

CO₂-CH₄-N₂O by Gas Chromotography (Shimadzu) Version 1.1

Version Change Log:

Version	<u>Date</u>	Modifications
1.1	May 5, 2025	Details for QAQC steps added.

I. Overview

Gas Chromotography (GC) separates component gases that are then detected by a detector. These components are then quantified using a standard curve. The Shimadzu Specialized GC-2014 Green House Gas Analysis gas chromatograph system equipped with the AOC 6000 auto sampler and FID and ECD detectors and Shimadzu Lab Solutions software enables the simultaneous qualitative and quantitative analysis of three major greenhouse gases: methane (CH₄), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The Flame Ionization Detector (FID) interacts with analytes eluting from the GC column. The detector produces a current that changes in proportion to the concentration of the analyte. The FID detects any molecule with a hydrogen-carbon bond. The analyte is ionized in a flame produced by hydrogen and air. Ions travel across and electric potential toward an electrode, the current is converted to a voltage which is filtered and amplified. The FID is equipped with a methanizer that is necessary for detection of low concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO) by converting these compounds to methane before detection. The Electron Capture Detector (ECD) detector emits electrons that ionize the make-up gas molecules creating a stable electron cloud. The ECD maintains a constant current equal to the cloud by applying periodic pulses. When a gas is injected, electronegative compounds enter the ECD cell and combine with free electrons in the cloud. In response, the ECD increases its pulse rate to maintain a constant current. The ECD is used to detect N₂O.

Standard injections of known concentration and volume and their peak areas are used to determine the concentration of unknown gases by measuring the area of the unknown and then relating these areas to a regression obtained from the standard injections.



II. Equipment

- A. Shimadzu GC 2014 with AOC 6000 auto injector. Detectors are flame Ionization Detector (FID) and Electron Capture Detector (ECD). Detector response is calibrated using Calibration Standards prepared for each instrument run.
- B. LabSolutions Chromatography Integration Software controls the gas chromatograph and the auto sampler
- C. Make-up gas Nitrogen Ultra High Purity (UHP)
- D. Carrier gas Nitrogen UHP
- E. FID Detector gas- HydrogenUHP, Air UHP
- F. Septa Septa, GC, Long Life Septum, 450C, Blue, 20/PK-Septa, GC, Long Life Septum, 450C, Blue
- G. Column Hayesep D 100/120. 10' x 1/8"x 0.085". Stainless steel.
- H. Gas standard Custom Certified Stock Gas Standard-
 - A. Mesa Specialty Gases & Equipment:
 - 1. CO₂ (5000ppm), CH₄ (100 ppm), N₂O (5ppm)
 - 2. Referred to as Mesa Stock Standard 2024-27
- I. SupelTM Inert Foil Gas Sampling Bags p/n 30226-U
- J. Evacuated Labco Exetainer 12mL Vials, flat bottom with DW white cap
 A. See NEON Sample Container Preparation Protocol
- K. Gas tight disposable syringes

A. 2 x 10mL

L. Glass gas tight syringe: 1 mL

III. Safety

- A. Make sure all the connections are leak free. To check for leaks, squirt soapy water on each connection. There will be bubbles formed if the connection leaks. Tighten connections as needed.
- B. Do not open the instrument while running.
- C. Gas cylinders must be secured at all times when protective caps are off.
- IV. Gas Standard Dilutions for Calibration Standards and Check standards.
 - A. Calibration standards and Check Standards should be made at the same time to minimize error.
 - B. Mesa Stock from canister
 - C. UHP Nitrogen from gas cylinder
 - A. Dilutions are made in 12mL evacuated exetainers overfilled to 182L
 - a. 8 evacuated exetainers are needed for calibration levels
 - b. 3 evacuated exetainers are needed for check standards
 - c. 4 evacuated exetainers are needed for N2 method blanks
 - B. Inert Foil Gas Sampling bags
 - a. Fill before each set of standards are made
 - i. Open valve on canister or cylinder to flush tubing
 - ii. Attach nozzle on foil bag to tubing



- iii. Open valve on foil bag by twisting left
- iv. Fill until almost taught; do not over fill
- v. Close valve on bag before removing from tubing
- vi. Close valve on cylinder or canister
- C. Using gas tight disposable syringes create Calibration standards and Check standards according to Table 1.
 - a. Use a new 10mL syringe and needle for each batch
 - i. 10mL syringe for N2
 - ii. 10mL syringe for Mesa Standard
 - iii. 1mL syringe for Levels 1-3 Mesa
- D. Create 3 mid-level Check Standards for a batch of 40 samples

