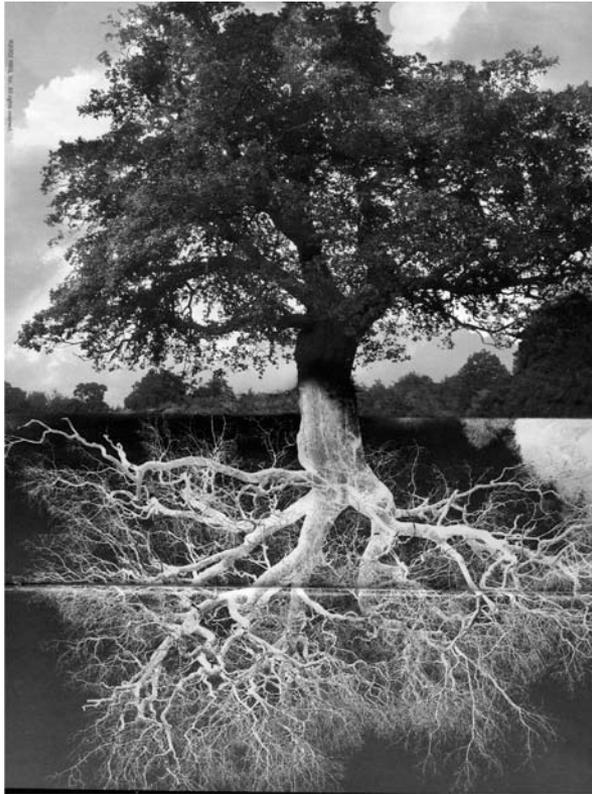


Certain commercial equipment, instruments, or materials may be identified in this presentation in order to specify the experimental procedure adequately. Such identification is not intended to imply recommendation or endorsement by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, nor is it intended to imply that the materials or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

# Performance Validation for Explosive Trace Detection

Mike Verkouteren, Research Chemist,  
Materials Measurement Division,  
NIST-DOC, Gaithersburg, MD USA



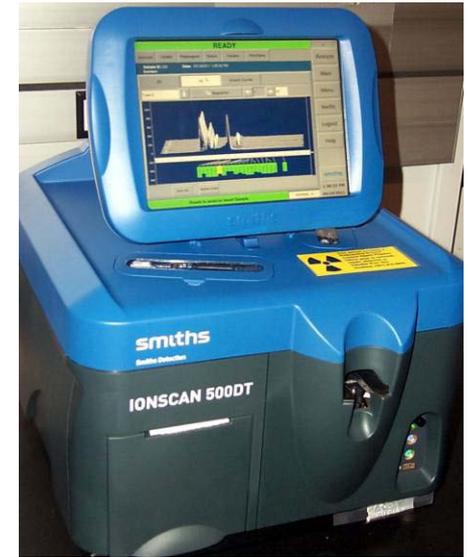
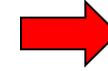
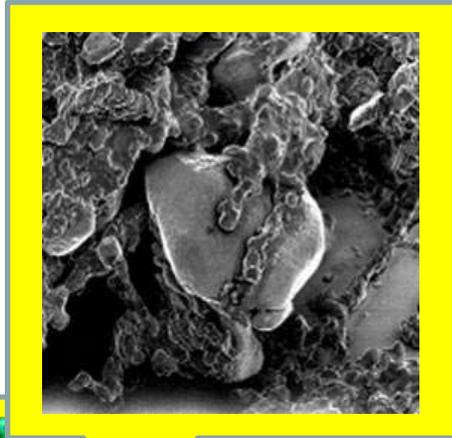
*Forensics @NIST 2012,  
Gaithersburg, Maryland,  
November 28-30, 2012*

# Outline

- Trace detection and challenges
- Role of metrology and standards
- Inkjet printing, ASTM limit of detection, cloud computing, and standard dirt

# Trace Detection

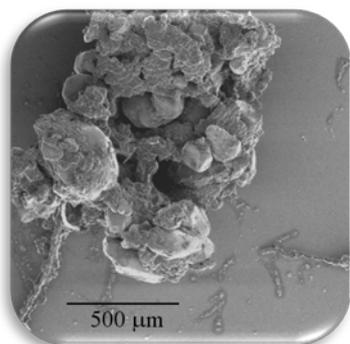
Trace detection involves quantities of substance invisible to the unaided eye... typically less than a microgram.



Most commercial explosive trace detectors (ETDs) can detect in the low nanogram range (a single crystal much smaller than the width of a human hair!)

