

# SimulTOF™ Mass Spectrometry for High Performance MS-MS

Marvin L. Vestal

SimulTOF Systems from Virgin Instruments Corp.

# Biological Mass Spectrometry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Electrospray(ESI) or MALDI?

- Electrospray(ESI)
  - High performance ESI widely available
  - MS dictates separation conditions
    - Low flow rates, very small columns, limited capacity and long LC runs
- MALDI-TOF
  - Very fast (full spectrum/laser shot @5 kHz)
  - Tradeoff between speed and sensitivity (avg. of multiple shots)
  - Resolution and mass accuracy inferior to best of electrospray
  - Can be interfaced with variety of separations
  - Inherently simpler, more user friendly, and easier to automate
- Can MALDI compete?

# *Why speed is important*

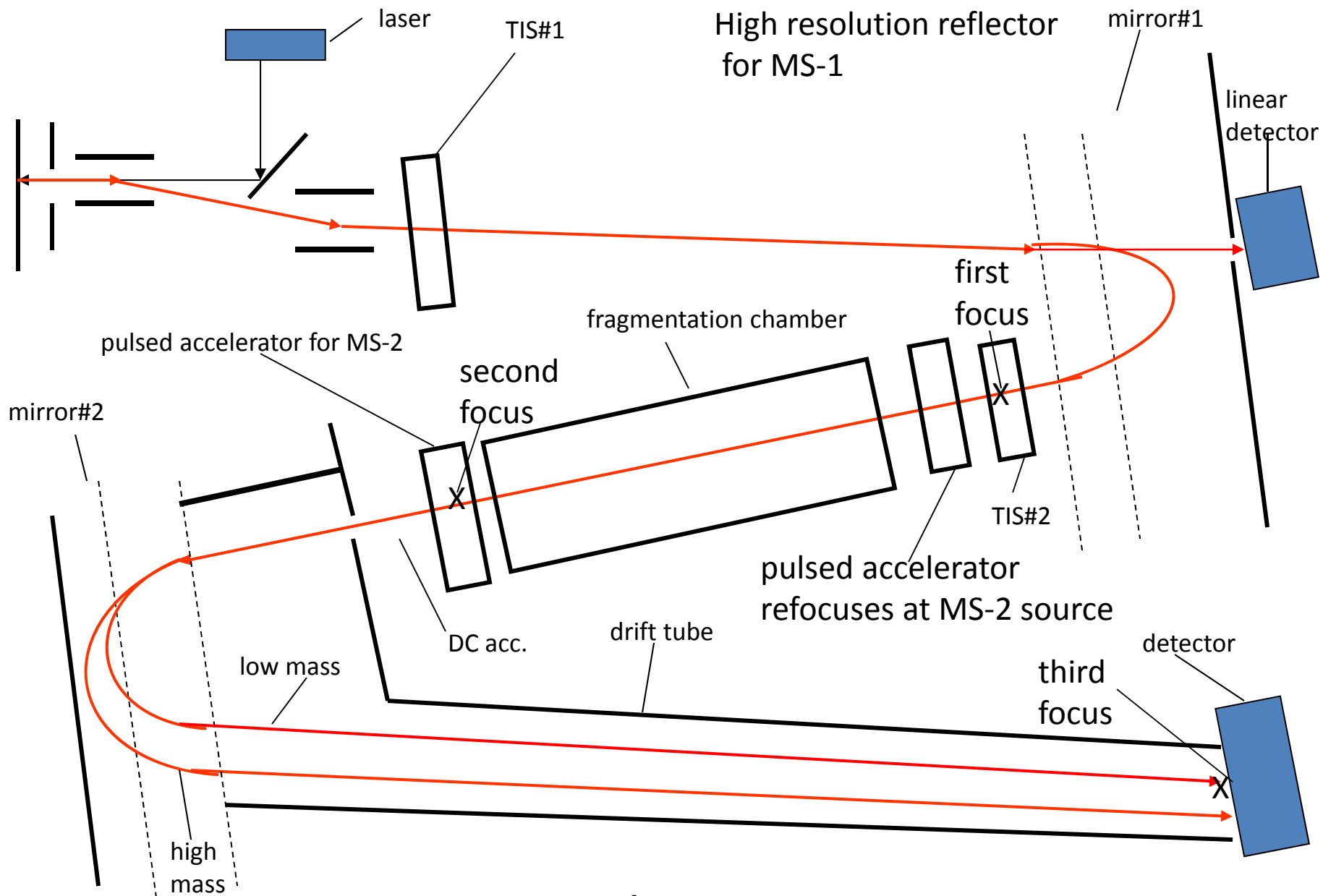
- Higher quality spectra and more spectra/sample  
*better use of sample*
  - S/N, dynamic range, mass accuracy
  - Improved sensitivity for low abundance peptides
- Makes applications of other features practical
  - Surface imaging
  - Precursor scanning
  - Interface to LC & Molecular Scanner, etc.
- Higher throughput
  - *more samples and more fractions*

# Current Status of MALDI-TOF

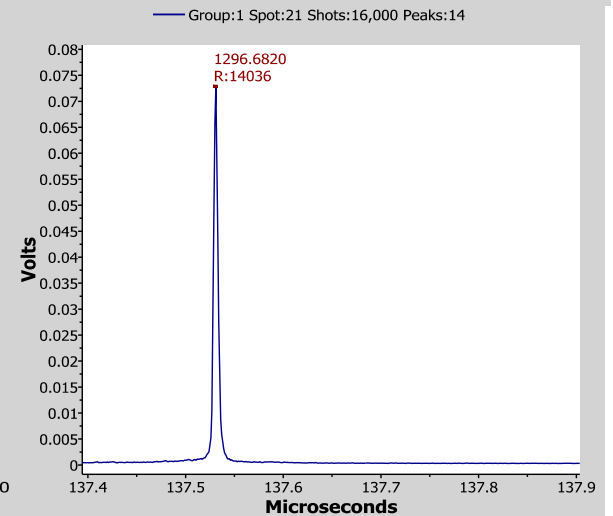
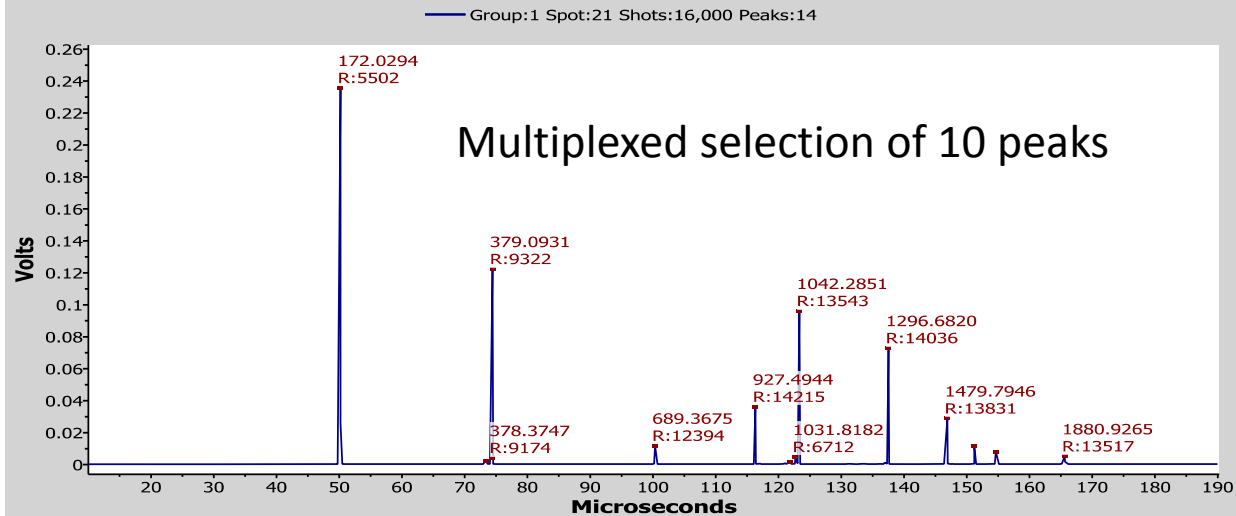
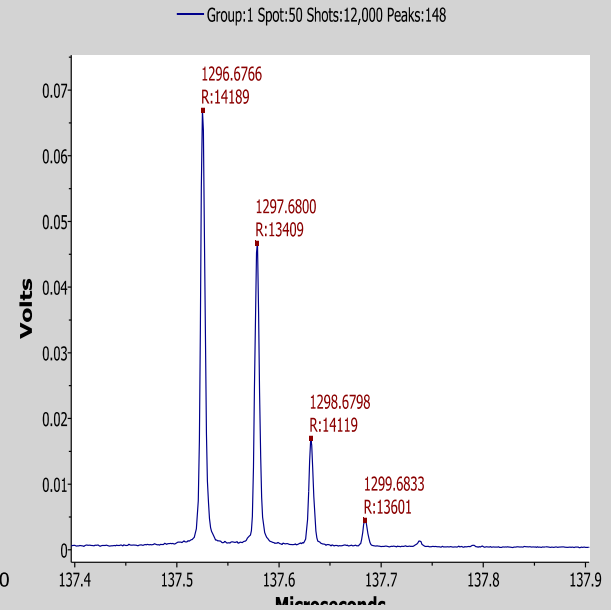
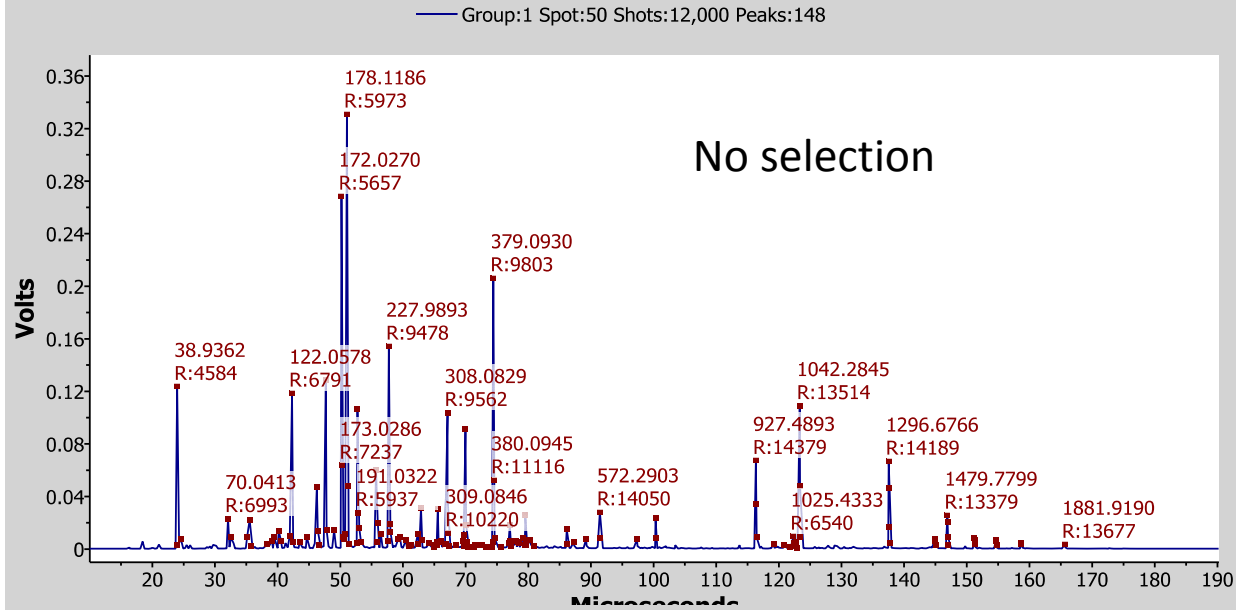
- TOF mass spectrometry has developed rapidly in response to the invention of MALDI.
- Resolving power, mass accuracy, and overall ionization, transmission, and detection efficiency are all excellent in the most recent commercial versions of MALDI-TOF and TOF-TOF instruments.
- However, current instrumentation falls well short of the requirements for efficient use in many potential applications.
  - They are too slow,
  - resolving power for precursor selection in MS-MS is inadequate
  - sample utilization is poor
  - fragmentation efficiency is low
  - spatial resolution inadequate for some imaging applications
  - automated data interpretation is unreliable
  - instruments are too complex and expensive for many laboratories.
- **Our research addresses these deficiencies**

