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SFM-3/4
User's Manual

Ver. 1.2 – April 2000

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SECTION I

GENERAL INFORMATION

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1 WARRANTY

BIO-LOGIC WARRANTS EACH INSTRUMENT IT MANUFACTURES TO BE FREE FROM DEFECTS IN MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP UNDER NORMAL USE AND SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF PURCHASE*. THIS WARRENTY EXTENDS ONLY TO THE ORIGINAL PURCHASER.

THIS WARRANTY SHALL NOT APPLY TO FUSES OR ANY PRODUCT OR PARTS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO MISUSE, NEGLECT, ACCIDENT, OR ABNORMAL CONDITIONS OF OPERATION.

IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE OF A PRODUCT COVERED BY THIS WARRENTY, THE PRODUCT MUST BE RETURNED TO AN AUTHORIZED SERVICE FACILITY FOR REPAIR AND CALIBRATION AND TO VALIDATE THE WARRANTY.

THE WARRANTOR MAY, AT THEIR DISCRETION , REPLACE THE PRODCUT IN PLACE OF REPAIR. WITH REGARD TO ANY INSTRUMENT RETURNED BECAUSE OF DEFECT DURING THE WARRENTY PERIOD, ALL REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENTS WILL BE MADE WITHOUT CHARGE. IF THE FAULT HAS BEEN CAUSED BY MISUSE, NEGLECT, ACCIDENT, OR ABNORMAL CONSITIONS OF OPERATION, REPAIRS WILL BE BILL AT NORMAL COST. IN SUCH CASES, AN ESTIMATE WILL BE SUBMITTED BEFORE WORK IS STARTED.

IN CASE ANY FAULT OCCURS :

NOTIFY BIO-LOGIC OR NEAREST SERVICE FACILITY, GIVING FULL DETAILS OF THE DIFFICULTY, AND INCLUDE THE MODEL NUMBER, TYPE NUMBER , AND SERIAL NUMBER. UPON RECEIPT OF THIS INFORMATION, SERVICE OR SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU.

* EXCEPTION : ARC LAMPS SOLD BY BIO-LOGIC ARE ONLY WARRENTIED FOR A PERIOD OF 3 MONTHS FROM DATE OF PURCHASE.

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2 INTRODUCTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 General Description

Each Bio-Logic stopped-flow module (SFM), consists of a mechanical subsystem and a motor power supply (MPS).

There are two SFM configurations :

SFM-3 - The mechanical sub-system consists of three machined syringes, one valve block with 3×3-way valves, with the possibility to include one or two mixers and one ageing loop.

SFM-4 - The mechanical sub-system consists of four machined syringes, one valve block with 4× 3-way valves, with the possibility to include one to three mixers and one to two ageing loops.

All SFM syringes, valves, delay lines and cuvettes are enclosed in a water jacket to allow temperature regulation of the reactants containers. The syringe plungers of the SFM are driven by stepping motors via ball screws.

2.1.1 THE MECHANICAL DESIGN

The mechanical part of the SFM module is carefully constructed. The parts in contact with the sample and the buffers are all machined out of materials selected for their inert characteristics: stainless steel, Teflon, Kel-F, VITON, EPDM, PEEK and quartz.

Millisecond dead time can be achieved with the SFM due to the combined effects of high-performance control of the stepping motors, and low dead volumes.

Ageing lines of various volumes can be used in the SFM. The ageing line(s) of the instrument can be replaced and secured in a few minutes.

2.1.2 INTELLIGENT POWER SUPPLY

The high performance of the SFM and the high speed of the stepping motors can be achieved only because of the quality of its power-supply. The MPS unit contains independent constant current power supplies for each syringe, all driven independently by their own microprocessor.

The sequence of impulses to be sent to the stepping motors are stored in the memory of each motor board. One main microprocessor board synchronizes all the power supplies, and performs the communication with the microcomputer via a serial interface.

2.1.3 MICROCOMPUTER COMMANDS

The SFM module is controlled by the MPS software program running on a PC or compatible microcomputer under Windows 3.1x or Windows 95. Various menus and windows permit the user to :

- know the volume of the solution contained in each syringe
- perform manual or automatic movement of the syringes
- create a sequence of reaction with complete control of time and volume delivered by the syringes
- save or recall the sequences
- program the synchronization pulse used to trigger the acquisition system

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- load the data acquisition software: Bio-Kine.

More detail on the functions and use of the MPS program can be found in the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

2.2 Modes of Operation

The SFM can be used in two main operating modes that are briefly described below. More detail on the two modes of operation can be found in other sections of this manual.

2.2.1 STOPPED-FLOW (SF) MODE (commercial reference SFM-X/S)

In this configuration the SFM is a full stopped-flow instrument with an optical observation chamber.

This configuration is described in Figure 1. In this configuration the SFM has unique features for a stopped-flow instrument.

SFM-3/S - Two or three solutions can be mixed and injected into the cuvette and a single delay line can be installed (Figure 1 panel 1).

SFM-4/S - Two to four solutions can be mixed and injected into the cuvette and one to two delay lines can be installed (Figure 1 panel 2).

The speed capability of the SFM instrument (3 or 4 syringes) with all its syringes running gives a dead time below 1 ms in the observation cuvette.

2.2.2 QUENCHED-FLOW (QF) MODE (commercial reference SFM-X/Q)

In this configuration the SFM functions as a complete quench-flow instrument. This configuration allows for various modes of operation as described in the Figure 1.

SFM-3/Q - It can be used as a three syringe quench-flow instrument with one delay line, two mixers and a diverting valve for waste and collect (Figure 1 panel 3). Alternatively, an external flow line can be connected for direct injection of the mixture into a quenching solution. This mode may be used with or without an additional delay line.

It can also be used in a simple 3 syringe mode and direct collection of the sample in a pipette or syringe.

In another mode, the mixture can be injected onto a filter at the same time as it is mixed with a flow of washing buffer.

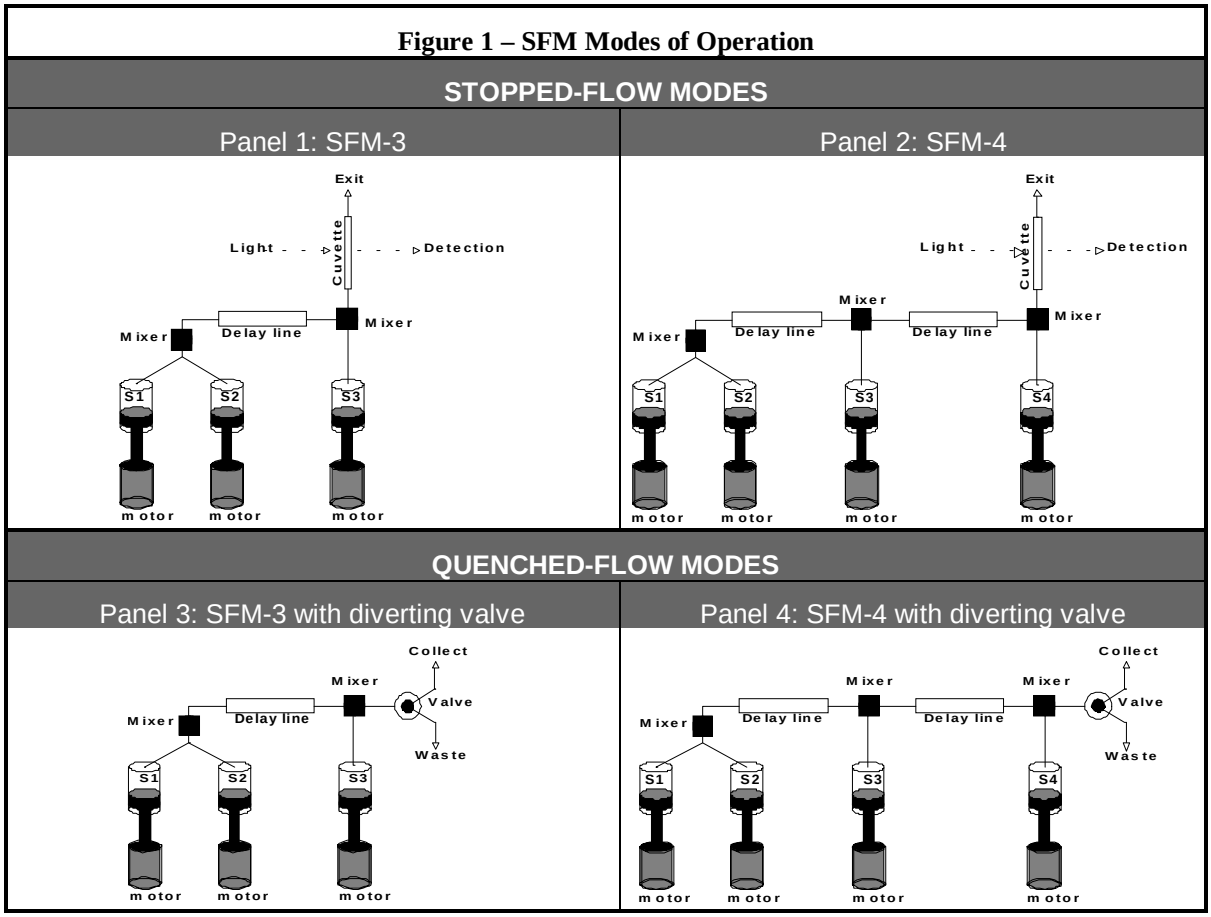
SFM-4/Q - It can be used as a quench-flow instrument with 2 to three syringes, up to one delay line, either single or double mixing and a diverting valve for waste and collect (panel 4). Alternatively, an external flow line can be connected for direct injection of the mixture into a quenching solution.

Flash quenching with a photoreactive reagent is also a mode that can be easily implemented with the SFM. Many other configurations are possible, and you are invited to inquire about their feasibility.

The commercial reference SFM-X/QS has all the components for the two applications. An SFM-X/S or a SFM-X/Q can easily be updated to SFM-X /QS.

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Figure 1 – SFM Modes of Operation



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2.3 Specifications

The general specifications of each SFM are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – SFM Specifications

GENERAL SFM SPECIFICATIONS	
Number of syringes	3 (SFM-3) or 4 (SFM-4)
Driving mechanism	One stepping motor per syringe (6400 steps per motor turn)
Number of mixers	1 to 3
Ageing line between the two mixers	25 to 1000 µl
Trigger	Programmable trigger for data acquisition and synchronization of accessories
Filling range of the drive syringes	500µl to syringe limit
Minimum injection volume per syringe	30ml syringe - 28 µl 20ml syringe - 20 µl (standard syringe) 5ml syringe - 10 µl
Flow-rate range	30 ml syringe: 0.062 – 8 ml/s/syringe (10 ml/s with acceleration) 20 ml syringe: 0.045 – 6 ml/s/syringe (8 ml/s with acceleration) 5 ml syringe: 0.010 – 1.32 ml/s/syringe (1.77 ml/s with acceleration)
Minimum flow rate for efficient mixing	1 ml/s (total flow rate through each mixer)
Variable ratio range	Continuously variable from 1/1 to 1/20 with single dilution, >1/100 with double dilution
Minimal dead time (SF mode)	0.98 ms at 16 ml/s total flow rate with FC-08 cuvette
Minimal ageing time (QF mode)	1.63 ms at 16mL/s total flow rate with minimal volume delay line
Material	PEEK (stainless steel or Kel/F on special order)
Syringe volume	20ml standard syringes (5 and 30mL syringes are also available)
Volume per µ-step	30 ml syringe - 0.19 µl 20 ml syringe - 0.14 µl 5 ml syringe - 0.03 µl
Duration of flow	adjustable from 1 ms to 9999 ms per phase
Power requirement	300 Watt, 110/220 Volt, 50/60 Hz
Total weight	12 kg

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2.4 Principle of Operation

The syringes of the SFM are driven by independent stepping-motors. The stepping-motors are of hybrid technology with 200 steps per revolution and 4 phases, each phase being powered by a constant current supply (2.9 A per phase). The power supply of each motor is microprocessor controlled. A complex impulse sequence enables micro-positioning of the motor's rotor with an accuracy equivalent to 1/32 of the mechanical step. This gives an effective number of steps of 6400 per revolution, or a volume quantification of 0.14 µl per micro-step (µ-step), when standard (20 ml) syringes are used.

With the damping produced by the rotor inertia, this results in an almost continuous, linear movement of the syringe even at very low flow rates.

The motors can be activated manually or automatically. The manual mode is mainly used to refill or wash the syringes; the syringes can be driven independently and their speed adjusted using the microcomputer with a very simple menu (see the *MPS Software User's Manual* for more details). The automatic mode is used for actual experiments.

The motor impulses are counted in the positive direction (refilling), or negative direction (emptying), so that the contents of each syringe can be continuously displayed. Zero volume corresponds to the uppermost position of the syringe and referencing the zero volume position can be done using the keyboard of the microcomputer.

The movements of the syringes are completely controlled by the microprocessor, which eliminates the need for a stop syringe. Thus, the stop artifact present in most conventional stopped-flow systems is absent in the SFM. The observation system can be synchronized with the syringe "start" or "stop" by using the trigger pulses available on the front panel of the MPS unit.

The independent control of each syringe allows a high versatility of the injection sequence. It is possible to make an injection of one syringe only, unequal filling of the syringes, variable ageing times, variable concentration , variable mixing ratios and other complicated actions with only a few keystrokes.

The reproducibility and regularity of the linear translation of the syringes and the absence of pressure artifact allow optical recording during the drive sequence. This feature greatly facilitates the determination of the initial phase of the reaction being monitored and makes the equipment suitable for very accurate, continuous flow experiments.

2.5 Description of the Mechanical Design

The observation chamber and the syringes of the SFM are mounted vertically. This allows easy purging of bubbles, which are evacuated during refilling by a few up and down movements of the drive syringe.

The syringes, valves, and observation chamber are very carefully thermoregulated. This thermoregulation prevents the occurrence of temperature artifacts on a very wide temperature range, and permits rapid kinetic studies even at temperatures below 0°C.

2.6 The Delay Lines

The SFM instrument can be used with delay lines, permitting various reaction delays to be obtained between the two (SFM-3) or three (SFM-4) mixers. The delay lines are machined into PEEK, Kel-F or stainless steel spacers (depending on the instrument). These spacers can be inserted between the mixers to adjust the volume and ageing time of a reaction between the mixers. See sections 5.4 and 5.5 for full description of delay line installation and calculation of volumes. Replacement of the delay lines is an easy operation which usually takes only a few minutes.

Delay lines of nominal volumes up to 1000 µl are available.

Standard equipment of an SFM-X/S does not include ageing lines. SFM-X/Q and /QS versions are

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delivered with two sets of ageing lines up to 200 µl. Ageing lines of 500 µl and 1000 µl can be obtained as additional accessories.

To evaluate the ageing time of a reaction, the entire volume between two mixers has to be taken into account. This volume includes the delay line plus the dead volumes (the volumes on the both sides of the delay line and the mixers). The complete description of the volumes are described in section 5.5.

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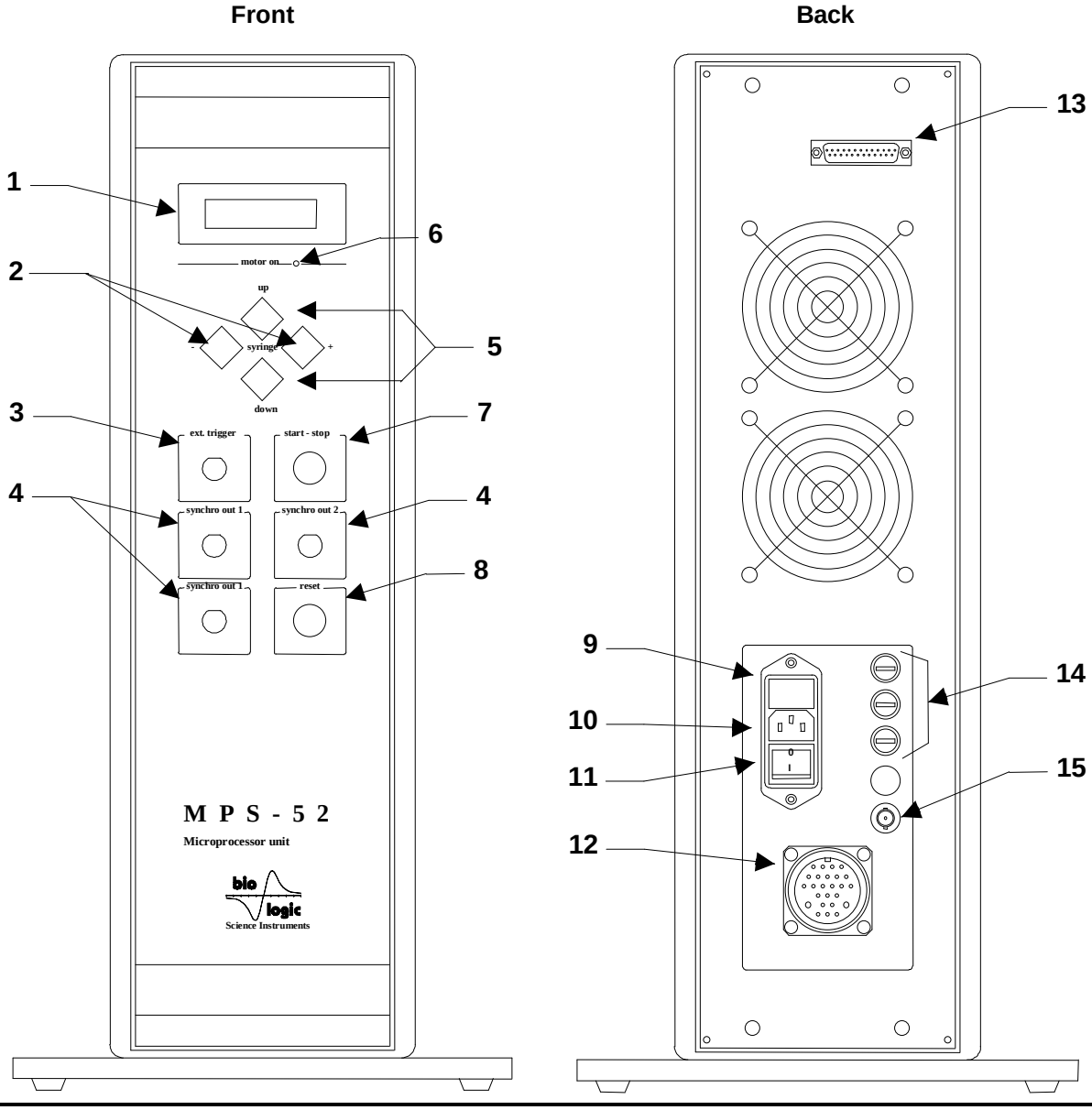
3 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLATION

This section of the manual contains information on the installation and preliminary operation of all SFM instruments. It is recommended that the contents of this section be read and understood before any attempt is made to operate the instrument. In case of difficulties please contact Bio-Logic or its nearest representative.

3.1 Operating Features

The general features of the MPS-52 are shown below in Figure 2 and described in Table 2.

Figure 2 – MPS-52 Panels



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Table 2 – MPS-52 Panel Descriptions

	NAME	FUNCTION
1	LCD DISPLAY	*Used to display messages (selected syringe, auto mode...)*
2	SYRINGE SELECTOR	*Selects the syringe for the manual control (5)*
3	TRIGGER INPUT	*Input for an external signal to trigger the drive sequence*
4	SYNCHRO PULSE OUTPUT	*TTL Pulse output to trigger the recording system, or any electronic device to be synchronized with the instrument*
5	MANUAL MOVEMENT	*Manual control of the syringes*
6	MOTOR ON" INDICATOR	*Lit when at least one of the motors, is activated*
7	START/STOP	*Initiates (or stops) the programmed sequence in the automatic mode. The instrument may also be started and stopped using the keyboard of the PC.*
8	PROGRAM RESET	*Resets the MPS-52 instrument (does NOT reset syringe values)*
9	MAIN POWER FUSE	*3 A for 220 V, or 6 A for 115 V*
10	AC LINE CONNECTOR	
11	MAIN POWER SWITCH	
12	MOTOR POWER CONNECTOR	*Sends the power pulses to the stepping motors*
13	LOGIC CONNECTOR	*Connects the MPS-52 controller to the PC*
14	MOTOR FUSES	*5 A*
15	HARD STOP (SF) BNC CONNECTOR	

3.2 AC Power and Connections

Before connecting the SFM to the local AC line, verify that the setting of the instrument matches the local line voltage. Prepare the SFM for operation by connecting the mechanical subsystem to the MPS-52 unit. Connect the MPS-52 to the serial port of the microcomputer. Finally, plug the MPS-52 into the appropriate AC line.

3.3 Temperature Regulation

The SFM module may be connected to a circulating temperature bath for temperature regulation. The coolant flows through two internal circuits: one around the injection and reservoir syringe ports and the other through the valve block and observation head.

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SECTION II

STOPPED-FLOW MODE (SFM-X/S)

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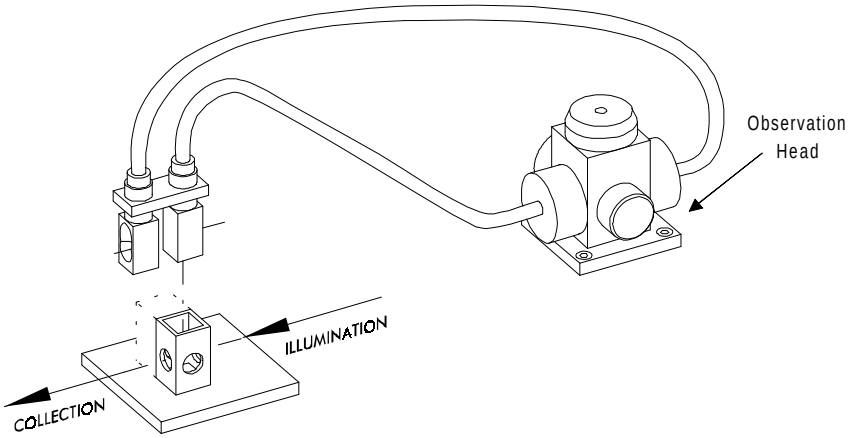
4 INSTALLATION OF THE OPTICAL SYSTEM

The Bio-Logic stopped-flow module should be used with a Bio-Logic Modular Optical System (MOS). Each MOS has been designed to match our SFM instruments to obtain the highest performance possible for any kinetic system. Installation instructions for each MOS can be found in their respective sections of the *Bio-Logic Modular Optical Systems User's Manual*.

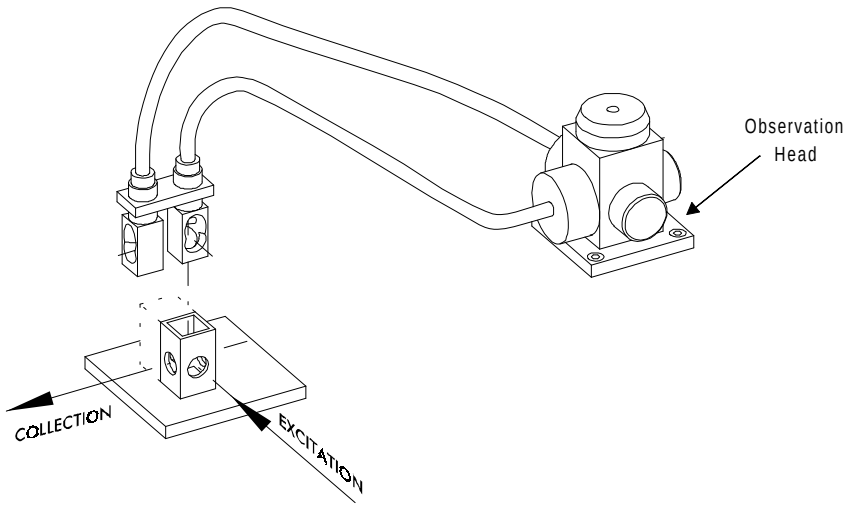
However, the Bio-Logic stopped-flow module can be adapted to any good quality optical system. This is accomplished using fiber optic light links (see Figure 3 below) or through direct connection of the SFM to the optical system. Please contact Bio-Logic or it's nearest representative to determine the best method of connecting the SFM to your existing optical system.

Figure 3 – Connection of an SFM to other Optical Systems

Light-link in absorbance mode



Light-link in fluorescence mode



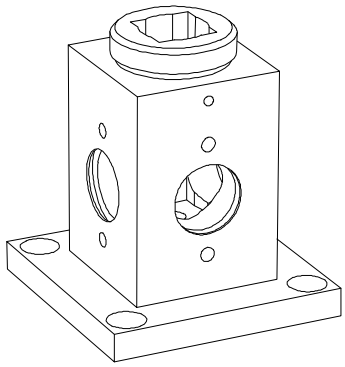
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5 INSTALLATION OF THE STOPPED-FLOW COMPONENTS

5.1 The Observation Head

The stopped-flow observation head (Figure 4) is installed on top of the SFM. The observation head has four optical windows: one window for illumination and three for observation. This allows measurements of absorbance, transmittance, circular dichroism, single or double wavelength fluorescence emission and light scattering or fluorescence polarization without adding any reflecting or beam splitting elements. The two windows at right angles to the incoming light can be equipped with lenses to increase the efficiency of light detection.

Figure 4 – Stopped-Flow Observation Head



5.2 Mixer Installation and Replacement

Each SFM comes from the factory with mixers installed. The mixers are located in the syringe block, between the syringe block and the observation head (SFM-400) and at the bottom of the observation head below the cuvette as shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8. As in all stopped-flow systems, the mixer is one of the most delicate part of the instrument. It is recommended to check the state of mixer regularly and also when the SFM has been unused for a prolonged period of time. Instructions for removal and replacement of the mixers are described in section (**xxx**).

5.3 Cuvette Installation

The observation cuvette is one of the most critical parts of all stopped-flow instruments. Indeed, it is extremely important to adapt the cuvette to the parameter being observed. For example, it would be inappropriate to use the same cuvette for measuring a small absorbance change and for measuring a fluorescence change of a compound having a high absorbance and producing strong inner filter effects. The SFM observation head can be equipped with a number of different cuvettes adapted to a variety of situations. If our standard cuvettes do not satisfy your specific experimental requirements, we invite you to contact us about custom-made cuvettes.

Figure 6 shows the cuvettes presently available and their specifications.. There are two general styles of cuvettes:

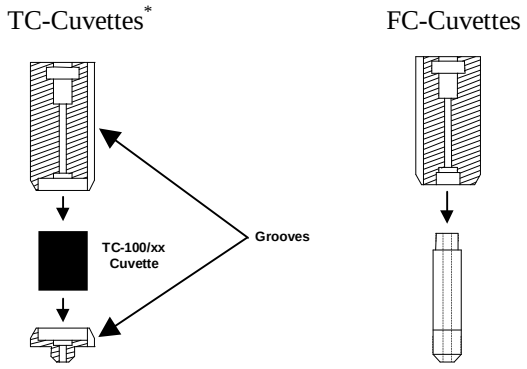
FC (fluorescence cuvette) - FC type cuvettes have blackened edges to reduce light scattering in fluorescence configuration. The FC-15 and FC-20 cuvettes are the best choices for CD experiments in the far UV. Their large aperture facilitates low noise recording at these wavelengths.

TC (transmittance cuvette) - TC type cuvettes have been primarily designed for absorbance and transmittance experiments, however in the TC-xx/yyF models, both sides of the light path are transparent. These models of cuvettes can also be used for fluorescence experiments using dilute samples and excitation with a laser or any other low divergence light source. Cuvettes of the TC.xx/10 type have a 1x1 mm² cross section and cuvettes of the TC.xx/15 type have a 1.5x1.5 mm² cross section.

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The two styles of cuvettes have different holders that are used to install them into the SFM observation head. The assembly of the cuvette with their respective cuvette holders is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 – Cuvette Assembly



Note: *Be sure to align the grooves of the TC-Cuvette holder pieces.

