

# Fatty Acid and FAME Analysis Using State-of-the-Art Gas Chromatography

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Agilent Technologies



# Outline

- Analysis of Fats and Oils and Column Selection
- DB-FATWAX Ultra Inert
- DB-FastFAME
- DB-HeavyWAX
- Conclusions

# The importance of fatty acid analysis

## Quality



## Labeling/Regulatory

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
Serving Size 1 cup (228g) Servings Per Container 2	
<b>Amount Per Serving</b>	
Calories 260	Calories from Fat 120
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 13g	20%
Saturated Fat 5g	25%
Trans Fat 2g	
Cholesterol 30mg	10%
Sodium 660mg	28%
Total Carbohydrate 31g	10%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 5g	
Protein 5g	
Vitamin A 4%	• Vitamin C 2%
Calcium 15%	• Iron 4%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your Daily Values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.	
Calories:	2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g
Calories per gram:	
Fat 9	Carbohydrate 4 Protein 4

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## Adulteration

EMA: Economically Motivated Adulteration



Process Monitoring/Product and assuring economics



# Fatty acids commonly found in food samples

- Milk fat (C4-C24 saturated/unsaturated FAMEs)



- Vegetable oil (hydrogenated and nonhydrogenated)

- Palm oil, rapeseed oil, olive oil, soybean oil
- Cooking oils



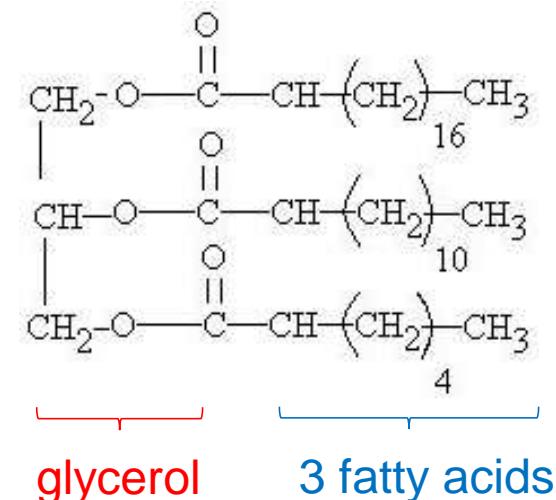
- Fish oil and meat fat



<b>Nutrition Facts</b>		
Serving Size 1 cup (228g) Servings Per Container 2		
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<b>Cholesterol</b> 30mg		10%
<b>Sodium</b> 660mg		28%
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 31g		10%
Dietary Fiber 0g		0%
Sugars 5g		
<b>Protein</b> 5g		
Vitamin A 4%	•	Vitamin C 2%
Calcium 15%	•	Iron 4%
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your Daily Values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:		
Calories	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g	375g
Dietary Fiber	25g	30g
Calories per gram: Fat 9	•	Carbohydrate 4      Protein 4

# Fat and Oil Analysis - Triglycerides

- Used to identify composition and percentage of each TG present in the sample
- Very easy to prepare and analyze, typically, only a dilution of the oil is required
- Cold on-column injection is required due to the low volatility of the triglycerides
- A typical TG analysis is olive oil adulteration with cheaper seed oils



# Triglycerides analysis of butter fat

Column: CP-TAP CB, 25m, 0.25mm, 0.10 $\mu$ m (p/n CP7483)  
Inlet: on-column  
Carrier: Hydrogen, 100kPa (1 bar, 15 psi)  
Oven: 280 °C (1 min) to 355 °C at 3 °C/min  
Detector: FID  
Injection: 0.2  $\mu$ L  
Sample: 0.05% butter fat in hexane

## CP-TAP CB for Triglycerides

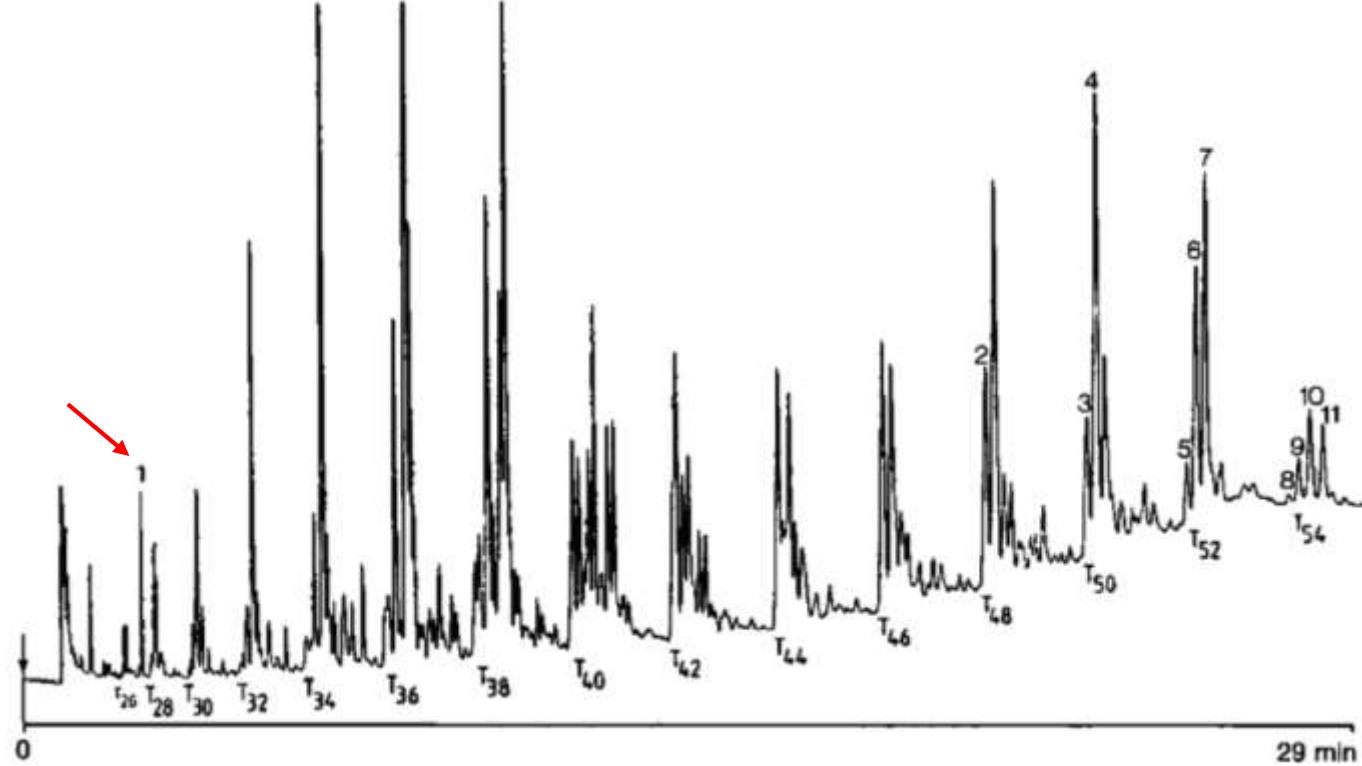
P: Palmitic acid, (hexadecanoic acid)  
S: Stearic acid (octadecanoic acid)  
O: Oleic acid (cis-9-octadecenoic acid)

C16:0  
C18:0  
C18:1

Peak No

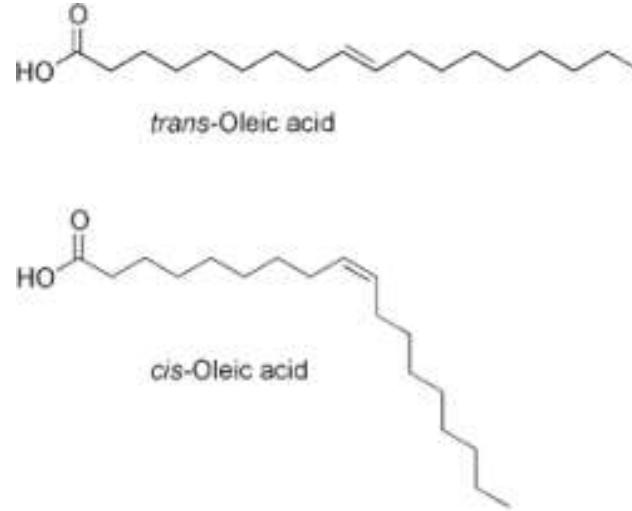
1. Cholesterol
2. PPP
3. PPS
4. PPO
5. PSS
6. PSO
7. POO
8. SSS
9. SSO
10. SOO
11. OOO

Application Note: A0223



# Fat and Oil Analysis – Free Fatty Acids

- Faster and easier sample preparation
- Traditionally small-chain or volatile fatty acids are analyzed in free form
- Usually difficult to analyze due to the carboxylic acid
- Typically requires specialized column such as acid-modified wax phases

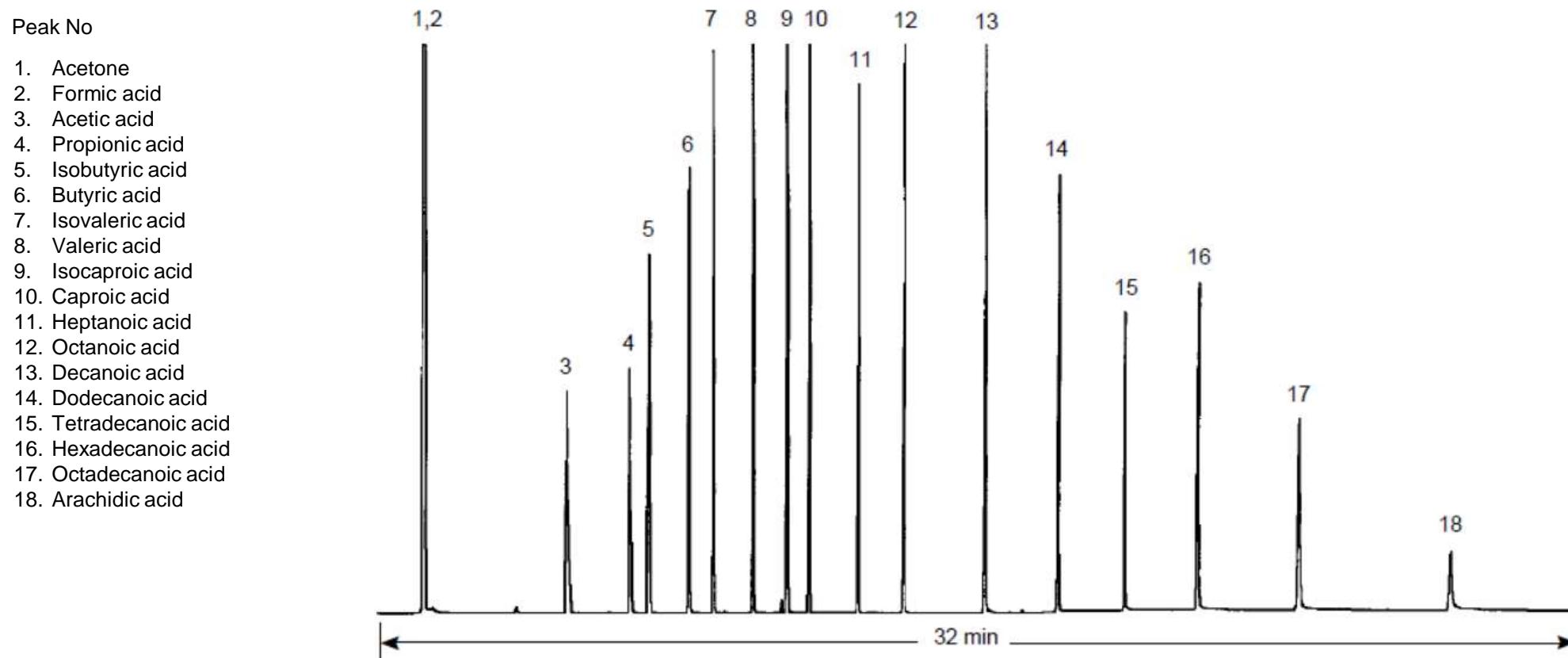


# Analysis of free fatty acids

Column DB-FFAP, 30m, 0.25mm, 0.25 $\mu$ m (p/n 122-3232)  
Carrier Helium at 40 cm/sec, measured at 100 °C  
Oven 100 °C (5 min) to 250 °C (12 min) at 10 °C/min  
Detector FID, 300 °C  
Injector Nitrogen makeup gas at 30 mL/min  
Split 1:50, 250 °C

