# Structural elucidation of a medium-heavy **crude oil** sample and $MS^N$ using **tandem mass spectrometry** with **isobaric precursor isolation** in a **multiple-reflection time-of-flight** mass spectrometer

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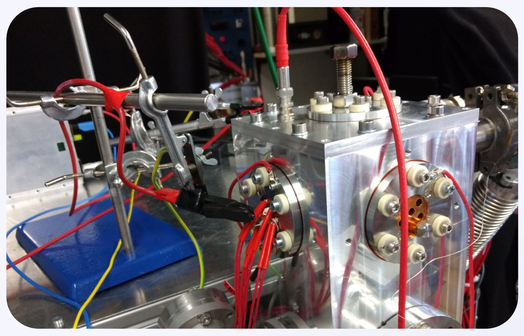
## Introduction

Structural elucidation of complex mixtures using tandem mass spectrometry is typically limited by low mass separation power to isolate precursors. A multiple-reflection time-of-flight mass spectrometer (MR-TOF-MS) with sub-ppm accuracy, and ultra-high mass resolving power has been developed to overcome these limitations [1,2]. A new API, ion sources, software system, and analysis techniques have been implemented. The device offers multiple-stage tandem mass spectrometry with very high mass separation power in every stage [3,4].
Precursors were isolated in an $MS^2$ experiment with a separation power of 250 000, and $MS^4$ was demonstrated. $MS^2$ was performed on a crude oil sample with a precursor isolation window of 10 mu adjacent to a dominant peak, allowing the identification of 26 new structures.

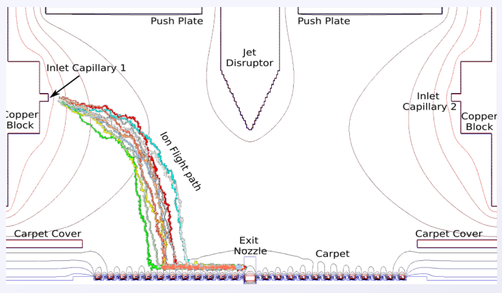
## Atmospherical Pressure Interface

**Features**

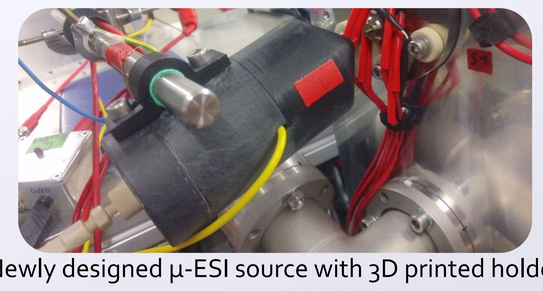
- Parallel use of up to four ion sources
  - Chemically inert mixing of ions
  - Simultaneous use of different ionisation techniques with individual settings
  - Features nano-ESI, µ-ESI, thermal ion source and heated inlet capillaries
- RF carpet funnels ions fast and efficiently
- Modular design, easy to clean and expand



Newly designed and built API




Simulations for ion trajectories of different masses and ion mobilities



Newly designed µ-ESI source with 3D printed holder
Syringe pump generates stable ion beam
Metal capillary allows electrochemical ionisation

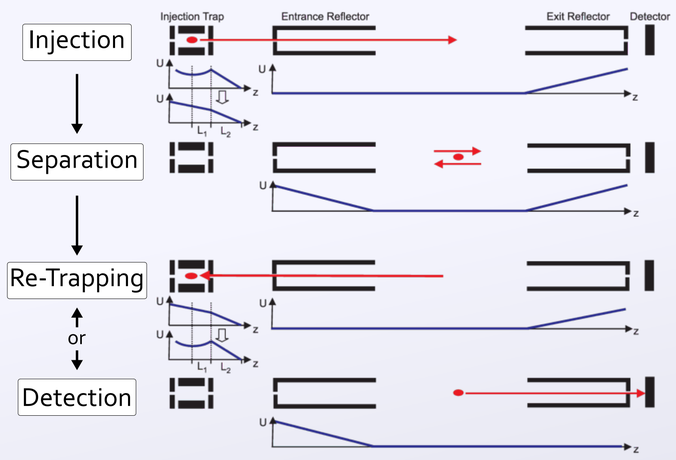
## Mass-Selective Re-Trapping: Tandem-in-time

