

## Supplementary Data

Full Title: Evaluation of Colorimetric Assays for Analyzing Reductively Methylated Proteins: Biases and Mechanistic Insights

Short Title: Colorimetric Analysis of Methylated Proteins

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## Supplemental Tables

**Table S1** The pathlength of water at various volumes and temperature in a half-area 96-well plate.

| Temperature (°C) | Volume (μL) | Average pathlength (cm) | 95% Confidence interval (cm) | Number of replicates |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 25               | 100         | 0.568                   | 0.002                        | 26                   |
| 25               | 120         | 0.679                   | 0.003                        | 9                    |
| 37               | 120         | 0.707                   | 0.003                        | 12                   |
| 25               | 200         | 1.102                   | 0.002                        | 10                   |

**Table S2** Blank and pathlength corrected absorbance data at 280 nm ( $A_{280\text{nm}}/\text{cm}$ ) for BSA in water and 25 °C with the slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient calculated by fitting the data to a linear equation using the least squares method.

| Concentration (g/L) in the well  | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 0  | 0.001    | -0.001   | -0.001   |
| 0.2  | 0.133    | 0.123    | 0.126    |
| 0.4  | 0.255    | 0.241    | 0.255    |
| 0.6  | 0.360    | 0.357    | 0.373    |
| 0.8  | 0.491    | 0.484    | 0.496    |
| 1.0  | 0.617    | 0.609    | 0.616    |
| Slope = $\epsilon_{280\text{nm}}$ ( $\text{g}^{-1} \text{L cm}^{-1}$ ) | 0.608    | 0.606    | 0.615    |
| Intercept ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )   | 0.005    | -0.001   | 0.003    |
| Correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ )                                      | 0.9996   | 0.9999   | 0.9999   |

**Table S3** Blank and pathlength corrected absorbance data at 280 nm ( $A_{280\text{nm}}/\text{cm}$ ) for HEWL in water and 25 °C with the slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient calculated by fitting the data to a linear equation using the least squares method.

| Concentration (g/L) in the well  | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 0  | 0.000    | 0.000    | 0.000    |
| 0.2  | 0.266    | 0.264    | 0.250    |
| 0.4  | 0.530    | 0.535    | 0.504    |
| 0.6  | 0.783    | 0.780    | 0.743    |
| 0.8  | 1.040    | 1.035    | 1.004    |
| 1.0  | 1.306    | 1.299    | 1.248    |
| Slope = $\epsilon_{280\text{nm}}$ ( $\text{g}^{-1} \text{L cm}^{-1}$ ) | 1.301    | 1.294    | 1.249    |
| Intercept ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )   | 0.004    | 0.006    | 0.000    |
| Correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ )                                      | 1.0000   | 0.9999   | 1.0000   |

**Table S4** Blank and pathlength corrected absorbance data at 280 nm ( $A_{280\text{nm}}/\text{cm}$ ) for ovalbumin in water and 25 °C with the slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient calculated by fitting the data to a linear equation using the least squares method.

| Concentration (g/L) in the well  | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 0  | 0.001    | -0.001   | 0.001    |
| 0.2  | 0.126    | 0.133    | 0.112    |
| 0.4  | 0.240    | 0.247    | 0.237    |
| 0.6  | 0.367    | 0.372    | 0.374    |
| 0.8  | 0.497    | 0.492    | 0.506    |
| 1.0  | 0.626    | 0.624    | 0.626    |
| Slope = $\epsilon_{280\text{nm}}$ ( $\text{g}^{-1} \text{L cm}^{-1}$ ) | 0.624    | 0.618    | 0.635    |
| Intercept ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )   | -0.003   | 0.002    | -0.009   |
| Correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ )                                      | 0.9998   | 0.9998   | 0.9995   |

**Table S5** Blank and pathlength corrected absorbance data at 280 nm ( $A_{280\text{nm}}/\text{cm}$ ) for BSA in buffer and 25 °C with the slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient calculated by fitting the data to a linear equation using the least squares method.

