

# MS technologies



2023 AEIC Fall Meeting

**Jeff Shippar – Senior Technical Manager, Eurofins Food Testing, US**

# Mass Spectrometry technology

## Many different types

- MS
- MSMS
- qTOF
- Triple quadrupole (QQQ)
- Orbitrap
- MALDI
- Magnetic Sector

...and many more

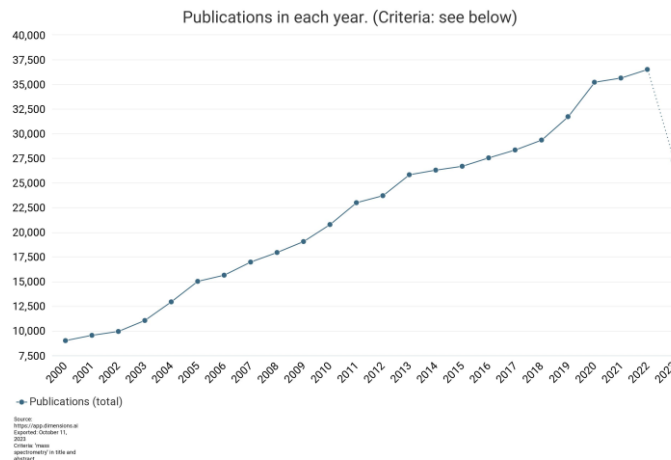
## ...and many different front ends

- Direct infusion
- HPLC/UHPLC (LCMS)
- GC (GCMS)
- Supercritical fluid (SFE)
- IC
- nanoLC
- microLC
- Drift tube
- ...and many more



# Outline

- Mass Spectrometry (MS) technology
  - Triple Quadrupole LCMS
  - Challenges for Protein analysis
- High Resolution Mass Spectrometry
- “Emerging” LCMS approaches for protein quant and ID
  - Parallel Reaction Monitoring (PRM)
  - Ion mobility

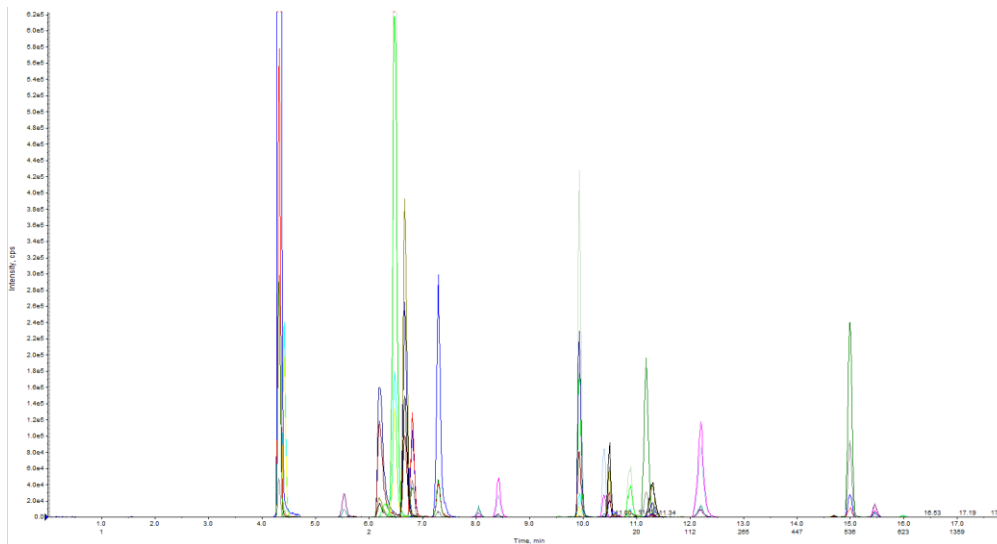


# Mass Spectrometry

- Target mass (m) / Target charge (z) = m/z

- Advantages

- Specificity
- Sensitivity
- Repeatability
- Curve range
- Turnaround time
- Flexibility



# MS technology – Food Analysis

## Food and Chemical Toxicology 126 (2019) 313–321

Quantitation of seven transmembrane proteins from the DHA biosynthesis pathway in genetically engineered canola by targeted mass spectrometry

Michelle L. Colgrave<sup>a,\*</sup>, Keren Byrne<sup>a</sup>, Sapna Vibhakaran Pillai<sup>b</sup>, Bei Dong<sup>b</sup>, Antonio Leonforte<sup>c</sup>, Joanne Caine<sup>d</sup>, Lukasz Kowalczyk<sup>d</sup>, Judith A. Scoble<sup>d</sup>, James R. Petrie<sup>b</sup>, Surinder Singh<sup>b</sup>, Xue-Rong Zhou<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> CSIRO Agriculture and Food, 306 Carmody Rd, St Lucia, QLD 4067, Australia

<sup>b</sup> CSIRO Agriculture and Food, GPO Box 1600, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia

<sup>c</sup> Nuseed, 5 Ballinger St, Horsham, VIC, 3400, Australia

<sup>d</sup> CSIRO Manufacturing, 343 Royal Parade, Parkville, VIC, 3052, Australia

## Food Chemistry: X 5 (2020) 100080

An improved LC–MS method to profile molecular diversity and quantify the six main bovine milk proteins, including genetic and splicing variants as well as post-translationally modified isoforms

Guy Miranda<sup>a,\*</sup>, Leonardo Bianchi<sup>a</sup>, Zuzana Krupova<sup>a,1</sup>, Philippe Trossat<sup>b</sup>, Patrice Martin<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> UMR GABI, INRAE, AgroParisTech, Université Paris-Saclay, 78350 Jouy-en-Josas, France

<sup>b</sup> ACTALIA, pôle expertise analytique, 39801 Poligny, France

> J AOAC Int. 2020 Nov 30;qsaa162. doi: 10.1093/jaoacint/qsaa162. Online ahead of print.

