



# Improved Method for the Detection of Haloacetic Acids in Drinking Water by HPLC-

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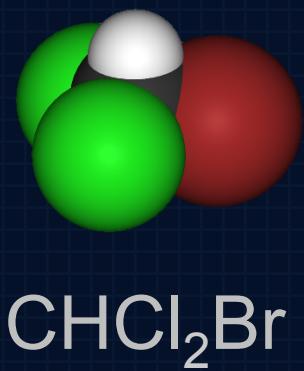
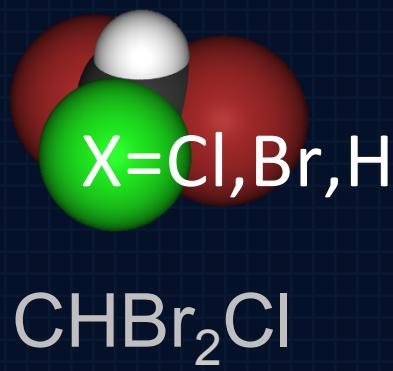
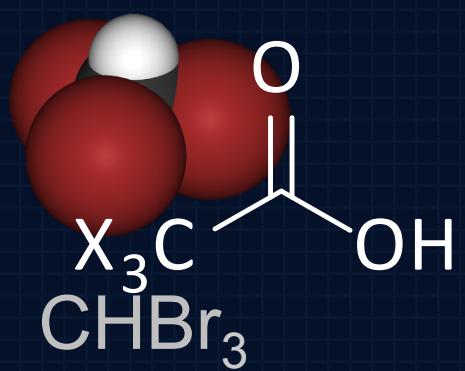
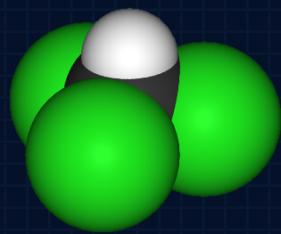
MS/MS  
Agustin Pierri, PhD

National Environmental  
Monitoring Conference 2015

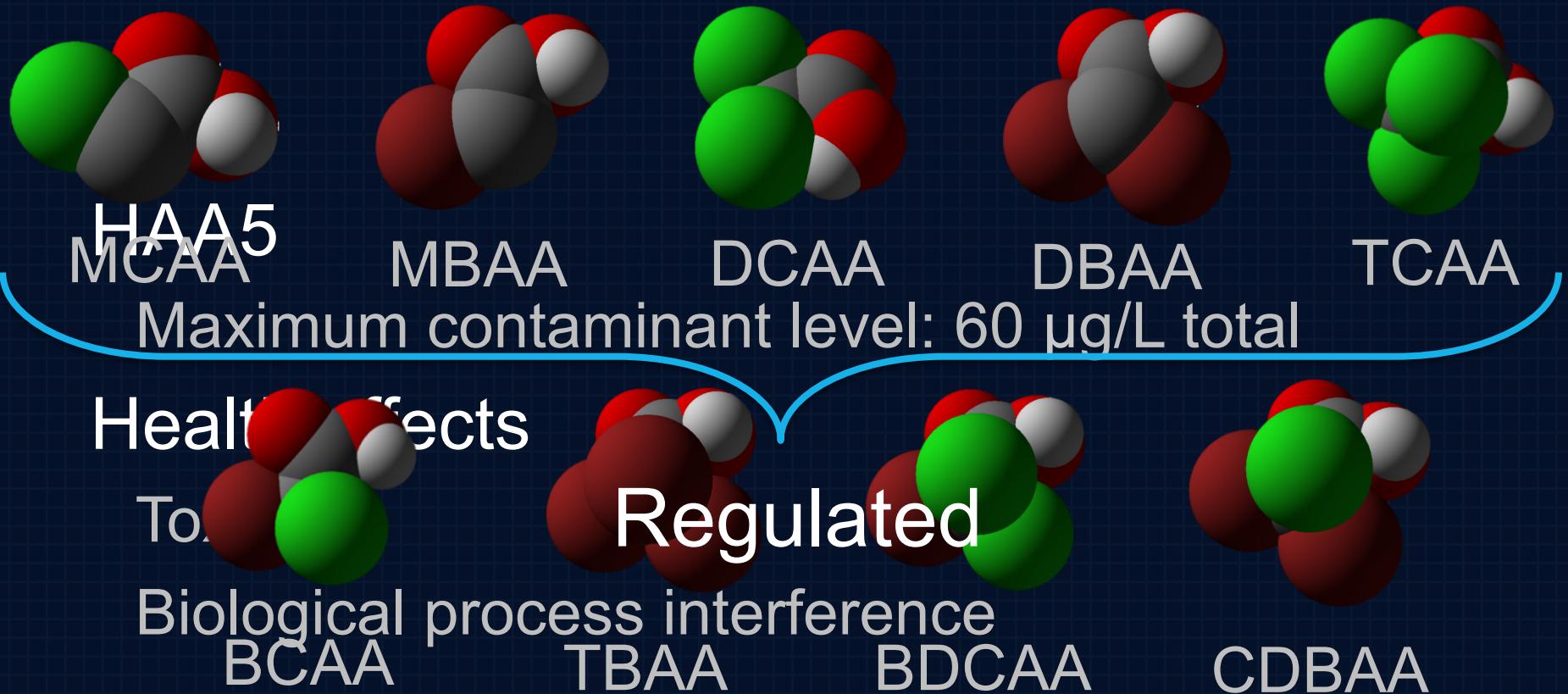
# Introduction

# Chlorination disinfection by-products

Disinfection + Humic/fulvic  
Chloramine Organics acids → Dibromoethanes  
Hydrochloric acids



# Haloacetic acids



# Existing methodologies

# EPA method 552.3

Liqui  
1990

METHOD 552

DETERMINATION OF HALOACETIC ACIDS IN DRINKING WATER BY LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION, DERIVATIZATION, AND GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY WITH ELECTRON CAPTURE DETECTION

1992

METHOD 552.1

DETERMINATION OF HALOACETIC ACIDS AND DALAPON BY ION-EXCHANGE LIQUID-SOLID EXTRACTION AND GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY WITH AN ELECTRON CAPTURE DETECTION

Revision 1.0

August 1992

Jimmie W. Hodgeson

David Becker (Technology Applications)

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SYSTEM  
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45268

552.1-1

1995

METHOD 552.2

DETERMINATION OF HALOACETIC ACIDS AND DALAPON IN DRINKING WATER BY LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION, DERIVATIZATION AND GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY WITH ELECTRON CAPTURE DETECTION

METHOD 552.3

DETERMINATION OF HALOACETIC ACIDS AND DALAPON IN DRINKING WATER BY LIQUID-LIQUID MICROEXTRACTION, DERIVATIZATION, AND GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY WITH ELECTRON CAPTURE DETECTION

2003

EPA 815-B-03-002

Revision 1.0

July 2003

M. M. Domino and B.V. Pepich (Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc.)  
D.J. Munch and P.S. Fair (US EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water)  
Y. Xie (Penn State University)

