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Rotor-Gene™ 6000

Operator Manual

1.7.18

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Table of Contents

Foreword 0
Part I Disclaimer 5
Part II Introduction 5
1 Welcome ... 5
2 Customer Support ... 5
3 What's New ... 6
Part III Instrument Overview 9
1 Thermal Performance ... 10
2 Optical System ... 11
Part IV Instrument Components 13
1 Unpacking the Rotor-Gene ... 13
2 Accessories ... 17
3 Important: Read Before Running The Rotor-Gene ... 18
Warning Labels ... 19
Part V Installation 20
1 Hardware Installation ... 20
2 Software Installation ... 21
3 Software Version ... 23
4 Updating Software ... 24
Part VI Preparing a Run 24
1 Rotor Types ... 24
2 Reaction Setup ... 26
3 Gene-Disc Setup ... 28
Part VII Setting up a Run 29
1 Quick Start Wizard ... 30
Rotor Selection ... 31
Confirm Profile ... 31
Save Run ... 32
Sample Setup ... 34
2 Advanced wizard ... 34
Page 1 ... 36
Page 2 ... 36
Page 3 ... 37
Profile Editor ... 38

Hold 39
Cycling 40
Acquisition 42
Melt and Hybridisation 43
High Resolution Melts 44
Optical Denature Cycling 44
What is Optical Denature Cycling? 44
Configuration 46
Adding a New Optical Denature Cycling Segment 46
Changing An Existing Step to Use Optical Denature 48
Gain Optimisation 49
Gain Auto-Optimisation 50
Manual Gain Adjustment 52
Page 4 ..... **53**
Page 5 ..... **54**

Part VIII Functional Overview 54

1 Workspace 54
2 Toolbar Workspace 55
3 View Raw Channels 55
4 Toggling Samples 57
5 File Menu 59
New **59**
Opening and Saving **60**
Exporting To LinReg 61
Report **63**
Setup **64**
6 Analysis Menu 65
Analysis Toolbar **65**
Quantitation **66**
Reports 66
Standard Curve 67
Standard Curve Calculation 68
Import Standard Curve 69
Invert Raw Data 70
Calculation of CT 70
Results 71
Dynamic Tube Normalisation 74
Noise Slope Correction 74
Ignore First 74
Quant. Settings 75
Slope, Amplification, Reaction Efficiency 76
Offset 76
Main Window 77
Quantitation Analysis Templates 78
Two Standard Curve **78**
Delta Delta Ct Relative Quantitation **81**
Melt Curve Analysis **84**
Sidebar 85
Reports 86
Results 86

Genotyping ... 87
Melt Analysis Templates ... 87
Comparative Quantitation ... 87
Allelic Discrimination ... 89
Reports ... 90
Results ... 90
Normalisation Options ... 90
Discrimination Threshold ... 91
Genotypes ... 91
Allelic Analysis Templates ... 91
Scatterplot Analysis ... 92
Reports ... 92
Results ... 93
Normalisation Options ... 93
Genotypes ... 93
Scatterplot ... 93
Scatterplot Analysis Templates ... 94
EndPoint Analysis ... 94
Terms Used In EndPoint Analysis ... 96
Profile Configuration ... 97
Analysis ... 98
Define Controls ... 98
Normalisation ... 99
Threshold ... 101
Genotypes ... 102
EndPoint Analysis Templates ... 102
Concentration Measurement ... 103
Preparing a Run ... 103
Analysis ... 104
High Resolution Melt Analysis ... 105
7 Run Menu ... 106
Start Run ... 106
Pause Run ... 106
Stop Run ... 106
8 View Menu ... 107
Run Settings ... 107
General ... 107
Machine Options ... 108
Messages ... 108
Channels ... 109
Tube Layout ... 110
Security ... 111
Temperature Graph ... 112
Profile Progress ... 112
Edit Samples ... 113
Standard Editor ... 114
Rotor Style Editor ... 118
Suitabilities ... 118
Groups ... 119
Display Options ... 121
9 Security Menu ... 122
Configuration ... 123

Running Multiple Users On Same Computer ... 131
Audit Trails ... 133
Run Signatures ... 134
Sample Locking ... 136
Locked Templates ... 138
10 Gain Menu ... 139
11 Window Menu ... 140
12 Help Menu ... 140
Send Support E-Mail ... 140

Part IX General Functions Used Over Several Windows 140

1 Analysis Templates ... 140
2 Opening A Second Run ... 141
3 Scaling Options ... 142
4 Exporting Graphs ... 142
5 Spanner Icon ... 145
6 Abbreviations ... 146

Part X Maintenance 146

Part XI Optical Temperature Verification (OTV) 147

1 OTV System Function ... 147
2 OTV Kit Components ... 147
3 Running an OTV ... 148

Part XII Troubleshooting 150

1 Log Archives ... 150
2 Troubleshooting Run Files ... 151
Initial Denature Step ... 151
Cycling Profile ... 151
Melt Curve Analysis ... 151
Gain Settings ... 152
General Setup Conditions ... 152
Run Settings ... 152
3 Regional Settings In Windows 98 ... 153

Part XIII Mathematical Appendix 153

1 Disclaimer

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2 Introduction

2.1 Welcome

Welcome to the Rotor-Gene 6000 Series Software version 1.7.18. This help manual will instruct the user through run setup and analysis.

The Rotor-Gene 6000 real time DNA amplification system is an open chemistry platform allowing the use of any real time chemistry. The software therefore aims to provide support for analysis of data obtained any chemistry available. Check the What's New section of this manual for an update on changes and novel features in this version of the software.

2.2 Customer Support

At Corbett Life Science we value the customer above all else, therefore, we ensure that all questions and requests are handled in the most professional and efficient way. Our services include Ordering, IT support, Applications support and Servicing. With our network of both national and international offices and distributors we ensure you are looked after in the quickest time and friendliest manner.

For customers outside of Australia please contact your local international Corbett Life Science office or distributor. A list of all our international distributors is located on our website.

For customers located in Western Australia and South Australia please contact your local Australian distributor. A list of all our national distributors is located on our website.

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Returning Items for Servicing to Corbett Research Head Office
For any items returned to Corbett Research, please refer to the back pages for Return Merchandise Authorization Forms. These forms need to be filled out and sent to Corbett Research first prior to the item being sent.

2.3 What's New

What's New in Version 1.7?

This topic explains the new features in version 1.7 of the Rotor-Gene 6000 Series Software, and answers commonly asked questions about the location of existing features that have been moved. These features incorporate design changes and requests by users.

High Resolution Melts
High Resolution Melts characterize samples based on sequence length, GC content and complementarity. Genotyping single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) is a typical application that saves on probe and label costs over other methods.

Export to LinReg
It is now possible to export Quantitative data directly to LinReg. Since LinReg uses normalised quantitation data, you will need to create a quantitation analysis before exporting.

New Feature: Analysis Templates
Functionality has been added to allow for the import and export of specific analysis settings, available when viewing the main window of an analysis. The specific analysis settings, such as bin and genotype definitions, are saved to a file and may then be loaded in a different run.

Optical Temperature Verification Wizard
The OTV wizard is a new feature that allows the customer after purchasing an OTV rotor to verify their instrument is still within specification, and if it required the the user can instruct the software to make adjustments to their instrument that will bring the instrument into specification. Due to the introduction of the OTV wizard the turn around time for servicing a machine has been cut dramatically as the user can now take care of themselves.

Minor User Interface Enhancements
Added option to analysis selection window to show hidden analysis types.

Added extra comparative quantitation statistics.

Fix Melt report filter settings being incorrectly reported.

Fixed resizing of sample selector control.

Option to expand/contract added to quantitation docking bar.

Reporting window widened.

Fixed page breaks for letter-sized reports.

Enhanced accuracy of temperature graph during acquisition.

Synchronise Sample Names Across Pages
For multiplex reactions where multiple pages use identical sample names, an option is available via the sample editor to automatically keep sample names and colours up-to-date.

TeeChart Office Integration
Integration into TeeChart Office has been provided so that graphs may now be selected for edit in TeeChart Office directly from the Rotor-Gene software. TeeChart Office is a free download from our website. This package provides capabilities to change line styles, add legends to graphs and change fonts as required by certain publications.

Sample ID Format
It is now possible to toggle the sample ID format in the sample editor.

Configurable Touchdown Accuracy
It is now possible to set the touchdown accuracy between 0.1 and 2 degrees per step.

Adjustable Melt Bins
The ability to specify names and ranges for melt bins has been introduced. Also, bin details may now be edited.

Added Acceptable Range to Auto-Gain Optimisation
The ability has been added to specify limits on the gains to be scanned during the auto-gain optimisation process.

Auto-Gain Optimisation Now Performed on SYBR Green Template
The SYBR Green template now automatically performs an auto-gain optimisation on the first tube position. This optimisation can be configured through the Quick Start wizard.

Added "New Empty Run" Profile
A new template has been added which is available for use through the wizard. This template is not based on any specific chemistry, allowing the use of chemistry that is not currently catered for in the wizard. All analysis types are available within.

Enhancements to Quick Start Wizard
Added button to save setup as new template.

Added gain optimisation button.

Added ability to open a template in another folder.

Enhanced Graphing Capabilities
Possibility of export to multiple graphics formats, including GIF, JPEG, PNG and WMF.

New "Copy to Clipboard" command to allow pasting of graphs directly into Power Point presentations.

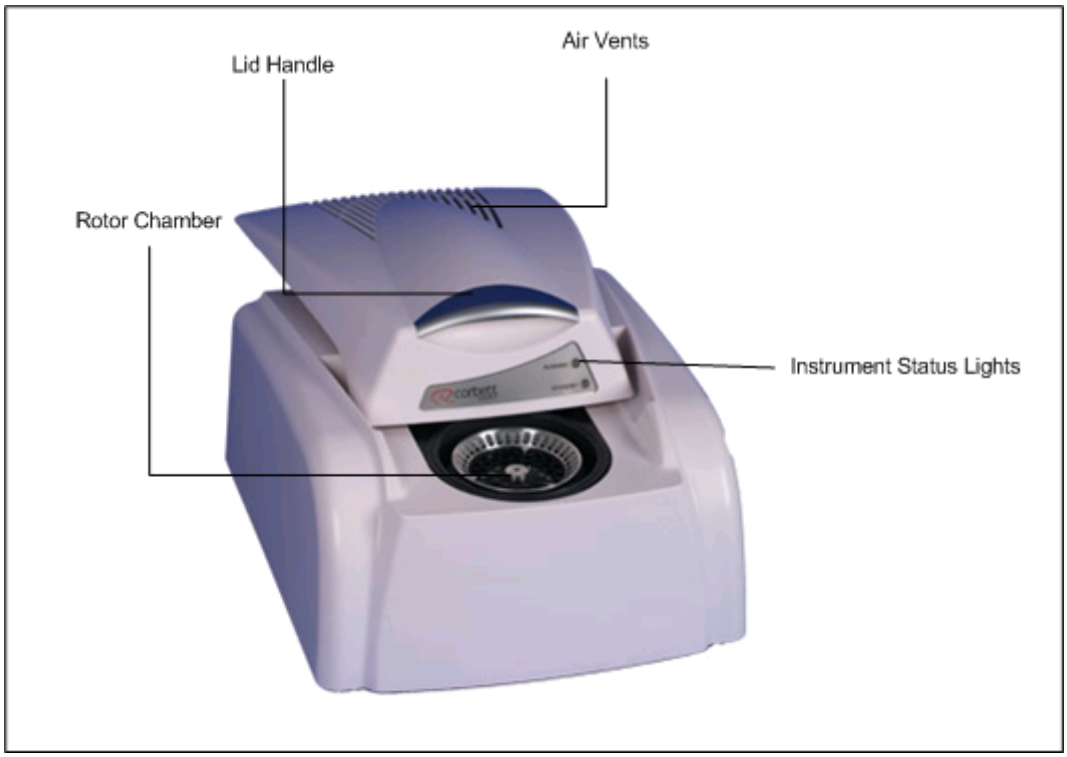
Allow export to TeeChart Office.

New Hybridisation Step
A hybridisation step has been introduced for selection in the profile. The hybridisation step replaces the previous reverse melt step.

Rotor-Gene Operational Enhancements
Issues that were experienced when changing the system time while running a profile have now been resolved.

3 Instrument Overview

The Rotor-Gene 6000 is an innovative rotary designed real time genetic amplification detection system, which is utilised to detect, quantify and/or genotype genetic samples being investigated.



The Rotor-Gene 6000 is used in research applications that range from medical, agricultural, forensic science to basic life science.

Most types of Real Time amplification chemistries are detected on the Rotor-Gene 6000. These include intercalating dyes such as SYBR® Green, primer based probes such as LUX™, hydrolysis probes such as dual labelled probes, hybridisation probes such as Molecular Beacons, Scorpions and FRET, or even linear amplification chemistries such as the Invader™ assay (Third Wave Technologies).

The powerfully intuitive software provides simplicity for beginners while providing a superior open experimental platform for advanced users.

With the newly released version 1.7 software, analysis has been taken to a new level of user friendliness, without compromising scientific integrity or accuracy by providing intelligent formulations and statistics.

With links to automated robotic systems for nucleic extraction (Xtractor-Gene) and reaction setup (CAS1200), the Rotor-Gene 6000 can be fully integrated in the entire process of real time genetic analysis. This provides a complete platform for high throughput users with speed and the certainty of sample traceability, essential for any laboratory.

Xtractor-Gene

CAS1200

3.1 Thermal Performance

The Rotor-Gene 6000 utilises a sophisticated heating and cooling design that provides both accurate and precise thermal profile applications, achieving optimal reaction conditions for genetic amplification and detection.

Table 1. Thermal Specifications

Temperature Range	Ambient to 99^{o}C
Temperature Accuracy	± 0.50^{o}C
Temperature Resolution	± 0.02^{o}C
Temperature Uniformity	± 0.01^{o}C
Temperature Equilibration Time	zero sec
Ramp Rate	10^{o}C /sec (air)

It is the Rotor-Gene 6000's forward thinking rotary format that provides high quality data by ensuring optimal temperature uniformity between samples, a critical component of any molecular study.

The samples spin continually during a run at 400 rpm. Centrifugation does not create a gradient of probe or dye and does not pellet the DNA but does prevent condensation issues, while removing air bubbles. Furthermore, samples do not need to be spun down prior to a run.

The samples are heated and cooled in a low mass air oven. Heating is achieved by a nickel-chrome element in the lid. The chamber is cooled by venting the air out through the top of the chamber while ambient air is blown up through the base.

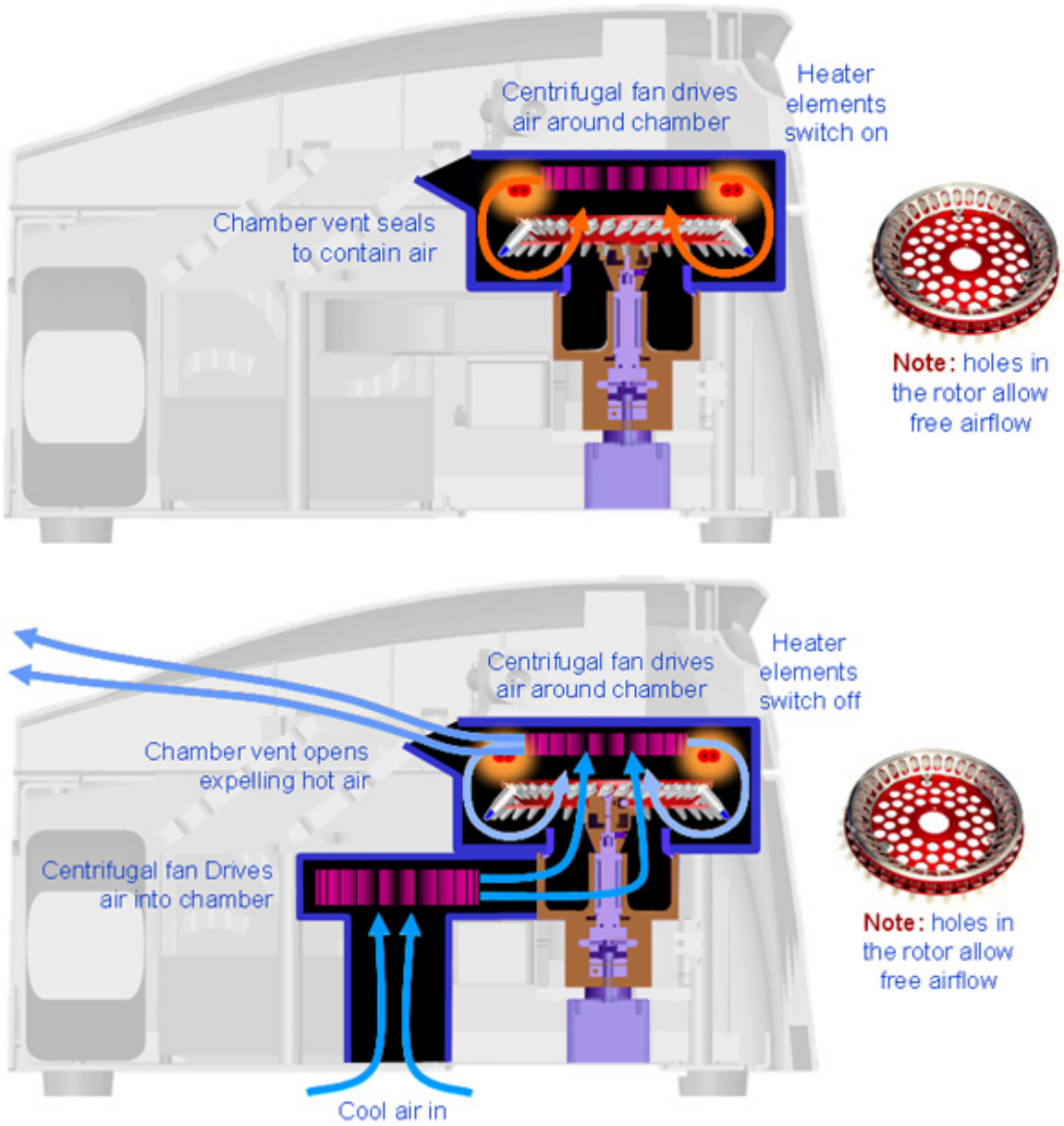


Figure: Illustration of the heating and cooling system of the Rotor-Gene 6000.

3.2 Optical System

With a choice of up to 6 excitation sources and 6 detection sources combined with a fixed optical path, the Rotor-Gene 6000 can be used to multiplex reactions confidently with significantly reduced fluorescence variability between samples and no need for calibration or compensation.

Samples are excited from the bottom of the chamber by a light emitting diode. Energy is transmitted through the thin walls at the base of the tube. Emitted fluorescence passes through emission filters on the side of the chamber and is then collected by a photomultiplier. The fixed optical path ensures consistent excitation from sample to sample as they rotate around the chamber, which means that there is no need to run a passive internal reference dye such as ROX.

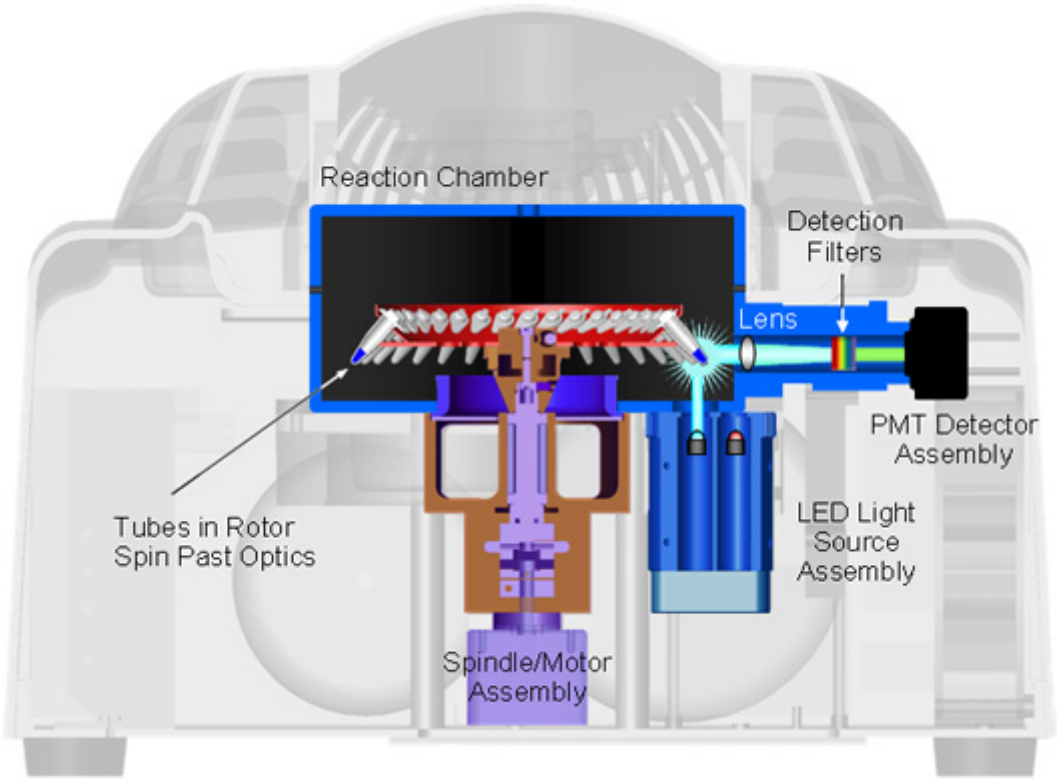


Figure: Illustration of optical system for the Rotor-Gene 6000.

Table 2. Optical System Specifications

Excitation Sources	High Energy Light Emitting Diodes
Detector	Photomultiplier
Acquisition Time	4 sec

Table 3. Channels Available

Channel Name	Excitation / Detection	Example of Fluorophores Detected
Blue	365 nm / 460 nm	Biosearch Blue™, Marina Blue®, Bothell Blue®, Alexa Fluor® 350
Green	479 nm / 510 nm	FAM™, SYBR®Green1, Fluorescein, EvaGreen™, Alexa Fluor® 488, Pico® Green
Yellow	530 nm / 555 nm	JOE™, VIC™, HEX™, TET™, CAL Fluor® Orange 560, Yakima Yellow®, Alexa Fluor® 532
Orange	585 nm / 610 nm	ROX™, Cy3.5™, Redmond Red®, Alexa Fluor® 568
Red	625 nm / 660 nm	Cy5™, Quasar® 670, LC Red 640®, Texas Red®, CAL Fluor® Red 590
Crimson	680 nm / 712 long pass	Quasar® 705, LC Red 705®, Alexa Fluor® 680
High Resolution Melt	460 nm / 510 long pass	LC Green® Plus

VIC is a registered trademark and FAM, JOE, ROX and TAMRA are trademarks of Applera Corporation. SYBR, Marina Blue, Alexa Fluor, Texas Red and PicoGreen are registered trademarks of Molecular Probes, Inc. Biosearch Blue, CAL Fluor Red

590, CAL Flour Orange 560, Quasar 670, Quasar 705 are trademarks of Biosearch Technologies, Inc. Cy™ dyes are a trademark of Amersham Pharmacia Biotech. Bothell Blue, Redmond Red and Yakima Yellow are registered trademarks of Epoch Biosciences, Inc. LC Red 640, LC Red 705 are registered trademarks of Roche Molecular Systems, Inc. LC Green is a trademark of Idaho Technology Inc.

For multiplex reactions we recommend using FAM, JOE, ROX and Cy5, since these fluorophores give a cross talk of less than 1% after optimization.

Quenchers to be used for the above dyes:

BHQ-1: 480 nm – 580 nm
BHQ-2: 550 nm – 650 nm
BHQ-3: 620 nm – 730 nm
TAMRA for FAM or JOE (VIC)

FRET Analysis

FAM and JOE, for example, should be detected on the above mentioned channels (quenched FRET). If normal FRET is to be detected, the filter combinations should be configured as follows:

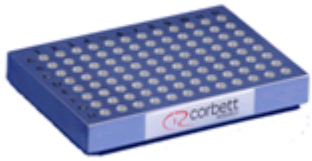
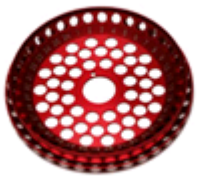
FAM - Cy5, FAM - LC Red 640	470 nm / 660 nm	FAM-BHQ1:	Green
JOE-Cy5	530 nm / 660 nm	FAM - LC Red 705	470 nm / 712 long pass

4 Instrument Components

4.1 Unpacking the Rotor-Gene

When you receive your Rotor-Gene 6000 it will be packaged into a box containing all the necessary components that are used to setup and run the instrument. There is a list of all the components found within the box and we recommend that you use it to ensure that all the components are present.

You will notice the accessories box sitting on top of the foam packing. The accessories box contains;

Manual	
Installation CD	
96-Well Loading Block PN# 3001-009	
72-Well Loading Block PN# 3001-008	
36-Well High Profile Rotor PN# 6001-003	
36-Well Rotor Locking Ring PN# 6001-004	

On each side of the foam packing you will find;

USB PN# 6001-005 and RS-232 serial cable PN# 6001-015	
Power cable	
0.2 mL PCR Tubes (box of 1000 each) PN# 3001-001	
0.1 mL Strip Tubes and Caps (box of 1000 each) PN# 3001-002	

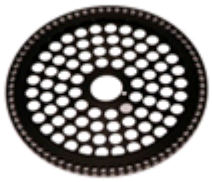
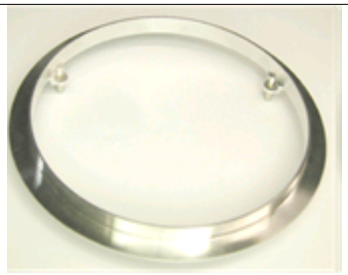
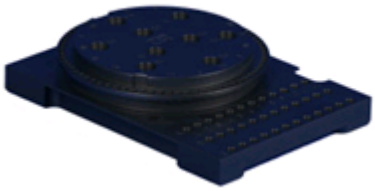
Once all these components have been removed from the box and accounted for, remove the foam packing sitting on top of the Rotor-Gene 6000. Carefully remove the Rotor-Gene 6000 from the box and unwrap it from the plastic cover. Open the lid by sliding it towards the back. Inside you will find the seventy-two position rotor with locking ring.

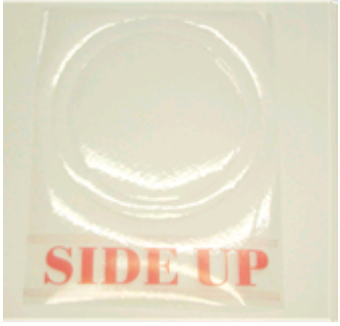
Rotor-Gene 6000 Multiplexing System	
72-Well High Profile Rotor PN# 6001-001	
72-Well Rotor Locking Ring PN# 6001-002	

Now that you have successfully unpacked the Rotor-Gene 6000 we can proceed to the installation.

4.2 Accessories

The following accessories are available for use with the Rotor-Gene 6000.

Gene-Disc 72 rotor hub PN# 6001-014	
Gene-Disc 72 rotor locking ring PN# 6001-006	
Gene-Disc 72 loading block PN# 3001-019	
Gene-Disc 72 pack (15 discs per box) PN# 3001-015	

Gene-Disc heat sealing film (60 per bag) PN# 3001-023	
Gene-Disc heat sealer PN# 3001-020	
Rotor holder PN# 3001-036	

4.3 Important: Read Before Running The Rotor-Gene

Before running the Rotor-Gene 6000 you should pay attention to the following:

WARNING: DO NOT try to open the lid during an experiment, or while the Rotor-Gene 6000 is spinning. Otherwise, if you manage to overcome the lid lock and reach inside, you risk contact with parts that are hot, electrically live, or moving at high speed - you may injure yourself and damage the instrument.

WARNING: If you need to abort an experiment quickly, turn off the power to the instrument, then open the lid. Let the chamber cool before reaching inside; otherwise you risk injury by touching parts that are hot.

WARNING: If the equipment is used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired.

WARNING: Loose paper underneath Rotor-Gene 6000 interferes with intrument's cooling characteristics. It is recommended that the area beneath the instrument be kept free of clutter.

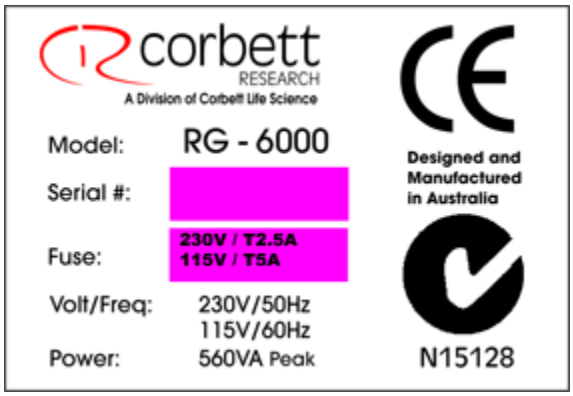
CAUTION: Always use a locking ring on the rotor. This will stop caps from coming off tubes during an experiment. Otherwise, if caps are free to come off during an experiment, they may damage the chamber.

If you touch the Rotor-Gene 6000 during an experiment, while you are charged with static electricity, then in severe cases the Rotor-Gene 6000 may reset. However, the software will restart the Rotor-Gene 6000 and continue the experiment

Ensure the software is not operating in the Virtual Machine Mode. Go to the **File menu** and select **Setup...** Check that the Virtual Machine box is not ticked.

If **Setup...** is not available, then it has been disabled by your distributor, who will have performed all necessary setup during installation.

4.3.1 Warning Labels



WARNING: The equipment has an electrical compliance label which indicates the voltage, and frequency of the power supply as well as fuse ratings. The equipment should only be operated under these conditions.

The equipment has two additional labels; these have black symbols on a yellow background.

The first warning label is a General Danger symbol near the mains voltage selection switch. Before you use the Rotor-Gene 6000 for the first time, make sure the mains setting is correct. See the Hardware Installation section above.

WARNING: If you change the voltage selector switch setting while the Rotor-Gene 6000 is connected to the mains, you may cause damage to the Rotor-Gene 6000 and/or blow the fuse. Always unplug the Rotor-Gene 6000 from the mains before changing this switch setting. See the Installation section above for details.

The second warning label is a Hot Surface Warning label near the sample chamber; it is visible when you open the lid.

WARNING: DO NOT try to open the lid during an experiment, or while the Rotor-

Gene 6000 is spinning. Otherwise, if you manage to overcome the lid lock and reach inside, you risk contact with parts that are hot, electrically live, or moving at high speed - you may injure yourself and damage the Rotor-Gene 6000.

If you need to abort an experiment quickly, turn off the power to the Rotor-Gene 6000, then open the lid. Let the chamber cool before reaching inside; otherwise you risk injury by touching parts that are hot.

5 Installation

Installation of the Rotor-Gene 6000 is simple and takes very little time. There is no need to calibrate the instrument during installation.

5.1 Hardware Installation

Install the Rotor-Gene 6000 on an approximately level surface.

Make sure there is enough clearance behind the unit so that the lid fully opens.

Make sure you can reach the power switch at the back of the unit without difficulty.

Do not obstruct the back of the unit such that the detachable cord can be easily pulled off in order to disconnect the power to the unit.

Before you turn on the Rotor-Gene 6000, check the voltage selector switch at the back of the unit. This is set in the factory. Make sure the setting is correct for your local mains voltage. If it is not correct, change the setting and the fuse while the Rotor-Gene 6000 is unplugged from the mains. See the instruments rear label for the correct fuse types.

WARNING: If you change the voltage selector switch setting while the instrument is connected to the mains, you may cause damage to the instrument and/or blow the fuse. Always unplug the instrument from the mains before changing this switch.

