

Powerful and interactive RTqPCR data analysis with Linear Mixed Models

User's Guide





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Quick Start

Load data

- Choose data file, xlsx, csv or txt (Comma, Tab or Semicolon separated).
- Define column/variable classes (**Notice**: All but CT variable columns should be "factor". CT as "numeric" "num"). Do not forget to click [*Submit Class Change*] if you make changes.

Specify Model

- Drag CT values into Response bucket.
- Drag Gene and Treatment(s) into Fixed Effects bucket.
- (Optionally) drag variables such as SampleID, PlateID, BlockID, etc., into Random Effects bucket.
- Click [Run Model!].

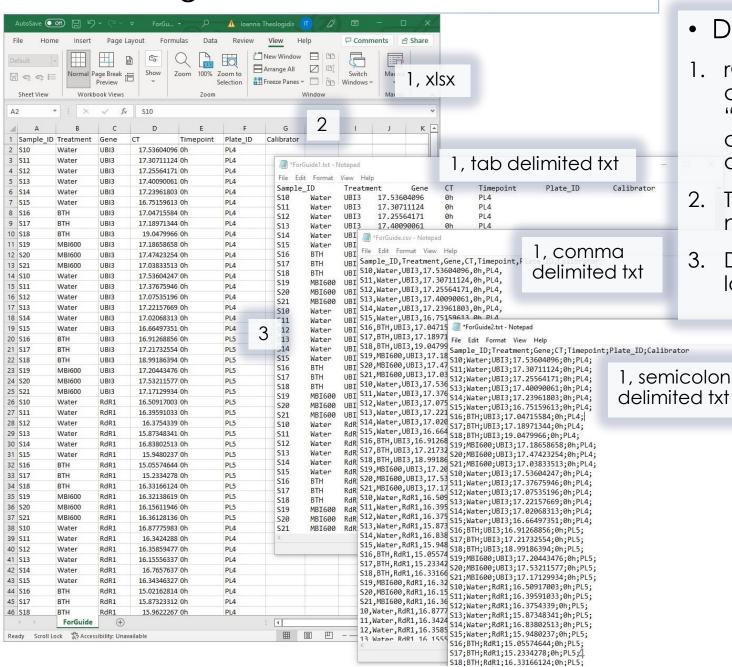
Assign Comparisons

- Select Reference Gene(s) from list.
- Select the Column that contains the experimental condition that will be considered as baseline (control) and then select the Control Treatment itself.
- Click [Confirm Contrasts].

Get Result Table and Plot

- Inspect, explore Results and click [Download Result Table] to save as a csv file.
- Select axes for Plot and click [Create Plot].
- Download Plot by clicking the camera [] button on the top right-hand side of the plot.

Before Loading Data



- Data file preparation
- rQPCR accepts .xlsx, .csv or .txt files with column data that are separated by either "tab", "comma" or "semicolon" characters. Their general structure is depicted here.
- 2. The first row should be the descriptive name of each variable.
- 3. Data structure must be in the, so-called, long format.

Example: Assume an experimental assay that involves testing three different concentrations of an antibiotic. All of them should be in the same column, under the general header, Antibiotic", or "Treatment A", or "[the name of the Antibiotic]", etc. The control of this treatment (i.e., "water" or "no Antibiotic" or "control", etc., should be included under the same header, as well.

If this experiment was held at, say, three different conditions (i.e., temperatures, time-points), then another column should be populated with all the levels of this condition, under the general header ("Treatment B", "Temperature", "Condition", etc.).

Before Loading Data

- 1. Important! Ensure that the column that contains the gene names is titled as "Gene(s)" or "gene(s)" (or even "GENE(S)"). If not, QPCRinR will ask the user to indicate the "gene" column and will rename it accordingly.
- 2. For Inter-Run Calibration, "calibrator" samples are required (see Model Specification). These samples must be "tagged" in a separate column with a specific name (i.e., "Calib"). Everything else in this column can be empty; any header name is allowed.