Table 1. CALIBRATION AND CHECK STANDARDS

		CHECK STANDA	1			
		MESA STOCK				
		STANDARD	N2 ML	C02	CH4	N20
CAL		24-27 mL	(syringe	CONC	CONC	CONC
LEVEL	STD NAME	(syringe size)	size)	(PPMV)	(PPMV)	(PPMV)
Level 1	MESA 0.01	0.2 (1mL)	19.8 (10mL)	50	1	0.05
Level 2	MESA 0.025	0.5 (1mL)	19.5(10mL)	125	2.5	0.125
Level 3	MESA 0.05	1(1mL)	19(10mL)	250	5	0.25
Level 4	MESA 0.1	2 (10mL)	18(10mL)	500	10	0.5
Level 5	MESA 0.25	5(10mL)	15(10mL)	1250	25	1.25
Level 6	MESA 0.5	10(10mL)	10(10mL)	2500	50	2.5
Level 7	MESA 0.75	15(10mL)	5(10mL)	3750	75	3.75
Level 8	MESA 1.0	20(10mL)		5000	100	5

CHK STD						
0.05	STD 0.05	1(1mL)	19(10mL)	250	5	0.25
CHK STD						
0.1	STD 0.1	2 (10mL)	18(10mL)	500	10	0.5
CHK STD						
0.25	STD 0.25	5(10mL)	15(10mL)	1250	25	1.25

- E. Create Method Blanks to be run twice each during the run
 - a. 20mL UHP Nitrogen
 - b. Run before and after Calibration Standards
 - c. Run one after every 20 samples



- V. Preparing the GC-2014 and AOC 6000 auto sampler ***Before turning on the gases***
 - A. Turn on the Instrument, bottom right corner
 - A. It will run diagnostics
 - B. Check to see if the septum needs to be changed
 - A. Septa need to be changed every 100-150 samples
 - B. 'Diag' button on instrument panel-Analysis Counter
 - C. Replace septum if needed-see Replace septa
 - D. Reset counter on instrument panel
 - 1. Push 'Diag' button at top of instrument panel
 - a. Scroll to '3 Analysis Counter
 - b. Scroll to Septa counter
 - i. Press reset button on bottom of panel
 - c. Scroll to insert counter
 - i. Press reset button on bottom of panel
 - C. Check Gas pressure at tanks
 - A. If the main tank pressure is less than 300psi, the tank must be changed
 - 1. Only change gas tanks when instrument is not running

VI. Starting the Instrument

- A. Check for instrument computer to see the AOC icon in the bottom right corner is green
 - A. If it is not green, the AOC is not on, turn on the AOC at the switch box
 - B. Turn on the instrument gases
 - 1. THE GASES MUST BE TURNED ON IN ORDER
 - a. (1)Zero Air-60psi
 - b. (2)UHP Hydrogen-100psi
 - c. (3)UHP Nitrogen-80psi
 - 2. If the gases are not turned on in order, the flame will not stay lit on the FID
 - a. If this occurs you must wait for the gases to go back to zero on the instrument pressure gauges and start again
 - 3. Check **instrument pressure** gauges above the instrument
 - a. Wait for all gases to come to the marked pressure
 - i. Top Left: Inst Makeup: N2-5 psi
 - ii. Middle Top: Hydrogen-75 psi
 - iii. Middle Bottom: Air-50 psi
 - iv. Top Right:ECD Makeup: N2- 25psi



- C. Open Labsolutions Software
 - 1. Double click on Lab Solutions icon on desktop
 - 2. Select "Instruments" icon
 - 3. Double click DESKTOP-F3N60CM Instrument 1
- D. Open Current Method
 - 1. File>Open Method File
 - a. NEON GHG YEARDAYMONTH
 - 2. Click "System On" on side panel
 - 3. Upload method to instrument
 - a. Click Upload Parameters button
 - i. Bottom half of screen
- E. Wait until instrument is ready
 - 1. In the upper right corner of the instrument screen
 - a. AOC ready
 - b. Instrument ready
 - 2. Wait a minimum of 1 hour for the instrument to equilibrate before starting a batch
 - 3. FID flame will ignite when the appropriate temperature is reached
 - a. If the FID flame does not stay lit, shut down
 - i. Select Instrument>shutdown
 - ii. Wait for temperatures to all be 50 degrees or less
 - iii. turn off instrument and wait for all gauges are at zero pressure to restart.
- VII. Create Batch Tables- Figure 1.
 - A. Open most recent Sample Batch Table
 - A. File>open Batch
 - B. Save Batch run as: NEON GHG SETNUMBER YYYYDDMM
 - C. Update sample names
 - A. Open the updated USUABL_NEONSDG_SAMPLEID excel spreadsheet
 - 1. Desktop file
 - 2. Copy/paste
 - a. Sample ID is number assigned by USUABL Lab
 - b. Sample name is NEON barcode number
 - D. All Standards and samples must be entered as "Unknown" in the Sample type column



