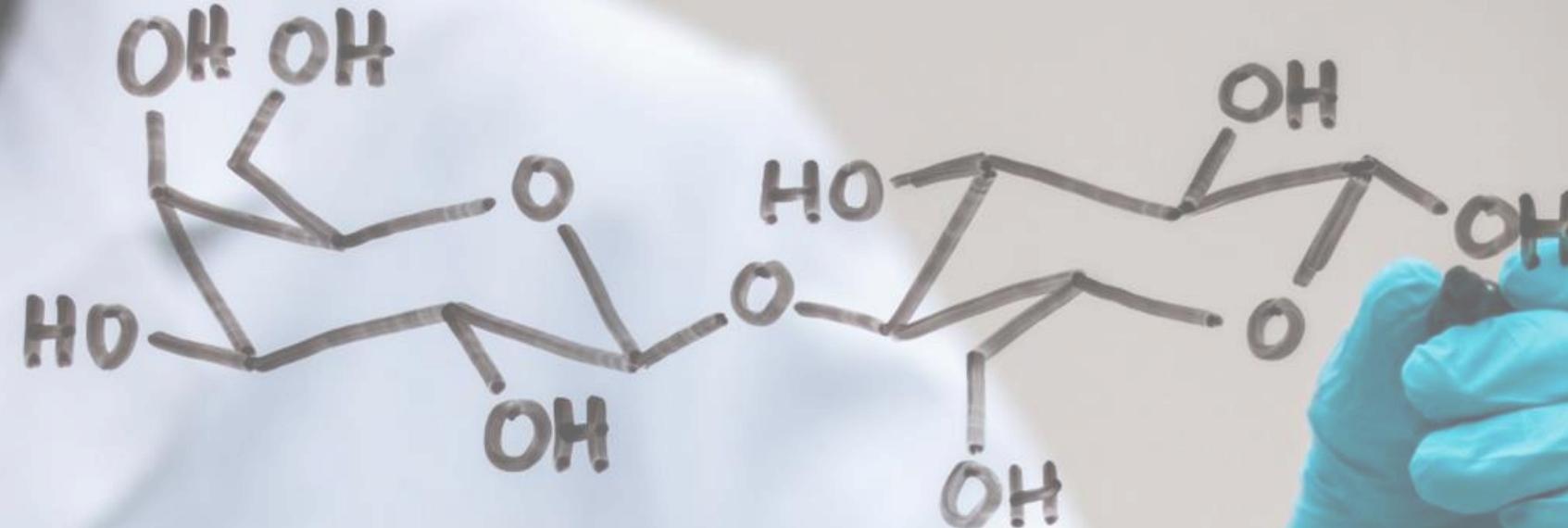


# Mass Spectrometry-Based Techniques to Elucidate the Sugar Code



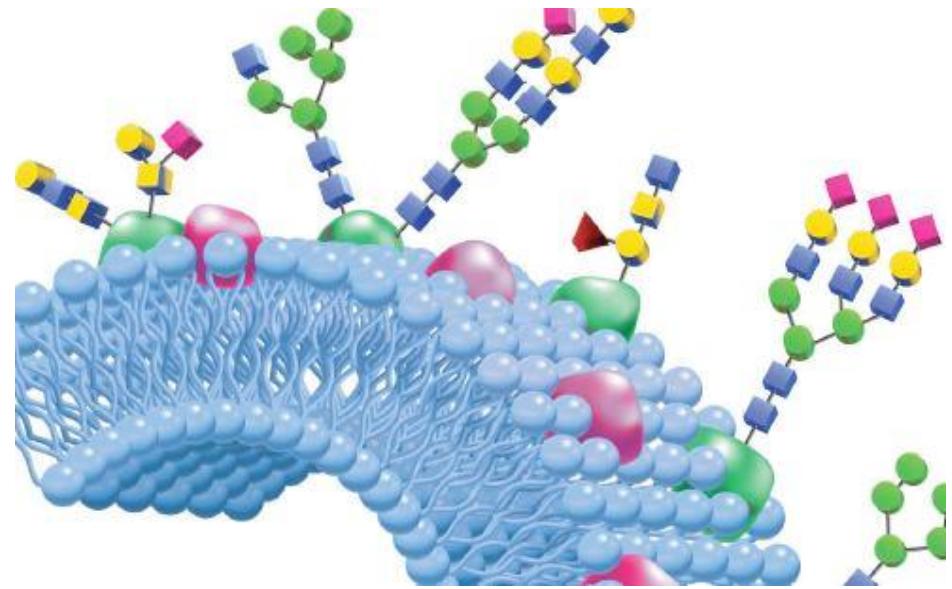
Kevin Pagel

Freie Universität Berlin and Fritz Haber Institute  
of the Max Planck Society, Berlin, Germany

