Mass Spectrometric Analysis of Proteins and Peptides



Ming F. Tam Spring ⁶

Outline

- 1 The fundamentals-- Brief overview of hardwares and data acquisition.
- 2 Protein characterization, i.e. sequencing.

3 Protein identification.4 Protein quantification.5 Other applications.



The oldie and goldie: Methods in Enzymology 1990 Volume 193, 47 articles and 862 pages.

The new and improved: Methods in Enzymology 2005 Volume 402, 14 articles and 440 pages.



The most fundamental concept: Mass Spectrometry Is Only a **Tool to Give Accurate Masses** of gaseous samples: Proteins, Peptides, DNA Fragments, sugars, metabolites, chemical compounds.....

A mass spectrometer is an instrument that measures the masses of individual molecules that have been converted into ions, i.e., molecules that have been electrically charged.



The process is called 'I onization' meaning:



The sample has to be in gaseous phase and carries a charge before it can fly

Components of a mass spectrometer



Common ionization methods for biological samples

- <u>Electrospray Ionization (ESI) or</u> <u>Atmospheric Pressure Chemical</u> <u>Ionization (APCI)</u>
- <u>Matrix Assisted Laser Desoption</u> Ionization (MALDI)



The ESI Theory





MALDI

 Sample mixed with organic compounds, co-crystallized, then subjected to laser excitation

a-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acidSinapinic acid2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid

Etc, etc, etc.....

CCA SA DHB





- Note that for the ionization methods discussed, they all utilize high voltages to accelerate the macromolecules.
- Depending on the acquired voltage, the macromolecule will attain a translational energy of:

$$V_1 e = m_1 v_1^2 / 2 = (m_1 v_1)^2 / 2m_1$$

$$V_1 e = m_1 v_1^2 / 2 = (m_1 v_1)^2 / 2m_1$$

or

$$m_1 v_1 = (2V_1 e m_1)^{1/2}$$

- It means the velocity of the ion is proportional to the reciprocal of the square root of its mass. Or momentum increases with the square root of its mass.
 - At fixed accelerating voltage, separation of ions based on their momentum or their velocity is equivalent to a separation based on mass.

Analyzers

- Magnetic sectors
- Quadrupoles
- I on trap
- Time-of-flight
- Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance FT-ICR



Choice of mass analyzer:

- Mass range
- Resolving power (separation of ions of close m/z)
- Mass accuracy
- I on transmission—sensitivity
- Scanning speed
- Each of use with ancillary equipment



Magnetic sectors







- Magnetic sectors bend the trajectories of ions into circular paths of radii that depend on the momentum-to-charge ratios of the ions.
- I ons of larger m/z follow larger radius paths than ions of smaller m/z values so ions of differing m/z values are dispersed in space.
- By changing the ion trajectories through variations of the magnetic field strength, ions
 of different nominal mass-to-charge ratios
 can be focused on a detector



Quadrupoles



- A quadrupole mass filter consists of four parallel poles or rods.
- Mass sorting depends on ion motion resulting from simultaneously applied constant (dc) and radio frequency electric (rf) electric fields.
- Scanning is accomplished by systematically changing the field strengths, thereby changing the m/z value that can be transmitted through the analyzer.
- Quadrupole mass spectrometers provide lower resolution than double focusing instruments but tend to be more easily interfaced to various inlet systems and to be less costly.

I on trap





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- The quadrupole ion trap mass spectrometer (Figure 6) operates on a principle similar to a quadrupole mass filter. However, it does not operate as a filter. Rather, the ion trap stores ions for subsequent experiments and analysis.
- It uses fields generated by rf (and sometimes dc) voltages applied to electrodes arranged in a sandwich geometry: a ring electrode in the middle with cap electrodes on each end. Within a selected range of mass-to-charge ratios determined by the applied voltages, the device traps ions in the space bounded by the electrodes.
 - Typically, a mass spectrum is produced by scanning the applied rf voltages to eject ions sequentially of increasing mass-to-charge ratio through an end cap opening for detection.

FT-ICR



- For FT-ICR spectrometer ions are trapped electrostatically within a cubic cell in a constant magnetic field.
 - A covalent orbital ("cyclotron") motion is induced by the application of a radio-frequency pulse between the excite plates. The orbiting ions generate a faint signal in the detect plates of the cell.
 - The frequency of the signal from each ion is equal to its orbital frequency, which in turn is inversely related to its m/z value. The signal intensity of each frequency is proportional to the number of ions having that m/z value.
 - The signal is amplified and all the frequency components are determined, yielding the mass spectrum.
 - If the pressure in the cell is very low, the ion orbital motion can be maintained over many cycles and the frequency can be measured with very high precision. The FT-ICR instrument can therefore be used to generate very high resolution spectra.

