

Thermo Scientific LipidSearch  
Software for Lipidomics Workflows

# Automated Identification and Relative Quantitation of Lipids by LC/MS

 LipidSearch

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## The promise of lipidomics

Lipidomics is a new field of study crucial for understanding cellular physiology and pathology.

The application of lipidomic profiling to disease phenotype analysis is a rapidly growing aspect of translational medical research. Identification of unique lipid biomarkers has the potential to distinguish healthy individuals from individuals at risk for disease, detect diseases earlier, and facilitate development of personalized treatments.

Liquid chromatography combined with mass spectrometry (LC/MS) is a widely adopted technique for lipidomics analyses. Relative and absolute quantitation, and identification, of lipids from biological samples requires sophisticated software with an extensive, comprehensive database.

Thermo Scientific™ LipidSearch™ software provides accurate identification of lipids and automatically integrates complex data into a concise report. With its easy-to-use web-based interface, it dramatically reduces data analysis time.

The screenshot displays the LipidSearch web interface. It features a navigation menu with 'Search', 'Alignment', 'Result', and 'System'. The main area is divided into 'Data Explorer' on the left, showing a file tree with folders like 'data' and 'c:\lipidsearch\data', and 'Parameters' on the right. The 'Parameters' section includes 'Batch' (Job Name: YEAST LIPIDS), 'Database' (Target Database: General), and 'Peak detection' (Recalc Isotope: on). The 'Search options' section includes 'Save options' (ProductSearch\_QEX), 'SearchType' (Parent, Product, Target, Multi), 'ExpType' (LC-MS, Infusion), and various tolerance and threshold settings like 'Parent tol' (0.1), 'NL/Prec tol' (0.5), 'Precursor tol' (5.0), 'Product tol' (8.0), 'Merge Range' (99999.0), 'Min Peak Width' (0.0), 'Intensity threshold' (5.0), and 'm-Score threshold' (3.0).

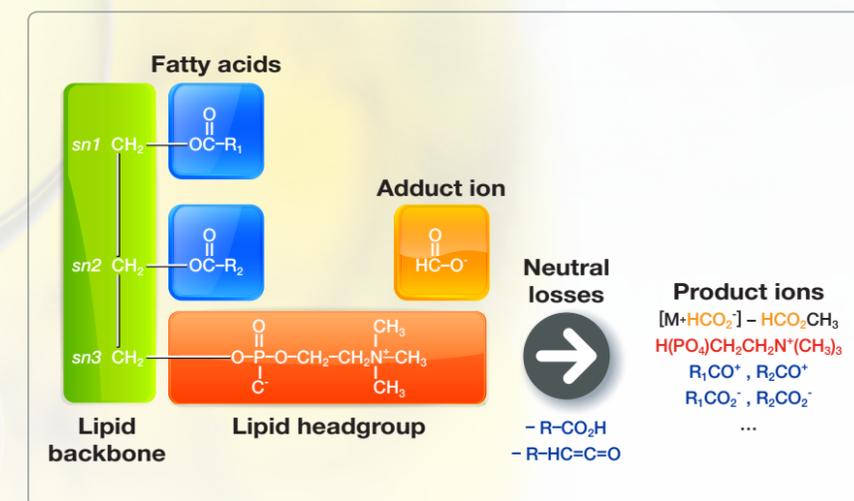
Easy-to-use web browser interface for automated and reliable identification

## Automated identification and relative quantitation with LipidSearch software

LipidSearch software, developed jointly by Professor Ryo Taguchi and MKI, (Tokyo, Japan), is a powerful new tool for automatic identification and relative quantification of cellular lipid molecular species from large amounts of mass spectrometric data obtained in nano-infusion or LC-MS experiments. Using the industry-leading, high-resolution, accurate-mass Thermo Scientific Orbitrap™ technology with exclusive LipidSearch software, the most accurate and confident lipid profiles and identifications can be achieved more quickly than ever before.

