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# Specific detection of cysteine sulphenic acid by coupling Mass **Spectrometry with Laser Induced Dissociation**

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### **Overview**

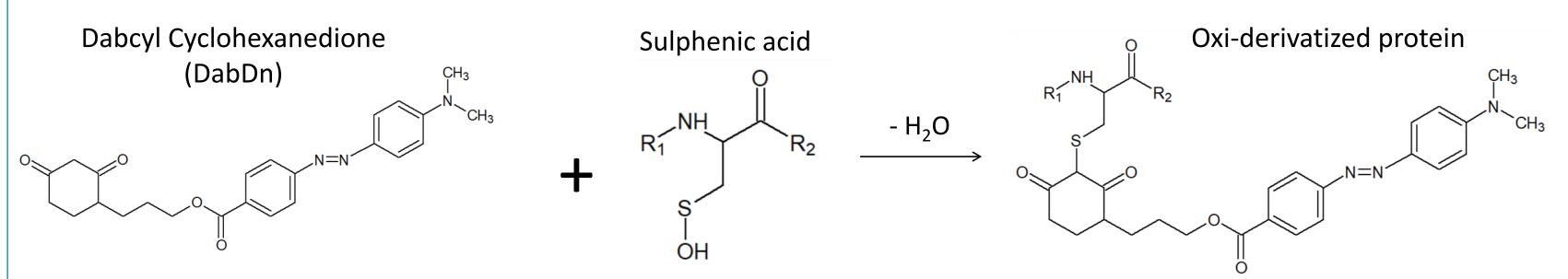
Improvement of oxidative stress induced modification of cysteine residues detection. Protein cysteine residues are oxidized into sulphenic acid (SOH), derivatized with a specific chromophore and specificaly detected and identified thanks to Laser Induced **Dissociation (LID) in the visible range** 

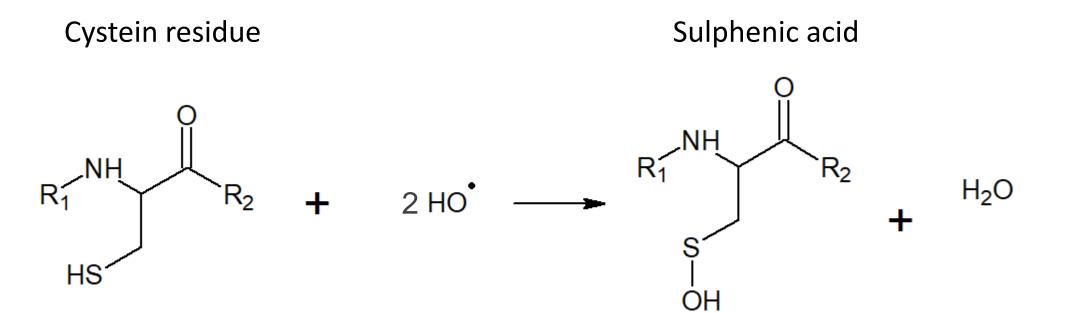
#### Introduction

In a context of population aging, discovery and validation of novel oxidative stress biomarkers for screening of neurodegenerative diseases is a key issue. One of the modification induced by reactive oxygen species (ROS) is the oxidation of protein cysteine (Cys) residues<sup>1</sup>.

### **Chromophore derivatization of cysteine sulphenic acid**

Since peptides do not naturally absorb in the visible range, this new methodological approach relies on the proper chemical derivatization of oxidized Cys with a chromophore : Dabcyl Cyclohexanedione (DabDn), which contains a cyclohexanedione group that specifically binds to SOH<sup>3</sup>, and a Dabcyl chromophore which absorbs at 473nm.



