

ValChrom open-access online validation software





ValChrom



What:

Online software tool developed in University of Tartu, Chair of Analytical Chemistry.

Purpose:

Proof of concept that chromatographic method validation can be largely automated.

Uses:

- 1) MOOC "Validation of liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS) methods"
 Next iteration: **December 16, 2025 February 27, 2026**. Free and open for registration.
- 2) Free to use for anyone who wants anywhere in the world.

TARTUS STARTUS STARTUS

About me

Asko Laaniste

- 2016. PhD in Analytical Chemistry
 - Worked on initial version of ValChrom
- 2016. 2019. Worked in collaboration with University of Tartu and different private companies to solve chromatographic method development and validation challanges
 - Further developed version of ValChrom
- 2019. 2023. BSc in *IT-systems development* in Tallinn University of Technology
 - Thesis was on adding design of experiments (DoE) support to ValChrom
 - since 2021. Been working as fulltime software developer in University of Tartu and Nortal
 - Developing ValChrom in University of Tartu

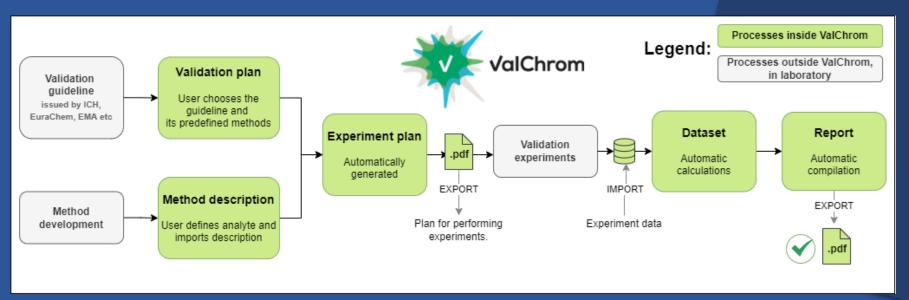
Hands-on demo

Publicly available at https://valchrom.ut.ee/

Today we will:

- 1) Navigate to ValChrom
- 2) Use sample data
- 3) Breeze through the full flow





ValChrom and MOOC team over the years





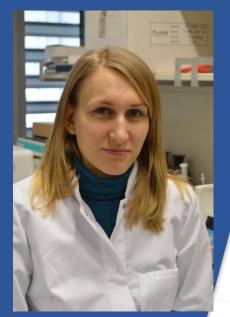


















Thank you for your attention!

ValChrom: https://valchrom.ut.ee

MOOC: https://sisu.ut.ee/lcms_method_validation





Log in



Home / Sign Up

Sign Up

Create a new account

My Details

Passwords should be 8 or more characters and should contain at least 1 uppercase letter, 1 lowercase letter, a number and a symbol (!£\$%@?) e.g. Abcd1234&

First name	Password
Asko	
Last name	Confirm password
Laaniste	
Email	
asko.laaniste@ut.ee	

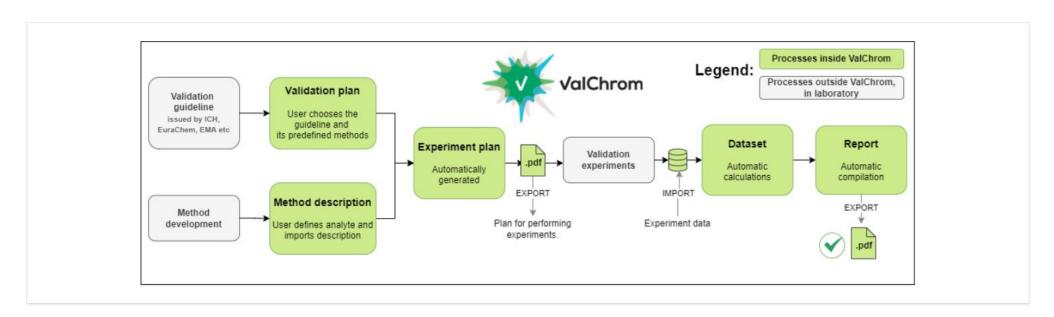
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Dashboard

Dashboard



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	Section	s v Menu v	Asko Laaniste
Dashboard / Methods	Dashbo	ard	
Methods	Analytic	al Methods	
	Validati	on Plans	
Active Methods	Experim	ental Plans	
	Experim	ental Datasets	
Search names	Reports		
No E	Data To Show		

Archived Methods

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Dashboard / Methods / New Method

New Method

	Method name*				
	Workshop method				
	Concentration unit				
	ppb				
	Area unit				
	unitless				
	Retention time unit				
	min				
	Description				
	Demo method for workshop.				
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٨	add Analyte				
	add Analyte				
	Short Name Officia	al Name Abbreviation	Target Concentration	Add 😜	
А	II Analytes				
	Short Name	Official Name	Abbreviation	Target Concentration	Action
	ibuprofen	ibuprofen	IBU	1	Delete
	ketoprofen	ketoprofen	KET	1	Delete
	Retoprofeti	ketoproferi	KEI	•	
	Method File (.zip):				
	Method File (.zip):				





