

8th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry

**AIG-8** La Malbaie, Québec, Canada,  
Aug. 30 - Sept 04, 2009

International Association of GeoChemistry



# PICARRO

Isotope Measurements Transformed:  
Real-time, In-situ Point-of-origin Tracing with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
and  $\delta\text{D}$  in Water and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in Complex Molecules

The World's Highest Performance and Easiest to Use Analyzers

Iain Green  
Aaron Van Pelt

Picarro, Inc.

# What is the evolution of a species?

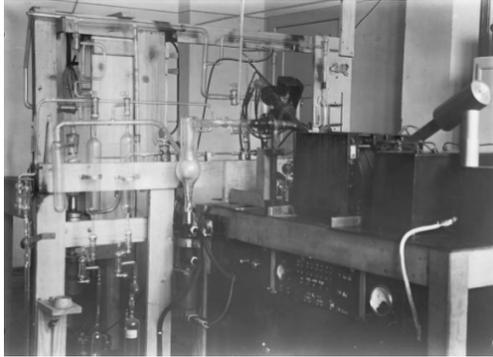


10,000 BC to 2009 AD

Man: Preparing for Dinner



# What is the evolution of a species?



1948 --- to --- Today

IRMS



Today --- to --- Tomorrow

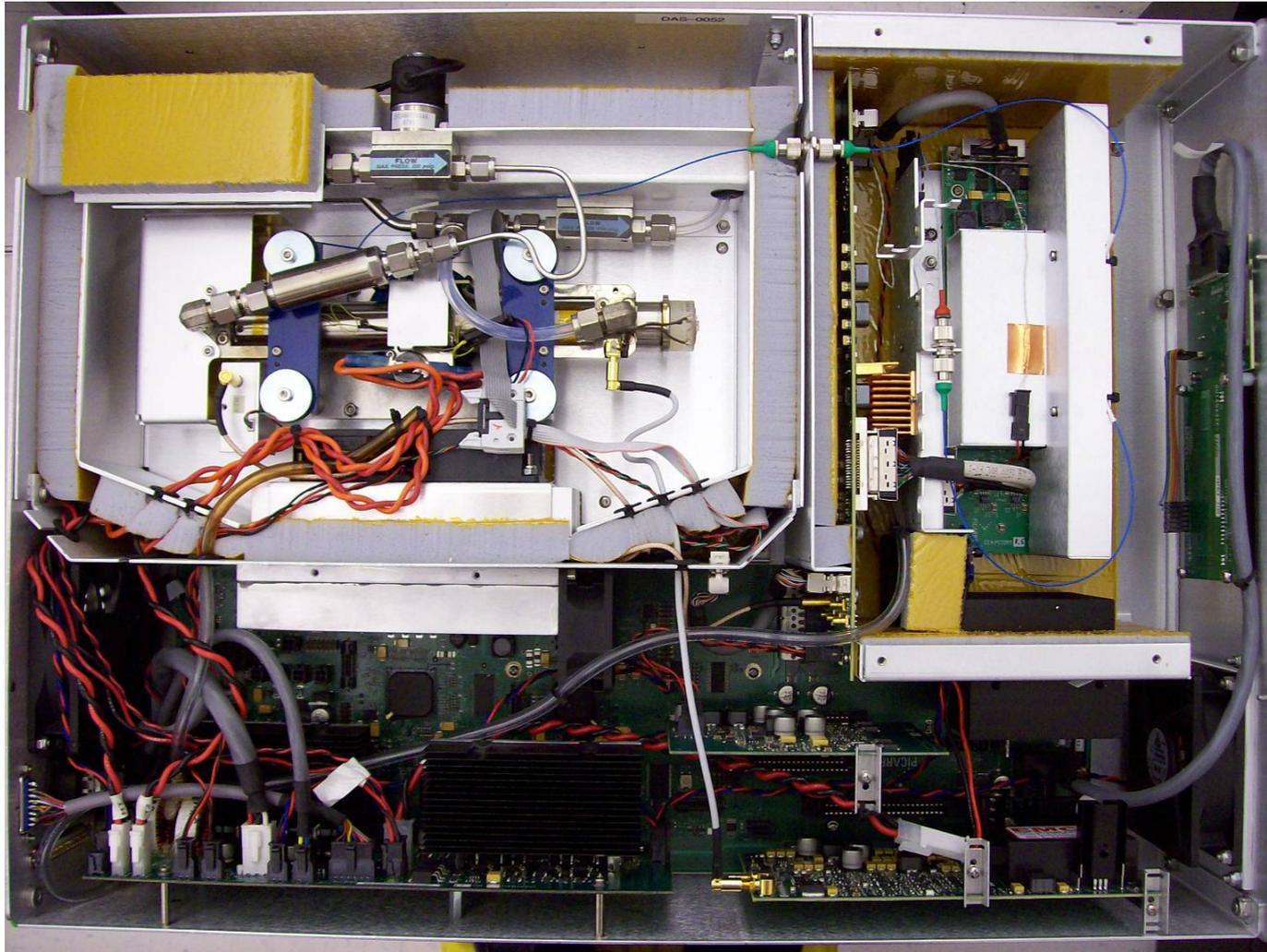
Optical Spectroscopy



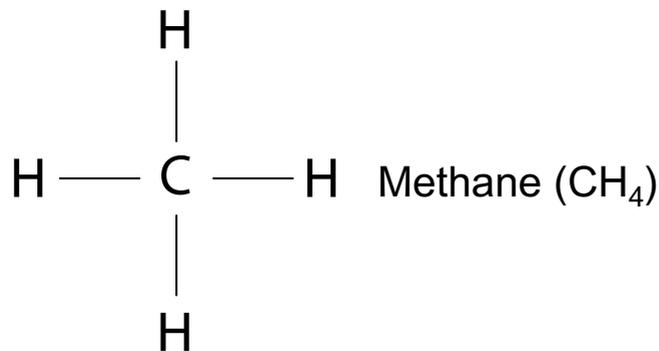
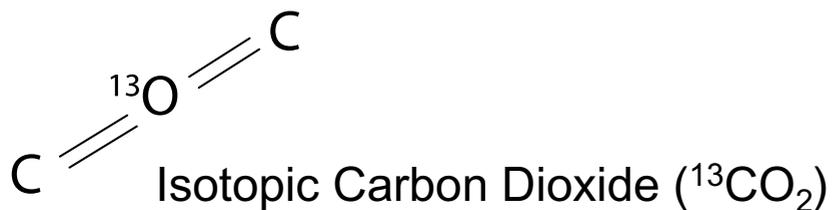
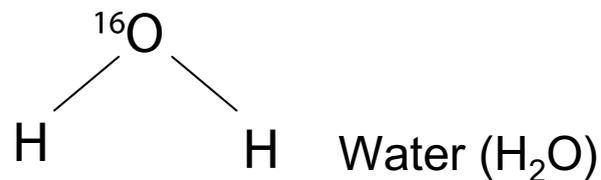
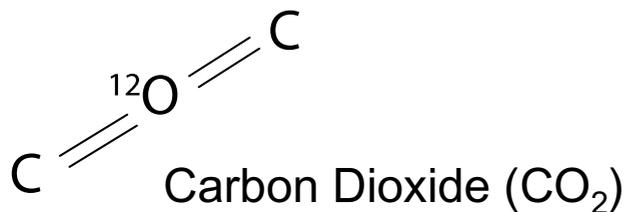
# Iso CO<sub>2</sub> and Iso H<sub>2</sub>O Instruments



