



# Determination of the Total Sulfur, Chlorine, Bromine, and Fluorine Contents of Solid Samples

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- The challenge of solid samples
- Combustion
- Ion chromatography (IC) basics and Combustion IC (CIC)
- Examples of using CIC to solve analysis problems
- Conclusions

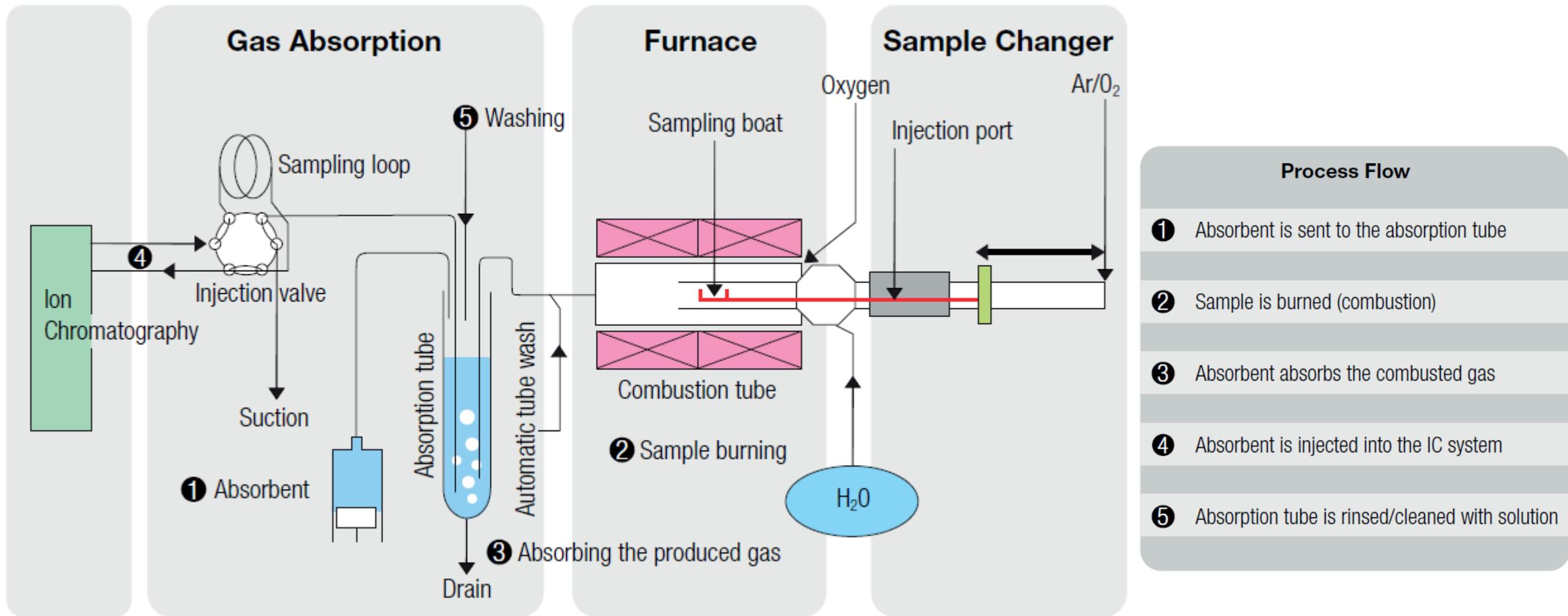
# Solid Samples for IC

- Those soluble in water will just require filtration.
- Samples soluble in an organic solvent\* will probably require removal of the solvent and raise questions of recovery.
- Even without removal there can be questions of extraction efficiency.
- Acid solubility may or may not be useful.
- Is the goal to determine an ion (e.g., chloride) or an element (e.g., chlorine) content?

# Combustion as Sample Preparation for Ion Chromatography

1. Samples are oxidized by oxygen (oxidative pyrolysis) at temperatures of about 1000 °C.
2. The combustion by-product gases, including HX and SO<sub>2</sub> /SO<sub>3</sub>, are passed through an aqueous absorbing solution.
3. This solution is then directly injected into the IC instrument.

# CIC System Diagram



# Combustion Ion Chromatography (CIC)

## Advantages of CIC system

- Eliminates complex sample preparation
- Sensitive
- Easy to use
- Produces fewer environmental contaminants