Technical and Biological Replication

Technical replication is important in RT-qPCR experiments. QPCR*in*R requires that technical replicates in the data set are essentially the same except the C_T value. In other words, two technical replicates' rows contain identical inputs except their C_T values.

Accordingly, biological replicates share one more difference: All but C_T values <u>and</u> sample_IDs (or the equivalent column name) are equal among biological replicate rows in the data set.

Welcome screen

Load Data

Model Specification

Contrast Assignment

Results

Welcome

- 1. Navigation tabs
 - 2. Open User's Guide

3. Begin the analysis

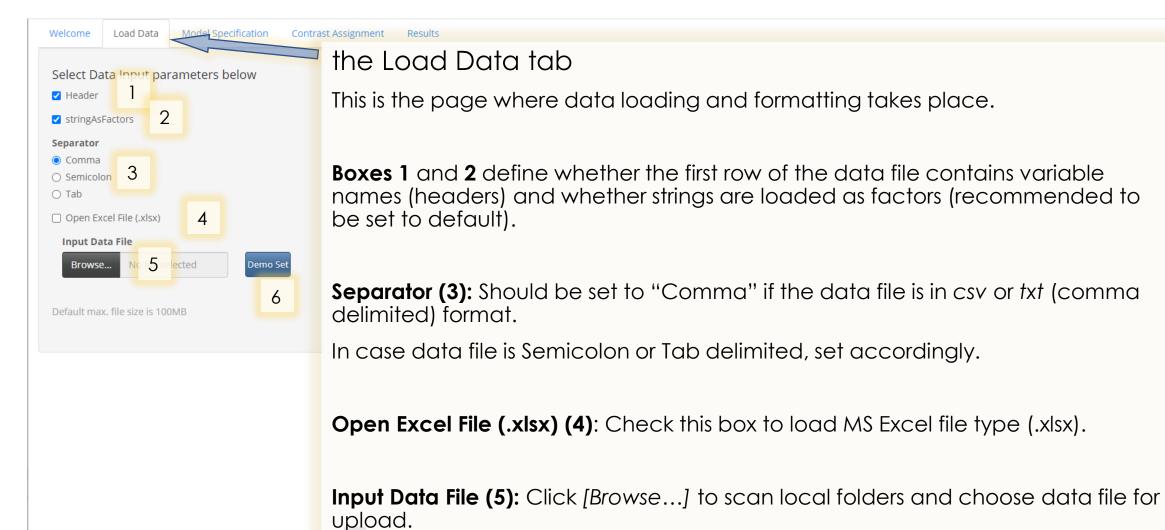


Powerful and interactive RT-qPCR data analysis with Linear Mixed Models

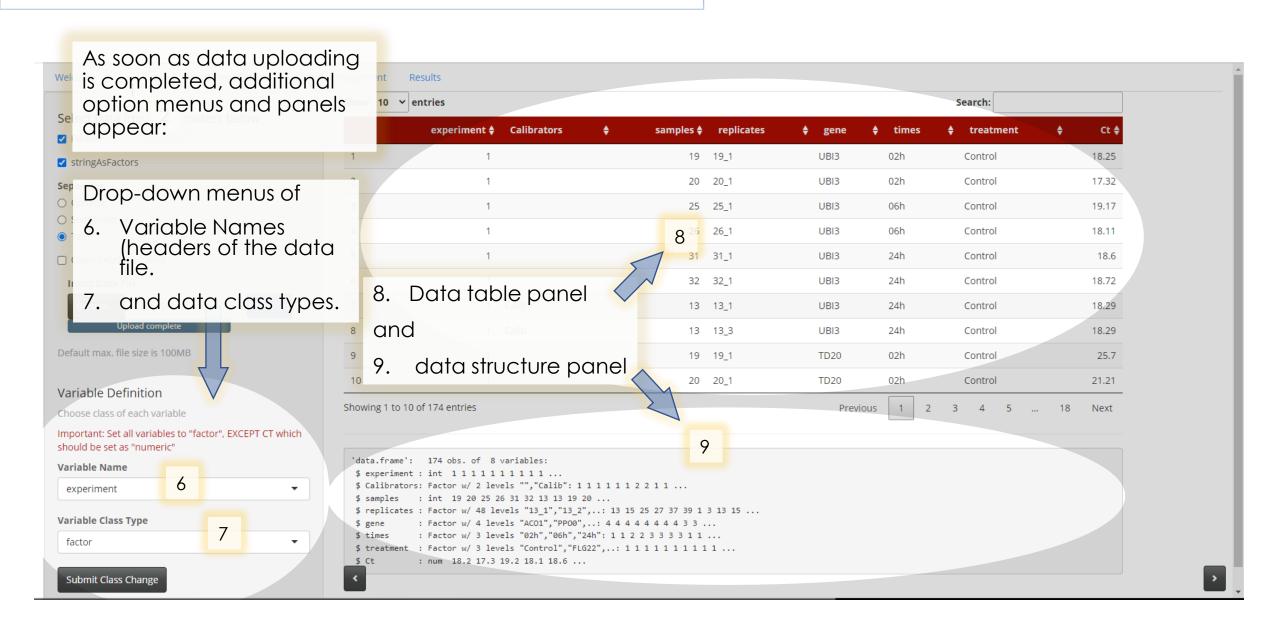


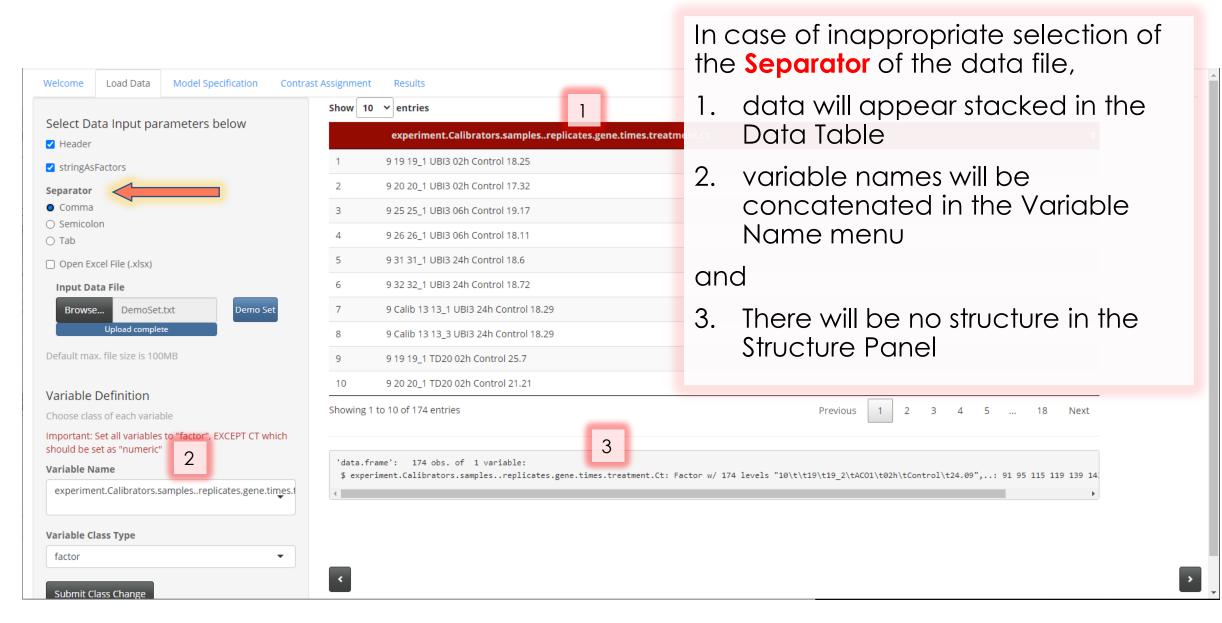
v.0.9.7.3

OPCRinR User's Guide



Load Demo Dataset (6): Click this box to load a dataset for practice.





