Mass spectrometry-based proteomics

BMI/CS 776

www.biostat.wisc.edu/bmi776/

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Goals for lecture

Key concepts

- Benefits of mass spectrometry
- Generating mass spectrometry data
- Computational tasks
- Matching spectra and peptides

Mass spectrometry uses

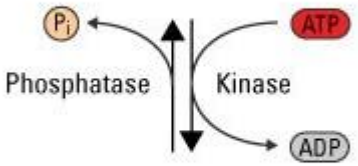
- Mass spectrometry is protein analog of microarrays or RNA-seq
  - Quantify abundance or state of all (many) proteins
  - No need to specify proteins to measure in advance

- Other applications in biology
  - Targeted proteomics
  - Metabolomics

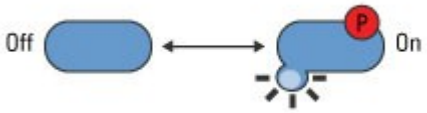
Advantages of proteomics

- Proteins are functional units in a cell
  - Protein abundance directly relevant to activity

- Post-translational modifications
  - Change protein state



Phosphorylation in signaling



Thermo Fisher Scientific

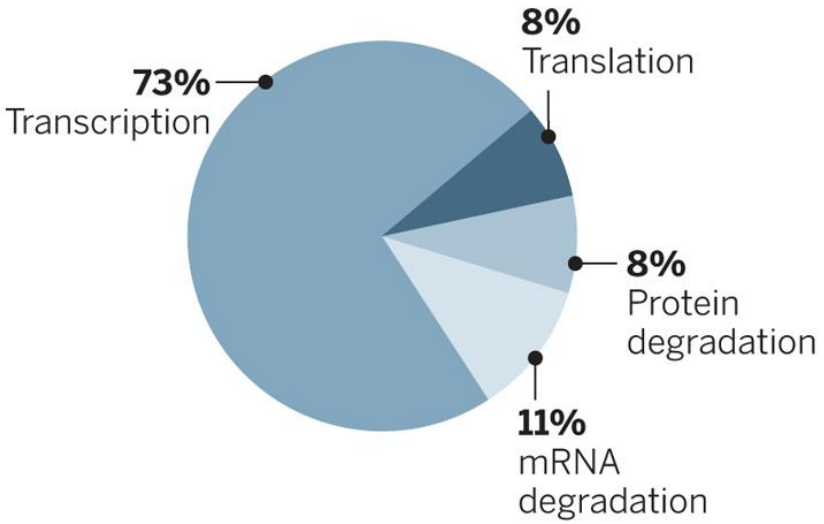
Histone modifications

Latham *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* 2007; Katie Ris-Vicari

Estimating protein levels from gene expression

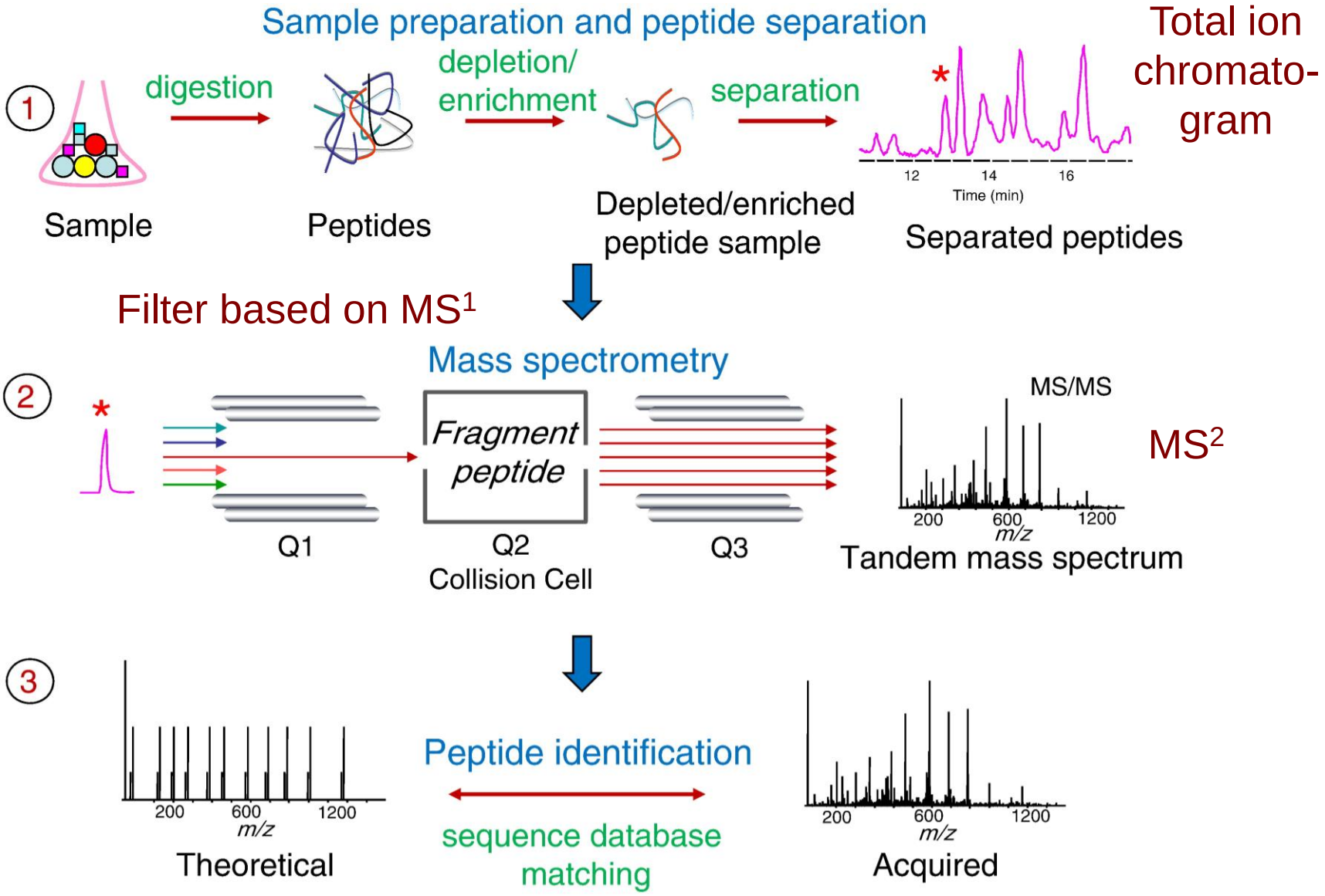
- Correlation between gene expression and protein abundance has been debated
- Gene expression tells us nothing about post-translational modifications

