

# Configuring and Navigating Chromatogram Window NIST26

Video/Associated Handout

James Little

Mass Spec Interpretation Services

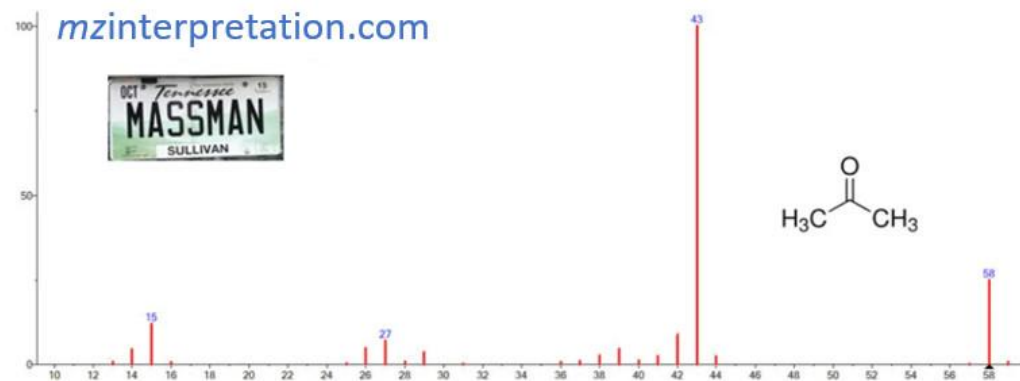
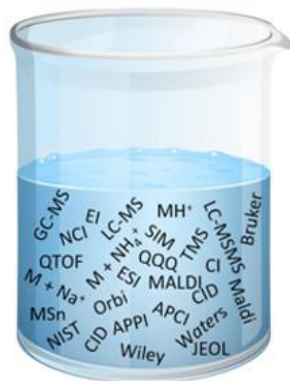
April 24, 2026

[mzinterpretation.com](http://mzinterpretation.com)

See **Full Course** on NIST26 with new **Integrated** Deconvolution/Library Searching for **EI GC-MS** and **LC-MS/MS**!

## Mass Spec ( $m/z$ ) Interpretation Services

Organic Mass Spectrometry



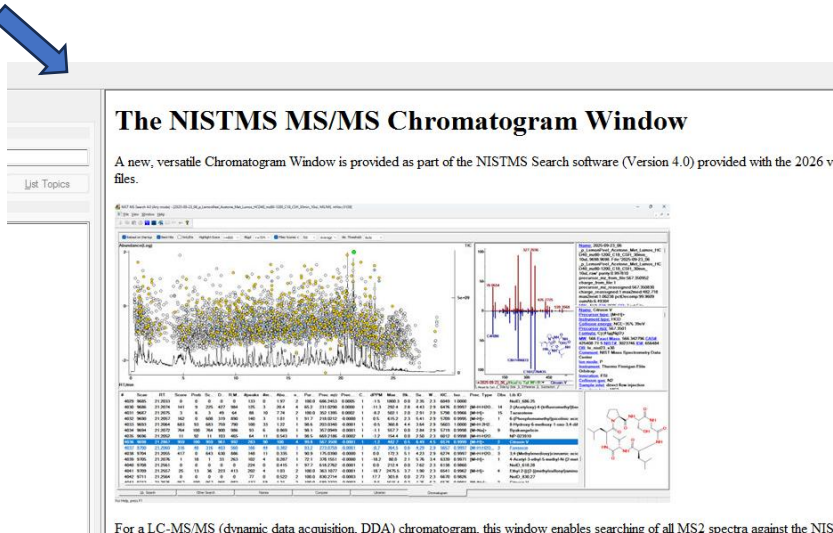
## Setup for NIST26 Chromatogram Window

- Very windows compliant
- Consistent approach in Chromatogram and Other Windows within NIST Search
- Demonstrated for EI and MS/MS in MS/MS Chromatogram window
- Essentially same setup in EI and MS/MS conceptually
- Lots of In-program help and detailed Users' Manual

# Help Options (1 of 3)

- Help right corner many windows
- V4.0 User's Manual

F1



For a LC-MS/MS (dynamic data acquisition, DDA) chromatogram, this window enables searching of all MS2 spectra against the NIS

User's Manual



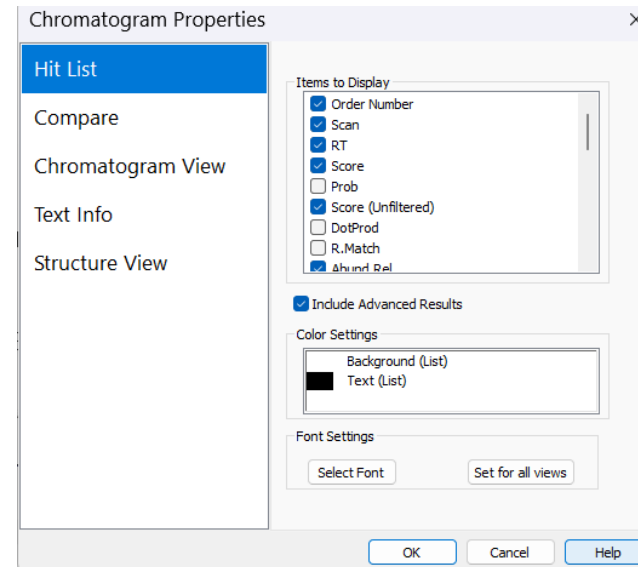
## NIST Standard Reference Database 1A

### **NIST Mass Spectral Search Program (Version 4.0) Mass Spectral Libraries (NIST/EPA/NIH EI & NIST Tandem 2026) For Use with Microsoft® Windows User's Guide**

This provides instructions for the use of NIST/EPA/NIH and Tandem Libraries, which are provided under separate Licenses, with MS Search v.4.0. Some sections are for individual Libraries and others are for use of both Libraries.

## **Contents**

New Features in NIST 26 Libraries & the MS Search Program .....	1
NIST 26 Libraries .....	1
What's New in MS Search Program v.4.0 .....	1
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New Features MS Search Program v.2.4 .....	3
Enhancements to Utility Programs Since NIST 11 .....	4

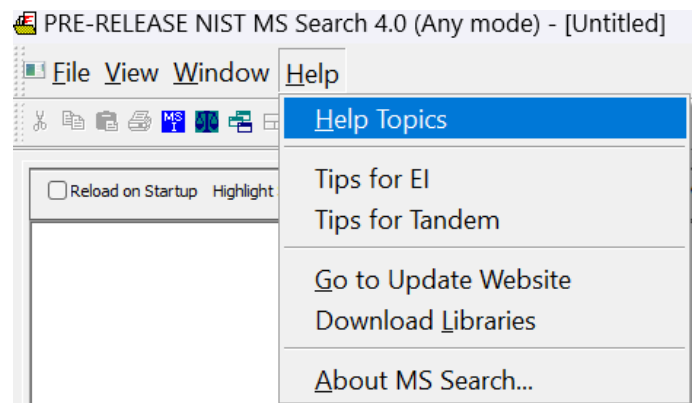


Right corner Help

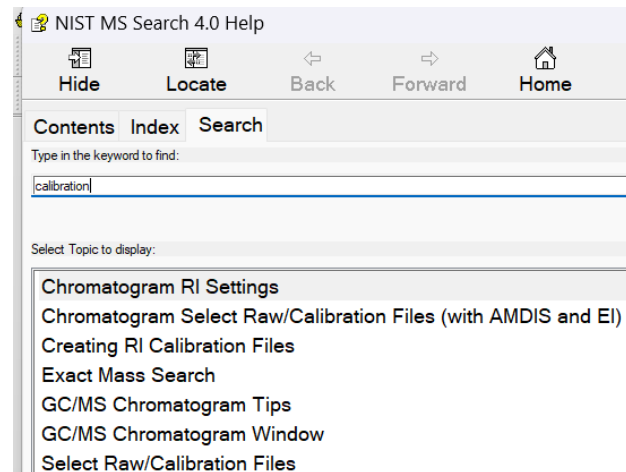


# Help Options (2 of 3)

- Help from Menu bar
- Help topics
- Other useful topics accessed in Help Topics
- Tips for EI, Tips for Tandem, What's New

