

Using the Agilent Deans Switch and Capillary Flow Technology Splitters for Analysis of Complex Matrices

Shannon Coleman
Application Scientist
Agilent Technologies



CFT is a Technology That Provides Easy, Reliable Flow Structures In The GC Oven...

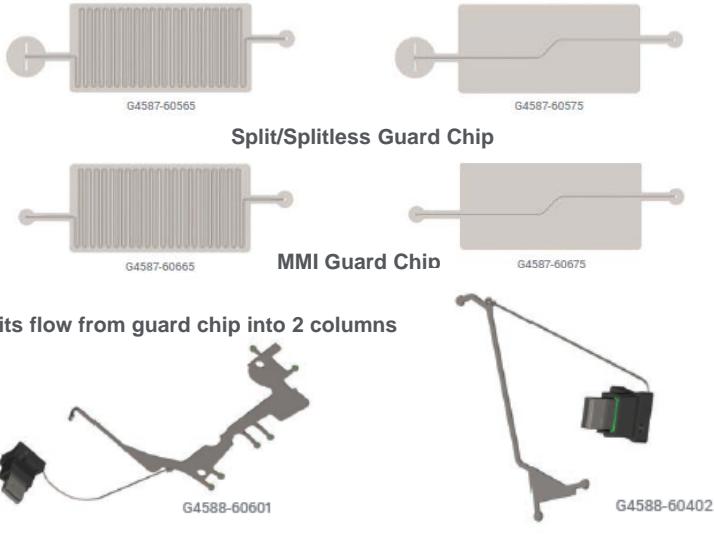
It opens up many capabilities for GC

- **Column connections** (connect pre-column)
- **Change MSD columns** (without venting)
- **Backflush** (Reverse flow through column)
- **Detector splitter** (effluent split to two or more detectors)
- **Merge flows** (2 columns to 1 MSD)
- **Deans switch** (heart cut select peaks to 2nd column)

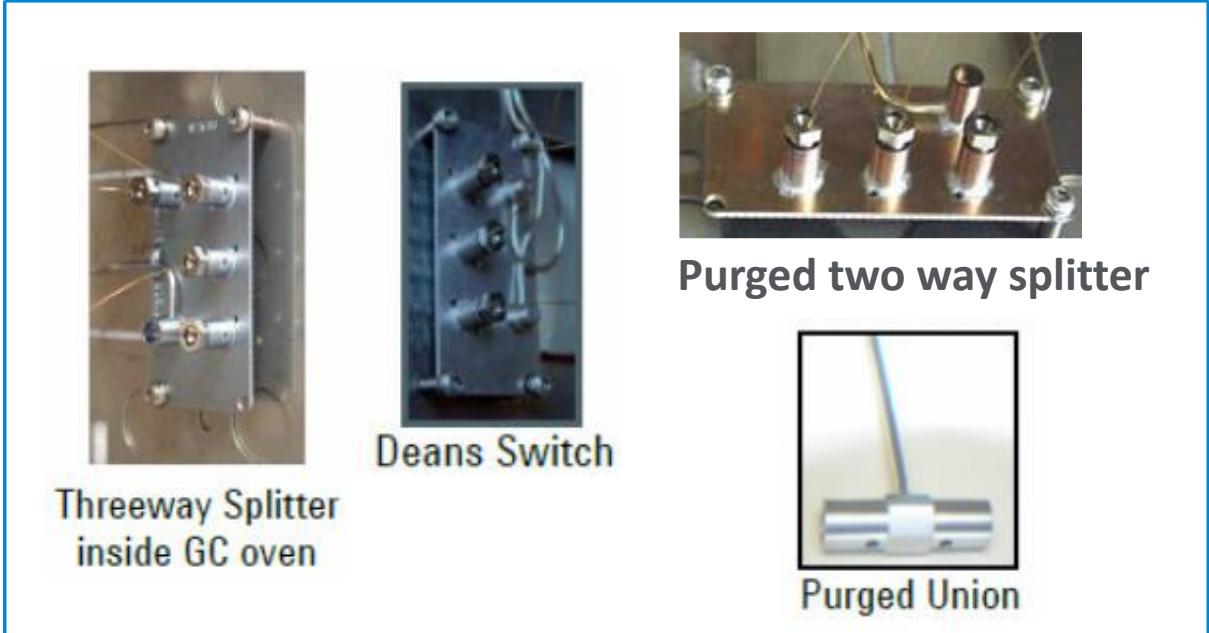
Capillary Flow Technology (CFT)

Purged Union
2-Way Splitter
3-Way Splitter
Dean Switch

Intuvo CFT Devices



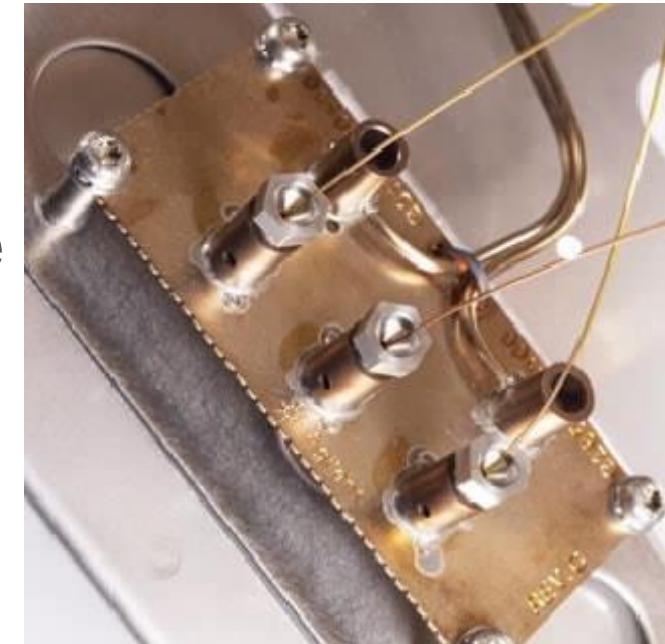
8890 CFT Devices



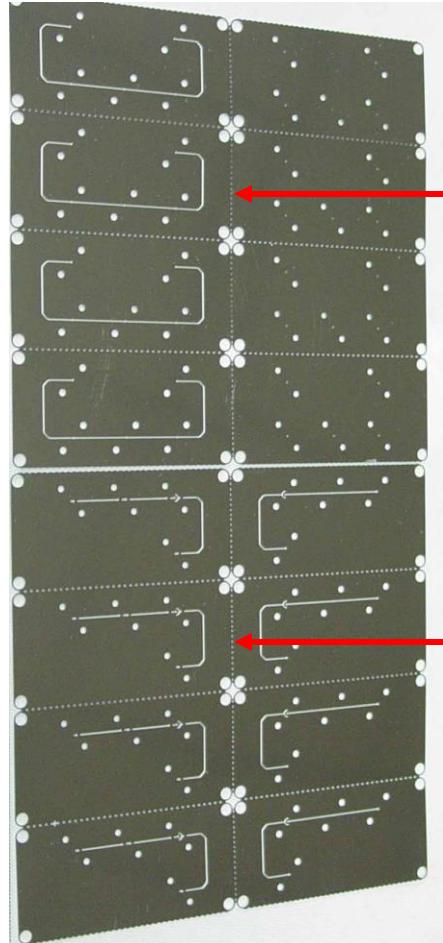
Capillary Flow Technology Design

... a proprietary Agilent technology

- Photolithographic chemical milling for low dead volume connections
- Diffusion bonded halves to form a single flow plate
- Small, thin profile provides fast thermal response
- Projection welded connection for leak tight fittings
- Deactivation of all internal surfaces for inertness



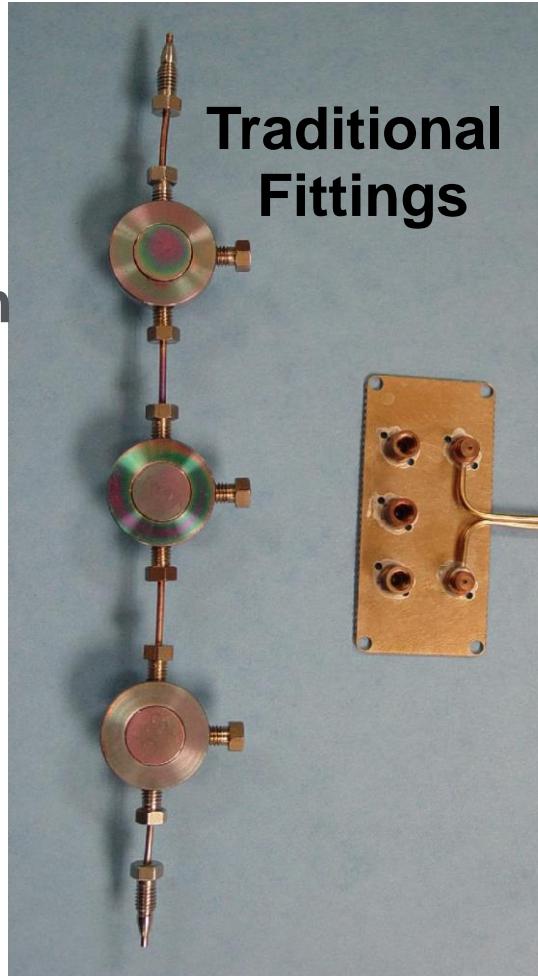
Gas Phase CFT Plate Technology



**G2855B
Deans Switch**

**G3180B
Splitter**

Photolithography and Chem-milling technologies used to produce a Gas Phase Micro-Fluidic Deans Switch (EPC Technology)



**Plate
Technology**



Capillary Flow Technology

Agilent Gold-Plated Flexible Metal Ferrules (FMFs)

Agilent is excited to announce the release of our new gold-plated Flexible Metal ferrules!

- These newly launched ferrules improve upon the existing Flexible Metal ferrule (FMF) design by applying a gold coating to ensure a leak-free connection *with Capillary Flow Technology (CFT) devices* while providing enhanced ease of use.



How do they work?

Softness is key!

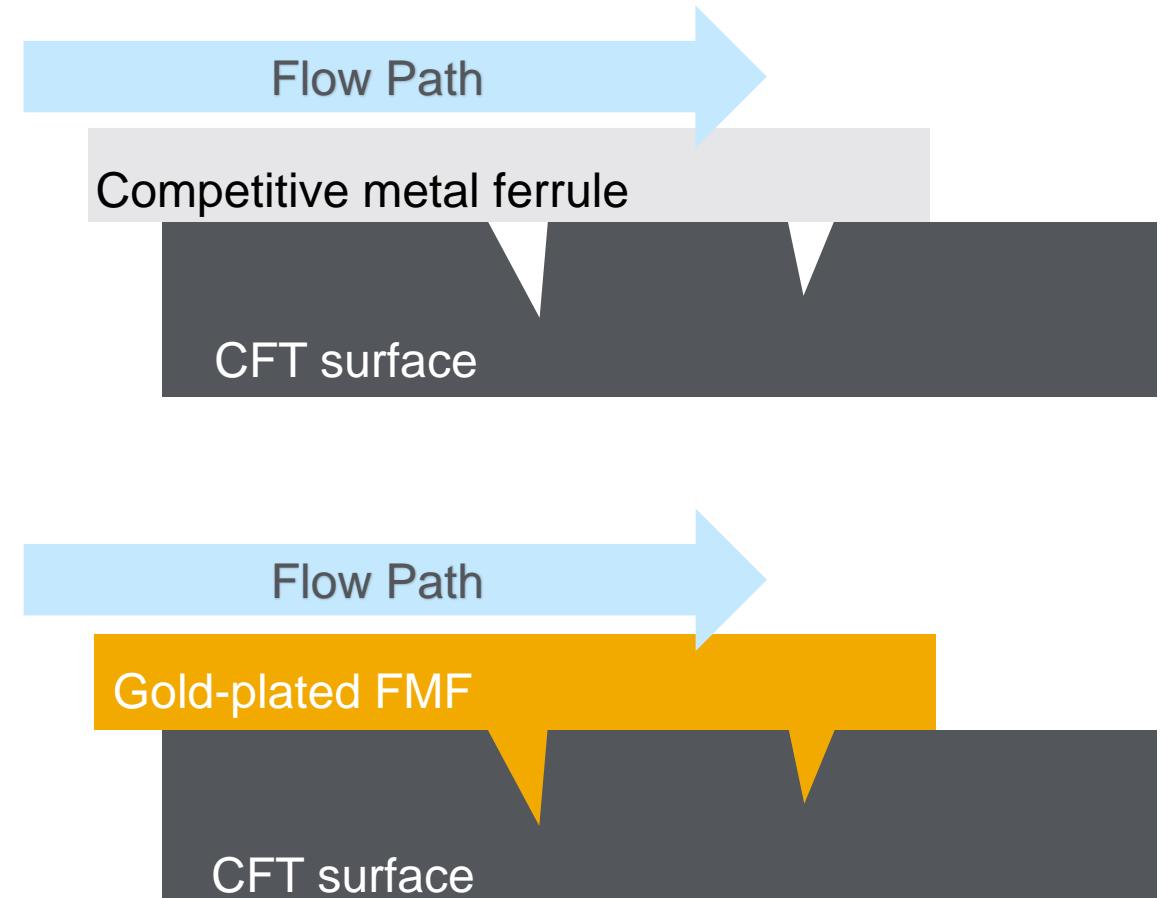
- The softness of the gold coating allows the material to flow into microscratches and striations on the inner surface of the CFT surface
- This fills any potential gaps or voids in the connection and prevents leaks
- The result is leak-free seal, that prevents corrupt data or damaged down-stream columns

Improved Installation

- Thanks to the softness of the gold, a tight, leak- seal is achieved on the first installation attempt
- **No longer need to retighten fittings and run multiple leaks checks!**

Touchless Dial Pack

- Easily thread the ferrule onto your column
- Eliminates potential contamination point



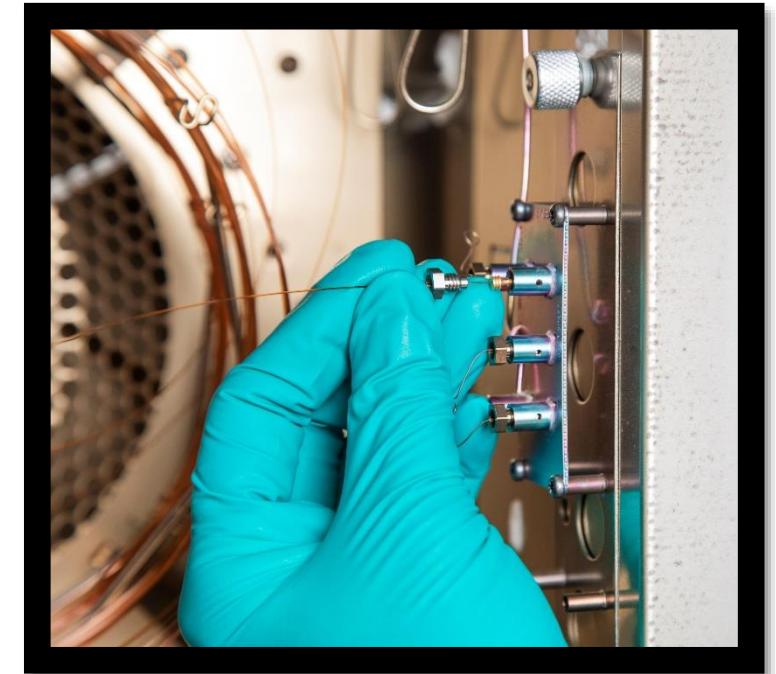
Are these ferrules right for me?

