

# GCxGC-(MS) methods

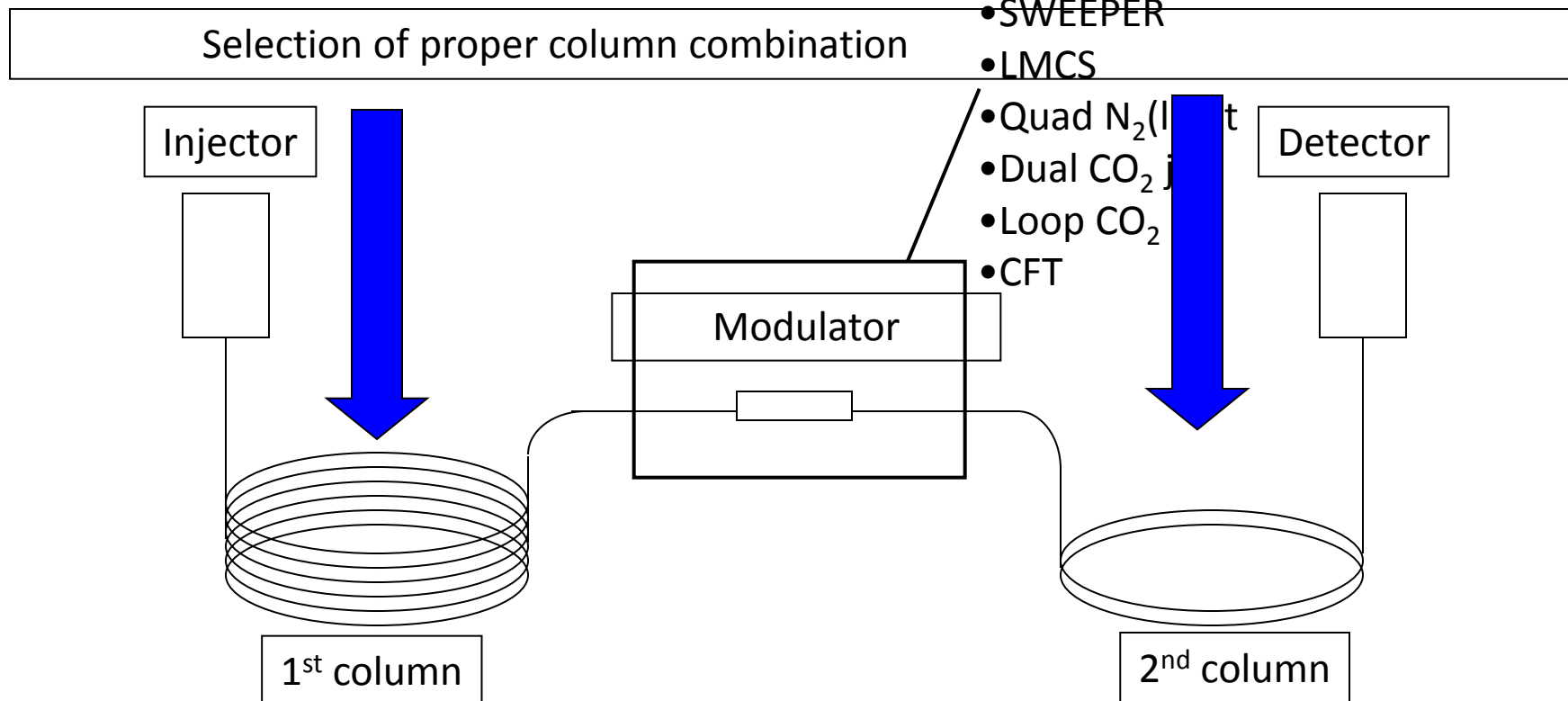
Pim Leonards

# Outline

- Principles of GCxGC
- Selection of detectors
- PCB, PBDE analysis
- Other examples

# Principles of GCxGC

- Selection of modulator
- 6 different modulators:



# Selection 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension GC columns

- 1<sup>st</sup> dimension
  - Apolar type phases:  
DB-1, DB-5, CP-Sil 8 type of columns

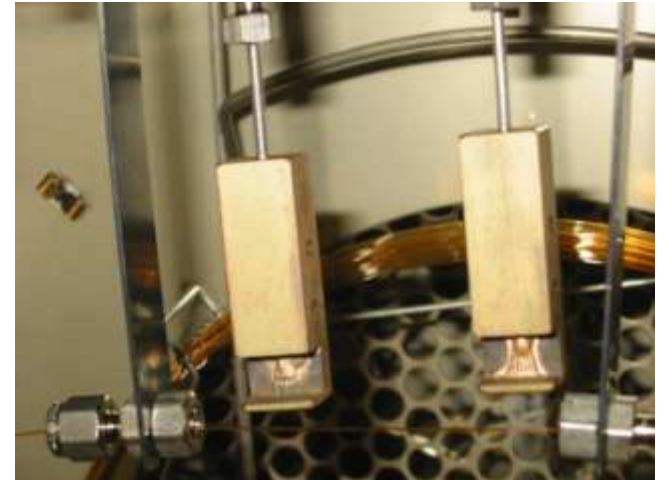
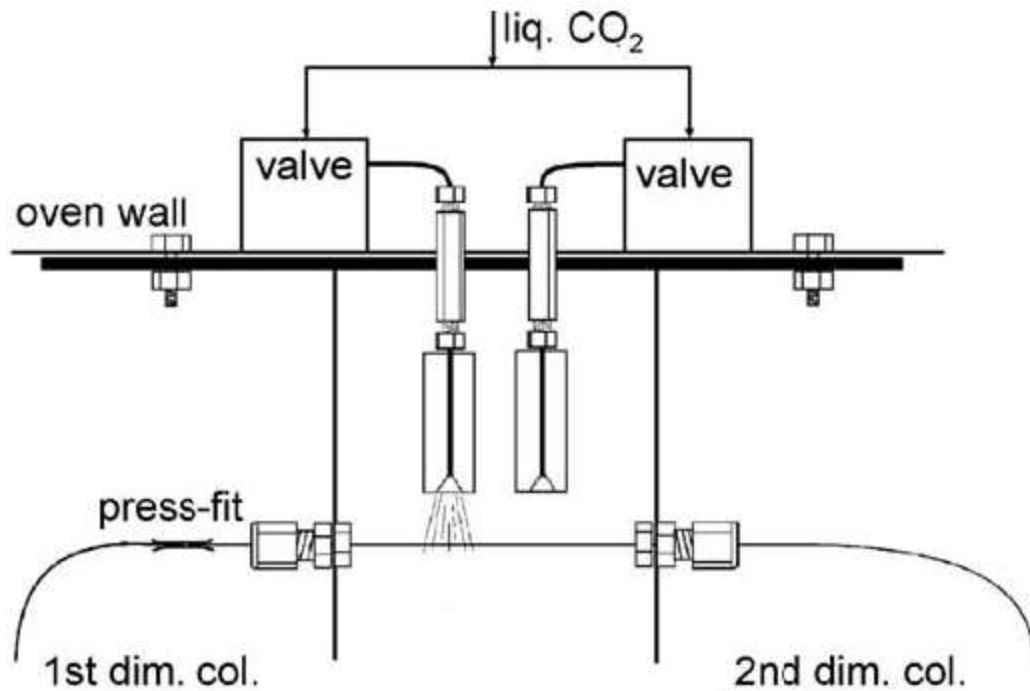
## 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension

Second-dimension column		
Commercial code <sup>a</sup>	Stationary phase	Dimensions (m × mm × μm)
LC-50	50% liquid crystalline-methylpolysiloxane	0.8 × 0.1, 0.1
007-65HT	65% phenyl-methylpolysiloxane	1.0 × 0.1, 0.1
VF-23ms	Proprietary (high cyano containing polymer; with absolute cyano content 70–90%)	1.5 × 0.1, 0.1
007-210	50% trifluoropropyl-methylpolysiloxane	2.0 × 0.1, 0.1
HT-8	8% phenyl-methylpolysiloxane (carborane)	1.0 × 0.1, 0.1
SupelcoWax-10	Polyethylene glycol	1.0 × 0.1, 0.1

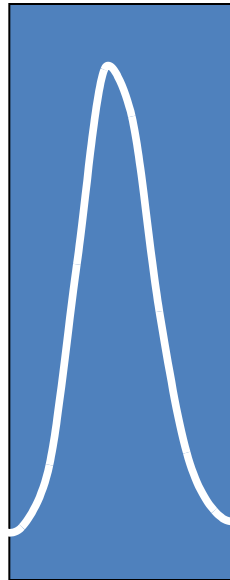
# How does it work?

## Cryogenic modulator

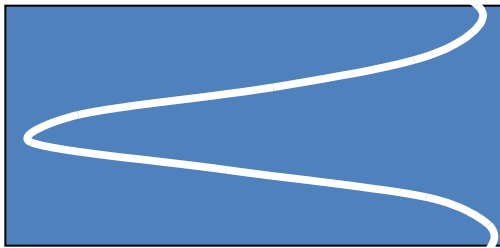
(A)



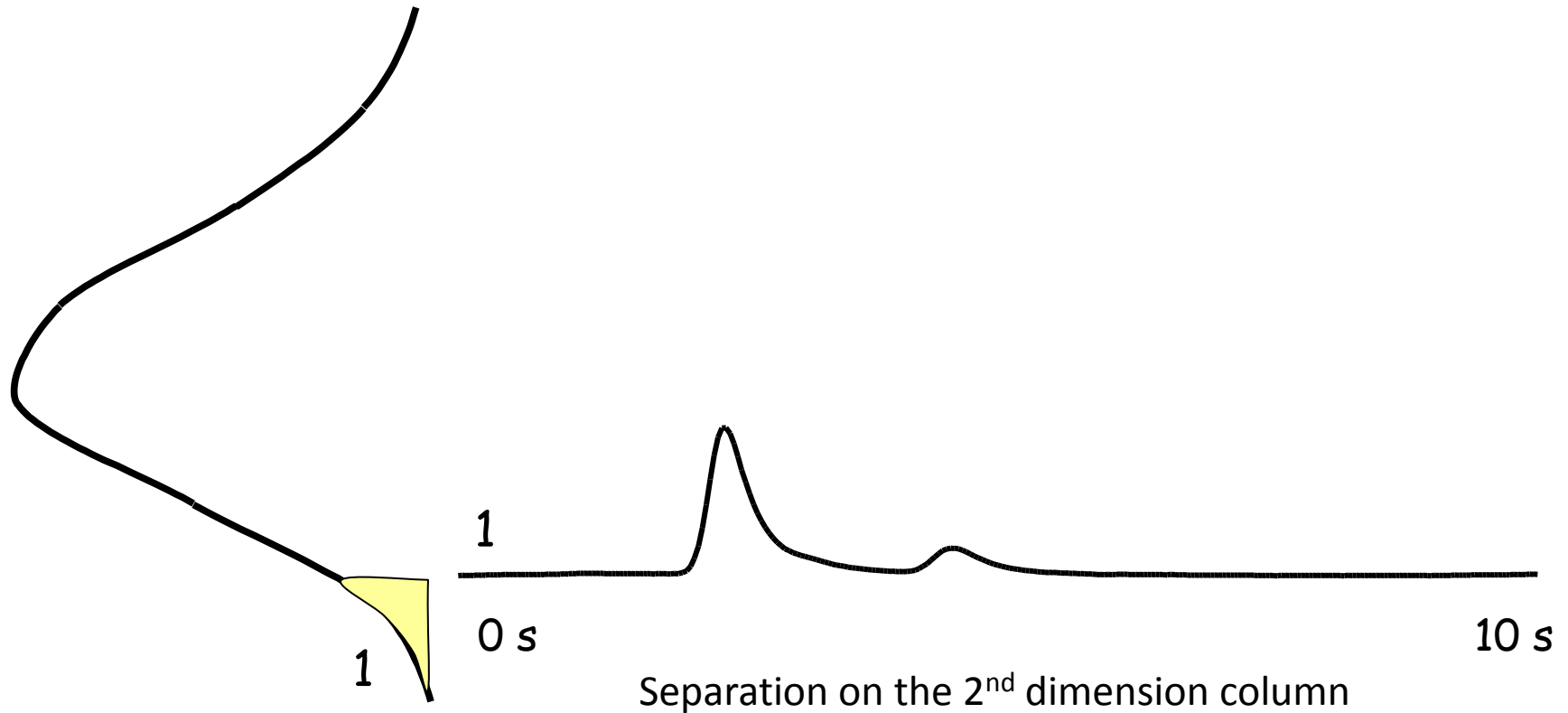
# How does GCxGC work ?



