

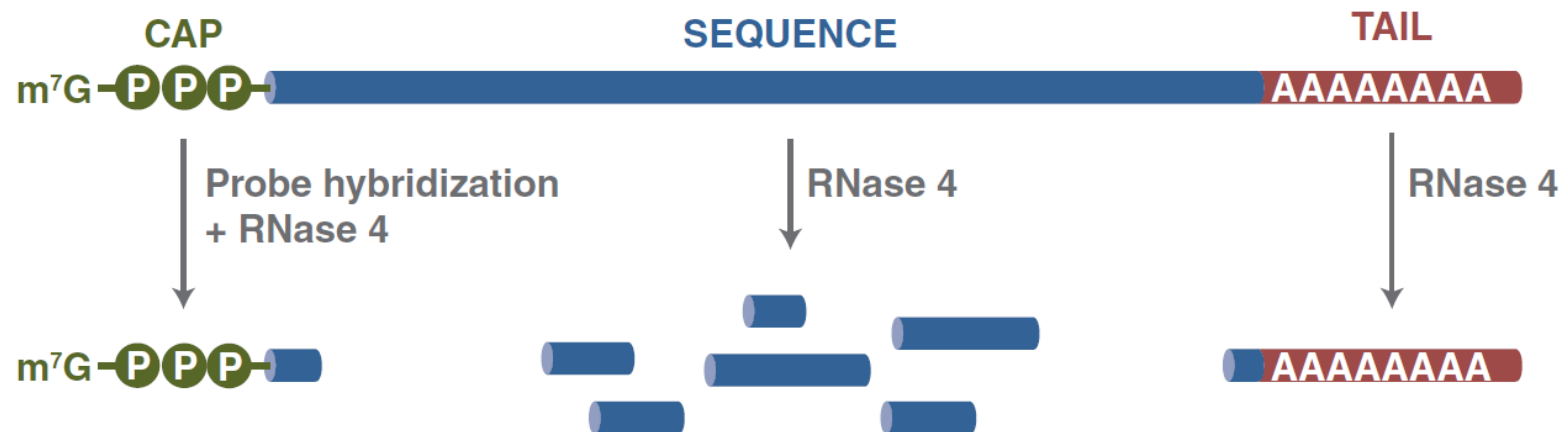
Comprehensive mRNA Characterization by LC-MS/MS using RNase 4

Jeremy Henderson, PhD

Development Scientist | jhenderson@neb.com | 2025 USP Virtual Summit March 11-12

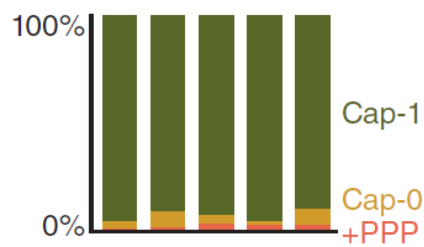


A Uniquely Enabling Nuclease for mRNA Analysis | RNase 4 **M1284**



LC-MS

Identification & quantitation



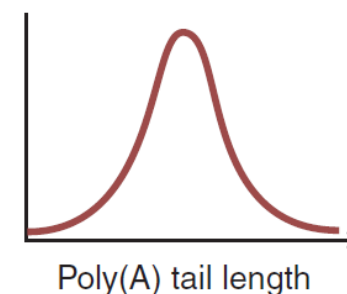
LC-MS

Sequence annotation & mapping



LC-MS

Poly(A) tail length profiling



RNase 4

S M1284S
2,500 U

50,000 U/ml
Store at -20°C

For product details, visit www.neb.com/M1284

Description:

RNase 4 is a single-stranded RNA endonuclease that cleaves 3' of uridine in uridine-purine sequences (cut sites: U/A and U/G). RNase 4 allows more targeted digestion of substrate RNA material compared to single nucleotide specific RNases like T1 (cut site: after G), RNase U2 (cut site: after A and G), or bovine pancreatic RNase A (cut sites: after C and U). RNase 4 endonuclease activity tolerates uridine base modifications such as pseudo-, N1-methyl-pseudo-, dihydro-, and 5-methoxy-uridine species (Ψ , m1 Ψ , D, and mo5U). Due to the chemical mechanism of RNase 4 endonucleolytic cleavage, product oligonucleotides contain heterogeneous 3' ends, where most species contain a linear 3'-phosphate or cyclic 2',3'-phosphate.

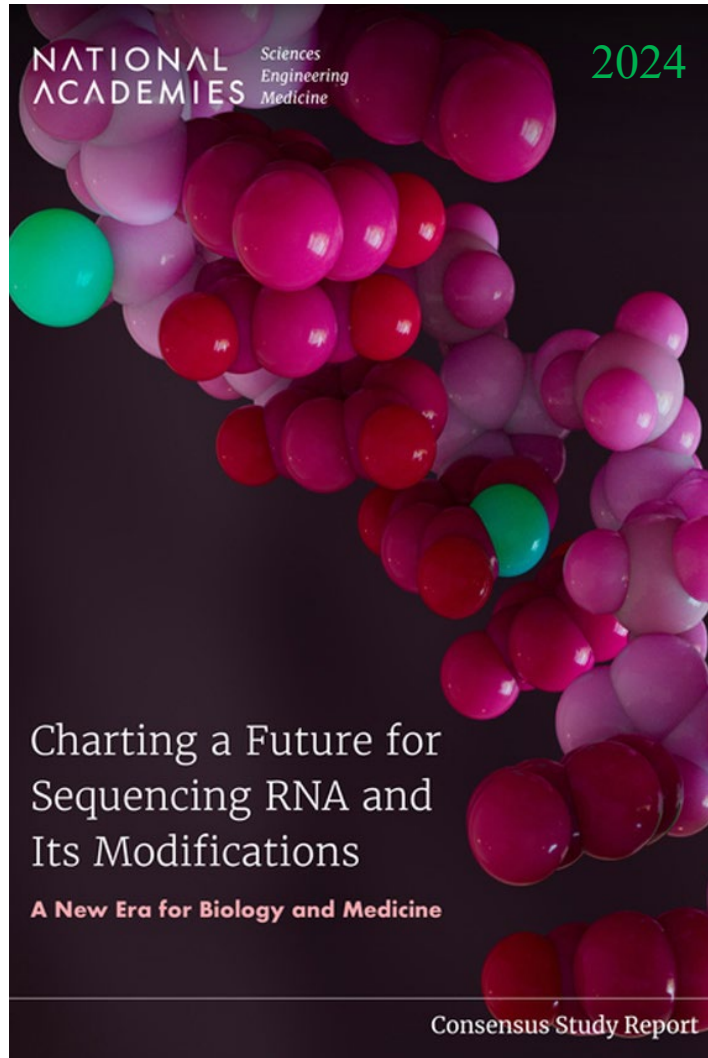
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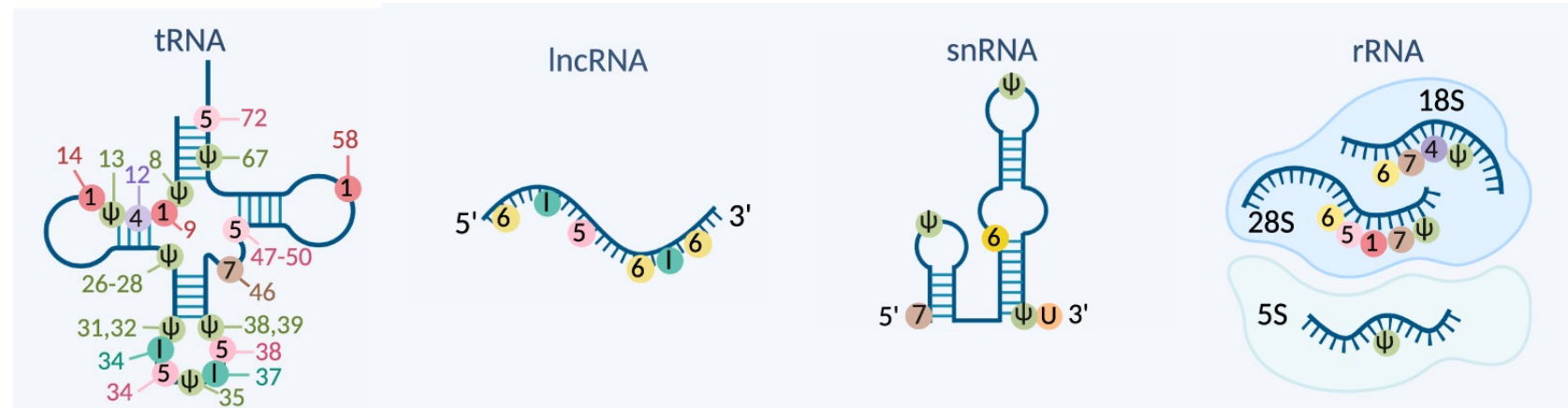
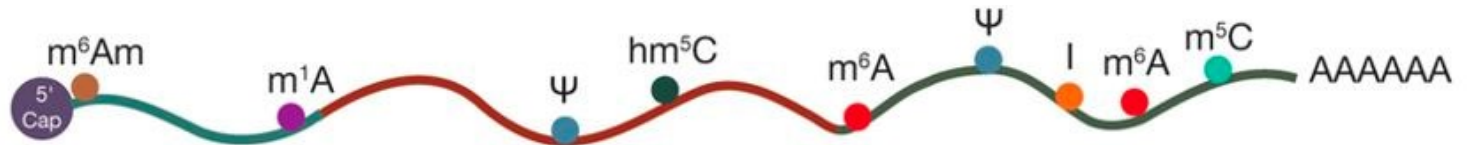
Agenda

- General Features of mRNA Analysis by LC-MS/MS
- RNase 4 Workflows for Sequence Annotation and Modification Mapping
- Poly(A)-tail Analysis w/ targeted RNase 4 Digestion
- Determination of 5' mRNA Cap Structures using a probe directed RNase 4 digestion strategy
- Questions