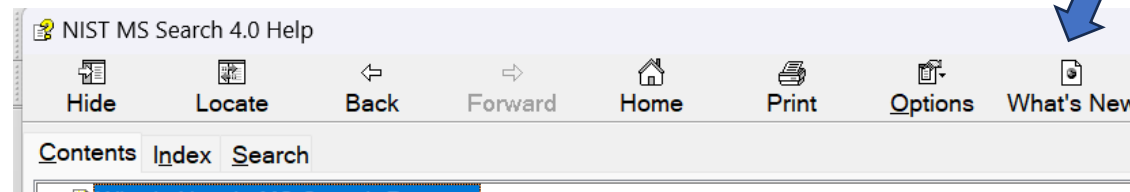


Help Bar Menu



- Click on Help Topics can:
- Select contents for general categories
- Index for Pages
- Search for Key Words

What's New



## GC/MS Chromatogram Tips

*How to Display Hits, Analyze Data, Export Data:*

### Display Hits

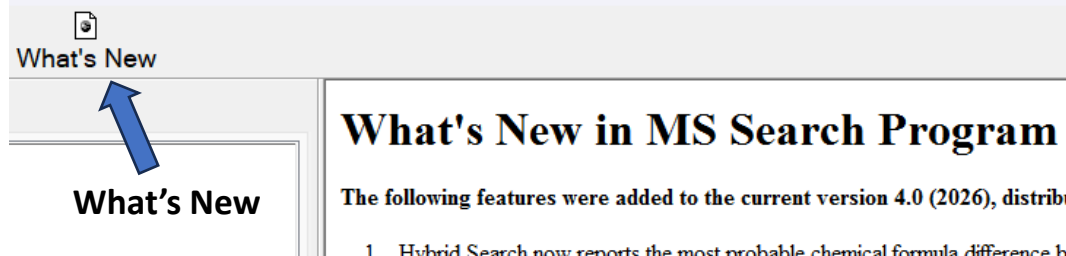
- 1) Show only IDs above a selected score
  - a) Set threshold score in *Filter Score* text box

## Tandem Chromatogram Tips

*How to Display Hits, Analyze Data, Export Data:*

### Display Hits

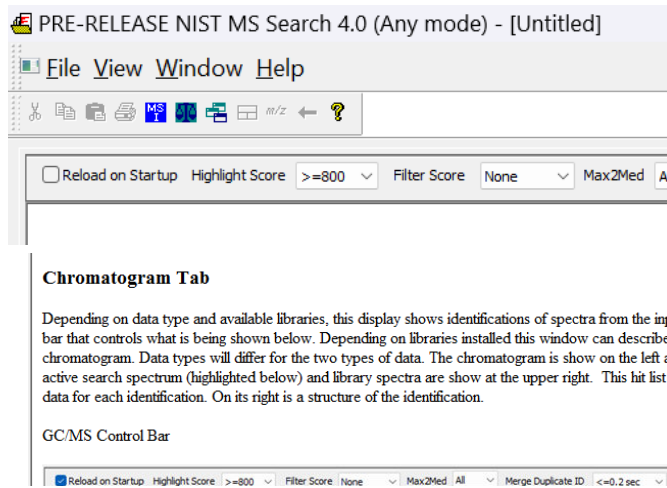
- 1) Show only IDs above a selected score
  - a) On bar above chromatogram, turn *Filter Scores* button on
  - b) Enter minimum score threshold into text box after *Filter Scores*
  - c) Change selection in combo box to *Fixed*
  - d) Only IDs with score above entered value will appear in chromatogram and hit list
  - e) May set at 900 for a clear view of the TIC
- 2) Examine in-source ions to look for precursor ion



# Help Options (3 of 3)

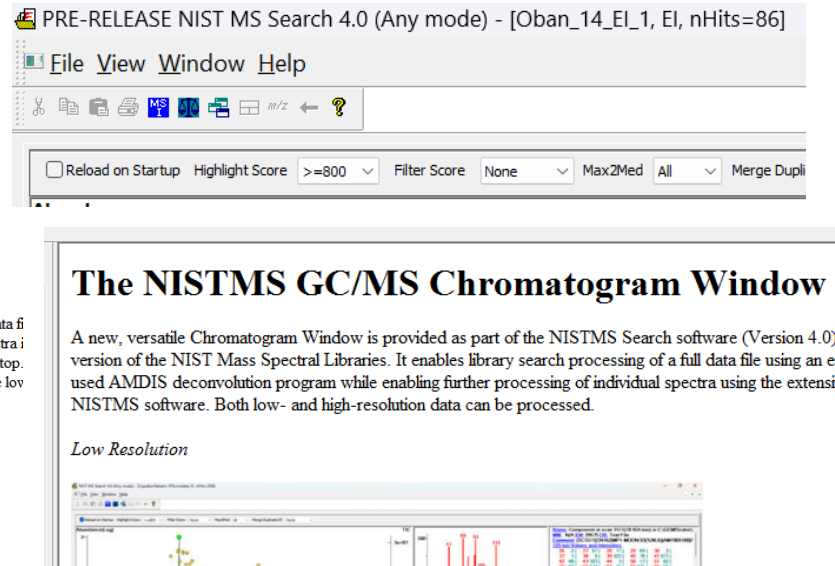
- Within Chromatogram and other functions
- F1 on keyboard will display very useful help files
- When Chromatogram opened with no results shown, see Fig. 1
- When open with an EI File results shown, Fig. 2
- When open with a MS/MS File shown, Fig. 3
- Fig. 2 and 3 show more specific information, Fig. 1 more general!