# How does GCxGC work ?

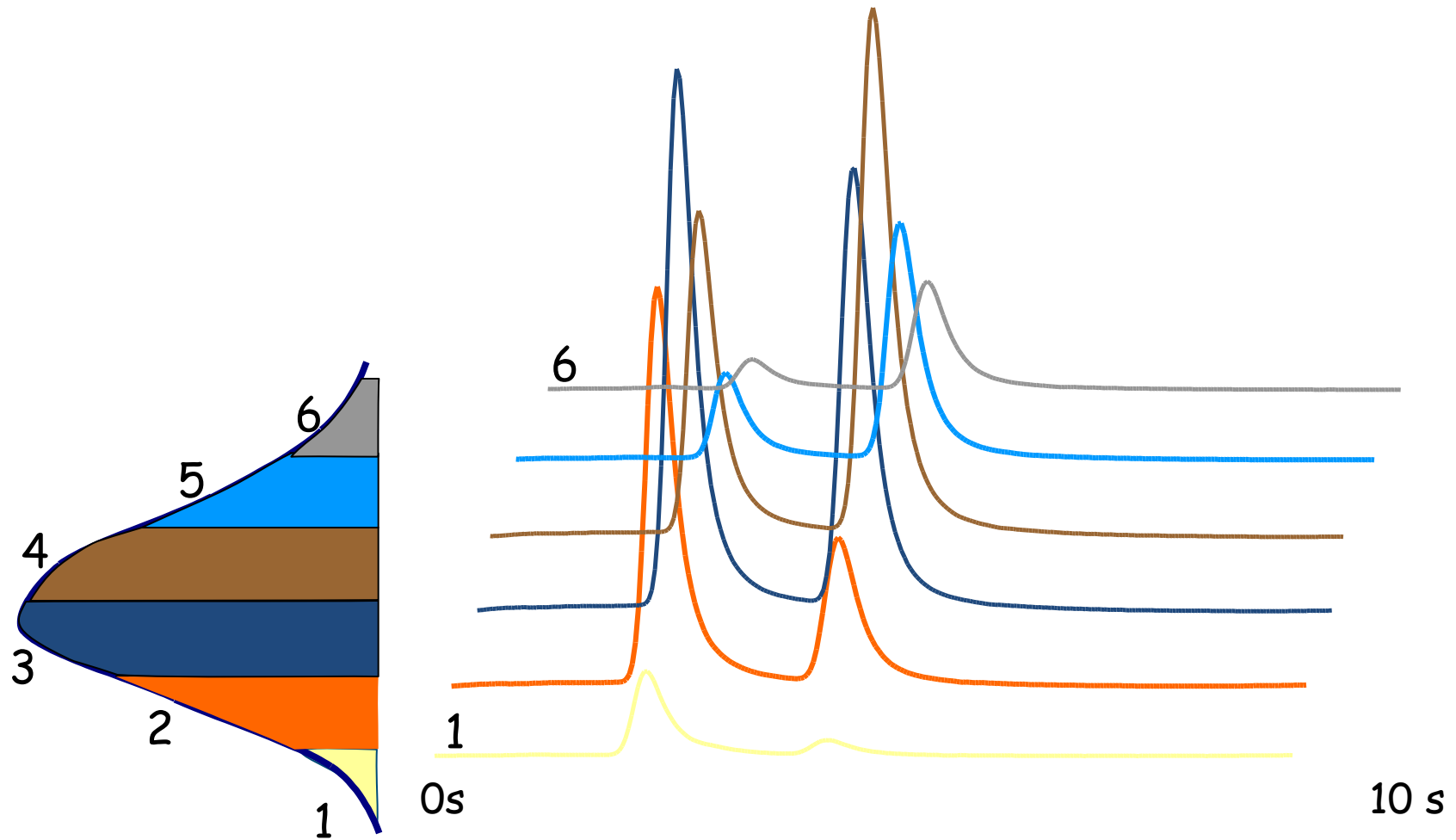


# How does GCxGC work ?

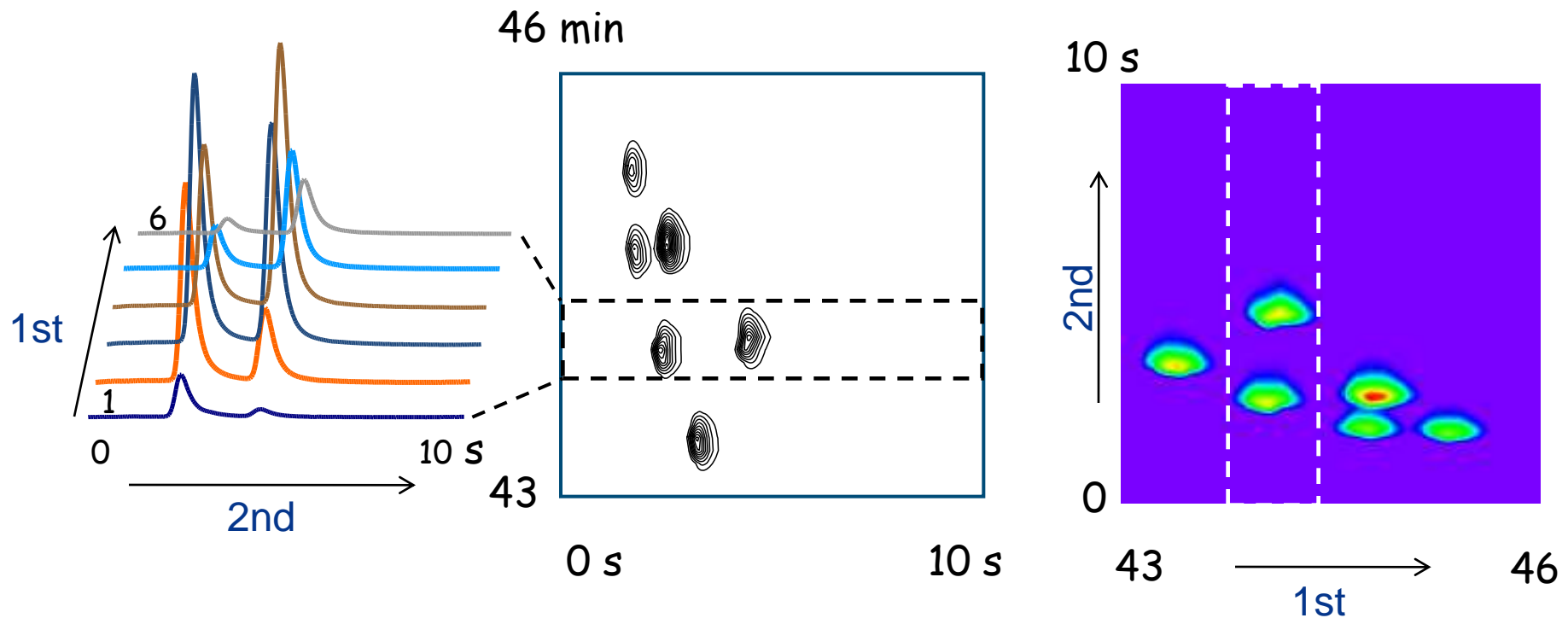




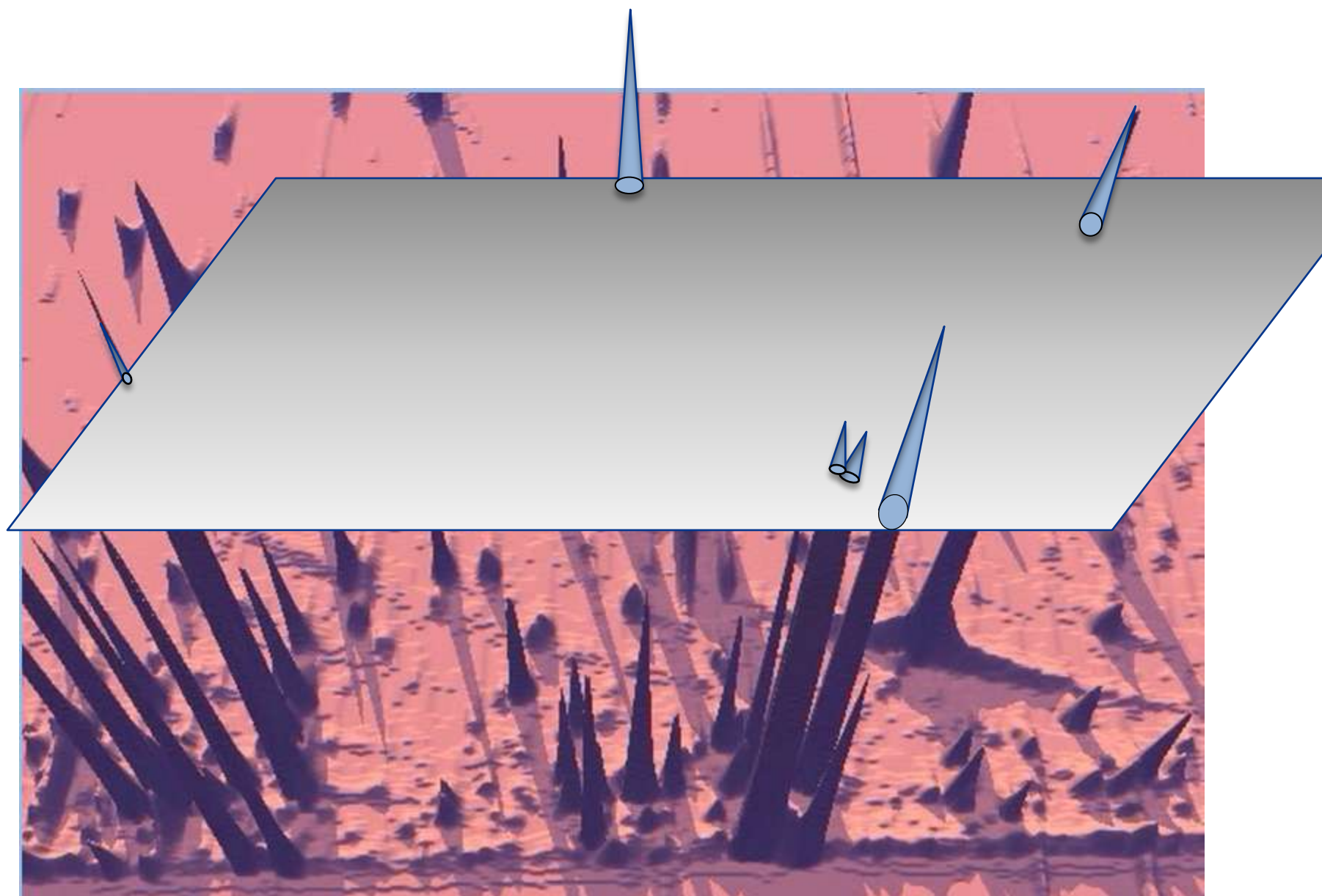
# How does GCxGC work ?



