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(54) Title: CHEMICAL CLASS COMPOSITIONS FROM COLLISION CROSS-SECTION FRAGMENT IONS

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure generally relates to methods for determining chemical class compositions present in a sample using collision cross-section fragment ion values.



CHEMICAL CLASS COMPOSITIONS FROM COLLISION CROSS-SECTION FRAGMENT IONS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/356636, filed June 30, 2016, and entitled “Chemical Class Compositions From Collision Cross-Section Fragment Ions”, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure generally relates to determining chemical class compositions present in a sample using collision cross-section fragment ion values.

BACKGROUND

[0003] The structural elucidation of compounds in complex samples (e.g., biofluids, tissues from plants and animals, foods, etc.) remains a significant analytical challenge. For example, while metabolomics aims to comprehensively profile low-molecular weight compounds, current estimates are in the range of 10,000 metabolites in a typical biological sample. Also, most of the metabolites in any given sample are largely unknown. Manual mass spectra data interpretation is often required. However, knowledge of the expected fragmentation patterns for many scaffolds is limited, thus further complicating analysis. Yet, the need still remains to rapidly identify co-regulated chemical classes for drug discovery and development, metabolomics, lipidomics, and biomarker discovery.

SUMMARY

[0004] The present disclosure provides high-throughput and robust methods of using information obtained from collision cross-section (CCS) of fragment ions to determine the chemical class composition of a sample.

[0005] Also provided are methods for calculating composite values of precursor and product ions to increase measurement selectivity.

[0006] In one aspect, the provided methods can be used as an alternative to, or in combination with other analytical methods to identify and analyze a large number of chemical classes from multiple fragmentation spectra of a complex sample.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

- [0007] **FIG. 1** depicts a chromatogram of liquid chromatography – ion mobility mass spectrometry (MS) analysis of brain extracts.
- [0008] **FIG. 2** illustrates the direct analysis (infusion) of human brain extracts using an ion mobility MS instrument.
- [0009] **FIG. 3** depicts extracted ion chromatograms for fatty acyl groups obtained after data independent fragmentation of complex lipid extracts analyzed using an Ultra High-Performance Liquid Chromatography method described herein.
- [0010] **FIG. 4** depicts a comparison of wild type (WT) versus transgenic (TG) lipid extracted for the fatty acyl EPA after a UHPLC-ion mobility MS analysis described herein.
- [0011] **FIG. 5** illustrates a hierarchical cluster analysis of specific fragment CCS values extracted from plasma samples of control versus radiation treated mice.
- [0012] **FIG. 6** illustrates a hierarchical cluster analysis of untargeted CCS values from plasma samples of control versus radiation treated mice.
- [0013] **FIG. 7** illustrates a correlation molecular network analysis of precursor/fragment CCS, RT values extracted from human brain samples of healthy controls versus subjects with Alzheimer's disease.
- [0014] **FIG. 8** depicts mirror CCS fingerprint matching for a lipid after fragmentation induces either in-source or in a collision cell.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN EMBODIMENTS

- [0015] In one embodiment, provided are methods of using information obtained from collision-cross section (CCS) of fragment ion values to determine at least one chemical class composition of a sample, the method comprising: a) fragmenting the sample to generate a series of product and precursor ions; separating the product ions using ion-mobility; b) obtaining CCS values of the product ions; and c) matching or correlating the CCS values of the product ions to pre-determined values.
- [0016] In one aspect, the experimentally derived ion properties obtained during steps a) and b), such as the m/z ratio, intensity distribution, elution position, and charge of the parent ions as well as the m/z ratio, intensity distribution, elution position, charge, and CCS of the precursor ions, may be used in connection with the CCS values of the product ions to determine at least one chemical class composition of a sample. Thus, in one aspect, the methods herein further comprise obtaining at

least one ion property selected from m/z ratio, elution position, intensity distribution, charge, and CCS value of the precursor ions; obtaining at least one ion property selected from m/z ratio, elution position, intensity distribution, and charge of the product ions; correlating the at least one ion property of the precursor ions with the corresponding at least one ion property of the parent ions; and matching or correlating the at least one ion property of both the precursor and parent ions to pre-determined values. of the product ions to pre-determined values.

[0017] “Chemical class” or “chemical class composition” refers to the general class to which compounds are grouped based upon their relative structure or function. These classes are readily apparent to one of skill in the art and include, but are not limited to, lipids (e.g., fatty acids, glycerolipids, glycerophospholipids, sphingolipids, sterol lipids, prenol lipids, saccharolipids, and polyketides), polyols (e.g., sugar alcohol), polyethers (e.g., paraformaldehyde, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, and polytetramethylene glycol), polyesters (e.g., polyethylene terephthalate), vitamins (e.g., Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B7, Vitamin 9, Vitamin 12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, and Vitamin K), antioxidants (e.g., uric acid, glutathione, and melatonin), amino acids (e.g., natural and non-natural amino acids), nucleotides (e.g., purine and pyrimidine nucleotides), hormones (e.g., eicosanoids, steroids, amines, peptides, and proteins), and carbohydrates (e.g., sugars, starch, cellulose, monosaccharides, disaccharides, oligosaccharides, and polysaccharides). The methods described herein are useful in identifying the chemical class or chemical classes present in a sample. It should be understood that the present methods are not limited to only identifying the chemical class composition of a sample, but are also useful to identify the individual compounds falling within the chemical class. For example, in one aspect, the present methods are useful in identifying a chemical class composition (e.g., a lipid). In another aspect, the present methods are useful in identifying the type of lipid present in the sample (e.g., phosphatidylethanolamine such as vinyl ether and acyl versions). It should also be understood that the samples in the present method may contain numerous chemical classes. Thus, the sample herein can comprise two or more chemical class such as e.g., any one of the chemical classes mentioned above.

[0018] The present disclosure includes methods for calculating the collision cross section (CCS) of fragment ions. As used herein, collision cross section (CCS) represents the effective area for the interaction between an individual ion and the

neutral gas through which it travels. CCS, is a physicochemical property, and is related to chemical structure and three-dimensional conformation. In certain instances, the experimental CCS of each detected lipid ion can be searched against CCS databases, where available (i.e., compared with a standard or pre-determined value). Methods for calculating CCS can be found in e.g., Paglia et al., Ion Mobility-Derived Collision Cross Section As an Additional Measure for Lipid Fingerprinting and Identification; Anal Chem. 2015 Jan 20;87(2):1137-44; doi: 10.1021/ac503715v and Paglia et al. Ion Mobility Derived Collision Cross Sections to Support Metabolomics Applications; Anal Chem; 2014 Apr 15;86(8):3985-93; doi: 10.1021/ac500405x. Epub 2014 Mar 28.

[0019] The present disclosure also includes methods of separating components based on charge state using ion mobility. Ion mobility is a gas-phase electrophoretic technique that enables the separation of gas-phase lipid ions within a chamber pressurized with a buffer gas (e.g., nitrogen). The time required for lipid ions to cross the ion-mobility separation cell-the drift time-depends on the collision frequency between the ions and the buffer gas. Thus, drift times are directly related to the shape, size, and charge of the desired ions as well as to the nature of the buffer gas. Methods of performing ion mobility can be found in e.g., Paglia et al., Ion Mobility-Derived Collision Cross Section As an Additional Measure for Lipid Fingerprinting and Identification; Anal Chem. 2015 Jan 20;87(2):1137-44; doi: 10.1021/ac503715v and Paglia et al. Ion Mobility Derived Collision Cross Sections to Support Metabolomics Applications; Anal Chem; 2014 Apr 15;86(8):3985-93; doi: 10.1021/ac500405x. Epub 2014 Mar 28.

[0020] In one embodiment, the ion mobility comprises the step of performing drift-tube ion mobility spectrometry, travelling-wave ion mobility spectrometry, or differential mobility spectrometry.

