Widely-Targeted Volatilomics (WTV) 2.0



1 Introduction

WTV2.0 is an open-source software with a user-friendly interface, providing one-stop solution for the entire process of gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) based widely-targeted volatilomics. The *library builder* manages the integration and deduplication of the mass spectra libraries and retention time (RT) data. The *method generator* selects the characteristic qualitative ions of each compound from the library and constructs the optimized acquisition segments. The *data analyzer* is used for qualitative and semi-quantitative analysis of widely-targeted data. WTV 2.0 is also applicable to GC-MS-based primary metabolites profiling and species beyond plants.

1.1 Library builder

The *library builder* features mass spectra libraries and retention time information integration and deduplication, retention index (RI) calibration and unknown signals integration. A comprehensive plant volatile (contains 2101 signals) library can be found in GitHub at:

https://github.com/yuanhonglun/WTV_2.0/blob/main/sample_data/library_builder_sa mple_data/export/Remove_Duplicates.msp

1.2 Method generator

The *method generator* selects characteristic qualitative ions with the minimum ion number of each compound in the library, and perform optimized segmentation. It can generate the comprehensive-Selective Ion Monitoring (cSIM) acquisition method with high sensitivity, coverage and annotation accuracy, or regular widely-targeted methods

based on SIM mode. A cSIM acquisition method (XML-formatted) can be found in

GitHub at:

https://github.com/yuanhonglun/WTV_2.0/blob/main/sample_data/method_generator

_sample_data/export/qqqacqmethod.xml

1.3 Data analyzer

The data analyzer performs the qualitative and semi-quantitative analysis of cSIM

data, using algorithms similar to that of untargeted data analysis. Note that for regular

(widely) targeted data analysis, we recommend using software provided by vendors.

1.4 Other information

Download link: https://github.com/yuanhonglun/WTV 2.0

Operating system and dependencies: Windows 10 or Windows 11. RAM: 8.0 GB or

more. It is recommended to run this software as administrator.

Installation: No installation required.

Programing language: Python.

License of use: GNU General Public License, version 3 (GPL-3.0).

2 Instruction

2.1 Library construction

2.1.1 Data Preparation

MSP file(s)

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Prepare MSP files that contains mass spectrometry information and theoretical retention times for substances.

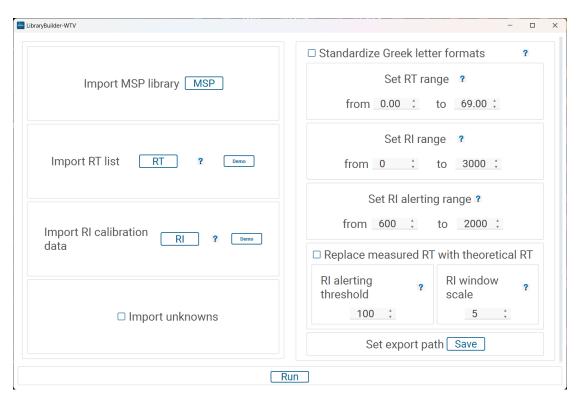
Retention Time Information

Using actual measured retention times (RT)

	Α	В
1	Name	RT
2	Acetaldehyde	1.496
3	Methanethiol	1.526
4	Ethane	1.5523
5	Ethyl Chloride	1.555
6	Formaldehyde	1.559
7	Propene	1.5612
8	Methyl Alcohol	1.5677
9	Methyl formate	1.5695
10	Ethylene oxide	1.5727
11	Dimethylamine	1.5753
12	Ethylamine	1.5773
13	2-Propenal	1.5779
14	Ethyl formate	1.5791
15	Butane, 2-methyl-	1.5798
16	Ethyl ether	1.5808

Or / And RI calibration

2.1.2 Parameter Configuration



Import MSP library

To input an MSP file, simply click the 'MSP' button and select the desired MSP file.