# Trace Detection Challenges: Sampling

Trace chemical targets are vanishingly small



RDX crystals  
in C4

+



<http://showmehowto.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/788suitcase.jpg>

=

20 parts  
per quadrillion



+



<http://www.itstactical.com/centcom/news/youll-never-look-at-hay-bales-the-same/>

=

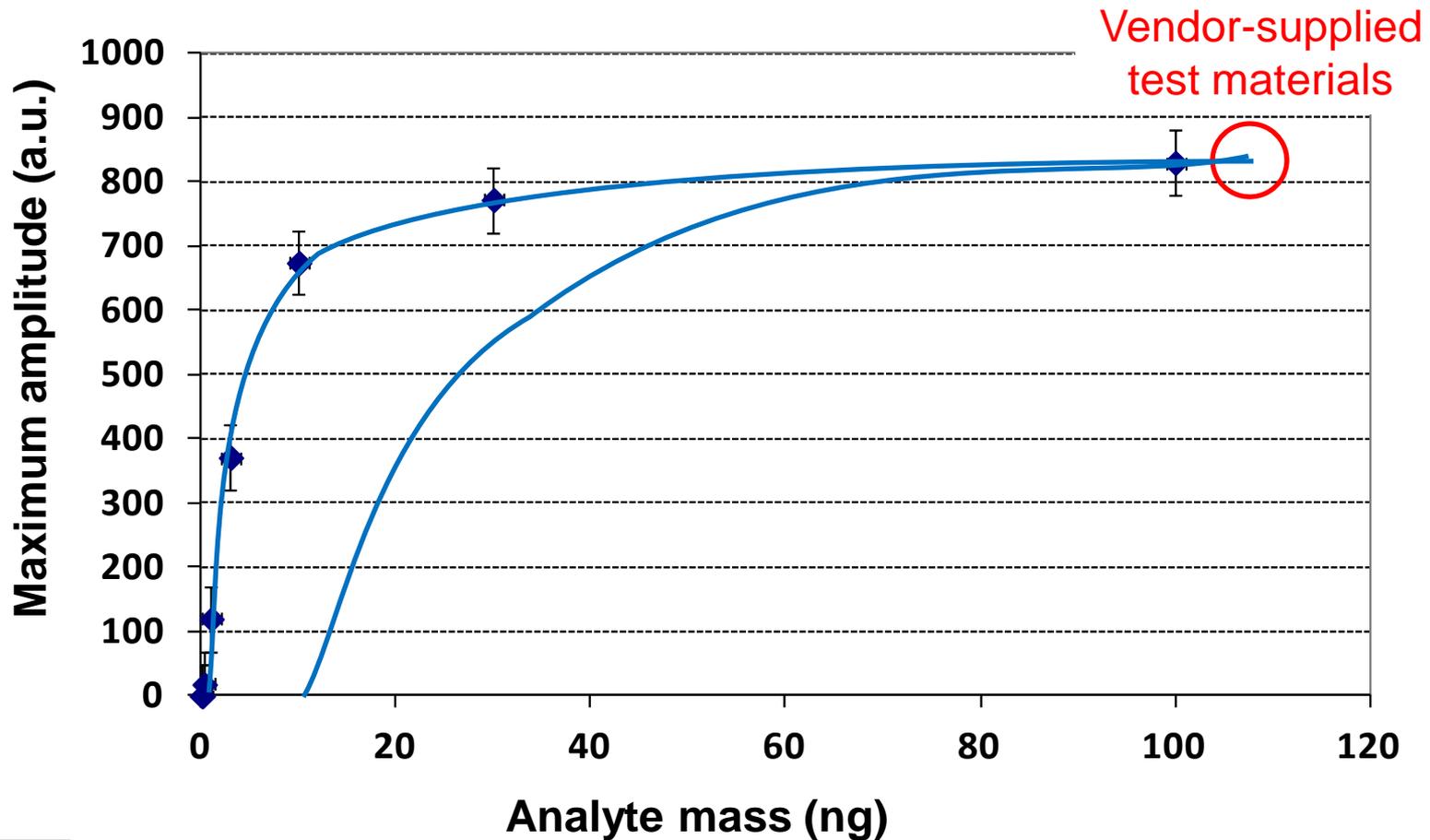
2 parts  
per billion

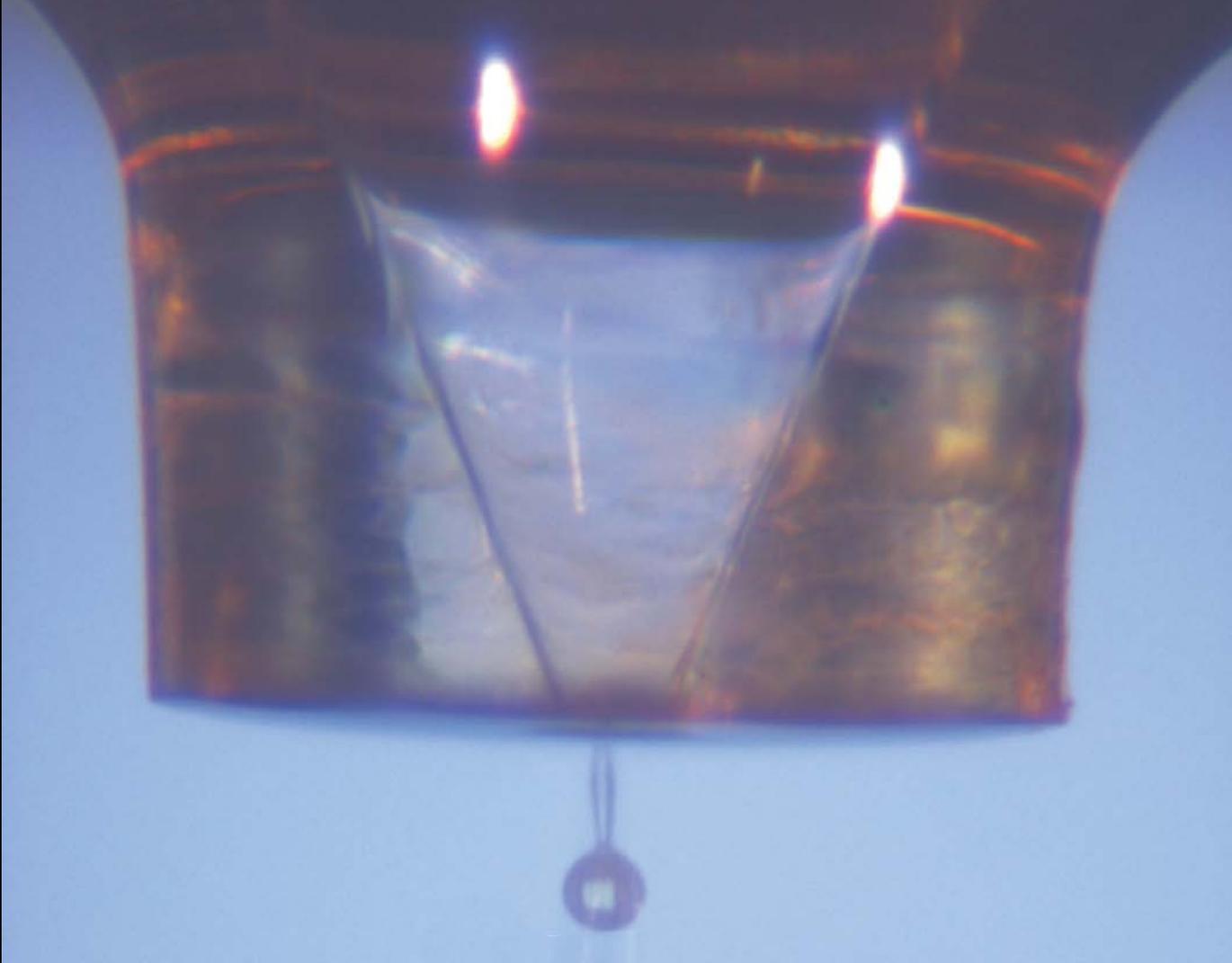
# Trace Detection Challenges: Specificity/Sensitivity

Contamination is ubiquitous, compositionally variable,  
and can interfere with detection



# ETD Response Curves





# **Ink Jet Printing**

# Inkjet Metrology and Application to Trace Explosive Validation

Anal Chem 2010, 82, 8519

Langmuir 2011, 27, 9644

Anal. Chem. 2009, 81, 8577-8584

## Inkjet Metrology: High-Accuracy Mass Measurements of Microdroplets Produced by a Drop-on-Demand Dispenser

R. Michael Verkouteren\* and Jennifer R. Verkouteren

Surface and Microanalysis Research Division, Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

We describe gravimetric methods for measuring the mass of droplets generated by a drop-on-demand (DOD) microdispenser. Droplets are deposited, either continuously at a known frequency or as a burst of known number, into a cylinder positioned on a submicrogram balance. Mass measurements are acquired precisely by computer, and results are corrected for evaporation. Capabilities are demonstrated using isobutyl alcohol droplets. For ejection rates greater than 100 Hz, the repeatability of droplet mass measurements was 0.2%, while the combined relative standard uncertainty ( $u_c$ ) was 0.9%. When bursts of droplets were dispensed, the limit of quantitation was 72  $\mu\text{g}$  (1490 droplets) with  $u_c = 1.0\%$ . Individual droplet size in a burst was evaluated by high-speed videography. Diameters were consistent from the tenth droplet onward, and the mass of an individual droplet was best estimated by the average droplet mass with a combined uncertainty of about 1%. Diameters of the first several droplets were anomalous, but their contribution was accounted for when dispensing bursts. Above the limits of quantitation, the gravimetric meth-

solder-based materials<sup>8</sup> require quantitative deposition and exact positioning of micrometer-sized "building blocks" to ensure reproducible feature size in partially and fully dense materials. Small volume dispense technologies are also used for concise and accurate delivery assays,<sup>10-18</sup> micro devices,<sup>20</sup> olfactor materials.<sup>22</sup> In fact, in these applications with determinative aliquots. These operational and changes around delivery.