# Glycans in Biology

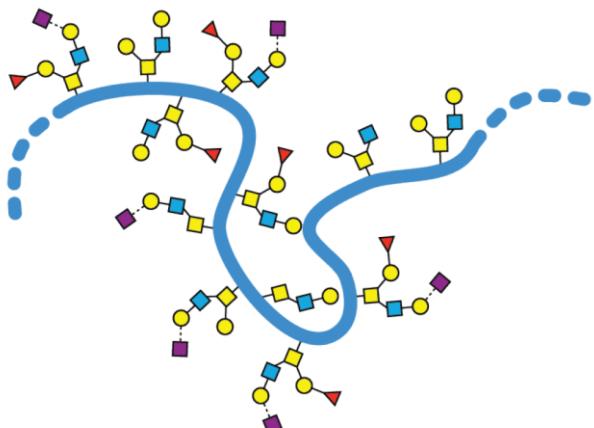
## Biopolymers

Cellulose  
Starch  
Heparin



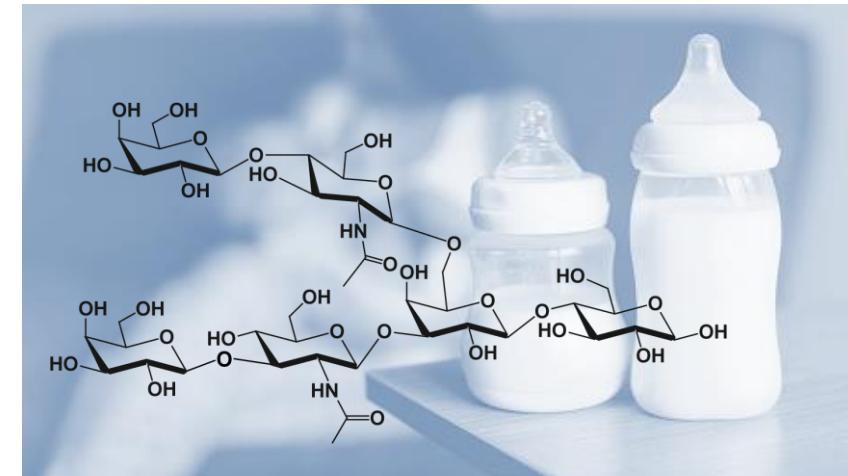
## Glycosylation of Proteins

Biomarkers for diseases  
Personalized medicine  
Biopharma



## Free Oligosaccharides

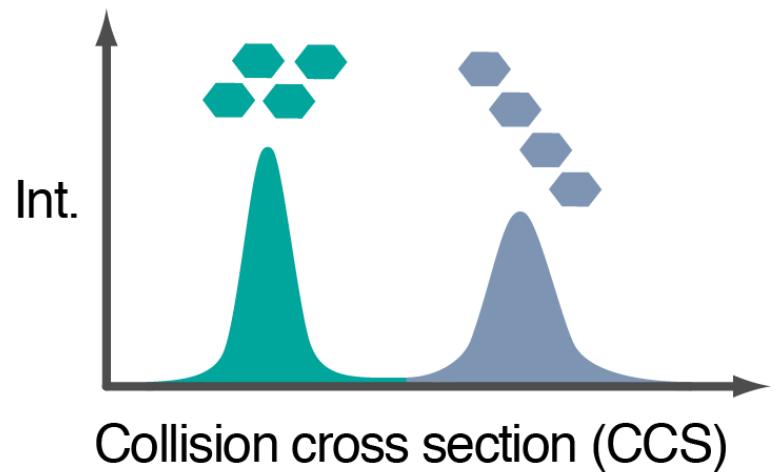
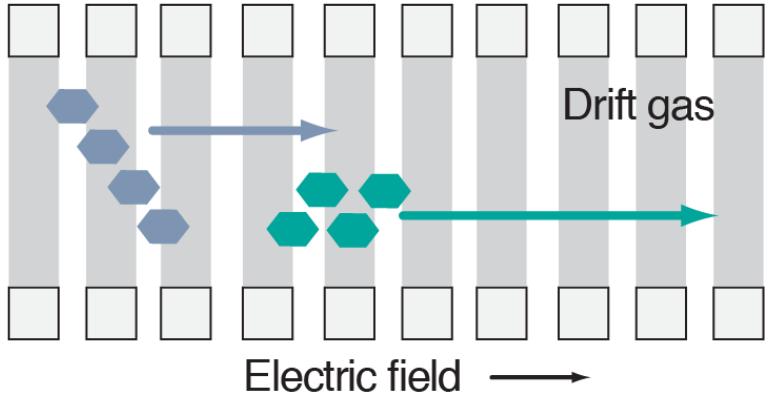
Detection of diseases  
Microbiota  
Pharma