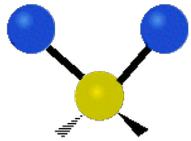
# Rugged, Compact



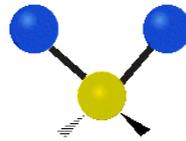
# Greenhouse Gases



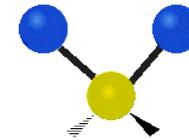
# Molecules Are In Constant Motion



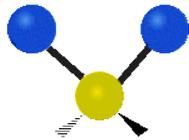
**Symmetrical stretching**



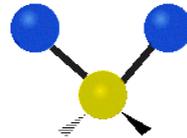
**Antisymmetrical stretching**



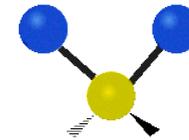
**Scissoring**



**Rocking**

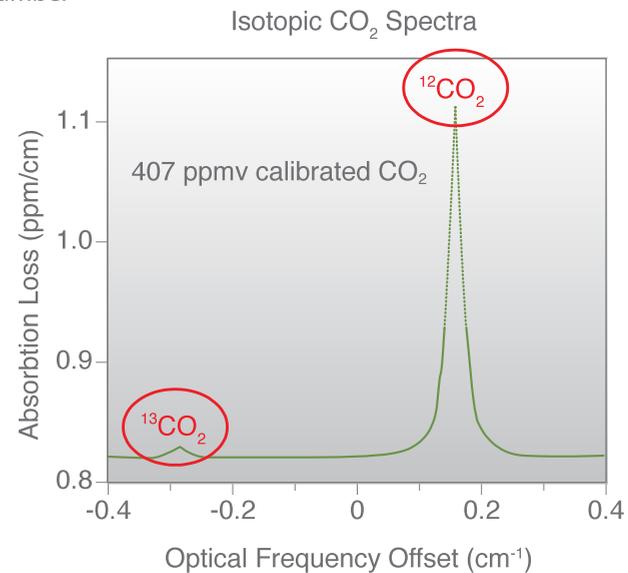
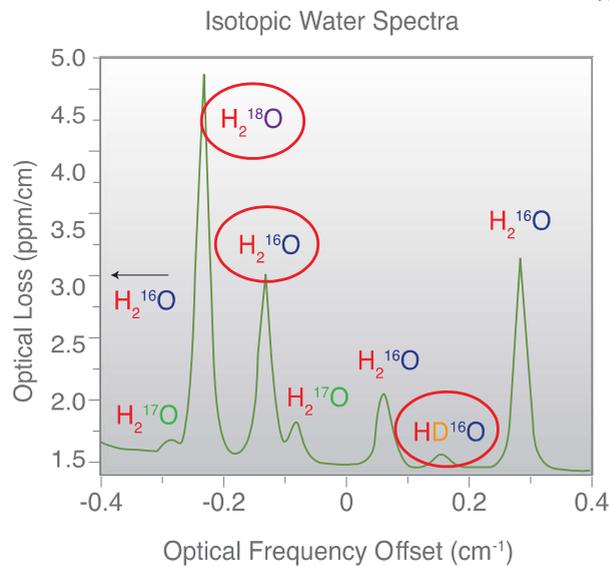
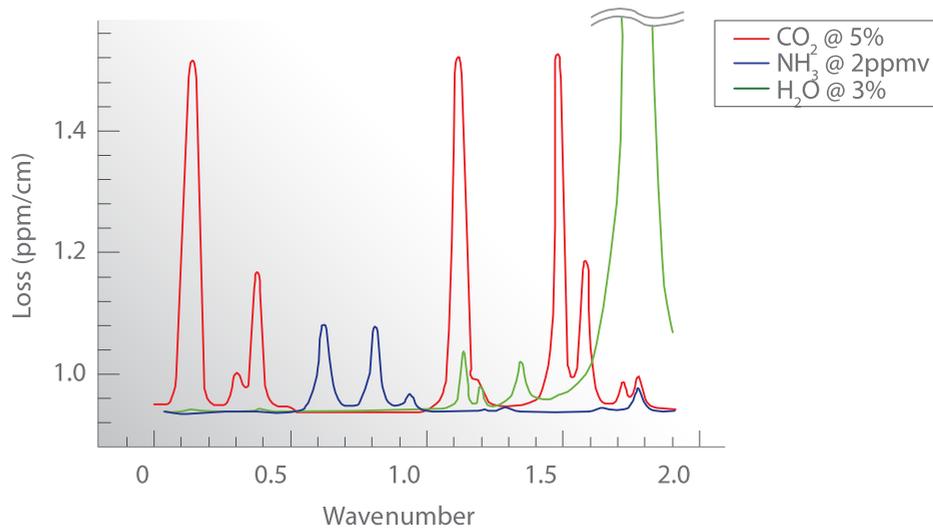
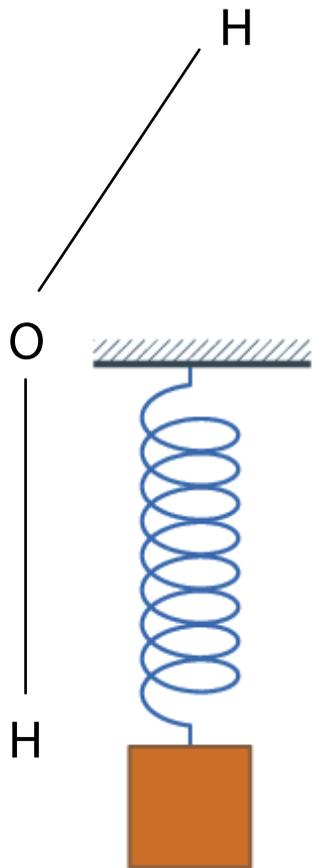


**Wagging**



**Twisting**

# It's All Springs and Mirrors



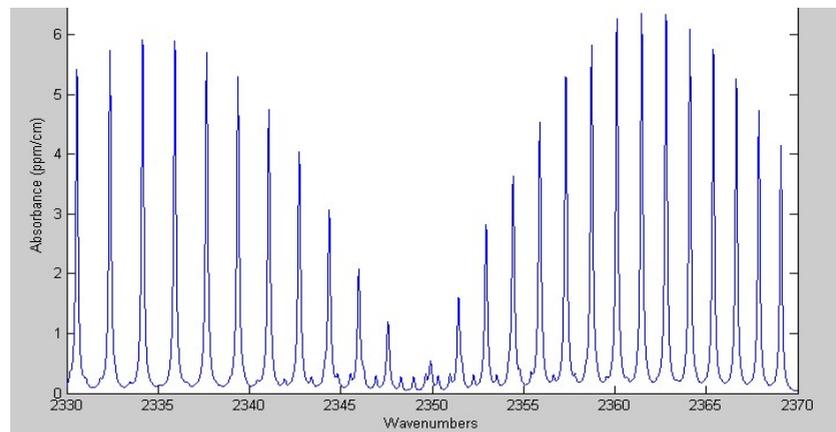
# Diode Lasers Provide High Resolution

Laser sources generate very narrow spectral line-widths

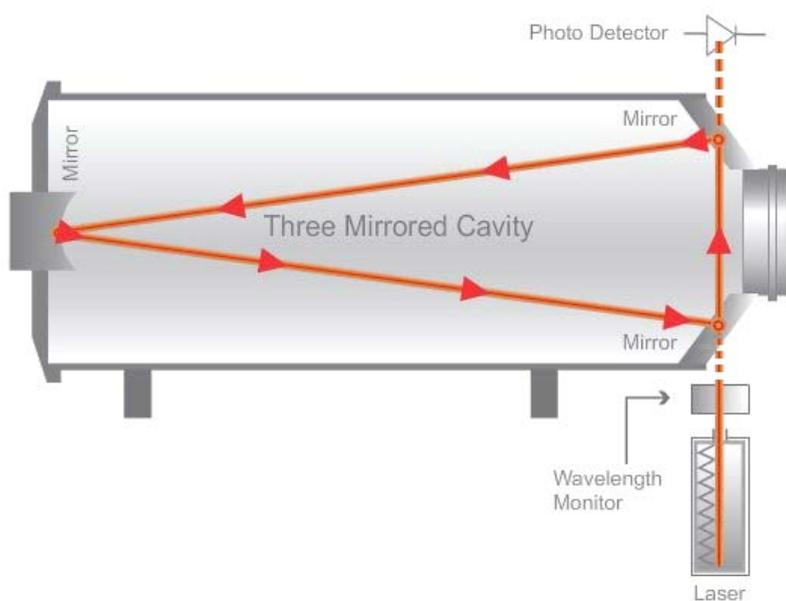
- Significantly narrower than a molecule's absorption lines