- E. Update method for all lines in the batch table
 - A. Click on drop down box in the method column of the first sample
 - 1. Select the method with the most recent date
 - 2. Right click on the "MethodFile" column and select 'Fill Down'
- F. Run up to 40 samples per run
- G. Run a check standard after every 20 samples
 - A. Create new standards for check standards (do not refer to vials already run)
 - 1. Choose from Level 2-8
 - a. Midlevel
 - 2. Run method blank every 10 samples
 - a. 20mLUHP Nitrogen
 - b. Ok to rerun from previous vials in run
 - c. Analyte concentrations in the method blank should be less than the method detection limits
 - B. Save the batch

Folder: C.\L. Analysis	ab Solutions \ Data \ I Tray Name		Sample Name	Sample ID	Sample Type	Method File	Data File	Level#	Ini. Volume	Multi Injection	Report Output	Report Format File	Data Commer
1	1		N2 BLANK		0:Unknown	NEON2024 octrial8.gom	(Auto Flename)	- Cacan	1000	Plate injudence	ricport Otapia	ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	Dual Committee
2	1	2	MESA 0.01	UNK-STD.01		NEON2024 octra/8.gom	(Auto Elename)	0	400		_	ions\System\DEFAULTisc	
2	1	2	MESA 0.025	UNK-STD 025		NEON2024 octstal8.gom	(Auto Pierame)	0	1000		_	ions\System\DEFALILT lsr	
4		3	MESA 0.05	UNK-STD.05		NEON2024 octral8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000		_	ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
5	1	4	MESA 0.1	UNK-STD.1		NEON2024 octral8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000		-	ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
6	1	6	MESA 0.25	UNK-STD.1		NEON2024 octrial8.gom	(Auto Flename)	0	1000		-	ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	_
7	- i	6	MESA 0.5	UNK-STD.25		NEDN2024_qcmaio.gom	(Auto Flerame)	0	1000		H -	ions\System\DEFAULT isr	_
0	-1;	2	MESA 0.75	UNK-STD.5		NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Flename)	0	1000		H -	ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	_
9	1	0	MESA 1.0		0:Unknown	NEON2024 octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
10	- 1	o o	N2 BLANK	UNK-N2C	0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Flename)	0	1000			ione\System\DEFAULT.ler	
11	1	10		263	0:Unknown	NEON2024_qctrial8.gcm	(Auto Flename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lar	
12	1	11	A00000414410		0:Unknown	NEON2024_gamais.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000		H	ions\System\DEFAULT.lar	
13		12	A00000414411		0:Unknown	NEON2024_qdmais.gom	(Auto Florame)	0	1000		H	ions\System\DEFAULT isr	
14		13	A00000414416		D:Unknown	NEON2024_cctrial8.gom	(Auto Florame)	0	1000		-	ions\System\DEFAULT isr	_
15	-	14	A00000414417		D:Unknown	NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Fiername)	0	1000		-	ions\System\DEFAULTisr	_
16	-	15	A00000377691		D:Unknown	NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000		_	ions\System\DEFAULTIsr	
17		16	A00000377690		0:Unknown	NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000		_	ions\System\DEFAULT.isr	
17		17	A00000377676		D:Unknown	NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000		_	ions\System\DEFAULT.isr	
19	-!	18	A00000377676 A00000388538		D:Unknown	NEON2024_octnais.gom NEON2024_octnais.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000		_	ions\System\DEFAULT.isr	
20	-!:		A00000388612			NEDN2024_octnal8.gom NEDN2024_octnal8.gom		0	1000		_	ions\System\DEFAULT.isr	
	-!	19			D:Unknown		(Auto Filename)	0					
21	-1	20	STD:05	UNK-CHK.05		NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000 1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
22	1	21	N2 BLANK	UNK-N2C	0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0				ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
23	1		A00000388539	274	0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
24	1	22	A00000389253	275	0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gcm	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lar	
25	1	23	A00000257520		0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gcm	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lar	
26	1	24	A00000257519	277	0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filoname)	0	1000			iona\System\DEFAULT.lar	
27	2	1	A00000256912		0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lar	
28		2	A00000256865		0:Unknown	NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
29	2	3	A00000257529		0:Unknown	NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
30	2	4	A00000256895		0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
31	2	5	A00000256911		0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000			ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
32	2	6	A00000283104		0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
33	2	7	STD 0.1		0:Unknown	NEDN2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
34	2	8	N2 BLANK	UNK-N2C	0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULTJsr	
35	2	9		284	0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULTJsr	
36	2	10	A00000380429		0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULT.lsr	
37	2	11	A00000283114		0:Unknown	NEON2024_qctrial8.gcm	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULT.ler	
38	2	12	A00000381160		0:Unknown	NEON2024_octrial8.gom	(Auto Filename)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULT.ler	
39	2	13	A00000283124		0:Unknown	NEON2024_qctrial8.gom	(Auto Filoname)	0	1000	1		ions\System\DEFAULT.ler	
40	2	14	A00000380495		D:Unknown	NEON2024 octrial8.gcm	(Auto Flename)		1000			iona\System\DEFAULT.lar	

