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# ***Artificial Intelligence smelling:*** **Can multidimensional chromatography play a (key) role?**

Chiara Cordero<sup>1</sup>

Simone Squara;<sup>1</sup> Andrea Caratti;<sup>1</sup> Nicola Spigolon;<sup>2</sup> Qingping Tao;<sup>3</sup> Stephen E. Reichenbach;<sup>3,4</sup> Carlo Bicchi<sup>1</sup>

1: Dept. of Drug Science and Technology, University of Turin, Turin, Italy

2: Soremartec Italia, Ferrero Group, Alba-CN, Italy

3: GC Image LLC (Lincoln NE, USA)

4: Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Nebraska, (Lincoln NE, USA)





## Foreword

Is comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography worthy to be adopted in flavour characterization? Is it simply a more complicated approach to GC separations? Does it open new opportunities to flavor analysis?

*Opinions...*

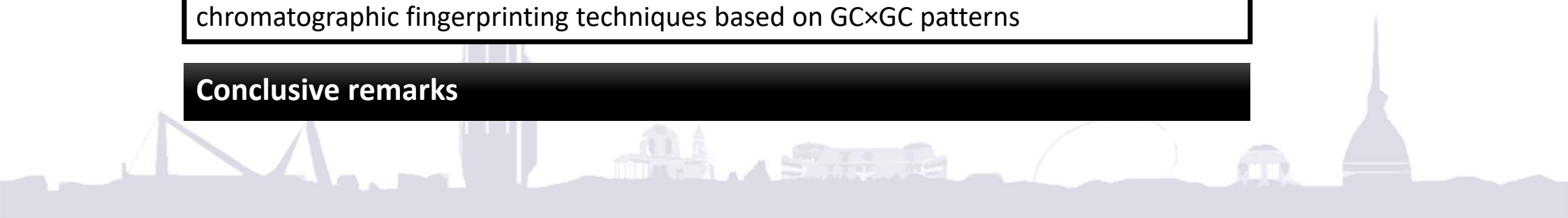
**Gestalt:** *something that is made of many parts and yet is somehow more than or different from the combination of its parts*

## Key-concepts

- ✓ *Artificial Intelligence smelling* based on sensomics (SEBES\*)
- ✓ Analytical dimensions of a GC×GC platform
- ✓ Investigation strategies: a change of perspective from 1D -> 2D

**Shelling nuts:** an *omics* approach to unravel hazelnut quality and flavour by advanced chromatographic fingerprinting techniques based on GC×GC patterns

## Conclusive remarks





## GC: The State of the Art

November 01, 2017

By Chiara Cordero, Pat Sandra, John Hinshaw, Hans-Gerd Janssen, Frank David, Steven Lehotay



## GC: The State of the Art

Chairperson: Pat Sandra  
 Participants: Steven Lehotay  
 Hans-Gerd Janssen  
 Chiara Cordero  
 Frank David  
 John Hinshaw

**Pat Sandra:** Comprehensive GC×GC has gained prominence at international meetings and in the literature in recent years. Do you expect a breakthrough in the coming years for routine analyses? Will modulation by temperature or by flow be mostly applied? Is the data handling sufficiently developed in terms of accuracy and speed for routine applications?

**Steven Lehotay:** GC×GC provides greater selectivity in separations, but as it is commonly used now, it adds too much time to the analysis. Another major problem is that a microbore second-dimension column is easily overwhelmed by high concentration matrix components, which is nearly always the case in real-world samples. GC×GC is overkill in common applications and fails in many difficult ones, thus, it needs to be used in a different way to provide faster separations with more sample capacity. I think a breakthrough in GC×GC would have been possible many years ago if the drivers of the technology had decided to overcome its practical limitations, including excessive liquid nitrogen usage for cryogenic modulation, rather than demonstrate niche applications.



**Frank David:** GC×GC will definitely find its way to routine application, mainly in petrochemical analysis. All types of modulators can be used, but easier, user-friendly, intuitive software and data handling are needed. Moreover, the application potential of GC×GC should not be overestimated. One-dimensional GC and GC-MS are able to cover most GC-amenable applications.



**Hans-Gerd Janssen:** GC×GC is already routinely used in the mineral oil area and in the flavour and fragrance industry, simply because one-dimensional GC cannot do the job. For many other applications we are forced, by government policies or for company-internal reasons, to stick with one dimensional GC. I do not expect a dramatic breakthrough for GC×GC, but it could evolve to 10–15% of the GC market.





# G=STALT

*noun* \ gə-'stält

understanding the whole,  
not merely the sum of  
its parts.

...something that is made of many parts and yet is somehow more than or different from the combination of its parts<sup>1</sup>...



[1] Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/gestalt>. Accessed 5 Apr. 2022





Aroma

AI Smelling

nature  
machine intelligence

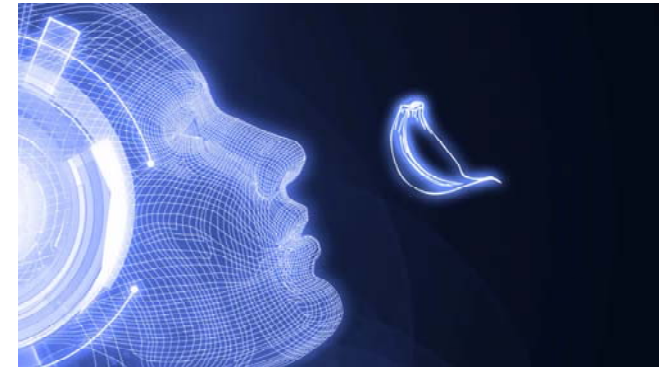
ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42256-020-0159-4>

Check for updates

## Rapid online learning and robust recall in a neuromorphic olfactory circuit

Nabil Imam<sup>1</sup> and Thomas A. Cleland<sup>2</sup>



*Our noses are busy beasts.*

*At any given moment, multiple smells are competing for our attention, and somehow the brain can tell when it's smelling an orange even against a backdrop of other scents, say perfume or soap.*

*The brain's olfactory bulb has hundreds of receptors tracking odors all the time, and yet somehow keeps everything straight.*

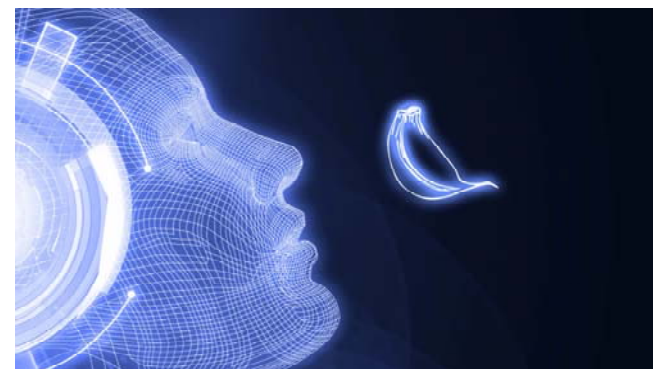
*Scientists at Cornell University working with researchers at Intel have just created an AI algorithm trained to recognize 10 scents by mimicking the mammalian olfactory bulb (MOB).*

*Give the algorithm a computer chip to run on and it can learn to identify new odors.<sup>1</sup>*



Sensomics<sup>1</sup>

AI Smelling



*Context: Sensomics<sup>1</sup>*

*Principle: key-odorants and odorants patterns evoke specific smells/aroma qualities while contributing to define the overall flavor perception of a food - identity*

*Methods: extract, isolate, quantify potent odorants by reliable and robust methodologies*

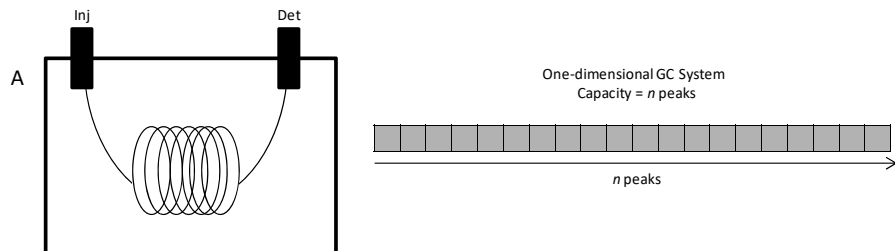
*Outcome: **Sensomics-Based Expert System<sup>2</sup> (SEBES)** that predicts key-aroma signatures of food without using human olfaction.*

[1] Dunkel, A.; Steinhaus, M.; Kotthoff, M.; Nowak, B.; Krautwurst, D.; Schieberle, P.; Hofmann, T. *Angew. Chemie - Int. Ed.* 53 (28) (2014) 7124–7143.

[2] Nicolotti, L.; Mall, V.; Schieberle, P. *J. Agric. Food Chem.*, 67 (2019) 4011–4022



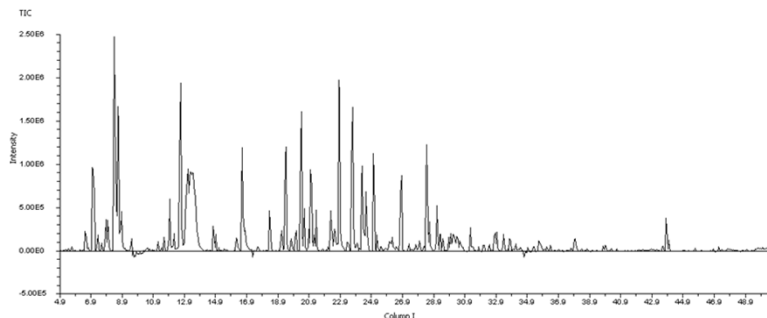
# Comprehensive 2D GC



- ✓ **Separation power** (peak capacity) is given by the product of the two chromatographic dimensions (GC×GC)<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Independent (almost) displacement in both dimensions produces **rational retention patterns** for homologue series<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ **Band compression** (in space - for thermal modulators) produces signal-to-noise ratio enhancement - **sensitivity**
- ✓ **Bi-dimensional peak patterns** exploits a 3D space where **fingerprinting** could be **more accurate** than in a 2D space (as for 1D-GC profiles)



## Conventional 1D GC



### Profiling<sup>1</sup>

detailed analysis of the chemical pattern

### Target(ed) analysis<sup>2</sup>

GC-MS metadata (retention and spectra)  
analytes identity and amount

### Chromatographic fingerprinting<sup>1,3</sup>

general and rapid high-throughput  
screening -> discriminate/classify samples



### Limits

high chemical dimensionality<sup>4</sup>  
complexity of food samples

isomers/isobars might co-elute and analytes  
discrimination becomes challenging

Need of multiple dimensions (separation /  
detection) to explore compositional complexity<sup>4</sup>



[1] Harrigan G., Goodacre R. (2003) Metabolic profiling: its role in biomarker discovery and gene function analysis. Kluwer Academic Publishers: Boston

[2] S.E. Reichenbach et al. J. Chromatogr. A 1226 (2012) 140–148

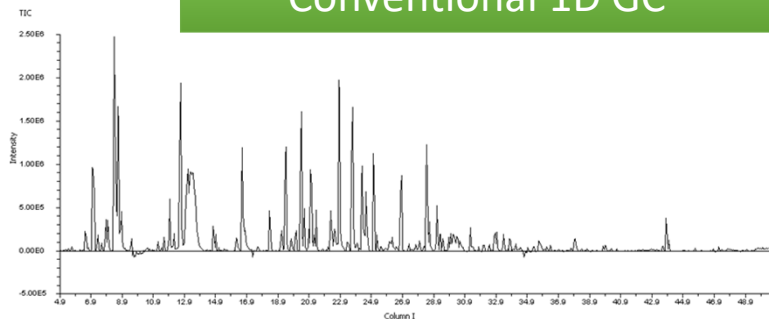
[3] Stilo, F., Bicchi, C., Jimenez-Carvelo, A.M., Cuadros-Rodriguez, L., Reichenbach, S.E., Cordero, C. TrAC Trends Anal. Chem. 134 (2021) 116133

[4] Giddings, J. C. (1995) J. Chromatogr. A. 703, 3–15.

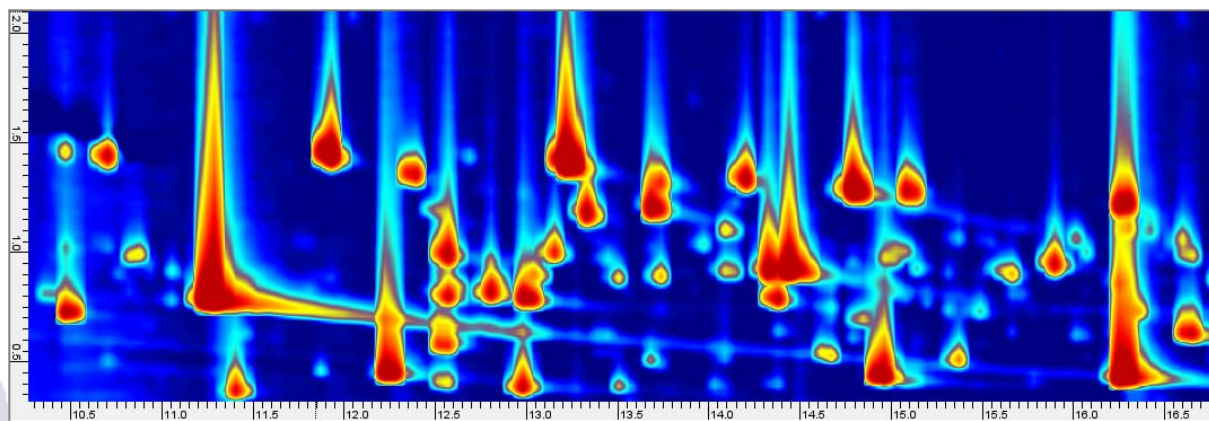
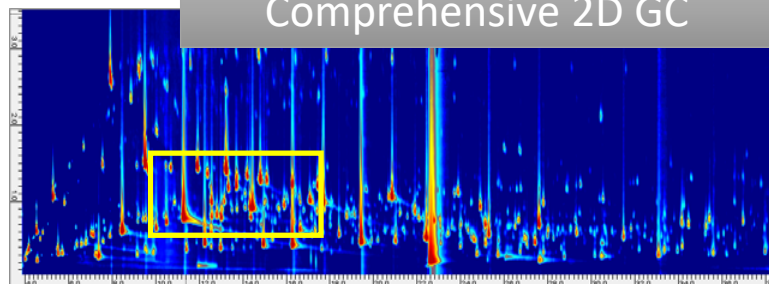




## Conventional 1D GC



## Comprehensive 2D GC



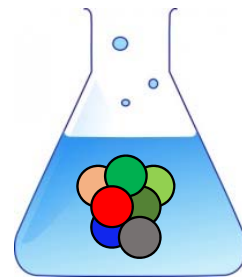
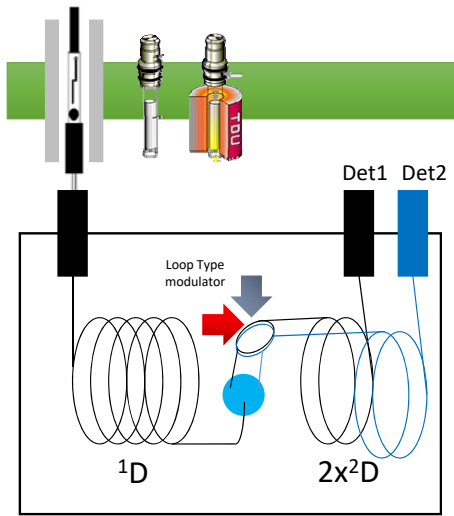
*“High resolution”* profiling  
GCxGC separation power  
accurate quantitative profiling

