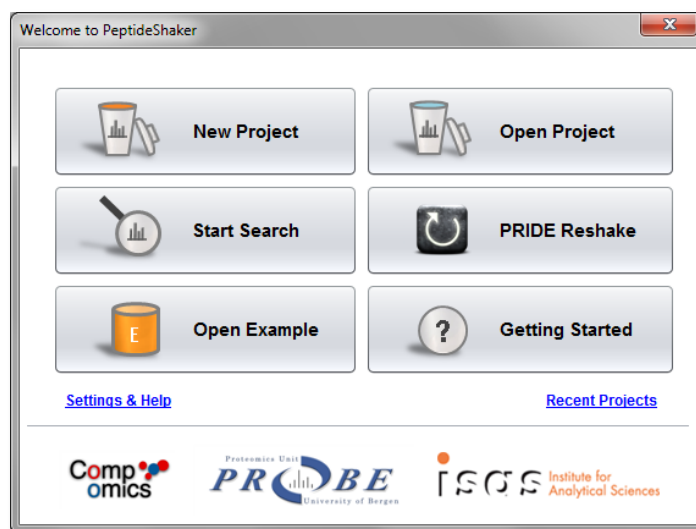


A. PSM, Peptide & Protein Visualization

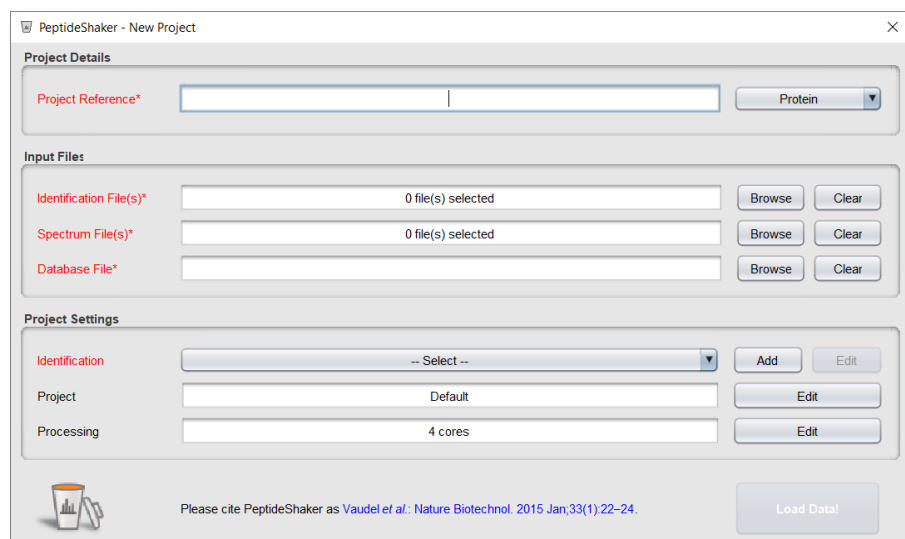
The search conducted in the “Peptide to Spectrum Matching” chapter generated two files containing the peptides matched by OMSSA and X! Tandem for each spectrum, so-called Peptide to Spectrum Matches (PSMs). From these we want to find the identified peptides and proteins. This is the task of PeptideShaker¹ (<http://compomics.github.io/projects/peptide-shaker.html>).

First, start PeptideShaker by double-clicking the file called PeptideShaker-X.Y.Z.jar in the PeptideShaker-X.Y.Z folder located in the software folder (X.Y.Z is the version number). You should see the following dialog:



From the Welcome dialog, you can create a new project, open a previously saved project, start a search with SearchGUI, Reshape (i.e., reanalyze) existing PRIDE² data, open an example dataset or navigate our 'Getting Started' presentation.

We are now going to create a new project with the previously generated [OMSSA](#) and [X! Tandem](#) files (also available in the [resources](#) folder). Click on 'New Project'. You will see this screen:



The screenshot shows the 'PeptideShaker - New Project' dialog box. It is divided into three main sections: 'Project Details', 'Input Files', and 'Project Settings'.
1. **Project Details**: Contains a 'Project Reference*' text field and a 'Protein' dropdown menu.
2. **Input Files**: Contains three rows for 'Identification File(s)*', 'Spectrum File(s)*', and 'Database File*'. Each row has a text field showing '0 file(s) selected', a 'Browse' button, and a 'Clear' button.
3. **Project Settings**: Contains three rows: 'Identification' with a '-- Select --' dropdown and 'Add'/'Edit' buttons; 'Project' with a 'Default' text field and an 'Edit' button; and 'Processing' with a '4 cores' text field and an 'Edit' button.
At the bottom left is a small icon of a beaker and test tubes. At the bottom center is a citation: 'Please cite PeptideShaker as [Vaudel et al.: Nature Biotechnol. 2015 Jan;33\(1\):22-24.](#)'. At the bottom right is a 'Load Data!' button.

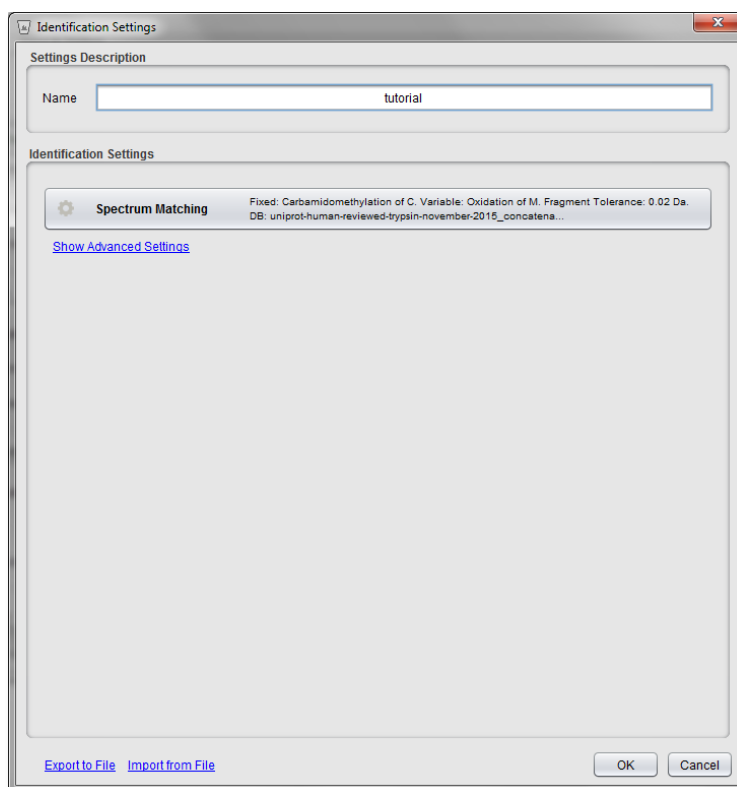
Start by giving your project a name at the top, and leave the project type as Protein.

The species of interest for this sample is human: this is in fact a measurement of a HeLa lysate, courtesy of the Leibniz-Institut für Analytische Wissenschaften - ISAS - e. V., Dortmund, Germany. Knowing the species type allows us to extract additional information about the genes the proteins come from. For this via use Ensembl. So when you see gene information later on you now know where the information comes from. *What is Ensembl?* [1.4a]

Now we are ready to add the search result files. Click the 'Browse' button next to the 'Identification File(s)' text field. Navigate to the [resources](#) folder, select the zip file containing the [OMSSA](#) and [X! Tandem](#) result files ([searchgui_out.zip](#)) and click 'Add'.

Note that the spectrum files and the database are automatically filled in when loading results from [SearchGUI](#). Otherwise you have to load these manually (files are in the [resources](#) folder). Note also that the Identification Settings have changed. This information was extracted from the [searchGUI_input.txt](#) file and the parameters file created by [SearchGUI](#) along with the identification files. Note that if files have been moved in the interim, you can add them manually.

Once all the files have been loaded, click the 'Edit' button for the 'Identification Settings'.



By clicking the 'Spectrum Matching' option the dialog showing the used search settings will appear. They should be identical to the settings you provided in SearchGUI:

Modifications

Fixed Modifications (1)

| Name | Mass |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Carbamidomethylation of C | 57.02 |

Variable Modifications (1)

| Name | Mass |
|----------------|-------|
| Oxidation of M | 15.99 |

Protease & Fragmentation

Digestion: Enzyme (Trypsin), Specificity (Specific), Max Missed Cleavages (2), Fragment Ion Types (b, y)

Precursor Tolerance: 10.0 ppm, Fragment Tolerance: 0.02 Da, Precursor Charge: 2 - 4, Isotopes: 0 - 1

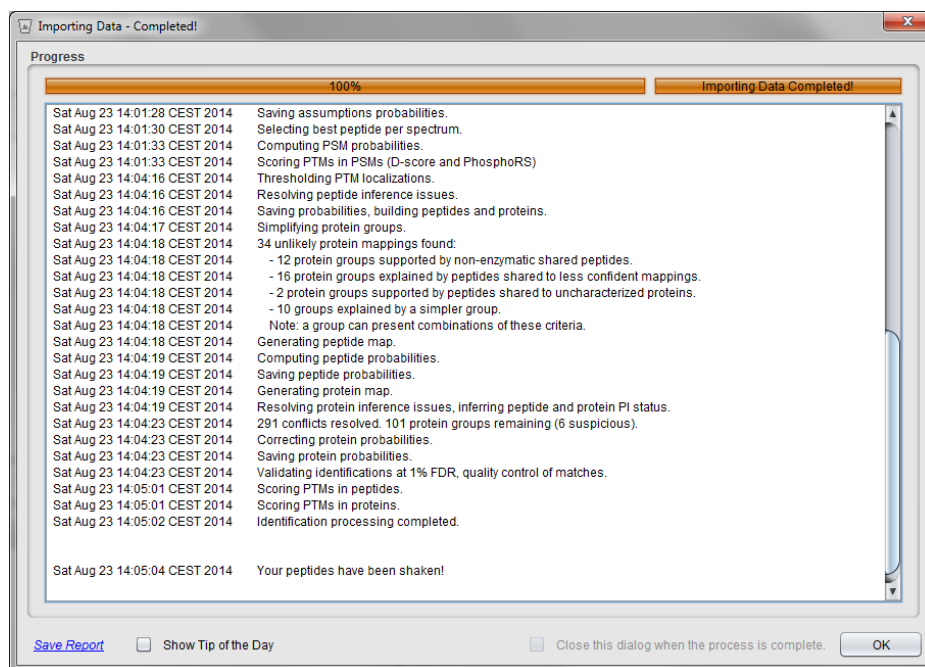
In addition to the modifications listed here you may also see the following modifications in your search results later on: Acetylation of protein N-term, Pyrolidone from E, Pyrolidone from Q and Pyrolidone from carbamidomethylated C. *Where do these come from?* [1.4b]

Close the 'Search Settings' dialog to go back to the 'Identification Settings' overview dialog.

Feel free to also explore the 'Advanced Settings', but be sure to not alter them as the results may then not match the tutorial.



Click 'OK' to go back to the New Project dialog and then click 'Load Data!'. The selected files will now be processed and loaded into **PeptideShaker**, and you can follow the progress in the dialog while browsing some **PeptideShaker** usage tips in the lower right corner of the progress dialog.

**Tip:**

If you want to save time you can cancel the loading and open the PeptideShaker example dataset instead. This was created using the exact same input as above and is available in the Welcome Dialog.

Loading large dataset in PeptideShaker can be time consuming. The processing will be faster if increasing the memory allocated to PeptideShaker. You can do that *via* the *Edit > Java Settings* menu (or *via* the Welcome Dialog - *Settings & Help > Settings > Java Settings*). Note that large datasets (>100 000 spectra) or databases (>100 000 protein sequences) will require a lot of memory. For smaller datasets (<100 000 spectra and <100 000 protein sequences), a standard laptop (64 bits and 4 GB of RAM) is sufficient. The performance will also be improved if working with SSD discs and multiple CPUs.

If you do not want to wait for the data to load, you can always cancel the loading and when restarting PeptideShaker select the "Open Example" option in the Welcome Dialog.

Tip:

Do not put databases or mgf files on external drives, prefer a local SSD disc: the software needs to read these often, maximizing the reading speed will reduce the loading time!

