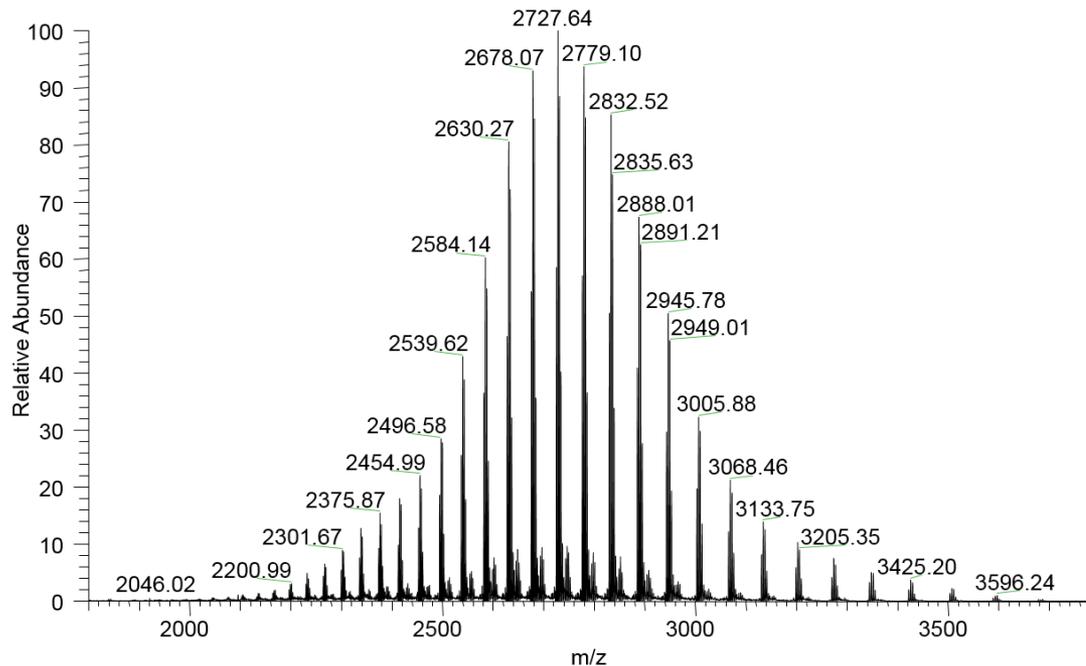




Protein analysis using mass spectrometry

Michael Stadlmeier





Literature

<http://www.carellgroup.de/teaching/master>

www.carellgroup.de/teaching/master

TC THOMAS CARELL

HOME RESEARCH * T. CARELL PEOPLE * TEACHING * PUBLICATIONS EPIGENETIC TOOLS Contact

TEACHING MASTER

++++ The lecture "Basics of Cloning" on Mon, 18.12. will take place as planned. ++++

CARELL GROUP – Teaching Scripts for Master

Enzyme und Kofaktoren – (SS)

Vorlesung Coenzyme

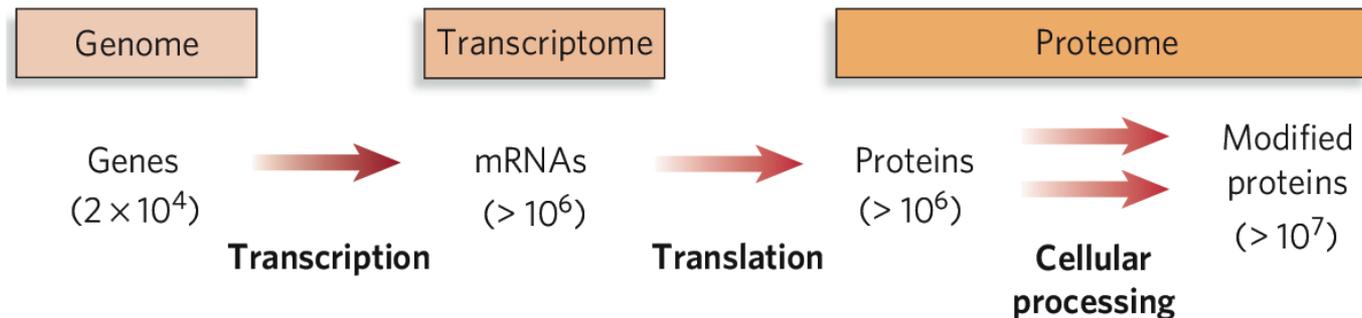
[Download Script as PDF](#)

What is Proteomics?



The proteome is:

- the entire set of proteins in a given cell at a certain time
- highly dynamic
- very complex



→ Mass spectroscopy is ideally suited for proteomics!

Outline



1) Mass spectrometry in general

- 1) What is MS?
- 2) Why MS?
- 3) Definitions

2) Mass spectrometer

- 1) Principles
- 2) Details

3) Applications

- 1) Intact proteins
- 2) Protein Identification
- 3) Quantification

4) Research in Progress

Outline



1) Mass spectrometry in general

- 1) What is MS?
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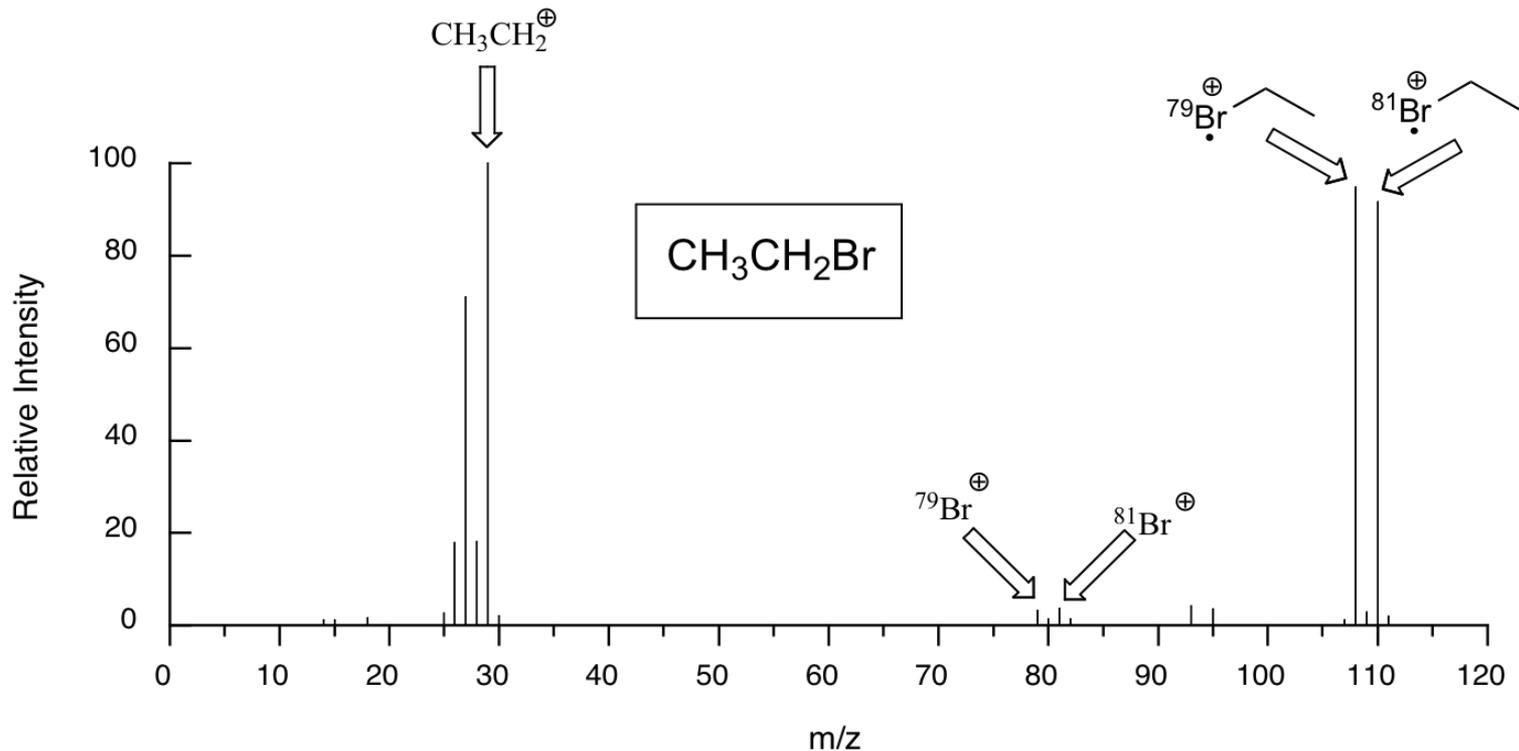
- 1) Intact proteins
- 2) Protein Identification
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4) Research in Progress

What's mass spectrometry



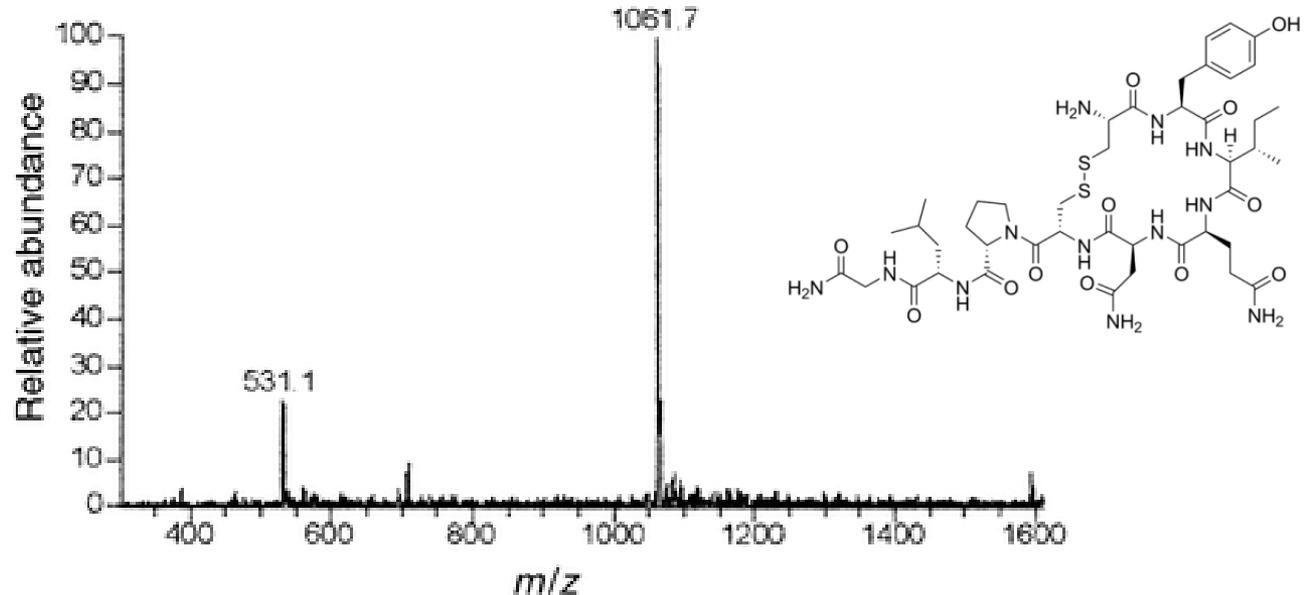
- A mass spectrum is a plot of the ion signal as a function of the mass-to-charge ratio
- identify type/amount of chemicals present in a sample by measuring the mass-to-charge ratio and abundance of gas-phase ions.



What's mass spectrometry



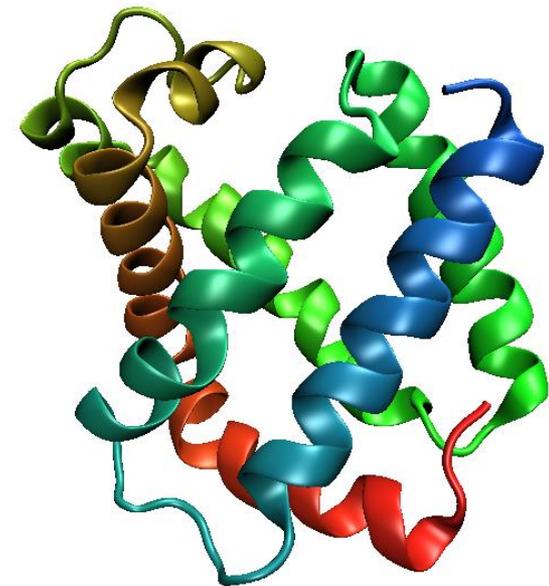
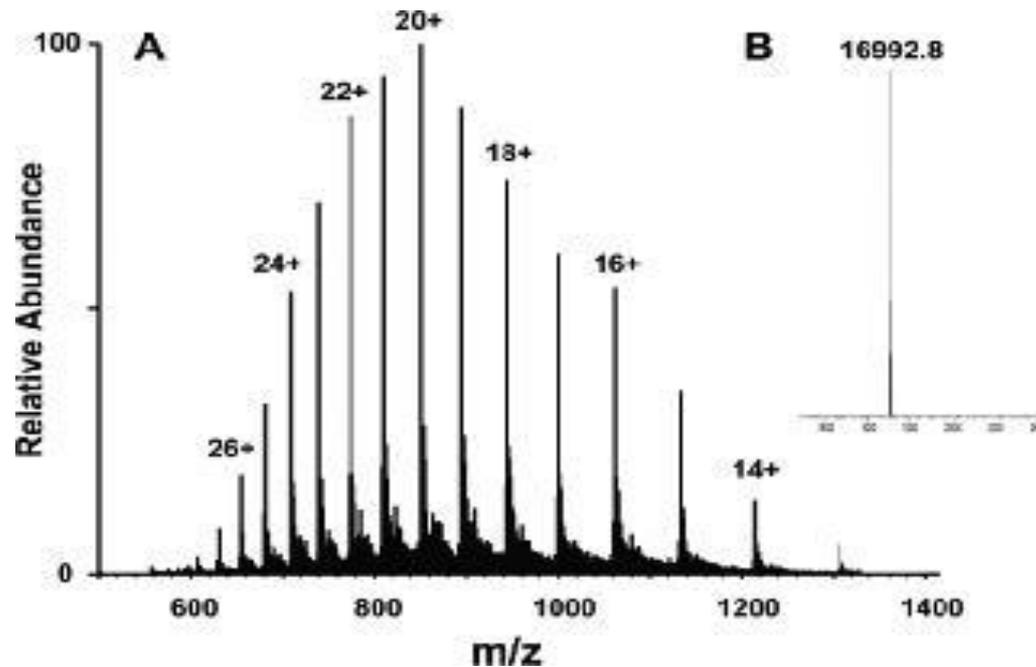
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What's mass spectrometry



- A mass spectrum is a plot of the ion signal as a function of the mass-to-charge ratio
- identify type/amount of chemicals present in a sample by measuring the mass-to-charge ratio and abundance of gas-phase ions.



Why mass spectrometry?



- **Universal** detector: DNA, RNA, proteins, lipids, small molecules (compare to Edmann)
- Enables to **identify** and not only to detect (compare to immunoassays)
- Enables **quantification** if a standard/reference is introduced (compare to WB)
- Rather **easy** method (compare to crystallography)
- Fast easy data interpretation (compare to NMR)
- **Sensitive** down to attomoles (compare to SDS-PAGE)
- ...

Important! Take a good look at it for the exam preparation ;)



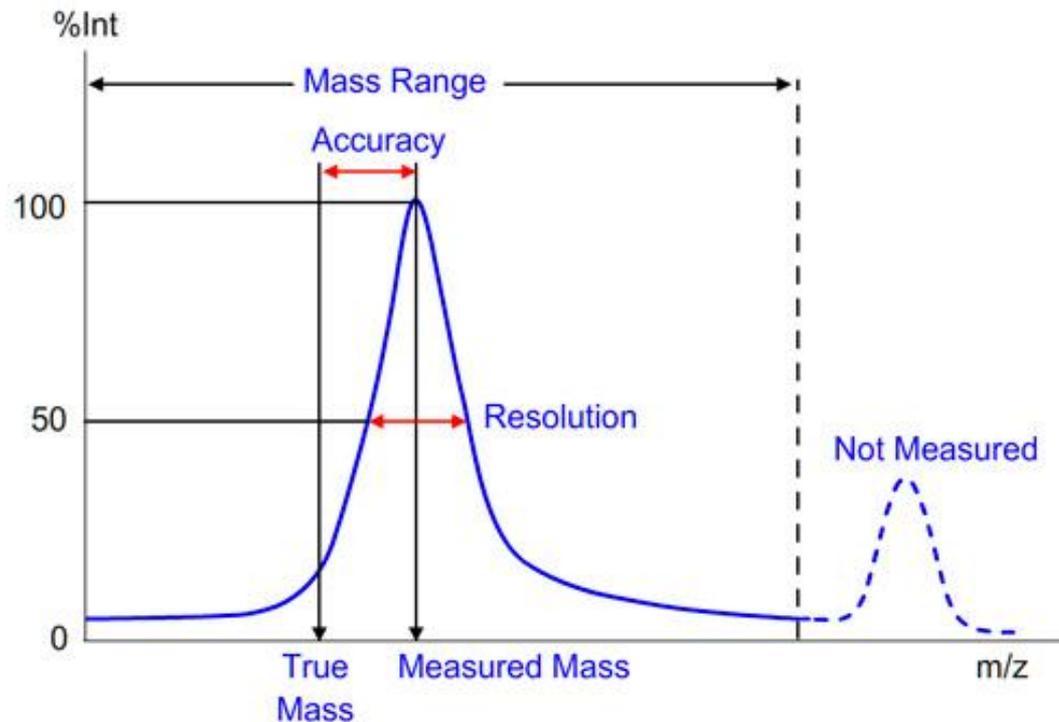


Definitions: Accuracy, Mass Range, Speed

Mass Accuracy is the determined difference between the calculated (true) exact mass and the measured mass. [difference often in parts per million (ppm)]

The **Mass Range** is the m/z range in which ions are detected.

The **Speed** is defined by the number of spectra per unit time.