Very high resolution of closely spaced isotope lines

Complete characterization of line shapes and intensities



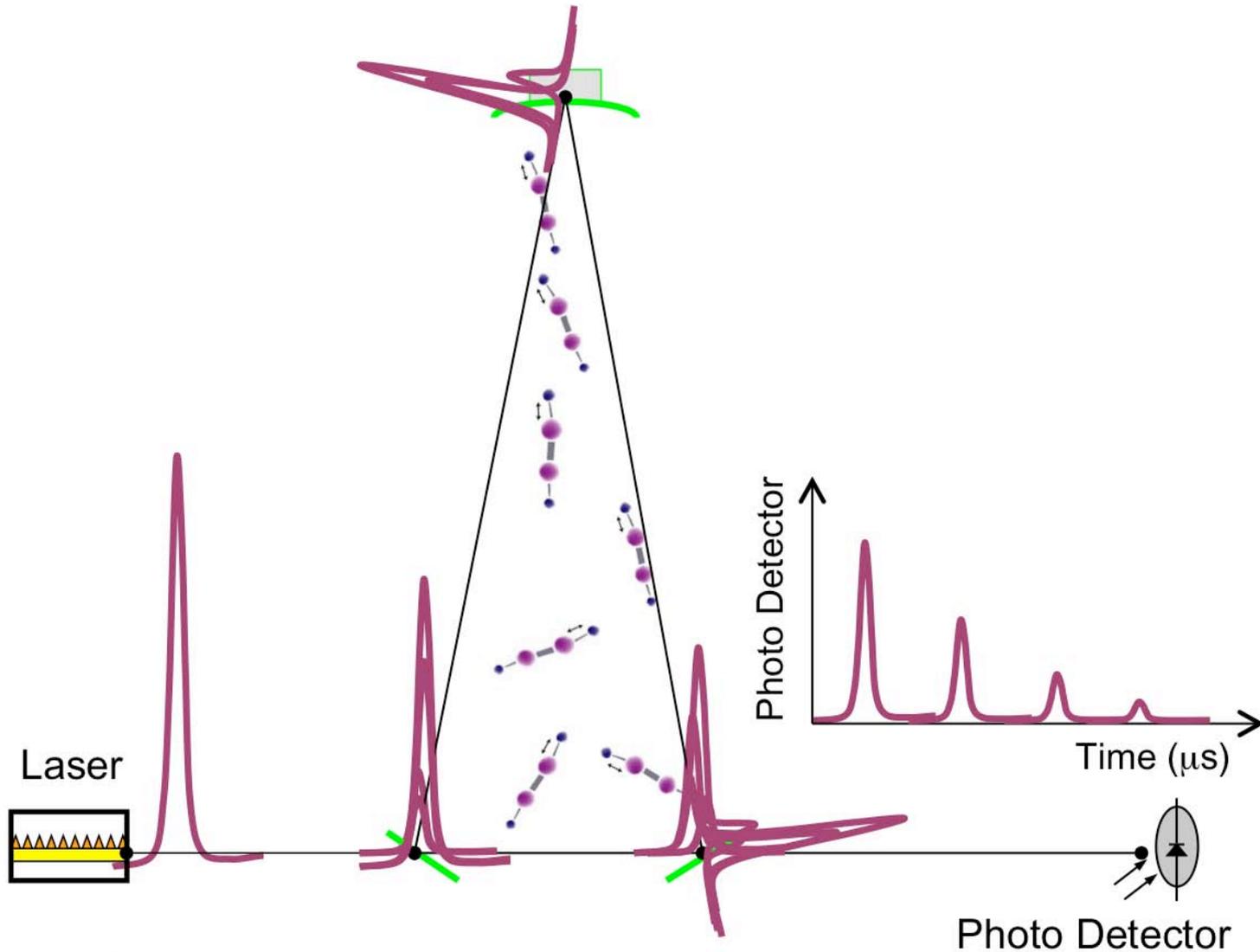
# Very High Sensitivity and Precision



Time-basis and long pathlength provide high sensitivity & precision

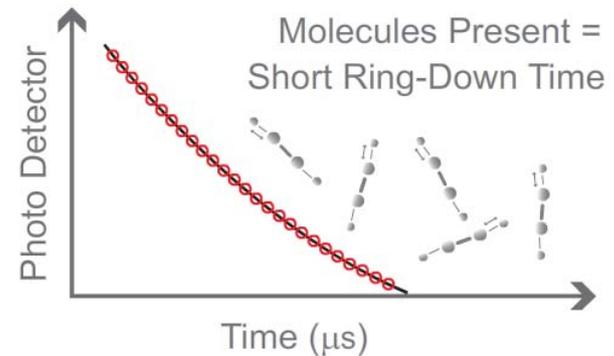
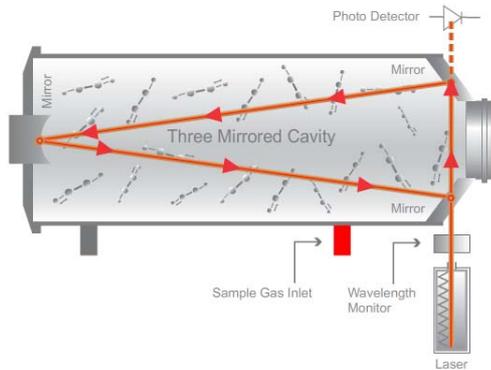
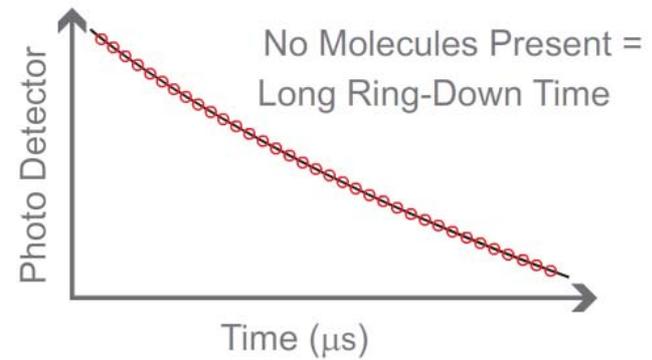
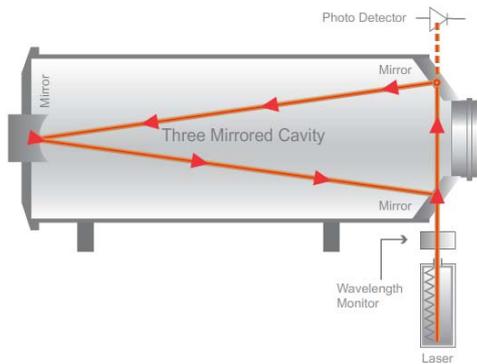
- Small, 35 cc sample cavity
- Laser intensity builds up...
- ...Laser is shut off
  - Removes laser fluctuations
- Light reflects around the cavity
- **Up to 20 km pathlength**
- Cavity loss mechanisms decrease intensity each pass
- Measurement is decay rate not absolute absorbance

# Time Based Measurement



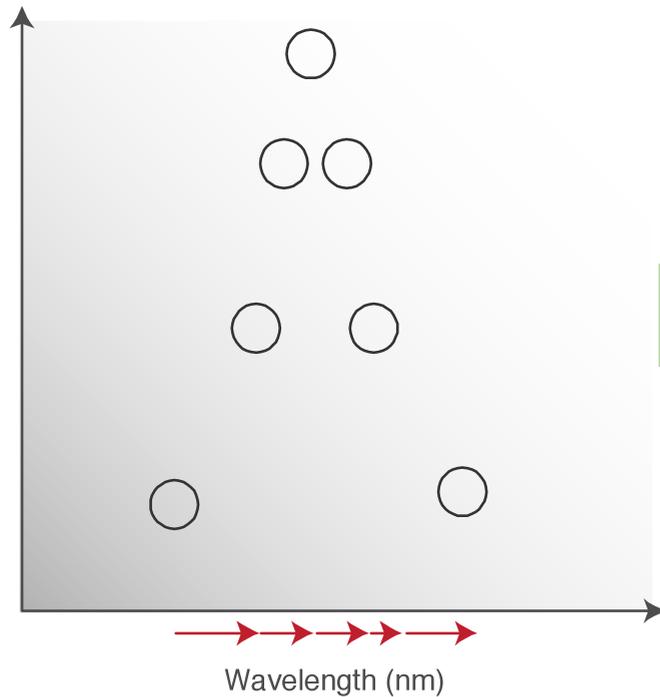
# Increasing Concentration, Faster Ringdown