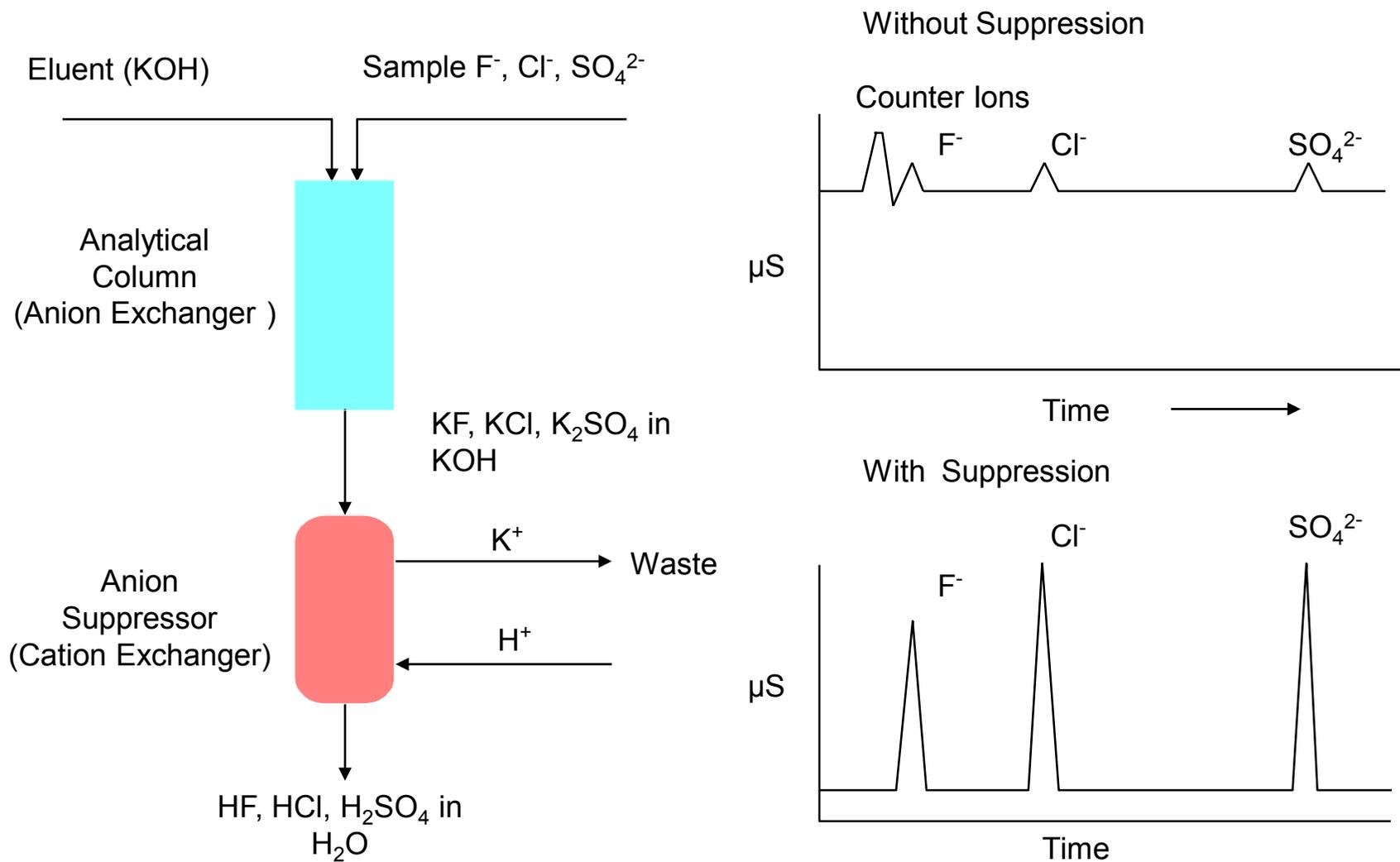
## Applications of CIC

- Polymers and electronics
- Coal
- Petroleum
- LPG
- Wood chips
- Ethanol, biodiesel, alternative fuels

At the most basic level....