Fig. 1



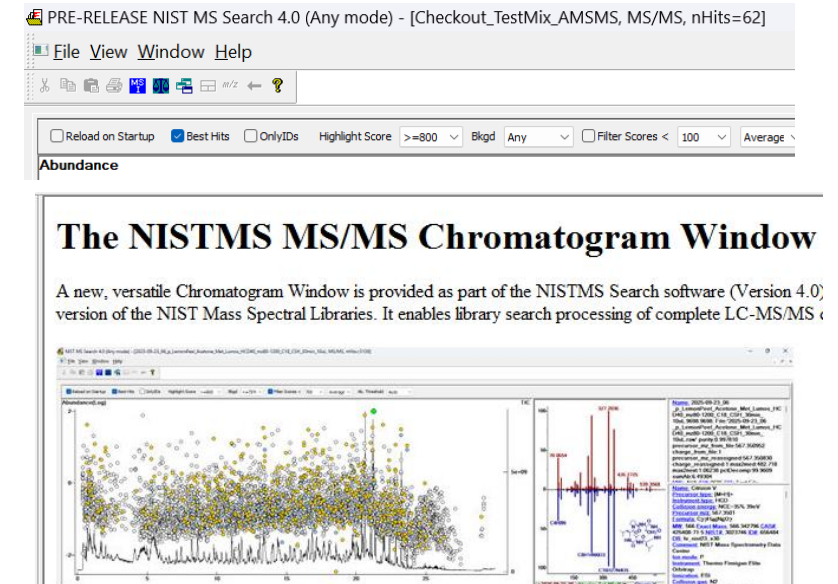
No File Results when program opens

Fig. 2

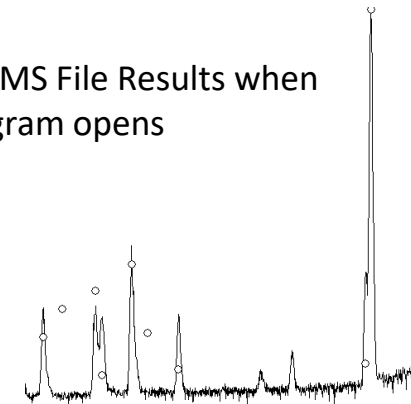
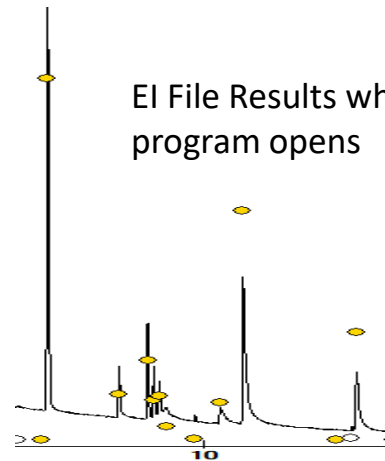


EI File Results when program opens

Fig. 3



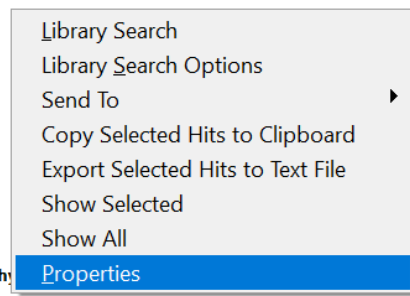
MS/MS File Results when program opens



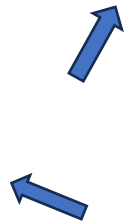
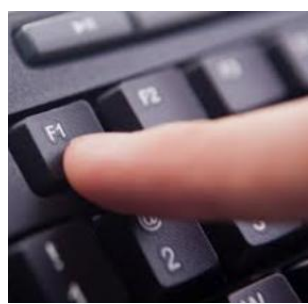
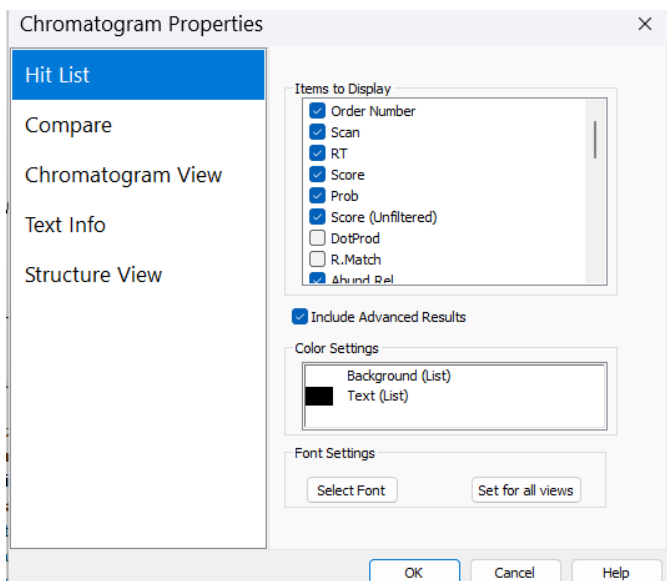
➤ Suggested Properties, Many Others by Right Clicking on Bottom Window and Selecting Properties

➤ *All windows* offer additional processing options with Right Click

#	Scan	RT	Score	▼ Prob	Score (Unfiltered)	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z	dPPM	Prec. Type	Lib	Dbs	Lib ID
1	3171	11.5521	754	100	754	100	305.1091	-2.9	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	32	Diazinon
2	2189	7.7932	662	100	662	35.6	242.2854	-5.0	[Cat] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	23	Tetrabutylammonium cation
3	834	2.8621	600	100	600	15.4	209.1287	-1.0	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	17	Aminocarb
4	3153	11.4820	491	99	491	19.0	388.1065	-1.5	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	21	Pyraclostrobin
5	2320	8.3540	346	99	346	5.01	418.0133	1.2	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	14	Metosulam
6	1370	4.7813	522	99	522	14.0	262.1194	-3.1	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	18	Imazapyr
7	2001	7.0795	394	98	394	25.1	297.0556	-0.0	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	26	Imazalil
8	2457	8.9288	352	97	352	17.6	278.1061	-2.2	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	17	Metazachlor
9	1649	5.7934	304	94	304	8.66	230.0069	0.0	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	26	Dimethoate
10	2211	7.8859	301	73	301	16.3	222.1129	-1.8	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	27	Carbofuran
11	2306	8.2865	662	68	662	41.5	216.1020	-4.6	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	32	Atrazine
12	2786	10.0524	249	60	249	5.49	188.1102	1.1	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	23	Molinate
13	2113	7.5182	25	57	25	0.662	244.1899	3.3	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#3	1	tert-Butyl (1S)-1-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxyeth
14	1023	6.7850	104	56	104	12.7	229.0740	-0.9	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	15	Metaxuron



- Select “Include Advanced Results”
- keyboard F1 or Help for definitions



NIST MS Search 4.0 Help

Hide Locate Back Forward Home Print Options What's New

Contents Index Search

Type in the keyword to find:

Accurate mass

- Any Peaks Search - Accurate Loss
- Any Peaks Search - Accurate m/z
- HiRes No Precursor search
- HiRes No Precursor spectrum
- Adding a clipboard structure to the Spec List
- Adding structures to user library spectra
- AMDIS
- Any Peaks Search
- Attach Structure
- Auto Print
- Auto Report
- Automatic Searching
- Automation
- BrCl combinations - ClBr Cl2Br Cl3Br ClBr2 Cl
- BrCl combinations - ClBr3 Cl2Br3 Br Br2 Br3 E
- CAS Number Search
- Choose Library
- Chromatogram
- Chromatogram Tab
- GC/MS Chromatogram
- Tandem Chromatogram

**Chromatogram hit list Tandem Properties**

Chromatogram Properties

Hit List

Compare

Chromatogram View

Text Info

Structure View

Items to Display

- Order Number
- Scan
- RT
- Score
- Prob
- Score (Unfiltered)
- DotProd
- R.Match
- Abund Rel

Include Advanced Results

Color Settings

Background (List)

Text (List)

Font Settings

Select Font Set for all views

OK Cancel Help

Items to Display (Tandem Hit List Column Data Types)