[0021] In one embodiment, the ion mobility-mass spectrometry is operated in a data independent acquisition mode or data-dependent acquisition, or a combination thereof, wherein CCS of the precursor ions are associated with CCS of product ions in the sample.

[0022] In one embodiment, the ion mobility-mass spectrometry is operated in a data independent acquisition mode or data-dependent acquisition, or a combination thereof, wherein CCS of the precursor ions are associated with CCS of product ions in the sample; and the method further comprises separating the precursor ions by ion

mobility spectrometry, fragmenting the precursor ions, and obtaining the values of the precursor ions; and calculating a hash mass comprising a composite value consisting of the precursor ion value m/z multiplied by the precursor ion collision cross-section area squared ($CCSA^2$) multiplied by the product ion m/z multiplied by the product ion $CCSA^2$ to determine the association between CCS precursor ions and CCS product ions in the sample.

[0023] In one embodiment, fragmentation of the sample is performed in source.

[0024] Fragmentation of the sample can be induced by means common to one of skill in the art. Such methods include e.g., tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS), including collision induced dissociation (CID), electron transfer dissociation (ETD), electron impact, ultraviolet photoionization, ozonolysis, or similar fragmentation tools.

[0025] In one embodiment, the ionization method used in the present methods is selected from electrospray ionization (ESI), matrix assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI) or ambient ionization tools, including laser ablation electrospray ionization (LAESI), desorption electrospray ionization (DESI), and rapid evaporative ionization mass spectrometry (REIMS).

[0026] In one embodiment, the methods herein further comprise separating the chemical classes prior to the separation of ions. Alternatively, the methods herein further comprise separating the chemical classes using chromatography prior to the separation of ions. In another alternative, the methods herein further comprise separating the chemical classes prior to the separation of ions using ion mobility. Such methods include e.g., liquid chromatography, supercritical fluid chromatography or gas chromatography.

[0027] The samples analyzed by the present methods include sample which are capable of being ionized. In one aspect, the sample is a complex sample, meaning the sample contains multiple components (e.g., one or more compounds). Typically, the sample is biological in nature. In one aspect, the sample herein are biofluids, tissues, sections, or cell cultures.

[0028] The present methods can also be used as means for determining cross-section fragment ion values of a sample and then storing or using those values as a standard for future reference. Thus, in one aspect, the present methods provide the use of drift-time ion mobility spectrometry, travelling-wave ion mobility spectrometry, or differential mobility spectrometry for determining cross-section fragment ion values

of a sample, the method comprising: fragmenting the sample to generate a series of product ions; separating the product ions using ion-mobility; obtaining collision cross-section values; and collecting the collision cross-section values.

[0029] The subject technology is further illustrated by the following examples which should not be construed as limiting. The contents of all references, patents and published patent applications cited throughout this application, are incorporated herein by reference.

EXEMPLIFICATION

[0030] Ion Mobility MS Analysis of Brain Extracts

[0031] **FIG. 1** shows an analysis of brain extracts using ion mobility mass spectrometry (MS) based on the present methods. The sample (i.e., brain extract) was analyzed using an UHPLC coupled with Synapt-G2Si HDMS in data independent acquisition mode as previously reported. See Paglia et al., Ion Mobility-Derived Collision Cross Section As an Additional Measure for Lipid Fingerprinting and Identification; Anal Chem. 2015 Jan 20;87(2):1137-44; doi: 10.1021/ac503715v and Paglia et al. Ion Mobility Derived Collision Cross Sections to Support Metabolomics Applications; Anal Chem; 2014 Apr 15;86(8):3985-93; doi: 10.1021/ac500405x. Epub 2014 Mar 28. Alternating high and low energy in the collision cell located before the ion mobility separation cell allowed us to acquire information CCS for both precursors and fragments ions.

[0032] **FIG. 2** shows a direct analysis (infusion) of human brain extracts using the present methods. Precursor and fragment ions can be separated using CCS versus m/z plots. Similar fragments cluster together in the CCS-m/z space providing information on their chemical structure.

[0033] As shown in **FIG. 3** fragment information can be either extracted using CCS or mass values, or a combination of the above. Typical brain phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) species are fragmented before ion mobility separation. In negative ionization mode, PEs lose fatty acyl units, whose CCS values can be used for identification. CCS values for common lipid species (e.g., fatty acyl groups) are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1.

Fragment	<i>m/z</i>	Ion	CCS
LPC 14:0	468.31	[M+H] ⁺	227
LPC 16:1	494.32	[M+H] ⁺	229
LPC 16:0	496.34	[M+H] ⁺	236
LPC 18:1	522.36	[M+H] ⁺	240
LPC 18:0	524.37	[M+H] ⁺	246
LPC 20:4	544.34	[M+H] ⁺	242
LPC 20:3	546.36	[M+H] ⁺	249
LPC 20:2	548.37	[M+H] ⁺	250
Cholesterol	369.35	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	205
FA C16:0	255.23	[M-H] ⁻	170
FA C17:0	269.25	[M-H] ⁻	174
FA C18:0	283.26	[M-H] ⁻	178
FA C20:0	311.3	[M-H] ⁻	187
FA C22:0	339.33	[M-H] ⁻	191
FA C24:0	367.36	[M-H] ⁻	200
FA C18:1	281.25	[M-H] ⁻	175
FA C18:2	279.23	[M-H] ⁻	172
FA C18:3	277.22	[M-H] ⁻	170
FA C20:1	309.28	[M-H] ⁻	183
FA C22:1	337.31	[M-H] ⁻	189
FA C24:1	365.34	[M-H] ⁻	195
FA C20:3	305.25	[M-H] ⁻	178
FA C20:4	303.23	[M-H] ⁻	182
FA C20:5	301.22	[M-H] ⁻	184
FA C22:4	331.26	[M-H] ⁻	188
FA C22:5	329.25	[M-H] ⁻	188
FA C22:6	327.23	[M-H] ⁻	187
LPE 16:1	450.26	[M-H] ⁻	210
LPE 16:0	452.28	[M-H] ⁻	212
LPE 18:1	478.29	[M-H] ⁻	217
LPE 18:0	480.31	[M-H] ⁻	219
LPE 20:4	500.28	[M-H] ⁻	219
LPE 20:3	502.29	[M-H] ⁻	220
LPE 20:2	504.31	[M-H] ⁻	222

Table 1 - Continued

Fragment	m/z	Ion	CCS
LPE 20:1	506.33	[M-H] ⁻	224
LPE 20:0	508.34	[M-H] ⁻	225
LPE 20:5	498.26	[M-H] ⁻	219
LPE 22:6	524.28	[M-H] ⁻	223
LPE 22:5	526.29	[M-H] ⁻	224
LPE 22:4	528.31	[M-H] ⁻	225
Cer d18:1/14:0	492.48	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	251
Cer d18:1/16:0	520.51	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	258
Cer d18:1/18:0	548.54	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	266
Cer d18:1/20:0	576.57	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	273
Cer d18:1/22:0	604.6	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	279
Cer d18:1/24:1	630.62	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	285
Cer d18:1/24:0	632.63	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	287
Cer d18:1/26:1	658.65	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	29
Cer d18:1/26:0	660.67	[M-H ₂ O+H] ⁺	295
Cer d18:0/16:0	540.54	[M+H] ⁺	261
Cer d18:0/18:0	568.57	[M+H] ⁺	272
Cer d18:0/20:0	596.6	[M+H] ⁺	277
Cer d18:0/22:0	624.63	[M+H] ⁺	284
Cer d18:0/24:0	652.66	[M+H] ⁺	293
Cer d18:0/24:1	650.65	[M+H] ⁺	291
Cer d18:0/26:0	680.69	[M+H] ⁺	299
Cer d18:0/26:1	678.68	[M+H] ⁺	297

[0034] FIG. 4 shows a comparison of wild type (WT) versus transgenic (TG) lipid extracted for the specific CCS of the fatty acyl EPA after ion mobility MS analysis using a UHPLC instrument coupled with a Mass Spectrometer (Synapt-G2Si HDMS available from Waters Corporation, Milford MA) in data independent acquisition mode as previously reported. Briefly, fragment information for EPA can be either be extracted using CCS or mass values, or a combination of the above. CCS values for the EPA moiety is listed in **Table 1**.