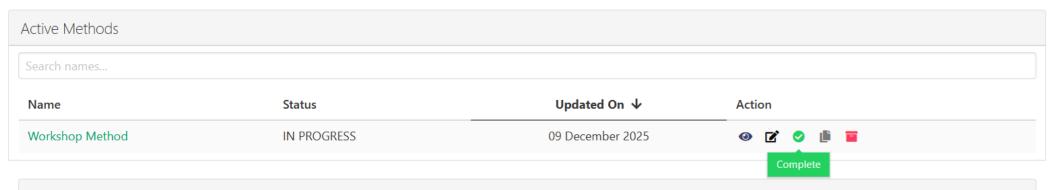
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Dashboard / Methods

Methods



Archived Methods

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Dashboard / Validation Plans	Dashboard		
Validation Plans	Analytical Meth	nods	
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Active Validation Plans	Experimental P	lans	
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No Data To Show			
Archived Validation Plans			

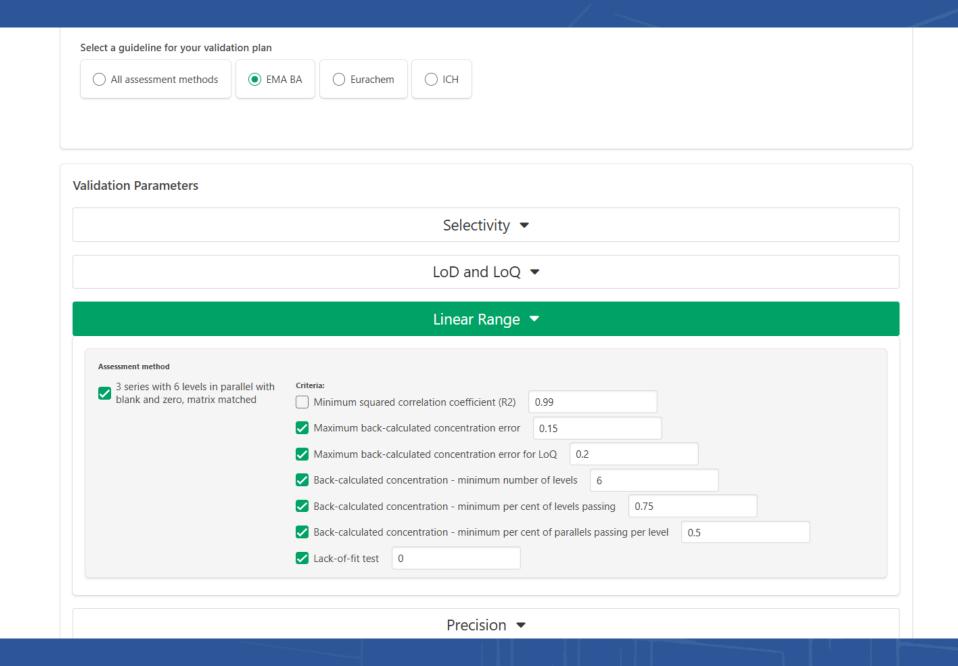
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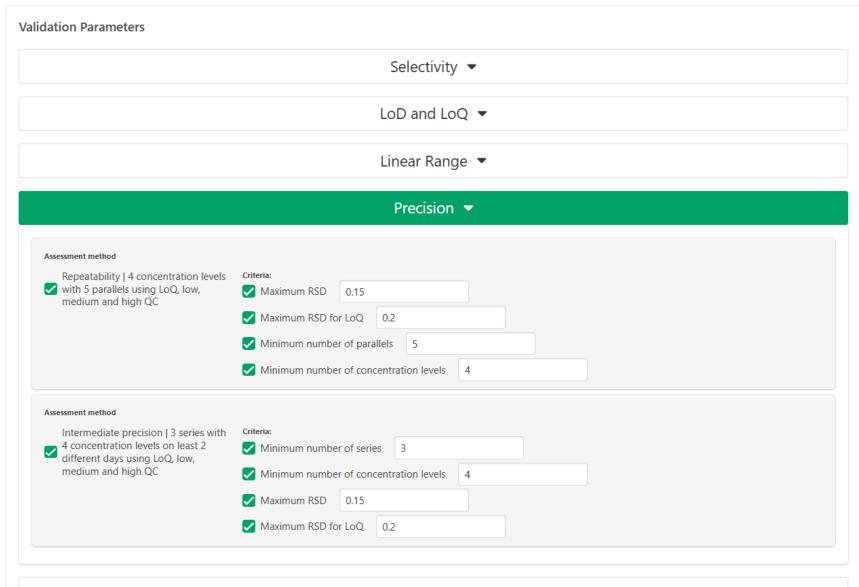


