

KnowItAll Mass Spectrometry Training

*Vendor Neutral Data Processing
Solution for Spectral Analyses*

WILEY



KnowItAll™

“Novel Wiley Adaptive MS Search for the Identification of Unknowns”

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Mass Spec Interpretation Services

Handouts for Videos:

Website: “Little Mass Spec and Sailing”

<https://littlemsandsailing.wordpress.com>

Note: In-depth training videos/handouts on this new mass spec software on my website!

KnowItAll Adaptive Search (*Patented*)

- Based on initial research found in NIST hybrid search reference*
- Finds similar compounds where a molecular fragment is absent or present in the reference spectrum compared to the unknown
- Presence or absence designated by its Δ mass, difference of nominal molecular weight of known vs. reference
- Peaks in the unknown spectrum compared to the reference spectrum shifted by Δ mass
- The "blended" hit quality index value reflects *both* the shifted and unshifted peaks

Results: Adaptive search routinely yields useful results not found with the more traditional identity search if the component is not present in the reference libraries

Thus: Greatly extends the effectiveness of all reference and even user libraries

*"Combining Fragment-Ion and Neutral-Loss Matching during Mass Spectral Library Searching: A New General Purpose Algorithm Applicable to Illicit Drug Identification," A. Moorthy, W. Wallace, A. J. Kearsley, D. Tchekhovskoi, and S. Stein, *Analytical Chemistry* **2017** 89 (24), 13261-13268.

Setup for Adaptive Search

- Setup of libraries searched and advanced parameters same for the standard similarity and adaptive search the same, see previous information for the former in previous handout and video
- Again specify the single dot-product (Cosine) and this time selected Adaptive Search
- Adaptive search works best when the molecular weight is specified, so enter in the value in the molecular m/z box
- If unsure, let the program determine and populate the box selecting the “light bulb” next to the Molecular m/z field
- Send the spectrum to search using the “Search” button at bottom of page

The image shows a search interface with two main sections. The top section is titled "Search Categories" and includes a checkbox for "Spectrum MS (GC)". To the right, there are controls for "Number of components:" (set to "1 (Single)"), "Search Method:" (set to "Dot-Product (Cosine)"), and a checked checkbox for "Adaptive Search". The label "Molecular m/z:" is present but the input field is empty. The bottom section also has a checked checkbox for "Adaptive Search", a "Molecular m/z:" input field, a lightbulb icon, and an unchecked checkbox for "Reverse Search".

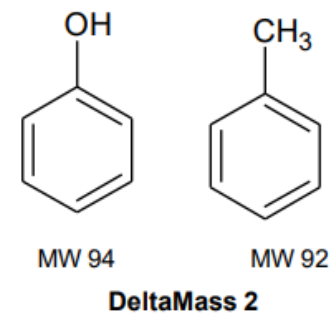
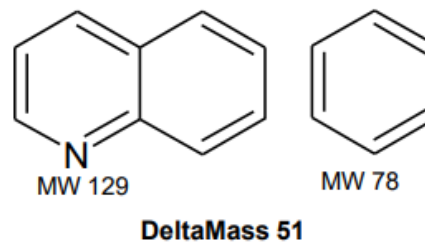
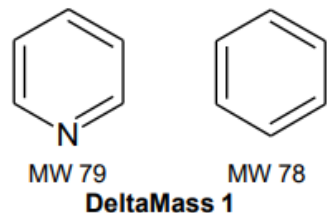
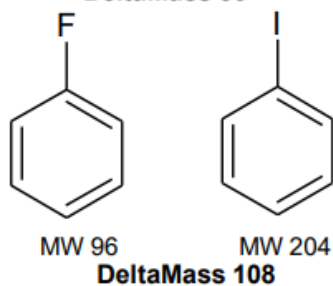
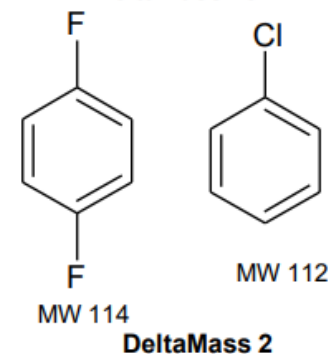
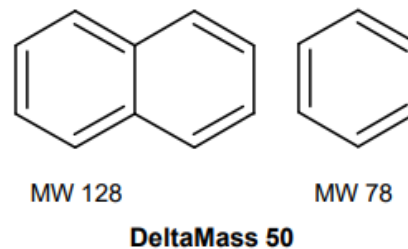
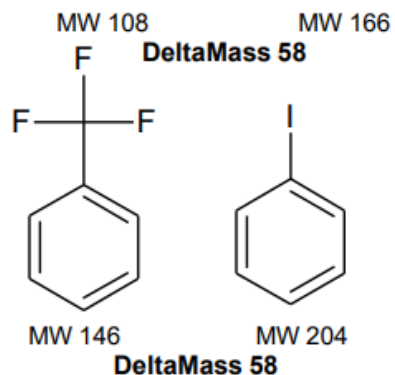
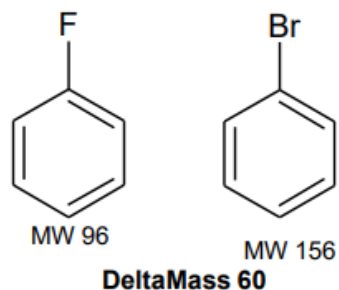
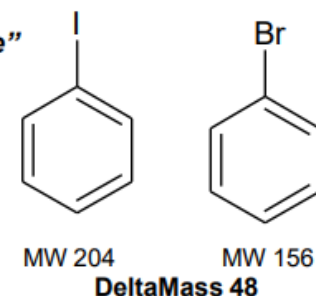
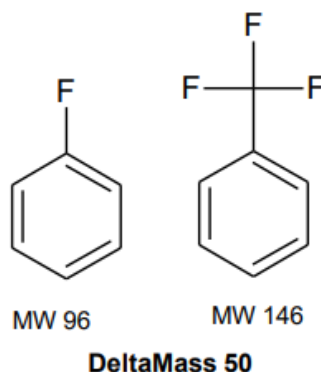
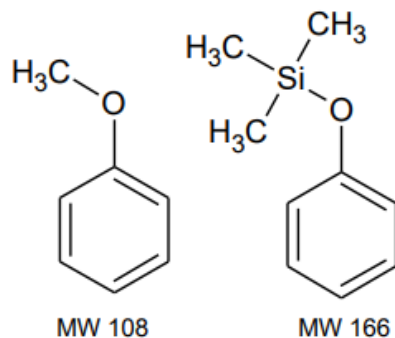
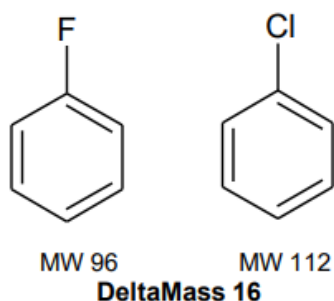
Viewing Results of the Adaptive Search

