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## COQA Presentation – Maxxam Analytics

Heavy Oil, Oil Sands and Crude by Rail Testing

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# Presentation Overview

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- Summary
  - Brief Overview of Maxxam Analytics International Corp.
    - Size, scope and general capabilities
  - Heavy Oil and Oil Sands Testing
    - Unique attributes for heavy oil and oil sands testing
    - Impacts on analytical testing
  - Crude By Rail Sampling and Testing
    - Observations

# Company Overview

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- 2,500 employees
- >75% possess technical degrees
- 520 Diplomas
- 756 Bachelor Degrees
- 192 Masters Degrees
- 30 PhDs



**40 Locations**  
**18 Laboratories**  
**9 Outsourced Laboratories**  
**12 Service Centers**  
**Receiving and Processing:**  
• 2,300,000+ samples  
• 41,000,000+ results



# Serving our core markets

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Energy



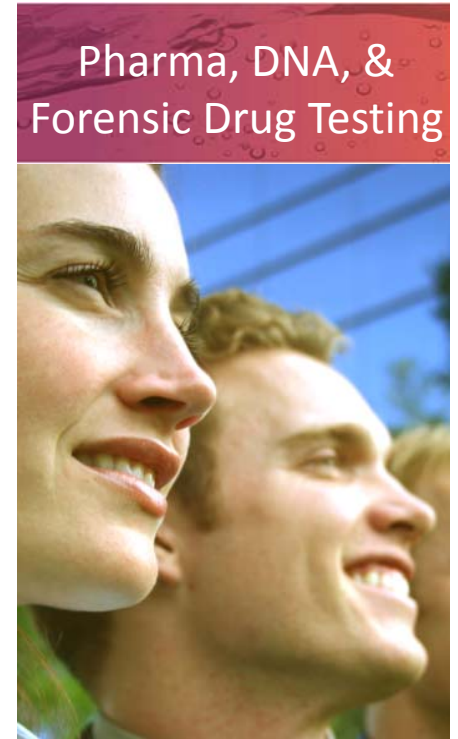
Environment



Food

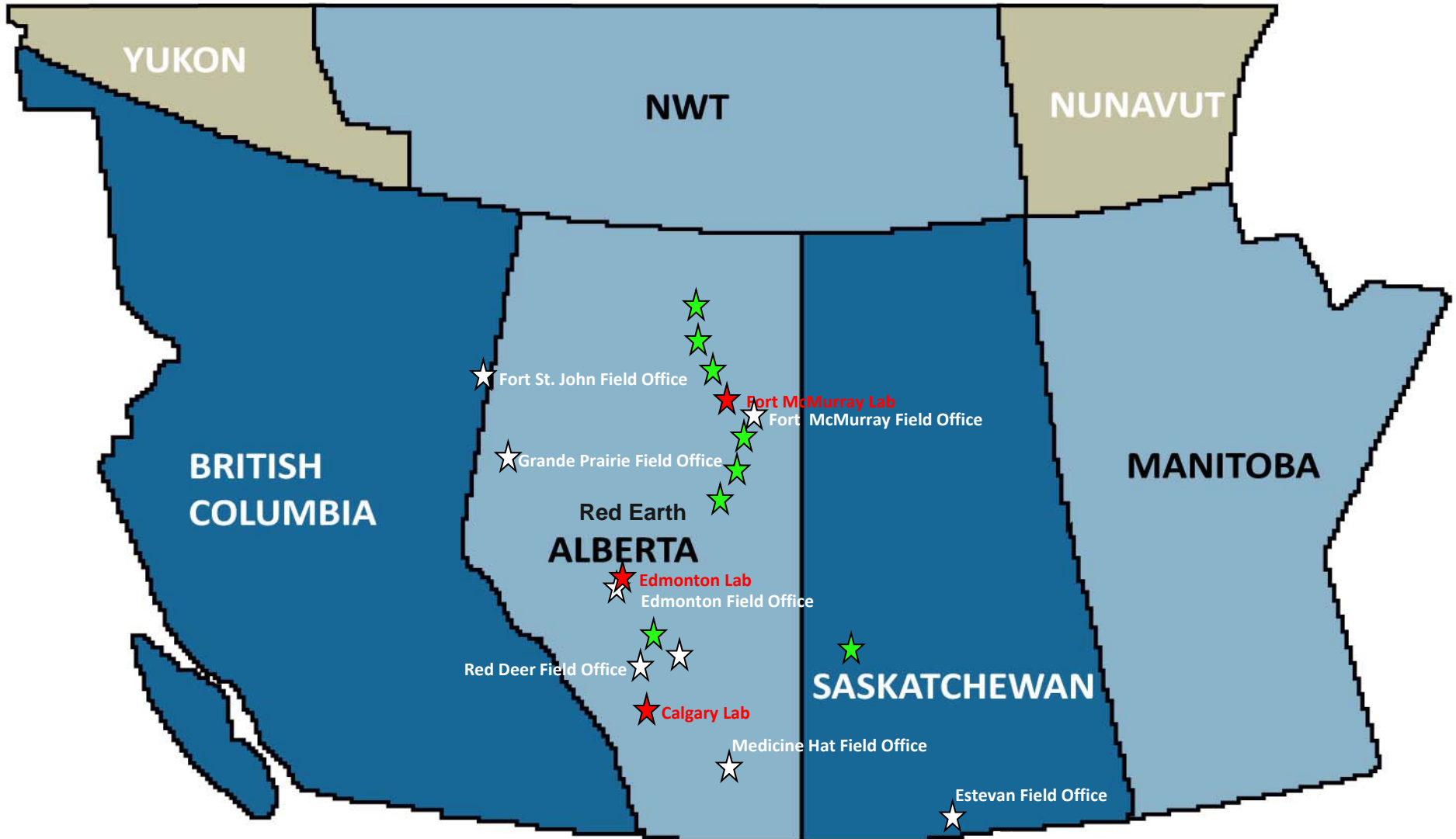


Pharma, DNA, &  
Forensic Drug Testing



# Maxxam Operations Locations

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# Petroleum Technology & Capabilities

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## Petroleum Technology Center – 54,000 ft<sup>2</sup> laboratory space

- Continued and significant investment into science and advanced technology
- Advanced Natural Gas and LPG/NGL GC systems
- Includes Carbon Isotope Analysis (Well abandonments)