Tip:

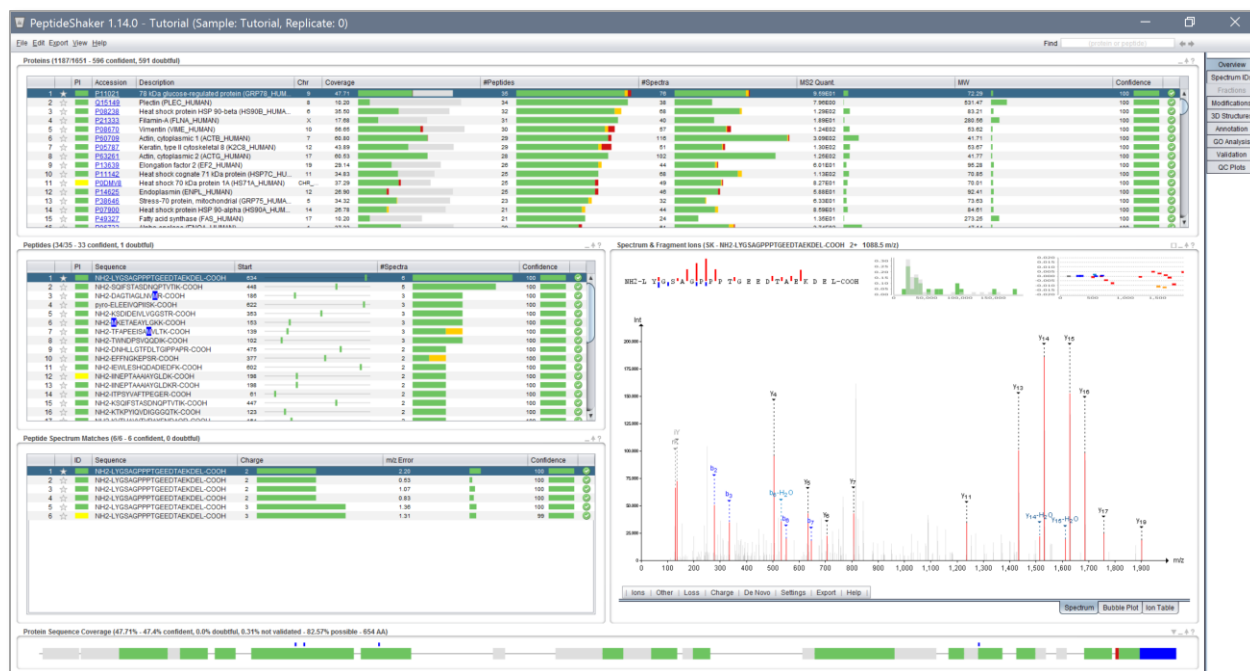
Before starting an ambitious experiment, make sure that the software you need exists and that you have the computing power to analyze the data. Run smaller tests before starting the experiment!

Tip:

Before loading a large dataset consisting of multiple runs, load a single run first to verify that everything works fine!



When finished, the dialog closes and the identification results are displayed, you should see something like this:



This is the main screen of **PeptideShaker** and it gives you an overview of the results in your files. **PeptideShaker** is split into various tabs found in the upper right corner, each with a different function.

The **Overview** tab is split into five main sections: the **protein** table at the top; the **peptide** and **peptide to spectrum match (PSM)** tables, both in the middle left; the **spectrum** view in the middle right; and the **sequence coverage** panel at the bottom. All five sections are connected. This means that selecting a protein in the protein table updates the peptide table, the PSM table, the spectrum view and the sequence coverage panel. Try selecting some of the other proteins in the protein list and see how the other sections are updated accordingly.

At the top right of every section there are small icons allowing you to interact with the data displayed: a square to maximize the section, an underscore to minimize it, an arrow to export the content and a question mark to open contextual help.



Before doing anything else we will start by saving our [PeptideShaker](#) project. This way we do not have to reload all the data the next time we want to look at them, but can rather do a much faster load of the project directly. To save your project, go to the 'File' menu and click the 'Save' option. [PeptideShaker](#) offers you different save options:



'Save Project' allows you to save the project in the [PeptideShaker](#) database format (.psdb files). 'Export Project' exports the project together with all related spectrum and database files as a single zip file. This option is particularly relevant when sharing your results: send the zip file to a colleague, and after unzipping your colleague will be able to open your project in [PeptideShaker](#) with just a few clicks and interact with the results. 'Export to PRIDE' allows you to save your project in the standard [mzIdentML](#) format, this will be the subject of the "Data Sharing" chapters.

For now, click on 'Save Project', choose a name for your project, and click 'Save'. Note that saving big projects can sometimes take time: there is a lot of information to store!

A [.psdb](#) file should now have been created. If you want to open this project later simply open this file via the [PeptideShaker](#) Welcome Dialog. The project can also be accessed via the 'Open Project' and 'Open Recent Project' options in the 'File' menu after starting [PeptideShaker](#).

As already mentioned, protein identification using mass spectral data always starts with the spectra. We will therefore start by looking at a particular spectrum in detail and see how well this corresponds to the identified peptide.

Start by making sure that the protein with accession number [Q15149](#) with description [Plectin \(PLEC_HUMAN\)](#) (originating from Chromosome 8) is selected.

Looking at the row for this protein we see that we have covered 10.2 % of the protein's amino acid sequence, detecting a total of 34 peptides from 38 spectra. (Note: the color coding for the peptides and spectra will be explained in the “Peptide and Protein Validation” chapter.) *Why are there more spectra than peptides? How do you define a peptide?* [\[1.4c\]](#)

In the peptide table, you will see that some amino acids are colored. These residues were identified as carrying a post-translational modification (PTM). In fact, for an easy interpretation, PTMs are color coded everywhere in [PeptideShaker](#). Holding the mouse over a colored residue will give you the PTM details. *How many modified peptides were identified for this protein?* [\[1.4d\]](#)

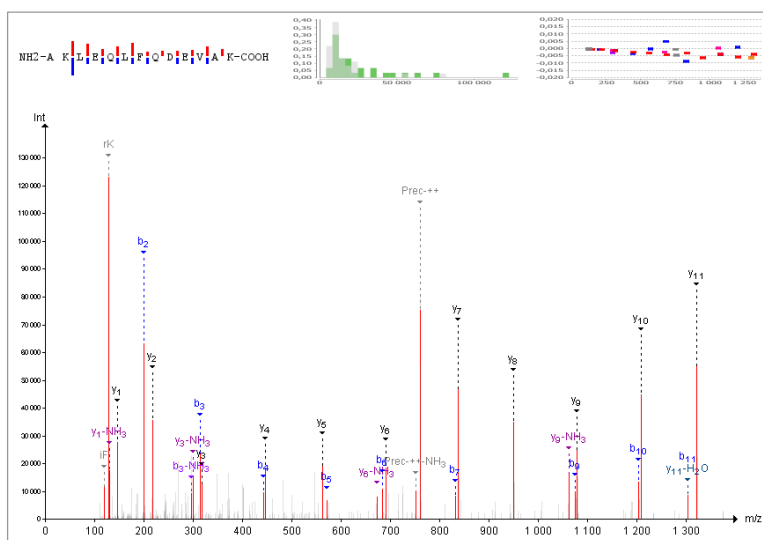
Tip:

By default only variable modifications are displayed. You can change this in the ‘View’ menu via the ‘Fixed Modifications’ option.

Make sure that the first peptide sequence [AALAHSEEVTASQVAATK](#) is selected. In the peptide to spectrum matches table you will see that this peptide is found two times. That means that two different spectra have been identified as the peptide in question. Notice that one of the spectra has a precursor charge of 2+, while other has a charge of 3+. *Why do not all precursors carry the same charge?* [\[1.4e\]](#)



Now move to the peptide sequence **AKLEQLFQDEVAK**. The spectrum used to identify the peptide is now shown to the right of the table, and should look like this:



By looking at the spectrum, is it obvious that this spectrum is identified as the sequence **AKLEQLFQDEVAK**? Which are the different ions displayed here? Are the same ions detected in all peptide to spectrum matches or peptides? What are the standard fragment ion types and how do they relate to the peptide sequence?

[1.4f]

The menu bar below the spectrum allows you to fine tune the annotation settings and the spectrum display. It is additionally possible to export the spectrum in various formats. Note that only the highest peaks are annotated. You can change the annotation level by scrolling when over the spectrum. If you hold 'Ctrl' and scroll, the m/z tolerance will be changed.

Tip:

You can also change the annotation tolerances using sliders which can be enabled in the 'View' menu.

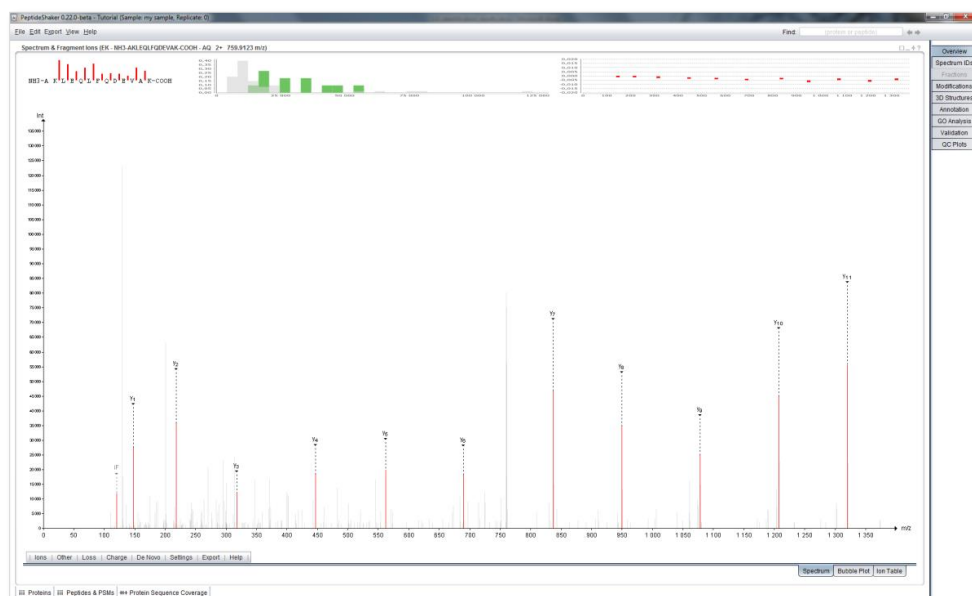


Before continuing, make sure that the intensity level is at 75% and the accuracy at 0.02 Da. (The values can also be set via *Edit > Spectrum Annotations*.)

The first thing we will do is to see how well the spectrum matches the sequence it has supposedly identified. To do this we will perform a bit of *manual de novo sequencing*, essentially checking whether the detected fragment ions match the peptide sequence. We will start with the y-ions, so disable the display of b-ions by clicking the 'Ions' menu below the spectrum and unselecting the 'b' ion in the list.


Neutral losses are selected automatically by **PeptideShaker** depending on the peptide sequence and modification status of the peptide. In order to hide the fragment ions with a neutral loss, unselect 'Adapt' in the 'Loss' menu, and then deselect the neutral losses one by one.

To make the sequencing a bit easier we will also hide the other sections of the [Overview](#) tab. Click on the square in the top right corner of the spectrum panel. Note that the other tabs have been minimized at the bottom left of the screen. The spectrum should now cover the whole screen:



Next, to make the sequencing even easier, zoom in on the m/z range covered by the y -ions y_1 to y_{11} , simply by clicking and holding the left mouse button from just before the y_1 -ion and (while holding the left mouse button pressed) dragging the mouse horizontally to the right until you have passed the y_{11} -ion. At that point just let go of the left mouse button to zoom in on the selected range. If you want to zoom in further,



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you can repeat the same procedure. If you at any point want to zoom out again, simply click the right mouse button to return to the full spectrum display.