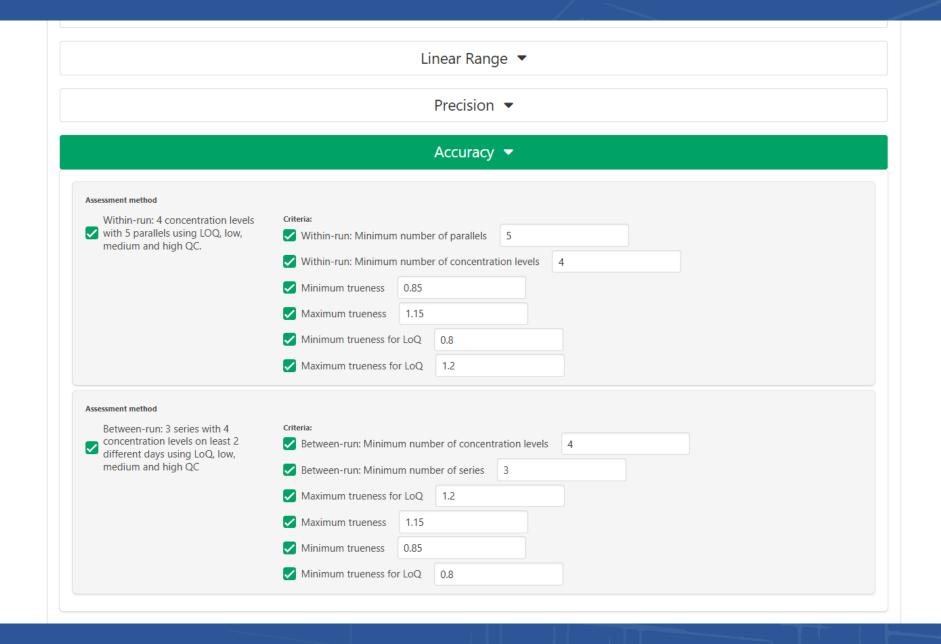
Dashboard / Validation Plans / New Validation Plan

Create a new validation plan

omment							
Demo validation plan for workshop.							
elect a guideline for your validation	n plan						
O All assessment methods	EMA BA	O Eurachem	○ ICH				



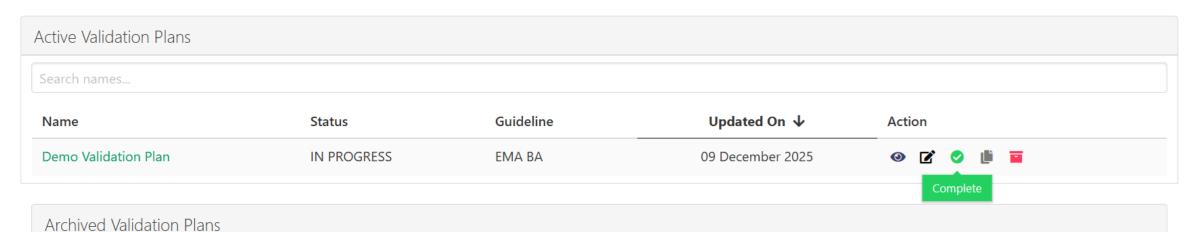






Dashboard / Validation Plans

Validation Plans



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Dashboard / Experimental Plans

Experimental Plans

Active Experimental Plans

Search names..

No Data To Show...

Archived Experimental Plans

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Asko Laaniste 🗸

Sections 🗸

Dashboard

Analytical Methods

Experimental Plans

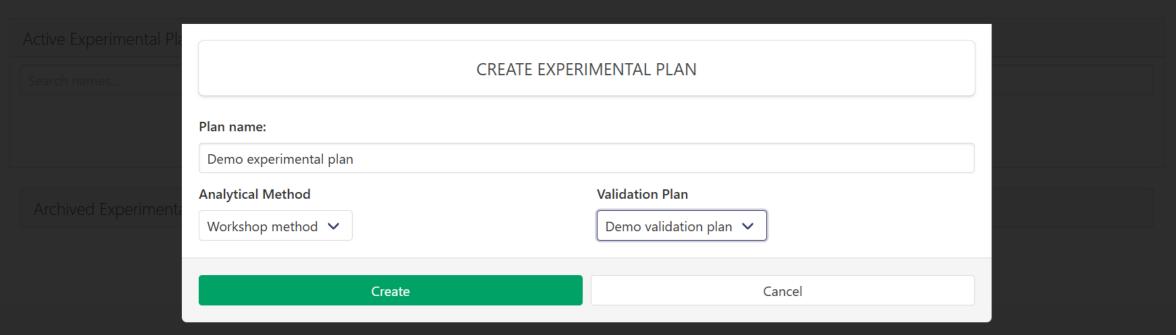
Experimental Datasets

Validation Plans

Reports

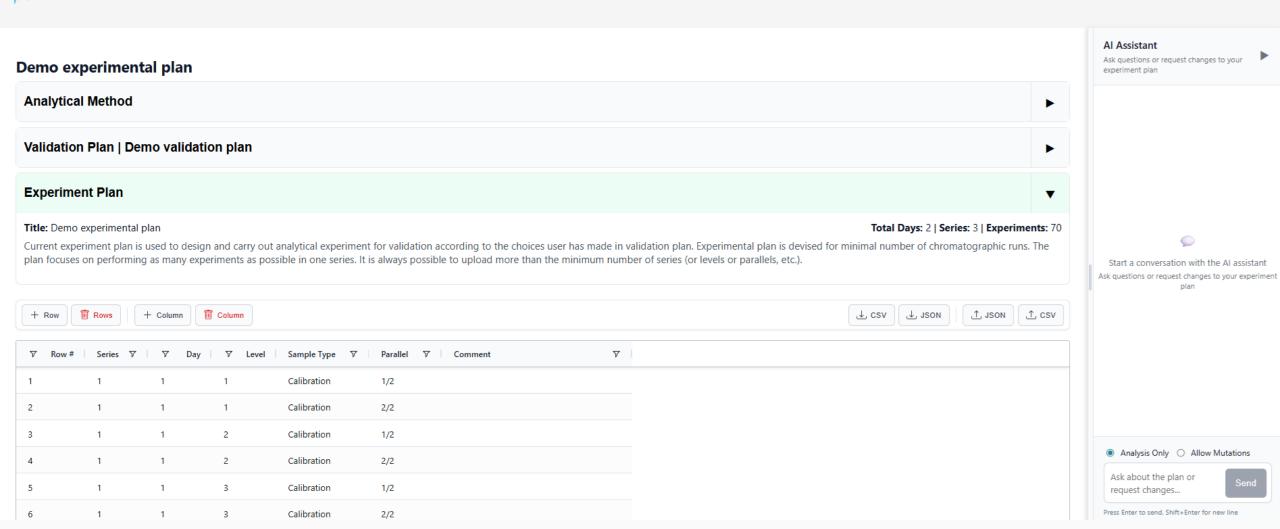
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Experimental Plans