# Principle and contour plots







# Contour plot

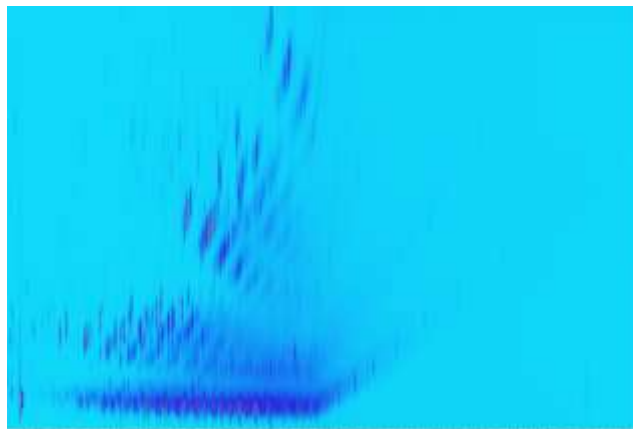


# Detectors for GCxGC systems

- Fast scanning detectors
  - Acquisition rate  $>20$  Hz
- Low dead volume detectors

## Commercial equipment

- GCxGC-FID
- GCxGC-ECD
- GCxGC-qMS
- GCxGC-ToF-MS
- GCxGC-AED not commercial available



GCxGC- $\mu$ ECD

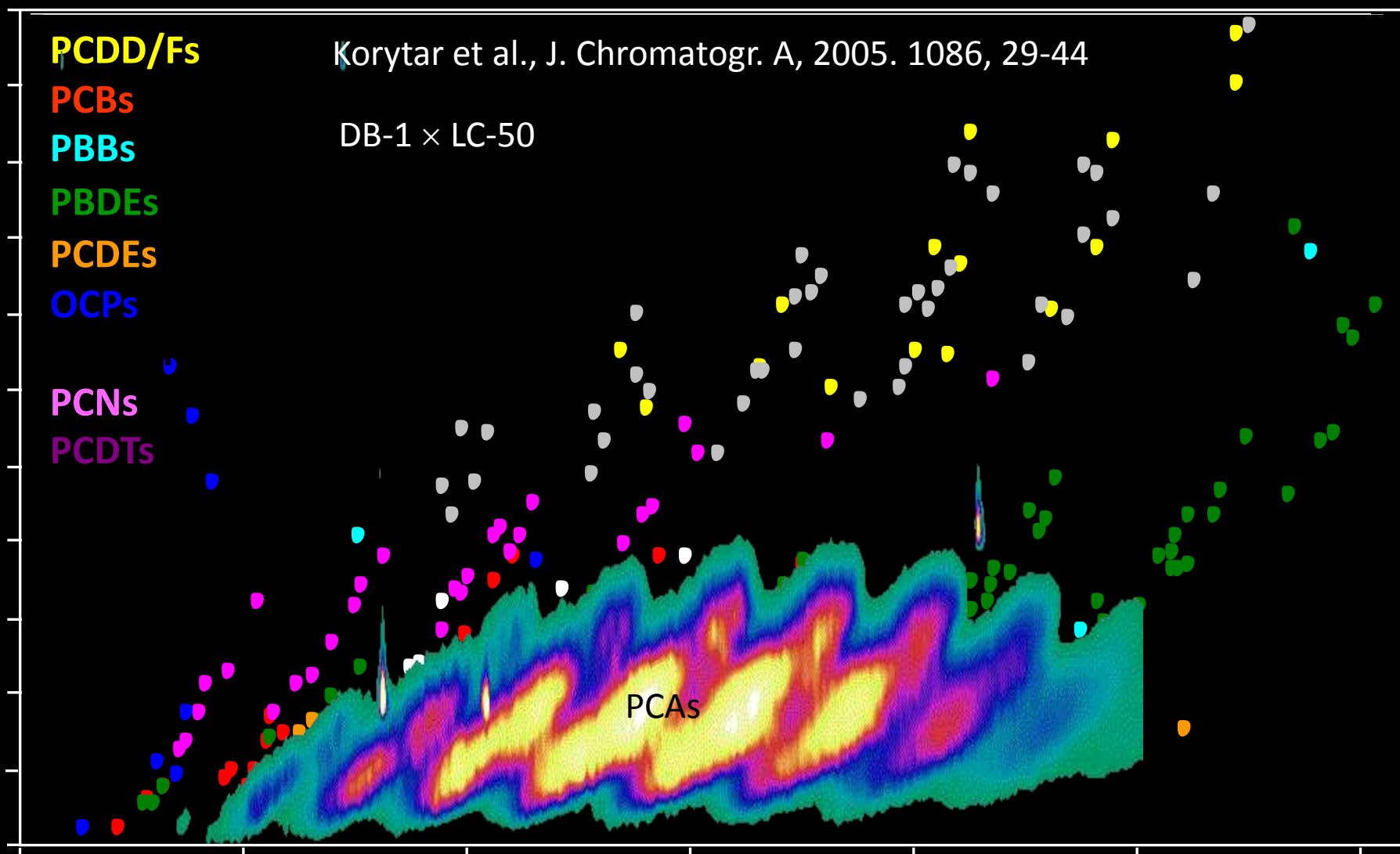
## DB-1x007-65HT



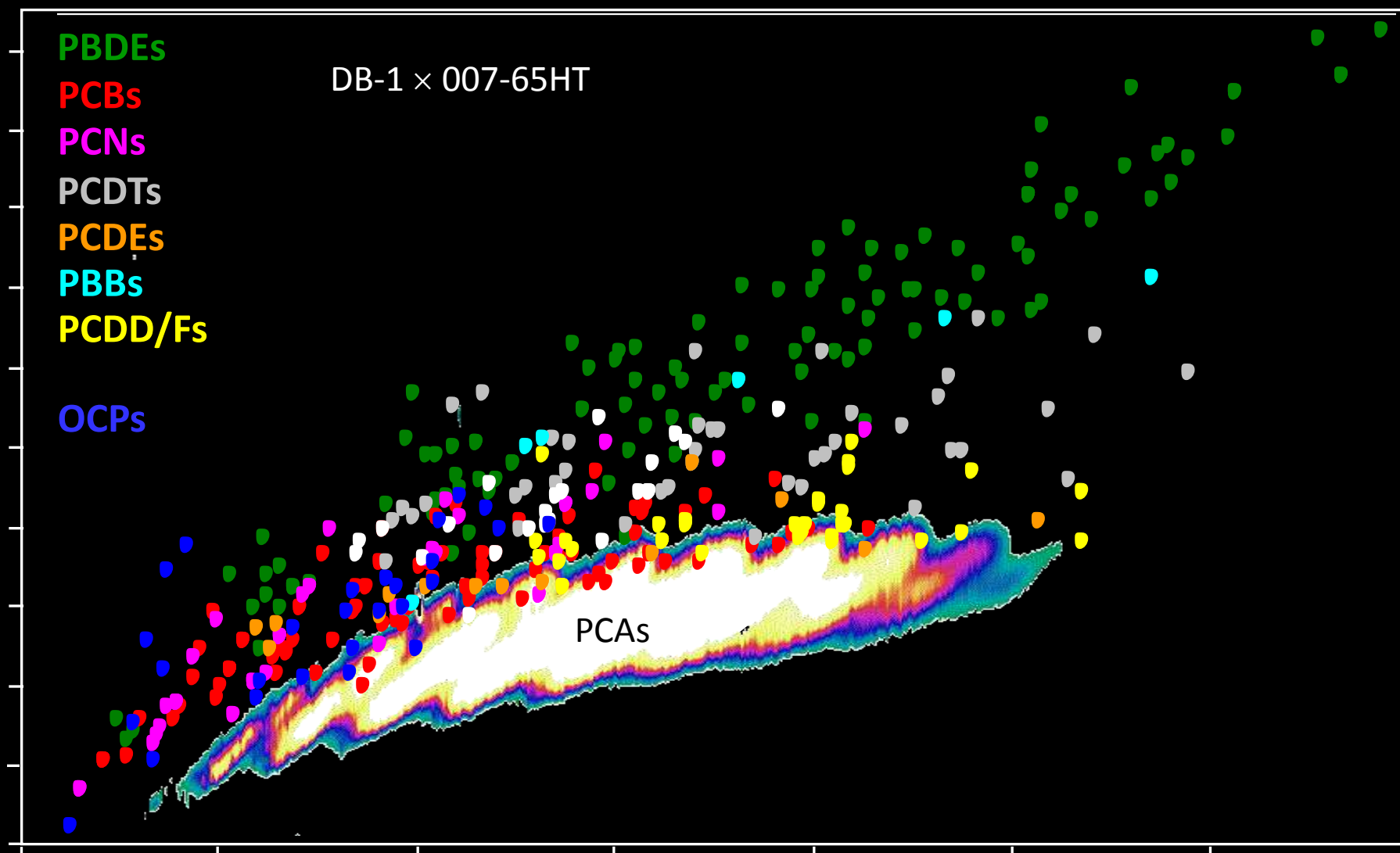
Korytar et al., J Chrom A, 1100 (2005) 200–207