Absorbing species in the cavity follow Beer-Lambert Law

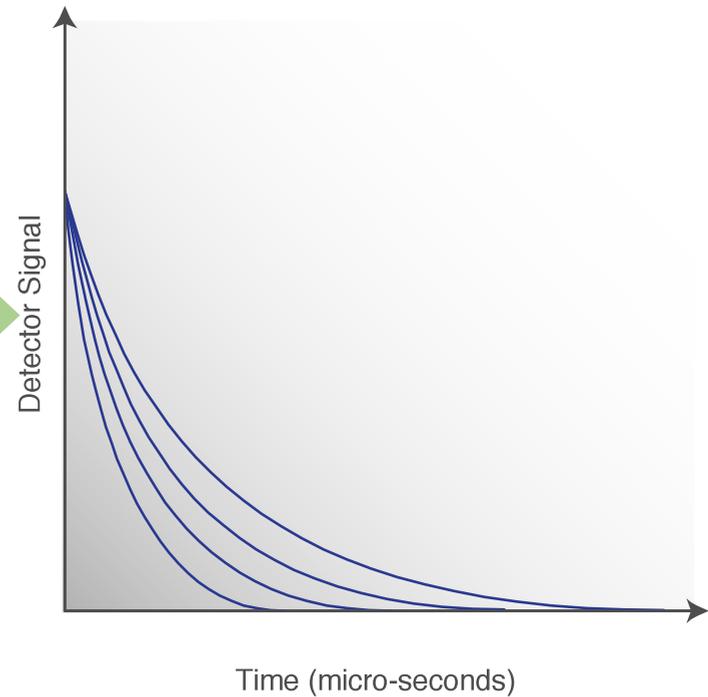


# From Wavelength to Ringdown

## Select Wavelength

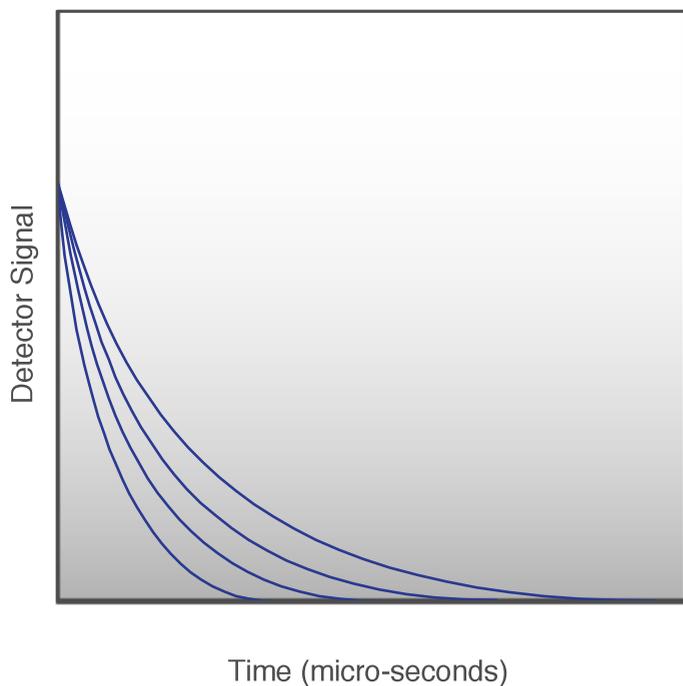


## Measure Ring-down

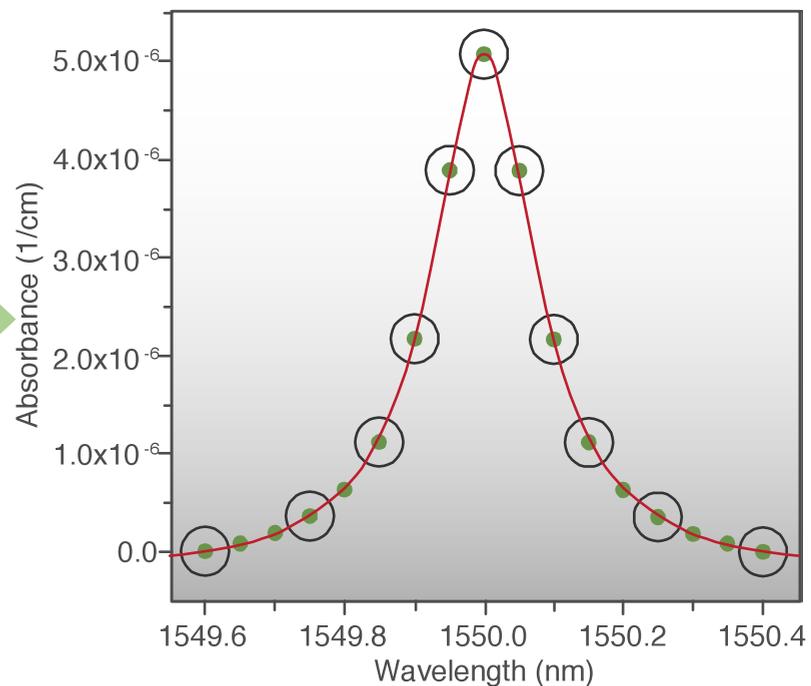


# From Ringdown to Concentration

## Ring-down



$$I_{circ}(t) = I_{circ}(t_o) \exp\left[\frac{-t}{\tau}\right]$$



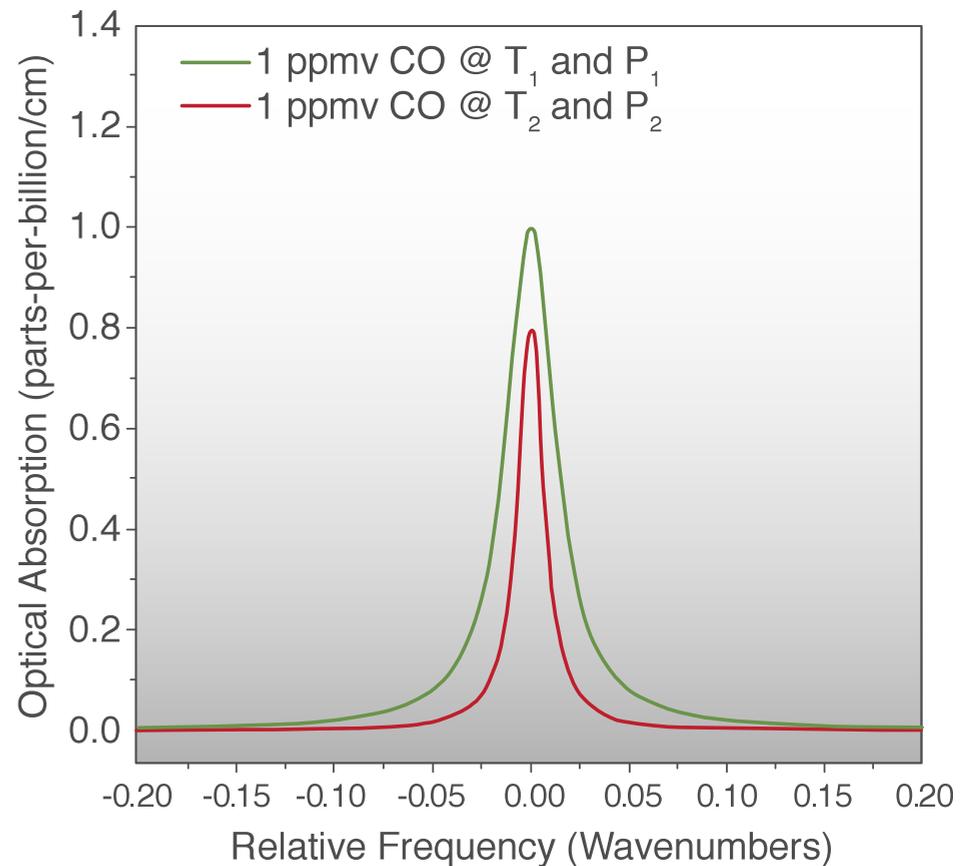
# Critical to Control Temp. & Pressure

Accurate gas measurements require **stable** spectroscopic features

In a given gas matrix, only two parameters affect the lineshape

- Temperature
- Pressure

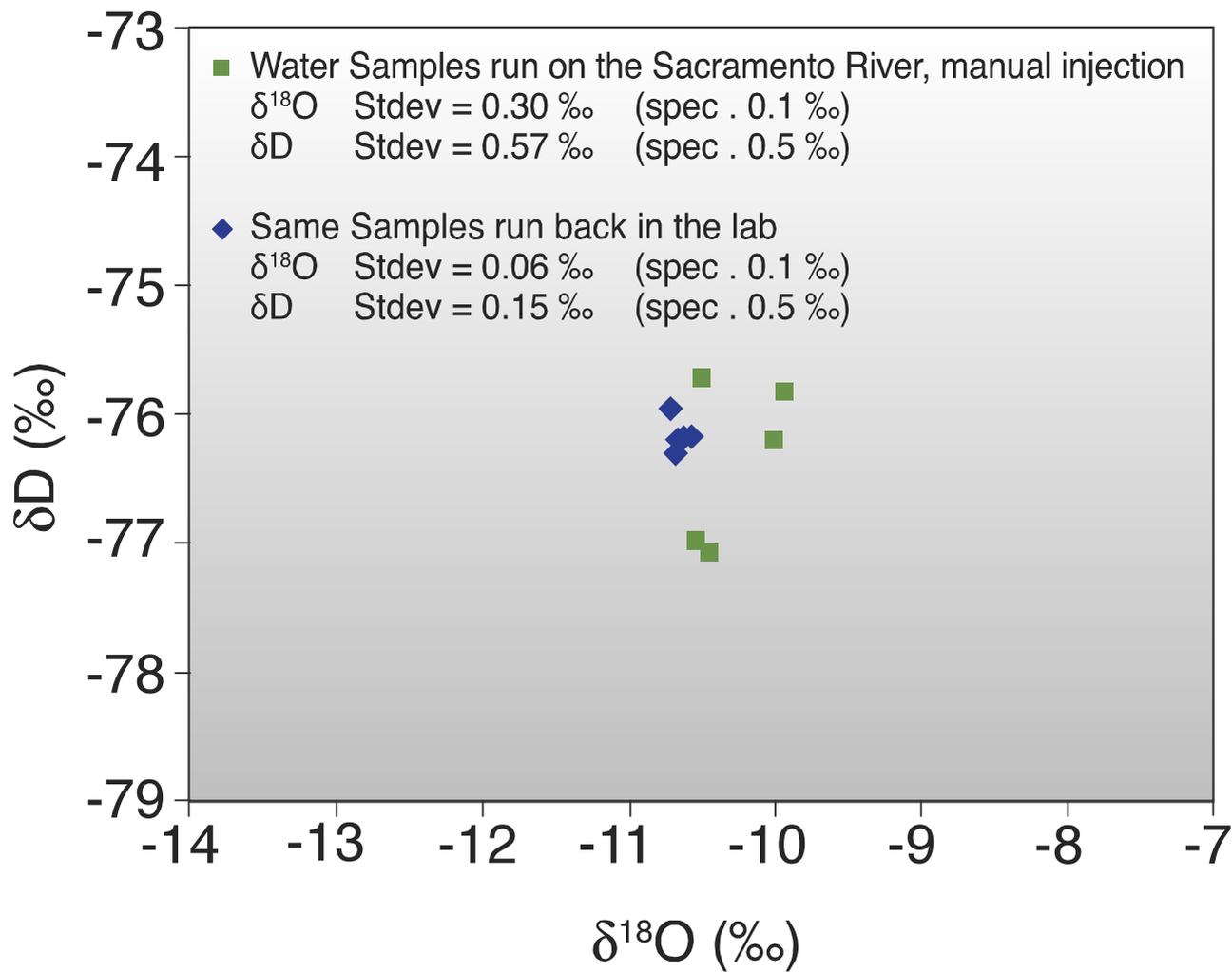
*Tiny temperature and pressure instabilities means BIG concentration errors*



# On The Move



# Outstanding Data



# Benefits of Cavity Ringdown

Low capital cost - \$50K to \$120K.

Low cost of ownership- \$100 to \$1000/year.

Small Size – as small as 17” x 8” x 23”.

Low power consumption – 100W to 400W

No high vacuum pumps.

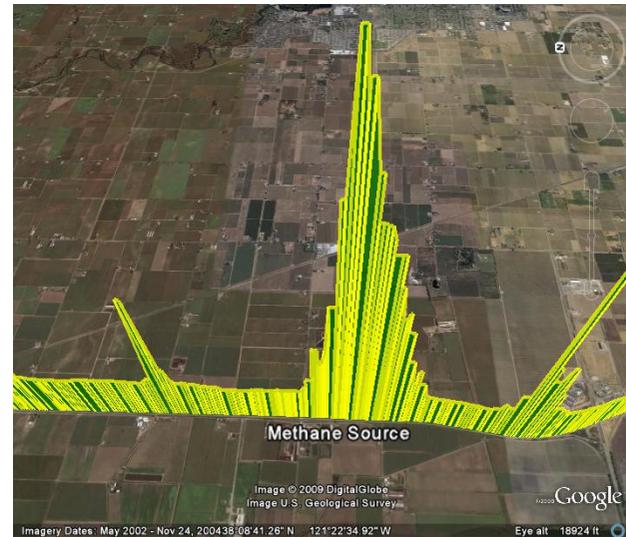
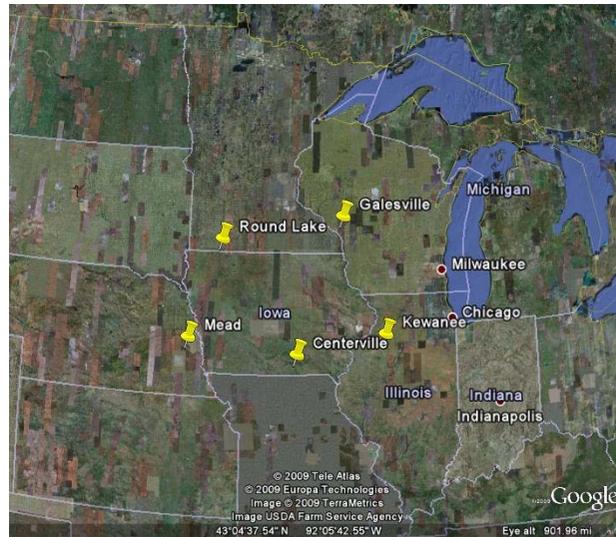
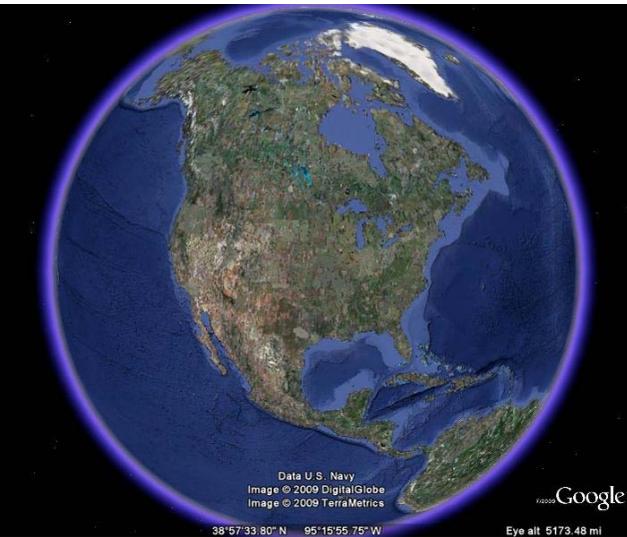
Very rugged.

Easy to Use.



