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1. Requirements

1) Computing system

plon search requires a computer with recommended configuration as follows:

- Microsoft Windows 64-bit
- Intel Core i7/i9/Xeon Processor
- 32GB of RAM or more

Note: plon v1.0 is NOT supported by non-Windows operating systems (incl. MacOS, Linux and so on).

2) MS Data

- Data dependent acquisition (DDA) with BOTH MS1 and MS/MS spectra recorded in the High-Resolution mode

Note: 1) For automatic performance assessment of chemoproteomic probes, it is recommended to acquire MS data from probe-labeled samples with DMP-tag.

2. Download

1) plon can be freely downloaded from the following website:

<http://pfind.org/software/plon/index.html>

pFind Studio: a computational solution for mass spectrometry-based proteomics

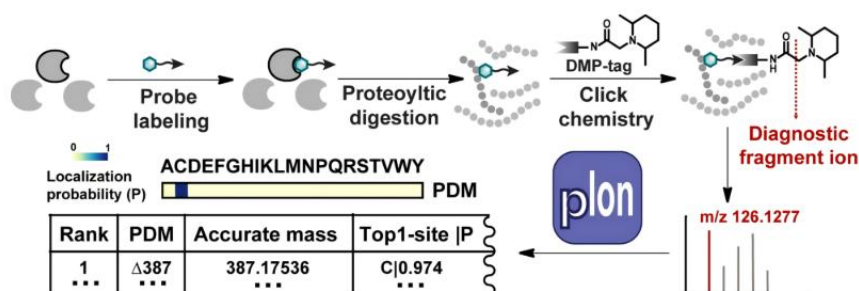
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pIon

[Introduction](#) - [Cite us](#) - [Downloads](#)

Introduction

The ever-growing field of covalent drug discovery and chemoproteomics has fueled a need for bioconjugation methods with high selectivity in a native context. Given that the sheer number of functional groups present, achieving residue-specificity in biological systems remains a challenge. In order to identify the best residue-specific bioconjugation method, numerous small molecule models and/or purified proteins have been employed for rigorous method validation in terms of selectivity, efficiency and stability. Such in vitro experiments therefore became increasingly time consuming, yet they were unable to enumerate all functional groups present in complex, native biological systems. pIon is a computational tool that enables a cost-efficient pipeline for high-throughput evaluation of residue-specific bioconjugation chemistries. It starts with a rapid experimental phase, in which the proteome conjugated by a reactive probe is chemically coded for generating diagnostic report ions in tandem mass spectrometry analysis. The resulting MS data can be directly imported into pIon, which automatically calculates the accurate modification masses derived from a tested probe as well as the corresponding residue preferences. Thus, pIon has the potential to become a valuable option for routine evaluation of bioconjugation chemistries, thereby driving the field of bioconjugation chemistry to unprecedented dimensions and interfacing the worlds of biological and synthetic chemistry.



Downloads

Notice: Nov. 27, 2024 - pIon is currently available for free use. [Click to download.](#)

For demo data, please refer to [Click to download.](#)

For source code, please refer to [github](#).

For detailed usage, please refer to [user guide](#).

For other issues, please contact pengyaping21s@ict.ac.cn.

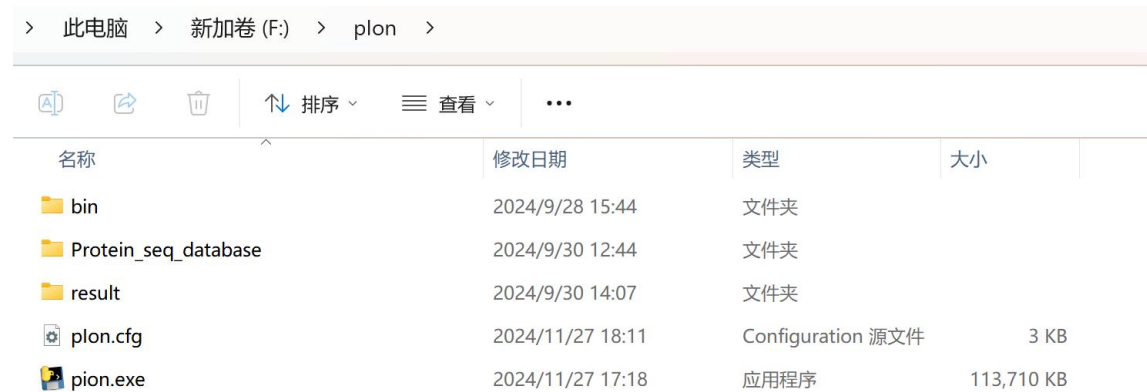
2) Click to download, download the ZIP compressed file.



3) Un-zip the “plon.zip” package into a specified file folder (e.g., Local disk F).

3. Configuration

1) Double click *plon* to open the main folder.



名称	修改日期	类型	大小
bin	2024/9/28 15:44	文件夹	
Protein_seq_database	2024/9/30 12:44	文件夹	
result	2024/9/30 14:07	文件夹	
plon.cfg	2024/11/27 18:11	Configuration 源文件	3 KB
pion.exe	2024/11/27 17:18	应用程序	113,710 KB

2) Open configuration file "*plon.cfg*" using a text editor, e.g., Microsoft Notepad or Notepad++ (<https://notepad-plus.en.softonic.com/>).