Change variable class type



Variable Definition
Choose class of each variable
Important: Set all variables to "factor", EXCEPT CT which should be set as "numeric"

Variable Name

experiment

▼

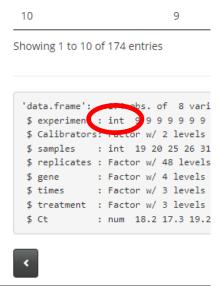
Variable Class Type

integer

factor

integer

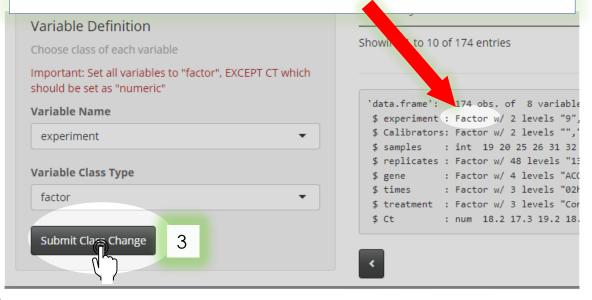
numeric

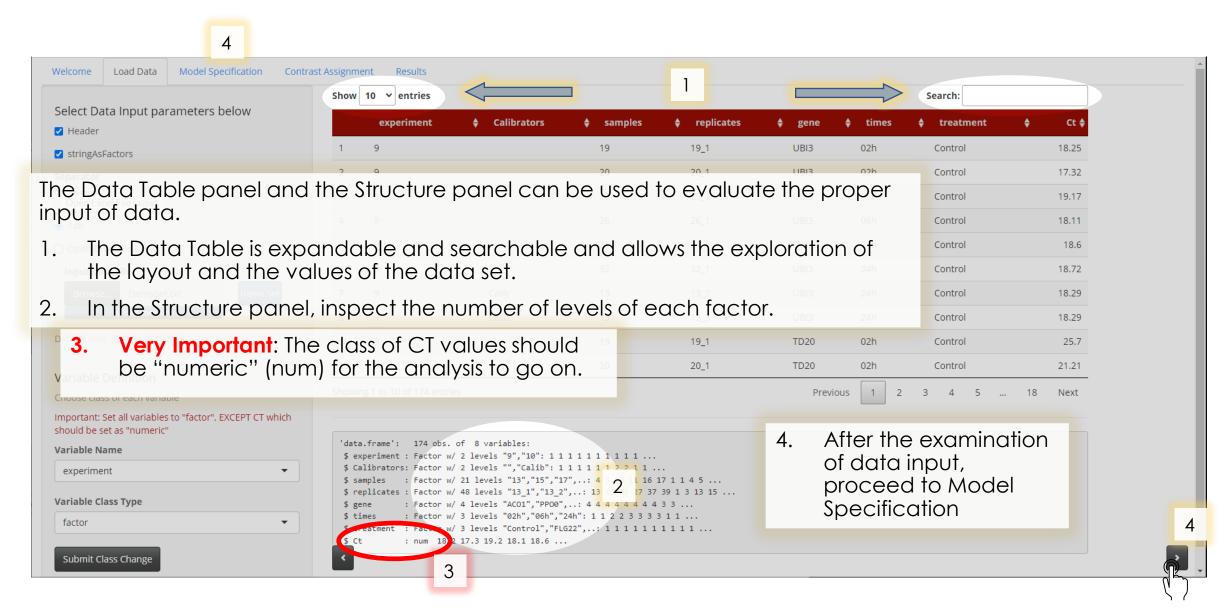


QPCRinR performs factorial analysis. Users must inspect and, if necessary, change the class of the data variables to "factor", except CT values. In the Variable Definition menu:

- 1. Select Variable Name
- 2. Select Class type
- 3. Click [Submit Class Change]

Important: Check the structure panel to confirm the class change





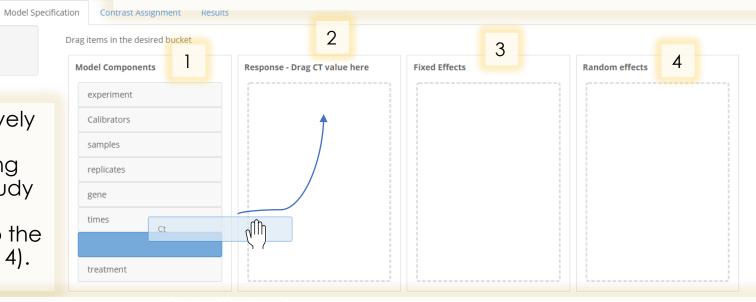
the Model Specification tab

QPCRinR implements Linear (Mixed) Models for the analysis of qPCR experiments. This framework offers possibilities for incorporating complex designs and controlling for several variance components (See main article and references therein for details).