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Time of flight Laser M+ m+ Ion source Drift region Detector $U_{\tt acc}$ Figure 1.1. Schematic diagram of a linear TOF mass spectrometer Ming F. Tam Spring ⁶⁰⁶

- Time-of-flight mass analyzers separate ions by virtue of their different flight times over a known distance.
- A brief burst of ions is emitted from a source. These ions are accelerated so that ions of like charge have equal kinetic energy are directed into a flight tube.
- Kinetic energy is equal to 1/2 mv², the lower the ion's mass, the greater the velocity and shorter its flight time. The travel time from the ion source through the flight tube to the detector, can be transformed to the m/z value.
 - Because all ion masses are measured for each ion burst, TOF mass spectrometers offer high sensitivity as well as rapid scanning. They can provide mass data for very high-mass biomolecules.



- Magnetic sectors
 - Quadrupoles
 - I on trap
 - Time-of-flight
 - Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance FT-ICR



Components of a mass spectrometer



What do you see in a spectrum?







- A = relative intensity, related to the base peak.
- C is the base peak.
- D is counts related to the base peak.
- B is the m/z, all three peaks are from the same compound.



ESI spectrum from quadrupole machine



 $M_1Z_1 = Mr + 1.0079 Z_1$ $M_2Z_2 = Mr + 1.0079 Z_2$ Assume adjacent peaks represent species differing by only one charge, and charge is due to protonation.

At $M_2 > M_1$ $Z_2 = Z_1 - 1$ Then $Z_1 = (M_2 - 1.0079)/(M_2 - M_1)$

Average of data pairs gives high accuracy.



MS 101: you don't need 100% pure sample for measurement.



Recombinant Human Hemoglobin α H20R/ β E6V, E22Q α =15145 Da β =15836 Da





The sharp peaks are not sharp on a quadrupole machine! Bradykinin sample



That brings to the question of resolution





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Note that for quadrupole machine, according to definition, the peaks are not resolved.



At high resolution machines, the peaks can be resolved on the mass spectrum



Atomic Masses and Abundances

Isotope	%	Isotope	%	Isotope	%	Isotope	%
¹² C	98.93	¹³ C	1.07	¹⁴ C			
¹ H	99.9885	² H	0.0115	³ Н			
¹⁴ N	99.632	¹⁵ N	0.368				
¹⁶ O	99.757	¹⁷ O	0.038	¹⁸ O	0.205		
³² S	94.93	³³ S	0.76	³⁴ S	4.29	³⁶ S	0.02

http://ionsource.com/Card/Mass/mass.htm



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Peptide HLKTEAEMK



I nsulin/small protein TOF spectrum



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BSA/average mass only!



Read the tutorial:

http://ionsource.com/tutorial/isotopes/slide1.htm

Still available on 6/5/2006



Upage condition of analyzers for more versatile applications



Triple quadrupoles

- Precursor scan
- Sequencing via collison induced dissociation (CLD)

Standing, KG (2003) Current Opinion Structural Biology 13, 595-601.



Reflectron can do PSD and give partial sequence



Q-TOF machine





TOF-TOF mass spectrometer – Anal. Chem. 2000, 72, 552-558





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No more big columns Regular ESI at 1-4 ul/min

Regular bore (4.6 mm) at 0.6 ml/min Narrow bore (2.1 mm) at 0.125 ml/min Micro bore (1 mm) at 28 ul/min Stone et al. *Methods Enzymol* 1990, 193: 389-412

Most of the sample is wasted



Homemade splitter with capillary tubing—after column splitting





Capillary column 0.254 mm id 2 ul/min





Vydac C18, 1 X 250 mm





SPT C18, 0.254 X 110 mm



Southan et al. (1999) Anal. Biochem. 271, 152-158



Nano Sprayer + Nano LC0.15 mm I D300 nl/min0.05 mm I D50-70 nl/min

Monolithic column. Column in the sprayer tip.



Nanoflow—continuous flowModification + Monolithic column0.15 mm I D300 nl/min0.05 mm I D50-70 nl/min



Moore et al. (1998) Anal. Chem. 70, 4879-4884

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Technical problems: Delays, sample and void volumns, after column diffusion. Hydrophilic peptides, hydrophobic peptides.

Buffer problems.



Nanoflow—single shot 20-50 nl/min



Read:

"Rapid protein identification using direct infusion nanoelectrospray ionization mass spectrometry"



Summary

- Brief introduction of machines
 Ionization, Analyzers
- Brief introduction to spectrum interpretation, calculation of mass.
- Brief introduction of isotopic peaks.
- Introduction to MS/MS instruments.
- Introduction to LC/MS and nanoflow.