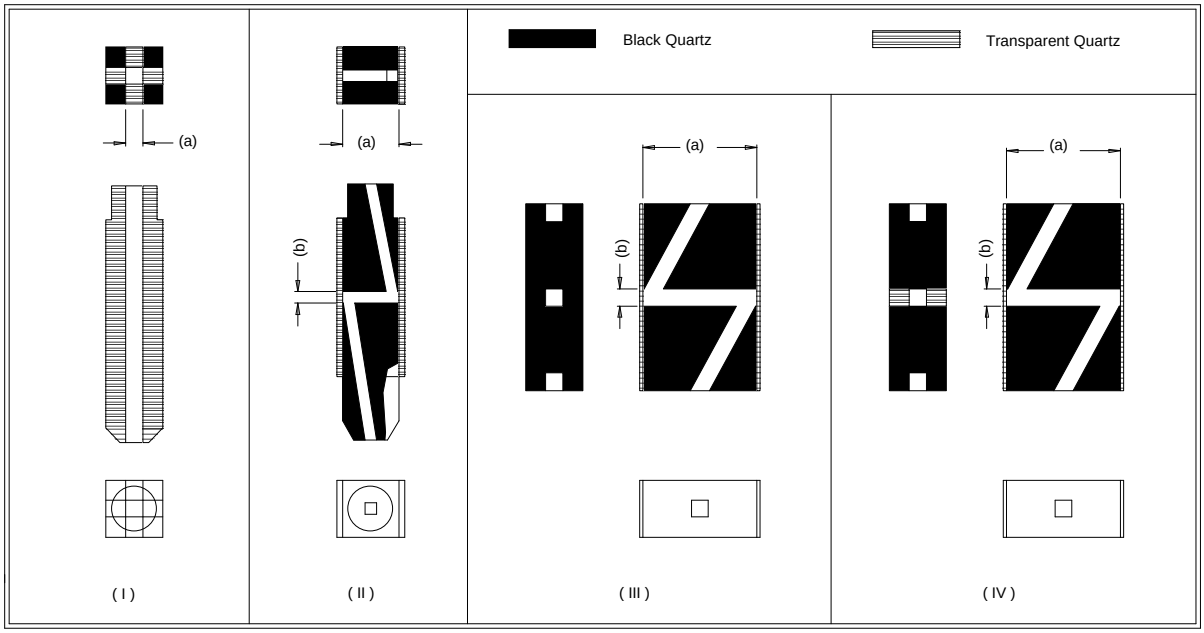
The SFM observation head has been designed so that the observation cuvettes can be exchanged within a few minutes. This is often recognized by our users as one of the many advantages of the SFM systems. Removal and replacement of the cuvette is shown in Figure 12.

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Figure 6 – SFM Cuvette Specifications

CUVETTE OPTICAL SPECIFICATIONS[1]				
Cuvette	Drawing	Light path (mm) (a)	Aperture (mm) (b)	Main application
FC-08	I	0.8	-	*Fluorescence, light scattering*
FC-15	I	1.5	-	*Fluorescence, light scattering, high absorbance*
FC-20	I	2.0	-	*CD, fluorescence*
TC-50/10	II	5	1.0	*Absorbance, CD, fluorescence*
TC-50/15	II	5	1.5	*Absorbance, CD, fluorescence*
TC-100/10T	III	10	1.0	*Absorbance, CD*
TC-100/10F	IV	10	1.0	*Absorbance, CD, fluorescence*
TC-100/15T	III	10	1.5	*Absorbance, CD*
TC-100/15F	IV	10	1.5	*Absorbance, CD, fluorescence*

Notes: (1) All cuvettes are made of Suprasil (transparent from 185 to 2500 nm).



	CUVETTE DEAD VOLUMES[1] AND DEAD TIMES[2]			
	With Berger Ball Mixer		With High Density (HDS) Mixer	
Cuvette	Dead Volume (µl)	Dead Time (ms)	Dead Volume (µl)	Dead Time (ms)
FC-08	15.6	1.6	30.4	3.0
FC-15	36.6	3.7	51.3	5.1
FC-20	59.3	5.9	74.1	7.6
TC-50/10	22.4	2.2	36.8	3.7
TC-50/15	40.1	4.0	54.6	5.5
TC-100/10T	30.2	3.0	45.0	4.5
TC-100/10F	30.2	3.0	45.0	4.5
TC-100/15T	46.8	4.7	61.5	6.2
TC-100/15F	46.8	4.7	61.5	6.2

Notes: (1) Dead volumes measured from mixing point to the center of the observation area.
(2) Dead times calculated at 10 ml/s flow rate. Dead time is inversely proportional to flow rate.

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5.4 Installation of the Mixer Blocks and Delay Lines

In stopped-flow mode, the syringes of the SFM can be used to perform many types of mixing experiments. It is difficult to list all the possibilities here. Some are described below:

1) Load several reagents and mix them in different shots with the contents of the last syringe.

2) Use syringes loaded with reagents and buffer to vary the concentration of one or two reagents and mix the result with the contents of the last syringe.

3) Perform sequential mixing and delays between up to 3 reagents before they are mixed with the content of the last syringe.

The observation head is installed on the SFM body differently depending on how many syringes are present and the type of experiment performed.

SFM-3 - The observation head and delay line are installed as shown in Figure 7. The smallest delay line comes standard and installed with the instrument

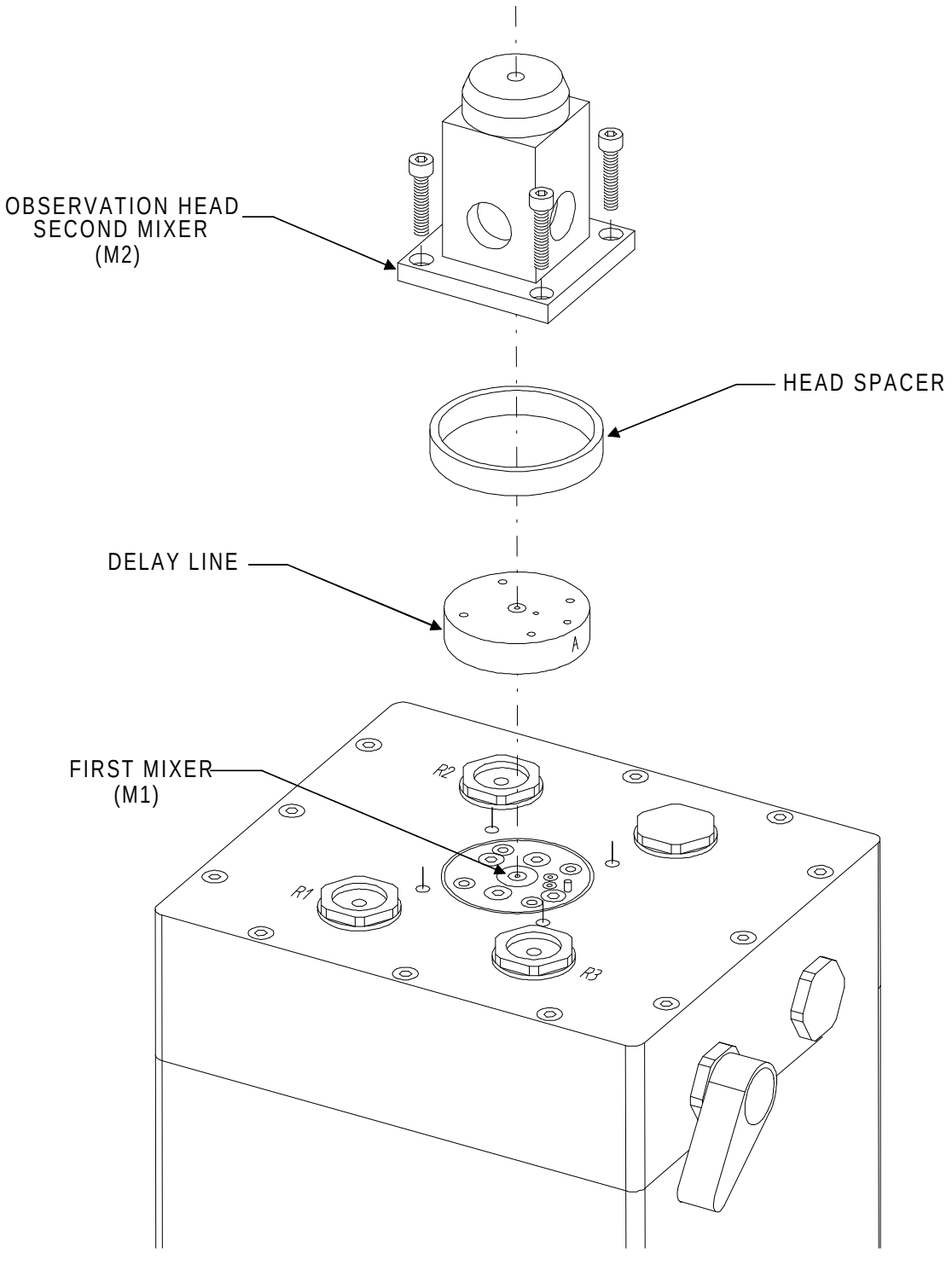
SFM-4 - The observation head and delay lines are installed as shown in Figure 8. The observation head may be installed using the mixing blocks labeled **0-MIX-0**, **0-MIX-DL**, **DL-MIX-0**, **DL-MIX-DL** or no mixing block. The installation of the different mixing blocks is described in Table 3.

Table 3 – SFM-4 Observation Head Installation

MIXING BLOCK	COMMENTS
0-MIX-0	Installed with no additional delay lines.
0-MIX-DL	Installed with one delay line between the mixer block and the observation head
DL-MIX-0	Installed with one delay line between the SFM body and the mixer block.
DL-MIX-DL	Installed with delay lines on both sides of the mixer block.
NONE	Only a delay line is installed between the SFM body and the observation head and the SFM-4 functions as an SFM-3 (Figure 7). Syringe 3 is blocked by the delay line and only syringes 1, 2, and 4 are useable. In this case, syringe 3 does not need to be filled.

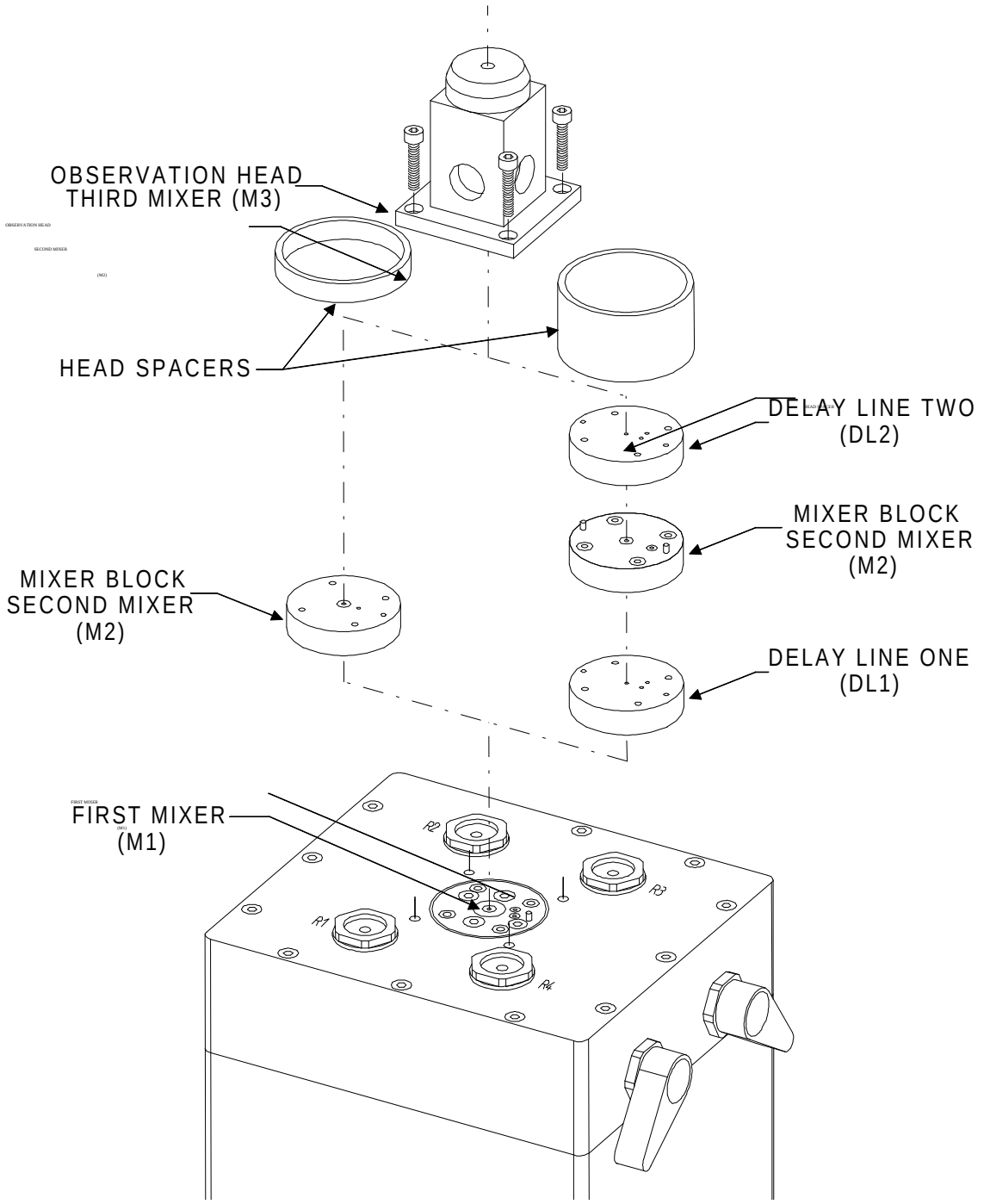
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Figure 7 – SFM-3: Installation of Delay Lines



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Figure 8 – SFM-4: Installation of Mixing Blocks and Delay Lines



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5.5 Flow Line and Intermixer Volumes

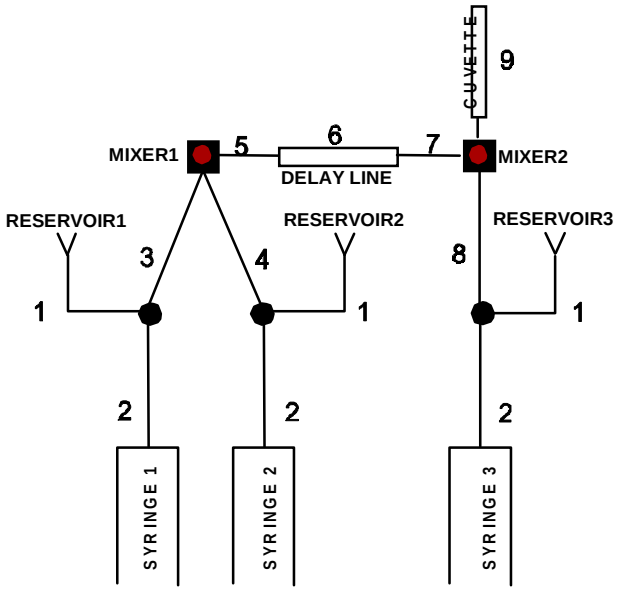
Figure 9 (SFM-3)and Figure 10 (SFM-4) below indicate the volumes of SFM flow lines and delay lines. The amount of time a sample ages between two mixers is given by:

Ageing time between two mixers = (Intermixer volume)/(Flow rate through intermixer volume)

It should be noted that the volumes given in the table are the *mechanical* volumes. The hydrodynamical volumes may vary slightly around these values. For precise measurement of ageing times it is recommended that the intermixer volumes be determined experimentally with known reactions. One such experimental procedure for determining intermixer volumes is described in the Quenched-Flow section of this manual.

Figure 9 – SFM-3/S Flow Line and Delay Line Volumes

SFM-3/S FLOW LINE VOLUMES	
Line Number	**Flow Line Volume (µl)**
1	103
2	41
3	155
4	156
5	7
6	Delay Line
7	22
8	188
9	Cuvette (Figure 6)



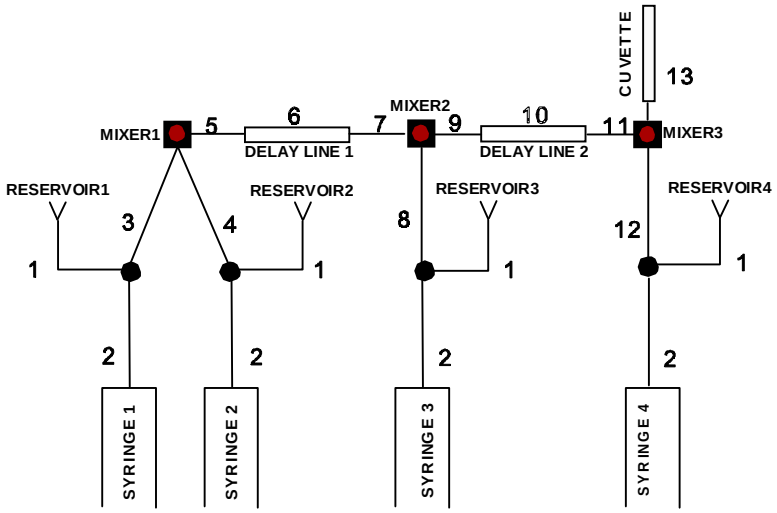
	DELAY LINE AND INTERMIXER VOLUMES*						
	Delay Line						
	N° 1(17)	N° 2(40)	N° 3(90)	N° 4(140)	N° 5(190)	N° 6(500)	N° 7(100)
Volume (µl)	19.43	35.83	92.39	144.28	192.6	498.68	1003.43
Intermixer Volume $M1_{BB} - M2_{BB}$ (µl)	47.4	63.8	120.4	172.3	220.6	526.7	1031.4
Intermixer Volume $M1_{BB} - M2_{HDS}$ (µl)	43.1	59.5	124.6	168.0	216.3	522.4	1027.1

*Notes: Intermixer volumes are measured from the mixing point of one mixer to the mixing point of the next mixer. BB indicates a Berger Ball mixer has been installed at the position noted. HDS indicates a High Density mixer has been installed at that position.

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Figure 10 – SFM-4/S Flow Line and Delay Line Volumes

SFM-4/S FLOW LINE VOLUMES	
Line Number	**Flow Line Volume (µl)**
1	103
2	41
3	155
4	156
5	7
6	Delay Line 1
7	9
8	165
9	7
10	Delay Line 2
11	22
12	188
13	Cuvette (Figure 6)



	DELAY LINE AND INTERMIXER VOLUMES*							
	Delay Line							
	None	N° 1(17)	N° 2(40)	N° 3(90)	N° 4(140)	N° 5(190)	N° 6(500)	N° 7(100)
Volume (µl)	0	19.43	35.83	92.39	144.28	192.6	498.68	1003.43
Intermixer Volume $M1_{BB}$ – $M2_{BB}$ (µl)	25.5	43.1	59.5	116.1	168.0	216.3	522.4	1027.1
Intermixer Volume $M2_{BB}$ – $M3_{BB}$ (µl)	31.7	47.4	63.8	120.4	172.3	220.6	526.7	1031.4
Intermixer Volume $M2_{BB}$ – $M3_{HDS}$ (µl)	27.4	43.1	59.5	116.1	168.0	216.3	522.4	1027.1

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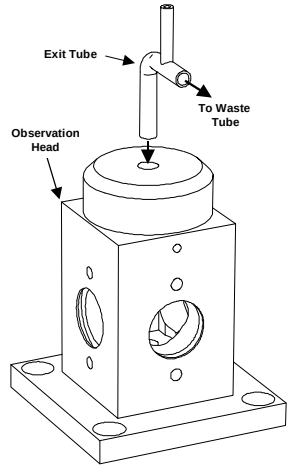
5.6 Liquid Outlet System

During the injection phase, the liquid in the cuvette can reach linear velocities greater than 20 meters per second. At the flow stop, the liquid column has to be immobilized in a fraction of a millisecond. Several different stop modes can be used to immobilized the liquid column. Depending on the stop mode this can result in overpressure or underpressure conditions that are potential sources of stop artifacts. Several stop modes that can be used with the SFM are describe in the following sections.

5.6.1 FREE-FLOW SYSTEM

In this mode the outlet of the observation head is connected to a waste tube and the outlet is continuously open. This procedure may to be used in case of pressure sensitive organelles or to avoid any pressure artifact on the cuvette material (as for some CD measurements).

Figure 11 – Exit Tube Installation

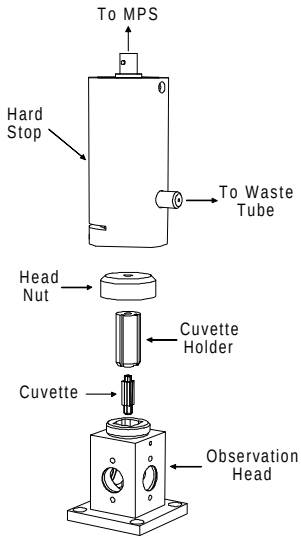


To use this mode, the exit tube (provided in the standard equipment). is attached to the outlet of the observation head (Figure 11). This tube has a vent permitting the entry of air. Care should be taken to break the liquid column as close as possible to the observation head outlet. It is recommended to connect the exit tube to a larger PVC tube to do this and permit further air entry. If these precautions are not taken, and a long continuous tube is connected to the outlet, a long column of liquid will be pushed during the flow. At the motor stop the inertia of this liquid column will inevitably generate underpressure in the cuvette and lead to artifacts from cavitation.

5.6.2 HARD-STOP SYSTEM

In this mode, the flow will be immobilized by a combination of two mechanisms: first, from the stepping motors stop and second, by a high speed electrovalve (hard-stop;) which closes the output of the SFM cuvette. This hard-stop is actuated by the programmable power-supply of the SFM. No overpressure is developed in the observation cuvette because synchronization of the hard-stop with the motor halt. The result is elimination of the stop and overpressure artifact giving high quality stopped-flow traces with the lowest dead times.

Figure 12 – Hard Stop Installation



There are three operation modes of the hard-stop that can be chosen in MPS software (section 6.2).

The modes of operation are:

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1) Automatic mode: - between two shots the hard-stop is always closed

   - During a run the hard-stop opens at the beginning of the flow and then closes at a designated number of milliseconds before the flow stops.

2) Manual mode: the hard-stop is programmed to open and close by the user.

3) None: The valve is always open.

The installation of the hard-stop on the observation head is shown in Figure 12.

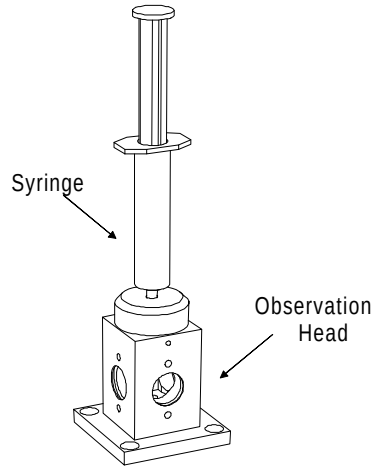
5.6.3 EXIT IN A SYRINGE

In this method, a syringe is inserted into the SFM observation head outlet (Figure 13).

The linear momentum of the liquid flowing out of the cuvette will be dissipated in the liquid contained in the syringe. This procedure gives clean stop signal, but requires that the user empty the stop syringe from time to time.

For the best results, it is recommended to use high quality 10 to 20 ml glass syringes with a Teflon piston (Hamilton-type). Plastic syringes are too soft and do not give good results. It is also recommended that the syringe with be filled with about 1 ml solution and all bubbles eliminated before use.

Figure 13 – Stop Syringe Installation



5.7 Special Accessories

Several accessories are available to expand the functions of the SFM. Below are the descriptions of the accessories and their functions. Custom accessories can also be designed and we invite you to contact Bio-Logic or its nearest representatives to discuss your particular needs.

5.7.1 SMALL DRIVE SYRINGE

The SFM standard syringes (20 ml) have a large driving speed range. This allows each syringe to be programmed for different speeds and can be used to make mixing ratios different from 1:1. Ratios as high as 1:20 can be obtained with the standard syringes. Beyond ratios of 1:20 the results can be poor due to the extremely slow movement of the syringe motor delivering the sample to be diluted.

For operation with dilution ratios higher than 1:20, we advise the use of a 5 ml syringe for injecting the solution to be diluted. This enables the motor pushing the 5 ml syringe to run at a faster and smoother rate. The specifications of the 5 ml syringe are give in Table 1. Syringes of 5 ml can be ordered from Bio-Logic or its representatives.

Syringe disassembly and reassembly is discussed in the Technical Instructions section of this manual. We recommend that the user be familiar with this section before attempting syringe disassembly and assembly.

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5.7.2 LARGE DRIVE SYRINGE

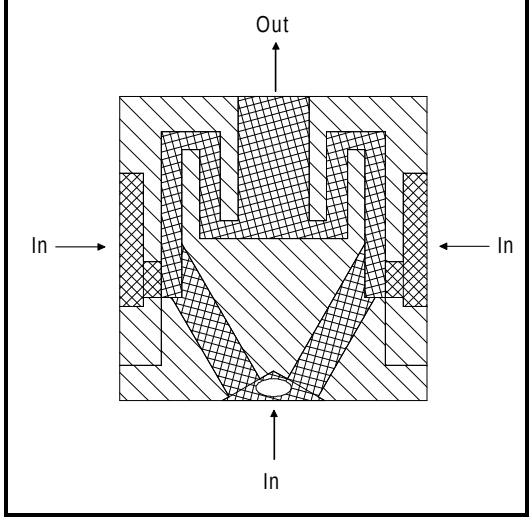
As described in the previous section, the standard 20 ml have a large driving speed range, but are not ideal for all circumstances. At times, one may need a low dead time or high flow rate from one or two syringes that is beyond the limits of the standard syringes (with or without acceleration). For these situations, a large 30 ml syringe may be used. The specifications of the 30 ml syringe are given in Table 1. Syringes of 30 ml can be ordered from Bio-Logic or its representatives.

Syringe disassembly and reassembly is discussed in the Technical Instructions section of this manual. We recommend that the user be familiar with this section before attempting syringe disassembly and assembly.

5.7.3 HIGH DENSITY MIXER

Mixing solutions of different densities offers a formidable challenge for stopped-flow instruments. In typical protein folding/unfolding experiments, heavy solutions of urea or guanidine chloride are mixed with pure aqueous buffers just before the cuvette. The result is an unavoidable convection reaching the observation cuvette 10 to 30 seconds after mixing. This convection creates a massive artifact definitively ruining the kinetics being recorded. The SFM module can be equipped with a specially designed mixer (model HDS; Figure 14) that includes an internal siphon-like frame and allows blockage of convection created by density or temperature differences. Using this mixer, stopped-flow traces produced by mixing high density solutions with water can now be recorded from the first millisecond to several 100 seconds.

Figure 14 – HDS Mixer



Installation of the HDS mixer is identical to that of a standard (Berger Ball) mixer. Instructions are provided in the Technical Section of this manual.

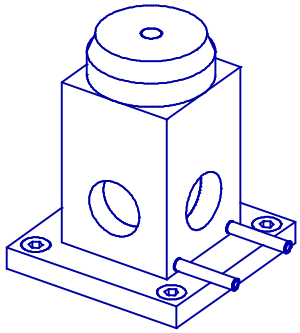
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5.7.4 OBSERVATION HEAD WITH SEPARATE COOLING

The standard observation head may be replaced with an observation head that has separate cooling (Figure 15).

The separate cooling feature permits a temperature regulation of the observation head in addition to that of the main body of the instrument. This may be used in cases where mixing of the solution produces a temperature change of the solution flowing into the cuvette and extra cooling is needed.

Figure 15 – Observation Head with Separate Cooling



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6 SOFTWARE CONFIGURATION

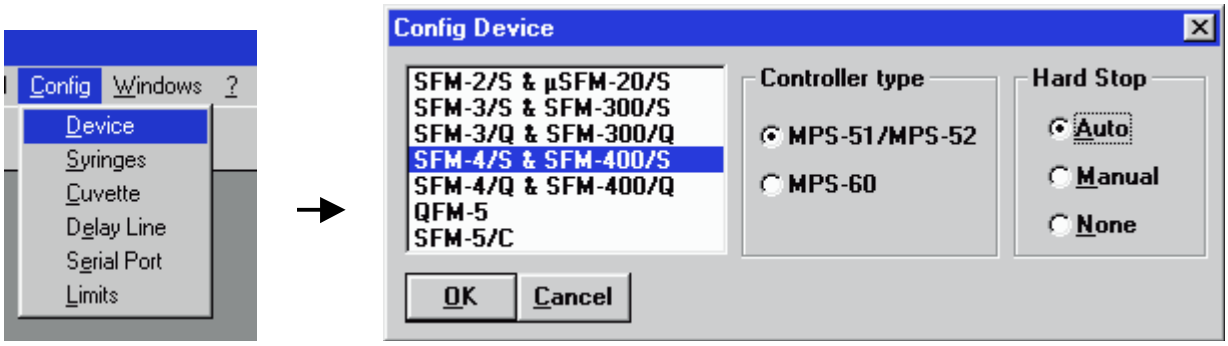
The SFM is controlled by computer and it is delivered with the MPS software that is common to all Bio-Logic rapid-kinetics instruments. This section briefly describes the configuration the software. Please note that the procedures and examples have been generalized and configuration choices should be made based upon the equipment purchased and intended experiments. The user may refer to the *MPS Software User's Manual* for more details about the MPS software.