Ion Chromatography = Ion-Exchange +  
Chemically Suppressed Conductivity

# The Role of Chemical Suppression (KOH)



# CIC System Components



↑  
IC

↑  
Gas Absorption Unit

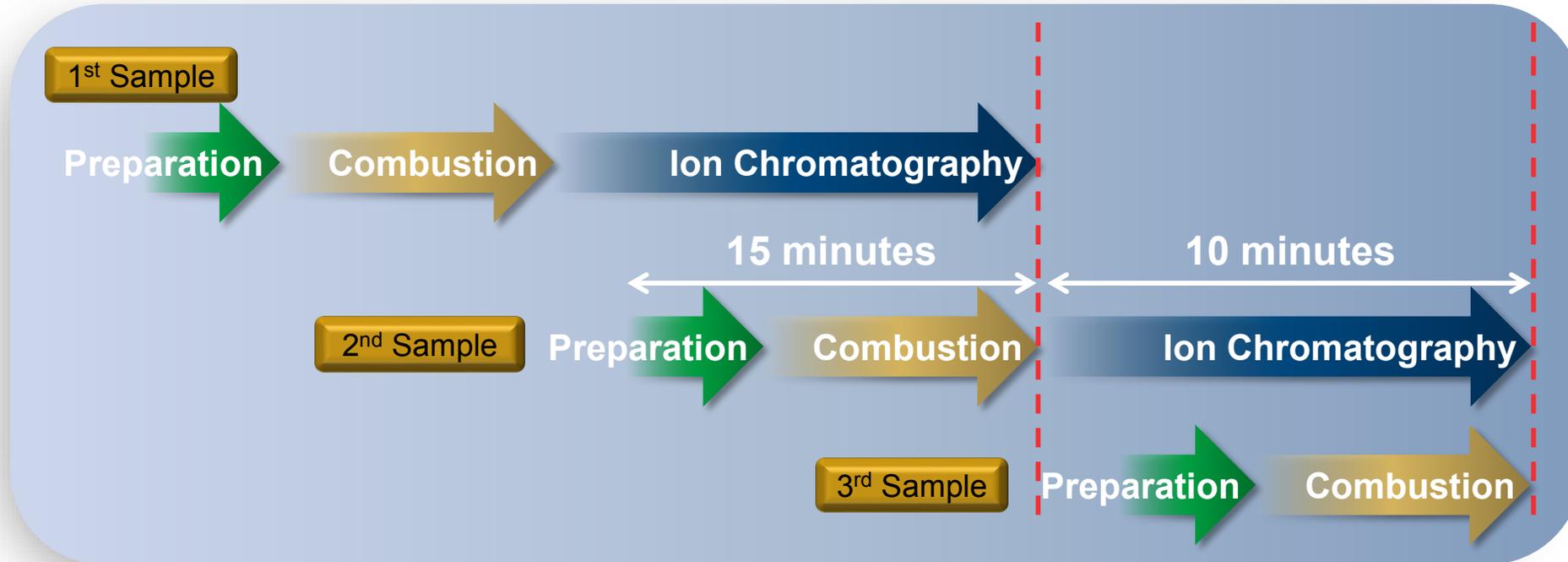
↑  
Furnace

↑  
Liquid Autosampler

In CIC, the samples including halogen-containing compounds are first combusted and the resultant gases are released into an absorption solution, which is directly injected into an IC system

# Software-Based Automation to Increase Productivity

- Established program controls total analysis
  - Capable of starting combustion of next sample to reduce waiting time

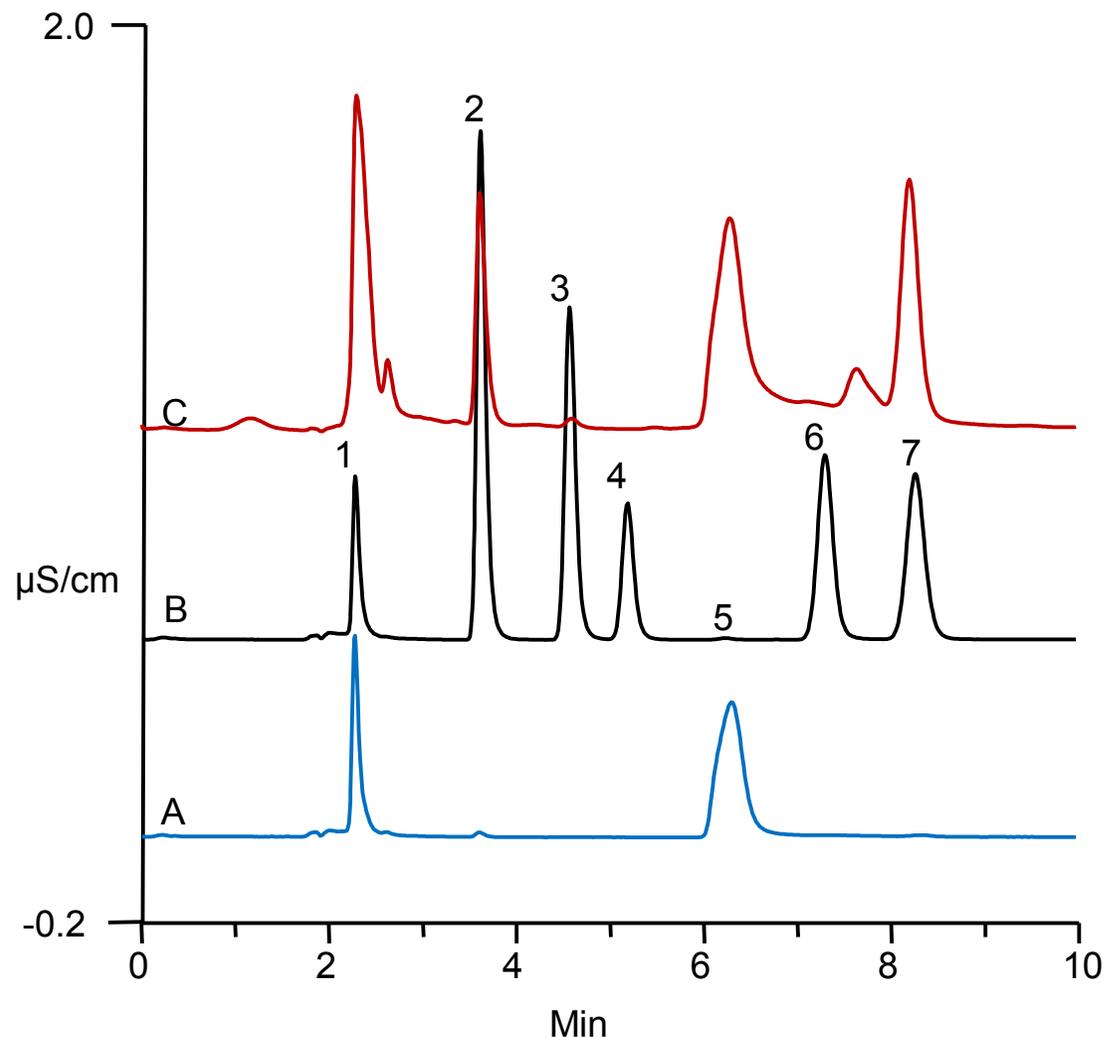


	1 <sup>st</sup> Sample	2 <sup>nd</sup> sample	3 <sup>rd</sup> sample	4 <sup>th</sup> sample	5 <sup>th</sup> sample
<b>Analysis time</b>	25min (Data in 15+10 min)	40 min (Data in +15 min instead of 15+10 min)	55 min (Data in +15 min instead of 15+10 min)	@70min	@85min and so on...

