



# Chemical and Petrochemical Applications of Microwave Plasma – Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (MP-AES)

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# Common Challenges Facing Laboratories Doing Elemental Analysis Today

- Increased need for multi-element determination over a wide dynamic range
- Desire to reduce the overall cost of analysis due to rising costs (instrument supplies and consumables – power, labor, etc)
- Difficulty in sourcing some gases – especially in remote areas and emerging geographies
- Availability of suitably trained personnel to develop methods, perform sample measurement and interpret results
- Some laboratories under pressure to improve safety by removing flammable gases

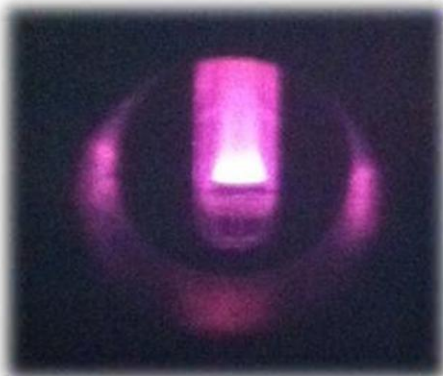
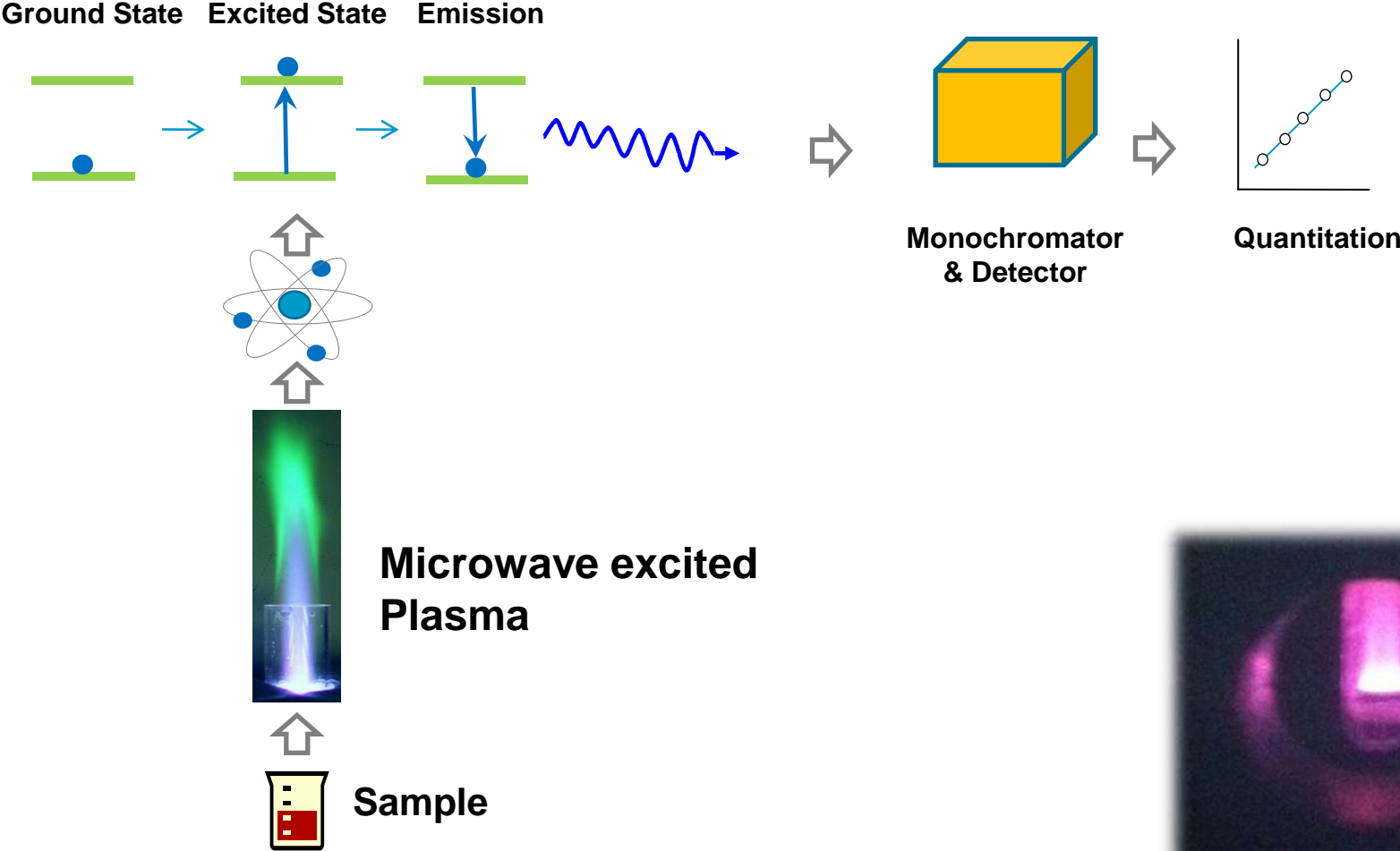
# NEW Agilent 4100 Microwave Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometer (MP-AES)

New technique for elemental determination using atomic emission

- Microwave excited plasma source
- Nitrogen based plasma - runs on air (using a N<sub>2</sub> generator)
- **Improved performance compared with flame AA**
  - Higher sample throughput with fast sequential measurement
    - More than 2x faster than conventional flame AA
  - Superior detection limits and improved dynamic range
- **Easy to use**
  - New generation software featuring automated optimization and software applets that load a preset method
  - One piece torch with easy torch removal and replacement – no alignment
- **Reduced operating costs**
  - Runs on air – eliminates need for Acetylene, Nitrous Oxide, Argon, etc.
  - Eliminates need for source / hollow cathode lamps
  - Simple installation – no chiller, 10 A supply
- **Improved Safety**
  - Eliminates need for flammable gases and cylinder handling
  - Safe, reliable unattended multi-element overnight operation



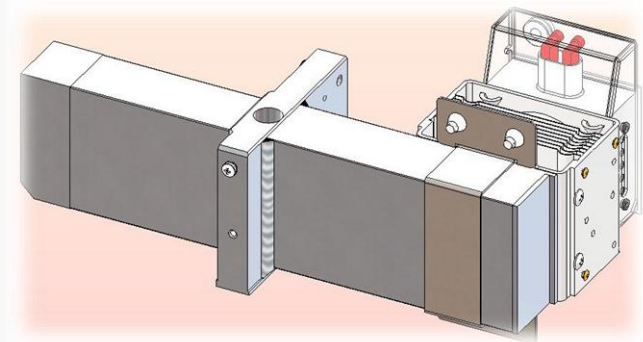
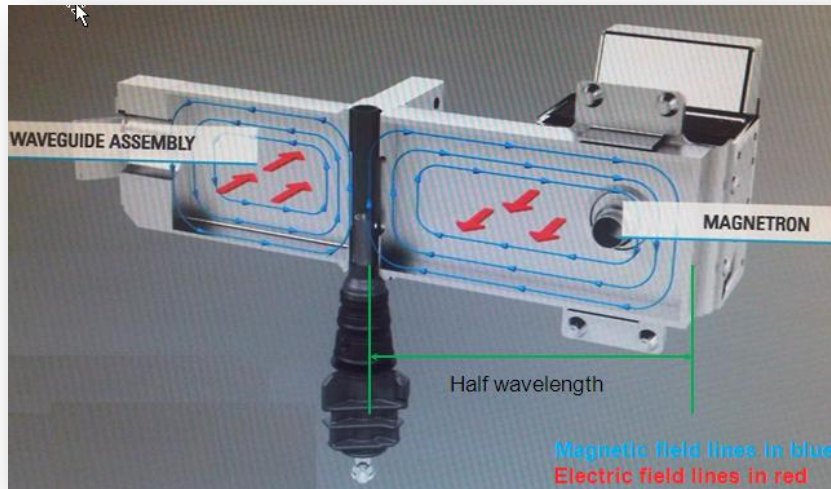
# Microwave Plasma Emission Overview



# How Does MP-AES Work?

## Agilent's patented microwave waveguide technology

- Using nitrogen as the plasma gas (a diatomic gas) gives a robust plasma with a conventional torch. Nitrogen can be supplied either via bottled gas or nitrogen generator
- Magnetic excitation gives a toroidal plasma and an effective central zone for sample injection
- The microwave magnetically excited nitrogen plasma
  - Provides a robust, high temperature source in conventional torches (approx. 5000 K)
  - A cooler central channel suitable for sample atomization
  - Creates high intensity atomization emission lines