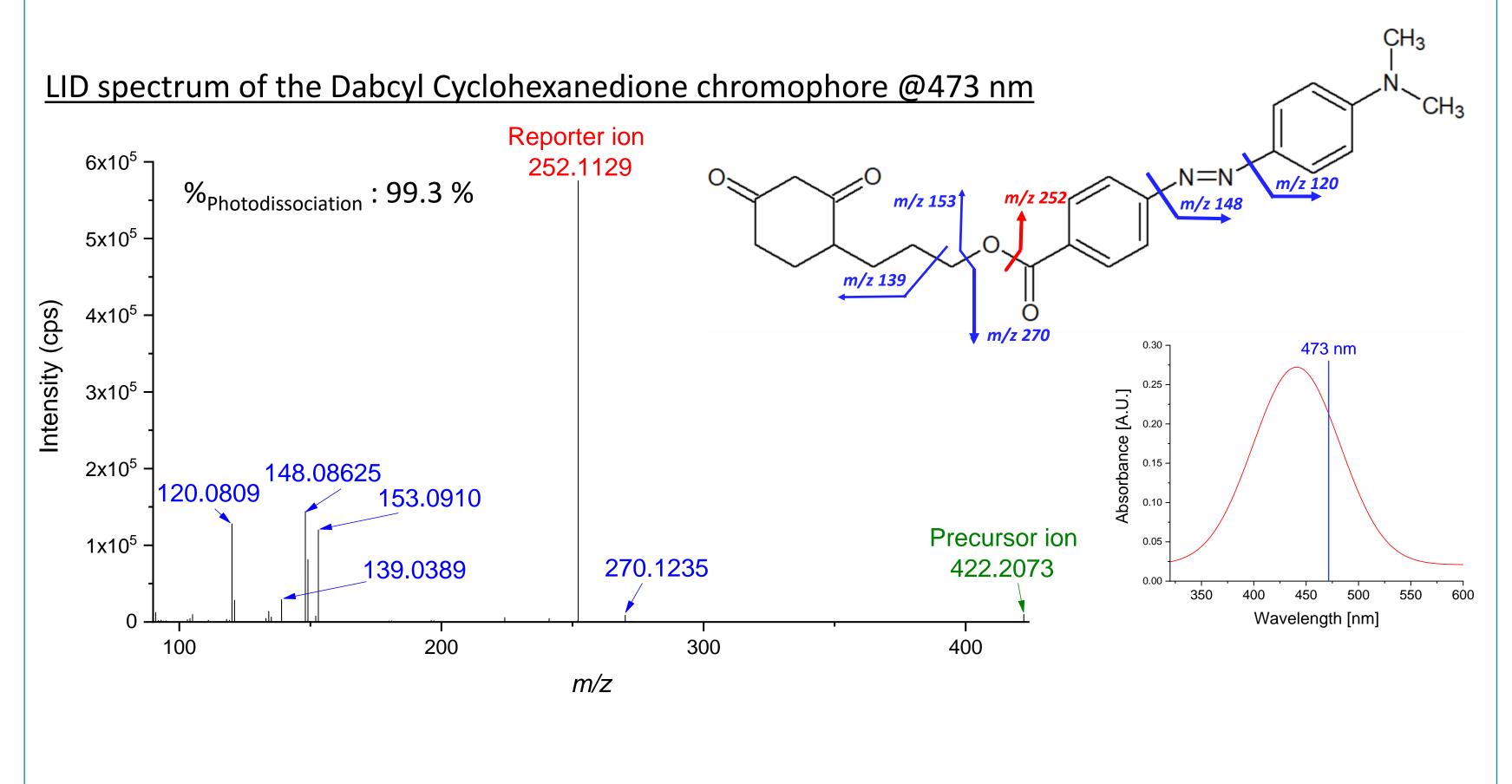


As this oxidative process is minor, the detection of these oxidized proteins at low concentrations is problematic due to the complexity and dynamic concentration range of the samples to be analyzed.