Quality of mass spectrometers

The quality of a mass spectrometer can be defined by:

- Resolution
- Mass accuracy
- Sensitivity
- Scan speed
- Mass Range
- Price and Reliability 😊

Outline



1) Mass spectrometry in general

- 1) What is MS?
- 2) Why MS?
- 3) Definitions

2) Mass spectrometer

- 1) Principles**
- 2) Details**

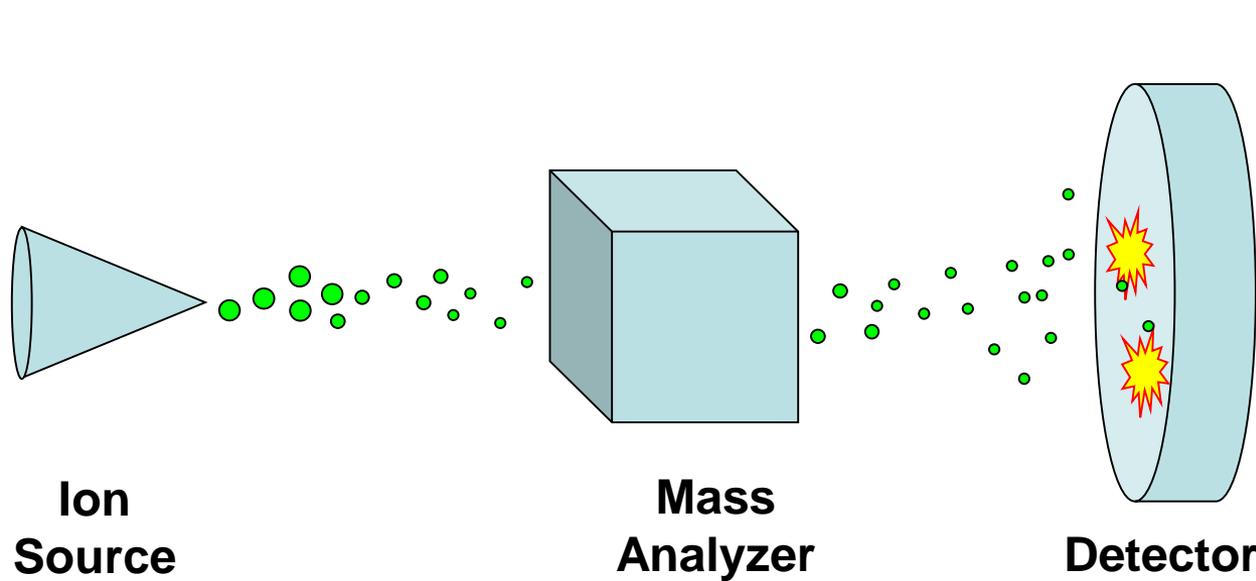
3) Applications

- 1) Intact proteins
- 2) Protein Identification
- 3) Quantification

4) Research in Progress



Components of a mass spectrometer



Inlet
Target plate
HPLC / nLC
GC
others

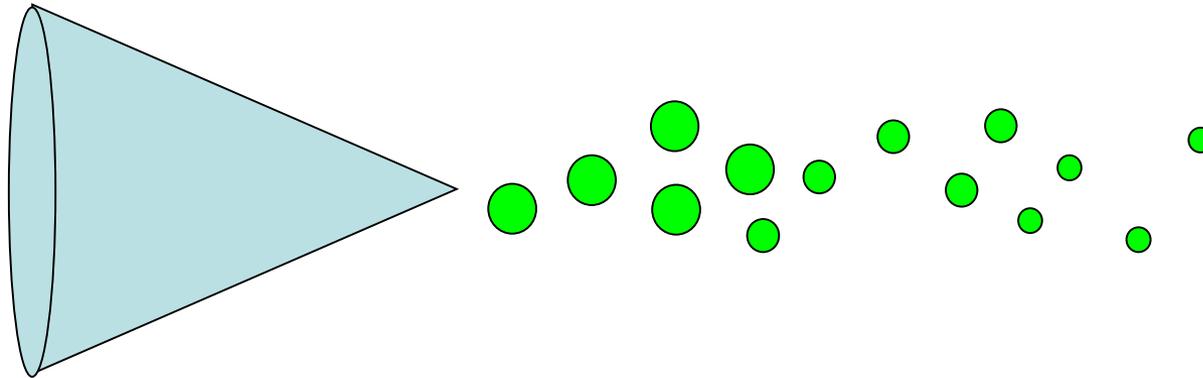
Ionizer
MALDI
ESI

TOF
sector
Quadrupole
Ion Trap

Electron Multiplier
Array Detector
Orbitrap
FTMS



Ionisation



Ionizer

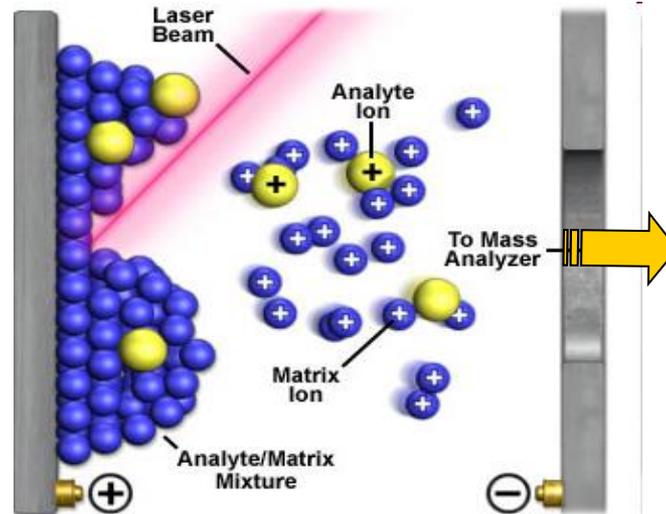
MALDI
ESI



MALDI

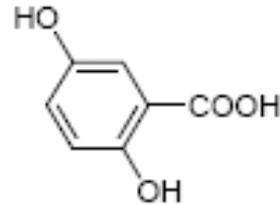
(Matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization – time of flight)

- Sample ionization by a laser beam
- Fast/easy/robust (e.g. “Biotyper” in clinics)
- Matrix absorbs the laser energy and desorbs the samples
- Perfectly suited for biopolymers

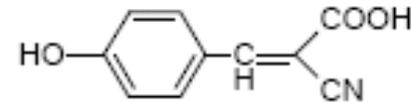




Matrices:



2,5 dihydroxy benzoic acid

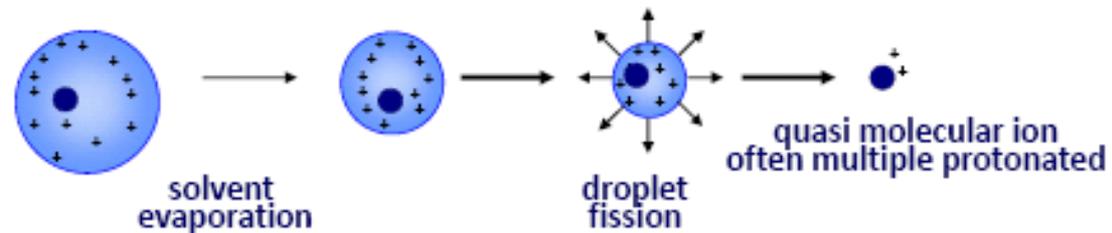
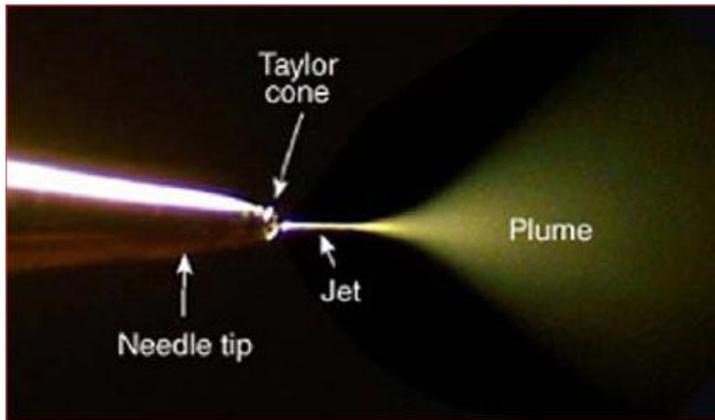


α -cyano-4-hydroxy cinnamic acid

Compound	Other Names	Applications
2,5-dihydroxy benzoic acid	DHB, Gentisic acid	peptides, nucleotides , oligonucleotides, oligosaccharides
3,5-dimethoxy-4-hydroxycinnamic acid	sinapic acid; sinapinic acid; SA	peptides, proteins, lipids
4-hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamic acid	ferulic acid	proteins
α -Cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid	CHCA	peptides, lipids, nucleotides
Picolinic acid	PA	oligonucleotides
3-hydroxy picolinic acid	HPA	oligonucleotides

ESI (Electrospray Ionization)

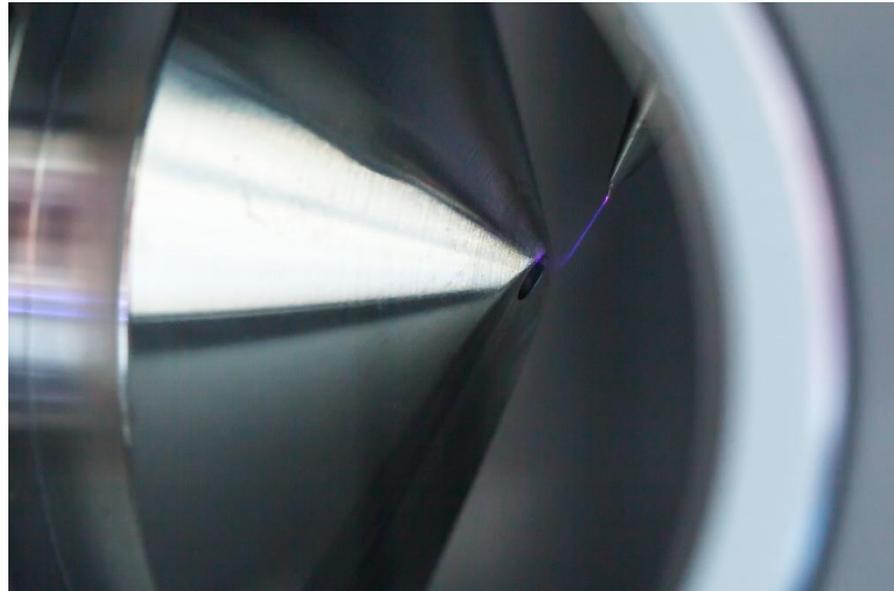
- at needle mm-sized droplets are formed
- *via* drying gas and/or a heated capillary the droplets evaporate until nm-sized droplets remain
- through further solvent evaporation or ion emission quasi molecular ions are formed that are often multiple charged (protonated)



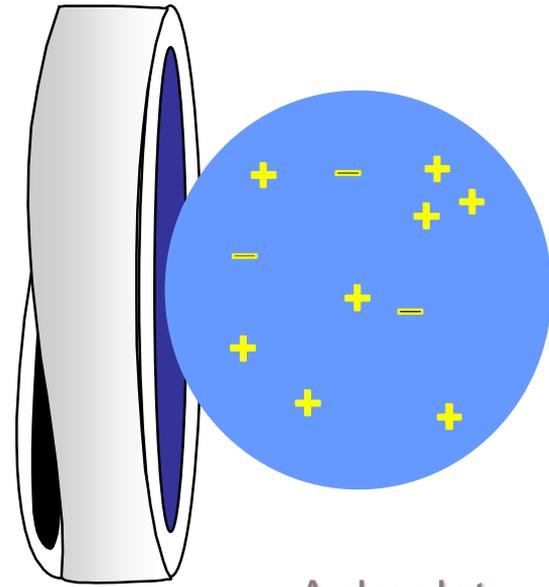
ESI

(Electrospray Ionization)

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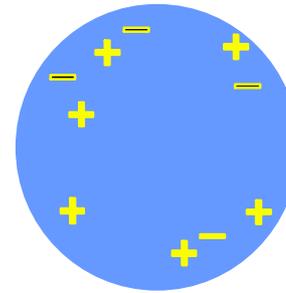


ESI (Electrospray Ionisation)

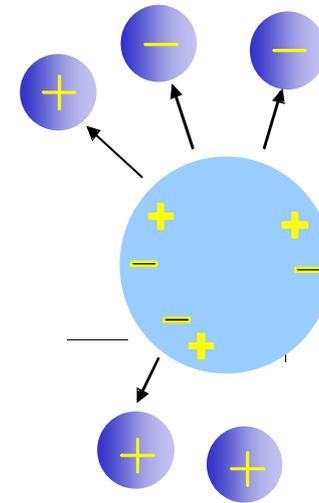


Capillary
+4 kV

A droplet containing (mostly positive) ions is formed.



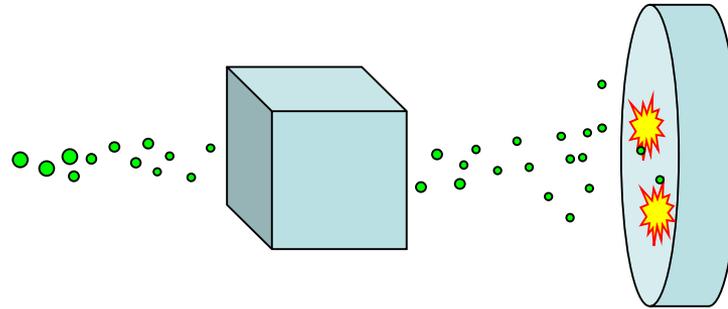
As the solvent evaporates, the field increases and the ions move to the surface.



At the Rayleigh limit the droplet becomes unstable and releases smaller ion droplets.



Mass analyzer/detector



Mass Analyzer

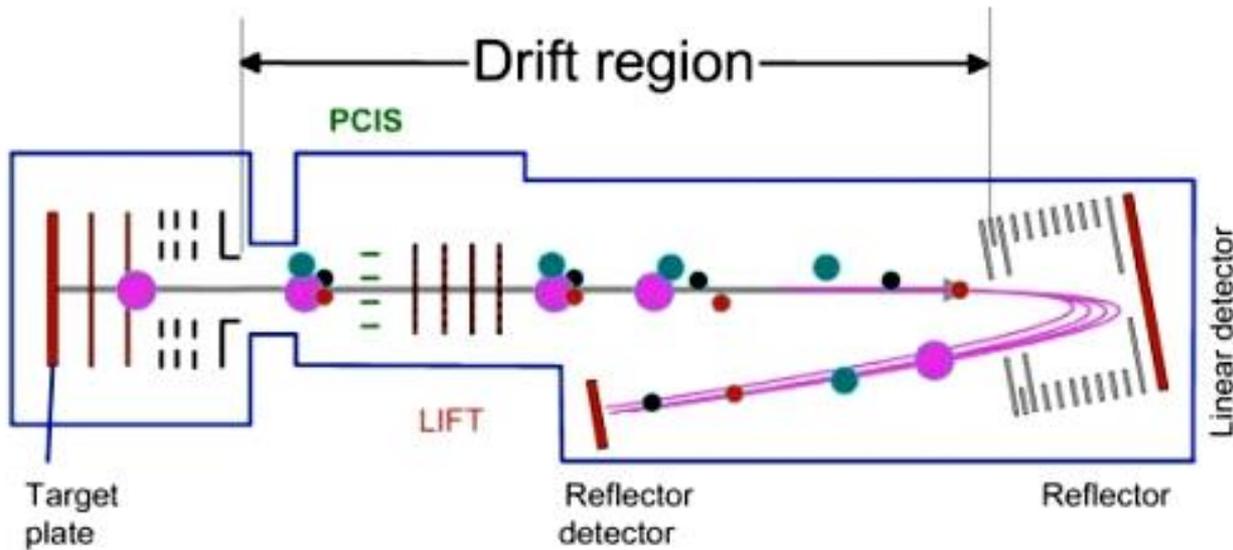
Detector

TOF
sector
Quadrupole
Ion Trap

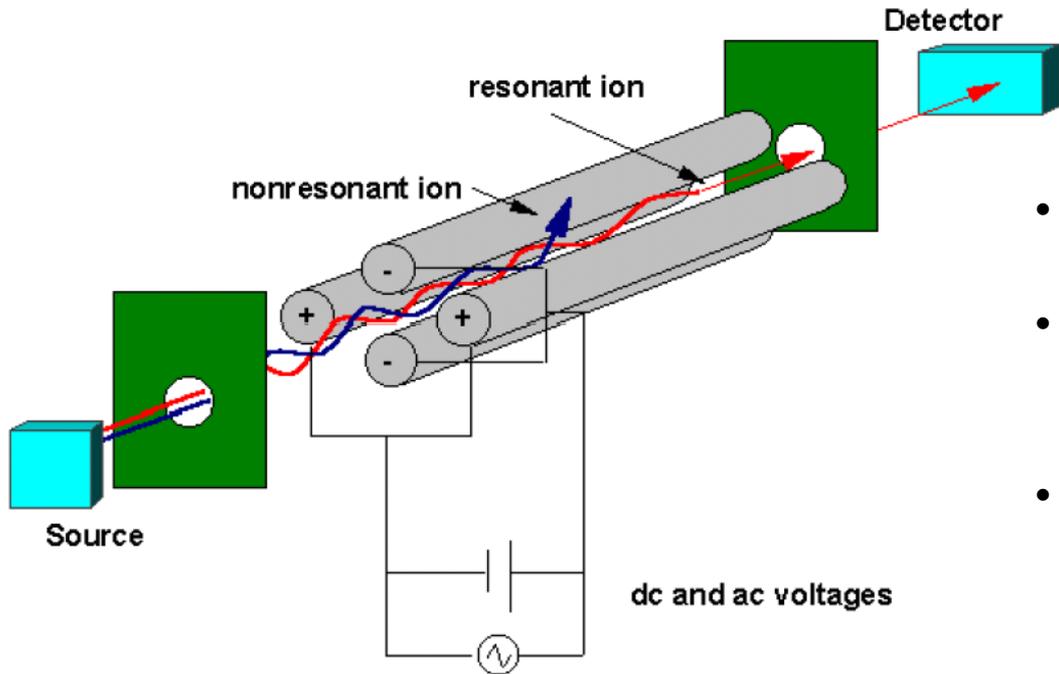
Electron Multiplier
Orbitrap
FTMS



TOF (Time of Flight)



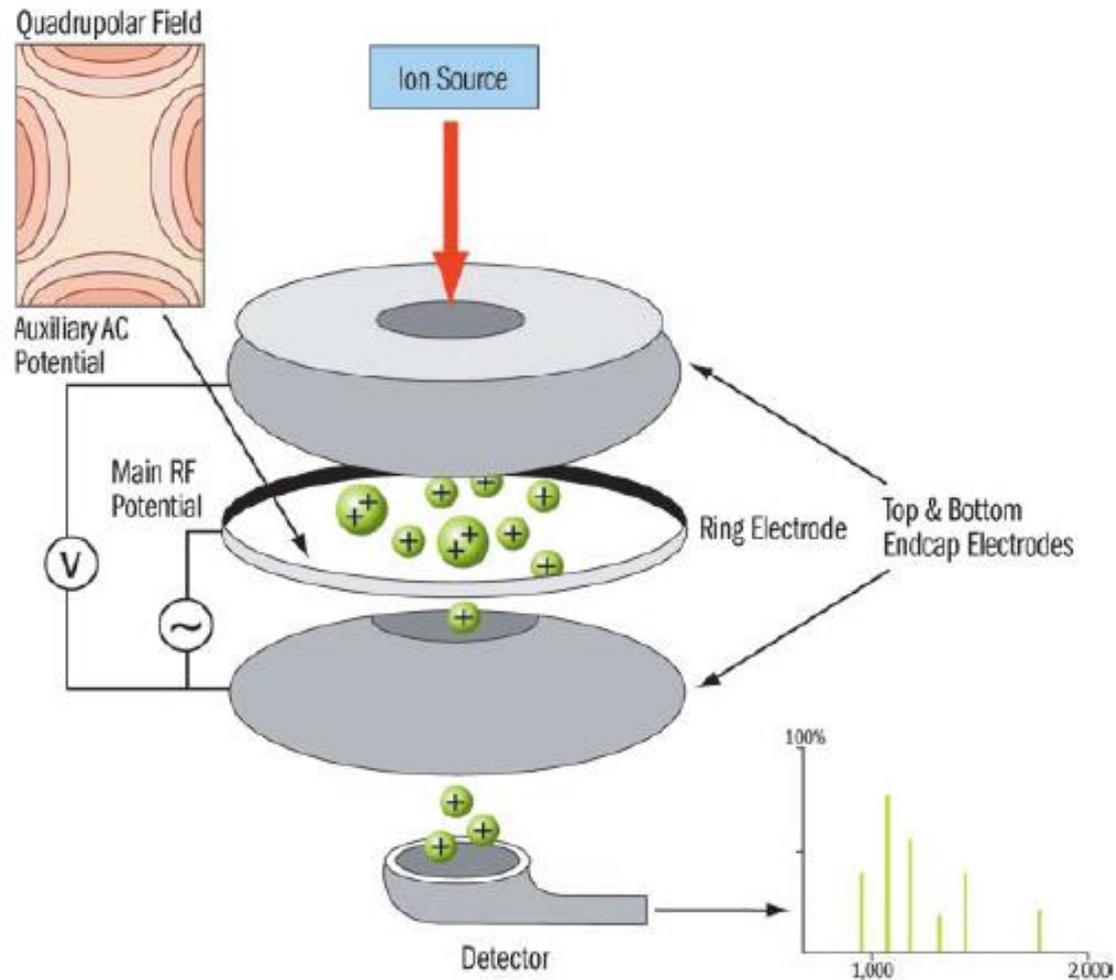
Quadrupole



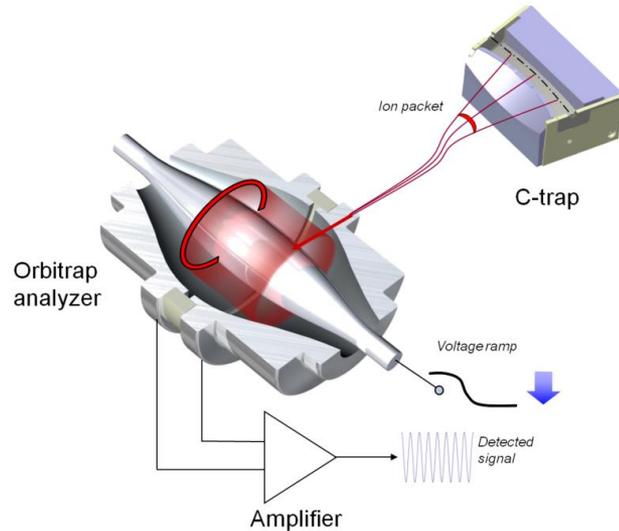
- quadrupole consists of 4 metal rods
- to opposing rods, a certain radio frequency (RF) voltage is applied
- only ions with a certain m/z -ratio are „resonant ions“ and have stable trajectories through the quadrupole
- to generate a mass spectrum, the voltage is changed and the whole mass range gets scanned and detected

Ion Trap

Ion traps are ion trapping devices that make use of a three-dimensional quadrupole field to trap and mass-analyze ions invented by Wolfgang Paul (Nobel Prize 1989)
Offer good mass resolving power, and MS^n capability.



