

# MASS SPECTROMETRY (MS)

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## SECONDARY ION MASS SPECTROMETRY (SIMS)

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# Outline

- ◆ Historical Background
- ◆ Applications of MS
- ◆ Purposes of MS
- ◆ MS Components
- ◆ MS Principles
- ◆ MS Ionization Methods
- ◆ SIMS
- ◆ MALDI
- ◆ Tandem MS
- ◆ References

# Historical Background

- ◆ The work of Thomson and Aston at the Cavendish Laboratories, Cambridge University
- ◆ J.J. Thomson built MS prototype to measure  $m/z$  of electron, awarded Nobel Prize in 1906
- ◆ Design to measure mass of elements
- ◆ Aston awarded Nobel Prize in 1922
- ◆ 1948-52 Time-of-flight (TOF)
- ◆ 1955 Quadrupole ion filters – W. Paul (1989 Nobel Prize)
- ◆ 1968-Tandem Mass Spectrometry

# An analytical technique ;

- ◆ 1) It's objective to ionize a gas phase molecule and then analyze the masses of it's produced ions
  - Ions ,an atom or a group of atoms, electrically charged.They lose or gain electrons,thus they are negatively or positively charged.
  - 2) The produced ions are separated to according to their mass-to-charge ratio ( $m/z$ ) and then the relative abundance of each ionic species present is recorded (measured ).

- ◆ 3) Quantitative analysis of atoms and molecules because of  $m/z$  ratio.
- ◆ **MS Applications**
- ◆ In industry and academia. Major mass spectrometric applications:
- ◆ **Biotechnology:** The analysis of proteins, peptides, oligonucleotides
- ◆ **Pharmaceutical:** Drug discovery, combinatorial chemistry, pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism
- ◆ **Clinical:** Newborn screening, hemoglobin analysis, drug testing
- ◆ **Environmental:** PAHs, PCBs, water quality, food contamination
- ◆ **Geological:** Oil composition

# For what purposes MS is used?

- For measuring the molecular mass of a sample
- For identification of the unknown compounds
- little as  $10^{-12}$ g,  $10^{-15}$  moles ; compounds identified at very low concentrations (one part in  $10^{12}$ ) in chemically complex mixtures
- For quantification of known compounds
- Used to discover the number of isotopes ,determine the relative abundance of the isotopes and measure of their exact masses

# For what purposes MS is used?

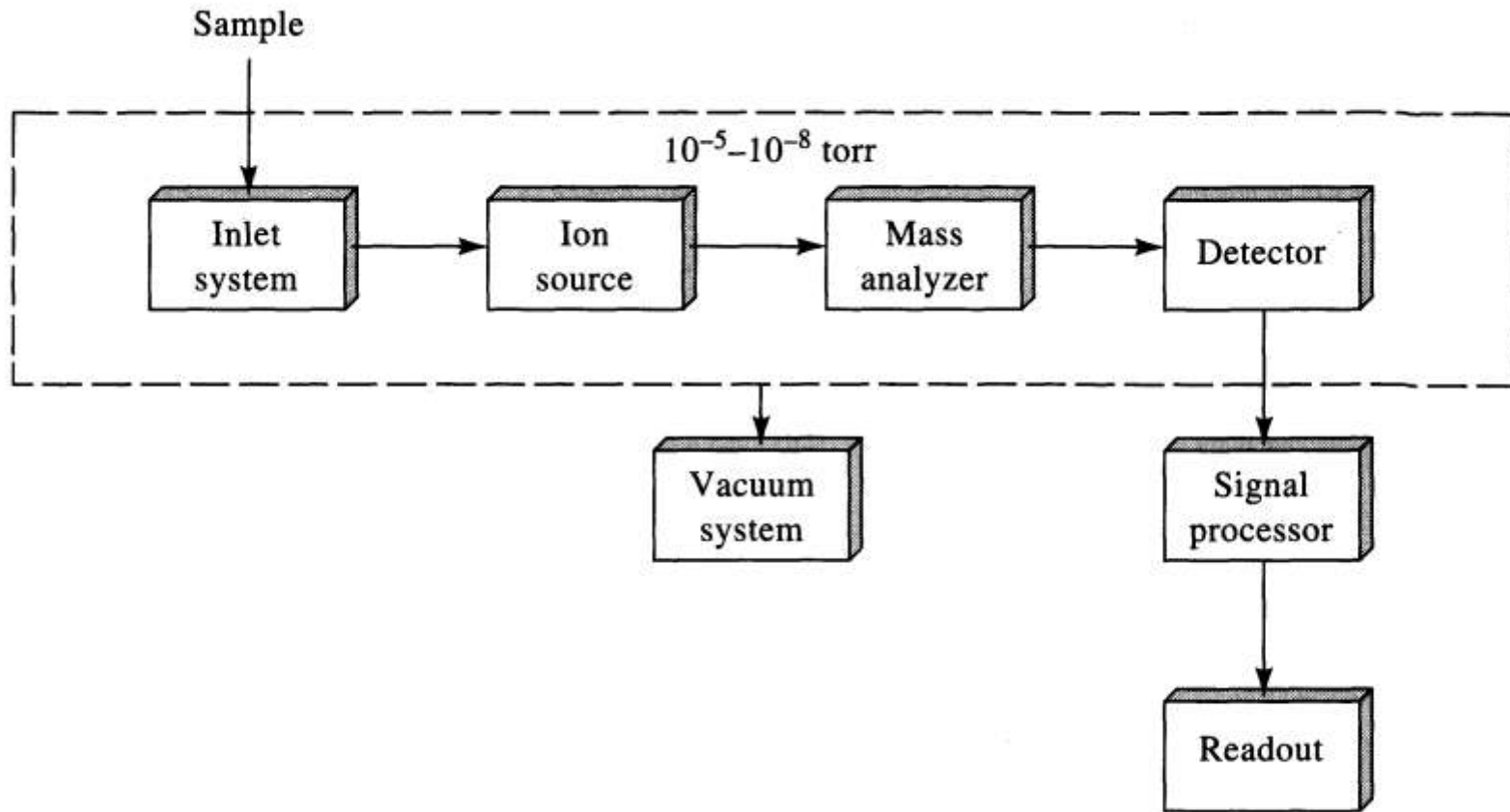
- Within an accuracy of 0.01% of total weight of sample and within 5 ppm for small organic molecules
- helps to determine the chemical and structural information about molecules
- Fragment sample & analyse products
- Uses a machine called Mass Spectrometer.