Gold-plated FMFs have been designed specifically for usage with Capillary Flow Technology (CFT) devices such as:

- Purged ultimate unions
- Flow splitters
- Learn more [here!](#)

These devices are required for running analytical techniques such as:

- Backflush
- Deans Switch
- Heart Cutting
- GC X GC



How do I get them?!

Part Number	Description
<u>G2855-28501</u>	CFT Ferrule, Flexi, Gold 0.25mm ID Col 10/PK
<u>G2855-28502</u>	CFT Ferrule, Flexi, Gold 0.32mm ID Col 10/PK
<u>G2855-28503</u>	CFT Ferrule, Flexi, Gold 0.53mm ID Col 10/PK
<u>G2855-28505</u>	CFT Ferrule, Flexi, Gold UM Small, 10/PK
<u>G2855-28506</u>	CFT Ferrule, Flexi, Gold UM Large, 10/PK

For more information on these new products, please visit
the [Flexible Metal ferrule product page](#).



Purged vs. Unpurged

Purged

Requires purge gas supply from **additional EPC module** (see next slide)

Purged Ultimate Union

G3186B

CFT Modulator

G3486A

Deans Switch

G2855B

2-way Splitter w/ MUG

G3180B

3-way Splitter w/ MUG

G3183B

2-way Splitter w/o MUG

G3181B

Unpurged

(passive)

Does not require purge gas

MS Transfer Line Optimized Tee

G3184B

Enables capillary column backflush using purge gas from additional EPC. Extremely popular. Common application: pesticide residue analysis with backflush, vent-free MS column change.

Reverse flow modulator continuously and rapidly switches between two capillary columns of differing phases in series. Enables comprehensive multidimensional GC/GC of complex mixtures. Common in flavors/fragrances, petroleum.

Divides primary column effluent between detector #1 and column #2 → detector #2. Advanced technique used for heart cutting of samples that are not resolved by on the column #1.

Divides column effluent to 2 different detectors or flow paths. Column flow mixes with makeup flow in splitter. Commonly used to divide effluent between two columns and/or detectors.

Divides column effluent to 3 different detectors; or 2 columns in → 2 detectors. Column flow mixes with makeup flow in the splitter.

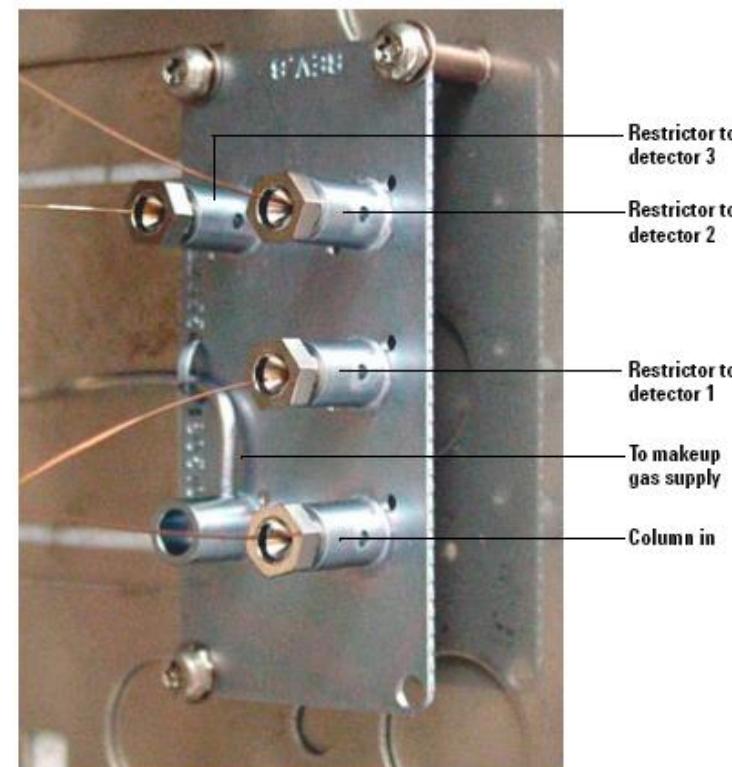
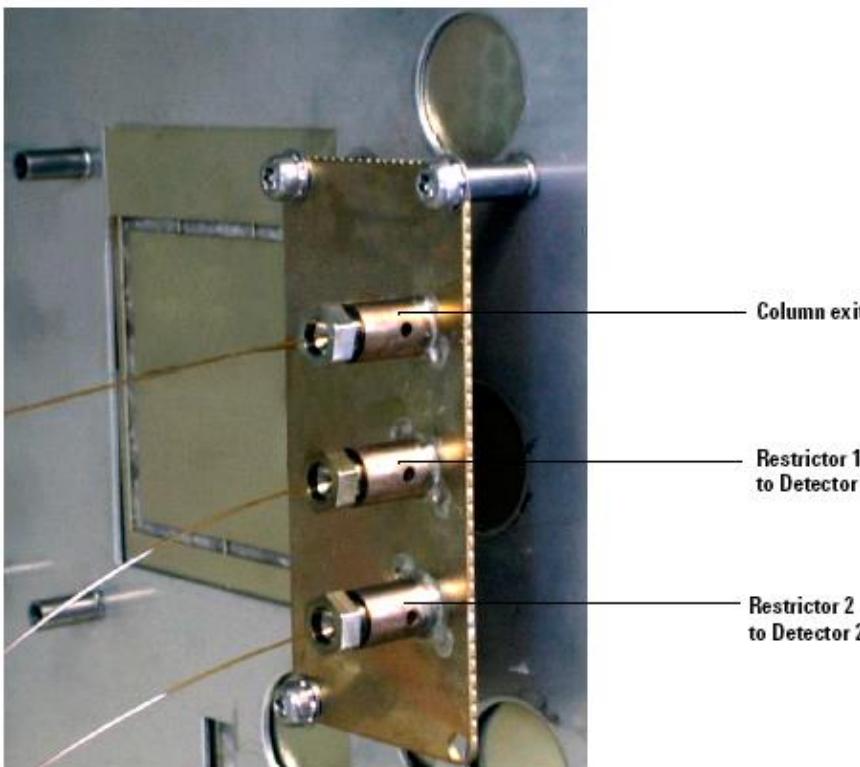
Divides column effluent to 2 different detectors or flow paths.

Precolumn splitter divides restrictor effluent to 2 different columns. Common application: Blood Alcohol, CLP Pesticides.

Post-column splitter divides column effluent to MS and GC detector.

Capillary Flow Technology

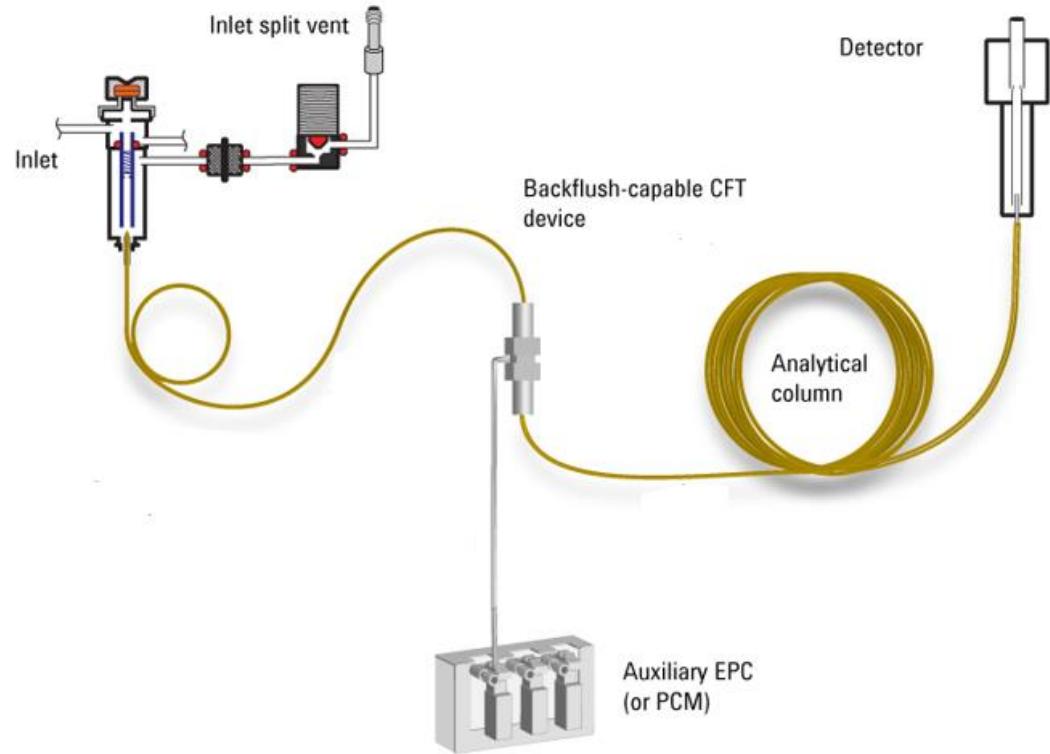
- 2-way Splitter G3181B
- 2-way splitter with purge G3180B
- 3-way splitter with MUG G3183B
- Inert Tee G3184-60065



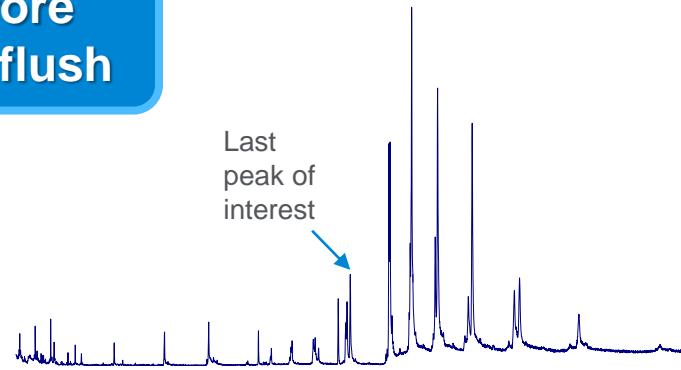
Typical Uses:

- Splitting Column effluent between 2 detectors
- Injecting into 2 different columns
- Back-flushing

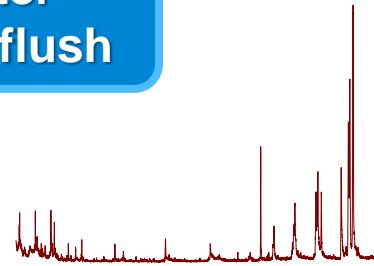
What is GC Capillary Column backflush?



Before
Backflush



After
Backflush

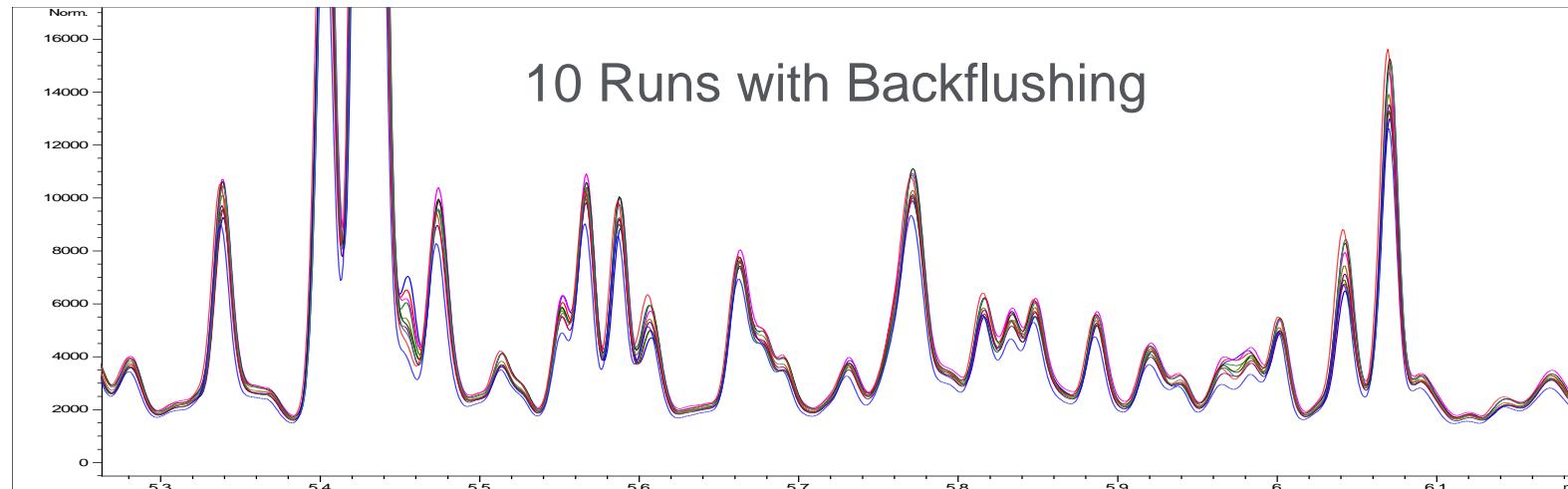


Backflush is a technique that is used to chromatographically remove mainly high boiling compounds from samples.