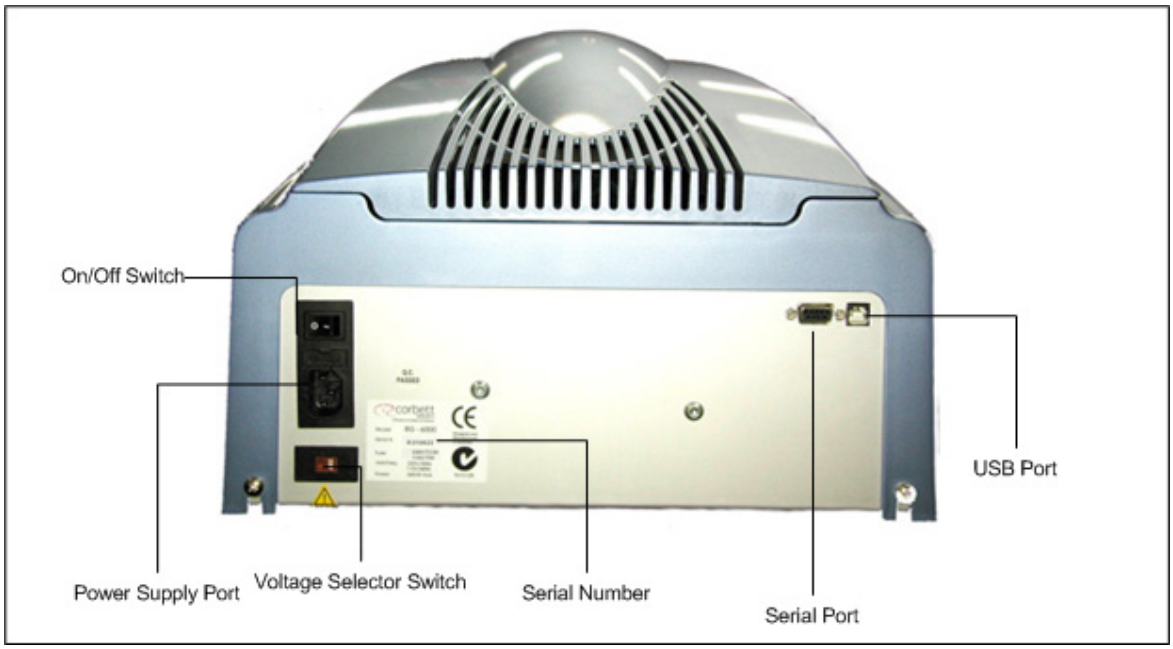
Table 4. Instrument Environment Specifications

Dimensions	370 mm (14.6") wide, 420 mm (16.5") deep, 560 mm (22") deep door open, 275 mm (10.8") high
Weight	14 kg (31 lbs)
Electrical	100 - 200 VAC @ 60 Hz, 200 - 240 VAC @ 50 Hz; power consumption 8 VA (standby), 560 VA (peak)
Permissible transportation temperatures	-25°C to 70°C
Operating temperatures	15°C to 35°C

Connect the supplied USB cable or RS-232serial cable to a USB or communications port on the back of a laptop or desktop computer. A USB to serial cable connector can be used.

Connect the USB or RS-232 serial cable to the back of the Rotor-Gene 6000.

Then connect the Rotor-Gene 6000 to the power supply.



5.2 Software Installation

To install the Rotor-Gene software insert the Rotor-Gene software CD into the CD drive of the computer. The CD should display a list of options to the user, select Install Rotor-Gene Software. Follow the setup wizard for easy installation.

Table 5: PC System Requirements

Operating system	Microsoft Windows XP
Processor	Pentium IV or higher, 2 GHz
Main memory	512 MB RAM
Hard disk space	10 GB HDD

Once the software has been installed turn on the Rotor-Gene 6000 by flicking the switch located at the back on the right hand side to the on position. A blue light on the front of the Rotor-Gene 6000's lid will indicate that the instrument is ready for use.

Double click the *Rotor-Gene 6000 Series Software Version 1.7* desktop icon to initiate the software. The welcome screen will appear, but only once and not for subsequent software upgrades.

Machine Serial Number: Type in the serial number (six digits), which is located at the back of the Rotor-Gene 6000.

Offset Coefficient: Type in the Offset coefficient, which can be found next to the serial number of the machine. If no number can be found, the value 0 should be entered.

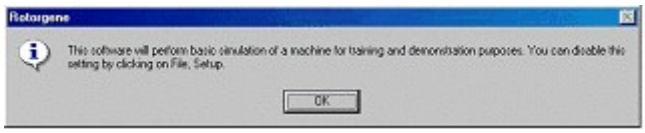
Port: Choice of either USB or serial cable. If using a serial cable please select the appropriate communications port or select **Auto-Detect**.

Run in Virtual Mode (for demonstration): Ticking the box allows installing the Rotor-Gene software on a computer without a Rotor-Gene 6000 attached. The software is fully functional and can even simulate runs.

NOTE: If this box is ticked with a Rotor-Gene 6000 connected to your computer, a

message will appear before you start your run: "*You are about to run in Virtual mode*". To be able to perform a "real" run, the setup (see setup) has to be changed.

Begin: When all parameters are set, press Begin. A window will come up initializing the machine. Wait until the machine is initialized, which might take a few seconds. If virtual mode was chosen the following screen appears:

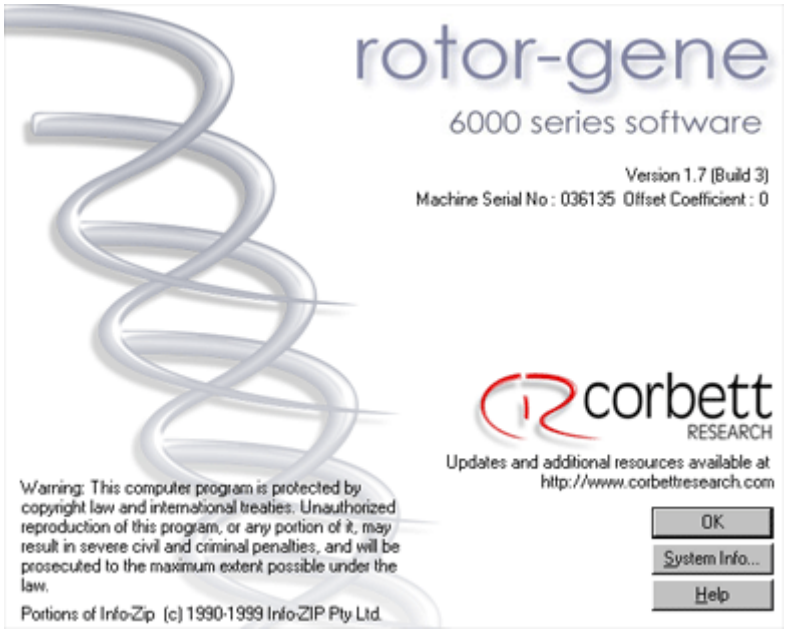


If the Run in Virtual Mode box stays unticked the machine is initialized and opens up the Rotor-Gene software automatically.

Exit Program: Exits program.

5.3 Software Version

Software development for the Rotor-Gene software is ongoing. To check on your version number click on **Help** then **About Rotor-Gene...**

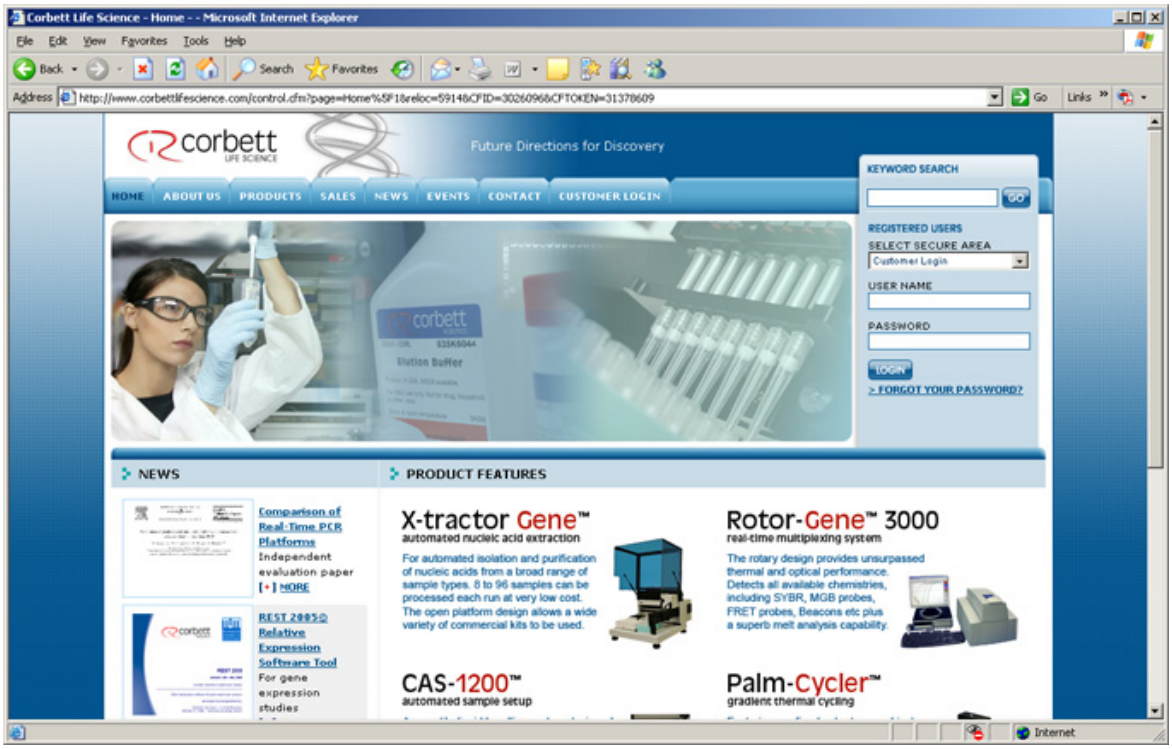


This screen displays general information about the software and specifically includes the version of the software, serial number of the machine, as well as the model number of the connected instrument.

The software may be freely copied for use within an organisation owning a Rotor-Gene 6000. The software may not be copied and distributed to others outside the organisation.

5.4 Updating Software

Software updates are available from the Corbett Life Science web site http://www.corbettlifescience.com, available from the Help menu in the software. In order to download the software you must first register online using the Customer Login. Once you have received your login name and password and entered them at Registered Users, you may download the software anytime through our Download Centre.



Download the Rotor-Gene software setup file. To initiate the installation double click on the setup file and follow the prompts. The previous version will be uninstalled and the new version automatically installed.

6 Preparing a Run

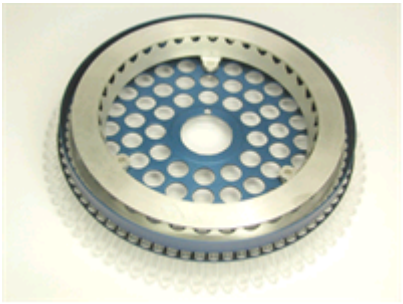
Starting an experiment is easy with the Rotor-Gene 6000 Series Software.

6.1 Rotor Types

First, select the tube type being used. There is a choice of three rotors that accommodate three tube types.

The 36-Well rotor and locking ring allows for the use of 0.2 mL tubes, which are commonly used in most experiments. There is no need to ensure the tubes contain optically clear caps as the Rotor-Gene 6000 reads fluorescence from the bottom of the tube rather than at the top. Domed capped tubes can be used as well.

The 72-Well rotor and locking ring allows for the use of 0.1 mL strip of four tubes, which accommodate the use of small volumes as low as 5 µL. The caps provide a safe and reliable seal.



The Gene Disc 72 rotor and locking ring allows for the use of the Gene-Disc 72. The Gene-Disc 72 contains all 72 tubes in a one piece structure for high throughput use. The Gene Disc does not use caps, rather, a heat sealed clear polymer film is applied to the top. The advantage of the film is that it prevents contamination by providing a strong, durable, and tamper proof seal. For more information on the Gene Disc see section 6.3.

Table 6: Rotor Specifications

Rotor Type	Sample Number	Tube Type	Reaction Volume Range
36-Well	36	0.2 mL PCR	50 - 15 µL
72-Well	72	0.1 mL Strip Tube and Cap	30 - 5 µL
Gene-Disc 72	72	0.1 mL Gene-Disc 72	25 - 10 µL

NOTE: The 36 and 72 position rotors mentioned above are not to be used on older Rotor-Gene 3000 models due to optical alignment incompatibilities. Please

continue to use the older 36 position (PN# 3001-006) and 72 position (PN# 3001-007) rotors with older Rotor-Gene 3000's.

6.2 Reaction Setup

Reactions can be prepared by using the 96 well 0.2 mL tube, 72 well 0.1 mL tube or Gene Disc loading blocks. All blocks are made of aluminium and can therefore be pre-cooled.

The 72 well loading block allows for the placement of up to 8 x 0.5 mL tubes, which can be used to prepare master mix, and 16 x 0.2 mL tubes that can be used to setup standard curves.

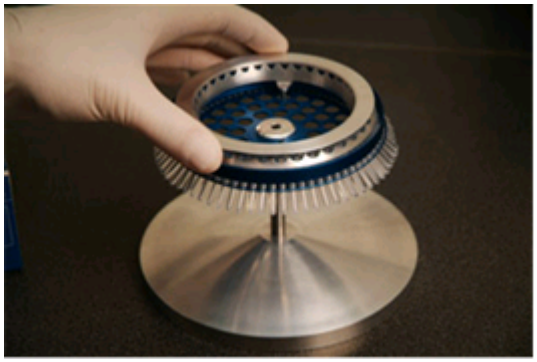
Insert the reaction tubes into the loading block and aliquot the reaction components.

Seal the reaction tubes tightly and visually inspect to confirm.

Insert the reaction tubes into the required rotor hub and ensure that each tube sits correctly into place. Samples will not be optically aligned over the detection system if not fitted correctly, which may result in a reduction in fluorescence signal acquired and sensitivity. A rotor stand is available as an optional accessory that allows for easy tube loading.

The innovative rotary design of the Rotor-Gene 6000 ensures optimal temperature uniformity. In order to achieve maximum temperature uniformity, each position in the rotor must contain a tube. Keep a set of empty tubes handy that can be used to fill in the unused positions.

Insert the three pin locking ring onto the rotor hub by pushing the three pins through the outer holes of the rotor hub. The locking ring ensures that the tube caps will remain on during a run.



Insert the reaction tube-rotor hub-locking ring assembly into the Rotor-Gene 6000 chamber by clicking it into place using the position one location pin. To remove the rotor assembly, simply push the top part of the rotor shaft to release the rotor hub and pull out.

Once the rotor and locking ring have been set in place, close the lid and begin setting up the run profile using the Rotor-Gene software.

6.3 Gene-Disc Setup

The Gene-Disc 72, contains all 72 tubes in an elegant once piece design for high throughput. The Gene-Disc 72 does not use caps, rather, a heat sealed clear polymer film is applied to the top. The advantage of the film is that it prevents contamination by providing a strong, durable, and tamper proof seal.

Using a loading block, the Gene-Disc can be loaded using either conventional hand pipetting or loaded by the CAS1200 robotic liquid handling system.

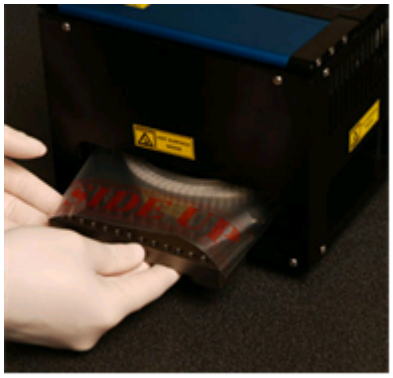
To position the Gene-Disc into the loading block, use the position one tab on the Gene-Disc. Slide the Gene-Disc into the loading block by using the position one tab and tube guide holes on the loading block. The design of the loading block allows for easy hand pipetting.

Leaving the Gene Disc in the loading block, obtain one sheet of heat sealing film and remove the central portion. Do this by slightly folding the film in half, pinching the centre piece and carefully tearing it out.

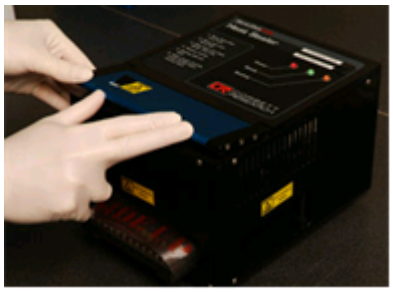
A "SIDE UP" label ensures that the film is placed correctly over the Gene-Disc. Ensure that the "SIDE UP" label is at the bottom of the loading block. The central hole of the film should slide comfortably over the cylinder of the loading block and onto the top of the Gene-Disc.

Turn on the heat sealer using the rocker switch located at the back left hand side. A red *Power* light will illuminate on the top of the heat sealer. The heat sealer should take about ten minutes to reach operating temperature, following which a green *Ready* light will illuminate. Once the heat sealer is ready it is safe to leave it running constantly, with special air vents allowing the unit skin to remain safe to touch.

Slide in the loading block – Gene Disc – film assembly using the guide rails on the side of the loading block. Ensure that the loading block is pushed in all the way.



Release the black catch on the top of the heat sealer to lower the sealing mechanism. Do this by pressing down on the blue anodised bar at the top front of the unit with your palm and pushing the black catch.



When the mechanism has lowered, an orange *Sealing* light will illuminate on the top of the unit.

As soon as the unit beeps, press down on the blue anodised bar to raise and lock the heater mechanism back to the ready position. Do not leave it any longer than indicated by the beep or the Gene Disc may deform.

Slide the loading block out of the heat sealer. Allow the film to cool for approximately 10 seconds, and then tear off the excess film. Remove the Gene Disc from the loading block. To load the Gene Disc into the rotor, use the position one locator tab to find the correct orientation.

7 Setting up a Run

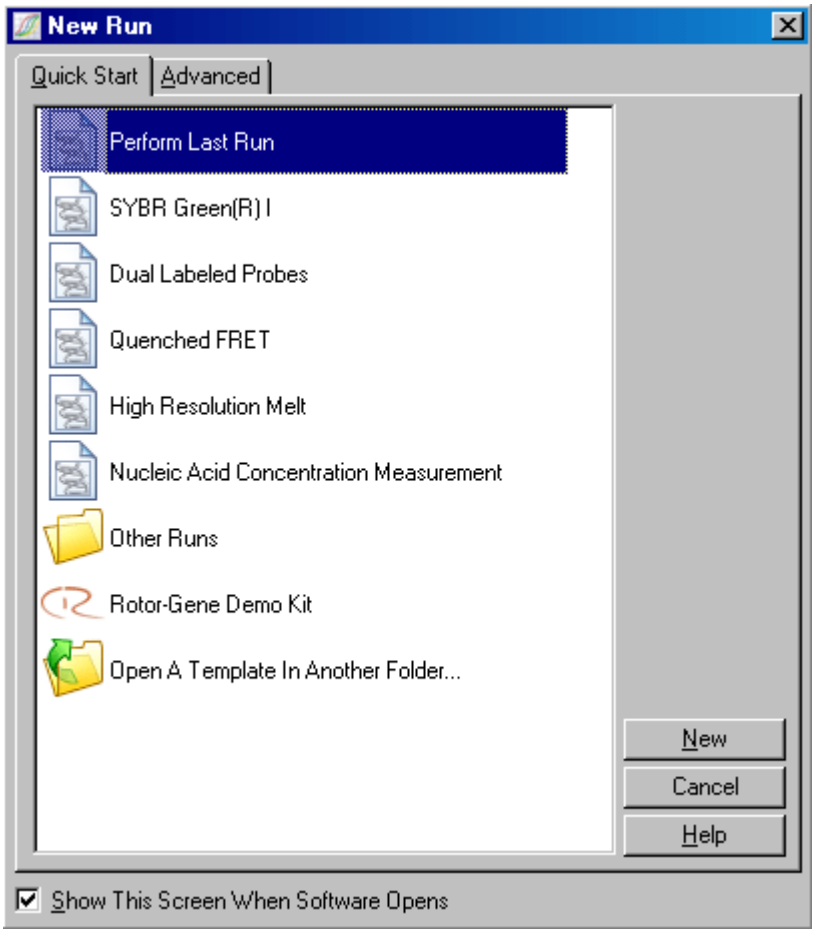
New runs can be set up using the concise Quick Start or the Advanced wizard. The quick start wizard is designed to allow the user to start the run as fast as possible, the advanced wizard has more options available such as configuring gain optimisation settings. For convenience the wizards contain a number of templates which have default cycling conditions and acquisition

channels. To change the type of wizard used you can change the tab located at the top of the **New Run** window.

7.1 Quick Start Wizard

The quick start wizard has been designed to get runs started as soon as possible, the user can select from a set on commonly used templates entering the bare minimum of parameters to get it started.

The first step is to select the desired template for the run.



Perform Last Run imports the cycling and acquisition and sample definitions from the last run open in the software.
SYBR Green (R) I: three step cycling profile and a melt curve with data acquisition on the Green channel.
Dual Labeled Probes: two step cycling profile with data acquired on all channels.
Quenched FRET: three step cycling profile with and a melt curve, data acquired on the Green and Yellow channels.
Nucleic Acid Concentration Measurement is a default template for measuring the concentration of nucleic acid using intercalating dyes.
Rotor-Gene Demo Kit contains profiles used for the High Resolution Melt demonstrations, and

High Speed Run demonstrations.
The cycling and acquisition profiles can be altered during the wizard for all templates.

TIP
User defined templates can also be added to the initial quick start template list by copying **.RET** files to **C:\Program Files\Rotor-Gene 6000 Software\Templates\Quick Start Templates**. After copying them to this path the template will appear as a icon in the software.

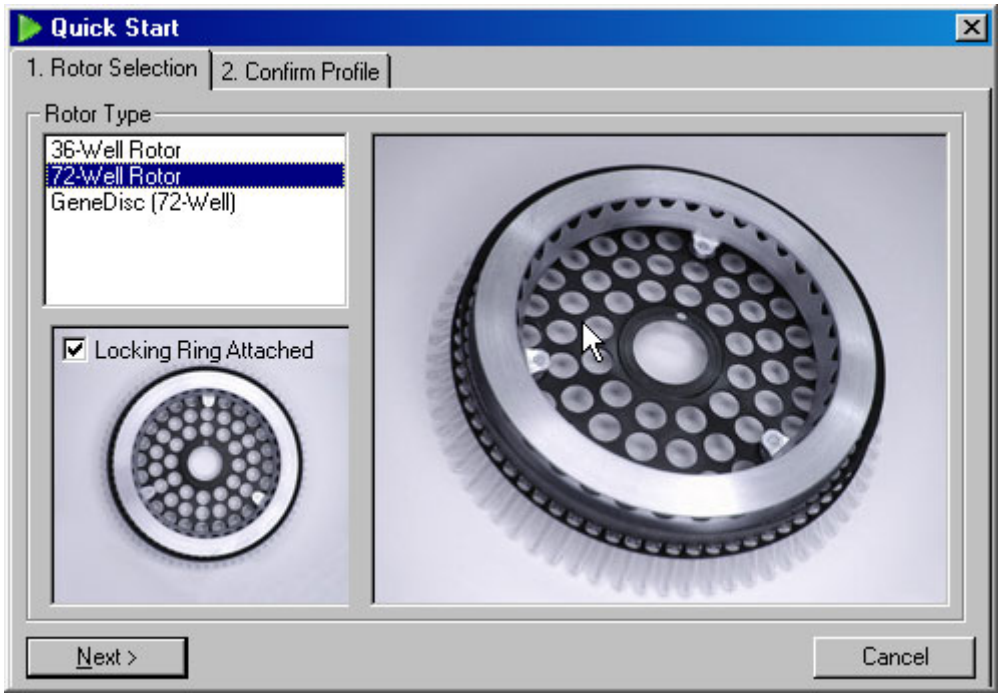
To have custom icons for your templates, create a **.ICO** image with the same file name as the template.

It is even possible to create subfolders in the templates folder to group related templates. This allows you to organise your templates if many users are using the same machine, for example.

7.1.1 Rotor Selection

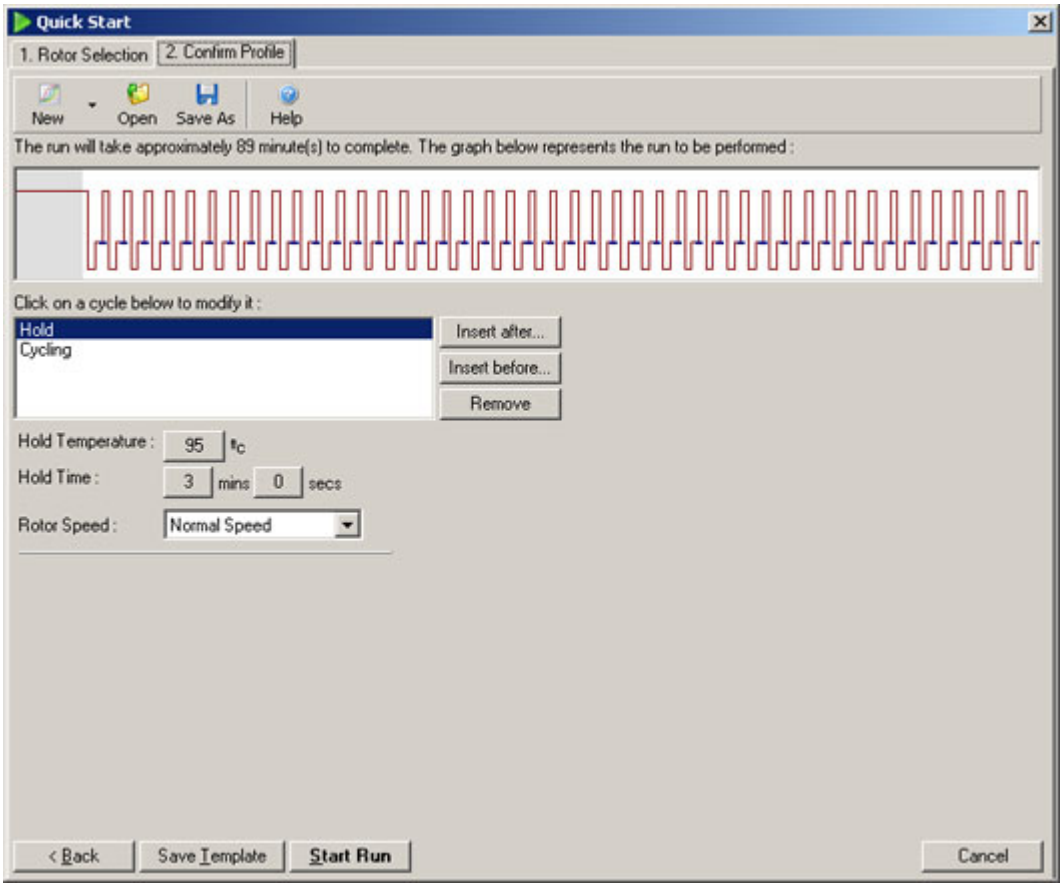
Select the rotor type.

Tick the **Locking Ring Attached** option to proceed through the wizard.



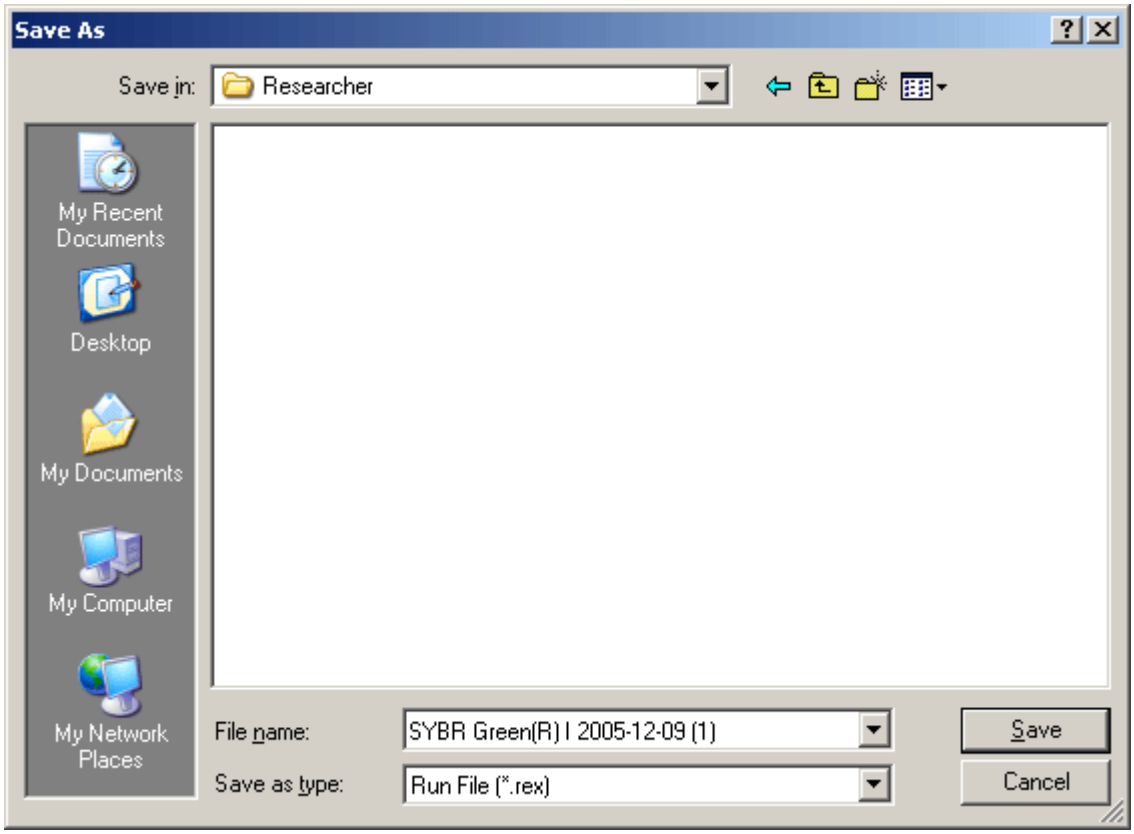
7.1.2 Confirm Profile

The template chosen imports the cycling conditions and acquisition channels. This can be altered using the Profile Editor. To initiate a run click the **Start Run** button. The ability to save templates is also available before starting the run.



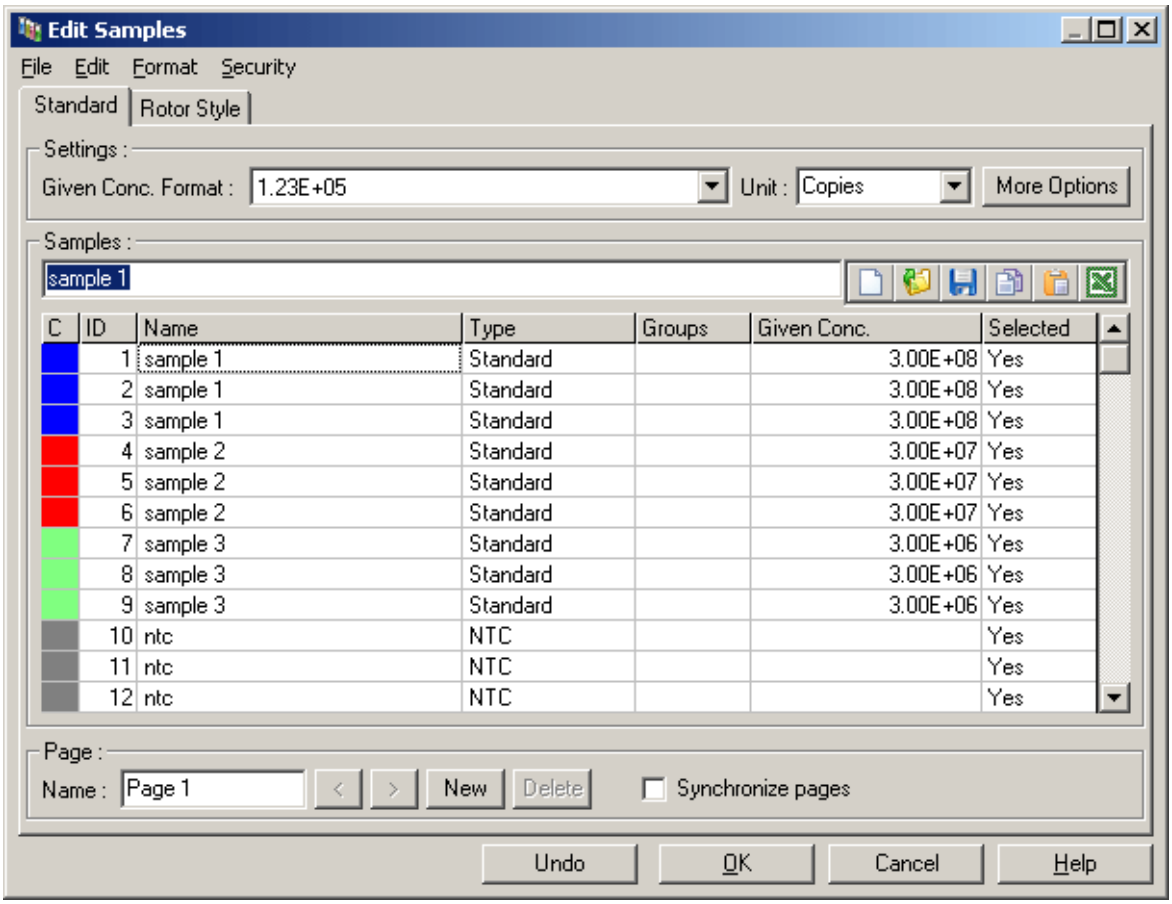
7.1.3 Save Run

Clicking the Start Run button brings up the Save As window. The run can be saved in the user's desired destination. The run is given a filename with the template used and the date of the run. A serial number is also designated to allow automatic naming of numerous runs that use the same template on the same day. E.g. below the run was the first run set up using the SYBR Green (R) I template on 9'th Dec 2005.