This sections assumes that the user has already installed and started the MPS software on the host microcomputer. For installation instructions see chapters 2 and 3 of the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

6.1 Device Configuration

The device to be installed should be configured according to the instrument purchased and mode chosen for use. The device appropriate should be chosen in the « **Config:Device** ».window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 16). Further information may be found in chapter 4.1 of the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

Figure 16 – MPS Software: Device Configuration



6.2 Hard Stop Configuration

The hard stop is configured under the « **Config:Device** ».window shown in Figure 16. The hard stop mode should be chosen as desired. The different modes are described in section 5.6.2.

6.3 Syringe Configuration

Syringe configuration is made in the « **Config:Syringes** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 17). Select the syringe volumes to indicate the nature of the syringes that have been installed in each syringe position of the SFM using the menu in the « **Config:Syringes** » window (Figure 17). Use the « Custom » button to enter syringe specifications if you have a custom syringe.

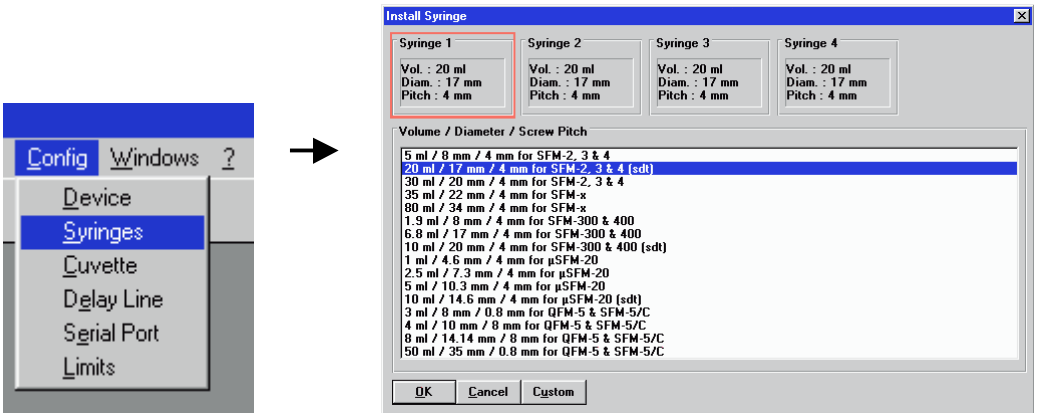
The SFM comes equipped with standard 20 ml syringes and these are the default syringes installed in the MPS software. Changes only need to be made in the software when syringes of different volumes (other than standard) have been installed in the SFM.

!WARNING!: Incorrect syringe configuration will cause volume and flow rate calculations to be incorrect!

Further information about syringe configuration can be found in chapter 4.2 of the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

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Figure 17 – MPS Software: Syringe Configuration



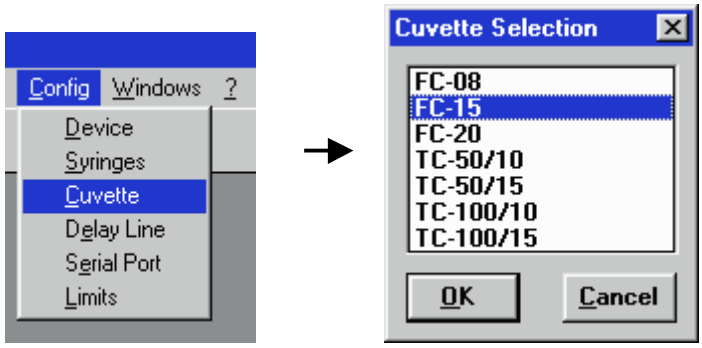
6.4 Cuvette Configuration

Cuvette configuration is made in the « **Config:Cuvette** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 18). Select the cuvette according to the cuvette you have installed in the SFM. The type of cuvette is chosen in the list shown in the « **Config:Cuvette** » window (Figure 18).

!WARNING!: Incorrect cuvette configuration will cause dead time calculations to be incorrect!

Further information about cuvette configuration can be found in chapter 4.3 of the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

Figure 18 – MPS Software: Cuvette Configuration



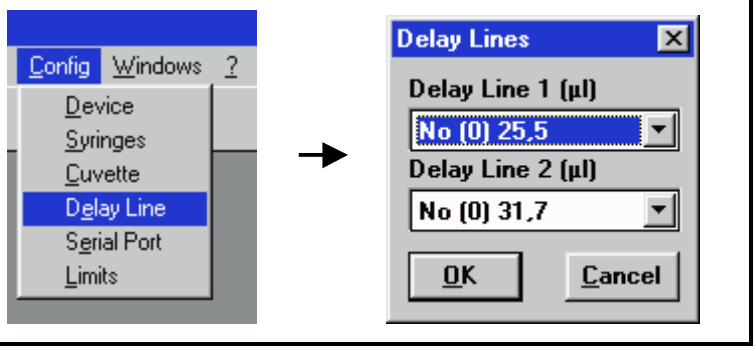
6.5 Delay Line Configuration

Delay line configuration is made in the « **Config:Delay Line** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 19). Select the delay line(s) according to the delay line(s) you have installed in the SFM. One or two delay lines must be configured depending on the type of device installed under section 6.1. Each delay line is chosen from a pull-down menu in the « **Config:Delay Line** » window (Figure 19).

!WARNING!: Incorrect delay line configuration will cause ageing time calculations to be incorrect!

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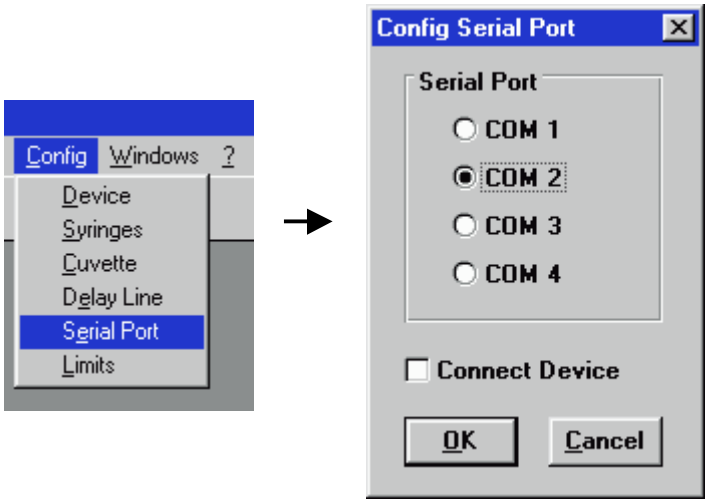
Figure 19 – MPS Software: Delay Line Configuration



6.6 Serial Port Configuration

The serial port must be configured before the MPS and MPS software can communicate. Serial port configuration is made in the « **Config:Serial Port** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 20). Select the serial port used to connect the MPS and the microcomputer in section 3.2.

Figure 20 – MPS Software: Serial Port Configuration

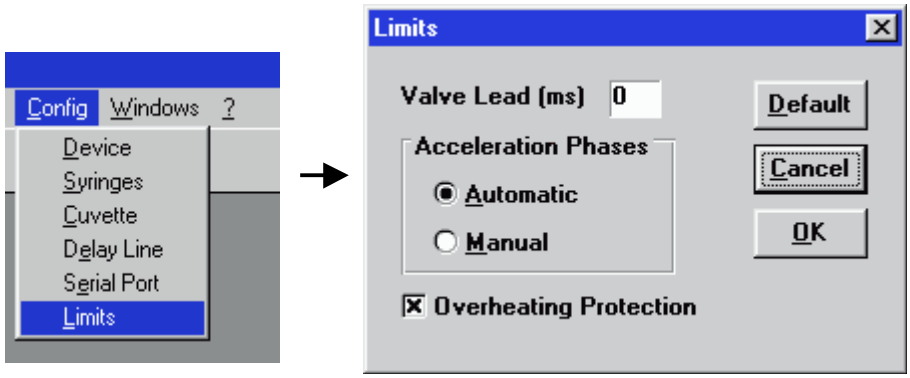


6.7 System Limits Configuration

The system limits are configured in the « **Config:Limits** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 21). The « **Config:Limits** » window contains several sections for configuration of the hard stop valve lead time, acceleration phases mode and overheating protection. Each section and options are described below.

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Figure 21 – MPS Software: System Limits Configuration



Hard Stop Valve Lead Time: This section of the windows allows one to enter the number of milliseconds before the flow stops that the hard stop starts closing. The default value is zero. The lead time may be adjusted (from 0 – 5 ms) to fine-tune the quality of the stop.

Acceleration Phases Mode: This sections of the windows allows selection of the acceleration phases mode. Two modes are possible: Automatic and manual. These modes are described in detail in 7.7.

Overheating Protection Checkbox: This checkbox allows the selection or deselecting of over heating protection. The MPS that drives the SFM was designed to do fast experiments. To do this the motors are powered up and ready to go during the entire driving sequence (this is also necessary to keep syringes not used from moving backwards under the force of the back pressure generated by the other syringes) . It requires a lot of energy to do this and the motor boards inside the MPS generate heat. The instrument was not designed specifically for driving sequences lasting more than a few seconds. Because of this, sequences longer than a few seconds result in the motors getting very hot and can possibly burn them out. To avoid burning out the motors, the solution is to allow the motor boards to cool before doing a subsequent shot. Overheating protection forces the MPS software to wait 2x the entire length of the driving sequence in between shots, ensuring that the motor boards cool sufficiently and avoid burnout. The box is checked by default and it is strongly recommended that overheating protection always be left enabled.

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7 INSTRUMENT OPERATION

7.1 Manual Syringe Control

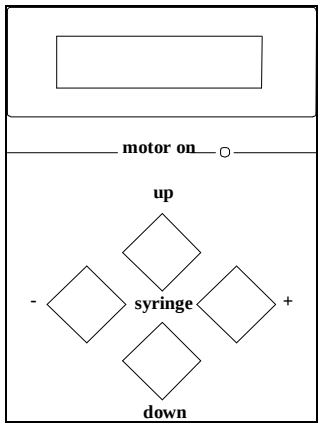
The syringes of the SFM can be controlled either manual or automatically. Automatic control of the syringes is strictly used only for experiments. The manual control of the syringes is used for initialization, filling and emptying the syringes. The manual movement of the syringes can either be made directly from the MPS or though the MPS software. Both methods are described in the following sections.

7.1.1 MPS

Syringe control directly from the MPS is made through the use of the buttons on front panel of the MPS (Figure 22 and Figure 2).

The (+) and (-) buttons are used to select the syringe to be moved. The (up) and (down) buttons are used to empty and fill the syringes respectively. The LCD panel at the top of the controls will display which syringe has been selected and whether it is being filled or emptied.

Figure 22 – MPS Syringe Controls



7.1.2 SOFTWARE

Syringe control from the MPS software is made through the « **Syringes Command:Load** » window available under the **Syringes Command** menu (Figure 23).

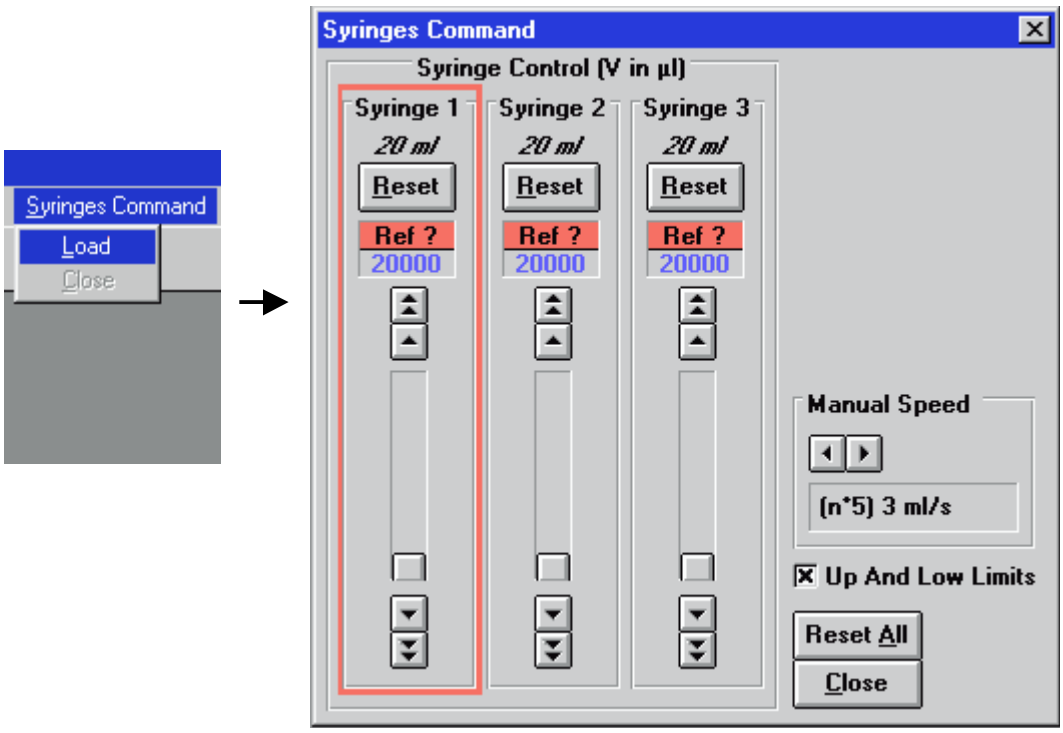
The syringe to be moved is selected by clicking on the corresponding frame, or pressing the <**Left**> or <**Right**> arrows keys on keyboard. The new selected syringe will be surrounded with a red rectangle (Figure 23).

Syringes are emptied or filled using the , ,  and  buttons or with the <**Up**> arrow, <**PageUp**>, <**Down**> arrow and <**PageDown**> keys on the keyboard. The  button and <**Up**> arrow move a syringe upwards by one elementary movement and the  button and <**Down**> arrow move a syringe downwards by one elementary movement. The  button and <**PageUp**> arrow move the piston upwards by 10x elementary movements and the  button and <**PageDown**> move the piston downwards by 10x elementary movements.

The size of the elementary steps and syringe movement speed is controlled in the Manual Speed section of the « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 23). The  and  buttons to change the manual speed. The display shows the speed in flow rate based on the syringe installed and moved.

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Figure 23 – MPS Software Syringe Control



7.2 *Syringe Initialization*

The MPS that controls the SFM follows the movements of the syringes so that the actual residual volumes are displayed at all times in the MPS software « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 23). When the MPS is turned on and the software started, turned on, the syringe volume counters show **Ref ?** and have to be initialized (Figure 23).

The syringes are initialized by setting the syringes to their uppermost (empty) position and resetting the syringes in the MPS software. The syringes can be selected and moved to their uppermost positions either directly with the MPS (section 7.1.1) or through the MPS software (section 7.1.2). Once a syringe has reached its uppermost position, the syringe motor will oscillate and vibrate as it becomes out of phase with the driving pulses. There is no danger to the SFM or syringe motors when this occurs, but there is no reason to unnecessarily prolong this treatment either.

The syringes can be reset individually by pushing the Reset button for each syringe or all at once by pushing the Reset All button in the software « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 23).

!CAUTION!: Measurement of residual syringe volume is made by counting the logic pulses from the controller for each syringe. If, for any reason, a syringe is blocked during a run, the pulses will not correspond to the true volume delivered and the value displayed may become erroneous (e.g. in the case of incorrect positioning of a valve). In this case, it is advisable to reinitialize the syringes.

If, by accident, a syringe is returned to its uppermost position the syringe volume counter will again show **Ref ?** and the syringe must be reinitialized. To avoid such accidents, the **Up and Low Limits** checkbox may be checked. When this box is checked, the MPS software will not allow the syringes to be driven beyond their upper and lower limits. This also avoids accidentally pulling the syringe plunger completely from the syringe and spilling solution onto the SFM.

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!WARNING!: The Up and Low Limits only applies to control of the syringe from within the MPS software. These limits can be bypassed by manual control of the SFM directly from the MPS.

Further information about the initialization of syringes can be found in the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 5).

7.3 Filling the Syringes

!WARNING!: Utmost care should be exercised during this operation. Normal operation of the system requires that no bubbles are present in the injection syringes. Should this occur, the buffer flow through the observation chamber will not be correctly controlled by the plunger movement and artifacts may be observed. For best results it is recommended that all solutions be degassed and filtered before filling the SFM.

The syringes of the SFM can be emptied and filled manually (section 7.1). The filling of the syringes follows the steps below and shown in Figure 24.

1) Attach a syringe (disposable plastic syringes may be used) containing sample or buffer to a syringe reservoir port on top of the SFM (Figure 24 Panel 1).

2) Set the syringe valve handle to (**R**) and fill the syringe manually (section 7.1) while exerting a slight pressure on the reservoir syringe (Figure 24 Panel 2 and Panel 3). The pressure exerted on the reservoir syringe prevents any vacuum from occurring in the reservoir syringe which could result in bubble formation. It is suggested that 20ml syringes be filled using manual speed 4 in the MPS software and 5ml syringes be filled using manual speed 3.

3) Eliminate any bubbles in the SFM syringe by driving the SFM syringe up and down several times while it is connected to the reservoir syringe (Figure 24 Panel 4).

4) Turn the syringe valve handle to (**C**) (Figure 24 Panel 5)

5) Empty one or two elementary movements of the syringe(section 7.1) to definitively eliminate any bubbles remaining in SFM and cuvette.

6) Repeat the above process for the other syringes.

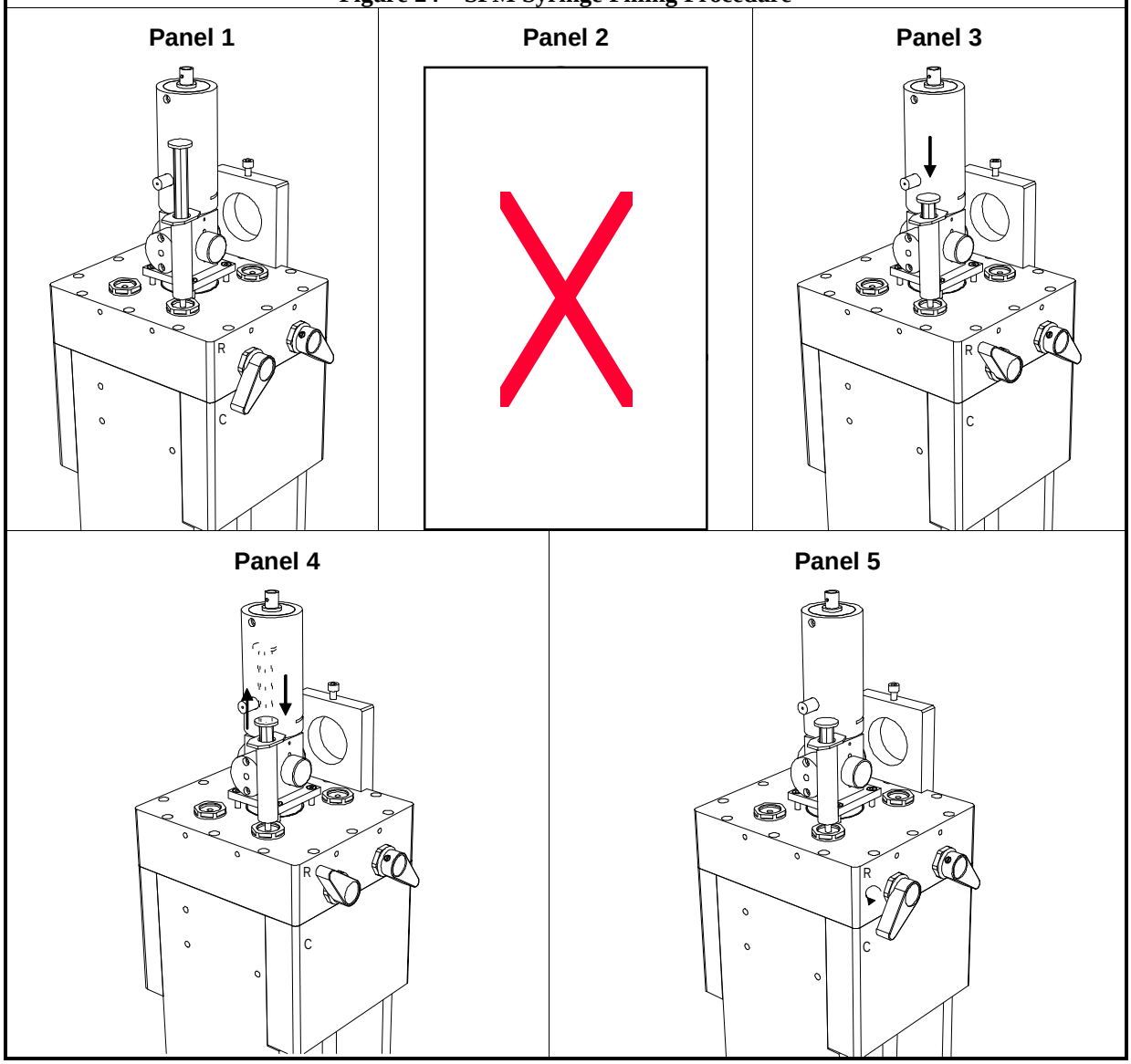
It is recommend that the syringes be filled in reverse numerical order to best remove bubbles from the SFM and cuvette.

!IMPORTANT!: ALL SYRINGES MUST BE FILLED EVEN IF THEY WILL NOT BE USED FOR AN EXPERIMENT! The valve handles of the unused syringes should be turned to (R) after the filling process is complete.

The Stopped-Flow-Module is now ready for operation.

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Figure 24 – SFM Syringe Filling Procedure



7.4 SFM Cleaning and Storage

After each day's experiments the SFM should be cleaned. A thorough cleaning of the SFM will ensure that it has a long functional life and diminish any chance of sample contamination for the next user of the instrument. The procedure below is the recommended daily cleaning procedure to be done before shutting off the instrument.

1) Remove and remaining samples or buffer from the syringes.

2) Wash the syringes and flow lines 2 – 3 times with water. This is done by filling each syringe with water to a volume at least equal to the sample volume used for experiments. With the syringe valve handles set to (**C**), empty the syringes completely. Since the liquid will exit via the cuvette, it will wash the flow lines and cuvette as well as the syringes.

3) Wash the syringes and flow lines one time with 70 – 100% ethanol. Use the same procedure as in step 2).

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4) Dry the syringes, flow lines and cuvette with a single wash of air. Use the same procedure as in step 2). The syringes should be emptied in reverse numerical order so that all liquid is pushed out of the syringes, flow lines and cuvette.

Set all syringe valve handles to (**R**) and move all syringes to their lowermost positions. The syringe plungers should exit the SFM so that the plunger tips are completely visible. If this is done using the MPS software it will be necessary to uncheck the **Up and Low Limits** checkbox in the software « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 23). Note: You may observe a few drops of liquid that fall from the syringes when the syringe plungers are completely out of the SFM. This is normal as a small amount of liquid is always trapped between the plunger tip and the syringe barrel to make a tight seal.

!IMPORTANT!: Do not forget this step! The syringe plunger tips are made of Teflon. Pulling the syringe plungers out of the SFM allows the tips to expand each night and make a tight seal during use, minimizing any chance of leaks.

5) Turn all syringe valve handles to (**C**).

6) Turn off the MPS.

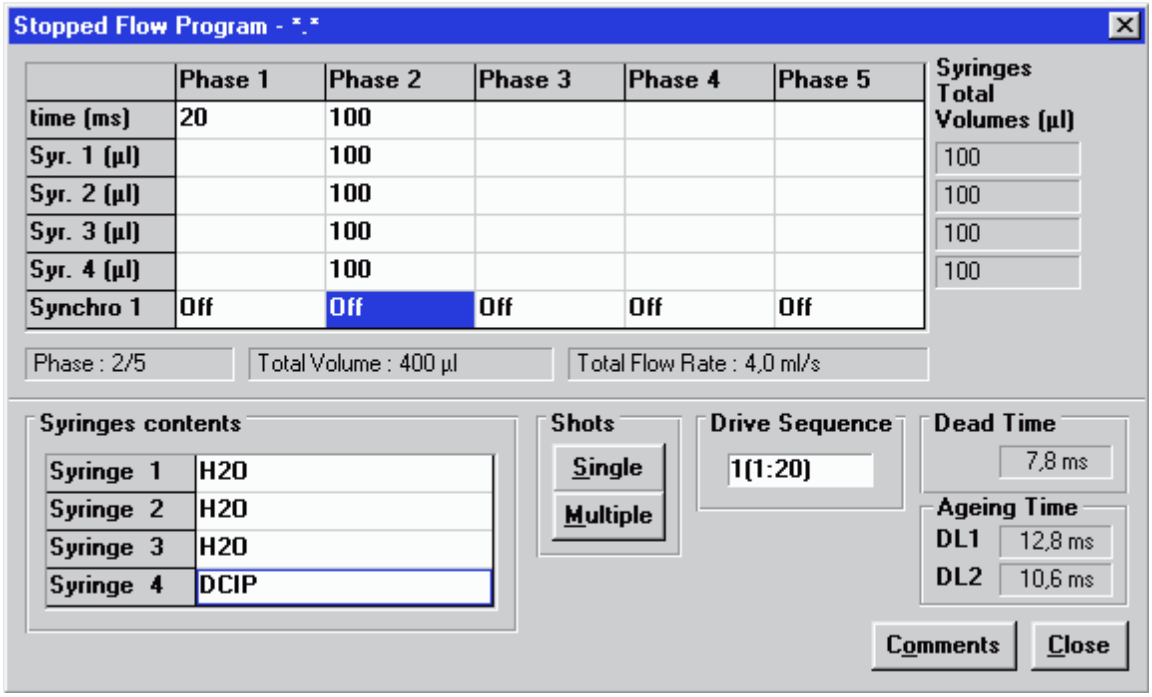
7.5 Long-term Storage of the SFM

If the SFM is not to be used for a long period of time (more than several weeks), it should be cleaned as above in section 7.4. If the SFM is connected to a circulation temperature bath, the temperature bath should be disconnected from the SFM and the SFM drained completely of all cooling liquid. Afterwards, is recommended that the SFM cooling circuits be flushed with ethanol followed with air. The SFM is now ready to be stored.

7.6 Creating a Driving Sequence

Experiments are performed with the SFM through the use of a driving sequence. A driving sequence tells the SFM to automatically perform several functions such as moving the syringes, activating the hard stop, and triggering data acquisition. Driving sequences are created in the MPS

Figure 25 – MPS Software: Stopped Flow Program Window



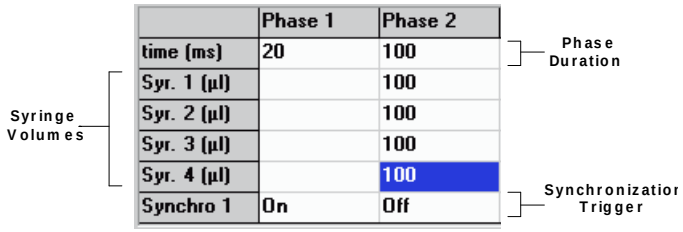
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software in the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window available under the **Sequence Files** menu (Figure 25).

A driving sequence is entered in the program grid in the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window (Figure 25). Each column of the grid represents a driving sequence phase. Each phase contains actions for the SFM to perform. A complete driving sequence may contain from 1 to 20 phases. Although only 5 phases are shown initially, additional phases may be inserted using the **Insert Phase** command under the **Edit** menu.

Figure 26 shows an expanded view of the program grid. The duration of a phase is entered in ms (1 – 9999 ms/phase) on the first line of the program grid. The volume in µl delivered by each of the syringes during a phase is entered on the line next to the appropriate syringe. The status of the synchronization trigger is noted on the last line of the program grid.

