



***GENERATION OF GASEOUS STANDARD  
MIXTURES  
PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES***

Marta Słomińska, Piotr Konieczka, Jacek Namieśnik

Department of Analytical Chemistry  
Chemical Faculty  
Gdansk University of Technology  
G. Narutowicza 11/12 Str.  
80-233 Gdańsk, Poland  
tel: (58) 347 10 10  
fax: (58) 347 26 94  
e-mail: *chemanal@pg.gda.pl*

## QUALITY ASSURANCE / QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM (QA/QC)

ISO/IEC

CHEMICAL  
METROLOGY

TRACEABILITY OF  
ANALYTICAL  
MEASUREMENTS

VALIDATION OF  
ANALYTICAL  
PROCEDURES

UNCERTAINTY VALUE

INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS

REFERENCE MATERIALS

# INTRODUCTION



*Material, sufficiently homogeneous and stable with respect to one or more specified properties, which has been established to be fit for its intended use in a measurement process*

## CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIALS

**PRIMARY  
REFERENCE  
MATERIALS**

### **MATRIX-FREEE**

**Pure substances  
Calibration standards  
Standard gas mixtures**

### **MATRIX**

**Quality control materials, (QCM)  
Laboratory reference materials, (LRM)  
Secondary reference materials, (SecRM)**

## NON-CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIALS



# *COMPOSITION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES*

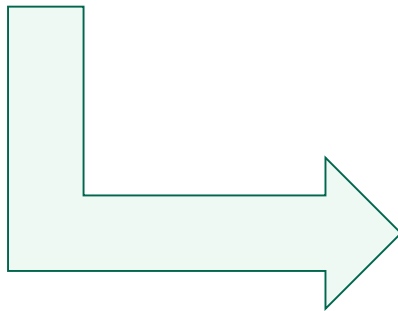
MEASURAND(S) / ANALYT(-ES)

+

CARRIER GAS

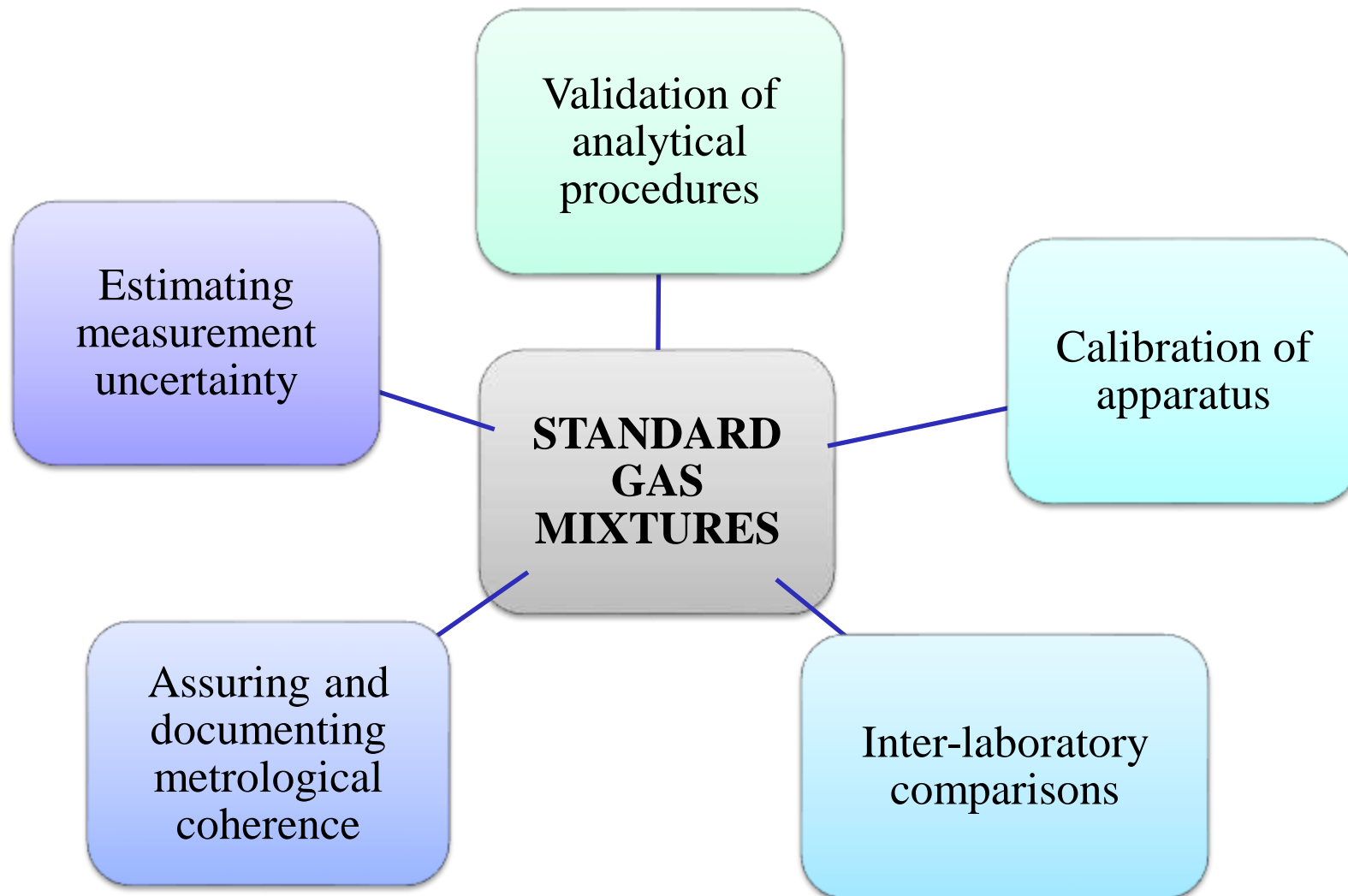
*Zero gas - specific type of gaseous mixture*

## TYPES OF GASEOUS MEDIA STUDIED BY ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS



atmospheric air  
indoor air  
workplace atmosphere  
gases in technological installations  
the waste gases from technological installations  
and materials  
**gases exhaled by humans**  
gaseous components of biogenic emissions

# ***FIELD OF APPLICATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES***



# ***TECHNIQUES OF PREPARATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES***

## **STATIC TECHNIQUES**

Introduction of known volume of the component into a known volume of diluting gas

1. pressurized
2. atmospheric pressure

## **DYNAMIC TECHNIQUES**

Introduction of the stream of analytes into the stream of diluting gas

## **MIXED TECHNIQUES**

Exponential dilution

# STATIC TECHNIQUES

## PRESSURIZED

- MANOMETRIC
- VOLUMETRIC
- GRAVIMETRIC

## AT ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

- SINGLE FIXED-VOLUME CHAMBER,
- DOUBLE FIXED-VOLUME CHAMBER,
- CHAMBER OF VARIABLE VOLUME

Known  
volume of  
gaseous  
analyte/(-s)



Known  
volume of  
diluting gas



THE STREAM OF DILLUTING GAS

***DYNAMIC TECHNIQUES***

Permeation

Diffusion

Thermal decomposition of surface compounds

Electrolysis;

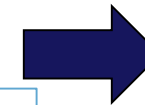
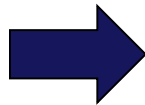
Periodic injection of gaseous analytes into the stream of diluting gas;

