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Analytical
Development
Biologicals,
Potency Assay Skill
Center

3 in 1: Increasing Efficiency of Potency Assay Optimization via DoE

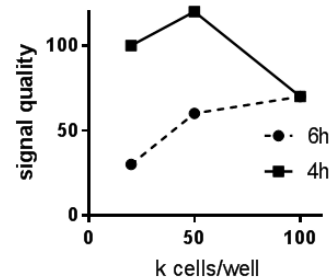
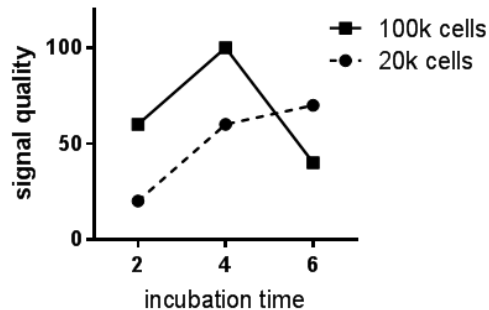
CASSS, April 16th, 2018

Overview

- Principle of DoE vs. One Factor at a Time
- „Classic“ DoE vs. „how we set up“ DoE
- Which response to assess the quality of a bioassay?
- Case studies: Examples of outcomes of DoEs
- Using DoE to assess robustness
- Capacities: Comparison of DoE approaches (and OFaT)

Theory of OFaT vs. DoE

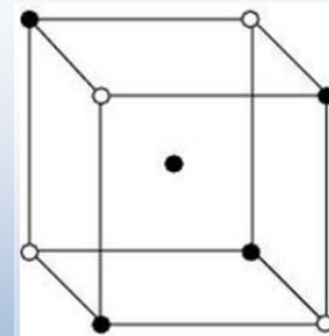
- **One Factor at a Time (OFaT):**



- not possible to detect two-factor interactions
- hard to find maximum with reasonable number of experiments

- **DoE:**

- changing all factors at the same time
- ➔ easy to find maximum and/or two-factor interactions (quite often observed in biological systems)



How we set up DoEs

How we set up DoE

„Classic “ Approach:

Typically 3 DoEs for assay development:

	Design space	Goal
1. screening (all potential factors; only linear model with low resolution)	wide	→ <i>identify relevant factors</i>
2. optimization (only relevant factors; RSM with higher resolution)	medium	→ <i>two-factor-interactions and quadratic dependencies to find optimum</i>
3. robustness (only relevant factors; only linear model with low resolution)	small	→ <i>no changes of responses over design space</i>

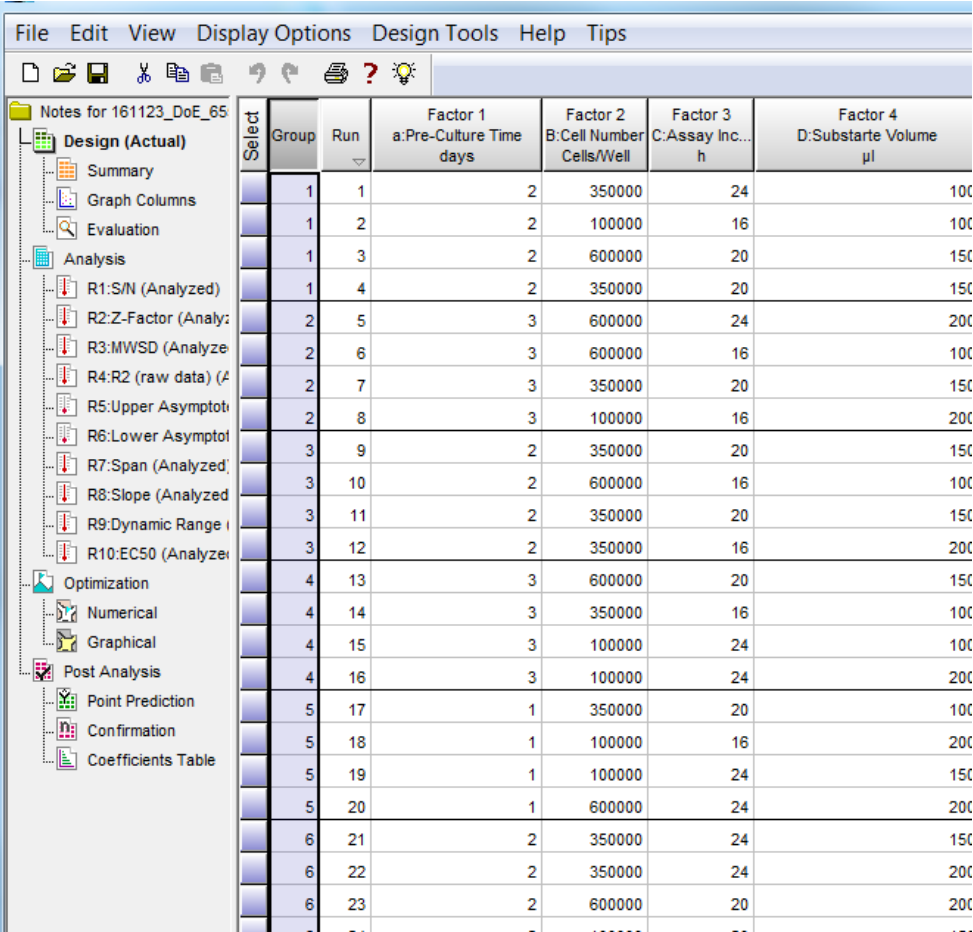
Don't tell your technicians...



How we set up DoEs

3 in 1 approach (i.e. screening, optimization and robustness in 1 DoE):

- constraining the Design Space via:
 - hands-on experience during „proof of concept“ (e.g. incubation time proliferation assay)
 - theoretical assessment of Design Space (e.g. substrate volume, cell-number)
- plan a **3 in 1 DoE** i.e. with all potentially relevant factors (including *hard-to-change* factors)



The screenshot shows the Design-Expert software interface with a 3 in 1 DoE experimental design table. The table includes columns for Group, Run, and four factors: Factor 1 (Pre-Culture Time days), Factor 2 (Cell Number Cells/Well), Factor 3 (Assay Incubation time h), and Factor 4 (Substrate Volume µl). The design is a 3-level, 4-factor, 20-run design. The software interface also shows a left-hand navigation pane with various analysis and optimization tools.

Group	Run	Factor 1 a:Pre-Culture Time days	Factor 2 B:Cell Number Cells/Well	Factor 3 C:Assay Inc... h	Factor 4 D:Substrate Volume µl
1	1	2	350000	24	100
1	2	2	100000	16	100
1	3	2	600000	20	150
1	4	2	350000	20	150
2	5	3	600000	24	200
2	6	3	600000	16	100
2	7	3	350000	20	150
2	8	3	100000	16	200
3	9	2	350000	20	150
3	10	2	600000	16	100
3	11	2	350000	20	150
3	12	2	350000	16	200
4	13	3	600000	20	150
4	14	3	350000	16	100
4	15	3	100000	24	100
4	16	3	100000	24	200
5	17	1	350000	20	100
5	18	1	100000	16	200
5	19	1	100000	24	150
5	20	1	600000	24	200
6	21	2	350000	24	150
6	22	2	350000	24	200
6	23	2	600000	20	200
6	24	2	100000	20	150

How we set up DoEs

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Advantages vs. „Classic“ Approach:

- only single *RSM* DoE
→ *far less experiments*
- more replicates per factor in comparison to „classical optimization DoE“
→ *higher statistical power* (unless not all factors turn out as relevant)
- *hard-to-change* factors allow identification of edge-of-failure at 1st experiment

Term	StdErr1	Error df ²	VIF	Restricted VIF	Power at 10 % alpha
Whole-plot					
a	0.46	7.00	1.06	1.01	90.0 %
a ²	0.75	7.00	1.45	1.09	55.8 %
Subplot					
B	0.20	12.00	1.03	1.02	99.9 %
C	0.21	12.00	1.03	1.04	99.9 %
D	0.21	12.00	1.02	1.03	99.9 %
E	0.20	12.00	1.02	1.02	99.9 %
aB	0.25	12.00	1.09	1.12	99.9 %
aC	0.25	12.00	1.06	1.10	99.9 %