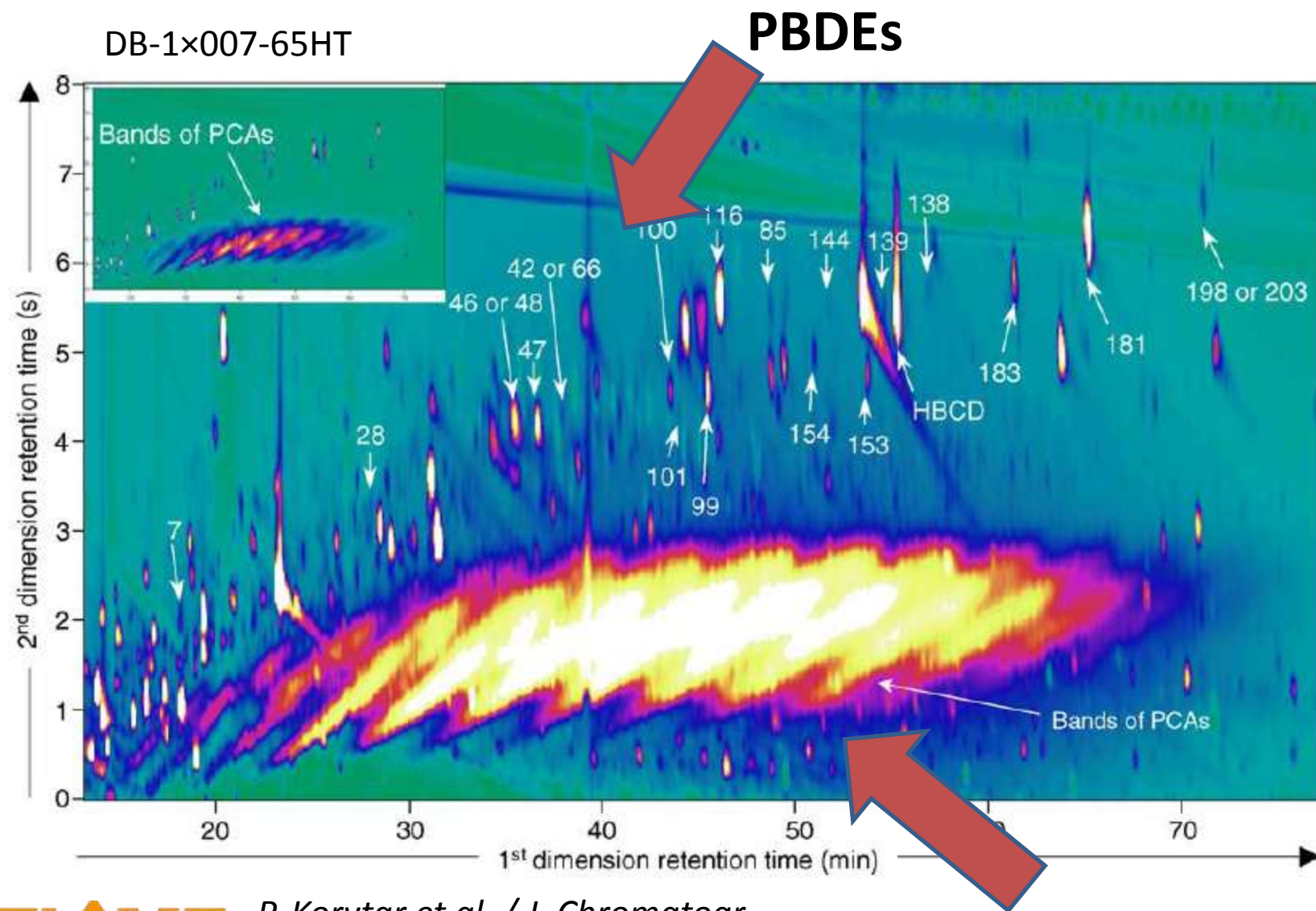
# GCxGC- $\mu$ ECD various contaminants



# GCxGC- $\mu$ ECD different column combination

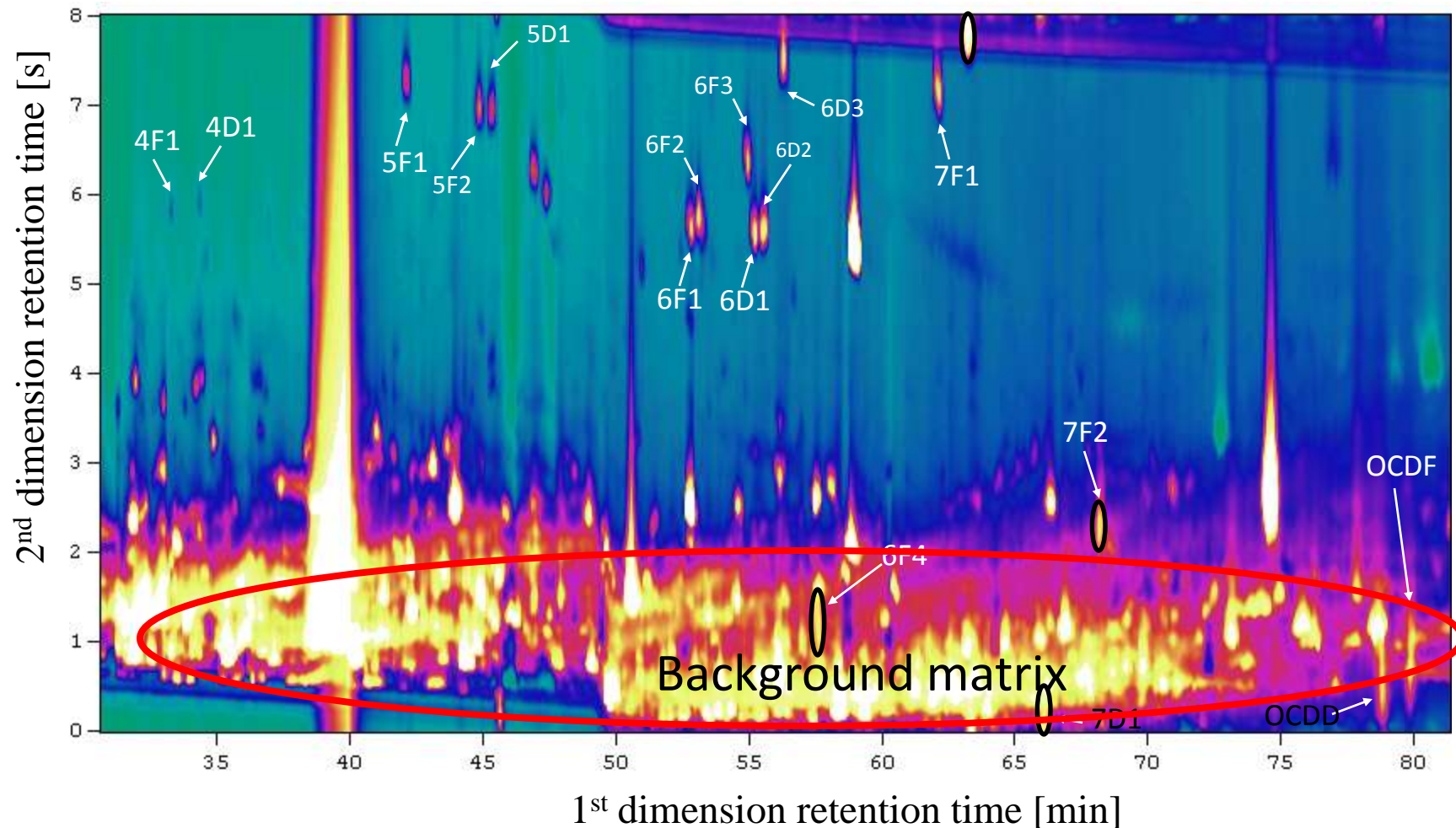


# GCxGC- $\mu$ ECD dust sample



# Background matrix separation from dioxins

GCxGC-ECD, DB-XLB x LC-50



GCxGC-MS

# GCxGC with qMS

- Requirements

fast acquisition

spectral quality: no skewing



Modulator control

# Set-up

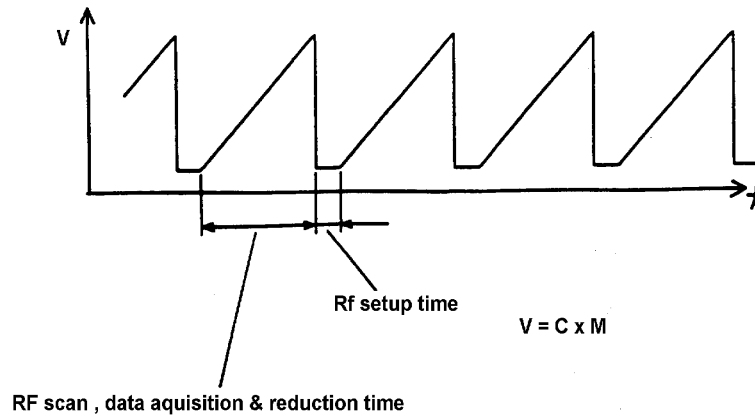
Dual-jet CO<sub>2</sub>  
modulator



GC

Single quadrupole MS

# Quadrupole MS



## High acquisition rates

- short Rf setup time
- fast scanning

R<sub>f</sub> setup time:

10.4 ms

Scan rate:

10000 amu/s

Scan width (amu):

