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Ageing tests and analysis of organic compounds released from various detector materials

Kari Kurvinen on behalf of

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**based on talks given in NSS 2003 and NSS2004 symposium
(see conf.CDs and IEEE Trans. on Nucl. Sci 51 No.5, 2004)**

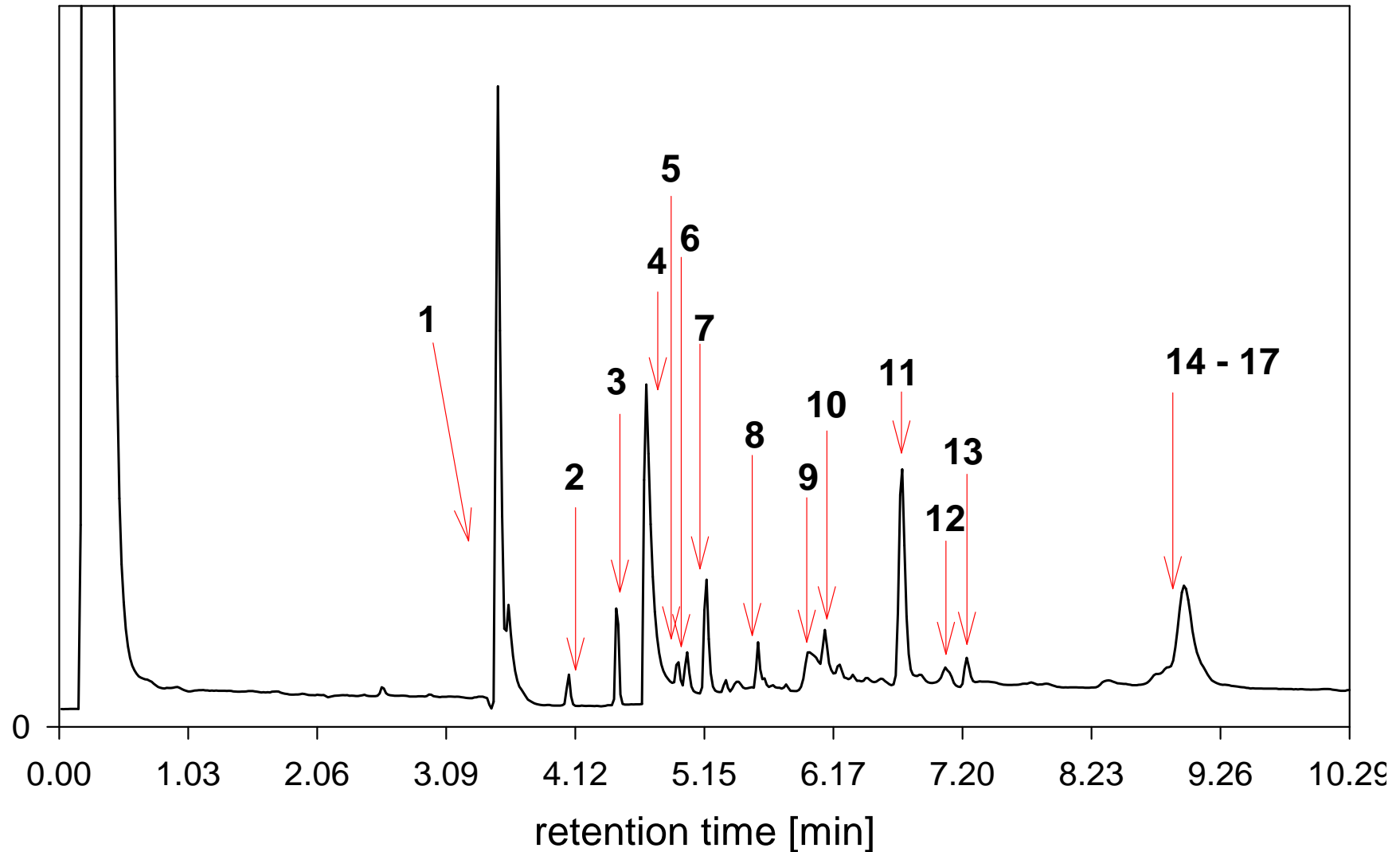
Outline

- on wire chamber chemistry
- classical methods of outgassing and ageing tests
- compound oriented ageing tests
- some materials analysed and **organic** compounds found
- ageing tests with an array of proportional counters

Wire chamber chemistry:

sample concentration by a cold trap

Some identified compounds created in electron avalanches in proportional mode with $\text{Ar}/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ 50/50 gas mixture



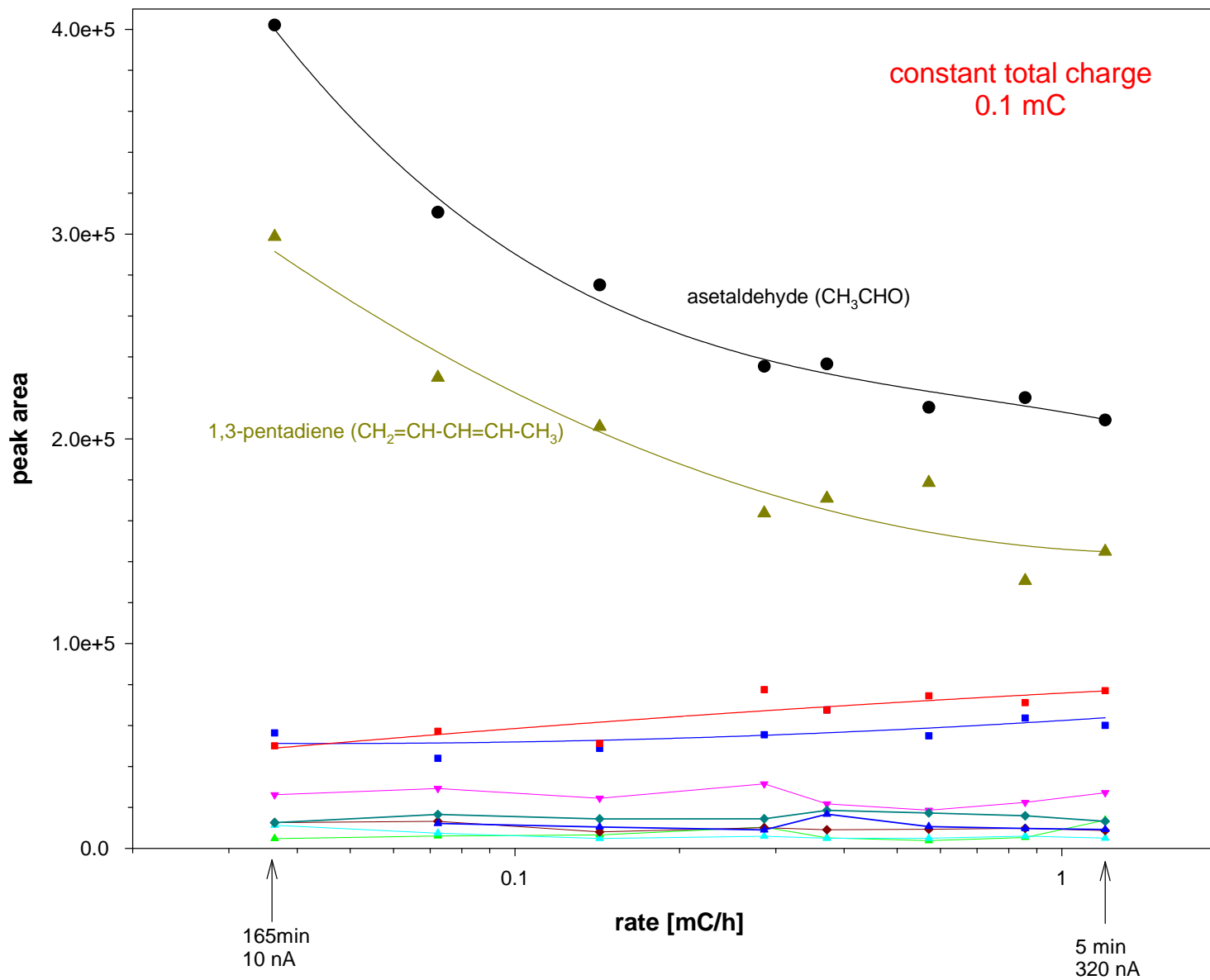
Wire chamber chemistry:

Avalanche compounds identified

PEAK	COMPOUND	SOURCE	REMARK
1	Asetaldehyde	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.
2	1,3-butadiyne	Electron aval.	Explosively polymerising.*
3	Ethanol	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.
4	1,3-pentadiene	Electron aval.	Able to polymerise.
5	2-methyl-2-propanol	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.
6	Methoxy-asetaldehyde	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.
7	2-ethoxy-2-methylpropane	From system.	Polymerising improbable.
8	2-methyl-1,3-dioxolane	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.
9	2-methoxy-ethanol	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.
10	1,3-hexadien-5-yne	Electron aval.	Able to polymerise.
11	3-methyl-1,3-pentadiene	Electron aval.	Able to polymerise.
12	4-methyl-1,4-hexadiene	Electron aval.	Able to polymerise.
13	2,4-heptadiene	Electron aval.	Able to polymerise.
14	Tetracloroethylene	From gas bottle.	Contaminant in ethylene bottle.
15	1-ethenyl-4-ethylbenzene	Electron aval.	Able to polymerising.
16	2,3-dihydro-1-methylindene	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.
17	4-ethylbenzaldehyde	Electron aval.	Polymerising improbable.

* “Potentially very explosive, it may be handled and transferred by low temperature distillation. It should be stored at -25 °C to prevent decomposition and formation of explosive polymers.” (*Armitage, J.B. et al., J.Chem.Soc., 1951, 44*)

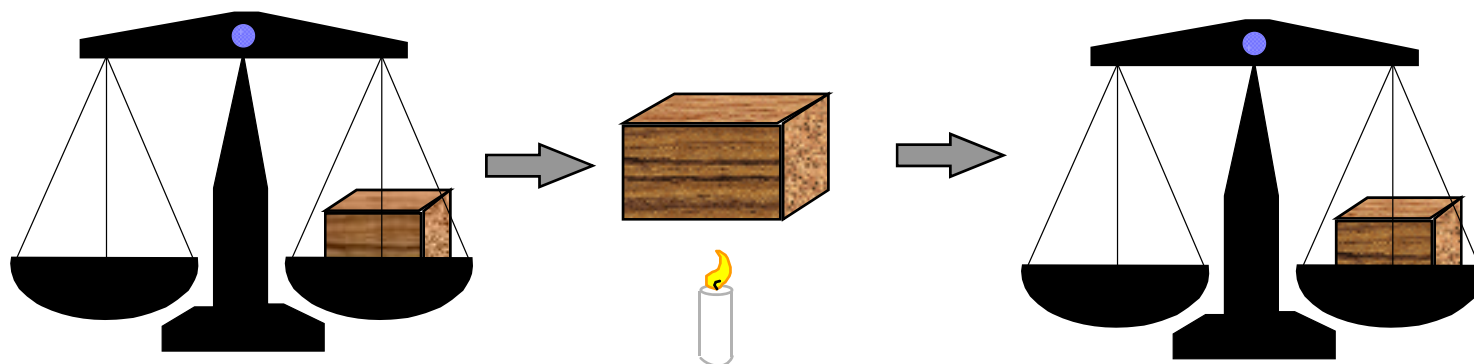
Rate dependence of production of avalanche compounds (Ar/C₂H₄ 50/50)



Introduction

Standard outgassing test

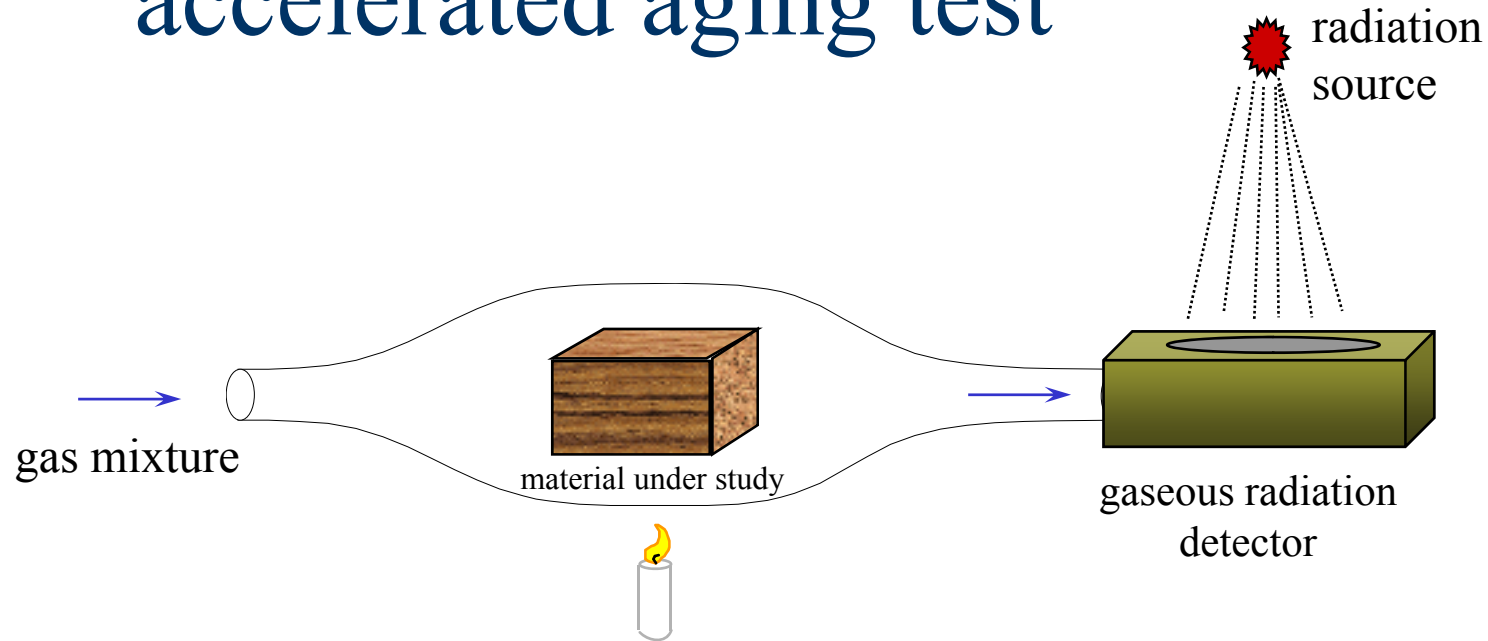
weight loss method



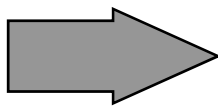
- the only information obtained is the mass loss during the heating.
- no information about the outgassed substances.
- outgassing in the standard room temperature must be extrapolated.

Introduction

Outgas study with an accelerated aging test



- monitoring current, gas gain, energy resolution, etc.