Backflush is performed either at the end of, or during, an analytical run.

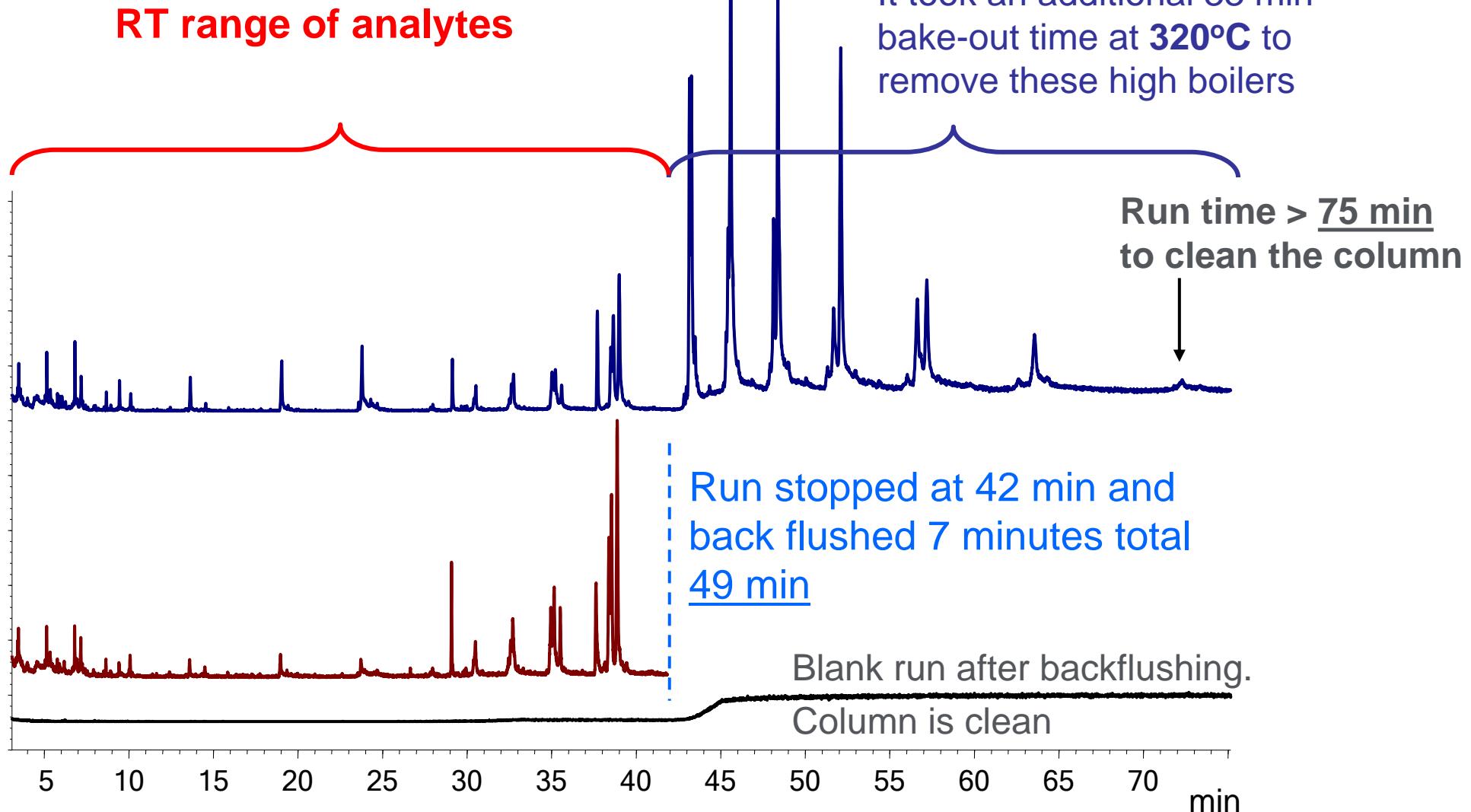
PCBs in Fish Oil. GC Analysis with ECD

- Residual Sample Matrix Affects RTs



Back flushing removes high boilers

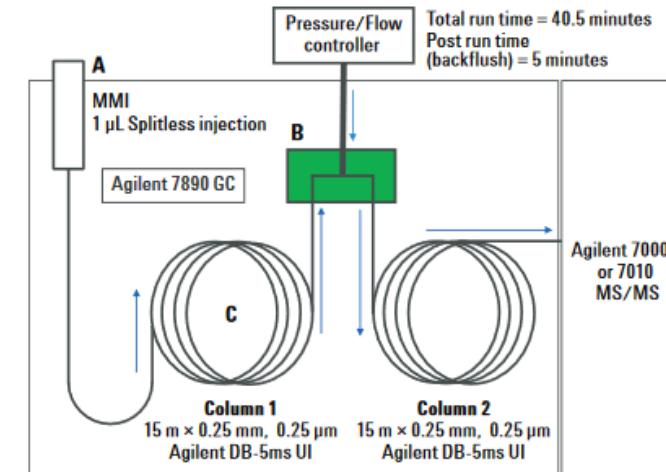
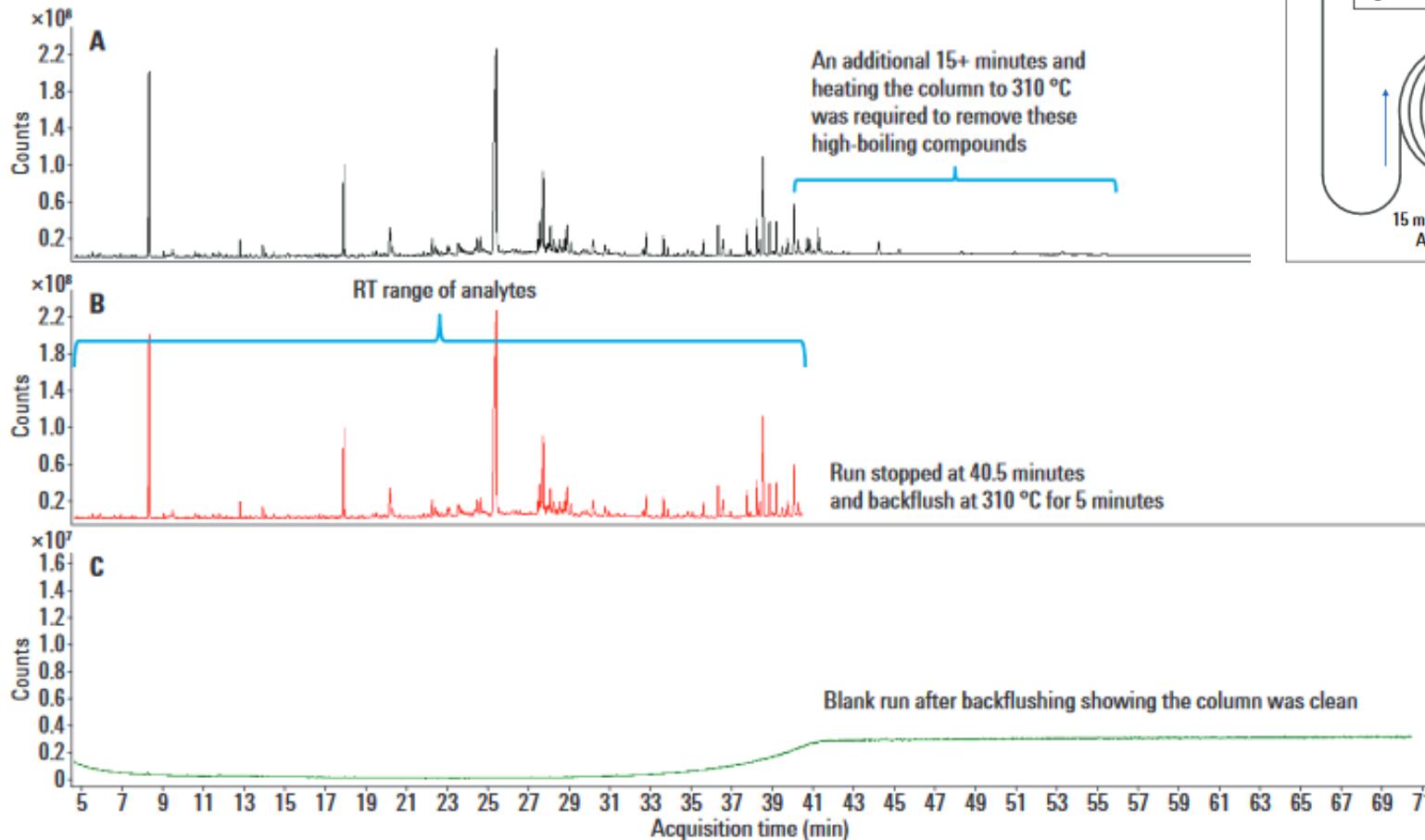
eliminates ghost peaks