# Performance Comparison – Typical Detection Limits

*DL's in ppb, clean water samples*

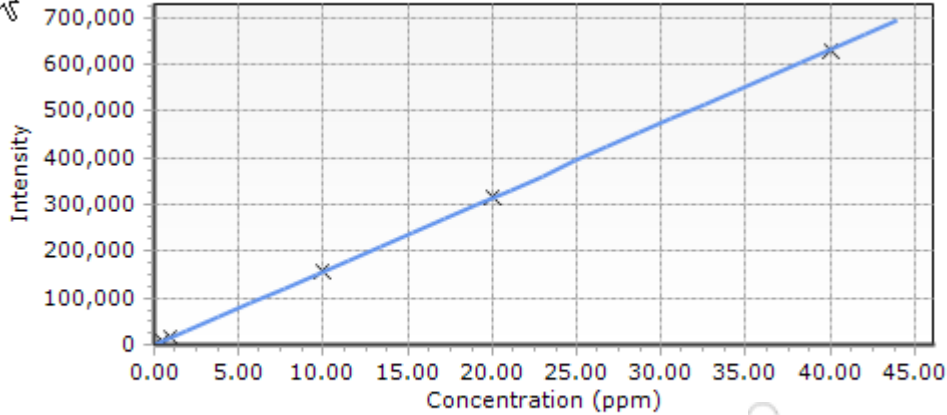
Element	Flame AA	MP-AES	Element	Flame AA	MP-AES
K	0.8	0.65	As*	60	45
Ca	0.4	0.05	Cd	1.5	1.4
Mg	0.3	0.12	Cr	5	0.5
Na	0.3	0.12	Mn	1.0	0.25
Au	5	1.8	Pb	14	4.4
Pt	76	4.5	Sb	37	12
Pd	15	3.8	Se*	500	70
Ag	1.7	0.5	V	20	0.2
Rh	4	0.5			

*\* 30 second integration time used for As and Se*

***3 sigma DLs using a 10 second integration time***

# Au – Extended Calibration Range

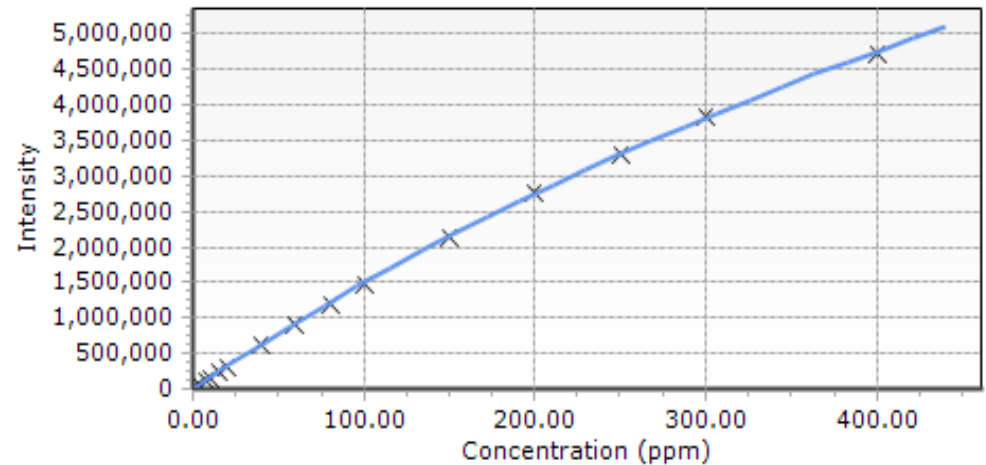
Au (267.595 nm) Calibration



**MP - Normal AA range**

Intensity = 15775.550 \* Concentration - 0.205  
Correlation coefficient: 1.00000

Au (267.595 nm) Calibration



**MP - Extended Range**

Intensity = (16408.841 \* Concentration + 0.057) / (1 + 0.001 \* Concentration)  
Correlation coefficient: 0.99998

# Simple Torch Installation – No Alignment



## Torch installation in three easy steps

**1** Open the torch loader



**2** Insert the torch



**3** Close the torch loader





# New Generation MP Expert Software

- Windows 7, worksheet based software
- Fresh, clean look
- Provides capability for applet style operation using preset methods, or access to full capabilities
- Innovative and simple to use background correction
- Automated optimization tools

**Three steps to analysis**

**1** Click the applet icon, which automatically loads the pre-set method

Agriculture   Beverages   Chemicals   Energy  
Food   Fuels   Industrial   Metals

**2** Enter sample labels, sample type, and weight/volume correction factors

Sample	Label	Weight (g)	Volume (mL)	Concentration (ppm)
1	Blank	1.000	1.000	0.000
2	Standard1	1.000	1.000	5.000
3	Standard2	1.000	1.000	10.000
4	Standard3	1.000	1.000	15.000
5	Standard4	1.000	1.000	20.000
6	Standard5	1.000	1.000	25.000
7	Blank	1.000	1.000	0.000
8	Sample1	1.000	1.000	7.074
9	Sample2	1.000	1.000	7.074
10	Sample3	1.000	1.000	7.074
11	Sample4	1.000	1.000	7.074
12	Sample5	1.000	1.000	7.074
13	Sample6	1.000	1.000	7.074
14	Sample7	1.000	1.000	7.074
15	Sample8	1.000	1.000	7.074
16	Sample9	1.000	1.000	7.074
17	Sample10	1.000	1.000	7.074
18	Sample11	1.000	1.000	7.074
19	Sample12	1.000	1.000	7.074
20	Sample13	1.000	1.000	7.074
21	Sample14	1.000	1.000	7.074
22	Sample15	1.000	1.000	7.074

**Au**  
267.595 nm  
7.074 ppm  
%RSD: 0.39  
7.0 ppm (15)

**3** Load samples and run the analysis

Run

## MP Expert

Microwave Plasma Instrument Software

Version: 1.0.0.42228

**Agilent Technologies**  
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# New Generation MP Expert Software

Retains familiar "worksheet" based approach

The screenshot displays the MP Expert software interface with several key components:

- Worksheet Summary:** A table listing various elements and their concentrations across different samples.
- Results matrix:** A table showing the concentration of Sb (217.582 nm) for various samples, including a standard and ten replicates.
- Spectra:** A plot showing the intensity of the Sb (217.582 nm) signal for Standard 1, Rack S1 Tube 2.
- Calibration:** A plot showing the intensity of the Sb (217.582 nm) signal versus concentration (ppm) for the standard, with a linear fit equation:  $\text{Intensity} = 29015 * \text{Concentration} - 0.0$  and a correlation coefficient of 1.00000.
- Replicate data:** A table showing the concentration and intensity of Sb (217.582 nm) for ten replicates.

**Worksheet Summary**

Rack: Tube	Sample Label	Sb 217.582 nm ppm	As 228.812 nm ppm	Pb 368.346 nm ppm	Cd 228.802 nm ppm	Sb 231.146 nm ppm	Sb 259.804 nm ppm	Hg 253.652 nm ppm
S1:1	Blank	0.00000000 x	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000
S1:2	Standard 1	5.00000000 x	5.00000000 x	5.00000000 x	5.00000000 x	5.00000000 x	5.00000000 x	5.00000000 x
1:1	Sample 1 Blank							
1:2	Sample 2 Blank							
1:3	Sample 3 Blank							
1:4	Sample 4 Blank							
1:5	Sample 5 Blank							
1:6	Sample 6 Blank							
1:7	Sample 7 Blank							
1:8	Sample 8 Blank							
1:9	Sample 9 Blank							
1:10	Sample 10 Blank							

**Results matrix**

**Warning Flags**

Average 5.00000000 x 145075.09323375 x  
 SD N/A 5538.43346376  
 RSD(%) N/A 3.82  
 x Incomplete model

**Replicate data**

Replicate	Concentration	Intensity
1	5.00000000 x	147638.8081990
2	5.00000000 x	150627.4222504
3	5.00000000 x	149264.2280479
4	5.00000000 x	149789.0037702
5	5.00000000 x	149478.1343917
6	5.00000000 x	145676.7305612
7	5.00000000 x	146140.8856437
8	5.00000000 x	137623.2013332
9	5.00000000 x	137583.1623369
10	5.00000000 x	136929.3558030

