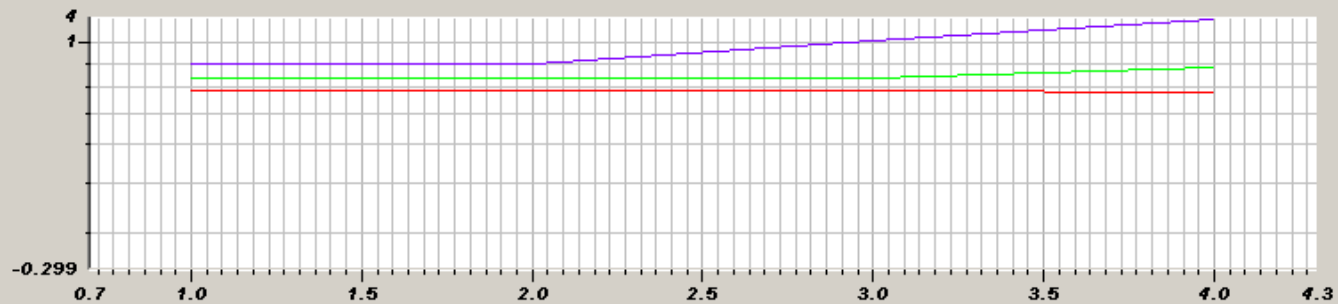


# RI Software Automation

## Calculation Optimization

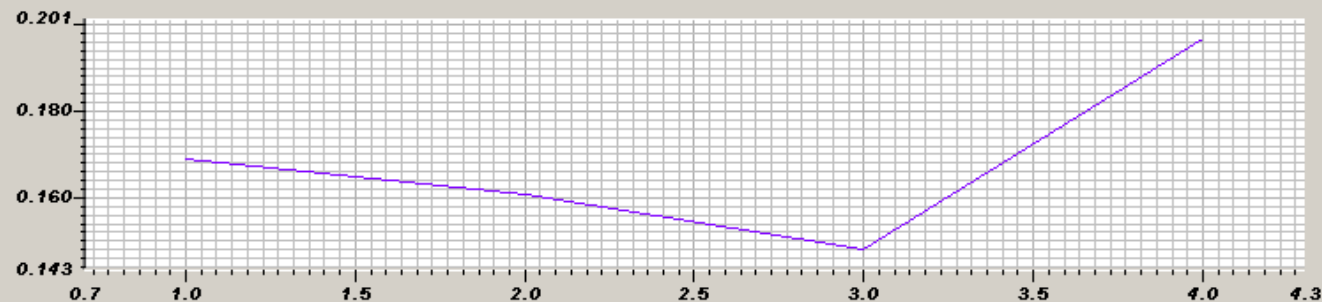
### Imaginary Refractive Index Wizard -Result- ?

Graph Summary | Distributions | D90,D50,D10 | R Value



	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 0.00i	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 0.01i	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 0.10i	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 1.00i
D90	0.389097	0.400848	1.28502	3.95191
D50	0.187871	0.187613	0.183241	0.325576
D10	0.101424	0.100706	0.0938086	0.0878223

Graph Summary | Distributions | D90,D50,D10 | R Value

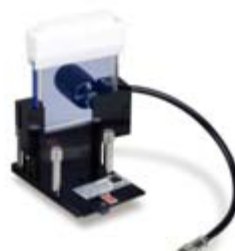
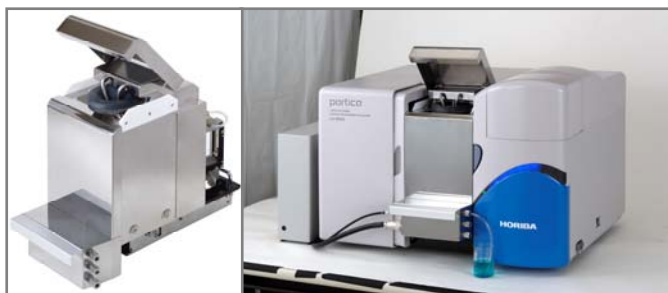


	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 0.00i	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 0.01i	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 0.10i	Imaginary_RI- 1.48- 1.00i
R Value	0.168491	0.160476	0.14784	0.196245

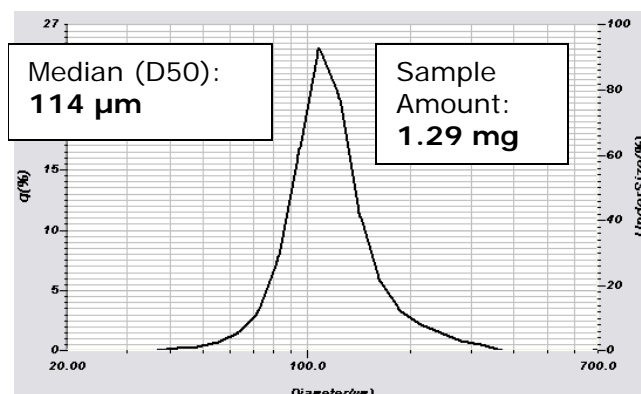
# Sampler Selection

- Larger, broad distributions require larger sample volume
- Lower volume samplers for precious materials or solvents

