SHIMADZU

Improvement of ASTM D-5769 by GCMS High Concentration Tuning and Automated Data Processing

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Introduction

Method ASTM D-5769 is a standard GCMS method to determine aromatics in finished motor gasoline or ethanol blends. However, the intrinsic high sensitivity of mass spectrometry usually gives rise to a limited linear range that makes it difficult to meet method requirements. GCMS-QP2010 Ultra, a new single transmission quadruple GCMS, allows for tuning the instrument in a "high concentration" mode that is suitable for ASTM D-5769 type of analysis without making any hardware compromises. In addition, newly improved Shimadzu aromatics report software is now capable of conducting automated data acquisition, processing and reporting. These new features have greatly enhanced method robustness and efficiency, providing a total solution of running ASTM D-5769.
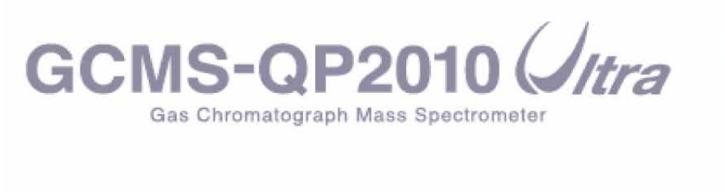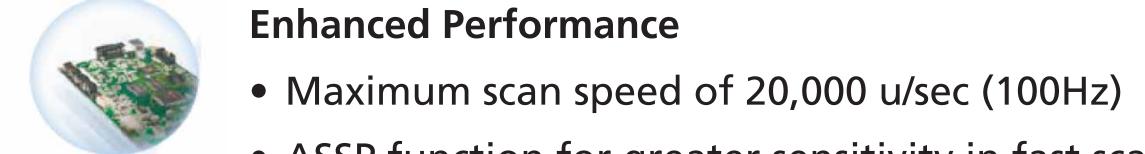
ASTM D5769 Compounds of Interest

- Benzene: 0.1 – 4 %
- Toluene: 1 – 13 %
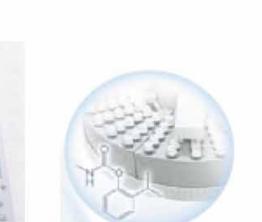- C6-C12 Aromatics: 10 – 42 %
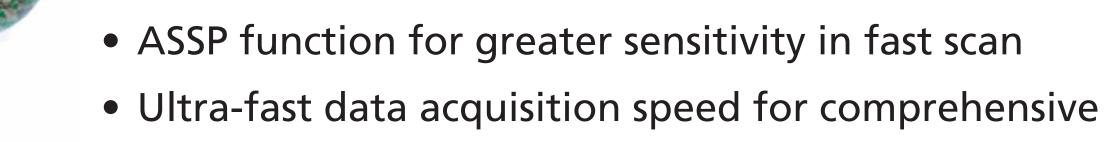
Method Challenges

- Good linearity is difficult to obtain
  - MS detector saturates easily at high concentrations due to limited fragmentation
  - Quadratic calibration is implemented for these high concentration compounds
- Automation is hard to realize
  - Data acquisition
  - Processing
  - Reporting

GCMS-QP2010 Ultra New Features

GCMS-QP2010 Ultra
Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer

Enhanced Performance
- Maximum scan speed of 20,000 u/sec (100Hz)
- ASSP function for greater sensitivity in fast scan
- Ultra-fast data acquisition speed for comprehensive 2 dimensional gas chromatography
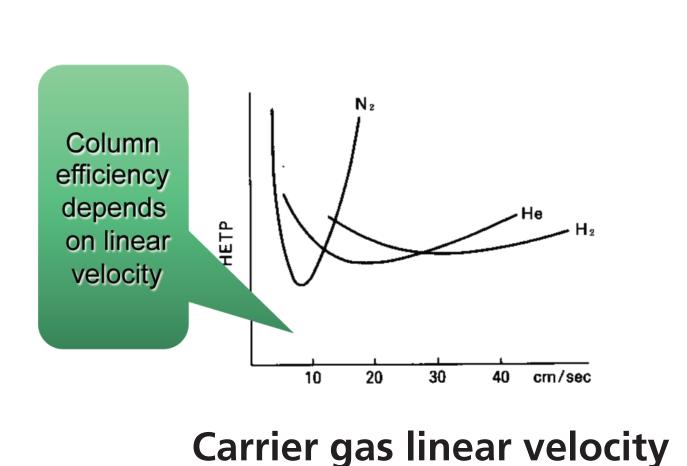- Increased sensitivity

