

# Comprehensive high resolution mass spectrometric evolved gas analysis in the context of Petroleomics: Analysis of bitumen, heavy crude oils and asphaltenes

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13<sup>th</sup> European Fourier Transform Mass Spectrometry Workshop,  
Freising (Germany), 23.-27.04.2018

JOINT MASS SPECTROMETRY CENTRE



Chair for Analytical Chemistry

Universität Rostock



Traditio et Innovatio

Thermal Analysis / Photionization MS



Thorsten Streibel

Aerosol and Laser-MS



Johannes Passig

Ultra-high Resolution MS



Marin Sklorz

Aerosol Chemistry



Jürgen Schnelle-Kreis

Aerosol Toxicology



Sebastian Öder

Aerosol Physics



Thomas Adam (Jutta Lintelmann)

Bio-monitoring



Comprehensive Separation



Thomas Gröger



Ralf Zimmermann

University Rostock

Chair for Analytical Chemistry and Head of the Cooperation Group Complex Molecular Analysis



HICE Aerosols and Health  
Helmholtz Virtual Institute of Complex Molecular Systems in Environmental Health

Aerosol & Health

Enabling Technologies

Helmholtz Zentrum münchen

German Research Center for Environmental Health

CMA

Cooperation Group Comprehensive Molecular Analytics

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Chair for Chemistry, Environmental- & Energy process technology

photonion

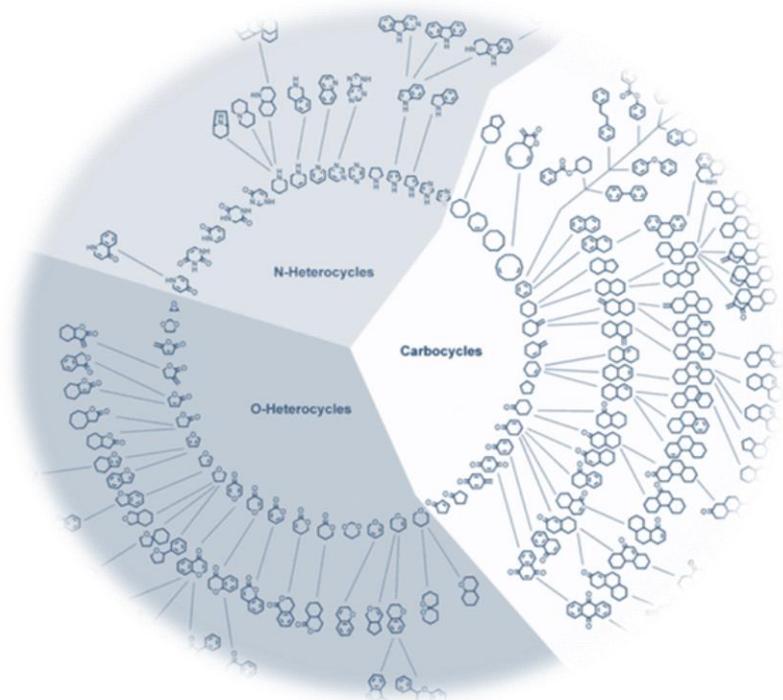
Spin-off Company Photoionization mass spectrometry and online process analytics

(Staff: about 50 people)

# Outline

- 1) Motivation and Introduction
- 2) Instrumental Setup and Sample Material
- 3) Results and Discussion
- 4) Summary and Outlook

# Motivation and Introduction 1



Outline

Introduction

M&M

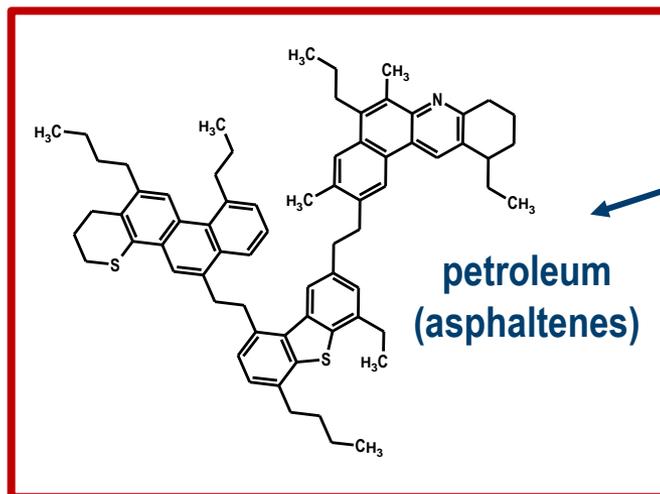
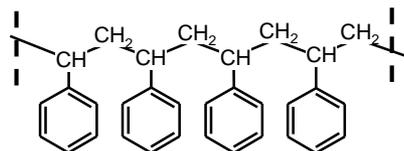
Results/Discussion

Summary

## Macromolecules

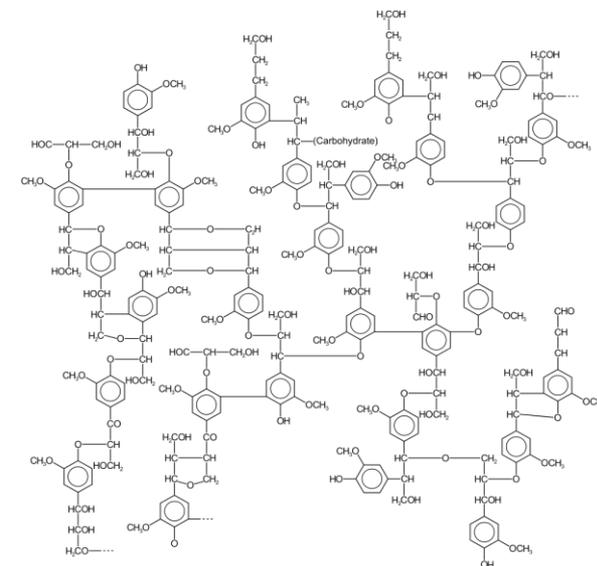
synthetic  
polymeres

polystyrene



natural  
macromolecules

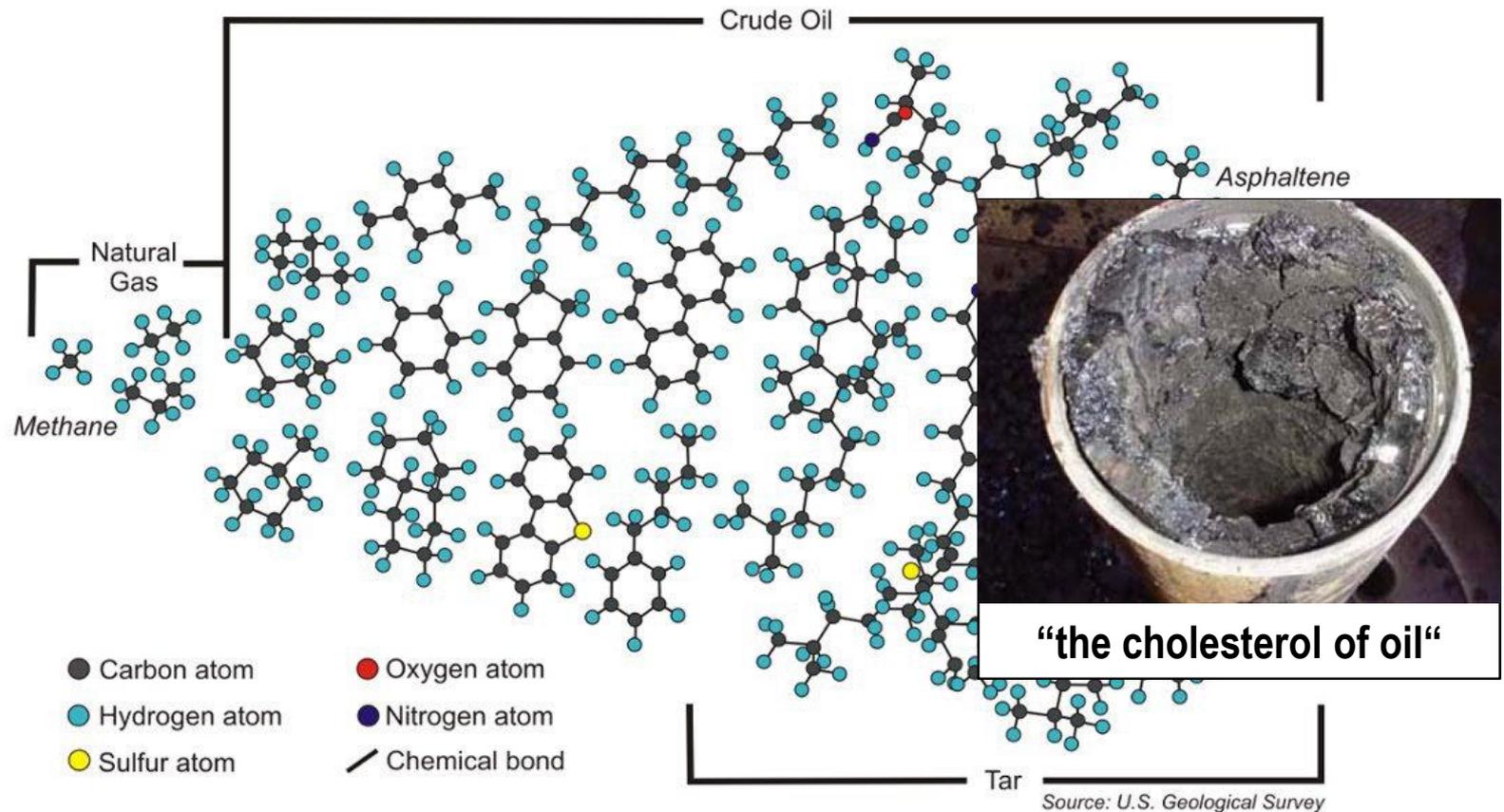
wood  
(lignin)



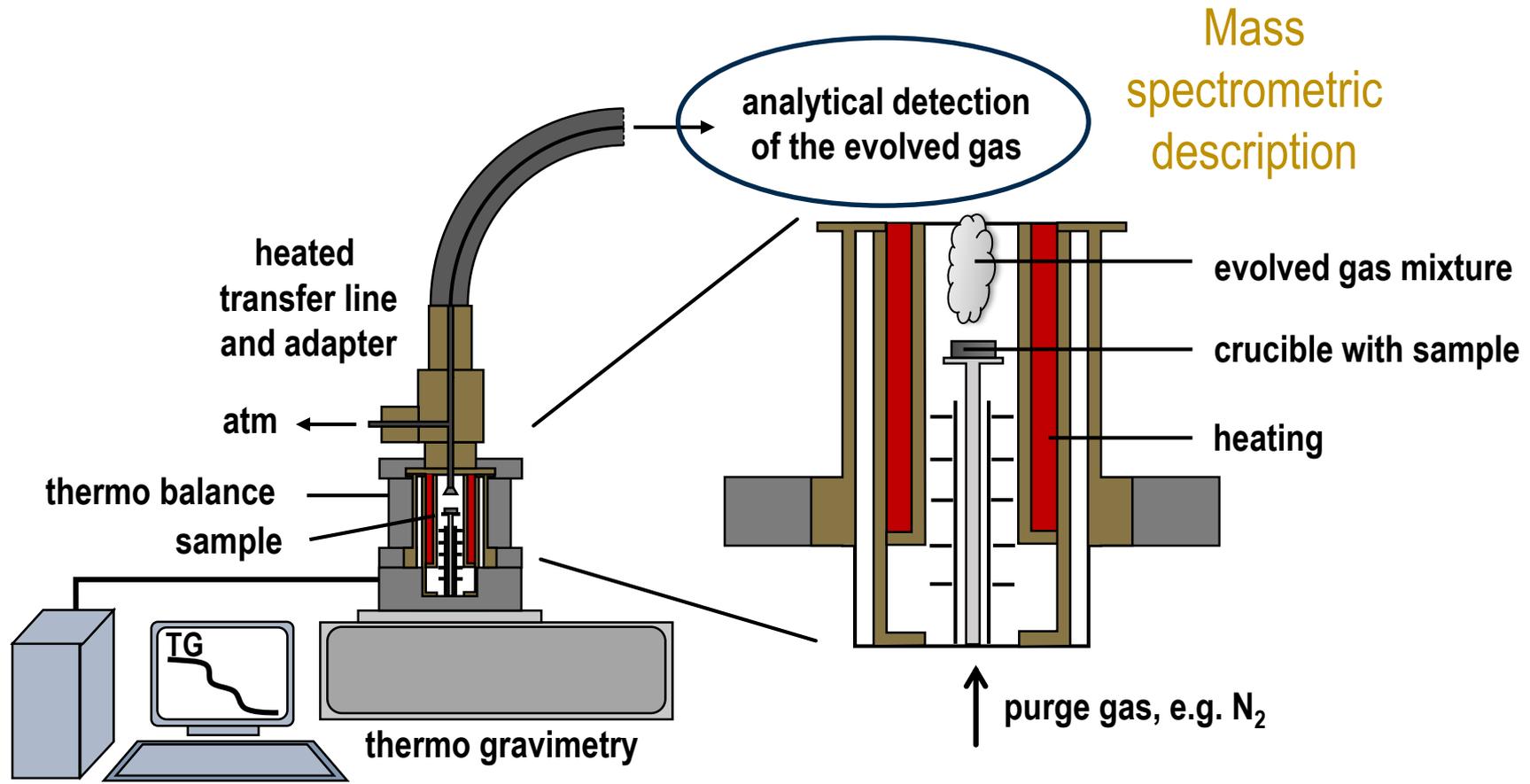
How to access the chemical nature of these macromolecules?

→ thermal decomposition into smaller sub-units  
by pyrolysis

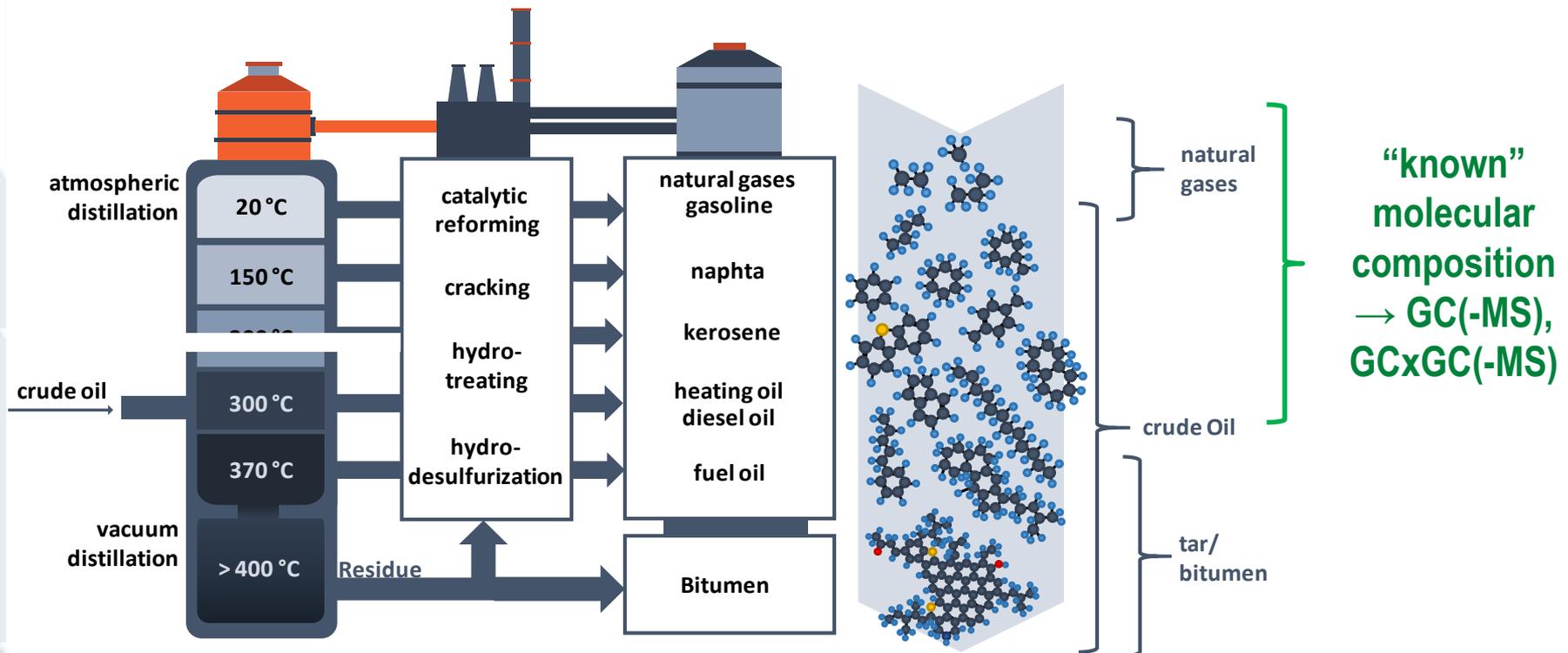
## Mass spectrometric petroleum analysis – Petroleomics