## Move Position of Properties Displayed by Left Click and Drag

#	Scan	RT	Score	▼ Prob	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z	dPPM	Prec. Type	Lib	Dbs	Lib ID
1	3171	11.5521	754	100	100	305.1091	-2.9	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	32	Diazinon
2	2189	7.7932	662	100	35.6	242.2854	-5.0	[Cat] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	23	Tetrabutylammonium cation
3	834	2.8621	600	100	15.4	209.1287	-1.0	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	17	Aminocarb
4	3153	11.4820	491	99	19.0	388.1065	-1.5	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	21	Pyraclostrobin



#	Scan	RT	Score	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z	▼ Prob	dPPM	Prec. Type	Lib	Dbs	Lib ID
1	3171	11.5521	754	100	305.1091	100	-2.9	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	32	Diazinon
2	2189	7.7932	662	35.6	242.2854	100	-5.0	[Cat] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	23	Tetrabutylammonium cation

“Stretch Columns” by left click and drag, see double arrow to grab side of a column


d.Rel.	Prec. m/z	▼ Prob	dPPM	Prec
	305.1091	100	-2.9	[M
	242.2854	100	-5.0	[Ca
	209.1287	100	-1.0	[M+




Prec. m/z	▼ Prob	dPPM	Pi
305.1091	100	-2.9	[M
242.2854	100	-5.0	[C

Left Clicking on column sorts results by that property, click twice to change from high to low value

#	Scan	▼ RT	Score	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z
3	3153	11.4820	491	19.0	388.1065
4	2905	10.4787	2	1.74	353.0258
5	2904	10.4768	4	1.44	348.0706
6	2896	10.4766	96	3.56	331.0433

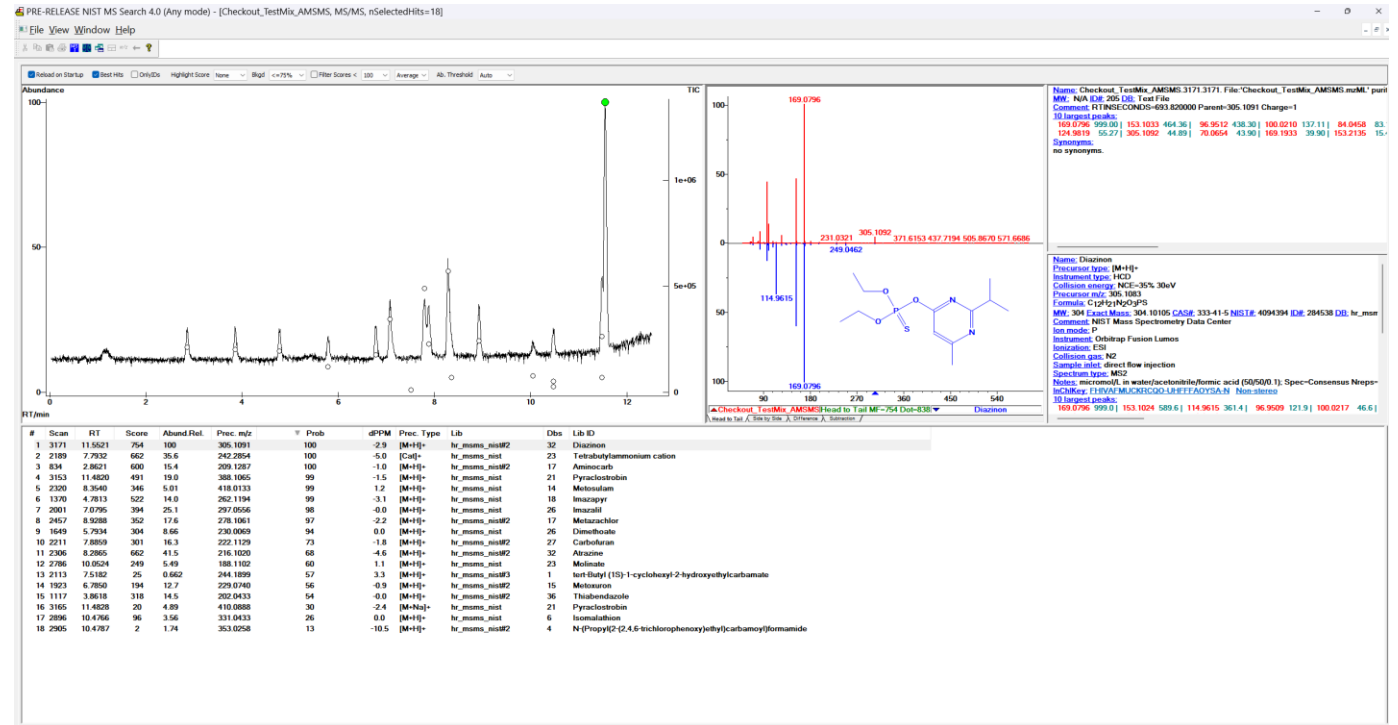
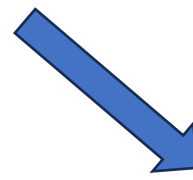
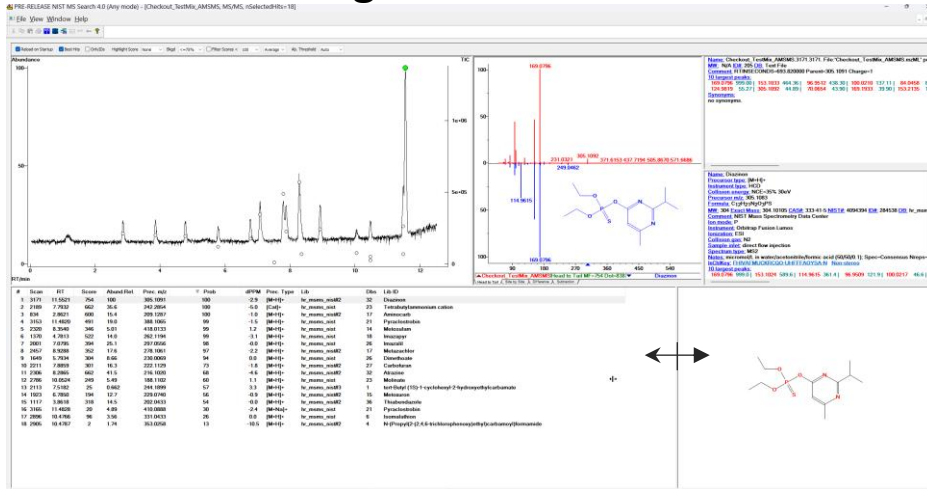


#	Scan	RT	▼ Score	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z
3	2189	7.7932	662	35.6	242.2854
4	834	2.8621	600	15.4	209.1287
5	1370	4.7813	522	14.0	262.1194
6	3153	11.4820	491	19.0	388.1065
7	2001	7.0795	394	25.1	297.0556
8	2457	8.9288	352	17.6	278.1061



