



SI Traceable Isotope Ratios of Carbon Dioxide

– a Feasibility Study

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– advancing Optical Isotope Ratio Spectroscopy

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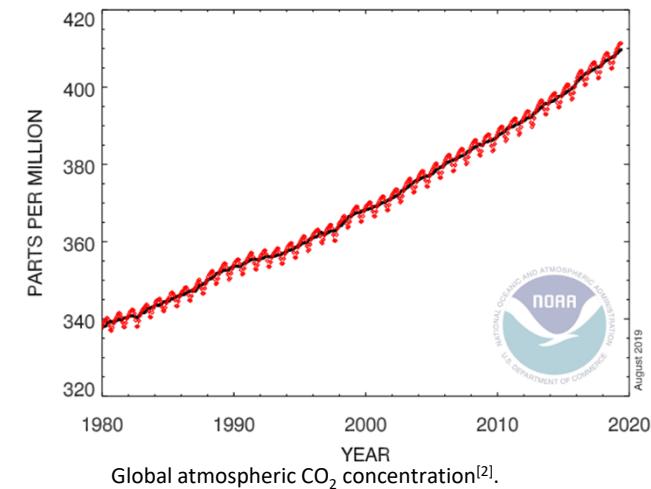
Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)

Introduction



- Atmospheric CO₂ concentration heavily increases ($> 400 \mu\text{mol/mol}$ ^[1])
- Isotope ratios ($R_{^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}}$ & $R_{^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}}$) help to discriminate natural from and anthropogenic sources
- International realization of the VPDB scale (NBS-19)
 - Out of stock
 - Not traceable to the SI

→ Gravimetric Mixtures



1st?

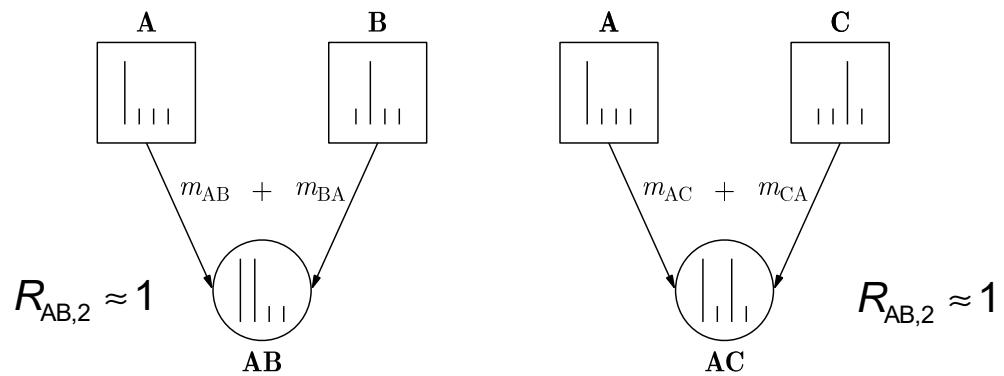
A black silhouette of a hen and a black oval representing an egg are positioned side-by-side. Above the hen is the symbol K_i , and above the egg is the symbol R_i .

$$R_i = K_i \times R_i^m$$

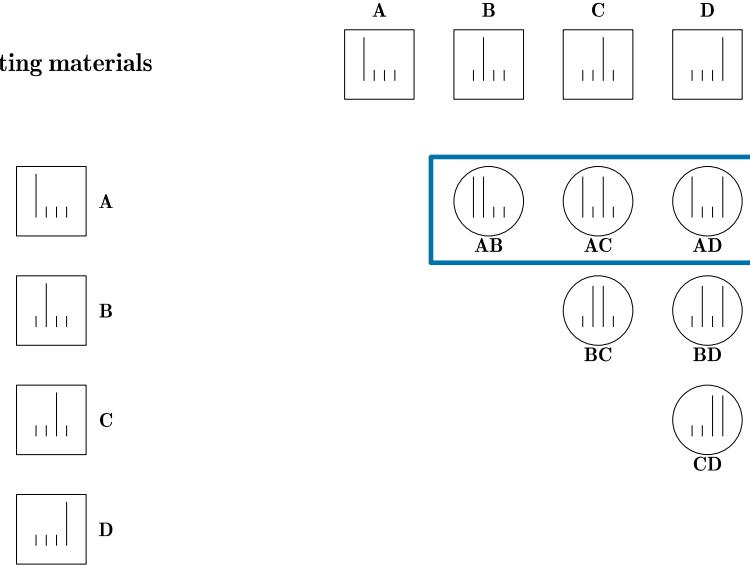
[1] World Meteorology Organization, Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2018, WMO, 2019.

[2] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Global Monthly Mean CO₂*, Retrieved from <https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/global.html>, last visited on 14-08-19

Gravimetric Mixtures (I)



Starting materials



$$M_1 \times \left(\frac{1}{m_{AB} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} - \frac{1}{m_{BA} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{B,2}^m)} \right) = K_2 \times M_2 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,2}^m}{m_{AB} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{A,2}^m)} - \frac{R_{B,2}^m}{m_{BA} \times (R_{B,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} \right) + K_3 \times M_3 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,3}^m}{m_{AB} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{A,2}^m)} - \frac{R_{B,3}^m}{m_{BA} \times (R_{B,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} \right) + K_4 \times M_4 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,4}^m}{m_{AB} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{A,2}^m)} - \frac{R_{B,4}^m}{m_{BA} \times (R_{B,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} \right)$$

$$M_1 \times \left(\frac{1}{m_{AC} \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} - \frac{1}{m_{CA} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{C,3}^m)} \right) = K_2 \times M_2 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,2}^m}{m_{AC} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{A,3}^m)} - \frac{R_{C,2}^m}{m_{CA} \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} \right) + K_3 \times M_3 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,3}^m}{m_{AC} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{A,3}^m)} - \frac{R_{C,3}^m}{m_{CA} \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} \right) + K_4 \times M_4 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,4}^m}{m_{AC} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{A,3}^m)} - \frac{R_{C,4}^m}{m_{CA} \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} \right)$$