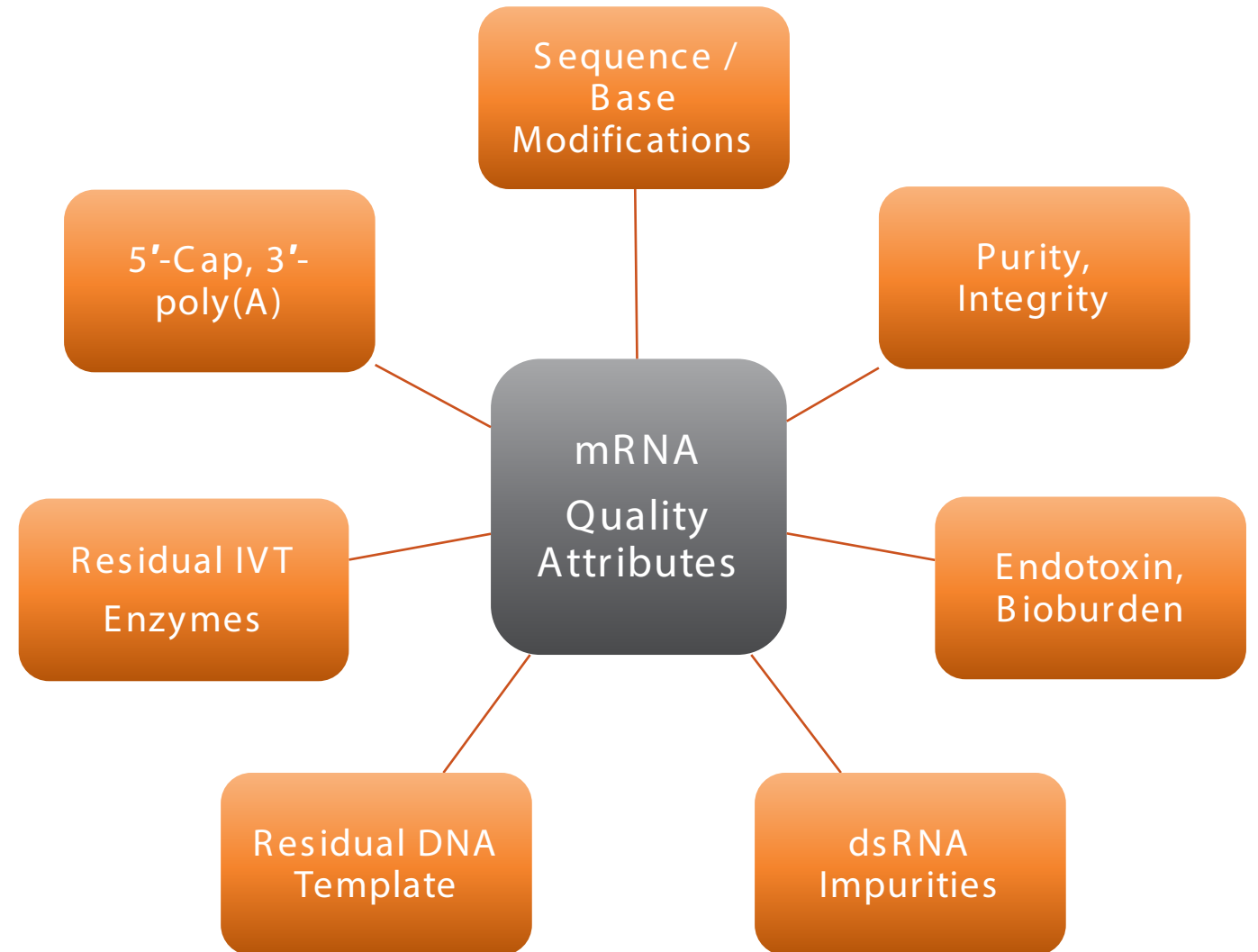
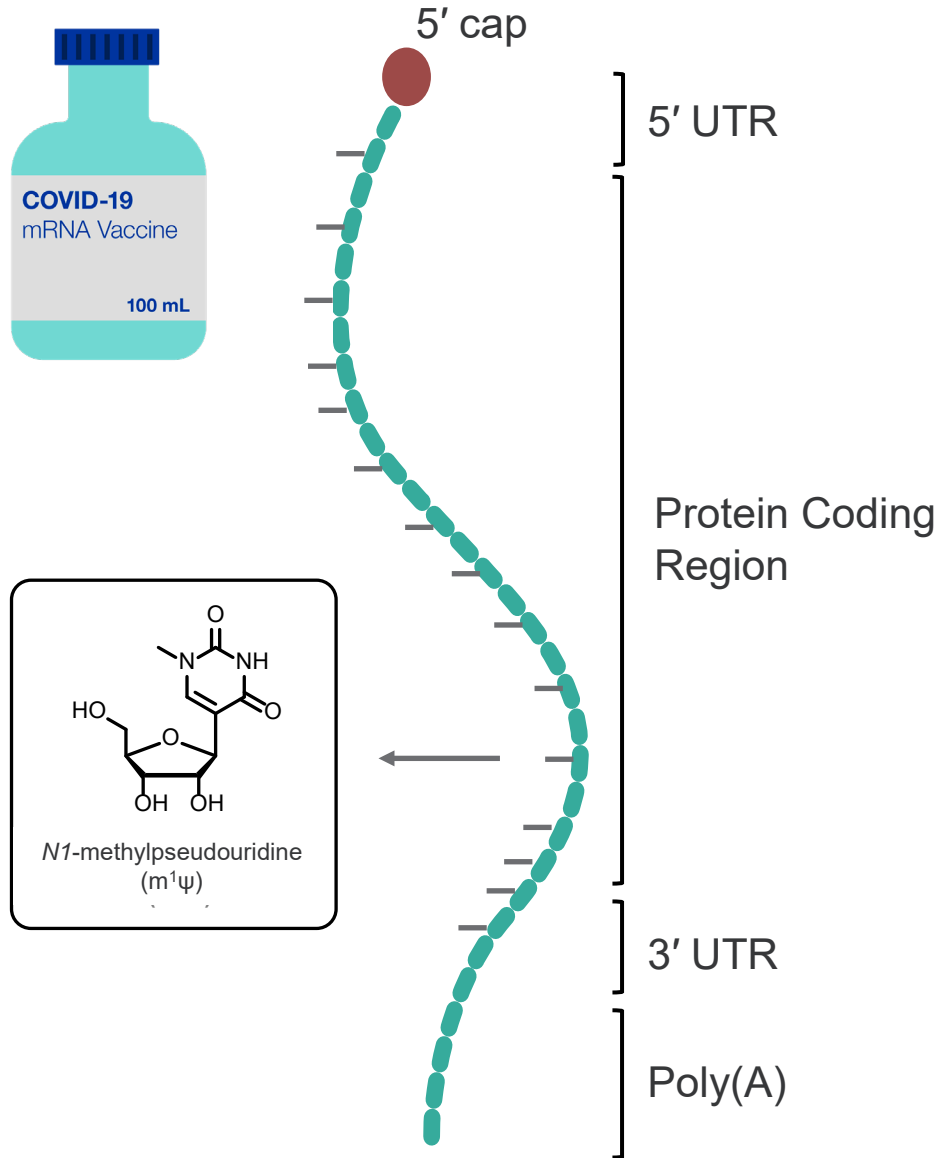
Charting a Future for Sequencing RNA & Its Modifications