Increased Productivity
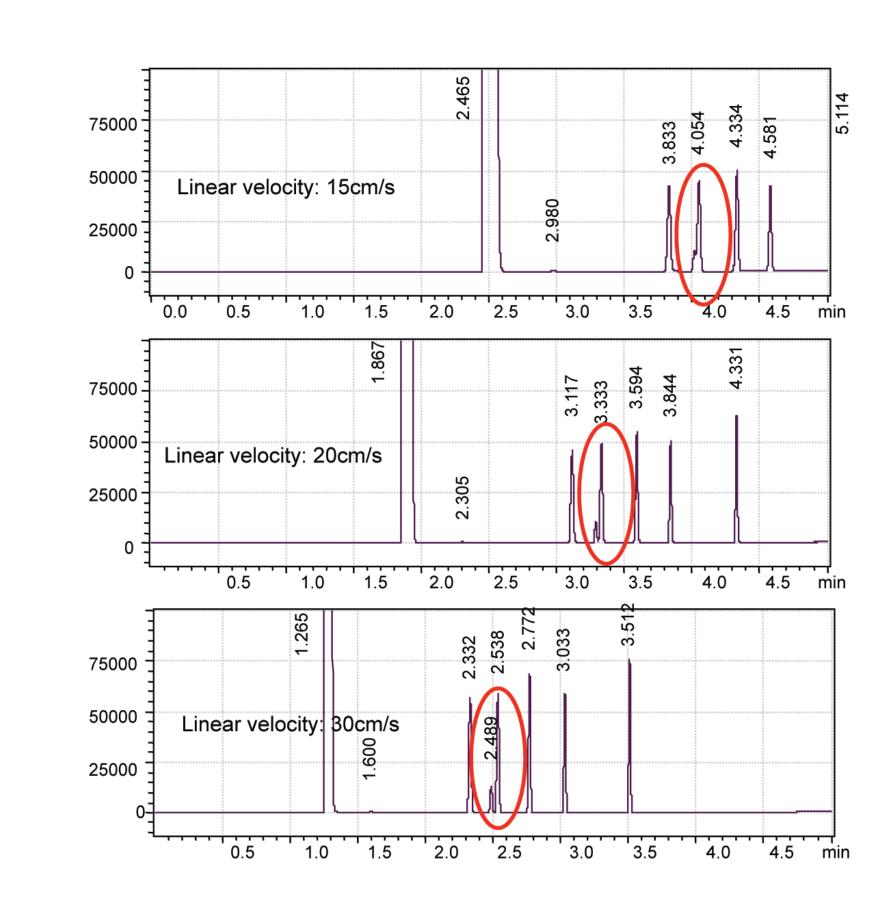- Analysis cycle shortened significantly
- Maintenance downtime reduced

Eco-friendly
- 36% reduction of power consumption in analysis standby mode
- 30% reduction of CO_2 factory emission

Constant Linear Velocity

Optimum separation in one mouse click
Transfer methods between GC's easily even if the column id's are different with constant linear velocity

Linear velocity: 15cm/s

Linear velocity: 20cm/s

Linear velocity: 30cm/s

Column efficiency depends on linear velocity

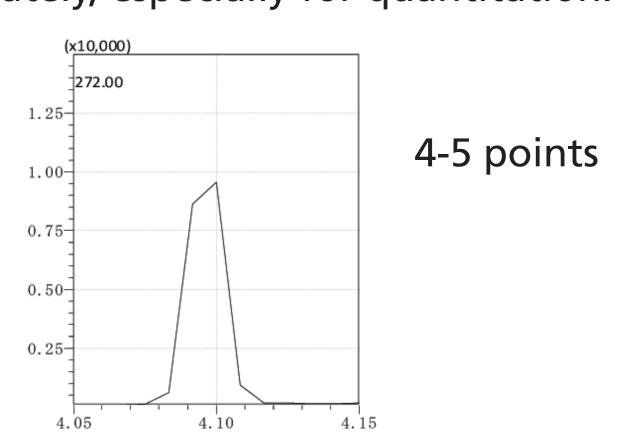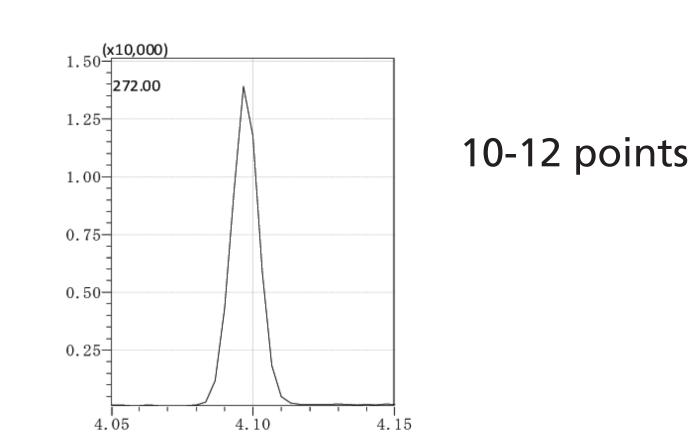**Carrier gas linear velocity**