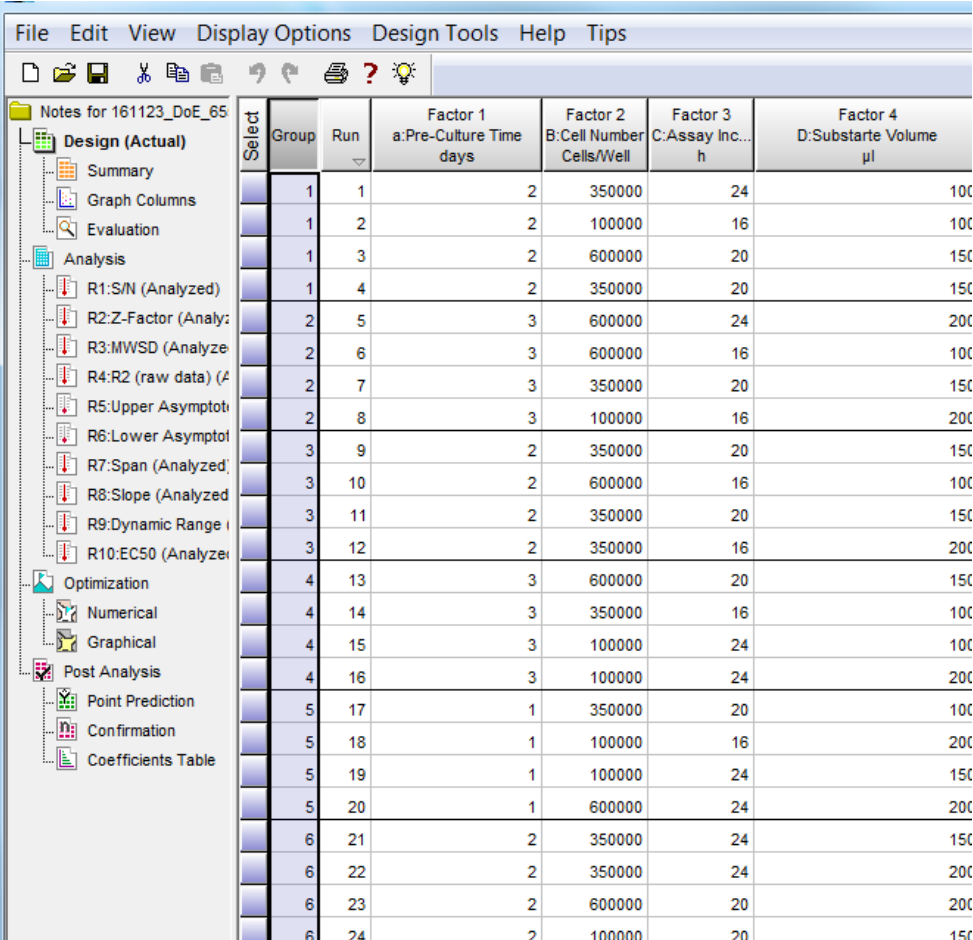
How we set up DoEs

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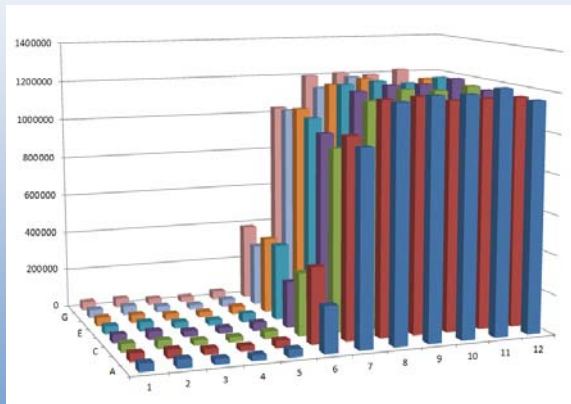
Group	Run	a:Pre-Culture Time days	Factor 2 B:Cell Number Cells/Well	Factor 3 C:Assay Inc... h	Factor 4 D:Substrate Volume µl
1	1	2	350000	24	100
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1	3	2	600000	20	150
1	4	2	350000	20	150
2	5	3	600000	24	200
2	6	3	600000	16	100
2	7	3	350000	20	150
2	8	3	100000	16	200
3	9	2	350000	20	150
3	10	2	600000	16	100
3	11	2	350000	20	150
3	12	2	350000	16	200
4	13	3	600000	20	150
4	14	3	350000	16	100
4	15	3	100000	24	100
4	16	3	100000	24	200
5	17	1	350000	20	100
5	18	1	100000	16	200
5	19	1	100000	24	150
5	20	1	600000	24	200
6	21	2	350000	24	150
6	22	2	350000	24	200
6	23	2	600000	20	200
6	24	2	100000	20	150

How we set up DoEs

Performance of experiments:

- 1 plate per run with octaplicates to assess scattering of data
- serial dilution e.g. >>1:2 steps
- swiss clock like technician
- knowing his limits in statistics (e.g. no rearrangement of data; no changes in design space)

Plate layout:



Notes for 161123_DoE_65						
File	Edit	View	Display Options	Design Tools	Help	Tips
Group	Run	Factor 1 a:Pre-Culture Time days	Factor 2 B:Cell Number Cells/Well	Factor 3 C:Assay Inc... h	Factor 4 D:Substrate Volume µl	
1	1	2	350000	24	100	
1	2	2	100000	16	100	
1	3	2	600000	20	150	
1	4	2	350000	20	150	
2	5	3	600000	24	200	
2	6	3	600000	16	100	
2	7	3	350000	20	150	
2	8	3	100000	16	200	
3	9	2	350000	20	150	
3	10	2	600000	16	100	
3	11	2	350000	20	150	
3	12	2	350000	16	200	
4	13	3	600000	20	150	
4	14	3	350000	16	100	
4	15	3	100000	24	100	
4	16	3	100000	24	200	
5	17	1	350000	20	100	
5	18	1	100000	16	200	
5	19	1	100000	24	150	
5	20	1	600000	24	200	
6	21	2	350000	24	150	
6	22	2	350000	24	200	
6	23	2	600000	20	9	200
6	24	2	100000	20	150	

Choosing the right parameter

Choosing the right parameter

Which factor to assess quality of bioassay?

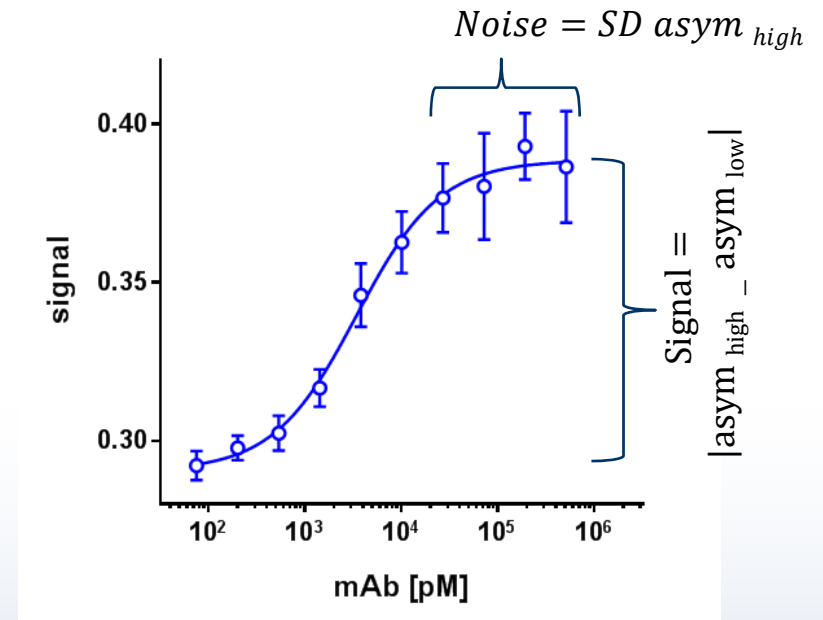
- dynamic range (DR) = $\left(\frac{asym_{high}}{asym_{low}} \right)$

- coefficient of correlation (R2): $\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2$