@ 50Hz: 96

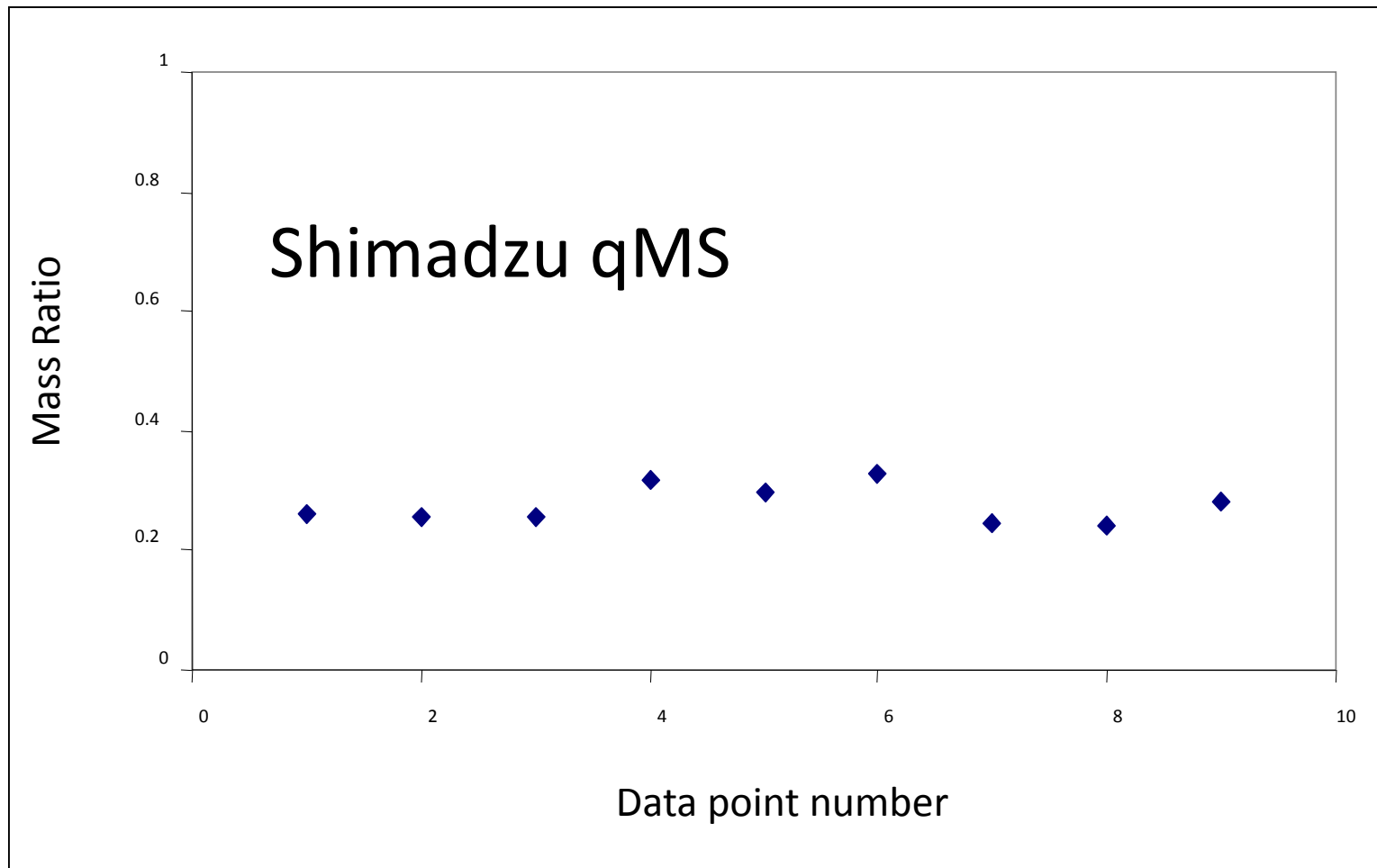
@ 33 Hz: 195

@ 25 Hz: 296

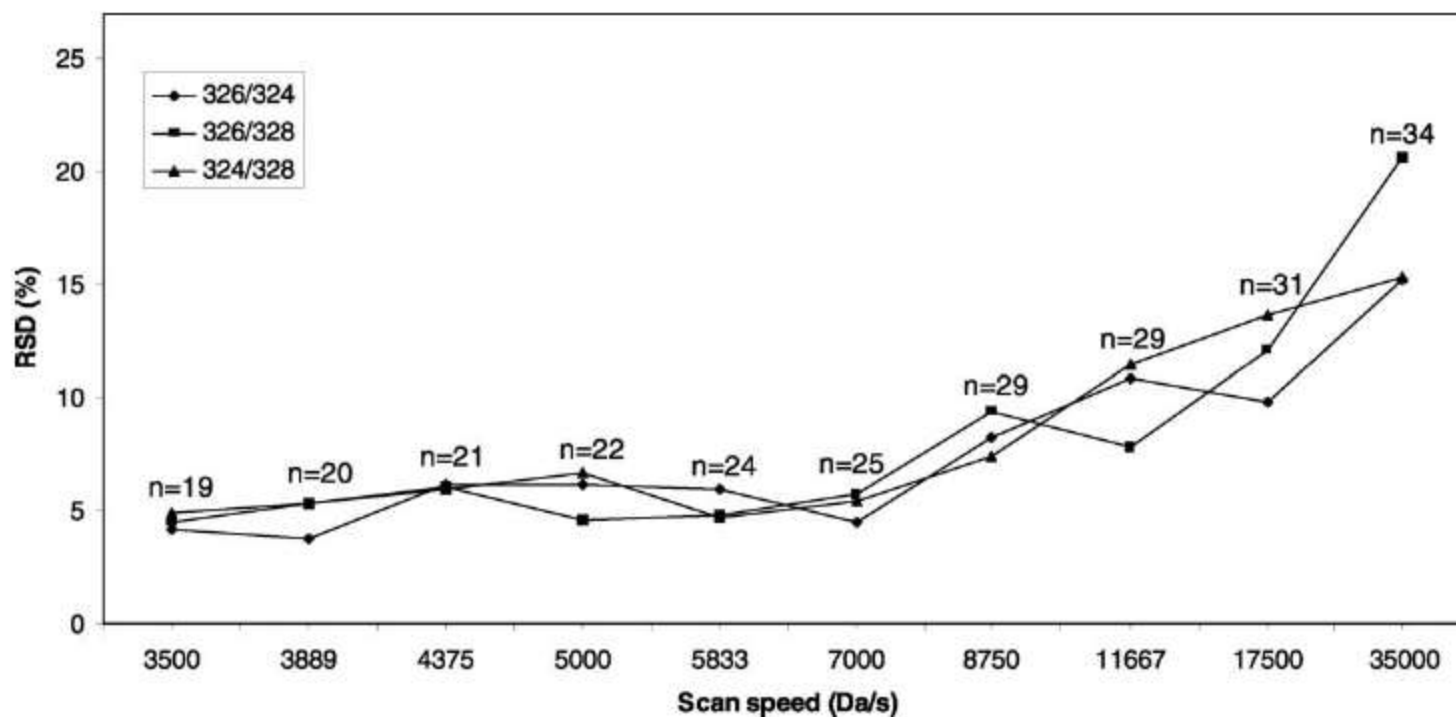


# No skewing

mass ratio plot (m/z 330/326)



# Quality of spectra



*P. Korytar et al. / J. Chromatogr. A 1067 (2005) 255–264*

# Mass range scanned

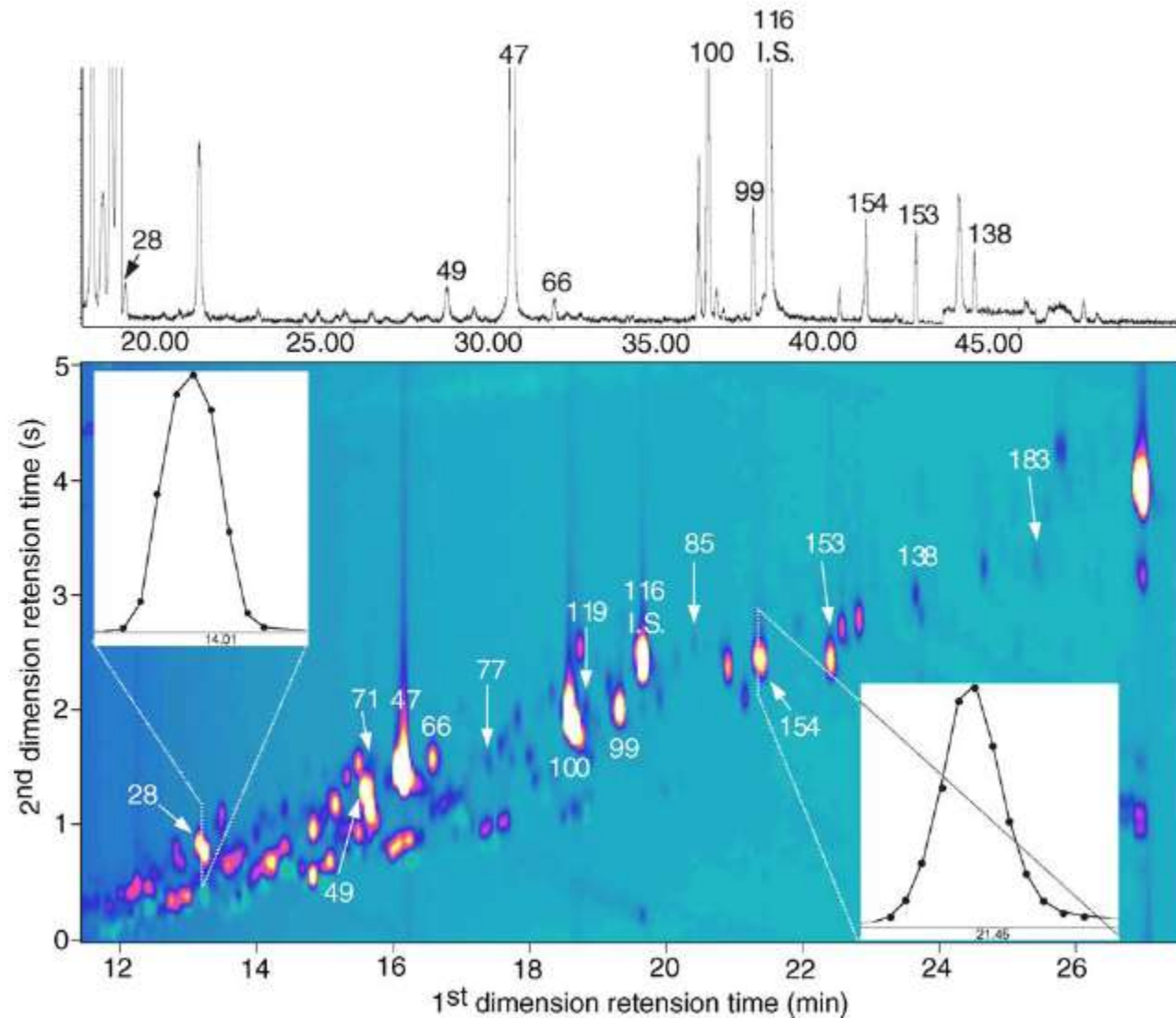
Mass range scanned (Da)	Minimum inter-scan delay (s)	Maximum scan speed: 6700 Da/s		
		Scan time <sup>a</sup> (s)	Max. data acquisition rate <sup>b</sup> (Hz)	Min. detectable peak width <sup>c</sup> (ms)
400	0.014	0.060	14	510
300	0.011	0.045	18	380
200	0.010	0.030	25	280
100	0.005	0.015	50	140
50	0.001	0.007	125	56

*P. Korytar et al. / J. Chromatogr. A 1067 (2005) 255–264 259*

# GCxGC-qMS

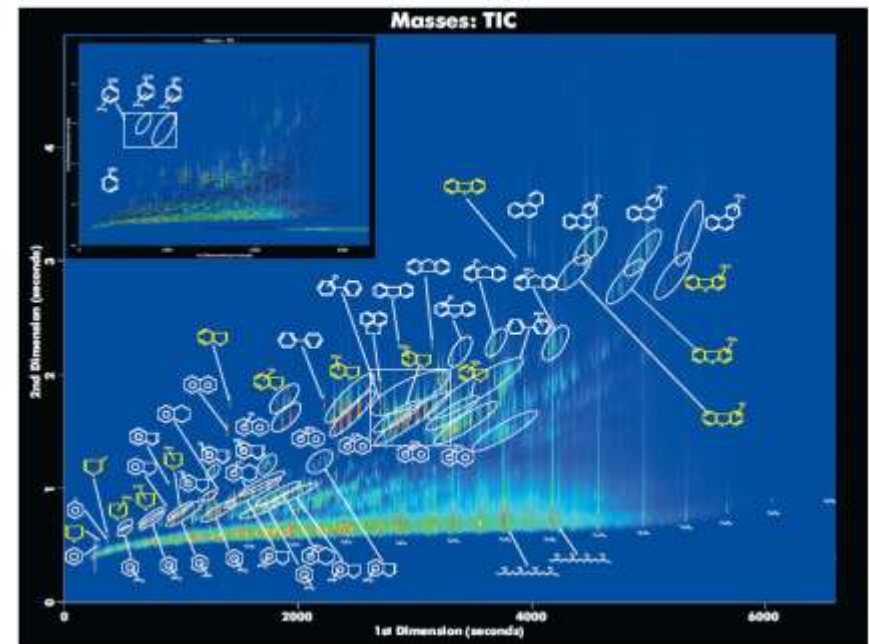
- Fast enough
- Selective enough
  - separation of coeluters
- Limited scanning range (300 Da)
- Not sensitive enough in EI
  - NCI required