$$M_1 \times \left(\frac{1}{m_{AD} \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m)} - \frac{1}{m_{DA} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{D,4}^m)} \right) = K_2 \times M_2 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,2}^m}{m_{AD} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{A,4}^m)} - \frac{R_{D,2}^m}{m_{DA} \times (R_{D,3}^m - R_{AD,3}^m)} \right) + K_3 \times M_3 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,3}^m}{m_{AD} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{A,4}^m)} - \frac{R_{D,3}^m}{m_{DA} \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m)} \right) + K_4 \times M_4 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,4}^m}{m_{AD} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{A,4}^m)} - \frac{R_{D,4}^m}{m_{DA} \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m)} \right)$$

Gravimetric Mixtures (II)



$$\begin{aligned}
 M_1 \times \left(\frac{1}{m_{AB} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} - \frac{1}{m_{BA} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{B,2}^m)} \right) &= K_2 \times M_2 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,2}^m}{m_{AB} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{A,2}^m)} - \frac{R_{B,2}^m}{m_{BA} \times (R_{B,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} \right) + K_3 \times M_3 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,3}^m}{m_{AB} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{A,2}^m)} - \frac{R_{B,3}^m}{m_{BA} \times (R_{B,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} \right) + K_4 \times M_4 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,4}^m}{m_{AB} \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{A,2}^m)} - \frac{R_{B,4}^m}{m_{BA} \times (R_{B,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m)} \right) \\
 M_1 \times \left(\frac{1}{m_{AC} \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} - \frac{1}{m_{CA} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{C,3}^m)} \right) &= K_2 \times M_2 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,2}^m}{m_{AC} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{A,3}^m)} - \frac{R_{C,2}^m}{m_{CA} \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} \right) + K_3 \times M_3 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,3}^m}{m_{AC} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{A,3}^m)} - \frac{R_{C,3}^m}{m_{CA} \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} \right) + K_4 \times M_4 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,4}^m}{m_{AC} \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{A,3}^m)} - \frac{R_{C,4}^m}{m_{CA} \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m)} \right) \\
 M_1 \times \left(\frac{1}{m_{AD} \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m)} - \frac{1}{m_{DA} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{D,4}^m)} \right) &= K_2 \times M_2 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,2}^m}{m_{AD} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{A,4}^m)} - \frac{R_{D,2}^m}{m_{DA} \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m)} \right) + K_3 \times M_3 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,3}^m}{m_{AD} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{A,4}^m)} - \frac{R_{D,3}^m}{m_{DA} \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m)} \right) + K_4 \times M_4 \times \left(\frac{R_{A,4}^m}{m_{AD} \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{A,4}^m)} - \frac{R_{D,4}^m}{m_{DA} \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m)} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

system of linear equations
solvable for K_2, K_3 & K_4

$$\rightarrow K_y = f(M_1, \dots, M_4, m_{AB}, \dots, m_{DA}, R_{2,A}^m, \dots, R_{4,AD}^m)$$