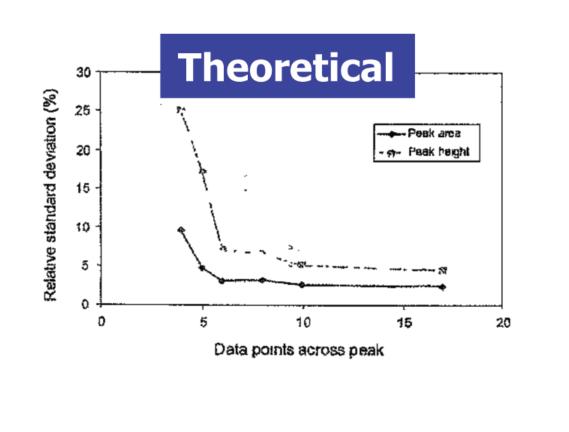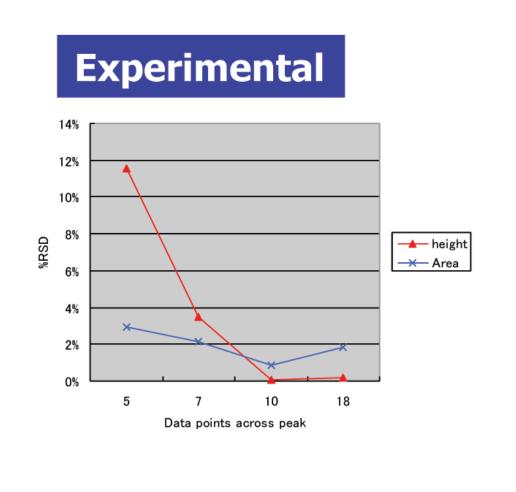## Very Fast Scan / Data Acquisition

Why is fast cycle time necessary?
Sufficient data sampling points per peak is important to acquire chromatographic data accurately, especially for quantitation.
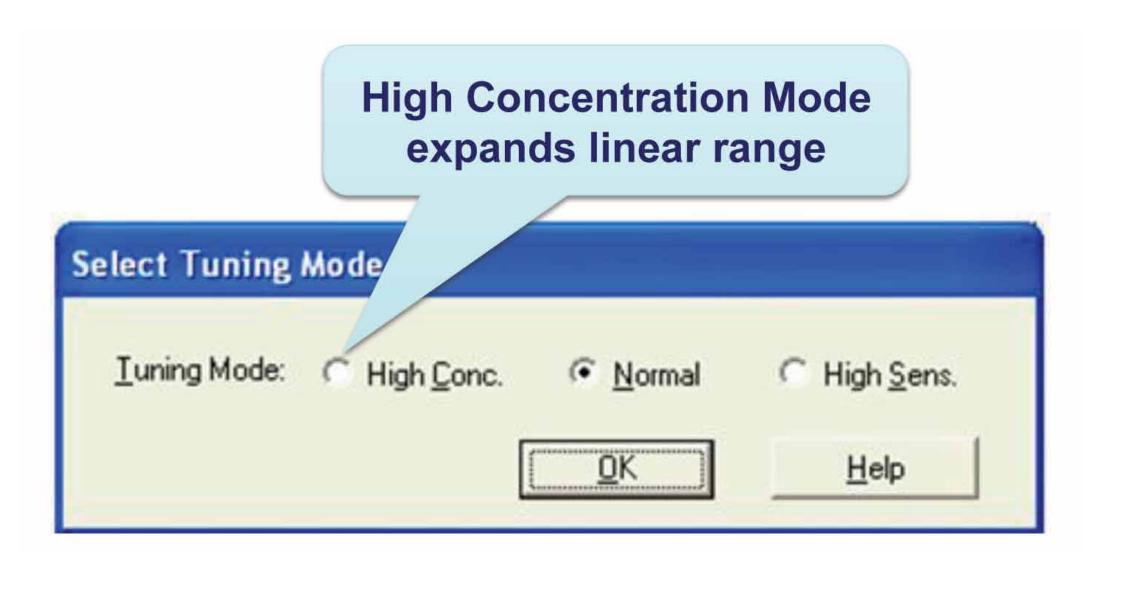
4-5 points

