EXERCISE 1

Body in a Lab: Compound Identification

1

INTRODUCTION

Background

A body has been found in the lab!

The victim, Mr Blue, was known to have a heart condition but on the bench at the scene where the victim had been working a large bottle of concentrated acid had been upturned and spilt. All around this acid were different chemical bottles which also had been knocked over and may have mixed with the acid. A medicine bottle was also present with unknown tablets inside (Sample X - the tablets have been ground ready for analysis).

Objective

Try to establish cause of death by using infrared analysis to discover the functional groups present in the chemical samples collected. Decide if any of these are likely to be toxic or may have formed a lethal toxic gas on contact with the spilt acid. Establish the identity of the medicine found by library comparison of the spectra and suggest possible implications.

METHOD

You are provided unknown samples A – H and medicine sample X

1. Run a liquid film on all liquid samples.
2. Use the ATR attachment to run all solid samples. **(Note: Care must be taken with this expensive and fragile equipment, use only when supervised by a demonstrator).**

Interpretation of Spectra

To interpret the spectra obtained from a sample it is necessary to refer to correlation charts and tables of infrared data. There are many different tables available for reference, one of which has been provided - Introduction page 4.

3. Using the correlation chart provided interpret your spectra and identify the functional groups present in the chemical. Record your results in the table provided.

Identification of Unknown Compound

While IR spectroscopy is a very useful tool for identifying the functional groups in an unknown compound, it does not provide sufficient evidence to confirm the exact structure. Chemists make use of a variety of techniques in order to piece together the structure of a molecule.

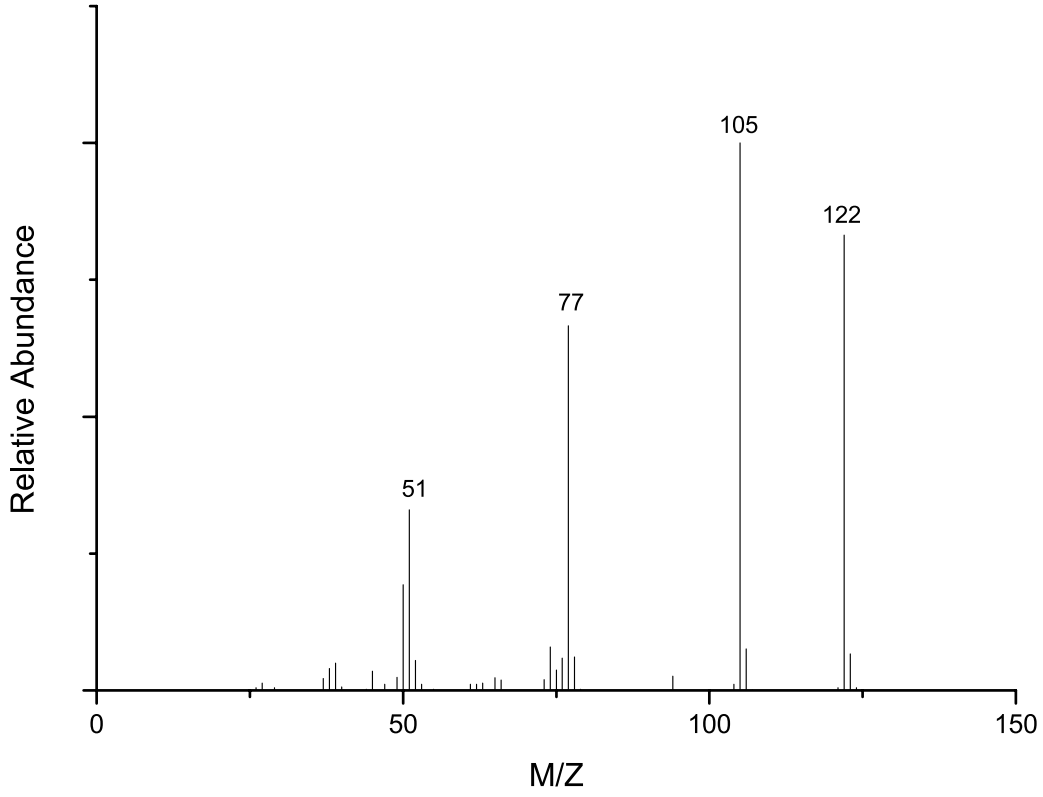
4. Use your interpreted IR spectra and the mass spectra provided to determine the structure of all unknown compounds.
5. Identify any chemicals that you think may be toxic or where the functional group may possibly release a toxic gas on contact with an acid.
6. Suggest what other instrumental technique or techniques would be required to confirm the identity of the chemicals. (Your demonstrator will then be able to provide you with additional data for confirmation of analysis).
7. Identify sample X by using the library spectra.

IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN COMPOUNDS

Use interpreted IR spectra and mass spectra below to determine the structure of the unknown compounds

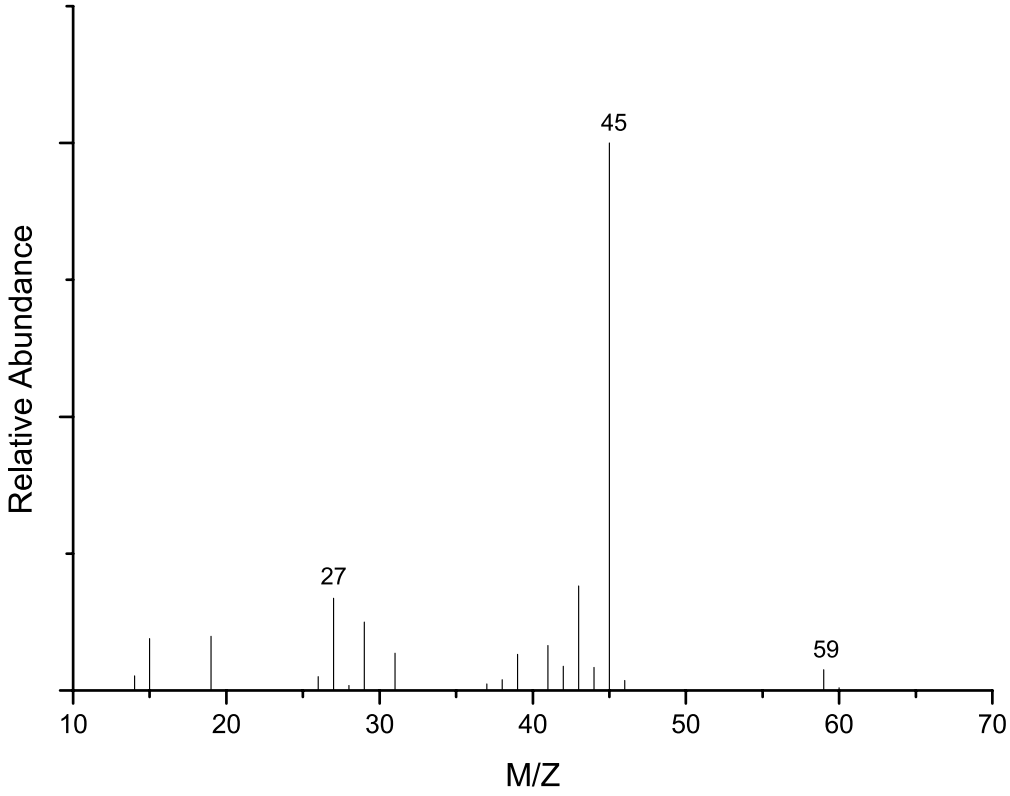
Sample A

Empirical Formula C7H6O2



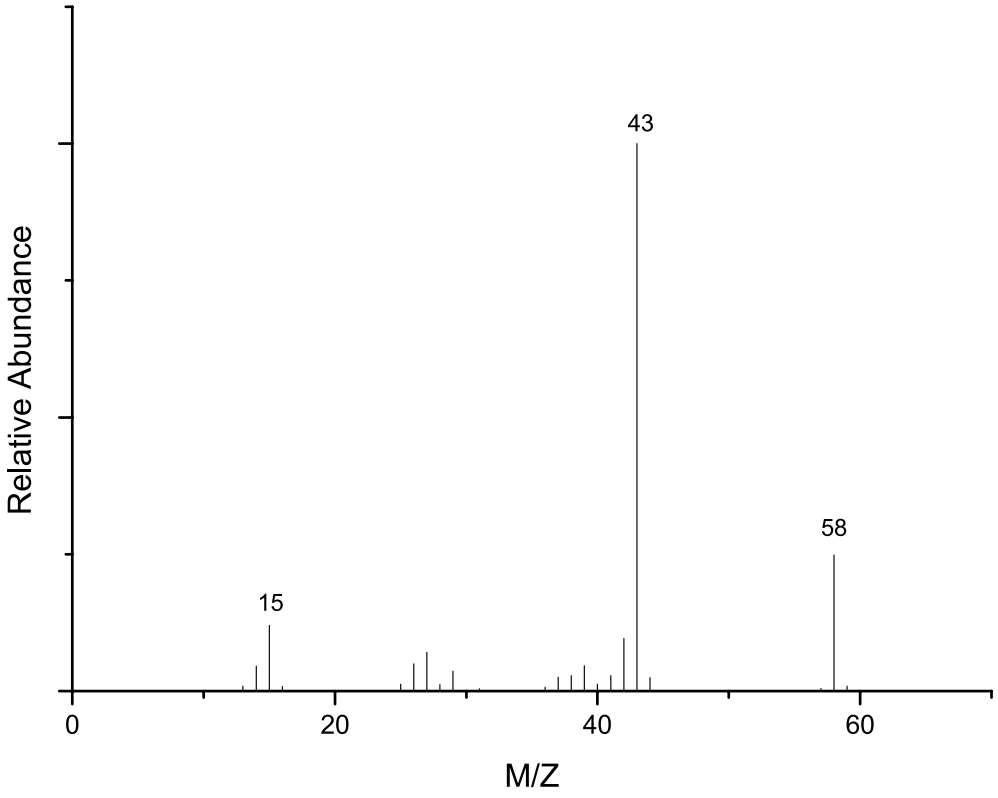
Sample B

Empirical Formula C3H8O



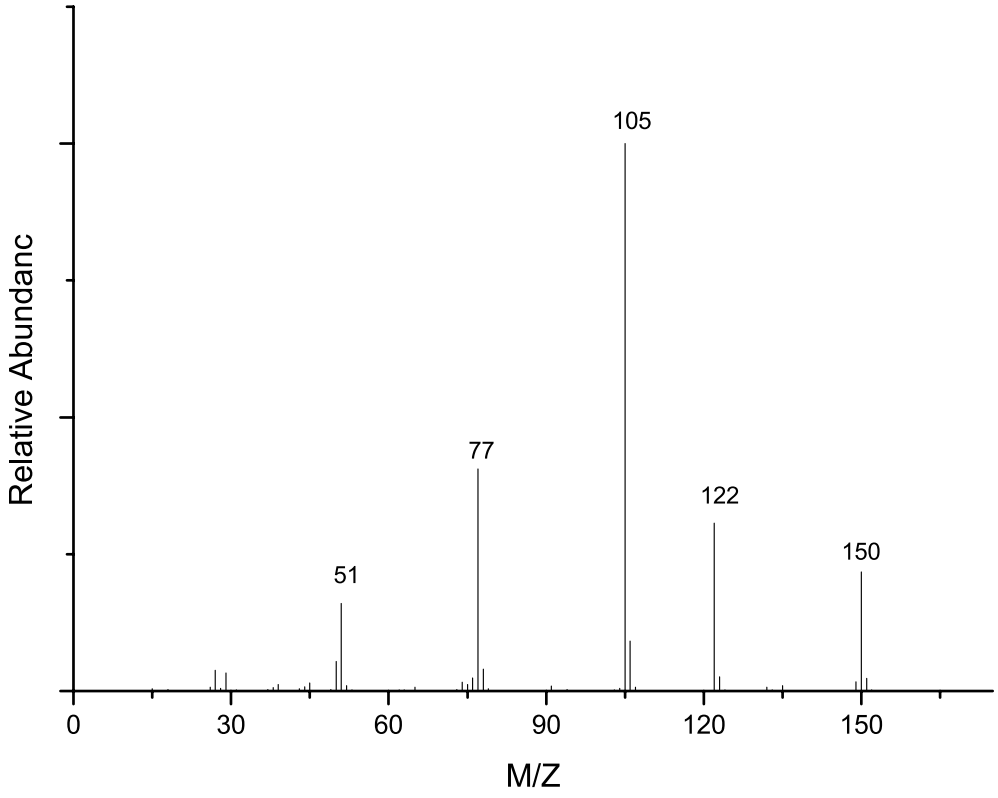
