

supplying pneumatic nebulization gas flow to the ES probe, a simple and inexpensive solvent delivery system can be employed.

[0049] ES probe assembly 120 axis 137 shown in FIG. 6 is positioned at an angle of 70 degrees,  $\phi_{120}=70^\circ$ , from ES source centerline 131. ES probe assembly 120 is configured with three layer ES probe tip 121 having sample solution inlet 132, layered flow solution inlet 138 and nebulization gas inlet 136. A diagram cross section of ES probe tip 121 is shown in FIG. 13. Liquid sample enters bore 88 of first layer tube 80 through transfer line 132. A second solution can be added through transfer line 138 into annulus 84 between tubes 80 and 81 and this solution forms a sheath liquid surrounding and mixing with the sample solution at exit end 86 in region 87. Nebulizer or corona suppression gas can be introduced to ES probe tip 121 through gas delivery or transfer line 136 into annulus 83 between tubes 81 and 82. Liquid layering of solutions in region 87 at the tip of three layer ES probes has been used to interface LC, CE or CEC separation systems to ES sources. When interfacing to CE, CEC or microbore LC columns, sample introduction tube 80 may actually be the CE, CEC or LC column itself. The second layer solution flow may also be used to add a calibration compounds to the sample solution exiting from tube 86 of ES probe tip 121. The resulting mass spectrum acquired from such a mixed solution spray would contain an internal standard. The calibration solution could be started or stopped by turning on or off the liquid delivery system supplying solution through transfer line 138. The introduction of a calibration solution in this manner avoids contaminating the original sample solution source but still necessitates mixing of solutions in region 87 prior to spraying. The calibration components in the resulting mixture may effect the Electrospray ionization efficiency of the sample compounds present thus causing peak height distortion in the acquired mass spectrum. The relative positioning of the exit ends of tubes 80 and 81 can effect the relative intensity of ion populations layered from the two solutions produced in the Electrospraying process. The layered liquid flow can also be used to introduce a different solvent system to study ion-neutral interactions in a multiple probe spray mixture. A range of solution compositions can be combined in the liquid phase using the three layer probe tip assembly shown in FIG. 13 if required in an analytical application. A four layer variation of the three layer probe shown in FIG. 13 can be operated such that no liquid mixing occurs by separating the liquid solution layers with nebulizer or corona suppression gas. For example, a four layer probe tip embodiment can have liquid solution delivered through the innermost tube one, nebulizer gas supplied through the annulus between tubes one and two, a second liquid solution delivered through the annulus between tubes two and three and a nebulizer gas supplied through the annulus between tubes 3 and 4. Alternatively, gas can be supplied through the innermost tube one with a liquid, gas and liquid layering. Three or more liquid solutions can be layered where some of the solutions delivered through separate layers are mixed in the liquid state as they emerge from the layered tip similar to the solution mixing shown in FIG. 13. Layered liquid flow allows the introduction of additional solutions through one or more Electrospray probes, and can serve as a means of interfacing ES with one or more separation systems such as CE, CEC and LC.

[0050] ES probe tip 123 is configured as a two layer probe, shown in FIG. 12, with calibration solution 145 supplied from reservoir 144. With little or no pressure head or gravity feed applied, calibration solution 145 can be pulled from reservoir 144 using the venturi suction effect of the nebulizing gas applied at ES probe tip 123. Calibration solution 144 can be sprayed from ES tip 123 when nebulization gas flow is applied through gas delivery tube 128. Solution delivery tube 139 can be initially filled with solution by applying head pressure to reservoir 144, by gravity feed from reservoir 144 or by turning on the nebulizing gas ES probe tip 123. Once solution delivery tube 129 and the inner tube of ES tip 123 are filled with calibration solution, any head pressure in the attached reservoir is relieved and, with no gravity feed applied, the liquid flow through solution delivery tube 129 can be started and stopped by turning the nebulizing gas flow to ES tip 123 on and off. Calibration solution can be selectively sprayed from ES probe tip 123 individually or simultaneously with a sample solution Electro sprayed from ES probe tip 121. Alternatively, solution can be delivered to ES probe tip 123 using a syringe pump, liquid chromatography system or other liquid delivery system. Solution flow to ES probe tip 123 can then be turned on or off by turning the solvent delivery system flow on or off.

[0051] The x-y-z and angular positions of ES probe tips 121 and 123 relative ES source axis 131 and capillary entrance 148 as shown in FIG. 6 may be adjusted to optimize ES performance while spraying from single ES probes individually or from two ES probes simultaneously. The rotational position of ES tip 121 around ES probe assembly axis 137 is adjusted with positioning knobs 133 and 134. The position of ES tip 121 along the axis of ES tip 121 is adjusted by turning knob 135. Similarly, the rotational and axial position of ES tip 123 is adjusted with positioning knobs 125, 126 and 127 respectively. ES probe tip positions may require adjustment to optimize ES performance for given liquid flow rates and solution or sample types. Once optimized for individual or simultaneous spraying, the probe positions can remain fixed during ES operation. For the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1 and 6, a portion of each ES probe assembly is located outside the ES source chamber housing. This allows full adjustment of x-y-z and angular position while operating the ES source to achieve optimal performance. ES probe assemblies 120 and 122 as diagrammed in FIG. 6 also allow adjustment of the relative layered tube exit tip positions. For example, adjustment of nut 149 will move the inner tube 80 exit 86 position, as shown in FIG. 13, along the axis of ES probe tip 121 relative to the second and third layer tube exit positions. The relative position of innermost tube exit end 73 as shown in FIG. 12 can be adjusted using nut 150 for optimizing the nebulizing gas performance at ES tip 123. These ES tip adjustments allow for optimization of layered liquid flow and/or gas nebulization tube tip positions while operating the ES source. Different liquid flow rates can be delivered through ES probe tips 121 and 123 during simultaneous Electro spraying from both ES probe tips. The solution flow rate range used for ES applications extends from below 25 nanoliters per minute to over 2 milliliters per minute. For a 25 to 1,000 nanoliters per minute range of liquid flow rates, a single layer flow through or replaceable micro Electro spray probe tip can be configured to replace two layer ES probe tip 123 in ES source 130. Unassisted Electro spray operation can be conducted from ES probe tips individually