- mean-weighted-standard-deviation (MWSD): $\sqrt{\frac{\sum(SD^2)}{n}}$

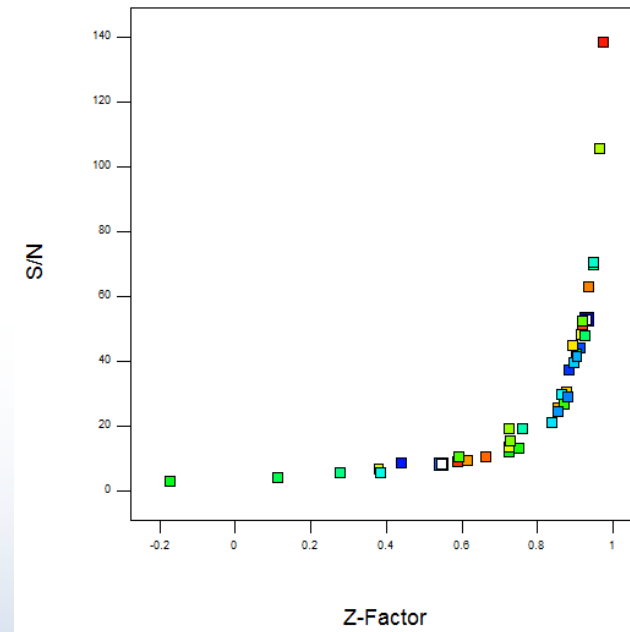
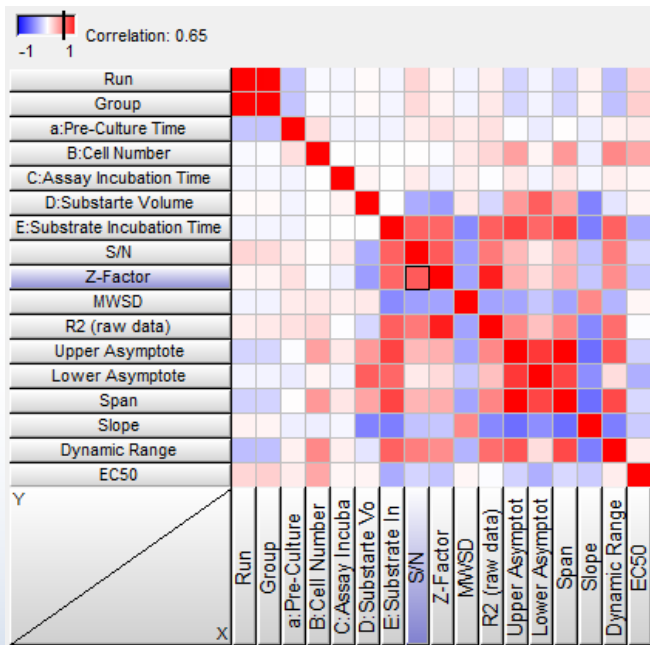
- signal-to-noise (S/N): $\frac{SD\ asym_{high}}{|asym_{high} - asym_{low}|}$

- Z-factor * = $1 - \frac{(3SD\ asym_{high} + 3SD\ asym_{low})}{|asym_{high} - asym_{low}|}$



* J. Zhang et al., (1999), Journal of Biomolecular Screening

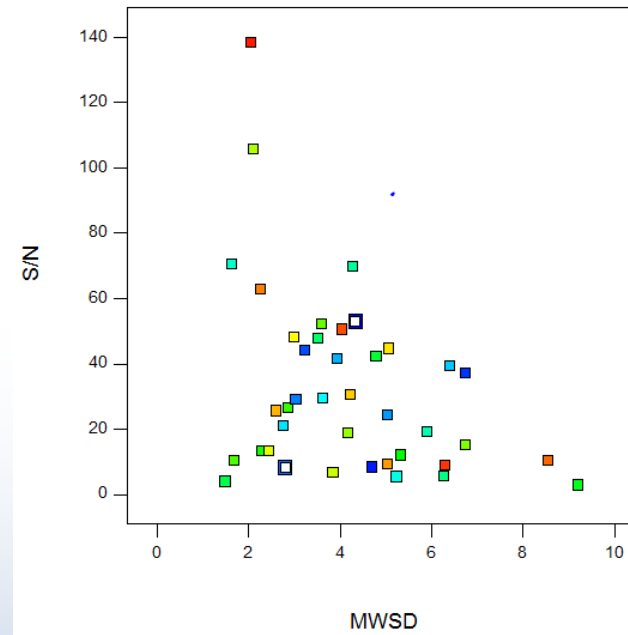
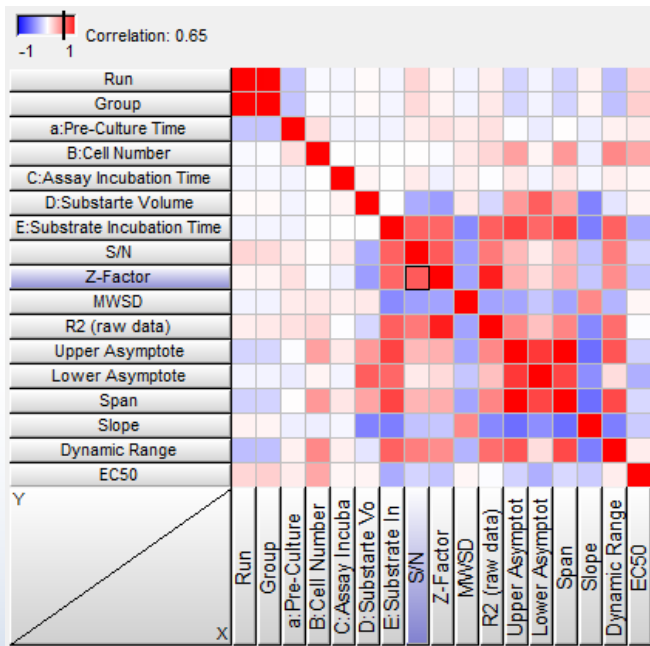
Choosing the right parameter



Conclusion:

- Z-factor strongly correlates with S/N
- Focus on S/N as changes in Z-factor are small due to normalization

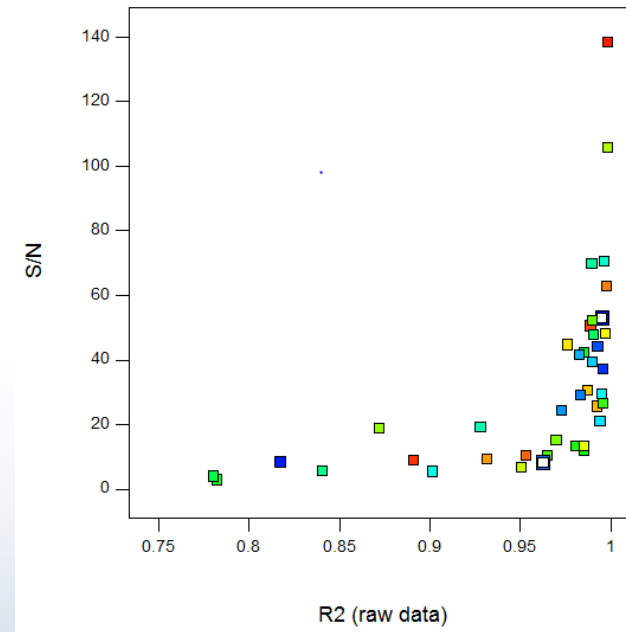
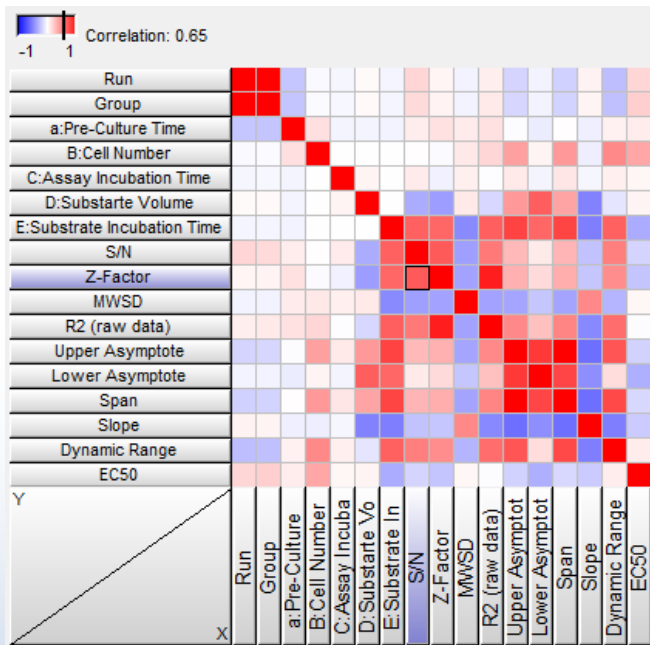
Choosing the right parameter



