



Agenda

- Explore HT Assay Validation
- Explore HT Normalization
- Explore HT QC workflow

- CEACAM5
- CCL3
- IL6
- IL7
- CXCL8
- TNF
- IL8
- TREM2
- PSIP1



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Assay Validation



Unique
biomarkers

5,416

>80% increase

New unique
biomarkers

2,567

Not in Explore 3072

New customer
“wish biomarkers”

186

Olink-developed
antibodies

61%

Excluding the 2 “overlapping assays” (GBP1, MAP2K1) that are included in 3 blocks, which are used to compare the performance of the different blocks. Total number of assays: 5420

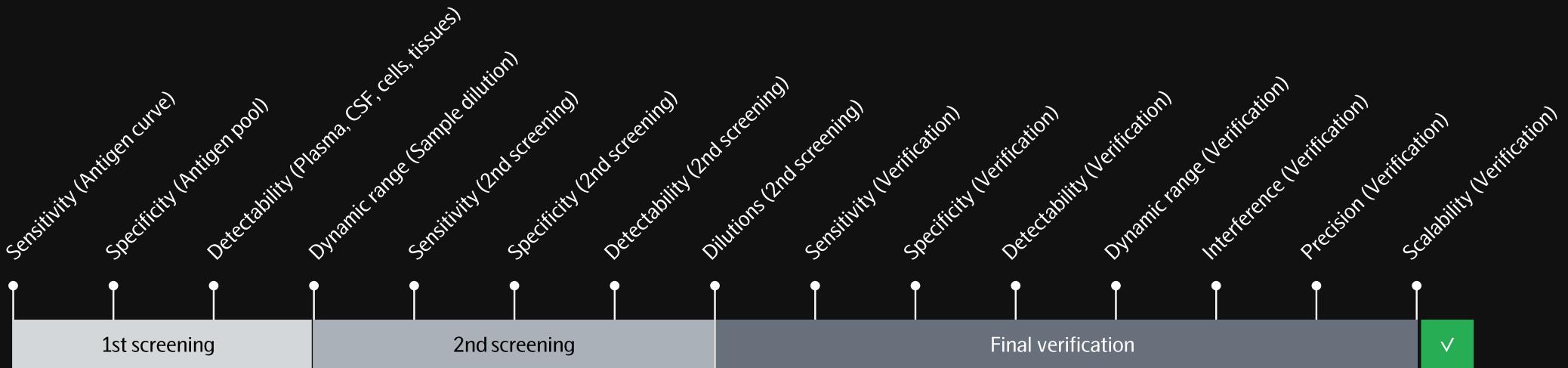


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All Olink assays undergo a rigorous three step,
15-factor analytical verification process

15,300 assays tested
5,400+ approved





Maintaining quality, ensuring reliability

qPCR screening

(96-plex)

- ✓ Plasma
- ✓ Serum
- ✓ CSF
- ✓ Tissue & cell lysates

Passing criteria

1. Antigen curves

Range ~7 NPX

2. Specificity

No cross reactivity

3. Sample testing

(Undiluted, 1:10, 1:00)

Uniform sample dilution + Antigen & samples hook at similar level, with similar dilution patterns

NGS screening

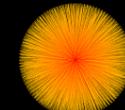
(192-plex)

- ✓ Plasma
 - ✓ Serum
 - ✓ CSF
- NGS data must be similar to qPCR data to pass**

Verification

(5400+ plex)

Assays integrated into a product panel, and then undergo additional verification and validation studies



Olink Explore HT



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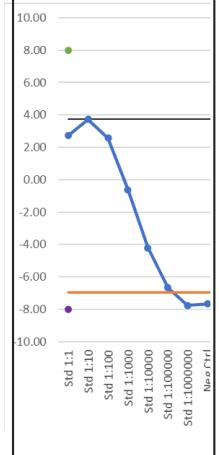
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NGS screen: Passed biomarker assay

1

Antigen curve

500 ng – 5 pg



2

Specificity

Antigen pools (recombinants)

Replicates

LOD

Hook

Antigen pools (recombinants)

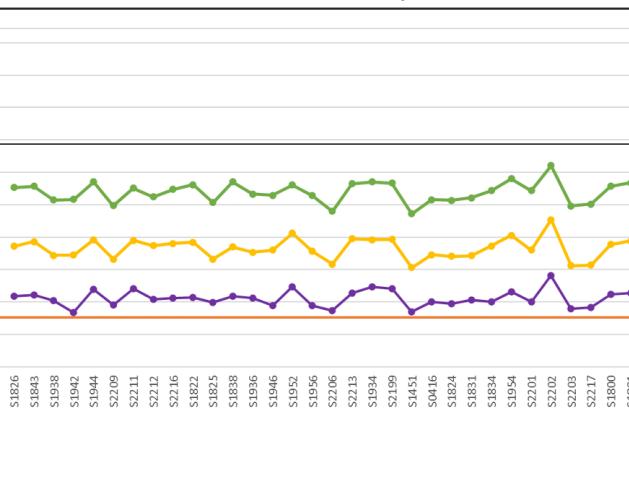
Plasma samples

Plasma samples

Serum & CSF

Serum & CSF

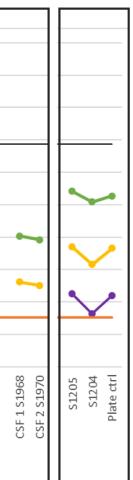
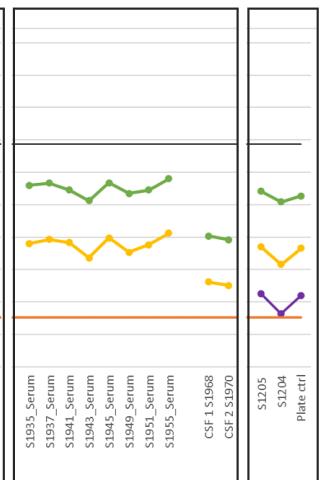
Ctrls



1:10

1:100

1:1000





NGS screen: Failed biomarker assay

1

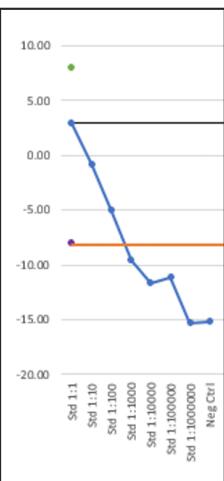
2

3

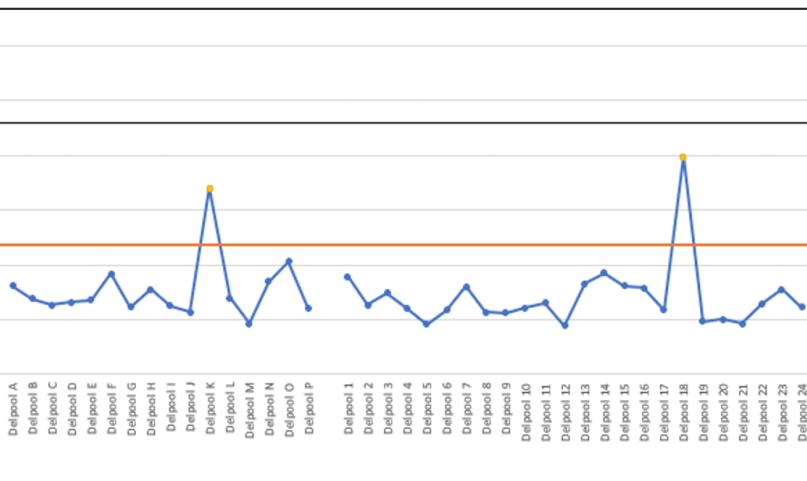
Specificity

Dilution linearity

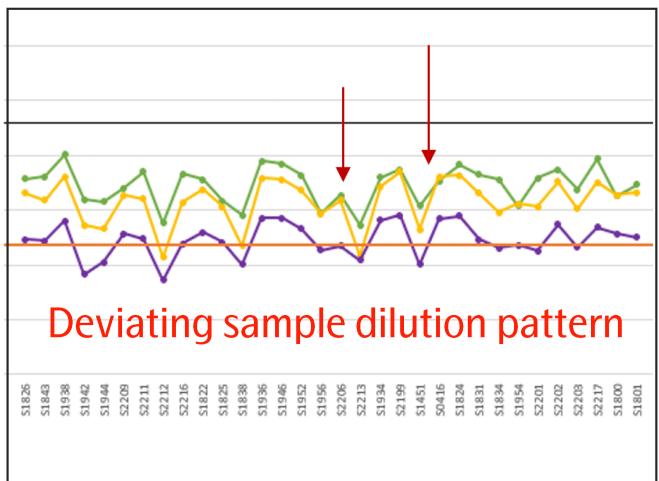
Antigen curve



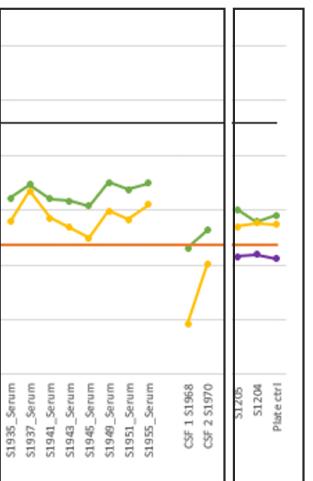
Antigen pools



Plasma



Serum & CSF





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Mean intra-CV
(within plate)

