

MSstatsPTM: Statistical relative quantification of post-translational  
modifications in bottom-up mass spectrometry-based proteomics  
**Supplementary Information**

Devon Kohler<sup>1</sup>, Tsung-Heng Tsai<sup>2</sup>, Erik Verschueren<sup>4</sup>, Ting Huang<sup>1</sup>, Trent Hinkle<sup>3</sup>,  
Lilian Phu<sup>3</sup>, Meena Choi<sup>\*3</sup>, and Olga Vitek<sup>\*1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Khoury College of Computer Science, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA

<sup>2</sup>Kent State University, Kent, OH, USA

<sup>3</sup>MPL, Genentech, South San Francisco, CA, USA

<sup>4</sup>ULUA BV, Arendstraat 29, 2018 Antwerp, Belgium

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding Authors

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Details of the proposed approach</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Details on the generation of simulated datasets</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Dataset 1 : Computer simulation 1 - Label-free . . . . .	4
2.2	Dataset 2 : Computer simulation 2 - Label-free missing values and low features . . .	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Additional evaluation results</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Simulated Datasets 1 and 2 . . . . .	5
3.2	Dataset 3 : SpikeIn benchmark - Ubiquitination - Label-free . . . . .	6
3.3	Dataset 4 : Human - Ubiquitination - 1mix-TMT . . . . .	9
3.4	Dataset 5 : Mouse - Phosphorylation - 2mix-TMT . . . . .	11

## 1 Details of the proposed approach

		Model	Estimated Log-fold change	Theoretical variance	Estimated variance	Degrees of freedom
<b>Label-free</b>  ( $y_{ij}$ is $\log_2$ intensity in Condition $i$ and BioReplicate $j$ )	<b>Group comparison</b>	$y_{ij} = \mu_i + \varepsilon_{ij}$ $\sum_{i=1}^I \mu_i = 0$ $\varepsilon_{ij} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma^2)$	$\bar{Y}_{i.} - \bar{Y}_{i' .}$	$\frac{2\sigma^2}{I}$	$\frac{2J \sum_{i=1}^I (y_{ij} - \bar{y}_{i.})^2}{J(IJ - I)}$	$IJ - I$
	<b>Time course</b>	$y_{ij} = \mu_i + \text{BioReplicate}_j + \varepsilon_{ij}$ $\sum_{i=1}^I \mu_i = 0$ $\text{BioReplicate}_j \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma_f^2)$ $\varepsilon_{ij} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma^2)$	$\bar{Y}_{i.} - \bar{Y}_{i' .}$	$\frac{2\sigma^2}{I}$	$\frac{2 \sum_{i=1}^I \sum_{j=1}^J (y_{ij} - \bar{y}_{i.} - \bar{y}_{j.} + \bar{y}_{..})^2}{J(I-1)(J-1)}$	$(I-1)(J-1)$
<b>TMT</b>  ( $y_{mij}$ is $\log_2$ intensity in Condition $i$ and BioReplicate $j$ from Mixture $m$ )	<b>Group comparison</b>	$y_{mij} = \mu_i + \text{Mixture}_m + \varepsilon_{mij}$ $\sum_{i=1}^I \mu_i = 0$ $\text{Mixture}_m \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma_M^2)$ $\varepsilon_{mij} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma^2)$	$\bar{Y}_{i.} - \bar{Y}_{i' .}$	$\frac{2\sigma^2}{MJ}$	$\frac{2J \sum_{i=1}^I \sum_{m=1}^M (y_{mij} - \bar{y}_{m..} - \bar{y}_{i.} + \bar{y}_{...})^2}{MJ(MJ - I - M + 1)}$	$MJ - I - M + 1$
	<b>Time course</b>	$y_{mij} = \mu_i + \text{BioReplicate}_{jm} + \varepsilon_{mij}$ $\sum_{i=1}^I \mu_i = 0$ $\text{BioReplicate}_{jm} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma_f^2)$ $\varepsilon_{mij} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma^2)$	$\bar{Y}_{i.} - \bar{Y}_{i' .}$	$\frac{2\sigma^2}{MJ}$	$\frac{2J \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{m=1}^M (y_{mij} - \bar{y}_{mj.} - \bar{y}_{i.} + \bar{y}_{...})^2}{MJ(I-1)(MJ-1)}$	$(I-1)(MJ-1)$

Figure S1: Different models that are fit depending on the experimental design (group comparison and time course) and quantification workflow (label-free versus TMT). The table shows the true values of the standard errors, along with their estimates and the associated degrees of freedom. The same formulas holds when comparing changes in PTM, or henges in the unmodified portion of the protein. When combining the two comparisons for an adjustment, the variance must be multiplied by 2.

