



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

BSPR – workshop  
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# Quantitative Proteomics

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[www.bio.cam.ac.uk/proteomics/](http://www.bio.cam.ac.uk/proteomics/)

# Outline

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Quantitation in proteomics

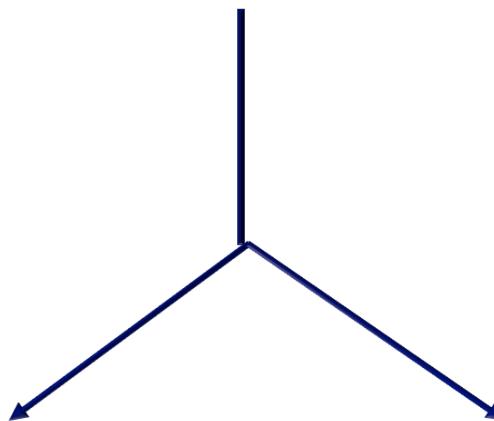
    Relative Quantitation

    Absolute Quantitation

Importance of Experimental Design

Importance of Suitable Data Analysis

# Quantitative Proteomics



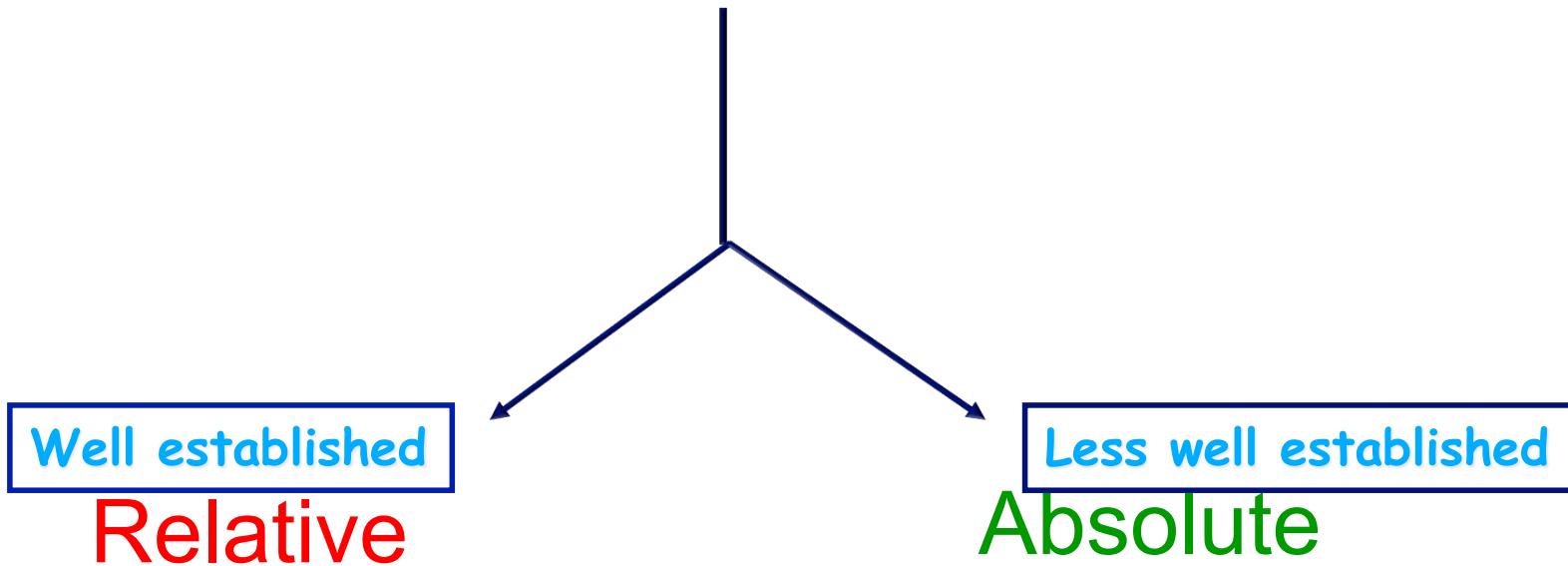
Relative

fold change

Absolute

absolute amount

# Quantitative Proteomics



- Comparative levels of proteins between two or more samples

- 2D gel/ DIGE
- Isobaric labelling iTRAQ/TMT
- Metabolic labelling/ SILAC
- Label Free

- Rank order of protein abundance
  - Assessment of stoichiometry
  - Facilitates targeted analysis
  - Transferable data sets
- 
- Internal standards  
(usually peptide surrogates)

# Outline

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Quantitation in proteomics

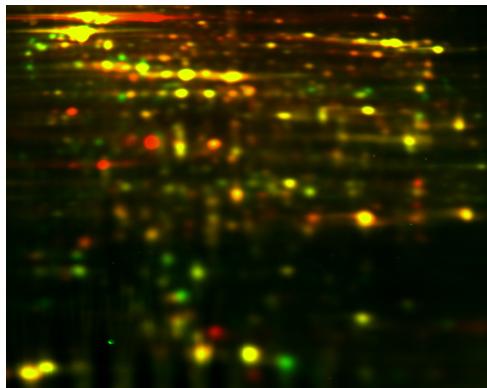
**Relative Quantitation**

Absolute Quantitation

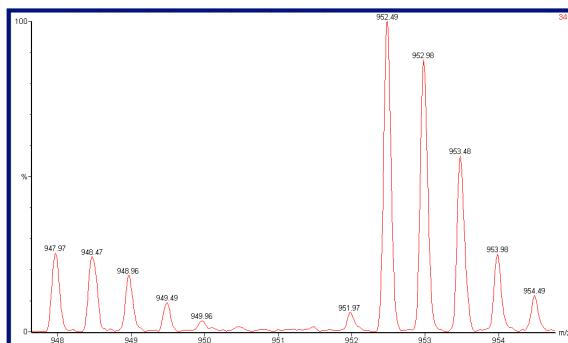
Importance of Experimental Design

Importance of Suitable Data Analysis

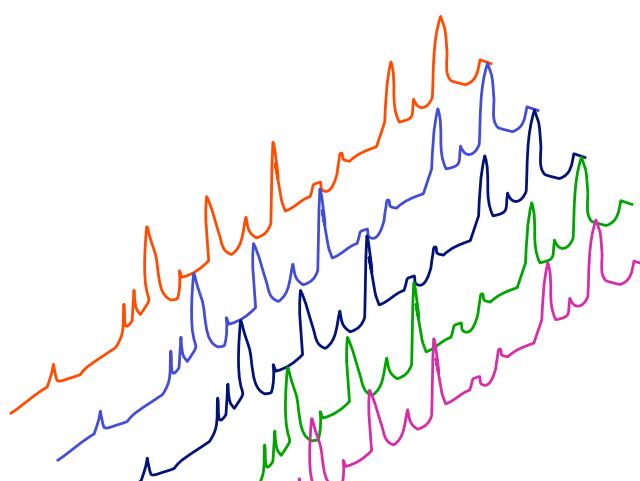
# Quantitative proteomics methodologies



Gel based



Stable isotope labelling

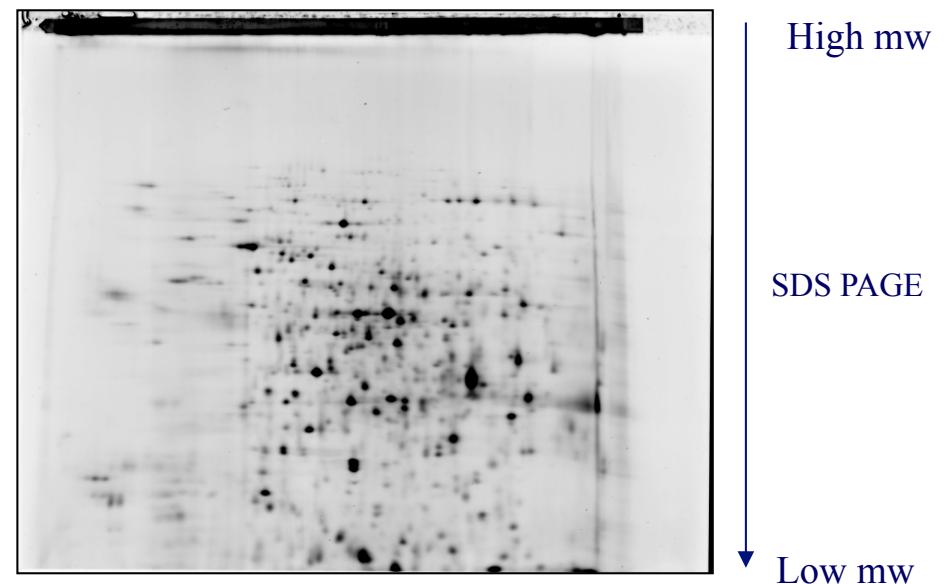


Label free

# 2D PAGE

- Visualize many proteins at once
- Relatively quick
- Great way of storing samples
- Detect isoforms if pI shift
- Relatively inexpensive
- Can use with functional stains
- Poor gel to gel reproducibility
- Many stains not linear along dynamic range
- No good for membrane proteins

acidic      **Isoelectric focussing**      basic



**1<sup>st</sup> dimension**  
= pI

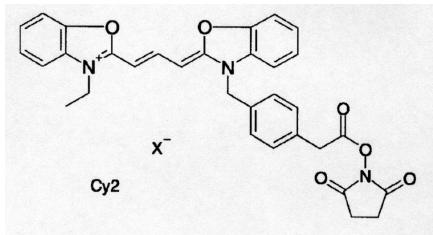
**2<sup>nd</sup> dimension**  
= MW

# Difference Gel Electrophoresis

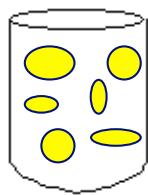
## DIGE

- First described by Jon Minden (Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburg, USA)
  - Ünlü M. et al (1997). *Electrophoresis*, 18, 2071-2077