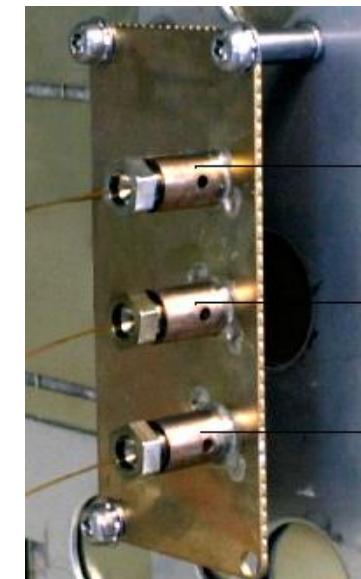
2-way Splitter w/o MUG

Analysis of Multi-pesticide Residues in Crop Plant

Agilent Application Note: 5991-5763EN

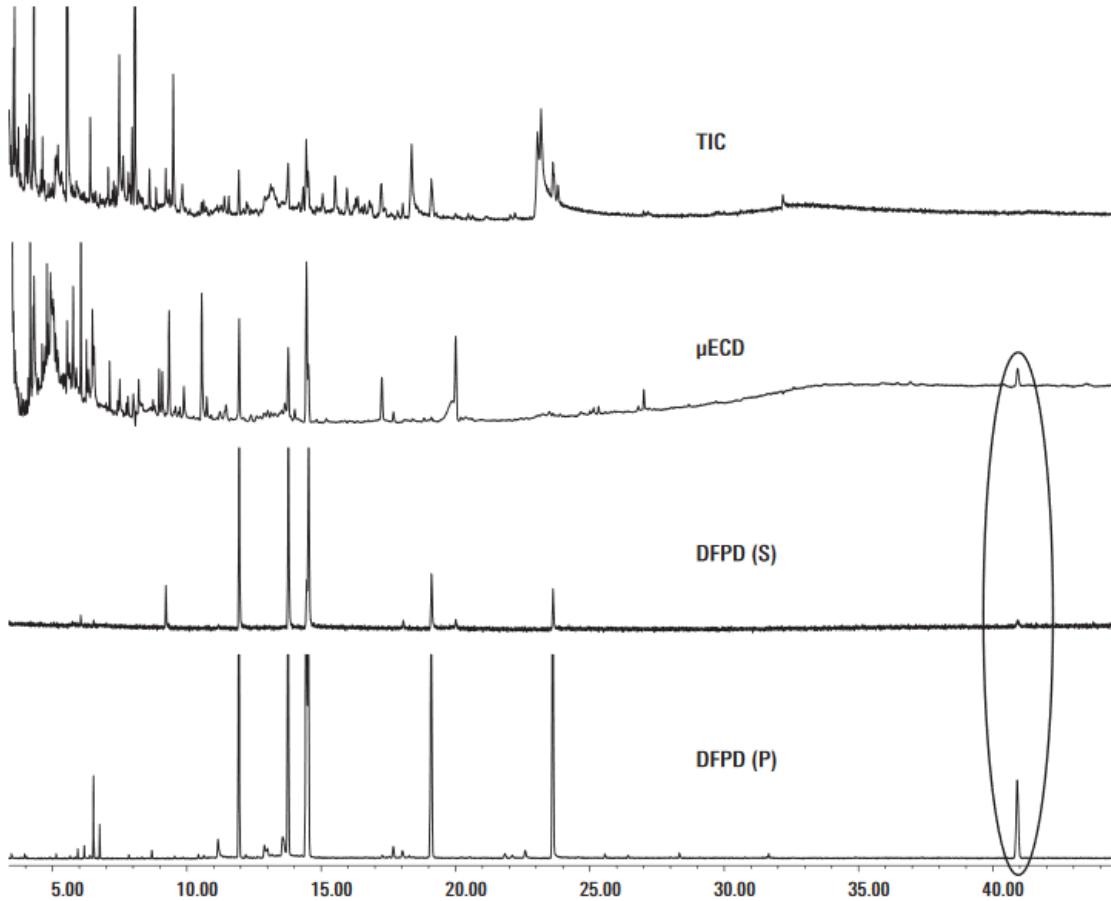


Unpurged Two-way Splitter



Using RTL and 3-Way Splitter w/ MUG to Identify Unknown in Strawberry Extract

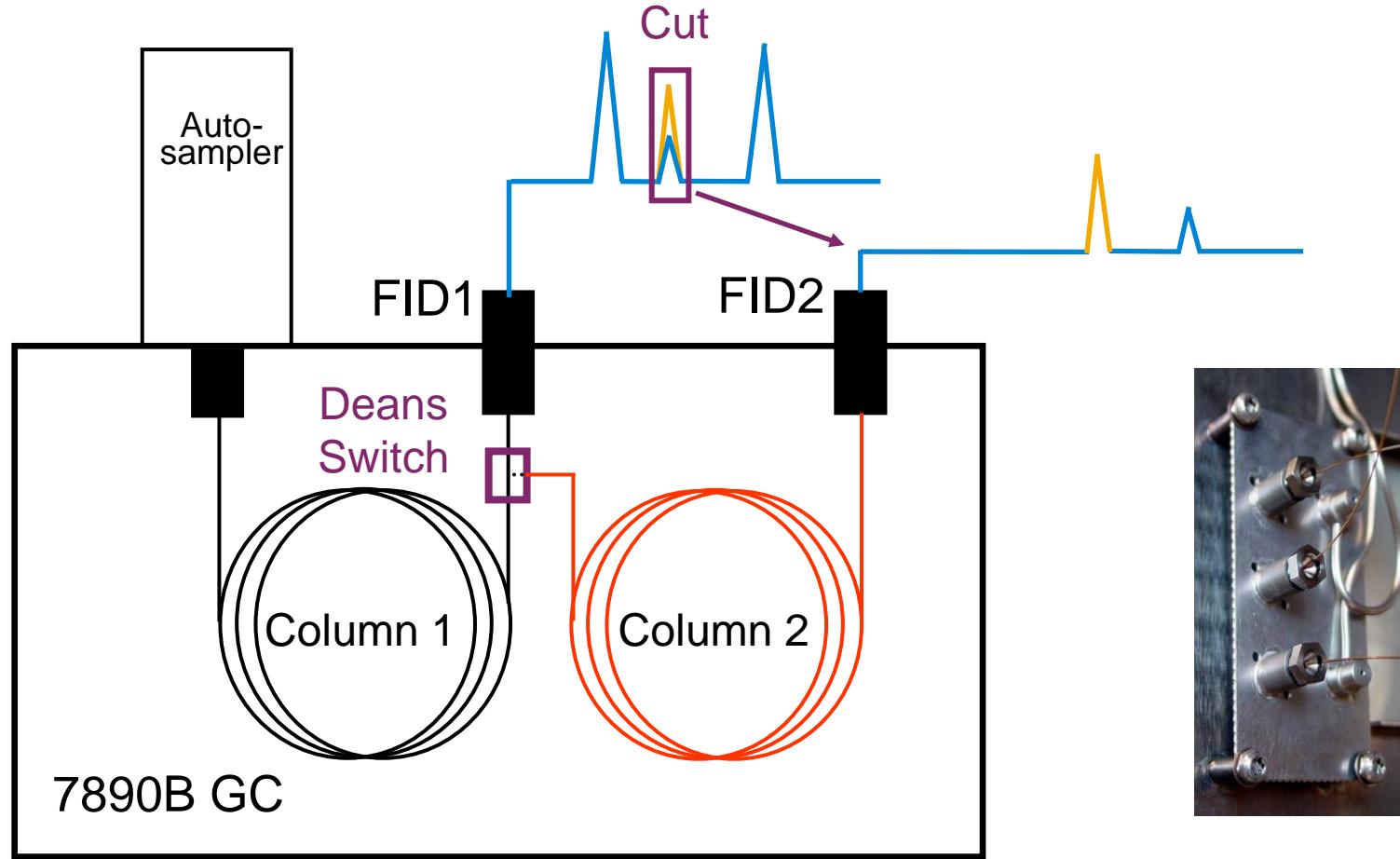
Agilent Application Note: 5989-6007EN



Three-way Splitter
inside GC oven

Deans Switch

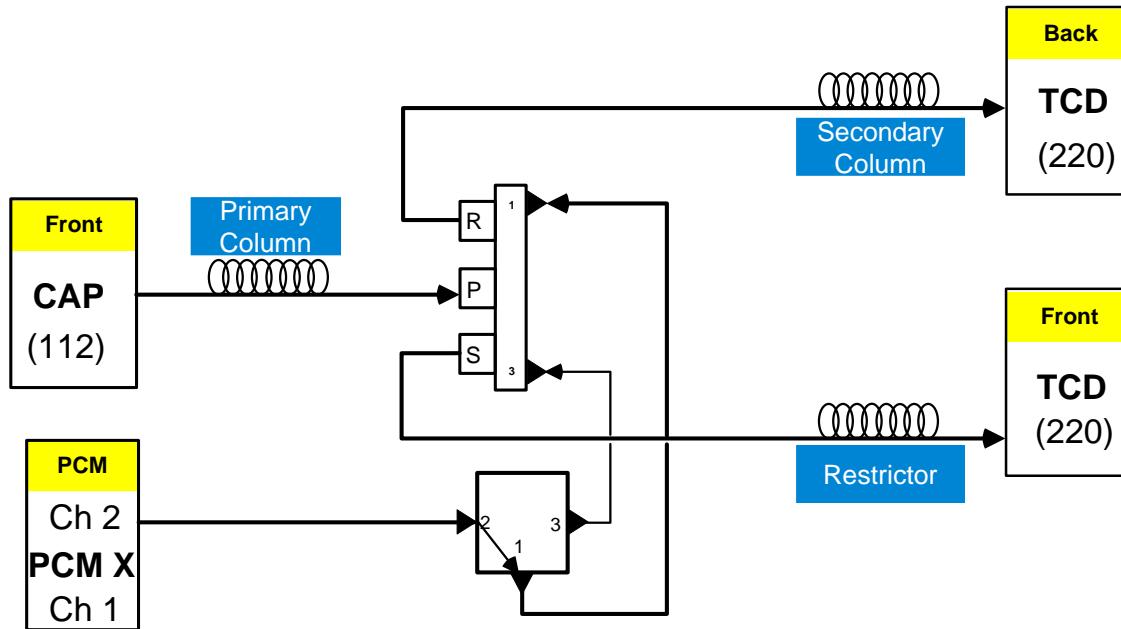
Heart-cutting 2-D GC provides extremely high chromatographic resolution



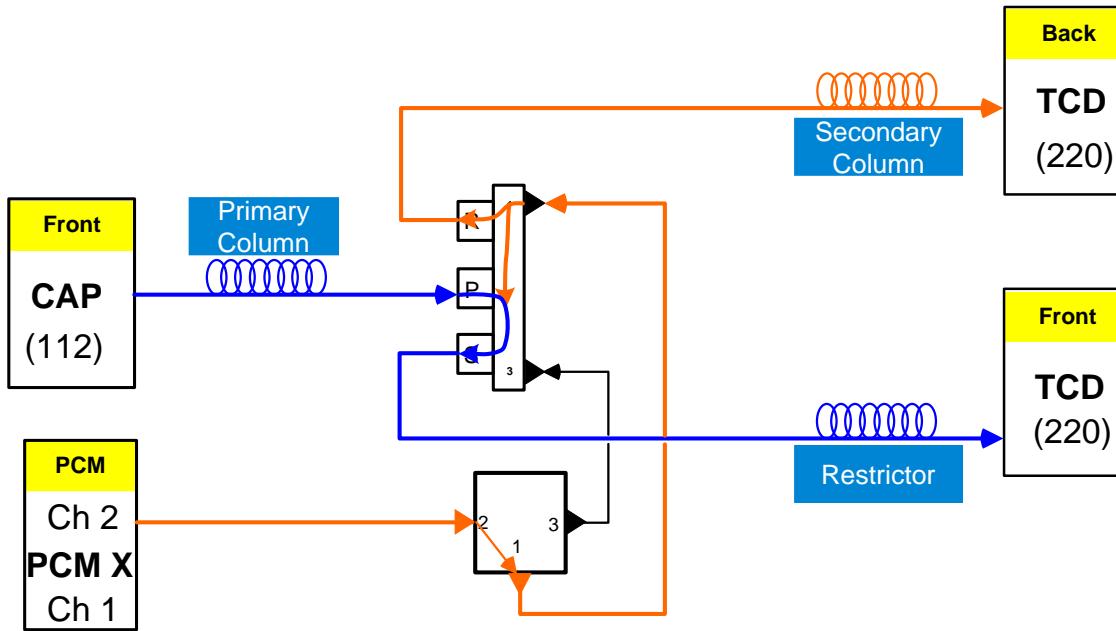
Two-dimensional GC by Deans Switch Advantages

- High resolution of target compounds in complex matrices
- Improvement in analysis speed
- High level of precision
- Ease of setup
- Use of readily available capillary columns and hardware
- Allows for backflush

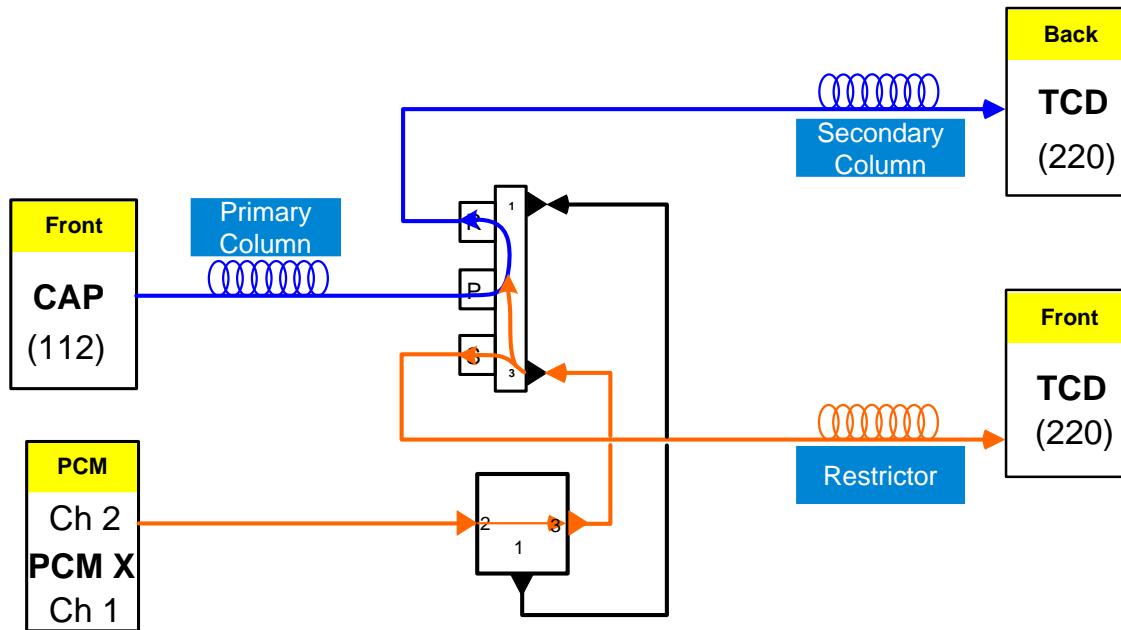
How does a Deans Switch work?



Deans Switch “OFF”



Deans Switch “ON”



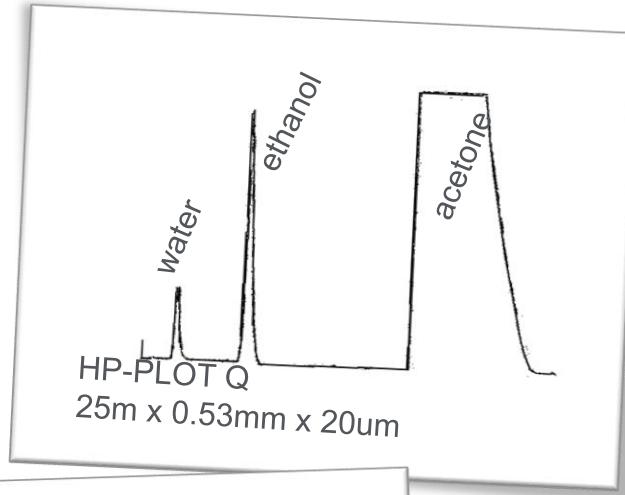
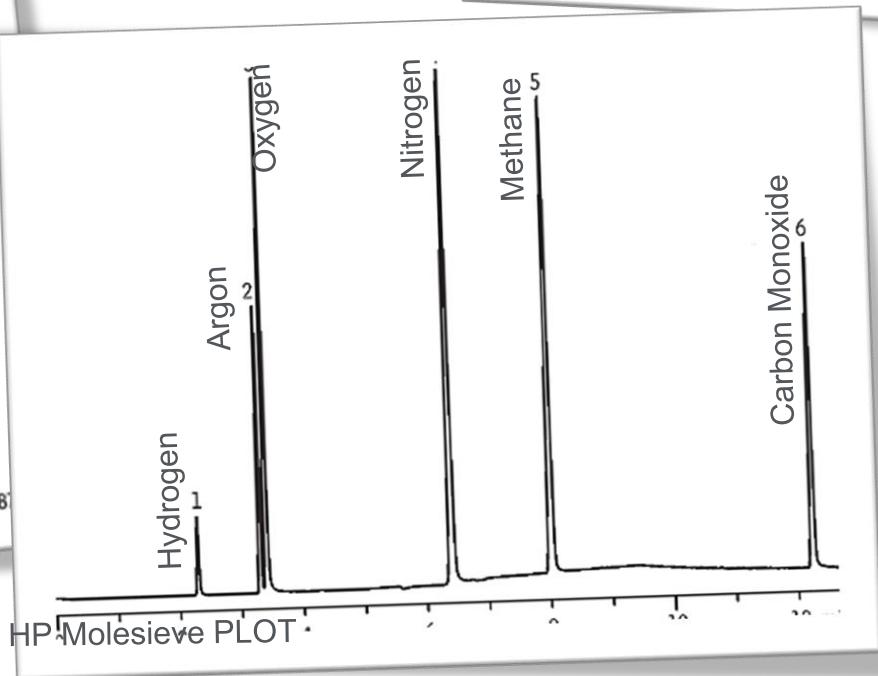
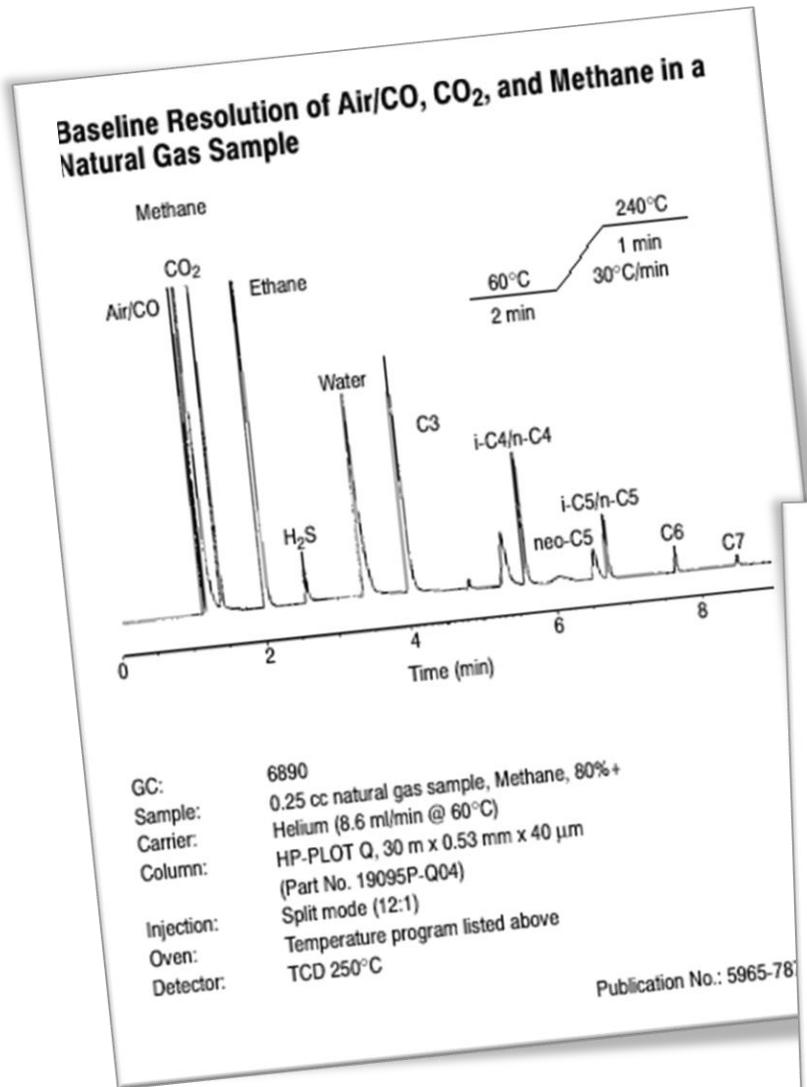
Example: Bio-Ethanol Fermentation Monitoring