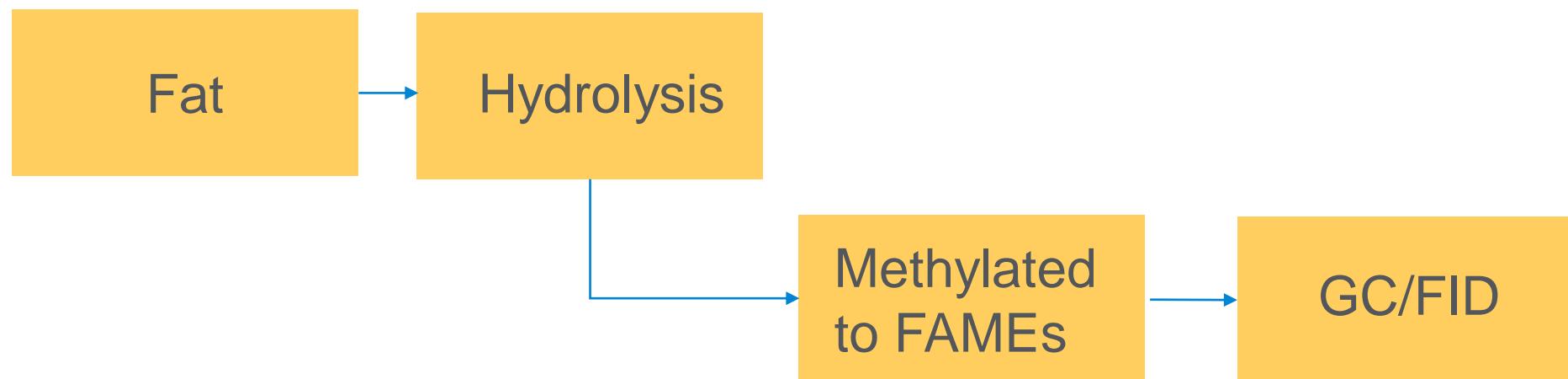
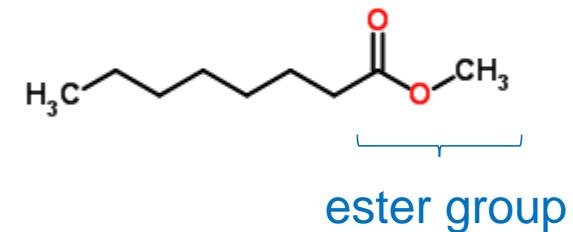
DB-FFAP

Chromatogram C077



# Fat and Oil Analysis - FAME

- Transesterification of free fatty acids is the most preferred method for fat analysis
- Allows to distinguish slight differences among unsaturated fatty acids (e.g. positional geometric isomers)
- Generally, sample preparation requires a few complex steps



# Traditional FAME analysis on a CP-Sil 88

- Most common method, suggested by AOAC 996.06 and AOCS Ce 1j-07
- 100-m cyanopropyl columns are optimized for positional isomer separation of critical cis/trans FAMEs
- Analysis time typically in the 65-76 min range

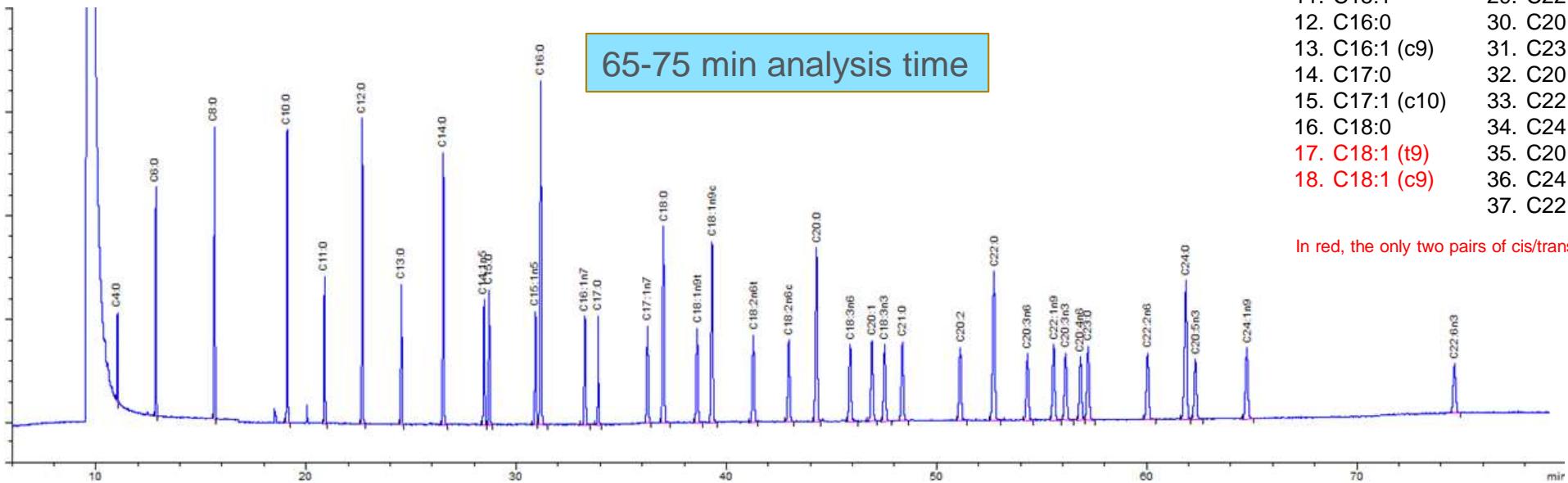
CP-Sil 88

Peak No

1. C4:0
2. C6:0
3. C8:0
4. C10:0
5. C11:0
6. C12:0
7. C13:0
8. C14:0
9. C14:1 (c9)
10. C15:0
11. C15:1
12. C16:0
13. C16:1 (c9)
14. C17:0
15. C17:1 (c10)
16. C18:0
17. C18:1 (t9)
18. C18:1 (c9)
19. C18:2 (t9, t12)
20. C18:2 (c9, c12)
21. C20:0
22. C18:3 (c6,c9,c12)
23. C20:1 (c11)
24. C18:3 (c9, c12, c15)
25. C21:0
26. C20:2 (c11, c14)
27. C22:0
28. C20:3 (c8, c11, c14)
29. C22:1 (c13)
30. C20:3 (c11, c14, c17)
31. C23:0
32. C20:4 (c5,c8,c11,c14)
33. C22:2 (c13, c16)
34. C24:0
35. C20:5 (c5,c8,c11,c14,c17)
36. C24:1 (c15)
37. C22:6 (c4,c7,c10,c13,c16,c19)

In red, the only two pairs of cis/trans isomers

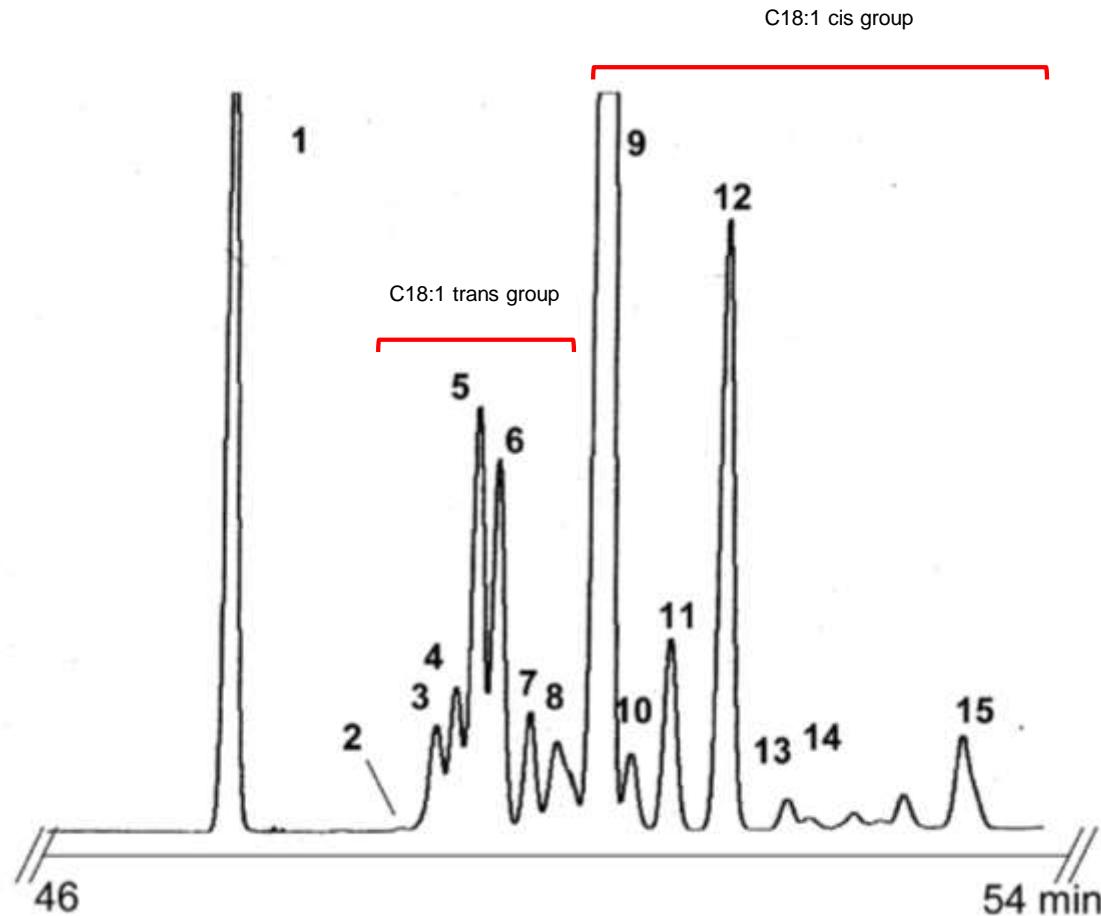
## FAMES by AOAC 996.06 using 100-m CP-Sil 88



# Detailed Analysis of cis/trans FAMEs C18:1 positional isomers

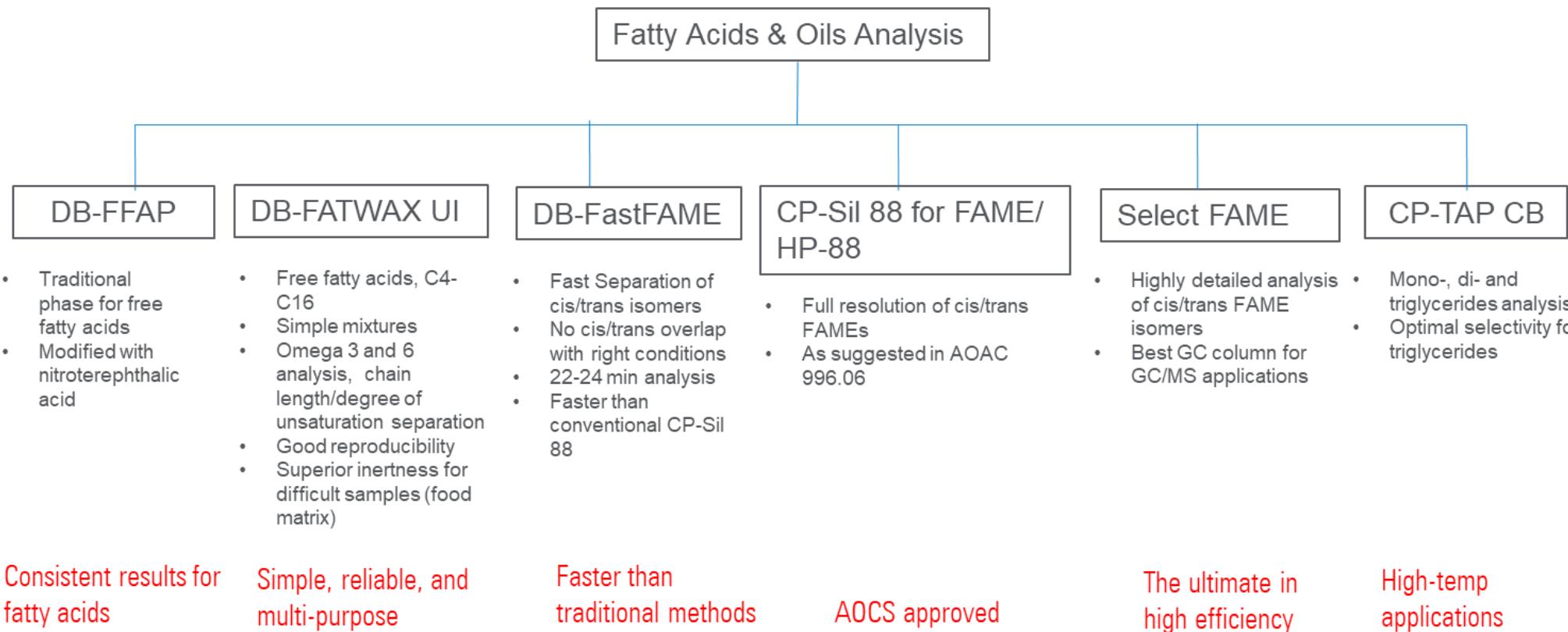
Column      Select FAME, **200-m**, 0.25 mm i.d. (P/N CP7421)  
Inlet        250°C, split mode, split ratio 1:20  
Carrier      Helium, 520 kPa  
Oven        185°C  
FID         250°C  
Injection    0.5 µL