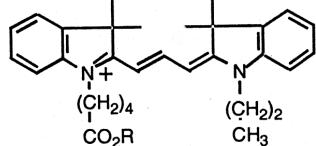
Sample 1



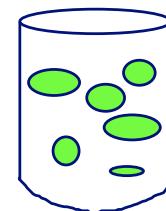
label with cy2  
in dark 30mins @ 4°C



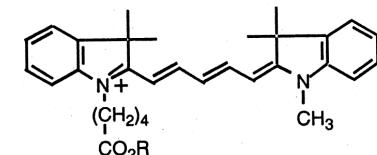
Sample 2



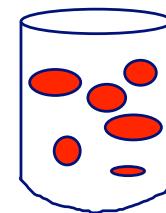
label with cy3  
in dark 30mins @ 4°C



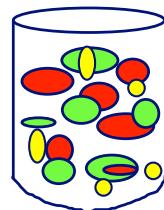
Sample 3



label with cy5  
in dark 30mins @ 4°C



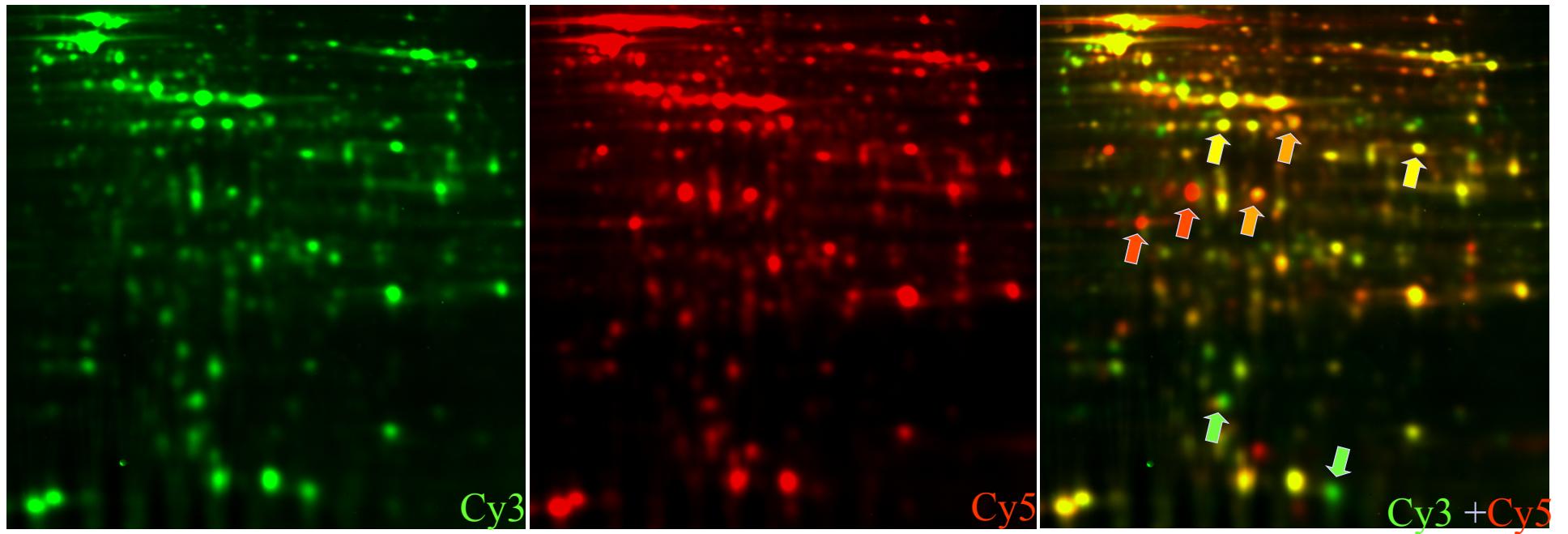
quench un-reacted dye  
by adding 1mM lysine  
in dark 10mins @ 4°C



→ 2D gel electrophoresis

## Difference Gel Electrophoresis

•Ünlü M. et al (1997). *Electrophoresis*, 18, 2071-2077



**no difference**



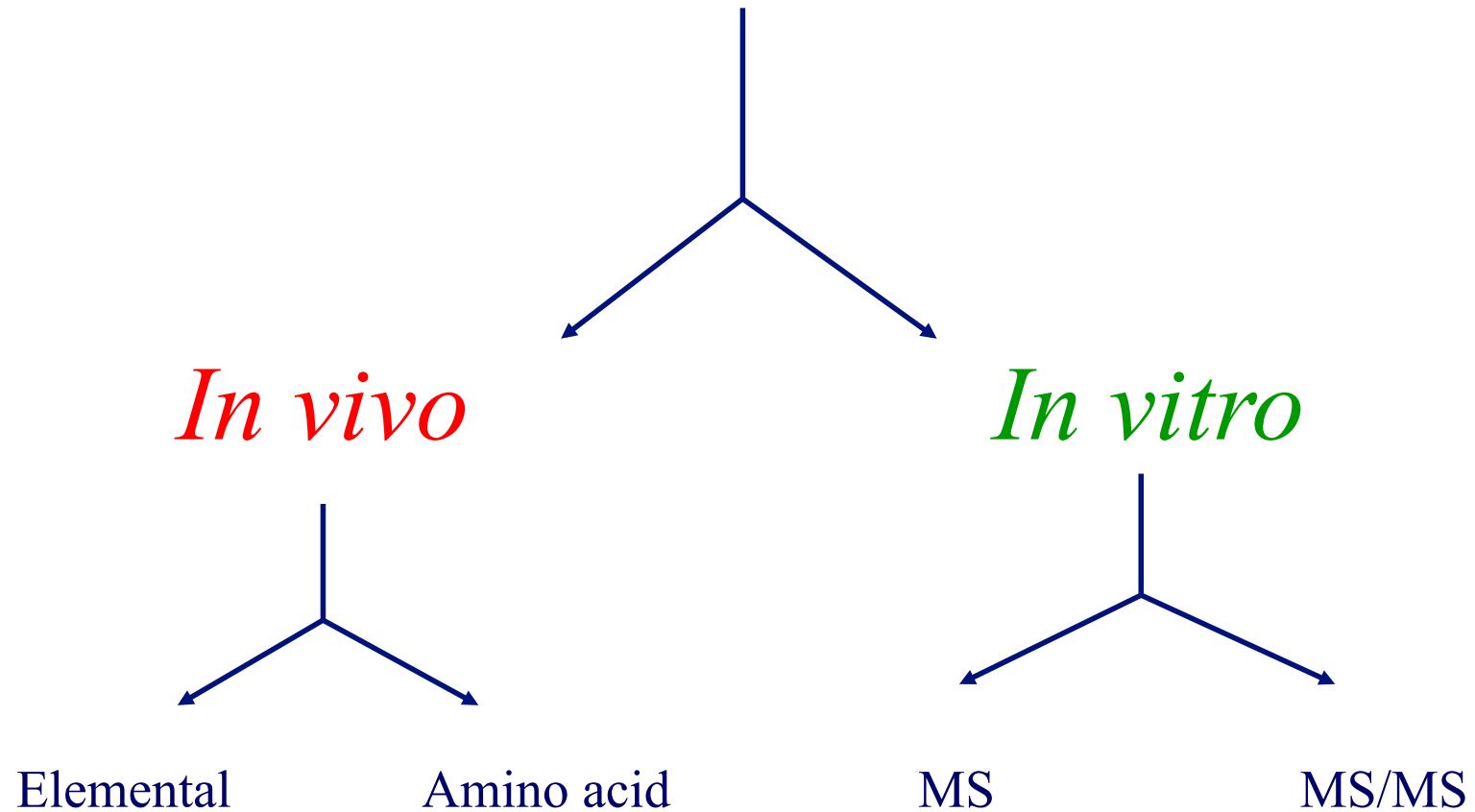
**presence / absence**



**up / down-regulation**



# Quantification using stable isotope labelling



# Stable Isotope Labelling - *in vivo*

Sample 1  
incorporates  
natural isotope

Sample 2  
incorporates  
heavier isotope

Digest with protease

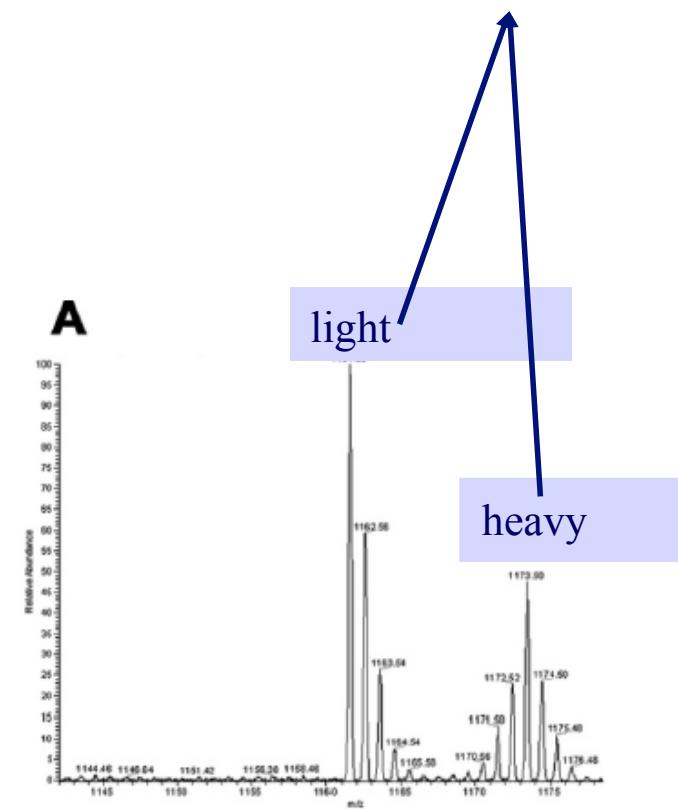
Mixture of light/heavy peptides

LC separation – usually multi dimensional



Quantitation in MS

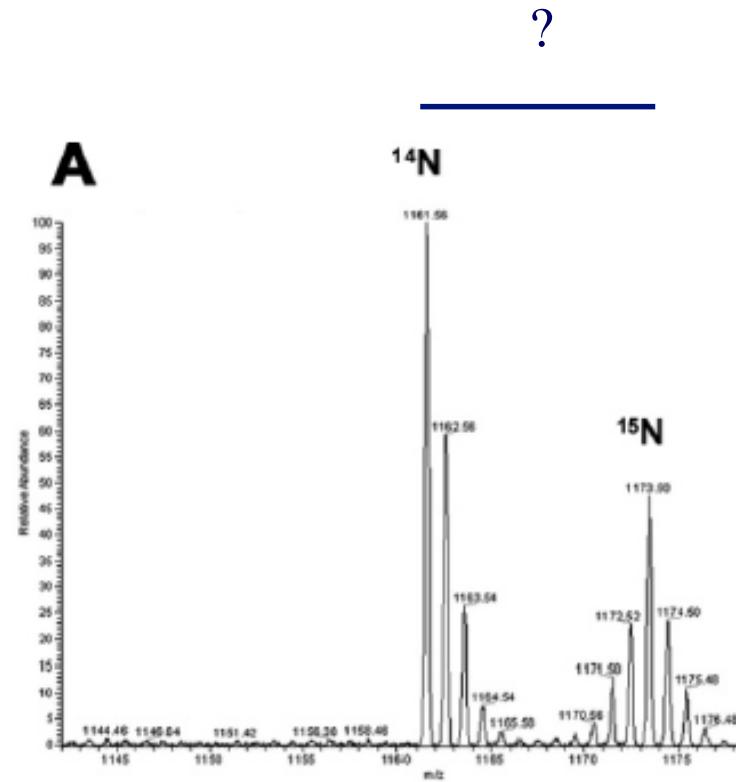
MS/MS to identify



# Stable Isotope Labelling - *in vivo*

## 1. Elemental

- Samples grown in medium where there is replacement of an element with a stable isotope
- Typically  $^{15}\text{N}$  instead of  $^{14}\text{N}$ , or  $^{13}\text{C}$  instead of  $^{12}\text{C}$
- $^{13}\text{C}$  not often used as more carbon in proteins than nitrogen and therefore big mass shifts
- Do not know mass difference between light and heavy pairs unless sequence is deduced (retention times)