Mixing of gas streams

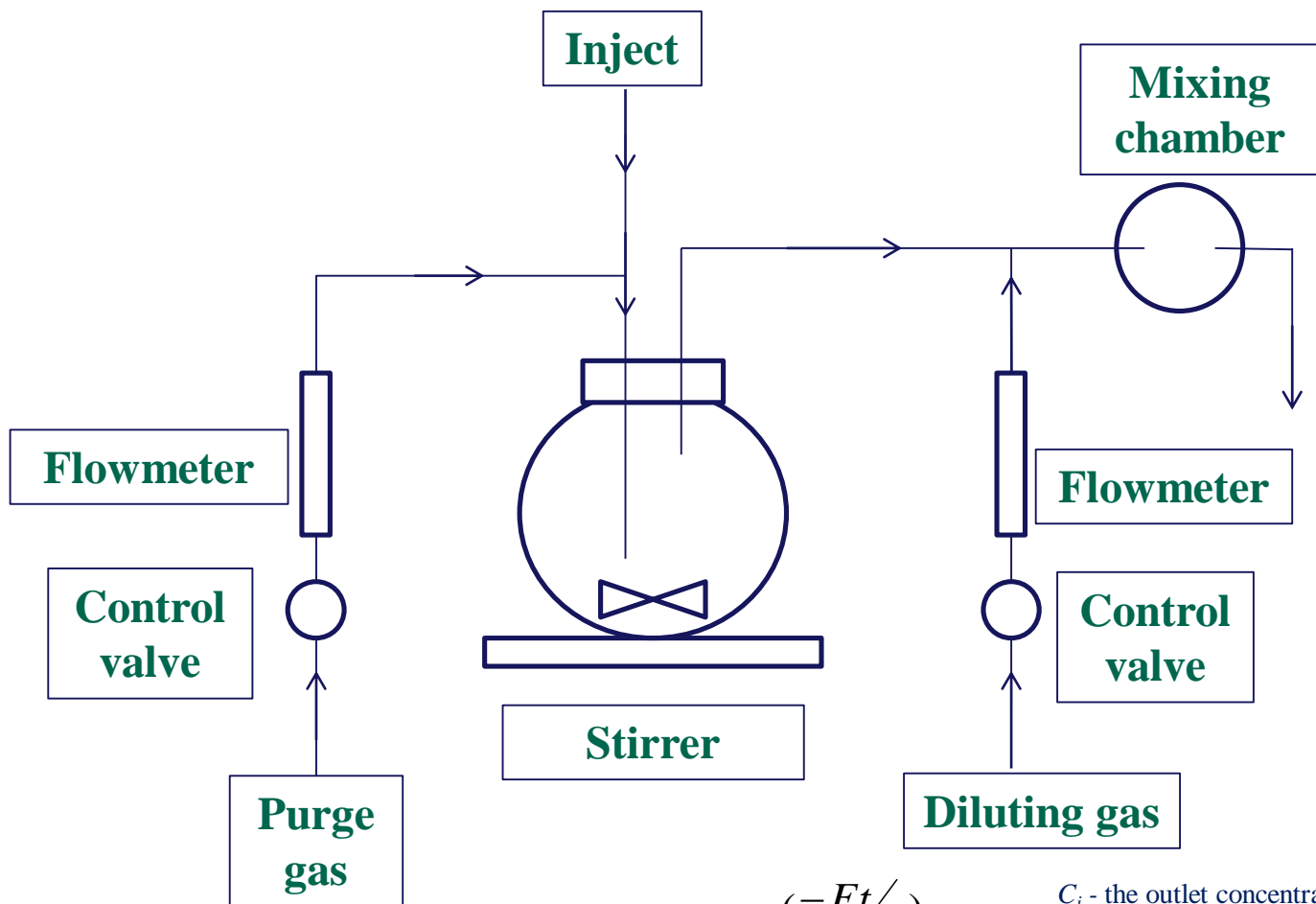
Evaporation

Autodilution

Chemical reaction



# MIXED TECHNIQUE- EXPONENTIAL DILUTION FLASK (EDF)



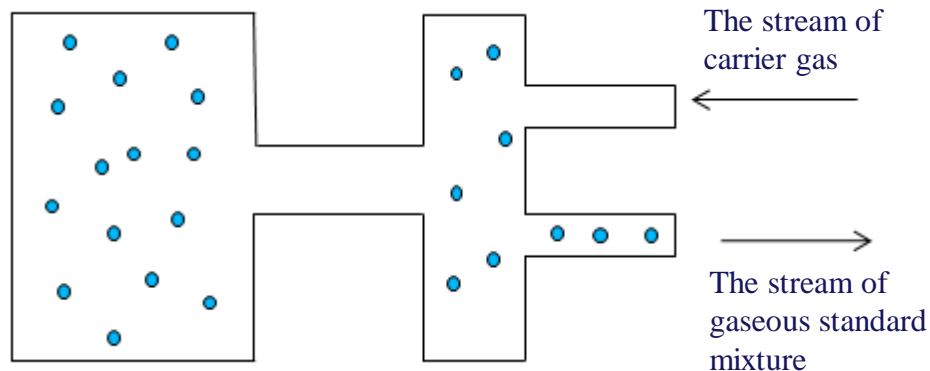
$$C_i = C_0 e^{(-Ft/V)}$$

$C_i$  - the outlet concentration of analyte  $i$ ,  
 $C_0$  - the initial concentration of analyte  $i$  in the exponential dilution flask,  
 $F$  - the volumetric flow rate of dilution gas,  
 $t$  - the time after sample introduction,  
 $V$  - the volume of the flask or container