Contribution to protein levels



Li and Biggin *Science* 2015

Mass spectrometry workflow



Nesvizhskii *Journal of Proteomics* 2010

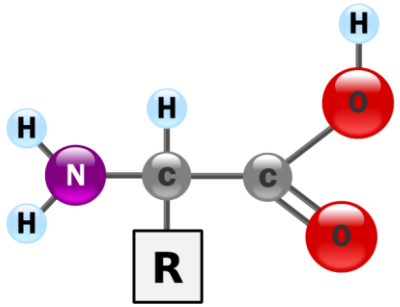
Amino Acids

- 20 amino acids
- Building blocks of proteins
- Known molecular weight

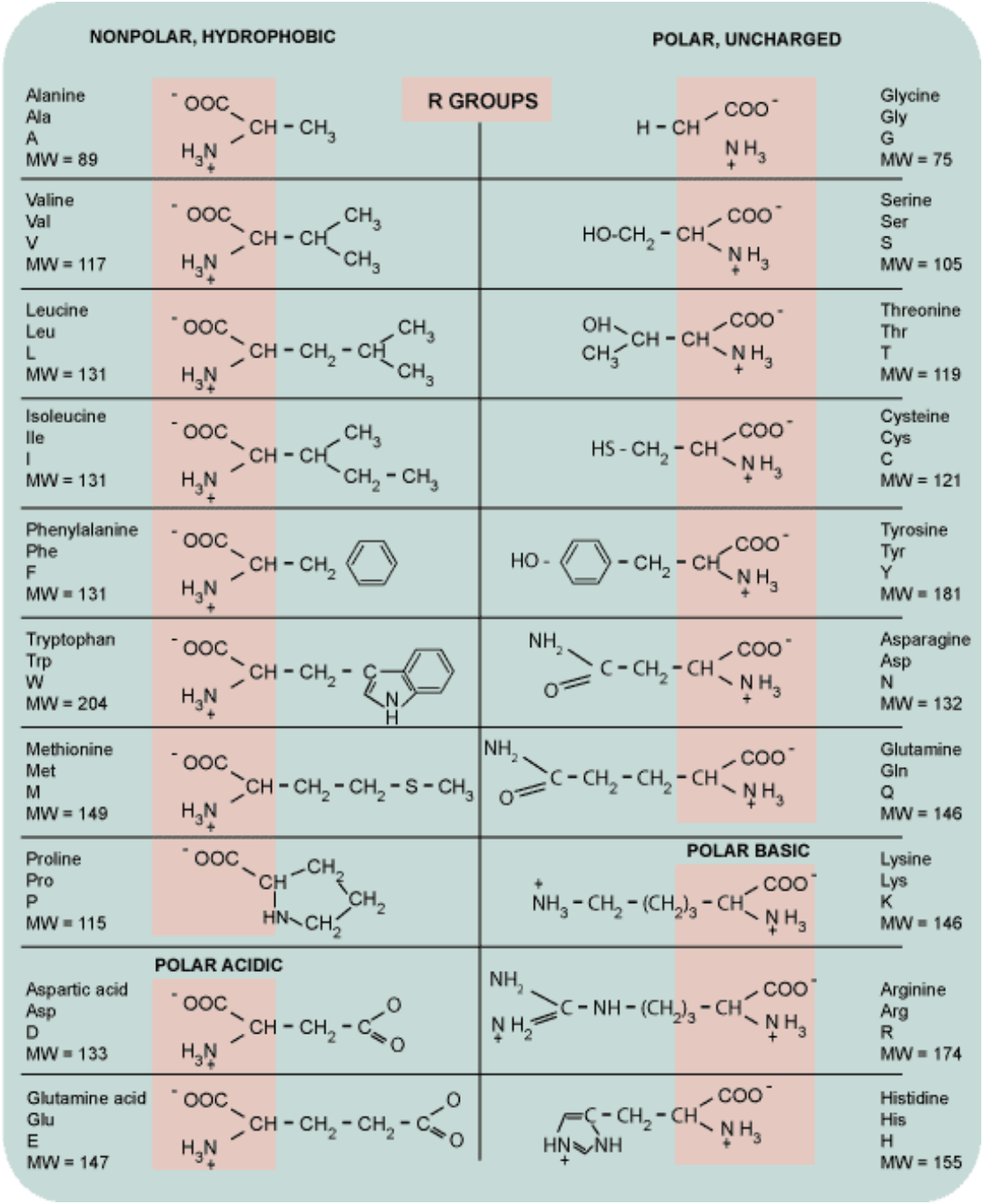
- Common template