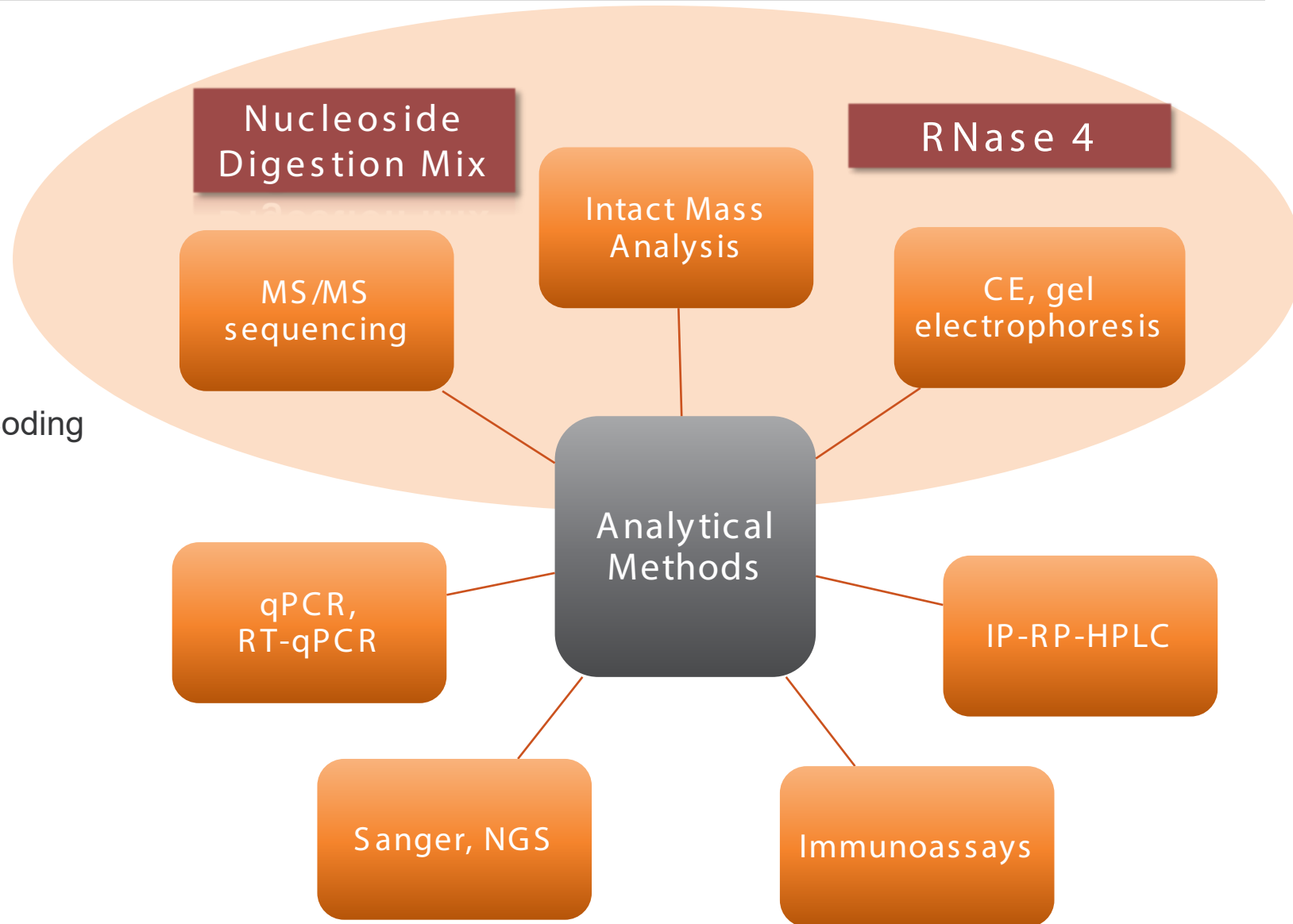
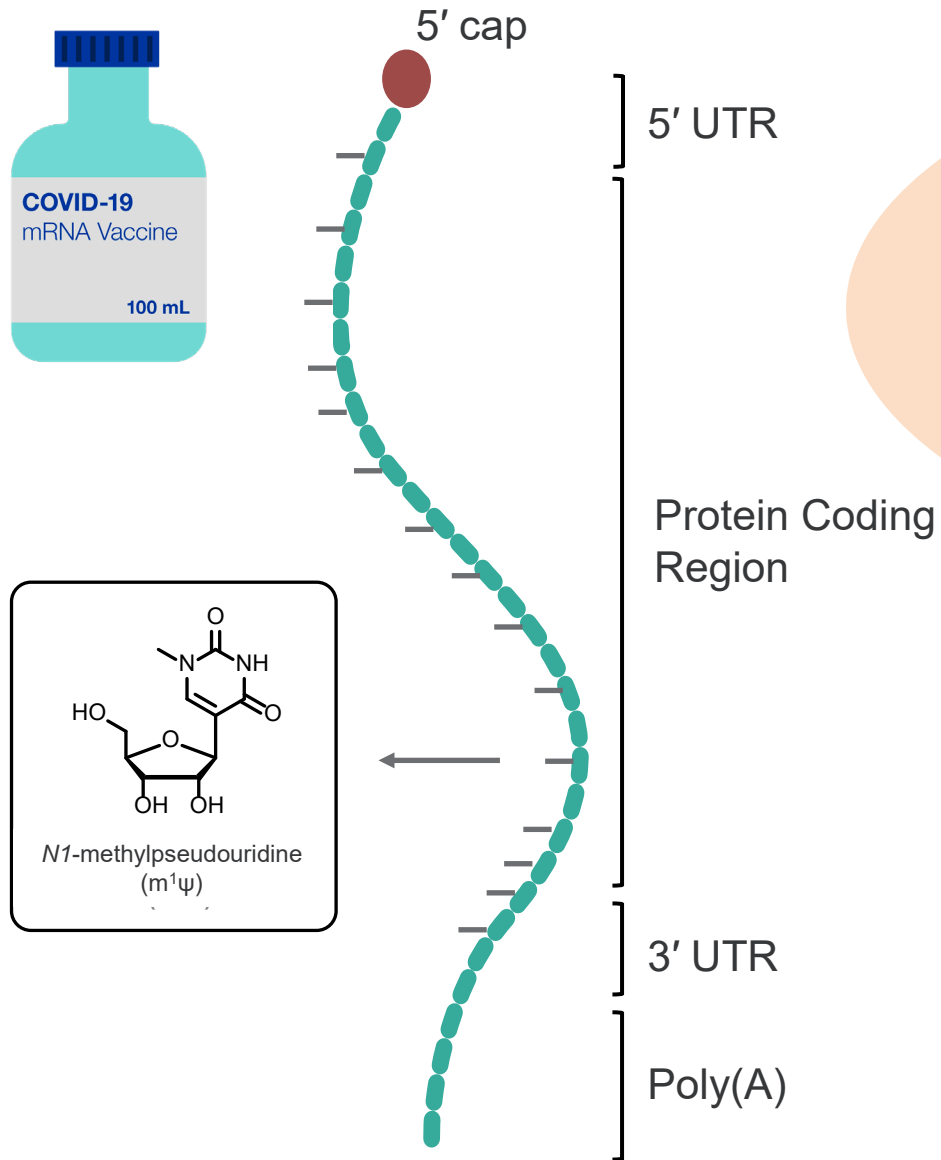
- NASEM Consensus Study Report 2024
 - Importance of RNA modifications in Biology, Disease, Medicine, and Society
 - Tools and technologies for studying RNA modifications
 - Standards and databases for RNA modifications
 - Driving innovation to study RNA modification



Key features of mRNA | USP Critical Quality Attributes

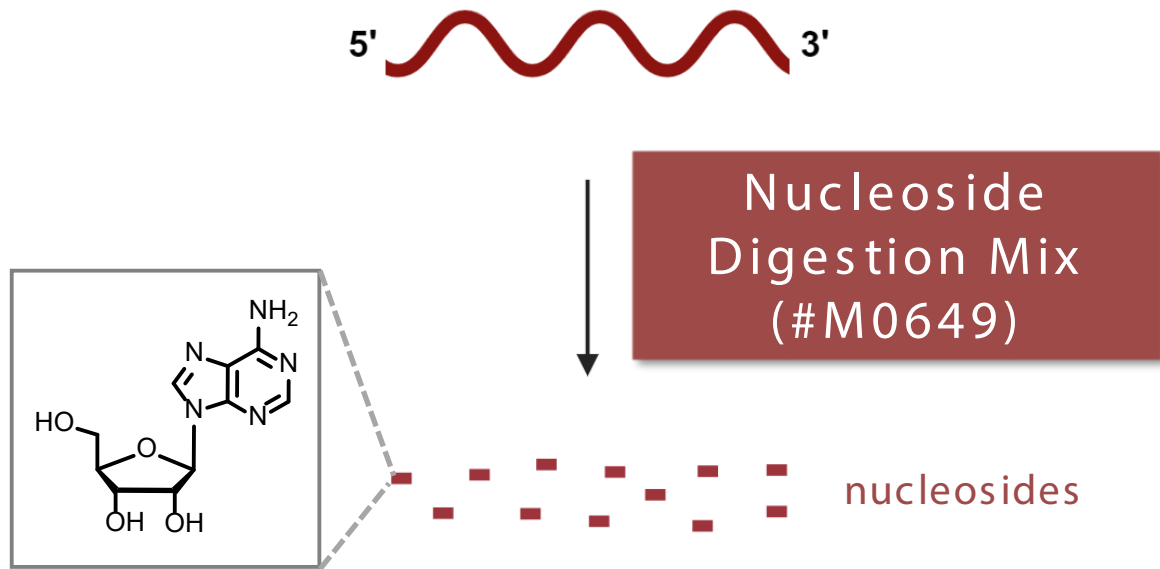


Key features of mRNA | Methods of Assessment



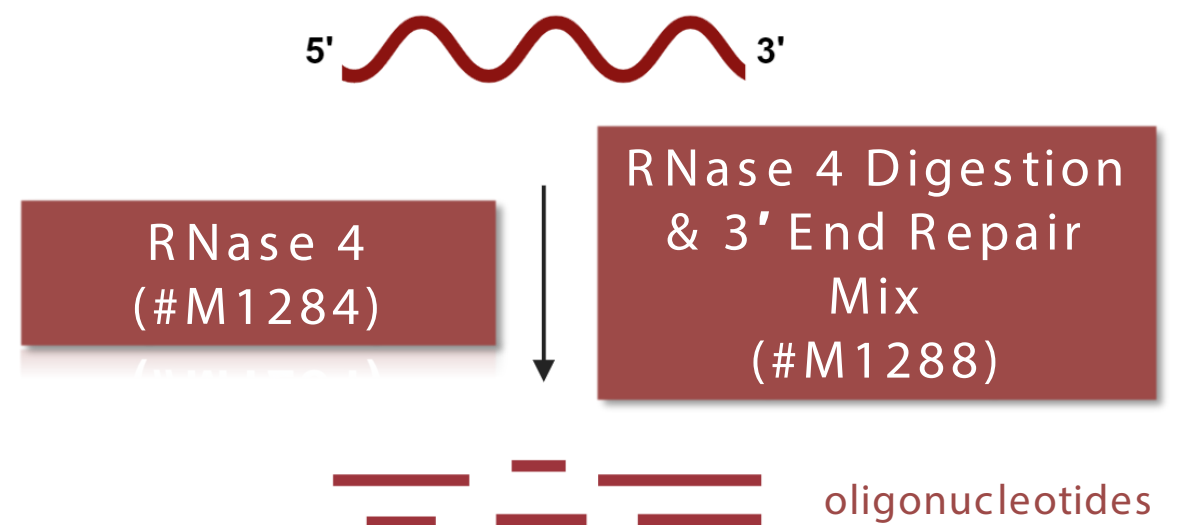
NEB Products for Bottom-Up RNA Analysis by LC-MS/MS

Nucleoside Analysis



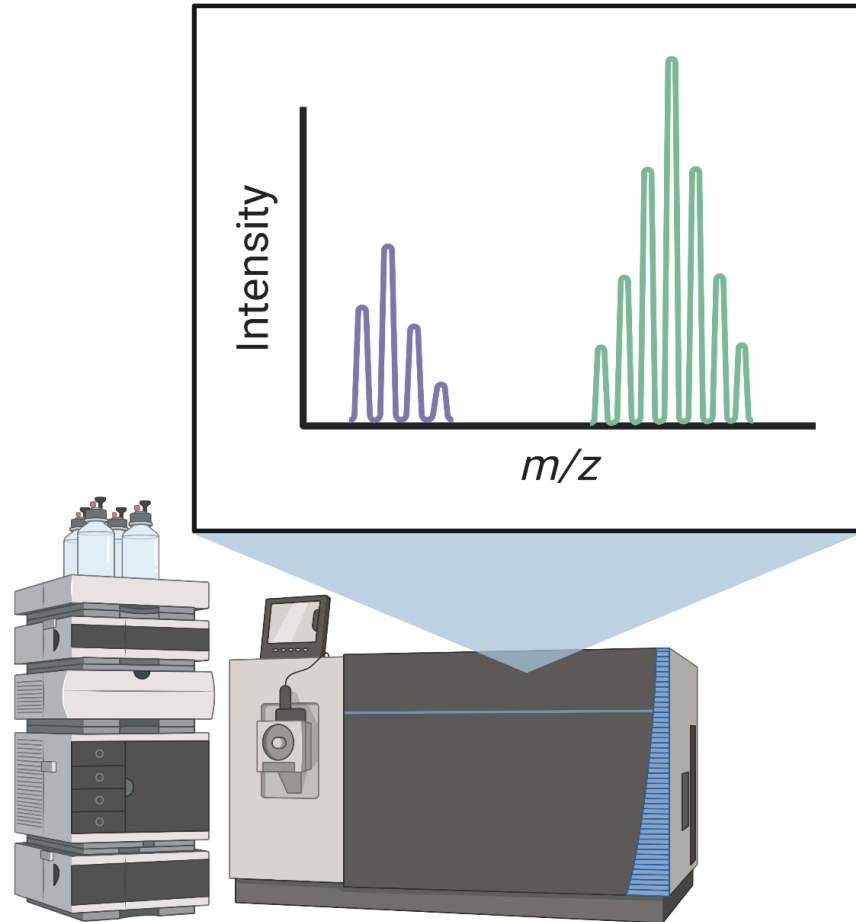
- ✓ nucleoside composition
- ✓ identify and quantify RNA modifications