(9) Lee, T.-M.; Kim, D.-S. *IEEE Trans* (10) Niles, W. D.; C (11) Bruns, A.; Hoff, 161-171.

Anal. Chem. 2010, 82, 8519-8524

## Application of Inkjet Printing Technology to Produce Test Materials of 1,3,5-Trinitro-1,3,5-Triazacyclohexane for Trace Explosive Analysis

Eric Windsor,\*<sup>†</sup> Marcela Najarro,<sup>†</sup> Anna Bloom,<sup>†</sup> Bruce Benner, Jr.,<sup>†</sup> Robert Fletcher,<sup>†</sup> Richard Lareau,<sup>‡</sup> and Greg Gillen<sup>†</sup>

Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, and Transportation Security Laboratory, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, Atlantic City, New Jersey

The feasibility of the use of piezoelectric drop-on-demand inkjet printing to prepare test materials for trace explosive analysis is demonstrated. RDX (1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazacyclohexane) was formulated into inkjet printable solutions and jetted onto substrates suitable for calibration of the ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) instruments currently deployed worldwide for contraband screening. Gravimetric analysis, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS), and ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectroscopy were used to verify inkjet printer solution concentrations and the quantity of explosive dispensed onto test materials. Reproducibility of the inkjet printing process for mass deposition of the explosive RDX (1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazacyclohexane) was determined to be better than 2% for a single day of printing and better than 3% day-to-day.

With the threat of global terrorism on the rise, the ability to detect trace levels of explosives has become an issue of critical national importance. This is especially true at screening locations including airports, seaports, U.S. embassies, and other government facilities. Although analytical techniques exist to detect quantities

In a typical screening implementation, personnel wipe baggage or cargo surfaces such as luggage handles or package labels with a "trap" composed of cloth, paper, or polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)-coated materials. Explosive particles are removed from

the wiped surface and introduced into an ion mobility spectrometer. The vapor is then ionized via an electron impact ionization, then their atmospheric time-of-flight drift tube at a charge, and the library of known

Test materials (typically used for calibrating IMS) properly at different materials including

## Langmuir

ARTICLE

pubs.acs.org/Langmuir

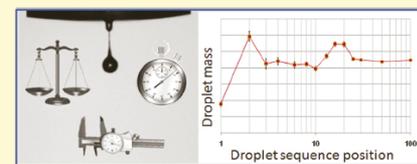
## Inkjet Metrology II: Resolved Effects of Ejection Frequency, Fluidic Pressure, and Droplet Number on Reproducible Drop-on-Demand Dispensing

R. Michael Verkouteren\* and Jennifer R. Verkouteren

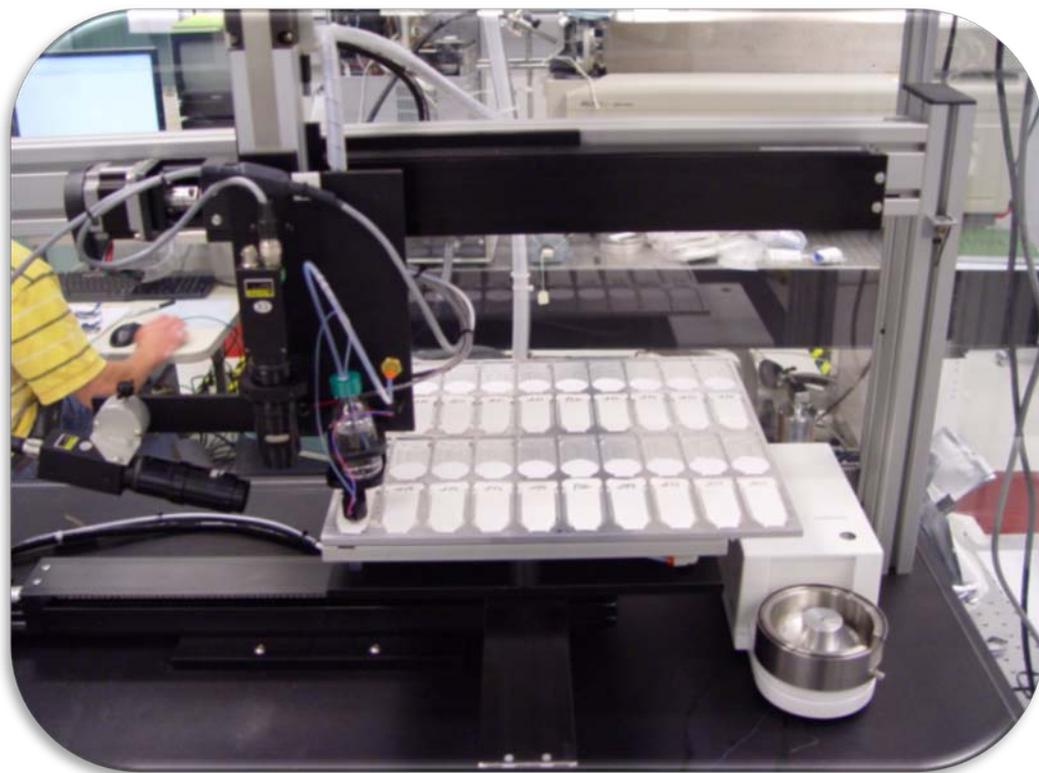
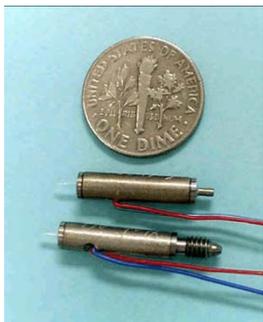
Surface and Microanalysis Science Division, Material Measurement Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, United States