- Peak No
1. C18:0
  2. C18:1 7 trans
  3. C18:1 8 trans
  4. C18:1 9 trans
  5. C18:1 10 trans
  6. C18:1 11 trans
  7. C18:1 12 trans
  8. C18:1 trans + ?
  9. C18:1 9 cis
  10. C18:1 10 cis
  11. C18:1 11 cis
  12. C18:1 12 cis
  13. C18:1 13 cis
  14. C18:1 14 cis
  15. C18:1 15 cis



Select-FAME

# Comprehensive Portfolio for Fatty Acids, FAME and Oils Analysis



**FFA**

**FAME**

**TG**

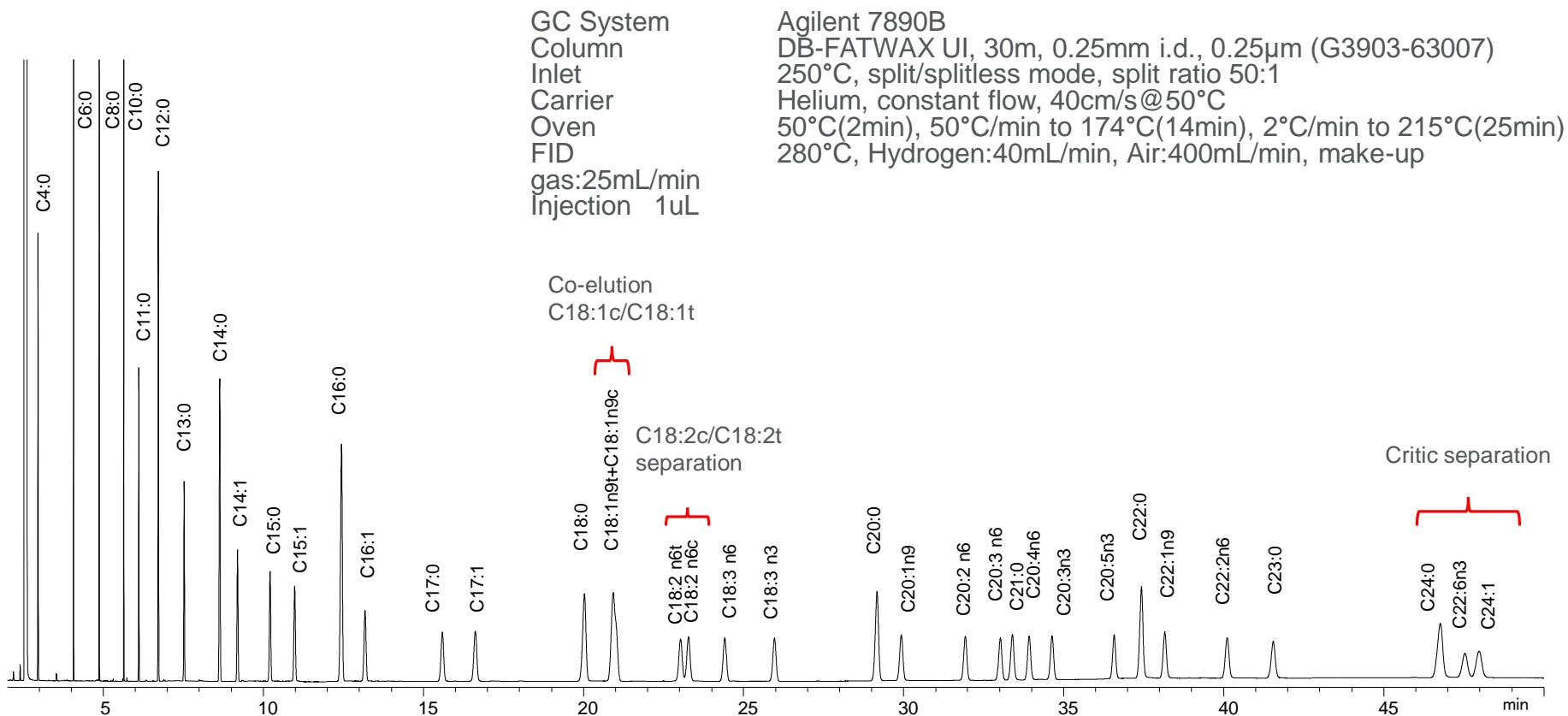
# DB-FATWAX Ultra Inert

For the analysis of:

- FAMEs including Omega 3 and Omega 6
- Small organic acids and free fatty acids
- Applications in fish oil and animal fat analysis

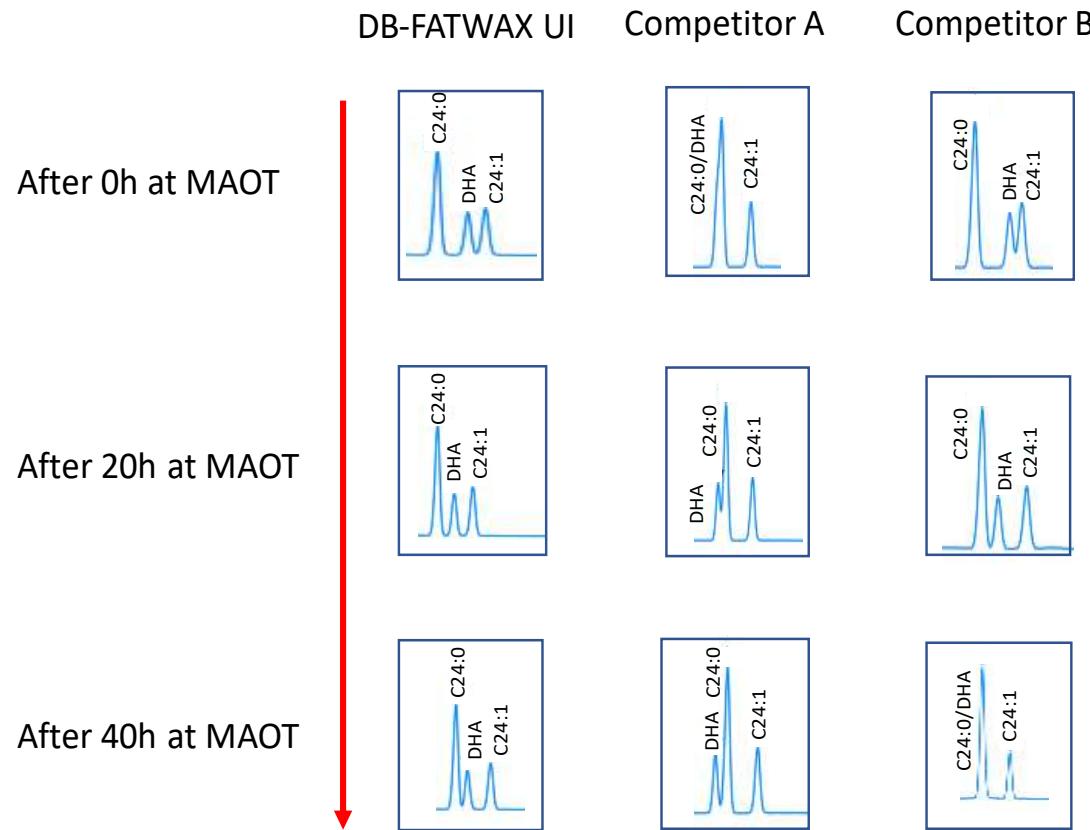
# 37-FAME mix analysis with DB-FATWAX Ultra Inert

- Best option for saturated and polyunsaturated FAMEs, including Omega 3 and Omega 6
- WAX-type selectivity not ideal for cis/trans separation



# Comparison study of the C24:0/C22:6n3 (DHA) critical pair

- DB-FATWAX UI fully resolves the C24:0/DHA critical pair
- It remains stable with no change in selectivity or retention time even after 40 h at MAOT.



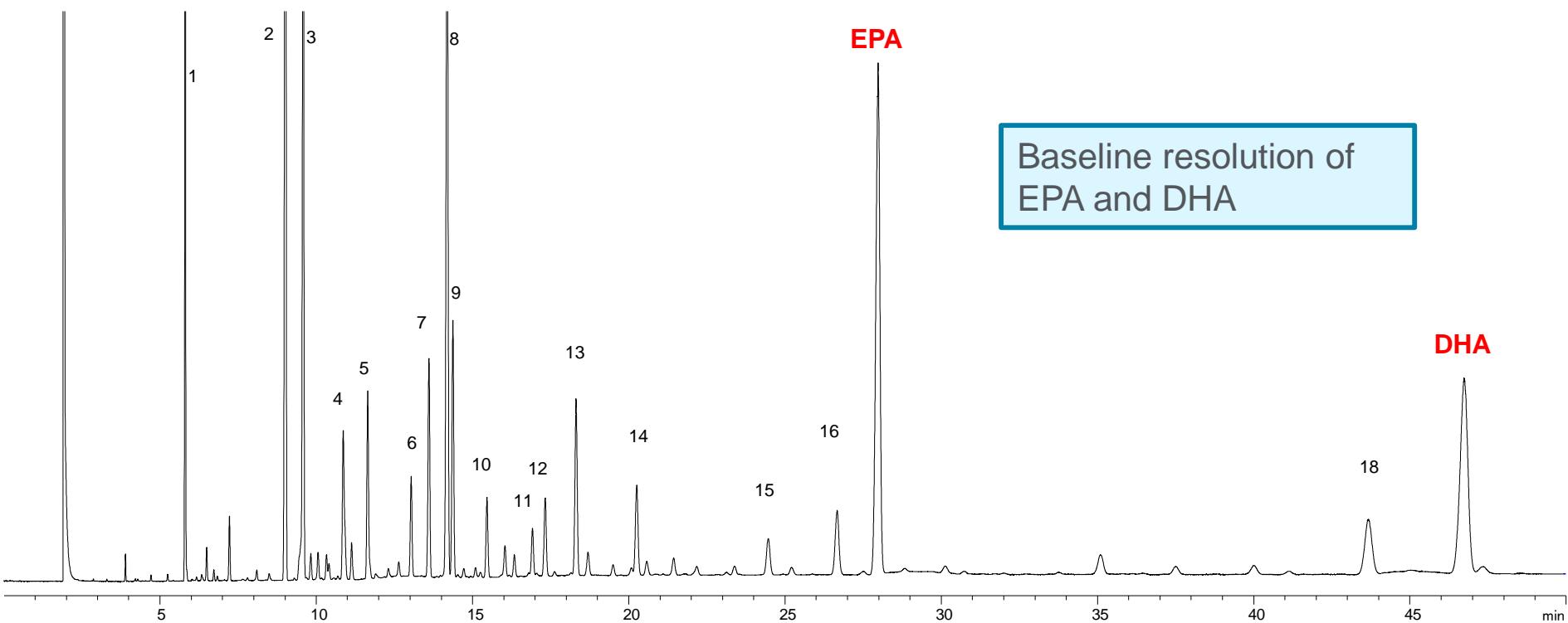
\*MAOT: maximum allowable operating temperature

# Analysis of real samples

Column DB-FATWAX UI, 30m, 0.25mm i.d., 0.25 $\mu$ m (G3903-63007)  
Inlet 250°C, split/splitless mode, split ratio 100:1  
Carrier Helium, constant flow, 30cm/s@180°C  
Oven 180°C(2min), 2°C/min to 210°C(35min)  
FID 280°C, Hydrogen:40mL/min, Air:400mL/min, make-up gas:25mL/min  
Injection 1 $\mu$ L  
Sample PUFA No.3 (diluted)