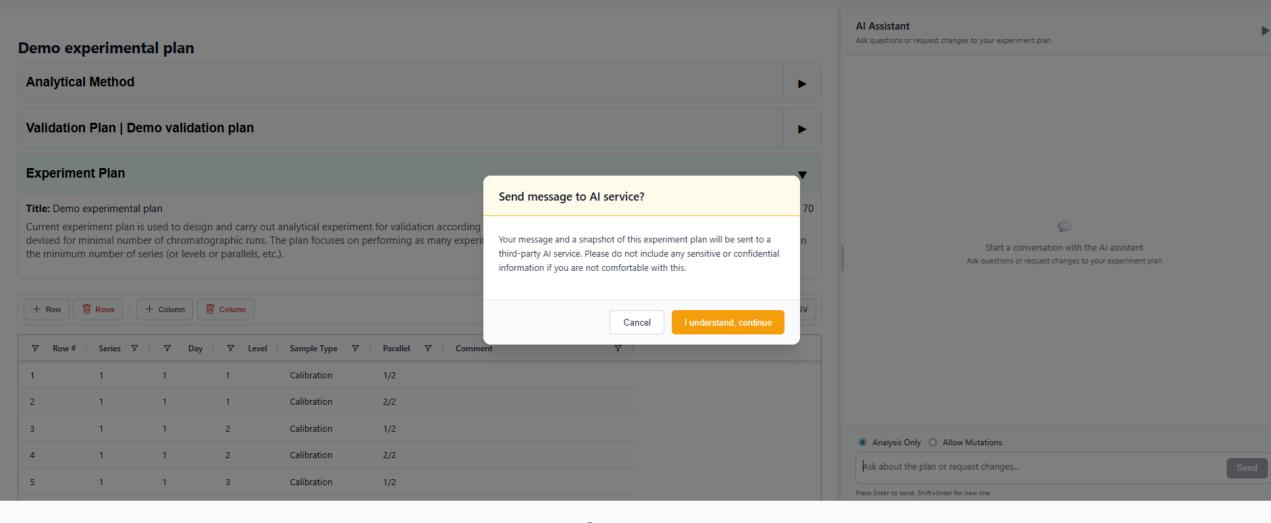
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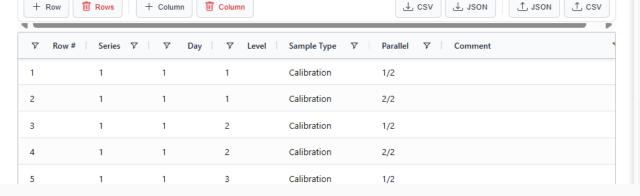


Demo experimental plan



Title: Demo experimental plan

Current experiment plan is used to design and carry out analytical experiment for validation according to the choices user has made in validation plan. Experimental plan is devised for minimal number of chromatographic runs. The plan focuses on performing as many experiments as possible in one series. It is always possible to upload more than the minimum number of series (or levels or parallels, etc.).



Al Assistant

Ask questions or request changes to your experiment plan

Explain what this plan determines and how to implement it in lab to validate LC-MS method.

10:30:00 PM

This experimental plan is designed for the validation of an LC-MS method, specifically focusing on assessing linearity, precision, and accuracy. It outlines the necessary runs to be performed across multiple series and days to meet the criteria defined in the associated validation guidelines (EMA BA in this case).

Key Validation Aspects Determined by this Plan:

- 1. Linear Range (or "3 series with 6 levels in parallel with blank and zero, matrix matched"): This part of the plan aims to establish the concentration range over which the method provides results that are directly proportional to the analyte concentration. It involves running calibration standards at 6 different concentration levels, in parallel, along with blank and zero samples. The data will be used to calculate the correlation coefficient (R2), assess back-calculated concentration errors, and ensure a sufficient number of levels and parallels meet predefined criteria.
- 2. Precision (Repeatability and Intermediate Precision):
 - Repeatability: Assesses the variability of results when the same sample is analyzed multiple times under the same conditions (within a single run). The plan includes 4 concentration levels, each analyzed in 5 parallels.
 - Intermediate Precision: Evaluates variability under different within-laboratory conditions (e.g., different days, analysts, equipment). This plan schedules 3 series, each with 4 concentration levels, to be run on at least 2 different days.