7.1.4 Sample Setup

Once the run has started it will automatically load the sample editor that will allow the user to define their samples.

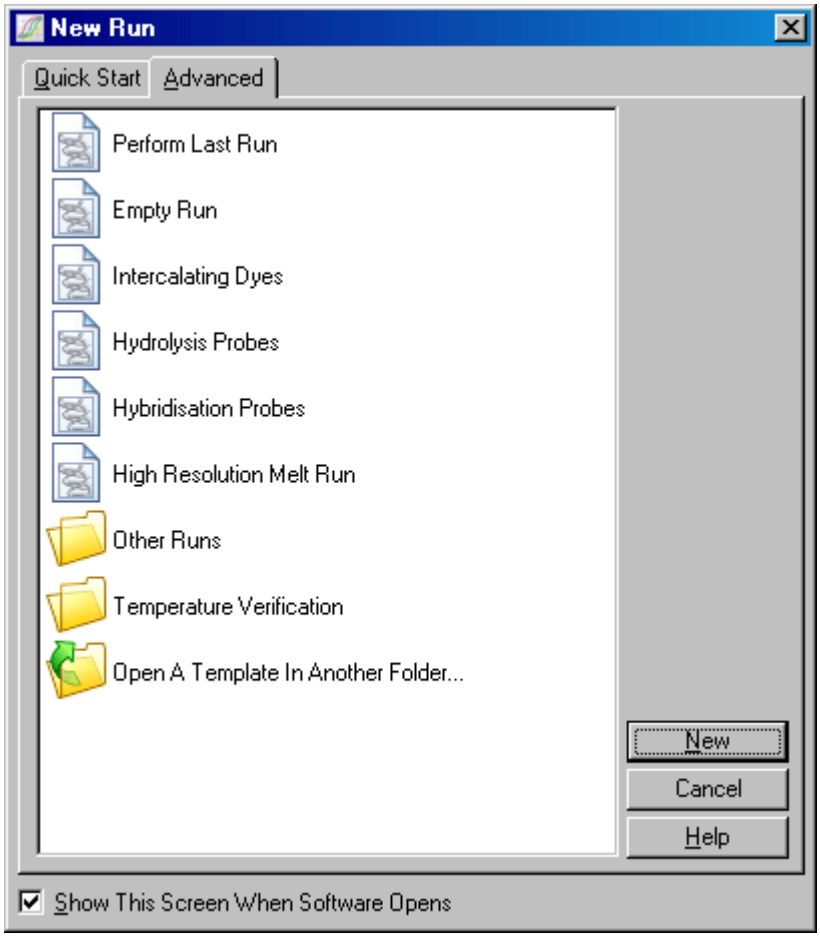


The editor gets shown after the run has started so the user can take their time to enter sample names optimising the total amount time for a complete run. For information about setting up sample definitions see Sample Editor.

7.2 Advanced wizard

The advanced wizard contains options that are not available in the Quick Start wizard such as configuring gain optimisation.

Select a template from the Advanced tab of the wizard.



Template options provided in the advanced templates window are similar to the quick start selection, the differences between them are listed here

Empty Run: An empty run allowing the user to start defining their profile from scratch.

Intercalating Dyes: three step cycling profile and a melt curve with data acquisition on the Green channel.
Hydrolysis Probes: two step cycling profile with data acquired on the Green channel only to speed up the run.
Hybridisation Probes: three step cycling profile with and a melt curve, data acquired on the Green and Yellow channels.

Note:
The previous 3 templates are almost identical to Sybr Green (R) I, Dual Labelled Probes, and Quenched FRET from the quick start selection, but have been given generic names to so that the user understands the Rotor-Gene 6000 can be used with a wide variety of applications.

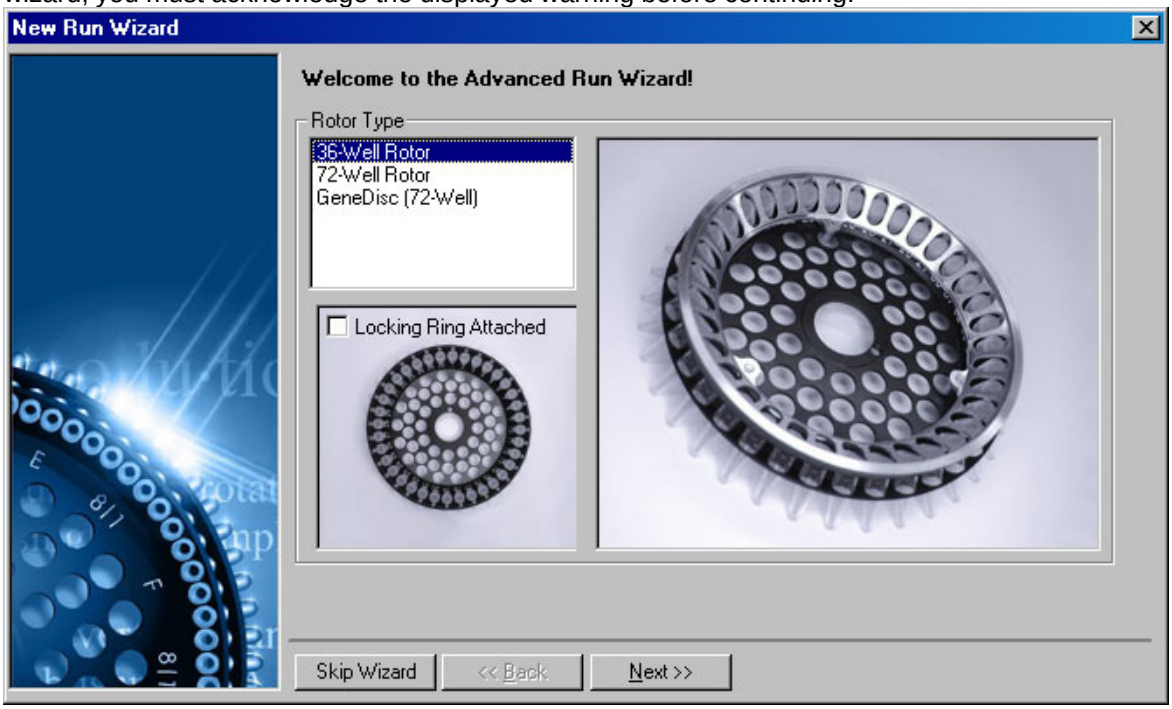
Temperature Verification: used with Corbett Research's Optical Temperature Verification rotor

see Optical Temperature Verification (OTV). This template has been locked down as the profile needs to be precise for correct operation.

Similar to the Quick Start Templates copying **.RET** files to **C:\Program Files\Rotor-Gene 6000 Software\Templates** will appear in the Advanced Templates window.

7.2.1 Page 1

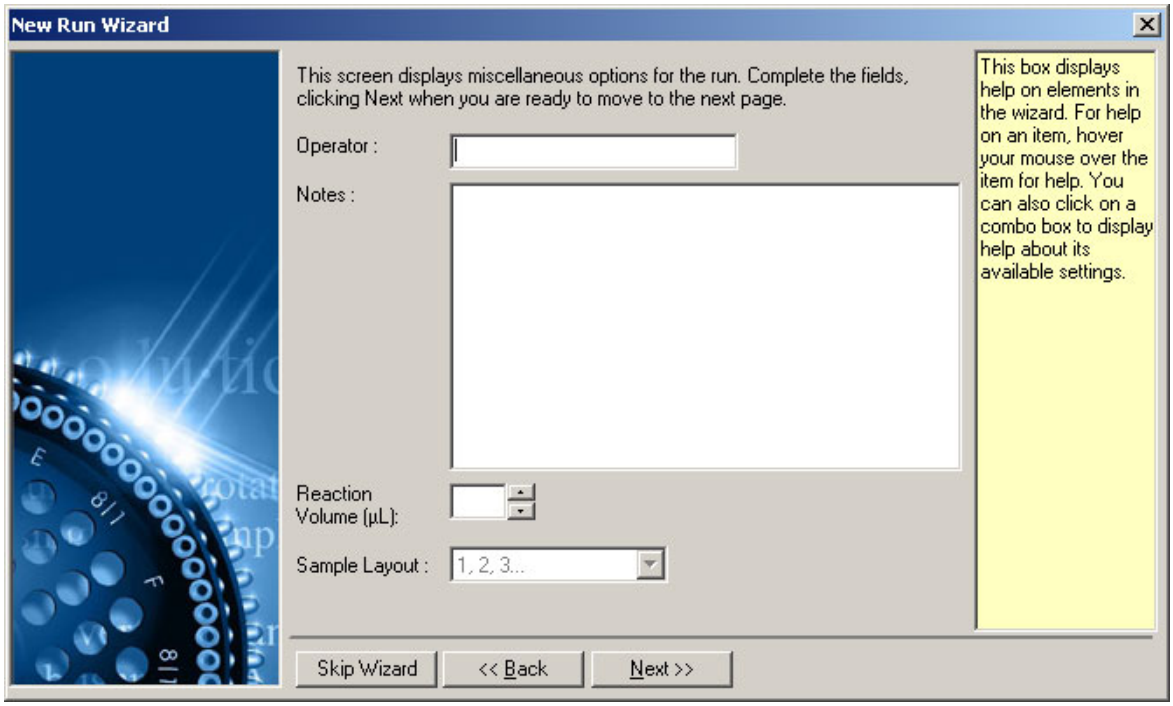
The initial screen on the new run wizard asks for the selection of a rotor. As in the quick start wizard, you must acknowledge the displayed warning before continuing.



7.2.2 Page 2

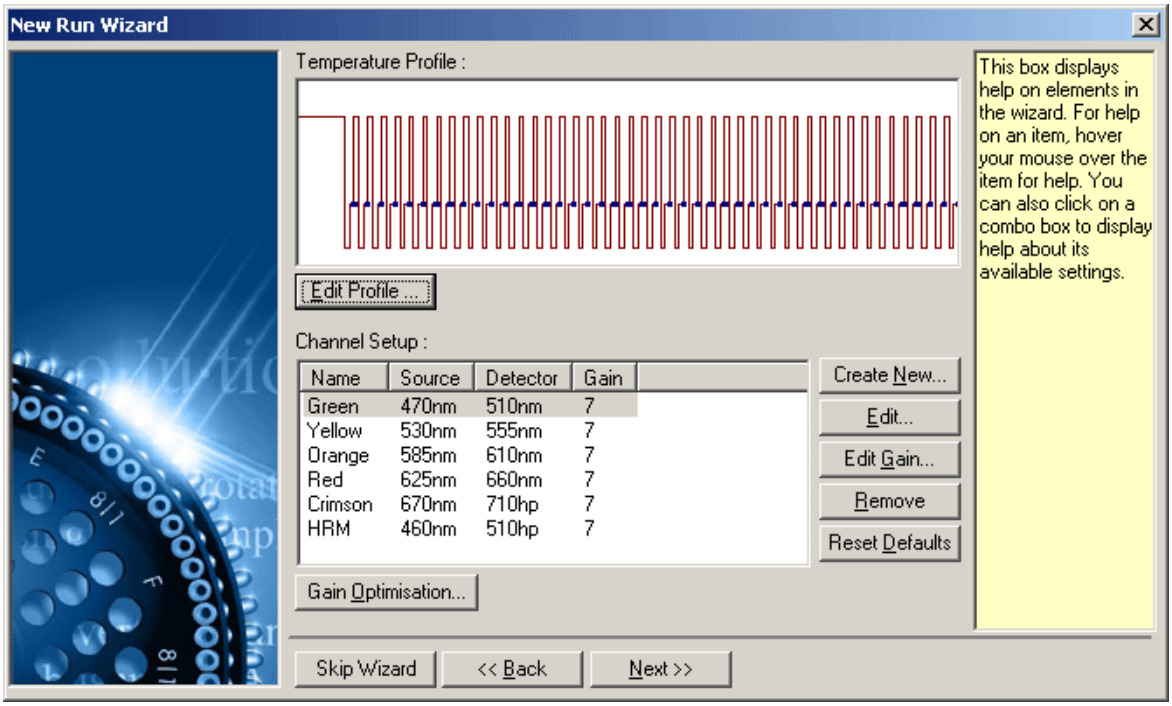
Operators name and notes about the run can be entered here. The reaction volume must be entered. The Rotor-Gene 6000 is configured for 20-25 µL volumes. The software recommends longer holds during cycling for larger volumes.

If the 72 well Carousel is selected, three **Sample Layout** formats are available. **1, 2, 3...** should be selected
when a numbered rotor is used, this is the default option. **1A, 1B, 1C...** when samples are loaded in adjacent tubes in the 0.1
mL strips. If consecutive samples are in fact in every 8'th well (if loaded with a multi channel pipette) the **A1, A2, A3...**
layout should be selected. Most users will only need to use the default option.



7.2.3 Page 3

In this screen the **Temperature Profile** and the **Channel Setup** can be modified. Click the **Edit...** button to bring up the Profile Editor to alter the cycling conditions and select acquisition channels. After setting up the profile click the **Gain Optimisation...** button to bring up the Gain Optimisation window.



Profile Editor

The Profile editor allows you to set the cycling conditions and acquisition channels. The initial cycling profile is based on the template selected (Setting up a Run). The profile is graphically displayed. The list of the segments that the profile consists of is listed below the graphical display. A cycle can be a **Hold**, **Cycling**, **Melt** or **HRM** if the instrument contains a HRM channel. The settings of each cycle of the profile can be edited by clicking on the cycle in the graphical display or the name of the cycle in the list and changing the set temperatures and hold times.

Insert after...: allows addition of a cycle after the selected cycle.
Insert before...: allows addition of a cycle before the selected cycle.
Remove: removes the selected cycle from the profile.

Cycling

Long Range option adds 1 second to the hold time at extension at each cycle for a user defined number of cycles.
Touchdown decreases the temperature at annealing by 1 degree at each cycle for a user defined number of cycles.

Melt and Hybridisation

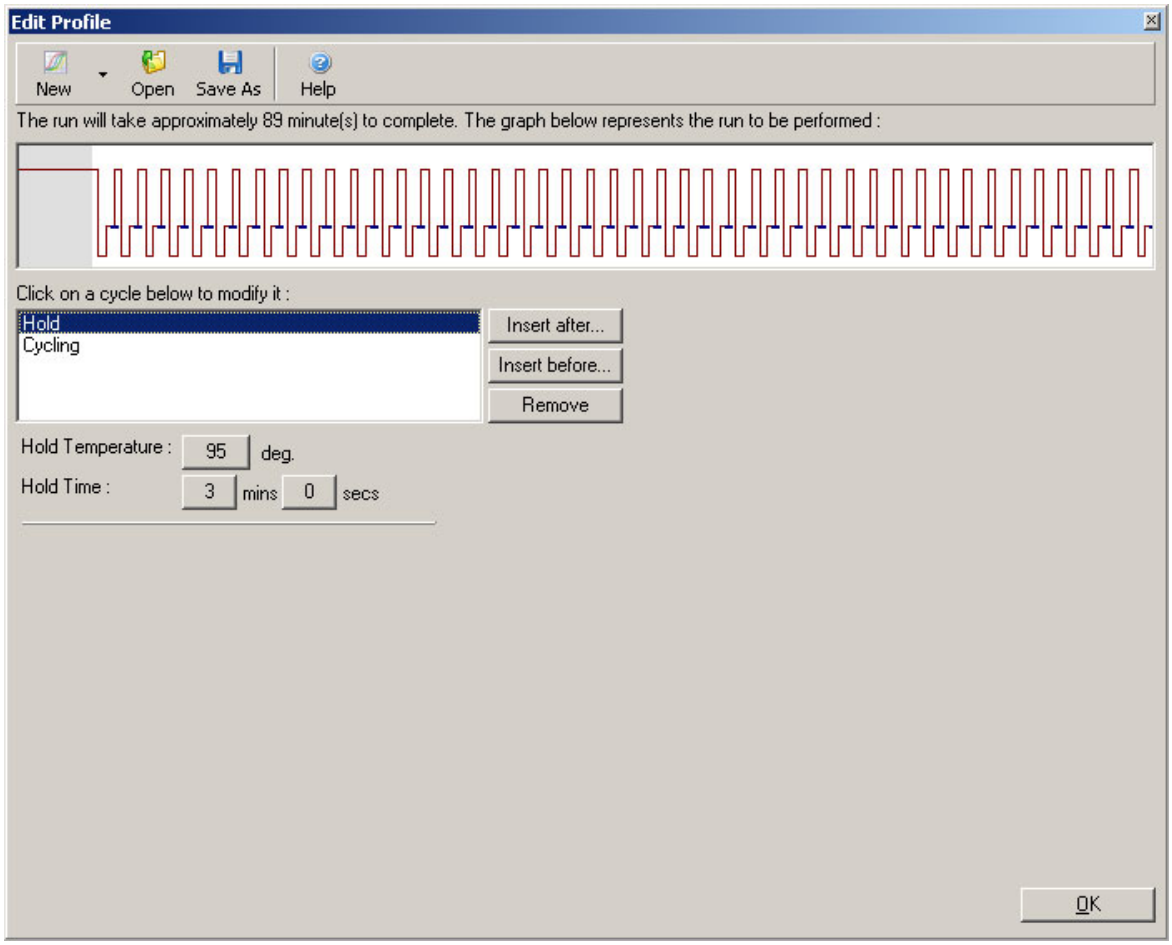
A **Melt** step is a ramp between two temperatures, from a lower to a higher temperature. If the temperature is set to decrease, the step is labelled as **Hybridisation** instead. The allowable temperature range is from 25 to 99 degrees.

To set up a melt, define the start temperature, the end temperature, the length of time to hold at the first acquisition temperature before the ramp is initiated, the temperature increments and the time each increment is to be held for, and the acquisition channels.

High Resolution Melt

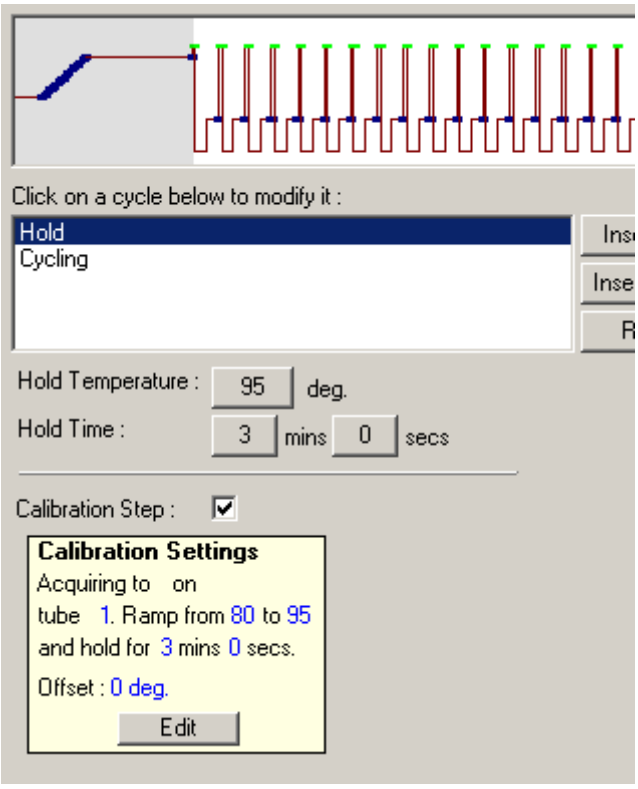
A **High Resolution Melt (HRM)** step is similar to the melt step however it can only be done on instruments that have HRM components installed. The high resolution melt step will always acquire data using the HRM sources and detectors, it also has the option to perform gain optimisation just before the melt begins. After performing a high resolution melt step the data can then be analysed with the HRM Analysis which is exclusively available for HRM instruments.

Hold



A hold instructs the Rotor-Gene 6000 to remain at the designated temperature for a set time. To change the temperature click **Hold Temperature** button and use the type in or use the slide bar to change the temperature. Similarly to change the duration of the hold click on the **Hold Time**, **mins** and **secs** buttons.

If running an Optical Denaturation, you can elect a hold step as a calibration step. This causes a calibration melt to be performed before this step. By default, this is configured for the first hold in the run, but may be overridden if you are using 60 degree preholds before your 95 degree hold.



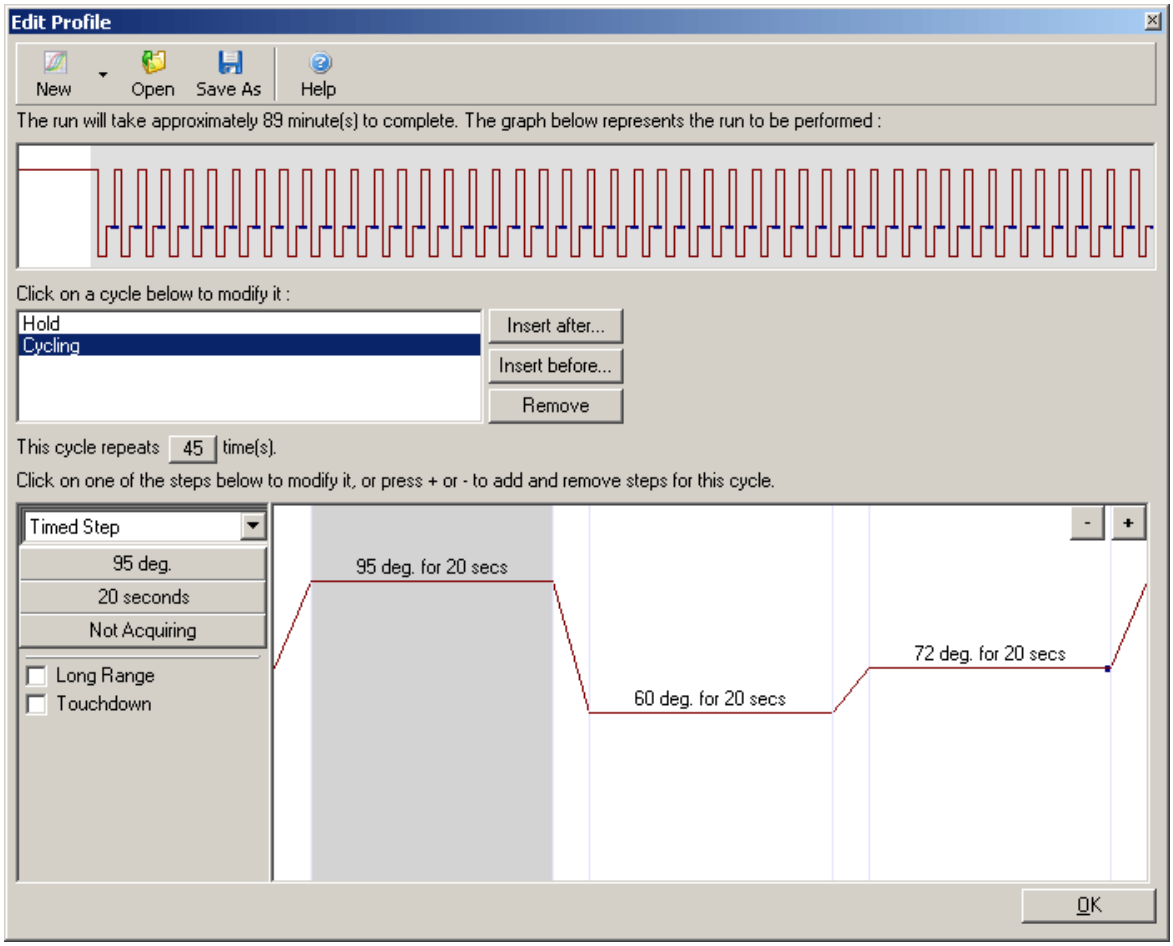
More information about configuring optical denature runs can be found in the section Optical Denature Cycling.

Cycling

Repeats the user defined temperature/time steps a defined number of times. The number of repeats is set using the **This cycle repeats X time(s)** selector.

The individual repeat is displayed (as seen in bottom right of the below graphic). Each step of the repeat can be altered. Temperature can be changed by dragging the temperature bar up or down. The duration of the step can be changed by dragging the temperature boundary left or right. Alternatively click on the step and use the temperature and time buttons to the left of the repeat display.

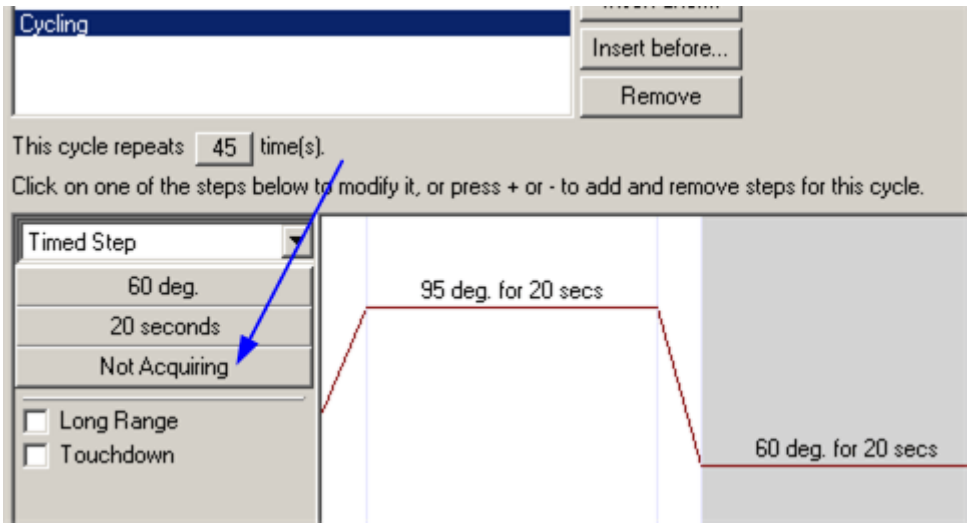
Steps can be added or removed from the cycling by using the -/+ buttons on the right-hand side.



Touchdown: Touchdown can be enabled to decrease the temperature during the initial cycles. Set the number of cycles and the program decreases the Anneal Temperature by 1°C every cycle for the number of cycles specified. This is reflected in the graphical cycle representation.

Long Range: Long range can be enabled to increment the hold time of the selected step by one second with each new cycle. This has the effect of increasing the extension time as the cycling proceeds.

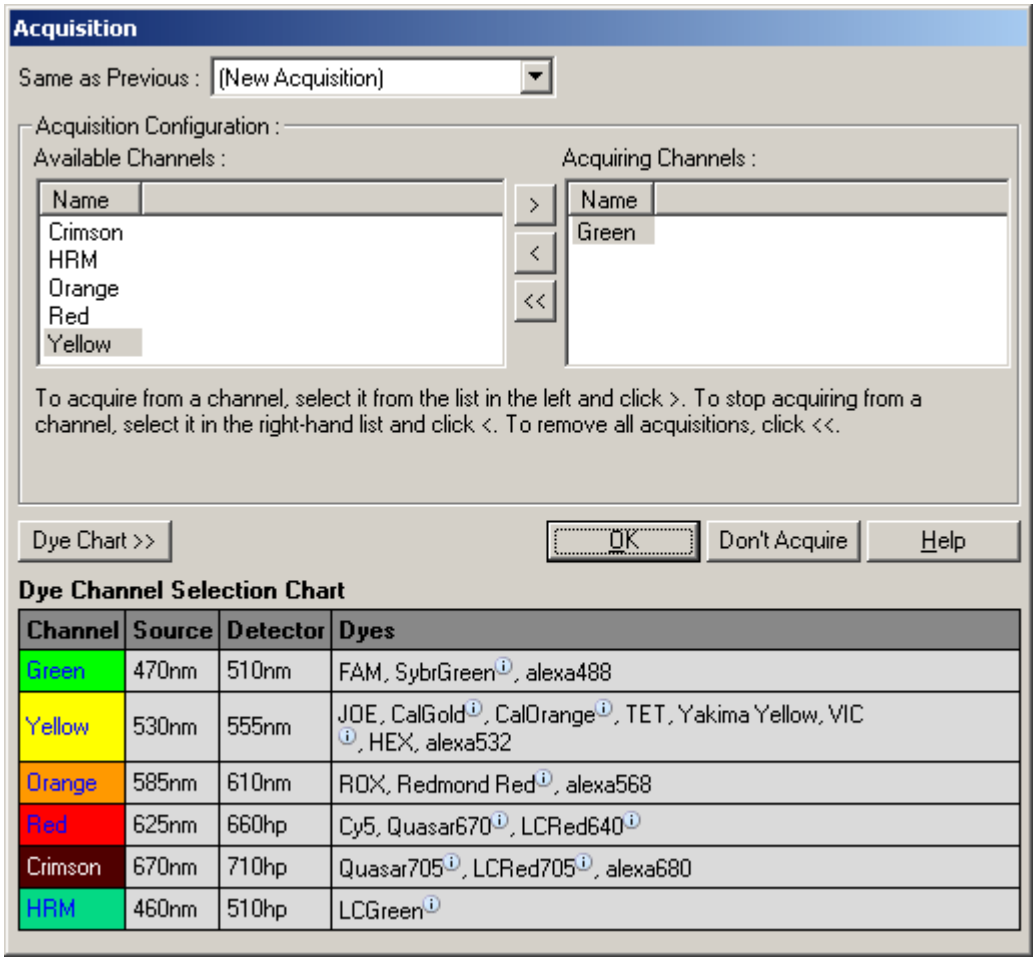
Acquisition



Acquisition: Data can be acquired on any channel at any step of the Cycling. Click on the **Not Acquiring** button. If a channel has been already been set to acquire at this step, then the acquiring channels will be listed here instead. Once clicked, the Acquisition window will appear. To set a channel to acquire, move the channel from the **Available Channels** list to the **Acquiring Channels** list using the › button. To remove a channel from the acquiring channels list, use the ‹ button. The ‹‹ button removes all the channels from the acquiring channels list. Clicking the Don't Acquire button also removes all acquisitions from the step.

If more than one Cycling cycle is included in the profile, the acquired data can be appended to the data acquired from the earlier Cycling. Use the drop down menu in the **Same as Previous** option to select the cycling step to which the data is to be appended.

