

## Annotator

A simple tool to help you manually discover the depths of your (complex) spectra, one spectrum at a time. Load your rawfiles, select a spectrum and add your annotation with full control over theoretical fragments. Use the interactive spectrum to discover what your spectrum means and to export gorgeous images.

GitHub: <https://github.com/snijderlab/annotator>

License: MIT OR Apache-2.0

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## Formatting guide

Buttons are displayed as **Button**. Keys used in key combinations as **Key**.

Any side note will be shown like this.

## Installing

### Using winget

On windows use `winget install --id Snijderlab.Annotator`.

### From binary

See GitHub releases for prebuilt binaries for your architecture as well as information on the releases.

### From source

To build from source, clone the repository, and build with cargo. Make sure you have installed Rust and Tauri beforehand.

```
git clone https://github.com/snijderlab/annotator annotator
cd annotator
cargo tauri dev
```

## Rawfiles

The annotator supports mgf, mzML, IndexedMzML, Bruker .tdf, and Thermo raw files (needs setup see Section 2.3). Rawfiles can be loaded using the button **Load raw data file** or by dragging in a file from the file explorer. Any number of files can be loaded at the same time. Once opened the file will be added to the list of opened files as 'RX:filename' with two input fields to select spectra and a **Close file** button to close the file. Spectra can be selected on index, 0 based index of the spectrum in the file, or on native id. Native id is the vendor specific textual identifier for the spectrum, for more detailed info see the documentation in mzdata.

Files in profile mode can be loaded and automatically peak picked in the annotator. For top and middle down data it is recommended to deconvolute the data before loading it in the annotator.

### Other formats

Other raw file formats can be converted using available converters. For convenience some common converters are listed below.

| Converter              | Supported formats   |
|------------------------|---|
| Proteowizard MSConvert | AB/Sciex T2D, Agilent MassHunter, Bruker BAF/Data Exchange/FID/TDF/U2/YEP, Mascot Generic, MS1, MS2, MZ5, mzML, mzXML, Sciex WIFF/WIFF2, Shimadzu LCD, Thermo raw, UIMF, Waters raw |
| TOPP FileConverter     | mzData, mzXML, ANDI/MS  |
| TOPP DTAExtractor      | Sequest DTA   |

## Selected spectra

Once a spectrum is selected it will be listed below the respective raw file. It will show its index and native id as well as a **Unselect** button to undo the selection.

## Multiple spectra

If multiple spectra are selected at the same time these spectra will be merged before being annotated.

## Thermo raw files

The .NET 8.0 runtime is needed to open Thermo raw files, which can be downloaded [here](#). Additionally on windows you can use `winget install Microsoft.DotNet.Runtime.8` for a quick install. Once this is installed Thermo raw files can be loaded as any other file.

## Clipboard

Some programs allow copying a spectrum into the clipboard, use the **Load Clipboard** button to load such a spectrum from the clipboard. Currently spectra from selected Bruker, Stitch, Sciex, and Thermo programs are supported.

If you find another program that allows this behaviour please open an issue on GitHub for the Annotator, with the name and version of the program in question along with an example of the format.

## Universal Spectrum Identifier (USI)

A USI is a text based format that identifies any spectrum in any publicly accessible dataset. It is build using the following parts.

| Part           | Example   | Comment                                 |
|----------------|---|---|
| Prefix         | mzspec  | required                                |
| Collection     | PXD043489   | required                                |
| Dataset        | 20201103_F1_UM5_Peng0013_-SA_139H2_InS_Elastase.raw | required                                |
| Index type     | scan  | required, can be scan/nativeId/index    |
| Index          | 11809   | required, content depends on Index type |
| Interpretation | VSLFPPSSEQLTSNASVV                                  | optional, can be any ProForma sequence  |
| Provenance     | PR-G47  | optional                                |

These parts have to be strung together using colons ':', resulting in the following string:

```
mzspec:PXD043489:20201103_F1_UM5_Peng0013_-SA_139H2_InS_Elastase.raw:scan:-11809:VSLFPPSSEQLTSNASVV
```

Pasting a USI into the Annotator downloads that spectrum from the internet and loads the interpretation (if given) into the peptideform field.

## Identified peptidoforms files

There are quite some programs that export peptidoforms with metadata based on spectral data. The annotator supports a selection of database matching and *de novo* software file formats. To load these files use the button [Load identified peptidoforms file](#) or drag in a file from the file explorer. Any number of files can be loaded at the same time. See the table below for supported formats. Opened identified peptidoforms files can be closed with [Close file](#) in the peptidoforms details pane.

| Open format | Comment                |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Fasta       | No header requirements |
| mzTab       | v1.0 & Casanovo        |
| SSL         | Spectrum sequence list |

| Software       | Versions/Formats  |
|----------------|---|
| Basic CSV      | A CSV file with the following columns: 'raw_file', 'sequence' (in ProForma format), 'z', 'scan_index', and possibly 'mode' with the fragmentation mode, this ignores any other columns. |
| DeepNovoFamily | DeepNovo, PointNovo, BiatNovo, PGPointNovo  |
| InstaNovo      | 1.0.0   |
| MaxQuant       | msms, msms scans, novo msms scans, & silac  |
| MSFragger      | 4.2 Fragpipe: 20, 21, & 22, & Philosopher   |
| NovoB          | 0.0.1   |
| Novor          | Denovo and PSM  |
| OPair          | common version  |
| Peaks          | X, X+, 11, 12, 13 Dia de novo, Ab, DB peptidoforms, DB PSM, & DB protein-peptidoform  |
| PepNet         | 1.0   |
| PowerNovo      | 1.0.1   |
| pLink          | 2.3   |
| PLGS           | 3.0   |
| Sage           | 0.14  |

If you have data from an unsupported version of a supported program please open an issue on GitHub and give an example file so that the support can be extended.

If you have data from an unsupported program that you think should be supported open an issue on GitHub to discuss.

## Peptidoform details

Once a file is opened the peptidoform details pane opens. Select the right identified peptidoforms file from the drop down menu and select the right peptidoform by peptidoform index.

Peptidoforms can be browsed efficiently by selecting the peptidoform index box and using the arrow up/down keys.

Once a peptidoform is selected it will show common metadata in a structured format, followed by an overview of the peptidoform, with the local confidence (if present in the file) depicted by blue squares, and modifications depicted by blue dots. Hover over a modified amino acid to see the full definition. Terminal modifications will be depicted as blue dots on their respective terminal.