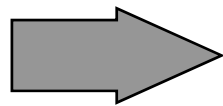
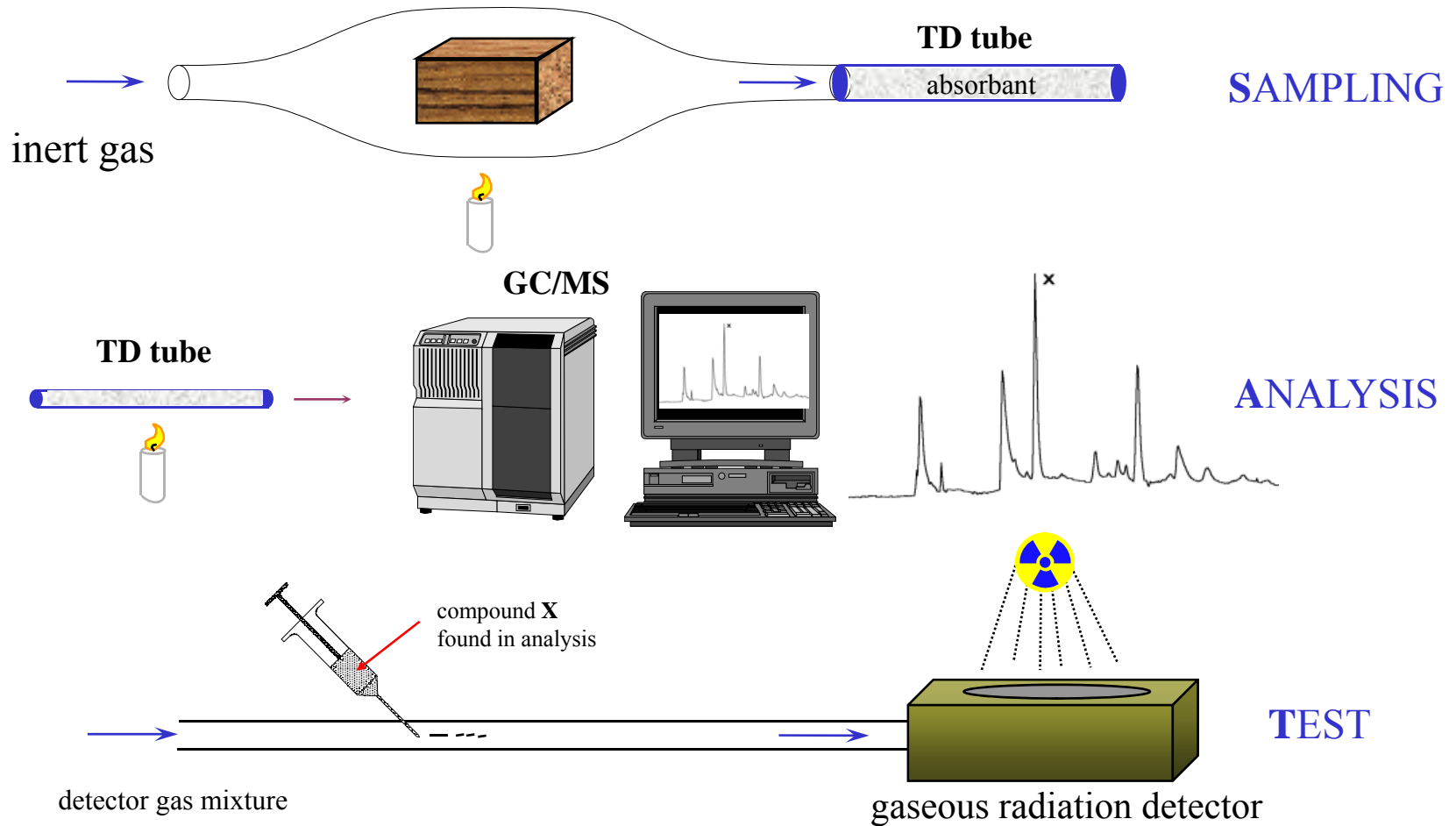
database of harmful *materials*

Classical accelerated aging test

- **benefits**
 - gives definite information of compatibility of the material with the detector
- **drawbacks**
 - laborious and time consuming method
 - for each new material and new manufacturer of old materials tests must be repeated.
 - no information about the aging process itself.

Introduction

Combined outgas analysis and accelerated aging test



database of harmful *compounds*

Introduction

Sampling + Analysis + Test -method

•weaknesses

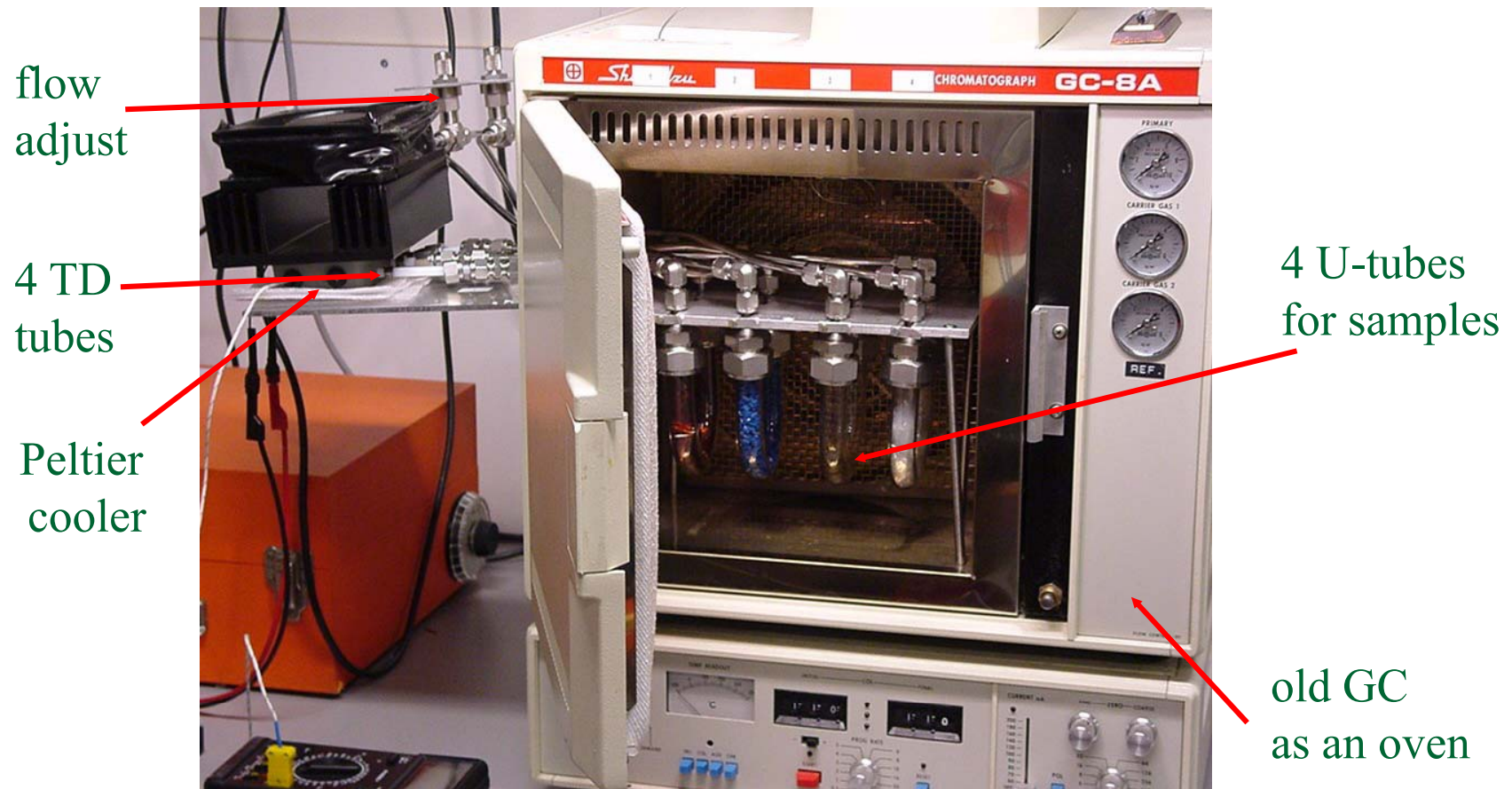
- even more laborous and time consuming than the traditional one *in the beginning*.
- all compounds cannot be analyzed, some are not even commercially available.
- all gas mixtures cannot be analyzed (?)

•benefits

- when the database is large enough, for introducing new materials only the sampling & analysis have to be performed (fast).
- sampling, analysis and test may be done in different sites (labs?).
- gas of a working detector may be monitored (HEP experiments).
- gives some information about polymerisation processes in the detector.

Instruments - Sampling

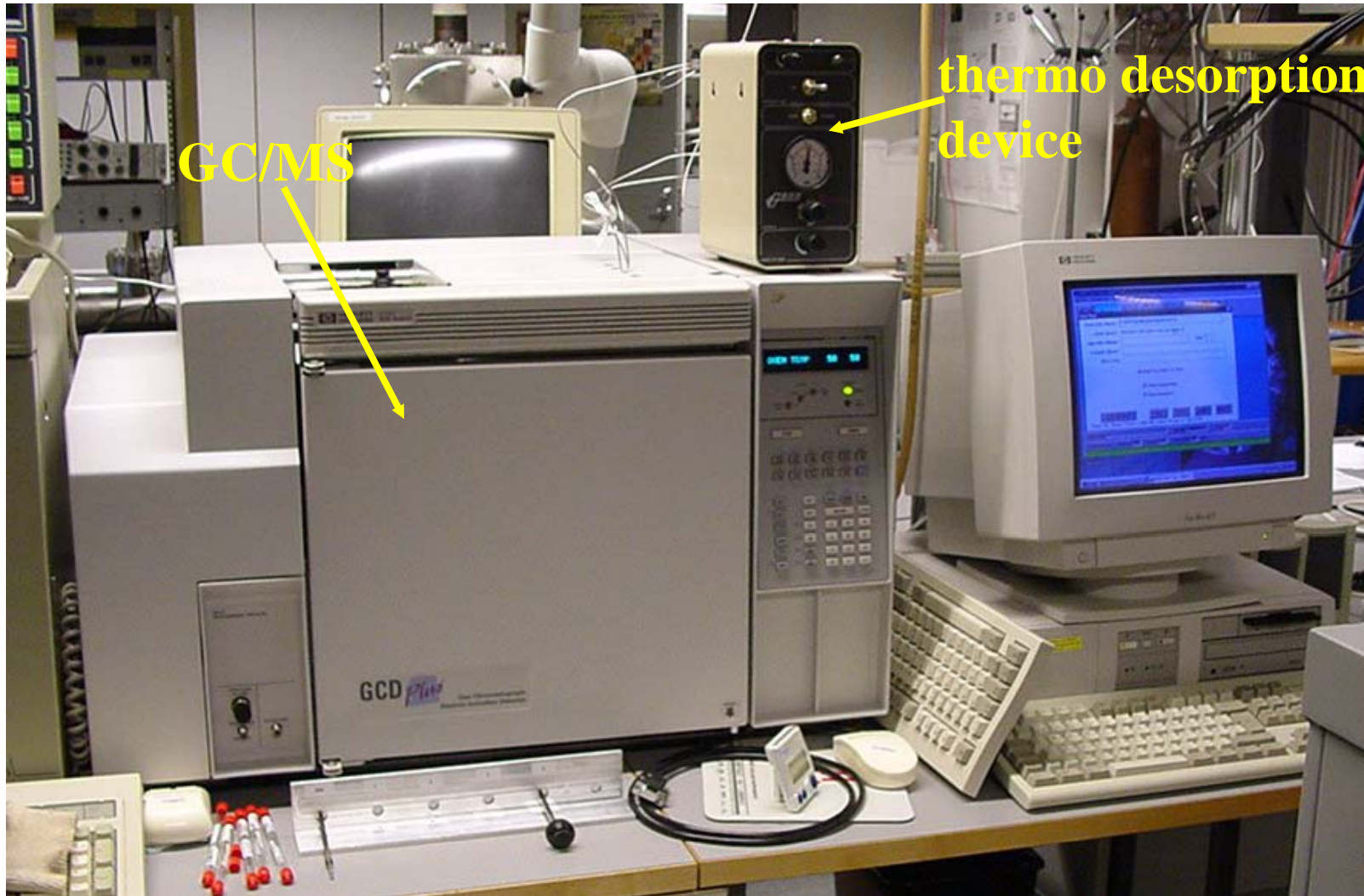
Sampling with thermo desorption (TD) method



- Tenax TA used as an absorbant (range C5-C26)
- days/weeks long sampling time possible -> good sensitivity

Instruments - Analysis

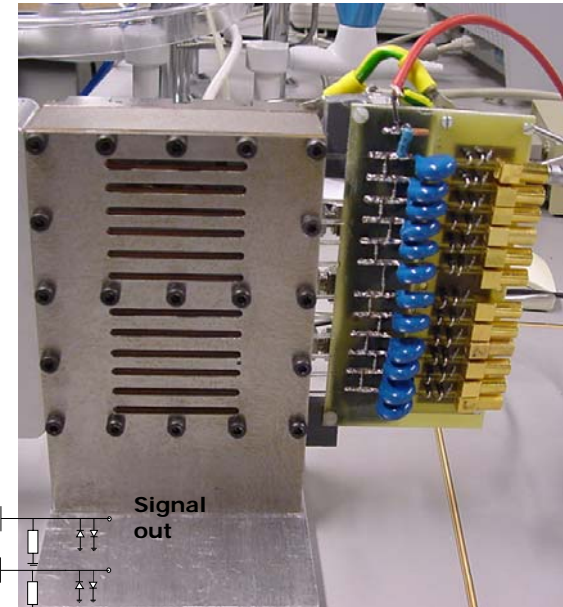
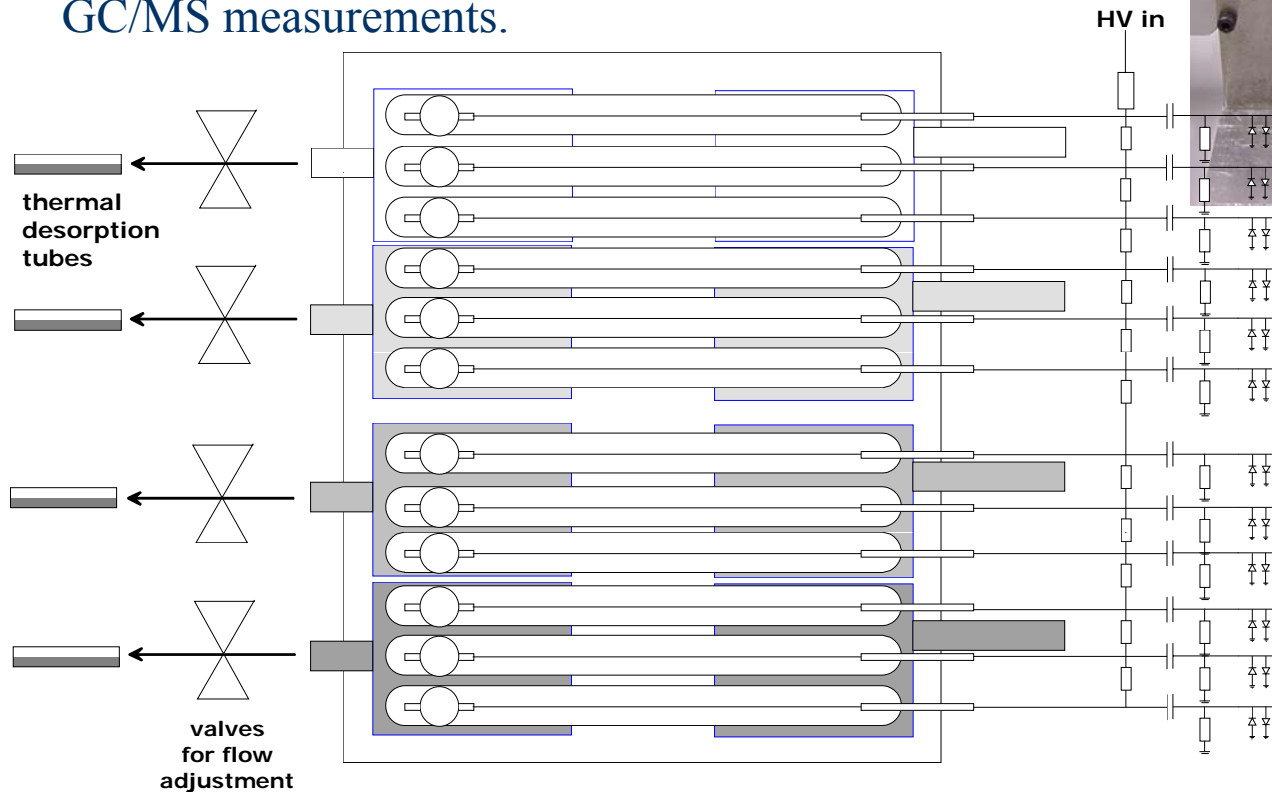
GC/MS with a TD device