# MS COMPONENTS

- ◆ Depend on the used ionization method, the type and the complexity of the sample
  
- ◆ 3 major components ;
  1. An ion source,
  2. A mass analyzer and
  3. A detector
  
- ◆ A sample introduction system (inlet system)



# Schematic Diagram of a MS



### **1) The ion source;**

- ◆ produces gaseous ions from the sample;
- ◆ Samples easier to manipulate if ionised because ions are easier to manipulate than neutral molecules
- ◆ a small sample of compound is ionized especially cations are produced by lossing electrons

### **2) The mass analyzer ;**

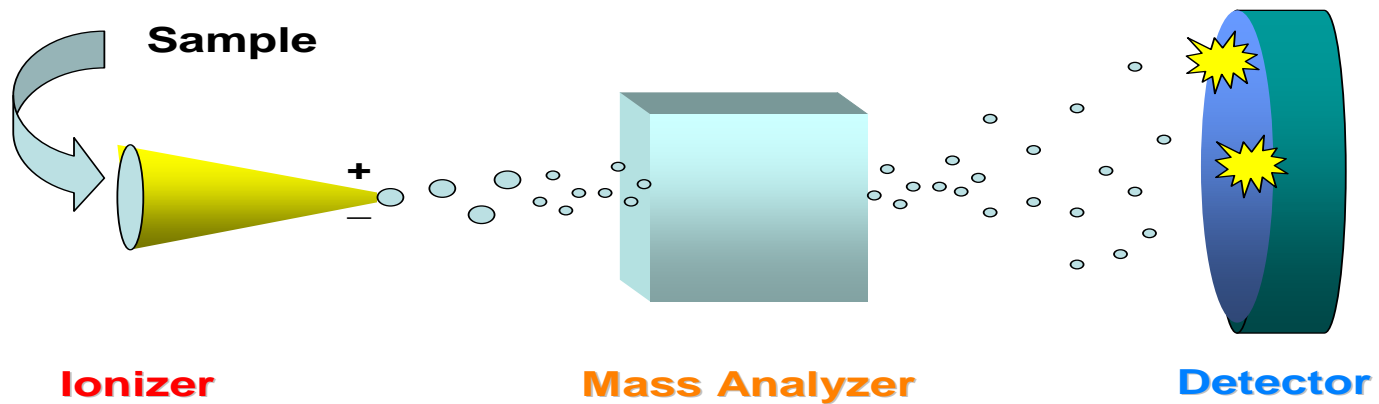
- ◆ separates ions according to  $m/z$
- ◆ These ions are extracted into the analyser region of the mass spectrometer

