

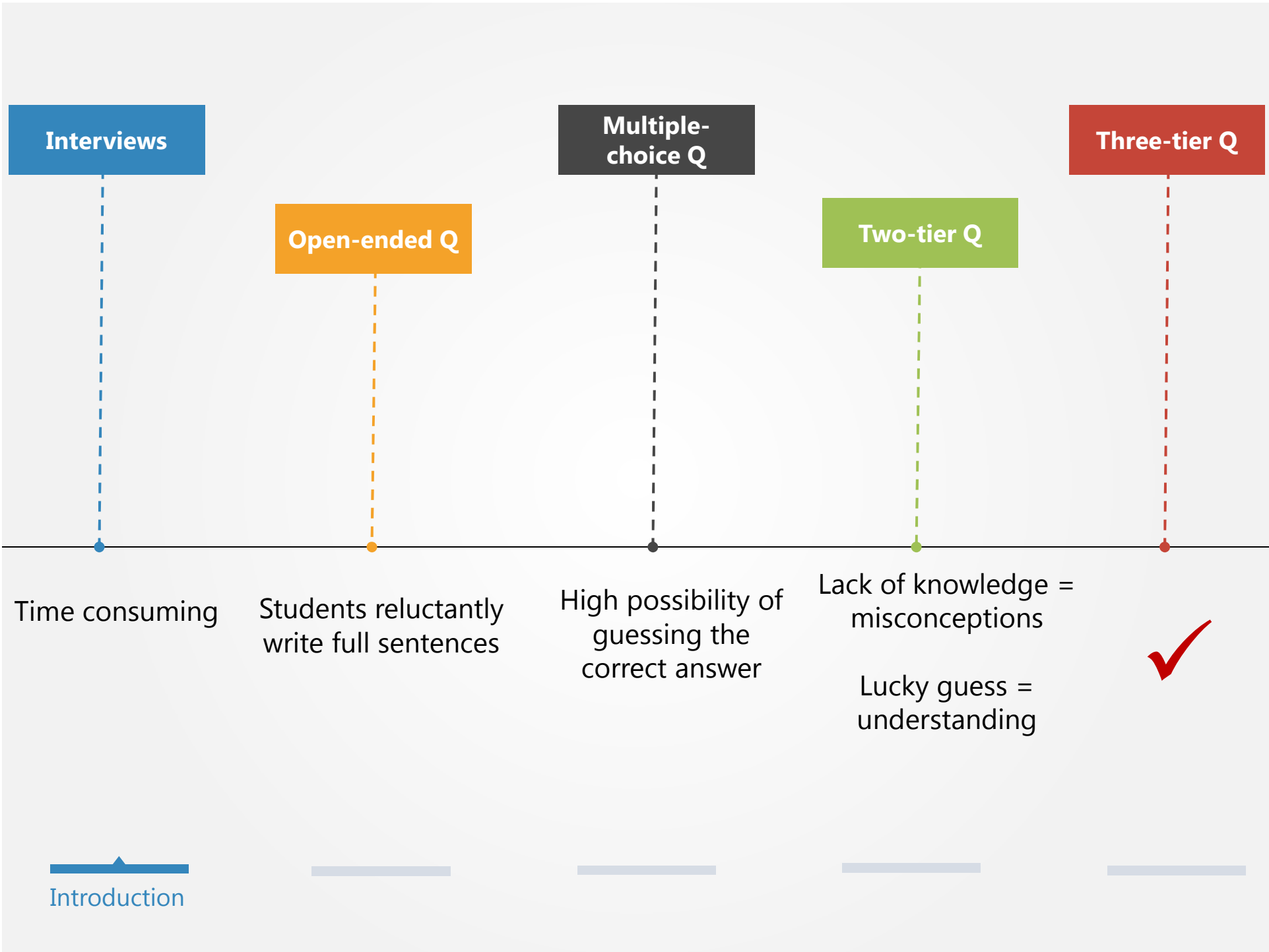
**13th European Conference on Research in Chemical Education**

**APPLICATION OF THREE-TIER TEST TO  
ASSESS STUDENTS' MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LIPIDS**

**Dušica D. Milenković, Tamara N. Hrin, Mirjana D. Segedinac, Saša Horvat**

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, R. Serbia

Barcelona, 2016



## ● Objectives

- Development of a three-tier instrument
- Validation of instrument
- Comparison of the effectiveness of 3-tier, 2-tier and common multiple choice test

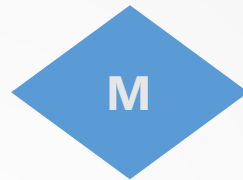
## ● Participants

- 40 students
- Secondary school, III grade: Technician for Industrial Pharmaceutical Technology
- 17-18 years old