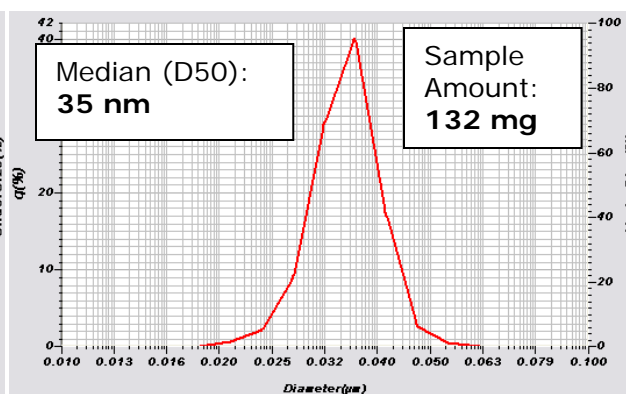
LA-950 Sample Handlers	Dispersing Volume (mL)
Aqua/SolvoFlow	180 - 330
MiniFlow	35 - 50
Fraction Cell	15
Small Volume Fraction Cell	10



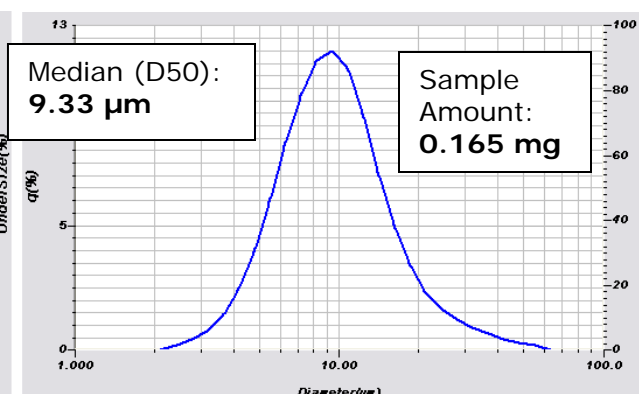
Note: Fraction cell has only magnetic stir bar, not for large or heavy particles



Bio polymer



Colloidal silica



Magnesium stearate

# Pump & Stirrer Settings

- Must be high enough to suspend & circulate heavy particles
- Not so high that bubbles are introduced
- Adding energy – can disperse loose agglomerates
- Measure at several settings & select optimum
- Can be automated in software (see right)

Exp #	Agitation	Circulation	D <sub>mean</sub> (nm)	D <sub>10</sub> (nm)	D <sub>90</sub> (nm)
1	1	1	187.03	137.5	245.7
2	1	3	184.23	135.9	242.1
3	3	1	187.28	137.8	245.8
4	3	3	184.61	136.1	242.5
5	1	1	185.32	136.3	243.7
6	1	3	184.04	135.8	241.8
7	3	1	184.13	135.8	241.9
8	3	3	184.98	136.4	242.9
Parameters Selected: Agitation: <u>2</u> Circulation: <u>2</u>					

## Automation Wizard

### Measurement Preparation

Step 1: How will dispersant be delivered to the instrument? How much?

Choose fill level  Wait time after  (s)

Step 2: Choose a circulation pump speed

Choose pump speed  Wait time after  (s)

Step 3: Choose a agitation stirrer speed.

Choose agitator speed  Wait time after  (s)

Step 4: Debubble the instrument?