Once selected, the interface will display all the selected file directories, confirming a successful input.

Import MSP library MSP
Imported MSP library:
Acetaldehyde.MSP

Import RT list: Import a list of compounds and their RT.

Import RI calibration data: Import RI calibration data.

Use unknown: Users can use this feature when users need to enhance signals from compounds that cannot be qualitatively identified.



When users wish to use this feature, simply select the white box to highlight it, and the hidden menu will become visible. Within the hidden menu, input the corresponding information for the unknown item.

Similarity is calculated between unknowns and compounds within the userdefined retention time (RT) window. Only when the similarity is below the set threshold with all nearby compounds will the unknown be integrated into the database.

Standardize Greek letter formats: This option allows for a unified representation of Greek letters. e. g.: ".alpha." -> "alpha"

Set RT range: Once configured, the output retention times will be constrained within this range.

Set RI range: Once configured, the output retention index will be constrained within this range.

Set RI alerting range: Only unreasonable RT (Retention Time) values outside the configured range will trigger a warning.

Replace measured RT with theoretical RT: Selecting this option will replace measured retention times outside the set theoretical retention time window with the theoretical retention time.

RI alerting threshold: Compound will be marked if the difference between the measured RI and the database RI exceeds this threshold.

RI window scale: The larger this value, the larger the Rl error threshold when the RI is larger. Setting it to 0 disables this feature. For more specific and detailed information, please refer to the official documentation of the AMDIS software.

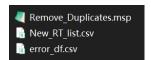
Set export path: Click the 'Save' button, choose a saving path, and the processed results will be saved to this directory.

Tips:

- 1. Any file directory entered can be deleted by double-clicking the entered entry.
- 2. Clicking the corresponding "demo" button allows viewing the required format.

2.1.3 Results and Reports

After configuring all parameters, click the 'Run' button. The program will automatically generate three result files.



The MSP result file: Contains the MSP file information after deduplication.

The RT (Retention Time) result file: Contains the Retention Time information after deduplication.

\mathcal{A}	Α	В	С	D	E
1	Name	RT	RI_msp	RI_input	Alert
842	5-Nonanol	21.528	1092	109	5
843	2-Furanmethanol, propar	21.5884	1096	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
844	Fenchone	21.5884	1096	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
845	Pyrazine, 2-methoxy-3-(1	21.6555	1097	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
846	2-Undecene, (E)-	21.6555	1097	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
847	7-Octen-4-ol, 2-methyl-	21.6555	1097	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
848	o-Guaiacol	21.689		109	7
849	Guaicol	21.7		109	8
850	Pentanoic acid, butyl este	21.7227	1098	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
851	3-(Methylthio)propanoic	21.7227	1098	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
852	trans-Linalool oxide (furar	21.743	1086	109	8
853	3-Nonanol	21.754	1095	109	8
854	4-Nonanol	21.808	1088	109	9
855	2H-Pyran-2-one, tetrahyo	21.817	1092	109	9
856	Methyl benzoate	21.87		110	0
857	Benzoic acid, methyl ester	21.915	1094	110	1
858	Butanoic acid, 2-methyl-,	21.9263	1101	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
859	6-Nonenal, (Z)-	21.9263	1101	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
860	2-Cyclohexen-1-one, 4,4	21.9263	1101	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
861	Furan, 3-(4-methyl-3-per	21.9263	1101	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
862	2-Nonanone	21.94	1092	110	1
863	Caryophyllenyl alcohol	21.95		110	1
864	3-Hexen-1-ol, propanoat	21.962	1100	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
	(Z,Z)-3,6-Nonadienal	21.962		The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	2-Undecene, (Z)-	21.9955		The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
867	Diallyl disulphide	21.999	1081	110	
	Thujone	22.0648	1103	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	(E)-1-Allyl-2-(prop-1-en	22.0648		The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
870	1-Nonen-4-ol	22.0648	1103	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
871	Decane, 2,6,8-trimethyl-	22.134		The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	2.2.6-Trimethyl-3-keto-6	22.186		110	
	Butanoic acid, 2-methyl-,		1105	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	Ethanone, 1-(4,5-dihydro			The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	3-Cyclohexene-1-methar			The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	Disulfide, dipropyl	22.3418		The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	1.3.8-p-Menthatriene	22.353	1119		
	Unknown S	22.376		110	
	Propanoic acid, hexyl este		1108	The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	2H-Pyran-3(4H)-one, 6-ε			The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	2,6,6-Trimethylbicyclo[3.2			The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt is in silico
	Phenol, 2,6-dimethyl-	22.4111		The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved	rt_is_in_silico
	Pentanoic acid, 3-methyll			108 The content of the retention time actually detected was not retrieved rt is in silic	
	Filifolone	22.42		110	
	Hexanoic acid, propyl este		1094		

