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Don't miss a thing on your peptide mapping journey

How to get full coverage peptide maps using high resolution accurate mass spectrometry

Kai Scheffler, PhD
BioPharma Support Expert ,LSMS Europe



- What is the exact goal of the analysis?
 - sequence elucidation/verification
 - sequence variant analysis, amino acid substitution
 - analysis of modifications: glycosylation, deamidation, sulfation, oxidation
 - disulfide bridge analysis
 - distinguishing Leu/Ile, Asp/isoAsp
- Mass spectrometry portfolio: which instrument is applicable?
- Method setup: what is the most suitable method?
- MS methods:
 - what are the critical parameters?
 - how do they influence the success of the analysis?

MS Portfolio for BioPharma Characterization



Thermo Scientific™ Ion Trap LC-MS systems

Full MS with dd MS² (CID, HCD, ETD)

- MSn



Thermo Scientific™ Exactive™ Plus Orbitrap™ Mass Spectrometer

Full MS only

- (HCD fragmentation, no precursor selection)



Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™ hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap™ mass spectrometers

Full MS only

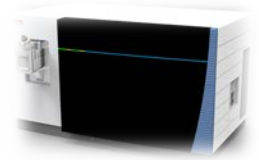
- Full MS with dd MS² (HCD)



Thermo Scientific™ LTQ Orbitrap XL™ Hybrid Ion Trap-Orbitrap™ Mass Spectrometer

Full MS only (OT detection)

- Full MS with dd MS² (CID, HCD, ETD)
- MSn



Thermo Scientific™ Orbitrap™ Fusion™ Tribrid™ Mass Spectrometers

Full MS only (OT detection)

- Full MS with dd MS² (CID, HCD, ETD)
- MSn

MS Portfolio for BioPharma Characterization

					
Analysis type	Thermo Scientific™ Ion Trap LC-MS systems - Full MS with dd MS² (CID, HCD, ETD) - MSn	Thermo Scientific™ Exactive™ Plus Orbitrap™ Mass Spectrometer - Full MS only (HCD fragmentation, no precursor selection)	Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™ hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap™ mass spectrometers - Full MS only - Full MS with dd MS² (HCD)	Thermo Scientific™ LTQ Orbitrap XL™ Hybrid Ion Trap-Orbitrap™ Mass Spectrometer - Full MS only (OT detection) - Full MS with dd MS² (CID, HCD, ETD) - MSn	Thermo Scientific™ Orbitrap™ Fusion™ Tribrid™ Mass Spectrometers - Full MS only (OT detection) - Full MS with dd MS² (CID, HCD, ETD) - MSn
Peptide mapping/sequence confirmation	 low res, low mass accuracy	 Full MS only			
Sequence variant analysis		 Confirmation of expected ones only			
Analysis of PTMs and other modifications		 Confirmation of expected ones only			
Disulfide bond analysis		 Confirmation of expected ones only			

MS Portfolio for BioPharma Characterization

					
	Thermo Scientific™ Ion Trap LC-MS systems	Thermo Scientific™ Exactive™ Plus Orbitrap™ Mass Spectrometer	Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™ hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap™ mass spectrometers	Thermo Scientific™ LTQ Orbitrap XL™ Hybrid Ion Trap-Orbitrap™ Mass Spectrometer	Thermo Scientific™ Orbitrap™ Fusion™ Tribrid™ Mass Spectrometers
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Sequence variant analysis		 Confirmation of expected ones only			
Analysis of PTMs and other modifications		 Confirmation of expected ones only			
Disulfide bond analysis	 ETD enabled systems only	 Confirmation of expected ones only		 ETD enabled systems only	

Method Setup

Before you setup, refine and start the MS method, you need to ensure you have an optimized LC-MS setup:

- Calibration
- Source settings:
 - ☐ probe position in the source housing (probe depth, x/y position)
 - ☐ source voltage
 - ☐ gas flows (sheath/aux gas) optimized for LC flow rate
 - ☐ S-lens



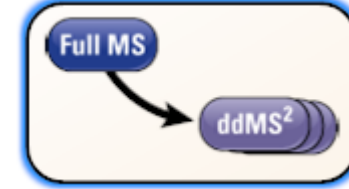
Peptide Mapping Method Setup

Method 1:



Full MS scans only

Method 2:



Full MS scans with data dependent MS² scans

Peptide Mapping Method Setup

Method 1:



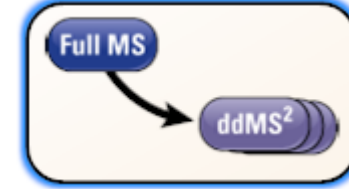
Full MS scans only

- Sequence **confirmation** based on intact accurate precursor masses
- **Confirmation** of known and expected modifications
- **Confirmation** of disulfide bridges

Critical parameters:

- **Mass range**
- AGC target setting
- Fill time

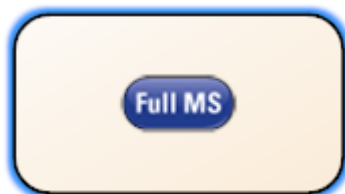
Method 2:



Full MS scans with data dependent MS² scans

Peptide Mapping Method Setup

Method 1:



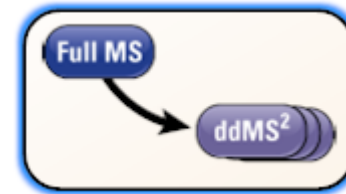
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Full MS scans with data dependent MS² scans

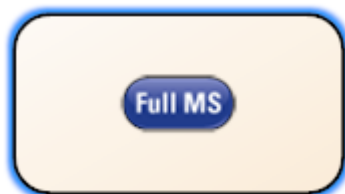
- Sequence confirmation based on intact accurate precursor masses **and MS² spectra**
- Confirmation of known and expected modifications and **identification of unknowns**
- Confirmation of disulfide bridges and **identification of unknowns**

Critical parameters:

- **Mass range**
- **Charge state range**
- AGC target setting MS + MS²
- **Maximum injection time MS/MS²**
- Fixed first mass (MS²)
- Intensity threshold
- **TopN**
- Collision energy (NCE)

Peptide Mapping Method Setup

Method 1:



Full MS scans only

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- **Confirmation** of disulfide bridges

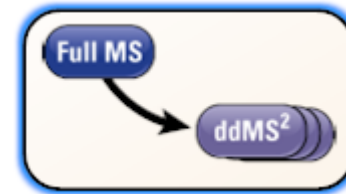
Critical parameters:

- **Mass range**
- AGC target setting
- Fill time

For Exactive MS series the **MS method setup and data acquisition** can be done via Thermo Scientific™ Xcalibur™ Software and/or Thermo Scientific™ Chromeleon™ Chromatography Data System Software



Method 2:



Full MS scans with data dependent MS² scans

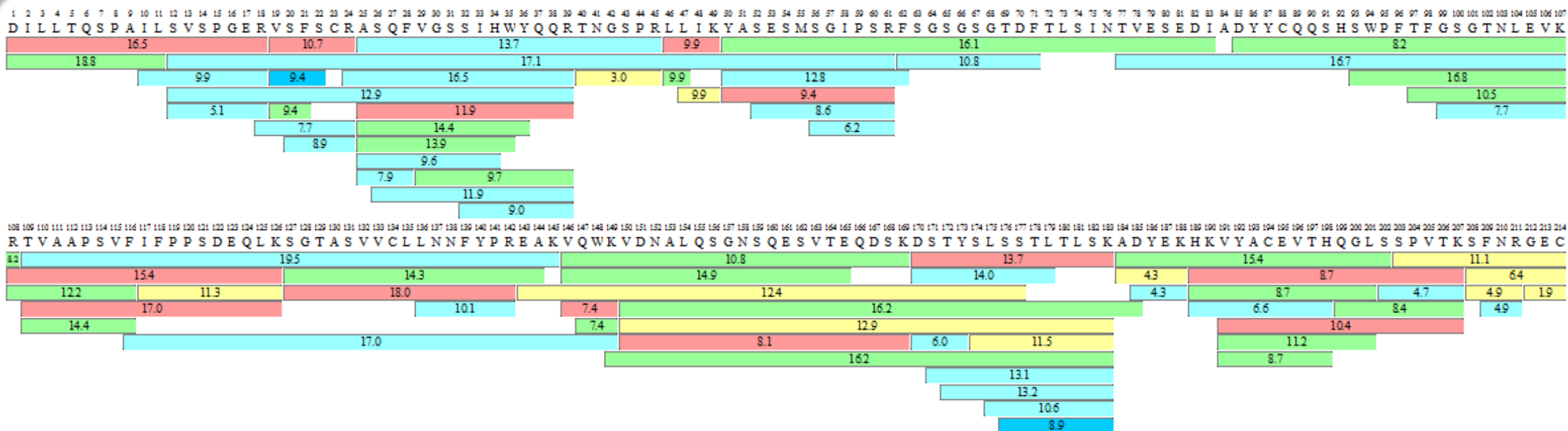
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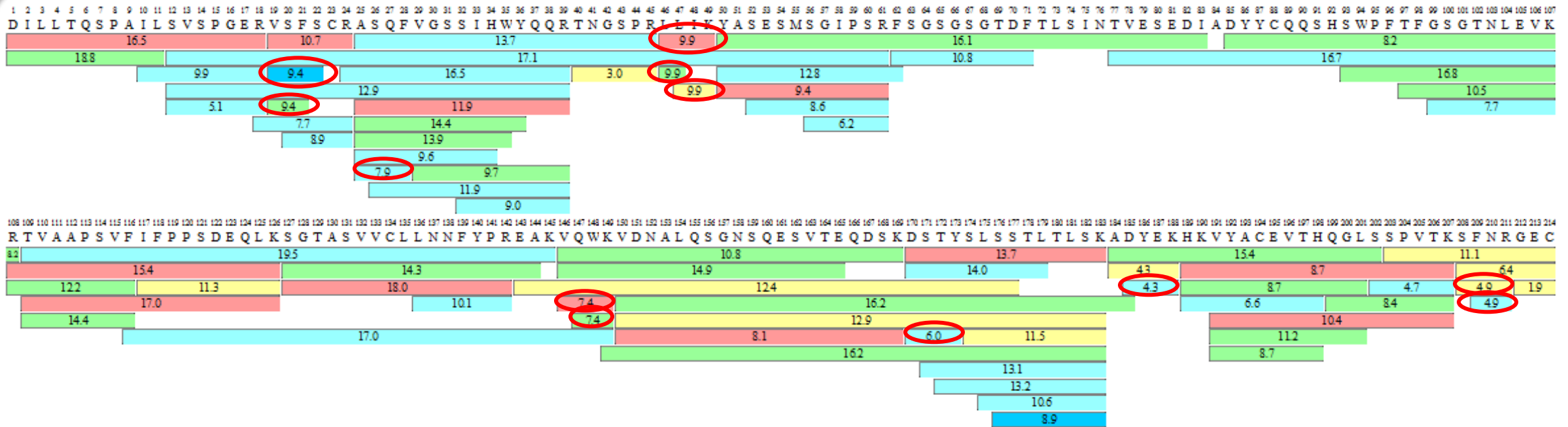
Critical Parameter 1: Mass Range

- Parameter relates to the mass range for monitoring intact precursor ions (m/z)
- Suggested to be set **to 200-2000 m/z** for peptide mapping
- Suggested LC-MS setup is running **without a trap column** and starting the MS method **without a delay time**



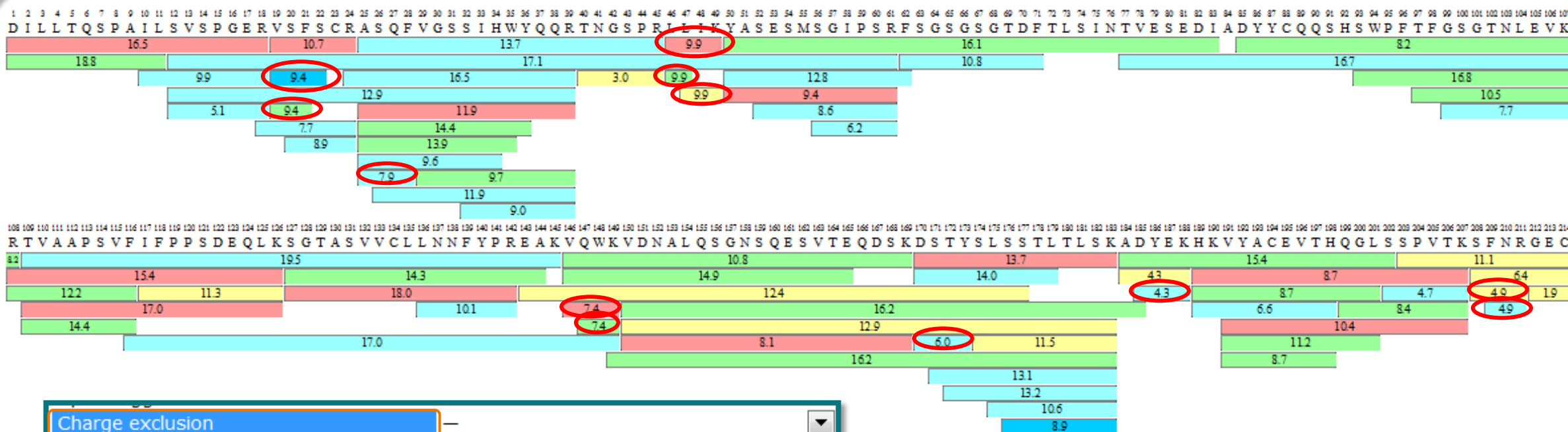
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**Include singly charged ions for fragmentation
(do not tick exclude box)**

Critical Parameters 2 & 3: AGC Target Setting $MS + MS^2$ / Maximum Inject Time

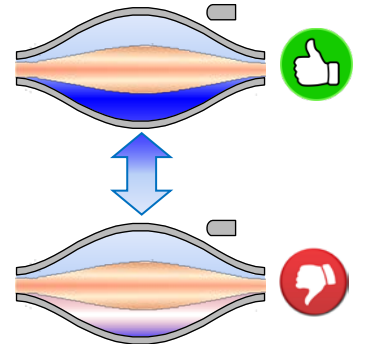
AGC target values depend on the particular instrument used:

AGC target	Exactive	Q Exactive	Hybrid OT	OT Fusion/Lumos
Full MS	1-3e6	3e6	3e6	2e5/4e5
MS^2 OT	---	1e5	1e5	5e4/1e5
MS^2 IT	---	---	1e4	1e4/1e4

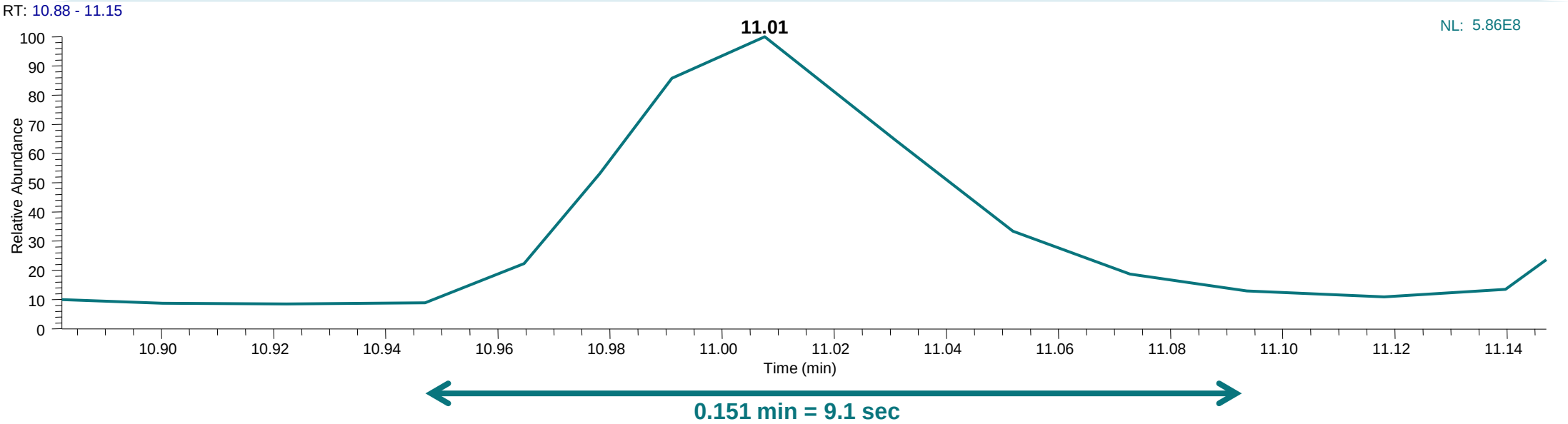
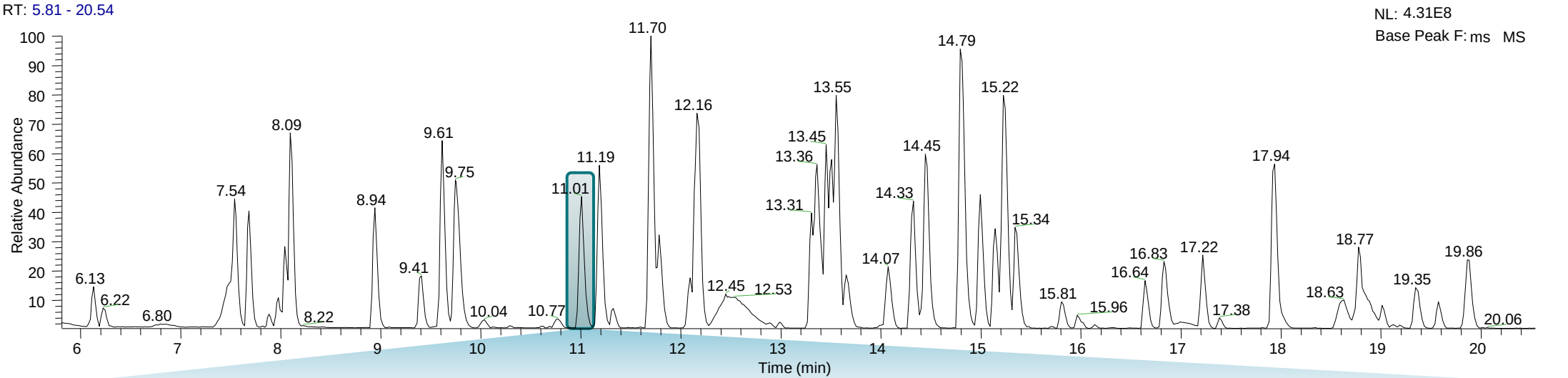
Optimal max. inject times need to be in accordance with:

- TopN set in the method
- Gradient length
- Sample amount injected

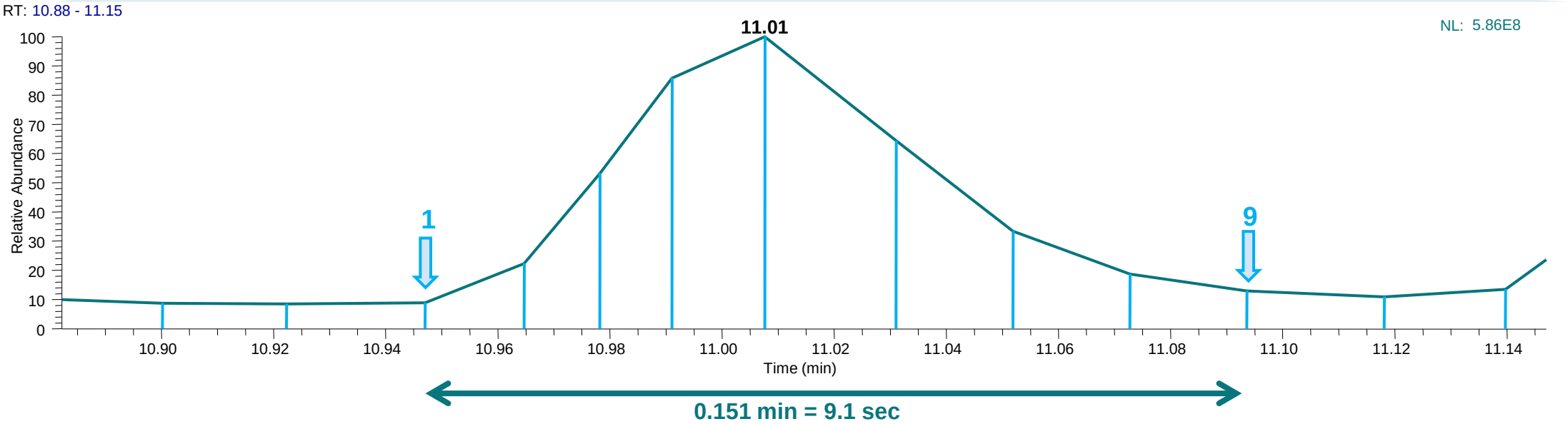
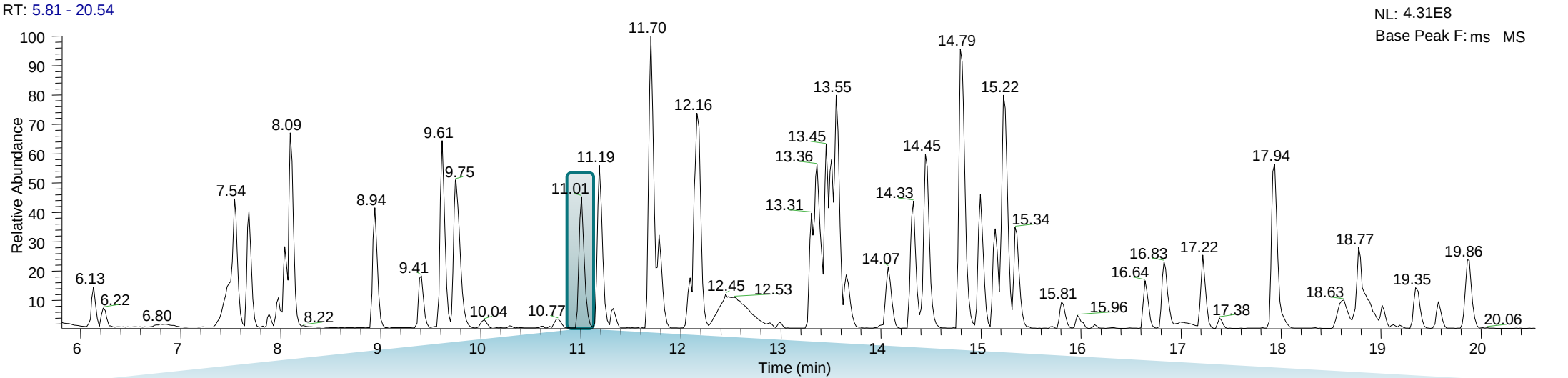
Max. Inject time	Exactive	Q Exactive	Hybrid OT	OT Fusion/Lumos
Full MS	50-100 ms	50-100 ms	50-100 ms	50-100 ms
MS^2 OT	---	150-200 ms	150-200 ms	150-200 ms
MS^2 IT	---	---	100-200 ms	100-200 ms



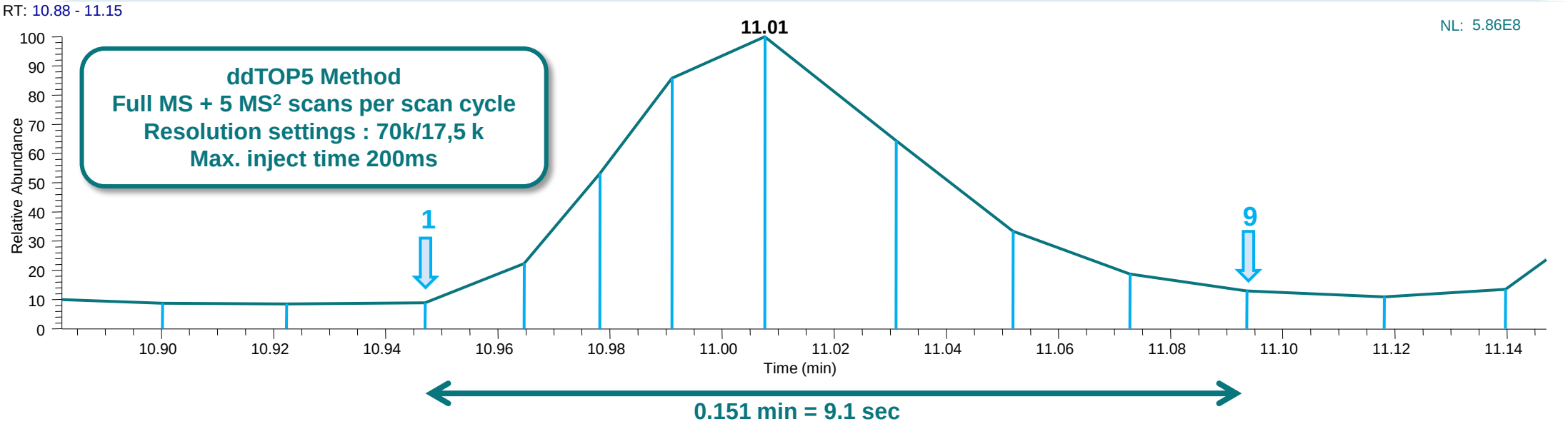
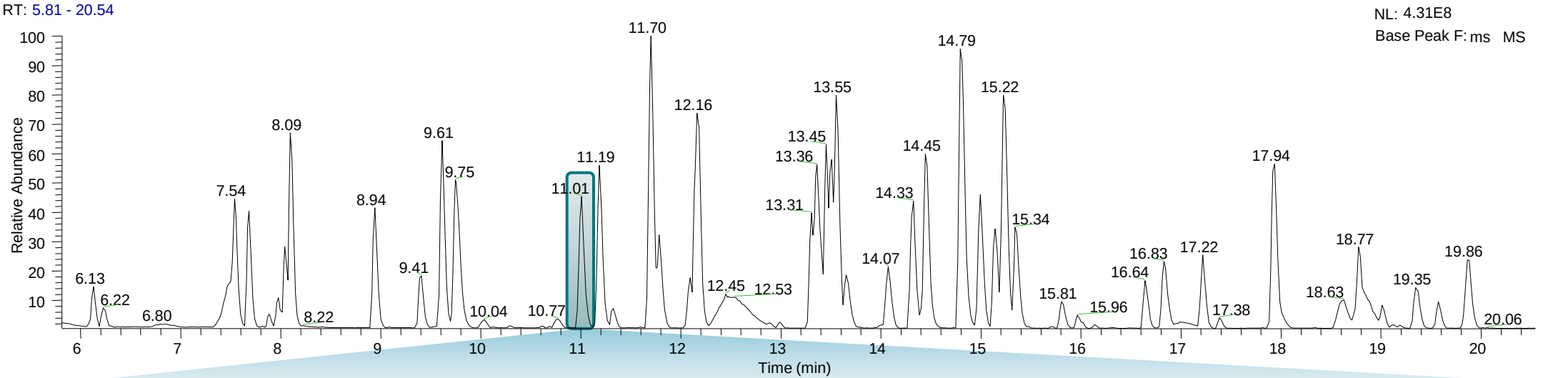
Critical Parameter 4: TopN with N=?



Critical Parameter 4: TopN with N=?



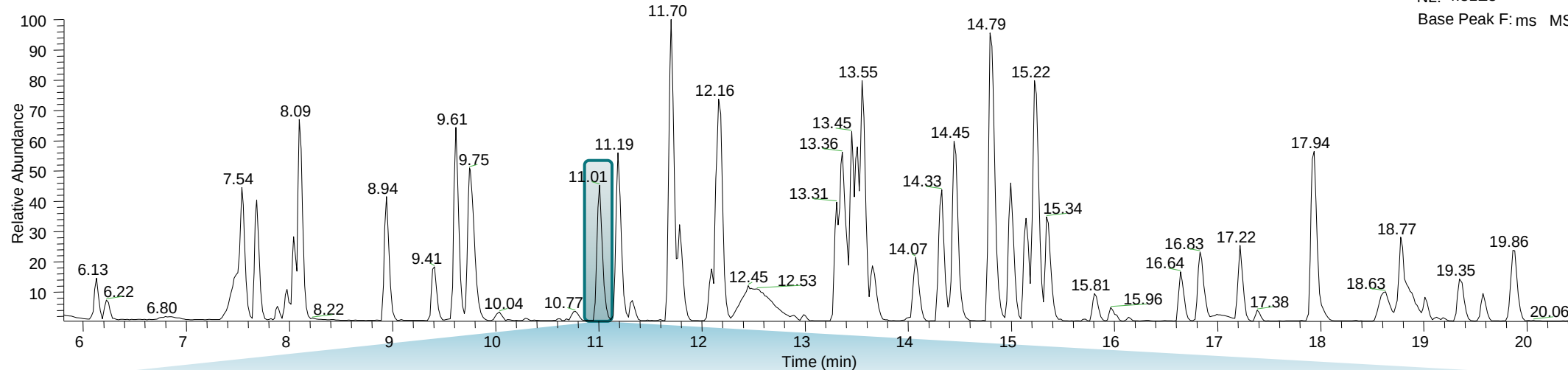
Critical Parameter 4: TopN with N=?



Critical Parameter 4: TopN with N=?

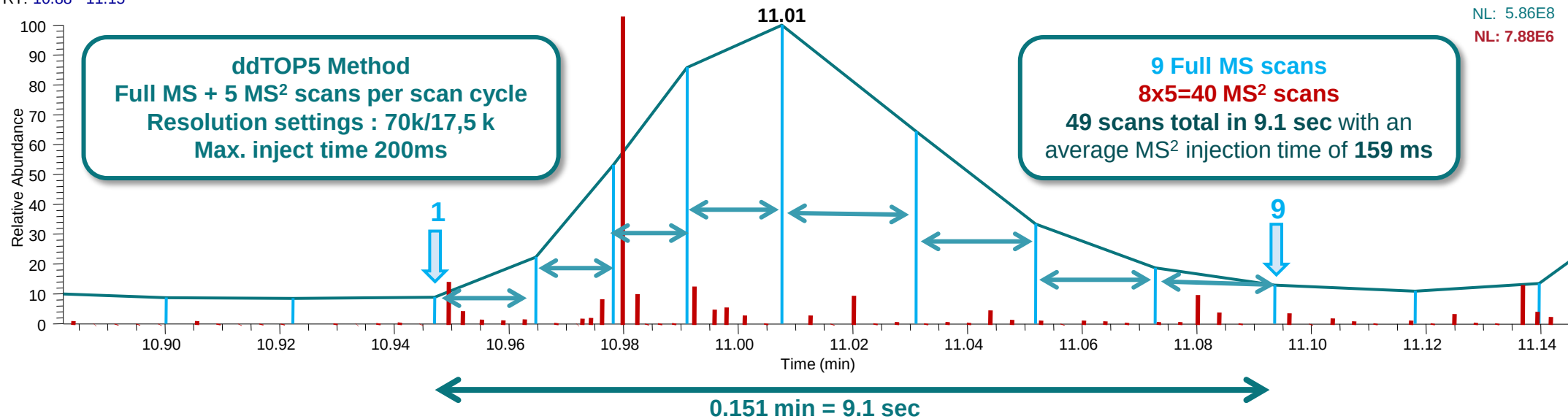
RT: 5.81 - 20.54

NL: 4.31E8
Base Peak F: ms MS



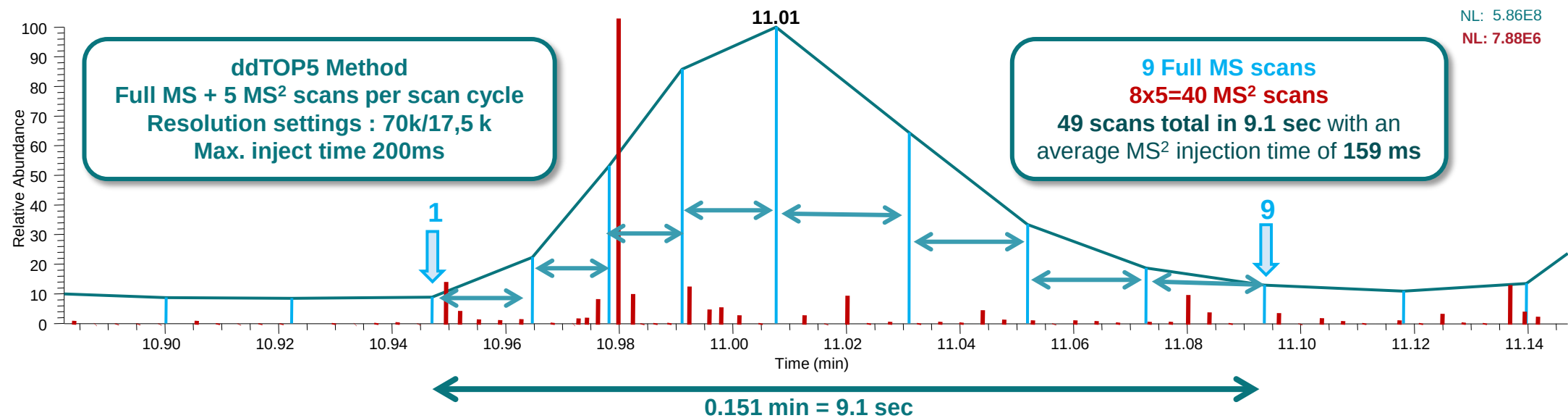
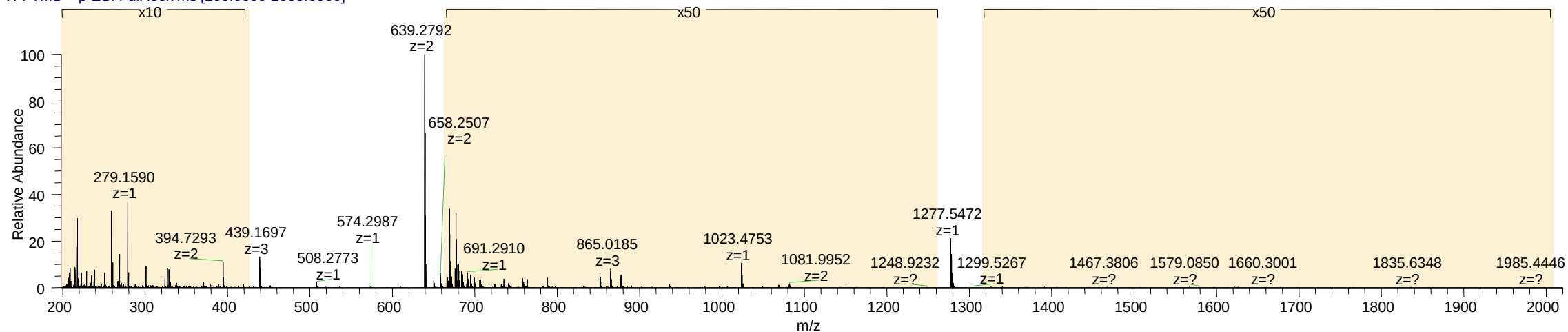
RT: 10.88 - 11.15

NL: 5.86E8
NL: 7.88E6



Critical Parameter 4: TopN with N=?