## Basic concept of evolved gas analysis (EGA)



## Why can thermal analysis be beneficial for Petroleomics?



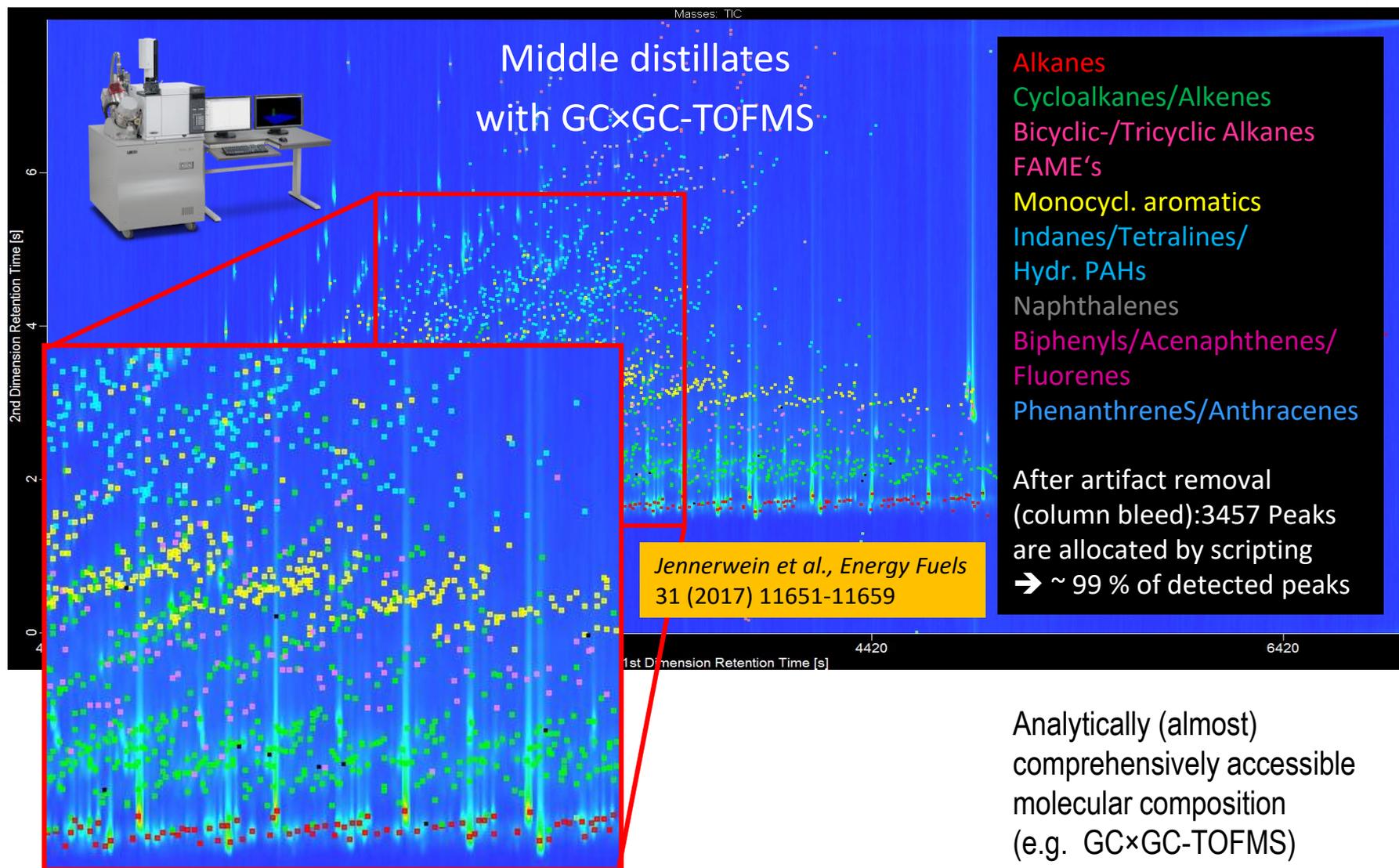
Outline

Introduction

M&M

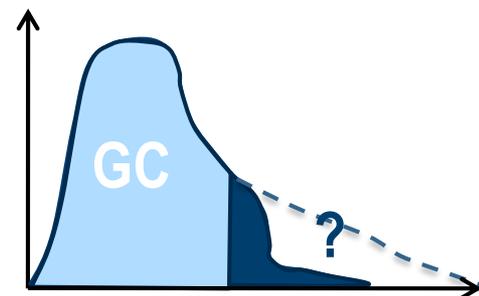
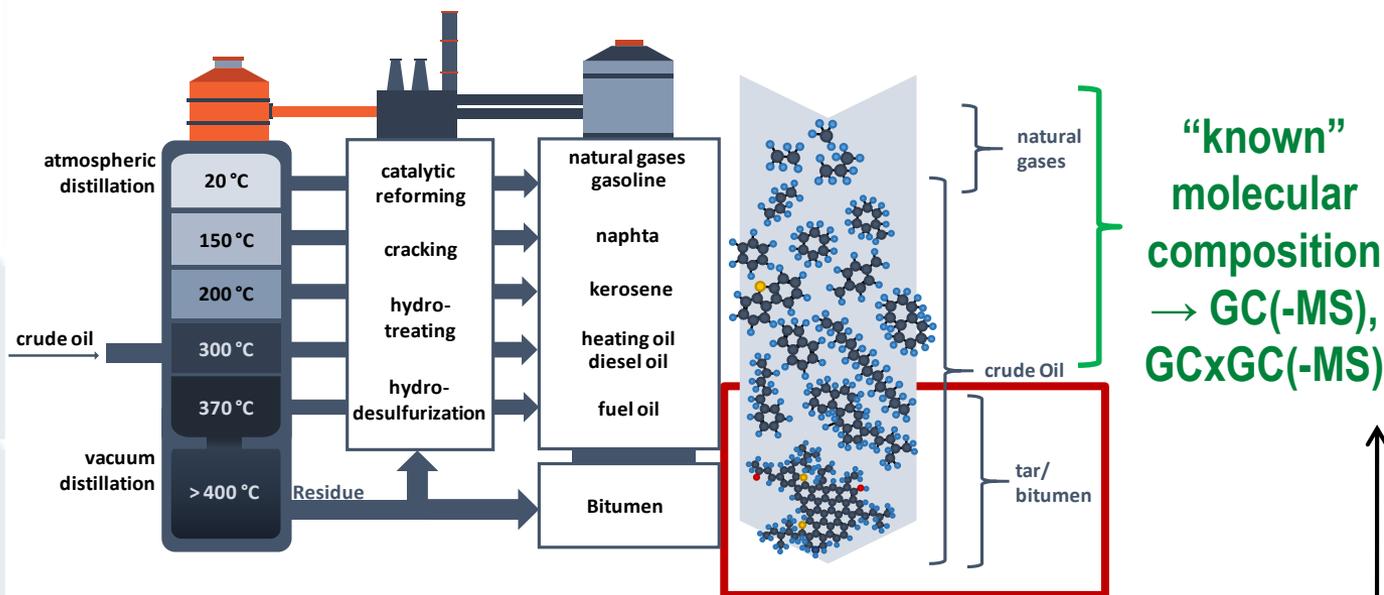
Results/Discussion

Summary



Analytically (almost)  
comprehensively accessible  
molecular composition  
(e.g. GCxGC-TOFMS)

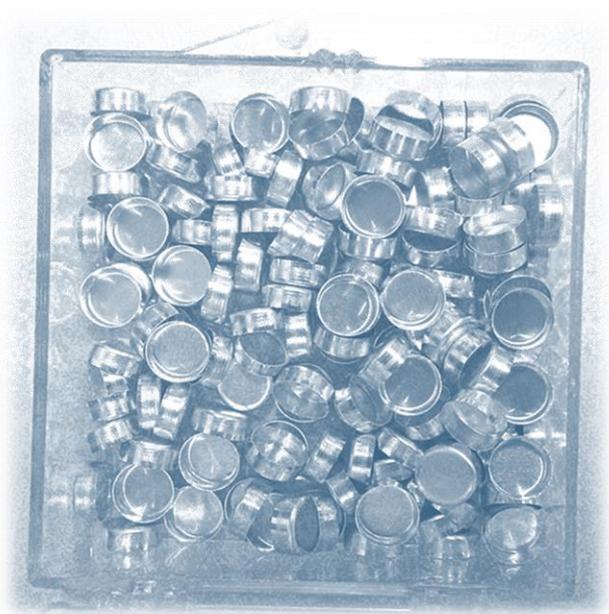
## Why can thermal analysis be beneficial for Petroleomics?



**chemical composition  
 poorly characterized**

- gas chromatography is **limited** on the volatility and **stability** of the analytes
- **intended pyrolysis** of larger macromolecules in thermal analysis to study the **building blocks** and diagnostic thermal fragments

# Material and Method 2



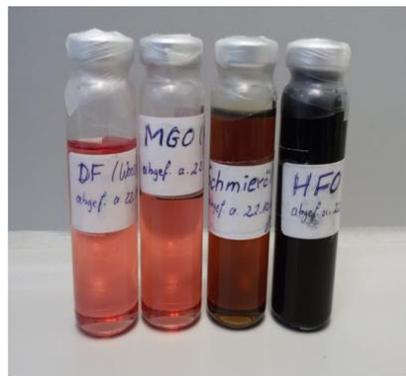
## Sample material

- **standards**, e.g., polymers, fatty acid methyl ester mixture, PAHs for validation
- various petroleum samples (diesel, gas oil, heavy oil) and lignocellulosic biomass for evaluation regarding **complex samples**
- different **asphaltenes and heavy oils** for applicative interest

### Diesel fuels



### Marine fuels



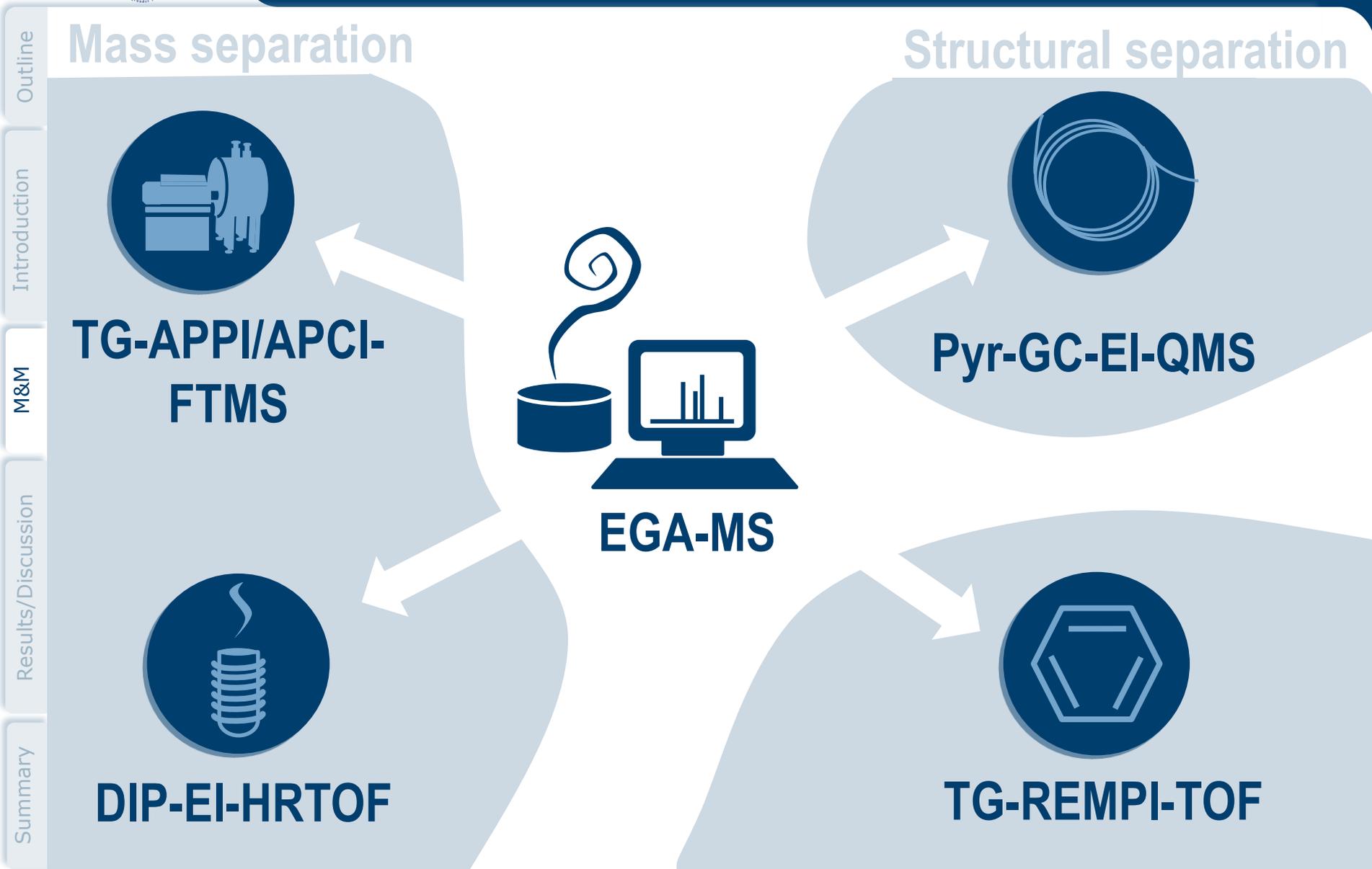
### Crude oil



### Asphaltenes



complexity



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## Mass separation



TG-APPI/APCI-  
FTMS



DIP-EI-HRTOF



EGA-MS

## Structural separation



Pyr-GC-EI-QMS



TG-REMPI-TOF

## Thermal analysis coupled to Fourier-Transform MS



Outline

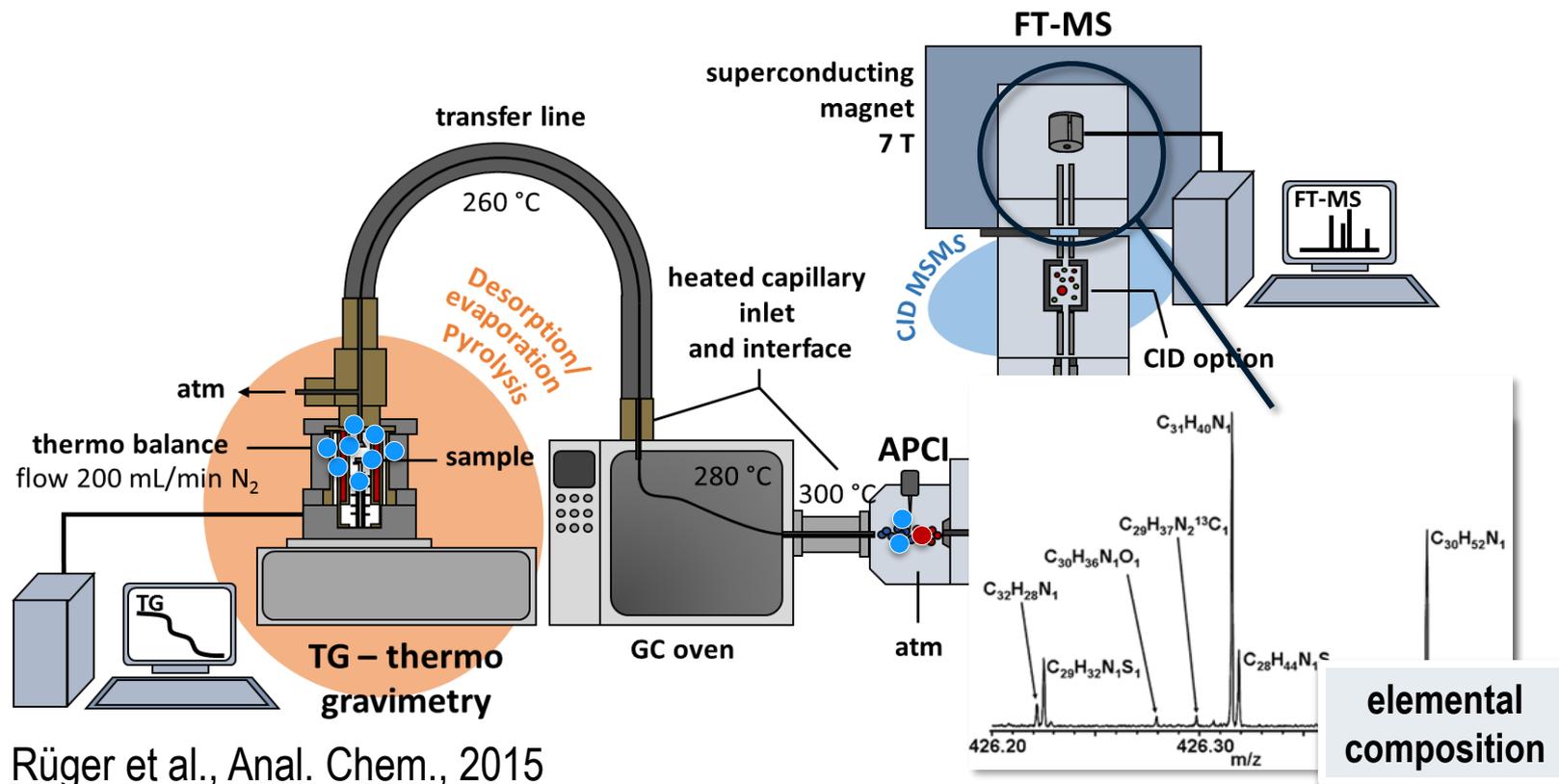
Introduction

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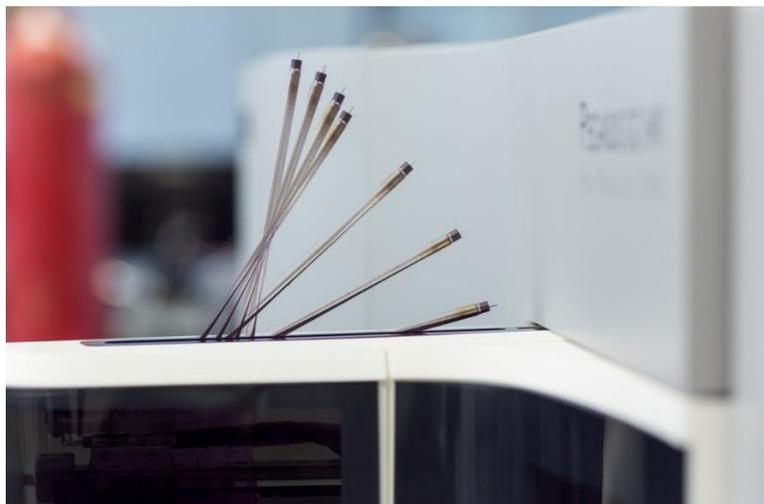
## Thermal analysis coupled to Fourier-Transform MS