Sample Name : Bio-Ethanol Headspace from Reactor

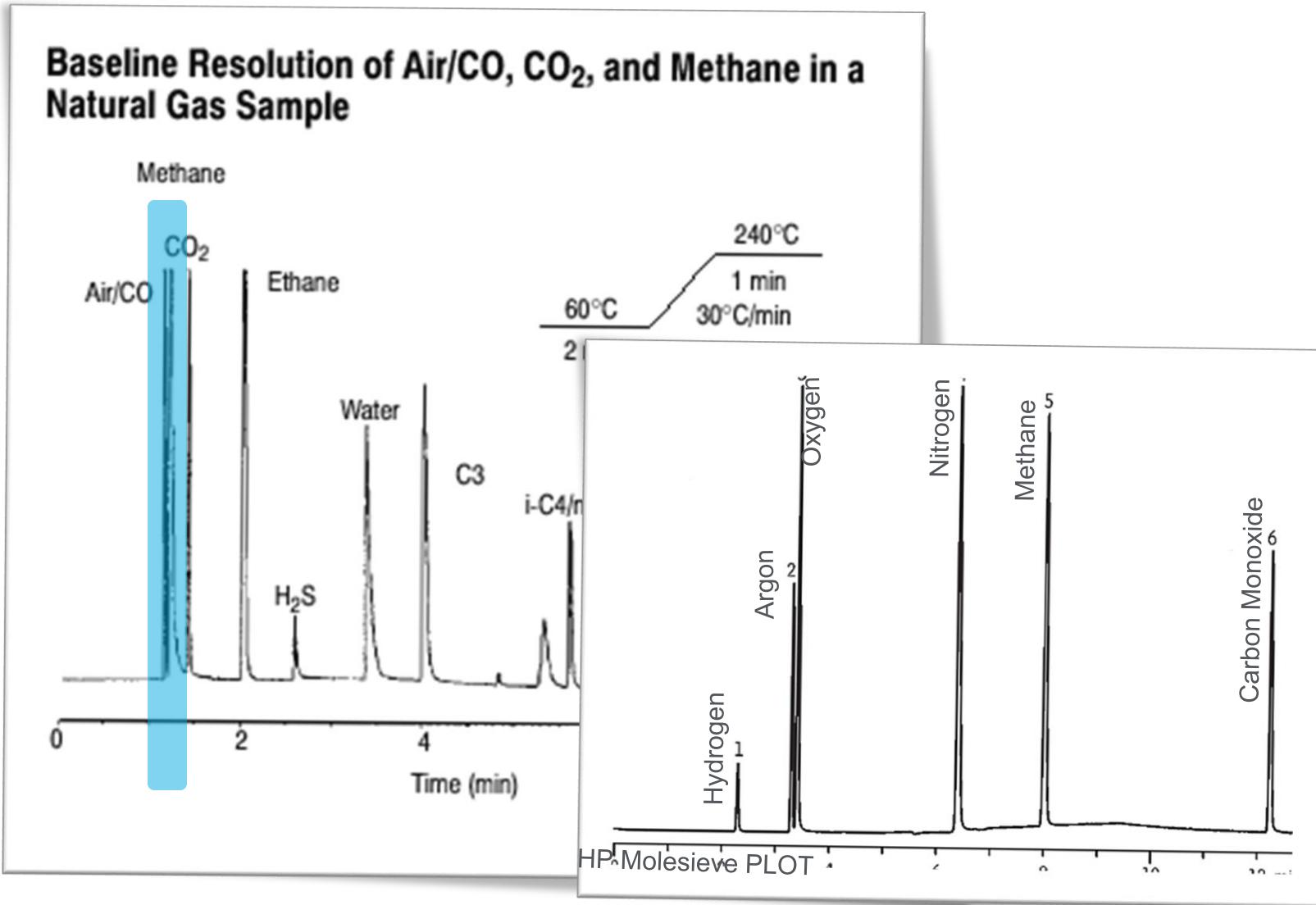
Phase : Gas _____ Pressure :30 psi____ psi/bar Temperature at the GC: Ambient____

*Components of interest, MW, CAS #	Critical, Desired or NQ ***	Sample 1 Concentration Range (ppm or %) (wt, mol, or vol)		Sample 2 Concentration Range (ppm or %) (wt, mol, or vol)		Sample 3 Concentration Range (ppm or %) (wt, mol, or vol)	
		Min. **	Max	Min. **	Max	Min. **	Max
*Please ensure that you set realistic Detection limits (Zero is not viable)							
Oxygen	C	0.1%	20%				
Nitrogen	C	0.1%	100%				
Carbon Monoxide	C	0.1%	20%				
Carbon Dioxide	C	0.1%	20%				
Hydrogen Sulfide	C	0.1%	1%				
Ethanol	C	0.1%	100%				
Water	NQ						
Ethane	C	?					
Propane	C	?					

System Design: Picking Columns

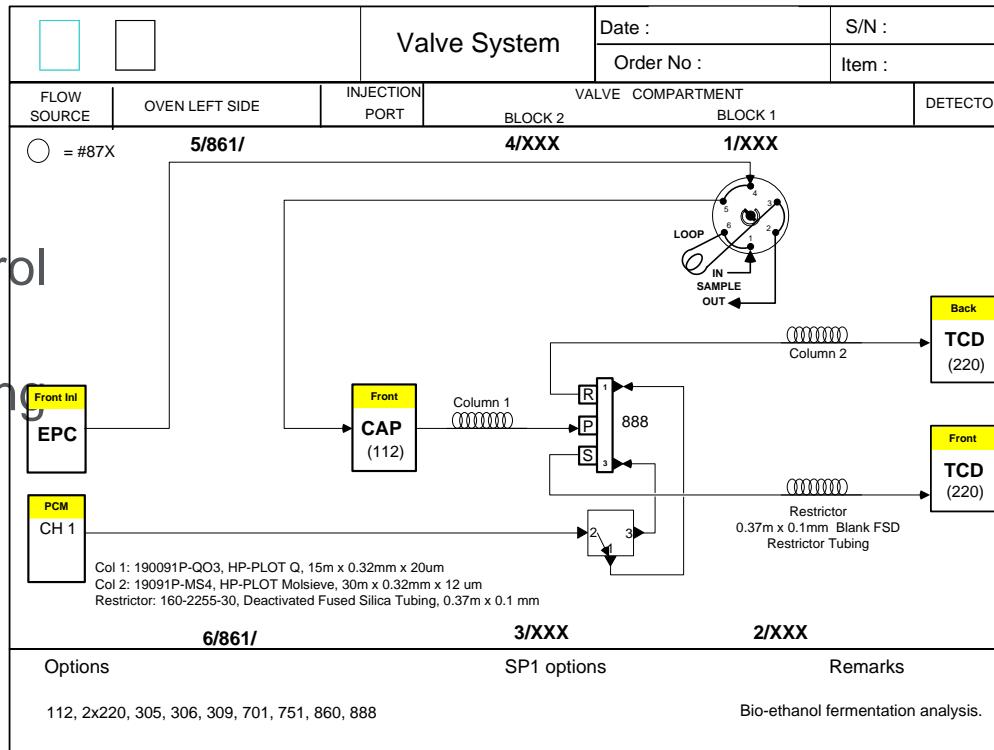


Deans Switch Heart Cut...