## 2 Details on the generation of simulated datasets

### 2.1 Dataset 1 : Computer simulation 1 - Label-free

In the first simulation an experiment with many features per PTM and unmodified protein was created. Additionally this simulation contained no missing data.

- Mean of log-intensity: 25
- Standard deviations of log-intensities for modified and unmodified peptides: 0.2, 0.3
- Difference in PTM abundance between conditions: 0, 1., 2., 3.
- Difference in protein abundance between conditions: 0, 1., 2., 3.
- Number of replicates: 2, 3, 5, 10
- Number of conditions: 2, 3, 4
- Number of realizations: 1000
- Number of features per PTM: 10
- Number of features per unmodified protein: 10
- Missing data: no missing value

### 2.2 Dataset 2 : Computer simulation 2 - Label-free missing values and low features

In the second simulation we introduced limited feature observations per PTM as well as masking a portion of the observation to simulate missing values.

- Mean of log-intensity: 25
- Standard deviations of log-intensities for modified and unmodified peptides: 0.2, 0.3
- Difference in PTM abundance between conditions: 0, 1., 2., 3.
- Difference in protein abundance between conditions: 0, 1., 2., 3.
- Number of replicates: 2, 3, 5, 10
- Number of conditions: 2, 3, 4
- Number of realizations: 1000
- Number of features per PTM: 2
- Number of features per unmodified protein: 10
- Missing data: 20% of the observations for PTMs and Proteins were masked with NA at random

### 3 Additional evaluation results

#### 3.1 Simulated Datasets 1 and 2

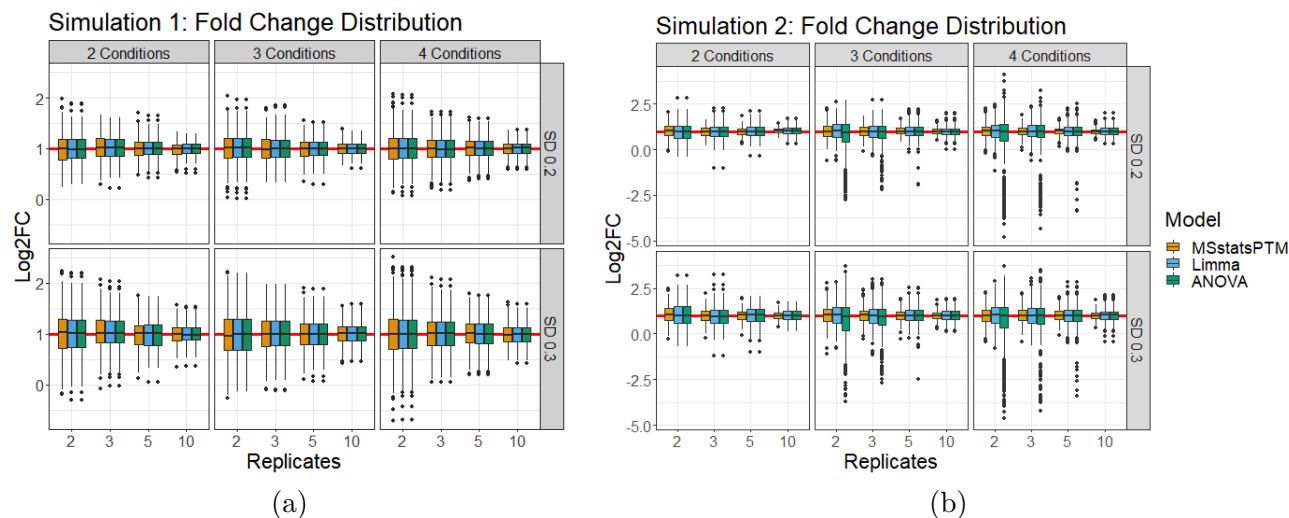


Figure S2: Simulated Datasets 1 and 2 : fold change distributions. All models are shown after adjusting for changes in unmodified protein abundance. (a) In Simulated Dataset 1 all considered methods correctly estimated the fold change between conditions, with a median fold change estimation of 1. The distributions around the median were also consistent across all methods. (b) In Simulated Dataset 2 all methods correctly estimated the fold change with a median log change of 1. *MSstatsPTM* in this simulation had a tighter distribution around the median. Both *Limma* and *ANOVA* showed a wider range around the fold change.