<11%

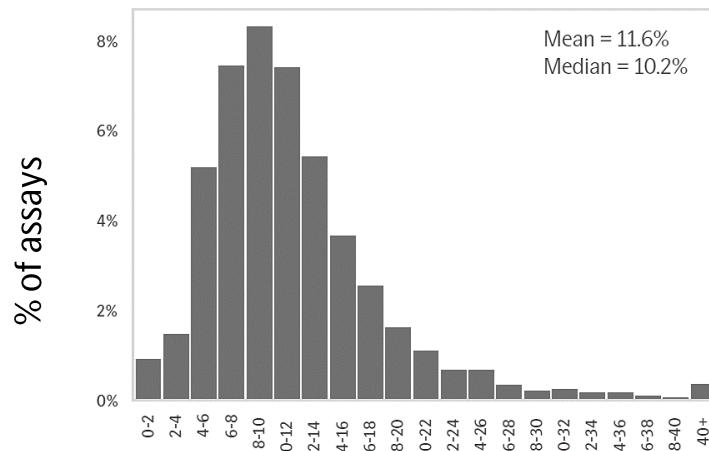
Explore 1536: <10%

Mean inter-CV
(between plates)

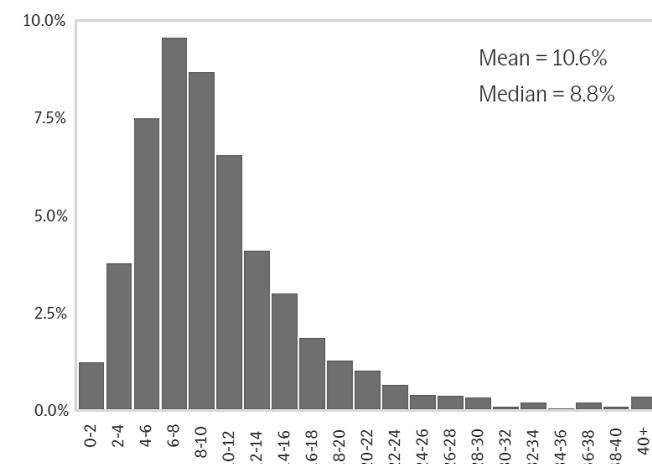
<9%

Explore 1536: <9%

Variation between Control Samples within a plate



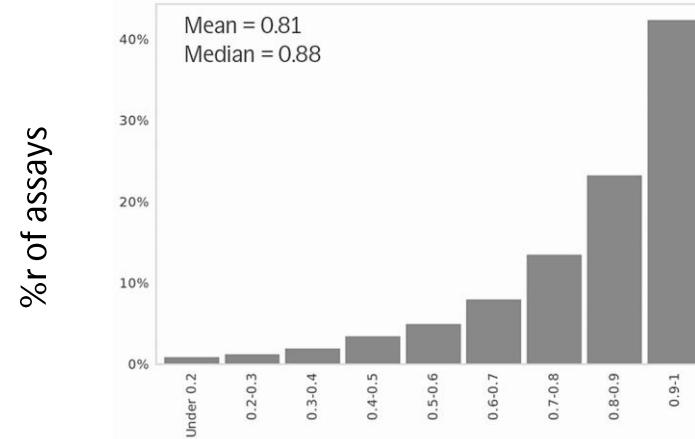
Variation between plate means of Control Samples





Per-assay correlation coefficient (R)
between Explore 3072 and Explore HT

0.88 median



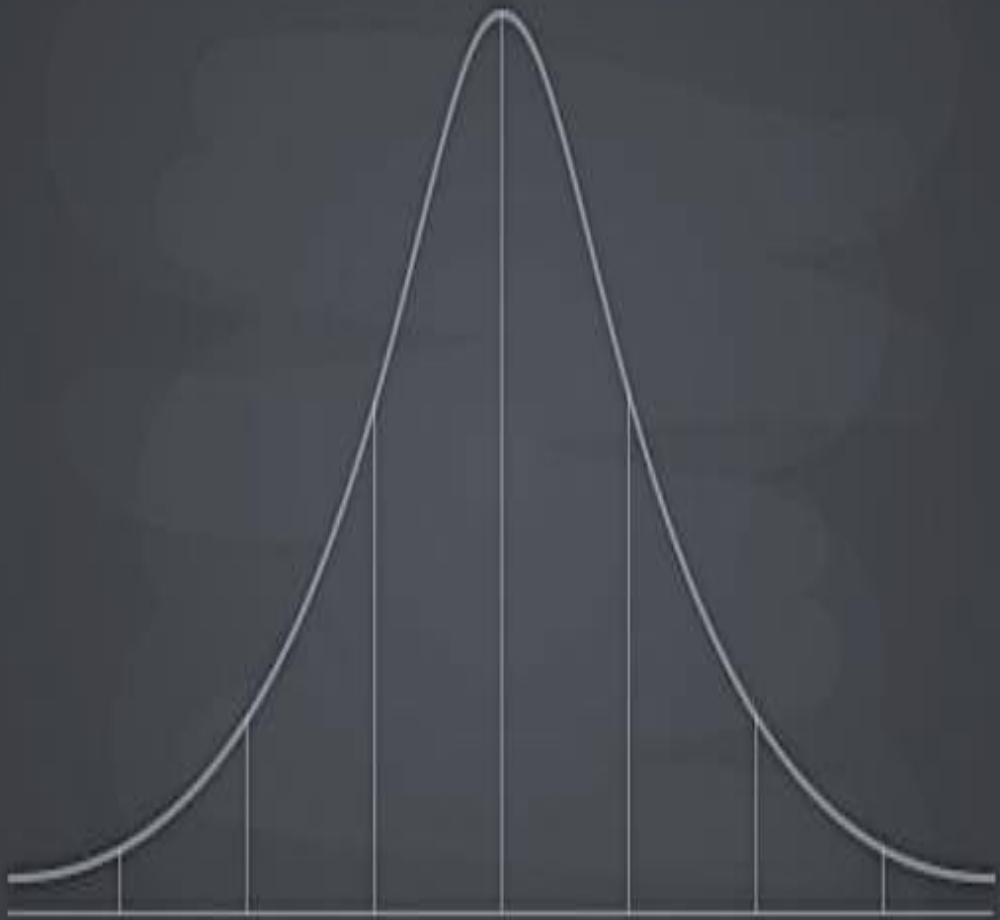
Correlation between Explore 3072 and Explore HT



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Data Normalization





Explore HT quality control – Internal Controls

Incubation Reaction



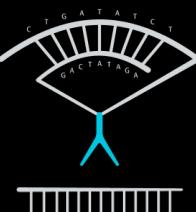
Incubation control



Extension/ Amplification



Extension control
Amplification control



Incubation control

- 1 non-human antigen
- Monitors **all** steps of the assay
- Used for QC of samples and the entire run by **comparing the experiment value in each sample with the plate median**

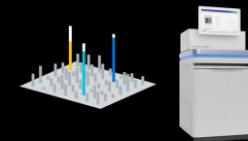
Extension control

- IgG conjugated with oligo pair
- Monitors **extension, pre-amplification and detection**
- Used for data normalization

Amplification control

- Synthetic double-stranded DNA
- Monitors **pre-amplification and detection**
- Used for QC of samples and the entire run by **comparing the experiment value in each sample with the plate median**

NGS Readout





Explore HT quality control – External Controls

5 Plate Controls (PCs):

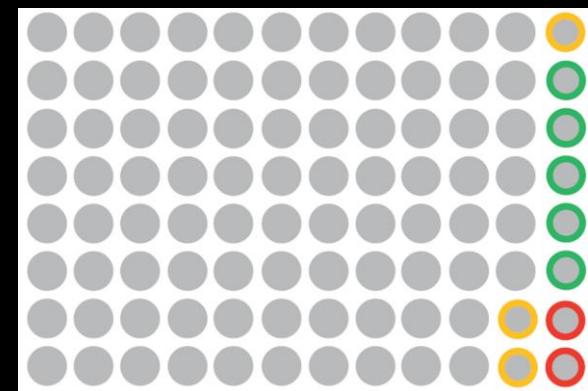
- Improve normalization performance, especially for low detecting assays
- Reduce need of bridging samples

3 Sample Controls:

- Ensure more robust CV calculation, even with one failed Sample Control

2 Negative Controls:

- Give more room to customer samples, while still sufficient for indicating contamination and plate swaps



Olink Plate Controls

Olink Sample Controls

Olink Negative Controls



Calculating NPX

NPX represents the relative signal in log2 scale

1

$$ExtNPX_{i,j} = \log_2 \left(\frac{counts (Sample_j, Assay_i)}{counts (ExtCtr_j)} \right)$$

- For all assays and all samples (including negative controls, control samples, reference samples etc.)
- Relate counts to known standard (Extension control)
- Log2 transformation helps with more normalized distribution of data