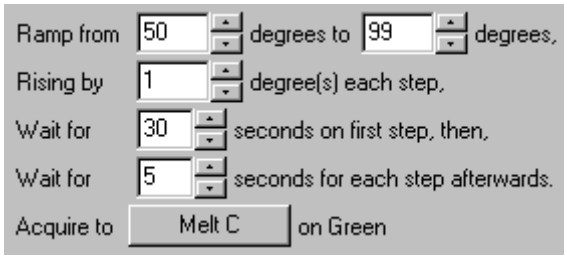
Dye Channel Selection Chart: A chart is provided that will help the user decide which channel they should be using. The user can look up the dye they are intending to use, and find the appropriate channel. The dyes shown in the table are ones that are commonly used by users, and by no means indicates the limits of the instrument.



The acquisition options described above apply equally to Melt steps, except one cannot chain acquisitions together using the **Same as Previous** option.

Melt and Hybridisation

For a melt cycle, specify a start temperature, an end temperature, the time you want to wait at before the first acquiring point, the amount of time to remain at each point and a ramp will be generated going between the two temperatures. If the start temperature is higher than the end temperature, the name of the step will change to **Hybridisation**. The **Acquiring To** option, here set to **Melt A**, can be changed by clicking on the button. The same screen as for Cycling will appear and the channels to acquire to can be selected.

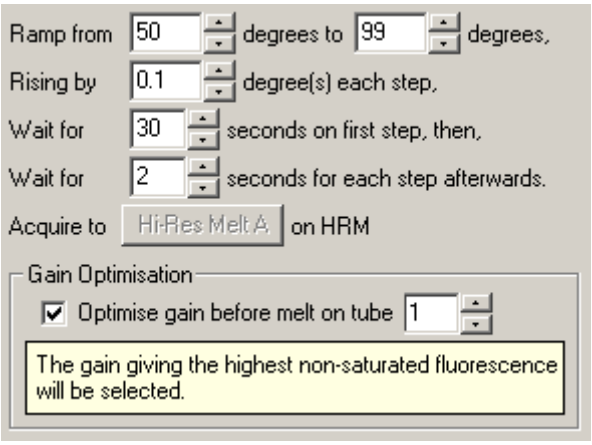


When running a standard melt the temperature is increased by increments of 1ºC waiting for 5

seconds before each acquisition. The Rotor-Gene 6000 can be configured to perform melts in 0.02ºC increments. The minimum hold time between temperature steps will vary depending on the number of degrees between each step.

High Resolution Melts

A high resolution melt step is very similar to a **Melt** step in the way that the temperature profile characteristics are set. The difference is that only the HRM channel can be acquired on. By only acquiring to this single channel we are able to reduce the amount of noise improving significantly the resolution of the melt.



The HRM step also has the option to do gain optimisation just before the melt starts. The gain will be optimised such that highest non-saturated fluorescence is selected ie. as high as possible but below 100. This will provide the best environment for seeing the entire melt transition, with the highest accuracy. The option is on by default and the user will need to select the tube to be optimised on.

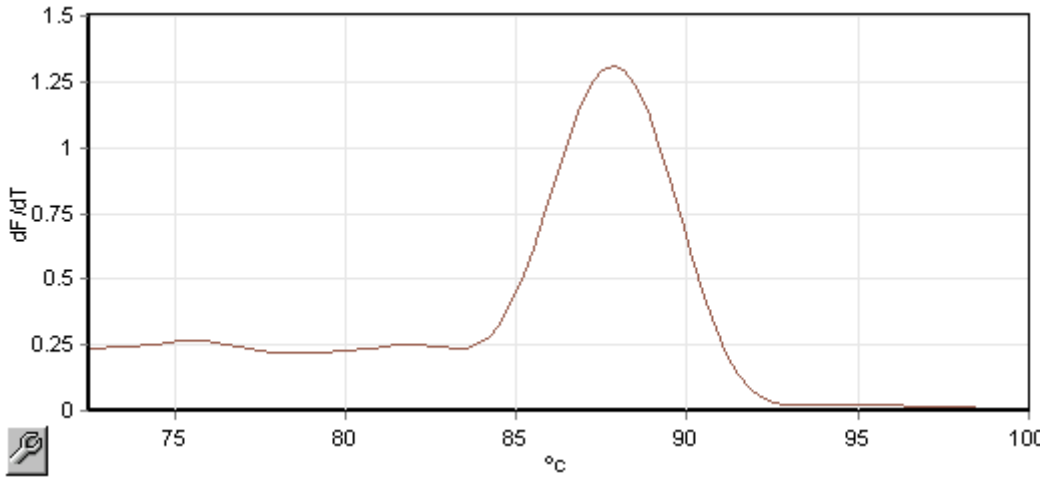
A HRM step provides the user with additional options such as analysing the data with the High Resolution Melt Analysis. This is only available to user's who purchase an instrument that supports HRM.

Optical Denature Cycling

What is Optical Denature Cycling?

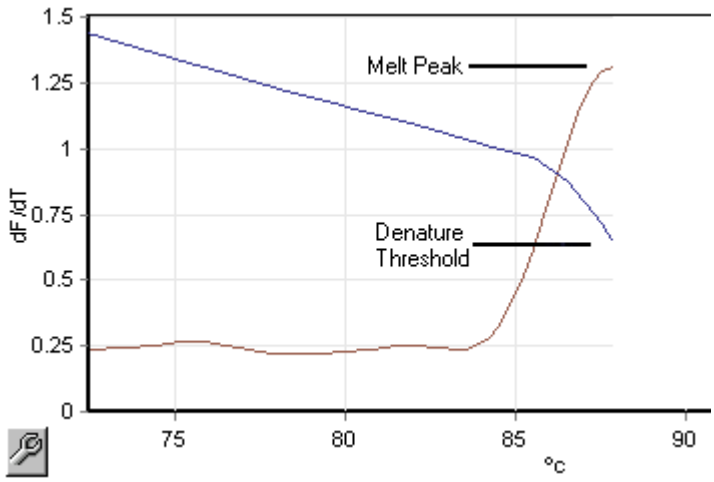
Optical Denature Cycling is an exciting new technique, available only on the Rotor-Gene 6000, which performs real-time melt analysis to determine the melt peak of a reference sample. This indicates with greater precision when your product has denatured than by setting a particular denature temperature for a hold time. To perform this technique, simply place a tube of pre-amplified product in tube position 1 in your rotor. The reference tube must also contain a detection chemistry that enables strand dissociation to be detected. We suggest using SYBR Green I.

When first heating the machine to the initial denature temperature, a melt on the Green channel is performed starting from around 80 degrees until 95 degrees (although these parameters may vary). From this data, a melt curve is generated and automatically analysed:



The **Melt Peak** is referenced back to the raw data to obtain a **Denature Threshold**. Then, every Optical Denature step, the machine is heated as quickly as possible and data acquired continuously. Once the **Reference Tube** has reached this denature threshold fluorescence level, the machine is immediately cooled and proceed to the anneal step. While cycling, a peak is not calculated, rather, it is the fluorescence level that is referenced to the melt peak and designates the denature threshold.

In this graph, the raw fluorescence readings and the first derivative have been overlayed. It shows the correspondence between the **Denature Threshold** and the **Melt Peak** obtained during the calibration.



What do I need to perform an Optical Denature run?

To perform an Optical Denature run, you will need:

- A pre-amplified sample which you should place in position 1 in the rotor. This sample should contain the same product as samples of interest and a detection chemistry, such as SYBR Green, that allows for the monitoring of product dissociation.
- An optical denature profile. You can find out how to set up an Optical Denature Run in the topic

Adding a New Optical Denature Cycling Segment.

What will I see when performing an Optical Denature run?

An Optical Denature run, from the user perspective, appears almost identical. The most striking differences are the melt step automatically inserted at the beginning of the profile, and the sharp profile of the denature step during cycling. The denature step does not require defined hold times as the dissociation of the product is monitored at each cycle.

Configuration

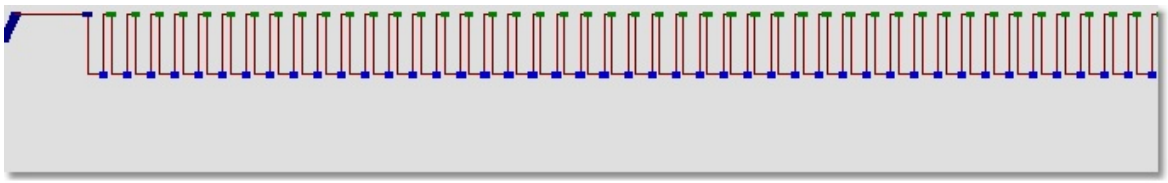
To perform this technique, the software must know several things about your run:

- The Initial Denaturation temperature. This is the same temperature as your denature step in a standard cycling profile.
- The tube position of a sample which has already been amplified, and which will produce a melt curve on the Green Channel. For example, if you are performing a SYBR-Green I run or a run with dual labeled probes, put a sample of pre-amplified SYBR product in tube position 1, and your other samples in the remaining positions.

You must also define an Optical Denature cycling profile. This is enabled by default in this version of the software. However, your existing templates from older versions of the software will not use this step.

Adding a New Optical Denature Cycling Segment

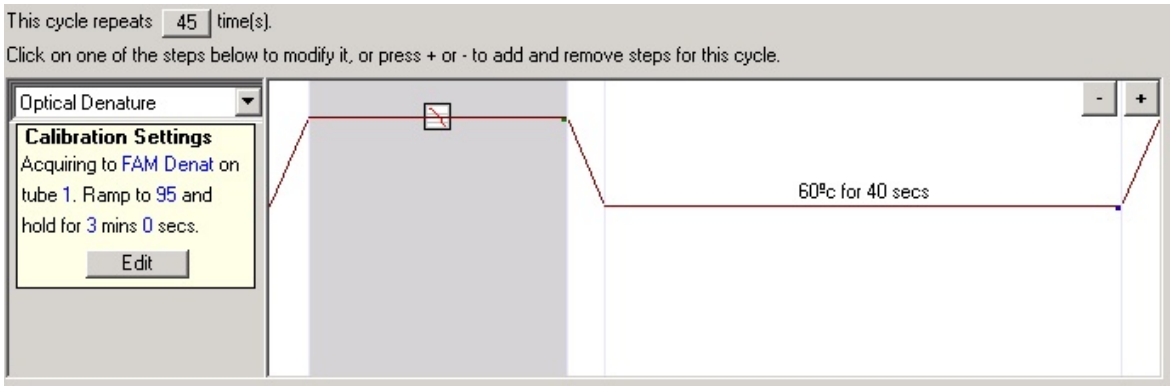
To add an optical denature step, open the Profile Editor. Then click New. A default profile containing a Denature step and an Optical Denature Cycling step will appear: The profile is displayed as:



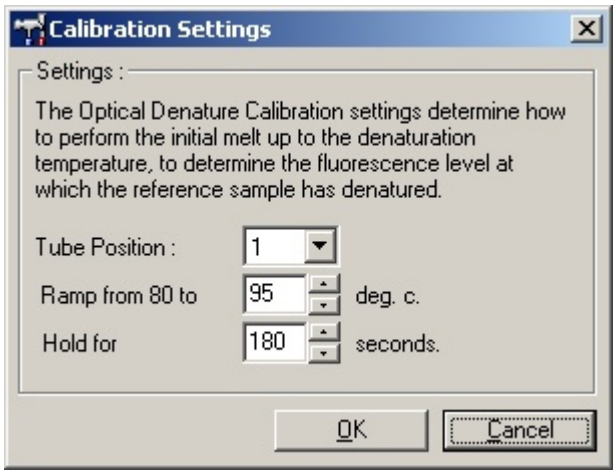
The blue shaded region at the beginning of the run represents the optical denature calibration process. The Green dots represent the acquisitions taken each cycle during heating. The lighter blue dots represent the acquisition at the end of the anneal step at 60 degrees. Note that while the profile shows each step going to the same denature temperature, this may not be the case. If the sample requires slightly longer to melt towards the end of the run, the optical denature process will wait for the melt in the fluorescent data, and not off the times. For this reason, the temperature trace for optical denature may vary for each cycle.

By clicking on the Cycling step, the information about the 2-step profile appears in the lower half of the Profile Editor window. Click on the second half of the graph with the Optical Denature symbol  .

The Calibration Settings information appears on the left-hand side of the screen:



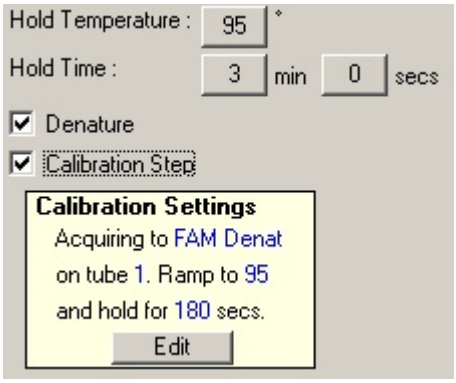
Most of the time, this information will be correct. You can, however, modify it by clicking **Edit**. The Calibration Settings window will then be displayed:



You should ensure that:

- The tube indicated in the Tube Position contains a sample of pre-amplified product that will show a melt peak on the Green channel.
- The Final Ramp temperature will not burn the sample, yet will be high enough to allow it to melt.
- The hold time is sufficient to denature the samples.

You can also define a Denature step yourself, and configure the calibration settings via its screen:



The calibration settings are synchronised with the denature settings, so a change to the hold time in the denature step will automatically update the calibration's hold time. This is because the calibration process and denaturation are equivalent in **Optical Denature Cycling**.

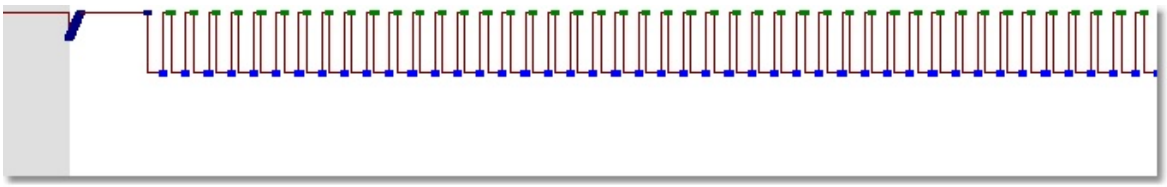
Changing An Existing Step to Use Optical Denature

To change an existing denature step in a Cycling, select the cycle in the Profile Editor's list. Then, select the denature hold by clicking on it in the preview graph at the bottom of the screen:

Click on the word "Timed Step" and select "Optical Denature". The Temperature and Hold Time will be removed and the Optical Denature icon  will be displayed in their place.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- If you are using Optical Denature Cycling, you **must** make sure that your initial hold is labelled as a calibration step. Otherwise, the Cycling step will include the calibration after the initial hold, causing a cool to the lower temperature in the calibration melt. The profile preview will indicate this situation :



To correct this problem, tick the **Calibration Step** box in the initial hold step.

Gain Optimisation

When setting up a new run with reactions that have not previously been run on the Rotor-Gene 6000 it is helpful to use the Gain Optimisation function. This screen allows you to set the Gains of each of the channels and the set temperature.

Note: The gain optimisation will never be 100% correct. This can be due to changes in fluorescence after the first hold step. Nevertheless, the result of the gain optimisation will give you a good indication on what fluorescence level the run will be started.

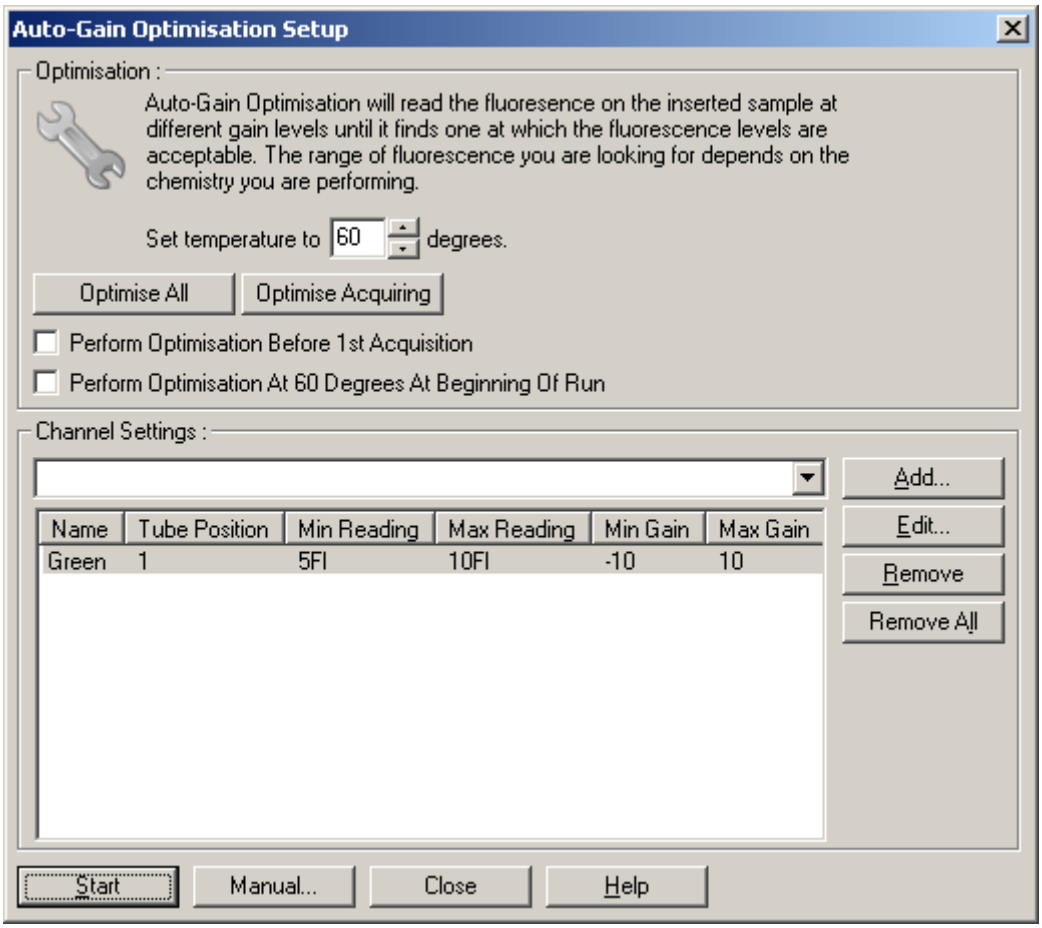
The Gain for each channel is -10 to 10, -10 = least sensitive and 10 = most sensitive.

When running reactions for the first time it is advisable to prepare a test sample containing all reaction components. This is then placed in the machine and Gain Optimisation is run to determine the best Gain setting.

Gain Auto-Optimisation

This window lets you optimise your instrument by automatically adjusting your Gain settings until the readings for all selected channels fall below a certain threshold. You can select to optimise all channels, or just those that you will be using in the current run.

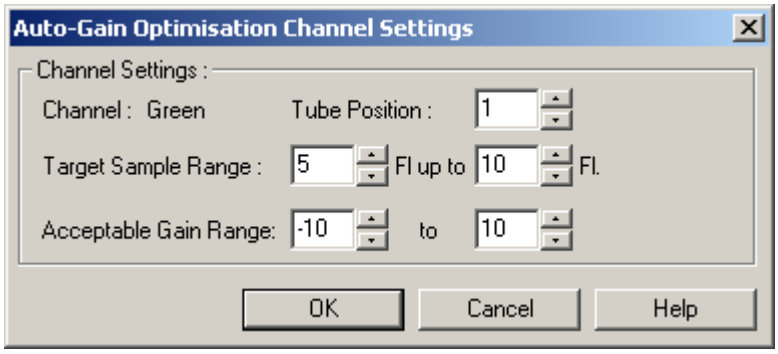
Set temperature to ... Before reading, the machine will be heated or cooled to match the given temperature.



Optimise All / Optimise Acquiring: "Optimise All" will attempt to optimise for all channels known by the software. Selecting "Optimise Acquiring" will instead only optimise those that you have used in the thermal profile defined in the run (cycling and melt).

Channel Settings: This is a pull down menu allowing you to add additional channels to the gain optimisation window. Choose the channel of interest and **Add**.

Edit... Opens a window where the fluorescence range of the sample can be determined. The auto-optimisation process begins on Gain 5, reading from each channel. It chooses the first Gain, which has a fluorescence reading equal to or below the level you set in this box. In the example below, tube position 1 was chosen with a target sample range between 5 and 10 Fl.



Remove and Remove all: Removes the highlighted channel or all channels.

Start: Begins the optimisation process. A gain will be chosen which is within the given range. If no value is found within the range, the closest match will be chosen.

Manual: Opens the Manual Gain Adjustment screen (see below).

Perform Optimisation Before 1st Acquisition: This tick box performs the Gain Optimisation at the first cycle where data acquisition occurs. This is useful as with some probes after the initial hold the background fluorescence of the probes can change substantially. This is generally the recommended auto-gain option.

Perform Optimisation At [x] Degrees At Beginning of Run: This tick box performs the Gain Optimisation just before starting the run. The machine is heated to the given temperature, the gain optimisation is performed, and then cycling begins on the first step, usually a Denature. This can be useful when a optimisation during the run may impact too much on the time spent on the initial step. Usually, however, **Perform Optimisation Before 1st Acquisition** is preferred as optimisation is performed as close as possible to run conditions.

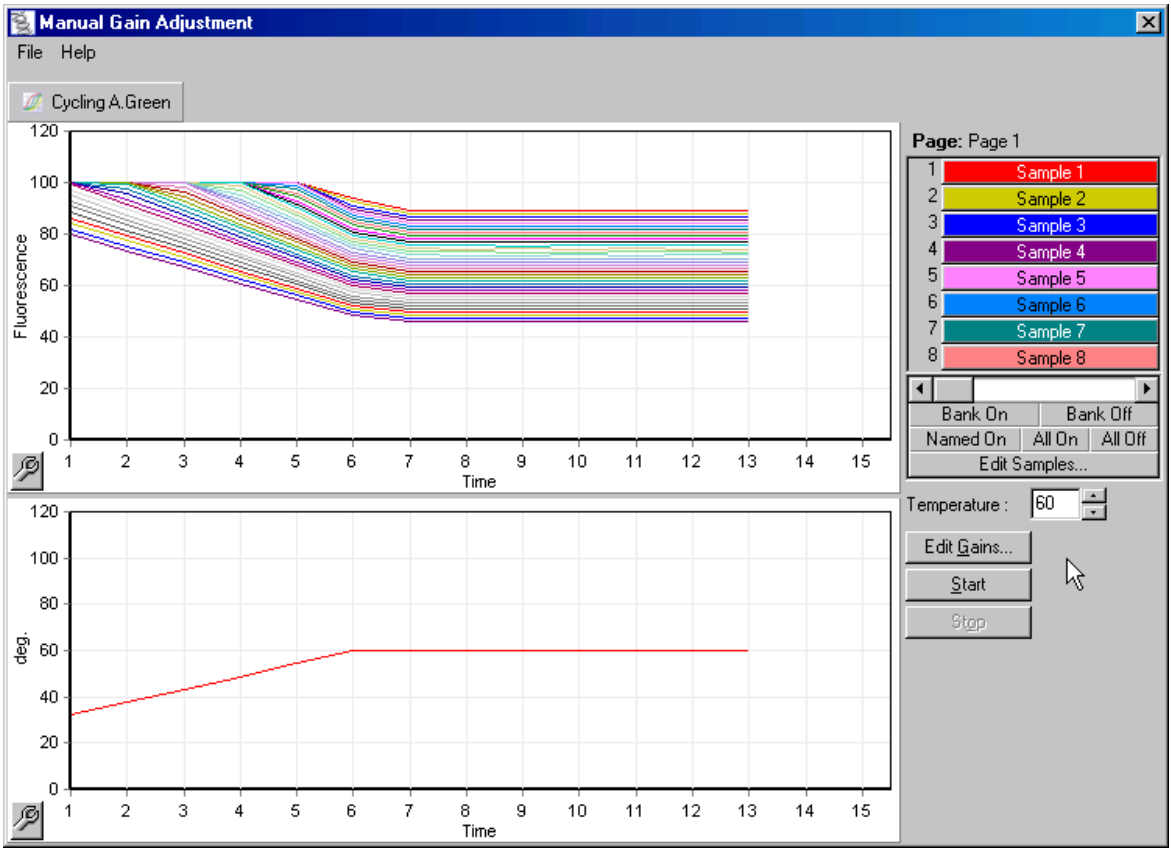
Changing Gain During a Run: If the Gain at the beginning of the run was accidentally chosen to high or to low it can be changed within the first ten cycles. A vertical line in the main screen will appear where the Gain has been changed. Due to the drop or increase in fluorescence the cycles before the change will be excluded from the analysis.

A good rule of thumb is to have fluorescence settings for:

- SYBR Green between 1 and 3
- Probe runs between 5 and 10
- Quenched FRET runs between 70 and 80.

Manual Gain Adjustment

This window lets you view in real time the fluorescent readings at any given temperature. It is used when the background of a sample is unknown and therefore the gain must be determined to ensure the sample signal is sufficient to detect.



By default, all samples are toggled on. The display samples can be toggled using the right-hand selector as in the main experiment workspace.

It takes approximately 4 seconds to acquire data per channel. During this time the user interface is deactivated and so it is best to 1) Start the test 2) wait for the temperature to stabilize 3) note the end point fluorescence (Fl) reading 4) stop the unit 5) make the appropriate Gain change and 6) restart the unit.

Temperature: Change this value to set the temperature of the machine. **Note: The temperature is not adjusted while the machine is operating. You should restart the machine to apply changes made to the temperature.** Adjust the temperature on the Gain Adjustment screen to reflect the required acquisition temperature for the run.

Edit Gains: Opens the Edit Gains window.

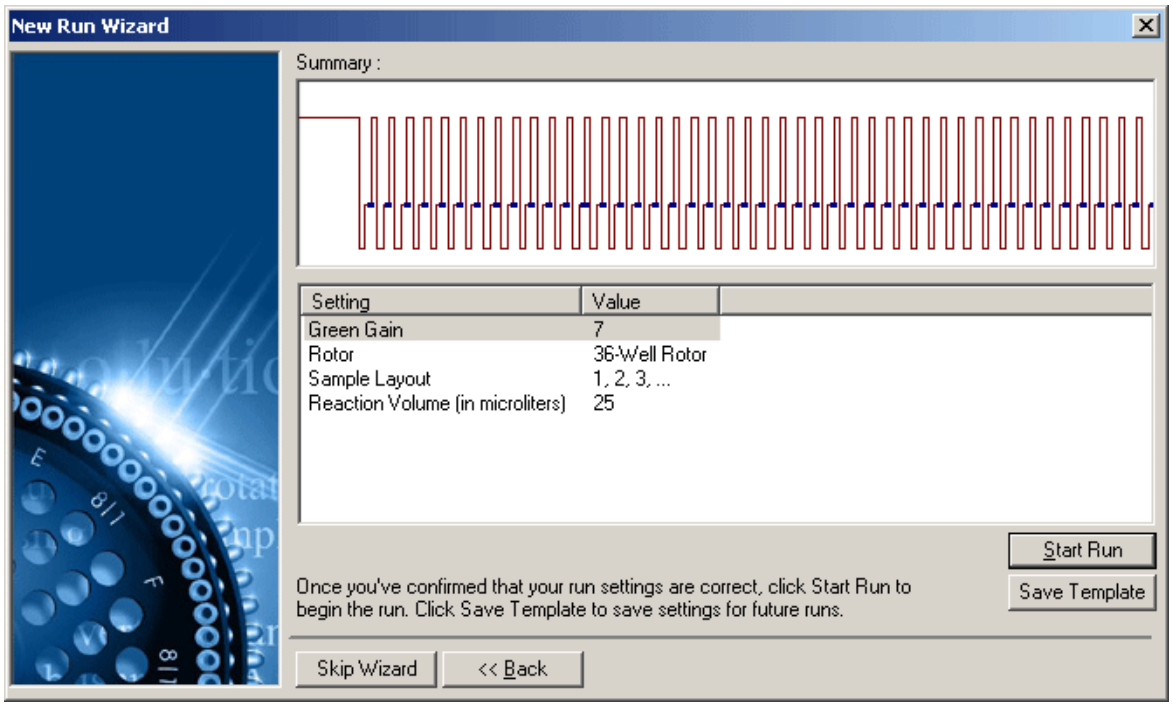
Start: Begins the run, setting the machine temperature to that displayed on the screen. The temperature and channel graphs will start to display data.

Stop: Stops the run. If the run is still acquiring data when you click the button, then the machine

will first finish acquiring, and then stop the machine. This process can take up to 5 seconds for each acquiring channel.

NOTE: The aim of the Gain setting is to have all data on the screen. The Gain doesn't influence your data. If the Gain was chosen too high, curves might go off scale and data could be lost. It is therefore a good idea to start a SYBR-Green I or dual-labeled probe run with a low fluorescence close to zero (an increase is expected) and a quenched FRET run with a higher fluorescence, close to 100 units (a decrease is expected).

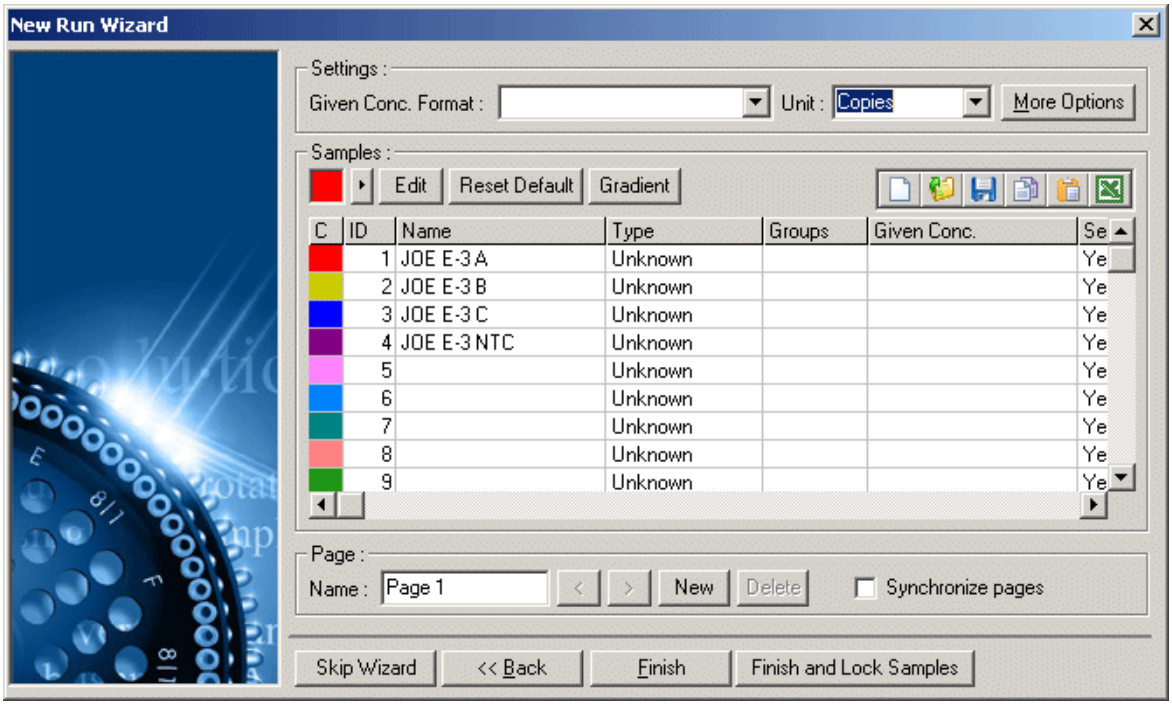
7.2.4 Page 4



The last screen gives a summary of what you are about to run. Always check the parameters. If you are satisfied with the parameters click **Start Run** and you will be prompted for a file name.

7.2.5 Page 5

Once the run has begun, you can enter in sample types and descriptions while you wait for it to complete. The functionality of this screen is identical to the Sample Editor. You may also elect to complete sample information after the run has finished.