# Application Problem #1: Determination of Fluoride in Tea

- Seems easy – Make tea and analyze by IC
- The problem: Too many other peaks interfere with fluoride separation
- The solution: Combust solid tea to remove other compounds and obtain fluoride

# Analysis of Tea for Fluoride



Columns: Thermo Scientific™ Dionex™ IonPac™ AG18-4μm and AS18-4μm, 4 mm

Eluent: 20 mM KOH

Eluent source: Thermo Scientific Dionex EGC 500 KOH cartridge

Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min

Inj. volume: 100 μL

Column temp.: 30 °C

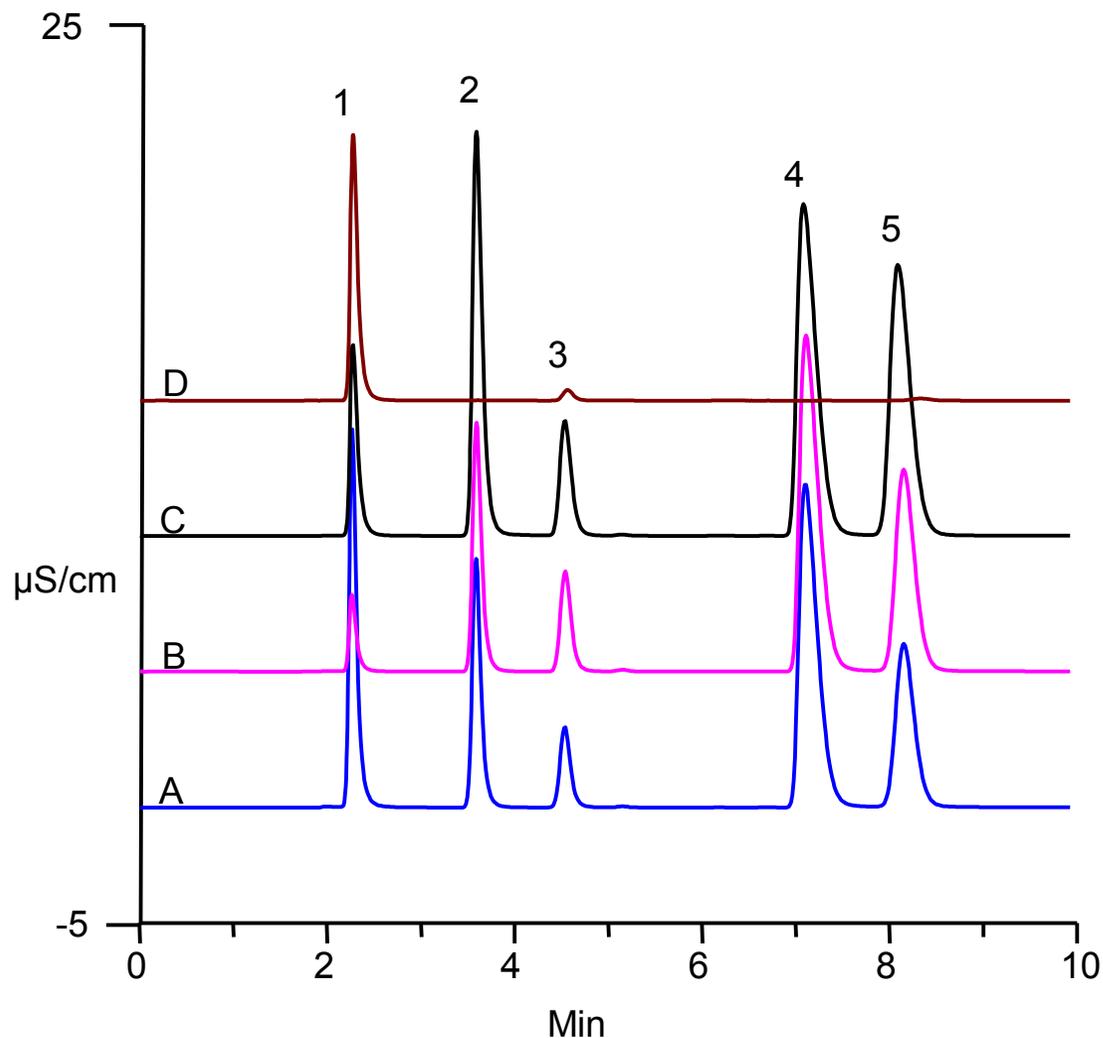
Detection: Suppressed conductivity,  
Thermo Scientific™ Dionex™ AERS 500 electrolytically regenerated suppressor, 4 mm, 35 °C,  
50 mA, recycle mode  
Compartment temp. 25 °C

Sample prep.: Brew 5 g tea in 50 mL DI water for 5 min, filter - 0.2 μm filter

Sample :  
A 0.02 ppm fluoride (Direct inj.)  
B 20 μL tea solution through CIC  
C 1000x diluted tea solution (Direct inj.)