→ Isomer problem

# Ion Mobility Mass Spectrometry

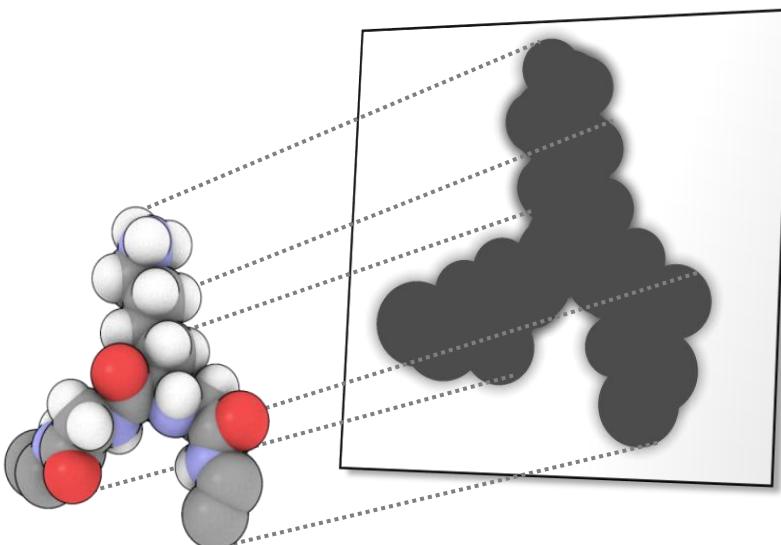
Ion mobility cell



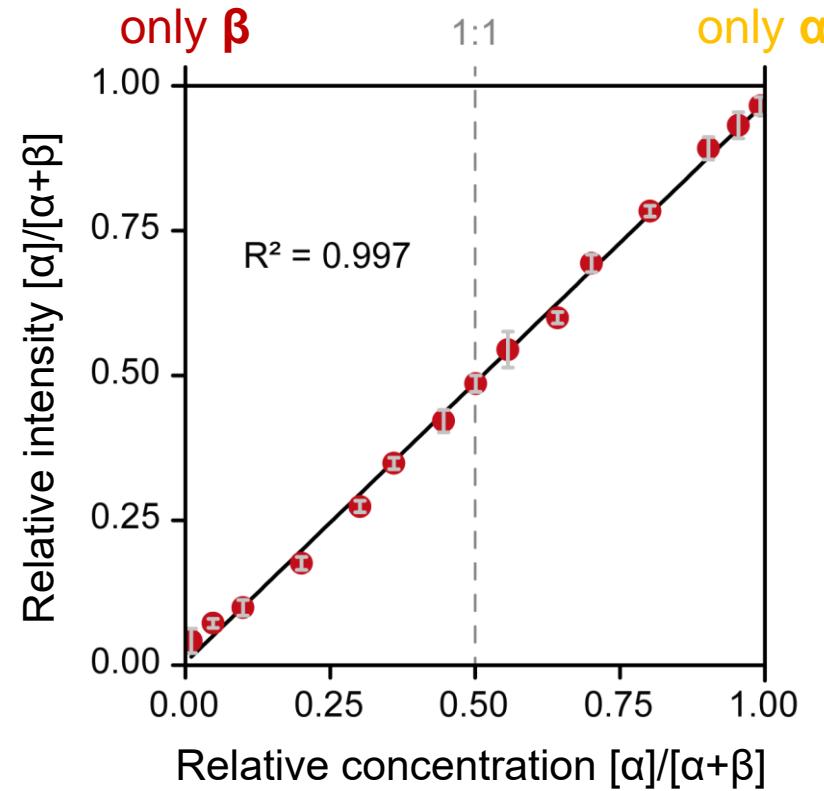
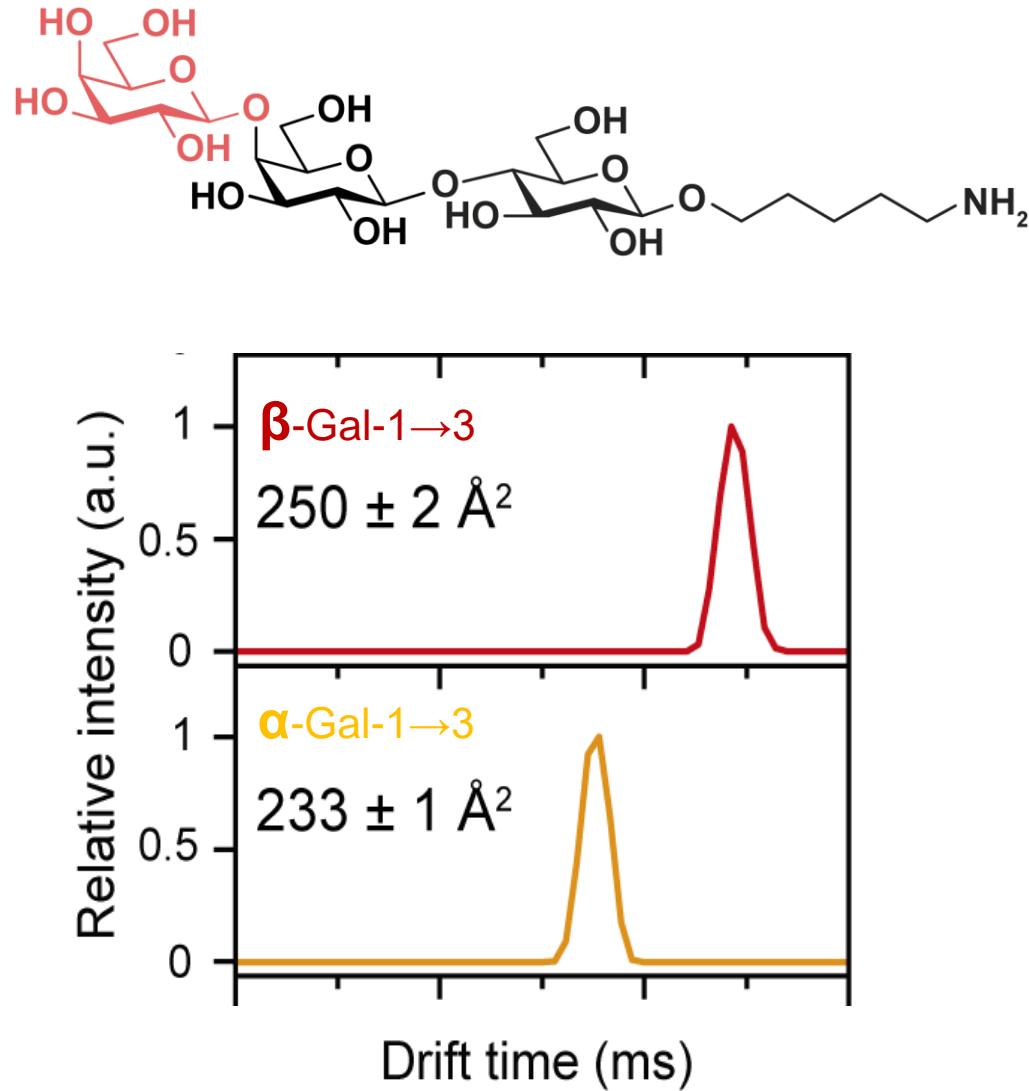
Size and shape information

