

Ionization Methods



ESI (Electrospray)

Soft ionization technique for biomolecules

- Multiple charging states
- Direct coupling with LC
- Ideal for peptides and proteins



MALDI

Matrix-assisted laser desorption

- Crystallized with matrix
- Pulsed laser ionization
- High-throughput screening



Nano-ESI

Enhanced sensitivity ESI variant

- Ultra-low flow rates (nL/min)
- 10-100× more sensitive
- Limited sample volumes



APCI

Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization

- Small molecule focus
- Less polar compounds
- Complementary to ESI

Method Selection

Choose based on: analyte properties, sample complexity, throughput requirements, and sensitivity needs