Figure 26 – MPS Software: Program Grid



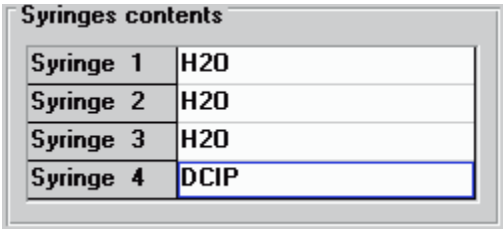
To enter the phase duration and syringe volumes delivered, click on the corresponding cell or use the keyboard arrows keys to navigate between cells. The BACKSPACE key can be used for correction and the DEL key to clear a value. The synchronization trigger is toggled **on** or **off** by pressing "O" on the keyboard.

Selected values entered in the program grid can be cut, copied and pasted using the **Cut, Copy** and **Paste** functions available under the **Edit** menu. To perform a cut, copy, or paste operation, select the area of the grid desired by dragging the mouse with the left mouse button pushed in and then choose the **Cut, Copy** or **Paste** functions desired under the **Edit** menu. The values will be stored in the Windows clipboard for the **Cut** and **Copy** functions. Values will be pasted from the Windows clipboard for the **Paste** function. If copy area is bigger than paste area, the operation is done only for values that can fit inside paste area.

!CAUTION!: Blank and non-numeric values entered in the program grid are considered as zero values. A phase duration of 0ms will cause the phase to be skipped in the execution of the drive sequence.

The contents of the syringes can be entered in the **Syringe Contents** frame of the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window (Figure 25 and Figure 27). The text is entered from the keyboard and the BACKSPACE and DEL keys can be used for corrections.

Figure 27 – MPS Software: Syringes Contents



!IMPORTANT!: It is strongly recommend that users take advantage of this feature of the MPS software to keep track of the samples loaded into the SFM syringes.

Each time a program grid cell value is changed, information about the current syringe, current phase and driving sequence is updated displayed below and to the right of the grid (Figure 28). This information indicates:

1) Current phase number and total number phases in the driving sequence.

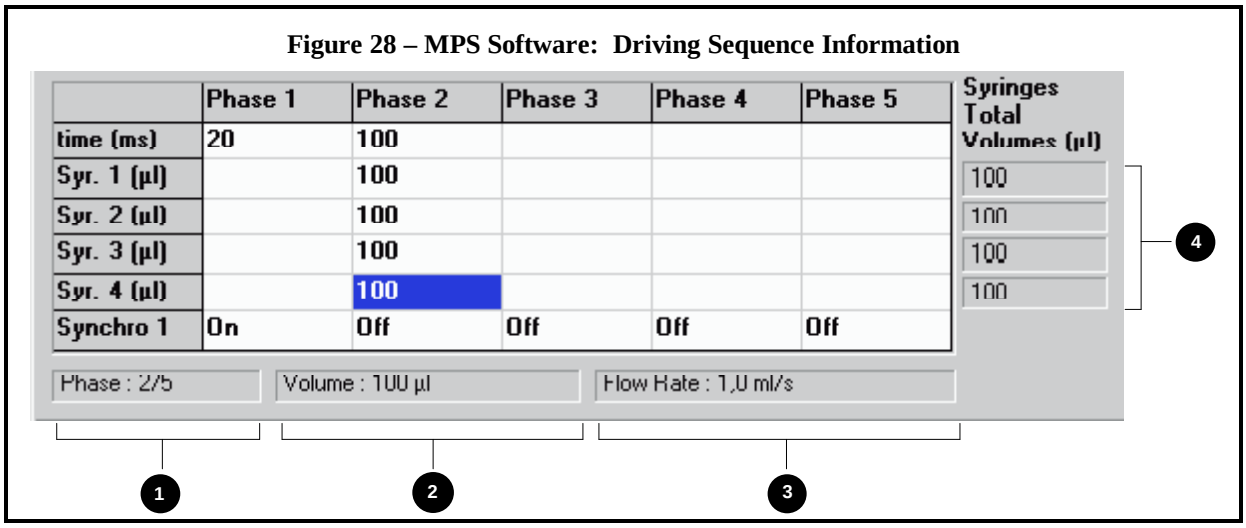
2) Volume delivered by the current syringe during the current phase or current phase total volume (if an entire phase is selected).

3) Flow rate of the current syringe during the current phase or current phase total flow rate (if an entire phase is selected).

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4) Total volume delivered by each syringe during the driving sequence.

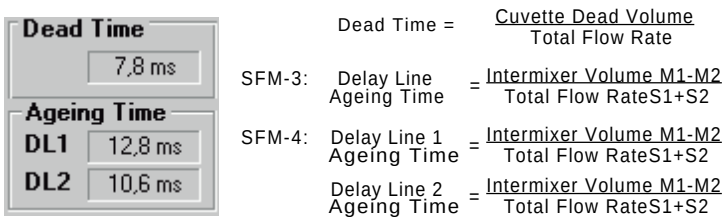
Figure 28 – MPS Software: Driving Sequence Information



An indication of the **Dead Time** and **Ageing Times** for a driving sequence are also displayed in the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window (Figure 25 and Figure 29). The dead time is calculated for the last valid phase, according to its flow rate and of the cuvette dead volume (Figure 6). The dead time is calculated according to the equation show in Figure 29.

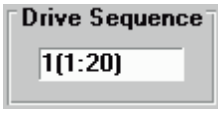
The ageing times are calculated for the current phase selected based upon the syringes flow rates, delay lines installed and intermixer volumes (Figure 9). The ageing times are calculated according to the equations shown in Figure 29.

Figure 29 – MPS Software: Dead/Ageing Times



The MPS software provides the possibility to repeat phases a number of times in virtually any order. This is accomplished though a macro sequence entered in the **Drive Sequence** frame of the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window (Figure 30). The macro sequence can be edited to run a single phases or many phases in a different order than present in the program grid. The syntax of the macro is described in detail in the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 6).

Figure 30 – MPS Software: Drive Sequence Macro



7.7 Acceleration Phases

With ordinary aqueous solutions, the SFM motors can drive the syringes up to a flow rate of 6 ml/s for a 20 ml syringe, without acceleration phase (Table 1). It is possible to push solutions at faster flow rates provided an acceleration phase is added to the driving sequence. As noted in section 6.7, the MPS Software can be configured for two different acceleration phases modes: automatic and manual.

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!CAUTION!: Because a motor could stall even with the use of acceleration phases, it is strongly recommended that driving sequences using acceleration phases be tested on inexpensive solutions before using precious samples. Ideally, the driving sequences should be tested using solutions as close as possible to those in the real experiment.

Automatic Mode: In this mode, the MPS software **automatically calculates an acceleration phase** for the driving sequence when a syringe flow rate exceeds the nominal maximum flow rate (Table 1 and Table 4). The acceleration phase has a duration of 5ms and accelerates the syringe to ~83% of it's nominal maximum flow rate. Figure 31 shows and example. An automatic acceleration phase example is shown in Figure 31. The MPS software cannot calculate an acceleration phase for phases that have a duration of 5ms or less. The MPS program will request than a longer phase duration be used.

Table 4 – Acceleration Phases

AUTOMATIC ACCELERATION PHASES		
Syringe Size	**Nominal Maximum Flow Rate**	**Acceleration Phase**
30 ml	8 ml/s	Time 5ms Volume 34µl
20 ml	6 ml/s	Time 5ms Volume 25µl
5 ml	1.32 ml/s	Time 5ms Volume 5.5µl

Figure 31 – MPS Software: Automatic Acceleration Phase Example

In the driving sequence below, all syringes are 20 ml.

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	TOTAL VOLUME
TIME	20ms	50ms	
Syringe 1			
Syringe 2		400µl (8 ml/s)	400µl
Syringe 3		300µl (6 ml/s)	300µl

Syringe 2 exceeds the nominal flow rate maximum of 6 ml/s.

The MPS software calculates an acceleration phase as show below.

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	TOTAL VOLUME
TIME	20ms	5ms	45ms	
Syringe 1				
Syringe 2		25µl (5 ml/s)	360µl (8 ml/s)	385µl
Syringe 3		30µl (6 ml/s)	270µl (6 ml/s)	300µl

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!IMPORTANT!: Because flow rate is reduced during acceleration phase, and that the total time does not change, the total volume of the accelerated syringe will be *less* than the total volume of the original driving sequence (Figure 31). The MPS software does NOT update the driving sequence on the screen to reflect an acceleration phase. It is therefore recommend that the automatic mode of accelerations phases be used only when the volume delivered is not a critical factor in the experiments.

Manual Mode: In this mode, the MPS software will not calculate an acceleration phase. It is left to the user to manually design a driving sequence including any necessary acceleration phases.

For more information about acceleration phases, see the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 6).

7.8 Programmable Synchronization Pulses (Triggers)

The MPS can be programmed to deliver synchronization pulses (triggers). These pulses are TTL pulses (0 or 5 Volt) and delivered from BNC connectors **Synchro out 1**, $\overline{\textbf{Synchro out 1}}$ and **Synchro out 2** on the front panel of the MPS (Figure 2). Both **Synchro out 1** and **Synchro out 2** are rising triggers (0→5 V). $\overline{\textbf{Synchro out 1}}$ is the simply the inverse of **Synchro out 1** and is a falling trigger (5→0 V).

The triggers can be used to synchronize the SFM and data acquisition system or other instruments. If the Bio-Kine software is being used for data collection, acquisition will start on the falling edge of the synchronizing pulse (i.e. at the *end* of the first active phase with a synchro set to "On"). The triggers can also be used for synchronizing the SFM with other devices

The timing of the triggers with respect to the drive sequence is programmed in the last line(s) of the program grid in the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window. The duration of the pulse will be equal to the duration of the phase. **Synchro out 1** or **Synchro out 1 and 2** can be used depending on the instrument configuration (section 5.6.2). If the hard stop is in Automatic mode, only **Synchro out 1** is available. If the hard stop is in Manual mode, **Synchro out 1** is available and **Synchro out 2** is used to control the hard stop. If the hard stop is not used (None), both **Synchro out 1 and 2** are available.

7.9 Saving or Loading Driving Sequences

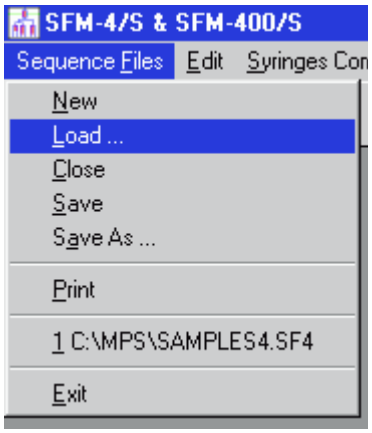
Driving sequence can be saved as files on the hard drive of the microcomputer. In this way, a series of driving sequences for different experiments can be prepared in advance and subsequently loaded as needed.

Files are saved or loaded using the **Save** or **Load** functions under the **Sequence Files** menu (Figure 32)

Files are saved using filenames up to 8 characters in length.

More information about saving or loading driving sequences can be found in the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 6).

Figure 32 – MPS Software: Load/Save Driving Sequences

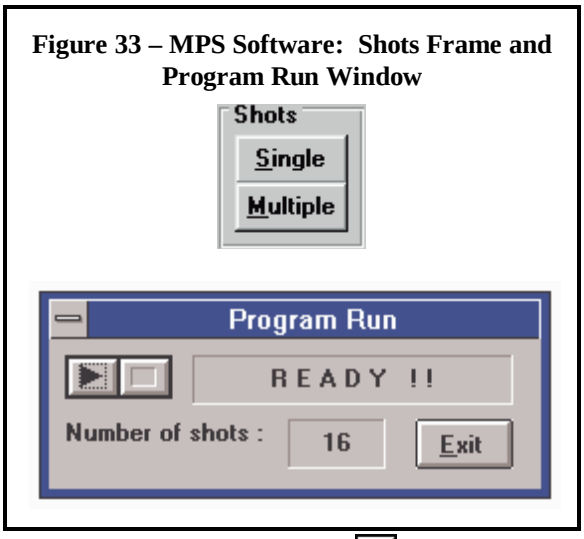


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7.10 Running in Automatic Mode

Once a driving sequence has been entered or loaded, it is transferred to the MPS by pushing the **Single** or **Multiple** button in the **Shots** frame of the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window (Figure 25 and Figure 33). The MPS is now in automatic mode and the « **Program Run** » window will be displayed (Figure 33).

Figure 33 – MPS Software: Shots Frame and Program Run Window



The « **Program Run** » window shows the number of shots possible based the current volumes in the SFM syringes. It also indicates whether the SFM is running a driving sequence or ready for the next shot. A driving sequence is executed by pushing the button or the **start-stop** button on the front panel of the MPS (Figure 2). The button can be used to terminate an experiment prematurely if necessary.

If the **Single** button was used to transfer the driving sequence to the MPS, only a single shot can be made. The Exit button must then be pushed to return to the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window and the **Single** button must be pushed again to re-transfer the driving sequence to the MPS for a subsequent shot.

If the **Multiple** button was used to transfer the driving sequence to the MPS, the button can be used to execute shots until the « **Program Run** » window shows that 0 shots remain. The Exit button is then pushed to return to the « **Stopped Flow Program** » window.

!IMPORTANT!: Before running in automatic mode, verify that the syringe valve handles of the syringe used in the driving sequence are set to (C) and unused syringes set to (R).

7.11 Data Acquisition Software

Data acquisition is generally made using the Bio-Kine software. The Bio-Kine software may be loaded onto the same microcomputer as the MPS software. The Bio-Kine software can be started from within the MPS software using the button. The button can also be used to switch to the Bio-Kine program if it has already been started.

Data acquisition is triggered by a synchronization pulse from the MPS (see section 7.8). All acquisition parameters need to be configured correctly in the Bio-Kine software before data acquisition can be performed. Please refer to the *Bio-Kine for Windows Software Manual* for information on how to configure the data acquisition parameters.

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8 A SHORT STOPPED-FLOW PRIMER

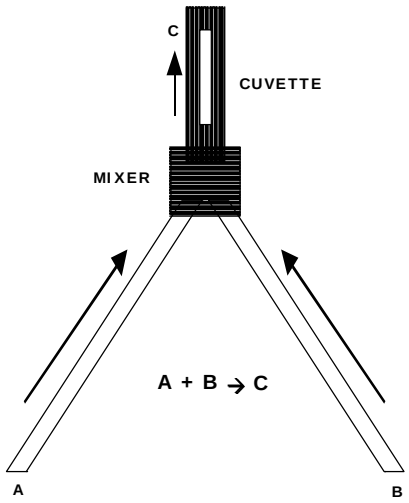
This section describes the basics of the stopped-flow technique and provides some general advice about how to design and perform stopped-flow experiments using the SFM. It is not meant to be an exhaustive reference as there are many variations on the stopped-flow experiment too numerous to describe here.

8.1 General Principle of Stopped-Flow Experiments

The simplest stopped-flow experiment occurs in two stages.

In the first stage, flow is initiated by two plungers. The plungers force liquid through a mixer and along a flow path into an observation cuvette. The resulting mixture ages as it travels along the flow path and into the cuvette. The amount of ageing depends on the flow-rate of the mixture and the volumes of the flow path and cuvette. In this first stage, the mixer, flow path and cuvette are initially washed by the constantly refreshed mixture. This continues until a steady-state condition arises in which the age of the mixture is completely linear with respect to the distance along the flow path. Once the steady-state condition is reached, any particular point in the flow path represents the mixture at particular age. Furthermore, the age of the mixture in the cuvette at the point of observation during the shot is the theoretical dead-time (the time before which observation of the mixture is impossible).

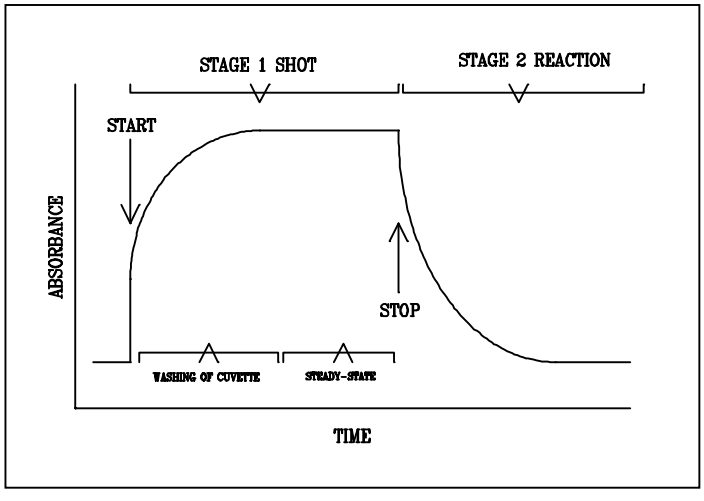
Figure 34 – A Simple Stopped-Flow Experiment



The second stage of the experiment begins when the flow is stopped. At this point, the mixture in the cuvette (and elsewhere) becomes stationary but continues to age. Observation of the mixture in the cuvette after the stop, therefore, represents a timecourse of the reaction from the dead-time onward.

Figure 34 shows a schematic of a simple stopped-flow experiment. In the experiment, reagents A and B are pushed into a mixer where they react to form product C. Reagent A has a strong absorbance, while reagent B and product C do not. Therefore, as the reaction proceeds, the absorbance of a mixture of A and B should decrease, as A is diminished. Figure 35 shows a cartoon of the experiment over time. Note the two stages of the experiment as described above.

Figure 35 – Stopped-Flow Experiment Timecourse



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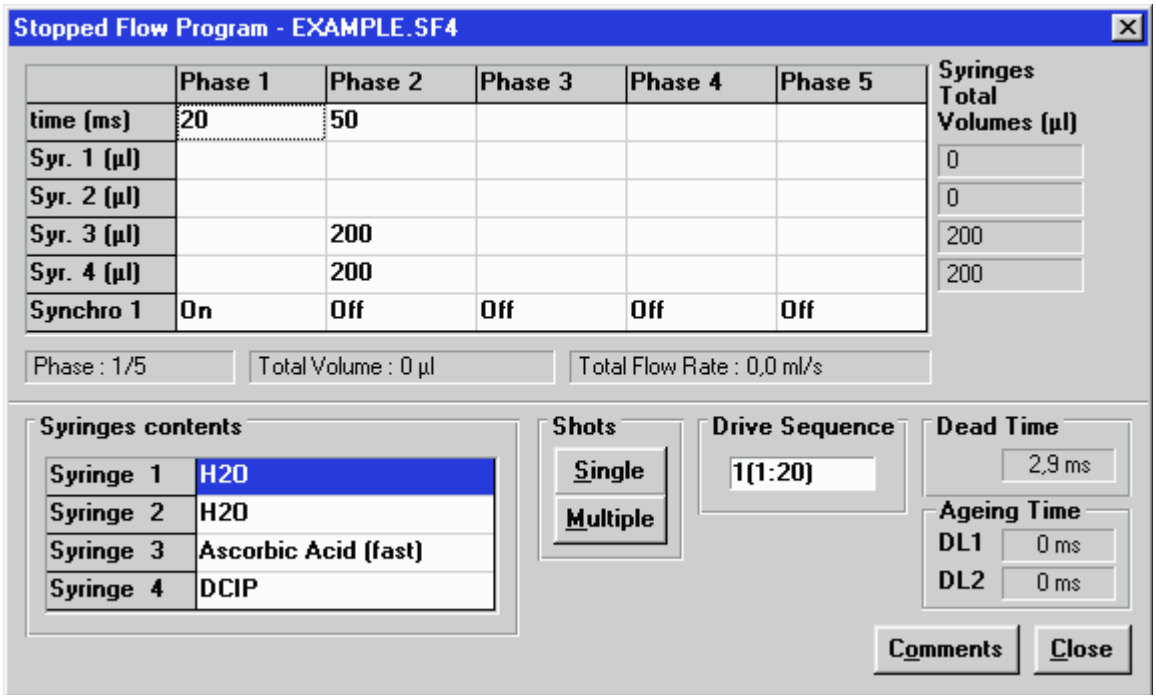
!IMPORTANT!: In every stopped-flow experiment enough liquid must be pushed to wash the flow path and cuvette and achieve a steady-state condition. If this is not done, all sample is contaminated and the resulting signal trace does not represent the true timecourse of the reaction!

8.2 Design and Execution of Stopped-Flow Experiments

Experiments are designed using the MPS software to create a driving sequence. This is accomplished by filling-in elements of program grid as described in section 7.6.

Every experiment driving sequence will contain a phase that triggers the data acquisition and a phase for the actual shot. A sample driving sequence is shown in Figure 36. The sample driving sequence shown utilizes only two phases. The first phase is used solely to trigger data acquisition at the end of the phase, so that the signal during the shot may be observed. The second phase defines the shot.

Figure 36 – Example Driving Sequence



A single phase may be used to both trigger the data acquisition and define the shot. In such a case the data acquisition will start after the shot has finished so the signal during the shot will not be observed. It is recommended that data acquisition be triggered before the shot so that the achievement of the steady state condition may be visually verified.

8.3 General Advice for Stopped-Flow Experiments

8.3.1 ACHIEVEMENT OF FASTEST DEAD-TIMES

The dead time of a stopped-flow experiment is defined as the time before which observation of the mixture is impossible. The dead time depends on a number of factors, only some of which the researcher can control. Ideally, the dead-time depends only on the flow rate of the mixture exiting last mixer and the volume of the between the last mixer and the cuvette. Thus, as the flow rate is increased, the dead-time will decrease. In addition, as the volume between the last mixer and the cuvette volume decreases, so does the dead-time.

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Nevertheless, an effective stopped-flow experiment depends on a number of other inter-related factors, such as adequate signal, complete washing of the cuvette, prevention of cavitation and prudent use of valuable reagents. The relationships between these factors requires careful consideration and experimentation. Compromises are often necessary to achieve successful stopped-flow experiments. Some of the most common actions that can be take to achieve fastest dead times, and their consequences, are shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5 – Common Actions to Achieve Fastest Dead Times

IN ORDER TO...	ONE SHOULD...	BUT THE RISK IS...
Lower Dead Times	Increase Flow Rate	stalled motors
		cavitation
		overuse of reagent
		inadequate washing
	Decrease Cuvette volume	loss of signal

8.3.2 WASHING

As mentioned in section 8.1, it is necessary to completely wash the flow path between the last mixer and cuvette and the cuvette itself during the shot. This ensures that the signal observed after the shot is only of the recently mixed samples. To accomplish this, sufficient volume of mixed samples needs to pass through the cuvette during the shot. This volume varies with flow rate, viscosity and composition of the sample. It is strongly recommended that tests be perform and adequate washing conditions found before starting any series of experiments.

8.3.3 CAVITATION

Cavitation occurs when turbulence creates regions of low enough pressure in a liquid that a "cavity" is formed. This cavity fills with the liquid's vapor. These cavities collapse incompletely, leaving behind small bubbles of vapor which interfere with optical observation methods. As the flow rate increases through a mixer, so does the likelihood of cavitation. The probability of cavitation also increases with increasing viscosity for a given flow rate. De-gassing of solutions decreases the probability of cavitation by eliminating gas and lowering the total vapor pressure available to fill the cavities.

8.3.4 SIGNAL AMPLITUDE

Signal amplitude is generally proportional to the path length of the cuvette and the concentration of signal-generating reagent. An increase in signal can then be accomplished by an increase in cuvette path length or an increase in the concentration of reagent. However, the researcher may be limited by practical concerns such as value of sample, viscosity of sample, dead-times, inherent limitation of signal (such as inner-filter effect) and sample precipitation. As with achievement of fastest dead times, compromises may be necessary to achieve successful a stopped-flow experiment. Table 6 shows some of the most common actions that can be taken to improve signal amplitude, and their consequences.

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Table 6 – Common Actions to Improve Signal Amplitude

IN ORDER TO...	ONE SHOULD...	BUT THE RISK IS...
Increase Signal	Increase Cuvette Path Length	overuse of reagent
		increased dead time
		Inadequate washing
		Inner-filter effect (fluorescence)
	Increase Reagent Concentration	overuse of reagent
		Increased viscosity causing cavitation
		Increased viscosity causing stalled motors
		Increase viscosity causing inadequate washing

8.3.5 FLOW RATE

The flow rate of the SFM is limited by the speed with which the stepping motors can push. At the nominal flow rate limit of 6ml/s (20 ml syringes), all syringes in use and using the smallest cuvette, sub-millisecond dead-times may be accomplished. However, solutions of increased viscosity will lower the obtainable syringe speed. Also, lower than room temperatures often lower the obtainable syringe speed. The limitation to syringe speed may sometimes be defeated by the use of acceleration phases (section7.7), which allows each syringe to come to an intermediate speed for a short time before jumping to the higher speed. Experimental conditions should always be tested before use on precious samples.

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9 TEST REACTIONS

9.1 Reduction of 2,6-Dichlorophenolindophenol by Ascorbic Acid

A complete description of the reduction of 2,6-dichlorophenolindophenol (DCIP) by ascorbic acid (AA) and its use can be found in *Tonomura et al, Analytical Biochemistry (1978), 84, 370-383.* DCIP has a strong absorbance at 524 nm, and reduction by ascorbic acid results in a nearly complete decoloration. The second order reduction rate constant is highly dependent on pH, and varies from about $10^{4.6}$ $M^{-1}s^{-1}$ at pH 2.0 to $10^{2.5}$ $M^{-1}s^{-1}$ at pH 8.0. If the concentration of DCIP is sufficiently smaller than AA, the reaction can be treated as a pseudo first-order reaction whose rate constant will be directly proportional to the AA concentration.

All these properties make this reaction a very useful tool for stopped-flow calibration. The fast reaction at acid pH can be used measure the dead time of the SFM instrument. The slow reaction at neutral pH slow reaction to check the quality of the stop, to evaluate the washing of the observation cell and to test the variable ratio mixing capabilities. The following sections describe the use of this reaction for testing the and exploring its capabilities.

9.2 Evaluation of the Dead Time

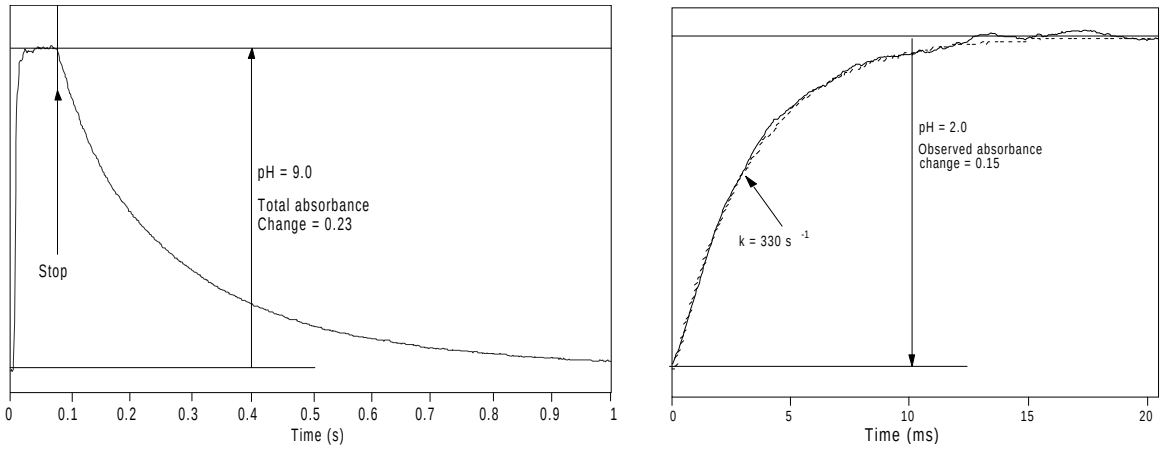
The dead time of the SFM can be measured using both the fast and slow reduction reactions of DCIP. An example dead time evaluation is shown in this section. As discussed in section 8.3.1, the dead time of a stopped-flow experiment depends on many factors besides simply the flow rate and cuvette volume. The technique presented here may be adapted to evaluate the dead time under many experimental conditions.

Experimental Conditions:	Syringe 1, 2 or 3 (20 ml):	10 mM Ascorbic Acid (pH 2 or 9)
	Syringe 4 (20 ml):	0.5 mM DCIP
	Wavelength:	524 nm
	Cuvette:	TC-50/10
	Detection method:	Absorbance
	Total Flow Rate (ml/s):	8 – pH 9 reaction, 16 – pH 2 reaction

The decoloration of DCIP was followed by measuring the absorbance at 524 nm during the reaction. Equal volumes of the reagents were mixed to start the reaction (200 µl of each). Data acquisition was made using Bio-Kine software and started before the shot. The resulting kinetic traces of the reactions at pH 9.0 and pH 2.0 are shown in Figure 37.

