

Manuscript Number:	GIGA-D-19-00158R1	
Full Title:	Accessible and reproducible mass spectrometry imaging data analysis in Galaxy	
Article Type:	Technical Note	
Funding Information:	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (GR 1748/6-1, SCHI 871/8-1, SCHI 871/9-1, SCHI 871/11-1, SCHI 871/12-1, INST 39/900-1, and SFB850-Project Z1 (INST 39/766-3), RO-5694/1-1)	Dr Oliver Schilling
	German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (I-1444-201.2/2017)	Dr Oliver Schilling
	European Research Council (780730, ProteaseNter, ERC-2017-PoC)	Dr Oliver Schilling
	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (031L0101C de.NBI-epi))	Dr Bjoern Gruening
	European Open Science Cloud (824087)	Dr Bjoern Gruening
	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (de.NBI, CancerTelSys)	Prof Karl Rohr
	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (SFB 1129, RTG 1653)	Prof Karl Rohr
Abstract:	<p>Background: Mass spectrometry imaging is increasingly used in biological and translational research as it has the ability to determine the spatial distribution of hundreds of analytes in a sample. Being at the interface of proteomics/metabolomics and imaging, the acquired data sets are large and complex and often analyzed with proprietary software or in-house scripts, which hinder reproducibility. Open source software solutions that enable reproducible data analysis often require programming skills and are therefore not accessible to many MSI researchers. Findings: We have integrated 18 dedicated mass spectrometry imaging tools into the Galaxy framework to allow accessible, reproducible, and transparent data analysis. Our tools are based on Cardinal, MALDIquant, and scikit-image and enable all major MSI analysis steps such as quality control, visualization, preprocessing, statistical analysis, and image co-registration. Further, we created hands-on training material for use cases in proteomics and metabolomics. To demonstrate the utility of our tools, we re-analyzed a publicly available N-linked glycan imaging dataset. By providing the entire analysis history online, we highlight how the Galaxy framework fosters transparent and reproducible research. Conclusion: The Galaxy framework has emerged as a powerful analysis platform for the analysis of MSI data with ease of use and access together with high levels of reproducibility and transparency.</p>	
Corresponding Author:	Melanie Christine Föll GERMANY	
Corresponding Author Secondary Information:		
Corresponding Author's Institution:		
Corresponding Author's Secondary Institution:		
First Author:	Melanie Christine Föll	
First Author Secondary Information:		
Order of Authors:	Melanie Christine Föll	

	Lennart Moritz
	Thomas Wollmann
	Maren Stillger
	Niklas Vockert
	Martin Werner
	Peter Bronsert
	Karl Rohr
	Bjoern Gruening
	Oliver Schilling
Order of Authors Secondary Information:	
Response to Reviewers:	<p>We sincerely thank the reviewers for their thoughtful comments and inspections of our manuscript. We have improved the manuscript by carefully addressing the raised concerns and provide a point-by-point response below. In the manuscript, we have highlighted paragraphs with major changes in blue to allow an easier tracking of the changes.</p> <p>Reviewer #1 comment 1: This Technical Note describes software tools for mass spectrometry image (MSI) analysis and integration of these tools into Galaxy. This enables reproducible MSI analysis to be accomplished in the context of a graphical user interface. The manuscript is well written and the authors should be commended for ensuring that the software tools are all open source. In Figure 1 the authors highlight all 18 open source software tools in the MSI analysis toolkit. However, in the manuscript detailed descriptions are only provided for 12 of the software tools. I would like to see descriptions for the following 6 software tools: 1) Scale image; 2) Landmark registration; 3) Overlay; 4) Coordinates of ROIs; 5) Projective transformation; 6) Switch axis coordinates. This would be of great benefit to the end user who may wish to reuse these software tools. It would be additionally helpful if these 6 tools were listed in the supplementary file (supp-1.xlsx), which currently only lists 12 Galaxy tools. >> Authors: We thank the reviewer for pointing out this inconsistency, which has now been corrected by adding descriptions of the imaging tools in the main text and also added their specifications in supplementary file 1.</p> <p>Reviewer #1 comment 2: In the section entitled "Accessibility & training" the authors state that, "all tools are deposited in the Galaxy Toolshed from where they can be easily installed into any other Galaxy instance". Could the authors please specify where in the Galaxy Toolshed I would find all 18 software tools? The link that the authors provide (https://toolshed.g2.bx.psu.edu/) does not bring me to a directory that lists all 18 tools. Furthermore, I cannot see any mass spectrometry tools listed on this page. A direct link to the 18 software tools would be far more helpful and would encourage reuse of the toolkit. >> Authors: We agree with the reviewer that direct toolshed links for each tool are more helpful. Therefore we added a supplementary file with the direct links for all 18 tools.</p> <p>Reviewer #1 comment 3: As proof-of-principle, the authors used a publicly available N-linked glycan imaging dataset as a test dataset. The authors acknowledged that annotation was "infeasible on the MSI images" and they describe a method whereby the researcher annotates an adjacent histological section and then co-registers the two images using an affine transform. I was intrigued by this approach but I was unable to find the resolution of the MS images in the manuscript. Furthermore, the authors did not provide any detail of pixel size, or even scale bars, for the murine kidney test data set that is shown in Figures 2 and 3. However, I did find these details in the original publications that describe these data where it is stated that MSI profiling utilised a "centre to centre spacing of 250µm". (Gustafsson et al., 2018, Data Brief. 21: 185-188; Gustafsson et</p>

al., 2015, Anal Bioanal Chem. 407(8): 2127-2139). Should we infer from this that the pixel dimensions are approximately 250µm x 250µm? I would like some clarity from the authors on the resolution of the MS images.

>> Authors:

We sincerely apologize for not being clear in the spatial resolution of the N-glycan dataset. We have extended the text to address the issue. The PNGase F was spotted with 250µm centre to centre spacing but the data was acquired by oversampling with a spatial resolution of 100µm leading to a pixel size of 100µm (Reference Gustafsson et al. 2015, page 2130).

Reviewer #1 comment 4:

Whereas I can see great value in the software tools, I would question the utility of this low-resolution MSI dataset. A pixel resolution of 250µm x 250µm is fairly coarse. Consequently, it would be impossible to determine from these data whether the MS profiles reflect N-linked glycan distribution in key microanatomical compartments of the kidney such as the proximal tubule, juxtaglomerular apparatus, or podocyte. I was wondering whether the authors have used their software tools on cellular-resolution MSI data? From a biological perspective, this would be far more interesting. In this respect, the NIH/NIDDK-funded GUDMAP Consortium have delivered a whole series of publications that detail gene expression in the kidney at the microanatomical level (Brunskill et al., 2008, Dev Cell. 15(5):781-91; Lindström et al., 2018, J Am Soc Nephrol. 29(3):785-805; Adam et al., 2017, Development. 144(19):3625-3632). I was wondering whether the authors would consider using their toolkit to analyse more biologically relevant, single-cell resolution MSI datasets? This would be of greater interest to the research community and would be an improved means of highlighting the reuse potential of this toolkit.

>> Authors:

We fully understand the concerns of the reviewer but have to apologize that commercial mass spectrometers and available protocols do not yet allow for single cell analysis. The reviewer refers to gene expression dataset with single-cell resolution. However, such datasets do not exist in the field of MSI; a limitation that is due to technical shortcomings of the method. Technological progress may remove this limitation in the future, but as of today, most MSI experiments are performed with a spatial resolution between 30 and 250 µm. The actual resolution is dependent on the purpose of the experiment and limited by the technical capabilities of the mass spectrometer and the limited amount of analytes that can be extracted from a single cell. While the technical improvements aim towards enabling cellular resolution, data analysis steps are mainly working on single pixel (mass spectra) and therefore only affected by the increasing file size as more pixels will be measured to cover the same sample area. Therefore, the limitation for single cell analysis lies not in the analysis tools but in the method itself. To show the usefulness of our tools, we also re-analyze volatile metabolites in a chilli section and the peptide distribution in a mouse kidney; both are part of the accompanying training material. Hence, we respectfully decline further case study analysis.

Reviewer #2 comment 1:

The authors have integrated three different mass spectrometry imaging (MSI) software packages (Cardinal, MALDIquant, and scikit-image) into the Galaxy framework. The Galaxy tools and workflows presented cover a wide range of common MSI data processing and analysis steps, and allow Proteomics and Metabolomics researchers to build useful and flexible workflows. It is evident that a substantial amount of work has gone not just into wrapping the different MSI packages into the Galaxy Framework, but also in developing and writing the online training material and use cases. The manuscript is well written and is relevant to the scope of the journal. The manuscript could benefit from revision as indicated in the detailed comments listed below.

Page 4 - "Galaxy is used by hundred thousands of researchers and provides thousands of different tools for many different scientific fields." - Include more realistic and accurate statistics on users and tools. The reference cited [25, Afgan et al.] does provide some specific numbers / statistics on tools and users.

>> Authors:

We did not provide specific numbers for two reasons: 1) The specific numbers do not reflect the number of researchers using Galaxy, as they only refer to the main Galaxy server, neglecting the european, australian and the many smaller servers. 2) The specific numbers were collected about one year ago and are already outdated and will be even more outdated when the manuscript will be read in the future.

Reviewer #2 comment 2:

Page 6 - Change "All tools are deliberately build" to "all tools are deliberately built"

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 3:

Page 6 – Change "cleverly combining" to "combining"

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 4:

Page 6 - Please, add a short paragraph to section "The newly available MSI toolset in the Galaxy Framework" that described the status of the different packages (i.e. Cardinal, MALDIquant, etc) - for example, are they all commonly used tools? Well established? Cutting edge?

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 5:

Page 7 - "Nowadays" too informal and not specific - past n years? Add a reference to back up statement.

>> Authors:

We changed the sentence accordingly and reference 43 lists current vendor imzML compatible software and imzML converting software.

Reviewer #2 comment 6:

Page 7 - "file collections" - Should this be "dataset collections" (i.e. "official" galaxy terminology)? If so, change throughout the manuscript.

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 7:

Page 7 - "Numerous files can be represented in a file collection allowing simultaneous analysis of all files while the effort for the user is the same as for a single file". This is somewhat misleading. Whilst dataset collections can be very useful in Galaxy and in some cases allow parallel processing to be performed, in an optimised or user friendly manner, they often require an additional step to prepare or merge the data.

>> Authors:

That's true, our sentence was misleading. We changed it into "while the effort for the user is similar as for single files".

Reviewer #2 comment 8:

Page 7 - Add more information on imzML format for the reader

>> Authors:

As the imzML format is the community standard, we thought this information is not useful in the manuscript. The file information that is relevant for successfully handling this file type are described in more detail in the training material.

Reviewer #2 comment 9:

Page 8: Change "Spectra with bad quality" to "poor quality spectra"

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 10:

Page 10 - "However, annotation of these ROIs is infeasible on the MSI images" explain

why

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 11:

Page 10 - Add a reference for "Random sample consensus (RANSAC)"

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 12:

Page 11 - "Join two files on a column allowing a small difference:" - Is this the real name of the tools. Convoluted name for a tool.

>> Authors:

Yes, it's the full name, we thought that it's better to be descriptive than short for our users.

Reviewer #2 comment 13:

Page 14 - Change "Matching those features that potentially are N-glycans to the m/z list of the original publication" to "mapping features to N-glycans reported in the original publication"

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 14:

Page 14 - Change "While we missed the 1647.635 m/z N-glycan, we found another N-glycan with 1542.62 m/z." to "whilst our workflow did not identify the reported N-glycan at 1647.635 m/z, an additional N-glycan at 1542.62 m/z was found."

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 15:

Page 16 - "In Gustafsson's own terms from a recent publication, our results show that their results are reproducible, because we, as another group, have followed as closely as possible their data analysis procedure and arrived at similar results [16]. The reproducibility of the results shows the capacity of our pipeline. To enable what Gustafsson has described as "methods reproducibility" we provide the complete analysis history and the corresponding workflow. With this in hand, any other researcher can use the same tools and parameters in Galaxy to obtain the same result as we did." Overly wordy, therefore rephrase.

>> Authors:

We agree that this paragraph was confusing, therefore we rewrote it to make it easier to read and understand.

Reviewer #2 comment 16:

Page 17 - "Publishing histories and workflows from Galaxy requires only a few clicks" - too informal. Rephrase, in particular the words "a few clicks".

>> Authors:

We changed the sentence accordingly.