Rüger et al., Anal. Chem., 2015

→ high resolving power and mass accuracy + APPI/APCI-selectivity

## Direct inlet probe (DIP) high resolution time-of-flight MS

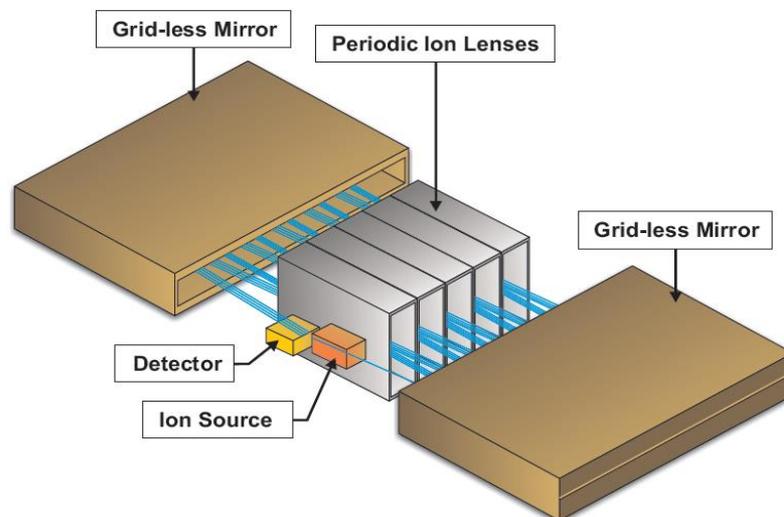


### Instrument

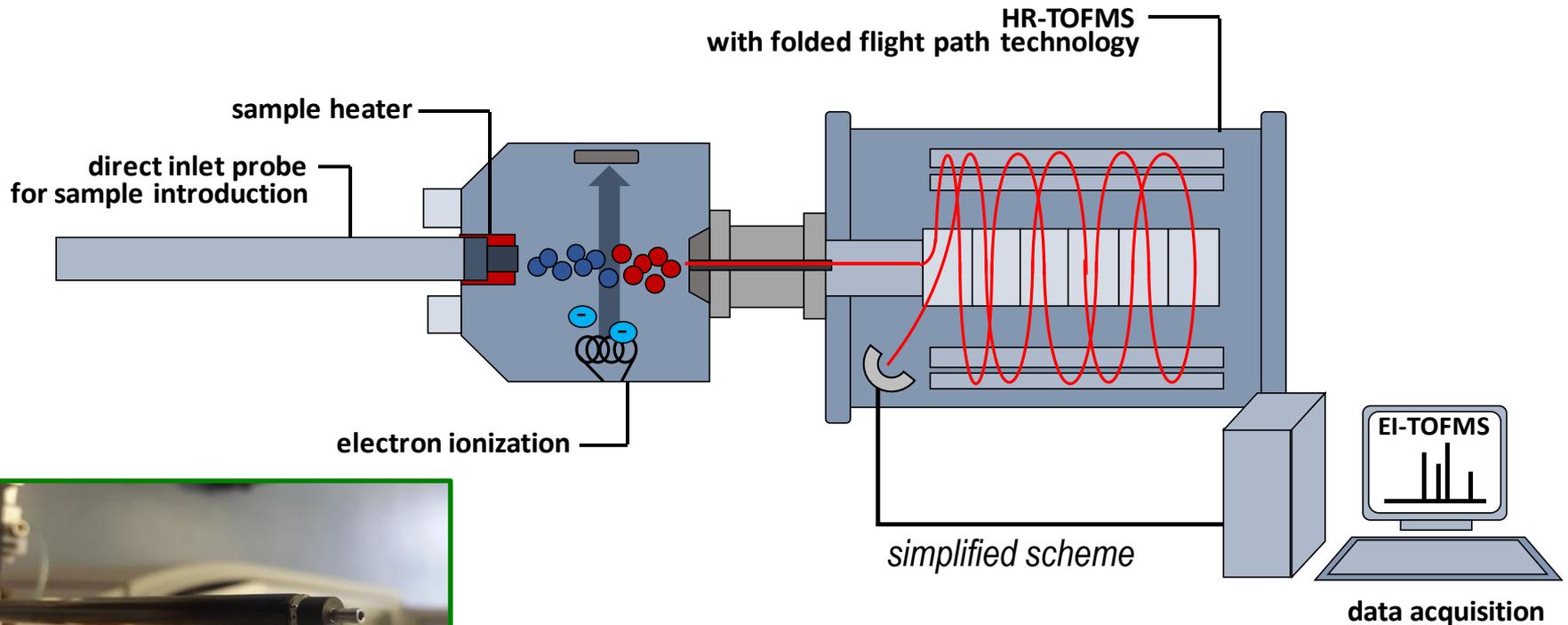
- modified LECO Pegasus GC×GC-HRT
- multi-reflection TOF-MS

### MS Parameter (HRT MS):

- acquisition frequency: 200 Hz
- resolution: 25,000-50,000
- mass accuracy < 2 ppm



## Direct inlet probe (DIP) high resolution time-of-flight MS



→ heating at reduced pressure to intactly evaporate larger constituents + EI as universal ionization technique (CI/PI possible and under evaluation)