- Exclusive Laboratory for Crude Oil Assay & Bitumen Valuation for the Government of Alberta
- Oil sands batch extraction
- Tailings characterization and analysis
- Fuel testing (Diesel, ethanol, aviation, biofuel and coal)
- Crude Oil by Rail testing



# Heavy Oil and Oil Sands Derived Bitumen

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- Attributes of Heavy Oil and Oil Sands derived material is significantly different than that of conventional crude oils
  - Density
  - Pour Point
  - Water content
  - Sulphur
  - Acid Number (TAN)
- Unique sample matrices sometimes require the combinations of multiple cleaning techniques, such as centrifuging and distilling to obtain representative “clean” samples
- Unique matrices also demand modifications and alterations to existing standard methods (CCQTA testing method work)

# Maxxam Bitumen Preparation Techniques

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Selection of the cleaning method is based on the various industrial processes used in bitumen production

- **Heavy oils produced by cold flow** could be sufficiently cleaned by **high-speed or ultra-speed centrifuging**
- **Oil sand, core samples, mined bitumen froth samples** that contain relatively high solids will require sample **solvent extraction (hot or cold)** for separation of solids and water from the remaining bitumen
- **SAGD bitumen/water emulsion** usually contain very little solid material that has a negligible effect on required tests. Bitumen prepared by removing water through the **distillation process**