Amino-terminal

Carboxy-terminal

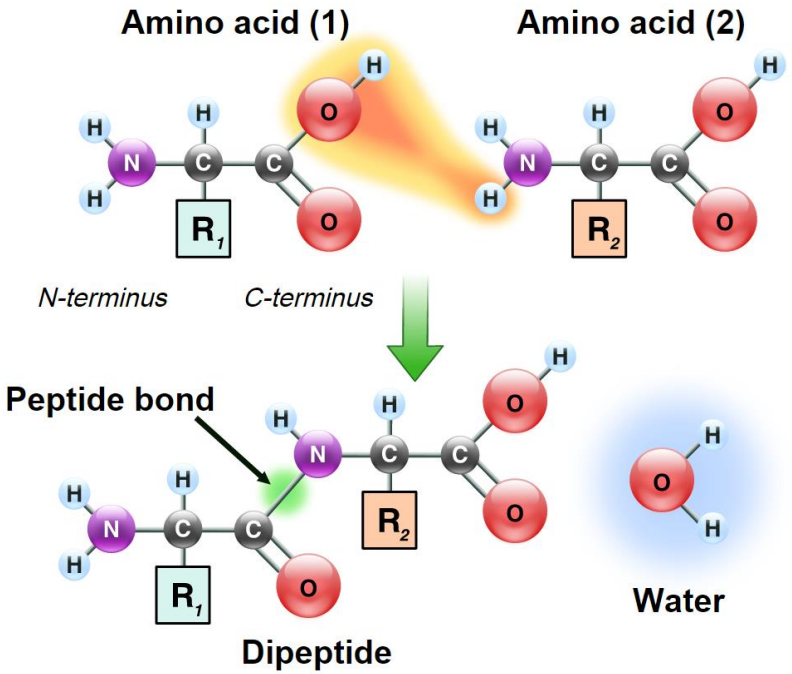


Wikipedia, Yassine Mrabet



Peptide fragmentation

Peptide bond

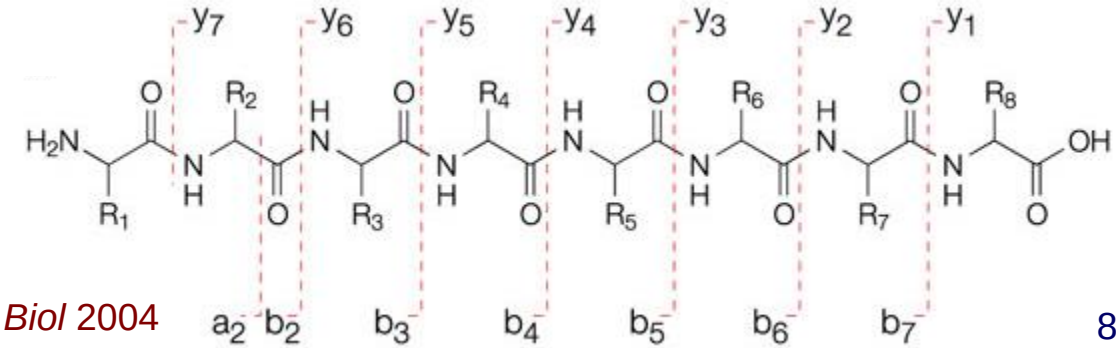


Wikipedia, Yassine Mrabet

- Select similar peptides from MS^1
- Fragment with high energy collisions
- Break peptide bonds