Conclusion:

- MWSD does not correlate with S/N
- MWSD interesting to assess model quality

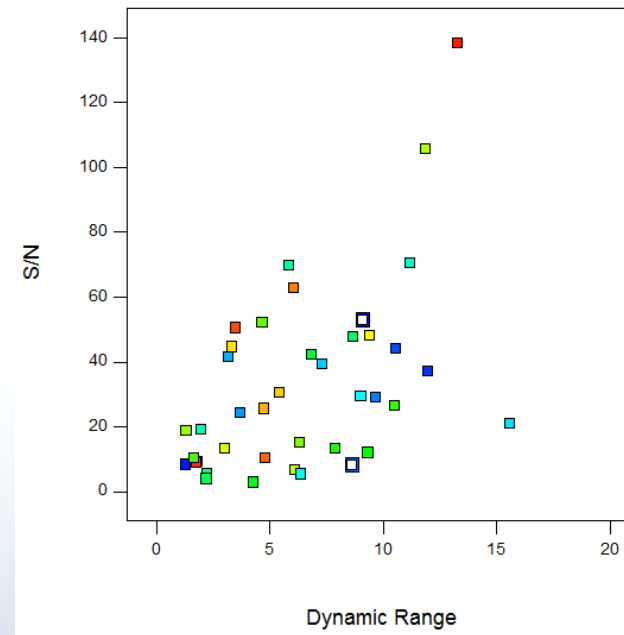
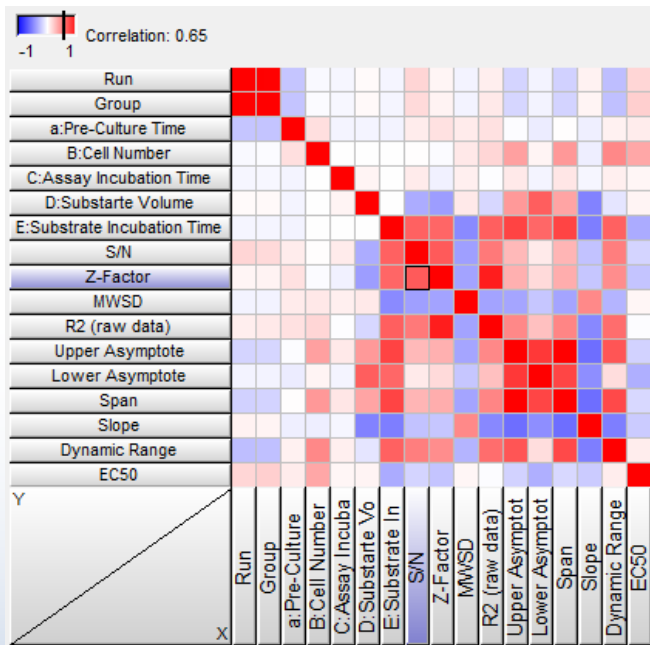
Choosing the right parameter



Conclusion:

- R2 correlates well but it rather describes fit-quality than noise
- have a glance at both models

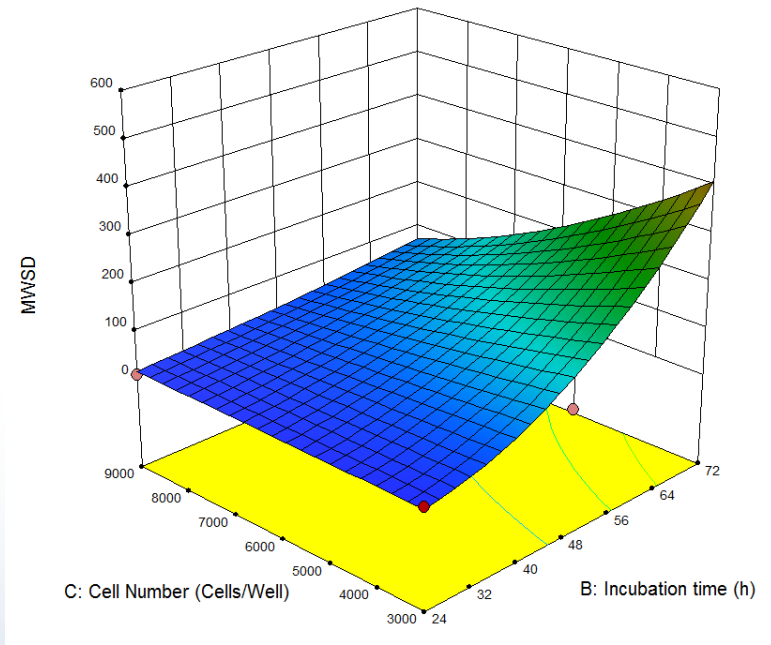
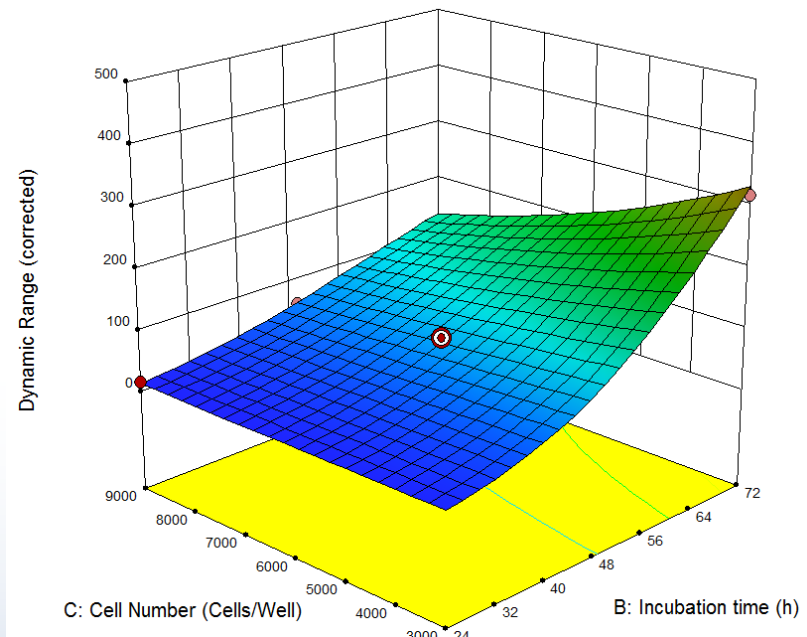
Choosing the right parameter



Conclusion:

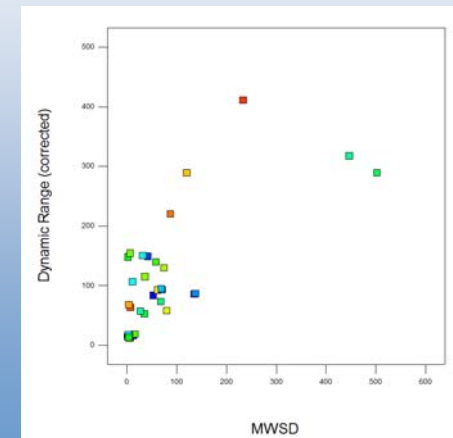
- S/N only weakly correlates with Dynamic Range
- assess both parameters
- careful using Dynamic Range exclusively...