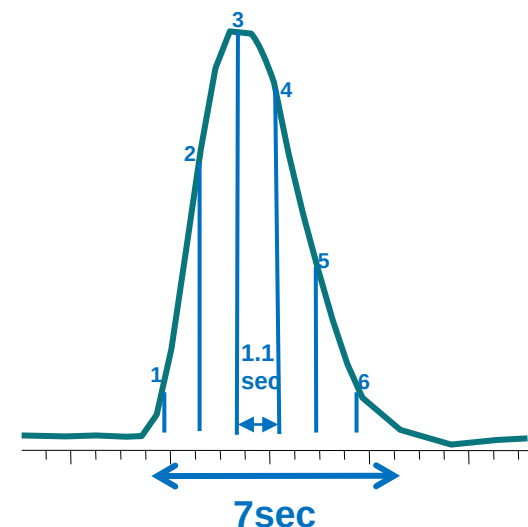
#3655-3705 RT: 10.95-11.09 AV: 9 NL: 7.01E7
T: FTMS + p ESI Full lock ms [200.0000-2000.0000]



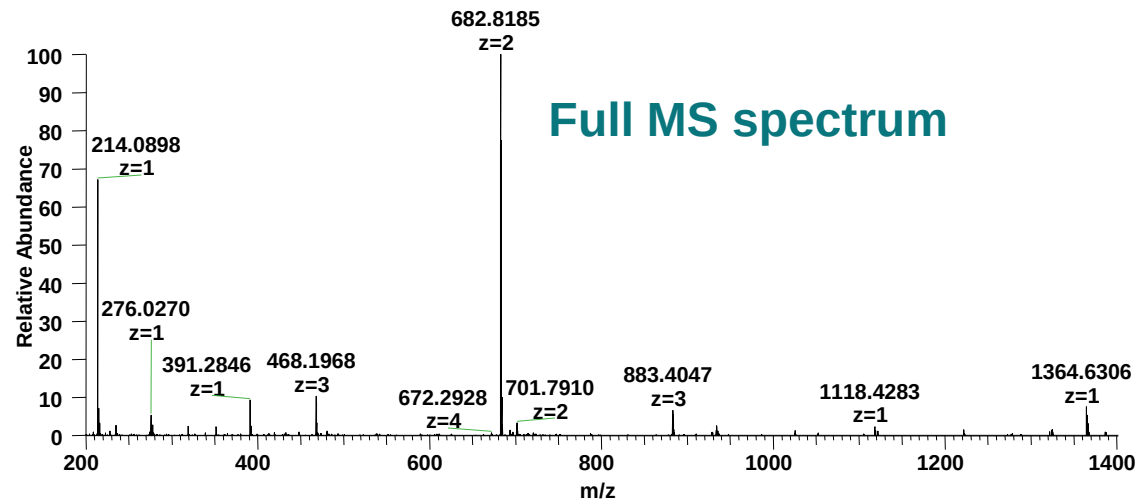
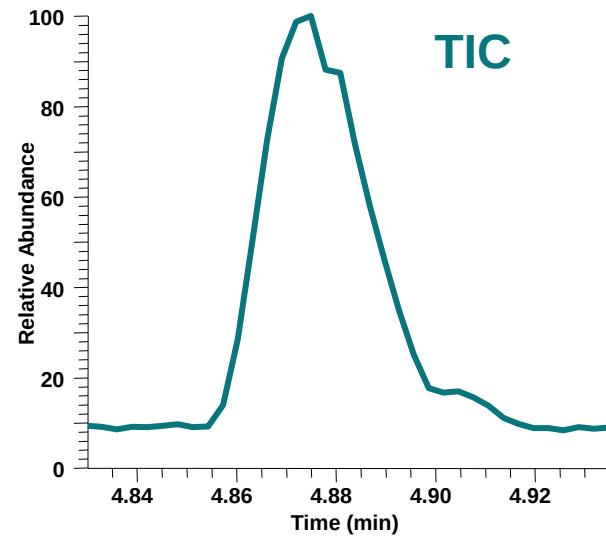
Estimation of Top N

- For the decisions on what N exactly should needs to be considered the average chromatographic peak width at the base and calculate the time available for each scan cycle to obtain at least ~6 Full MS scans over the peak.
- How many MSMS-scans can fit in every scan cycle to stay within the calculated max. cycle time will depend on the maximum injection time set.
- E.g. if the peak width is 7 secs aiming at 6 full MS scans, the resulting the cycle time should not exceed 1.15 sec, and can fit
one full MS scan + 5 MSMS scans with 200 ms max. inject time.

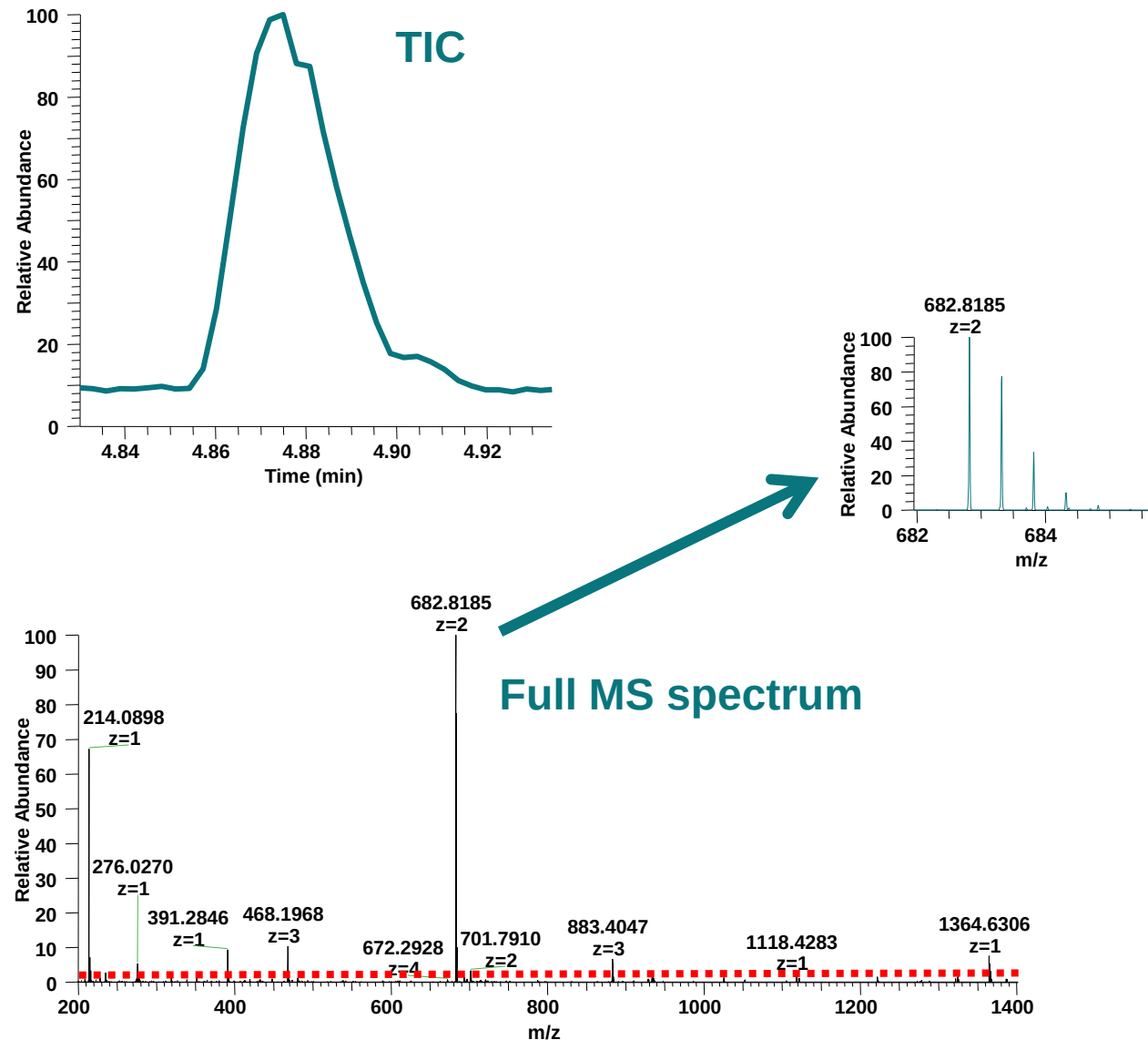
A **ddTop5 method** has been proven as a **very good standard method** for peptide mapping on all Q Exactive MS instruments and only requires modification if extended max. injection times are required.



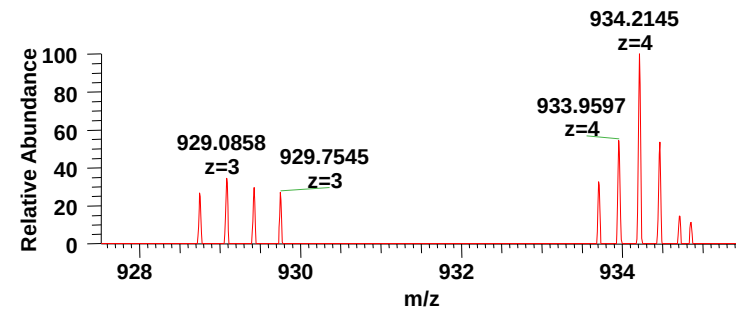
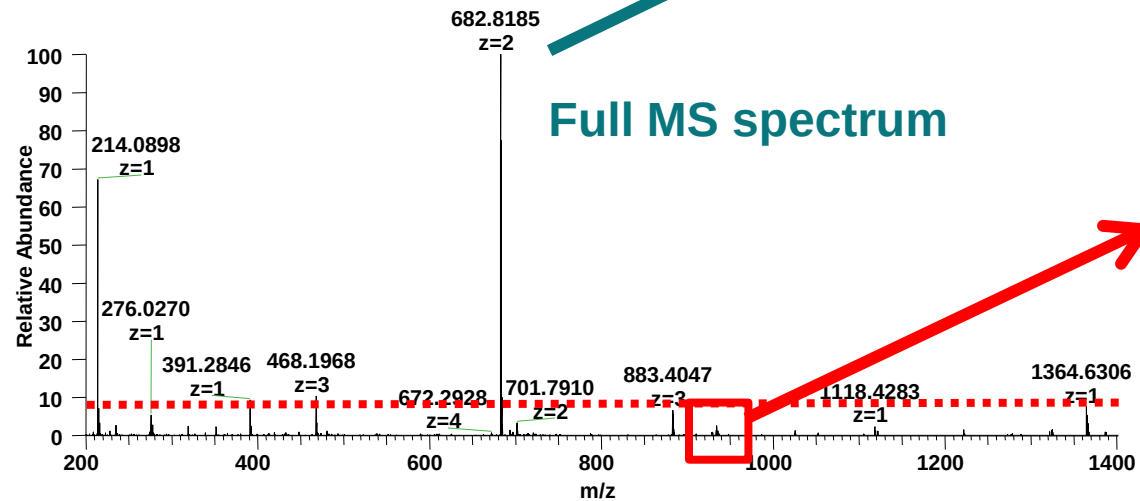
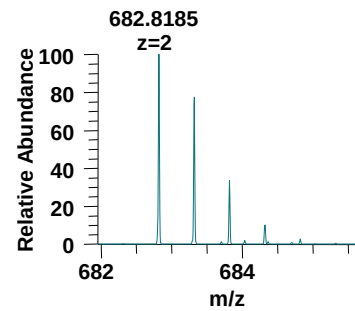
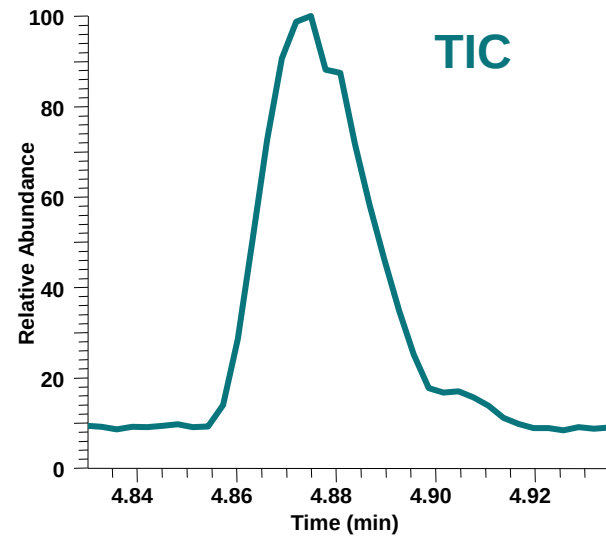
Critical Parameter 5: Intensity Threshold



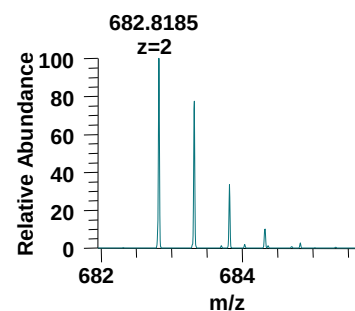
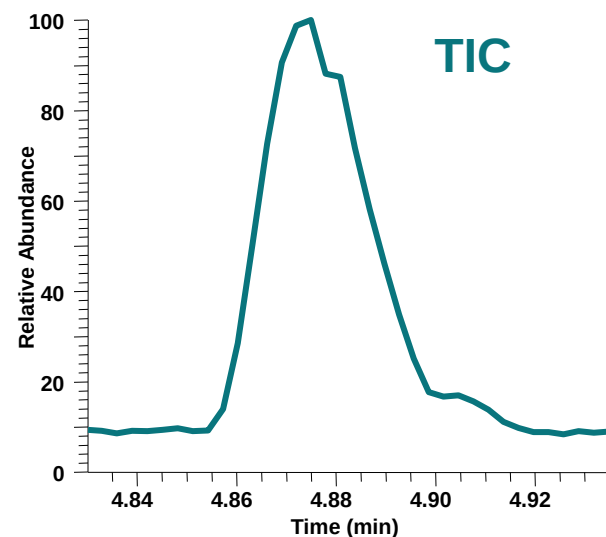
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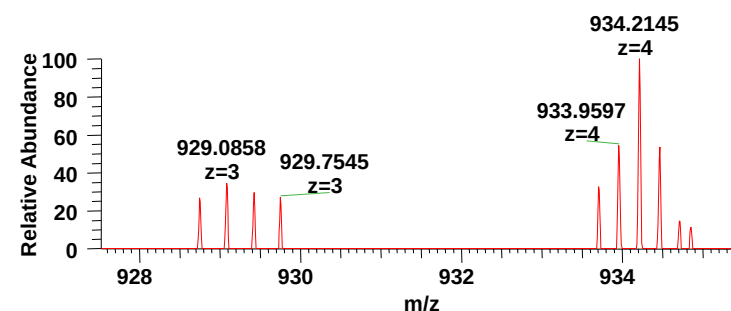
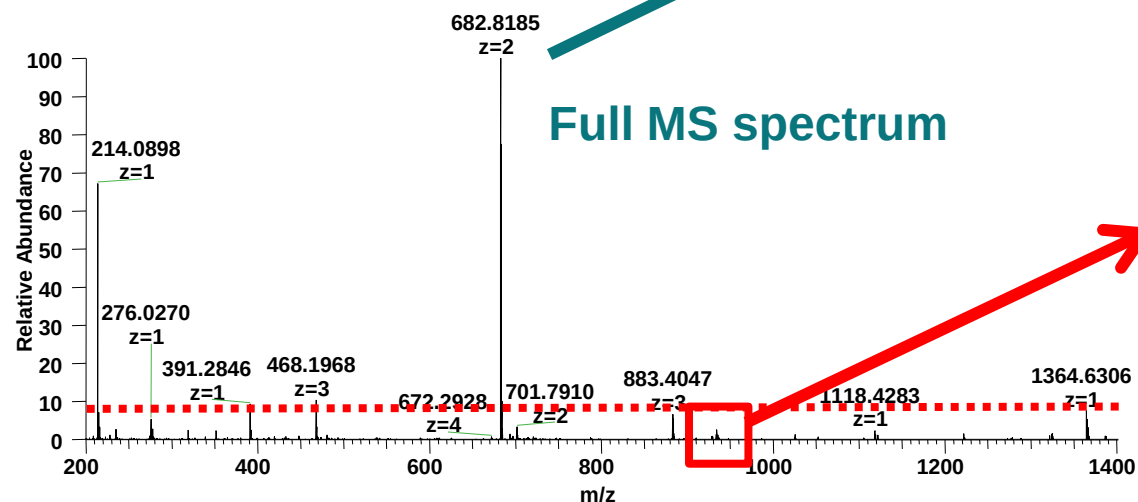
Critical Parameter 5: Intensity Threshold