## ● Instrument

- 10 items
- Each item has 3 tiers:
  - (i) Content tier,
  - (ii) reasoning tier,
  - (iii) confidence tier

# Data Interpretation



**Scientific knowledge**

Correct, Correct, Yes

**Lucky guess**

Correct, Correct, No

**Misconceptions**

Correct, Incorrect, Yes  
Incorrect, Correct, Yes  
Incorrect, Incorrect, Yes

**Lack of knowledge**

Correct, Incorrect, No  
Incorrect, Correct, No  
Incorrect, Incorrect, No

# AssuranceParameters

## ◆ Reliability

FT=0.629  
BT=0.721  
AT=0.826

## ◆ Item difficulty

FT=0.51  
BT=0.35  
AT=0.22

## ◆ Item discrimination

Ranging from: 0.15-0.77  
Average 0.51 (excellent discrimination)

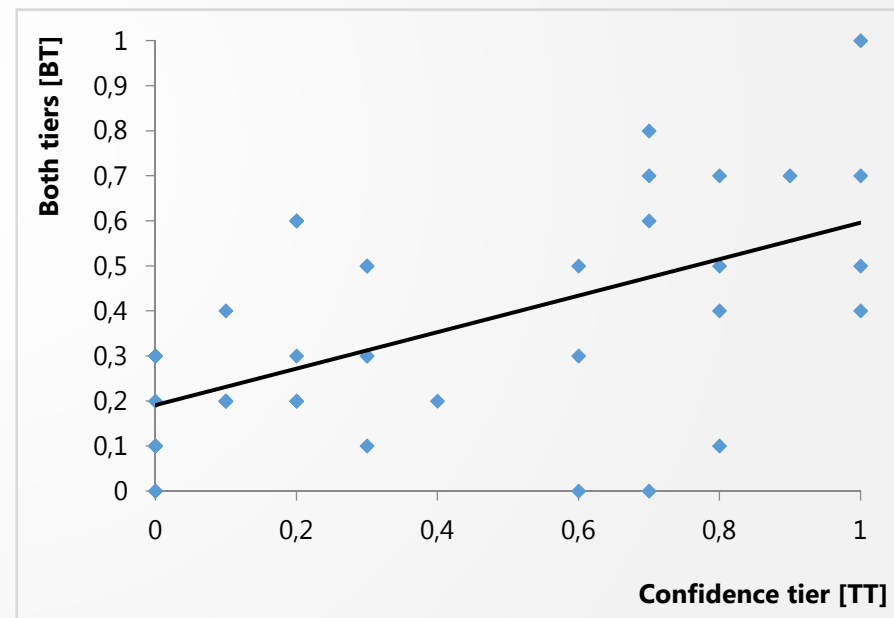
## ◆ Validity

### Content validity

%FP <10  
%FN <10

### Construct validity

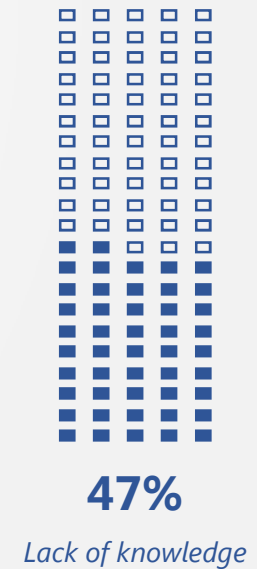
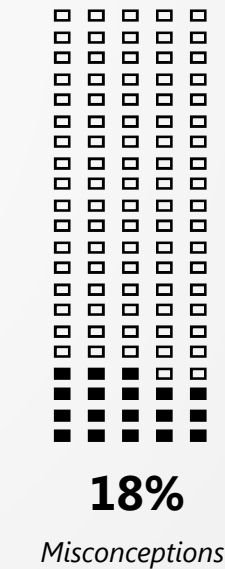
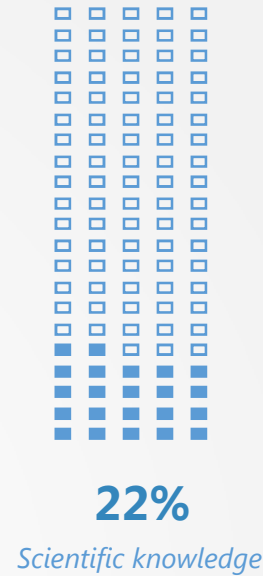
$r=0.58$   
 $p=0.00$