	Analysis Only	0	Allow	Mutations
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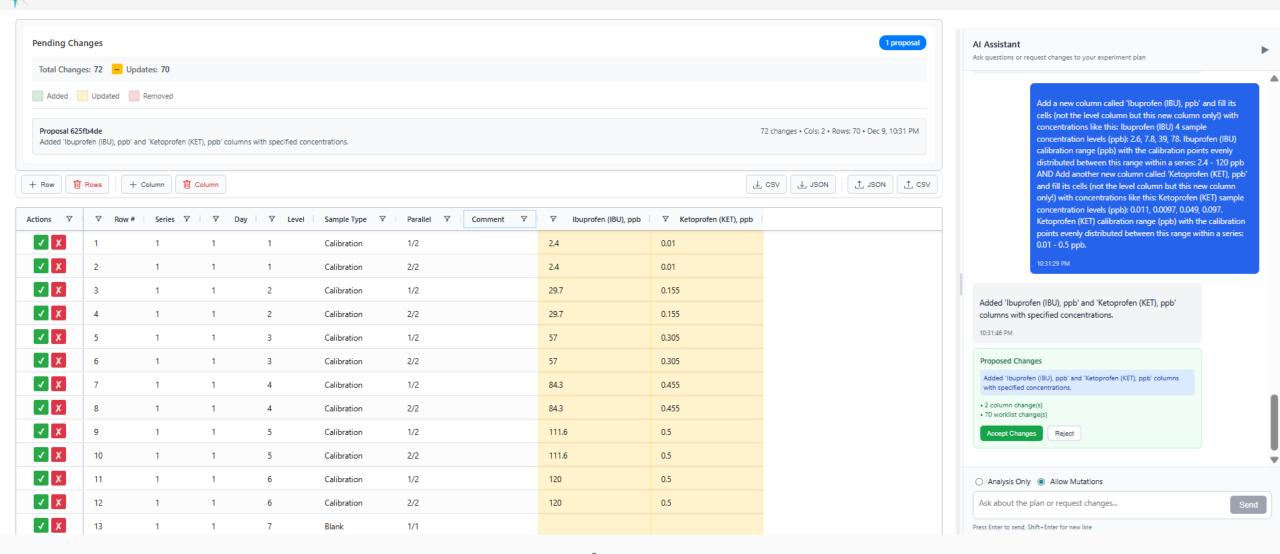
Ask about the plan or request changes...

Press Enter to send, Shift+Enter for new line

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Total Days: 2 | Series: 3 | Experiments: 70





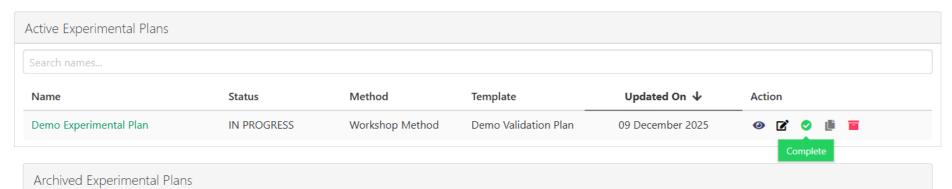
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Dashboard / Experimental Plans

Experimental Plans



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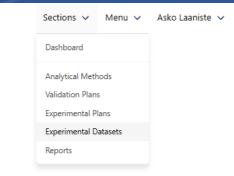


Dashboard / Experimental Datasets

Experimental Datasets

Active Experimental Datasets

Archived ExperimentalDatasets



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No Data To Show...



Dashboard / Experimental Datasets / New Experimental Dataset

New Experimental Dataset

Dataset name		
Demo dataset		
Select an Experimental Plan		
Demo experimental plan 🗸		
View Analytical Method View Validation plan		
	Next Cancel	

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Dashboard / Experimental Datasets / View Experimental Dataset

Experimental Dataset Details

Name: Demo dataset

Status: IN PROGRESS

Experimental Plan: Demo experimental plan

Created on: 09 December 2025

Bulk Upload

Validation Parameters

		Linear Range ▼	
Method of Assessment			
3 series with 6 levels in parallel with blank and zero, matrix matched	Upload data		

Precision <

Method of Assessment

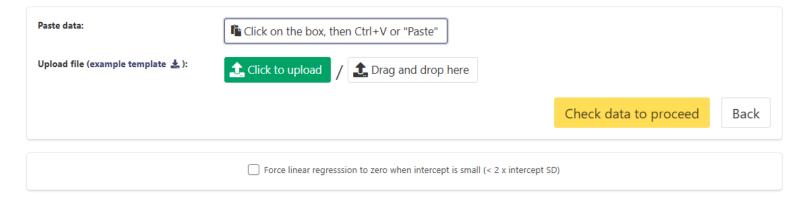


Dashboard / Experimental Datasets / View Experimental Dataset / View Input

Dataset upload

Linear Range

3 series with 6 levels in parallel with blank and zero, matrix matched



Dataset preview (download as CSV ♣)

line nr.	name	tr	area	expected concentration	level	series	marker	analyte	parallel
1	200x	21.869	13079	120.9649	1	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	1
2	200x	21.878	13217	120.9649	1	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	2
3	280x	21.846	9297	86.3677	2	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	1
4	280x	21.854	9176	86.3677	2	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	2
5	320x	21.869	8235	75.4089	3	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	1
6	320x	21.844	7954	75.4089	3	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	2
7	400x	21.844	6243	60.4825	4	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	1
8	400x	21.878	6489	60.4825	4	2023-25-05	Calibration	IBU	2



Dashboard / Experimental Datasets / View Experimental Dataset / Overview

Overview

Dataset name:	Demo dataset
Dataset status:	IN PROGRESS
	Select an analyte to view its results
IBUPROFEN IBU	•
	Accuracy ▼
	Linear Range ▼
	Precision ▼