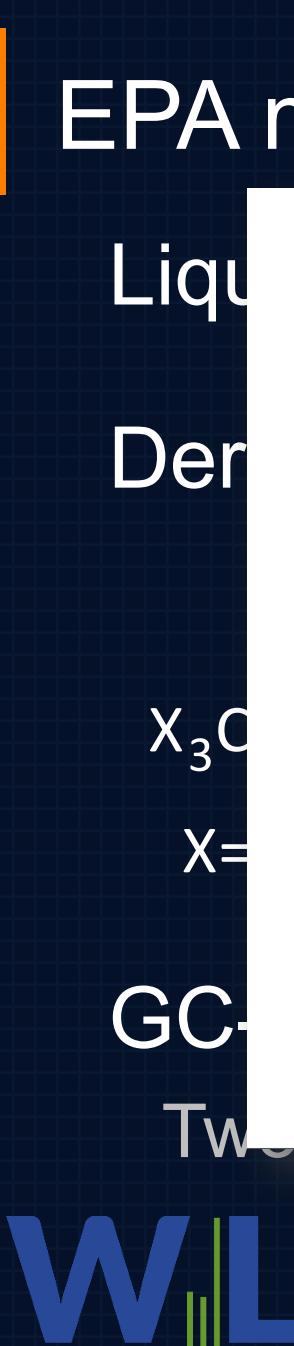
D.J. Munch, J.W. Munch (US EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water) and A. M. Pawlecki-Vonderheide (ICI) Method 552.2, Revision 1.0 (1995)

J.W. Hodgeson (USEPA), D. Becker (Technology Applications, Inc.) Method 552.1, (1992)

J.W. Hodgeson (USEPA), J. Collins and R. E. Barth (Technology Applications, Inc.) Method 552.0, (1990)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTER  
OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER  
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45268

552.3-1



# EPA method 552.3 drawbacks

## Sample preparation time required



5 hours

Liquid-liquid extraction

Derivatization

Extract transfer

## Analysis time required

Derivatization step

Target confirmation

20 hours

total

15 hours

# EPA method 557

## IC-ESI-MS/MS

### Benefits

Direct injection

MS specificity

Isotopically enriched IS

### Drawbacks

Ion chromatography

Very long run times



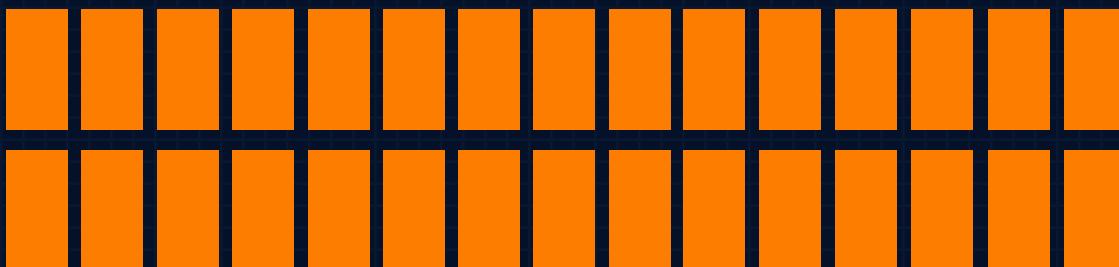
METHOD 557: DETERMINATION OF HALOACETIC ACIDS,  
BROMATE, AND DALAPON IN DRINKING WATER BY ION  
CHROMATOGRAPHY ELECTROSPRAY IONIZATION  
TANDEM MASS SPECTROMETRY (IC-ESI-MS/MS)

2009



*Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center,  
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Office of Water (MLK 140) EPA Document No. 815-B-09-012 September 2009 [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)