# Measurements All Over the World

- Global Scale
- Large Nations
- Regional Scale
- States & Small Nations
- Local Scale
- Point Sources & Sinks



# Over 200 Systems in 32 Countries

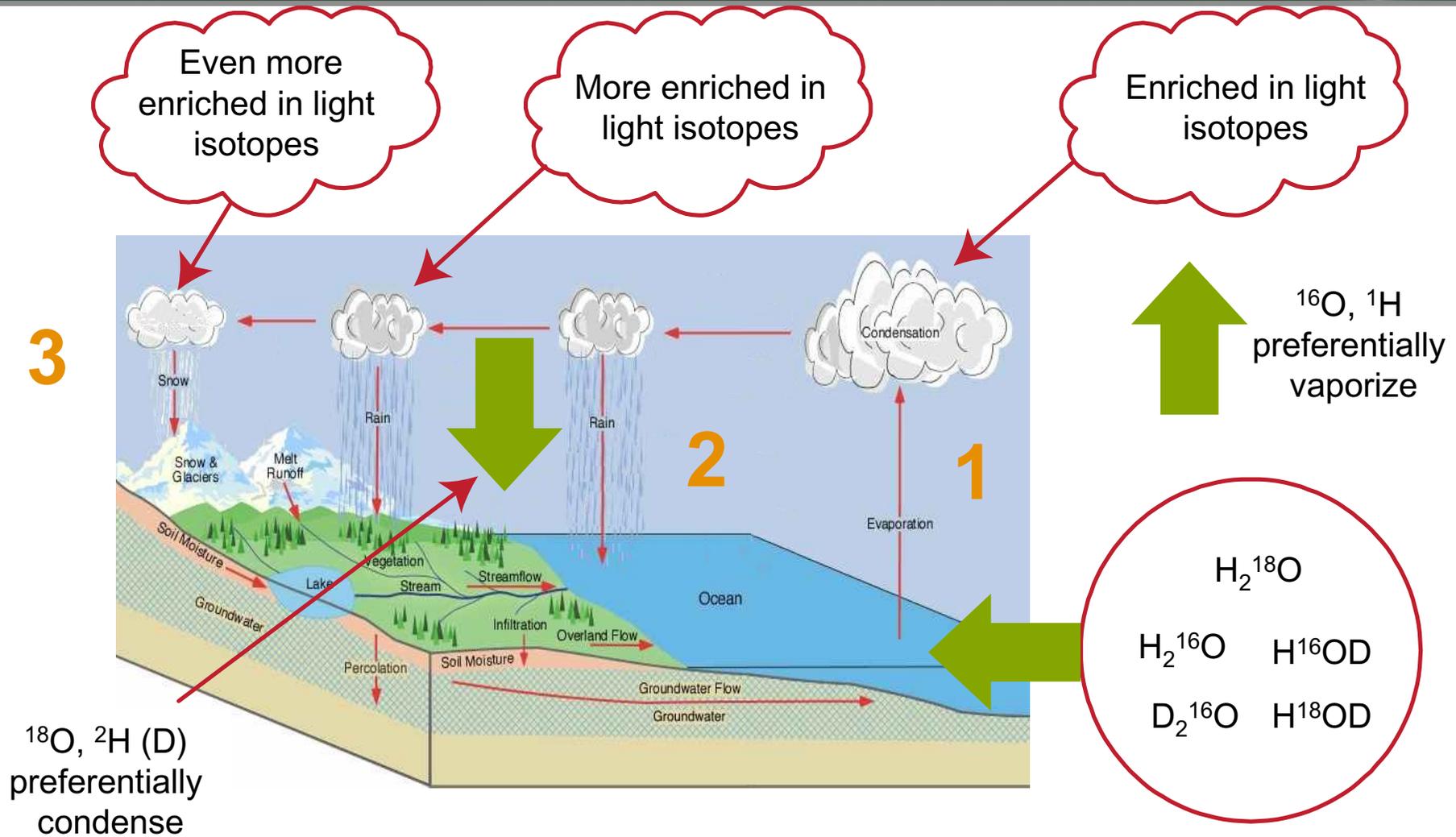


# PICARRO

$\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  in Water

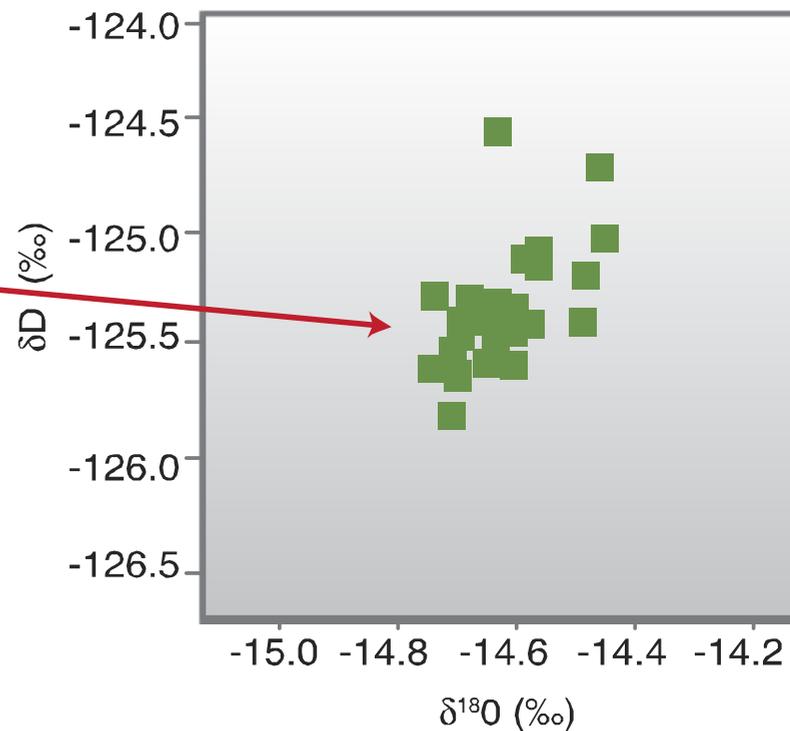
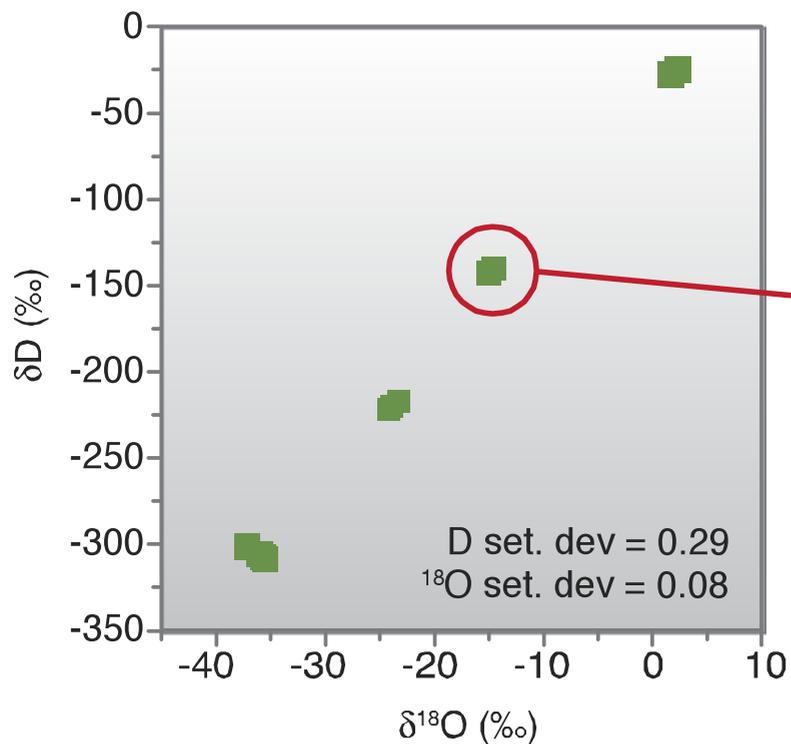
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# Stable Isotopes in the Water Cycle