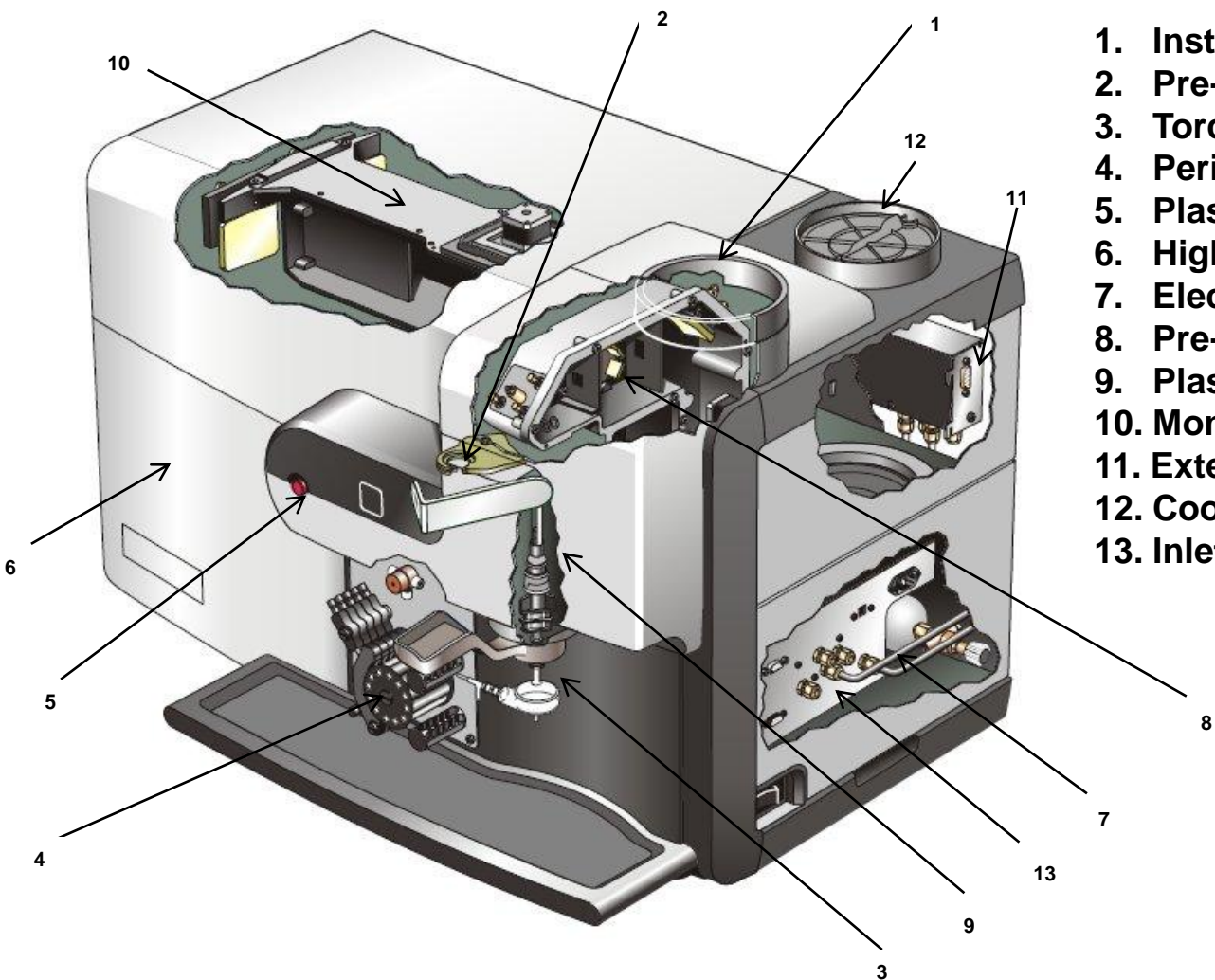
**Sb**  
 217.582 nm  
 5.00000000 x ppm  
 RSD (%): N/A  
 Standard 1 (S1:2)

**Sb (217.582 nm), Standard 1, Rack S1 Tube 2**

**Sb (217.582 nm) Calibration**

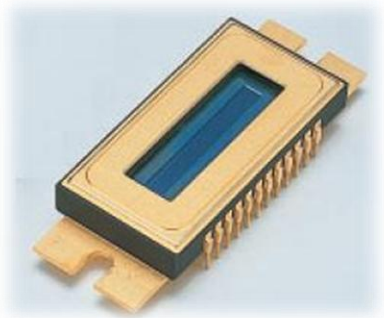
Intensity = 29015 \* Concentration - 0.0  
 Correlation coefficient: 1.00000

# Schematic Diagram

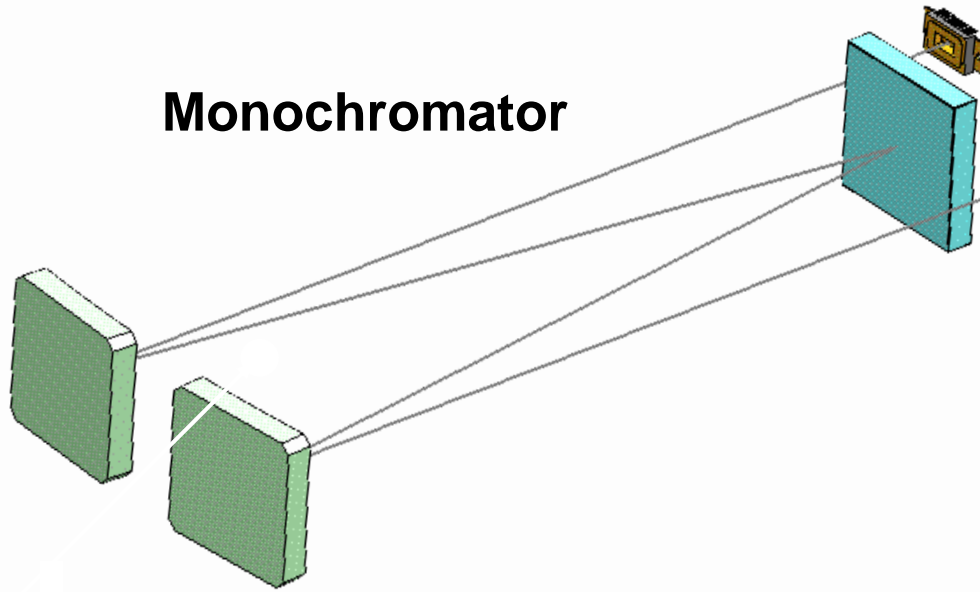


1. Instrument exhaust
2. Pre-optics window
3. Torch loader
4. Peristaltic pump
5. Plasma enable button
6. High voltage power supply
7. Electronics (control PWB)
8. Pre-optics
9. Plasma (*Magnetron*)
10. Monochromator with CCD detector
11. External gas control module
12. Cooling air inlet
13. Inlet gas connections

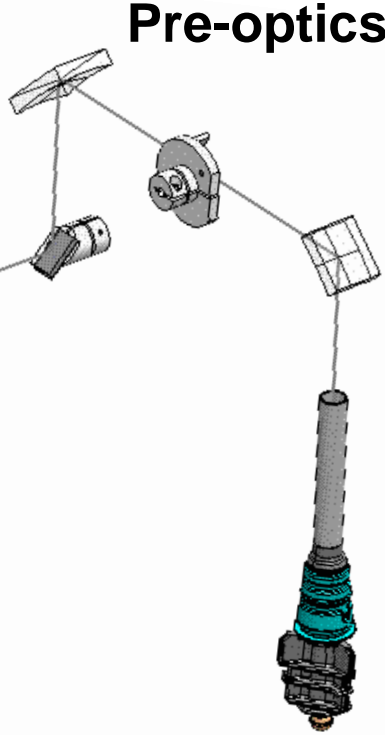
# Optical Diagram



**Detector**



**Monochromator**



**Pre-optics**

**Cassette style Torch**

# Accessory Options for the 4100 MP-AES

- Automate and simplify analysis with the SPS3 autosampler (required for unattended overnight operation)
- For organic applications, use the EGCM to bleed air into the plasma minimizing C build-up and reducing background
  - also requires the OneNeb inert nebulizer (included with the Organics kit)
- For low ppb level detection of As, Se or Hg, use the Multimode Sample Introduction System (MSIS)
  - also requires the 5 channel peristaltic pump option



# Technique Comparison: MP-AES and Flame AA

Feature	MP-AES	Flame AA
Detection Limits	Better	Good
Linear Dynamic Range	Better	Good
Flammable Gas	Not Required	Acetylene
Oxidizing Gas	Not Required	Nitrous oxide
Fuel gas CO <sub>2</sub>	Not Required	1 – 6 tonnes p.a.
Light sources	Not required	HC and D2 lamps
Drift correction	Not required	Double beam
Overnight unattended	Yes	No
Running costs	Lowest	High
High solids	Good	Good

# Newmont's Carlin Lab AA Consumable Costs vs MP-AES\*

Consumable	Annual Cost	# AA Units	Mean Annual Cost per AA	Agilent MP-AES
Acetylene	\$ 63,615.36	9	\$ 7,068.37	\$0.00
Au HCL	\$ 37,440.00	9	\$ 4,160.00	\$0.00
Ag HCL	\$ 4,240.00	9	\$ 471.11	\$0.00
Ni HCL	\$ 1,672.00	9	\$ 185.78	\$0.00
Cu/Ni HCL	\$ 3,180.00	9	\$ 353.33	\$0.00
Cu HCL	\$ 4,180.00	9	\$ 464.44	\$0.00
Fe HCL	\$ 1,712.00	9	\$ 190.22	\$0.00
As HCL	\$ 2,464.00	9	\$ 273.78	\$0.00
D2 Lamps	\$ 8,436.68	9	\$ 937.41	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 126,940.04</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$ 14,104.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

