

# Oxygen Attachment Dissociation MS/MS for Differentiation between Cis and Trans Fatty Acids

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## 1. Overview

We have developed novel MS/MS techniques:

**HAD-MS/MS**  
**Hydrogen Attachment/Abstraction Dissociation**

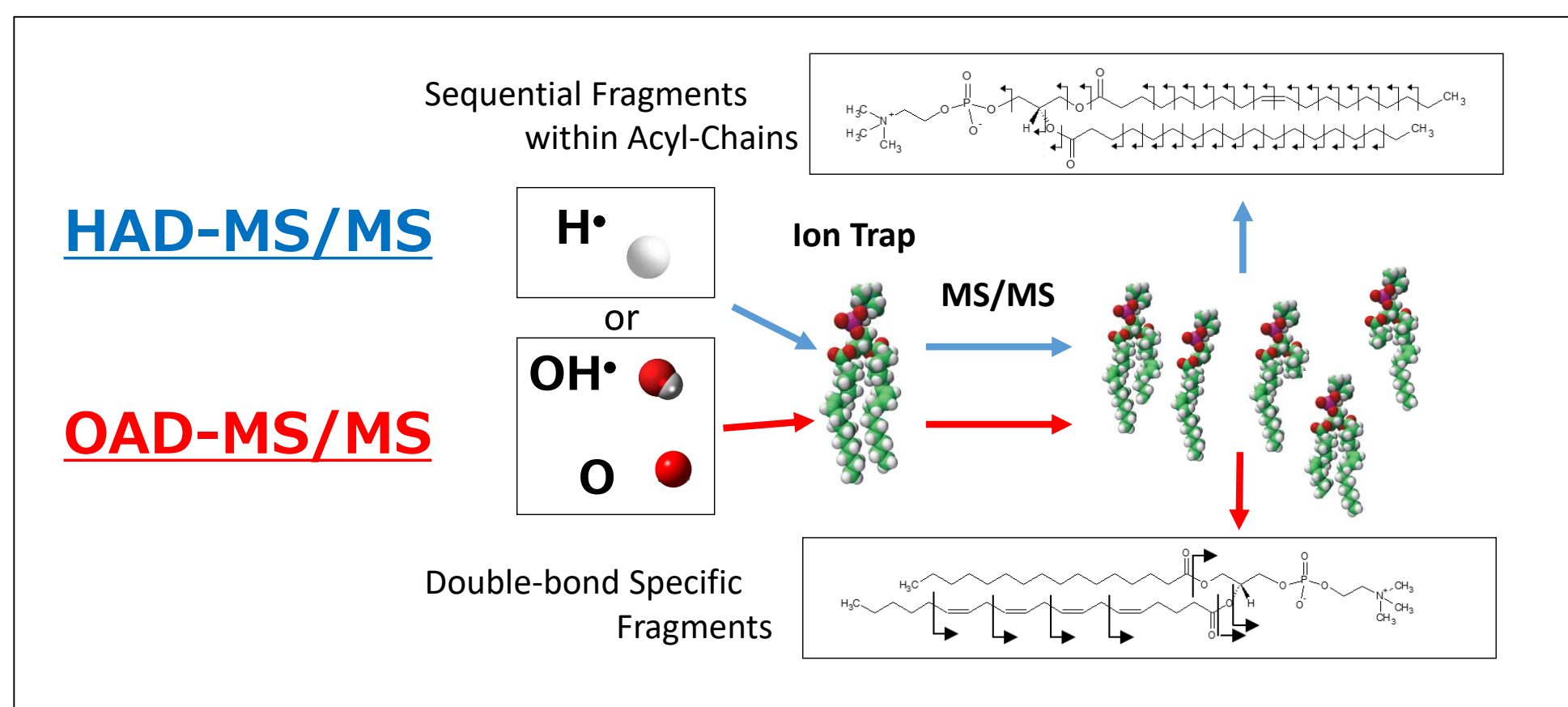
\*Takahashi, H. et al. *Anal. Chem.*, 2016, 88, 3810-.