1. C14:0
2. C16:0
3. C16:1n7
4. C16:2n4
5. C16:3n4
6. C16:4n1
7. C18:0
8. C18:1n9
9. C18:1n7
10. C18:2n6
11. C18:3n3
12. C18:3n4
13. C18:4n3
14. C20:1n9
15. C20:4n6
16. C20:4n3
17. C20:5n3 (EPA)
18. C22:5n3
19. C22:6n3 (DHA)

## Menhaden Oil analysis following AOAC method

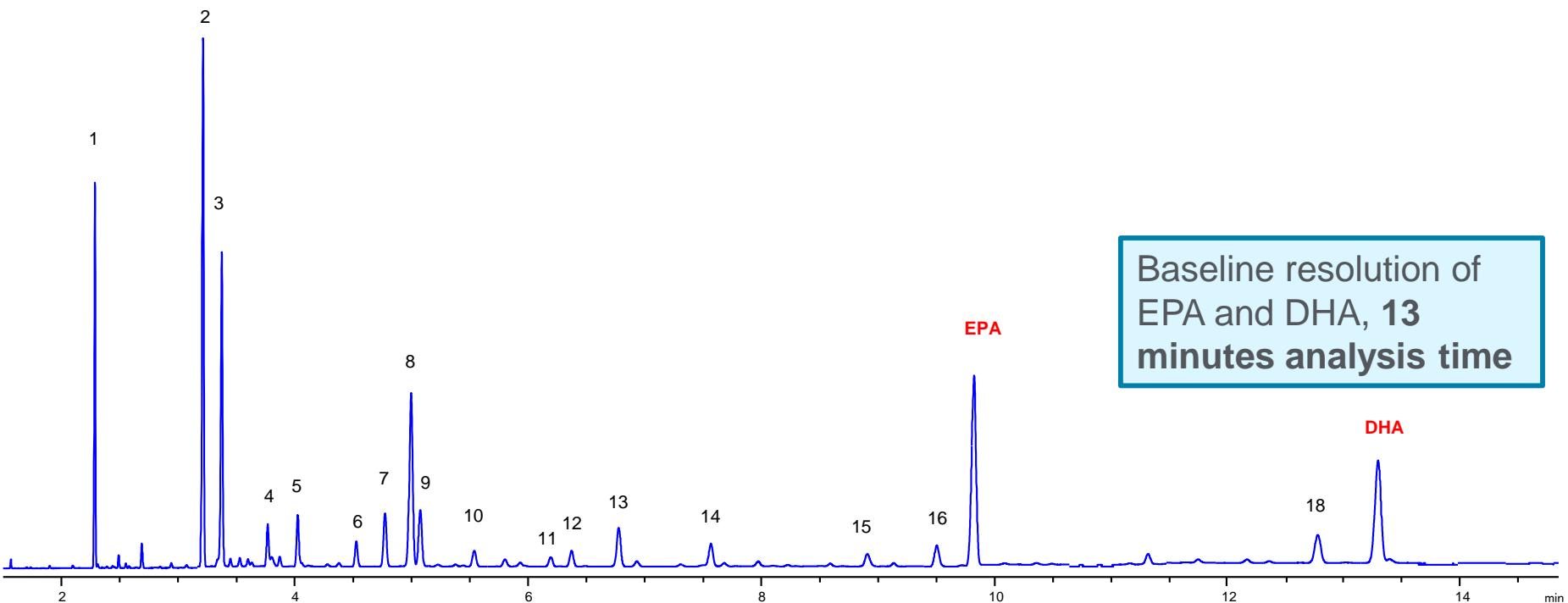


# Analysis of real samples

Column  
Inlet  
Carrier  
Oven  
FID  
Injection

DB-FATWAX UI, 20m\*0.18mm I.D, 0.18um  
250°C, split/splitless mode, split ratio 100:1  
Hydrogen, constant flow, 2mL/min  
140°C, 20°C/min to 190°C(3min), 5°C/min to 220°C(15min)  
250°C, Hydrogen:40mL/min, Air:400mL/min, make-up gas:25mL/min  
1uL

## Optimize separation of Menhaden Oil using a fast GC method



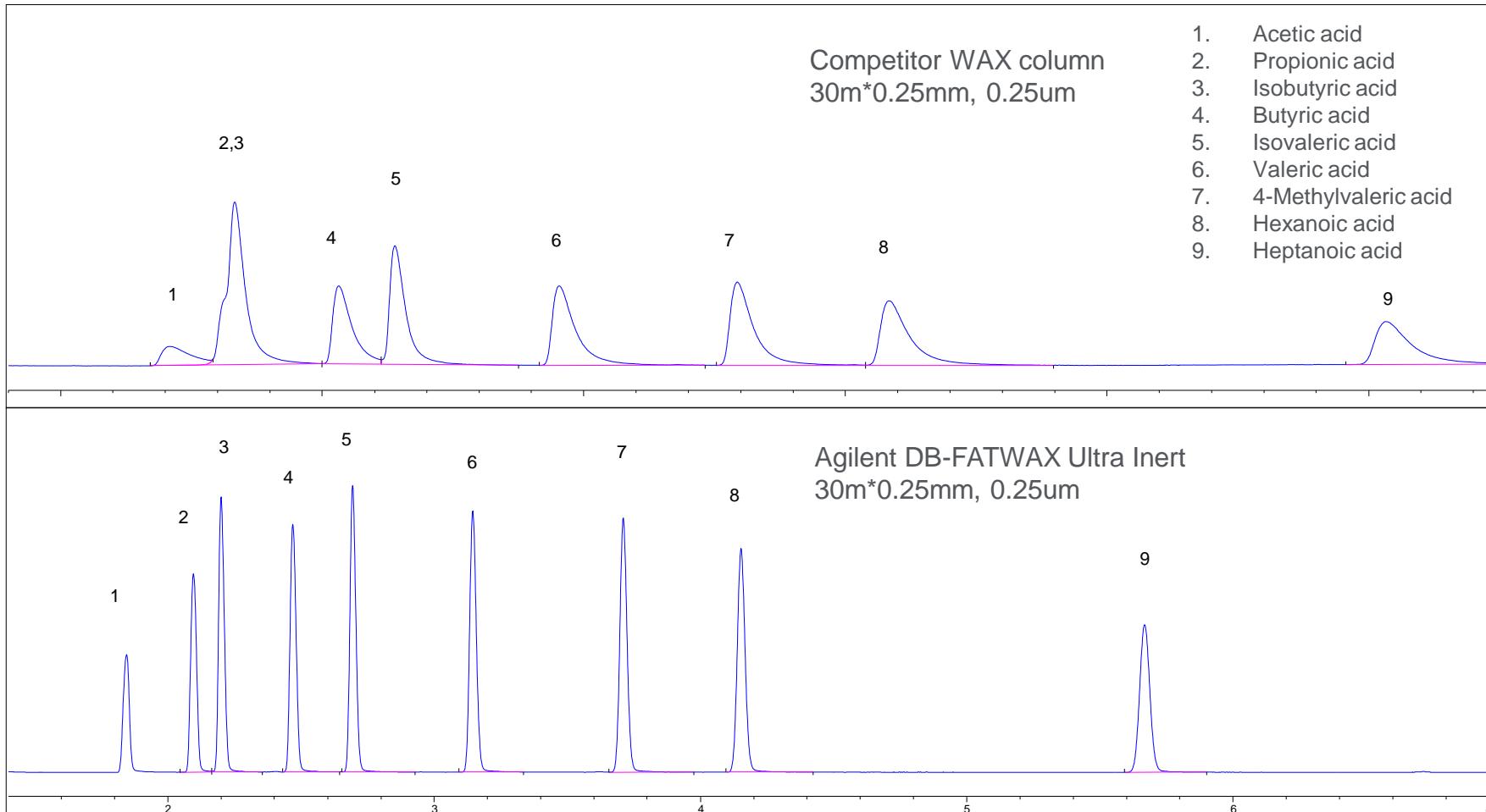
1. C14:0
2. C16:0
3. C16:1n7
4. C16:2n4
5. C16:3n4
6. C16:4n1
7. C18:0
8. C18:1n9
9. C18:1n7
10. C18:2n6
11. C18:3n3
12. C18:3n4
13. C18:4n3
14. C20:1n9
15. C20:4n6
16. C20:4n3
17. C20:5n3
18. C22:5n3
19. C22:6n3

# DB-FATWAX UI provides the desire inertness and thermal stability to separate challenge organic acids and fatty acids

- Great need in the food, forensic and cosmetic industries to monitor the content of free and natural occurring fatty acids.
- Analysis of underivatized organic acids and free acids is desirable to eliminate the problems associated with derivatization, extraction, and cleanup procedures
- Volatile organic acids and fatty acids are difficult to quantify accurately by standard WAX columns. These acids often elute as tailing or poorly resolved peaks. For some acids, adsorption can become irreversible.
- Normally:
  - Fatty acids are derivatized to the methyl ester (FAME)
  - Free fatty acids are analyzed using acid-deactivated wax columns. The acid modifier, nitrotetraphthalic acid, however, reduces thermal stability, operating temperature and reacts with humidity, reducing column life time

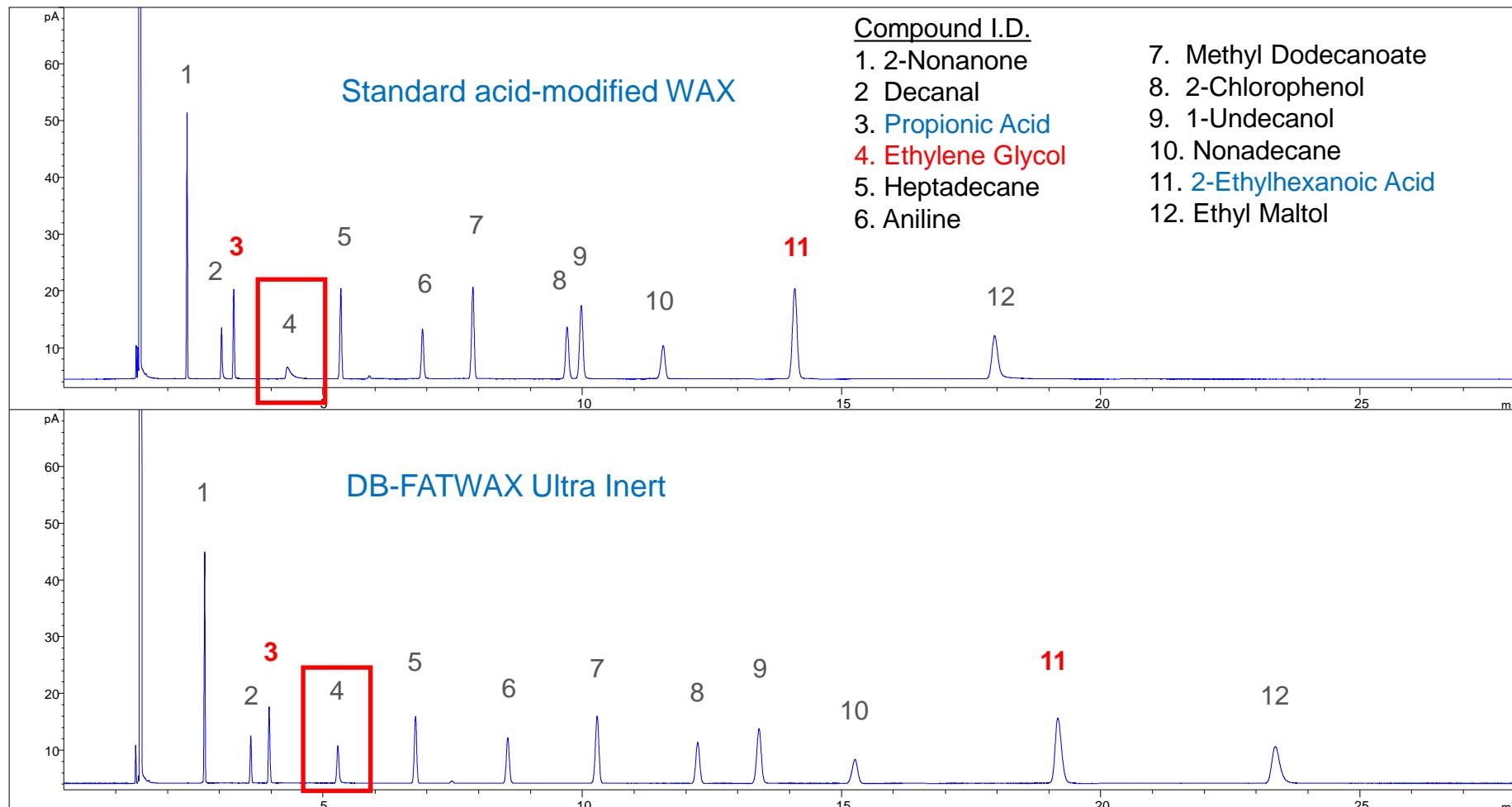
# Separation of Short-chain volatile organic acids in water using a competitor WAX column and DB-FATWAX Ultra Inert