Peaks:  
1. Fluoride  
2. Chloride  
3. Nitrite  
4. Unknown  
5. Carbonate  
6. Sulfito  
7. Sulfate

# CIC of Tea Samples



Columns: Dionex IonPac AG18-4 $\mu$ m,  
and Dionex IonPac AS18-4 $\mu$ m, 4 mm

Eluent: 20 mM KOH

Eluent source: Dionex EGC 500 KOH cartridge

Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min

Inj. volume: 100  $\mu$ L

Column temp.: 30  $^{\circ}$ C

Detection: Suppressed conductivity,  
Dionex AERS 500, 4 mm, 35  $^{\circ}$ C,  
50 mA, recycle mode  
Compartment temp. 25  $^{\circ}$ C

Sample size: ~20mg

Sample :	Fluoride (mg/Kg)
A Tea 1	279
B Tea 2	55
C Tea 3	129
D 200 ppm F $^{-}$ (NH $_4$ F)	200

Peaks:

1. Fluoride
2. Chloride
3. Nitrite
4. Sulfite
5. Sulfate

# Application Problem #2: Determining Halogens in Electronic Components

- Need to know for recycling purposes
- Possibly can be used to assess the potential for failure
- Ideal for combustion and IC
- ISO Method in progress

# Halogen Separation

Column: Dionex IonPac AG17-C guard, 4 × 50 mm  
Dionex IonPac AS17-C analytical, 4 × 250 mm

Eluent: 1 mM KOH 0-3 min, 10 mM 3-10 min, 35 mM 10-18 min, 1 mM 18.1-20 min

Eluent source: Dionex EGC 500 KOH eluent generator cartridge with Thermo Scientific™ Dionex™ CR-ATC 600 continuously regenerated anion trap column