Figure 1. Example of Batch file sequence

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VIII. Load Samples

- A. Load exetainers into vial trays
 - A. 3 trays holding 24 vials each
 - 1. Tray 1 is closest to the instrument, Tray 3 farthest out
 - B. Indicate which tray and slot number on sequence run
- B. Run a Method blank (UHP Nitrogen before and after calibration standards and after every 10 samples. Detected levels for all analytes should be less than the analyte MDL. If there are one or more peaks detected above the detection limit, repeat the blank injection. If peaks are still detected, cancel run, shut down instrument, change septum and check system for leaks before starting again.
- C. Samples are injected at 1 mL unless previously run and concentrations exceed the calibration limits
 - A. If sample concentration is too high, inject a smaller volume according to level reported
- D. Inject a check standard at the beginning of each sample set, after every 10 unknown samples, and at the end of the. If in excess of $\pm 5\%$, the set must be re-run. Check standard percent deviation is calculated as:

%dev = $(C_{check}-C_{standard})/C_{standard} \times 100\%$

E. If peak area or estimated concentration of a sample exceeds the highest level calibration standard, the sample must be re-run at a lower sample volume within 30 days.



IX. Start Batch Run

- A. Check that instrument is ready
 - A. Upper right corner, both instrument and AOC windows green
 - B. All temperatures are green

GC Ready			
AOC Ready			
Item		Units	Chi
SPL1 Temperature	100.0		
SPL1 Pressure	266.5		
Total Row		mL/min	
Purge Flow		mL/min	⊕ On ○Off
Primary Pressure	609	kPa	
Column Temperature	80.0	С	
FID Temperature	250.0	С	
ECD Temperature	325.0	С	
Methnar Temperature	379.8	С	
V Box 1 Temperature	100.0	C	
V Box 2 Temperature	100.0	С	
Carr 2 Pressure	212.0	kPa	®0n COff
Carr 3 Pressure	93.1	kPa	⊕ 0n ○ 0#
Carr 4 Pressure	99.8	kPa	⊕ 0n ○ 0#
Column ID			
Carrier Gas	N2		⊕ On ○Off
FID Flame			⊕ 0n ○ 0#
FID Detector			⊕ 0n ○0#
ECD Detector			⊛ On ○ Off

Figure 2. Instrument and Autosampler ready

- B. Start Batch Run
 - A. Click 'Start Realtime Batch' button
 - 1. Methane Elutes at 3 minutes (FID)
 - 2. Carbon Dioxide Elutes at 6 minutes (FID)
 - 3. Nitrous Oxide Elutes at 7 minutes (ECD)
 - B. Run time is 8 minutes per sample
- X. Check Calibration before letting all samples run
 - A. After all initial calibration standards are run, double click on the first line in the batch table
 - A. Post-run application will open with that sample loaded
 - B. In the left panel, click on Method tab
 - A. Open the method being run
 - 1. Calibration curve view will open
 - B. Save Method with the day's date (NEON GHG YEARDAYMONTH)
 - C. In the Data Files view the data files used in the calibration curve are displayed.
 - 1. Right click on "Data Files" at the top of the files
 - a. Click on "remove all"
 - i. Takes old calibration standards out
 - 2. In the right panel click on the Data files tab
 - a. The calibration standards run for the current batch should be displayed
 - 3. Drag and drop Calibration Standard files in from current run into appropriate levels



- D. Check all analytes standard curve-3 curves
 - 1. R² should be 0.99 or better
 - a. Rerun if any of the curves are below 0.99
 - 2. FID window-Toolbar drop down list
 - a. Toggle arrows at top of Cal curve view
 - i. Methane
 - ii. Carbon Dioxide
 - 3. ECD window-Toolbar drop down list
 - a. Nitrous Oxide
- E. If some standards are compromised, up to 3 levels can be removed to maximize linearity (min. 5 cal standards used for curve)
 - 1. Do not remove the lowest and highest standards
 - 2. If all the standards look good, leave them all in
- F. If the R^2 for standards is lower than 0.99, stop the run and recreate standards
- C. See above (VII C-F) for method blanks, check standards, and samples.

