



Knowledge that will change your world

Preparing data for upload to XCMSonline

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Synopsis

- LC-MS (and GC-MS) analysis generates a lot of data and requires **alignment** of individual data sets before statistical analysis can be performed
- We will discuss
 - Uploading data sets
 - Alignment principles

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Go to <https://xcmsonline.scripps.edu/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of XCMS Online. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, FAQ, Contact, Sign Up, and Forgot Password?. Below these links are input fields for email address and password, followed by a Login button. The main content area features the XCMS logo in a large, stylized font, with the tagline "The original and most widely used metabolomic platform" underneath. Below the tagline, there are icons for Google Play and the App Store. The background is a dark blue with a network-like pattern of white lines and nodes. At the bottom, there is a footer with contact information: "10550 North Torrey Pines Road BOC-007, La Jolla, CA 92037 USA - (858) 794-9415, Fax (858) 794-9436". There are also links for Home, Privacy Policy, Terms of Use, and Contact Us. A small orange box in the bottom right corner says "XCMS Short Course".

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Starting page for XCMSonline



The screenshot shows the starting page of XCMS Online. The navigation bar at the top includes links for Home, MRM, Databases, Create Job, View Results, XCMS Public, XCMS Institute, Stored Datasets, Account, Toolbox, Help, and Logout [empty1977]. The main content area features the XCMS logo in a large, stylized font, with the tagline "The original and most widely used metabolomic and lipidomic platform" underneath. Below the tagline, there is a section titled "Latest News and Articles" with a link to "Nature Methods 'Systems Biology guided by XCMS Online Metabolomics'" and another link to "Nature Methods 2018 'XCMS-MRM and METLIN-MRM: a cloud library and public resource for targeted analysis of small molecules'". A white arrow points to the "XCMS Public" link in the navigation bar.

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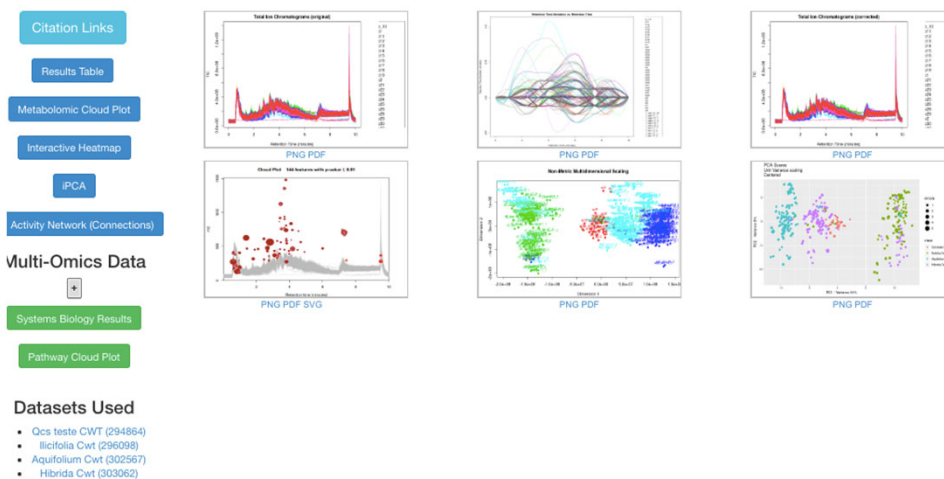
View Public Shares page 3

Status	ID	Job Name	Biosource	Author(s)	Publication	Notes
VIEW	1270779	Asthma vs COPD (uncorrected mzML files)	HUMAN			
VIEW	1271289	Asthma vs COPD (corrected mzML files)	HUMAN			
VIEW	1197171	pair_2018-01-18/4é_jc sm âS çç ±é_jæ ² ¼â€ ^c Yç%©çç ±	HUMAN			
VIEW	1275031	SGL_2018-12-02_23:14	HUMAN			
VIEW	1276381	P_2018-12-07_02:59	HUMAN			
VIEW	1181343	sazonalidade_fibra	HUMAN			
VIEW	1155786	agua	HUMAN			
VIEW	1155771	luz	HUMAN			
VIEW	1152766	temperature	HUMAN			
VIEW	1251319	Untargeted analysis of medicinal species: Maytenus ilicifolia, Maytenus aquifolium and their hybrid	HUMAN			

