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# USING PROTEIN-GRAPHS TO GENERATE FASTA-DATABASES WITH VARIATIONALLY PEPTIDES

HOW: HOW TO ENABLE SEARCH-ENGINES TO SEARCH FOR VARIATIONAL PEPTIDES?

Dominik Lux

This is a graph!



PRODI

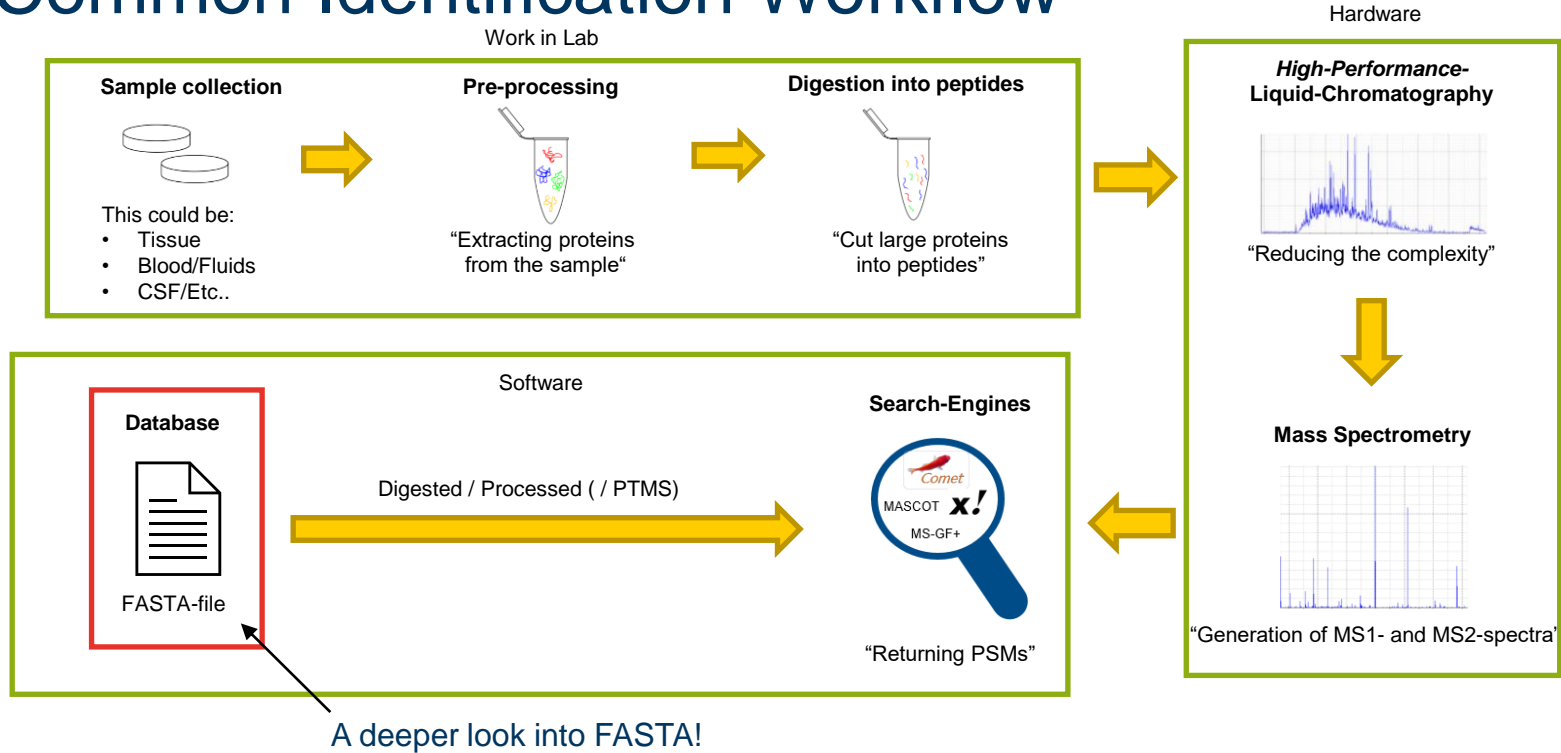
Using Protein-graphs to generate FASTA-Databases with variationally peptides  
EuBIC September 2022 | Dominik Lux



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# Common Identification Workflow