## Determination of total and A1-Type $\beta$ -casein in milk and milk-derived ingredients by liquid chromatography – mass spectrometry using characteristic tryptic peptides

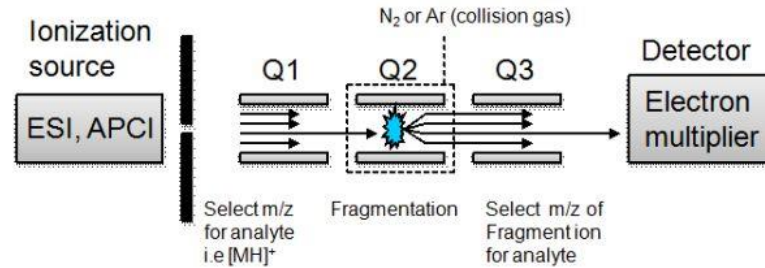
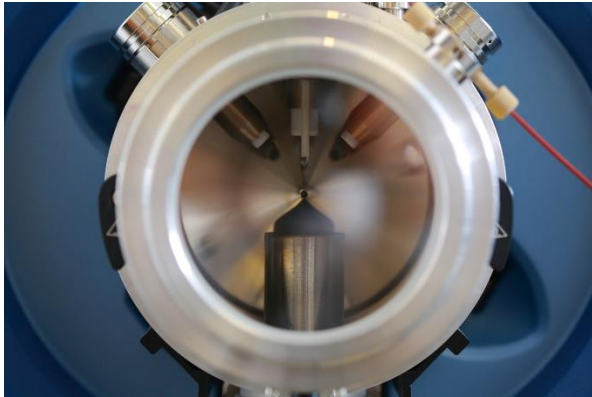
Stefan Ehling<sup>1</sup>, Meibo Wang<sup>2</sup>, Luke Weber<sup>1</sup>

AOAC Official Method 2017.11  
Identification of Pea, Rice, and Soy Protein  
in Raw Materials and Finished Goods  
ESI HPLC-MS/MS  
First Action 2017

AOAC Official Method 2017.12  
Identification of Milk Proteins  
in Raw Materials and Finished Goods  
ESI HPLC-MS/MS  
First Action 2017



# LCMS Triple quadrupole (QQQ)



TY - CHAPJO - Topics on Drug MetabolismAU - Jinsong NiAU - Josh RoweTI - Microdosing Assessment to Evaluate Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism Using Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry TechnologyY1 - 2012-02-22 N1 29249 UR <http://www.intechopen.com/books/export/citation/ReferenceManager/topics-on-drug-metabolism/microdosing-assessment-to-evaluate-pharmacokinetics-and-drug-metabolism-using-lc-mc-ms-technology> ER -