2a

$$NPX_{PC\ i,j} = ExtNPX_{i,j} - \text{median} (ExtNPX(\text{plate controls}_i))$$

Plate control normalization:

- Normalized by the median of the plate controls on the same plate for the same assay
- Performs plate standardization

2b

$$NPX_{IntNorm\ i,j} = ExtNPX_{i,j} - \text{median} (ExtNPX(samples_i))$$

Intensity normalization:

- Normalized by the median of all samples on the same plate for the same assay (excluding the control strip)
- Performs plate standardization in randomized multi-plate projects



Bridging between platforms

- Bridging between Explore HT and 3K:
 - 40 – 64 bridging samples needed.
 - Bridging module available in Olink Analyze R
 - https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/OlinkAnalyze/vignettes/bridging_E3072toEHT.html
 - Explore HT and Explore 3072 contain differences which need more bridging samples to address and perform optimal bridging correction than between the same products
- Bridging between Target and Explore:
 - Not recommended.
 - Target and Explore sample processing methods differs too much (qPCR vs Sequencing)



Bridging between platforms general rules

Recommended number of bridging samples Olink Platforms	
Platform	# Bridging samples
Target 96	8-16
Explore 384 Cardiometabolic, Inflammation, Neurology, and Oncology	8-16
Explore 384 Cardiometabolic II, Inflammation II, Neurology II, and Oncology II	16-24
Reveal	16-24
Explore HT	16-32
Explore 3072 to Explore HT	40-64
Explore 3072 to Reveal	32-48

https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/OlinkAnalyze/vignettes/bridging_introduction.html



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Olink® Explore HT software suite





Focus areas to develop a Software package that suites all Olink® products with NGS readout including Explore HT and addresses customer needs

Simplicity in Data QC

Automated handling of extra-large datasets

Flexibility in type of delivered data





An improved data QC

HIGHLY AUTOMATED

Reduces the number of manual steps resulting in a simpler and faster data QC

ROBUST

Independent of study design and sample quality

ACTIONABLE

Detects the most severe technical errors and helps identify failure root causes



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Automated software solutions
for a simplified & faster path to
actionable insights

Olink® NPX MAP software

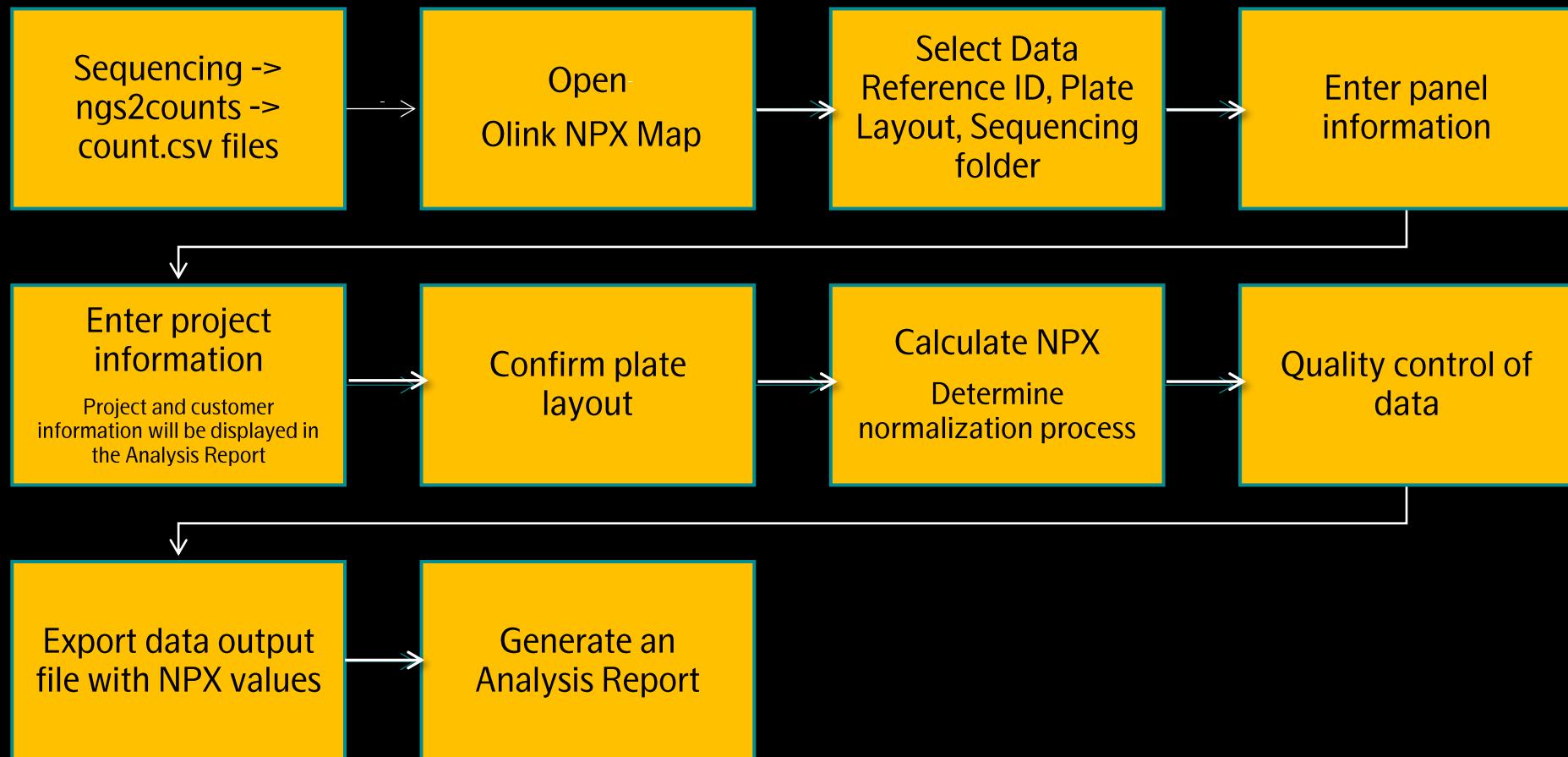
Desktop software

Olink® NPX MAP CLI software

Command Line Interface software



Data Analysis and NPX MAP Workflow





Create Plate Layout

A	well_id;sample_id;sample_type
1	well_id;sample_id;sample_type
2	A12;SC3;CONTROL
3	B12;PC1;PLATE_CONTROL
4	C12;PC2;PLATE_CONTROL
5	D12;PC3;PLATE_CONTROL
6	E12;PC4;PLATE_CONTROL
7	F12;PC5;PLATE_CONTROL
8	G12;NC1;NEGATIVE_CONTROL
9	H12;NC2;NEGATIVE_CONTROL
10	A1;S1;SAMPLE
11	B1;S2;SAMPLE
12	C1;S3;SAMPLE
13	D1;S4;SAMPLE
14	E1;S5;SAMPLE
15	F1;S6;SAMPLE
16	G1;S7;SAMPLE
17	H1;S8;SAMPLE

Header:

- well_id
- sample_id
- sample_type

well_id:

- A1, B1, C1, ...

sample_id:

- No character other than "_"

sample_type:

- SAMPLE
- EMPTY
- CONTROL
- PLATE_CONTROL
- NEGATIVE_CONTROL
- NOT USED

.csv format using semicolon as delimiter, template available



NPX File content

- **NPX File**
 - Now contains counts files by default
- **Extended NPX also contains**
 - IntraCV
 - InterCV
 - SampleBlockQCWarn
 - SampleBlockQCFail
 - BlockQCFail
 - AssayQCWarn

Column	Description
SampleID	The annotated sample ID
Sample Type	Type of sample
WellID	Id for well
PlateID	Name of the plate the sample was run on
DataAnalysisRefID	Reference ID for data analysis
OlinkID	OlinkID for assay
UniProt	UniProt ID for assay
Assay	Gene name for assay
AssayType	Type of assay
Panel	Panel name
Block	Name of the block the sample was run on
Count	The total number of counts
ExtNPX	Intermediate value between count and NPX: log2 of the ratio between datapoint Count value and the count for the Extension Control assay for the same sample.
NPX	NPX value
Normalization	Type of normalization used in project
PCNormalizedNPX	NPX value displayed if plate control normalization has been chosen.
AssayQC	Overall QC status for an assay
SampleQC	Overall QC status for a sample in a block
MapVersion	Software version of the module in Olink NPX Map used for panel calculations and normalization



A new NPX file format

- Parquet
 - Data compression
 - 7-8Gb csv -> 250Mb parquet file
 - Easier to share with customers
 - Can be converted to CSV
 - Standard big data format sponsored by IBM, Apple, Microsoft, AWS and more
 - Increased data integrity
 - Data stored in binary form
- Open with dBeaver or parquet-viewer software



DBeaver 23.1.0 - <memory> Script

File Edit Navigate Search SQL Editor Database Window Help

Database Navigator Projects

Enter a part of object name here

memory

system

temp

SELECT * FROM "C:\Users\raymond.zimmerman\OneDrive - Olink Proteomics AB\Desktop\parquet"

ProjectId	ProjectName	ProjectType	NormalizationType	SampleM	Value
1	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796474
2	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
3	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
4	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
5	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
6	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
7	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
8	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
9	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
10	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
11	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796
12	Test Project 1	Explore3072	PlateControl	No_Sample_	ac7a127c-b373-40b7-99b1-59e83e796

Parquet



Olink® NPX MAP CLI software

Software solution for Advanced kit users

A powerful Command Line Interface software

Facilitates efficient analysis of
large-scale data
through integration with LIMS

Generates both NPX and Counts to drive
innovation and Increase transparency



CLI Output file

- NPX file
 - Extended NPX file
 - Analysis Report
 - CLI Data Explore File
 - Contains all the columns in Extended NPX file , plus a set of additional columns.
 - Additional columns contain the information of run meta data, if the run unit and assay is included or excluded.
- Output data file in Parquet format.