10-12 points

Precision / accuracy is poor with only 4-5 scans across a GC peak.

Theoretical

Experimental

Flexible Tuning Modes

Three tuning modes to select from

High Concentration Mode expands linear range

Select Tuning Mode
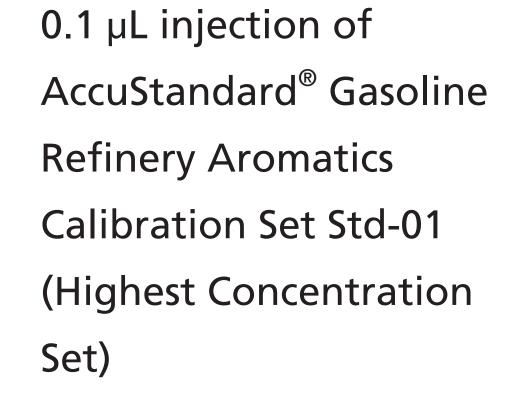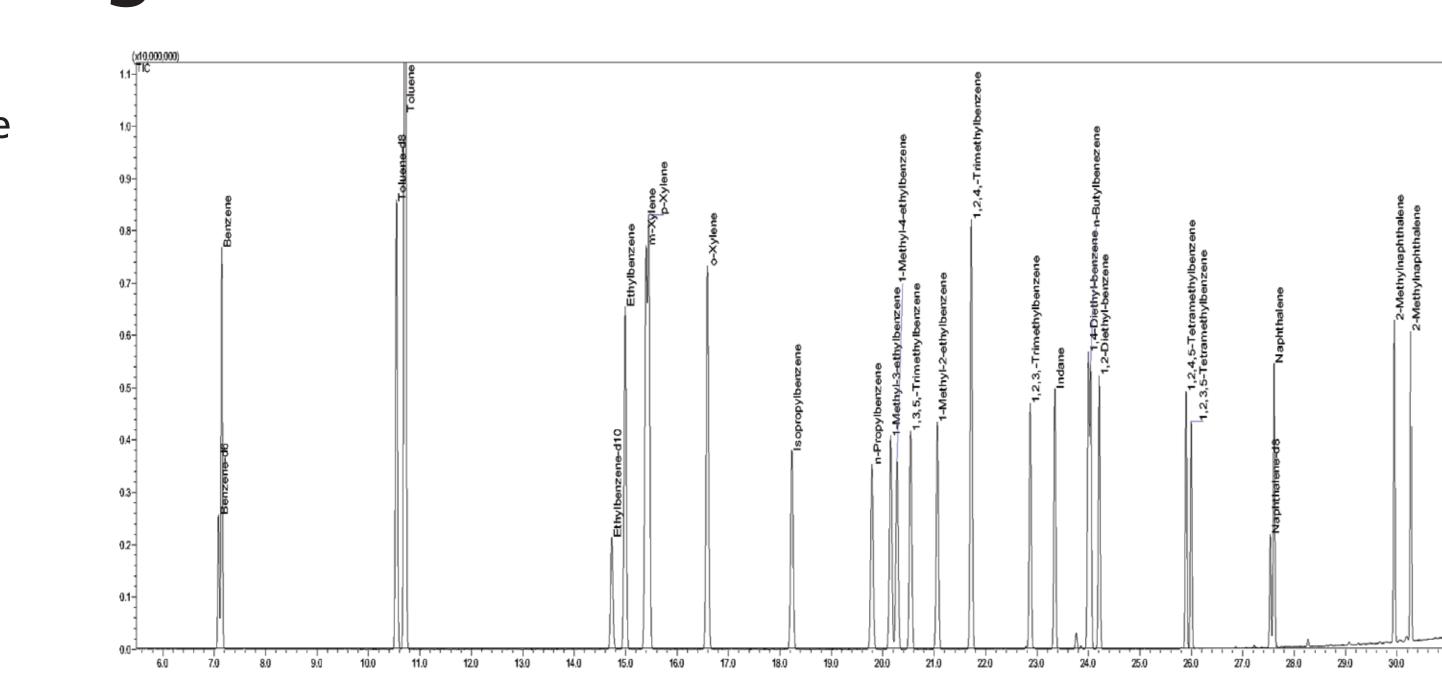Tuning Mode: ○ High Conc.   ● Normal   ○ High Sens.
OK   Help