## Collision Cross Section

- CCS is a molecular property
- Corresponds to the area that collides with the drift gas
- Can be calculated theoretically
- Can be implemented in databases



# IM-MS of Synthetic Glycans

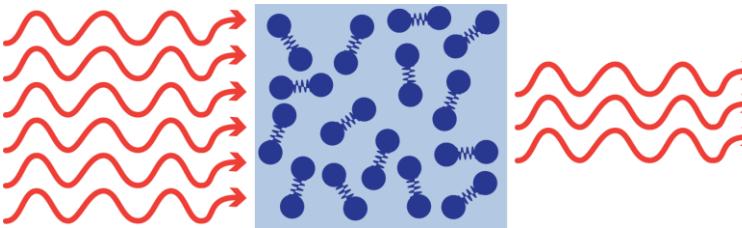


**Identification and quantification  
of glycan isomers**

## Absorption Spectroscopy

Measures the influence of the molecule on the light

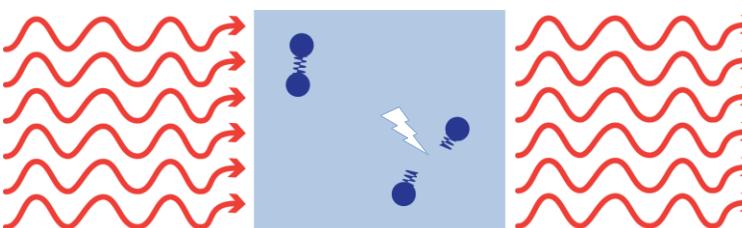
- Many molecules needed  
(but not many photons)