*2D/3D Chromatographic fingerprinting*<sup>1</sup>  
pattern recognition (forensics)  
comprehensive sample comparison

**Group-Type Analysis**  
Rational retention logic  
Ordered elution patterns

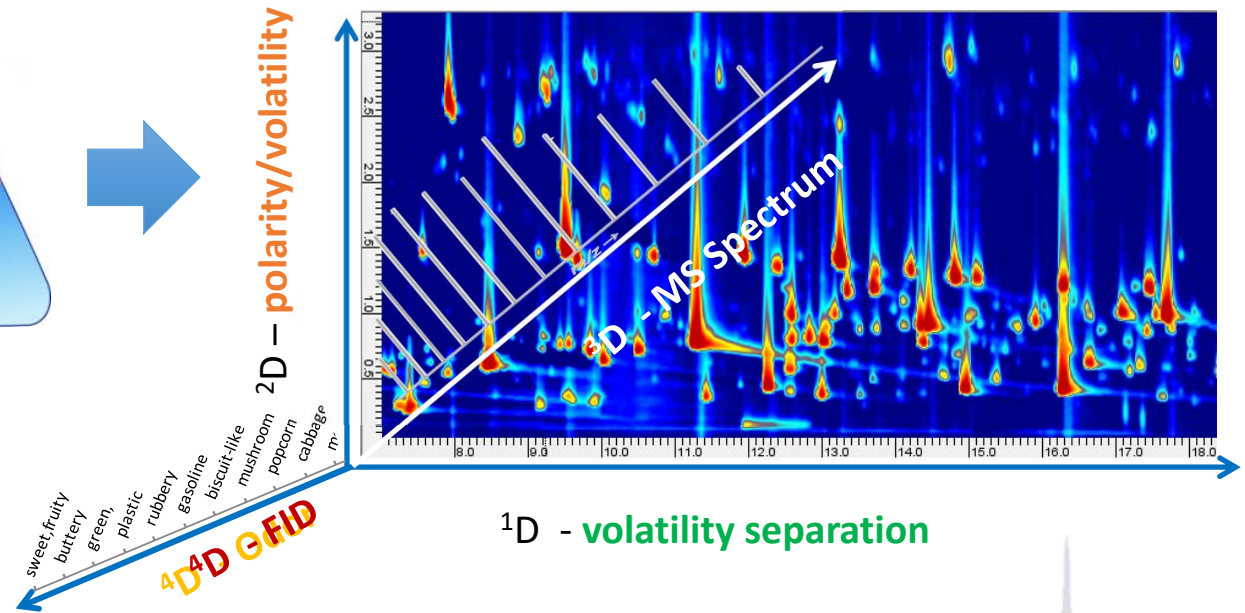
[1] Stilo, F., Bicchi, C., Jimenez-Carvelo, A. M., Cuadros-Rodriguez, L., Reichenbach, S. E., & Cordero, C. (2021). TrAC Trends in Analytical Chemistry, 134, 116133.





Information dimensions  
spectral signature (identity)  
volatility/polarity  
sensory descriptor (bio-assay)

Sample prep - GCx2GC-MS/FID  
Sample prep - GC(O)xGC-MS





Rational information space

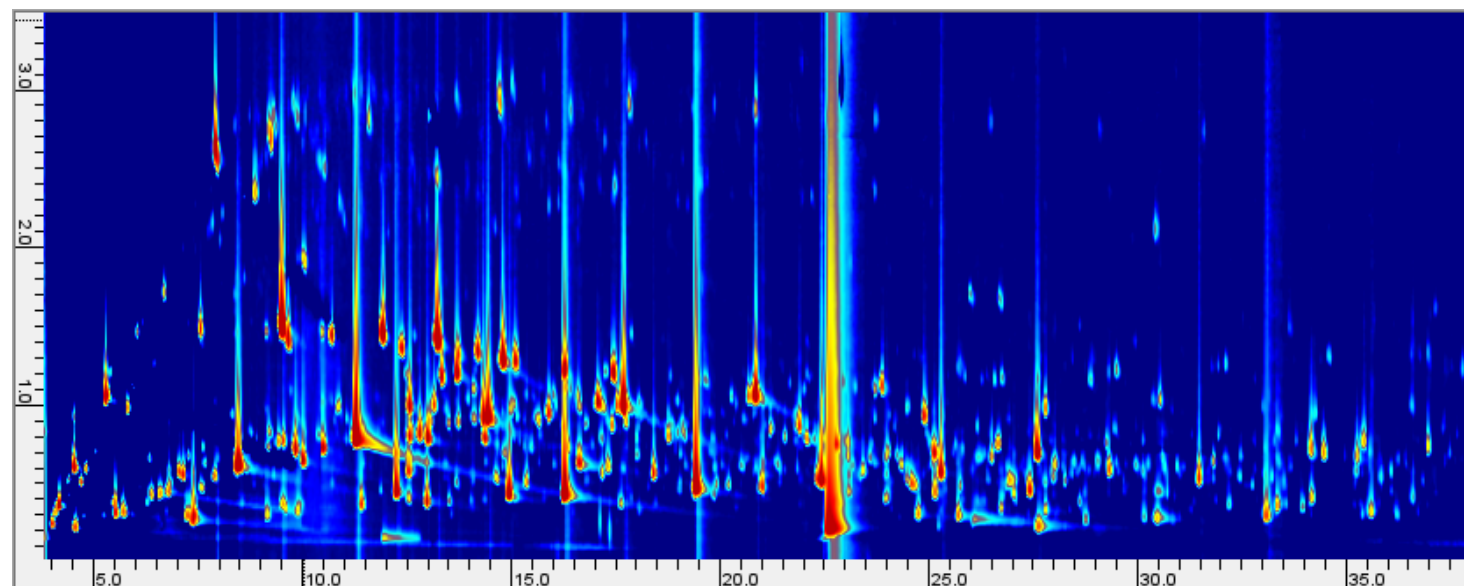


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Raw hazelnut **volatiles** - Rancid sample Origin Turkey  
HS-SPME (CAR/PDMS/DVB) - 125 mg - 50°C/50 min

Chemical dimensions

<sup>2</sup>D - volatility separation (DB17)



<sup>1</sup>D - polarity/volatility separation (PEG / Carbowax)

➔ About **700 detectable features** (2D peaks) over 20 S/N

Of them **250 reliably identified** by 70 eV spectrum and  $I^T$  coherence

Various chemical classes highly correlated with **autoxidation** processes, enzymatic **peroxidation**, **aroma compounds** and **potent odorants**

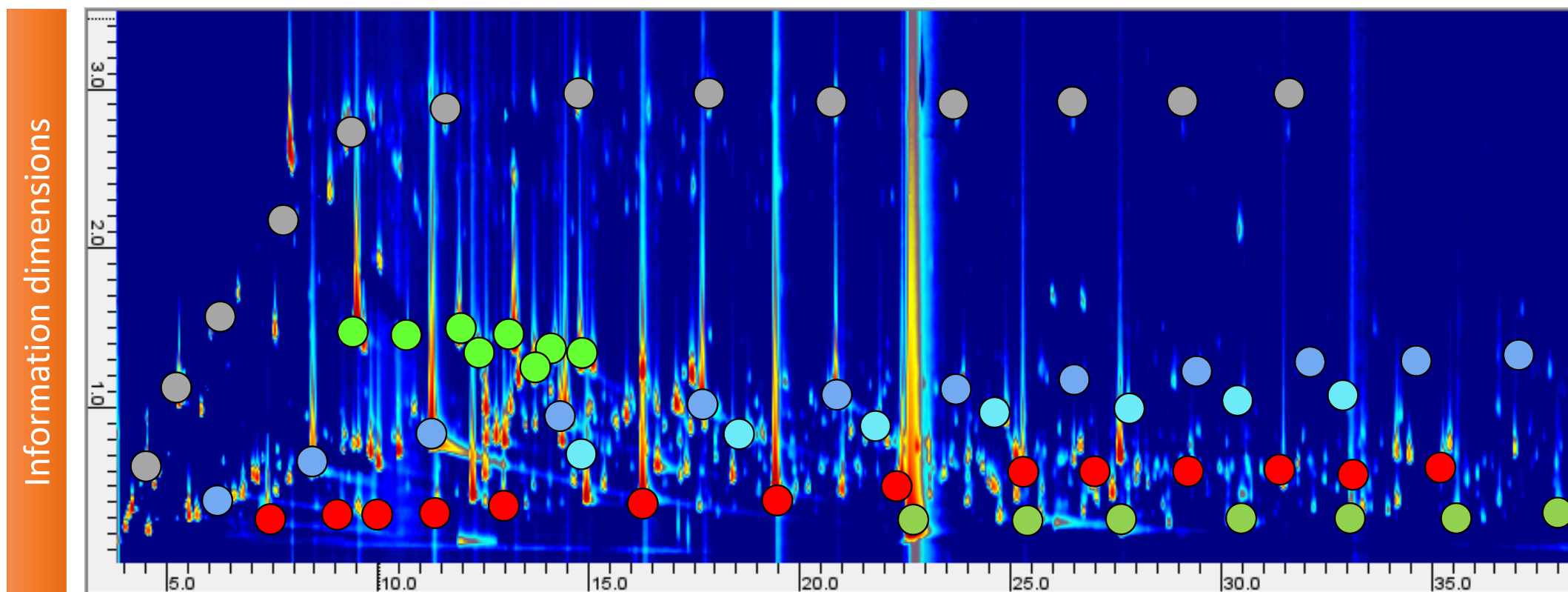


## Rational information space



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Raw hazelnut **volatiles** - Rancid sample Origin Turkey HS-SPME (CAR/PDMS/DVB) - 125 mg - 50°C/50 min



● *n*-alkanes ● primary alcohols ● fatty acids ● saturated aldehydes ● unsaturated aldehydes ● monoterpenes

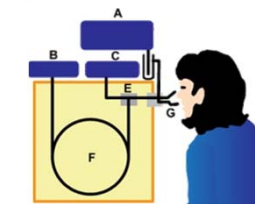
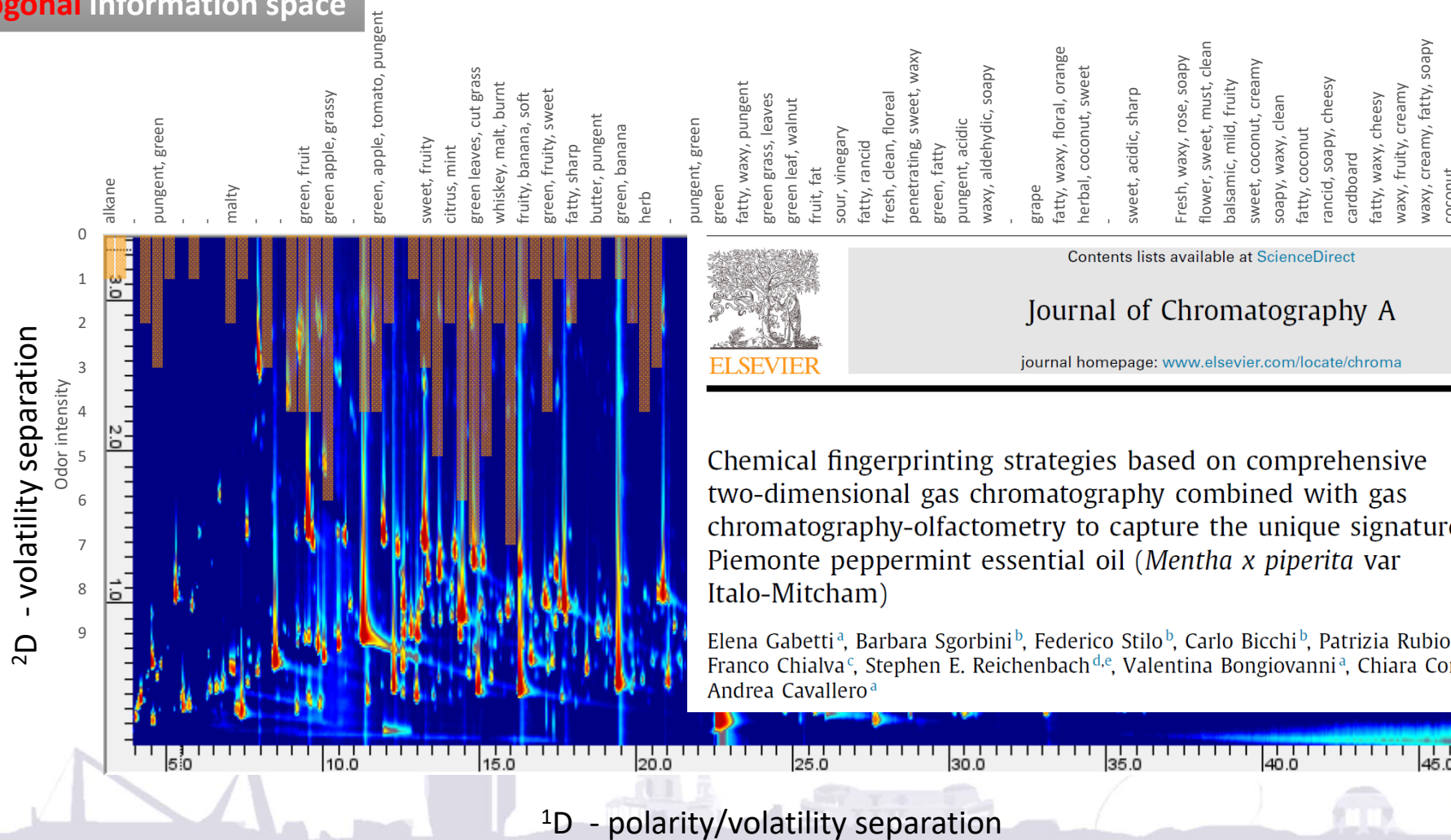


## Orthogonal information space



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Information dimensions



Picture from:  
TrAC (2011) 30(11) :1756–1770

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)



ELSEVIER

Journal of Chromatography A

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/chroma](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/chroma)

Chemical fingerprinting strategies based on comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography combined with gas chromatography-olfactometry to capture the unique signature of Piemonte peppermint essential oil (*Mentha x piperita* var Italo-Mitcham)

Elena Gabetti<sup>a</sup>, Barbara Sgorbini<sup>b</sup>, Federico Stilo<sup>b</sup>, Carlo Bicchi<sup>b</sup>, Patrizia Rubiolo<sup>b</sup>, Franco Chialva<sup>c</sup>, Stephen E. Reichenbach<sup>d,e</sup>, Valentina Bongiovanni<sup>a</sup>, Chiara Cordero<sup>b,\*</sup>, Andrea Cavallero<sup>a</sup>