The warning information file: Contains the warning information after deduplication.

Name	reason
Phenylethyl Alcohol	WARNING: Duplicates

Warning information including:

WARNING: The file format cannot be recognized

WARNING: This compound was not found in the provided MSP library.

WARNING: The RI of this compound is 0.

WARNING: The RT value is out of the setting range.

WARNING: The synonym name has been changed to unified Name.

WARNING: The synonym name was not found in the library.

WARNING: Duplicates

Tips: Path to the resulting file for the sample data of the *library builder*: https://github.com/yuanhonglun/WTV_2.0/tree/main/sample_data/library_builder_sa mple_data/export

2.2 Generating a Widely-Targeted SIM Method for Compound Detection (the *method generator* module)

2.2.1 Data Preparation

Before using this software, it is necessary to prepare two input files. The input files can directly utilize the corresponding result files generated by the *library builder* module.



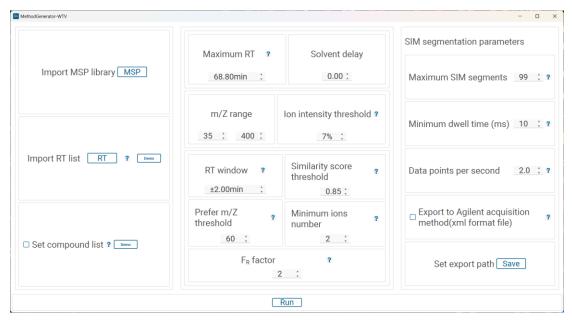
These input files should include the compound names and their corresponding RT (Retention Time) information.

	Α	В
1	Name	RT
2	Acetaldehyde	1.496
3	Methanethiol	1.526
4	Ethane	1.5523
5	Ethyl Chloride	1.555
6	Formaldehyde	1.559
7	Propene	1.5612
8	Methyl Alcohol	1.5677
9	Methyl formate	1.5695
10	Ethylene oxide	1.5727
11	Dimethylamine	1.5753
12	Ethylamine	1.5773

In addition, you should also have a Mass Spectrometry (MS) information file in the MSP format.

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2.2.2 Parameter Configuration



Import MSP library

To input an MSP file, simply click the 'MSP' button and select the desired MSP file.



Once selected, the interface will display all the selected file directories, confirming a successful input.

Import RT list: Import a list of compounds and their RT.

Set compound list: When "set compound list" is selected and a compound list is imported, the generated collection method will only contain qualitative ions of compounds in the list.

Maximum RT: Enter the end time of the temperature ramp program.

Solvent delay: Enter the start time for mass spectrometry detection, also known as the solvent delay time.

m/z range: The qualitative ions will be selected from within this range.

Ion intensity threshold: Ions with abundances lower than the maximum ion abundance multiplied by this threshold value will be excluded from the selection of qualitative ions.

RT window: When selecting qualitative ions, target compounds are compared for similarity with substances within the user-defined RT (Retention Time) window.