Sample C

Empirical Formula C3H6O



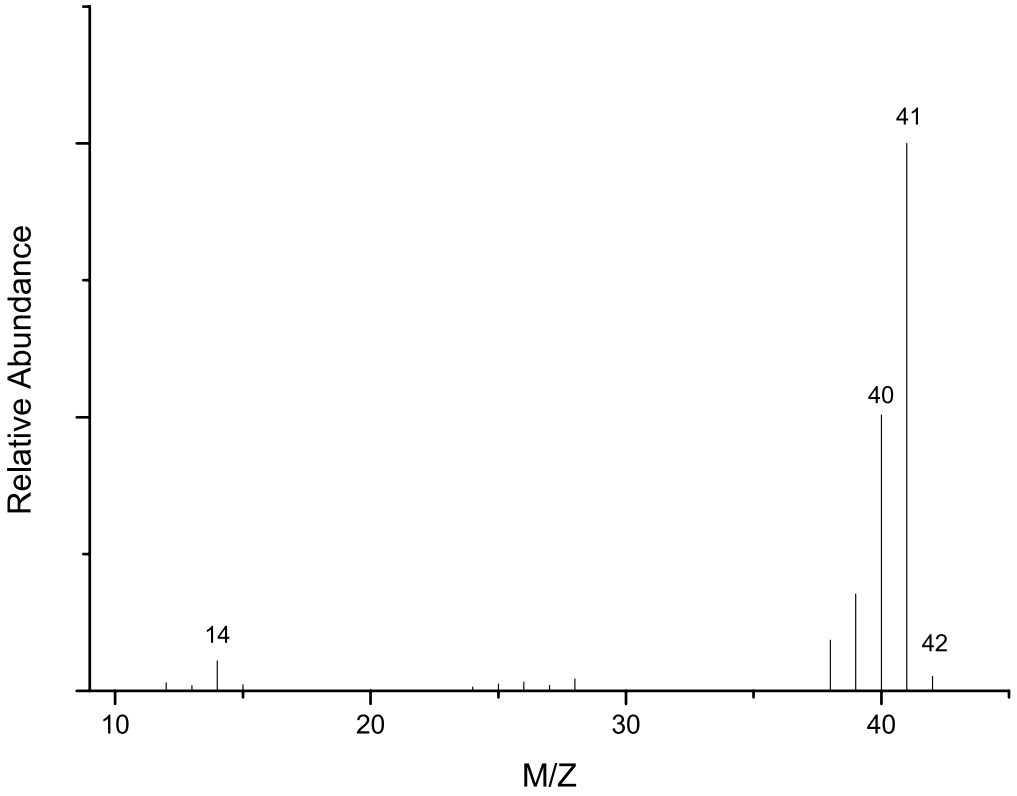
Sample D

Empirical Formula C9H10O2



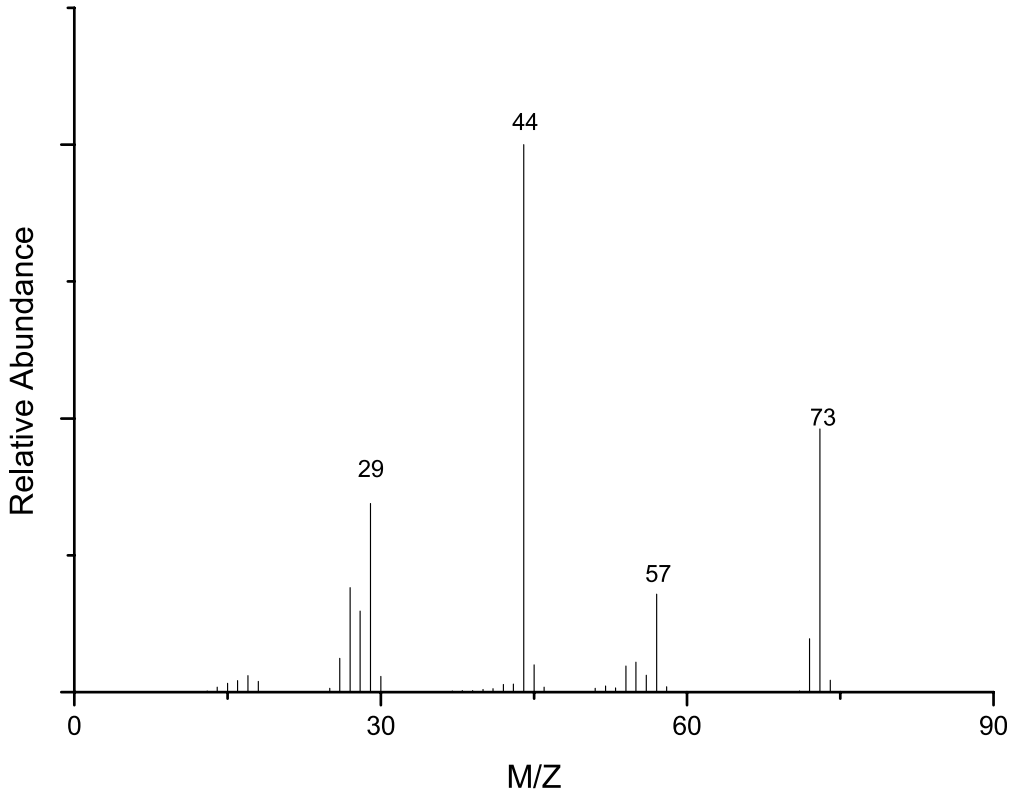