Reviewer #2 comment 17:

Preprocessing (Page 10-14)

Provide a short description for TIC normalisation, baseline removal and smoothing, etc, including details for the different parameters used (Supplementary information),? I.e. which algorithms and parameters for peak picking, detection of monoisotopic peaks and binning were applied? And why?

>> Authors:

The N-glycan dataset that was used to demonstrate a use-case for the workbench is also part of the Galaxy training network (<https://training.galaxyproject.org/training-material/topics/metabolomics/tutorials/msi-finding-nglycans/tutorial.html>). In this tutorial we describe in detail the different analysis steps and the choice of

algorithms and parameters. The overall goal of the case study was to reproduce the original study, therefore we have chosen algorithms and parameters that most closely resembled the data analysis from the original study. A link to the training material repository is included in the manuscript, which we think is more sustainable, as we plan to extend and update the training material in the future.

For users that are interested in more details of the case study, we have published a real-world Galaxy history which provides all details about used algorithms, parameters, tool version and references.

The authors would like to stress the fact, that we think that sharing a history is more reproducible and transparent than trying to describe parameters in text.

Reviewer #2 comment 18:

Add a table that summarises the different options for each pre-processing step. What normalization and peak picking options are available? I.e. "multitude of algorithms". Provide a more detailed summary. This could be a further advantage over proprietary software having more flexibility on pre-processing steps.

>> Authors:

We added this information as additional file.

Reviewer #2 comment 19:

Is median fold change used (or available as an option) as described in the following paper? Abbassi-Ghadi, Nima, Emrys A Jones, Kirill A Veselkov, Juzheng Huang, Sacheen Kumar, Nicole Strittmatter, Ottmar Golf, et al. 2015. "Repeatability and Reproducibility of Desorption Electrospray Ionization-Mass Spectrometry (DESI-MS) for the Imaging Analysis of Human Cancer Tissue: A Gateway for Clinical Applications." *Analytical Methods* 7 (1): 71-80. <https://doi.org/10.1039/C4AY01770F>.

>> Authors:

Unfortunately, no. Not yet. For now we have focused on the implementation of Cardinal and MALDIquant functionalities that contain the most common normalization methods TIC and median. We plan to extend and update our tools if requested by users and are happy to add additional normalization methods. We encourage everyone to use the normal Galaxy communication channels like gitter and help.galaxyproject.org to get in touch with us and provide feedback.

Reviewer #2 comment 20:

Include references for the methods/approaches that have been applied. For example - A detailed description for the underlying principles applied as part of MALDIquant pre-processing and MALDIquant peak detection are missing. Add the relevant references and details (add to Supplementary Information if needed). Same applies to other methods / approaches.

>> Authors:

Thanks for this recommendation. We added further references to the manuscript whenever possible. Unfortunately most of the Cardinal functions are specific methods for the Cardinal package and no further descriptions does exist except for the code in the github repository which is referenced already in our manuscript.

Reviewer #2 comment 21:

Add figures to the main text or Supplementary Information for the following:
Page 8 - Figures in the data visualization section would make for a more intuitive read - For instance - include figures for a number of the "30 different plots"

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 22:

Page 8 - Include figures for both the MSI image and MSI plot spectra (with overlay)

>> Authors:

Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 23:

Page 9 - ROI annotation tool, particularly use of "affine transformation", could be aided by a figure

>> Authors:
Done as suggested.

Reviewer #2 comment 24:
Page 14 - Outputs / Results "Quality Control" tool

>> Authors:
Done as suggested.

Reviewer #3 comment 1:
This is an interesting paper that provides new tools for the Galaxy platform and that will be of use to biomedical researchers generating and analysing MSI data. The authors demonstrate the value of the toolset that they have developed by reanalysing a published dataset and they provide open access to source code and additional training documentation. Developing open source tools is commendable and I therefore support publication.

Minor Revisions:

Section describing the new MSI toolset: Making more of a distinction in the text between the newly developed tools and existing Galaxy tools would be helpful to the reader.

>> Authors:

We agree with the reviewer and have made it more clear in the manuscript to distinguish between new tools and already existing tools. Moreover, the newly developed tools are depicted in Figure 1.

Reviewer #3 comment 2:

I also suggest adding 'tool(s)' to each subheading within this section i.e. 'Quality control and visualization tools:'

>> Authors:
Done as suggested.

Reviewer #3 comment 3:

Figure 1: The figure title should make it clear that these are the newly developed Galaxy tools: the use of 'associated' is ambiguous.

>> Authors:
Done as suggested.

Reviewer #3 comment 4:

The figure legend could be improved by clarifying that the MSI data analysis steps are in dark blue and the new tools are shown in pale blue.

>> Authors:
Done as suggested.

Reviewer #3 comment 5:

Sectioning describing Accessibility and training: I found navigation to the training sets difficult. The link to the Galaxy Training Network/repository is to the home page and the reader then has to click through several pages to find each of the 3 examples. The names are not obvious from the manuscript and I had to click through a number of other examples to find them. The training material is excellent but just difficult to find.

>> Authors:

We added the information next to the link to the training repository: mass spectrometry imaging tutorials can be found in the metabolomics and proteomics categories of the training material.

Reviewer #3 comment 6:

Availability of supporting data: I did not seem to have the necessary permission to access the datasets provided in the last link.

>> Authors:

We are sorry for the inconvenience. Galaxy values data privacy a lot and we made a mistake in granting everyone permissions. We updated the dataset permissions to make sure that the link works now.

Reviewer #3 comment 7:

Add FAIR to the list of abbreviations.

	>> Authors: Done as suggested.
Additional Information:	
Question	Response
Are you submitting this manuscript to a special series or article collection?	No
<p>Experimental design and statistics</p> <p>Full details of the experimental design and statistical methods used should be given in the Methods section, as detailed in our Minimum Standards Reporting Checklist. Information essential to interpreting the data presented should be made available in the figure legends.</p> <p>Have you included all the information requested in your manuscript?</p>	Yes
<p>Resources</p> <p>A description of all resources used, including antibodies, cell lines, animals and software tools, with enough information to allow them to be uniquely identified, should be included in the Methods section. Authors are strongly encouraged to cite Research Resource Identifiers (RRIDs) for antibodies, model organisms and tools, where possible.</p> <p>Have you included the information requested as detailed in our Minimum Standards Reporting Checklist?</p>	Yes
<p>Availability of data and materials</p> <p>All datasets and code on which the conclusions of the paper rely must be either included in your submission or deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and ethically appropriate), referencing such data using a unique identifier in the references and in the “Availability of Data and Materials”</p>	Yes

section of your manuscript.

Have you have met the above requirement as detailed in our [Minimum Standards Reporting Checklist?](#)

[Click here to view linked References](#)

1 **Title page**

2

3 **Accessible and reproducible mass spectrometry imaging data analysis in Galaxy**

4

5 **Authors:**

6 Melanie Christine Föll ^{1,2}, Lennart Moritz ¹, Thomas Wollmann ³, Maren Nicole Stillger ^{1,2,4},

7 Niklas Vockert ³, Martin Werner ^{1,5,6,7}, Peter Bronsert ^{1,5,6,7}, Karl Rohr ³, Björn Andreas

8 Grüning ⁸, Oliver Schilling ^{1,5,7,9}

9 1. Institute of Surgical Pathology, Medical Center – University of Freiburg, Breisacher
10 Straße 115a 79106 Freiburg, Germany

11 2. Faculty of Biology, University of Freiburg, Schänzlestraße 1 79104 Freiburg,
12 Germany

13 3. Biomedical Computer Vision Group, BioQuant, IPMB, Heidelberg University, Im
14 Neuenheimer Feld 267 69120 Heidelberg, Germany

15 4. Institute of Molecular Medicine and Cell Research, Faculty of Medicine, University of
16 Freiburg, Stefan-Meier-Straße 17 79104 Freiburg, Germany

17 5. Faculty of Medicine - University of Freiburg, Germany

18 6. Tumorbank Comprehensive Cancer Center Freiburg, Medical Center – University of
19 Freiburg, Germany

20 7. German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) and Cancer Research Center (DKFZ),
21 Heidelberg, Germany

22 8. Department of Computer Science, University of Freiburg, Georges-Köhler-Allee 106
23 79110 Freiburg, Germany

24 9. to whom correspondence should be addressed:

25 Breisacher Straße 115a

26 D-79106 Freiburg (Germany)

27 Tel: +49 761 27080610

28 oliver.schilling@mol-med.uni-freiburg.de

29 Authors' email addresses and ORCIDs (same order as above):

30 melanie.foell@mol-med.uni-freiburg.de ORCID: 0000-0002-1887-7543,

31 lennart.moritz@googlemail.com, thomas.wollmann@bioquant.uni-heidelberg.de ORCID:

32 0000-0002-4741-3844, maren.stillger@mol-med.uni-freiburg.de, [33 \[heidberg.de\]\(mailto:heidberg.de\), \[martin.werner@uniklinik-freiburg.de\]\(mailto:martin.werner@uniklinik-freiburg.de\), \[peter.bronsert@uniklinik-freiburg.de\]\(mailto:peter.bronsert@uniklinik-freiburg.de\),](mailto:vockert@stud.uni-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

34 k.rohr@dkfz-heidelberg.de, gruening@informatik.uni-freiburg.de ORCID: 0000-0002-

35 3079-6586, oliver.schilling@mol-med.uni-freiburg.de. ORCID: 0000-0001-7678-7653

36

37 **Abstract:**

38 Background:

39 Mass spectrometry imaging is increasingly used in biological and translational research as it
40 has the ability to determine the spatial distribution of hundreds of analytes in a sample. Being
41 at the interface of proteomics/metabolomics and imaging, the acquired data sets are large
42 and complex and often analyzed with proprietary software or in-house scripts, which hinders
43 reproducibility. Open source software solutions that enable reproducible data analysis often
44 require programming skills and are therefore not accessible to many MSI researchers.

45 Findings:

46 We have integrated 18 dedicated mass spectrometry imaging tools into the Galaxy
47 framework to allow accessible, reproducible, and transparent data analysis. Our tools are
48 based on Cardinal, MALDIquant, and scikit-image and enable all major MSI analysis steps
49 such as quality control, visualization, preprocessing, statistical analysis, and image co-
50 registration. Further, we created hands-on training material for use cases in proteomics and
51 metabolomics. To demonstrate the utility of our tools, we re-analyzed a publicly available N-

52 linked glycan imaging dataset. By providing the entire analysis history online, we highlight
53 how the Galaxy framework fosters transparent and reproducible research.

54 **Conclusion:**

55 The Galaxy framework has emerged as a powerful analysis platform for the analysis of MSI
56 data with ease of use and access together with high levels of reproducibility and
57 transparency.

58

59 **Keywords:**

60 Mass spectrometry imaging; MALDI imaging; spatially resolved mass spectrometry;
61 proteomics; metabolomics; Galaxy; computational workflows; reproducibility

62

63 **Findings:**

64 **Background:**

65 Mass spectrometry imaging (MSI) is increasingly used for a broad range of biological and
66 clinical applications as it allows the simultaneous measurement of hundreds of analytes and
67 their spatial distribution. The versatility of MSI is based on its ability to measure many
68 different kinds of molecules such as peptides, metabolites or chemical compounds in a large
69 variety of samples such as cells, tissues, fingerprints or human made materials [1–5].
70 Depending on the sample, the analyte of interest and the application, different mass
71 spectrometers are used [6]. The most common ionization sources are MALDI (Matrix
72 Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization), DESI (Desorption Electrospray Ionization) and SIMS
73 (Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry). Typical mass analyzers are time of flight (TOF) devices
74 and ion traps.

75 Due to the variety of samples, analytes, and mass spectrometers, MSI is suitable for highly
76 diverse use cases ranging from plant research, to (pre-)clinical, pharmacologic studies, and

77 forensic investigations [2, 7–9]. On the other hand, the variety of research fields hinders
78 harmonization and standardization of MSI protocols. Recently efforts were started to develop
79 optimized sample preparation protocols and show their reproducibility in multicenter studies
80 [10–13]. In contrast, efforts to make data analysis standardized and reproducible are in its
81 infancy.

82 Reproducibility of MSI data analyses is hindered by the common use of software with
83 restricted access such as proprietary software, license requiring software, or unpublished in-
84 house scripts [14]. Open source software has the potential to advance accessibility and
85 reproducibility issues in data analysis but requires complete reporting of software versions
86 and parameters, which is not yet routine in MSI [15–17].