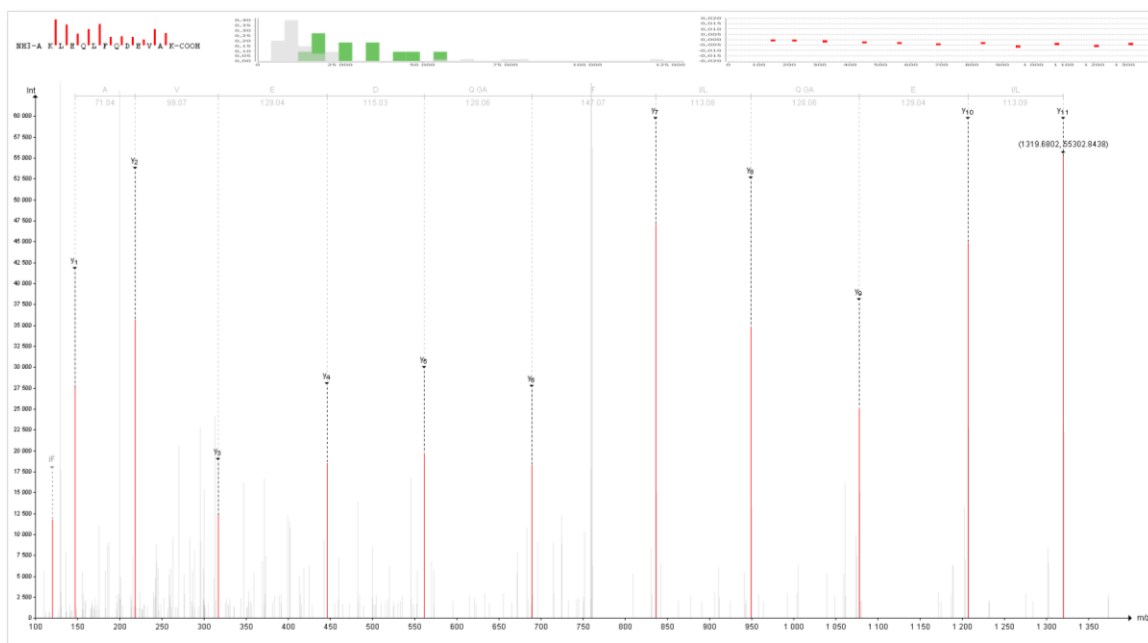
Now start the *de novo* sequencing by first clicking the y_1 -ion. If you still find it difficult to click the correct peak, try zooming in just on the peak in question, select it, and then zoom back out again.

Tip:

In order to click a peak, it first needs to be highlighted (showing its exact m/z and intensity above the peak) and this highlighting only occurs if the mouse is held above the peak within 1.5 times the peak height.

Continue the sequencing by clicking the y -ions in ascending order from left to right. If you click the wrong peak, the last selection can be removed by holding down the Shift key while clicking the peak again. Ctrl + Click will save the current sequence, and will allow you to start a second sequence.

When done, you should have a spectrum display that looks something like this:



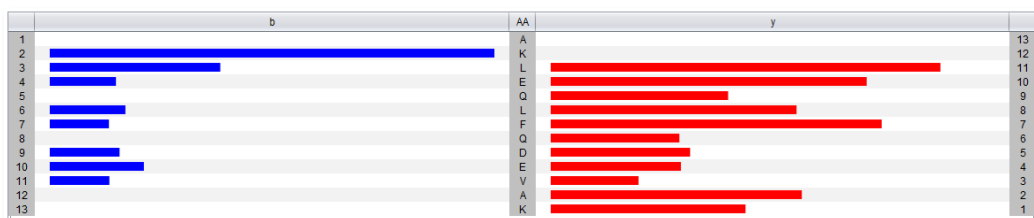
If you now read the sequence at the top you will find that it reads (from left to right): A, V, E D, Q GA, F, I/L, Q GA, E, I/L. Given that γ -ions are indexed from right to left (carboxy-terminus to amino-terminus) relative to the sequence, we have to reverse the sequence to match it to the peptide sequence. Hence we get the sequence: I/L E Q/GA I/L F Q/GA D E V A. Comparing this to the peptide sequence we see that they are very similar, and if we resolve the ambiguous residues, we have a perfect match to the proposed peptide's sequence from residue 3 - 12. *Why do we not have complete coverage? And why is complete coverage in most cases not necessary? Where do the ambiguous residues come from? Can they impact the final result? What is the role of modifications in the ambiguity? Can you relate this to identification issues when many (variable) modifications need to be considered? What is an immonium ion, and how can these be used in the de novo sequencing?* [1.4g]

In the 'De Novo' menu, select ' γ -ions', PeptideShaker then shows you the solution retained for this spectrum:

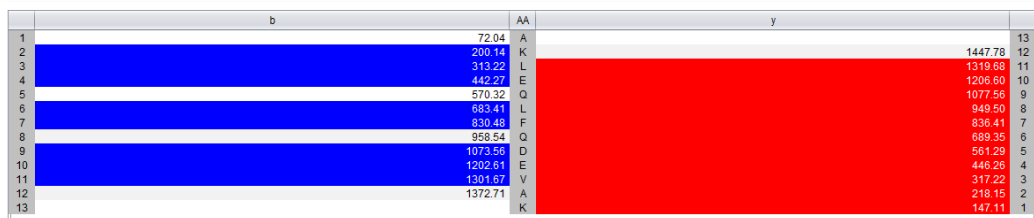


Here you will see an overview of the detected fragment ions and how they correspond to the sequence of the peptide. *How do the results here correspond to the results you found in your de novo sequencing?*

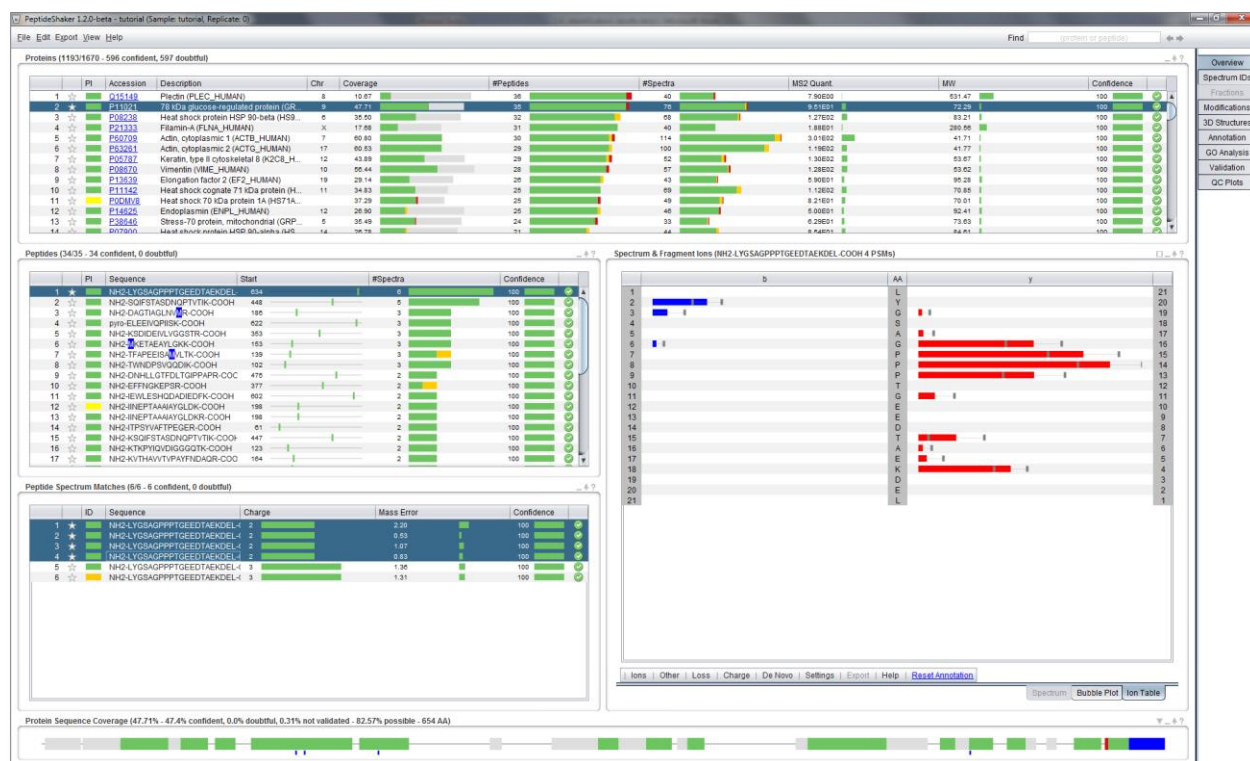
[1.4i]



In the 'Settings' menu below the table you can also select m/z-based display instead of intensity:



We will now move one step further by comparing multiple spectra identified as the same peptide. Bring the spectrum panel back to its normal size by clicking on the square and select the protein in the top of the protein list called **P11021**. You will see that the first peptide (LYGSAGPPPTGEEDTAEKDEL) has been identified by six spectra: four with a charge of 2+ and two with a charge of 3+. While holding down the Ctrl-key, select all spectra with a charge of 2+. You should see this:

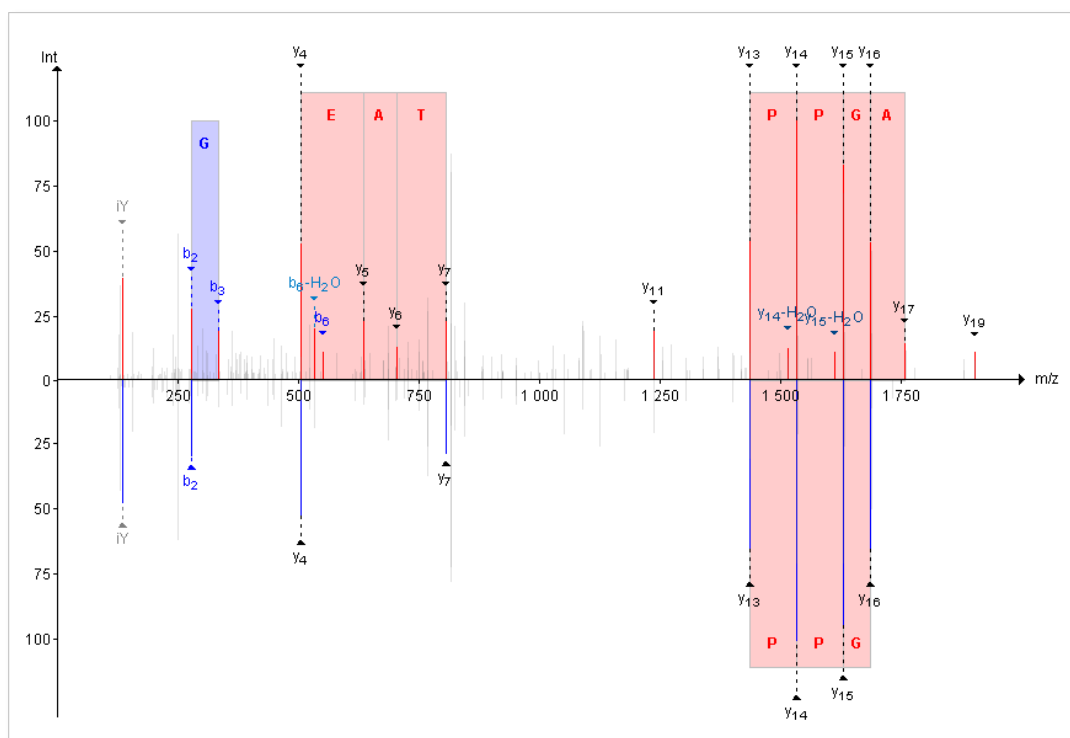


The intensity difference between the spectra is displayed with error bars. *Do you expect reproducibility in intensities between spectra? What do you think about the comparison between 2+ and 3+ PSMs?* [1.4j]



In a standard visual inspection of both spectra (select them one by one in the PSM table and look at each spectrum) it can be difficult to tell how similar they are. Attempting to see which fragment ions are detected in all of the spectra, and at which intensities, is also very hard.