**OAD-MS/MS**  
**Oxygen Attachment Dissociation**

\*Takahashi, H. et al. *Anal. Chem.*, 2018, 56, 7230-.

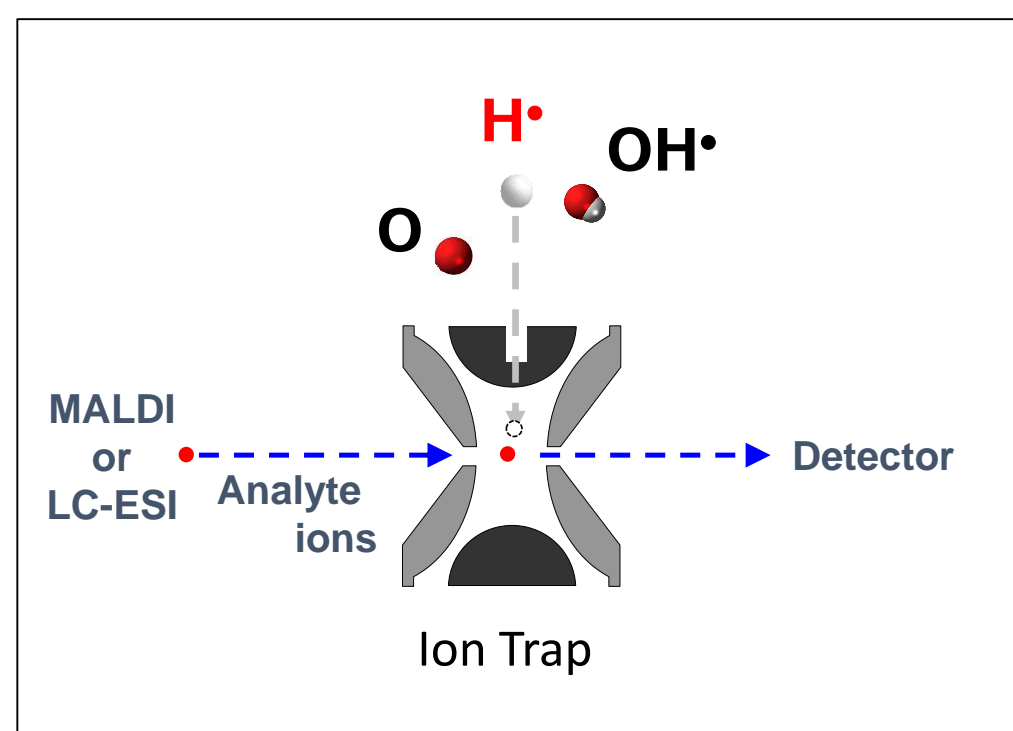
## 2. Introduction

Instead of using the collision gas (Ar/N<sub>2</sub>) for CID-MS/MS, neutral reactive radical gas is introduced into an ion trap.



## 3. Methods and Materials

HAD-MS/MS and OAD-MS/MS were performed using a LC-ESI-MS and a prototype MALDI-IT-TOF-MS. H• was generated by passing H<sub>2</sub> gas through a heated tungsten capillary. OH• and O were generated by a microwave discharge of water vapor.



| Lipid name (Phosphatidylcholine:PC)   | Exact Mass |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| PC(18:0/18:0)                         | 789.625    |
| PC(18:1(9Z)/16:0)                     | 759.578    |
| PC(18:0/18:1(9Z))                     | 787.609    |
| PC(14:1(9Z)/14:1(9Z))                 | 673.468    |
| PC(16:1(9E)/16:1(9E))                 | 729.531    |
| PC(18:1(6Z)/18:1(6Z))                 | 785.593    |
| PC(18:3(9Z,12Z,15Z)/18:3(9Z,12Z,15Z)) | 777.531    |
| PC(16:0/20:4(5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z))          | 781.562    |

Table 1. List of model phospholipids used in this study.