Below the structured metadata follows in table format all other metadata from the file format.

Use **Load** to select the right spectrum (if the corresponding raw file is open) and load the details for annotation. This will load the sequence, charge, and method if these are available.

## Peptidoform search

Once at least one identified peptidoforms file is open all peptidoforms can be searched for sequence patterns. Type the search pattern as a ProForma (see Section 4.1) peptidoform in the search box and hit **Search** to search. The search is based on mass based alignment so any peptidoform matching the mass pattern of the search will come up. For example, searching for 'WNA' matches 'RWGGAPG'. By default it will show the 25 best matching peptidoforms, but this number can be changed. The search can be restricted with a minimal score for the searched peptidoforms, which also makes the search faster, or with a minimal score for the alignment. Both these minimal score have to be in range 0.0 to 1.0.

Once the search is complete all matching peptidoforms (up to the maximum) will be shown below. The index indicates from which identified peptidoforms file the peptidoform originated as well as the index in that file. Clicking on the index selects this peptidoform in the peptidoform details pane. The sequence column shows the sequence of the peptidoform, with in blue the section that matched the search term. The match score (normalised mass based alignment score between 0 and 1) as well as the peptidoform score is shown in the last two columns.

## Annotate

The annotate sections allow control over the annotation of theoretical spectra on the selected spectrum. The following sections are present:

1. The tolerance for matching theoretical peaks to experimental peaks can be controlled and set to ppm or Thompson (mz).
2. The maximum charge for precursors in the theoretical spectrum can be set. If this is not set it takes the charge from the spectrum. If this too is not set it takes +1.
3. The noise filter can be controlled, the noise floor is automatically determined and the noise filter disregards any peak below the factor times the noise floor. Setting this to 0.0 fully removes noise filtering.
4. The match mode indicates the method of determining the mz for theoretical peaks. Set to mono isotopic, average weight, or most abundant isotope.
5. An mz range for the theoretical peaks can be imposed. Setting only one side sets no bounds on the other side.
6. The model can be set to any predefined model. All allows most known fragmentation reactions. None only allows generation of the precursors. Custom models can also be created see Section 4.3.

- The peptidoform sequence contains the sequence for the peptidoform in ProForma notation, see Section 4.1.

Hitting **Annotate** generates the theoretical fragmentation for the given peptidoform with the given settings. The annotated spectrum will be shown below.

## ProForma

The Annotator uses the ProForma 2.0 specification to specify the sequence. Here are some examples of valid sequences:

- Normal amino acids  
`VAEINPSNGGTTFNEKFKGGKATJ`
- Modifications using UNIMOD, PSI-MOD, RESID, XL-MOD, and GNO  
`EM[L-methionine sulfoxide]EVEES[UNIMOD:21]PEK`
- Modifications using raw masses  
`TFNEKF[+15.9949]KGGKATJ`
- Modifications using elemental formula  
`TFNEKF[Formula:0]KGGKATJ`
- Modifications glycan compositions  
`TFNEKF[Glycan:HexNAc1Hex2]KGGKATJ`
- Terminal modifications  
`[+16]-TFNEKFKGGKATJ-[Methyl]`
- Global isotope modifications (all Nitrogen is  $^{15}\text{N}$ )  
`<15N>TFNEKFKGGKATJ`
- Global modifications (all C are carboxamidomethylated)  
`<[S-carboxamidomethyl-L-cysteine]@C>AVYYCSRWGGDGFYAMDYWGQG`
- Modifications where the location is unknown  
`[UNIMOD:374]?TFNEKFCKGGCKATJ`
- Modification of unknown position specified on two positions  
`TFNEKFC[UNIMOD:374#g1]KGGC[#g1]KATJ`
- Modification of unknown position specified on a subset of the peptidoform  
`TFNEKF(CKGGCK)[UNIMOD:374#g1]ATJ`
- Chimeric spectra, meaning two separate peptidoforms are in your spectrum at the same time  
`VAEINPSNGGTT+FNEKFKGGKATJ`
- Defined charge, especially good for chimeric cases that have different charges  
`VAEINPSNGGTT/2`
- A DSSO cross-link between two lysines on two peptidoforms (note the use of `//` versus `+` to indicate cross-linked peptidoforms)  
`VAEINK[X:DSSO#XL1]SNGGTT//WAK[#XL1]INK`
- A hydrolysed DSSO cross-linker  
`VAEINK[X:DSSO#XL1]SNGGTT`

16. An antibody Fab, encoding the disulfide bridge as L-cystine (cross link) from PSI-MOD
- ```
EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSC[L-cystine (cross link)#XL1]AASGFNIKDTYIHWVRQAPGKGL
EWVARIYPTNGYTRYADSVKGRFTISADTSKNTAYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYC[#XL1]SRWGGDGFYAMDYWG
QGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGC[L-cystine (cross link)#XL2]LVKDYFPEP
VTVSWNSGALTSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYIC[#XL2]NVNHNKPSNTKVDKKVEPKS
C[L-cystine (cross link)#XL3]DKT//DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITC[L-cystine
(cross link)#XL4]RASQDVNTAVAWYQQKPGKAPKLLIYSASFVLYSGVPSRFSGSRSGDFTLTISSLQ
PEDFATYYC[#XL4]QQHYTTPPTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVVC[L-cystine
(cross link)#XL5]LLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKSTYLSSTLTLSKADYEKHKH
VYAC[#XL5]EVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC[#XL3]
```

## Custom modifications

Custom modifications can be defined by opening the custom modifications section and hitting **Create new**. Add the chemical formula, if only the monoisotopic mass is known that can also be defined. The numerical ID is preset but the name must be set. For a custom modification metadata can be set, with description, synonyms, and identifiers for other identification systems (cross IDs).

Modifications can be defined as 'Modification' or 'Cross-linker'. For the first category placement rules can be defined that list the positions where this modification can be placed together with place-specific neutral losses and diagnostic ions.

For cross-linkers the length of the cross-linker can be defined as additional metadata item. Cross-linker placement rules can be defined as a symmetric cross-linker, which binds two identical positions on both sides of the cross-linker, or asymmetrical, where both sides bind different sides. For custom cross-linkers MS cleavage patterns can be defined. These are defined as two molecular formulas separated by :. If the theoretical fragmentation model allows MS cleavable cross-linkers these are allowed as breakage patterns. Additionally diagnostic ions can be added.

