

“Hydrocarbon Index” : A fully miniaturised and automated method



Summary



- I. **Presentation of traditional analytical method**
 1. Definition according to standard NF EN 9377-2
 2. Protocol used in the laboratory

- II. **What interests to migrate to a Gerstel automated system ?**
 1. Undeniable advantages
 2. Possible locks
 3. The different stages of miniaturization considered
 4. The final method

- III. **Problems encountered during development and how to fix it**
 1. Discrimination of light hydrocarbons
 2. Various and varied contaminations

- IV. **Finalized method and validation**
 1. Operating conditions
 2. NF T 90-210 standard

- V. **Conclusions and Outlooks**

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Hydrocarbons what is it?

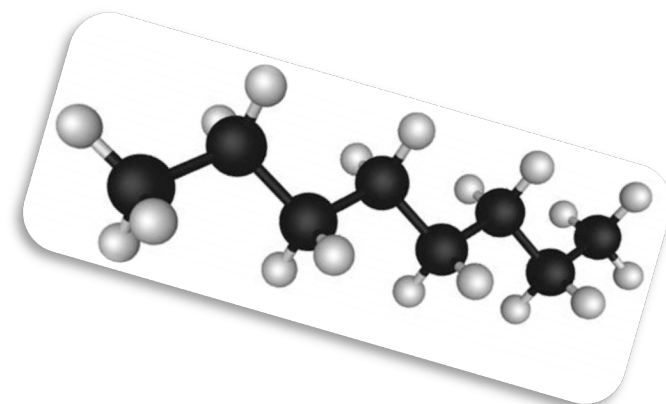


A **Hydrocarbon** is an organic compound containing exclusively carbon (**C**) and hydrogen (**H**) atoms. They consequently have a formula of type: C_nH_m

1. Apolar compounds (hydrophobic, lipophilic)
2. Linear aliphatics saturated or not (alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, ...)
3. Branched aliphatics (methyl propane, ...)
4. Alicyclic (cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclohexene, ...)
5. Aromatic (benzene, PAHs, ...)
6. Substituted alkyl aromatics (methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, etc. group)



The so-called "volatile"
hydrocarbons between C₅ and
C₁₀ are not included
(standard XPT 90-124)



EN ISO 9377-2 standard of December 2000

1. Set of compounds extractable by a solvent or a mixture whose BP is between 36 and 69 ° C.
2. Substances not absorbed on Florisil®
3. Retention time between C10 and C40
4. 2 different types A and B of mineral oils containing no additive:

"Type A must show discrete peaks on the chromatogram (eg a Diesel)"

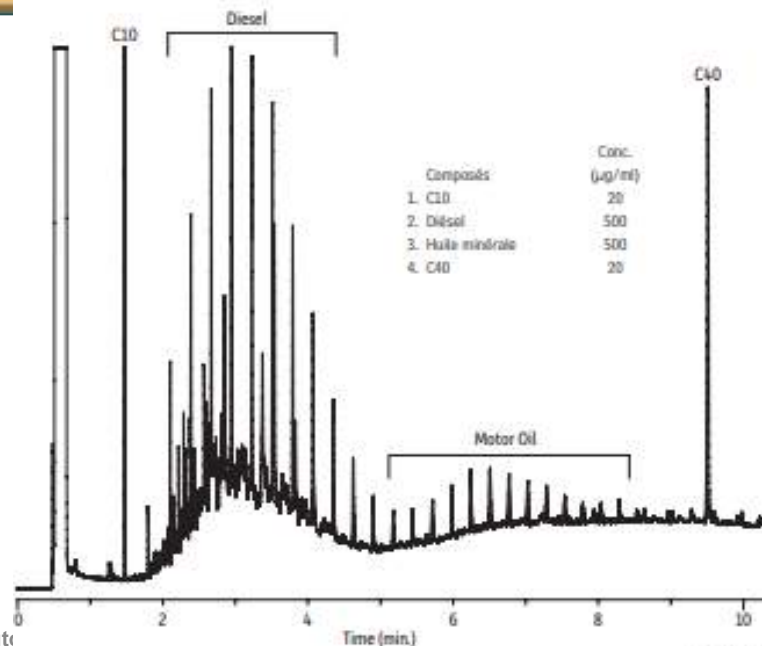
"Type B must have a boiling range > Type A and with unresolved signals and of which 325 ° C <BP <460 ° C (eg lubricating/motor oil)"



Restek Rtx Mineral Oil
30m x 0,32mm x 0,15µm

- Low bleeding
- Very good resolution
- Robustness

Analyse de carburant diesel et d'huile minérale avec la colonne Rtx®-Mineral Oil



Column Rtx®-Mineral Oil, 15 m, 0.32 mm ID, 0.10 µm (cat.# 318079) using 1P Deactivated Guard Column 2 m, 0.32 mm ID
Sample Diesel #2/Motor Oil (cat.# 31682)
Extraction Solvent Stock #2 (cat.# 31680)
Solution #2 (cat.# 31680)
Diluent: Hexane/methylcyclohexane
Injection
Inj. Vol.: 1.0 µL direct
Inj. Temp.: 58 °C
Oven
Oven Temp.: 55 °C (hold 1.0 min.) to 380 °C at 100 °C/min. (hold 6.0 min.)
Carrier Gas: H₂, constant flow
Linear Velocity: 40 cm/sec.
Detector: FID @ 380 °C
Make-up Gas
Flow Rate: 30 mL/min.
Make-up Gas
Type: N₂
Instrument Agilent/HP6890 GC
Notes Direct cool on-column injection, programmed by oven tracking.
Actual guard column length used in application was 2 m.

Veolia's Lab

CAE Laboratory

Saint Maurice
(94, Val de Marne)



Central laboratory of Veolia

- Control Quality laboratory
- 3 sections Organic, Mineral and Microbiological Chemistry
- Cofrac accreditation since 2000 for 110 parameters (NF EN ISO / IEC 17025)

Détermination of Hydrocarbon Index : WHY ?

Regulatory controls
Pollution of resources
Self-monitoring of our operators

Limit of Quantification

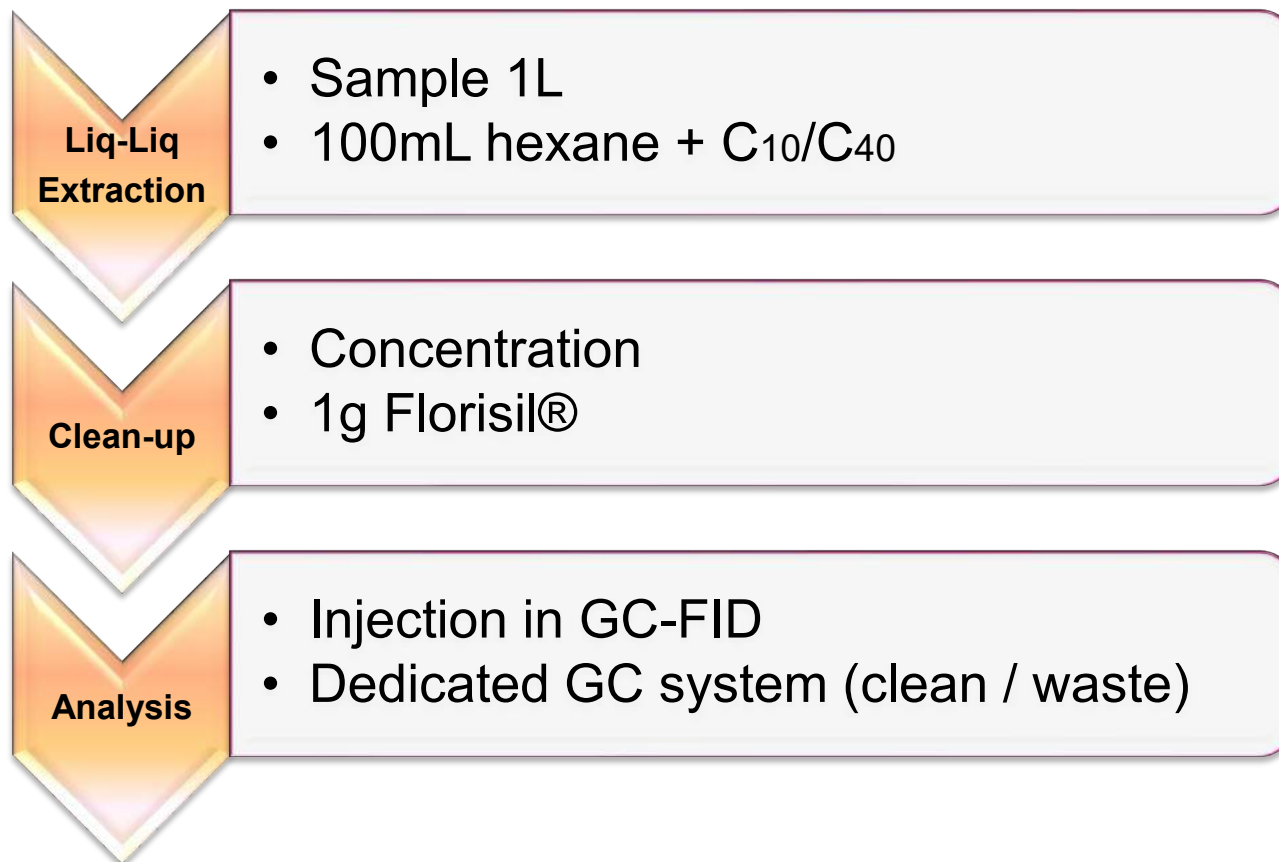
- Tap water: 0,05 mg/L
- Raw water: 0,1mg/L
- Waste water: 0,2 mg/L