# LCMS is fast, sensitive

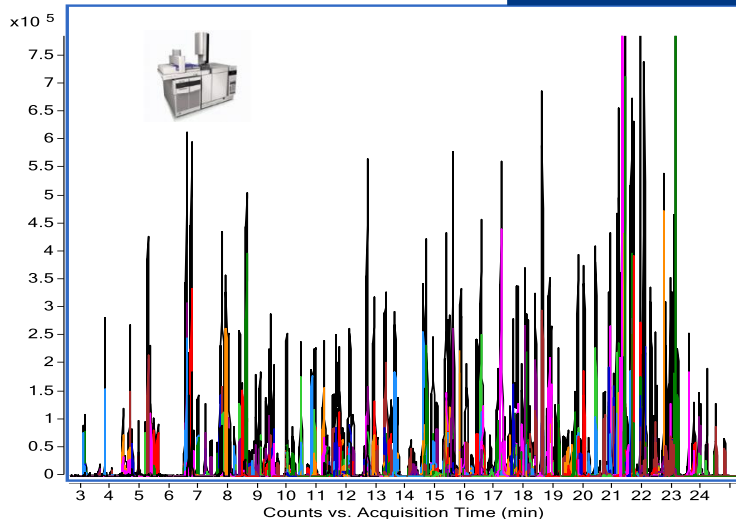
Pesticide analysis

Sample Preparation

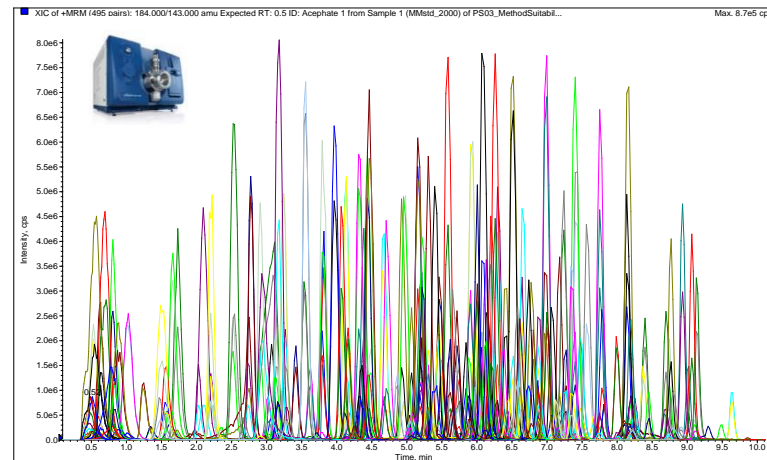
QuEChERS

GC-MS/MS

LC-MS/MS



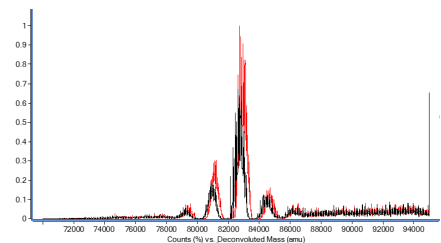
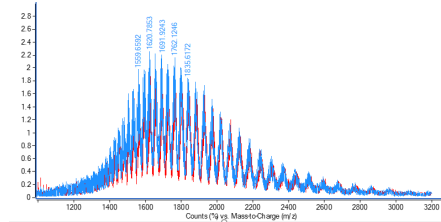
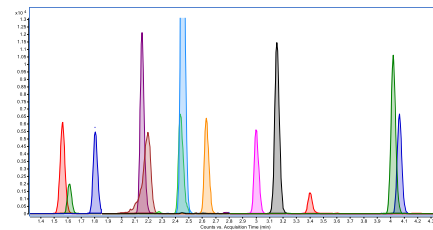
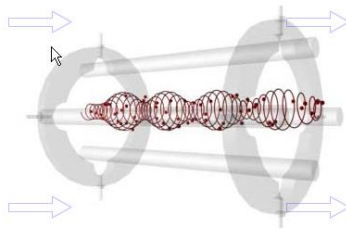
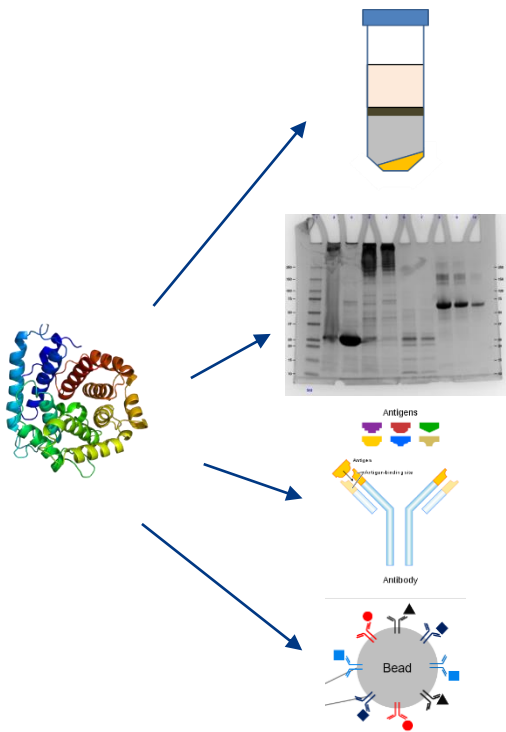
GC-MS/MS  
(~290 analytes)



BOTH  
(~235 analytes)

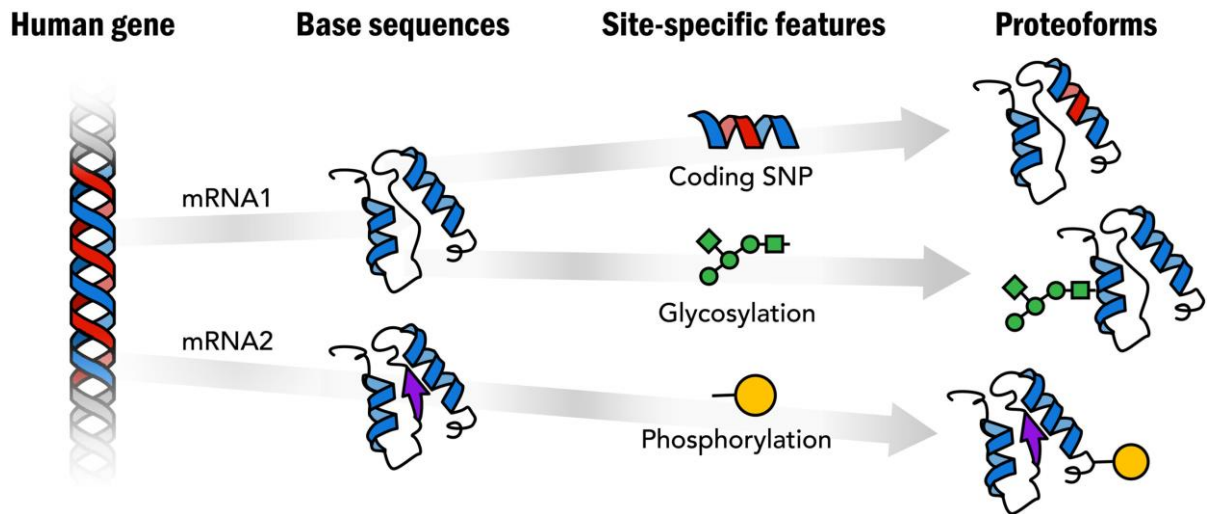
LC-MS/MS  
(~460 analytes)

# LCMS is versatile





# Challenges - Proteoforms



•Lloyd M. Smith et al.  
The Human Proteoform Project:  
Defining the human  
proteome.*Sci.*  
*Adv.*7,eabk0734(2021).  
DOI:[10.1126/sciadv.abk0734](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abk0734)

## Proteoform

- Not one form or state
- Multiple, variable modifications
- Standard material vs sample material