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Accuracy ▼

Within-run: 4 concentration levels with 5 parallels using LOQ, low, medium and high QC

Criteria	Limit	Found	Decision
Maximum trueness for LoQ	120.0%	122.0%	\otimes
Minimum trueness for LoQ	80.0%	101.0%	⊘
Maximum trueness	115.0%	90.6%	\odot
Minimum trueness	85.0%	69.4%	\otimes
Within-run: Minimum number of concentration levels	4	4	\odot
Within-run: Minimum number of parallels	5	5	Θ

Level	Trueness	SD (Data for trueness)	Pooled RSD (Data for trueness)
1	113%	7.68%	6.82%
2	86.8%	3.49%	4.02%
3	79.6%	7.29%	9.16%
4	76.2%	5.68%	7.46%

Series 2023-25-05

Criteria	Limit	Found	Decision
Maximum trueness for LoQ	120.0%	122.0%	\otimes
Minimum trueness for LoQ	80.0%	101.0%	\odot
Maximum trueness	115.0%	90.6%	\odot
Minimum trueness	85.0%	69.4%	×
Within-run: Minimum number of concentration levels	4	4	\odot
Within-run: Minimum number of parallels	5	5	⊘

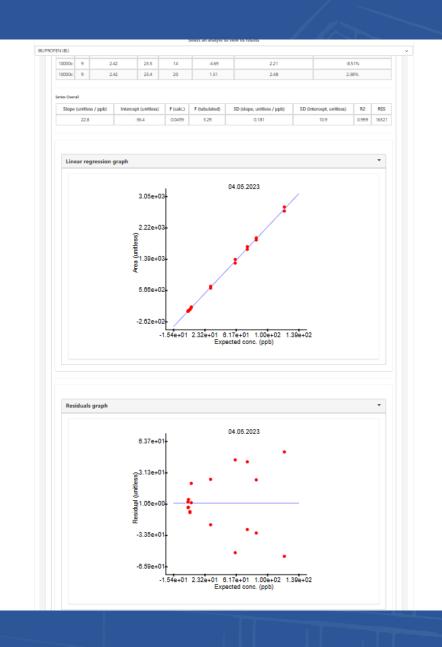
Input data

Calibration data

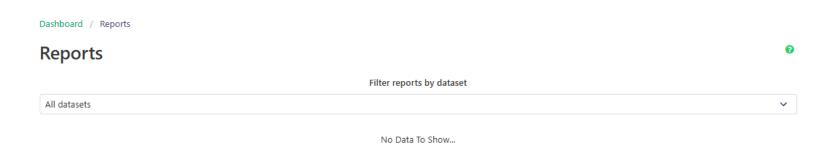
Name	Level	Expected conc. (ppb)	tR (min)	Area (unitless)	Residual (unitless)	Back calculated concentration (ppb)	Back calculated concentration error
200x	1	121	23.4	2664	-55.1	119	-2.00%
200x	1	121	23.4	2772	52.9	123	1.92%
280x	2	86.4	23.4	1900	-31	85	-1.57%
280x	2	86.4	23.4	1955	24	87.4	1.22%
320x	3	75.4	23.4	1654	-27.3	74.2	-1.59%
320x	3	75.4	23.4	1724	42.7	77.3	2.48%
400x	4	60.5	23.5	1290	-51.3	58.2	-3.72%
400x	4	60.5	23.4	1386	44.7	62.4	3.24%
800x	5	30.2	23.4	630	-22.4	29.3	-3.26%
800x	5	30.2	23.4	677	24.6	31.3	3.56%
3320x	6	4.84	23.4	64	-9.8	4.41	-8,89%
3320x	6	4.84	23.4	65	-8.8	4.45	-7.98%
5000x	7	6.45	23.5	111	0.396	6.47	0.269%
5000x	7	6.45	23.4	131	20.4	7.35	13.9%
8000x	8	3.02	23.5	28	-4.29	2.83	-6.25%
8000x	8	3.02	23.4	36	3.71	3.18	5.40%
10000x	9	2.42	23.5	14	-4.69	2.21	-8.51%
10000x	9	2.42	23.4	20	1.31	2.48	2.38%

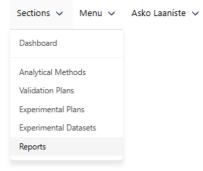
Series Overall

Slope (unitless / ppb)	Intercept (unitless)	F (calc.)	F (tabulated)	SD (slope, unitless / ppb)	SD (intercept, unitless)	R2	RSS
22.8	-36.4	0.0459	3.29	0.181	10.9	0.999	16321









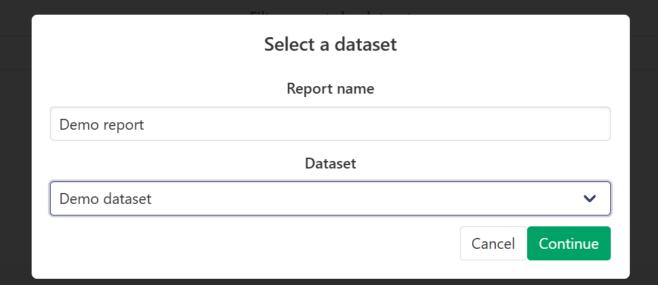
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Dashboard / Reports