- Compatible with data acquired from Thermo Scientific™ triple quadrupole, ion trap, and Orbitrap mass spectrometers
- Largest lipid database containing >1.5 million lipid ions and their predicted fragment ions
- Identification algorithms for product ion, precursor ion and neutral loss scans
- Alignment of lipid data obtained from multiple LC-MS and MS<sup>n</sup> experiments
- Relative quantitation of identified lipid precursors in either LC-MS or infusion experiments

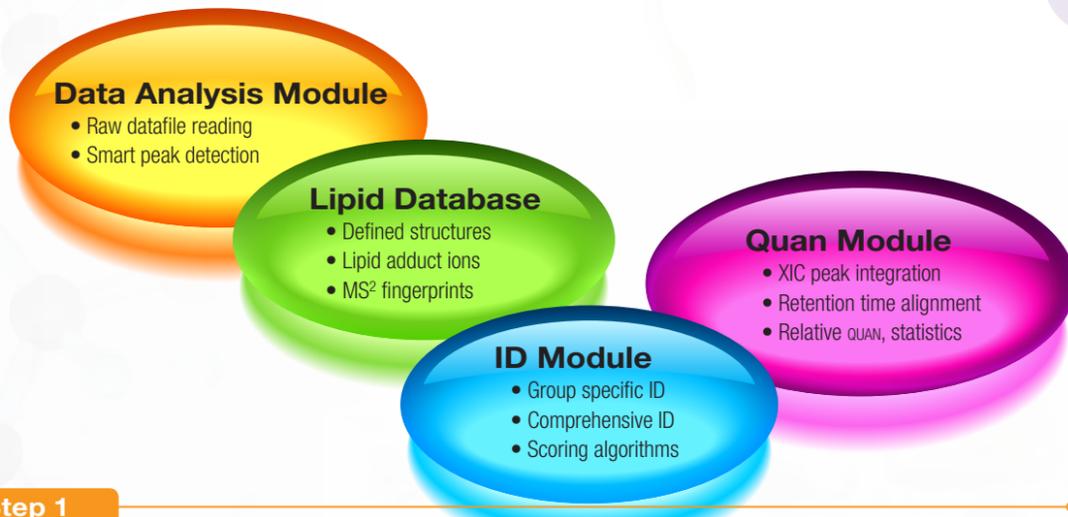
The database contains defined structures and includes more than **1.5 million lipid ions and their predicted fragment ions**. Fragmentation patterns are calculated and improved by using expert knowledge based on experimental results. Lipid adduct ions and MS<sup>n</sup> fingerprints are also included. Data are stored in XML files and are easily customized.



Lipid fragment ions related to lipid headgroup, fatty acids, and backbone

# LipidSearch software provides an easy-to-use, automated workflow

From peak detection to relative quantitation and identification, LipidSearch software provides an easy-to-use, automated workflow.



## Step 1

### Data Analysis Module — Peak Detection

- Raw data file reading
- Smart peak detection

The peak detection engine implemented in LipidSearch software can handle different MS experiments and platforms. The combination of unique peak detection algorithms, tailored for each experiment and instrument type, and mass spectral processing functions enables accurate peak detection.

LipidSearch software provides two different identification algorithms as well as scoring algorithms:

- A group-specific algorithm identifies lipids based on the polar head groups or fatty acids using a combination of precursor ion scanning and neutral loss scans from lipids mixtures.

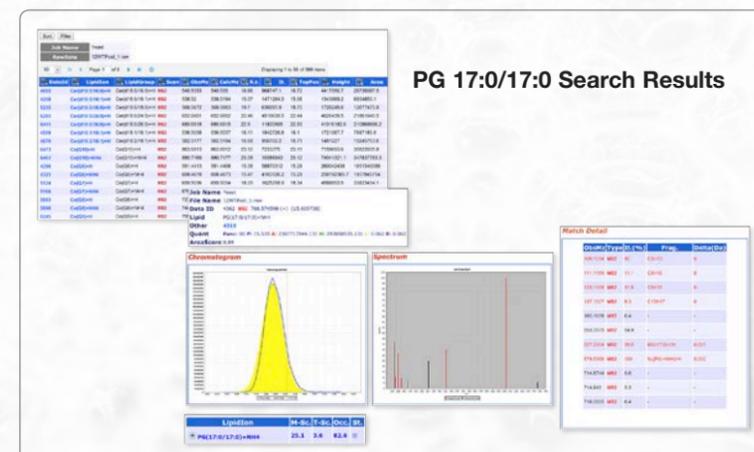
- The comprehensive ID algorithm is used for product ion scans and can discriminate each lipid by matching the predicted fragmentation pattern stored in the database.