# Centrifuging – Heavy Oils

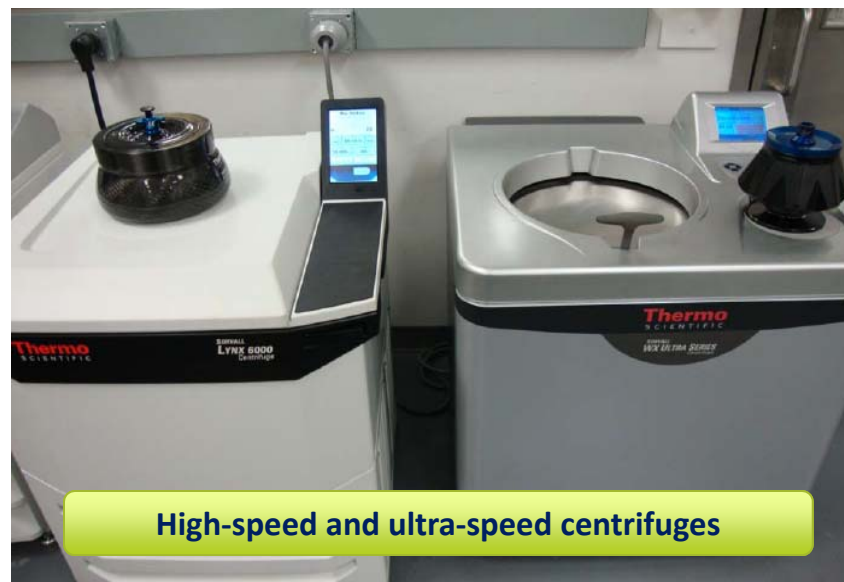
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## Pros

- No altering of the physical properties of the bitumen
- No solvent addition
- Minimal light ends losses

## Cons

- Time consuming process
- Sample size limitation
- Does not entirely remove water and sediment
- Possibility for hydrocarbon stratification due to super speeds



# Dehydration of Bitumen by Distillation

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## Pros

- Light ends lost in the process are mostly recoverable and could be remixed with bitumen
- No solvent addition (bitumen stays native)

## Cons

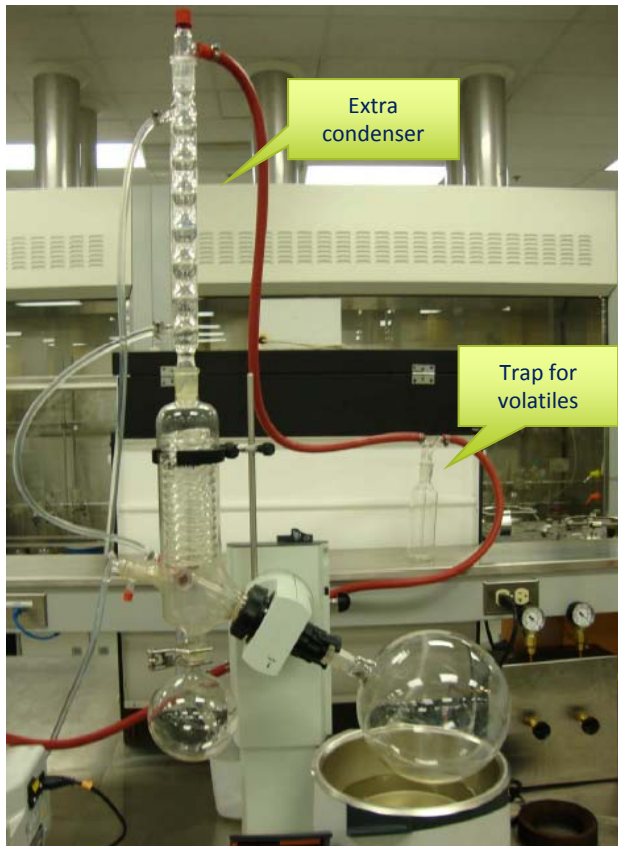
- Partially lost light ends
- Risk of bumping during process
- Sediment and salt will be concentrated in bitumen
- Expensive and time consuming cleaning process