Sample E

Empirical Formula C2H3N



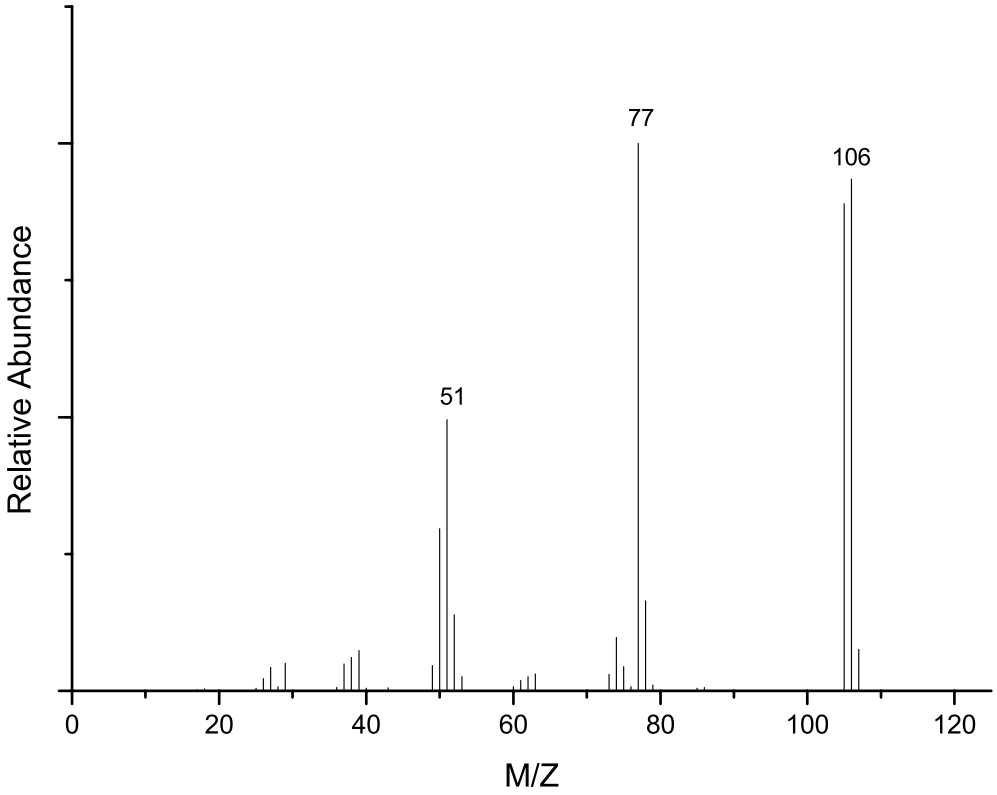
Sample F

Empirical Formula C3H7NO



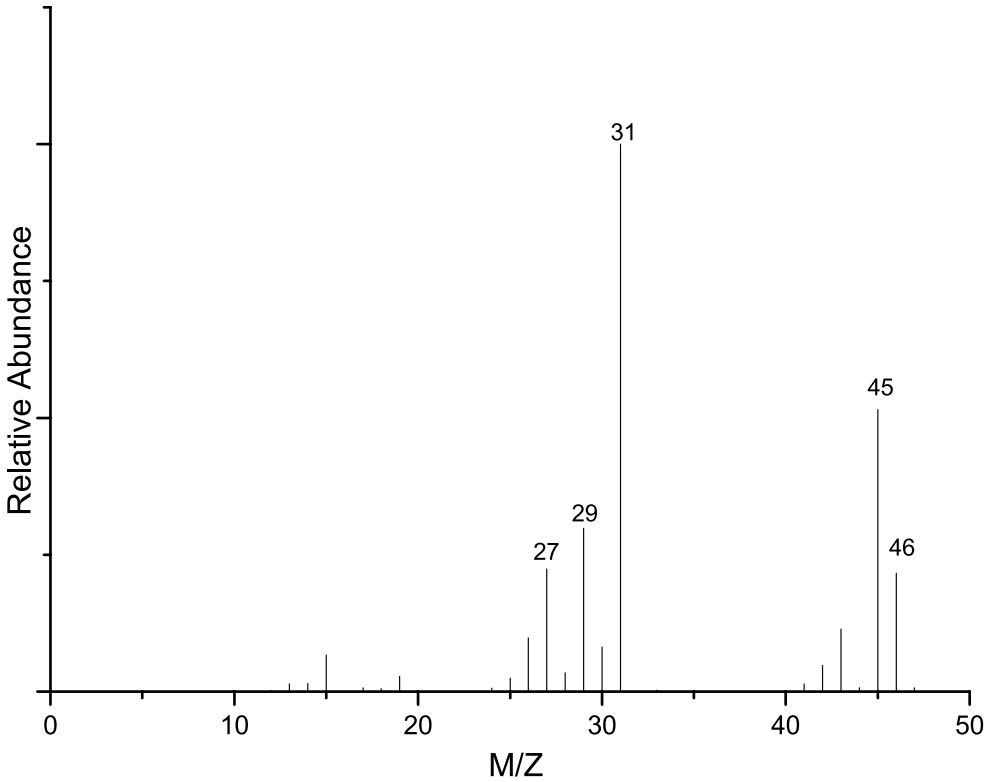
Sample G