Charge on amino-terminal (b) or carboxy-terminal fragment (y)

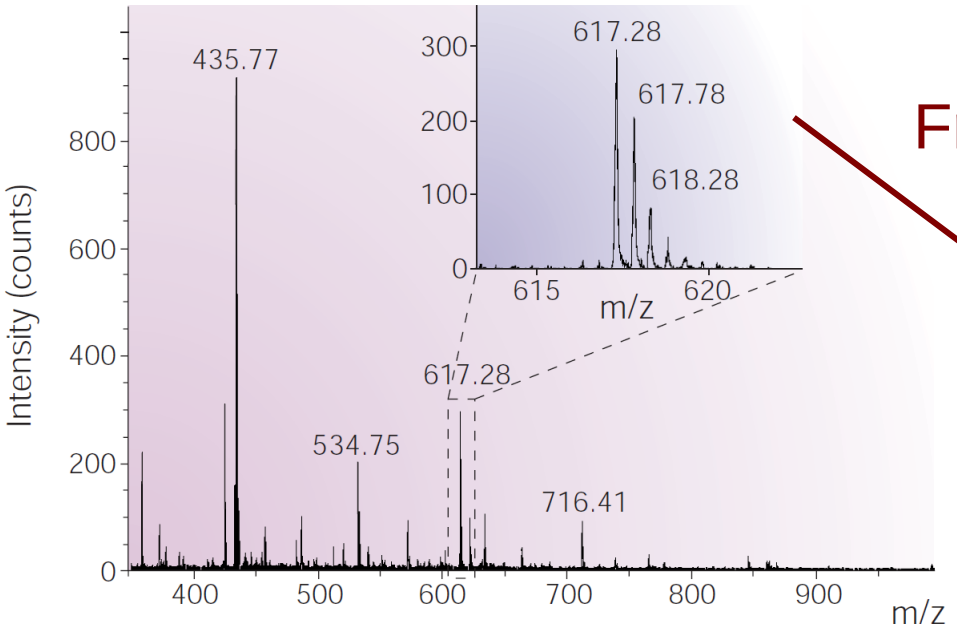
Subscript = R groups retained



Steen and Mann *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 2004

Mass spectra

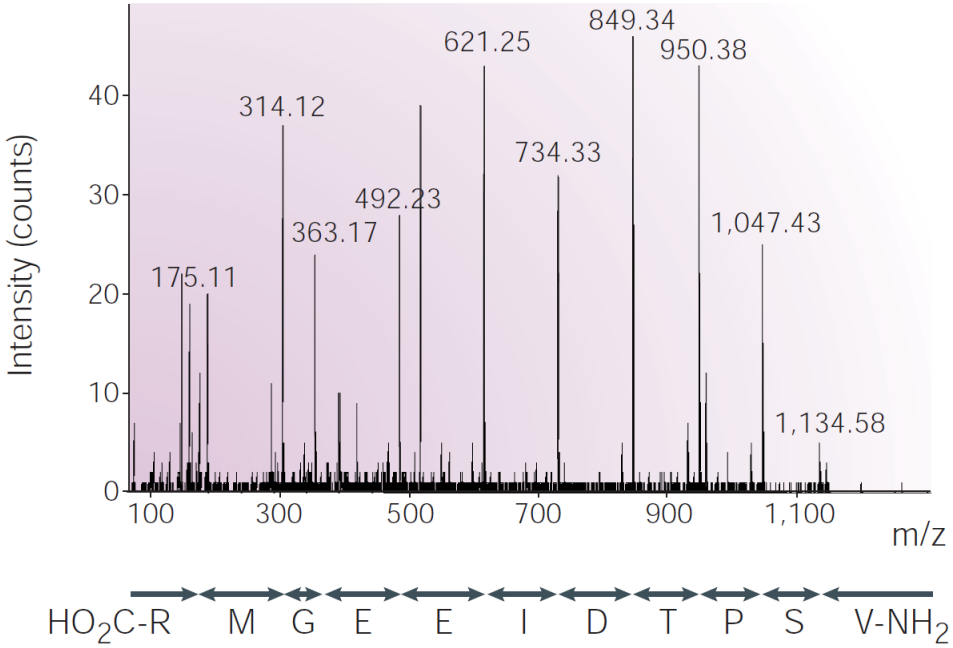
MS[1]