**4200 sample
per year**

1/4 clean waters

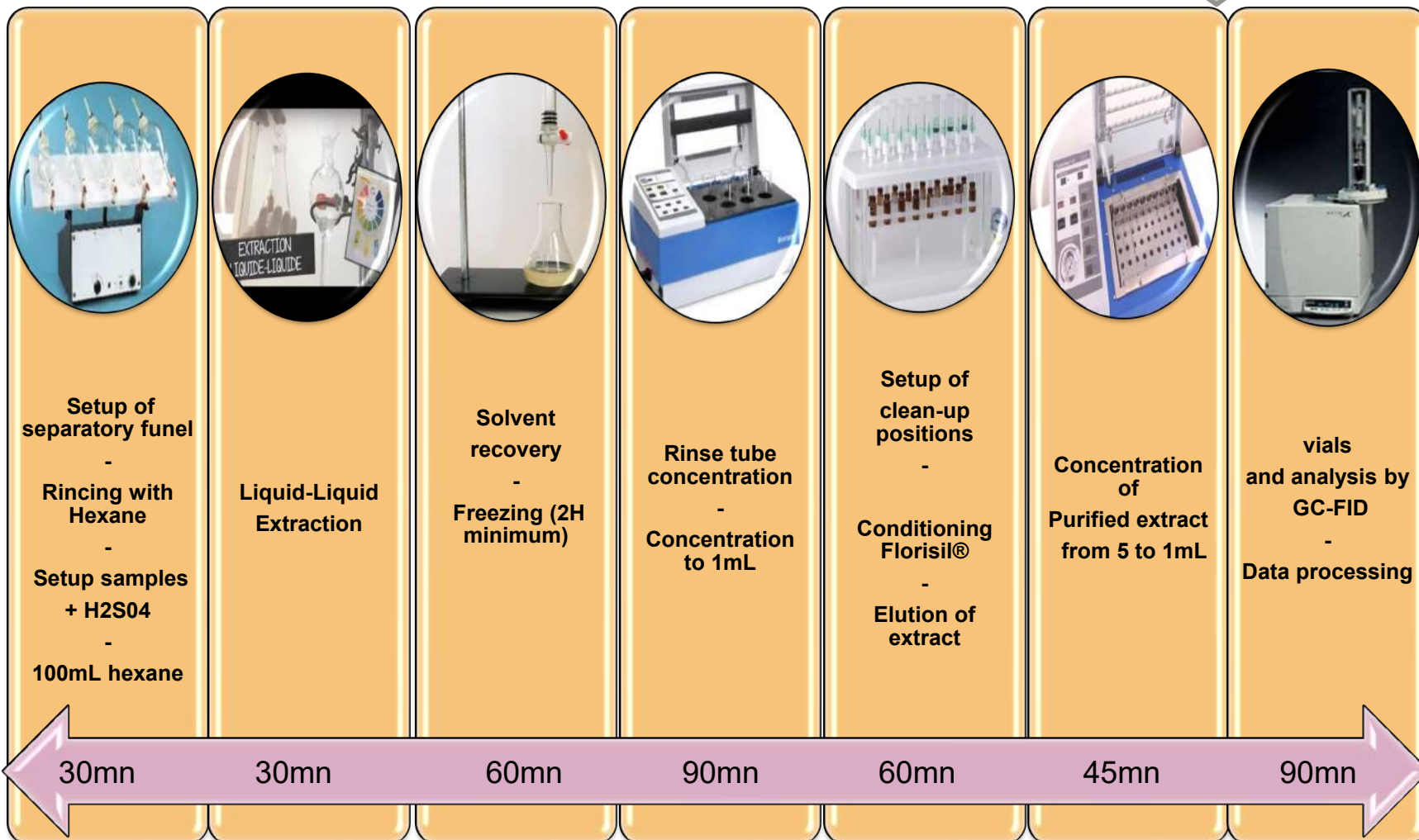
3/4 waste waters

Protocol used in the laboratory in 3 steps



If we look in more detail ...

For 12
positions:
6:45



some key figures

For 200
analysis



- Technician time: estimate 5 working days
- Rinsing glassware + extraction: $200 \times 170\text{mL} = 34\text{L}$ of Hexane

- Tech cost 250 €
- Hexane cost 396 €
- Clean-up cost 667 €
- Recycling chemical product cost 31 €
- Gas cost (concentration, GC) 172 €



1516€ so 7,58€ per sample



And over a year, we estimate the total cost to **32k€ for 4200 samples**

Advantages and Disadvantages



- Simple
- Several systems according matrix
- Industrial waste waters
- Waste water



- technician time (too many preparation steps)
- Solvent volume used
- Clean-up and recycling waste costs
- Productivity
- Security : Hexane



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An evidence ...



Possible Locks



Limite of quantification:

Tap water: 0,05 mg/L
Raw water / river / surface : 0,1 mg/L
Waste water: 0,2 mg/L

RIC / VERI
partnership



Matrix :

Emulsions Issues (WW)
& Clean-up (from cartridge to ?)



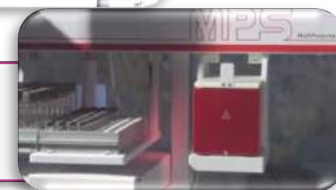
Automating cost

Protocol adopted

Sampling : 9mL
Ajustement to pH ~2 (HCl) and add of 0,9g MgSO₄
Add of 0,9mL of extracting agent (Hexane+C₁₀&C₄₀)



LLE by agitation 60mn @ 700 rpm



Centrifugation (CF200) 2mn @ 2000 rpm



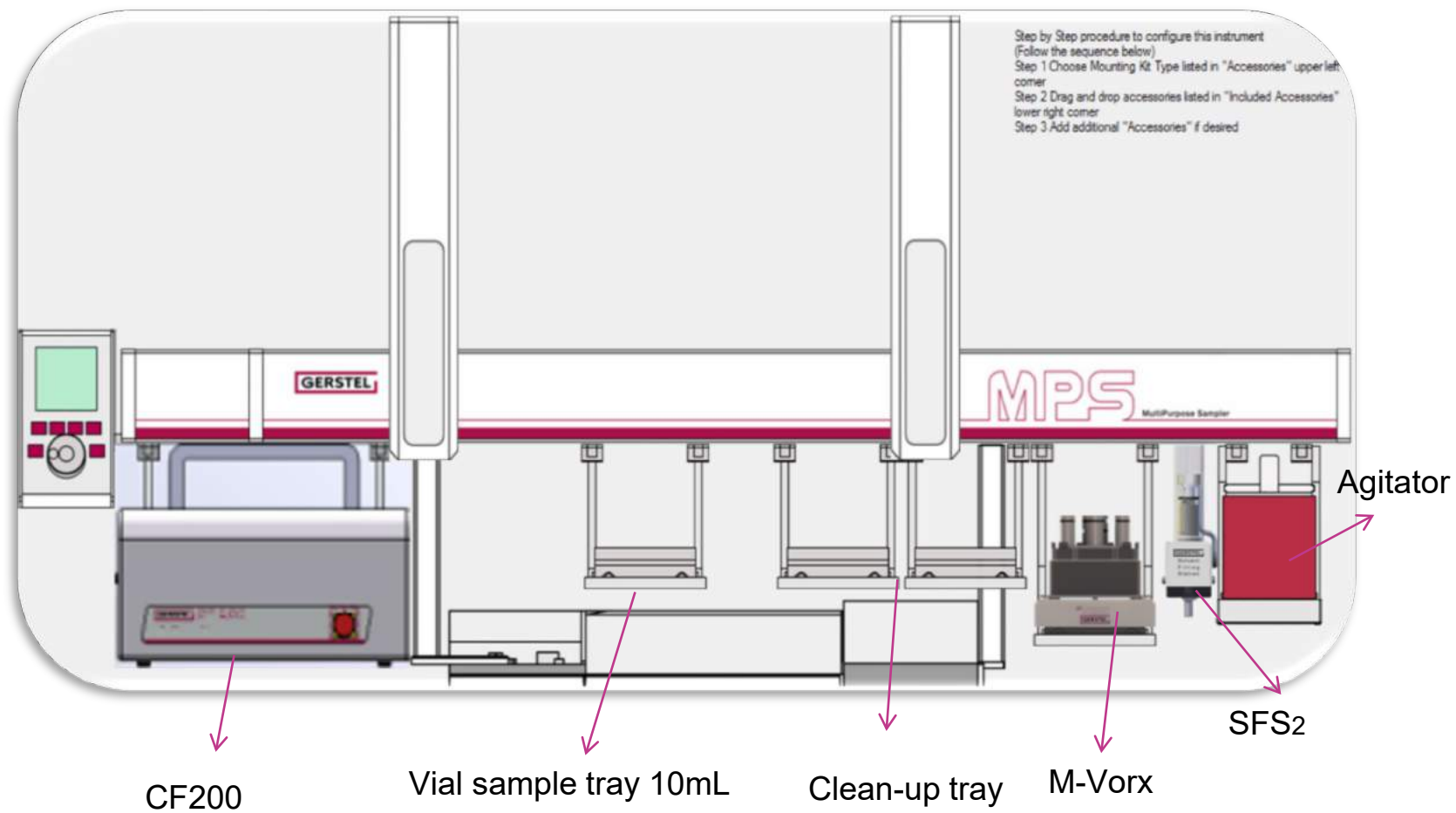
Drying and Purification in situ in a custom bottle made by Restek containing 30mg of Florisil® and 20mg of Na₂SO₄
(m-Vorx 2mn @ 1000 rpm)