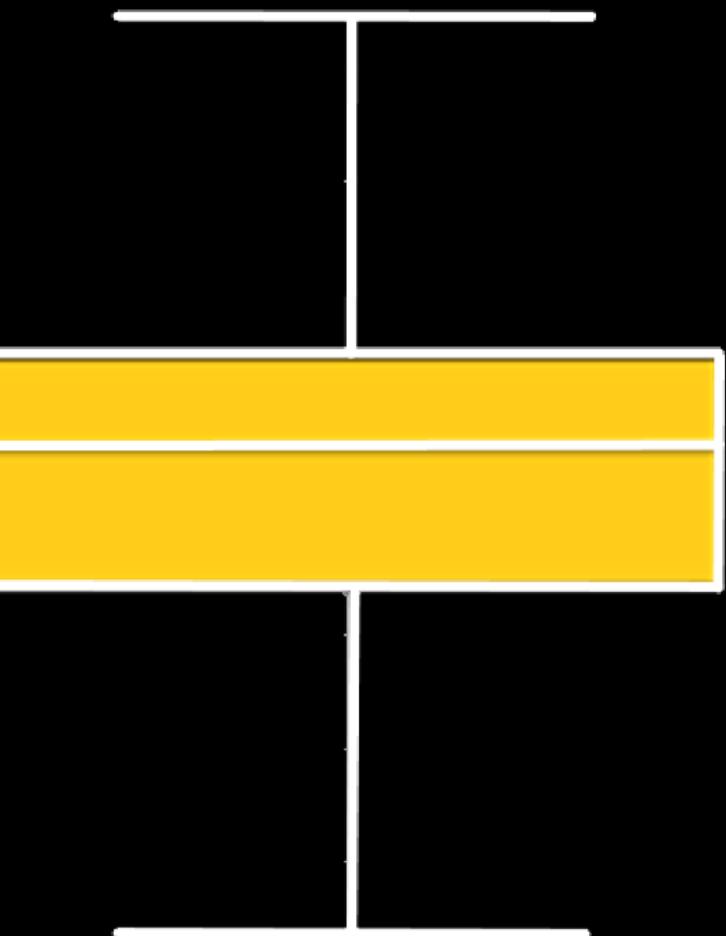
Column
RunID
RunUnitID
RunUnitID
ExperimentName
FlowcellID
FlowcellType
FlowcellSide
InstrumentID
InstrumentType
InstrumentRunNumber
SequencingStartTimestamp
SequencingRecipeName
LibraryNumber
IndexPlate
SampleIndexVersion
MatchedCounts
Reads
Included
PreProcessingRunTimestamp
PreProcessingVersion
AssayCategory
ReadsPf
PercentReadsPf



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QC Criteria





Sample QC

Criteria	FAIL <i>NPX is not calculated, exclude from statistical analysis</i>	WARN <i>NPX is calculated, assess further, use data with caution</i>
Sample QC		
Total counts per sample	< 10 000	N/A
Incubation control counts per sample	< 150	< 500
Extension control counts per sample	< 150	< 1000
Amplification control counts per sample	< 150	< 500
Internal control count fractions per sample	N/A	Log2 of incubation-to-amplification control count ratio < -3.5 and,
	N/A	Log2 of incubation-to-extension control count ratio < -3.5 and,
	N/A	Absolute value of log2 of extension-to-amplification control count ratio > 3.5



External Control QC

Criteria	FAIL <i>NPX is not calculated, exclude from statistical analysis</i>	WARN <i>NPX is calculated, assess further, use data with caution</i>
External Control QC		
Total counts per sample	< 10 000	N/A
Incubation control counts per sample	< 500	N/A
Extension control counts per sample	< 1000	N/A
Amplification control counts per sample	< 500	N/A
Plate control internal control counts relative to assay counts	< or > internal control reference range to assay counts	N/A
Negative Control internal control counts relative to assay counts	Negative control fails	N/A
Internal control count fractions per sample	Log2 of incubation-to-amplification control count ratio < -3.5 and,	N/A
	Log2 of incubation-to-extension control count ratio < -3.5 and,	N/A
	Absolute value of log2 of extension-to-amplification control count ratio >3.5	N/A

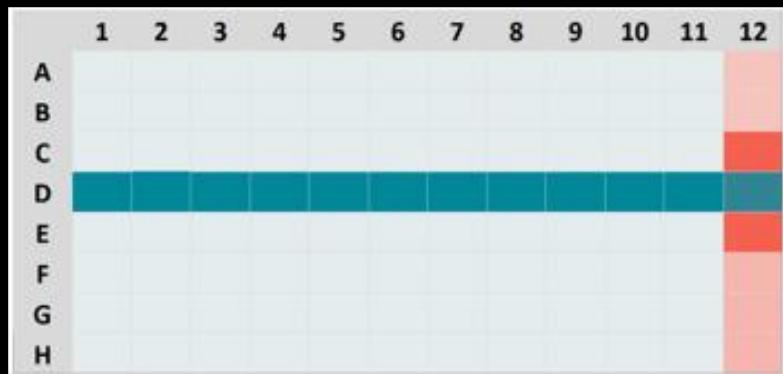
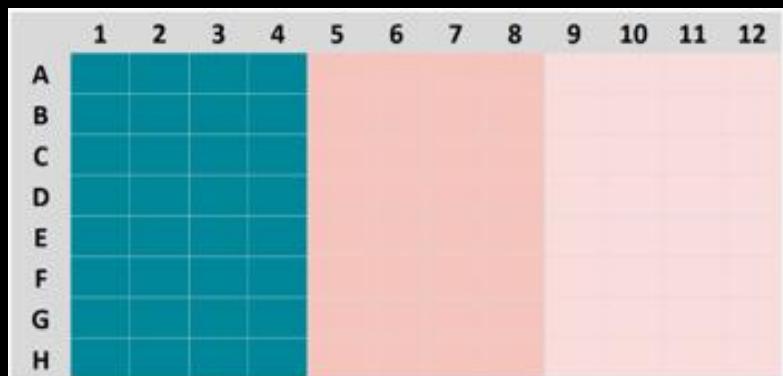
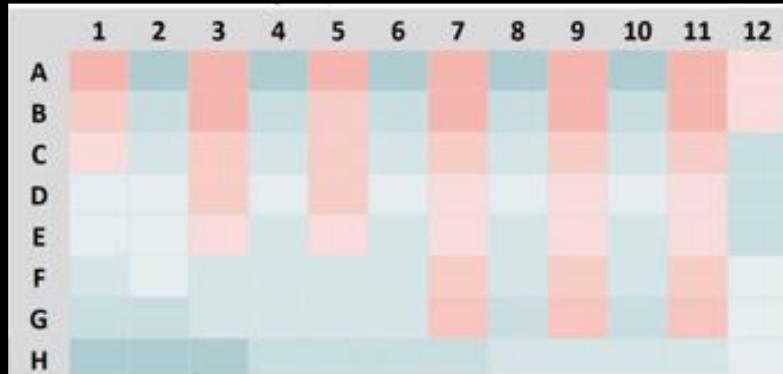


Block and Assay QC

Criteria	FAIL <i>NPX is not calculated, exclude from statistical analysis</i>	WARN <i>NPX is calculated, assess further, use data with caution</i>
Block QC		
Plate Controls passing external sample QC	< 50% (minimum 3 Plate Controls must pass QC)	N/A
Negative Controls passing external sample QC	< 1	N/A
Systematic effect (NPX)	N/A	>10% of assays Systematic effect identified
Assay QC		
Assay count relative to internal control count in negative control	N/A	Assay count \geq median of all internal control count in all negative controls