Supporting Information

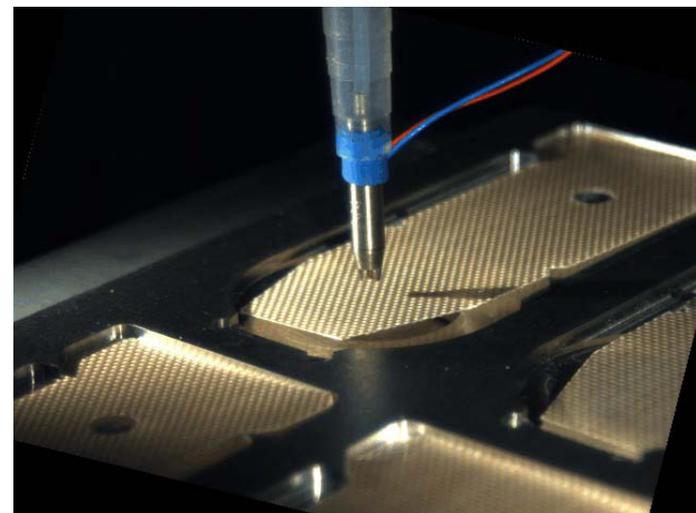
**ABSTRACT:** We report highly reproducible gravimetric and optical measurements of microdroplets that lend insights into the fundamentals of drop-on-demand (DOD) printing. Baseline fluidic pressure within the DOD dispenser was controlled to within 0.02 hPa, enabling long-term stability in dispensed droplet mass with observed variations near 1% (RSD) for isobutanol. The gravimetric measurements were sensitive enough to detect and avoid unwanted effects from air bubbles within the dispenser. The gravimetric and optical velocity measurements enabled consistent determination of droplet kinetic energy that governed baseline behavior across the operational variables. Mass and velocity were influenced in a nonlinear manner by the frequency of droplet ejection, the fluidic pressure within the dispensing device, and the number of droplets dispensed in a burst. Resolved effects were attributable to several possible mechanisms including acoustic resonances, energy partitioning from



# Production of Test Materials Using Ink Jet Printing



Accuracy	5 %
Repeatability	0.5 %
Deposition Range (<1 min)	1 pg to 1 $\mu$ g 70 pL to 70 $\mu$ L
Spatial Resolution	100 $\mu$ m



MicroFab Gravimetric Printer (JL4-XLB)

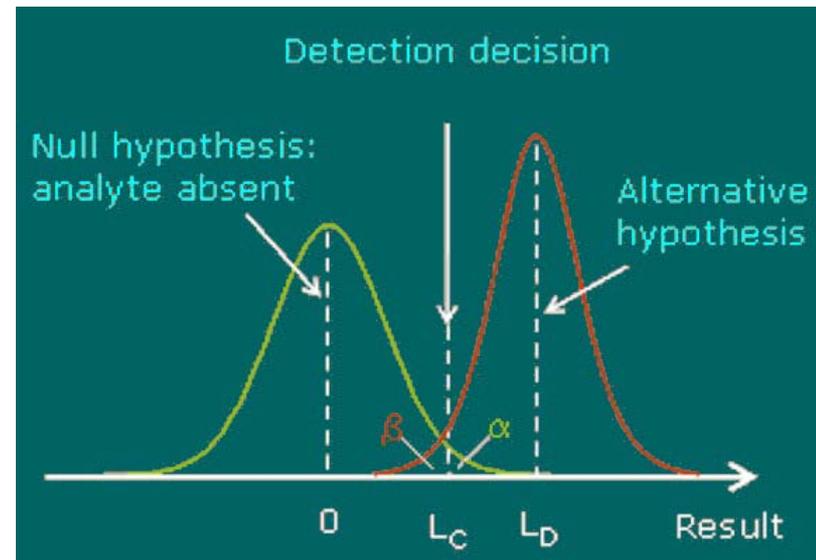
# ASTM Limit of Detection & Cloud Computing