If comparing two spectra so-called mirrored spectra can be used, i.e., showing one spectrum above the x-axis and another spectrum mirrored below the x-axis. Select only the two first PSMs in the table and go back to the Spectrum tab. You should now see the following:

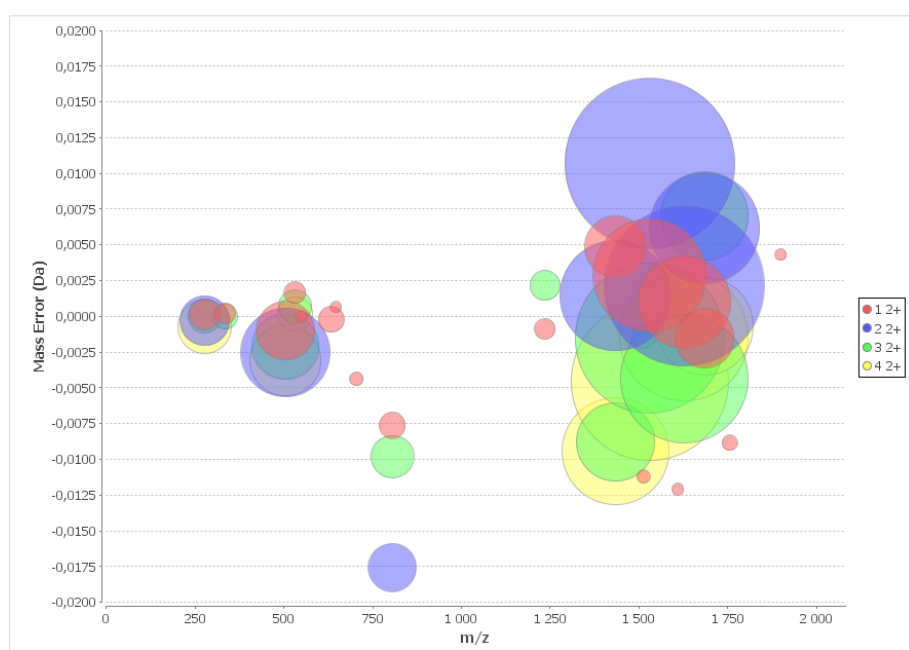


The use of mirrored spectra allows you to easily compare two spectra and highlight the differences between them. (Note that in order to make the intensities comparable the peaks are shown relative to the highest peak in each spectrum.)



When comparing more than two spectra [PeptideShaker](#) uses a novel view, referred to as the [bubble view](#) or the *Planetary System View*. You will find this view by clicking the 'Bubble Plot' tab below the spectrum (or by simply selecting more than two rows in the spectrum table). Selecting/highlighting all the rows in the PSM table with a 2+ charge should give you something like the figure below.

In this view of the spectra we still have the m/z value on the x-axis, but on the y-axis we now have the mass error (the distance between the theoretical and the experimental mass of the fragment ions). The size of each bubble represents the (normalized) intensity of each fragment ion.



This way of looking at multiple spectra takes a bit of getting used to, but once one is comfortable with the setup, it becomes very easy to pick up details that would have been very difficult to see by a manual inspection of each spectrum individually. *Now, what do you think about the error distributions?* [\[1.4k\]](#)

We will now study the sequence coverage of the selected protein – [P11021](#). The sequence coverage is indicated in the protein table, 47.71% and illustrated at the bottom in the [Protein Sequence Coverage](#) panel:



The 35 identified peptides are mapped onto the sequence in green, yellow and red (color coding will be explained later), whereas the non-covered parts are left in grey. Note that the parts of the sequence which do not generate observable peptides are thinner than the others. For this protein, the observable coverage was estimated to 69.88% - the observable coverage is also displayed in gray in the protein table.

If you hold the mouse over a part of the sequence, the observed peptides will be displayed. *The currently selected peptide is displayed in blue, what is the first peptide observed in the sequence?* [\[1.4l\]](#)

Note that this peptide contains a missed cleavage and that the cleaved version is also detected. Also, keen observers will have noticed that the modifications are readily mapped above the sequence. Clicking at the corresponding peptide section allows the selection of the oxidized peptide:



How many modified peptides does this protein contain? How many modification sites? [\[1.4m\]](#)

More details on PTM localization can be found in the “PTM Analysis” chapter.



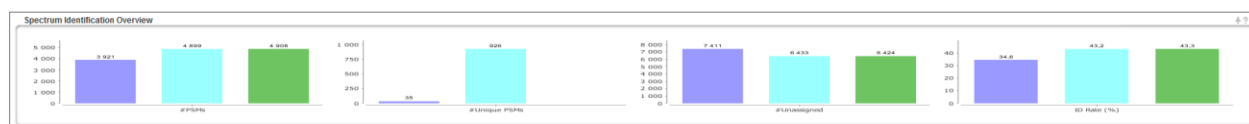
B. Quality Control

Before further investigation, it is important to verify the quality of the search. We will start by verifying that all search engines worked correctly. As you remember, we loaded identification results from X! Tandem and OMSSA. Open the tab called 'Spectrum IDs' in the upper right corner, loading a tab can take a few seconds for big datasets.

Tip:

When PeptideShaker is busy with a process its icon turns orange. When finished, it turns grey again to inform you that the coffee break is over! ☺

At the bottom of the tab you will see something like this:

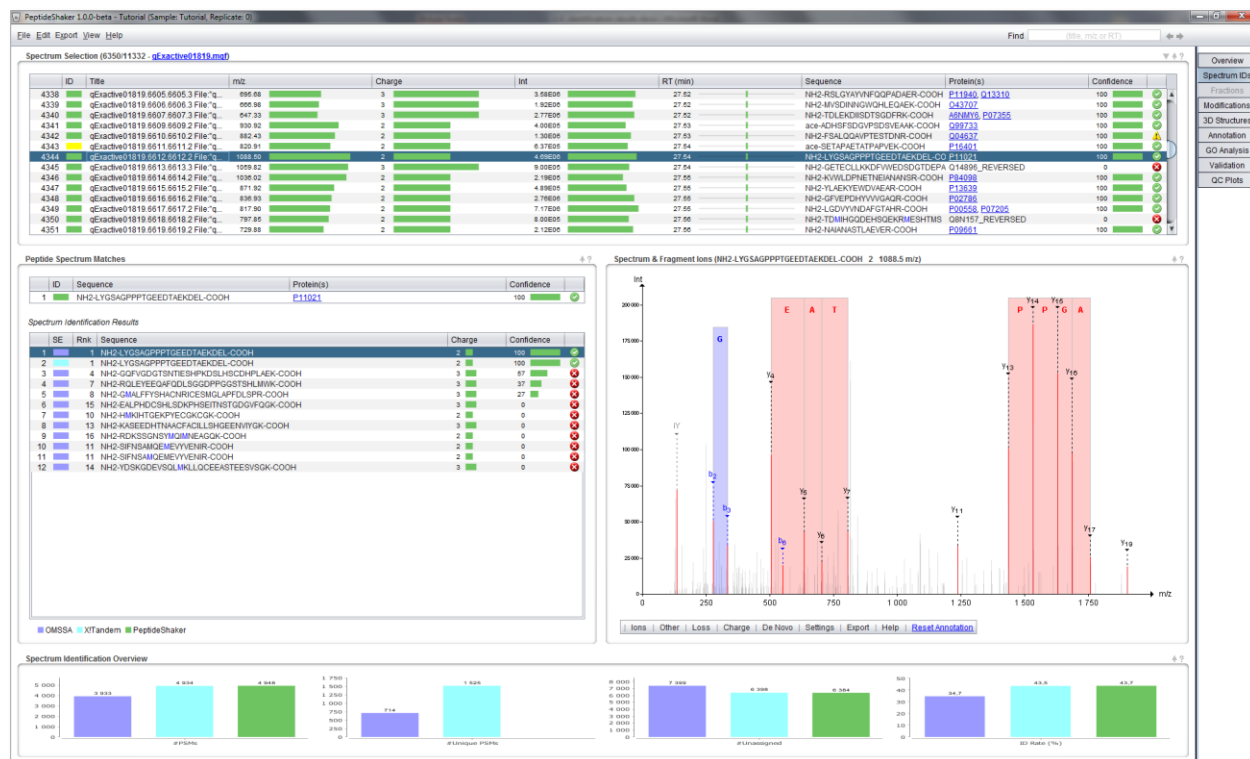


Here you see how the search engine results compare at the PSM level. Bar charts that for each search engine shows the number of validated PSMs, unique PSMs, unassigned spectra and the ID rate.

Why are the search engine results different? Will the differences depend on the dataset used? Can we take advantage of these differences? [1.4n]



The rest of the 'Spectrum IDs' tab allows you to browse the search engine results and see how PeptideShaker combines the separate search engine results into a single result set. By clicking a spectrum in the spectrum table at top you will see the PSMs for the search engines used and how these were scored. The selected PSM will be used to annotate the given spectrum.


Tip:

If you are interested in non-assigned spectra, you can export them using the 'Follow Up Analysis' option in the 'Export' menu.



Note the ID column which indicates whether a spectrum was identified and if so, whether the search engines agreed on the identification. Select row 4343, spectrum qExactive01819.6611.6611.2 File:"qExactive01819.raw", NativeID:"controllerType=0 controllerNumber=1 scan=6611", with a yellow square. In the Peptide-Spectrum Matches section you should see this:

The screenshot shows a window titled "Peptide Spectrum Matches". It contains two tables. The first table, "Peptide Spectrum Matches", has columns: ID, Sequence, Protein(s), and Confidence. It shows one result with ID 1, Sequence ace-SETAPAETATPAPVEK-COOH, Protein(s) P16401, and Confidence 100. The second table, "Spectrum Identification Results", has columns: SE, Rnk, Sequence, Charge, and Confidence. It shows two results. Result 1 has SE 1, Rnk 1, Sequence ace-SETAPAETATPAPVEK-COOH, Charge 2, and Confidence 100. Result 2 has SE 2, Rnk 1, Sequence NH2-RFKAHGEPSSLLEDYQHCRPIDVEIQR-COOH, Charge 4, and Confidence 0. A legend at the bottom indicates OMSSA (blue), X!Tandem (yellow), and PeptideShaker (green).

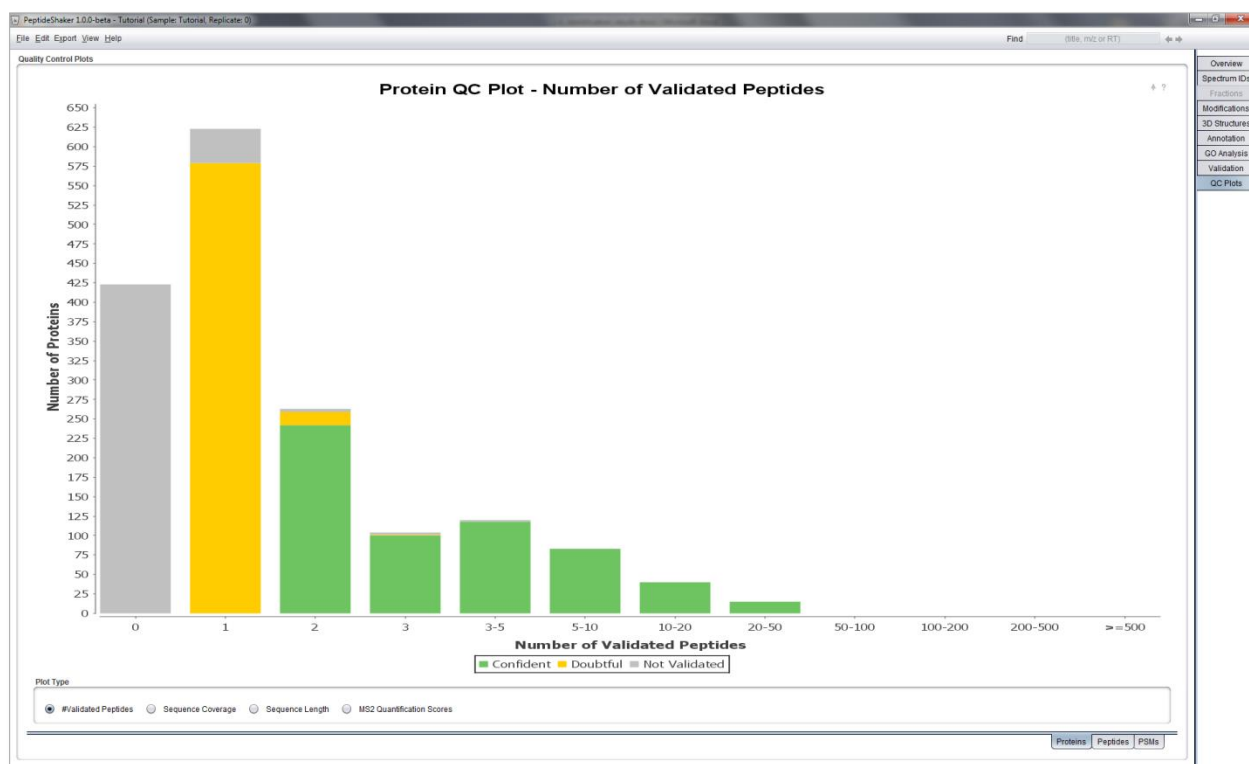
| ID | Sequence | Protein(s) | Confidence |
|----|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | ace-SETAPAETATPAPVEK-COOH | P16401 | 100 |

| SE | Rnk | Sequence | Charge | Confidence |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | ace-SETAPAETATPAPVEK-COOH | 2 | 100 |
| 2 | 1 | NH2-RFKAHGEPSSLLEDYQHCRPIDVEIQR-COOH | 4 | 0 |

As you can see, a peptide found by X! Tandem took precedence over others suggested by OMSSA. Which of the possibilities is the best match in your opinion? Would you trust peptides where the search engines disagree? [1.4o]

Now, select the 'QC Plots' tab. In this tab, a list of [Quality Control](#) metrics is given for the proteins, peptides and PSMs. The category ([Proteins](#), [Peptides](#), [PSMs](#)) is selected at the bottom right corner of the screen.