Showing 21 to 30 of 31 entries

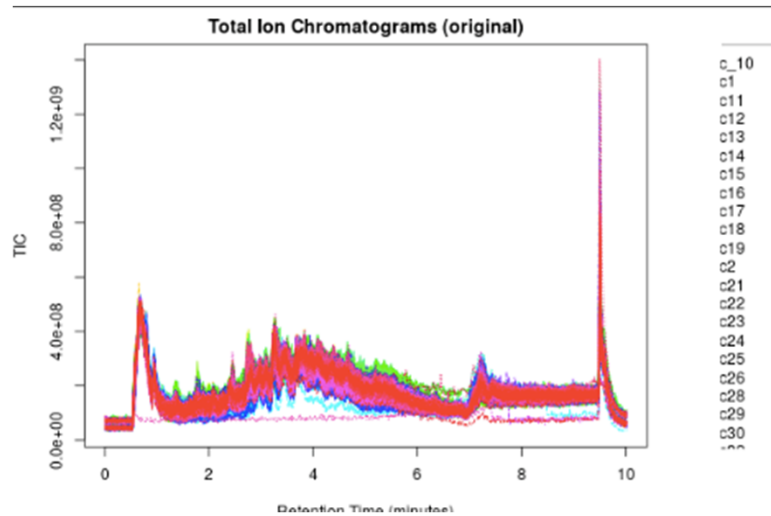
5

First look at the results of the analysis



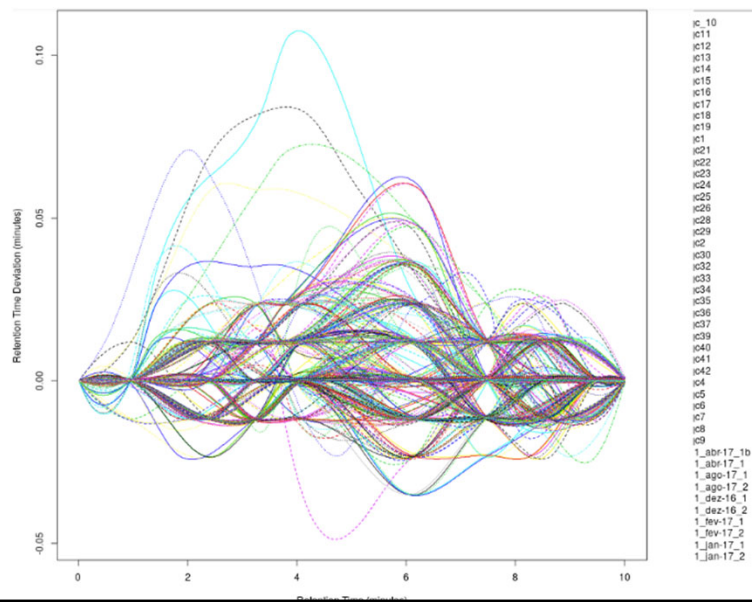
6

Overlay of all the TICs for each sample



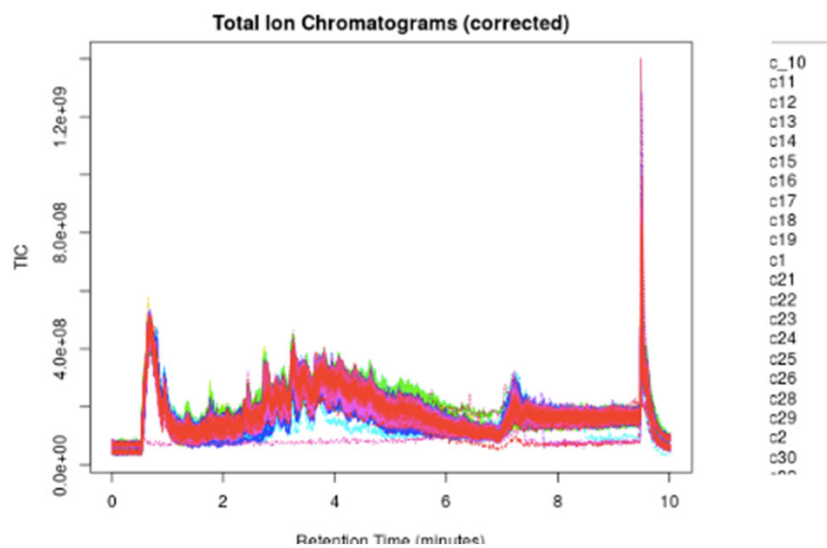
7

Retention time variation of peaks



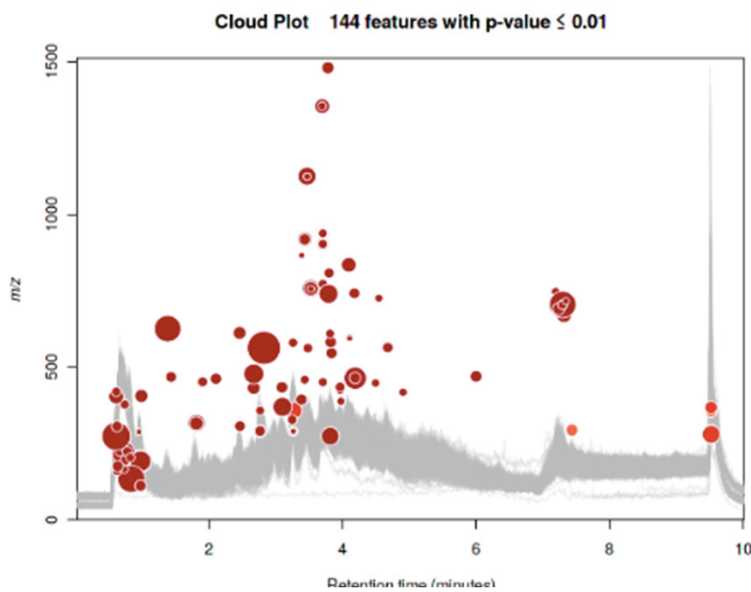