# Focus of Our R&D Effort

- Develop Theory for Predicting and Optimizing the Performance of TOF Analyzers
- **Apply Theory to Rational Design of Instruments for Specific Applications**
  - Linear MALDI-TOF (for intact proteins)
  - High Performance Reflector MALDI-TOF (peptides and small molecules)
  - Combo Linear/Reflector with wide dynamic range
  - Multi-stage MS for isotope ratios at part-per-trillion ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{41}\text{Ca}$ )
  - **MALDI-TOF-TOF with high resolution precursor selection and multiplexed MS-MS**
- High Capacity Separations Interfaced with MALDI
  - Sample Spotter
  - Separations interfaces and 3-D sample plates
  - Fully automated LC Interface (multiple sample plates)
- Software for automated instrument control and specific applications



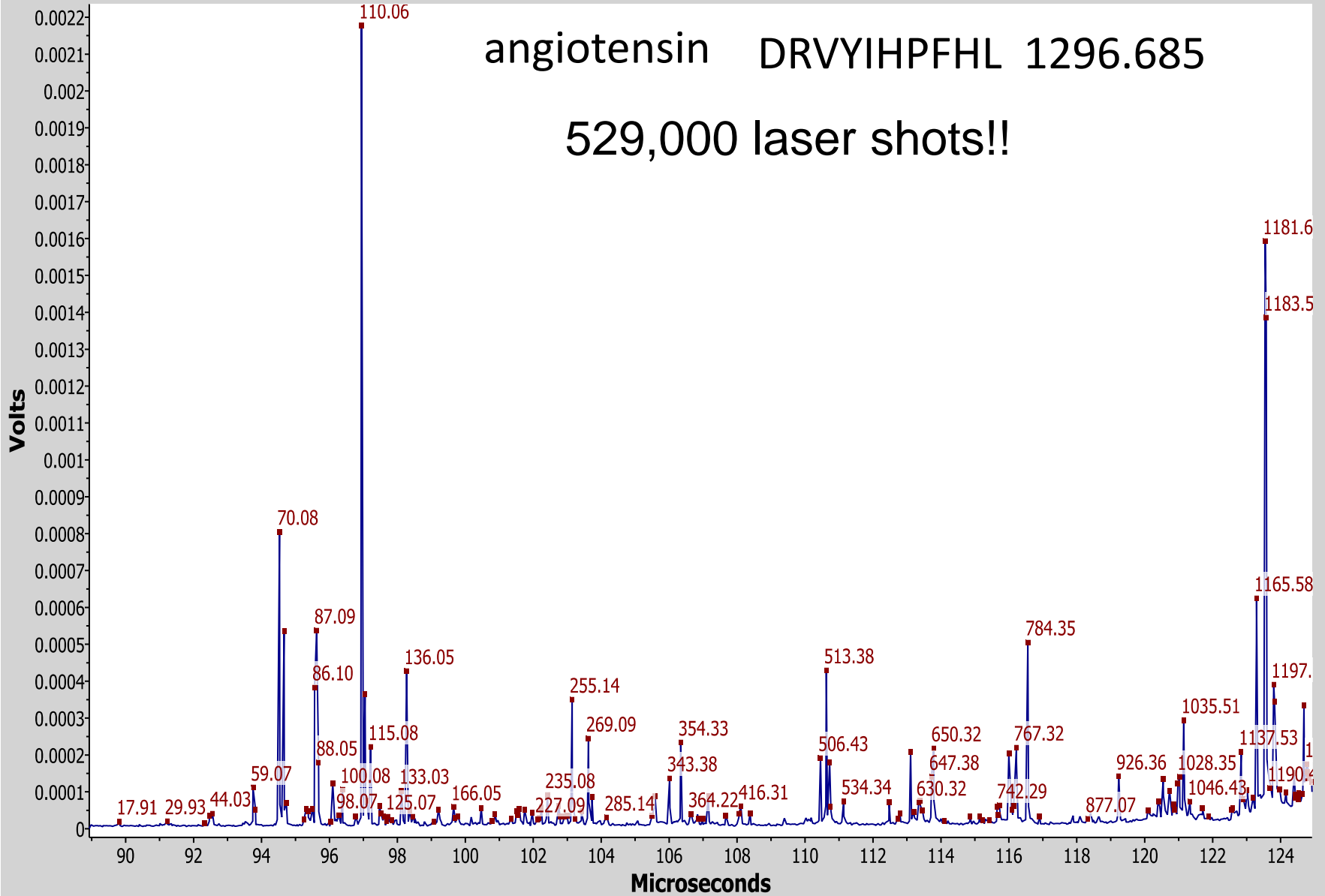
Dual Mirror TOF-TOF



Group:1 Spot:487 Shots:529,000 Peaks:199 PM:1296.685

angiotensin DRVYIHPFHL 1296.685

529,000 laser shots!!