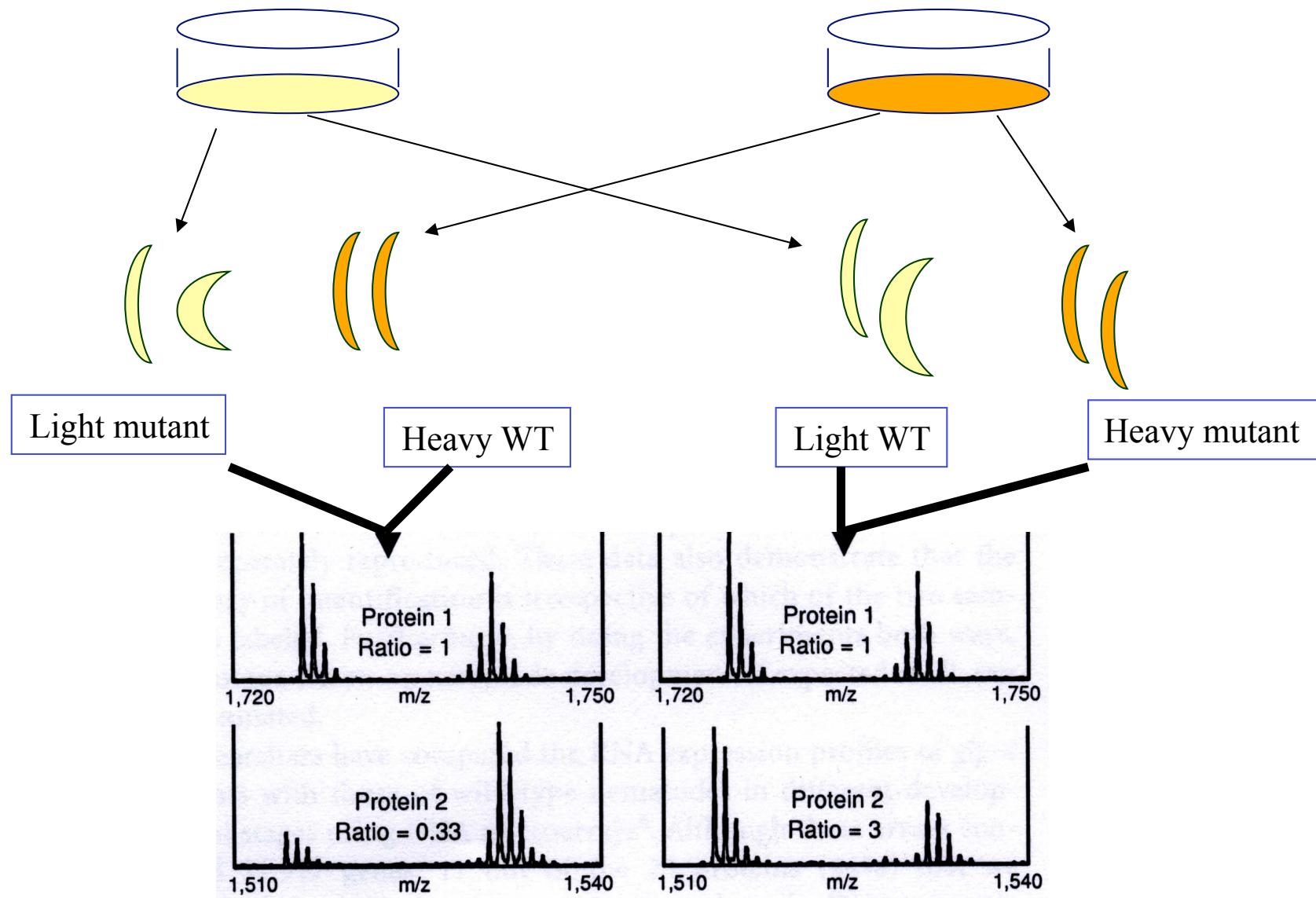


Types of samples suitable?

Bacterial / Cell culture

# Examples

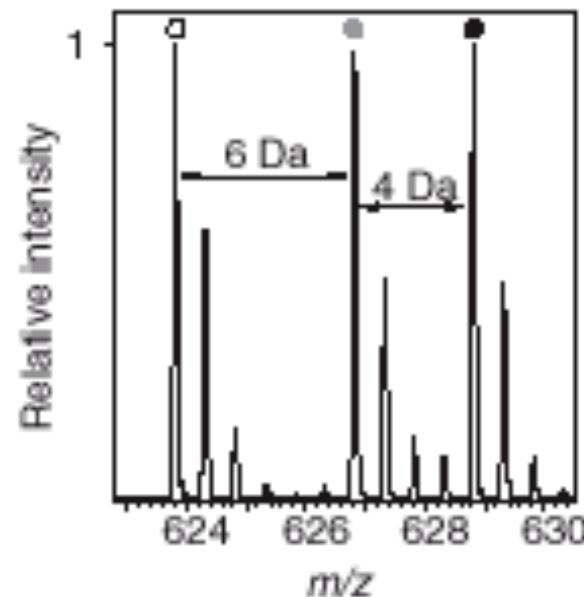
*E. coli* grown on  $^{15}\text{N}$  sole nitrogen source and then fed to *C. elegans*



# Stable Isotope Labelling - *in vivo*

## 1. Amino acid - SILAC (Stable Isotope Labeling with Amino acids in Cell culture)

- Samples grown in medium where there is replacement of an amino acid with heavier stable isotopic form of the amino acid
- Typically  $^{13}\text{C}$  instead of  $^{12}\text{C}$  – labelled lysine, arginine or leucine
- Know the mass difference between light and heavy pairs
- Need to check for extent of incorporation
- £££ as need also to buy depleted medium



Types of samples suitable?

Bacterial / Cell culture

# Stable Isotope Labelling – *in vivo*

## SILAC Mouse

Krüger et al (2008) Cell 134(2):353-64

## SILAC Drosophila

Sury et al (2010) Mol. Cell Prot. On-line

Problem is the conversion of Arg to Pro

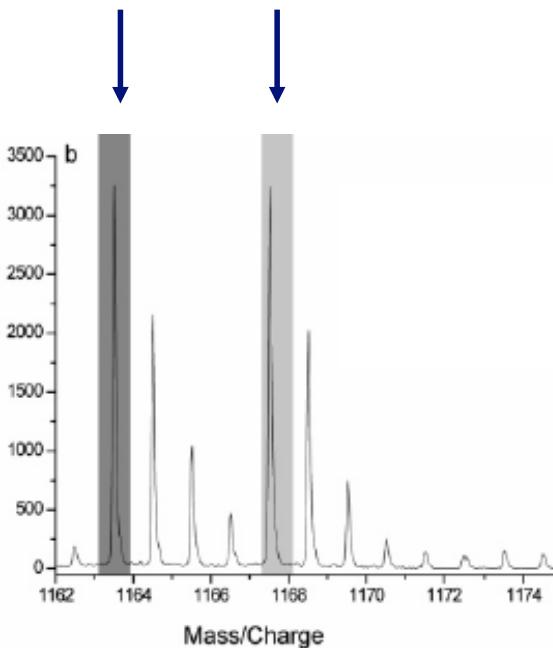
many in higher organisms only use labeled lysine and digestion with LysC, this gives rise to longer peptides for analysis

# Stable Isotope Labelling - *in vitro*

## 1. Analysis at MS stage

- Many variants including
  - Isotopes introduced during proteolysis  
 $^{18}\text{O}$  – labelled water, C-termini
  - Guanidation of lysine using isotopes of O-methyl isourea – lysine residues
  - Dimethyl labelling – lysine residues
- Mostly the above lead to small mass differences
- Back exchange can be a problem with trypsin

$^{16}\text{O}$        $^{18}\text{O}$

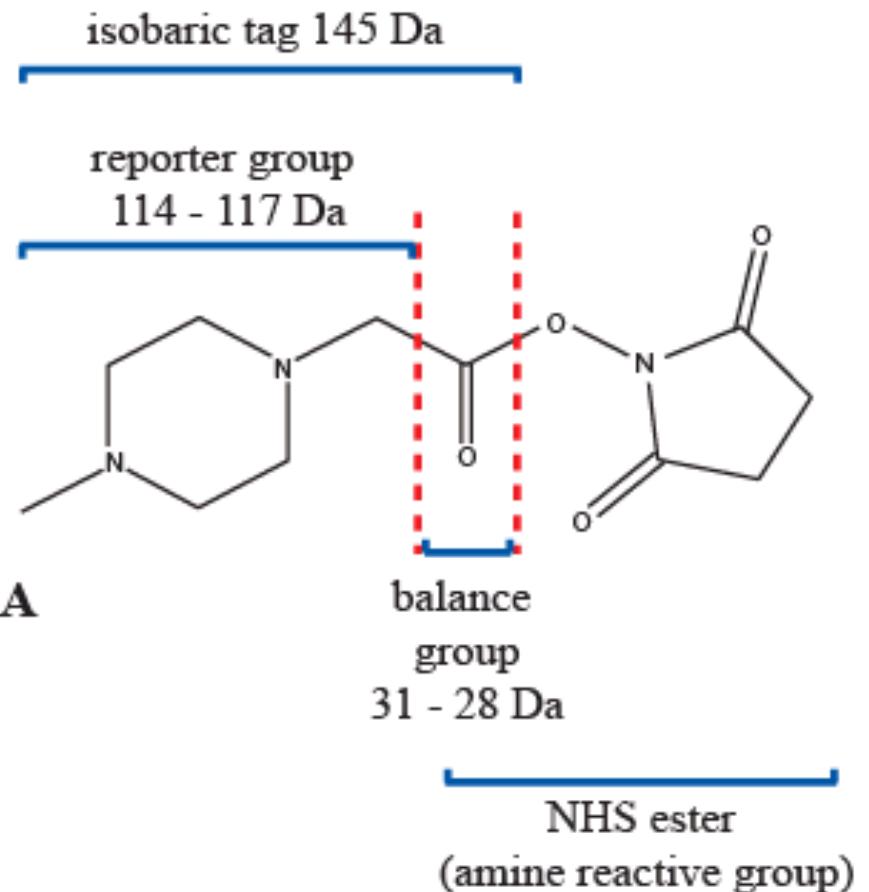


# Stable Isotope Labelling - *in vitro*

## 2. Analysis at MS/MS stage

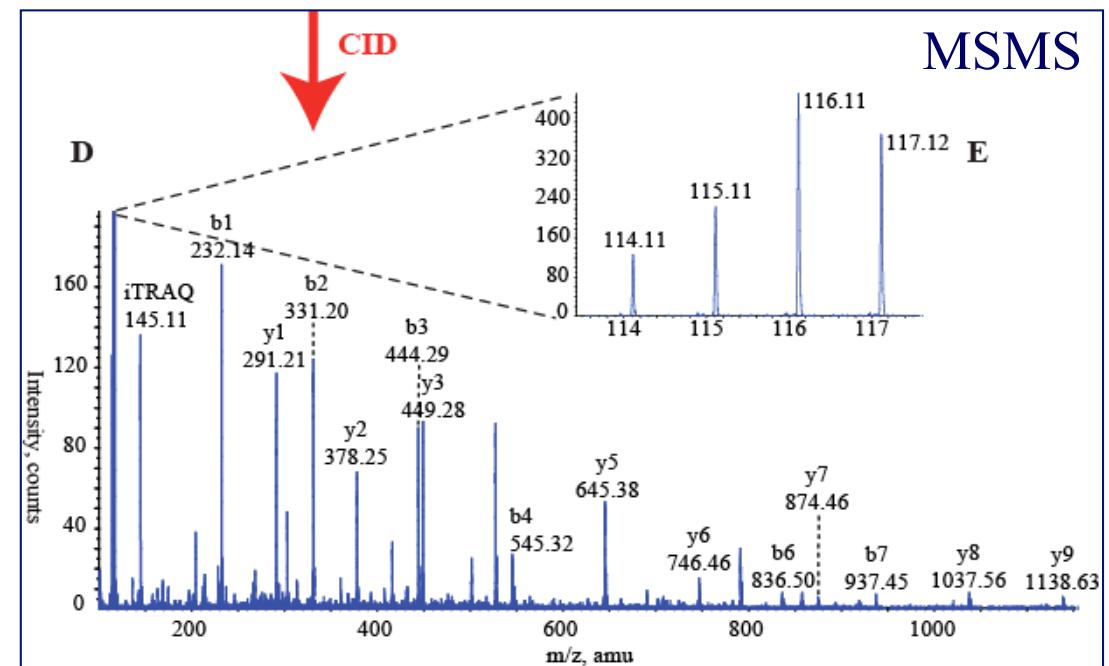
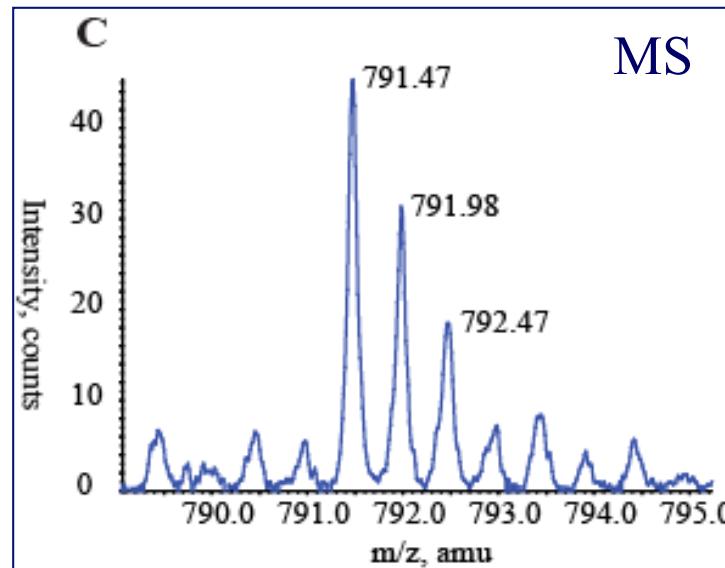
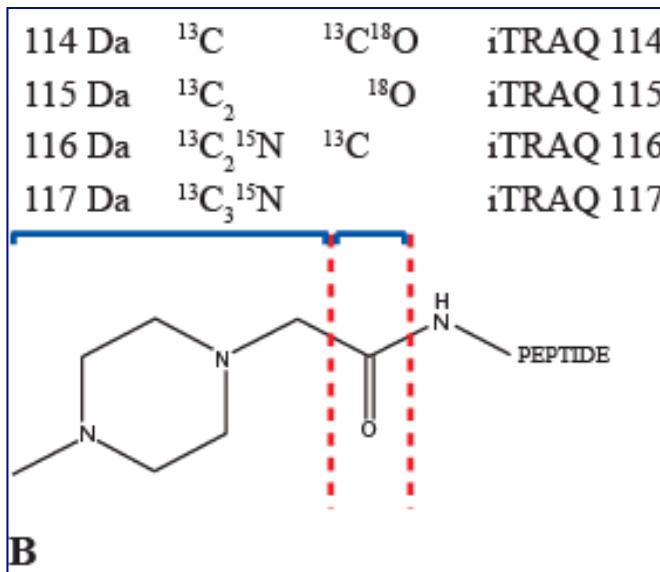
iTRAQ reagents (Amine Modifying Labeling Reagents for Multiplexed Relative and Absolute Protein Quantitation)