8

Corrected retention time



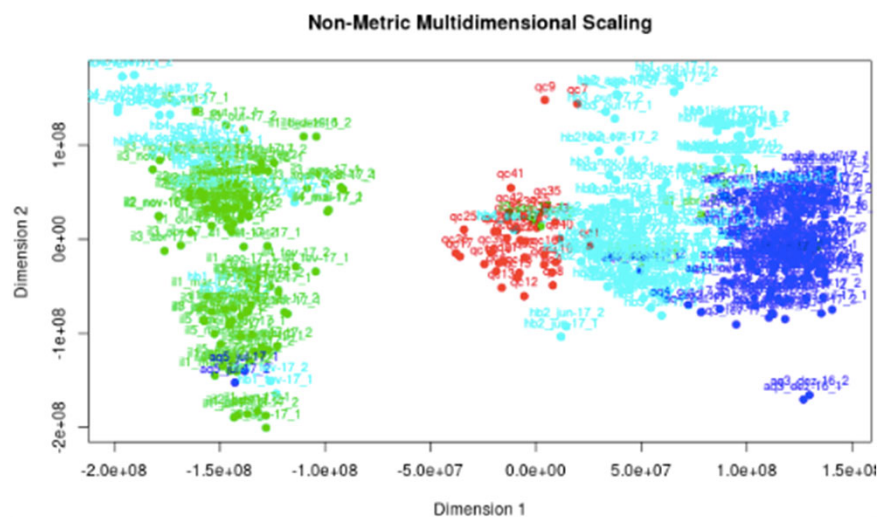
9

Cloud plot of the data



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Scaling plot show plant differences



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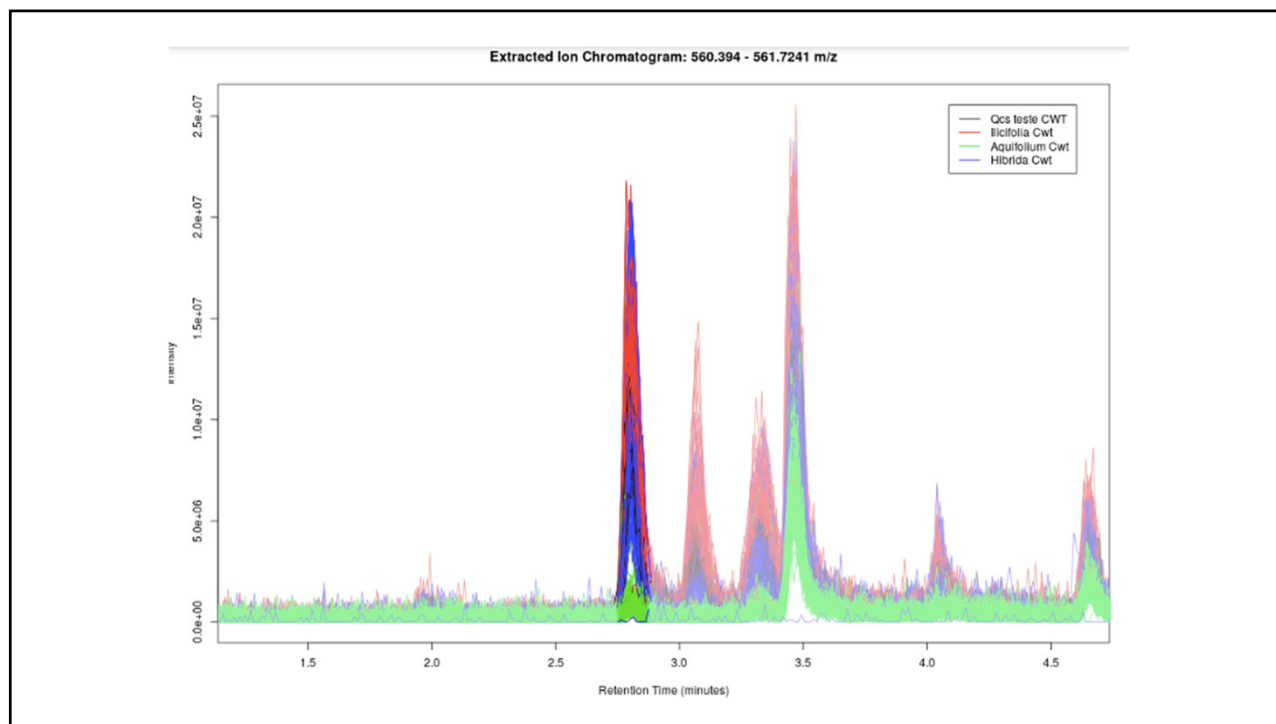
Results – most significant ions