Steen and Mann *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 2004

Fragment and analyze one precursor ion

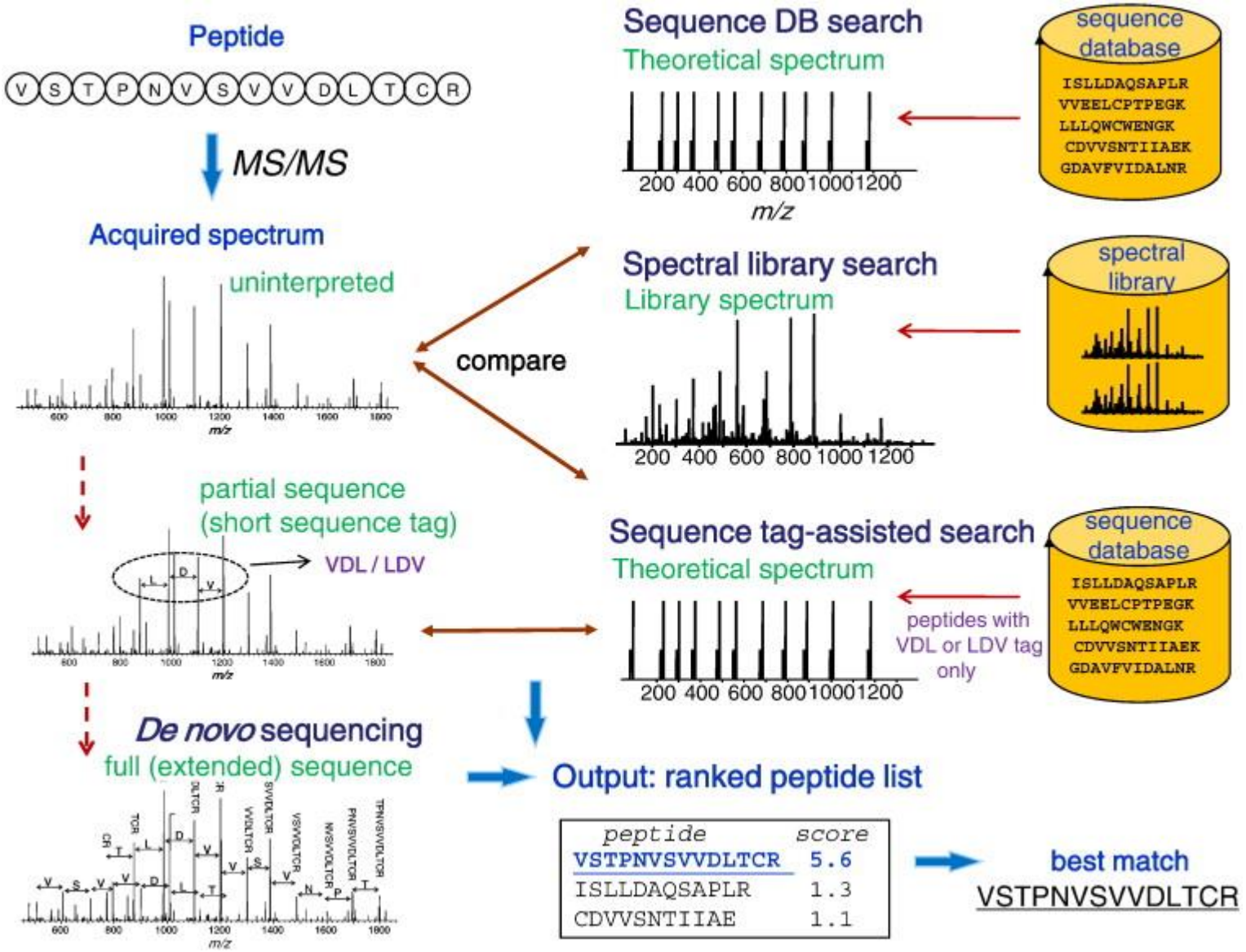
MS[2]