Choosing the right parameter



Conclusion:

- both parameters correlate but opposite outcome!
- careful using Dynamic Range exclusively
→ *reasonable to evaluate different responses*



Case studies

Case study #1: DoE of Reporter-Gene Assay

Design-Expert® Software

Factor Coding: Actual

Original Scale

S/N

● Design points below predicted value

138.239

2.77085

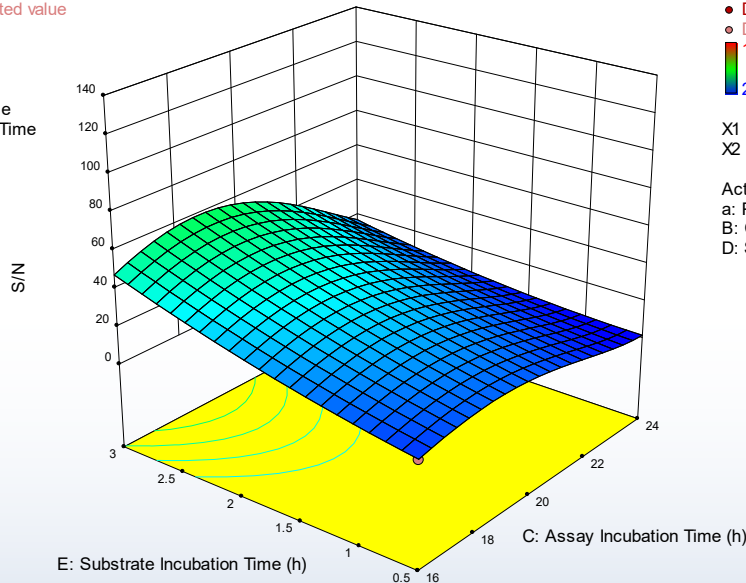
X1 = C: Assay Incubation Time
X2 = E: Substrate Incubation Time

Actual Factors

a: Pre-Culture Time = 3

B: Cell Number = 600000

D: Substrate Volume = 200



Design-Expert® Software

Factor Coding: Actual

Original Scale

S/N

● Design points above predicted value

138.239

2.77085

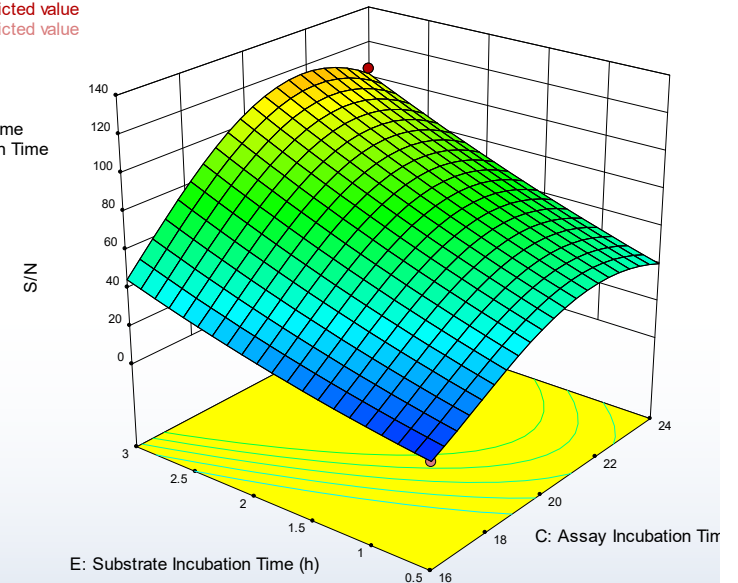
X1 = C: Assay Incubation Time
X2 = E: Substrate Incubation Time

Actual Factors

a: Pre-Culture Time = 1

B: Cell Number = 600000

D: Substrate Volume = 100

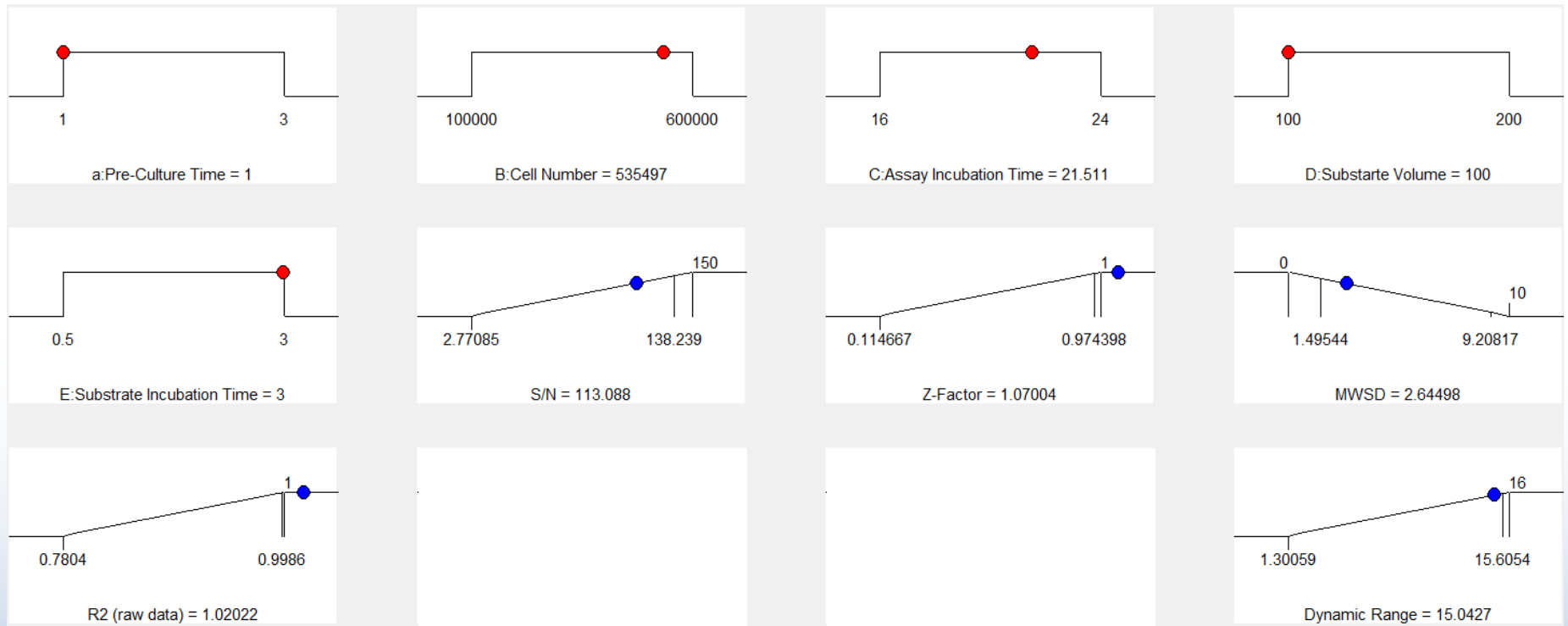


Conclusion:

- good model
- identification of maximum and of two-factor interactions

Source	Coefficient Estimate	Standard Error
R-Squared	0.87	
Adj R-Squared	0.81	
Intercept	5.97	0.40
Whole-plot Terms:		
a-Pre-Culture Time	0.064	0.30
a ²	1.08	0.48
Subplot Terms:		
B-Cell Number	-0.016	0.18
C-Assay Incubation Time	0.14	0.19
D-Substrate Volume	-0.89	0.19
E-Substrate Incubation Time	1.89	0.19
aB	-0.64	0.22
aC	-0.81	0.22
CD	-0.75	0.22
C ²	-2.01	0.33

Case study: DoE of Reporter-Gene Assay



Conclusion:

- „numerical optimization“ allows to determine settings of all tested factors at which best assay performance is achieved

Assessment of Robustness via DoE model

Assessment of Robustness via DoE model

Background:

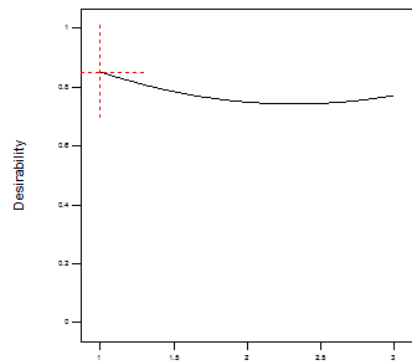
- often assessed via Potency ...“very indirect“ approach
- rather assay quality important....