JOB#1251319 : UNTARGETED ANALYSIS OF MEDICINAL SPECIES: MAYTENUS ILICIFOLIA, MAYTENUS AQUIFOLIA

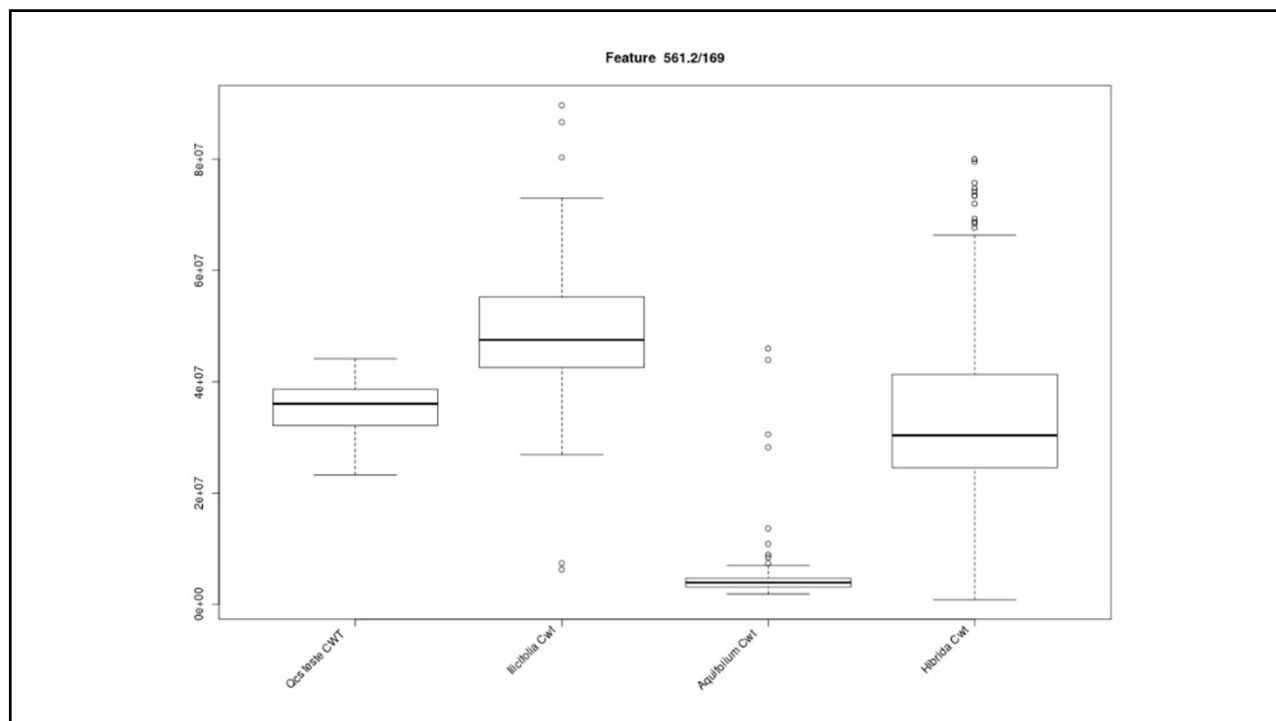
Columns Hide isotopic peaks Page 1 of 2 100

featureidx	pvalue	qvalue	CV	mzmed	rtmed	maxint
1	6.03291e-56	9.36519e-56	0.149	545.2159	3.83	8,510,464
2	8.82338e-56	9.36519e-56	0.143	273.1025	3.81	6,872,576
3	5.84188e-54	3.29595e-54	0.142	562.1447	2.81	12,175,360
4	6.61697e-54	3.51164e-54	0.135	561.1901	2.81	21,801,984
5	5.62525e-53	2.38827e-53	0.159	563.1780	4.67	10,763,264
6	1.98850e-52	7.03534e-53	0.106	561.1982	3.47	23,953,408
7	7.51842e-52	1.82616e-52	0.129	834.2289	4.09	9,391,104
8	7.53218e-52	1.82807e-52	0.137	833.3131	4.09	13,384,704
9	8.04366e-52	1.89724e-52	0.104	739.2925	3.78	29,903,872
10	2.90585e-51	6.16858e-52	0.111	740.2017	3.78	16,901,120
11	6.20722e-51	1.19789e-51	0.194	715.4036	7.34	4,780,288
12	4.37856e-50	7.62488e-51	0.107	562.1453	3.47	11,867,136
13	1.11941e-49	1.65610e-50	0.222	1,123.4251	3.46	26,100,736
14	1.31254e-49	1.86243e-50	0.169	564.1507	4.67	5,573,376
15	1.32503e-49	1.87519e-50	0.129	741.0460	3.78	8,337,408
16	1.83722e-49	2.43754e-50	0.183	834.4048	4.09	8,310,272
17	3.37369e-49	4.10225e-50	0.208	1,124.2938	3.46	10,603,520
18	3.94484e-49	4.65230e-50	0.219	1,123.6221	3.46	11,350,016

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Go back to home page and create a job



The screenshot shows the XCMS website home page. The navigation bar at the top includes: Home, MRM, Databases, Create Job, View Results, XCMS Public, XCMS Institute, Stored Datasets, Account, Toolbox, and Help. A white arrow points to the 'Create Job' button. The main content area features the XCMS logo, the tagline 'The original and most widely used metabolomic and lipidomic platform', and a section for 'Latest News and Articles' with two article titles. At the bottom, there are logos for Google Play, the App Store, and XCMS Stream.

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Select pairwise



This screenshot is similar to the previous one, but with a dropdown menu open over the 'Create Job' button. The dropdown menu contains the following options: Single, Pairwise, Meta XCMS, Multigroup, and Multi Modal. A white arrow points to the 'Pairwise' option. The rest of the page content, including the navigation bar, logo, tagline, news section, and footer, is identical to the previous screenshot.

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Let's load the control dataset

1 SELECT DATASET 1 2 SELECT DATASET 2 3 SELECT PARAMETERS 4 REVIEW & SUBMIT

SELECT DATASET 1
(See [File Formats](#) for more information)

Load New Dataset
Select Dataset

ID ▲	Dataset Name	File Count
Please upload or select dataset(s)		

Next

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Name the control_neg data set

Save Dataset & Proceed

Storage Quota Usage (100.00 GB): 32.6%

1. Select only .mzXML, .mzData, mzData.XML, mzML, .netcdf, .cdf, .d.zip, .wiff/.wiff.scan files (More info: [File Formats](#))
2. After samples are uploaded you can close this window. (button above)
3. For ABSciex files, please upload the both the wiff and the wiff.scan