- 4 x isobaric tags - all 145 Da
- React with primary amines
- Label at peptide level
- Fragment during MSMS to produce characteristic reporter ion for each tag

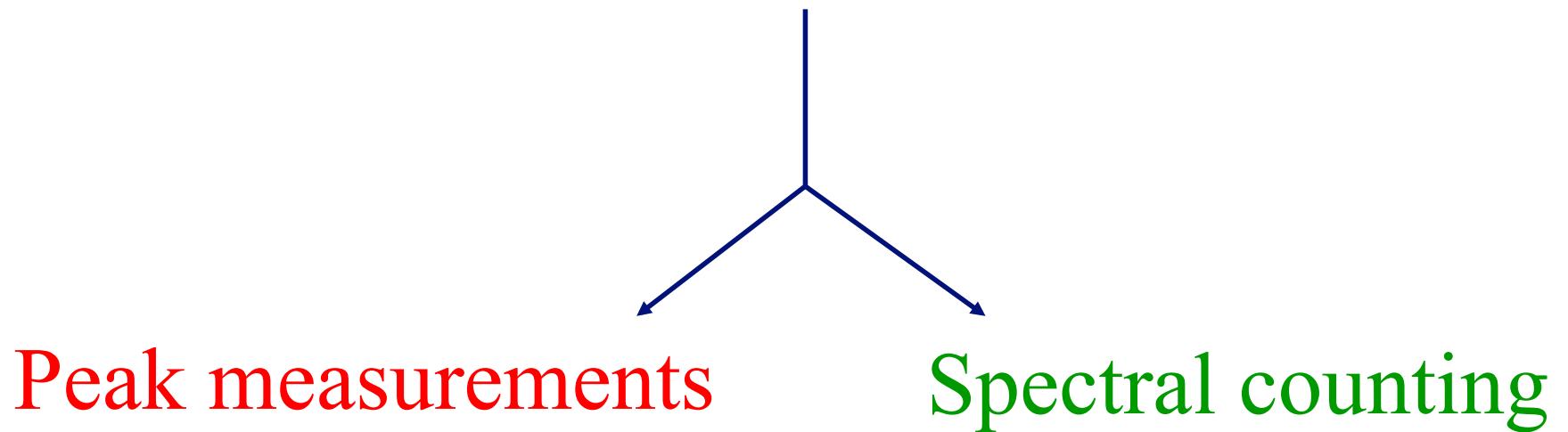


# Stable Isotope Labelling - *i*TRAQ

## Isotopic Variation



# Quantitation using a label free approach



# Label Free Proteomics -Peaks

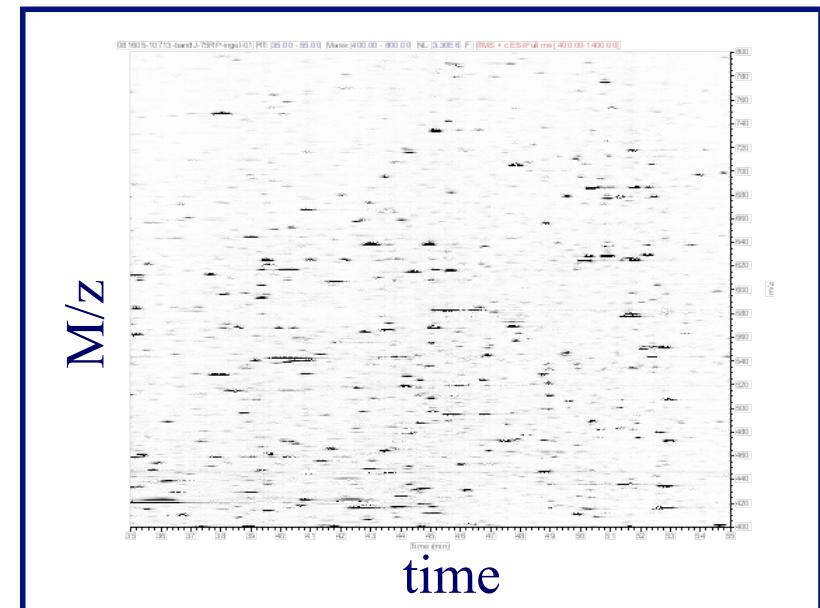
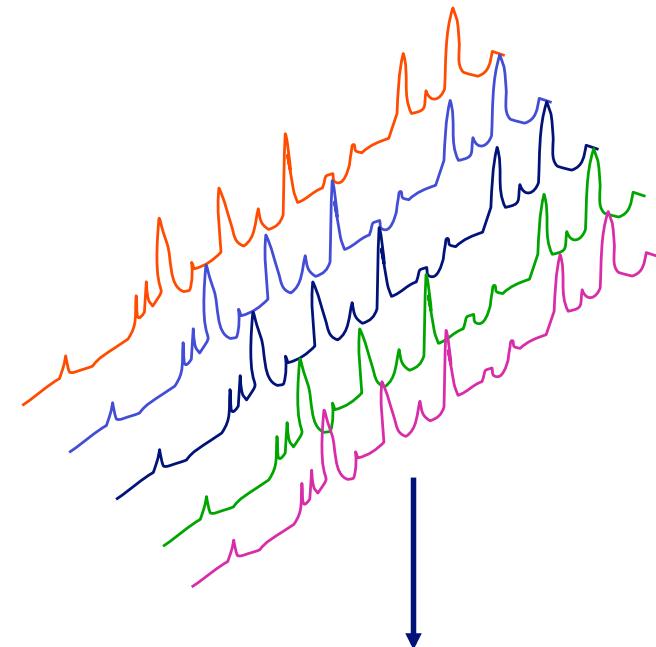
## Ion intensity measurements

Compare peak intensities of the same ion in consecutive LCMS runs

Need to match retention times with m/z values

Can be targeted approach collecting MSMS information in a separate run only fragmenting ions showing change in abundance

Essential to have good mass accuracy and reproducible retention times



# Label Free Proteomics - Spectral counting

## Spectral counts

Number of non-redundant spectra matching the same proteins

The number of redundant peptides observed correlates with abundance

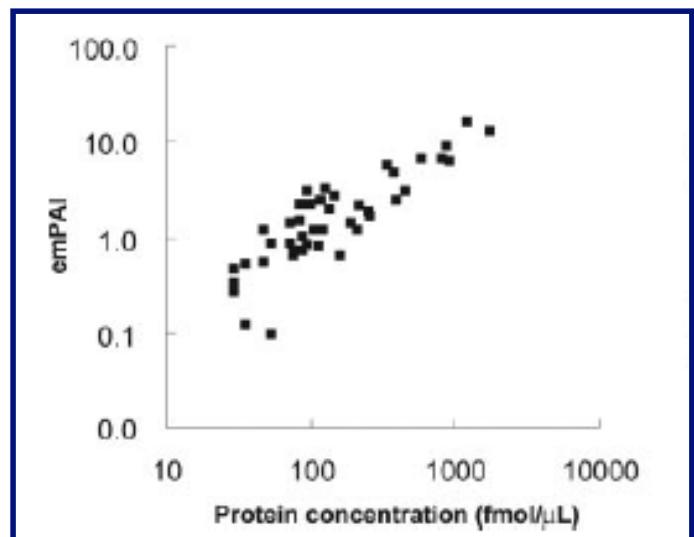
Must take length of protein into account  
emPAI software available for analysis  
(Exponentially modified protein abundance index)

See: Ishihama Y, *et al* Mol Cell Proteomics.  
(2005) 4(9):1265-72

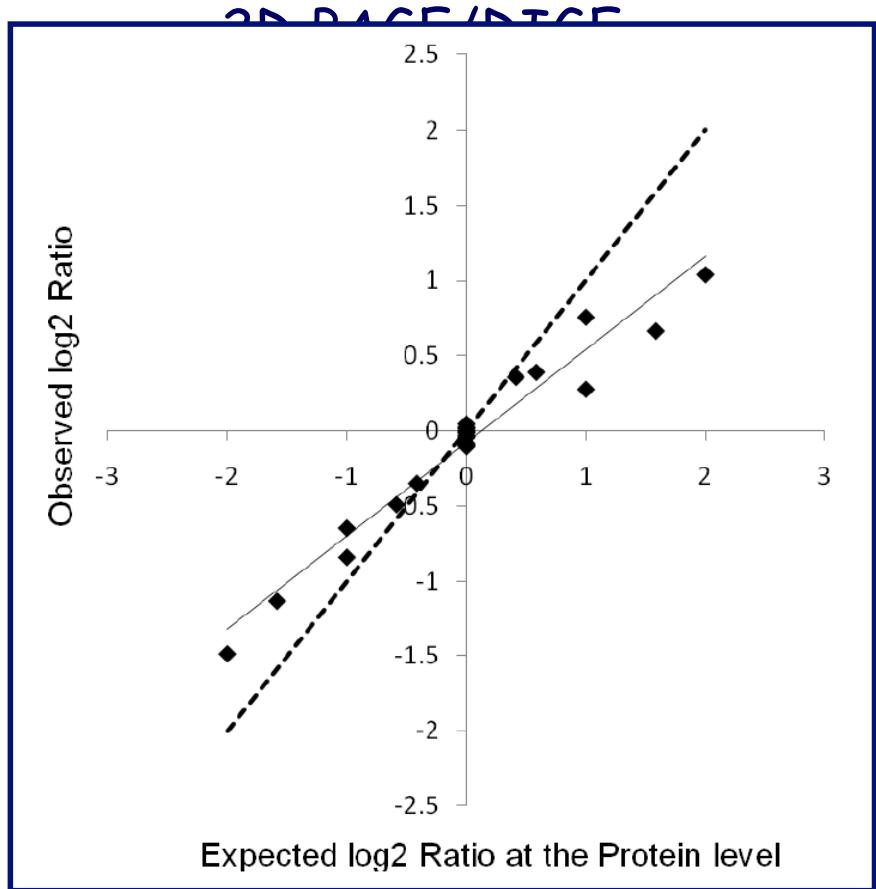
PAI = protein abundance index

number of observed peptides /number of observable peptides

$$\text{emPAI} = 10^{\text{PAI}} - 1$$



# Summary



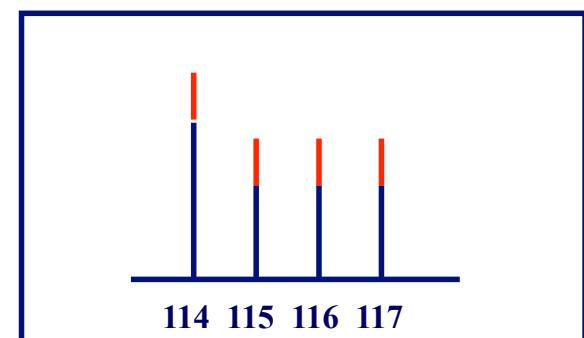
in separation  
age as no membrane proteins

potentially  
re growth conditions can be specified

potentially  
ing  
leads to unestimation of large fold changes

## Label free

- Cheap
- Complex data analysis
- Greatest variance?