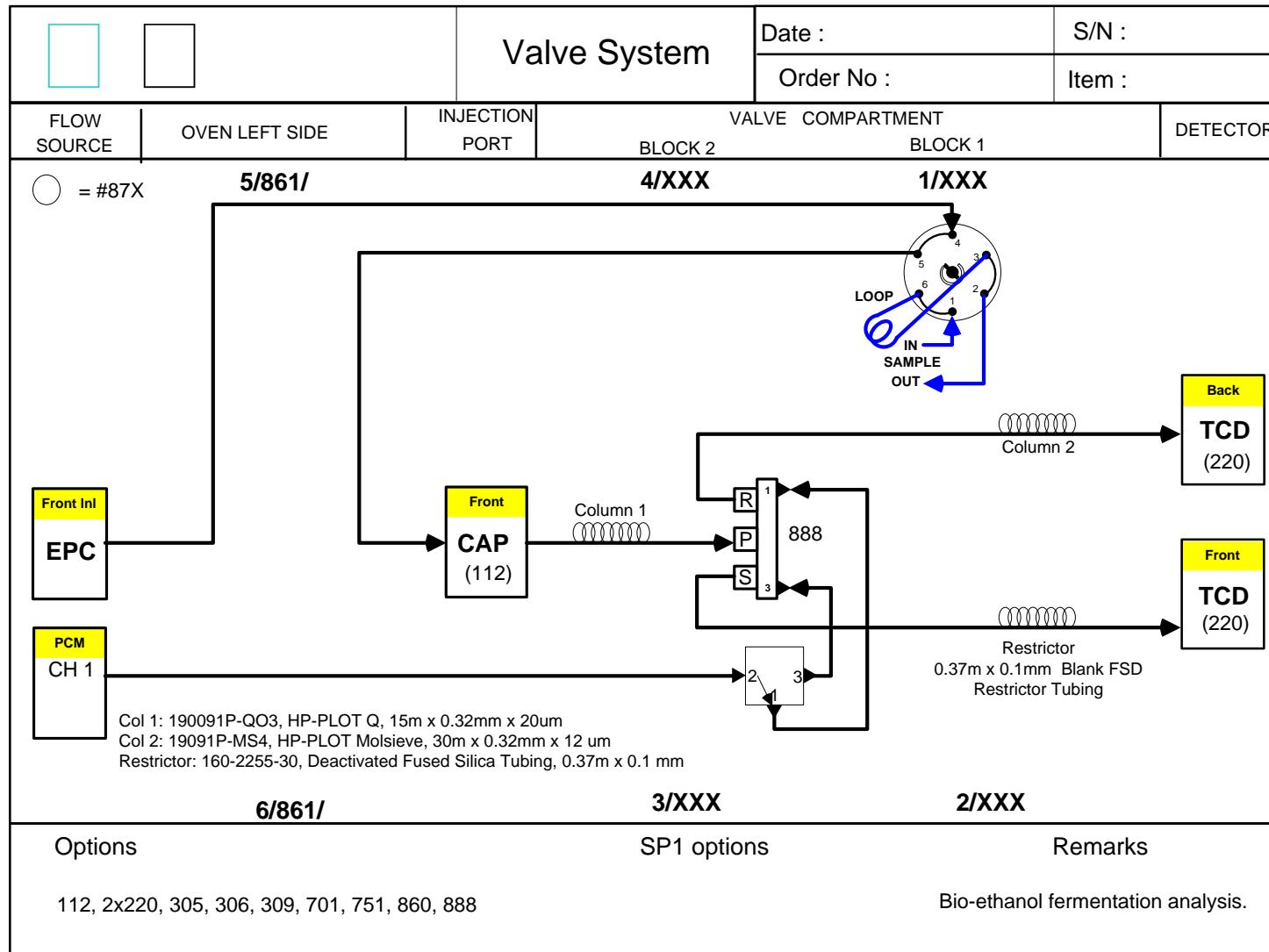


System Design

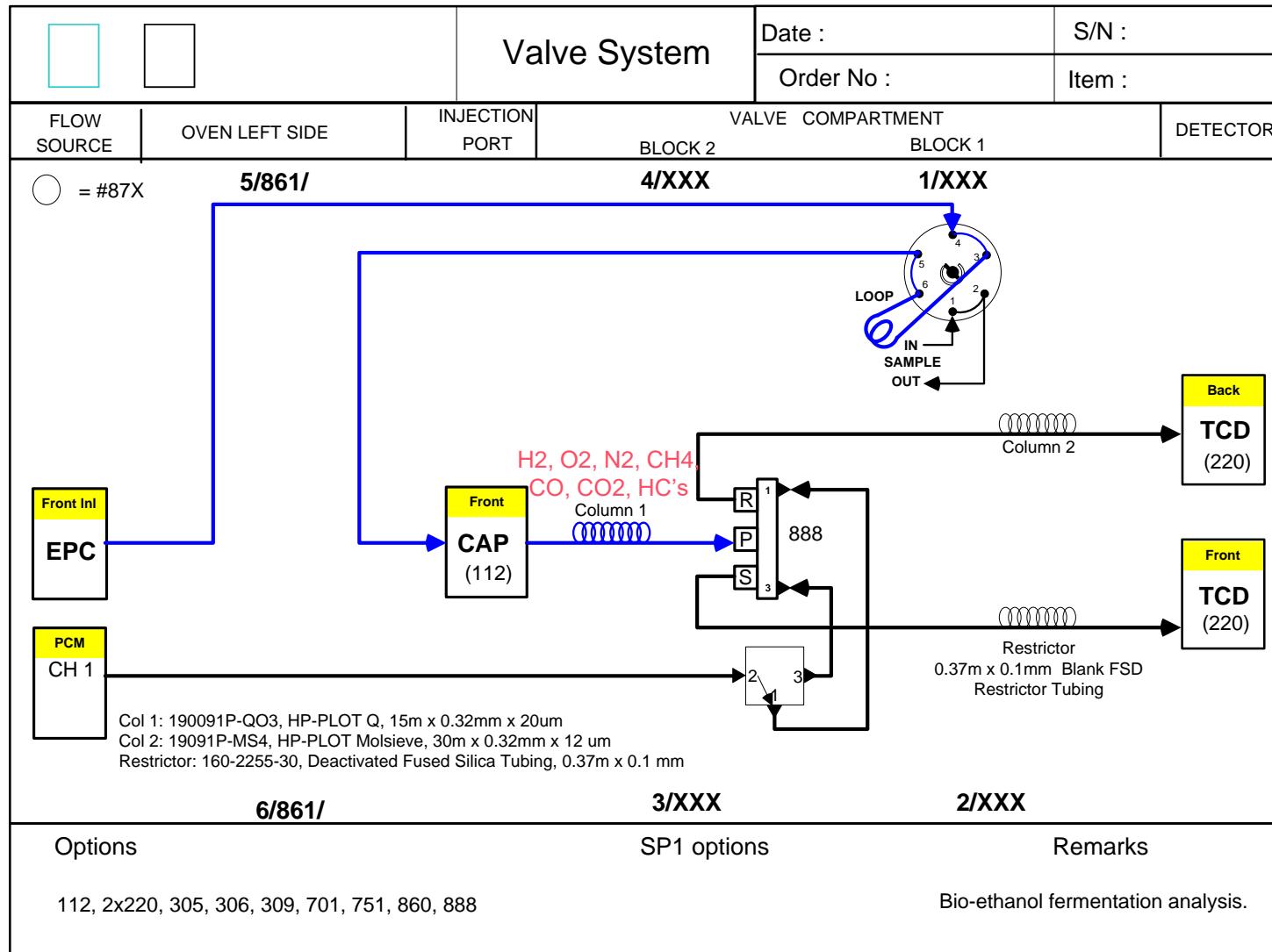
- System designed for analysis of permanent gases and organics
- Gas sample valve for sample introduction
- Split inlet for injection volume control and alternative injection source
- Deans switch allows for heart cutting permanent gases to Molsieve column
- Dual detectors for simultaneous analysis from two columns



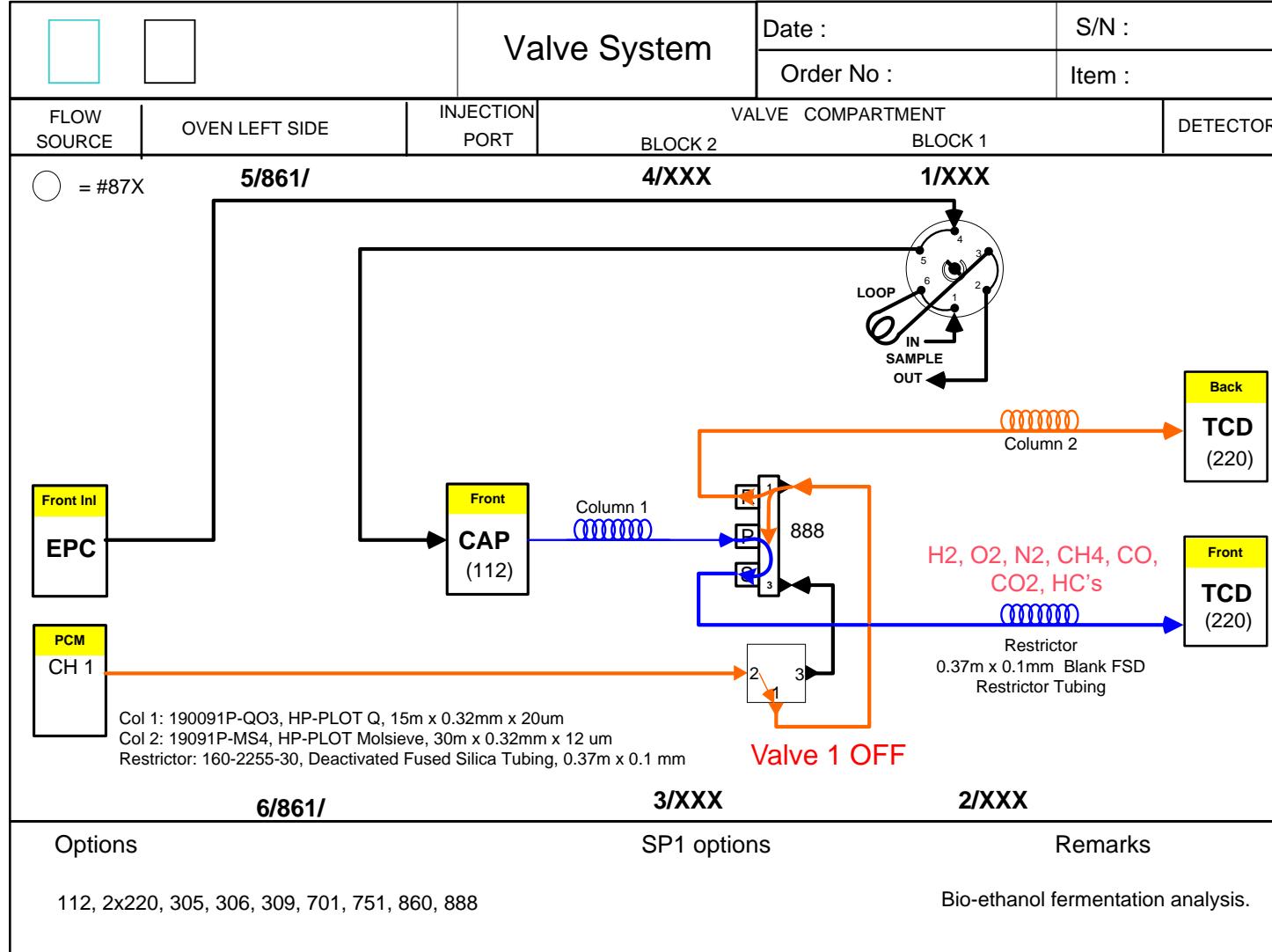
System Operation: Sample Load



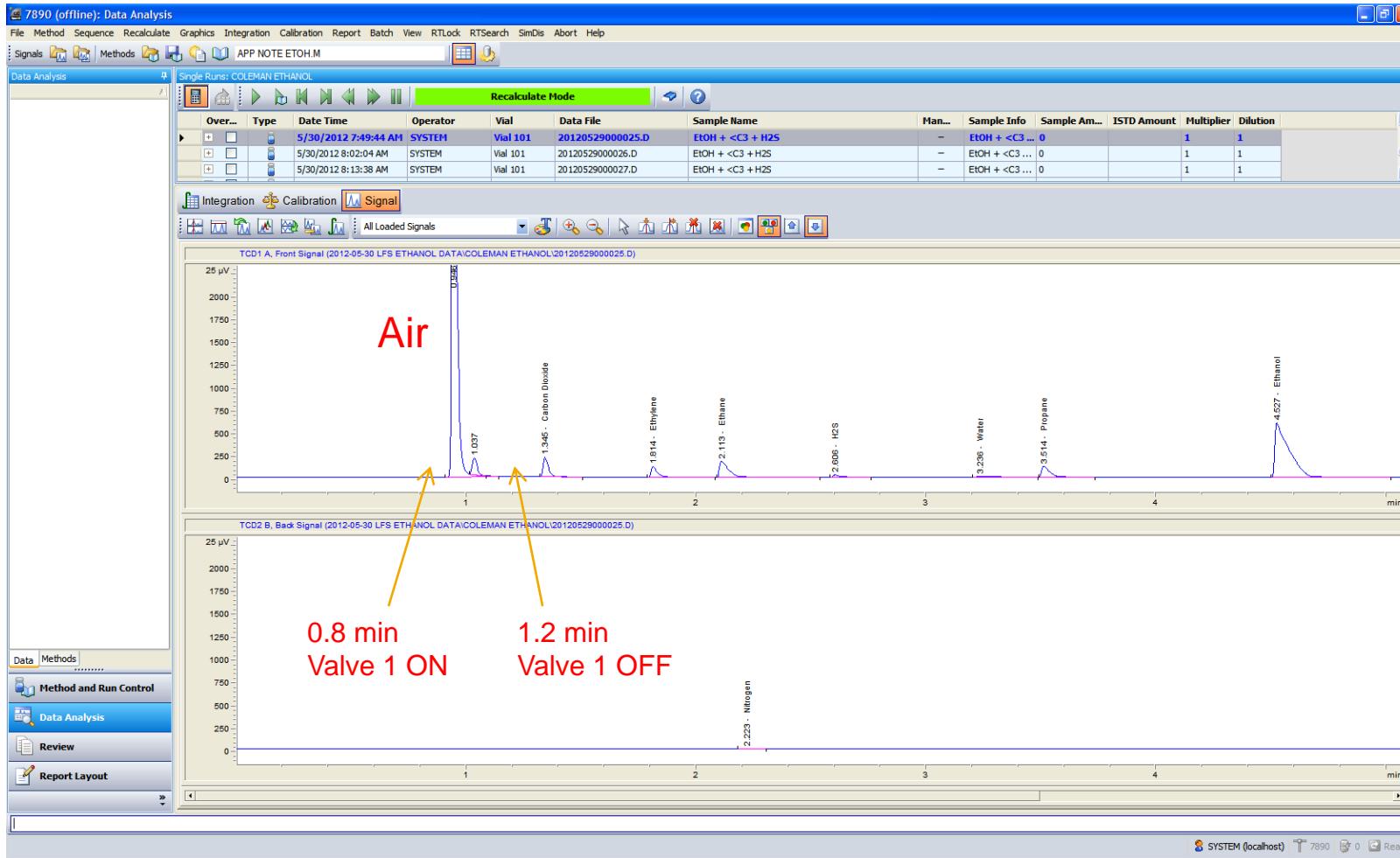
System Operation: Sample Inject



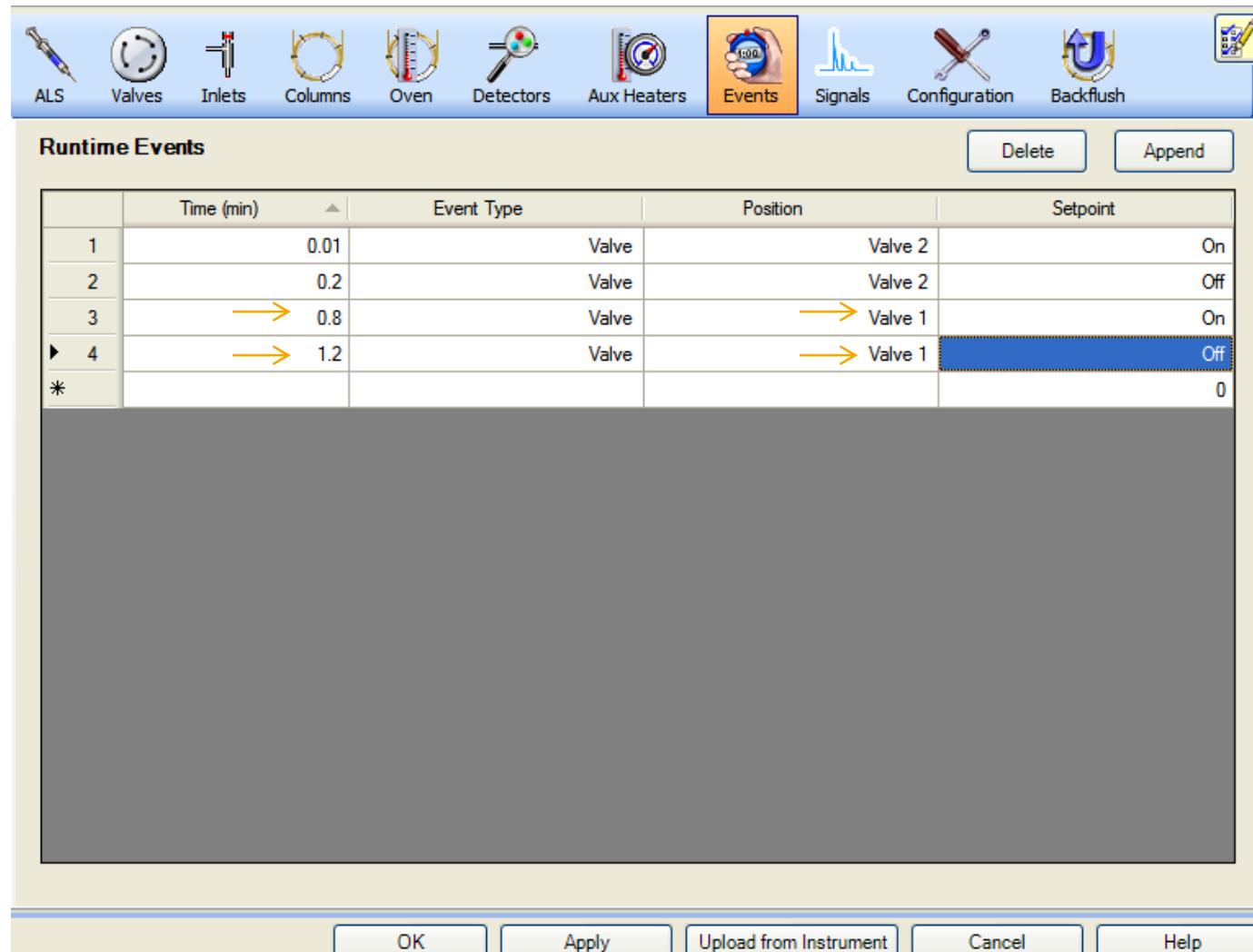
System Operation:



Finding the Cut Time for the Deans Switch Valve



Add Valves Times to Run Time Events Table

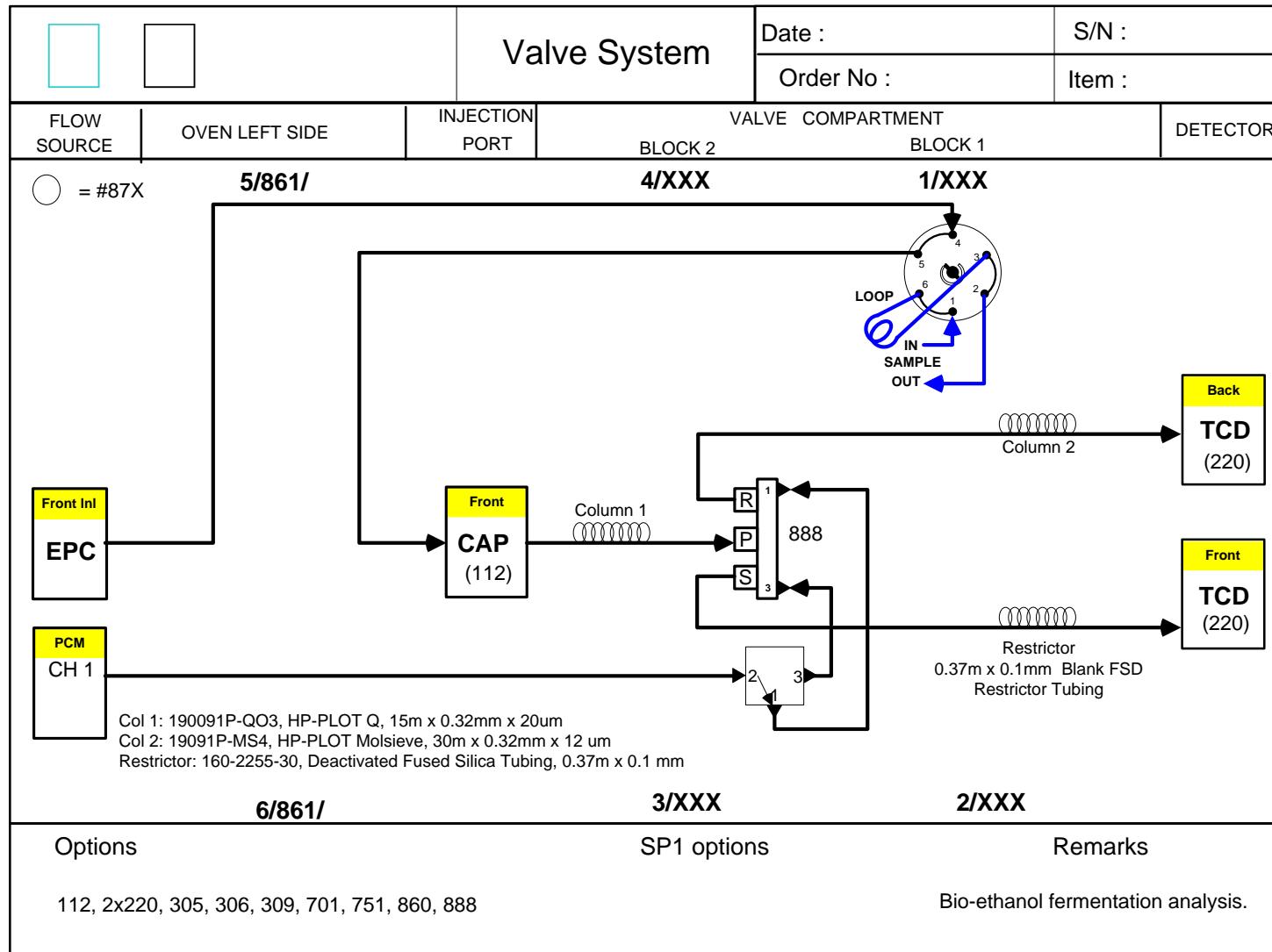


The screenshot shows the 'Runtime Events' dialog box in the Agilent Chem3D software. The toolbar at the top includes icons for ALS, Valves, Inlets, Columns, Oven, Detectors, Aux Heaters, Events (highlighted in orange), Signals, Configuration, and Backflush. The 'Runtime Events' table has columns for Time (min), Event Type, Position, and Setpoint. The table contains the following data:

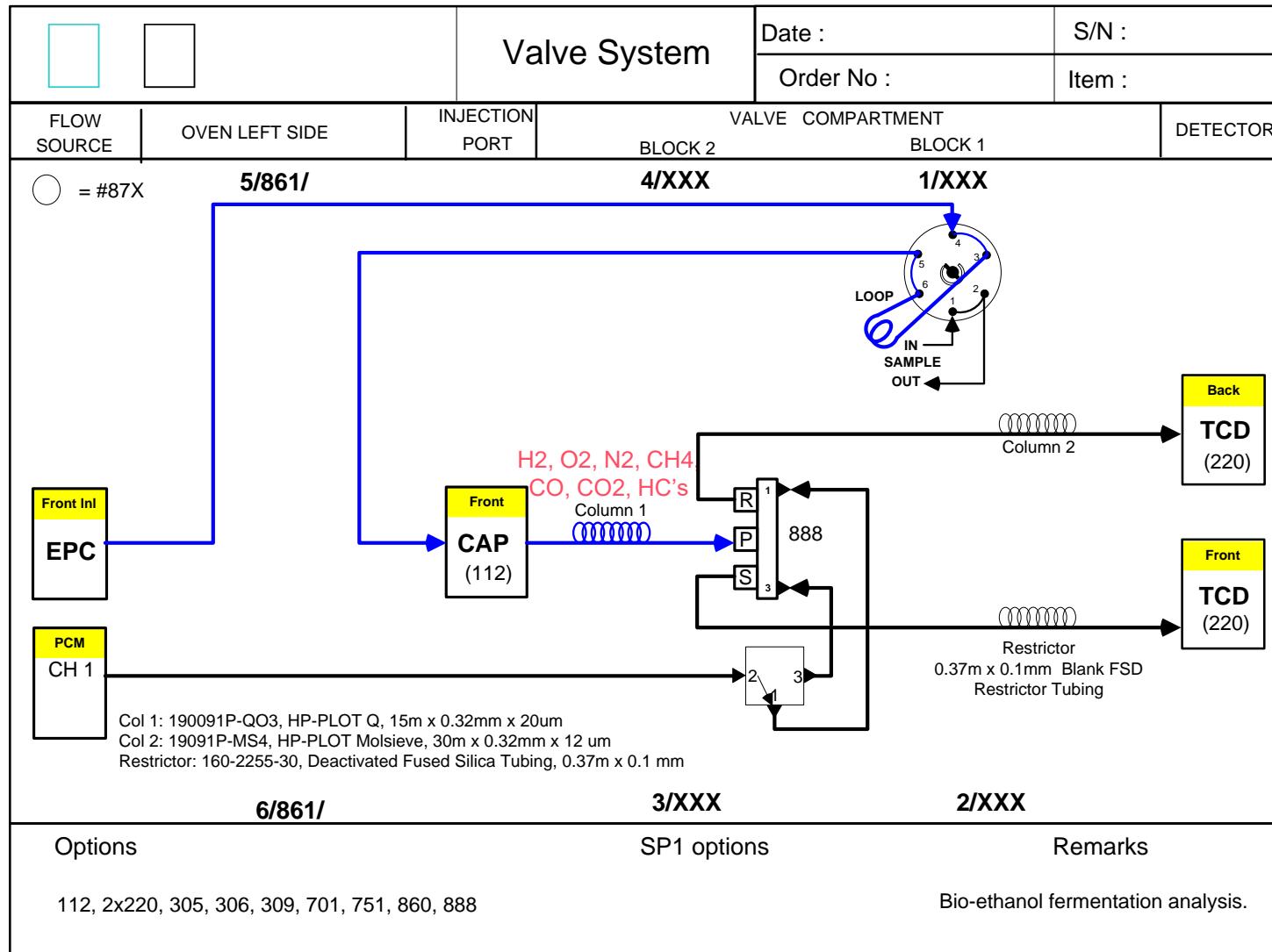
	Time (min)	Event Type	Position	Setpoint
1	0.01	Valve	Valve 2	On
2	0.2	Valve	Valve 2	Off
3	0.8	Valve	Valve 1	On
4	1.2	Valve	Valve 1	Off
*				0

The fourth row is selected, indicated by a blue dotted selection box. The 'Events' tab is highlighted in the toolbar. At the bottom of the dialog are buttons for OK, Apply, Upload from Instrument, Cancel, and Help.

