



# Generation of in-silico MS/MS mass spectra using combinatorial algorithms and reaction prediction expert systems

239th ACS National Meeting 2010  
San Francisco, CA

CINF: Division of Chemical Information  
Metabolomics: A Field at the Boundaries between Chemistry and Biology

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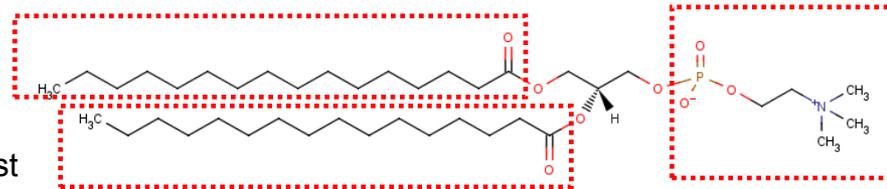
# Outline

- 1) **History and motivation (NIH glue grant of 70 Mio. Dollars)**
- 2) **Molecule creation using combinatorial algorithms**
- 3) **Modeling of in-silico MS/MS spectra**
- 4) **Outlook and Conclusions**

# Tandem mass spectrometry

sn1 = alkyl or acyl rest

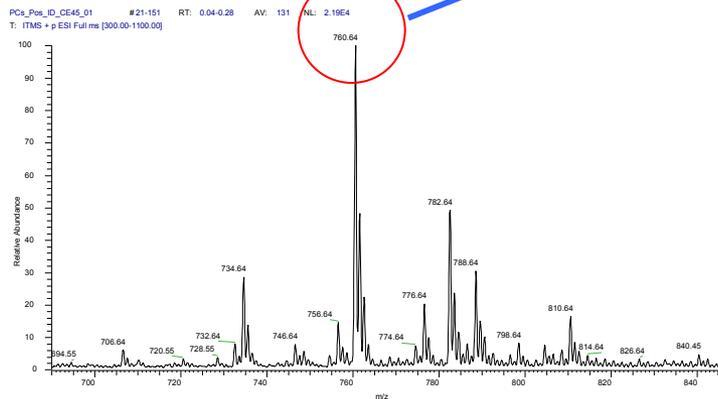
sn2 = alkyl or acyl rest



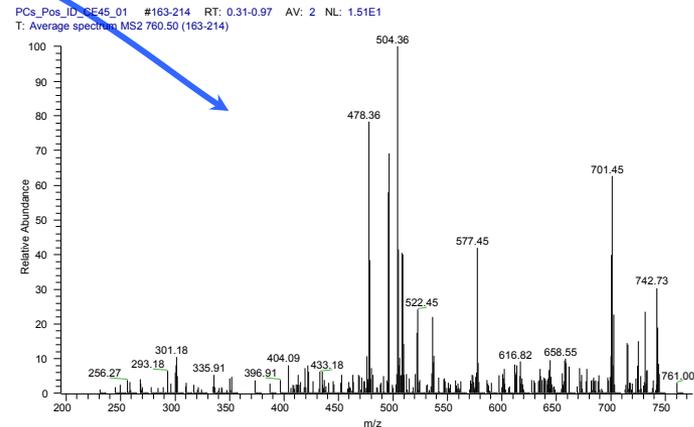
head group

**Precursor ion  
m/z=760.64**

**Product ions of  
m/z=760.64**

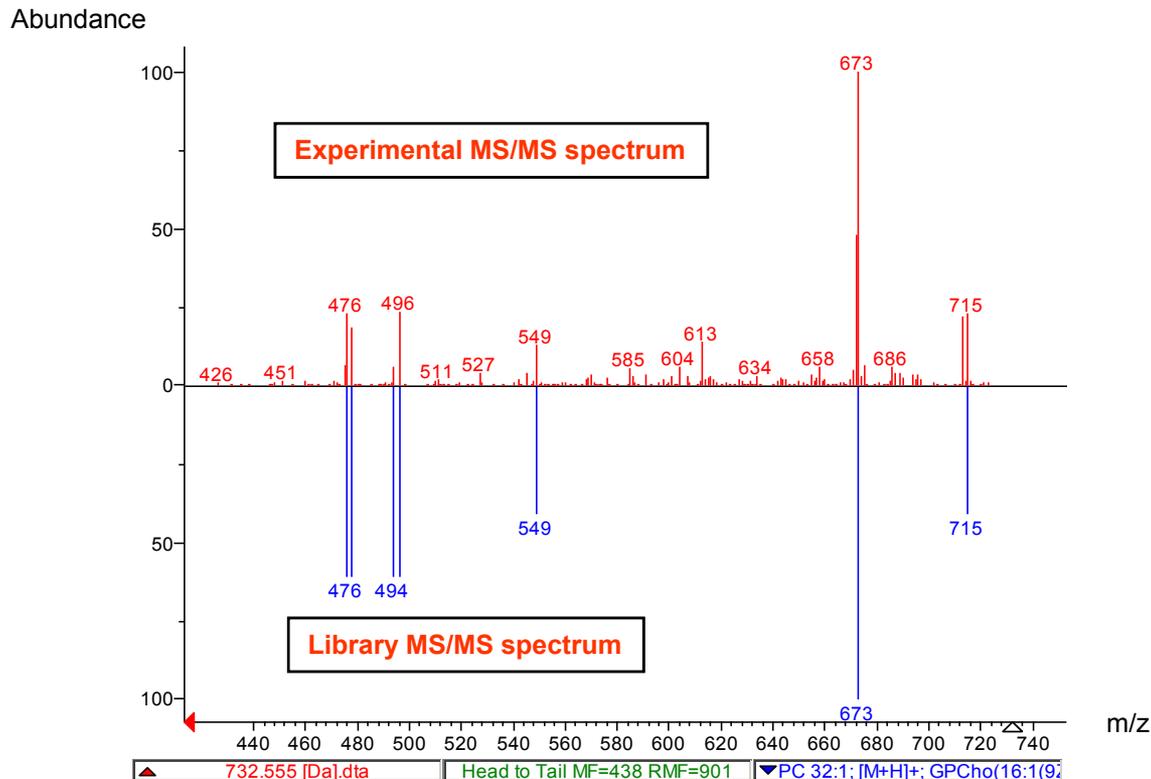


Mass spectrum



MS/MS spectrum

# MS/MS mass spectral library search

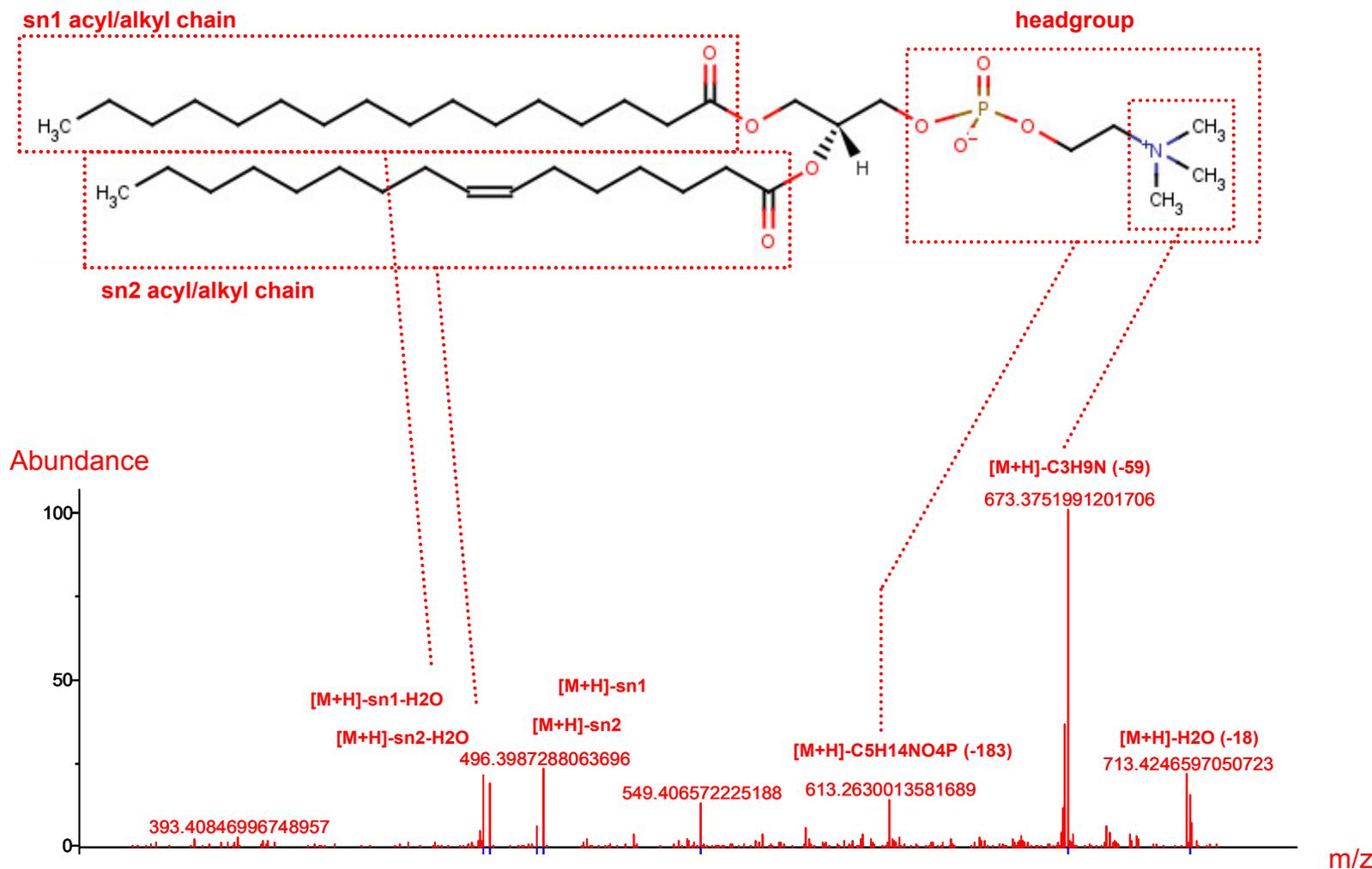


In-silico mass spectra:

- **m/z fragments** and **abundance** calculation required
- **statistical** (computer derived) and **heuristic rules** (experience of a human expert)

# Idea: Consistent lipid fragmentation (CID 35 V)

Phosphatidylcholine - PC (16:0/16:1) or short PC 32:1  
[M+H]<sup>+</sup> MS/MS precursor m/z = 732.55



# Existing in-silico approaches for tandem mass spectrometry modeling

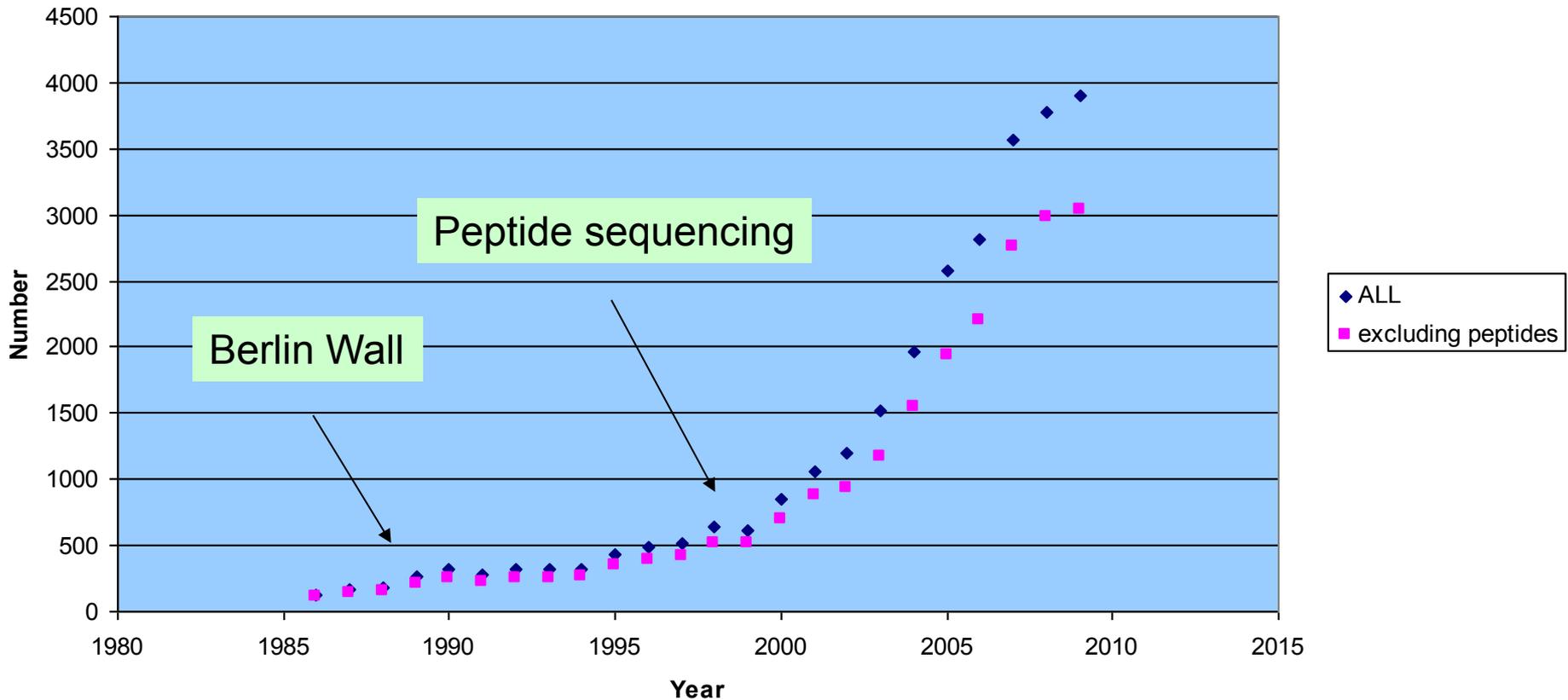
- 1) Peptides (Proteomics) – o.k.
- 2) Oligosaccharides (Glycomics) – o.k.
- 3) Not for small molecules – or not validated on larger sample sets (\*)

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In-silico spectra only "easy" to generate when consisting and repeating building blocks exist. For example **amino acids** in peptides or **sugar building blocks** in oligosaccharides.

(\*) Matching Structures to Mass Spectra Using Fragmentation Patterns: Are the Results As Good As They Look?

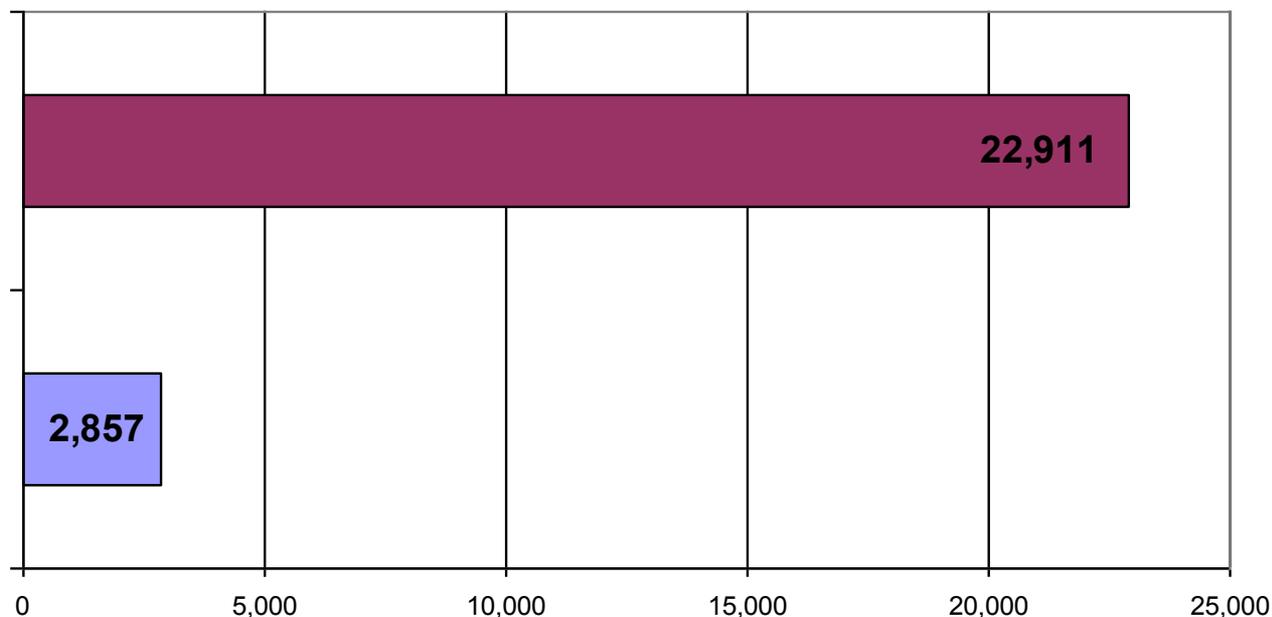
# Number of publications about tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS)