Oligonucleotide Analysis



- ✓ map the position of RNA modifications
- ✓ verify RNA sequence and identity

RNA Analysis by Mass Spectrometry (MS)



Key differentiators:

- ✓ direct analysis — eliminates RT and amplification biases
- ✓ detects nucleotide modifications alongside sequence
- ✓ untargeted — applicable to all modifications
- ✓ high accuracy
- ✓ orthogonal to RNA-seq

Liquid Chromatography (LC)-MS/MS Instrumentation for RNA Analysis at NEB



**Agilent 1290 Infinity II UHPLC
– 6135 XT MS**



Agilent 1290 Infinity II UHPLC – 6495C QQQ MS



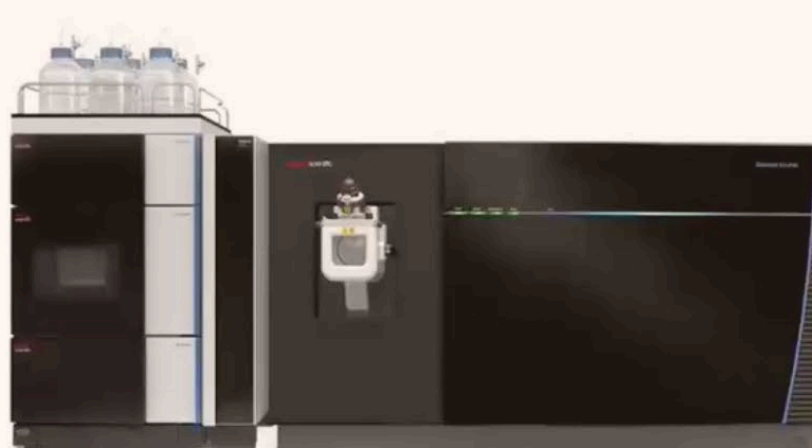
Agilent 1290 Infinity II Prep HPLC



Waters H-Class UPLC



**Thermo Vanquish Horizon UHPLC
– Q-Exactive Plus MS**



**Thermo Vanquish Horizon UHPLC –
Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid MS**



Thermo Vanquish Neo UHPLC

mRNA Sequence Identity & Modification Mapping Using RNase 4 prior to LC-MS/MS

RNase 4 has 'Goldilocks' Dinucleotide Cut-Site Specificity

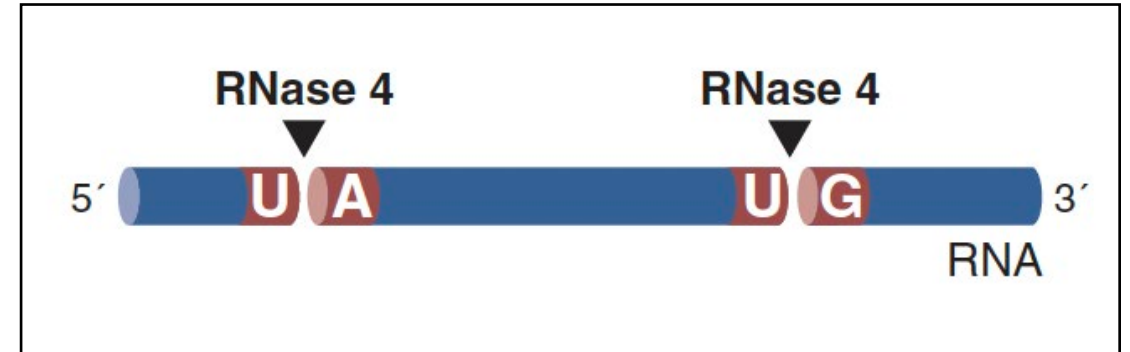
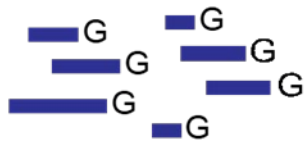
RNase A
Cuts 3' to U & C

RNase U2
Cuts 3' to A & G

RNase T1
Cuts 3' to G

mRNA

RNase 4
Cuts at U/A & U/G



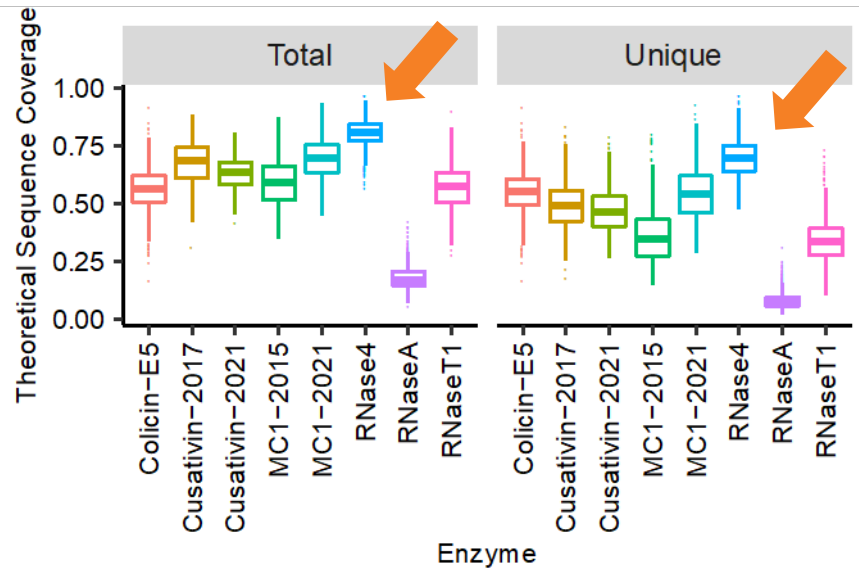
Sequence Mapping by LC-MS/MS



More
Complete
Coverage

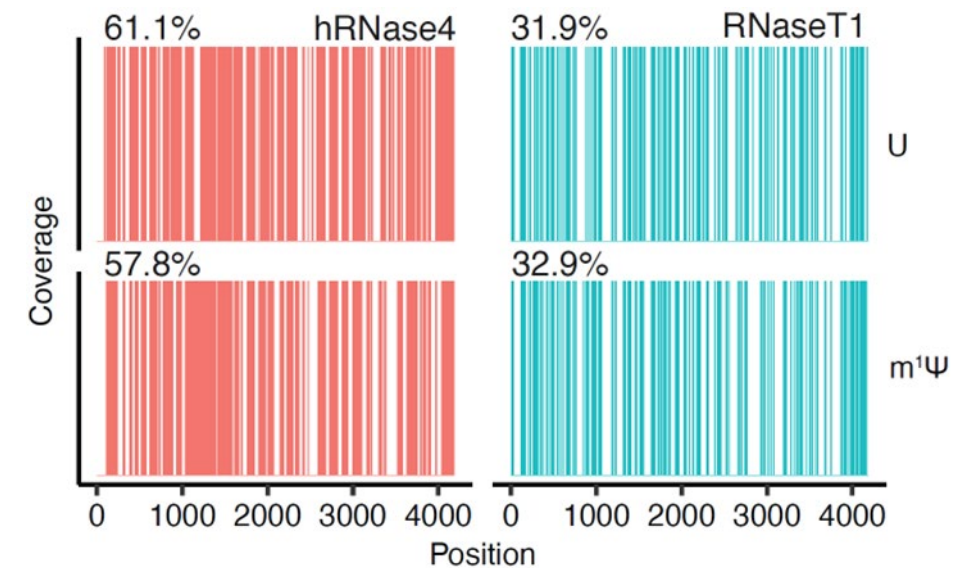
RNase 4 Theoretical & Experimental Sequencing Coverage

RNase 4 shows highest predicted mRNA sequencing coverage



1000 Random Human Transcripts (<5 kB)
4nt < Oligo length < 40nt

Mapping coverage of 4,187nt mRNA encoding
BNT162b2 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine

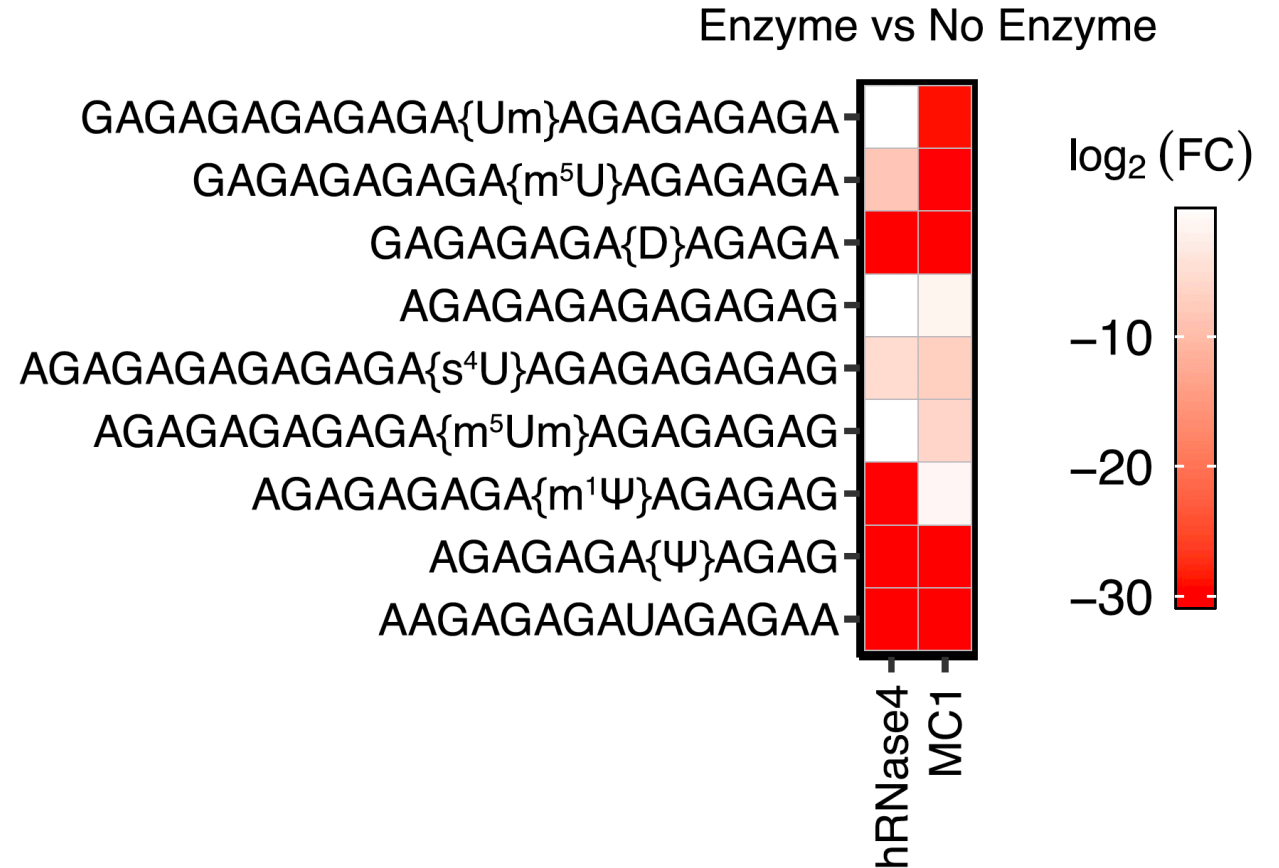
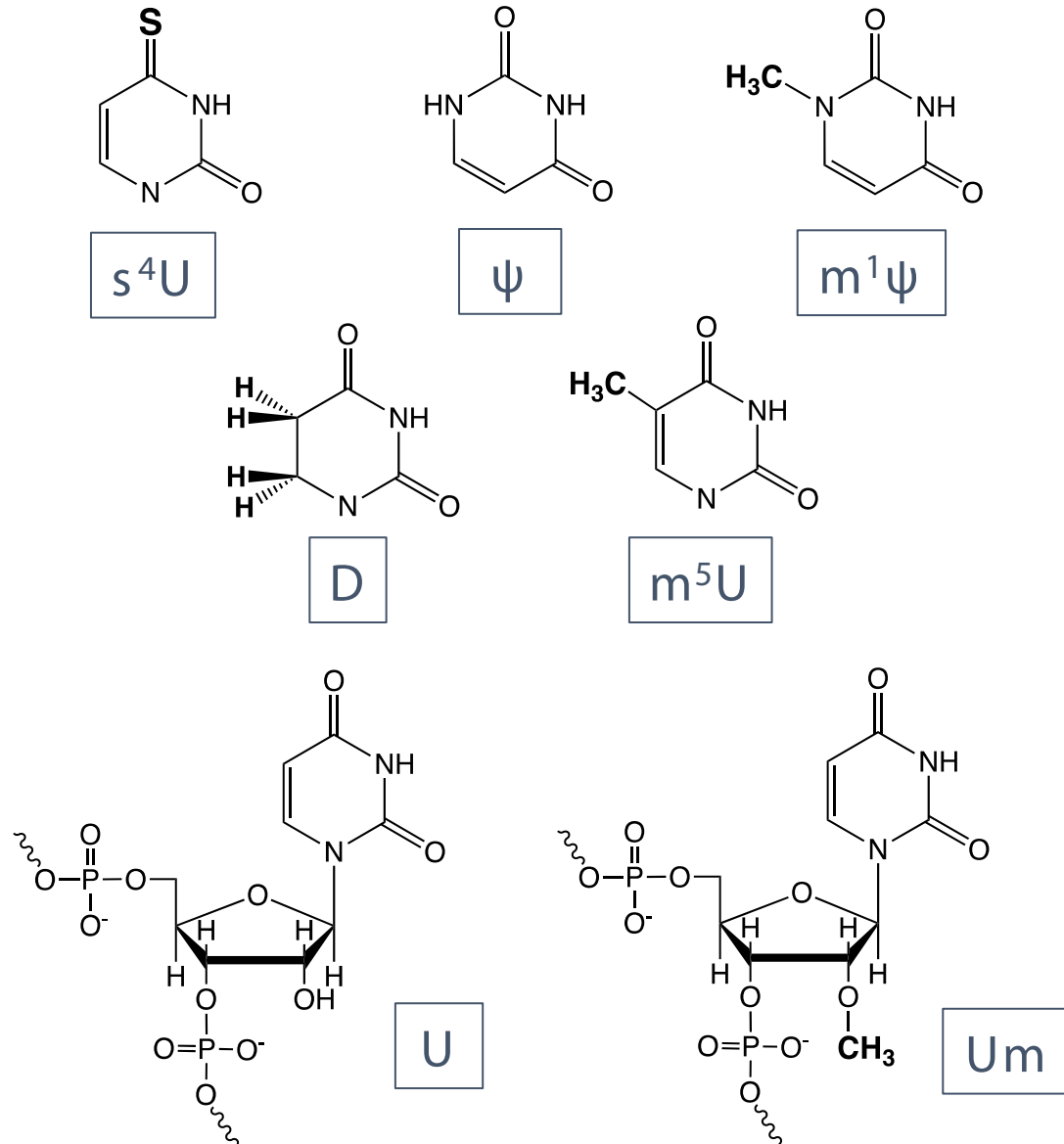


Wolf EJ et al. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2022, 50, e106