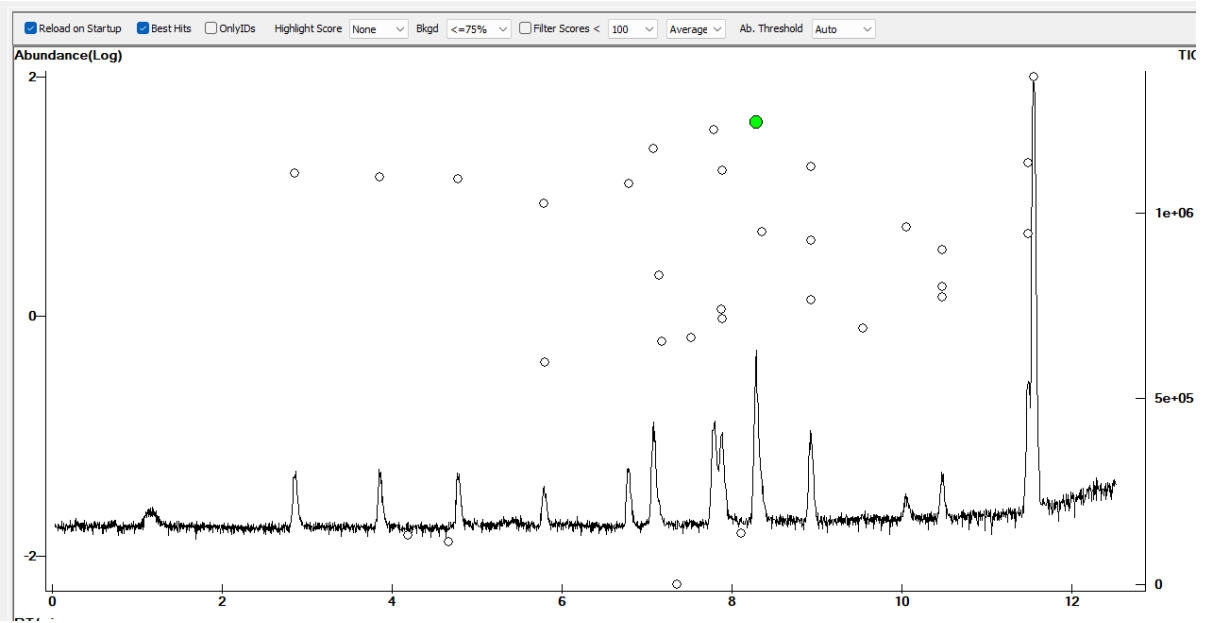
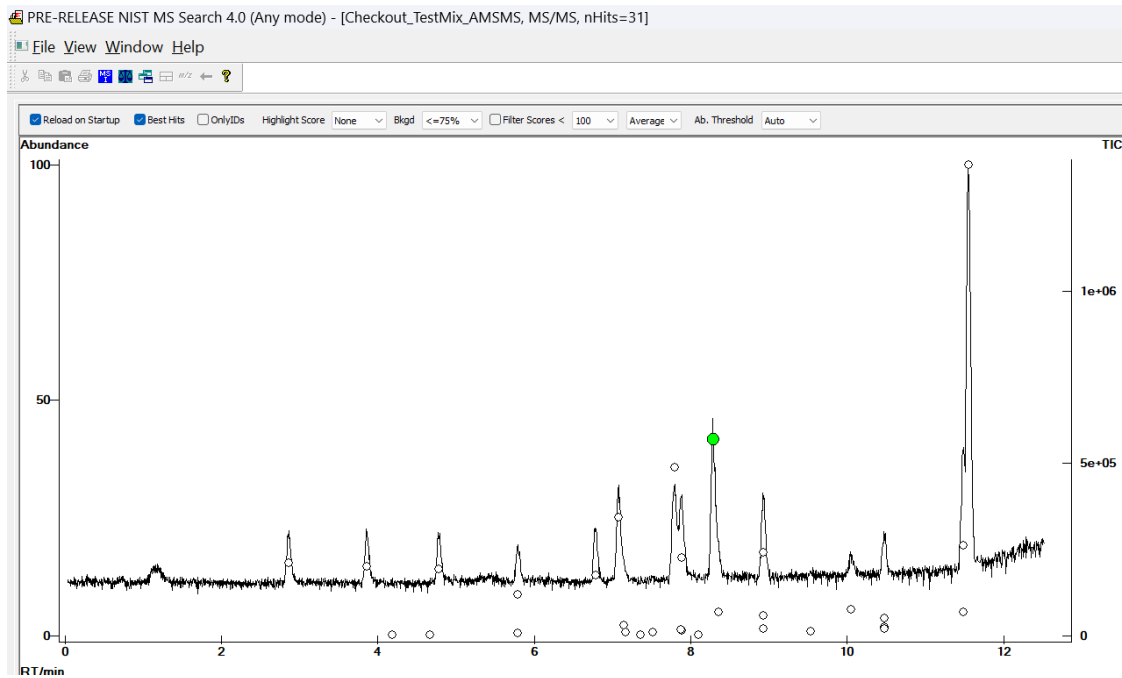
#	Scan	RT	▲ Score	Abund.Rel.	Prec
3	2075	7.3610	0	0.00579	295.
4	2197	8.1060	0	0.0152	222.
5	2634	9.5386	0	0.784	371.
6	2017	7.1496	2	2.16	311.
7	2494	8.9283	2	4.27	279.
8	2905	10.4787	2	1.74	353.

# All windows can be resized by letting mouse pause on the side or bottom of window to see “doubled sided” arrow, left click and drag



# Abundances can be compressed on baseline, often easier to visualize using Abundance Axis "Log"

**Notice**, Abundance Axis on Left, Total Ion Current, TIC, on right



- Library Search
- Library Search Options
- Send To
- Show All
- Undo Zoom
- Redo Zoom
- Properties