The custom modifications are stored in a separate JSON file on your computer, the path will be shown in the custom modification section. Updating the annotator will not remove any previously defined modifications. Additionally copying this file to another computer will copy the whole database to that computer. This can be used to move all your definitions to a new computer when upgrading or to aid a colleague with your definitions.

## Custom model

Custom models can be defined by opening the custom model section and hitting **Duplicate** on any existing model. For all main ion series (abcxyz) control is given over the section of the peptidoform that produces these fragments.

Satellite ions series ('dw') are formed at all location where the parent fragment ion are formed when turned on. The set of amino acid that gives rise to satellite ions can be controlled, if this field is left empty all amino acids will give rise to satellite ions. Additionally the maximal distance from the parent ion cleavage can be controlled. This is the number of side chains between the parent cleavage and the side chain that fragments. For example on a given peptidoform **HKSLG** the z3 fragment would contain **SLG**. The normal satellite ion w3 would be the side chain of Serine falling off (with a loss of 16 Da). The non-standard satellite ion 1w3 contains the same amino acids **SLG** but experiences a loss of the Leucine side chain in

reference to the z3 fragment, with a mass of 43 Da. 1w3 means 1 side chain between the z3 cleavage and the w fragment site.

Neutral losses or gains can be **Select**ed from a set of common losses/gains and custom losses/gains can be specified. If there are losses that only occur when a certain amino acid is present in the fragment this can also be specified. For example COOH loss is seen from Asparagine in ETD. Additionally, side chain losses can sometimes be seen, primarily in ETD, where any side chain in the fragment can be lost. The maximal number of side chains lost can be controlled, commonly this should be kept at 1 unless there is good evidence for losing multiple side chains from the same fragment. As well as the amino acids that give rise to side chain losses can be controlled, if this is not specified all amino acids are assumed to be able to lose their side chains.

The charge range for any series can be controlled. Both sides of the charge range can be set to an absolute value or a value relative to the precursor. A charge range of 1 to the precursor charge is the default for most ions.

For all peptidoform fragmentation series ('abcdvwxyz') the existence of variant ions can be controlled. Variant ions are fragments that do not follow the common pathway for that ion but end up with some hydrogen difference. For all ions all options between -2 hydrogens and + 2 hydrogens can be turned on. Variant ions are depicted using a single quote ' for each hydrogen lost or a middle dot · for each hydrogen gained. For example z· indicates a z ion with one hydrogen gained and c'' a c ion with two hydrogens lost.

For precursors the neutral losses/gain and charge range are available.

For glycans the neutral losses/gains can be set for all glycan fragment types. The expected losses from diagnostic glycan fragments of one monosaccharide can be set. For glycans that reside on peptidoform fragments the glycan can be fragmented further depending on the fragmentation technique. This can be controlled with custom rules. Each rule applies to a set of amino acids, for example Asparagine for N-glycans, and potentially a set of fragment kinds ('abcdvwxyz'). Each rule defines if contained glycans do not undergo fragmentation ('full') or if they do ('core'), and in the latter case a range can be given. This range is the minimal and maximal depth in the glycan structure for structural glycans, so 0-1 would indicate an absence of the full glycan or the presence of the first monosaccharide. For compositional glycans this range indicates the number of monosaccharides expected, so 0-1 would indicate complete loss of the glycan or the inclusion of one of the possible monosaccharides, all options will be generated. The charge range can be set separately for Y and B ions. Additionally, the fragmentation of structures from GNO can be turned on/off as well as the generation of fragmentation from compositional glycans (e.g. Hex1HexNac2) can be controlled.

Some modifications generate specific diagnostic ions, these can be turned on or off. Additionally, some modifications generate specific neutral losses, which can also be turned on or off.

Immonium ions are internal fragments that break on both sides of a single amino acid. These can be turned on/off. For immonium ions there are a lot of common neutral losses and gains, these can be controlled separately for each amino acid.

If there are cross-links in the peptidoform it can be controlled if these are allowed to cleave in theoretical fragmentation. This only works for cross-link modifications that have defined cleavage rules, see Section 4.2.



There are some reference sheets available and the end of this manual to help keep an overview of all fragmentation chemistry. Or see [douweschulte/reference-sheets](#) on GitHub.

## Interactive spectrum

### Legend

Once an annotation is done the annotated spectrum will be shown below the annotation settings. It starts with a legend of the colours. For any of these legend elements if hovered over it highlights all peaks that match. If clicked this highlighting will stay until clicked again. Multiple highlights can be stacked which will show any peaks matching any of the criteria.

### Peptidoform legend

Below the legend is an overview of the peptidoform(s) that are annotated. All main ion series are displayed as flags in the corner between the amino acids. Hovering highlights any fragment from that position similar to highlighting in the legend. Clicking makes the highlighting permanent in the same way. If there are multiple peptidoforms they are prefixed by the peptidoform index (peptidoform index followed by a dot followed by the peptidoform index). Hovering/clicking highlights all peptidoform fragments.

In the settings section the peptidoform can be set to use a more compact representation. Additionally, parts of the peptidoform (and any matching fragment) can be highlighted in a different colour.

### Spectrum

In the spectrum hovering over a peak shows the m/z value as well as all annotations if there are multiple annotations for that peak. Zooming in can be done by clicking at one point to select one m/z bound and move the mouse and release it at another point to set the other m/z bound as well as the intensity bound. A selection window will appear to indicate the section shown after zooming in. Additionally zooming can also be done with the scroll wheel. Scrolling zooms in or out on the spot where the mouse is located. Scrolling with **Shift** pans the spectrum to the left or right on the m/z axis. Scrolling with **Control** zooms in on the intensity axis. Lastly, using **Control** with **+** and **-** zooms in or out on the middle of the spectrum, and **Control** with **0** zooms to the original zoom level of the spectrum. The distance between peaks can be annotated by clicking on one peak, dragging to the next and releasing on another peak. Such labels can be removed by clicking on them, or all labels can be removed at once in the settings.

### Peaks settings

The theoretical spectrum can be shown below the x axis. Displaying the unassigned peaks can be toggled. The colouration can be set to the ion type (default), to the peptidoform, the peptidoform, or grey (none). Also there is an option to remove all distance labels.