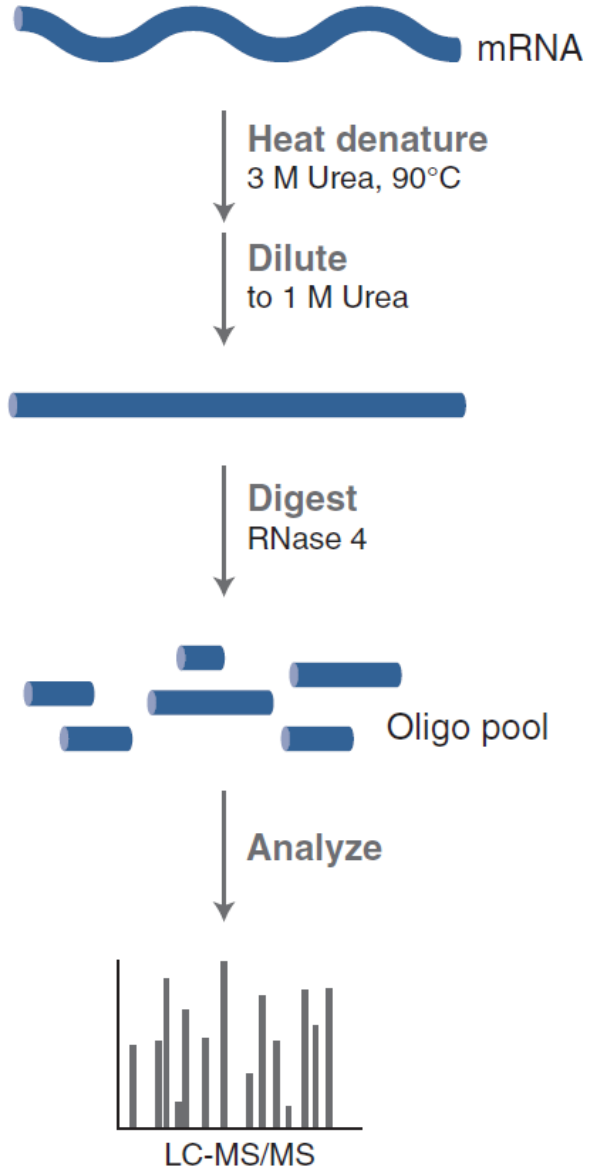
RNase 4 Endonuclease Activity

Tolerant of Uridine Chemical Modifications

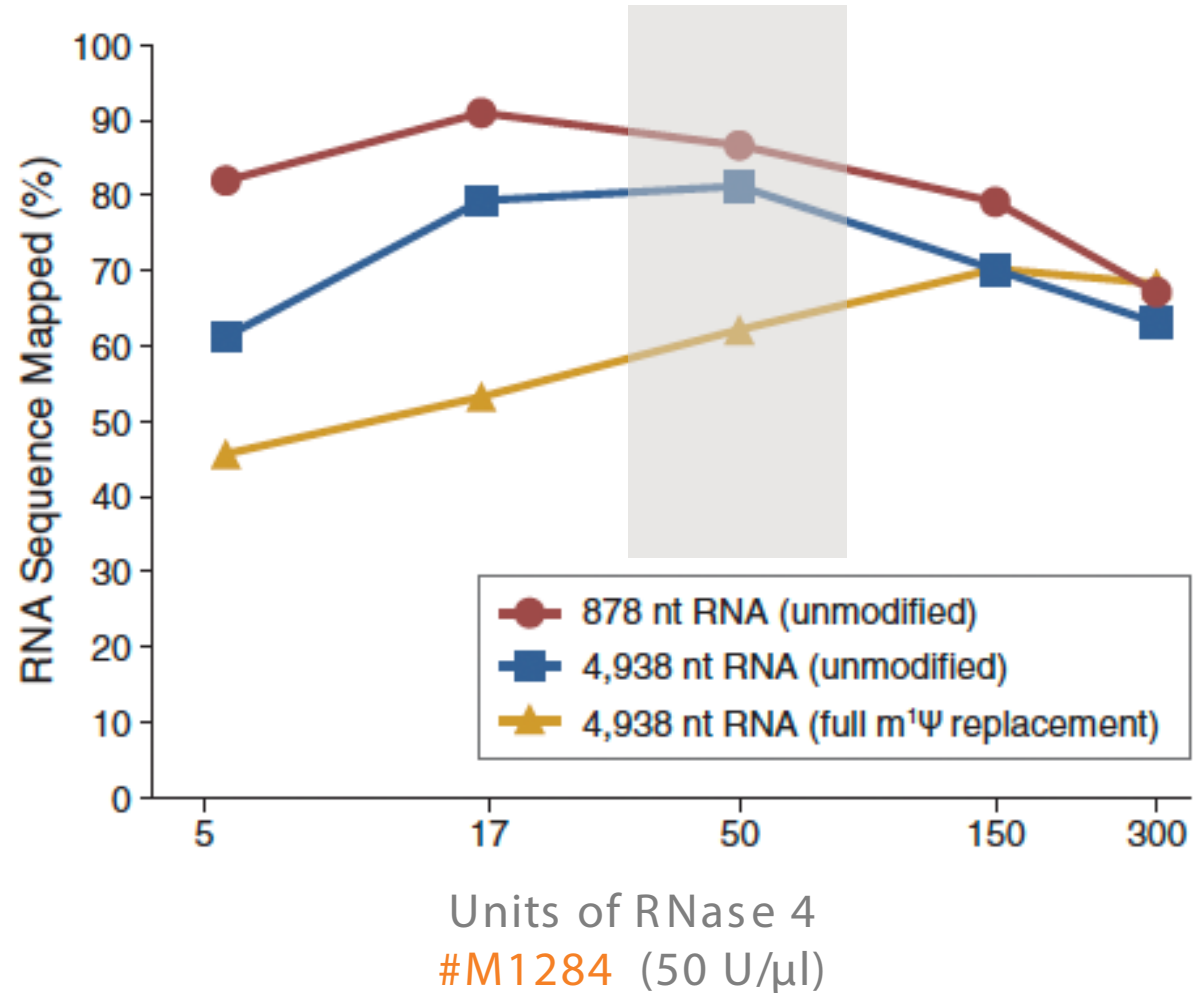


Denatured mRNA Digestion Protocol

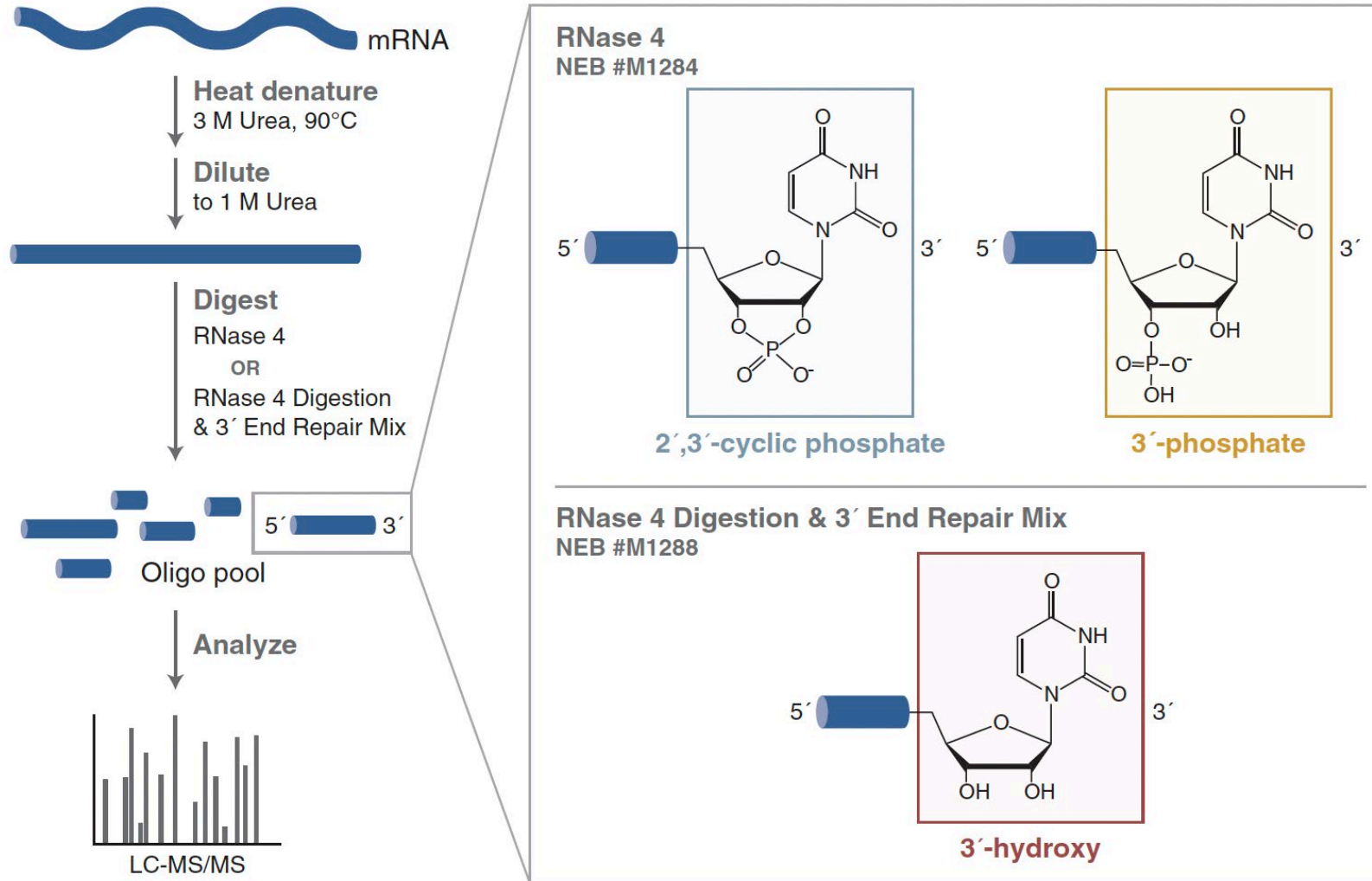
RNase 4 is Single Strand-Specific



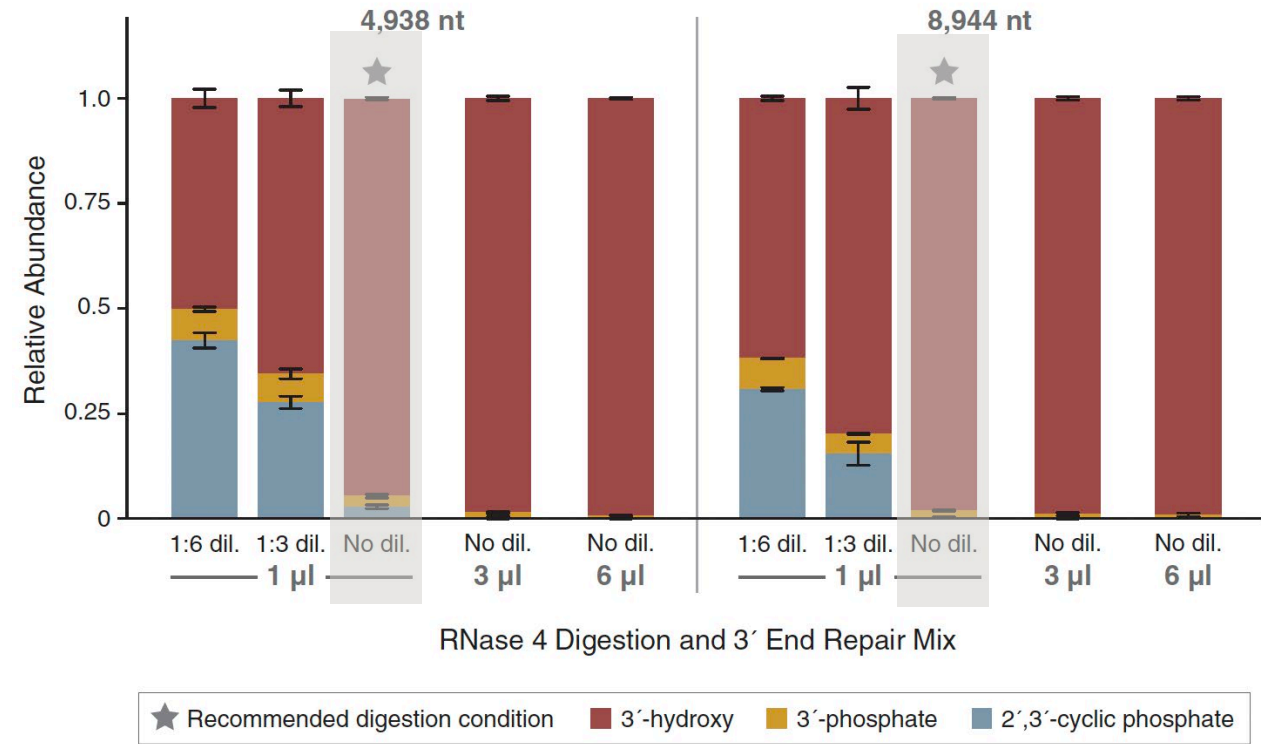
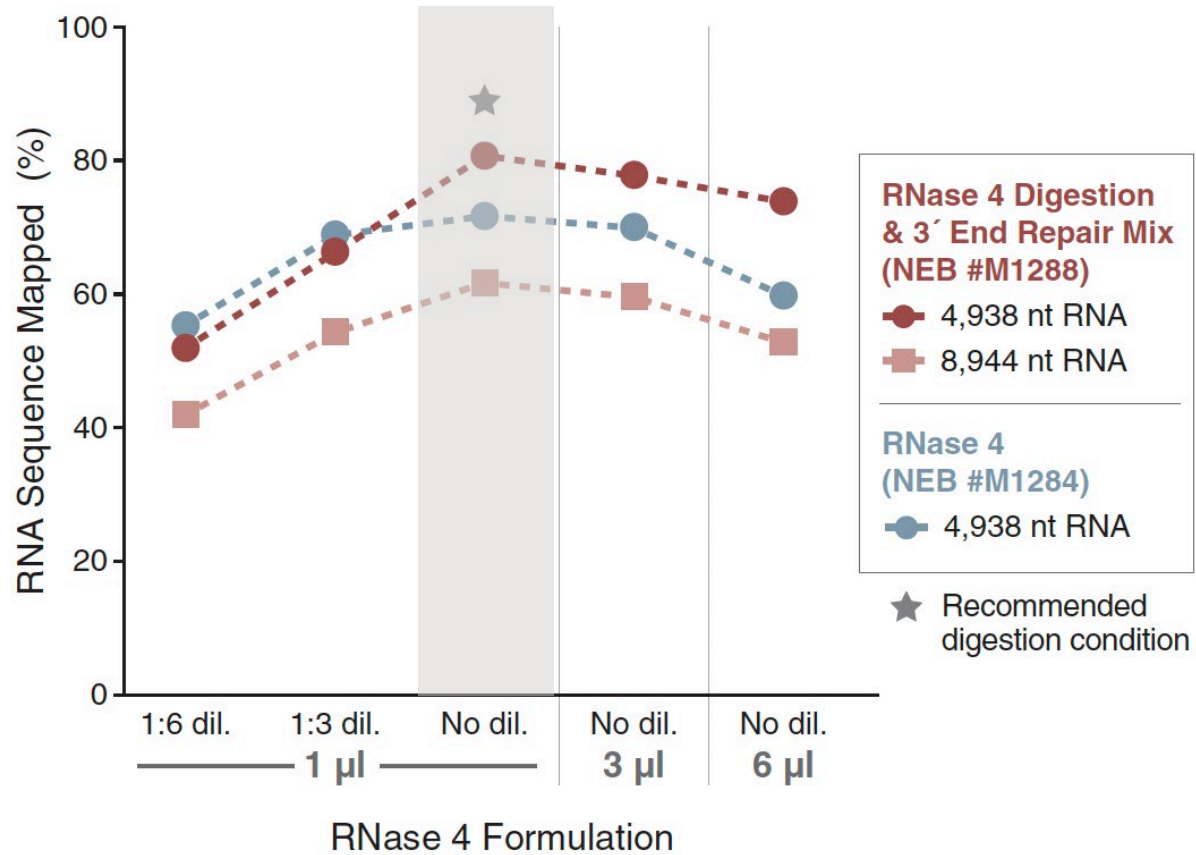
Sequencing Coverage by mRNA Length & Modification