## 4. Result

### 4-1. HAD-MS/MS for C=C and sn- position determination

The HAD-MS/MS spectrum of the model phospholipid shows a continuous series of fragment ions with the mass difference of 14 Da, which represents a CH<sub>2</sub> group. Meanwhile, the fragment ions corresponding to the C=C position shows a characteristic mass difference of 12 Da. These diagnostic product ions enables the structural analysis of C=C isomers.

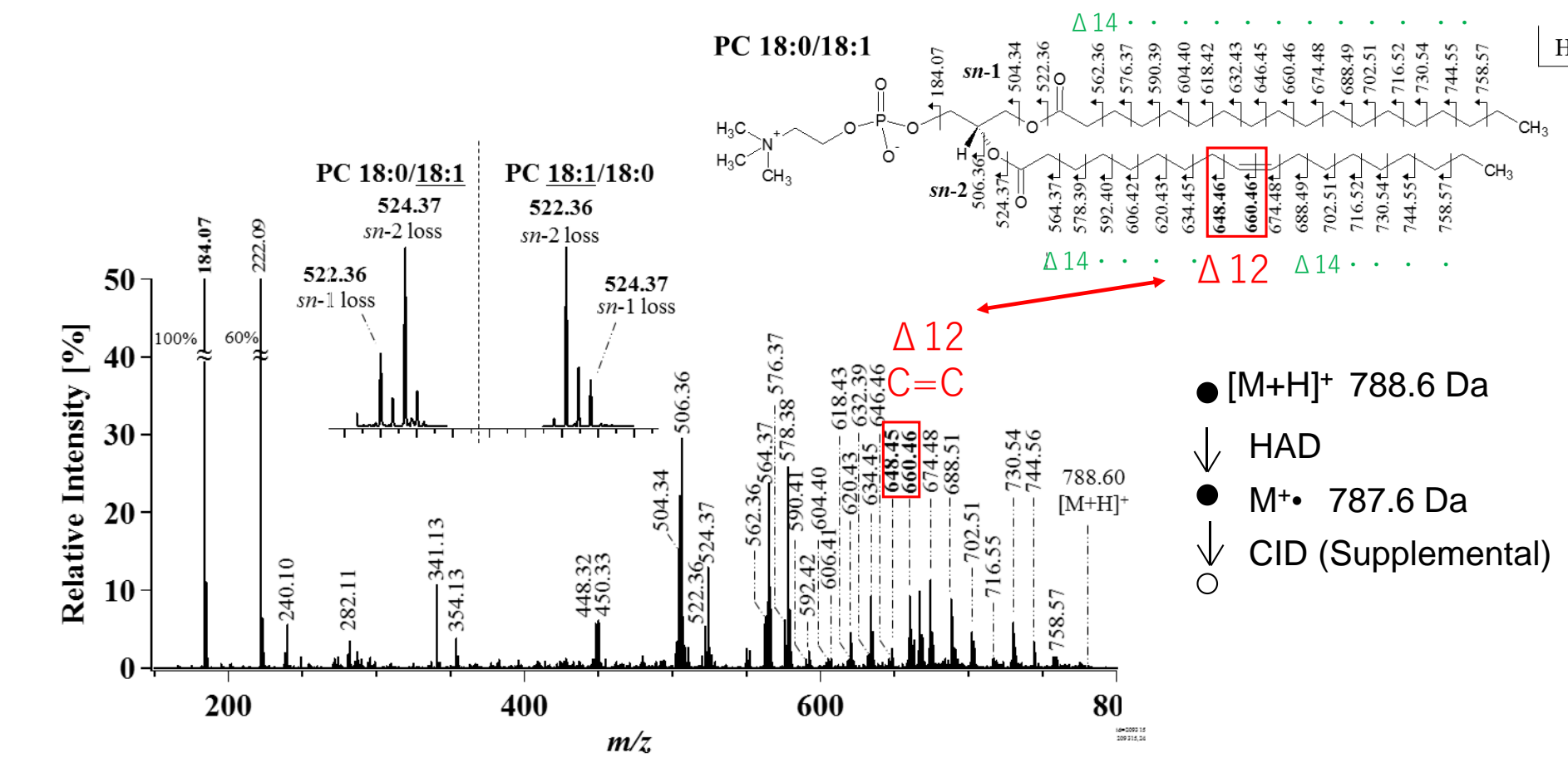


Fig.2. HAD-MS/MS spectrum of PC 18:0/18:1(9Z).

