How to use Winnow

1) Go to the 'Start' button and find the 'Command Prompt' selection. If you don't see it immediately, try going to 'All Programs', then 'Accessories'.

2) Download the winnow.zip file and copy it into a folder in the 'Command Prompt'. A typical folder name might look like C:\Users\johndoe.

3) Unzip the file as you would any other zip file.

4) Make sure your data file is in text format (.txt) and does not contain commas or any other punctuation. There are three input fields, i.e., mass, intensity and resolution (or some other value), in that order. No others. Values should be separated by spaces only!

5) Do not include spaces in either the input filename or the output filename.

6) Put your data file in the same 'Command Prompt' folder as winnow.exe

7) To run winnow, type in your parameters as shown below, without the braces, '{' and '}'; include only the information within the braces. Do not put a file extension on the output file name:

winnow {mass scan data filename} {element symbol or ion formula with charge sign appended as either + or -} {ppm error, e.g., 0.7} {number of mass differences to use in the search} {output filename}

A typical command string should look like this:

winnow Se_input_data.txt C5H10NO2SeSe+ 1.0 10 Se_output

The output will be saved into the same folder as your .txt file, with the .csv file extension, and can then be imported directly into EXCEL.