Orbitrap analyzers/detectors



- ion trap with no magnetic or RF-fields → trapping around cylindrical central electrode (@ 5kV)
- voltage ramp while the ions are injected leads to stable spiral trajectories → principle of electrodynamic squeezing
- ions move along the central electrode with a certain frequency: electrostatic attraction VS centrifugal force; they “orbit” the central electrode in the form of ion rings
- the moving ions create an image current in the outer electrodes, which is amplified and measured



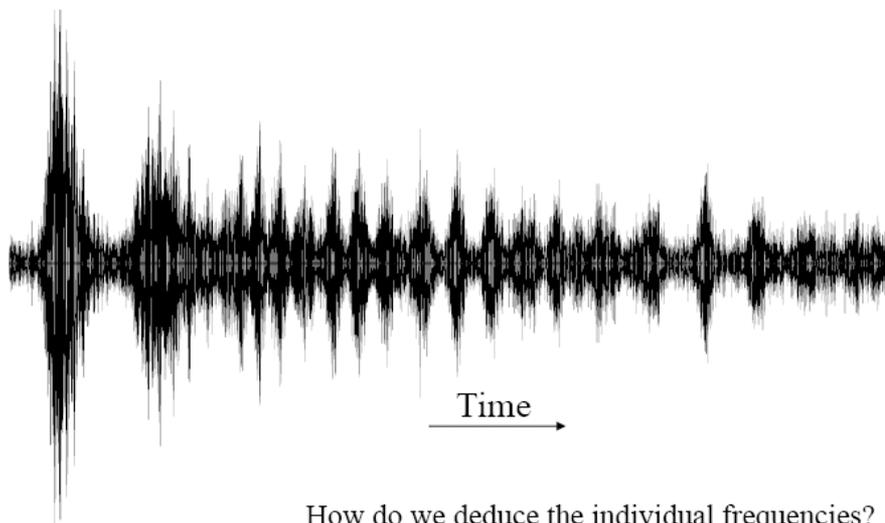
Fourier Transformation

Samples are typically not just 1 ion but several ions and on top there will be ions with several different m/z values.

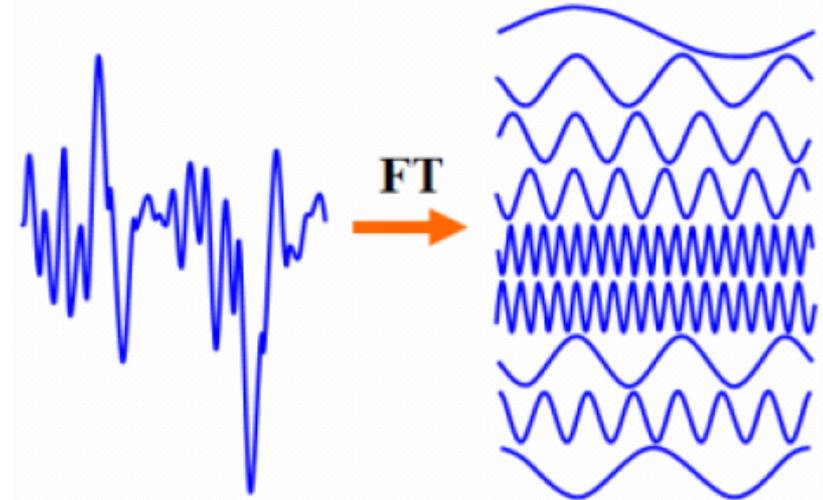
Luckily waves do not affect each other and so within the 'messy' image current, the waves are present intact.

Fourier transform is a mathematical technique which can deduce the frequencies present.

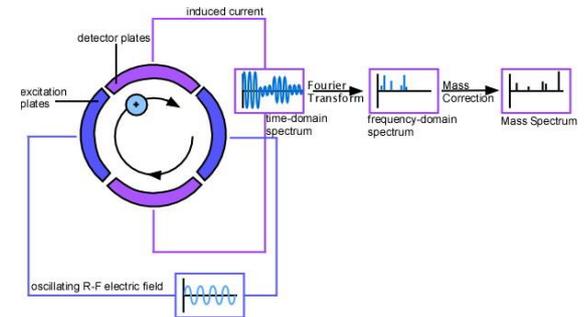
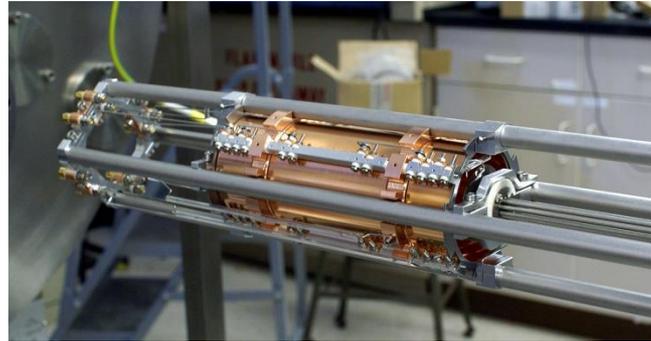
The measured frequencies are proportional to the m/z -ratio: $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m/z}}$



How do we deduce the individual frequencies?

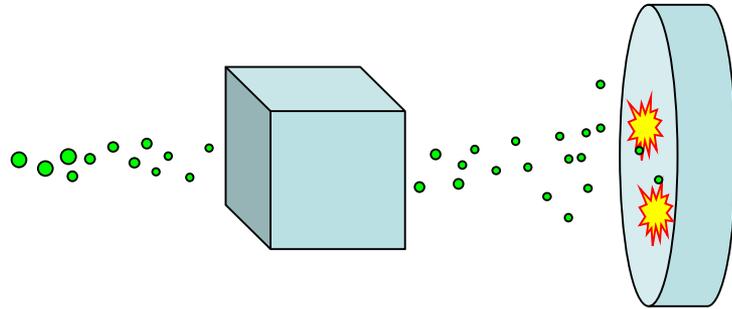


FT-Ion cyclotron resonance (FT-ICR)



- principle of operation is similar to the Orbitrap
- instead of electrical fields, a strong magnetic field is employed → He-cooling!
- the ions circle after excitation at their cyclotron frequencies (m/z -dependent)
- image current in the confining electrodes is detected and again, a mass spectrum is created by Fourier transformation

Mass analyzer/detector



Mass Analyzer

Detector

TOF

sector

Quadrupole

Ion Trap

Electron Multiplier

Orbitrap

FTMS

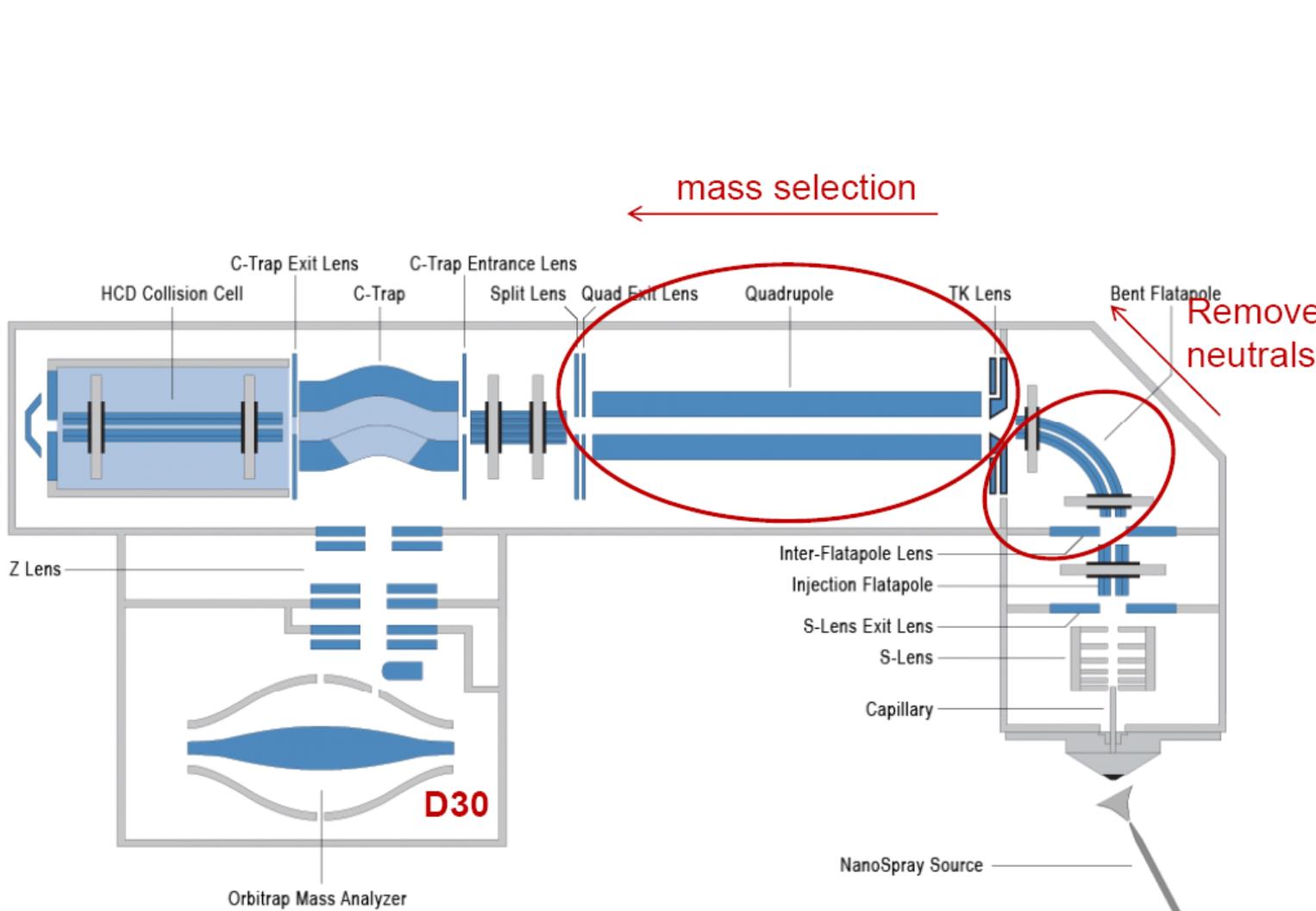
- Time-of-Flight Analyzer (TOF)
 - Good resolution, exact mass, fast, no upper m/z limit, costly
- Quadrupole Analyzer (Q)
 - Low resolution, fast, cheap
- Ion Trap Mass Analyzer (QIT)
 - Fair resolution, all-in-one mass analyzer
- Orbitrap (FTMS)
 - High resolution, exact mass, costly
- Ion Cyclotron Resonance (FT-ICR, FTMS)
 - Highest resolution, exact mass, very costly (liquid helium cooling)



→ most mass spectrometers combine different analyzers and detectors to give hybrid instruments and enable fragmentation experiments



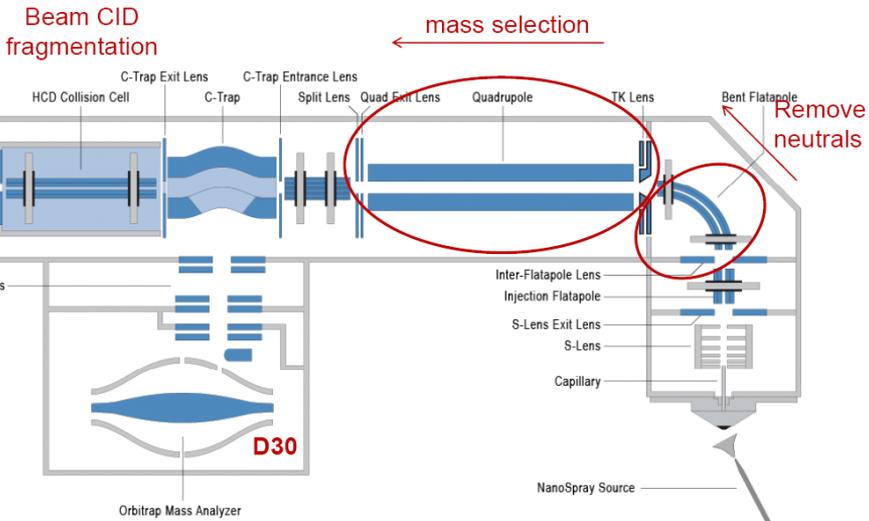
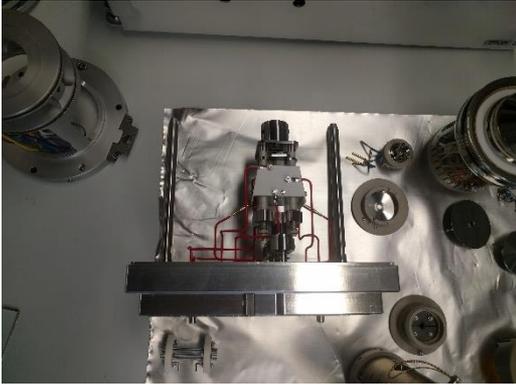
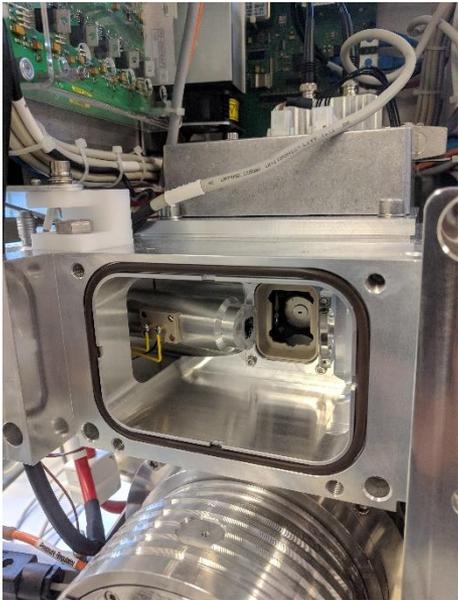
QExactive Operation Principle