The default view is the Protein option, and you should now see the distribution of proteins according to their number of identified peptides:



How many peptides would you require to trust a protein identification? [1.4p]

To save time, we will not go through all quality control plots but feel free to explore them by yourself. We welcome any questions/suggestions!



C. Protein Inference

When trying to figure out which protein a given set of peptides originated from, it is in some cases impossible to decide between two or more proteins that share the same peptide(s). This issue is known as the *protein inference problem*.³

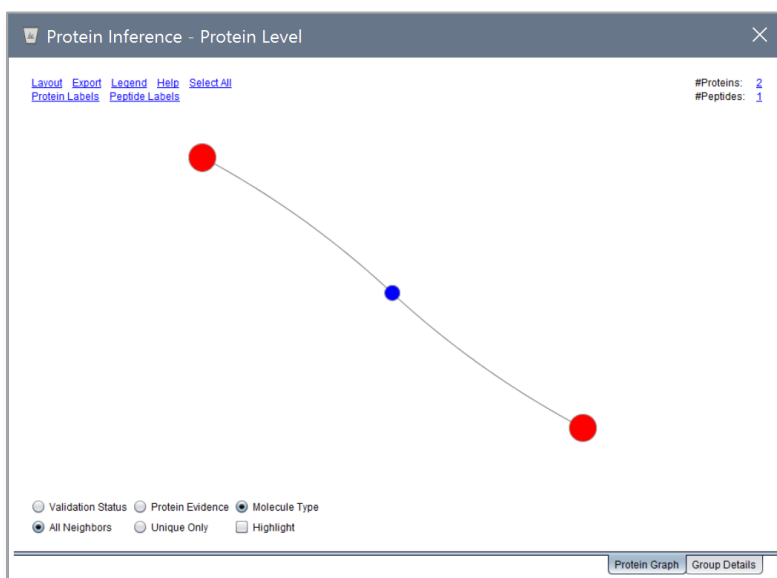
Go to the 'Overview' tab and sort the proteins by the PI column by clicking the column header and click the header once more to sort in descending order. PI stands for **Protein Inference**, and the proteins are now sorted so that the protein groups with protein inference issues are at the top.

In **PeptideShaker**, proteins are flagged using four colors: green, yellow, orange and red. For the best overview, hide all sections but the Protein table:

| PI | Accession | Description | Chr | Coverage | #Peptides | #Spectra | MS2 Quant | MW | Confidence |
|------|-----------|--|-----|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| 1730 | Q12996 | Interleukin enhancer-binding factor 3 (ILF3_HUMAN) | 19 | 1.57 | 1 | 1 | 5.55E-01 | 95.28 | 0 |
| 1690 | P08670 | Vimentin (VIME_HUMAN) | 19 | 4.08 | 2 | 3 | 1.28E-01 | 53.62 | 0 |
| 1674 | P08670 | Vimentin (VIME_HUMAN) | 19 | 4.08 | 3 | 6 | 3.52E-01 | 53.62 | 0 |
| 1756 | P08429 | High mobility group protein B1 (HMGB1_HUMAN) | 13 | 3.72 | 1 | 1 | 1.71E-01 | 24.88 | 0 |
| 1750 | P05033 | Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR_HUMAN) | 7 | 6.74 | 1 | 1 | 9.95E-01 | 134.19 | 0 |
| 1744 | Q14715 | RANBP2-like and GTP domain-containing prot. | 2 | 0.74 | 1 | 1 | 2.98E-01 | 138.87 | 0 |
| 1723 | P07196 | Neurofilament light polypeptide (NFL_HUMAN) | 8 | 1.65 | 1 | 2 | 1.31E-01 | 61.48 | 0 |
| 1710 | A0A030 | POTE arkin domain family member F (POT_...) | 2 | 1.02 | 1 | 1 | 3.33E-01 | 121.37 | 0 |
| 1708 | A0A030 | POTE arkin domain family member F (POT_...) | 2 | 1.49 | 8 | 8 | 8.86E-01 | 121.37 | 0 |
| 1707 | A0A030 | POTE arkin domain family member F (POT_...) | 2 | 1.02 | 1 | 20 | 2.83E-01 | 121.37 | 0 |
| 1650 | P07079 | Actin, cytoplasmic 1 (ACTC_HUMAN) | 7 | 23.73 | 9 | 42 | 1.45E-02 | 41.71 | 0 |
| 1759 | P05141 | ACIPATP translocase 2 (ACIT2_HUMAN) | 3 | 4.03 | 1 | 1 | 1.07E-01 | 32.83 | 0 |
| 1758 | P46940 | Ras GTPase-activating-like protein IQGAP1 (I... | 15 | 0.72 | 1 | 1 | 3.00E-01 | 189.13 | 0 |
| 1757 | P05023 | Sodium/potassium-translocating ATPase subun... | 1 | 1.27 | 1 | 1 | 4.45E-01 | 112.82 | 0 |
| 1755 | P06493 | Cyclin-dependent kinase 1 (CDK1_HUMAN) | 10 | 3.70 | 1 | 1 | 5.51E-01 | 34.07 | 0 |
| 1754 | O94776 | Metastasis-associated protein MTA2 (MTA2_H... | 11 | 1.50 | 1 | 1 | 5.55E-01 | 74.98 | 0 |
| 1753 | P11796 | Plastin-2 (PLSL_HUMAN) | 13 | 2.07 | 1 | 1 | 5.48E-01 | 70.24 | 0 |
| 1752 | P30046 | D-disachrome decarboxylase (DCPD_HUMAN) | CHL | 10.17 | 1 | 1 | 4.90E-01 | 12.79 | 0 |
| 1751 | Q95961 | Endoplasmic A2 (SHO1_HUMAN) | 19 | 3.26 | 1 | 1 | 1.25E-01 | 41.46 | 0 |
| 1749 | P11903 | Translationally-controlled tumor protein (TCTP... | 13 | 7.65 | 1 | 1 | 2.87E-01 | 18.98 | 0 |
| 1748 | P15170 | Eukaryotic peptide chain release factor GTP-b... | 10 | 2.00 | 1 | 1 | 7.74E-01 | 55.72 | 0 |
| 1747 | P27035 | 60S ribosomal protein L10 (RL10_HUMAN) | 3 | 5.81 | 1 | 1 | 1.67E-01 | 24.99 | 0 |
| 1746 | Q00703 | Acetyl-CoA carboxylase 2 (ACAC2_HUMAN) | 12 | 6.53 | 1 | 1 | 8.00E-01 | 270.37 | 0 |
| 1745 | P36873 | Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase PP1-ga... | 12 | 4.44 | 1 | 1 | 5.78E-01 | 38.95 | 0 |
| 1743 | Q75829 | Carbonyl reductase (NADPH) 3 (CBR3_HUMAN) | 21 | 1.76 | 1 | 1 | 1.16E-01 | 38.83 | 0 |
| 1742 | P00338 | L-lactate dehydrogenase A chain (LDHA_HUMAN) | CHL | 3.51 | 1 | 1 | 5.55E-01 | 36.67 | 0 |
| 1741 | Q14194 | Dihydropyrimidine-related protein 1 (DPY1L... | 4 | 2.80 | 1 | 1 | 5.51E-01 | 62.14 | 0 |
| 1740 | P15989 | Y-box binding protein 3 (YBOX3_HUMAN) | 12 | 2.95 | 1 | 1 | 5.92E-01 | 40.97 | 0 |
| 1739 | P63010 | AP-2 complex subunit beta (AP2B1_HUMAN) | 17 | 1.38 | 1 | 1 | 5.02E-01 | 104.49 | 0 |
| 1738 | P08729 | Keratin, type II cytoskeletal 7 (KCT7_HUMAN) | 12 | 2.55 | 1 | 1 | 8.00E-01 | 51.35 | 0 |
| 1737 | Q00159 | Unconventional myosin-8 (MYO1C_HUMAN) | 17 | 1.41 | 1 | 1 | 3.44E-01 | 121.91 | 0 |
| 1736 | P11940 | Polysialyltransferase 1 (PSAT1_HUMAN) | 8 | 5.57 | 1 | 1 | 5.97E-01 | 70.63 | 0 |
| 1735 | P10449 | Statman (STAM1_HUMAN) | 1 | 6.71 | 1 | 1 | 2.48E-01 | 17.29 | 0 |
| 1734 | P00000 | Plasma membrane calcium transporting ATPa... | 12 | 1.38 | 1 | 1 | 5.95E-01 | 134.89 | 0 |
| 1733 | P53675 | Claflavin heavy chain 2 (CLH2_HUMAN) | 22 | 0.73 | 1 | 1 | 2.08E-01 | 188.91 | 0 |
| 1732 | Q9JNP1 | Melanoma-associated antigen D2 (MAGD2_H... | 3 | 5.88 | 1 | 1 | 3.00E-01 | 44.91 | 0 |
| 1731 | P55279 | Myosin-B (MYH1_HUMAN) | 22 | 6.82 | 1 | 1 | 1.84E-01 | 209.39 | 0 |
| 1729 | Q75526 | RNA-binding motif protein, X-linked-like 2 (RBM... | 11 | 3.57 | 1 | 1 | 9.92E-01 | 42.79 | 0 |
| 1728 | O05425 | Insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA-binding prote... | 7 | 2.25 | 1 | 1 | 7.32E-01 | 13.57 | 0 |
| 1727 | P01869 | HLA class I histocompatibility antigen, B alpha c... | CHL | 3.99 | 1 | 1 | 4.99E-01 | 40.42 | 0 |
| 1726 | P06737 | Glycogen phosphorylase, liver form (PYGL_H... | 14 | 1.42 | 1 | 1 | 4.55E-01 | 97.99 | 0 |
| 1725 | Q95978 | Keratin, type II cytoskeletal 75 (KCT75_HUMAN) | 12 | 1.63 | 1 | 1 | 6.87E-01 | 56.82 | 0 |
| 1724 | P04439 | HLA class I histocompatibility antigen, A alpha c... | CHL | 3.01 | 1 | 1 | 4.90E-01 | 40.82 | 0 |
| 1722 | P06558 | Phosphoglycerate kinase 1 (PGK1_HUMAN) | 3 | 3.80 | 1 | 2 | 1.57E-01 | 44.59 | 0 |
| 1721 | P55627 | RNA-binding protein FUS (FUS_HUMAN) | 19 | 2.16 | 1 | 2 | 2.46E-01 | 53.29 | 0 |
| 1720 | P61019 | Ras-related protein Rab-2A (RAB2A_HUMAN) | 8 | 5.13 | 1 | 2 | 3.06E-01 | 23.53 | 0 |
| 1719 | P17858 | ATP-dependent 6-phosphofructokinase, liver ty... | 21 | 2.44 | 1 | 2 | 1.94E-01 | 84.95 | 0 |
| 1718 | P05793 | Keratin, type I cytoskeletal 18 (KCT18_HUMAN) | 12 | 2.09 | 1 | 2 | 5.94E-01 | 48.03 | 0 |
| 1717 | P06733 | Alpha-enolase (ENO1A_HUMAN) | 1 | 4.15 | 1 | 2 | 1.52E-01 | 47.14 | 0 |
| 1716 | O43707 | Alpha-actinin-4 (ACTN4_HUMAN) | CHL | 1.10 | 1 | 2 | 3.93E-01 | 104.79 | 0 |
| 1715 | Q14818 | Proteasome subunit alpha type 7 (PSAT_HUMAN) | 20 | 6.65 | 1 | 2 | 2.75E-01 | 27.47 | 0 |
| 1714 | P14649 | Myosin light chain 6B (MYL6B_HUMAN) | 12 | 5.25 | 1 | 2 | 3.18E-01 | 22.75 | 0 |
| 1713 | P05889 | Succinyl-CoA:3-ketoadic coenzyme A transfer... | 9 | 2.31 | 1 | 2 | 1.58E-01 | 55.12 | 0 |
| 1712 | P05238 | Keratin, type II cytoskeletal 6A (KCT6A_HUMAN) | 12 | 1.77 | 1 | 2 | 7.78E-01 | 80.91 | 0 |
| 1711 | Q98239 | ATP-dependent RNA helicase DDX30 (DDX30_... | 10 | 2.04 | 1 | 3 | 1.47E-01 | 82.51 | 0 |
| 1709 | P43677 | 60S ribosomal protein S27 (RS27_HUMAN) | 19 | 14.48 | 1 | 5 | 2.08E-02 | 9.45 | 0 |
| 1706 | P05141 | ACIPATP translocase 2 (ACIT2_HUMAN) | 3 | 7.38 | 2 | 2 | 2.54E-01 | 32.83 | 0 |
| 1705 | P08729 | Keratin, type II cytoskeletal 7 (KCT7_HUMAN) | 12 | 4.49 | 2 | 2 | 1.60E-01 | 51.35 | 0 |
| 1704 | P57721 | Poly(C)-binding protein 3 (PCBP3_HUMAN) | 21 | 5.74 | 2 | 2 | 1.97E-01 | 39.44 | 0 |