- LipidSearch software also provides a set of scoring algorithms to filter out lower probability results.

## Step 2

### Identification Module — Lipid Identification

- Group-specific ID (targeted)
- Comprehensive ID (untargeted)
- Scoring algorithms



## Step 3

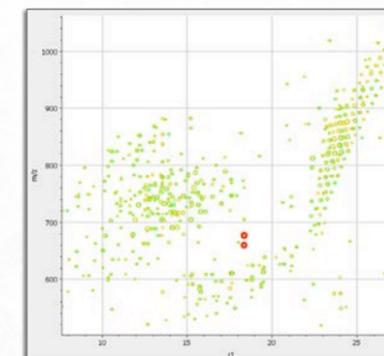
### Quantitation Module — Alignment and Quantitation

- XIC peak integration
- Retention time alignment
- Relative quantitation
- Statistical analysis

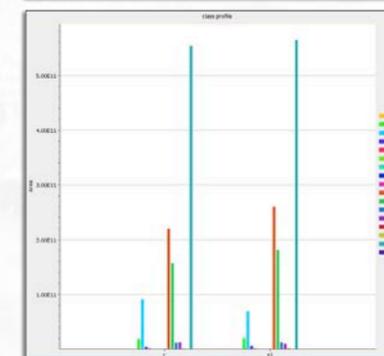
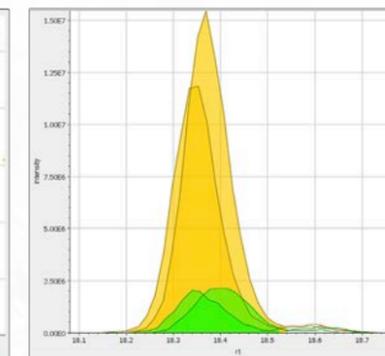
Prior to quantitation, lipid results from each sample are aligned within a retention time window. Identified lipids are quantified by detecting their precursor ions from full-scan MS and integrating extracted ion chromatograms.

Accurate peak areas are computed by denoising and smoothing the peak profiles prior to separating any partially overlapped peaks. Comparative analysis is then carried out between the multiple sample and control groups using *t*-test statistics. The mean peak area result for each group is displayed in a "box and whisker" plot.

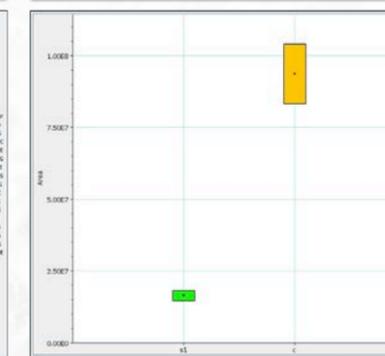
A. "Bubble plot" - retention time vs. *m/z* of lipid species