[0035] As shown by **FIG. 5**, specific fragment CCS values of metabolites extracted from plasma samples can be used as biosignature to differentiate between

control versus radiation treated mice using a hierarchical cluster analysis of the CCS features that are most altered after radiation exposure. In **FIG. 5**, no or a small change is represented by a 0 value, illustrated as black in the figure. In **FIG. 5** a change in relative abundance (control versus radiated) of matched product ions (same CCS values same m/z) is illustrated by both the color and intensity of the color (gray=control, white=radiated) for each pixel. It is noted that the top left and bottom right quadrants of **FIG. 5** appear to indicate greater change in the control direction, whereas the bottom left and top right quadrants appear to indicate greater change in the radiation direction. Samples were analyzed with a UHPLC instrument coupled with a Mass Spectrometer (Synapt-G2Si HDMS available from Waters Corporation, Milford MA) using a modification of a previously reported method [see Paglia et al., Anal Chem. 2015 Jan 20;87(2):1137-44. Briefly, in order to generate fragments, the cone (from 1 to 4) and capillary voltages (from 5 to 50 V) were increased and/or the collision energy was ramped in the trap cell (from 5 to 40 eV), which is located before the ion mobility cell, calculating CCS values for all the fragments. Alternating low (5eV) and high collision energy (ramping 20-40 eV) allowed data independent acquisition of CCS values for both precursors and fragments ions.

[0036] UHPLC conditions were as follows: Mobile phase A: 10 mM ammonium formate with 0.1% formic acid in 40:60 (v/v) acetonitrile/water; Mobile phase B: 10 mM ammonium formate with 0.1% formic acid in 10:90 (v/v); acetonitrile/isopropanol; Column temperature at 55°C, the flow rate at 0.4 mL/min, the injection volume at 5 μ L, and the autosampler temperature at 10°C. Initial conditions started with 40% B and immediately a linear gradient from 40% to 43% B in 2 min. In the following 0.1 min, the percentage of mobile phase B was increased to 50%. Over the next 9.9 minutes, the gradient was further ramped to 54% B, and the amount of mobile phase B was increased to 70% in 0.1 min. In the final part of the gradient, the % B was increased to 99% in 5.9 min. The eluent composition returned to the initial conditions in 0.1 min, and the column was equilibrated, at the initial conditions, for 1.9 min before the next injection. The total run time was 20.0 min.

[0037] Alternatively, the CCS and/or the m/z of precursor ions can be associated with CCS of product ions. Product ions are generated by disassociation of a parent precursor, each; precursor or product ion with its own m/z . Provided two channels of data are collected; one where the precursor ions are separated by IMS then disassociated and a second where precursor ions are disassociated and their

corresponding product ions are separated by IMS, a highly specific “hash mass” can be generated. A hash mass is a composite value consisting of a precursor m/z * its CCSA2 * the product ion m/z * its CCSA2. Any combination or mathematical manipulation of the four attributes can be utilized to increase the specificity of a targeted identification. Often in a given MS spectrum two different precursor ions of the same m/z (within the resolving power of the instrument) but different CCSA2 values will be present, similarly two different precursor ions of the same hydrophobicity but different m/z will produce a fragment ion of similar m/z (within the resolving power of the instrument) fragment ion but different CCSA2. The use of the hash tag can significantly increase the selectivity of the identification. **FIG. 6** shows a hierarchical cluster analysis of untargeted CCS values from plasma samples of control versus radiation treated mice. Precursor or fragment CCS or a combination of the two can be used. Samples were analyzed with a UHPLC instrument coupled with a Mass Spectrometer (Synapt-G2Si HDMS available from Waters Corporation, Milford MA) as reported above. In this figure, the color key indicates the relative change for control versus radiation treated samples. The absence of change or small change in signal is represented by a value of 0 (and appears as black in the image). A change in relative abundance (control versus radiated) of matched hash masses (CCS times m/z) is illustrated by both the color and intensity of the color (grey=control, white=radiated) for each pixel. The scale of -1 to 1 represents not an absolute change in abundance, but a scale the brightest color the values (1, -1) being the extremes.

[0038] FIG. 7 shows a correlation molecular network analysis of precursor/fragment CCS, RT values extracted from human brain samples of healthy control subjects versus subjects with Alzheimer’s disease (n=20 per group). This analysis highlights the power of this approach to identify networks of coregulated chemical classes based on the fragments’ CCS values. Samples were analyzed with a UHPLC instrument coupled with a Mass Spectrometer (Synapt-G2Si HDMS available from Waters Corporation, Milford MA). The UHPLC-MS acquisition was performed using a modification of a previously reported method (see Anal Chem; 2014 Apr 15;86(8):3985-93). Briefly, in order to generate fragments the cone (from 1 to 4) and capillary voltages (from 5 to 50 V) were increased and/or the collision energy was ramped in the trap cell (from 5 to 40 eV), which is located before the ion mobility cell, calculating CCS values for all the fragments. Alternating low (5eV) and high collision

energy (ramping 20-40 eV) allowed data independent acquisition of CCS values for both precursors and fragments ions.

[0039] UHPLC Conditions. Mobile phase A: acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile/water 40:60 (vol/vol). Mobile phase B: water with 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile/isopropanol 10:90 (vol/vol). Column 2.1 × 150 mm)ACQUITY amide column, particle size 1.7 μm. Column temperature at 45°C, the flow rate at 0.4 mL/min, the injection volume at 5 μL, and the autosampler temperature at 4°C. Gradient conditions are as follows:

Timing (min)	%A
0	99
6	40
10	10

[0040] As shown in **FIG. 8** mirror CCS fingerprint matching for a lipid after fragmentation induced either in-source or in a collision cell was performed. This generated an array of product ions each associated with a CCS value. Pure chemicals can be used to build a database of fragments' CCS values which can then be matched against complex samples. Samples were analyzed with a UHPLC instrument coupled with a Mass Spectrometer (Synapt-G2Si HDMS available from Waters Corporation, Milford MA)

[0041] Computationally predicted CCSs can also be performed. In cases where mass measurements are not able to differentiate between potential candidate metabolites obtained from a database search, a comparison between the experimental and theoretical CCS values can support the identification process. **Table 2** shows CCS of fragments as measured by experimental condition or computationally predicted.

Table 2.

Fragment	<i>m/z</i>	Ion	Experimental CCS	Predicted CCS
Phosphorylcholine	183.07	[M+H] ⁺	135	138
AMP	347.06	[M+H] ⁺	168	193
Glucose	180.06	[M+Na] ⁺	138	134
IMP	348.05	[M+H] ⁺	168	170
GMP	363.06	[M+H] ⁺	177	183
Adenosine	267.1	[M+H] ⁺	152	168

[0042] **Table 3** shows representative fragments for lipids species of phosphatidylcholines (PC), corresponding to lyso-phosphatidylcholines (LPC). CCS values for LPC species are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 3.

Isomers	PC 38:6 (ESI pos)	sn-1 acyl loss	sn-2 acyl loss
18:2/20:4	806.5695	544.3398	520.3398
18:1/20:5	806.5695	542.3241	522.3554
16:0/22:6	806.5695	568.3398	496.3398
16:1/22:5	806.5695	570.3554	494.3241

[0043] **Table 4** shows representative fragments for lipids species of phosphatidylethanolamines (PE), corresponding to lyso-phosphatidylethanolamines (LPE). CCS values for LPE species are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 4.