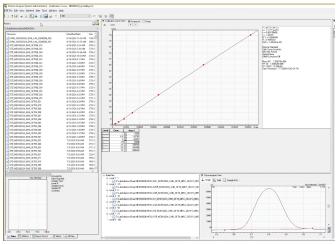


Figure 3. Example of Calibration Curve

D. Shutting Down

- A. Open Instrument>Shutdown
 - 1. Instrument will start cooling down
 - 2. Do not turn off the gases until all temperatures are below 50 degrees. This will take at least an hour, usually 2.
- B. AFTER ALL TEMPERATURES ARE BELOW 50 DEGREES
 - 1. Turn off gases
 - 2. Turn off instrument
- C. Wait until the gas pressure on the instrument gauges have dropped to zero before starting a new run



XI. DATA ANALYSIS

- A. Data should be reviewed within 2 weeks of the sample run in order to identify any issues and rerun within a 30-day time period
- B. Be sure all other LabSolutions windows are closed
- C. In Lab Solutions Main Window
 - A. Click on Postrun operations
 - 1. Open Postrun Tool
 - 2. PostRun Batch Window will open
- D. Click on "Batch" Tab
 - A. Open Current Sample Batch
 - B. Batch Sequence table will open
 - 1. Click on the Method column for the first sample
 - a. "Select Method File" window will open
 - b. Load the new method created with the calibration standards from the batch being analyzed from section X
 - c. copy and paste the current method
 - i. This will change the method for all the files in the batch
 - 2. Save batch file
 - 3. In Main panel on far left click "Start Postrun Batch"
 - a. This will process all the samples with the current calibration curve
 - i. This will take a minute
 - ii. It will not process any files that are open in other windows. You will get a prompt that it cannot process a sample. It is easiest if you close all other windows
 - C. In LabSolutions Main window
 - 1. Select Postrun operations
 - a. Open Browser Tool
 - 2. QuantBrowser Window will open
- E. Click on "Batch" Tab
 - A. Open Current Sample Batch
 - 1. This opens the files in the batch run
 - 2. The calibration curve information is in the bottom right panel
 - 3. A chromatogram view is displayed and integrations can be checked and updated for each file
 - a. Peaks should be integrated the same for all samples
 - b. Use manual integration toolbar to edit baseline
 - i. Right click on chromatogram view
 - ii. Select "manual integration bar"



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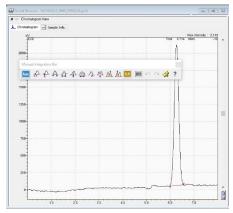


Figure 4. Example of good peak integration

- 4. Analytes with concentrations above the calibration range will need to be reanalyzed at a smaller volume according to the concentration reported
 - a. i.e. if the methane is 150ppm (highest calibration level is 100ppmv), the injection volume should be halved to ensure it is within range and above the mdl
- 5. Quantitative Result view displays for each analyte
 - a. Data Filename
 - b. Sample ID
 - c. Conc (ppm)
 - d. Expected concentration for standards
 - e. Quantitative Limit for each Sample (including standards)
 - f. Detection Limit for each Sample (including standards)
 - g. Accuracy (%) for Standards and Check standards

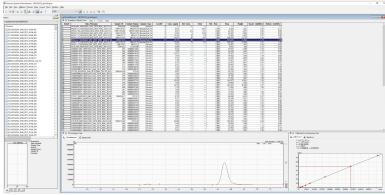


Figure 5. Example of QuantBrowser Data Report



XII. CREATING USUABL RAW DATA FILE

- A. Copy and paste Information for each analyte into Excel SDG Raw template (USUABL BOX file: NEON_DATA_"SDG_RAW")
 - A. Right click on top corner of Browser table "Data#"
 - 1. Select "copy entire table"
 - 2. Paste into blank excel SDG template "RAW" tab
 - 3. Toggle to each analyte (CH4, CO2 and N2O) and repeat
 - a. Drop down list at top of screen to toggle FID and ECD
- B. Raw data on first tab produced by instrument ("RAW") (Fig.5.)
 - A. All concentrations and QC information for all three analytes
 - B. Copy raw tab onto 2nd tab ("QC") and 3rd tab ("DATA")

