

# Longitudinal data quality monitoring enables improvement of quality management practices: A case study in proteomic research utilizing a digital-twin approach



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## Introduction

Data quality management is crucial for users of hyphenated liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS) systems, as it ensures the accuracy, reliability, and reproducibility of results. A robust approach to data quality management begins with the assurance that all components of the LC-MS system are operating as expected and are capable of providing deep proteome coverage in a reproducible manner.

Bruker TwinScope has been developed specifically for this purpose, serving as a digital twin solution that maintains a virtual model of the real-world data acquisition system. Through continuous monitoring of instrument health and acting as a repository for quality control data, TwinScope enables swift assessment of instrument performance both before and after the analysis of precious biological samples.

When combined with standard reference materials, such as the Biognosys indexed Retention Time (iRT™) kit containing reference peptides, and Bruker ProteoScope™ software for proteomics data analysis, TwinScope significantly enhances the quality management capabilities of modern proteomics laboratories. It also allows for longitudinal tracking of data quality, ultimately leading to improved results in proteomics analyses



Fig. 1. Overview of the quality management workflow integrating Biognosys iRT kit, Bruker ProteoScope data processing and automated upload and monitoring with TwinScope.

## Method

The instrument health and performance characteristics of advanced hyphenated proteomics mass spectrometry systems (typically comprising a nanoElute 2 liquid chromatograph and a timsTOF mass spectrometer) were monitored using Bruker TwinScope software. System performance was benchmarked using the Biognosys iRT peptide standards mixture, and pre-processing of raw data was performed using Bruker ProteoScope.

## Results

The use of TwinScope software, along with standardized performance benchmarking using standard reference materials and the Biognosys iRT peptide standards kit, enabled a comprehensive evaluation of data quality factors, including peptide and protein identification rates and iRT peptide parameters. Concurrent acquisition of metadata and instrument health data facilitated the interpretation of performance variations. TwinScope's intuitive interface

allowed for easy visualization of timsTOF instrument health, ensuring regular system functionality checks. Observations of suboptimal performance led to a review of quality control protocols, resulting in reproducibly high performance across samples. Longitudinal data quality monitoring prompted modifications to enhance laboratory practices, ensuring instrument performance assurance and reproducibility in omics studies.

## Case Study

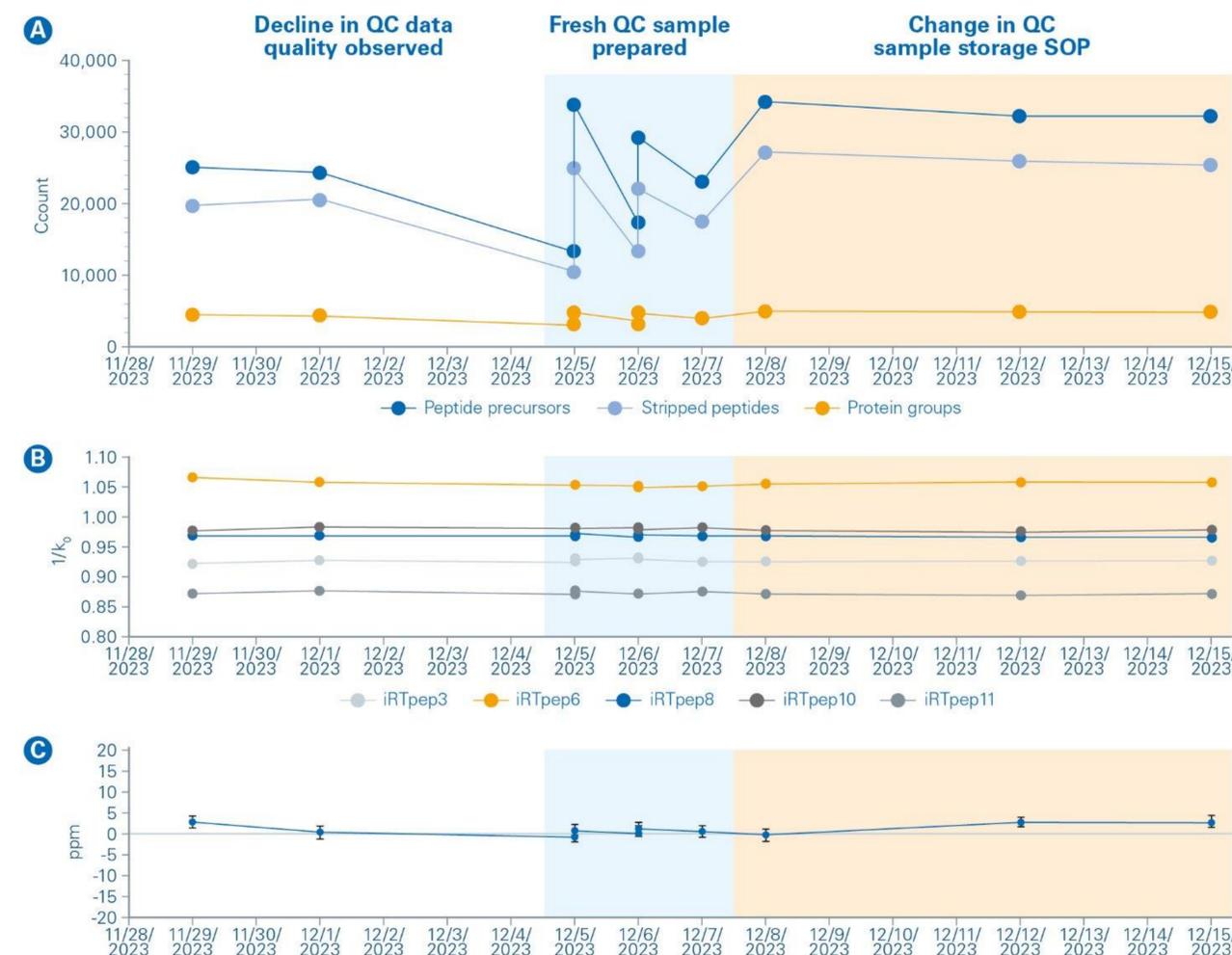


Fig. 2 Assessment of key K562 QC performance metrics (number of peptide precursors, stripped peptides, and protein groups) across time revealed a decline of QC data quality (A, left-most plot segment). Simultaneous assessment of iRT peptide measurement performance demonstrated acceptable precision and provided assurance that compromised LC and MS performance was not the underlying cause (B/C). Therefore, the QC materials and preparation protocols themselves were evaluated in a troubleshooting effort (A, middle plot segment) resulting in changes to both that were then implemented, providing reproducible high-performance results (A, right-most plot segment)..

## Conflict of interest

All contributing authors for this work are currently employed by Bruker Daltonics GmbH and Co. KG., which is a supplier of commercial FT-ICR MS/MRMS and TIMS instruments.

## Conclusion

- The digital-twin concept effectively supports bioanalytical platform monitoring and data quality assurance.
- Integration with standardized benchmarking materials enhances its efficacy.
- TwinScope enables easy monitoring of instrument health in modern omics laboratories.
- Data-driven prompt to inspect of sample preparation variables.
- Advanced monitoring capabilities identify areas for quality control process improvements.
- Future developments may extend its benefits, potentially including improved service support and predictive maintenance capabilities.

Quality management