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## Mass separation



**TG-APPI/APCI-FTMS**

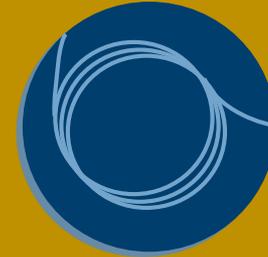


**DIP-EI-HRTOF**



**EGA-MS**

## Structural separation

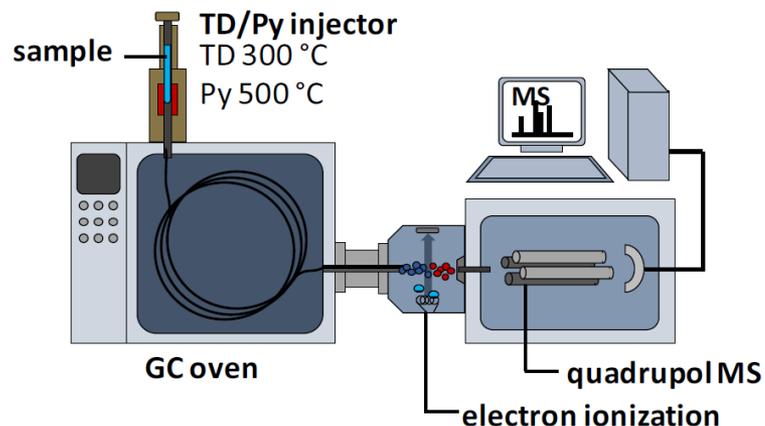


**Pyr-GC-EI-QMS**



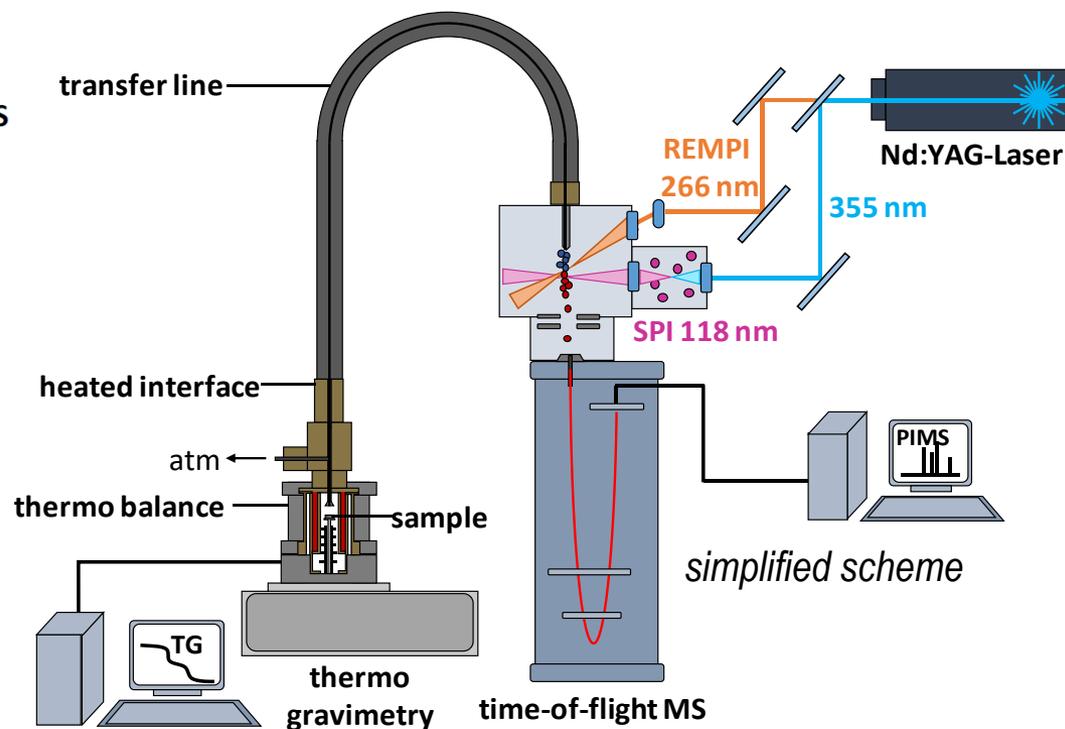
**TG-REMPI-TOF**

## Pyrolysis-GC EI-MS and photo ionization TOF-MS

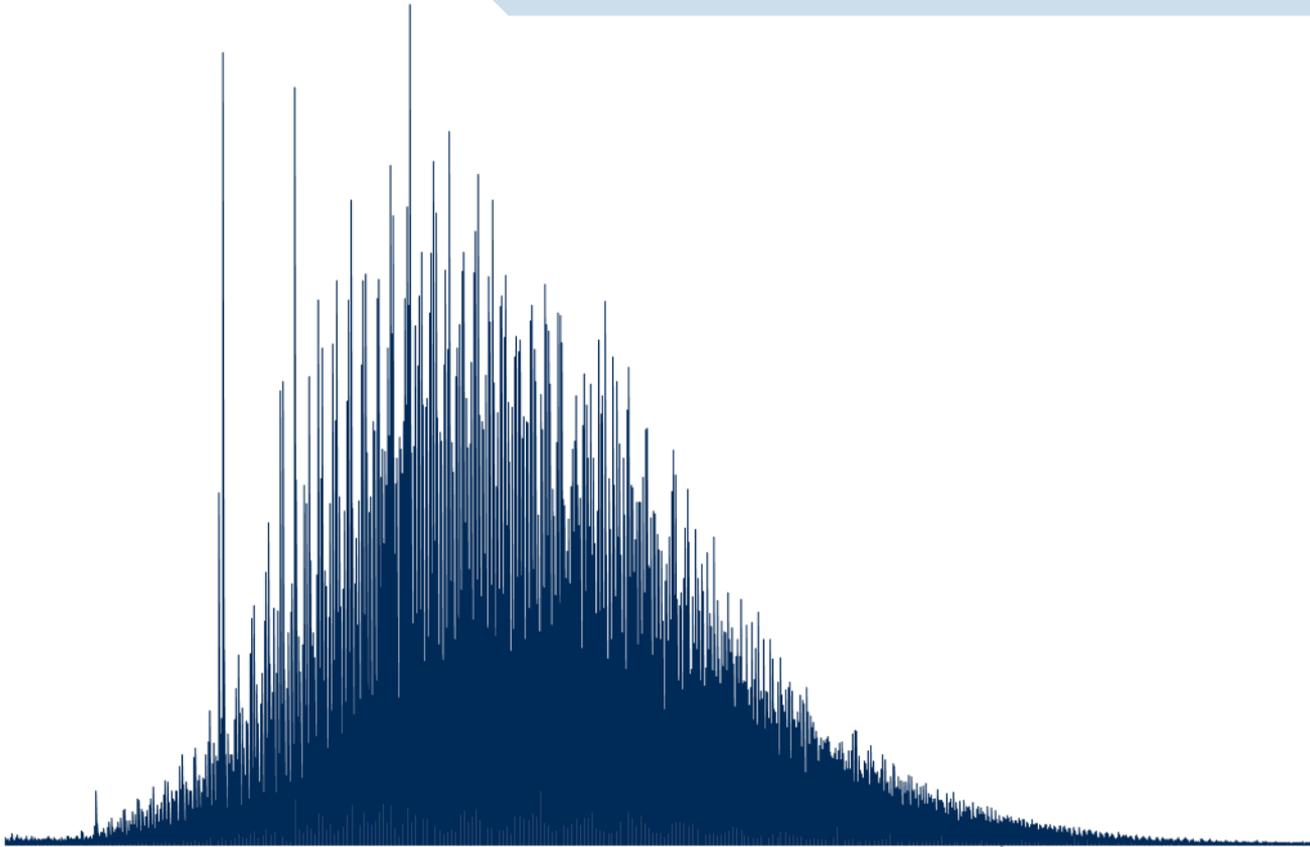


→ structural information via retention index and EI-fragment spectra

→ photo ionization introducing selectivity, e.g. REMPI for aromatic constituents



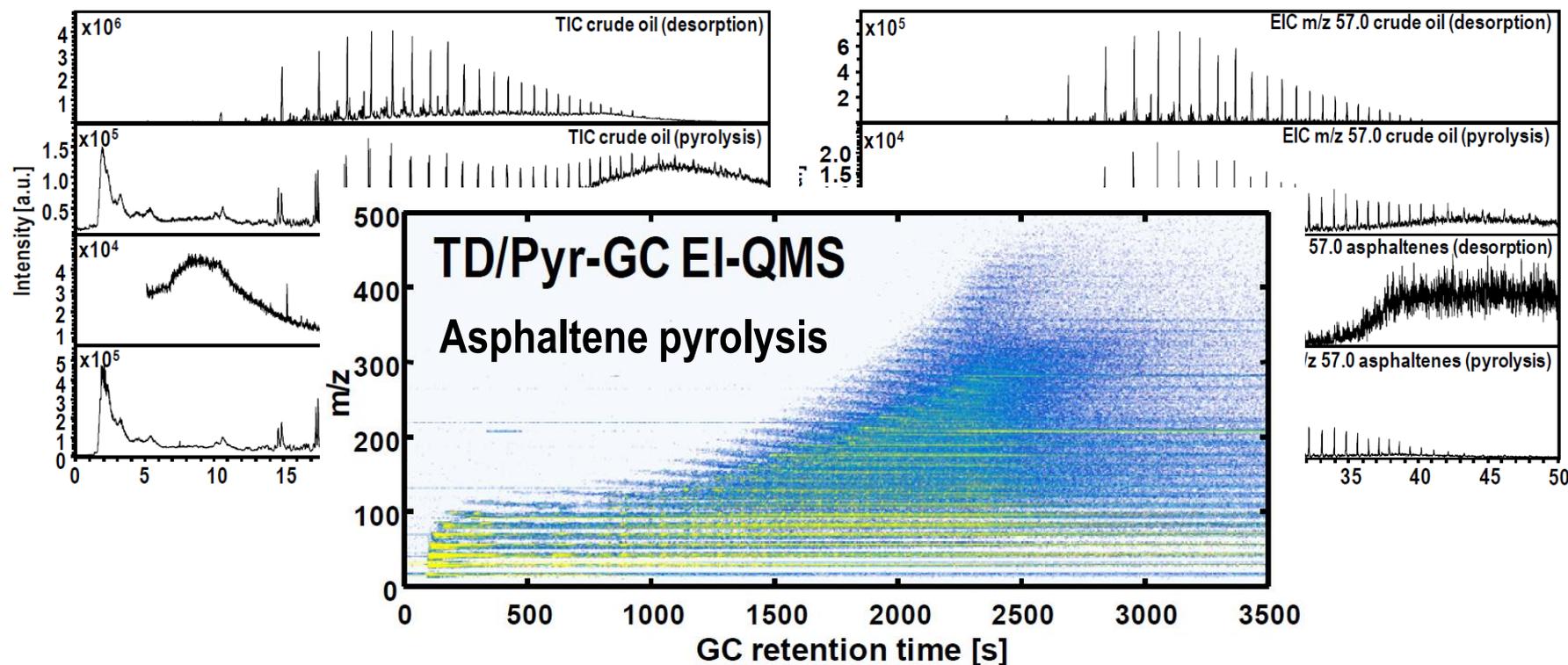
# Results and Discussion 3





## TD/Pyrolysis GC EI-QMS of Asphaltenes

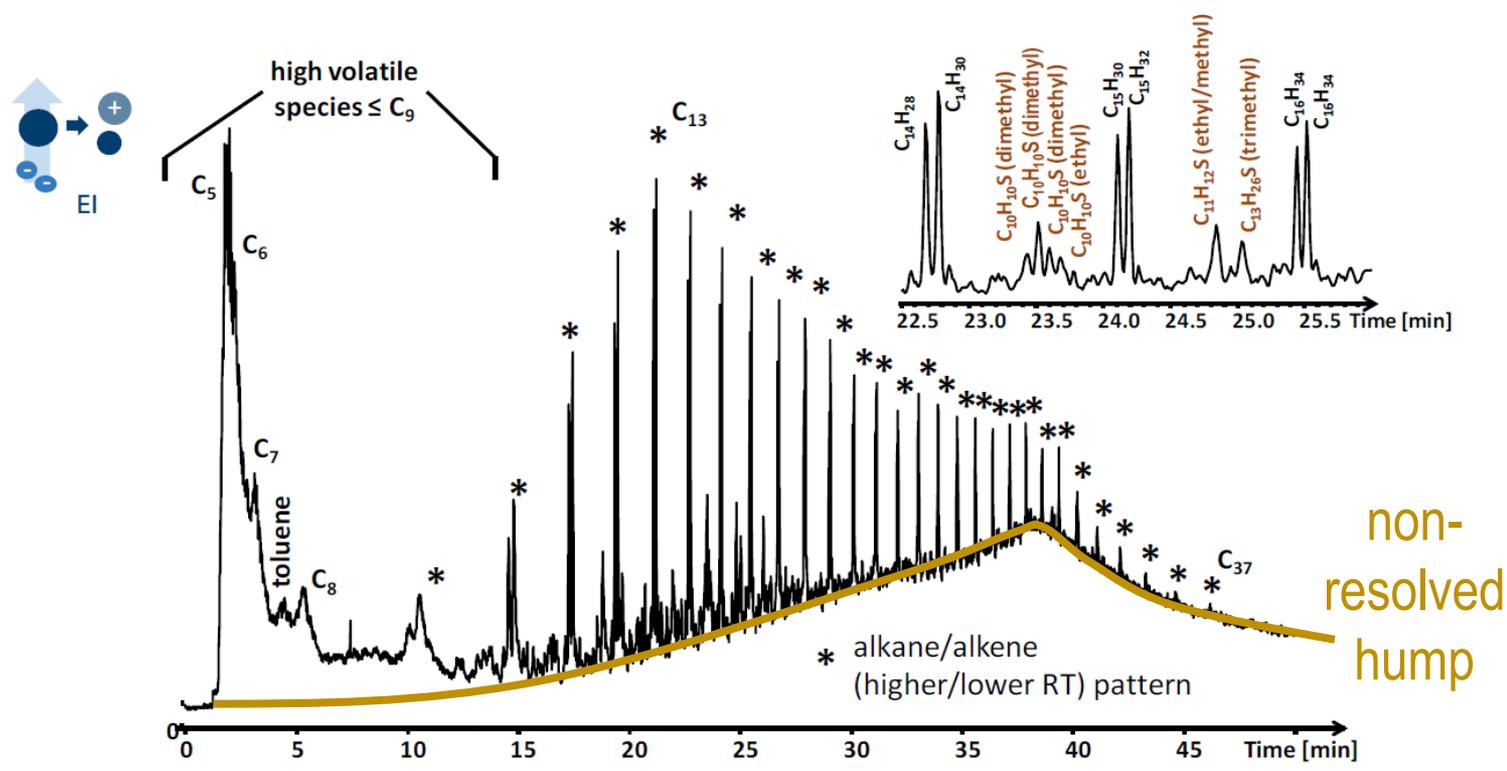
- **no** thermal desorbed components for purified Asphaltenes at 300 °C
- second step (500 °C pyrolysis) induce **complex thermal decomposition pattern**





## TD/Pyrolysis GC EI-QMS of Asphaltenes

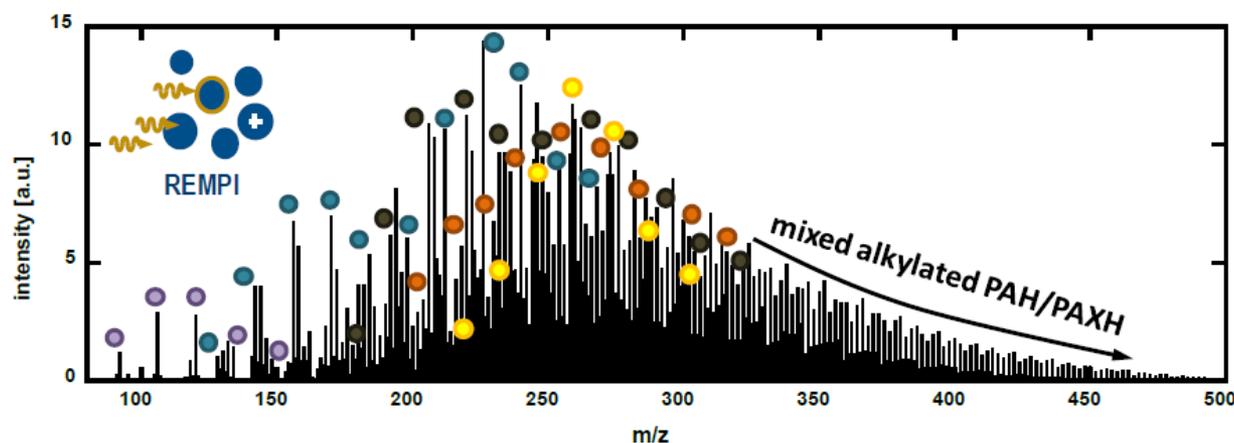
- **no** thermal desorbed components for purified Asphaltenes at 300 °C
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## Resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization



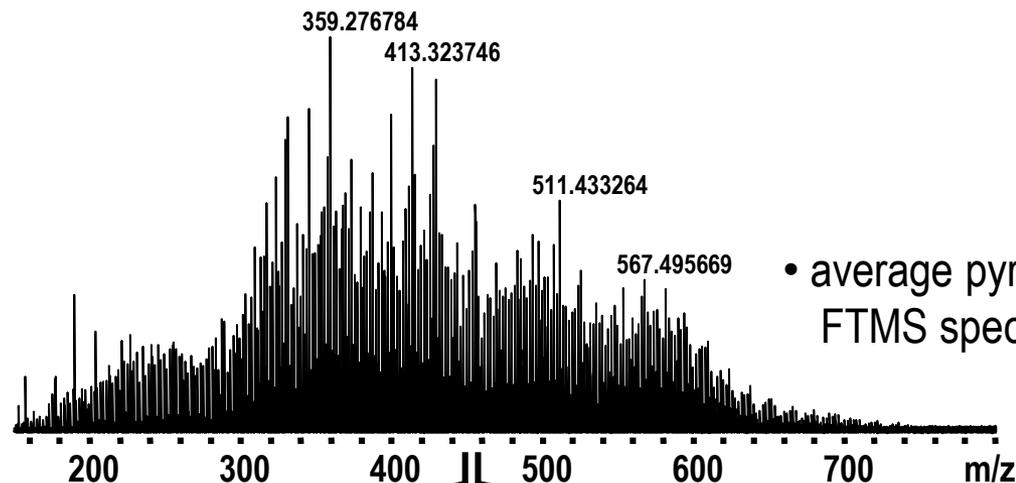
- selective and sensitive ionization approach for aromatic constituents



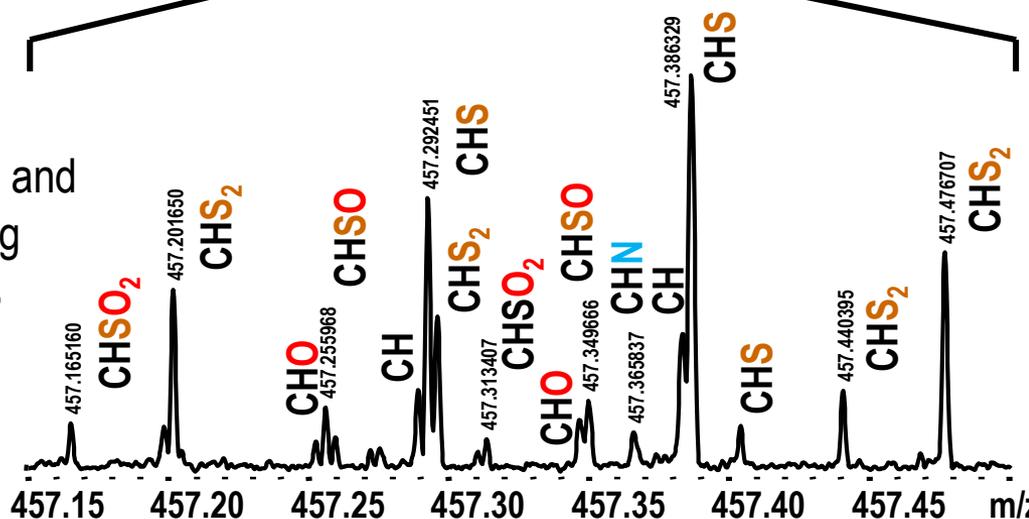
- intense and **complex** mass spectrometric pattern
- broad** m/z range from benzene up to > m/z 500
- even-numbered homologue series indicating **Nitrogen-**containing poly-aromatic core structures
- two- to four-ring aromatic alkylated rows dominate

	DBE
	4
	7
	10
	12
	13
	12

## General API-MS response for Asphaltene pyrolysis

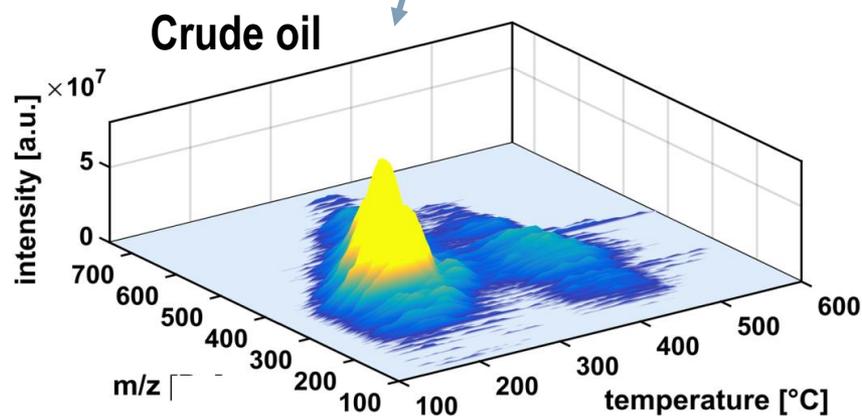
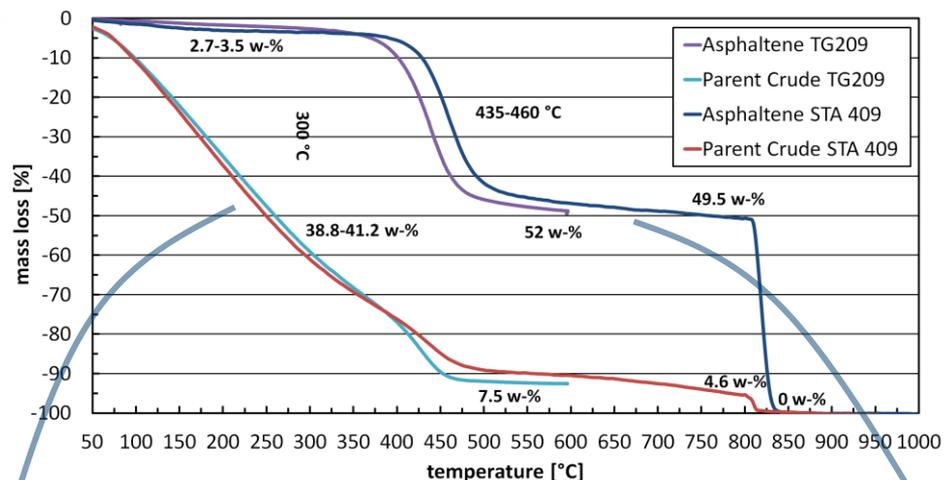


• average pyrolysis APCI-FTMS spectrum

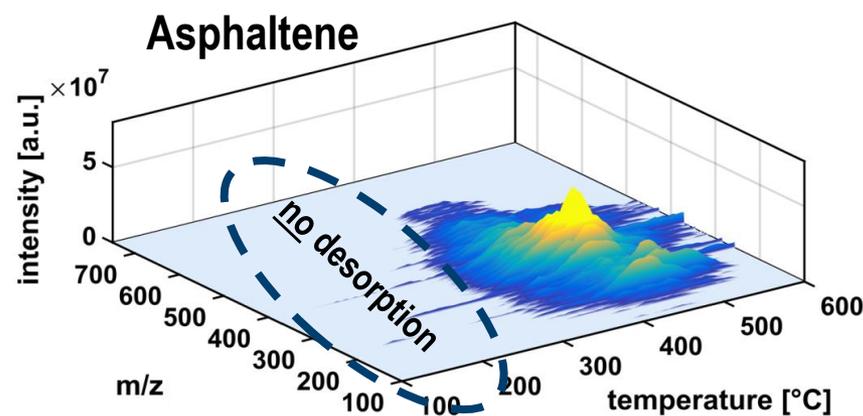


- CHS-, CHS<sub>2</sub>-, CHSO<sub>x</sub>- and CH-species dominating
- > 3,500 distinct peaks

## Mass loss and API mass spectrometric response

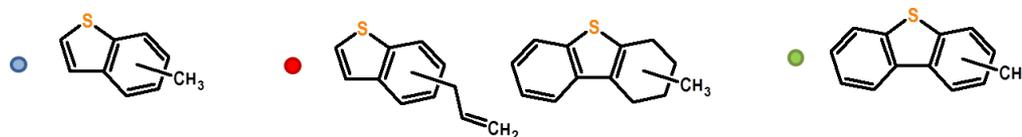
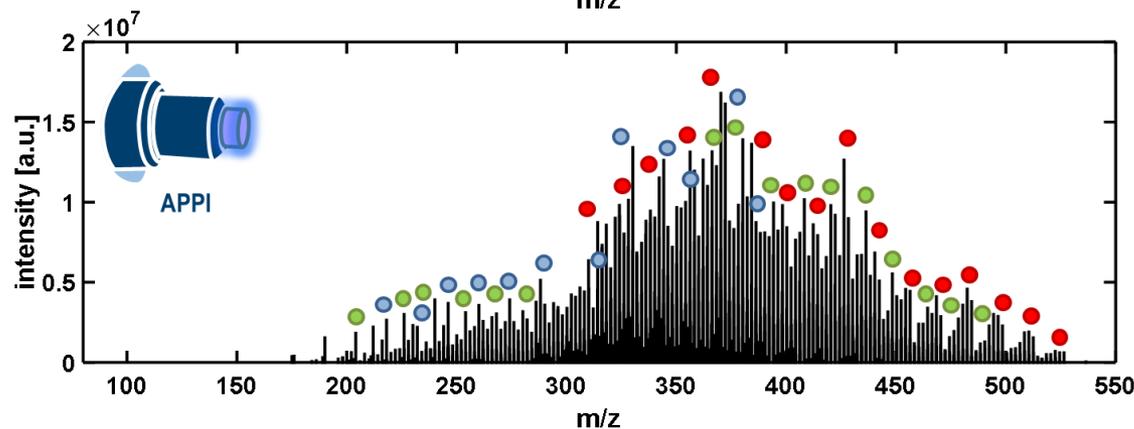
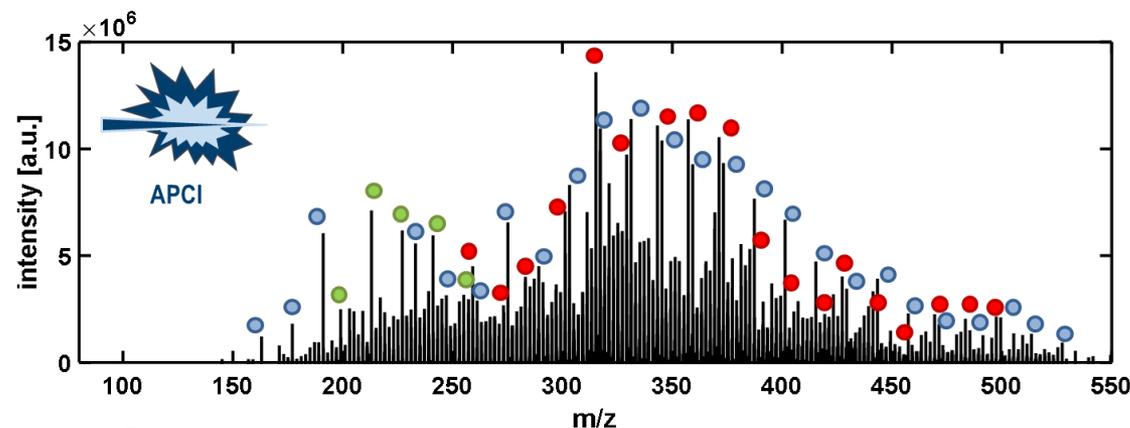


FT-MS APCI



FT-MS APCI

## Averaged asphaltene pyrolysis molecular pattern



- alkylated aromatic structures with 2-4 rings as major motive
- CH- and CHS-species as major contributor to APCI and APPI

core structural motives?