### **3) The detector**

### **4) The sample introduction;**

- ◆ by introduction into the ion source
- ◆ by ejecting of charged molecular species from a solid surface or solution

# Mass Spec Principles

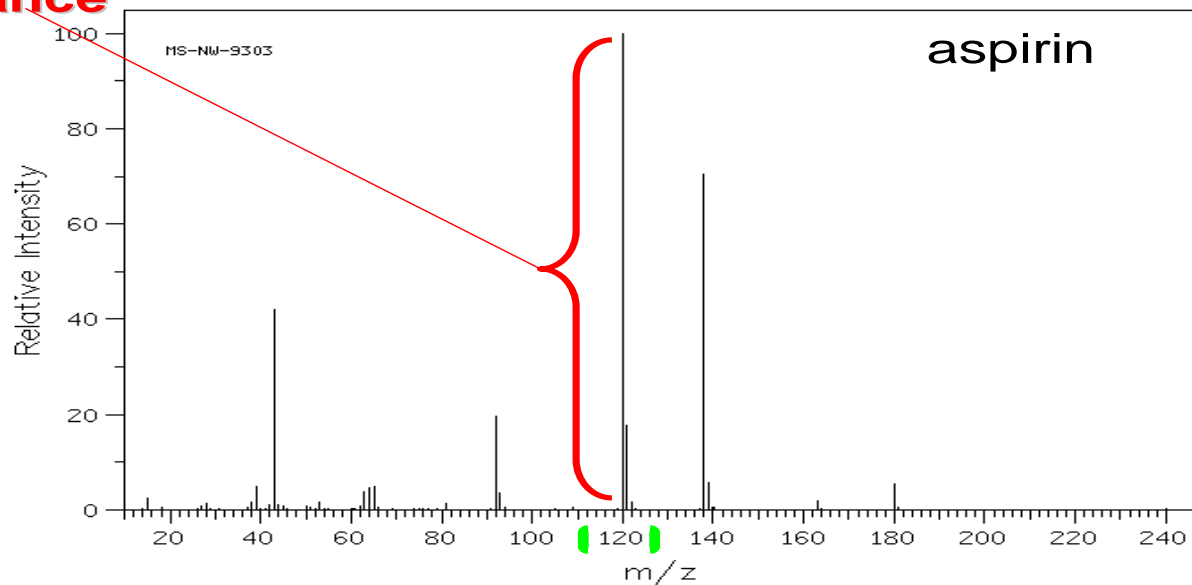


# Why operating in a high-vacuum system?

- ◆ Because of forming and manipulating gas-phase ions
- ◆ Ions are very reactive and short-lived
- ◆ Atmospheric pressure, 1 atm=760 Torr. Ions are handled in the pressure of  $10^{-5}$  to  $10^{-8}$  torr
- ◆ Allow unhindered movements of ions
- ◆ Mechanical and diffusion pump