### 4-2. OAD-MS/MS for C=C position determination

The OAD-MS/MS spectrum provides the C=C specific fragmentation. The methylene bridges adjacent to C=C positions were selectively dissociated, accompanied by oxidation of the double bonds.

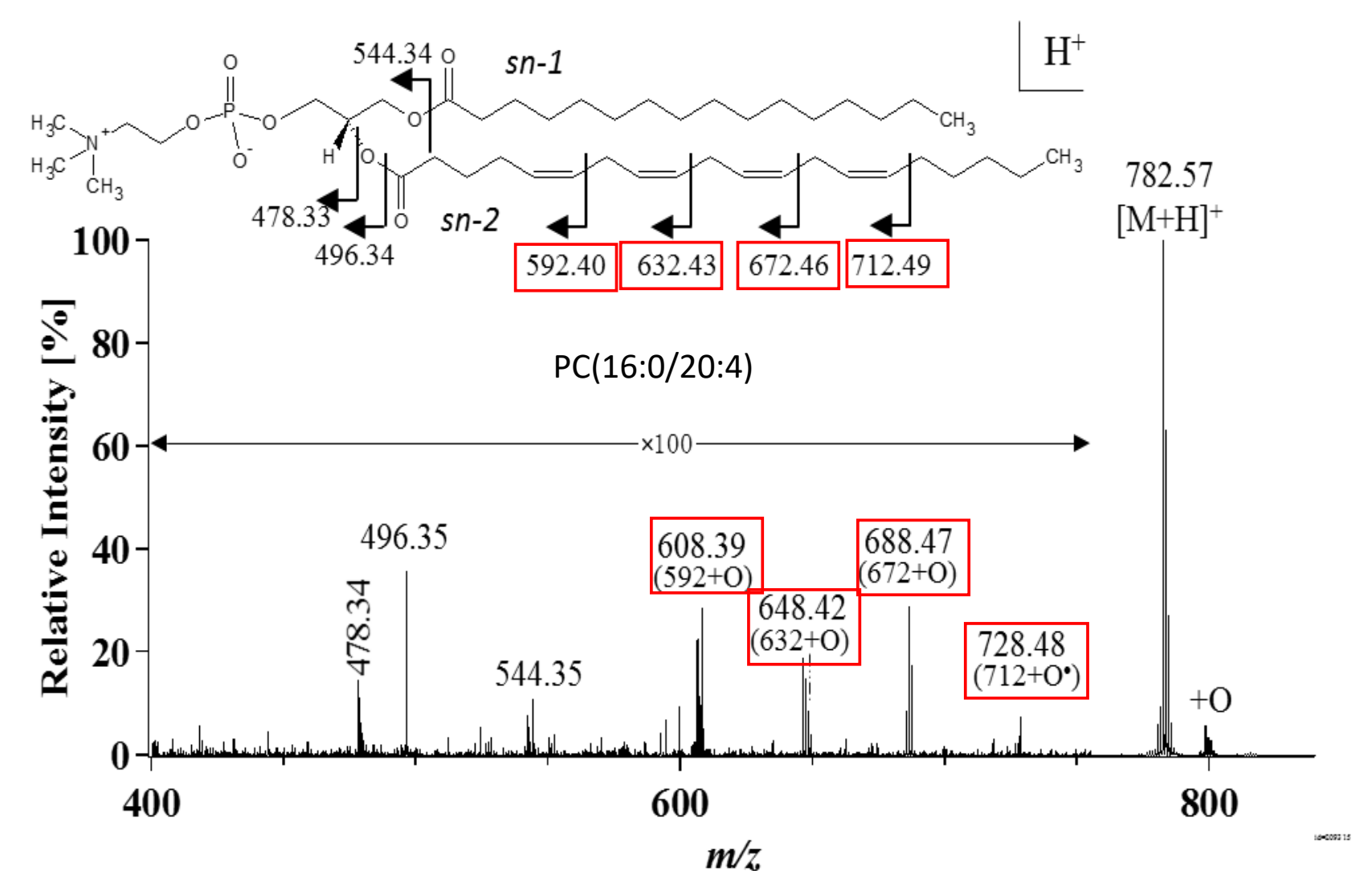


Fig.3. OAD-MS/MS spectrum of PC 16:0/20:4(5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z).

