Go beyond today’s discovery
Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer
Go beyond today’s discovery

When complex analytical questions require a definitive answer, you need a powerful and versatile solution that will allow you to accurately resolve subtle differences, distinguish the right answer from many wrong ones, and avoid costly dead ends.
Introducing the Thermo Scientific™ Orbitrap Eclipse™ Tribrid™ mass spectrometer, our newest generation instrument designed with your most difficult analytical challenges in mind. With enhanced performance and usability, the Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer makes it easy to produce the high-quality data required to drive the right decisions, while expanding the breadth of your work and pushing your science beyond today’s discovery.
Building on revolutionary Tribrid architecture

The Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer amplifies the power and versatility of the innovative Thermo Scientific™ Tribrid™ design by incorporating the latest inventions in ion transmission and control, extended m/z range, and real-time decision making.

These new functionalities provide ground-breaking gains in sensitivity, selectivity and versatility, making the instrument ideally suited for obtaining comprehensive results from proteomics, structural biology, small-molecule, and biopharmaceutical characterization experiments.
Ultra-High-Field Orbitrap Mass Analyzer

- Offers resolution >500,000 FWHM and MSⁿ acquisition rate up to 40 Hz; enables TurboTMT and HMRⁿ

Ultra-High Vacuum (UHV) Manifold

- Reduces pressure in the UHV region; improves ion detection in the Orbitrap mass analyzer

Real-Time Search

- Provides on-the-fly peptide identification, increasing depth and accuracy of TMT quantitation

Modified Dual-Pressure Linear Ion Trap

- Enables MSⁿ for ion detection in both ion trap and Orbitrap mass analyzers; sensitive mass analysis for multiple fragmentation modes: CID, HCD, ETD/EThcD/ETcID and UVPD; and precursor ion isolation for HMRⁿ. The extended front section of the high-pressure cell improves control over ETD and PTCR reactions.

Ion-Routing Multipole

- Enable higher acquisition rates; performs HCD at any MSⁿ stage; allows variable pressure (0.5–20 mTorr) for superior top-down performance

Options to expand experimental versatility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EASY-ETD</th>
<th>PTCR</th>
<th>HMRⁿ</th>
<th>FAIMS Pro</th>
<th>UVPD</th>
<th>EASY-IC</th>
<th>1M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thermo Scientific™ EASY-ETD™ HD electron transfer dissociation ion source</td>
<td>Proton Transfer Charge Reduction</td>
<td>High Mass Range MSⁿ to m/z 8,000</td>
<td>Thermo Scientific™ FAIMS Pro™ interface</td>
<td>Thermo Scientific™ UV Photodissociation</td>
<td>Thermo Scientific™ Internal Calibration EASY-IC™</td>
<td>Thermo Scientific™ 1,000,000 FWHM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unprecedented sensitivity for single-cell analysis

Cellular systems are comprised of many different cells, each with their own set of distinct molecular and functional properties. No two cells are identical. Comprehensive characterization of single-cell proteomes will provide a wealth of novel information about cellular development in the context of disease progression and response to treatment as a function of cell type. Yet, proteome analysis with single-cell resolution remains an enormous challenge due to the analytical sensitivity this experiment demands. The Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer was developed to meet the challenge of extracting unrivaled quantitative data from ultra-low-level samples, including from individual cells. Specifically, the MS³-based Tandem Mass Tag (TMT) method, enhanced by Real-Time Search*, provides the throughput and sensitivity to achieve the proteome coverage and the quantitative accuracy needed to differentiate cell types and to capture their heterogeneity. Further, using novel Thermo Scientific™ TMTpro™ reagents, up to 16 single cells can be analyzed in one LC/MS run, providing quantitative comparison of thousands of proteins among individual cells.

Individual cells are isolated using FACS sorter, labeled, and analyzed using the Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer

**Novel MS³ workflow with Real-Time Search detected more than 300 differentially expressed proteins in each individual cell**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein Type</th>
<th>MS²</th>
<th>SPS MS³ with Real-Time Search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proteins quantified</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upregulated in endothelial cells (C10)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upregulated in raw immune cells</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TMT analysis of two cell types revealed more differentially expressed proteins when using SPS MS³ with Real-Time Search compared to the MS²-based experiment. The MS³ experiment allows for more accurate quantitation, enabling detection of subtle changes in more proteins for each individual cell.