# Outline

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Quantitation in proteomics

Relative Quantitation

Absolute Quantitation

Importance of Experimental Design

Importance of Suitable Data Analysis

# Absolute Quantitation

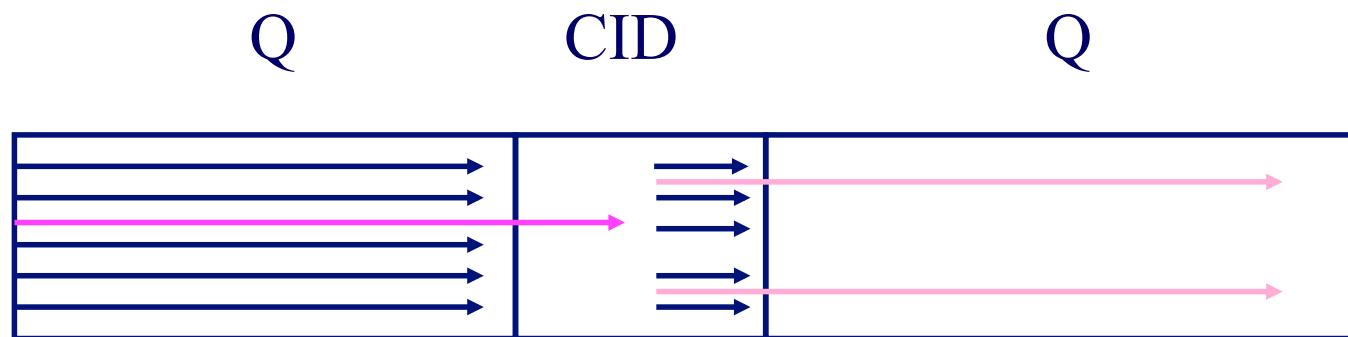
Assay proteins of interest

MS based absolute quantitation works by measuring peptide ‘surrogate’ simultaneously against quantified internal standard.

**Surrogate = peptides**

The ions that are used for measurement are generally MS/MS fragment ions which are discriminatory for the peptide of choice

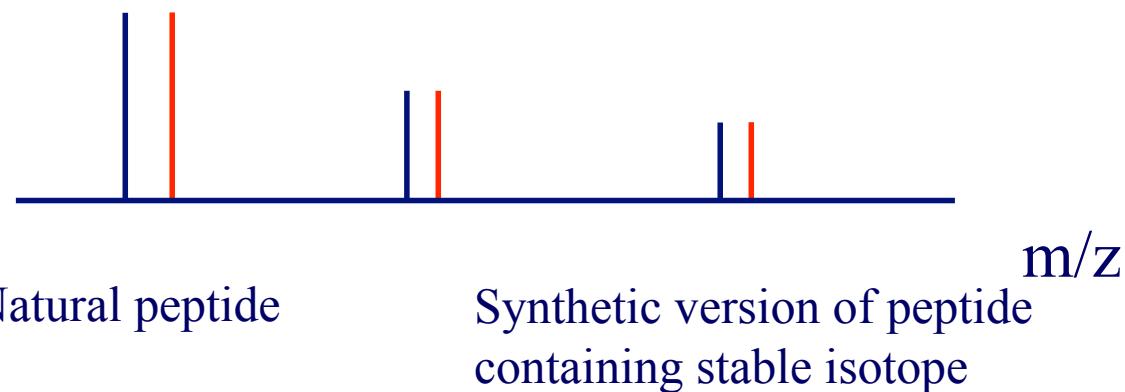
# Multiple Reaction Monitoring



Precursor ion selected

Collision  
Induced  
Fragmentation

Diagnostic fragment ions selected  
= transitions



# How to create good peptide internal standard?

AQUA

- Gerber *et al* (2003) *PNAS* 100(12):6940-5

QconCAT

- Beynon *et al* (2005) *Nat. Methods* 2(8):587-9.

Labelled proteins ‘mass Western’

- Lehmann *et al* (2008) *The Plant Journal* 55:1039–1046

Good Example

- Full dynamic range proteome analysis of *S. cerevisiae* by targeted proteomics. Picotti P, Bodenmiller B, Mueller LN, Domon B, Aebersold R. *Cell*. 2009 138(4):795-806

# AQUA

Stable isotope tagged  
synthetic peptide

protein of interest



**Assumption: Stoichiometric release of peptide surrogate.  
Internal standard not generated by tryptic cleavage**

Tryptic digestion



# QconCAT

Stable isotope labelled synthetic protein  
Constructed from concatenated peptides(Qprotein)



Protein of interest



**Assumption: Stoichiometric release of peptide surrogate.  
Internal standard not generated by identical tryptic cleavage**

Tryptic digestion



# Recombinant labelled protein Mass Western

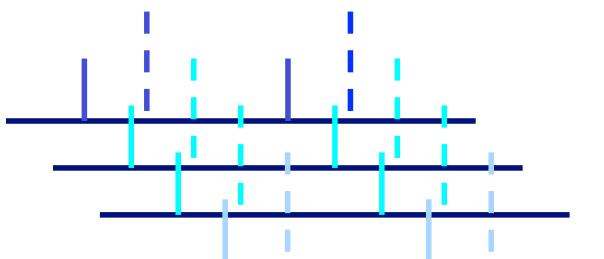
Stable

**Assumption:**

Identical tryptic cleavage for internal standard and surrogate.

Complete set of internal standards

Tryptic digestion



# LC-MS<sup>E</sup>

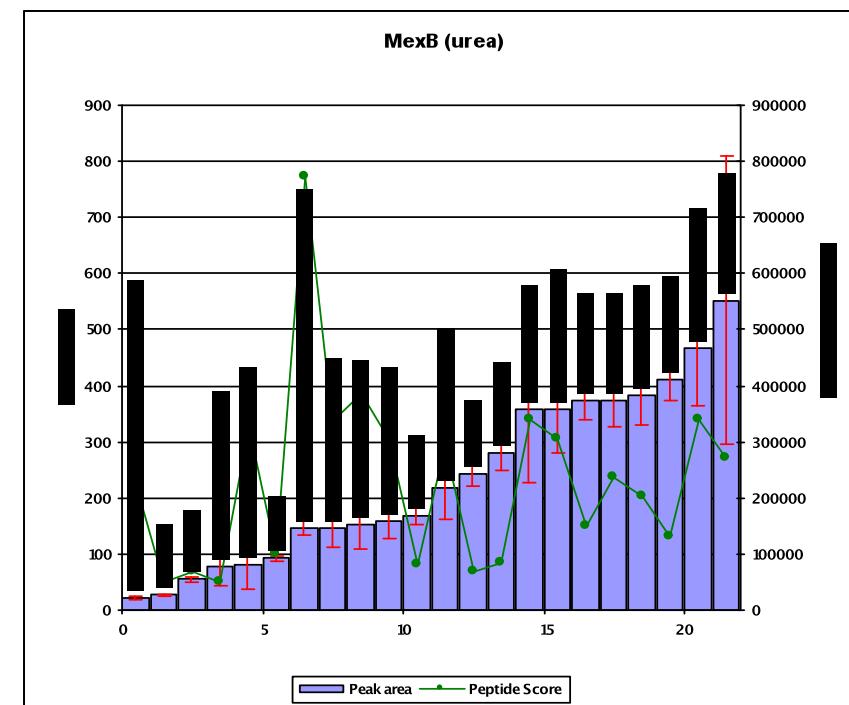
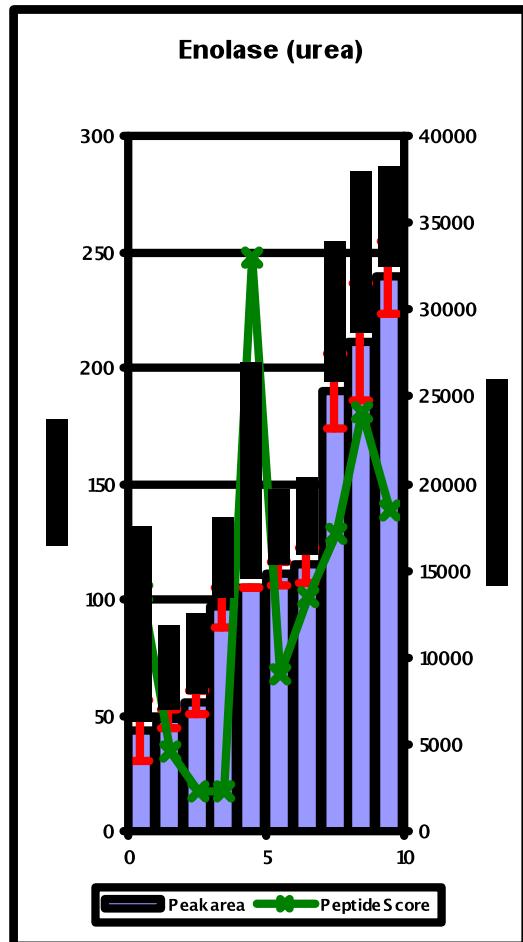
## Multiplexed data acquisition

Add known amounts of peptides to calibrate absolute quantification and validate the performance of the LC-MS<sup>E</sup> system.