A total of 29,027 MS/MS publications exist (22,991 excluding peptides)

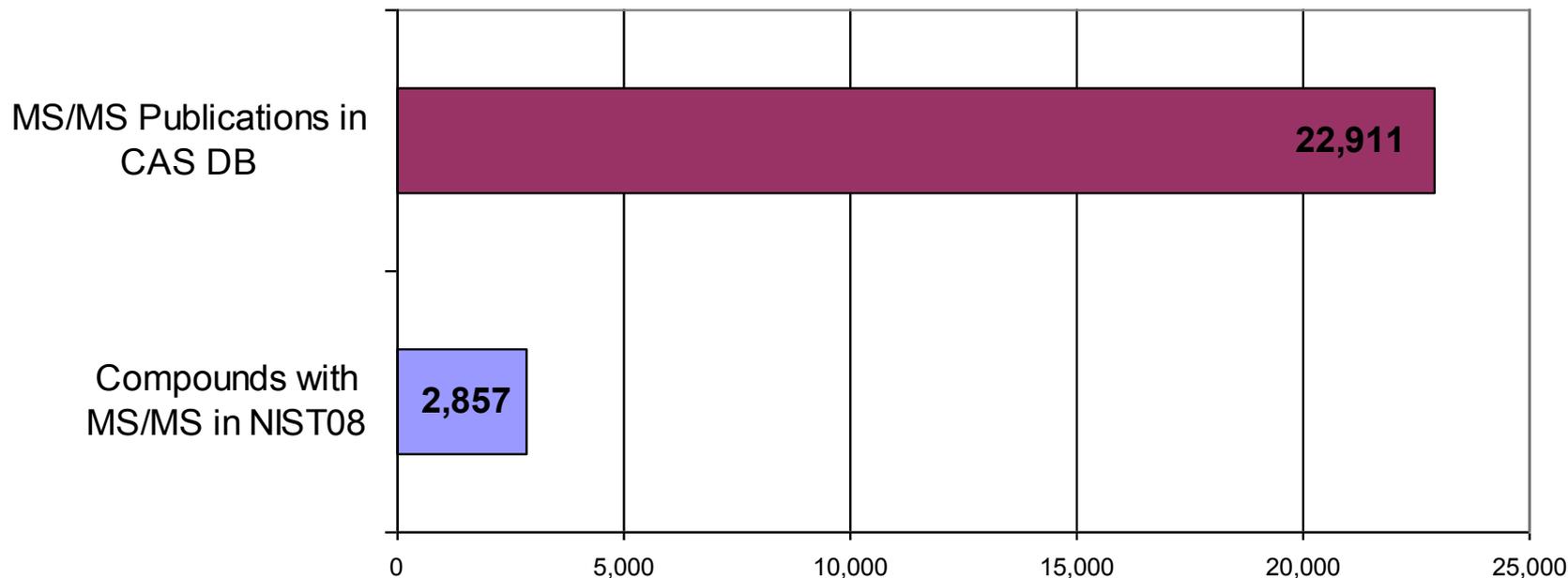
# What went historically wrong?

Challenge: Name that graph! (\*)



(\*) Internet meme from Chemical blogspace <http://cb.openmolecules.net/>  
Promise: You're not gonna get rickrolled.

# What went historically wrong?



The largest commercial MS/MS database (NIST08) contains **14,802 MS/MS** spectra of 2857 unique compounds (*85 lipids*)

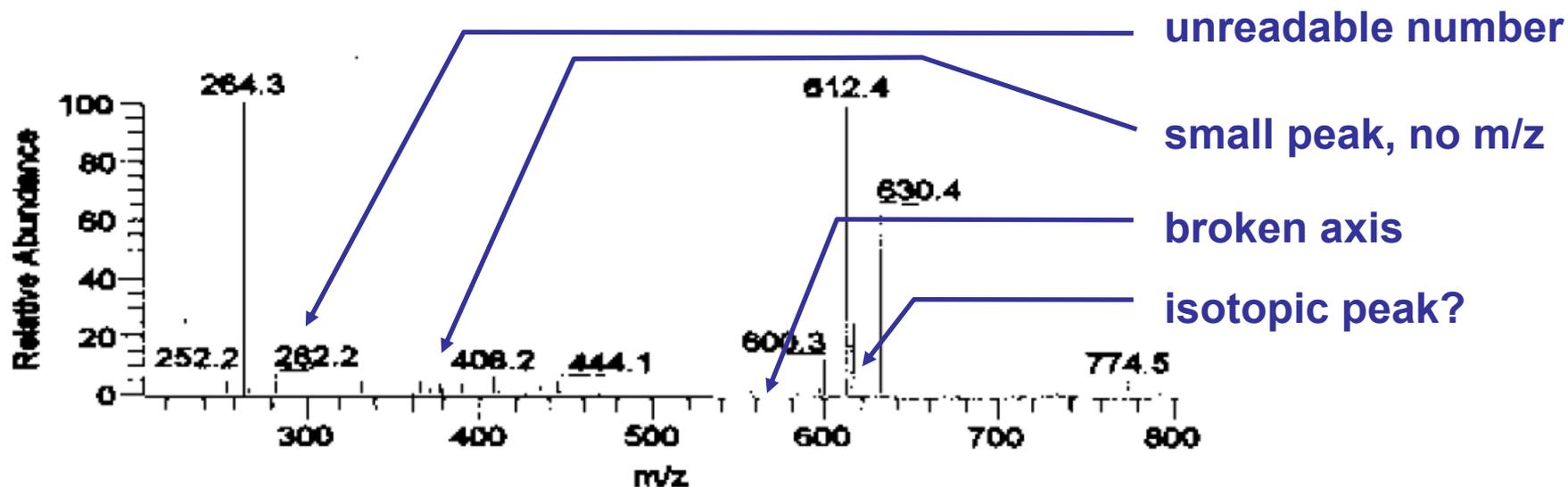
The largest public source (Massbank) contains **8,337 MS/MS** spectra of 2572 unique compounds

8 Million commercial unique chemicals available (eMolecules)  
50 million molecules in CSLS DB

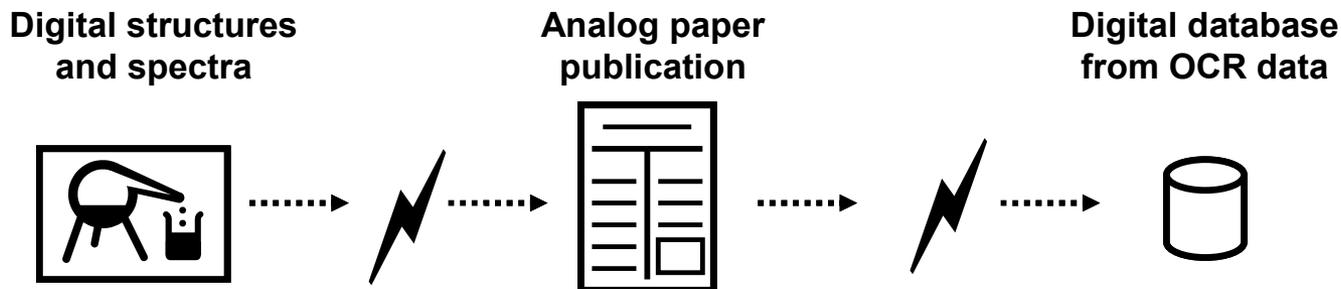
# What went historically wrong?