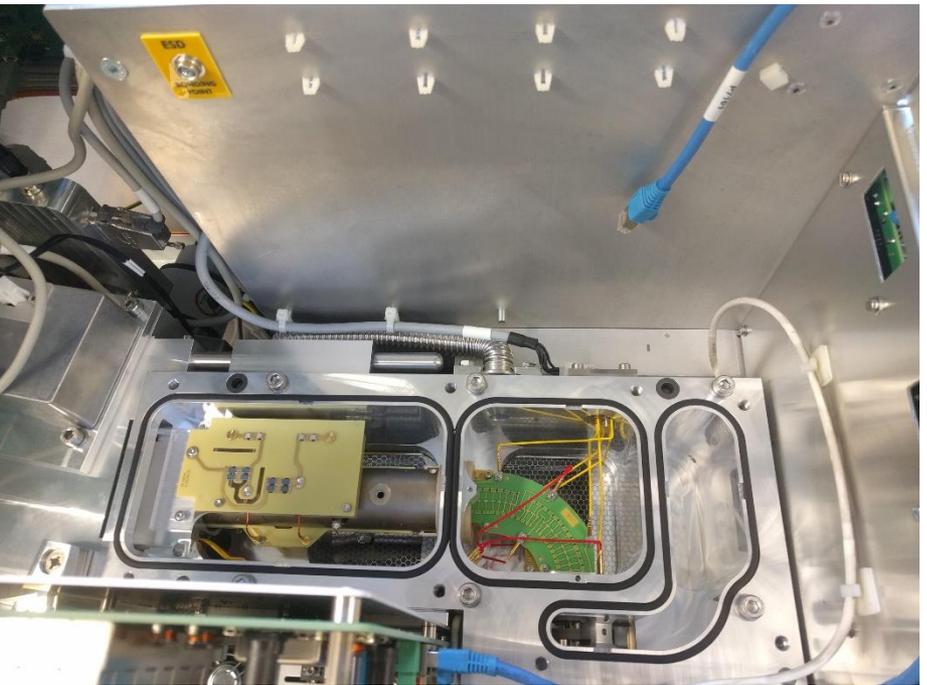
high resolution MS and MS/MS



QExactive Operation Principle

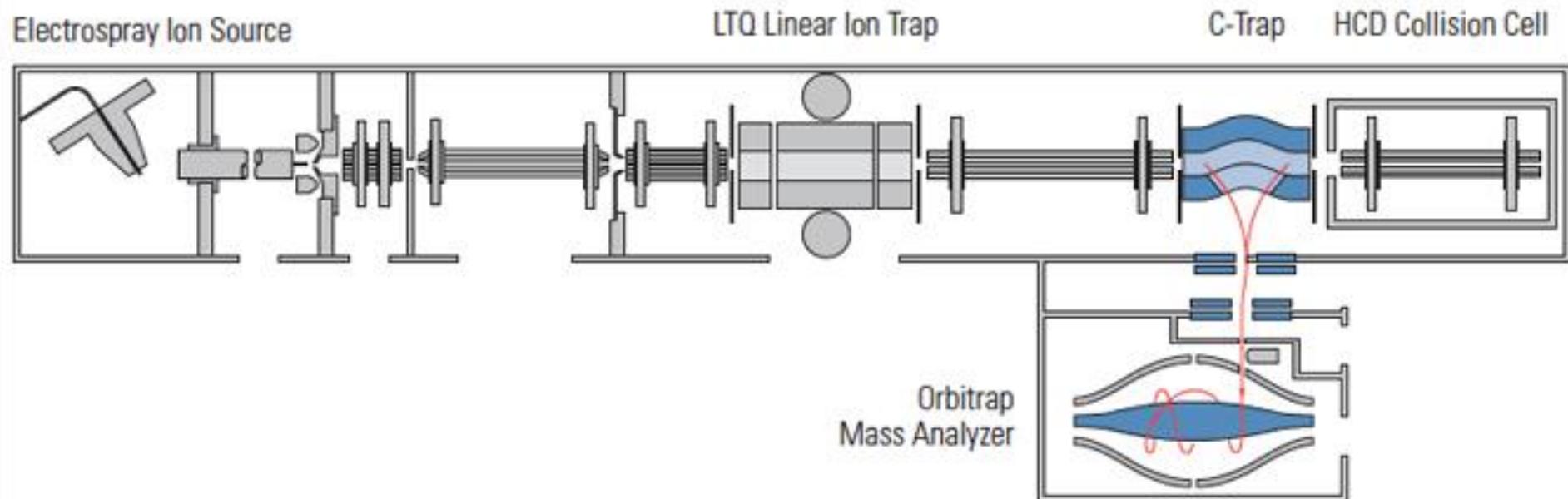


high resolution MS and MS/MS



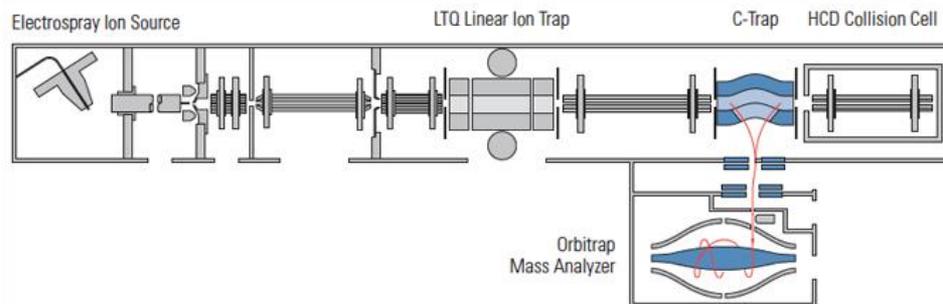


LTQ Orbitrap Operation Principle





LTQ Orbitrap Operation Principle

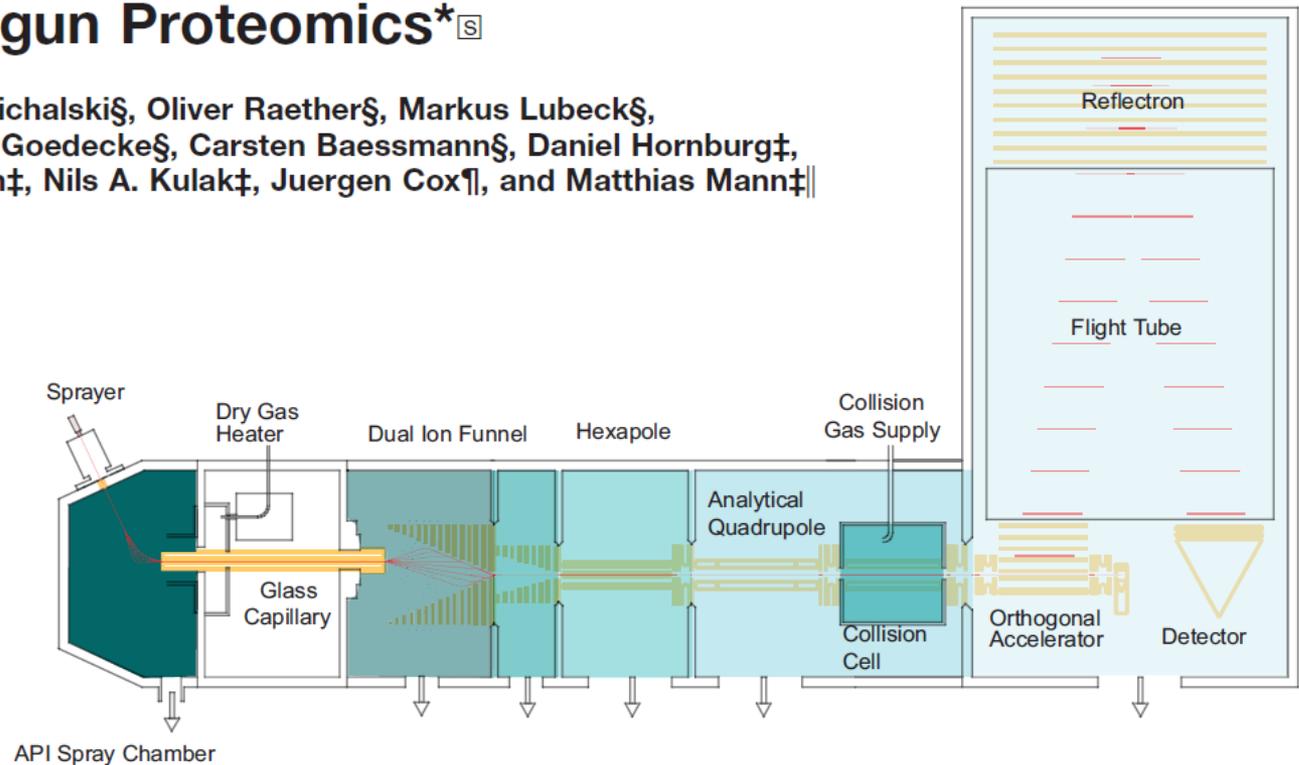




QTOF Operation Principle

The Impact II, a Very High-Resolution Quadrupole Time-of-Flight Instrument (QTOF) for Deep Shotgun Proteomics*

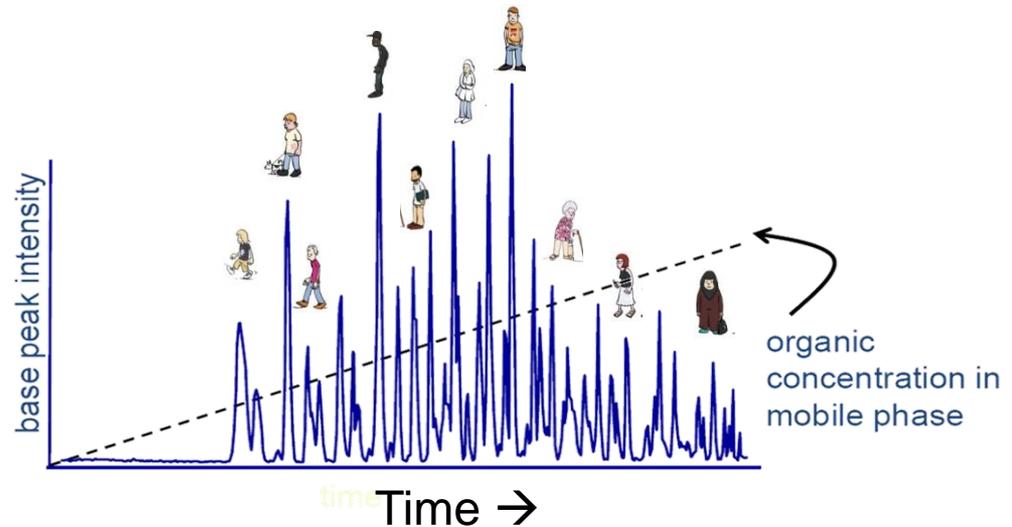
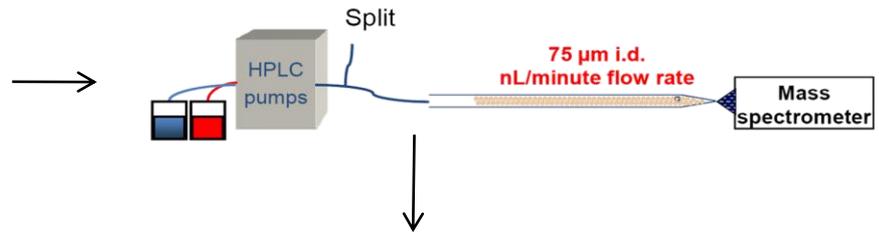
Scarlet Beck†, Annette Michalski§, Oliver Raether§, Markus Lubeck§, Stephanie Kaspar§, Niels Goedecke§, Carsten Baessmann§, Daniel Hornburg†, Florian Meier†, Igor Paron†, Nils A. Kulak†, Juergen Cox¶, and Matthias Mann†||





Liquid Chromatography coupled to MS – Why?

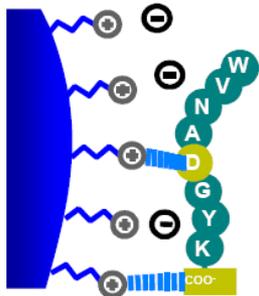
Because it makes life easier



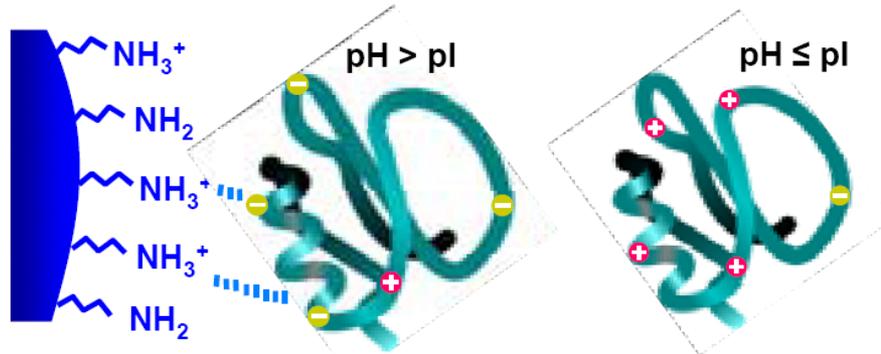


Liquid Chromatography

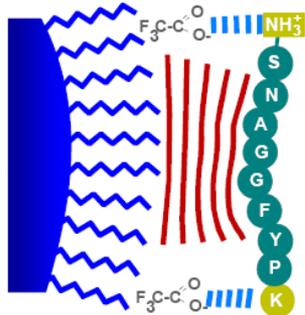
Chromatographic modes for proteins & peptides



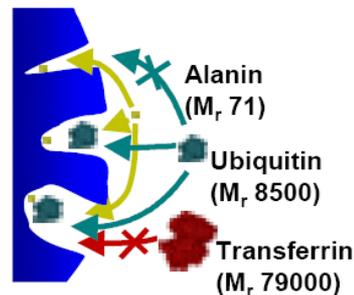
Ion exchange-HPLC:
salt gradient



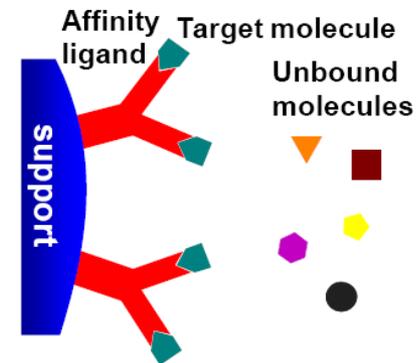
Chromatofocusing:
pH gradient



(ion-pair)-reversed-phase HPLC:
acetonitrile gradient (in trifluoroacetic acid)



Size exclusion-HPLC



Affinity chromatography:
pH- or salt gradient



Applications of Orbitrap spectrometers

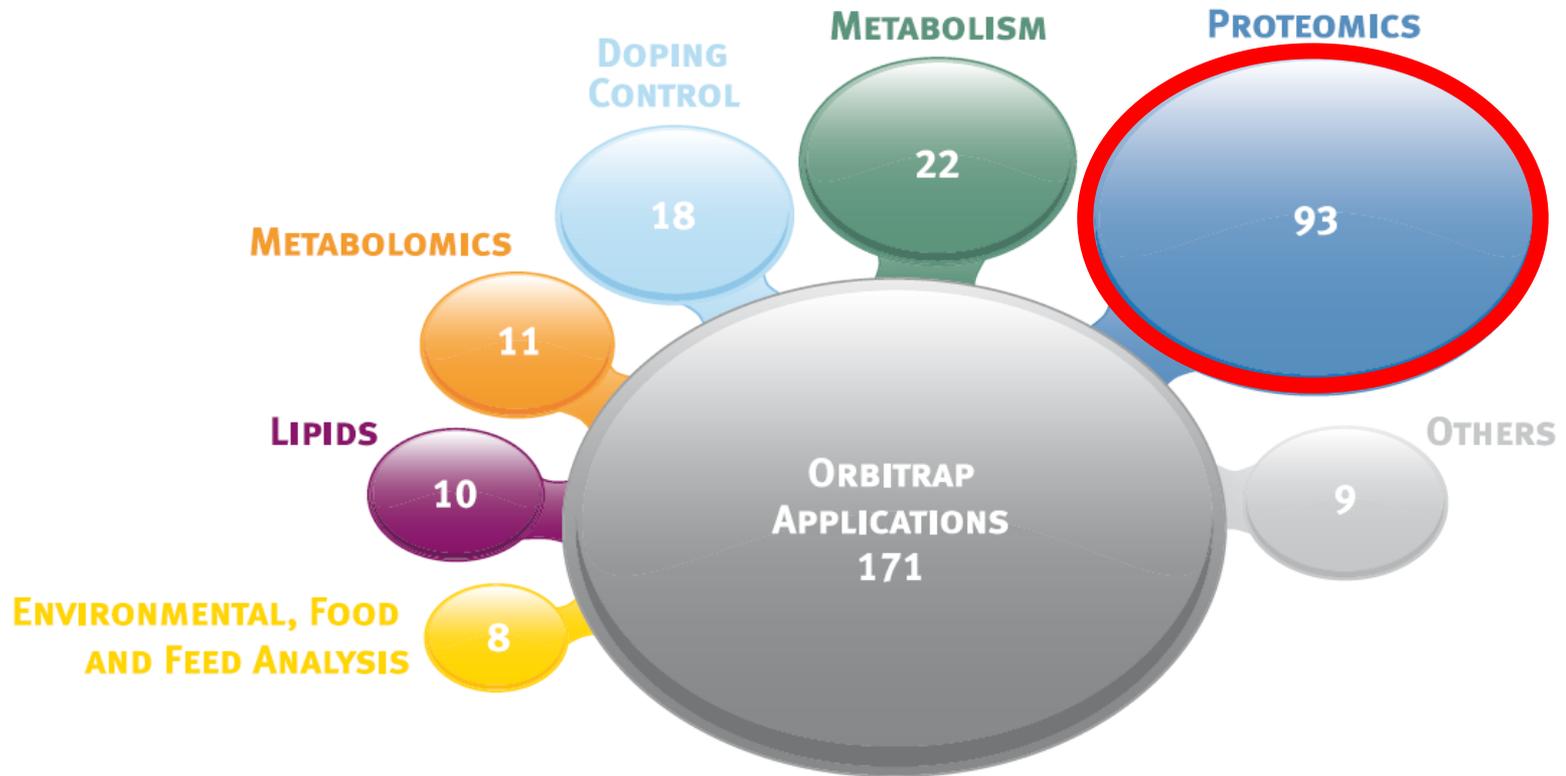


Figure 1. Representation of specific application areas using the Orbitrap mass analyzer in published peer-reviewed journals with the number of publications stated.

Outline



1) Mass spectrometry in general

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- 1) Intact proteins**
- 2) Protein Identification**
- 3) Quantification**

4) Research in Progress



Protein Analysis





Protein Analysis

Identification (of Proteins)

→ Based on MASS-TO-CHARGE-RATIO of ions (m/z)

Intact protein analysis (top-down approach)

→ Based on full length protein mass

digest

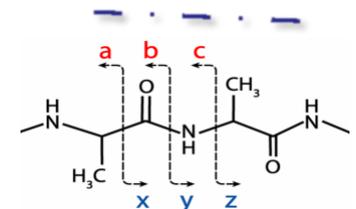
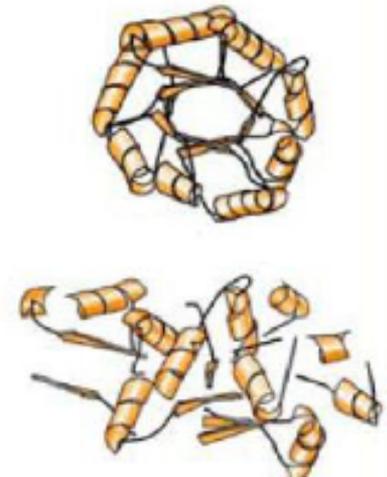
Peptide mass fingerprint (PMF)

→ Based on peptide masses

MS/MS

de novo sequencing / database search
(bottom-up approach)

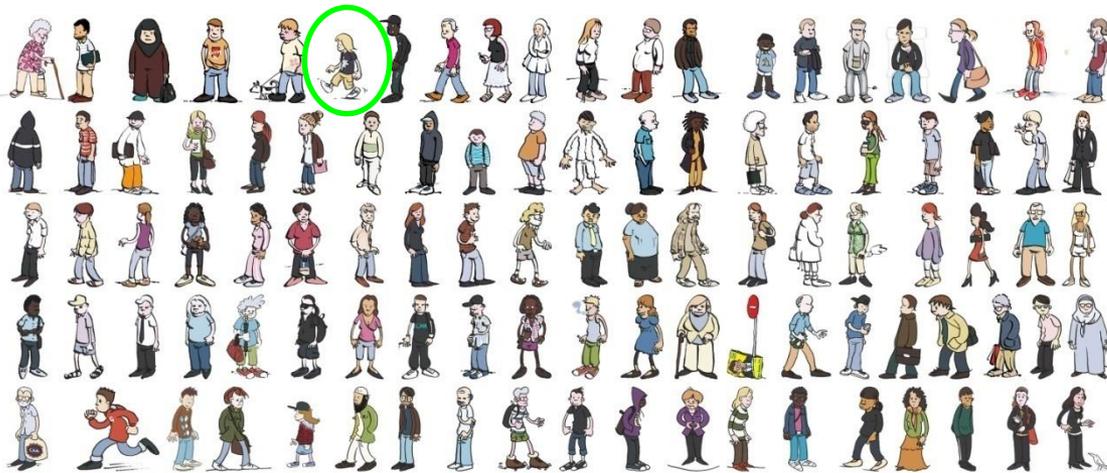
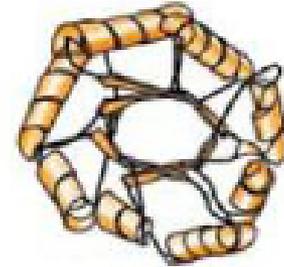
→ Based on amino acid sequence



Intact protein analysis - Top-down approach

Identification (of proteins)

Intact protein analysis (Top-Down)
→ Based on full length protein mass

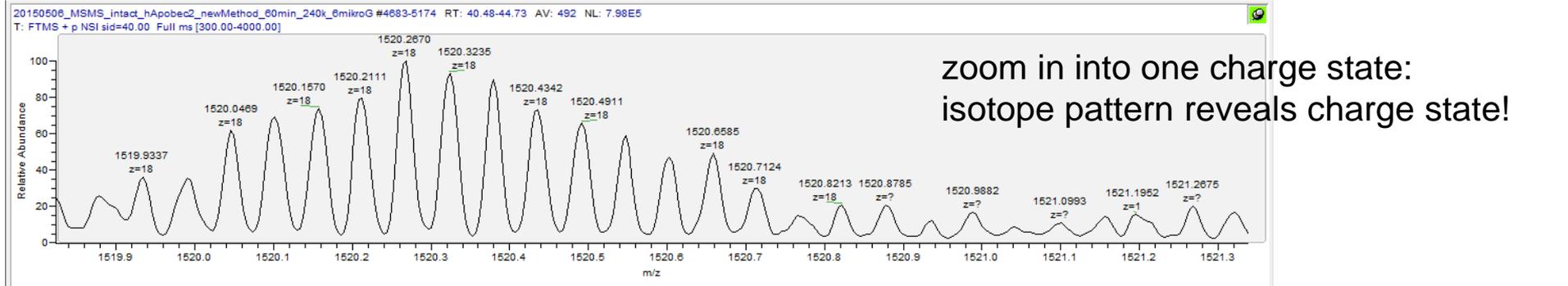
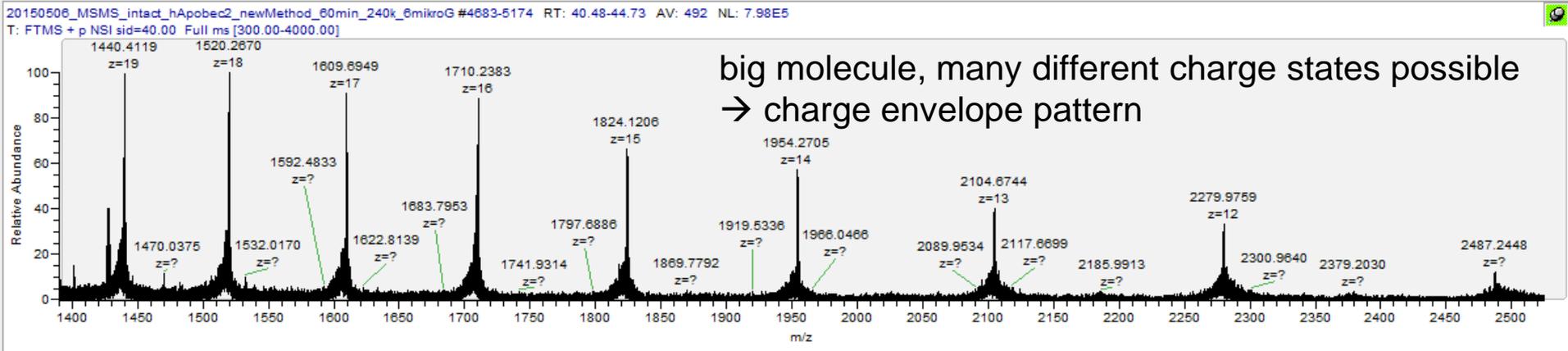




Intact protein analysis

Top-Down approach

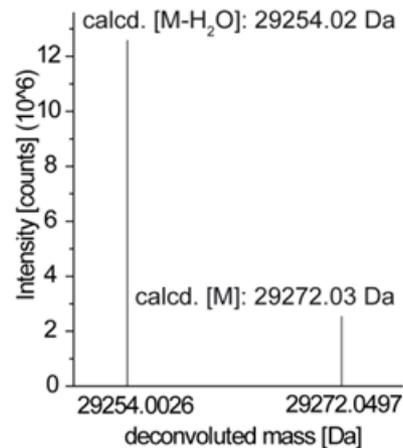
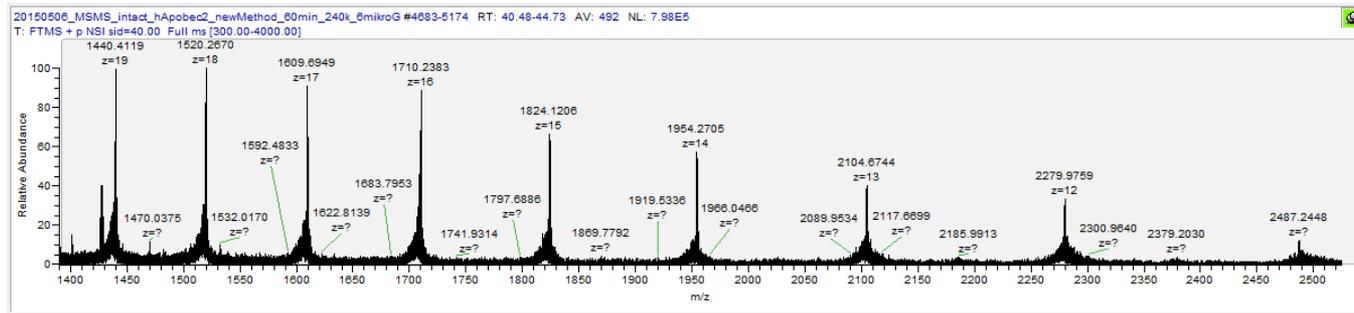
- measurement of the intact protein mass
- very clean sample required
- check for protein purity, truncated version, ...