# Our approach

# Method goals

Adapt EPA 557

Simplify technique

Handle high ionic strength matrix

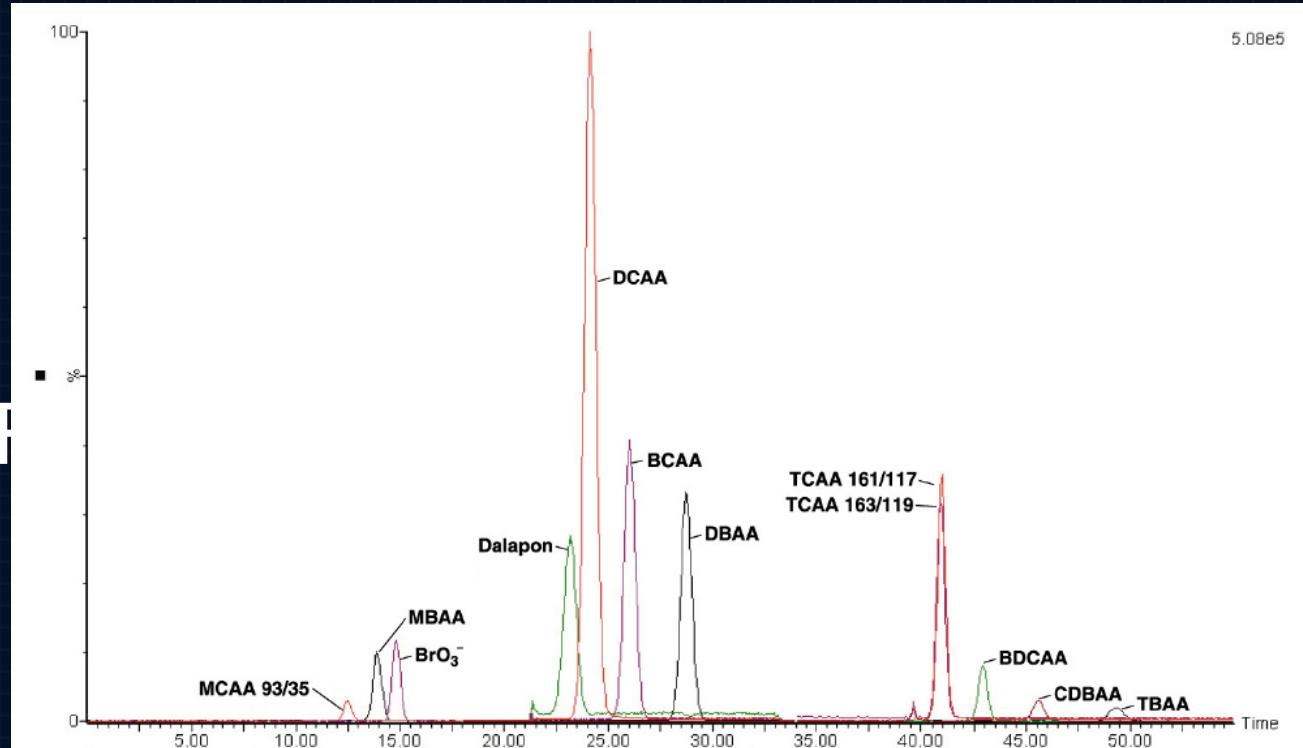
Separate matrix from targets

Shorter analysis times



# Simplify the chromatography

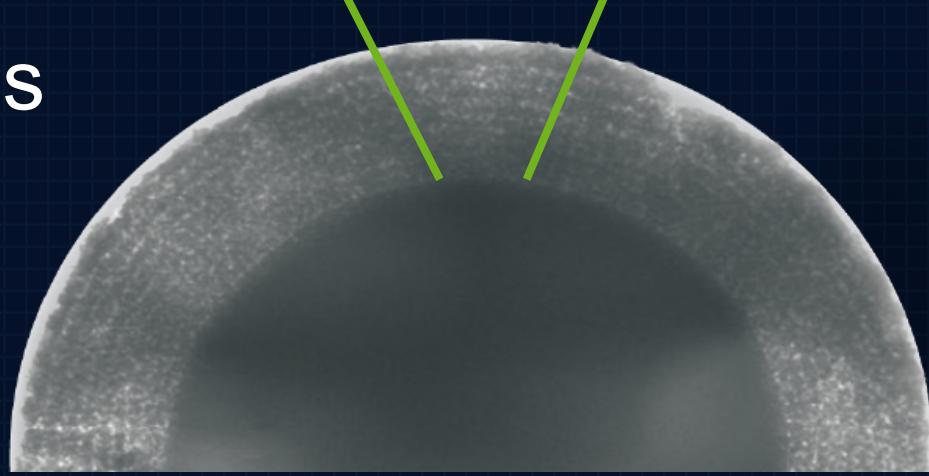
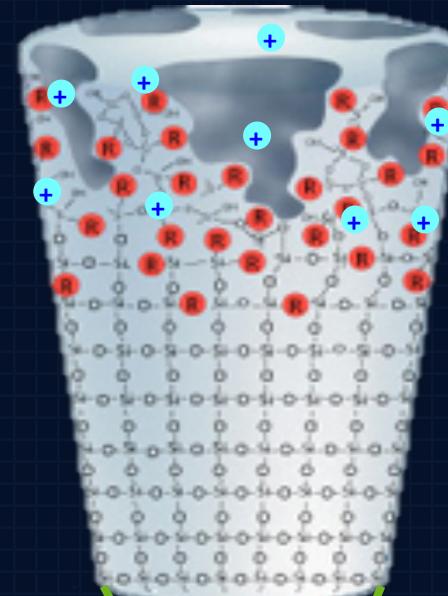
## Ion chromatography



# Phenomenex Kinetex EVO C18

Secondary interactions

Core-shell particles



# Chromatography

Column: Phenomenex Kinetex EVO  
C18

100 x 2.1 2.6 µm

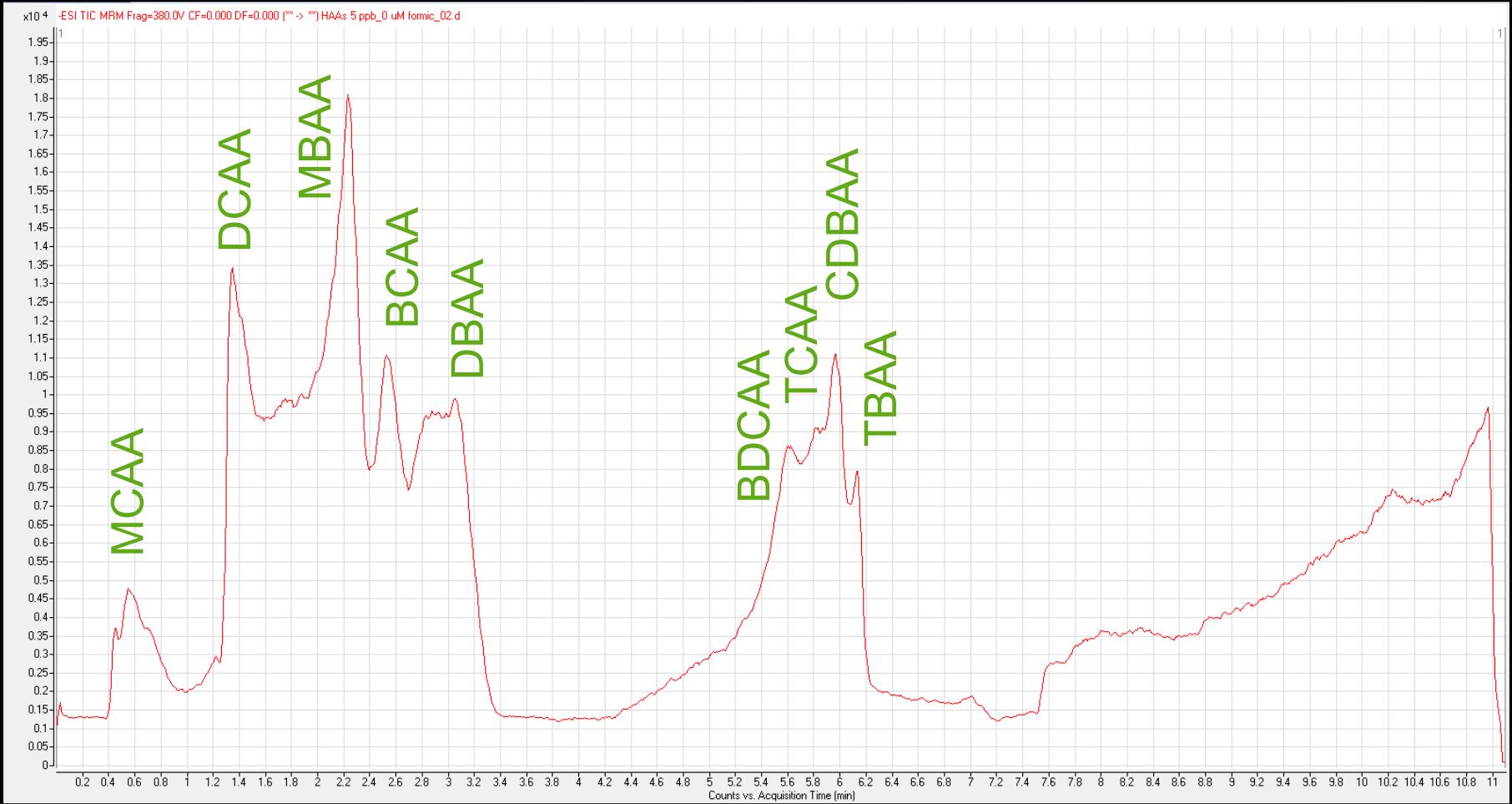
Mobile phase: A: Water with formic acid  
B: Methanol with formic acid

