### Introduction to mass spectrometry and peptide mass fingerprint

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## What is mass spectrometry?

- Mass spectrometry is a powerful analytical technique that is used to identify unknown compounds, to quantify known compounds, and to elucidate the structure and chemical properties of molecules.
- Determine the mass of a molecule by measuring the mass/charge (m/z) of its ion



http://www.asms.org/whatisms/p1.html

# Did you know that mass spectrometry is used to...

- 1. Detect and identify the use of steroids in athletes
- 2. Monitor the breath of patients by anesthesiologists during surgery
- 3. Determine the composition of molecular species found in space
- 4. Locate oil deposits by measuring petroleum precursors in rock
- 5. Monitor fermentation processes for the biotechnology industry
- 6. Detect dioxins in contaminated fish
- 7. Determine gene damage from environmental causes











#### http://www.asms.org/whatisms/p1.html

#### **Mass spectrometer**



Sequest

# Schematics of Mass Spectrometers



# 1. MALDI-TOF



# Matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI)



 Sample (A) is mixed with excess matrix (M) and dried on a MALDI plate.

2. Laser flash ionizes matrixmolecules.

3. Sample molecules are ionized by proton transfer from matrix:

 $\mathsf{MH}++\mathsf{A} \rightarrow \mathsf{M}+\mathsf{AH}+.$ 

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### Time of flight TOF



Protein identification by peptide mass fingerprinting (PMF) using a MALDI-TOF

### **PMF = Peptide Mass Fingerprinting**