* For details on Real-Time Search see pp 8–9.
*** A total of 40 individual cells were analyzed in this study.
A revolution in single-cell proteomics is just beginning. The combination of nanoPOTS with the Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer, TMT reagents, and SPS MS³ with Real-Time Search provide the depth of coverage, quantitative accuracy, and throughput needed to propel this nascent field forward."

Ryan Kelly, Professor, Brigham Young University, UT

High-resolution classification of individual cells in an SPS MS³ experiment with Real-Time Search

PCA plot showing unsupervised classification of the three cell types using TMT data. Each point corresponds to the protein expression of a single cell. The plot shows clear classification of cell types and resolved heterogeneity within each type. This level of resolution is uniquely achievable using a combination of TMT-boost** and SPS MS³ with Real-Time Search data acquisition technologies.

Confirmation of overexpression of known protein biomarkers in individual cells of each type underscores the sensitivity of the workflow

Isoform 2 of collagen alpha-1(I) chain

Monocyte differentiation antigen CD14

Integrin alpha-6

(Relative abundance)
Hyper-accurate high-throughput protein quantitation using TMTpro 16plex and Real-Time Search

The standard for high-throughput quantitative comparisons of protein abundances is the TMT SPS MS\(^3\) workflow, unique to Thermo Scientific™ Orbitrap™ Tribrid™ mass spectrometers. A significant advancement of the Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer is Real-Time Search, which can be used to identify peptide spectra on-the-fly to intelligently direct MS\(^3\) data acquisition, resulting in accurate quantitation to depths often exceeding 8,000 proteins in up to 16 samples per LC/MS analysis.

This new high-throughput workflow offers increased proteome coverage with improved accuracy and precision, boosting the number of quantifiable low-level peptides.

**Multiplexing improves analytical throughput**

Sample preparation

Peptides from digested samples labeled with TMTpro and analyzed by LC/MS

LC/MS analysis

Base peak extracted ion chromatogram of the multiplexed TMT sample. The shaded region highlights a selected MS spectrum.

**Quantitation accuracy is dependent on isolation purity**

MS precursor spectrum

When analyzing complex peptide mixtures, co-isolated ion interferences can occur despite using narrow precursor isolation. Co-fragmentation of precursors of interest and interfering ions negatively impacts the quantitative accuracy of the TMT-based experiment.*

**Real-Time Search improves accuracy by nearly eliminating isolation impurity**

Every MS\(^2\) spectrum is interrogated against a database of choice using Real-Time Search in parallel with the acquisition of the next MS\(^2\) scan. If the search results in a peptide match, the instrument is directed to perform an SPS MS\(^3\) scan using only the matched fragment ions that carry the TMT tags, while avoiding any fragments that may have originated from the interfering ions. For YLYEIAR, the TMT tag was found only on the N-terminus, so the SPS MS\(^3\) is performed only on five \(b\)-ions.

* Ting et al., Nat. Methods, 2011, 8(11).
The Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer provides several exciting advances which allow us to perform our analyses 100% faster with significantly improved quantification accuracy. Instead of 36 hours to perform a typical proteome-wide analysis, we can accomplish it now in 18 hours to reach between 8,000 and 10,000 quantified proteins in as many as 16 samples. This new mass spectrometer acts as if it were two instruments, collecting more accurate data in half the time, but at the same or even better depth.”

Steven P. Gygi, Professor, Harvard University, MA

SPS MS³ with Real-Time Search is the most accurate method for quantitative analysis of up to 16 samples simultaneously

TMTpro reporter ions

Selecting only identified fragments for the MS³ event and excluding the ions that either do not carry the TMT tags (y-ions in this case) or that do not belong to the identified peptide increases the signal-to-noise ratio of the reporter ions and significantly improves the throughput and quantitative accuracy of the experiment (right).