- Standard WAX columns don't have the inertness to separate most organic acids



# Comparison between acid-modified WAX and DB-FATWAX UI after 50h at 250 °C

DB-FATWAX Ultra Inert shows superior inertness and thermal stability than acid-modified WAX

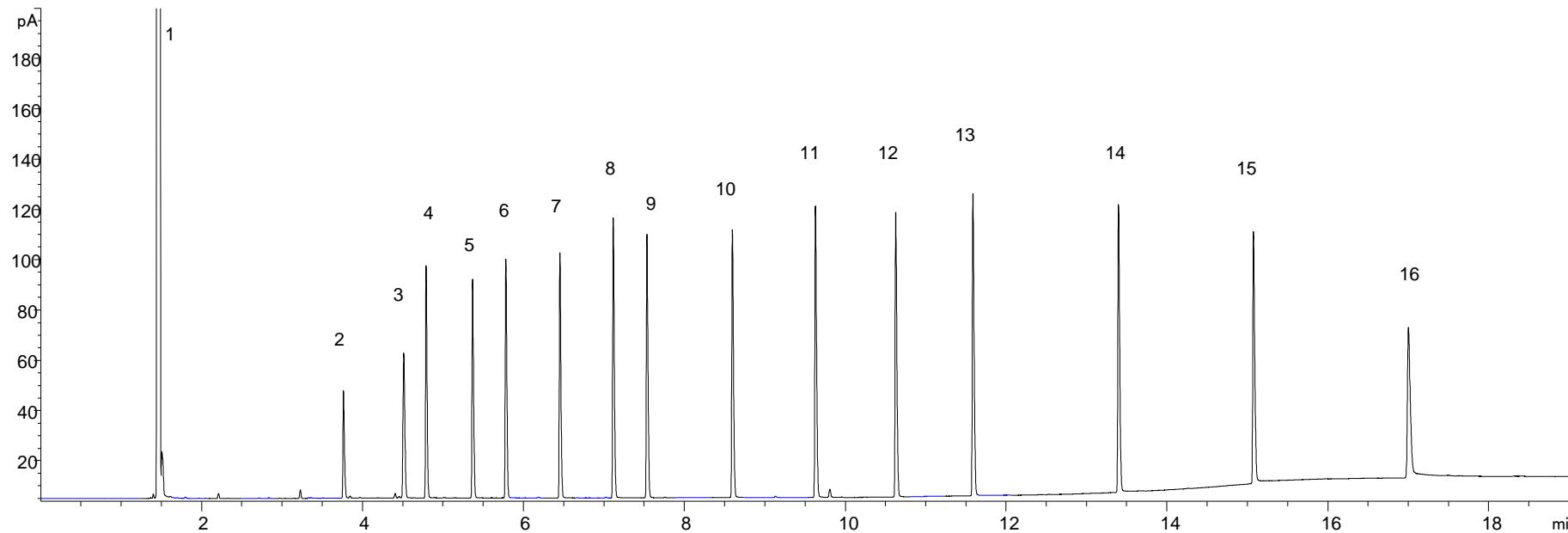


# Analysis of Fatty acids (FA)

- Analysis of most FA and FAMEs without the need of an acid-modified WAX phase

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Acetone              | 9. Hexanoic acid   |
| 2. Acetic acid          | 10. Heptanoic acid |
| 3. Propionic acid       | 11. Octanoic acid  |
| 4. Isobutyric acid      | 12. Nonanoic acid  |
| 5. Butyric acid         | 13. Decanoic acid  |
| 6. Isovaleric acid      | 14. Lauric acid    |
| 7. Valeric acid         | 15. Myristic acid  |
| 8. 4-Methylvaleric acid | 16. Palmitic acid  |

Column: Agilent DB-FATWAX UI, 30m, 0.25mm, 0.25 $\mu$ m (G3903-63007)  
Carrier gas: Helium, 40cm/s @ 100°C  
Oven: 100°C, to 250°C @10°C/min; 250°C (10min)  
Inlet: 250°C,split ratio= 50:1,  
FID: 280°C  
Injection vol.: 1ul

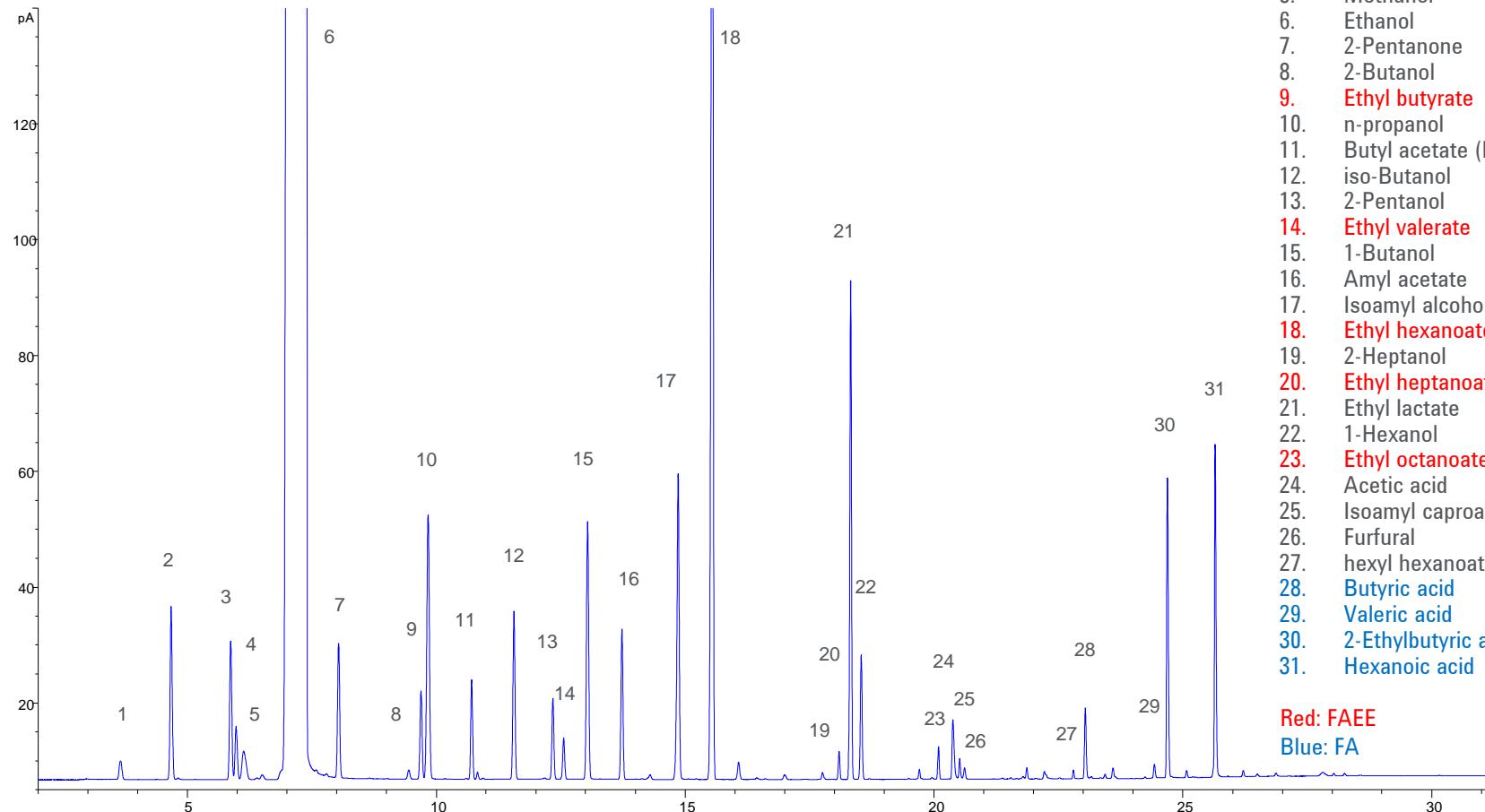


# Fatty acids and naturally occurring fatty acid ethyl esters analysis in alcoholic beverages

## Chinese liquor sample

62% aqueous sample

Good resolution and peak shape



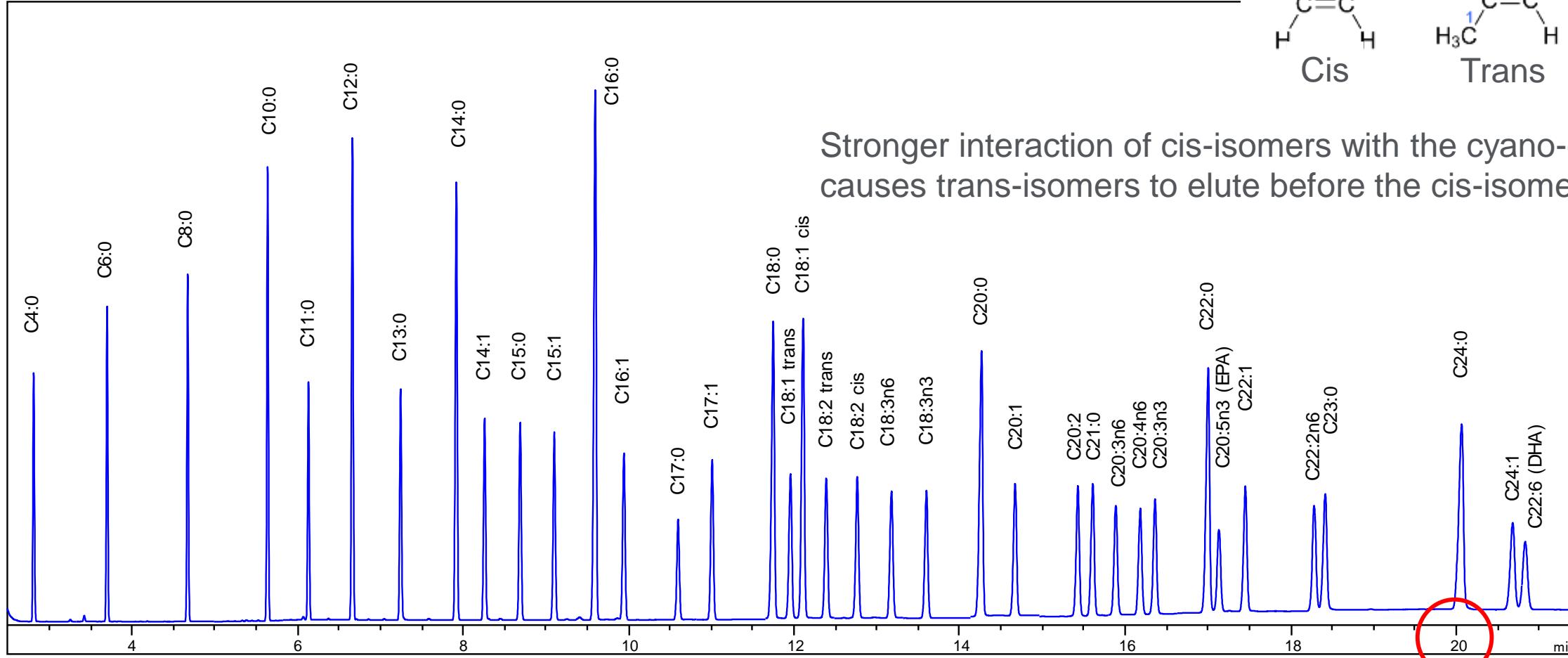
# DB-FastFAME

For the analysis of:

- Ultra fast FAME analysis
- < 10 min analysis time for complex FAME mixtures

# DB-FastFAME (30 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 μm)

Technical note 5991-8706EN

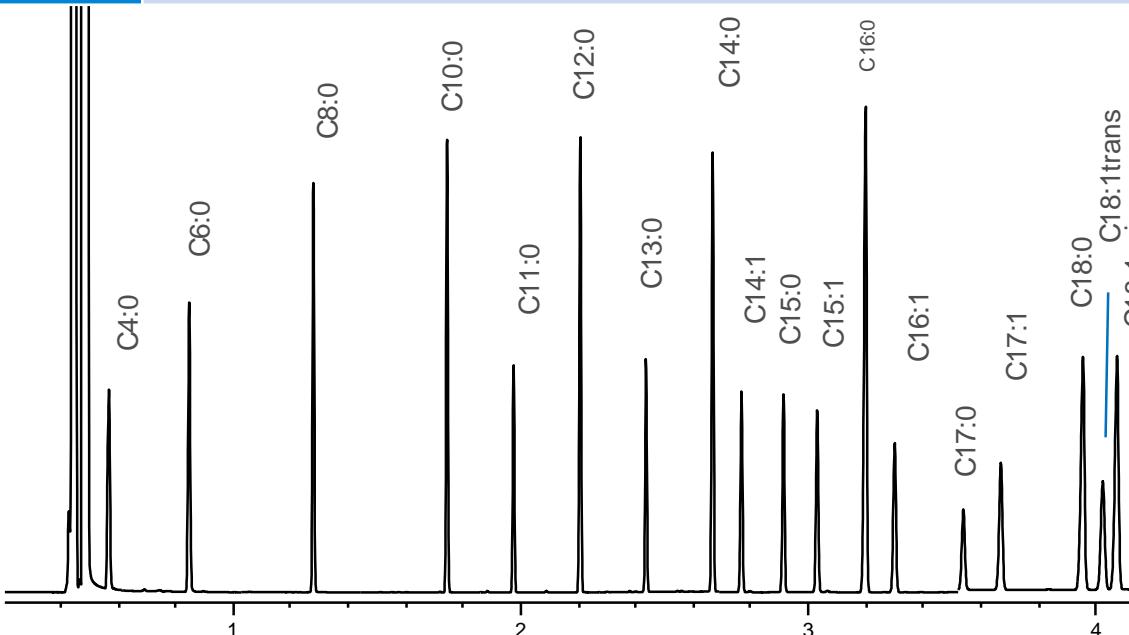


Stronger interaction of cis-isomers with the cyano-dipole causes trans-isomers to elute before the cis-isomers

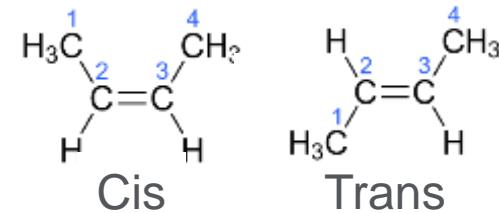
# DB-FastFAME

20m x 0.18mm x 0.20 $\mu$ m

Column	Agilent J&W DB-FastFAME, 20 m x 0.18 mm, 0.20 $\mu$ m
Gas	Hydrogen, 28 psi, constant pressure mode
Inlet	Split/splitless, 250 °C, split ratio 50:1
Oven	80 °C (0.5 min), 65 °C/min to 175 °C, 10 °C/min to 185 °C (0.5 min), 7 °C/min to 230 °C
FID	280 °C, Hydrogen: 40 mL/min; Air: 400 mL/min; make-up gas: 25 mL/min.
Injection	1 $\mu$ L



Strong interaction between cis isomers and the dipoles of the cyano propyl ligands. That allows the trans to elute after the cis isomers.



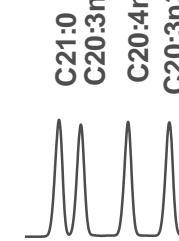
$R_s \geq 1.95$  for cis/trans isomers

C18:1 cis



C21:0, C20:3n6, C20:4n6

$R_s \geq 1.52$



$R_s = 1.56$



$R_s = 1.56$



$R_s = 1.51$

7 min analysis time

# Agilent Intuvo 9000

- New design
- New column connection
- Guard chip
- New column heating
- **Application to FAME analysis**



Intelligent, Intuitive, Innovative. Intuvo.

# Innovating a New Path to GC Productivity

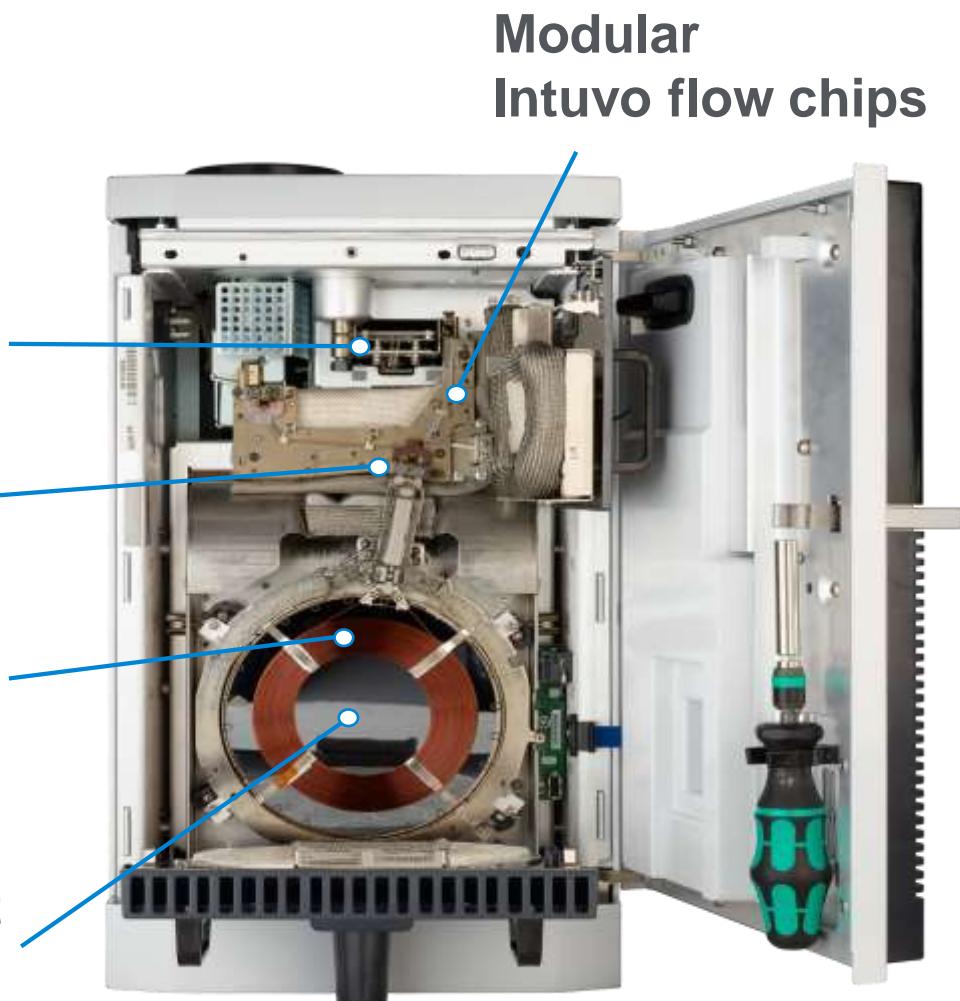


Disposable Guard chip

Ferrule-free click-and-run connections

No-trim column

Direct heating

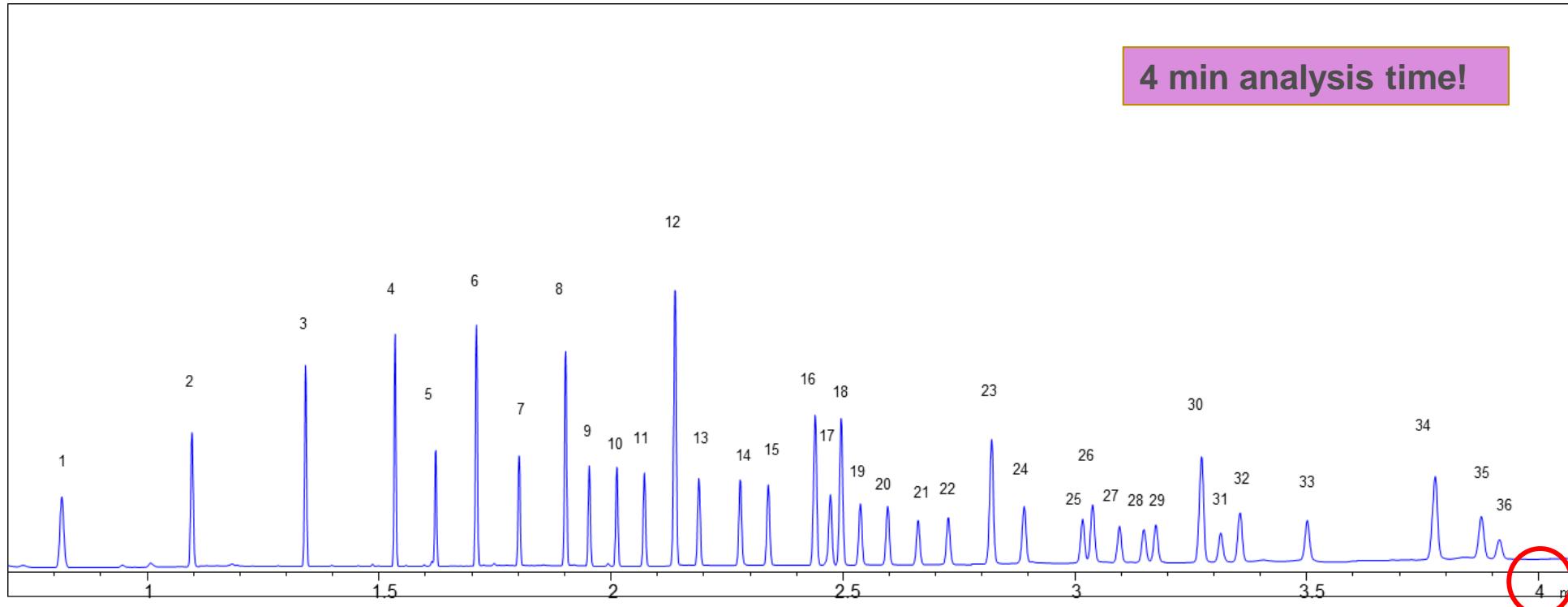


# Fast Analysis of a 36-FAME mix (AOAC 2012.13) With the Intuvo 20-m DB-FastFAME

GC System: Agilent Intuvo 9000 GC system  
Column DB-FastFAME, 20m\*0.18mm I.D, 0.20um, Intuvo module  
Inlet 250°C, split/splitless mode, split ratio 100:1  
Intuvo Guard chip 200°C  
Carrier Hydrogen, constant pressure, 28psi  
Oven 50°C(0.3min), 200°C/min to 200°C(0.4min), 20°C/min to 240°C(1min)  
FID 260°C, Hydrogen:40mL/min, Air:400mL/min, make-up gas:25mL/min  
Injection 1uL



4 min analysis time!