# FASTA-files and their potential!

## Database



FASTA-file

- Usually contains only canonical sequences (sometimes isoforms, cRAP)
- “Used unprocessed” by search engines

```
...>sp|ACCESSION|GENE_NAME Protein XYZ Some protein functions...
MEEPQSDPSVEPPLSQETFSDLWKLLPENNVLSPLPSQAMDDLMLSPDDIEQWFTEDPGP
DEAPRIMPEAAPVAPAPAAPTPAAPAPAPSWPLSSSVPSQKTYQGSYGFRLGFLHSGTAK
SVTCTYSPALNKMFCQLAKTCPVQLWVDSTPPPGRVVRAMAIYKQSQHMTFVVRCPHHE
RCSDSDGLAPPQHLIRVEGNLRVEYLDNRNTRFRHSVVVPYEPPEVGSDCCTTIHYNMNCNS
SCMGGMNRRPILTIITLEDSSGNLLGRNSFEVRVCACPGDRRTEENLRKKGEPHHELP
PGSTKRALPNNTSSSPQPKKKPLDGEYFTLQIRGRERFEMFRELNEALELKDAQAGKEPG
GSAHSSHLKSKKGQSTSRHKKLMFKTEGPDSD
...
```

Example-Entry in FASTA

→ Large potential:

→ Include additional information (e.g., variants)

→ Organize by precise header-information

→ Enable search engines to search,  
which was not possible before



Unique/Shared-entries (by proteins)

- Search with “infinite many” miscleavages
- 2 (3 or more) digestion enzymes at once
- ....

→ Sophisticated FASTA-generator would be interesting!

# Parsing and Encoding feature Information

→ Large potential:

- Include additional information (e.g., variants)
- Organize by precise header-information
- Enable search engines to search, which was not possible before



```
SD MW_DOMAIN_PROTEIN
AC Q95384
...
FT INIT_MET 5
FT /note="Removed"
FT /evidence="EXAMPLE Initiator MetInitiator"
FT /ID=1
FT /evidence="EXAMPLE Signal Peptide"
FT /ID=2
FT /note="Missing (in example)"
FT /evidence="EXAMPLE Variant 1"
FT /ID="VAR_000001"
FT /ID=3
FT /note="70 -> 1 (in example)"
FT /evidence="EXAMPLE Variant 2"
FT /ID="VAR_000002"
FT /ID=4
FT /note="71 -> 5 (in example)"
FT /evidence="EXAMPLE Variant 3"
FT /ID="VAR_000003"
FT /ID=5
FT /note="72 -> 6 (in example)"
FT /evidence="EXAMPLE Variant 4"
FT /ID="VAR_000004"
SD
SEQUENCE 8 AA: 100 PH: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX CXXX
//
```

SP-EMBL (UniProt, species)

Contains:

- Canonical- (Isoform-) sequence
- Variants (/Mutagens/Conflicts)
- Peptides (Pro- Signalpeptides)
- ...



## ProtGraph

Available on:

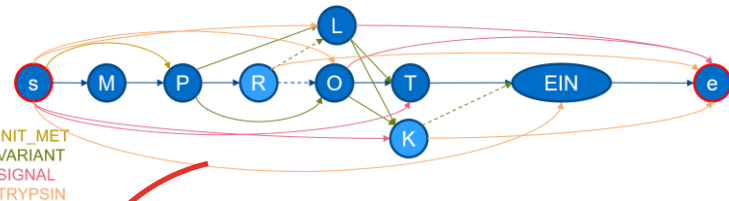
- BioConda\*
- PyPI\*
- GitHub\*



Python (CLI)

Produces many protein-graphs:

- Encodes feature information
- Allows (multiple) digestion(s)
- Allows to add PTMs
- ...



1 protein-graph per entry  
(this example contains 46 peptides)

?

Protein-Graph

- Feature-Information represented in graph-format
- Only contains valid paths from s to e
- Very compact representation

Database



FASTA-file

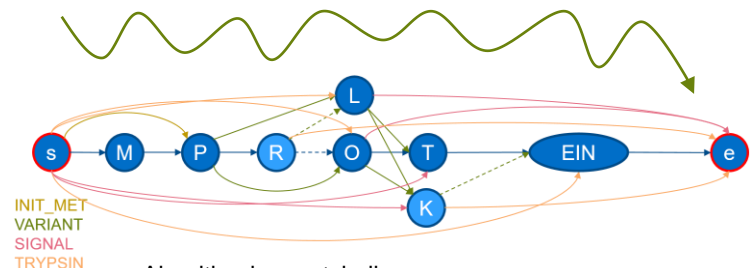
## Next Step:

## → Convert Protein-Graphs into FASTA-entries

- \* conda install -c bioconda protograph
- \* pip install protograph
- \* <https://github.com/mpc-bioinformatics/ProtGraph>

# Naïve Approach: Depth-First-Search

- Large potential:
- Include additional information (e.g., variants)
  - Organize by precise header-information
  - Enable search engines to search, which was not possible before



Algorithm in a nutshell:

- Begin at s
- Report every path to e
- Constrain by specific thresholds
  - Peptide-/Path-Mass
  - #Variants
  - #Miscleavages
  - ...