Intact protein analysis

Top-Down approach

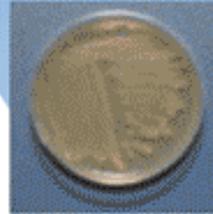
- spectra need to be deconvoluted to give intact protein mass (M or M+H⁺)



Intact Protein Analysis - Biotyper

Several proteins can be used to identify organisms

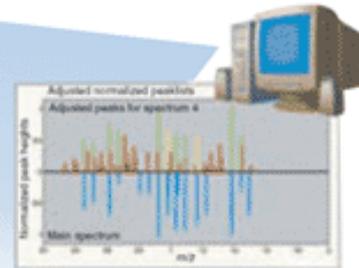
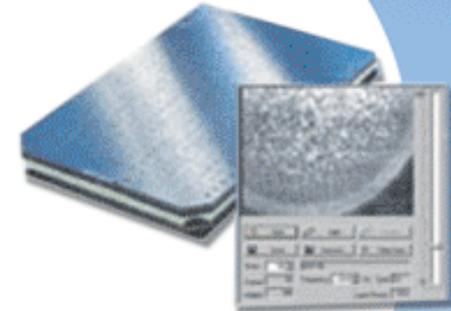
Unknown 'single colony'



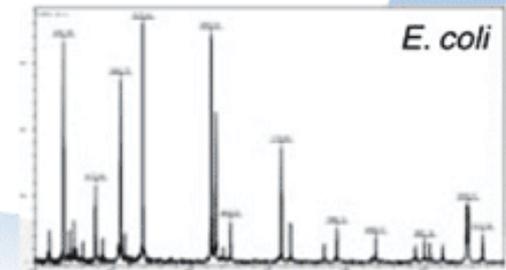
Sample preparation:

- direct thin layer without any treatment
- direct measurement of cell extracts

Add HCCA matrix solution



Data evaluation
identification and classification



Acquisition of MALDI-TOF MS spectra

Detection limit:

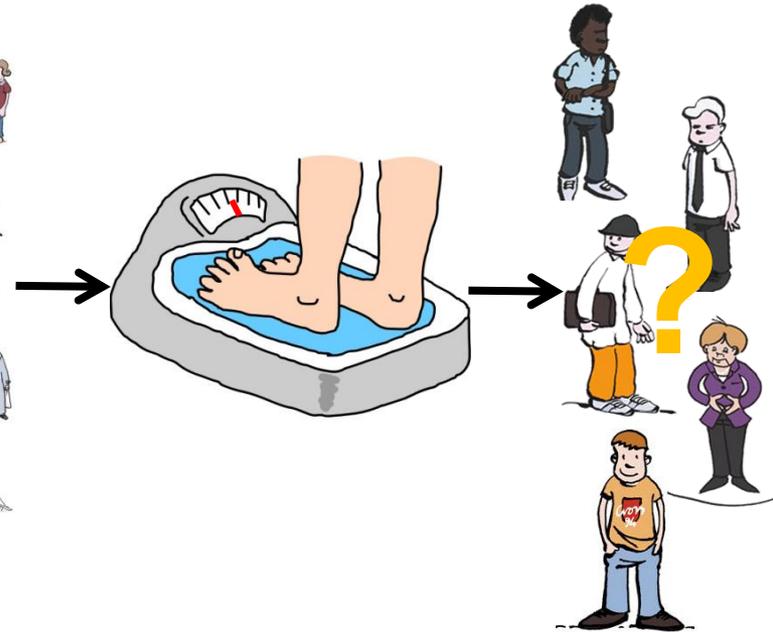
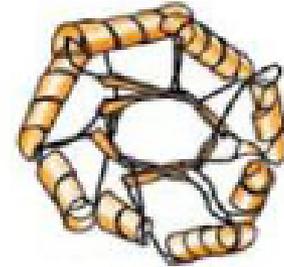
- 10^5 cells (ground steel target)
→ approx. $0.5 \mu\text{g}$ biological material
- 5×10^3 cells (400 μm AnchorChip™ target)
→ ~25 ng biological material



Intact Protein Analysis – Top-down approach

Identification (of proteins)

Problem: Similar proteins or modifications

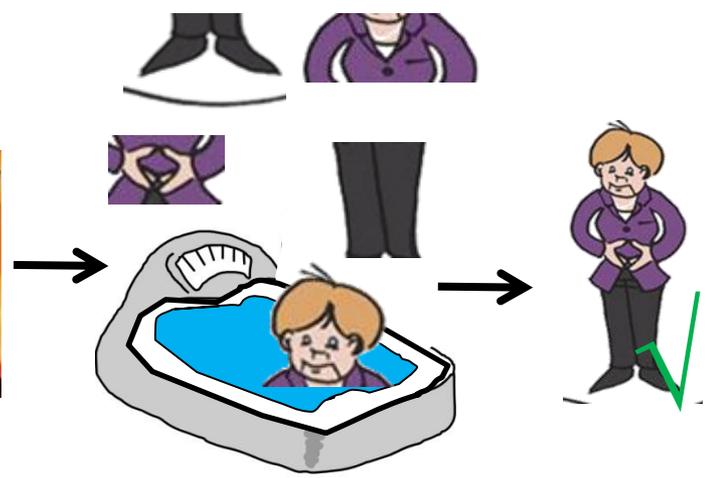
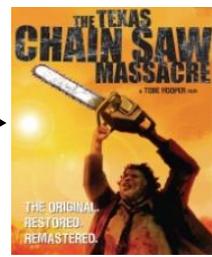
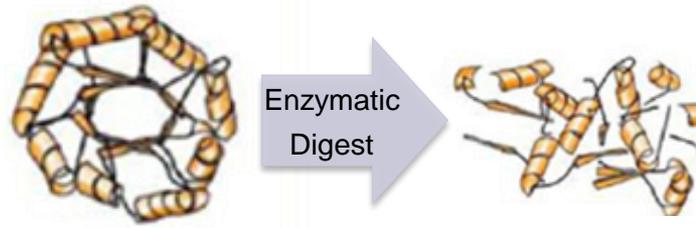




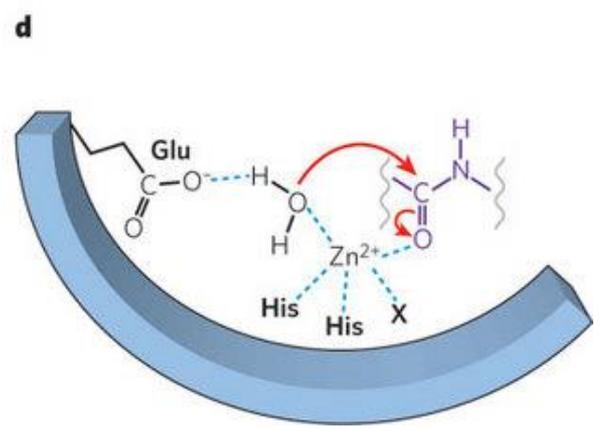
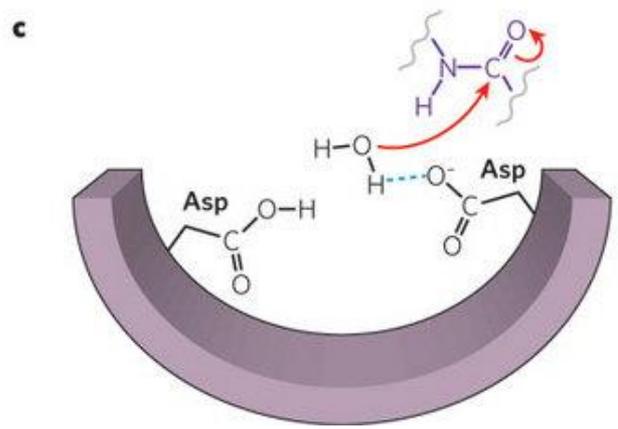
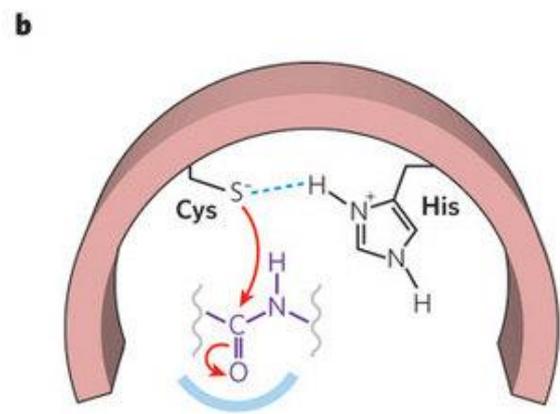
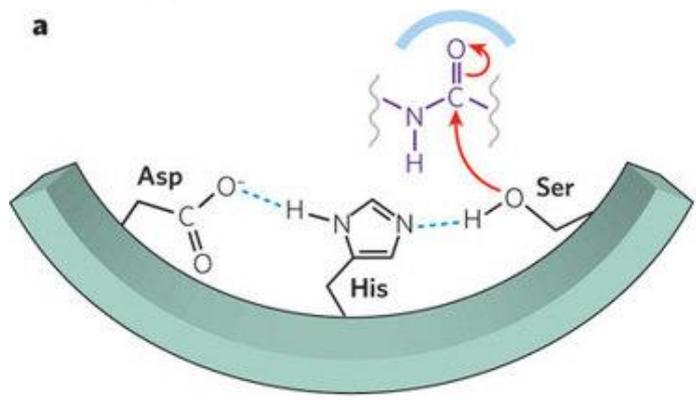
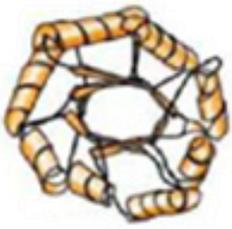
Protein Analysis – peptide mass fingerprinting

Identification (of Proteins)

Peptide mass fingerprint (PMF)
→ Based on peptide masses



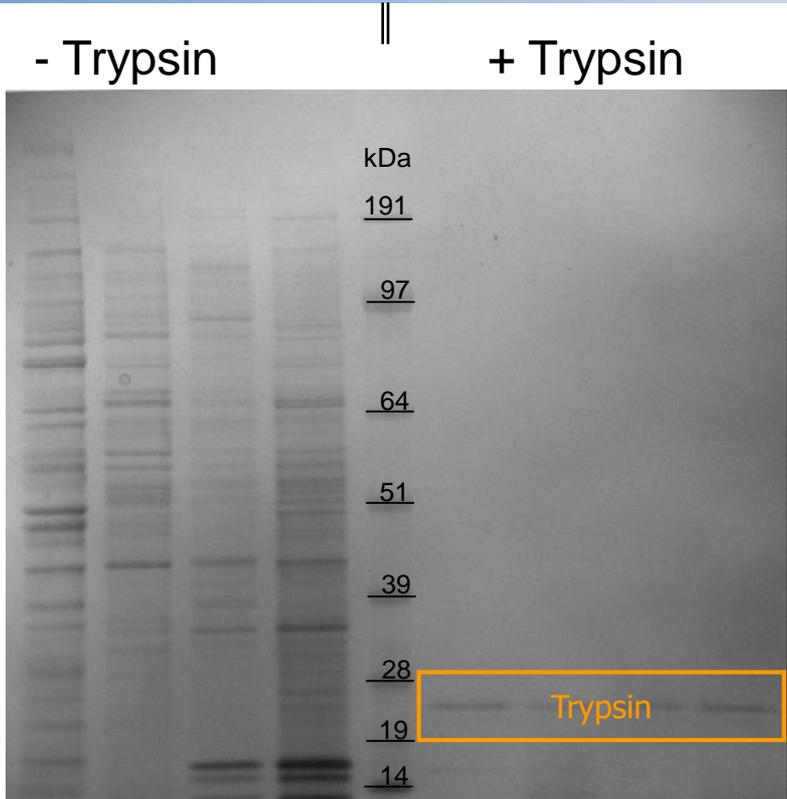
Protein Analysis - Proteases



- e.g.
- a) Serinprotease
 - b) Cysteinprotease
 - c) Aspartatprotease
 - d) Metalloprotease



Protein Analysis - Trypsin



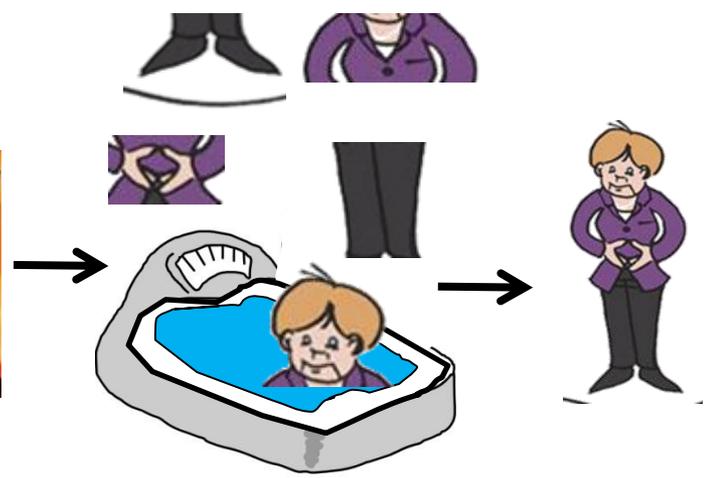
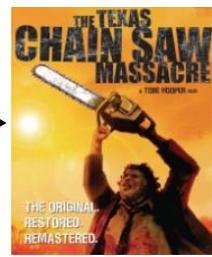
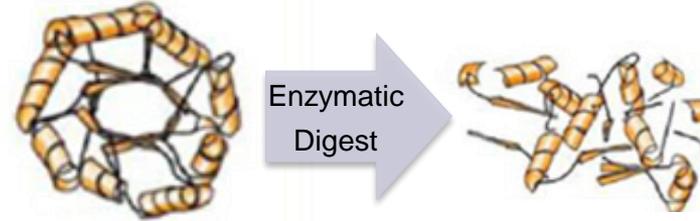
- Trypsin cleaves after the basic amino acids arginin and lysine
- often modified by chemical treatment or mutation to be more resistant to autolysis
- reversible inhibition in acidic pH; irreversible inhibition with PMSF (phenylmethylsulfonylfluoride)
- yields often good peptides for proteomics (good length, charge state minimum 2+: Lys/Arg + N-Terminus)



Protein Analysis – peptide mass fingerprinting

Identification (of Proteins)

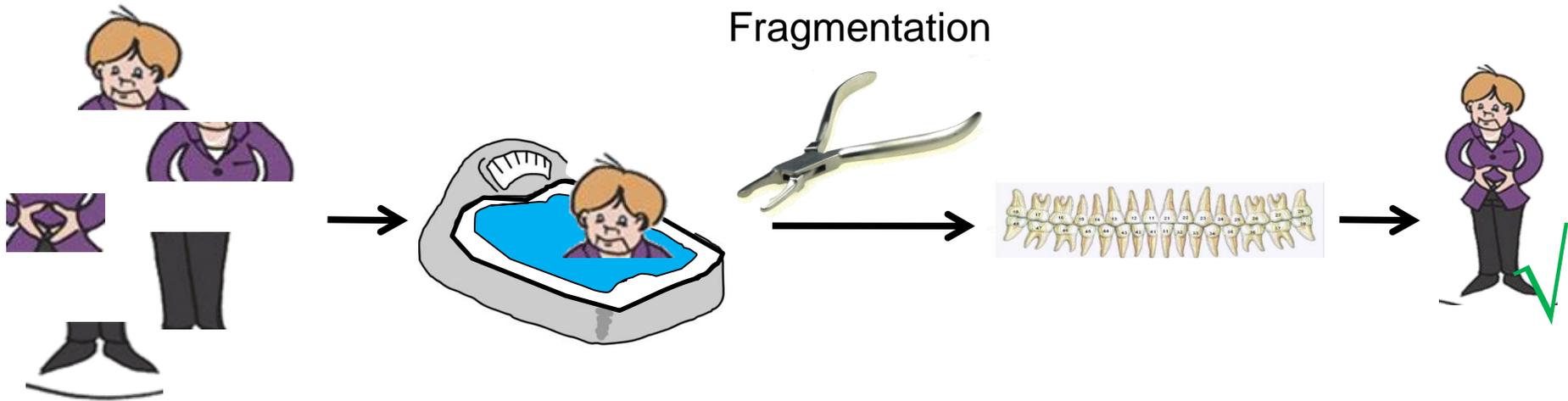
Problem: in complex mixtures, peptide masses can be very similar!