# Eel extract GCxGC-qMS PBDE analysis

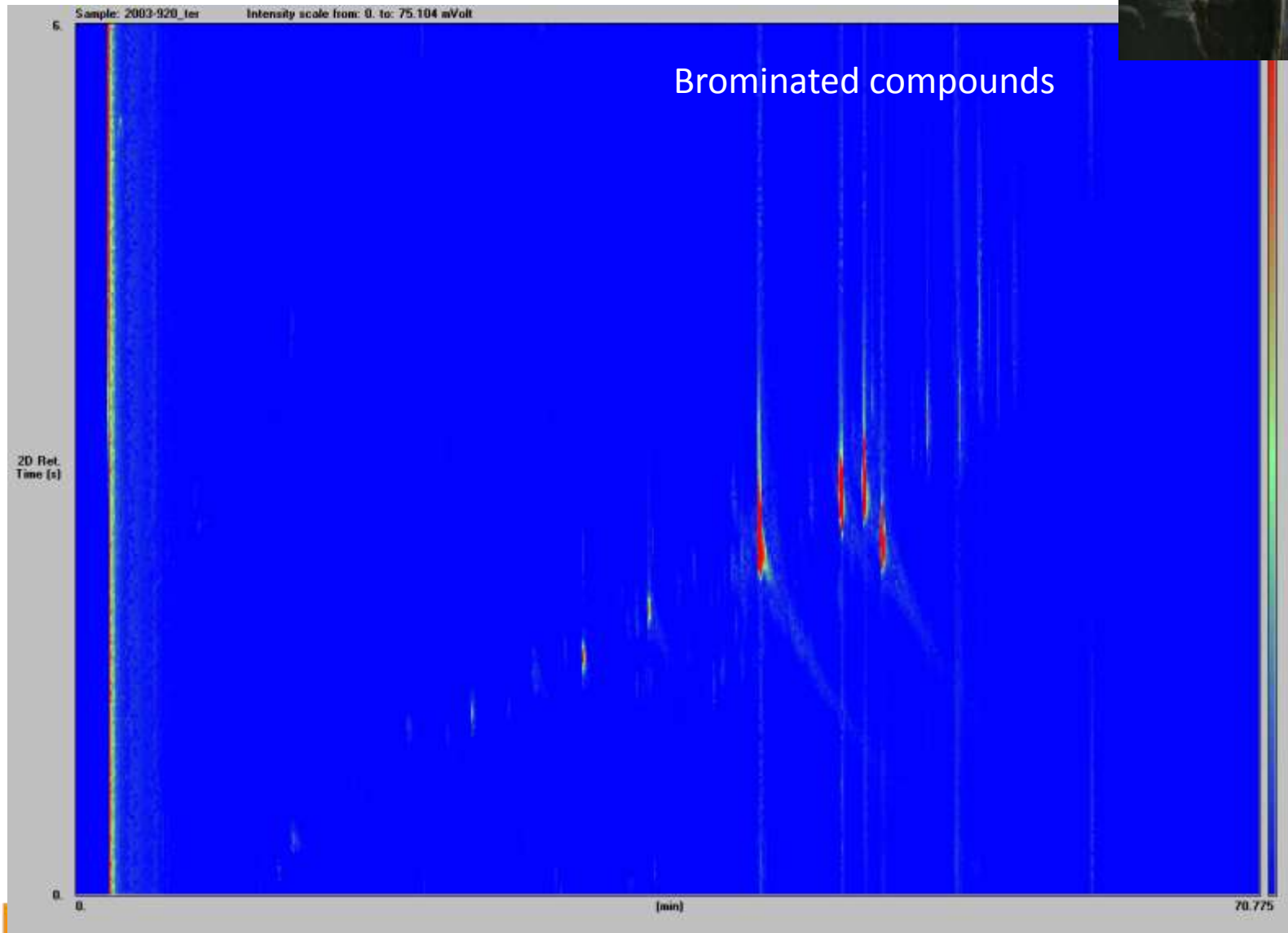


# GCxGC ToFMS

- Fast scan speed: 100-500 Hz
- No mass skewing
- Automated search



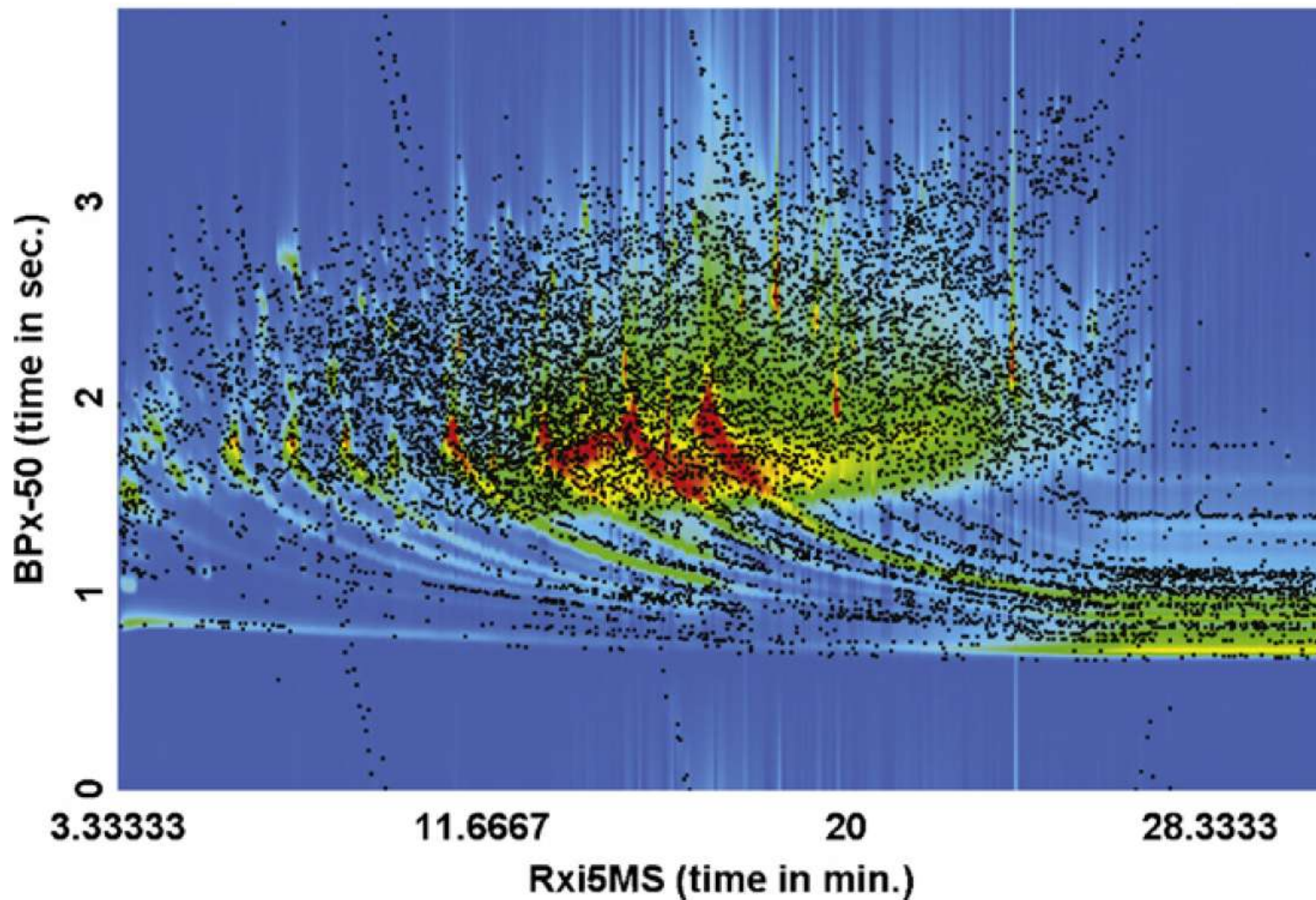
# GCxGC-ToF-MS, Tern egg Western Scheldt





# Screening chemicals in household dust

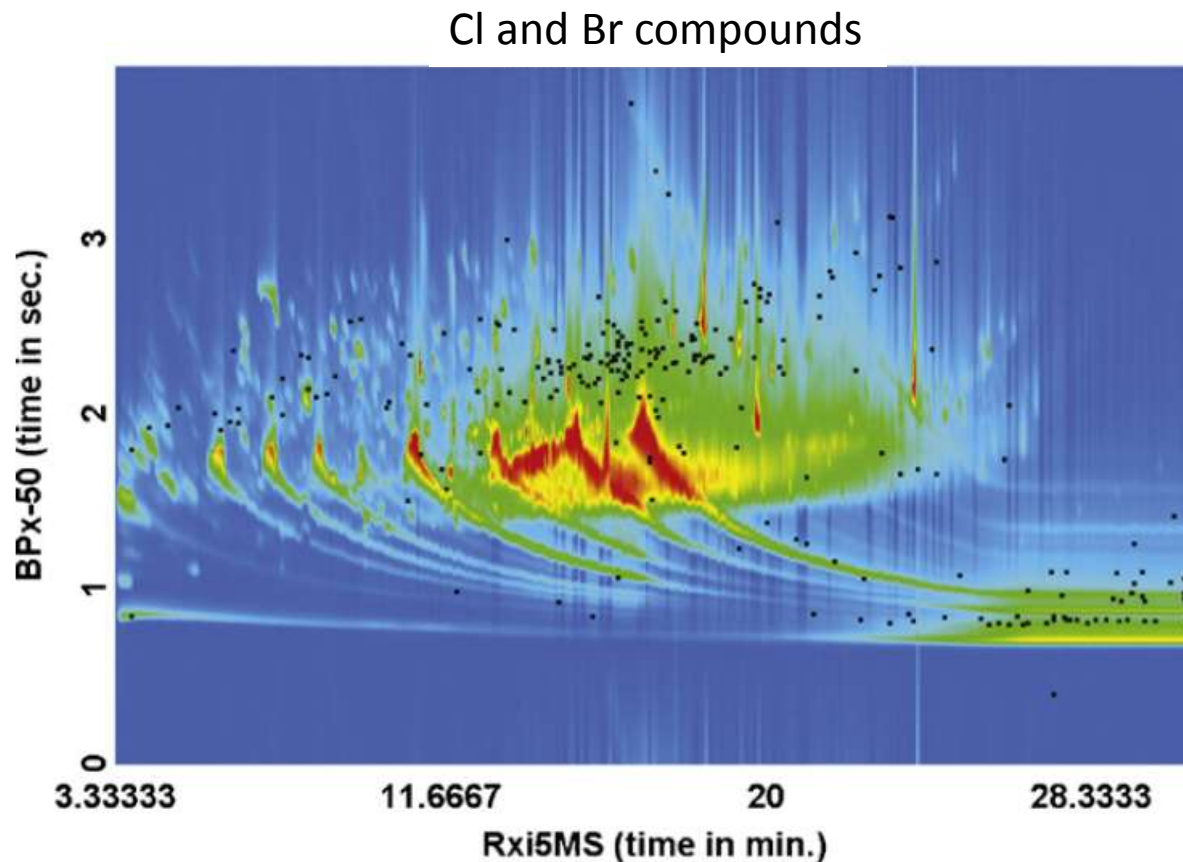
GCxGC-ToFMS of an hexane extract of dust





# Chlorinated and brominated compounds in house dust

- >10,000 peaks detected
- 145 compounds contain chlorine or bromine

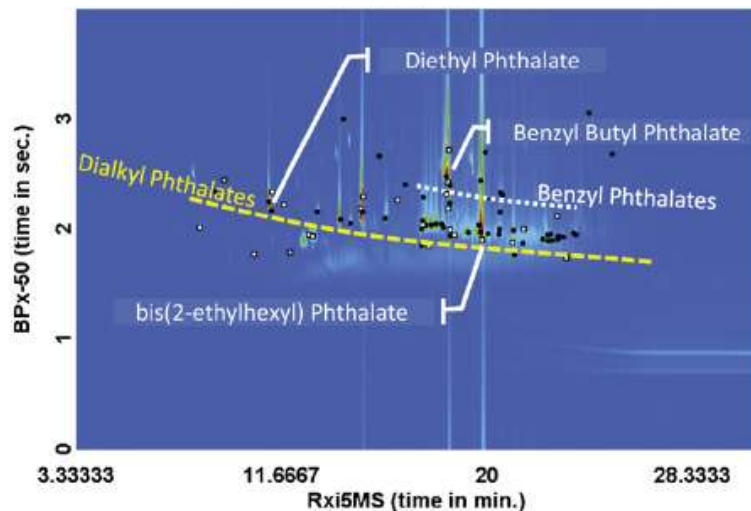


Hilton et al., 2010. J. Chrom A, 1217 (2010) 6851–6856

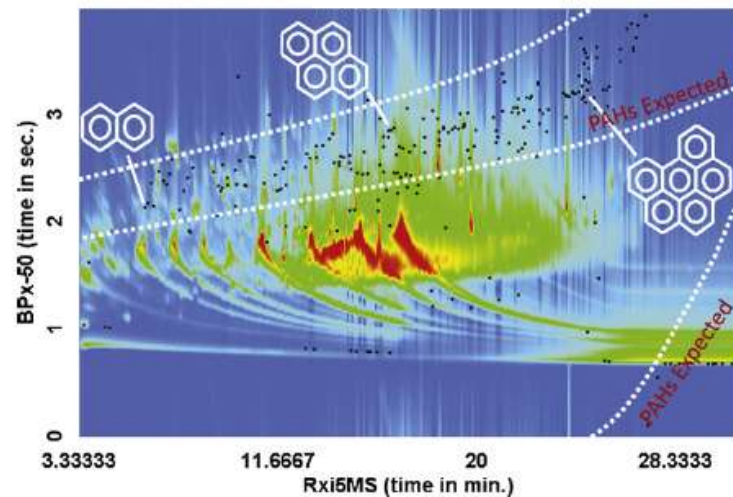
# Other compounds identified in household dust