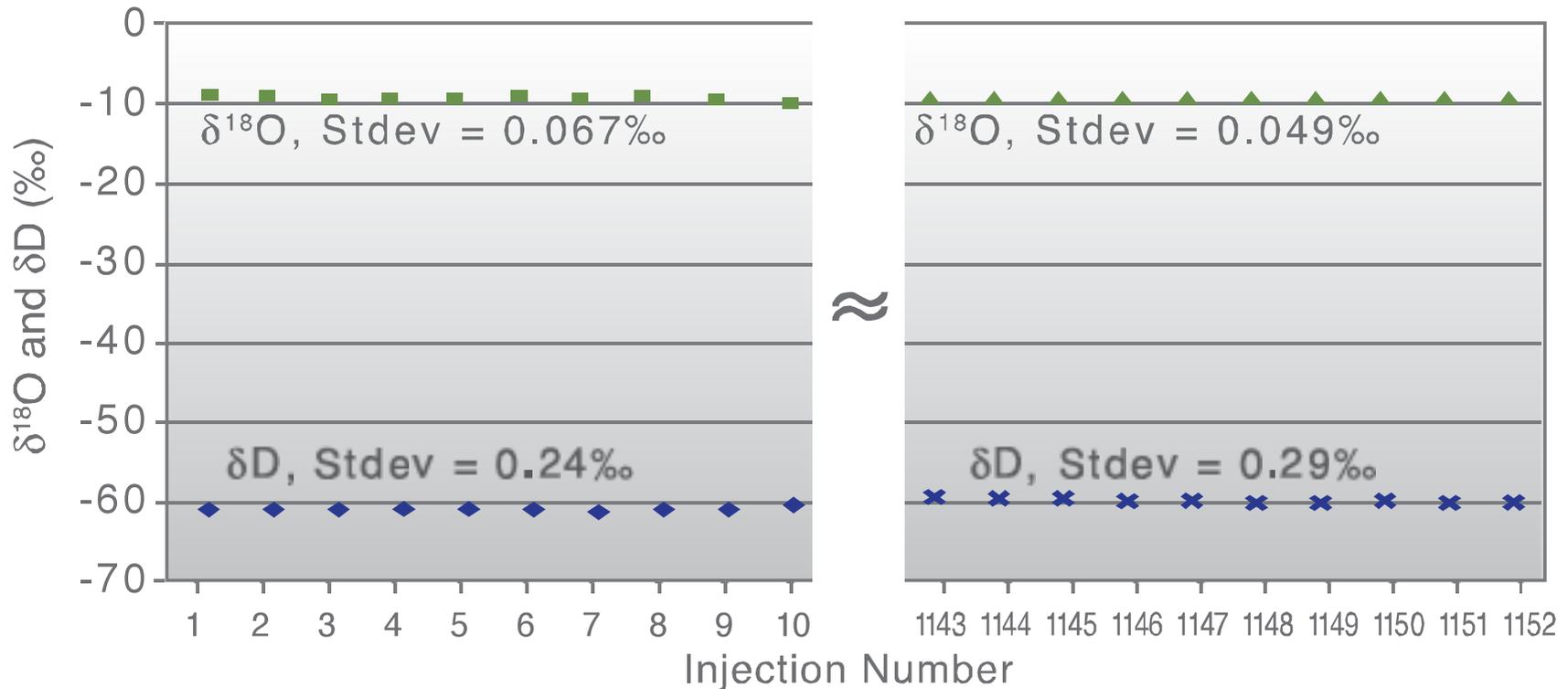
# Excellent Precision

4 separate groundwater samples

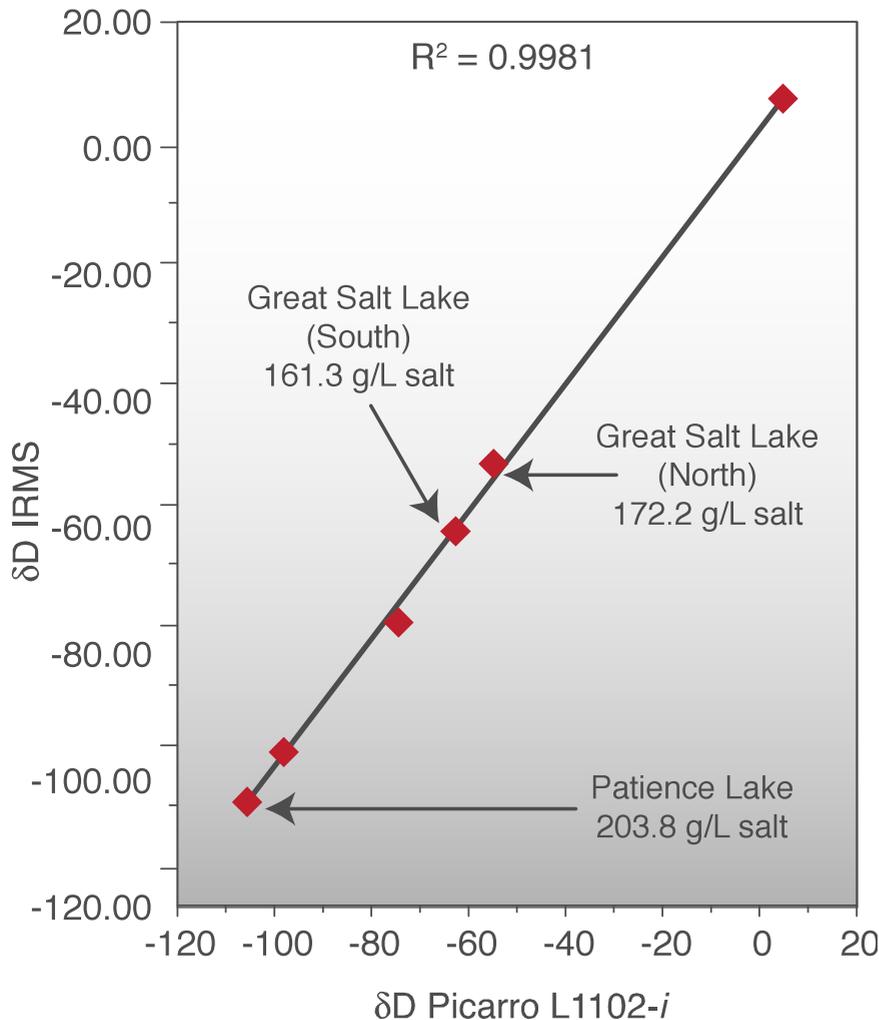


# $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta\text{D}$ in Briny Samples

4% (by weight) of table salt was added to bottled water which has a characteristics of  $\delta\text{D} = -61.8\text{‰}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O} = -9.6\text{‰}$ .



# Excellent Data in Extreme Salt



Excellent comparison  
between Picarro  
L1102-*i* and IRMS data

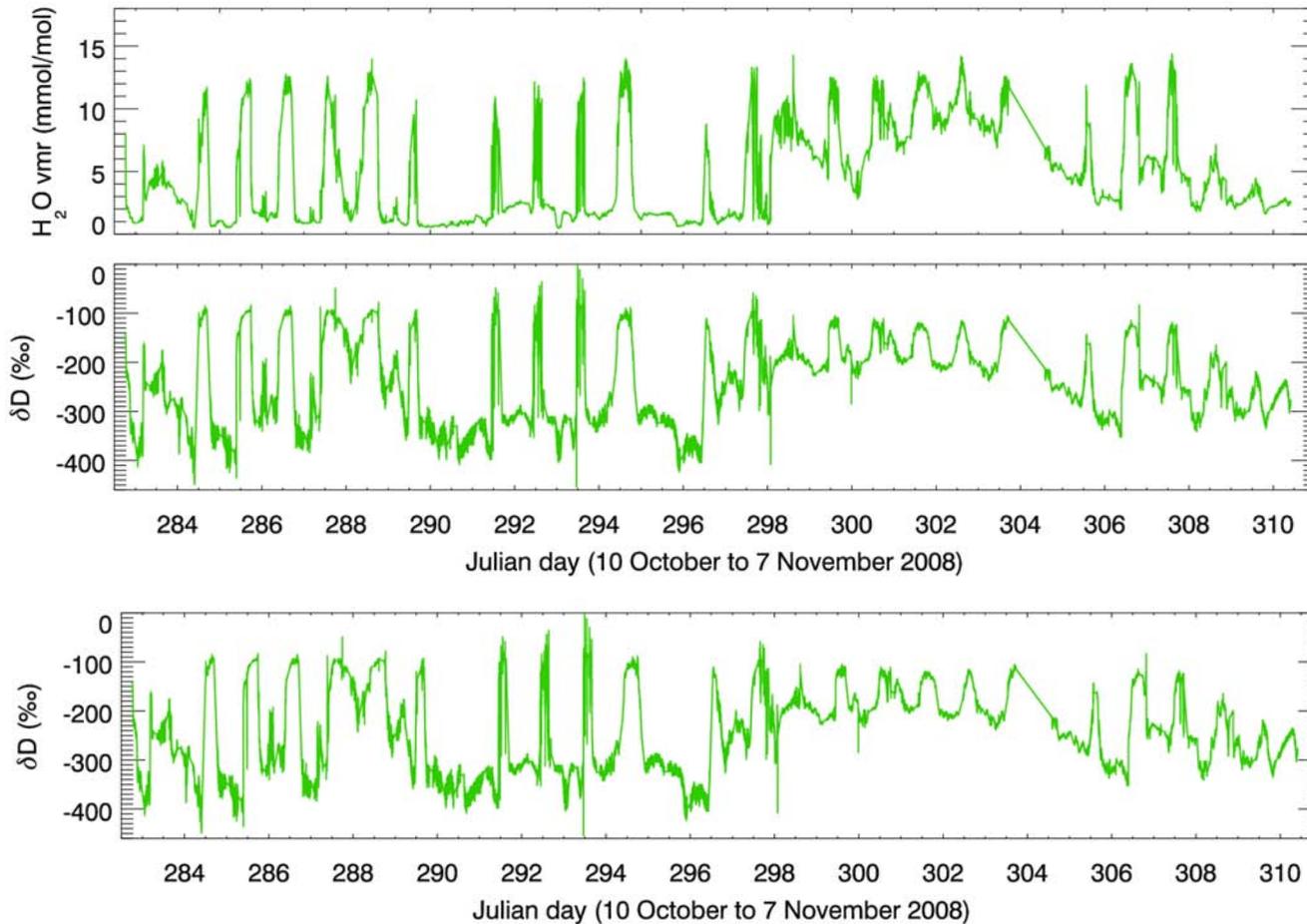
6 samples from inland  
salt lakes – USA,  
Canada and Africa