\* Acknowledgement – John Borland, Newmont Mining Corporation

# Applications MP-AES Can Do

## – Examples

### GEOCHEMICAL

Geochem samples in aqua regia digests  
Trace elements in geological samples  
Trace level gold in cyanide leach  
Analysis of high purity gold  
Platinum group elements in ore grade material  
Various elements in plating solutions

### CHEMICAL & PETROCHEMICAL

Additives in lubricating oils  
Wear metal contaminants in used oils  
Analysis of coolant  
Analysis of petroleum and diesel fuel  
Major elements in polymers

### FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Major elements in foods, beverages and agricultural samples  
Cations in soils  
Nutrients in soils  
Metals in soil extracts  
Metals in agricultural soil samples

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Hg, Pb, Cd and Cr in electronics and plastics (for WEEE/RoHs compliance)  
Heavy metals in soils  
As, Sb and Se in sediments and waste  
Analysis of waste waters, sediments and soils



# Chemical and Petrochemical Applications

Today we'll be looking at -

1. Determination of Cr, Ni, Pb and V in ethanol fuel
2. Determination of Ca, Mg, Na, K and Si in diesel and biodiesel
3. Direct determination of impurities in gasoline
4. Determination of wear metals and additives in oil



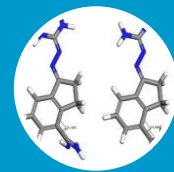
Additives in  
Lubricating Oil



Wear Metals  
in Used Motor  
Oil



Metals in  
Gasoline and  
Diesel Fuel



Metals in  
Polymers



# Chemical and Petrochemical Applications

## – The Challenge

High vapour pressure from solvents

- Plasma instability
- May extinguish the plasma

Carbon build up on injector

- Poor precision and drift
- Down time - injector may require regular cleaning

Nebulizer blockage

- Poor precision
- Down time - nebulizer needs cleaning

# Organic Samples and Solvents

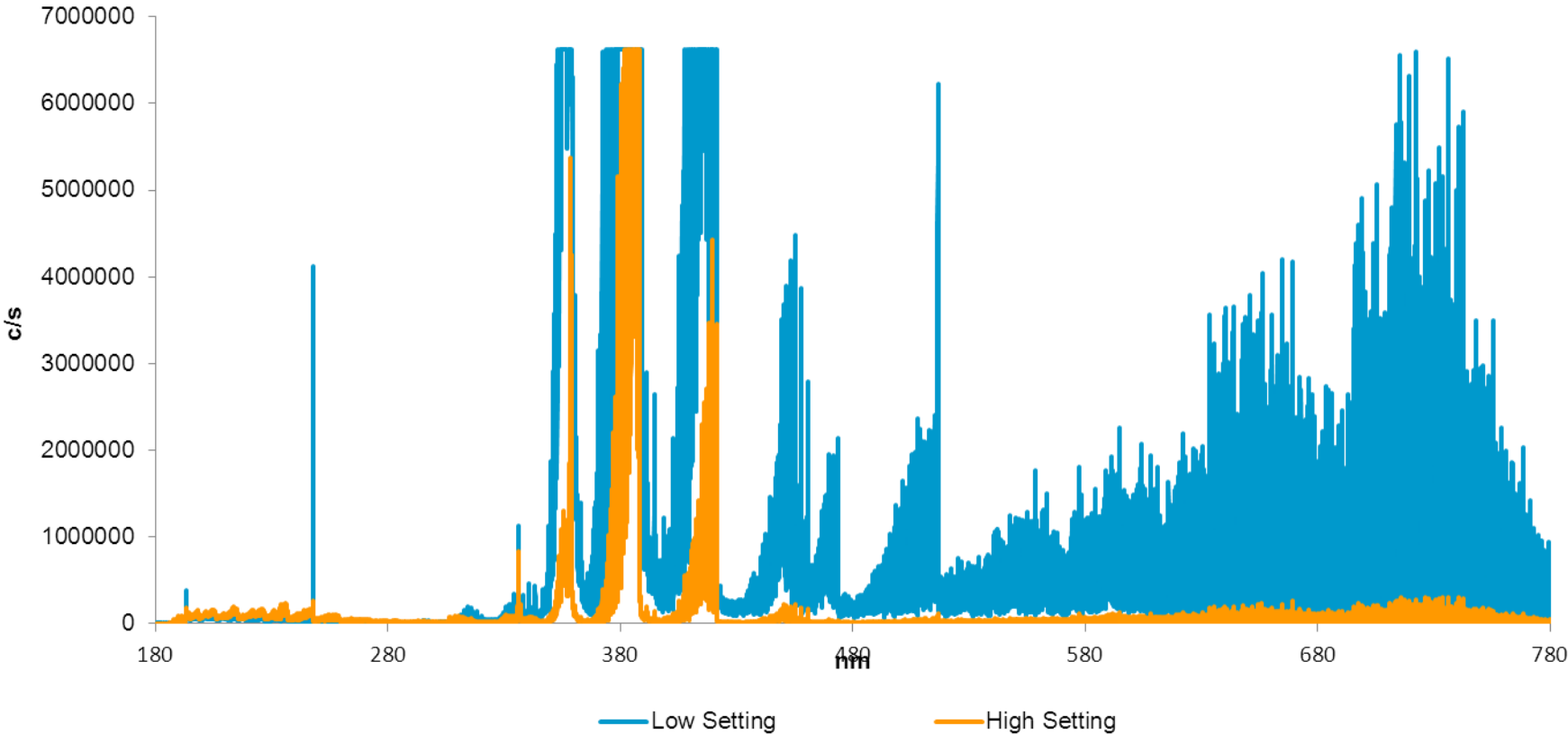
## - External Gas Control Module (EGCM)



1. Prevents carbon build up on the injector when running organics
2. Reduces the background emissions from the plasma
3. A controlled flow of air is bled into the Auxiliary gas flow through the torch
4. Automatic - PC control of air flow

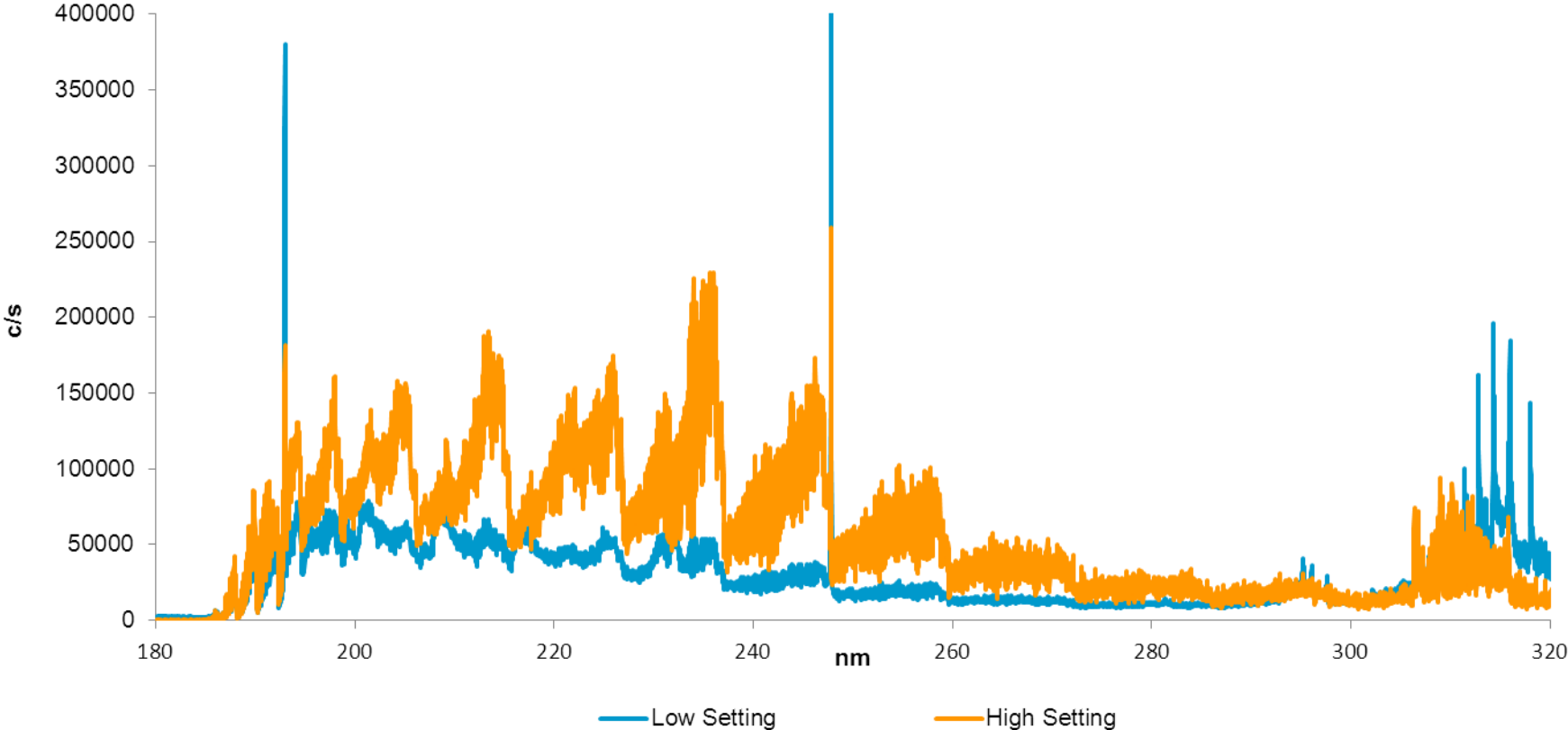
# Solvent Background - Minimized with EGCM