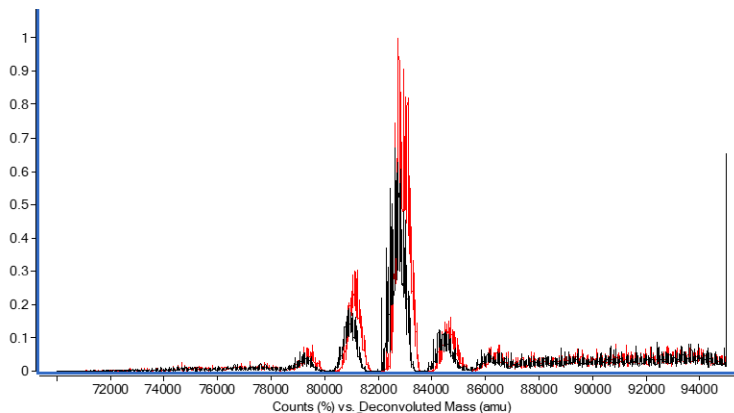
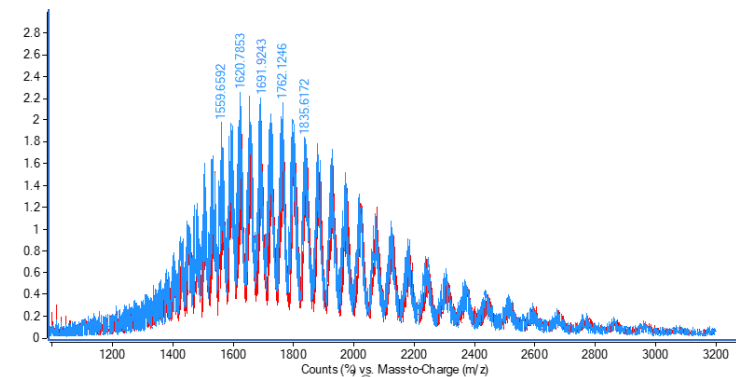
## Post Translational Modifications (PTMs) affect

- Chromatography
- Observed mass (range)
- Observed peptides

(Also Food Processing effects)

# MS Challenges for targeted protein analysis (Top down)

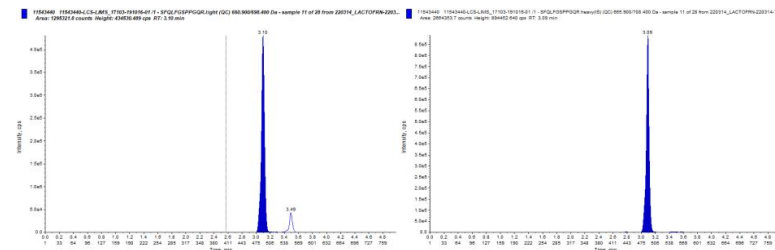
- Proteoforms – Multiple masses
- Multiple charge states – Decreased sensitivity
- Most samples are very complex. Many proteins.
- Need specific cleanups or multiple targets/measurements



# Protein quantitation – Surrogate Peptide (Bottom up)

- Digestion to specific predicted fragments

- Enzyme specificity
- Complex samples
- Quantitation using surrogate peptide
  - Sensitivity
  - Specificity
  - Stable Isotope Labeled (SIL) peptide
    - Internal Standard



APRKNVWRCTISQPEWFKRRWQWRMKKLGAPSITCVRRFALEAECIRAIAEKKADAVTLDDGGMVFEAGRDPYKLRPV  
AAEYGTKESPQTHYYAVAVVKKGSNQLDQLQGRKSCHTGLGRSAGWIIPMGILRPYLSWTESLEPLQGAVKFFSAS  
CVPCIDRQAYPNLCQLCKGEGENQCACSSREPYFGYSGAFKCLQDGAGDVAFVKETTFFENLPEKADRDQYELLCLNNS  
RAPVDAFKECHLAQVPSHAVVARSDGKEDLIWKLLSKAQEKFGKNKSRSFQLFGSPGGRDLLFKDSALGFLRIPSKVDS  
ALYLGSRYLTTLKNLRETAEEVKARYTRVWCAVGPPEEQKQWWSQQSQNVTCATASTDDCIVLVKGEADALN  
DGGYIYTAGKCLVPLVAENRKSSSHSLDCLVRPTEGYLAVAVVKKANEGLTWNSLKDKKSCHTAVDRTAGWNIPMG  
LIVNQTGSCAFDEFFSQSCAPGADPKSRALCAGDDQGLDKCVPNSKEKYYGYTGAFRCLAEDVGDVAFVKNDDTVWE  
NTNGESTADWAKNLNREDFRLLCLDGRKPVTEAQSCHLAVAPNHAVVRSRDRAAHVQVLLHQALFGKNGKNCPC  
DKFLCKSETKNLLFNDNTECLAKLGGRPTEYEEYLTGEYVTAIANLKKCSTSPLEACAFLTR



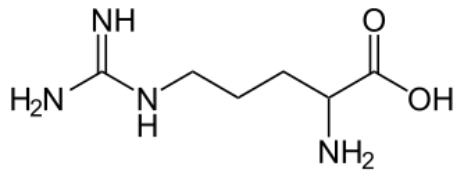
Denature,  
Digest

Measure  
SFQLFGSPGQR.light  
SFQLFGSPGQR.heavy,

GSNQLDQLQGR.light  
GSNQLDQLQGR.heavy

<https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/P24627>

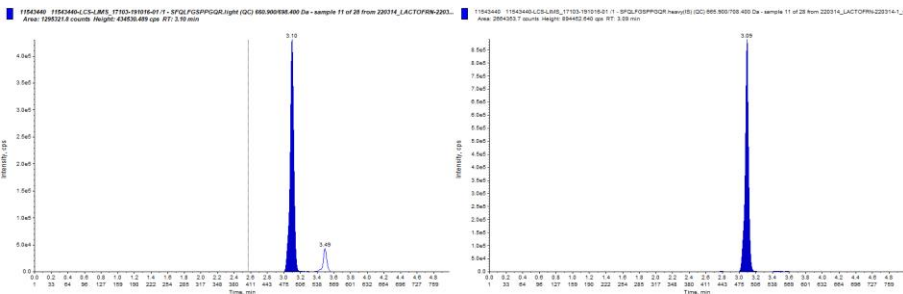
# Custom Peptide Synthesis and Stable Isotope Labeled (SIL) Peptide



Arginine

H2N-VLIVPQN<sup>13</sup>FVVAAR<sup>15</sup>-OH  
13 residues  
>95% Purity  
2500ug NET all material to be used in creating peptide mixture. See details  
Amino Acid Analysis (AAA) - Concentration - Single

R<sup>13</sup> = Arginine (13C6,15N4)



“Light” peptide = unmodified

SIL peptide spiked in all samples and calibrators at the same concentration.