Similarity score threshold: When the similarity score is below the threshold of 0.85, two spectra are considered distinguishable. The default threshold is set to 0.85.

Prefer m/z threshold: M/Z values below this threshold will be assigned a lower weight in the calculation of the weighted score. The default threshold is set to 60.

Minimum ions number: This represents the minimum number of ions required for the selection of qualitative ions.

F_R **factor**: The 'Ratio of Peak Pairs' term is considered in the similarity score calculation only if the number of ions is greater than the specified threshold. The F_R factor is typically set to be consistent with the minimum number of ions. For more specific and detailed information, please refer to the official documentation of the AMDIS software.

SIM segmentation parameters:

Maximum SIM segments: The maximum number of segments allowed in the SIM (Selected Ion Monitoring) acquisition method. Default: 99.

Minimum dwell time (ms): The allowed minimum dwell time. Default: 10 ms.

Data points per second: Adjust the number of data points per second. If the calculated dwell time based on the specified data points per second falls below the

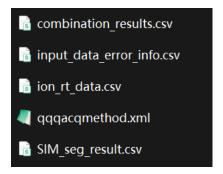
minimum dwell time, the data points per second will be decreased to ensure that the dwell time remains greater than or equal to the minimum dwell time. The default setting is 2.

Export to Agilent data acquisition method (xml format file): Select this option to export the XML-formatted file used by Agilent data acquisition software.

Set export path: Click the 'Save' button, choose a saving path, and the processed results will be saved to this directory.

2.2.3 Generated Widely-Targeted SIM Method

After configuring all parameters, click the 'Run' button. The program will automatically generate five result files.



combination_results: This displays the combined information of target compounds after merging.

Name	RT	Ion_Combination	Note	Similar_Compound_List	SCL_Note
Ethanol	1.575	[45, 46]			
Acetonitrile	1.5767	[38, 39]			
Dimethyl sulfide	1.60034	[61, 62]			
Butanal	1.99788	[44, 71]			

input_data_error_info: This file highlights discrepancies in the input data that
led to improper identification and analysis.

Name	error
Α	The ion group format is incorrect.
В	This compound is not in the RT list.

ion_rt_data: This file displays the results of the final compounds and their
qualitative ions.

The content of this file is identical to the 'combination_results' file, but it is in a different format to make it more user-friendly for other purposes.

Name	RT	ion
Ethanol	1.575	45
Ethanol	1.575	46
Acetonitrile	1.5767	38
Acetonitrile	1.5767	39
Dimethyl sulfide	1.60034	61
Dimethyl sulfide	1.60034	62
Butanal	1.99788	44
Butanal	1.99788	71
Acetic acid	2.1643	60
Acetic acid	2.1643	43

SIM_seg_result: This file presents the results of the SIM segments.

	35	36	37	38	39
0.00833				1	1
0.01667				1	1
0.025				1	1
0.03333				1	1
0.04167				1	1
0.05				1	1
0.05833				1	1
0.06667				1	1
0.075				1	1
0.08333				1	1
0.09167				1	1

qqqacqmethod.xml: The XML-formatted file used by Agilent data acquisition software.

Tips: Path to the resulting file for the sample data and demo data of the *method* generator:

 $https://github.com/yuanhonglun/WTV_2.0/tree/main/sample_data/method_generator_sample_data/export$

2.3 Data Analysis (the *data analyzer* module)

2.3.1 Data Preparation

2.3.1.1 Mass Spectrometry File Format Conversion

Before data analysis, we need converse raw data to open formats (.mzML/.cdf) by open access application.

Data conversion to open format (.mzML)

Conversion with MSConvert

Download and install ProteoWizard from here (http://proteowizard.sourceforge.net/downloads.shtml) .

After installation, from the Start Menu, click the ProteoWizard folder and open MSConvert.

Click Browse and select file(s) for conversion. Then click Add to add them to the MSConvert workflow.