Protein Analysis – Bottom-up approach

Identification (of Proteins)

de novo sequencing / database search
→ Based on amino acid sequence





Bottom-up-approach

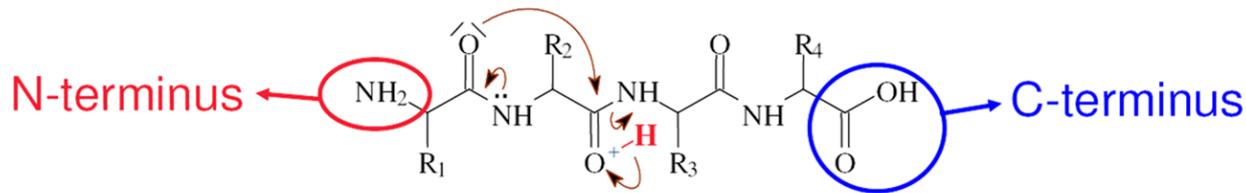
de novo sequencing / database search
→ Based on amino acid sequence

- **identification** of proteins in complex mixtures is often the central point in proteomics experiments
- bottom-up-approach: digest complex protein mixture and analyse peptides by peptide mass AND product ion masses after fragmentation
- **fragmentation** of peptides in the mass spectrometer (in the gas phase) is possible by **MS²** (AKA MS/MS, Tandem-MS)
- bottom-up-approach enables the use of **database searching** → automatable
- also gives: identification of **modification(s)** (with site of modification(s)), **quantification** methods

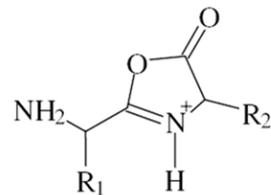


Fragmentation (MS/MS or MS²)

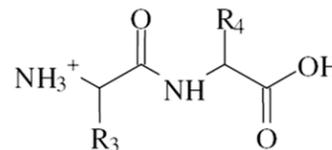
- collision with **gas** (CID, HCD) or reaction with chemical reagent (ETD) leads to **cleavage of a peptide in the MS**
- fragmentation by:
 - **CID**: collisional induced dissociation
 - **HCD**: higher-energy collisional dissociation
 - **ETD**: electron transfer dissociation
 - ...
- **peptide-bond** (CO-NH) is usually the weakest
- fragmentation is **directed by protonation**



protonation at carboxyl oxygen
 → leads to formation of fragment ions



b-ion type

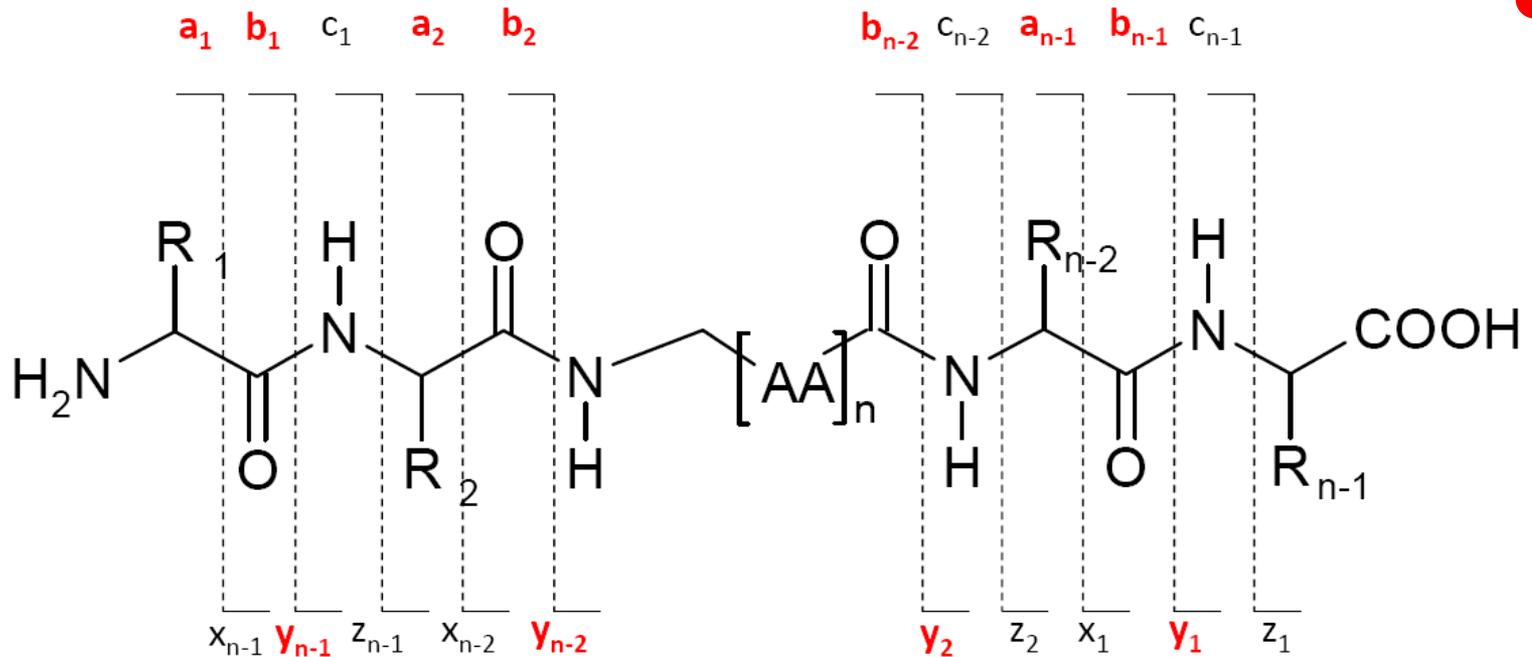


y-ion type



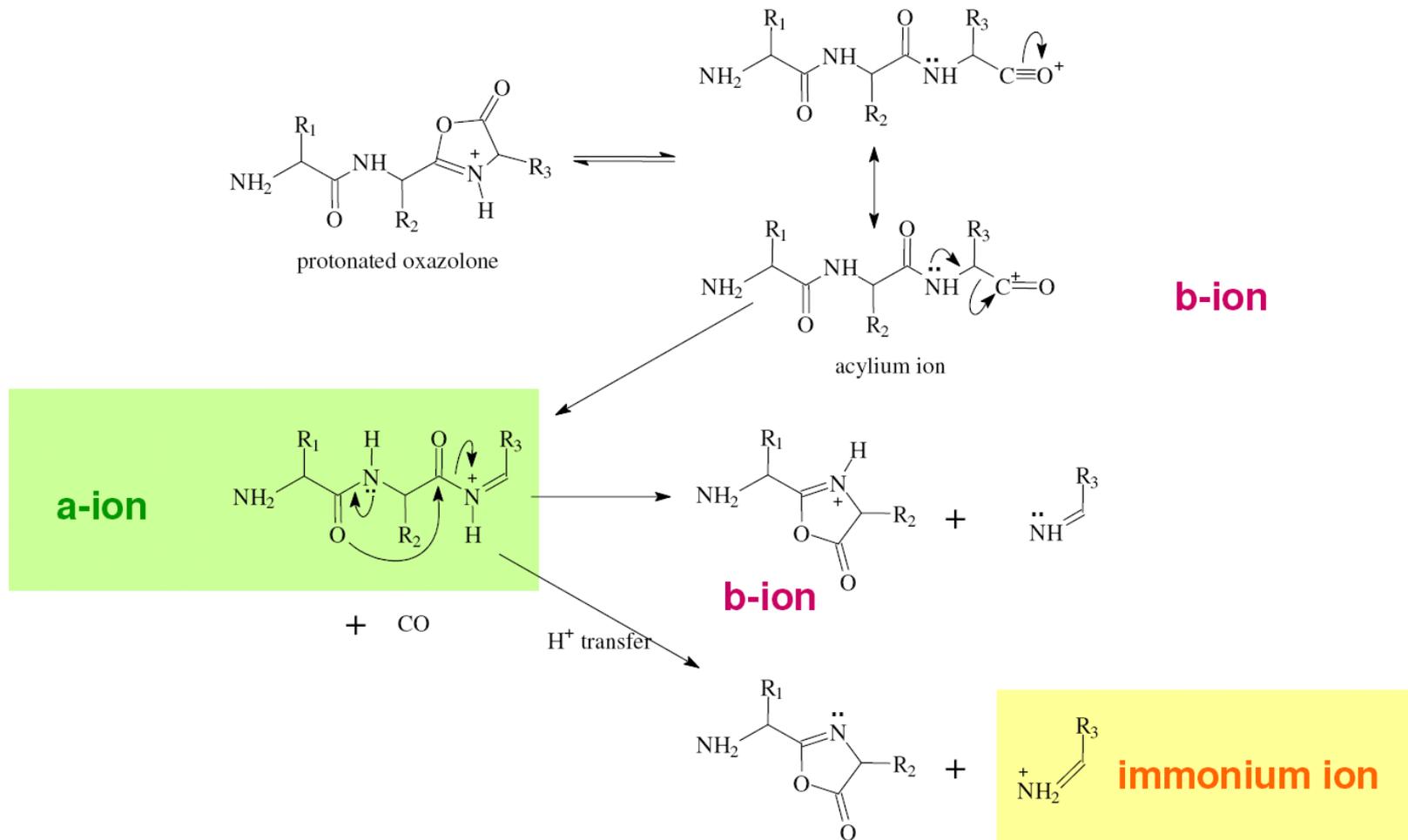
Fragmentation (MS/MS or MS²)

Only fragments that are charged are detected!





Fragmentation (MS/MS or MS²)





Fragmentation (MS/MS or MS²)

Any of the peptide bonds might break, hard to predict which ones will break

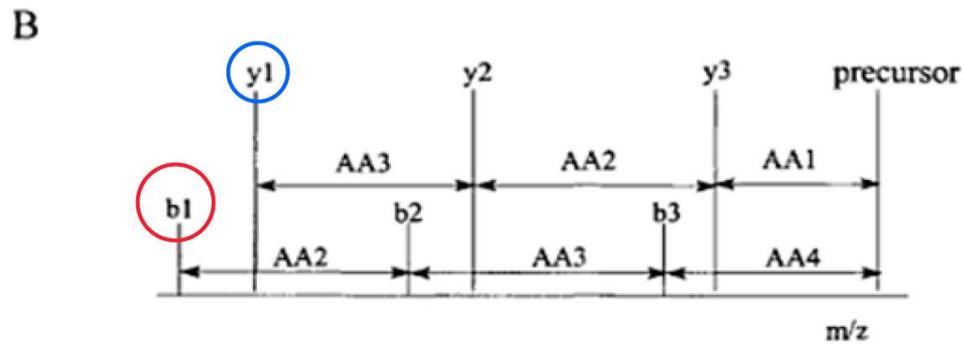
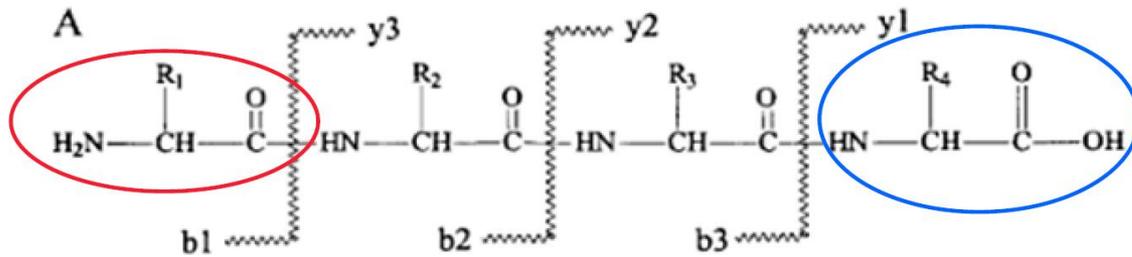


Peptide: S-G-F-L-E-E-D-E-L-K

MW	ion			ion	MW
88	b ₁	S	GFLEEDELK	y ₉	1080
145	b ₂	SG	FLEEDELK	y ₈	1022
292	b ₃	SGF	LEEDELK	y ₇	875
405	b ₄	SGFL	EEDELK	y ₆	762
534	b ₅	SGFLE	EDELK	y ₅	633
663	b ₆	SGFLEE	DELK	y ₄	504
778	b ₇	SGFLEED	ELK	y ₃	389
907	b ₈	SGFLEEDE	LK	y ₂	260
1020	b ₉	SGFLEEDEL	K	y ₁	147

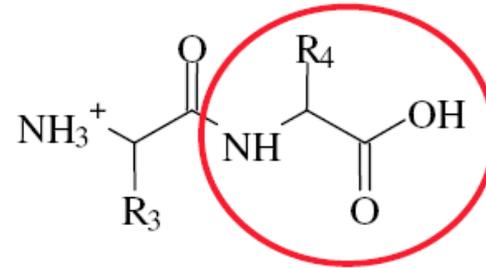


How to start sequencing:



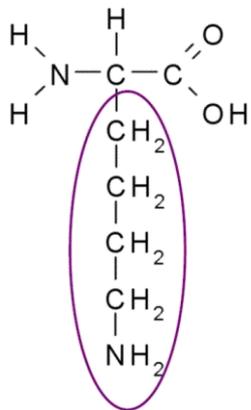


Rules for Fragmentation



y-ion type

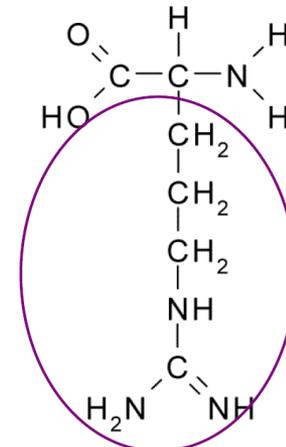
Last amino acid after tryptic digest: R or K



Lysine (K)

128.09496

147.11281



Arginine (R)

156.10111

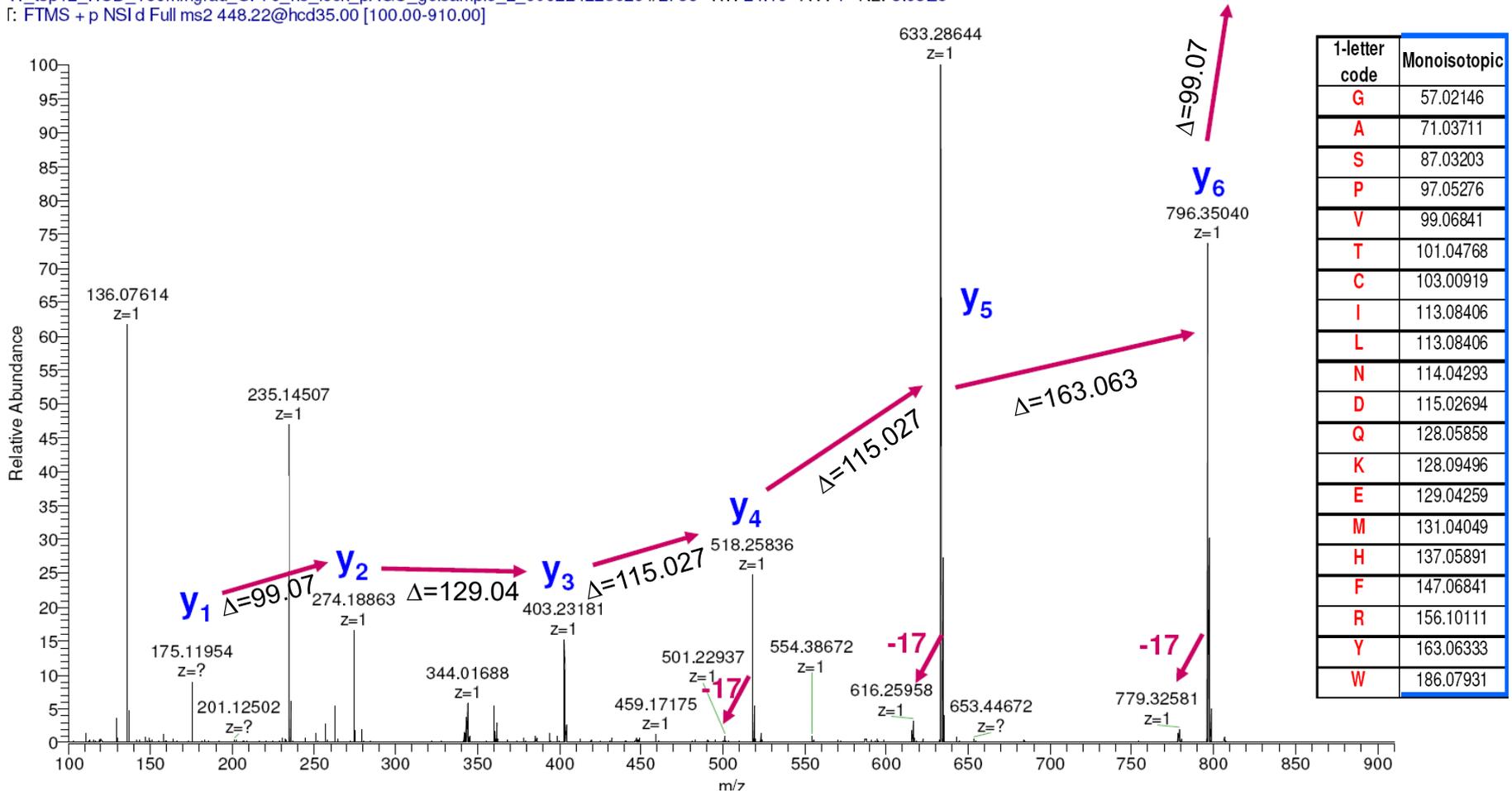
175.11896



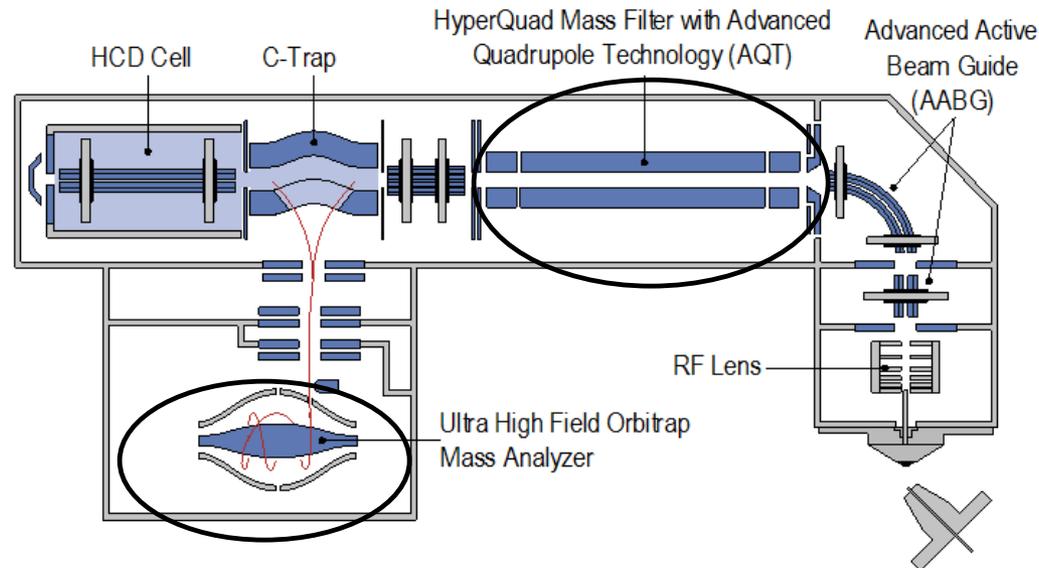
One Example

HCD spectrum; m/z 448.22 ($M+2H$)²⁺ MH^+ 895.42223

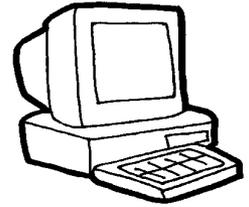
AT_top12_HCD_150mingrad_SF70_no_lock_pAGC_gelsample_2_090224223626 #2785 RT: 24.10 AV: 1 NL: 3.03E5
f: FTMS + p NSI d Full ms2 448.22@hcd35.00 [100.00-910.00]



The QExactive HF isolation



measurement of high-resolution Full scan spectra (MS^1)
and of high-resolution fragmentation (MS^2)-spectra



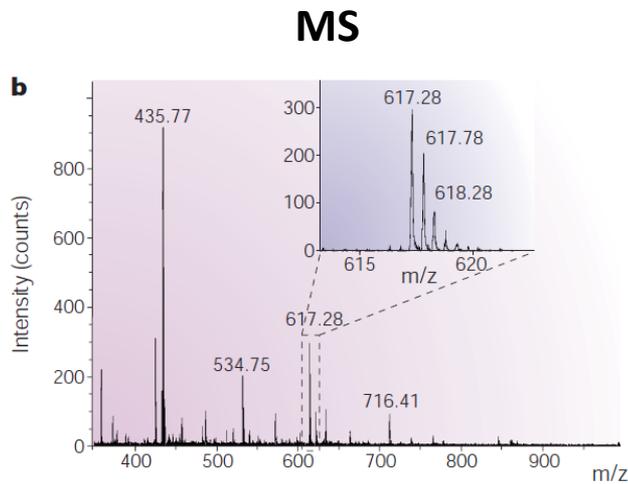
Interpretation of Bottom-Up data

- proteomics bottom-up data is **very complex**
- certain **algorithms** enable the identification of peptides and therefore proteins
- **popular algorithms:**
 - Sequest
 - Mascot (Matrix Science)
 - Andromeda (implemented in the MaxQuant software, MPI for Biochemistry)
- spectra are searched against **sequence databases** (FASTA-format)
- **scoring** of identified peptides/proteins by different statistical methods
- bottom-up data can be **analyzed automatically!**