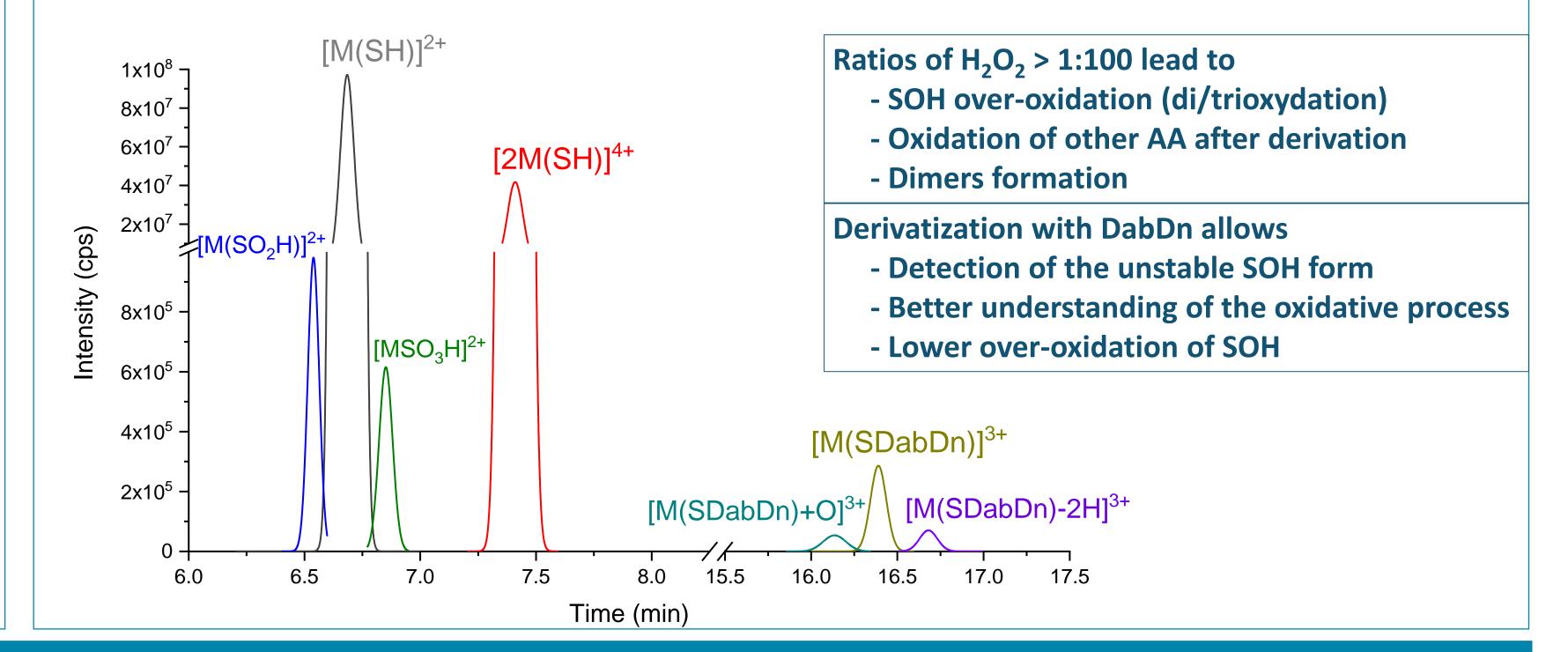
In order to improve the detection specificity for oxidized proteins, we use an experimental setup coupling mass spectrometry and laser induced dissociation (LID) in the visible range (473 nm) to add a stringent optical specificity to the mass selectivity<sup>2</sup>.

### Methods

- Protein unfloding and reduction of disulfide bridges with a ratio Prot:DTT of 1:3 during 40 min at 60°C
- Oxidation of cysteines into SOH with an excess of  $H_2O_2$ :
  - . Pure LCTVATLR peptide  $\rightarrow$  1:100 ratio
  - . Mixture of 3 proteins: albumin/serotransferin/lysozyme  $\rightarrow$  1:10 ratio
- Simultaneous specific derivatization of formed SOH with Dabcyl Cyclohexanedione (ENS home-made reactant) at 1:1 ratio during 6h. Increasing the ratio only impact the derivatization speed, not quantity of reacted product.