## Shellsol T Background



# Solvent Background - Minimized with EGCM

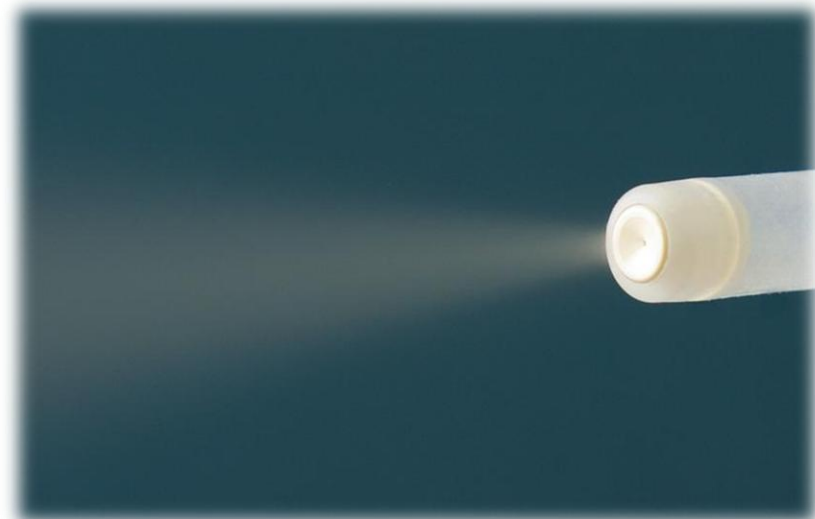
## Shellsol T Background



# For Challenging Applications

## – *OneNeb Nebulizer*

- Robust PFA and PEEK construction
  - Inert - resistant to strong acids such as HF
  - Resistant to breakage
  - Molded plastic design provides improved nebulizer to nebulizer reproducibility
- Constant diameter narrow bore tubing through to nebulizer tip
  - Ideal for high solids/particulates
  - Improved tolerance to high TDS samples
- Narrow aerosol size distribution provides improved precision
- Handles a wide flow range from 0.1 to 2 mL/min.
  - No sensitivity loss at low flow rates



# Principle of Operation – Inert OneNeb Nebulizer

Tip geometry dimensioned to allow carrier gas to mix with the sample

Turbulent mixing of liquid and gas occurs

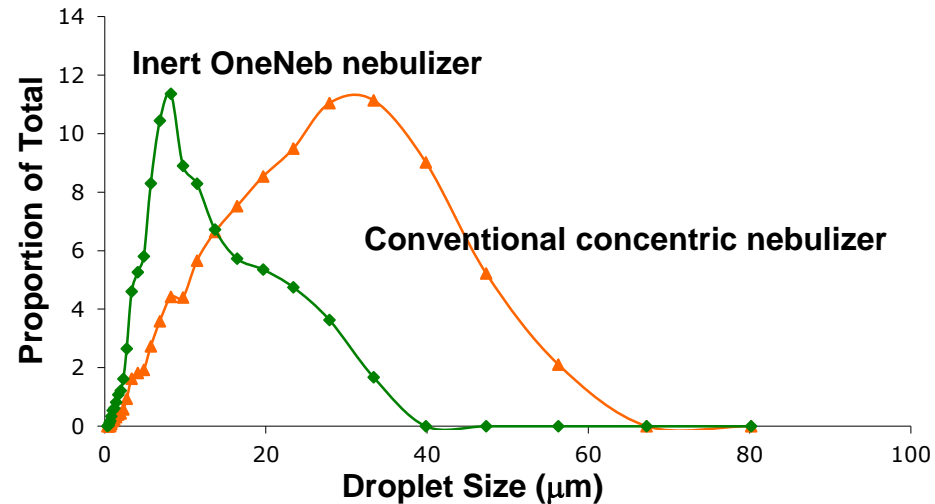
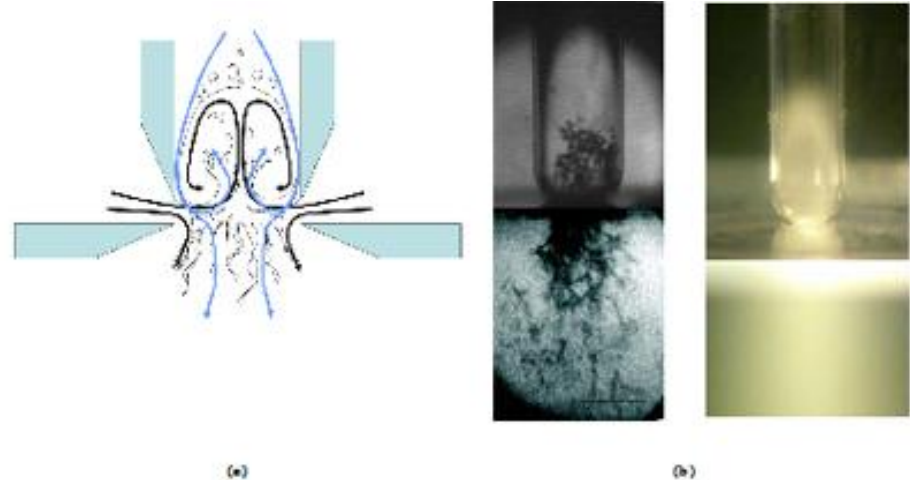
- Produces aerosol with a narrow size distribution range

Droplets mixed into gas flow

No area of low pressure

Unique Flow Blurring action increases nebulization efficiency

- Greater efficiency than conventional concentric nebulizer
- Improved sensitivity



# Determination of Cr, Ni, Pb and V in Ethanol Fuel





# Introduction – Cr, Ni, Pb and V in Ethanol Fuel

Metals in ethanol fuel may reduce engine performance and deteriorate fuel quality. Ethanol can also contain toxic elements derived from the soil where the sugar cane used to produce the ethanol was grown, or introduced during production, storage or transport. After fuel combustion, these elements can significantly increase air pollution.

A simple 'dilute-and-shoot' procedure for determination of Cr, Ni, Pb and V in ethanol fuel by microwave plasma atomic emission spectrometry (MP-AES) was proposed. Samples were easily prepared and neither special nor expensive gases were needed for performing analyses. All limits of detection, from 0.3 to 40  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , were compatible with requirements pertaining to fuel impact on the environment and engine performance.

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† Agilent Technologies, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

# Measurement Challenge

## Challenge

Simply and effectively determining Cr, Ni, Pb and V in ethanol fuel.

## Solution

The Agilent 4100 MP-AES spectrometer allows direct analysis of ethanol fuel samples. The external gas control module (EGCM) prevents carbon deposition on the torch and pre-optics, reducing background signal and enhancing accuracy.

# Experimental Instrumentation

- Instrument: Agilent 4100 MP-AES spectrometer
- Sample introduction system: Solvent-resistant tubing, double-pass cyclonic spray chamber, and inert OneNeb nebulizer.
- Accessory: External gas control module (EGCM) to inject air into the nitrogen plasma.



**4100 MP-AES**



# Experimental

## Instrument operating conditions

Instrument parameter	Operating condition
Nebulizer	Inert OneNeb
Spray chamber	Cyclonic double-pass
Read time (s)	5
Number of replicates	3
Stabilization time (s)	15
Background correction	Auto

# Experimental

## Reagents and standard solutions

- Nitric acid (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) previously purified by a sub-boiling distillation system (Milestone, Sorisole, Italy) was used to prepare all solutions.
- Stock single element solutions containing 1000 mg/L of Cr, Ni, Pb or V (Tec-Lab, Hexis, São Paulo, SP, Brazil) were used to prepare standard reference solutions and to carry out spike experiments.
- Analytical grade ethanol (J. T. Baker, Hexis, São Paulo, SP, Brazil) was used to matrix match the standard reference solutions used to build the analytical calibration curves.