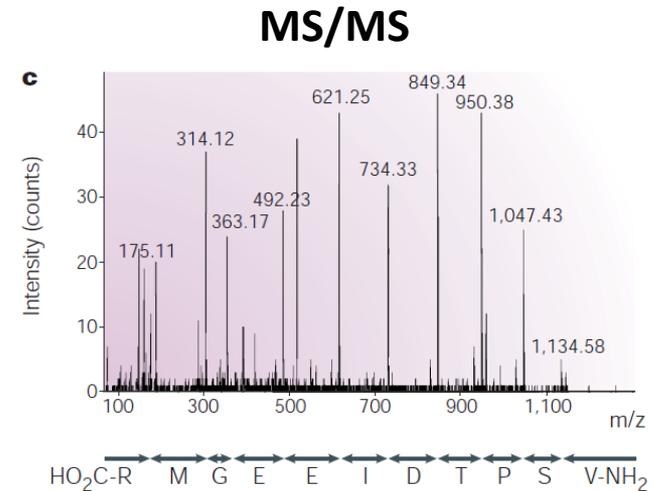


Interpretation of Bottom-Up data

Bottom-Up approach



isolation & fragmentation

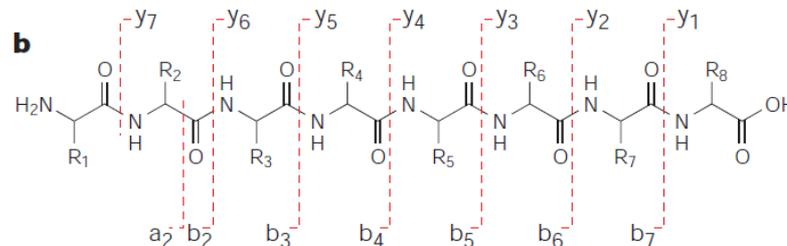


Full scan

determine intact peptide mass

MS²-scan

fragment peptide and get sequence information

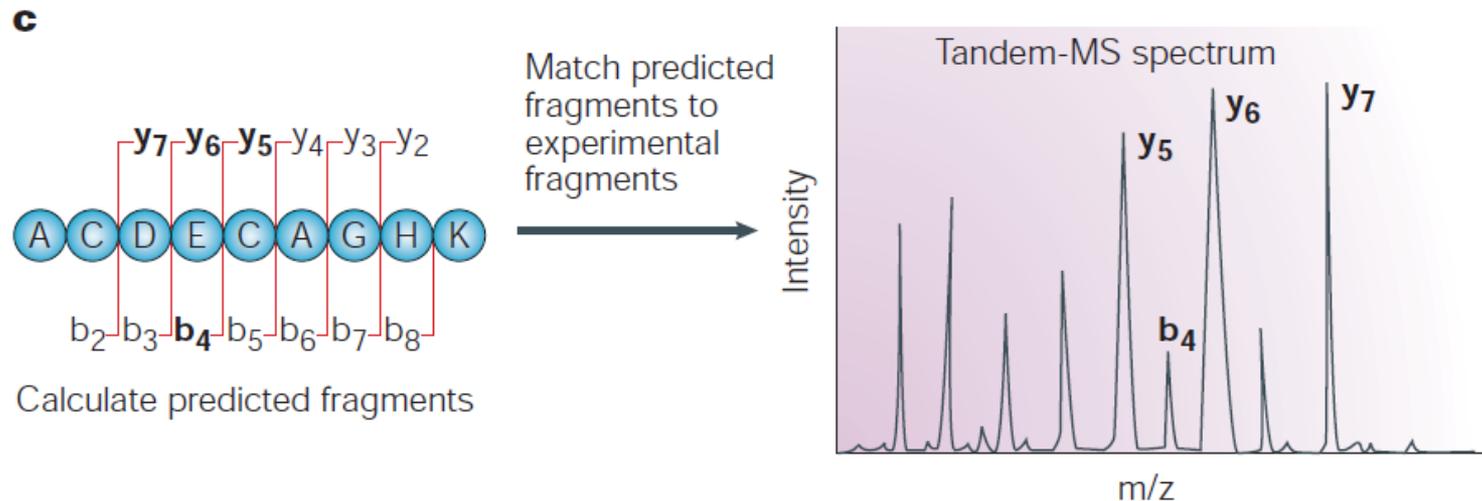


Interpretation of Bottom-Up data

Simplified action of algorithm

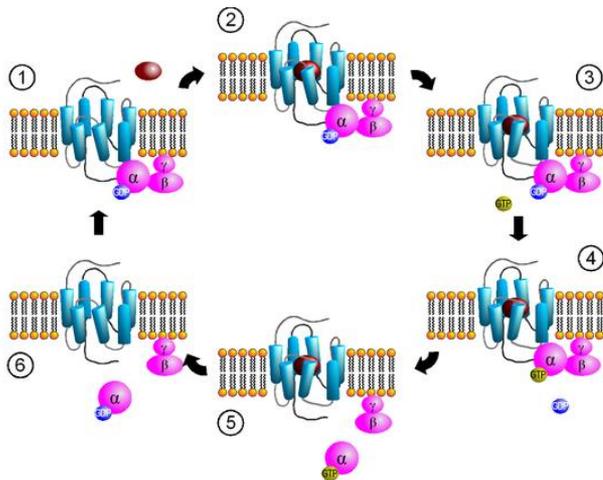


- *in silico* digest of proteins (input: protease used & species origin of sample)
- calculation of expected fragment ion masses (input: mass and modified AAs of expected modifications)
- matching of calculated to experimental MS²-spectrum
- scoring



Application example: Phosphorylation sites

- Phosphorylations of serine-, tyrosine- or threonine-residues
- play important role in regulatory processes
- phosphogroups are attached to proteins by kinases; phosphatases remove phosphogroups
- phosphopeptides are not very abundant and need to be enriched



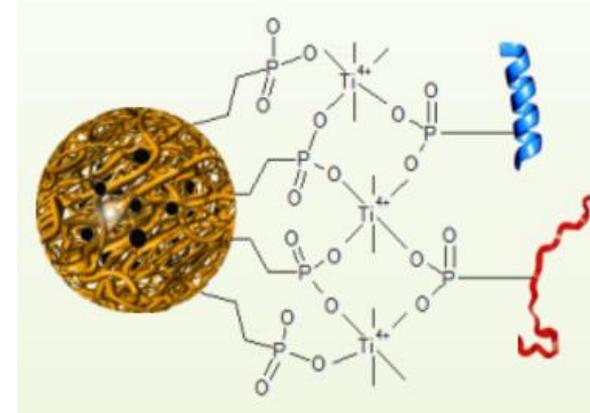
High-throughput phosphoproteomics reveals *in vivo* insulin signaling dynamics

Sean J Humphrey, S Babak Azimifar & Matthias Mann

G-protein coupled receptors are downregulated by phosphorylation

Application example: Phosphorylation sites

- phosphopeptides need to be enriched
- **IMAC: Immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography**
- most popular with Fe, Ti
- for example magnetic beads, covered with Ti^{4+} -ions
- enrichment of phosphopeptides and elution with phosphate-containing buffer

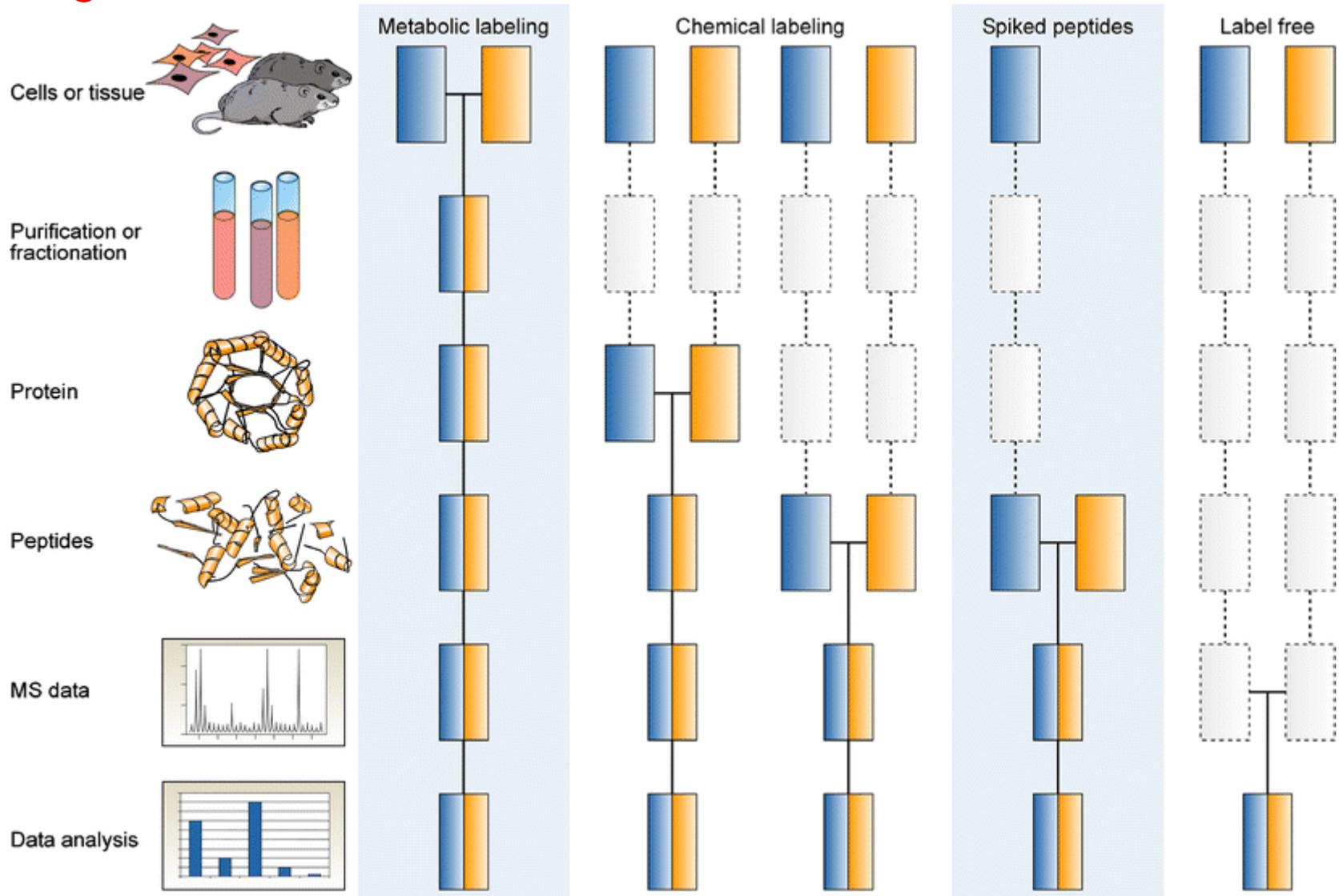


#	AZ	Sequence	# PSMs	# Proteins	# Protein Groups	Protein Group Accessions	Modifications	ΔCn	phosphoRS Site Probabilities	q-Value	PEP	XCorr	Charge	MH+ [Da]	ΔM [ppm]	RT [min]	# Missed Cleavages
1	●	VNHEPEPASPASPGATPKSp...	8	2	1	Q6P1B9	S20(Phospho)	0.0000	S(9): 0.0; S(12): 0.0; T(16)...	0	2.41e-20	8.10	4	2607.25649	0.04	44.26	1
2	●	GNKsPsPPPDGSPAATPEIR	2	3	1	Q6P1B9	S4(Phospho); S6(Phospho)	0.0000	S(4): 100.0; S(6): 100.0; S(...	0	1.56e-08	4.74	3	2134.92093	0.10	39.99	1
3	●	AQPSDNAPKEKGNKsPsRPPD...	13	3	1	Q6P1B9	S14(Phospho); S16(Phosph...	0.0000	S(4): 0.0; S(14): 100.0; S(1...	0	4.55e-16	4.66	3	3172.40439	1.84	38.80	2
4	●	VNHEPEPASPASPGATPK	4	3	1	Q6P1B9	S12(Phospho)	0.0000	S(9): 0.0; S(12): 100.0; T(1...	0	1.77e-11	4.57	3	1938.89499	-0.41	37.58	0
5	●	AQPSDNAPKEKGNKsPsRPPD...	10	3	1	Q6P1B9	S16(Phospho)	0.0000	S(4): 0.0; S(14): 1.1; S(16)...	0	1.77e-07	4.16	4	3092.43349	0.41	37.58	2
6	●	AQPSDNAPKEKGNKsPsRPPD...	3	3	1	Q6P1B9	S14(Phospho); S16(Phosph...	0.0000	S(4): 98.2; S(14): 98.2; S(1...	0	5.58e-05	3.56	4	3252.36855	1.13	38.60	2
7	●	GNKsPsPPPDGSPAATPEIR	4	3	1	Q6P1B9	S6(Phospho)	0.0000	S(4): 0.6; S(6): 99.4; S(12)...	0	9.8e-07	2.52	3	2054.95237	-0.98	38.44	1
8	●	VNHEPEPASPASPGATPKSp...	4	2	1	Q6P1B9	S12(Phospho); S20(Phosph...	0.0000	S(9): 1.4; S(12): 97.3; T(16)...	0	0.000529	2.05	3	2687.22562	1.08	46.43	1



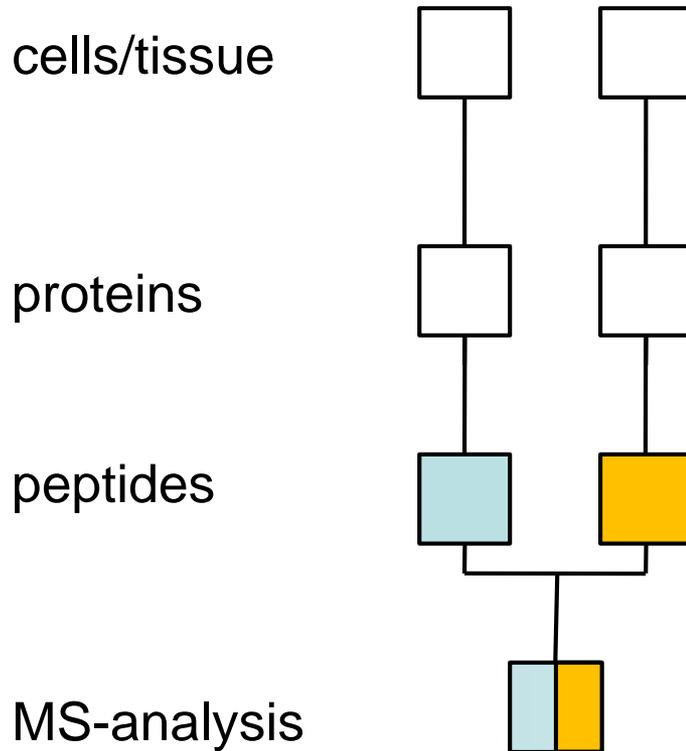
Quantitative Proteomics

Quantification methods



MS-quantification methods

Isobaric tagging of peptides



Methods:

- iTRAQ (isobaric Tag for Relative and Absolute Quantification)
- TMT (tandem mass tags)

Pros:

- flexibility
- relative or absolute
- easy
- high dynamic range
- enables multiplexing (up to 11 samples in one measurement!)

Cons:

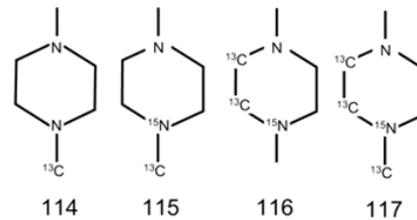
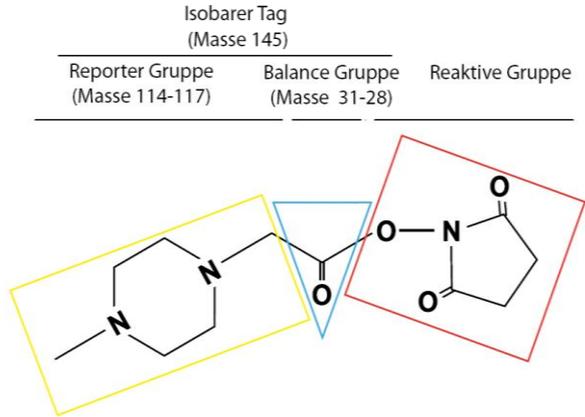
- late introduction
- quality control is necessary

-  heavy label
-  light label
-  no label



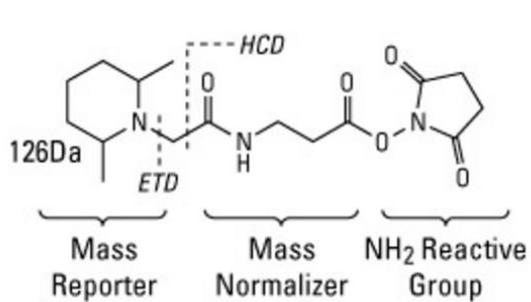
Isobaric tagging reagents

iTRAQ

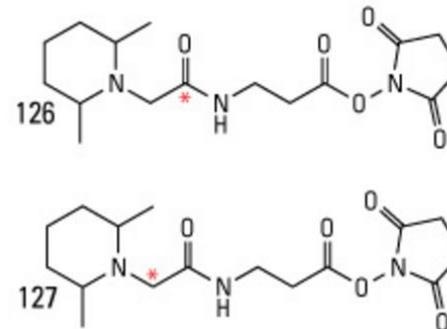


TMT

A. TMTzero Reagent (TMT⁰)

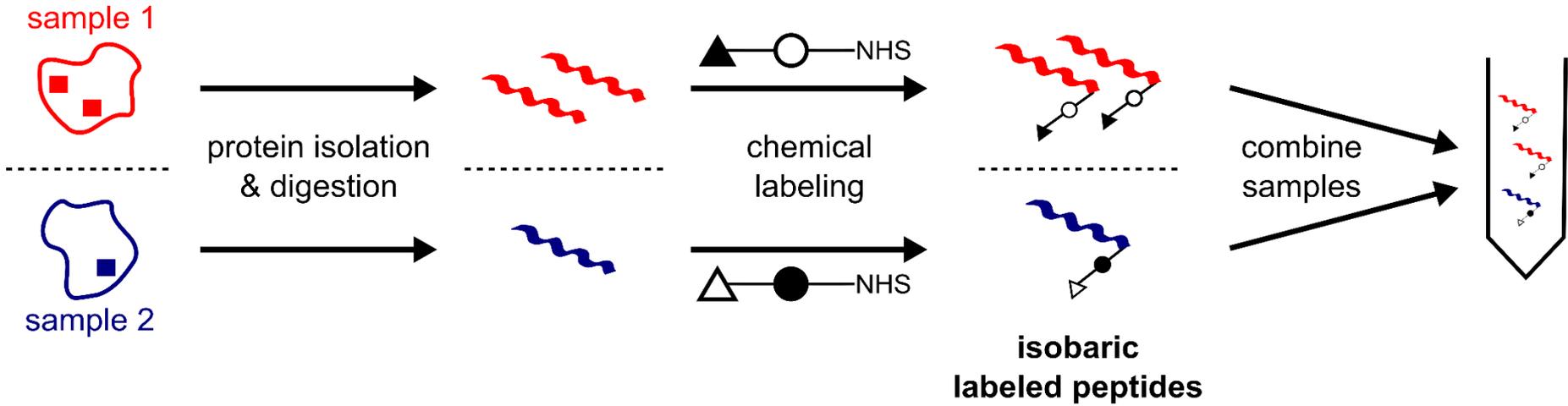
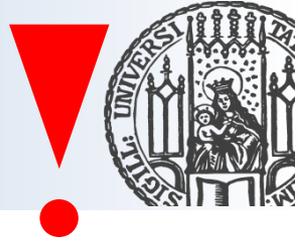