Click on the yellow box corresponding to protein accession number [Q8WYB5](#), and a [Protein Inference Dialog](#) appears, displaying that this group consists of two proteins (in red) sharing a single peptide (in blue).



Select 'Group Details' option in the lower right corner to see the protein details:

The dialog window titled "Protein Inference - Protein Level" displays the "Group Details" tab. It shows a "Protein Group Type" dropdown set to "Related Proteins" with an "Update" button. Below is a table of "Candidate Proteins (2)".

| | Accession | Description | Gene | Chr | Evidence | Enz |
|---|------------------------|---|-------|-----|----------|-----|
| 1 | Q8WYB5 | Histone acetyltransferase KAT6B (KAT6B_HUMAN) | KAT6B | 10 | Protein | ✓ |
| 2 | Q9Z794 | Histone acetyltransferase KAT6A (KAT6A_HUMAN) | KAT6A | 8 | Protein | ✓ |

Below the table are sections for "Unique Hits (0)" and "Related Hits (0)", each with a table header "Protein(s)" and "Confidence". The bottom right has tabs for "Protein Graph" and "Group Details".

PeptideShaker could not decide whether Q8WYB5 or Q92794 was present in the sample as the identified peptide is shared by the both proteins. *According to the information provided, which protein suggestion would you trust? What do the Evidence and Enz columns represent, and how can this information be used?*

[1.4q]

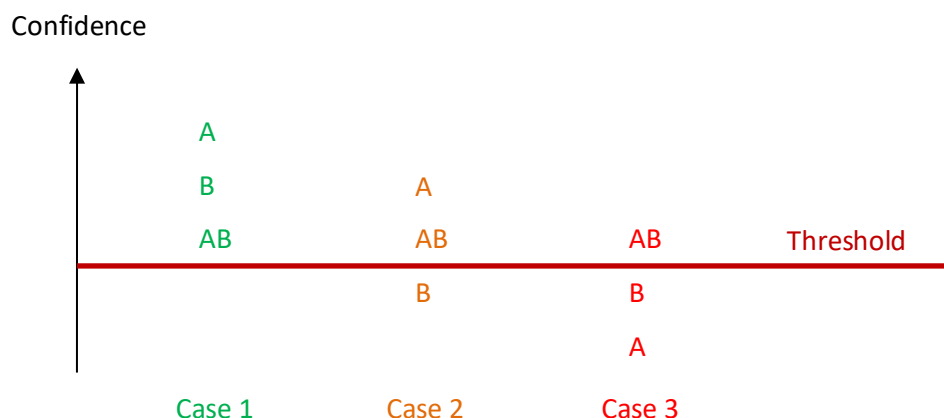
Note that proteins in a protein group can be attached to different genes or chromosomes. Choosing one or the other can hence strongly impact the biological interpretation of the results! PeptideShaker always chooses the protein with enzymatic peptides and with the best evidence according to UniProt⁴.

Tip:

In order to benefit from comprehensive protein annotation, we strongly recommend the use of UniProt databases.



Inferring proteins from peptides is not as simple as it may seem. Some peptides can map to different proteins, let's say protein A and protein B. If no unique peptide unambiguously indicates the presence of either protein A or B, [PeptideShaker](#) cannot say whether protein A or protein B is present.



In this simple example, how do you interpret the various cases? [1.4r]

Often, the problem is a lot more complex and involves dozens of intricate peptide-to-protein mappings. [PeptideShaker](#) solves protein inferences of Case 1 and 2, as you may have noticed when loading the identification files. However, Case 3 requires additional information about the sample to find out, if possible, which protein was actually present. These types of conflicts are in the PI column colored in yellow, orange and red depending on the properties of the conflict. By clicking on the corresponding box (as we have done above), you can manually select the protein you consider as the correct one.

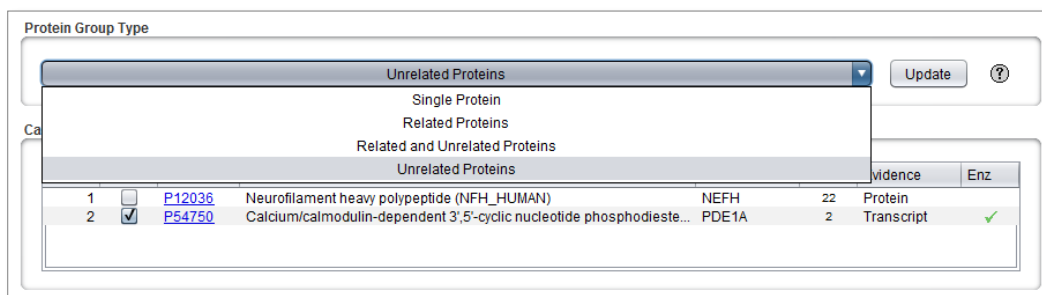
In most cases, the protein groups consist of related proteins. Based on the protein gene name and the protein descriptions, [PeptideShaker](#) sorts the protein inference conflicts into four categories:

- Green: No Conflict, i.e., a Single Protein unambiguously identified
- Yellow: Group of related proteins
- Orange: Group of Related and Unrelated Proteins
- Red: Group of Unrelated Proteins

How accurate is this type of sorting? [1.4s]

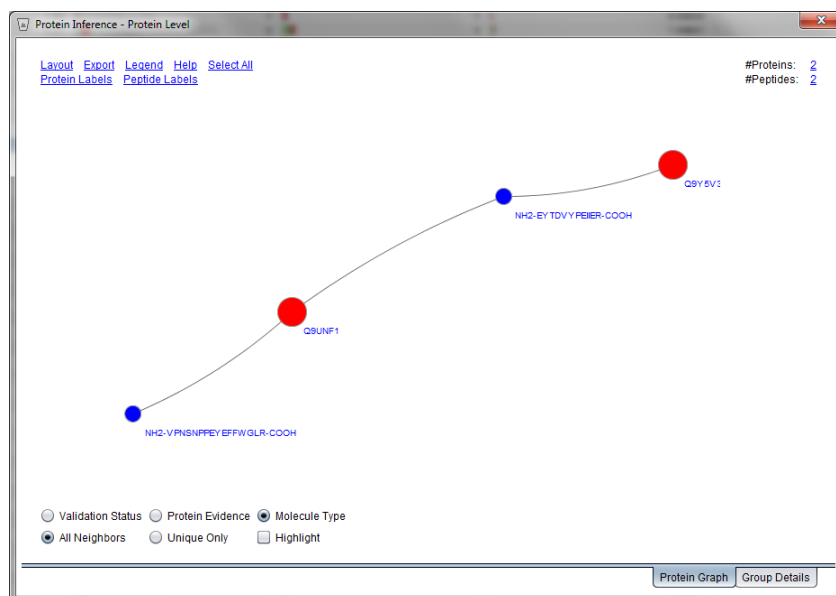


The conflict type can be changed in the Protein Inference dialog:



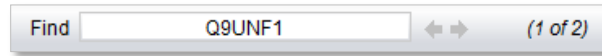
If the type is changed, the color for the group is updated in the PI column of the protein table.

Now look for protein [Q9UNF1](#), and click on the yellow box in the PI column. The Protein Inference dialog below will appear. Turn on both the Protein and Peptide Labels in the upper left corner:



Here, a peptide belonging to [Q9UNF1](#) was found shared with [Q9Y5V3](#), and the group was detected with a high confidence (100%). Additionally, the dialog also shows that [Q9UNF1](#) was also identified by unique peptides but with lower confidence. As a result, [Q9UNF1](#) will appear twice in the protein table: once as a group ([Q9UNF1](#) or [Q9Y5V3](#)) and once as unique hit ([Q9UNF1](#)).

In order to navigate such hits, we will use the Find feature of [PeptideShaker](#): type [Q9UNF1](#) in the top right corner of the interface.



Using the two arrows, you can navigate the two groups related to this accession. *Select the unique protein hit, what is the unique peptide for Q9UNF1 and what do you think of the quality of the peptide to spectrum match?* [\[1.4t\]](#)

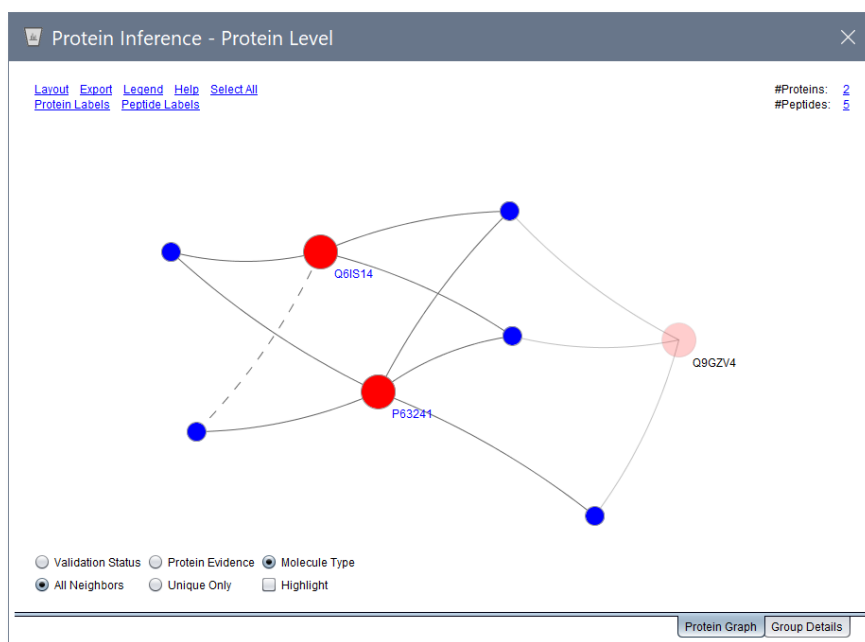
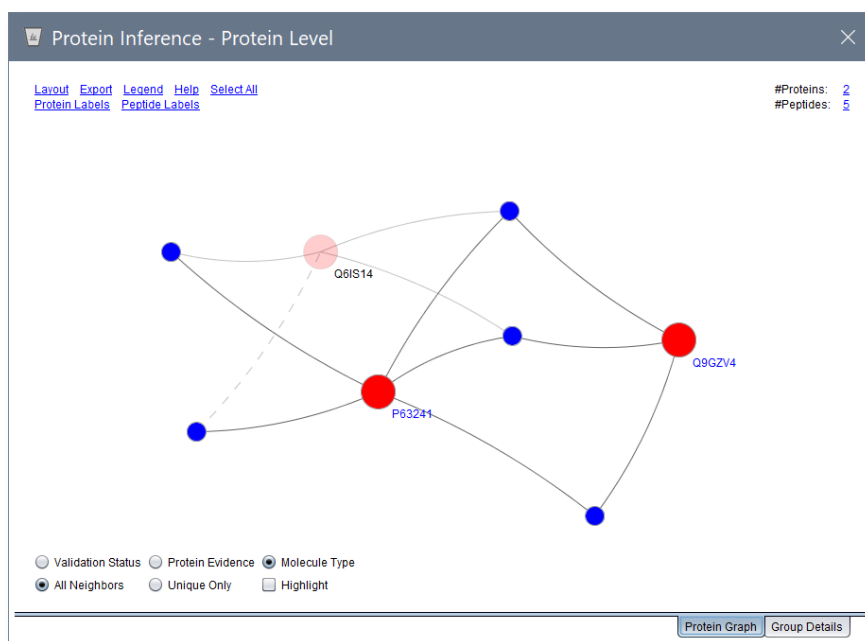
Note that you can change the retained accession for any group by selecting the protein in the first column in the Protein Inference dialog.