# APPLICATION OF DIFFUSION TECHNIQUE FOR GENERATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES

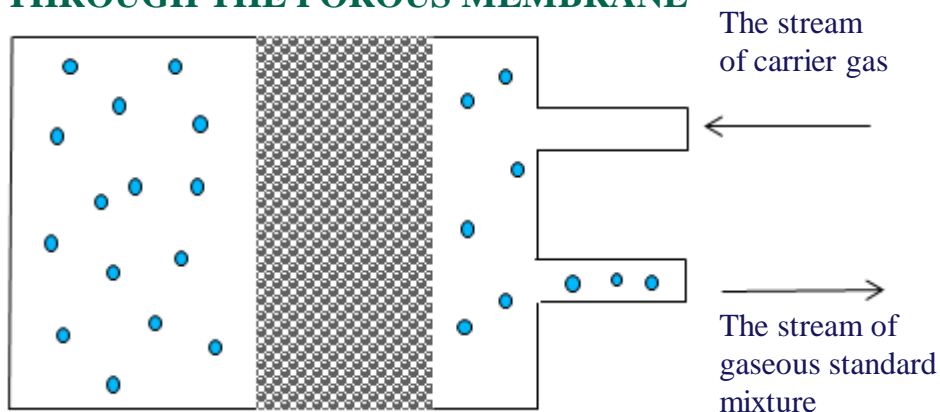
## DIFFUSION MECHANISM

### a) THROUGH THE CAPILLARY



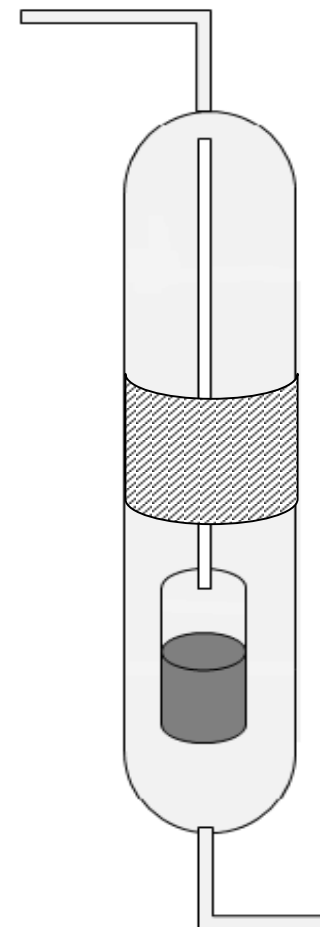
## DIFFUSION MECHANISM

### b) THROUGH THE POROUS MEMBRANE



## DIFFUSION TUBE

The stream of gaseous standard mixture



The stream of carrier gas

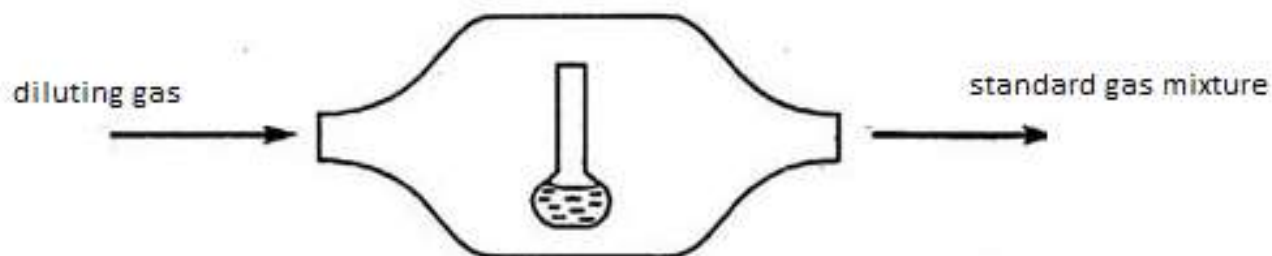
# FIELD OF APPLICATION OF DIFFUSION PROCESS FOR GENERATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES

ANALYTES	CAPILLARY LENGTH [cm]	CAPILLARY INNER DIAMETER [mm]	T [° C]	FLOW RATE [l/min]
<i>aromatics</i> <i>terpenes</i> <i>halocarbons</i> <i>hexane</i>	1-20	0.025-4	25 - 75	<i>n.d.</i>
<i>ICl</i> <i>IBr</i> <i>Br<sub>2</sub></i> <i>I<sub>2</sub></i>	2.5-20	0.1-2.15	25	0.5
<i>formaldehyde</i>	7.9	4.9	35 <sup>a</sup> 230 <sup>b</sup>	0.75
<i>2,3- DCDD</i>	3	<i>n.d.</i>	75 - 100	0.5 - 2

# ***ANALYTICAL ASPECTS OF APPLICATION OF DIFFUSION PROCESS***

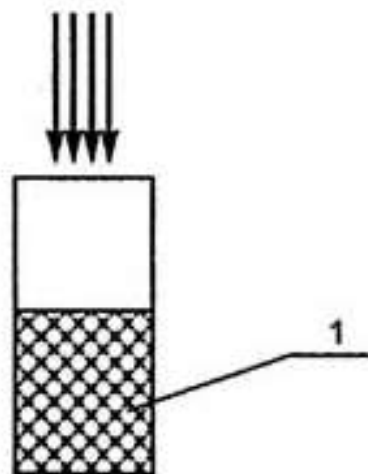


## **PREPARATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES**



## **THE ENRICHMENT OF VOLATILE COMPONENTS OF ATMOSPHERE**

components  
of atmosphere



BREATH ANALYSIS 2014

*8th International Conference on Breath Research and Cancer Diagnosis*

# ***PERMEATION AS A SUITABLE PROCESS FOR GENERATION OF STREAM OF MEASURAND***



**PERMEATION** - involves the diffusion of molecules, called the permeant, through a membrane or interface. Permeation works through diffusion; the permeant will move from high concentration to low concentration across the interface.

## **Fick's Law of Diffusion**

$$J = -D \left( \frac{dC}{dx} \right)$$

*J* - the flux per unit area of permeant through the polymer

*D* - the diffusion coefficient

$\frac{dC}{dx}$  - concentration gradient

$$C = \frac{22,45R}{MQ}$$

*C* - concentration of the analyte in standard gas mixture

*R* - permeation rate

*Q* - flow rate of the stream of carrier gas

*M* - molecular weight

# PERMEATION TUBES AS A SOURCE OF ANALYTES IN THE STREAM OF GASEOUS MIXTURE



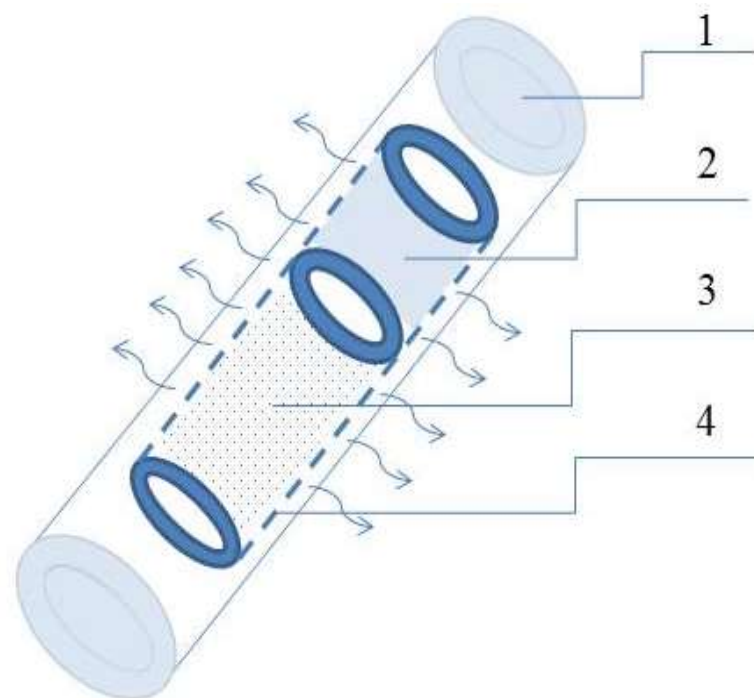
## PERMEATION MECHANISM



$$q_d = \frac{CQ}{22,4/M}$$

$q_d$  – permeation rate [ng/min]  
 $C$  – concentration [ppm]  
 $Q$  – flow rate [mL/min]  
 $M$  – molecular weight [g/mol]