(peptide-) Database



FASTA-file

```
...
>pg|ACCESSION|Protein ...
RPILTIITLEDSSGNLLGR
>pg| ACCESSION |Protein ...
TCPVQLWVDSTPPPGTR
>pg| ACCESSION |Protein ...
CSDSDGLAPPQHLIR
>pg| ACCESSION |Protein ...
KPLDGEYFTLQIR
>pg| ACCESSION |Protein ...
GEPHHELPPGSTK
...
```

A shared peptide between Protein A and B!

```
...
>pg|ACCESSION|ProteinA(100:119, mssc|vg:1), ProteinB(90:109, mssc|vg:1)
RPILTIITLEDSSGNLLGR
```

```
>pg|ACCESSION|ProteinA(55:72, mssc|vg:0, VARIANT[56:56, L->C]
TCPVQLWVDSTPPPGTR
...
```

A unique peptide of Protein A with a variant

- Organize headers by traversed path (concatenate same FASTA-entries)
- Search-Engines would need to search peptide-FASTAs as is (peptidomics)
  - IOW: “Digestion turned off”

# Drawbacks of the Naïve Approach

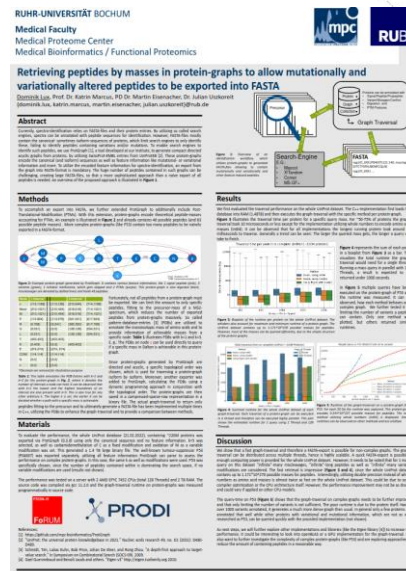
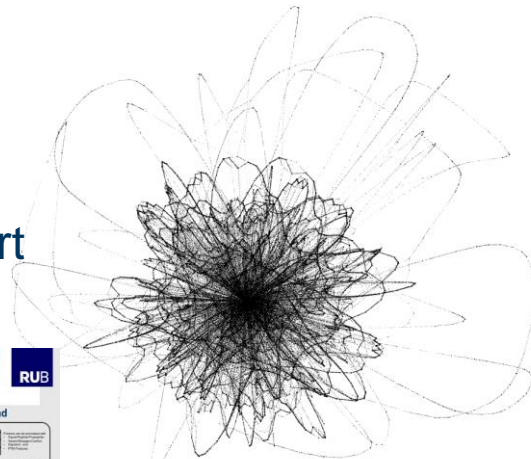
- “Some” protein-graphs are too complex, for a naïve export
  - Too complex to save on disk (even in large scale!)

## Solution:

- Search Engines do not need all entries
  - Export only peptides, fitting to the MS2-precursor

No details\*,  
just an overview how it was “solved”

\* This is not a secret! If you are interested how it was “solved”, please ask!



Example: P04637 (P53\_Human)

- 1363 Variants
- 36 Mutagens
- 9 Isoforms
- 13988 Nodes, 93924 Edges
- Encodes 1.7E+224 peptides (computed via ProtGraph in a few seconds)

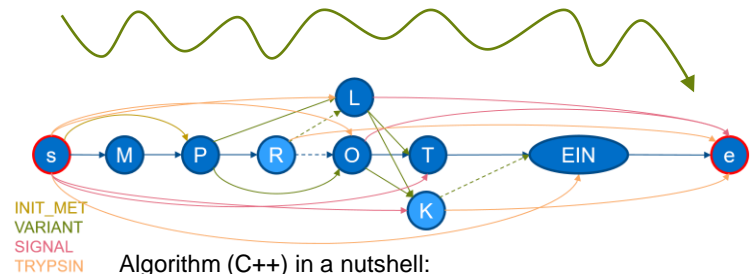
Poster presented at  
Proteomic Forum 2022