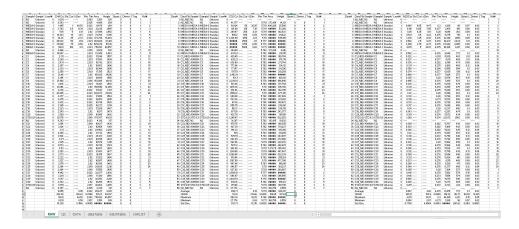


Figure 6. Raw Data Spreadsheet: Tab "RAW"

- C. QA/QC on second tab ("QC") produced by instrument (Fig.7) lab use only
 - A. Delete Sample data from this page leaving only QC
 - B. All concentrations and QC information for calibration and check standards and blanks only for each analyte
 - C. Calculate the RSD% for all check standards
 - 1. If the RSD% is above or below (+/-)5.0. the samples within bracketed by that check standard must be rerun
 - 2. If the calculated RSD% is between 2-5%, check standards should be evaluated for any persistent problems with the rest of the run.
 - a. If Check Standards and Nitrogen blanks are within range, highlight cells in green.
 - i. Check standards RSD% below 5%
 - ii. Nitrogen blank concentrations below MDL
 - 1. CH4: 0.2 PPMV
 - 2. CO2: 40 PPMV
 - 3. N2O: 0.05PPMV

	Т.	a٤	50	Т	J	U.	L	Τ.	U
R	ev	. (15	/0	5	12	\cap	2	5

A	В	C	U	E	F	G	н		J	K	L	M	N	0	P
Data#	Data Filer	Sample II	Sample N	CH4 Conc.	Std. Conc.	%Dev	CO2 Conc.	Std. Conc.	%Dev	N2O Conc	Std. Conc.	%Dev			
45	MESA 0.03	1 MESA 0.0	1 MESA 0.03	1.46	1	46	66.819	50	33.638	0.049	0.05	-2			
46	MESA 0.02	MESA 0.0	2 MESA 0.02	2.745	2.5	9.8	129.533	125	3.6264	0.112	0.125	-10.4			
47	MESA 0.05	MESA 0.0	MESA 0.05	5.435	5	8.7	260.644	250	4.2576	0.258	0.25	3.2			
48	MESA 0.1	MESA 0.1	MESA 0.1	10.131	10	1.31	498.784	500	-0.2432	0.513	0.5	2.6			
49	MESA 0.25	MESA 0.2	MESA 0.25	24.36	25	-2.56	1,228.36	1250	-1.7312	1.241	1.25	-0.72			
50	MESA 0.5	MESA 0.5	MESA 0.5	48.752	50	-2.496	2,477.14	2500	-0.9144	2.502	2.5	0.08			
51	MESA 0.75	MESA 0.7	MESA 0.75	74.652	75	-0.464	3,741.86	3750	-0.21707	3.687	3.75	-1.68			
52	MESA 1.0	MESA 1.0	MESA 1.0	100.964	100	0.964	5,021.86	5000	0.4372	5.03	5	0.6			
54	MESA 0.1	MESA 0.1	MESA 0.1	9.922	10	-0.78	490.925	500	-1.815	0.499	0.5	-0.2			
21	STD 0.25_	STD 0.25	STD 0.25	24.993	25	-0.028	1,265.61	1250	1.2488	1.244	1.25	-0.48			
43	STD 0.05_	STD 0.05	STD 0.05	5.054	5	1.08	251.291	250	0.5164	0.251	0.25	0.4			
34	N2_NEON	N2	N2	0.089			18.996								
56	N2_NEON	N2	N2	0.018			19.971								

Figure 7. Quality Check spreadsheet: Tab "QC"

- D. Sample Concentrations and Sample data on third tab ("DATA") (Fig.8)
 - A. Report concentrations only in ppmv for all three analytes per sample
 - B. Copy paste data from sample manifests to the right of the data, match sample ID with LabSample numbers and NEON barcodes.
 - 1. Double check all sample information is correct, highlight a minimum of 10% sample data that has been cross checked in green.
 - C. Use Excel's "conditional formatting" function located on the home sheet to identify any duplicate barcodes, LabSample numbers or sample ID names.
 - D. Copy/paste sample concentrations and information into 4th tab ("dataTable") (Fig.9)



Figure 8. Raw data spreadsheet: Tab "DATA"