### 3.2 Dataset 3 : SpikeIn benchmark - Ubiquitination - Label-free

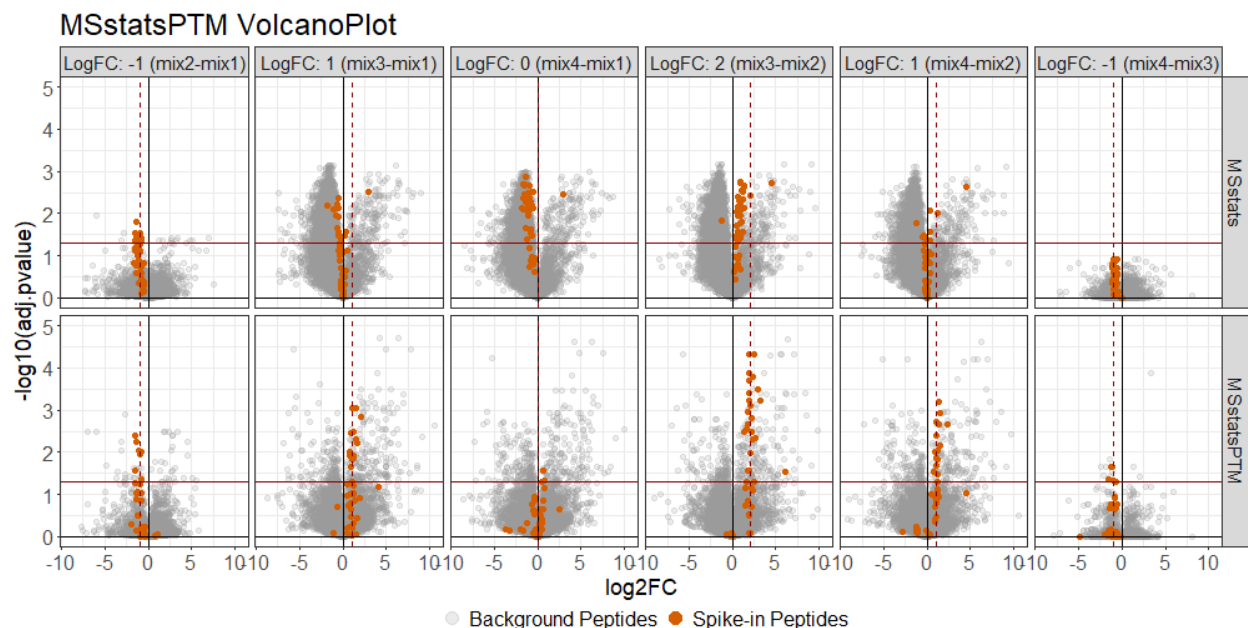


Figure S3: Dataset 3 : SpikeIn benchmark - Ubiquitination - Label-free. The modeling results of the *MSstatsPTM* both before and after adjustment. The unadjusted model is the basic version of *MSstats* before adjustment. The spike-in peptides are colored red and the background peptides are colored grey. All grey peptides are expected to not be detected as differentially abundant. The spike-in peptides (colored red) did not follow the expected log fold change before adjustment. After adjusting for changes in overall protein abundance the spike-in peptides were more in line with expectation. Additionally the background grey colored peptides showed many false positives before adjustment. After adjustment these false positives were decreased considerably.