# Typical Mass Spectrum

**Relative  
Abundance**



**120 m/z-for singly charged ion this is the mass**

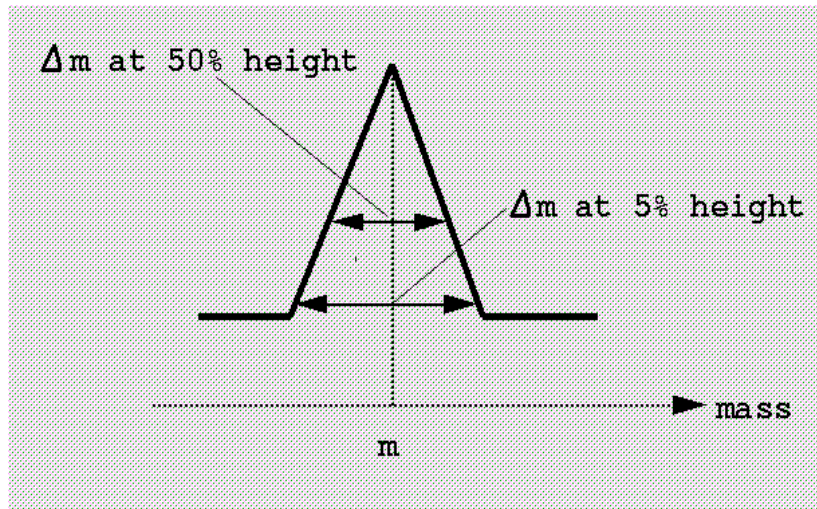
# ACCURACY & RESOLUTION

The ability of a spectrometer to separate two adjacent peaks in a spectrum

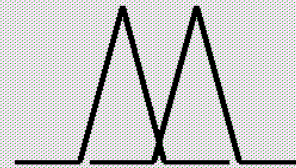
- For large samples such as **biomolecules**, an accuracy of **0.01%** of the total molecular mass of the sample
  - ◆ For small **organic molecules**, an accuracy of **5 ppm** or less
  - ◆ For the suitable instrument
  - ◆ Showed by width of the peak
  - ◆ The increase in resolution or resolving power, the more qualified instrument, mass accuracy increases
- 
- ◆  $M$  = the mass number
  - ◆  $\Delta M$  = the difference between two masses

$$R = \frac{M}{\Delta M}$$

# Resolution in MS



*Two peaks resolved to 10% valley*



*Two peaks resolved to 50% valley*



# Mass Spectrometry Ionization Methods

- ◆ **Chemical ionization (CI)**
- ◆ **Plasma and glow discharge**
- ◆ **Electron impact (EI)**
- ◆ **Electrospray ionization (ESI)**
- ◆ **Fast-atom bombardment (FAB)**
- ◆ **Field ionization**
- ◆ **Laser ionization (LIMS)**
- ◆ **Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI)**
- ◆ **Plasma-desorption ionization (PD)**
- ◆ **Resonance ionization (RIMS)**
- ◆ **Secondary ionization (SIMS)**
- ◆ **Spark source**
- ◆ **Thermal ionization (TIMS)**



# Electron Impact (EI)

- The original mass spectrometry (MS) ionization method
- The most widely used
- ◆ Used for ionization and fragmentation the sample molecules before mass analysis
- Firstly the sample is vaporized and then enters into the ion source
- A beam of electrons help the sample be impacted with sufficient energy to ionize the molecule
- $M(g) + e^- \rightarrow M^+(g) + 2e^-$
- $M^+$  is molecular ion molecular weight analytical information
- ◆  $M_1^+ \rightarrow M_2^+ + M_n^+$
- ◆  $M_1$  is the molecular ion (odd)

# The fragmentation process

- ◆ Structural information about the molecule
- ◆ Fragment ions= odd electron or even electron.
  - primary structure,
  - electron energy 70 eV energy
- ◆ Ion source temperature
- ◆ **The molecular ion is a radical which is not very stable and tend to fragment.**
- ◆ EI mass spectra intense fragment ion peaks and much less intense molecular ion peak
- ◆ When the molecular ion peak is not observed in the mass spectrum, CI can be used in order to get molecular ion information
- ◆ EI ionization requires that the molecules are vaporized before ionization.
- ◆ Volatile under the conditions of the ion source
- ◆ Sample introduction to the EI source by
  1. a gas chromatography device
  2. a solids probe device.

# Fast-Atom Bombardment (FAB)

- ◆ Ion production in a mass spectrometer from nonvolatile or thermally fragile organic molecules by bombarding the compound
- ◆ A technique for the analysis of protein sequence and structure to various organometallic systems
- ◆ A high energy beam of atoms or ions (Cs or Xe) vapourizes, fragments and ionizes a protein solution
- ◆ Flow FAB is a variant that analyses the continuous liquid stream from a HPLC or capillary electrophoresis separation

# Electrospray Ionization (ESI)

- ◆ Soft ionization technique, desorption ionization method
- ◆ Solid or liquid samples, nonvolatile or thermally unstable.
- ◆ Proteins, peptides, and other biological macromolecules
- ◆ No fragmentation of the macromolecules into smaller charged particles; turning the macromolecule being ionized into small droplets
- ◆ Large mass molecules are detected in the small mass range of the instrument
- ◆ As the  $m/z$  value increases, the number of protons attached to the molecular ion decreases
- ◆ When mixtures are used as the analyte, this technique is out of use
- ◆ Purification methods ;HPLC , [Capillary Electrophoresis](#) , and [Liquid-Solid Column Chromatography](#)

- ◆ **Advantages:**
- ◆ samples with large masses can be handled
- ◆ analyzing biological samples that are defined by non-covalent interactions because of soft ionization method
- ◆ **Disadvantages:**
- ◆ cannot analyze mixtures very well
- ◆ the apparatus becomes contaminated quickly and hard to clean
- ◆ the multiple charges that are attached to the molecular ions can make for confusing spectral data.