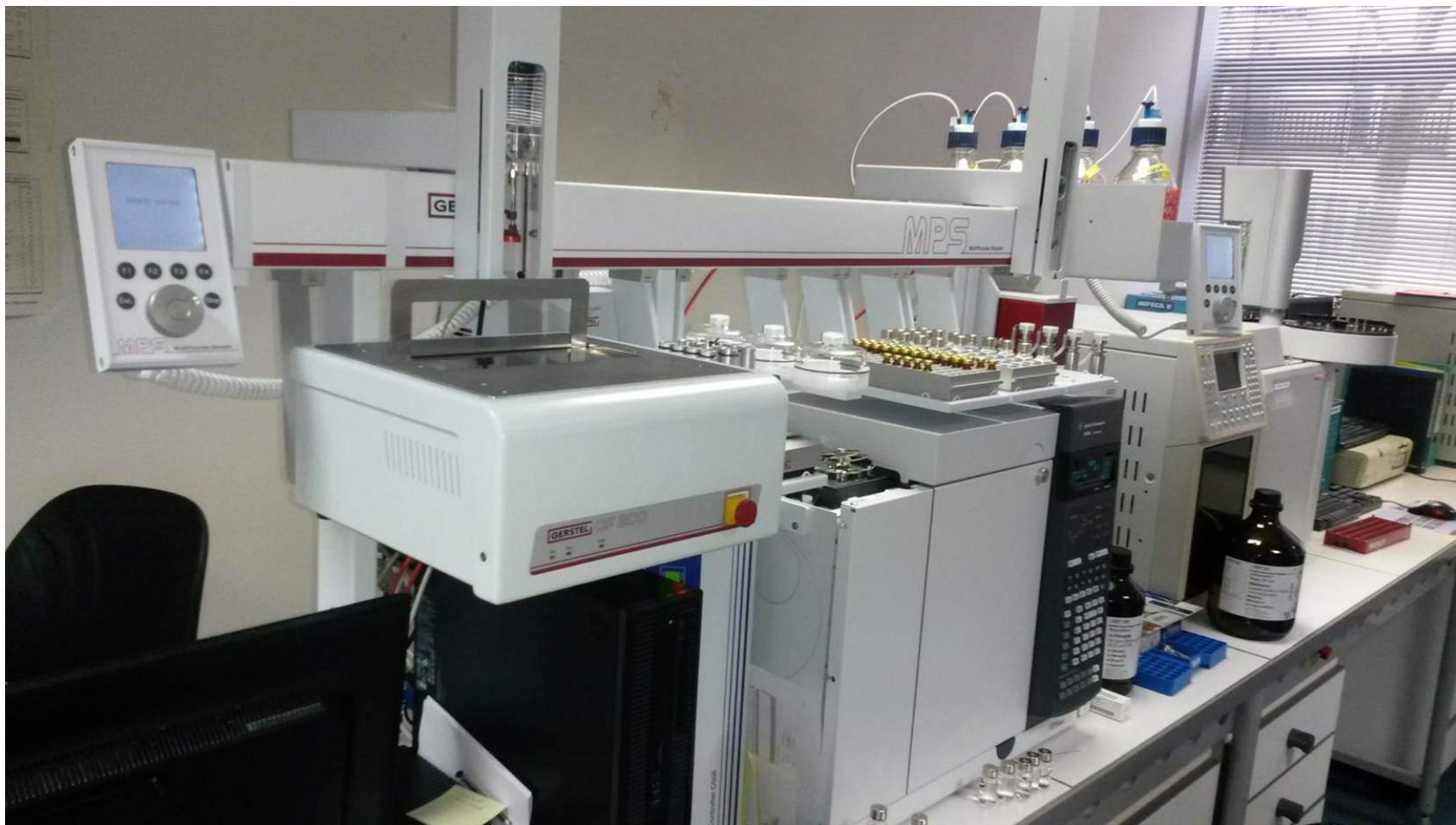
Injection in PTV-LVI of 50µL in GC-FID Agilent 7890