**Features**

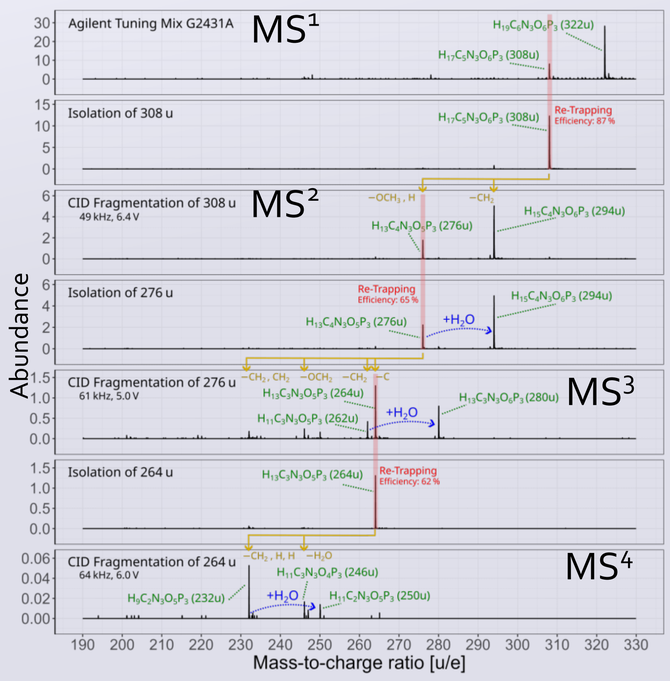
- Tandem-in-time with ultra-high precursor separation power
- Novel technique for closed-path MR-TOF-MS devices
- Re-trapping with the same RFQ trap
- Theoretically unlimited number of $MS^N$ stages
- Fragmentation with low energy CID between each stage

For the first time

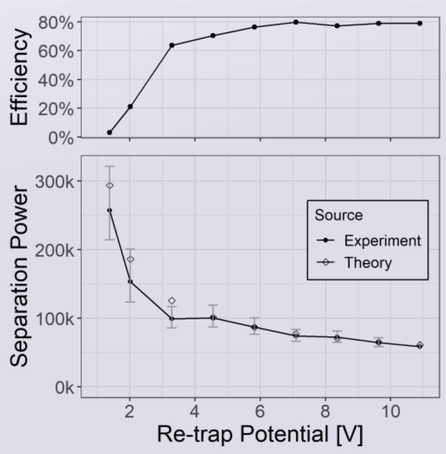
- **Precursor separation power up 250 000 demonstrated**
- **$MS^4$ in an MR-TOF-MS**




Schematic workflow for mass-selective re-trapping [4]

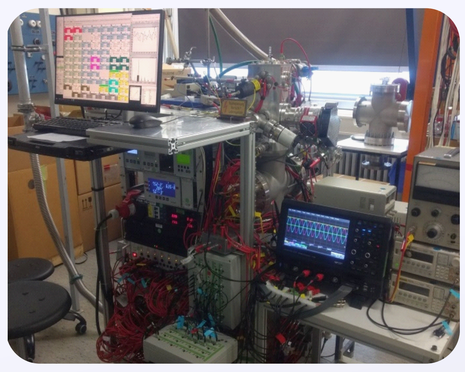



$MS^4$ Process of $H_{19}C_6N_3O_6P_3$ (322 u)