Compound class	Number found by filter	Plausible on review
Chlorine/bromine-containing	165	145 (93%)
Phthalates	52	33 (57%)
PAHs	145	94 (65%)
Nitro compounds	8	1 (13%)

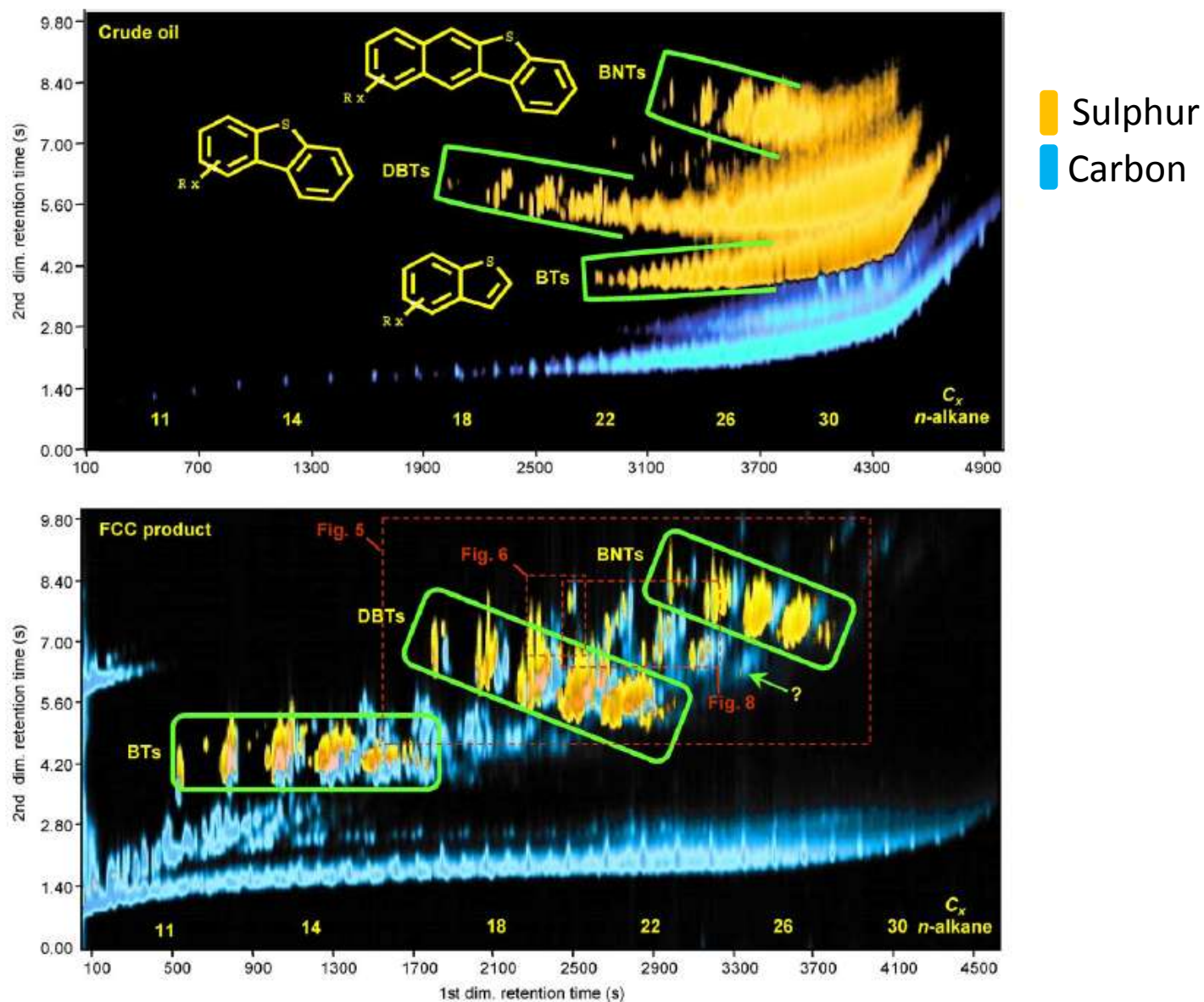
## Phthalates



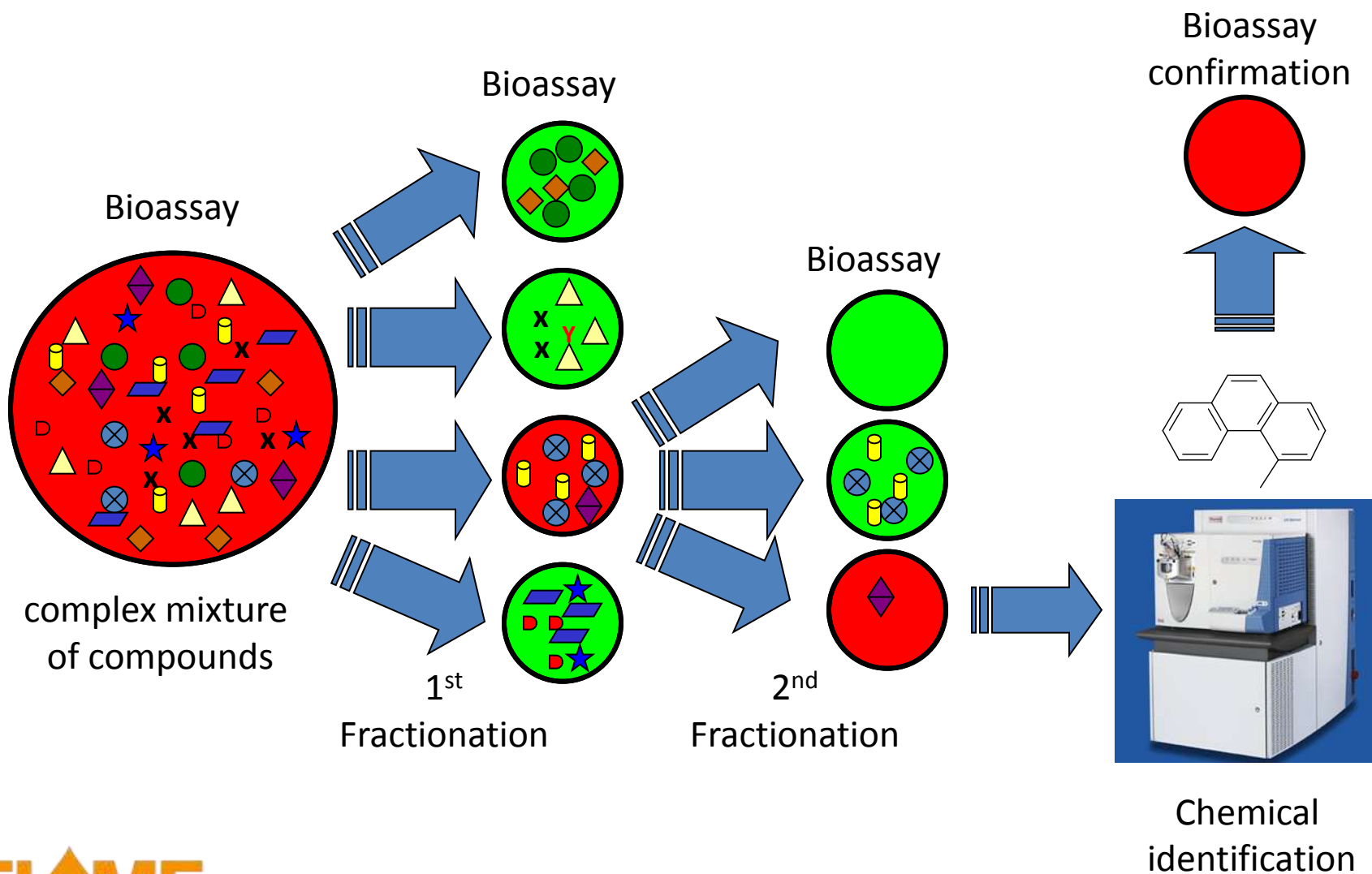
## PAHs



# GCxGC-AED oil



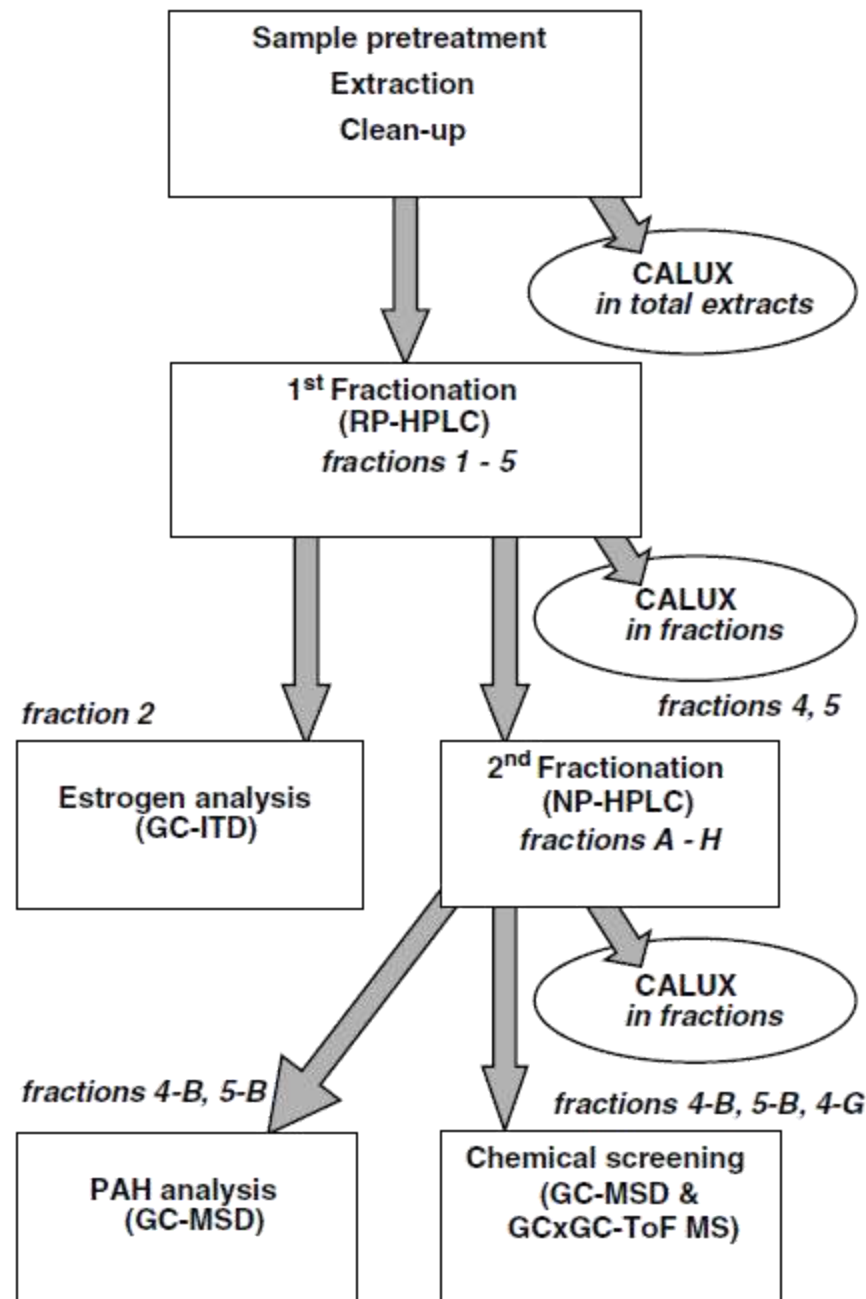
# Effect-directed analysis (EDA)