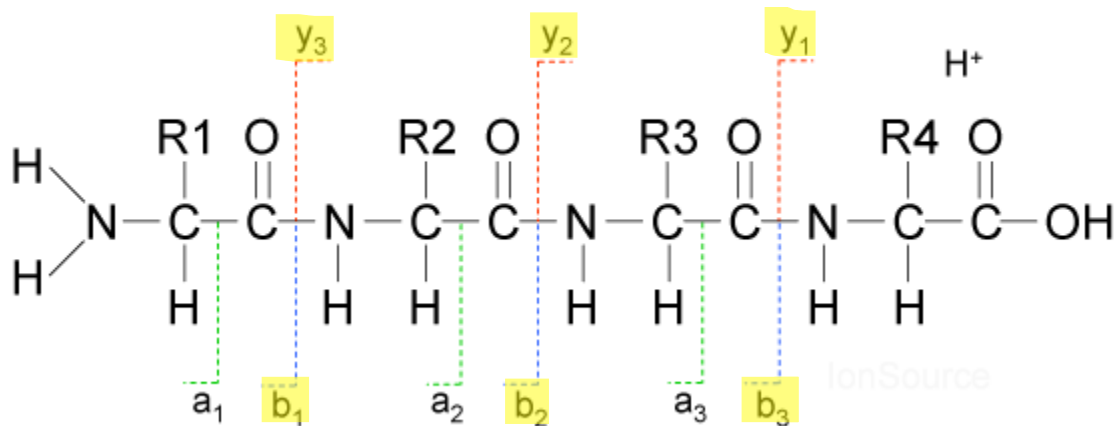
Will behave the same:

- Chromatography (e.g. LC retention time)
- MS Fragmentation

Observed Precursor Mass +10 amu

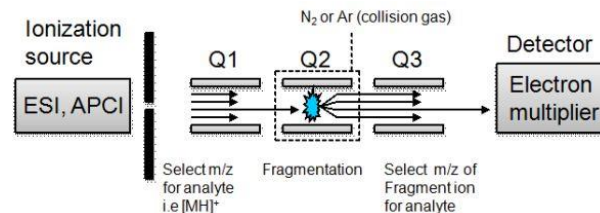
Observed Product Mass same or +10 (y/b ions)

# Surrogate Peptide fragmentation



- “y” and “b” ions most commonly used
- Specificity from fragmentation patterns
- One for quant, one+ for confirmation

<https://www.ionsource.com/tutorial/DeNovo/nomenclature.htm>



# Quantitation strategies

- Best option is protein of interest for calibration curve
  - Spiked at beginning of procedure
  - Experiences all sample treatment conditions (denaturation, modification, digestion)
  - Must be well characterized
- Peptides are very commonly used for standards
  - Light peptide neat curve with SIL
  - Matrix-matched preferred
- SIL peptide only for endogenous compounds
$$\text{Concentration light} = \frac{\text{Peak area light}}{\text{Peak area SIL}} \times \text{Concentration SIL}$$

# Emerging MS technologies



# High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS)


- Time of Flight (TOF)
- Orbital Trap (FT)

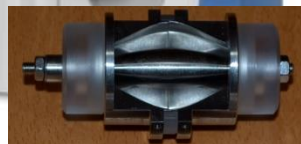
Resolution is high enough to definitively ID and separate elemental isotopes and peptides



Peptide mapping, untargeted analysis

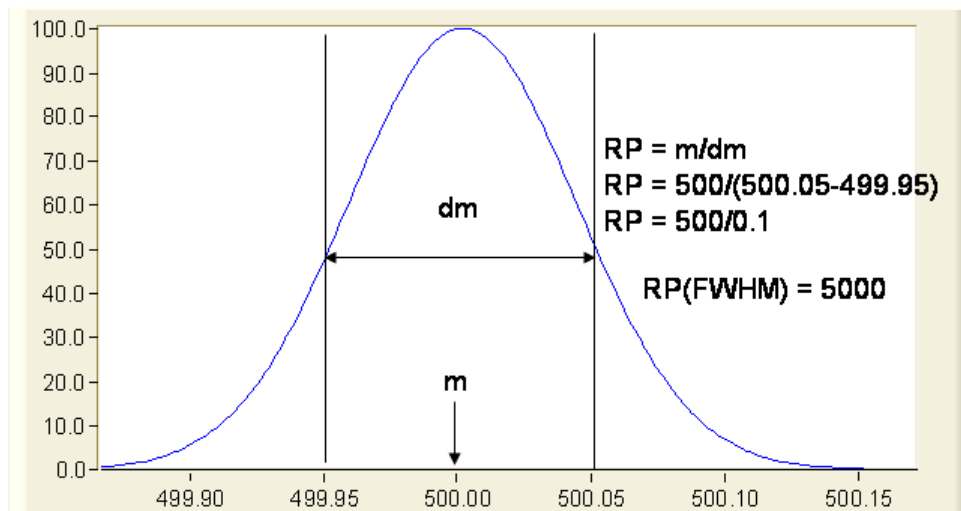
But...