| Concentration (g/L) in the well  | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 0  | 0.001    | -0.001   | 0.001    |
| 0.2  | 0.115    | 0.120    | 0.113    |
| 0.4  | 0.229    | 0.233    | 0.224    |
| 0.6  | 0.344    | 0.358    | 0.344    |
| 0.8  | 0.465    | 0.494    | 0.467    |
| 1.0  | 0.610    | 0.636    | 0.590    |
| Slope = $\epsilon_{280\text{nm}}$ ( $\text{g}^{-1} \text{L cm}^{-1}$ ) | 0.602    | 0.633    | 0.590    |
| Intercept ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )   | -0.007   | -0.010   | -0.005   |
| Correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ )                                      | 0.9990   | 0.9991   | 0.9997   |

**Table S6** Blank and pathlength corrected absorbance data at 280 nm ( $A_{280\text{nm}}/\text{cm}$ ) for HEWL in buffer and 25 °C with the slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient calculated by fitting the data to a linear equation using the least squares method.

| Concentration (g/L) in the well  | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 0  | 0.000    | 0.000    | 0.000    |
| 0.2  | 0.222    | 0.231    | 0.225    |
| 0.4  | 0.454    | 0.460    | 0.474    |
| 0.6  | 0.658    | 0.669    | 0.678    |
| 0.8  | 0.891    | 0.917    | 0.912    |
| 1.0  | 1.092    | 1.130    | 1.174    |
| Slope = $\epsilon_{280\text{nm}}$ ( $\text{g}^{-1} \text{L cm}^{-1}$ ) | 1.096    | 1.132    | 1.162    |
| Intercept ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )   | 0.005    | 0.002    | -0.004   |
| Correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ )                                      | 0.9998   | 0.9998   | 0.9995   |

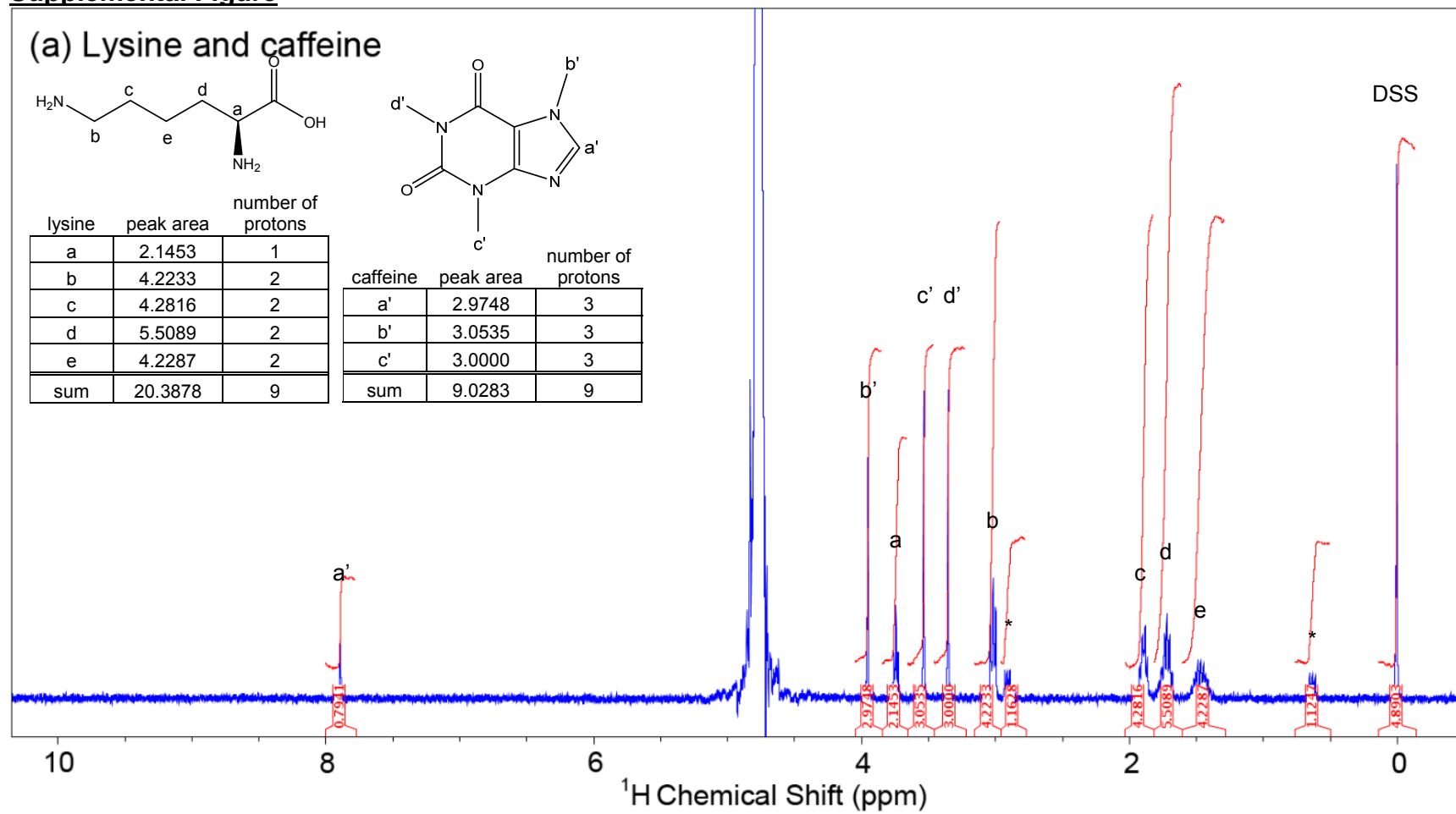
**Table S7** Blank and pathlength corrected absorbance data at 280 nm ( $A_{280\text{nm}}/\text{cm}$ ) for ovalbumin in buffer and 25 °C with the slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient calculated by fitting the data to a linear equation using the least squares method.