87 At the same time, the introduction of the open standard file format imzML has opened new
88 avenues to the community and an increasing number of open source software tools are
89 emerging [18]. Yet, many of these tools necessitate steep learning curves, in some cases
90 even requiring programming knowledge to make use of their full range of functions [19–23].

91 To overcome problems with accessibility of software and computing resources,
92 standardization, and reproducibility, we developed MSI data analysis tools for the Galaxy
93 framework that are based on the open source software suites Cardinal, MALDIquant, and
94 scikit-image [20, 21, 24]. Galaxy is an open source computational platform for biomedical
95 research that was developed to support researchers without programming skills with the
96 analysis of large data sets, e.g. in the field of next generation sequencing. Galaxy is used by
97 hundred thousands of researchers and provides thousands of different tools for many
98 different scientific fields [25].

99

100 **Aims:**

101 With the present publication, we aim to raise awareness within the MSI community for the
102 advantages being offered by the Galaxy framework with regard to standardized and

103 reproducible data analysis pipelines. Secondly, we present newly developed Galaxy tools
104 and offer them to the MSI community through the graphical front-end and “drag-and-drop”
105 workflows of the Galaxy framework. Thirdly, we apply the MSI Galaxy tools to a publicly
106 available dataset to study N-glycan identity and distribution in murine kidney specimens in
107 order to demonstrate usage of a Galaxy-based MSI analysis pipeline that facilitates
108 standardization and reproducibility and is compatible with the principles of FAIR (findable,
109 accessible, interoperable, and re-usable) data and MIAPE (minimum information about a
110 proteomics experiment) [26, 27].

111

112 **The Galaxy framework for flexible and reproducible data analysis**

113 In essence, the Galaxy framework is characterized by four hallmarks: (1) usage of a
114 graphical front-end that is web browser based, hence alleviating the need for advanced IT
115 skills or the requirement to locally install and maintain software tools; (2) access to large-
116 scale computational resources for academic users; (3) provenance tracking and full version
117 control, including the ability to switch between software and tool version and to publish
118 complete analysis, thus enabling full reproducibility; (4) access to a vast array of open-source
119 tools with the ability of seamless passing data from one tool to another, thus generating
120 added value by interoperability.

121 Multiple Galaxy servers on essentially every continent provide access to large computing
122 resources, data storing capabilities, and hundreds of pre-installed tools for a broad range of
123 data analysis applications through a web browser based graphical user interface [28–30].
124 Additionally, there are more than hundred public Galaxy servers available that offer more
125 specific tools for niche application areas. For local usage, Galaxy can be installed on any
126 computer ranging from private laptops to high computing clusters. So-called “containers”
127 exist, which facilitate a fully functional one-click installation independent of the operating
128 system. Hence, local Galaxy servers are easily deployed even in “private” network situations

129 in which these servers remain invisible and inaccessible to outside users. This ability
130 empowers Galaxy for the analysis of sensitive and protected data, e.g. in a clinical setting.

131 In the Galaxy framework, data analysis information is stored alongside the results of each
132 analysis step to ensure reproducibility and traceability of results. The information includes
133 tool and software names and versions together with all parameters [31].

134 We propose that MSI research can greatly benefit from the possibility to privately or publicly
135 share data analysis histories, workflows, and visualizations with collaboration partners or the
136 entire scientific community, e.g. as online supplementary data for peer-reviewed publications.
137 The latter step easily fulfills the criteria of the suggested MSI minimum reporting guidelines
138 [6, 16].

139 The Galaxy framework is predestinated for the analysis of multi-omics studies as it facilitates
140 the integration of software of different origin into one analysis [32, 33]. The possibility to
141 seamlessly link tools of different origins has outstanding potential for MSI studies that often
142 rely on different software platforms to analyze MSI data, additional MS/MS data (from liquid
143 chromatography coupled tandem mass spectrometry), and (multimodal) imaging data. More
144 than hundred tools for proteomic and metabolomics data analysis are readily available in
145 Galaxy due to community driven efforts [34–38]. Increasing integration of MSI with other
146 omics approaches such as genomics and transcriptomics is anticipated and the Galaxy
147 framework offers a powerful and future-proof platform to tackle complex, interconnected
148 data-driven experiments.

149 **The newly available MSI toolset in the Galaxy framework**

150 We have developed 18 Galaxy tools that are based on the commonly used open-source
151 softwares Cardinal, MALDIquant, and scikit-image and enable all steps that commonly occur
152 in MSI data analysis (Figure 1) [20, 21, 24]. In order to deeply integrate those tools into the
153 Galaxy framework, we developed bioconda packages and biocontainers as well as a so
154 called ‘wrapper’ for each tool [31, 39]. The MSI tools consist of R scripts that were developed

155 based on Cardinal and MALDIquant functionalities, extended for more analysis options and a
156 consistent framework for input and output of metadata (Additional file 1). Cardinal and
157 MALDIquant are well established R packages and are commonly used open source software
158 for the analysis of MSI data [40–45]. Cardinal is under active development and provides a
159 multitude of processing and analysis options for MSI data [46]. MALDIquant was originally
160 developed for the analysis of classical MALDI-TOF data, but offers powerful preprocessing
161 options that are applicable for the analysis of MSI data [44, 45]. The image processing tools
162 that are part of the ROI annotation (co-registration) workflow are built from scratch using
163 functionality from the scikit-image library. Scikit-image is an open-source image processing
164 library for Python. All tools are deliberately built in a modular way to enable highly flexible
165 analysis and to allow a multitude of additional functionalities by combining the MSI specific
166 tools with already available Galaxy tools.

167

168 Data formats and data handling:

169 We extended the Galaxy framework to support open and standardized MSI data files such as
170 imzML, which is the default input format for the Galaxy MSI tools. Today, the major mass
171 spectrometer vendors directly support the imzML standard and several tools exist to convert
172 different file formats to imzML [47]. Data can be easily uploaded to Galaxy via a web browser
173 or via a built-in file transfer protocol (FTP) functionality. Intermediate result files can be
174 further processed in the interactive environment that supports R Studio and Jupyter or
175 downloaded for additional analysis outside of Galaxy [48].

176 To facilitate the parallel analysis of multiple files, the Galaxy framework offers so-called
177 “dataset collections”. Numerous files can be represented in a dataset collection allowing
178 simultaneous analysis of all files while the effort for the user is similar as for single files. MSI
179 meta data such as spectra annotations, calibrant m/z , and statistical results are stored as
180 tab-separated values files, thus enabling processing by a plethora of tools both inside and

181 outside the Galaxy framework. All graphical results of the MSI tools are stored as concise
182 vector graphic PDF reports with publication-quality images.

183

184 Quality control and visualization tools:

185 MSI Quality control: Quality control is an essential step in data analysis and should not only
186 be used to judge the quality of the raw data but also to control processing steps such as
187 smoothing, peak picking, and intensity normalization. Therefore, we have developed the 'MSI
188 Qualitycontrol' tool that automatically generates a comprehensive pdf report with more than
189 30 different plots that enable a global view of all aspects of the MSI data including intensity
190 distribution, m/z accuracy and segmentation maps (Figure 2). For example, poor quality
191 spectra, such as low total ion current or low number of peaks can be directly spotted in the
192 quality report and subsequently be removed by applying the 'MSI data exporter' and 'MSI
193 filtering' tools.

194 MSI mz image: The 'MSI mz image' tool allows to automatically generate a publication-
195 quality pdf file with distribution heat maps for all m/z features provided in a tab-separated
196 values file. Contrast enhancement and smoothing options are available as well as the
197 possibility to overlay several m/z features in one image (Figure 3 a, b).

198 MSI plot spectra: The 'MSI plot spectra' tool displays multiple single or average mass spectra
199 in a pdf file. Overlay of multiple single or averaged mass spectra with different colors in one
200 plot is also possible (Figure 3 c, d).

201 The Galaxy framework already offers various visualization options for tab-separated values
202 files, including heatmaps, barplots, scatterplots, and histograms. This enables a quick
203 visualization of the properties of tab-separated values files obtained during MSI analysis.

204

205 MSI file handling tools:

206 A large variety of tools that allows for filtering, sorting, and manipulating of tab-separated
207 values files is already available in Galaxy and can be integrated into the MSI data analysis.
208 Some dedicated tools for imzML file handling were newly integrated into the Galaxy
209 framework.

210 MSI combine: The 'MSI combine' tool allows combining several imzML files into a merged
211 dataset. This is especially important to enable direct visual but also statistical comparison of
212 MSI data that derived from multiple files. With the 'MSI combine tool', individual MSI datasets
213 are either placed next to each other in a coordinate system or can be shifted in x or y
214 direction in a user defined way. The output of the tool contains a single file with the combined
215 MSI data and an additional tab-separated values file with spectra annotations, i.e. each
216 spectrum is annotated with its original file name (before combination) and, if applicable, with
217 previously defined annotations such as diagnosis, disease type, and other clinical
218 parameters.

219 MSI filtering: The 'MSI filtering' tool provides options to filter m/z features and pixel (spectra)
220 of interest, either by applying manual ranges (minimum and maximum m/z, spatial area as
221 defined by x / y coordinates) or by keeping only m/z features or coordinates of pixels that are
222 provided in a tab-separated values file. Unwanted m/z features such as pre-defined
223 contaminant features can be removed within a preselected m/z tolerance.

224 MSI data exporter: The 'MSI data exporter' can export the spectra, intensity and m/z data of
225 an imzML file together with their summarized properties into tab-separated values files.

226

227 Region of interest annotation tools:

228 For supervised analysis, spatial regions of interest (ROI) can be defined. Those are
229 commonly annotated on a photograph or histological image that shows the morphological
230 features of the sample. We extended and developed six new Galaxy tools and combined
231 them with existing tools into a workflow that enables co-registration of the real image

232 (photograph or histological image), ROIs, and the MSI image by alignment using an affine
233 transformation [49]. The transformation is estimated by a least-squares method using
234 landmarks from both real and MSI image which are annotated outside Galaxy, for example,
235 using the GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP) (Figure 4) [50]. For more robust
236 estimation of the transformation, Random sample consensus (RANSAC) is used on random
237 subsets of landmark pairs [51].

238 The co-registration workflow includes six newly developed Galaxy tools.
239 Scale Image: This tool can resize an image relative to the original image or using absolute
240 dimensions with nearest neighbor, bilinear, or bicubic interpolation.
241 Landmark registration: The landmark registration tool estimates the affine transformation
242 between two sets of points using the random sample consensus (RANSAC) [51].
243 Overlay: This tool overlays two images, transforming one using a transformation matrix. The
244 tool can be used to visually assess the performance of the registration.
245 Coordinates of ROI: This tool extracts the indices of all pixels of a ROI from a binary image.
246 Projective Transformation Points: This tool applies a transformation matrix to a set of points.
247 Switch axis coordinates: The tool can be used to change the origin of a set of points in a
248 coordinate system.

249 In the supporting information, we also provide automated workflows to convert annotation
250 files from proprietary Bruker software (spotlist.txt and regions.xml) into annotation files that
251 are compatible with the Galaxy MSI tools.

252

253 Preprocessing tools:

254 Preprocessing of raw MSI spectra is performed to reduce data size and to remove noise,
255 inaccuracies and biases to improve downstream analysis. Crucial steps are peak picking to
256 reduce file size and remove noise features, intensity normalization to make spectra within
257 and between different samples comparable, as well as m/z recalibration to improve

258 comparability and identification of analytes. We have developed three dedicated MSI
259 preprocessing tools that are based on a variety of preprocessing algorithms from both the
260 Cardinal and MALDIquant package. An overview of all available preprocessing options is
261 available in additional file 2.

262 MSI preprocessing: The 'MSI preprocessing' tool offers a multitude of algorithms that are
263 useful to preprocess raw MSI data: intensity normalization to the total ion current (TIC),
264 baseline removal, smoothing, peak picking, peak alignment, peak filtering, intensity
265 transformation, binning and resampling.

266 MALDIquant preprocessing and MALDIquant peak detection: Both MALDIquant tools offer a
267 multitude of preprocessing algorithms that complement those of the cardinal based MSI
268 preprocessing tool such as m/z re-calibration, peak picking on average mass spectra and
269 picking of monoisotopes.

270

271 Statistical analysis tools:

272 A multitude of statistical analysis options for tab-separated values files is already available in
273 Galaxy, the most MSI relevant tools are from the Workflow4metabolomics project and consist
274 of unsupervised and supervised statistical analysis tools [52]. For specific purposes of
275 spatially resolved MSI data analysis, we have integrated Cardinal's powerful spatially aware
276 statistical analysis options into the Galaxy framework.