- Sensitivity typically much lower than QQQ
  - Microflow, nanoflow LC
  - Throughput 



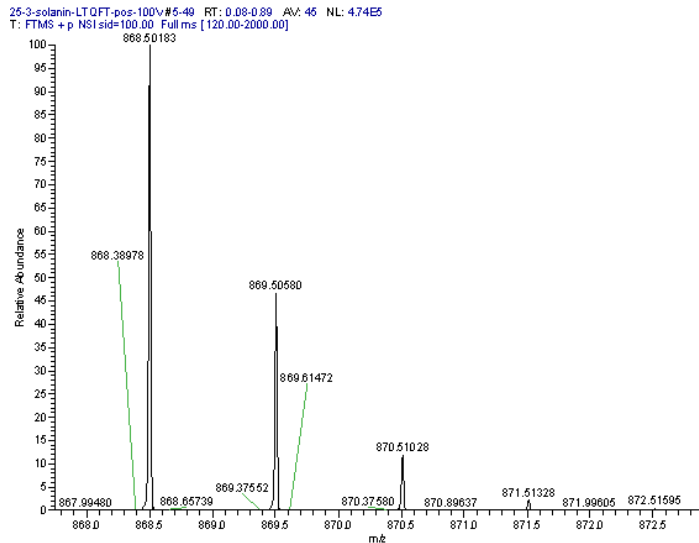
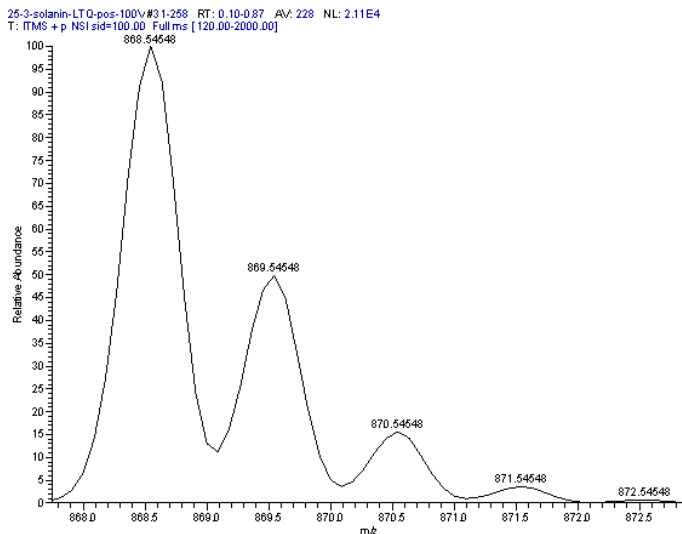


# Mass Spec Resolution



- RP = Resolving Power
- FWHM = Full width at half maximum

# Mass Spec Resolution



- Resolving power of ~2000 VS ~50,000
  - Need this level of detail to truly identify peptides
  - High resolution mass spectrometry typically greater than 20,000-30,000 (<5ppm mass error)

# Targeted vs Non-Targeted Approach

## TARGETED ANALYSIS

*Question:*

Is it in the sample?

**MASS SPECTROMETRY** and hyphenated techniques (especially LC and GC) are the tools most frequently used in non-targeted (food) analysis workflows

## NON-TARGETED ANALYSIS

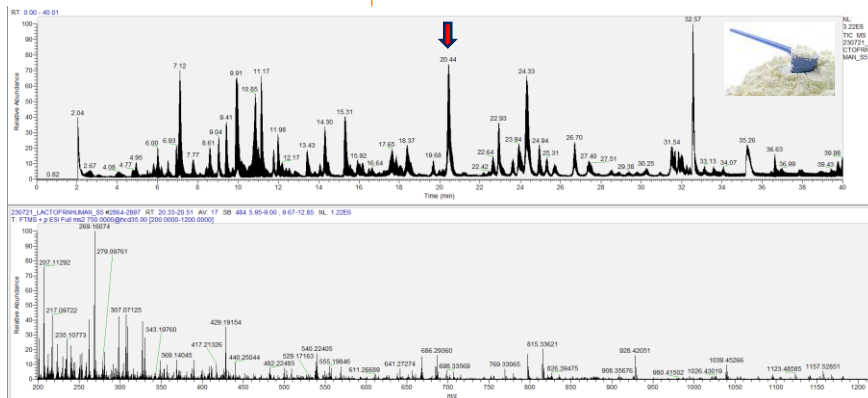
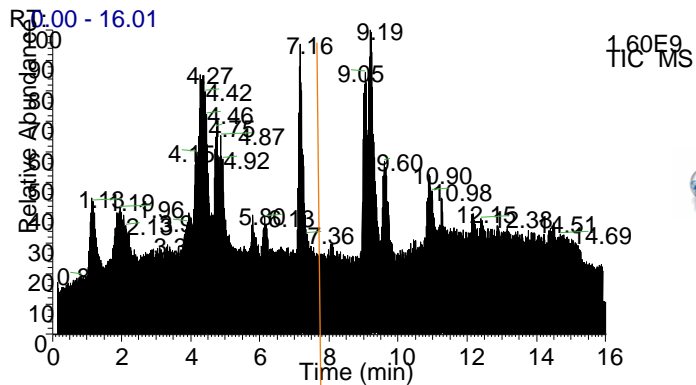
*Question:*

What is in the sample?



*"Okay—who put my lunch through the mass spectrometer..?"*

# What does the data look like?



# Identification of Unknown Compounds

1

LC-HRMS(/MS) DATA  
OF THE “FEATURE”

2

ELEMENTAL FORMULA  
ESTIMATION

3

SEARCH IN MS LIBRARIES  
& (BIO)CHEMICAL  
DATABASES (SOFTWARE)