1. The user can interactively define the model components according to the design of her study by dragging variables from the left-side list to the relevant buckets (2, 3, 4).

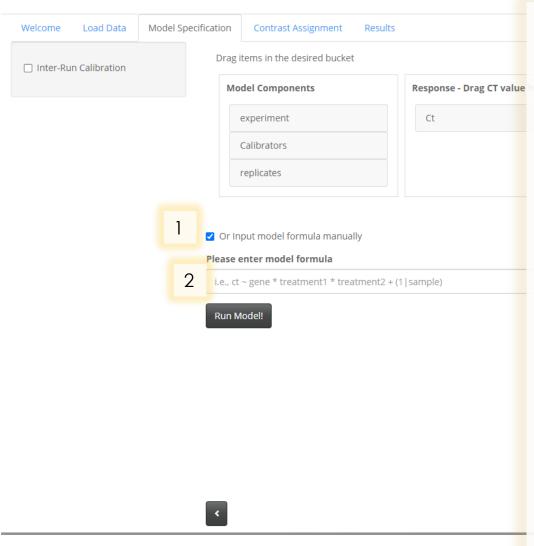
Load Data

☐ Inter-Run Calibration



- 2. CT variable should <u>always</u> occupy the Response bucket, alone.
- 3. Gene names should be dragged in the *Fixed Effects* bucket. Several other experimental treatments (regimes, genotypes, mutants, chemical/compound drug concentrations, temperatures, time-points, etc.) should be placed in the same container.
- 4. Sample_IDs and other sources of random effects (batches, blocks, experiments, etc.) should be dragged into Random Effects bucket (optional but recommended).

Manual Formula Input

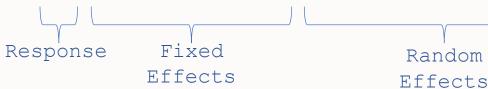


For more complex model specification, the option for manual model input is available.

The formula should be expressed in accordance with R programming, as an *Im* or *Imer* function input.

- 1. Check box (1).
- 2. Type the desired model formula in box (2):
 - Response: the [Ct] variable followed by '~'.
 - II. Fixed Effects: each [variable] followed by '+' or '*' when modelling interactions with the next variable.
 - III. Random Effects, optional but recommended: Input variables after the string: "+(1 | [variable1])". For interactions and nesting, the general formula would be: "+(1 | [variable1]:[variable2])"

Example: Ct ~ gene*treatment*times+(1 | samples)+(1 | samples:gene)



Please, refer to R language manuals for more information about formula expressions.

Inter-Run Calibration (IRC)

Welcome Load Data Model Specification Contrast Assign Drag items in the desired Drag items in th

In case multi-plate experiments are involved, QPCRinR offers the possibility to analyze them jointly, provided that Calibrator samples are included.

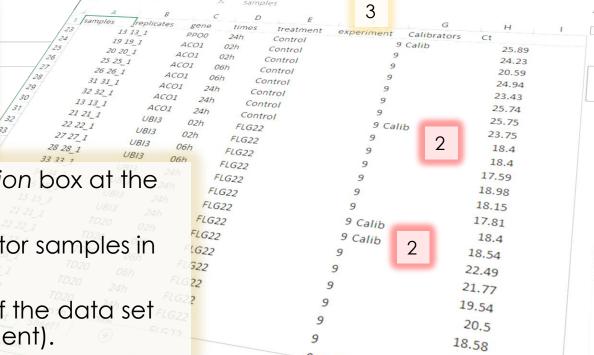
Calibrator samples are identical runs (i.e., cDNA of the same sample tubes) in every plate of the assay. They should be technically and biologically replicated and should encompass all the genes of the assay.