Instruments - Accelerated aging tests

Irradiation chamber of 12 proportional counters

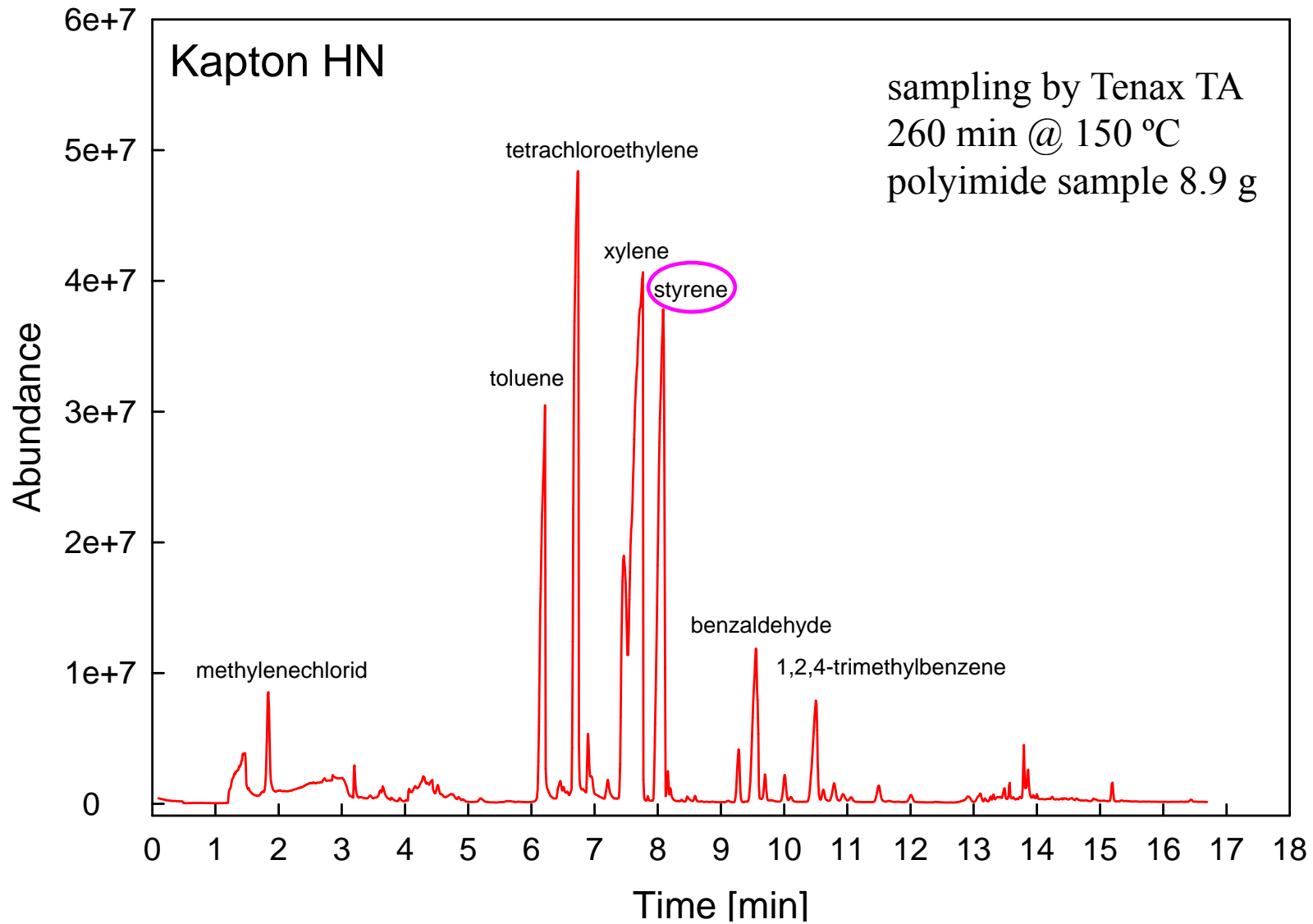
- gas flow divided into four separate sections for inclusion of different impurities (3 detectors/section)
- impurity monitored during the irradiation by regular GC/MS measurements.



irradiation
by X-ray device
(Cu-target)

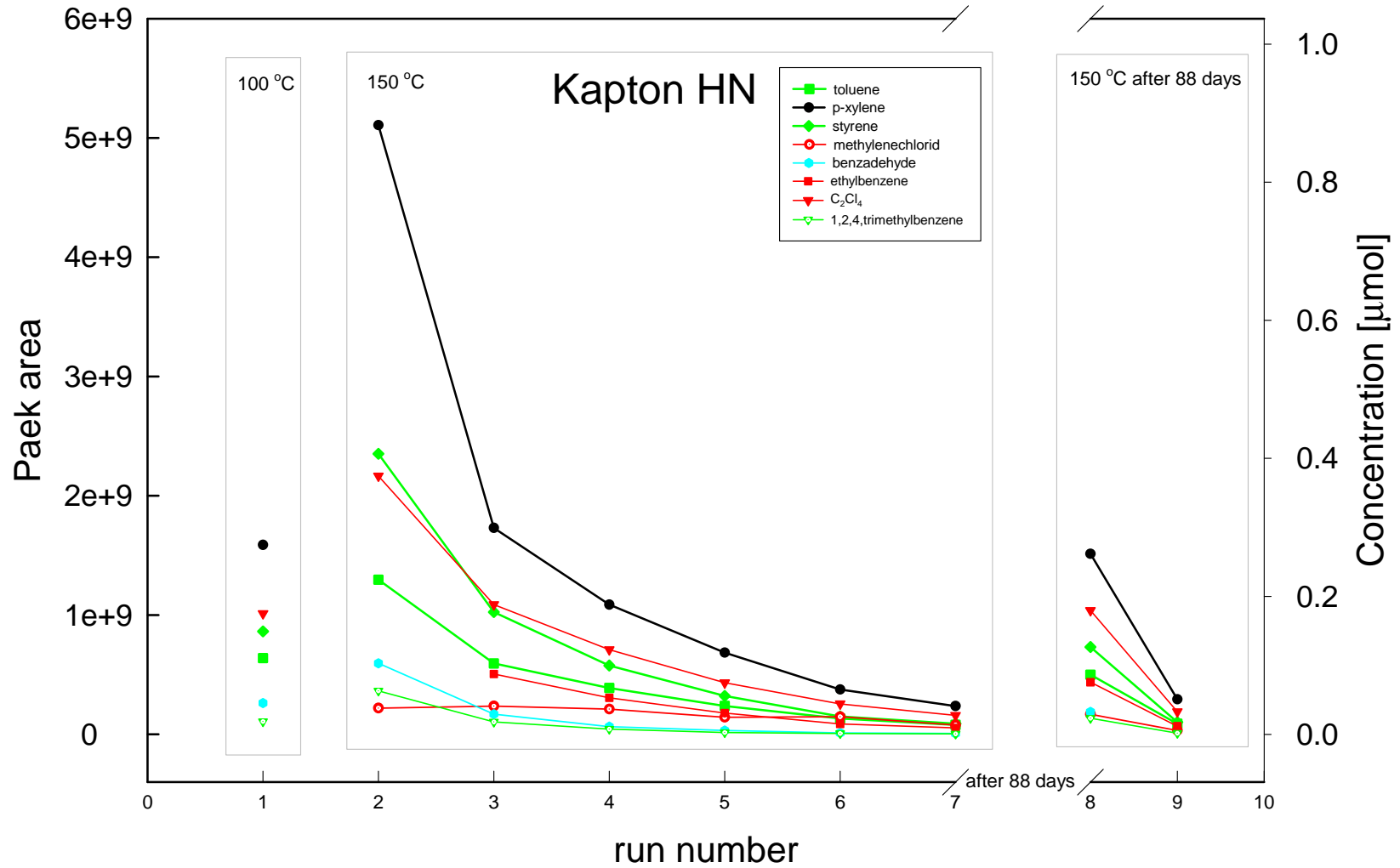
monitoring
by ^{55}Fe X-ray
source

Results - Outgassing Analysis



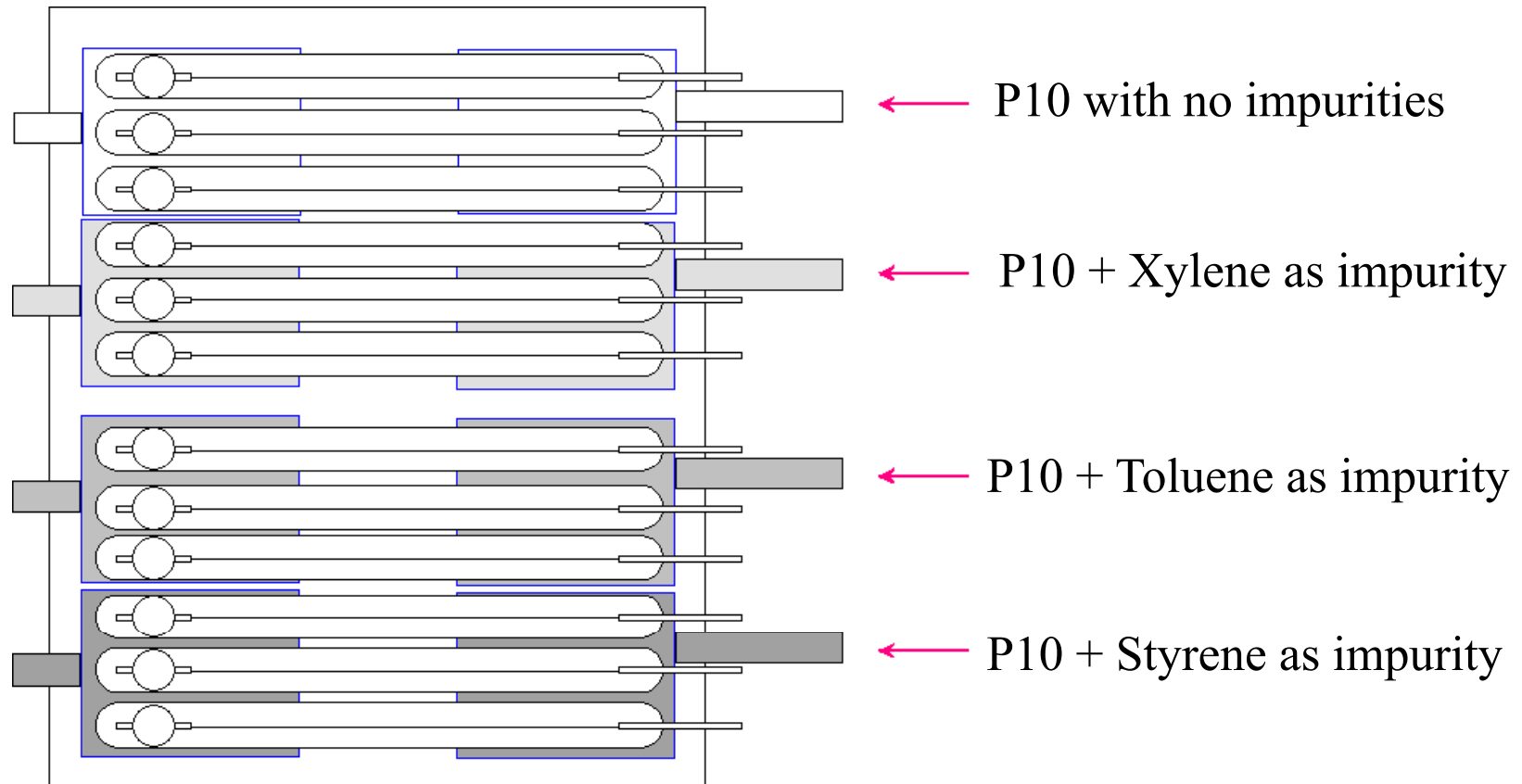
Results - Outgassing Analysis

Peak areas in successive measurements

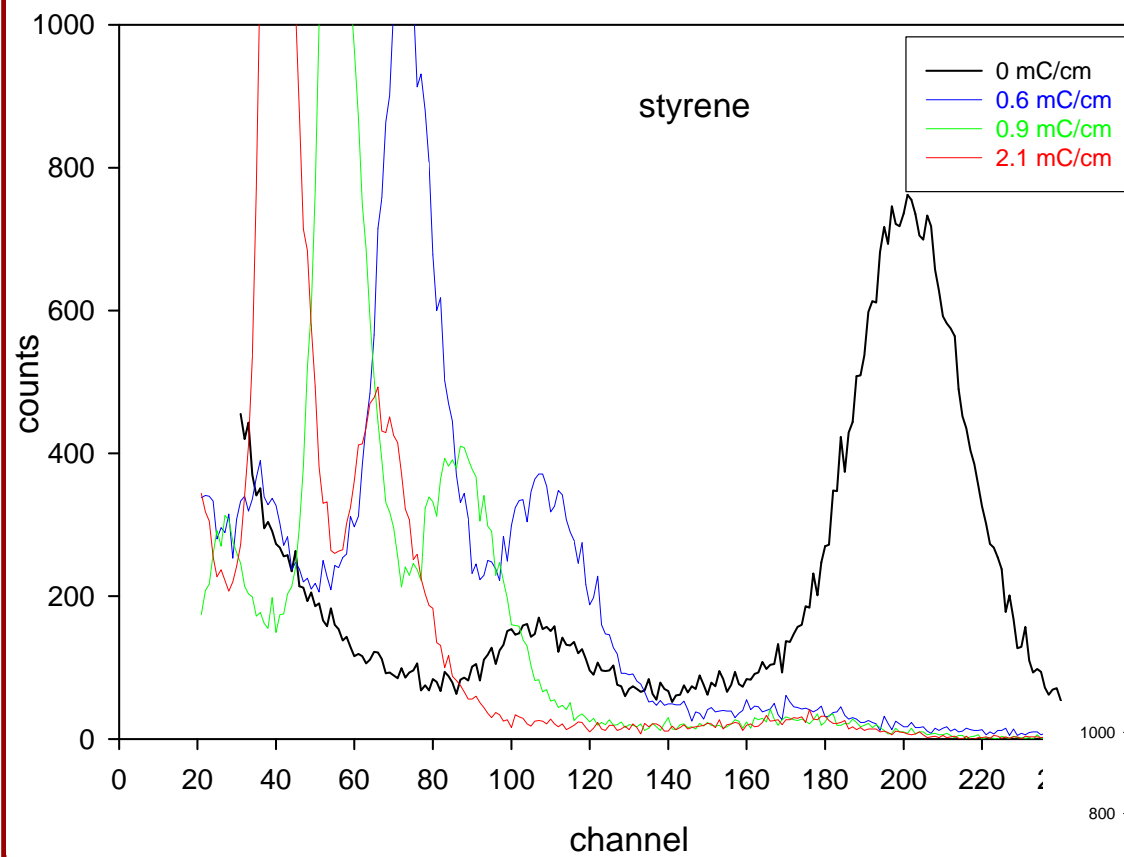


Test setup

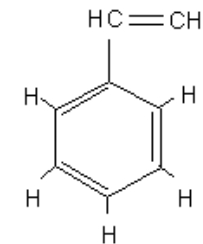
Accelerated aging test with aromatic solvents



