

Jan 10, 2026

Mass spectrometry analysis with Data Independent Acquisition (DIA)

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.6qpvrworplmk/v1>

Julia Heiby¹, Emilio Cirri¹, Alessandro Ori¹

¹FLI Leibniz Institute on Aging



Julia C. Heiby

FLI Leibniz Institute on Aging

Create & collaborate more with a free account

Edit and publish protocols, collaborate in communities, share insights through comments, and track progress with run records.

Create free account

OPEN  ACCESS



DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.6qpvrworplmk/v1>

Protocol Citation: Julia Heiby, Emilio Cirri, Alessandro Ori 2026. Mass spectrometry analysis with Data Independent Acquisition (DIA). protocols.io <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.6qpvrworplmk/v1>

License: This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the **Creative Commons Attribution License**, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: July 16, 2025



Last Modified: January 10, 2026

Protocol Integer ID: 222634

Keywords: MS, DIA, mass spectrometry analysis with data independent acquisition, mass spectrometry analysis, mass spectrometry, data independent acquisition, detailed protocol for the data independent acquisition, data acquisition method, data, data acquisition

Abstract

Here we provide a detailed protocol for the Data Independent Acquisition (DIA)-based mass spectrometry (MS) data acquisition method.



Preparations before MS

- 1 Reconstitute dried peptides in MS Buffer (5% acetonitrile, 95% Milli-Q water, with 0.1% formic acid) to a final concentration of 1 µg/µl.
- 2 Biorupt samples (3 cycles, 60sec on, 30sec off).
- 3 For 10 µL sample (1µg/µl) add 0,5 µL iRT peptides (Biognosys, Switzerland)(1:2 diluted), and transfer into LC-vials.
Note: To prepare diluted iRT, follow the manufacturer instructions.
Note: Samples will be stable for a few days at 4°C.

LC - Liquid Chromatography

- 4 Separate peptides in trap/elute mode using the nanoAcquity MClass Ultra-High Performance Liquid Chromatography system (Waters, Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA) equipped with a trapping (nanoAcquity Symmetry C18, 5 µm, 180 µm x 20 mm) and an analytical column (Waters nanoEase M/Z C18 HSS T3, 1.7 µm, 75 µm x 250 mm).
- 5 Load 1 µl of the sample (~1 µg on column) with a constant flow of solvent A at 5 µl/min onto the trapping column. Trapping time is 6 min. Elute peptides via the analytical column with a constant flow of 0.3 µl/min, using a non-linear gradient from 0% to 40% B in 120 min.
The total runtime is 145 min, including clean-up and column re-equilibration.
- 6 Nano LC gradient for DIA Analysis:

	A	B	C	D
	time (min)	flow (µl/min)	% A	% B
	Initial	0.3	97	3
	1	0.3	95	5
	4	0.3	94	6
	9	0.3	93	7
	18	0.3	91	9
	77	0.3	79	21
	93	0.3	76	24

	A	B	C	D
	101	0.3	72	28
	110	0.3	71	29
	113	0.3	69	31
	115	0.3	68	32
	116	0.3	67	33
	117	0.3	66	34
	119	0.3	64	36
	120	0.3	60	40
	120.1	0.3	50	50
	125	0.3	50	50
	125.1	0.3	15	85
	130	0.3	15	85
	130.1	0.3	97	3

MS - Mass Spectrometry (Orbitrap Exploris 480)

- 7 The outlet of the analytical column is coupled directly to a Orbitrap Exploris 480 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen, Germany) system using the Proxeon nanospray source. Peptides are introduced into the mass spectrometer via a Pico-Tip Emitter 360 μm outer diameter x 20 μm inner diameter, 10 μm tip (New Objective) heated at 300°C, and a spray voltage of 2.2 kV is applied.
- The capillary temperature is set at 300°C.
- The radio frequency ion funnel is set to 30%.
- MS acquisition parameters are set as follows: full scan MS spectra with a mass range of 350–1,650 m/z are acquired in profile mode in the Orbitrap with resolution of 120,000 FWHM.
- The filling time is set at a maximum of 60 ms with an AGC target of 3×10^6 ions.
- DIA scans are acquired with 40 mass window segments of differing widths across the MS1 mass range. The default charge state is set to 3+.



A	B	C
m/z	z	Isolation Window (m/z)
375	3	50
408	3	18
424	3	16
439	3	16
453.5	3	15
467.5	3	15
481	3	14
494	3	14
507.5	3	15
521	3	15
534	3	14
547	3	14
560	3	14
573	3	14
586.5	3	15
600	3	14
613.5	3	15
627.5	3	15
641.5	3	15
655.5	3	15
669.5	3	15
684	3	16
699	3	16
714.5	3	17
730.5	3	17
747	3	18

	A	B	C
	764.5	3	19
	783	3	20
	802	3	20
	822	3	22
	843.5	3	23
	866.5	3	25
	891	3	26
	918	3	35
	948.5	3	33
	984	3	40
	1027	3	48
	1081.5	3	63
	1161.5	3	99
	1430	3	440
	1430	3	440

DIA 40 window Mass List Table

Higher energy collisional dissociation (HCD) fragmentation (stepped normalized collision energy; 25, 27, 30%) is applied and MS/MS spectra are acquired with a resolution of 30,000 FWHM with a fixed first mass of 200 m/z after accumulation of 3×10^6 ions or after a filling time of 35 ms.

Data are acquired in profile mode.

Data Acquisition

- 8 For data acquisition and processing of the raw data, Xcalibur 4.3 (Thermo) and Tune version 4.0 are used.
- 9 Optional: Spectronaut from Biognosysis is a commercial software. Alternative open-source software such as DIA-NN can be used.

Proteomics data processing for directDIA data

- 10 Raw files are processed using Spectronaut Professional and searched by directDIA search with Pulsar (Biognosys) against the UniProt database with a list of common contaminants appended (247 contaminants, including BSA, Trypsin, human keratins and other), using the default settings.
For quantification, the default BGS factory settings are used, except for the following settings: proteotypicity filter = only protein group specific; major group quantity = median peptide quantity; major group top N = OFF; minor group quantity = median precursor quantity; minor group top N = OFF; data filtering = Q-value percentile with fraction = 0.2 and imputing strategy = global imputing; normalization strategy = global normalization; row selection = identified in all runs (complete); modifications (only for BioID) = biotin_K. Differential abundance testing is performed in Spectronaut using a paired t-test between replicates.

Data Analysis

- 11 The candidates and protein report tables are exported from Spectronaut and are used for further analysis using R and RStudio server.
Exemplary code for data analysis can be found here:
<https://gitlab.leibniz-fli.de/ori-lab/brainlysoatlas>