### 4-3. Mixture of C=C position isomers

Since the OAD-MS/MS provides straightforward double-bond specific fragmentation, OAD can be applied to the analysis for mixture of C=C position isomers, based on the product ion intensity.

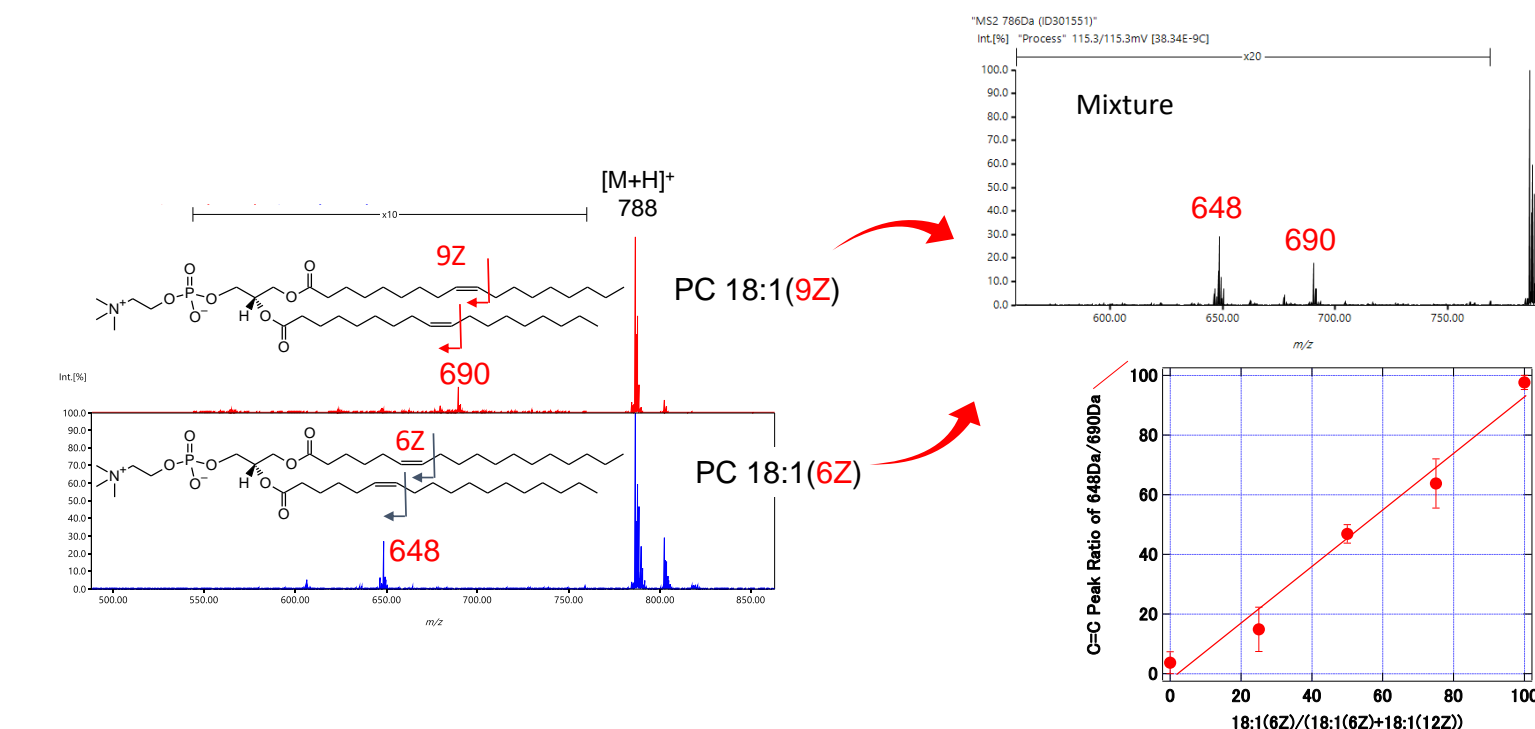


Fig.4. OAD-MS/MS spectrum for the mixture of C=C position isomers of PC 18:1(9Z) and PC 18:1(6Z).