Experimental – GCMS-QP2010 *Ultra* with AOC20i/s Autosampler

- **GC**
  - INJ: 250.00°C
  - Linear velocity mode: 35.0 cm/sec
  - Split ratio: 250
  - Gas saver: On (split ratio 250 to 5 after 1min)
  - Column: ZB-1 60 m x 0.25 mm x 1 μm
  - Column: 60.0°C, 3.0°C/min to 120.0°C, 10.0°C/min to 250.0°C
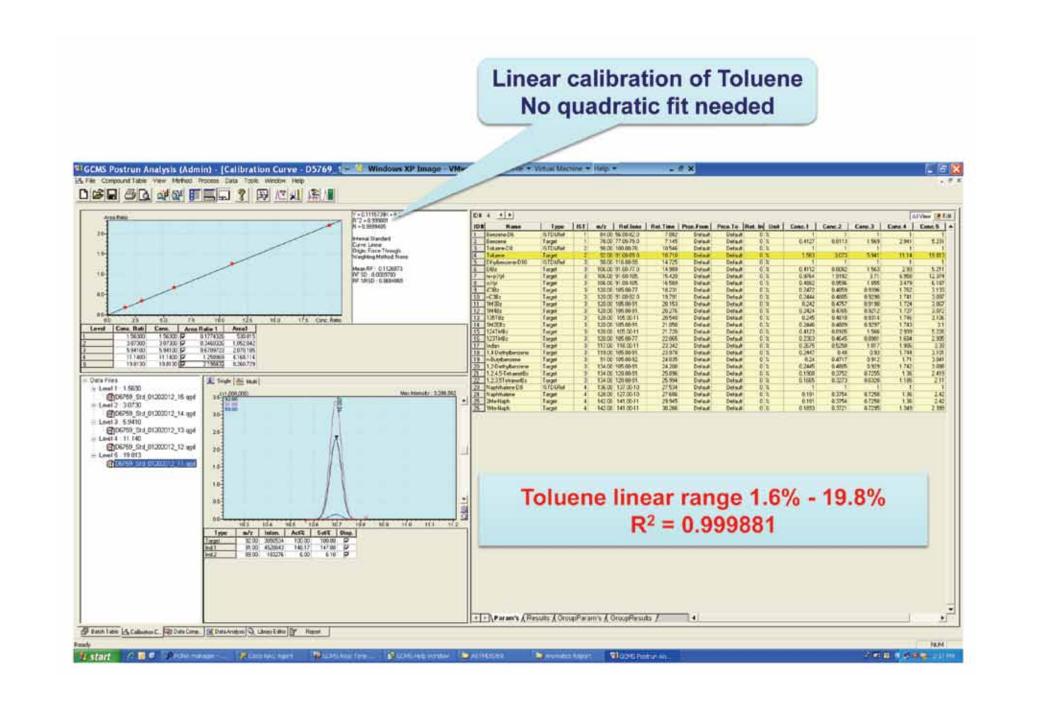 - Injection Volume: 0.1 μL

- **MS**
  - Ion Source Temp: 200.00°C
  - Interface Temp: 280.00°C
  - Detector Voltage: -0.1KV relative to tune (0.98kV)
  - Scan range: 45.00 – 300.00
  - Scan interval: 0.10sec
  - Scan rate: 10 spectra/sec