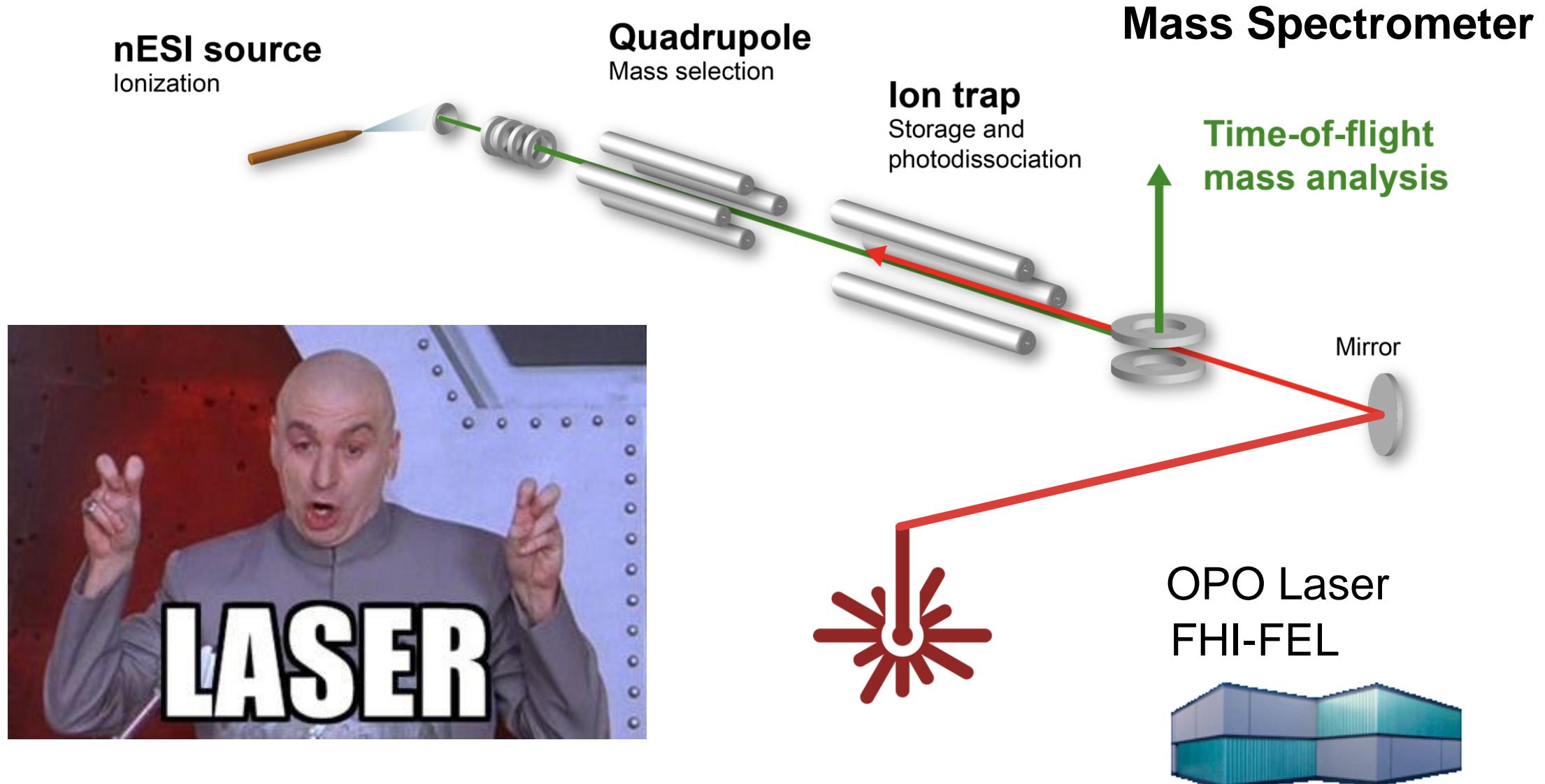
## Action Spectroscopy

Measures the influence of the light on the molecule

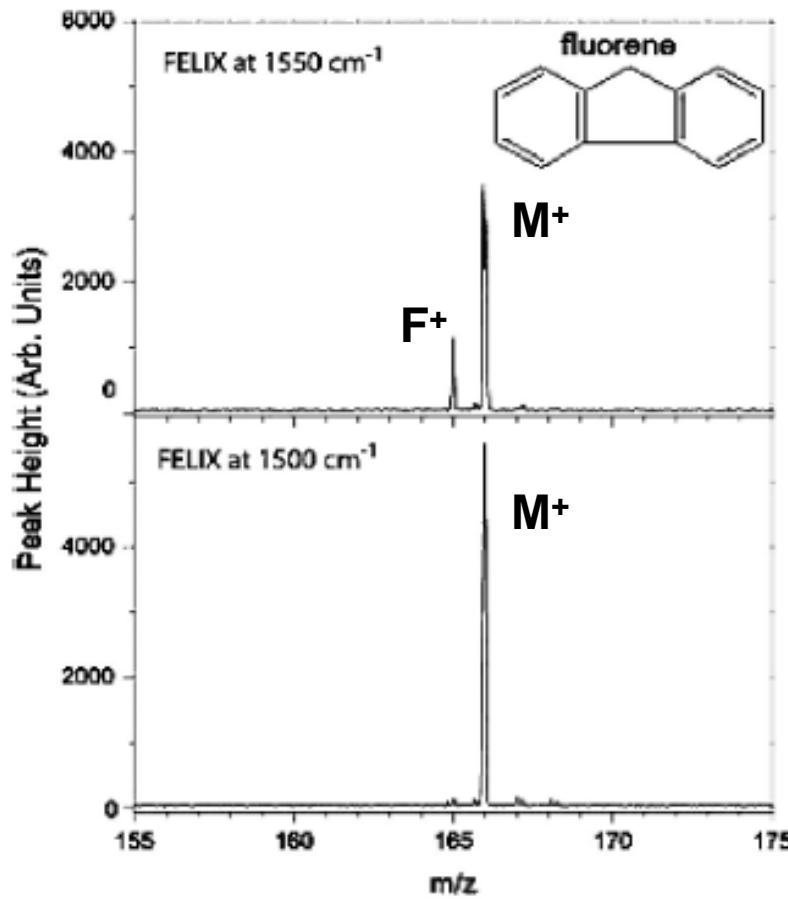
- Many photons needed  
(but not many molecules)