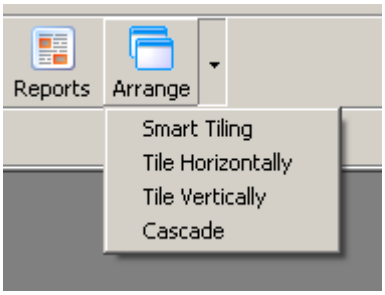
The Finish and Lock Samples button is optional. It allows you to close the screen and prevent the sample names from being modified. More information about this, and other security features is available in Security Menu.

8 Functional Overview

The following chapter will help to familiarize you with elements in the Rotor-Gene software user interface.

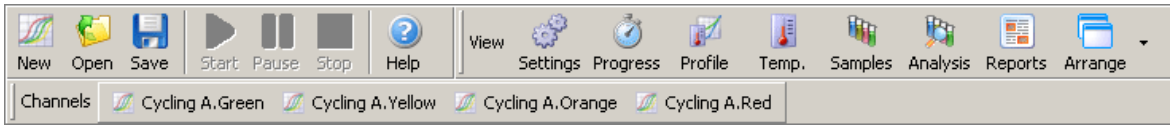
8.1 Workspace

The Rotor-Gene software workspace is the backdrop of the main window. This is the area in which you can open up graphs of raw data, temperature and analysis results. If you have several windows opened concurrently, you can organize them by clicking the **Arrange** button on the toolbar. There are several options available that you can access by clicking on the **Down Arrow** next to that button.



8.2 Toolbar Workspace

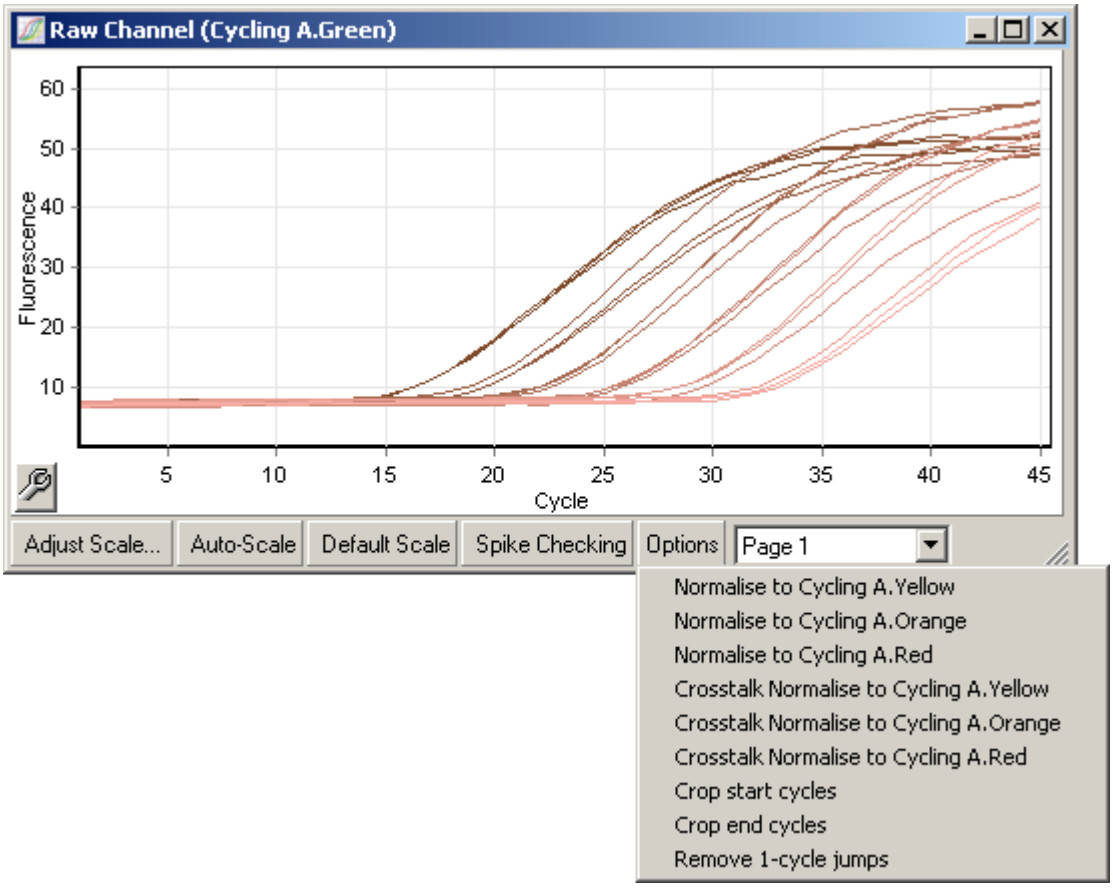
These buttons are shortcuts to frequently used operations. These commands can also be accessed via their corresponding menu items of the same name.



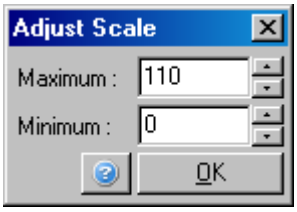
8.3 View Raw Channels

Click on these buttons to view the raw (non-analysed) data from particular channels in the run.

When viewing channel data, a number of options are available to change the presentation of the data. The channels may also be transformed to facilitate more unusual forms of analysis.



Adjust Scale will bring up a window in which you can manually enter a scale, or interactively select one. To chose this option simply press the right mouse button over the appropriate screen.



Auto-Scale attempts to fit the scale to the maximum and minimum readings in the data.

Default will reset the scale to display from 0-100 fluorescence units.

Spanner icon: See the section Spanner Icon for more information on the options provided by this button.

Options: Displays the drop-down menu indicated above, providing a number of options for transformation of the raw amplification plot.

Normalise to ...: Creates a new channel which contains the data after normalisation with the selected channel. This is useful for normalisation with a passive reference such as ROX. While

the Rotor-Gene 6000 does not require normalisation to a passive reference, this is provided to preserve compatibility with assays operating on other instruments.

Crop start cycles: Creates a new channel in which some start cycles have been removed. This is useful if large jumps are observed in the initial cycles, as can occur when using certain chemistries.

Crop end cycles: Creates a new channel in which some end cycles have been removed.

Page 1: Indicates the currently selected **Sample Page** used to display the raw data plots. The Sample Editor allows for the creation of multiple sample definitions, allowing data to be viewed with varying line thickness, sample definitions and other display options. This is of particular use if Relative Quantitation is being performed in a single channel, as the operator can easily toggle the view between the Gene of Interest and Housekeeper samples through the definition of two sample pages.

8.4 Toggling Samples

At the right-hand side of the screen is a combined sample legend and toggler. Use this control to configure which samples are included in the display and results. Samples with a cell background in vivid colour are displayed while semi-greyed samples are not. The **Scroll Bar** is used to display the next group of samples. You can toggle samples individually by clicking on them, or you can hide/show all samples currently visible in the list (the current 'bank') by clicking on **Bank on/ Bank off** buttons.

Note: The number of displayed samples in a bank is dynamic, and depends on the screen space available.

To select a range of samples, click on a sample and drag the mouse to another sample. When you release the mouse button, the selected samples will either be toggled on or off. Clicking **Named On** will only show those samples you have given a name to; a quick way to show only relevant samples. Clicking **All On /All Off** will display all or none of the samples in the rotor respectively. Pressing the **Edit Samples…** button opens the sample editor window where sample names, types and standards concentrations can be edited (see Edit Samples).

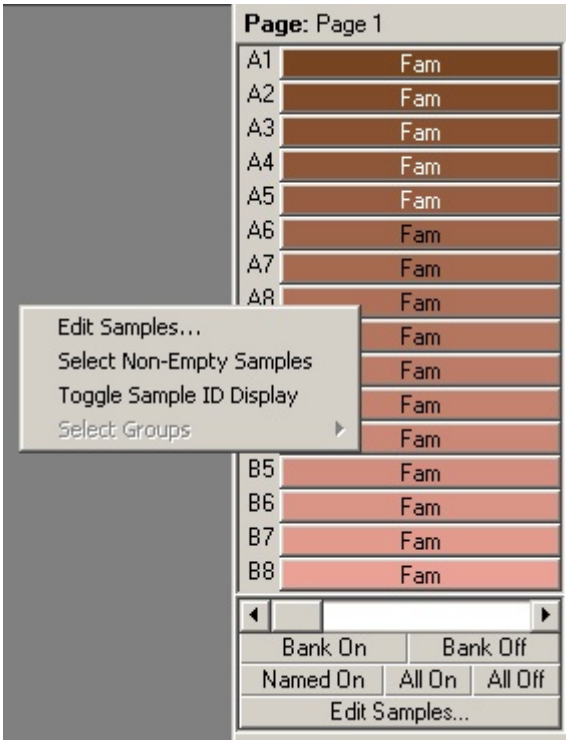
Page: This label at the top of the selector indicates the sample page that you are viewing. You can define different sample definitions for the same run to allow varied independent analyses of the same channel. For example, you can run two standard curves in the Green channel and generate independent reports. More information on setting up sample pages is available in the Edit Samples section of the manual.

Toggle samples ID display: If a 72-well rotor is used the samples are shown in the format A1 to A8, B1 to B8, etc. Using the toggle samples ID display button lets the user switch to a numerical order of samples (1 to 72).

Select Non-Empty Samples: Turns off any samples that have a sample type selected as "None" in the sample editor. This ensures that only samples relevant for the analysis of the particular page are displayed.

Select Groups: If you have defined sample groups, this feature will toggle the display of these samples for the active page. Groups are arbitrary collections of samples that allow advanced reporting of statistical results. You can, for example, define groups of Treated and Untreated patient samples. Groups can be set up in the Edit Samples window.

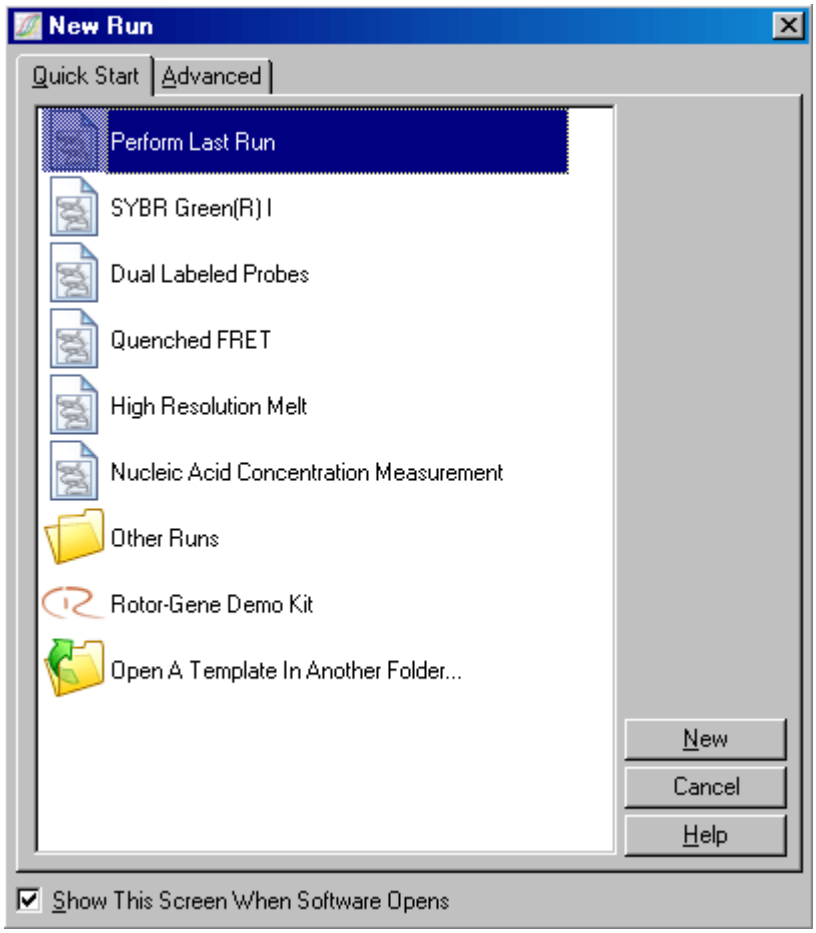
The sample toggler, shown below. The displayed additional options are accessible by clicking with the right-mouse button:



8.5 File Menu

8.5.1 New

This screen provides you with commonly used templates organised into Quick Start and Advanced templates. Once a selection has been made the wizard will guide you through the run setup, and will allow you to modify settings and profiles.



For information about templates provided please see Quick Start Wizard and Advanced Wizard.

New Run

New...: Initiates the wizard setup of the run using the selected template's configuration.

Cancel: Closes this window.

Help: Opens on-line help.

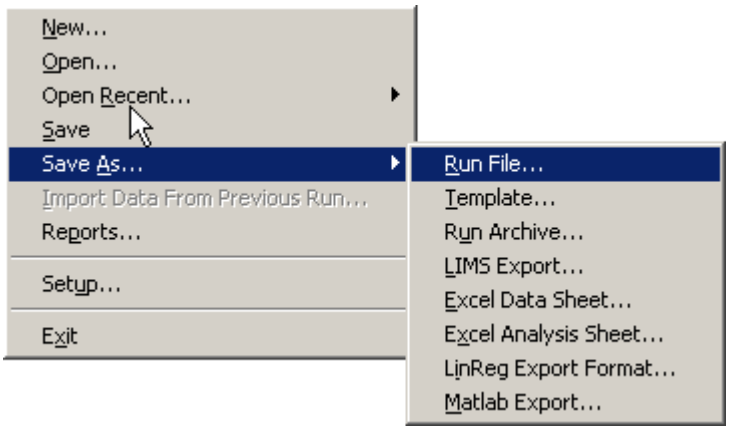
Show this screen when software opens: If this option is ticked the wizard is displayed when the software is initiated.

8.5.2 Opening and Saving

Open...: Opens a previously saved Rotor-Gene 6000 Run File (.rex) or Rotor-Gene 6000 Run Archive (.rea file).

Open Recent...: Displays the last four files that have been opened or saved.

Save: Saves any changes that have been made to a run file.



Save As...: Use this function to save the run file or data in various formats. The options are as follows:

Run File...: Saves a copy of the file. The user can change the name and the save location of the run. This is the default format.

Template...: Saves the profile setup and associated settings but not the run data. The template can be used to initiate future runs.

Run Archive...: Saves in a more compact file format. You should save files in this format before they are emailed. This both reduces the time required to send the file, and ensures that files are not corrupted by mail clients.

Excel Data Sheet...: Exports all of the raw channels to an excel sheet. Only the samples you have selected will be exported.

Excel Analysis Sheet...: Exports all the analysis in the current run into a single data sheet.

LinReg Export Format...: Exports all raw channel data into a format which can be read by LinReg (an efficiency analysis tool). See Exporting To LinReg for more details.

Matlab Export...: Exports the data into a format which can be read by the scientific package Matlab (or its Open-Source equivalent, Octave). This may be useful for those involved in methods research.

Exporting To LinReg

The assumption-free analysis method deals with the calculation of a sample's efficiency by analysing its amplification curve.

LinReg is the supporting tool developed by the authors' of the publication:

"Assumption-free analysis of quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) data." Ramakers C, Ruijter JM, Deprez RH, Moorman AF. Neurosci Lett. 2003 Mar 13;339(1):62-6.

The abstract can be found at the following link:

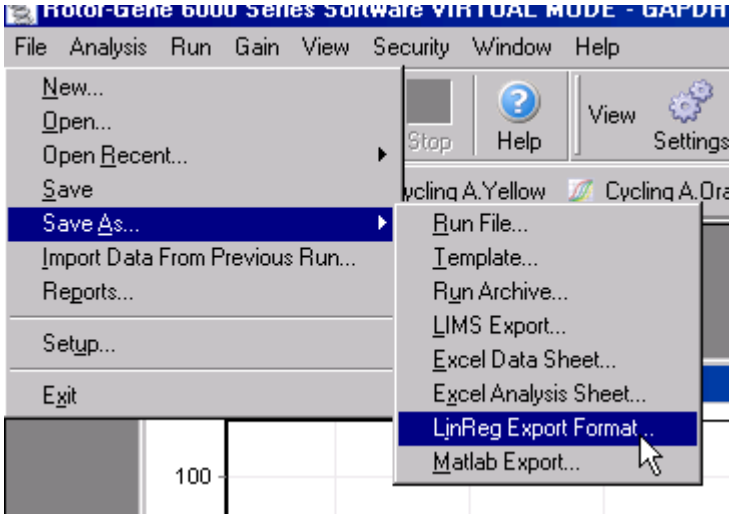
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12618301&dopt=Abstract

As mentioned in the publication the LinReg tool is available on request (e-mail: bioinfo@amc.uva.nl; subject: LinRegPCR).

The Rotor-Gene software allows the user to export raw data in a common data format, which can then be imported by the LinReg tool for analysis.

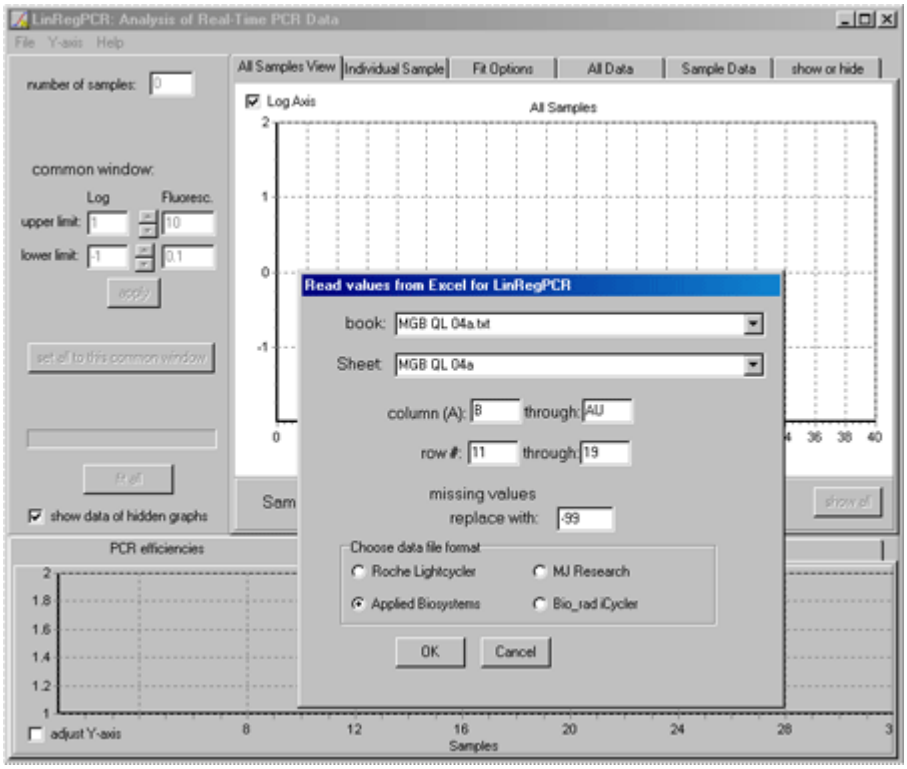
1. Open the Rotor-Gene run file containing amplification data.

2. Export the data to the LinReg Export Format as shown in the diagram below.

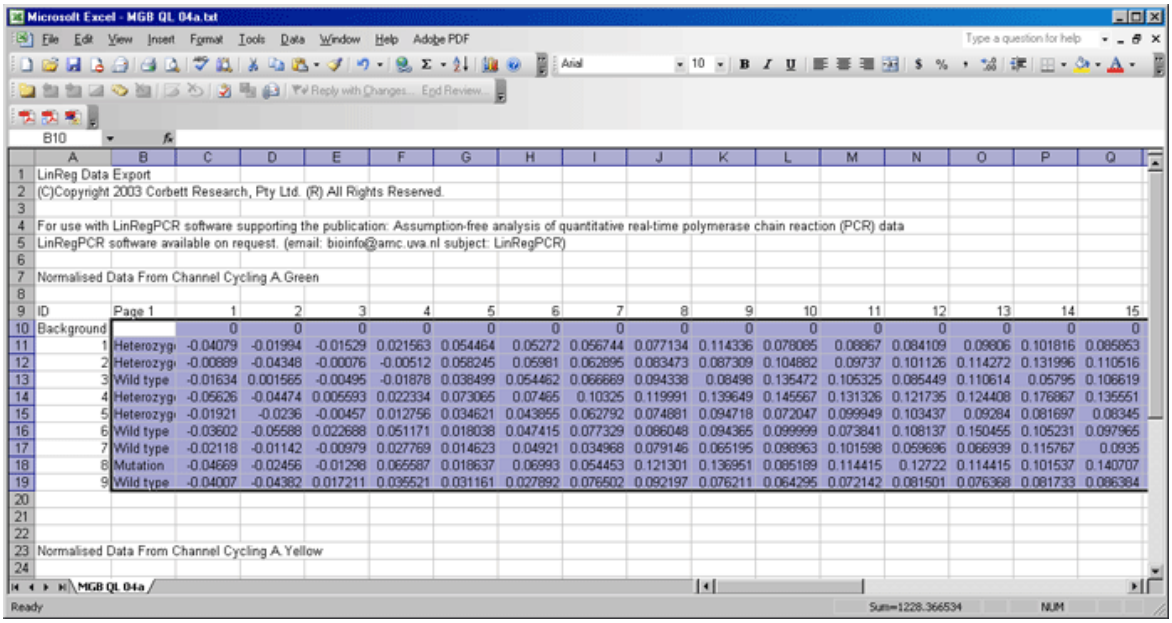


3. Microsoft Excel will automatically display your exported raw data.

4. Start up the LinReg tool.



5. It will ask you to select the cell range where your raw data is located. The tool can only analyse one raw channel at a time so you will need to select the appropriate region. In the example given below Cycling A.Green is to be analysed, the appropriate selection is illustrated.



Selection would be

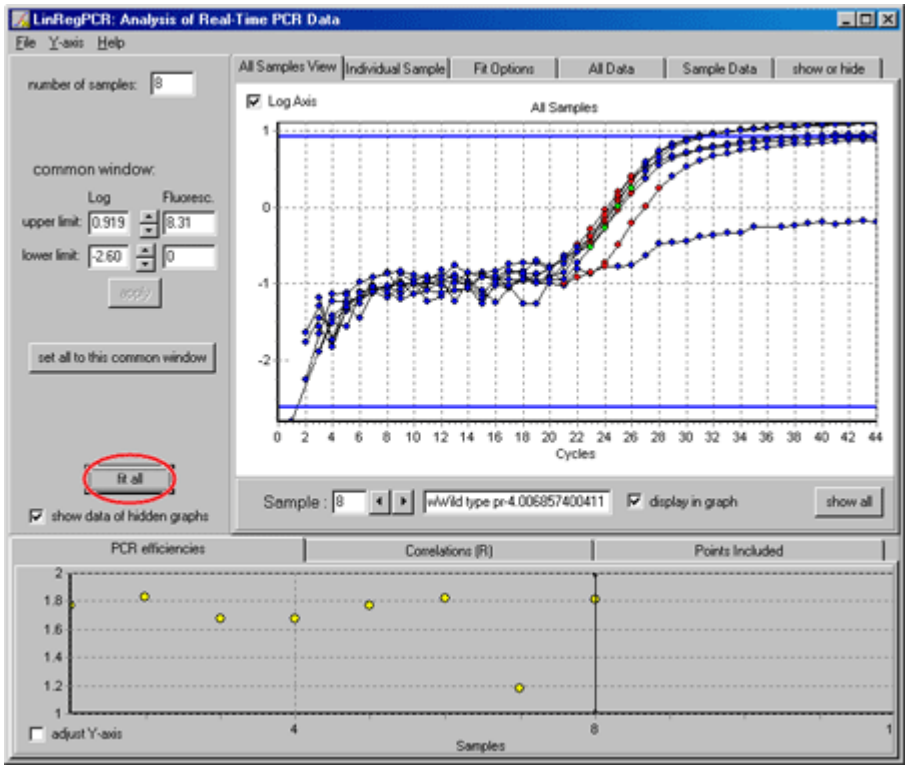
column: **B - AU** (In this case 45 cycles were exported)

row: **10 - 19**

Note: The first row of 0's present amongst the raw data must be included in the selection, if it is omitted the first sample will not be imported correctly when using the LinReg tool.

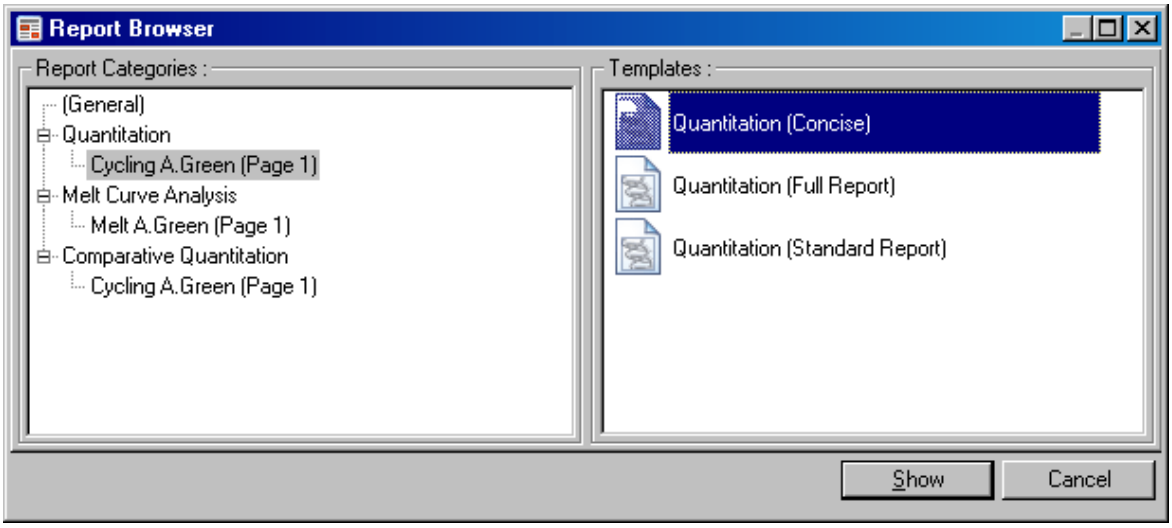
6. Make sure Applied Biosystems is selected as we currently use the same export format.

7. Click the **fit all** button, and all efficiencies will be displayed.



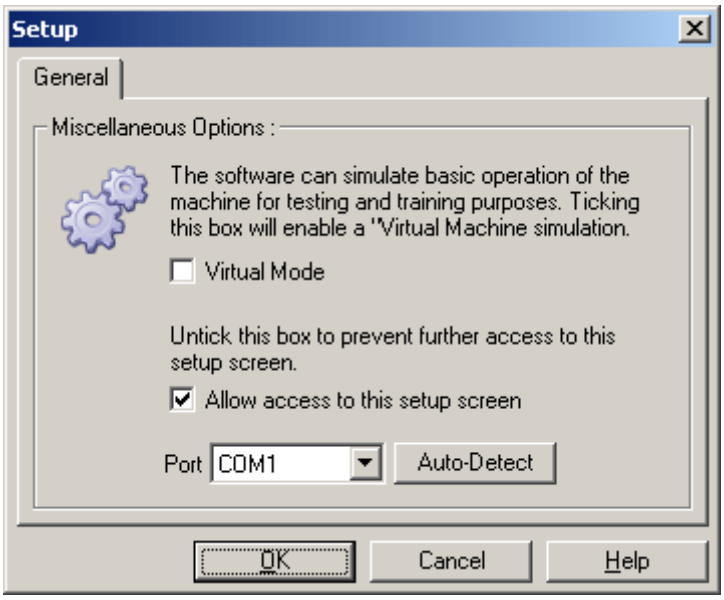
8.5.3 Report

The Report menu brings up the **Report Browser** window. If the data has already been analysed, it is possible to display the report of that analysis directly through the Report Browser rather than through the particular analysis module. A number of report templates are offered with varying degrees of detail.



8.5.4 Setup

The initial setup of the Rotor-Gene 6000 should be completed during the installation of the instrument. However after installation if you want to change the way you connect to your instrument the **Setup** screen allows you to do so.



Virtual Machine: Tick this option if the software is to be used without a Rotor-Gene attached. The software retains all functions. This mode is useful for demonstration purposes, for data analysis and setting up run templates.

Allow access to this screen: If this option is unticked during the setup process, you will no longer be able to access this window. This security measure prevents users from altering the settings. To re-establish access you must contact your distributor.

Port: Select the correct Communication Port to enable communications between the computer

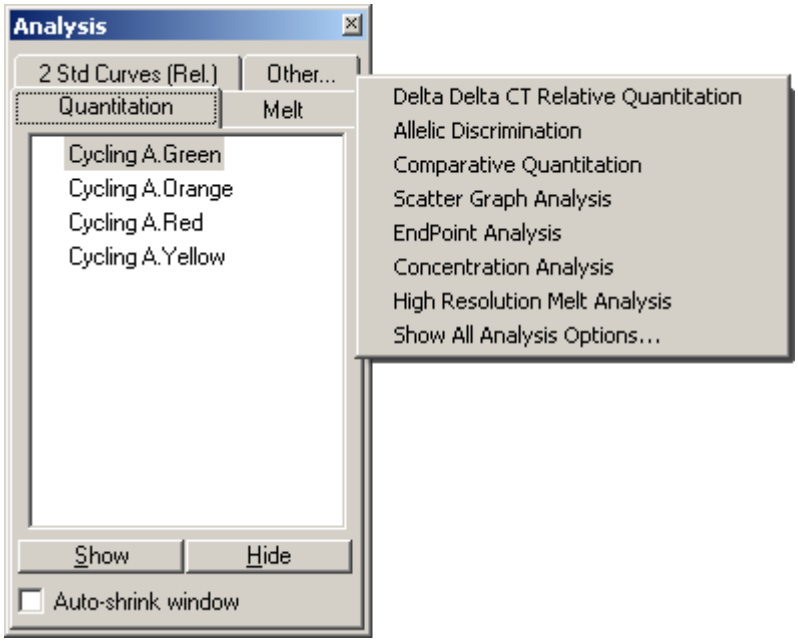
and the Rotor-Gene. If you are unsure which port to select you use perform an **Auto-Detect** that will scan all available ports for the instrument.

8.6 Analysis Menu

8.6.1 Analysis Toolbar

Clicking the **Analysis** menu brings up the **Analysis** floating window.

This window allows you to create new analyses and displays existing ones. The tabs enable you to select a method of analysis to perform. Once you have done this, a list of the channels which can be analysed using this method will be listed below. Multiple assays run in the same channel can be analysed independently, provided they have been set up as separate pages in the sample editor. Pages that have already been analysed will have a green tick next to them, e.g. the FAM channel (Page 1) shown in the screen shot. This means that threshold and normalization settings have been remembered for this analysis. To analyze a channel, or view an existing channel, simply double-click on the channel to view. The specific analysis window will then appear.