Isomers	PE 40:6 (ESI neg)	sn-1 acyl	sn-2 acyl
20:1/20:5	790.539	309.28	301.217
18:1/22:5	790.539	281.249	329.249
18:0/22:6	790.539	283.2643	327.233

Listing of Claims:

1. A method of using information obtained from collision cross-section (CCS) of fragment ion values to determine at least one chemical class composition of a sample, the method comprising:
 - fragmenting the sample to generate a series of product and precursor ions;
 - separating the product ions using ion-mobility;
 - obtaining collision CCS values of the product ions; and
 - matching or correlating the CCS values of the product ions to pre-determined values.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the ion mobility comprises the step of performing drift-tube ion mobility spectrometry, travelling-wave ion mobility spectrometry, or differential mobility spectrometry.
3. The method of Claim 1 or 2, wherein the ion mobility-mass spectrometry is operated in a data independent acquisition mode or data-dependent acquisition, or a combination thereof, wherein CCS of the precursor ions are associated with CCS of product ions.
4. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising
 - separating the precursor ions by ion mobility spectrometry, fragmenting the precursor ions, and obtaining the values of the precursor ions; and
 - calculating a hash mass comprising a composite value consisting of the precursor ion value m/z multiplied by the precursor ion collision cross-section area squared ($CCSA^2$) multiplied by the product ion m/z multiplied by the product ion $CCSA^2$ to determine the association between CCS precursor ions and CCS product ions in the sample.
5. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the sample is fragmented in source.
6. The method of any one of Claim 1 to 5, wherein fragmentation is induced by tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS), including collision induced dissociation (CID), electron transfer dissociation (ETD), electron impact, ultraviolet photoionization, ozonolysis, or similar fragmentation tools.

7. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the ionization method is selected from electrospray ionization (ESI), matrix assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI) or ambient ionization tools, including laser ablation electrospray ionization (LAESI), desorption electrospray ionization (DESI), and rapid evaporative ionization mass spectrometry (REIMS).
8. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 7, further comprising the step of separating the chemical classes prior to the separation of ions.
9. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 8, further comprising the step of separating the chemical classes using chromatography prior to the separation of ions.
10. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 9, further comprising the step of separating the chemical classes using ion mobility prior to the separation of ions.
11. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 10, further comprising the step of separating the chemical classes prior to the separation of ions using liquid chromatography, supercritical fluid chromatography or gas chromatography.
12. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 11, wherein the sample is a biological sample.
13. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 12, wherein the sample is a biofluid, tissue section or a cell culture.
14. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 13, further comprising
 - obtaining at least one ion property selected from m/z ratio, elution position, intensity distribution, charge, and CCS value of the precursor ions;
 - obtaining at least one ion property selected from m/z ratio, elution position, intensity distribution, and charge of the product ions;
 - correlating the at least one ion property of the precursor ions with the corresponding at least one ion property of the parent ions; and
 - matching or correlating the at least one ion property of both the precursor and parent ions to pre-determined values. of the product ions to pre-determined values.