Equipment



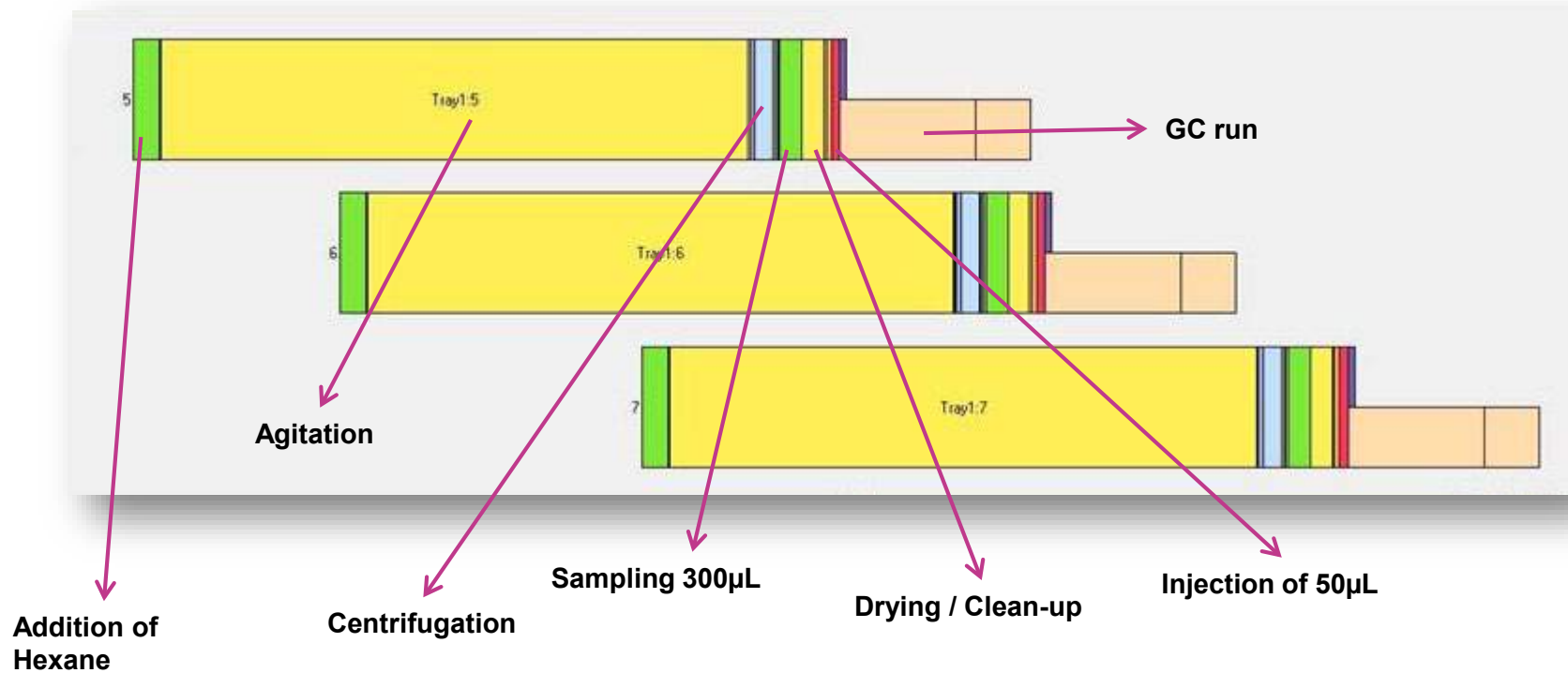
Equipment



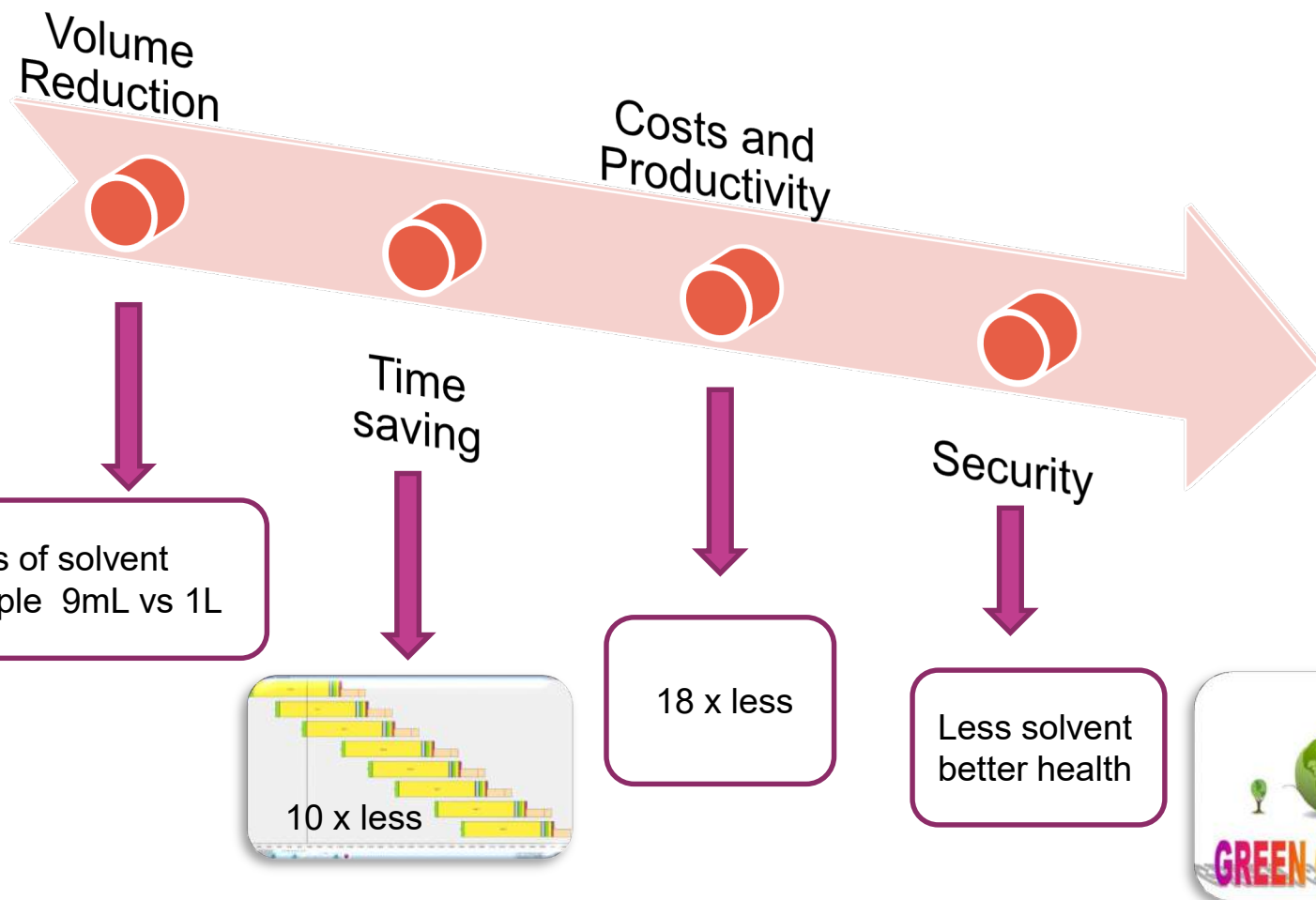
Séquence détaillée



8 samples in ~4h
ie 32 minutes / sample, preparation included



Undeniable Advantages



Summary

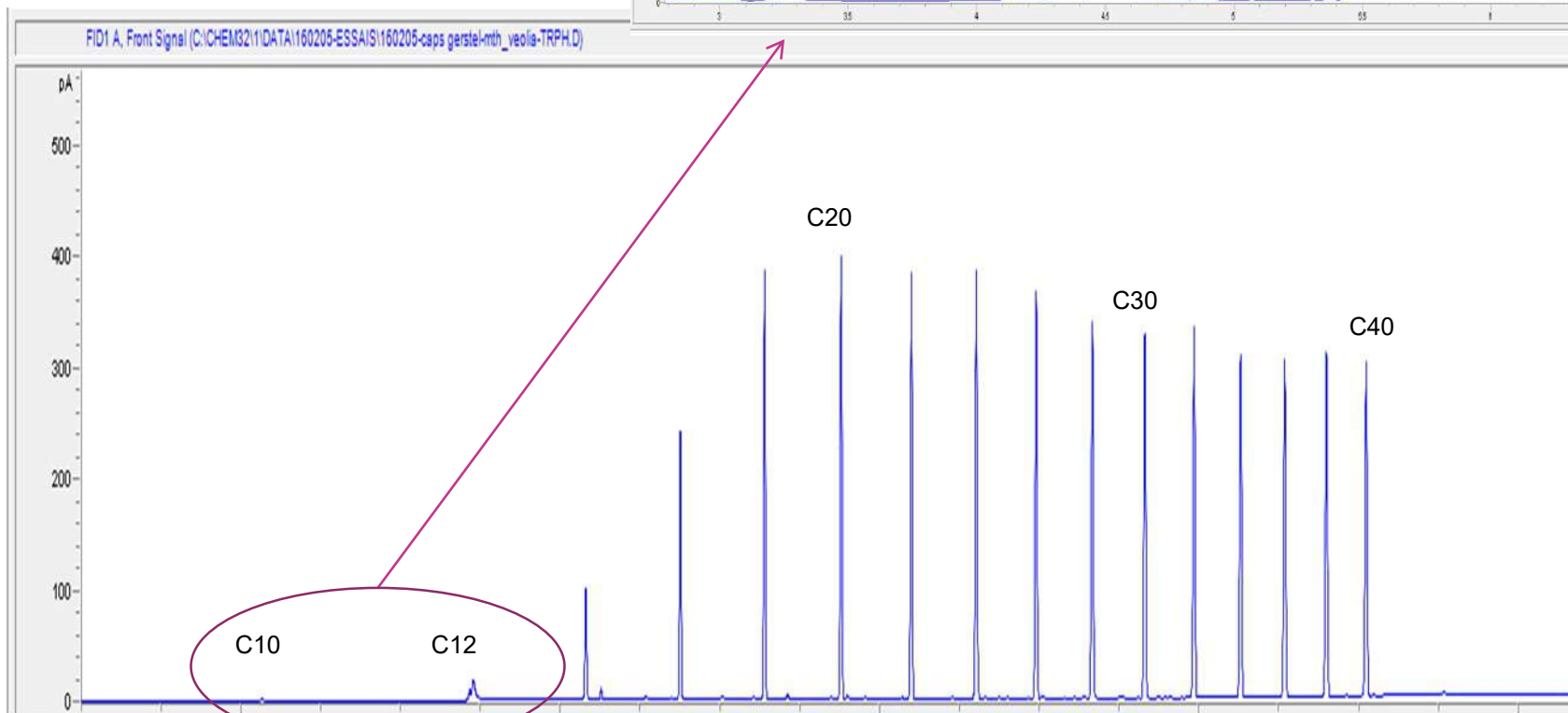
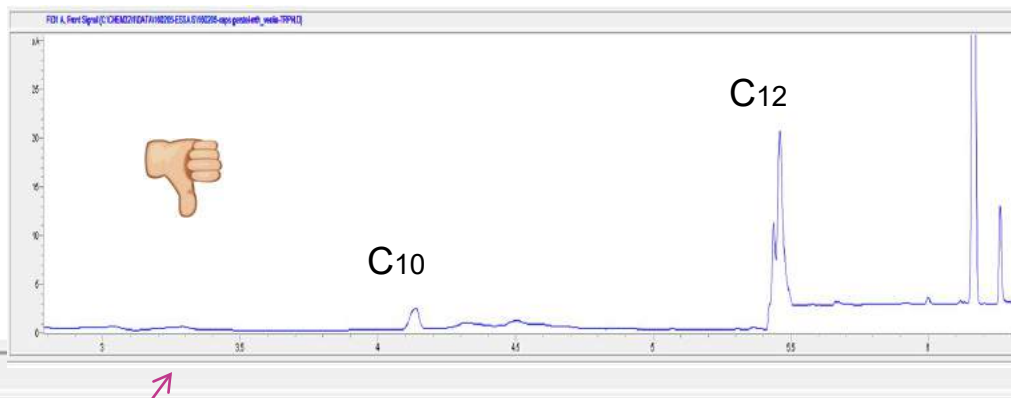


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Difficulties encountered: discrimination of light hydrocarbons