Acceptance Criteria

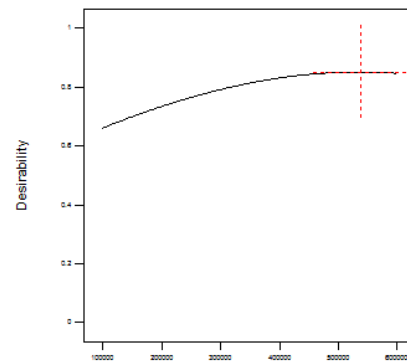
- easy
- difficult (only „soft“ AC)

Significance

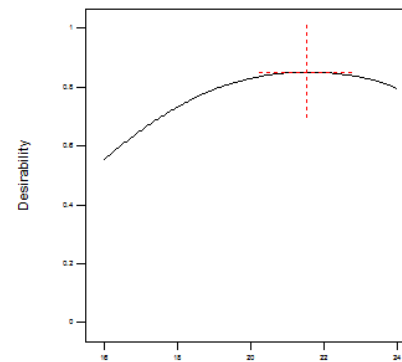
- low
- high



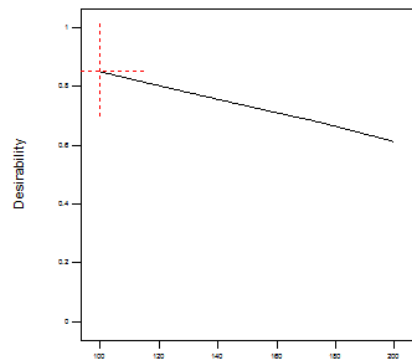
a: Pre-Culture Time (days)



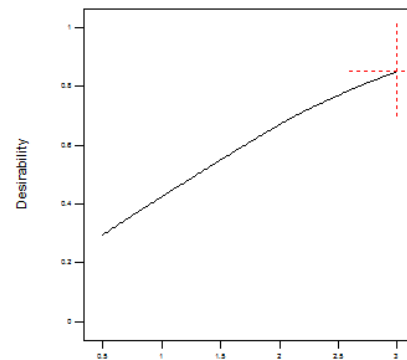
B: Cell Number (Cells/Well)



C: Assay Incubation Time (h)



D: Substrate Volume (µl)



E: Substrate Incubation Time (h)

Conclusion:

Desirability plots show edge of failures and ranges of factors which do not effect assay

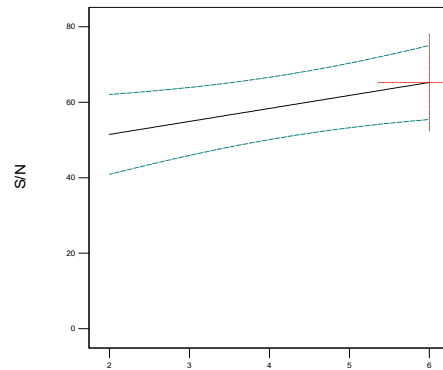
Approach is efficient and reasonable way to determine robustness at least for early phases
→ **even 3 in 1 works**

Case study #2: Apoptosis-Assay

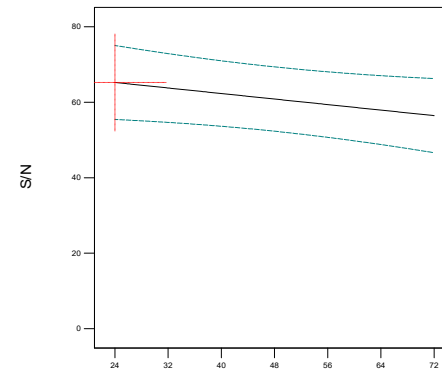
Case study #2: Apoptosis-Assay

Design-Expert® Software
Factor Coding: Actual
S/N

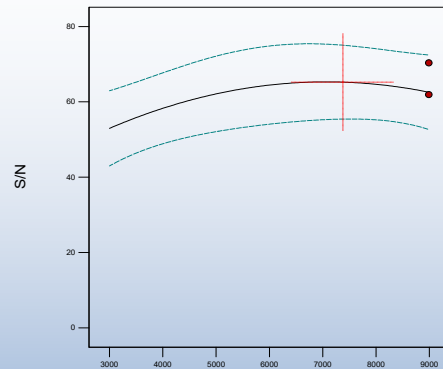
Actual Factors
a: Trypsination = 6
B: Incubation time = 24
C: Cell Number = 7378.38
d: Pre-Culture = 1



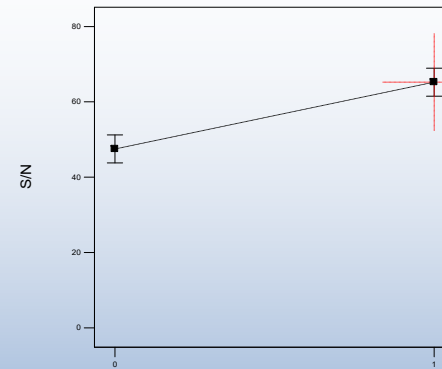
a: Trypsination (min)



B: Incubation time (h)



C: Cell Number (Cells/Well)



d: Pre-Culture (days)

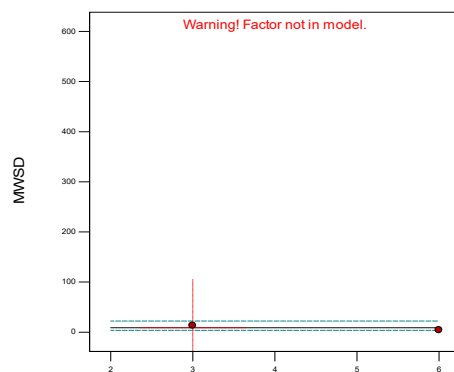
Conclusion:

- No relevant effects on S/N over whole design space => assay seems very robust

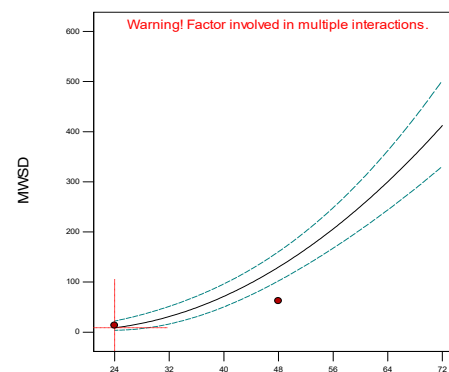
Case study #2: Apoptosis-Assay

Design-Expert® Software
Factor Coding: Actual
Original Scale
MWSD
● Design Points

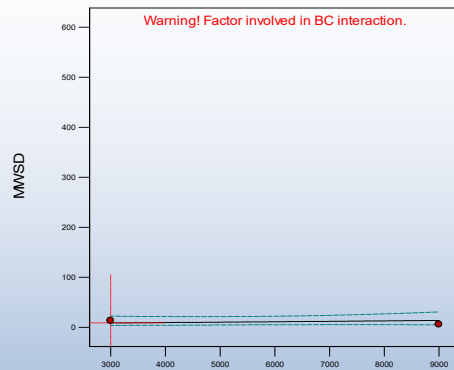
Actual Factors
a: Trypsination = 3
B: Incubation time = 24
C: Cell Number = 3000
d: Pre-Culture = 0



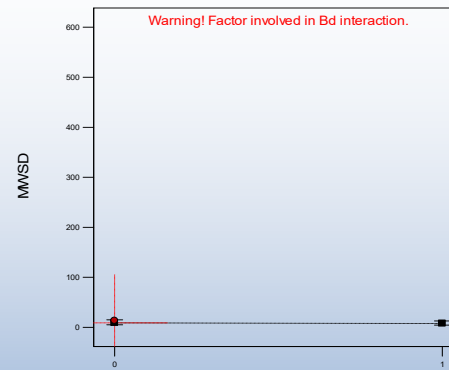
a: Trypsination (min)



B: Incubation time (h)



C: Cell Number (Cells/Well)

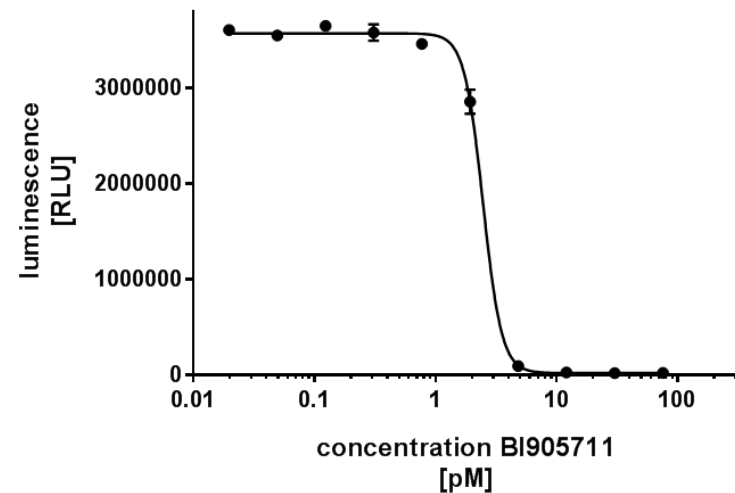
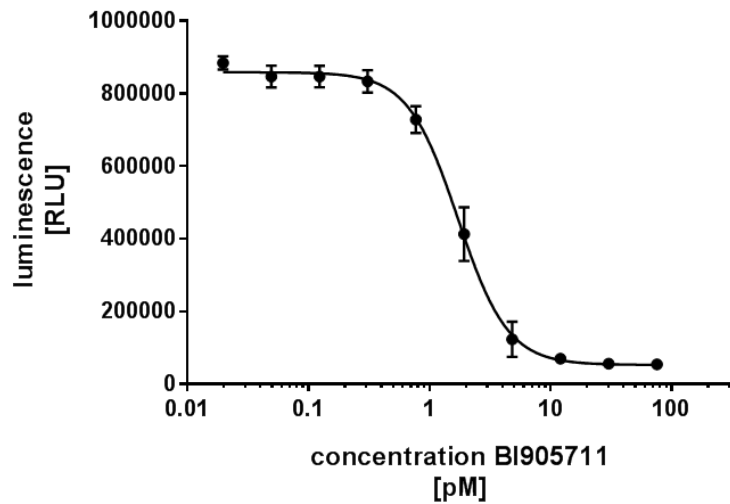


d: Pre-Culture (days)