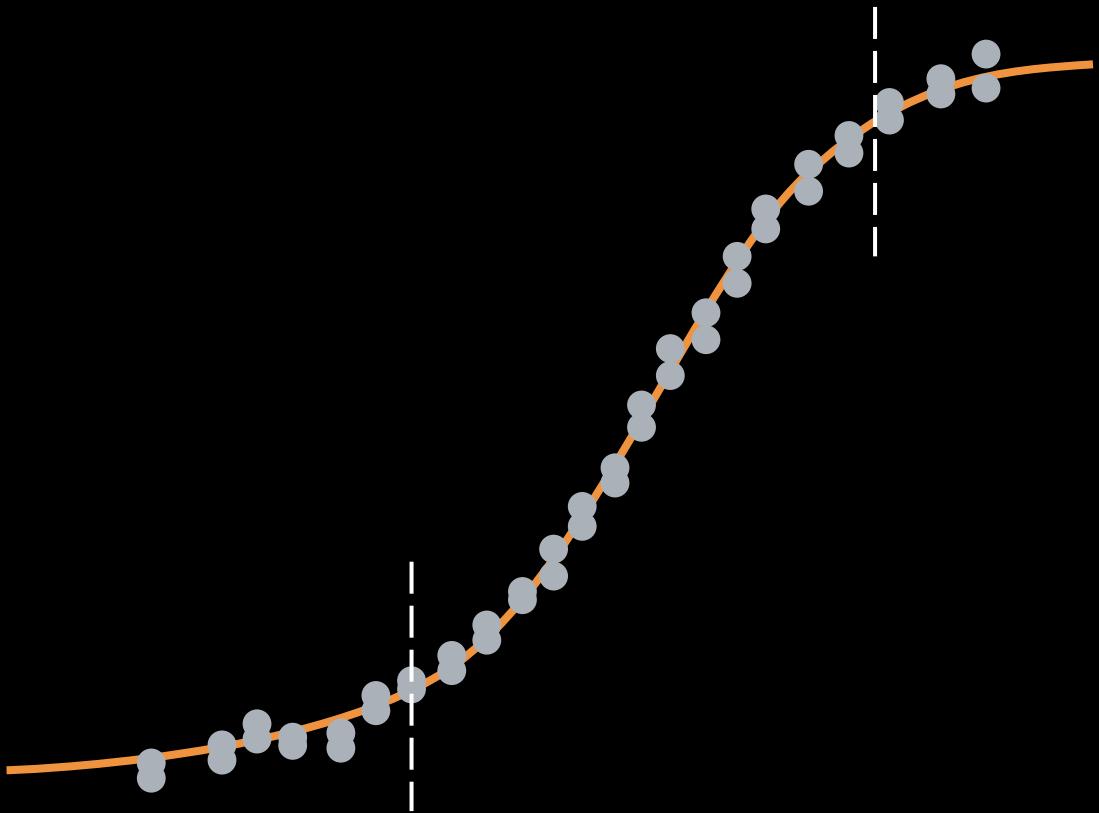
Systematic effect detection

- Three main criteria
 - The frequency of assays representing the effect
 - The intensity of the effect on NPX deviation
 - Number of samples showing the effect
 - A pattern is detected per assay/block/plate. If enough assays are affected, the block will get a systematic effects warning
 - May be due to either non-randomized plate design or technical errors and should be investigated further





Limit of Detection





Limit of Detection (LOD)

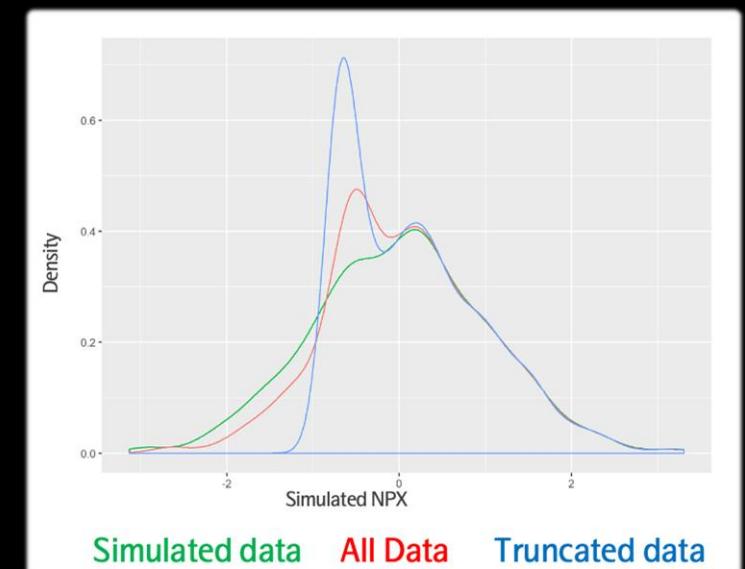
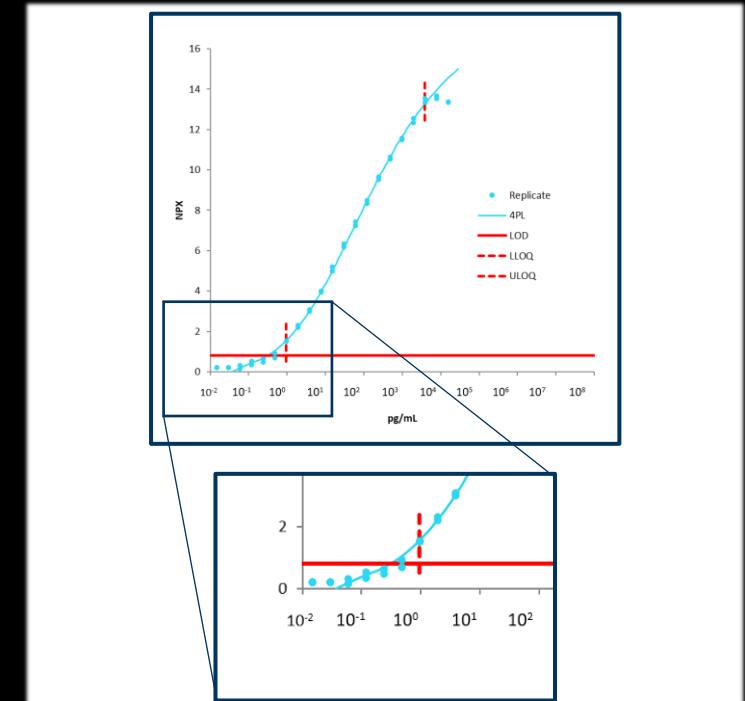
LOD is not reported by the NPX 3072 & HT Software

Data below LOD can be informative

- Expect low detectability for rare assays
- Can have perfect correlation for assays with all data below LOD
- Including all data gives better distribution from a statistical point

LOD not relevant for biological interpretation

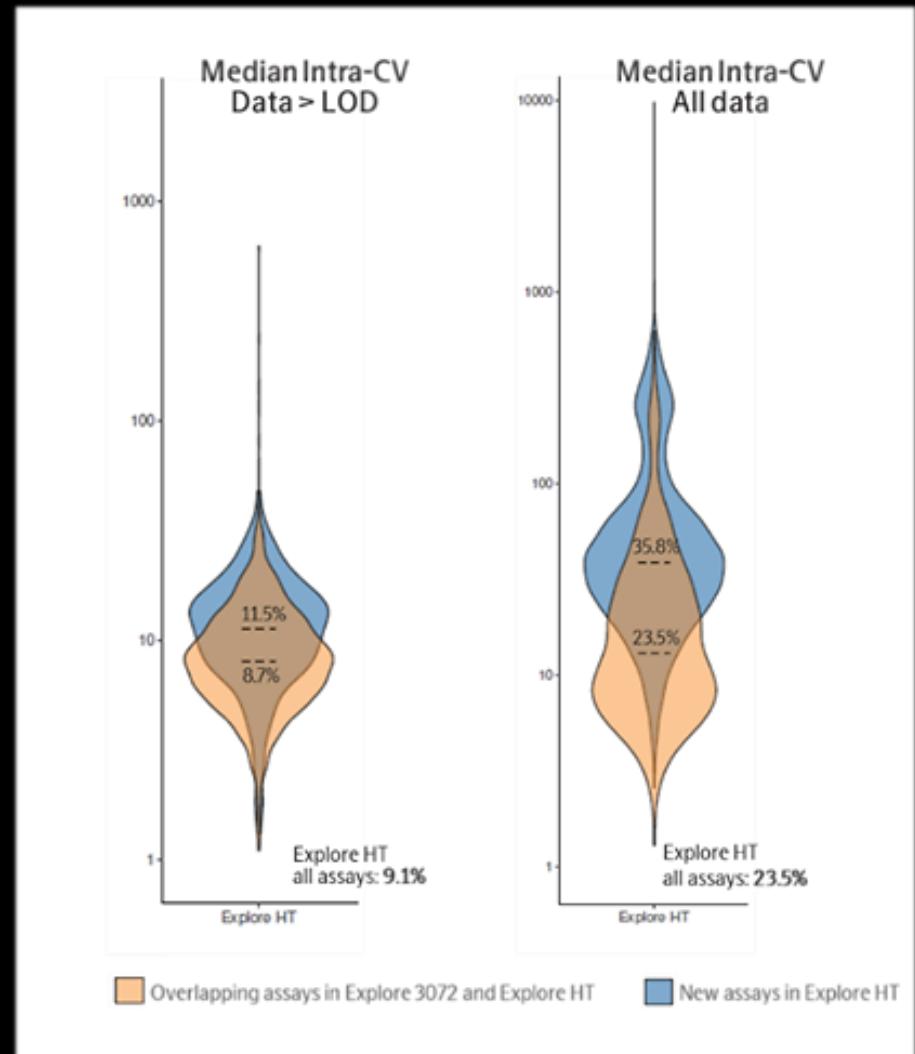
- No risk of false positives including data below LOD
- Very small impact on false negatives (power)
- Some good biological findings have a lot of data <LOD
Eg. non-expressed protein vs expressed protein





LOD is useful for technical evaluation

- LOD can be useful when performing technical evaluation of a dataset:
 - Calculate detectability
 - Calculate CVs using data > LOD
- LOD can be calculated via Olink Analyze:
 - Function olink lod() to calculate LOD adjusted to the normalization method used.