- intensity threshold
- charge state
- peptide match: on/off/preferred
- dynamic exclusion



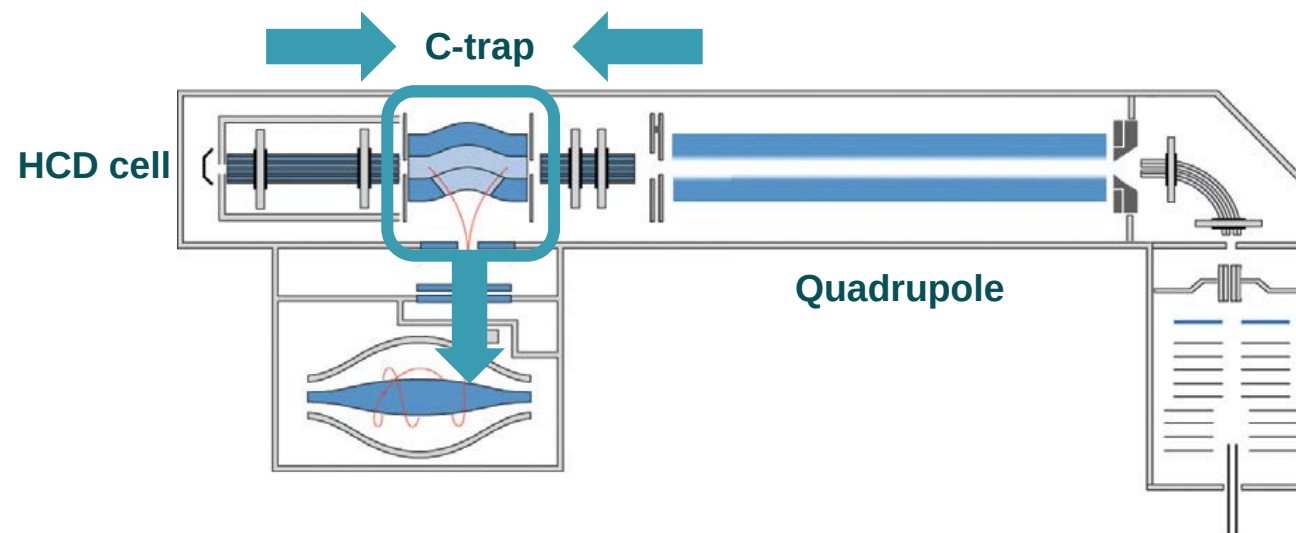
Peptide match	preferred
Exclude isotopes	—
Dynamic exclusion	on
	preferred



Critical Parameter 6: Fixed First Mass

Properties of Full MS / dd-MS² (TopN)

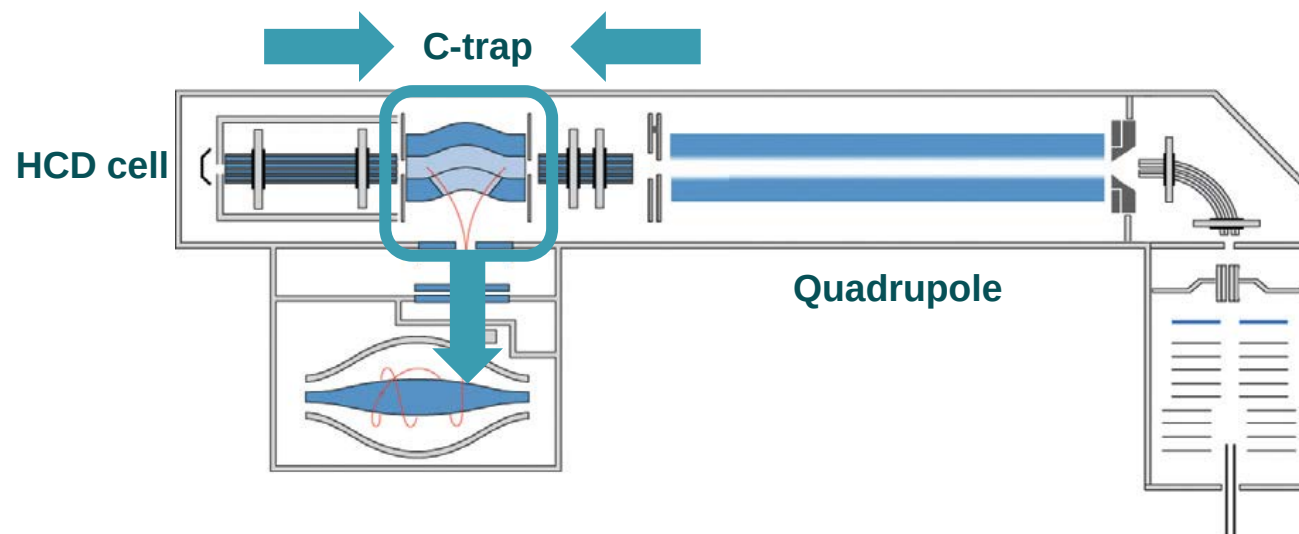
Default charge state	2
Inclusion	—
Exclusion	—
Tags	—
▲ Full MS	
Resolution	70,000
AGC target	3e6
Maximum IT	100 ms
Scan range	200 to 2000 m/z
▲ dd-MS² / dd-SIM	
Resolution	17,500
AGC target	1e5
Maximum IT	200 ms
Loop count	5
TopN	5
Isolation window	2.0 m/z
Fixed first mass	—
NCE / stepped NCE	28
▲ dd Settings	
Minimum AGC target	2.00e3
Intensity threshold	1.0e4
Apex trigger	—
Charge exclusion	unassigned, 7, 8, >8
Peptide match	preferred
Exclude isotopes	on
Dynamic exclusion	10.0 s



Critical Parameter 6: Fixed First Mass

Properties of Full MS / dd-MS² (TopN)

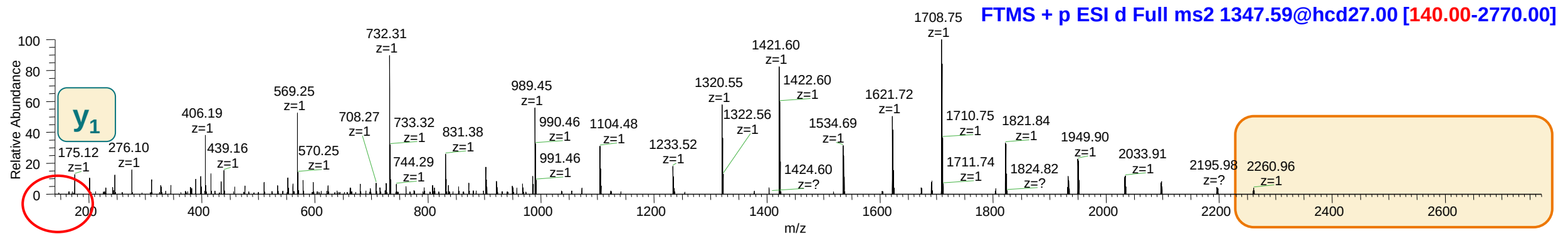
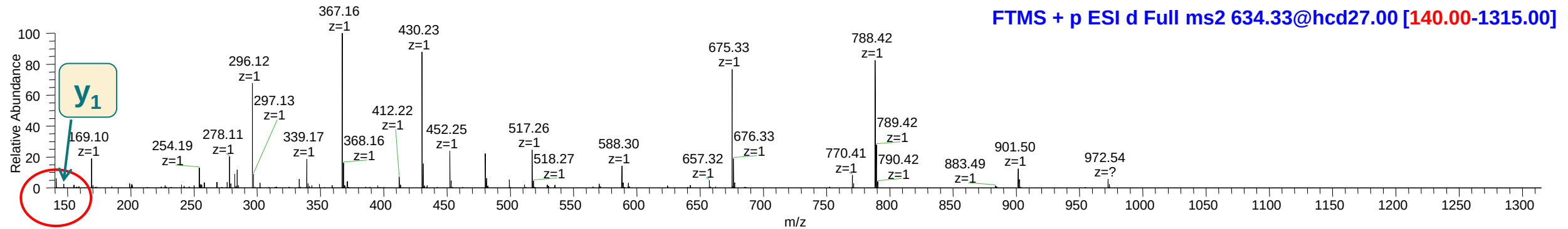
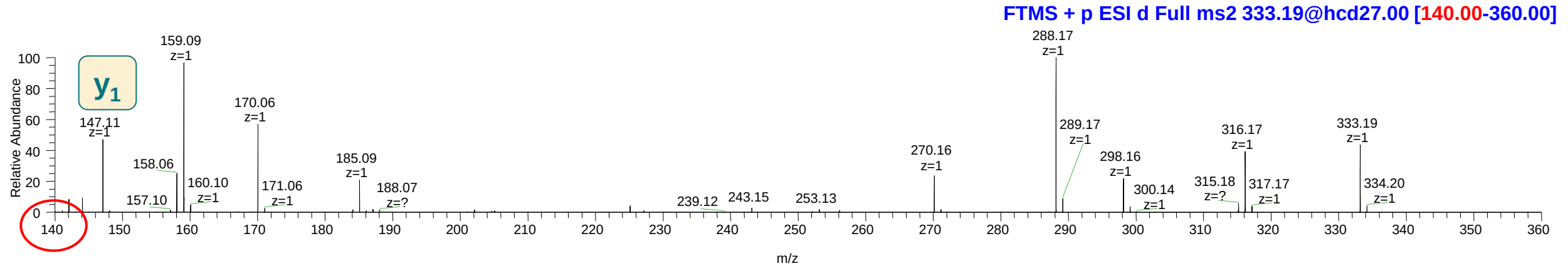
Default charge state	2
Inclusion	—
Exclusion	—
Tags	—
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Resolution	70,000
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AGC target	1e5
Maximum IT	200 ms
Loop count	5
TopN	5
Isolation window	2.0 m/z
Fixed first mass	—
NCE / stepped NCE	28
▲ dd Settings	
Minimum AGC target	2.00e3
Intensity threshold	1.0e4
Apex trigger	—
Charge exclusion	unassigned, 7, 8, >8
Peptide match	preferred
Exclude isotopes	on
Dynamic exclusion	10.0 s



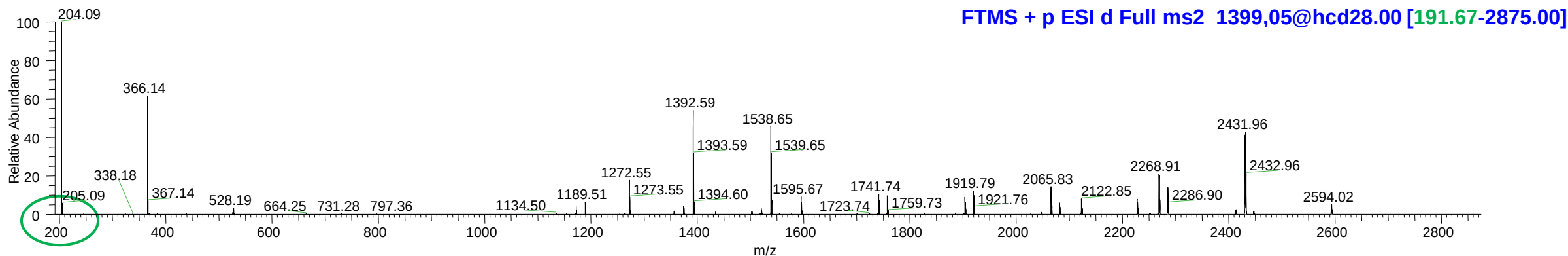
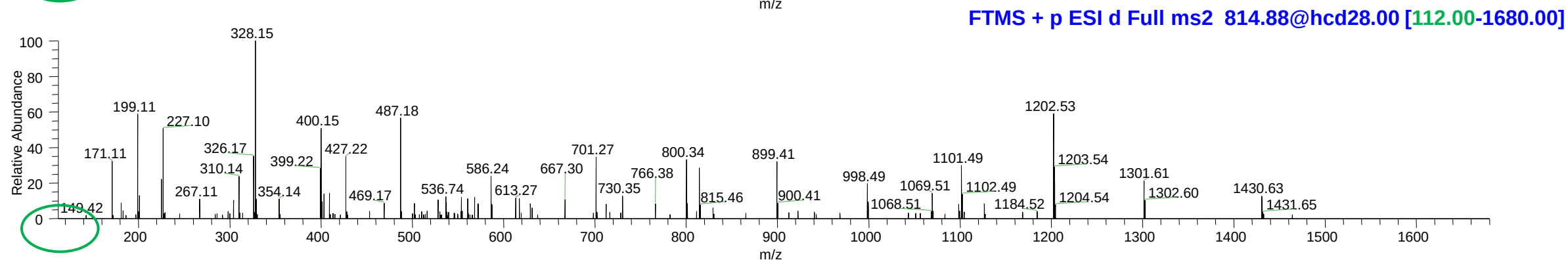
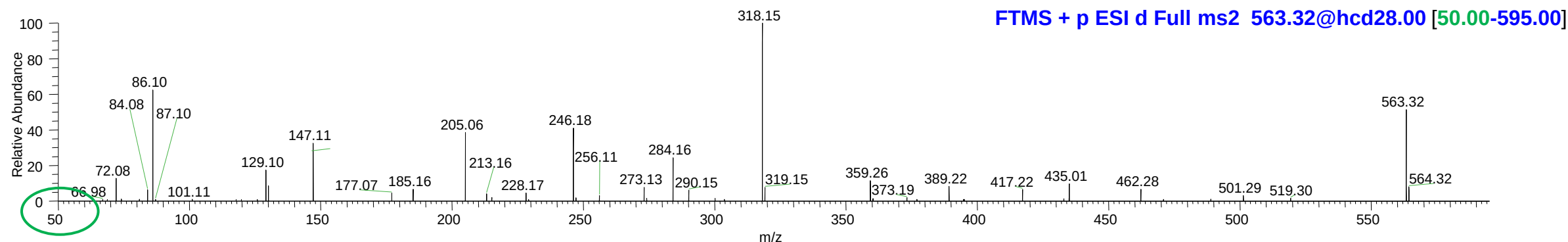
Scan range: last mass $\leq 15 \times$ first mass

- Leaving the first mass open will automatically adjust the mass range based on m/z of the precursor ensuring that also high mass fragments ions are captured.
- Setting a fixed first mass is suggested **only** when certain low mass ions are desired for monitoring, e.g. 204 (oxonium ions) or for de-novo sequencing aiming e.g. at the Lys/Arg y₁ ions at m/z 147/175.