- A) Scientists (we) do not publish machine readable MS/MS spectra
- B) Scientists (we) publish MS/MS as bitmap picture in PDF
- C) Scientists (we) do not share spectra (Open Access, commercially)
- D) There are no easy to use technologies in place to enable data sharing

Do we need to push OCR technology?

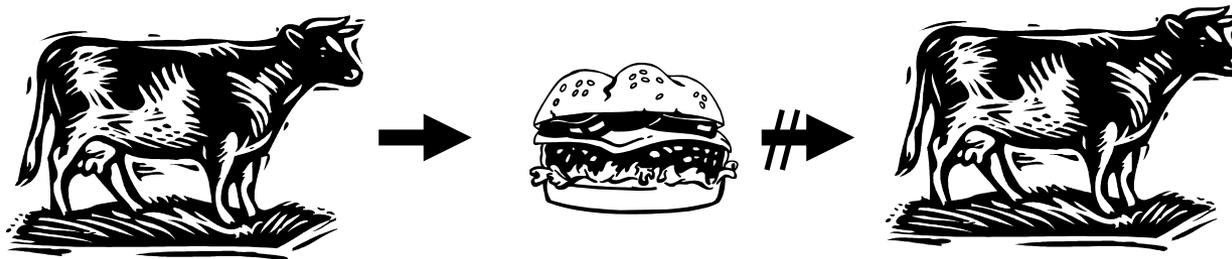


# Enable electronic data (MS spectra) sharing!



Data reduction and loss  
remove noise and  
uninteresting data

Extreme data loss  
OCR and text mining  
conversion errors



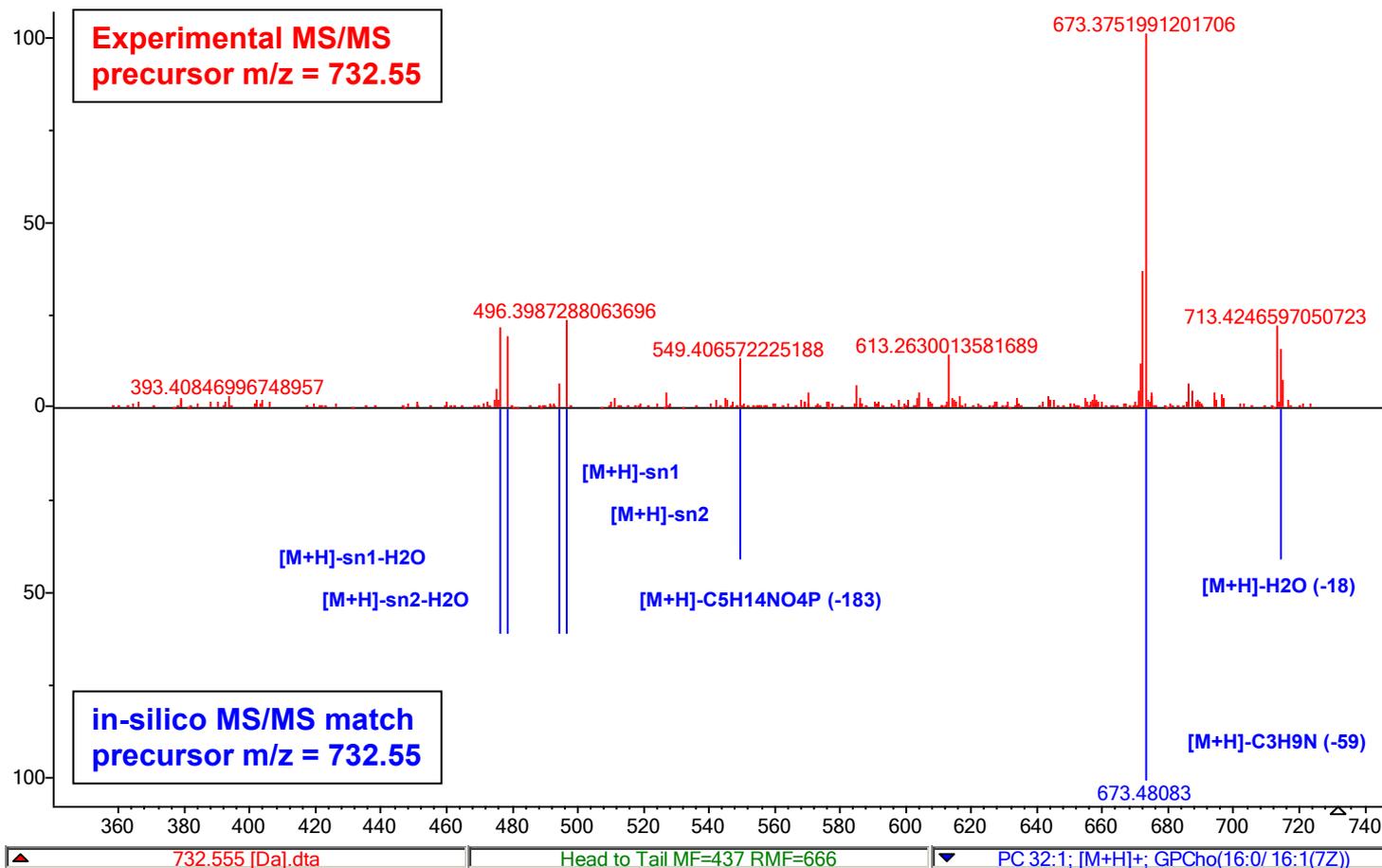
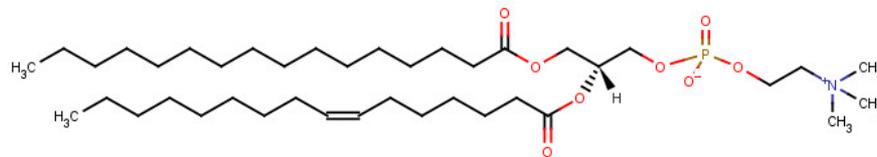
**Hamburger to Cow algorithm or "Wishful Thinking"  
Requires Jurassic Park Technology**

Kind T, Scholz M, Fiehn O

**How Large Is the Metabolome? A Critical Analysis of Data Exchange Practices in Chemistry.**

PLoS ONE 4(5): e5440. (2009); doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0005440

# Eureka! Create in-silico MS/MS spectra



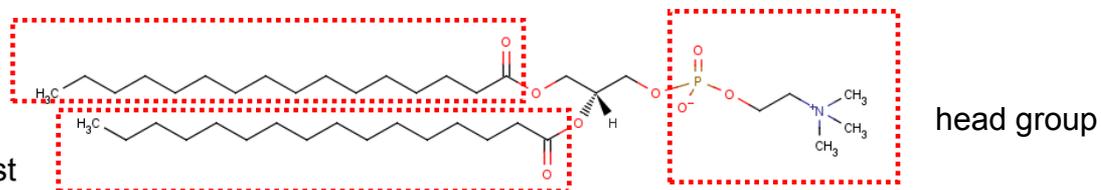
# Combinatorial library algorithms for structure generation

- 1) **LipidMaps** Tools (Perl)  
based on open source MayaChemTools by Manish Sud
  
  - 2) **SMILIB** (JAVA)  
open source Modlab Uni Frankfurt Schüller/Hähnke/Schneider
  
  - 3) **Reactor** (JAVA)  
virtual reaction processing tool by ChemAxon
- 
- A) Instant-JChem database** (ChemAxon)  
for structural handling
- 
- B) MassFrontier** (HighChem/Thermo)  
for mass spectrometry based reactions and fragmentations

# Combinatorial scaffold library design

sn1 = alkyl or acyl rest

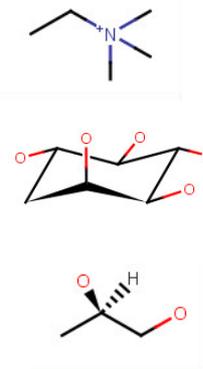
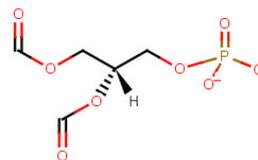
sn2 = alkyl or acyl rest