Solving a Linear System



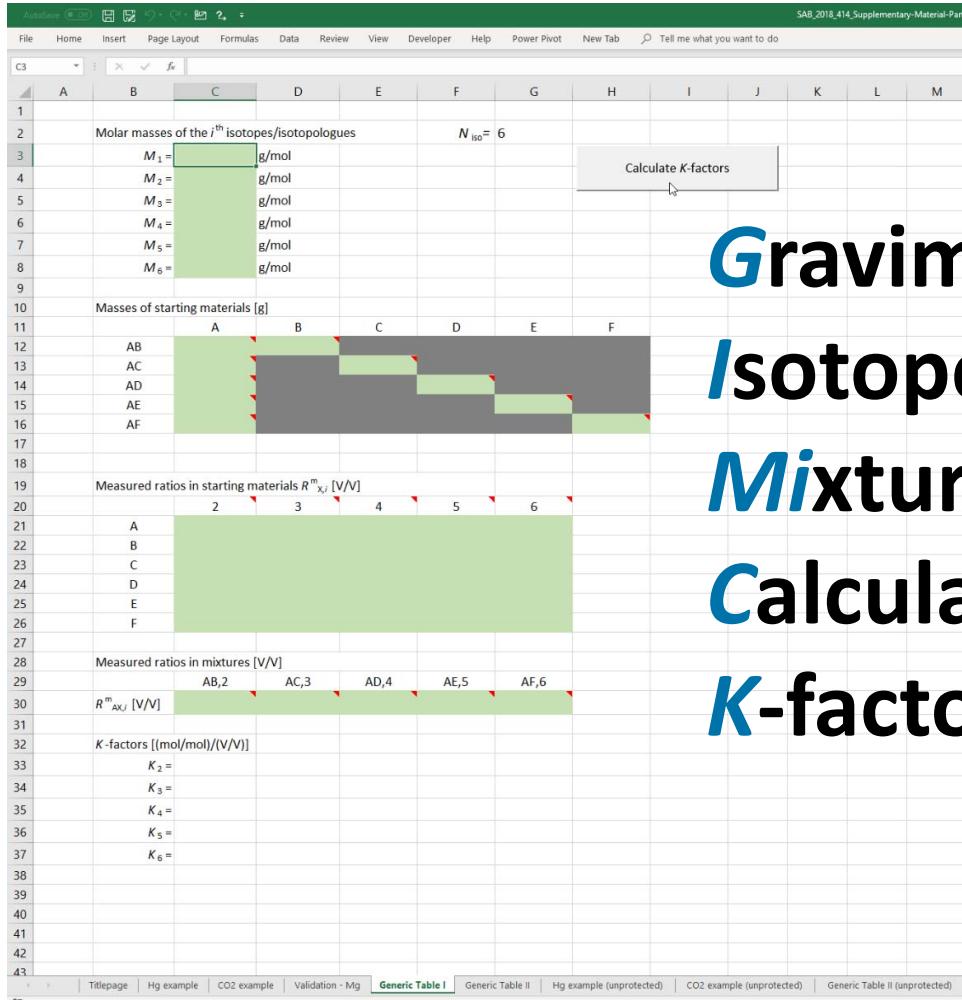
$$K_2 - 2 \times K_3 + K_4 = 2$$

$$K_2 + 5 \times K_3 + 2 \times K_4 = 3$$

$$K_2 - 3 \times K_3 + K_4 = 1$$

- Cramer's rule
- QR factorization
- Cholesky decomposition
- Gaussian Elimination
- ...

Generic Solving Routine (I) - *GIMiCK*



Gravimetric Isotope Mixtures Calculator for K-factors

- Up to $N_{\text{iso}} = 12$
- Dynamic input mask
- Sets up system of linear equations
- Gaussian elimination (non-iterative!)

A. Stoll-Werian, L. Flierl, O. Rienitz, J. Noordmann, R. Kessel, A. Pramann, Spectrochim. Acta B 2019

Generic Solving Routine (II)



Generic expression

$$\sum_{i=2}^{N_{\text{iso}}} \left[K_i \times M_i \times \left(\frac{R_{A,i}^m}{m_{AY} \times (R_{AY,j}^m - R_{A,j}^m)} - \frac{R_{Y,i}^m}{m_{YA} \times (R_{Y,j}^m - R_{AY,j}^m)} \right) \right] = M_1 \times \left(\frac{1}{m_{AY} \times (R_{AY,j}^m - R_{A,j}^m)} - \frac{1}{m_{YA} \times (R_{Y,j}^m - R_{AY,j}^m)} \right)$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$ $\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$

α -terms γ -terms

↓

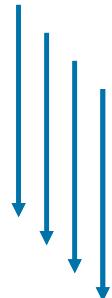
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{alter } i \\ \hline \text{alter } Y \\ \downarrow \end{array} \left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} \alpha_1 \times K_2 & \alpha_2 \times K_3 & \cdots & \alpha_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \times K_{N_{\text{iso}}} & \gamma_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2-(N_{\text{iso}}-2)} \times K_2 & \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2-(N_{\text{iso}}-3)} \times K_3 & \cdots & \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2} \times K_{N_{\text{iso}}} & \gamma_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \end{array} \right) = X$$

$$i \in \{2, 3, \dots, N_{\text{iso}}\}$$

$$Y \in \{B, C, \dots, XY\}$$

Generic Solving Routine (III)

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} \alpha_1 \times K_2 & \alpha_2 \times K_3 & \cdots & \alpha_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \times K_{N_{\text{iso}}} & \gamma_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2-(N_{\text{iso}}-2)} \times K_2 & \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2-(N_{\text{iso}}-3)} \times K_3 & \cdots & \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2} \times K_{N_{\text{iso}}} & \gamma_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \end{array} \right) = X$$



several computational steps

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} \alpha_1 \times K_2 & \alpha_2 \times K_3 & \cdots & \alpha_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \times K_{N_{\text{iso}}} & \gamma_1 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \times K_3 & \cdots & \alpha_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \times K_{N_{\text{iso}}} & \delta_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \beta_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2} \times K_{N_{\text{iso}}} & \delta_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \end{array} \right)$$

backward
substitution

Advantages of Direct Methods



- Not effected by possible convergence issues or local minima
- Uncertainty propagation (GUM) is much more straightforward
 - Propagation of variances
 - Monte Carlo simulation

$$K_2 = \frac{M_1 \times N_2}{M_2 \times D}$$

$$N_2 = -m_{AB} \times m_{AC} \times m_{AD} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m) \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m) \times (R_{A,4}^m - R_{AC,4}^m) \times (R_{B,3}^m (R_{D,4}^m - R_{C,4}^m) + R_{B,4}^m \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{D,3}^m) - R_{C,3}^m \times R_{D,4}^m + R_{C,4}^m \times R_{D,3}^m)$$

$$-m_{AB} \times m_{AC} \times m_{DA} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m) \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m) \times (R_{AC,4}^m - R_{D,4}^m) \times (R_{A,3}^m \times (R_{B,4}^m - R_{C,4}^m) + R_{A,4}^m \times (R_{C,3}^m - R_{B,3}^m) + R_{B,3}^m \times R_{C,4}^m - R_{B,4}^m \times R_{C,3}^m)$$

$$-m_{AB} \times m_{AD} \times m_{CA} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m) \times (R_{A,4}^m - R_{AC,4}^m) \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{C,3}^m) \times (R_{A,3}^m \times (R_{D,4}^m - R_{B,4}^m) + R_{A,4}^m \times (R_{B,3}^m - R_{D,3}^m) - R_{B,3}^m \times R_{D,4}^m + R_{B,4}^m \times R_{D,3}^m)$$

$$-m_{AC} \times m_{AD} \times m_{BA} \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m) \times (R_{A,4}^m - R_{AC,4}^m) \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{B,2}^m) (R_{A,3}^m \times (R_{C,4}^m - R_{D,4}^m) + R_{A,4}^m \times (R_{D,3}^m - R_{C,3}^m) + R_{C,3}^m \times R_{D,4}^m - R_{C,4}^m \times R_{D,3}^m)$$