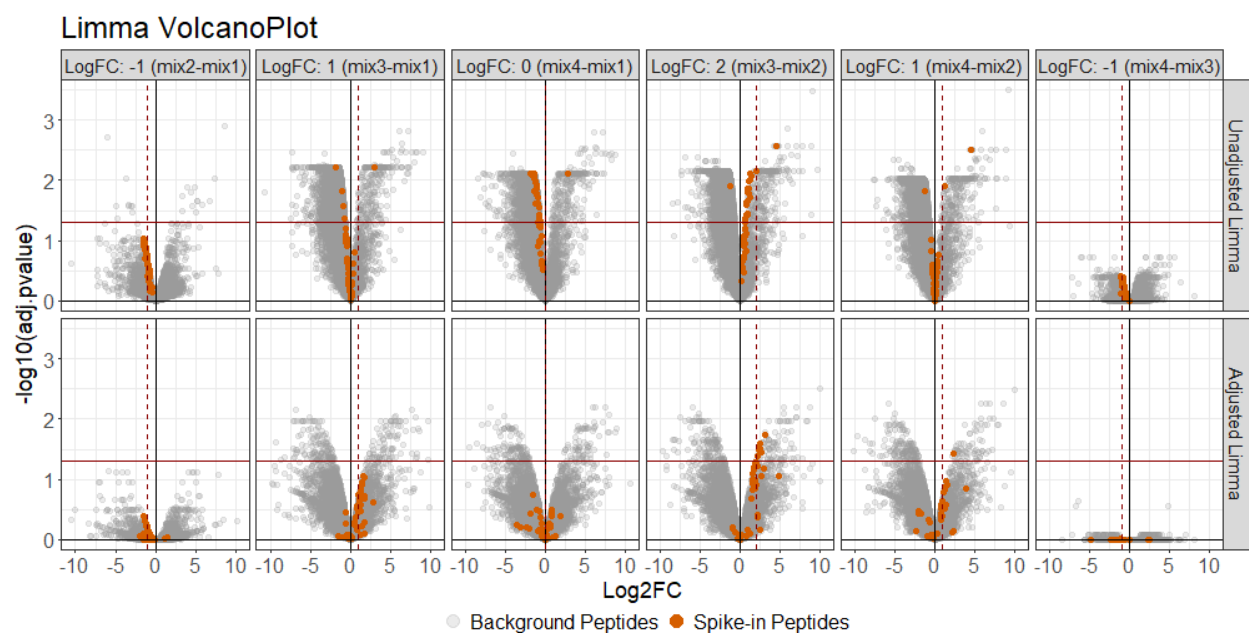


Figure S4: Dataset 3 : SpikeIn benchmark - Ubiquitination - Label-free. When modeling the experiment with the *Limma* method, the spike-in peptides again follow the expected log fold change better after adjusting for changes in protein level. However, while the fold change was more accurate, the majority of spike-in peptides were not detected as differentially abundant. There were more false positive differentially abundant PTM before than after adjustment.