### Label settings

By default the labels for peaks are shown for any peak within the 90% of intensity, meaning any peak having an intensity of at least  $(1.0 - 0.9) * \text{max\_intensity}$ . This threshold can be controlled in the label settings section. Showing the m/z value can be controlled in the same way for peaks. The 'Manually force show' allows to show either the label or m/z value for any peak. Select the mode of interest and any peak clicked will show that information. The 'Hide' mode allows to hide the information (label and m/z) for any peak. The button **Clear** clears all manually forced

labels. The checkboxes 'Show in label' allow the hiding/showing of certain parts of the label to slim down the information shown. Lastly, the labels can be set to be 90 degrees rotated to make overlap less likely. Any of these changes will also show up in the exported image.

### Spectrum settings

This section allows zooming to precise numbers. Additionally, the number of tickmarks for the x and y axis can be set. The peaks can be set to use square root intensity instead of linear intensity to see a bigger dynamic range. The y axis can be changed to show percentages instead of raw intensities as well.

### Error graph

The graph below the spectrum by default shows the ppm error for all theoretical peaks to their experimental matches. The points are at the same location on the x axis and any zooming in the spectrum will zoom in the error graph as well. In the settings section the points can be set to reflect the peak intensity with the point diameter and the range of y axis can be controlled.

Using the settings the y axis can be changed from relative (ppm) to absolute (Thompson). Additionally, the x axis can be set to reflect errors of unassigned peaks instead of the default assigned peaks. The errors of the unassigned peaks are calculated as being the error to the closest theoretical fragment for all unassigned peaks. In this mode at least one ion series needs to be picked to work as reference series. Commonly the unassigned mode is used together with absolute error mode.

Using the unassigned mode is most helpful to detect a series of peaks that is a constant offset from the reference peaks. This indicates that the assignment is off just before the constant offset series. See Figure 1 for an example where an annotation from the N terminus matched the reference series but has a constant offset from a certain point. This indicates that at that point the actual peaks are 16 Thompson off from the reference series likely indicating an oxidation. This way of using the error graph is most helpful when annotating *de novo* top down or middle down sequences to determine where the annotation deviates from the experimental evidence.

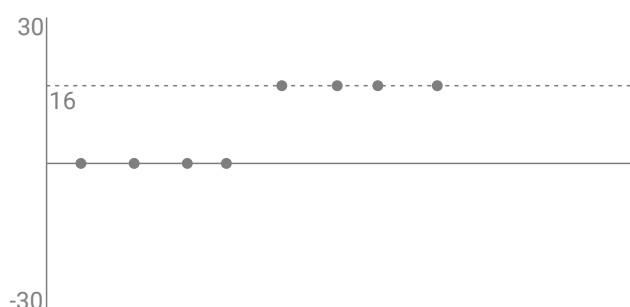


Figure 1: Example error graph in absolute error mode with the errors for unassigned peaks relative to some N terminal ion series. Visible is that four peaks match perfectly but right after that four additional peaks have a constant offset of 16 Thompson to the reference series.

### Statistics overview

The statistic overview gives detailed statistics about the match. Listed are:

1. The precursor mass for each peptidoform. If a peptidoform is part of a peptidoform no mass is listed.
2. The number of fragments found out of all theoretical fragments.
3. The number of peaks annotated out of all peaks.

4. The total intensity annotated out of the sum of the intensity of all peaks.
5. The sequence positions covered by at least one matched fragment. If some positions do not generate theoretical fragments, for example with cross-linking loop links, this statistic will be split into one regarding the full peptidofrom and one only taking the possible locations into account.
6. Peaks false match chance a false discovery metric at the peaks level. Estimating the FDR by permutation. The spectrum is shifted by  $-25$  to  $+25$  Da plus  $\pi$  (to have non integer offsets) and the number of matches is counted. The percentage is the number of actual matches divided by the average found for the shifted spectra. The number between brackets denotes the number of standard deviations the actual matches are from the shifted matches. This number is the average chance for a single peak annotation to be based on chance. For some rough guidelines, 10% or less is commonly seen for bottom up data while up to 50% can be seen for top or middle down data.
7. Intensity false match chance. This is based on the same calculation as the peaks false match chance, However this does not count the number of peaks matched but the sum intensity. This number should be similar or lower compared to the peaks false match chance.

The toggle switch above the table allows to open ion series specific statistics. These are exactly the same as above but split per ion series.

## Fragment table

This table contains all details on the spectrum in table format. It can display unassigned peaks, annotated peaks, and missing fragments. For each peak/fragment it displays all data. This whole table can be copied to other software for other analysis. Additionally, above the table is a normalised output for the ProForma definition, which removes any implementation specific notation and returns a fully specification compliant ProForma sequence.

## Settings

This section below the general statistics allows fine tuning the annotated spectrum and related sections. The graphic section allows fine control over the graphics. These boxes allow sizes set in any CSS unit. The other settings sections are detailed in their related sections above.

## Tools

### Search modifications

This can be used to find modifications in any of the ontologies (modification databases) or find more information on a single modification. The search box can be used as follows:

1. When a mass is given any modification that fits within the tolerance is returned. For example searching for 16 gives the following results:

| Name                   | Id         | monoisotopic mass                 | Formula |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| U:Oxidation            | UNIMOD:35  | 15.995 Da / 15.999 Da / 15.995 Da | O1      |
| U:Methyl:2H(2)         | UNIMOD:284 | 16.028 Da / 16.039 Da / 16.028 Da | C12H2   |
| U:Carboxy->Thiocarboxy | UNIMOD:420 | 15.977 Da / 16.068 Da / 15.977 Da | O-1S1   |
| U:Ala->Ser             | UNIMOD:540 | 15.995 Da / 15.999 Da / 15.995 Da | O1      |

2. When a formula is given any modification that has the same molecular formula is returned. For example searching for Formula:0 gives the following results:

| Name                          | Id         |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| U:Oxidation                   | UNIMOD:35  |
| U:Ala->Ser                    | UNIMOD:540 |
| U:Phe->Tyr                    | UNIMOD:569 |
| M:(2S,3R)-3-hydroxyasparagine | MOD:35     |

3. When a glycan composition is given any glycan with the same composition is returned (all isomeric information is ignored), which makes it possible to find topologies for given glycan compositions. Another way of finding glycan compositions based on composition is using the GlyCosmos GNOme structure browser.
4. When a modification is given the details for that modification are displayed.