Peptide sequencing on triple quadrupoles





	Resid	ue mass :	= mass of	⁻ a.a. – ŀ	H ₂ O
	Gly	57	Gln	128	
	Ala	71	Lys	128	
	Ser	87	Glu	129	
	Pro	97	Met	131	
	Val	99	His	137	
	Thr	101	Phe	147	
	_Cys	103	Arg	156	
	Lxx	113	Tyr	163	
	Asn	114	Trp	186	×ó.
Ш	Asp	115			

Before fragmentation, the ion of the peptide is called the molecular ion or parent ion.

- The ions generated after fragmentation are called daughter ions.
- *For a singly charged molecular ion (MH⁺), where is the additional proton?
 - *If we have a doubly charged molecular ion (M+2H⁺), where are the protons?



EGVNDNEEGFFSAR





EGVNDNEEGFFSAR

Molecular ion (M+H)⁺ is the parent ion. Theoretical 1571.6 (average) 1570.7 (monoisotopic)

Observed (M+2H)²⁺ Calculated

786.2 786.3 (average) 785.9 (monoisotopic)

Should know that quadrupoles cannot give monoisotopic ions.

For tyrptic fragments, doubly charged ions are common.

Gives the expected # of residues



For every b ion, there should be a corresponding y ion.

At the end of the fragmentation reactions, there should be a mixture of b_i to b_{i+n} and y_j to y_{j+m} ions, in addition to others.









For any peptide, Molecular ion = e^{1} residue ions + H₂O +H⁺ b_{i+1} - b_i = residue mass of aa_{i+1}

For a peptide of n residues, Mass of b_{n-1} ion = (M+H)⁺ - H₂O – residue mass





 $y_1 \text{ ion} = \text{residue mass} + H_2O + H^+$ y ion = $(M+H)^+$ - b ion + 1 or b ion = $(M+H)^+$ - y ion + 1 or $(M+H)^+$ = b ion + y ion - 1


Besides b and y, there are other fragmentation ions



a, b, c are N-terminal fragments.

x, y, z are C-terminal fragments.





R R R ĊHR' ĊHR' ĊHR' - NH --- ĊH --·C **||** 0 0 0 b a a ion = b ion - COz ion = y ion - NH Ming F. Tam Spring ⁶⁰⁶



⁺NH₂=CHR ions

of the peptide

 Pro
 70
 Phe
 120

 Val
 72
 Cmc
 134

 Lxx
 86
 Tyr
 136

 Met
 104
 Trp
 159

 His
 110
 Give the a.a. composition



From the low mass end , identify possible amino acids in the peptide.



Pick out the largest peak, usually represents the molecular ion.

Look at the isotopic peaks and determine the number of charges on the ion.



If 786 is the doubly charged ion, then the molecular ion (MH⁺) should be (786 x 2) – 1 \rightarrow 1571.

Give a rough estimate that there are 13-15 amino acids.









Most likely you are dealing with a tryptic peptide.

If you remove an arginine or lysine from the C-terminal, the y_1 ion should be: (156+18+1 = 175) or (128+18+1 = 147).

Since b ion = MH^+ - y ion + 1 = 1571 - 175 + 1 → 1397 = 1571 - 147 +1 → 1425 Therefore, the b_{n-1} ion is missing













Note that b_1 and y_{13} are missing.

Dipeptides: **Gly-Gly** 114 Asn = Gly-Ala GIn or Lys 128 = Val-Gly 156 = Arg Gly-Glu 186 = Trp Ala-Asp 186 = Trp Ser-Val Trp 186 = AcGly 99 Val = AcAla 113 Lxx = AcSer 129 = Glu AcAsn 156 Arg =



Sequencing can also be done with MALDI - TOF in PSD mode



Life is easier as the spectrum become more simple

Convert -COOH to Methyl esters -COOH \rightarrow -COOCH₃ +14 daltons Affect C-terminal fragments, tell # acidic aa





•Can tell right away how many carboxyl groups on the peptide.

•Only ions carrying carboxyl group(s) will shift (compare to unmodified peptide).

- •y1 to y6 ions shift by 14 Da.
- •y7 ion shifts by 28 Da.
- •y8 and y9 by 42 Da.
- •y10 to y12 by 56 Da.



Convert –NH₂ to –NH-COCH₃ +42daltons Affect N-terminal and lysine containing fragments. Can distinguish K from Q, both have residual mass of 128 Da MATHEMATK 14 1: 3 Ming F. Tam Spring 606



All the b ions will shift by 42.



All the y ions stay put—if they don't have lysine

But you have to run the experiment twice!



Derivatize peptides to observe only Nor C-terminal ions—Run the experiment only once!

A method for high-sensitivity peptide sequencing using postsource decay matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization mass spectrometry Keough et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (1999) 96, 7131-7136.

Sulfonic acid derivatives for peptide sequencing by MALDI MS Keough et al. Anal. Chem. (2003) 75, 156A-165A.