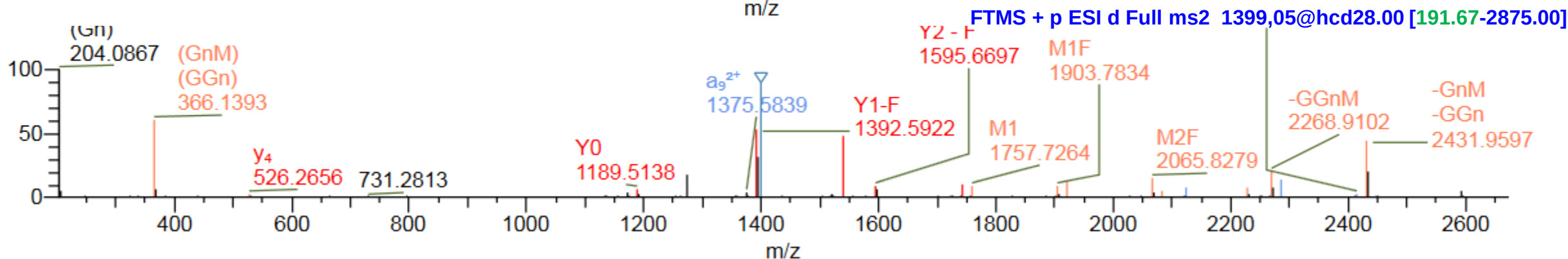
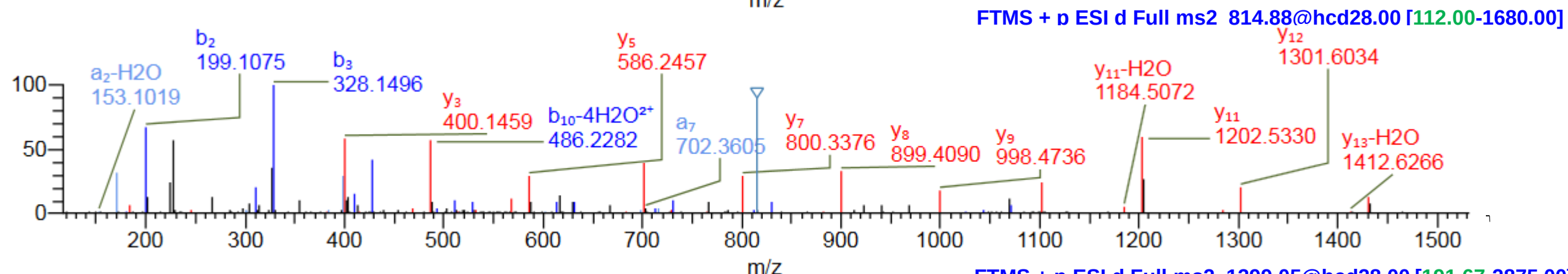
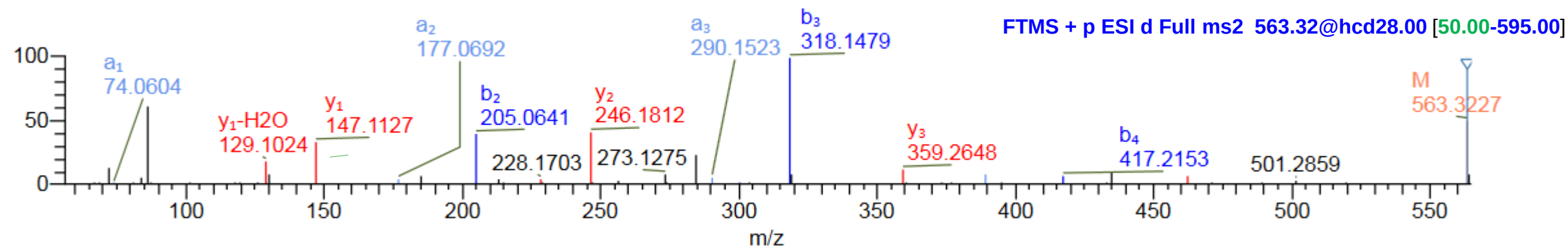
Critical Parameter 4: Fixed First Mass - Set to 140 m/z



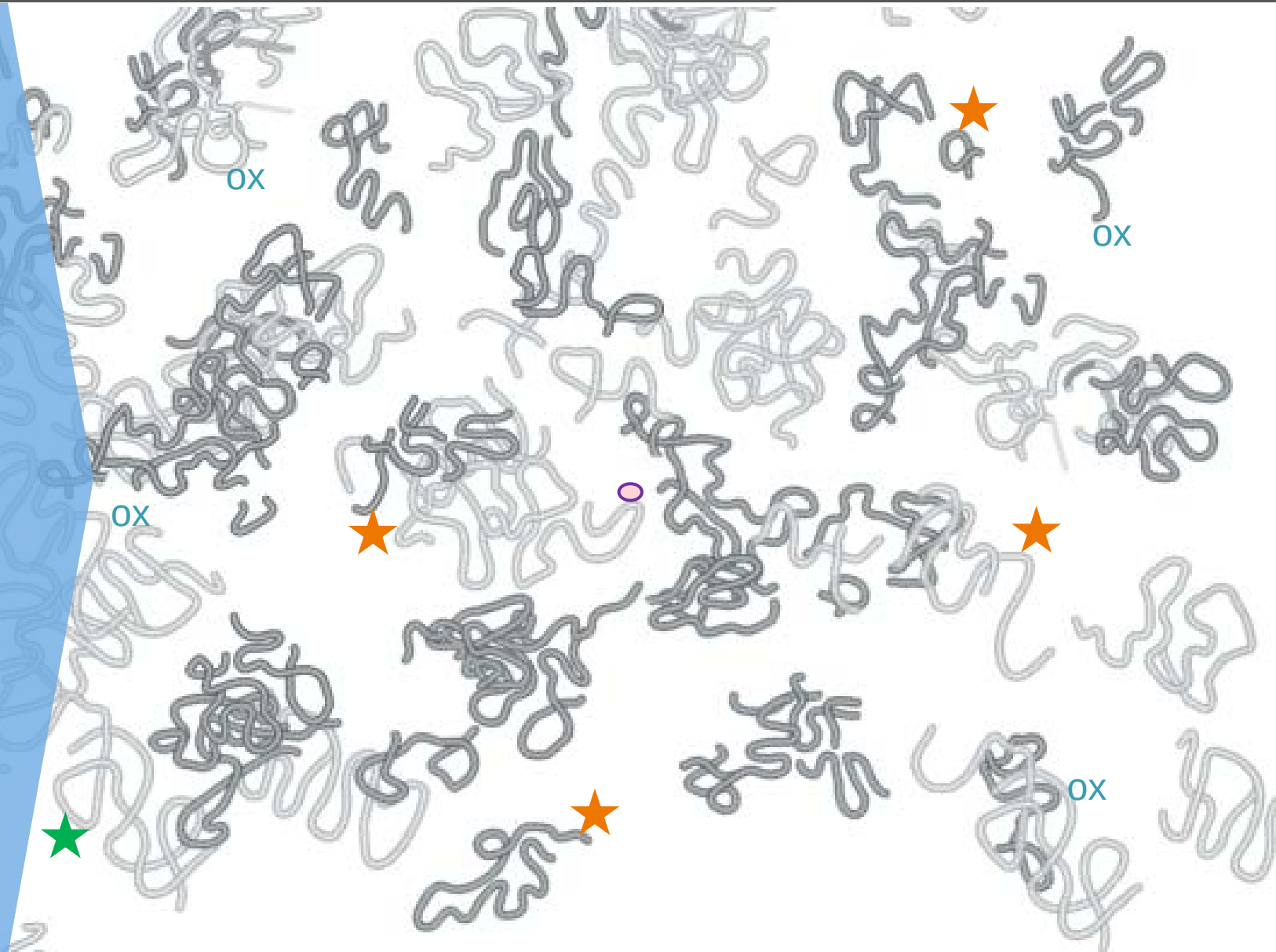
Critical Parameter 4: Fixed First Mass – Set to Auto Adjust



Critical Parameter 4: Fixed First Mass – Set to Auto Adjust



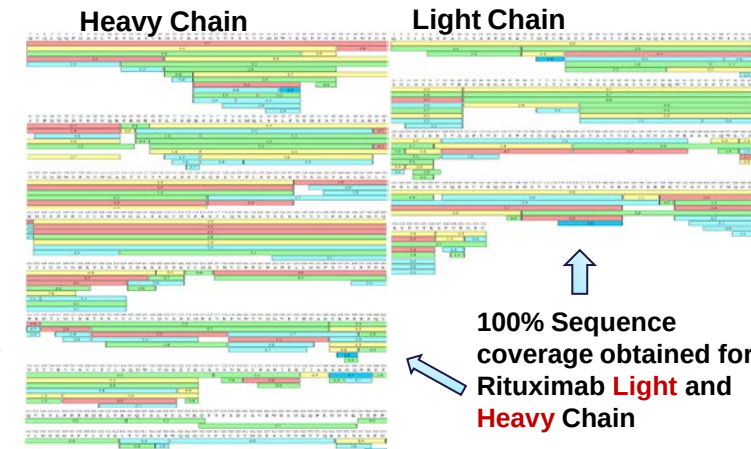
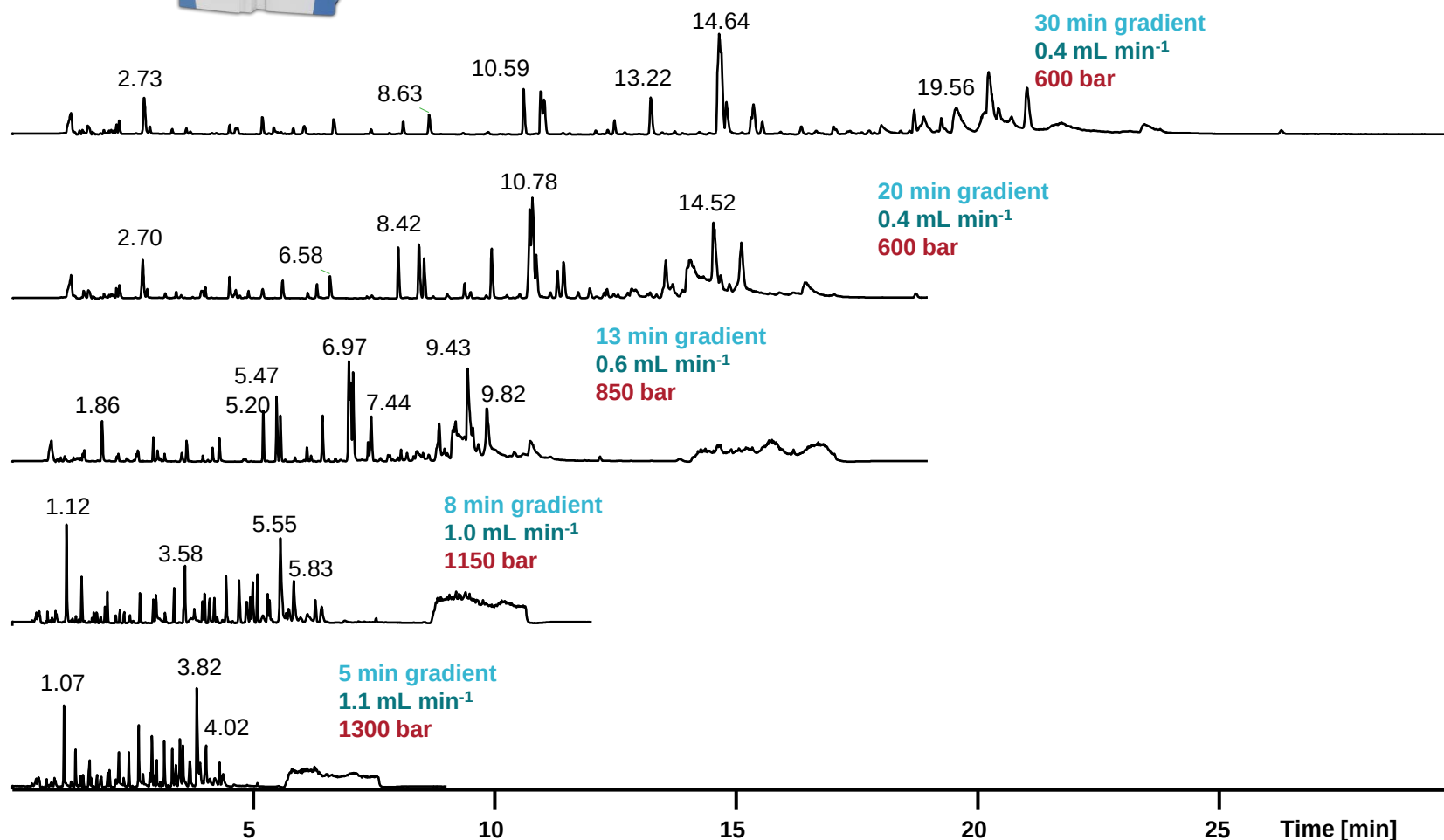
Reviewing Identified Modifications



Peptide Mapping with Short and Long Separation Times



Thermo Scientific™ Vanquish™
UHPLC Platform coupled to a
Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™
HF MS

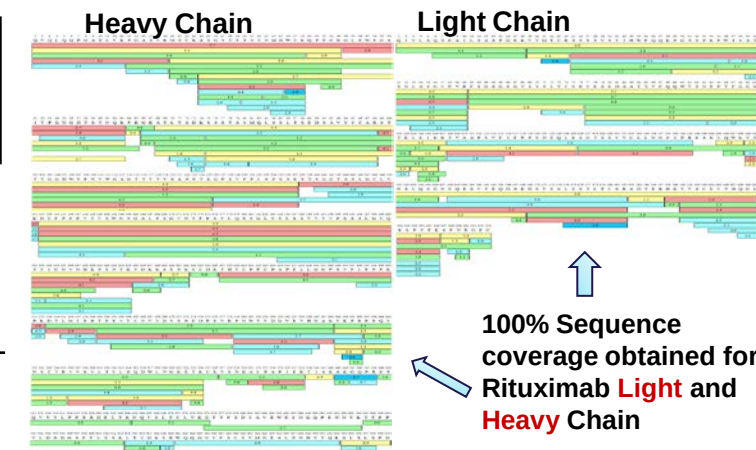
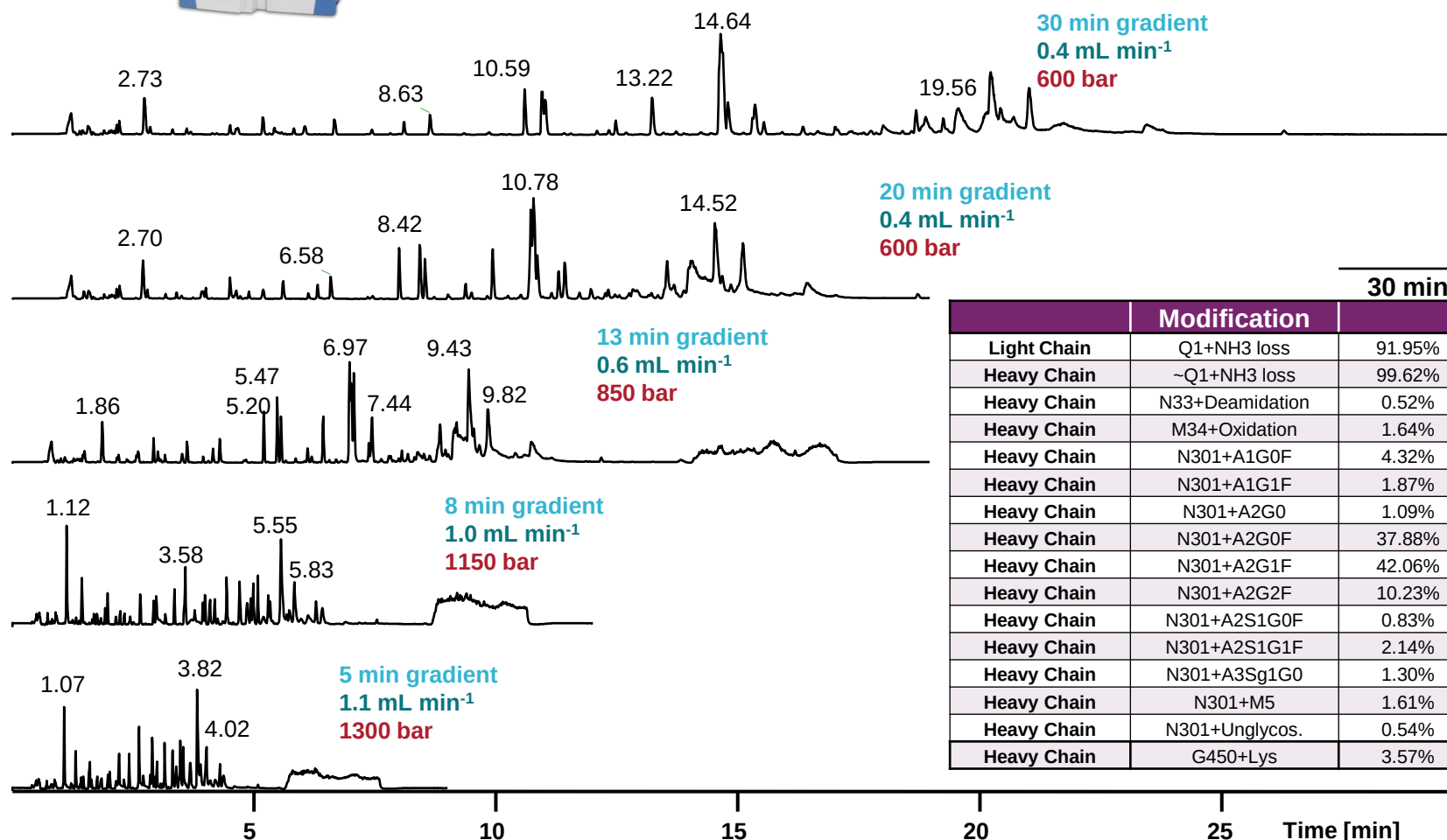