Outline

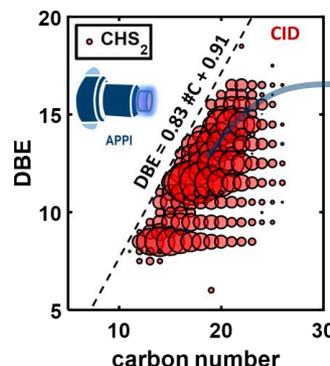
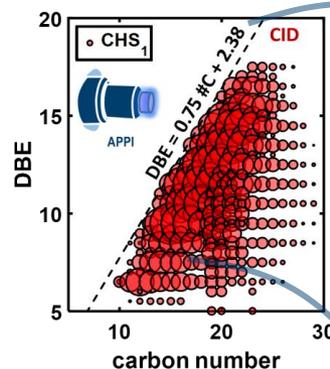
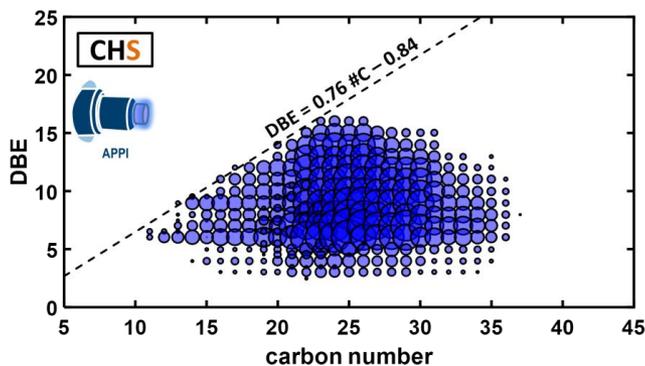
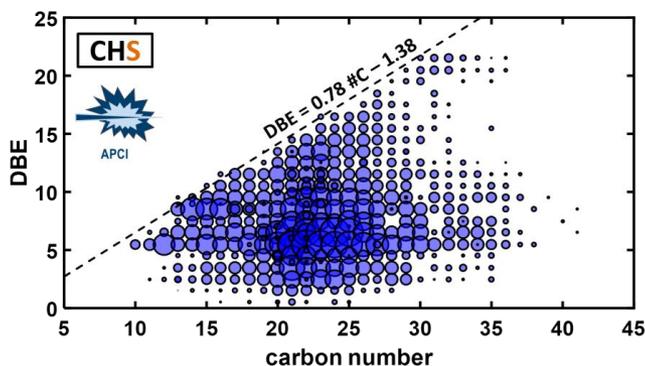
Introduction

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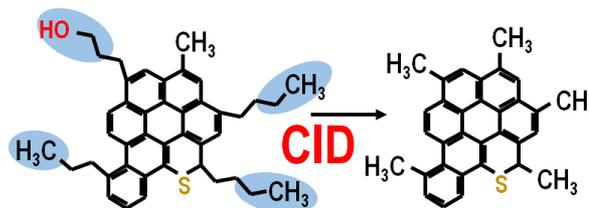
## Collision induced dissociation data assessment



- slope of the left-side DBE versus #C carbon distribution reveals information on ring attachment  
→ mainly **cata-condensed** benzene (minor amount of peri-condensed)

- thiophenic CHS-class species with up to **6 annulated rings**
- CHS<sub>2</sub>-class reveals higher DBE
- **no** indication for **thiols**

aromatic description of the CHS pyrolysis pattern  
**thermal fragments**



core structure analysis  
**MS-fragments**

Outline

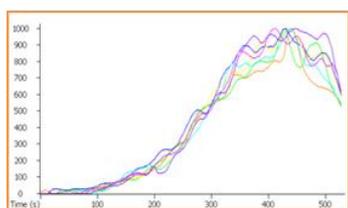
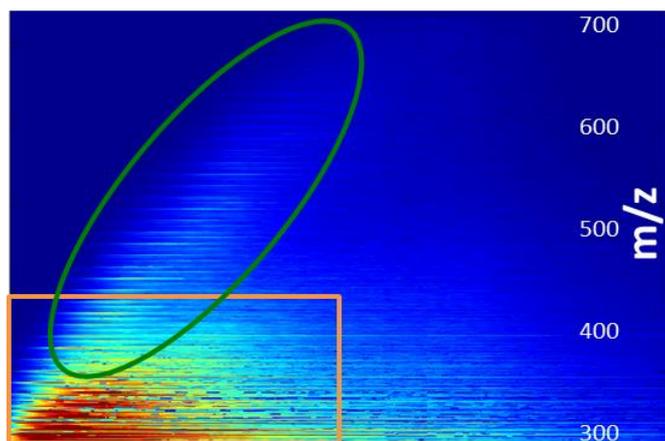
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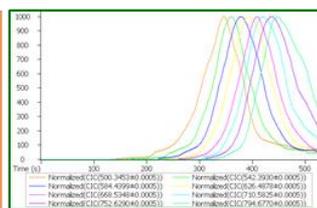
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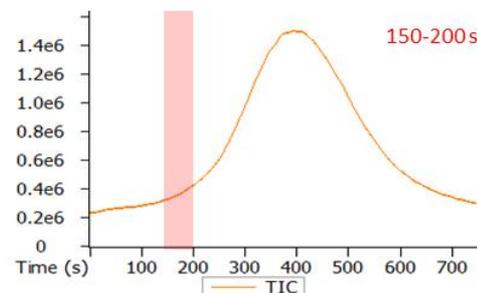
## Can we go further with evolved gas analysis HRMS: DIP reduced pressure evaporation of a vacuum gas oil



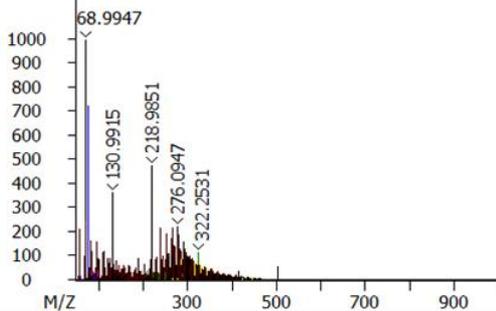
Non specific  
Fragmentation



Molecular  
Information

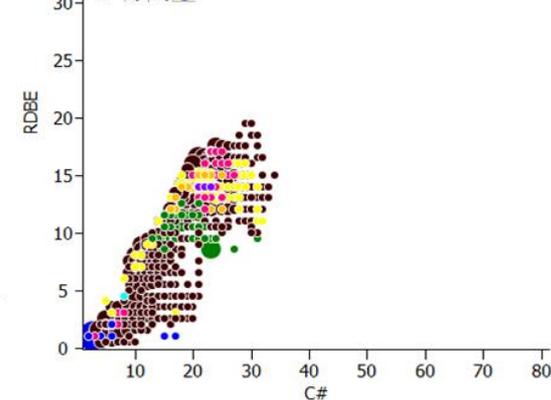


Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 150.648 s to 201.141 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)



Boiling  
behavior

Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 150.648 s to 201.141 s



Class  
Information

Outline

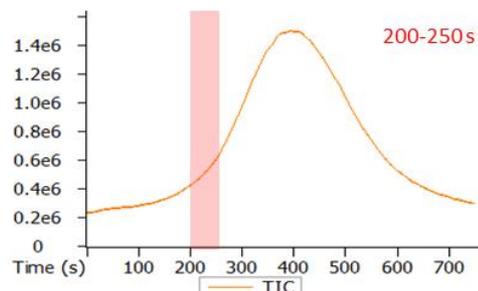
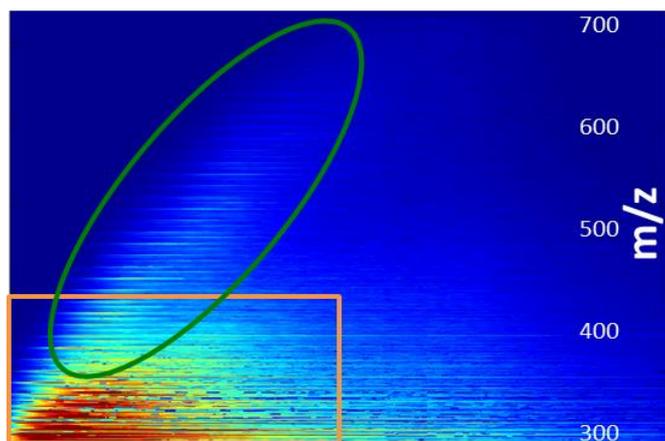
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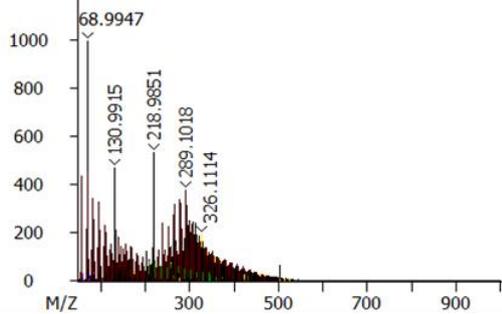
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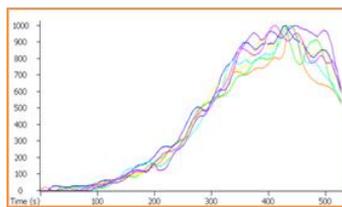
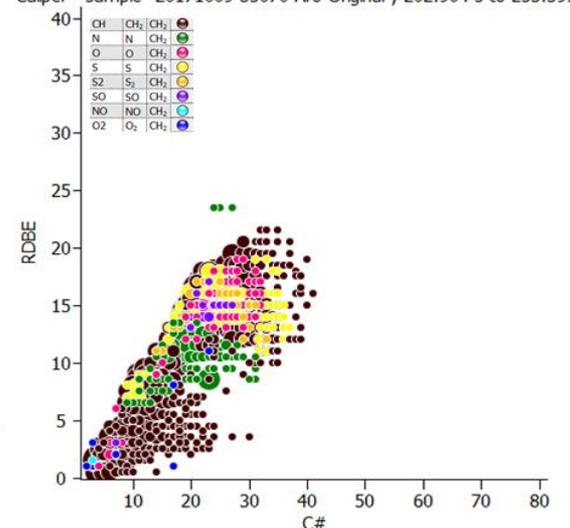
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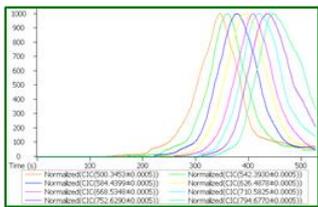
Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 202.904 s to 253.397 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)



Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 202.904 s to 253.397 s



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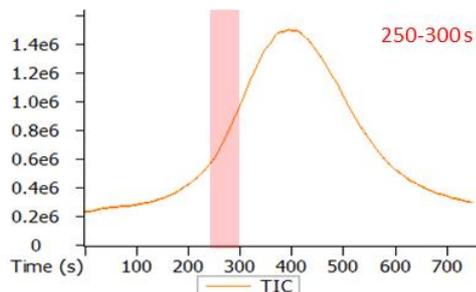
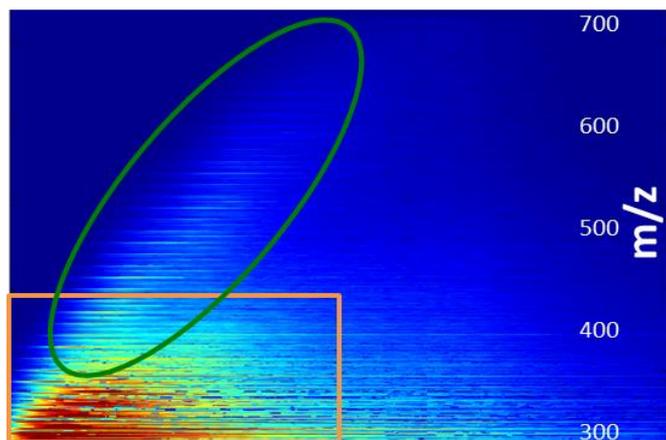
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M&M

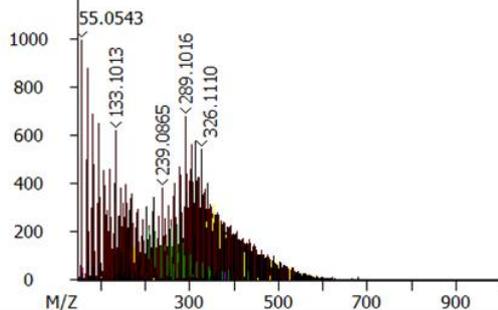
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## Can we go further with evolved gas analysis HRMS: DIP reduced pressure evaporation of a vacuum gas oil

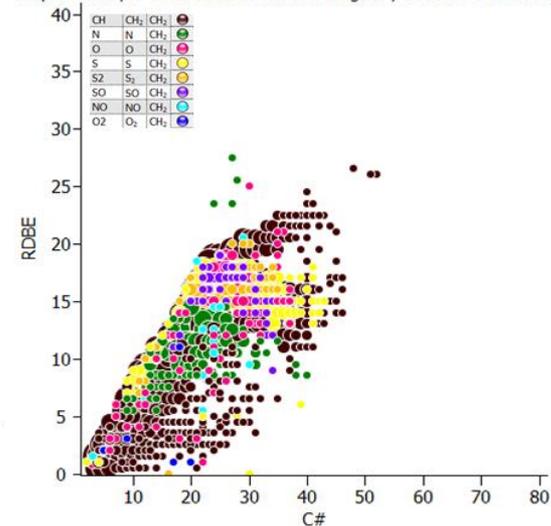


Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 250.183 s to 300.676 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)

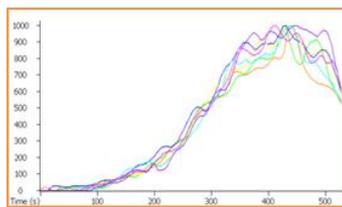


Boiling behavior

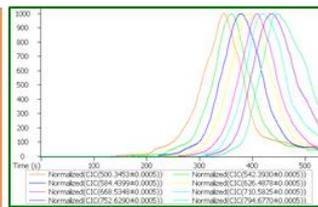
Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 250.183 s to 300.676 s



Class Information

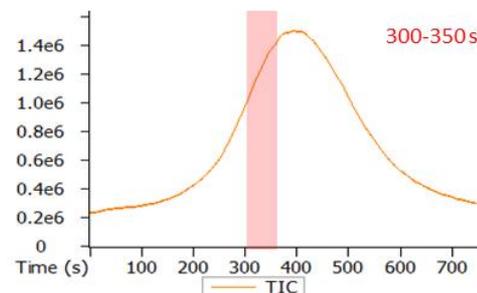
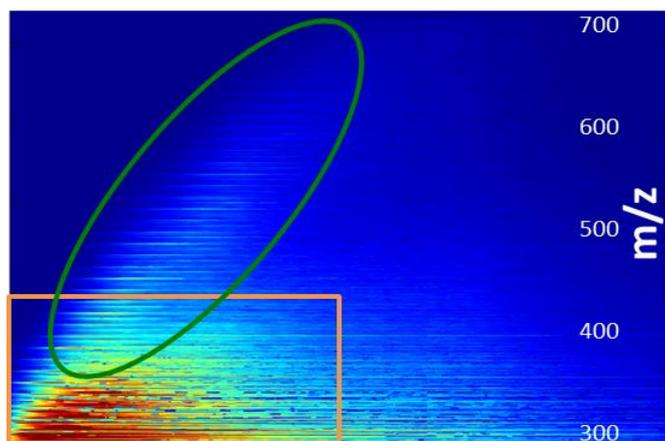


Non specific Fragmentation

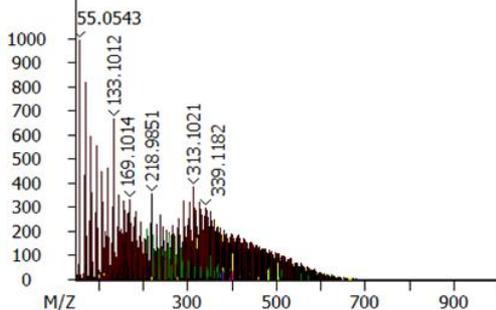


Molecular Information

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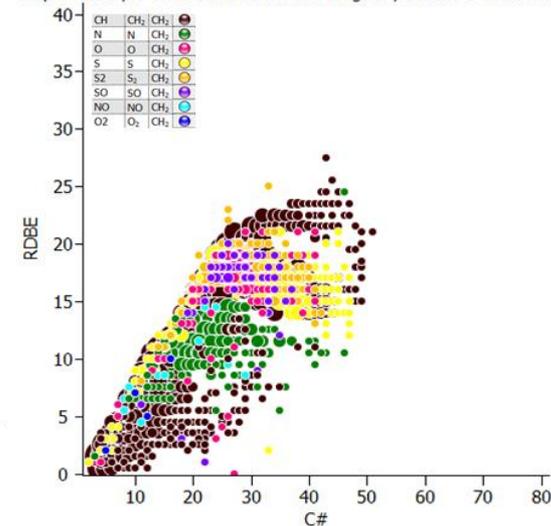


Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 299.95 s to 350.444 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)