Occasionally, the latter is not always possible. QPCRinR is designed to perform IRC with <u>at least</u> two genes per Calibrator sample.

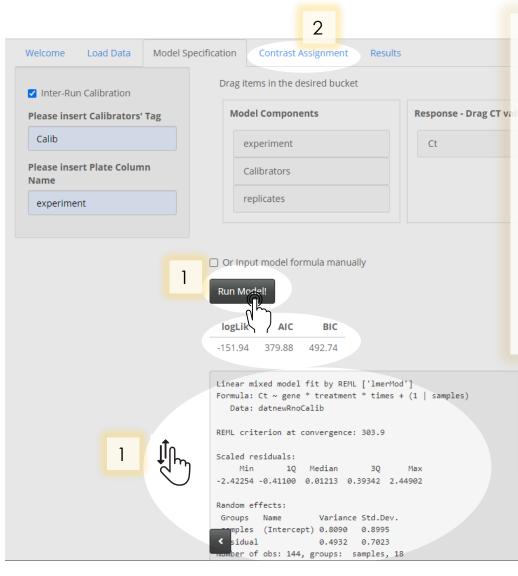
For IRC to be applied, the data file should include a column that "marks" the Calibrator samples with a name "tag" and

a column with Plate IDs/names.

- 1. To perform IRC, check the Inter-Run Calibration box at the side menu.
- 2. Write the "tag" -NOT the header!- of Calibrator samples in the first box that appears.
- 3. Provide the Name (header) of the column of the data set that refers to Plate IDs/names (here: experiment).



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1. Run the specified model by clicking [Run Model!] button. If selected, IRC runs in the background and Calibration samples are removed before the main model run. When the process is over, three panels appear.

The first panel is a table of evaluation metrics for the specified model.

The second is the model summary, displaying the model formula and the estimated coefficients.

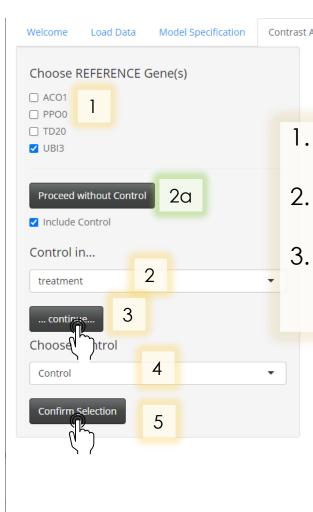
By scrolling down, a third panel appears, listing the estimated marginal means of all levels of each fixed factor of the analysis.

2. After examining the model report, the user can either try an alternative model or proceed to the next panel, where the comparisons are assigned

2



Contrast Assignment



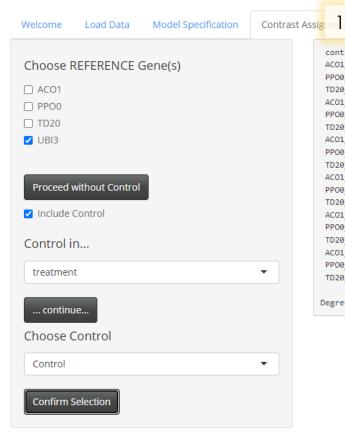
the Contrast Assignment tab

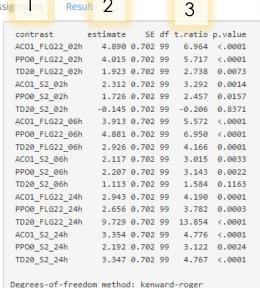
In this tab, the reference gene(s) and the baseline (control) treatment are defined for relative comparisons.