## PERMEATION TUBE



- 1- seal
- 2- liquid phase
- 3- gas phase
- 4- permeable membrane

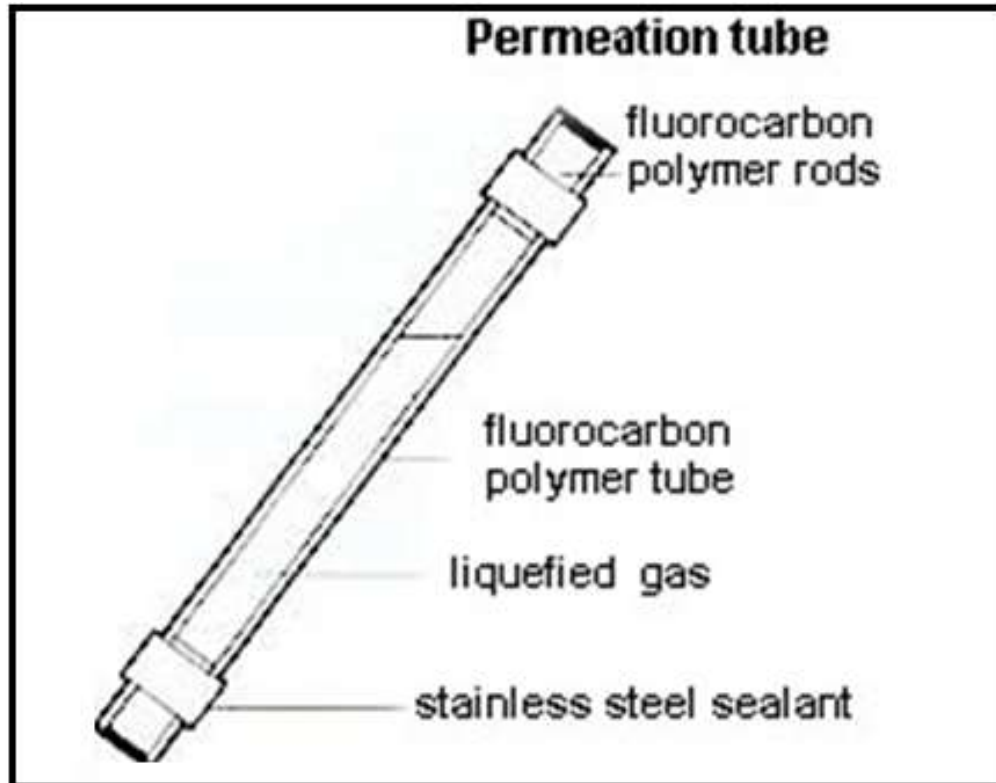
# APPLICATION OF PERMEATION DEVICES

## TYPES OF MEMBRANES APPLIED IN PERMEATION DEVICES

N°	Material of membrane	Analyte
1.	PDMS-FS	n-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> CH <sub>4</sub>
	PDMS	n-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> CH <sub>4</sub>
2.	PTFE (Teflon®)	BTX
3.	cork "Amadia"	He
		N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub>
4.	Matrimid® (poliimid 3,3',4,4'-benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride and diamino-phenylidane)	H <sub>2</sub> (purity 99,5%)
5.	PTFE	styrene phenole aldehydes
6.	PTFE	SF <sub>6</sub>
7.	-	NO <sub>2</sub> in nitrogene



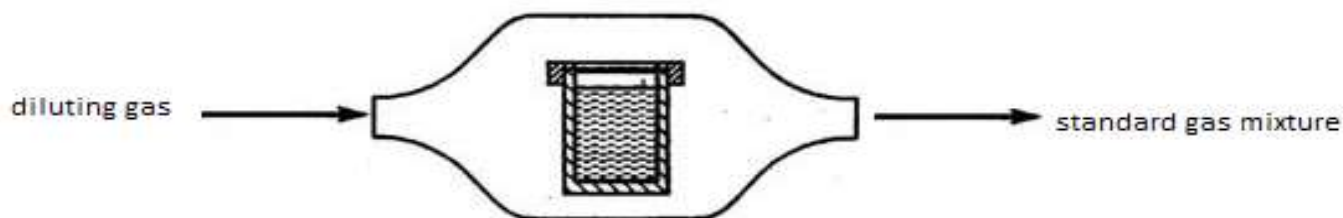
# ***PERMEATION TUBES USED FOR GENERATION OF STANDARD GASEOUS MIXTURES***



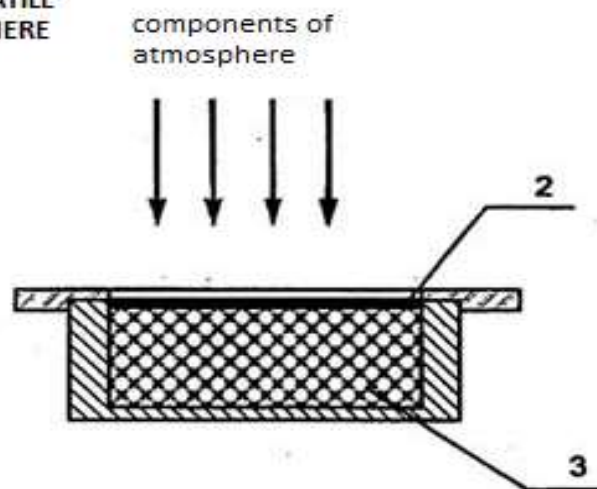
# ***ANALYTICAL ASPECTS OF APPLICATION OF PERMEATION PROCESS***



## **PREPARATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES**



## **THE ENRICHMENT OF VOLATILE COMPONENTS OF ATMOPHERE**



# ***DIFFUSION AS A SUITABLE PROCESS OF GENERATION OF STREAM OF MEASURAND***



## **Fick's Law of Diffusion**

$$J = -D \left( \frac{dC}{dx} \right)$$

*J - the flux per unit area of permeant through the polymer*

*D - the diffusion coefficient*

$\frac{dC}{dx}$  – *concentration gradient*

$$C = \frac{R}{dQ}$$

*R - diffusion rate*

*d - density of analyte vapour*

*Q - flow rate of the stream of carrier gas*

# TRENDS IN DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNIQUES OF GENERATION OF GASEOUS STANDARD MIXTURES

## BUBBLER SYSTEM (VSGM)

ease of use  
applicable for wide spectrum of organic compounds in wide range of concentration  
low cost of production and operation

## TGA, TTG

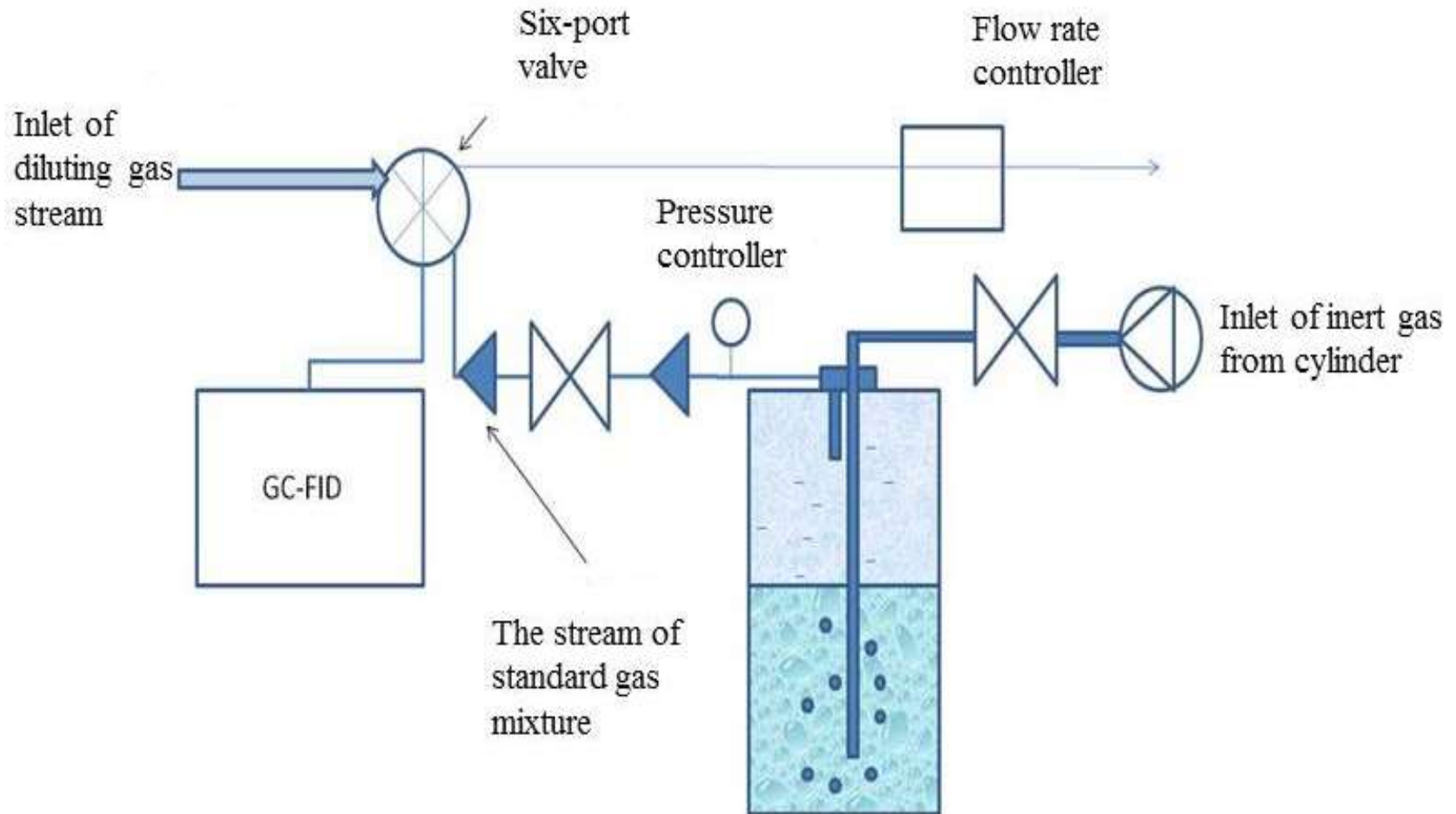
short time of preparation of standard gas mixture  
applicable for wide spectrum of organic compounds in wide range of concentration (ppm-ppb)  
possibility of obtaining standard gas mixture with low concentration of analytes in wide range of pressure with the possibility of real controlling of the concentration  
high precision of the technique