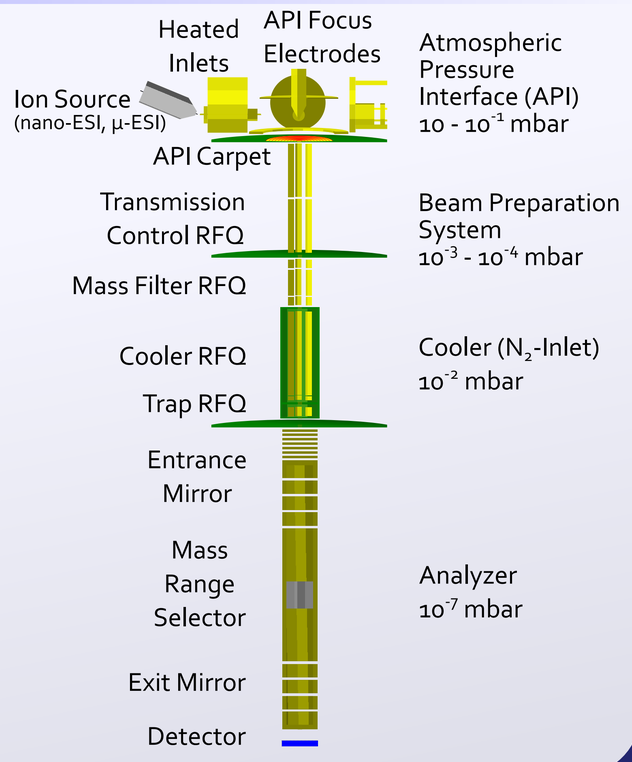

Precursor separation power and efficiency, measured at $MS^2$ of 118 u and in theroy

## MR-TOF-MS Setup



**Performance**

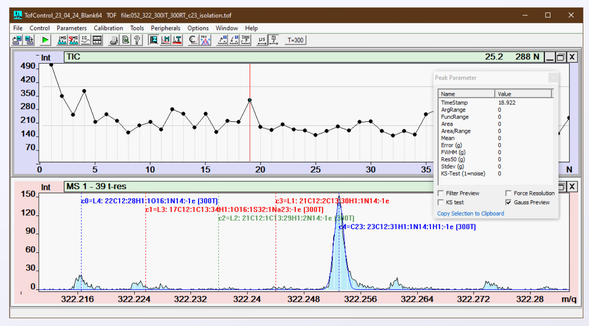
- Mass resolving power: 280 000
- Mass accuracy: < 1 ppm
- $MS^N$ precursor separation power: 250 000
- Detection limit: < $10^{-9}$ mol/l
- Many additional features (mass filter RFQ, gain control, mass range selector, ...)



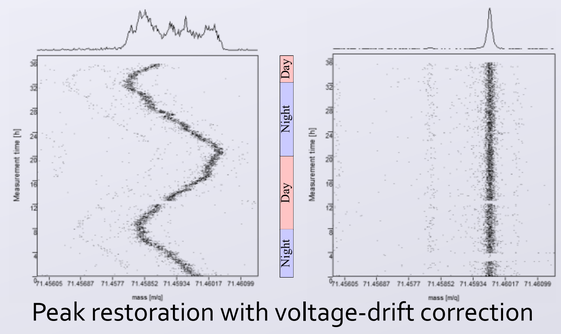

## TOFControl Software System

**Features**

- Hardware control
  - Voltages, frequencies, timing sequences
  - Parameter scans and optimizers
- Data acquisition
  - Supports parallel use of TDC/ADCs
  - Life-visualisation and online-analysis
  - Self-optimizing systems
- Data analysis
  - MR-TOF-MS tailored calibration
  - Voltage drift and dead time corrections
  - Determines chemical composition
- Versatility
  - Used for analytical MS and for MS at accelerator facilities (GSI, TRIUMF)
  - Applied in more than 48 scientific publications