**Functional group (variable)**

**Linker**

**Scaffold (conserved)**



choline

inositol

glycerol

- + LipidMaps nomenclature name generation
- + accurate isotopic fragment calculation
- + mass spectral peak annotation
- + heuristic peak abundance modeling (CID voltage dependent)
- + conversion into mass spectral library format

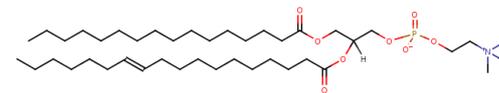
# Instant JChem structure handling

The screenshot shows the Instant JChem 2.1 interface. The main window displays a grid view for the entity 'LMSDFDownload17Jan07FinalAll'. The grid contains the following data:

...	Cdid	Structure	MolWeight	Formula	LM_ID	SYSTEMATIC_NA...	CATEGORY	MAI
1	6,662		300.27	C10H23NO7P	LMGP01050085	2-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine	Glycerophospholipids (GP)	Glychoh [GPC]
2	6,661		300.27	C10H23NO7P	LMGP01050084	2-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine	Glycerophospholipids (GP)	Glychoh [GPC]
3	6,621		300.27	C10H23NO7P	LMGP01050044	1-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine	Glycerophospholipids (GP)	Glychoh [GPC]
4	6,620		300.27	C10H23NO7P	LMGP01050043	1-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine	Glycerophospholipids (GP)	Glychoh [GPC]

The interface also shows a 'Projects' pane on the left with a tree view containing folders like 'localdb [as admin]', 'overlap [as admin]', 'Biometa', 'FiehnLib', 'LipidMaps', and 'LMSDFDownload17Jan07FinalAll'. A 'Query' pane shows the current query: 'Grid view for LMSDFDownload17Jan07FinalAll'. A 'Domain' pane shows 'Entire Database'. A 'Filter' pane shows 'FORMULA' selected with the value 'C10H23NO7P'. An 'Output - Messages' pane is at the bottom.

Lipid database of  
44,000 glycerophospholipids  
444,080 diacylglycerols.  
and mostly triacylglycerols  
from **LipidMaps**



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled 'MSMS-prediction.xls'. The table contains the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Cdid	ExactMass	LogP (cal)	Formula	Abbrev	AlkC	AlkY	COC	EthC	LM	LM I
2	11859	299.07700	-2.50	C9H18NO8P	GPETn(2.0/2.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
3	11860	313.09265	-1.87	C10H20NO8P	GPETn(2.0/3.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
4	11861	327.10831	-1.47	C11H22NO8P	GPETn(2.0/4.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
5	11862	341.12396	-1.08	C12H24NO8P	GPETn(2.0/5.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
6	11863	355.13962	-0.68	C13H26NO8P	GPETn(2.0/6.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
7	11864	369.15524	-0.29	C14H28NO8P	GPETn(2.0/7.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
8	11865	383.17090	0.11	C15H30NO8P	GPETn(2.0/8.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
9	11866	397.18655	0.51	C16H32NO8P	GPETn(2.0/9.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
10	11867	411.20221	0.90	C17H34NO8P	GPETn(2.0/10.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
11	11868	425.21786	1.30	C18H36NO8P	GPETn(2.0/11.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
12	11869	439.23349	1.70	C19H38NO8P	GPETn(2.0/12.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
13	11870	453.24915	2.09	C20H40NO8P	GPETn(2.0/13.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
14	11871	467.26480	2.49	C21H42NO8P	GPETn(2.0/14.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
15	11872	481.28046	2.89	C22H44NO8P	GPETn(2.0/15.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
16	11873	495.29611	3.28	C23H46NO8P	GPETn(2.0/16.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
17	11874	509.31177	3.68	C24H48NO8P	GPETn(2.0/17.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
18	11875	523.32742	4.08	C25H50NO8P	GPETn(2.0/18.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
19	11876	537.34308	4.48	C26H52NO8P	GPETn(2.0/19.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
20	11877	551.35873	4.88	C27H54NO8P	GPETn(2.0/20.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
21	11878	565.37439	5.28	C28H56NO8P	GPETn(2.0/21.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02
22	11879	579.39004	5.68	C29H58NO8P	GPETn(2.0/22.0)	0	0	0	0	GP	GP02

Export of structures from  
Instant-JChem into EXCEL

# MS/MS search with NIST MS search program using precursor search and dot-product match

NIST MS Search 2.0 - [Peptide, Presearch Default - 42 spectra]

File Search View Tools Options Window Help

1. 732.555 [Da].dta

**Experimental MS/MS list**

#	Src.	Name
32	A	758.571 [Da].dta
33	A	759.573 [Da].dta
34	A	760.586 [Da].dta
35	A	762.599 [Da].dta
36	A	766.536 [Da].dta
37	A	768.555 [Da].dta

pc-pos-h; 5476 total spectra

**Library hit scores**

#	Li...	Score	Dot Pro...	Prob...	E-Om...	Name
1	pc	855	855	25.0	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
2	pc	855	855	25.0	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
3	pc	855	855	25.0	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(2
4	pc	855	855	25.0	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
5	pc	106	106	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(2
6	pc	106	106	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(8
7	pc	75	75	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
8	pc	75	75	0.00	0	C 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
9	pc	69	69	0.00	0	C 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(2
10	pc	69	69	0.00	0	C 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(6
11	pc	61	61	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
12	pc	61	61	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
13	pc	54	54	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(2
14	pc	54	54	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(1
15	pc	49	49	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(2
16	pc	49	49	0.00	0	PC 32:1; [M+H] <sup>+</sup> ; GPCho(2

**exp. MS/MS**

(Text File) 732.555 [Da].dta

Name: 732.555 [Da].dta  
MW: N/A ID#: 7803 DB: Text File  
Comment: CHARGE=1+ PEPMASS=732.554687  
10 largest peaks:  
673.3751991201706 999.00 | 672.382010  
478.37586510016934 185.76 | 714.5033631  
263 m/z Values and Intensities:  
213.14963098738727 8.26 | 270.37082386  
319.19541630653885 6.65 | 337.2953131  
362.4354270383564 0.59 | 364.1086965

**in-silico MS/MS**

732.555 [Da].dta Head to Tail MF=438 RMF=901 PC 32:1; [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; GPCho(16:1(9)

**in-silico MS/MS**

(pc-pos-h) PC 32:1; [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; GPCho(16:1(9Z)/16:0)

Name: PC 32:1; [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; GPCho(16:1(9Z)/16:0)  
MW: 732 ID#: 3924 DB: pc-pos-h  
7 m/z Values and Intensities:  
476.31425 600.00 [M+H]-sn2-H2O  
478.32989 600.00 [M+H]-sn1-H2O  
494.32481 600.00 [M+H]-sn2  
496.34045 600.00 [M+H]-sn1  
549.48829 400.00 [M+H]-C5H14NO4P (-183)  
673.48083 999.00 [M+H]-C3H9N (-59)  
714.54377 400.00 [M+H]-H2O (-18)

Lib. Search Other Search Names Compare Librarian

For Help, press F1

Search speed ~ 100 MS/MS spectra per second (without GUI)

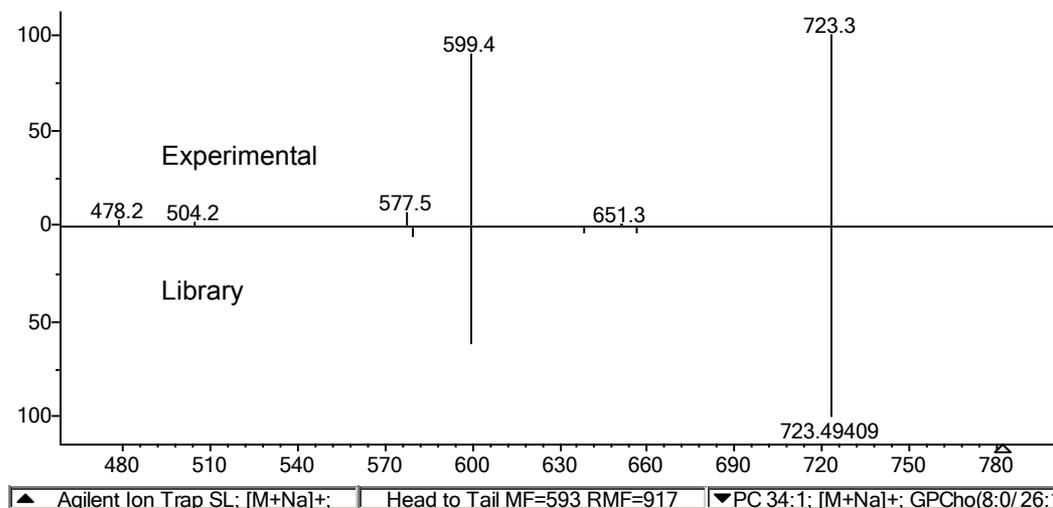
# Library size and coverage of lipid classes