# Secondary Ionization (SIMS)

- ◆ Organic and inorganic analyses ; spectrometers quite different
- ◆ Surface analysis technique used to characterize the surface and sub-surface region of materials.
- ◆ Energetic primary particles (electrons, ions, neutrals or photons)
- ◆ Cause bombardment on a solid surface A primary ion beam; such as  $^3\text{He}^+$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}^+$ , or  $^{40}\text{Ar}^+$
- ◆ Thus mass spectrometer of ionised particles which are emitted occur

## The Sputtering Process(bombardment)

- ◆ Binary collisions (elastic and inelastic) of primary ions with single target atoms
- ◆ Oxygen increases positive ions and cesium increases negative ion
- ◆ Metal-oxygen bonds in an oxygen rich zone help oxygen enhance
- Bonds break in the ion emission process, oxygen negatively charged ;metal positively charged

- ◆ Oxygen beam sputtering increases the concentration of oxygen in the surface layer.
- ◆ More secondary electrons are excited over the surface potential barrier.
- ◆ Increased availability of electrons leads to increased negative ion formation.
- ◆ The variability in ionization efficiencies for different elements

O <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> Primary		O <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> Postive Secondary		Cs <sup>+</sup> Primary		Cs <sup>+</sup> Negative Secondary											
H							He										
Li	Be			B	C	N	O	F	Ne								
Na	Mg			Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar								
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac															
Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu				
Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr				

### ◆ *Advantages of SIMS*

- ◆ has a very low detection limit ( ppm to ppt )
- ◆ detection ability for all elements
- ◆ material can be continually sputtered from a surface to determine analyte concentrations as a function of distance from the original surface (depth profiling).

### ◆ *Disadvantages of SIMS*

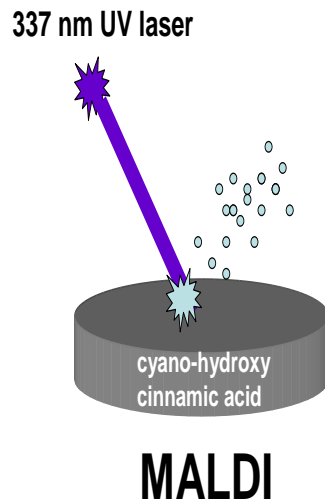
- ◆ a very great range of ionization rates for different elements
- ◆ matrix effects; the rates vary depending on the other species present
- ◆ response factors are different for either a positive and a negative beam; difficult quantification



# Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization (MALDI)

- ◆ A laser-based soft ionization method
- ◆ Important for protein analysis.
- ◆ Ionization occurs with bombarding the sample with laser light
- ◆ The sample is embedded in a chemical matrix (UV absorbant)
- ◆ The matrix makes the production of intact gas-phase ions from large, nonvolatile, and thermally decomposed compounds such as proteins, oligonucleotides, synthetic polymers easy
- ◆ The matrix absorbs the laser light energy thus small amount is vaporized

# Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization



- ◆ The MALDI matrix must meet a number of requirements simultaneously:
- ◆ be able to embed and isolate analytes (e.g., by co-crystallization)
- ◆ be soluble in solvents compatible with analyte
- ◆ be vacuum stable
- ◆ absorb the laser wavelength
- ◆ promote analyte ionization

# Mass Analyzers

- ◆ Separation ions depending on  $m/z$  ratio
- ◆ Magnetic-sector analyzer
- ◆ Quadrupole analyzer
- ◆ Time-of-flight analyzer
- ◆ FT-Ion cyclotron analyzer
- ◆ Ion-trap analyzer

# Time-of-Flight Analyzer

- Consists of 3 parts: an ion-accelerating region, a flight tube, and a detector
- Used with the MALDI technique for analysis of large biomolecules
- All ions are created in the ion-accelerating region
- Ions are pulsed into the flight tube in short, well defined packets. all ions have same kinetic energy ,same potential difference and a constant homogeneous electrostatic field subjection during acceleration .
- Thus having same kinetic energy leads different velocities depending on their masses
- Masses affect their arrival time at the detector and within order of increasing mass they reach the detector
- The differences of flight times are, the basis for resolving ions of different  $m/z$  and the mass resolution depends on the flight time differences
- Its insufficient mass resolution,because flight time variations of ions of the same  $m/z$

### **ADVANTAGES:**

- Unlimited mass range
- Ideal for Pulsed ionization or spatially confined
- For each ionization complete mass spectrum
- High transmission
- Valid for extremely small sample amounts
- Relatively low cost
- Fast mass scanning

### **DISADVANTAGES:**

- ◆ The pulse is not felt by all ions to the same intensity and so a kinetic energy distribution for each discrete  $m/z$  exists. This lowers the resolution by creating a time-of-flight distribution for each  $m/z$ .