3) Setting "plon.cfg".

```

#####↓
# Plon general parameter settings↓
① # Path to the output file↓
output_path=F:\plon\result1↓
↓
② # Path to the protein sequence database ↓
fasta_path=F:\plon\Protein_seq_database\Homo_sapiens_uniprot_canonical_20395_entries_20210516.fasta↓
↓
③ # Format of MS data, RAW or MZML or MGF↓
msmstype=MGF↓
↓
④ # The number and path of MS data↓
msmsnum=1↓
msmspath1=H:\plon\plon1\demo_dataset\IPM_demo.mgf↓
↓
↓
⑤ # Type of MS dissociation method ↓
activation_type=HCD-FTMS ↓
↓
# Usage of open search (True/ False), against Unimod, the common modification can be set if not ↓
⑥ open_flag=False↓
common_modification_number=2↓
common_modification_list=Carbamidomethyl[C];Oxidation[M];↓
↓
# Mass range of unknown modification (Da) ↓
⑦ min_mass_modification=200↓
max_mass_modification=500↓
↓
↓
⑧ # Mass shifts with PSMs less than X% of that of overall PDMs were neglected ↓
filter_frequency=0↓
↓
↓
⑨ # If consider the N-side or C-side for amino acid localization (True or False)↓
side_position=True↓
↓
↓
⑩ # P-value threshold enabling confident amino acid localization ↓
p_value_threshold=0.001↓
↓
↓
⑪ # If report the statistical information (True or False)↓
report_statistics=True↓
↓
↓
⑫ -1 #####↓
# If isotope coding is adopted to facilitate the discovery of unknown modifications (True or False) ↓
isotope_labeling=False↓
↓
↓
⑫ -2 # Mass tolerance of the mass shift between light isotope and heavy isotope ↓
mass_of_diff_diff=6.020132↓
↓
↓
⑫ -3 # Isotopic mass difference within empirically defined tolerance(Da) ↓
mass_diff_diff_range=0.005↓
↓
↓
⑬ -1 #####↓
# If ion labeling is adopted to facilitate the discovery of unknown modifications (True or False) ↓
ion_labeling=True↓
↓
↓
⑬ -2 # One charge mass of ion, it is recommended to keep at least three decimal places ↓
ion_mass=126.128↓
↓
↓
⑬ -3 # In the 0-1 range, the higher the score, the stricter the filtering, and the recommended value is 0.7↓
ion_filter_ratio=0.7↓

```

General Note 1:

For the first-time users, custom settings are required for ①-⑤, ⑧ default settings can be adopted for ⑥, ⑦, ⑨-⑭.

General Note 2:

All parameters (shown in red below) are case sensitive.

General Note 3:

The blank space should be avoided.

1. General Parameters Setting

① # Path to the output file

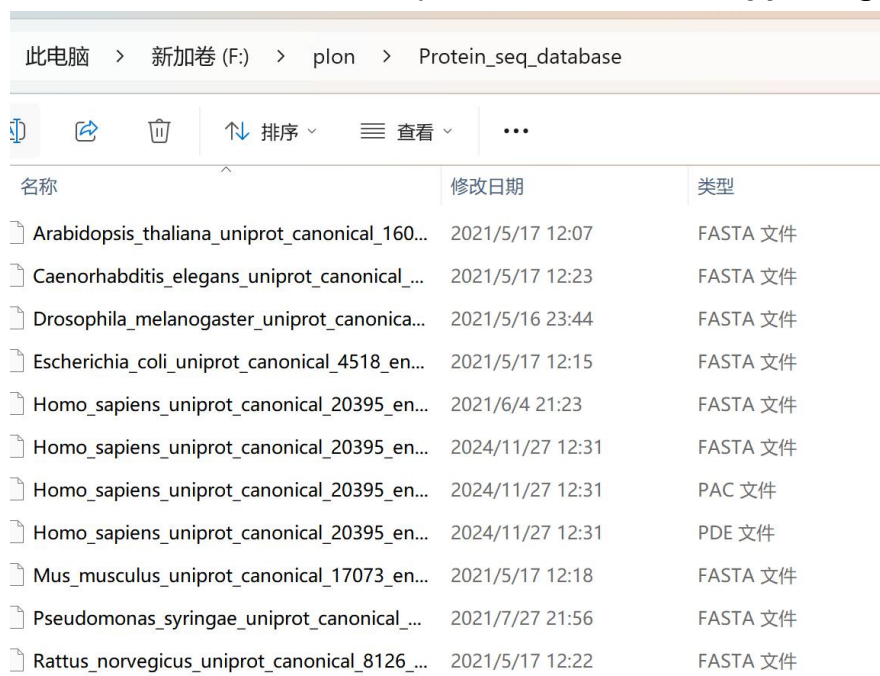
`output_path=F:\plon\result1`

Note: If the output file folder does not exist, an error will be reported.

② # Path to the protein sequence database

`fasta_path=F:\plon\Protein_seq_database\Homo_sapiens_uniprot_canonical_20395_entries_20210516.fasta`

Note: The protein *.fasta database databases of several commonly used species (*e.g.*, *homo sapiens*) are included in the subfolder (named as Protein_seq_database) of plon. Note that the databases of other species can be downloaded from Uniprot as described in **Supporting Protocol 1**.



名称	修改日期	类型
Arabidopsis_thaliana_uniprot_canonical_160...	2021/5/17 12:07	FASTA 文件
Caenorhabditis_elegans_uniprot_canonical_...	2021/5/17 12:23	FASTA 文件
Drosophila_melanogaster_uniprot_canonica...	2021/5/16 23:44	FASTA 文件
Escherichia_coli_uniprot_canonical_4518_en...	2021/5/17 12:15	FASTA 文件
Homo_sapiens_uniprot_canonical_20395_en...	2021/6/4 21:23	FASTA 文件
Homo_sapiens_uniprot_canonical_20395_en...	2024/11/27 12:31	FASTA 文件
Homo_sapiens_uniprot_canonical_20395_en...	2024/11/27 12:31	PAC 文件
Homo_sapiens_uniprot_canonical_20395_en...	2024/11/27 12:31	PDE 文件
Mus_musculus_uniprot_canonical_17073_en...	2021/5/17 12:18	FASTA 文件
Pseudomonas_syringae_uniprot_canonical_...	2021/7/27 21:56	FASTA 文件
Rattus_norvegicus_uniprot_canonical_8126_...	2021/5/17 12:22	FASTA 文件

③ # Format of MS data (RAW or MZML or MGF)

`msmstype=RAW`

Note: Non-Thermo MS data need to be converted into mzML files before plon search. The users can refer to **Supporting Protocol 2**.