Reports



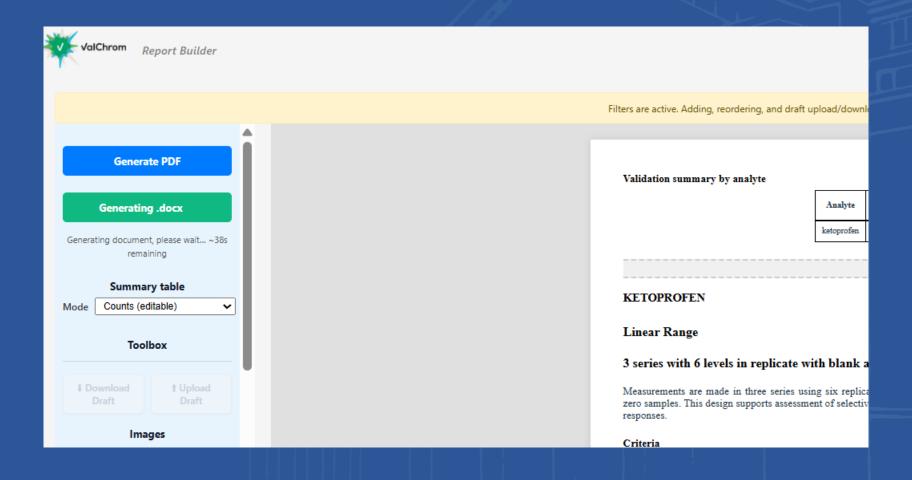
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Analytes Select All Clear							
ibuprofen							
ketoprofen							
Parameters							
Select All Clear							
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	ibuprofen 41/48 FAIL				
	ketoprofen 43/48 FAIL				
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	nge h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mate	hed			
3 series wit		natched co			
3 series wit Measurements zero samples.	h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mates	natched co			
Measurements zero samples. responses.	h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mates	natched co			
3 series wit Measurement: zero samples. responses.	h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mates are made in three series using six replicated levels under matrix-n. This design supports assessment of selectivity, matrix effects and line	natched co	appropriat	e treatment	
3 series wit Measurement: zero samples. responses.	h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mates are made in three series using six replicated levels under matrix-n. This design supports assessment of selectivity, matrix effects and line	Limit 3.29	Found	e treatment Decision	
3 series wit Measurement: zero samples. responses.	h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mates are made in three series using six replicated levels under matrix-n. This design supports assessment of selectivity, matrix effects and line Name Lack-of-fit test	Limit 3.29	Found 0.0459	Decision	
3 series wit Measurement: zero samples. responses.	h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mates are made in three series using six replicated levels under matrix-n. This design supports assessment of selectivity, matrix effects and line Name Lack-of-fit test Back-calculated concentration - minimum per cent of parallels passing per level.	Limit 3.29	Found 0.0459 100.0%	Decision	
3 series wit Measurement: zero samples. responses.	h 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix mates are made in three series using six replicated levels under matrix-n. This design supports assessment of selectivity, matrix effects and line Name Lack-of-fit test Back-calculated concentration - minimum per cent of parallels passing per levels Back-calculated concentration - minimum per cent of levels passing	Limit 3.29 1 50.0%	Found 0.0459 100.0%	Decision V	

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Validation summary by analyte

Analyte	Criteria passed	Decision
ketoprofen	43/48	FAIL

KETOPROFEN

Linear Range

3 series with 6 levels in replicate with blank and zero, matrix matched

Measurements are made in three series using six replicated levels under matrix-matched conditions and including both blank and zero samples. This design supports assessment of selectivity, matrix effects and linearity with appropriate treatment of zero and blank responses.

Criteria

Criticria			
Name	Limit	Found	Decision
Lack-of-fit test	3.29	0.786	✓
Back-calculated concentration - minimum per cent of parallels passing per level	50.0%	100.0%	✓
Back-calculated concentration - minimum per cent of levels passing	75.0%	100.0%	✓
Back-calculated concentration - minimum number of levels	6	9	√
Maximum back-calculated concentration error for LoQ	20.0%	14.2%	~
Maximum back-calculated concentration error	15.0%	11.7%	✓

Calibration data for series '04 05 2023'

		Expected conc.	tR.	Area	Residual	Back calculated	Back calculated
Name	Level	(ppb)	(min)	(unitless)	(unitless)	concentration (ppb)	concentration error
200x	1	0.5038	17.076	11817	32.80292528	0.5024141395	-0.275%
200x	1	0.5038	17.059	11991	141.1970747	0.509765305	1.18%
280x	2	0.3597	17.076	8360	- 78.99687359	0.3563625339	-0.928%
280x	2	0.3597	17.059	8703	264.0031264	0.3708536247	3.10%
320x	3	0.3141	17.076	7186	- 173.6578316	0.3067632904	-2.34%
320x	3	0.3141	17.068	7338	21.65783155	0.3131849982	-0.291%
400x	4	0.2519	17.059	5719	- 168.4015067	0.24478536	-2.82%

Welcome

ValChrom is free to use and only requirement is for users to sign up (the emails are used in order to send notifications if major changes are implemented).

Test user email: testuser@testuser.ee password: testuser Demo materials: demo.zip

To start with ValChrom: tutorial materials.

To start with Design of Experiments: DoE service.

ValChrom is under ongoing development. Any feedback on how to improve the software or any suggestions for additional functionality is greatly appreciated at valchrom@ut.ee or +3727376030.