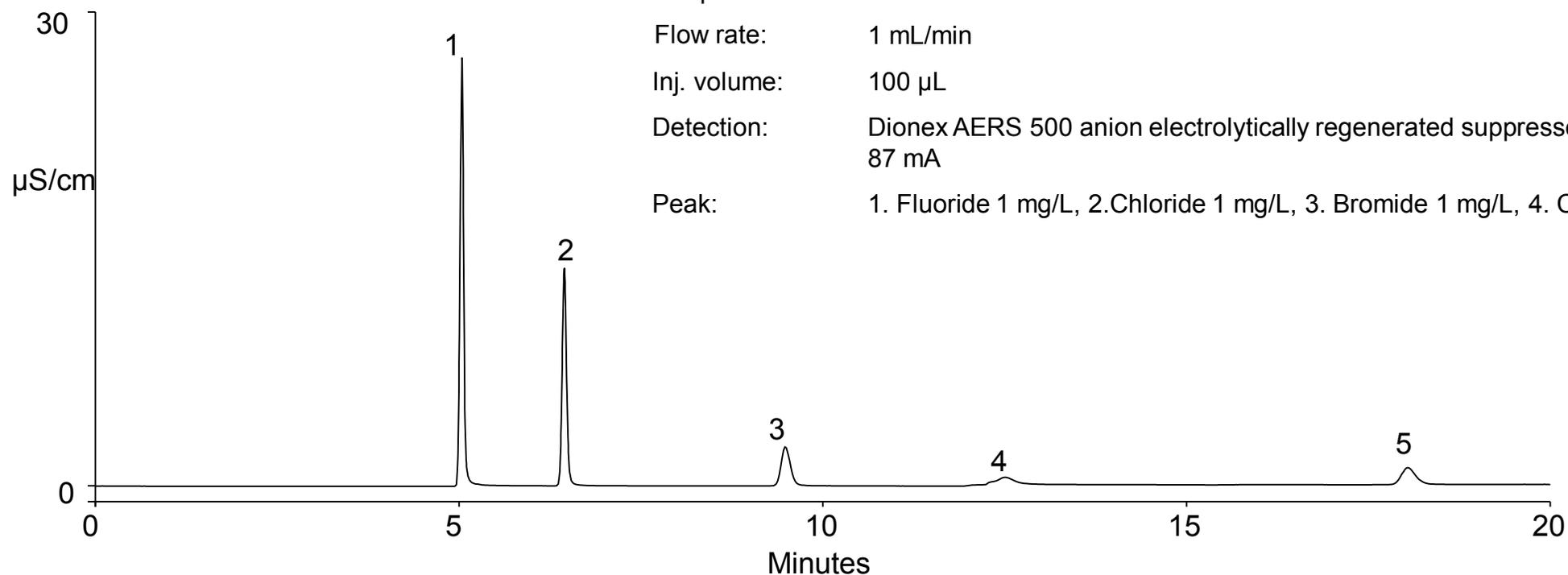
Temperature: 30 °C

Flow rate: 1 mL/min

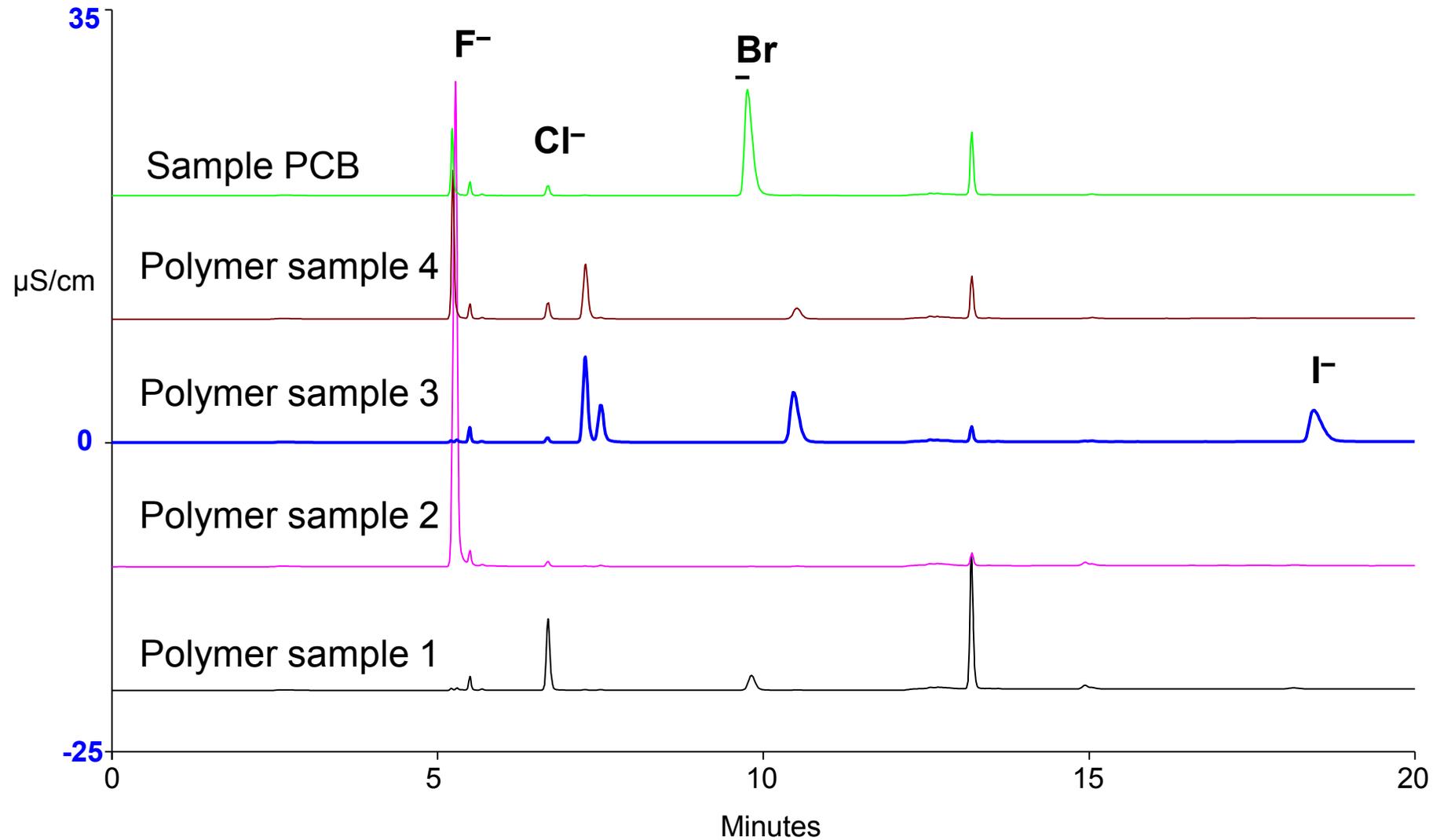
Inj. volume: 100 µL

Detection: Dionex AERS 500 anion electrolytically regenerated suppressor, 4mm, recycle mode, 87 mA

Peak: 1. Fluoride 1 mg/L, 2. Chloride 1 mg/L, 3. Bromide 1 mg/L, 4. Carbonate, 5. Iodide 1 mg/L