# Combined sample treatment scheme chemical and bioassay analysis

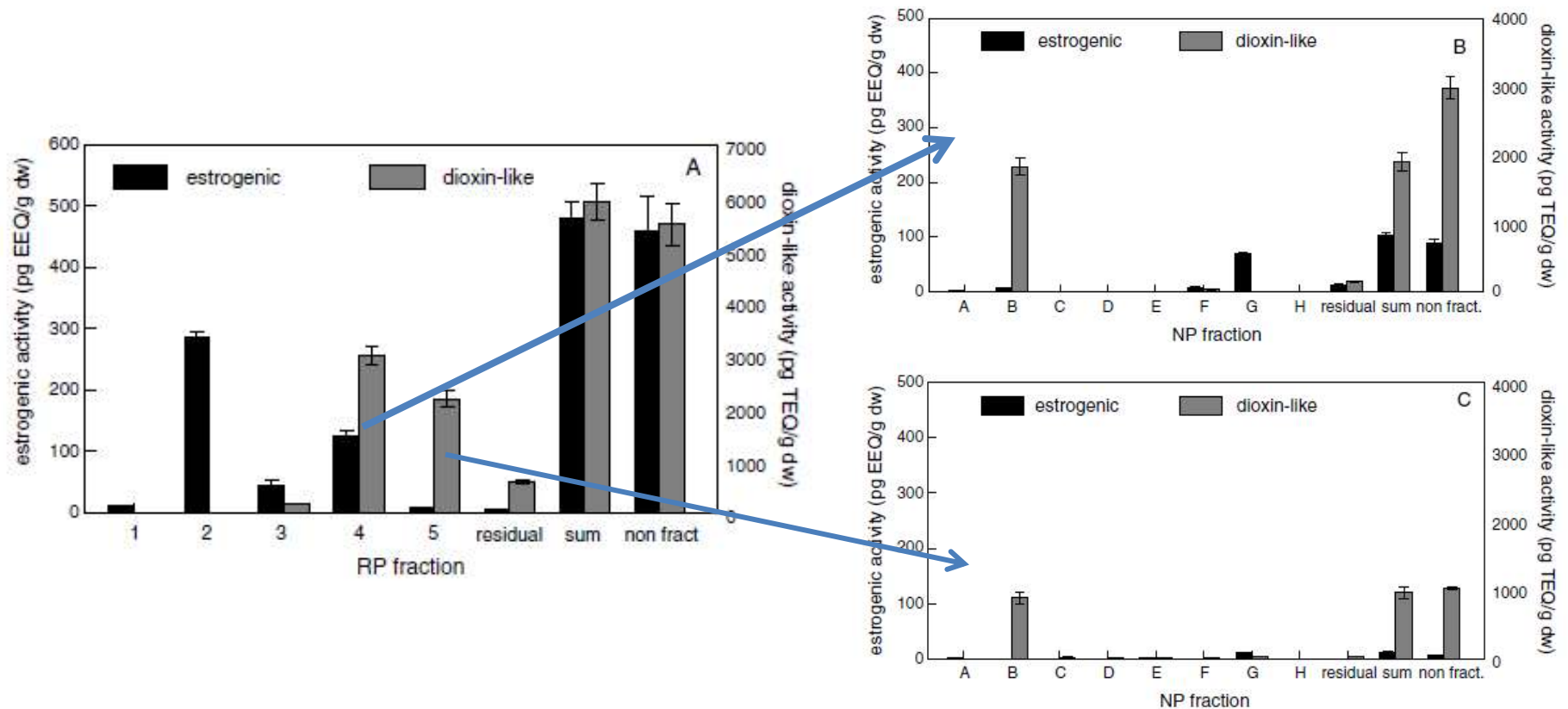
Houtman et al. 2006

- Sediment sample from a harbour
- Bioassays
  - Dioxin like compounds (DR-CALUX)
  - Estrogenic compounds (ER-CALUX)
- Chemical identification
  - GC-MS
  - GCxGC-ToFMS





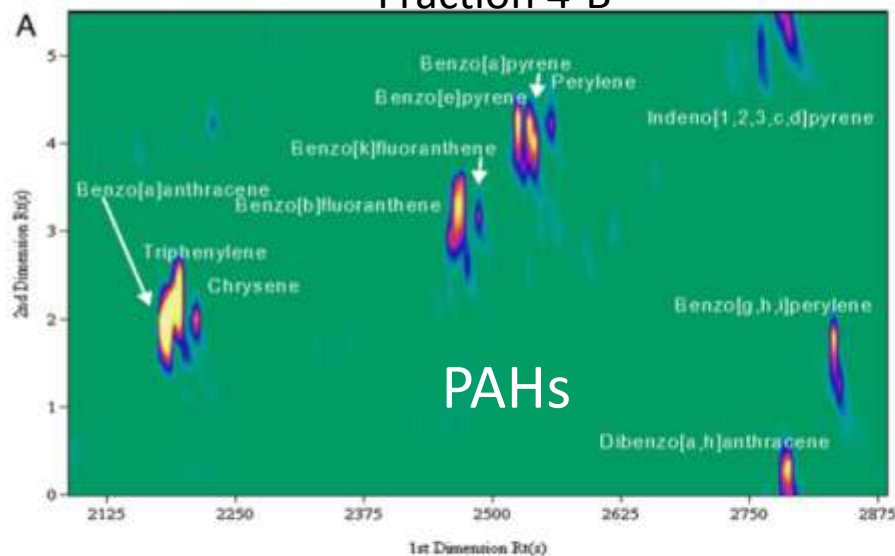
# Bioassay activity of the sediment



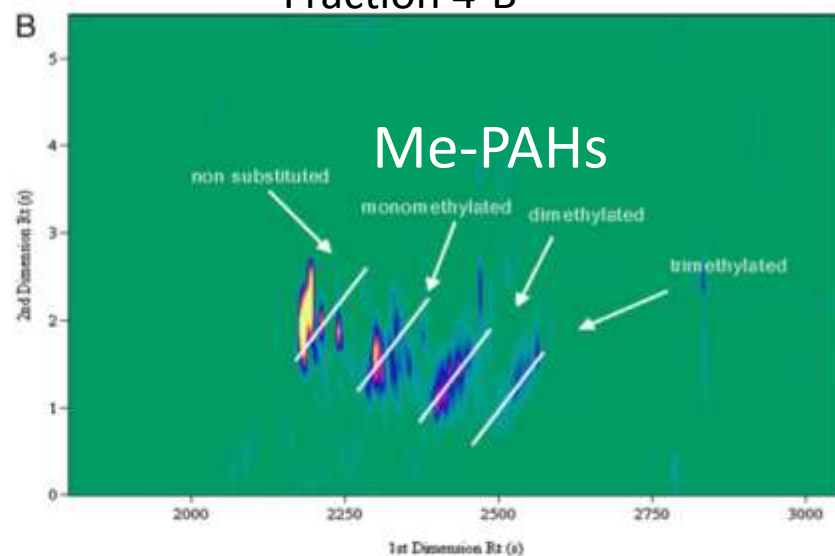
Houtman et al., 2006, Chemosphere 65, 2244–2252

# Active fraction GCxGC-ToFMS

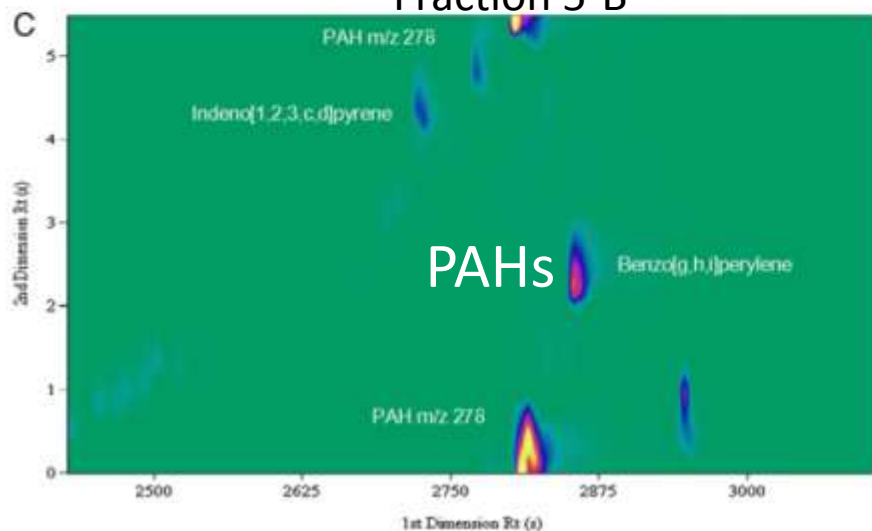
Fraction 4-B



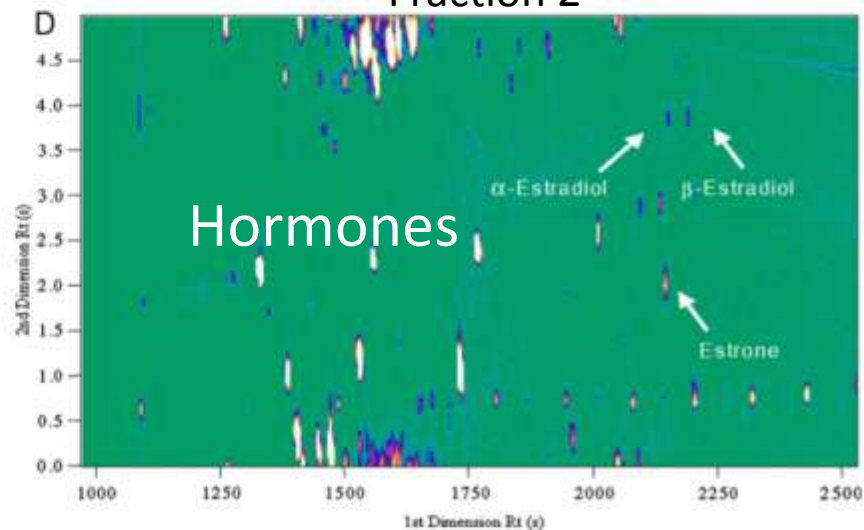
Fraction 4-B



Fraction 5-B



Fraction 2



# Identified compounds and explained bioassay activity

- 76% of the estrogenic activity was explained by  $17\alpha$ -,  $17\beta$ -estradiol and estrone
- 38% of dioxin-like activity explained by PAHs



# Summary

- GCxGC is a powerful separation technique
- Separation of interfering compounds and matrix
- GCxGC is especially suitable for the separation of complex mixtures
- GCxGC combined with mass spectrometry can be used for the identification of “new” flame retardants