Empirical Formula C7H6O



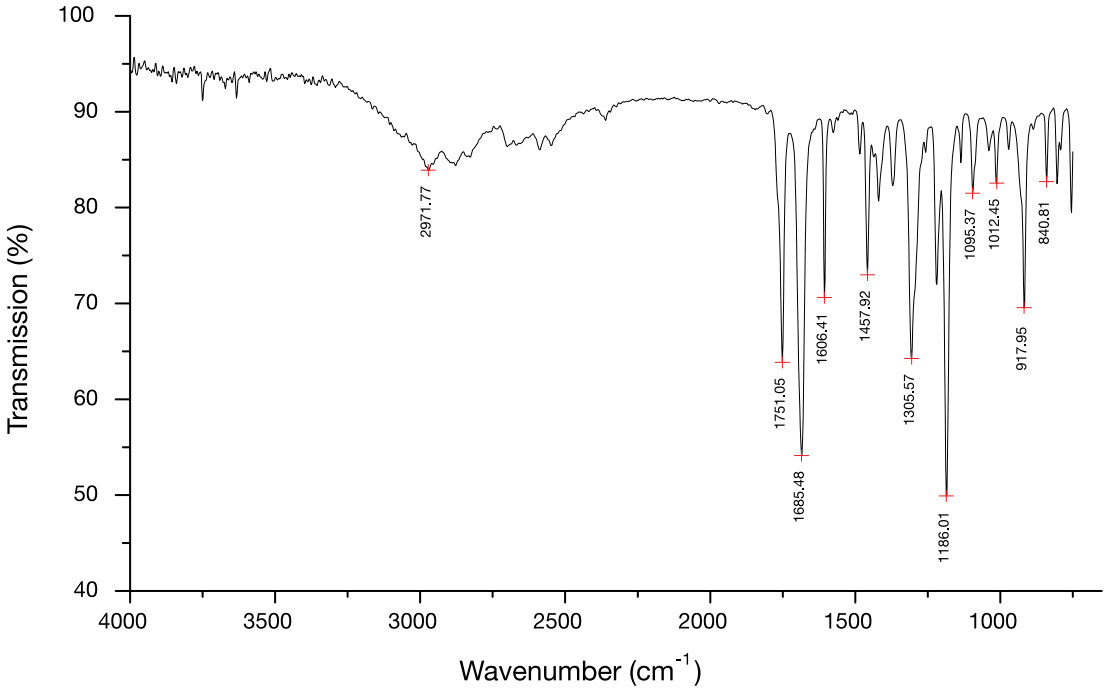
Sample H

Empirical Formula C2H6O



Sample X

Infra Red Spectrum



Mass Spectrum

Empirical Formula C9H8O4