- Collision Energy in gas cell alternated between
  - Low energy (5eV)
  - Elevated energy (linear 15 eV - 42 eV)

Silva et. al., Anal Chem. (2005)  
Liu et. al. Proteomics (2009)

# MSE Absolute and estimated Quantitation



# Outline

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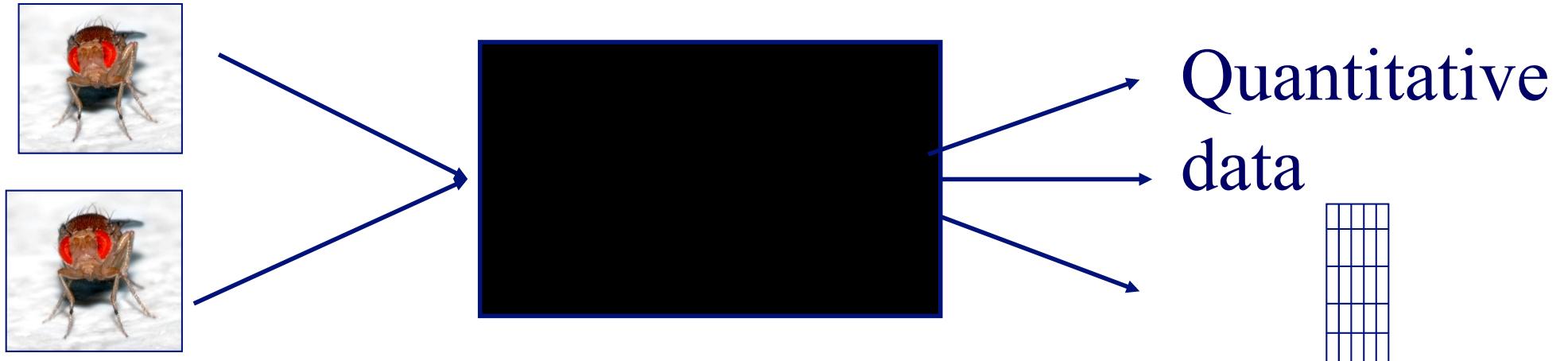
Quantitation in proteomics

Relative Quantitation

Absolute Quantitation

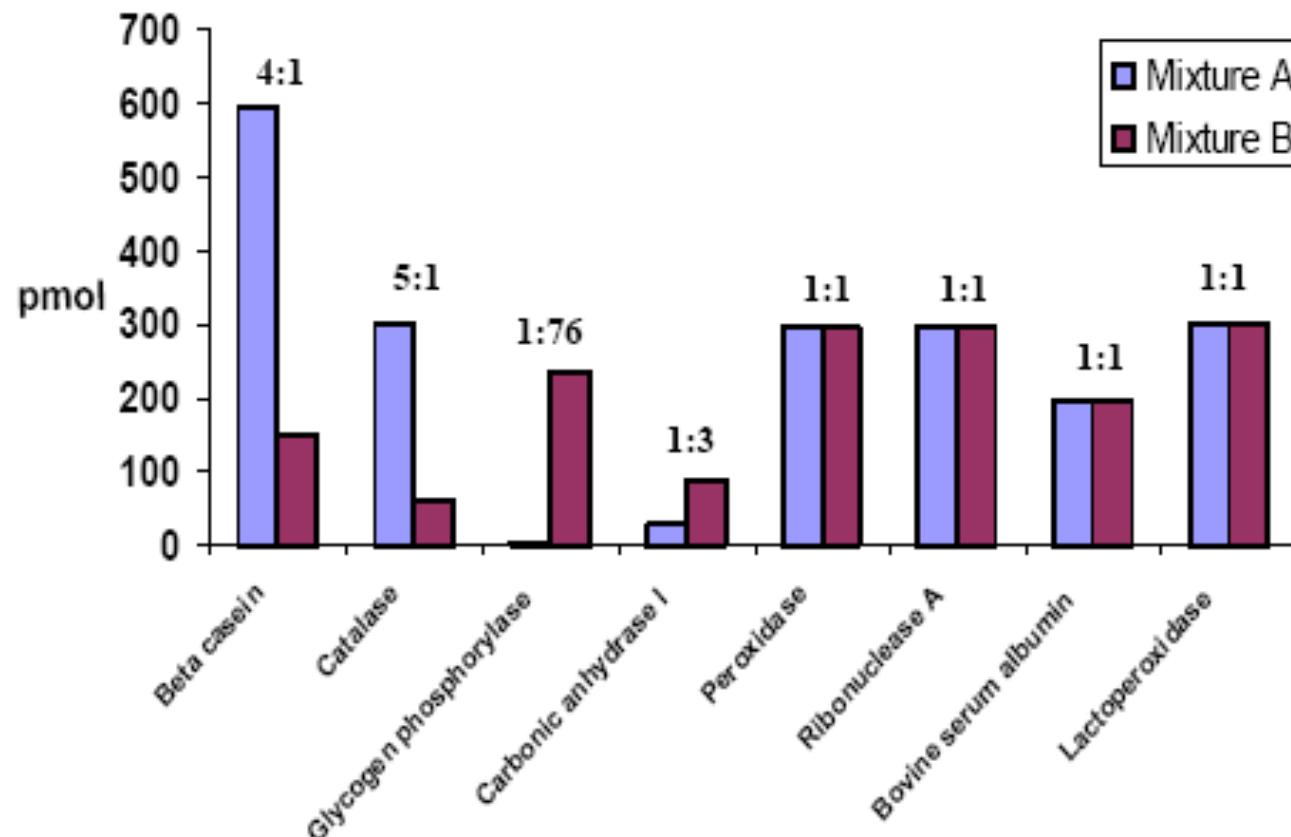
Importance of Experimental Design

Importance of Suitable Data Analysis



- S. Knowledge of these facts influences
- S. 1. Design of experiment
- S. 2. Number of replicates utilised
- S. 3. Application of normalisation methods

# ABRF Proteomics Research Group Study 2006



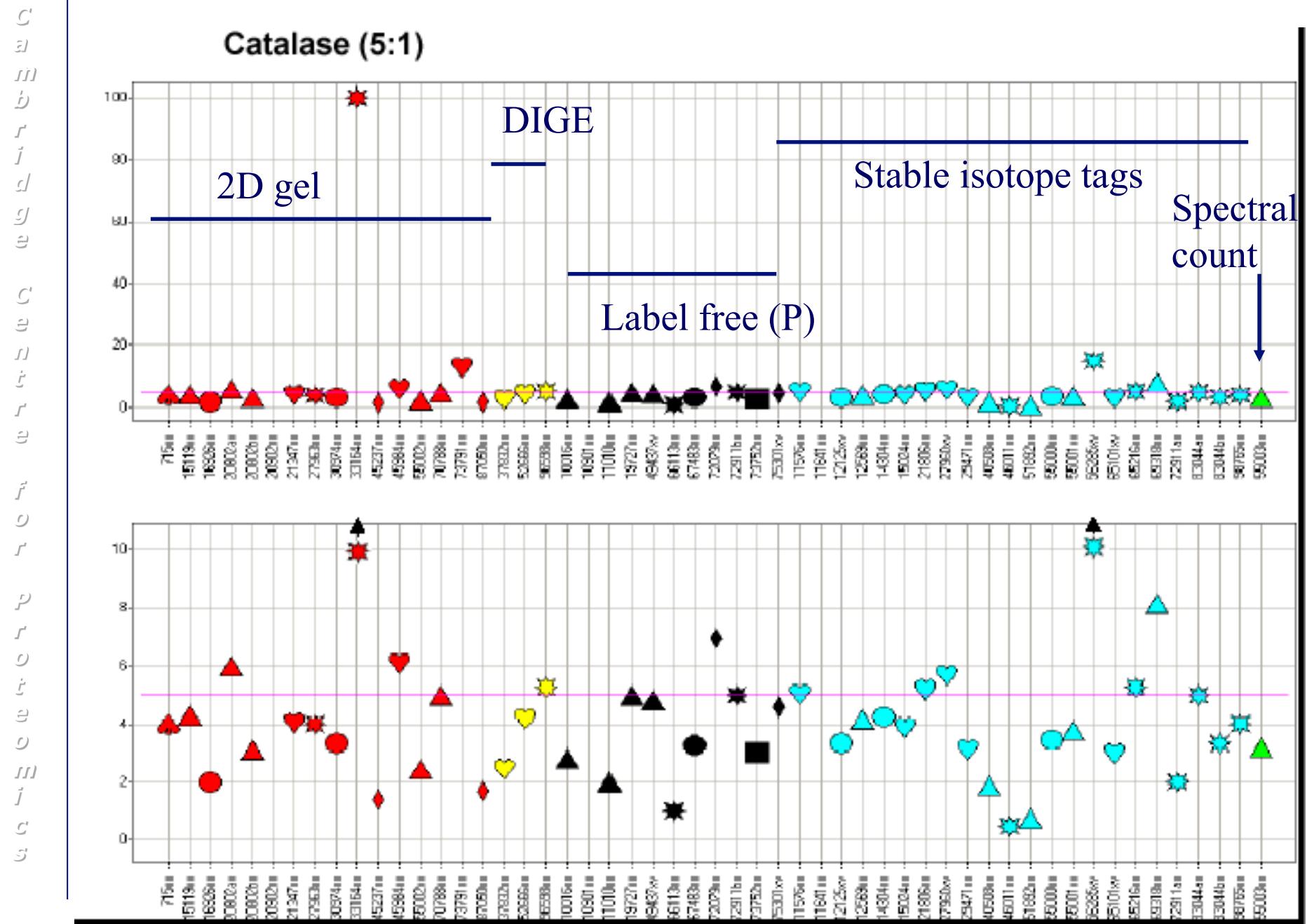
8 proteins

Same total amount of  
protein in each sample

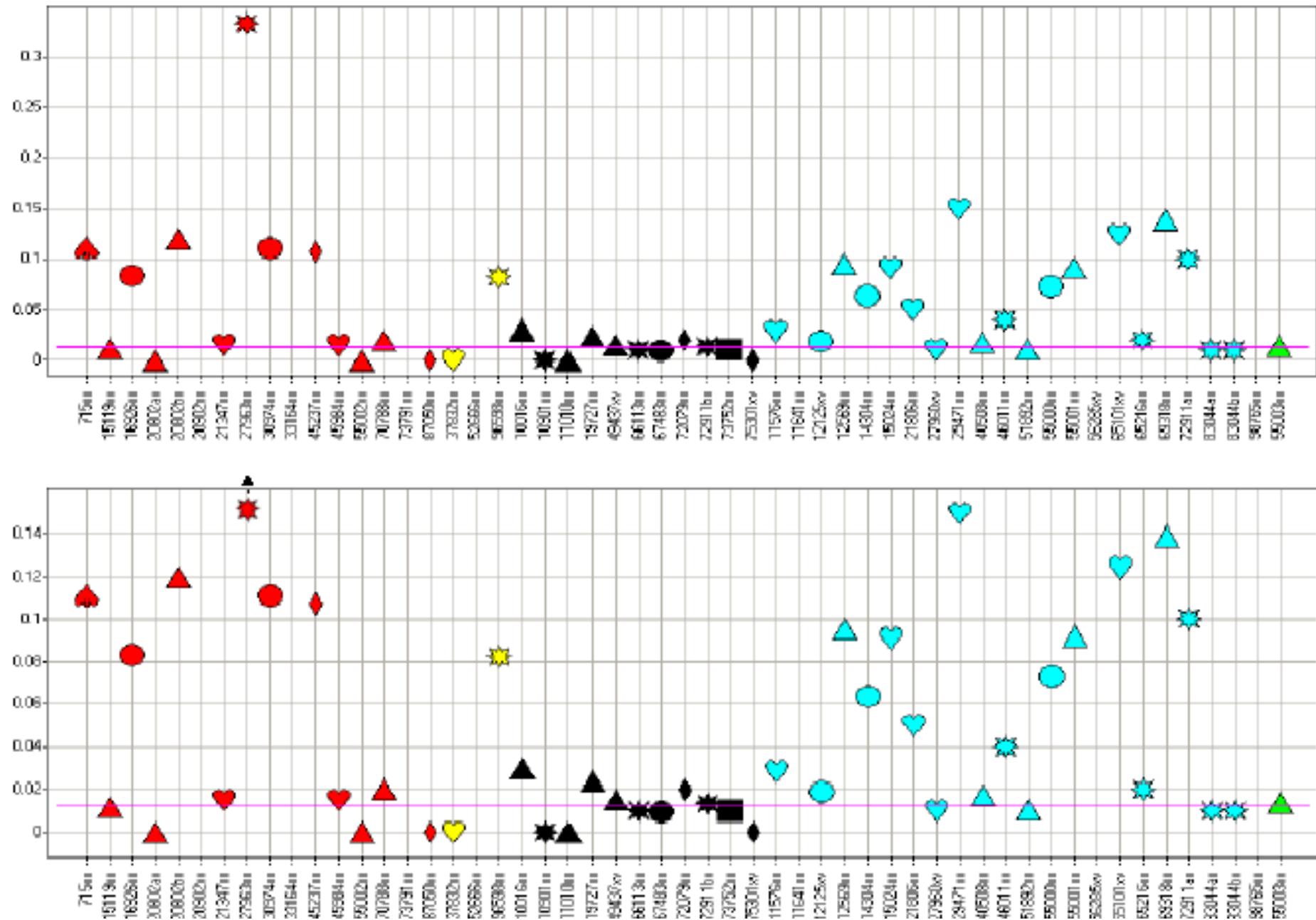
52 responses



# Do they give the same results?



## Glycogen phosphorylase (1:76)



# Why you don't get the same answer?

Variability in starting material

    Biological variation

Variability in experimental protocol (influences technical variance)