Results - Accelerated Aging Test

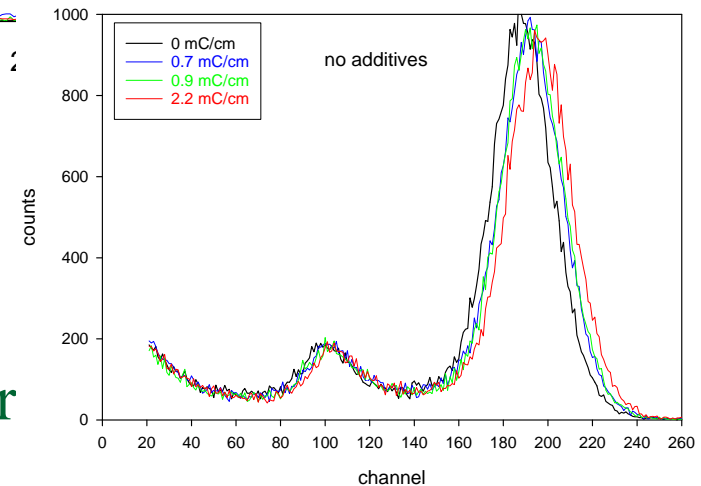


STYRENE
added to P-10
gas mixture

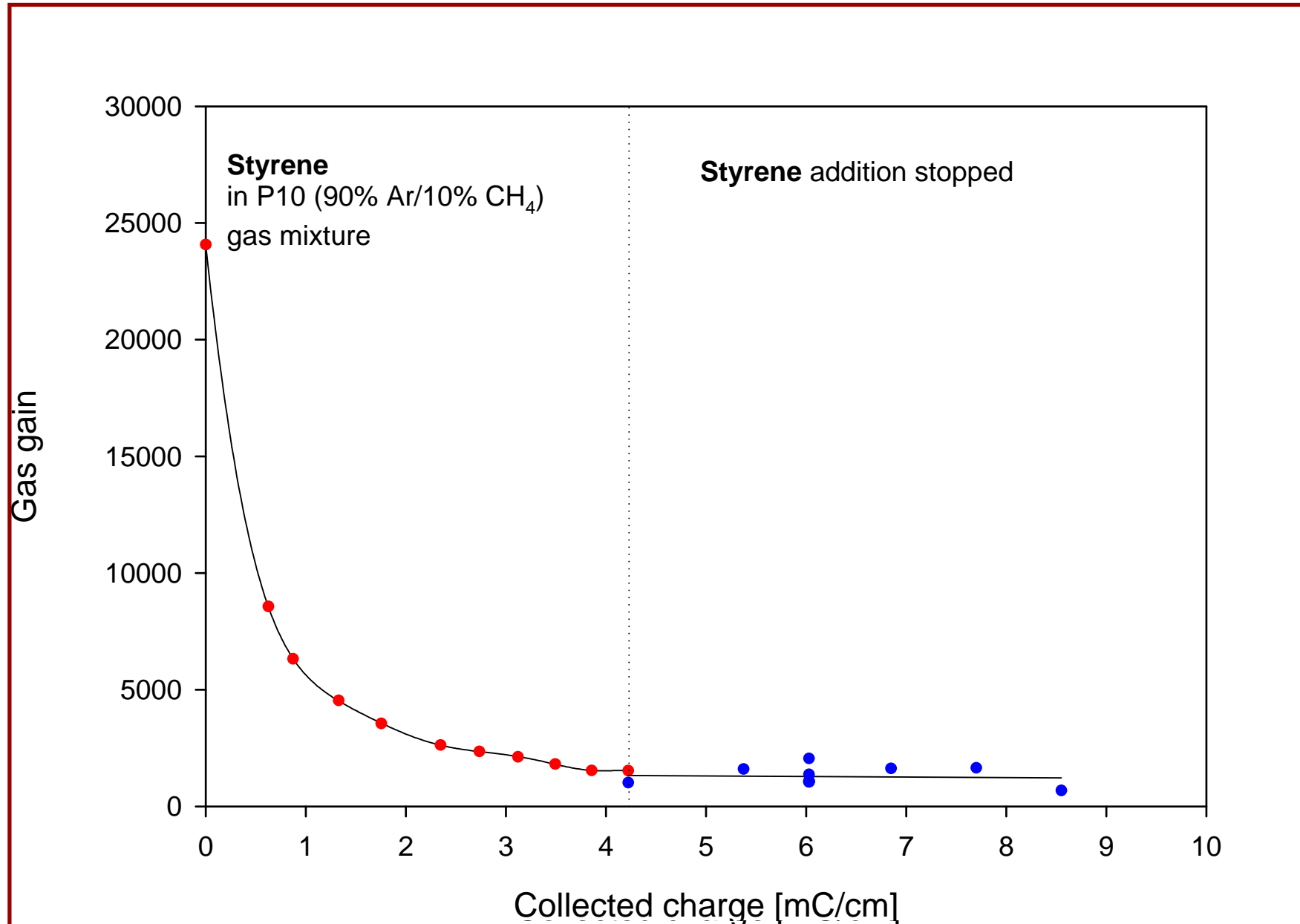


X-rays: 7 kVp, 190 μ A
Detector current: < 100 nA/(exposed wire cm)

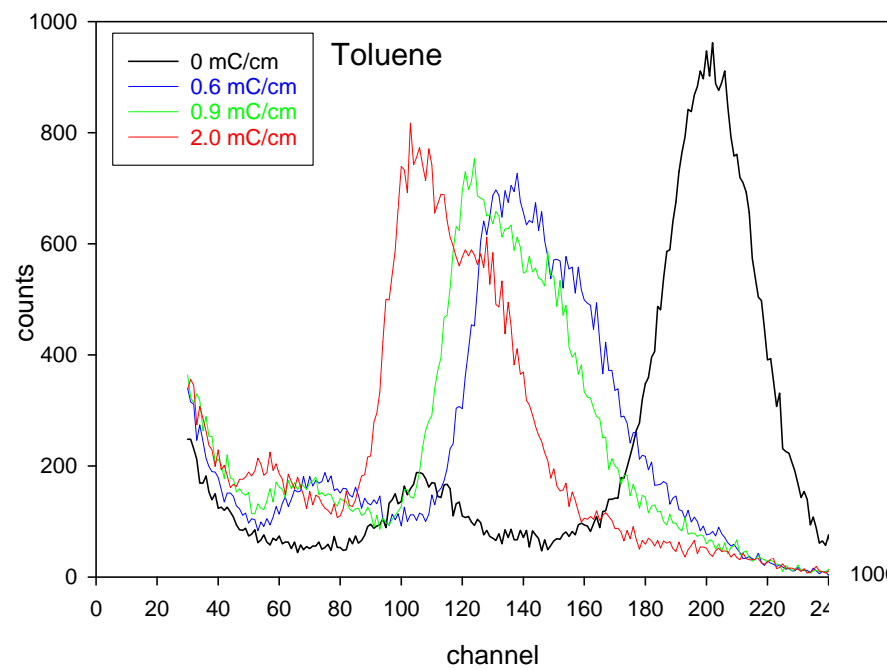
the reference detector



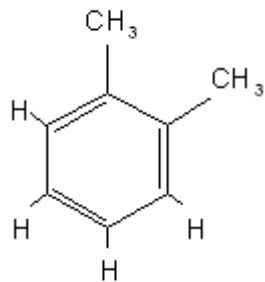
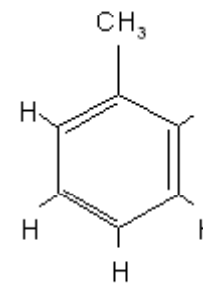
Results - Accelerated Aging Test