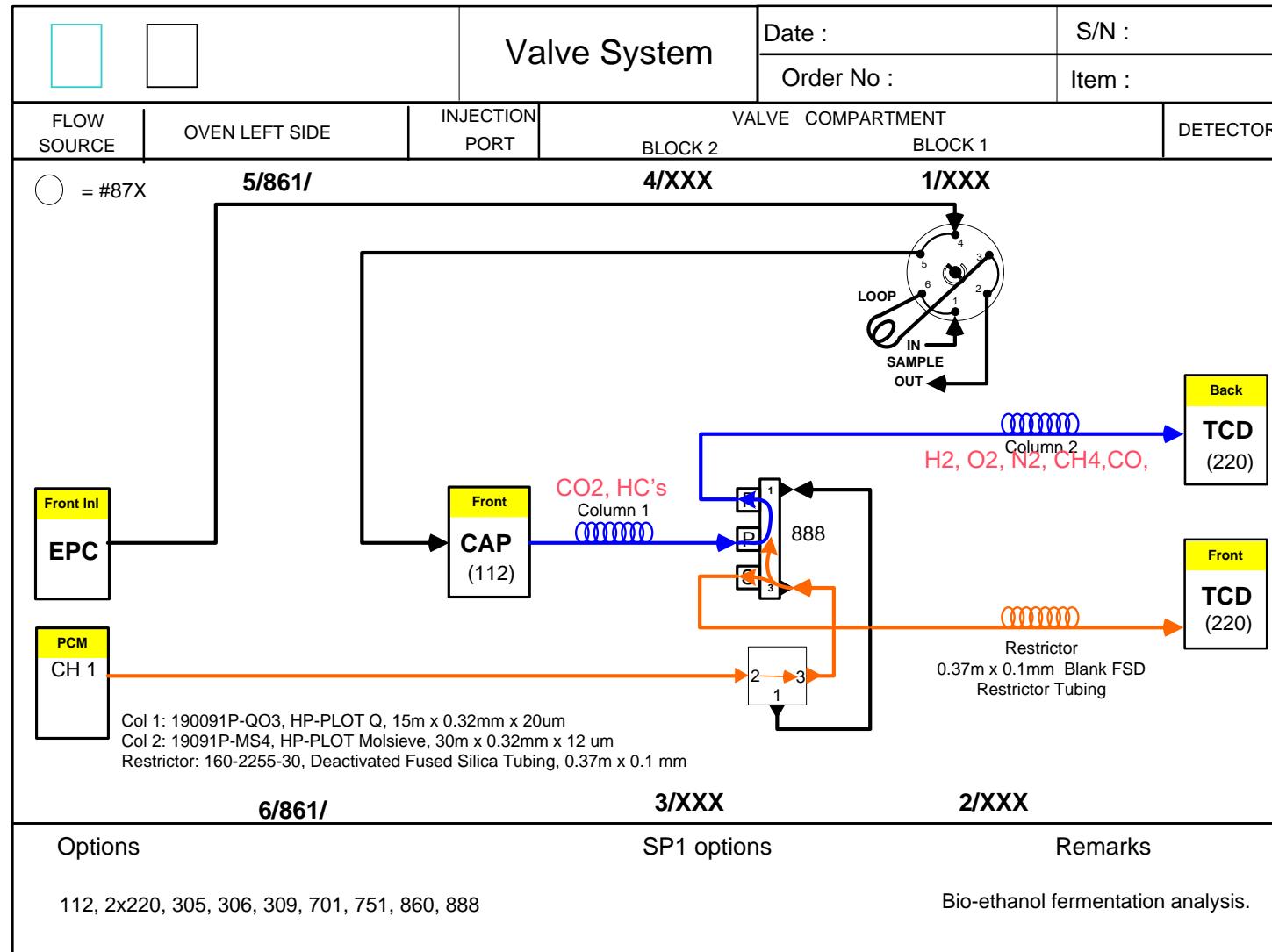
System Operation: Sample Load



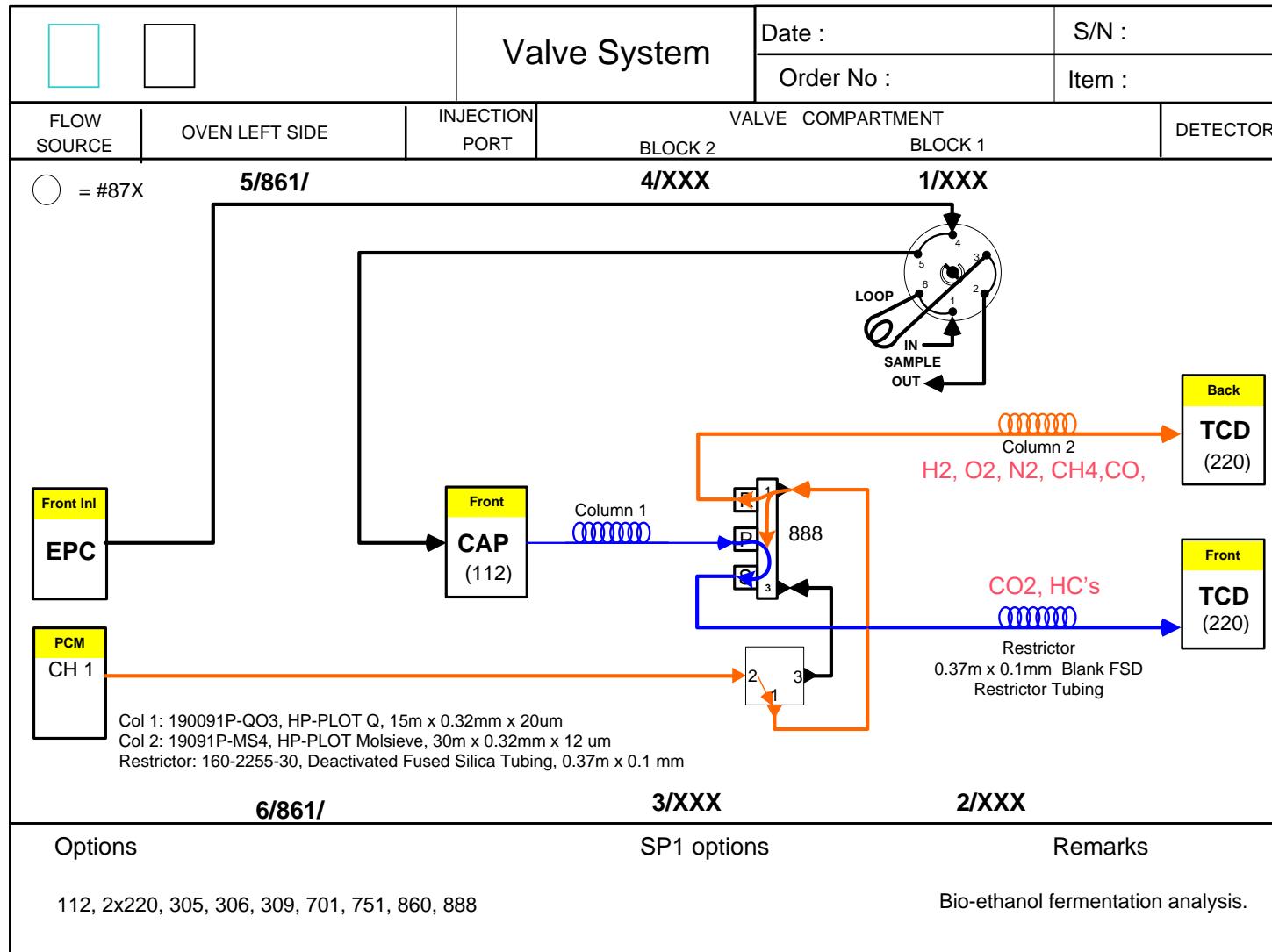
System Operation: Sample Inject



System Operation, Valve 1 ON @ 0.8 min



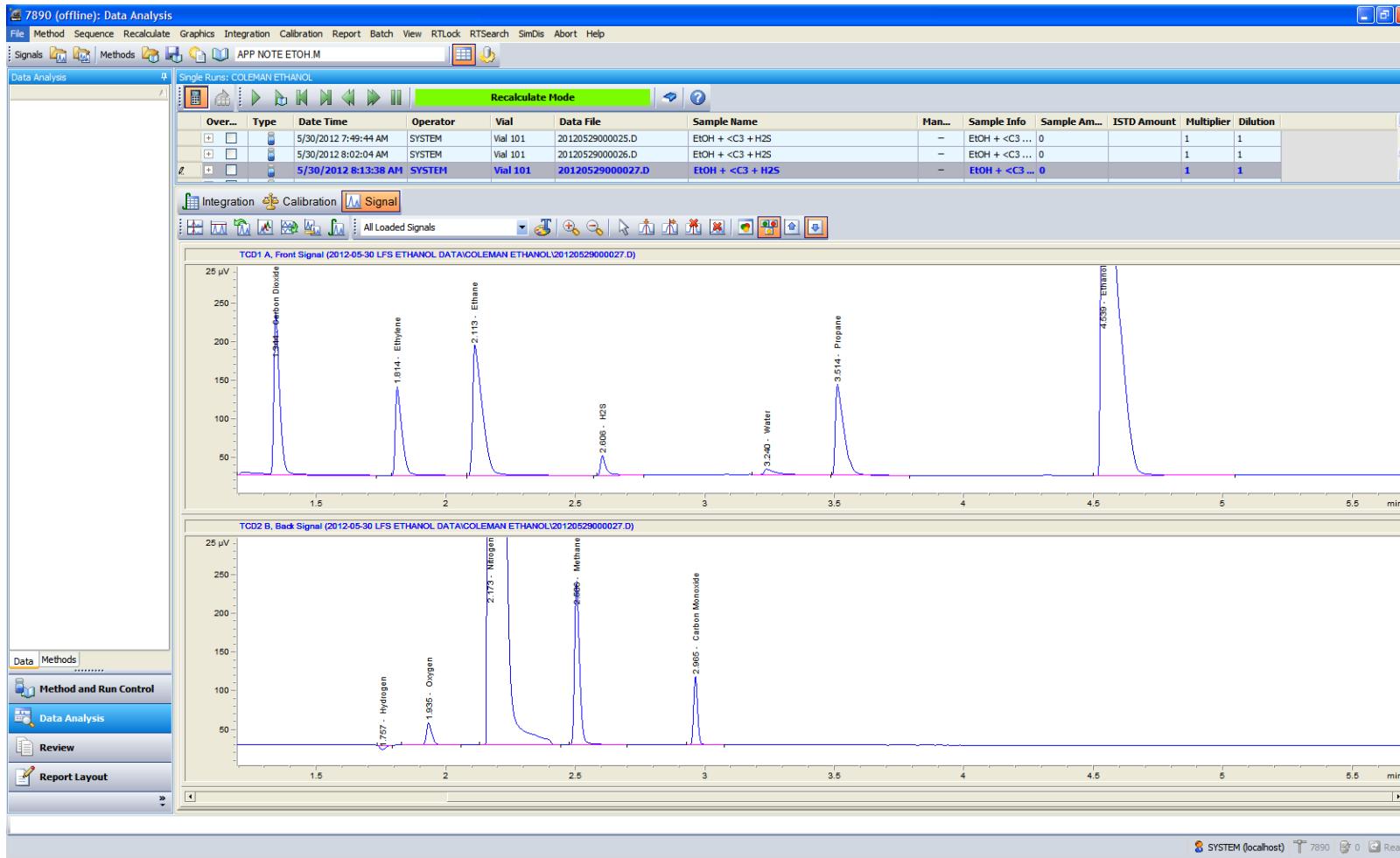
System Operation: Valve 1 OFF @ 1.2 min



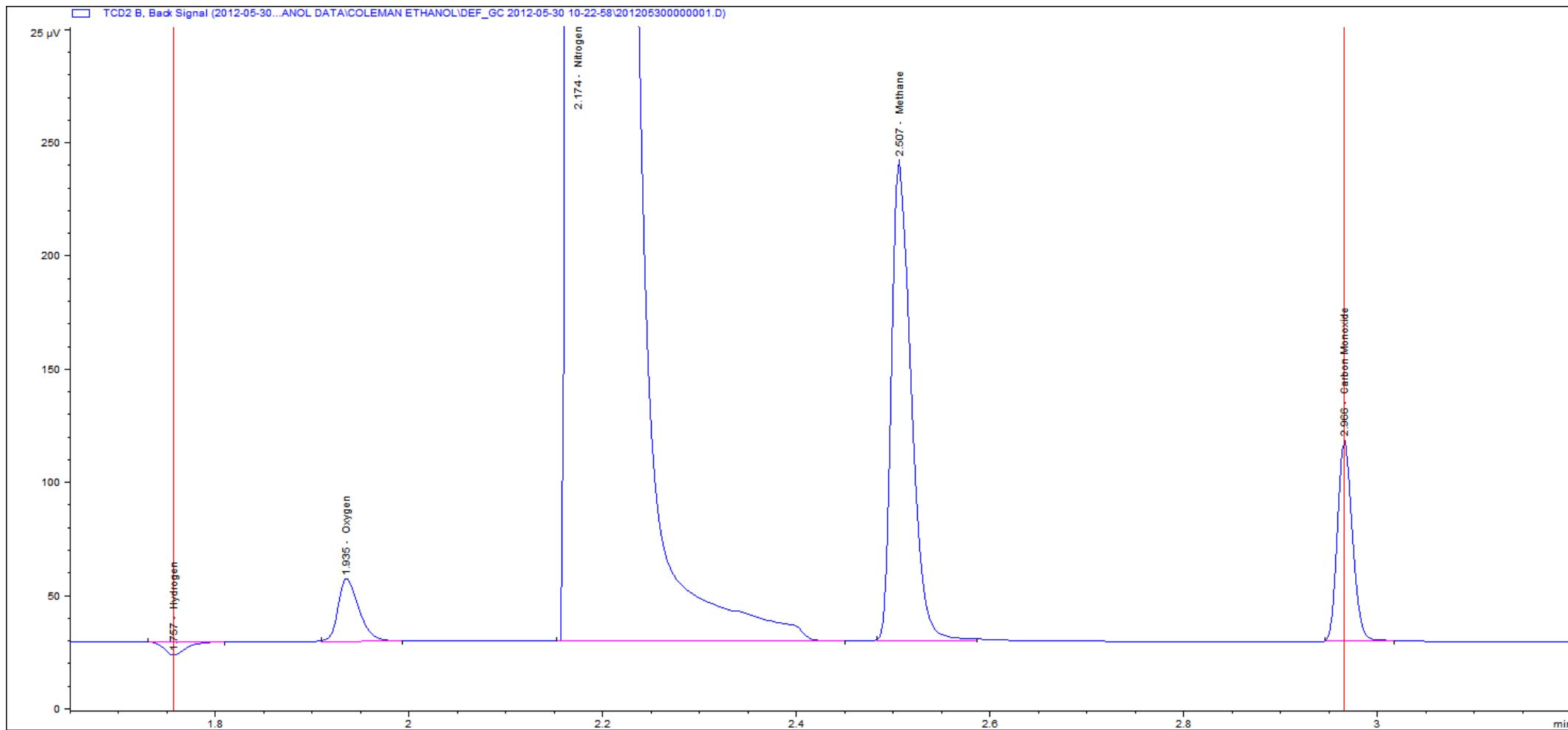
Results

PPQ Channel: CO₂, ethylene, ethane, H₂S, water, propane, and ethanol

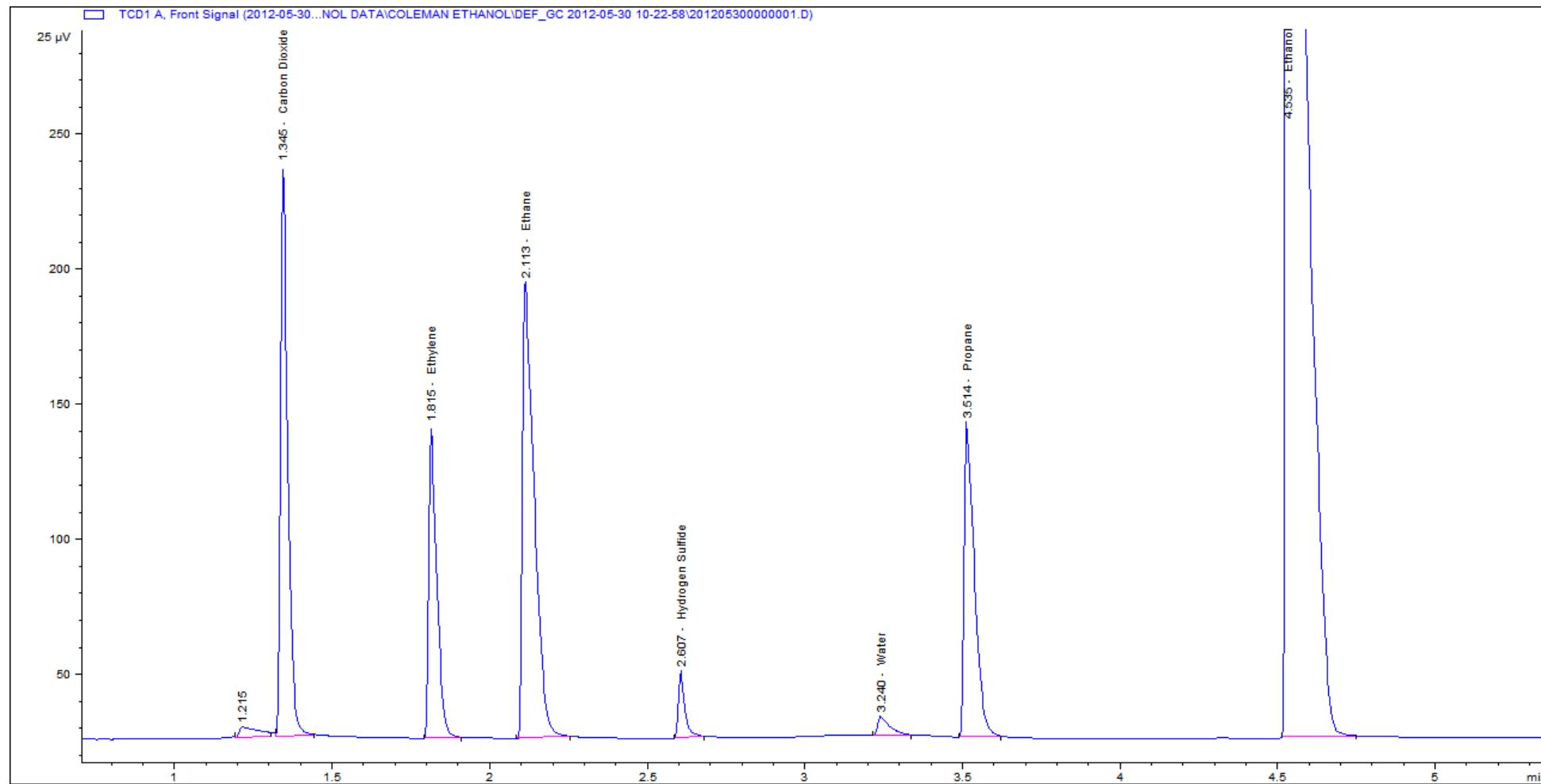
Molsieve Channel: H₂, O₂, N₂, CH₄, CO



Molsieve Channel: H₂, O₂, N₂, CH₄, CO



PPQ Channel: CO₂, ethylene, ethane, H₂S, water, propane, and ethanol



Thank You!

Any Questions?

Shannon Coleman
GC Application Scientist
Agilent Technologies
shannon.coleman@agilent.com