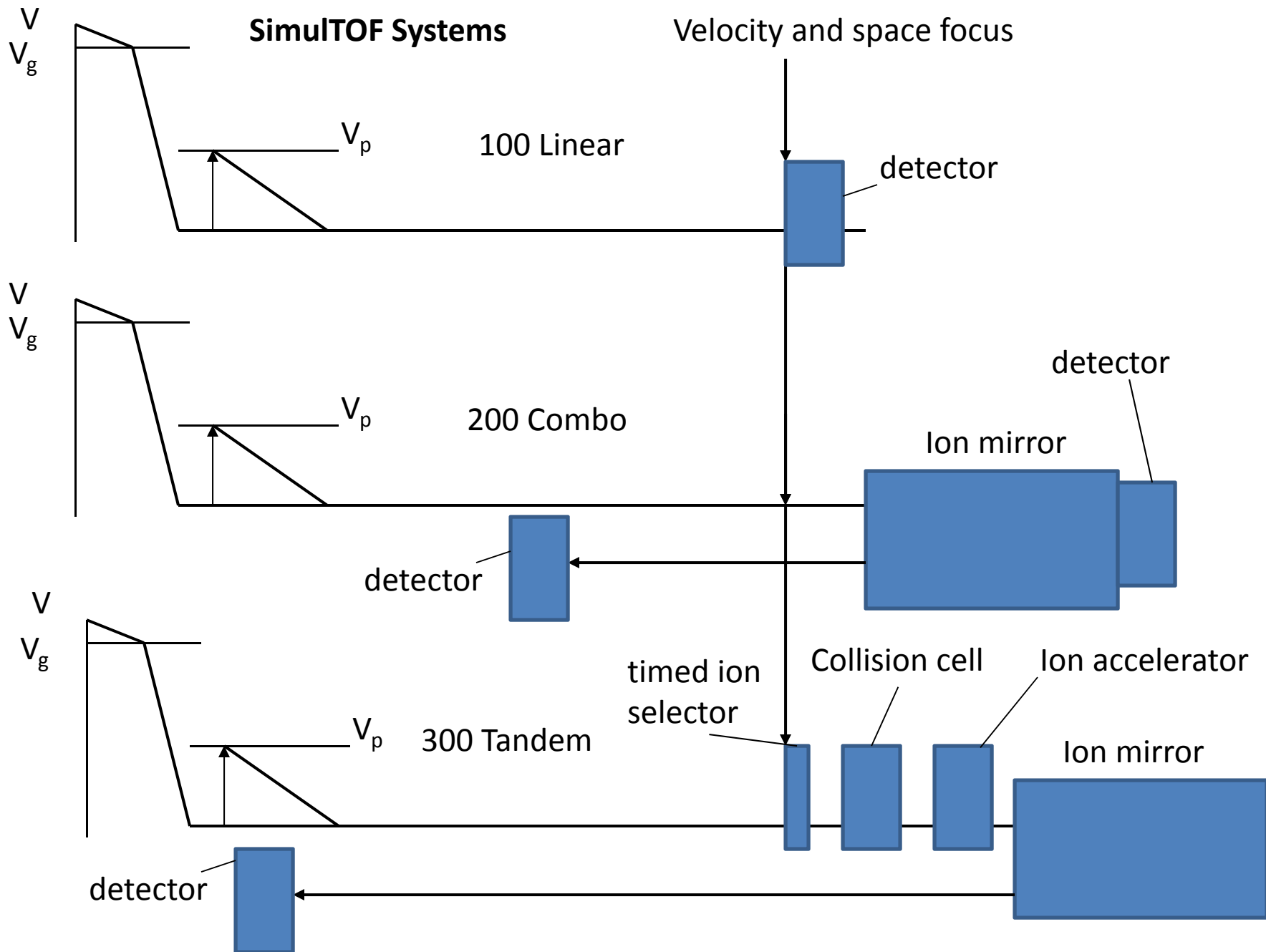


# Primary focus shifted to Sensitivity, Dynamic Range, Throughput, and Reproducibility

- Ion production
  - MALDI 5 kHz operation
- Time focusing to reduce effect of initial position and initial velocity
  - Pulsed extraction
  - Simultaneous space and velocity focusing (SimulTOF)
- Ion optics for efficient ion transmission of ions of interest and mass gate and filtering to remove ion noise
- Detector for efficient detection of broad range of masses with fast response
  - Destroy the myth that high mass singly charged ions cannot be detected by conventional detectors

*Note: All data presented are “raw” directly from the digitizer.*

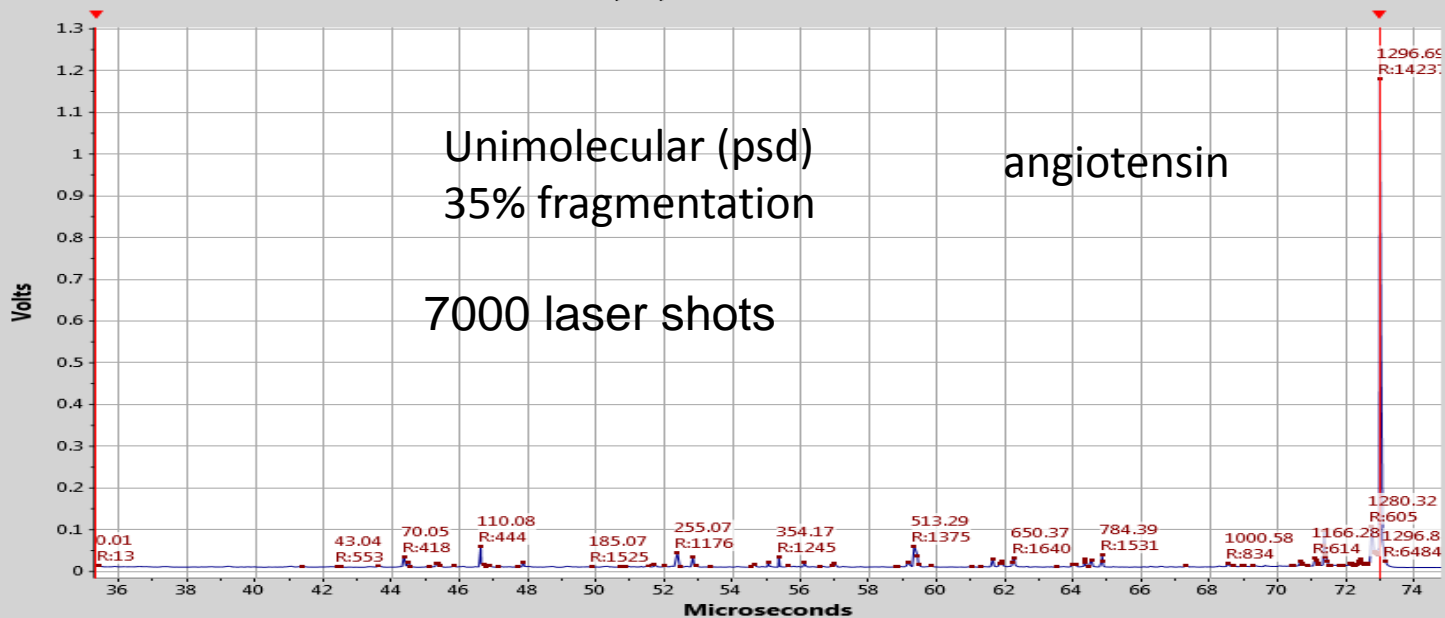
*No data processing, smoothing, or baseline correction has been employed.*