# Quadrupole Analyzer

- ◆ four parallel metal rods
- ◆ an ion source,
- ◆ ion optics ,
- ◆ the quadrupole filter itself with control voltage supplies,
- ◆ an exit aperture,
- ◆ an ion detector,
- ◆ detection electronics,
- ◆ and a high-vacuum system.
- ◆  $(U+V\cos(\omega t))$  = the potential of two opposite rods
- ◆  $-(U+V\cos(\omega t))$  = the potential of other rods
- ◆  $U$  = a dc voltage and  $V\cos(\omega t)$  = an ac voltage
- ◆ ions travel down the flight path which is centered between the four rods, and because of the applied voltages the trajectory of ions is affected.
- ◆ This filter is selective of ions depending on their certain  $m/z$  and  $V_{ac}/V_{dc}$  ratios: some of them pass and the others are thrown out.
- ◆ Voltages on the rod vary and mass spectrum is obtained
- ◆ There are two methods: varying  $\omega$  and holding  $U$  and  $V$  constant, or varying  $U$  and  $V$  ( $U/V$ ) fixed for a constant  $\omega$ .

# Ion-Trap Analyzer

- ◆ Three electrodes with hyperbolic surfaces to trap ions in a small volume
- ◆ A central ring electrode two adjacent endcap electrodes
- ◆ After changing the electrode voltages for ejection of ions from the trap , a mass spectrum is obtained.
- ◆ **ADVANTAGES**
- ◆ Compactness
- ◆ The ability to trap and accumulate ions to increase the signal-to-noise ratio of a measurement.
- ◆ High sensitivity
- ◆ Available for tandem mass spectrometry
- ◆ Ion/ molecule reactions can be studied for mass-selected ions
- ◆ High resolution
- ◆ **DISADVANTAGES**
- ◆ Mass measurement accuracy is relatively poor

# FT-Ion Cyclotron Analyzer

- ◆ A high-frequency mass spectrometer
- ◆ Because of a high-frequency field., the ions absorb maximum energy with a selected  $m/z$  ratio
- ◆ The cyclotron resonance condition is satisfied by ions after max energy is gained
- ◆ And then separation from ions of different  $m/z$
- ◆ Cyclotron motion of ions (having different  $m/z$  ratios) in a constant  $B$
- ◆ This motion is excited simultaneously by a pulse of a RF electric field applied perpendicularly to  $B$
- ◆ Has a higher mass resolution than any other mass analyzer available
- ◆ Superconducting magnets are used in FT-ICR MS



# Magnetic-Sector Analyzer

- ◆ 'B' sector and 'E' sector
- ◆ the path of a *moving* charged particle (ion ) is curved in the sector by a magnetic field.
- ◆ A *stationary*, charged, non-magnetic particle is not attracted or repelled by a magnetic field.
- ◆ The ions different speed, but have the same kinetic energy
- ◆ They enter the magnetic sector through the source slit where they are deflected according to the left-hand rule.
- ◆ Detection of ions that have different  $m/z$  consecutively
- ◆ Constant magnetic field, kinetic energy sweep larger  $B$  : larger  $m/z$
- ◆ constant kinetic energy, magnetic field sweep larger  $V$  : smaller  $m/z$
- ◆ Higher-mass ions are deflected less than lower-mass ions
- ◆ high-resolution capabilities.
- ◆ Can not scan the field of a superconducting magnet, it has a fixed field strength

# MS Detectors

1. **Photomultiplier**
2. **Microchannel plate**
3. **Electron multiplier**

# Tandem Mass Spectrometry

- ◆ The simplest MS /MS method
- ◆ analysis according to the mass/charge ratio.
- ◆ Two mass analyzers or filters between them a collision cell filled with Argon or Xenon
- ◆ The sample sorted and weighed in the first mass spectrometer, then broken into pieces in the collision cell, and a piece or pieces sorted and weighed in the second mass spectrometer
- ◆ Separation and identification of compounds in complex molecules
- ◆ Cause fragmentation and mass analyze of fragment ions
- ◆ in [newborn screening](#) to detect molecules such as amino acids and [fatty acids](#).

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