$$D = m_{AB} \times m_{AC} \times m_{AD} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m) \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m) \times (R_{A,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m) \times (-R_{B,2}^m \times R_{C,3}^m \times R_{D,4}^m + R_{B,2}^m \times R_{C,4}^m \times R_{D,3}^m + R_{B,3}^m \times R_{C,2}^m \times R_{D,4}^m - R_{B,3}^m \times R_{C,4}^m \times R_{D,2}^m - R_{B,4}^m \times R_{C,2}^m \times R_{D,3}^m + R_{B,4}^m \times R_{C,3}^m \times R_{D,2}^m)$$

$$-m_{AB} \times m_{AC} \times m_{DA} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m) \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m) \times (R_{AD,4}^m - R_{D,4}^m) \times (-R_{A,2}^m \times R_{B,3}^m \times R_{C,4}^m + R_{A,2}^m \times R_{B,4}^m \times R_{C,3}^m + R_{A,3}^m \times R_{B,2}^m \times R_{C,4}^m - R_{A,3}^m \times R_{B,4}^m \times R_{C,2}^m - R_{A,4}^m \times R_{B,2}^m \times R_{C,3}^m + R_{A,4}^m \times R_{B,3}^m \times R_{C,2}^m)$$

$$+m_{AB} \times m_{AD} \times m_{CA} \times (R_{A,2}^m - R_{AB,2}^m) \times (R_{A,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m) \times (R_{AC,3}^m - R_{C,3}^m) \times (-R_{A,2}^m \times R_{B,3}^m \times R_{D,4}^m + R_{A,2}^m \times R_{B,4}^m \times R_{D,3}^m + R_{A,3}^m \times R_{B,2}^m \times R_{D,4}^m - R_{A,3}^m \times R_{B,4}^m \times R_{D,2}^m - R_{A,4}^m \times R_{B,2}^m \times R_{D,3}^m + R_{A,4}^m \times R_{B,3}^m \times R_{D,2}^m)$$

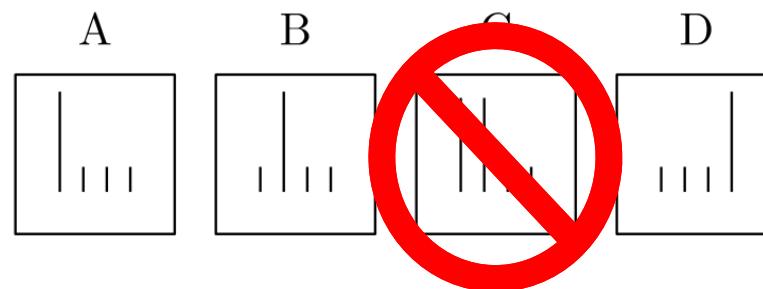
$$+m_{AC} \times m_{AD} \times m_{BA} \times (R_{A,3}^m - R_{AC,3}^m) \times (R_{A,4}^m - R_{AD,4}^m) \times (R_{AB,2}^m - R_{B,2}^m) \times (R_{A,2}^m \times R_{C,3}^m \times R_{D,4}^m - R_{A,2}^m \times R_{C,4}^m \times R_{D,3}^m - R_{A,3}^m \times R_{C,2}^m \times R_{D,4}^m + R_{A,3}^m \times R_{C,4}^m \times R_{D,2}^m + R_{A,4}^m \times R_{C,2}^m \times R_{D,3}^m - R_{A,4}^m \times R_{C,3}^m \times R_{D,2}^m)$$

Condition for Solvability

$$\det(\mathbf{A}) = \begin{vmatrix} \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \alpha_{N_{\text{iso}}-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2-(N_{\text{iso}}-2)} & \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2-(N_{\text{iso}}-3)} & \alpha_{(N_{\text{iso}}-1)^2} \end{vmatrix} \neq 0$$

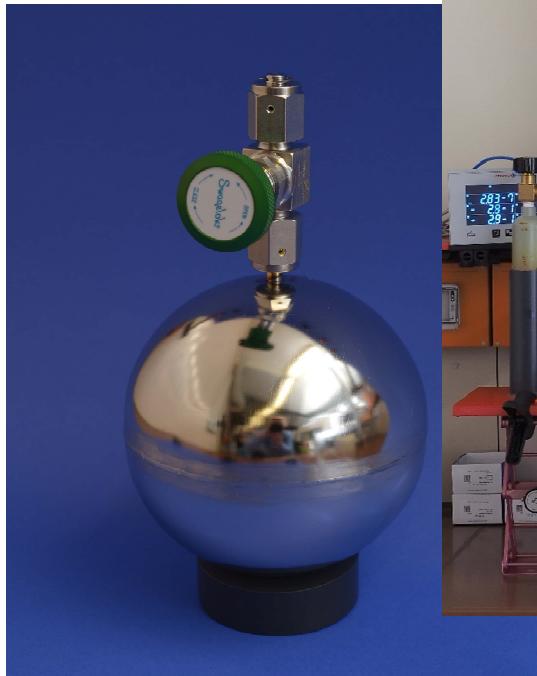
$$\alpha_y = K_i \times M_i \times \left(\frac{R_{A,i}^m}{m_{AY} \times (R_{AY,j}^m - R_{A,j}^m)} - \frac{R_{Y,i}^m}{m_{YA} \times (R_{Y,j}^m - R_{AY,j}^m)} \right)$$