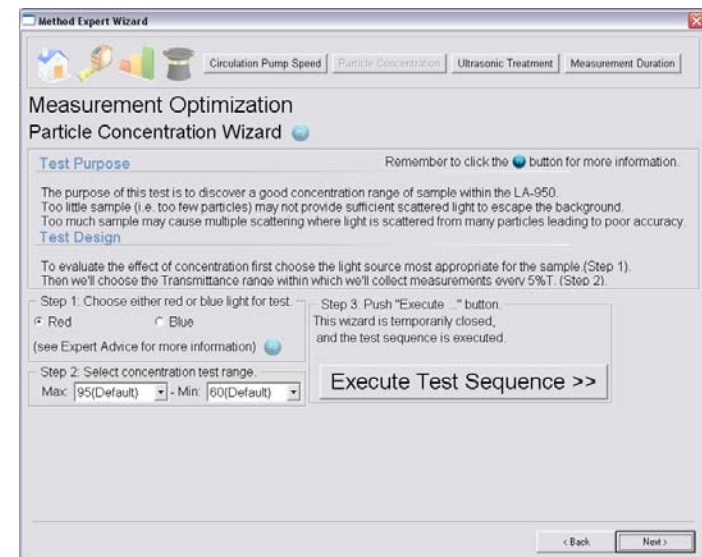
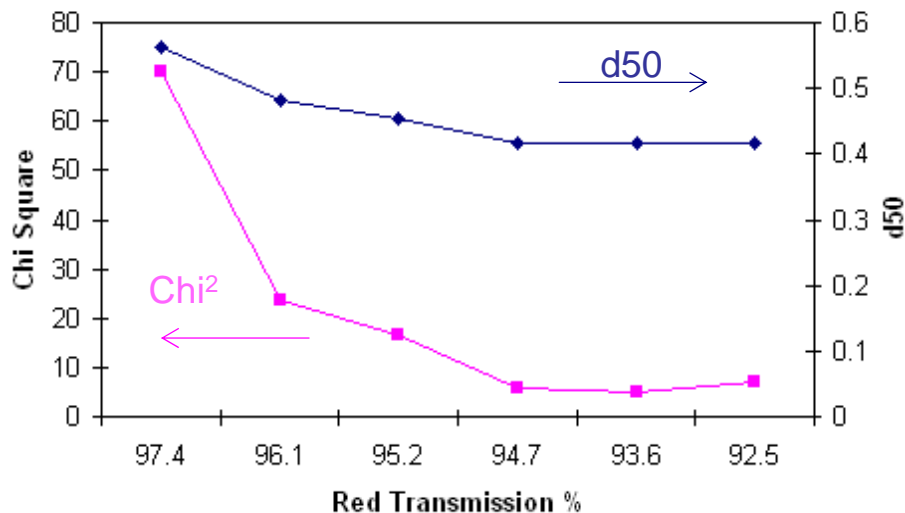
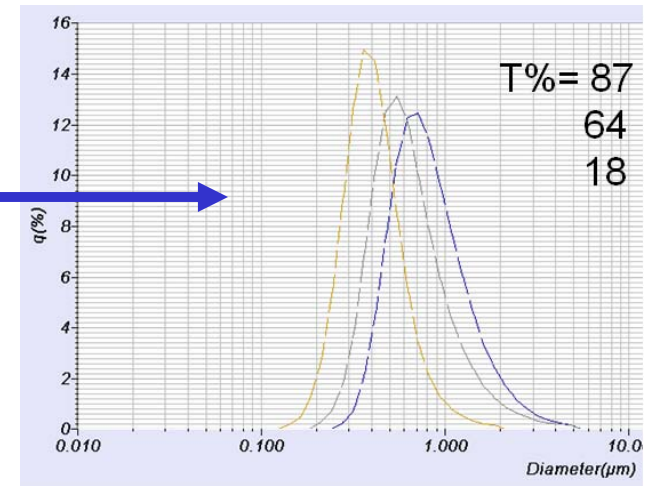
☐ No ☐ Yes Wait time after  (s)

Step 5: Blank check off instrument cleanliness?

☐ No ☐ Yes Wait time after  (s)