## THERMAL DECOMPOSITION OF SURFACE COMPOUNDS

possibility of application in case of toxic, reactive, volatile and of unpleasant smell  
elimination of errors connected with weighing of the carrier sample  
possibility to produce single- and multi-constituent standard mixtures  
lack of effect of the water content on the amount of liberated analyte (glass fibres)

# 4. BUBBLER SYSTEMS FOR GENERATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES

## Vapour Standard Gas Mixture System (VSGM)



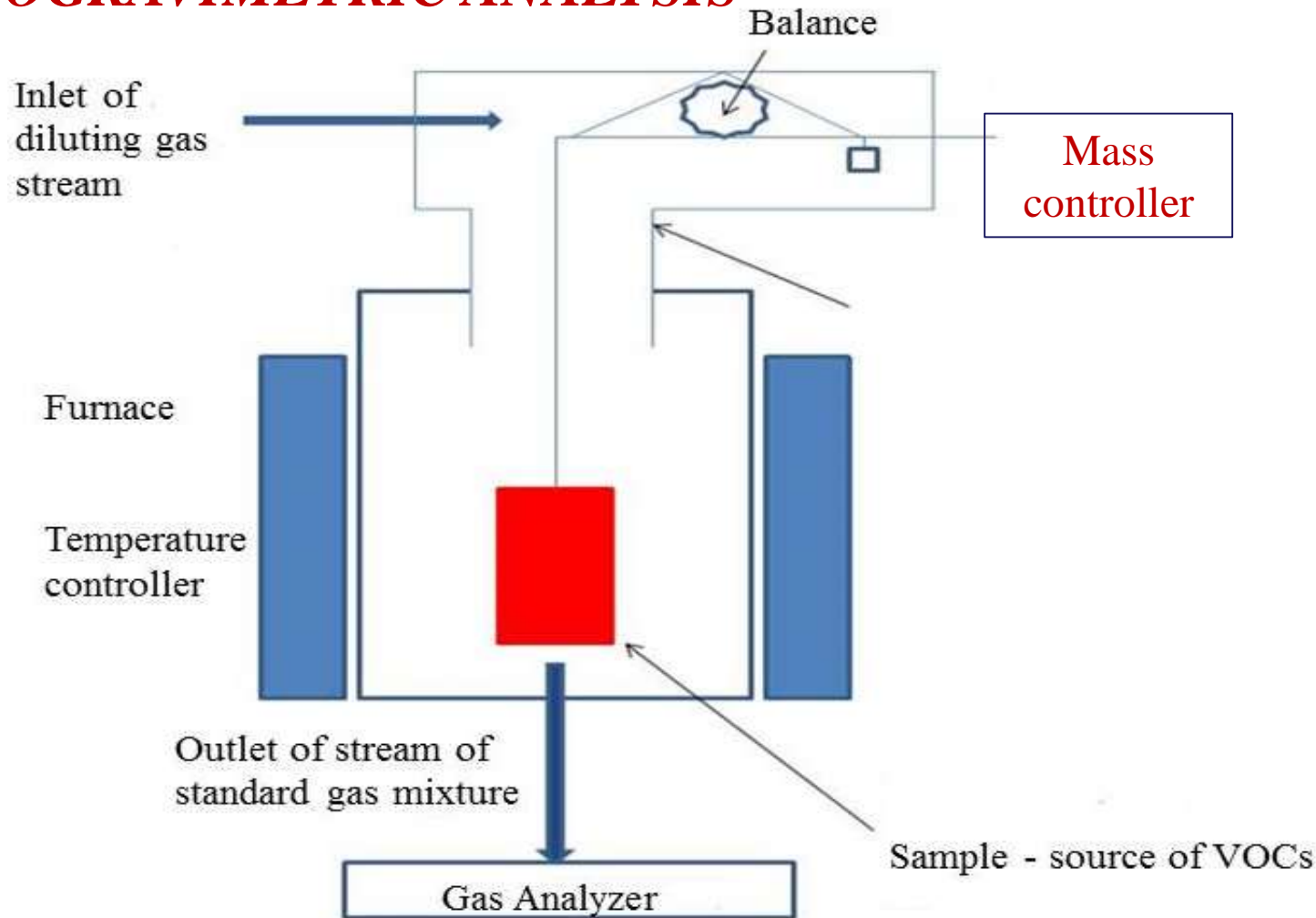
# ***TYPES OF VAPOUR STANDARD GAS MIXTURES SYSTEMS (VSGM) APPLICABLE IN LABORATORY PRACTICE***

TYPE OF SYSTEM	MATRIX	ANALYTE	CONCENTRATION IN GASEOUS MIXTURE [mg/m <sup>3</sup> ]
E-01	liquid	phenol	1-120
U-06	solid sorbent	benzene	1-1700
U-11	solid sorbent	acetone	1-1600
U-13	solid sorbent	methanol	1-900
U-15	solid sorbent	n-propanole	1-540
M-07	liquid	toluene	1-1200
M-08	liquid	ethylbenzene	1-1100
M-03	liquid	o-xylene	1-600
M-04	liquid	m-xylene	1-800
M-05	liquid	p-xylene	1-850
G-01	liquid	acetaldehyde	1-2600

VSGM-U- solid matrix, low dynamic of system, maximum flow rate of carrier gas stream -200ml/min for gas inlet pressure -15 kPa;

VSGM-M/E- liquid matrix, high dynamic of system, maximum flow rate of carrier gas stream – 400 ml/min for gas inlet pressure 15-20 kPa