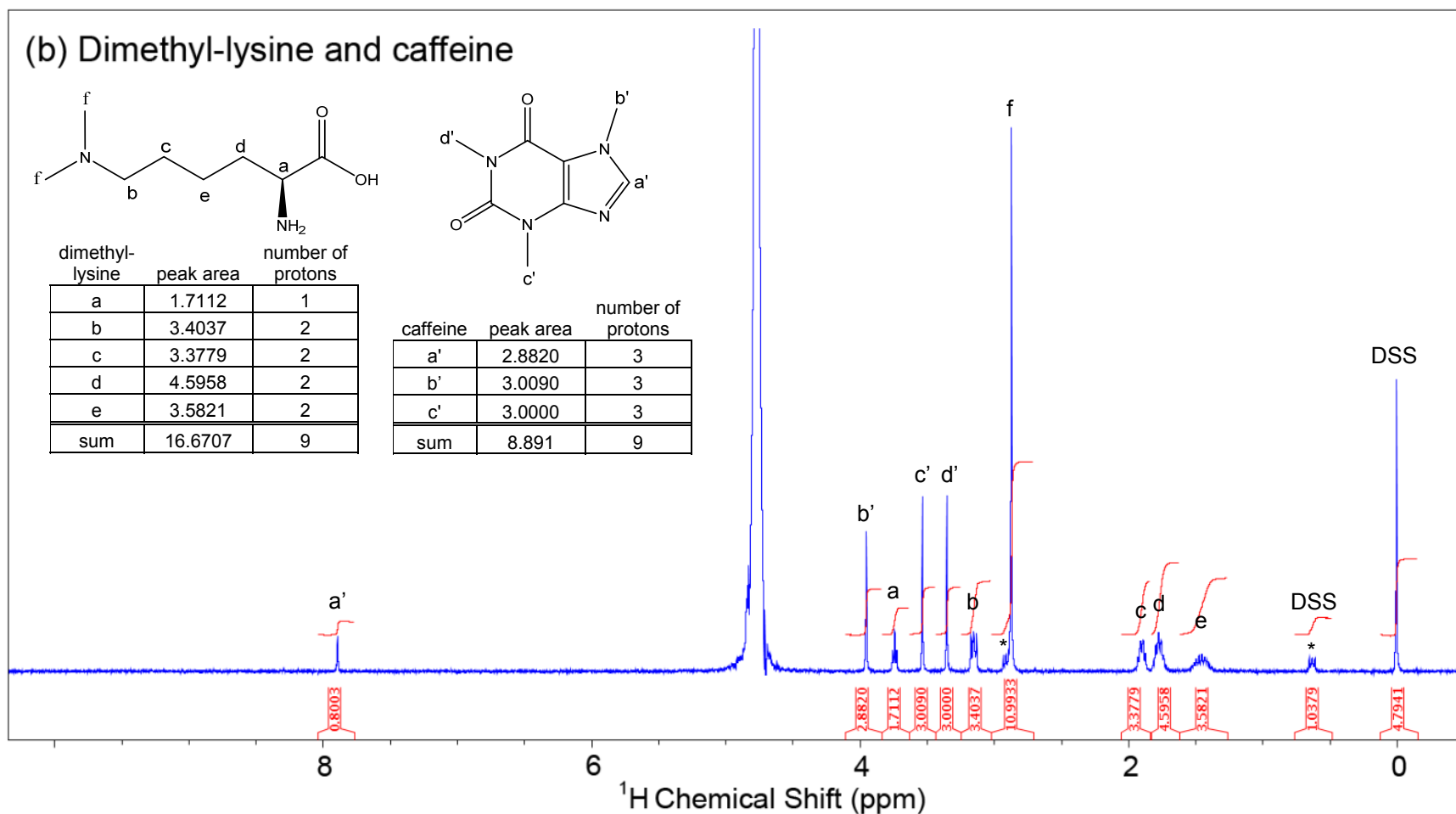
| Concentration (g/L) in the well  | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 0  | 0.000    | 0.000    | 0.000    |
| 0.2  | 0.121    | 0.127    | 0.121    |
| 0.4  | 0.248    | 0.250    | 0.250    |
| 0.6  | 0.375    | 0.375    | 0.379    |
| 0.8  | 0.495    | 0.502    | 0.507    |
| 1.0  | 0.630    | 0.650    | 0.614    |
| Slope = $\epsilon_{280\text{nm}}$ ( $\text{g}^{-1} \text{L cm}^{-1}$ ) | 0.628    | 0.643    | 0.622    |
| Intercept ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )   | -0.003   | -0.004   | 0.001    |
| Correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ )                                      | 0.9999   | 0.9995   | 0.9997   |