# Sophisticated Approach: Target-Value-Search

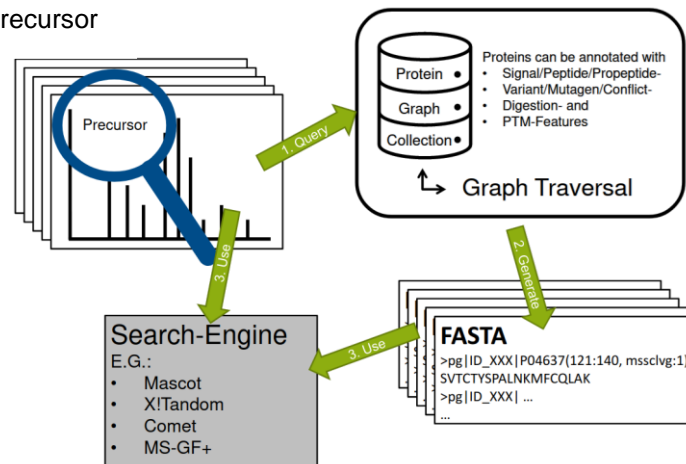
Problem: Return all Paths, where the mass of the peptide equals to the MS2-precursor

Target-Value: MS2-Precursor ( $\pm$  Xppm)



Algorithm (C++) in a nutshell:

- Begin at s
- Use so-called PDBs\* to traverse only through possible solution paths\*\*
- Reach target e and report a peptide fitting the MS2-Precursor
- Repeat until all solutions are reported
- Constrain by:
  - #Variants



→ Executable on all proteins! (whole UniProtKB, ~230M Proteins)

→ Only a few Proteins, have long running time during traversal\*\*\*





\* Pattern databases, Schmidt et al, A depth first search approach to target value search

\*\* Early expansion-prevention in branches with no solutions

\*\*\* Guess: ~200 proteins in the whole UniProtKB

# Generation of peptide-FASTA-Databases

ISA\*-RAW-files containing 28123 distinct MS2-Precursors (+/-5ppm, Oxidation M (variable), Carbamidomethylation C (fixed))

Organism:	E.Coli	Mus Musculus	~1000 Species (excluding homo sapiens)
# Proteins:	4448	55319	11 973 189
Restrictions:	None	None	None
<b>(peptide-)FASTA Generation**</b>			
<b>(peptide-) Database</b>  # Entries	66 680 808 (peptides) (21 GB)	85 702 533 (peptides) (46 GB)	126 462 579 (peptides) (27 GB)
Generation time:	1 h 30m	3 h 54m	1d 14h 4m

**Any other  
species**

(probably feasible)

(if no very  
complex protein-graphs  
are present)

→ **Generation of a MS2-specific-peptide FASTA with features\*\*\*  
is feasible**

\* Internal Standard (for benchmarking)

\*\* Generated on a server with 64 threads

\*\*\* All features ProtGraph can parse



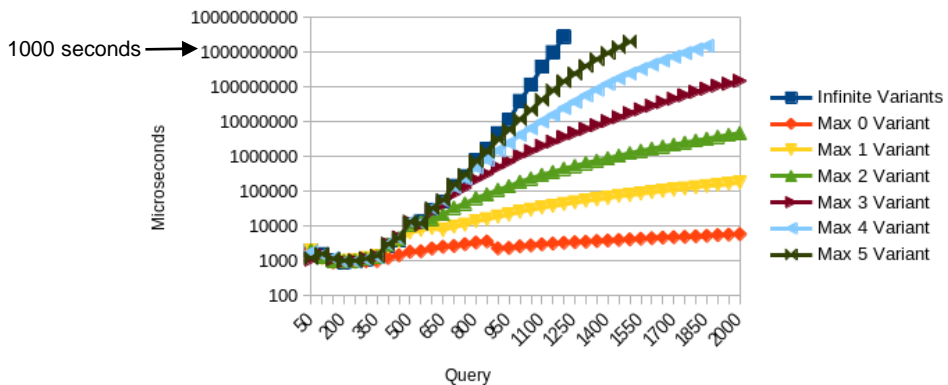
# What about Homo Sapiens?

→ Most well researched species (→ most annotated proteins)

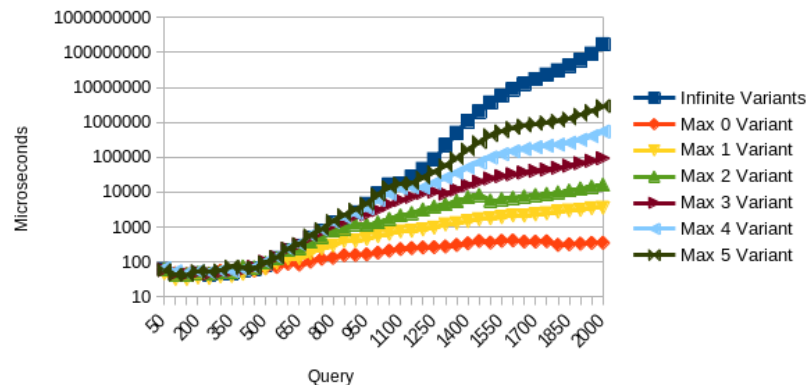
Complex protein: P04637 (P53\_Human)  
Benchmark/Target-Value: Every 50 Dalton  
Configuration: All Features, Digested, PTMs:  
Carbamidomethylation of C (fixed)  
Oxidation of M (variable)