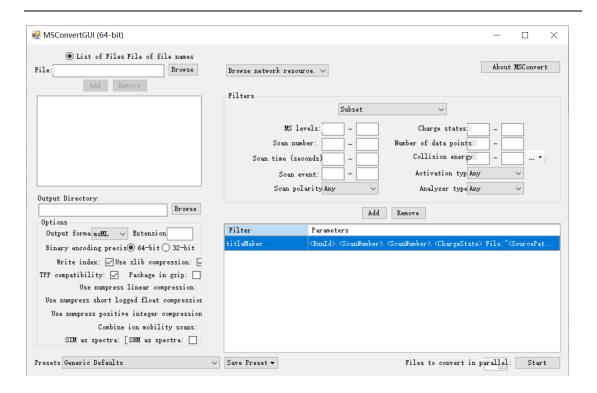
Choose an Output Directory.

Under Options, choose mzML (prefered) or mzXML for output format, 32-bit for binary encoding precision, SIM as spectra and uncheck Use zlib compression.

Click Add to add the filter.

Save the parameters for the next conversion. This will save you some time and prevent misconfiguration. In Presets (left bottom), click on Save Presets, and select "Save as default for the format".

Click on Start. Check your folder for the new .mzML files. Verify that these files open properly in Insilicos or TOPP View (OpenMS http://www.openms.de/).

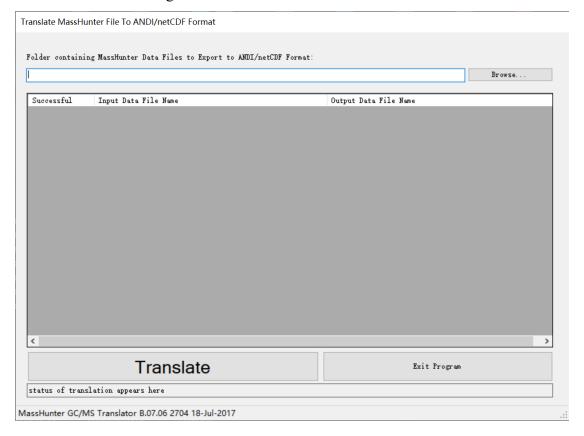


Data conversion to open format (.cdf)

Agilent: Click Browse and select folder containing file(s) for conversion.

Click Translate

The CDF files are generated in the same folder as the raw data files.



For data processing methods from other vendors, please refer to the relevant data conversion instructions.

2.3.1.2 Compound Library (MSP) for identification

Input an MSP file that contains all the target metabolites. The input files can directly utilize the corresponding result files generated by the *library builder* module.

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2.3.1.3 Optional: Retention Time Information

To identify compounds using actual measured retention times (RT), you will need the required files. The input files can directly utilize the corresponding result files generated by the *library builder* module.

	Α	В
1	Name	RT
2	Acetaldehyde	1.496
3	Methanethiol	1.526
4	Ethane	1.5523
5	Ethyl Chloride	1.555
6	Formaldehyde	1.559
7	Propene	1.5612
8	Methyl Alcohol	1.5677
9	Methyl formate	1.5695
10	Ethylene oxide	1.5727
11	Dimethylamine	1.5753
12	Ethylamine	1.5773
13	2-Propenal	1.5779
14	Ethyl formate	1.5791
15	Butane, 2-methyl-	1.5798
16	Ethyl ether	1.5808

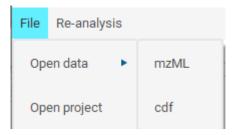
To identify compounds using Kovats Index calculation, you will need the necessary files.