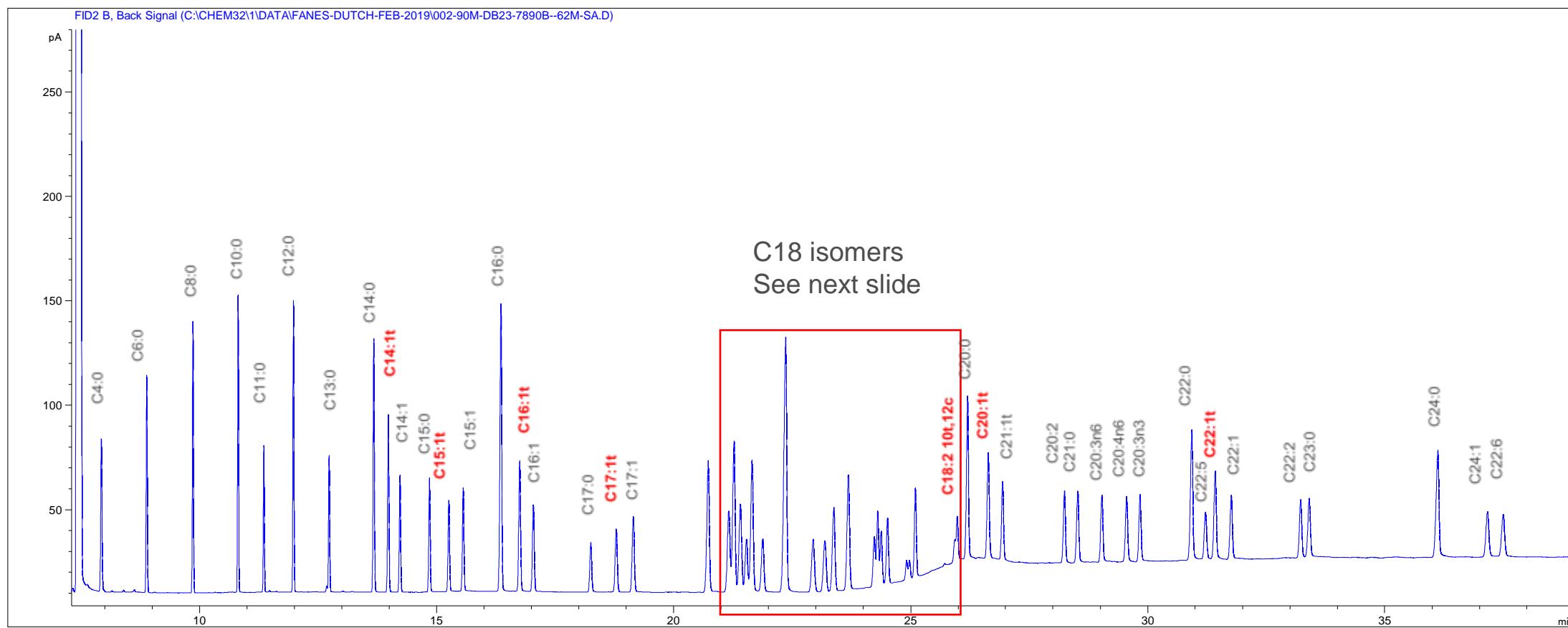
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How about more complex FAME  
samples like PHVO?

New DB-FastFAME GC column  
dimensions coming soon...

# Analysis of 57-FAMEs using a 90m DB-FastFAME

GC System: Agilent 7890B  
Column DB-FastFAME, 90m\*0.25mm I.D, 0.25um  
Inlet 260°C, split/splitless mode, split ratio 50:1  
Carrier Helium, constant pressure, 46psi  
Oven 70°C(1min), 40°C/min to 200°C(5 min), 2°C/min to 205°C(11.5 min); 15°C/min to 245°C(15 min)  
FID 280°C, Hydrogen:40mL/min, Air:400mL/min, make-up gas:25mL/min  
Injection 1uL

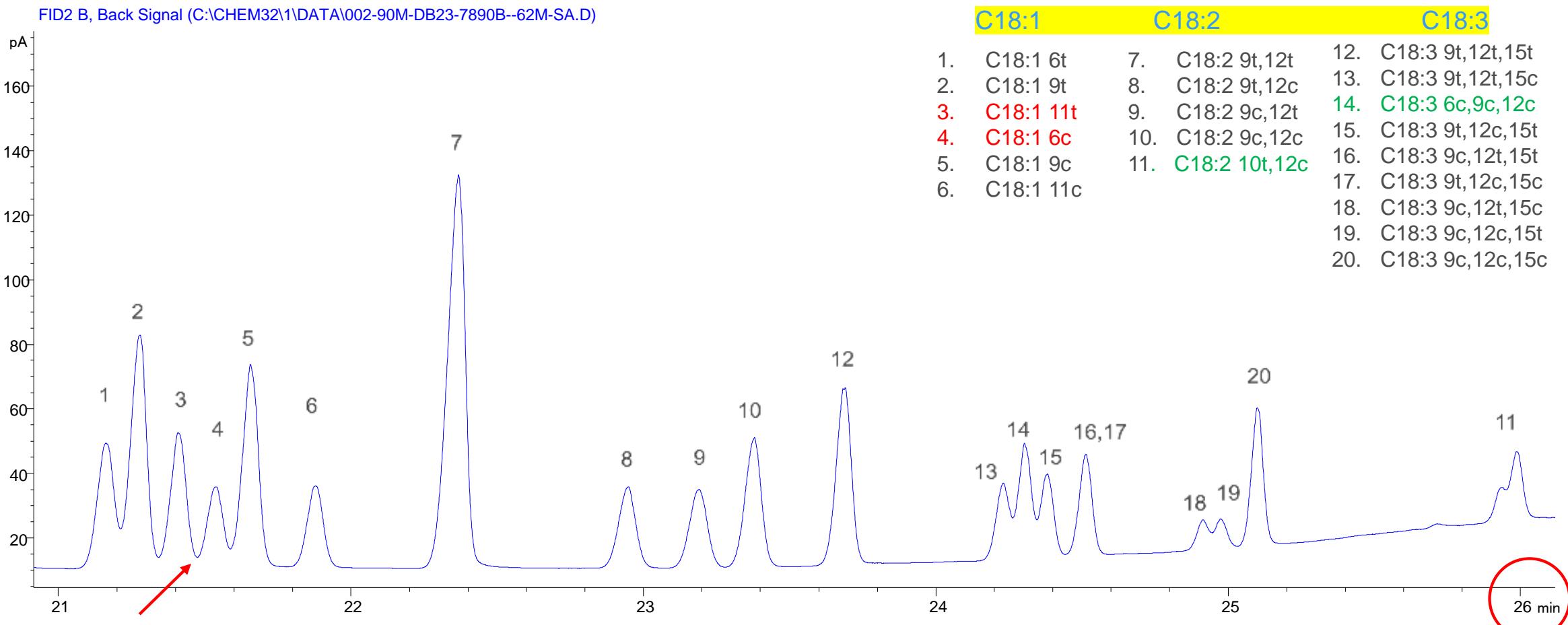


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# Expanded view of 57-FAME Chromatogram

## 90-m DB-FastFAME

26 min analysis time!



Agilent Technologies

Agilent 88X0 Training\_China

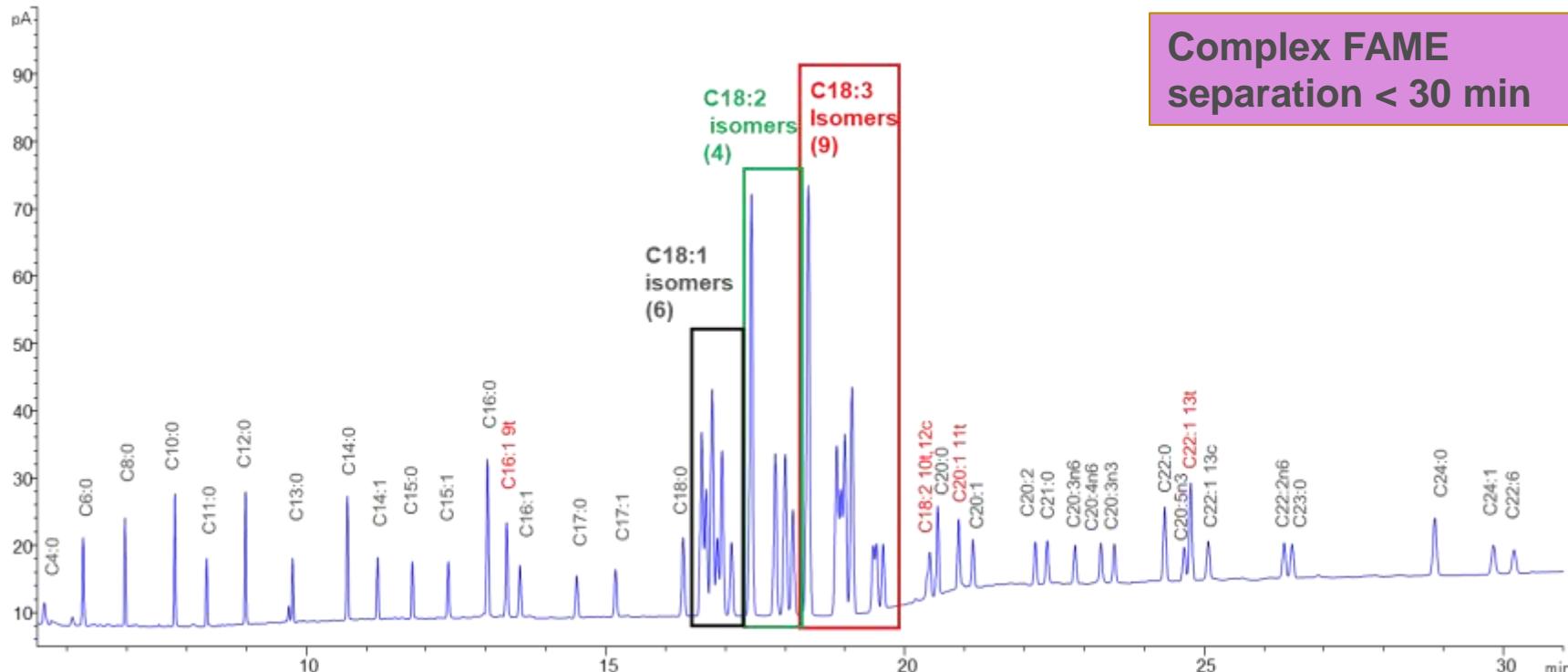
June 20, 2019

# Fast Analysis of a 54-FAME mix

## With the Intuvo 60-m DB-FastFAME (coming soon!)

GC System:  
Column  
Inlet  
Guard chip  
Carrier  
Oven  
  
FID  
Injection

Agilent intuv GC/FID  
DB-FastFAME Intuv GC column, 60m\*0.25mm I.D, 0.25um  
260°C, split/splitless mode, split ratio 100:1  
200°C  
Helium, constant pressure, 30psi  
70°C(1min), at 200°C/min to 175°C(2min); at 5°C/min to 210°C(8min);  
at 15°C/min to 240°C(15min)  
260°C, Hydrogen:40mL/min, Air:400mL/min, make-up gas:25mL/min  
1uL



List of Trans-FAMEs added to the 37-FAME mix

### Trans-FAMEs including

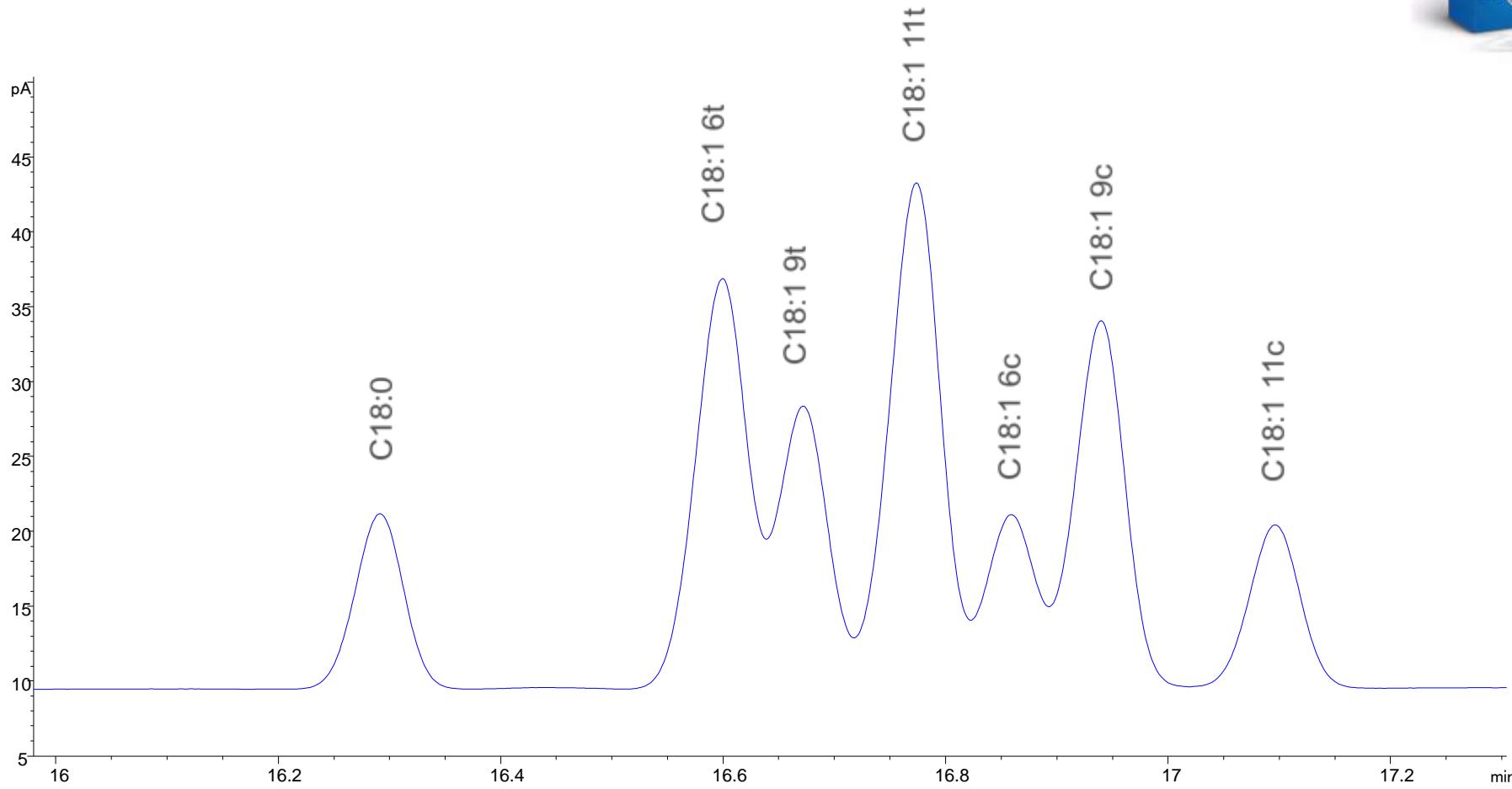
1. C18:3 9t, 12t, 15t
2. C18:3 9t, 12t, 15c
3. C18:3 9t, 12c, 15t
4. C18:3 9c, 12c, 15t
5. C18:3 9c, 12t, 15t
6. C18:3 9c, 12t, 15c
7. C18:3 9t, 12c, 15c
8. C18:2 9t, 12c
9. C18:2 9t, 12t
10. C18:2 9c, 12t
11. C18:2 10t, 12c
12. C18:1 6t
13. C18:1 9t
14. C18:1 11t
15. C22:1 13t
16. C20:1 11t
17. C16:1 9t