100% Sequence
coverage obtained for
Rituximab **Light** and
Heavy Chain

Peptide Mapping with Short and Long Separation Times



Thermo Scientific™ Vanquish™
UHPLC Platform coupled to a
Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™
HF MS

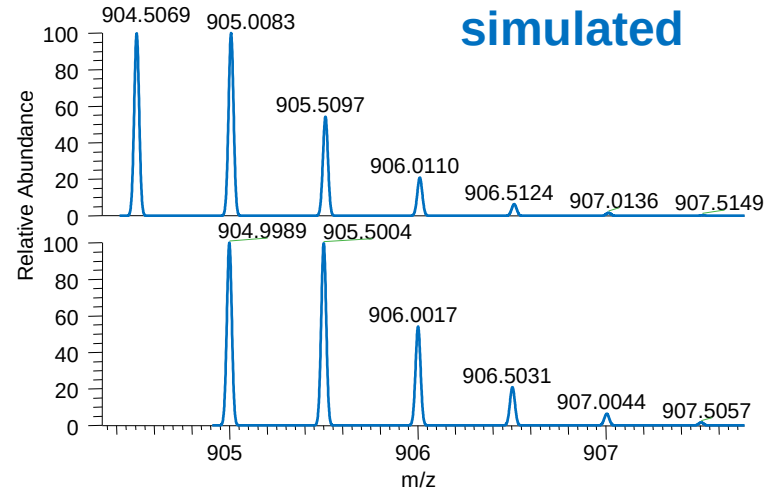
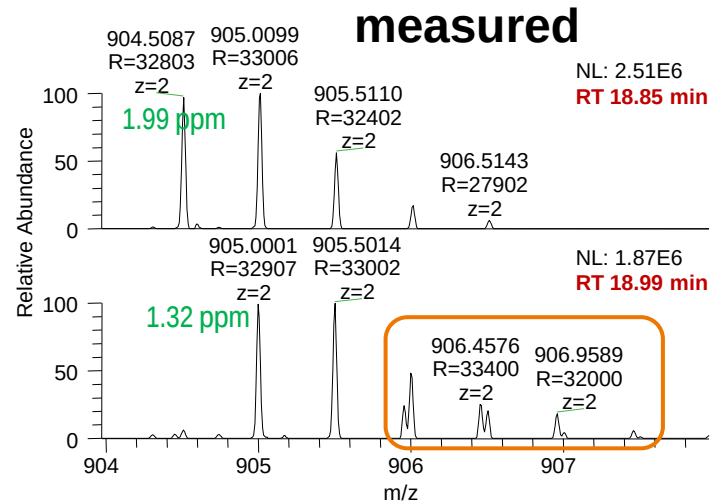


	Modification	Gradient Time					σ
		30 min	20 min	13 min	8 min	5 min	
Light Chain	Q1+NH3 loss	91.95%	91.17%	89.69%	90.93%	26.57%	28.80%
Heavy Chain	~Q1+NH3 loss	99.62%	99.67%	99.61%	99.68%	99.69%	0.04%
Heavy Chain	N33+Deamidation	0.52%	0.51%	0.58%	-	0.51%	0.03%
Heavy Chain	M34+Oxidation	1.64%	1.54%	1.73%	1.42%	1.45%	0.13%
Heavy Chain	N301+A1G0F	4.32%	4.42%	3.83%	3.52%	3.38%	0.46%
Heavy Chain	N301+A1G1F	1.87%	1.91%	1.72%	3.32%	1.46%	0.73%
Heavy Chain	N301+A2G0	1.09%	1.02%	1.02%	-	0.98%	0.05%
Heavy Chain	N301+A2G0F	37.88%	37.11%	38.59%	40.48%	43.12%	2.41%
Heavy Chain	N301+A2G1F	42.06%	41.89%	43.42%	43.20%	43.35%	0.75%
Heavy Chain	N301+A2G2F	10.23%	10.17%	9.81%	10.36%	10.05%	0.21%
Heavy Chain	N301+A2S1G0F	0.83%	0.86%	-	-	-	0.02%
Heavy Chain	N301+A2S1G1F	2.14%	-	-	-	-	-
Heavy Chain	N301+A3Sg1G0	1.30%	-	-	-	-	-
Heavy Chain	N301+M5	1.61%	1.59%	1.66%	1.87%	1.86%	0.14%
Heavy Chain	N301+Unglycos.	0.54%	0.90%	0.76%	0.83%	0.97%	0.16%
Heavy Chain	G450+Lys	3.57%	3.56%	3.92%	3.40%	3.15%	0.28%

median 0.19%

Identified Deamidation of Peptide VVSVLTVHQQDWLN*GK

Intact peptide precursor



NL:
8.26E3
C₈₃ H₁₃₄ N₂₂ O₂₃ +H:
C₈₃ H₁₃₆ N₂₂ O₂₃
p (gss, s /p:40) Chrg 2
R: 30000 Res .Pwr . @FWHM

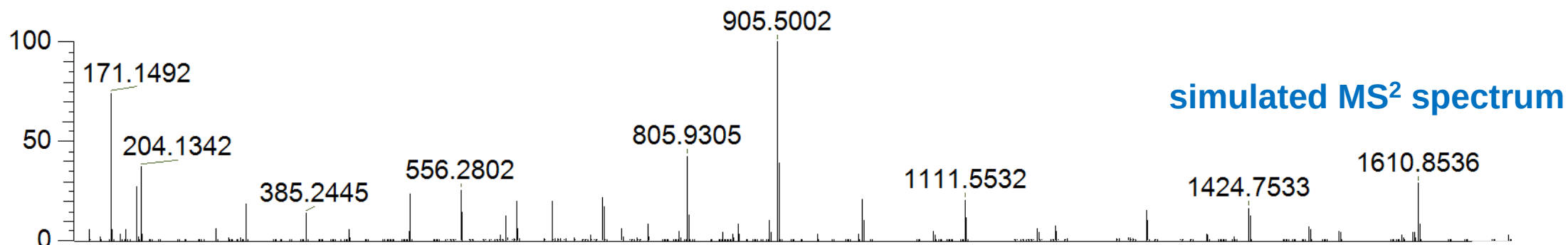
unmodified peptide

NL:
8.26E3
C₈₃ H₁₃₃ N₂₁ O₂₄ +H:
C₈₃ H₁₃₅ N₂₁ O₂₄
p (gss, s /p:40) Chrg 2
R: 30000 Res .Pwr . @FWHM

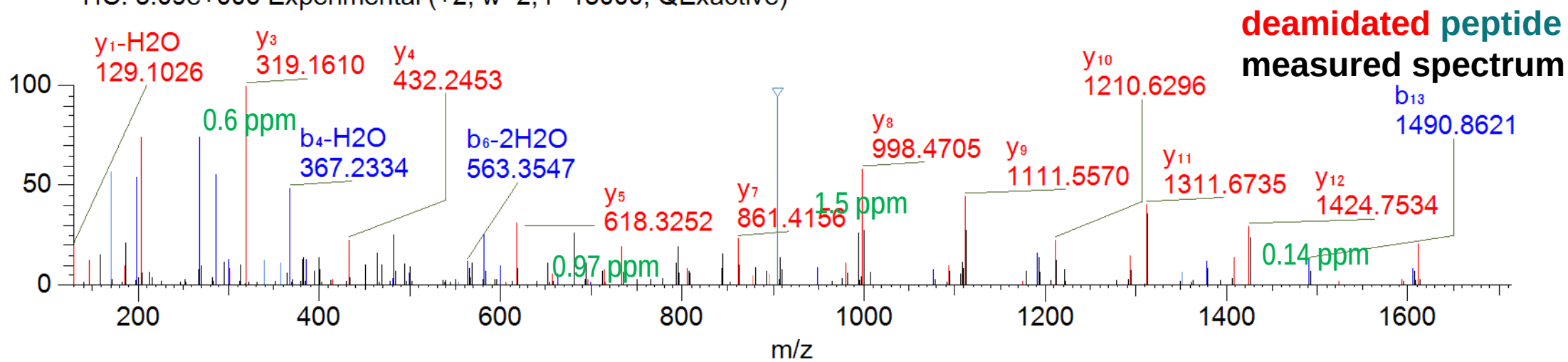
deamidated peptide

Identified Deamidation of Peptide VVSVLTVHQDWLN*GK

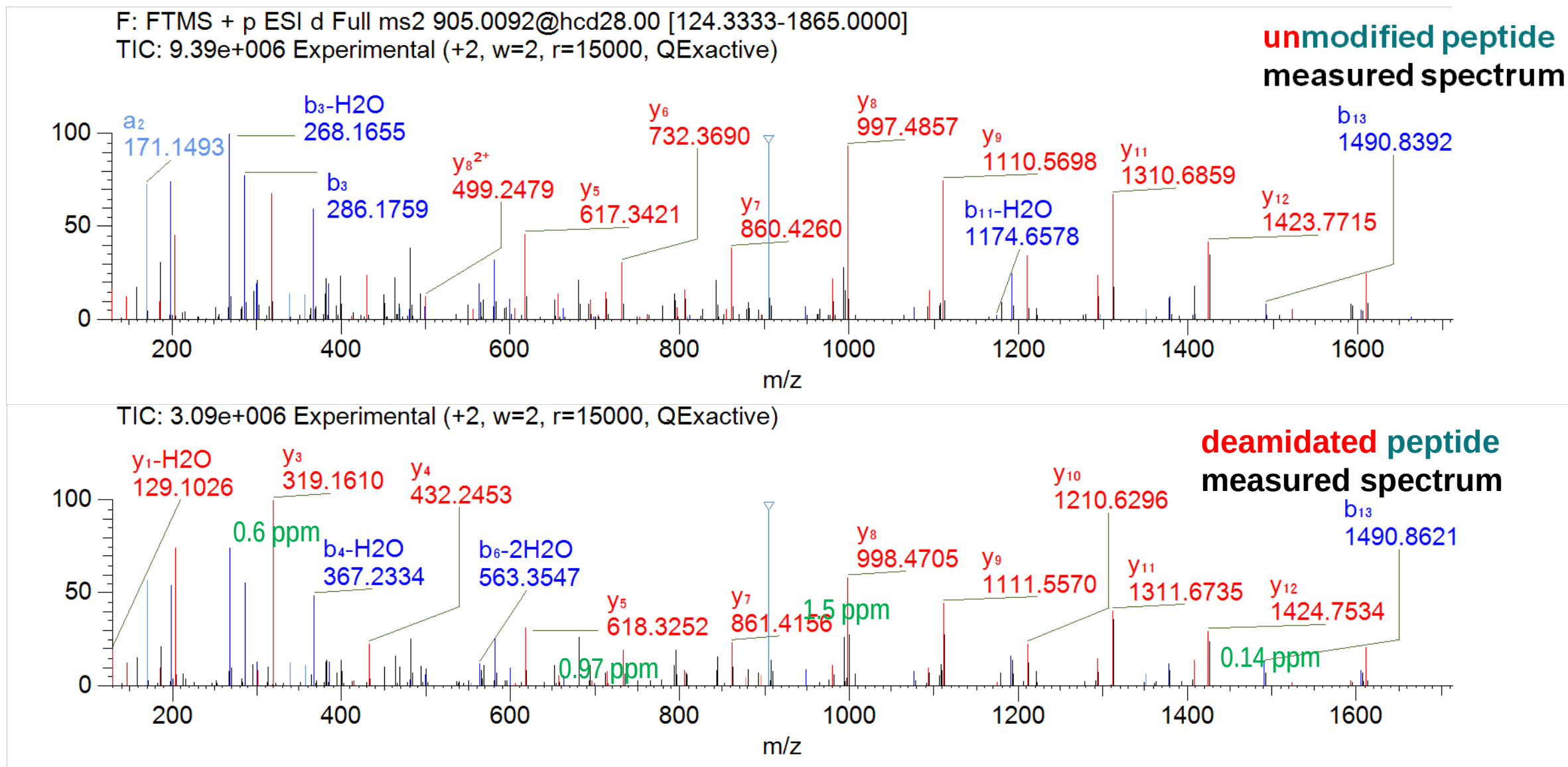
TIC: 1.74e+007 Predicted (+2, w=2, r=15000, p-value =3.20e-007, Similarity to Experimental = 6.53e-001, QExactive)



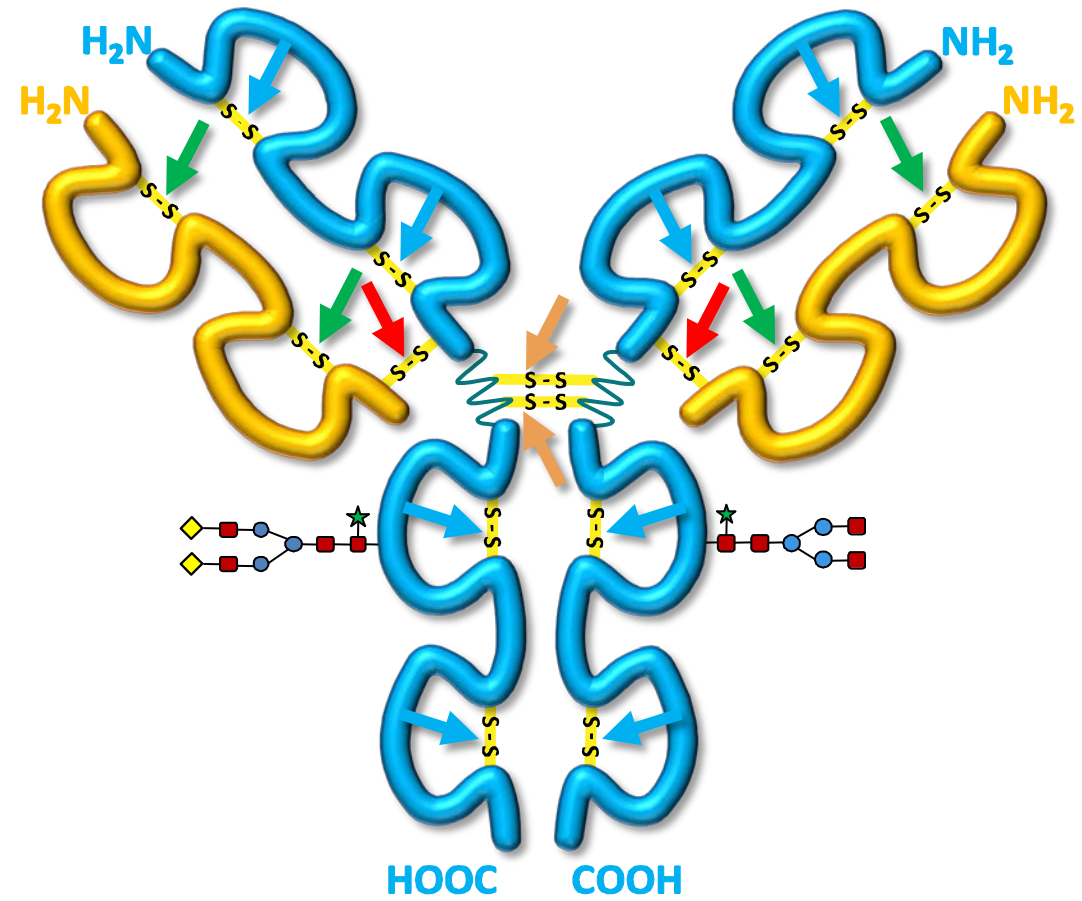
F: FTMS + p ESI d Full ms2 905.5020@hcd28.00 [124.3333-1865.0000]
TIC: 3.09e+006 Experimental (+2, w=2, r=15000, QExactive)