Can we delete a useless group? [\[1.4u\]](#)

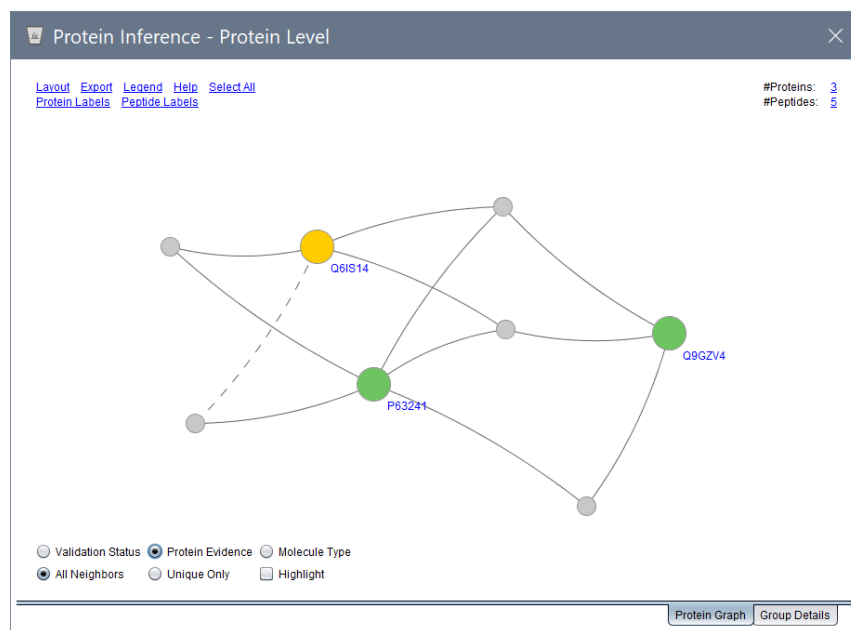
Tip:

The Find function accepts protein accessions, descriptions and even peptide sequences!

Similarly, if peptides shared with one of these proteins were found in another group, the group is reported in the 'Related Hits'. See for example the group "P63241 or Q9GZV4", where P63241 is shared with the group "P63241 or Q6IS14":



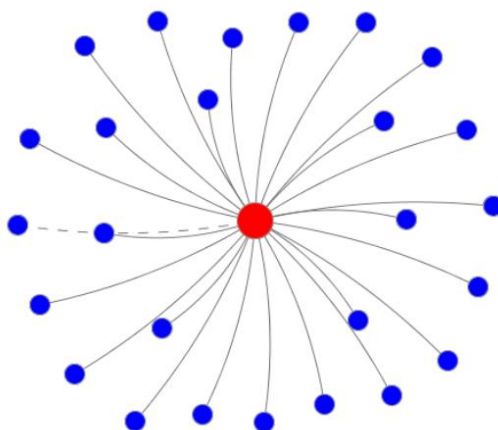
In cases such as this we might include additional evidence to try to decide between the groups. As an example, click the Protein Evidence option below the graph:



Now the proteins are color coded based on the protein evidence level from UniProt: green meaning that there is evidence at the protein level, while yellow means that the evidence for the protein is doubtful. In this case one could perhaps therefore assume that [Q6IS14](#) is less likely to be in our sample. However, without further follow-up studies we cannot rule this protein out or separate the two other proteins in the group, although if we remove [Q6IS14](#), [P63241](#) will then have a unique peptide.

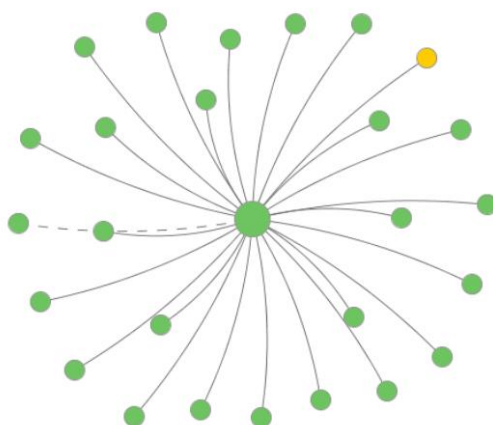
We will now look at some more examples of protein inference and see how graphs such as the ones above can help better understand the complexity of protein inference.

First, sort the proteins on the index column (the first column in the protein table) in ascending order by clicking the column header. Now select the protein [P13639 – Elongation factor 2 \(EF2_HUMAN\)](#) and click the green square in the PI column. This will show the [Protein Inference](#) dialog where you will see the following protein inference graph:

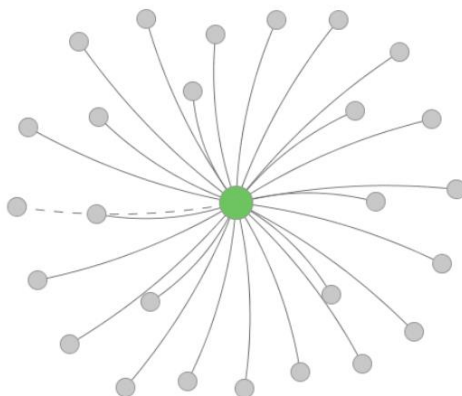


As before, the big red circle represents the protein while the blue smaller circles represent the peptides. A line is drawn between a peptide and a protein if the sequence of the peptide can be located in the sequence of the protein. A fully-drawn line means that the peptide sequence is enzymatic in the given protein, while a dotted line means that the peptide sequence is not adhering to all the cleavage rules of the enzyme used. *How many non-enzymatic peptides have been detected for the protein above?* [\[1.4v\]](#)

Now we will add some additional annotation on top of the graph. Select the [Validation Status](#) option below the graph. This will color the proteins and peptides depending on their validation status (from Confident (green), *via* Doubtful (yellow) to Not Validated (red)). (The validation details will be further explained in the next chapter.) *How many doubtful and non-validated peptides have been detected for the given protein?* [1.4w]



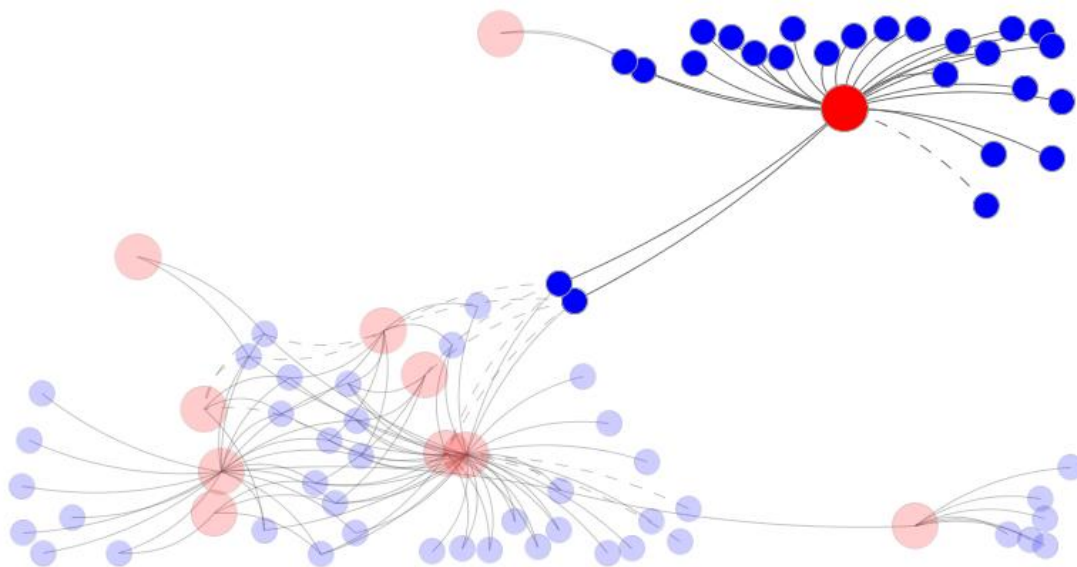
If a [UniProt](#) database is used it is also possible to color code the proteins based on the protein evidence available in [UniProt](#) (from Protein Evidence (green) to Uncertain (red)):



For an overview of the color coding options, click the [Legend](#) option at the top of the graph.



Now we will look at a slightly more complex example. Open the [Protein Inference](#) dialog for the protein P14625 - Endoplasmin (ENPL_HUMAN).



The highlighted protein in the upper right corner represents [Endoplasmin](#) (as you can confirm by holding the mouse over it), and the highlighted blue peptides represent the 25 peptides that could be explained by [Endoplasmin](#) being in our sample.

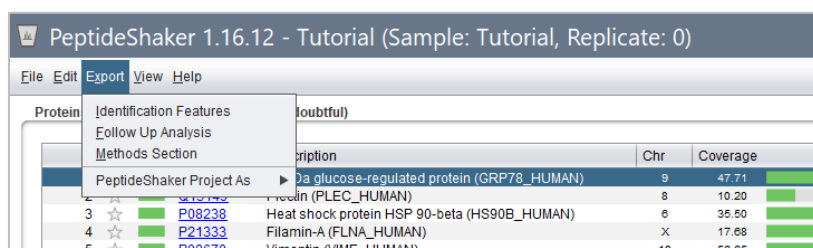
However, four of the peptides that could be explained by [Endoplasmin](#) could also come from other proteins. *By using the graph options, can you locate these four peptides? And how likely do you think that it is that each of them originates from Endoplasmin?* [1.4x]

If you have time, explore the protein inference graphs for other protein groups. *Can we avoid protein inference issues in shotgun proteomics?* [1.4y]

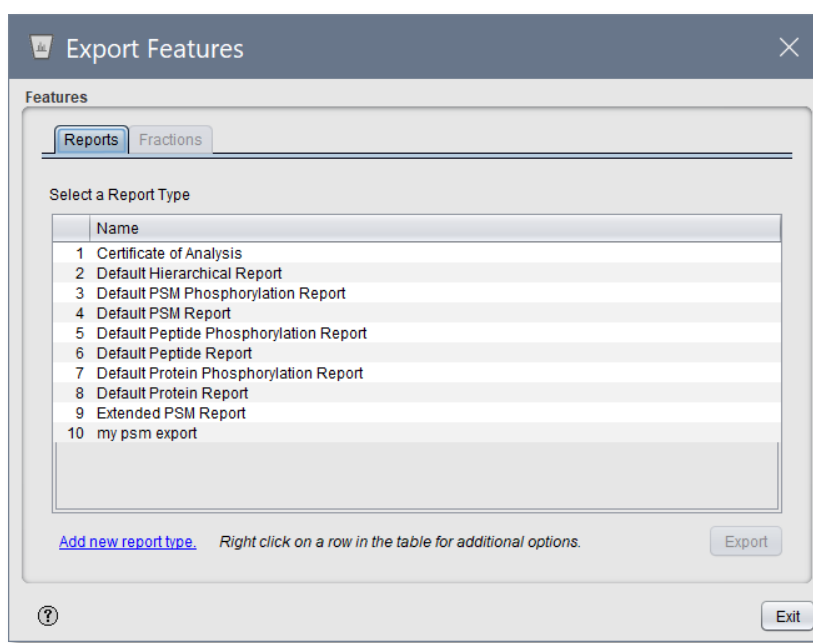


D. Exporting Data

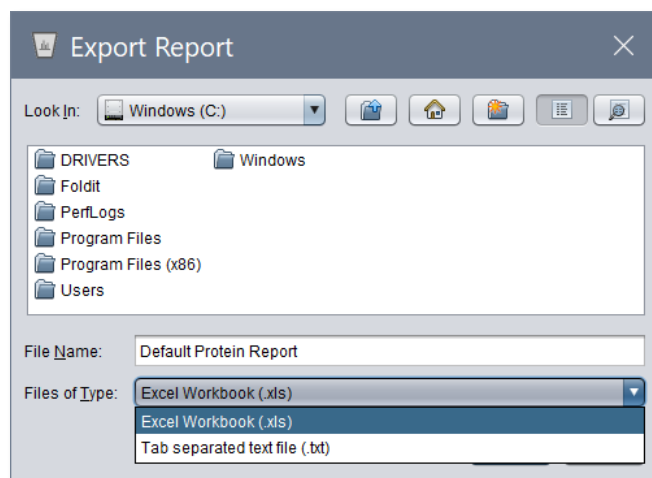
There are several ways to export data from PeptideShaker. In this section we will cover the four most important: (i) **Identification Features**, (ii) **Follow Up Analysis**, (iii) **Methods Section**, and (iv) **Complete project export** (either as mzIdentML⁵, e.g. for submission to public data repositories such as PRIDE⁶, or as a single zip file for sharing with other PeptideShaker users). All of these options are available via the Export menu.