## Isotopic distribution

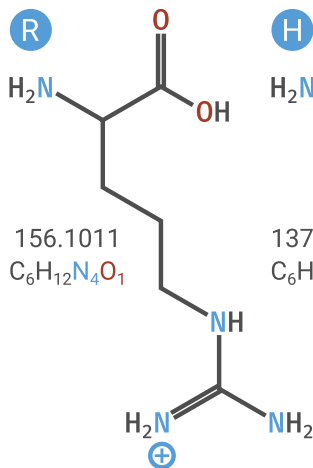
Here the isotopic distribution for any molecular formula can be generated. All weights of the formula will be displayed as well as a graph with all isotopic peaks. Hovering over the peaks gives additional details on that specific peak. For the generation of the isotopic distribution an averagine model is used that slightly overestimates the prevalence of higher weight isotopes, especially for elements with multiple isotopes. Any element with a defined monoisotopic weight, so any element that is stable and naturally occurring, can be used in the formula.

## Exporting

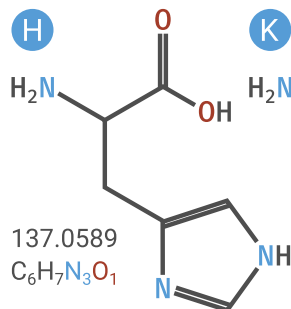
To export an annotated spectrum click the export button in the top left corner. This opens the system print dialog. Make sure to enable background graphics otherwise some elements may be missing in the export. Choose print to pdf and save the file. This file can be opened in any vector graphics application for manual touch ups.

Positive

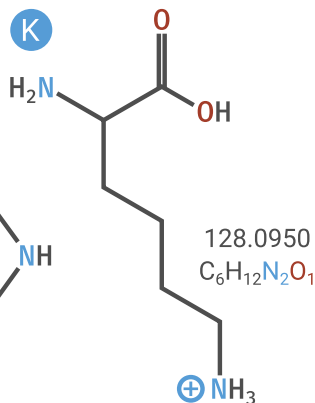
Arg/Arginine



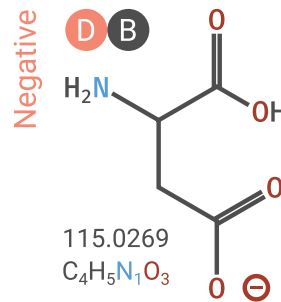
His/Histidine



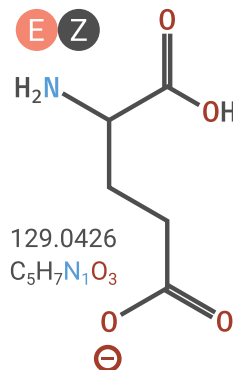
Lys/Lysine



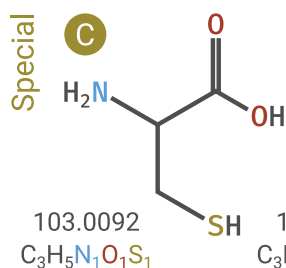
Asp/Aspartic Acid



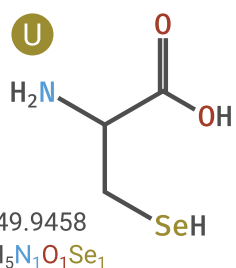
Glu/Glutamic Acid



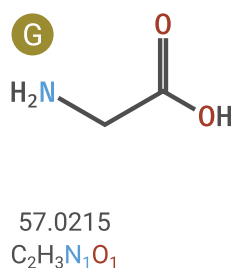
Cys/Cysteine



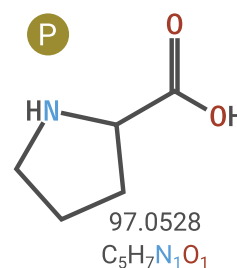
Sec/Selenocysteine



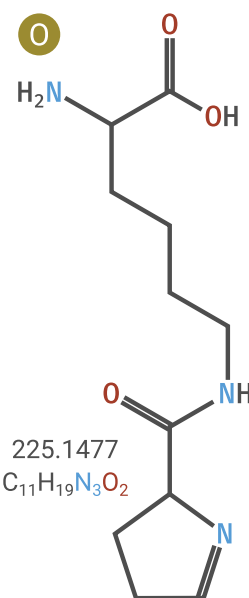
Gly/Glycine



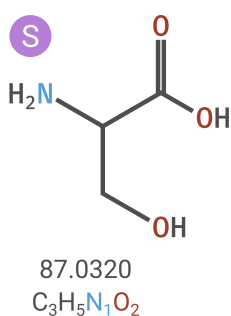
Pro/Proline



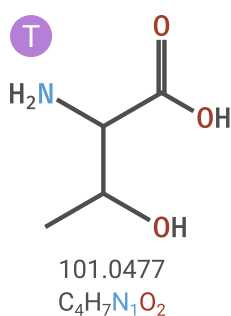
Pyl/Pyrrolysine



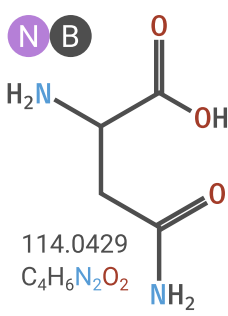
Ser/Serine



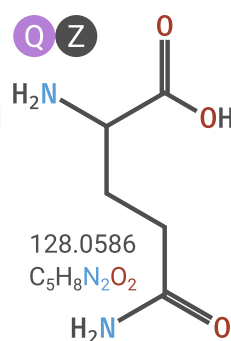
Thr/Threonine



Asn/Asparagine



Gln/Glutamine



**X**

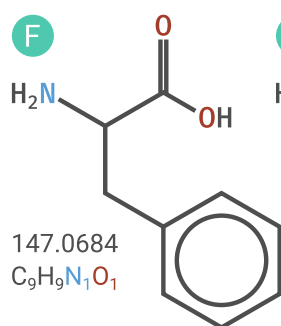
Monoisotopic mass  
56.0136 Da  
Bare formula  
C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>N<sub>1</sub>O<sub>1</sub>  
Note X is defined  
as having 0 mass  
in ProForma