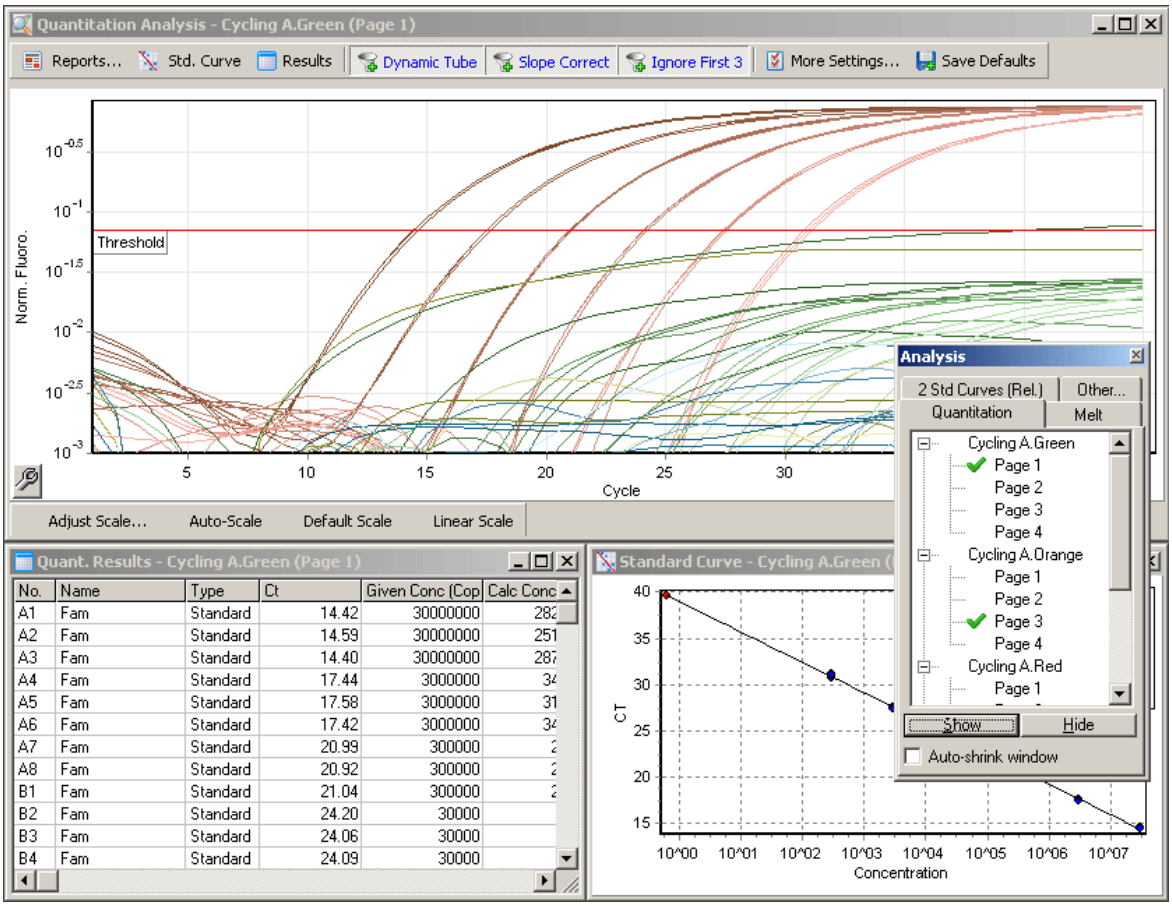
Auto-shrink Window: Ticking the box shrinks the window when it is not used. Moving the cursor over the window enlarges the window again.

Organizing Your Workspace: Each time you double-click on a new analysis, its windows will be arranged to fit in with those already on the screen. With many windows, this can be cumbersome. Simply close the windows you do not require, then click **Arrange** on the toolbar. The windows will automatically be rearranged according to the **Smart Tiling** method. You can select another method of arrangement by clicking the **down arrow** next to the toolbar button.

Clicking the right mouse button over the analysis window also allows to **Show, Hide** or **Remove Analysis**.

8.6.2 Quantitation

Double click quantitation or press **Show** to open the channel of interest. Three windows will be opened automatically, the main screen, the standard curve and the results. Going from left to right, the following buttons are displayed in the main window:



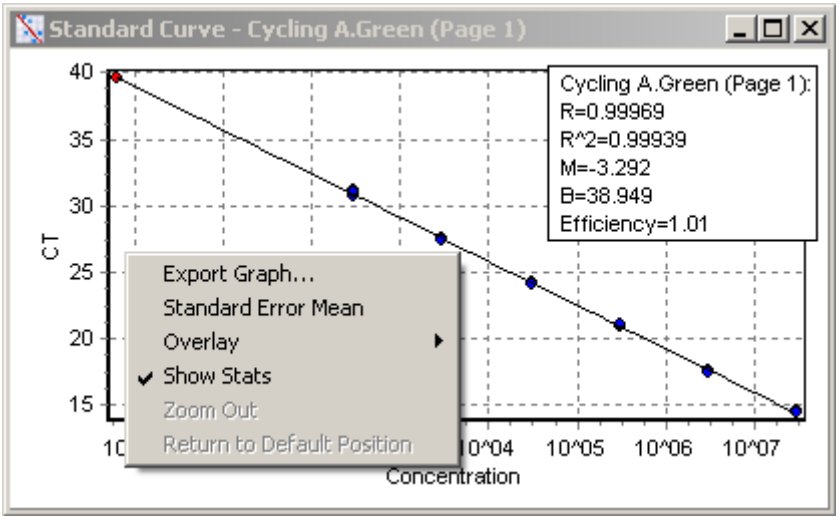
Reports

Reports: Opens the Quantitation Report selection window where you can choose a report to preview of the currently selected Quantitation analysis. There are three different options, Standard Report, Full Report and Concise Report.

Using the buttons on the top, the reports can be **printed, saved, emailed** or **exported to Word**.

Standard Curve

Std. Curve: This button opens the standard curve graph. By default, this window is opened when an analysis is opened. If you close the window, it can be re-opened by using this command.



On the standard curve the values are recalculated dynamically as the threshold level is varied, by clicking and dragging.

Blue dots on the curve show the samples that have been defined as standards and **red dots** show the unknown sample data points.

NOTE: If redefining standards to recalculate the standard curve, toggling the standard colors ON or OFF will remove it from standard curve calculation. Removing standards from your graph to increase the R^2 value is not scientifically valid. A failed standard is an indication that your samples may have also failed, and so must be included in your results.

Efficiency: The Reaction Efficiency of the run. This value is discussed in more detail in Slope, Amplification, Reaction Efficiency**.**

R^2-value (correlation coefficient): The R^2 value, or R^2 value (as displayed with the superscript), is the percentage of the data which is consistent with the statistical hypothesis. In the Quantitation context, this is the percentage of the data which matches the hypothesis that the given standards form a standard curve. If the R^2 value is low, then the given standards cannot be easily fit onto a line of best fit. This means that the results obtained (ie. the calculated concentrations) may not be reliable. A good R^2-value is around 0.99.

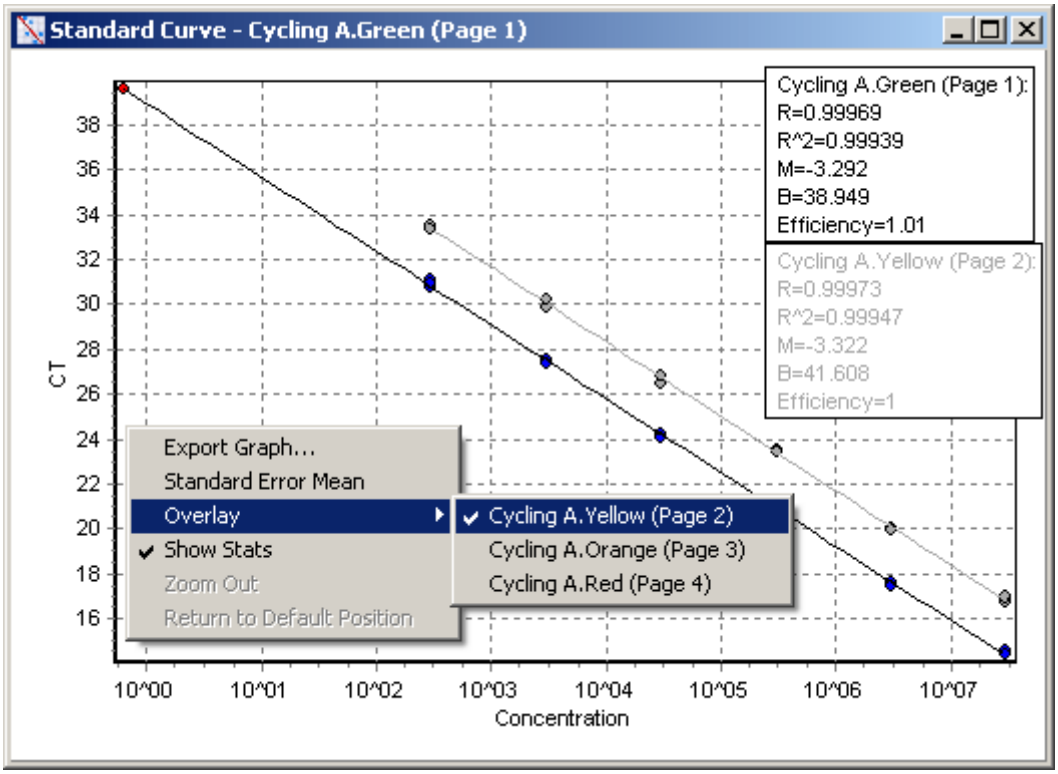
NB: It is still possible to achieve a high R^2 value with a poor standard curve, if not enough standards have been run. The R^2 value will improve as the number of standards decreases. To get a more accurate indication of the error, use the confidence intervals on the calculated concentrations as a guide of variation.

R-value (square root of correlation coefficient): The R-value of the calculation is the square root of the R^2 value. Unless you have a specific statistical application, the R^2 value is more useful in determining correlation.

According to the formula **y = mx + b** the slope (**M**) and the intercept (**B**) of a standard curve are automatically calculated and shown in the top right corner of the standard curve window.

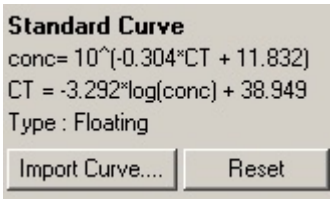
Export Graph...: With the pointer on the standard curve, click on the right button to show the option to export the graph (see Exporting Graphs for more details).

Overlay: When multiple quantitation runs have been performed in the same run, it is possible to overlay the standard curves in the same window. This is useful for graphically viewing the difference between different thresholds on the statistical results. Below is a screenshot of this feature:



Standard Curve Calculation

"conc=...*C_T + ..." and **"C_T=..."** represent two rearrangements of the equation used to relate CT values and concentrations. If you are referring to publications, the "**C_T=...**" formula will be most of use, as it in the same format. Type can be either floating or fixed. If floating, an optimal standard curve equation is calculated as you move the threshold. If Fixed, the equation does not change because it has been imported from another run.



Import Standard Curve

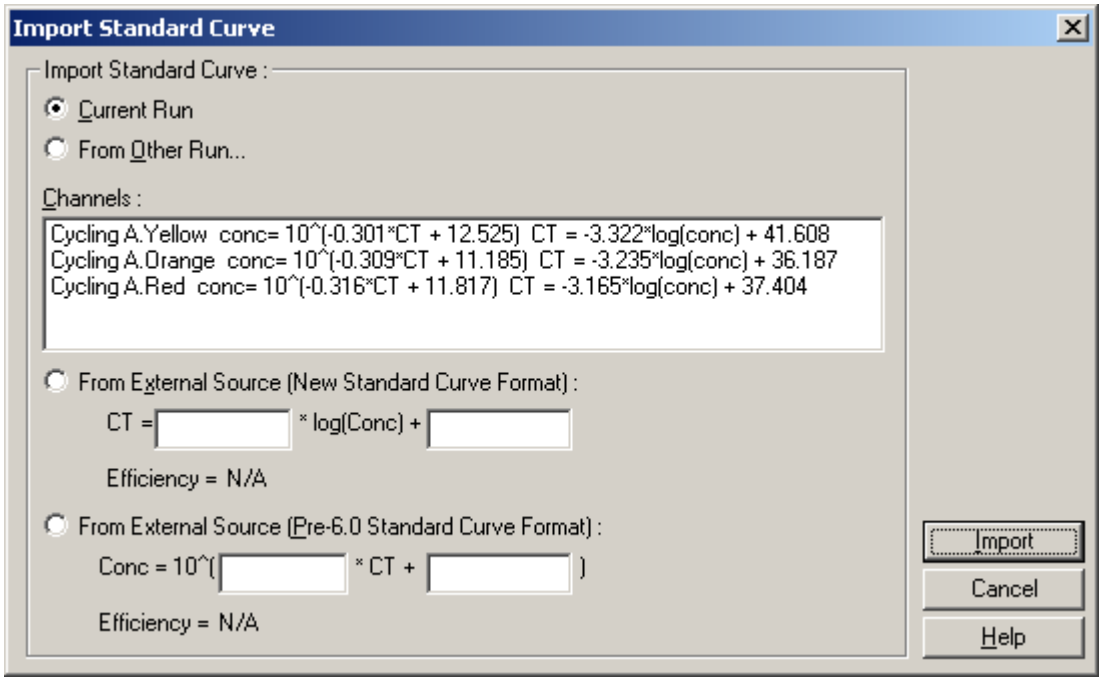
Importing a standard curve allows you to perform estimates of concentrations when a standard curve is not available in a run and you are certain that the reaction efficiency has not varied between the two runs. You can import curves from another channel, or from another run by clicking on Import Curve.

You can choose to **Adjust** the standard curve, or not to adjust. Adjusting means that only the efficiency of the source standard curve is imported into the current run. Whether you should adjust the standard curve or not depends on the chemistry application.

To adjust a standard curve, you use a reference in the target run with a known concentration. You can define a reference by setting a sample's type to Standard, and entering a concentration value in the Sample Editor. Multiple copies of the same reference can be entered to improve accuracy of the method. Note that you cannot define more than 1 reference concentration. For example, it is possible to have 3 replicate references of 1000 copies, but not to have one reference of 1000 copies, and another with 100 copies in the same run.

Once the curve has been imported, the standard curve type will be changed to Fixed. Click **Reset** to set the curve type back to Floating.

Below is a screenshot of the Import Standard Curve screen:



Using this screen, you can import the standard curve from another channel you have analysed in the current run, or you can load a standard curve from another run.

Current Run: When this option button is selected, quantitation analyses on other channels from this run will be listed with their corresponding standard curves.

From Other Run: Selecting this option button will bring up an Open Dialog in which you can select a run file to open. If any quantitation analysis has been performed for the run, you will see

standard curves listed for each channel analysed.

Channels List: Lists the analysed channels and their respective standard curve formulas.

From External Source: You can now also type in M and B values directly. This is useful in cases where the values are from an external source, such as an Excel spreadsheet.

Invert Raw Data

Some chemistries produce a fluorescent readout that decreases exponentially instead of increasing. It is still possible to analyse these using Quantitation, but the "Invert Raw Data" checkbox should be ticked.

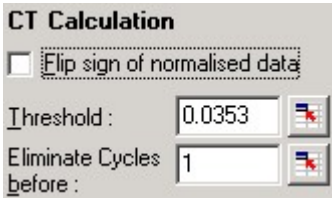
For all other quantitation analysis, this option must remain unticked.

NB: Techniques such as Quenched FRET or the use of Bodipy(R) which use decreasing signals to quantitate may have less accurate results than those that increase. Such techniques have not been widely verified yet in the scientific community.

Calculation of CT

C_T-Calculation: The C_T value is the value where the amplification curve crosses the threshold line. By setting a threshold line and calculating the intersection with each of the sample curves, the C_T values for each sample are established.

Threshold: (Manual Set): To set the threshold click on the icon (grid with red arrow) then click and hold on the graph and drag a threshold line to the desired level, or enter a log value. Alternatively the Auto-Find Threshold function can be used to automatically determine the best level. When setting a threshold manually, it should be set in the exponential phase of the run, significantly above the background level to avoid noise.



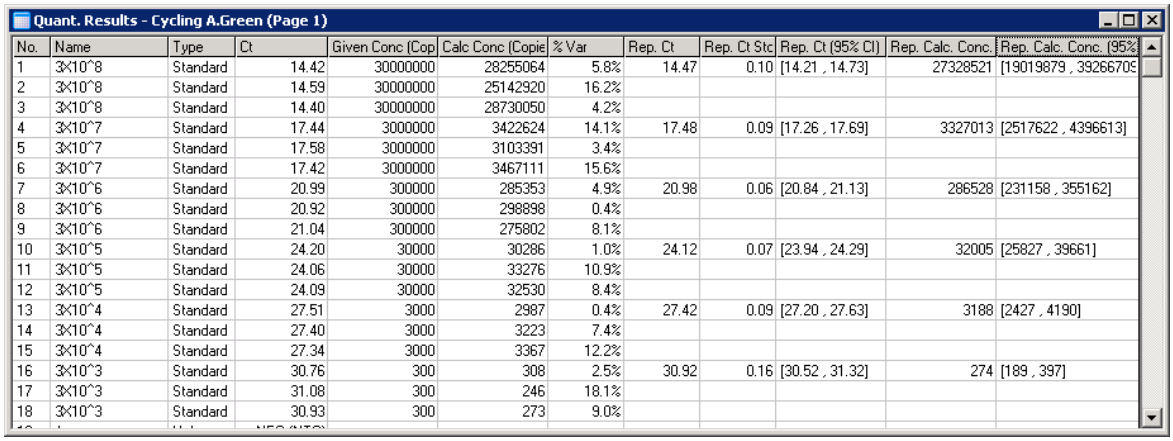
Eliminate Cycles before: To set, click on the icon (grid with red arrow) then click and hold on the graph and drag the threshold line to the right. This eliminates the threshold line for low cycle numbers.

Note: This is useful when there is noise on the signal during the initial cycles.

Auto Find Threshold: The automatic threshold function will scan the darkened region of the graph to find a threshold setting which delivers optimal estimates of given concentrations. You can change the region to be modified by entering new upper and lower bounds in the text boxes. For most quantitation analyses, the default region is suitable. Based on the standards that have been defined the function then scans the range of threshold levels to obtain the best fit of the standard curve through the samples that have been defined as standards, (i.e. maximizes the R value to approach 1.0).

Results

Opens the quantitation results grid. By default, this window is opened when you open an analysis. If you close it, it can be re-opened by using this command.



Quant. Results - Cycling A.Green (Page 1)

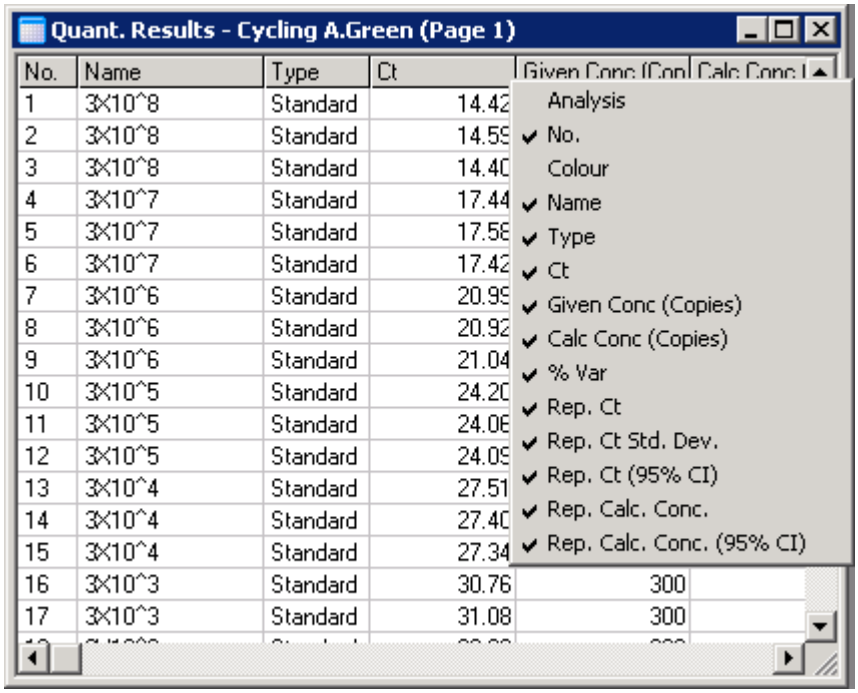
No.	Name	Type	Ct	Given Conc (Cop	Calc Conc (Copie	% Var	Rep. Ct	Rep. Ct Stc	Rep. Ct (95% CI)	Rep. Calc. Conc.	Rep. Calc. Conc. (95%
1	3X10^8	Standard	14.42	30000000	28255064	5.8%	14.47	0.10	[14.21 , 14.73]	27328521	[19019879 , 3926670
2	3X10^8	Standard	14.59	30000000	25142920	16.2%					
3	3X10^8	Standard	14.40	30000000	28730050	4.2%					
4	3X10^7	Standard	17.44	3000000	3422624	14.1%	17.48	0.09	[17.26 , 17.69]	3327013	[2517622 , 4396613]
5	3X10^7	Standard	17.58	3000000	3103391	3.4%					
6	3X10^7	Standard	17.42	3000000	3467111	15.6%					
7	3X10^6	Standard	20.99	300000	285353	4.9%	20.98	0.06	[20.84 , 21.13]	286528	[231158 , 355162]
8	3X10^6	Standard	20.92	300000	298898	0.4%					
9	3X10^6	Standard	21.04	300000	275802	8.1%					
10	3X10^5	Standard	24.20	30000	30286	1.0%	24.12	0.07	[23.94 , 24.29]	32005	[25827 , 39661]
11	3X10^5	Standard	24.06	30000	33276	10.9%					
12	3X10^5	Standard	24.09	30000	32530	8.4%					
13	3X10^4	Standard	27.51	3000	2987	0.4%	27.42	0.09	[27.20 , 27.63]	3188	[2427 , 4190]
14	3X10^4	Standard	27.40	3000	3223	7.4%					
15	3X10^4	Standard	27.34	3000	3367	12.2%					
16	3X10^3	Standard	30.76	300	308	2.5%	30.92	0.16	[30.52 , 31.32]	274	[189 , 397]
17	3X10^3	Standard	31.08	300	246	18.1%					
18	3X10^3	Standard	30.93	300	273	9.0%					

The results obtained from the run are summarized in a table. Clicking the right mouse button, and selecting **Export to Excel** will export the table to Excel. There is no need to open the Excel program, as this will be done automatically. If you would like to copy the data into an existing spreadsheet, choose the **Copy** option instead, then open your spreadsheet, then select paste.

Explanation of Results:

%Var	The percentage variation between the calculated and the given concentration. %Var=*Abs(Calculated/Given-1)*
Rep. C_T	The average C_T of all samples with the same name as this sample.
Rep. C_T Std. Dev.	The standard deviation of the C_T value of all samples with the same name as this sample.
Rep. C_T 95% C.I.	A C_T range which, statistically, accounts for 95% of the variation in the C_T value. This is a conservative statistical measure which can be used as a quality measure. This window can be tightened by running more replicates, or by having less variation in the replicates.
Rep. Calc. Conc	The calculated concentration for all the samples with the same name. Note: This is not the simple average of the calculated concentrations, but rather the "Geometric Mean", which is a mathematically more suitable average.
Rep. Calc. Conc 95% C.I.	A range of concentrations which accounts for 95% of the variation in the individual sample as well as the linear regression model on which it is based. An interpretation of this measure is "the range of concentrations that could be expected 95% of the time if this run was performed repeatedly with the same amount of variation". This is a conservative estimate, and the range can be quite large due to the variation inherent in any real-time analysis. This range can be large if standards are run with different concentrations to the unknowns, if a small number of replicates are used, or if there is significant variation. **IMPORTANT: The variation which are reported by this measure are not due to the Rotor-Gene 6000 machine, but inherent in the exponential process of real-time amplification. Similar tests performed on competitor machines would yield still greater variation due to the lower temperature uniformity of block systems. As a cross-machine comparison, use the C_T standard deviation, as this should be supported by all major vendors.**

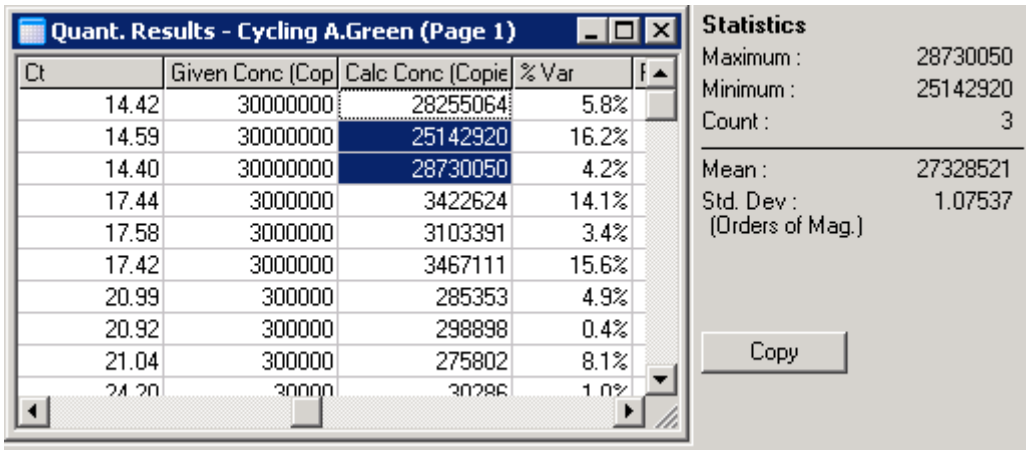
TIP: You can toggle each of the columns on or off by right-clicking on the column:



More detailed information on the confidence intervals is available in the appendix. Our thanks goes to Peter Cook from the Mathematics Department of the University of NSW, Sydney, Australia, whose help was invaluable in verifying the mathematical approaches used.

To make calculations easier, a feature called **AutoStat** is introduced which automatically calculates the Average, Standard deviation, Minimum and Maximum values of samples of interest. Simply select the results of interest by dragging with the left mouse button, and the aggregate values are given in a small table displayed below the sample list on the right-hand side of the screen.

In this screenshot, the concentrations of several samples are analysed:



Important: The AutoStat feature is context-aware. This means that it will, where possible, only generate information which is useful. For example:

- It is not possible to obtain a 95% Confidence Interval from a set of selected calculated concentrations because the regression model must be taken into account as well.
- The "Orders of Magnitude" standard deviation is reported for Calculated Concentrations rather than an absolute value. This value can be understood as a percentage variation. For example, a value of 1.07537 represents a 7.54% variation (278,974 -- 322,611)=(300,000/1.07537 -- 300,000*1.07537). Reporting an absolute error does not make sense at all for a standard curve. We could report the error at the lowest concentration to create a perceived low error (+/- 3 copies) or report the error at the high end (+/- 3,000,000 copies). For this reason, only a valid measurement, the orders of magnitude, is reported.
- For Calculated Concentrations, the Geometric Mean is used instead of the Arithmetic Mean. This is needed to account for the exponential nature of Real-Time Amplification. To demonstrate this, imagine that a 2-fold dilution with 1, 2, 8 and 16 copies was taken. If we take the average, we expect to get 4 copies, because it is the "middle" of the dilution series. If we take the simple average, we obtain 6.75, which is unexpected. If we use the Geometric Mean, we get (1*2*8*16)^(1/4) = 4 copies as we should intuitively. More information on Geometric means can be found at http://mathworld.wolfram.com/GeometricMean.html.

Dynamic Tube Normalisation

This option is ticked by default and is used to determine the average background of each individual sample just before amplification commences. Standard Normalization simply takes the first five cycles and uses this as an indicator for the 'background' level of each sample. All data points for the sample are then divided by this value to normalize the data. This process is then repeated for all samples. This can be inaccurate as for some samples the background level over the first five cycles may not be indicative of the background level just prior to amplification. Dynamic Tube Normalization uses the second derivative of each sample trace to determine a starting point for each sample. The background level is then averaged from cycle 1 up to this starting cycle number for each sample. **This method gives the most precise quantitation results.** Alternatively with some data sets it may be necessary to disable the dynamic tube normalization. If this is the case the average background for each of the samples is only calculated over the first 5 cycles. If the background is not constant over the cycles before amplification it will result in less precise data.

Noise Slope Correction

The background fluorescence (Fl) of a sample should ideally remain constant before amplification. However, sometimes the Fl-level can show an increase or decrease due to the effect of the chemistry being run and produce a skewed noise level. The Noise Slope Correction option uses a line-of-best-fit to determine the noise level instead of an average, and normalizes to that instead. Turning on this option can tighten replicates if your sample baselines are noticeably sloped.
This function improves the data when raw data backgrounds are seen to slope upward or downward before the amplification Takeoff point (C_T). It is very helpful for runs when for example the FAM background is seen to creep upwards due to gradual probe autohydrolysis.

Ignore First

The first couple of cycles in a quantitation run are not usually representative of the rest of the run. For this reason, you may get better results if you select to ignore the first few cycles. If the first cycles look similar to cycles after them, you will gain better results by disabling this function, as the normalization algorithm will have more data to work with. You can ignore up to ten cycles.

Quant. Settings

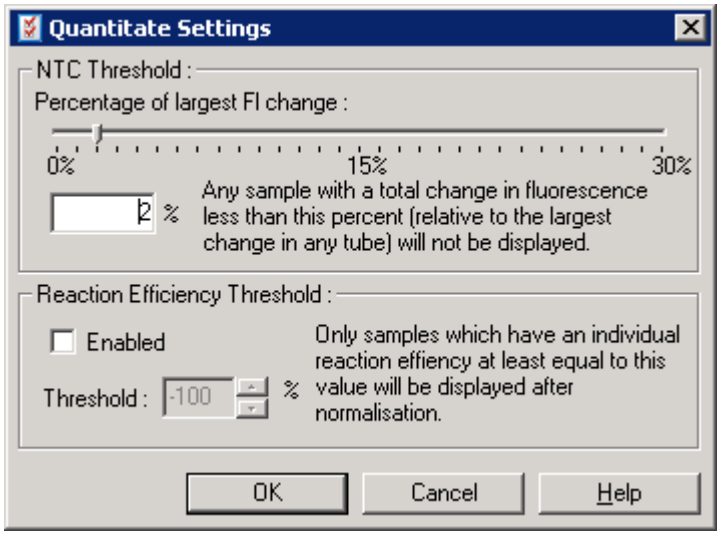
To distinguish between minor changes in fluorescence and genuine reactions in No Template Controls, two measures are provided which act through different mechanisms. The NTC Threshold is usually recommended for most applications, though you should validate the levels used in any approach.

NTC Threshold:
The quantitation setting in the quantitation screen allows excluding samples or NTCs, which have a slight drift upwards, due to probe degradation or other non PCR effects. All samples with a change below the NTC threshold will not be reported in the quantitation screen. The percentage is relative to the largest maximum change found in any tube. For example, if you have one sample which began at a background of 2Fl and went to 47Fl, then 45Fl represents 100%. An NTC threshold of 10% would consider as noise any sample with a reaction less than 4.5Fl.

Reaction Efficiency Threshold:
The Reaction Efficiency Threshold is an alternative mechanism to exclude noise samples from analysis. This normalising algorithm uses the reaction efficiency estimation techniques used in Comparative Quantitation. All samples will be excluded if they do not have a reaction efficiency of at least this level. A level of 0% indicates that, during the exponential phase, no reaction took place. 100% indicates that a completely efficient reaction took place during the exponential phase. Negative percentages indicate that during what has been guessed as the exponential phase, the fluorescent signal declined.

Current research is not conclusive on the precise levels of efficiency needed to distinguish genuine reactions from contamination and other effects. For this reason, Corbett Research recommends using this feature conservatively, with the assumption that any sample with a genuine reaction will have some visible exponential phase with some growth. Setting this value higher than 0% will exclude some samples with inefficient, but perceptible growth, whereas setting below 0% will display samples whose reading decreased during the exponential phase, and which should clearly be excluded.

NB: Comparative Quantitation requires a strong signal to work effectively. Some chemistries with low fold increases, such as LUX primers, may be inappropriate for use with this technique. You should validate your approach before applying in general.



NB: If a value is cancelled due to activation of either of these techniques, the CT value cell will be

labelled to indicate the cancellation. In the image below, samples 19, 20 and 22 were cancelled due to the reaction efficiency threshold:

No.	Name	Type	Ct	Given Conc (Cop
19	3d	Unknown	NEG (R.Eff)	
20	3e	Unknown	NEG (R.Eff)	
22	4a	Standard	NEG (R.Eff)	50.
23	4b	Standard	33.03	50.

Slope, Amplification, Reaction Efficiency

The slope (M) of a reaction (shown in the standard curve window), can be used to determine the exponential amplification and efficiency of a reaction.

The following calculations give some important results: exponential amplification = $10^{(-1/M)}$ or reaction efficiency = $[10^{(-1/M)}] - 1$. Optimal values for m, amplification and reaction efficiencies are –3.322, 2 or 1, respectively. The reaction efficiency is displayed in the quantitation report and in the standard curve window.