# Experimental

## Sample and sample preparation

- Ethanol fuel samples (hydrated ethanol) were obtained in local gas stations in São Carlos, SP, Brazil.
- Samples were diluted 10-fold in 1% HNO<sub>3</sub> (v/v).
- Standard reference solutions used in the external calibration method were prepared by diluting adequate volumes of inorganic standard solutions of Cr, Ni, Pb or V in 1% HNO<sub>3</sub> (v/v).
- Ethanol was also added to each standard reference solution to a final concentration of 10% ethanol (v/v).

# Results

Figures of merit for Cr, Ni, Pb and V determinations in ethanol fuel by MP-AES

Element	LOD* ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	LOQ* ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	LOD in the sample† ( $\mu\text{g/kg}$ )
Cr	0.7	2.2	9
Ni	16	52	200
Pb	40	130	490
V	0.3	0.9	4

\* Instrumental limits of detection and quantification.

† Limit of detection considering sample dilution (1:9 v/v ethanol fuel in  $\text{HNO}_3$  1% v/v).

# Results

Spike experiments for Cr, Ni, Pb and V determination in ethanol fuel samples

Element	Added ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	Found ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	Recovery (%)
Cr	20	$21.2 \pm 1.2$	106
	100	$95.1 \pm 1.2$	95
	500	$460 \pm 30$	92
Ni	100	$95.3 \pm 0.8$	95
Pb	400	$430 \pm 10$	108
	1000	$990 \pm 10$	99
V	20	$19.8 \pm 1.6$	99
	100	$98.4 \pm 1.4$	98
	500	$460 \pm 20$	92



# Conclusions

- Direct analysis of ethanol fuel samples using the Agilent 4100 MP-AES is a simple and effective method that can easily be implemented in routine analysis.
- Four samples were analyzed and none were contaminated. No sample preparation is required and a simple “dilute-and-shoot” procedure, with solutions in 1% HNO<sub>3</sub> (v/v), is adequate for accurate and precise determinations of Cr, Ni, Pb and V in ethanol.
- The EGCM prevented carbon deposition on the torch and pre-optical components, contributing to reduced background signals and improved accuracy.

# Determination of Ca, Mg, Na, K and Si in Diesel and Biodiesel

## Direct Determination of Impurities in Gasoline



# Limits on Target Elements in Diesel Fuel - EN14538



Property	ASTM Method	Limits	Units
Calcium & Magnesium, combined	EN 14538	5 max	ppm (ug/g)
<b>Flash Point (closed cup)</b>	<b>D 93</b>	<b>93 min.</b>	<b>Degrees C</b>
Alcohol Control (One of the following must be met)			
1. Methanol Content	EN14110	0.2 Max	% volume
2. Flash Point	D93	130 Min	Degrees C
<b>Water &amp; Sediment</b>	<b>D 2709</b>	<b>0.05 max.</b>	<b>% vol.</b>
Kinematic Viscosity, 40 C	D 445	1.9 - 6.0	mm <sup>2</sup> /sec.
Sulfated Ash	D 874	0.02 max.	% mass
<b>Sulfur</b>			
<b>S 15 Grade</b>	<b>D 5453</b>	<b>0.0015 max. (15)</b>	<b>% mass (ppm)</b>
<b>S 500 Grade</b>	<b>D 5453</b>	<b>0.05 max. (500)</b>	<b>% mass (ppm)</b>
Copper Strip Corrosion	D 130	No. 3 max.	
Cetane	D 613	47 min.	
<b>Cloud Point</b>	<b>D 2500</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Degrees C</b>
Carbon Residue 100% sample	D 4530*	0.05 max.	% mass
<b>Acid Number</b>	<b>D 664</b>	<b>0.50 max.</b>	<b>mg KOH/g</b>
<b>Free Glycerin</b>	<b>D 6584</b>	<b>0.020 max.</b>	<b>% mass</b>
<b>Total Glycerin</b>	<b>D 6584</b>	<b>0.240 max.</b>	<b>% mass</b>
Phosphorus Content	D 4951	0.001 max.	% mass
Distillation, T90 AET	D 1160	300 max.	Degrees C
Sodium/Potassium, combined	EN 14538	5 max	ppm
<b>Oxidation Stability</b>	<b>EN 14112</b>	<b>3 min</b>	<b>hours</b>



**Workmanship** Free of undissolved water, sediment, & suspended matter  
**BOLD = BQ-9000 Critical Specification Testing Once Production Process Under Control**

\* The carbon residue shall be run on the 100% sample.

# Sample Preparation – Method EN14538

A commercial diesel sample was analyzed

- 1:10 dilution with Shellsol

Standards made from Conostan S21+K

- 0.5 ppm, 1 ppm, 5 ppm, 10 ppm

All samples and standards matrix matched  
with blank oil



# Instrument Parameters

Parameter	Setting
Nebulizer	Inert OneNeb
Spray chamber	Double-pass glass cyclonic
Sample tubing	Orange/green solvent resistant
Waste tubing	Blue/blue solvent resistant
Read Time	3 s
Replicates	3
Stabilization time	15 s
Fast Pump (80 rpm)	On
Background correction	Auto
Pump speed	5 rpm

# Method Detection Limits

3 $\sigma$ , 3s read time, 10 blanks

Element	Wavelength (nm)	MDL (ppb)
Mg	285.213	2.7
Ca	422.673	8.2
Na	588.995	18.7
K	766.491	2.7

# Spike Recoveries - Diesel Fuel

Diesel fuel sample spiked with 0.55 ppm S21+K

Element	Sample (ppm)	Spiked Sample (ppm)	Recovery (%)
Mg 285.213 nm	< MDL	0.53	97
Ca 422.673 nm	< MDL	0.51	93
Na 588.995 nm	< MDL	0.51	93
K 766.491 nm	< MDL	0.51	93

# Introduction - Si in Diesel and Biodiesel

The presence of metals and metalloids such as silicon compounds in petrochemical products can influence the performance of engines, and contribute to shortening the lifetime of the machinery. In addition, some elements act as catalyst poison, contributing to increases in the amount of toxic gases and particulate matter emitted by vehicles. Recent legislation in Brazil has established the maximum concentration of Si plus Al in diesel as 80 mg/kg. This study describes the determination of Si in diesel and biodiesel samples using the Agilent 4100 MP-AES.

Different sample preparation procedures were evaluated and the instrument robustness was demonstrated by analyzing samples diluted in 90% ethanol. Adequate recoveries were achieved even by applying a simple non-matrix-matched external calibration method with aqueous standard solutions.

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† Agilent Technologies, São Paulo, SP, Brazil



# Measurement Challenge

## Challenge

To safely and cost effectively perform biodiesel analysis at sufficient sensitivity to meet increasingly stringent International Standards

## Solution

The use of the Agilent 4100 MP-AES simplifies biodiesel analysis. The microwave plasma is extremely tolerant to solvent loading, without the need to change conditions.

Automated gas controls, in conjunction with the EGCM, take the uncertainty out the setup and let you concentrate on the analysis.



# Experimental Instrumentation

- Instrument: 4100 MP-AES spectrometer
- Accessory: External gas control module (EGCM) for injecting air into the plasma and preventing carbon deposition on the torch and optical components. Also contributes to plasma stability and background emission reduction in organic sample analyses.
- A closed-vessel microwave oven equipped with 45 mL PFA vessels for the digestion of diesel and biodiesel samples.



**4100 MP-AES**

# Experimental

## Operating conditions

Parameter	Value
Nebulizer	Inert OneNeb
Spray chamber	Cyclonic double-pass
Read time	10 s
Number of replicates	3
Stabilization time	15 s
Background correction	Auto

# Experimental

## Reagents and standard solutions

- Nitric acid previously purified by a sub-boiling distillation system, and hydrogen peroxide (30%) were used to digest the samples.
- Polyoxylene(10)octylphenyl ether, n-propanol and light mineral oil, without additional purification, were used for the micro-emulsion preparation.
- A 1000 mg/L Si stock solution was diluted to prepare aqueous and micro-emulsion standard reference solutions and to carry out spiking studies in digested samples and micro-emulsions.
- Analytical grade ethanol was used for direct sample dilution.
- A Si 1000 mg/L stock solution in organic medium was used in spike studies of ethanol-diluted diesel and biodiesel samples.
- External calibration with aqueous standard reference solutions in 1% HNO<sub>3</sub> (v/v) was performed for Si determination in both the digested samples and those diluted in 90% ethanol (v/v).