Number	LipidClass	Short	Number compounds	Number MS/MS spectra with different adducts	Number MS/MS LIBS
1	Phosphatidylcholines	PC	5476	10952	2
2	Lysophosphatidylcholines	lysoPC	80	160	2
3	Plasmenylphosphatidylcholines	plasmenyl-PC	222	444	2
4	Phosphatidylethanolamines	PE	5476	16428	3
5	Lysophosphatidylethanolamines	lysoPE	80	240	3
6	Plasmenylphosphatidylethanolamines	plasmenyl-PE	222	666	3
7	Phosphatidylserines	PS	5123	15369	3
8	Sphingomyelines	SM	168	336	2
9	Phosphatidic acids	PA	5476	16428	3
10	Phosphatidylinositols	PI	5476	5476	1
11	Phosphatidylglycerols	PG	5476	5476	1
12	Cardiolipins	CL	25426	50852	2
13	Ceramide-1-phosphates	CerP	168	336	2
14	Diacylglycerols	DAG	1764	1764	1
15	Triacylglycerols	TAG	2640	5280	2
16	Monogalactosyldiacylglycerols	MGDG	5476	21904	4
17	Digalactosyldiacylglycerols	DGDG	5476	10952	2
18	Sulfoquinovosyldiacylglycerols	SQDG	5476	5476	1
19	Diphosphorylated hexaacyl Lipid A	LipidA-PP	15625	15625	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>All libraries</b>		<b>95326</b>	<b>184164</b>	<b>40</b>

## Covered adduct libraries

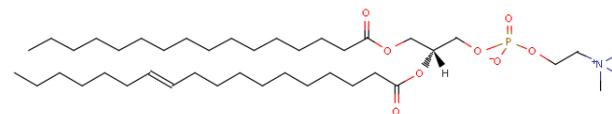
[M+H]<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> [M-H]<sup>-</sup>  
[M-2H]<sup>(2-)</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>-CO]<sup>+</sup> [M+Na<sub>2</sub>-H]<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup> [M-H+Na]<sup>+</sup>

# Example: ion trap mass spectrometer



Source: Agilent.com

Agilent Ion Trap SL/XCT



Name: PC 34:1; [M+Na]+; GPCho(16:0/18:1(11E))

MW: 782 ID#: 42511 DB: lipidblast-pos

Comment: Parent=782.56759 Mz\_exact=782.56759 ; PC 34:1; [M+Na]+; GPCho(16:0/18:1(11E)); C42H82NO8P

8 m/z Values and Intensities:

723.49409	999.00	[M+Na]-C3H9N (-59)
599.50155	600.00	[M+Na]-C5H14NO4P (-183)
544.33807	20.00	[M+Na]-sn1
526.32751	20.00	[M+Na]-sn1-H2O
518.32243	20.00	[M+Na]-sn2
500.31187	20.00	[M+Na]-sn2-H2O
467.25401	40.00	[M+Na]-59-sn1
441.23837	40.00	[M+Na]-59-sn2

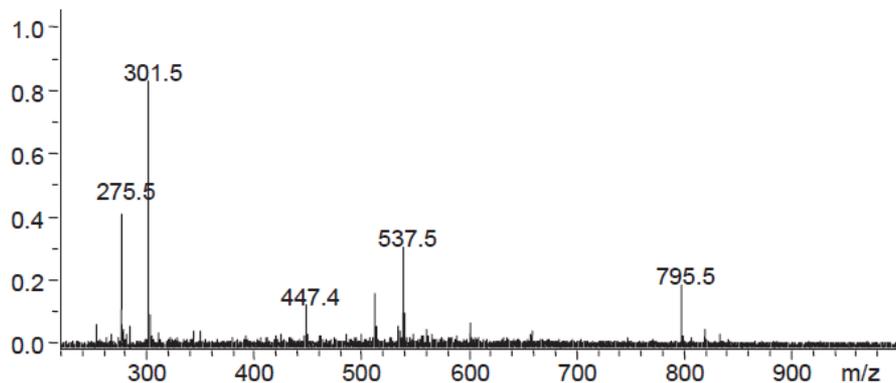
1<sup>st</sup> Hit group



PC 34:1  
(42 candidates)

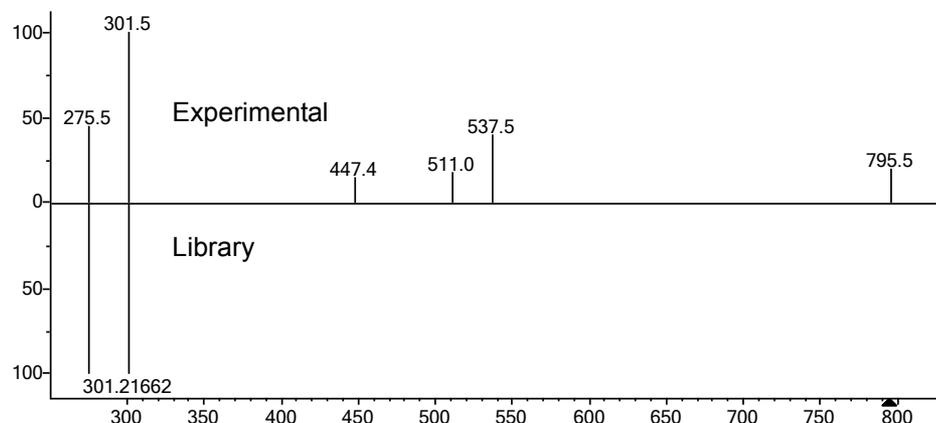
Fatty acyl side chains (sn1, sn2) best detected in negative ionization mode

# Example: Electrospray-ion trap mass spectrometer

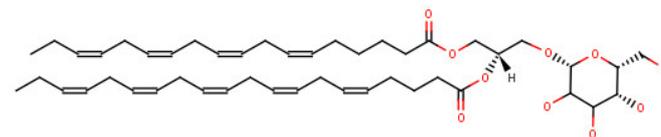


Source: www.bdal.com

Bruker Esquire Ion Trap



▲Bruker Esquire ion trap mass spectr | Head to Tail MF=388 RMF=799 | ▼MGDG 38:9; [M-H]<sup>-</sup>; MGDG(18:4(6



1<sup>st</sup> Hit



MGDG(20:5/18:4)  
(4 candidates in database)  
(512 double bond isomers)

**Name:** MGDG 38:9; [M-H]<sup>-</sup>; MGDG(18:4(6Z,9Z,12Z,15Z)/20:5(5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z))

**MW:** 795 **ID#:** 75218 **DB:** lipidblast-neg

**Comment:** Parent=795.50478 Mz\_exact=795.50478 ; MGDG 38:9; [M-H]<sup>-</sup>;  
MGDG(18:4(6Z,9Z,12Z,15Z)/20:5(5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)); C47H72O10

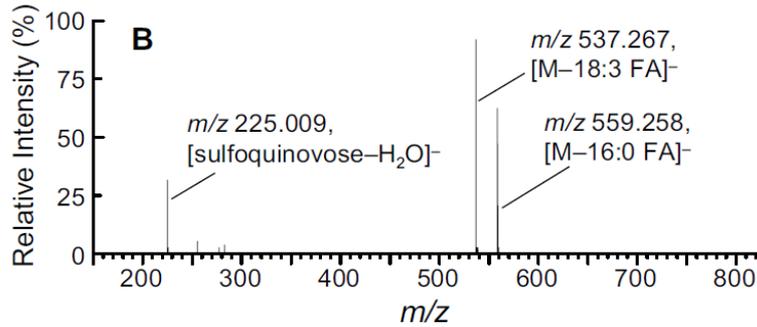
**2 largest peaks:**

301.21662	999.00	275.20098	999.00
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**2 m/z Values and Intensities:**