Dataset Name: **Save**

DROP HERE

BROWSE

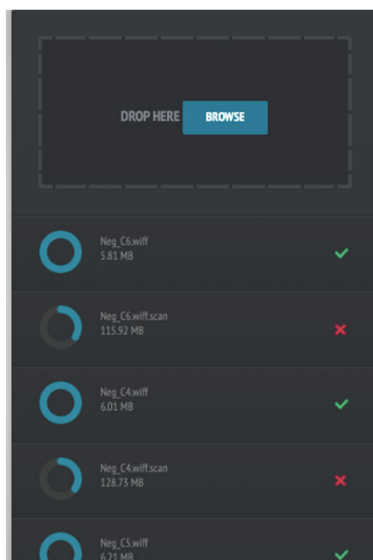
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Locate the control files

Name	Size	Kind
Neg_C4.abf	624 MB	Document
Neg_C4.mzXML	1.6 GB	TextEdit
Neg_C4.wiff	6 MB	TextEdit
Neg_C4.wiff.scan	128.7 MB	Document
Neg_C5.abf	588.3 MB	Document
Neg_C5.mzXML	1.52 GB	TextEdit
Neg_C5.wiff	6.2 MB	TextEdit
Neg_C5.wiff.scan	121 MB	Document
Neg_C6.abf	557.5 MB	Document
Neg_C6.mzXML	1.44 GB	TextEdit
Neg_C6.wiff	5.8 MB	TextEdit
Neg_C6.wiff.scan	115.9 MB	Document

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Showing progress of uploading



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Moving on to the next dataset

1 SELECT DATASET 1 2 SELECT DATASET 2 3 SELECT PARAMETERS 4 REVIEW & SUBMIT

SELECT DATASET 1
(See [File Formats](#) for more information)

Load New Dataset
Select Dataset

ID	Dataset Name	File Count
517630	Control	6

Next

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Load the second set of data

SELECT DATASET 2
(See [File Formats](#) for more information)

Load New Dataset
Select Dataset

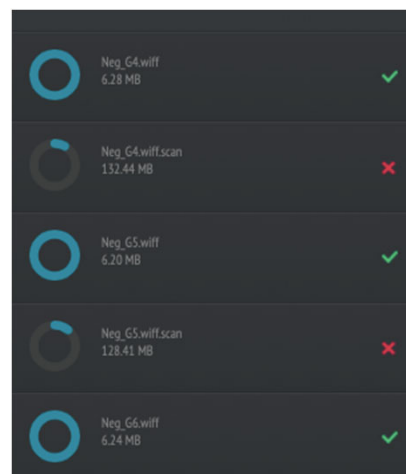
ID	Dataset Name	File Count
Please upload or select dataset(s)		

Previous
Next

22

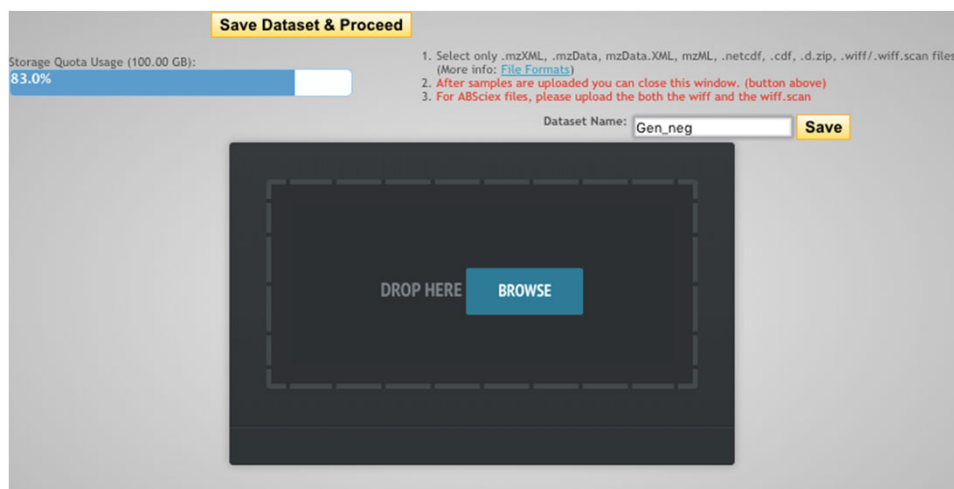
And the genistein group

Neg_G4.wiff	6.3 MB	TextEdit
Neg_G4.wiff.scan	132.4 MB	Document
Neg_G5.abf	621.9 MB	Document
Neg_G5.mzXML	1.6 GB	TextEdit
Neg_G5.wiff	6.2 MB	TextEdit
Neg_G5.wiff.scan	128.4 MB	Document
Neg_G6.abf	562.7 MB	Document
Neg_G6.mzXML	1.48 GB	TextEdit
Neg_G6.wiff	6.2 MB	TextEdit
Neg_G6.wiff.scan	116.9 MB	Document



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Name the Gen_neg data set



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Now loaded the genistein neg-group

SELECT DATASET 2
(See [File Formats](#) for more information)