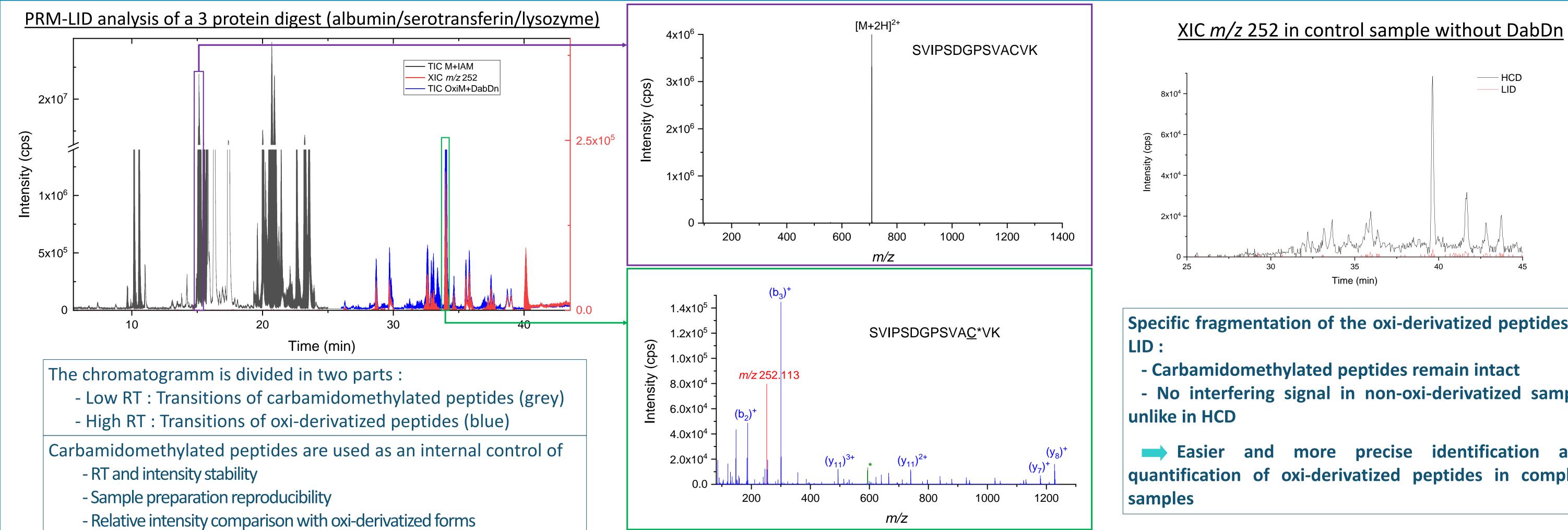


Chromatogram of the different forms of LCTVATLR peptide after oxidation – derivation process



- Enzymatic **digestion** with trypsin (10  $\mu$ L at 2 mg/mL) overnight at 37°C.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> removal of disulphide bridges with 1:3 DTT during 40 min at RT, and freecysteine blocking with 1:3 IAM during 40 min at RT in the dark.
- Samples **desalting** and concentration by Solid Phase Extraction (Oasis<sup>TM</sup> HLB 3cc) High Performance Liquid Chromatographic (HPLC) peptides separation on  $C_{18}$ column (2.1 mm, 3.5  $\mu$ m) : 45 min run with a 5-45% ACN gradient (300  $\mu$ L/min).
- Parallel Reaction Monitoring (PRM) of peptides in LID@473nm /HCD on a modified hybrid quadrupled orbitrap mass spectrometer (QExactive ThermoScientific) (R= 35,000 ; activation time 25/3 ms, activation energy 3/25 eV)
- Data treatment performed with Skyline and manually

### Specific fragmentation of oxi-derivatized peptides by LID



Specific fragmentation of the oxi-derivatized peptides in

- No interfering signal in non-oxi-derivatized sample

and quantification of oxi-derivatized peptides in complex

### References

1. P. Eaton: Protein thiol oxidation in health and disease: Techniques for measuring disulfides and related modifications in complex protein mixtures, Free Radical Biology and Medicine, 2006, 40, 1889-1899. 2. M. Girod, et al.: Implementing visible 473 nm photodissociation in a Q-Exactive mass spectrometer: towards specific detection of cysteine-containing peptides, *The Analyst*, **2014**, 139, 5523-5530. 3. Y. H. Seo, et al.: Quantification of Protein Sulfenic Acid Modifications Using Isotope Coded Dimedone and Iododimedone, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 1342–1345

## Conclusion

- Specific derivation on cysteine sulphenic acid with the dabcyl cyclohexadione
- Specific detection of derivatized cysteine sulphenic acid-containing peptides in a digested protein mixture in LID @ 473nm, allowing to reduce interfering signal.

**Perspectives:** Extension of the protocol to complex samples and endogenous Cys oxidation