C40/C20:
0,8



Difficulties encountered: discrimination of light hydrocarbons

Conditions

CIS : 40°C during 1mn → 350°C @12°C/s

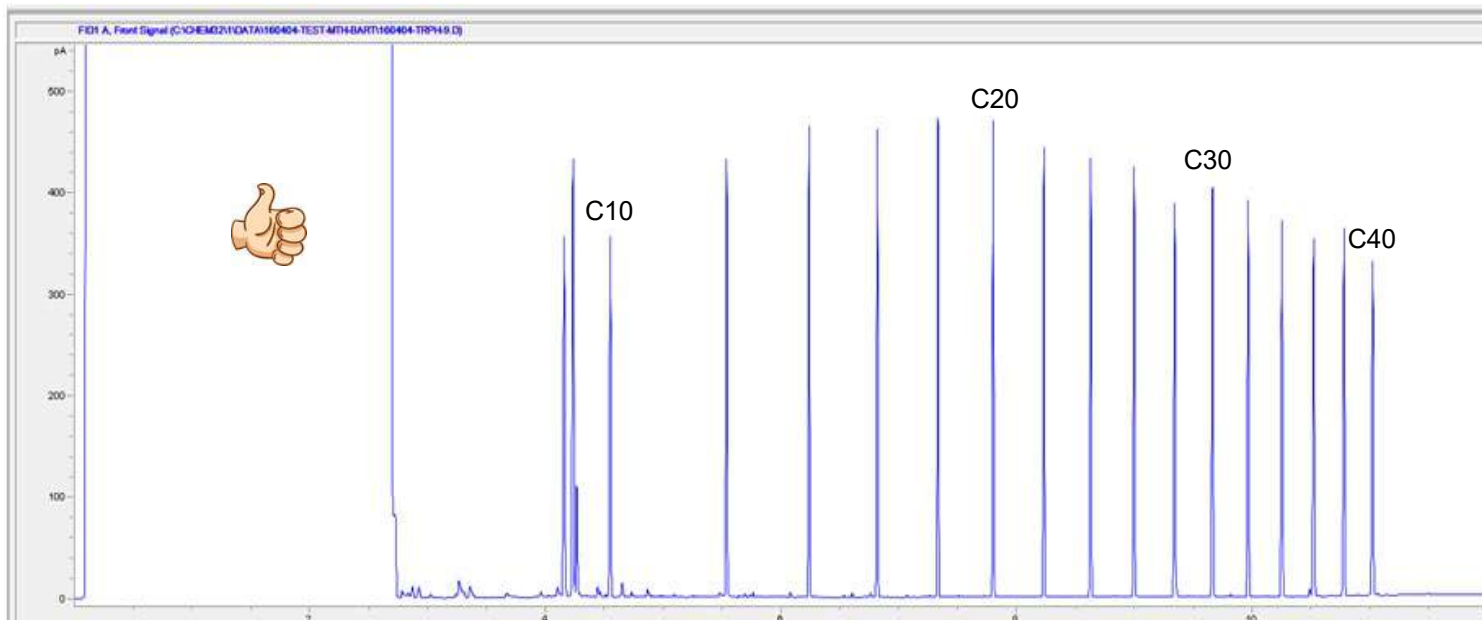
PTV : -vent flow 75ml/mn

-vent pressure 8.2 psi

-vent time 0.02mn

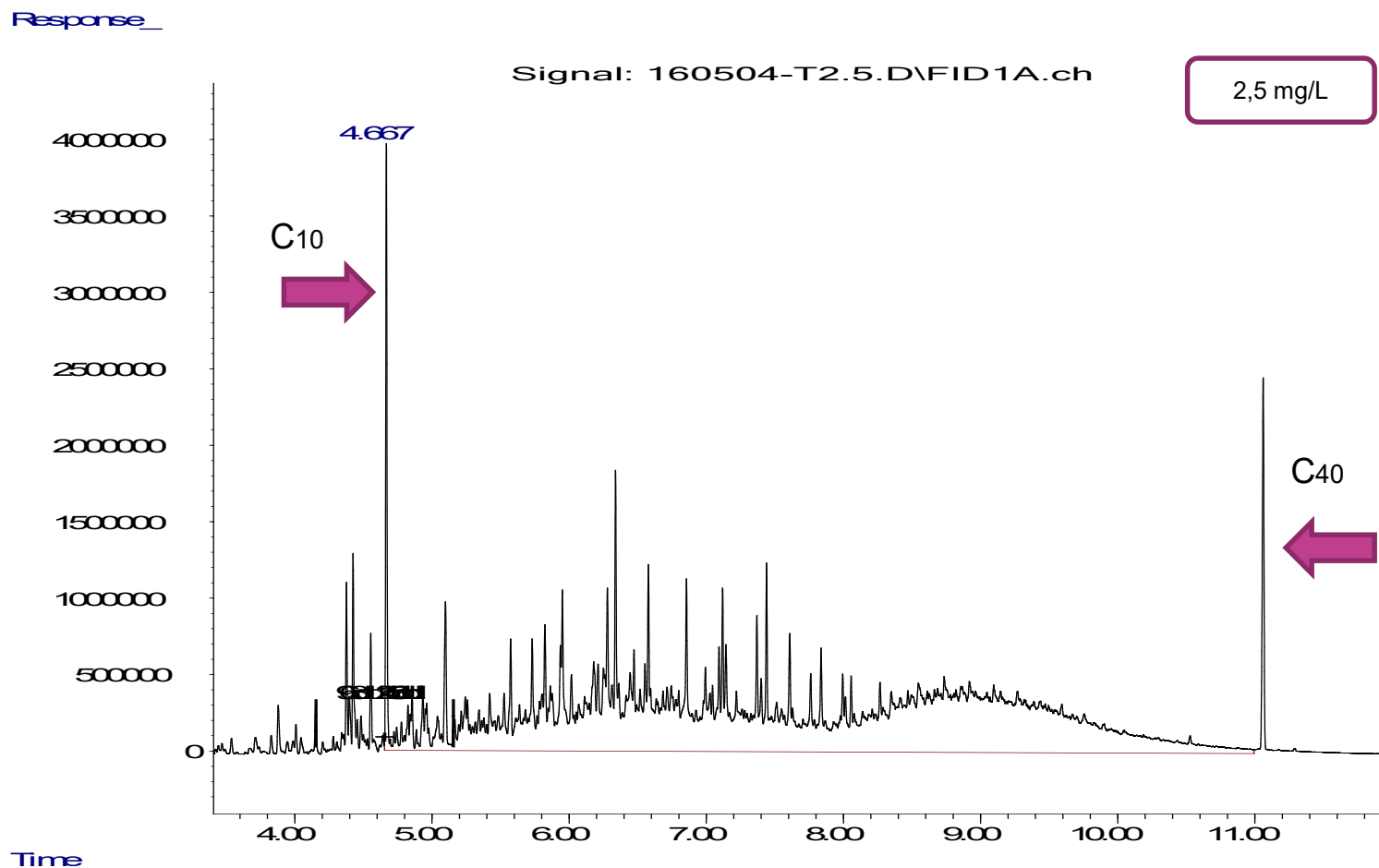
-purge flow to split vent : 100ml/mn until 2mn

MPS : injection 50µL @ 2µL/s & **Liner Bead Glass**



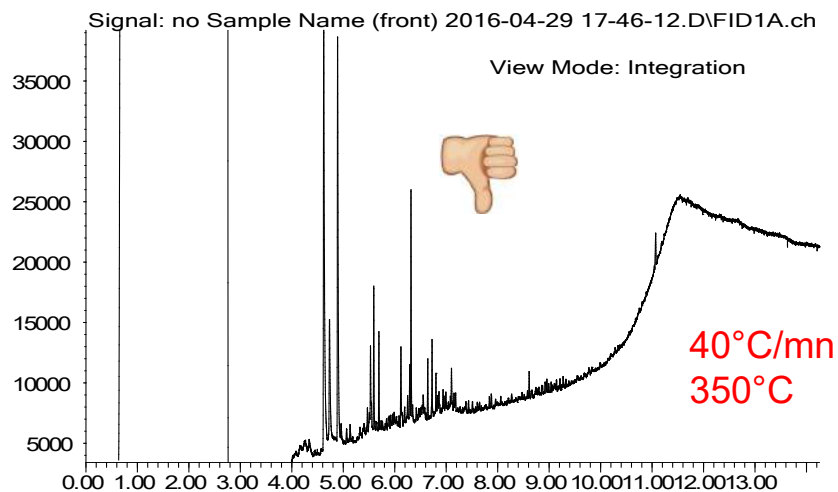
Difficulties encountered: baseline drift