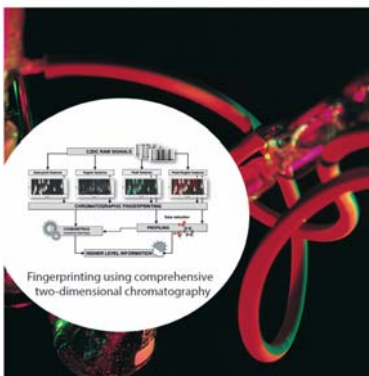




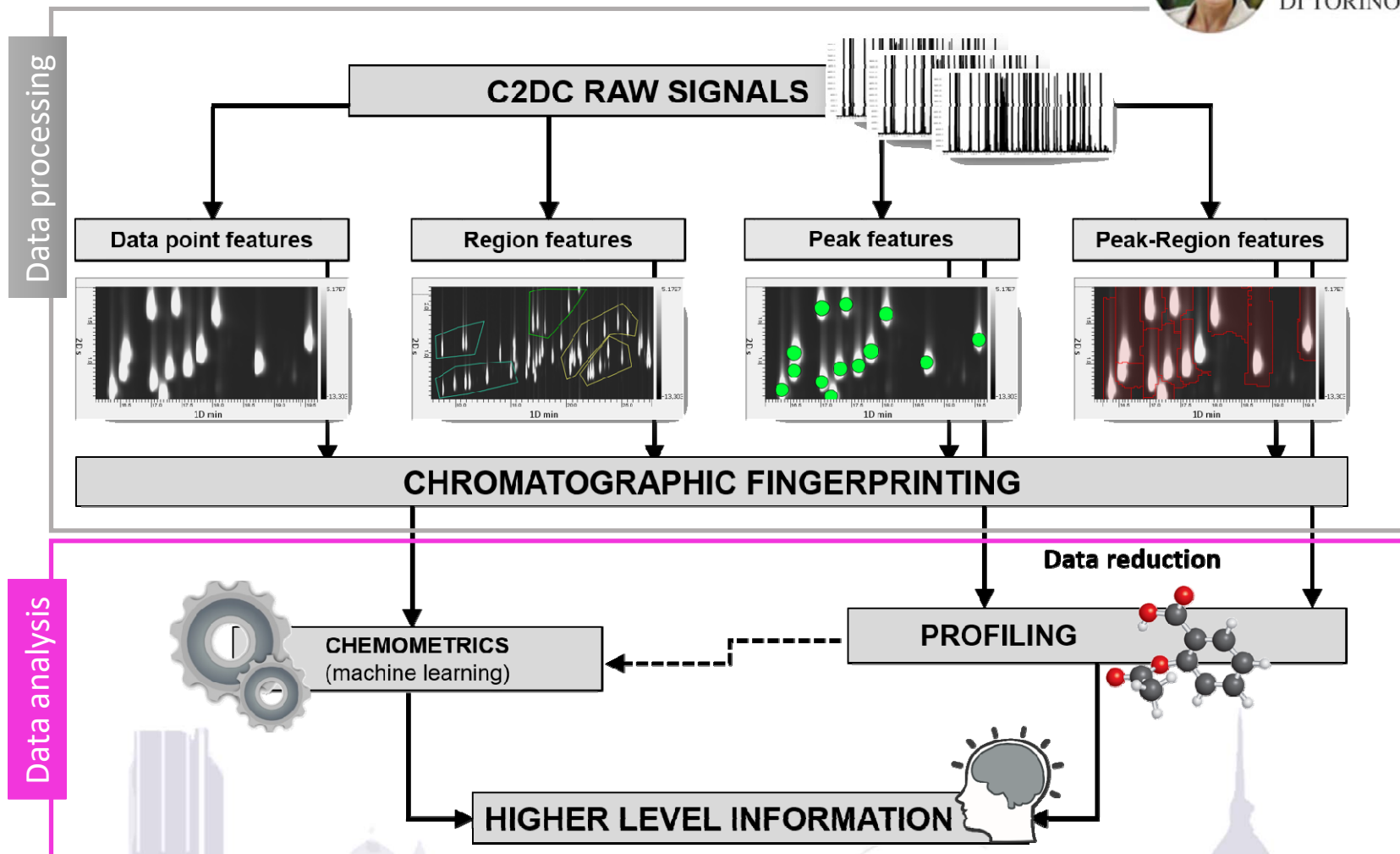
Data processing



**TrAC**  
Trends in Analytical Chemistry  
www.elsevier.com/locate/trac



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## Data processing



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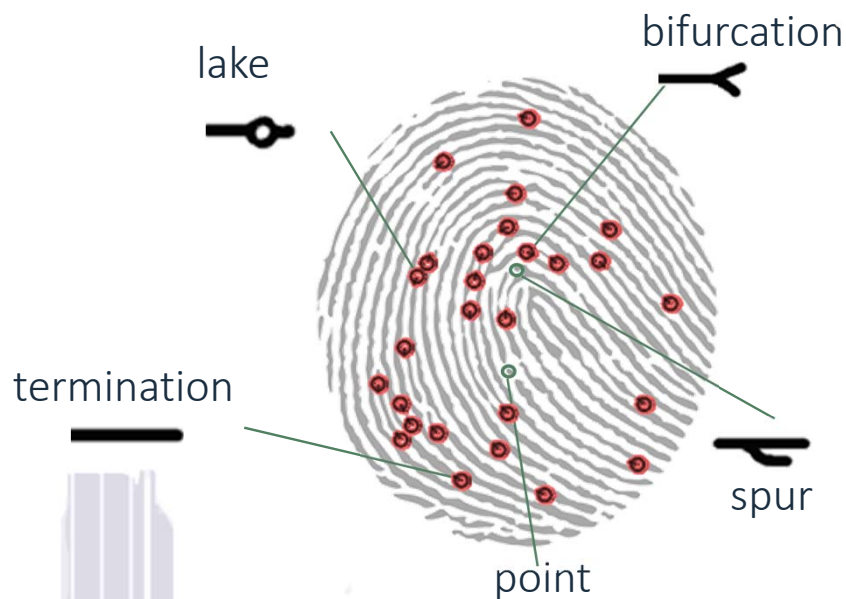
A **fingerprint** is the pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a fingertip  
-> Everyone has unique fingerprints



## Crime scene fingerprint



## Database fingerprints



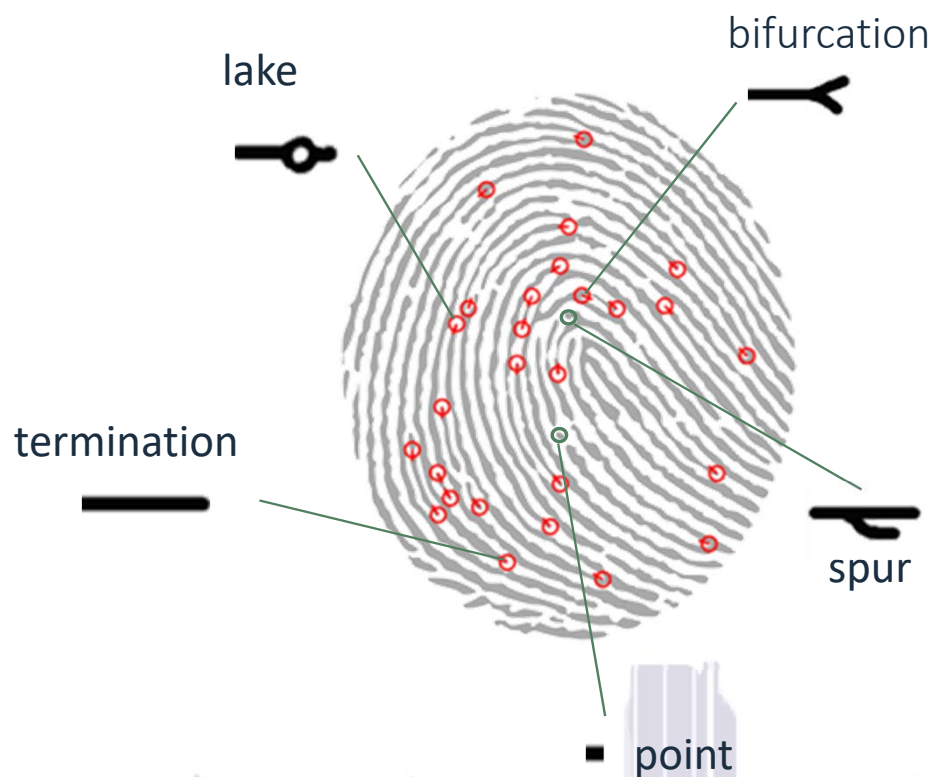


Data processing



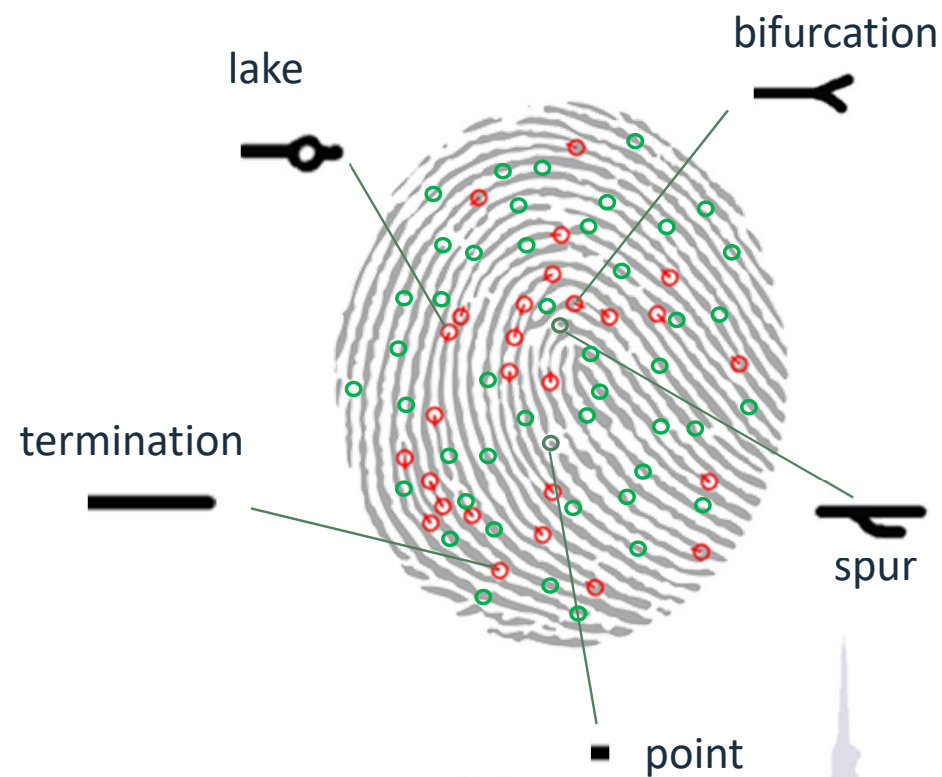
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**Targeted** - minutiae



**Untargeted** - Targeted

**UT** - extended investigation





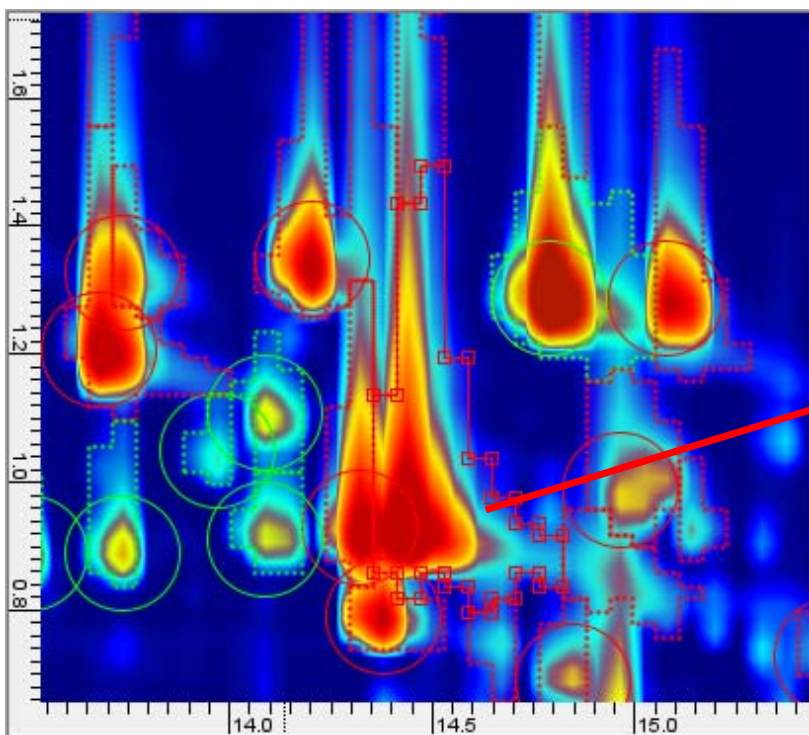
STEP 1

Data processing

Untargeted/Targeted Fingerprinting<sup>1-4</sup> - comprehensive mapping



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**Blob Properties**

Labels

Compound Name: Octanal

Compound Library: [dropdown]

Group Name: odorants II

Constellation Name: [dropdown]

Compound Description: saturated aldehydes  
LRI (WAX) 1277±7

Auto Fill

Flags

Include  Add Text Object

Internal Standard  Add Chemical Structure

Exclude  Set Color  Custom Color

Statistics Analysis Qualifier/Quantifier Ions

Analysis CLIC (aCLIC): [dropdown]

Qualifier CLIC (qCLIC): 00.0) & (RMatch("<ms>") >= 700.0

Reference MS: 334.0,550.0;339.0,340.0;349.0,860.0;

Reference Peak: [dropdown]

Hit List

OK and View Spectrum OK Cancel

[1] Magagna, F., Valverde-Som, L., Ruíz-Samblás, C., Cuadros-Rodríguez, L., Reichenbach, S. E., Bicchi, C., & Cordero, C. (2016). *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 936, 245–258.

[2] Reichenbach, S. E., Tian, X., Tao, Q., Ledford, E. B., Wu, Z., & Fiehn, O. (2011). *Talanta*, 83(4), 1279–1288

[3] Reichenbach, S. E., Zini, C. A., Nicolli, K. P., Welke, J. E., Cordero, C., & Tao, Q. (2019). *Journal of Chromatography A*, 1595, 158–167

[4] Cordero, C., Guglielmetti, A., Bicchi, C., Liberto, E., Baroux, L., Merle, P., ... Reichenbach, S. E. (2019). *Journal of Chromatography A*, 1597, 132–141





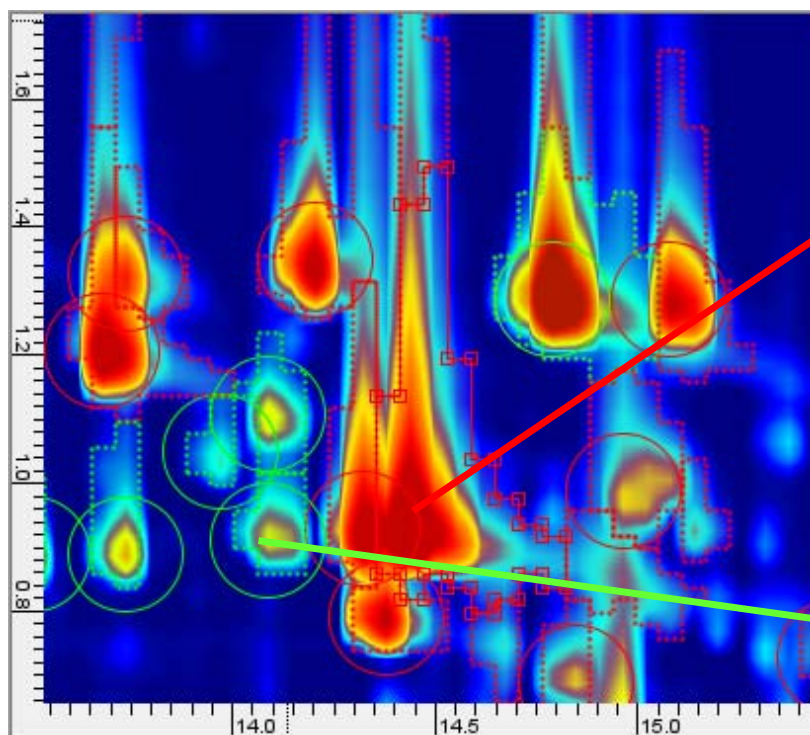
Data processing

STEP 2

# Untargeted/Targeted Fingerprinting - comprehensive mapping



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**Blob Properties**

Labels

Compound Name: Octanal

Compound Library: [dropdown]