ID	Dataset Name	File Count
517631	Gen_neg	6

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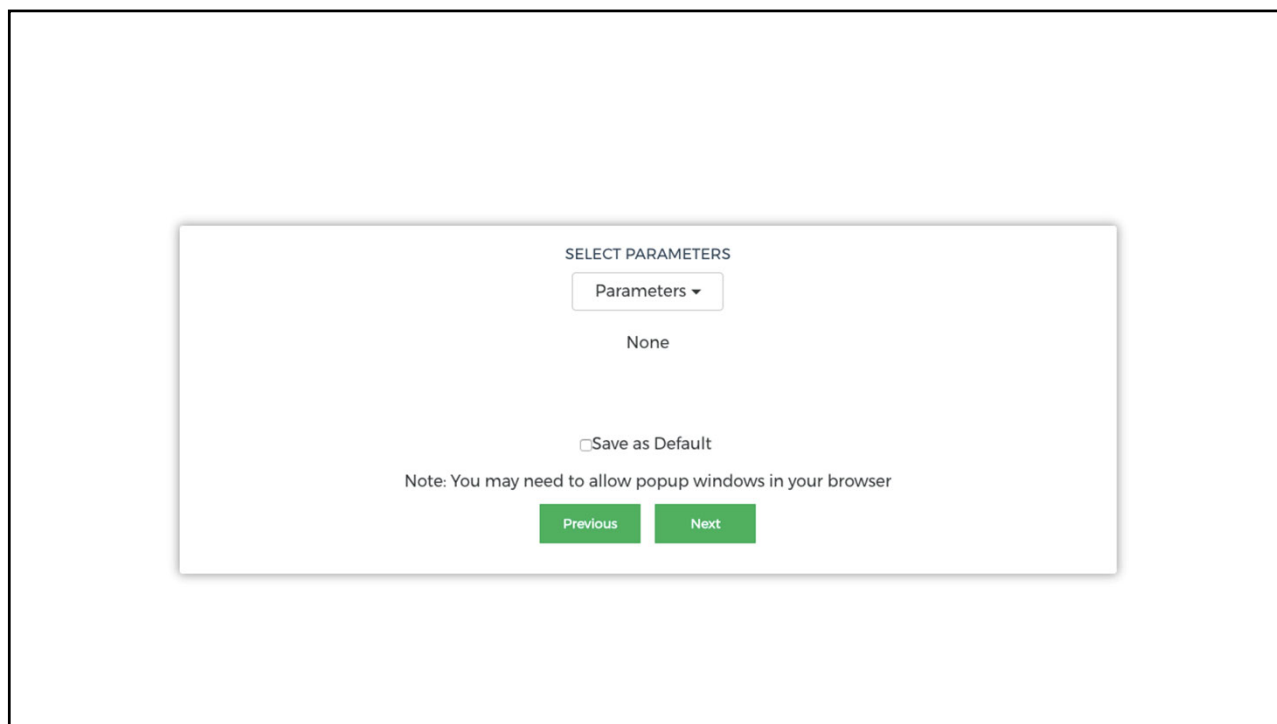
Go to stored datasets

Home MRM Databases - Create Job - View Results XCMS Public XCMS Institute Stored Datasets Account Toolbox Help - Logout [sbarnes]

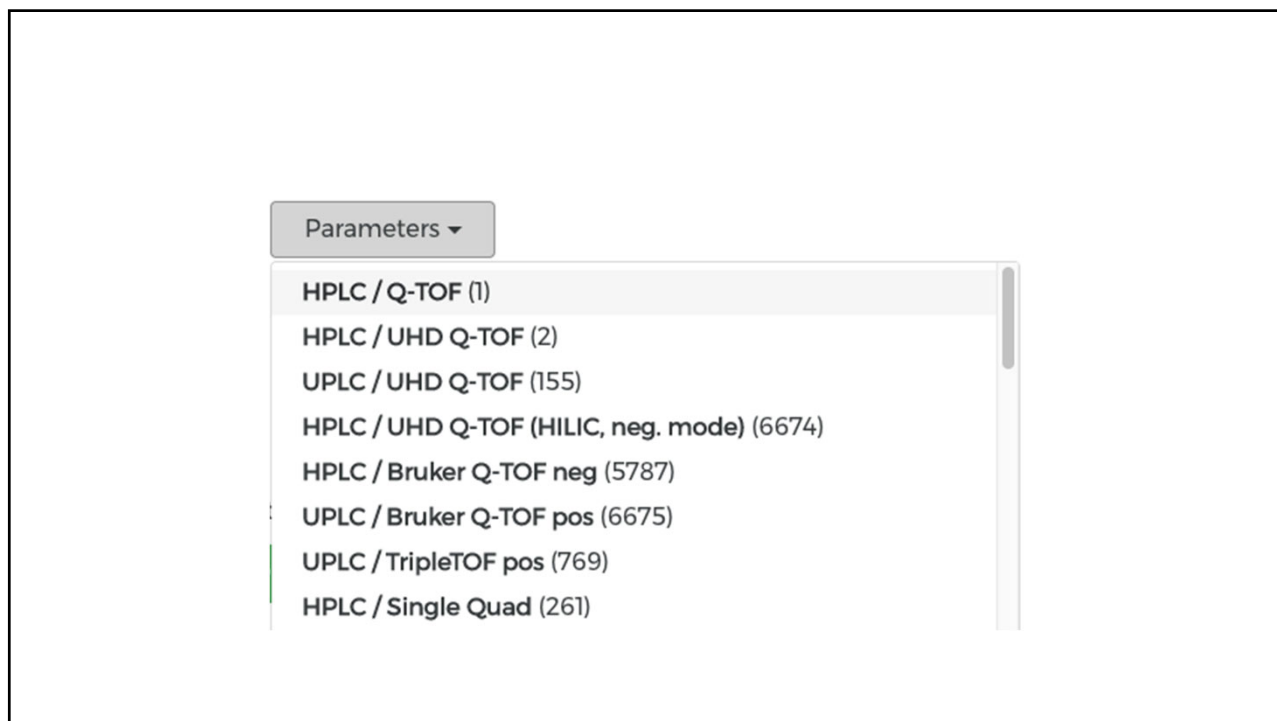
Show 25 rows

<input type="checkbox"/>	DatasetName	Active	Status	Comment	Upload Date	Files	Size	ID	Owner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gen_neg	✓	UPLOAD_COMPLETE		2021-02-02 15:51:29	6	378.1 MB	517631	1704 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Control	✓	UPLOAD_COMPLETE		2021-02-02 15:47:21	6	365.9 MB	517630	1704 <input type="checkbox"/>