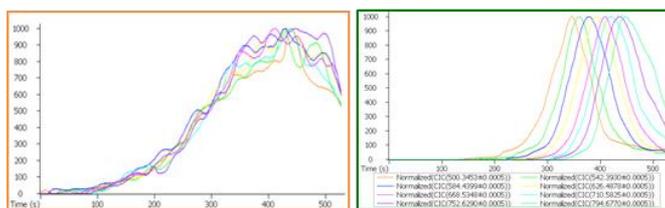


Boiling behavior

Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 299.95 s to 350.444 s



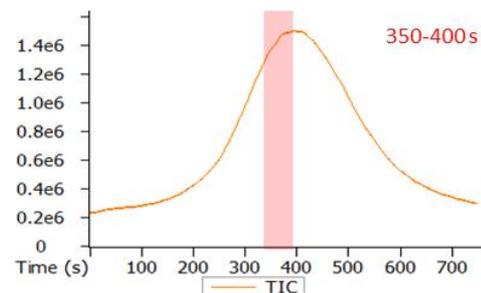
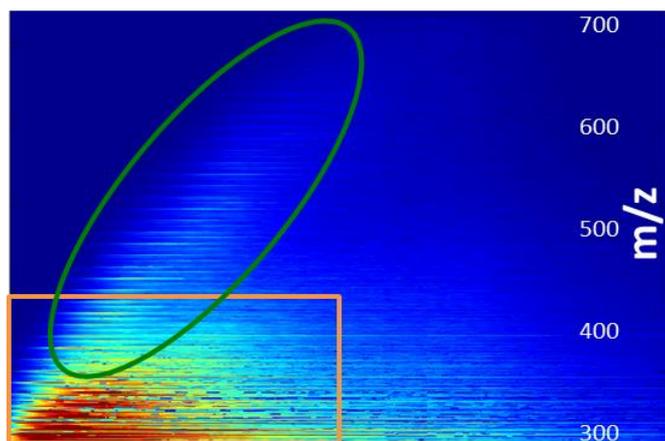
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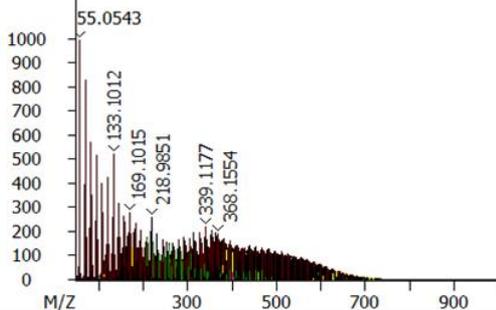
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Molecular Information

## Can we go further with evolved gas analysis HRMS: DIP reduced pressure evaporation of a vacuum gas oil

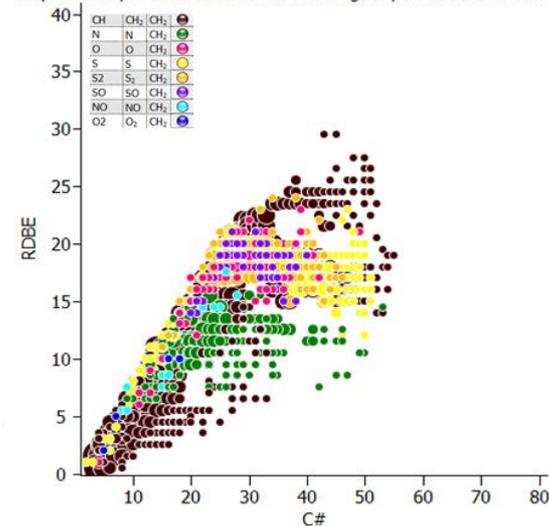


Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 349.718 s to 400.211 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)

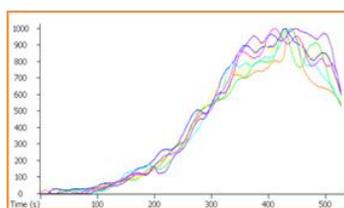


Boiling behavior

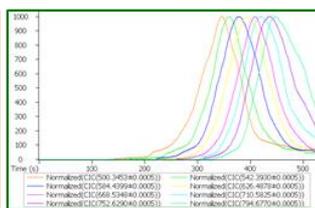
Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 349.718 s to 400.211 s



Class Information

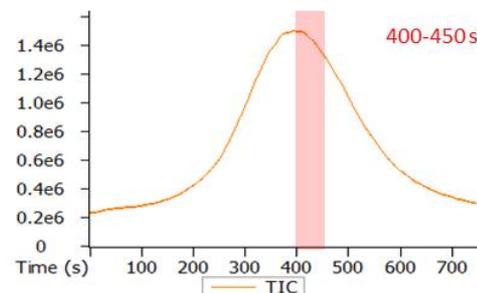
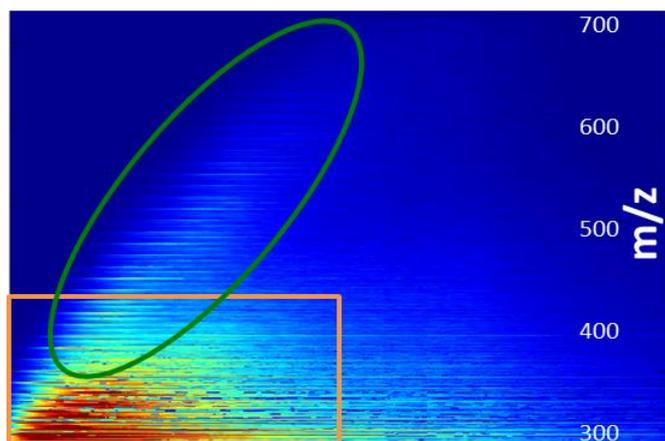


Non specific Fragmentation

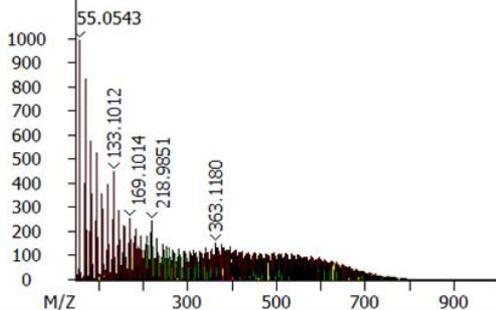


Molecular Information

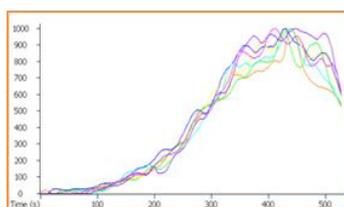
## Can we go further with evolved gas analysis HRMS: DIP reduced pressure evaporation of a vacuum gas oil



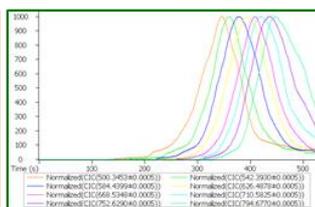
Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 401.973 s to 452.467 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)



Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 401.973 s to 452.467 s



Non specific  
 Fragmentation



Molecular  
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Boiling  
 behavior

Class  
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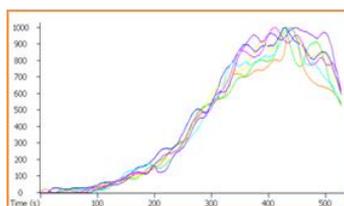
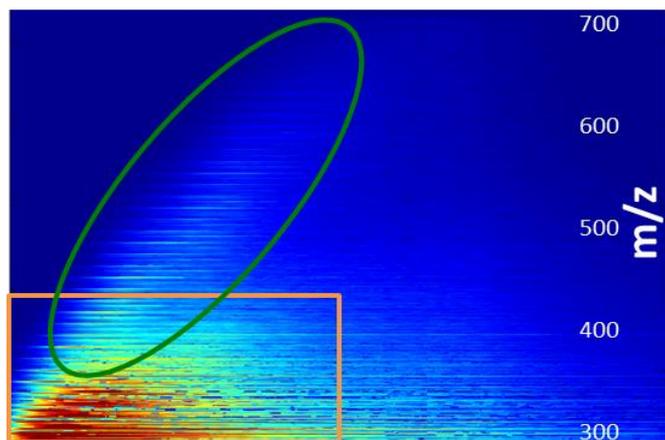
Introduction

M&M

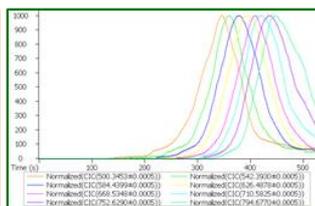
Results/Discussion

Summary

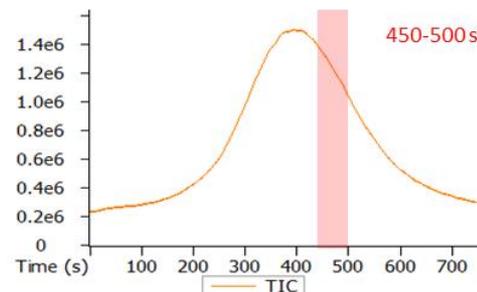
## Can we go further with evolved gas analysis HRMS: DIP reduced pressure evaporation of a vacuum gas oil



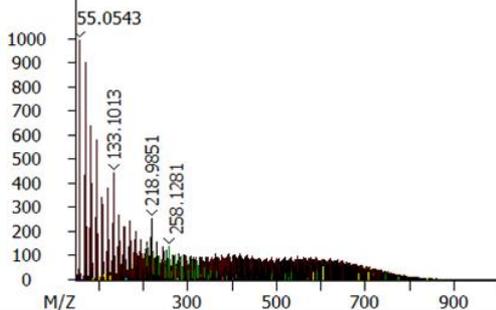
Non specific  
Fragmentation



Molecular  
Information

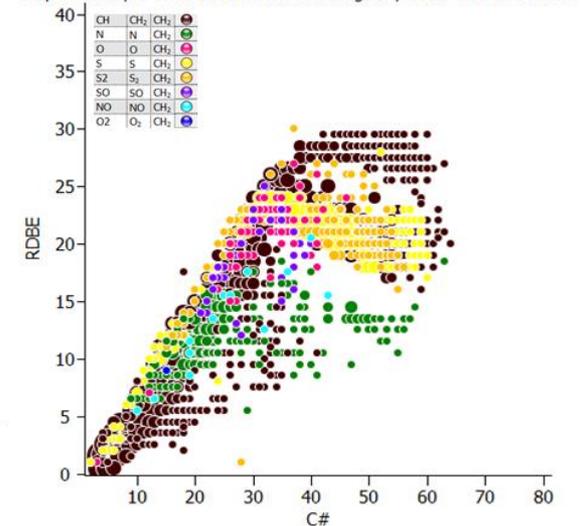


Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 451.741 s to 502.234 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)



Boiling  
behavior

Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 451.741 s to 502.234 s



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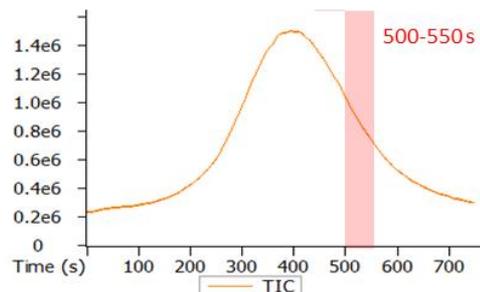
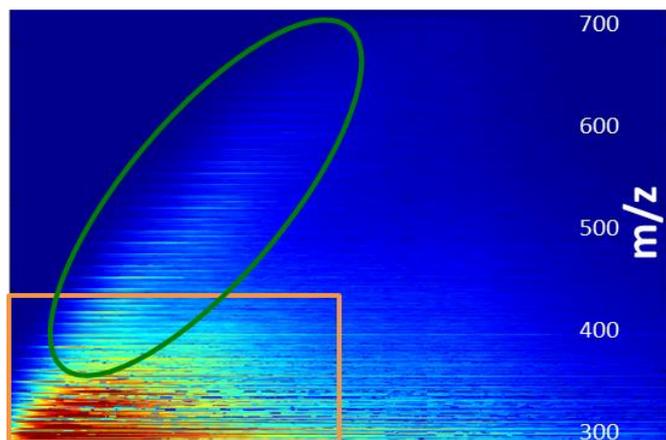
Introduction

M&M

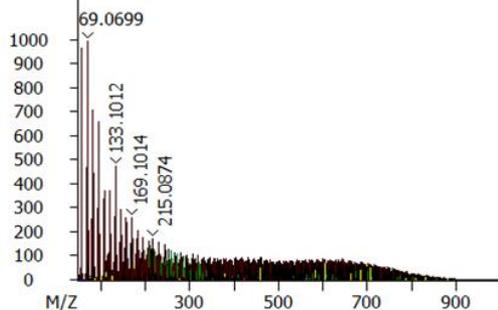
Results/Discussion

Summary

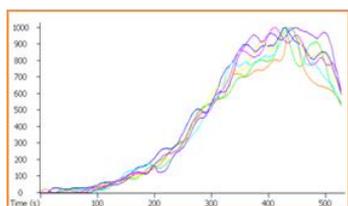
## Can we go further with evolved gas analysis HRMS: DIP reduced pressure evaporation of a vacuum gas oil



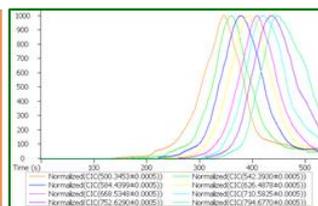
Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 499.02 s to 549.514 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)



Boiling behavior

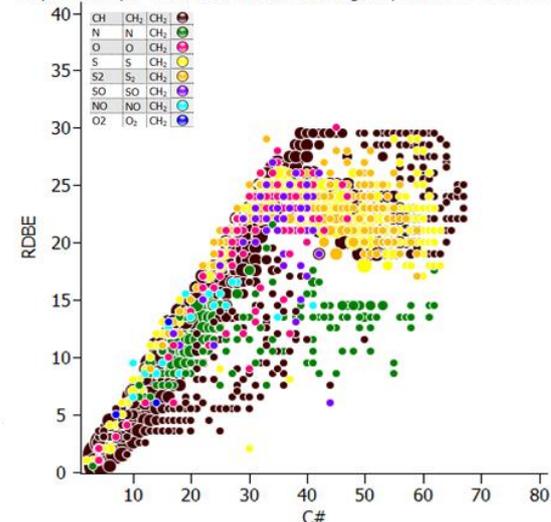


Non specific Fragmentation



Molecular Information

Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 499.02 s to 549.514 s



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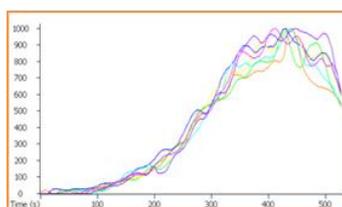
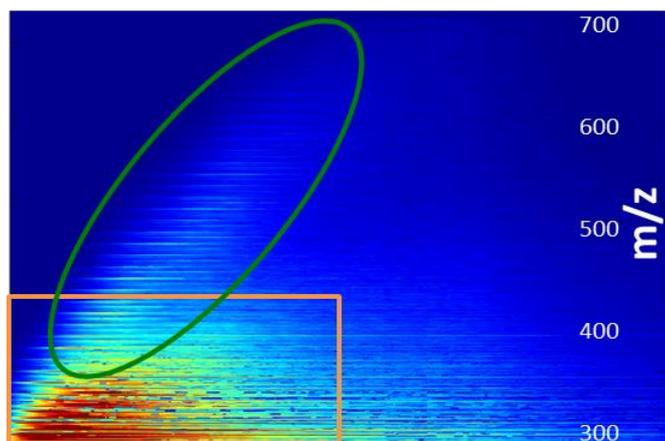
Introduction

M&M

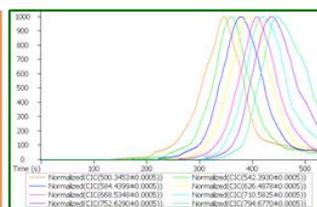
Results/Discussion

Summary

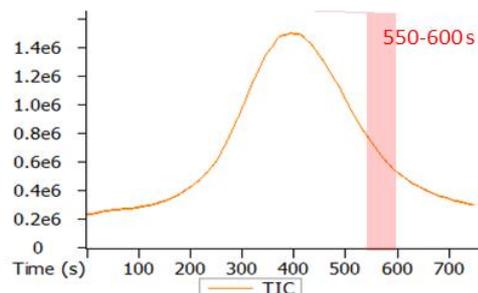
## Can we go further with evolved gas analysis HRMS: DIP reduced pressure evaporation of a vacuum gas oil



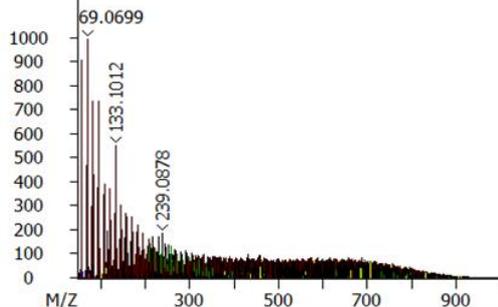
Non specific  
 Fragmentation



Molecular  
 Information

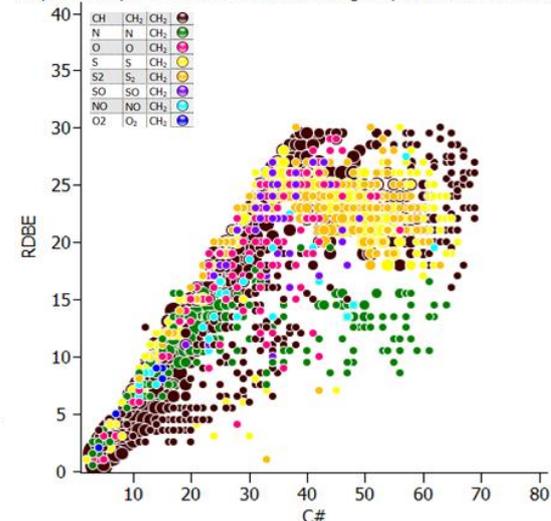


Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 551.276 s to 601.769 s - 0 s to 48.164 s, Area (Abundance)