277 MSI segmentation: The 'MSI segmentation' tool enables spatially aware unsupervised
278 statistical analysis with principal component analysis, spatially aware k-means clustering and
279 spatial shrunken centroids [53, 54].

280 MSI classification: The 'MSI classification' tool offers three options for spatially aware
281 supervised statistical analysis: partial least square (discriminant analysis), orthogonal partial
282 least squares (discriminant analysis), and spatial shrunken centroids [53].

283

284 Analyte identification tools:

285 m/z determination on its own often remains insufficient to identify analytes. Compound
286 fragmentation and tandem mass spectrometry are typically employed for compound
287 identification by mass spectrometry. In MSI, the required local confinement of the mass
288 spectrometry analysis severely limits the compound amounts that are available for
289 fragmentation. Hence, direct on-target fragmentation is rarely employed in MSI. A common
290 practice for compound identification includes a combinatorial approach in which LC-MS/MS
291 data is used to identify the analytes while MSI analyses their spatial distribution. This
292 approach requires assigning putative analyte information to m/z values within a given
293 accuracy range.

294 Join two files on a column allowing a small difference: This newly developed tool allows for
295 the matching of numeric columns of two tab-separated values files on the smallest distance
296 that can be absolute or in ppm. This tool can be used to identify the m/z features of a tab-
297 separated values files by matching them to already identified m/z features of another tab-
298 separated values file (e.g. from a database or from an analysis workflow).

299 Community efforts such as Galaxy-M, Galaxy-P, Phenomenal, and Workflow4Metabolomics
300 have led to a multitude of metabolomics and proteomics analysis tools that are available in
301 Galaxy today [34–38]. These tools allow analyzing additional tandem mass spectrometry
302 data that is often acquired to aid identification of MSI m/z features. Databases to which the
303 results can be matched, such as uniprot and lipidmaps, are directly available in Galaxy [55,
304 56]. The highly interdisciplinary and modular data analysis options in Galaxy render it a very
305 powerful platform for MSI data analyses that are part of a multi-omics study.

306

307 **Accessibility & training**

308 All described tools are easily accessible and usable via the European Galaxy server [29].
309 Furthermore, all tools are deposited in the Galaxy Toolshed from where they can be easily
310 installed into any other Galaxy instance (Additional file 3) [57]. We have developed bioconda
311 packages and biocontainers that allow for version control and automated installation of all
312 tool dependencies – those packages are also useful outside Galaxy to enhance
313 reproducibility [31, 39]. For researchers that do not want to use publicly available Galaxy
314 servers, we provide a pre-built Docker image that is easy to install independent of the
315 operating system.

316 For a swift introduction into the analysis of MSI data in Galaxy, we have developed training
317 material for metabolomics and proteomic use cases and deposited it to the central repository
318 of the Galaxy Training Network [58, 59]. The training materials consist of a comprehensive
319 collection of small example datasets, step-by-step explanations and workflows that enable
320 any interested researcher in following the training and understanding it through active
321 participation.

322 The first training explains data upload in Galaxy and describes the quality control of mouse
323 kidney tissue section in which peptides were imaged with an old MALDI-TOF [60]. The
324 dataset contains peptide calibrants that allow the control of the digestion efficiency and m/z
325 accuracy. Export of MSI data into tab-separated values files and further filtering of those files
326 is explained as well.

327 The second training explains the examination of the spatial distribution of volatile organic
328 compounds in a chilli section. The training roughly follows the corresponding publication and
329 explains how average mass spectra are plotted and only the relevant m/z range is kept, as
330 well as how to automatically generate many m/z distribution maps and overlay several m/z
331 feature maps [19].

332 The third training determines and identifies N-linked glycans in mouse kidney tissue sections
333 with MALDI-TOF and additional LC-MS/MS data analysis [61, 62]. The training covers
334 combining datasets, preprocessing as well as unsupervised and supervised statistical

335 analysis to find potential N-linked glycans that have different abundances in the PNGase F
336 treated kidney section compared to the kidney section that was treated with buffer only. The
337 training further covers identification of the potential N-linked glycans by matching their m/z
338 values to a list of N-linked glycan m/z that were identified by LC-MS/MS. The full dataset is
339 used as a case study in the following section.

340

341 **Case study**

342 To exemplify the utility of our MSI tools we re-analyzed the N-glycan dataset that was
343 recently made available by Gustafsson et al. via the PRIDE repository with accession
344 PXD009808 [62, 63]. The aim of the study was to demonstrate that their automated sample
345 preparation method for MALDI imaging of N-linked glycans successfully works on formalin-
346 fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) murine kidney tissue [61]. PNGase F was printed on two
347 FFPE murine kidney sections to release N-linked glycans from proteins while in a third
348 section one part of the kidney was covered with N-glycan calibrants and another part with
349 buffer to serve as a control. The tissues were measured with a MALDI-TOF/TOF mass
350 spectrometer and a spatial resolution of 100 μm that leads to oversampling of the 250 μm
351 PNGase F array [61]. We downloaded all four imzML files (two treated kidneys, control and
352 calibrants) from PRIDE and uploaded them with the composite upload function into Galaxy.
353 To obtain an overview of the files we used the 'MSI Qualitycontrol' tool. We resampled the
354 m/z axis, combined all files and run again the 'MSI Qualitycontrol' tool to directly compare the
355 four subfiles (additional file 4). Next, we performed TIC normalization, smoothing and
356 baseline removal by applying Cardinal algorithms [21]. Spectra were aligned to the stable
357 peaks that are present in at least 80 % of all spectra [64]. Spectra, in which less than two
358 stable peaks could be aligned, were removed. This affected mainly spectra from the control
359 file. Peak picking, detection of monoisotopic peaks and binning was performed on the
360 average spectra of each subfile [64]. The obtained m/z features were extracted with
361 Cardinal's 'peaks' algorithm from the normalized, smoothed, baseline removed and aligned

362 file. Next, principal component analysis with four components was performed (Figure 5) [21].
363 To find potential N-linked glycans, the two treated tissues were compared to the control
364 tissue with the supervised spatial shrunken centroids algorithm [53]. Spatial shrunken
365 centroids is a multivariate classification method that was specifically developed to account for
366 the spatial structure of the data (Figure 6a) [53]. The supervised analysis provided us with 28
367 m/z features that discriminated between the two PNGase F treated kidneys and the control
368 kidney with a spatial shrunken centroids p-value < 0.05 and higher abundance in the treated
369 kidneys. Mapping those features to N-glycans reported in the original publication (Gustafsson
370 et al., Supplementary Table S2) revealed the identity of 16 N-glycans with an average m/z
371 error of 49 ppm (Table 1). Fifteen of those N-glycans match to the findings of the original
372 publication. Whilst our workflow did not identify the reported N-glycan at 1647.635 m/z, an
373 additional N-glycan at 1542.62 m/z was found. The intensity distribution for four N-glycans on
374 the TIC normalized dataset is depicted in Figure 6b-e and three of them are overlaid in
375 Figure 6f.

376 PLACEHOLDER FOR TABLE 1 (larger than DinA4 portrait format)

377 The complete analysis was performed in the European Galaxy instance with MSI tools based
378 on Cardinal version 1.12.1 and MALDIquant 1.18 [21, 29]. Despite having used different
379 algorithms for preprocessing and statistical analysis, we reached similar findings as
380 compared to Gustafsson. The reproducibility of the results shows the capacity of our pipeline.
381 To enable full “methods reproducibility” we provide the analysis history and workflow in this
382 publication as supporting information. Those can be easily published on the Galaxy platform
383 and provide more information than requested by the minimum reporting guidelines MSI
384 MIAPE (Minimum Information About a Proteomics Experiment) and MIAMSIE (Minimum
385 Information About a Mass Spectrometry Imaging Experiment) [6, 16]. The Galaxy software
386 itself but also the shared histories and workflows fulfill the FAIR principles that stand for
387 findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability [27].

388

389 **Summary**

390 With the integration of the MSI data analysis toolset, we have incorporated an accessible and
391 reproducible data analysis platform for MSI data in the Galaxy framework. Our MSI tools
392 complement the multitude of already available Galaxy tools for proteomics and metabolomics
393 that are maintained by Galaxy-M, Galaxy-P, Phenomal and Workflow4Metabolomics [34–38].
394 We are in close contact with those communities and would like to encourage developers of
395 the MSI community to join forces and make their tools available in the Galaxy framework. We
396 currently focused on reproducible and accessible data analysis, but we are planning to
397 integrate interactive visualizations, more support for very large files and more tools for
398 specific use cases into the Galaxy framework. Lastly, we would like to invite the MSI
399 community to use the advantages of the Galaxy framework to advance MSI data analysis.

400

401 **Availability of supporting source code and requirements**

402 Project name: Mass spectrometry imaging workbench in Galaxy

403 RRID number: SCR_017410

404 Project homepage: <https://github.com/galaxyproteomics/tools-galaxy-p> and
405 <https://github.com/BMCV/galaxy-image-analysis>

406 Galaxy Toolshed: <https://toolshed.g2.bx.psu.edu/>

407 Operating system(s): Unix (Platform independent with Docker)

408 Training repository: <https://galaxyproject.github.io/training-material/> 'mass spectrometry
409 imaging' tutorials can be found in the sections 'metabolomics' and 'proteomics'.

410 Docker image: <https://github.com/foellmelanie/docker-galaxy-msi>

411 License: MIT

412

413 **Additional files**

414 Additional file 1: Overview of R-functions in the MSI tools. For each Galaxy MSI tool the R-
415 functions that do not belong to the basic R-package are listed.

416 Additional file 2: Overview of available preprocessing options.

417 Additional file 3: Collection of direct links to the toolshed location for each tool.

418 Additional file 4: Exemplary quality control plots for the combined N-glycan imaging file

419

420 **Availability of supporting data**

421 Galaxy workflow to convert Bruker ROI.xml files: [https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/msi-
422 workflow-bruker-xml-conversion-to-tabular-file](https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/msi-workflow-bruker-xml-conversion-to-tabular-file)

423 Galaxy workflow to convert Bruker spotlists: [https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/bruker-
424 spotlist-conversion-to-tabular-file](https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/bruker-spotlist-conversion-to-tabular-file)

425 Galaxy workflow co-registration: [https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/co-registration-of-msi-
426 image-and-real-image-with-landmarks](https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/co-registration-of-msi-image-and-real-image-with-landmarks)

427 Galaxy workflow N-linked glycans re-analysis: [https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/msi-
428 workflow-complete-n-glycan-analysis](https://usegalaxy.eu/u/melanie-foell/w/msi-workflow-complete-n-glycan-analysis)

429 Galaxy history N-linked glycans re-analysis: [https://usegalaxy.eu:/u/melanie-foell/h/re-
430 analysis-of-pride-dataset-pxd009808---maldi-imaging-of-n-linked-glycans-in-murine-kidney-
431 specimens](https://usegalaxy.eu:/u/melanie-foell/h/re-analysis-of-pride-dataset-pxd009808---maldi-imaging-of-n-linked-glycans-in-murine-kidney-specimens)

432 Archival copies of the code and workflows are available from the *GigaScience* GigaDB
433 repository [65].

434 **List of abbreviations**

435 DESI: Desorption Electrospray Ionization; MALDI: Matrix Assisted Laser
436 Desorption/Ionization; FAIR: findable, accessible, interoperable, and re-usable; FFPE:
437 formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded; LC-MS/MS: liquid chromatography tandem mass
438 spectrometry; MIAMSIE: Minimum Information About a Mass Spectrometry Imaging
439 Experiment; MIAPE: minimum information about a proteomics experiment; MSI: Mass
440 spectrometry imaging; PRIDE: proteomics identifications; ROI: Region of interest; SIMS:
441 Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry; TOF: Time of flight

442 **Competing interests**

443 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

444 **Funding**

445 OS acknowledges support by the German Research Council (DFG, GR 1748/6-1, SCHI
446 871/8-1, SCHI 871/9-1, SCHI 871/11-1, SCHI 871/12-1, INST 39/900-1, and SFB850-Project
447 Z1 (INST 39/766-3), RO-5694/1-1), the German-Israel Foundation (Grant No. I-1444-
448 201.2/2017), and the European Research Council (780730, ProteaseNter, ERC-2017-PoC).

449 B.A.G. is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (031L0101C
450 de.NBI-epi) and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC-Life) (Grant No. 824087).