# ASTM E54.01 Proposed Standard on Limit of Detection for ETDs

$L_D$ : a fundamental yet misunderstood analytical metric

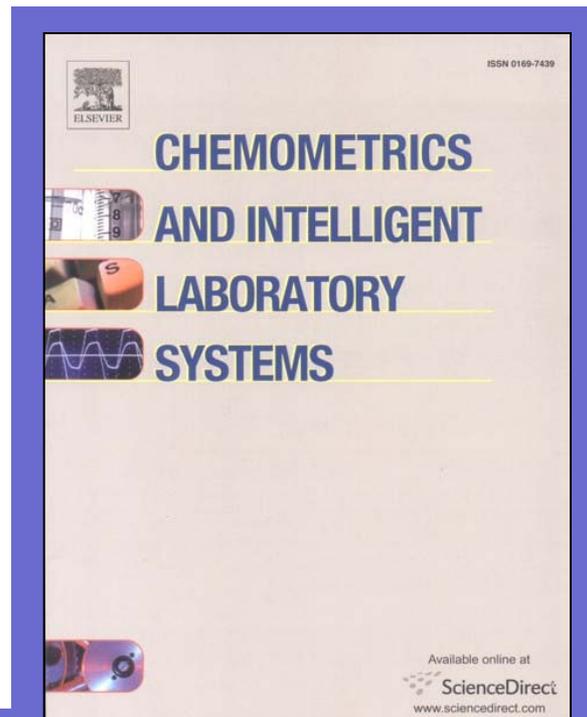
We define the  $L_D$ -90 as the lowest mass of a particular compound – introduced to the sampling inlet of a well-functioning contraband detection system – for which 90 % of independent measurements result in true detection, while the true non-detection probability is at least 90 % when measuring independent process blank samples.

$L_D$ -90 influenced by combination of detector sensitivity, response repeatability, and specificity for the analyte against background interferences.



# LOD Method for ETDs

NIST method designed specifically for trace explosive detectors as implemented by ASTM E54.01 subtask group\*



Limit of detection determination for censored samples.  
Rukhin, A.L.; Samarov, D.V. (2011) 105, 188-194.

\* S. Leigh, A. Rukhin, J. Yen, J. Staymates, M. Verkouteren

Parameter	Estimator	Definition	Notation	Meaning
$a$	$\hat{a}, \tilde{a}$	Intercept of response $W$	$Y(x)$	Observable positive response at mass $x$
$b$	$\hat{b}, \bar{b}$	Slope of response $W$	$W(x)$	Unobservable Gaussian response at mass $x$
$\sigma_0^2$	$\hat{\sigma}_0^2, \tilde{\sigma}_0^2, \bar{\sigma}_0^2$	Error variance, blank sample	$N$	Total number of samples (including blanks)
$\sigma^2$	$\hat{\sigma}^2, \bar{\sigma}^2$	Error variance, non-blank sample	$n_0$	Sample size of blanks
$h$	$\hat{h}, \tilde{h}$	Truncation parameter	$m_0$	Number of positive readings in the blank sample
$z_* = (h - a)/\sigma_0$	$\bar{z}_*$	Percentile of $Y(0)$ distribution	$\nu_0 = n_0 - m_0$	Number of zero readings in the blank sample
$\text{LOD} = x_c$	$\widehat{\text{LOD}}, \widetilde{\text{LOD}}$	Limit of detection	$\bar{y}_0$	The sample mean of positive responses in the blank sample
$= (\max(z_{1-\alpha}, z_*)\sigma_0 + z_{1-\beta}\sigma)/b$	$H, U$		$s_0^2$	The sample variance of positive responses in the blank sample
$\text{LC} = \max(a + z_{1-\alpha}\sigma_0, h)$	$\widehat{\text{LC}}$	Critical level	$n_i, i \geq 1$	Size of $i$ -th non-blank sample
$y_c = \text{LC} + z_{1-\beta}\sigma$		Decision limit	$m_i, i \geq 1$	Number of positive readings in $i$ -th non-blank sample
			$\nu = \sum_{i=1}^N m_i - 1$	Degrees of freedom
			$d = 1 / \sqrt{\sum_i m_i x_i^2}$	Defines confidence limit $H$ for LOD
			$\phi$	Standard normal density
			$\Phi$	Normal cumulative distribution function
			$z_\alpha$	Normal percentile of order $\alpha, \Phi(z_\alpha) = \alpha$

$$Y(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & W(x) < h; \\ W(x), & W(x) \geq h. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$\Pr(Y(0) \leq \text{LC}) = 1 - \alpha. \quad (2)$$