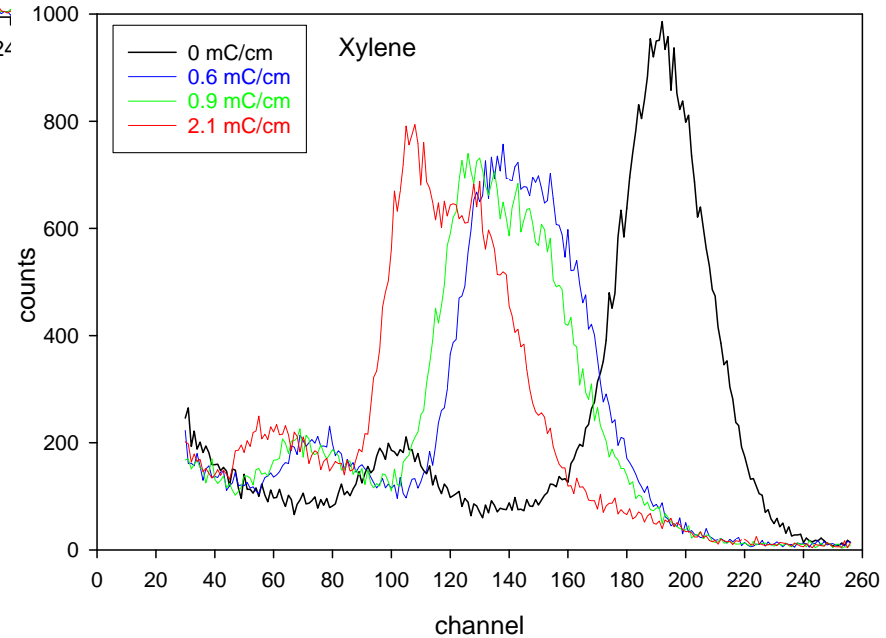
Results - Accelerated Aging Test



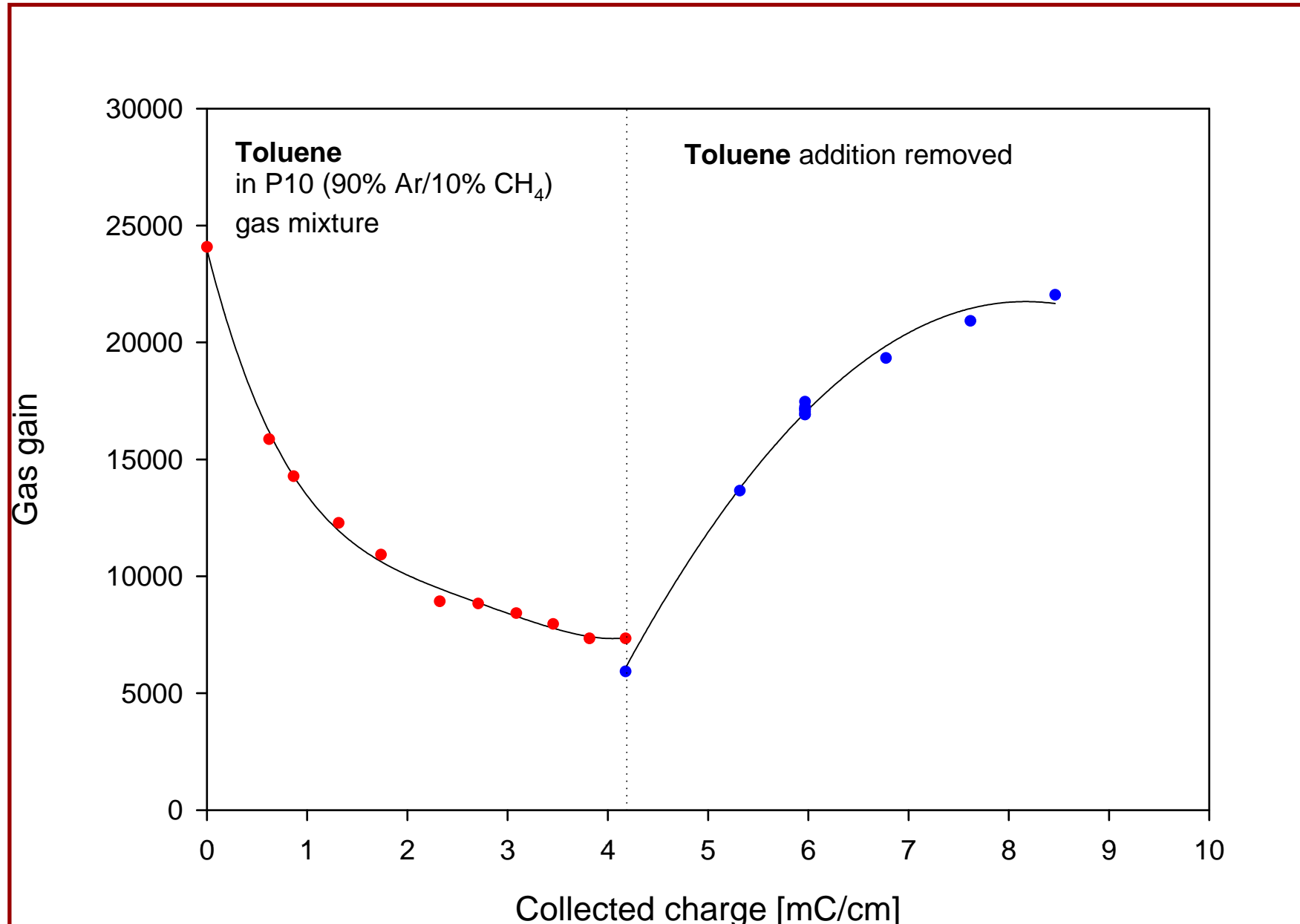
Impurity:
TOLUENE



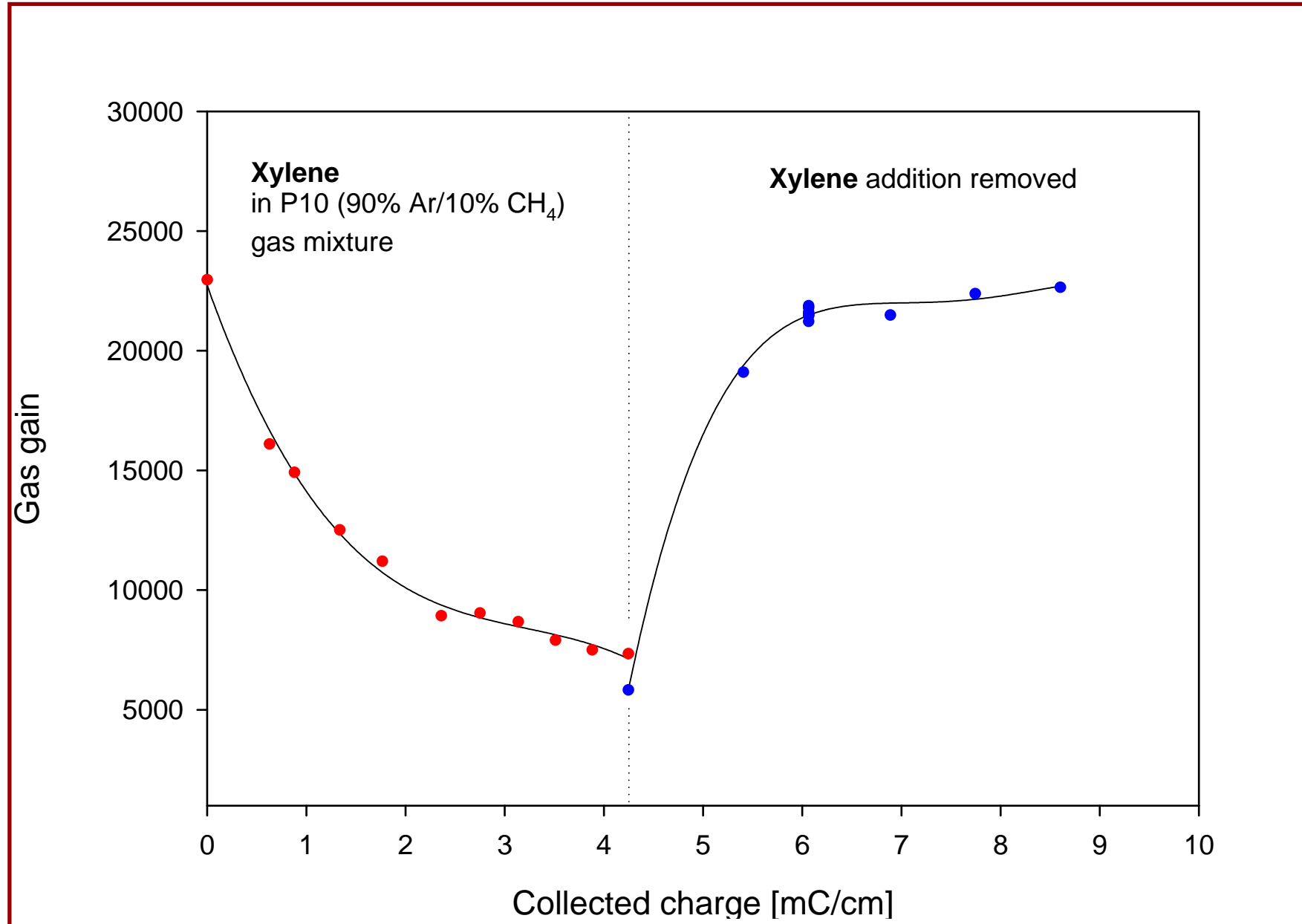
Impurity:
XYLENE
added



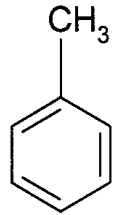
Results - Accelerated Aging Test



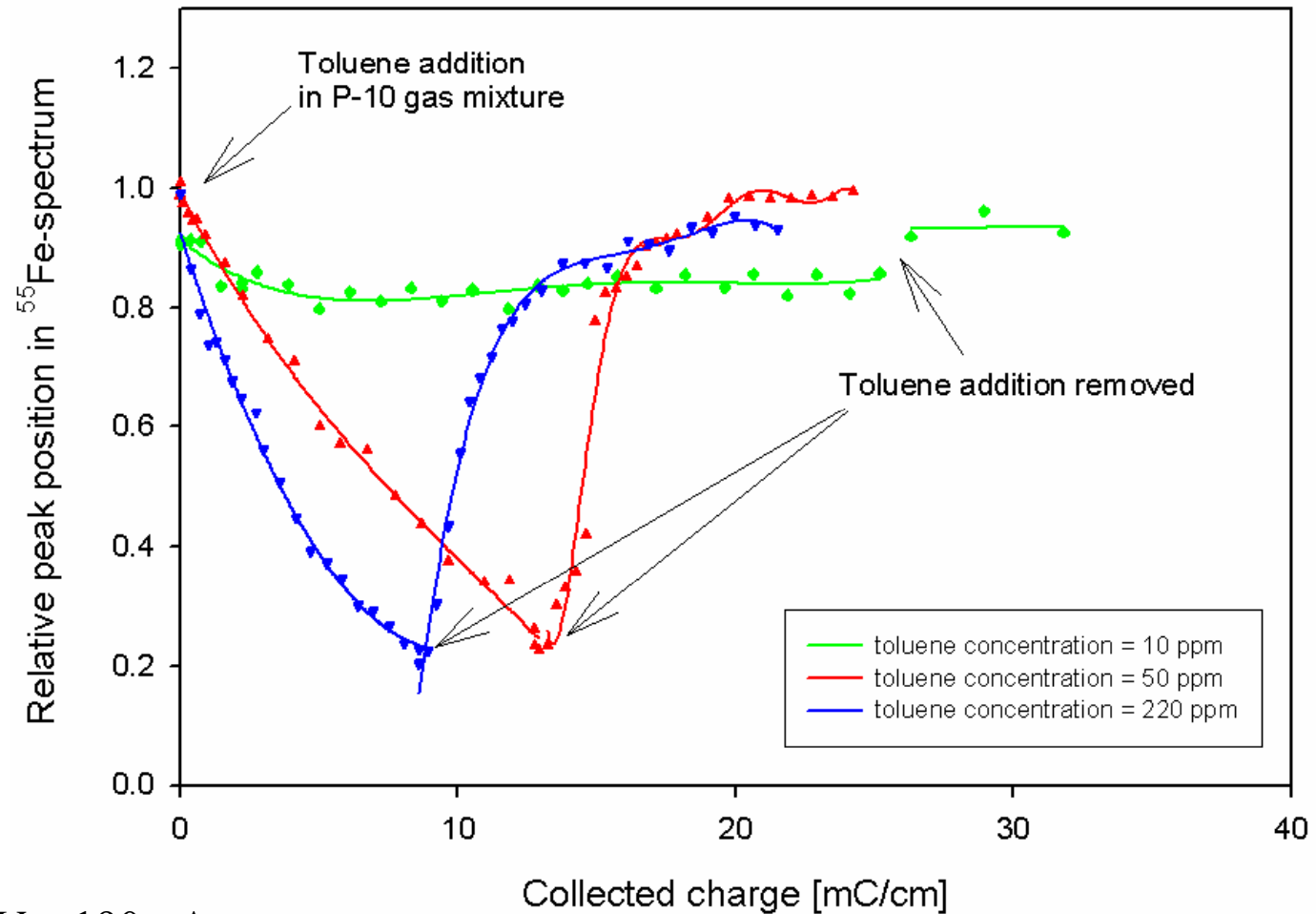
Results - Accelerated Aging Test



Results - Accelerated Aging Test



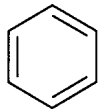
Aging of a proportional counter
with different impurities of toluene in P-10 gas mixture



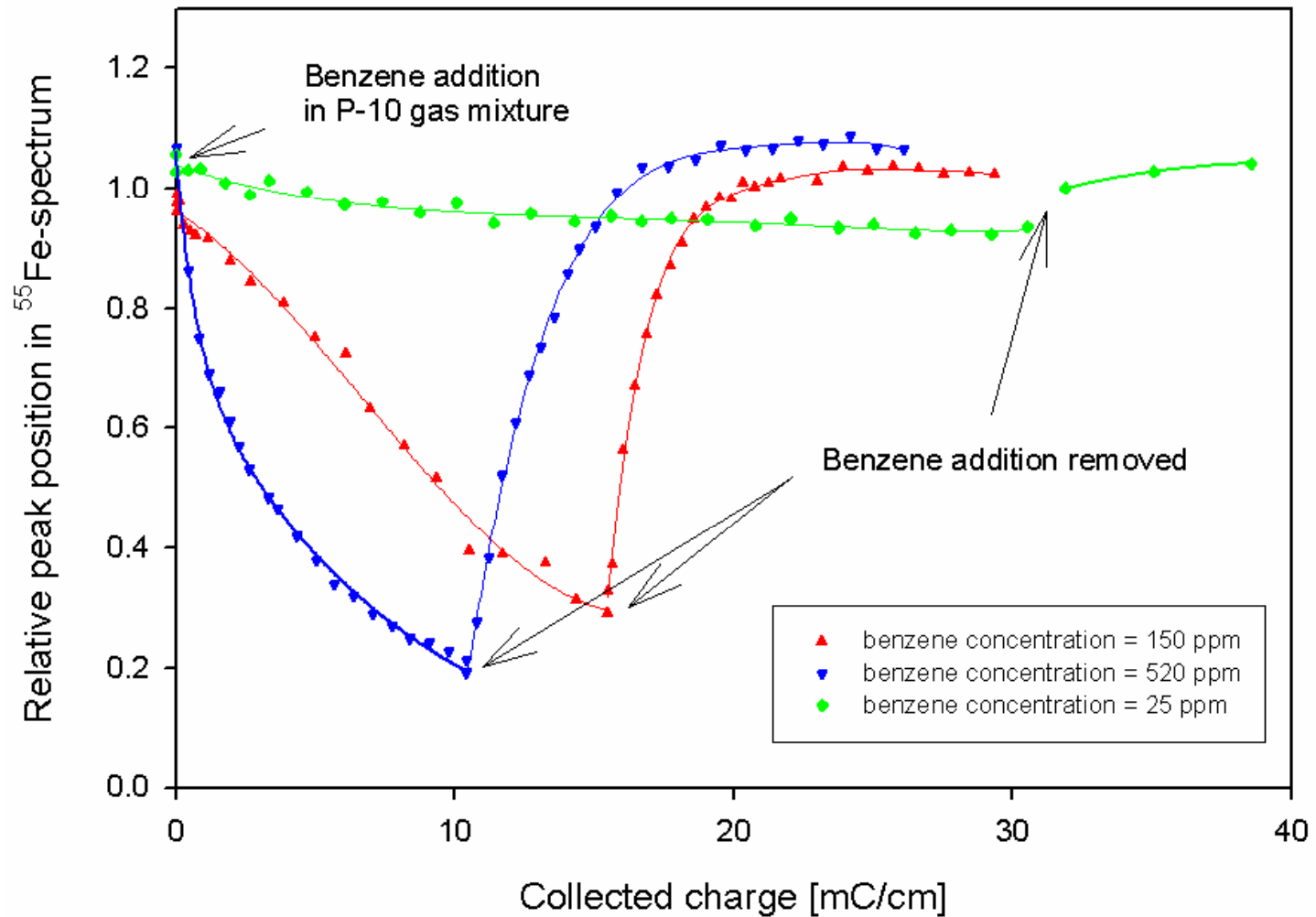
X-rays: 7 kVp, 190 μA

Detector current: < 100 nA/(exposed wire cm)

Results - Accelerated Aging Test

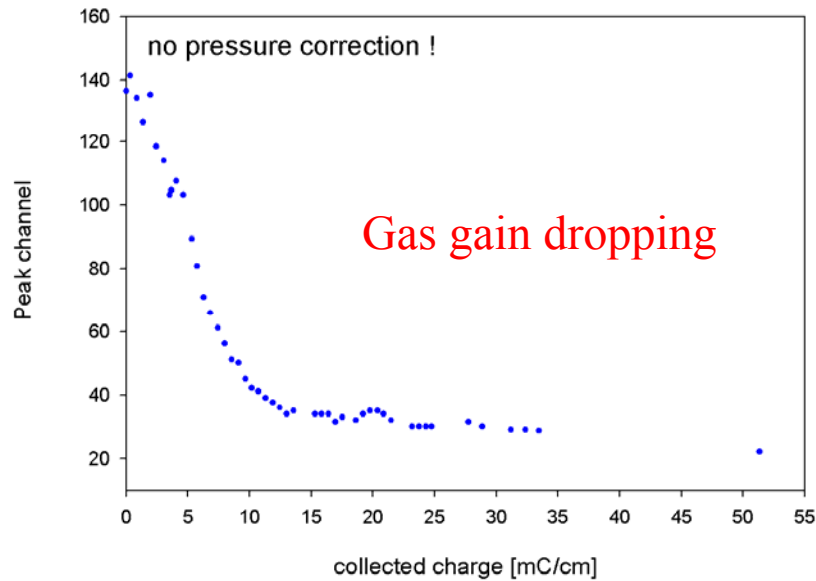


Aging of a proportional counter with different impurities of benzene in P-10 gas mixture

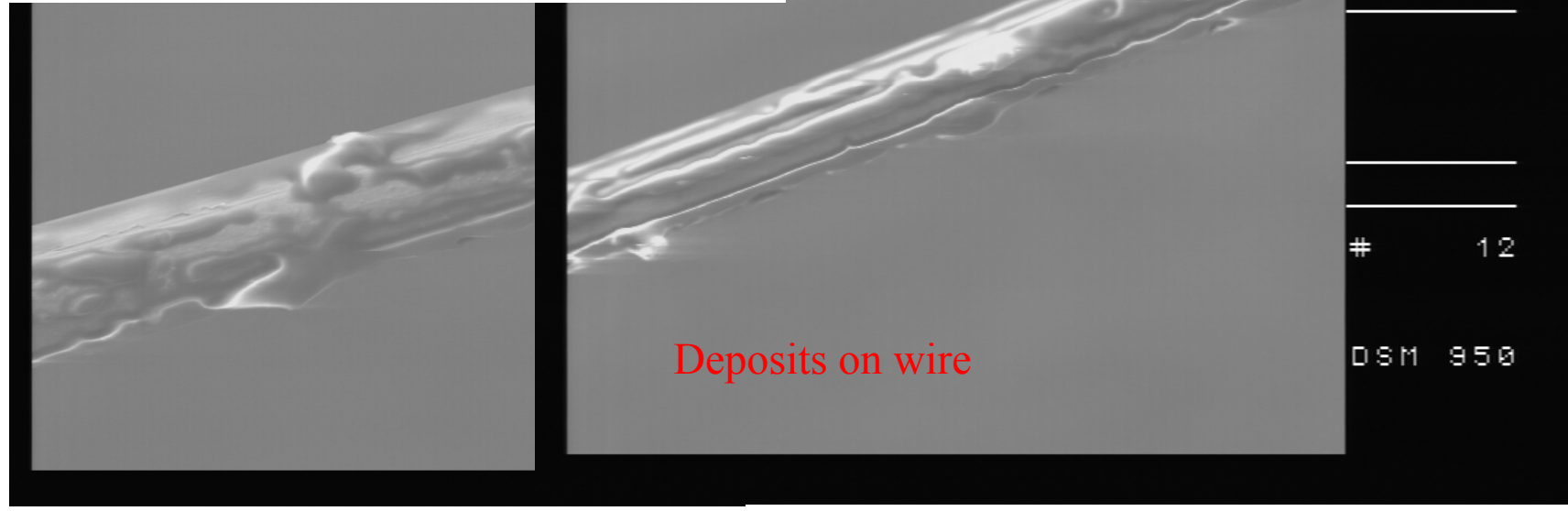


Confirmation of ageing with a different detector and a source

relative gas amplification during irradiation by ^{244}Am source



a single wire proportional counter
filled with P-10 gas mixture
containing 250 ppm toluene