Vacuum  
distillation unit

# Bitumen Dehydration by Rotovap

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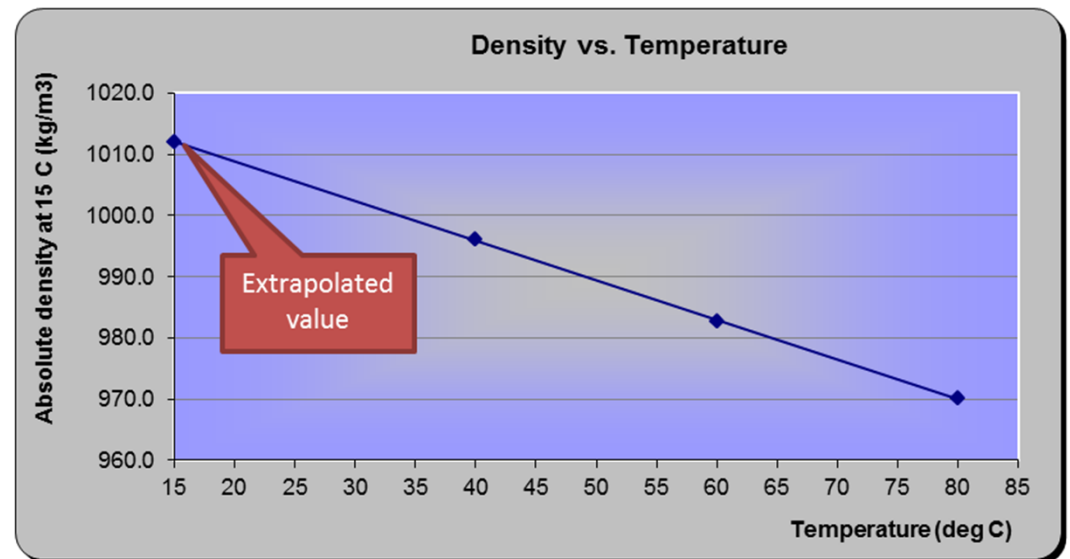
- Rotovaps used instead of vacuum distillation
- Modification implemented for the best performance



# Bitumen Density Measurement Challenges

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- Need for more accurate density measurement of bitumen
- The samples are too viscous to be injected in the instrument at 15°C
- API density conversion tables are not applicable for bitumen matrix
- Density measurements at elevated temperatures ( 40, 60 and 80°C) and extrapolation to 15°C provide reliable results
- This method is in use by industry and is in the process to be adopted as industry standard



# Crude by Rail General Observations

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- Lots of activity within Western Canada
  - Relative inexperience and knowledge gap at many levels
- Undefined quality requirements
  - What to test for and how often?
- Under appreciated safety requirements
- No rail transloading facility design is the same
  - Presents unique sampling challenges and unique sampling techniques



# Typical Specification

	Quality Test Name	ASTM	Units	Tariff Restrictions
Operational Concerns	Density @ 15C	D1298/5002	kg/m3	940 kg/m3
	Kinematic viscosity at 10, 20, 30 C	D 445	cSt	350 cSt @10°C
	Reid vapor pressure	D 323A	KPa	103 kPa
	Sediment and Water	D 2007	Vol%	<0.5
	Organic Chlorides	D4929	wppm	<1
Operational Concerns	Hydrogen sulfide	D5623	wppm	Safety Concern
	Volatile mercaptan sulphur	D5623	wppm	
	BTEX	GC-FID	wppm	
	Pour point	D5853	C	Refinery Concerns
	Salt Content	D3230	ptb	
	Olefins	NMR	mass%	
	Vanadium	Plasma Analysis	ppm	
	Nickel	Plasma Analysis	ppm	
	Phosphorus	Plasma Analysis	ppm	
	Iron	Plasma Analysis	ppm	
	Silicon	Plasma Analysis	ppm	
	TAN	D 664	mgKOH/g	
	MCR	D4530	Wt%	
	HTSD % recovered (vol%) from IBP to FBP	Extended D5307	C	
	Total sulphur	D2622/4294	mass%	

- Crude by rail objectives should be identical or similar to pipeline objectives
- Crude by rail spec should be more strict than pipeline spec
- What to producers typically test for?