INDEX = integration of area between C10 and C40



Difficulties encountered: baseline drift

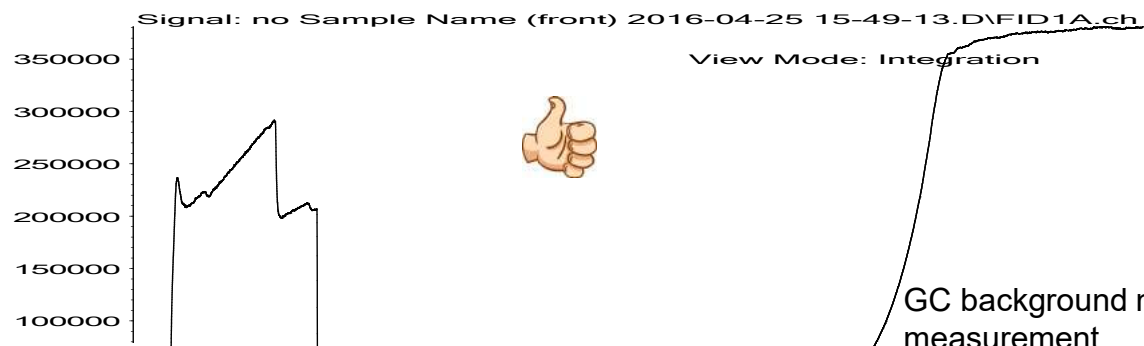
Response_



Time

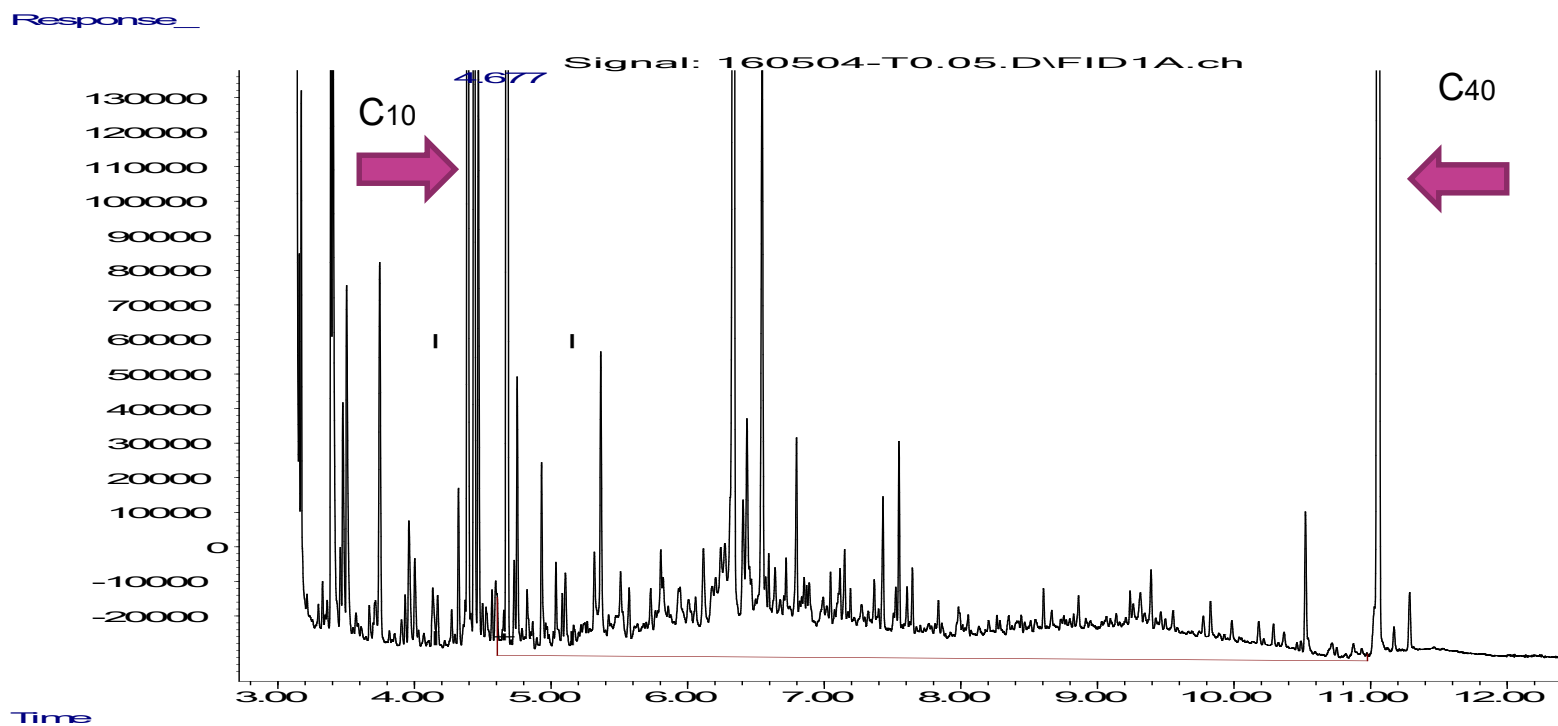
Response_

Used of « baseline compensation »
on Agilent GC-FID



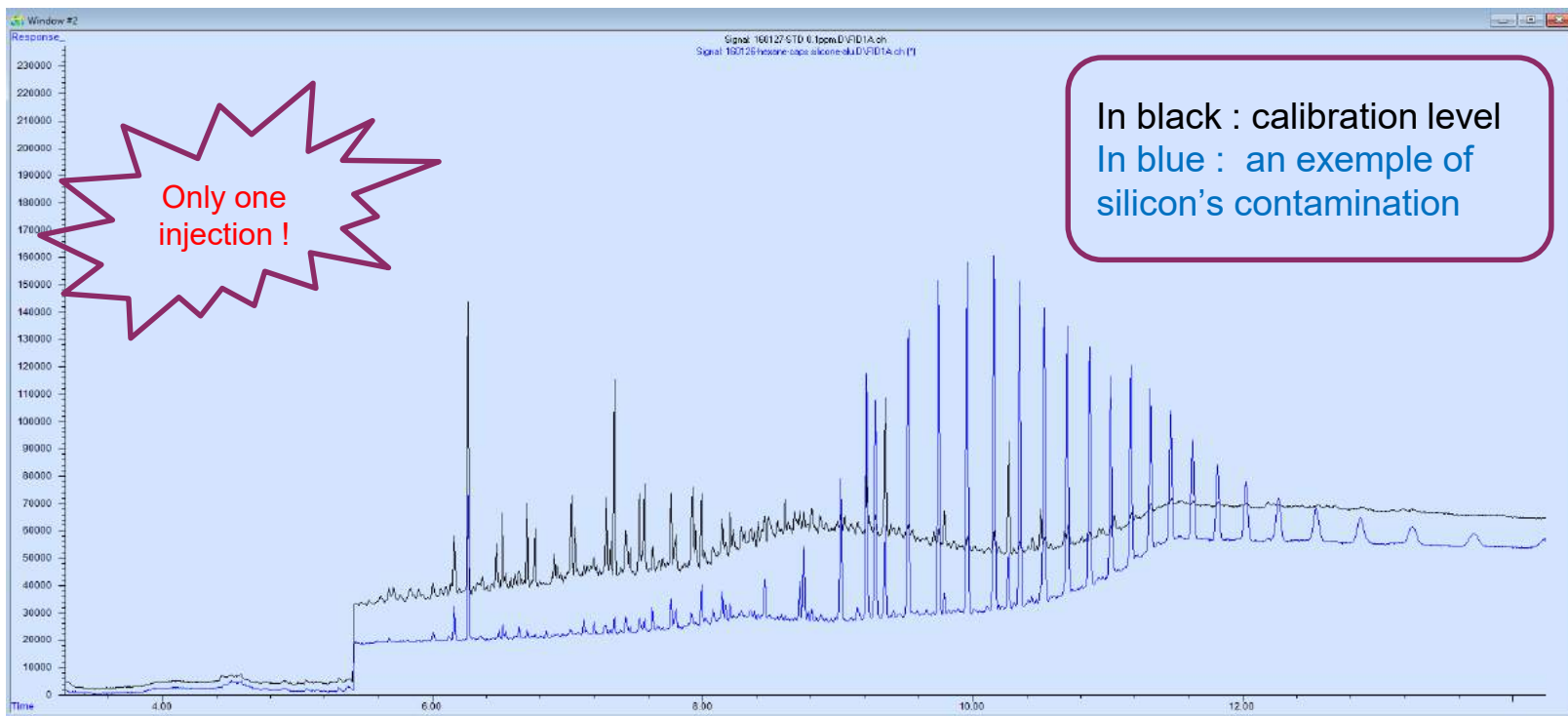
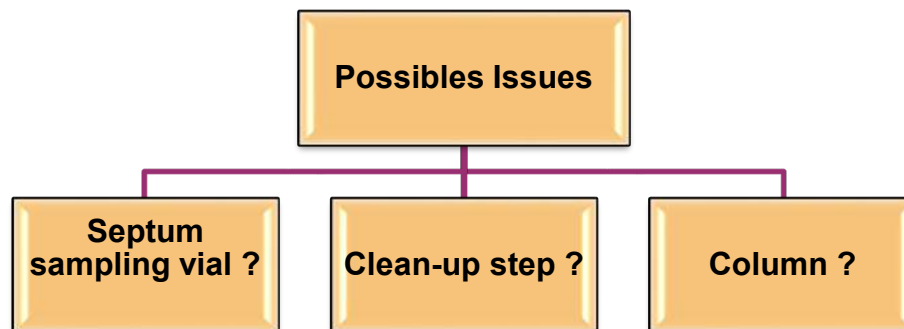
Difficulties encountered: baseline drift

INDEX = integration of area between C10 and C40



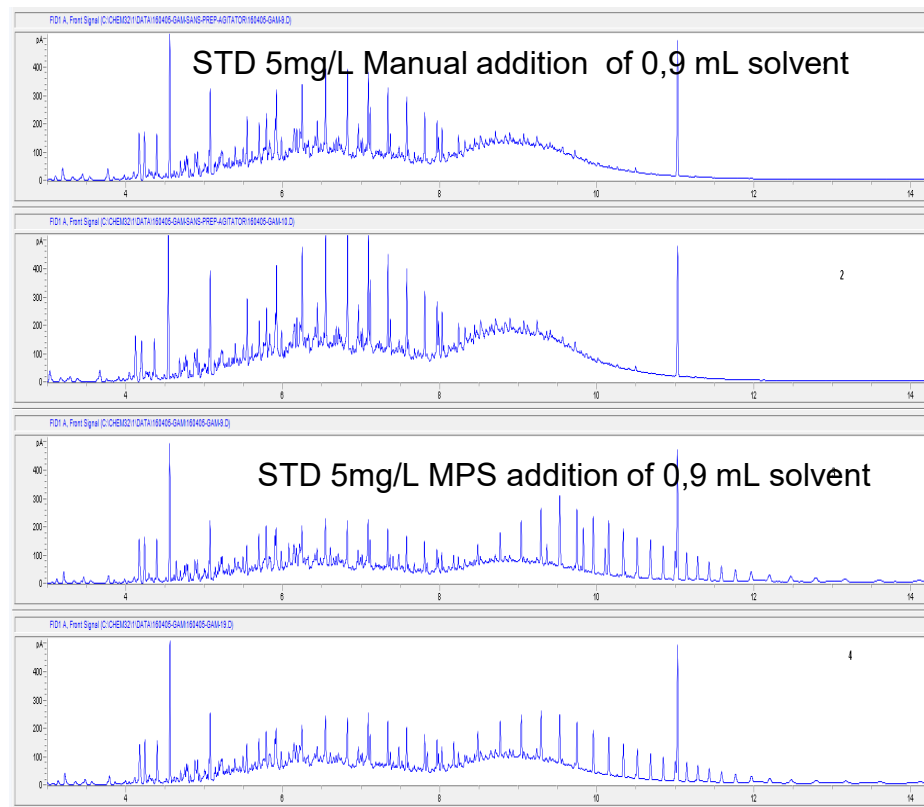
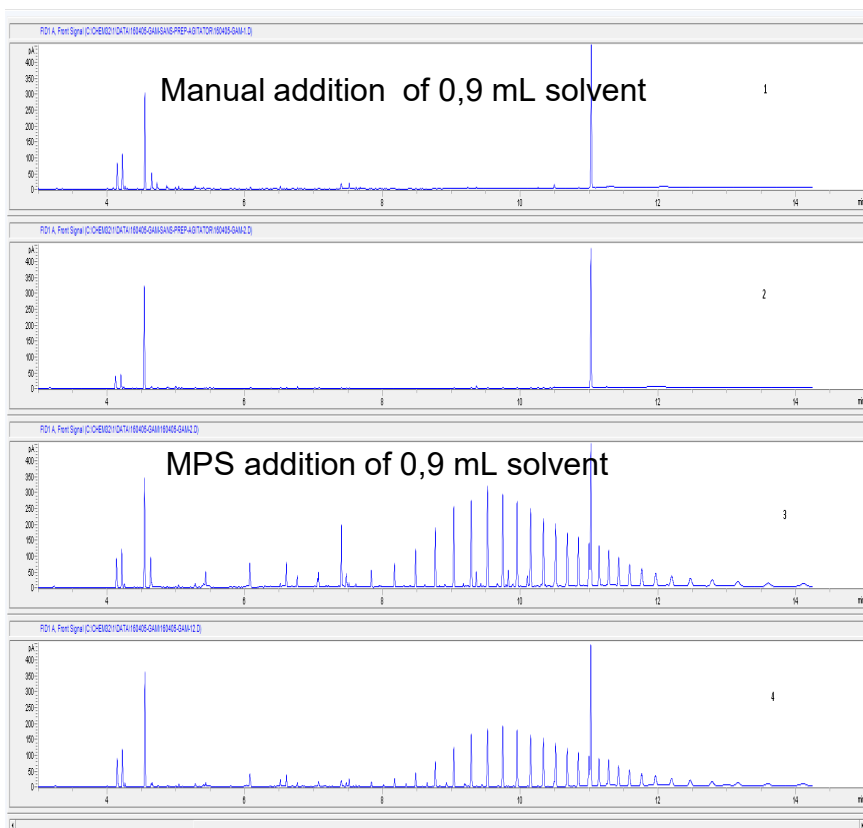
0,05 mg/L : 50 x less concentrated

Difficulties encountered: silicone contamination

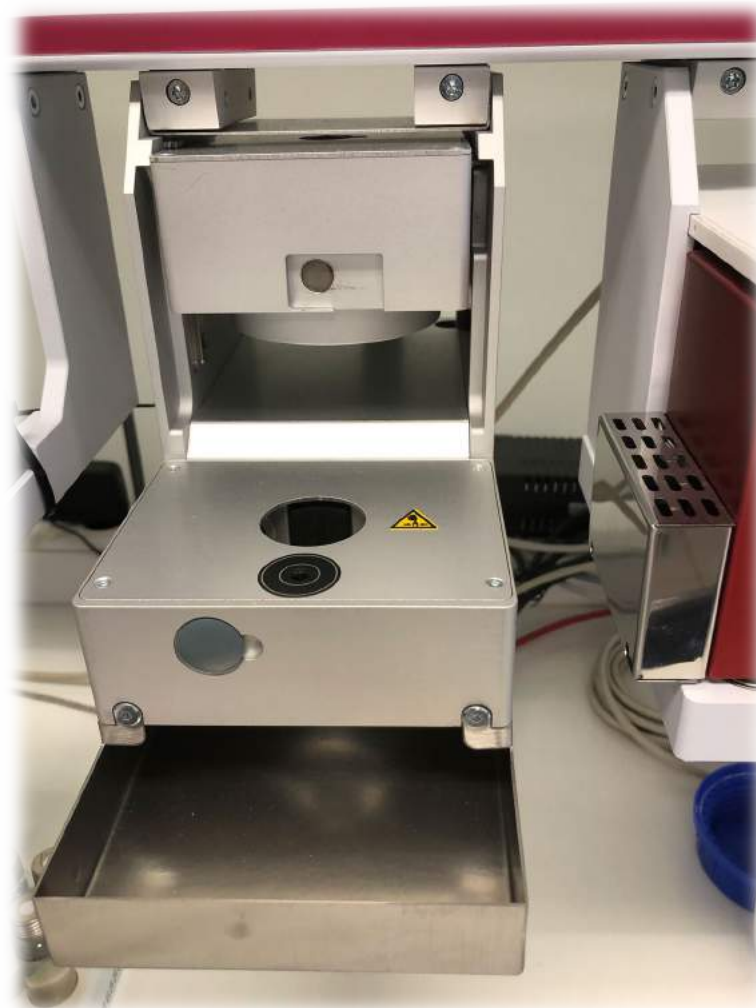


A problem but not least ...