Flow Rate: 0.500 mL/min

Gradient:	Time	%B
	3	1
	8	100
	11	100



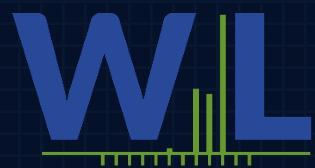
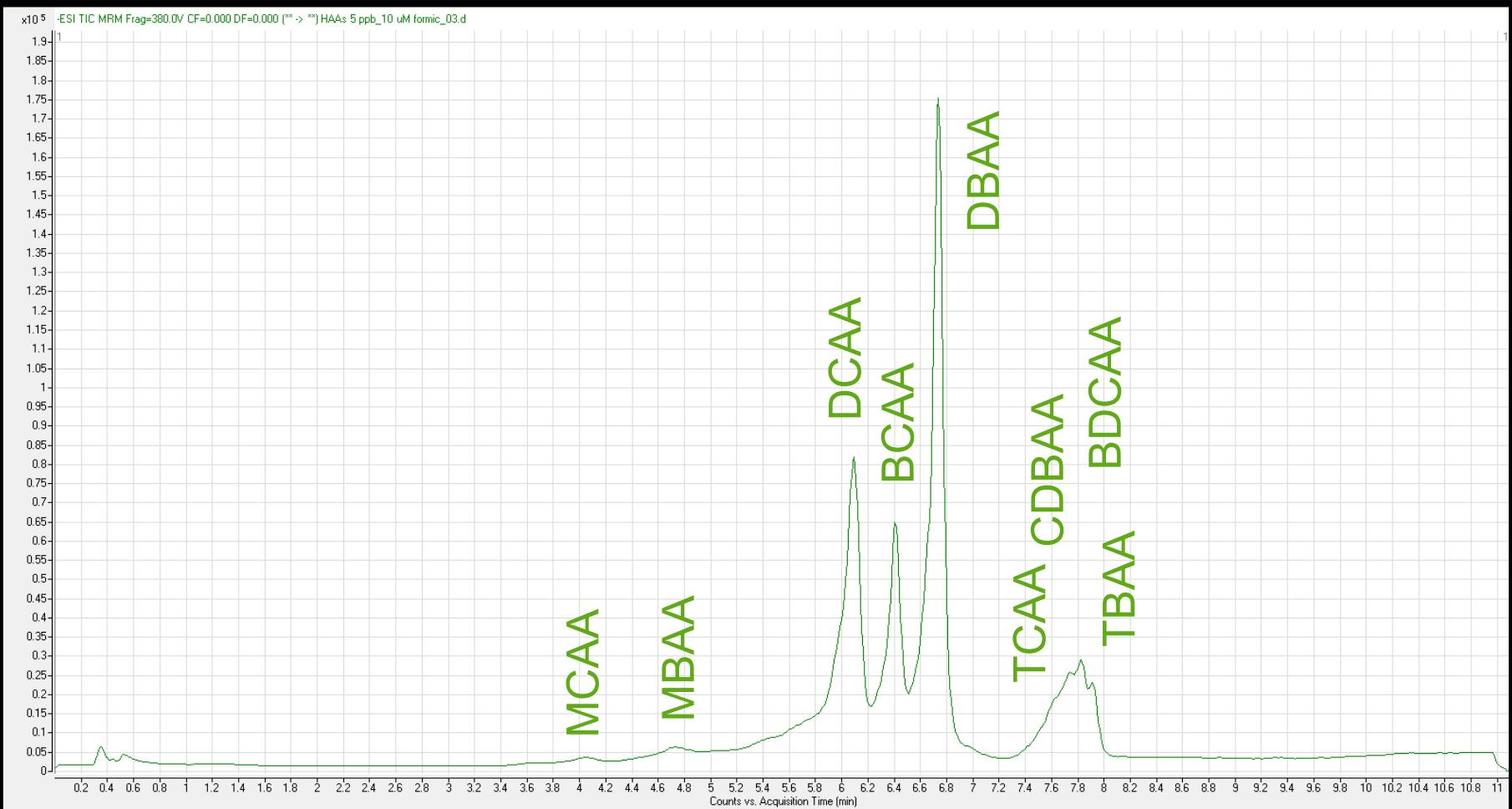
# 0 $\mu\text{M}$ formic acid