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Figure 37 – Reduction of DCIP by Ascorbic Acid



Analysis of the two traces yields:

REACTION pH	TOTAL FLOW RATE (ml/s)	Δ ABSORBANCE	RATE CONSTANT (s^{-1})
9	**8**	0.23	not determined
2	**16**	0.15	330

The dead time can be calculated according to:

$$\textbf{Dead Time} = 1/k * \ln(A_0/A_{obs})$$

Where k is the observed rate constant for the a first-order (or pseudo first-order) reaction, A_0 is the total amplitude of the reaction and A_{obs} is the observed amplitude of the reaction of interest.

The t_{50} of the slow reaction at pH 9 is around 100 ms ensuring that 100 % of the reaction is observed. This allows the amplitude of the reaction to be used as A_0 for evaluation of the dead time. At the same time, smooth kinetics enable an easy detection of any stop artifact. Using the results of the analysis of the two reactions,

$$\textbf{Dead Time} = (1/330\ s^{-1}) * \ln(0.23/.015) = 1.3\ ms$$

This is very close to the theoretical dead time of 1.39ms calculated for a TC-50/10 cuvette and a flow rate of 16 ml/s.

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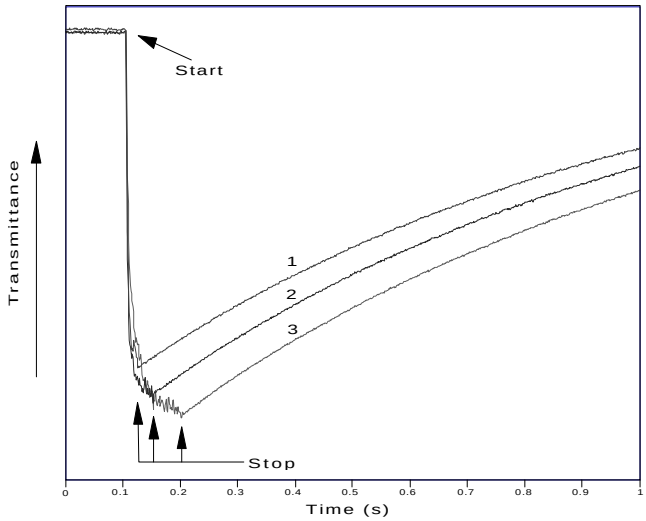
9.3 Evaluation of Washing and the Quality of the Stop

As mentioned in section 8.1, it is necessary to completely wash the flow path from the last mixer to the point of observation in the cuvette. One method of evaluating the volume needed for washing the flow path is presented in Figure 38. The reaction was the slow reduction of DCIP with ascorbic acid at pH 9. The same experimental conditions as in section 9.2 were used except that transmittance was used instead of absorbance. Equal volumes of each reactant were mixed. The data acquisition was started 100 ms before the shot to allow clear observation of the start of the shot.

The slow reaction also allows the examination of the data around the stop for any artifacts.

The results indicate that there are no stop artifacts present and that a minimum of 200 µl per reactant is needed to completely wash the flow path for this reaction.

Figure 38 – Washing and Quality of the Stop



CURVE	DURATION OF SHOT (ms)	VOLUME PER SYRINGE (µl)	TOTAL FLOW RATE (ml/s)
1	25	75	6
2	50	150	6
3	100	200	6

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9.4 Variable Ratio Mixing

The possibility to obtain variable mixing ratios by a simple programming of the instrument (i.e. without changing the syringes) is one of the major advantages of the SFM instruments. The microprocessor control of the stepping motors gives 6400 steps per revolution of the motor and results in a smooth and quasi-continuous movement of the syringe over a very large range of flow rates. A few example experiments using the SFM to carry out variable ratio mixing are described below.

9.4.1 REDUCTION OF DCIP BY ASCORBIC ACID

Experimental Conditions:

Syringe 1 (20 ml): 20 mM Ascorbic Acid , pH 9

Syringe 2 (20 ml): Buffer

Syringe 4 (20 ml): 100 µM DCIP

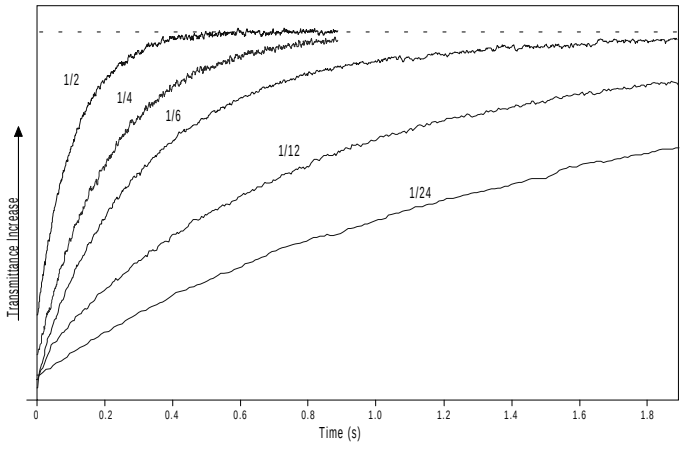
Wavelength: 524 nm

Cuvette: TC-50/10

Detection method: Transmittance

Acquisition was started at the end of the stop. A series of experiments were performed in which the concentration of ascorbic acid was varied from 0.8 mM to 10 mM. This was accomplished by programming the SFM to deliver a constant volume of DCIP (S4) and varying volumes of ascorbic acid (S1) and buffer (S2). The total volume of each shot was kept constant as was the volume of S1 + S2. The total flow rate was also kept constant in all experiments. Figure 39 shows the results of the experiments and the dilution factor of ascorbic acid is noted next to each curve.

Figure 39 – DCIP Variable Ratio Mixing Experiments

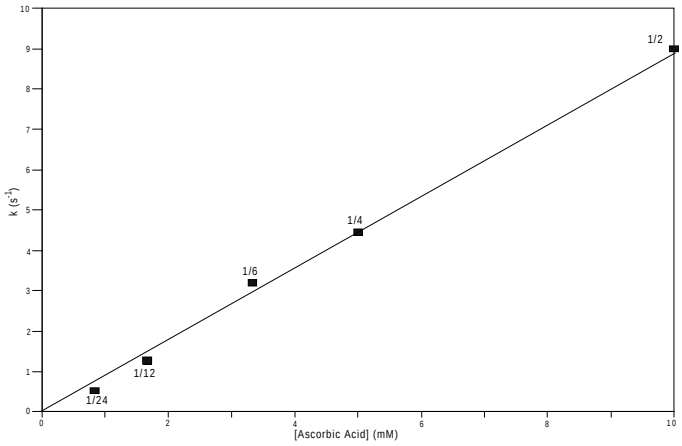


Using the variable ratio mixing method, the concentration of one reactant (ascorbic acid in this case) can easily be varied while another reactant (DCIP) is kept constant.

The curves in Figure 39 were analyzed using the Bio-Kine software to determine the rate constants. The rate constants measured show a satisfactory linear relationship as a function of ascorbic acid concentration (Figure 40).

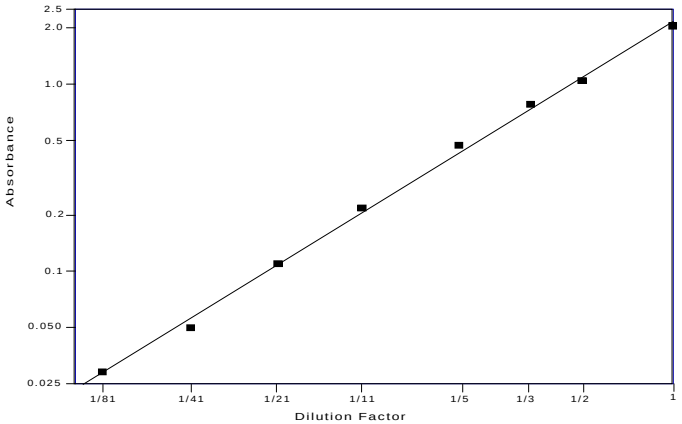
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Figure 40 – DCIP Variable Ratio Mixing: k vs. [AA]



Dilution factors of 1/50 or higher can be obtained with the SFM. Figure 41 shows the results of experiments where 1 mM DCIP in S4 was mixed with various volumes of buffer from S1. In this case, there is no reaction but only dilution of the DCIP. The results indicate a satisfactory linear relationship between the absorbance measured and the final concentration of DCIP calculated according to the diluted effect.

Figure 41 – DCIP Dilution Experiments



9.4.2 ALCOHOL DEHYDROGENASE ACTIVITY

Experimental Conditions:

Buffer: 100 mM Tris-Cl, 1 mM EDTA,5 g/l semicarbazyde-Cl and 25 mM ethanol

Syringe 1 (20 ml): Buffer

Syringe 2 (20 ml): Buffer + 1 mg/ml alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH)

Syringe 4 (20 ml): Buffer + 1 mM NAD

Wavelength: 340 nm

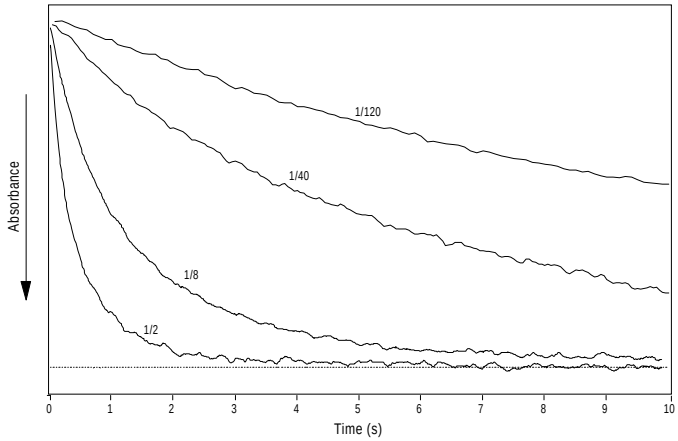
Cuvette: TC-50/10

Detection method: Absorbance

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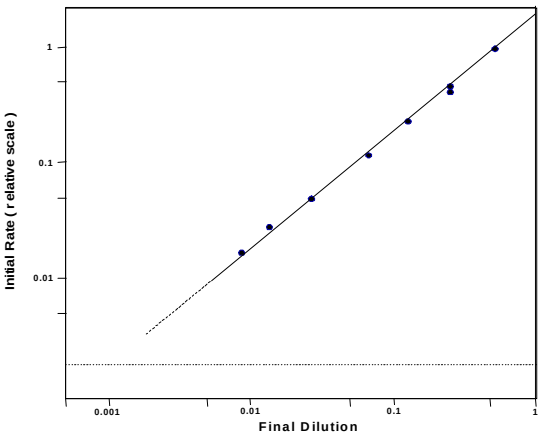
Experiments were performed in a manner similar to the variable mixing ratio mixing experiments of DCIP in the previous section. The volume and concentration of NAD (S4) were kept constant the concentration of ADH was varying by varying the volumes of buffer (S1) and ADH (S2) in each experiment. The total volume and flow rate of each shot was kept constant. The dilution of ADH varied from 1/2 to 1/120 (0.5 to 0.083 mg/ml final ADH concentration). The results of the experiments are shown in Figure 42.

Figure 42 – ADH Variable Ratio Mixing Experiments



The initial rate of each reaction in Figure 42 was measured and plotted as a function of the dilution factor in Figure 43. The rates and dilution factors are plotted on a log-log scale. Figure 43 shows that there is reasonable alignment of the data to a line of a slope of 1. This indicates a linear relationship between the initial rate and the dilution factor.

Figure 43 – ADH Variable Ratio Mixing: Rate vs. Dilution



The horizontal dashed line in Figure 43 corresponds to the remaining ADH activity after washing the cuvette. To obtain this line, the cuvette was washed with two shots containing no ADH (only S1 and S4 were used) follow by a 1/2 dilution of ADH with NAD (only S2 + S4). The contaminating activity corresponds to a 1/1000 if the initial ADH concentration. Further washing could reduce the contaminating activity, but this sets a reasonable limit for the dilutions that can be obtained with the SFM.

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9.5 Mixing Solutions of Unequal Density and Viscosity

The SFM can be used to mix solution of unequal density and viscosity in addition to simple aqueous solutions. This situation is commonly found when the kinetic of protein renaturation (refolding) is to be measured.

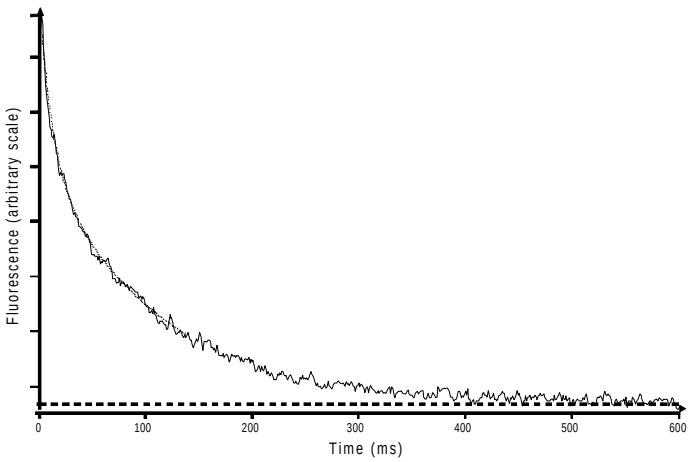
Figure 44 shows the result of an experiment performed with cytochrome-c.

Experimental Conditions:

Buffer:	100 mM NaCl, 20 mM MOPS, pH 7.5
Syringe 1 (20 ml):	Buffer
Syringe 2 (20 ml):	Buffer
Syringe 3 (20 ml):	50 µM cytochrome-c in 5.5 M guanidine-HCl, 20 mM MOPS, pH 7.5
Wavelength:	290 nm
Cuvette:	FC-15
Detection method:	Fluorescence (320 nm cutoff filter)
Temperature:	25°C

Cytochrome-c denatured in 5.5 M guanidine-HCl was mixed with buffer in a 1:10 ratio and the intrinsic fluoresce of cytochrome-c was observed. The final concentrations of cytochrome-c and gaunidine-HCl in the cuvette were 5 µM and 550 mM respectively. At this final concentration of guanidine-HCl, cytochrome-c shows rapid renaturation as seen in Figure 44.

Figure 44 – Cytochrome-c Renaturation



The curve in Figure 44 was fitted with two exponentials and rate constants of 83 s^{-1} and 9 s^{-1}. The amplitudes of the exponentials were 38% and 62% of the total transition respectively. The fit is shown as a dotted line under the experimental curve.

!CAUTION!: The mixing of solutions of unequal density and viscosity can result in convection artifacts!

Convection artifacts are due to the slow rise of light buffer from the last mixer and subsequent entry into the observation chamber after mixing. The entry of the light buffer is detected by a sudden and reproducible change in absorbance or fluorescence 10 to 100 seconds (or more) after the mixing. The existence of this artifact and the time at which it is observed are dependent on the relative densities and viscosities of the mixture and of the light buffer.

In the above example with cytochrome-c, a large dilution ratio was used so that the final mixture has a density not too different from that of the NaCl buffer. As a consequence no convection artifact was visible when data acquisition was prolonged for more than 100 seconds.

On the other hand, if a 1/1 mixing was used, the high concentration of guanidine in the cuvette (2.75 M) would have resulted in the formation of a large gradient of density at the last mixer. Under these conditions, if no precautions are taken, rapid rise of NaCl buffer in the observation cuvette can be observed about 20 s after mixing.

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A method to completely eliminate the convection artifact has been proposed by Blond-Elguindi et al. (1988) in their work referenced at the end of this manual. These authors used heavy water in the light buffer for it to match the density of the mixture in the cuvette.

However, the best solution is to use the high density (HDS)mixer developed by Bio-Logic. This mixer is described in detail in section 5.7.3.

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SECTION III

QUENCHED-FLOW MODE (SFM-X/Q)

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10 INSTALLATION OF THE QUENCHED-FLOW COMPONENTS

10.1 Introduction

This section of the manual contains installation instructions for the quenched-flow components of the SFM. Please read Section I of this manual before proceeding.

10.2 Installation of the Mixer Blocks and Delay Lines

In quenched-flow mode, the syringes of the SFM can be used to perform many types of mixing experiments. It is difficult to list all the possibilities here. A few common types are described below:

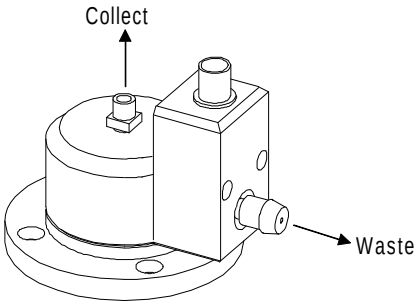
1) Load several reagents, mix them and quench the reaction with the contents of the last syringe.

2) Use syringes loaded with reagents and buffer to vary the concentration of one or two reagents, mix and then quench the resulting mixing with the contents of the last syringe.

3) Perform sequential mixing and delays between up to 3 reagents before they are mixed with the content of the last syringe.

In all experiments, the final sample is recovered for analysis. All SFM/Q instruments are shipped standard with a quench exit valve (Figure 45) to simplify sample collection.

Figure 45 – Exit Valve



The exit valve and delay line(s) are installed on the SFM body differently depending on how many syringes are present and the type of experiment performed.

SFM-3 - The exit valve and delay line are installed as shown in Figure 46.

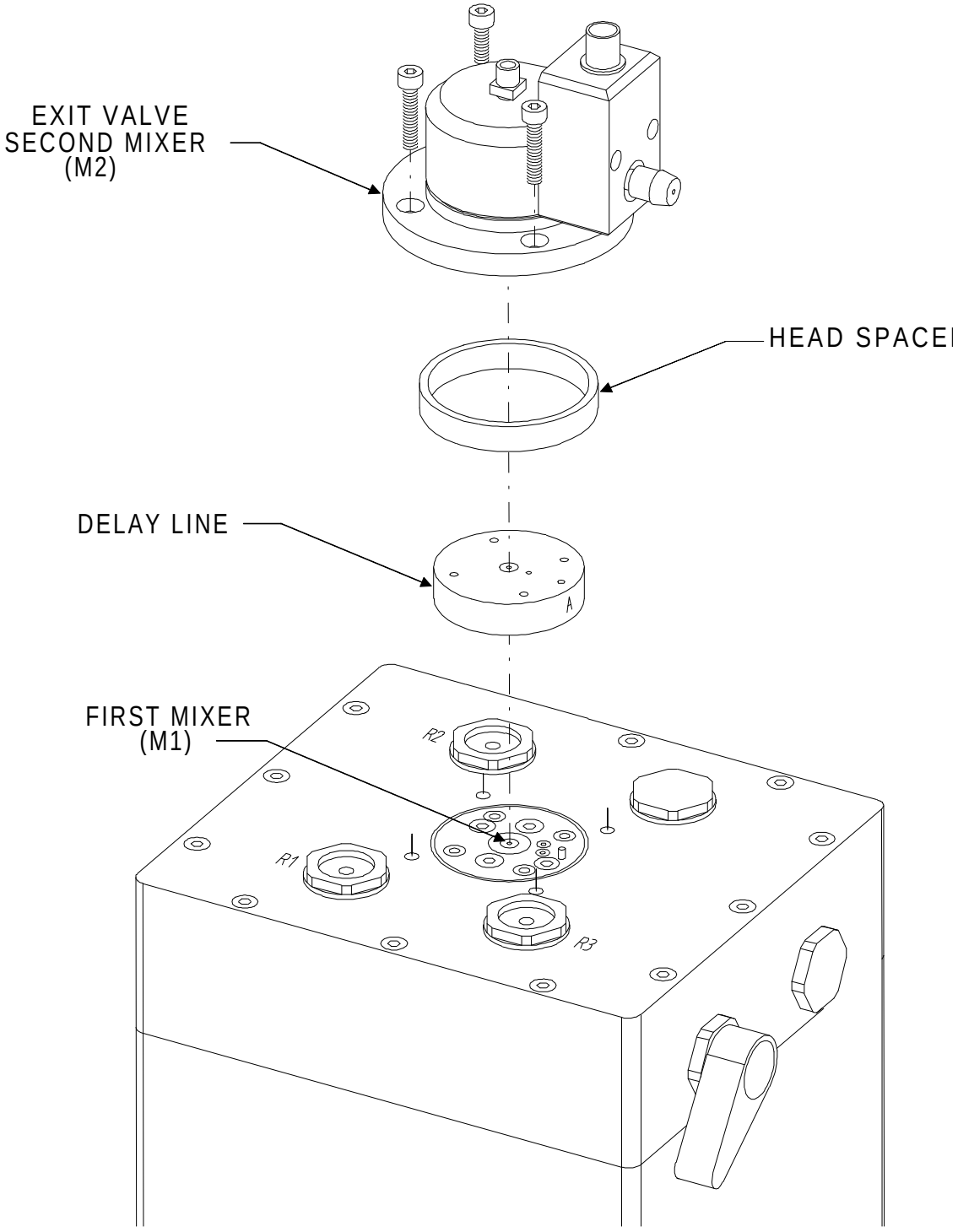
SFM-4 - The exit valve and delay line(s) are installed as shown in Figure 47. The exit may be installed using the mixing blocks labeled **0-MIX-0**, **0-MIX-DL**, **DL-MIX-0**, **DL-MIX-DL** or no mixing block. The installation of the different mixing blocks is described in Table 7.

Table 7 – SFM-4 Exit Valve Installation

MIXING BLOCK	COMMENTS
0-MIX-0	Installed with no additional delay lines.
0-MIX-DL	Installed with one delay line between the mixer block and the observation head
DL-MIX-0	Installed with one delay line between the SFM body and the mixer block.
DL-MIX-DL	Installed with delay lines on both sides of the mixer block.
NONE	Only a delay line is installed between the SFM body and the exit valve and the SFM-4 functions as an SFM-3 (Figure 46). Syringe 3 is blocked by the delay line and only syringes 1, 2, and 4 are useable. In this case, syringe 3 does not need to be filled.

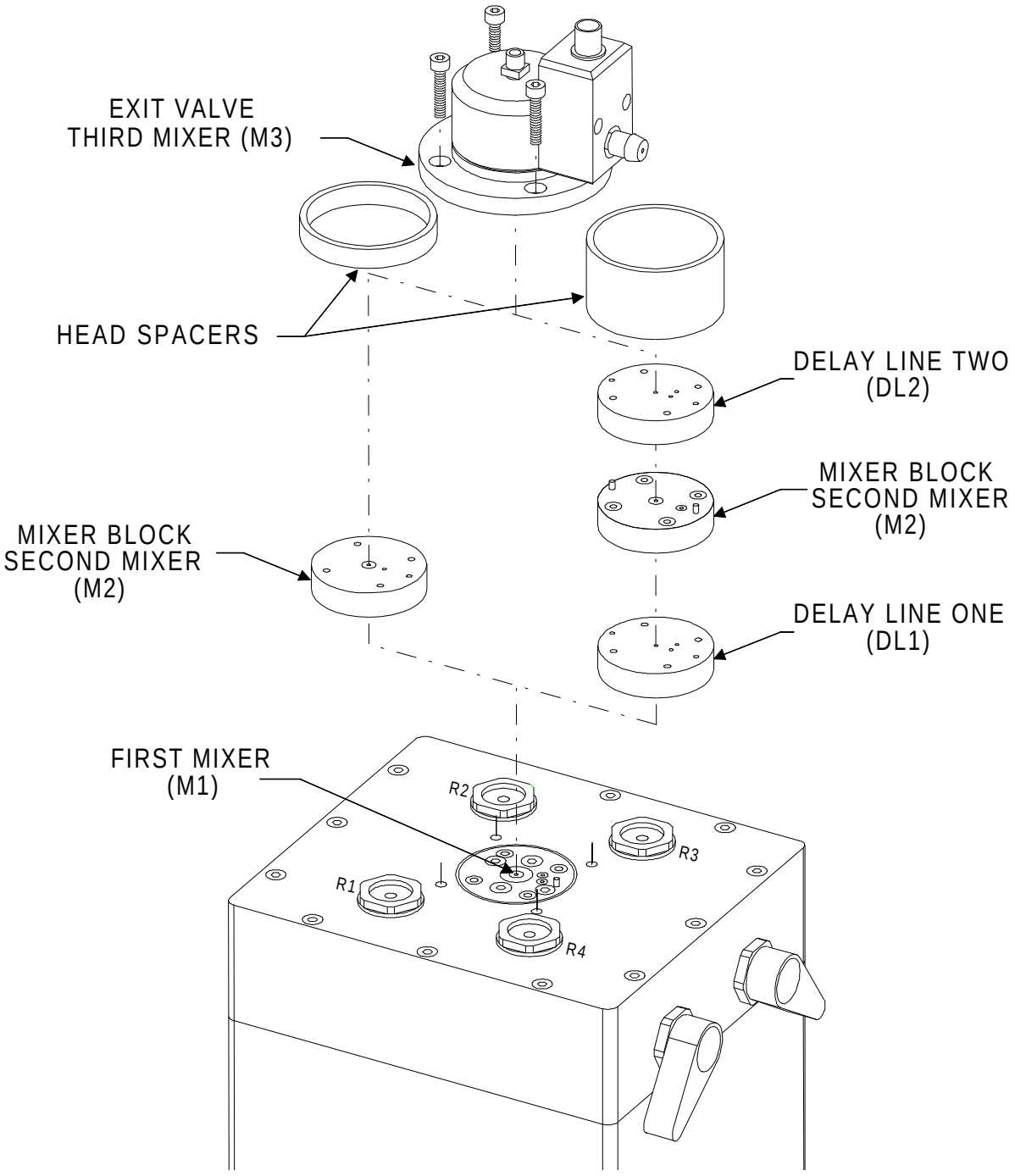
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Figure 46 – SFM-3: Installation of Exit Valve and Delay Lines



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Figure 47 – SFM-4: Installation of Exit Valve, Mixer Blocks and Delay Lines



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10.3 Flow Line and Intermixer Volumes

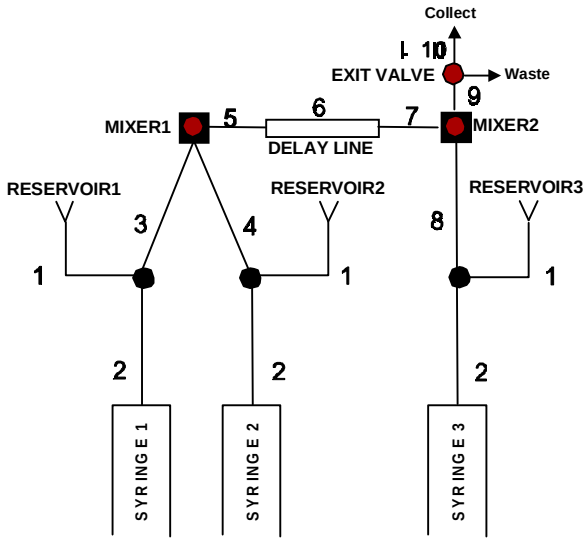
Figure 48 (SFM-3) and Figure 49 (SFM-4) below indicate the volumes of SFM flow lines and delay lines. The amount of time a sample ages between two mixers is given by:

Ageing time between two mixers = (Intermixer volume)/(Flow rate through intermixer volume)

It should be noted that the volumes give in the table are the *mechanical* volumes. The hydrodynamical volumes may vary slightly around these values. For precise measurement of ageing times it is recommended that the intermixer volumes be determined experimentally with known reactions. One such experimental procedure for determining intermixer volumes is described in the section 14.2 of this manual.