Polar

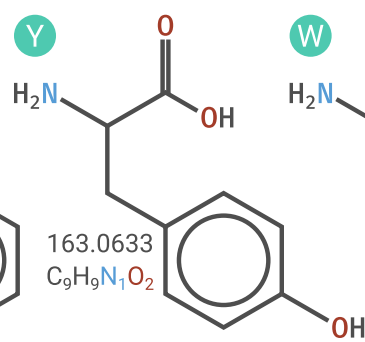
DNA codon table

| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | T | C    | A         | G                | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| T               | F               | S | Y    | C         | T<br>C<br>A<br>G |                  |
|                 |                 |   | Stop | Stop<br>W |                  |                  |
| C               |                 | L | P    | H         | R                | T<br>C<br>A<br>G |
|                 |                 | Q |      |           |                  |                  |
| A               | I               | T | N    | S         | T<br>C<br>A<br>G |                  |
|                 | M               |   | K    | R         |                  |                  |
| G               | V               | A | D    | G         | T<br>C<br>A<br>G |                  |
|                 |                 |   | E    |           |                  |                  |

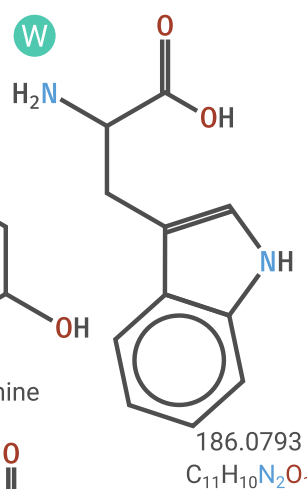
Phe/Phenylalanine



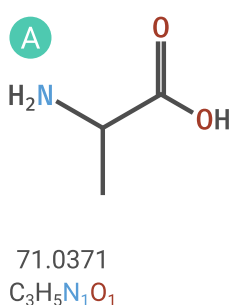
Tyr/Tyrosine



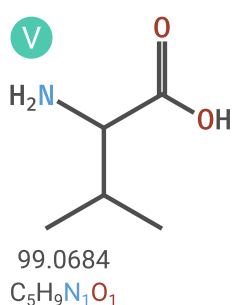
Trp/Tryptophan



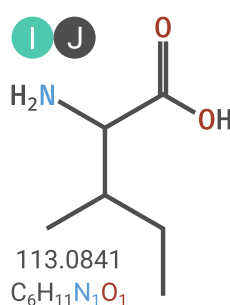
Ala/Alanine



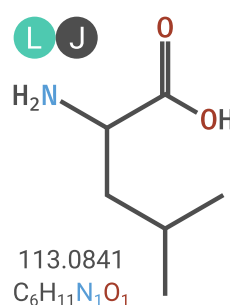
Val/Valine



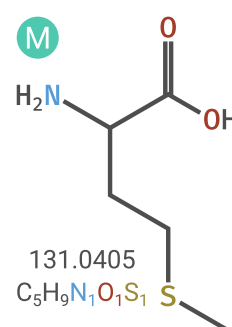
Ile/Isoleucine



Leu/Leucine



Met/Methionine



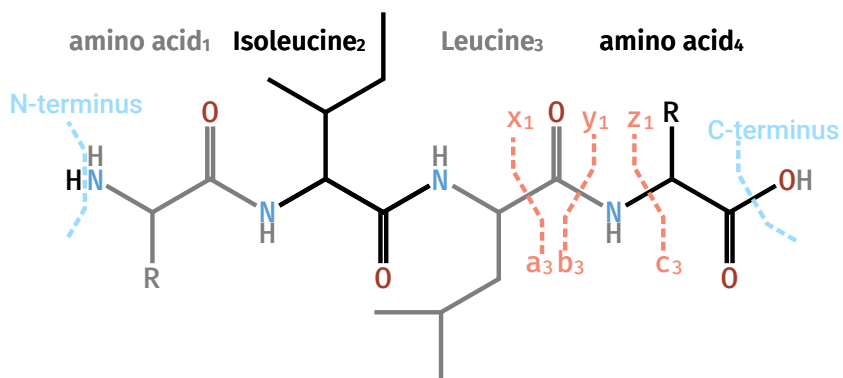
Apolar

github.com/snijderlab  
Good luck!

Author :  
Douwe Schulte  
March 2024  
CC BY-NC 4.0  
V1.2



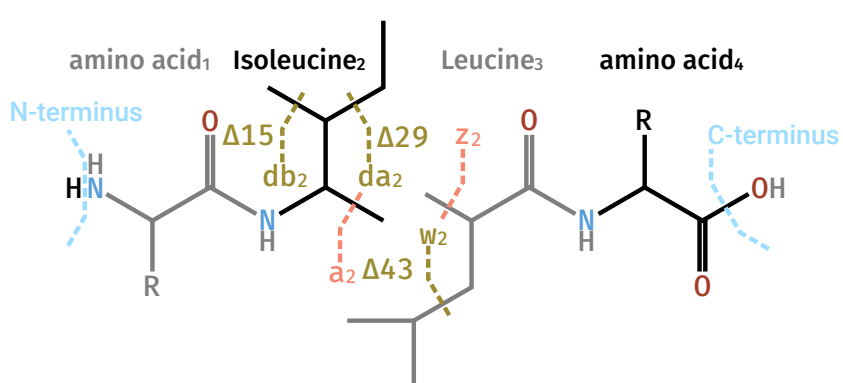
# Backbone fragmentation<sup>1,2</sup>



|   | Formula (h = H <sup>+</sup> × z) | Mass (h = 1.008 × z)    |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a | $\sum(AA) - CO + h$              | $\sum(AA) - 27.995 + h$ |
| b | $\sum(AA) + h$                   | $\sum(AA) + h$          |
| c | $\sum(AA) + NH_3 + h$            | $\sum(AA) + 17.027 + h$ |
| d | $\sum(AA) + C_2H_3N + h$         | $\sum(AA) + 41.027 + h$ |
| v | $\sum(AA) + C_2H_2NO + h$        | $\sum(AA) + 56.014 + h$ |
| w | $\sum(AA) + C_3H_3O + h$         | $\sum(AA) + 55.018 + h$ |
| x | $\sum(AA) + CO - H_2 + h$        | $\sum(AA) + 25.979 + h$ |
| y | $\sum(AA) + H_2O + h$            | $\sum(AA) + 18.011 + h$ |
| z | $\sum(AA) + O - NH + h$          | $\sum(AA) + 0.984 + h$  |