④ # The number and path of MS data

msmsnum=N
msmspath1=X:\XXX\XXX.raw
msmspath2=X:\XXX\XXX.raw

.....
msmspathN=X:\XXX\XXX.raw

Note: The suffix of MS data files MUST be input.

Example:

msmsnum=1
msmspath1=G:\data\HFX_YangJing_HeJiXiang_IPM_20230701_F1_R1.raw

⑤ # Type of MS dissociation method

activation_type=HCD-FTMS

illustration: default

Note: 1) plon and pChem v1.0 can NOT support MS data generated under electron-transfer dissociation ETD, electron-transfer/higher-energy collision dissociation EThcD, and the likes.

⑥ # Usage of open search (True/ False) against Unimod, the common

modification can be set if not

open_flag=False

common_modification_number=2

common_modification_list=Carbamidomethyl[C];Oxidation[M];

illustration: default

Note: The names of common modifications should be the same as those appeared in [Unimod](#) database. Specifically, you can refer to the modification.ini file in the bin directory.

⑦ # Mass range of unknown modification (Da)

min_mass_modification=200

max_mass_modification=500

illustration: default

Note: The PDMs generated from the use of bioorthogonal cleavable linkers typically possess masses higher than 200 Da and less than 500 Da.

⑧ # Mass shifts with PSMs less than X% of that of overall PDMs were

neglected

filter_frequency=5

illustration: default

Note: This parameter can be set as 0 if one wants to retrieve all PDMs including those with just a few PSMs.

⑨ # If consider the N- or C-termini for amino acid localization (True or False)

side_position=True

illustration: default

⑩ # P-value threshold enabling confident amino acid localization

p_value_threshold=0.001

illustration: default

⑪ # if report the statistical information (True or False)

report_statistics=True

illustration: default

2. The parameter settings for pChem v1.0: if it is not in isotope mode, you can set *isotope_labeling* to False, and the remaining parameters are the same as in the previous version

No changes are needed for plon in this section.(i.e., ⑫ -1 , ⑫ -2, ⑫ -3)

3. The parameter settings for plon: If ion labeling is adopted to facilitate the discovery of unknown modifications

⑬-1 # If ion labeling is adopted to facilitate the discovery of unknown modifications (True or False)

ion_labeling=True

⑬-2 # One charge mass of ion, it is recommended to keep at least three decimal places

ion_mass=126.128

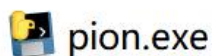
⑬-3 # In the 0-1 range, a higher score indicates stricter filtering, with a recommended value of 0.7.

ion_filter_ratio=0.7

illustration: default

4. Run

Once all parameters have been set, double click “*pIon.exe*”



to execute the programming. The message “**Please press any key to continue**” means that program runs to completion.

Note: pIon search will generate several intermediate files in the main folder. do NOT open those files during program running.

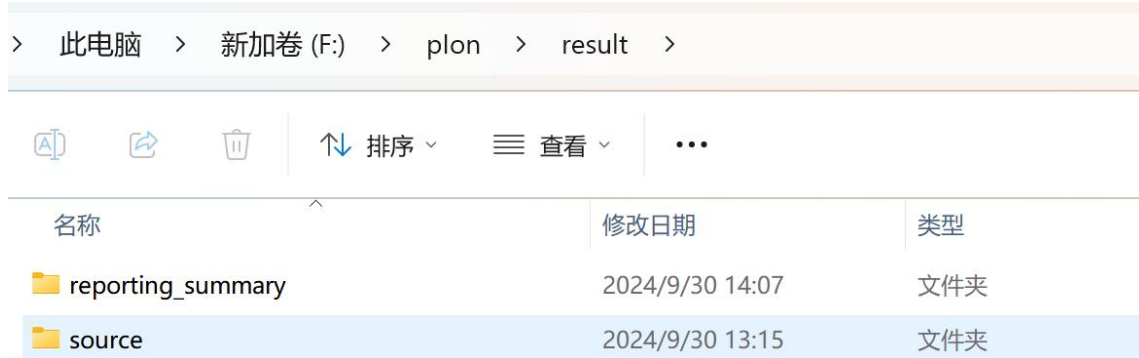
```
F:\pIon\pIon.exe  X  +  v

*****
/          pParse2.0 (x64) from pFind Studio          \
/          Email  : pfind@ict.ac.cn                  \
\          Website: http://pfind.ict.ac.cn           /
*****

The license will expire in 2100-1-1
[pParse] <INFO> - ----- BEGIN PARAMETERS -----
[pParse] <INFO> - 01: check_activationcenter = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 02: co-elute = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 03: cut_similiar_mono = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 04: datanum = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 05: datapath1 = H:\pIon\pIon1\demo_dataset\IPM_demo.mgf
[pParse] <INFO> - 06: delete_msn = 0
[pParse] <INFO> - 07: input_format = raw
[pParse] <INFO> - 08: intensity = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 09: ipv_file = IPV.txt
[pParse] <INFO> - 10: isolation_width = 2.000000
[pParse] <INFO> - 11: logfilepath =
[pParse] <INFO> - 12: m/z = 5
[pParse] <INFO> - 13: mars_model = 4
[pParse] <INFO> - 14: mars_threshold = -0.340000
[pParse] <INFO> - 15: mstol = 20.000000
[pParse] <INFO> - 16: mstolppm = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 17: output_mgf = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 18: output_msb = 0
[pParse] <INFO> - 19: output_pf = 1
[pParse] <INFO> - 20: outputpath = F:\pIon\result1\source\pParse
[pParse] <INFO> - 21: recalibrate_window = 7.000000
```

5. Output

- 1) Double click “*result*” file for searching results.
- 2) Double click “*reporting summary*”.