Based on 10 replicates of a pool of healthy plasma samples from 1 Concordance Test runs performed at AS Boston. Fixed LOD was used



Two types of LOD

The LOD function can calculate LOD from a dataset's NCs or a list of predetermined fixed LOD values:

- **Negative Control LOD**

- Calculated on **NCs from customer runs**
 - Requires at least 10 NCs

- **Fixed LOD**

- Calculated on **NCs from reference runs** (including 24-36 NCs)
 - Dependent on the Data Analysis Reference ID used
 - For both small sized studies (<10 NCs) and big studies
 - Fixed LOD .csv files for Explore 3072 and HT are available in the Download Center on the website

- **When to use Fixed LOD vs NC LOD**

- For **smaller sized studies** (<10 NCs), it is recommended using **fixed LOD** to integrate LOD values into a NPX dataset, as LOD calculations on fewer NCs may provide non-accurate values.
 - For **larger projects** we recommend calculating **LOD from NC** to obtain LOD values that are specific to the customer's project.



LOD calculations

1. **LOD for each assay is determined either at the counts level or at the NPX level**, depending on the assay's maximum counts in the NCs (of a reference dataset or customer run).
 - If at least one NC >150 counts, LOD is set at NPX level using the method of standard deviation of blank
 - If all NC ≤150 counts, LOD is set at count level using a read count threshold

Detailed formula:

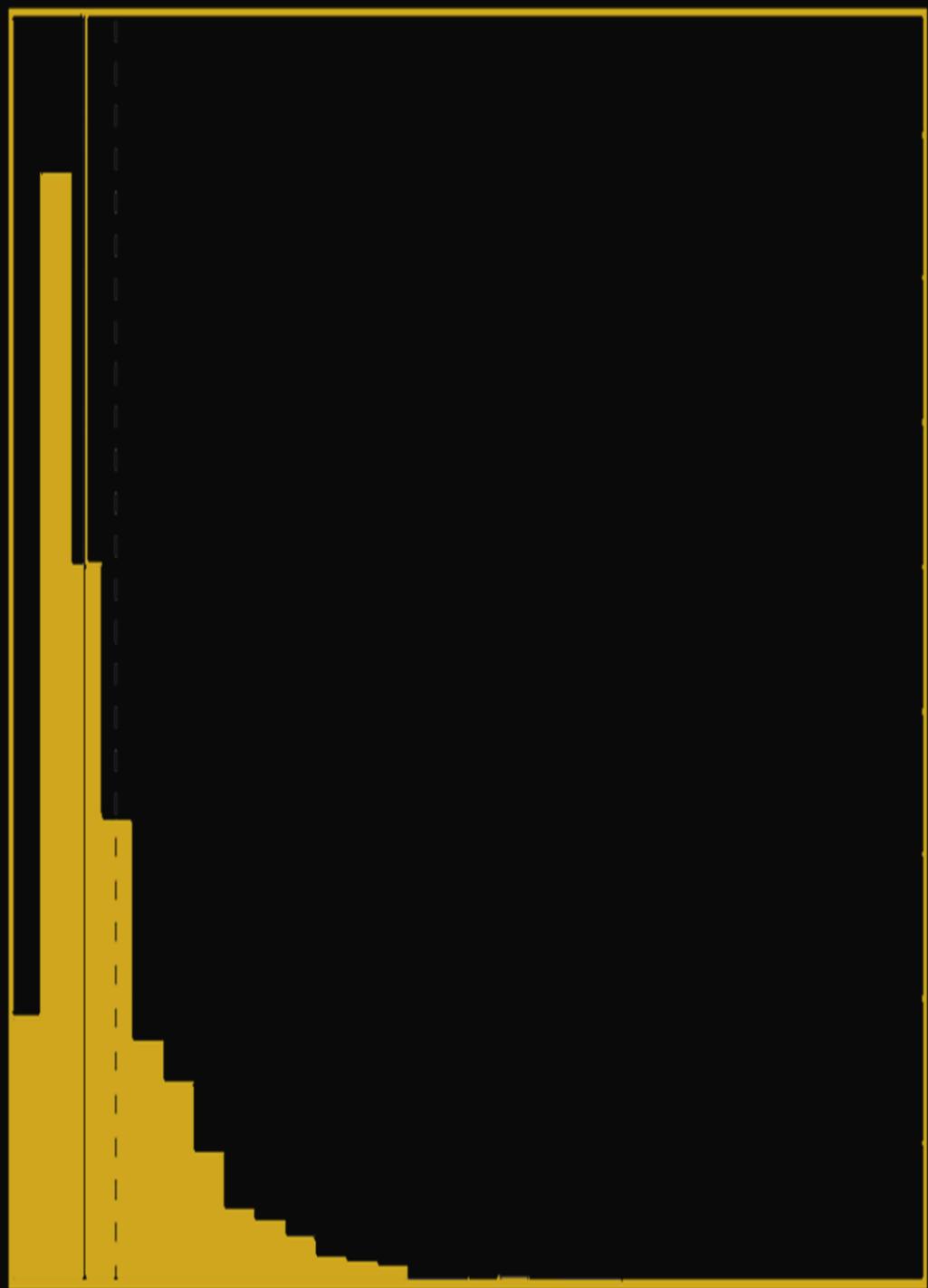
- If at least one NC > 150 counts: PC normalized LOD = median (PC normalized NPX) + (3SD|0.2NPX; whichever is the highest)
- If all NCs ≤ 150 counts: PC normalized LOD = counts --> PC normalized NPX

2. **LOD needs to be adjusted If intensity normalized data is used:**
 - Intensity Normalized LOD = PC normalized LOD – adjustment factor
 - adjustment factor = median(NPX_excluding_external_control)
3. **LOD is reported in NPX in the parquet file**



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CVs





How are CVs determined?

CVs in Explore HT validation data

- Intra- and inter-CVs **for all assays*** were calculated on the Sample Controls in each of the 3 replicate runs performed
- This to evaluate the product performance (i.e., how precise each assay is detecting its target protein)

*Only data >LOD was used in CV calculations

CVs in customer runs

- Intra- and inter-CVs for **~300 selected assays**** calculated on the Sample Controls for each sample plate
- This to evaluate run performance and used for troubleshooting by looking at the reproducibility (=precision) between runs and plates

** Proteins typically well-expressed in healthy plasma, enabling calculation of reliable CVs

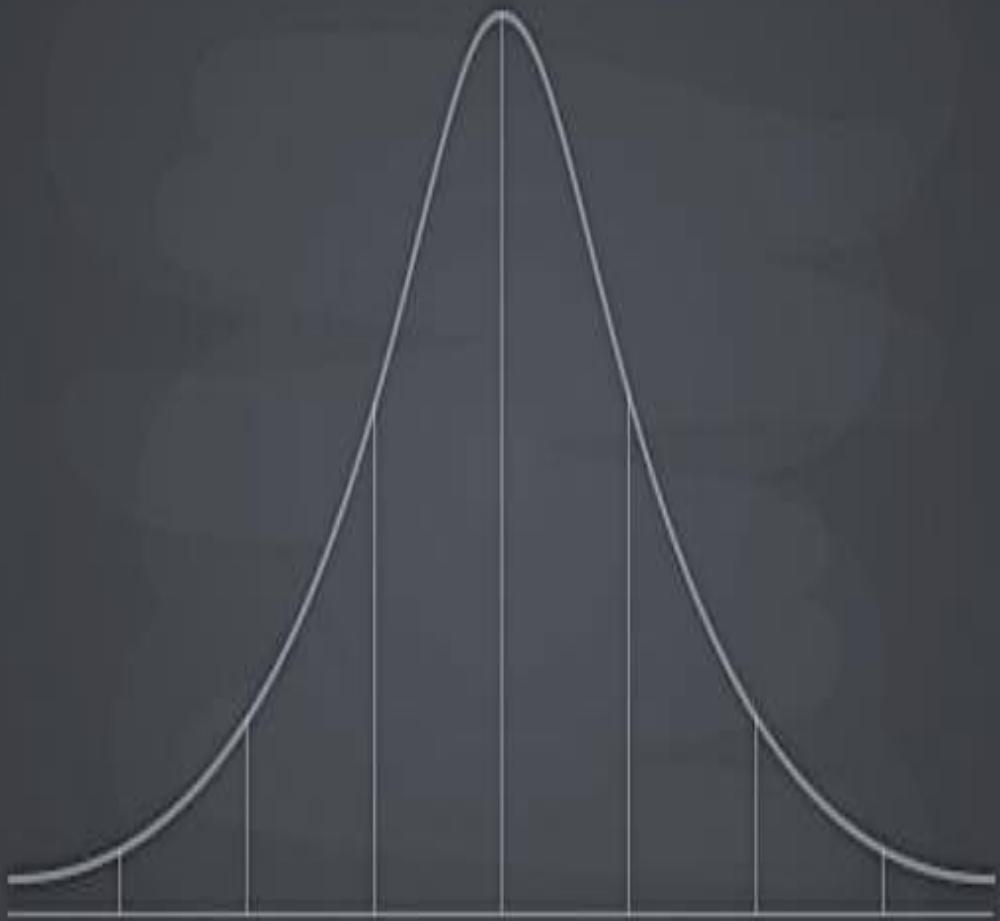
CVs are calculated differently in the validation data and in customer runs because they are **used for different purposes**



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Data Normalization





Choosing normalization method – Simplified overview

INTENSITY NORMALIZATION

Used when **samples are randomized within a study or across multiple studies**



Preferred normalization when samples have a very different expression compared to Plate Controls (healthy plasma). E.g. certain diseases, alternative matrices.