B. TMTduplex Reagents (TMT²)



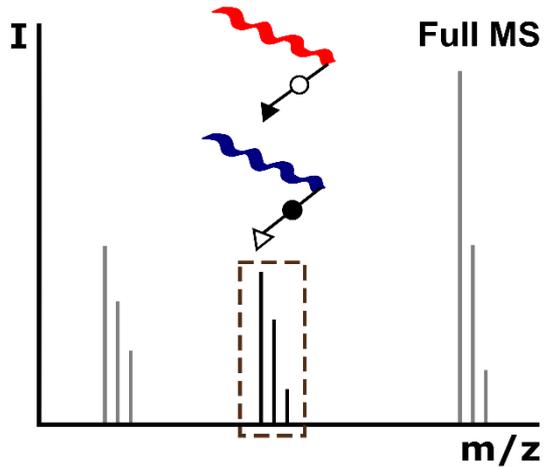
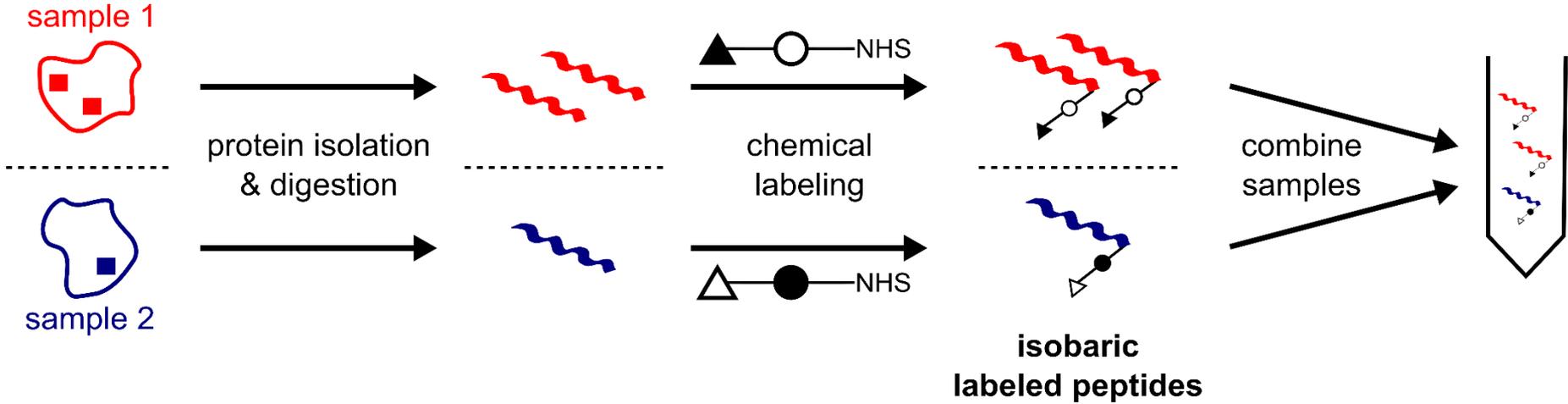
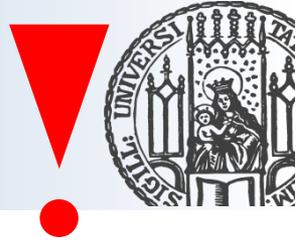
MS-quantification methods

Isobaric tagging of peptides

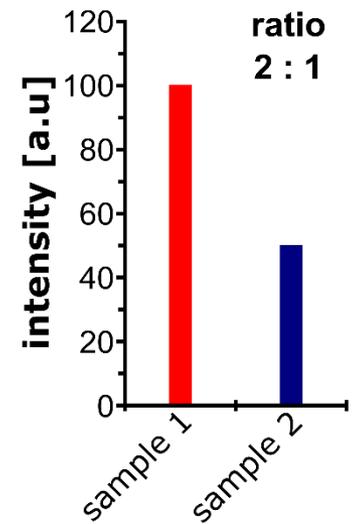
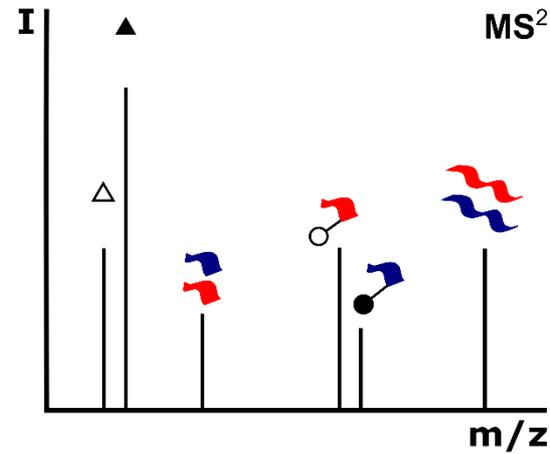


MS-quantification methods

Isobaric tagging of peptides

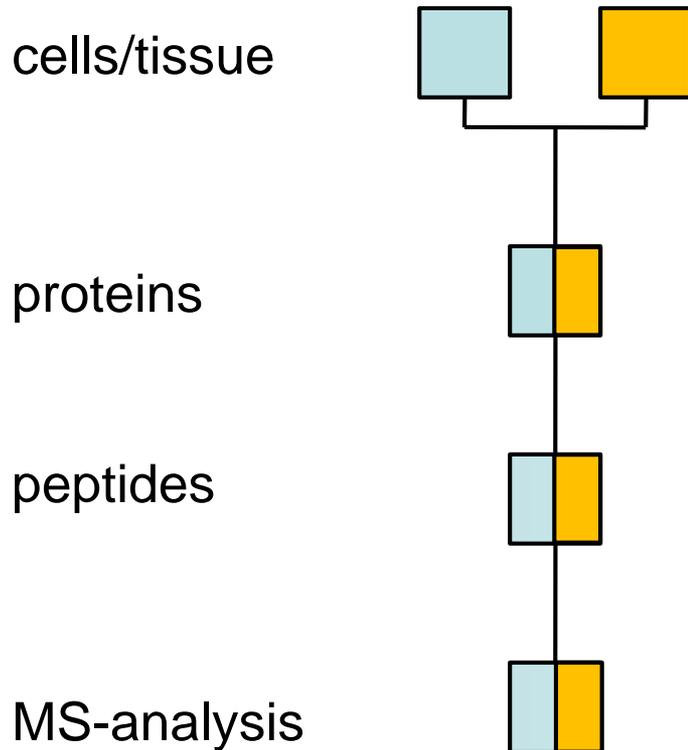


isolation & fragmentation



MS-quantification methods

metabolic modifications



methods:

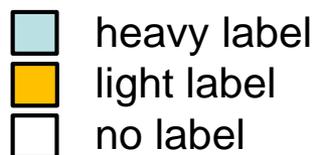
- SILAC (stable isotope labeling by amino acids in cell culture)

Pros:

- very early labeling
- possible in live cells
- measurement of multiple samples combined

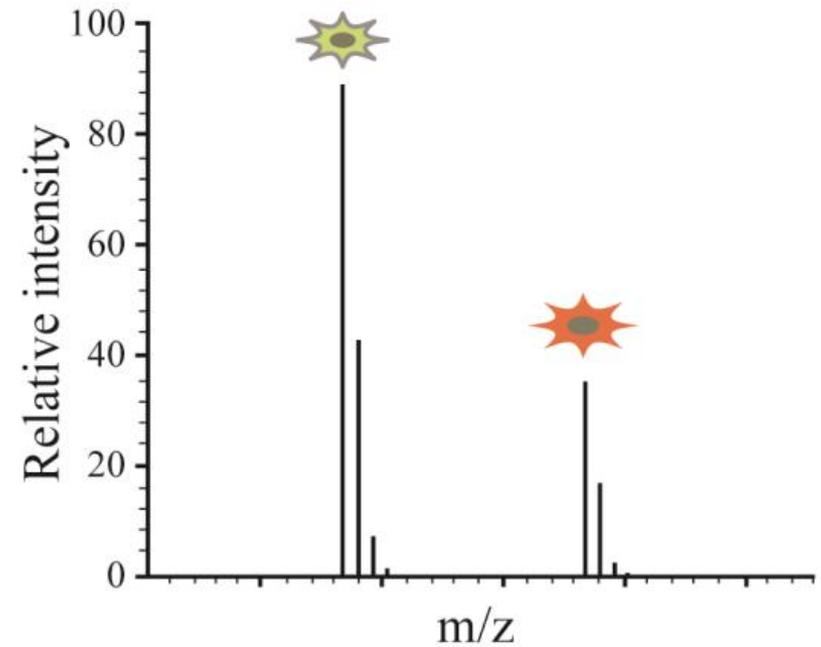
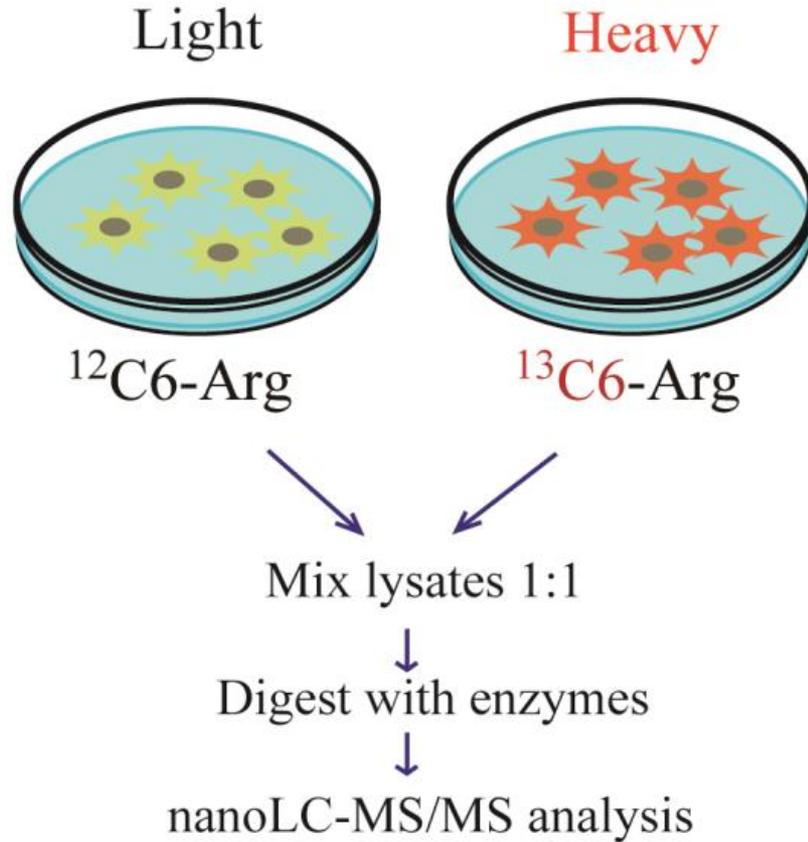
Cons:

- expensive
- time consuming
- only feasible for cell culture samples



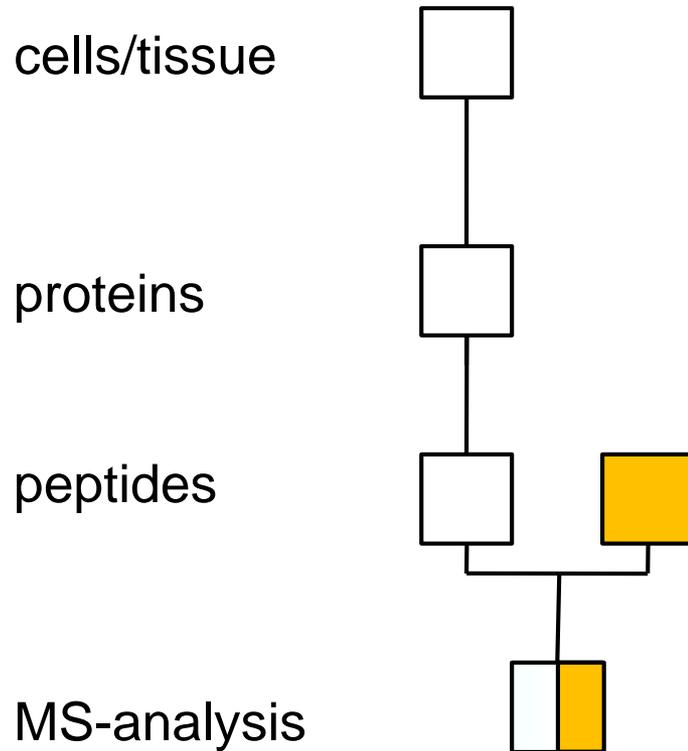
MS-quantification methods

metabolic modifications



MS-quantification methods

isotopically labelled standard peptides



Methods:

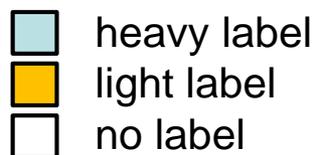
- AQUA (absolute quantification)

Pros:

- simple
- absolute quantification possible

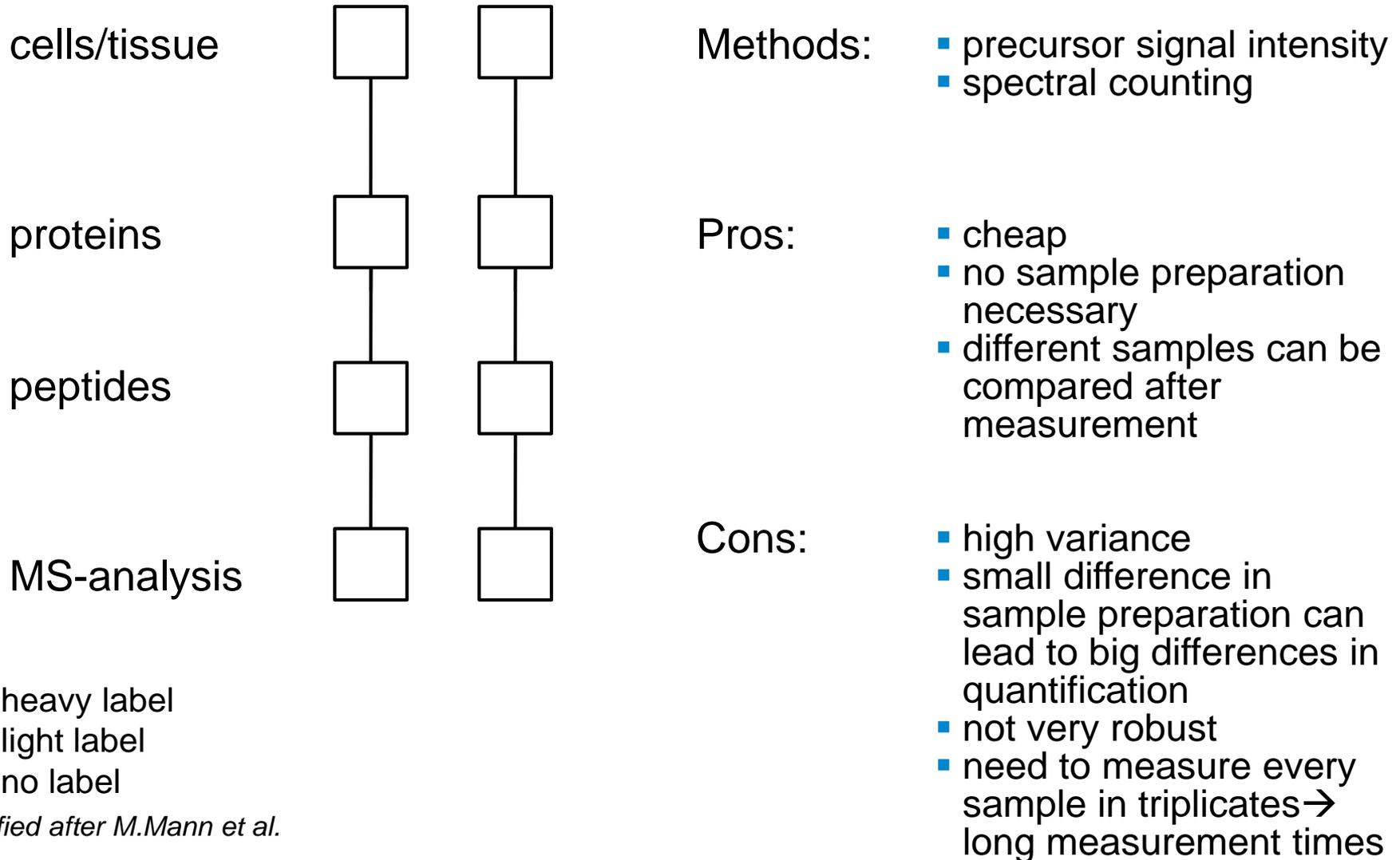
Cons:

- very late introduction
- very expensive
- small dynamic range
- labelled peptides necessary



MS-quantification methods

Label-free quantification



modified after M.Mann et al.

Summary

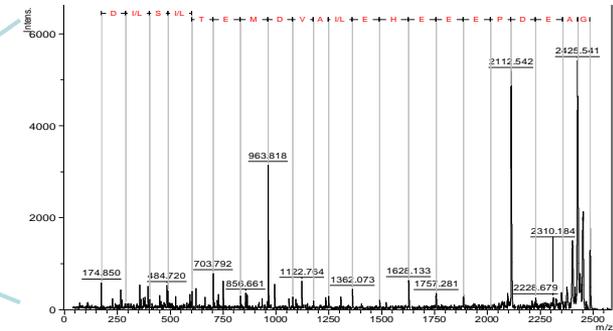
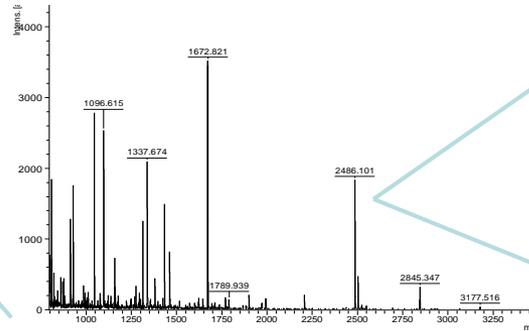
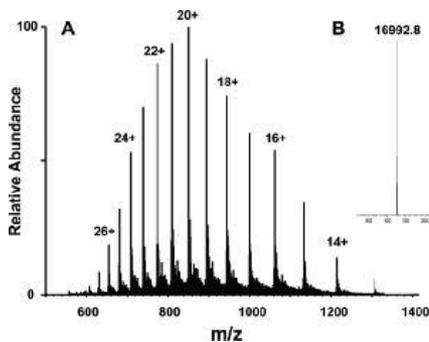
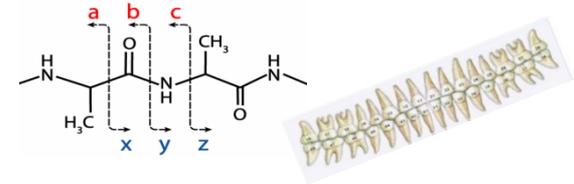
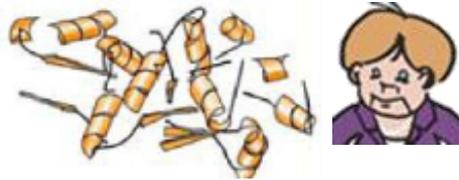
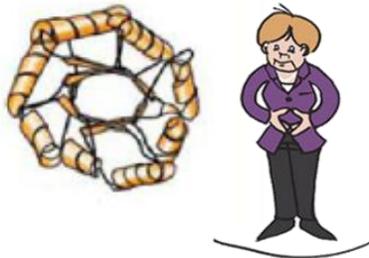


- Mass spectrometry is a powerful tool
- Universal detector
- Enables Identification and quantification
- Various types/methods for each application



Protein Analysis – different methods to ID proteins

Identification (of Proteins)



Top-Down → intact protein
 → modified? pure? truncated?
 → quantification of isoforms

PMF → intact peptides
 → which proteins in the mix?
 → modified sequences?

Bottom-Up → MS/MS
 → sequence?
 → identification?
 → quantities?
 → ...

Outline



1) Mass spectrometry in general

- 1) What is MS?
- 2) Why MS?
- 3) Definitions

2) Mass spectrometer

- 1) Principles
- 2) Details

3) Applications

- 1) Intact proteins
- 2) Protein Identification
- 3) Quantification

4) **Research in Progress**



Thank you for your interest!

LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN



The Team



Thomas Carell
Markus Müller

The Proteomics-Team:
Leander Runtsch
Michael Stadlmeier

Special thanks to:
Dr. David Eisen