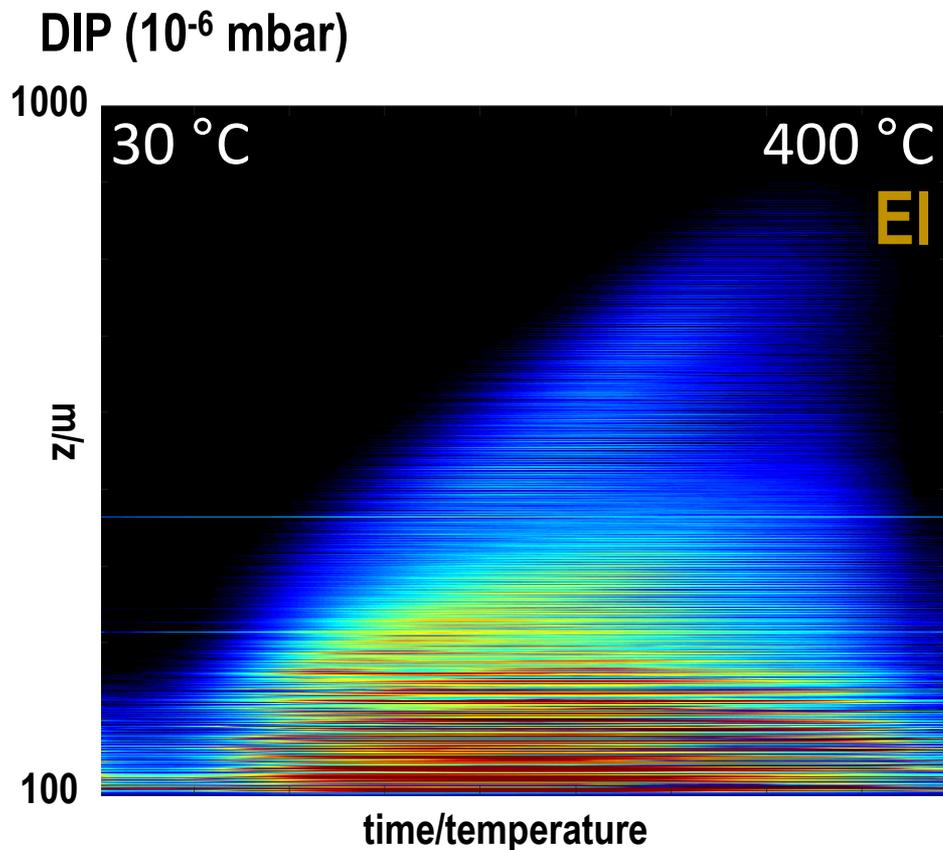
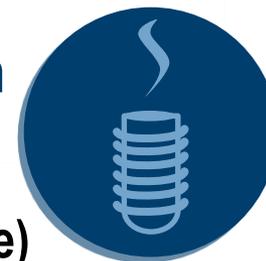
Boiling  
 behavior

Caliper - sample "20171009 S5070 Aro Original", 551.276 s to 601.769 s

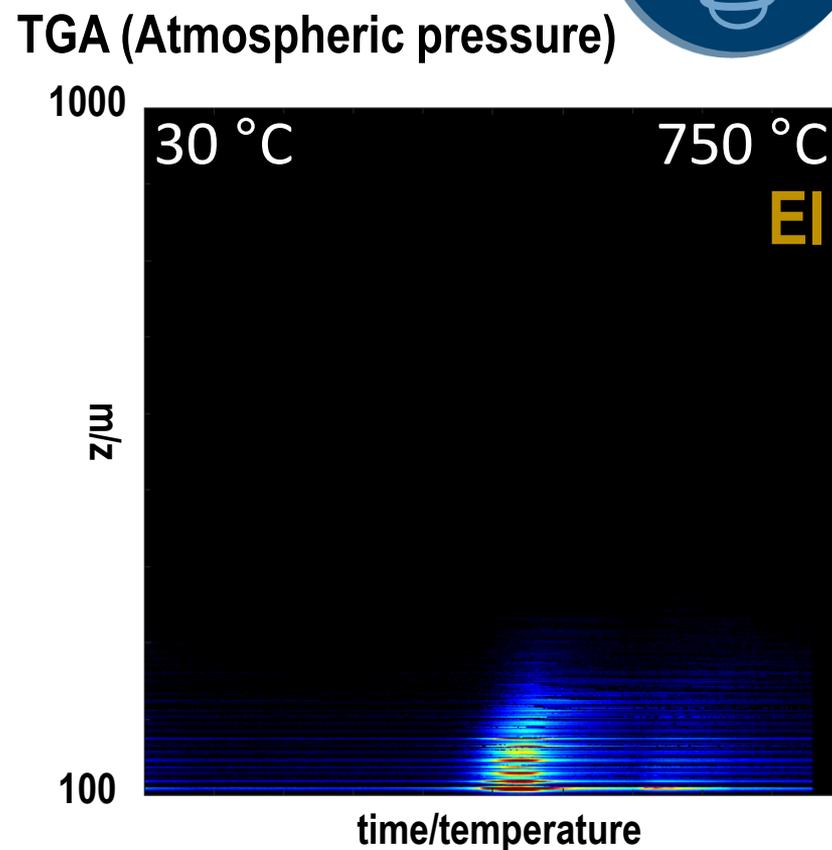


Class  
 Information

## Going further – DIP reduced pressure evaporation



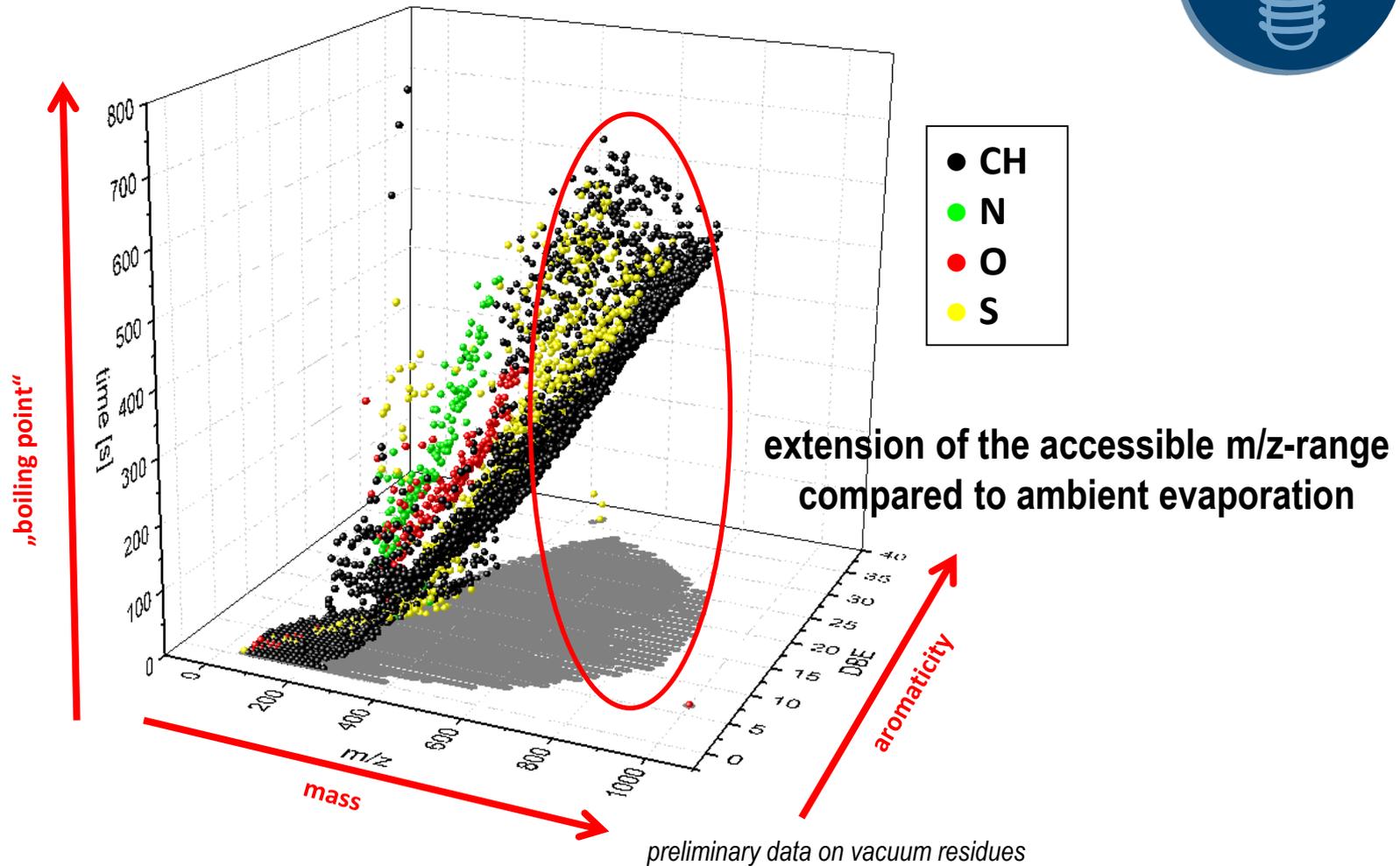
**destruction free volatilization**



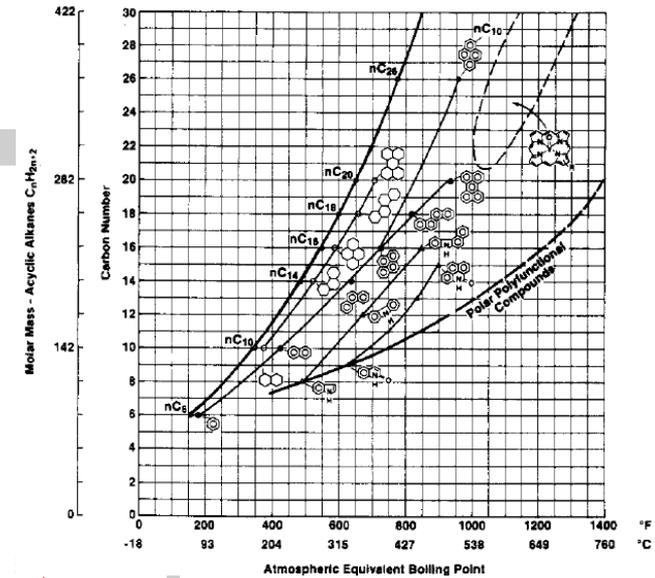
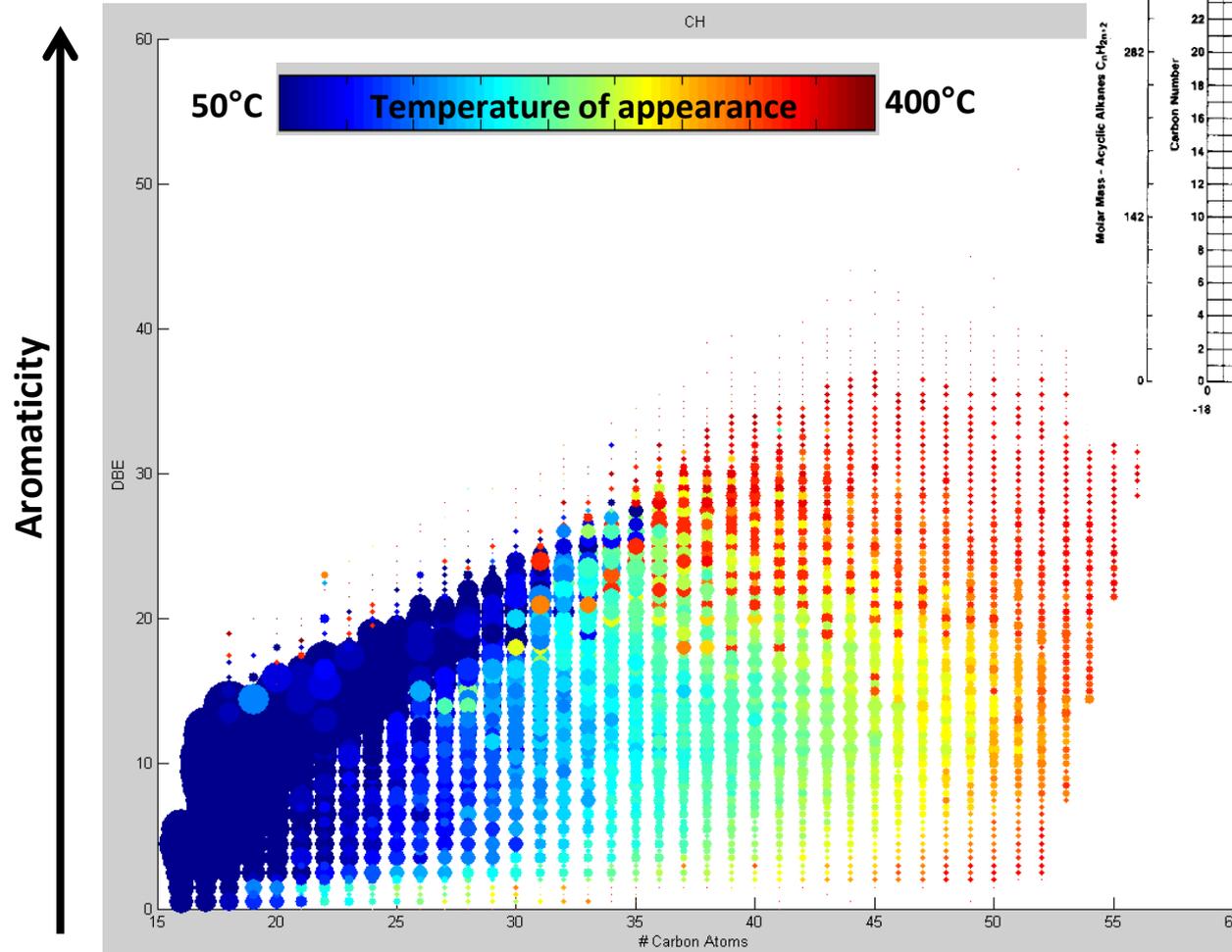
**thermal fragments (pyrolysis)**



## Reduced pressure evaporation utilizing the DIP



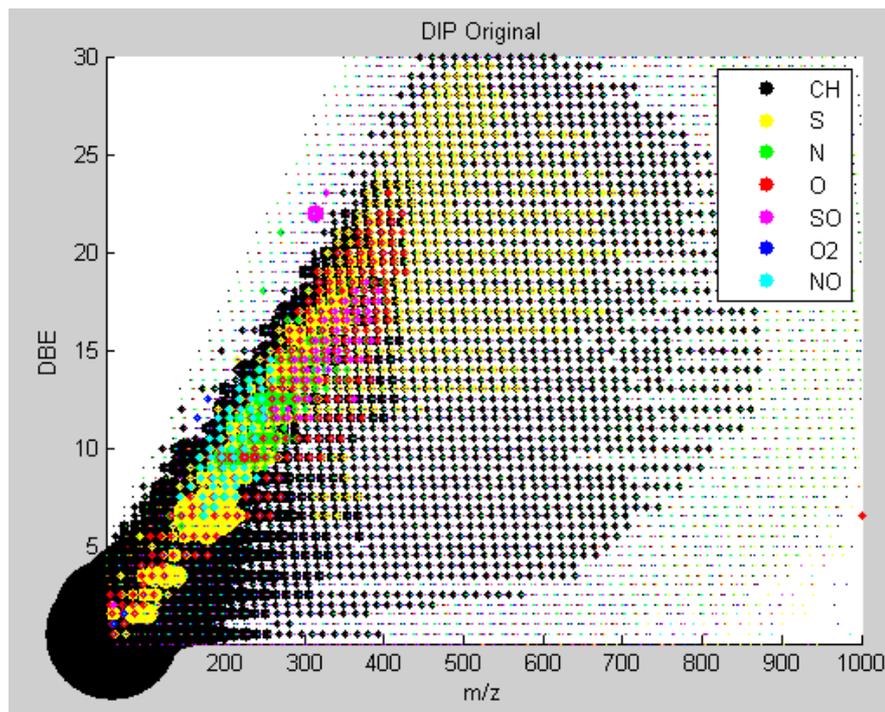
## Evidence of the Boduszynsky model



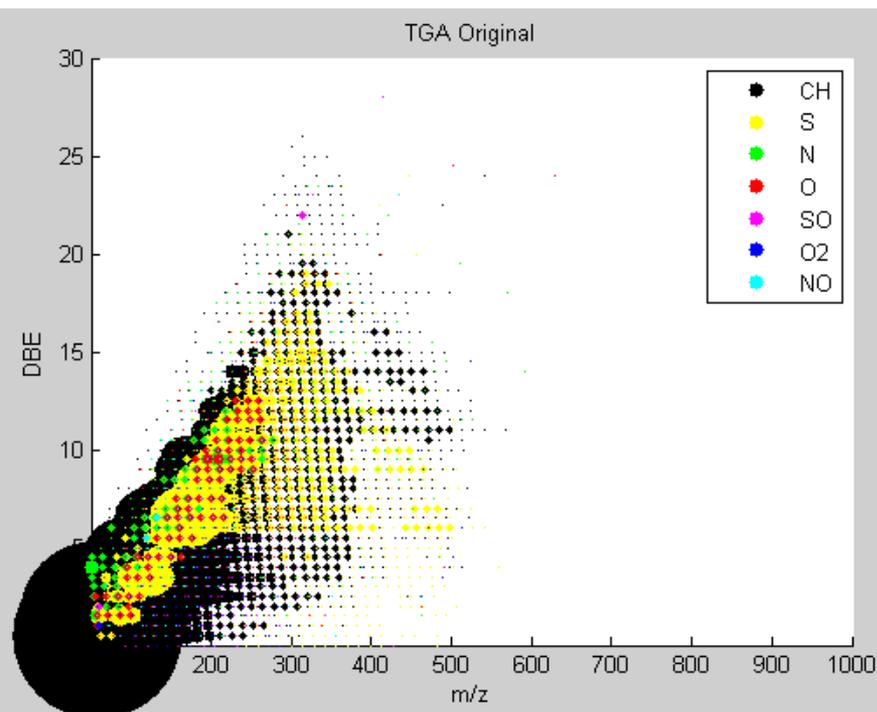
↑ Increasing „boiling point“ for higher Aromaticity  
 ↑ Increasing „boiling point“ for higher #C  
 →