# Chromatograms of Halogens in Polymers and Electronics



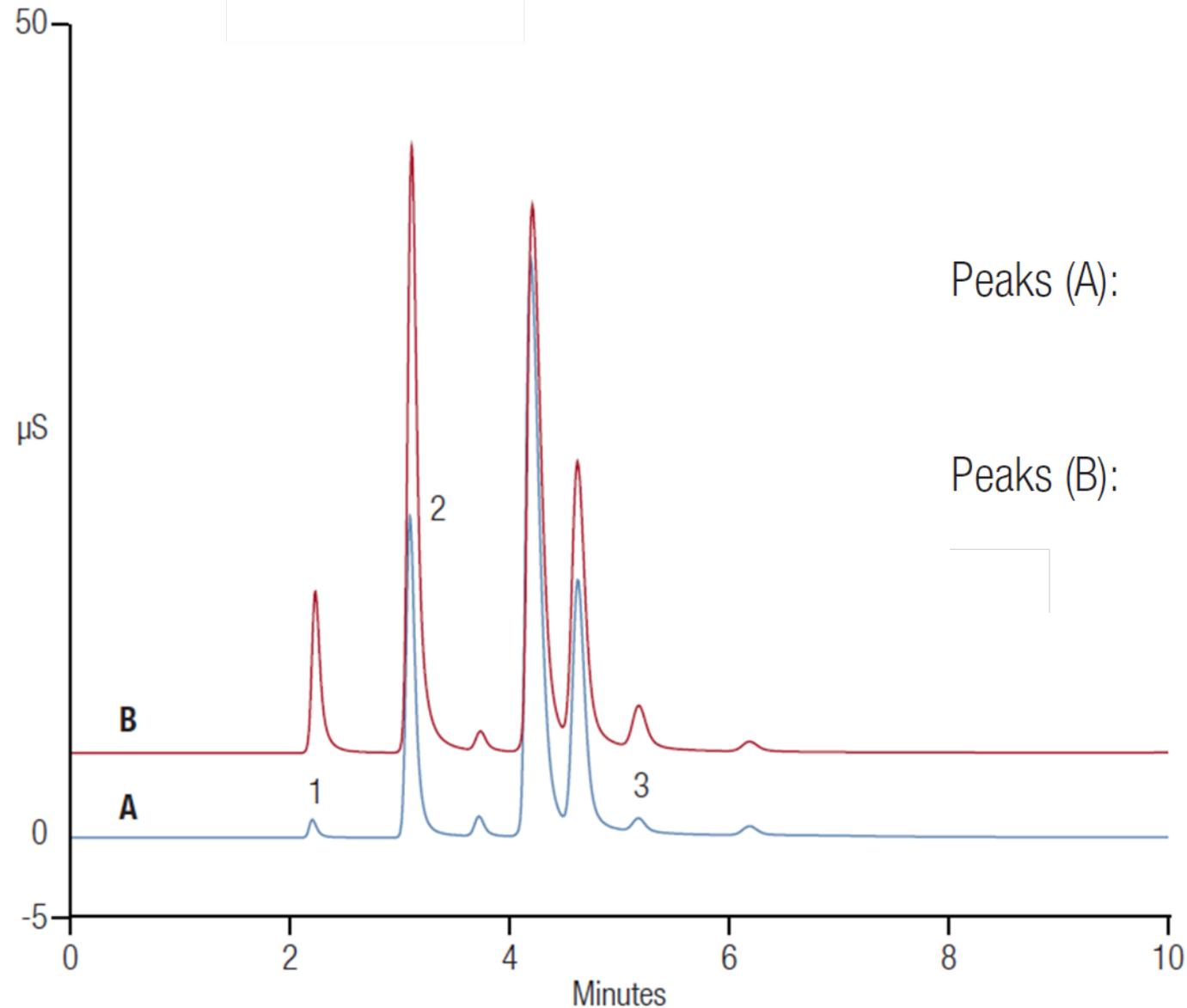
# Application Problem #3: Absorbable Organic Halogen in Wastewater

- Absorbable Organic Halogens (AOX) are general indicators of pollution as many are toxic and persistent compounds.
- AOX represents the equivalent amount of fluorine, chlorine, and bromine contained in organic compounds, expressed as chloride substances that can be adsorbed from water onto activated carbon.
- With so many compounds and at varying concentrations, how do you determine them all?
- Capture, combust, and IC

# Sample Preparation

- Wastewater samples (50 mL) were absorbed onto granular activated carbon (GAC) columns.
- The column was then washed with 20 mL of sodium nitrate washing solution (0.01 M) at 2–3 mL/min to displace inorganic chloride ions.
- A rod was used to push the carbon from the column into a sample boat.
- Samples were analyzed with CIC.

# Determination of AOX in (A) Wastewater and (B) Spiked Wastewater



Peaks (A):

1. Fluoride	0.0425 mg/L
2. Chloride	1.90
3. Bromide	0.340

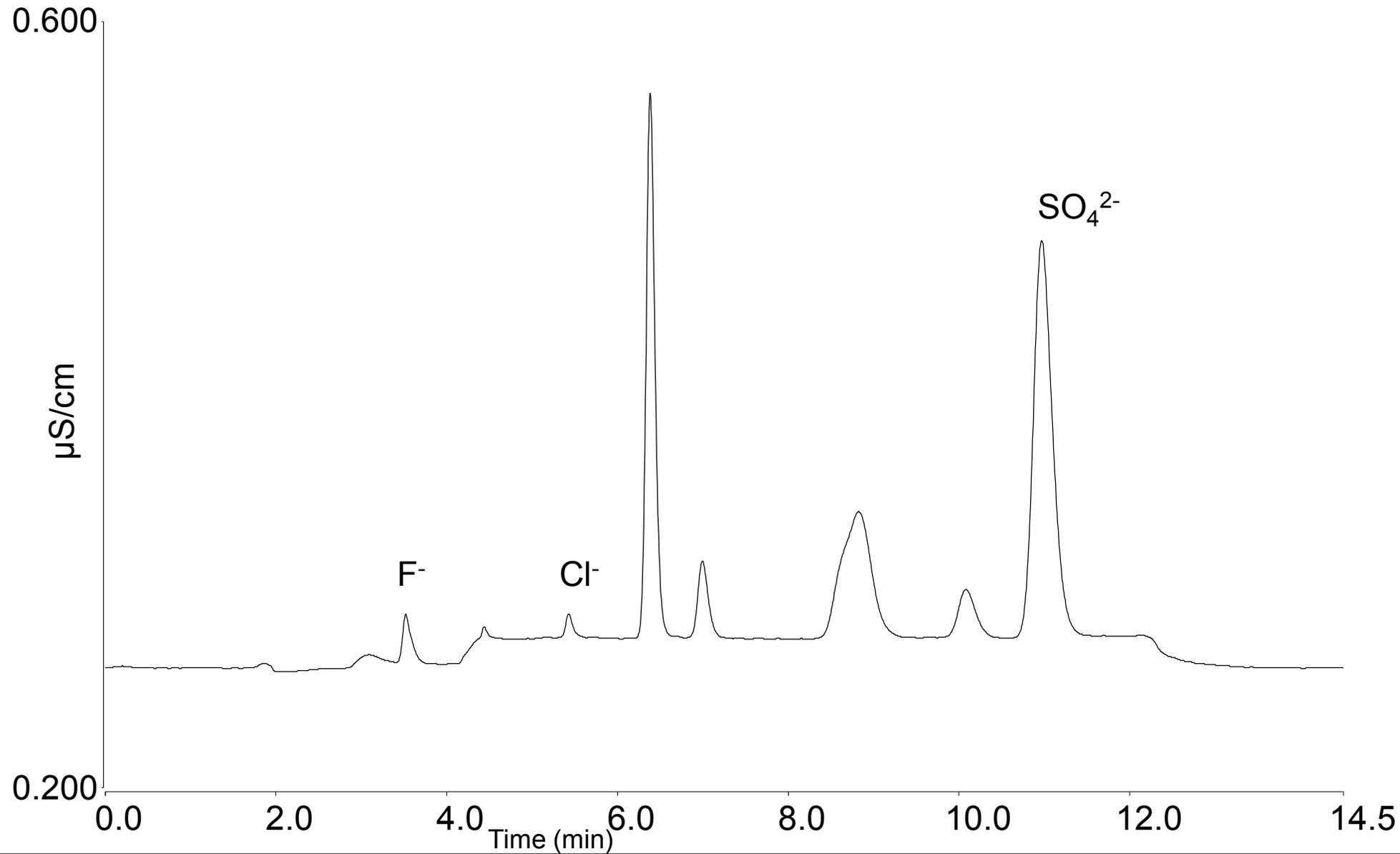
Peaks (B):