The slope is calculated of being the change in C_T divided by the change in log input (for example copy number). A 100% efficient amplification means a doubling of amplification product in each cycle resulting in an M value of -3.322, an amplification factor of 2 and a reaction efficiency of 1.

Given an M value of –3.322, the calculations are as follows:

Amplification value: $10^{(-1/-3.322)} = 2$,
Reaction efficiency: $[10^{(-1/-3.322)}] - 1 = 1$.

Here are two examples for two different slope values.

An M value of 3.8 means that the reaction has an amplification value of ~1.83 and a reaction efficiency of 0.83 (or 83%).
There could be several reasons for this value. If the value needs to be improved, optimization steps like primer or probe concentrations, $MgCl_2$- or SYBR-Green I concentrations could be improved.

An M value of 3 means that the reaction is more than 100% efficient. A reason for this could be an disproportionate digestion of probe compared to the amplicon produced. In addition, if the R-value is low, then statistical error can cause an unexpected reaction efficiency.

NOTE: This has changed from previous software versions. Previously, it was necessary to transform the gradient m' = -1/m. This is not necessary in this version.

Offset

Intercept:
In a formula describing the relation between two variables, the intercept is expressed with the letter "B" (Y = MX + B). The intercept is also sometimes referred to as the **Offset**.

The B value represents the C_T for a given concentration of 1 unit. By substituting 1 into the concentration formula as shown below:

$C_T = \log(1) * M + B$

$C_T = 0 * M + B$

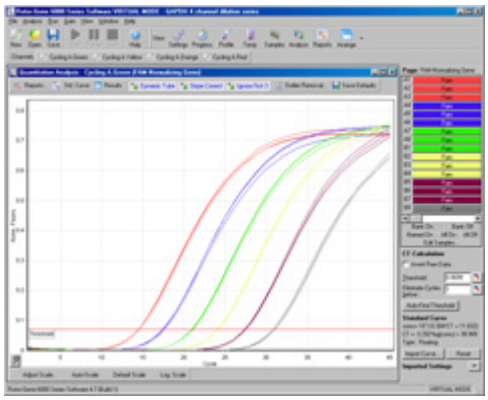
we obtain $C_T = B$ as described above.

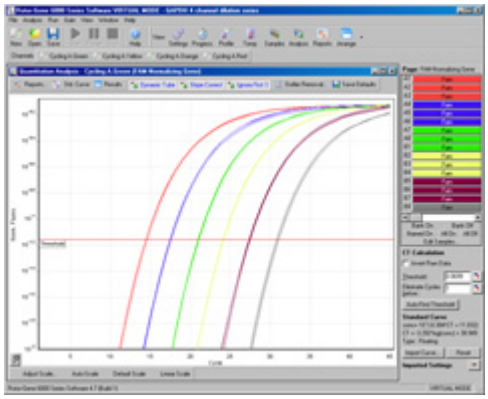
The intercept can change from run-to-run, and is less stable than the gradient. For this reason, most analysis techniques will analyse the gradient rather than the intercept.

Main Window

This screen shows that taking the average background energy for each of the samples normalizes the data, which is then displayed on a logarithmic scale.

From this graph, a threshold can be determined to calculate the C_T value for each of the samples. The C_T value denotes the cycle at which the amplification reached a critical fluorescence level. This C_T value can be related directly to the starting copy number of the sample by means of a standard curve.





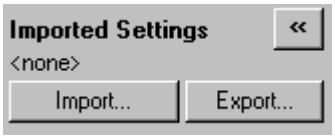
Pressing **Linear Scale** on the bottom of the screen takes you directly from the **Log Scale** to the **Linear Scale** and vice versa.

Changing between these two modes only alters the display of the graphs, not the calculations. This can be verified by use of the pinpointer tool available by right-clicking on the graph. In the Log-Scale mode, smaller values are emphasised, whereas the linear scale facilitates the view of the entire reaction.

Note: This process can also be performed while the Rotor-Gene software is running. This real-time monitoring of quantitation data provides the user with the possibility to gain results as soon as the curves show an exponential growth. Preliminary conclusions can be drawn and decisions made for the next run.

Quantitation Analysis Templates

Quantitation analysis templates allow the user to export normalisation, threshold settings into a single **.QUT** file. This file can be imported and reapplied in other experiments. See Analysis Templates for more details.



8.6.3 Two Standard Curve

Relative Gene Expression analysis with a Normalising Gene can be performed using the Two Standard Curve method.

The method relies on having a standard curve for each gene. The standard curves are used to quantify the concentration of each gene according to its standard curve. The expression of the Gene of Interest is then normalised with the Normalising Gene (often referred to as a Housekeeping Gene).

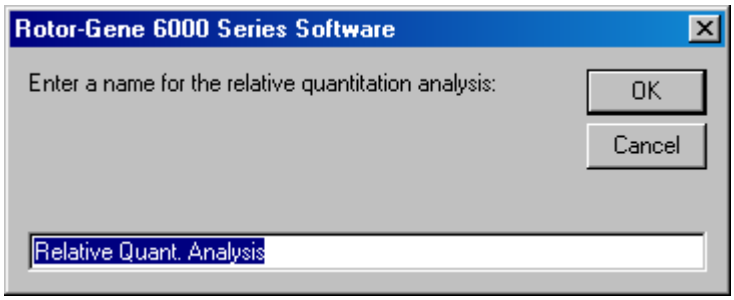
It is important that the Sample Setup is configured correctly to ensure the standards and replicate samples are designated correctly. In particular, corresponding samples must have the same name in each analysis to be correctly paired. In a multiplex reaction, where the tube positions of Gene of Interest and Housekeeper are the same, one set of sample definitions is sufficient. If performing a relative study using a single channel, two sample pages will need to be created. The first will label the tube positions with sample names for the Gene of Interest, with the other positions left unnamed. The second will label the positions used for the Housekeeper. The relative quantitation module will then match samples across the two absolute analyses based on their names.

Performing Expression Analysis using the Two Standard Curve method

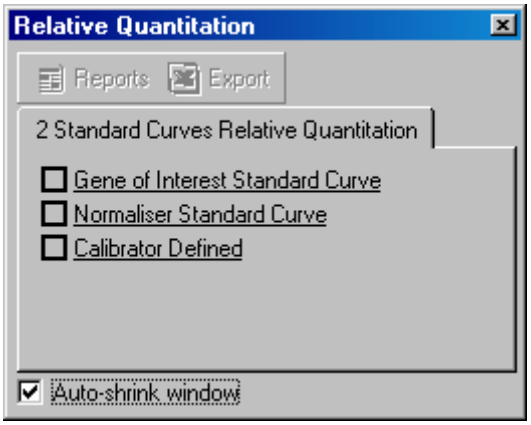
Data can firstly be analysed for each gene using absolute Quantitation Analysis. If this is not done the results for each gene will be automatically determined using the Autofind Threshold tool.

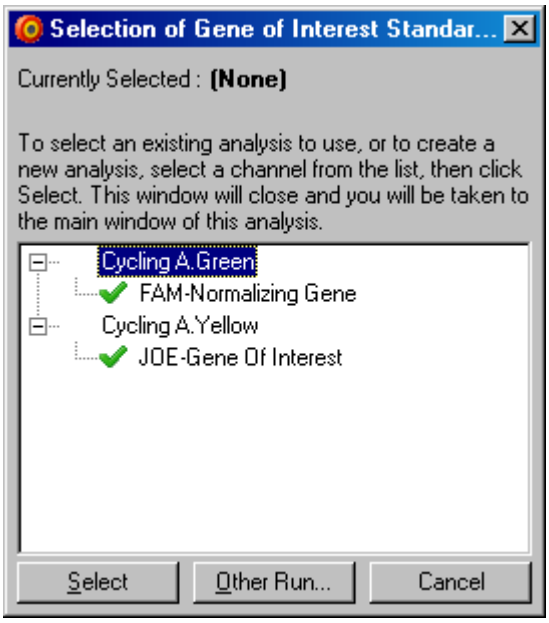
From the analysis window select the **2 Std Curve (Rel)** tab. Select **New Analysis...**

Enter a name for the analysis.

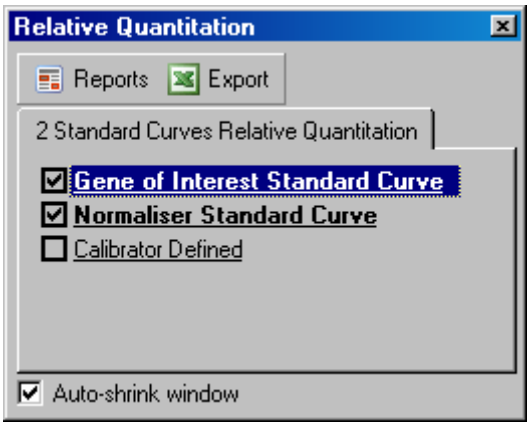


Designate the pages used for Normaliser Gene analysis and Gene of Interest analysis. For example, clicking on Gene of Interest Standard Curve will bring up the Selection of Gene of Interest Standard... window. Select the page where the Gene of Interest was Quantitated. Repeat the procedure for the Normaliser Gene. Optionally a Calibrator can be defined. If this option is selected, the calibrator is assigned a value of 1 and all other sample concentrations are calculated relative to this sample.



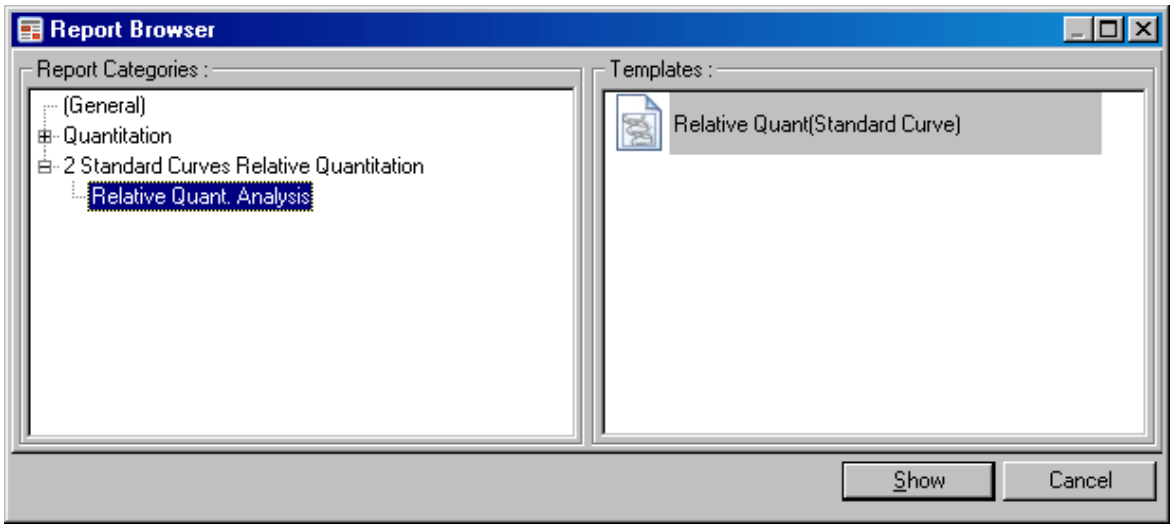


After completing the selections the options will be ticked.

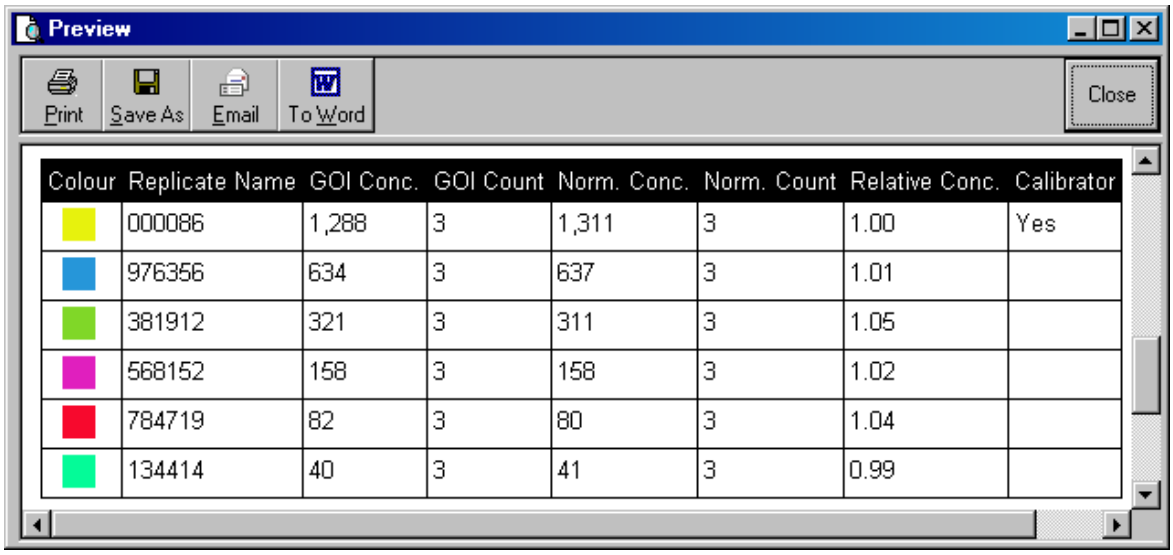


Click the **View Report** button to display the Report Browser. Select the analysis with the correct

name from the Report Analysis. Click the **Show** button to display the Relative Quantitation report. The Export Grid option exports the results to an excel spreadsheet. If a calibrator is selected, then the results are calculated relative to the calibrator sample, which is assigned a value of 1.



The concentrations as read from the standard curves of the unknowns for the Gene of Interest (GOI Conc.), the Normaliser Gene (Norm. Conc) as well as the relative concentration (Relative Conc.) are displayed in the results table. The results can be saved as a word file.



Colour	Replicate Name	GOI Conc.	GOI Count	Norm. Conc.	Norm. Count	Relative Conc.	Calibrator
	000086	1,288	3	1,311	3	1.00	Yes
	976356	634	3	637	3	1.01	
	381912	321	3	311	3	1.05	
	568152	158	3	158	3	1.02	
	784719	82	3	80	3	1.04	
	134414	40	3	41	3	0.99	

8.6.4 Delta Delta Ct Relative Quantitation

Comparative C_T method (delta delta C_T) is a method for Relative Gene Expression analysis.

The method implemented is described in the following publication:

"Analysis of relative gene expression data using real-time quantitative PCR and the 2^[-delta

delta C(T)] Method."
Livak KJ & Schmittgen TD. Methods 2001 Dec;25(4): 402-408

The abstract can be found at the following link:

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=11846609

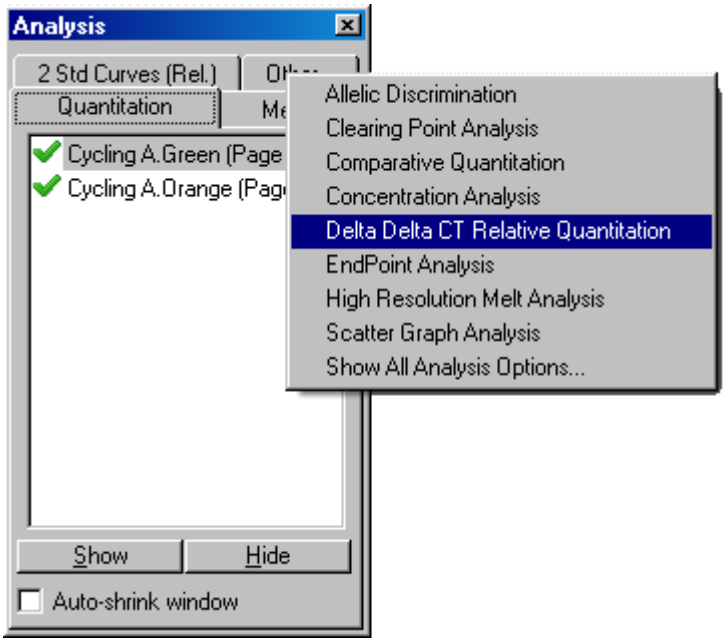
This method does not require the running of standard curves in each run. Each sample is first normalised for the amount of template added by comparison relative to the housekeeper gene (endogenous control). These normalised values are further normalised relative to a calibrator treatment. The calibrator is normally the wild-type, untreated control or time zero samples, for example.

It is essential however that the amplification efficiencies of the Gene of Interest and the Normaliser Gene are identical and that this is validated in accordance with the guidelines of this paper.

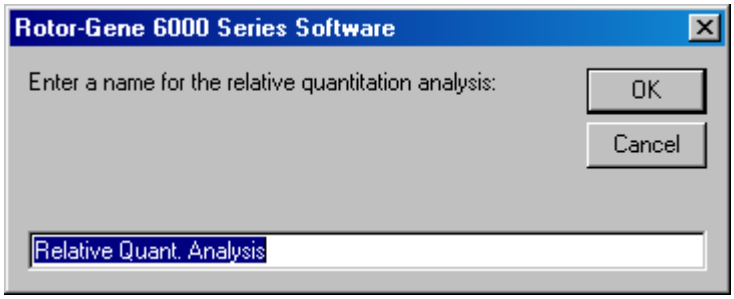
It is essential that the samples names are defined correctly in the Sample Editor, with the same samples labelled identically in each composite absolute quantitation analysis.

1. Analyse the data using Quantitation Analysis. Running a standard curve is not required by this analysis technique, as only the C_T values are used.

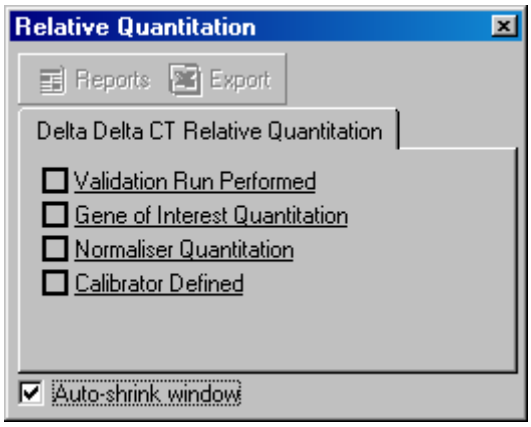
2. From the Analysis window **Other** tab select Delta Delta C_T Relative Quantitation. Select **New Analysis**.

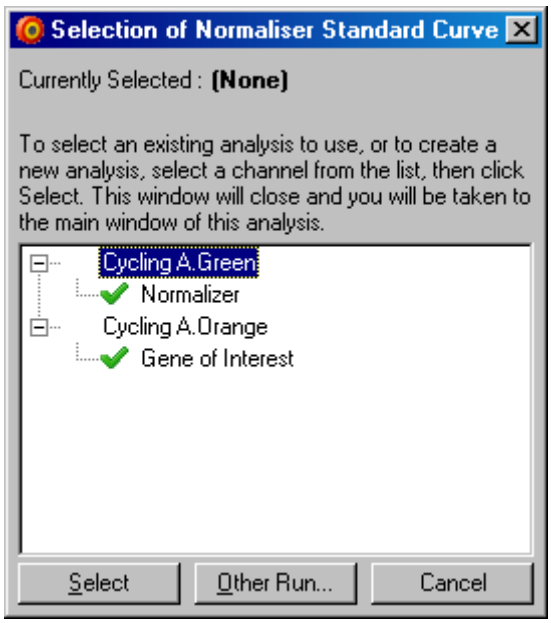


3. Enter a name for the analysis.

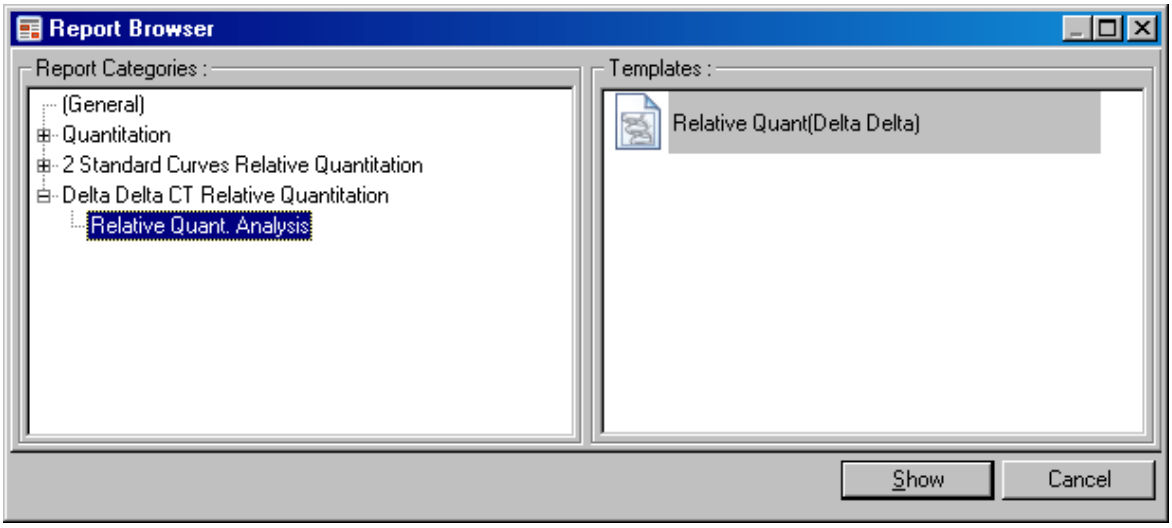


4. **Validation Run Performed** must be ticked to proceed with the analysis. Define the pages where the Gene of Interest and Normaliser Gene have been analysed. See the above paper for more information on the steps required for validation.

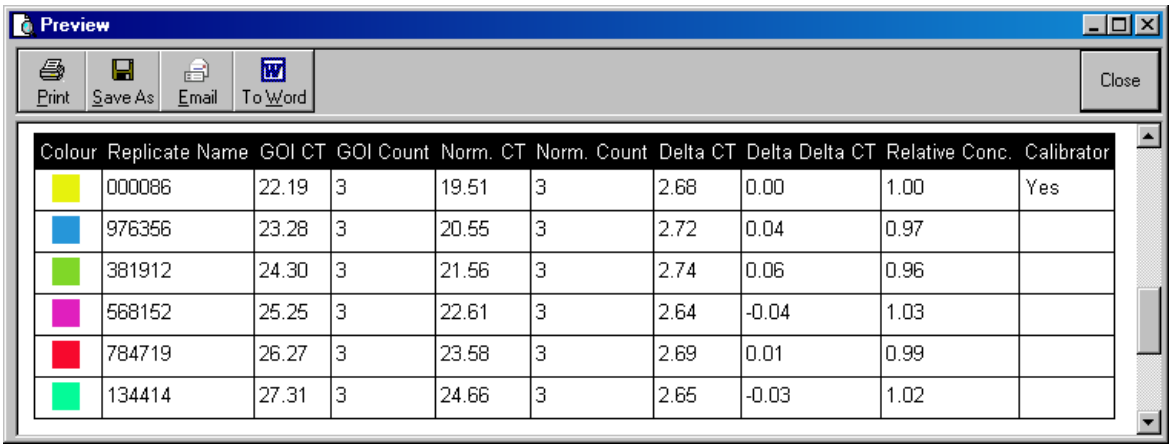




5. Click the **View Report** button to display the Report Browser. Select the analysis with the correct name from the Report Analysis. Click the **Show** button to display the Relative Quantitation report. The Export Grid option exports the results to an excel spreadsheet. If a calibrator is selected then the results are relative to the calibrator sample, which has a value of 1.



Example results are shown below. The CT's for the Gene of Interest analysis (GOI C_T), the Normaliser Gene (Norm. C_T), the Delta C_T, Delta Delta C_T and Relative Concentration (Relative Conc.) are displayed. The expression is relative to the Calibrator sample which is assigned a relative expression of 1.



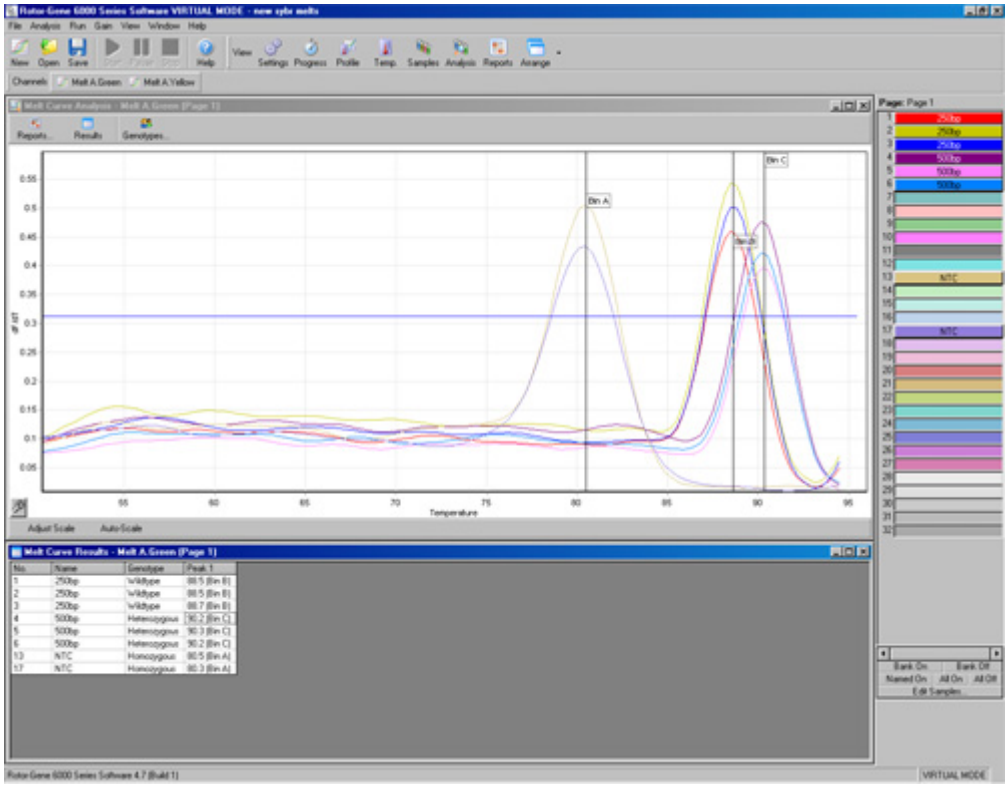
Colour	Replicate Name	GOI CT	GOI Count	Norm. CT	Norm. Count	Delta CT	Delta Delta CT	Relative Conc.	Calibrator
	000086	22.19	3	19.51	3	2.68	0.00	1.00	Yes
	976356	23.28	3	20.55	3	2.72	0.04	0.97	
	381912	24.30	3	21.56	3	2.74	0.06	0.96	
	568152	25.25	3	22.61	3	2.64	-0.04	1.03	
	784719	26.27	3	23.58	3	2.69	0.01	0.99	
	134414	27.31	3	24.66	3	2.65	-0.03	1.02	

8.6.5 Melt Curve Analysis

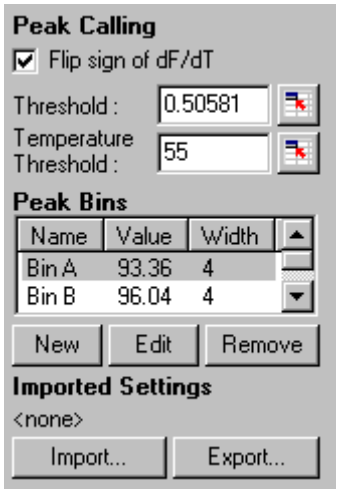
Melt Curve analysis analyses the derivative of the raw data, after smoothing. A common application of this analysis is genotyping or allelic discrimination. Peaks in the curve are grouped into bins, and all peaks below the threshold are discarded. One can then map bins to genotypes through the Genotypes command.

Typically after a cycling run has been finished a melt step can be added to visualize the dissociation kinetics of the amplified products. The sample temperature is increased at a linear rate and the fluorescence of each sample is recorded.

Below is a typical melt curve analysis shown for a SYBR Green I amplification.



Sidebar



Flip sign of dF/dT: Before defining peaks ensure the dF/dT sign is correct for the data set to give positive peaks.

Defining Peaks: In the Melt Curve Analysis, peaks can be defined and reported using different methods. One is to automatically call all the peaks for each sample. The other is to assign peaks to bins, which is useful for genotyping samples.

Any peak that is within the defined range of the bin center will be assigned to the bin. If there are two peak bins close together then the peak will be assigned to the closest bin.

Bins are used to define the general area where you expect peaks to occur. The melt analysis software clusters peaks into bin groups, based upon actual peak values in the curve.

Bins are editable if required.

Note: The peak bins should not be visually positioned to estimate peak positions. Set the bins in the rough area of interest, then use the actual reported values in the results table for a more accurate result.

Peak Bins: To define a peak bin click on the **New Bin** button, then click and hold on the graph to define the center of the peak bin. To add another bin repeat the process or use the **Remove** button to delete peak bins.

Threshold Level: To set the threshold, click on the icon (grid with red arrow) then click and hold on the graph and drag a threshold line to the desired level.

Temperature Threshold: To set a temperature threshold, click on the icon (grid with red arrow) then click and hold on the graph and drag the threshold line to the right. This eliminates the threshold line for the lower temperatures.

Note: This is useful when there is noise on the signal at low temperatures.

Reports

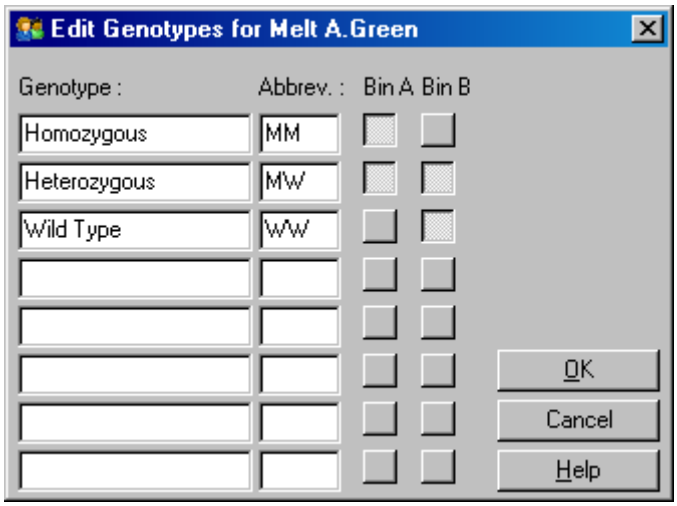
Opens the Melt Report selection window where you can choose a report to preview. You can generate a report based upon the currently selected channel, or you can generate a Multi-Channel genotyping report.

Results

Displays the result grid, showing peaks in samples.

Genotyping

Click on the genotyping toolbar and select the genotype definitions.



This screen lets you assign genotypes to the incidence of peaks in bins. The default genotype configuration is shown in the screenshot, with heterozygous samples having two peaks, homozygous samples a peak in the first bin and wild type samples a peak in the second bin. Next to the name of each genotype is a field for typing in an abbreviation. This is used when printing multi-channel genotyping reports so that all results from multiple channels can be read easily across the screen.

For multiplex analysis, genotypes must be set up in each channel. If, for example, a dual channel FRET analysis is run, where a wild type and heterozygous are expected in each channel, the setup procedure must be performed for each channel. The results will then be given in a multiplex report.

Melt Analysis Templates

Melt analysis templates allow the user to export normalisation, threshold, genotype and bin settings into a single **.MET** file. This file can be imported and reapplied in other experiments. See Analysis Templates for more details.