The septum produces silicones during the addition of the extraction solvent (0.9 mL hexane) to the first step of automation



Capper / Decapper



Intelligent Automation for GC/MS and LC/MS

Silicone contamination during clean-up step



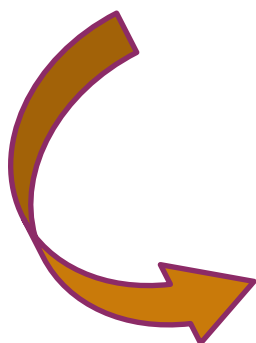
- Agilent 100% **PTFE** (#5182-0871)
- Sigma Aldrich pastille **PTFE** (#27133)



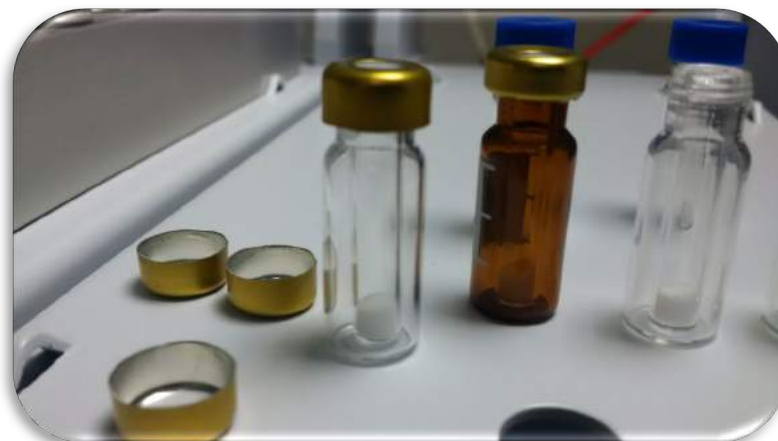
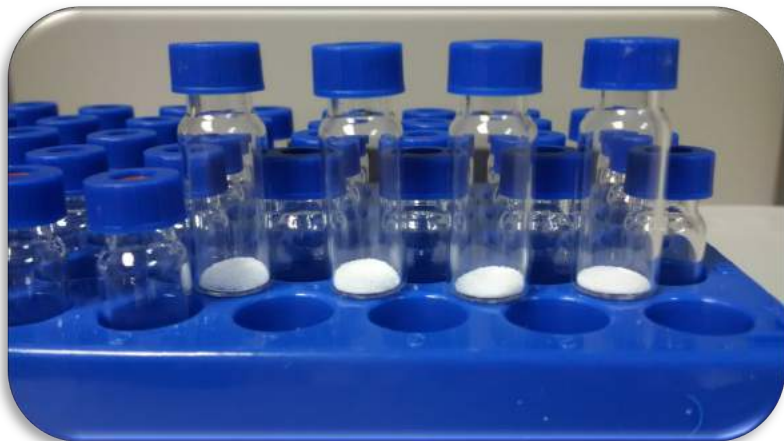
Aluminium !



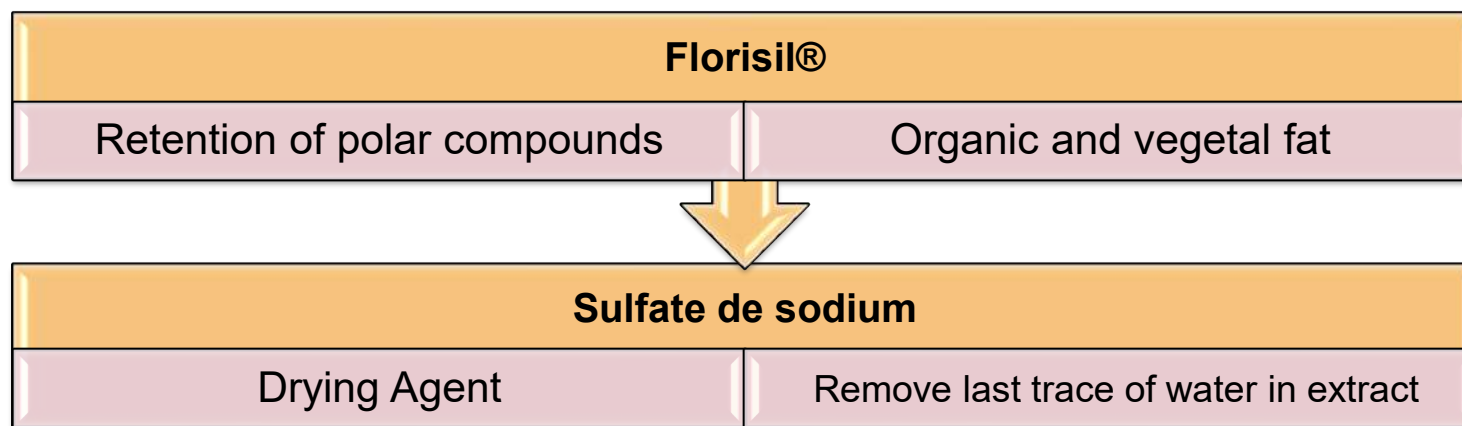
Only one solution : **DIY** !



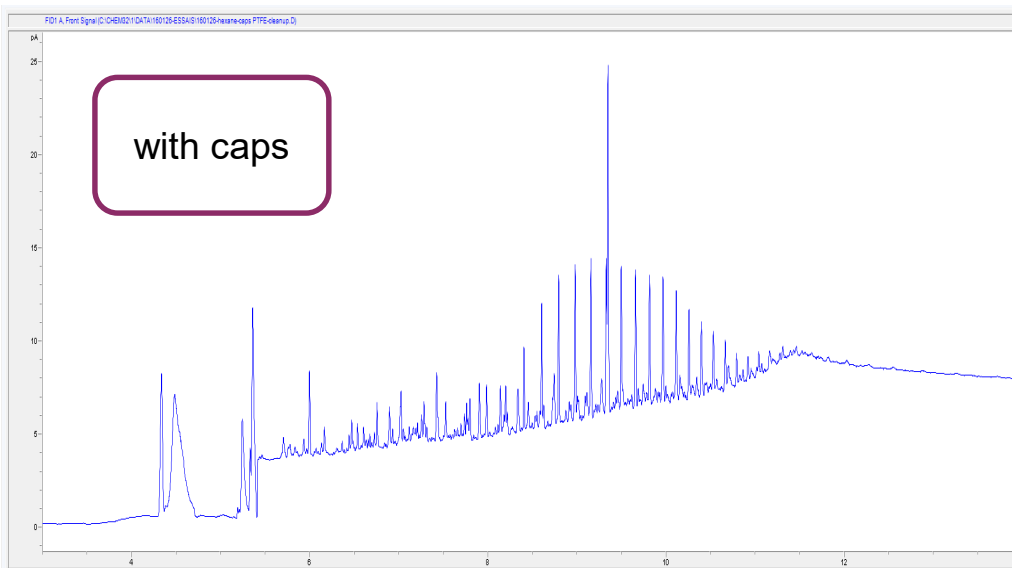
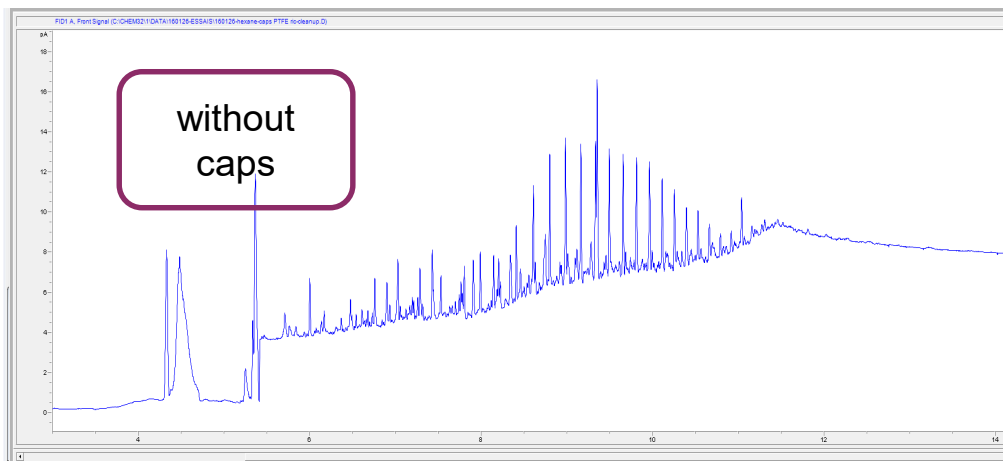
Silicone contamination during clean-up step



Restek: custom manufacture of a mixture: 30mg of Florisil® + 20mg sodium sulphate