1. Fluoride	0.543 mg/L
2. Chloride	3.92
3. Bromide	0.908

# Application Problem #4: Total F, Cl, and S in Aromatic Hydrocarbons

- Need to know for environmental issues as well as performance issues
- ASTM Method D7359-14A
- Used for other fuels

# Combustion IC Chromatogram of a Gasoline Sample



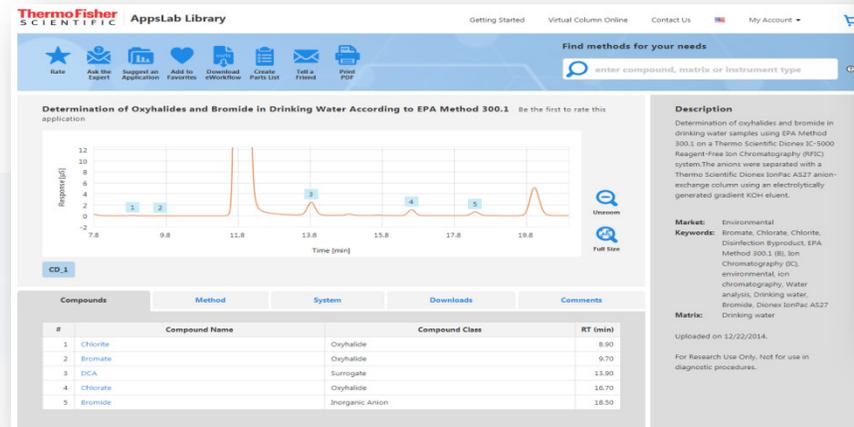
# Spike Recovery Results

Spike conc (mg/L)	F		Cl		SO <sub>4</sub>	
	Average amount (mg/L)	% Recovery	Average amount	% Recovery	Average amount (mg/L)	% Recovery
0 (Premium gasoline)	0.24		0.22		4.37	
0.5	0.75	102.2	0.71	96.5	4.82	91.0
1	1.22	98.0	1.08	85.9	5.30	93.0
2	2.11	93.7	2.03	90.5	6.30	96.3

- Application note 72268: Determination of fluoride in tea using a combustion ion chromatography system
- Application note 1145: Determination of halogens in coal using combustion ion chromatography.
- Application note 72349: Determination of chlorine, bromine, and sulfur in polyethylene materials using combustion ion chromatography
- Application note 72573: Determination of halogens in polymers and electronics using a combustion ion chromatography system
- Application note 72693: Determination of total fluorine, chlorine, and sulfur in aromatic hydrocarbons by oxidative pyrolytic combustion followed by ion chromatography
- Application note 72333: Determination of adsorbable organic halogen in wastewater using a combustion ion chromatography system

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**Latest Methods**

- Composition and related substances analysis of colistin sulfate using a C18 HPLC column as per EP 8.4 monograph method. Instrument Type: HPLC.
- Assay and organic impurities analysis of tetracycline using a polar embedded C18 HPLC column as per USP 99 monograph method. Instrument Type: HPLC.
- AB72863: Detection of Common Organic Acids using a Compact Ion Chromatography System Coupled with Mass Spectrometry. Instrument Type: ICMS.
- Related substances analysis of sulfamethoxazole using a C8 HPLC column as per EP 8.0 monograph method. Instrument Type: HPLC.

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# Conclusions

- AOX can be precisely and accurately determined in wastewater using CIC
- Fluoride in tea can be accurately measured by CIC.
- Halogens and sulfur can be measured in gasoline and other soils by CIC.
- CIC is also useful for determining halogens in electronic waste.
- Other solid and liquid samples may be amenable to CIC.

# Thank you!

- Questions?