Mass-to-charge ratio

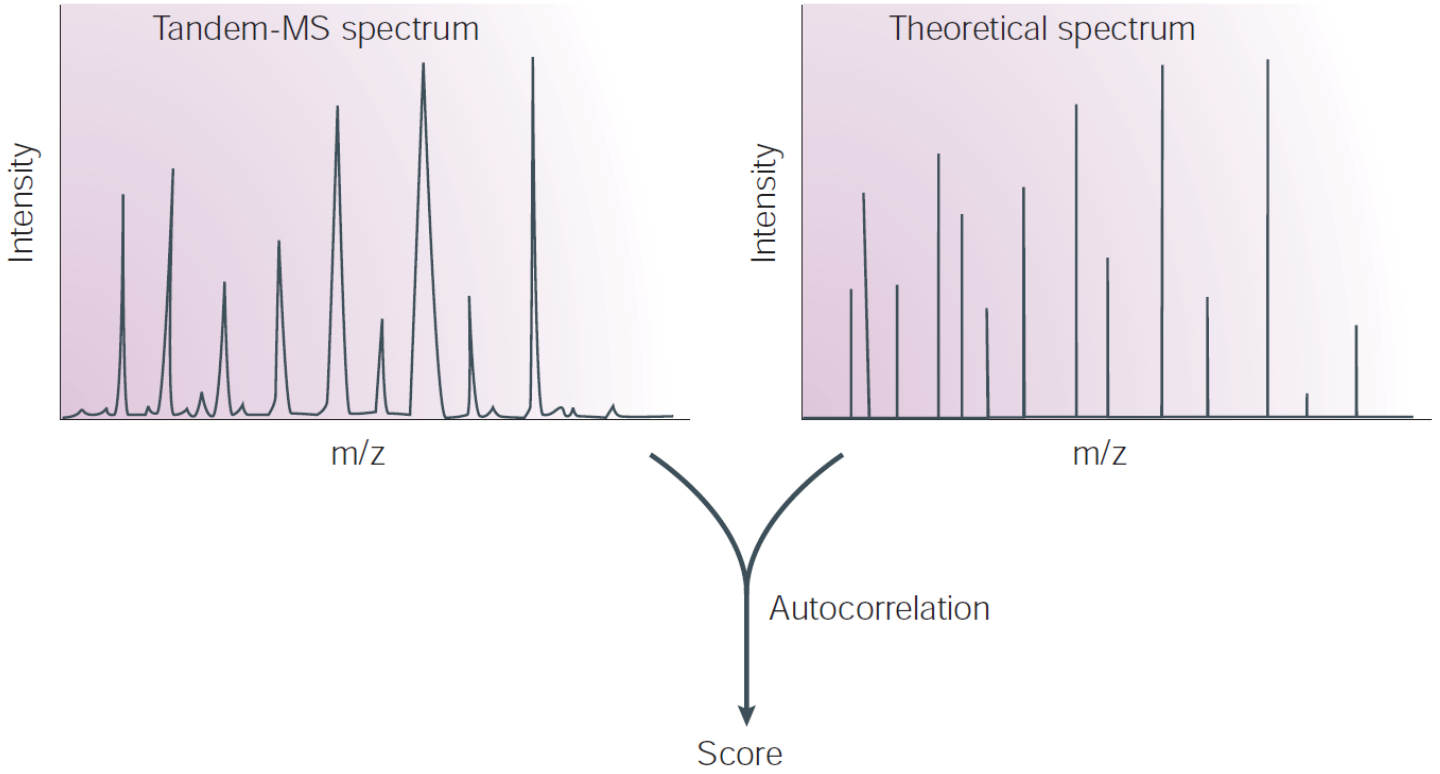
Spectrum contains information about amino acid sequence, fragment at different bonds

From spectra to peptides



Sequence database search

- Need to define a scoring function
- Identify peptide-spectrum match (PSM)



Steen and Mann *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 2004

SEQUEST

- Cross correlation (xcorr)
- Similarity between theoretical spectrum (x) and acquired spectrum (y)
- Correction for mean similarity at different offsets

Offsets

$$\text{xcorr} = R_0 - \left(\sum_{\tau=-75}^{\tau=+75} R_\tau \right) \Big/ 151$$

Actual similarity

$$R_\tau = \sum x[i] \cdot y[i+\tau]$$

Theoretical

Acquired

Eng, McCormack, Yates *J Am Soc Mass Spectrom* 1994

Fast SEQUEST

- SEQUEST originally only applied to top 500 peptides based on coarse filtering score

$$\text{xcorr} = x_0 \cdot y_0 - \left(\sum_{\tau=-75}^{\tau=+75} x_0 \cdot y_\tau \right) \Big/ 151$$

$$\text{xcorr} = x_0 \cdot \left(y_0 - \left(\sum_{\tau=-75}^{\tau=+75} y_\tau \right) \Big/ 151 \right)$$

$$\text{xcorr} = x_0 \cdot y' \quad \text{where} \quad y' = y_0 - \left(\sum_{\tau=-75,\tau\neq 0}^{\tau=+75} y_\tau \right) \Big/ 150$$