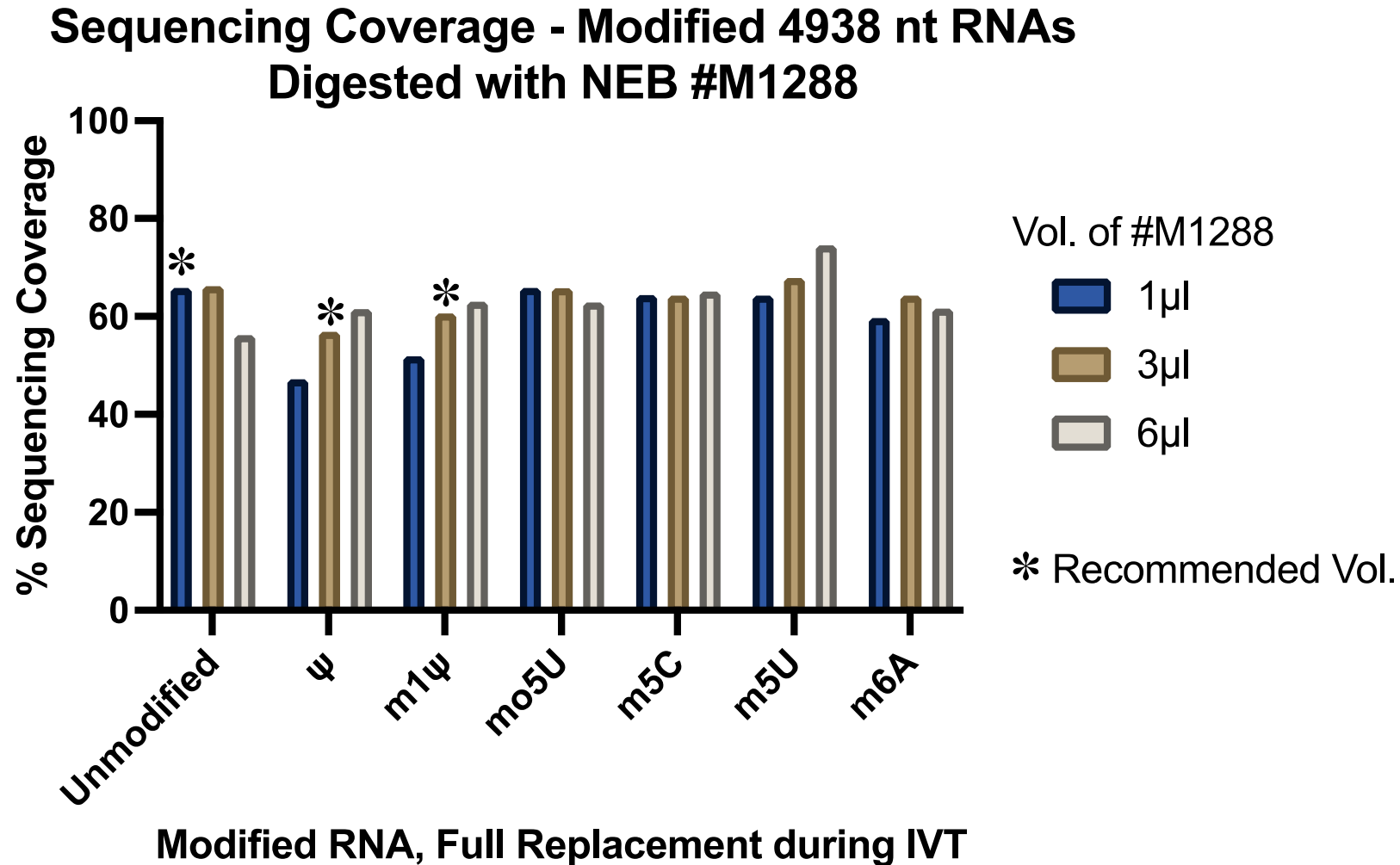
M1288 RNase 4 Digestion & 3' End Repair Mix Reduces 3'-Heterogeneity of Digestion Products



M1288 RNase 4 Digestion & 3' End Repair Mix Simplifies Spectral Analysis



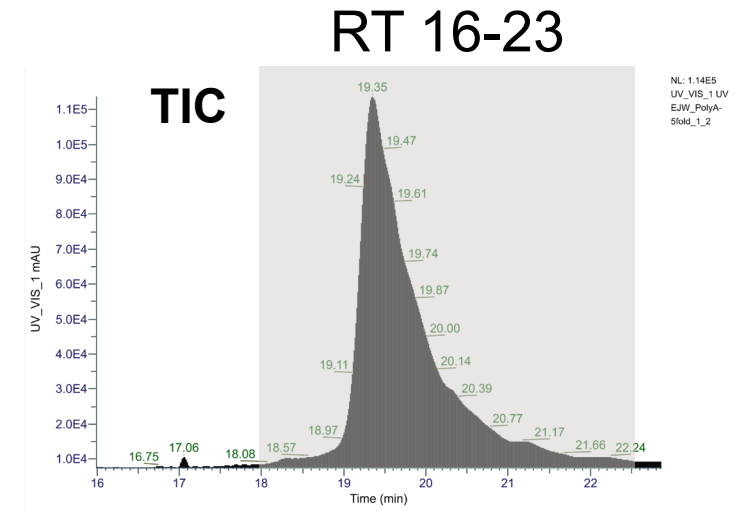
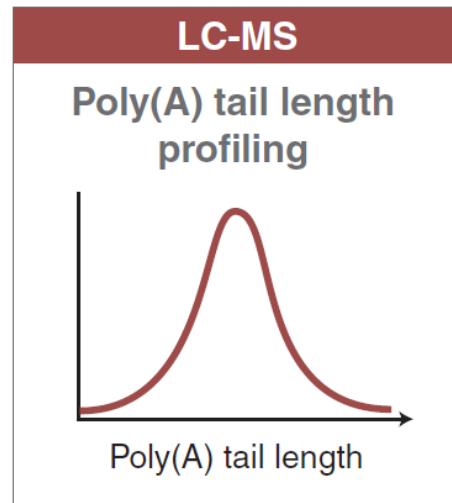
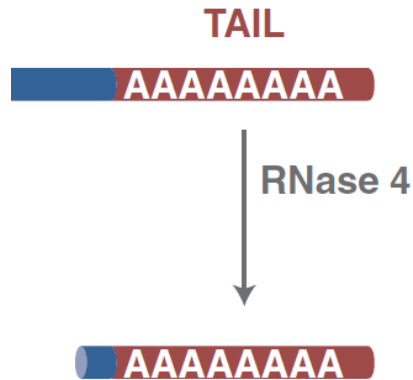
M1288 RNase 4 Digestion & 3' End Repair Mix Tolerates Common RNA Modifications