451 K.R. acknowledges support of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (de.NBI,
452 CancerTelSys) and the German Research Foundation (SFB 1129, RTG 1653).

453 The article processing charge was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and
454 the University of Freiburg in the funding programme Open Access Publishing.

455

456 **Authors' contributions**

457 M.C.F. developed the MSI Galaxy tool wrappers, the training material and the case study.

458 L.M. acquired data for the training material, tested MSI tools and training material and

459 provided useful feedback. T.W. developed the Galaxy tools and workflow for co-registration
460 and contributed to build the Galaxy tool wrappers. M.N.S. tested MSI tools, co-registration
461 tools and training material and provided useful feedback. N.V. built the Galaxy tool wrappers
462 for the co-registration tools and tested them. M.W., P.B., K.R., B.A.G., O.S. contributed to the
463 conceptualization, methodology, and funding acquisition. B.A.G. integrated the MSI file
464 formats into Galaxy, contributed to build the training material and tool wrappers and
465 integrated all tool wrappers into Galaxy. O.S. and M.C.F. wrote the manuscript. All authors
466 critically read and approved the manuscript's contents.

467 **Acknowledgement**

468 We thank the European Galaxy Instance for bioinformatics support (<https://usegalaxy.eu/>)
469 and the Galaxy community for critically reviewing tools and training material.

470 **References**

- 471 1. Yang B, Patterson NH, Tsui T, Caprioli RM, Norris JL. Single-Cell Mass Spectrometry
472 Reveals Changes in Lipid and Metabolite Expression in RAW 264.7 Cells upon
473 Lipopolysaccharide Stimulation. *J Am Soc Mass Spectrom.* 2018;29:1012–20.
474 doi:10.1007/s13361-018-1899-9.
- 475 2. Bhandari DR, Wang Q, Friedt W, Spengler B, Gottwald S, Römpf A. High resolution mass
476 spectrometry imaging of plant tissues: towards a plant metabolite atlas. *Analyst.*
477 2015;140:7696–709. doi:10.1039/C5AN01065A.
- 478 3. Bradshaw R, Bleay S, Clench MR, Francese S. Direct detection of blood in fingermarks by
479 MALDI MS profiling and Imaging. *Sci Justice.* 2014;54:110–7.
480 doi:10.1016/j.scijus.2013.12.004.
- 481 4. Correa DN, Zacca JJ, Rocha WF de C, Borges R, de Souza W, Augusti R, et al. Anti-theft
482 device staining on banknotes detected by mass spectrometry imaging. *Forensic Sci Int.*
483 2016;260:22–6. doi:10.1016/j.forsciint.2015.09.017.

- 484 5. Kramell AE, García-Altres M, Pötsch M, Kluge R, Rother A, Hause G, et al. Mapping
485 Natural Dyes in Archeological Textiles by Imaging Mass Spectrometry. *Sci Rep.*
486 2019;9:2331. doi:10.1038/s41598-019-38706-4.
- 487 6. McDonnell LA, Römpf A, Balluff B, Heeren RMA, Albar JP, Andrén PE, et al. Discussion
488 point: reporting guidelines for mass spectrometry imaging. *Anal Bioanal Chem.*
489 2015;407:2035–45.
- 490 7. Vaysse PM, Heeren RMA, Porta T, Balluff B. Mass spectrometry imaging for clinical
491 research-latest developments, applications, and current limitations. *Analyst.* 2017;142:2690–
492 712.
- 493 8. Karlsson O, Hanrieder J. Imaging mass spectrometry in drug development and toxicology.
494 *Arch Toxicol.* 2017;91:2283–94. doi:10.1007/s00204-016-1905-6.
- 495 9. Hoffmann WD, Jackson GP. Forensic Mass Spectrometry. *Annu Rev Anal Chem.*
496 2015;8:419–40. doi:10.1146/annurev-anchem-071114-040335.
- 497 10. Römpf A, Both JP, Brunelle A, Heeren RMA, Laprévotte O, Prideaux B, et al. Mass
498 spectrometry imaging of biological tissue: an approach for multicenter studies. *Anal Bioanal*
499 *Chem.* 2015;407:2329–35.
- 500 11. Buck A, Heijs B, Beine B, Schepers J, Cassese A, Heeren RMA, et al. Round robin study
501 of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissues in mass spectrometry imaging. *Anal Bioanal*
502 *Chem.* 2018;410:5969–80.
- 503 12. Porcari AM, Zhang J, Garza KY, Rodrigues-Peres RM, Lin JQ, Young JH, et al.
504 Multicenter Study Using Desorption-Electrospray-Ionization-Mass-Spectrometry Imaging for
505 Breast-Cancer Diagnosis. *Anal Chem.* 2018;90:11324–32.
- 506 13. Ly A, Longuespée R, Casadonte R, Wandernoth P, Schwamborn K, Bollwein C, et al.
507 Site-to-Site Reproducibility and Spatial Resolution in MALDI-MSI of Peptides from Formalin-
508 Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Samples. *Proteomics - Clin Appl.* 2019;13:1800029.

509 doi:10.1002/prca.201800029.

510 14. Gessel MM, Norris JL, Caprioli RM. MALDI imaging mass spectrometry: Spatial
511 molecular analysis to enable a new age of discovery. *J Proteomics*. 2014;107:71–82.
512 doi:10.1016/j.jprot.2014.03.021.

513 15. Grüning B, Chilton J, Köster J, Dale R, Soranzo N, van den Beek M, et al. Practical
514 Computational Reproducibility in the Life Sciences. *Cell Syst*. 2018;6:631–5.
515 doi:10.1016/j.cels.2018.03.014.

516 16. Gustafsson OJR, Winderbaum LJ, Condina MR, Boughton BA, Hamilton BR, Undheim
517 EAB, et al. Balancing sufficiency and impact in reporting standards for mass spectrometry
518 imaging experiments. *Gigascience*. 2018;7:1–13. doi:10.1093/gigascience/giy102.

519 17. Gruening B, Sallou O, Moreno P, da Veiga Leprevost F, Ménager H, Søndergaard D, et
520 al. Recommendations for the packaging and containerizing of bioinformatics software.
521 *F1000Research*. 2018;7:742. doi:10.12688/f1000research.15140.1.

522 18. Schramm T, Hester A, Klinkert I, Both JP, Heeren RMA, Brunelle A, et al. ImzML - A
523 common data format for the flexible exchange and processing of mass spectrometry imaging
524 data. *J Proteomics*. 2012;75:5106–10. doi:10.1016/j.jprot.2012.07.026.

525 19. Gamboa-Becerra R, Ramírez-Chávez E, Molina-Torres J, Winkler R. MSI.R scripts reveal
526 volatile and semi-volatile features in low-temperature plasma mass spectrometry imaging
527 (LTP-MSI) of chilli (*Capsicum annuum*). *Anal Bioanal Chem*. 2015;407:5673–84.
528 doi:10.1007/s00216-015-8744-9.

529 20. Gibb S, Strimmer K. Maldiquant: A versatile R package for the analysis of mass
530 spectrometry data. *Bioinformatics*. 2012;28:2270–1.

531 21. Bemis KD, Harry A, Eberlin LS, Ferreira C, Van De Ven SM, Mallick P, et al. Cardinal: An
532 R package for statistical analysis of mass spectrometry-based imaging experiments.
533 *Bioinformatics*. 2015;31:2418–20. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btv146.

- 534 22. Veselkov K, Sleeman J, Claude E, Vissers JPC, Galea D, Mroz A, et al. BASIS: High-
535 performance bioinformatics platform for processing of large-scale mass spectrometry
536 imaging data in chemically augmented histology. *Sci Rep.* 2018;8:1–11. doi:10.1038/s41598-
537 018-22499-z.
- 538 23. Ràfols P, Torres S, Ramírez N, Del Castillo E, Yanes O, Brezmes J, et al. RMSI: An R
539 package for MS imaging data handling and visualization. *Bioinformatics.* 2017;33:2427–8.
540 doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btx182.
- 541 24. van der Walt S, Schönberger JL, Nunez-Iglesias J, Boulogne F, Warner JD, Yager N, et
542 al. scikit-image: image processing in Python. *PeerJ.* 2014;2:e453. doi:10.7717/peerj.453.
- 543 25. Guerler A, Baker D, Clements D, Afgan E, Taylor J, Batut B, et al. The Galaxy platform
544 for accessible, reproducible and collaborative biomedical analyses: 2018 update. *Nucleic
545 Acids Res.* 2018;46:W537–44. doi:10.1093/nar/gky379.
- 546 26. Taylor CF, Paton NW, Lilley KS, Binz P, Julian RK, Jones AR, et al. The minimum
547 information about a proteomics experiment (MIAPE). *Nat Biotechnol.* 2007;25:887–93.
548 doi:10.1038/nbt1329.
- 549 27. Wilkinson MD. Comment: The fair guiding principles for scientific data management and
550 stewardship. *Sci Data.* 2016;;1–9.
- 551 28. Main Galaxy Instance. <https://usegalaxy.org/>. Accessed 2 Apr 2019.
- 552 29. European Galaxy Instance. <https://usegalaxy.eu/>. Accessed 9 Mar 2019.
- 553 30. Australian Galaxy Instance. <https://usegalaxy.org.au/>. Accessed 2 Apr 2019.
- 554 31. Grüning B, Dale R, Sjödin A, Chapman BA, Rowe J, Tomkins-Tinch CH, et al. Bioconda:
555 sustainable and comprehensive software distribution for the life sciences. *Nat Methods.*
556 2018;15:475–6. doi:10.1038/s41592-018-0046-7.
- 557 32. Boekel J, Chilton JM, Cooke IR, Horvatovich PL, Jagtap PD, Käll L, et al. Multi-omic data
558 analysis using Galaxy. *Nat Biotechnol.* 2015;33:137–9. doi:10.1038/nbt.3134.

- 559 33. Heydarian M. Prediction of Gene Activity in Early B Cell Development Based on an
560 Integrative Multi-Omics Analysis. *J Proteomics Bioinform.* 2014;7. doi:10.4172/jpb.1000302.
- 561 34. Davidson RL, Weber RJM, Liu H, Sharma-Oates A, Viant MR. Galaxy-M: A Galaxy
562 workflow for processing and analyzing direct infusion and liquid chromatography mass
563 spectrometry-based metabolomics data. *Gigascience.* 2016;5. doi:10.1186/s13742-016-
564 0115-8.
- 565 35. Jagtap PD, Johnson JE, Onsongo G, Sadler FW, Murray K, Wang Y, et al. Flexible and
566 accessible workflows for improved proteogenomic analysis using the galaxy framework. *J*
567 *Proteome Res.* 2014;13:5898–908. doi:10.1021/pr500812t.
- 568 36. Peters K, Bradbury J, Bergmann S, Capuccini M, Cascante M, de Atauri P, et al.
569 PhenoMeNal: processing and analysis of metabolomics data in the cloud. *Gigascience.*
570 2019;8:1–12. doi:10.1093/gigascience/giy149.
- 571 37. Guitton Y, Tremblay-Franco M, Le Corguillé G, Martin JF, Pétéra M, Roger-Mele P, et al.
572 Create, run, share, publish, and reference your LC–MS, FIA–MS, GC–MS, and NMR data
573 analysis workflows with the Workflow4Metabolomics 3.0 Galaxy online infrastructure for
574 metabolomics. *Int J Biochem Cell Biol.* 2017;93 January:89–101.
575 doi:10.1016/j.biocel.2017.07.002.
- 576 38. Galaxy-P Github repository. <https://github.com/galaxyproteomics/tools-galaxyp>.
577 Accessed 2 Apr 2019.
- 578 39. da Veiga Leprevost F, Grüning BA, Alves Aflitos S, Röst HL, Uszkoreit J, Barsnes H, et
579 al. BioContainers: an open-source and community-driven framework for software
580 standardization. *Bioinformatics.* 2017;33:2580–2.
- 581 40. van de Ven SMWY, Bemis KD, Lau K, Adusumilli R, Kota U, Stolowitz M, et al. Protein
582 biomarkers on tissue as imaged via MALDI mass spectrometry: A systematic approach to
583 study the limits of detection. *Proteomics.* 2016;16:1660–9.