B. XIC integration, alignment



C. Relative quantitation by lipid class



D. Statistical analysis "whisker" plot

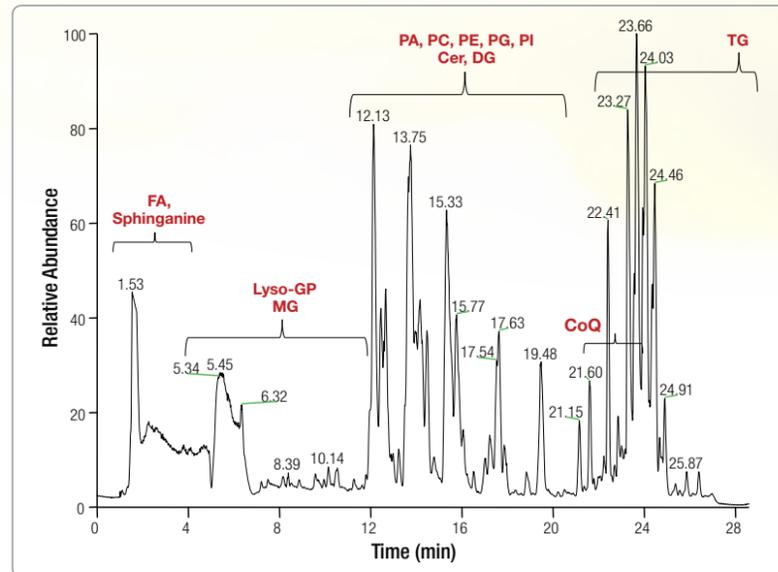
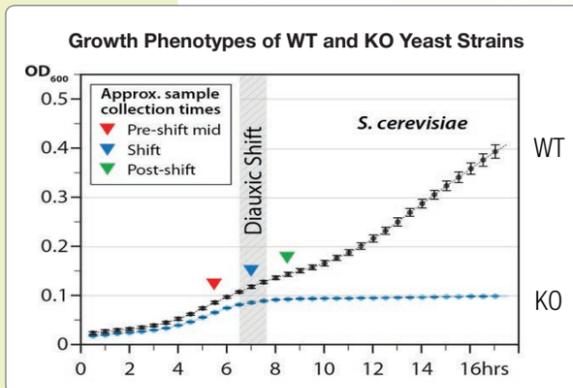
Alignment results for CoQ<sub>7</sub>, [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>



# Lipid profiling of wild type and knockout yeast strains reveals detailed changes for individual lipid species

Wild-type (WT) yeast (*S. Cerevisiae*) continue to grow after glucose is exhausted from the media (diauxic shift point) whereas knockout (KO) yeast have a defect in CoQ production and do not grow after the shift point. Duplicates of WT and KO yeast were collected post shift for lipidomics LC-MS analysis using a Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™ hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap MS both in MS and data-dependent MS<sup>2</sup> mode.

(Peake, D.A.; Wang, J.; Huang, P.; Jochem, A.; Higbee, A.; Pagliarini, D.J., Quantitative yeast lipidomics via LC-MS profiling using the Q Exactive Orbitrap mass spectrometer, presented at the *LIPID MAPS Annual Meeting 2012, May 7-8, 2012, La Jolla, CA.*)



▲ LC-MS chromatogram of lipids from yeast

**LipidSearch Results Summary**

Name	RawData	Type	ExpType	Process	Result
Yeast	11WTPost_1.raw	Product	LC	P I Q	322 %391
Yeast	12WTPost_1.raw	Product	LC	P I Q	332 %389
Yeast	3KOPost_1.raw	Product	LC	P I Q	309 %377
Yeast	4KOPost_1.raw	Product	LC	P I Q	306 %366

**Aligned Results Summary**

Name	Type	ExpType	Process	Result
Yeast (All)	Product	LC	M	738 %814
Yeast (Main)	Product	LC	M	542 %607

▲ LipidSearch status view of search and alignment results

## Step 1 Data Processing

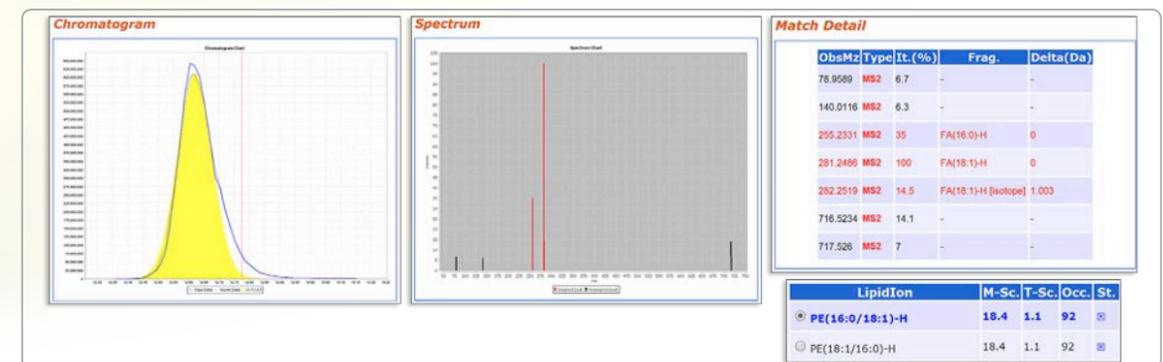
LC-MS raw files containing full scan MS and data-dependent - MS<sup>2</sup> data were searched for FA (fatty acids), sphinganine, Lyso-GP (glycerophospholipids), MG (mono-acyl glycerol), GP (PA, PC, PE, PG, PI, PS), Cer (ceramides) and CoQ (co-enzyme) lipid classes using a mass tolerance of 5 ppm for precursor ions and 8 ppm for product ions. The search results from 2 WT and 2 KO samples were aligned using a 0.25 min tolerance window and a combined report was generated. A total of 738 lipid isomers with 542 different formulas were identified and correlated between the 4 data files.