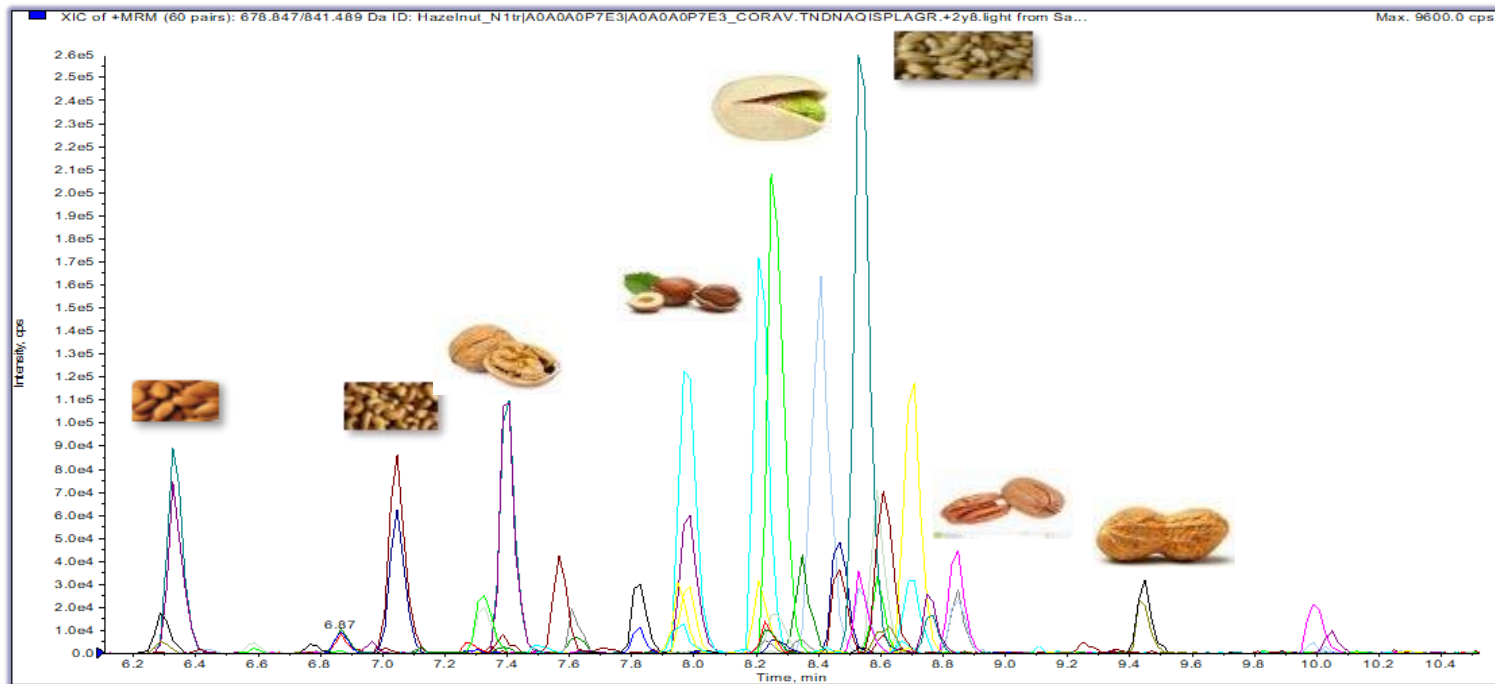
4

IDENTITY CONFIRMATION

Typically the most challenging and time-demanding step of the non-targeted analysis workflow...



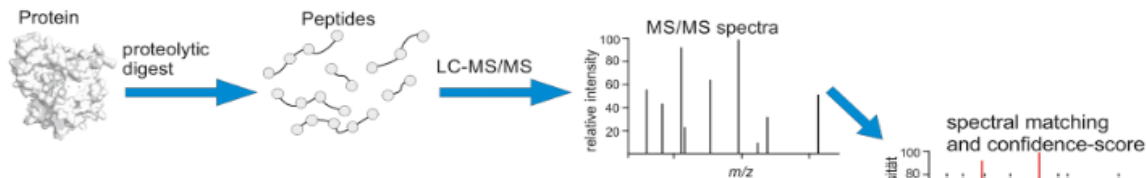
# Food allergens LCMS



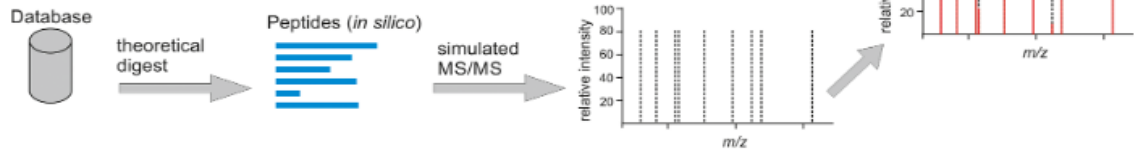
# Parallel Reaction Monitoring (PRM)

*J. Agric. Food Chem.* 2018, 66, 8935–8940

## bottom-up proteomics



## database-assisted data evaluation



Journal of  
**proteome**  
research

pubs.acs.org/jpr

Article

Parallel Reaction Monitoring Mass Spectrometry Method for Detection of Both Casein and Whey Milk Allergens from a Baked Food Matrix

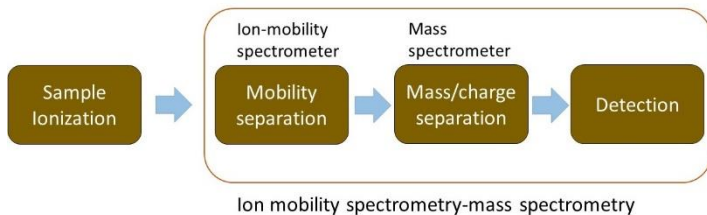
Bini Ramachandran, Charles T. Yang, and Melanie L. Downs\*

Cite This: *J. Proteome Res.* 2020, 19, 2964–2976

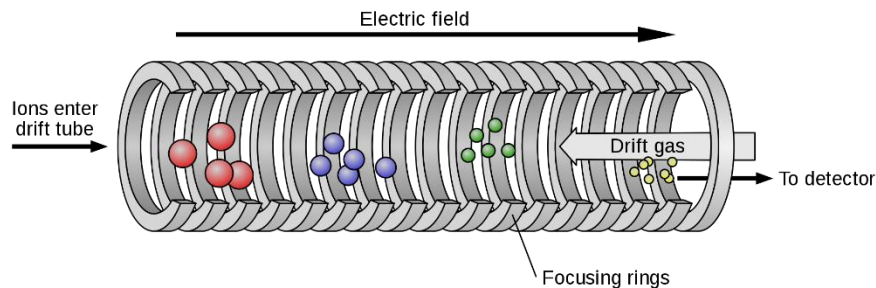
Read Online

- Detect modified peptides
- Relative quant only
- TMI in some cases?