    Point at which you combine samples to be compared

Inappropriate experimental design

    Not enough replicates

Inaccuracy of measurement

    The wrong answer all the time

    The wrong answer some of the time

Inappropriate statistical testing

    Using a test that does not fit the data

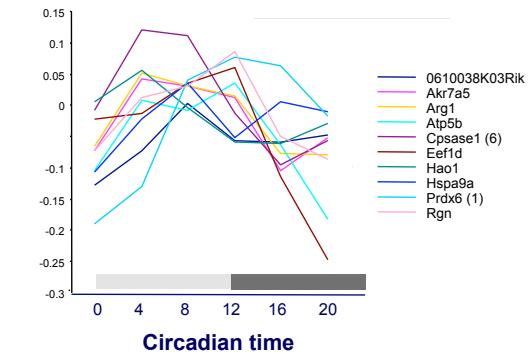
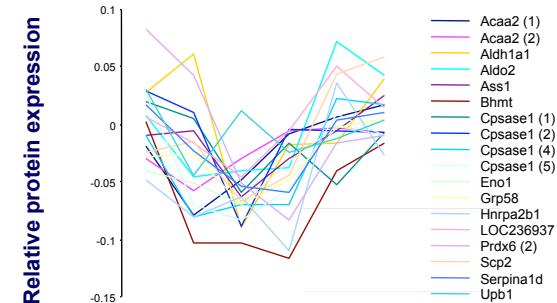
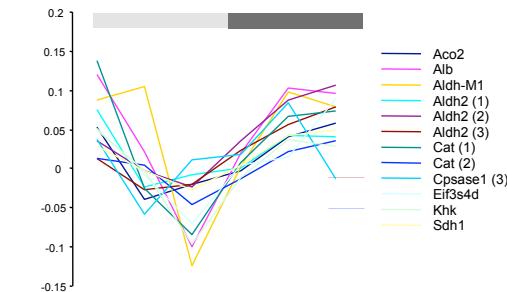
# Biological Variance

Try to control as much of variance as possible

Standardised collection protocols

Appropriate samples (matched controls)

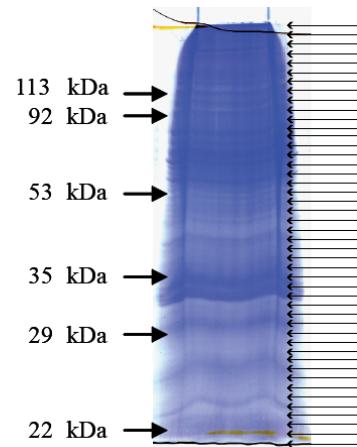
Time of harvest



# Differential variance in a protocol



Extract proteins →

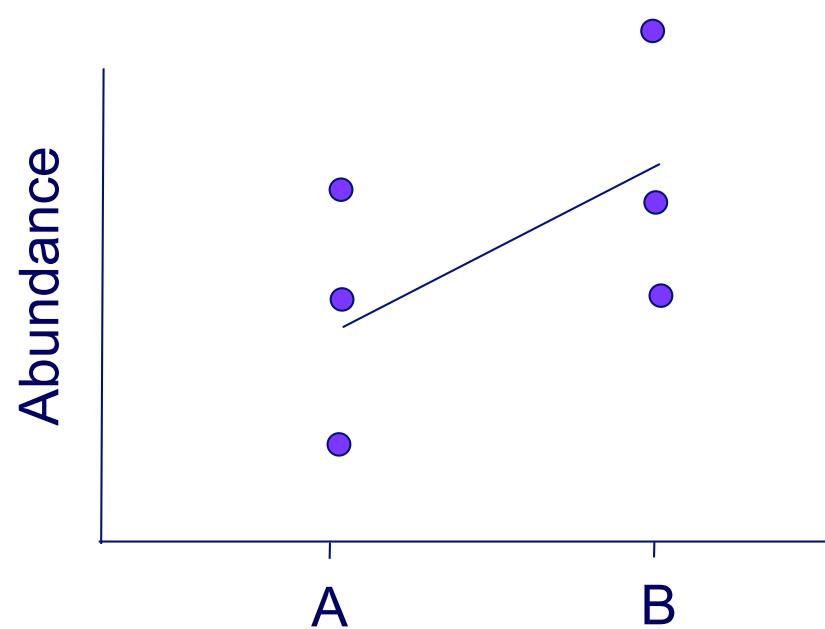


in-gel tryptic digest  
45 slices → LC-MSMS

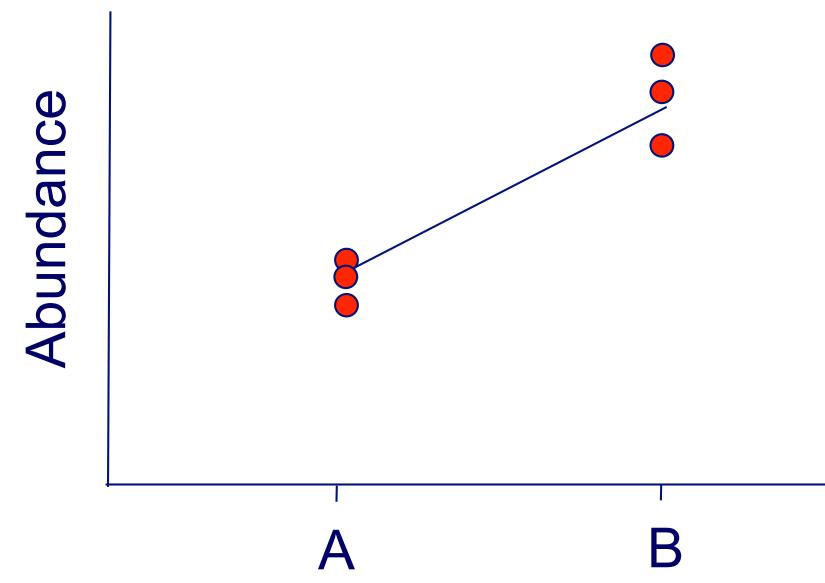
Points of variance

Extraction of proteins  
1D gel  
In gel digestion  
LC  
MS

# Types of Replicates



Biological Replicates



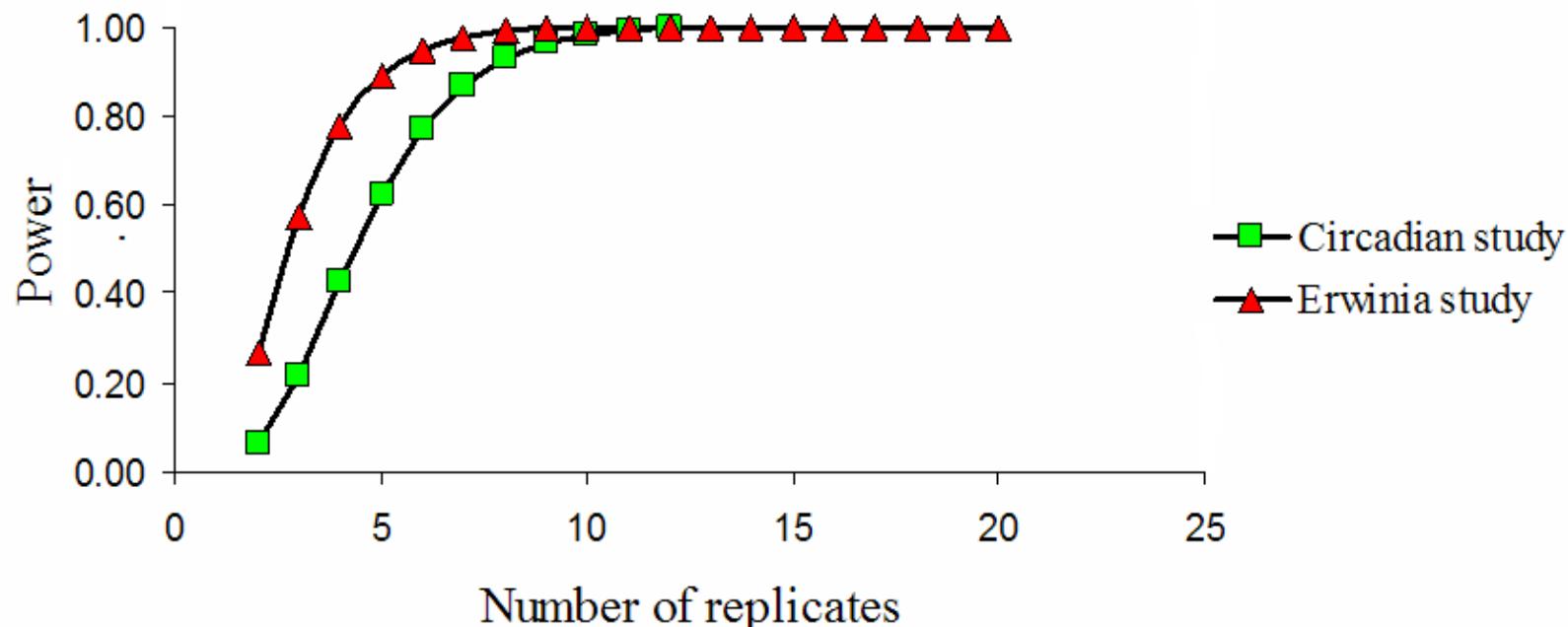
Technical Replicates

Technical replicates give an illusion of more power (sensitivity)

# Power comparison

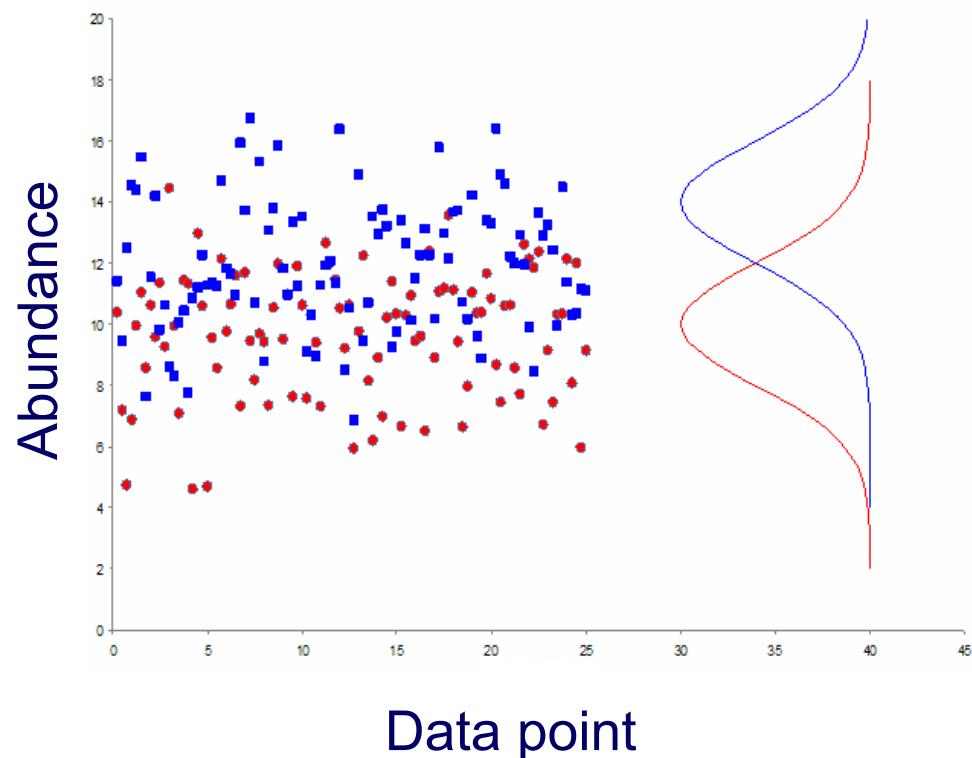
The power of a test is the probability that the test will reject a false null hypothesis (i.e. that it will not make a Type II error). As power increases, the chances of a Type II error decrease. The probability of a Type II error is referred to as the false negative rate ( $\beta$ ). Therefore power is equal to  $1 - \beta$ .