Plasma Chemistry

H. Yasuda: Plasma Polymerization:

CHAPTER 7

Competitive Ablation and Polymer Formation in Plasma

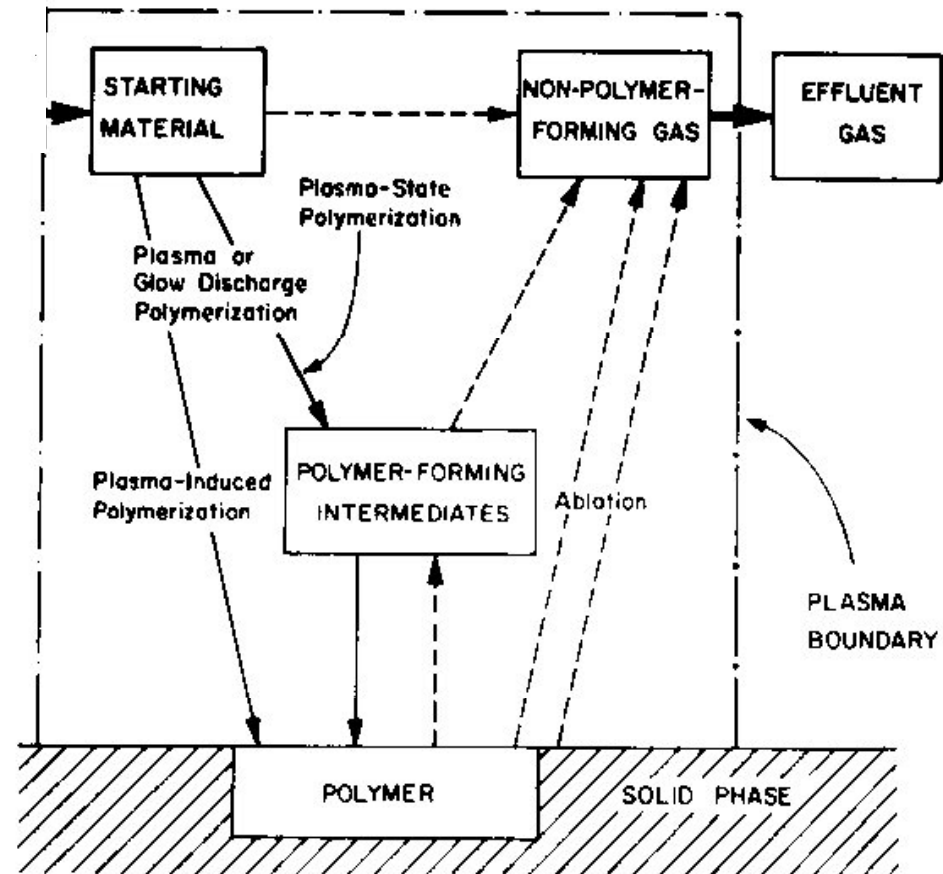


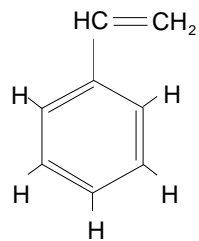
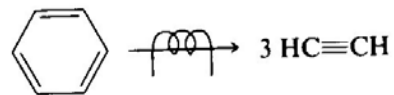
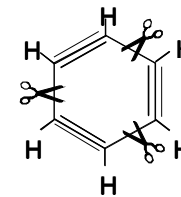
Fig. 7.2 Overall mechanism of glow discharge polymerization.

Plasma Chemistry

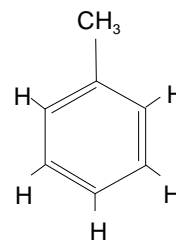
H. Yasuda: Plasma Polymerization:

6.4.4.1 AROMATIC STRUCTURE

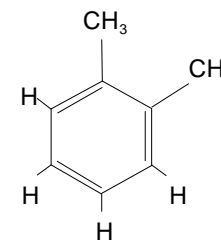
Acetylene ($\text{HC}\equiv\text{CH}$) and benzene (C_6H_6) are very similar in their plasma polymerization characteristics. Both compounds form plasma polymers with the least amount of hydrogen production (group I monomer), and their characteristics of copolymerization with N_2 and/or H_2O are nearly identical if we consider that one molecule of benzene is equivalent to three molecules of acetylene:



STYRENE



TOLUENE



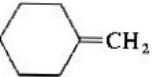

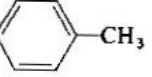

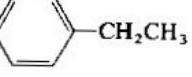
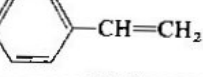


XYLENE

Plasma Chemistry

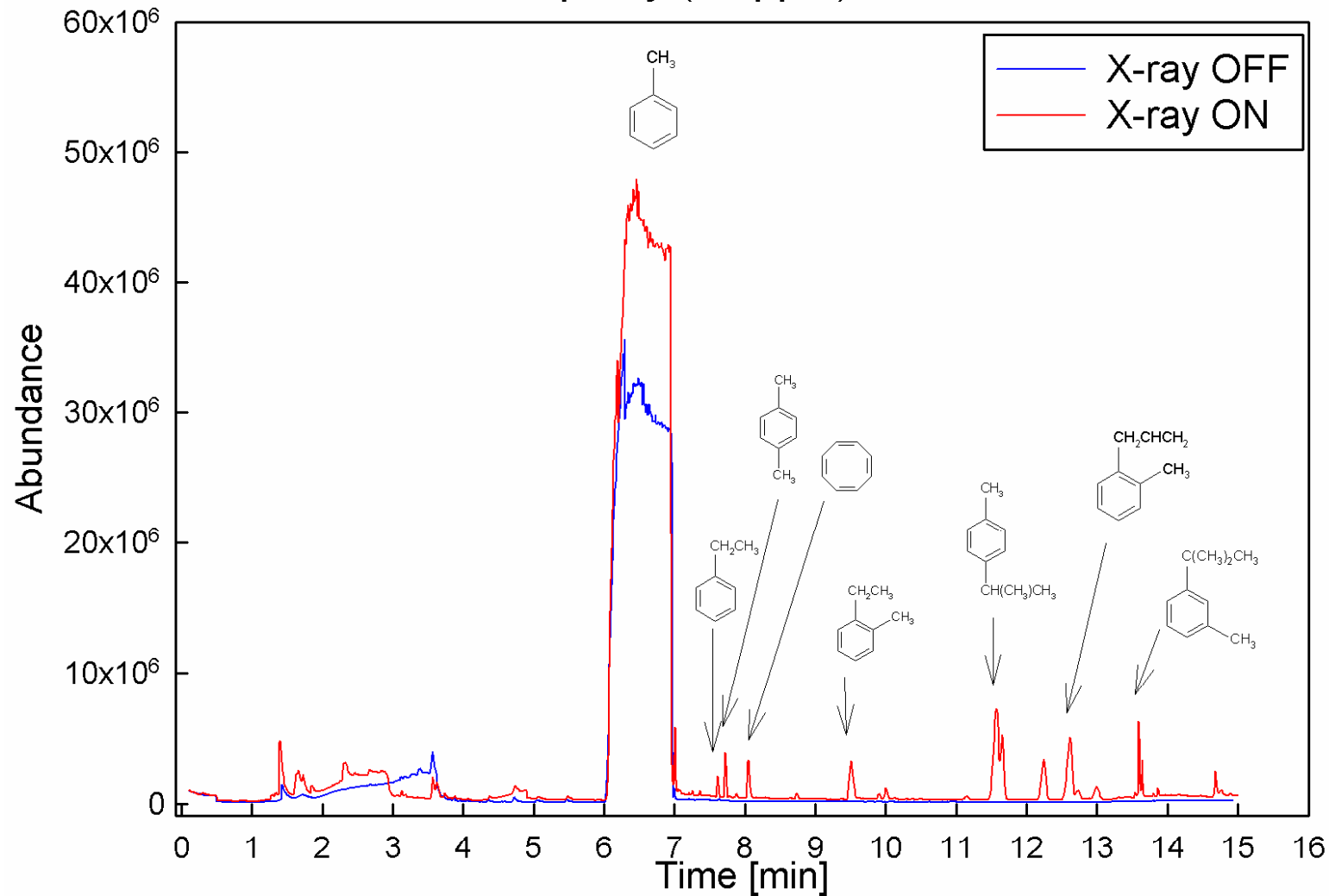
H. Yasuda: Plasma Polymerization:

Table 8.8
HYDROCARBON POLYMERIZATION PARAMETERS^a

Compound	Structure	$t_{1/2}$ (sec)	Monomer-type parameter γ	Fraction of residual vapor x	Hydrogen yield y (ratio)	Polymer yield $(1 - x)$
Cycloheptane		3.5	1.69	0.083	1.61	0.91
Cyclohexene		2	0.833	0.033	0.800	0.96
Methylenecyclohexane		— ^b	1.01	0.026	0.979	0.97
→ Benzene		<2	0.110	0.003	0.107	0.99
→ Toluene		3	0.174	0.001	0.172	9.90
→ <i>p</i> -Xylene		4	0.133	0.000	0.133	1.00
Ethylbenzene		6	0.298	0.020	0.278	0.98
→ Styrene		4	0.105	0.017	0.088	0.98

Results – Analysis of avalanche compounds

Avalanche compounds from P10-gas mixture
with toluene impurity (50 ppm)

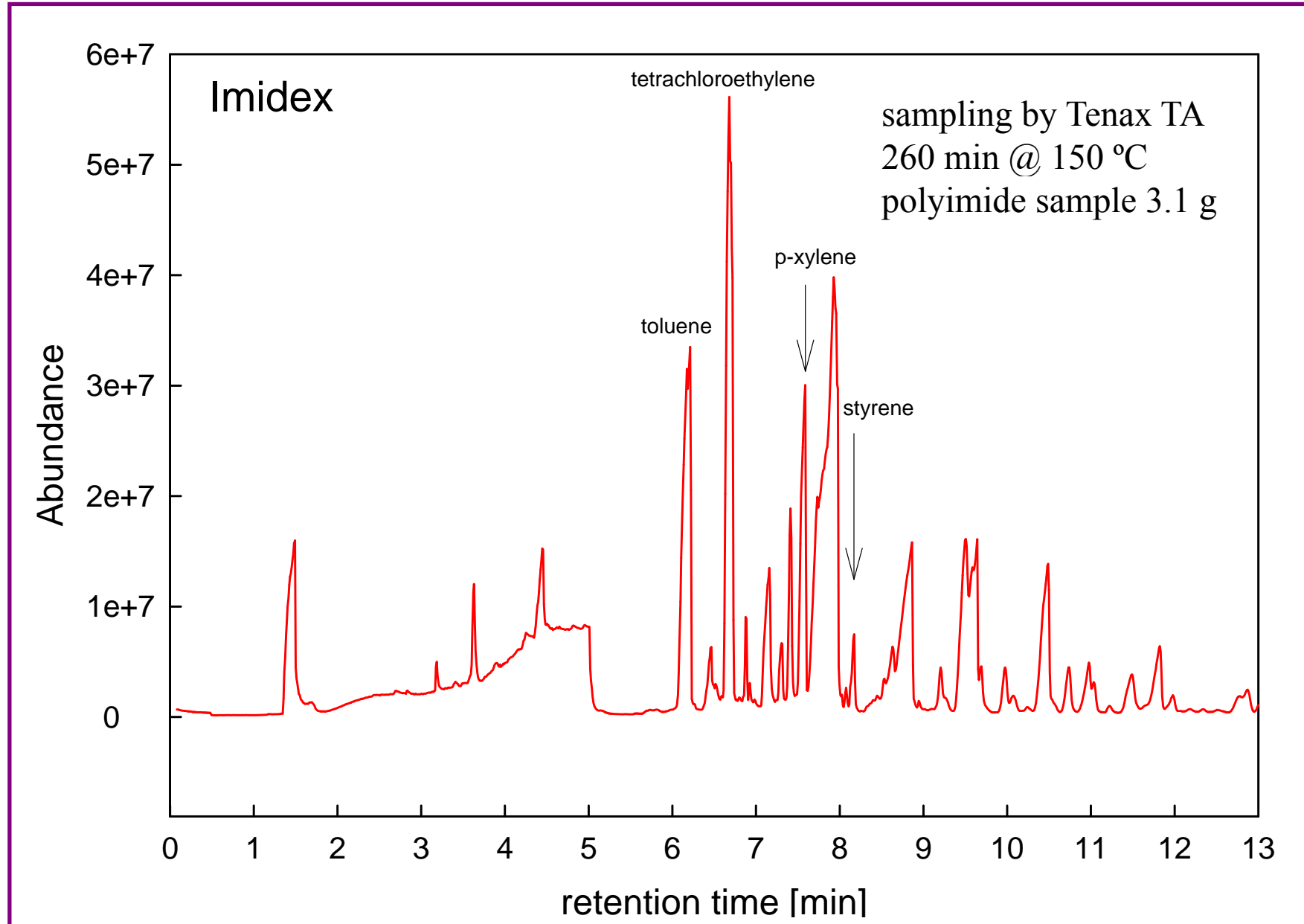


Outgassing analysis of some common detector materials

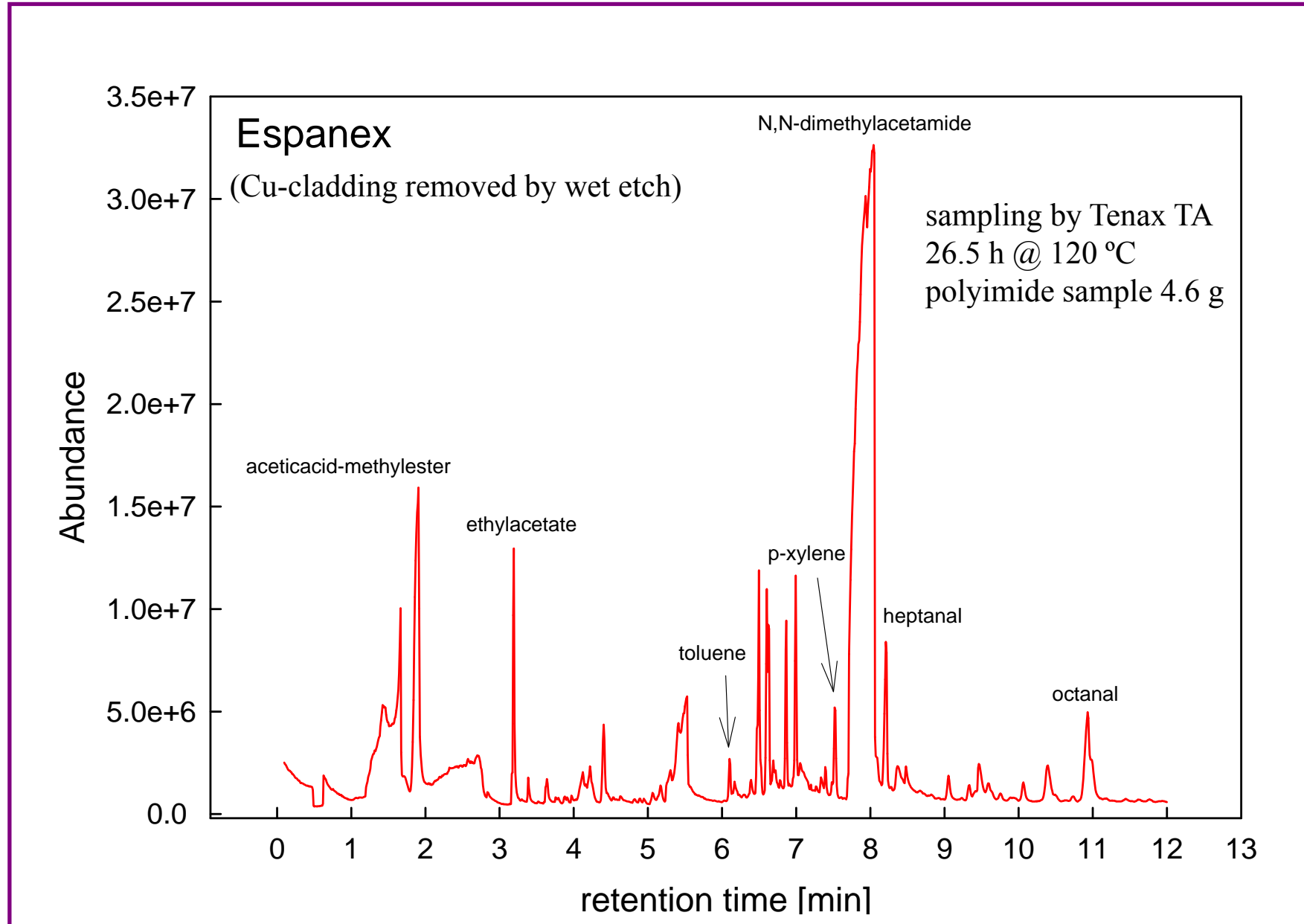
analyzed:

- polyimides (4 different grades)
- PET, PEEK, PA
- FR4
- soldering tin
- epoxies & glues
- cable insulating materials
- rubbers

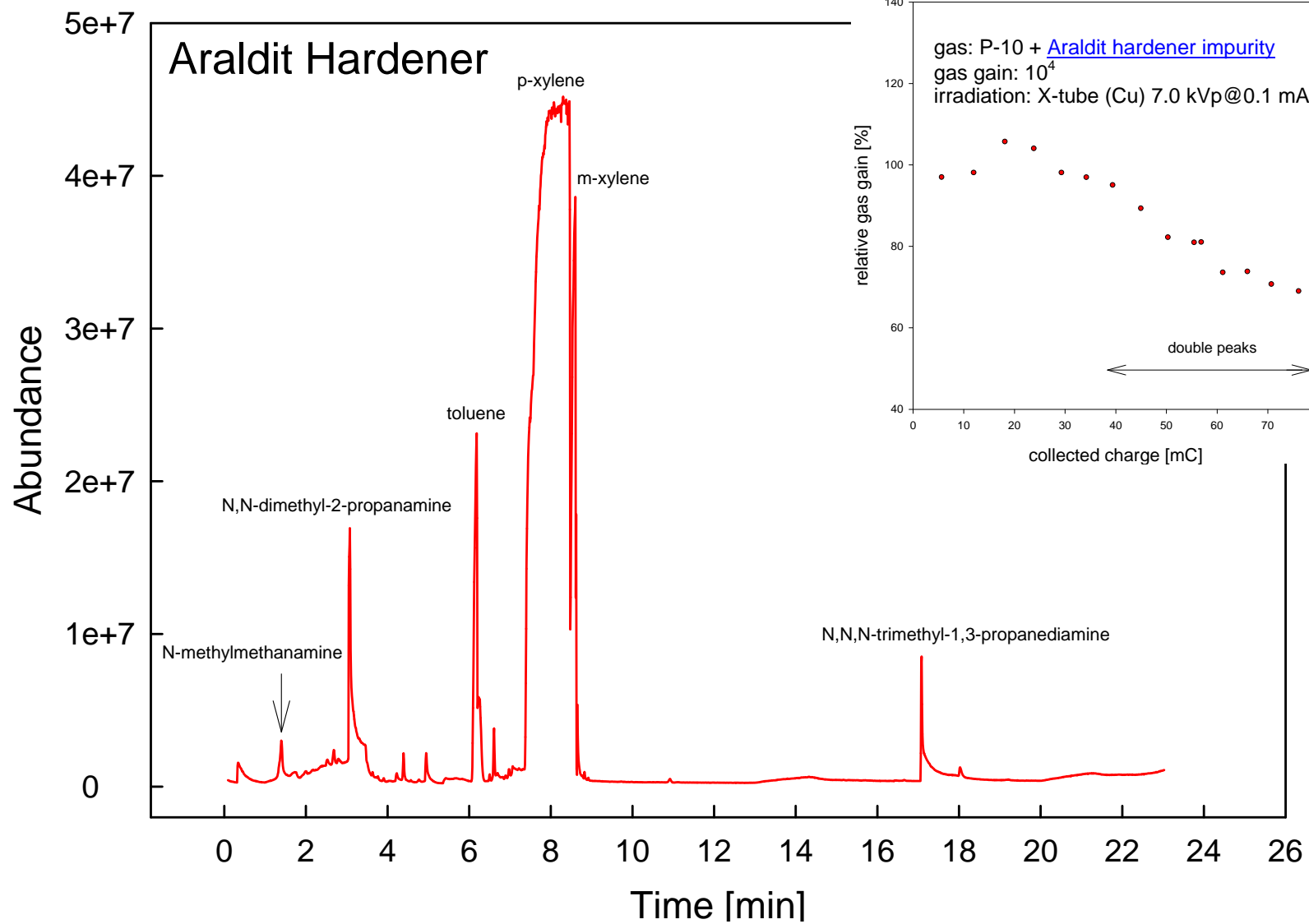
Results - Outgassing Analysis



Results - Outgassing Analysis



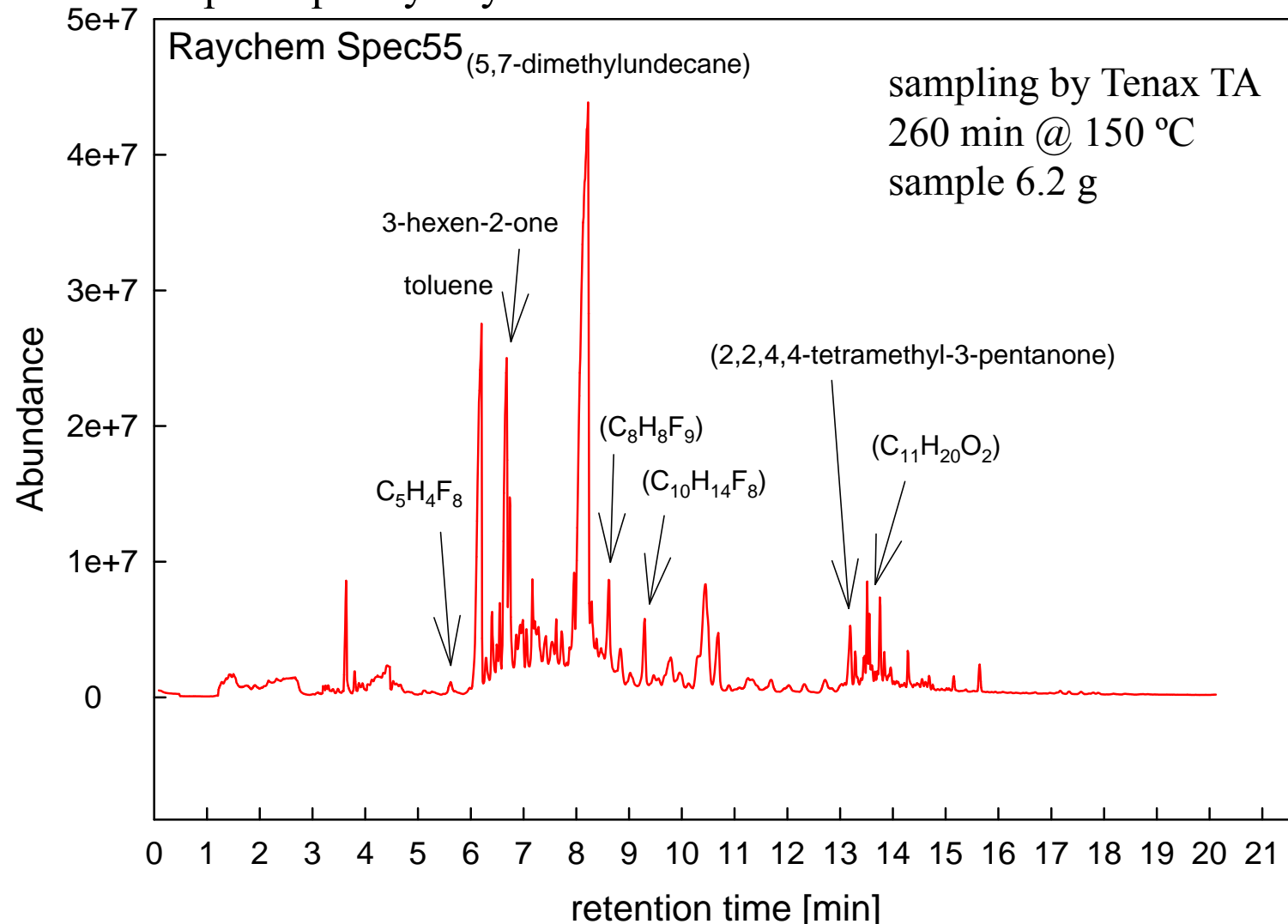
Results - Outgassing Analysis



Results - Outgassing Analysis

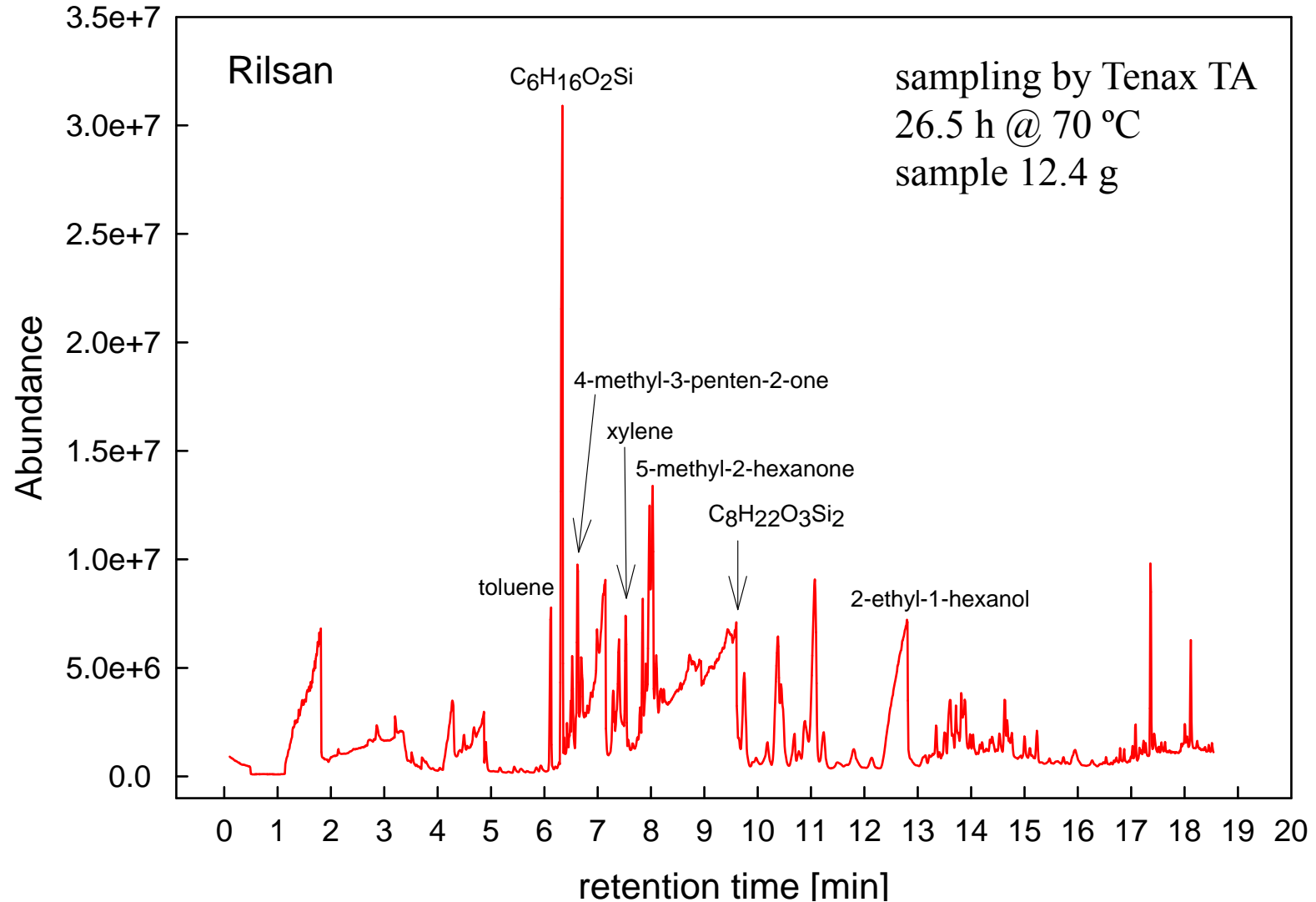
Signal wire (ETFE insulation)