### 4-4. LC-OAD-MS/MS for C=C position assignment

Auto-MS/MS mode with a cycle time of 1 s was used for LC-OAD-MS/MS. Double bond position assignment in a mixture of eight standard samples with multiple saturated fatty acyl chains was carried out successfully.

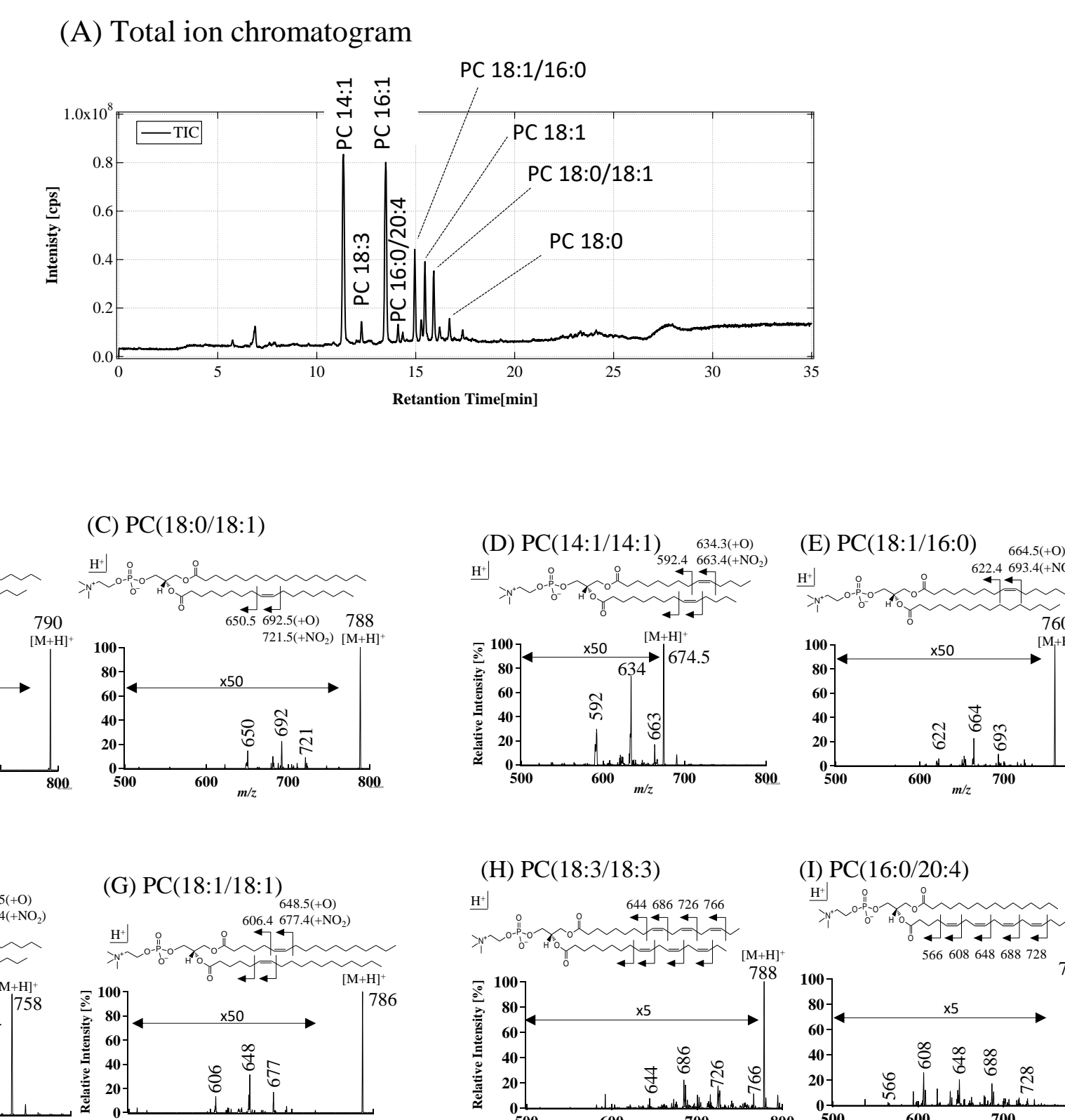


Fig. 5. (A) TIC of phospholipid mixture and (B)-(I) OAD-MS/MS spectra of each phospholipid obtained with the acquisition time of 0.5 s.

## 5. Differentiation between Cis and Trans fatty acids

Focusing on the intensity of non-dissociative oxidized ion [M+H+O]<sup>+</sup>, cis and trans fatty acids can be differentiated. The intensity of [M+H+O]<sup>+</sup> of trans fatty acid is higher than that of cis fatty acid by a factor of around 2. Since the reproducibility of the peak intensity is quite good, this technique can be applied to cis/trans mixture (Fig.7.).