Quantified peptides in a 50-min LC run

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SPS MS³</th>
<th>Real-Time Search SPS MS³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10599</td>
<td>9196</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6660</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With Real-Time Search, 38% more peptides and 53% more proteins were quantified versus a classic SPS MS³ experiment, approaching the results of the classic MS³ experiment, but with much higher precision and accuracy (see bottom panel). Shown here are data for a TKO yeast standard (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

Quantified peptides per LC run

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SPS MS³</th>
<th>Real-Time Search SPS MS³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61822</td>
<td>63698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 min</td>
<td>90 min</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Real-Time Search directs the mass spectrometer to perform MS³ only on identified precursors. As a result, it doubles the throughput of SPS MS³ experiments. Shown here are data for an HHM sample: three human cell lines labeled as biological replicates in 10plex (3-3-4). (Data courtesy Devin Schweppe and Qing Yu, Harvard Medical School)

Quantified peptides in a 50-min LC run

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MS³</th>
<th>FAIMS MS³</th>
<th>SPS MS³</th>
<th>Real-Time Search SPS MS³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected change is 2x</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expected change is 24x

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MS³</th>
<th>FAIMS MS³</th>
<th>SPS MS³</th>
<th>Real-Time Search SPS MS³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each TMT channel, 4–100 pmol of a six-protein digest was added to 40 µg of HeLa digest, and then labeled, resulting in a spiked-in standard mixed in ratios of 2–24 (2, 4, 8, 12, 16 and 24). Only combined averages for the expected ratios of 2 and 24 are shown here. Higher accuracy afforded by Real-Time Search is indispensable for teasing out subtle differences in protein abundances, including when sub-classifying individual cells (pp 6–7).
Therapeutic proteins are successfully used to treat various cancers and a wide range of autoimmune diseases. However, their structural characterization presents a significant challenge because, unlike small molecule-based drugs, they exist as a heterogeneous mixture containing numerous modified proteoforms. Their highly complex ESI spectra can be simplified and made interpretable by increasing analyte m/z. This can be achieved by performing the ESI LC/MS experiment under native conditions where unfolded proteins accept fewer charges, or by performing precursor ion charge reduction in the mass spectrometer, or by both. For complete structural characterization, the mass spectrometer is required to not only detect ions within a higher m/z range, but to also fragment the selected precursor efficiently. The Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer is equipped with High Mass Range MS^n capability (HMR^n), Proton Transfer Charge Reduction (PTCR) and a multitude of dissociation techniques, including CID, HCD, ETD, EThcD and UVPD, making it the most powerful system available for comprehensive characterization of therapeutic proteins.

**Simplifying highly complex spectra with PTCR**

**Proteoforms of native Cytokine Fc-fusion proteins are undecipherable**

Native MS spectrum of intact desialyated Cytokine Fc-fusion protein after sialidase treatment with six N-linked glycosylation sites. The raw spectrum was highly complex due to the presence of multiple overlapping glycosylated proteoforms, making it challenging to interpret. The highlighted 80 m/z window represents the precursor ions that were isolated for subsequent PTCR.

**PTCR elucidates the native proteoforms**

PTCR dispersed the selected ion population to a higher m/z range, revealing individual molecular ion species at lower charge states. The interpretation of this spectrum provided accurate information about the mixture of different proteoforms, which were undecipherable in the original spectrum.

**Multiple intact glycoforms are identified in deconvoluted PTCR spectrum**

After deconvolution of the PTCR spectrum shown (ReSpect™ algorithm), several glycoforms of Cytokine Fc-fusion protein were identified. PTCR analysis of the entire native charge state envelope (m/z 4,000–7,000) resulted in the identification of >30 distinct glycoforms of this protein (data not shown).
Achieving high sequence coverage of CDR3 domain

Native trastuzumab MS analysis

Representative MS² spectra of the 27+ parent ion. The spectra were obtained by multiple fragmentation techniques and showed different fragment ion patterns, providing complementary information and increasing the primary amino acid sequence coverage for this protein.

Native trastuzumab MS² analysis for structural characterization of CDR3 regions

Combined fragmentation maps (left panel) of intact trastuzumab from the native HCD, ETD, EThcD and UVPD MS² data. Sequence coverage for light and heavy chains was 58% and 36% respectively, with combined coverage of 43% (fragment ion RMS error <3.7 ppm). Complementarity Determining Regions (CDR) 3 of the light and heavy chains are highlighted in red and blue respectively in the maps and in the crystal structure, showing 100% sequence coverage. Validation of CDR sequences is essential for studying binding affinity and efficacy of the antibody.
Ligands are inextricably linked to the regulation and function of the proteins to which they are bound. However, determining the identity of small-molecule ligands associated with membrane proteins is a significant challenge, underscored by the high prevalence of electron microscopy data with unassigned or poorly resolved ligand density. Direct MS identification of the ligands without losing ligand-protein complex associations is difficult because it requires a very wide mass range for retaining optimal ion transmission of intact protein assemblies of (hundreds of thousands of Daltons) and accurate detection of small-molecule ligands and their fragments (often smaller than 100 Daltons). The Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer offers a novel top-down MS^n approach to facilitate identification of ligands bound to membrane proteins, allowing elucidation of specific ligands interacting with specific proteins. This approach helps to elucidate a ligand’s influence on the cascade of protein interactions that underlie cellular mechanisms, including mechanisms of cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer’s.