FIG. 1

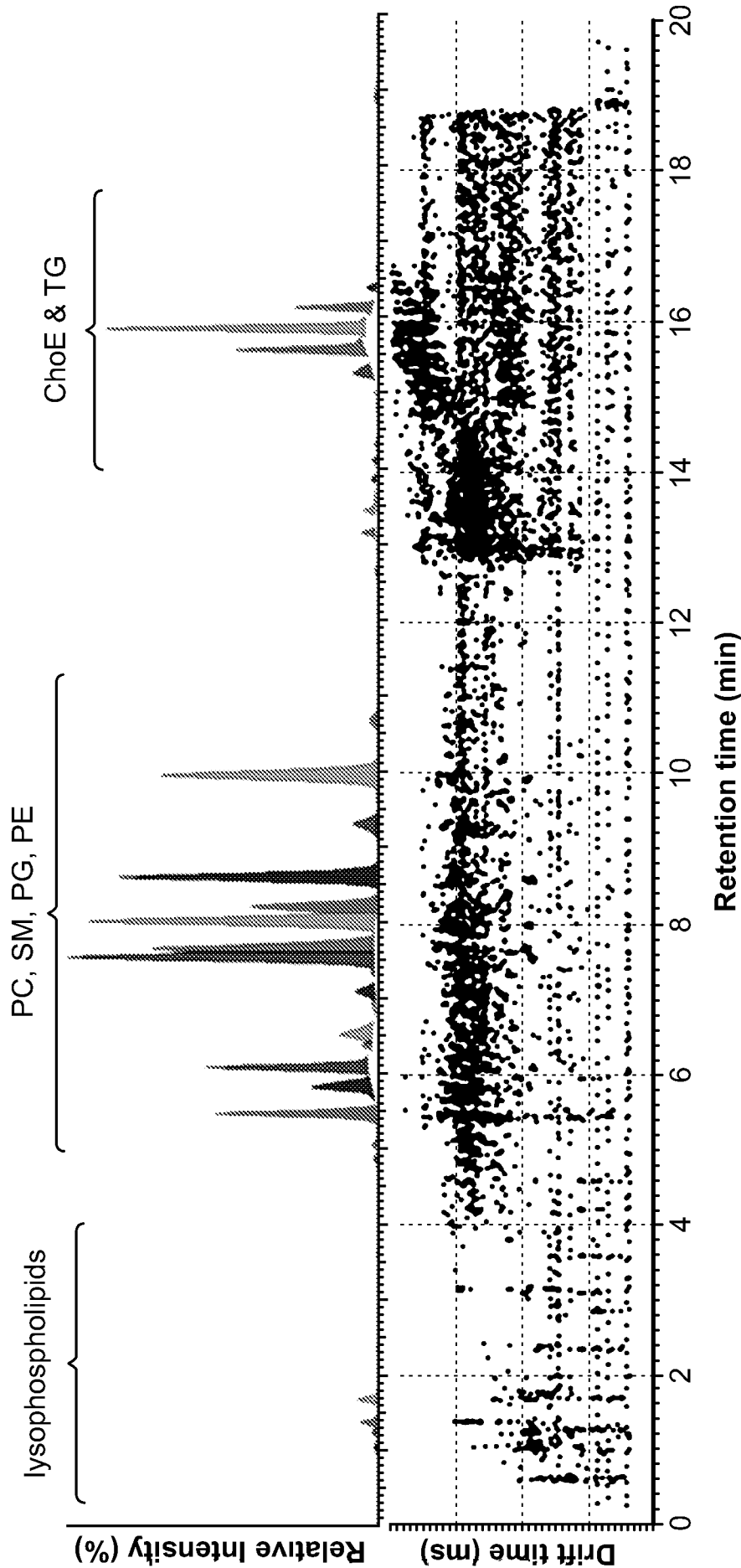


FIG. 2

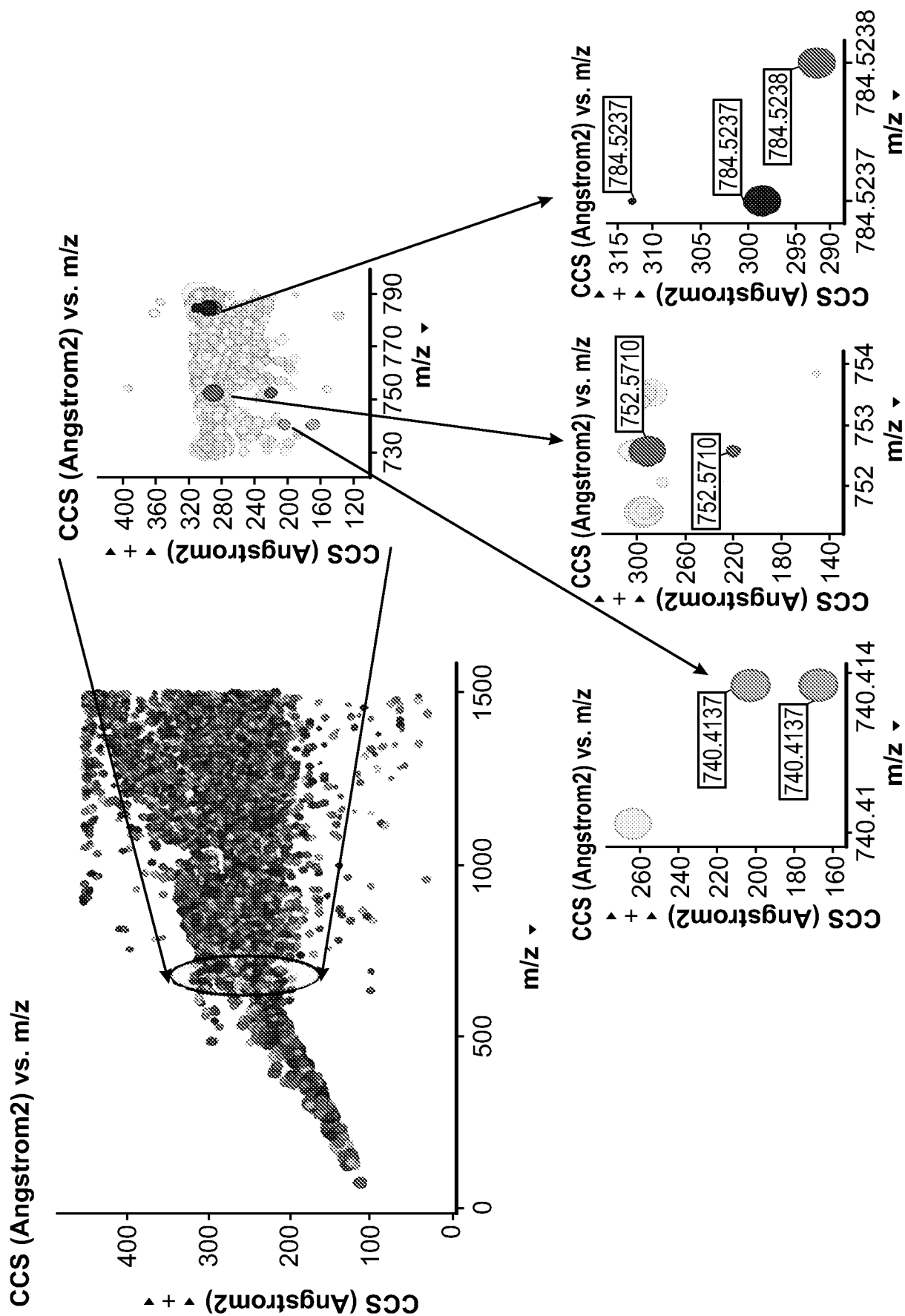


FIG. 3

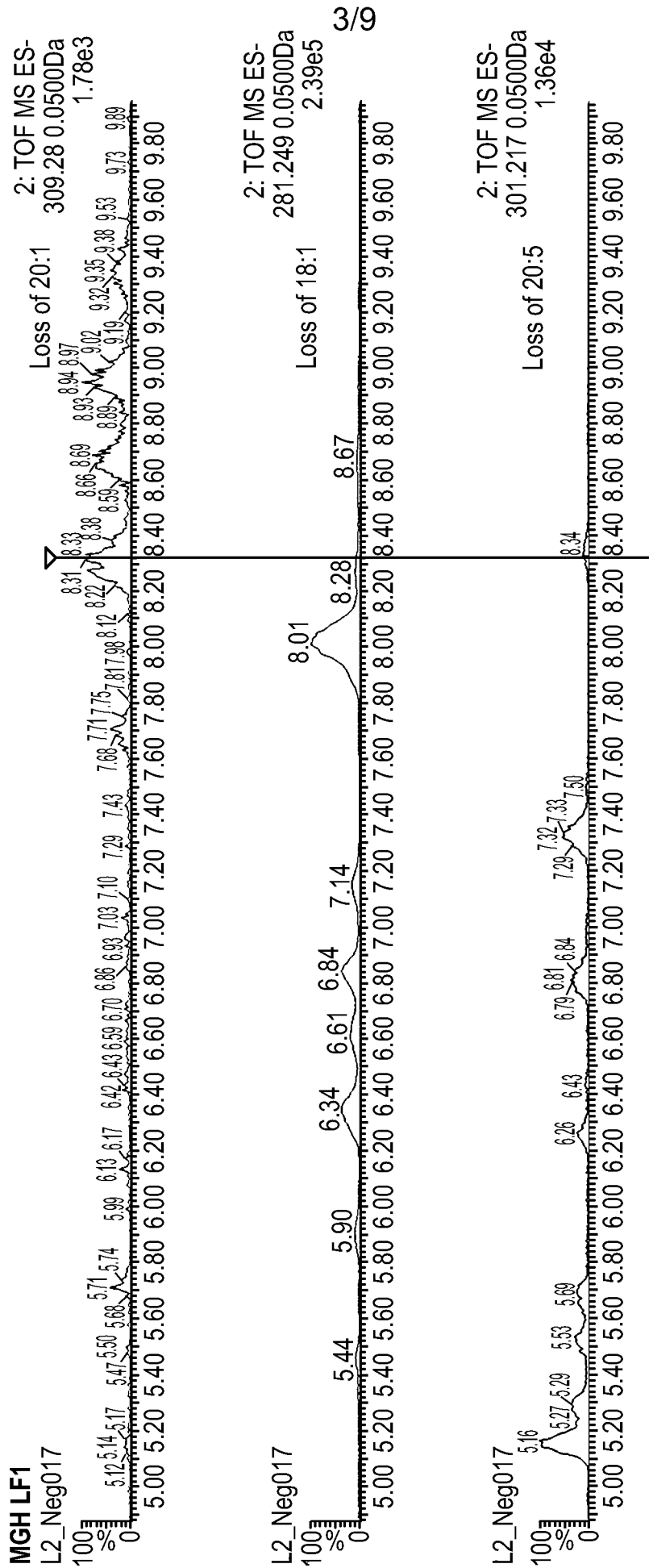


FIG. 3 (cont.)