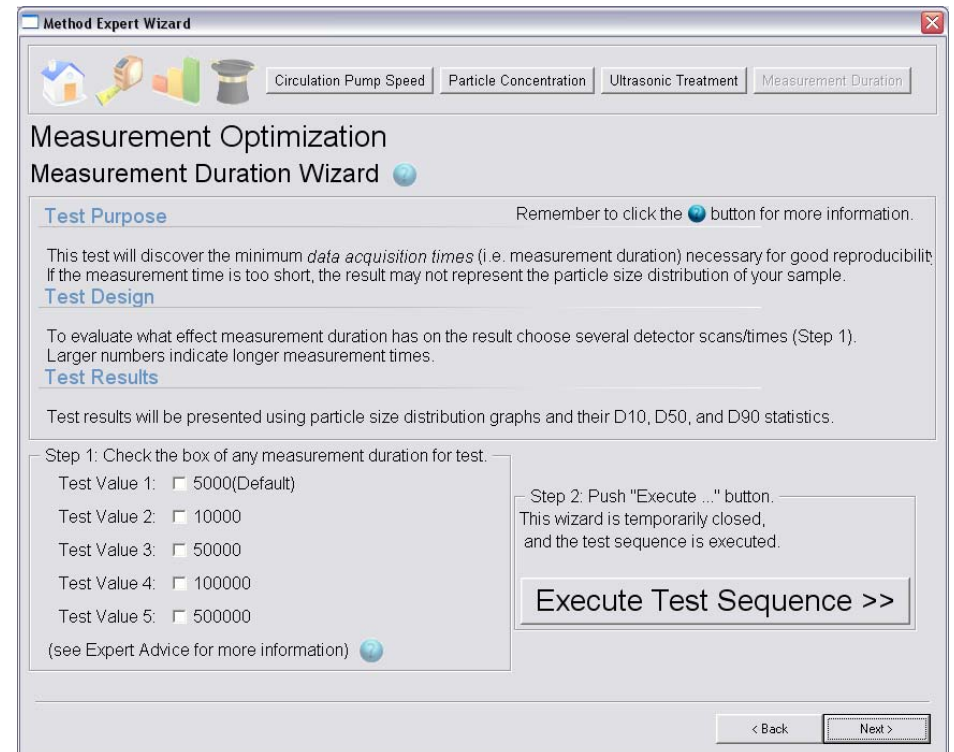
# Concentration

- High enough for good S/N ratio
- Low enough to avoid multiple scattering
- Typically 95 – 80 %T
- Measure at different T%, look at Chi Square calculation



# Measurement Duration

- Long enough for reproducibility
- Typically 5 sec, up to several minutes
- Longer time for large, broad distributions
- Can be automated in software
- Could be used for robustness testing during method validation





# Ultrasound

- Adding energy to break up agglomerates – disperse to primary particles, without breaking particles
- Similar to changing air pressure on dry powder feeder
- Typically set to 100% energy, vary time (sec) on
- Investigate tails of distribution
  - High end to see if agglomerates removed
  - Small end to see if new, smaller particles appear (breakage)
- Test reproducibility, consider robustness
- Note:
  - Do not use on emulsions
  - Can cause thermal mixing trouble w/solvents - wait
  - Use external probe if  $t > 2-5$  minutes



# Software Automation

- Level (power)
- Time on
- Iterations
- Delay
- Generate result graphs

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Method Expert Wizard" with a standard Windows-style title bar. Below the title bar is a toolbar with icons for a house, a test tube, a bar chart, and a beaker. To the right of the icons are four tabs: "Circulation Pump Speed", "Particle Concentration", "Ultrasonic Treatment" (which is currently selected), and "Measurement Duration".

The main content area is titled "Measurement Optimization" and "Ultrasonic Treatment Wizard". It contains several sections:

- Test Purpose:** A text box explaining the purpose of the test: "The purpose of this test will be to identify an appropriate ultrasonic (US) time and power for a specific material. Ultrasonic treatment can greatly improve particle dispersion thus improving both measurement accuracy and precision." A note at the top right says "Remember to click the [info icon] button for more information."
- Test Design:** A text box explaining the test procedure: "The test will collect three separate measurements using three different samplings. Each measurement run will consist of an 'as-is' measurement before any US is applied, then the US probe is turned on at the specified power (Step 3) for the specified amount of time (Step 1). After this interval time finishes another measurement will be collected. This cycle repeats until the total US time elapses (Step 2)."
- Test Results:** A text box stating: "The optimum US time and power will produce the best combination of sample dispersion and reproducibility."

Below these sections are four steps for configuration:

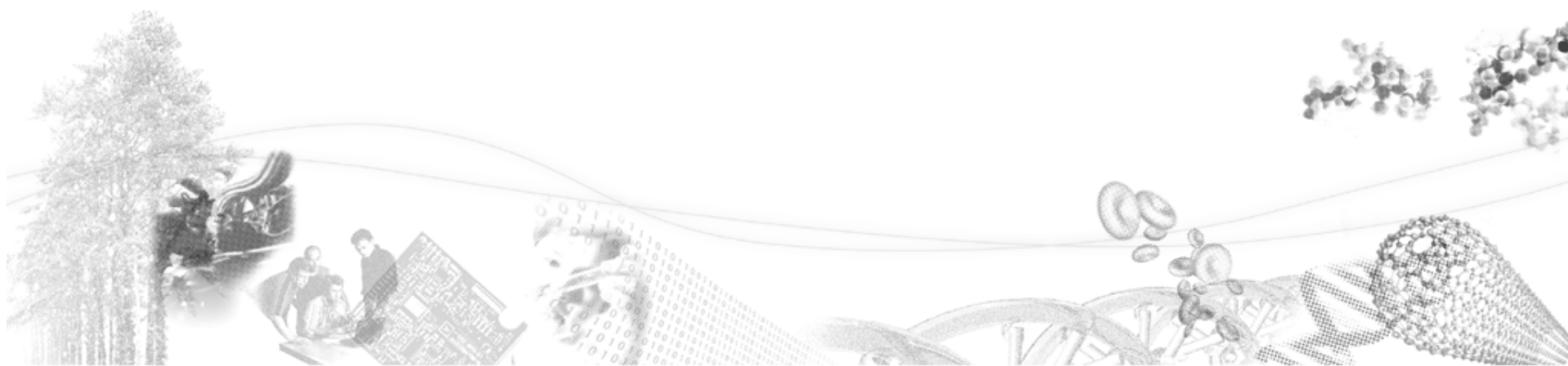
- Step 1:** "Select how much ultrasonic treatment time between each measurement." A dropdown menu shows "5" and "(sec)".
- Step 2:** "Select the total ultrasonic treatment time for the measurement set." A dropdown menu shows "1".
- Step 3:** "Select a power for the ultrasonic probe. (1 is weakest, 7 is strongest)" A dropdown menu shows "1".
- Step 4:** "Push 'Execute ...' button. This wizard is temporarily closed, and the test sequence is executed." A button labeled "Execute Test Sequence >>" is present.