# Ion mobility MS



- Isobaric (same  $m/z$ ) analytes/interferences
- Chiral analysis
- Positional isomers



By Jeff Dahl - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7025112>



# Ion Mobility MS - Structures for lossless ion manipulations (SLIM)

ASMS Journal of the American Society for  
Mass Spectrometry

pubs.acs.org/jasms



Research Article

## High-Resolution Ion-Mobility-Enabled Peptide Mapping for High-Throughput Critical Quality Attribute Monitoring

James R. Arndt,\* Kelly L. Wormwood Moser, Gregory Van Aken, Rory M. Doyle, Tatjana Talamantes, Daniel DeBord, Laura Maxon, George Stafford, John Fjeldsted, Bryan Miller, and Melissa Sherman



Cite This: *J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom.* 2021, 32, 2019–2032

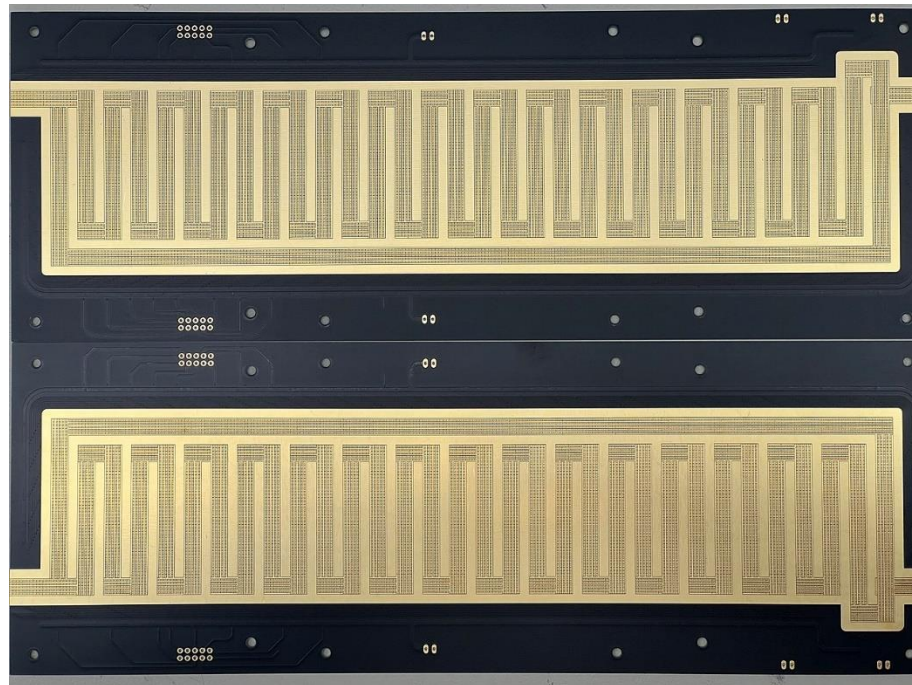


Read Online

## From Moblion website (licensee):

SLIM separation technology is different. SLIM makes ions turn corners, not just travel straight. This enables a single-pass flight path up to 13 meters, providing resolving powers of >250 that can distinguish differences as small as 0.2% in collision cross section (CCS) values.

<https://www.mobilionsystems.com/>



By Bhclowers - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=117738300>

# Ion Mobility MS - Structures for lossless ion manipulations (SLIM)

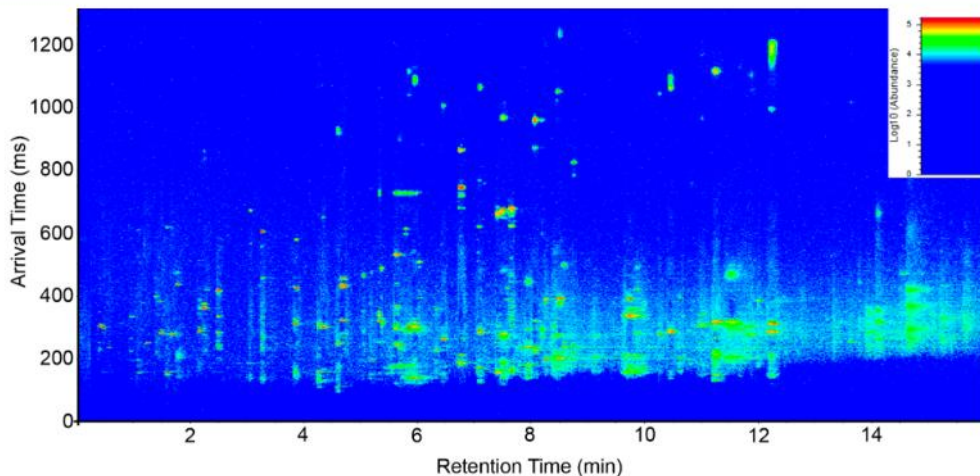


Figure 3. Two-dimensional arrival time vs retention time plot for the NISTmAb tryptic digest. Intensity scale is shown as the inset.



Simulations, experimental matching

<https://www.mobilionsystems.com/>



# Thank You!

Questions?

[www.eurofinsUS.com/food](http://www.eurofinsUS.com/food)