The **Identification Features** export allows for the export of specific identification features in tab separated file or Excel Workbooks. A default set of reports are available at the protein, peptide and PSM level, but you can also set up your own custom reports by clicking the 'Add new report type' option in the lower left corner, here indicated by the report called “my psm export”.



The report file type, i.e. tab separated text file or Excel Workbook, is chosen as part of selecting the name and location of the file to export to:



Tip:

When exporting large amounts of data, it is recommended to choose the tab separated text file format as Excel Workbooks have a maximum limit for the number of rows it can contain.

Default Protein Report example opened in Excel:

| | Main Accession | Description | Gene Name | Chromosome | MW [kDa] | Digestible Coverage | Coverage [%] | Spectrum Count | Localized Modification | Localized Modification Count |
|----|----------------|--|-----------|------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 O75947 | ATP synthase ATP5H | | 17 | 18.4794955 | 86.96 | 19.25 | 58.1207237 | | |
| 2 | 2 Q8Y265 | RuvB-like 1 (FRUVBL1) | | 3 | 50.1963141 | 75.22 | 3.07 | 16.0367378 | | |
| 3 | 3 Q9Y266 | Nuclear migrator NUDC | | 1 | 38.2191274 | 91.54 | 13.29 | 34.5524678 | | |
| 4 | 4 Q4VC44 | FLYWCH-type1 FLYWCH1 | | 16 | 80.0576898 | 73.04 | 1.96 | 20.1886441 | | |
| 5 | 5 P13073 | Cytochrome c COX411 | | 16 | 19.5640485 | 87.57 | 13.61 | 55.3694469 | | |
| 6 | 6 Q00839 | Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein HNRNPU | | 1 | 90.5280047 | 61.45 | 11.03 | 31.3649216 | Oxidation of I | Oxidation of M(3 |
| 7 | 7 O14548 | Cytochrome c COX7A2L | | 2 | 12.6065043 | 50 | 11.4 | 77.0159384 | | |
| 8 | 8 Q9H0D6 | 5'-3' exoribonuclease XRN2 | | 20 | 108.513287 | 64.53 | 1.79 | 11.113345 | | |
| 9 | 9 Q9BQ67 | Glutamate-rich protein GRWD1 | | 19 | 49.388163 | 39.46 | 3.59 | 16.5034154 | | |
| 10 | 10 Q8NE71 | ATP-binding cassette ABCF1 | CHR_HSCHR | | 95.8664755 | 73.73 | 5.92 | 16.6621021 | | |
| 11 | 11 Q6PJT7 | Zinc finger C2C3H14 | | 14 | 82.8233301 | 70.38 | 2.04 | 9.39501659 | | |
| 12 | 12 Q9Y266 | Nuclear migrator NUDC | | 1 | 38.2191274 | 91.54 | 13.29 | 34.5524678 | | |



Example of how to set up a custom report:

The 'Report' dialog box is shown with the following settings:

- Report Type:** My custom report
- Settings:**
 - Structure:** ☐ Report Title, ☐ Section Titles, ☒ Line Numbers, ☒ Table Headers
 - Column Delimiter:** ☒ Tab, ☐ Semicolon, ☐ Comma, ☐ Space
 - Matches:** ☒ Validated Only, ☐ Include Decoys
 - Row Delimiter:** 0 #lines between sections
- Report Title:** (empty field)
- Sections:**
 - 1 Protein Identification Summary
 - 2 Peptide Identification Summary
 - 3 Peptide Spectrum Matching Summary
 - 4 Identification Algorithm Results
 - 5 Annotation Settings
 - 6 Input Filters
 - 7 Project Details
- Section Content:**

| | Section | Name | Description |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1 Protein Identification Summary | Main Accession | Accession of the leading protein o... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 Protein Identification Summary | Description | Description of the leading protein ... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 Protein Identification Summary | Descriptions | Description of the proteins of the ... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 Protein Identification Summary | Ensembl Gene ID | The Ensembl gene ID associated... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5 Protein Identification Summary | Gene Name | The gene names of the Ensembl... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 Protein Identification Summary | Chromosome | The chromosome of the Ensembl... |

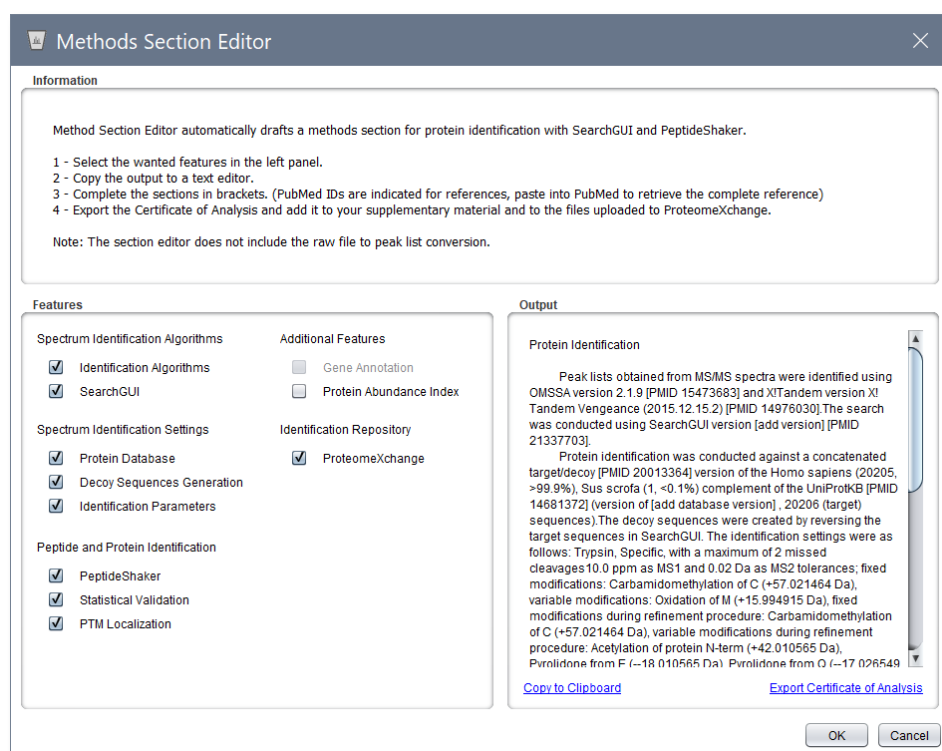
Buttons: OK, Cancel

Next, the **Follow Up Analysis** option makes it straightforward to export data for various follow up analyses, for example exporting all the unidentified spectra for special processing or exporting the list of protein sequences for all the validated proteins.

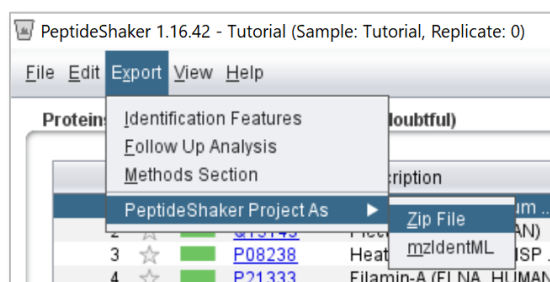
The 'Export - Follow Up Analysis' dialog box is shown with the following options:

- Spectra:**
 - Export Spectra: Spectra of Non-Validated PSMs (dropdown), Export as MGF (button)
 - Recalibrate Spectra (beta): Precursor and Fragment Ions (dropdown), Export as MGF (button)
- Proteins:**
 - Export Accession Numbers: Main Accession of Validated Protein Groups (dropdown), Export as TXT (button)
 - Export Sequences: Main Accession of Validated Protein Groups (dropdown), Export as FASTA (button)
- Label Free Quantification:**
 - Progenesis LC-MS: Validated PSMs of Validated Peptides of Validated Proteins (dropdown), Export TXT (button)
- Graph Databases:**
 - Database Format: Cytoscape (dropdown), Export Database (button)
- Inclusion/Exclusion List (beta):**
 - Instrument Format: Thermo (dropdown), Export as List (button)
- Skyline Export (beta):**
 - mIdentML Format: (no filters yet supported) (dropdown), Export as mIdent (button)
- TPP Export (beta):**
 - pepXML Format: (no filters yet supported) (dropdown), Export as pepXML (button)

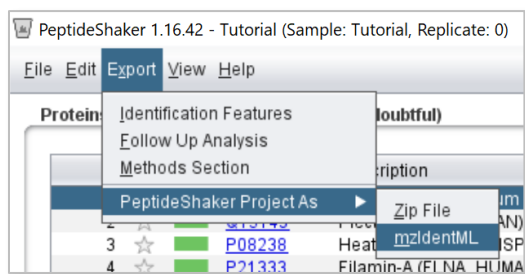
The [Methods Section](#) export option makes it easy to collect all the details required for the Methods section of your publication. Simply select the features you want to include, and a Methods section draft is created for you. All you have to do is replace the PubMed identifiers using your reference manager of choice. This greatly simplifies the extraction of the numerous settings used as part of the identification procedure and ensures that no details are missed.



If you want to share your PeptideShaker project with a colleague or collaborator, the best option is to export the complete project as a single zip file. This ensures that all the required files are included and that the exported project can easily be opened on any computer with PeptideShaker installed.



Finally, it is also straightforward to export all of the combined identification results in the standard mzIdentML data format:



Simply fill in the required details regarding contact and organization, choose the output file, and click the “Convert” button.

A screenshot of the 'Export mzIdentML' dialog box. It contains three main sections: 'Contact', 'Organization', and 'Output File'. The 'Contact' section has fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'E-mail', 'Address', and 'URL'. The 'Organization' section has fields for 'Name', 'E-mail', 'Address', and 'URL'. The 'Output File' section has a 'File' field with a 'Browse' button and a checkbox for 'Include Protein Sequences'. At the bottom, there is a question mark icon, a note 'Insert the required information and click Convert to export the project to mzIdentML.', and a 'Convert!' button.

For further details on how to submit the generated mzIdentML file to the PRIDE data repository, please see Chapter 3 – Data Sharing.

References

1. Vaudel, M. et al. PeptideShaker enables reanalysis of MS-derived proteomics data sets. *Nat Biotech* **33**, 22-24 (2015).
2. Martens, L. et al. PRIDE: the proteomics identifications database. *Proteomics* **5**, 3537-3545 (2005).
3. Nesvizhskii, A.I. & Aebersold, R. Interpretation of shotgun proteomic data: the protein inference problem. *Mol Cell Proteomics* **4**, 1419-1440 (2005).
4. Magrane, M. & Consortium, U. UniProt Knowledgebase: a hub of integrated protein data. *Database : the journal of biological databases and curation* **2011**, bar009 (2011).
5. Jones, A.R. et al. The mzIdentML data standard for mass spectrometry-based proteomics results. *Mol Cell Proteomics* **11**, M111 014381 (2012).
6. Vizcaino, J.A. et al. 2016 update of the PRIDE database and its related tools. *Nucleic Acids Res* **44**, D447-456 (2016).