Group Name: odorants II

Constellation Name: [input]

Compound Description: saturated aldehydes  
LRI (WAX) 1277±7

Flags

Auto Fill

Include  Add Text Object

Internal Standard  Add Chemical Structure

Exclude  Set Color  Custom Color

Statistics Analysis Qualifier/Quantifier Ions

Analysis CLIC (aCLIC): [dropdown]

Qualifier CLIC (qCLIC): 00.0) & (RMatch("<ms>") >= 700.0

Reference MS: 334.0,550.0;339.0,340.0;349.0,860.0;

Reference Peak: [dropdown]

Hit List

OK and View Spectrum OK Cancel

**Known feature  
Target analytes**

**Blob Properties**

Labels

Compound Name: #298

Compound Library: [dropdown]

Group Name: Unknowns

Constellation Name: [input]

Compound Description: LRI 1407

Flags

Auto Fill

Include  Add Text Object

Internal Standard  Add Chemical Structure

Exclude  Set Color  Custom Color

Statistics Analysis Qualifier/Quantifier Ions

Analysis CLIC (aCLIC): [dropdown]

Qualifier CLIC (qCLIC): (RMatch@peak("<ms>") >= 500.0)

Reference MS: i.0;344.0,21.0;345.0,32.0;346.0,21.0;

Reference Peak: [dropdown]

Hit List

OK and View Spectrum OK Cancel

**Unknown feature  
Untargeted analytes**

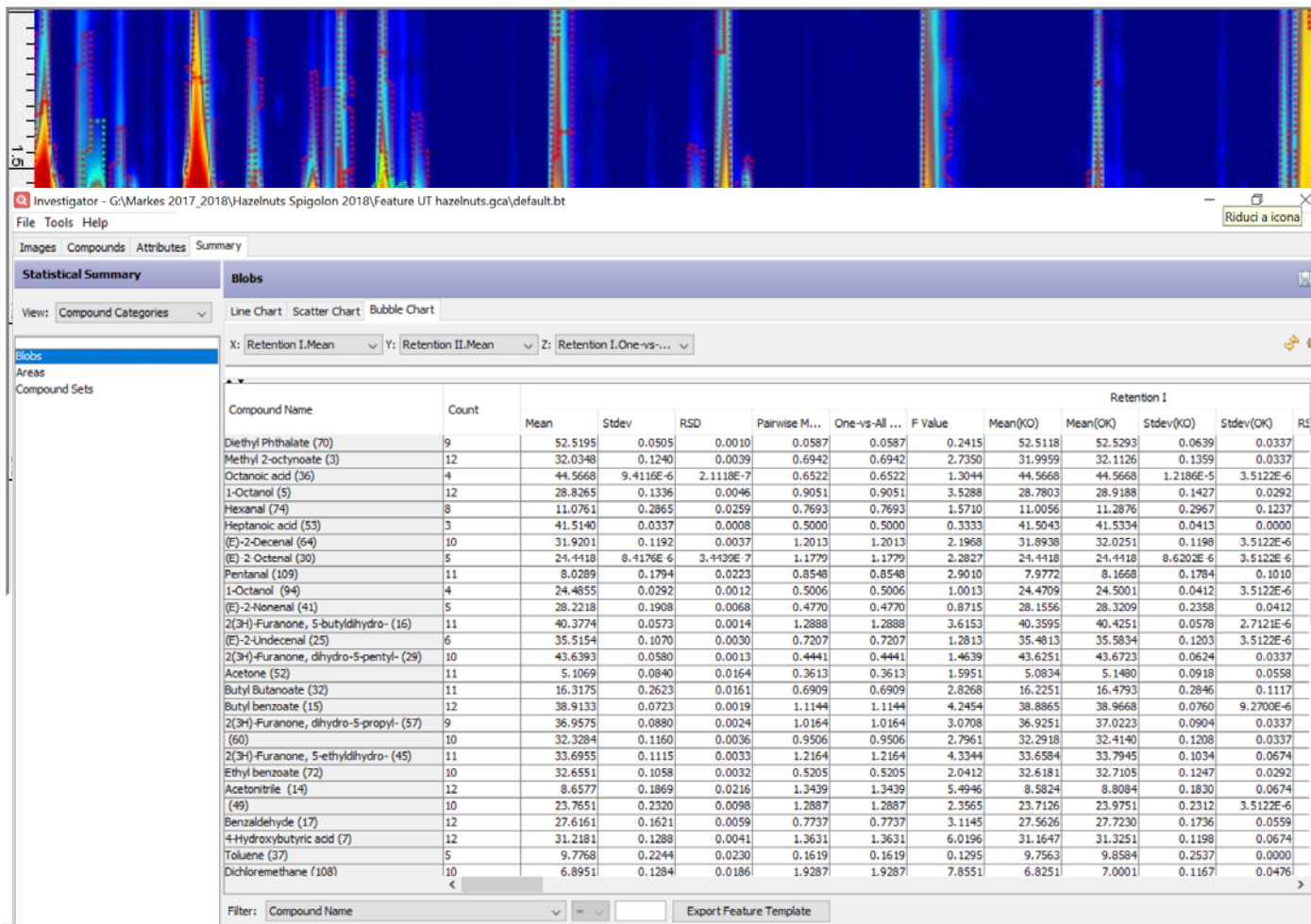
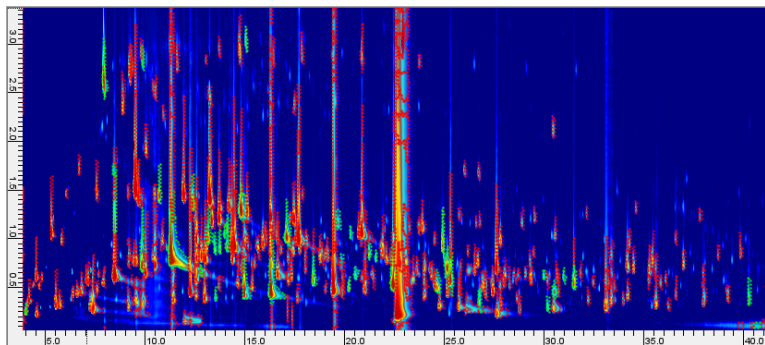


## STEP 3

### Data processing



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**Targeted** and **untargeted** peak(-region) features are cross-aligned between all samples and metadata collected for further processing.



Combined untargeted and targeted fingerprinting with comprehensive two-dimensional chromatography for volatiles and ripening indicators in olive oil

Federico Magagna <sup>a,1</sup>, Lucia Valverde-Som <sup>b,1</sup>, Cristina Ruiz-Samblás <sup>b</sup>, Luis Cuadros-Rodríguez <sup>b</sup>, Stephen E. Reichenbach <sup>c</sup>, Carlo Bicchi <sup>c</sup>, Chiara Cordero <sup>a,\*</sup>





## Artificial Intelligence smelling: Can multidimensional chromatography play a (key) role?

Raw ingredient for **confectionery** products  
**Turkey is the leading** producer (about 75% of world production) **Italy follows** as second in the ranking

✓ **Industrial partner** world leader in the production of confectionery products based on hazelnuts

✓ Need for **objective evaluation** of **quality**

**Quality assessment at industrial level** focuses on morphological aspects, presence of damaged kernels, perceivable sensory defects (mould, rancid, *cimiciato*, stale etc..)



*Corylus avellana* L.

**Step-ahead in quality assessment**  
*molecular resolution probes:*

- ✓ qualification (oxidation status, shelf-life storage effectiveness, bacterial and mold grow)
- ✓ identification<sup>1</sup> (cultivar, origin, harvest area)
- ✓ definition of aroma potential<sup>2</sup>

**AI decision makers**

1. *Computer Vision* in defected hazelnuts VOCs patterns
2. *Smelling machine* - aroma blueprint
3. Aroma precursors pattern

1. Cuadros-Rodríguez, L.; Ruiz-Samblás, C.; Valverde-Som, L.; Pérez-Castaño, E.; González-Casado, A. *Anal. Chim. Acta* **2016**, *909*, 9–23.  
2. Cialliè Rosso, M.; Mazzucotelli, M.; Bicchi, C.; Charron, M.; Manini, F.; Menta, R.; Fontana, M.; Reichenbach, S. E.; Cordero, C. J. *Chromatogr. A* **2020**, *1614* (460739)



FIBER (10%)

WATER (5%)

PROTEINS  
& AMINO ACIDS (15%)

CARBOHYDRATES  
(17%)

FATS (60%)



Volatiles < 0.01%

- Hydrocarbons
- Terpenoids
- Alcohols (linear and branched)
- Carbonyl derivatives
- Carboxylic acids
- Esters
- Lactones

Encrypts a lot of information

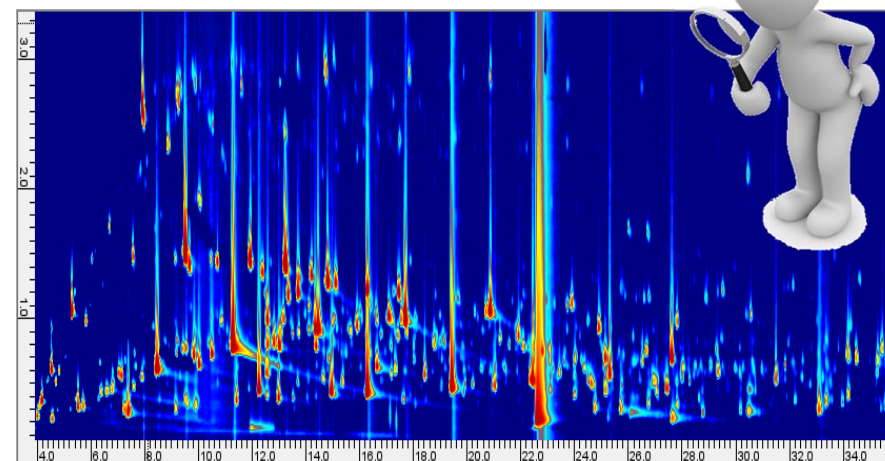
- geographical origin
- **phenotyping** and chemotyping
- multitrophic interactions (plants-insects)
- **presence of bacteria and moulds**
- **scent and odorous compounds**
  
- **distinctive aroma blueprint**



Shelling nuts



Quality assessment at industrial level focuses on **morphological aspects, presence of damaged kernels, perceivable sensory defects (mould, rancid, *cimiciato*, stale etc..)**



**AI decision makers**  
**Computer Vision in defected hazelnuts**  
**volatilome patterns**





Shelling nuts



### Computer Vision strategy Classification trees

Volatiles patterns  
diagnostic of spoilage

**Computer Vision** tools  
Prompt identification of  
non-conform samples  
and confident rejection



Good (OK)

Rancid (KO)


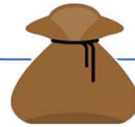
Spoiled (KO)

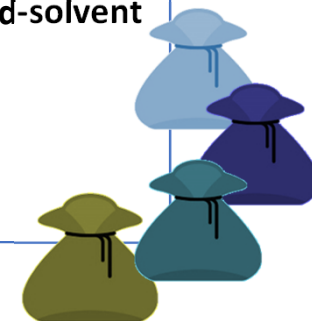
### Collection of defected hazelnuts

- ✓ harvest years
- ✓ origin
- ✓ shelf-life stage

### Flash profiling



- 
- 
- Mould
  - Mould-rancid-solvent
  - Rancid
  - Rancid-stale
  - Solvent
  - Uncoded KO





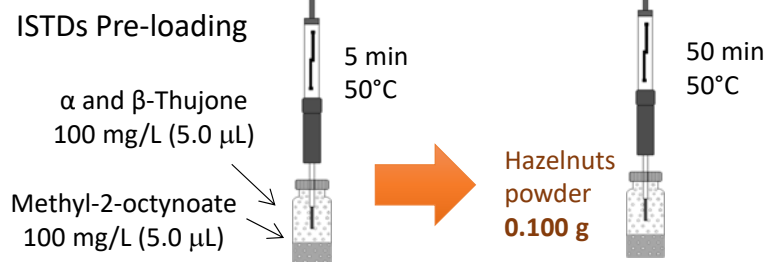


Platform



Tools

Headspace SPME



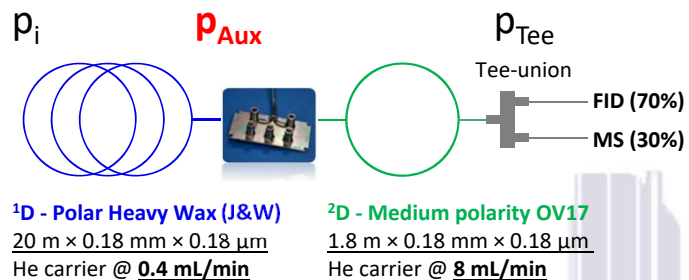
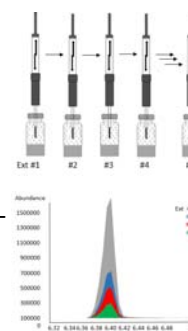
Multiple Headspace SPME - quantitation

MHS-SPME enables **accurate quantitation of several markers (ESTD and response factors)**

secondary products of lipid oxidation (hexanal, heptanal, octanal, nonanal, (E)-2-octenal, (E)-2-nonenal);

key-aroma compounds (3-methylbutanal, ethyl 2-methylbutanoate, (E)- $\beta$ -damascenone, 2-nonanone, heptanoic acid etc);

markers of defected hz (nonanoic acid, butyric acid, 4-heptanol, 1-pentanol, propanoic acid, 2-heptanol, pentanoic acid etc)





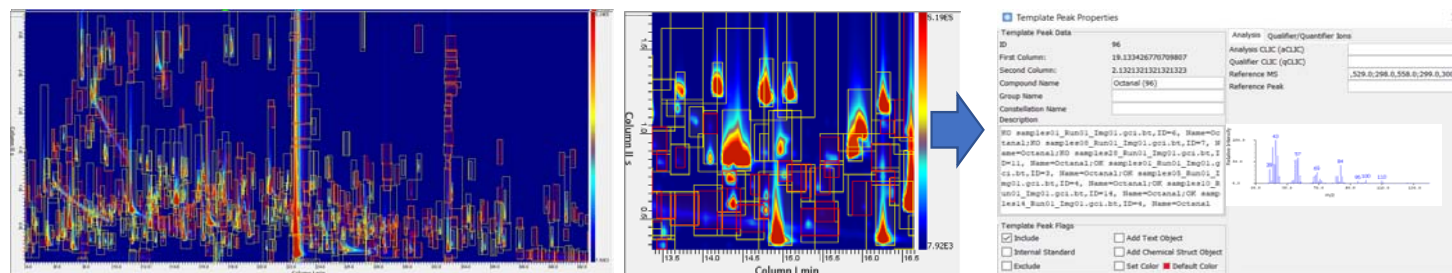


## Untargeted/Targeted (UT) fingerprinting on single chromatograms

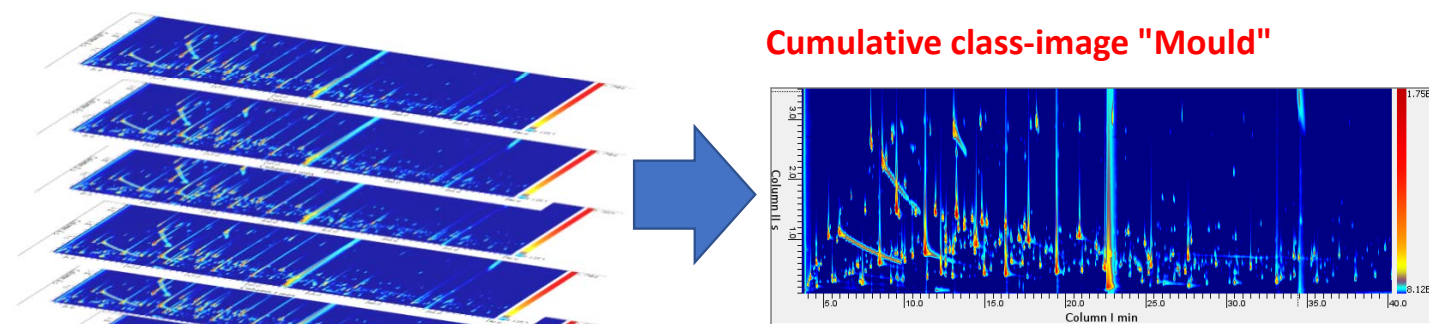


An effective chromatographic fingerprinting workflow based on comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography – Mass spectrometry to establish volatiles patterns discriminative of spoiled hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana* L.)