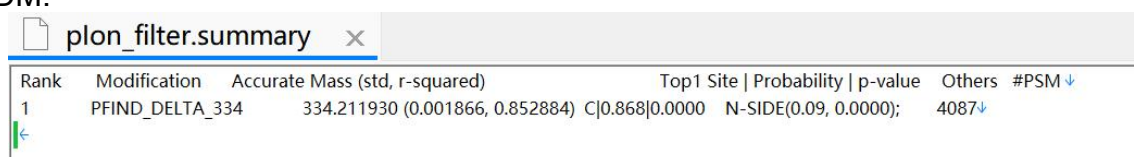
- 3) There are six major output documents. (2 files in the reporting_summary directory and 4 files in the reporting_summary/log_files directory.)

distribution	2024/11/29 18:30	文件夹	
log_files	2024/11/29 18:30	文件夹	
heat_map.pdf	2024/11/29 18:30	WPS PDF 文档	18 KB
plon_filter.summary	2024/11/29 18:30	SUMMARY 文件	1 KB
blind_search.summary	2024/11/29 18:29	SUMMARY 文件	1 KB
plon_mod_ion_result.summary	2024/11/29 18:30	SUMMARY 文件	11 KB
plon_modification_score.txt	2024/11/29 18:30	文本文档	1 KB
plon_without_mod_ion_result.summary	2024/11/29 18:30	SUMMARY 文件	11 KB

Note: Users are recommended to copy these output documents and paste into another file. Otherwise, they can be covered by those generated from the next search event.

① plon_filter.summary

plon_filter.summary is a tab-delimited text file contains the details of every PDM.



Rank	Modification	Accurate Mass (std, r-squared)	Top1 Site Probability p-value	Others	#PSM ↓
1	PFIND_DELTA_334	334.211930 (0.001866, 0.852884)	C 0.868 0.0000 N-SIDE(0.09, 0.0000);	4087 ↓	

PDM: Probe-derived modifications

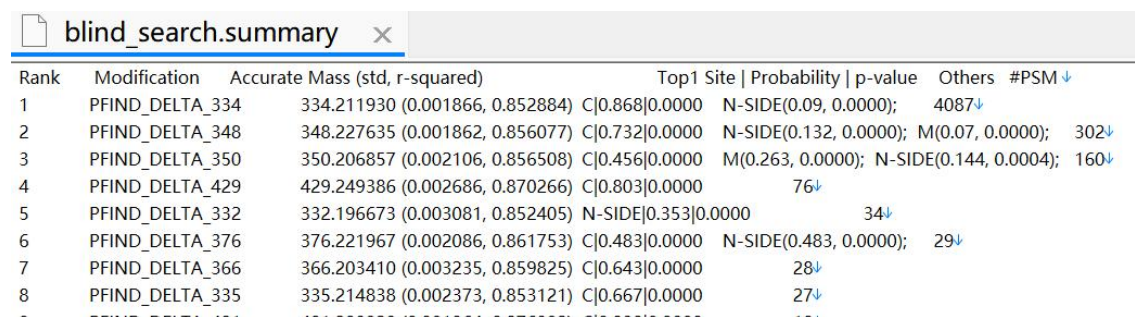
#PSM: The number of PSMs corresponding to modified peptides identified by search engine.

Top1 site | Top1 Probability: The amino acid most likely to be modified with the corresponding localization probability.

Others: Other amino acid sites that may also be labeled by probes and their corresponding localization probability values.

② blind_search.summary

blind_search.summary is a tab-delimited text file contains the details of every candidate mass shifts identified by blind search.



Rank	Modification	Accurate Mass (std, r-squared)	Top1 Site Probability p-value	Others	#PSM ↓
1	PFIND_DELTA_334	334.211930 (0.001866, 0.852884)	C 0.868 0.0000 N-SIDE(0.09, 0.0000);	4087 ↓	
2	PFIND_DELTA_348	348.227635 (0.001862, 0.856077)	C 0.732 0.0000 N-SIDE(0.132, 0.0000); M(0.07, 0.0000);	302 ↓	
3	PFIND_DELTA_350	350.206857 (0.002106, 0.856508)	C 0.456 0.0000 M(0.263, 0.0000); N-SIDE(0.144, 0.0004);	160 ↓	
4	PFIND_DELTA_429	429.249386 (0.002686, 0.870266)	C 0.803 0.0000	76 ↓	
5	PFIND_DELTA_332	332.196673 (0.003081, 0.852405)	N-SIDE 0.353 0.0000	34 ↓	
6	PFIND_DELTA_376	376.221967 (0.002086, 0.861753)	C 0.483 0.0000 N-SIDE(0.483, 0.0000);	29 ↓	
7	PFIND_DELTA_366	366.203410 (0.003235, 0.859825)	C 0.643 0.0000	28 ↓	
8	PFIND_DELTA_335	335.214838 (0.002373, 0.853121)	C 0.667 0.0000	27 ↓	

#PSM: The number of PSMs corresponding to modified peptides identified by search engine.

Top1 site | Top1 Probability: The amino acid most likely to be modified with the corresponding localization probability.