WIL

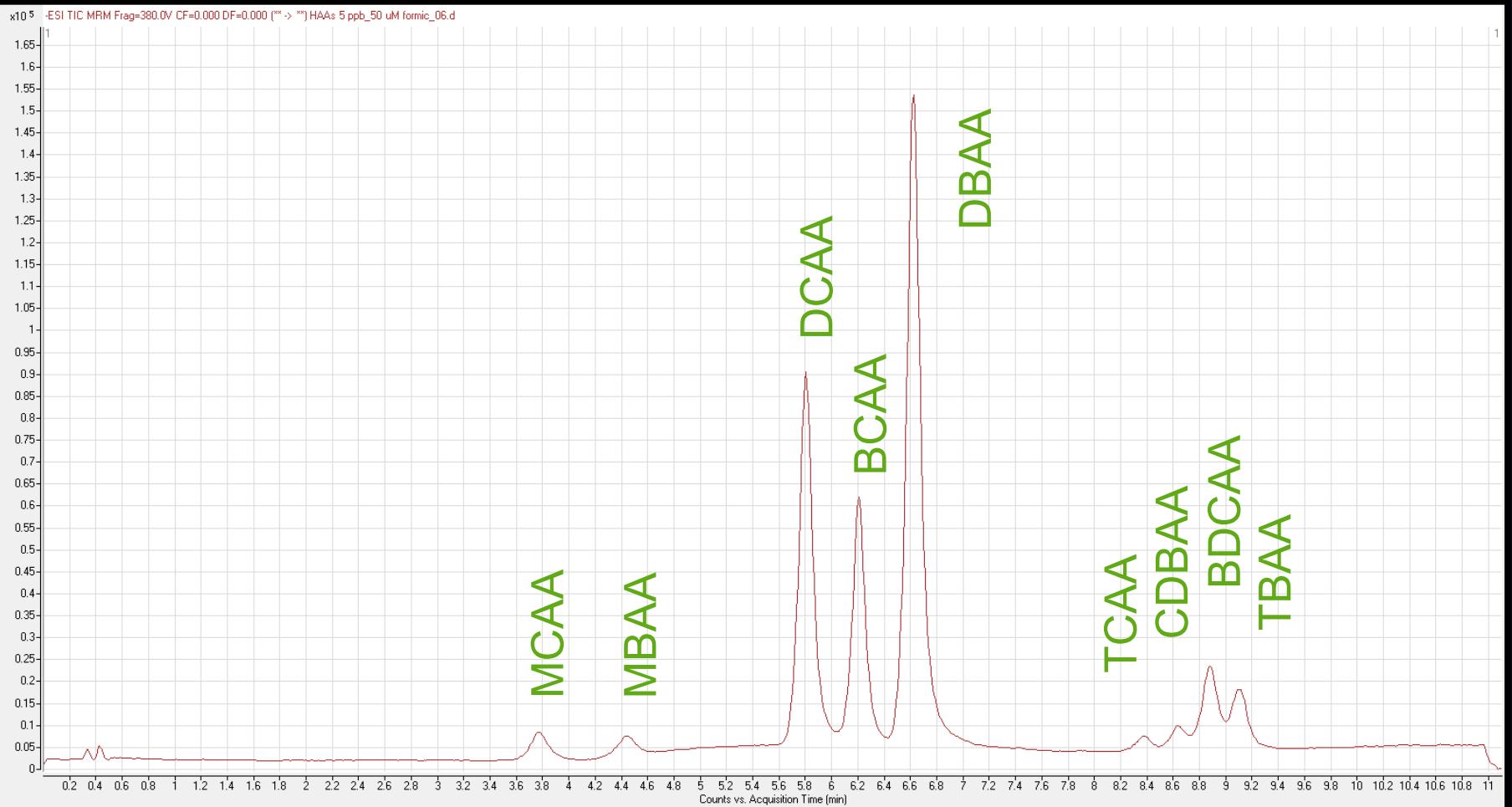
MCAA  $K'$ =0.3

# 10 $\mu\text{M}$ formic acid



MCAA  $K'$ =11.2

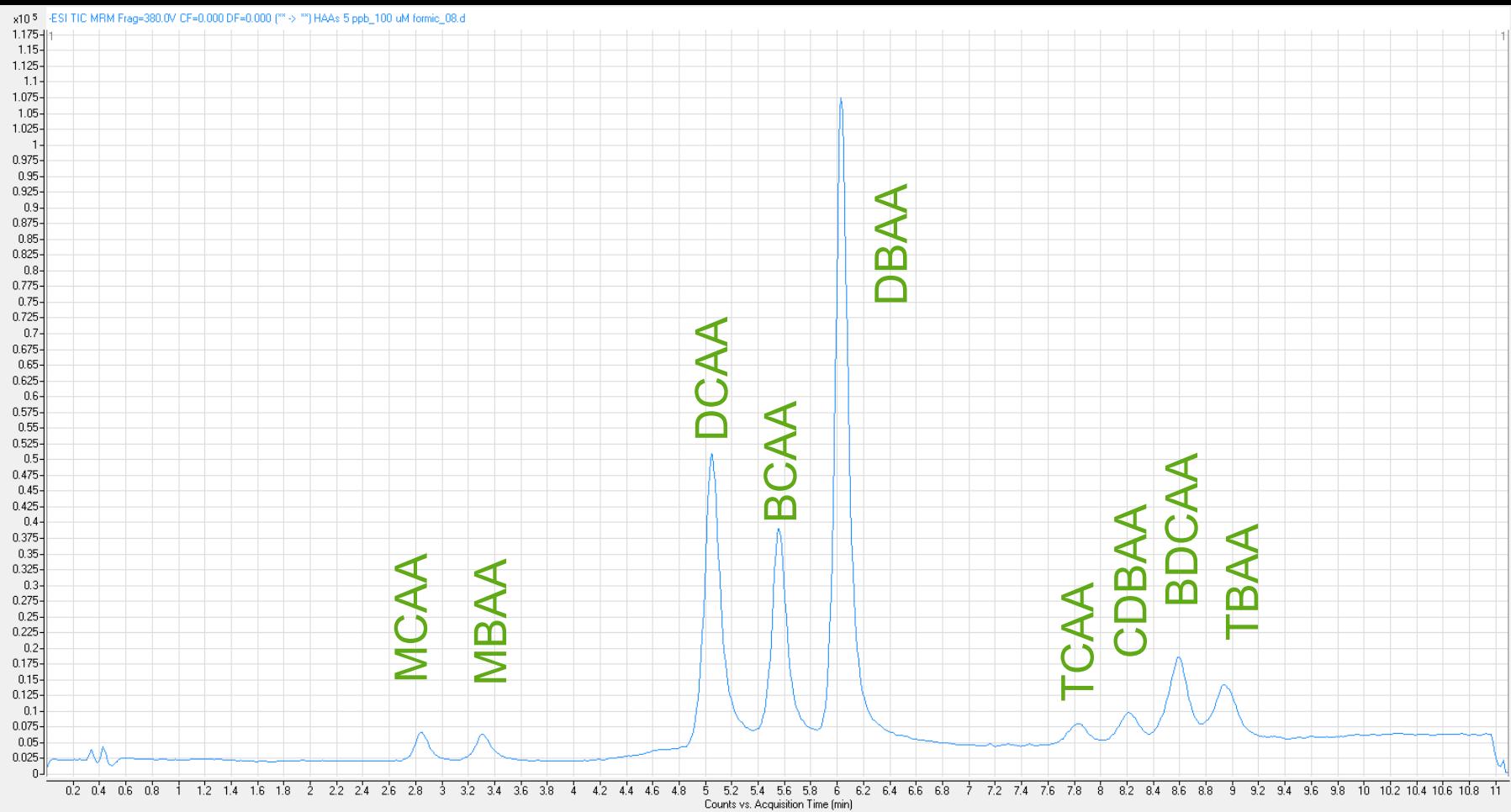
# 50 $\mu\text{M}$ formic acid



WIL

MCAA  $K'$ =10.5

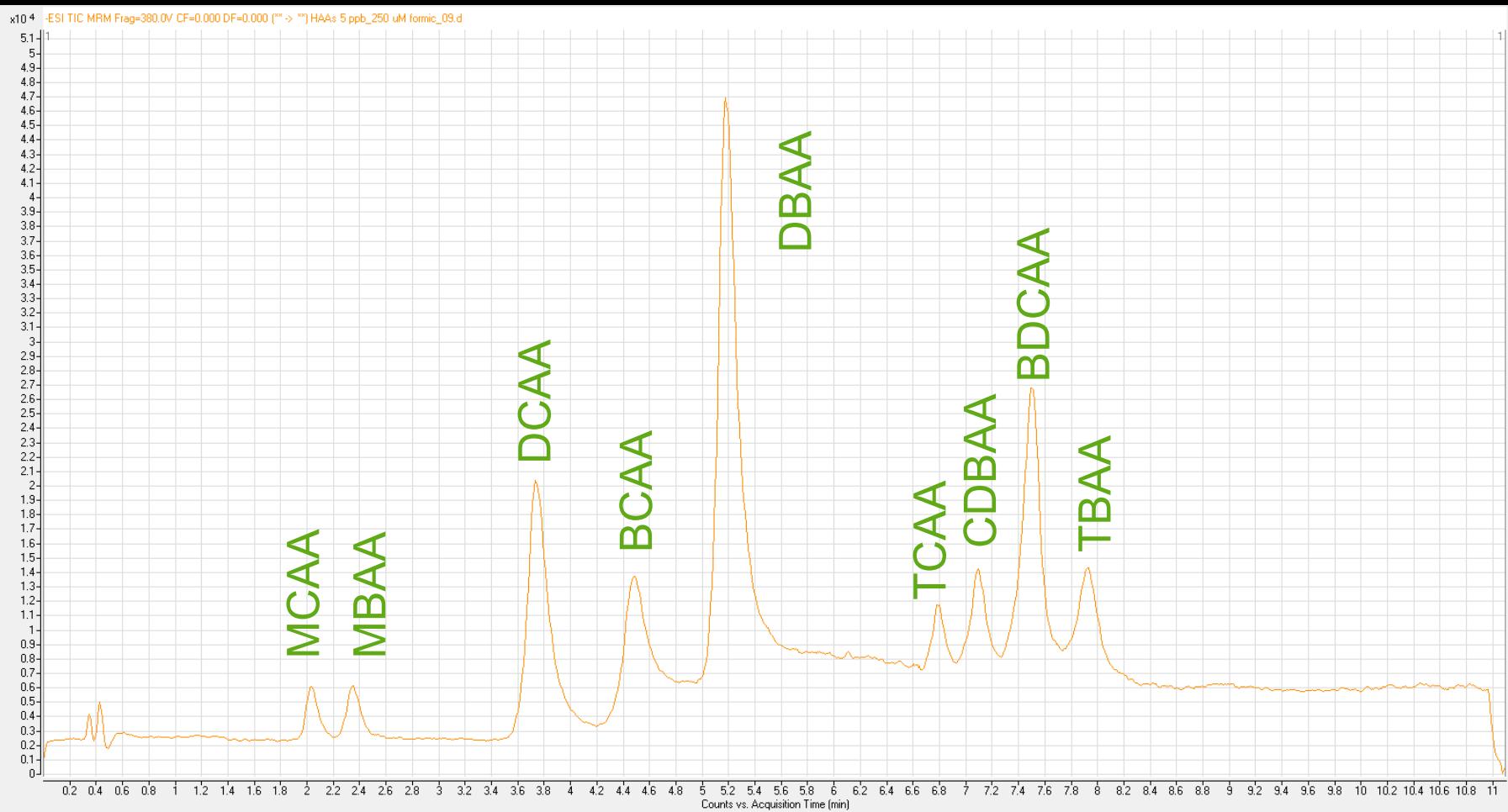