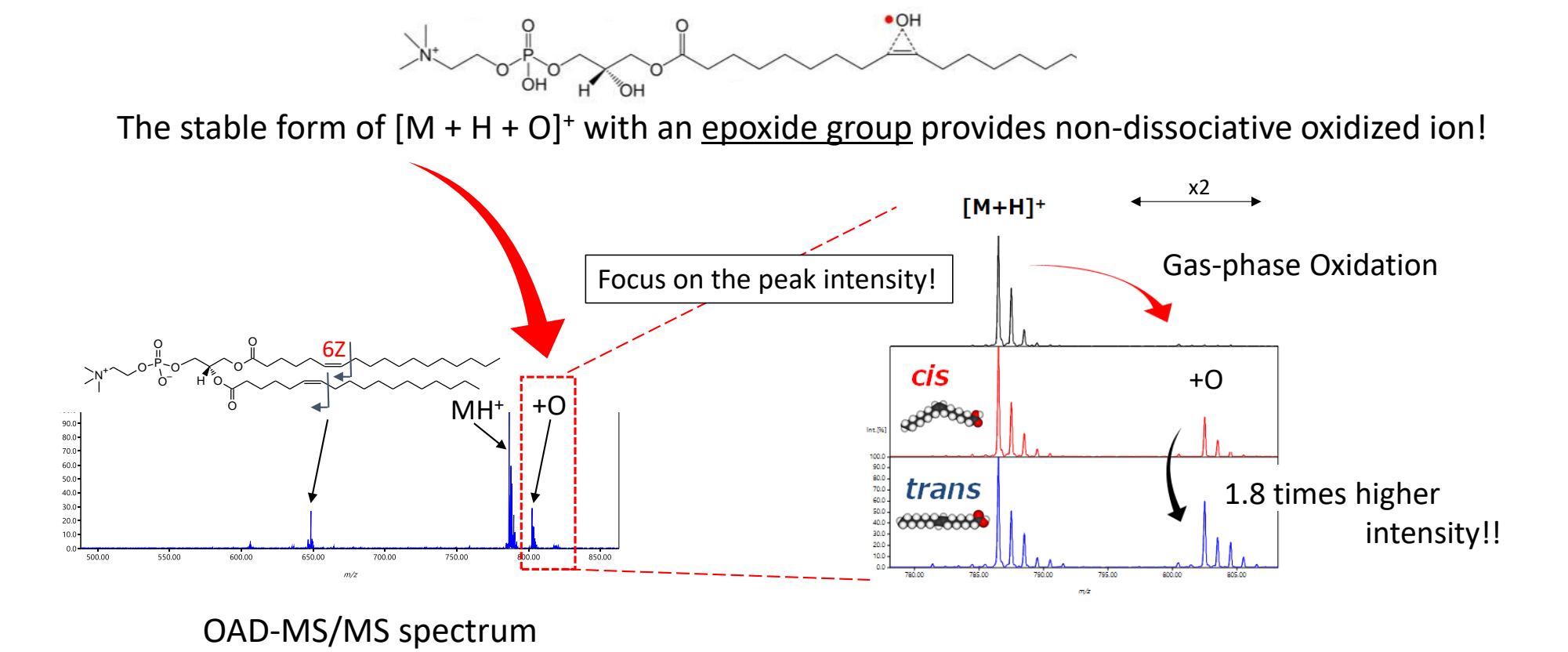


Fig.6. Comparison between the intensity of [M+H+O]<sup>+</sup> of trans fatty acid and that of cis fatty acid.

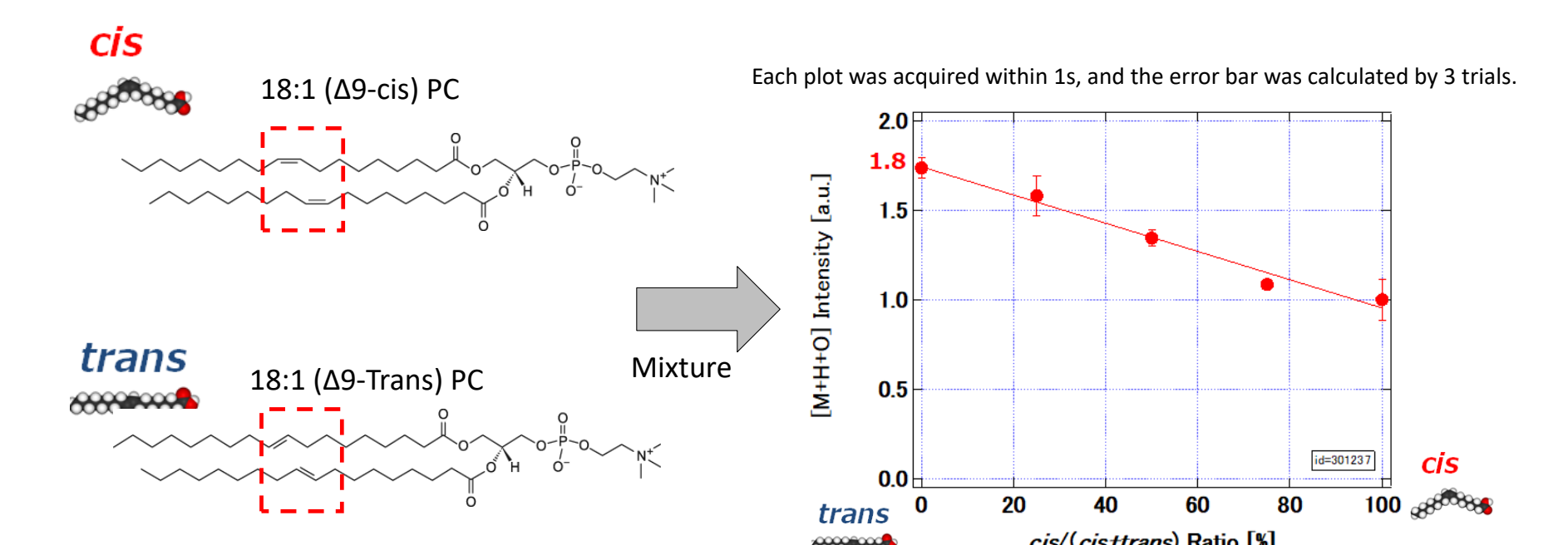


Fig.7. Differentiation between cis and trans fatty acids for cis/trans mixture.

## 6. Conclusions

We have demonstrated OAD-MS/MS, in combination with LC, for the detailed structural analyses of several phospholipids. OAD-MS/MS is a promising analytical technique for the assignment of C=C positions and the discrimination of cis/trans fatty acids.