Others: Other amino acid sites that may also be labeled by probes and their corresponding localization probability values.

③ plon_mod_ion_result.summary & plon_without_mod_ion_result.summary

Stores detailed information about all diagnostic ions in both modified and unmodified spectrum categories

plon_mod_ion_result.summary

Modification info for PFIND_DELTA_334:(PSM = 4087) (filtered PSM = 3620)(neighbor filtered PSM = 2754)

Top 300 characteristic ions in the PFIND_DELTA_334 spectra:

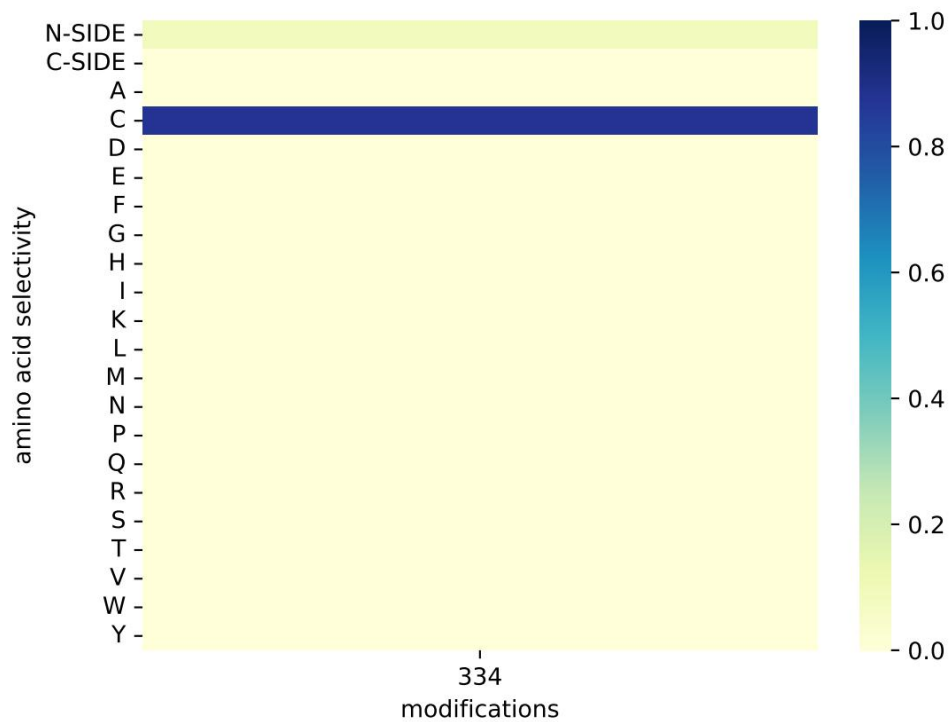
Rank	ion type	ion count	ion accuracy	ion relative peak
1	126.128	3618	126.128188	0.311837
2	120.082	3080	120.081296	0.226492
3	129.102	3451	129.102656	0.204547
4	369.208	2324	369.207957	0.158625
5	136.076	3349	136.076015	0.158356
6	110.072	3376	110.071808	0.107049
7	130.086	3143	130.086605	0.07344
8	201.124	2702	201.123842	0.068785
9	393.208	1334	393.20782	0.064449
10	197.166	2501	197.165394	0.056755
11	159.092	2124	159.091926	0.054985
12	175.12	1683	175.119505	0.053225
13	215.14	2039	215.139706	0.04411
14	199.18	1364	199.18054	0.04006
15	157.134	1871	157.133866	0.039547
16	143.118	2194	143.118127	0.039459
17	173.128	1613	173.128608	0.039152
18	185.166	1600	185.165479	0.037046
19	147.114	1095	147.113209	0.035794
20	187.144	1565	187.144382	0.033035
21	183.15	1935	183.149748	0.031068
22	169.134	1982	169.133864	0.031039

plon_without_mod_ion_result.summary

Top 300 characteristic ions in the unmodified spectra: (PSM: 77190)

Rank	ion type	ion count	ion accuracy	ion relative peak
1	120.082	70545	120.081292	0.315512
2	129.102	73529	129.10266	0.259933
3	136.076	72815	136.07603	0.200565
4	126.128	74350	126.128164	0.177321
5	110.072	72995	110.071825	0.138545
6	130.086	67284	130.08664	0.091378
7	201.124	60452	201.123831	0.086791
8	175.12	36254	175.119487	0.07954
9	159.092	51097	159.091952	0.062918
10	199.18	33825	199.1806	0.060641
11	185.166	40326	185.16547	0.060548
12	215.14	47651	215.139678	0.058763
13	173.128	37941	173.12864	0.054535
14	143.118	52825	143.118143	0.053201
15	147.114	26350	147.1132	0.052815
16	157.134	45958	157.133858	0.05074
17	183.15	48202	183.14972	0.049322
18	187.144	37803	187.144401	0.047983
19	169.134	49574	169.13387	0.044049
20	233.166	27961	233.165639	0.037421
21	244.166	36233	244.166071	0.037032
22	200.14	37016	200.139892	0.036031
23	197.128	35023	197.128566	0.035934
24	227.176	35568	227.176026	0.031801

④ heat_map.pdf



Horizontal coordinate: The Δ mass of each PDM

Longitudinal coordinate: The types of amino acids

Color gradient: The localization probability that the modification occurs at each potential site.

Note: Those amino acids with p-value higher than p_value_threshold (0.001 by default) are considered mis-localized sites. As such, their localization probability values are defined to be null. 2) For data generated from non-isotope-labeled or non-ion-labeled samples, heatmap will NOT be provided.