Federico Stilo<sup>1</sup>, Erica Liberto<sup>1</sup>, Nicola Spigolon<sup>1</sup>, Giuseppe Genova<sup>1</sup>, Giovecca Romo<sup>1</sup>, Mauro Fontana<sup>1</sup>, Stephan E. Reichenbach<sup>2</sup>, Carlo Bicchi<sup>1</sup>, Chiara Cordero<sup>1,2</sup>



Generation of composite class-images from samples groups - one for each sensory defect  
 ✓ patterns re-alignment by reliable 2D peaks and raw data summation (composite image)



The effect of dominant variables (origin, harvest year, cultivar, shelf-life etc..) is minimized while the "signature" of *mold* sensory defect emphasized - easier detection



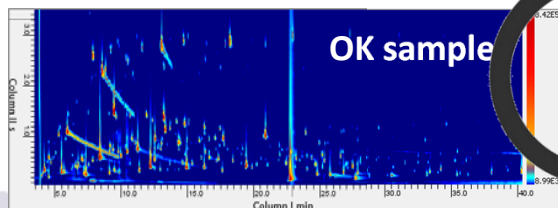
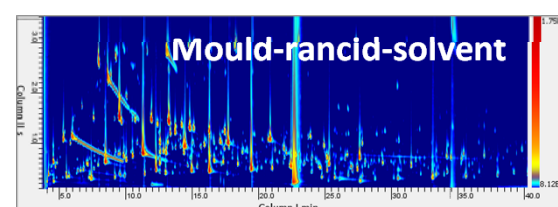
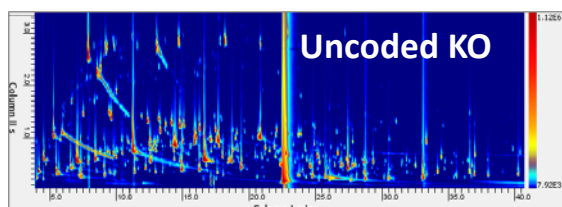
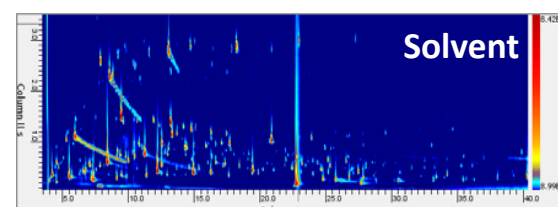
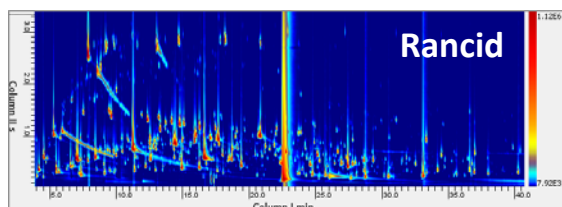
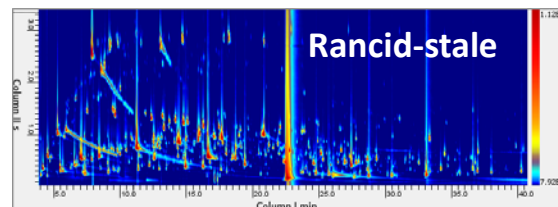
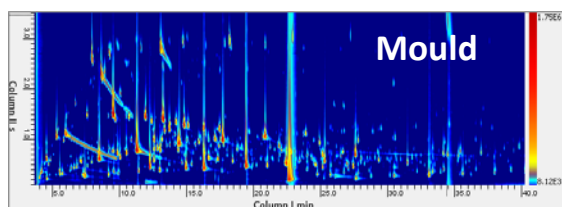
Shelling nuts

Composite class-images from samples groups - one for each sensory defect

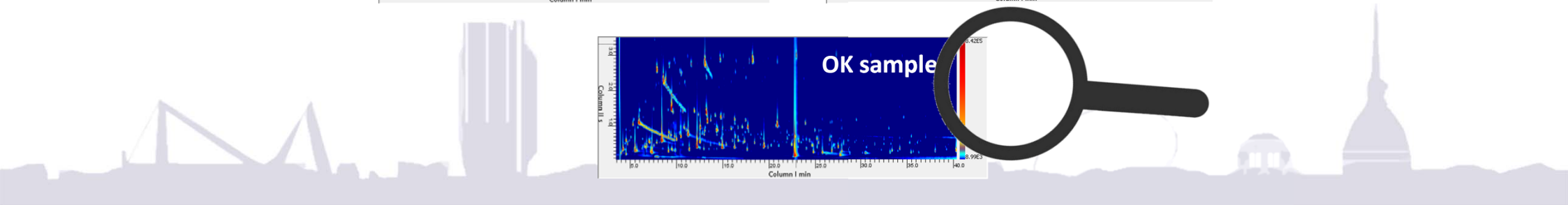


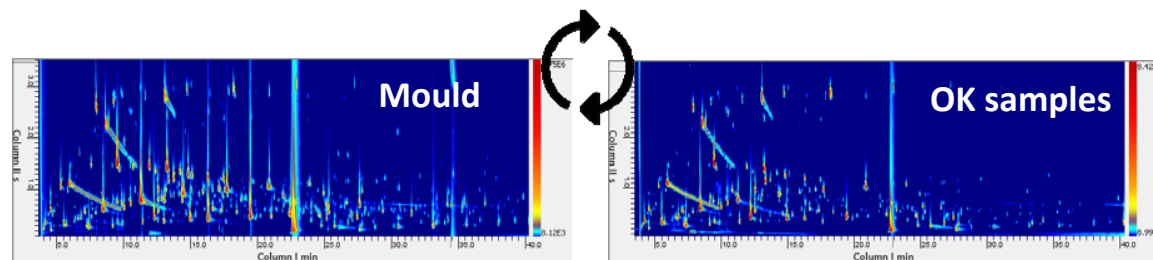
An effective chromatographic fingerprinting workflow based on comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography - Mass spectrometry to establish volatiles patterns discriminative of spoiled hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana* L.)

Federico Stilo<sup>1</sup>, Erica Libertini<sup>1</sup>, Nicola Spigolon<sup>1</sup>, Giuseppe Genova<sup>1</sup>, Giovanna Rosso<sup>1</sup>, Mauro Fontana<sup>1</sup>, Stephan E. Reichenbach<sup>2</sup>, Carlo Bicchi<sup>1</sup>, Chiara Cordero<sup>1</sup>



- Mould
- Mould-rancid-solvent
- Rancid
- Rancid-stale
- Solvent
- Uncoded KO
- Reference OK samples

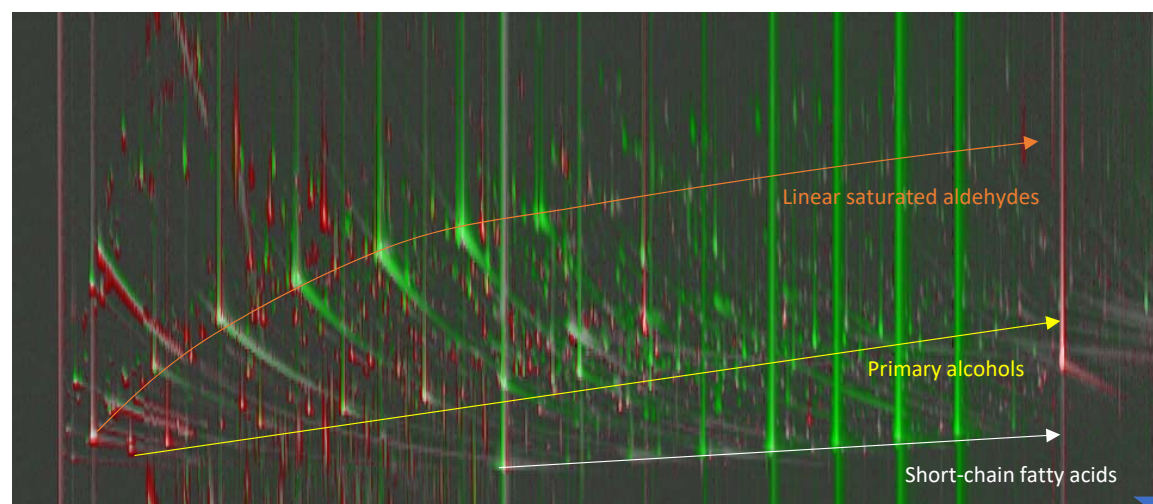




An effective chromatographic fingerprinting workflow based on comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography – Mass spectrometry to establish volatiles patterns discriminative of spoiled hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana* L.)

Federico Sisto<sup>1</sup>, Erica Liberto<sup>1</sup>, Nicola Spigolon<sup>1</sup>, Giuseppe Genova<sup>1</sup>, Ginevra Rosso<sup>1</sup>, Mauro Fontana<sup>1</sup>, Stephen E. Ritschbrock<sup>2</sup>, Carlo Bicchi<sup>1</sup>, Chiara Cordone<sup>1\*</sup>

Datapoint features fingerprinting combined to peak-regions UT fingerprinting



Computer vision and chemical patterns

First Image					Second Image				
BlobID	Compound ...	Retention I	Retention II	Peak Value	BlobID	Compound ...	Retention I	Retention II	Peak Value
9	Heptanoic acid	41.417	0.661	1027913.00	97	Heptanoic acid	41.533	0.631	165949.000
10		10.908	1.351	2002502.00	98	1-Decene	10.208	2.883	165851.000
11		14.642	1.562	1919573.00	99	3-Penten-2-...	12.658	1.021	163385.000
12	Nonanoic acid	47.367	0.721	1150889.00	100	Oxirane, pe...	13.592	1.682	162084.000
13		21.000	0.931	1722252.00	101	1-Nonene	7.467	2.132	161864.000

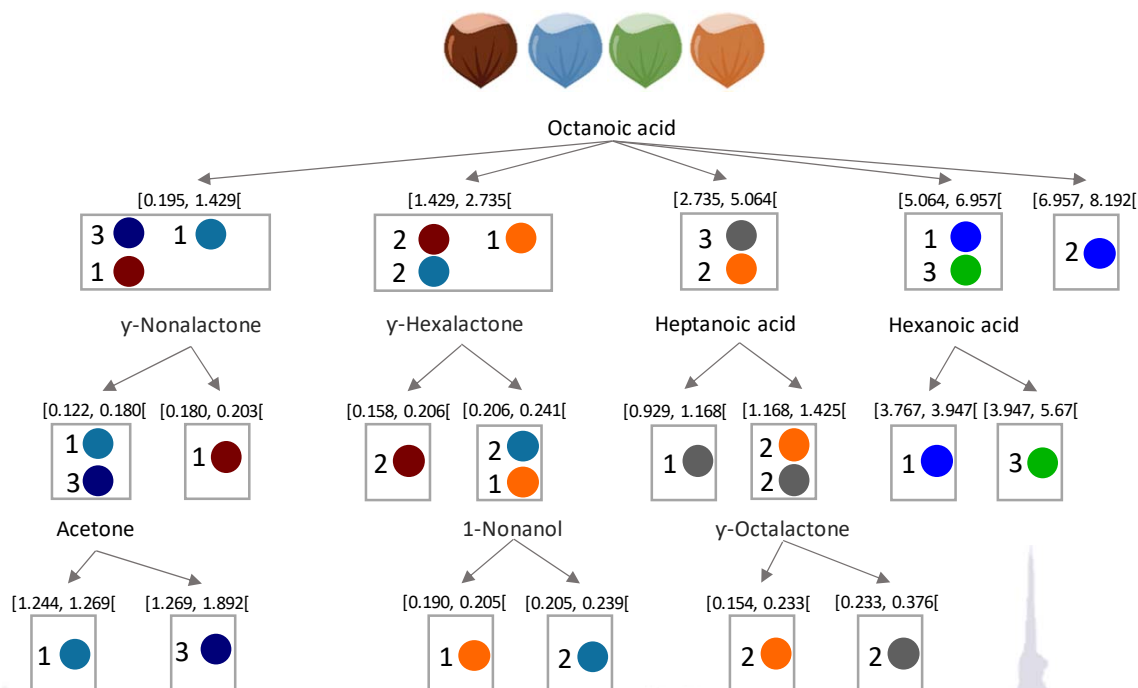


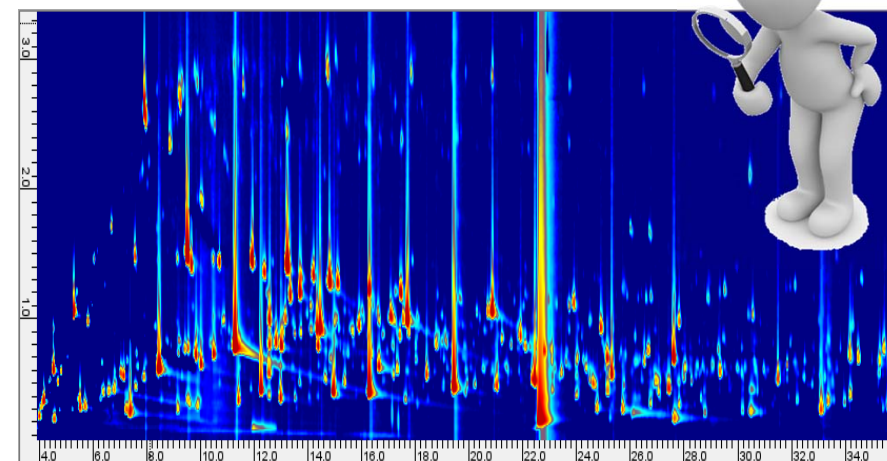


- OK
- Rancid
- Rancid-stale
- Mould-rancid-solvent
- Uncoded KO
- Rancid-solvent
- Mould

VOCs patterns distinctive of spoiled hazelnuts guide effective classification into seven classes.

- ✓ **Octanoic acid** guides the classification tree being positively correlated to **mould**;
- ✓  **$\gamma$ -nonalactone,  $\gamma$ -hexalactone, acetone, and 1-nonanol** are decisive to classify OK and rancid samples;
- ✓ **heptanoic acid and hexanoic acids and  $\gamma$ -octalactone** are present in high relative abundance in rancid-solvent and rancid-stale samples





Quality assessment at industrial level focuses on morphological aspects, presence of damaged kernels, **perceivable sensory defects** (mould, rancid, *cimiciato*, stale etc..)