Requires sample randomization
across plates/runs/projects, etc

BRIDGING NORMALIZATION

Used when **samples are NOT randomized across multiple studies**



Preferred method to combine different studies

PLATE CONTROL NORMALIZATION

Used when **samples are NOT randomized within a study**



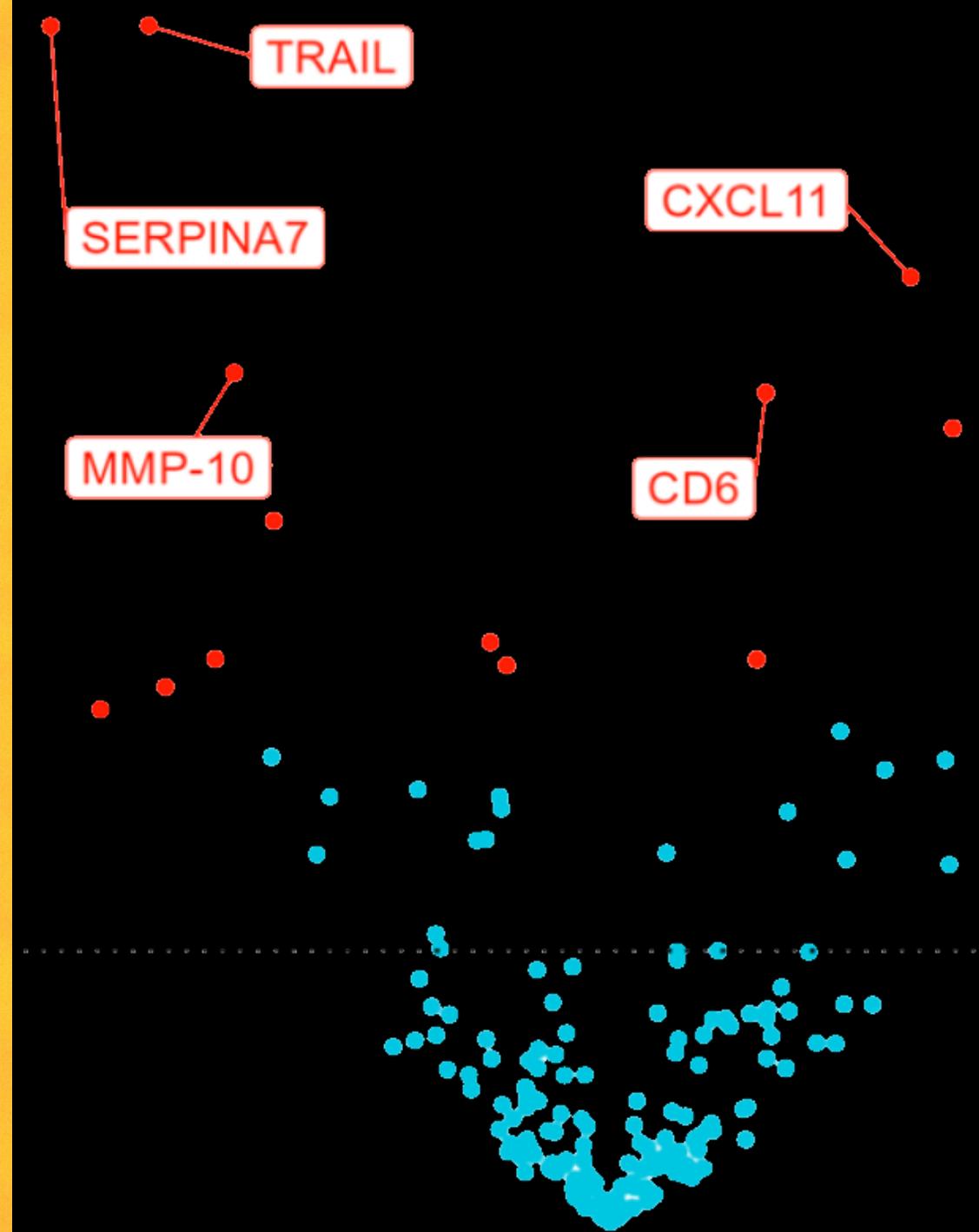
Does not work as well when the samples studied have a very different expression compared to Plate Control (healthy plasma). E.g. certain diseases, alternative matrices.



Randomization is preferred



Statistical Analysis





Background on Olink data : high level review

- It is relative quantification
 - Look at differences, not absolute values
 - “Concentration of NEMO goes up across treatment, while IL-6 concentration goes down”
 - “Responders have higher MMP-7 expression than Non-Responders”
 - Only compares **within** assays, not between
- NPX is relative, but on a concrete quantitative scale
 - For a given assay, 1 NPX increase ~ 2 x increase in concentration
- Log2 scale
 - Much expression data appears more normally distributed on log scale
- Uses standard statistics



User-friendly and powerful tools available to support study design and data analysis

Olink® NPX MAP

A purpose-built software designed for data import, validate data quality, and normalization for subsequent statistical analysis

Olink® Insight

A platform for protein biomarker data discovery, collaborate with peers, and access a wealth of information.

Built-in Tools: Study Size Calculator, Stat Analyzer

Olink Analyze®

A versatile toolbox for handling of Olink data including QC, various statistical tests and visualization (R Package on Cran)

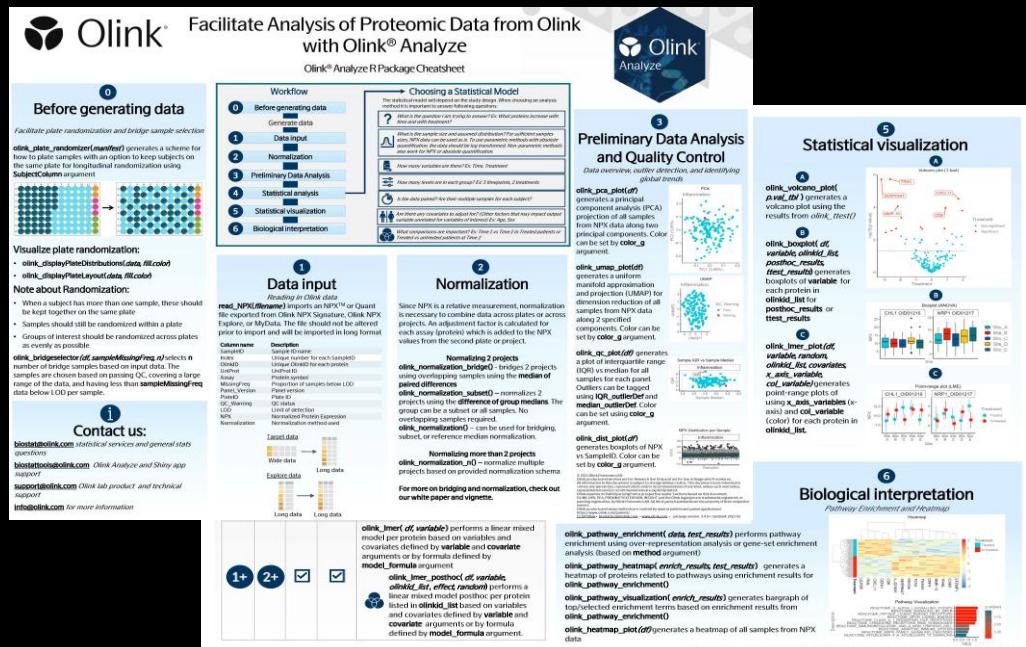
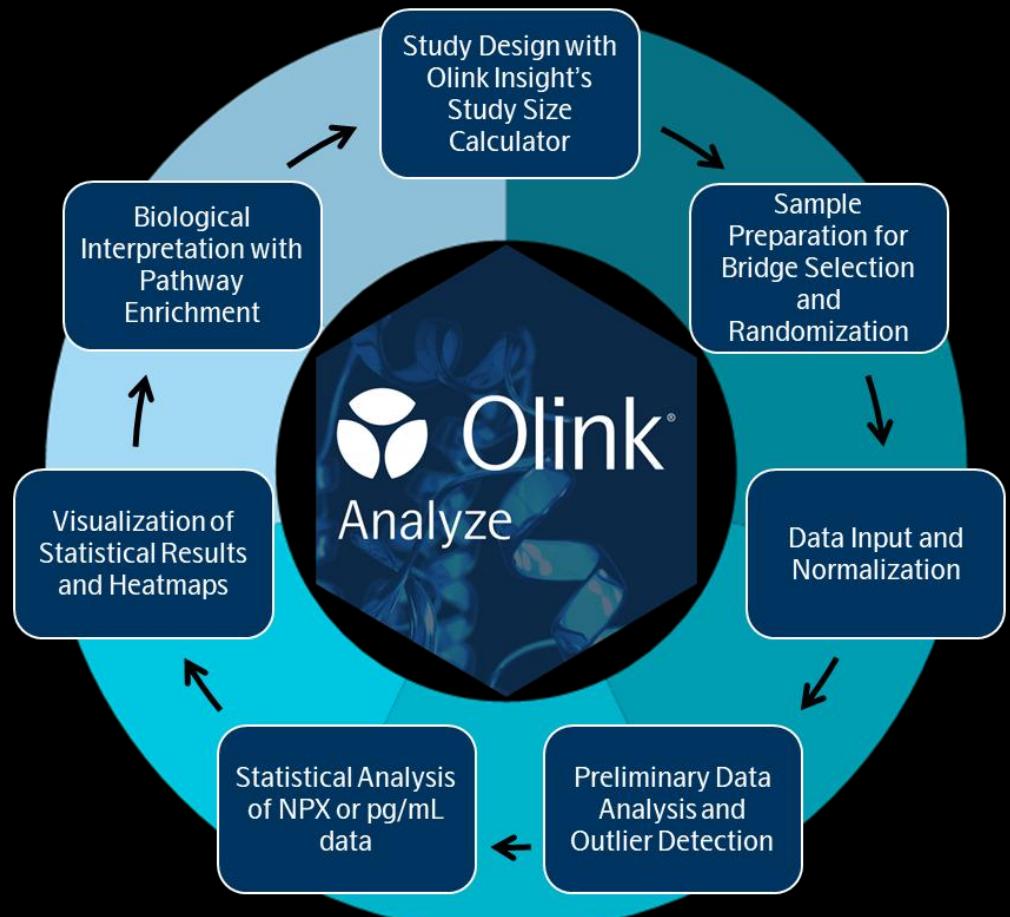
Olink® Statistical Services