# 5. THE SYSTEMS BASED ON THE WEIGHING TECHNIQUES - THERMOGRAVIMETRIC ANALYSIS



# ADVANTAGES OF STATIC AND DYNAMIC TECHNIQUES OF GENERATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES



	DYNAMIC TECHNIQUES	STATIC TECHNIQUES
ADVANTAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ possibility of preparing greater volume of gas mixture in a wide range of analytes' concentrations with required accuracy,</li> <li>▪ elimination of adsorption process which results in losing of analytes,</li> <li>▪ homogeneity and stability of prepared standard gas mixture</li> <li>▪ possibility of preparing and introducing the mixture to the measurement system under different conditions of temperature, pressure and flow rate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ simple to carry out,</li> <li>▪ low-cost of apparatus</li> </ul>





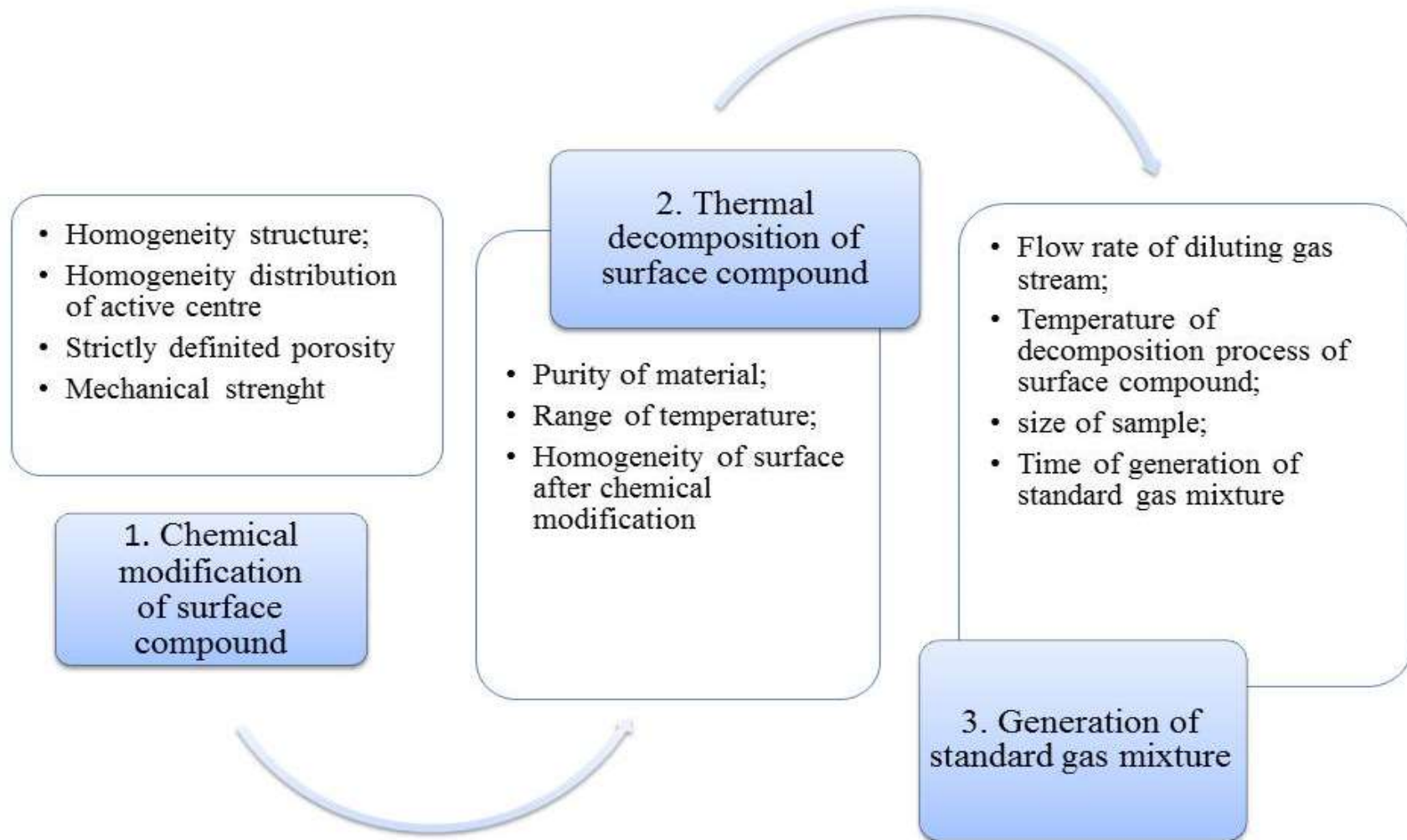
# ***DISADVANTAGES OF STATIC AND DYNAMIC TECHNIQUES OF GENERATION OF STANDARD GAS MIXTURES***

	DYNAMIC TECHNIQUES	STATIC TECHNIQUES
DISADVANTAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ necessity of having the gaseous analytes sources,</li><li>▪ necessity of controlling the flow rate of stream of diluting gas</li><li>▪ difficulties arising from stopping of generation of standard gas mixture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ time-consuming and inaccurate procedure</li><li>▪ losses of analytes due to adsorption and condensation on the walls of the chambers,</li><li>▪ impossible to storage in amounts sufficient to reuse,</li><li>▪ stratification during the stage of storage,</li><li>▪ unsuitable for unstable and reactive compounds</li></ul>

# 3. THERMAL DECOMPOSITION OF SO-CALLED SURFACE COMPOUNDS AS A SOURCE OF STREAM OF ANALYTE



## STEPS OF THE PROCEDURE



# Milestones in the application of thermal decomposition process for generation of standard gas mixtures

**2012**

- preparation of matrix free reference material of ethene in the form of glass fibers covered with thin layer of aluminum– CERTIFICATION OF MATERIAL

**2008**

- Trials with GLASS FIBERS COVERED WITH ALUMINUM for preparation of standard gas mixtures of methyl chloride and ethene

**2007**

- PATENT modified silica gel for preparation of standard gas mixtures

**2006**

- Carrier: SILICA GEL; standard gas mixture – ACETONE,

**2004**

- Use of TRIMETHYLAMINE for chemical modification, Carrier: SILICA GEL; standard gas mixture – ETHENE, METHYL CHLORIDE;

**2001**

- Carrier-POROUS GLASS

**2000**

- Carrier: SILICA GEL; standard gas mixture – ETHENE;

**1997**

- Carrier: SILICA GEL; standard gas mixture – AMMONIA, METHYLAMINE, DIETHYLAMINE, TRIETHYLAMINE;

**1996**

- Development of calibration technique for TD-GC-MS system
- Carrier: SILICA GEL; standard gas mixture – n- **PROPANETHIOL**;