Validation is used for testing how well different methods fit for purpose. Several international organizations have set different criteria for validation of chromatographic methods in their corresponding guidelines. We are developing a software named ValChrom that enables the user to follow a chosen guideline. This guidance has been achieved by directing the user through several choices that apply for different guidelines. The ValChrom software enables to calculate different validation parameters based on users' input data.

Made in Estonia, Europe

Help me choose

Design of Experiments

Designs

Import

Results

Optimizati

Screening



Plackett-Burman Designs

Plackett-Burman designs are efficient screening designs allowing the identification of significant factors with a minimal number of experimental runs. Particularly useful for preliminary experiments with the primary goal of understanding the effects of numerous factors, without requiring extensive resources and time.

Info about this design at NIST/SEMATECH e-Handbook of Statistical Methods



Fractional-Factorial Designs

Fractional Factorial Designs allow investigation of factors' effects with fewer experimental runs, while still providing valuable insights into influential factors. Particularly useful in screening experiments to identify key factors for further detailed study or optimisation.

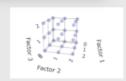
Info about this design at NIST/SEMATECH e-Handbook of Statistical Methods



Box-Behnken Designs

Box-Behnken designs provide a balance between the number of experimental runs and the quality of the results, making them ideal for optimization studies.

Info about this design at NIST/SEMATECH e-Handbook of Statistical Methods



Full Factorial Designs

Full Factorial designs consider all possible combinations of factors and levels. Can be resource-intensive, but they offer a complete understanding of the relationships between variables in an experimental setting.

Info about this design at NIST/SEMATECH e-Handbook of Statistical Methods



Parameters (3)



Factor 1

-1 = NA

1 = NA

0 = NA

Factor 2

I = NA

1 = NA

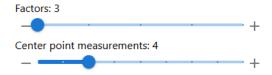
0 = NA

Factor 3

0 = NA

-1 = NA

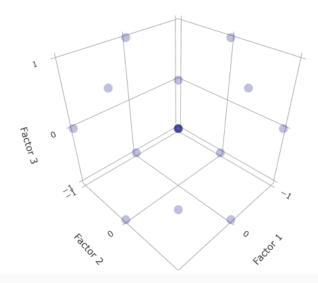
1 = NA



Export to CSV

#	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
1	-1	-1	0
2	1	-1	0
3	-1	1	0
4	1	1	0
5	-1	0	-1
6	1	0	-1
7	-1	0	1
8	1	0	1
9	0	-1	-1
10	0	1	-1
11	0	-1	1
12	0	1	1
13	0	0	0
14	0	0	0
15	0	0	0
16	0	0	0

Design



Factors (3)



Concentration

Time

Temp

Responses (2)

Area_thiacloprid

Area_acetamiprid

Paste here

Calculate results and view



#	Factor: Concentration	Factor: Time	Factor: Temp	Response: Area_thiacloprid	Response: Area_acetamiprid
1	1	1	1	12	145
2	1	1	-1	2	221
3	1	-1	1	3	300
4	1	-1	-1	14	218
5	-1	1	1	29	234
6	-1	1	-1	22	159
7	-1	-1	1	14	400
8	-1	-1	-1	20	512
9	0	0	0	33	65
10	0	0	0	35	78
11	0	0	0	32	88

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Summary

Graphs

Summary of the predictive model for "Area_thiacloprid"

F-test conclusion: The model is significant. (F-statistic: 73.17, p-value: 1.355e-2)

ANOVA test conclusion: There are factors with statistically significant effect on the response variable.

Significant factors:

- Concentration
- Concentration*Time
- Time*Temp
- Concentration²
- Time²
- Temp²

Insignificant factors:

- Concentration*Temp
- Temp
- Concentration*Time*Temp
- Time
- Intercept

Predictive model for "Area_thiacloprid"

Significant factors

Area_thiacloprid = (-6.75)*Concentration

- +(-6.28)*Time²
- +(-6.28)*Concentration²
- +(-6.28)*Temp²
- +(-2.50)*Concentration*Time
- +4.25*Time*Temp

All factors and interactions (adj. r²: 0.98, r²: 1.00)

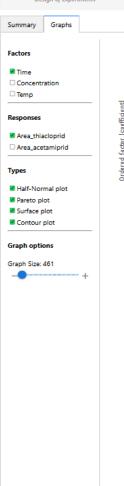
Area_thiacloprid = (-6.75)*Concentration

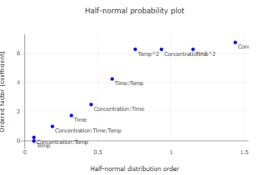
- +(-6.28)*Time²
- +(-6.28)*Concentration²
- +(-6.28)*Temp²
- +(-2.50)*Concentration*Time
- +(-0.25)*Concentration*Temp
- +0.00*Temp
- +1.00*Concentration*Time*Temp
- +1.75*Time
- +4.25*Time*Temp
- +33.33*Intercept

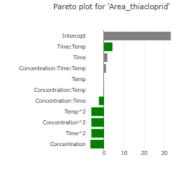


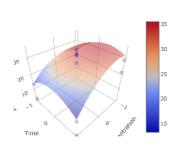


Menu ∨

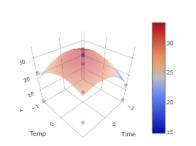








Surface plot for 'Area_thiacloprid'



Surface plot for 'Area_thiacloprid'