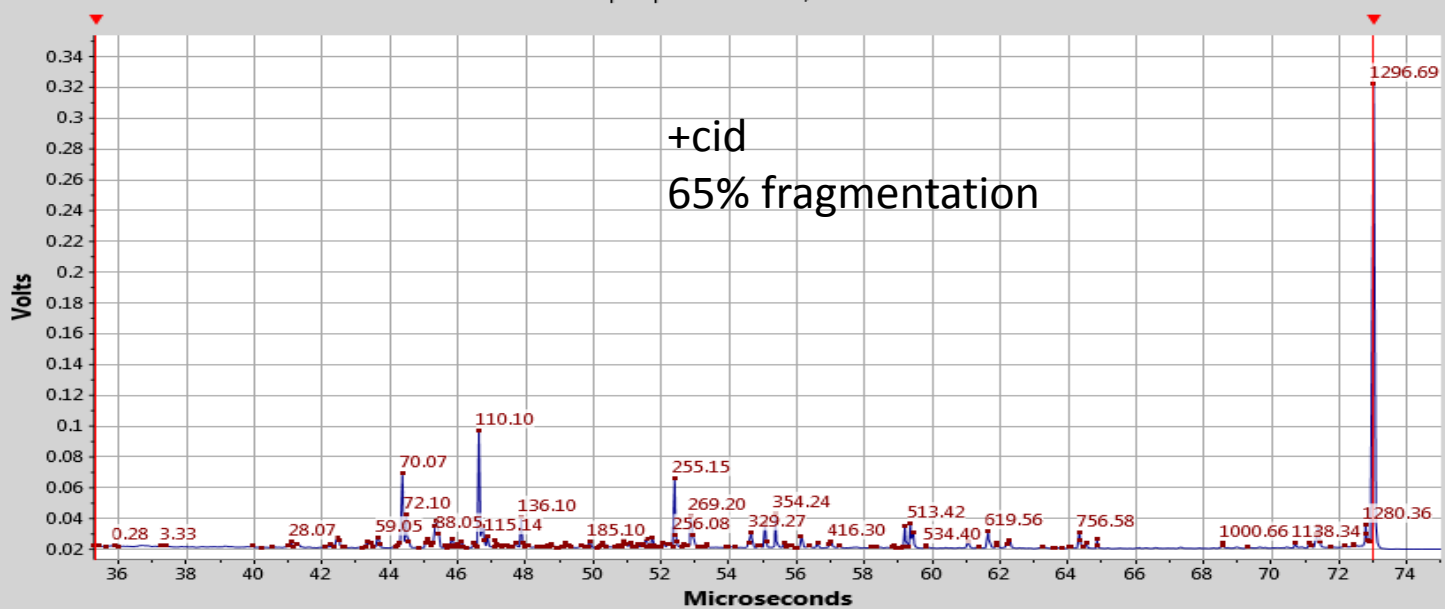


Commercial products introduced at ASMS 2012

Group:1 Spot:282 Shots:7,000 Peaks:153

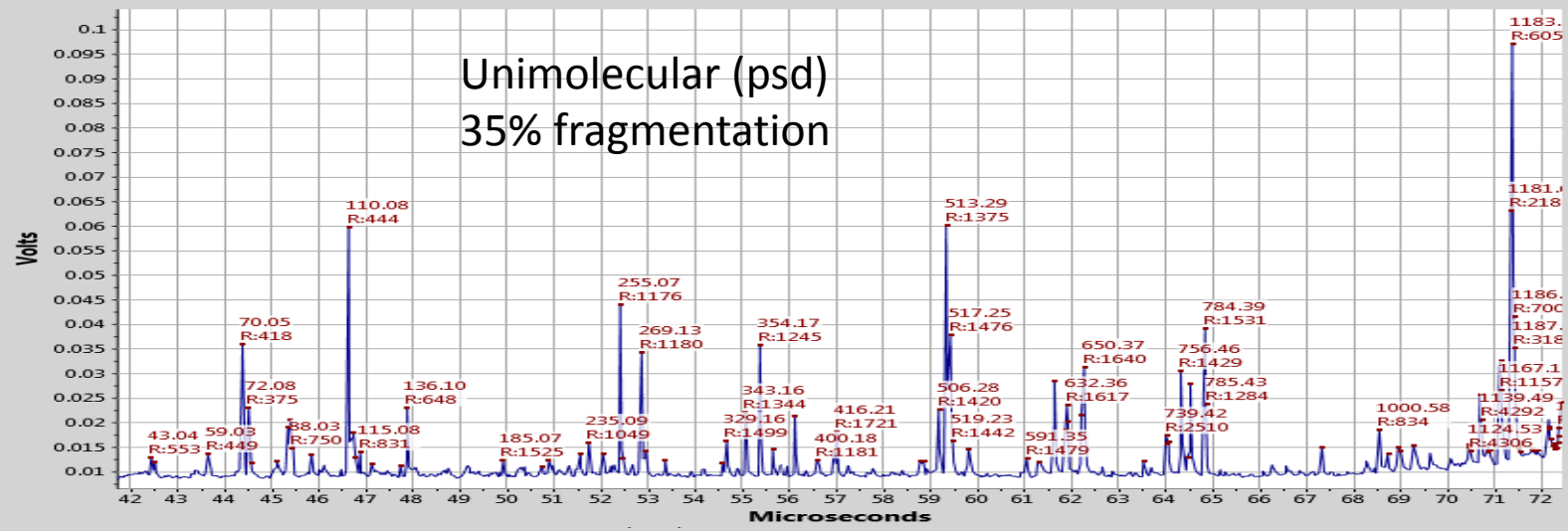


Group:1 Spot:363 Shots:13,000 Peaks:279