- Many of the results for the adaptive search and standard similarity search are the same
- The differences are the last three fields to the right
- The first is the Δm [μ] field which shows the difference in the nominal molecular weight of the known versus the unknown
- The second is the “ Δm info” field which will show the user how the reference spectrum was changed to get the observed HQI (hit quality index) for the adaptive search result
- The last column, “Replacement,” gives some possible clues for the elements or substructure elements that yield the observed Δm
- All this better explained in video

MS (GC)										
Table			Plot		Related Compounds View					
HQI	R.HQI	Tag	DF	ID	Name	Spectrum	<auto> (MS (GC))	Δm [u]	Δm Info	Replacement
95.45	98.56			MSX 157635	1-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-4-methylpiperazine		<auto> (MS (GC))	18		In unknown, Fluorine replaces Hydrogen in reference. In unknown, Sulfur replaces Methylene group in reference.

Associating Some Simple Structures with DeltaMass Values

- Some simple **small** MW compounds to illustrate types of substructural information
- Of course, these substructures can be a part of **much larger** molecules
- Note:** Odd values of DeltaMass contain one nitrogen change in structure, thus **"Nitrogen Rule"**
- Isotope ratios and/or accurate mass helpful with redundancies



Some Other Resources on the Internet for Wiley Adaptive and NIST Hybrid Searches

- Many of the resources for the NIST hybrid search are useful for Wiley Adaptive Search
- Slightly different results will be noted though when comparing the results
- The adaptive search is easier to visualize using the “ Δm info” window than NIST’s multicolor display
- The NIST search **does not** have a “Replacement” type field to suggest changes in the structure

Click on the Hyperlinks below:

1. [Combining Fragment-Ion and Neutral-Loss Matching during Mass Spectral Library Searching, NIST Reference, Stein et. al](#)
2. [Real World Wiley Adaptive Example Video for fentanyl related species](#)
3. [Real World Wiley Adaptive Example Video for fentanyl related species](#)
4. [NIST Hybrid Example of Illicit Drug](#)
5. [Slides used for NIST Illicit Drug Video](#)
6. [NIST Hybrid Search Training Video](#)
7. [NIST Hybrid Search Training Handout](#)
8. [Delta Mass Table of Common Values Noted in Excel Format](#)

Conclusions

- Greatly extends the effectiveness of all EI libraries in the characterization of unknowns compared to standard similarity search
- Standard search when unknown present in library directly yields proposed structure
- Adaptive research yields clues that allow user to propose structure (s)
- Always consider sample history
- Take into consideration chemical ionization, accurate mass, IR, NMR, mechanistic data
- Often more than one useful delta mass noted