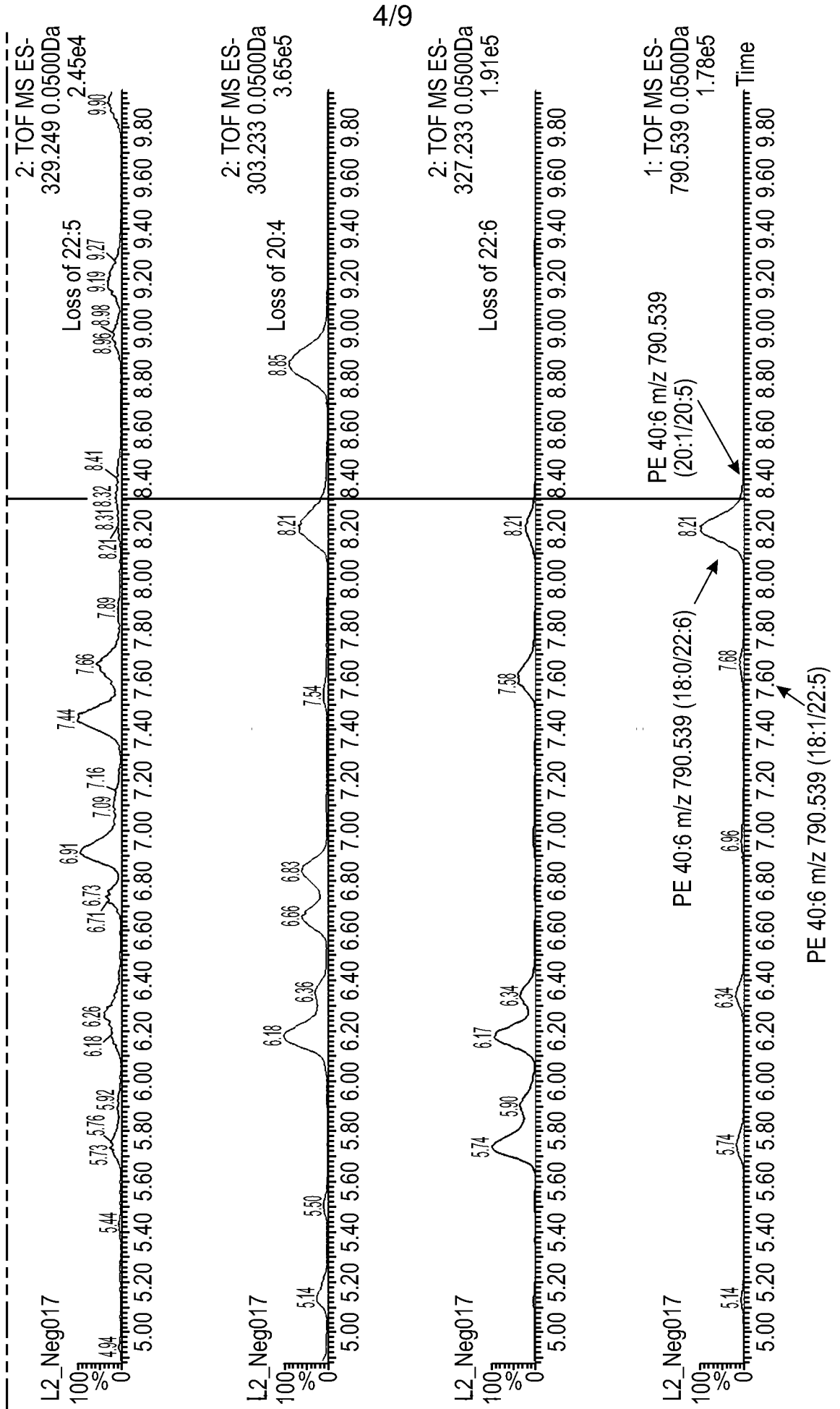
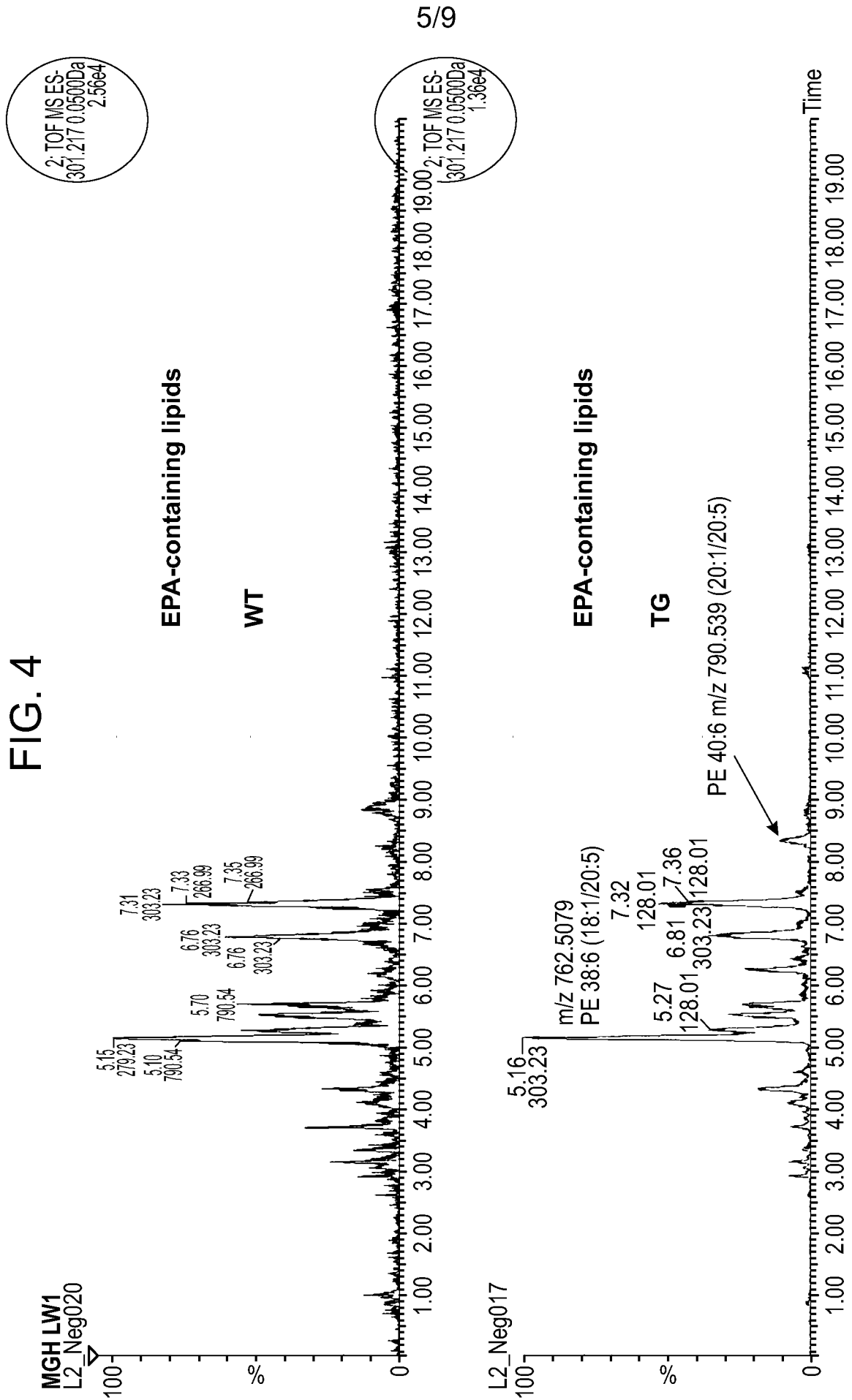