Identified Deamidation of Peptide VVSVLTVHQDWLN*GK



Disulfide Bridge Analysis



Sample Analysis by Mass Spectrometry

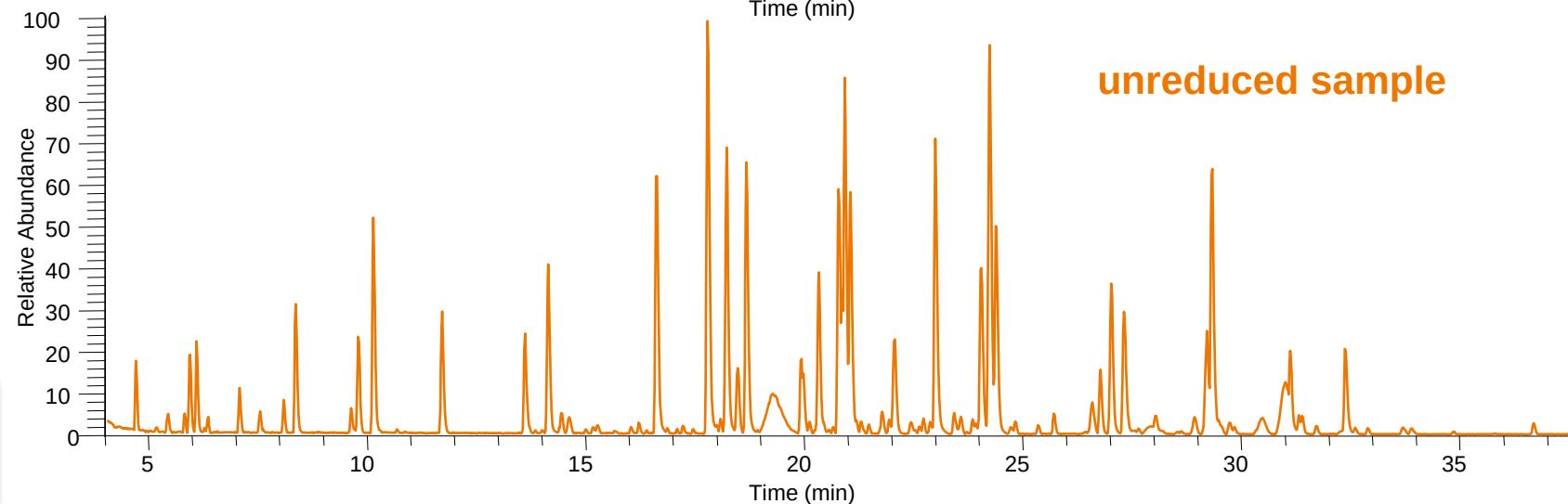
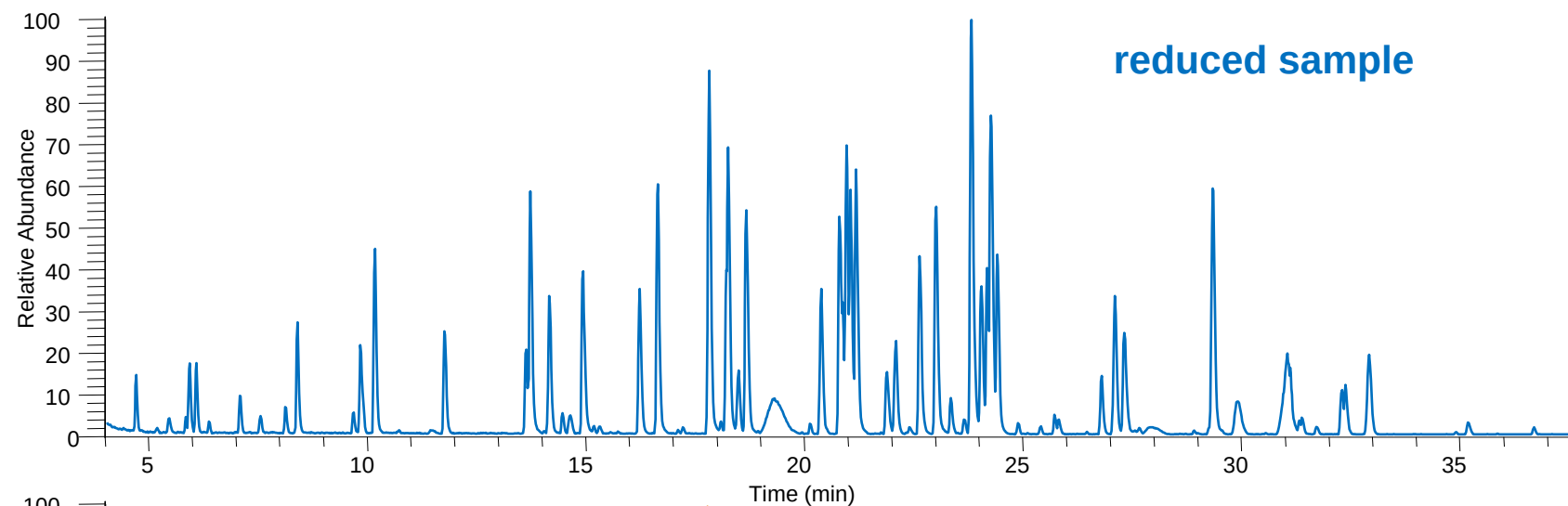


Q Exactive Plus

Analysis of
reduced
(+alkylated)
sample

Analysis of
unreduced
sample

Method used for both samples:
data-dependent Top5 Method:
Full MS + top5 MS/MS scans per cycle



Sample Analysis by Mass Spectrometry

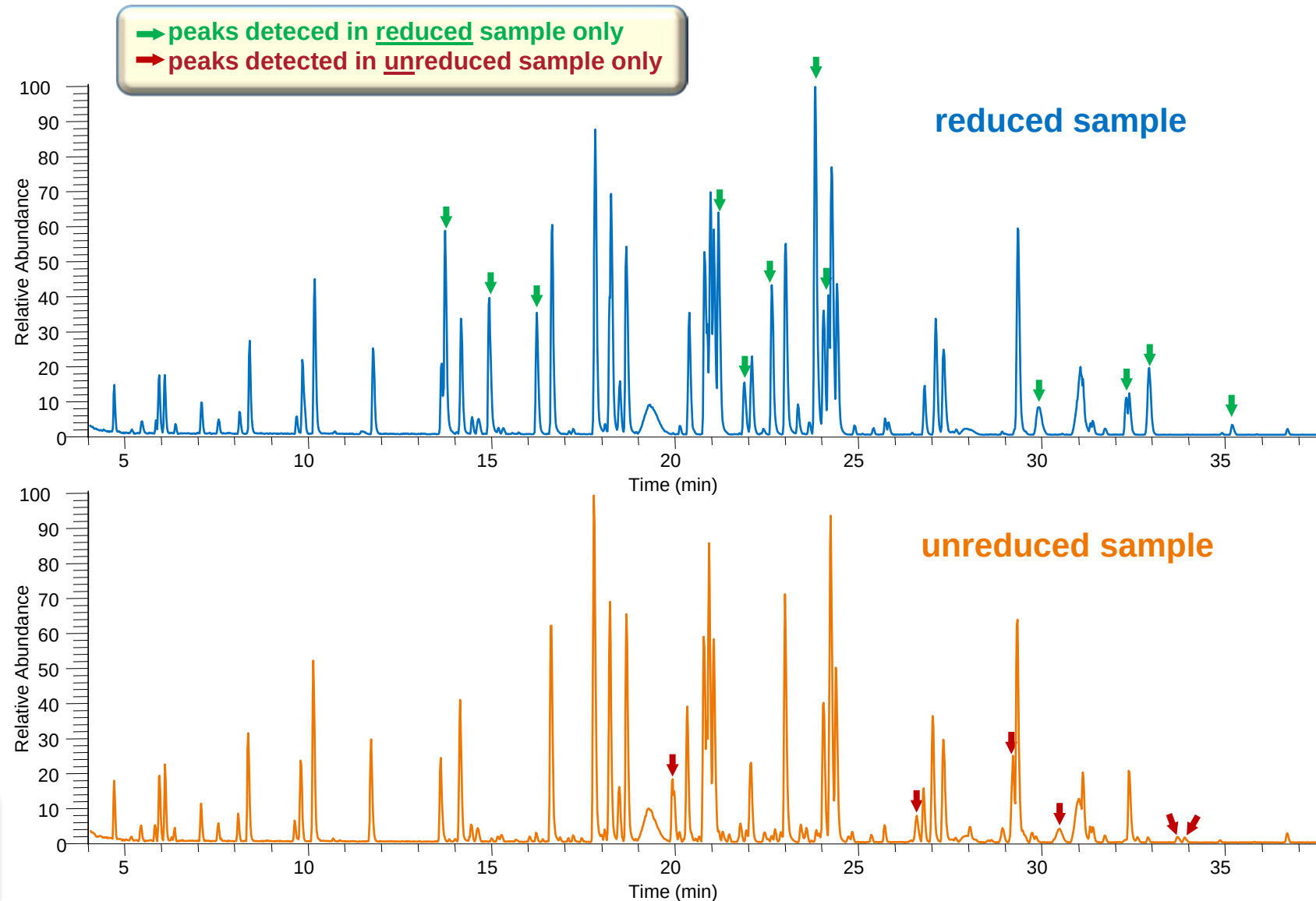


Q Exactive Plus

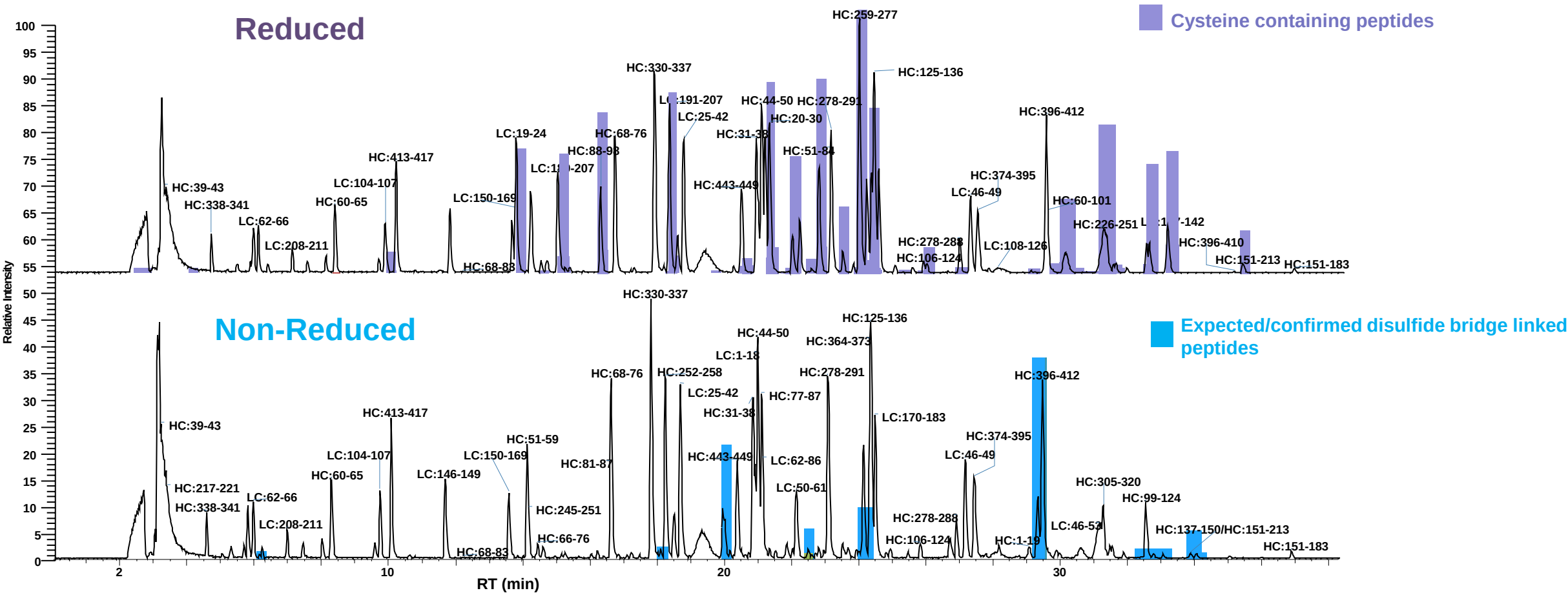
Analysis of
reduced
(+alkylated)
sample

Analysis of
unreduced
sample

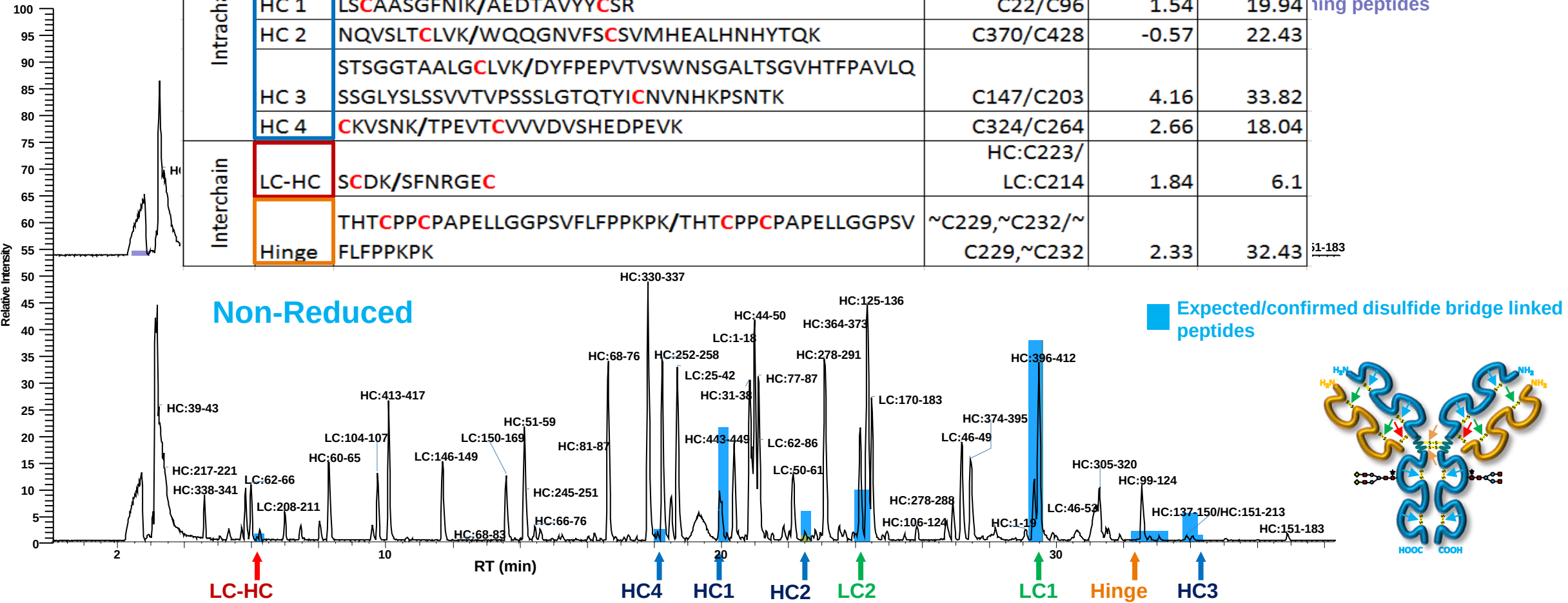
Method used for both samples:
data-dependent Top5 Method:
Full MS + top5 MS/MS scans per cycle



Disulfide Bridge Analysis - Result Review



Disulfide Bridge Analysis - Result Review



Details for Expected Light Chain S-S-Bond: C134-C194

1:S127-R142/1:V191-K207 = 3555.749m[1ss]

SGTASVCLLNNFYPR/VYACEVTHQGLSSPVTK

1ss

0.55

99.9%

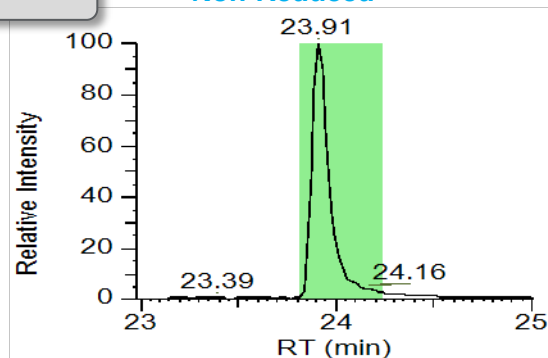
MS2/Full

Light chain amino acid sequence

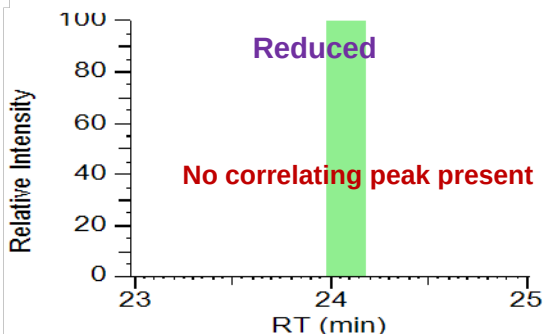
DIQMTQSPSS LSASVGDRVIT ITCRASQDVN TAVAWYQQKP GKAPKLLIYS ASFLYSGVPS RFSGSRSGTD
FTLTISLQPEDFATYYCQQHYTTPPTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVCLLNNFY
PREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKSTYSLSSLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFN
RGEC