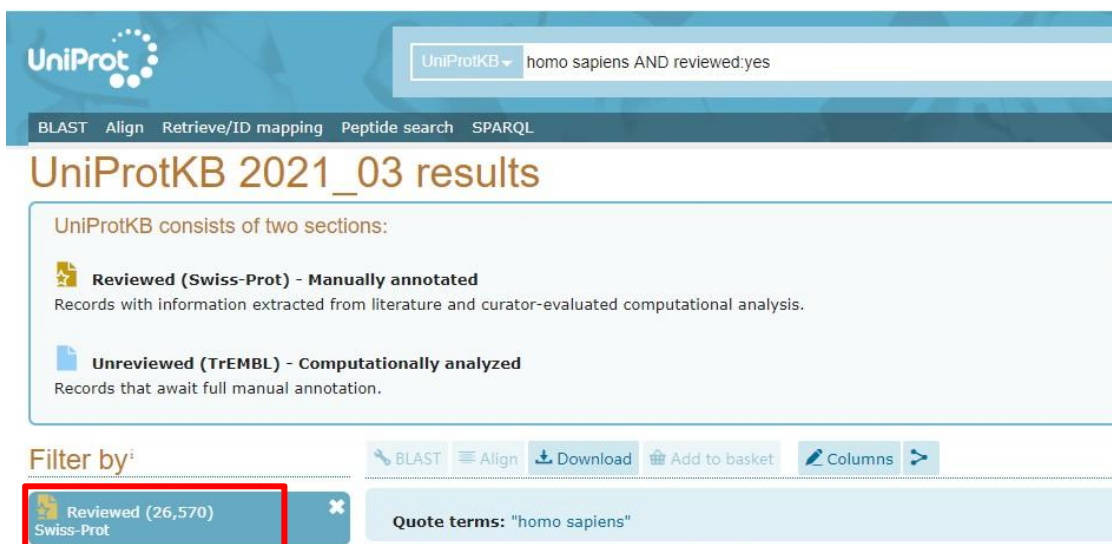
6. Supporting protocol 1: Protein sequence database

This protocol is used to download protein *.fasta files for database search.

- 1) Open <https://www.uniprot.org/>, enter the Latin name of the species (e.g., *homo sapiens*), then click search.



- 2) Click “Reviewed” (Swiss-Prot).



- 3) Select “Uncompressed”, then Click “Download” and “Go”.



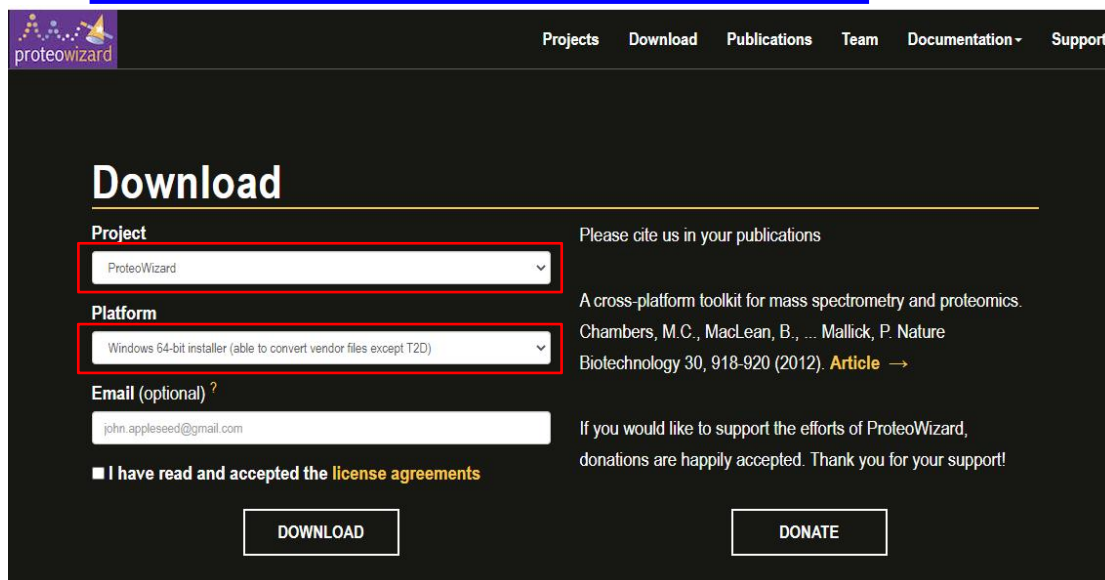
- 4) Get the *.fasta file.

uniprot-homo sapiens-filtered-reviewed_yes.fasta 2021/9/17 14:24 FASTA 文件 17,137 KB

7. Supporting protocol 2: MSconvert

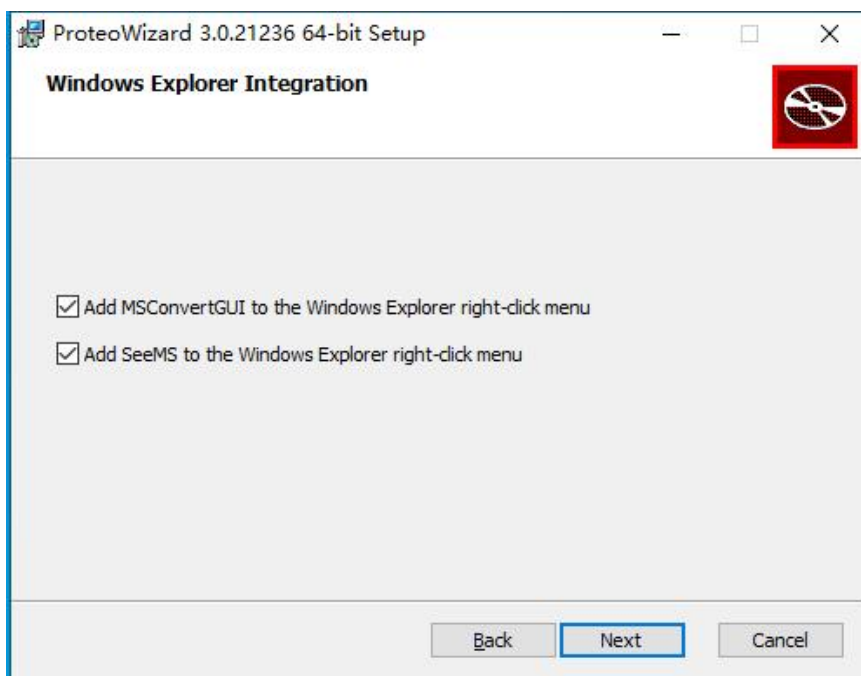
This protocol is used to convert non-Thermo MS data into mzML format files for plon search.