# 100 $\mu\text{M}$ formic acid



WIL

MCAA  $K'$ =7.6

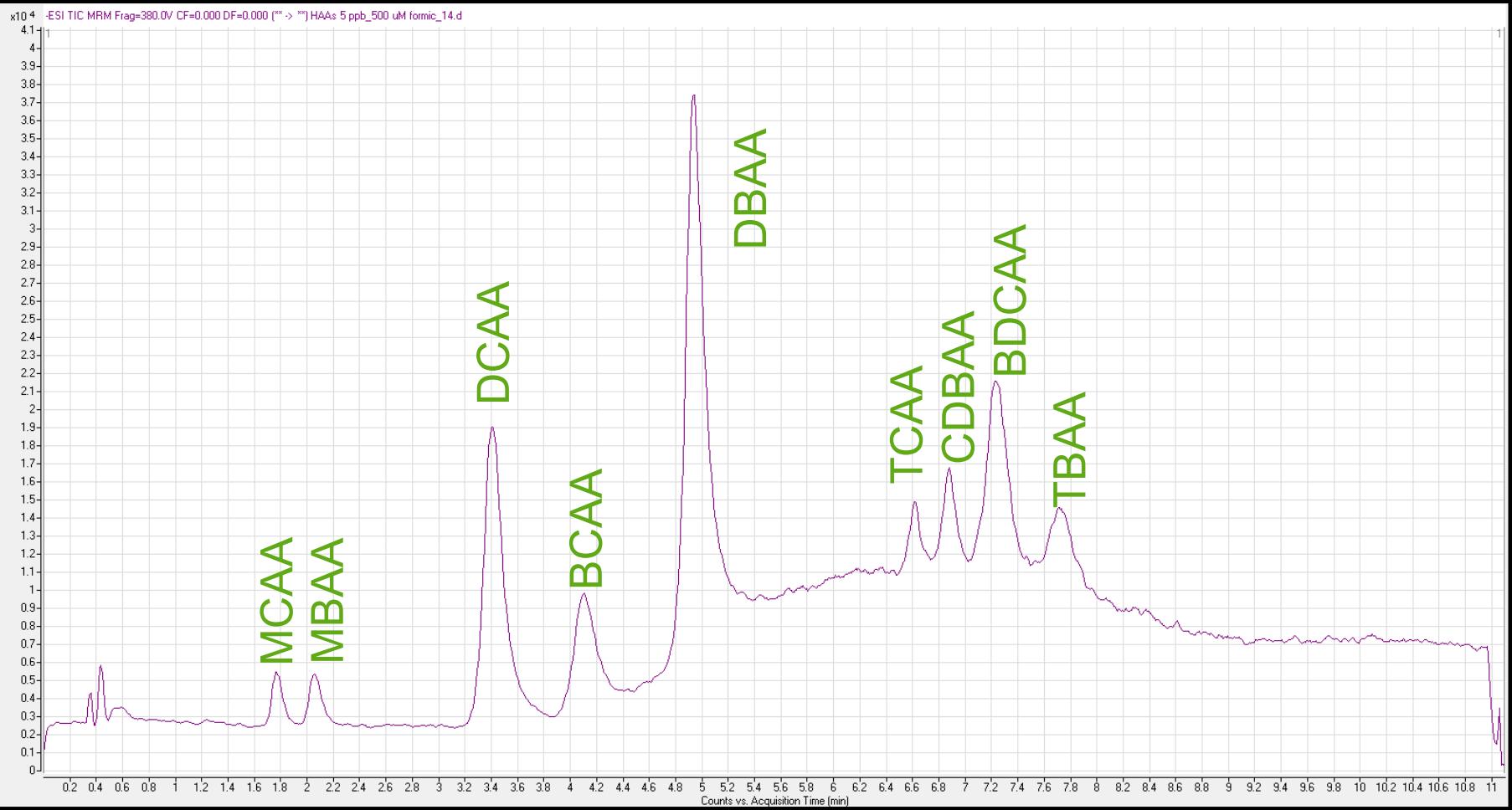
# 250 $\mu\text{M}$ formic acid



WIL

MCAA  $K'$ =5.2

# 500 $\mu\text{M}$ formic acid



WIL

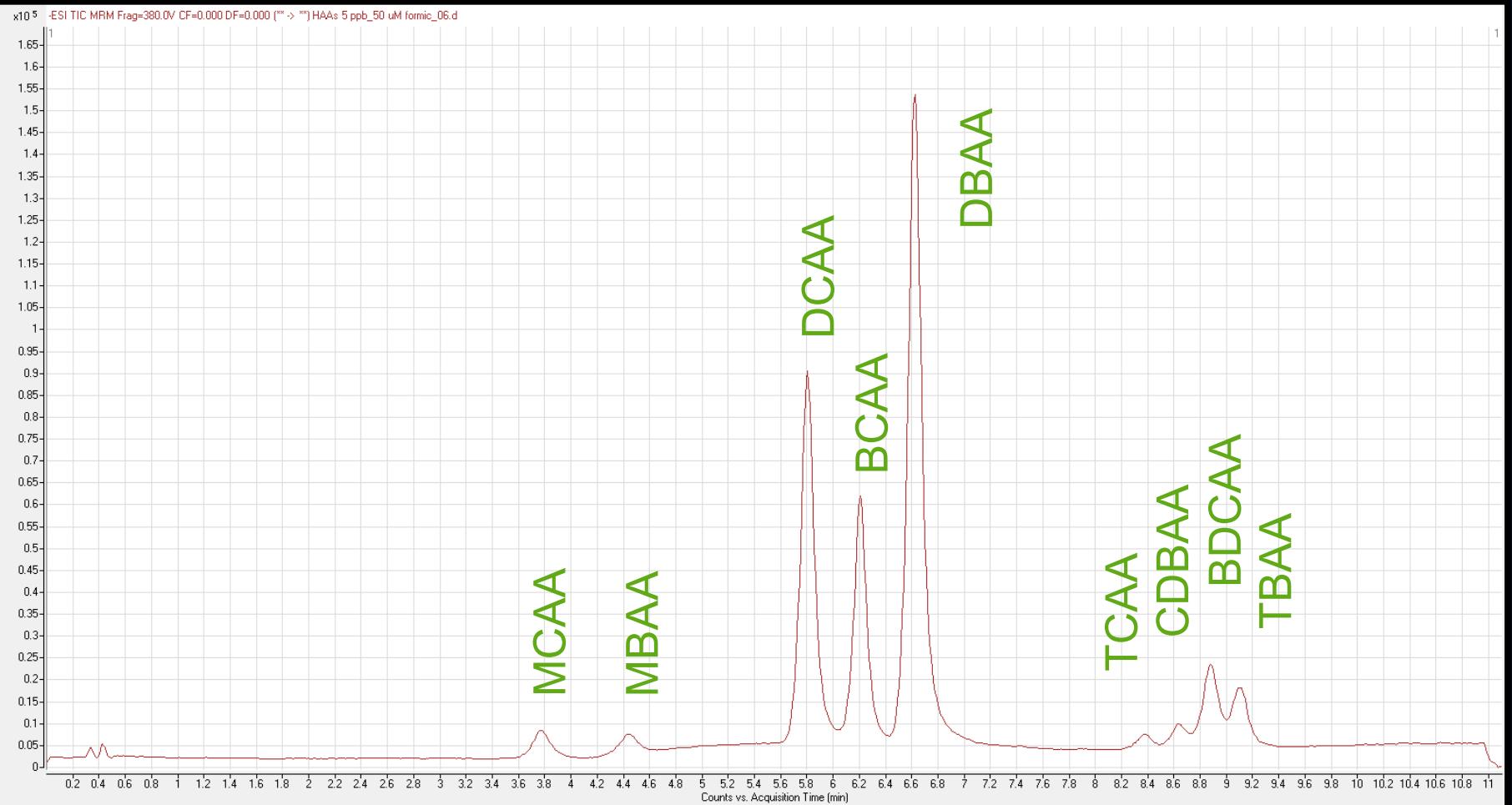