# Picarro: On Mauna Loa, HI

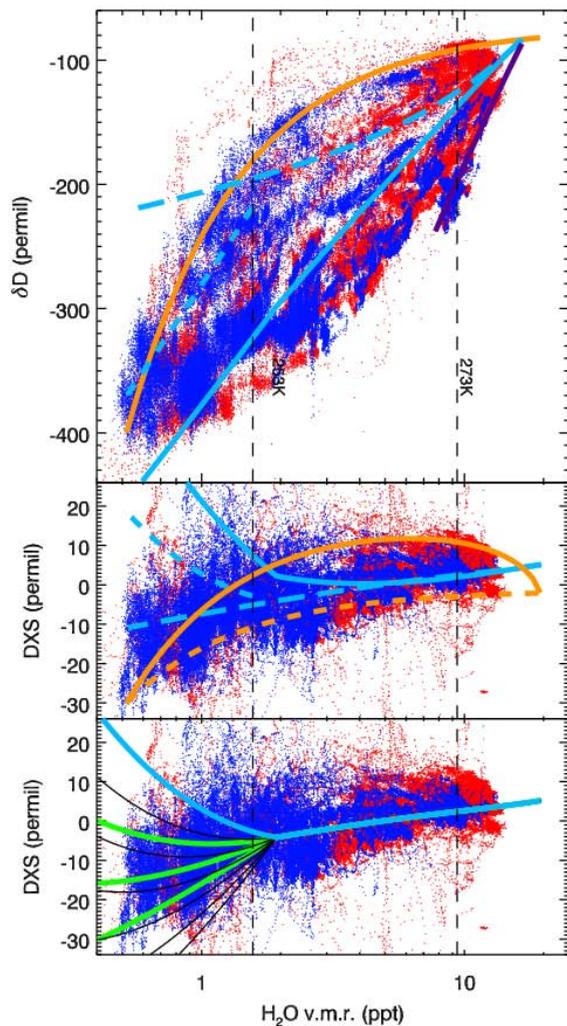


David Noone with Picarro liquid/vapor isotopic water analyzer

# Mauna Loa Data



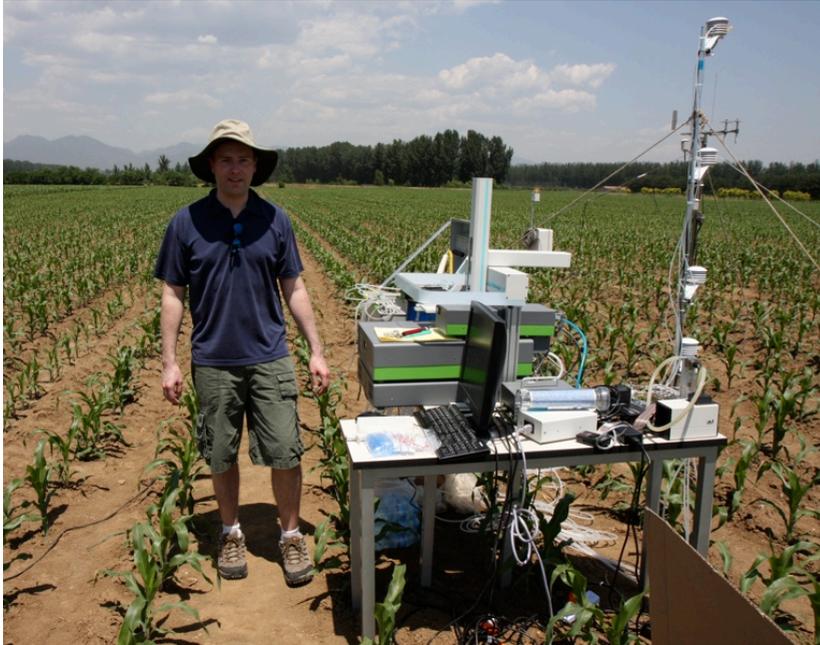
# Mauna Loa Deuterium Excess



Deuterium excess - the deviation of a sample from the meteoric water line (GMWL)

- An indicator of the complexity of the air circulation
- Non equilibrium (fast) evaporation

# Picarro: In a Corn Field Near Beijing



Picarro at FAO/IAEA Field Campaign Beijing, China

# Food Authenticity



## Fighting food fraud with science

Does your extra virgin olive oil come from a Tuscan grove? Is your cappuccino made from the finest Arabica beans? Bea Perks meets some of the scientists subjecting our food's credentials to forensic examination

## A \$50 Billion problem

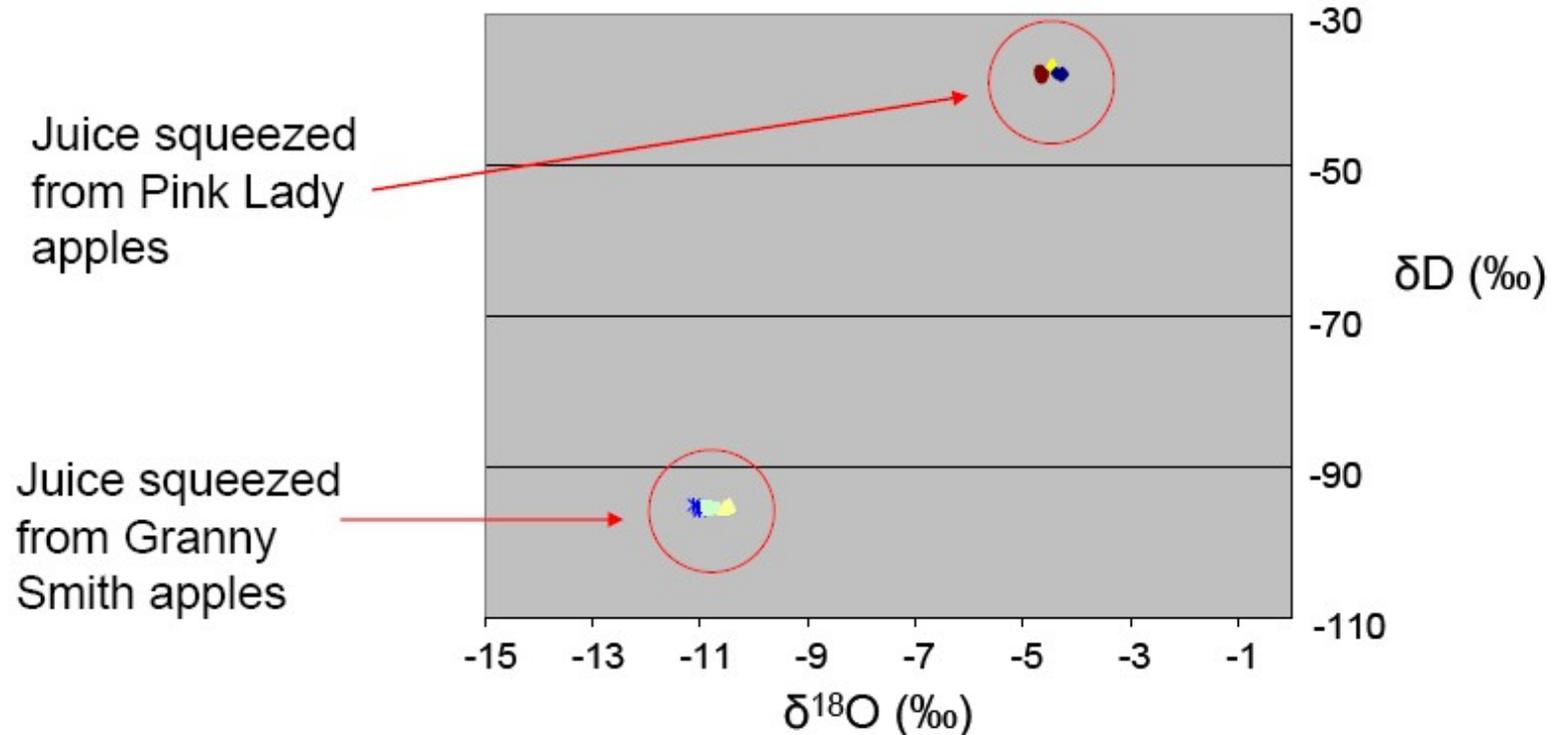
- Wine
- Coffee
- Olive oil
- Milk

## Using costly equipment and methods

- IRMS (\$350,000)
- NMR (\$300,000)

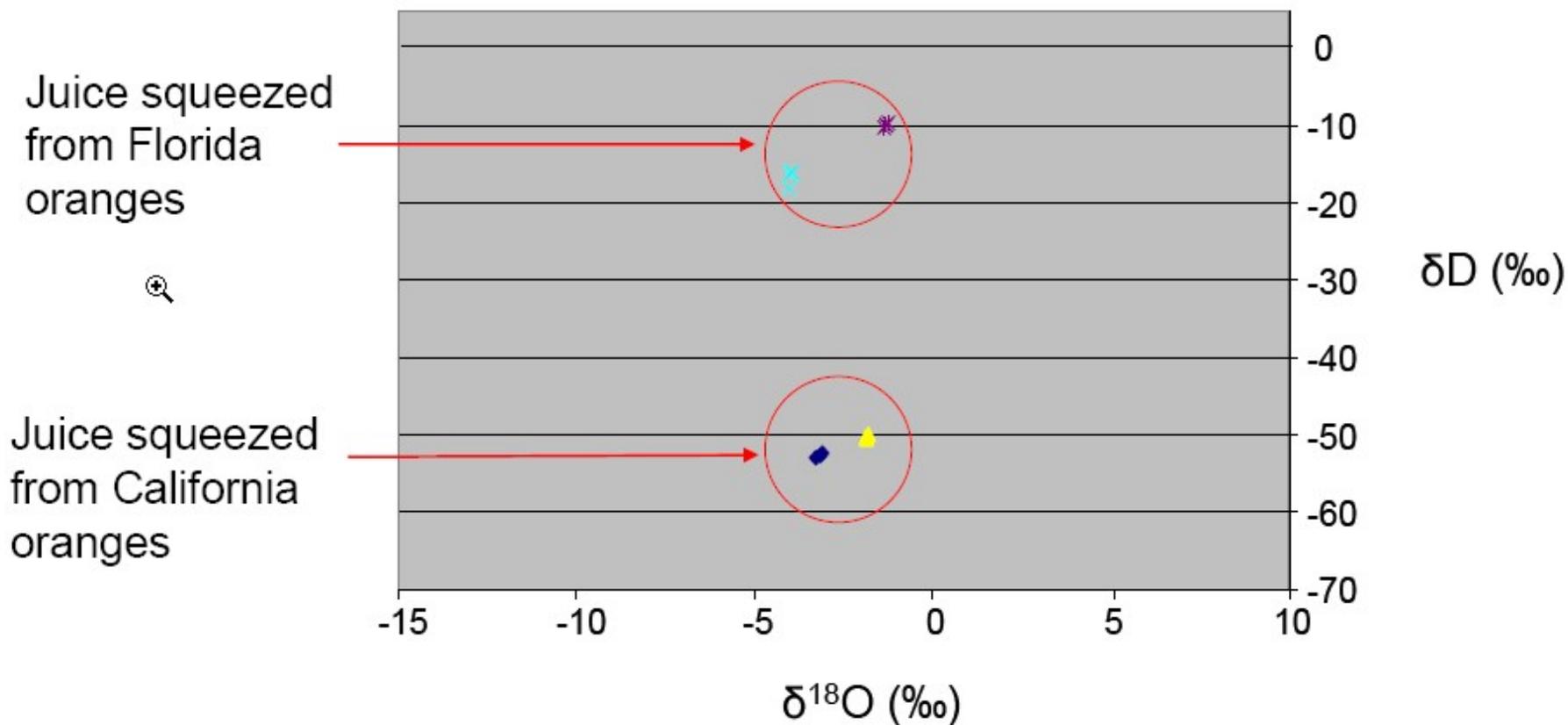
# $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta\text{D}$ for Commercial Apples

A quick screening method of using stable isotopes to distinguish the true origin and/or composition of natural food and beverage products



# $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta\text{D}$ for Commercial Oranges

Juice was extracted from each fruit by peeling the fruit and then grinding the remaining flesh in a plastic cup.