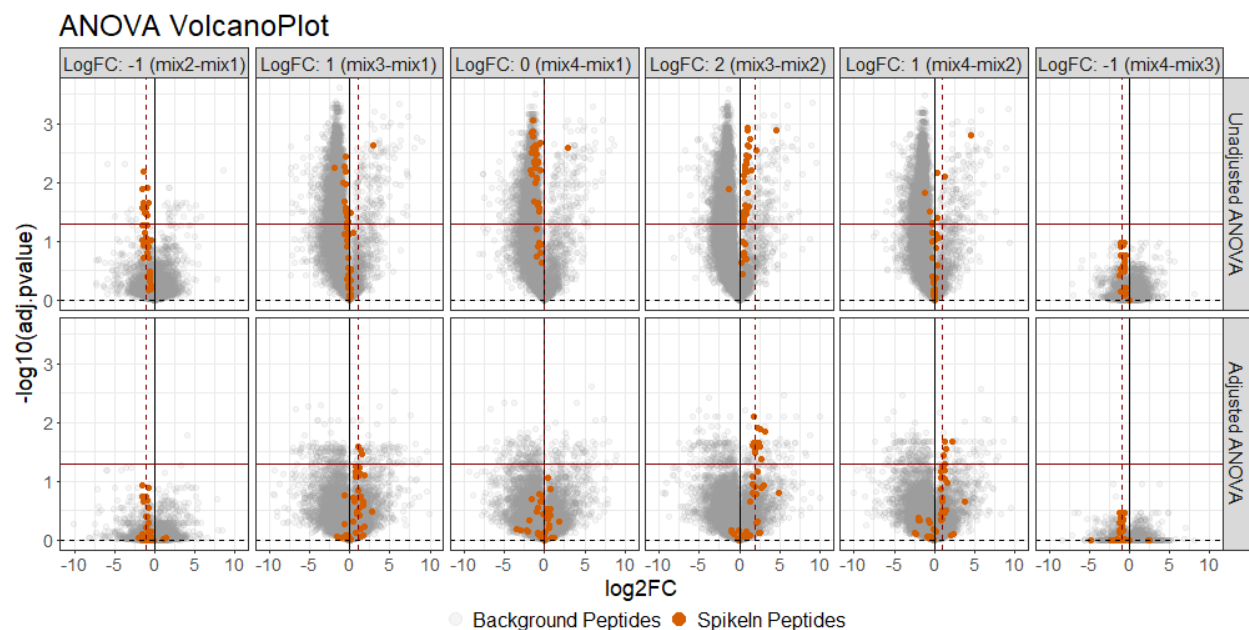


Figure S5: Dataset 3 : SpikeIn benchmark - Ubiquitination - Label-free. Using *ANOVA* the fold change of the spike-in peptides was much closer to expectation after adjusting for global protein abundance. The log FC estimation was the same as *Limma*, however the p-values were different. In this particular case we detect a few more true positives using *ANOVA* compared to *Limma*.



### 3.3 Dataset 4 : Human - Ubiquitination - 1mix-TMT

The experiment had a simple group comparison design, shown in Table S1.

Condition	BioReplicate	Channel
Dox1hr	Dox1hr_1	127C
Dox2hr	Dox2hr_1	128N
Dox2hr	Dox2hr_2	130C
Dox4hr	Dox4hr_1	128C
Dox4hr	Dox4hr_2	131C
Dox6hr	Dox6hr_1	129N
Dox6hr	Dox6hr_2	131N
NoDox0hr	NoDox0hr_1	126C
NoDox0hr	NoDox0hr_2	129C
NoDox6hr	NoDox6hr_1	127N
NoDox6hr	NoDox6hr_2	130N

Table S1: The experimental design of Dataset 4

The following model was fit separately for ubiquitinated peptides and for unmodified protein

$$Y_{mij} = \mu_i + \epsilon_{mij}, \sum_{i=1}^I \mu_i = 0, \epsilon_{mij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

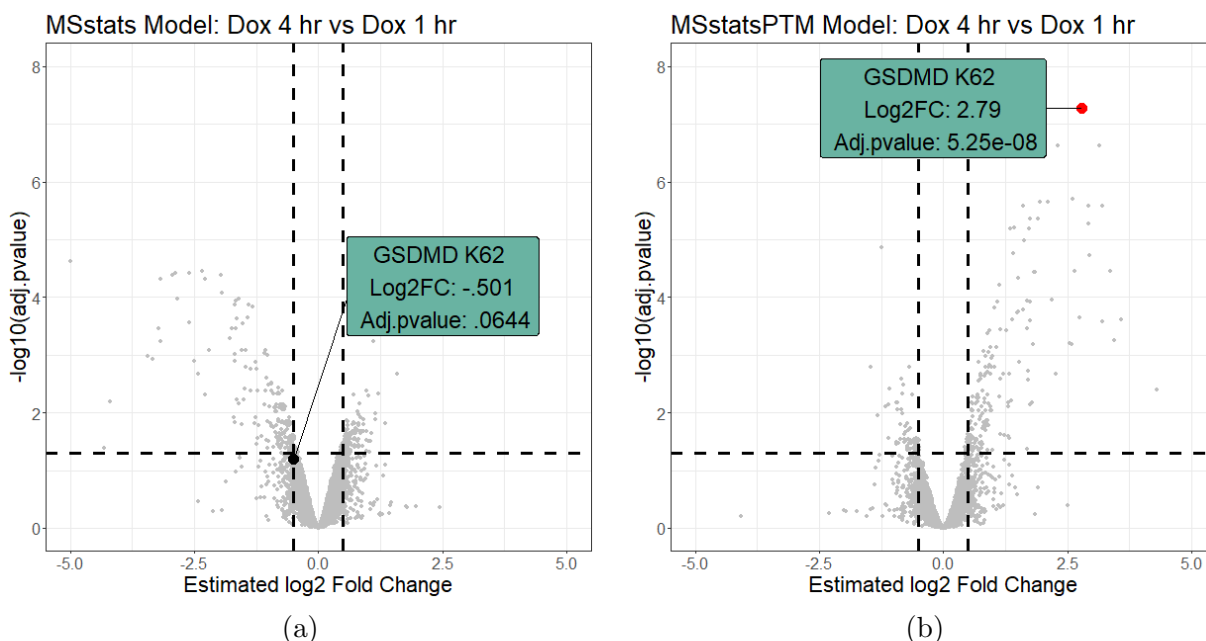


Figure S6: Dataset 4 : Human - Ubiquitination - 1mix-TMT. Volcano plots of Dox4hr vs Dox1hr both before and after protein adjustment with *MSstatsPTM*. The *GSDMD\_HUMAN*|P57764\_K62 modification is highlighted. (a) Before adjustment the modification had a small fold change and was not detected as differentially abundant. (b) After adjustment the fold change was much larger, and the modification was detected as differentially abundant. In this case *MSstatsPTM* allowed us to identify a differential modified peptide that could have otherwise been missed.