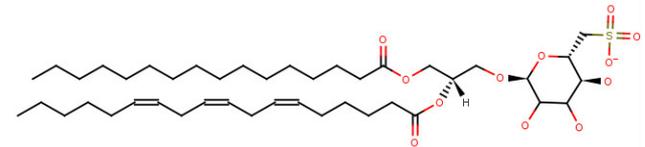
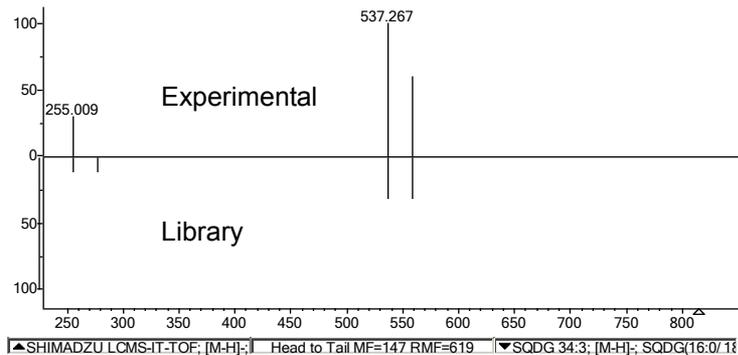
301.21662	999.00	sn2 FA
275.20098	999.00	sn1 FA

# Example: Hybrid Ion-Trap (IT) and Time-of-Flight (TOF)



Source: shimadzu.com

Shimadzu's LCMS-IT-TOF



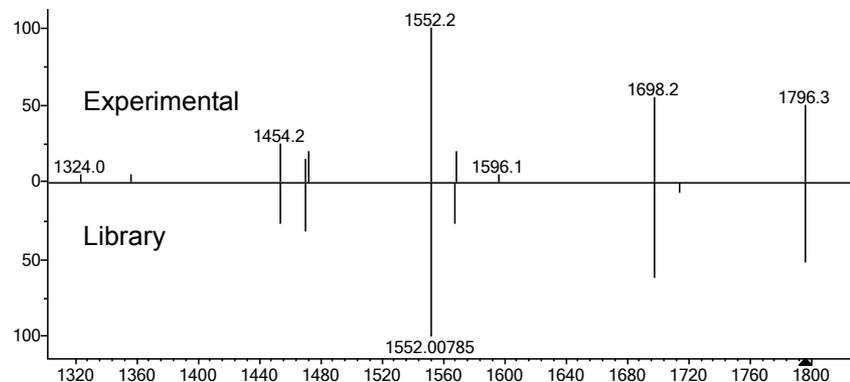
1<sup>st</sup> Hit



SQDG 34:3  
(8 candidates)

**Name:** SQDG 34:3; [M-H]<sup>-</sup>; SQDG(16:0/18:3(6Z,9Z,12Z))  
**MW:** 815 **ID#:** 106150 **DB:** lipidblast-neg  
**Comment:** Parent=815.49792 Mz\_exact=815.49792 ; SQDG 34:3; [M-H]<sup>-</sup>;  
 SQDG(16:0/18:3(6Z,9Z,12Z)); C43H76O12S  
 559.25784 300.00 [M-H]-sn1  
 537.27348 300.00 [M-H]-sn2  
 277.21662 100.00 sn2 FA  
 255.23226 100.00 sn1 FA  
 225.00690 999.00 fragment C6H9O7S

# Example: ion trap mass spectrometer



▲ Finnigan LCQ DECA ion trap mass | Head to Tail MF=719 RMF=916 | ▼ LipidA PP [14/14/10/16/3O-(14)3

**Name:** LipidA PP [14/14/14/14/3O-(12)/3O-(14)]; [M-H]<sup>-</sup>;  
**MW:** 1796 **ID#:** 64304 **DB:** lipidblast-neg  
**Comment:** Parent=1796.21157 Mz\_exact=1796.21157 ; LipidA PP [14/14/14/14/3O-(12)/3O-(14)]; [M-H]<sup>-</sup>; C94H178N2O25P2; LipidA-PP-[R2(14:0)(3-OH)/R3(14:0)(3-OH)/R2'(14:0)/R3'(14:0)/R2'-3-O-(12:0)/R3'-3O-(14:0)]

9 largest peaks:

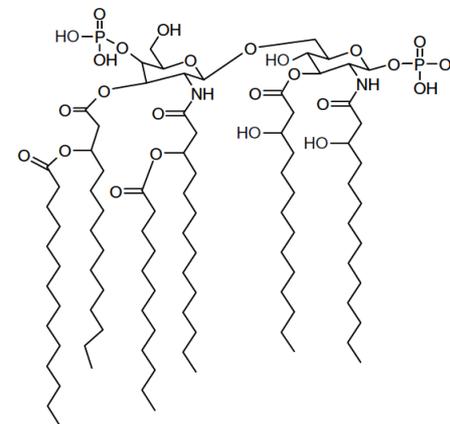
1552.00785	999.00	1698.23467	600.00
1796.21157	500.00	1498.05715	300.00
1470.02587	300.00		
1596.03405	250.00	1568.00277	250.00
1454.03095	250.00	1714.22959	50.00

9 m/z Values and Intensities:

1796.21157	500.00	[M-H] <sup>-</sup>
1714.22959	50.00	[M-H]-PO3H
1698.23467	600.00	[M-H]-PO4H3
1596.03405	250.00	[M-H]-PO4H3-R2'-O-FA
1568.00277	250.00	[M-H]-PO4H3-R3'-O-FA
1552.00785	999.00	[M-H]-R2 acyl FA    [M-H]-R3 acyl FA
1498.05715	300.00	[M-H]-PO4H3-R2'-O-FA
1470.02587	300.00	[M-H]-PO4H3-R3'-O-FA
1454.03095	250.00	[M-H]-R2-PO4H3    [M-H]-R3-PO4H3



Thermo Finnigan LCQ/LTQ

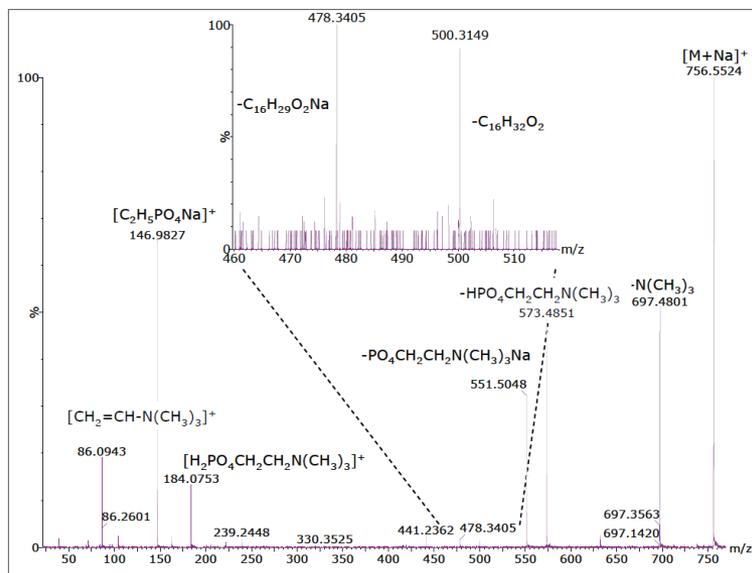


2<sup>nd</sup> Hit



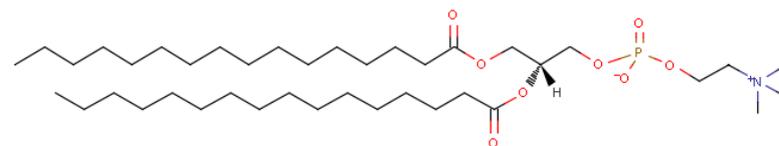
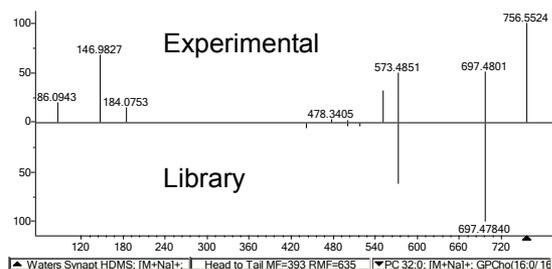
Lipid A (PP)  
(16 candidates)