**1992**

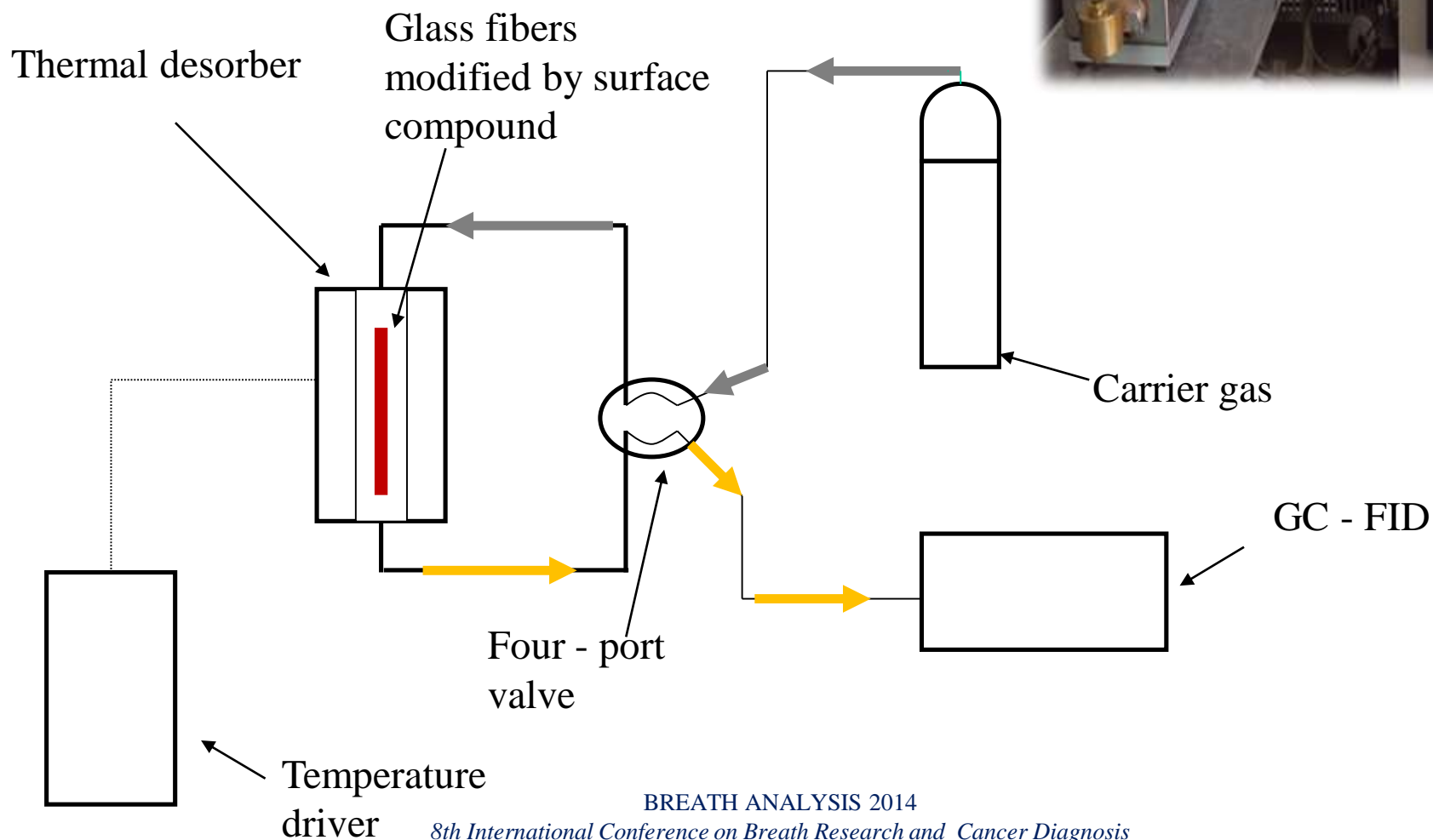
- Carrier: SILICA GEL; standard gas mixture – ISOTHIOCYANATE;

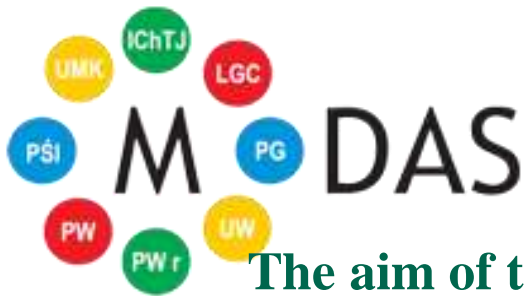
**1991**

- Concept of application of appropriate surface compounds for obtained reference materials; Carrier: SILICA GEL; standard gas mixture– THIOLES;

# APPARATUS SET UP FOR THE THERMAL DECOMPOSITION OF SURFACE COMPOUNDS

## TD-GC-FID





The aim of the project is to produce 6 new certified reference materials, which can be regarded as a response to the needs of Polish analytical laboratories in the field of environmental analysis

## I. **MATRIX - FREE REFERENCE MATERIALS OF BTX COMPOUNDS**

- preparation of a matrix-free BTX reference materials in the form of glass fibres coated with a thin layer of aluminium,
- the surface of glass fibres is chemically modified with a specific compound,
- as a result of thermal decomposition a specific analyte (benzene, toluene or xylenes) is formed.

## II. **ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE MATERIALS**

### Different matrix

1. soil
2. sediment
3. biological tissues (FISHES, BIRDS)

### Wide range of analytes

1. WWA
2. PCB
3. Heavy metals

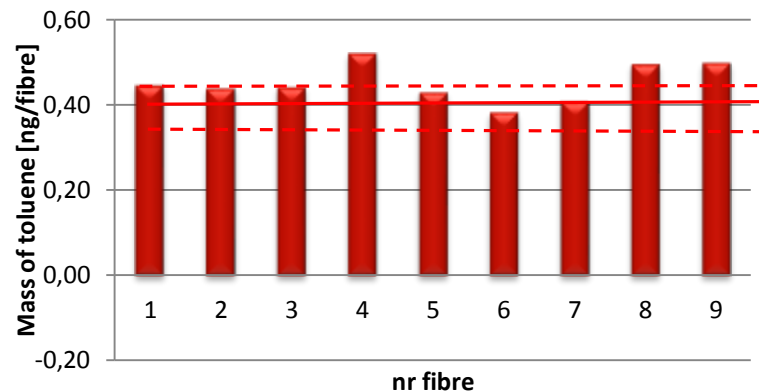
# THE RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE PRODUCTION OF MATRIX FREE REFERENCE MATERIALS OF BTX COMPOUNDS