	Α	В
1	Num	RT (min)
2	8	5.219
3	9	9.34
4	10	15.177
5	11	21.877
6	12	28.764
7	13	35.514
8	14	41.988
9	15	48.144
10	16	53.937
11	17	59.401
12	18	63.787
13	19	64.851
14	20	65.484

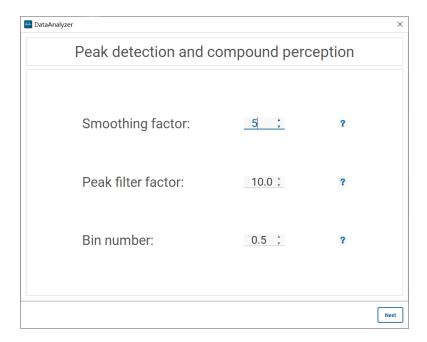
2.3.2 Parameter Configuration

2.3.2.1 Data Import

Select the appropriate option based on the transformed file format.



2.3.2.2 Peak Detection



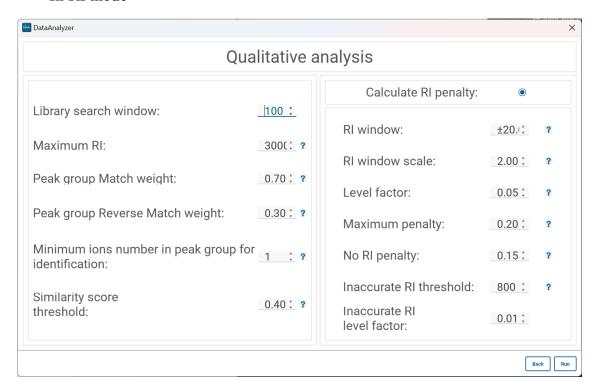
Smoothing factor: A high smooth factor can make the peaks smoother, but it may also lead to the loss of low-abundance peaks. The default value is set to 5.

Peak filter factor: A high peak filter factor can remove low-abundance peaks. If this value exceeds 10, it will significantly extend the program's runtime. The default setting is 10.

Bin number: When using a low data point acquisition mode, such as two points per second, it is recommended to set a wide peak grouping width, for example, 0.5. For more specific and detailed information, please refer to the official documentation of the AMDIS software.

2.3.2.3 Qualitative Analysis

In RI mode



Library search window: Configure the retrieval target compound window in RI mode. The program will compare all compounds within the specified matching window.

Maximum RI: The maximum RI (Retention Index) value.

Peak group Match weight: Peak group forward retrieval matching score weight.

Peak group Reverse Match weight: Peak group reverse retrieval matching score weight

Minimum ions number in peak group for identification: The minimum number of ions required for a peak group.

Similarity score threshold: The integrated similarity score threshold, where only compounds with scores above this threshold will be considered as candidate compounds.

Calculate RI penalty: Selecting this option will penalize candidate compounds with a significant difference in RI values.

RI window: Set the RI window range in which no penalty will be applied.

RI window scale: The RI penalty window will be scaled linearly by this factor. Setting it to 0 disables this feature. The default value is 2.

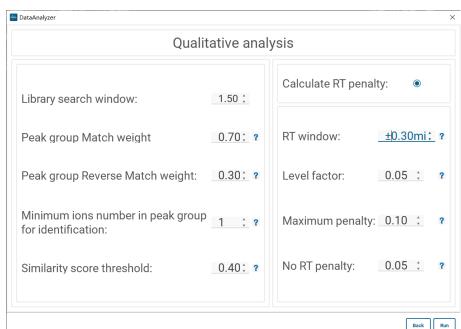
Level factor: A higher number indicates a more severe penalty.

Maximum penalty: Set the maximum penalty score.

No RI penalty: Peak groups without RI (Retention Index) will receive a penalty.

Inaccurate RI threshold: RI values below this threshold will be affected by the Inaccurate RI level factor.

Inaccurate RI level factor: The specified range for the Inaccurate RI threshold mentioned above is used for the following purposes.



In RT mode

Library search window: Configure the retrieval target compound window in RT mode. The program will compare all compounds within the specified matching window.

Peak group Match weight: Peak group forward retrieval matching score weight.

Peak group Reverse Match weight: Peak group reverse retrieval matching score weight.