XICs

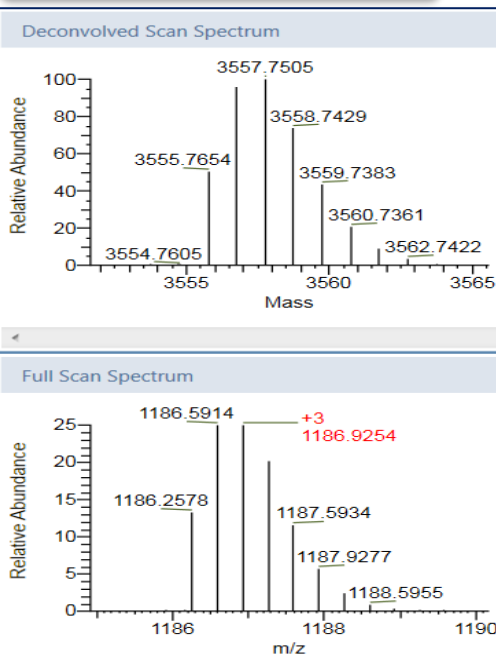
Non-Reduced



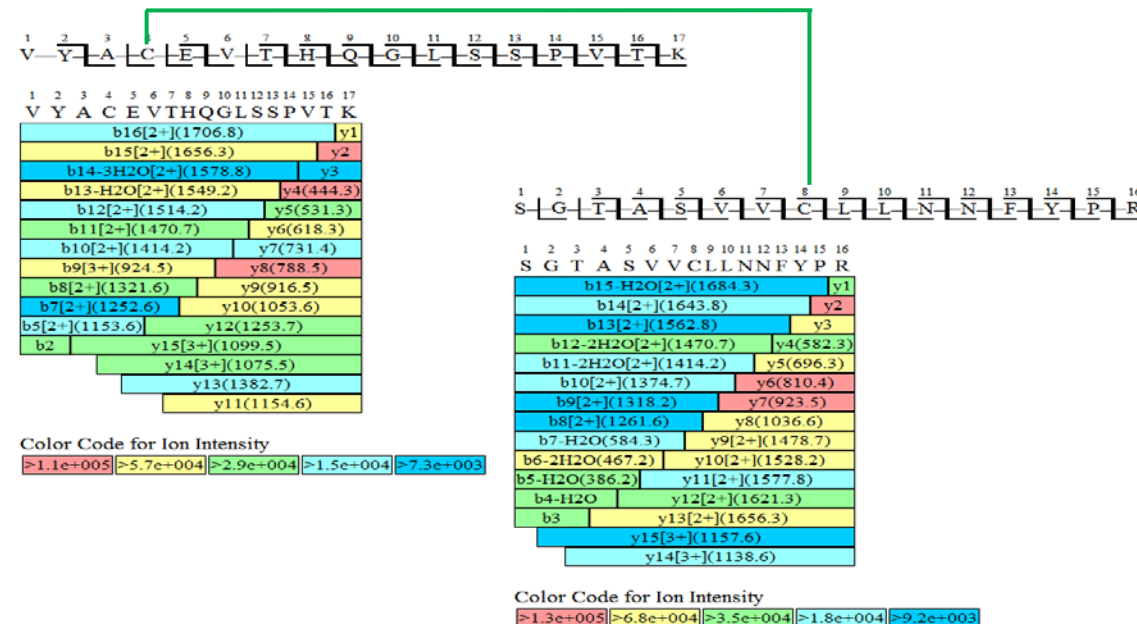
Reduced



Precursor isotope pattern



Fragment ion coverage maps



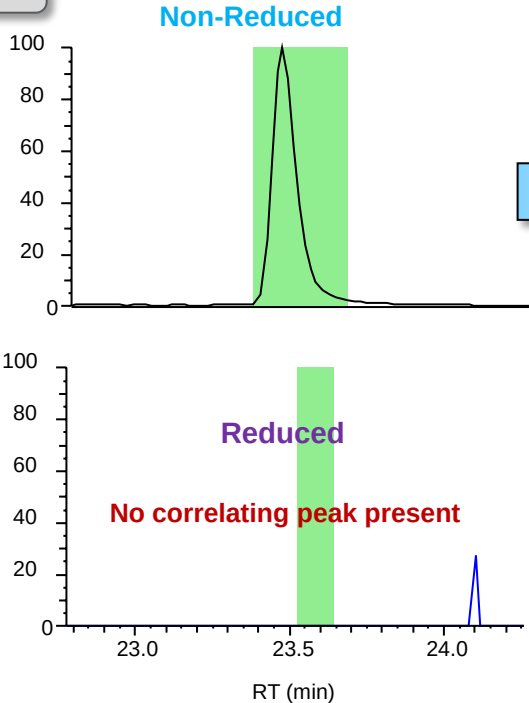
Details for Unexpected Heavy Chain S-S-Bond: C22-C264

Heavy chain amino acid sequence

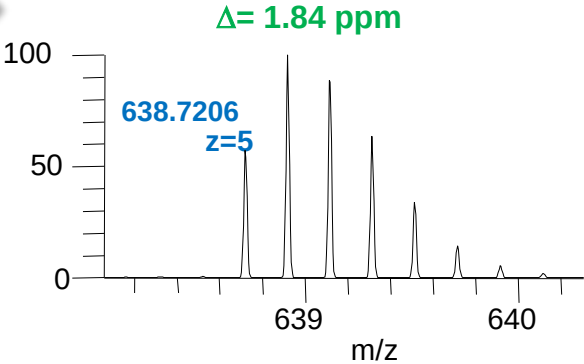
10	20	30	40
EVQLVESGGG	LVQPGGSLRL	SCAASGFNIK	DTYIHWVRQA
90	100	110	120
LQMNSLRAED	TAVYYCSRWG	GDGFYAMDYW	GQGTLVTVSS
170	180	190	200
WNSGALTSGV	HTFPAVLQSS	GLYSLSSVVT	VPSSSLGTQT
250	260	270	280
PSVFLFPPKP	KDTLMISRTP	EVTCVVVDVS	HEDPEVKFNW

location of scrambled disulfide bridge in the trastuzumab heavy chain sequence

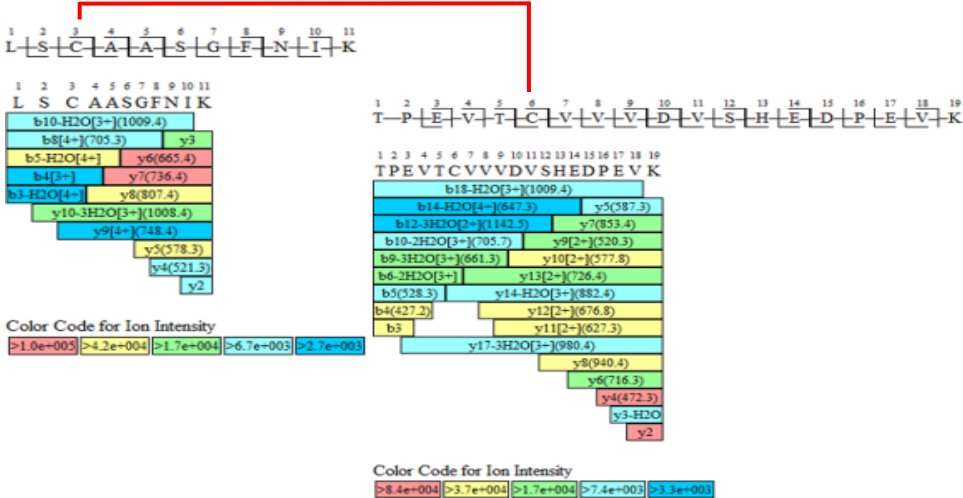
XICs



Precursor isotope pattern



Fragment ion coverage maps



Discrimination of Leucine and Isoleucine in Peptides Sequencing with Orbitrap Fusion Mass Spectrometer

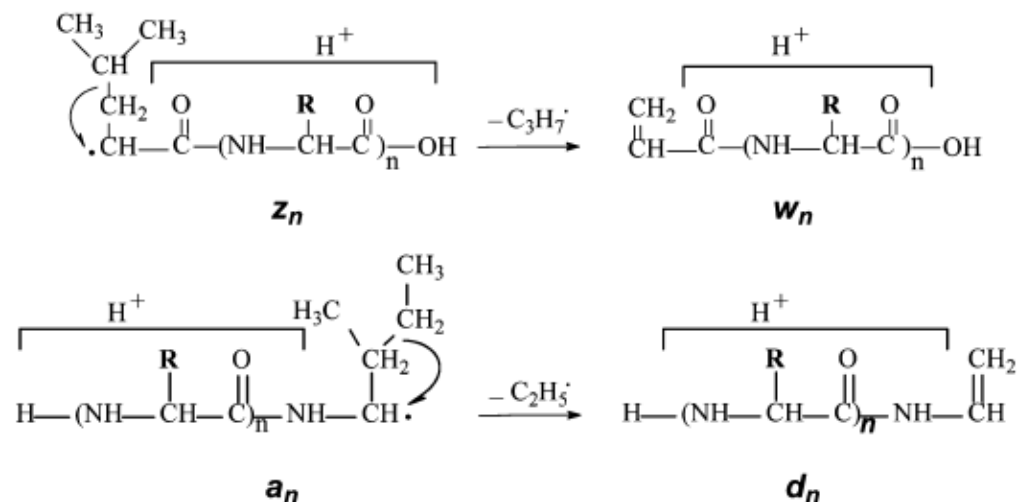
Albert T. Lebedev,^{*,†} Eugen Damoc,[‡] Alexander A. Makarov,[‡] and Tatiana Yu. Samgina[†]

[†]Chemistry Department, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Leninskie Gory 1/3, Moscow, 119991, Russia

[‡]ThermoFisher Scientific (Bremen) GmbH, Hanna-Kunath Strasse 11, 28199, Bremen, Germany

 Supporting Information

Scheme 1. Formation of w and d Ions



Benefits of ETD: Distinguishing Leu/Ile Based on Diagnostic ETD-HCD MS³ ions

analytical
chemistry

Article

pubs.acs.org/ac

Discrimination of Leucine and Isoleucine in Peptides Sequencing with Orbitrap Fusion Mass Spectrometer

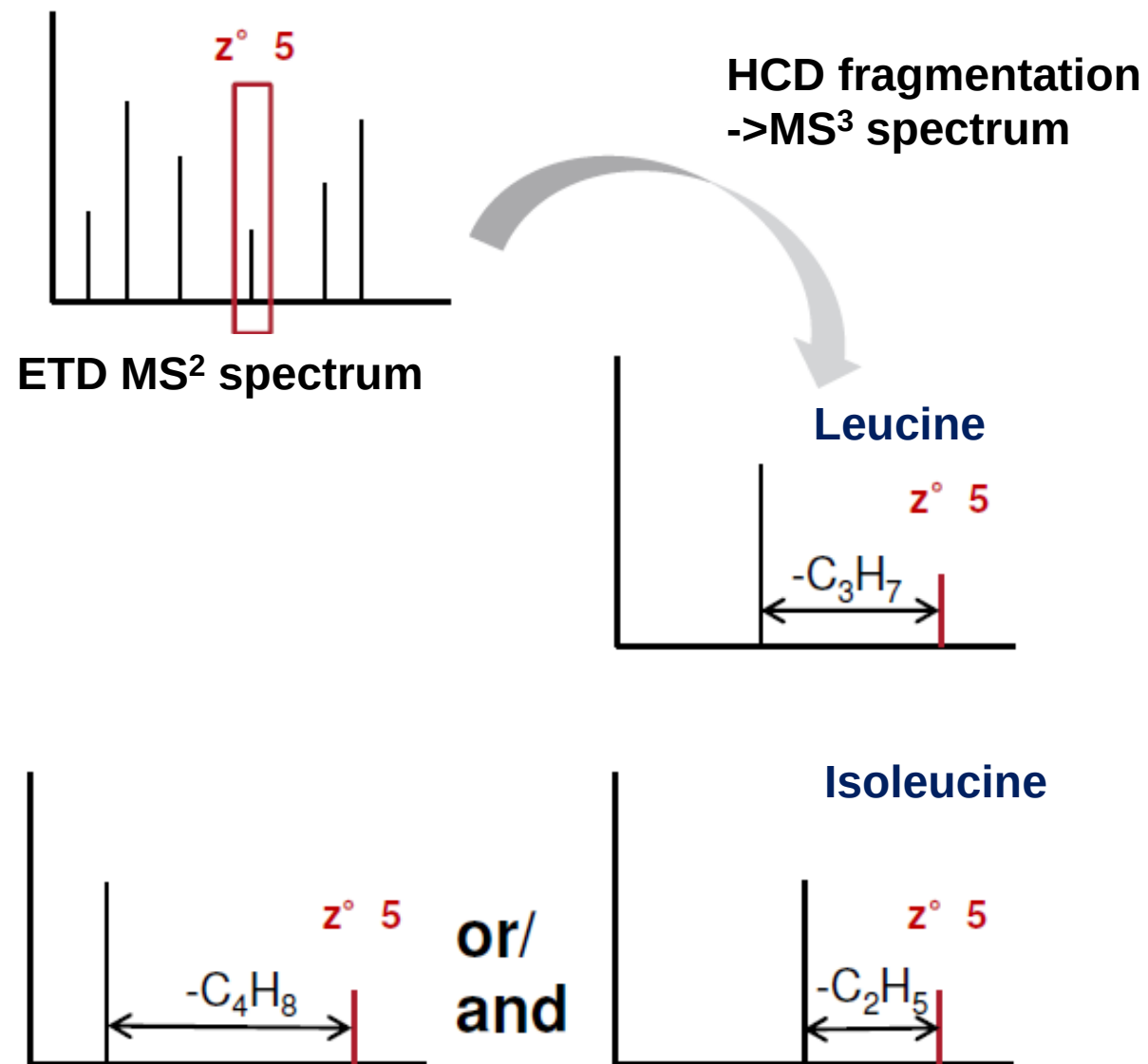
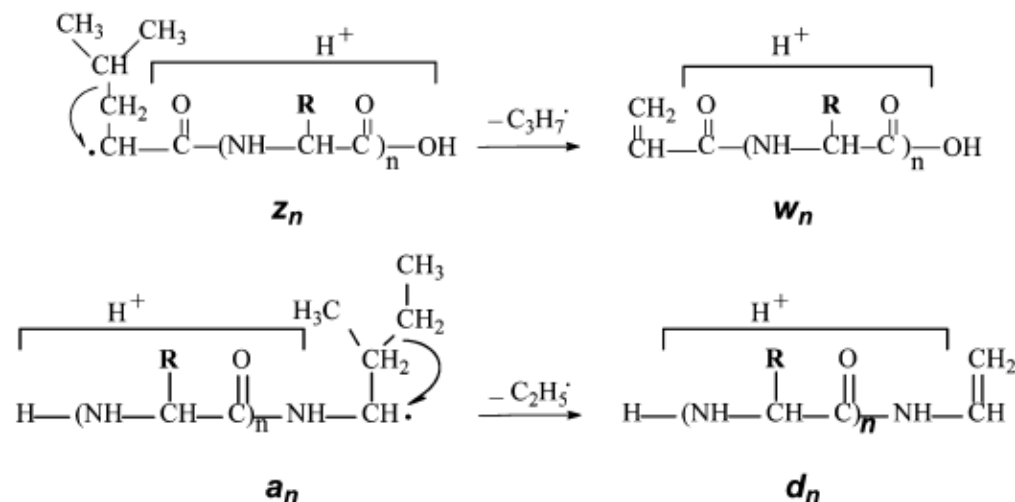
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 Supporting Information

Scheme 1. Formation of w and d Ions





What we Learned



What we Learned

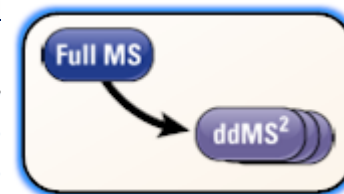
Properties of Full MS — SIM	
Full MS	
General	
Runtime	0 to 30 min
Polarity	positive
Full MS — SIM	
Resolution	70,000
AGC target	3e6
Maximum IT	100 ms
Scan range	200 to 2000 m/z

What we Learned



Properties of Full MS / dd-MS² (TopN)

Default charge state	2
Inclusion	—
Exclusion	—
Tags	—



Full MS

Resolution	70,000
AGC target	3e6
Maximum IT	100 ms
Scan range	200 to 2000 m/z

dd-MS² / dd-SIM

Resolution	17,500
AGC target	1e5
Maximum IT	200 ms
Loop count	5
TopN	5
Isolation window	2.0 m/z
Fixed first mass	—
NCE / stepped NCE	28

dd Settings

Minimum AGC target	2.00e3
Intensity threshold	1.0e4
Apex trigger	—
Charge exclusion	unassigned
Peptide match	preferred
Exclude isotopes	on
Dynamic exclusion	10.0 s