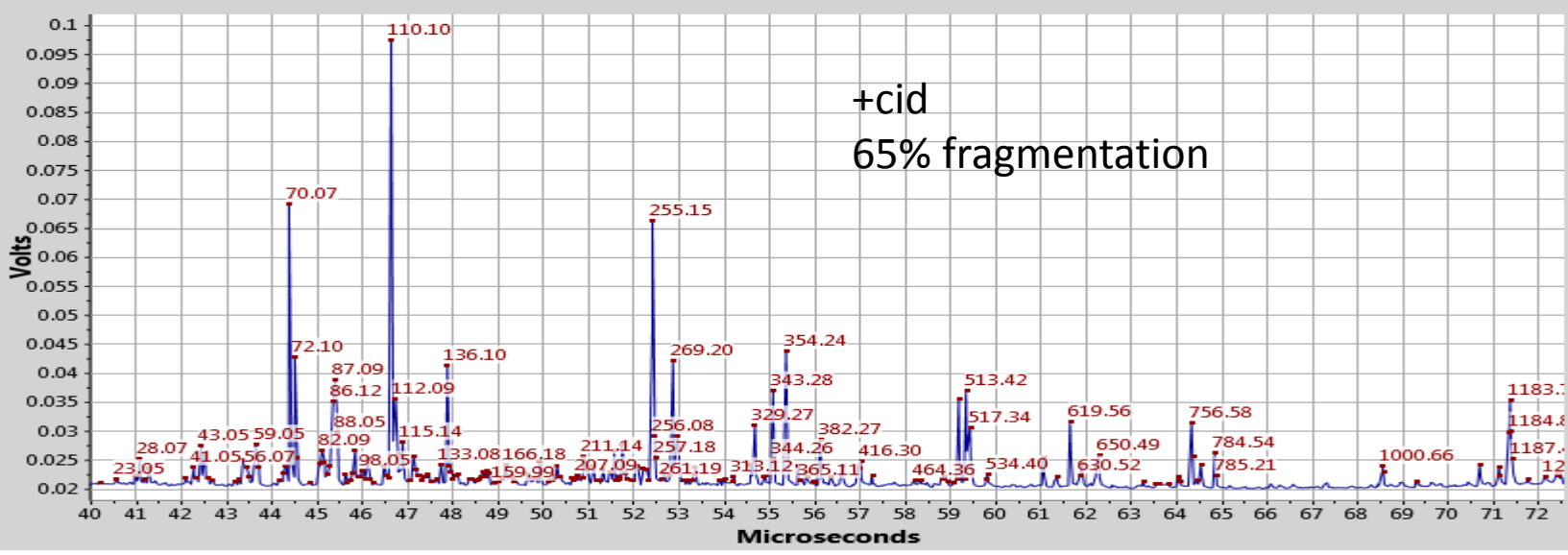
Group:1 Spot:282 Shots:7,000 Peaks:153

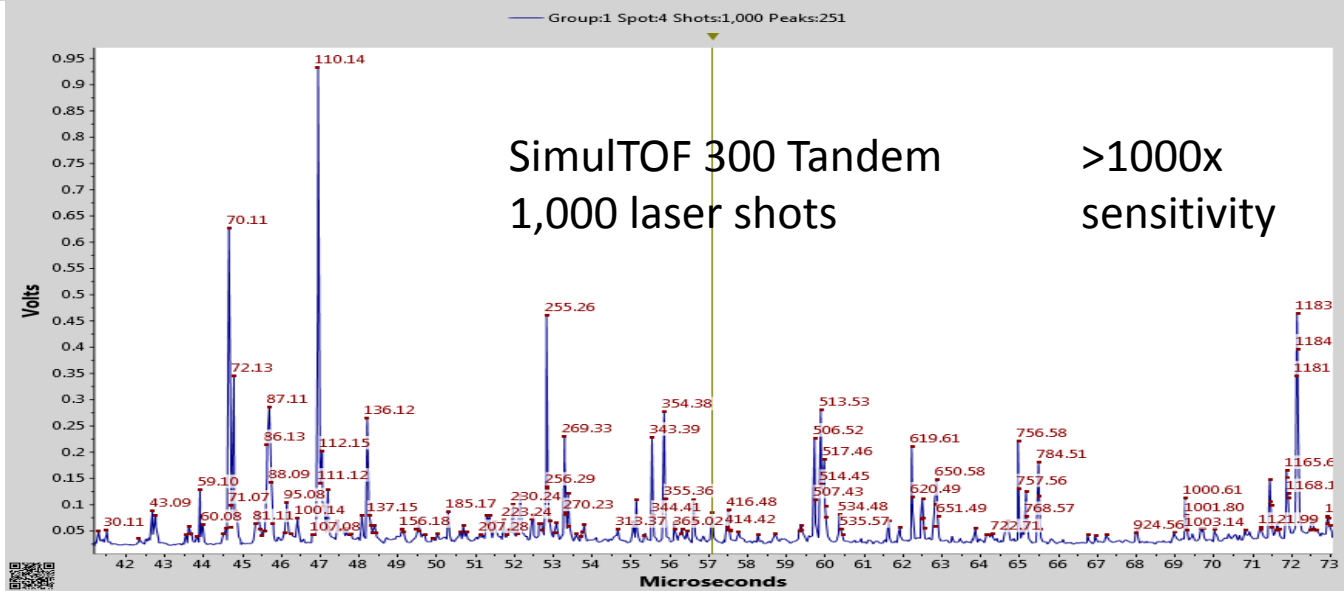
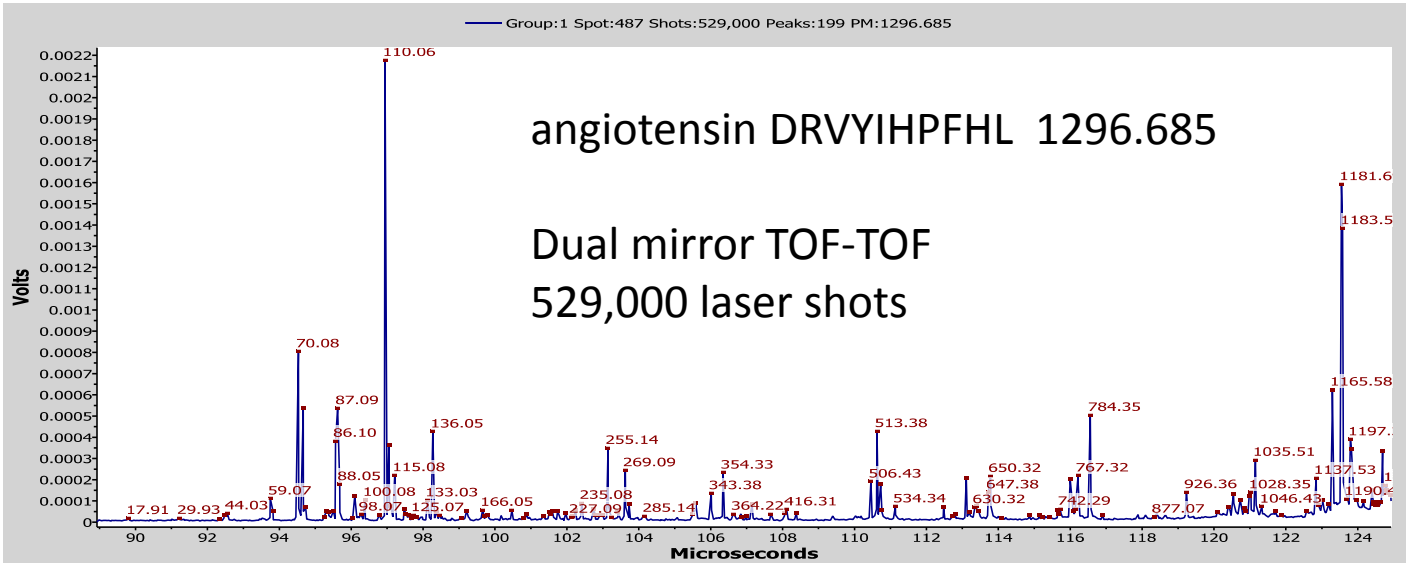
Unimolecular (psd)  
35% fragmentation