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Analysis C Vial	Lab Sam	pl File Name runID	concentra	concentra	oncentra Sample Cc Sample ID Sampl	e CcLab Proce:\	olume A Remarks Pr	recision Pri	ecision Pr	ecision CH	4Certifi CO2	Certif N20	OCertif Ch	4Check CC	2Check N2	OCheckStandard	PercentDev
20250415	8922	B922_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.436	525.983	0.335 A0000046: WALK.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8923	B923_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	4.187	837.326	0.343 A0000046 WALK.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8924	B924_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.998	481.337	0.34 A0000046 WALK.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8925	B925_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	3.118	589.443	0.341 A0000046 WALK.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8926	B926 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.583	789.344	0.363 A0000046 CRAM.c0.; ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8927	B927_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	3.917	771.463	0.599 A0000046 CRAM.c0.; ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	20250415
20250415	8928	B928 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.693	500.815	0.362 A0000046 URO.c0.20 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	1
20250415	8929	B929 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	7.59	695.823	0.394 A0000046 URO.c0.20 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.
20250415	8930	B930 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.785	486.227	0.343 A0000046 PRLA.c0.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.
20250415	8931	B931 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	8.721	489,593	0.292 A0000046 PRLA.c0.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	-0.
20250415	8932	B932 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.801	457.187	0.333 A0000046: MART.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	-1
20250415	8933	B933 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.459	450.994	0.346 A0000046 MART.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	-0.
20250415	8934	B934 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2,706	452.108	0.363 A0000046 MART.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8935	B935 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	3.308	729.206	0.373 A0000046 MART.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	B936	B936 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	3.076	737.353	0.512 A0000046 MART.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8937	B937 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	3.265	725.777	0.368 A0000046 MART.ss.2 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8938	B938 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.862	464.734	0.347 A0000046! MCRA.ss.1 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8939	B939 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.622	523.251	0.349 A0000046! MCRA.ss.1 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8940	B940 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	2.515	458.933	0.336 A0000046 MCRA.ss.1 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	1.1	0.5	0.4	
20250415	8941	B941_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	3.139	462.145	0.338 A0000046! MCRA.ss.2 ok	LWard	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	B942	B942_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.441	470.205	0.339 A0000046! MCRA.ss.2 ok	LWard	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8943	B943_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.986	572.18	0.372 A0000046! MCRA.ss.2 ok	LWard	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8944	B944_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	3.076	564.881	0.37 A0000046 MCRA.ss.2 ok	LWard	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8945	B945_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.619	548.4	0.556 A0000046 MCRA.ss.2 ok	LWard	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8946	B946_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.816	758.405	0.364 A00000445 CARLSS.20 ok	LWard	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8947	B947_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	8.003	1,742.99	0.446 A0000044! CARLss.20 ok	LWard	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8948	B948_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.368	551.164	0.366 A0000046(TOOK.c0.2 ok	LWard	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8949	B949_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.823	563.745	0.355 A0000046(TOOK.c0.2 ok	LWard	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8950	B950_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.525	607.019	0.359 A0000046(TOOK.c0.2 ok	LWard	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8951	B951_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.628	1,426.77	0.412 A0000046(TOOK.c0.2 ok	LWard	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8952	B952_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.34	821.916	0.358 A0000046I BIGC.ss.20 ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8953	B953_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	9.617	1,262.46	0.375 A0000046(BIGC.ss.20 ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8954	B954_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.963	560.935	0.418 A0000046(TECR.ss.2(ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8955	B955_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.758	1,152.30	0.503 A0000046(TECR.ss.2(ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8956	B956_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.626	785.964	0.337 A0000046 CRAM.c0. ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8957	B957_NEON2025_GHG_04 NEON202	2.691	796.388	0.334 A0000046 CRAM.c0. ok	L.Ward	1 N2O:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	
20250415	8958	B958 NEON2025 GHG 04 NEON202	3.087	1.041.79	0.313 A0000046 CRAM.c0.; ok	L.Ward	1 N20:NEOI	1.7	1.3	1.9	2	2	2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.2	

Fig.9 Raw data spreadsheet: Tab "dataTable"

- E. Copy/paste check standard information into 5th tab (batchTable) (Fig. 10)
 - A. %RSD is calculated in batchTable tab
 - B. Copy/paste %RSD values only onto the dataTable tab and update %RSD (Fig. 7-right side of spreadsheet)
 - 1. There should be 2 sets for each analyte or 1 check standard per 20 samples. Update samples accordingly
 - a. ie: 1st 20 samples use the 1st set, the 2nd 20 samples use the 2nd set, etc