- 584 41. Erich K, Sammour DA, Marx A, Hopf C. Scores for standardization of on-tissue digestion
585 of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue in MALDI-MS imaging. *Biochim Biophys Acta -*
586 *Proteins Proteomics*. 2017;1865:907–15. doi:10.1016/j.bbapap.2016.08.020.
- 587 42. Patterson NH, Tuck M, Van De Plas R, Caprioli RM. Advanced Registration and Analysis
588 of MALDI Imaging Mass Spectrometry Measurements through Autofluorescence Microscopy.
589 *Anal Chem*. 2018;90:12395–403.
- 590 43. Patterson NH, Alabdulkarim B, Lazaris A, Thomas A, Marcinkiewicz MM, Gao ZH, et al.
591 Assessment of pathological response to therapy using lipid mass spectrometry imaging. *Sci*
592 *Rep*. 2016;6 June:1–13. doi:10.1038/srep36814.
- 593 44. Abu Sammour D, Marsching C, Geisel A, Erich K, Schulz S, Ramallo Guevara C, et al.
594 Quantitative Mass Spectrometry Imaging Reveals Mutation Status-independent Lack of
595 Imatinib in Liver Metastases of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors. *Sci Rep*. 2019;9:10698.
596 doi:10.1038/s41598-019-47089-5.
- 597 45. Inglese P, Correia G, Pruski P, Glen RC, Takats Z. Colocalization Features for
598 Classification of Tumors Using Desorption Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry
599 Imaging. *Anal Chem*. 2019;91:6530–40.
- 600 46. Cardinal Github Repository. <https://github.com/kuwisdelu/Cardinal>. Accessed 15 Aug
601 2019.
- 602 47. Mass Spectrometry Imaging Society: Software tools. [https://ms-](https://ms-imaging.org/wp/imzml/software-tools/)
603 [imaging.org/wp/imzml/software-tools/](https://ms-imaging.org/wp/imzml/software-tools/). Accessed 9 Mar 2019.
- 604 48. Grüning BA, Rasche E, Rebolledo-Jaramillo B, Eberhard C, Houwaart T, Chilton J, et al.
605 Jupyter and Galaxy: Easing entry barriers into complex data analyses for biomedical
606 researchers. *PLoS Comput Biol*. 2017;13:e1005425.
- 607 49. Wollmann T, Erfle H, Eils R, Rohr K, Gunkel M. Workflows for microscopy image analysis
608 and cellular phenotyping. *J Biotechnol*. 2017;261 July:70–5.

609 50. GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP). <https://www.gimp.org/>. Accessed 2 Apr 2019.

610 51. Fischler MA, Bolles RC. Random sample consensus: a paradigm for model fitting with
611 applications to image analysis and automated cartography. *Commun ACM*. 1981;24:381–95.
612 doi:10.1145/358669.358692.

613 52. Giacomoni F, Le Corguillé G, Monsoor M, Landi M, Pericard P, Pétéra M, et al.
614 Workflow4Metabolomics: A collaborative research infrastructure for computational
615 metabolomics. *Bioinformatics*. 2015;31:1493–5.

616 53. Bemis KD, Harry A, Eberlin LS, Ferreira CR, van de Ven SM, Mallick P, et al.
617 Probabilistic Segmentation of Mass Spectrometry (MS) Images Helps Select Important Ions
618 and Characterize Confidence in the Resulting Segments. *Mol Cell Proteomics*.
619 2016;15:1761–72. doi:10.1074/mcp.O115.053918.

620 54. Alexandrov T, Kobarg JH. Efficient spatial segmentation of large imaging mass
621 spectrometry datasets with spatially aware clustering. *Bioinformatics*. 2011;27:230–8.

622 55. Bateman A. UniProt: A worldwide hub of protein knowledge. *Nucleic Acids Res*.
623 2019;47:D506–15. doi:10.1093/nar/gky1049.

624 56. Sud M, Fahy E, Cotter D, Brown A, Dennis EA, Glass CK, et al. LMSD: LIPID MAPS
625 structure database. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2007;35 SUPPL. 1:D527–32. doi:10.1093/nar/gkl838.

626 57. Blankenberg D, Von Kuster G, Bouvier E, Baker D, Afgan E, Stoler N, et al.
627 Dissemination of scientific software with Galaxy ToolShed. *Genome Biol*. 2014;15:403.
628 doi:10.1186/gb4161.

629 58. Batut B, Hiltemann S, Bagnacani A, Baker D, Bhardwaj V, Blank C, et al. Community-
630 Driven Data Analysis Training for Biology. *Cell Syst*. 2018;6:752–758.e1.
631 doi:10.1016/j.cels.2018.05.012.

632 59. Galaxy Training Network. <https://galaxyproject.github.io/training-material/>. Accessed 9
633 Mar 2019.

634 60. Moritz L, Föll M, Schilling O. MALDI imaging of mouse kidney peptides - test dataset on
635 Zenodo. 2018. doi:10.5281/zenodo.1560645.

636 61. Gustafsson OJR, Briggs MT, Condina MR, Winderbaum LJ, Pelzing M, McColl SR, et al.
637 MALDI imaging mass spectrometry of N-linked glycans on formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded
638 murine kidney. *Anal Bioanal Chem.* 2015;407:2127–39. doi:10.1007/s00216-014-8293-7.

639 62. Gustafsson OJR, Briggs MT, Condina MR, Winderbaum LJ, Pelzing M, McColl SR, et al.
640 Raw N-glycan mass spectrometry imaging data on formalin-fixed mouse kidney. *Data Br.*
641 2018;21:185–8. doi:10.1016/j.dib.2018.08.186.

642 63. Vizcaíno JA, Csordas A, Del-Toro N, Dienes JA, Griss J, Lavidas I, et al. 2016 update of
643 the PRIDE database and its related tools. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2016;44:D447–56.
644 doi:10.1093/nar/gkv1145.

645 64. Gibb S, Strimmer K. Mass Spectrometry Analysis Using MALDIquant. In: *Statistical*
646 *Analysis of Proteomics, Metabolomics, and Lipidomics Data Using Mass Spectrometry.*
647 Cham: Springer International Publishing; 2017. p. 101–24. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-45809-
648 0_6.

649 65. Foell MC; Moritz L; Wollmann T; Stillger M; Vockert N; Werner M; Bronsert P; Rohr K;
650 Gruening B; Schilling O (2019): Supporting data for "Accessible and reproducible mass
651 spectrometry imaging data analysis in Galaxy" GigaScience Database.
652 <http://dx.doi.org/10.5524/100665>

653 66. Batut B, Hiltemann S, Bagnacani A, Baker D, Bhardwaj V, Blank C, et al. Community-
654 Driven Data Analysis Training for Biology. *Cell Syst.* 2018;6:752–758.e1.
655 doi:10.1016/j.cels.2018.05.012.

656

657

658

659
660
661
662
663
664

Figures and larger than DinA4 Tables

Table 1: N-linked Glycans identified in the re-analysis.

mz	centers	tstatistics	adj.p.values	M+Na+	composition
1257.47424	38.24	51.97	0	1257.41	(Hex) ₂ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1743.68713	32.11	48.56	0	1743.57	(Hex) ₅ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1419.55334	40.68	48.2	0	1419.47	(Hex) ₃ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1905.68713	48.61	44.78	0	1905.63	(Hex) ₆ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
2304.91211	43.53	42.36	0	2304.83	(Hex) ₂ (HexNAc) ₃ (Deoxyhexose) ₃ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1850.71216	25.3	42.01	0	1850.65	(Hex) ₁ (HexNAc) ₃ (Deoxyhexose) ₁ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1581.62573	18.07	40.64	0	1581.53	(Hex) ₄ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1809.72461	10.81	38.15	0	1809.63	(Hex) ₂ (HexNAc) ₂ (Deoxyhexose) ₁ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
2158.88721	14.77	38.03	0	2158.77	(Hex) ₂ (HexNAc) ₃ (Deoxyhexose) ₂ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1663.66638	10.27	32.26	0	1663.57	(Hex) ₂ (HexNAc) ₂ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1688.71509	8.68	28.29	0	1688.61	(HexNAc) ₃ (Deoxyhexose) ₁ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1485.62378	8.67	26.89	0	1485.53	(HexNAc) ₂ (Deoxyhexose) ₁ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
2012.78394	7.3	26.72	0	2012.71	(Hex) ₂ (HexNAc) ₃ (Deoxyhexose) ₁ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
2816.11206	6.92	26.35	0	2816.01	(Hex) ₃ (HexNAc) ₄ (Deoxyhexose) ₁ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
2067.75903	5.69	14.52	0	2067.67	(Hex) ₇ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂
1542.61902	5.59	8.08	0	1542.55	(HexNAc) ₃ +(Man) ₃ (GlcNAc) ₂

668
669
670
671
672

We could identify 16 N-linked glycans by matching the m/z features of the MSI data (column 1) to the identified m/z features of the LC-MS/MS experiment (column 5). We allowed a maximum tolerance of 300 ppm and multiple matches. Only single matches occurred with an average m/z error of 46 ppm (column 6).

673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697

Figure 1: Typical MSI data analysis steps and newly developed Galaxy tools.

Typical MSI data analysis step include Quality control, file handling, preprocessing, ROI annotation, supervised and unsupervised statistical analysis, visualizations and identification of features. Due to the variety of MSI applications, tools of all or only a few of these categories are used and the order of usage is highly flexible. To serve a broad range of data analysis tasks, we provide 18 tools that cover all common data analysis procedures and can be arbitrarily connected to allow customized analysis. Dark blue: MSI data analysis steps, pale blue: newly developed Galaxy tools.

Figure 2: Exemplary quality control plots.

The Quality control report contains more than 30 different plots, 5 of them are shown here. They derive from the peptide imaging in mouse kidney training that we provide in the Galaxy training network [66] a) Control of tryptic digestion with a bombesin spot next to the tissue. The log 2 fold change of the cleaved vs. uncleaved bombesin peptide shows the digestion efficiency in the spot. b) Total ion current (TIC) in each pixel c) m/z accuracy for the internal calibrant angiotensin I in each pixel d) average mass spectrum showing the angiotensin I peak and its first isotope together with vertical lines indicating the theoretical m/z of angiotensin, the most abundant m/z in the chosen window and the closest m/z value in the file in green e) TIC for each spectrum.

698

699 **Figure 3: Visualization of heat maps and mass spectra.**

700 Visualizations of heat maps, overlay image and mass spectra plots of a chilli section that is
701 part of the chilli training that we provide in the Galaxy training network [19, 58]. a) Heat map
702 of the m/z feature 306.6 that corresponds to capsaicin. b) Overlay of the m/z features 306.6,
703 62.2 and 84.2 that show different distribution in the chilli section. c) Average mass spectrum
704 for the complete chilli dataset. d) Overlay of single mass spectra that belong to different chilli
705 compartments: green: pericarp, light blue: placenta, purple: seeds, red: average mass
706 spectra of all other chilli spectra.

707

708 **Figure 4: Co-registration strategy using affine transformation and landmarks.**

709 Co-registration of an MSI image with a histological H&E image from a mouse kidney via
710 affine transformation. The affine transformation is estimated from the landmarks (red dots)
711 that the user has to provide. Landmarks can be either characteristic marks of the sample or
712 marks applied outside the tissue e.g. with a xylene resistant pen (black crosses). The
713 transformation matrix, estimated by the affine transformation estimation tool, can be used to
714 generate an overlay of both images (right image) for visual inspection. Moreover, the matrix
715 can be used to transfer the annotated regions of interest in the H&E image to the MSI
716 coordinates (not shown here).