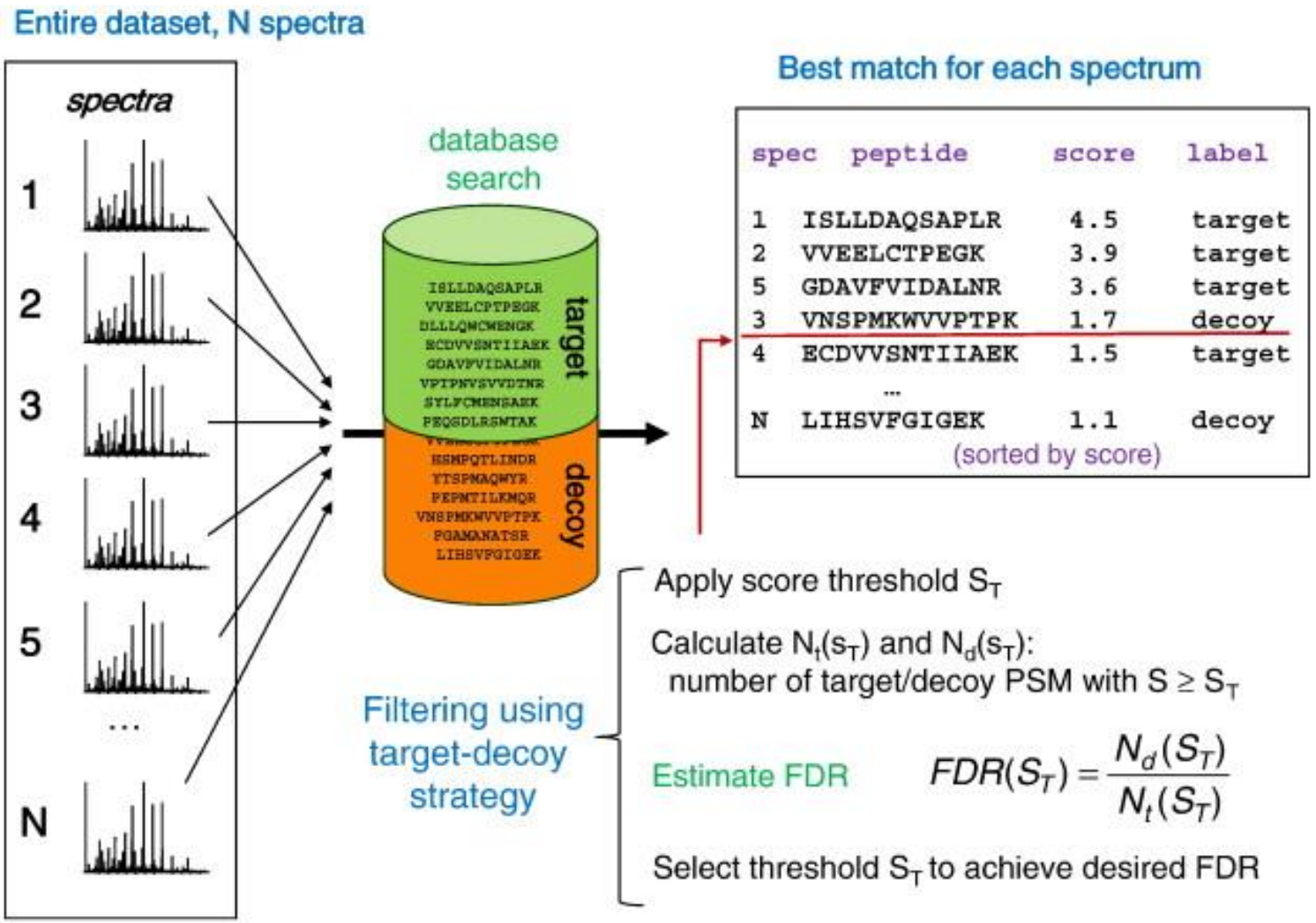
Skip the 0 offset

Eng et al *J Proteome Res* 2008

PSM significance

- E-value: expected number of null peptides with score ≥ observed score
- Compute FDR from E-value distribution
- Add decoy peptides to database
  - Reversed peptide sequences
  - Used to estimate false discoveries