# Experimental

## Sample preparation

- Biodiesel samples were provided by the Center of Characterization and Development of Materials (CCDM, Federal University of São Carlos, São Carlos, SP, Brazil).
- Diesel fuel samples containing 5% v/v of biodiesel (B5), in accordance to the Brazilian legislation, were obtained from local gas stations of São Carlos, SP, Brazil.
- Three sample preparation procedures were evaluated: microwave-assisted digestion, micro-emulsion preparation in n-propanol, and dilution in ethanol.
  - Sample digestions were performed by using 50% HNO<sub>3</sub> (v/v - 7 mol/L) and 3.0 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%).
  - Micro-emulsions were prepared by adding 0.5 mL of Triton X-100 and 0.5 mL of a 20% HNO<sub>3</sub> (v/v) aqueous solution to 1.0 mL of diesel or biodiesel. The volume was then made up to 10 mL with n-propanol and the mixture was homogenized for 2 min with a vortex mixer. During preparation of the micro-emulsion standard reference solutions, the sample was replaced by 0.2 mL of mineral oil, which simulates the sample matrix viscosity.
  - The direct dilution of samples in ethanol was carried out by adding 9 mL of ethanol to 1 mL of sample.



# Results

## Figures of merit

	HNO <sub>3</sub> 1% v/v			Micro-emulsion		
	LOD (µg/L)	LDR* (Decades)	RSD† (%)	LOD (µg/L)	LDR* (Decades)	RSD† (%)
Si (251.611 nm)	20	2.3	1.6	5	2.6	1.6
Si (288.158 nm)	240	0.9	1.3	5	2.5	0.4

\* Linear dynamic range starting at the limit of detection.

† Repeatability presented as the relative standard deviation for a 2 mg/L Si solution (n = 10).

# Results

Spike experiments after sample digestion, dilution in 90% v/v ethanol or micro-emulsion preparation (mg/L)

Sample	Si emission line (nm)	Digestion*		Ethanol†		Micro-emulsion*				
		Added	Recovered	Added	Recovered	Added	Recovered			
Biodiesel	251.611	3.0	3.05	0.07	0.5	0.45	0.03	1.0	0.89	0.05
					1.0	0.99	0.09			
	288.158	3.0	3.05	0.01	0.5	0.40	0.04	1.0	0.89	0.06
					1.0	1.02	0.17			
Diesel	251.611	3.0	3.09	0.10	0.5	0.47	0.01	1.0	0.96	0.03
					1.0	0.91	0.01			
	288.158	3.0	3.07	0.15	0.5	0.46	0.01	1.0	0.96	0.04
					1.0	0.95	0.01			

\* Spike solution in aqueous medium.

† Spike solution in organic medium.

# Conclusions

- In this work, accurate Si determinations were successfully carried out simply by diluting the samples in ethanol, and using external calibration with aqueous solutions. Considering its simplicity and sample throughput, this method is recommended for the determination of Si in diesel and biodiesel samples.
- The sample preparation procedures evaluated are environmentally friendly, because less toxic solvents are used.
- No carbon deposit or reduction of performance was observed while introducing high carbon loads to the Agilent 4100 MP-AES (without the use of a cooled spray chamber).
- Two important advantages of this instrument are:
  - low running costs, and
  - laboratory safety, as no flammable gases are required.
- Considering cost, performance and multi-element capabilities, the 4100 MP-AES is a suitable and efficient alternative to flame AA for this application, and presents better performance for critical elements such as the one investigated here.



# Direct Measurement of Impurities in Gasoline

Same limits as ASTM D6751 and EN14538

- Ca, Mg combined 5 ppm
- Na, K combined 5 ppm

High volatility of the gasoline is a challenge

- Cooled spray chamber -10 °C
- Standard Additions calibration
- Direct measurement of samples

# Instrument Parameters

Parameter	Setting
Nebulizer	Inert OneNeb
Spray chamber	IsoMist cooled spray chamber (-10 °C)
Sample tubing	Orange/green solvent resistant
Waste tubing	Blue/blue solvent resistant
Read Time	3 s
Replicates	3
Stabilization time	30 s
Fast Pump (80 rpm)	On
Background correction	Off-peak
Pump speed	5 rpm

# Sample Preparation

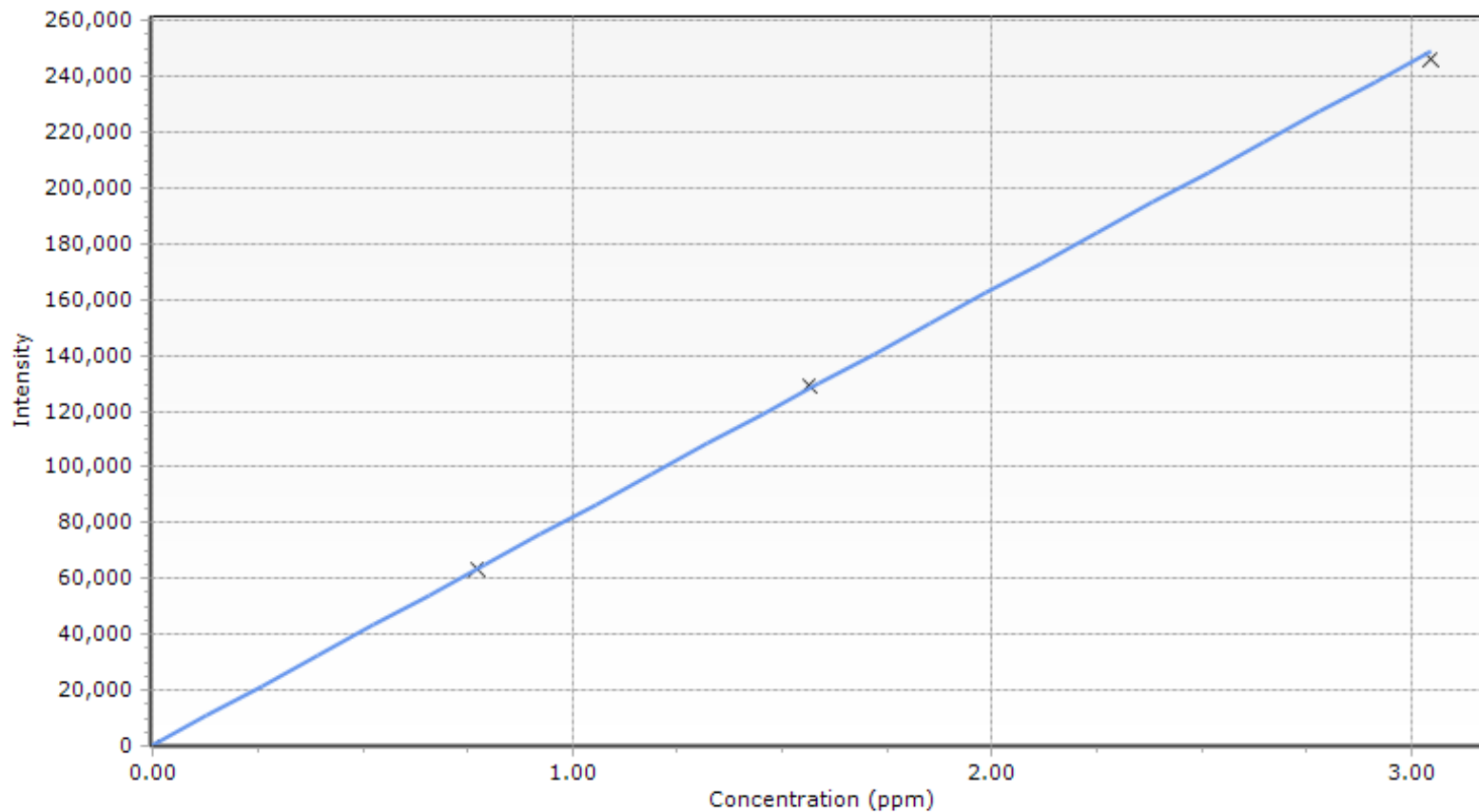
- Gasoline fuel standards were prepared by spiking a sample with an oil-based metal calibration standard, S21+K (Conostan), giving final concentrations of 0.89 ppm, 1.92 ppm and 3.94 ppm.
- Standard additions calibration allows the gasoline samples to be directly analyzed, without further sample preparation.
- For the spike recovery test, gasoline samples were spiked with S21+K to give spike concentrations of 1.1 ppm.