If $\det(\mathbf{A}) = 0$
→ No solution or countless



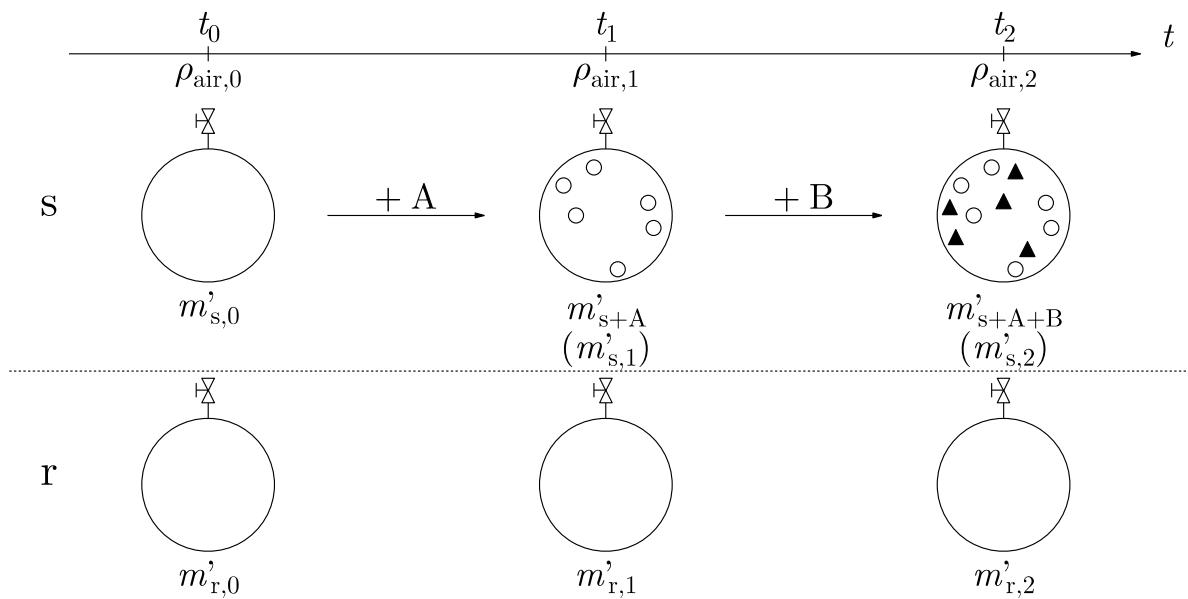
Preparation of Blends (I)

- High-vacuum line
($p \approx 1 \times 10^{-5}$ Pa)
- Set up from CF flanges
- Custom-made gas vessels
- Made from electropolished stainless steel
($V \approx 800$ mL, $m_{\text{tare}} \approx 730$ g)



Preparation of Blends (II)

1. Heating and evacuating of gas containers ($\approx 200^\circ\text{C}$, 24 h)
2. Weighing against evacuated reference container
3. Cryogenically trapping amount of gas A (m_A)
4. Weighing against evacuated reference container
5. Cryogenically trapping amount of gas B (m_B)
6. Weighing against evacuated reference container
7. Calculating buoyancy corrected values of m_A and m_B
8. Long-time measurement (≈ 4.5 h) of the blend and both parent materials using IRMS

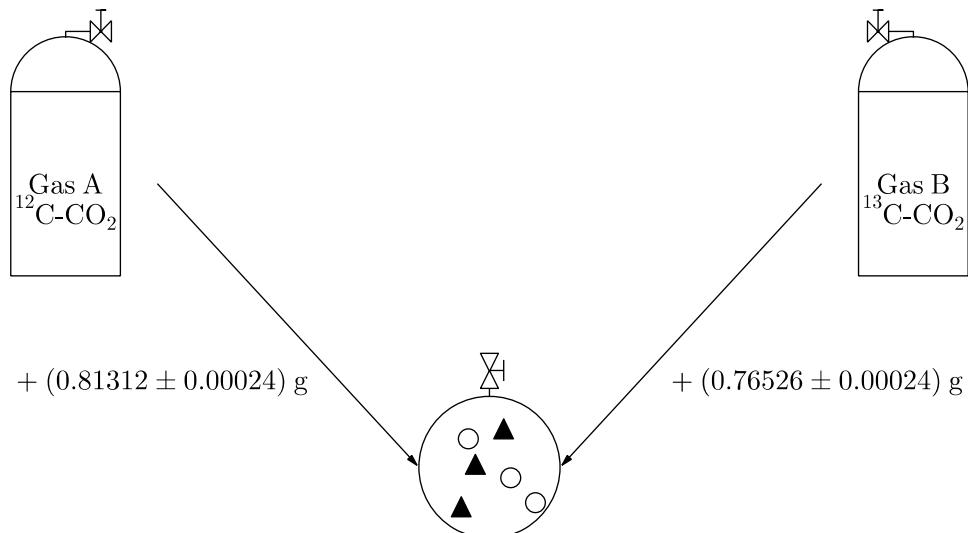


L. Flierl, O. Rienitz, A. Pramann, Anal. Bioanal. Chem., accepted, 2020.

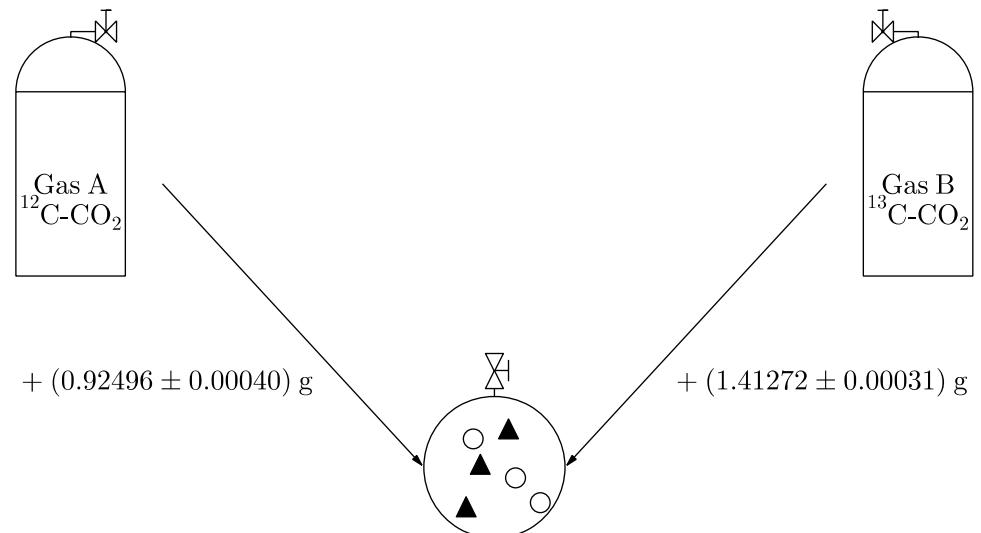
First Blends



1st & 2nd blend mixed from
gas A ($x(^{12}\text{C}) \approx 0.9998(1)$ mol/mol) + gas B ($x(^{13}\text{C}) \approx 0.993(1)$ mol/mol)