# Gas-Phase IR Spectroscopy



# Gas-Phase IR Spectroscopy



$1550\text{cm}^{-1}$

Resonant – dissociation

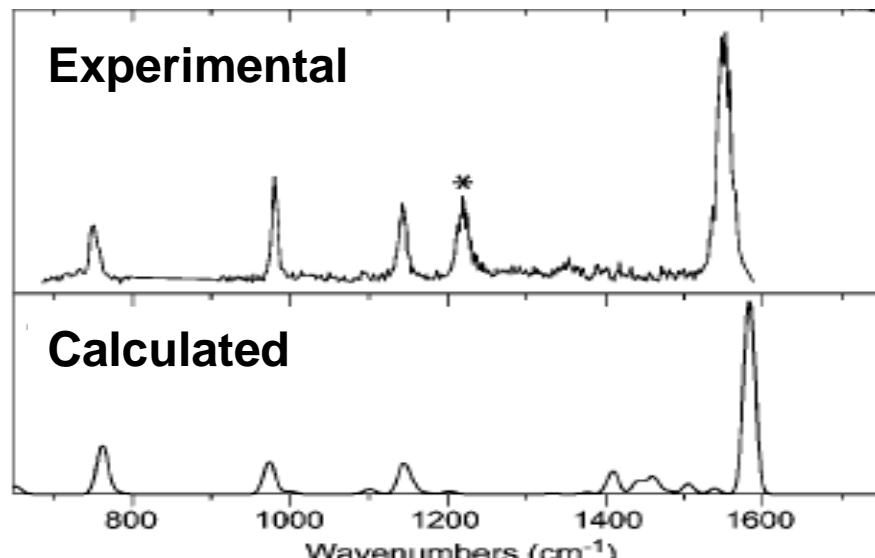
- depletion of precursor ions  $\text{M}^+$
- emerging fragment ions  $\text{F}^+$