Minimum ions number in peak group for identification: The minimum number of ions required for a peak group.

Similarity score threshold: The integrated similarity score threshold, where only compounds with scores above this threshold will be considered as candidate compounds.

Calculate RT penalty: Selecting this option will penalize candidate compounds with a significant difference in RT values.

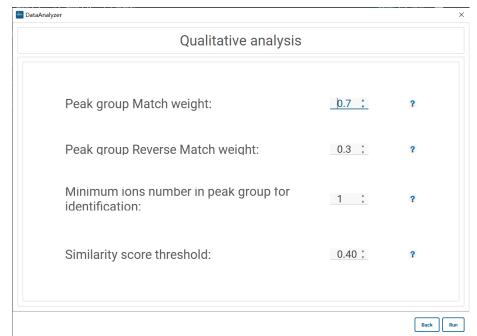
RT window: Set the RT window range in which no penalty will be applied.

Level factor: A higher number indicates a more severe penalty.

Maximum penalty: Set the maximum penalty score.

No RT penalty: Peak groups with retention times (RT) lower than this value will not receive a penalty for mismatch.

Choose the mode for not entering retention time information.



Peak group Match weight: Peak group forward retrieval matching score weight.

Peak group Reverse Match weight: Peak group reverse retrieval matching score weight.

Minimum ions number in peak group for identification:

The minimum number of ions required for a peak group.

Similarity score threshold: The integrated similarity score threshold, where only compounds with scores above this threshold will be considered as candidate compounds.

2.3.3 Main Workspace Overview

RT unit: Users can use this option to switch the RT unit between min and s.

Only show identified peak group: After the user makes a selection, the result interface will only display peak groups that can match candidate compounds under the current threshold.

Peak group ions number filter: Users can use this feature to filter peak groups that contain a number of ions not less than the current setting.

Results window:

The left panel displays the detected components, including their RT, RI, annotation results, quantitative ions, peak areas and heights. Users can also define the unit of

displayed RT, whether to show only qualified compounds, and the minimum ion number for showed components. The right panel displays the extraction ion currents (EICs), spectra comparison, and possible qualitative results for the selected component. Users can export qualitative results as a CSV file.

2.3.4 Results file

A pkl binary containing all the resulting information:

total_result_20231218185815.pkl

qualitative_and_quantitative_analysis_result.csv

RT	Best_match_name	All_match_list	Quant_lon	Relative_Peak_Area	Peak_Height
84.613	Unknown		44	51559382.94	9425551.222
88.851	Ethylene oxide	'Ethylene oxide', 0.	43	2359131.965	539616.9689
90.97	Methanethiol	'Methanethiol', 0.5	47	2217056.696	393385.8391
94.149	Dimethylamine	'Ethylene oxide', 0.	45	1026864.071	206045.3247
98.387	Acetone	'Acetone', 0.65	43	7402592.844	1473278.612
102.626	Furan	'Furan', 0.78	68	304752.3643	50242.89589
106.864	Carbon disulfide	'Ethylene oxide', 0.	76	12025194.25	1856838.009
111.103	Carbon disulfide_ana	'Carbon disulfide',	73	566079.1684	25203.58138
122.758	Unknown		43	411904.205	86493.45974
127.029	3-Buten-2-ol, 2-met	'3-Buten-2-ol, 2-r	71	584146.4935	119166.6559
148.402	Butanal, 3-methyl-	'Butanal, 3-methyl	41	388206.8416	86818.48326
154.815	Butanal, 2-methyl-	'2-Propen-1-ol', 0	41	566715.6631	70592.06163
160.158	Formic acid, propyl e	'Formic acid, propy	71	130489.9453	28593.01541

Tips: Path to the resulting file for the sample data of the *data analyzer*: https://github.com/yuanhonglun/WTV_2.0/tree/main/sample_data/data_analyzer_sam ple_data/export