# DEEP LEARNING TO UNCOVER THE IMMUNOPEPTIDOME

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### 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



# **SOLUTION 1: PREDICTING FRAGMENT ION INTENSITIES**

### **SPECTRUM ANNOTATION IS CHALLENGING**



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### **INTENSITY INFORMATION AVOIDS FALSE POSITIVES**



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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**



### **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



Charlotte Adams

- 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











Adams, C. et al. biorXiv (2023).

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

- NetMHCpan 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



# **SOLUTION 2: DE NOVO PEPTIDE SEQUENCING**

### **PEPTIDE SEQUENCING AS A TRANSLATION PROBLEM**



### **CASANOVO IS A DE NOVO SEQUENCING TRANSFORMER**

- **Encoder**: Learns contextualized representations for peaks
- Decoder: Predicts the *de novo* sequence one amino acid at a time
- Beam search decoding finds the highest-scoring peptide



Yilmaz, M. et al. NeurIPS (2022).

### **CASANOVO OUTPERFORMS OTHER METHODS**

1.00

0.75

0.50

0.25

0.00

0.00

0.25

0.50

Coverage

precision

Peptide

- With same training data,
  Casanovo outperforms traditional and deep learning-based *de novo* sequencing tools
- Large training data significantly improves performance



0.75



Melih Yilmaz

1.00

### NON-ENZYMATIC FINE-TUNING AVOIDS TRYPTIC BIAS

 Casanovo is trained on bottom-up proteomics data, exhibiting a tryptic bias





Yilmaz, M. et al. biorXiv (2023).

### NON-ENZYMATIC FINE-TUNING AVOIDS TRYPTIC BIAS

 Casanovo is trained on bottom-up proteomics data, exhibiting a tryptic bias



• Fine-tuning on non-enzymatic data mitigates the tryptic bias and improves performance



Yilmaz, M. et al. biorXiv (2023).

### **CASANOVO OUTPERFORMS DATABASE SEARCHING**

Check if Casanovo predictions are:

- In the human proteome
- Database search results (Tide) on human proteome
- → Casanovo identifies 65% more
  unique peptides matching to the
  human proteome than Tide



#### Yilmaz, M. et al. biorXiv (2023).

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

- NetMHCpan to predict the HLA binding affinity
- Casanovo predicted peptides in human are:
  - As plausible as Casanovo & Tide shared peptides
  - More plausible than peptides uniquely identified by Tide



### **EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF ANTIBODY ASSEMBLY**



Beslic, D. et al. Briefings in Bioinformatics (2023).

## CONCLUSION

- Identifying immunopeptides is challenging
- Fragment ion intensity prediction for rescoring on timsTOF data
- Casanovo is a powerful deep learning-based *de novo* peptide sequencing solution



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