### 3.4 Dataset 5 : Mouse - Phosphorylation - 2mix-TMT

The experiment had a group comparison design, and the data were acquired in two mixtures, as shown in Table S2.

	Mixture 1		Mixture 2		Condition
Uninfected	128C		128C	131C	
Early (1 Hour)	126C	129C	126C	129C	WT
Late (3 Hour)	127C	130C	127C	130C	
Uninfected	129N	131C	129N		
Early (1 Hour)	127N	130N	127N	130N	KO
Late (3 Hour)	128N	131N	128N	131N	

Table S2: The experimental design of Dataset 5

The following model was fit separately for phosphorylated peptides and for unmodified protein

$$Y_{mij} = \mu_i + Mixture_m + \epsilon_{mij}, \quad Mixture_m \sim N(0, \sigma_M^2), \quad \sum_{i=1}^I \mu_i = 0, \quad \epsilon_{mij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

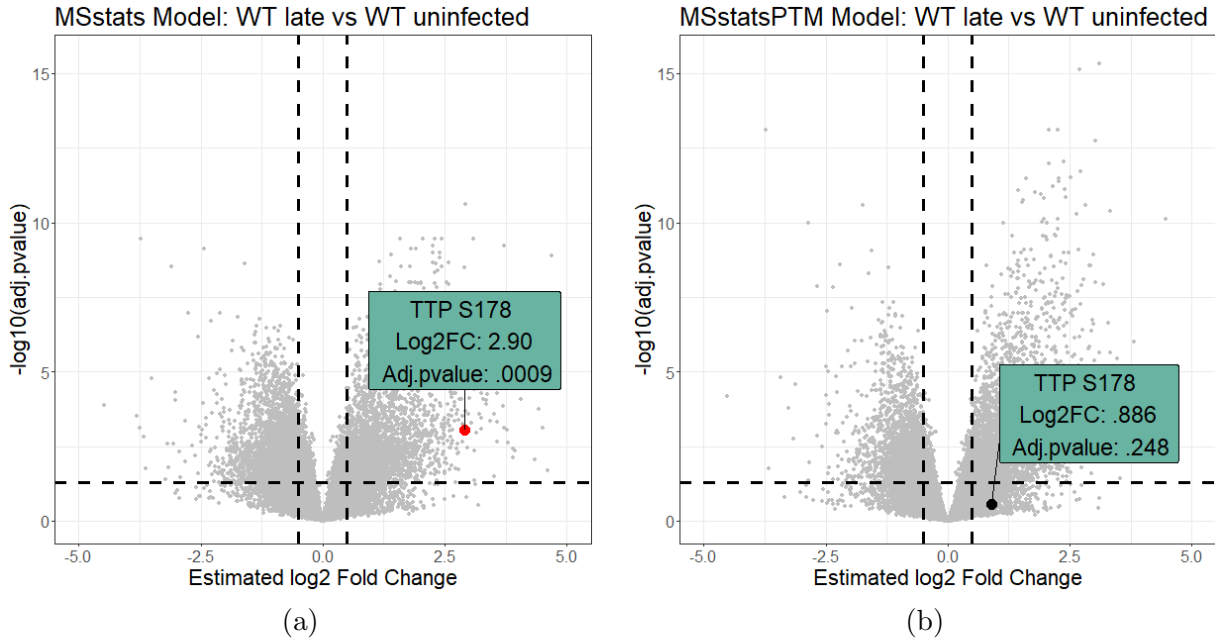


Figure S7: Dataset 5 : Mouse - Phosphorylation - 2mix-TMT. Volcano plots of WT\_Late vs WT\_Uninfected both before and after protein adjustment with *MSstatsPTM*. The *TTP\_MOUSE|P22893.S178* modification is highlighted. (a) Before adjustment the modification had a large fold change and a small p-value. (b) After adjustment the fold change was much smaller and the modification was not detected as differentially abundant.