717

718 **Figure 5: Results from the unsupervised statistical analysis of N-linked glycans in**
719 **murine kidney tissues.**

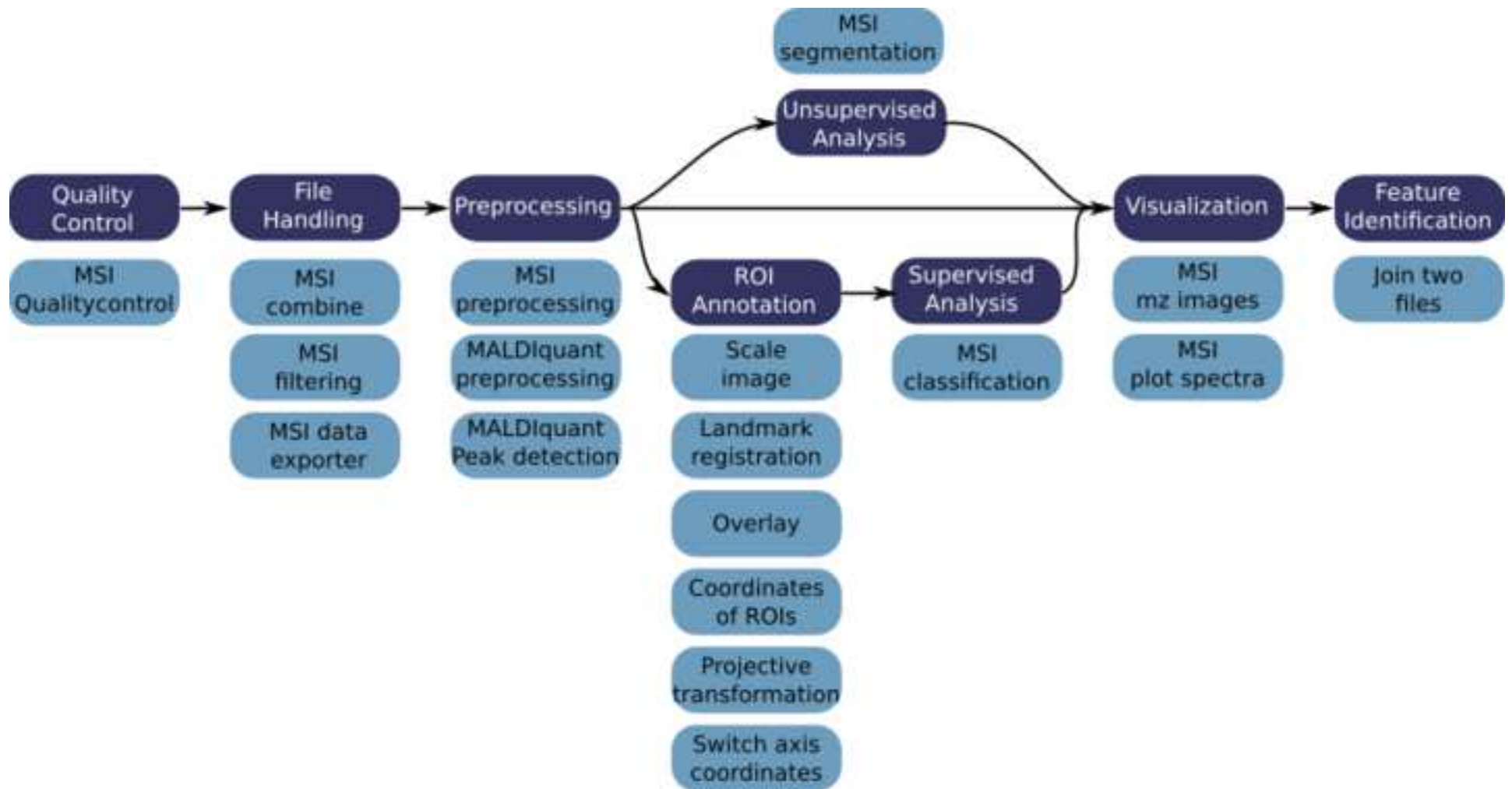
720 Principal component analysis of treated, control and calibrant files. a) Overlay of all principal
721 component scores. b-d) Principal components 1,3 and 4 that discriminate treated and control

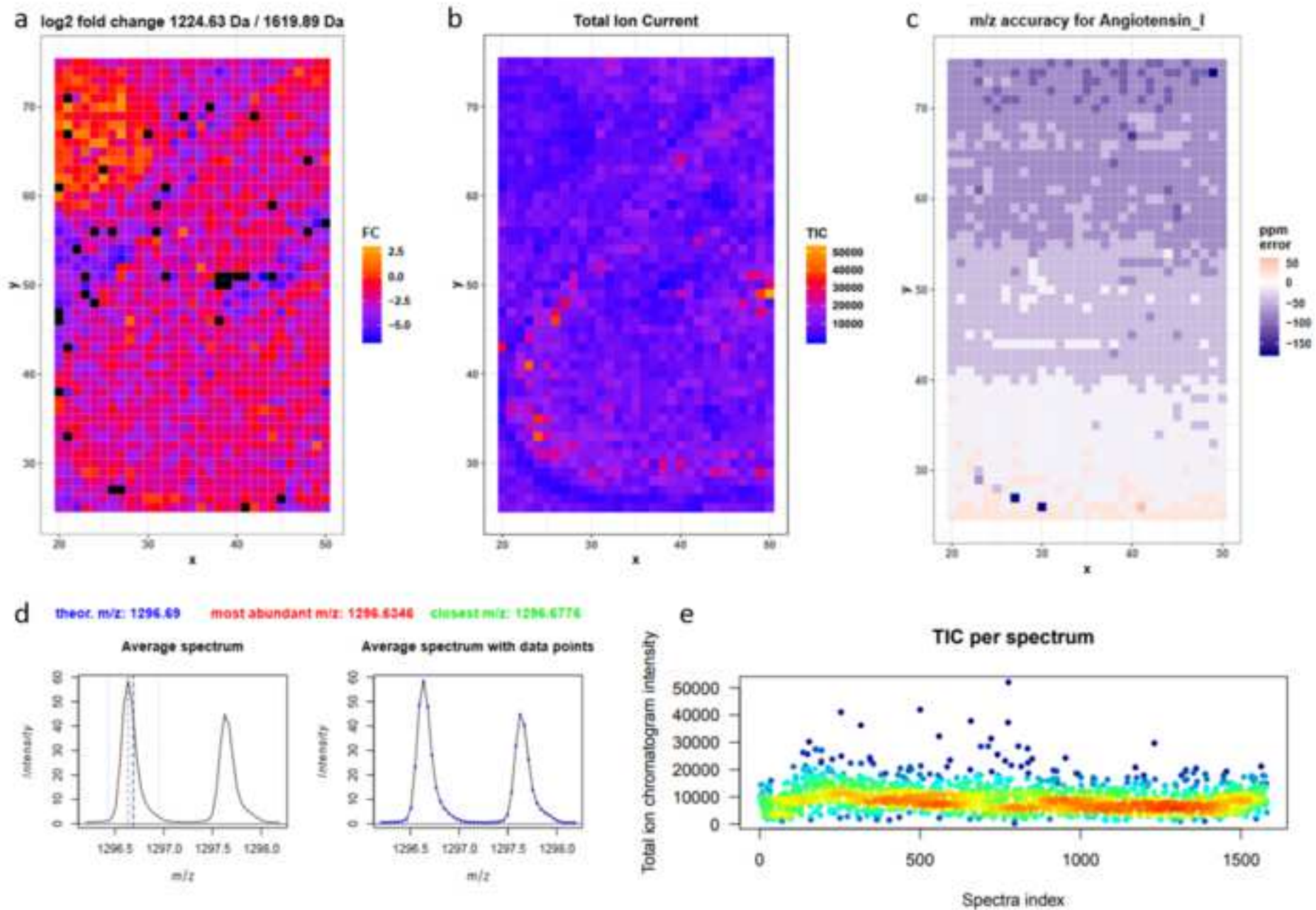
722 tissue or different kidney compartments. I = treated kidney1, II = treated kidney2, III = control
723 kidney, IV = calibrants.