## DIP – HRT vs TG – HRT (desorption profile)

### DIP ( $10^{-6}$ mbar)



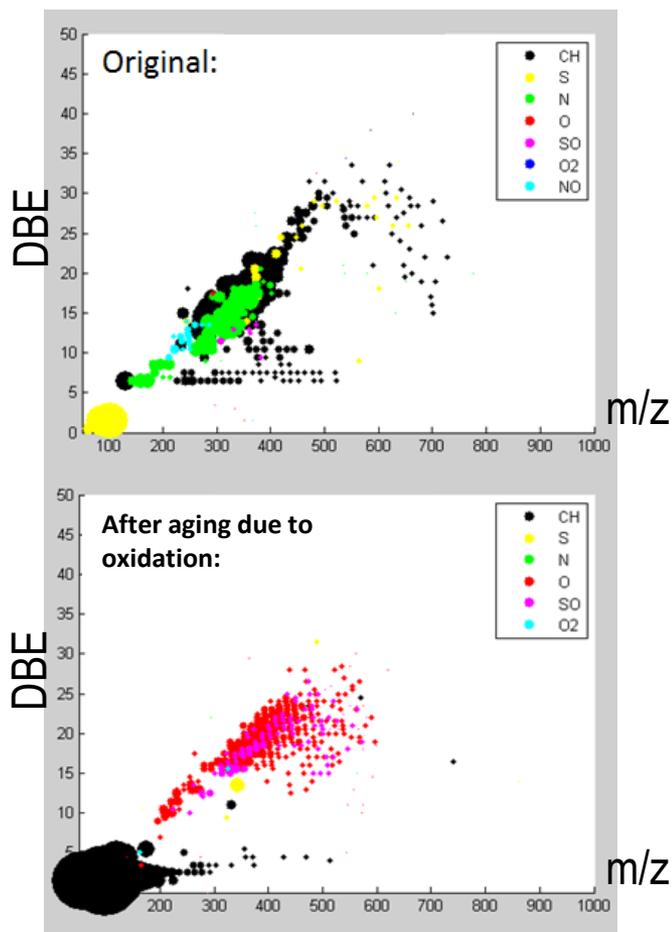
### TGA (Atmospheric pressure)



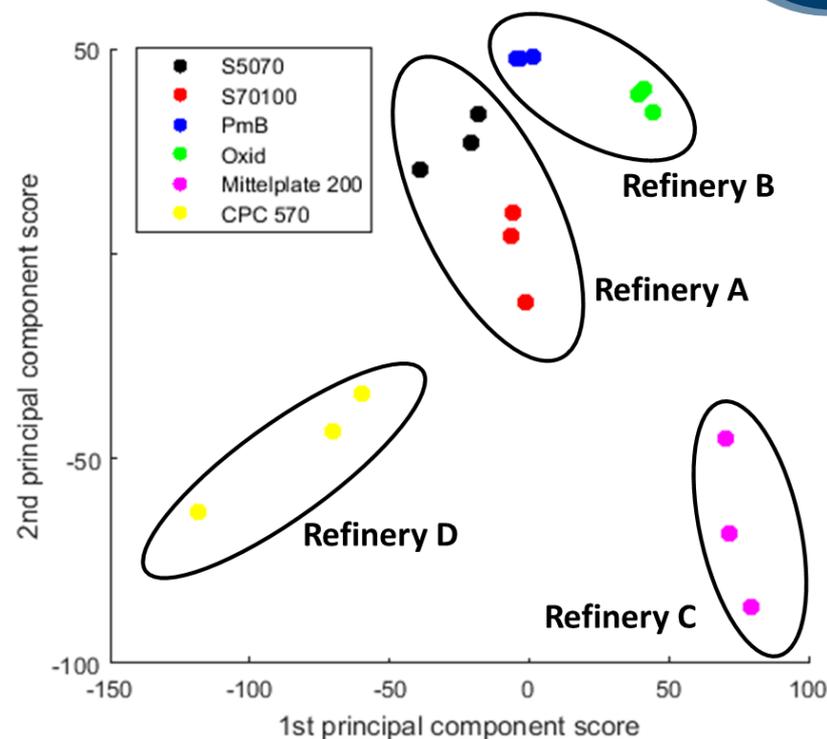


## Differentiation of Bitumen and Bitumen aging

### Bitumen aging



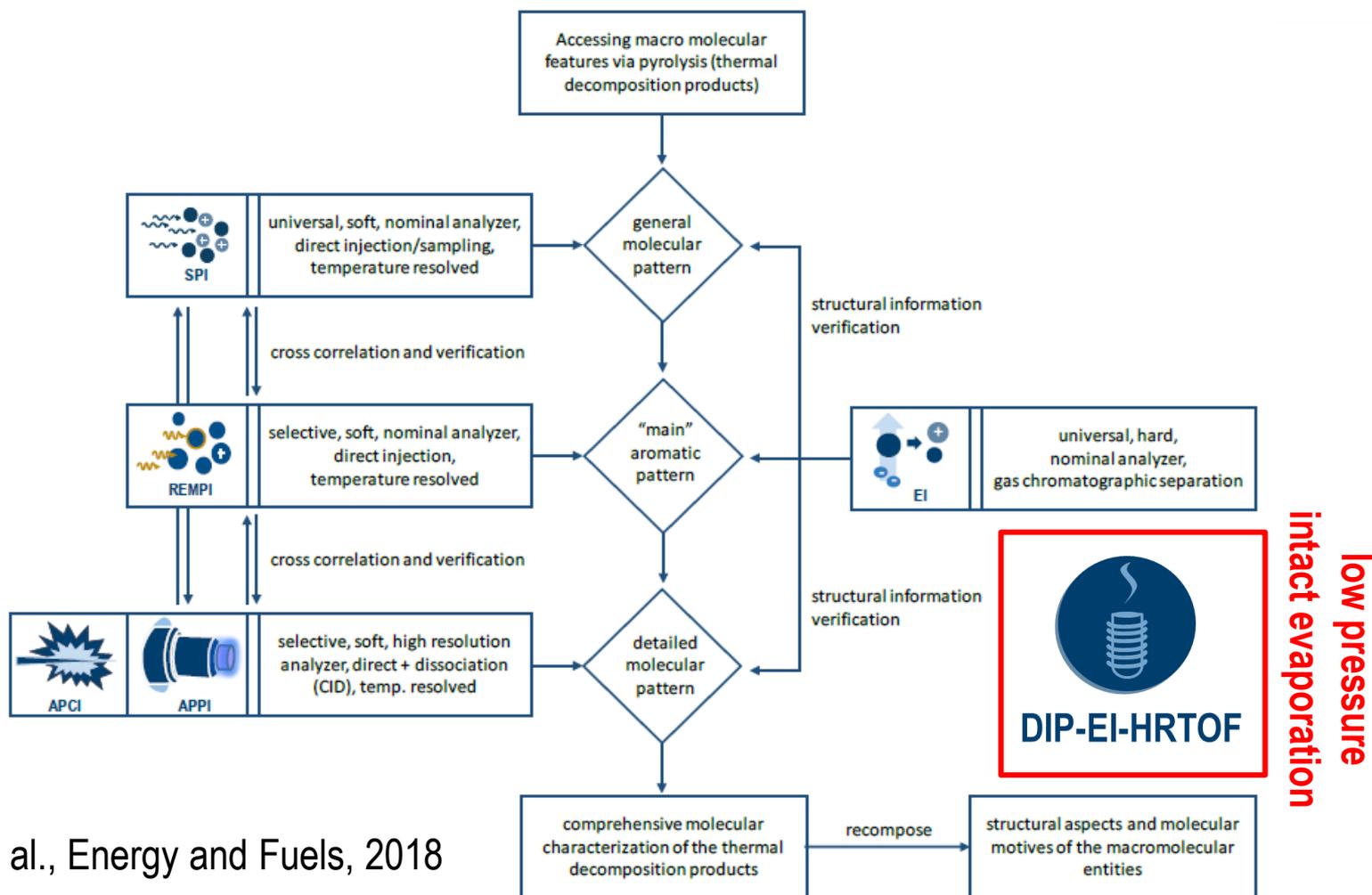
### Bitumen origin



#### Fingerprinting

- Principal component analysis with 6 bitumen samples (à 3 replicates) from 4 refineries
- ≈ 25.000 mass traces (variables) used for discrimination

## Outlook - Data combination and integration



Rüger et al., Energy and Fuels, 2018

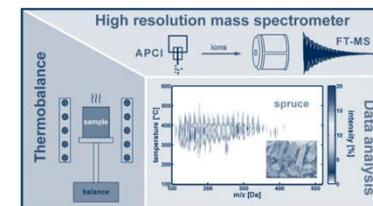
# Summary

4



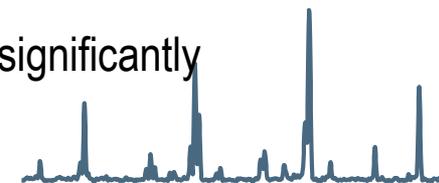
## *Introduction of thermal analysis high resolution mass spectrometry*

- **powerful tool** for chemical characterisation - macromolecular structures decompose
- temperature **emission profile** of individual elemental compositions traceable
- no solvent effects, sample material **directly useable**, minimum sample amount



## *Application towards heavy oils and asphaltenes*

- asphaltenes reveal **ultra-complex spectra** dominated by CH- and CHS<sub>x</sub>-signals (APCI/APPI)
- **DIP** at reduced pressure allows to **extent the accessible chemical space** significantly



## *Combination of thermal analysis approaches for asphaltene pyrolysis*

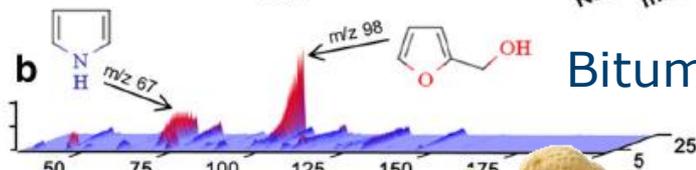
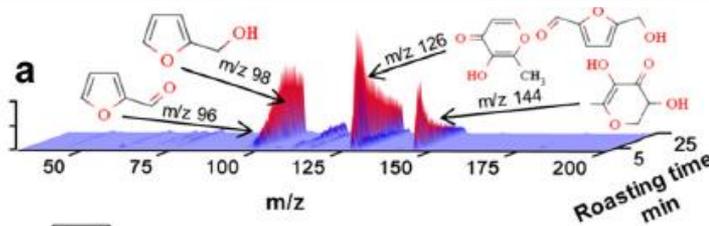
- Interlaboratory study on a **purified** asphaltene
- **multi-methodological** thermal analysis mass spectrometry approach
- data combination for elucidation of the dominant **structural motives**



## Biomass pyrolysis



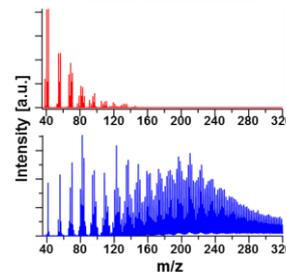
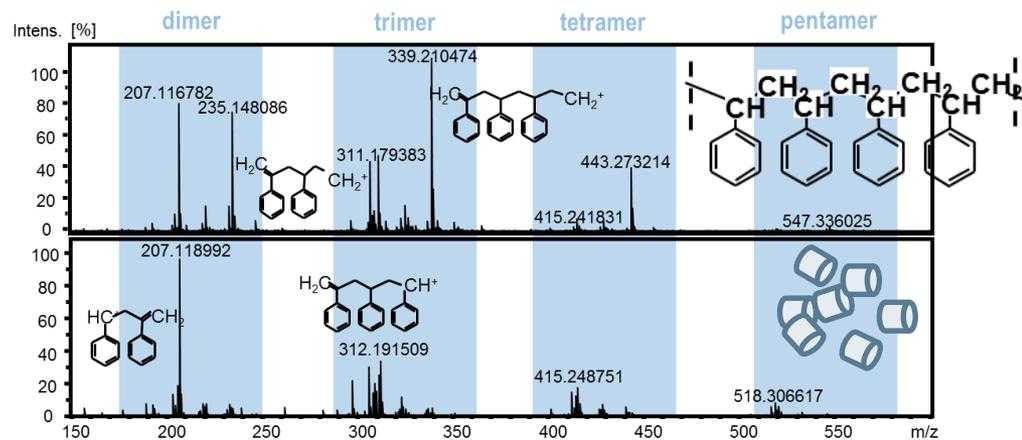
## Food processing (coffee/nut roasting)



## Bitumen and Bitumen ageing

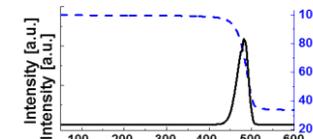


## Polymers and oligomeric samples



## Oil shale

Glen Davis



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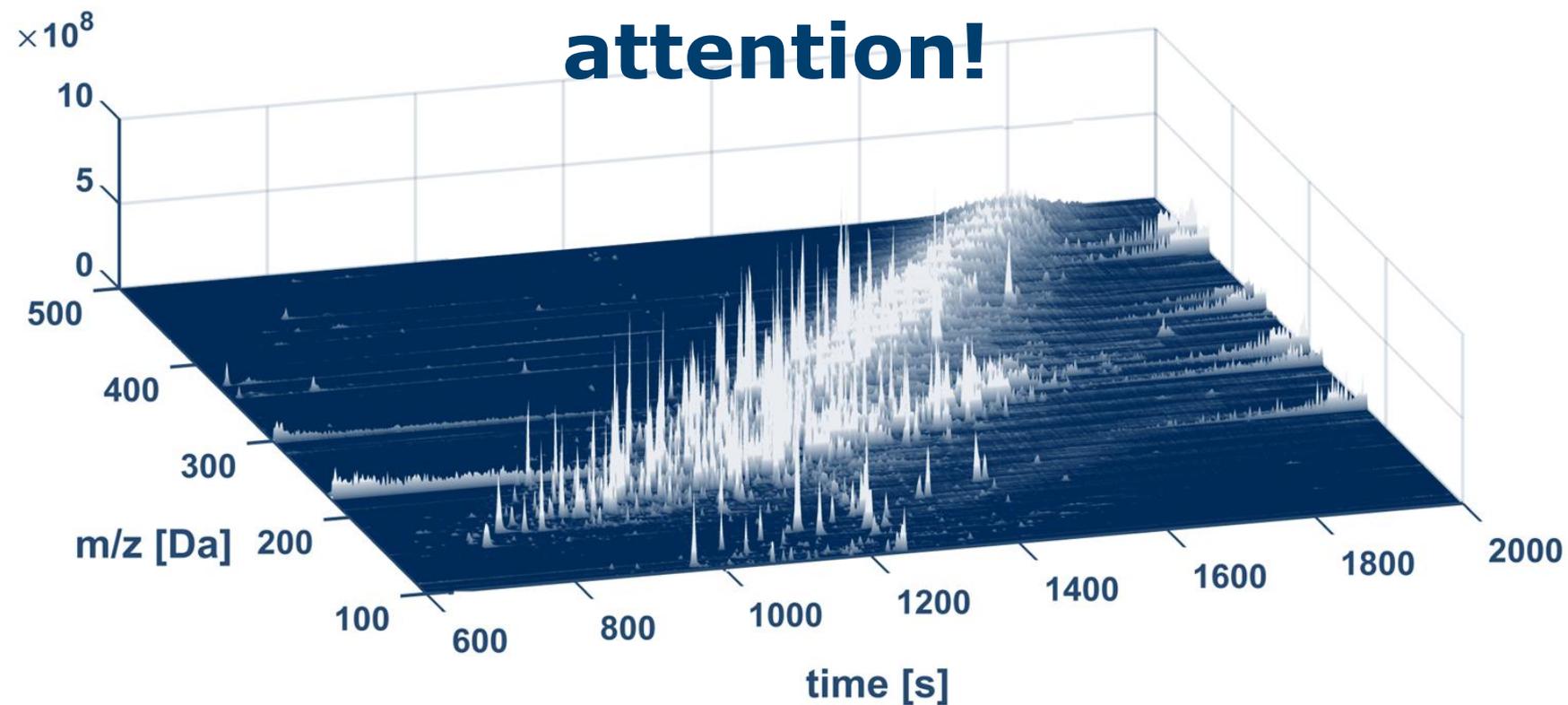
Summary



**Group meeting at *The Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research*, Warnemünde (Germany)**

## Zimmermann Group – September 2017

# Thank you for your kind attention!



[christopher.rueger@uni-rostock.de](mailto:christopher.rueger@uni-rostock.de)