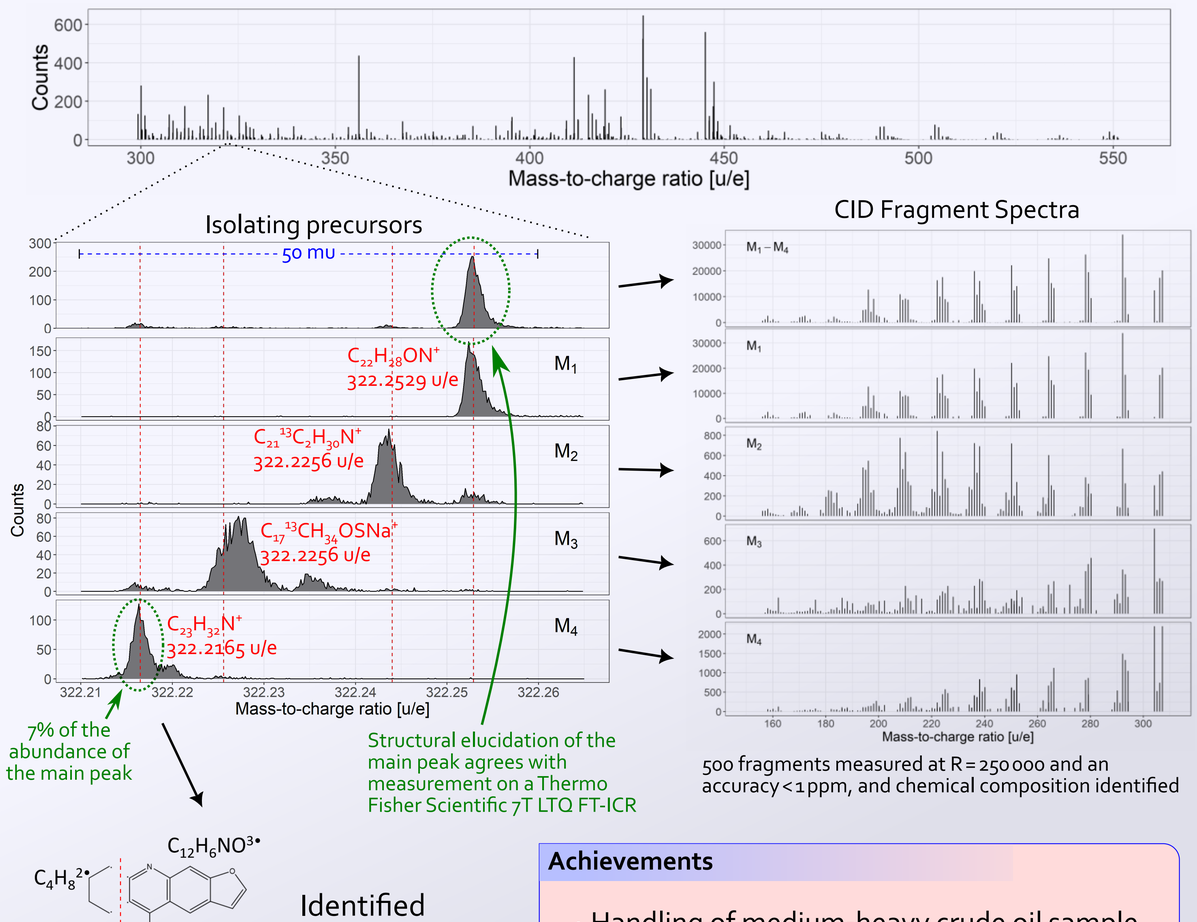


User interface of TOFControl

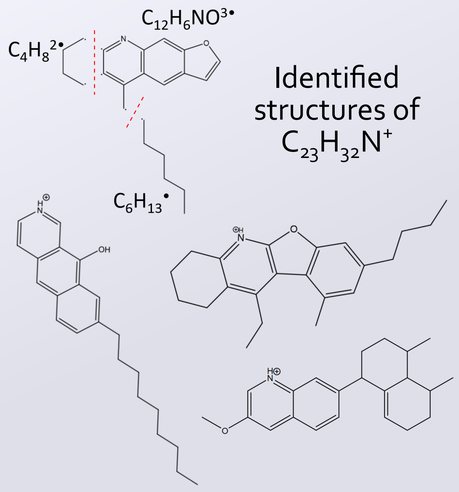



Peak restoration with voltage-drift correction

## Ultra-high Res. $MS^2$ of Medium-heavy Crude Oil




500 fragments measured at R = 250 000 and an accuracy < 1 ppm, and chemical composition identified




Identified structures of $C_{23}H_{32}N^+$

**Achievements**

- Handling of medium-heavy crude oil sample
- New analysis technique: high-resolving, fast, and non-scanning measurement of a wide mass range in a closed-path MR-TOF-MS
- Precursor isolation window of 10 mu
- Isolation of a precursor at 322.2165 u with only 7 % abundance of the dominant signal at 322.2529 u
- 26 new structures derived

## References and Contact

[1] T. Dickel et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods B 317 (2013) 779
[2] J. Lang, PhD thesis, 2016, JLU Gießen
[3] W. Lippert, PhD thesis, 2016, JLU Gießen
[4] T. Dickel et al., J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom. 28(2017) 1079
[5] T. Dickel et al., Int. J. Mass Spectrom. 412 (2017) 1-7

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