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Parameters ▾


- Custom_2017-06-27 (32430)
- Custom_2017-07-17 (32938)
- TripleTof_LandonWilson_UseOnly (33821)
- TripleTof_LandonWilsonNEGATIVE_use only (33859) ←
- TripleTOF_Pos_Normalization added (42430)
- 5600TripleTof_1minTolerance (47644)
- TripleTof 1 min tolerance Positive mode (47646)

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SELECT PARAMETERS

TripleTof_LandonWilsonNEGATIVE_use only ▾

View/Edit

 No Notes Available

Save as Default

Note: You may need to allow popup windows in your browser

Previous Next

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Click to go back, hold to see history

View/Edit Parameters for Job

Polarity is defined on the General tab and will affect values on the Annotation and Identification (adducts) tabs. Job results will be misleading if this value is not correctly defined.
The current parameter set is read-only. Use **Create New** button below to modify parameters to suit your job.

General | Feature Detection | Retention Time Correction | Alignment | Statistics | Annotation | Identification | Visualization | Miscellaneous

Option	Value	Note:
Name	TripleTof_LandonWilsonNEGATIVE_use only	
Comment		
Polarity	negative	data acquired in positive or negative mode ?
Retention time format	minutes	show the retention times in results tables and figures in minutes or seconds

Save Create New Delete Cancel

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

Polarity is defined on the General tab and will affect values on the Annotation and Identification (adducts) tabs. Job results will be misleading if this value is not correctly defined.
The current parameter set is read-only. Use **Create New** button below to modify parameters to suit your job.

General | Feature Detection | Retention Time Correction | Alignment | Statistics | Annotation | Identification | Visualization | Miscellaneous

Method: centWave

Option	Value	Note:
ppm	15	maximal tolerated m/z deviation in consecutive scans, in ppm (parts per million)
minimum peak width	5	minimum chromatographic peak width in seconds note: must be less than max peak width. See also here .
maximum peak width	30	maximum chromatographic peak width in seconds note: must be greater than min peak width. See also here .
View Advanced Options		
mzdiff	0.01	minimum difference in m/z for peaks with overlapping retention times, can be negative to allow overlap
Signal/Noise threshold	3	Signal/Noise threshold
Integration method	1	Integration method. If =1 peak limits are found through descent on the mexican hat filtered data, if =2 the descent is done on the real data. Method 2 is very accurate but prone to noise, while method 1 is more robust to noise but less exact.
prefilter peaks	3	Prefilter step for the first phase. Mass traces are only retained if they contain at least [prefilter peaks] peaks with intensity >= [prefilter intensity]
prefilter intensity	2	Prefilter step for the first phase. Mass traces are only retained if they contain at least [prefilter peaks] peaks with intensity >= [prefilter intensity]
Noise Filter	0	optional argument which is useful for data that was centroided without any intensity threshold, centroids with intensity < noise are omitted from ROI detection

Save Create New Delete Cancel

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

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The current parameter set is read-only. Use **Create New** button below to modify parameters to suit your job.

General Feature Detection **Retention Time Correction** Alignment Statistics Annotation Identification Visualization Miscellaneous

Method: oblwarp

Option	Value	Note:
profStep	1	step size (in m/z) to use for profile generation from the raw data files

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

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The current parameter set is read-only. Use **Create New** button below to modify parameters to suit your job.

General Feature Detection **Retention Time Correction** Alignment Statistics Annotation Identification Visualization Miscellaneous

Option	Value	Note:
bw	5	Allowable retention time deviations, in seconds. In more detail: bandwidth (standard deviation or half width at half maximum) of gaussian smoothing kernel to apply to the peak density chromatogram
minfrac	0.5	minimum fraction of samples necessary in at least one of the sample groups for it to be a valid group
mzwid	0.015	width of overlapping m/z slices to use for creating peak density chromatograms and grouping peaks across samples
minsamp	1	minimum number of samples necessary in at least one of the sample groups for it to be a valid group
max	100	maximum number of groups to identify in a single m/z slice

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

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The current parameter set is read-only. Use **Create New** button below to modify parameters to suit your job.

[General](#)
[Feature Detection](#)
[Retention Time Correction](#)
[Alignment](#)
[Statistics](#)
[Annotation](#)
[Identification](#)
[Visualization](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)

Option	Value	Note:
Statistical test	Unpaired parametric t-test (Welch t-test)	Statistical test method: Welch t-test (unequal variances) or Wilcoxon Rank Sum test
Perform paired test	<input type="button" value="VIEW PAIRS"/>	The selected statistical test is performed as a paired test. The sample pairs need to be specified.
Perform post-hoc analysis	True	Perform post-hoc analysis [multigroup only]
p-value threshold (highly significant features)	0.01	Features with a p-value less than this threshold are considered highly significant. Some statistical figures (e.g. Mirror plot) are generated using only the dysregulated features according to this threshold.
fold change threshold (highly significant features)	1.5	Features with a fold change greater than this threshold are considered highly significant. Some statistical figures (e.g. Mirror plot) are generated using only the dysregulated features according to this threshold.
p-value threshold (significant features)	0.05	Features with a p-value less than this threshold are not considered significant and are omitted from some calculations to save time and space. EIC's, annotations and database ID's are not generated for features with p-values above this threshold.
View Advanced Options		
value	into	Intensity values to be used for the difreport. If value="into", integrated peak intensities are used. If value="maxo", maximum peak intensities are used.
Normalization	None	Normalize the intensity values by either probabilistic quotient or cyclic loess normalization.