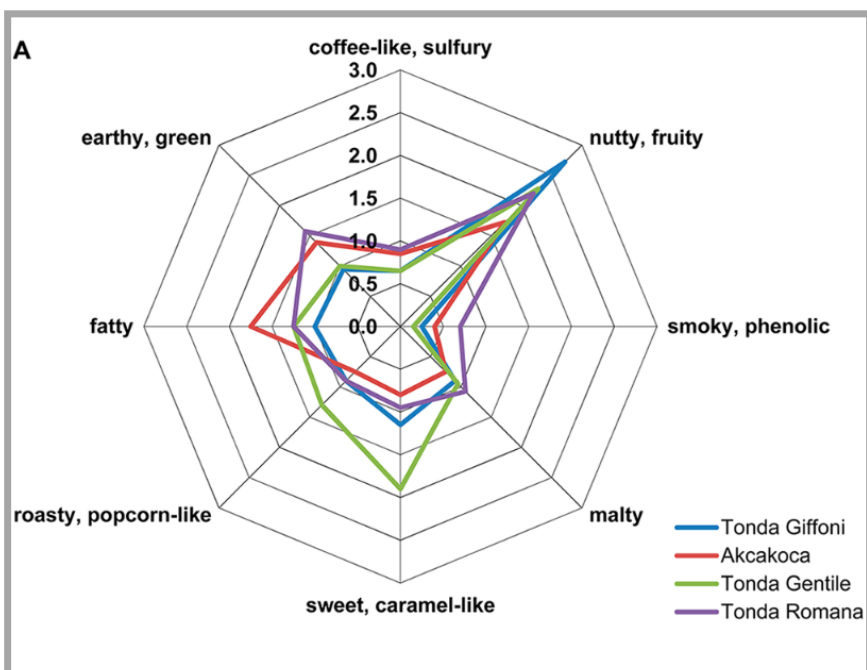
AI decision makers  
AI Smelling machine - aroma blueprint







## Develop a sensomics-based expert system acting as *AI smelling machine*



Aroma profile of raw hazelnuts from different cultivar/origin<sup>1</sup>

**Key-aroma compounds** - raw hazelnuts odorants occurring in amounts that exceed the OT (Odor Activity Value > 1). Their omission in aroma recombinates does not reproduce the flavour blueprint of the original product.

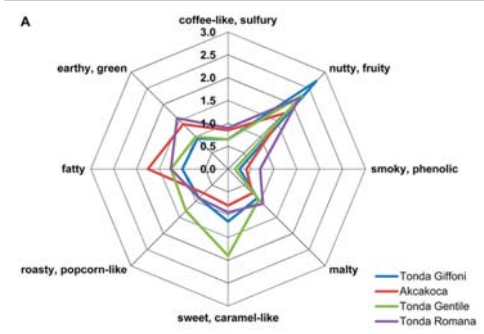
	'Tonda Romana'	'Tonda Gentile'	Akçakoca
hexanal	3	<1	8
3-methyl-4-heptanone	141	126	93
5-methyl-(E)-2-hepten-4-one	2	2	2
2-acetyl-1-pyrroline	24	24	24
dimethyl trisulfide	1	1	1
2-propionyl-1-pyrroline	22	22	22
2-furfuryl mercaptan	8	8	8
3-(methylthio)propionaldehyde	15	15	15
3,5-dimethyl-2-ethylpyrazine	1	1	1
2,3-diethyl-5-methylpyrazine	9	9	9
3,7-dimethylocta-1,6-dien-3-ol	12	12	12
2-acetyl-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine	46	46	46
2-acetyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine	36	36	36
3-methylbutanoic acid	2	1	1
(E,E)-2,4-nonadienal	6	3	29

1. Kiefl, J.; Schieberle, P. J. Agric. Food Chem. 2013, 61 (22), 5236–5244.



**Storage quality markers**  
**1-heptanol** (green, chemical),  
**2-octanol** (metal, burnt), **1-octen-3-ol**  
 (mushroom), **(E)-2-heptenal** (fatty, almond),  
**hexanal** (leaf-like, green), **heptanal** (fatty),  
**octanal** (fatty) and **nonanal** (tallowy, fruity).

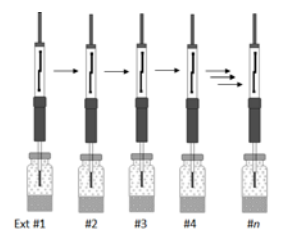
**Key-aroma compounds**



**Spoiled hazelnuts markers**  
**octanoic acid** positively correlated to **mould**;  
**γ-nonalactone**, **γ-hexalactone**, **acetone**, and  
**1-nonanol** are decisive to classify **OK** and  
**rancid** samples; **heptanoic** and **hexanoic acids**  
 and **γ-octalactone** are present in high  
 abundance **rancid-solvent** and **rancid-stale**  
 samples.

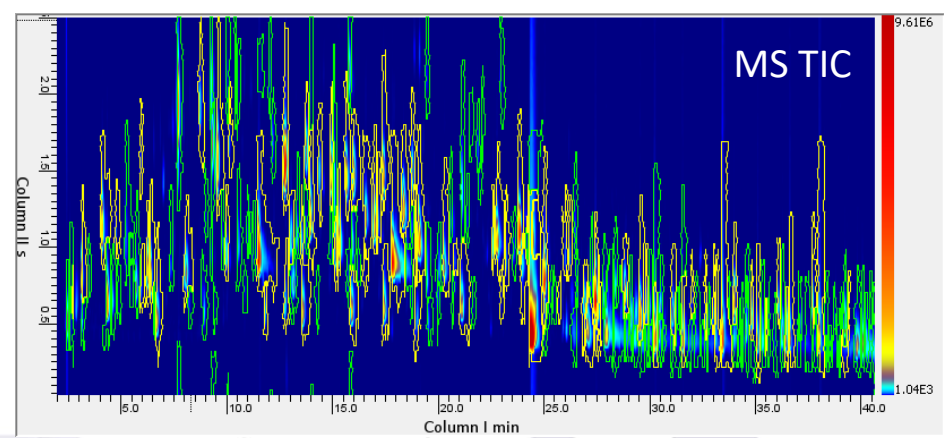
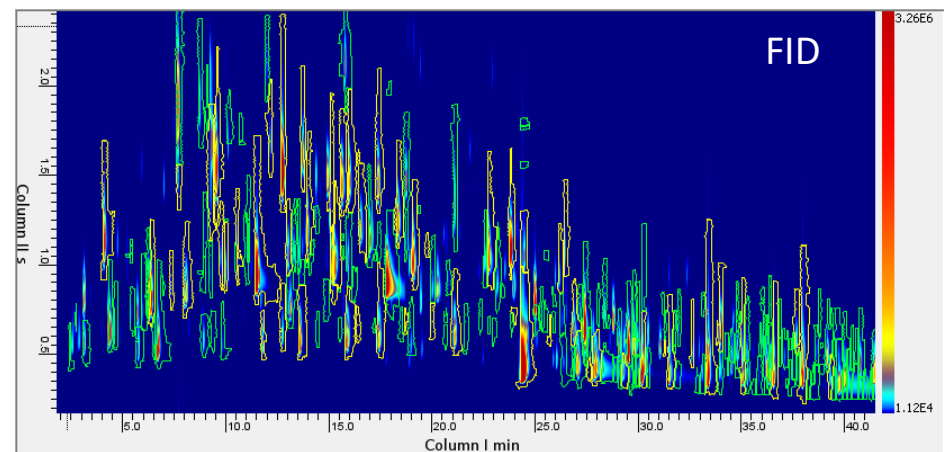
**Strategy**

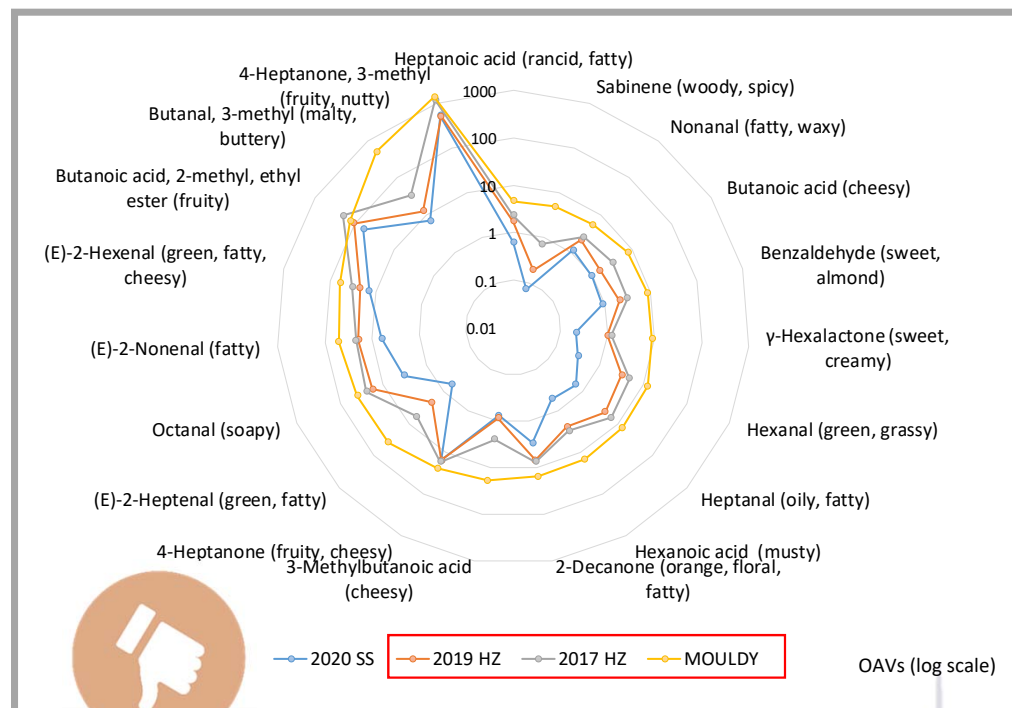
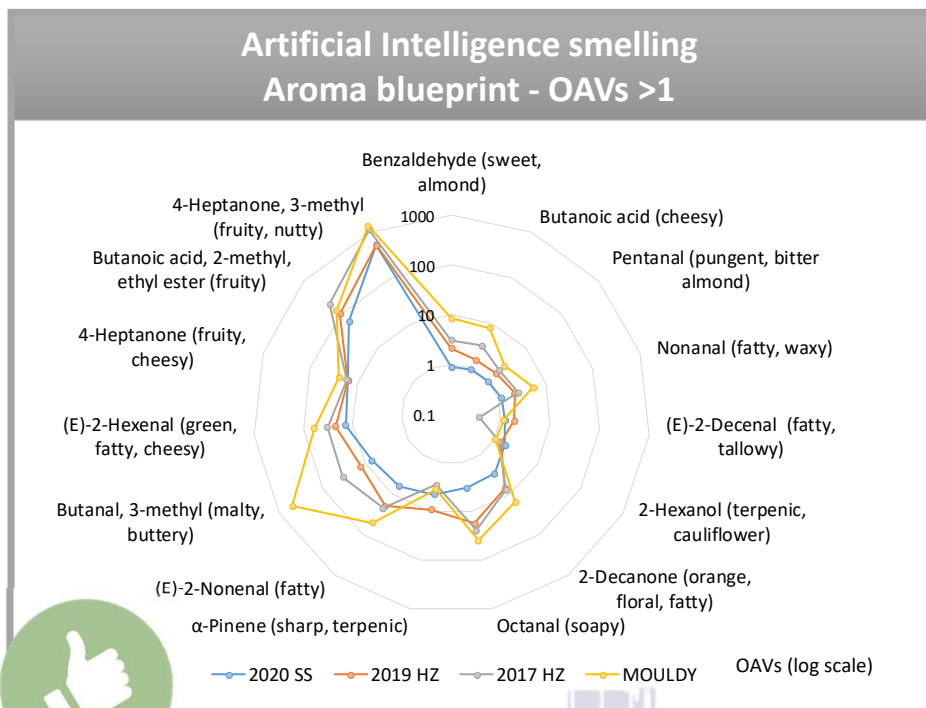
**Multiple Headspace SPME**  
**Accurate quantification / ESTD and RF**



**46 analytes**  
**key-aromas**  
**markers**

**Differential-flow modulator**  
**parallel detection qMS/FID**





Artificial Intelligence smelling  
Aroma blueprint of spoiled hazelnuts OAVs >1



Shelling nuts



Step-ahead in quality assessment

molecular resolution probes:  
✓ definition of *aroma potential*

AI decision makers

Aroma precursors pattern

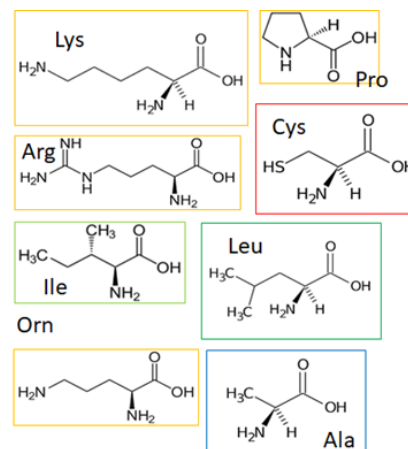
## QUESTIONS ON AROMA POTENTIAL

1) Is there a robust correlation between non-volatile precursors and key-aroma compounds in roasted hazelnuts?

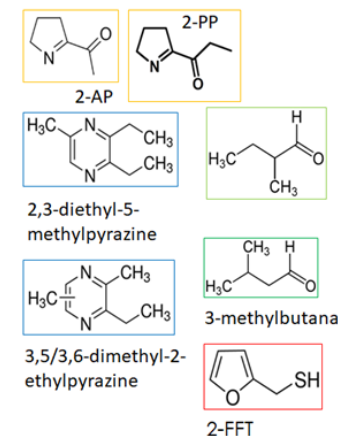
2) Are precursors patterns distinctive of hazelnut origin?

3) Is it possible to assess the "potential" of aroma development through precursors patterns in raw hazelnuts?

4) Have precursors patterns a predictive potential to assess raw hazelnut quality toward its industrial processing trajectory?



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## Food metabolomics domain

Collaboration with Max Rubner Institut  
Department of Safety and Quality  
of Fruit and Vegetables Food Quality Area Metabolism  
Dr. Sabine Kulling and Dr. Christoph Weinert







Shelling nuts



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Platform



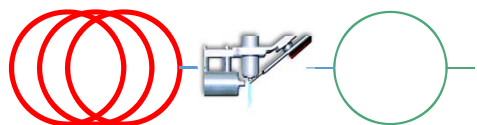
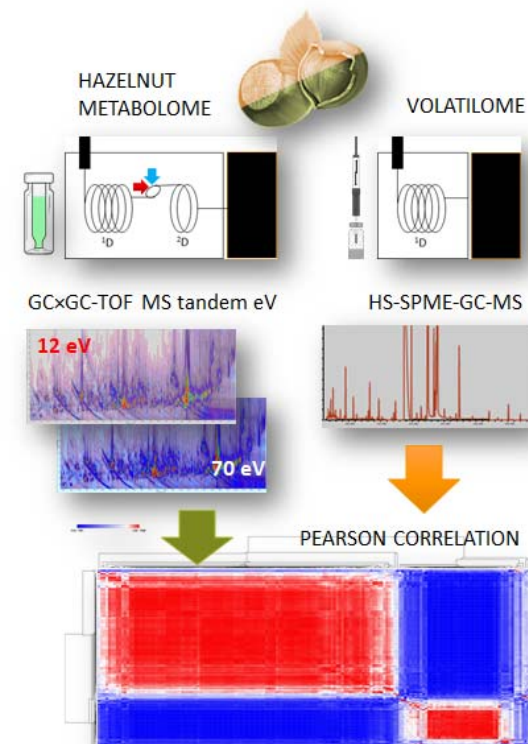
Tools



Sample preparation

Adaptation and validation of a sample preparation procedure from *Nature Protocols* [6, 1483–1499 (2011)]

Extraction with H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>OH 98:2;  
Metoximation with MOX solution in pyridine - 60°C for 2 h  
Silylation (N,O- bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide) BSTFA - 60°C for 1 h.