Targeted RNase 4 Digestion for Poly(A)-Tail Analysis

Targeted RNase 4 Digestion for Estimating mRNA Poly(A)-Tail Length

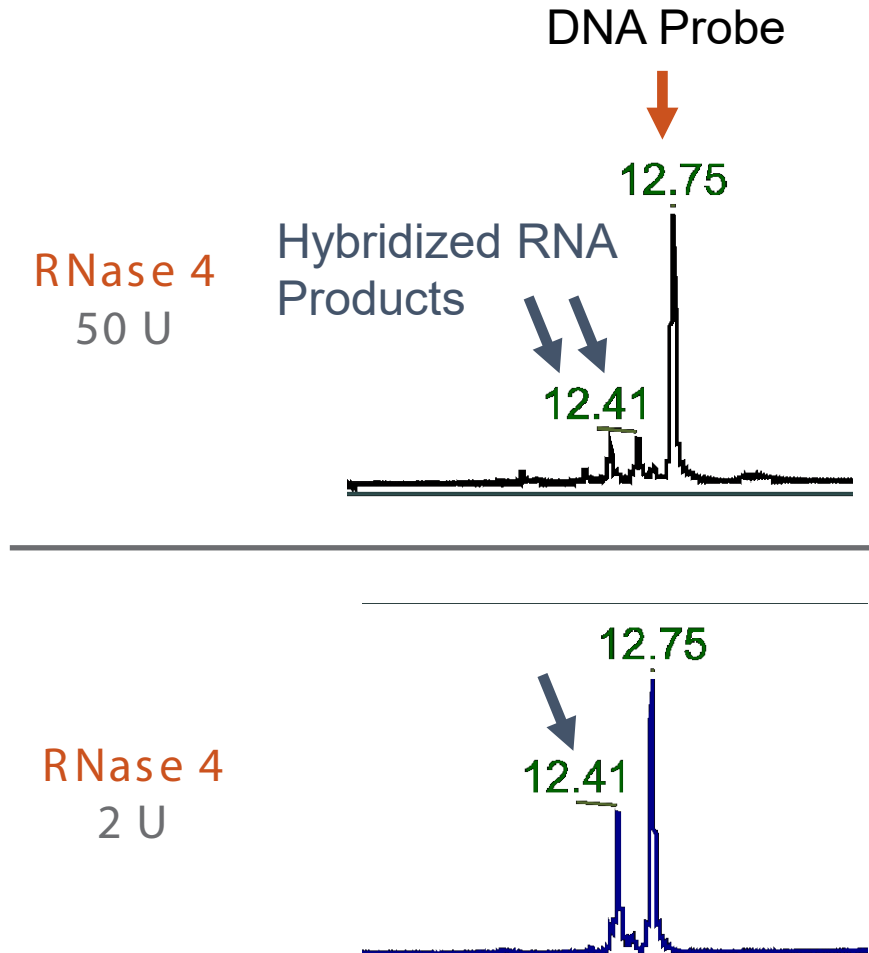
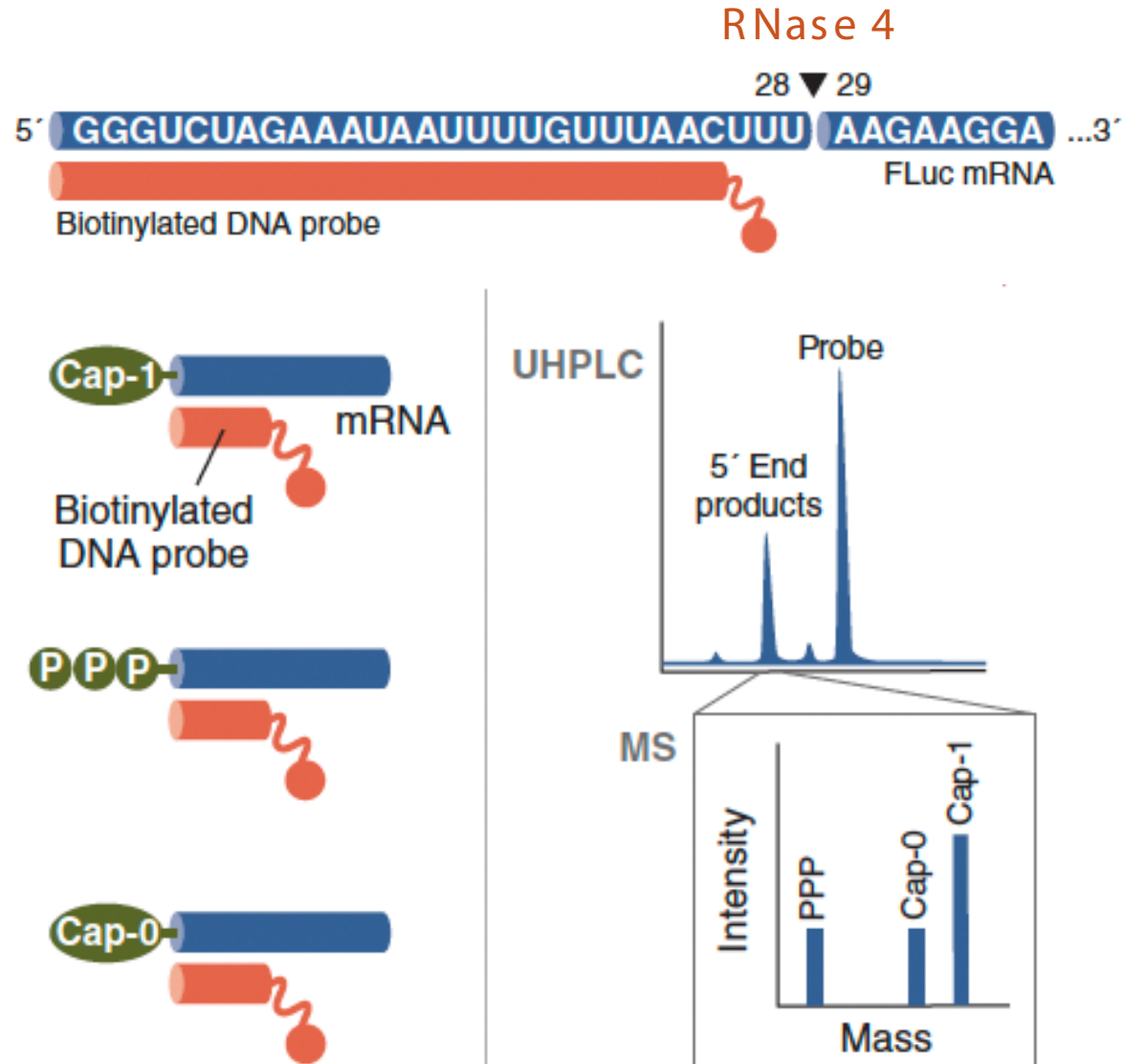
U|AGC-Poly(A)₆₀



Probe-Directed RNase 4 Digestion & Enrichment of mRNA 5'- Ends

Simplified 5' Cap Analysis Workflow

Probe-Directed RNase 4 Cleavage & Enrichment



Coming Soon: RNase 4 Cap Analysis Application Note



0 ITEMS

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**Protein Expression
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**Glycobiology &
Protein Analysis**

87 Results

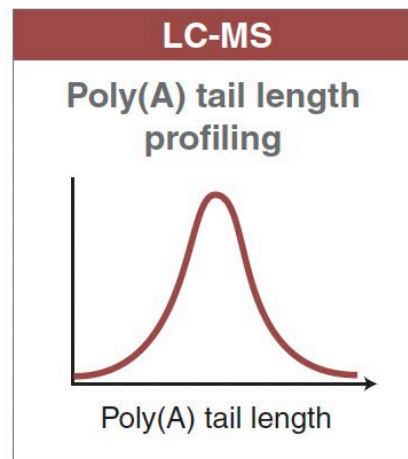
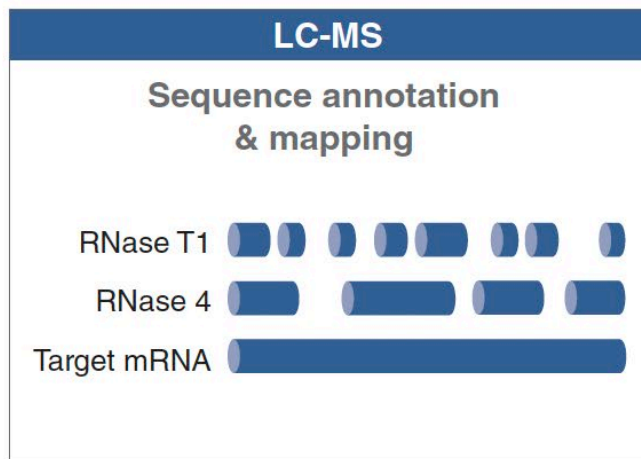
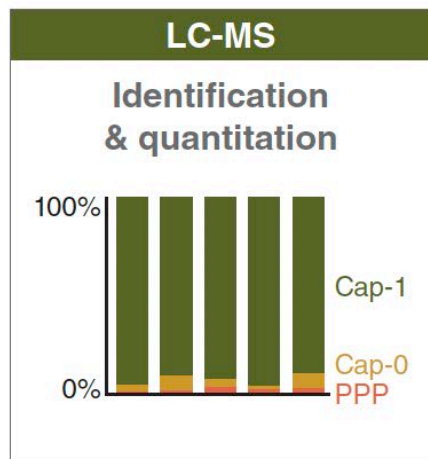
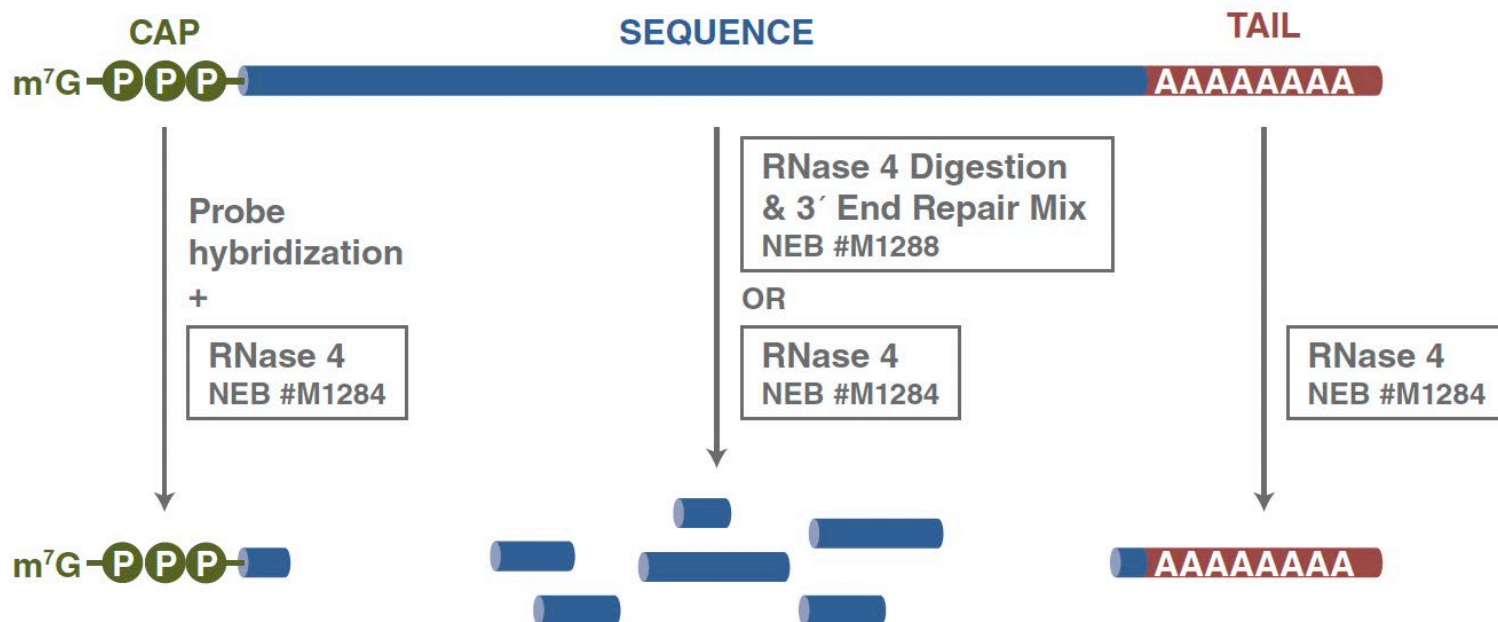
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Summary



Thank You USP Virtual Summit Attendees!

Research

Eric Wolf
Nan Dai
Ivan Correa
Sebastian Gruenberg
Erbay Yigit
Siuhong Chan

Director RNA AppDev

Joe Whipple

Marketing

Tasha Jose
Breton Hornblower

NEB R&D Leadership

Sal Russello
Tom Evans
Nicole Nichols

RNase 4 Product Testimonials

“We tested RNase 4 digestion on a FLuc mRNA from TriLink BioTechnologies® for LCMS/MS fingerprinting applications. Along with the enzyme, a protocol, and a publication on the use of RNase 4 in this type of application was provided. The protocol was easy to follow and yielded great results. Activity was observed at UA and UG as described in the companion study.”

Camila Ortega Ramirez, Ph.D.
Trilink Biotechnologies

“The use of hRNase 4 simplified the sample preparation for subsequent LC-MSMS sequencing of long oligonucleotides (>100 nts). It eased protocols and improved data quality compared to commonly used RNases.”

Michael Rühl, Ph.D.
BIOSPRING