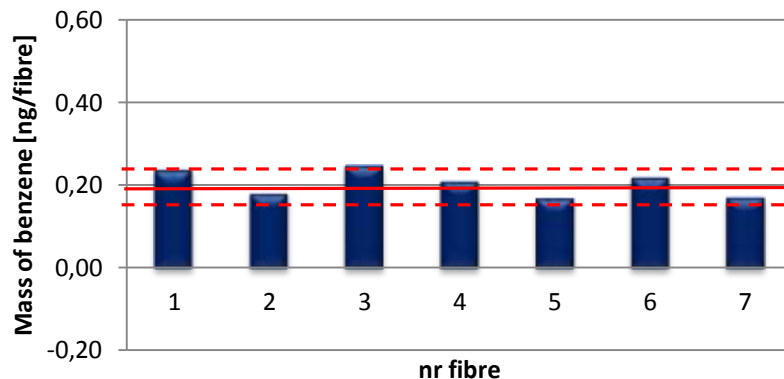
BREATH ANALYSIS 2014

8th International Conference on Breath Research and Cancer Diagnosis

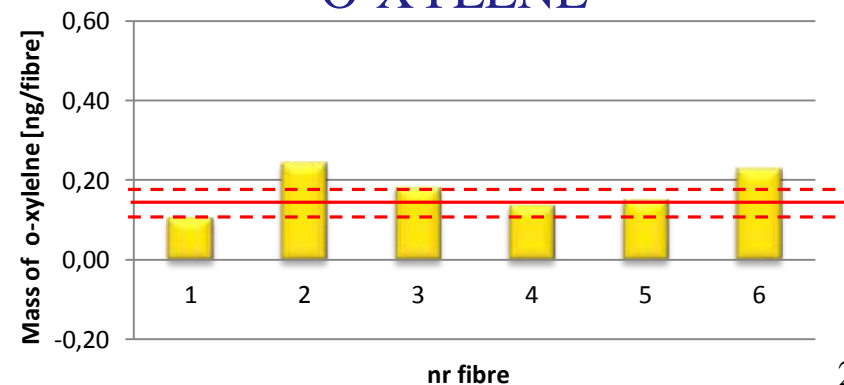
## TOLUENE



## BENZENE



## O-XYLENE



# LIST OF PAPERS DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF PREPARATION OF SGM's

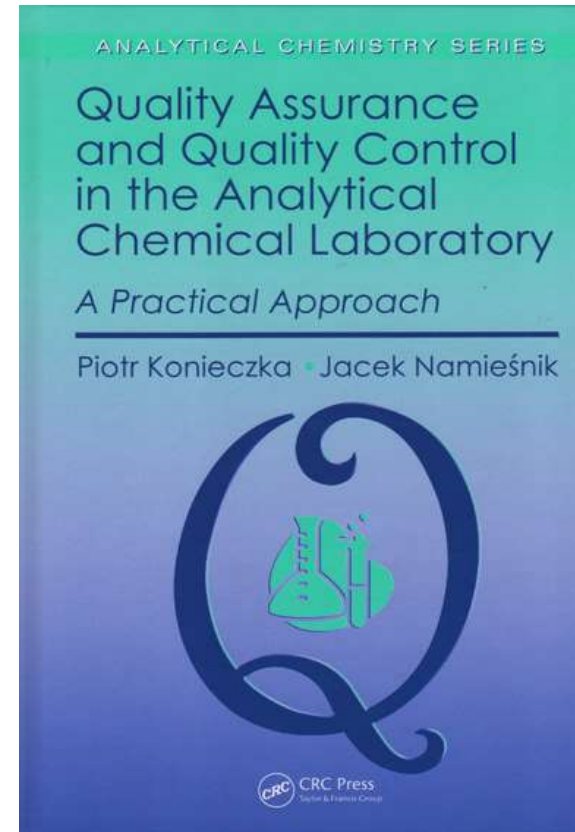
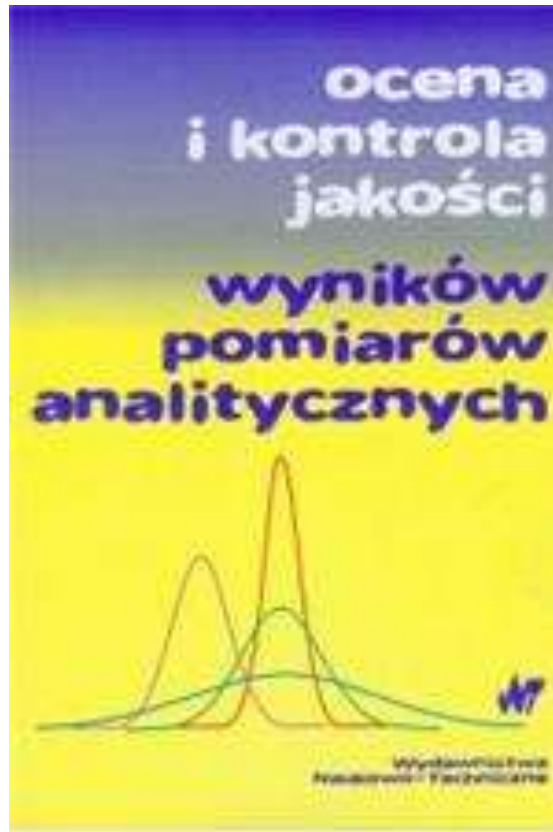


## Review papers

1. M. Słomińska, P. Konieczka, J. Namieśnik, *Trends Anal. Chem.* **29** (2010) 419.
2. M. Słomińska, S. Król, J. Namieśnik, *Crit. Rev. Environ. Sci. Technol.* **43** (2013) 1417-1445.
3. M. Słomińska, P. Konieczka, J. Namieśnik, *Analityka* **2** (2010) 31.
4. K. Kupiec, P. Konieczka, J. Namieśnik, *Crit. Rev. Anal. Chem.* **39** (2009) 60-69.
5. M. Słomińska, P. Konieczka, J. Namieśnik, *Crit. Rev. Environ. Sci. Technol.*,
6. P. Konieczka, A. Świtaj - Zawadka, J. Namieśnik, *Trends Anal. Chem.* **23** (2004) 450-458.
7. E. Przyk, A. Świtaj-Zawadka, J. Szczygelska-Tao, A. Przyjazny, J.F. Biernat., J. Namieśnik, *Crit. Rev. Anal. Chem.* **33** (2003) 249-267.

## Original papers

1. M. Słomińska, P. Konieczka, J. Namieśnik, *Anal. Bioanal. Chem.* **405** (2013) 1773-1778
2. J. Namieśnik, B. Zygmunt, A. Jastrzębska, *J. Chromatogr. A* **885** (2000) 405-418.
3. A. Naganowska- Nowak, P. Konieczka, J. F. Biernat, J. Szczygelska- Tao, A. Przyjazny, J. Namieśnik, *Anal. Bioanal. Chem.* **388** (2007) 1725-1731
4. A. Świtaj-Zawadka, E. Przyk, J. Szczygelska-Tao, J. Wójcik, J.F. Biernat, J. Namieśnik, B. Zygmunt, *J. Sep. Sci.* **26** (2003) 1057-1062
5. E. Przyk, A. Świtaj-Zawadka, P. Konieczka, J. Szczygelska-Tao, J. F. Biernat, J. Namieśnik, *Anal. Chim. Acta* **488** (2003) 89-96.
6. P. Konieczka, M. Prokopowicz, B. Zygmunt, J.F. Biernat, J. Namieśnik, *Chromatogr. Suppl.* **51** (2000) 249-260.
7. E. Przyk, P. Konieczka, J. Szczygelska- Tao, R. Teschner, J. F. Biernat, J. Namieśnik, *J. Chromatogr. A* **928** (2001) 99.







*Department of Analytical Chemistry*  
*Chemical Faculty*  
*Gdańsk University of Technology*



<http://chem.pg.edu.pl/katedra-chemii-analitycznej/strona-glowna>

### **Scientific activity**

- Development of new methods of determining trace components in samples of complex matrix
- Development of new methodologies for environmental monitoring and biomonitoring
- Designing, constructing and testing analytical characteristics of prototype control-measurement devices,
- Assessing pollution of particular abiotic environmental compartments and determining processes occurring in these compartments (transport, degradation...)
- Assessing environmental fate of xenobiotics and bioaccumulation processes in tissues and organs of living organisms,
- Applying modern analytical techniques to check quality of food products
- Development of new techniques of producing materials of special properties and/or high purity grade tested with use of chromatographic techniques,
- Organizing interlaboratory studies and proficiency testing.



# MODAS - NEW REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

GDAŃSK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

SILESIA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

WROCLAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

LGC STANDARDS SP. Z O.O.

INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

# INVITATION

## TraceSpec 2016

*15<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Progress in  
Trace Metal Speciation for  
Environmental Analytical  
Chemistry*

Gdańsk, Poland, September 04-07, 2016

Info: <http://chem.pg.edu.pl/tracespec/>  
CONTACT: [chemanal@pg.gda.pl](mailto:chemanal@pg.gda.pl)

15<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Progress  
in Trace Metal Speciation  
for Environmental Analytical Chemistry  
Gdańsk, Poland, September 04-07, 2016

organized by  
the International Association  
of Environmental Analytical Chemistry



in cooperation with  
Polish Chemical Society  
Committee on Analytical Chemistry  
of the Polish Academy of Sciences



GDANSK UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY

Sn  
Hg

15<sup>th</sup> TraceSpec



GDAŃSK UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY





*Thank you for your attention!*