TOF-MS  
-70 and -12 eV

<sup>1</sup>D - Apolar (HP5 - )  
60 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25µm  
He carrier @ **1.3 mL/min**

<sup>2</sup>D - Medium polarity OV17  
2.0 m × 0.15 mm × 0.10µm  
He carrier @ **1.3 mL/min**



Adding extra-dimensions to hazelnuts primary metabolome fingerprinting by comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography combined with time-of-flight mass spectrometry featuring tandem ionization: Insights on the aroma potential

Marta Cialliè Rosso<sup>1</sup>, Maria Mazzucotelli<sup>2</sup>, Carlo Bicchi<sup>2</sup>, Melanie Charron<sup>3</sup>, Federica Manini<sup>3</sup>, Roberto Menta<sup>3</sup>, Mauro Fontana<sup>3</sup>, Stephen E. Reichenbach<sup>3d</sup>, Chiara Cordero<sup>1,4</sup>

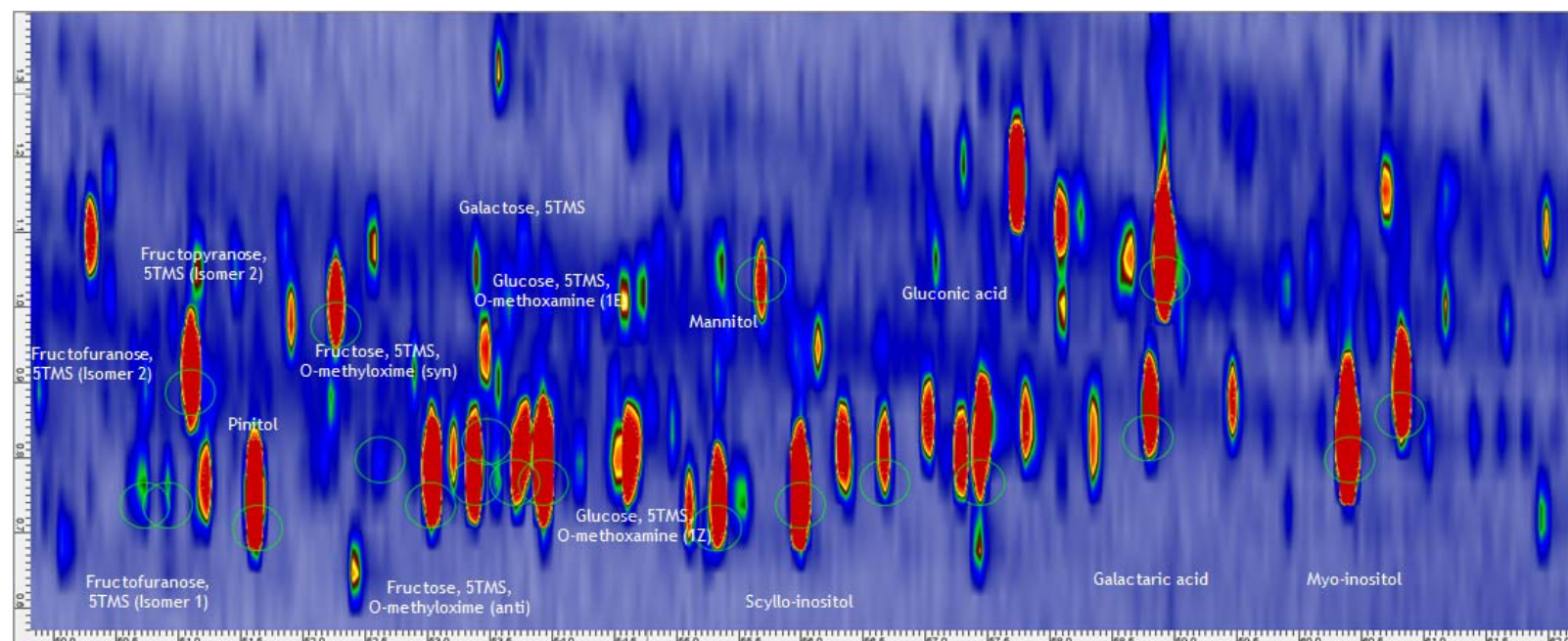
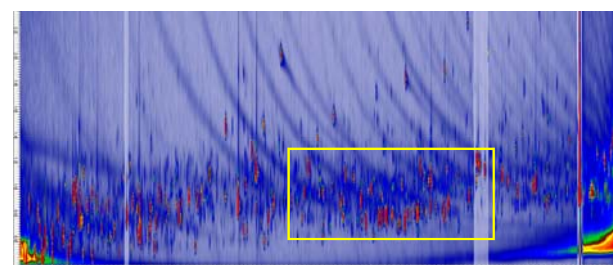


Article  
**Combined Untargeted and Targeted Fingerprinting by Comprehensive Two-Dimensional Gas Chromatography to Track Compositional Changes on Hazelnut Primary Metabolome during Roasting**

Marta Cialliè Rosso<sup>1</sup>, Federico Stilo<sup>1</sup>, Carlo Bicchi<sup>1</sup>, Melanie Charron<sup>2</sup>, Ginevra Rosso<sup>2</sup>, Roberto Menta<sup>2</sup>, Stephen E. Reichenbach<sup>3,4</sup>, Christoph H. Weinert<sup>3d</sup>, Carina I. Mack<sup>3</sup>, Sabine E. Kulling<sup>3</sup> and Chiara Cordero<sup>1,4</sup>



Italian Tonda Gentile Trilobata - Raw Harvest 2017 - mono-saccharides elution region



The primary metabolome of raw hazelnut kernels is complex and accounts for:  
 1,000 UT features  
 130 reliably identified metabolites (80 standard confirmation - 50 by LRI and spectra similarity 70 eV and MI confirmation by low energy ionization at 12 eV)

15 amino acids; 25 organic acids; 10 polyols; 16 mono/di saccharides; 5 sugar acids, etc.

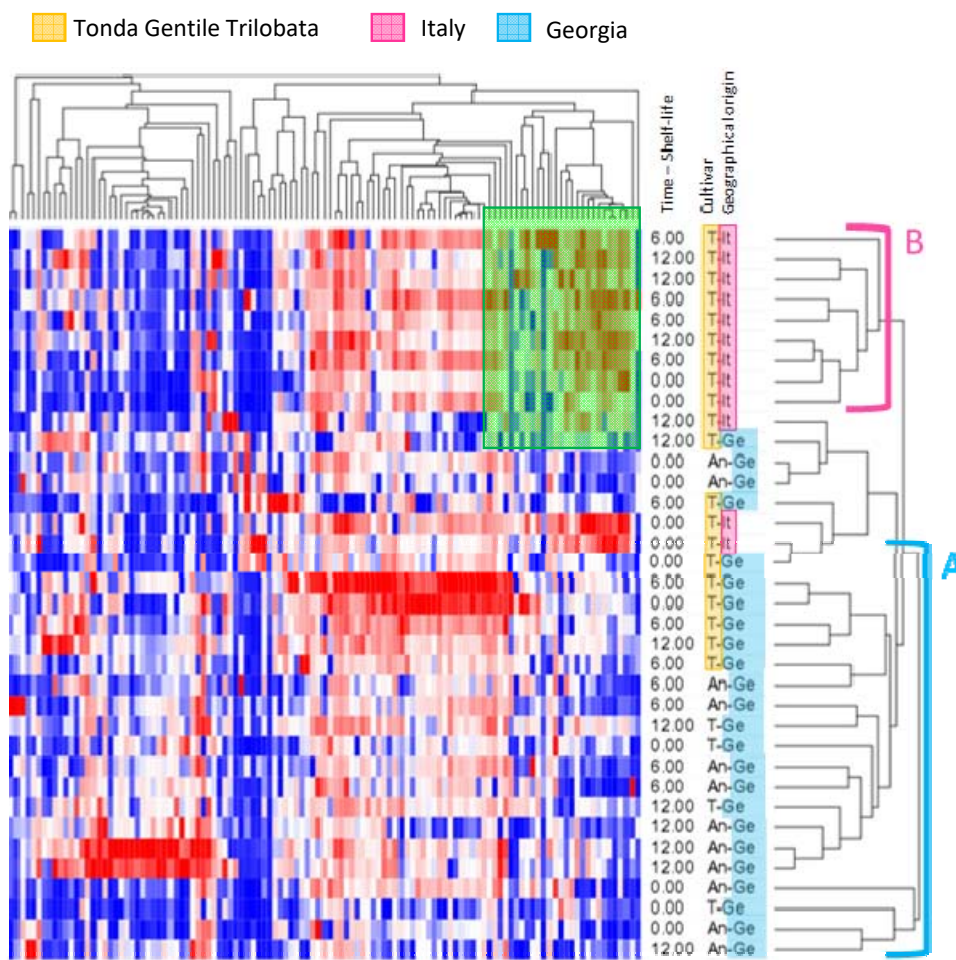
**GCxGC set-up:** <sup>1</sup>D: Rxi-5SiIMS 60 m x 0.25 mm ID x 0.25µm - <sup>2</sup>D: BPX50 2.2m x 0.15mm ID x 0.15µm - GC Oven: 90°C to 160°C @2°C/min to 290 °C @3.25°C/min to 320 (10') @6°C/min. Run Time: 90' - OPTIC4 injector: 90°C to 280°C, split ratio 1:5, after 1' 1:100, after 20' 1:30 - Modulation settings: modulation time 2,7s, hot-jet pulse jet 250 ms





## QUESTIONS ON AROMA POTENTIAL

- 2) Are precursors patterns distinctive of hazelnut origin?
- 3) Is it possible to assess the "potential" of aroma development through precursors patterns in raw hazelnuts?
- 4) Have precursors patterns a predictive potential to assess raw hazelnut quality toward its industrial processing trajectory?



Cultivars and pedoclimatic condition of harvest region influence precursors pattern.

- ✓ Tonda Gentile Trilobata hazelnuts harvested in Georgia are grouped together (**light blue – cluster A**)
- ✓ Tonda Gentile Trilobata harvested in Italy (T\_IT tag-**cluster B**) is connoted by a higher relative distribution of several analytes, especially sugar, polyalcohols and amino acids (**light green box**)

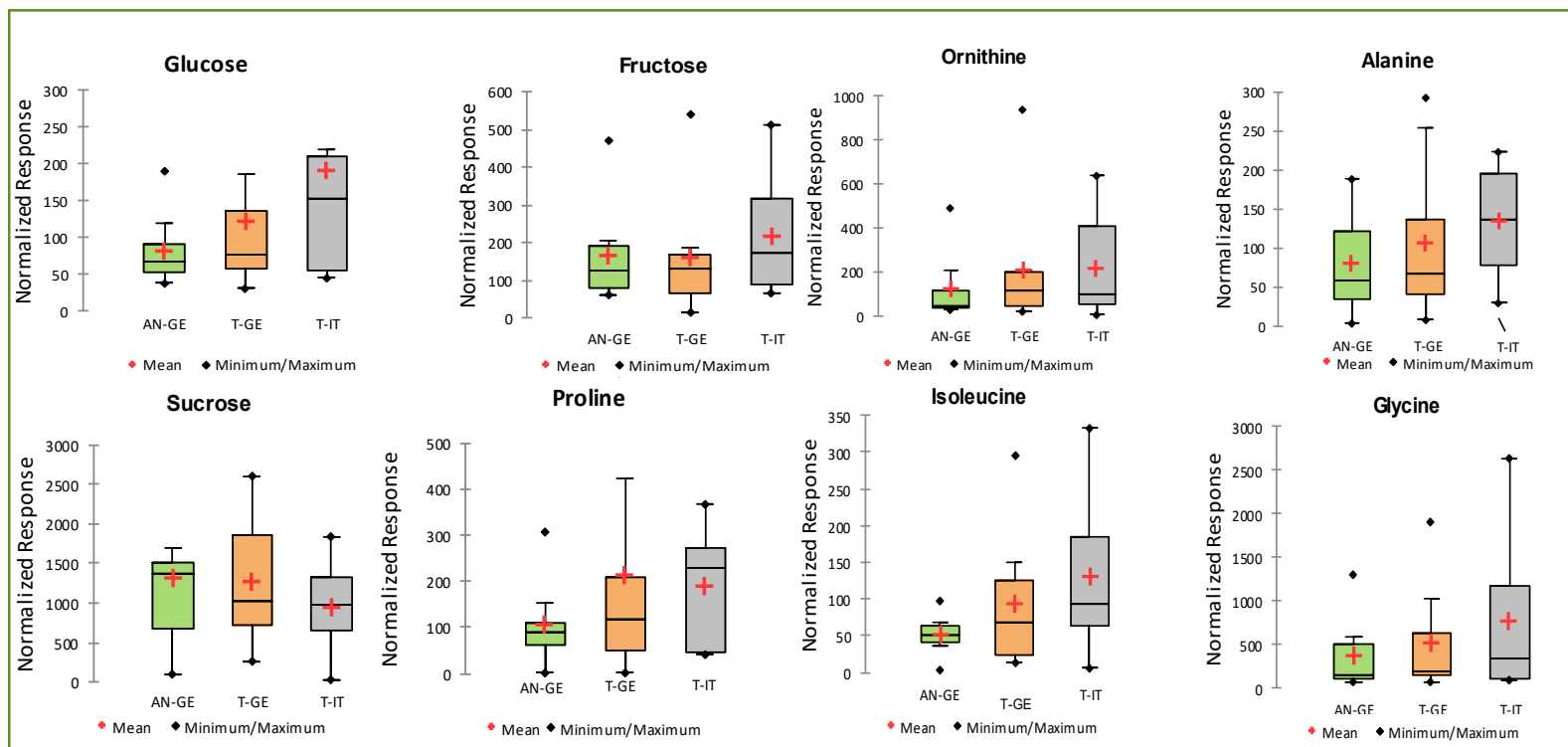
Hierarchical clustering based on Euclidean distances of 112 targeted metabolites normalized responses (Pareto scaling and Z-score normalization). Heat-map visualization in blue-red scale.  
 Hazelnut samples:  
 T-GE: Tonda Gentile Trilobata from Georgia (2017-2018)  
 T-IT: Tonda Gentile Trilobata from Piedmont Italy (2017-2018)  
 AN-GE: Anakiuri Georgia (2017-2018).