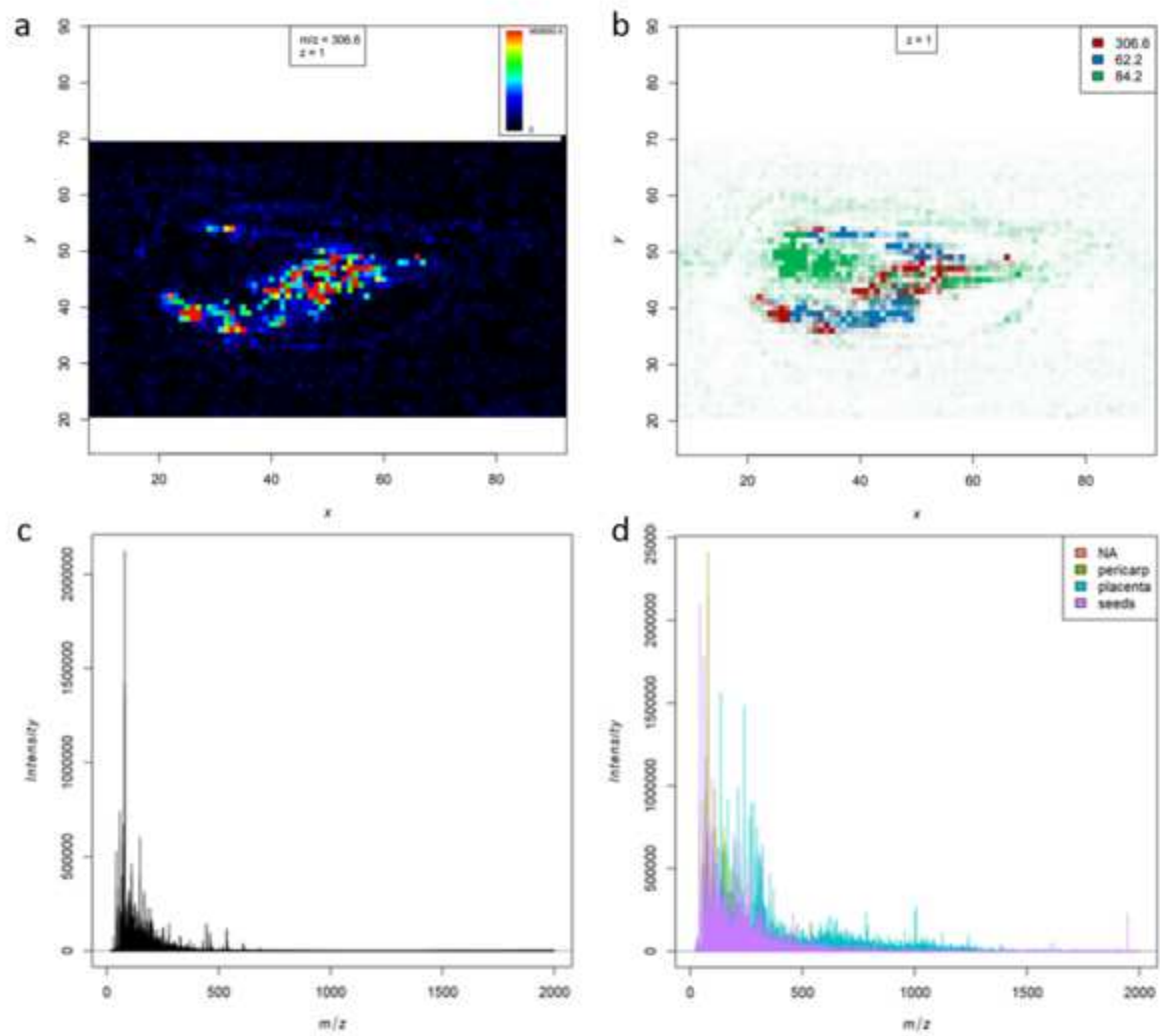
724

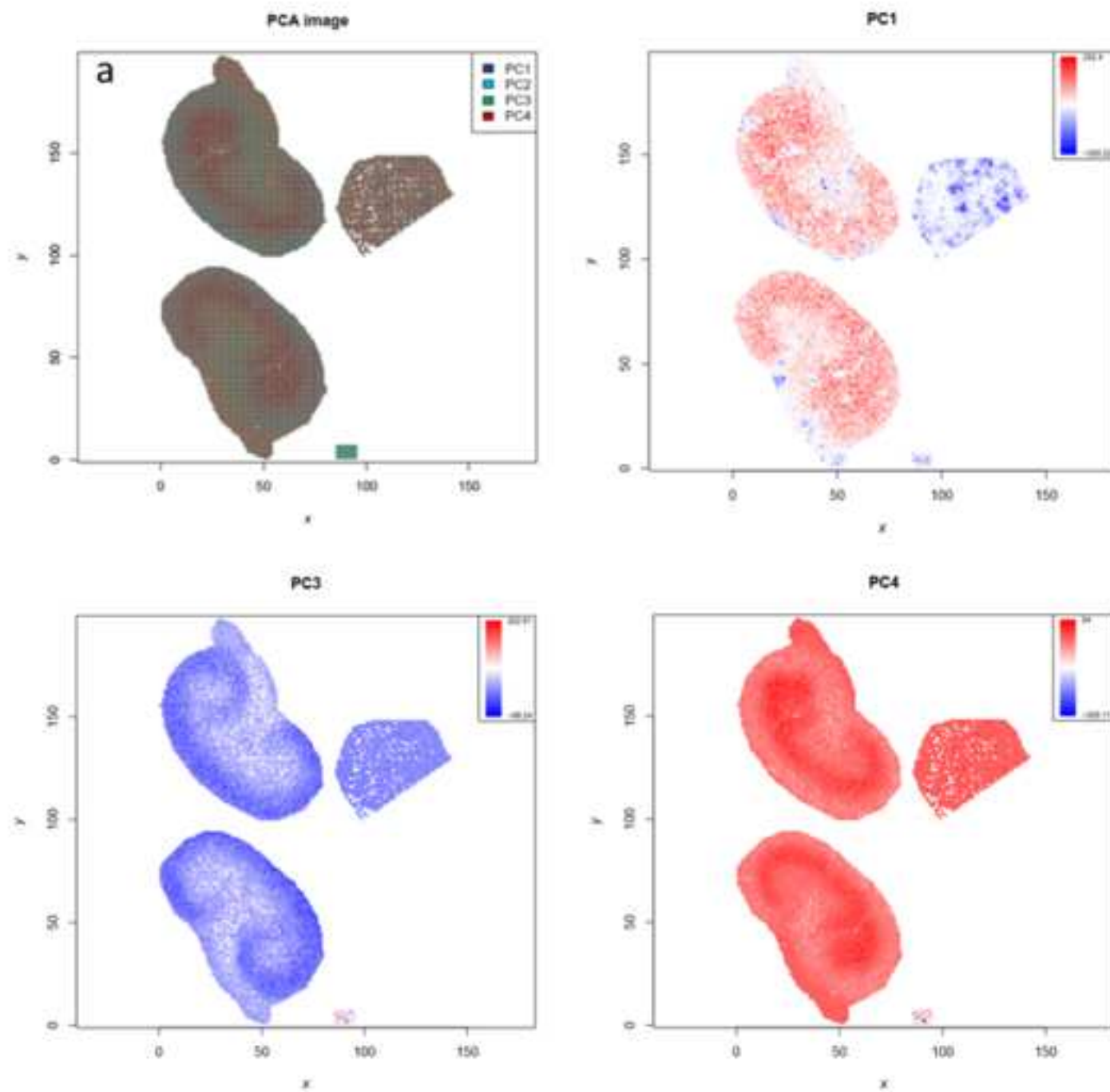
725 **Figure 6: Results from the supervised statistical analysis of N-linked glycans in**
726 **murine kidney tissues.**

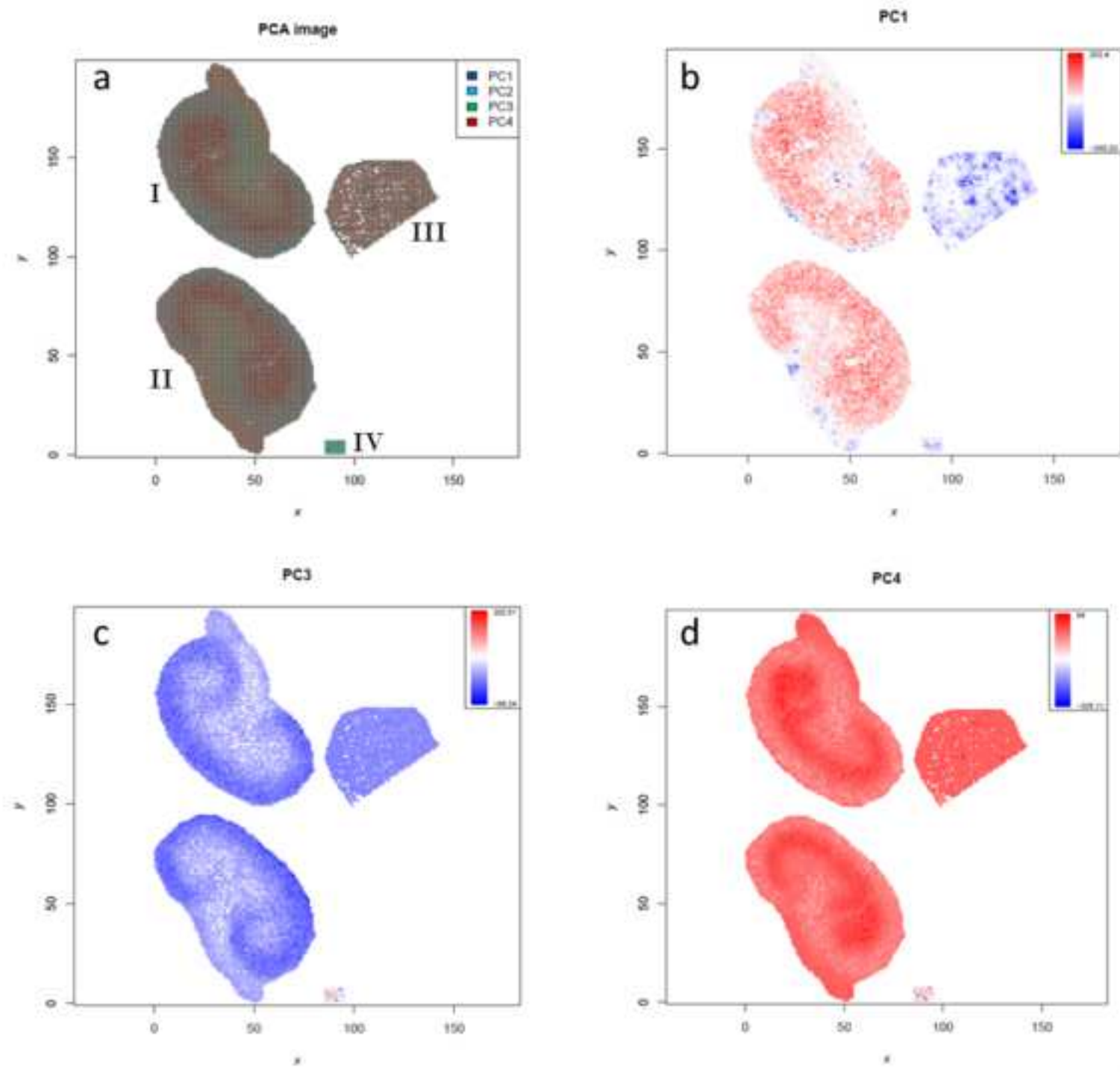
727 The supervised spatial shrunken centroids method was used to determine m/z features that
728 are more abundant in the treated than in the control tissue specimen. a) Spatial shrunken
729 centroids class prediction for all spectra. b-e) Intensity distribution images for four identified
730 N-linked glycans (Hex)₂(HexNAc)₂(Deoxyhexose)₁+(Man)₃(GlcNAc)₂ (m/z 1663.6),
731 (Hex)₆+(Man)₃(GlcNAc)₂ (m/z 1905.7), (Hex)₂(HexNAc)₃(Deoxyhexose)₃+(Man)₃(GlcNAc)₂
732 (m/z 2304.9) and (Hex)₃(HexNAc)₄(Deoxyhexose)₁+(Man)₃(GlcNAc)₂(m/z 2816.0). f) Overlay
733 of three N-linked glycans with different distribution in the kidney. The ion distribution images
734 and the overlay image were generated with contrast enhancement by suppression on TIC
735 normalized data. I = treated kidney1, II = treated kidney2, III = control kidney, IV = calibrants.

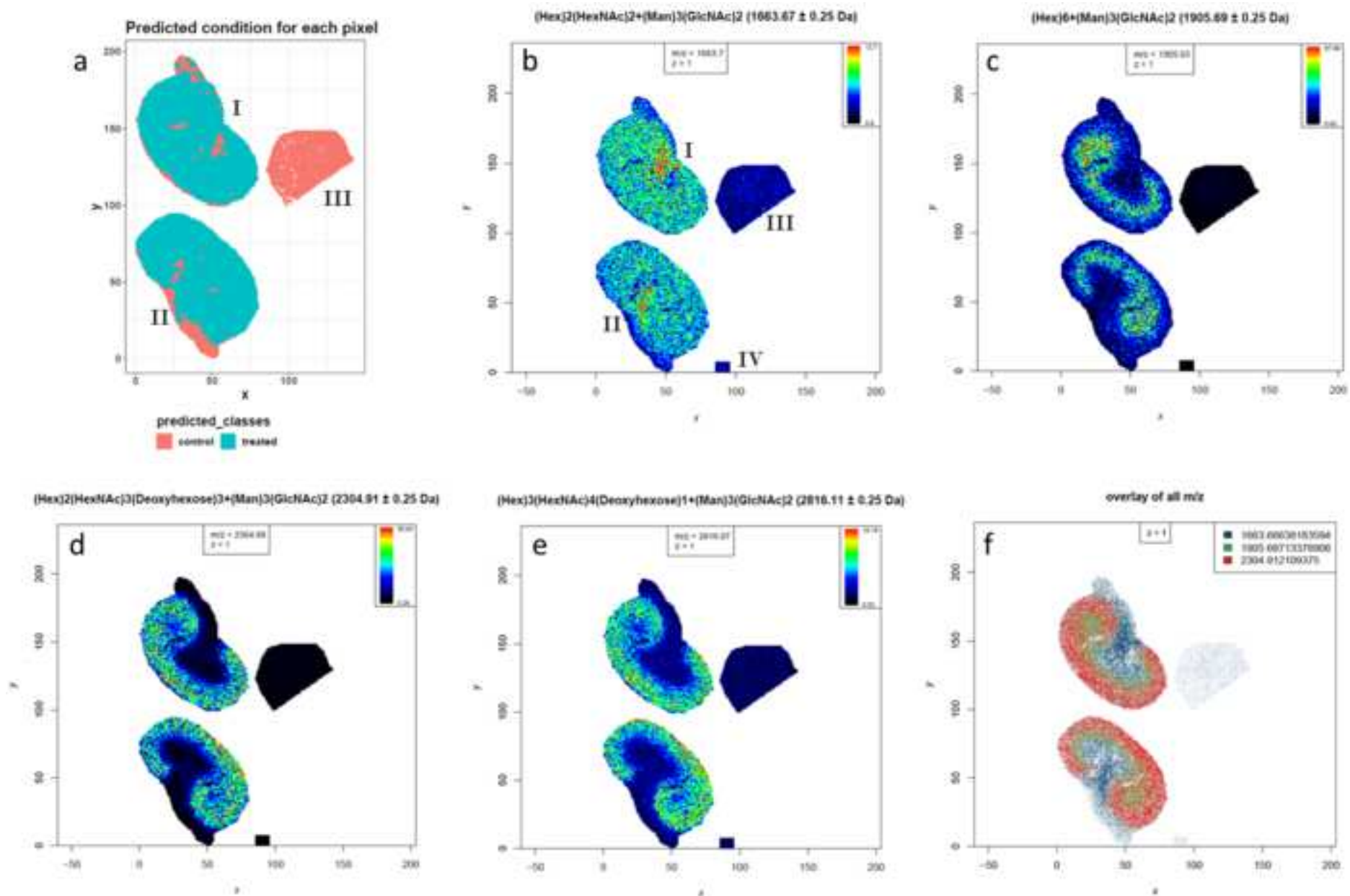


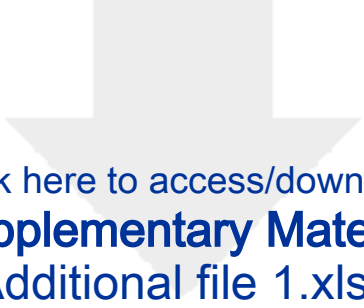







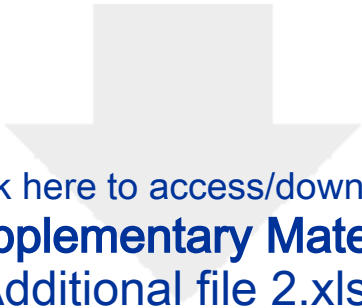




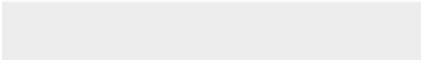



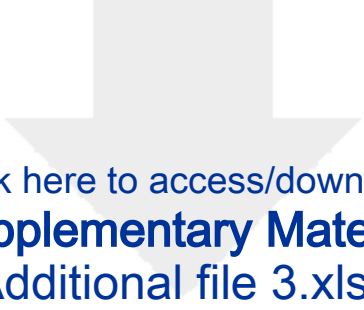
Click here to access/download
Supplementary Material
Additional file 1.xlsx



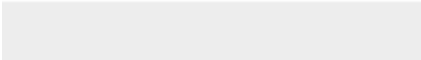




Click here to access/download
Supplementary Material
Additional file 2.xlsx





Click here to access/download
Supplementary Material
Additional file 3.xlsx





Click here to access/download
Supplementary Material
Additional file 4.pdf