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nalysisDa	qaRefe	ereri	runID	instrume	analyte	standard1	qa_qc_ID	standardC	standardk	analyteU	n analytical	analyteQ	remarks	analyzed	reviewedB	у	
0250415	MESA_	0.0	NEON202	SHIMADZ	METHANE	CHECK ST	STD 0.05	5.054	5	PPMV	1	. 0	N2O:NEO	L.WARD		1.1	
20250415	MESA_	0.0	NEON202	SHIMADZ	CARBON I	CHECK ST.	STD 0.05	251.291	250	PPMV	1	. 0	N2O:NEO	L.WARD		0.5	
20250415	MESA	0.0	NEON202	SHIMADZ	NITROUS	CHECK ST.	STD 0.05	0.251	0.25	PPMV	1	. 0	N2O:NEO	L.WARD		0.4	
20250415	MESA_	0.1	NEON202	SHIMADZ	METHANE	CHECK ST	STD 0.1	9.922	10	PPMV	1	. 0	N2O:NEO	L.WARD		-0.8	
20250415	MESA_	0.1	NEON202	SHIMADZ	CARBON I	CHECK ST.	STD 0.1	490.925	500	PPMV	1	. 0	N2O:NEO	L.WARD		-1.8	
20250415	MESA_	0.1	NEON202	SHIMADZ	NITROUS	CHECK ST.	STD 0.1	0.499	0.5	PPMV	1	. 0	N2O:NEO	L.WARD		-0.2	

Figure 10. Raw data spreadsheet: Tab "batchTable"



- F. Go to 6th Tab ("QACHK") (Fig.11) and initial check boxes
 - A. Quality Assurance requires 2 analysts initials before submitting to NEON
 - B. 10% sample to ID match
 - 1. Check "Data" tab, highlight a minimum of 10% that have been checked and passed
 - 2. Run "conditional formatting" to find duplicates for SampleID, Sample Barcodes and LabID.
 - 3. Review check standards are highlighted in green
 - a. Also review that the %RSD matches for dataTable and batchTable tabs
 - 4. Check that nitrogen blank samples are below the method detection limits
 - a. CH4: 0.2 ppmv
 - b. CO2: 40 ppmv
 - c. N2O: 0.05 ppmv

	. 0.00 P	7111	
	INITIAL 1	INITIAL 2	
10% SAMPLE to ID MATCH	⊔W	MAB	
DUPLICATE CHECK (none)	⊔W	MAB	
CHECK STANDARD (<5%)	⊔W	MAB	
BLANK CHECK (<mdl)< td=""><td>⊔W</td><td>MAB</td><td></td></mdl)<>	⊔W	MAB	
		MDL (PPMV)	
	CH4	0.2	
	CO2	40	
	N2O	0.05	

Figure 11. Raw data spreadsheet: Tab "QACHK"

XIII. Data Reporting for NEON

A. NEON requires data to be submitted via an ingest process on their webbased data portal. Per sample dissolved gas concentrations are reported using the perSample_Dissolved Gas template CSV file. In addition to the CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O concentrations determined for each sample, this template requires an estimate of run precision for each gas. This is calculated using a minimum of 3 replicate values from the run (check standards) as the coefficient of variation, CV%) calculated as:

$$CV\% = \left| \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - \mu)^2}}{\mu} \right| \times 100\%$$

Additionally, the template requires each standard gas' certified accuracy (as % on the gas certificate, as well as the check standard deviation for each gas).

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- B. NEON requires QA data to be submitted for each analysis batch using the template file batchQA_Dissolved Gas CSV file. This includes the observed concentration and known concentration values for each of the gas check standards run for a given batch.
- C. NEON requires submission of long-term method and QA data (annually in January, or more often if there is a change in analytical standards or SOP). This information is submitted using the Lab Summary_Dissolved Gas CSV template. For each gas, it includes the method detection limit (MDL) calculated as the standard deviation times the t-value from a one-sided t-distribution at the 99% level. Use a minimum of seven replicates of a low-level check standard from across three or more runs to make this calculation. For 7 replicates, the t-value is 7-1 = 6 degrees of freedom = 3.14.

XIV. Troubleshooting

- A. Possible Problems
 - A. Unidentified peaks
 - 1. Peaks eluting at random retention times
 - B. Asymmetrical/multi peak/Fronting or Trailing peaks
 - C. No peaks
- B. Possible Solutions
 - A. Replace septum
 - B. Bake out column
 - C. Clean FID injector

XV. Changing the septum

- A. All temperatures must be below 50 degrees
- B. Zero pressure in gas lines
- C. Unscrew injection port ring
- D. Carefully remove widget
- E. Pull out septum
- F. Put new septum in
- G. Replace widget
- H. Screw on metal ring
 - A. Tighten all the way
 - B. Back off ½ turn