Chromatogram Properties

- Hit List
- Compare
- Chromatogram View
- Text Info

Show TIC on Plot

Abund. Axis Linear

TIC Axis Linear



Right click in chromatogram at top and select to get menu

Chromatogram Properties

- Hit List
- Compare
- Chromatogram View
- Text Info
- Structure View

Show TIC on Plot

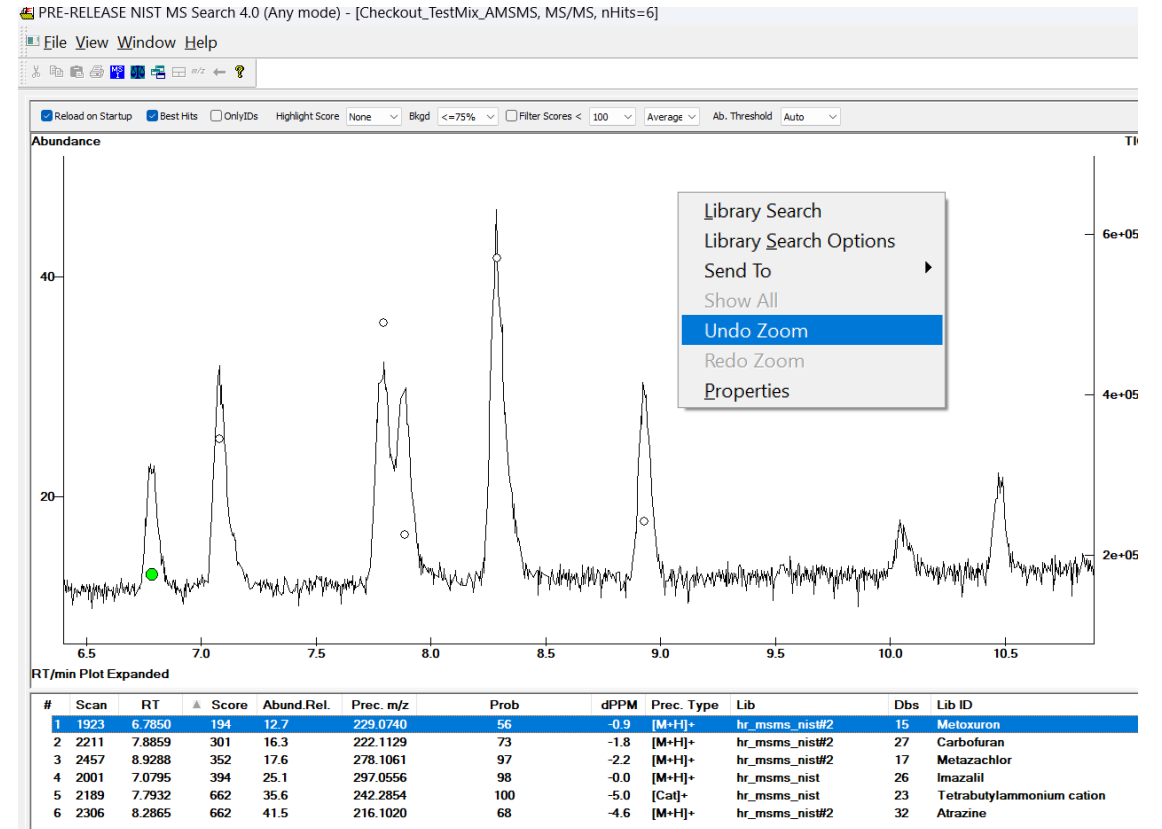
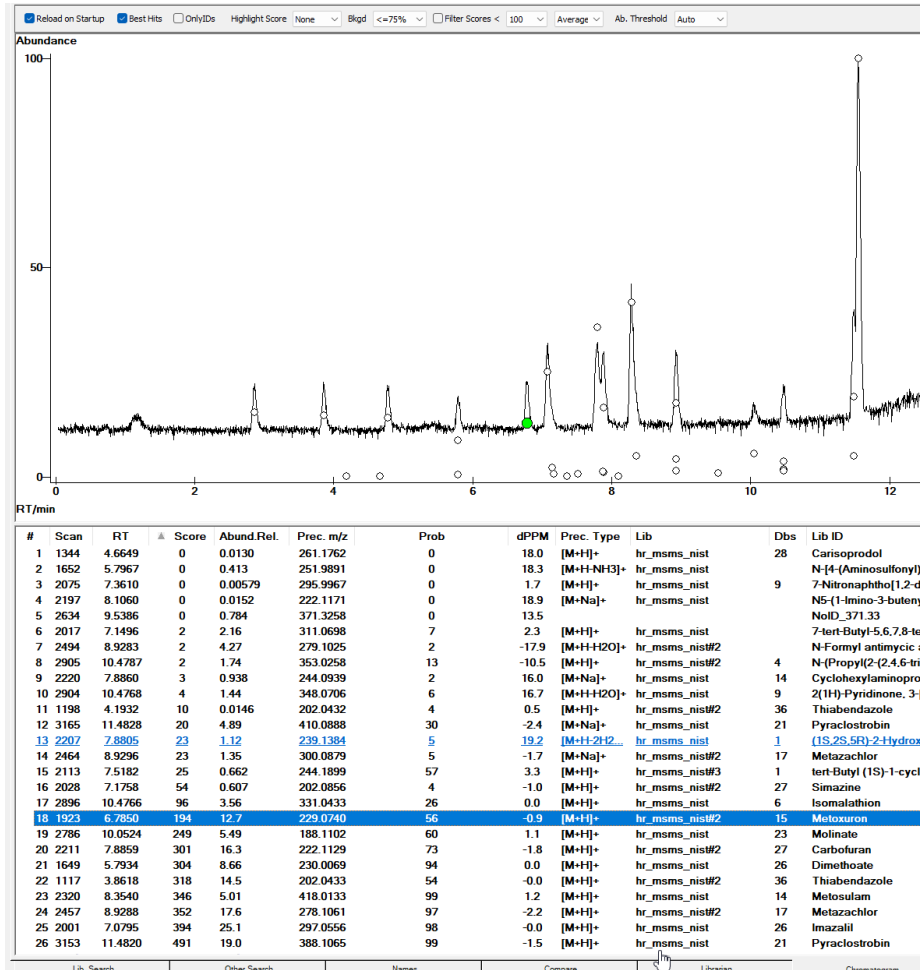
Abund. Axis Log

TIC Axis Linear



# Left Click and Drag in Chromatogram Window to Expand and Limit Results in Bottom List

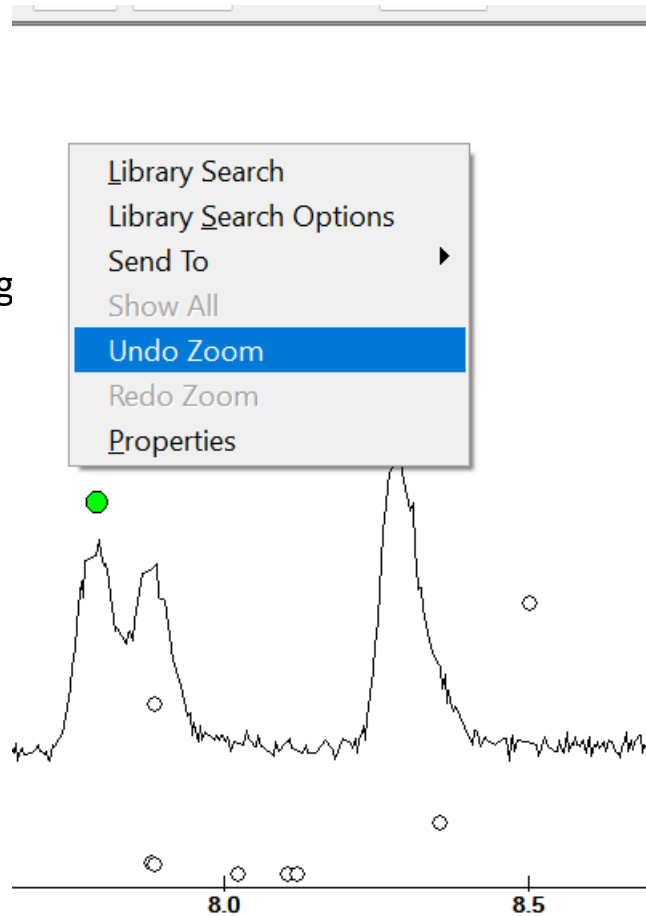
Undo by Right Clicking in Chromatogram and Undo zoom