# Example: hybrid quadrupole ion mobility spectrometry time-of-flight



Source: Waters.com

Waters HDMS Synapt



**Name:** PC 32:0; [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; GPCho(16:0/16:0)

**MW:** 756 **ID#:** 42167 **DB:** lipidblast-pos

**Comment:** Parent=756.55190 Mz\_exact=756.55190 ; PC 32:0; [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; GPCho(16:0/16:0); C40H80NO8P

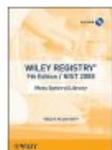
**5 m/z Values and Intensities:**

697.47840	999.00	[M+Na]-C3H9N (-59)
573.48586	600.00	[M+Na]-C5H14NO4P (-183)
518.32238	20.00	[M+Na]-sn1    [M+Na]-sn2
500.31182	20.00	[M+Na]-sn1-H2O    [M+Na]-sn2-H2O
441.23832	40.00	[M+Na]-59-sn1    [M+Na]-59-sn2

1<sup>st</sup> Hit  
PC 32:0



# Library curation costs money



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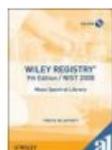
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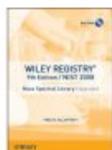
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# Applications and future developments

**A1) Energy research** – lipid profiling

**A2) Health research** – lipidomics

**A3) Fundamental research** – understanding spatial and temporal distribution of lipids in plants and animals



Source: Steve Jurvetson FLICKR

**S1) Side effect: Lipidomics for the masses** (use low-cost ion traps)

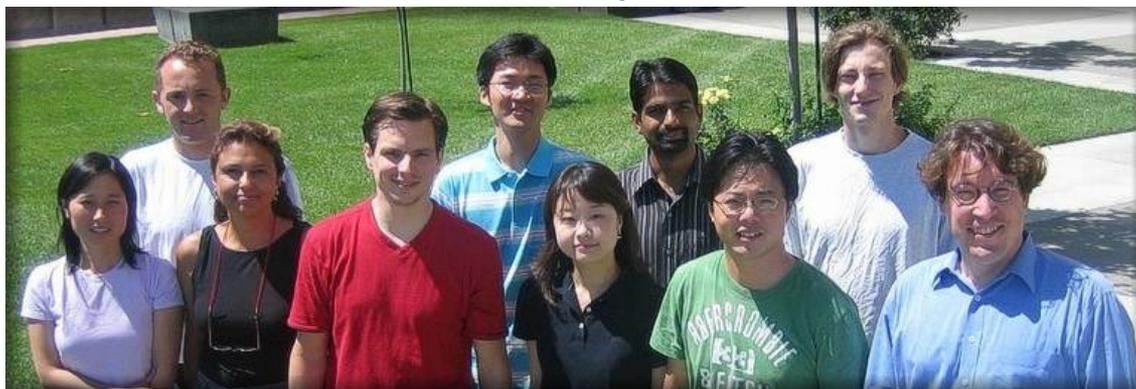
**F1) Oxylipids** and different oxygenated species for medical and age research require sensitive triple-quadrupole MS (QTRAP) or hybrids

**F2) Rare lipid** species from health related species (tuberculosis, pestilence)

**F3) Regiospecific** databases (from MS<sup>3</sup> and MS<sup>4</sup> data)

**F4) Translation to other molecule classes** (requires diverse validation sets)

# Thank you!



## Fiehn Lab

**Dr. Oliver Fiehn (Principal Investigator)**

Mine Palazoglu (Library, GC-MS, GCT)

**Dr. Tobias Kind (Cheminformatics)**

Dinesh Kumar Barupal (Bioinformatics)

Gert Wohlgemuth (BinBase)

Kirsten Skogerson (NMR, GCxGC)

**Dr. Kwang-Hyeon Liu (LC, Pharma)**

Sangeeta Kumari (GCT, GC-MS)

Sevini Shahbaz (Library)

Kristie Cloos (Lipids, MS, GC-MS)

Dr. Pierre Ayotte (Docking)

John Meissen (UPLC, LC)

**Dr. Do Yup Lee (now LBNL Berkley)**

## Sponsors Fiehn Lab

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UC Discovery itl07-10167

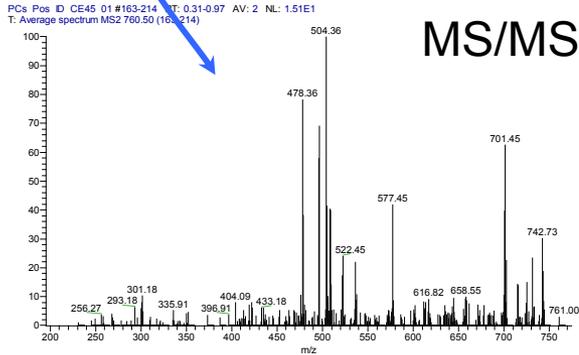
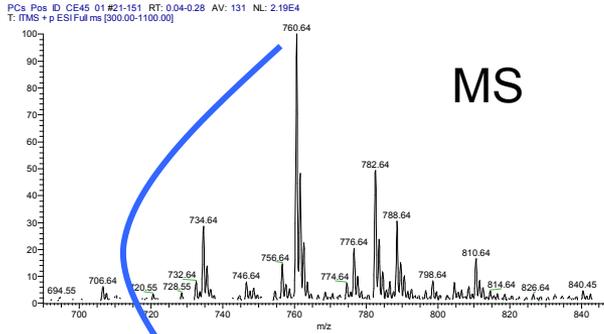
NSF MCB 0520140

EU FP7 Health-2007-2.1.4.1/Dupont

Agilent, LECO, Waters

**Thanks to the useful LipidMaps service!  
Please apply for beta-testing!**

# Tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS)



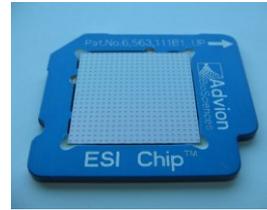
## Iontrap MS/MS spectra creation



NanoMate nanoESI  
chip based infusion



Low-resolution  
LTQ Ion Trap

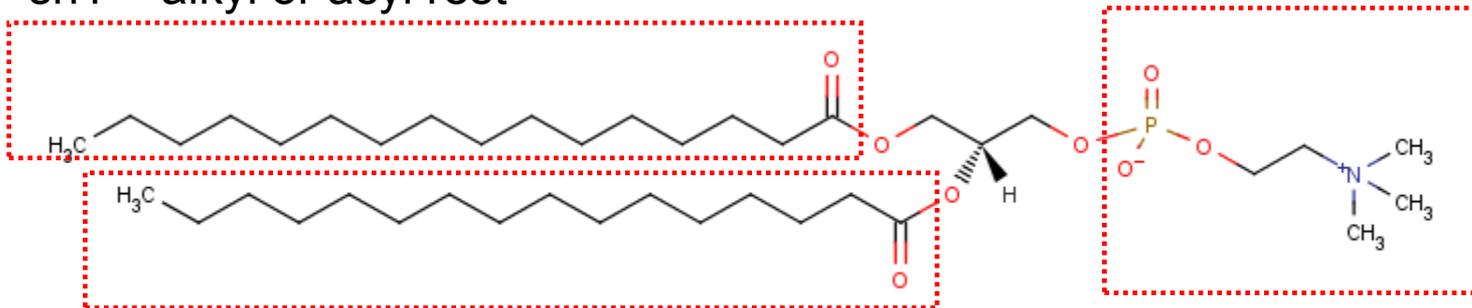


nanoESI chip  
with 400 nozzles



High-resolution LTQ-FT

sn1 = alkyl or acyl rest



head group

sn2 = alkyl or acyl rest