**Table S8** The center mass, sigma, and correlation coefficient for the Gaussian fits to MALDI mass spectra of BSA, cleaved ovalbumin, and full-length ovalbumin and the apex mass of HEWL.

| Protein               | Sample                              | Mass (m/z) | Sigma (m/z) | Correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ ) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| BSA                   | (a) Unmodified                      | 66,165     | 311         | 0.9433                            |
|                       | (b) Reductively methylated sample 1 | 67,547     | 349         | 0.9870                            |
|                       | (c) Reductively methylated sample 2 | 67,638     | 366         | 0.9765                            |
|                       | (d) Reductively methylated sample 3 | 67,650     | 291         | 0.9689                            |
| HEWL                  | (e) Unmodified                      | 14,298     | n/a         | n/a                               |
|                       | (f) Reductively methylated sample 1 | 14,492     | n/a         | n/a                               |
|                       | (g) Reductively methylated sample 2 | 14,495     | n/a         | n/a                               |
|                       | (h) Reductively methylated sample 3 | 14,497     | n/a         | n/a                               |
| Cleaved ovalbumin     | (i) Unmodified                      | 39,899     | 300         | 0.9430                            |
|                       | (j) Reductively methylated sample 1 | 40,398     | 318         | 0.9246                            |
|                       | (k) Reductively methylated sample 2 | 40,403     | 304         | 0.7984                            |
|                       | (l) Reductively methylated sample 3 | 40,420     | 283         | 0.8296                            |
| Full-length Ovalbumin | (i) Unmodified                      | 44,191     | 347         | 0.9042                            |
|                       | (j) Reductively methylated sample 1 | 44,661     | 300         | 0.8326                            |
|                       | (k) Reductively methylated sample 2 | 44,542     | 344         | 0.5071                            |
|                       | (l) Reductively methylated sample 3 | 44,736     | 261         | 0.7069                            |

## Supplemental Figure





**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) “2 mM” lysine and (b) “2 mM” dimethyl-lysine each with DSS as a chemical shift reference and caffeine (1 mM) as an internal standard to determine the actual concentration of lysine (2.258 mM) and dimethyl-lysine (1.875 mM) using the peak areas (inset tables show the peak areas used to calculate the actual concentration of lysine and dimethyl-lysine).