Depends on noise of system (variance), effect size (i.e. 2 fold), significance demanded by researcher (error you're prepared to live with), number of replicates.

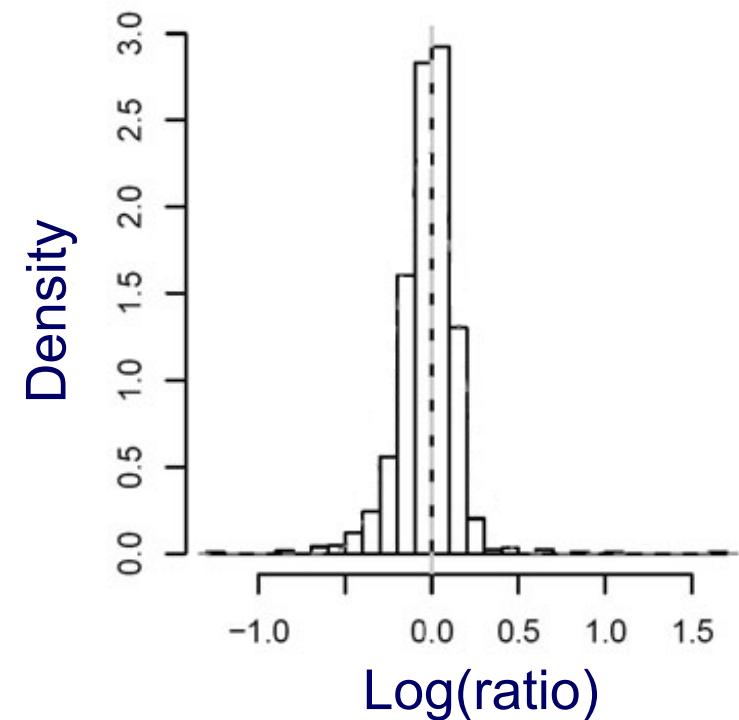


Calculated in detecting a 2 fold change with a noise measure that encompasses 75% of the species studied for a confidence of 0.01.

Is the sample  
representative?



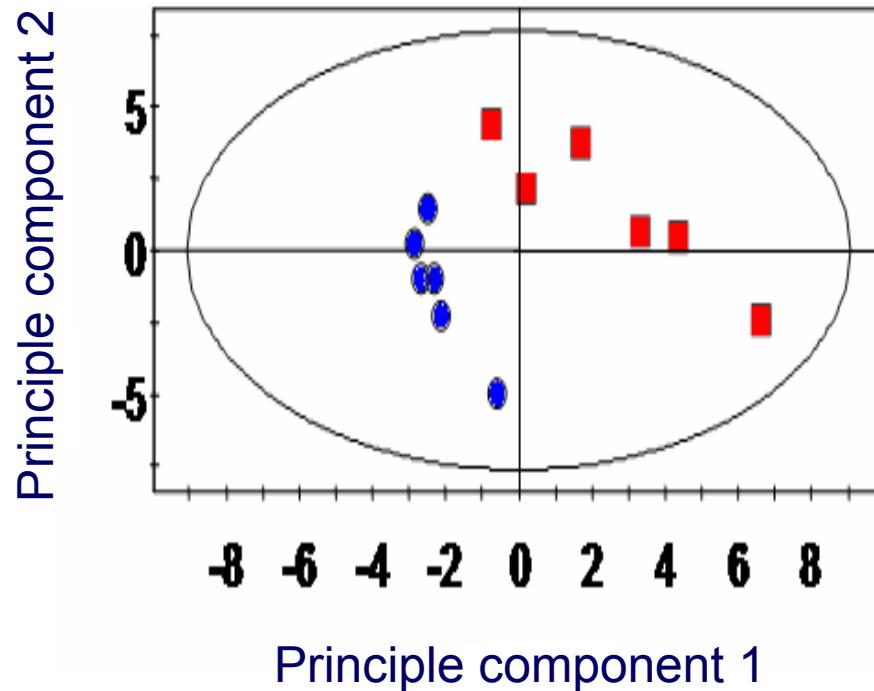
What threshold  
should you use?



# Randomisation in design

Cy3	Cy5	Cy5
control	treated	Internal standard
treated	control	Internal standard
control	treated	Internal standard
treated	control	Internal standard

Cy3	Cy5	Cy5
control	treated	Internal standard



batch effects seen in  
same-same study.

# Are you using the correct statistical test?

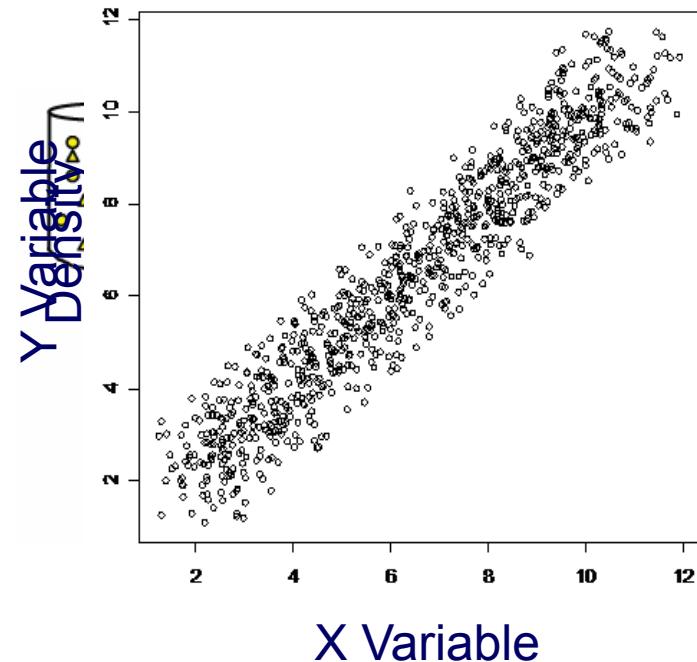
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## Assumptions:

Normality

Homogeneity of variance

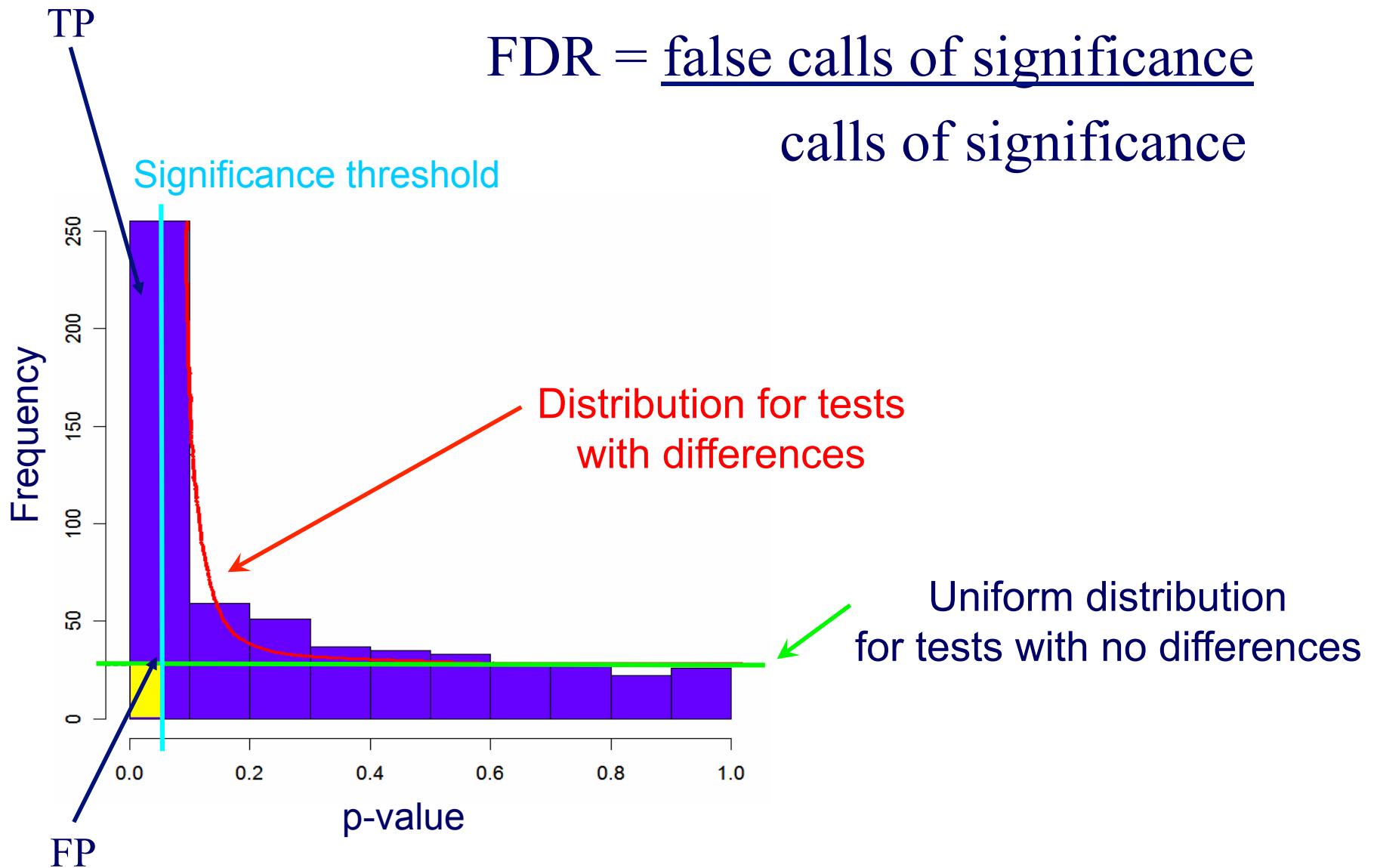
Independent sampling



Karp *et al*, MCP, 2007, 6, 1354-64.

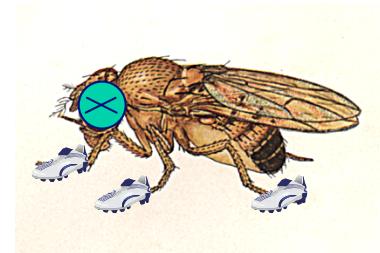
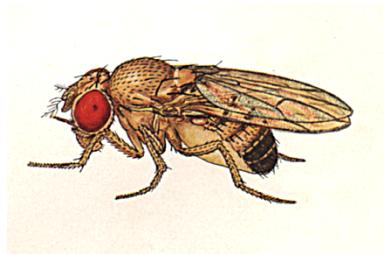
Karp & Lilley, Proteomics, 2005, 5, 3105-15.

# False Discovery Rate



# Importance of communication and design

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# Thank you for listening

Kathryn Lilley

Cambridge Centre for Proteomics

[k.s.lilley@bioc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:k.s.lilley@bioc.cam.ac.uk)

[www.bio.cam.ac.uk/proteomics](http://www.bio.cam.ac.uk/proteomics)