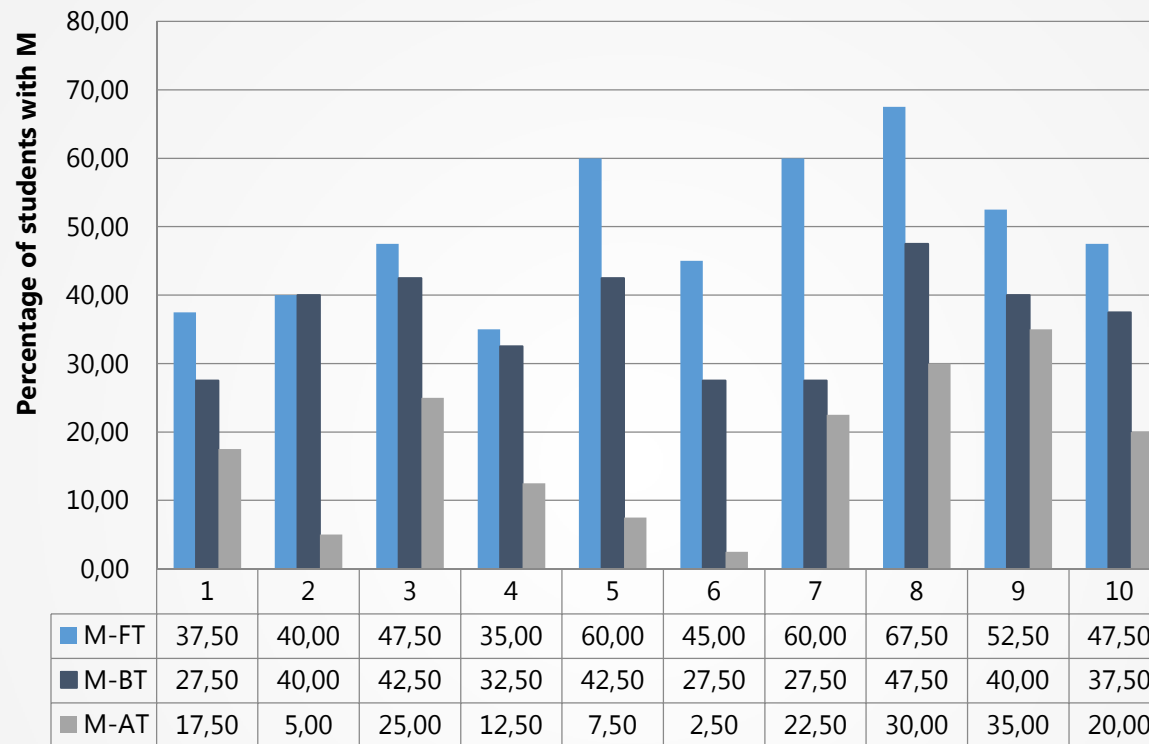
**Figure 1.** Correlation between BT and TT scores

# Main Statistics

Q	SK	LG	LK	M
1	20.00	22.50	40.00	17.50
2	40.00	5.00	50.00	5.00
3	22.50	20.00	32.50	25.00
4	40.00	20.00	27.50	12.50
5	30.00	5.00	57.50	7.50
6	27.50	15.00	55.00	2.50
7	10.00	10.00	57.50	22.50
8	5.00	10.00	55.00	30.00
9	12.50	7.50	45.00	35.00
10	15.00	15.00	50.00	20.00
<b>Mean</b>	<b>22.25</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>47.00</b>	<b>17.75</b>



# MainStatistics



**Figure 2.** Analysis of misconceptions by tiers

## ItemExample

### Item No. 8.

*Circle the letter of the correct answer. Which of the following acids has the highest melting point?*

- a) Stearic acid
- b) Linolenic acid
- c) Butyric acid
- d) Oleic acid

*The reason for your answer is:*

- a) Molecules of the selected acid contain the largest number of carbon-carbon double bonds, which makes them very rigid.
- b) Molecules of the selected acid contain the smallest number of carbon atoms, and therefore they are densely packed.
- c) Each molecule of the selected acid contain only one carbon-carbon double bond, allowing them to stack together efficiently.
- d) Molecules of the selected acid are long chains with no carbon-carbon double bonds and due to their spatial orientation there are the strongest Van der Waals forces between them.

*Are you sure of your answers?*

- a) Yes
- b) No



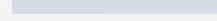
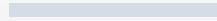
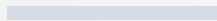
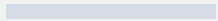
## Conclusions and **Limitations**

- Designed three-tier test is a valid and reliable instrument for identification of misconceptions.
- Designed three-tier test provides better results in comparison to two-tier and common multiple-choice tests.
- Significance:
  - (i) three-tier test is applied on chemistry contents
- Limitation:

Students evaluate certainty in answers given in the first and second tiers simultaneously.

# ThankYou

dusica.milenkovic@dh.uns.ac.rs



Acknowledgement