**Characterization of native protein-ligand complexes using HMR^n**

**Intact protein-ligand assemblies in micelles are introduced directly into the mass spectrometer**

Intact protein complexes are extracted from the membrane using detergent. Detergent molecules form a micelle layer around the protein complex that allows solubilization. The micelles are then ionized using nESI and introduced into the mass spectrometer.

**Protein-ligand assemblies are released from the micelles**

The intact membrane protein-ligand assembly is released from the detergent micelle using source-CID (pseudo MS^2) and detected in the Orbitrap mass analyzer. The 17+ parent ion with associated ligands is isolated (gray bar) for the next MS^n step.
The Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer brings a new dimension to native MS, enabling us to discover and chemically define the ligands, lipids, and drugs that regulate the function of membrane protein assemblies within one single experiment."

Dr. Joseph Gault, University of Oxford, the UK

The ligand is released from the protein

MS³-based isolation and activation of the intact membrane protein-ligand assembly promote the release of the ligand (m/z 350.0). This singly-charged ion is isolated (gray bar) for MS⁴ step to allow full structural characterization. (Note: in this experiment the ligand at m/z 350.0 was detected in the ion trap. Both the Orbitrap and the linear ion trap mass analyzers can be used to detect ions across the entire m/z range).

The endogenous ligand is unambiguously identified

The MS⁴ spectrum contains ligand fragments detected in the ion trap. Unambiguous identification of the endogenous ligand bound to the protein is performed using established small-molecule characterization techniques. Here, ampicillin was identified bound to E. coli Outer Membrane Porin F (OmpF), forming a 111 kDa protein-ligand complex that mediates its intake. Further characterization of the protein's primary structure is also possible using this novel top-down MS⁵ approach.
Reducing protein mass spectral complexity with PTCR

Top-down mass spectrometry is used to directly characterize intact proteoforms. The ESI spectral complexity of proteoform mixtures, even after LC separation, is often very high due to the multitude of modified forms that overlap in the m/z domain. PTCR technology, unique to the Orbitrap Eclipse Tridrid mass spectrometer, reduces the average charge of the parent-ion distributions, shifting them to higher m/z. For overlapping indistinguishable proteoforms this reduces the signal overlap, and, as a result, easier-to-interpret spectra are obtained, enabling the proteoform mass calculation. For automated top-down experiments, this approach increases the number of distinguishable precursors available for data-dependent MSⁿ, ultimately increasing the number of characterized proteoforms.

MS spectra of intact proteins are often too complex

The co-elution of multiple proteoforms increases spectral complexity, particularly when analyzing proteins >25 kDa. These spectra are often impossible to interpret fully as few charge state distributions are distinguishable by deconvolution software (e.g., only two distinct masses of 16 and 25 kDa were identified in this MS spectrum at 25 min). The 800–900 m/z region shows the underlying spectral complexity. PTCR was performed on the precursors in two 1.5 m/z windows, highlighted in gray and teal.

PTCR elucidates novel protein charge state distributions

PTCR formed lower charge state distributions of the parent ions that overlapped less and were easier to interpret. This increased the number of identifiable precursor ions from two species in the original full MS spectrum to 32 species identified after PTCR of a 3 m/z range. The newly identified masses were distributed over 10–70 kDa range (right, top histogram).

PTCR enabled detection of more and larger proteoforms

PTCR is required to study large proteoforms that previously would remain uncharacterized in LC/MS experiments. Unveiling the true complexity of the intact proteome beyond the 30 kDa barrier represents a substantial step forward for the proteomics community. 

Luca Fornelli, Professor, University of Oklahoma, OK

PTCR resulted in a significant increase in the number of identified proteoforms

Application-specific methods are one click away

The intuitive method editor features a drag-and-drop user-friendly interface with predefined, optimized method templates for a wide range of applications.

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