At the bottom right of the window are two buttons: "< Back" and "Next >".



# Wet Method Development Case Study

Microcrystalline Cellulose

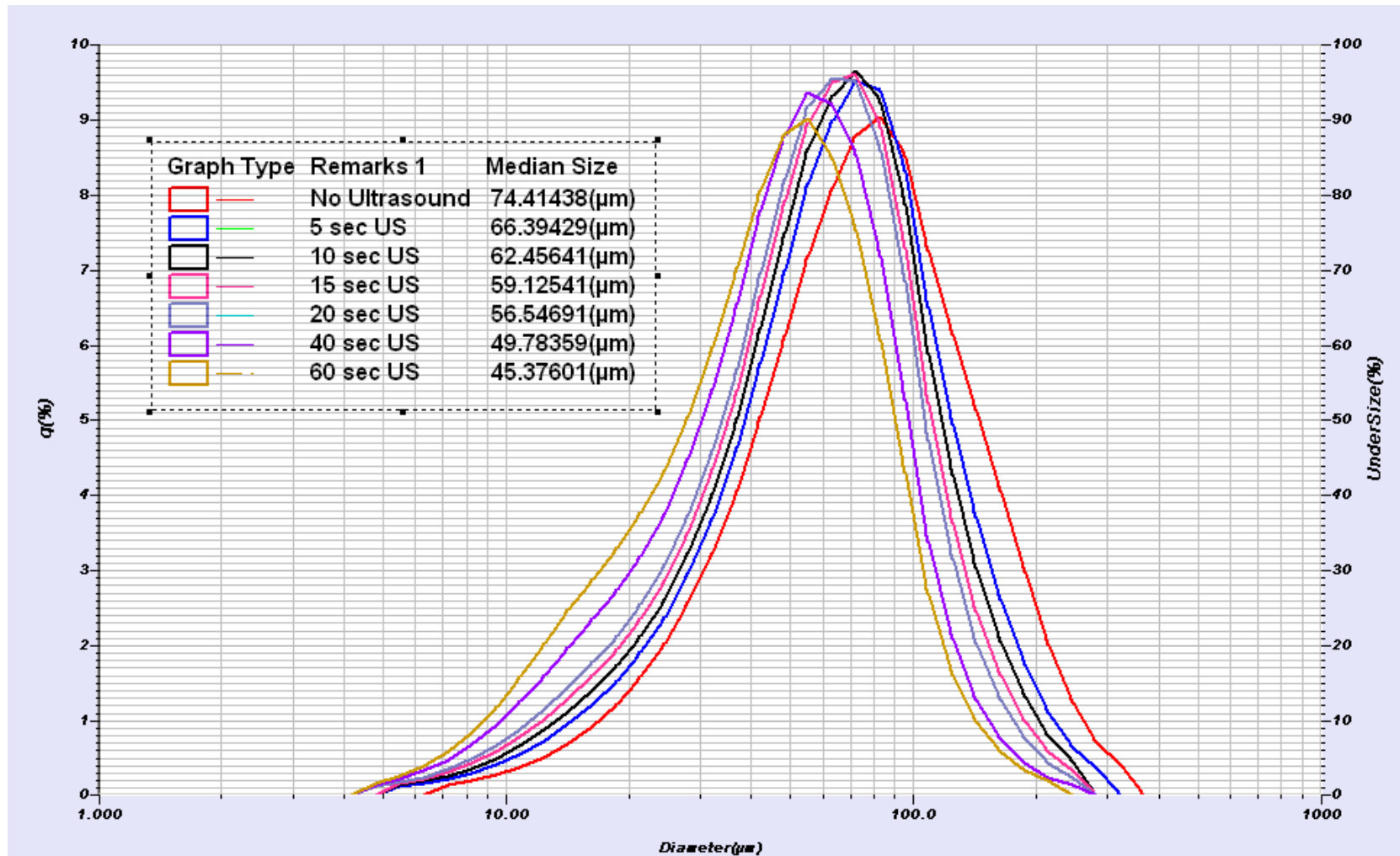


