# IMPROVED IMMUNOPEPTIDOME ANALYSIS USING TIMSTOF FRAGMENT ION INTENSITY PREDICTION

#### Wout Bittremieux — BSPR/EuPA 2023



@wout@sigmoid.social



wout.bittremieux@uantwerpen.be













## IMMUNOPEPTIDOMICS



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## SEARCH SPACE IN IMMUNOPEPTIDOMICS

- Massive search space: all protein subsequences have to be considered
- Increased probability of identifying high-scoring decoys
- Reduced identification rate at a fixed FDR



## **SPECTRUM ANNOTATION IS CHALLENGING**



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## VALUE OF TIMSTOF FOR IMMUNOPEPTIDOMICS

- timsTOF stays stable at low abundances
- A few immunopeptides can elicit an immune response



## **1.5-FOLD PEPTIDE INCREASE ON TIMSTOF**

- Benign and malignant samples
- Measured on both Orbitrap and timsTOF



## **NEED FOR A TIMSTOF INTENSITY PREDICTION MODEL**



### Meier, F., et al. Nature Communications (2021).

## **ORIGIN OF THE TRAINING DATA**

- Measured >300,000 non-tryptic synthesized peptides
- >120,000 previously acquired tryptic synthesized peptides



## FINE-TUNING THE PROSIT HCD MODEL

- Prosit HCD 2020 was trained on ~30 million spectra (9 million non-tryptic spectra)
- ~280,000 timsTOF spectra
- Improved spectral angle between predicted and experimental spectra



## **OUR RESCORING PIPELINE**



## 2.4-FOLD PEPTIDE INCREASE AFTER RESCORING



## **INCREASED PERFORMANCE ON TIMSTOF VS ORBITRAP**



#### Phulphagar, K. M., et al. Molecular & Cellular Proteomics (2023).

## **IMMUNOPEPTIDOMICS ON MELANOMA CELLS**

- A375, a melanoma cell line
- Measured in triplicate
- Missense SNPs were added to the FASTA file
- HLA types

HLA-A	HLA-B	HLA-C
01:01 + 02:02	57:01 + 44:03	16:02 + 06:02











## **IDENTIFIED PEPTIDES HAVE STRONG HLA BINDING**

- NetMHCpan 4.1 to predict the HLA binding affinity
- Best (=lowest) score selected for each peptide against HLA types
- 86% of peptides after rescoring are at least weak binders



## CONCLUSION

- Identifying immunopeptides is challenging
- Fragment ion intensity prediction for rescoring on timsTOF data
- Discover neo-epitopes that could be used to develop immunotherapies



#### Bittremieux / Laukens Lab

ilhelm Lab







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