# Calibrations and Detection Limits

Element	Wavelength (nm)	Correlation Coeff	MDL (ppb)
Mg	285.213	0.99993	2.7
Ca	422.673	0.99934	4.3
Na	588.995	0.99939	5.3
K	766.491	0.99975	29.4

# Excellent Standard Additions Linearity - Gasoline

Mg 285.213 nm



Intensity = 81779.569 \* Concentration + 239.829  
Correlation coefficient: 0.99993

# Spike Recoveries - Gasoline

Gasoline fuel sample spiked with 1.1 ppm S21+K

Element	Sample (ppm)	Spike (ppm)	Recovery %
Mg 285.213 nm	< MDL	1.11	100
Ca 422.673 nm	< MDL	1.06	95
Na 588.995 nm	< MDL	1.11	100
K 766.491 nm	0.05	1.12	96

# Determination of Wear Metals and Additives in Oil



# Instrument Parameters

Parameter	Setting
Nebulizer	Inert OneNeb
Spray chamber	Double-pass glass cyclonic
Sample tubing	Orange/green solvent resistant
Waste tubing	Blue/blue solvent resistant
Read Time	3 s
Replicates	3
Stabilization time	15 s
Rinse time	45 s
Fast Pump (80 rpm)	On
Background correction	Auto
Pump speed	5 rpm



# Standard and Sample Preparation

Wear metals and contaminants

- 1:10 dilution with Shellsol

Additives

- 1:100 dilution with Shellsol

Standards

- Prepared from 500 ppm S21 (Conostan)

All matrix matched with blank oil for constant viscosity



# Measured Results for SRM 1085b Wear Metals

Element & wavelength (nm)	Measured (mg/kg)	Certified (mg/kg)	Recovery (%)
Fe 259.940	314.7 ± 0.3	301.2 ± 5.0	104
Mn 259.372	289.9 ± 0.2	300.7 ± 2.0	96
Cd 226.502	290.9 ± 2.9	302.9 ± 5.1	96
Cr 276.653	305.2 ± 0.1	302.9 ± 3.9	101
Si 251.611	295.7 ± 1.9	300.2 ± 5.0	99
Ni 305.081	291.6 ± 0.1	295.9 ± 7.4	99
Cu 327.395	300.9 ± 0.1	295.6 ± 8.5	102
Ag 328.068	308 ± 0.2	304.6 ± 8.9	101
Pb 283.305	296.1 ± 0.1	297.7 ± 6.8	99
V 310.229	287.6 ± 0.1	297.8 ± 4.6	97
Ti 323.452	293.9 ± 0.1	301.1 ± 2.9	98
Sn 303.411	295.3 ± 0.3	299.4 ± 4.8	99
Mo 319.398	296.9 ± 0.1	300.6 ± 3.2	99
Al 396.152	291.7 ± 0.2	300.4 ± 9.3	97
Na 589.592	297.4 ± 0.1	305.2 ± 7.0	97

Great recoveries for all key elements

# Measured Recoveries on 10 ppm Spike of Gear Oil

Element	Wavelength (nm)	Unspiked gear oil (ppm)	Spiked gear oil (ppm)	Spike recovery (%)
Ag	328.068 nm	0.27	11.01	105
Al	396.152 nm	0.32	10.31	98
Cd	228.802 nm	0.14	9.85	95
Cr	276.653 nm	0.25	9.92	95
Cu	327.395 nm	2.68	13.14	103
Fe	259.940 nm	10.41	20.09	95
Mn	259.372 nm	0.80	11.54	105
Mo	319.398 nm	9.02	19.34	101
Na	589.592 nm	0.46	10.70	100
Ni	305.081 nm	0.07	10.13	99
Pb	283.305 nm	0.25	11.36	109
Si	251.611 nm	2.23	11.60	92
Sn	303.411 nm	0.16	10.62	103
Ti	323.452 nm	0.01	10.87	106
V	310.229 nm	0.15	10.71	104

Great recoveries for all key elements

# Measured Results for Additive Elements

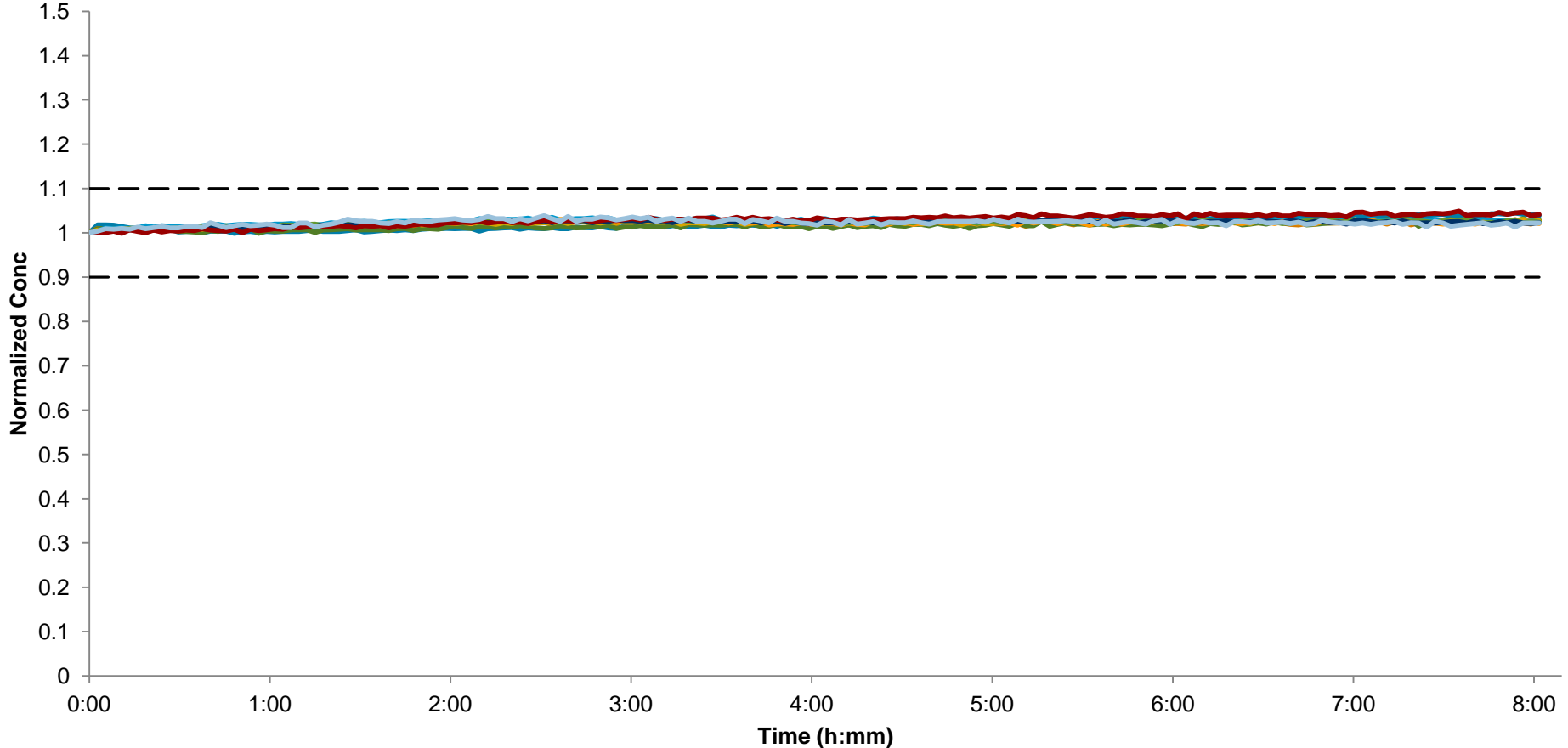
## Measured Results vs Certified Values

Element	Measured (mg/kg)	Certified (mg/kg)	Recovery %
P 213.618	301.5 ± 0.1	299.9 ± 7.2	101
Zn 481.053	314.9 ± 0.3	296.8 ± 6.8	106
Mg 285.213	300.6 ± 0.2	297.3 ± 4.1	101
Ca 422.673	279.6 ± 0.1	298	94
Ba 614.171	281.2 ± 0.1	300.1 ± 2.4	94

## Measured Recoveries on 10 ppm Spike of Gear Oil

Element	Mixed Gear (ppm)	Spike (ppm)	Recovery %
P 213.618	17.16	26.71	95
Zn 481.053	6.99	17.17	101
Mg 285.213	1.53	11.32	97
Ca 422.673	8.89	19.69	107
Ba 614.171	0.00	9.16	91

# Organics – Long Term Stability



Zn 213.857 nm   Si 251.611 nm   Fe 259.940 nm   Ni 305.081 nm   Ag 328.068 nm  
Pb 283.305 nm   Cu 327.395 nm   Mg 285.213 nm   Ti 334.941 nm   Al 396.152 nm

10 ppm S21. All lines show precision <1% RSD.

# 4100 MP-AES Solves the Challenges



High vapour pressure from solvents

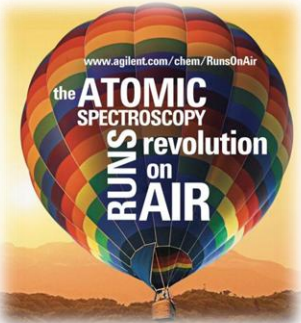
- OneNeb nebulizer
- Reduced sample flow (double pass SC, smaller pump tubing and lower rpm)

Carbon build up on injector

- EGCM

Nebulizer blockage

- OneNeb nebulizer



# Agilent 4100 MP-AES



## *Runs on air – the most significant advance in atomic spectroscopy*

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- **Superior performance to flame AA**, with capability to run unattended overnight



*Thank you!*  
*Questions?*



**Agilent MP-AES**



**Agilent AA**



**Agilent ICP-OES**



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