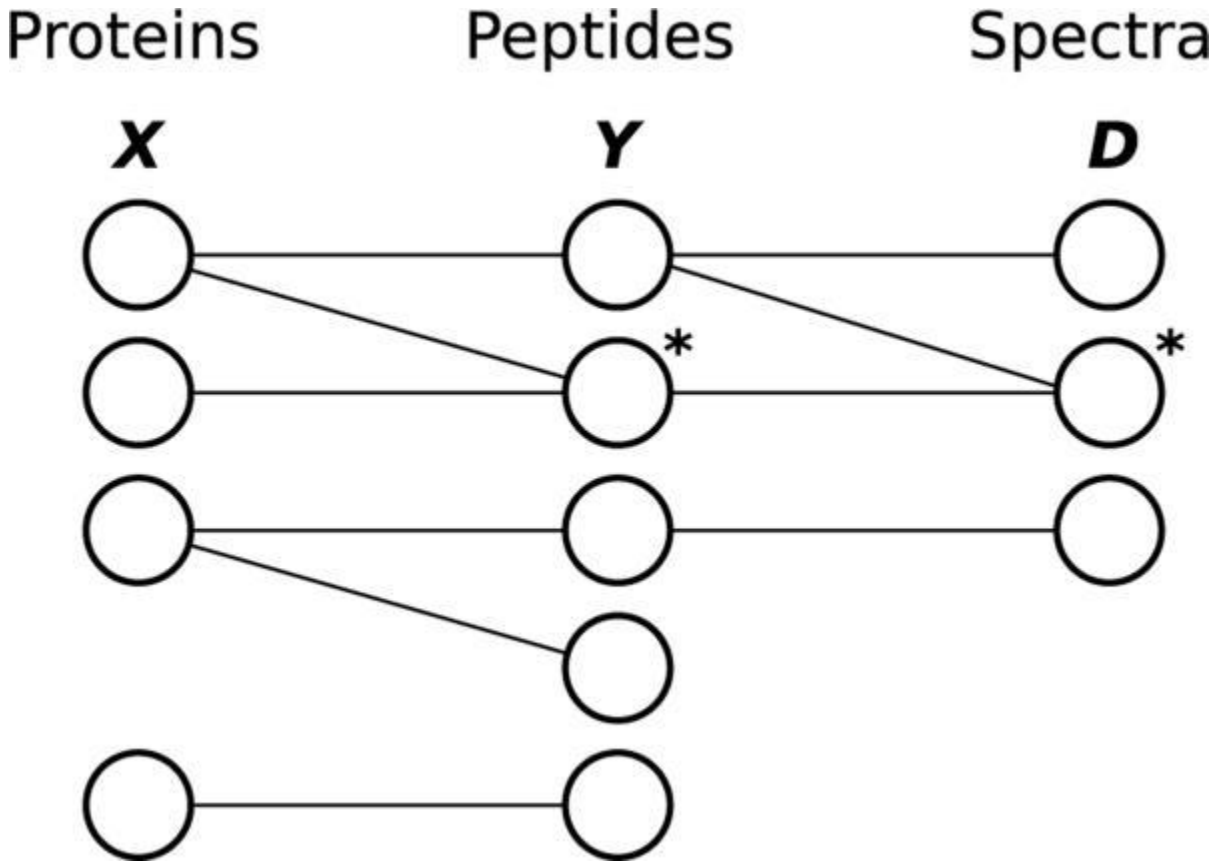
Target-decoy strategy



Nesvizhskii *Journal of Proteomics* 2010

Identifying proteins

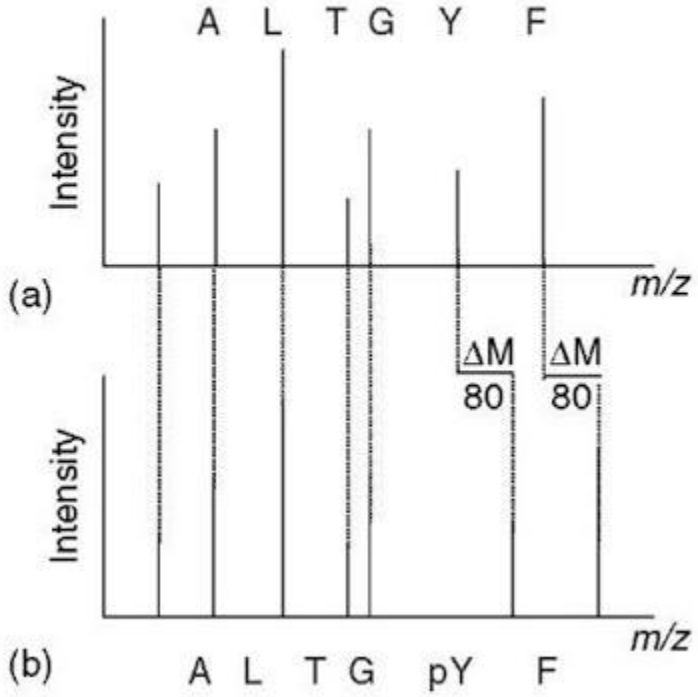
- Even after identifying PSM, still need to identify protein of origin



Serang and Noble *Stat Interface* 2012

Post-translational modifications (PTMs)

- Shift the peptide mass by a known quantity



what-when-how

Mass spectrometry versus RNA-seq

- RNA-seq
  - Transcript → RNA fragment → paired-end read
- Mass spectrometry
  - Protein → peptides → ions → spectrum
- Mapping spectra to proteins more ambiguous than mapping reads to transcripts
- Spectra state space is enormous

Mass spectrometry replicates

- Doesn't identify all proteins in the sample
  - Old technology had low overlap across replicates
  - Partly due to biology variation
- Phosphorylation PTMs are especially variable
  - Wolf-Yadlin lab (unpublished)
    - 3 biological replicates
    - 5,442 phosphopeptides identified
    - 19.6% identified in all replicates
  - Grimsrud et al *Cell Metabolism* 2012
    - 5 biological replicates
    - 9,558 phosphoproteins identified
    - 5.6% in all replicates

Mass spectrometry summary

- Incredibly powerful for looking at biological processes beyond gene expression
  - Protein abundance
  - Post-translational modifications
  - Metabolites
  - Protein-protein interactions
- Typically reports relative abundance
- Labeling strategies for comparative analysis
  - Compare relative abundance in multiple conditions
- Missing data is a big problem, but improving
- Fully probabilistic analysis pipelines are not the most popular tools
  - Arguably greater diversity in software than RNA-seq