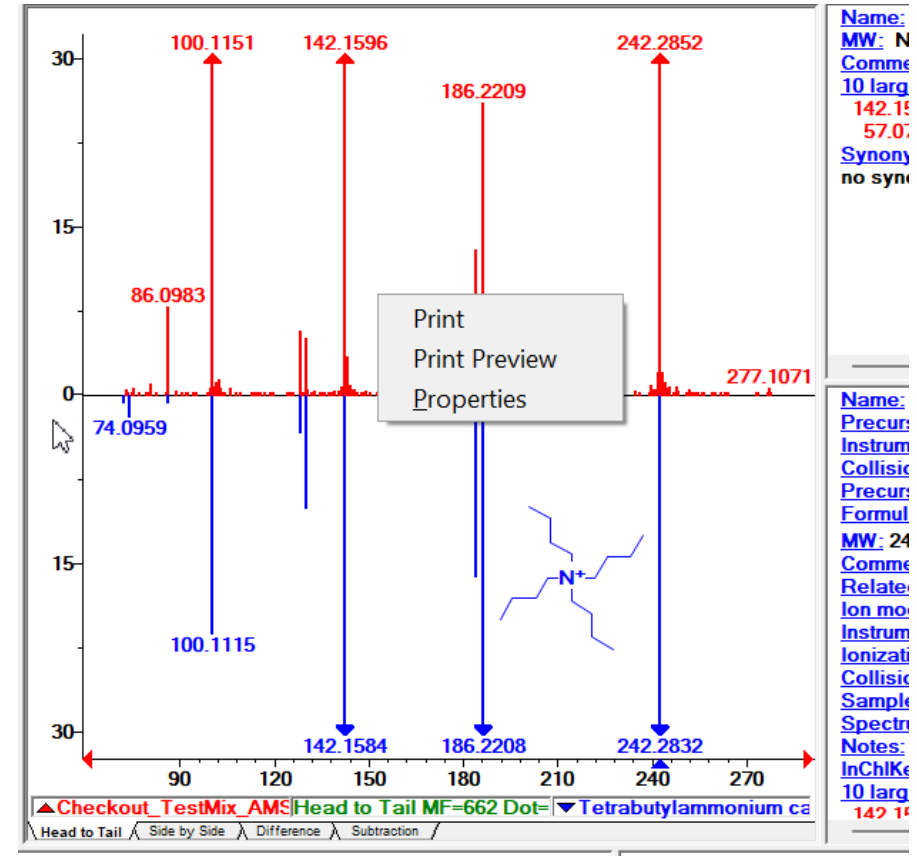
## Zooming and “Unzooming” Windows

- **All** spectral windows in the NIST Program can be **zoomed** by “left click and drag” and forming a box
- **Almost all** windows can be “**Unzoomed**” by “right clicking and select **Undo Zoom**”
- **All windows** can be “**Unzoomed**” by “double left clicking” in the window
- The spectral display can **only** be “unzoomed” by “double left clicking”

Or “double left clicking  
in window



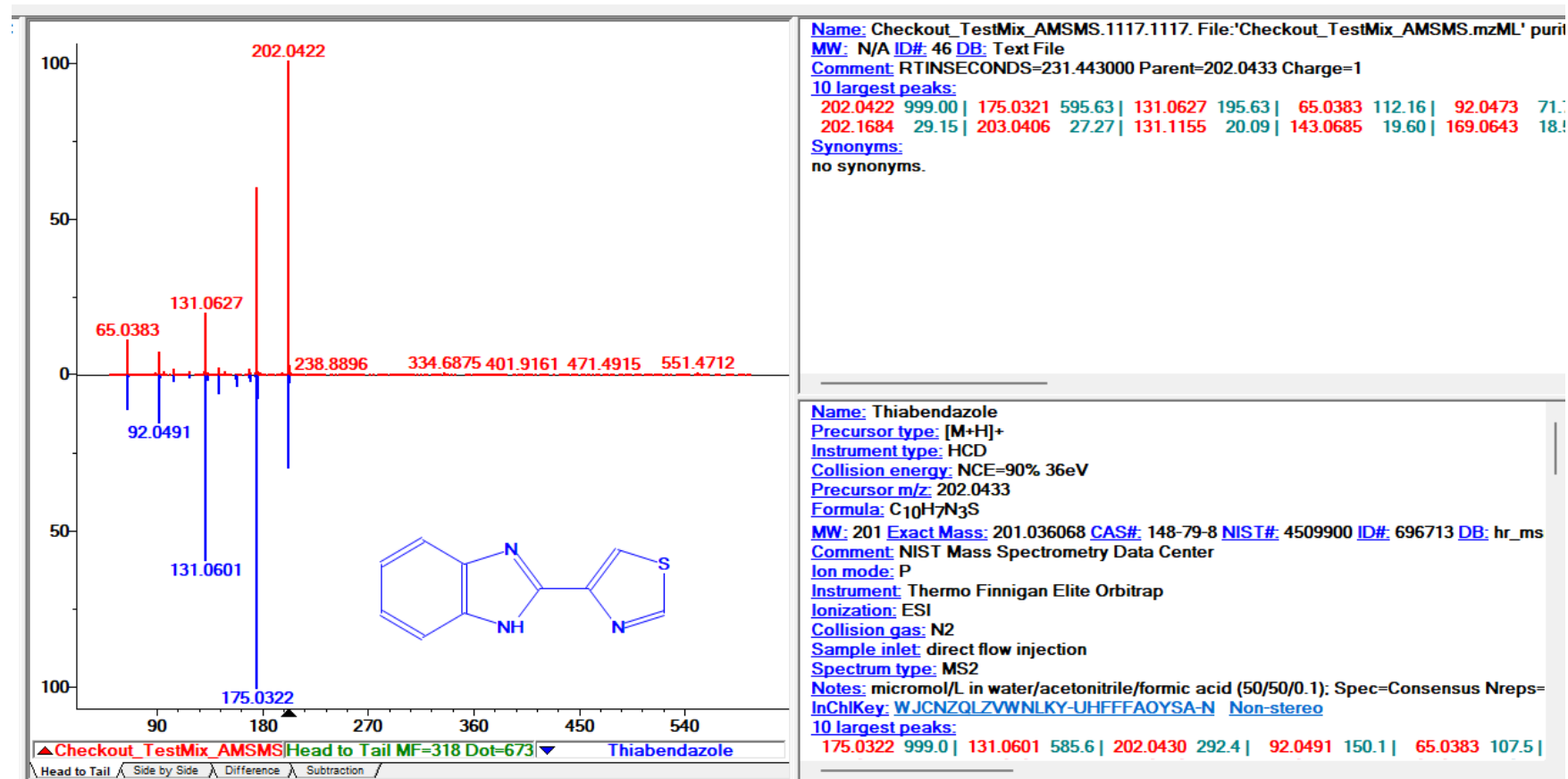
**Only** “double left clicking” in window in  
Chromatogram Window to “**Unzoom**”