Figure 48 – SFM-3/Q Flow Line and Delay Line Volumes

SFM-3/Q FLOW LINE VOLUMES	
Line Number	**Flow Line Volume (µl)**
1	103
2	41
3	155
4	156
5	7
6	Delay Line
7	18
8	188
9	36
10	55



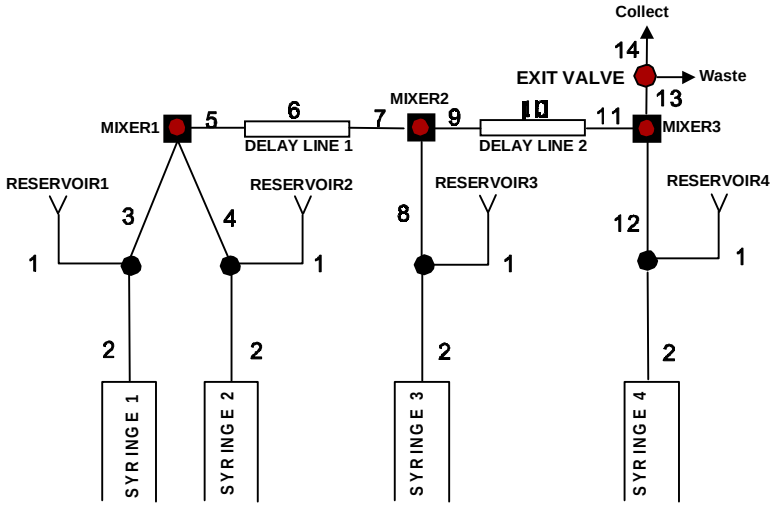
	DELAY LINE AND INTERMIXER VOLUMES*						
	Delay Line						
	N° 1(17)	N° 2(40)	N° 3(90)	N° 4(140)	N° 5(190)	N° 6(500)	N° 7(100)
Volume (µl)	19.43	35.83	92.39	144.28	192.6	498.68	1003.43
Intermixer Volume $M1_{BB} - M2_{BB}$ (µl)	43.8	60.2	116.7	168.6	216.9	523.0	1027.8
Intermixer Volume $M1_{BB} - M2_{HDS}$ (µl)	39.5	55.9	112.4	164.3	212.6	518.7	1023.5

*Notes: Intermixer volumes are measured from the mixing point of one mixer to the mixing point of the next mixer. BB indicates a Berger Ball mixer has been installed at the position noted. HDS indicates a High Density mixer has been installed at that position.

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Figure 49 – SFM-4/Q Flow Line and Delay Line Volumes

SFM-4/Q FLOW LINE VOLUMES	
Line Number	**Flow Line Volume (µl)**
1	103
2	41
3	155
4	156
5	7
6	Delay Line 1
7	9
8	165
9	7
10	Delay Line 2
11	18
12	188
13	36
14	55



	DELAY LINE AND INTERMIXER VOLUMES*							
	Delay Line							
	None	N° 1(17)	N° 2(40)	N° 3(90)	N° 4(140)	N° 5(190)	N° 6(500)	N° 7(100)
Volume (µl)	0	19.43	35.83	92.39	144.28	192.6	498.68	1003.43
Intermixer Volume $M1_{BB} - M2_{BB}$ (µl)	25.5	43.1	59.5	116.1	168.0	216.3	522.4	1027.1
Intermixer Volume $M2_{BB} - M3_{BB}$ (µl)	27.6	43.7	60.1	116.7	168.6	216.9	523.0	1027.7
Intermixer Volume $M2_{BB} - M3_{HDS}$ (µl)	23.3	39.4	55.8	112.4	164.3	212.6	518.7	1023.4

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10.4 Sample Collection Methods

The result of a quenched-flow experiment can be recovered by two different methods: total liquid collection and partial liquid collection . The method of choice will depend on the experiment. The two methods are described below.

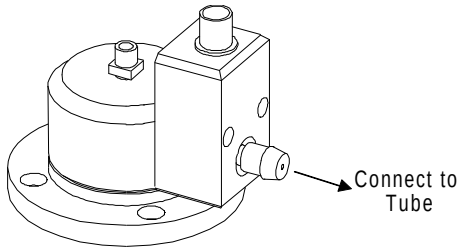
10.4.1 TOTAL LIQUID COLLECTION

In this method all the liquid that exits the SFM during a quenched-flow experiment is recovered. This includes the result of the quenched-flow experiment and any old reaction mixture that remained in the SFM before the start of the experiment. Two manners exist to recover the total liquid from a quenched-flow experiment. These are describe in the next two sections.

10.4.1.1 Free-flow method

A tube is connected to the **waste outlet** of the exit valve to recover the liquid exiting the SFM (Figure 50). The liquid may be ejected into a test tube or beaker for simple collection or for quenching with an external solution. If the latter method is used, the tube acts as an additional delay line whose volume can be adjusted by the user.

Figure 50 – External Tube Collection



!CAUTION!: If the volume collected is not substantially larger than the flow line and tube volume, substantial contamination of samples by old reacted solution may occur. It is recommended to collect sample volumes a minimum of 3-5× flow line + tube volumes (section 10.3). In addition, it is recommended to wash old solution out of the SFM and tube with buffer between sample collections and perform test experiments to verify the level of sample contamination is minimal.

!WARNING!: The inner diameter of the tube connected to the waste outlet should always be larger than that of the hole in the waste outlet. If this is not respected, back pressure can build up inside the SFM during a shot and cause the motors to stall.

10.4.1.2 Pipette/syringe collection

A pipette or syringe is connected to the **collect outlet** of the exit valve to recover all the liquid exiting the SFM (Figure 51). This method allows complete collection of a sample and isolates the collected sample from the environment. It is recommended that a pipette be used for collection rather than a syringe. Undue back pressure from a collection syringe plunger can force liquid to exit through the waste outlet instead of being collected.

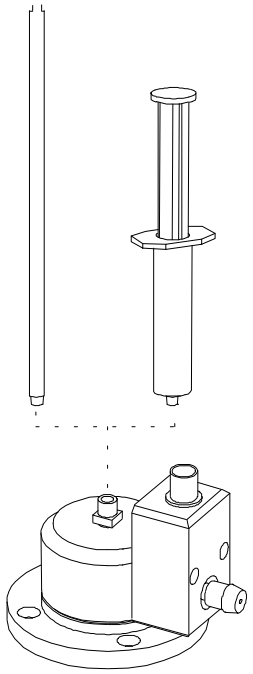
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!CAUTION!: If the volume collected is not substantially larger than the SFM flow line volume, contamination of samples by old reacted solution may occur. It is recommended to collect sample volumes a minimum of 3-5× flow line volumes (section 10.3). In addition, it is recommended to wash old solution out of the SFM and tube with buffer between sample collections and perform test experiments to verify the level of sample contamination is minimal.

10.4.2 PARTIAL LIQUID COLLECTION

This method is the most preferred method used for quenched-flow experiments. It is similar to the method in section 10.4.1.2 in that the sample is collected in a pipette or syringe (Figure 51). It differs from the total liquid collection method because only the portion of the liquid exiting the SFM that corresponds to completely new, uncontaminated sample is collected. The exit valve is programmed. to divert contaminated sample to waste so that only uncontaminated sample is recovered. Because of this, even very small volumes (10's of µl) of sample can be collected and sample economy is high. The programming of the exit valve is described in section 12.6.

Figure 51 – Pipette/Syringe Collection



As discussed in the previous section, it is recommended that a pipette be used for collection rather than a syringe. Undue back pressure from a collection syringe plunger can force liquid to exit through the waste outlet instead of being collected.

!CAUTION!: The volume diverted to waste should be a minimum of 3-5× the flow line volumes (section 10.3) to ensure only uncontaminated sample is collected. Larger volumes may be necessary and it is recommend that test experiments be performed to optimize the volume needed to minimize sample contamination. .

10.5 Special Accessories

Several accessories are available to expand the functions of the SFM. Below are the descriptions of the accessories and their functions. Custom accessories can also be designed and we invite you to contact Bio-Logic or its nearest representatives to discuss your particular needs.

10.5.1 SMALL DRIVE SYRINGE

The SFM standard syringes (20 ml) have a large driving speed range. This allows each syringe to be programmed for different speeds and can be used to make mixing ratios different from 1:1. Ratios as high as 1:20 can be obtained with the standard syringes. Beyond ratios of 1:20 the results can be poor due to the extremely slow movement of the syringe motor delivering the sample to be diluted.

For operation with dilution ratios higher than 1:20, we advise the use of a 5 ml syringe for injecting the solution to be diluted. This enables the motor pushing the 5 ml syringe to

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run at a faster and smoother rate. The specifications of the 5 ml syringe are give in Table 1. Syringes of 5 ml can be ordered from Bio-Logic or its representatives.

Syringe disassembly and reassembly is discussed in the Technical Instructions section of this manual. We recommend that the user be familiar with this section before attempting syringe disassembly and assembly.

10.5.2 LARGE DRIVE SYRINGE

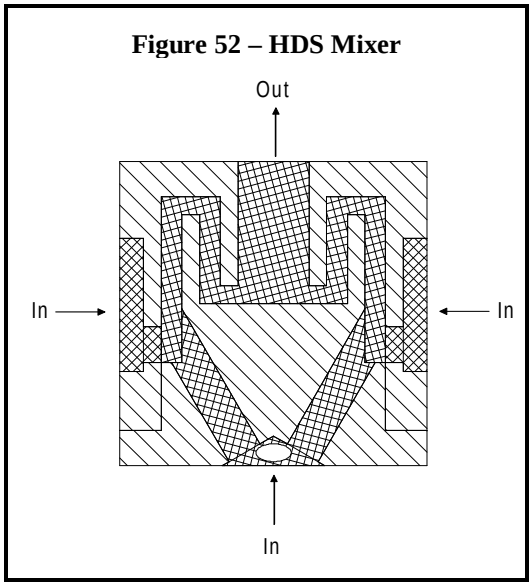
As described in the previous section, the standard 20 ml have a large driving speed range, but are not ideal for all circumstances. At times, one may need a low ageing time or high flow rate from one or two syringes that is beyond the flow limits of the standard syringes (with or without acceleration). For these situations, a large 30 ml syringe may be used. The specifications of the 30 ml syringe are given in Table 1. Syringes of 30 ml can be ordered from Bio-Logic or its representatives.

Syringe disassembly and reassembly is discussed in the Technical Instructions section of this manual. We recommend that the user be familiar with this section before attempting syringe disassembly and assembly.

10.5.3 HIGH DENSITY MIXER

Mixing solutions of different densities offers a formidable challenge for stopped-flow instruments. In typical protein folding/unfolding experiments, heavy solutions of urea or guanidine chloride are mixed with pure aqueous buffers. The result is an unavoidable convection 10 to 30 seconds after mixing. This convection leads to sample contamination for samples stored in delay lines definitively ruining the kinetic experiment. The SFM module can be equipped with a specially designed mixer (model HDS; Figure 52) that includes an internal siphon-like frame and allows blockage of convection created by density or temperature differences. Using this mixer, quenched-flow experiments traces can be performed for time points from the first millisecond to several 100 seconds.

Figure 52 – HDS Mixer



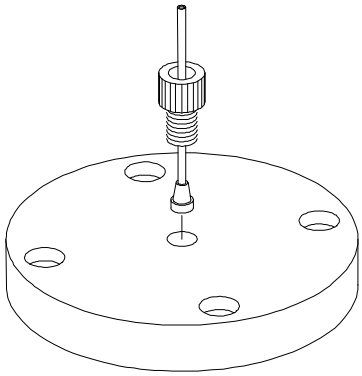
Installation of the HDS mixer is identical to that of a standard (Berger Ball) mixer. Instructions are provided in the Technical Section of this manual.

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10.5.4 DIRECT EXIT ATTACHMENT

Short ageing times can be achieved and sample economy improved in the free flow method of sample collection (section 10.4.1.1) by minimizing the volume from the last mixer to the exit tube. This can be accomplished by replacing Delay Line 2 or the exit valve with a direct exit attachment (Figure 53). This attachment allows the exit tube to be connected as close as possible to the last mixer. Further details and pricing may be obtained from Bio-Logic or its nearest representative.

Figure 53 – Direct Exit Attachment



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11 SOFTWARE CONFIGURATION

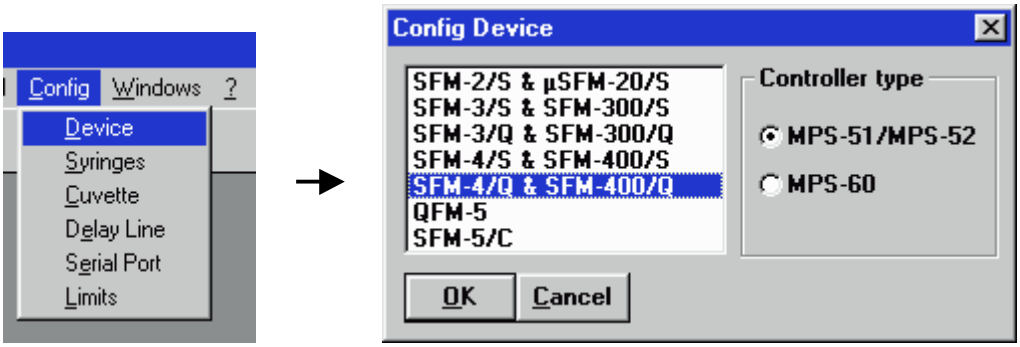
The SFM is controlled by computer and it is delivered with the MPS software that is common to all Bio-Logic rapid-kinetics instruments. This section briefly describes the configuration the software. Pleas note that the procedures and examples have been generalized and configuration choices should be made based upon the equipment purchased and intended experiments. The user may refer to the *MPS Software User's Manual* for more details about the MPS software.

This sections assumes that the user has already installed and started the MPS software on the host microcomputer. For installation instructions see chapters 2 and 3 of the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

11.1 Device Configuration

The device to be installed should be configured according to the instrument purchased and mode chosen for use. The device appropriate should be chosen in the « **Config:Device** ».window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 54). Further information may be found in chapter 4.1 of the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

Figure 54 – MPS Software: Device Configuration



11.2 Syringe Configuration

Syringe configuration is made in the « **Config:Syringes** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 55). Select the syringe volumes to indicate the nature of the syringes that have been installed in each syringe position of the SFM using the menu in the « **Config:Syringes** » window (Figure 55). Use the « Custom » button to enter syringe specifications if you have a custom syringe.

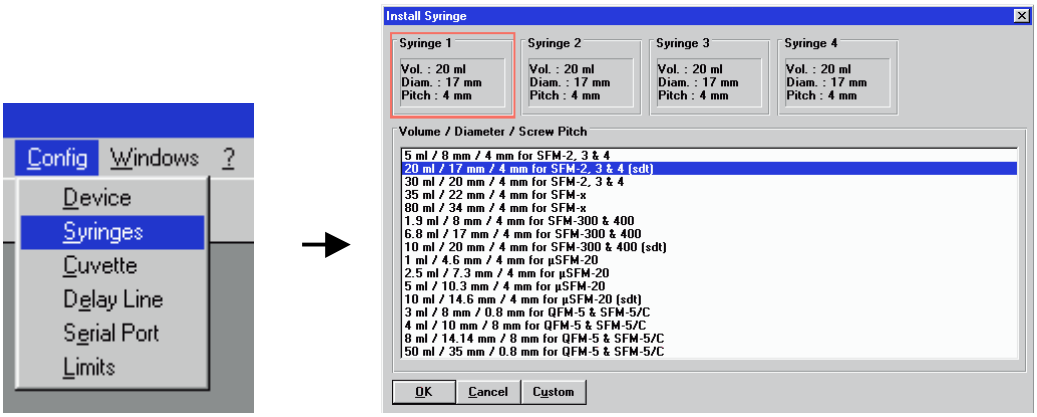
The SFM comes equipped with standard 20 ml syringes and these are the default syringes installed in the MPS software. Changes only need to be made in the software when syringes of different volumes (other than standard) have been installed in the SFM.

!WARNING!: Incorrect syringe configuration will cause volume and flow rate calculations to be incorrect!

Further information about syringe configuration can be found in chapter 4.2 of the *MPS Software User's Manual*.

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Figure 55 – MPS Software: Syringe Configuration

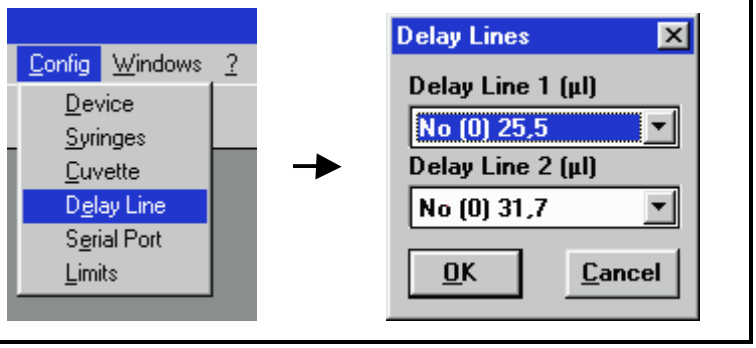


11.3 Delay Line Configuration

Delay line configuration is made in the « **Config:Delay Line** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 56). Select the delay line(s) according to the delay line(s) you have installed in the SFM. One or two delay lines must be configured depending on the type of device installed under section 11.1. Each delay line is chosen from a pull-down menu in the « **Config:Delay Line** » window (Figure 55).

!WARNING!: Incorrect delay line configuration will cause ageing time calculations to be incorrect!

Figure 56 – MPS Software: Delay Line Configuration

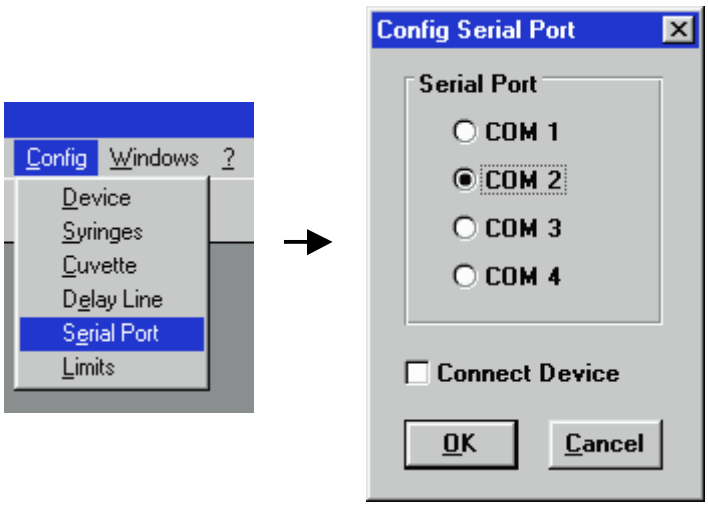


11.4 Serial Port Configuration

The serial port must be configured before the MPS and MPS software can communicate. Serial port configuration is made in the « **Config:Serial Port** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 57). Select the serial port used to connect the MPS and the microcomputer in section 3.2.

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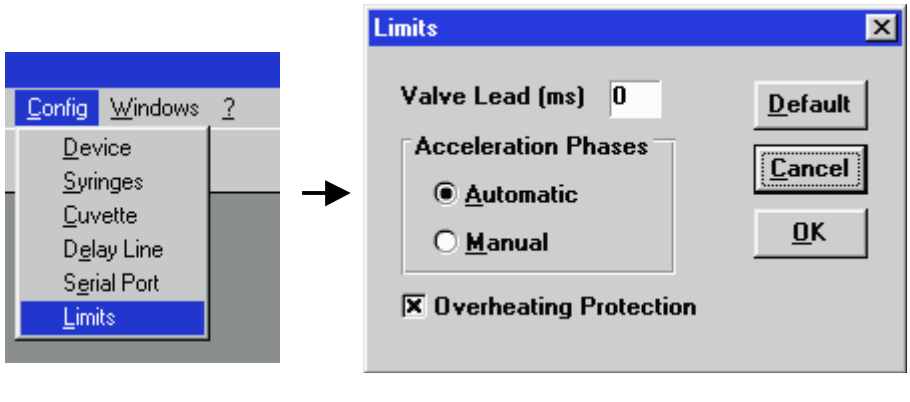
Figure 57 – MPS Software: Serial Port Configuration



11.5 System Limits Configuration

The system limits are configured in the « **Config:Limits** » window available under the **Config** menu (Figure 58). The « **Config:Limits** » window contains several sections for configuration of the hard stop valve lead time, acceleration phases mode and overheating protection. Each section and options are described below.

Figure 58 – MPS Software: System Limits Configuration



Exit Valve Lead Time: This section of the windows allows one to enter the number of milliseconds before the flow stops that the exit valve starts to switch from waste to collect mode. The default value is zero. The lead time may be adjusted (from 0 – 5 ms) to fine-tune the quality of the transition.

Acceleration Phases Mode: This sections of the windows allows selection of the acceleration phases mode. Two modes are possible: Automatic and manual. These modes are described in detail in section 12.8.

Overheating Protection Checkbox: This checkbox allows the selection or deselecting of over heating protection. The MPS that drives the SFM was designed to do fast experiments. To do this the motors are powered up and ready to go during the entire driving sequence (this is also necessary to keep syringes not used from moving backwards under the force of the back pressure

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generated by the other syringes) . It requires a lot of energy to do this and the motor boards inside the MPS generate heat. The instrument was not designed specifically for driving sequences lasting more than a few seconds. Because of this, sequences longer than a few seconds result in the motors getting very hot and can possibly burn them out. To avoid burning out the motors, the solution is to allow the motor boards to cool before doing a subsequent shot. Overheating protection forces the MPS software to wait 2x the entire length of the driving sequence in between shots, ensuring that the motor boards cool sufficiently and avoid burnout. The box is checked by default and it is strongly recommended that overheating protection always be left enabled.

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12 INSTRUMENT OPERATION

12.1 Manual Syringe Control

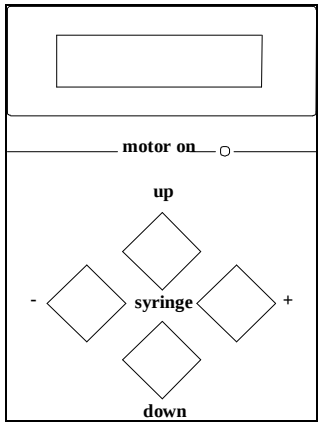
The syringes of the SFM can be controlled either manual or automatically. Automatic control of the syringes is strictly used only for experiments. The manual control of the syringes is used for initialization, filling and emptying the syringes. The manual movement of the syringes can either be made directly from the MPS or though the MPS software. Both methods are described in the following sections.

12.1.1 MPS

Syringe control directly from the MPS is made through the use of the buttons on front panel of the MPS (Figure 59 and Figure 2).

The (+) and (-) buttons are used to select the syringe to be moved. The (up) and (down) buttons are used to empty and fill the syringes respectively. The LCD panel at the top of the controls will display which syringe has been selected and whether it is being filled or emptied.

Figure 59 – MPS Syringe Controls



12.1.2 SOFTWARE

Syringe control from the MPS software is made through the « **Syringes Command:Load** » window available under the **Syringes Command** menu (Figure 60).

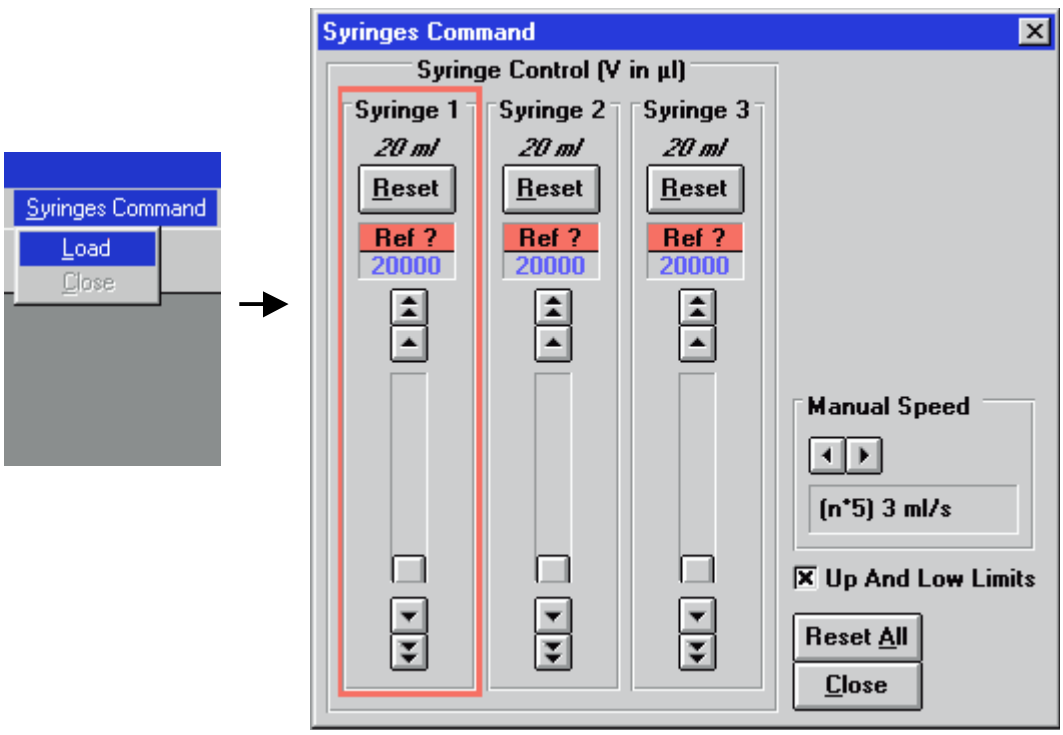
The syringe to be moved is selected by clicking on the corresponding frame, or pressing the <**Left**> or <**Right**> arrows keys on keyboard. The new selected syringe will be surrounded with a red rectangle (Figure 60).

Syringes are emptied or filled using the , , and buttons or with the <**Up**> arrow, <**PageUp**>, <**Down**> arrow and <**PageDown**> keys on the keyboard. The button and <**Up**> arrow move a syringe upwards by one elementary movement and the button and <**Down**> arrow move a syringe downwards by one elementary movement. The button and <**PageUp**> arrow move the piston upwards by 10x elementary movements and the button and <**PageDown**> move the piston downwards by 10x elementary movements.

The size of the elementary steps and syringe movement speed is controlled in the Manual Speed section of the « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 60). The and buttons to change the manual speed. The display shows the speed in flow rate based on the syringe installed and moved.

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Figure 60 – MPS Software Syringe Control



12.2 Syringe Initialization

The MPS that controls the SFM follows the movements of the syringes so that the actual residual volumes are displayed at all times in the MPS software « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 60). When the MPS is turned on and the software started, turned on, the syringe volume counters show **Ref ?** and have to be initialized (Figure 60).

The syringes are initialized by setting the syringes to their uppermost (empty) position and resetting the syringes in the MPS software. The syringes can be selected and moved to their uppermost positions either directly with the MPS (section 12.1.1) or through the MPS software (section 12.1.2). Once a syringe has reached its uppermost position, the syringe motor will oscillate and vibrate as it becomes out of phase with the driving pulses. There is no danger to the SFM or syringe motors when this occurs, but there is no reason to unnecessarily prolong this treatment either.

The syringes can be reset individually by pushing the **Reset** button for each syringe or all at once by pushing the **Reset All** button in the software « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 60).

!CAUTION!: Measurement of residual syringe volume is made by counting the logic pulses from the controller for each syringe. If, for any reason, a syringe is blocked during a run, the pulses will not correspond to the true volume delivered and the value displayed may become erroneous (e.g. in the case of incorrect positioning of a valve). In this case, it is advisable to reinitialize the syringes.

If, by accident, a syringe is returned to its uppermost position the syringe volume counter will again show **Ref ?** and the syringe must be reinitialized. To avoid such accidents, the **Up and Low Limits** checkbox may be checked. When this box is checked, the MPS software will not allow the syringes to be driven beyond their upper and lower limits. This also avoids accidentally pulling the syringe plunger completely from the syringe and spilling solution onto the SFM.

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!WARNING!: The Up and Low Limits only applies to control of the syringe from within the MPS software. These limits can be bypassed by manual control of the SFM directly from the MPS.

Further information about the initialization of syringes can be found in the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 5).

12.3 Filling the Syringes

!WARNING!: Utmost care should be exercised during this operation. Normal operation of the system requires that no bubbles are present in the injection syringes. Should this occur, the buffer flow through the SFM will not be correctly controlled by the plunger movement and artifacts may be observed. For best results it is recommended that all solutions be degassed and filtered before filling the SFM.

The syringes of the SFM can be emptied and filled manually (section 12.1). The filling of the syringes follows the steps below and shown in Figure 61.

1) Attach a syringe (disposable plastic syringes may be used) containing sample or buffer to a syringe reservoir port on top of the SFM (Figure 61 Panel 1).
2) Set the syringe valve handle to (**R**) and fill the syringe manually (section 12.1) while exerting a slight pressure on the reservoir syringe (Figure 61 Panel 2 and Panel 3). The pressure exerted on the reservoir syringe prevents any vacuum from occurring in the reservoir syringe which could result in bubble formation. It is suggested that 20ml syringes be filled using manual speed 4 in the MPS software and 5ml syringes be filled using manual speed 3.
3) Eliminate any bubbles in the SFM syringe by driving the SFM syringe up and down several times while it is connected to the reservoir syringe (Figure 61 Panel 4).
4) Turn the syringe valve handle to (**C**) (Figure 61 Panel 5).
5) Empty one or two elementary movements of the syringe(section 12.1) to definitively eliminate any bubbles remaining in SFM and cuvette.
6) Repeat the above process for the other syringes.