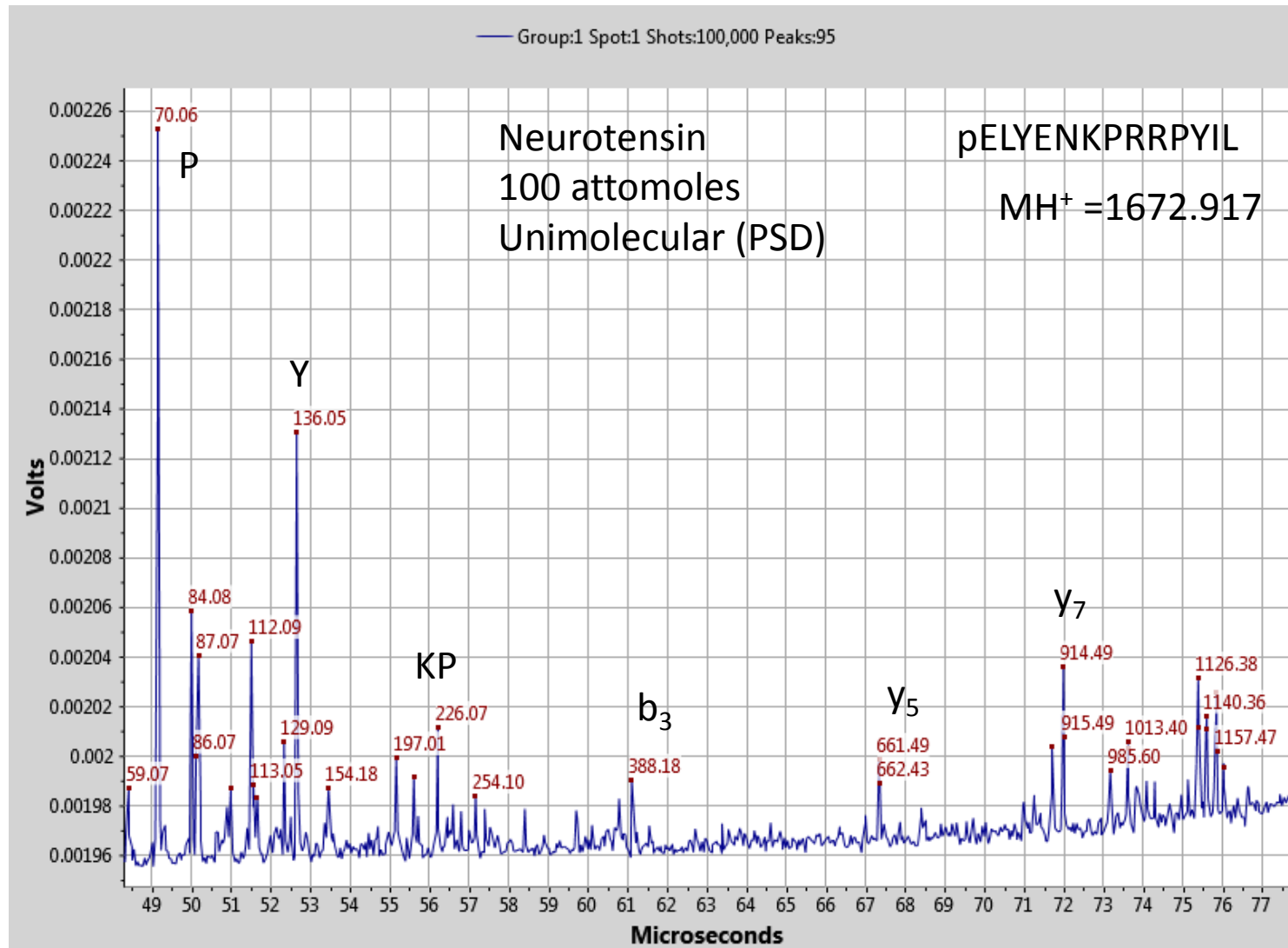


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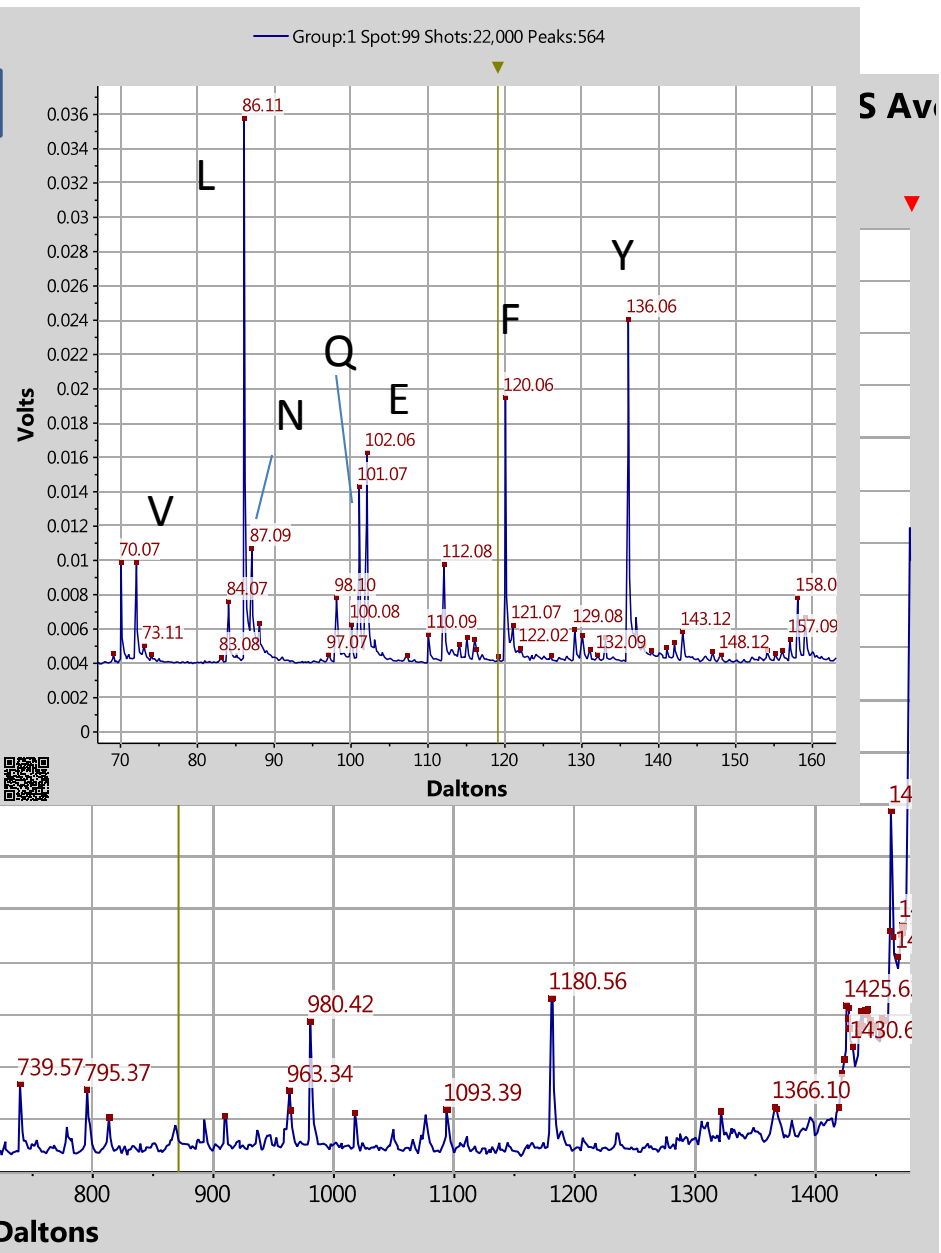
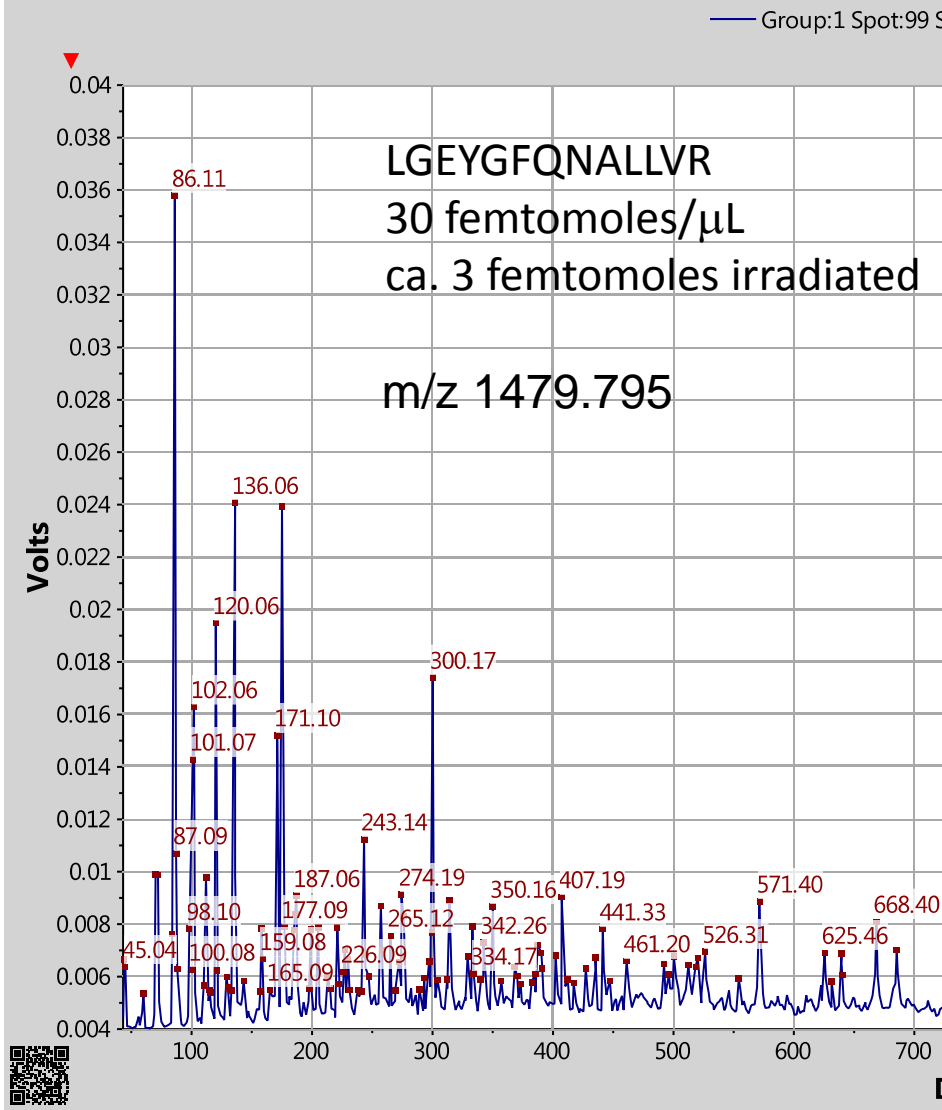
+cid  
65% fragmentation







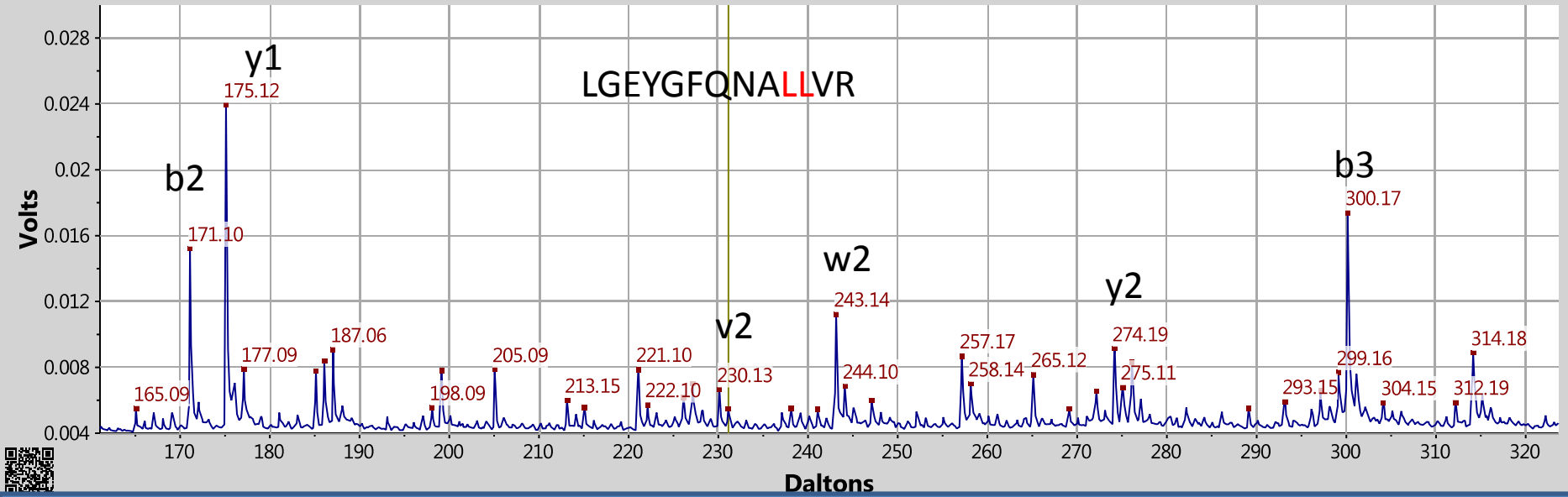
MS-MS at 100 attomoles/ $\mu$ L on 2.5 mm spot. 100,000 shots, 20 s acquisition at 5 kHz  
19 of 30 most intense peaks matched neurotensin using Protein Prospector