- 1. Choose the reference gene(s) from the list on the left
- 2. Select the variable that contains the Control treatment
- 3. Click [... continue...] to activate a dropdown menu of all levels of treatment selected at step 2
- 2a. Alternatively, the analysis can proceed without control assignment by unchecking the [Include Control] box and clicking [Proceed without Control].
- 4. Select the level that corresponds to Control (it doesn't necessarily have to be named 'control'; it may be any level of any of the Fixed Factors that will be considered as the baseline).
- 5. Click [Confirm Selection]

>

Contrast Assignment





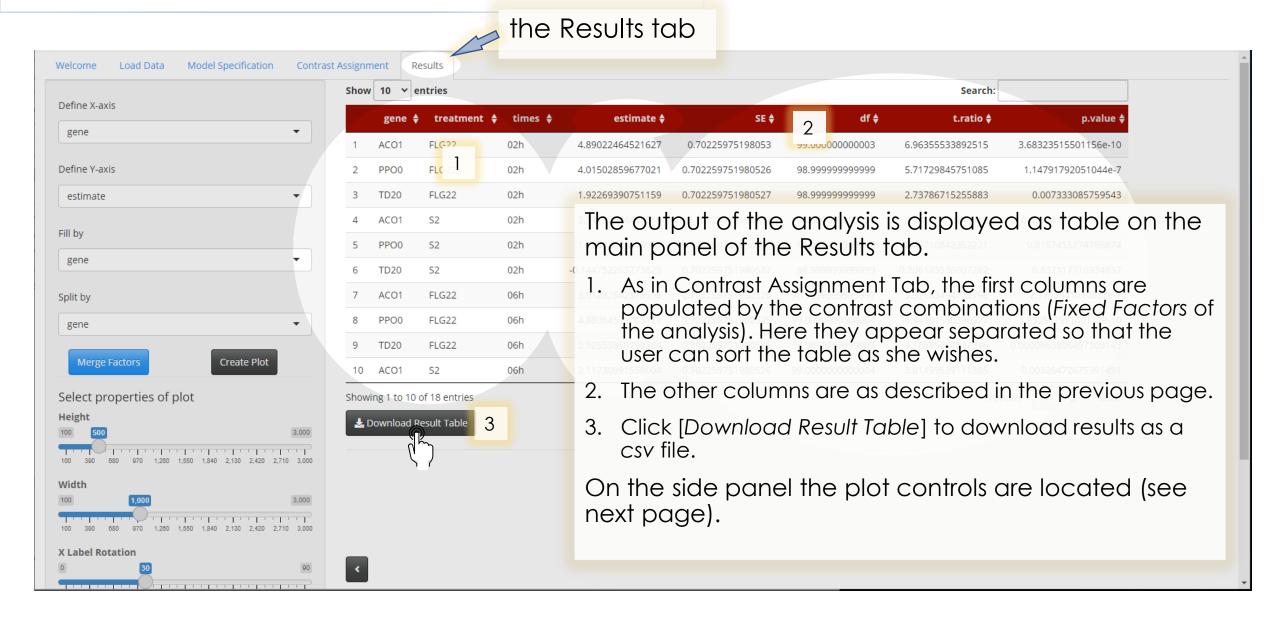
After [Confirming Selection] or [Proceeding without Control], the main panel will be populated with the results.

- The first column is the contrast combination. As expected, the reference gene is absent. If the choice in Contrast Assignment tab was comparisons with control treatment (a ΔΔct equivalent), then the control treatment will be absent, too.
- 2. The next column (estimate) is the estimated log2FoldChange of each factor combination relative to the reference gene **and** the control treatment (if there was one, see 1).
- 3. Next, the standard error of the estimate (SE), the degrees of freedom (df), the t.ratio and the p.value of the test are shown.
- 4. Click on Results tab or the arrow at the bottom right corner to see this table in interactive and expandable format.