1,2,3

# Side chain fragmentation / satellite ions<sup>2,3</sup>



## Variant ions

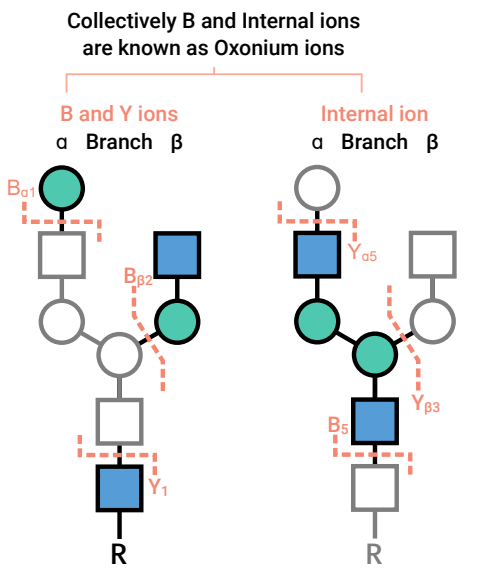
|   | "/-2 | "/-1 | Base  | "/+1 | "/+2 |
|---|------|------|-------|------|------|
| a |      |      | aAU   | U    | U    |
| b |      |      | aAEhU |      | U    |
| c |      | e    | aAeEU | E    | e    |
| d |      |      | aAU   |      |      |
| v |      |      | aAeU  |      |      |
| w |      | e    | aAeEU | e    |      |
| x |      | U    | aAU   | U    | U    |
| y | U    | U    | aAEhU |      |      |
| z |      | e    | aAeEU | eE   | e    |

Variant ions are ion series differing by one or two hydrogen atoms in mass from the main ion series. The occurrence of these is dependent on the fragmentation technique used.

a=EAD  
A=EACID  
e=ExD<sup>4-8</sup>  
E=EtHCD  
h=HCD  
U=UVPD<sup>9-12</sup>

Satellite ions are formed as secondary fragmentation, d from an a ion, w from a z ion. For Threonine and Isoleucine there are two possible d and w ions. These can be listed as 'd/wa<sub>n</sub>' and 'd/wb<sub>n</sub>' where a is the heaviest of the two options. The leaving groups for Threonine are CH<sub>3</sub> for wa and OH for wb, for Isoleucine the leaving groups are CH<sub>3</sub> for wa and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> for wb. Glycine, alanine, and proline have no satellite ions. The v ion is full loss of the sidechain from a y ion. For ETD and ECD, side chain loss similar to v ions can be observed from many fragments possibly even with multiple side chains lost<sup>4</sup>. Additionally in ECD, w fragmentation can be found in sidechains away from the backbone cleavage<sup>5,6</sup>. Denoted with <sup>d</sup>w, where d indicates the distance from the backbone cleavage, <sup>0</sup>w, the standard w ion, is written as 'w'.

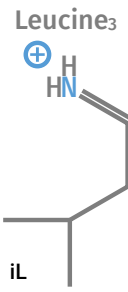
# Glycan<sup>13</sup>



| Ion                                            | Formula                                        | Mass     | Ion                | Formula                                                        | Mass     |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| H-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub>   | 85.0284  | S-H <sub>2</sub> O | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> NO <sub>7</sub>                | 274.0921 |
| H-CH <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>               | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub>   | 97.0284  | S                  | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> NO <sub>8</sub>                | 292.1027 |
| H-2H <sub>2</sub> O                            | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>7</sub> O <sub>3</sub>   | 127.0390 | G-H <sub>2</sub> O | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> NO <sub>8</sub>                | 290.0870 |
| H-H <sub>2</sub> O                             | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>7</sub> O <sub>4</sub>   | 145.0495 | G                  | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> NO <sub>9</sub>                | 308.0976 |
| H                                              | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>11</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  | 163.0601 | H+N                | C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>24</sub> NO <sub>10</sub>               | 366.1395 |
| N-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>6</sub> NO               | 84.0444  | 2N                 | C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>10</sub> | 407.1660 |
| N-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>8</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>  | 126.0550 | H+2N               | C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>37</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>15</sub> | 569.2188 |
| N-CH <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>               | C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>8</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>  | 138.0550 | H+N+S              | C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>41</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>18</sub> | 657.2349 |
| N-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub> | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>10</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> | 144.0655 | H=Hex              |                                                                |          |
| N-2H <sub>2</sub> O                            | C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> | 168.0655 | N=HexNAc           |                                                                |          |
| N-H <sub>2</sub> O                             | C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>12</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> | 186.0761 | S=Neu5Ac           |                                                                |          |
| N                                              | C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>14</sub> NO <sub>5</sub> | 204.0867 | G=Neu5Gc           |                                                                |          |

# Immonium

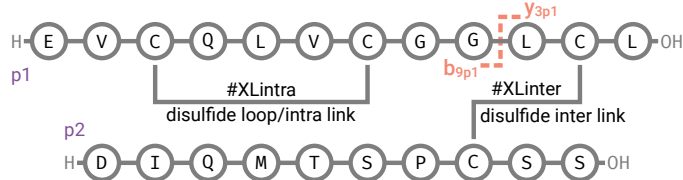
Formed by double backbone cleavage. Commonly fragments further by neutral loss. These fragments indicate existence of certain amino acids, but not all amino acids form immonium ions. The immonium ions have a mass between 0 and 160 Da. Formula: amino acid - CO + H



| Amino Acid | Formula                                        | Mass    | Amino Acid | Formula                                        | Mass    |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| A          | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> N                | 44.050  | K          | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub>  | 101.108 |
| R          | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>4</sub>  | 129.114 | M          | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> NS              | 104.053 |
| N          | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O | 87.056  | F          | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N               | 120.081 |
| D          | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>  | 88.040  | P          | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N                | 70.066  |
| C          | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> NS               | 76.022  | S          | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> NO               | 60.045  |
| E          | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>  | 102.056 | T          | C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> NO               | 74.061  |
| Q          | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O | 101.071 | W          | C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>2</sub> | 159.092 |
| G          | CH <sub>4</sub> N                              | 30.034  | Y          | C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> NO              | 136.076 |
| H          | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>3</sub>   | 110.072 | V          | C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N               | 72.081  |
| I/L/J      | C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N               | 86.097  |            |                                                |         |

# Cross-links

Note that if you want to see breaking cross-linkers you will need to define your own custom linkers in the Annotator as the breaking is not defined in any of the used modification databases.



Two possible masses for y<sub>3p1</sub>

y<sub>3p1</sub> - #XLinter LCL + OH - H (broken disulfide)

y<sub>3p1</sub> - #XLinter LCL + OH - 2H (intact disulfide) + p<sub>2</sub>

One possible mass for b<sub>9p1</sub>

b<sub>9p1</sub> - #XLintra EVCQLVCGG + H - 2H (disulfide)

This disulfide is a loop link, so it could break either in the linker or in any of the contained amino acids without changing the final mass of the fragment.