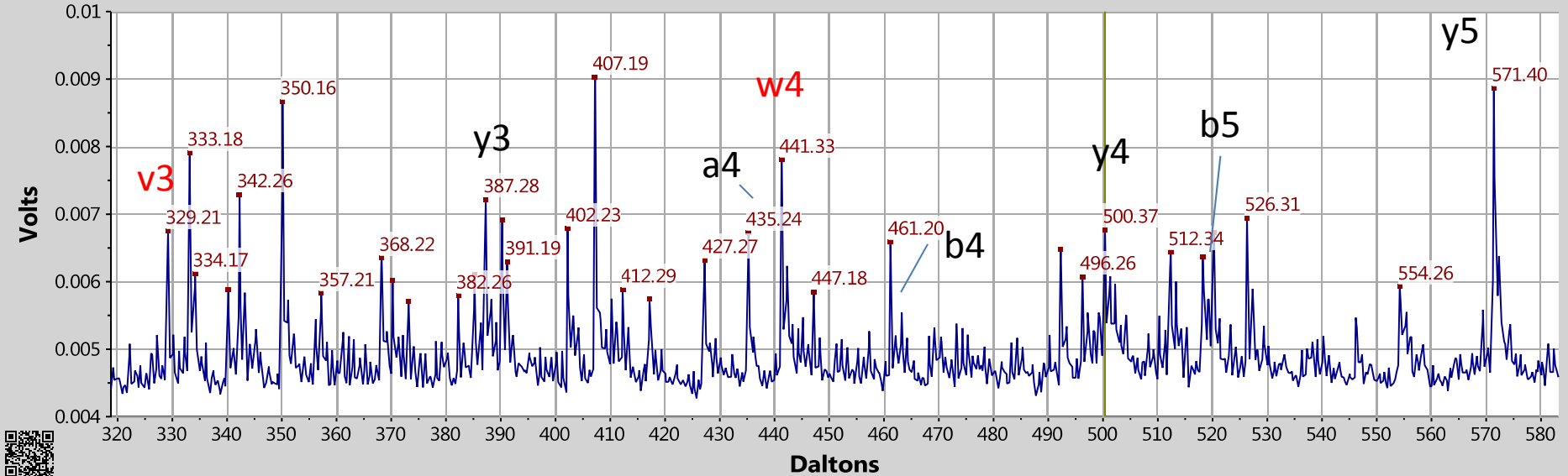


Group:1 Spot:99 Shots:22,000 Peaks:168

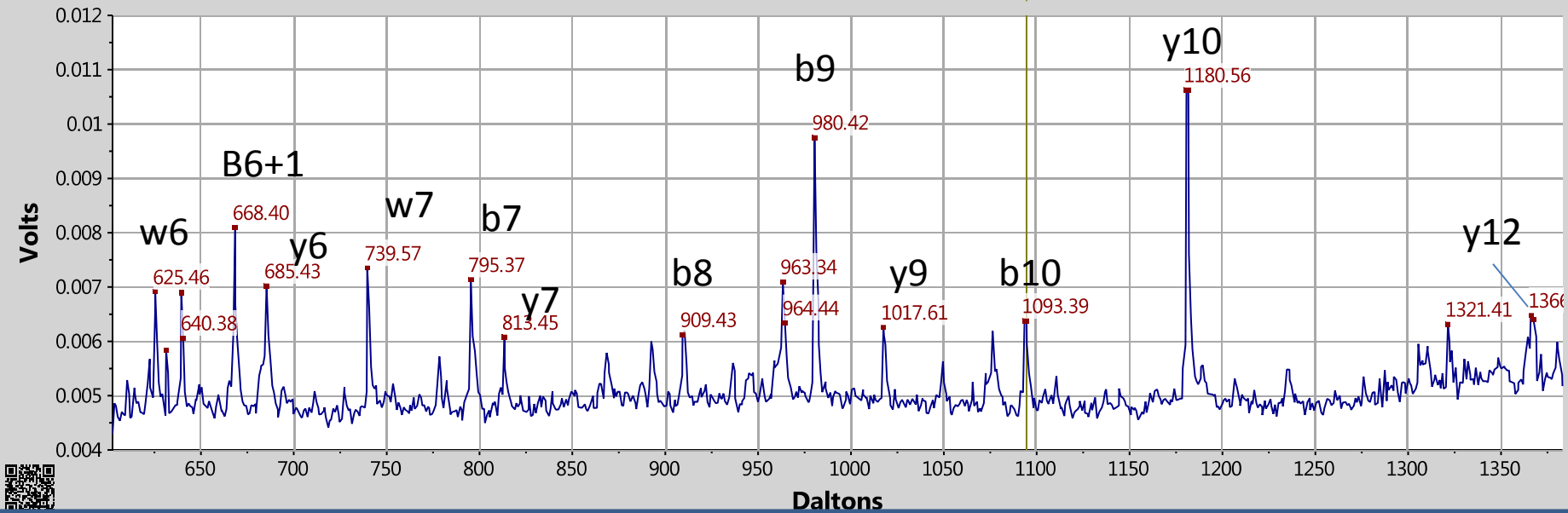
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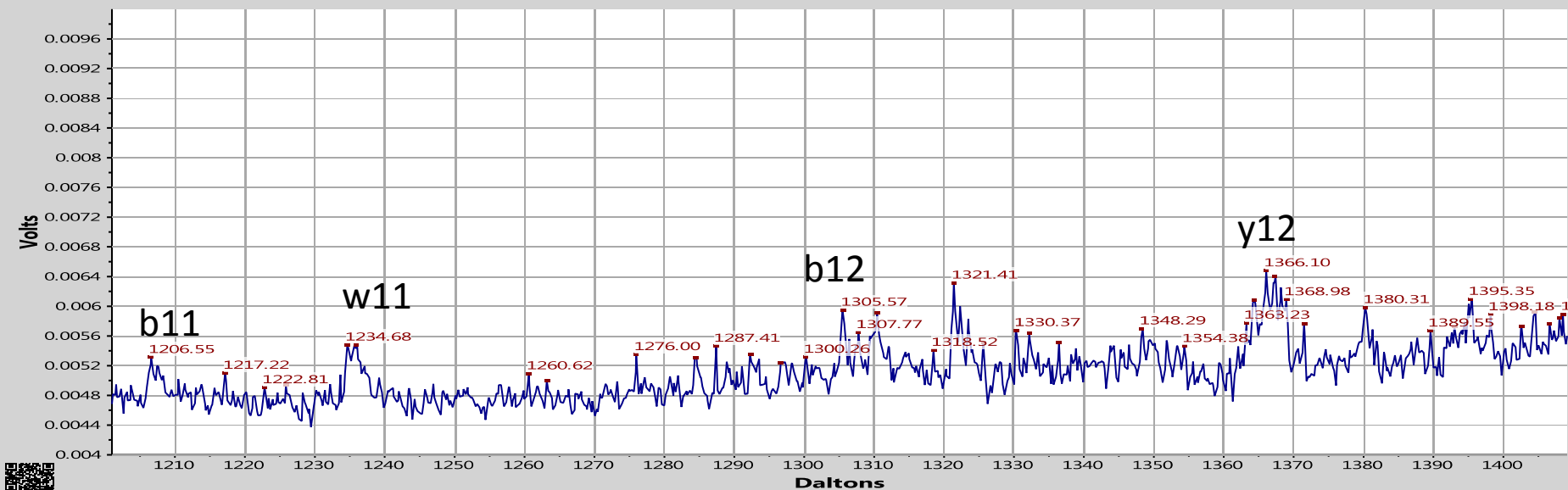
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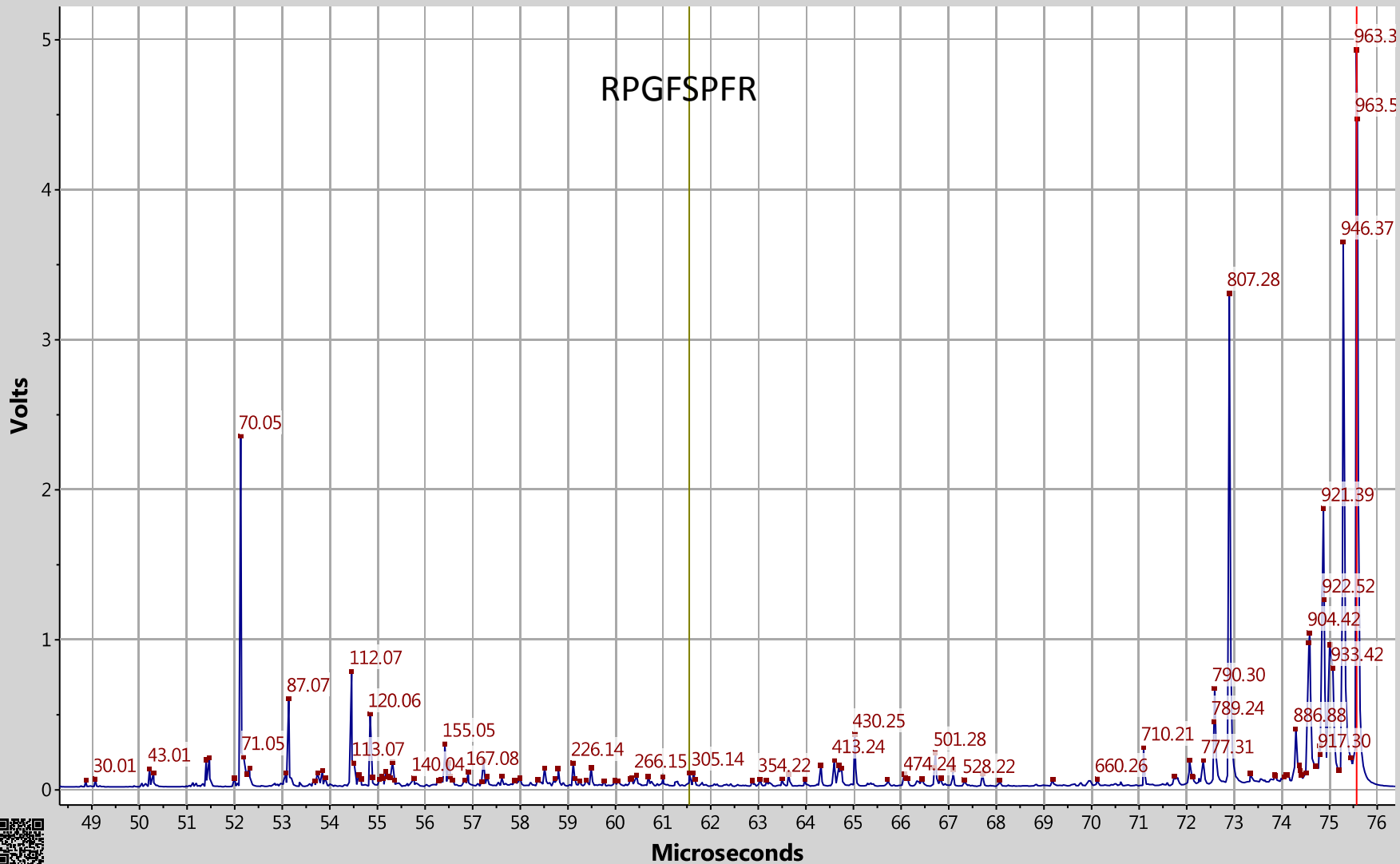
Group:1 Spot:99 Shots:22,000 Peaks:168