Conclusion:

- No relevant effects on S/N over whole design space => assay seems very robust
- ...but not clear why 2 factor interaction of incubation time and cell number highly relevant for MWSD

Case study #2: Apoptosis-Assay



Conclusion:

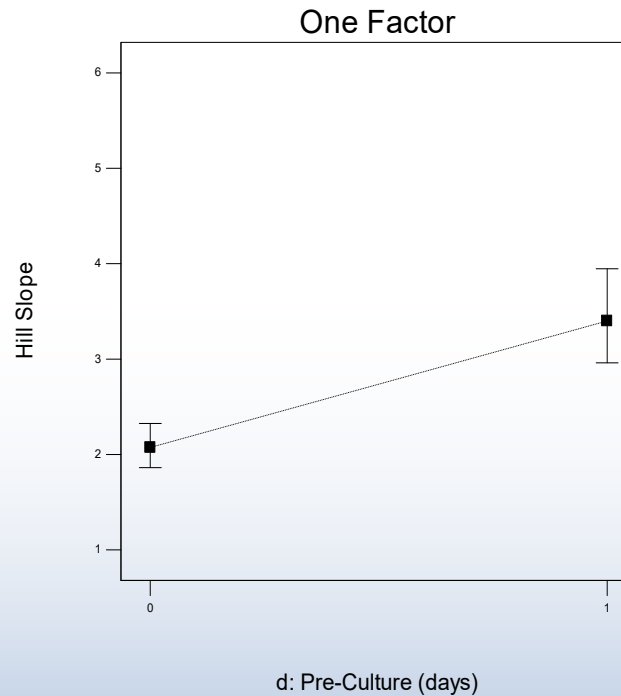
- certain settings caused curves too steep to be fitted

Case study #2: Apoptosis-Assay

Design-Expert® Software
Factor Coding: Actual
Original Scale
Hill Slope

X1 = d: Pre-Culture

Actual Factors
a: Trypsination = 4.5
B: Incubation time = 48
C: Cell Number = 6000



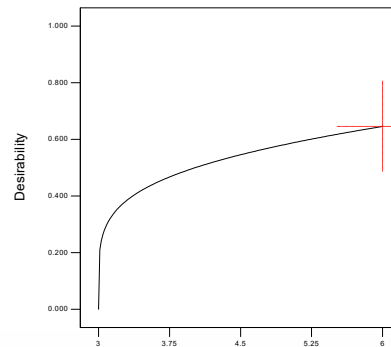
Conclusion:

- using „Hill slope“ as a response clearly showed that Pre-Culture is crucial to get nice curves

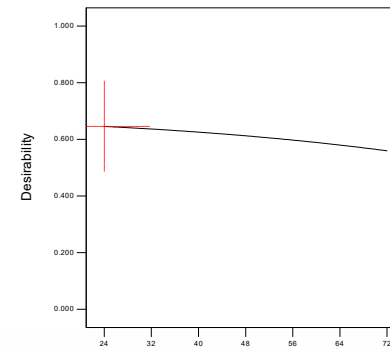
Case study #2: Apoptosis-Assay

Design-Expert® Software
Factor Coding: Actual
Desirability

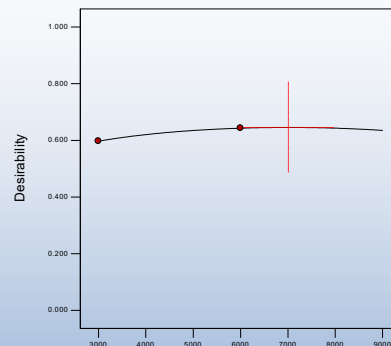
Actual Factors
a: Trypsination = 6
B: Incubation time = 24.0003
C: Cell Number = 7007.47
d: Pre-Culture = 0



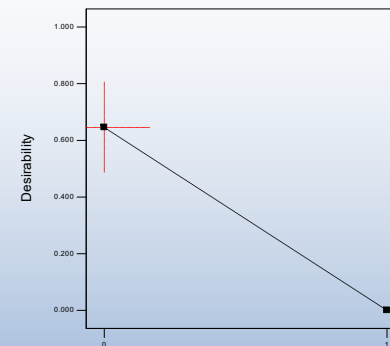
a: Trypsination (min)



B: Incubation time (h)



C: Cell Number (Cells/Well)



d: Pre-Culture (days)

Conclusion:







- low „Hill slope“ was ranked as highest desirability, followed by MWSD and S/N to obtain
- desirability clearly showed that Pre-Culture is crucial to get nice curves

...further procedure...

- confirmation of results during fine-tuning i.e.:
 - if necessary, check wider design space
 - adaptation of starting-concentration and serial dilution and plate-layout at set-point
 - plate-uniformity at set-point
 - pre-testing of accuracy/precision before assay-validation/qualification at set-point

Capacities

Capacities

		3 in 1 approach	DoE „classic“ approach	OFaT
Planing of experiments		→ ~3h expert	2 DoEs → ~6h expert	Interpretation of every set of experiments → >>3h expert
Capacity for experiments (screening & optimization)		40-50 assays => ≤10 days → ~50h technician	>60 assays => >15 days → >75h technician	Preparation and performance of different experiments → >50h technician
Evaluation		→~3h expert	→~9h expert	Interpretation of every set of experiments → >>3h expert
Report		Template → ~3h expert	→ ~8h expert	Individual report → >3h expert
Robustness		Evaluation of existing data → ~1h expert	Separate DoE → ~30h technician → ~6h expert (design & evaluation)	Experiments performed separately → >50h technician → >3h expert (planing and report)
Sum		~50h technician ~10h expert	>100h technician ~29h expert	>100h technician >>12h expert

Summary

- 2 in 1 approach less labor-intensive than good OFaT or „classical“ DoE-approach
- robustness via DoE at least for early phase reasonable => 3 in 1
- considering different parameters for assay-quality (S/N often of avail)
- some front-loading required to get statistical know-how
- provides much more insight into critical assay parameters => fast break even because better assays during later routine

Backup (Effect of Substrate Temperature on Substrate Volume)

Design-Expert® Software

Factor Coding: Actual

Original Scale

S/N-ratio

● Design Points

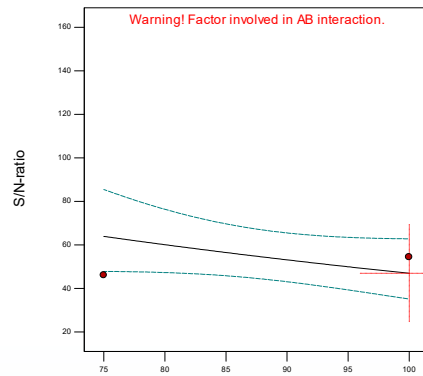
Actual Factors

A: Substrate volume = 100

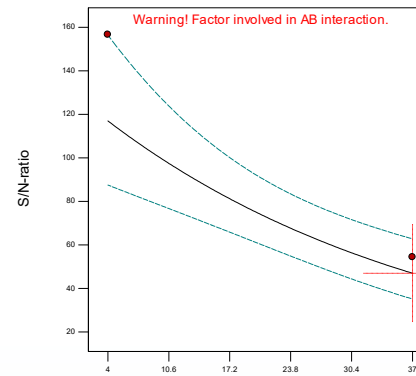
B: Substrate Temperature = 37

C: Cell-Number = 2

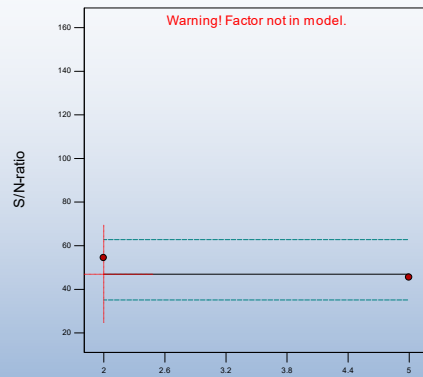
D: Plate Type = Flat-bottom



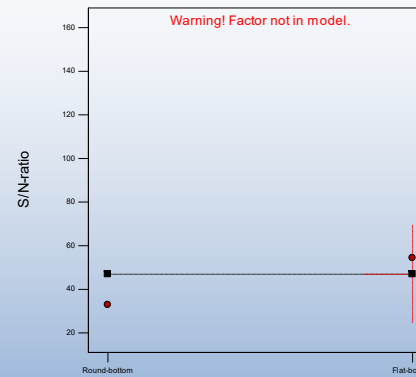
A: Substrate volume (µl)