FIG. 4



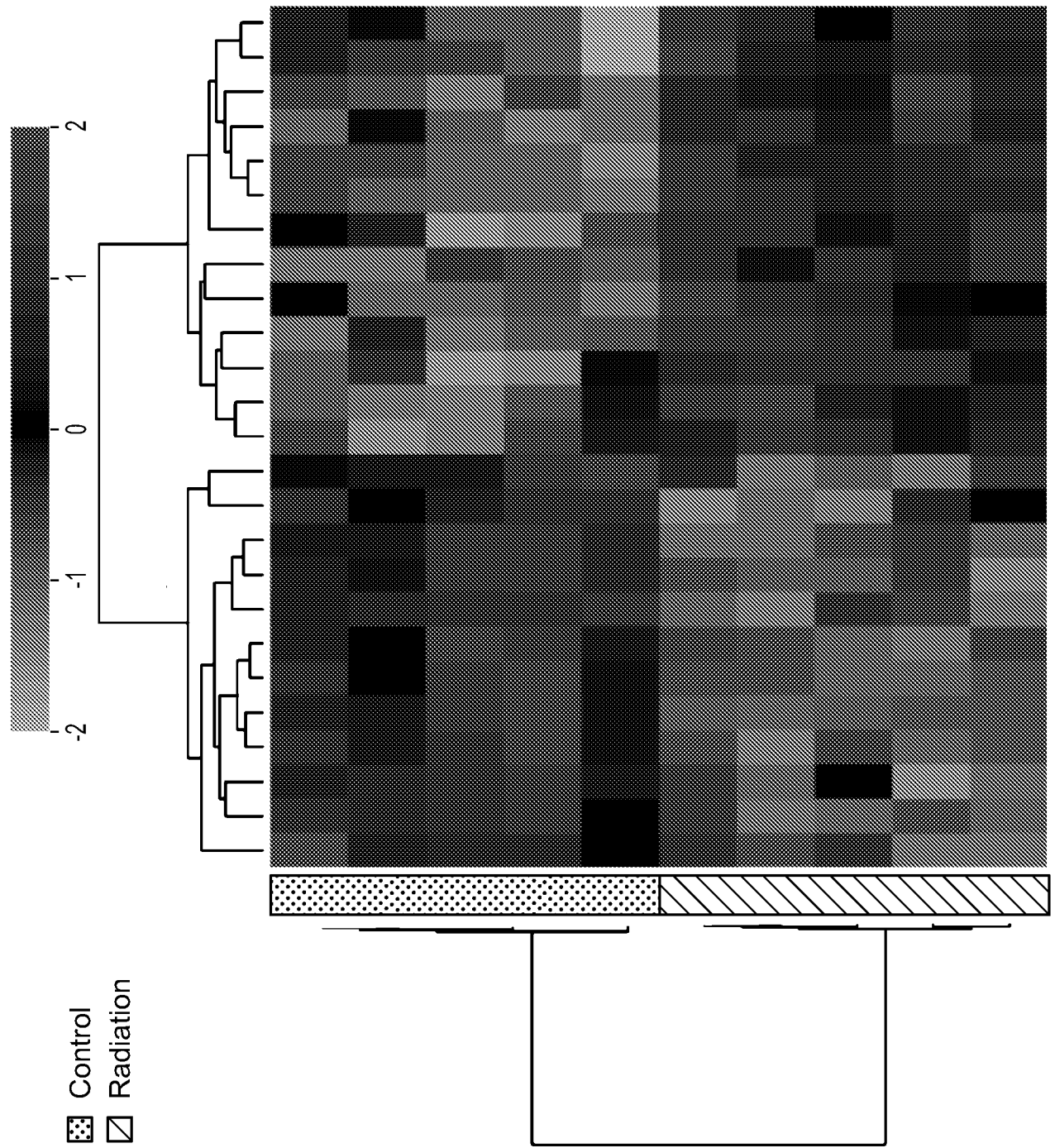


FIG. 5

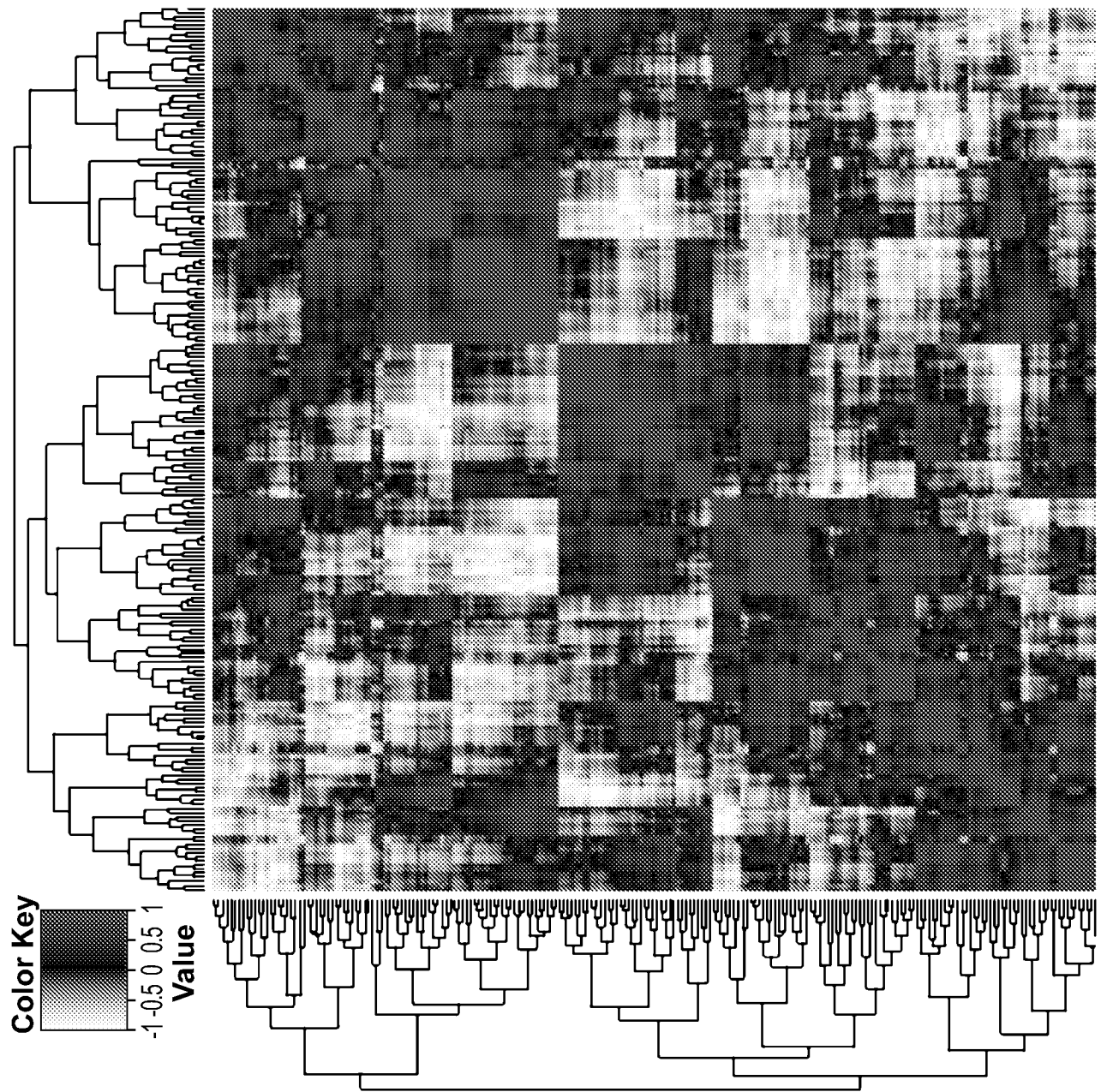


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

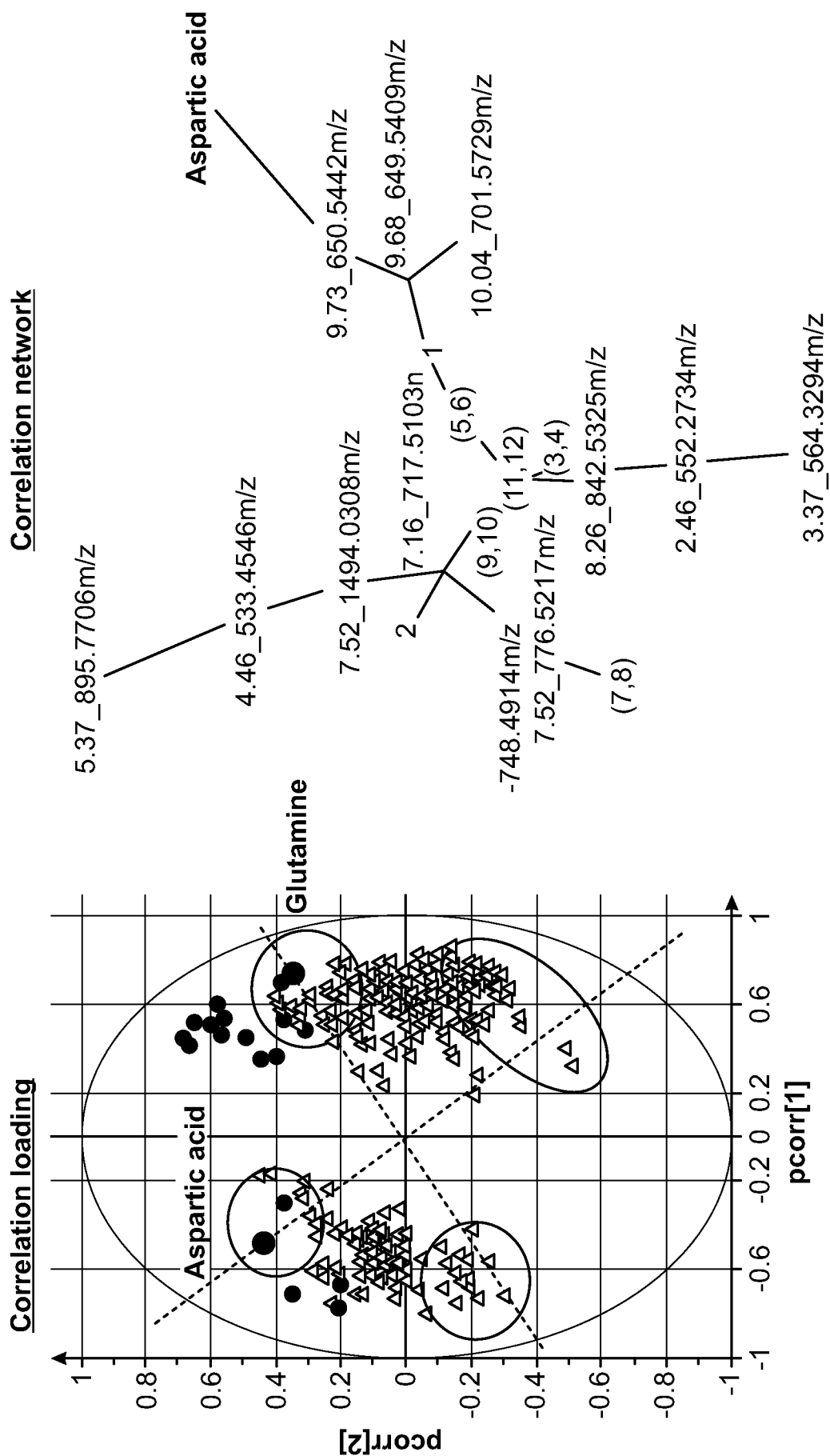
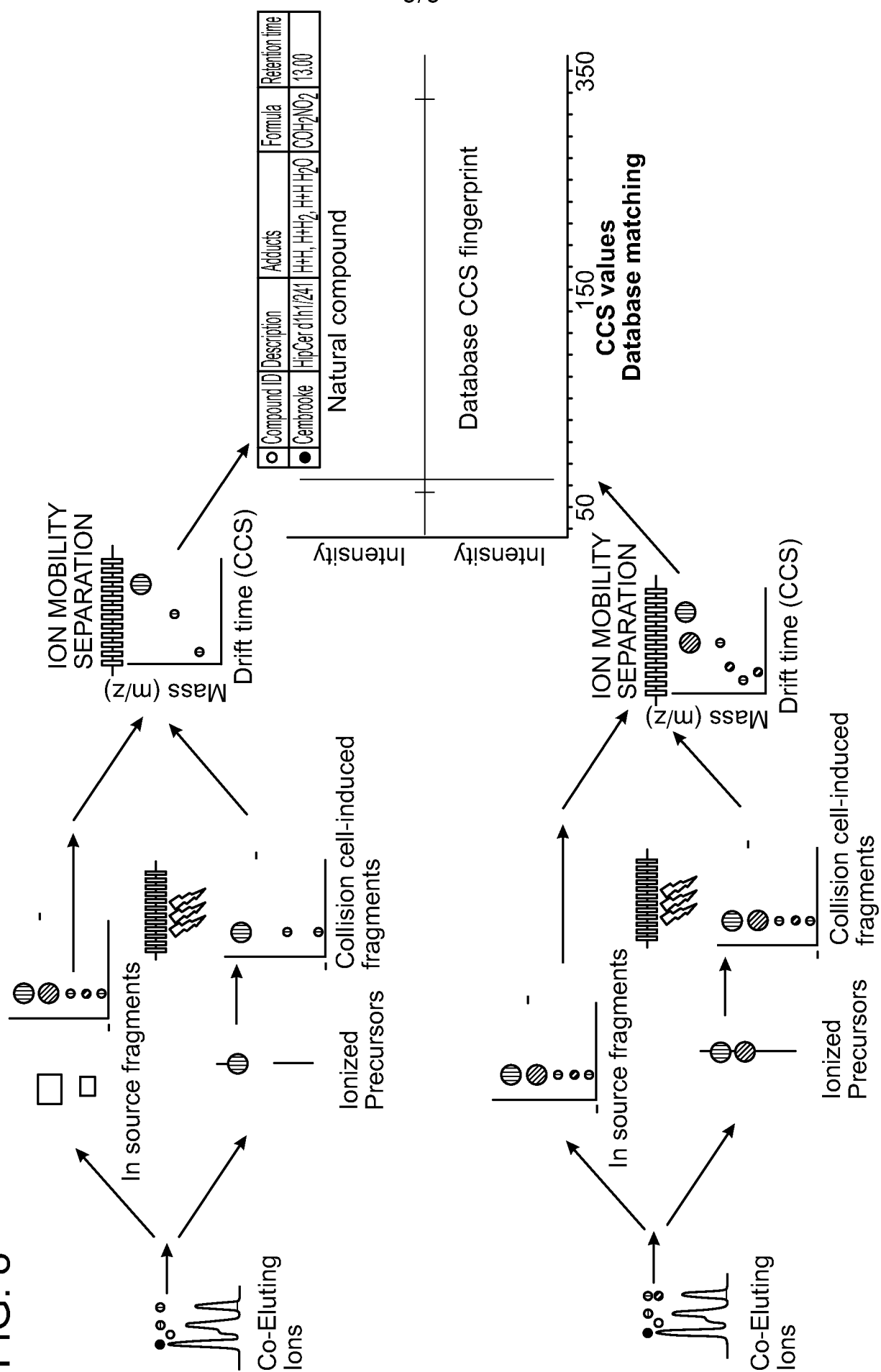


FIG. 8



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 17/40256

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - G01N 27/62; H01J 49/00 (2017.01)

CPC - G01N 27/622; H01J 49/004

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

See Search History Document

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

See Search History Document

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

See Search History Document

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	Paglia et al. "Ion Mobility-Derived Collision Cross Section As an Additional Measure for Lipid Fingerprinting and Identification" Analytical Chemistry, Vol 87 Issue 2 (13 December 2014): pages 1137-1144; abstract, page 1138 col 1 para 5, page 1138 col 1 para 6, page 1138 col 2 para 2, page 1140 col 1 para 2, page 1142 col 1 para 2	1-3
Y	US 2011/0198493 A1 (Clemmer et al.) 18 August 2011 (18.08.2011); para [0010], para [0012], para [0024], para [0119], para [0121], para [0134]	1-3
A	Hilton et al. "Structural Analysis of Synthetic Polymer Mixtures Using Ion Mobility and Tandem Mass Spectrometry" Analytical Chemistry, Vol 80 Issue 24 (19 November 2008): pages 9720-9725; entire document	1-3
A	Dong et al. "Collision Cross-Section Determination and Tandem Mass Spectrometric Analysis of Isomeric Carotenoids Using Electrospray Ion Mobility Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometry" Analytical Chemistry, Vol 82 Issue 21 (07 October 2010): pages 9014-9021; entire document	1-3
A	Paglia et al. "Ion Mobility Derived Collision Cross Sections to Support Metabolomics Applications" Analytical Chemistry, Vol 86 Issue 8 (18 March 2014): pages 3985-3993; entire document	1-3
A	Riba-Garcia et al. "Evidence for Structural Variants of a- and b-Type Peptide Fragment Ions Using Combined Ion Mobility/Mass Spectrometry" Journal of the American Society of Mass Spectrometry, Vol 19 Issue 4 (31 January 2008): pages 609-613; entire document	1-3

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 August 2017

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 SEP 2017

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Authorized officer:

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PCT QSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 17/40256

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-14
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.