“space quality” by ESA

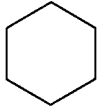


Results - Outgassing Analysis

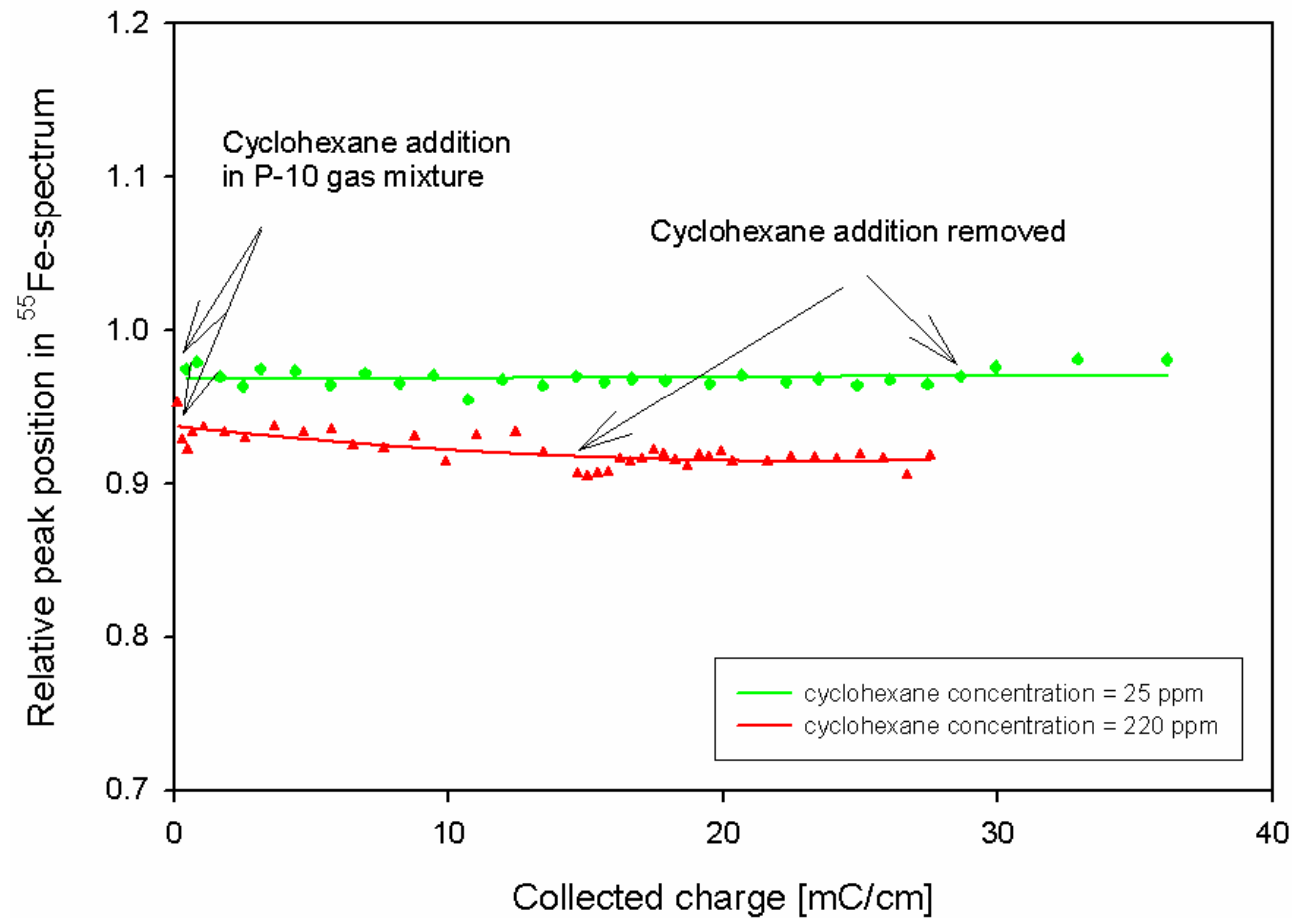
Nylon tubing



Results - Accelerated Aging Test

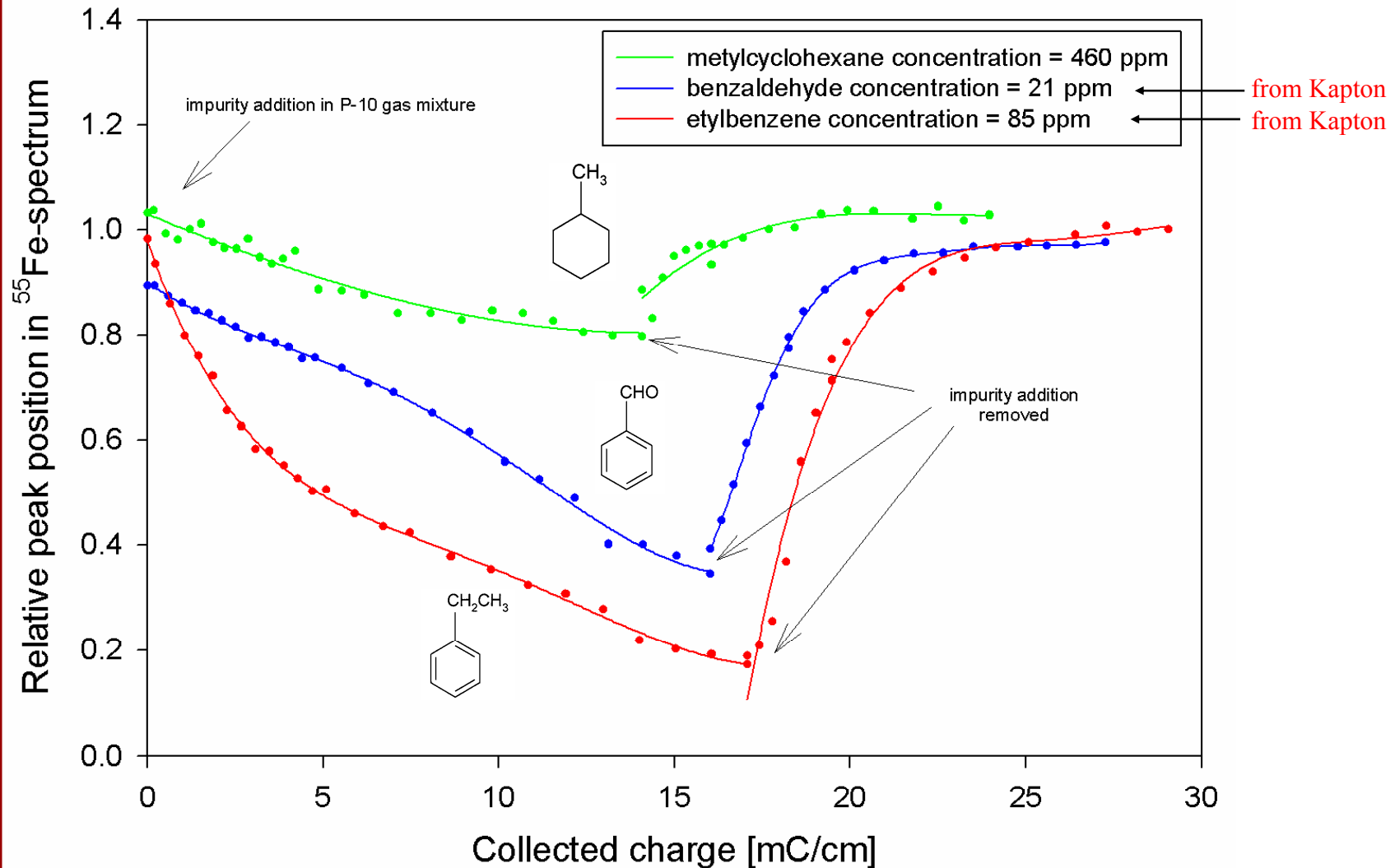


Aging of a proportional counter
with two different impurities of cyclohexane in P-10 gas mixture



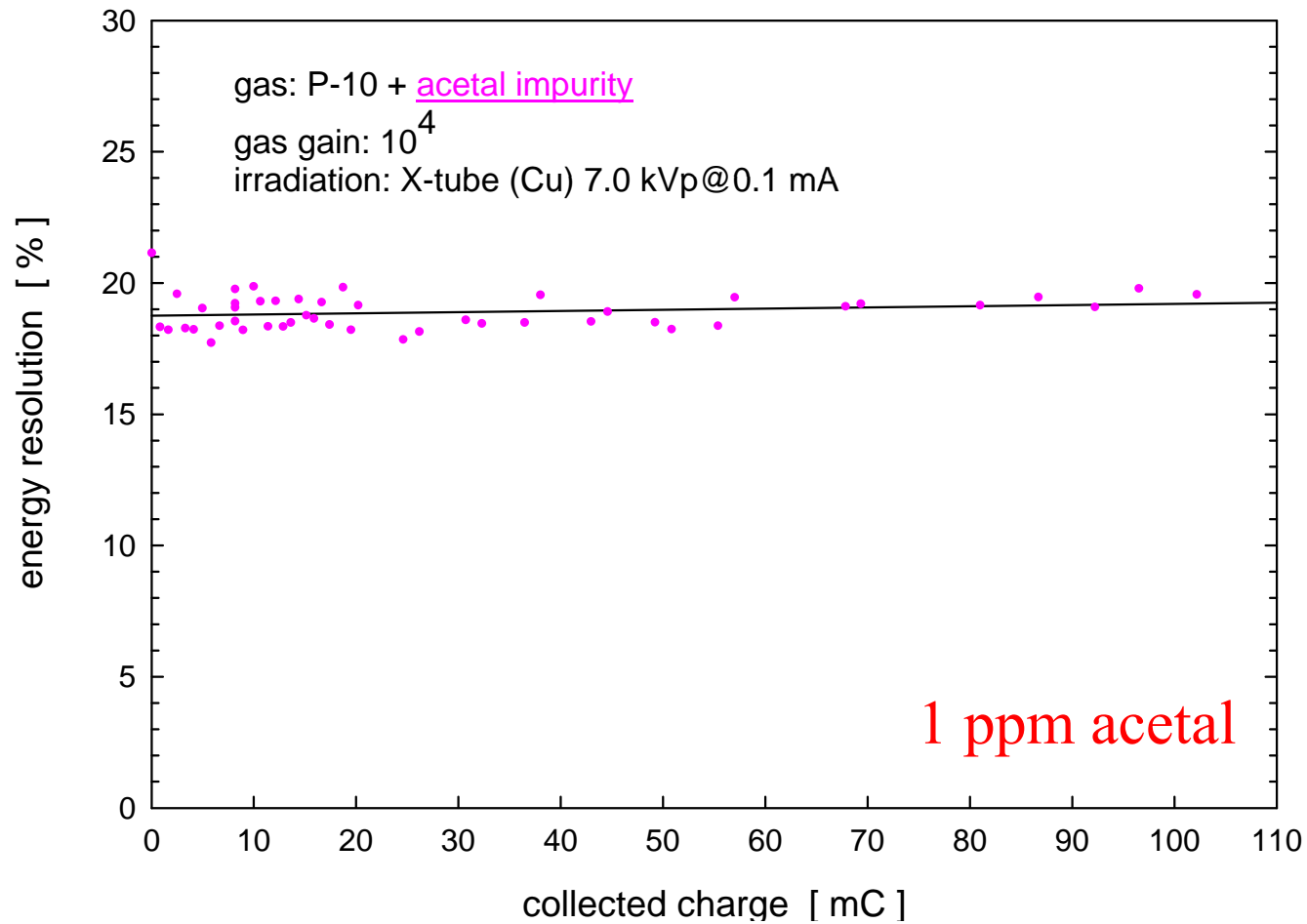
Results - Accelerated Aging Test

Aging of a proportional counters with impurities of methylcyclohexane, benzaldehyde and ethylbenzene in P-10 gas mixture



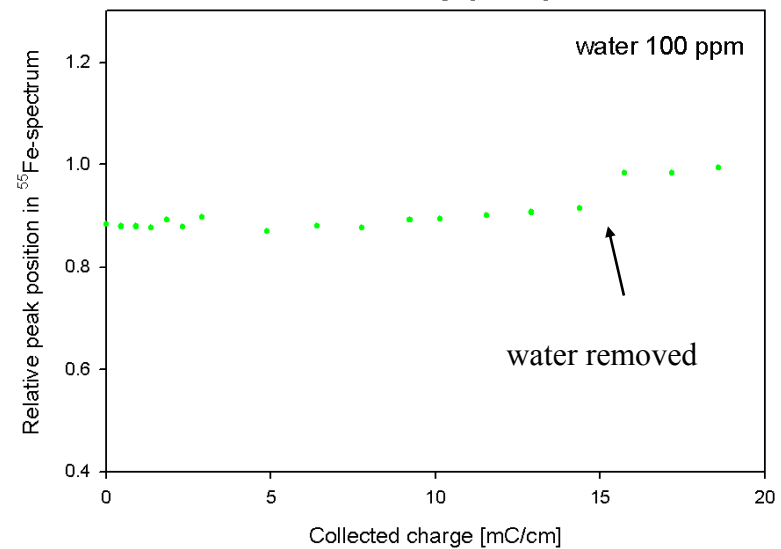
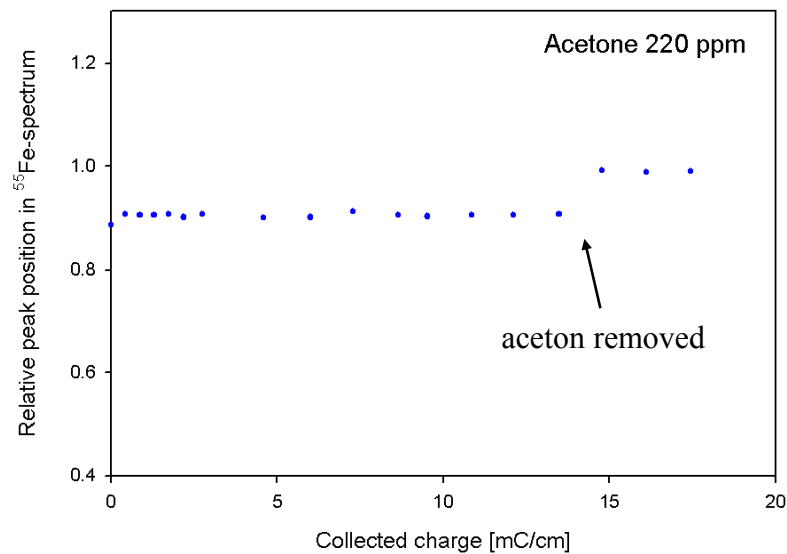
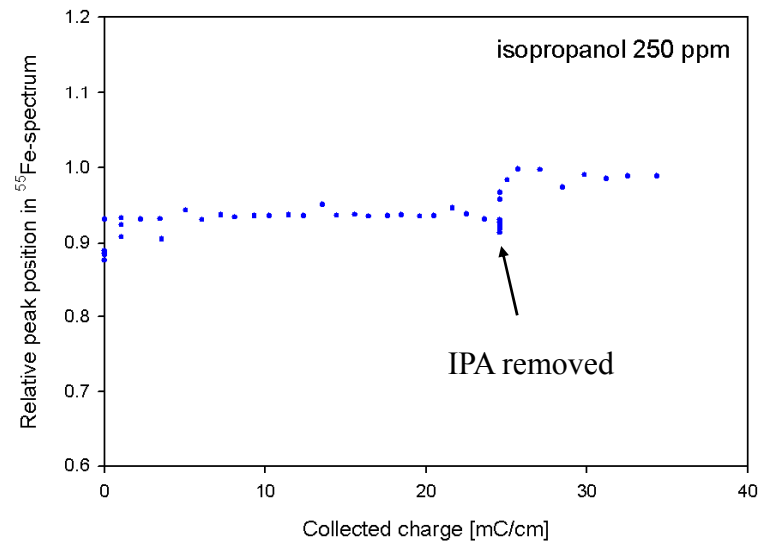
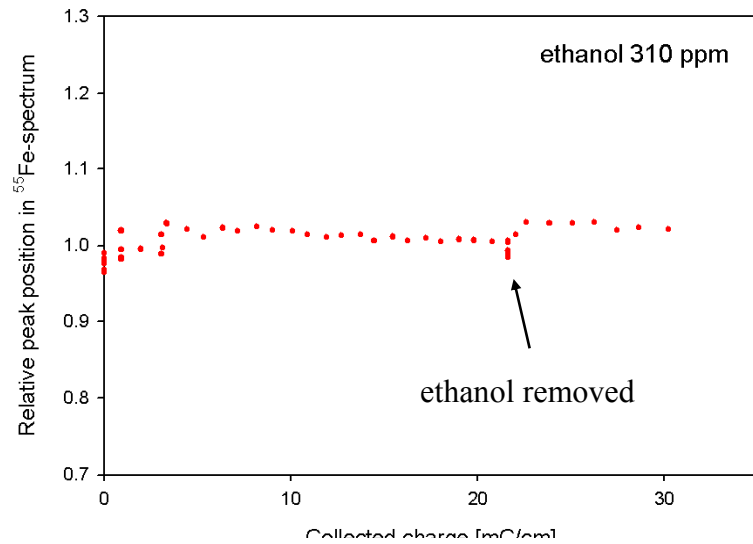
Results - Accelerated Aging Test

Energy resolution of a proportional counter containing acetal (1,1-diethoxyethane)



Results - Accelerated Aging Test

Some non-aromatic common solvents



Summary

- Aromatic compounds are observed to outgas from several detector materials.
- All the tested aromatic compounds (benzene, xylene, toluene, styrene, benzaldehyde and ethylbenzene) caused aging in a proportional counter filled with P-10 gas mixture.
- The original characteristics of the detector are recovered by irradiation after removing the impurities (except with styrene)
- No aging was observed with five non-aromatic solvents (cyclohexane, ethanol, isopropanol, acetone and water).