B: Substrate Temperature (°C)



C: Cell-Number (x10⁶ cells/well)



D: Plate Type (Type)

Backup (Effect of Substrate Temperature on Substrate Volume)

Design-Expert® Software

Factor Coding: Actual

Original Scale

S/N-ratio

● Design Points

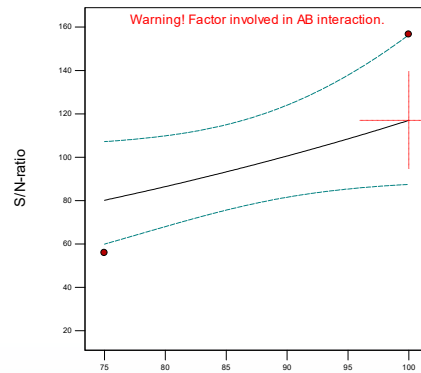
Actual Factors

A: Substrate volume = 100

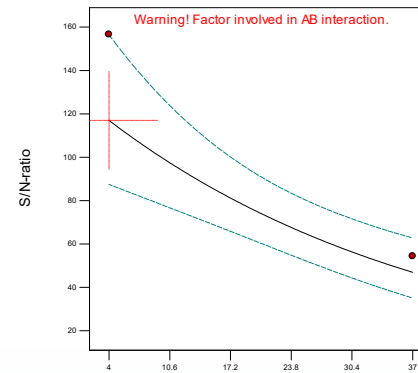
B: Substrate Temperature = 4

C: Cell-Number = 2

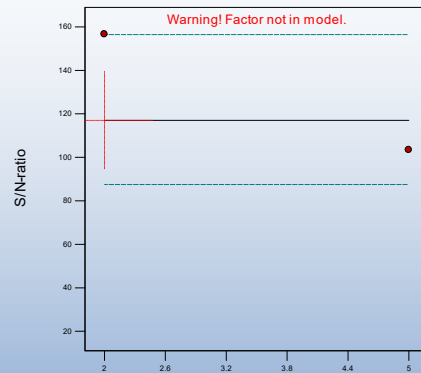
D: Plate Type = Flat-bottom



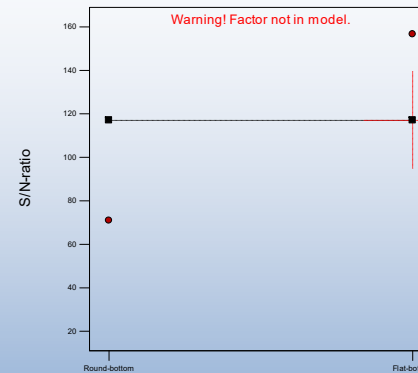
A: Substrate volume (µl)



B: Substrate Temperature (°C)



C: Cell-Number (x10⁶ cells/well)



D: Plate Type (Type)

Case study: DoE of ADCC assay

Design-Expert® Software

Factor Coding: Actual

S/N

16.8316

3.69865

X1 = C: Incubation Time

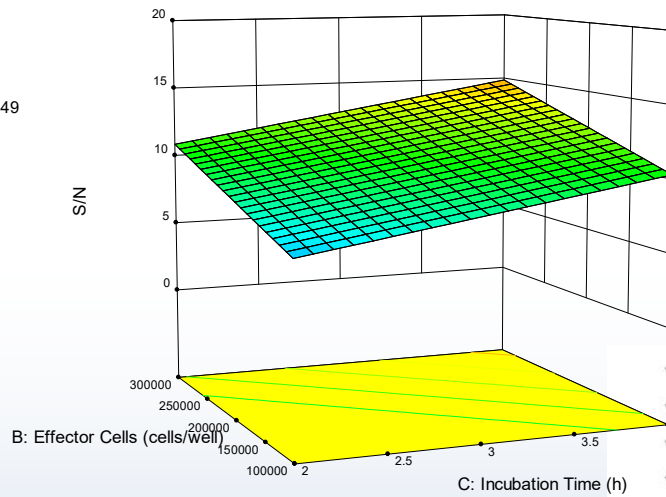
X2 = B: Effector Cells

Actual Factors

A: Target Cells = 7500

d: Pre-culture Time = 1.48649

E: Passage = 17.4595



Design-Expert® Software

Factor Coding: Actual

Dynamic Range

● Design points above predicted value

1.45141

1.10086

X1 = C: Incubation Time

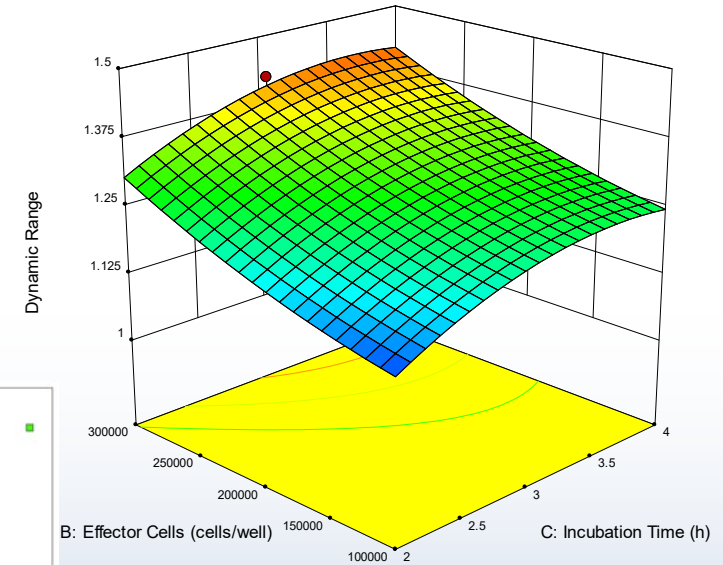
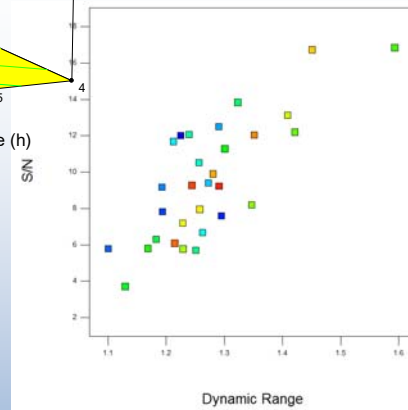
X2 = B: Effector Cells

Actual Factors

A: Target Cells = 7500

d: Pre-culture Time = 2

E: Passage = 17



Source	Coefficient	Standard Estimate	Error
R-Squared	0.65		
Adj R-Squared	0.56		
Intercept	9.43		0.39
Whole-plot Terms:			
d-Pre-culture Time	0.74		0.39
Subplot Terms:			
A-Target Cells	-1.25		0.51
B-Effector Cells	2.24		0.50
C-Incubation Time	2.00		0.51

Conclusion:

- rather poor model for S/N shows „only“ maximum
- finding supported by good model from dynamic range
- for ADCC S/N and dynamic range correlate

Source	Coefficient Estimate	Standard Error
R-Squared	0.96	
Adj R-Squared	0.93	
Intercept	1.28	7.712E-003
Whole-plot Terms:		
d-Pre-culture Time	0.031	4.939E-003
E-Passage	0.024	6.004E-003
Subplot Terms:		
A-Target Cells	1.860E-003	5.106E-003
B-Effector Cells	0.059	4.872E-003
C-Incubation Time	0.057	5.016E-003
AB	-0.012	5.929E-003
Bd	0.014	4.916E-003
B^2	0.019	8.140E-003
C^2	-0.044	8.575E-003