References

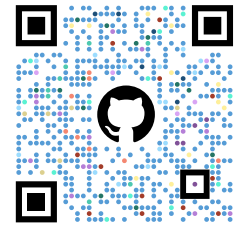
[1] 10.1002/bms.1200111109 [6] 10.1021/ac0619332 [11] 10.1021/jacs.6b05147

[2] 10.1016/0076-6879(90)93460-3 [7] 10.1002/jms.3919 [12] 10.1021/acs.chemrev.9b00440

[3] 10.1016/0168-1176(88)80060-0 [8] 10.1021/ja035042c [13] 10.1007/BF01049915

[4] 10.1016/S1387-3806(03)00202-1 [9] 10.1002/chem.201103534 [14] 10.1016/j.trac.2018.09.007

[5] 10.1021/ja035042c [10] 10.1007/s13361-015-1297-5



To annotate these and more on your own data see: [github.com/snijderlab/annotator](https://github.com/snijderlab/annotator)

Author: Douwe Schulte March 2025 CC BY-NC 4.0 V1.1

## Amino acids

PEPTIDE  
PEPTJDE  
PE(?PTI)DE

Amino acids are written as the standard IUPAC symbols. With O/U added as pyrrolysine, and selenocysteine. J/B/Z are ambiguous amino acids for I/L, N/D, and Q/E respectively. Lastly X is added as any unknown amino acid. X is defined to have a mass of zero. So 'X[+435]' can be used to indicate a mass gap of 435 Da.

## Modifications

Modifications are defined between square brackets '[mod]'. Multiple definitions can be combined with a vertical line '|' like so '[mod|mod|mod]'.

Monoisotopic mass PEPTI[+15.995]DE  
Molecular formula PEPTI[Formula:O]DE  
Name (Unimod/PSI-MOD) PEPTI[Oxidation]DE  
Name specific ontology PEPTI[U:Oxidation]DE  
Index specific ontology PEPTI[UNIMOD:35]DE  
Comment or description PEPTI[INFO:text]DE  
Glycan composition PEPN[Glycan:HexNAc5Hex5dHex1NeuAc2]ITDE  
Glycan structure PEPN[GNO:G75079FY]ITDE  
Charged molecular formula PEPTI[Formula:H-2Zn1:z+2]DE

## Modification prefixes

| Mass | Name    | Index  | Description                    |
|------|---------|--------|--------------------------------|
| U    | U?      | Unimod | Modifications from Unimod      |
| M    | M?      | PSIMOD | Modifications from PSI MOD     |
| R    | R       | Resid  | Modifications from Resid       |
| X    | X       | XLMOD  | Modifications from XL-MOD      |
| G    | G       | GNO    | Modifications from GNOme       |
| Obs  | -       | -      | To indicate an observed mass   |
| -    | INFO    | -      | To add comments or description |
| -    | Glycan  | -      | Glycan compositions            |
| -    | Formula | -      | Molecular formulas             |



## Locations

### Localised

PEPT[mod][mod]IDE (Multiple) modifications on the side chain of an amino acid  
[mod][mod]-PEPTIDE (Multiple) modifications on the N terminus  
PEPTIDE-[mod][mod] (Multiple) modifications on the C terminus  
{mod}PEPTIDE Labile modification, on this peptidoform  
<mod@E,N-term>PEPTIDE Fixed modification

### Unlocalised

[mod]^n?PEPTIDE On the entire peptidoform  
PEPT[mod#name]ID[#name]E On the given locations  
PEP(TID)[mod]E Within the given stretch

The order of all options when used together

<mod@E>[mod]^n?{mod}[mod]-PEP-[mod]

Using unlocalised rules

PEP(TID[mod])[mod|Position:T,D|CoMKP]E

### Unlocalised additional rules

Position:E,N-term Limit the allowed positions, uses the same positions as fixed modifications  
Limit:2 Limit the maximal number on one site, only for ^n global unlocalised modifications  
CoMKP Allows colocalising with placed modifications  
CoMUP Allows colocalising with other unlocalised modifications

## Combining peptidoforms

PEPTIDE+PEPTIDE Chimeric peptidoforms (forming one compound peptidoform ion)  
PEPT[mod#XLname]IDE//PEPT[#XLname]IDE Cross-linked peptidoforms (forming one peptidoform ion)  
PEPT[mod#BRANCH]IDE//PEP[#BRANCH]TIDE Branched peptidoforms (forming one peptidoform ion)  
PEPT[mod#XLname]IDE[#XLname] Intra linked cross-linked peptidoform

## Charge

PEPTIDE/2 Global charge, assumed to be protons  
PEPTIDE/[Na:z+1,H:z+1] Defined charge carriers, in this case 1 unlocalised sodium and 1 unlocalised proton  
PEP[Formula:Na:z+1]TIDE/1 Defined charge carriers, in this case 1 localised sodium and 1 unlocalised proton, this still has a global charge of 2

## Name

To add a description or metadata to an entire (compound) peptidoform (ion). To do this for single locations or stretches use the INFO tag.

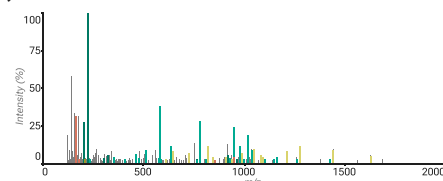
(>Peptidoform name)PEPTIDE  
(>>Peptidoform ion name)PEPT[mod#XLname]IDE//PEPT[#XLname]IDE  
(>>>Compound peptidoform ion name)PEPTIDE+PEPTIDE

## Universal Spectrum Identifier

mzspec:<ID>:<file>:scan:<number>:<peptidoform>  
index:<number>  
nativeId:<number>(<,<number>)\*

mzspec:PX023419:Herceptin\_aLP.raw:scan:11368:RWGGDGFYAM[Oxidation]DYWGQGLVTV/3

USIs are the URL for the mass spectrometry world. A USI points to a Proteomics Exchange Identifier (PX023419), a file, and a spectrum in that file. Additionally, a peptidoform can be added to the end, note that many servers require the peptidoform and a global charge state for the peptidoform.



ProForma v2.1  
psidev.info/proforma  
USI  
psidev.info/usi

Author :  
Douwe Schulte  
May 2025  
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V1.0