Customized statistical analysis performed by experts experienced in handling this type of data



Olink® R Package: Olink® Analyze

Providing support at every step of the customer journey



Educational Resources:

- [Cheat sheet](#)
- [Overview Vignette](#)
- Tutorials on [bridging](#), [outlier detection](#) and [plate randomization](#)
- Available [on CRAN](#)

Olink® Insight

Platform for protein biomarker and data discovery



Study Size Calculator



Stat Analyzer



Olink Analyze R-Package

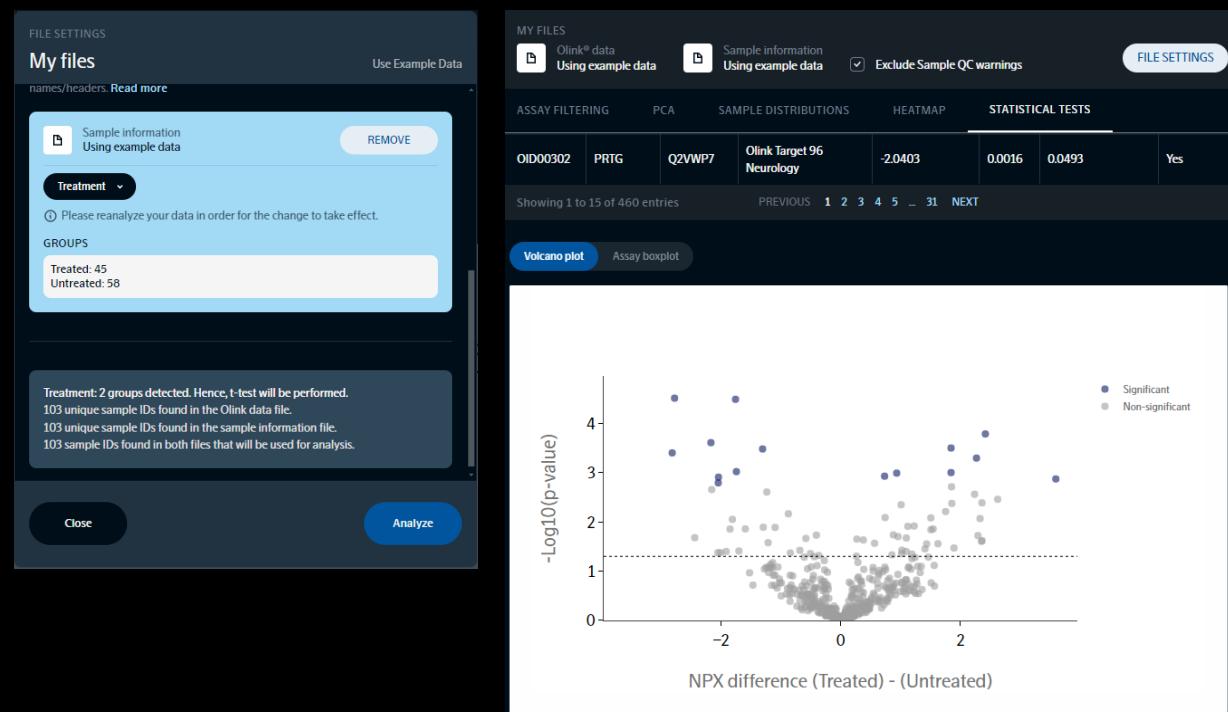
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Olink® Statistical Analysis App: Web Tool for Statistical Analysis

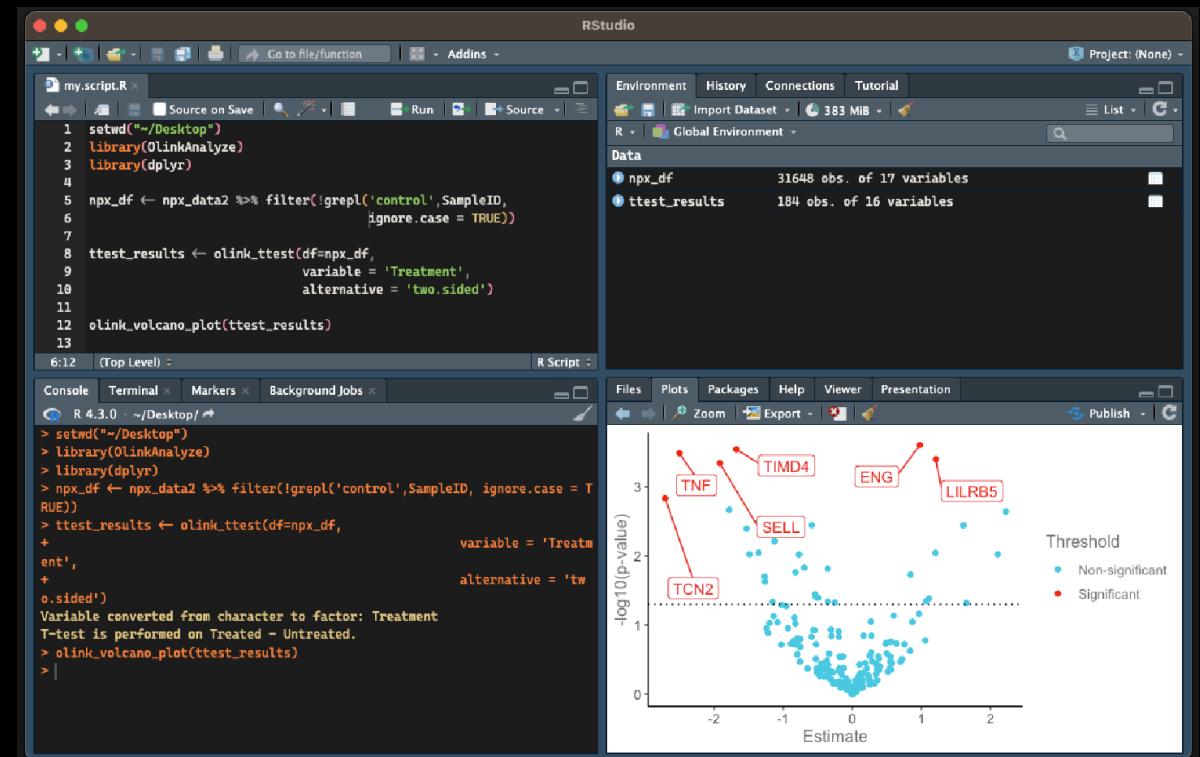
- In Olink Insight
- Training video and User Manual available
- Basic statistical analyses and visualizations of Olink data
 - PCA – *even without the sample information file*
 - T-Test
 - Anova





Olink® R Package : Olink Analyze®

- Data pre-processing
 - *Read in NPX data*
 - *Normalization*
- QC and exploratory data analysis
 - Outlier detection and data distribution:
 - QC plot – IQR vs Median
 - Distribution plots
 - PCA plots
- Stats Analysis
 - t-test
 - ANOVA
 - *Linear Mixed-Effect Models*





Olink® Explore HT QC Training

Questions ?