## Step 2 Identification

### Identification

For each MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum, search results are summarized, along with a score indicating the fit, for lipid species matching the predicted fragmentation pattern from the database. If a mixture of lipids is found, the most abundant lipid is displayed. The fragment ions used to identify the lipid species are highlighted in red when the match is selected.

### ID of PE 16:0-18:1, MS<sup>2</sup> of m/z 716.5230 [C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>75</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>P]

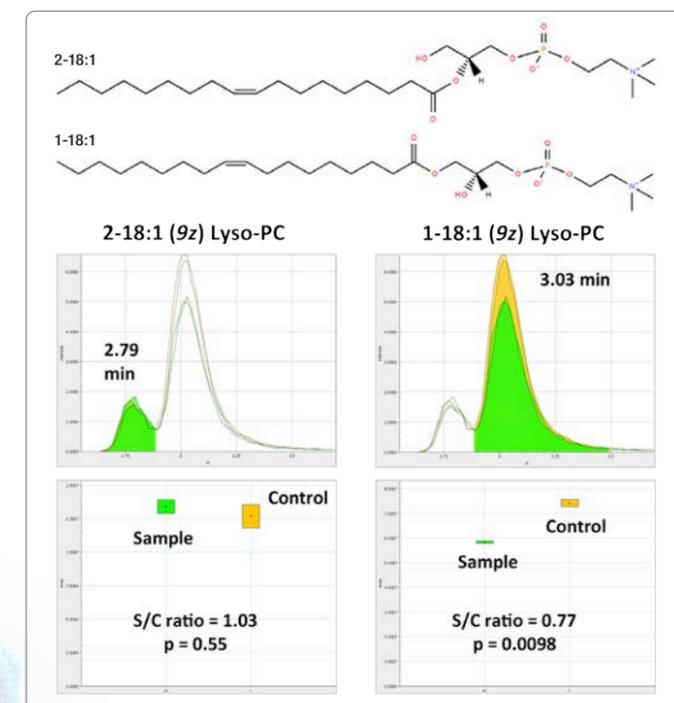


## Step 3 Alignment and Quantitation

### Alignment and Quantitation

Alignment results are summarized for annotated lipid species eluting within the retention time tolerance window. The relative peak areas are reported along with the *t*-test statistics. The aligned chromatograms for two Lyso - PC 18:1 isomers are shown to the right. The structural assignments are based on the known elution order of lyso-phospholipids on reversed-phase HPLC columns

(Creer, M. H.; Gross, R. W. *Lipids* 1985, 20, 922-928).



Using the industry-leading, high-resolution, accurate-mass Thermo Scientific™ Orbitrap™ technology with exclusive LipidSearch software, achieve the most accurate and confident lipid profiles and identifications more quickly than ever before. For targeted quantitation, LipidSearch software also supports the Thermo Scientific TSQ triple quadrupole MS systems. For both lipidomics workflows, LipidSearch software automatically integrates complex data into a combined report to dramatically reduce data analysis.