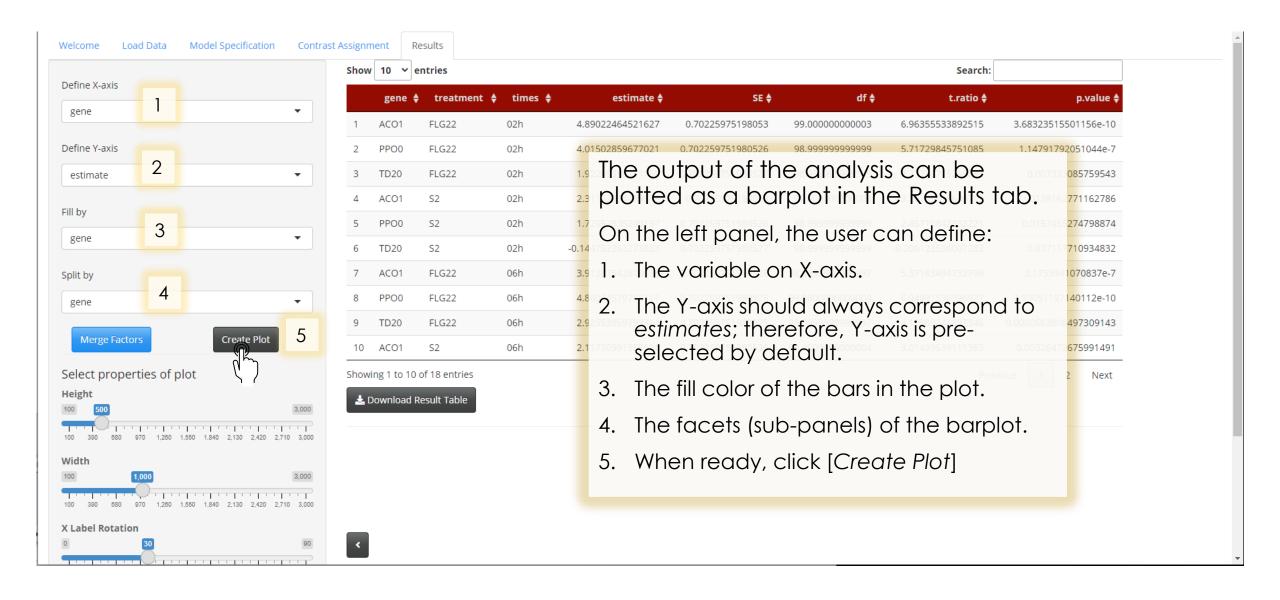


Results



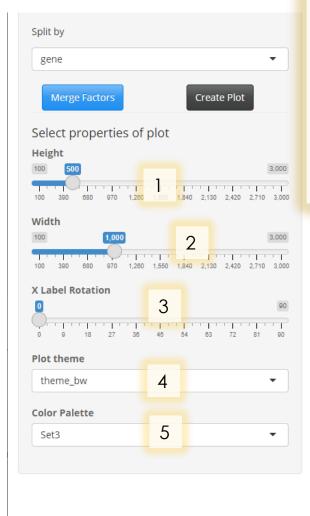
Results

Create Plot



Results

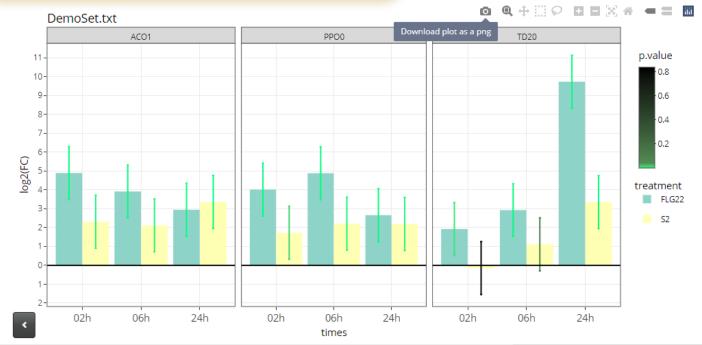
Create Plot



The plot can be further formatted with the Properties panel:

- 1. Adjust the height and
- 2. the width of the plot.
- Rotate the labels of the X-axis.
- 4. Change the plot theme.
- 5. Change the color palette.

By hovering the mouse over the top right-hand corner of the plot, the user can select several functionalities. To save as a png image, click the camera [] button.



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Merge Functionality