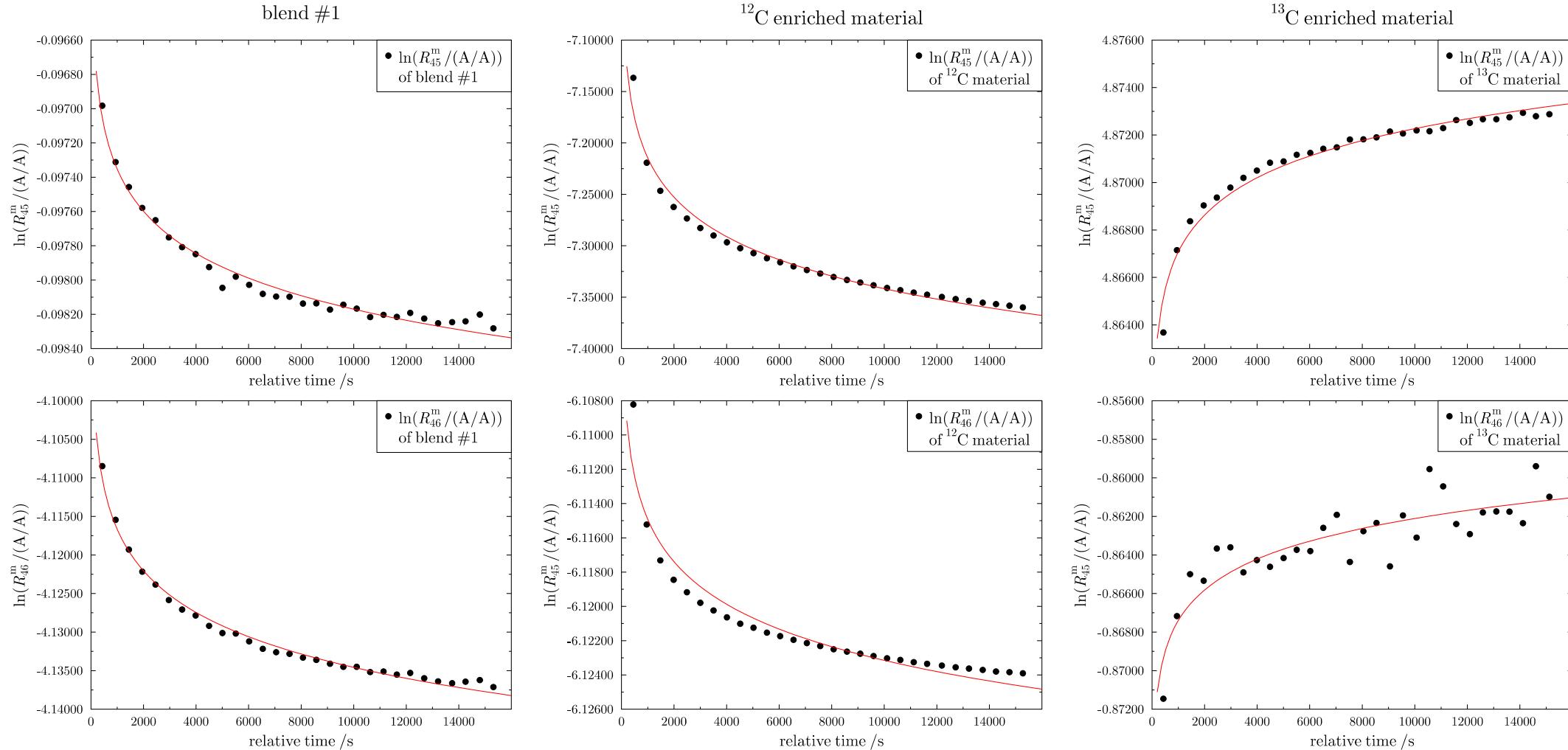


$$R_{45}^{\text{theo}} = (0.8791 \pm 0.0040) \text{ mol/mol}$$
$$R_{46}^{\text{theo}} = (0.0072 \pm 0.0021) \text{ mol/mol}$$