MCAA  $K' = 4.4$

# Increasing concentration of acid



WIL

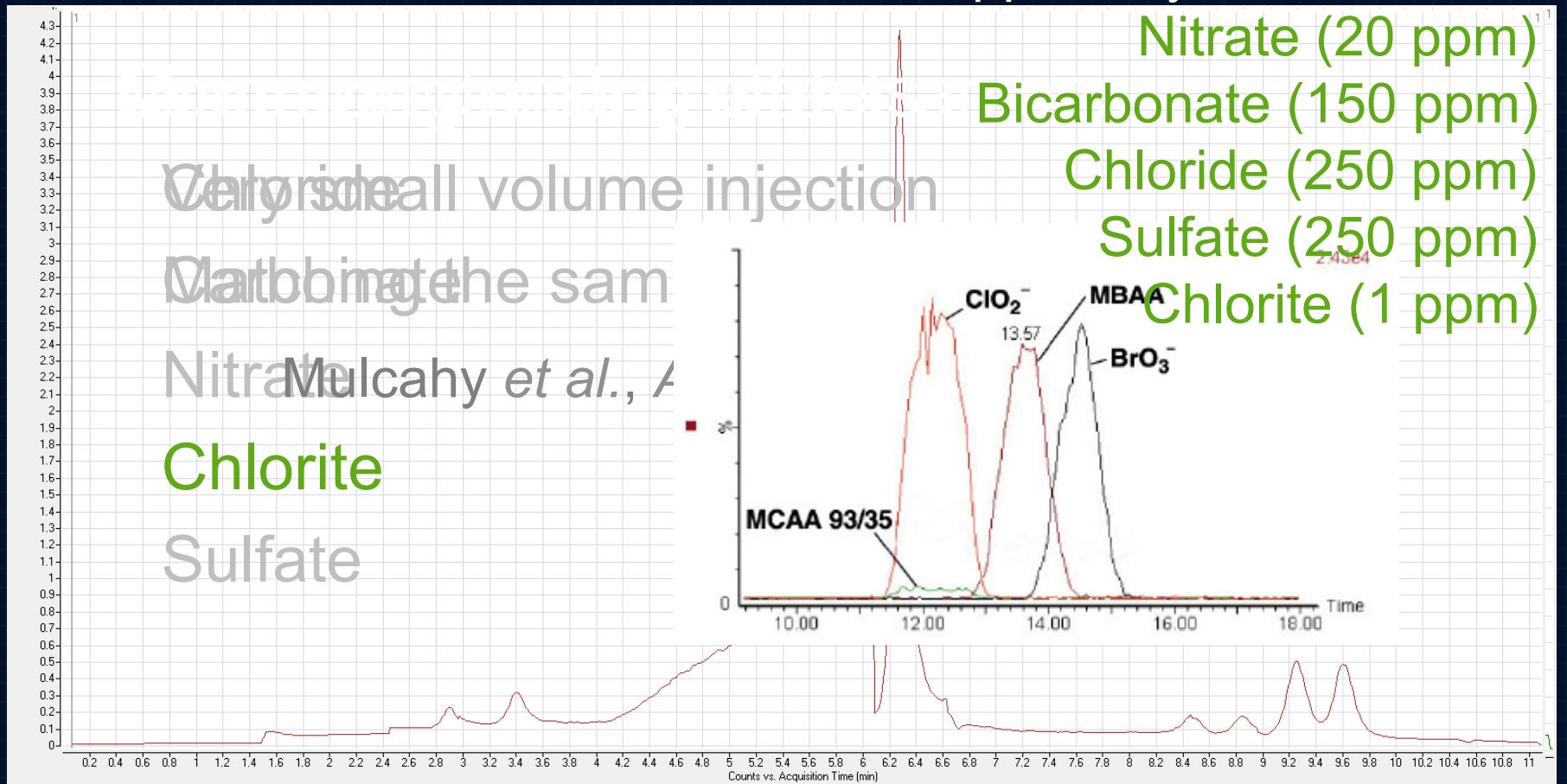
# 50 $\mu\text{M}$ formic acid



WIL

MCAA  $K'$ =10.5

# Matrix effects



10 uL injection, adjusted to stop blank

# Agilent 6490 QQQ

Column:

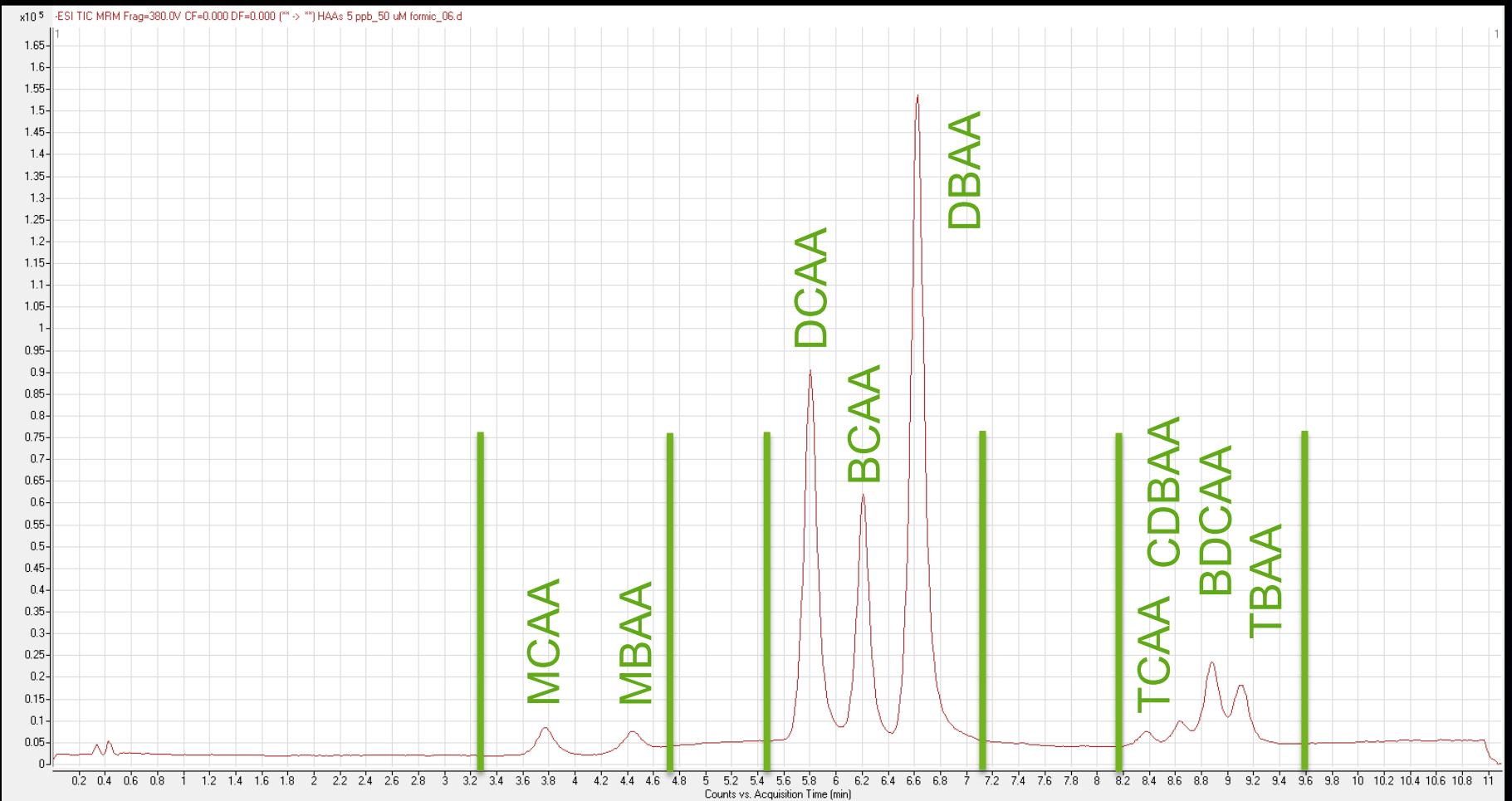
Phenomenex Kinetex EVO C18



DCAA-2-<sup>13</sup>C

TCAA-2-<sup>13</sup>C

# Final method



WIL

# Detection limits

Target	557M MDL ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ )	557M RL ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ )	552.2 RL ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ )
MCAA	0.25	1	2
MBAA	0.07	0.5	1
DCAA	0.05	0.5	1
BCAA	0.03	0.5	1
DBAA	0.06	0.5	1
TCAA	0.09	0.5	1
BDCA	0.07	0.5	1
A			
CDBA	0.1	0.5	1
A			



# Comparison with EPA 552.2 in real samples

Average percent recovery



n = 72

# Method goals

Adapt EPA 557

Simplify technique

Conventional reversed-phase HPLC

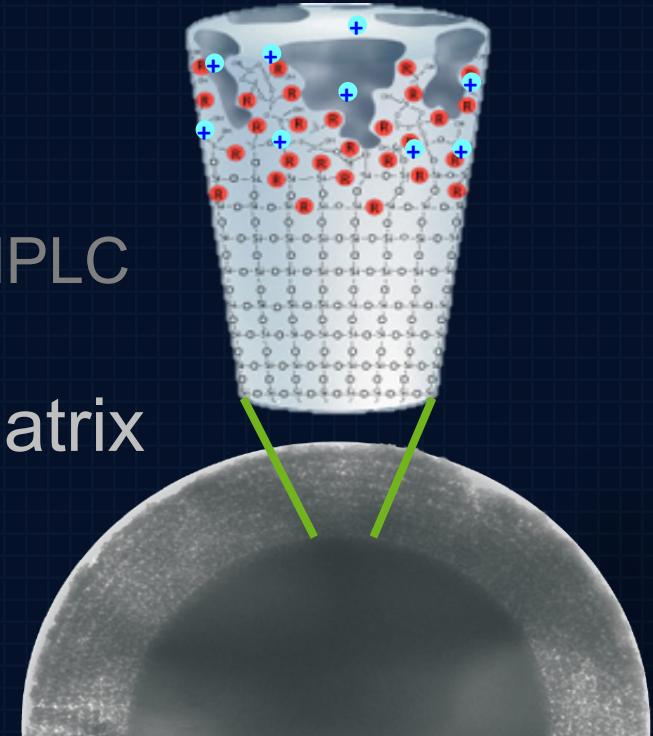
Handle high ionic strength matrix

Separate matrix from targets

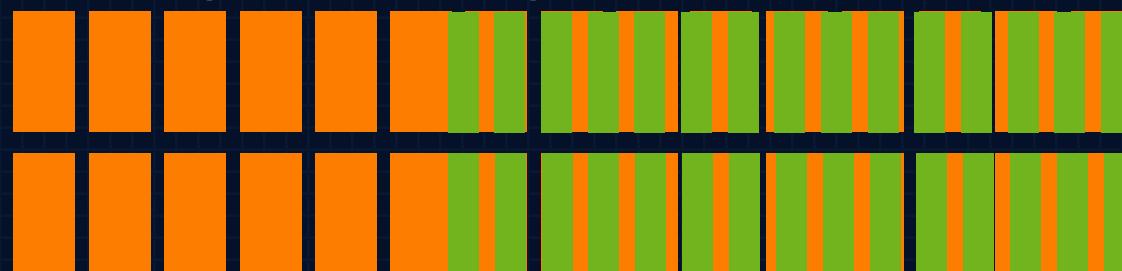
Small injection volume

Shorter analysis time

15 minutes injection to injection



WIL



30 hours  
total  
5 hours  
hold  
25 hours

# Acknowledgements

Phenomenex  
Sean Orlowicz  
Allen Misa



WIL



# Questions?

Agustin Pierri, PhD

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