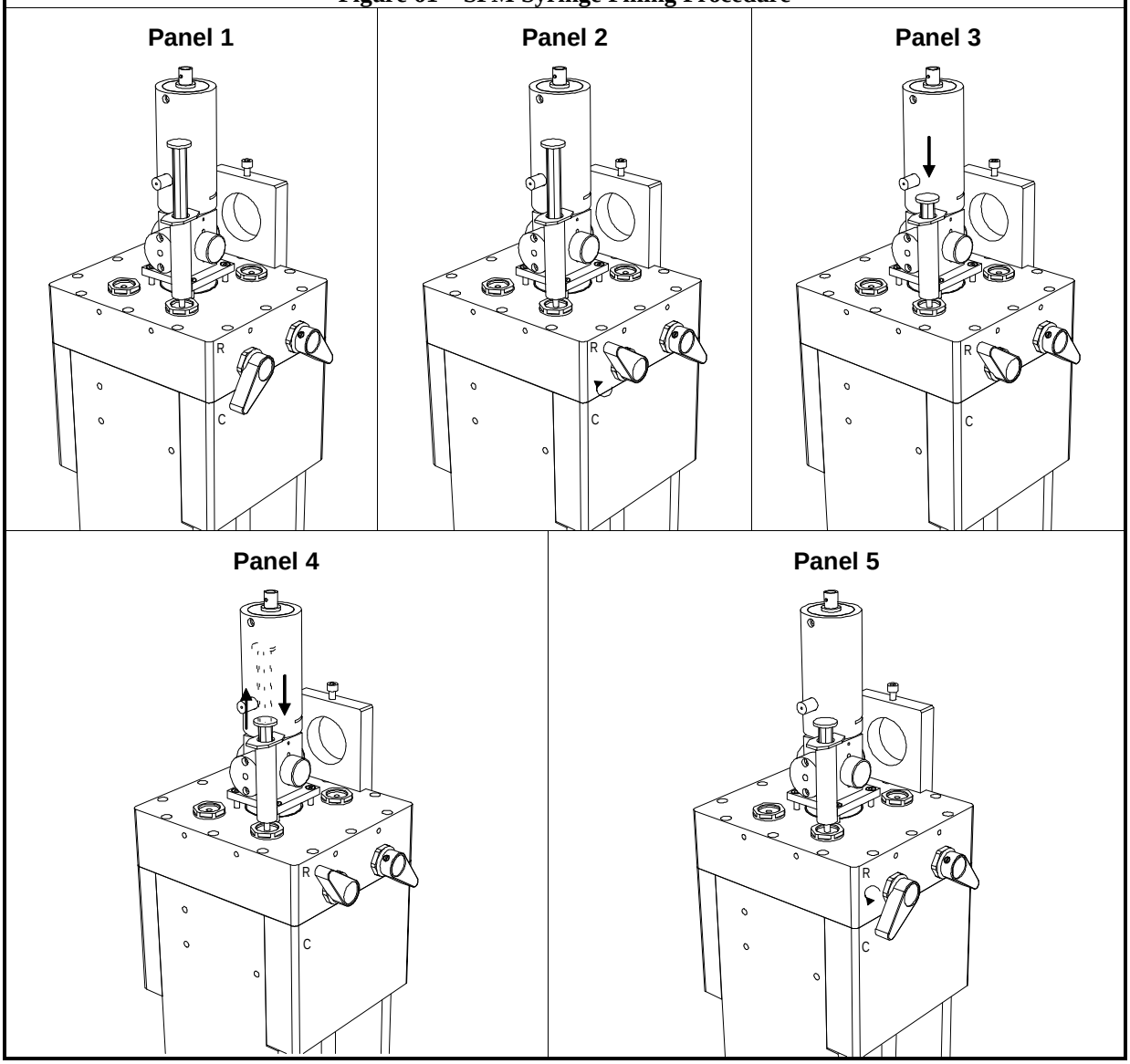
It is recommend that the syringes be filled in reverse numerical order to best remove bubbles from the SFM.

!IMPORTANT!: ALL SYRINGES MUST BE FILLED EVEN IF THEY WILL NOT BE USED FOR AN EXPERIMENT! The valve handles of the unused syringes should be turned to (R) after the filling process is complete.

The SFM is now ready for operation.

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Figure 61 – SFM Syringe Filling Procedure



12.4 SFM Cleaning and Storage

After each day's experiments the SFM should be cleaned. A thorough cleaning of the SFM will ensure that it has a long functional life and diminish any chance of sample contamination for the next user of the instrument. The procedure below is the recommended daily cleaning procedure to be done before shutting off the instrument.

1) Remove and remaining samples or buffer from the syringes.

2) Wash the syringes and flow lines 2 – 3 times with water. This is done by filling each syringe with water to a volume at least equal to the sample volume used for experiments. With the syringe valve handles set to (**C**), empty the syringes completely. Since the liquid will exit via the exit valve, it will wash the flow lines and exit valve as well as the syringes.

3) Wash the syringes and flow lines one time with 70 – 100% ethanol. Use the same procedure as in step 2).

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4) Dry the syringes, flow lines and cuvette with a single wash of air. Use the same procedure as in step 2). The syringes should be emptied in reverse numerical order so that all liquid is pushed out of the syringes, flow lines and exit valve.

   Set all syringe valve handles to (**R**) and move all syringes to their lowermost positions. The syringe plungers should exit the SFM so that the plunger tips are completely visible. If this is done using the MPS software it will be necessary to uncheck the **Up and Low Limits** checkbox in the software « **Syringes Command:Load** » window (Figure 60). Note: You may observe a few drops of liquid that fall from the syringes when the syringe plungers are completely out of the SFM. This is normal as a small amount of liquid is always trapped between the plunger tip and the syringe barrel to make a tight seal.

   !IMPORTANT!: Do not forget this step! The syringe plunger tips are made of Teflon. Pulling the syringe plungers out of the SFM each night allows the tips to expand and make a tight seal during use, minimizing any chance of leaks.

5) Turn all syringe valve handles to (**C**).

6) Turn off the MPS.

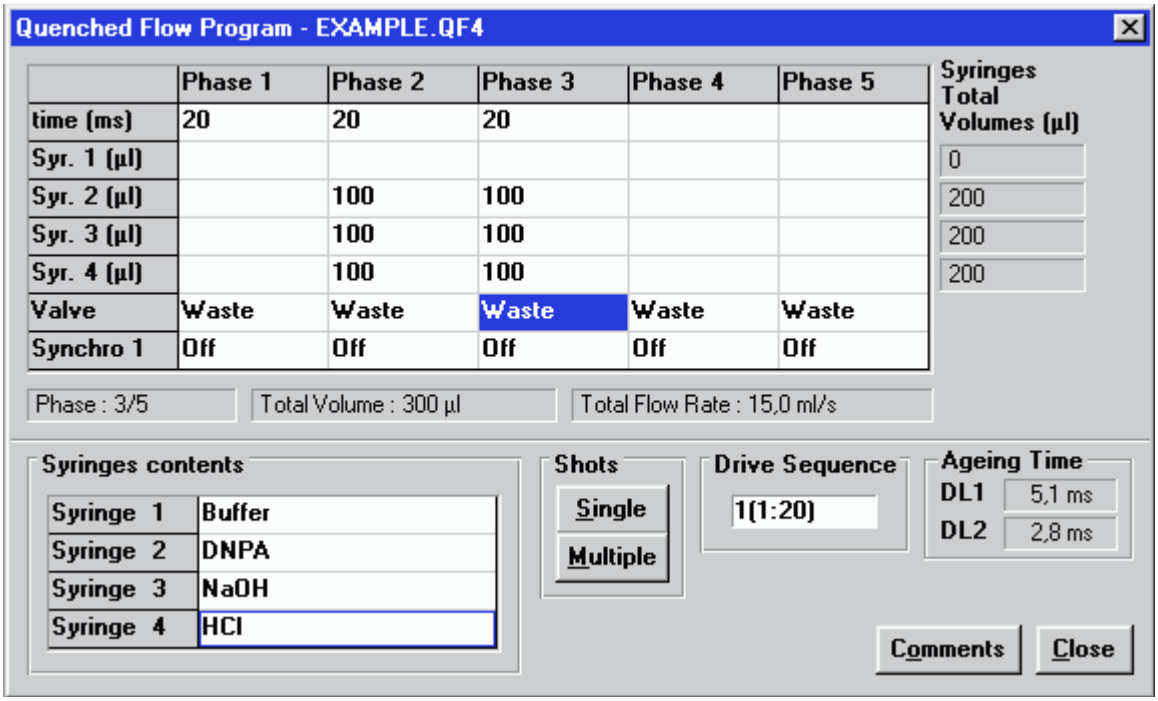
12.5 Long-term Storage of the SFM

If the SFM is not to be used for a long period of time (more than several weeks), it should be cleaned as above in section 12.4. If the SFM is connected to a circulation temperature bath, the temperature bath should be disconnected from the SFM and the SFM drained completely of all cooling liquid. Afterwards, it is recommended that the SFM cooling circuits be flushed with ethanol followed with air. The SFM is now ready to be stored.

12.6 Creating a Driving Sequence

Experiments are performed with the SFM through the use of a driving sequence. A driving sequence tells the SFM to automatically perform several functions such as moving the syringes and activating the exit valve. Driving sequences are created in the MPS software in the « **Quenched**

Figure 62 – MPS Software: Quenched Flow Program Window



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Flow Program » window available under the **Sequence Files** menu (Figure 62).

A driving sequence is entered in the program grid in the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window (Figure 62). Each column of the grid represents a driving sequence phase. Each phase contains actions for the SFM to perform. A complete driving sequence may contain from 1 to 20 phases. Although only 5 phases are shown initially, additional phases may be inserted using the **Insert Phase** command under the **Edit** menu.

Figure 63 shows an expanded view of the program grid. The duration of a phase is entered in ms (1 – 9999 ms/phase) on the first line of the program grid. The volume in µl delivered by each of the syringes during a phase is entered on the line next to the appropriate syringe. The position of the exit valve is set near the bottom of the program grid.

Figure 63 – MPS Software: Program Grid

	Phase 1	Phase 2
time (ms)	20	20
Syr. 1 (µl)		
Syr. 2 (µl)		100
Syr. 3 (µl)		100
Syr. 4 (µl)		100
Valve	Waste	Collect
Synchro 1	Off	Off

Phase Duration

Syringe Volumes

Exit Valve Position

To enter the phase duration and syringe volumes delivered, click on the corresponding cell or use the keyboard arrows keys to navigate between cells. The BACKSPACE key can be used for correction and the DEL key to clear a value. The position of the exit valve is set by pressing "W" for **Waste** and "C" for **Collect** on the keyboard.

Selected values entered in the program grid can be cut, copied and pasted using the **Cut, Copy** and **Paste** functions available under the **Edit** menu. To perform a cut, copy, or paste operation, select the area of the grid desired by dragging the mouse with the left mouse button pushed in and then choose the **Cut, Copy** or **Paste** functions desired under the **Edit** menu. The values will be stored in the Windows clipboard for the **Cut** and **Copy** functions. Values will be pasted from the Windows clipboard for the **Paste** function. If copy area is bigger than paste area, the operation is done only for values that can fit inside paste area.

!CAUTION!: Blank and non-numeric values entered in the program grid are considered as zero values. A phase duration of 0ms will cause the phase to be skipped in the execution of the drive sequence.

The contents of the syringes can be entered in the **Syringe Contents** frame of the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window (Figure 62 and Figure 64). The text is entered from the keyboard and the BACKSPACE and DEL keys can be used for corrections.

Figure 64 – MPS Software: Syringes Contents

Syringes contents

Syringe 1	H2O
Syringe 2	H2O
Syringe 3	H2O
Syringe 4	DCIP

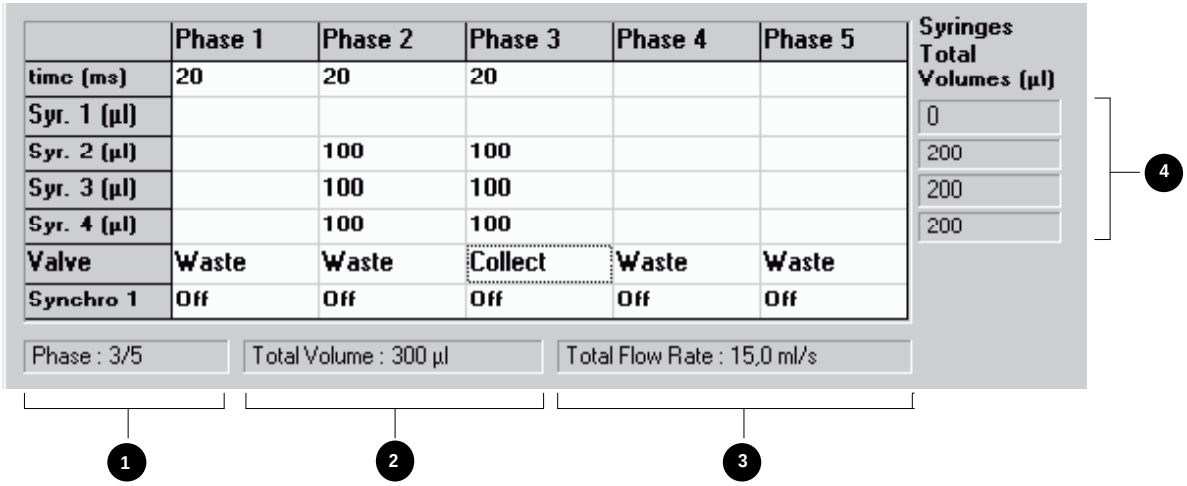
!IMPORTANT!: It is strongly recommend that users take advantage of this feature of the MPS software to keep track of the samples loaded into the SFM syringes.

Each time a program grid cell value is changed, information about the current syringe, current phase and driving sequence is updated displayed below and to the right of the grid (Figure 65). This information indicates:

1) Current phase number and total number phases in the driving sequence.
2) Volume delivered by the current syringe during the current phase or current phase total volume (if an entire phase is selected).
3) Flow rate of the current syringe during the current phase or current phase total flow rate (if an entire phase is selected).
4) Total volume delivered by each syringe during the driving sequence.

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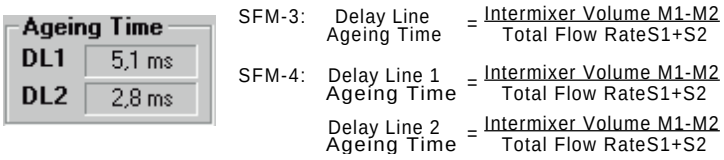
Figure 65 – MPS Software: Driving Sequence Information



An indication of the **Ageing Times** for a driving sequence are also displayed in the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window (Figure 62 and Figure 66).

The ageing times are calculated for the current phase selected based upon the syringes flow rates, delay lines installed and intermixer volumes (Figure 48 and Figure 49). The ageing times are calculated according to the equations shown in Figure 66.

Figure 66 – MPS Software: Ageing Times



$$\text{SFM-3: Delay Line Ageing Time} = \frac{\text{Intermixer Volume M1-M2}}{\text{Total Flow RateS1+S2}}$$

$$\text{SFM-4: Delay Line 1 Ageing Time} = \frac{\text{Intermixer Volume M1-M2}}{\text{Total Flow RateS1+S2}}$$

$$\text{Delay Line 2 Ageing Time} = \frac{\text{Intermixer Volume M1-M2}}{\text{Total Flow RateS1+S2}}$$

The MPS software provides the possibility to repeat phases a number of times in virtually any order. This is accomplished though a macro sequence entered in the **Drive Sequence** frame of the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window (Figure 67). The macro sequence can be edited to run a single phases or many phases in a different order than present in the program grid. The syntax of the macro is described in detail in the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 6).

Figure 67 – MPS Software: Drive Sequence Macro



12.7 Incubation Period

An incubation period between two flow phases can be programmed by simply entering a phase duration for the phase and zero for all the syringe volumes.

12.8 Accelerations Phases

With ordinary aqueous solutions, the SFM motors can drive the syringes up to a flow rate of 6 ml/s for a 20 ml syringe, without acceleration phase (Table 1). It is possible to push solutions at faster

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flow rates provided an acceleration phase is added to the driving sequence. As noted in section 11.5, the MPS Software can be configured for two different acceleration phases modes: automatic and manual.

!CAUTION!: Because a motor could stall even with the use of acceleration phases, it is strongly recommended that driving sequences using acceleration phases be tested on inexpensive solutions before using precious samples. Ideally, the driving sequences should be tested using solutions as close as possible to those in the real experiment.

Automatic Mode: In this mode, the MPS software **automatically calculates an acceleration phase** for the driving sequence when a syringe flow rate exceeds the nominal maximum flow rate (Table 1 and Table 8). The acceleration phase has a duration of 5ms and accelerates the syringe to ~83% of it's nominal maximum flow rate. An automatic acceleration phase example is shown in Figure 31. The MPS software cannot calculate an acceleration phase for phases that have a duration of 5ms or less. The MPS program will request than a longer phase duration be used.

Table 8 – Acceleration Phases

AUTOMATIC ACCELERATION PHASES		
Syringe Size	**Nominal Maximum Flow Rate**	**Acceleration Phase**
30 ml	8 ml/s	Time 5ms Volume 34µl
20 ml	6 ml/s	Time 5ms Volume 25µl
5 ml	1.32 ml/s	Time 5ms Volume 5.5µl

Figure 68 – MPS Software: Automatic Accretion Phase Example

In the driving sequence below, all syringes are 20 ml.

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	TOTAL VOLUME
TIME	20ms	50ms	
Syringe 1			
Syringe 2		400µl (8 ml/s)	400µl
Syringe 3		300µl (6 ml/s)	300µl

Syringe 2 exceeds the nominal flow rate maximum of 6 ml/s.

The MPS software calculates an acceleration phase as show below.

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	TOTAL VOLUME
TIME	20ms	5ms	45ms	
Syringe 1				
Syringe 2		25µl (5 ml/s)	360µl (8 ml/s)	385µl
Syringe 3		30µl (6 ml/s)	270µl (6 ml/s)	300µl

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!IMPORTANT!: Because flow rate is reduced during acceleration phase, and that the total time does not change, the total volume of the accelerated syringe will be *less* than the total volume of the original driving sequence (Figure 68). The MPS software does NOT update the driving sequence on the screen to reflect an acceleration phase. It is therefore recommend that the automatic mode of accelerations phases be used only when the volume delivered is not a critical factor in the experiments.

Manual Mode: In this mode, the MPS software will not calculate an acceleration phase. It is left to the user to manually design a driving sequence including any necessary acceleration phases.

For more information about acceleration phases, see the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 6).

12.9 Programmable Synchronization Pulses (Triggers)

The MPS can be programmed to deliver synchronization pulses (triggers). These pulses are TTL pulses (0 or 5 Volt) and delivered from BNC connectors **Synchro out 1**, $\overline{\textbf{Synchro out 1}}$ and **Synchro out 2** on the front panel of the MPS (Figure 2). Both **Synchro out 1** and **Synchro out 2** are rising triggers (0→5 V). $\overline{\textbf{Synchro out 1}}$ is the simply the inverse of **Synchro out 1** and is a falling trigger (5→0 V).

The triggers can be used to synchronize the SFM and other instruments.

The timing of the triggers with respect to the drive sequence is programmed in the last line(s) of the program grid in the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window (Figure 62). The duration of the pulse will be equal to the duration of the phase. In quenched-flow mode, only **Synchro out 1** is available for programming.

12.10 Saving or Loading Driving Sequences

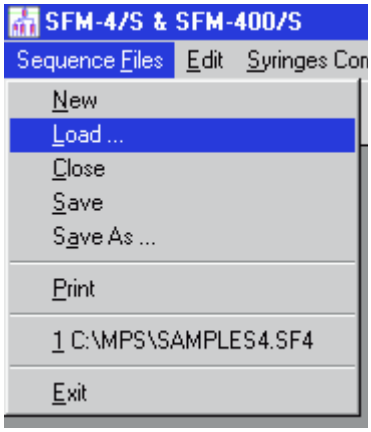
Driving sequence can be saved as files on the hard drive of the microcomputer. In this way, a series of driving sequences for different experiments can be prepared in advance and subsequently loaded as needed.

Files are saved or loaded using the **Save** or **Load** functions under the **Sequence Files** menu (Figure 69)

Files are saved using filenames up to 8 characters in length.

More information about saving or loading driving sequences can be found in the *MPS Software User's Manual* (chapter 6).

Figure 69 – MPS Software: Load/Save Driving Sequences



12.11 Running in Automatic Mode

Once a driving sequence has been entered or loaded, it is transferred to the MPS by pushing the **Single** or **Multiple** button in the **Shots** frame of the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window (Figure 62 and Figure 70). The MPS is now in automatic mode and the « **Program Run** » window will be displayed (Figure 70).

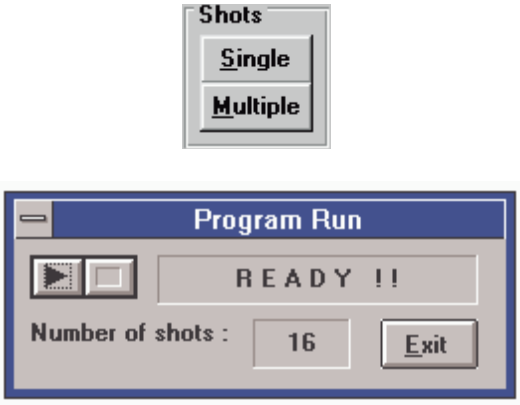
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The « **Program Run** » window shows the number of shots possible based the current volumes in the SFM syringes. It also indicates whether the SFM is running a driving sequence or ready for the next shot. A driving sequence is executed by pushing the button or the **start-stop** button on the front panel of the MPS (Figure 2). The button can be used to terminate an experiment prematurely if necessary.

If the **Single** button was used to transfer the driving sequence to the MPS, only a single shot can be made. The Exit button must then be pushed to return to the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window and the **Single** button must be pushed again to re-transfer the driving sequence to the MPS for a subsequent shot.

If the **Multiple** button was used to transfer the driving sequence to the MPS, the button can be used to execute shots until the « **Program Run** » window shows that 0 shots remain. The Exit button is then pushed to return to the « **Quenched Flow Program** » window.

Figure 70 – MPS Software: Shots Frame and Program Run Window



!IMPORTANT!: Before running in automatic mode, verify that the syringe valve handles of the syringe used in the driving sequence are set to (C) and unused syringes set to (R).

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13 A SHORT QUENCHED-FLOW PRIMER

This section describes the basics of the quenched-flow technique and provides some general advice about how to design and perform quenched-flow experiments using the SFM. It is not meant to be an exhaustive reference as there are many variations on the quenched-flow experiment too numerous to describe here. We invite the user to explore the references listed below to learn more about rapid mixing and the quenched-flow technique:

Barman, T.E. and Gutfreund, H. (1964), in Rapid Mixing and Sampling Techniques in Biochemistry. (Ed. B. Chance, R.H. Eisenhardt, Q.H. Gibson and K.K. Lonberg-Holm, Eds.). Academic Press, London, pp. 339-344.

Gutfreund, H. (1969), *Methods in Enzymology*, 16, 229-249.

Barman, T.E. and Travers, F., *Methods of Biochemical Analysis* (1985), Vol. 31, 1-59.

13.1 General Principle of Quenched-Flow Experiments

The simplest quenched-flow experiment consists of three stages: mix, age and quench. Complex experiments may involve more stages, but for example purposes only a three-stage experiment is discussed here.

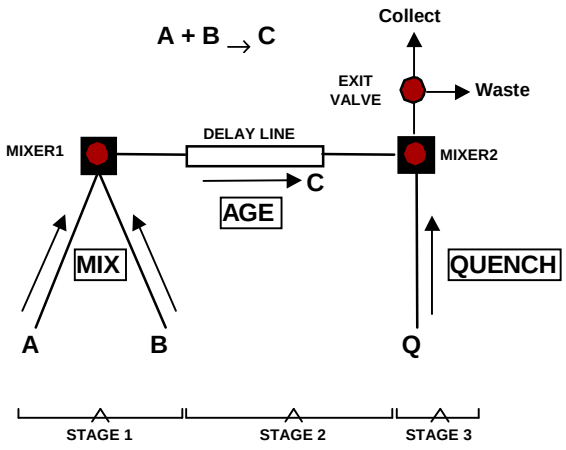
Figure 71 shows a schematic of a quenched-flow experiment. The reaction considered is **A** + **B** → **C**, where the reaction can be stopped at any time by the addition of quencher, **Q**.

Mix: In the first stage, flow is initiated by two plungers. The plungers force the reactants **A** and **B** through a mixer where they are mixed and the reaction initiated and starts to produce **C**.

Age: In the second stage, the plungers push the sample (reaction mixture) through a delay line to the second mixer. The sample ages (reacts) as it travels through the delay line until it reaches the second mixer where it is quenched.

Quench: As the sample passes through the second mixer it is mixed with the quencher **Q** which stops the reaction. The resulting solution is then collected for analysis of the quantity of **C** produced during the experiment.

Figure 71 – Quenched-Flow Experiment Scheme



The age of the sample (t_{age}) is the total time between the start of the reaction in and the moment it is quenched. The age will depend on the total flow rate through the delay line and the intermixer volume as described in section 10.3. It can also depend on the duration of a pause in the flow that allows the sample to age for long times (see section 13.2.1.2). A quenched-flow study will consist of numerous experiments where t_{age} is varied for each experiment. At the end of the study, a kinetic trace can be constructed by plotting t_{age} vs. the results of each sample analysis.

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13.2 Design and Execution of Quenched-Flow Experiments

Experiments are designed using the MPS software to create a driving sequence. This is accomplished by filling-in elements of program grid as described in section 12.6.

The number of phases contained in an experiment driving sequence and the function of each phase will depend on the process being examined, the ageing method and the sample collection method. The sections below describe the different methods to age and collect the sample with the SFM.

!IMPORTANT!: The experiment stages introduced in the previous section are simply a conceptual image. It is essential to separate the idea of experiment stages from that of driving sequence phases. Although a quenched-flow experiment may have many stages, it is possible that multiple stages occur at the same time or that an entire experiment can be executed in a single driving sequence phase.

13.2.1 AGEING METHODS

Samples can be aged with the SFM using two different methods: the continuous flow method or the interrupted flow method.

13.2.1.1 Continuous flow method

In the continuous flow method, sample flow is continuous from the start of the reaction through sample collection. The sample age is dependent only on the intermixer volume and the total flow rate through the intermixer volume. In this case:

$$\mathbf{t_{age} = (Intermixer\ volume)/(Flow\ rate\ through\ intermixer\ volume)}$$

The sample age can then be adjusted by changing the intermixer volume or the flow rate through the intermixer volume. The intermixer volume is modified by introducing delay lines of different volumes (section 10.2). The flow rate through the intermixer volume is modified by changing the flow rate of the syringes in the MPS software (section 12.6). The use of stepping motors in the SFM allows a large range of syringe flow rates to be programmed and many t_{age} values achieved with minimal change of delay lines. In addition, unlike pneumatic based systems, the flow rates are independent of viscosity and temperature.

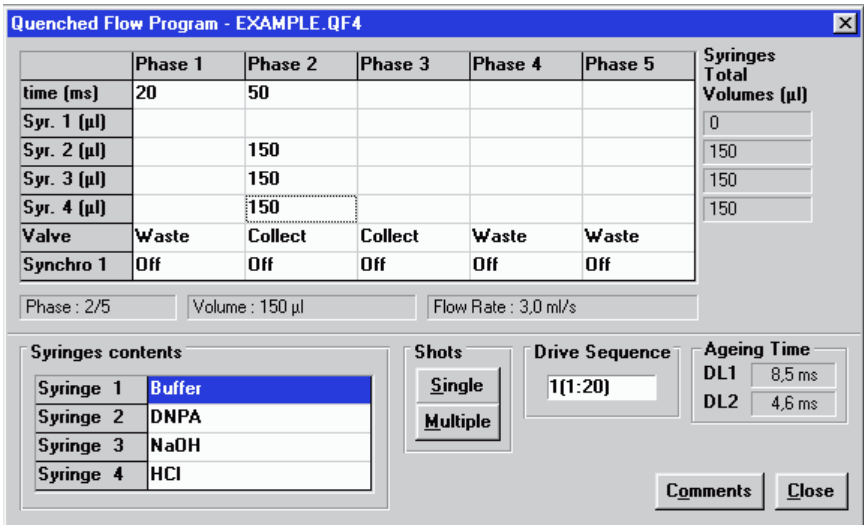
An example driving sequence using the continuous flow method is shown in Figure 72. It should be noted that the experiment is performed only in Phase 2 of the driving sequence. This phase encompasses all stages (mixing, ageing and quenching) of the of experiment. No delay line is used. The intermixer volume for mixers 2 and 3 is then 27.6 µl (Figure 49) and the total flow through the intermixer volume is 6 ml/s which indicates:

$$\mathbf{t_{age} = \frac{27.6\ \mu l}{6\ mL/s} = 4.6\ ms}$$

The continuous flow method is generally used to study reactions from 1 to ~100ms. It is generally the most economic ageing method with respect to sample consumption within this time range.