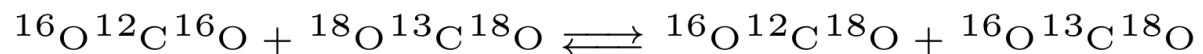
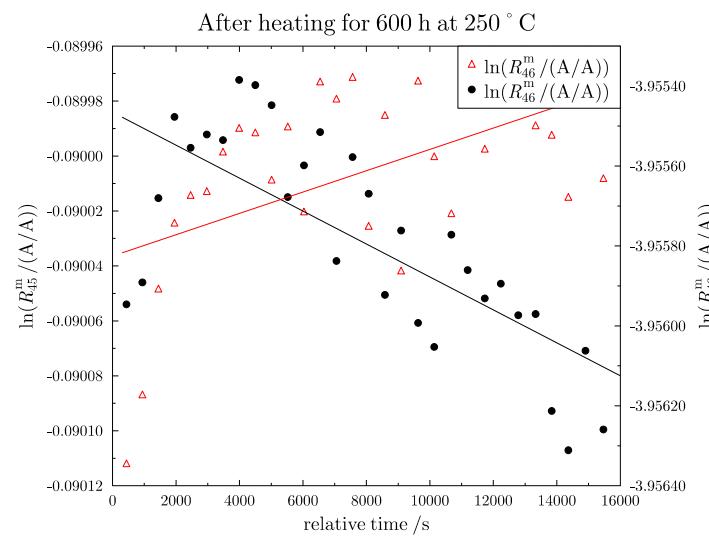
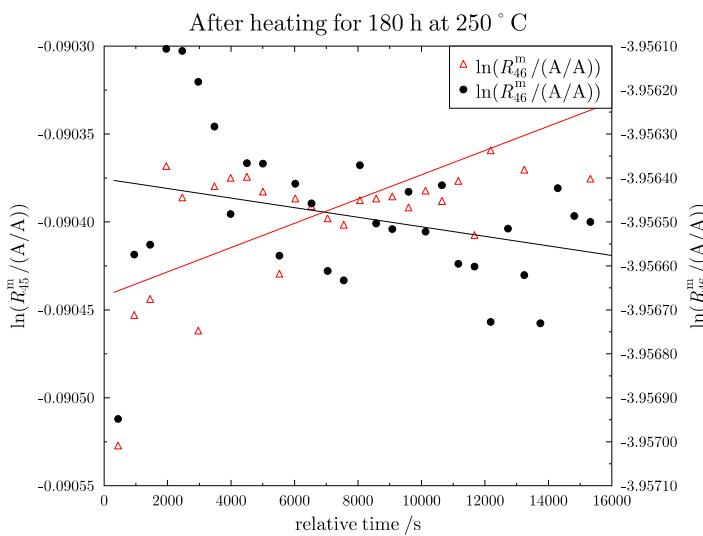
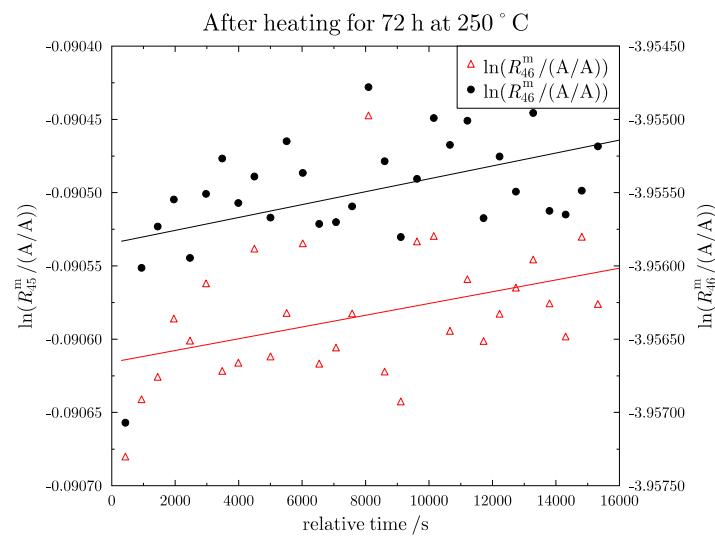


$$R_{45}^{\text{theo}} = (1.4207 \pm 0.0067) \text{ mol/mol}$$
$$R_{46}^{\text{theo}} = (0.0093 \pm 0.0033) \text{ mol/mol}$$