$1500\text{cm}^{-1}$

Off-resonant – no dissociation

record mass spectra as a function of the IR wavelength

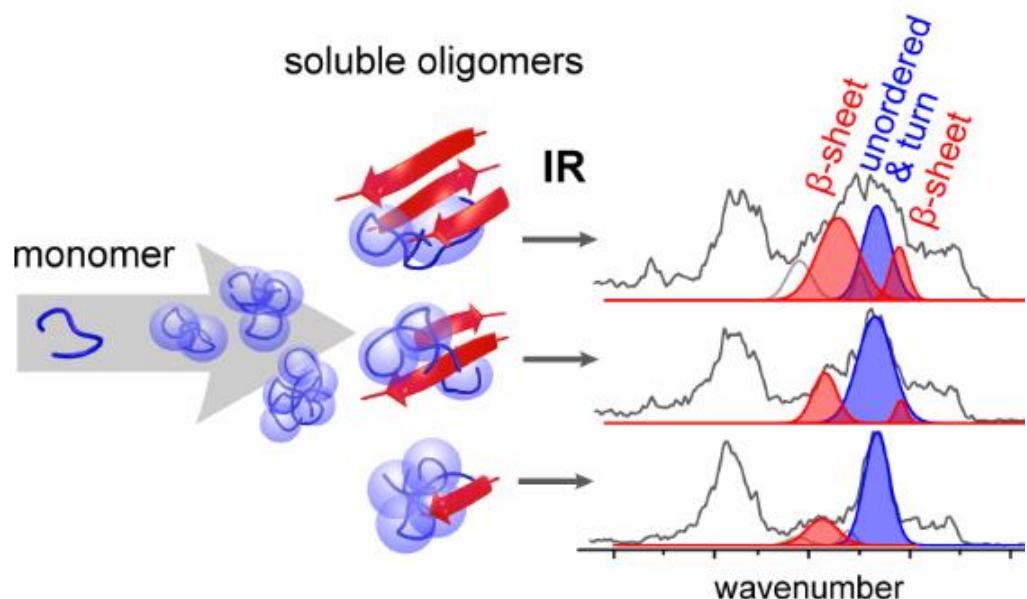
→ Gas-phase IR spectrum



# Gas-Phase IR of Peptides and Proteins

## Proteins and Peptide Oligomers

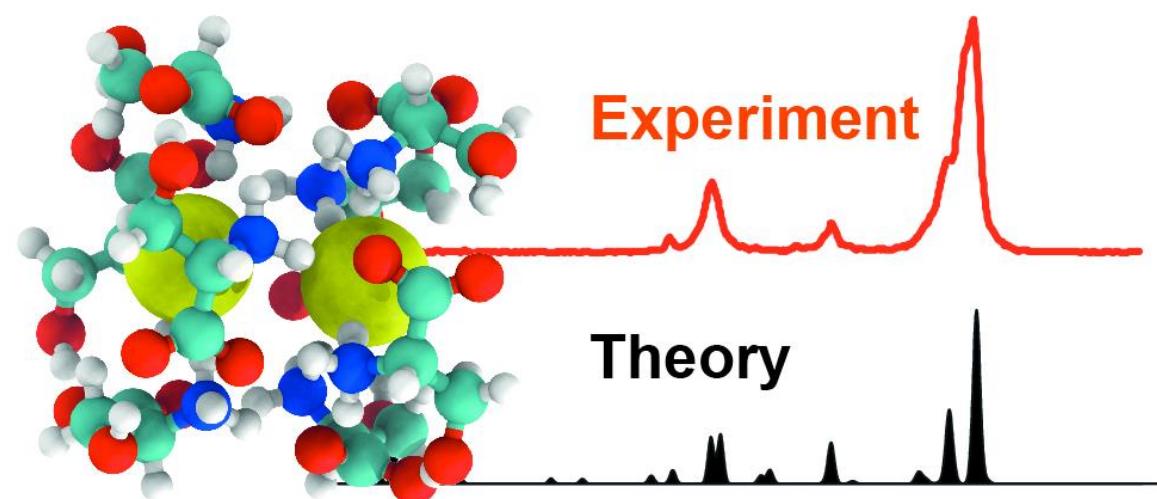
Challenge: polydispersity



## Serine Octamer



highly symmetric, stable, homochiral



Seo, J. et al. *Nature Chem.* **2017**, 9, 39

Hoffmann, W. et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2018**, 140, 244

Seo, J. et al. *Angew. Chem. Int'l. Ed.* **2016**, 55, 14173

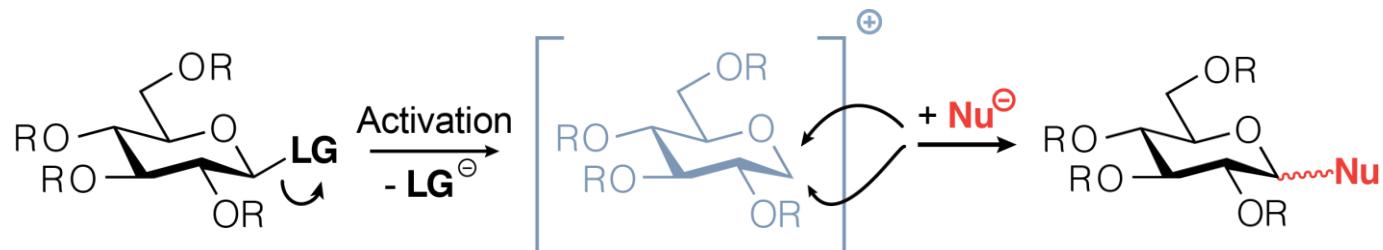
Seo, J. et al. *Nature Chem.* **2017**, 9, 1263