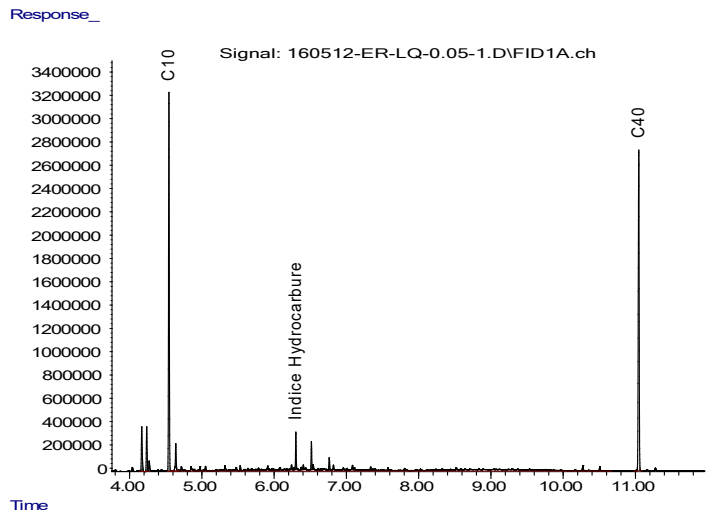


Silicone contamination during clean-up step

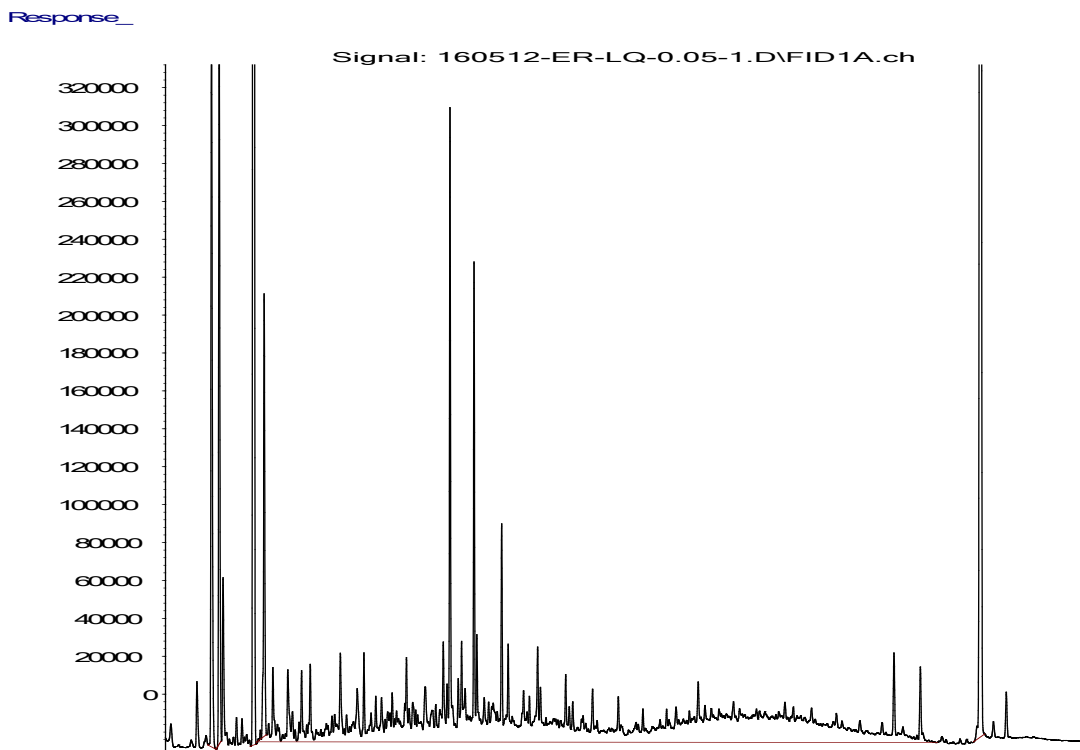


300 μ L d'hexane in contact
with clean-up mixture

Silicone contamination : THE solution !



Mixt [Florisil® / Na₂SO₄] + reducer of 500µL
have been placed in an oven at 250°C



Final experimental protocol

Manual addition of extracting agent

```
graph TD; A[Manual addition of extracting agent] --> B[LLE by agitation]; B --> C[Centrifugation]; C --> D[Clean-up & Drying]; D --> E[Injection PTV-LVI in GC-FID];
```

LLE by agitation

Centrifugation

Clean-up & Drying

Injection PTV-LVI in GC-FID

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Validation / Accreditation COFRAC (French committee of Accreditation)

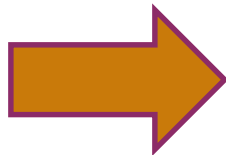
ISO / IEC 17025 specifies "general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories"

It asks laboratories to validate their methods of analysis that they have developed when they are not standardized or outside the scope of this standard.

It also asks to assess the uncertainties of the results provided

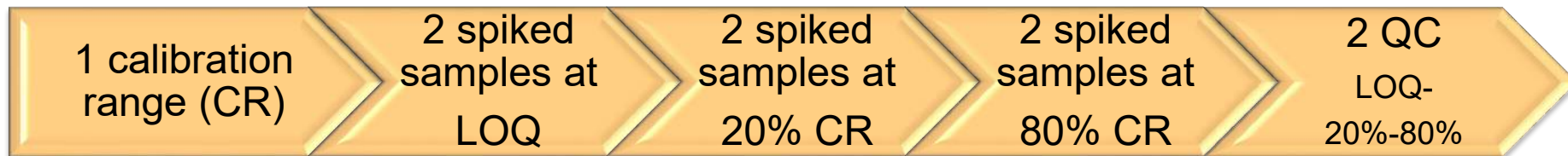


PURPOSE: To show that the developed method is fit for the intended use ie according to the needs of the customer or the regulation



XPT-90 210 Standard is a tool for the validation of analytical methods

Validation on 6 series



Result calibration ranges (6 ranges)

Enter theoretical concentrations and recalculated concentrations

Calibration range study

Validate the calibration model

LOQ (real matrix, 2 samples x 6 tests)

Validates an LOQ and estimates the uncertainty of manipulation bias at LOQ

Recovery (real matrix, spiking at 20 and 80% of the range, 2 samples x 6 tests)

Validates yields and estimates the uncertainty of method bias at levels other than LOQ

Accuracy

Validate accuracy for an unrecognized method based on LOQ and recovery tests (20 and 80%)

Uncertainty

Estimate the uncertainties of the 3-level method (LOQ, 20% and 80% of the calibration range) through 2 QCs



Working range (concentration)

Validation was done on tap water (TW), raw river water (RRW), treated wastewater (TWW)

mg/L	NIV 1	NIV 2	NIV 3	NIV 4	NIV 5	NIV 6	NIV 7	NIV 8
TW	0,05	0,1	0,2	0,5	1	2,5	5	10
RRW	-	0,1	0,2	0,5	1	2,5	5	10
TWW	-	-	0,2	0,5	1	2,5	5	10

Only some validations was done (end of laboratory's activities)

- 4 / 6 series for tap water matrix
- 2 / 6 series for raw river water
- 3 / 6 series for treated waste water



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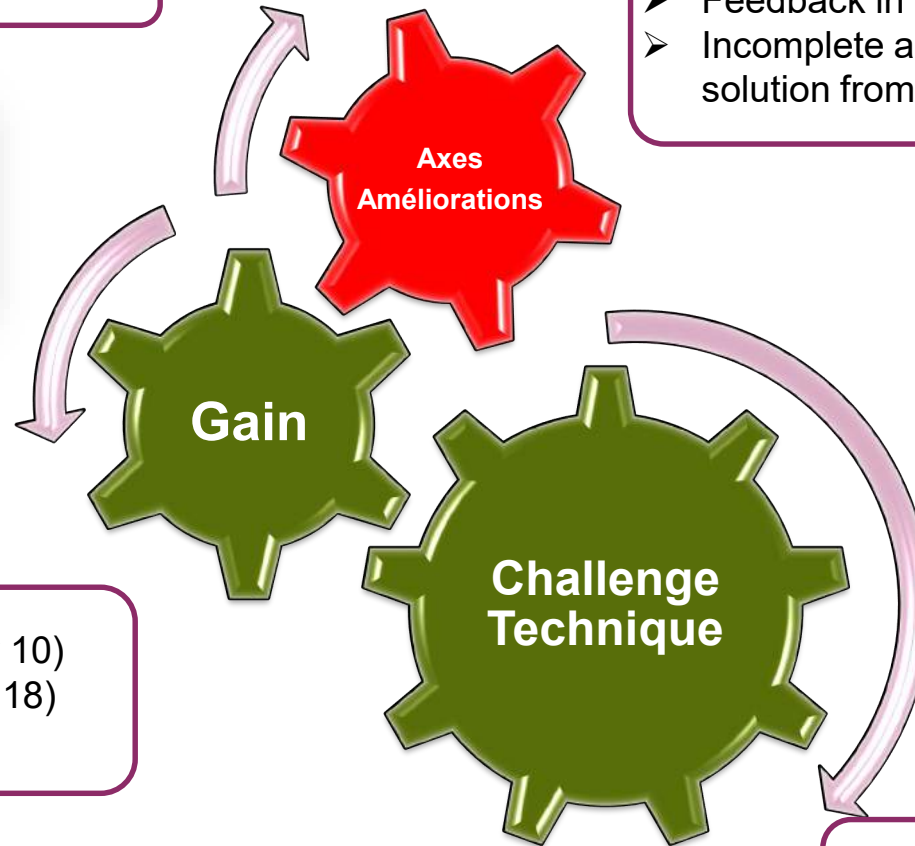
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Conclusions and Outlooks

Automation ...



- Time saving (by 10)
- Saving cost (by 18)
- Security



- Feedback in production line
- Incomplete automation but new solution from Gerstel (decapper)

- Holding LOQ
- Emulsion management
- Contaminations