- **Software**
  - GCMSsolution Ver. 2.71
  - Shimadzu Aromatics Report Software Ver. 2.0
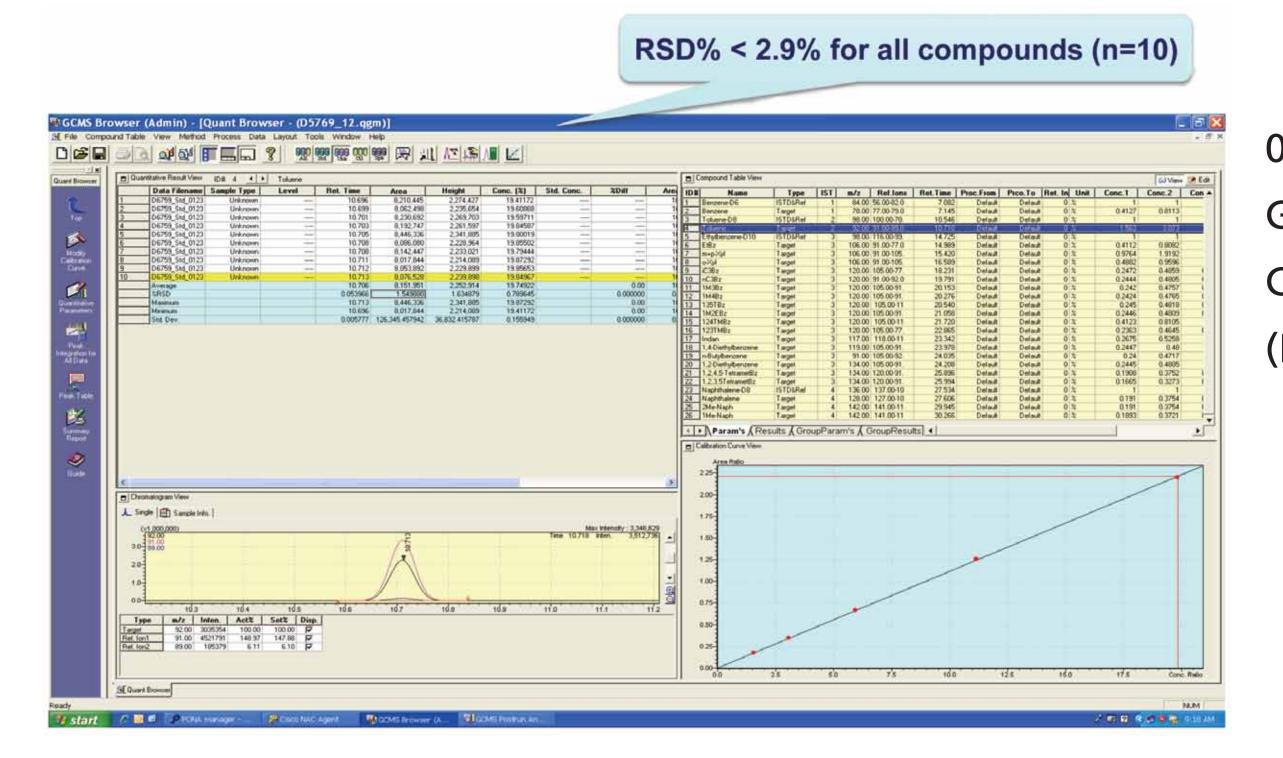
TIC Chromatogram

0.1 μL injection of AccuStandard® Gasoline Refinery Aromatics Calibration Set Std-01 (Highest Concentration Set)

Calibration Curve

Linear calibration of Toluene
No quadratic fit needed

Toluene linear range 1.6% - 19.8%
$R^2 = 0.999891$

Compound Table

Concentration unit in weight %

Aromatics Report

Reports are generated automatically when running GCMSsolution batch processing

Repeatability

RSD% < 2.9% for all compounds (n=10)

0.1 μL injection of AccuStandard® Gasoline Refinery Aromatics Calibration Set Std-01 (Highest Concentration Set)

Conclusions

- High concentration tuning mode expands calibration linearity. Good linearity has been achieved across all concentrations of all compounds; no saturated integration was observed, therefore, no quadratic fit was needed.
- Implementation of Shimadzu Aromatics report software has enabled automation of data acquisition, processing, and reporting.
- Linear velocity mode simplifies parameter settings and provides optimized separation.
- Fast scan rate (10 spectra/sec vs. 3 spectra/sec) improves both accuracy and precision.

Acknowledgements

- Mr. Mohamed Salem and Mr. Patrick Armstrong (Shimadzu R&D group) developed Aromatics Report software.
- Mrs. Karen Colclazier (CITGO group) gave valuable application feedback.
- Phenomenex provided a ZB-1 capillary column.