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Figure 72 – Example Continuous Flow Experiment



13.2.1.2 Interrupted flow method

In the interrupted flow method, the sample is transiently stored in the intermixer volume for a programmed incubation period before being mixed with the quencher. Under these conditions t_{age} depends on the intermixer volume, the total flow rate as the sample enters the intermixer volume, the total flow rate as the sample exits the intermixer volume and the incubation period of the sample in the intermixer volume.

$$\mathbf{t_{age} = t_{flow} + t_{pause}}$$

where,

$$\mathbf{t_{flow}} = \frac{\textbf{Intermixer volume}}{\textbf{Flow rate through intermixer volume}}$$

$$\mathbf{t_{pause}} = \textbf{Time sample is transiently stored in the intermixer volume}$$

As with the continuous flow method, the intermixer volume and flow rates can be modified by introducing different delay lines and modifying syringe flow rates in the MPS software.

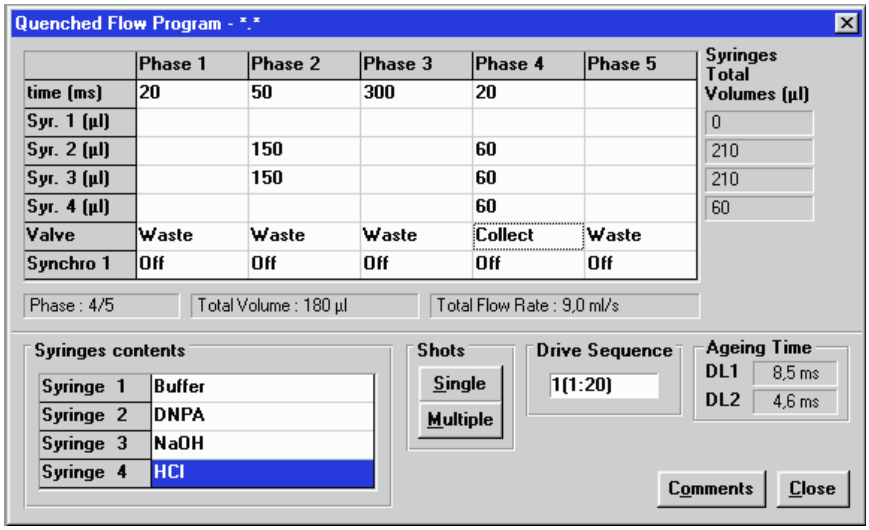
!IMPORTANT!: To obtain uniform ageing of the sample, the flow rate of the sample entering the delay line must always equal the flow rate of the sample exiting the delay line!

An example driving sequence using the interrupted flow method is shown in Figure 73. The experiment is performed in Phases 2 – 4. In phase 2 the reactants are mixed and the intermixer volume filled with sample. In Phase 3 the sample is allowed to age for 300 ms. In phase 4 the sample is pushed out of the intermixer volume, quenched and collected. No delay line is used. The intermixer volume for mixers 2 and 3 is then 27.6 µl (Figure 49) and the total flow through the intermixer volume upon sample entry and exit is 6 ml/s which indicates:

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$$t_{age} = \frac{(t_{flow})}{\frac{27.6\ \mu l}{6\ mL/s}} + \underset{(t_{pause})}{300\ ms} = 304.6\ ms$$

Figure 73 – Example Interrupted Flow Experiment



It is important to note that not all the sample can be recovered from the intermixer volume without contamination. This is because unwanted mixing occurs at each end of the intermixer volume by diffusion during the incubation period. The fraction of the sample that remains uncontaminated must be determined experimentally and an example procedure is provided in section 14.4.

The interrupted flow method allows samples to be aged for several 10's of ms to several seconds or longer. It generally uses more sample than the continuous flow method. This is due to the fact that only a portion of uncontaminated sample can be recovered and sometimes necessitates multiple repetitions of the same experiment to achieve sufficient sample volume for analysis.

13.2.2 COLLECTION METHODS

Section 10.4 described how sample can be recovered from a quenched-flow experiment with the SFM. The sections below describe how sample collection is incorporated into a driving sequence.

13.2.2.1 Total liquid collection

If the total liquid collection method is chosen for sample recovery the exit valve position is set constant throughout the experiment. The exit valve should be set to **Waste** if the free-flow method is used and **Collect** if pipette/syringe collection is used.

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In general, total liquid collection will be used only with the continuous flow ageing method (section 13.2.1.1) and when large volumes (> 1 ml) of sample need to be collected and contamination from previously reacted sample can be neglected. In such situations, all stages (mix, age and quench) of the experiments will occur in a single phase as shown in Figure 72.

13.2.2.2 Partial liquid collection

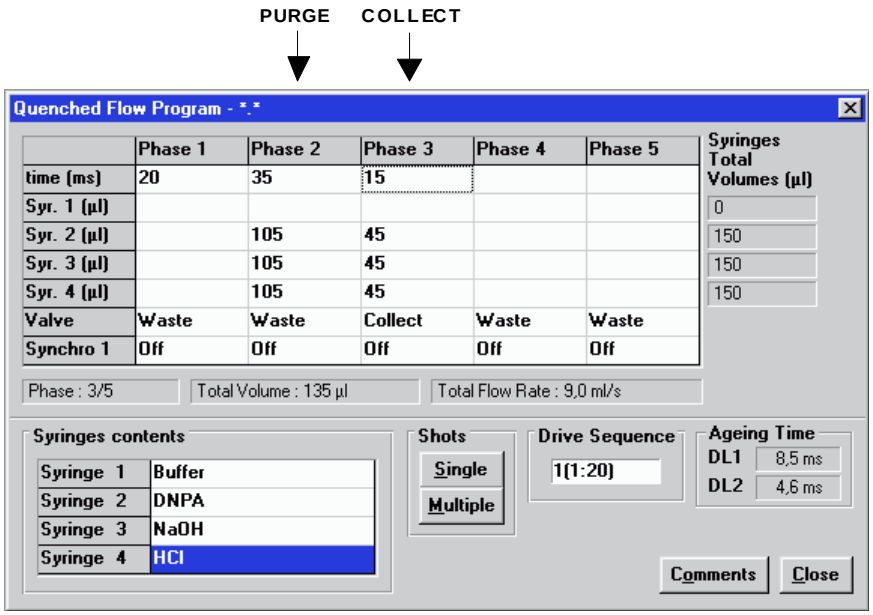
Sample collection in experiments using the partial liquid collection method is divided into two parts: purge and collect.

Purge: Reactants are mixed, aged and the reaction quenched, but the exit valve is set to **Waste** and the exiting liquid is not recovered.. The purge serves to evacuate all old reaction mixture from the SFM, wash the flow lines free of any contamination and fill the flow lines with new, uncontaminated sample.

Collect: The exit valve is set to **Collect** and new, uncontaminated sample is pushed from the SFM into a pipette or syringe.

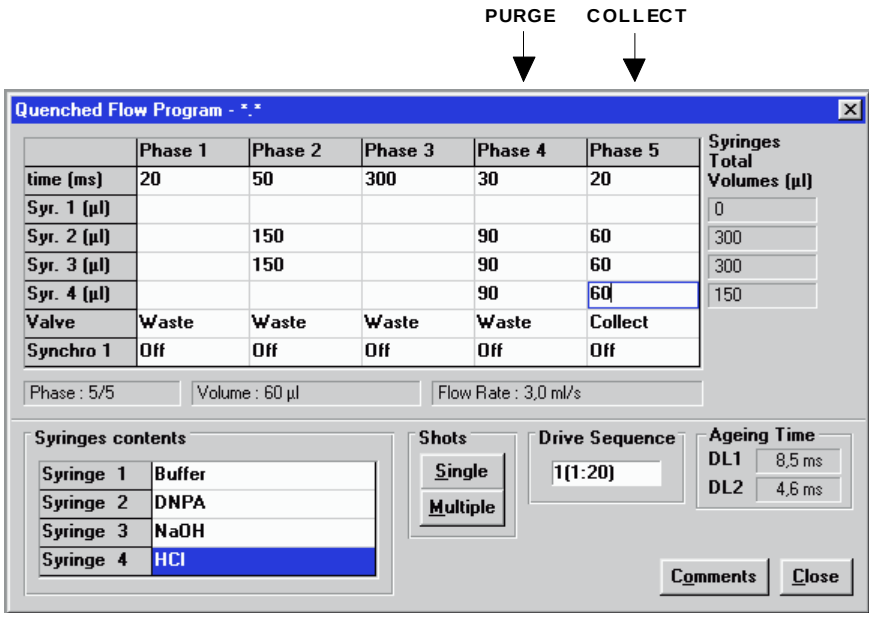
The partial liquid collection method can be used with either the continuous or interrupted flow ageing method (section 13.2.1). Example driving sequences using the partial liquid collection method with continuous flow ageing and interrupted flow ageing are shown in Figure 74 and Figure 75 respectively.

Figure 74 – Partial Liquid Collection with Continuous Flow Ageing



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Figure 75 – Partial Liquid Collection with Interrupted Flow Ageing



!IMPORTANT!: The flow rate of the sample during the purge and collect steps must be equivalent! If the flow rate during the two steps is different the sample collected will not have a uniform age.

!CAUTION!: As noted in section 10.4.2, the purge volume should be a minimum of 3-5× the flow line volumes (section 10.3) to ensure only uncontaminated sample is collected. Larger volumes may be necessary and it is recommend that test experiments be performed to optimize the volume needed to minimize sample contamination. An example procedure to determine the purge volume needed is provided in section 14.3.

13.3 General Advice for Quenched-Flow Experiments

13.3.1 SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS

To achieve successful results from quenched-flow experiments and optimal performance of the SFM, it is imperative that the specifications of the SFM and its components be respected at all times. The specifications are provide in Table 1. . It is recommend that each experiment driving sequence be examined carefully for compliance with the SFM specifications before execution.

13.3.2 TEST EXPERIMENTS

It is strongly recommend that all driving sequences be tested with non-precious samples. Although such tests may be time-consuming, they maximize experiment success by ensuring that a majority of miscalculations and mistakes will be found and avoided.

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13.3.3 MINIMIZING SAMPLE CONTAMINATION

The accuracy and precision of quenched-flow experiments depend on quality of the sample collect from the SFM. Sample contamination can be minimized by optimizing the volume needed to wash all contamination from the SFM flow lines during a given experiment. This is best achieved by performing test experiments similar to that described in section 14.3 and adapting them as close as possible to true experimental conditions (temperature, viscosity, etc. . .).

13.3.4 MINIMIZING REACTANT CONSUMPTION

In some instances it is desired to minimize the consumption of one or two reactants in a quenched-flow experiment (e.g. a protein in low supply or radioactively labeled DNA). Some suggestions to do so are provided below.

13.3.4.1 Choosing the best ageing method

As mentioned in sections 13.2.1.1 and 13.2.1.2, the continuous flow and interrupted flow ageing methods work best for ageing times of 1- ~100ms and ~100ms to several seconds respectively. These ranges are meant to be guidelines and not strict requirements. It is worthwhile to explore the application of both ageing methods to the design of an experiment to see which method best economizes the use of reactants. An example situation with a double dilution experiment is shown in Figure 76.

13.3.4.2 Moving sample with non-precious components

When using the partial liquid collection method, a non-precious component (e.g. buffer) may be used to push the sample during the collect step. An example of this is shown in interrupted flow step of Figure 76. To minimize sample contamination, such movement of the sample should only be done if the flow line volume is much large than the volume to be collected.

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Figure 76 – Ageing Methods Comparison Example

In this example, a double-dilution experiment is performed where the sample from the first dilution is aged before for a time, Ta, before the second dilution/quench.

S1: Protein
S2: Label
S3: Quencher

Delay lines used are noted below.

For a Ta = 100ms, both the continuous and interrupted flow ageing methods are evaluated for sample economy.

Continuous Flow

This method uses a 90µl delay line (intermixer volume of 116.7)

Time (ms)	308	Total Volume Used (µl)
S1 (Protein)	60	60
S2 (Label)	300	300
S3 (Quencher)	1800	1800

Using this driving sequence: Ta = (116.7µl)/(1.169ml/s) = 100 ms (99.8 ms)

Interrupted Flow

In this method a 17µl delay line is used (intermixer volume of 43.8µl)

Time (ms)	110	40	30	Total Volume Used (µl)	
S1 (Protein)	20	-	-	20	3x less than continuous flow method
S2 (Label)	100	-	33	140	2.1x less than continuous flow method
S3 (Quencher)	-	-	165	200	9x less than continuous flow method

In the first phase, the flow between the two mixers is 1.1 ml/s ageing the sample a total of 40 ms. The second phase incubates the sample for 20 ms. The third phase mixes the sample in the intermixer volume with S3. NOTE: The sample is pushed out of the intermixer volume using ONLY buffer and with a flow rate EQUAL to the flow rate the sample entered the intermixer volume. In this fashion the sample is aged the same entering and exiting the intermixer volume. Upon exiting the intermixer volume, the sample is aged 40 ms. The total ageing of the sample is 100 ms.

In this example the interrupted flow method is the more sample economic ageing method.

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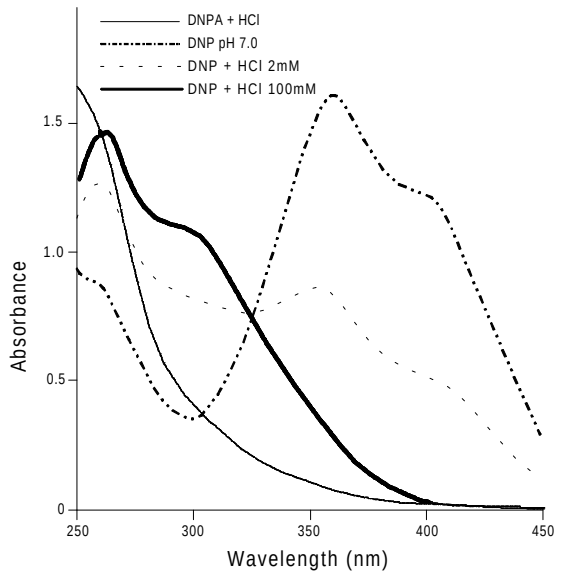
14 TEST REACTIONS

14.1 Alkaline Hydrolysis of 2,4-Dinitrophenyl Acetate (DNPA)

A complete description of the alkaline hydrolysis of 2,4-dinitrophenyl acetate (DNPA) can be found in: Gutfreund, H. (1969), *Methods in Enzymology*, 16, 229-249.

DNPA can be hydrolyzed by OH^- to 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP). At 20°C the reaction has a second order rate constant in water of 56 $M^{-1}s^{-1}$. Conditions can easily be set to make the concentration of OH^- sufficiently larger than that of DNPA so that the reaction occurs under pseudo first-order conditions with an apparent rate constant, k_{app}, of 56 $s^{-1} \times [OH^-]$ (NOTE: The $[OH^-]$ is the concentration of OH^- after mixing with DNPA). The reaction can be quenched at any time by addition of excess acid and the amount of DNP produced determined by absorbance at 325nm. Figure 77 shows the absorbance spectrum of DNPA and DNP under various conditions of pH. It can be see that the absorbance spectrum of DNP changes with pH, but there is a clear isobestic point at 325nm.

Figure 77 – DNPA/DNP Absorbance Spectra



These properties make the alkaline hydrolysis of DNPA a useful tool for the testing of a quenched-flow instrument. The reaction can also be followed by the stopped-flow technique, omitting the acid quench.

Experimental Conditions:

Syringe 1: Water

Syringe 2: 1 mM DNPA, 1%(v/v) DMSO, 2 mM HCl

Syringe 3: 1 M NaOH

Syringe 4: 2 M HCl

Delay Line 1: 17µl

Delay Line 2 190µl

Sample Preparation:

Make 1 ml of 100 mM DNPA in fresh DMSO (22.6 mg DNPA/ml DMSO; The solution may turn slightly yellow as the DNPA dissolves. As the solution ages, the yellow color will intensify. For best results, it is recommended to use the freshest possible DMSO and prepare new samples each day.).

1) Prepare a 2 M HCl solution by mixing 8.3 ml concentrated HCl with 50 ml of water.

2) Prepare a 1 M NaOH solution by dissolving 2g of NaOH in 50 ml of water.

3) Prepare the working DNPA solution by mixing

   49.45 ml water

   50 µl 2 M HCl

   500 µl 100 mM DNPA in DMSO

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Driving Sequence: Various ageing times for the reaction achieved by varying the intermixer volume (M2-M3) and the flow rate through the intermixer volume. The general format of the driving sequence is shown below and the delay lines and flow rates used are given in Table 9.

PHASE	1	2	3
Time (ms)	20	T	T
S1: Water		-	-
S2: DNPA		300	300
S3: NaOH		300	300
S4: HCl		300	300
Exit Valve:	Waste	Waste	Collect

Table 9 – DNPA Experiment Parameters

T (ms)	INTERMIXER VOLUME (M2-M3) FLOW RATE (ml/s)	t_{age} (ms)
50	12	18
100	6	35
150	4	53
200	3	71
300	2	106
450	1.333	159
600	1	212
1000	0.6	353

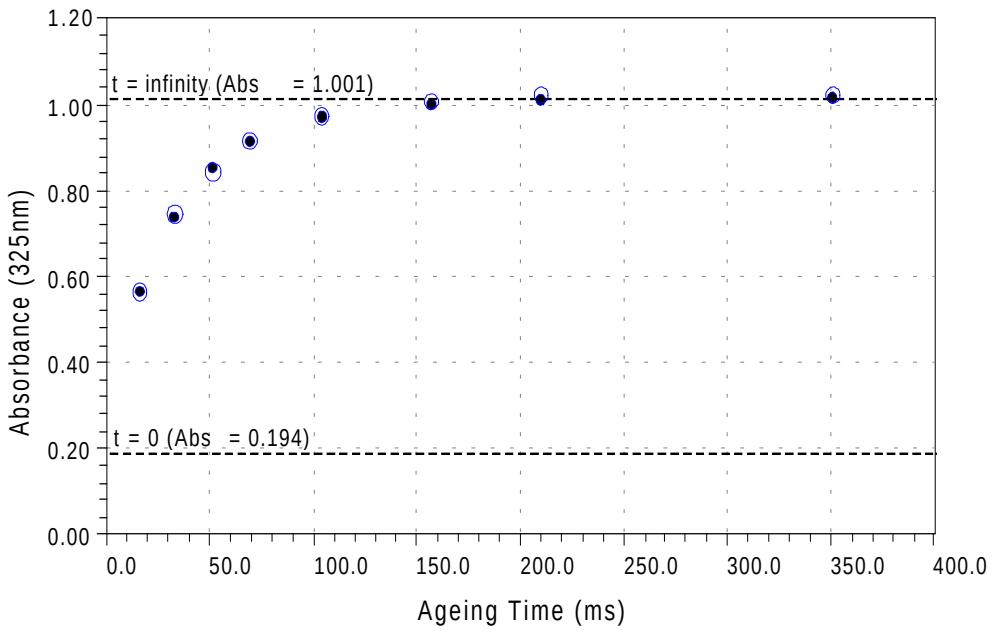
!IMPORTANT!: This reaction is very sensitive to contamination! The experiments must be performed from smallest t_{age} to the largest (least to most DNP produced) so that contamination of subsequent shots is kept to a minimum.

Three shots were performed for each t_{age}. The first shot was discarded and the second and third shots kept for analysis. A t_{age} = 0 ms sample was prepared by hand by mixing 300µl of the DNPA solution with 300 µl of water and 300 µl of 2 M HCl. A t_{age} = ∞ sample was prepared by hand by mixing 300µl of the DNPA solution with 300 µl of 1 M NaOH and 300 µl of 2 M HCl

The absorbance of DNP at 325 nm was measured for each ageing time. The absorbance was measured for 500µl of each sample mixed with 500µl of water in a 1cm path length cuvette. The results were plotted against the ageing times as shown in Figure 78. The apparent first-order rate constant determined from Figure 78 is 28 s^{-1} which yields a second order rate constant of 56 $M^{-1}s^{-1}$ for a final $[OH^-]$ of 0.5 M.

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Figure 78 – DNPA Experiment Results



This experiment was done entirely using the continuous flow ageing method. The interrupted flow ageing method could also have been used for the longer time points, with the same results.

14.2 Calculation of Hydrodynamic Volumes from Kinetic Data

As indicated in section 10.3, the volumes supplied in this manual are the *mechanical* volumes. The *hydrodynamical* volumes may vary slightly around these values and in some instances it may be necessary to determine the hydrodynamic intermixer volumes. The results of the DNPA experiment in the previous section can be used to determine the hydrodynamical intermixer volumes. A procedure for determining the hydrodynamical volume of Delay Line 2 is provided below.

1) Using the data from the DNPA experiment in the previous section, calculate the fraction of reaction complete (**Y**) for each ageing time according to the equation:

$$Y = \frac{A(t) - A(0)}{A(\infty) - A(0)}$$

where A(t) is the absorbance at 325nm at ageing time t, A(0) is the absorbance at $t_{age} = 0$ and A(∞) is the absorbance at $t_{age} = \infty$.

2) Using **Y** from step 1) above and the pseudo first-order rate constant measured, calculate the actual ageing time **Ta** for each point from:

$$Ta = 1000 \times \frac{\ln(C(0)) - \ln(C(t))}{k}$$

$$= 1000 \times \frac{\ln(0.5) - \ln(0.5 \times (1-Y))}{k}$$

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where C(0) is the DNPA concentration at t_{age} = 0 (0.5 mM for the experiment in the previous section), C(t) is the DNPA concentration at time t and k is in s^{-1}. The units of **Ta** are ms.

3) The hydrodynamical intermixer volume (M2-M3) can then be calculated from

$$\text{Volume} = \frac{F}{Ta}$$

where **F** is the total flow through the intermixer volume in µl/s. Since the hydrodynamical intermixer volume can be calculated for each **Ta**, the mean and standard deviation of the volume can easily be determined.

14.3 Washing Efficiency

To obtain the best results from quenched-flow experiments, it is necessary to minimize sample contamination. The most common source of sample contamination is inefficient washing of old, reacted sample from the flow lines and intermixer volumes before sample collection. The simplest method of determining the volume needed to efficiently wash (or purge) the flow lines and intermixer volumes is to carry out multiple experiments with increasing purge volumes until there are no differences in experimental results. In many cases this is impractical due to the cost or availability of one or more experimental components.

The procedure below uses the DNPA experiment (14.1) to provide an example of how to determine the volume needed to efficiently wash (or purge) the flow lines and intermixer volumes using inexpensive and readily available materials. In this example, the needed volume for intermixer volume M2-M3 is determined. The procedure can be adapted as needed to various experimental conditions and systems.

Experimental Conditions:

Syringe 1: Water
Syringe 2: 1 mM DNPA, 1%(v/v) DMSO, 2 mM HCl
Syringe 3: 1 M NaOH
Syringe 4: 2 M HCl
Delay Line 1: Variable0
Delay Line 2 Variable

Driving Sequence:

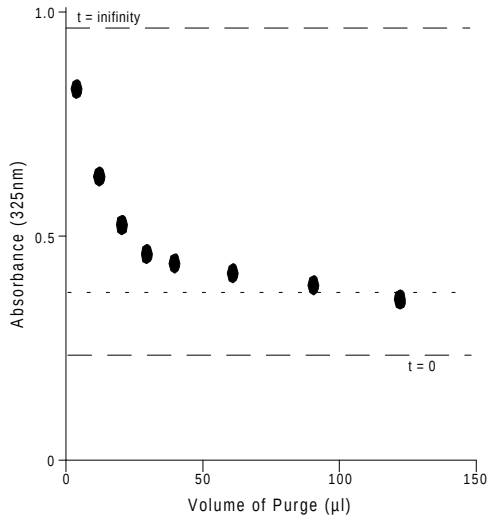
PHASE	1	2	3	4
Time (ms)	20	T	0	30
S1: Water		-		-
S2: DNPA		V		60
S3: NaOH		V		60
S4: HCl		V		60
Exit Valve:	Waste	Waste	Waste	Collect

Where V is varied from 0 in small increments until the results indicate complete washing on the intermixer volume. T is varied so that the total flow rate in phase 2 is equal to that in phase 4.

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The results of an experiment performed with no delay lines installed is shown in Figure 79. It should be remembered that the purge volume is the volume flowing into intermixer volume M2-M3 and equal to S2 + S3 (2 × V). It can be clearly seen that the reaction products collected after using a purge volume of zero are completely contaminated by the old reaction mixture that remained in the instrument before sample collection. The results in Figure 79 indicate that a minimum purge volume of 25-30µl is necessary to wash most of the old reaction from the intermixer volume.

Figure 79 – Washing Efficiency



14.4 Recovery of Uncontaminated Material in Intermixer Volume

In the interrupted mode, the reaction mixture is transiently stored in the intermixer volume. During this incubation period, unwanted mixing occurs at both ends of the intermixer volume so that only a fraction of the mixture contained therein can be recovered. The experiment described below is intended to give an estimate of the uncontaminated fraction that can be recovered. The procedure provided in the experiment can easily be adapted to various incubation times and experimental conditions.

Experimental Conditions:

Syringe 1: Water
Syringe 2: 1 mM DNPA, 1%(v/v) DMSO, 2 mM HCl
Syringe 3: 1 M NaOH
Syringe 4: 2 M HCl
Delay Line 1: 17 µl
Delay Line 2 190 µl

Driving Sequence:

PHASE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Time (ms)	20	50	50	3000	0	T	20
S1: Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S2: DNPA	-	150	-	-	-	V	30
S3: NaOH	-	150	-	-	-	V	30
S4: HCl	-	-	150	-	-	V	30
Exit Valve:	Waste	Waste	Waste	Waste	Waste	Waste	Collect

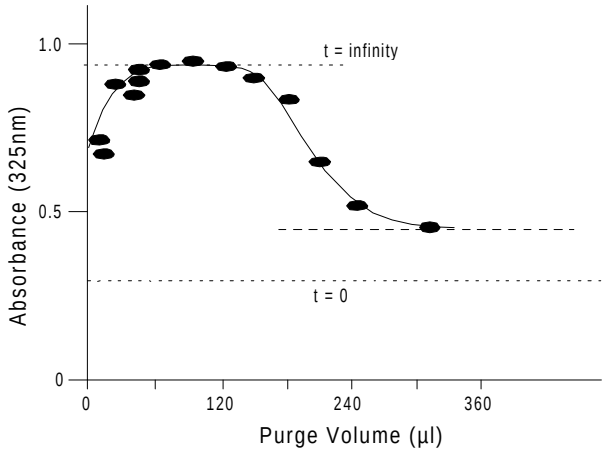
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Where V is varied from 0 in small increments until ~2× the intermixer volume. T is varied so that the total flow rate in Phase 6 is equal to that in Phase 7.

This experiment is designed to test intermixer volume M2-M3. In Phase 2, DNPA and NaOH are pushed through the delay line and then to waste. The second phase is used to wash the last mixer with HCl. The reaction mixture is then allowed to age for several seconds in the delay line (Phase 4). Phase 6 corresponds to the purge of the delay line, the solution being pushed and evacuated to waste. The purge volume is again equal to S2+S3 (2 x V). After the purge, 60µl of the reaction mixture is collected and measured.

The results of this test are shown as a function of purge volume in Figure 80. Due to the long ageing time in Phase 4, the solution collected in the last phase should correspond to the full reaction (t = ∞). Contamination on the leading edge of the liquid column contained in the delay line is observed when the volume of the purge is zero. Contamination on the trailing edge is observed for overly large purge volumes, when the fresh reactants pushing the liquid column are collected.

Figure 80 – Recovery of Uncontaminated Material



These results in Figure 80 shows that, for a delay line of 190µl (216.9µl nominal volume), the first 20 to 30µl and the last 30 to 40µl are contaminated and should be discarded.

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