# Reactive Intermediates

## Mittheilungen.

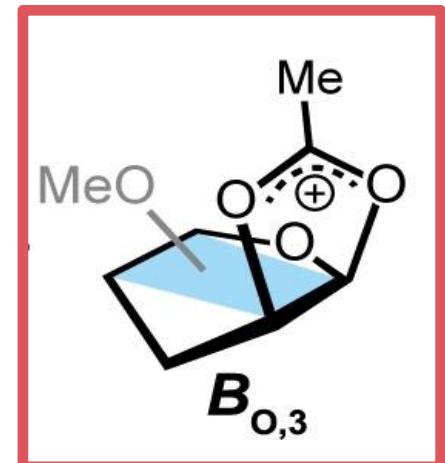
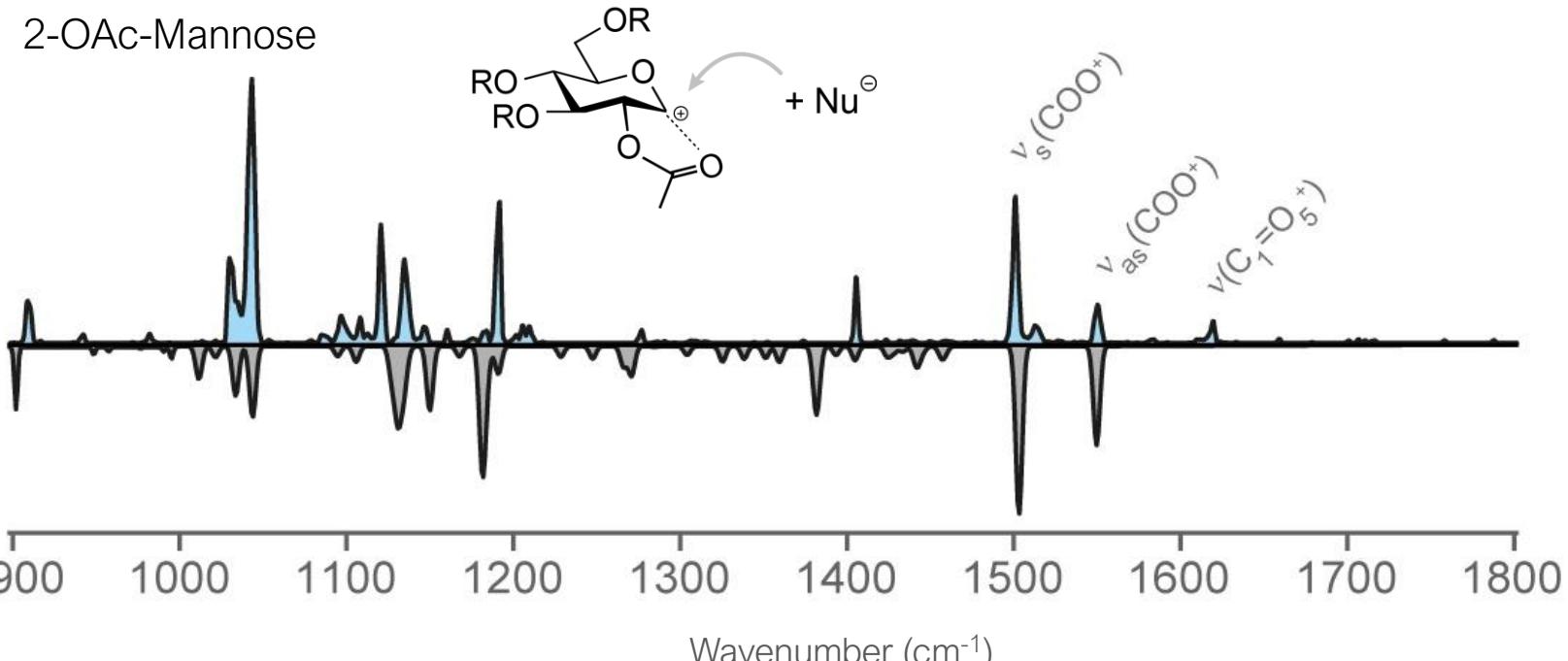
464. Emil Fischer: Ueber die Glucoside der Alkohole<sup>1)</sup>.  
 [Aus dem I. Berliner Universitäts-Laboratorium.]  
 (Eingegangen am 9. October; vorgetragen in der Sitzung vom Verf.)  
 Für die künstliche Bereitung von Glucosiden ist zur Zeit nur die

→ Cationic intermediate is crucial but not understood



**Glycosyl cation**  
reactive, short-lived

**Mixture**  
of stereoisomers



Covalent bond!  
Conserved pucker

*Nature Commun.* **2018**, *9*, 4147  
*Angew. Chem.* **2020**, *59*, 6166  
*Nat. Synth.* **2024**

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