# Sampling – Crude by Rail

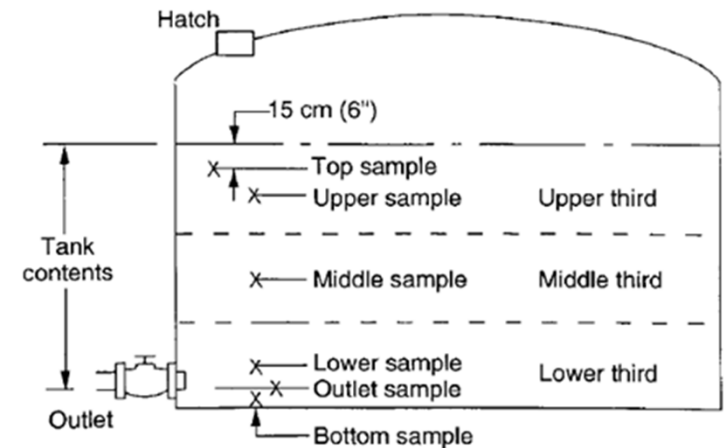
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- Sample - a portion extracted from a total volume that **may** or **may not** contain the constituents in the same proportions that are present in that total volume
- Sampling - the steps required to obtain a sample for analysis that is **representative** of the contents of any pipe, tank, or other vessel
- Crude oils are usually nonhomogeneous - concentration of entrained water is higher near the bottom of the vessel (i.e.. Bottom of a truck)
- Automatic sampling is recommended whenever samples of crude oils are required for custody transfer measurements
- Representative sample (% of rail cars loaded) of manifest and unit trains (ex. 1 in 10, 1 in 20)

# Sampling Procedures

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- Sampling of crude oils from rail cars is not very well defined by ASTM and API
- ASTM D4057 “Standard Practice for **Manual** Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products”
- ASTM D4177 “Standard Practice for **Automatic** Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products”
- ASTM D5842 “Standard Practice for Sampling and Handling of Fuels for **Volatility Measurement**”
- Consideration: **Are there a significant differences in sampling between tank and rail car?**



Picture source: ASTM



# Sample Handling

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- ASTM D5854 “Practice for Mixing and Handling of Liquid Samples of Petroleum and Petroleum Products”
- Representative samples of crude oils are required for the determination of parameters used for establishing standard volumes, prices, and compliance with regulatory specifications
- Care and effort are required to maintain compositional integrity of samples from collection to testing
  - Need to minimize light end or component loss for RVP, H<sub>2</sub>S, light ends, density etc.
- Tank car sampling recommendation - Sample the product after the car is loaded or obtain a mid flow sample

# Transport Canada – Protective Direction 31

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- Transport Canada release – October 17, 2013
  - Protective Direction 31 released
- Focus is on Crude Oil transported by Rail
  - The requirement is focused on rail transportation but includes road transport for Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)
- Ambiguous requirements for TDG testing and Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) requirements
  - States Classification 3 Packing Group 1 for all crude oil unless supported by safety data sheet
  - Infers new/updated safety data sheets (MSDS) required for products after July 7, 2013

# Crude by Rail Testing

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- Rail car transportation is regulated by the Railway Safety Act, the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and MSDS of products

## 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

<b>Physical State:</b>	Liquid	<b>Odour &amp; Appearance:</b>	Dark Brown, hydrocarbon-like
<b>Odour Threshold (ppm):</b>	Not Available	<b>Specific Gravity:</b>	0.7 – 0.8
<b>Vapour Density (air=1):</b>	2.5 -5.0 (estimated)	<b>Vapour Pressure (mmHg):</b>	280-360 @ 20°C
<b>Evaporation Rate:</b>	Not Available	<b>Boiling Pt. (°C):</b>	-40 to 530
<b>Freezing Pt. (°C):</b>	<-60	<b>pH:</b>	Not Available
<b>Coefficient of Water/Oil Distribution:</b>	<0.1	<b>Percent Volatiles, (v/v):</b>	15 - 30 (estimated)

**TDG Classification:** 3

**Flash Point (°C) & Method:** <-35 (PMCC)

**Auto-Ignition Temp. (°C):** 250 (estimated)

**Upper Explosive Limit (% v/v):** 8 (estimated)

**Lower Explosive Limit (% v/v):** 0.8 (estimated)


- Rail companies are being required to have more detailed analytical data about the crude oil load
- Increased business of moving crude by rail also increases risk

# Conclusion

## Crude Oil by Rail

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- Need for consistent and detailed sampling procedure for rail cars that are applicable for all types of crude oil transported by rail
- Staff have to be familiar with crude oil loading practices and proper sampling procedures
- Be in control - test the product that are you hauling
- Based on testing, choose the products and blends that are going to ensure safe transport and problem-free unloading



Thank you  
Questions?

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