$$\Phi^{\nu_0} \left( \frac{h-a}{\sigma_0} \right) \prod_{j: y_j^{(0)} > 0} \frac{1}{\sigma_0} \phi \left( \frac{y_j^{(0)} - a}{\sigma_0} \right), \quad h \leq \min_{i: y_i^{(0)} > 0} y_j^{(0)}. \quad (3)$$

$$\hat{h} = \min_{j: y_j^{(0)} > 0} y_j^{(0)}. \quad (4)$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_0 = \frac{\hat{z}_*(\bar{y}_0 - \hat{h})}{2} + \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{\hat{z}_*^2}{4}\right) (\bar{y}_0 - \hat{h})^2 + s_0^2}. \quad (5)$$

$$\hat{a} = \hat{h} - \hat{z}_* \hat{\sigma}_0. \quad (6)$$

$$\tilde{h} = 2\hat{h} - \min_{j: y_j^{(0)} > \hat{h}} y_j^{(0)}, \quad (7)$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_0 = \frac{\hat{z}_*(\bar{y}_0 - \tilde{h})}{2} + \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{\hat{z}_*^2}{4}\right) (\bar{y}_0 - \tilde{h})^2 + s_0^2}, \quad (8)$$

$$\tilde{a} = \tilde{h} - \hat{z}_* \tilde{\sigma}_0. \quad (9)$$

$$d = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sum_i m_i x_i^2}}, \quad (10)$$

$$\hat{b} = d^2 \sum_i m_i x_i \bar{y}_i, \quad (11)$$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{\nu} \sum_{i: i} (\bar{y}_j^{(i)} - \hat{b}x_i)^2. \quad (12)$$

$$\widehat{\text{LOD}} = \frac{\max(z_{1-\alpha}, \hat{z}_*)\hat{\sigma}_0 + z_{1-\beta}\hat{\sigma}}{\hat{b}}. \quad (13)$$

$$\widetilde{\text{Var}}(\widehat{\text{LOD}}) = \frac{1}{\hat{b}^2} \left[ [\max(z_{1-\alpha}, \hat{z}_*)]^2 \frac{\tilde{\sigma}_0^2}{m_0} + z_{1-\beta}^2 \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{\nu} + d^2 \hat{\sigma}^2 \widehat{\text{LOD}}^2 \right]. \quad (14)$$

$$H = \frac{\max(z_{1-\alpha}, \bar{z}_*)\bar{\sigma}_0 + z_{1-\beta}\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{b}}, \quad (15)$$

$$\frac{\hat{b}}{\hat{\sigma}} > c = dt_{1-\gamma/2}(\nu) = \frac{t_{1-\gamma/2}(\nu)}{\sqrt{\sum_i m_i x_i^2}}. \quad (16)$$

$$U = \frac{\max(z_{1-\alpha}, \bar{z}_*)\bar{\sigma}_0 + (z_{1-\beta} + z_{1-p})\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{b}}. \quad (17)$$

# Web-based LOD Calculator

- <http://pubapps.nist.gov:8444/loda>

– Input measurement data



– *Data quality check*



– *L<sub>D</sub>-90 estimate & supporting information*

ASTM Subtask Group:  
A. Heckert,  
K. Kwiatek,  
M. Verkouteren

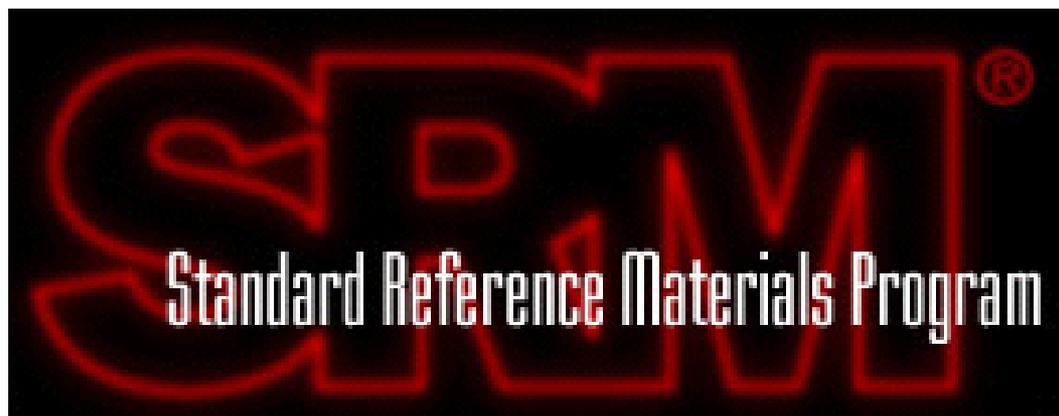
# Standard Dirt



# Standard “Dirts”

## Natural Matrix NIST SRMs

- Soils, sediments, dusts, air particulates, sludges, leaves...
- Immediately and internationally available
- Represent reasonable contamination sources
- Highly characterized
- Certified
- Homogeneous
- Stabilized