Complex protein: P68871 (HBB\_Human)  
Benchmark/Target-Value: Every 50 Dalton  
Configuration: All Features, Digested, PTMs:  
Carbamidomethylation of C (fixed)  
Oxidation of M (variable)

P04637 INT

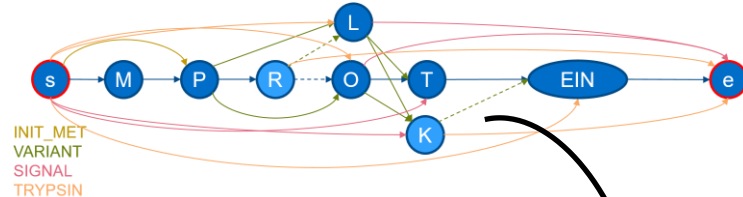


P68871 INT



# Summary

ProtGraph



- Generation of protein-graphs via ProtGraph
- Protein-graphs can contain up to infinite
  - Miscleavages
  - Features (Variants/Peptide/Signal-/Propeptide/Mutagens ...)
  - Digestion enzymes

→ Can be exported into a peptide-FASTA-database

→ Search-Engines benefit from it!

→ see above

→ Easier interpretation with the new header-format

(peptide-)Database



FASTA-file

“search as is”  
(no digestion)


Search-Engines





- Unique/shared PSMs
- (trivial) Inference
- More precise information  
(how the peptide was generated)



# Acknowledgement

  
0010101000110  
de.NBI service center

  
(German time zone, UTC+1)



## Differential analysis of quantitative proteomics data using R






**You will learn...**

- how to use the popular statistical programming language R for your daily analyses
- about the statistical methods applied in differential analyses (presented methods also apply to other omics data).

**Topics**

- Basic **introduction to R** usage
- **t-test**: Background on statistical inference
- Differential analysis of high-throughput data and candidate selection: **multiple testing, volcano plot**

**Date** TBA (November or December)  
**Venue** Online training event!  
**Further Details** <http://www.denbi.de/training>  
**Registration**  
**Requirements** Computer, headset, camera, stable internet connection  
**Fee** This course is for free!  
**Contact** [bioinfoservice@rub.de](mailto:bioinfoservice@rub.de)



Registration form

## MPC-Bioinformatics-Team:

PD Dr. Martin Eisenacher

Dr. Julian Uszkoreit

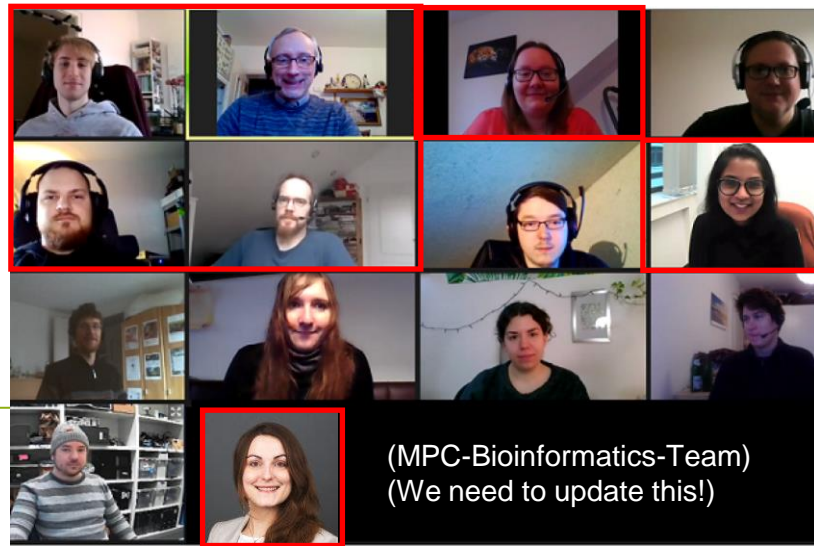
Dirk Winkelhardt

Karin Schork

Sai Spoorti Ramesh

Maike Weber

## And Thank you for your attention!



@ProteomCenter  
@lululuxii



mpc-bioinformatics  
Luxxii

s with variationally peptides