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PNAS

React peptides with chlorosulfonylacetyl chloride. CIO₂S-CH₂-COCI

-O₃S-CH₂-CO-NH-peptide-COOH



Reaction carries out in non-aqueous condition. Introduce –ve charge to eliminate the Nterminal ions.



PNAS

Fig. 2. PSD MALDI mass spectra of a tryptic peptide before (Upper) and after (Lower)

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Read Sonsmann et al. "Investigation of the influence of charge derivatization on the fragmentation of multiply protonated peptides" JASMS (2002) 13, 47-58.



Step back in time! Edman sequencing



Use 4-sulfophenyl isothiocyanate (SPI TC) as modification reagent

$$NaO - S = V = C = S + H_2O$$

Protein identification based on matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization-post source decay-mass spectrometry

Gevaert et al. (2001) Electrophoresis 22, 1645-1651



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Chen et al. RCM (2004) 18, 191-198 *De novo* sequencing of tryptic peptides sulfonated by 4-sulfophenyl isothiocyanate for unambiguous protein identification using PSD MALDI MS



PSD MALDI spectra of HGTVVLTALGGILK without and with sulfonylation. Why the difference???



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Difference in ionization efficiency of Arg- and Lys-terminating peptides





Hale et al. (2000) Anal Biochem 287, 110-117



Yeast L12 tryptic digest



Go back to Chen's RCM 2004 data





The method can be used with ESI/I on trap

Lee et al. Proteomics 2004, 4, 1684-1694.

"Highly informative proteome analysis by combining improved N-terminal sulfonation for de novo peptide sequencing and online capillary reverse-phase liquid chromotography/tandem mass spectrometry"



Other alternatives

Bao et al. JMS (2005) 40, 772-776.





Enzymatic digestion in H_2O^{18}



Schnolzer et al. *Electrophoresis* 1996, 17:945-953 "Protease-catalyzed incorporation of O-18 into peptide fragments and its application For protein sequencing by electrospray and matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization Mass spectrometry"
Read:

J Proteome Res. (2005) 4, 101-108. J Proteome Res. (2005) 4, 2099-2108. Anal. Chem. (2005) 77, 7783-7795.

For pitfalls and other sequencing applications.



Are proteases absolutely necessary for protein sequencing with mass spectrometric analysis?



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IRMPD FT-ICR

Anal. Chem. 2000, 72, 4266-4274

Subfemtomole MS and MS/MS Peptide Sequence Analysis Using Nano-HPLC Micro-ESI Fourier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectrometry

Susan E. Martin,[†] Jeffrey Shabanowitz, Donald F. Hunt,^{*,‡} and Jarrod A. Marto

Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4319



ECD + FT-ICR

Anal. Chem. 2000, 72, 563-573

Electron Capture Dissociation for Structural Characterization of Multiply Charged Protein Cations

Roman A. Zubarev, David M. Horn, Einar K. Fridriksson, Neil L. Kelleher, Nathan A. Kruger, Mark A. Lewis, Barry K. Carpenter, and Fred W. McLafferty*

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Baker Laboratory, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853-1301

Automated de novo sequencing of proteins by tandem high-resolution mass spectrometry

David M. Horn, Roman A. Zubarev, and Fred W. McLafferty*

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-1301

Contributed by Fred W. McLafferty, June 16, 2000 PNAS (2000) 97, 10313-10317



Anal. Chem. 2000, 72, 4778-4784

Activated Ion Electron Capture Dissociation for Mass Spectral Sequencing of Larger (42 kDa) Proteins

David M. Horn, Ying Ge, and Fred W. McLafferty*

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Peptide and protein sequence analysis by electron transfer dissociation mass spectrometry

John E. P. Syka*^{†‡}, Joshua J. Coon^{‡§}, Melanie J. Schroeder[§], Jeffrey Shabanowitz[§], and Donald F. Hunt[§]¶

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Introduce -ve ions of anthracene thru CI. Transfer of electron to peptide backbones for fragmentation.





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Protein identification using sequential ion/ion reactions and tandem mass spectrometry

Coon et al. PNAS 2005, 102, 9463-9468.

React with deprotonated benzoic acid in proton transfer charge reduction AFTER ETD on a LTQ.









Electrochemical Oxidation and Cleavage of Proteins with On-line Mass Spectrometric Detection: Development of an Instrumental Alternative to Enzymatic Protein Digestion

Hjalmar P. Permentier and Andries P. Bruins Center for Pharmacy, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands

J. Am Soc Mass Spectrom 2004, 15, 1707-1716



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Summary

- Intrepretation of MS/MS spectra.
- Chemical derivatization of peptide for sequence analyses:
 - Methyl esterification of COOH
 - Acetylation of amino groups
 - Sulfonylation of N-termini
 - Phosphonylation of N-termini
 - O¹⁸ exchange at C-termini
- Whole protein sequence determination with FT-ICR.
- Protein cleavage with electrochemical oxidation.



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