# Standard Interferent Material (SIMdirt-1)



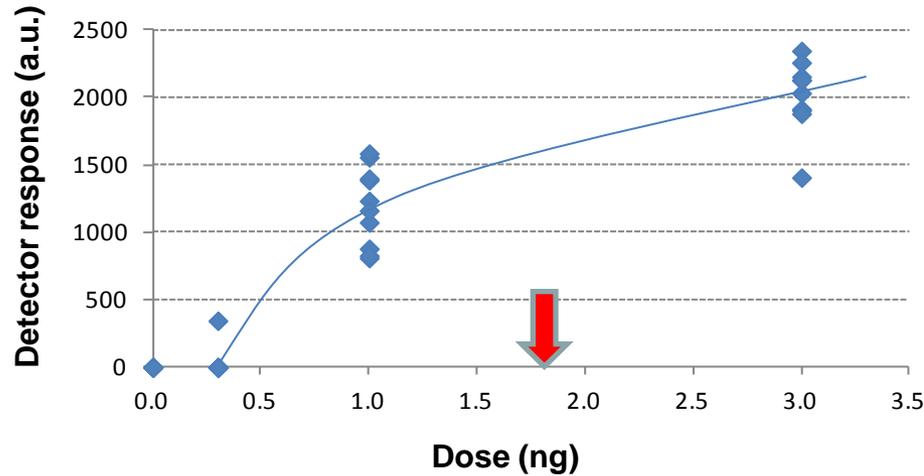
SRM 2704 (Buffalo River Sediment)	266.5 mg
SRM 2585 (Household Dust)	83.7 mg
SRM 2709a (San Joaquin Soil)	87.5 mg
SRM 1650 (Diesel Particulate Matter)	5.1 mg
2-propanol (HPLC grade)	100 mL



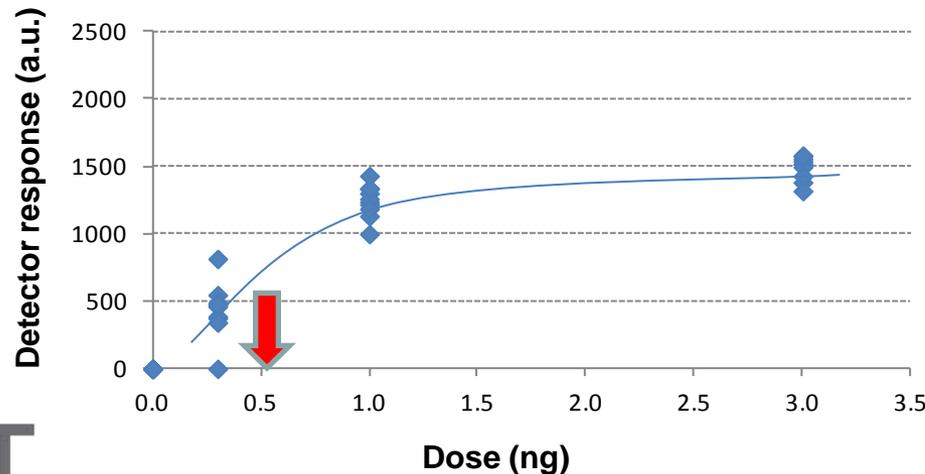
One drop from squeeze dropper deposits 100  $\mu$ g of SIMdirt-1 (U = 4%)

# Limit of Detection Comparison

## An atypical surprise with SIMdirt-1



Detector responses from analyte on clean substrates



Analyses repeated, with 100 µg SIMdirt-1 added to each substrate

# SRM Preparers and Analysts

M.M. Schantz	M.P. Cronise
D.L. Poster	C.N. Fales
S.J. Christopher	P. Schubert
J.R. Sieber	J.M. Keller
D.G. Friend	B.J. Porter
S.S. Vander Pol	H.M. Stapleton
R.M. Lindstrom	K.E. Murphy
R.O. Spatz	L.L. Yu
S.E. Long	R.L. Paul
R.S. Popelka-Filcoff	R. Zeisler
E.A. Mackey	S.A. Rabb
B.E. Tomlin	A.P. Lindstrom
A.F. Marlow	G.C. Turk
L.J. Wood	L.J. Wood
S.A. Wise	L.L. Yu
R.L. Watters	R.R. Greenberg
J.R. Kucklick	E.A. Mackey
S.D. Leigh	B.S. McDonald

# Summary

- Several tools have been developed at NIST suitable for performance testing and validation of trace detectors
  - Inkjet technology for accurate and precise printing of pg-to- $\mu$ g of compounds for reliable production of test materials and reference substrates
  - Proposed ASTM method for determining  $L_D-90$ , aided with a web-based calculator
  - Standard interferent material (SIMdirt-1) for ETD interference response testing



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