Explore the future

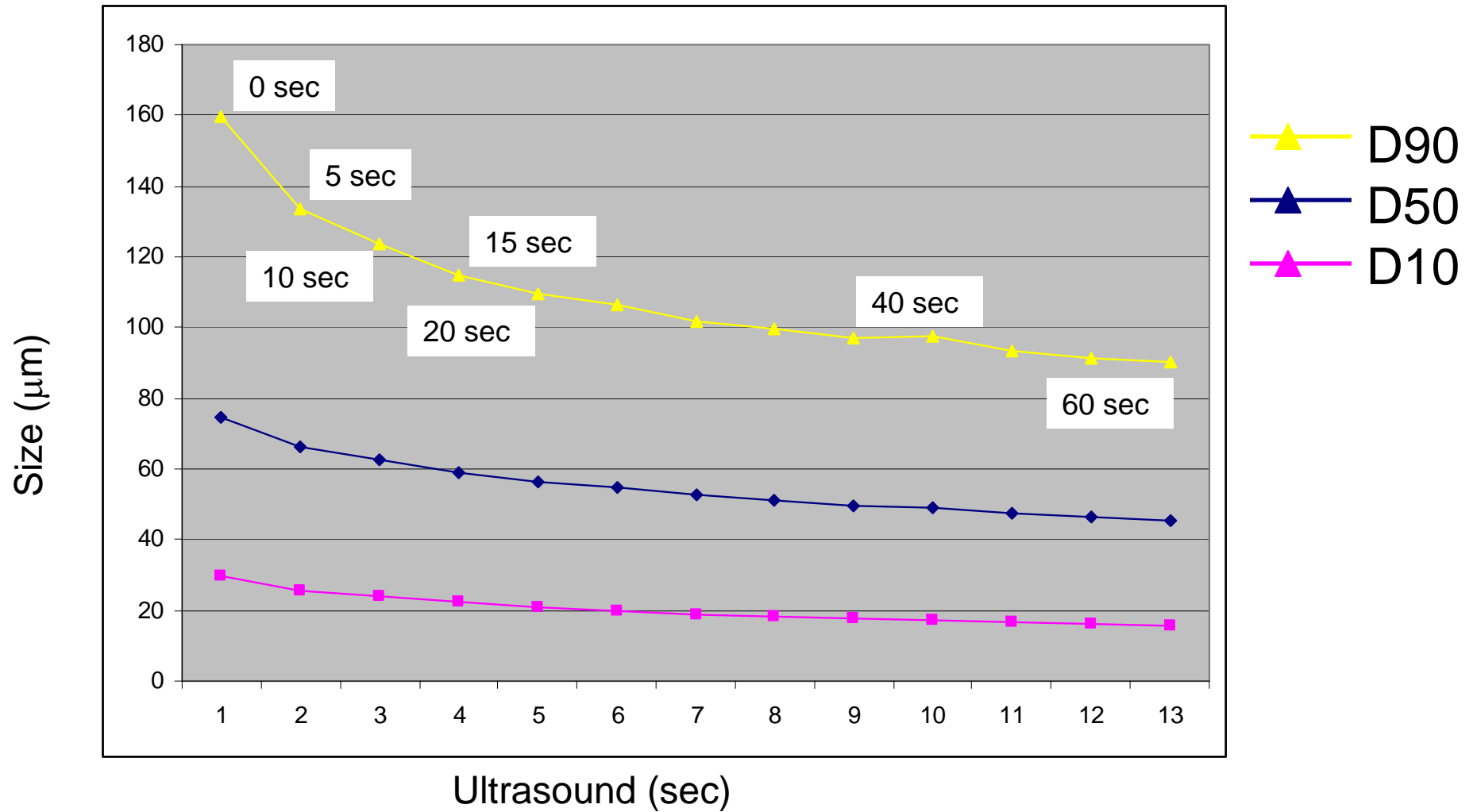
**HORIBA**

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# Effect of Ultrasound - MCC