# PICARRO

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  Analysis Edible Oil Samples  
using *i*TOC-CRDS

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# Isotopic Signature Variation, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$



- $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of plant compounds are mainly influenced by the botanical origin of the plant
  - C3 plants - soy, sesame
    - Cooler, wetter
  - C4 plants - corn, sugarcane
    - Hotter, drier
- Climatic parameters can also affect  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values
  - In particular, water stress

# $\delta$ TOC-CRDS: Transformational Technology



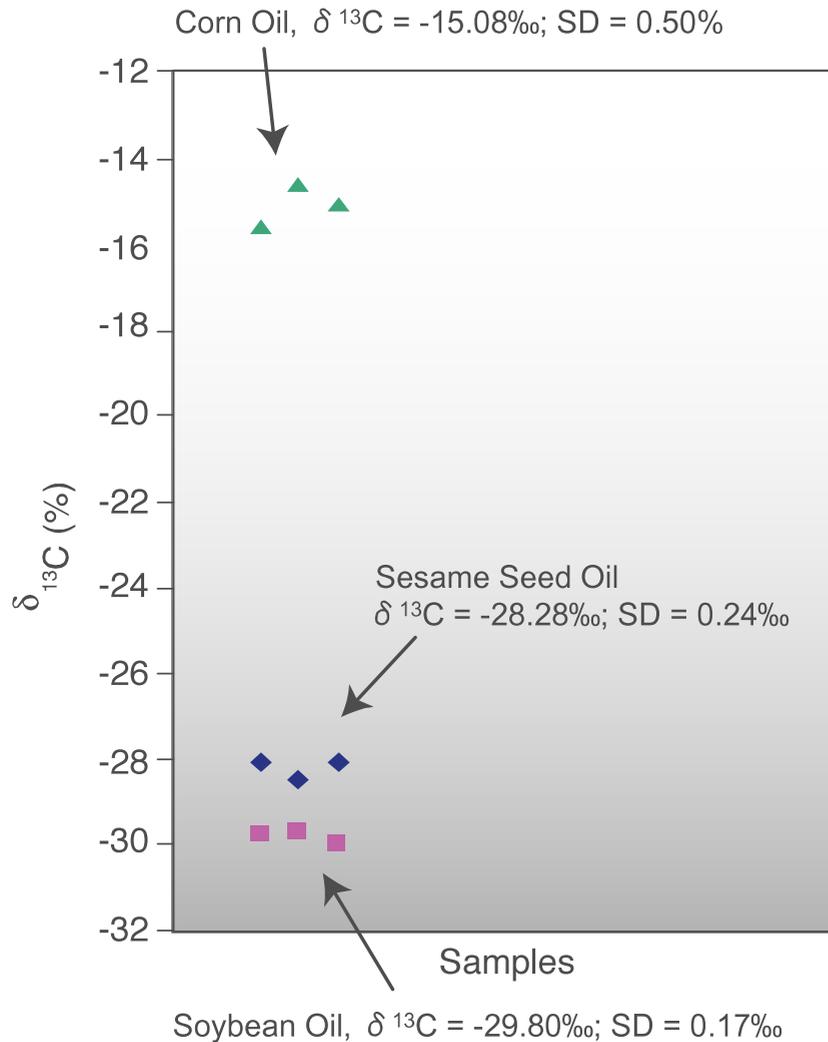
OI Analytical's proven  
oxidation technology

Picarro's acclaimed WS-  
CRDS

Isotopic carbon analysis that  
is:

- High precision
- Small
- Easy-to-use
- Affordable

# Edible Oils, 2 $\mu\text{l}$ Samples



Excellent data!

Correlates well with published IRMS data:

- Same precision and accuracy

# $^{13}\text{C}$ Characterization of Olive Oil Origin



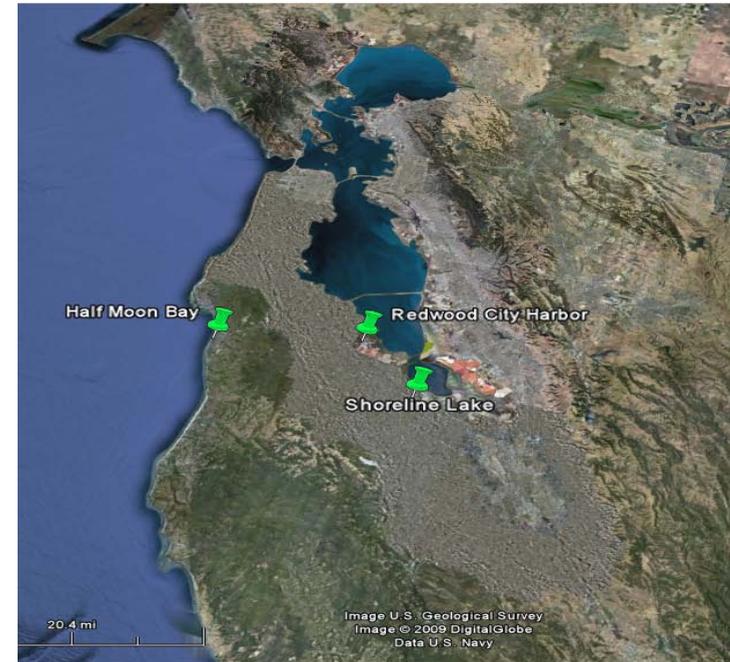
2 $\mu\text{l}$ Inj. Vol.	PICARRO $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	S.D. (‰) (n=3)	IRMS $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)
Spain	-28.95	0.18	-28.94
Italy	-28.98	0.05	-29.27
Greece	-29.29	0.02	-29.21
Turkey	-30.34	0.11	-30.32
Lebanon	-29.11	0.23	-28.87
Australia	-31.23	0.01	-31.19



# $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC)

Water samples collected from three San Francisco Bay Area locations :

1. Half Moon Bay (Ocean)
2. Redwood City Harbor (Bay)
3. Shoreline Lake, Mountain View (Brackish)



# DIC Analysis

	Picarro $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	S.D. (n=5) (‰)
Half Moon Bay Ocean Water	-1.89‰	0.24 ‰
Redwood City Harbor Bay Water	-5.58‰	0.28‰
Shoreline Lake Brackish water	-9.43‰	0.11 ‰

10% phosphoric acid  
added to sample

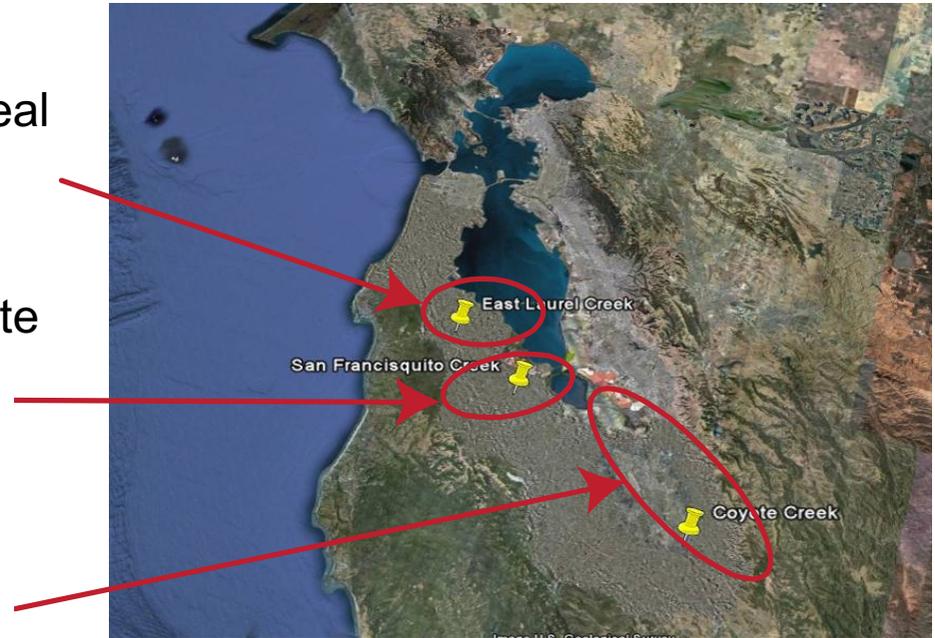
$\text{CO}_2$  liberated w/  $\text{N}_2$

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  conc.

# Watershed DIC/DOC Measurements

Stream water samples were collected from three different watersheds in SF Bay Area:

1. East Laurel Creek: feeds into the Seal Creek watershed (San Mateo Hills)
2. San Francisquito Creek: part of the San Francisquito watershed (El Corte Madera range)
3. Coyote Creek: main river of the Coyote Creek watershed (Diablo range)



# Excellent Precision

Stream	DIC, ppm	DIC, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , ‰	DOC, ppm	DOC, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , ‰
E. Laurel Creek	$33.7 \pm 0.3$	$-1.8 \pm 0.3$	$10.72 \pm 0.09$	$-21.1 \pm 0.9$
San Francisquito Creek	$46.1 \pm 0.5$	$-0.8 \pm 0.4$	$10.11 \pm 0.05$	$-18.0 \pm 0.8$
Coyote Creek	$93.1 \pm 0.2$	$-1.8 \pm 0.5$	$16.3 \pm 0.3$	$-17.3 \pm 0.6$

Samples were analyzed without further prep.

4ml of water aliquot dispensed in Exetainer tubes

1ml of 5% (w/v)  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  was added for DIC analysis

2ml of 10%  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$  at  $98^\circ\text{C}$  for DOC analysis

Each sample was analyzed in six replicates

# Thank You

## Questions?

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