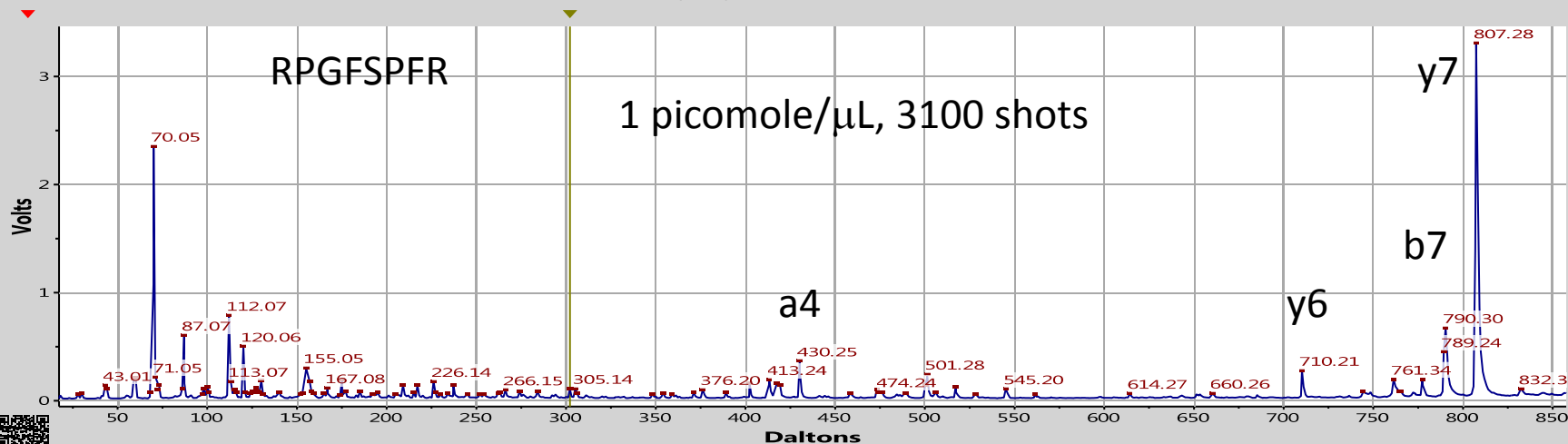
# //dilution series 825/1pm963.job/task=2 (Manual) Acquisition TOFTOFPos-ReflectorMSMS AverageInTi

Group:1 Spot:368 Shots:3,100 Peaks:140

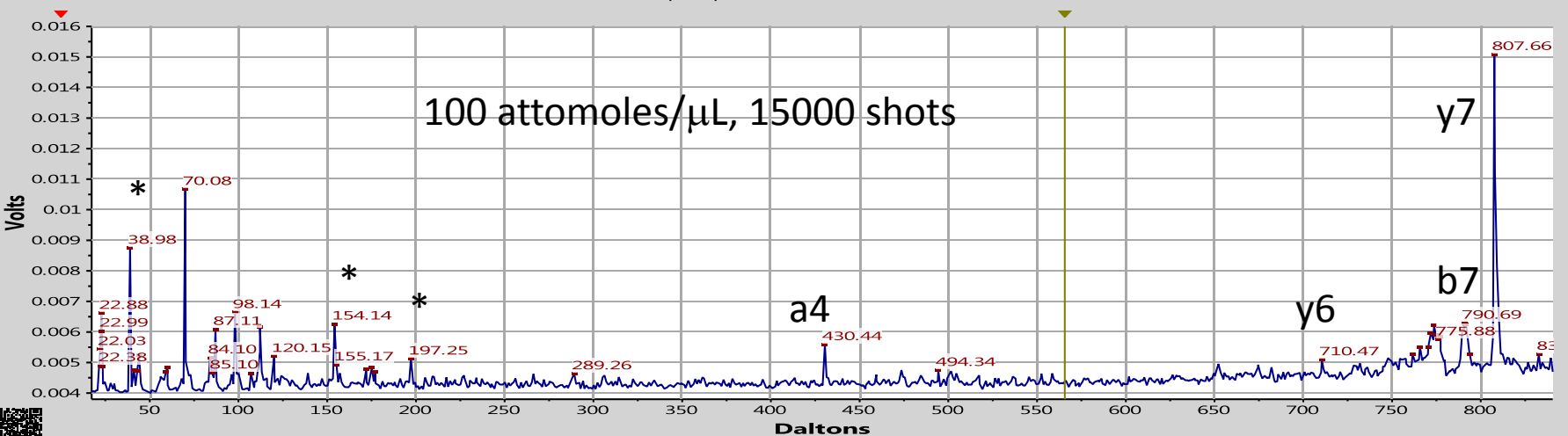
RPGFSPFR



Group:1 Spot:368 Shots:3,100 Peaks:140



Group:1 Spot:272 Shots:15,000 Peaks:91



Minimum useful concentration limited by chemical noise rather than ion production rate. Improved by higher resolution precursor selection And cleaner matrices.

# Present status

- Overall efficiency ca. 1000 times better with SimilTOF linear first stage rather than reflector
- Precursor resolving power in present version 500 FWHM with sharp cutoff
- Database searchable fragment spectra generally produced from <100 attomoles of sample on surface
- Modification to provide >1500 resolving power for precursor selection under construction
- 10x Multiplexing included in hardware, further SW improvements required for full implementation

# Acknowledgements

- Financial Support
  - NIGMS and NCRR of NIH
  - Christina Hsieh Vestal and the Hsieh Family
- The entire staff at Virgin Instruments
  - Kevin Hayden my alter ego
  - Steve Gabeler, Mark Dahl, Joe Valentine electronics
  - George Mills, Matt Gabeler-Lee software
  - Roger Voyer machinist
  - Steve Hattan, Ken Parker scientists
  - Christina Vestal, Bill Gibbs management
- Peter Roepstorff our friend and colleague for more than 30 years