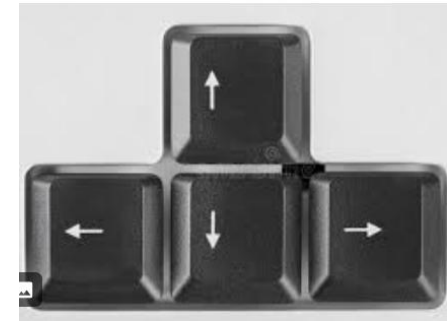
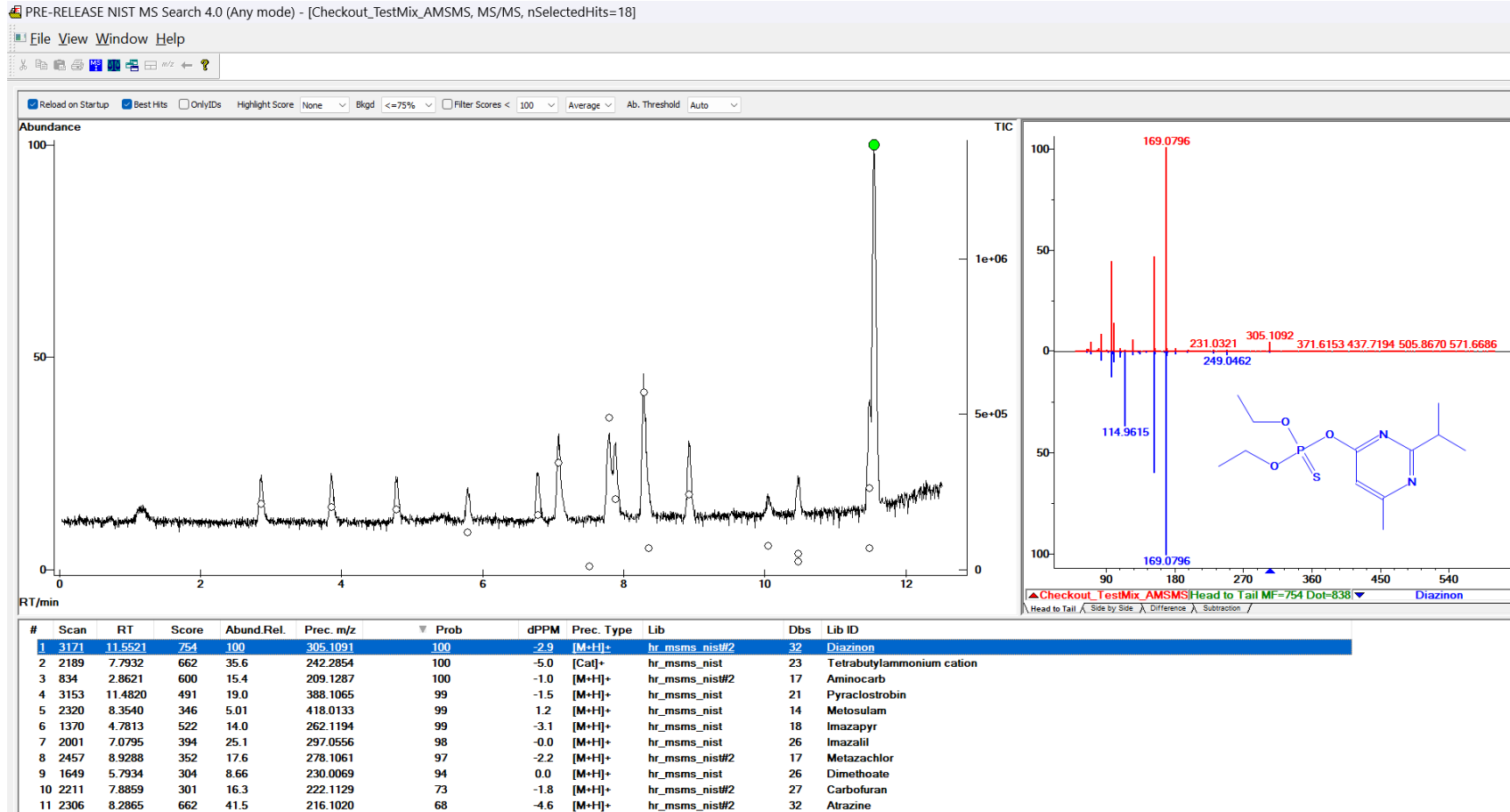


# Reviewing Identities Noted in Chromatographic Plot and List in “Butterfly” Head to Tail Plot

- As circles in either chromatogram or a component in table are clicked, results are previewed in top pane
- MS2 of spectrum is shown in top spectrum of butterfly plot (“Head to tail”)
- Library search results shown in bottom
- Spectrum format changed by tabs on bottom of plot, e.g. “Head to tail” my favorite



Left click on first entry in bottom window, then step through with keyboard arrows to review results



## Use Ctrl and Shift Keys with Left Click to Select Items in the Bottom Window

Use **Shift** to select continuous ranges of cells or rows in a table by clicking the first item, holding Shift, and clicking the last item. Use **Ctrl** to select non-adjacent (separate) items by clicking each item while holding down Ctrl.



#	Scan	RT	Score	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z	Prob	dPPM	Prec. Type	Lib	Dbs	Lib ID
1	3171	11.5521	754	100	305.1091	100	-2.9	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	32	Diazinon
2	2189	7.7932	662	35.6	242.2854	100	-5.0	[Cat] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	23	Tetrabutylamm
3	834	2.8621	600	15.4	209.1287	100	-1.0	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	17	Aminocarb
4	3153	11.4820	491	19.0	388.1065	99	-1.5	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	21	Pyraclostrobin
5	2320	8.3540	346	5.01	418.0133	99	1.2	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	14	Metosulam
6	1370	4.7813	522	14.0	262.1194	99	-3.1	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	18	Imazapyr
7	2001	7.0705	204	25.1	207.0556	99	0.0	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	26	Imazalil

## Show Selected to remove unwanted entries, always undo by Show All

#	Scan	RT	▲ Score	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z	Prob	dPPM
3	2075	7.3610	0	0.00579	295.9967	0	1.7
4	2197	8.1060	0	0.0152	222.1171	0	18.9
5	2634	9.5386	0	0.784	371.3258	0	13.5
6	2017	7.1496	2	2.16	311.0698	7	2.3
7	2494	8.9283	2	4.27	279.1025	2	-17.9
8	2905	10.4787	2	1.74	353.0258	13	-10.5
9	2220	7.8860	3	0.938			
10	2904	10.4768	4	1.44			
11	1198	4.1932	10	0.0146			
12	3165	11.4828	20	4.89			
13	2207	7.8805	23	1.12			
14	2464	8.9296	23	1.35			
15	2113	7.5182	25	0.662			
16	2028	7.1758	54	0.607			
17	2896	10.4766	96	3.56			
18	1923	6.7850	194	12.7			
19	2786	10.0524	249	5.49			
20	2211	7.8850	201	16.2			

- Library Search
- Library Search Options
- Send To
- Copy Selected Hits to Clipboard
- Export Selected Hits to Text File
- Show Selected
- Show All
- Properties



#	Scan	RT	▲ Score	Abund.Rel.	Prec. m/z	Prob	dPPM	Prec. Type	Lib	Dbs
1	2075	7.3610	0	0.00579	295.9967	0	1.7	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	9
2	2197	8.1060	0	0.0152	222.1171	0	18.9	[M+Na] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	
3	2634	9.5386	0	0.784	371.3258	0	13.5			
4	2017	7.1496	2	2.16	311.0698	7	2.3	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	
5	2494	8.9283	2	4.27	279.1025	2	-17.9	[M+H-H2O] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	
6	2905	10.4787	2	1.74	353.0258	13	-10.5	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	4
7	2220	7.8860	3	0.938	244.0939	2	16.0	[M+Na] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	14
8	2904	10.4768	4	1.44	348.0706	6	16.7	[M+H-H2O] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	9
9	1198	4.1932	10	0.0146	202.0432	4	0.5	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist#2	36
10	3165	11.4828	20	4.89	410.0888	30	-2.4	[M+Na] <sup>+</sup>	hr_msms_nist	21
11	2207	7.8805	23	1.12	239.1384	5	19.2	[M+H-2H2...	hr_msms_nist	1