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

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[General](#)
[Feature Detection](#)
[Retention Time Correction](#)
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[Identification](#)
[Visualization](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)

Option	Value	Note:
ppm	5	ppm error
m/z absolute error	0.01	m/z absolute error
Search for	Isotopes + adducts	Search for 1.) just isotopic features or 2.) isotopic features and adducts formations, dimers, trimers, neutral losses, etc. WARNING: searching for all adducts can increase the total processing time by approximately 50 %

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

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[General](#)
[Feature Detection](#)
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[Identification](#)
[Visualization](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)

Option	Value	Note:
ppm	<input type="text" value="5"/>	tolerance for database search
adducts	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;"> [M+H]- [M+H₂O-H]- [M+Na-2H]- [M+Cl]- [M+K-2H]- [M+FA-H]- [M-2H]2- [M-3H]3- [M+CH₃COO]- [M+F]- </div>	adducts to be considered for database search
sample biosource	<input type="button" value="SELECT BIOSOURCE"/> <input type="button" value="set default"/>	Select your species/cell line, etc. that correspond to your samples. Default human.
pathway ppm deviation	SELECTED: <input type="text" value="5"/>	metabolite pathway lookup
input intensity threshold	<input type="text"/>	minimum intensity cut-off for pathway analysis
significant list p-value cutoff	<input type="text" value="AUTO"/>	significant list p-value cut-off

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

Polarity is defined on the General tab and will affect values on the Annotation and Identification (adducts) tabs. Job results will be misleading if this value is not correctly defined.
The current parameter set is read-only. Use **Create New** button below to modify parameters to suit your job.

[General](#)
[Feature Detection](#)
[Retention Time Correction](#)
[Alignment](#)
[Statistics](#)
[Annotation](#)
[Identification](#)
[Visualization](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)

Option	Value	Note:
EIC width	<input type="text" value="100"/>	Default width for extracted ion chromatograms in seconds

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View/Edit Parameters for Job

Polarity is defined on the General tab and will affect values on the Annotation and Identification (adducts) tabs. Job results will be misleading if this value is not correctly defined.
The current parameter set is read-only. Use **Create New** button below to modify parameters to suit your job.

General
Feature Detection
Retention Time Correction
Alignment
Statistics
Annotation
Identification
Visualization
Miscellaneous

Option	Value	Note:
Correct mass calibration gaps <input type="checkbox"/>		Correction of mass calibration gaps - subtract LockMass scans from data. Only applicable for Waters instruments ! All uploaded files are normally checked for different types of errors and inconsistencies. This option disables the file sanity check. Unfortunately necessary for certain types of GC/MS data when used with centWave. Only disable this check if you know what you are doing!
Bypass file sanity check <input type="checkbox"/>		

Save
Create New
Delete
Cancel

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1 SELECT DATASET 1
 —
2 SELECT DATASET 2
 —
3 SELECT PARAMETERS
 —
4 REVIEW & SUBMIT

SELECT PARAMETERS

TripleTof_LandonWilsonNEGATIVE_use only ▾

View/Edit

⚠ No Notes Available

Save as Default

Note: You may need to allow popup windows in your browser

Previous

Next

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REVIEW & SUBMIT

User ID

1664

Job ID

1286073

Job Name

P_2019-01-27_20.05

Dataset1

378284

Dataset2

378285

Parameter ID

TripleToF_LandonWilsonNEGATIVE_use only (33859)

EXPTYPE	Status	JobID Filter	Progress	JobName	Datasets / Sources	Created	Parameters (ID#)	Group Filter	Share	Delete
PAIR	PROCESSING	1286073	SUBMITTED 0%	P_2019-01-27_20.05	Control_ne (#378284) Cen_neg (#378285)	2019-01-27 20:05:51	33859			

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Tips for naming files for upload to XCMS Online

- Before uploading, it is a good idea to create separate file folders on your hard drive to better organize your data into the groups you want to examine.
- Add enough description to discriminate between different samples and sample set names.
- Adding the ionization mode in the name is preferable, i.e. PosMode or NegMode.
- Eliminate open spaces in the data file name by using “_” (underscore) notation. Open spaces can cause upload errors in XCMS Online.

Example of DataSet Name: Control_Neg

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What does a LC-MS data set consist of?

- A Q-TOF instrument during the LC run, for example, acquires data on a 0.5 second duty cycle
 - 0-100 msec
 - High resolution/mass accuracy MS spectrum
 - 100-500 msec
 - A succession of selected MSMS spectra
 - If each MSMS spectrum is collected for 50 msec, then 8 precursor ions can be selected in the duty cycle
 - The precursor ions are selected from the MS spectrum observed in the current duty cycle
 - Once an ion has been selected for MSMS it can be placed on a “don’t observe” list for say 30 sec

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What ions are observed in LC-MS data?

- Ions coming from the biological system being studied
- Ions from compounds introduced into the extract during storage and extraction
- Ions from the solvent used for the chromatography
- Ions from the column material
- Ions from the previous sample that was run

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