



What is the difference between weak and strong cation exchange for Ion Exchange columns – FAQ

An HPLC stationary phase is considered a weak cation exchanger when it has a functional group such as a carboxylic acid which proton does not come off (ionize) until around pH 4 or so.

Columns with sulfonic acid groups for example, are considered strong cation exchangers because they are essentially un-protonated (ionized) at any reasonable mobile phase pH for HPLC.



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MicroSolv Technology Corporation

9158 Industrial Blvd. NE, Leland, NC 28451

tel. (732) 380-8900, fax (910) 769-9435

Email: customers@mtc-usa.com

Website: www.mtc-usa.com

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