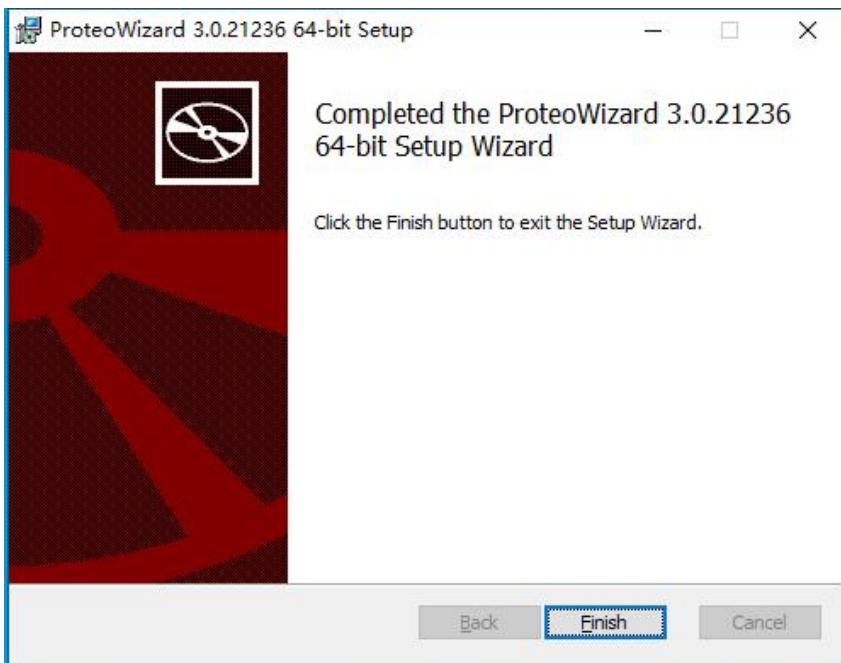
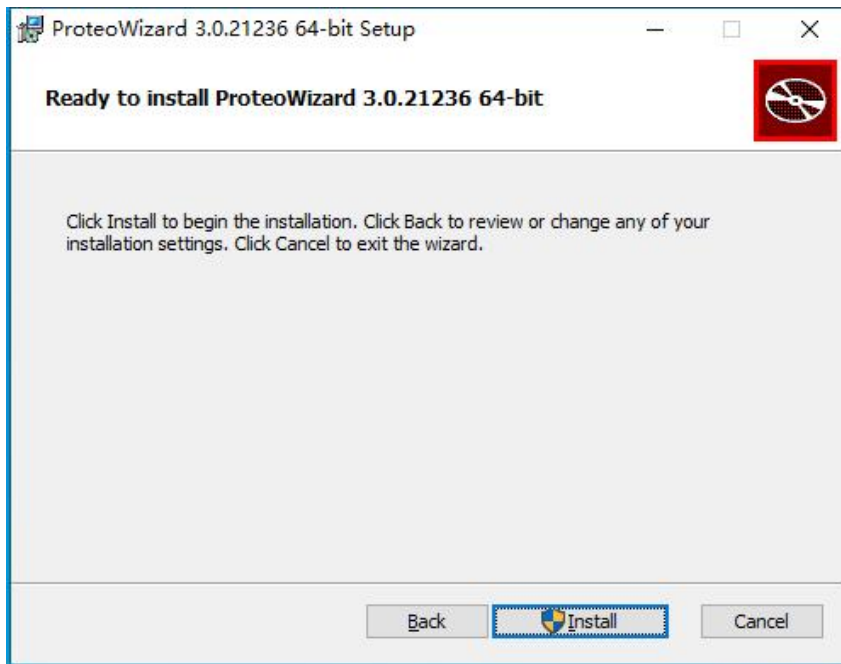
1) Download MSconvertGUI that is embedded in the ProteoWizard platform from: <https://proteowizard.sourceforge.io/download.html>.