## QUESTIONS ON AROMA POTENTIAL

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Univariate statistics (i.e., box-plots) illustrating the average normalized response for targeted precursors in the selected hazelnut samples



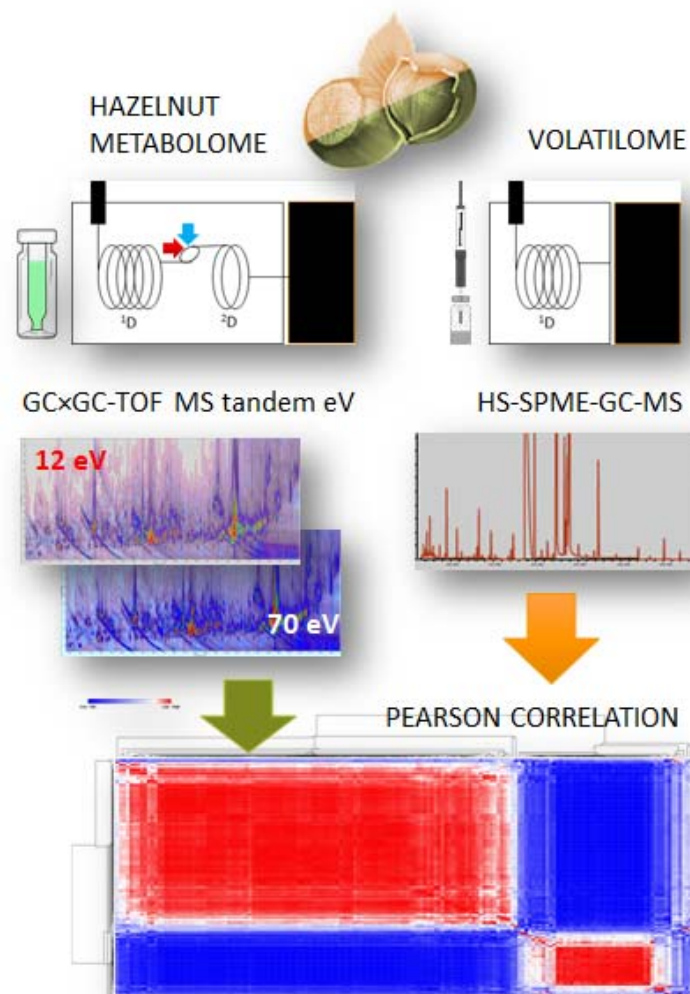
T-GE: Tonda Gentile Trilobata from Georgia (2017-2018)  
 T-IT: Tonda Gentile Trilobata from Piedmont Italy (2017-2018)  
 AN-GE: Anakliuri Georgia (2017-2018)





## QUESTIONS ON AROMA POTENTIAL

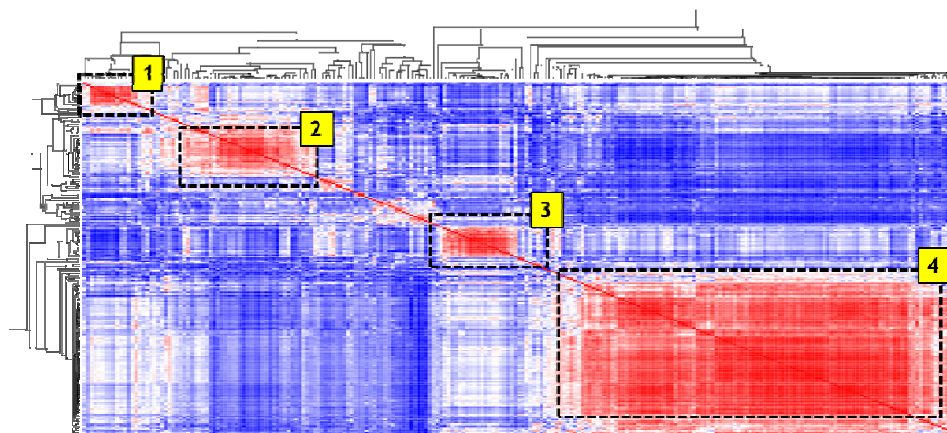
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**QUESTIONS ON  
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Heat-map based on the Pearson correlation coefficient (r) calculated between primary metabolites % responses (GCxGC-TOF MS) and volatiles % responses after lab-scale roasting. Pareto scaled data - matrix 245 x 45 (features x samples).

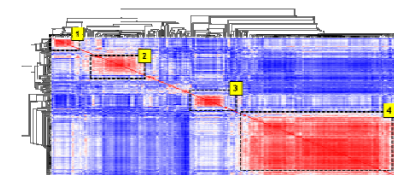
R: Tonda Gentile Romana of Italy (2017); O: Ordu blend of Turkey (2015)  
 P: Tonda Gentile Trilobata from Piedmont Italy (2015); T-GE: Tonda Gentile Trilobata from Georgia; T-IT: Tonda Gentile Trilobata from Piedmont Italy  
 AN-GE: Anakiuri of Georgia.

- 1. Native volatiles, dicarbonyls and furans
- 2. Roasting markers, above all alkyl pyrazines (Maillard reaction signature)

**QUESTIONS ON  
AROMA POTENTIAL**

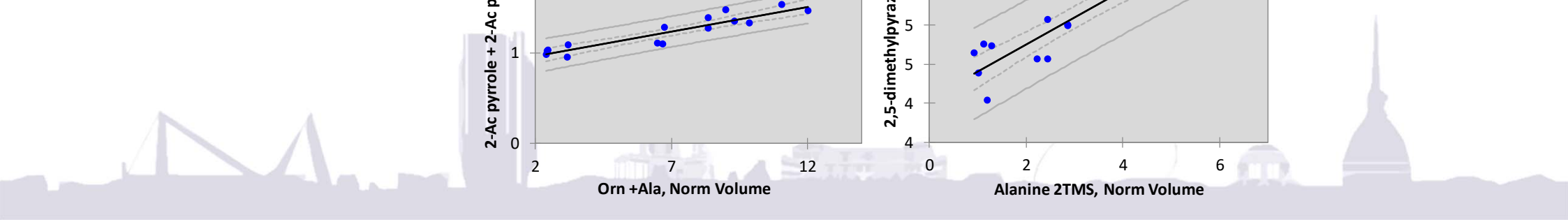
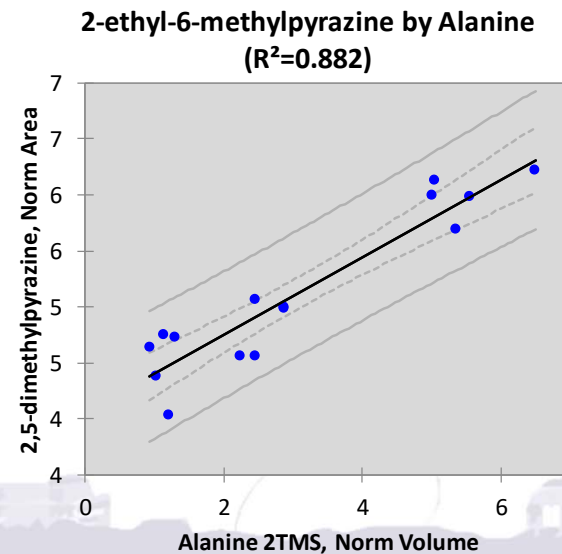
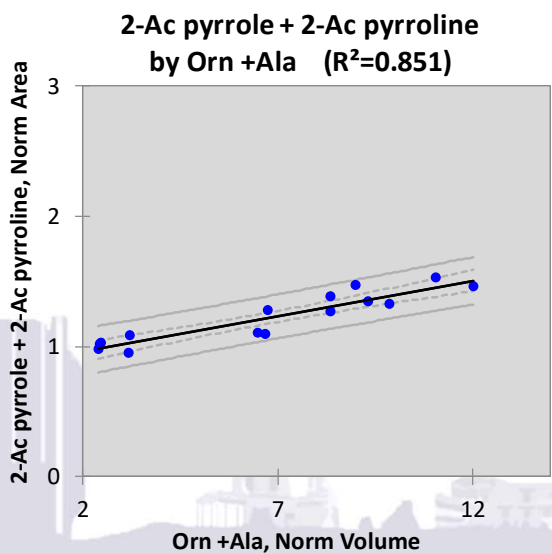
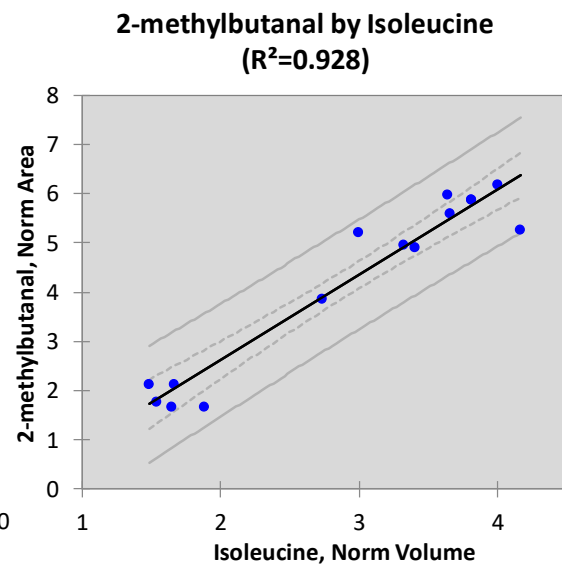
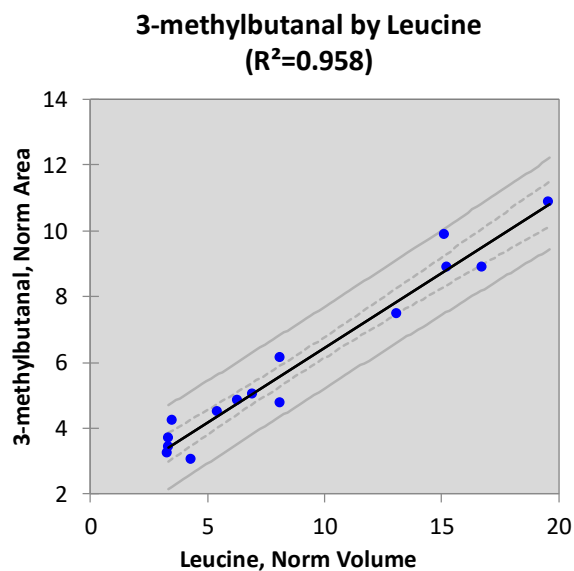
- aldehydes)
- 4) Have precursors patterns a predictive potential to assess raw hazelnut quality toward its industrial processing trajectory?
- 4. Primary metabolites ( $r \geq 0.89$ ) in accordance to evidences revealed by diagnostic patterns related to cultivars and origin.





**QUESTIONS ON  
AROMA POTENTIAL**

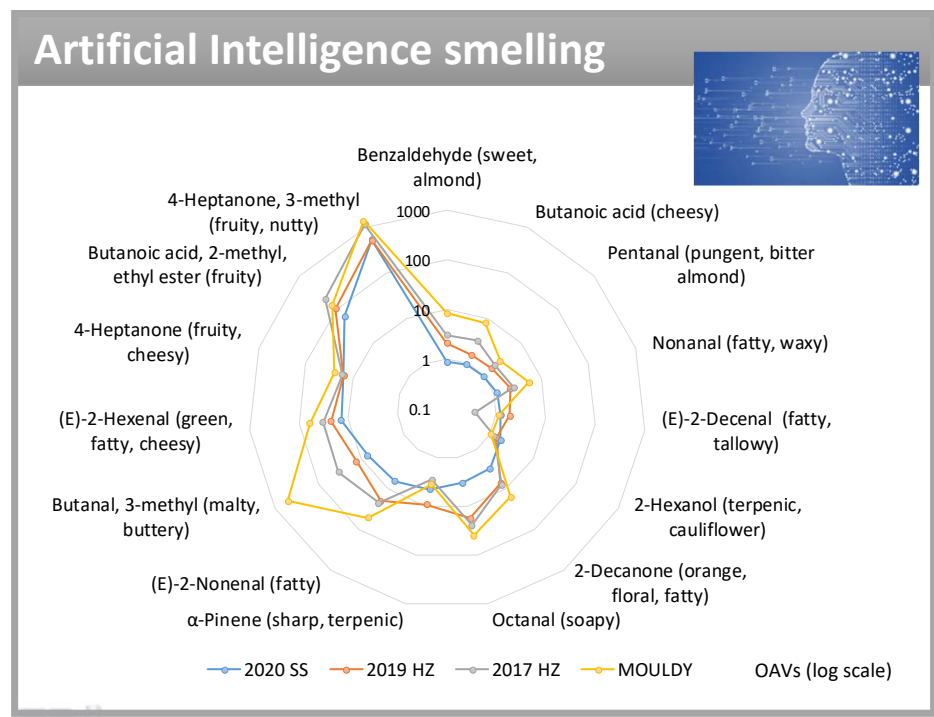
4) Have precursors patterns a predictive potential to assess raw hazelnut quality toward its industrial processing trajectory?





### Computer Vision

**Good (OK)**   **Rancid (KO)**   **Spoiled (KO)**



### Aroma potential

HAZELNUT METABOLOME   VOLATILOME

GCxGC-TOF MS tandem eV   HS-SPME-GC-MS

12 eV   70 eV

PEARSON CORRELATION







# G=STALT

*noun* \ gə-'stält

understanding the whole,  
not merely the sum of  
its parts.

Chromatographic  
Fingerprinting and  
Computer vision



Fingerprinting/profiling  
to unveil predictive  
markers

Artificial Intelligence  
smelling machine  
molecular resolution tool





# G=STALT

noun \ gə-ˈstält

understanding the whole,  
not merely the sum of  
its parts.

**Chiara Cordero:** GC-GC cannot be an alternative to GC×GC! They are both capable of expanding the potentials of 1D-GC where a single dimension is not sufficient or selective enough to solve an analytical challenge. However, one is still a multiple 1D-GC approach (that is, GC-GC) and does not require a change of mindset or skills for new users while, as already mentioned, GC×GC requires a "jump" towards new measurement concepts. Once we overcome this gap, we cannot turn back!



## GC: The State of the Art

Chairperson: Pat Sandra

Participants: Steven Lehotay  
Hans-Gerd Janssen  
Chiara Cordero  
Frank David  
John Hinshaw

## GC: The State of the Art

November 01, 2017

By Chiara Cordero, Pat Sandra, John Hinshaw, Hans-Gerd Janssen, Frank David, Steven Lehotay



**Chiara Cordero:** I see GC×GC growing in core application areas, including petrochemical, environmental, food and flavours, natural products, and metabolomic studies, and in my research activity I've met new users approaching this technique with curiosity but also with many prejudices and false convictions. My feeling is that we still are in the "induction period".

The possibility of applying dedicated pattern recognition approaches to the analysis of 2D chromatographic data opens new perspectives for fingerprinting studies. This last aspect is a key feature of the technique and it will soon trigger the widespread use of GC×GC in many fields. As experts and passionate chromatographers we have to continue research in the direction of making this technique more intuitive and easy to use with new data analysis tools and approaches to create a "toolbox" for various applications.



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# Thank you for your attention

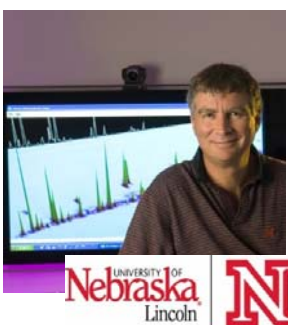


## Acknowledgments

Prof. Carlo Bicchi



Prof. Stephen E Reichenbach



Dr. Andrea Caratti

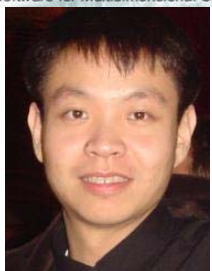


Dr. Simone Squara



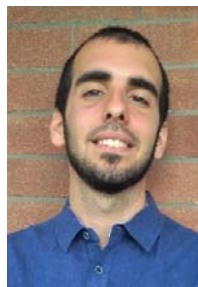
Applications and Core Technology University  
Research (ACT-UR) Project #4294

GC IMAGE  
Software for Multidimensional Chromatography

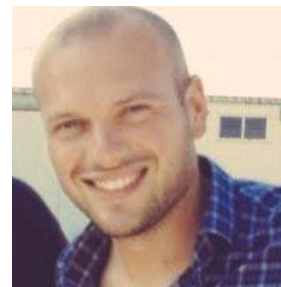


Dr. Qingping Tao

Dr. Marta Cialìè Rosso PhD  
Agilent Technologies



Dr. Federico Stilo PhD  
Tentamus Group



Dr. Nicola Spigolon PhD  
Soremartec



**SOREMARTEC**  
Gruppo **FERRERO**