# Effect of Ultrasound - MCC



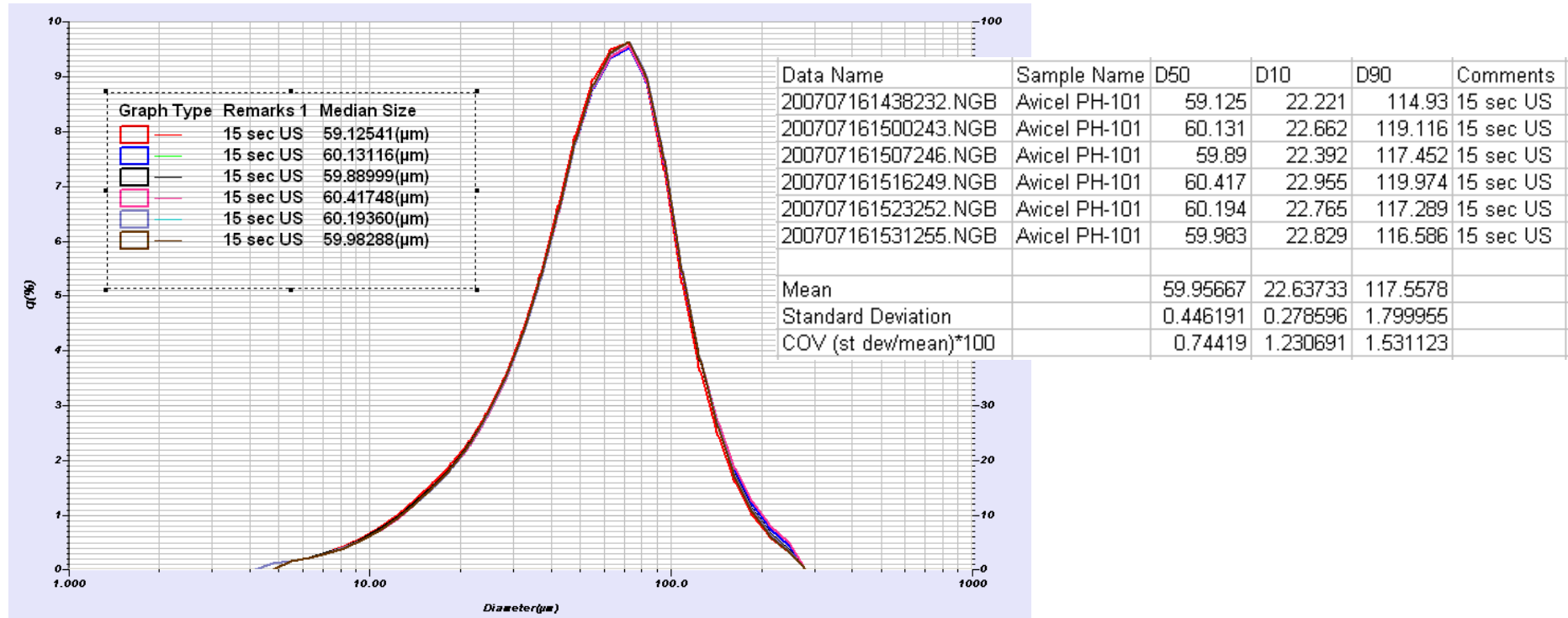
# Reproducibility – MCC wet

- ISO13320

- COV < 3% at median  $d_{50}$
- COV < 5% at  $d_{10}$  &  $d_{90}$

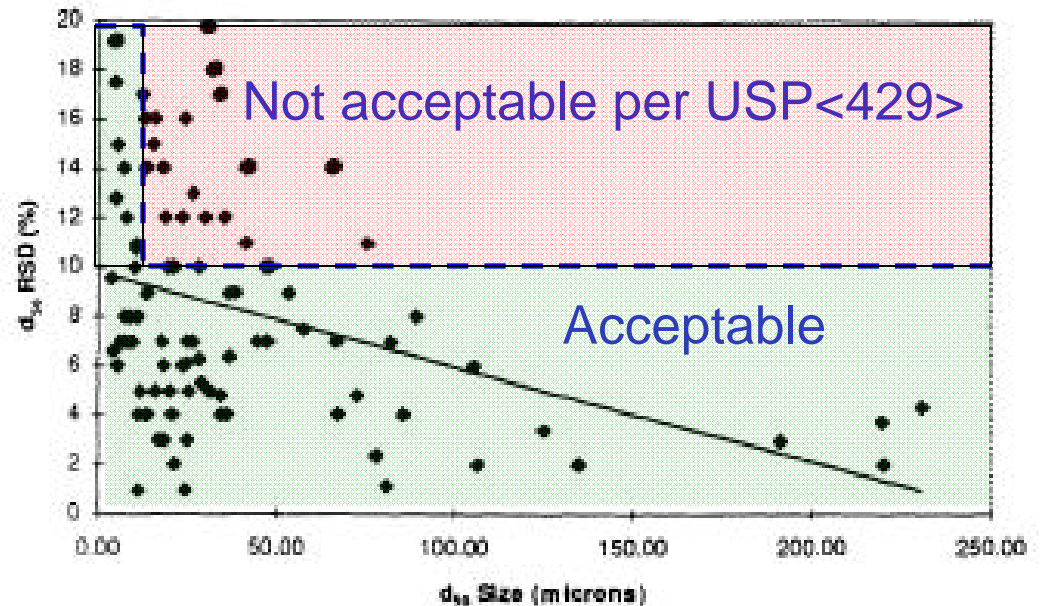
- USP<429>

- COV < 10% at median  $d_{50}$
- COV < 15% at  $d_{10}$  &  $d_{90}$



# Reproducibility\*

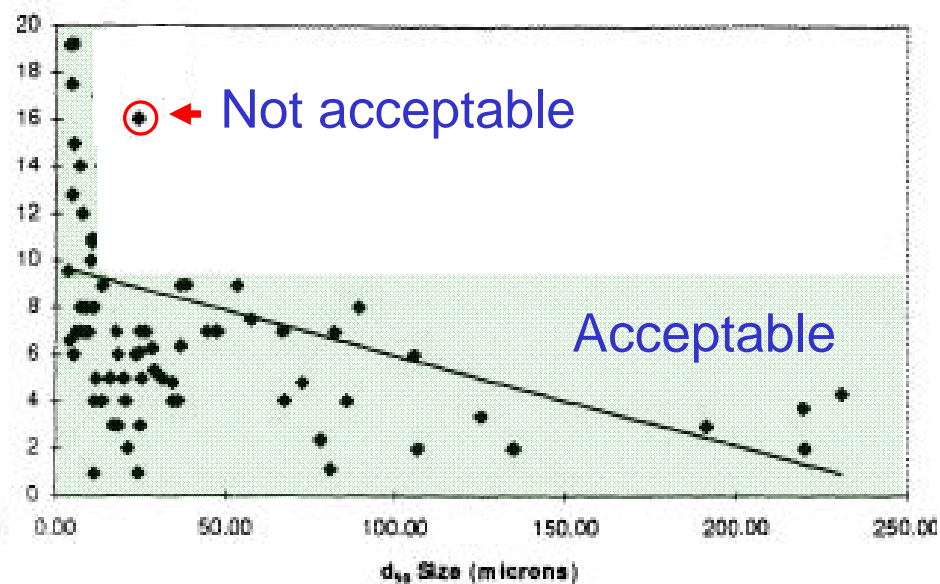
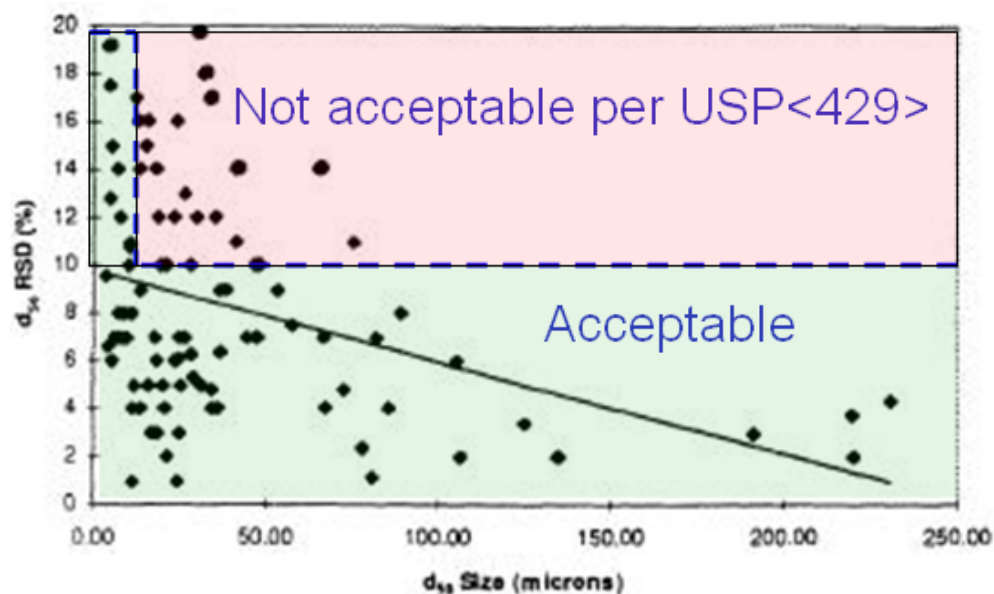
- 58 methods
- Image analysis for morphology
- Laser diffraction for PSD
- If RSD for  $d_{50} < 20\%$ , then acceptable for QC environment
- Note: RSD increases with decreasing size



\*Barber, Keuter, and Kravig, A Logical Stepwise Approach to Laser Diffraction Particle Size Distribution Analysis Methods Development and Validation Pharmaceutical Development and Technology, 3(2), 153-161 (1998)

# Sampler Selection

Remove points from not acceptable region using Fraction Cell



\*Barber, Keuter, and Kravig, A Logical Stepwise Approach to Laser Diffraction Particle Size Distribution Analysis Methods Development and Validation Pharmaceutical Development and Technology, 3(2), 153-161 (1998)



# Conclusions

- Must have representative sample
- Powders: select air pressure
- Suspensions: wet, disperse
- Check accuracy w/microscope
- Investigate system settings:  
concentration, agitation, ultrasound
- Design for maximum precision
- Follow guidelines in standards



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Boot Camp	Refractive Index	BC003	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Boot Camp	System Verification	BC004	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
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Cutting Edge	Laser Diffraction Performance	CE002	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
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# Thank-you

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