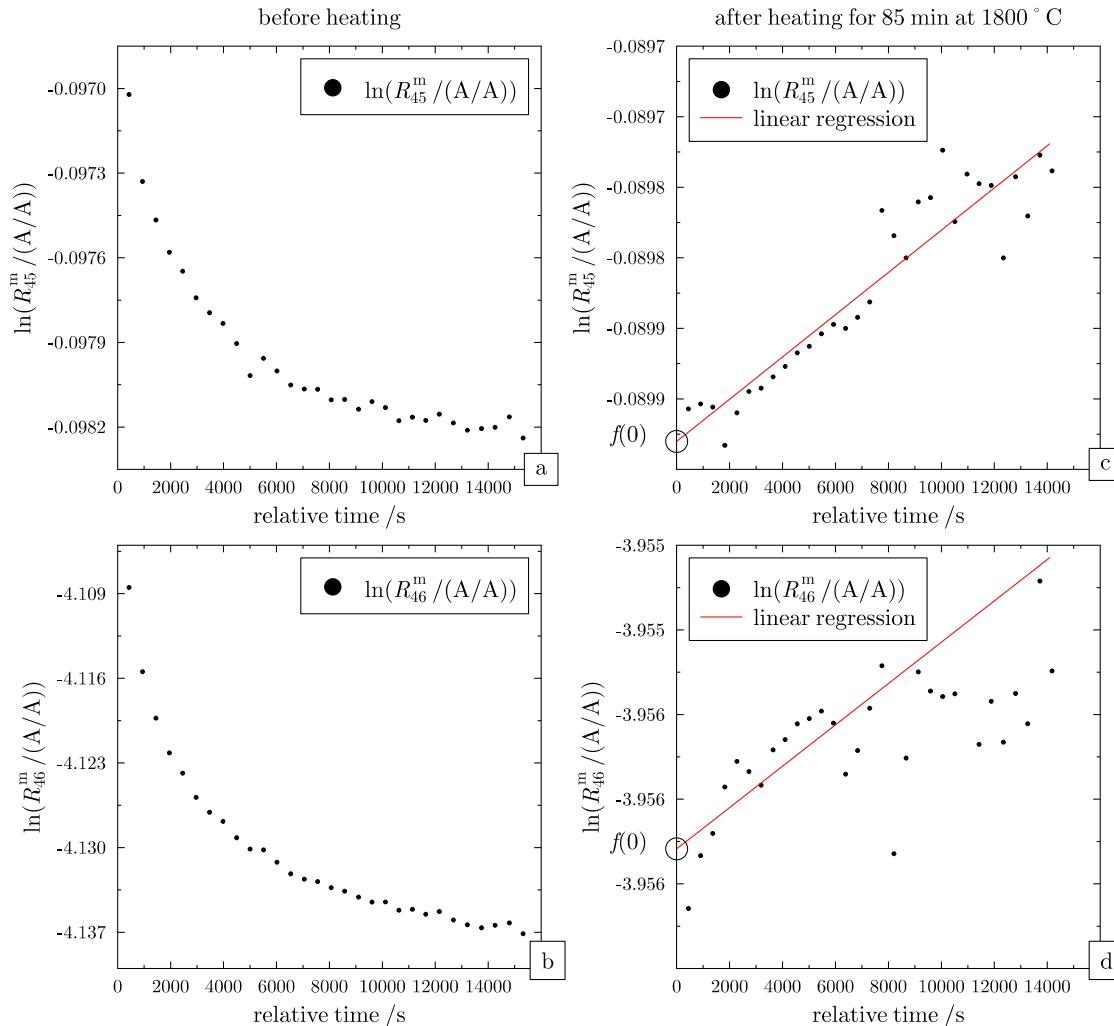
First Measurements of Blend #1



Isotope Equilibrium of Carbon Dioxide (I)



Isotope Equilibrium of Carbon Dioxide (III)



- Linear regression & extrapolation to $t = 0$

$$R_{45,0}^m = (0.913995 \pm 0.000016) \text{ A/A}$$

$$R_{46,0}^m = (0.0191411 \pm 0.0000034) \text{ A/A}$$

$$R_{45}^{\text{theo}} = (0.8791 \pm 0.0040) \text{ mol/mol}$$

$$R_{46}^{\text{theo}} = (0.0072 \pm 0.0021) \text{ mol/mol}$$

- Calculating R_{13} , R_{17} and $R_{18}^{[1]}$

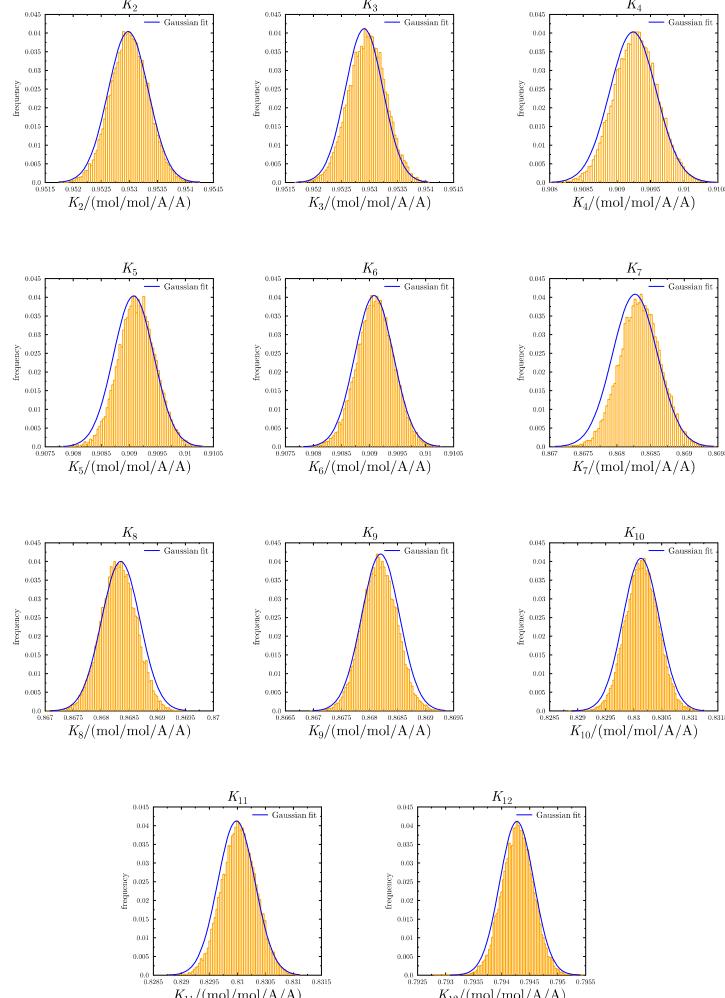
$$R_{46} = -3 \times K^2 \times R_{18}^{2\lambda} + 2 \times K \times R_{45} \times R_{18}^\lambda + 2 \times R_{18}$$

- Calculating all isotopologue ratios and uncertainties



Monte Carlo Simulation

Monte Carlo Simulation of all 11 K -factors



- Used made-up data set (R^m, M, m) (from *GIMiCK*^[1])
- Added uncertainties from isotopologue ratio derivation and mixing (e.g. $u(m_A)$)
- Monte Carlo Simulation with 20 000 runs

$$R_{13} = (0.0111980 \pm 0.0000091) \text{ mol/mol (0.081 \%)} , (k=2)$$

$$R_{17} = (0.00037990 \pm 0.000000030) \text{ mol/mol (0.080 \%)} , (k=2)$$

$$R_{18} = (0.0020052 \pm 0.0000016) \text{ mol/mol (0.081 \%)} , (k=2)$$

[2] L. Flierl, O. Rienitz, R. Kessel, A. Pramann, Spectrochim. Acta B, in preparation

Summary & Outlook



- Concept of gravimetric mixtures
 - Non-iterative calculation of K -factors for $N_{\text{iso}} \geq 4$
 - EXCEL® based tool available
 - First binary mixtures of enriched/depleted CO₂
- Adapt math for isotope equilibrium
- Monte Carlo Module
- Further blends for studying reproducibility & ¹⁸O enriched/depleted materials