Agilent Technologies

Confidentiality Label  
December 3, 2014

# Expanded view of C18:1 cis/tran isomers (from GC/FID Chromatogram of 54-FAMEs )



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# DB-HeavyWAX

For the analysis of:

- High temp applications for polar analytes
- Essential oils and flavor & fragrances
- Other high temp. requirements (GCxGC)

# Introducing DB-HeavyWAX

- WAX column with increased MAOT compared to existing columns on the market
  - 280°C isothermal and 290°C programmed
- Provides increased thermal stability
- Has a low bleed level
- Advantages

## General GC

- Shorter runtimes when late eluters are present
- Better S/N ratio, improved detection
- Better thermal stability
- Faster column bake-out

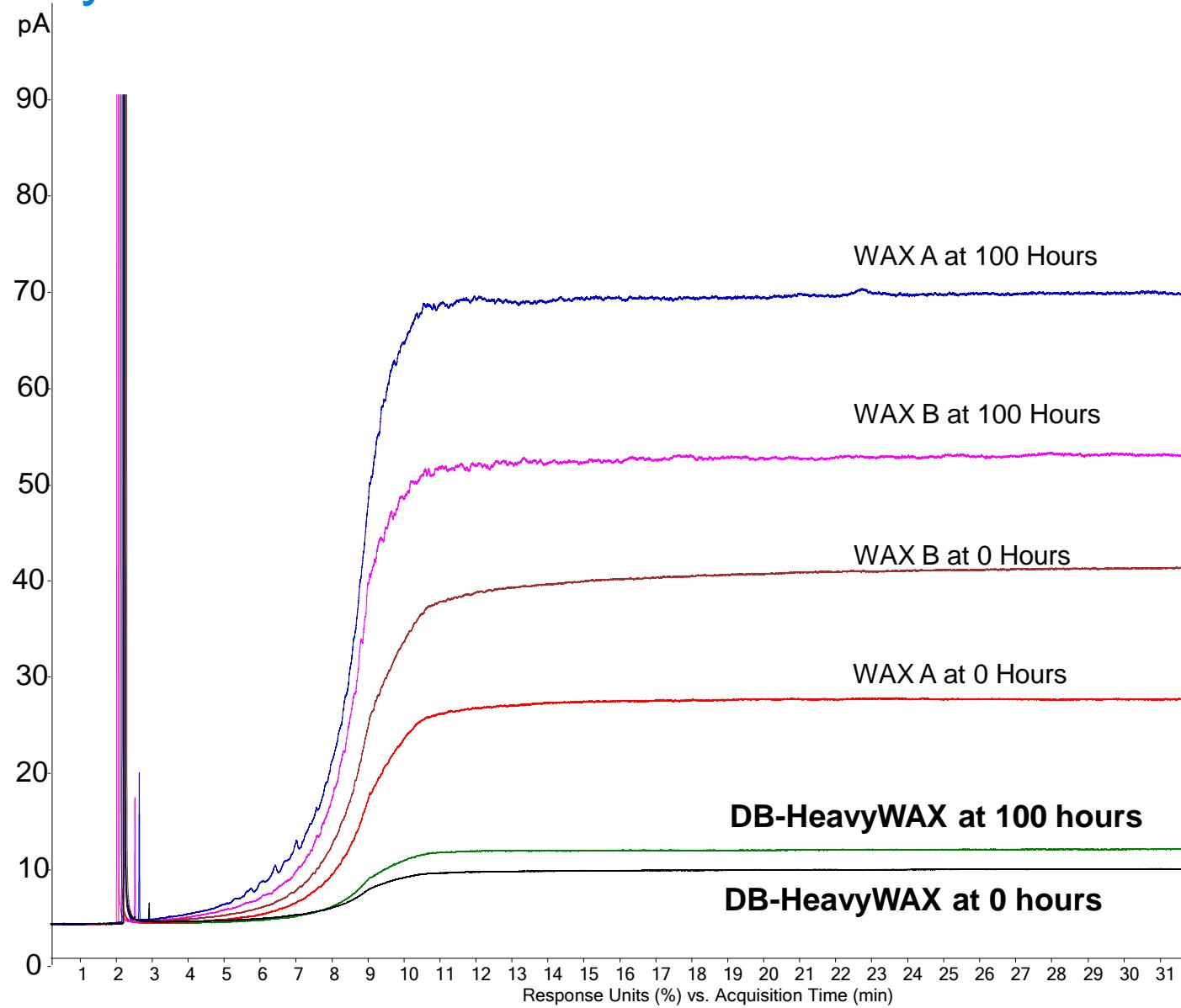
## GC/MS

- Desire for “zero” bleed
- Avoid MS contamination by column bleed for longer system uptime and column lifetime
- Improve detection limit

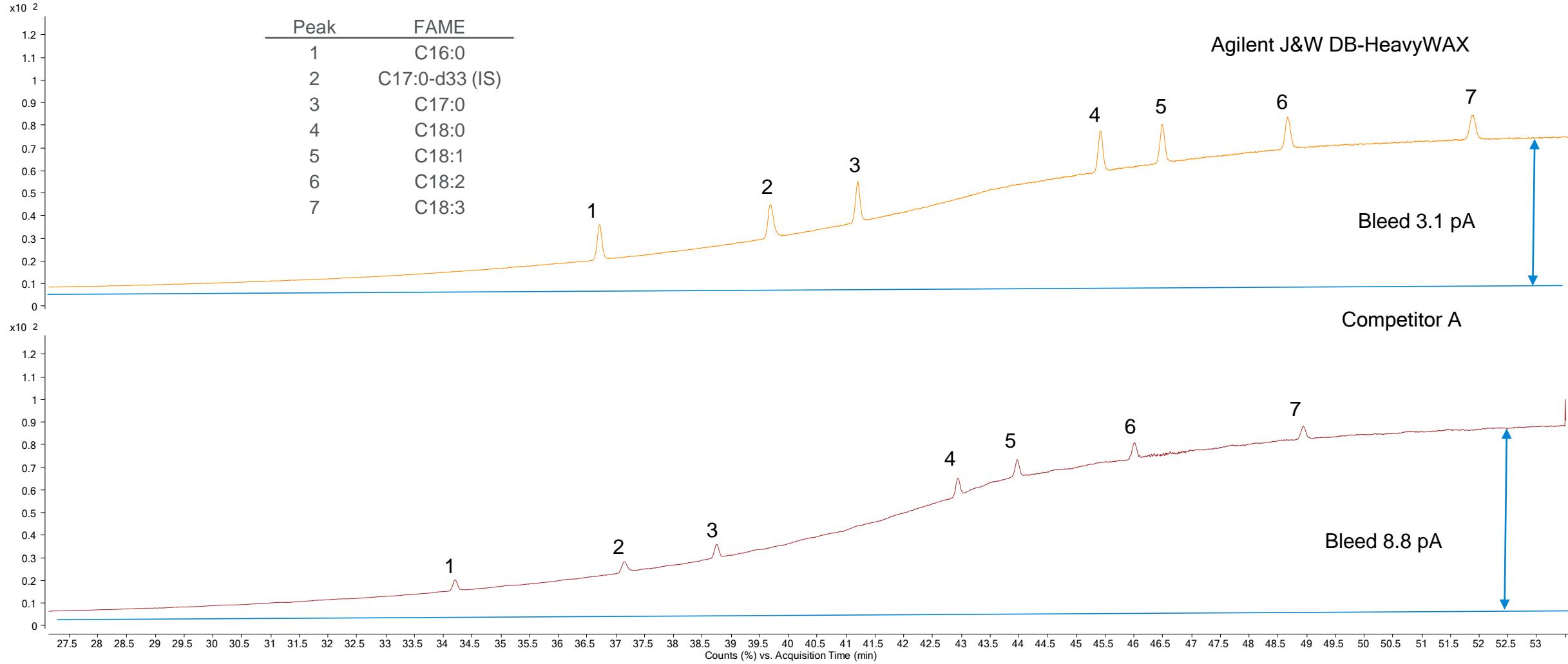
## GCxGC

- Extended scope of compounds

# Bleed Summary at 280°C Over 100 Hours



# Bleed reductions for FAMEs in Biodiesel (IP-585) using a DB-HeavyWAX, 60m x 0.25mm x 0.50 µm



# Retention time stability on a DB-HeavyWAX

## IP-585: FAMEs in aviation fuel

- Less bleeds reduces noise level
- Enhance sensitivity without changing the detector
- Increase thermal stability → Better stability in the SIM window → Less service time

GC Conditions	
Column	60m x 0.25 mm x 0.5 µm
Carrier	Helium, constant flow, 1.2 mL/min
Oven	150°C (5.0 min), Ramp 12°C/min to 200°C (17.0 min), Ramp 3°C/min to 252°C (10 min)

Compound	Operating Hours at 260°C									Average	%RSD
	1	5	7	13	22	39	42	46	49		
C16:0	36.58	36.47	36.45	36.44	36.43	36.43	36.43	36.43	36.42	36.45	0.13%
C17:0 d33 (ISTD)	39.57	39.47	39.45	39.44	39.44	39.44	39.44	39.44	39.44	39.46	0.11%
C17:0	41.09	40.99	40.98	40.96	40.97	40.97	40.97	40.97	40.96	40.98	0.10%
C18:0	45.26	45.16	45.15	45.13	45.14	45.15	45.15	45.15	45.14	45.16	0.08%
C18:1	46.25	46.15	46.14	46.12	46.13	46.13	46.13	46.13	46.13	46.15	0.09%
C18:2	48.20	48.10	48.09	48.07	48.08	48.07	48.08	48.08	48.07	48.09	0.09%
C18:3	51.01	50.89	50.87	50.85	50.84	50.86	50.86	50.87	50.86	50.88	0.10%

# Conclusion

- New column technologies for faster & high performance FAME analysis, complements our comprehensive portfolio of GC columns for Fat & Oil analysis
  - DB-FATWAX UI is our new GC Column specially tested for FAMEs in Fish Oil and Animal Fat. Ultra Inert technology makes it possible to analyze fatty acids as well as FAMEs and FAEEs with DB-FATWAX UI, simplifying column selection
  - DB-FastFAME is a new high-content cyanopropyl phase that allows the fast analysis of FAMEs without sacrificing in resolution.
  - DB-HeavyWAX, our new addition to our WAX GC columns portfolio, is a new high temperature WAX phase, ideal for analysis of FAMEs in biodiesel

# Thank you!