#### Minimum/Recommended PC Requirements

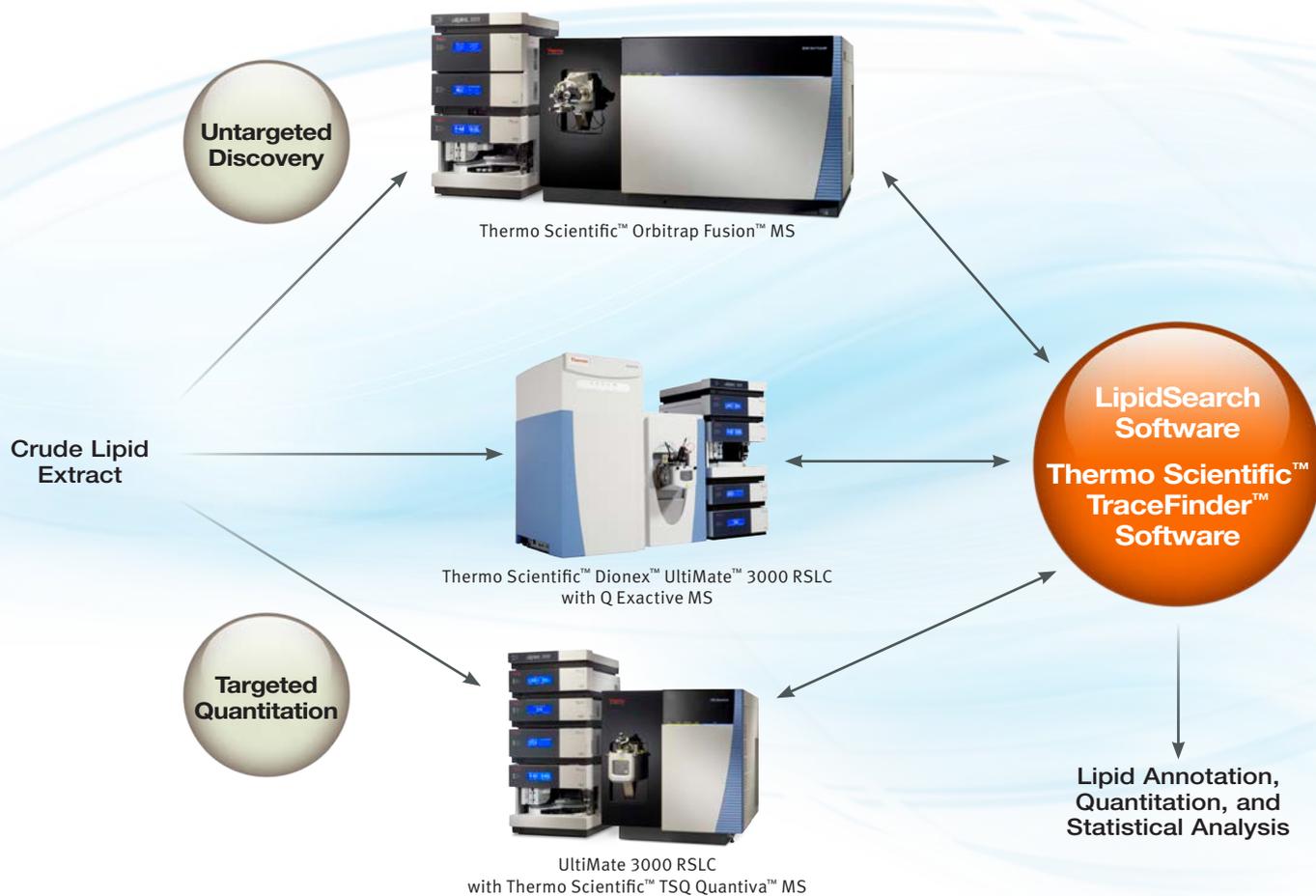
**OS:** Microsoft® Windows® 7 Professional (x64) or Windows 8 (x64); English language

**CPU:** Quad - or multi-core CPU, 2 GHz or higher

**Memory:** 8 GB RAM or higher

**HDD:** 50 GB free space for LipidSearch software; 500 GB hard drive

**SSD (optional):** 50 GB free space for LipidSearch software; 256 GB solid-state drive



**For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.**

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