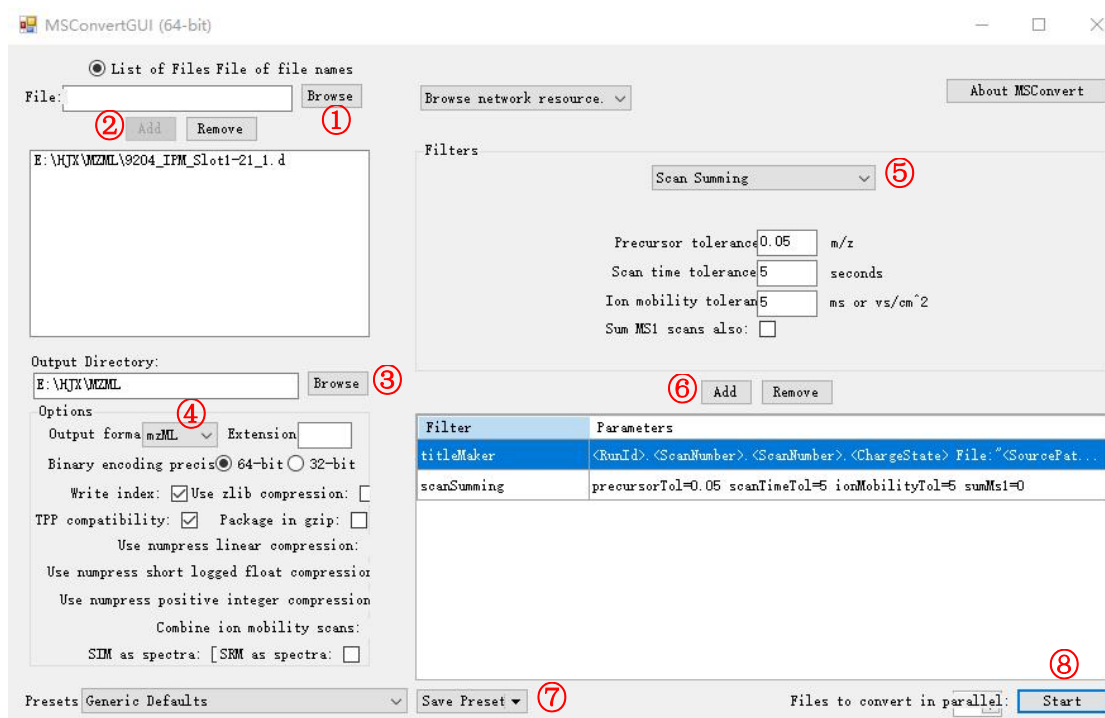
The screenshot shows the ProteoWizard website's download page. The page has a dark background with white text. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Projects, Download, Publications, Team, Documentation, and Support. The main heading is "Download". Below this, there are two dropdown menus: "Project" (set to "ProteoWizard") and "Platform" (set to "Windows 64-bit installer (able to convert vendor files except T2D)"). Both dropdown menus are highlighted with red boxes. Below the dropdowns is an "Email (optional)" field with the email address "john.appleseed@gmail.com". There is a checkbox labeled "I have read and accepted the license agreements" which is checked. To the right of the form, there is a paragraph of text: "Please cite us in your publications" followed by "A cross-platform toolkit for mass spectrometry and proteomics. Chambers, M.C., MacLean, B., ... Mallick, P. Nature Biotechnology 30, 918-920 (2012). Article →". Below this text is another paragraph: "If you would like to support the efforts of ProteoWizard, donations are happily accepted. Thank you for your support!". At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "DOWNLOAD" and "DONATE".

2) Install ProteoWizard according to the following instruction.





3) Open MSConvertGUI



①-② Browse and add MS data (e.g., *.d, *.WIFF files)

③ Define output route

④ Choose *.mzML as the output data format

⑤ -⑥ Define parameters for Scan Summing


⑥ -⑧ Save and run

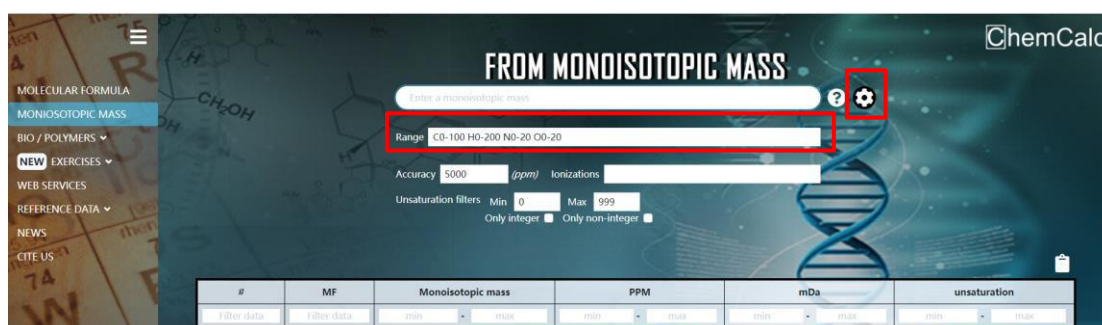
8. Supporting protocol 3: ChemCalc

This protocol is used to estimate candidate molecular formulas from the pChem/plon-determined accurate masses.

1) Open <https://www.chemcalc.org/mf-finder>.



2) Click , check the element composition.



3) Input the monoisotopic mass of each PDM shown in *pChem.summary* or *pChem_ion_filter.summary* file. The candidate molecular formulas will immediately appear below.

Rank	PDM	Accurate Mass	Top1 Site Probability	Others	#PSM	#PSM L H	DFLs
1	PFIND_DELTA_252	252.122339	C 0.988		13876	7368 6508	

#	MF	Monoisotopic mass	PPM	mDa	unsaturation
1	C ₁₁ H ₁₈ N ₄ O ₃	252.1222	0.39	0.10	6
2	C ₁₂ H ₁₈ N ₄ O ₄	252.1236	-4.93	-1.24	5.5
3	C ₁₂ H ₂₀ O ₇	252.1209	5.70	1.44	1
4	C ₉ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂	252.1209	5.72	1.44	6.5
5	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ N ₂	252.1249	-10.24	-2.58	10.5
6	C ₉ H ₁₀ N ₂ O ₆	252.1196	11.02	2.78	1.5
7	C ₁₂ H ₁₂ N ₂ O	252.1196	11.04	2.78	7
8	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ N ₂ O	252.1263	-15.56	-3.92	10
9	C ₉ H ₁₀ N ₂ O ₅	252.1182	16.35	4.12	2
10	C ₉ H ₁₀ N ₃	252.1182	16.37	4.13	7.5