8.6.6 Comparative Quantitation

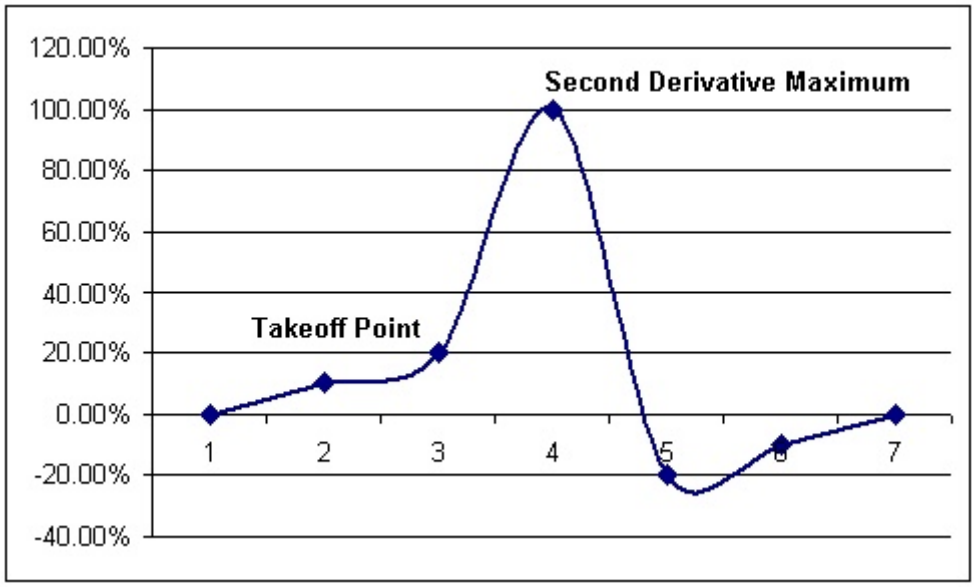
The feature "**Comparative Quantitation**" is used to compare the relative expressions of samples to a control sample in a run when a standard curve is not available. Users testing results from Microarray analysis frequently use this feature.

To perform the analysis, go to **Analysis** and select **"Comp. quantitation"**. Double-click on the channel to analyse. Chose a control sample by using the pull down menu on the right-hand side of the screen below the sample toggler. The table below the graph will automatically calculate the

results.

The first column of the table shows the names of the samples. The second column is called "Takeoff" and gives the Takeoff point of the samples. The second derivative of the amplification plot produces peaks corresponding to the maximum rate of fluorescence increase in the reaction. The Takeoff point is defined as the cycle at which the second derivative is at 20% of the maximum level, and indicates the end of the noise and the transition into the exponential phase.

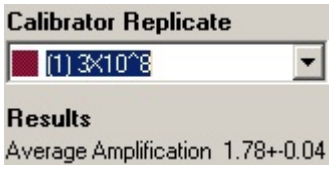
This graph shows a second derivative of a quantitation reaction, showing the relative positions of the second derivative peak and the Takeoff point:



The third column gives the efficiency of the particular sample. A 100% efficient reaction would result in an amplification value of 2 for every sample, which means that a doubling of an amplicon takes place in every cycle. In terms of the raw data, the signal should increase by a doubling amount in the exponential phase. So, if the signal was 50 at cycle 12, then went to 51 at cycle 13, it should go to 53 fluorescence units at cycle 14. All of the amplification values for each sample are averaged to produce the amplification value that is shown on the right-hand side of the screen. The more variation there is between the estimated amplification values of each sample, then the larger the confidence interval will be (indicated by the value after the ± sign). The confidence interval, for large N, gives a 68.3% probability that the true amplification of the samples lies within this range (1 standard deviation). By doubling the ± interval, one achieves a 95.4% confidence interval for large N.

Calibrator Replicate

As in the Comparative C_T Method (Livak 1991), the C_T of a calibrator sample is needed to measure relative to. In the version 6 software, this replicate is labelled the Control Replicate. Note that if multiple sample positions have been given the same name, the average of the Takeoff points of these samples will be used, allowing the operator to analyse using replicates of the calibrator. Ensure that you label replicates with identical names to use this feature correctly.



The average amplification is needed to calculate how much more or less a sample is expressed. If for example the amplification value was lower, a certain absolute copy number of an amplicon is obtained later than if the amplification value was higher. The last column finally gives the comparative quantitation value. Based on the Takeoff point and the reaction efficiency it calculates the relative concentration of each sample compared to the calibrator sample that was chosen by the user. The number given is expressed in scientific notation.

Note: The value displayed to the right of the +- represents the standard deviation of the Average Amplification, after removal of outlier amplification values. If this value is large, then there may be a large error in the overall calculated concentration values.

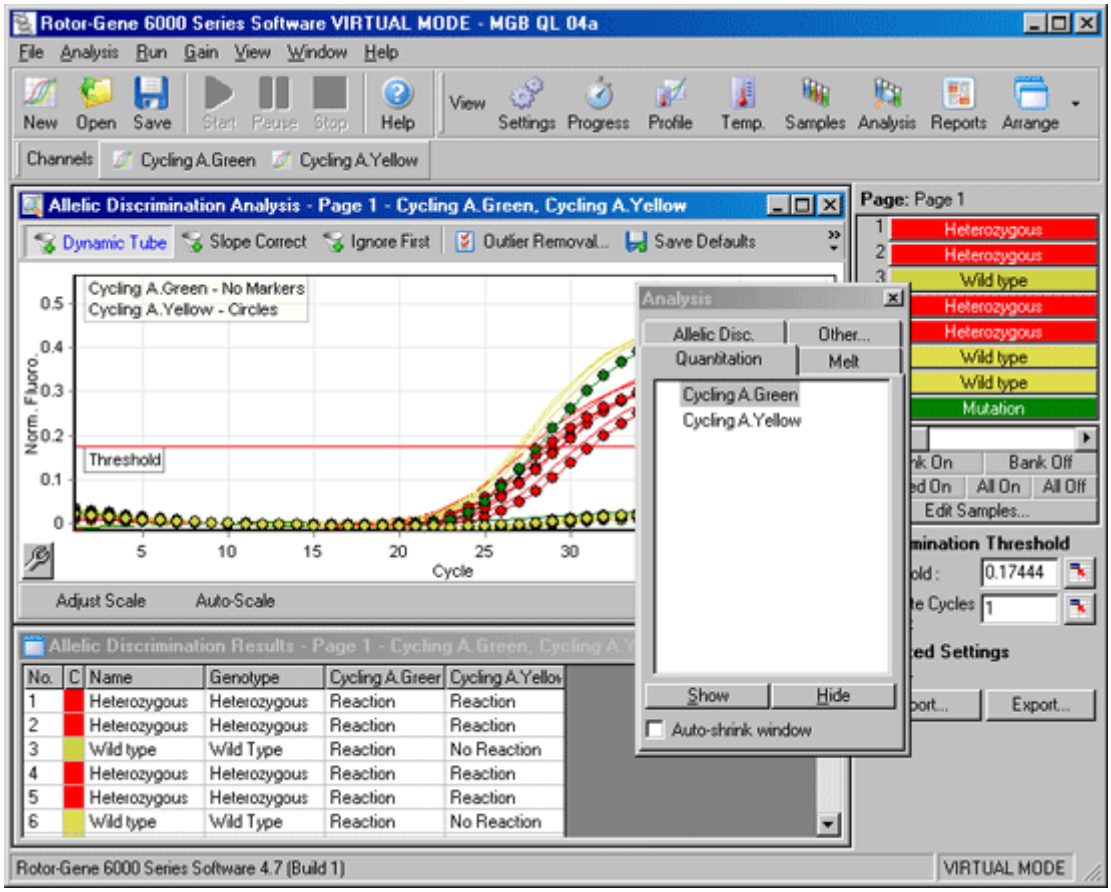
Steps taken to calculate relative concentrations:
1. The Takeoff points of each sample are calculated by looking at the second derivative peaks.
2. The average increase in raw data 4 points following the Takeoff is calculated and becomes the sample's amplification.
3. Outlier amplifications are removed to account for noise in background fluorescence.
4. The non-outlier amplifications are averaged to become a run "Average Amplification".
5. The average TakeOff point is calculated for all samples in the Calibrator Replicate.
6. The relative concentration for a sample is calculated as Amplification ^ (CalibratorTakeOff - ThisSampleTakeOff).
7. The result is displayed in scientific notation.

8.6.7 Allelic Discrimination

Allelic Discrimination uses real-time kinetic data from 2 or more channels to genotype samples.

For Allelic Discrimination, it is not sufficient to double-click on the channel you would like to analyze, as this analysis is performed using multiple channels simultaneously. To perform this analysis, either hold down CTRL and click to highlight each channel you wish to analyze, or drag your mouse over these channels. Once the desired channels have been highlighted, click **Show**. The list will update to show all the channels on one line, with a tick next to them. This indicates that they are all being used in one analysis. You can "break apart" these channels by right clicking on the analysis and selecting **Remove Analysis...** You will then be able to include those channels in another Allelic Discrimination analysis. Please note that a channel can only be used once in each type of analysis.

Allelic Discrimination Analysis allows you to perform genotyping using dual labeled probes. The genotype of samples is displayed in the result window as follows:



Reports

Opens the Allelic Discrimination Report for preview.

Results

Displays the genotyping results spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is opened when the analysis is first displayed by default.

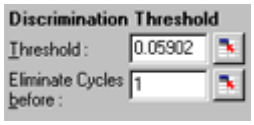
Normalisation Options

A variety of options are available to optimise the way in which the amplification plots are normalised:

- Dynamic Tube (Dynamic Tube Normalization)
- Slope Correct (Noise Slope Correction)
- Ignore First x (First x Cycles Noise Correction)

These terms are explained in the chapter Quantitation.

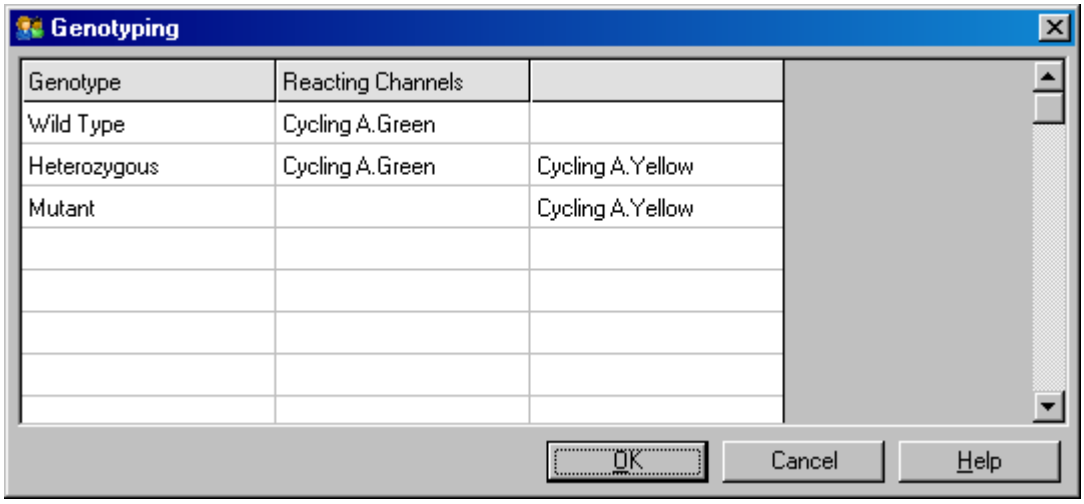
Discrimination Threshold



Discrimination Threshold: Enter values in these text boxes to position the discrimination threshold. All curves surpassing this line will be considered as having amplified for the purposes of genotyping. Click on the button to the right of each text box then drag the threshold on the graph to set these values visually.

Genotypes

Genotypes: Opens the genotype window to define which genotype is detected in which channel.



This screen lets you assign genotypes to reacting channels for an Allelic Discrimination analysis. In the above example, a sample is heterozygous if readings in channels Cycling A.Green and Cycling A.Yellow cross the threshold.

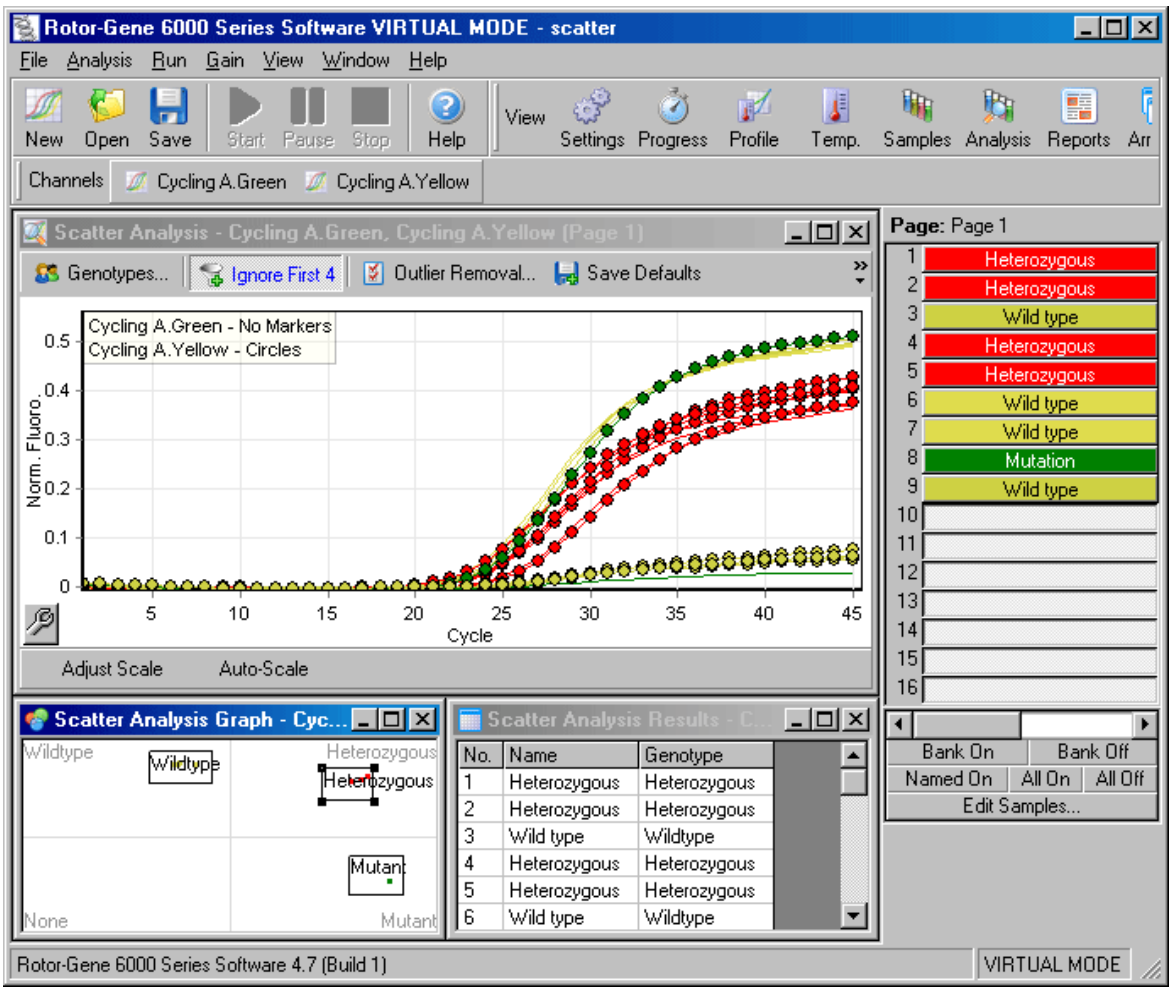
Allelic Analysis Templates

Allelic analysis templates allow the user to export normalisation, threshold, and genotype settings into a single **.ALT** file. This file can be imported and reapplied in other experiments. See Analysis Templates for more details.

8.6.8 Scatterplot Analysis

For Scatterplot Analysis, it is not sufficient to double-click on the channel you would like to analyze, as this analysis is performed using multiple channels simultaneously. To perform this analysis, either hold down SHIFT and click to highlight each channel you wish to analyze, or drag your mouse over these channels. Once the desired channels have been highlighted, click **Show**. The list will update to show all the channels on one line, with a tick next to them. This indicates that they are all being used in one analysis. You can "break apart" these channels by right clicking on the analysis and selecting **Remove Analysis...** You will then be able to include those channels in another Scatter Analysis analysis. Please note that a channel can only be used once in each type of analysis.

Scatterplot Analysis allows for genotyping on the basis of the relative expression of amplification plots across 2 channels. Unlike Allelic Discrimination, the determination of genotype is made on the basis of regions defined on the scatterplot rather than a single threshold.



Reports

Opens the Scatter Analysis Report for preview.

Results

Displays the genotyping results spreadsheet. The genotype for each sample is determined by the regions defined by the user on the scatterplot.

Normalisation Options

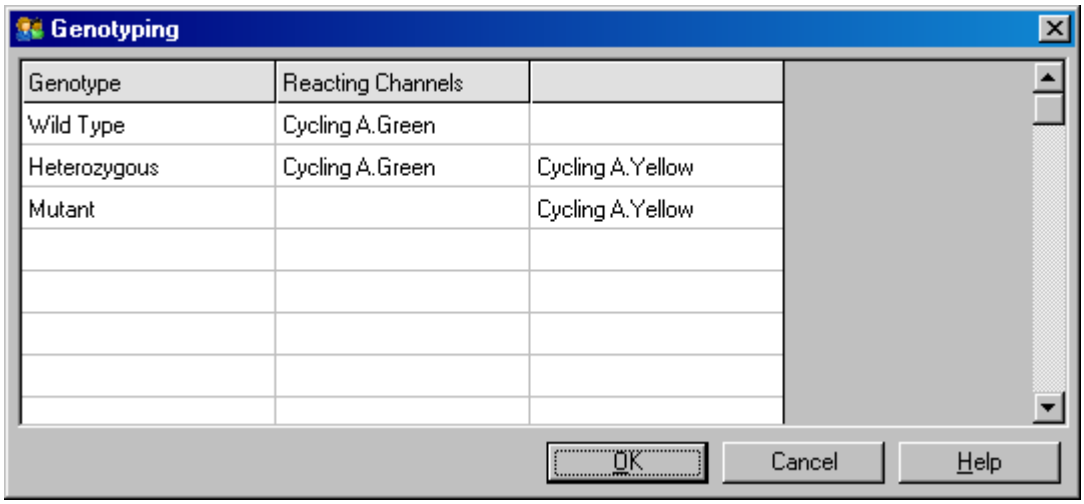
A variety of options are available to optimise the way in which the amplification plots are normalised:

- Dynamic Tube (Dynamic Tube Normalization)
- Slope Correct (Noise Slope Correction)
- Ignore First x (First x Cycles Noise Correction)

These terms are explained in the chapter Quantitation.

Genotypes

Genotypes: Opens the genotype window to define which genotype is detected in which channel.

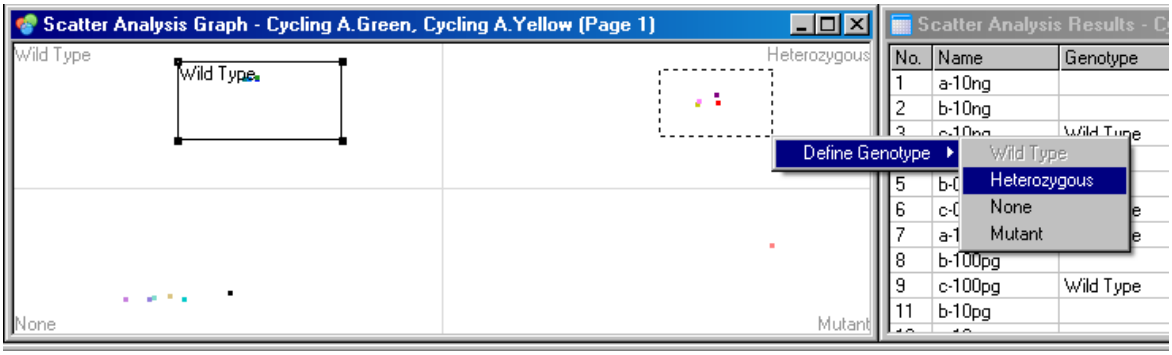


On this screen, the user may assign genotypes on the basis of the channels on which a sample reacts. The channels selected will be used to label the corners of the scatterplot, and provide a guide to the user to the general area of the scatterplot in which regions should be defined.

Scatterplot

The scatterplot displays the relative expression of the two selected channels. The display is normalised to account for different fold increases in each channel, and log transformed to accentuate the differences in expression between samples.

To perform genotyping, the user defines regions by clicking and dragging a selection on the graph. The selection can then be labelled based on the genotypes configured in the Genotype window.



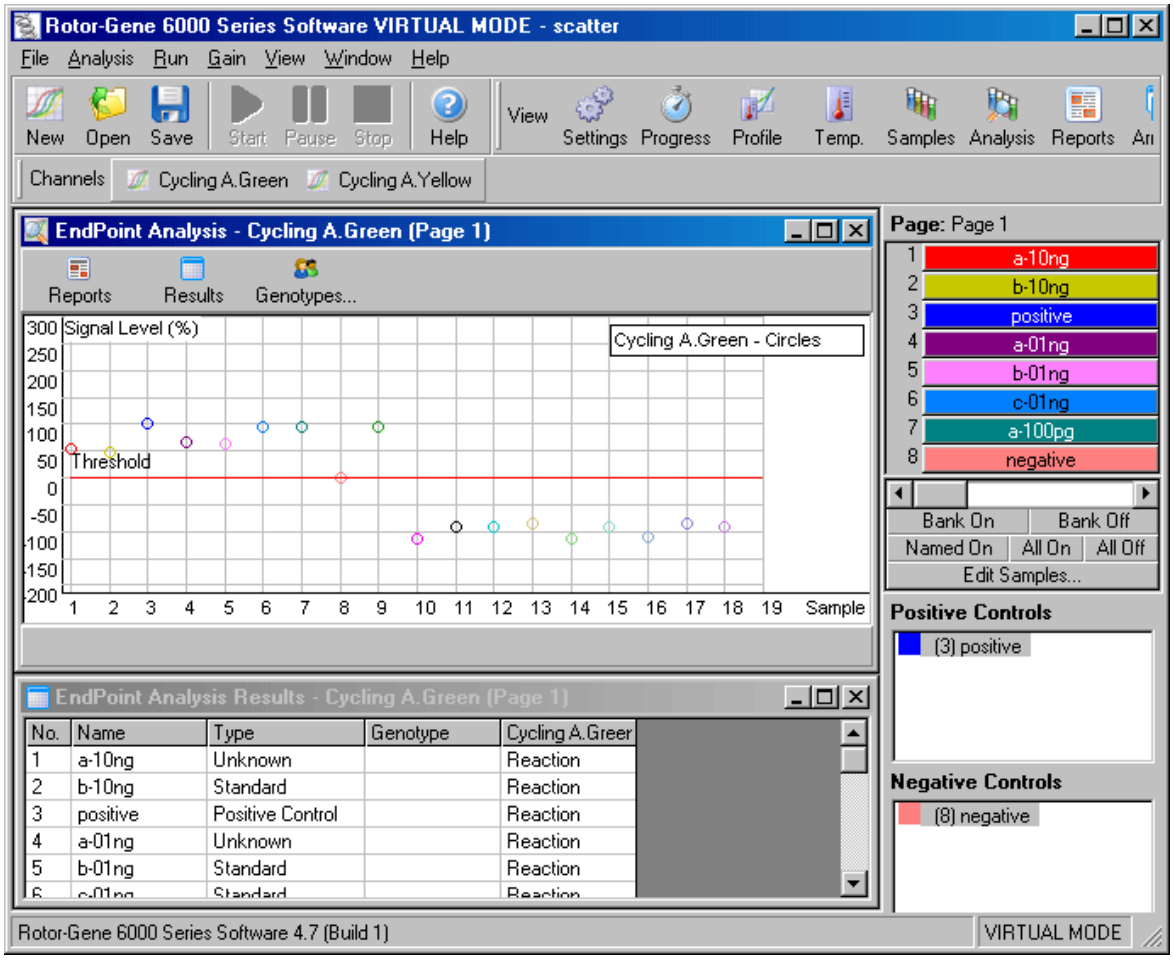
Scatterplot Analysis Templates

Allelic analysis templates allow the user to export genotype and region settings into a single **.SCT** file. This file can be imported and reapplied in other experiments. See Analysis Templates for more details.

8.6.9 EndPoint Analysis

EndPoint Analysis is a technique which allows samples that amplify to be discriminated from non-amplifying samples at the end of a run. Results are qualitative (positive/negative), not qualitative. This technique is only suitable for endpoint data, and cannot be reliably performed using real-time amplification plots. For real-time determination of reactions, use the Allelic Discrimination or Scatterplot Analysis

Below is a screenshot of the EndPoint Analysis software module:



EndPoint Analysis is similar to Allelic Discrimination, in that the results are qualitative, and that names can be assigned to certain permutations of reactions over different channels. Where EndPoint Analysis is different is that only a single reading is available instead of a cycle-by-cycle reading for each sample. This means that the user must supply additional information to help facilitate the analysis, namely, the identification of **positive** and **negative controls**.

To facilitate the presentation of the amplification data, the signal levels are normalised relative to the known positives and negatives for each channel. The user then selects a percentage **signal level** as the reaction threshold.

Note: Endpoint analysis does not take advantage of the full amplification plot acquired through real-time thermal cycling, and is designed for post-run analysis of non real-time amplification. When possible, real-time qualitative techniques such as Allelic Discrimination should be used when performing the cycling on a Rotor-Gene 6000.

Terms Used In EndPoint Analysis

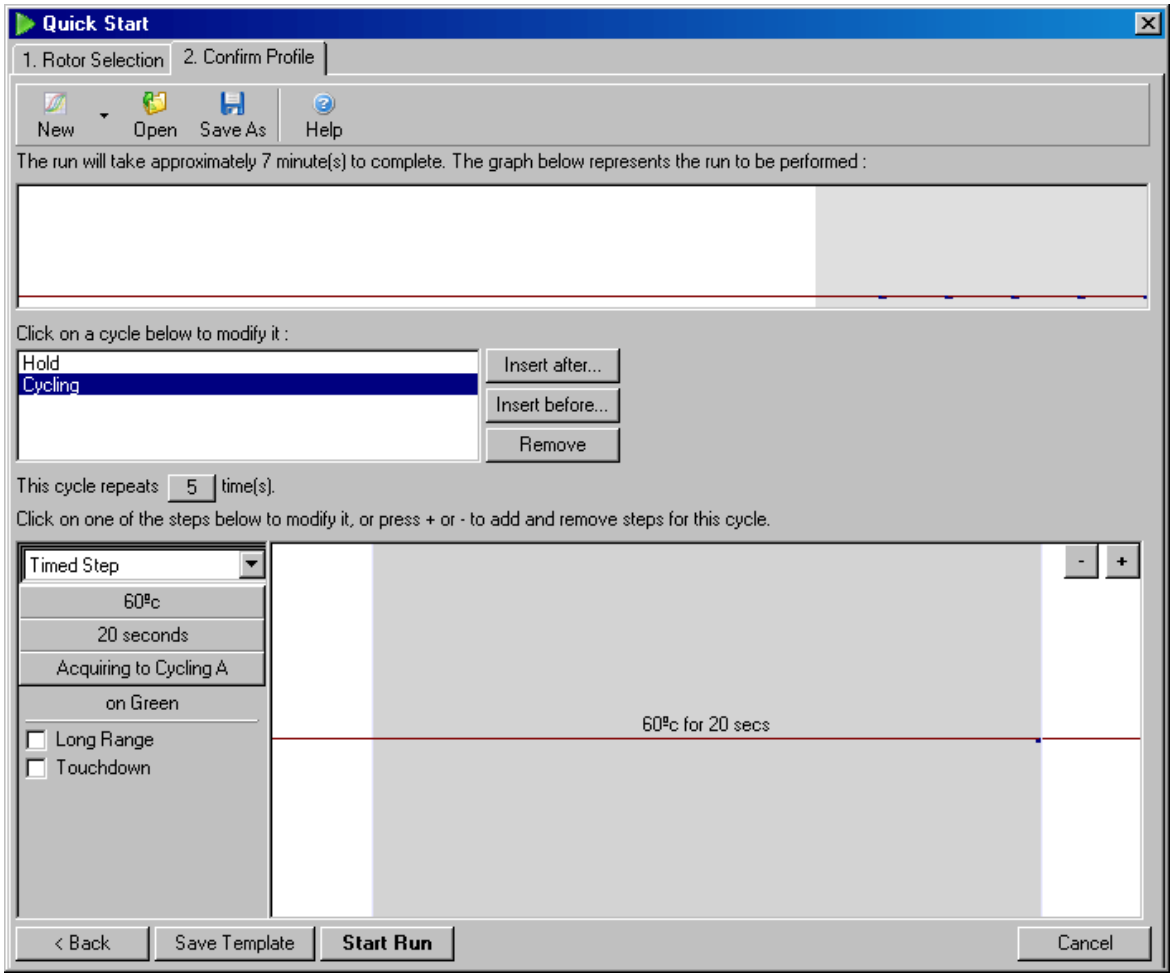
Below are explanations of the terms and concepts used in EndPoint Analysis:

Term	Explanation
Positive Control	A sample which is known to amplify and produce a positive result.
Negative Control	A sample which is known not to amplify. This represents the typical background signal.
Threshold	A signal level above which a sample is said to be positive (amplified). This setting must be adjusted by the user for each run.
Signal Level	A percentage of fluorescent signal, normalised so that the signal of the highest positive control is 100% and the lowest signal of the negative controls is 0%.
Genotype	An interpretation of different permutations of reactions on different channels. For example, one could assign a genotype of "Heterozygous" to samples which reacted in both channels "Green" and "Yellow". The genotype can also be used for reporting results of reactions with internal controls. For example, you may wish to report results such as "Inhibited", "Positive", "Negative" on the basis of whether a reaction was seen in certain channels.

Profile Configuration

To perform an EndPoint analysis, you should first amplify the samples in a thermal cycler.

Once this has finished, transfer the tubes to the Rotor-Gene 6000, and perform a profile with a hold at 60 degrees for several minutes, then a cycling step with 1 step, on 60 degrees for 20 seconds, acquiring on the required channel. Set the number of repeats to 5, as shown below:

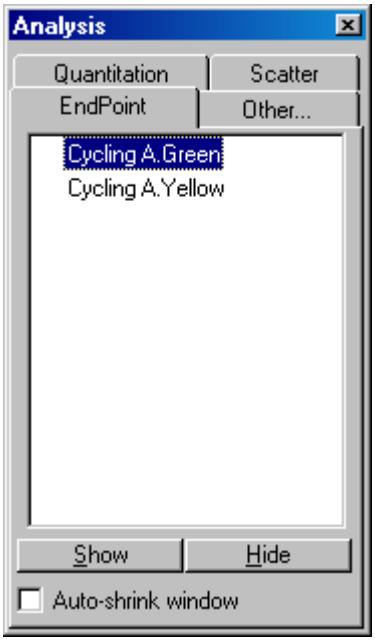


Please note that these times are a guide only, and may vary for your particular application.

The more repeats in the profile, the more information will be available to perform the analysis. The analysis module will automatically average all the readings taken into a single value for each sample. There is no set number of repeats required, and unless you are performing a run where a very fine level of accuracy is required, 5 repeats should be largely sufficient.

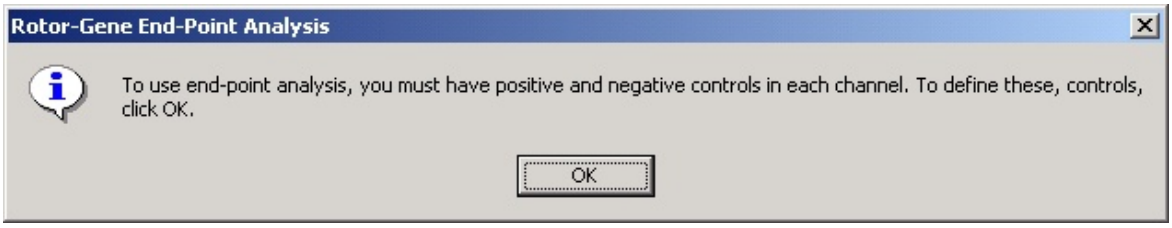
Analysis

You can perform EndPoint analysis on a number of channels simultaneously. To create a new analysis, click on the EndPoint tab, select the channels by dragging over them with your mouse, and then click **Show**. The EndPoint analysis window will be displayed.

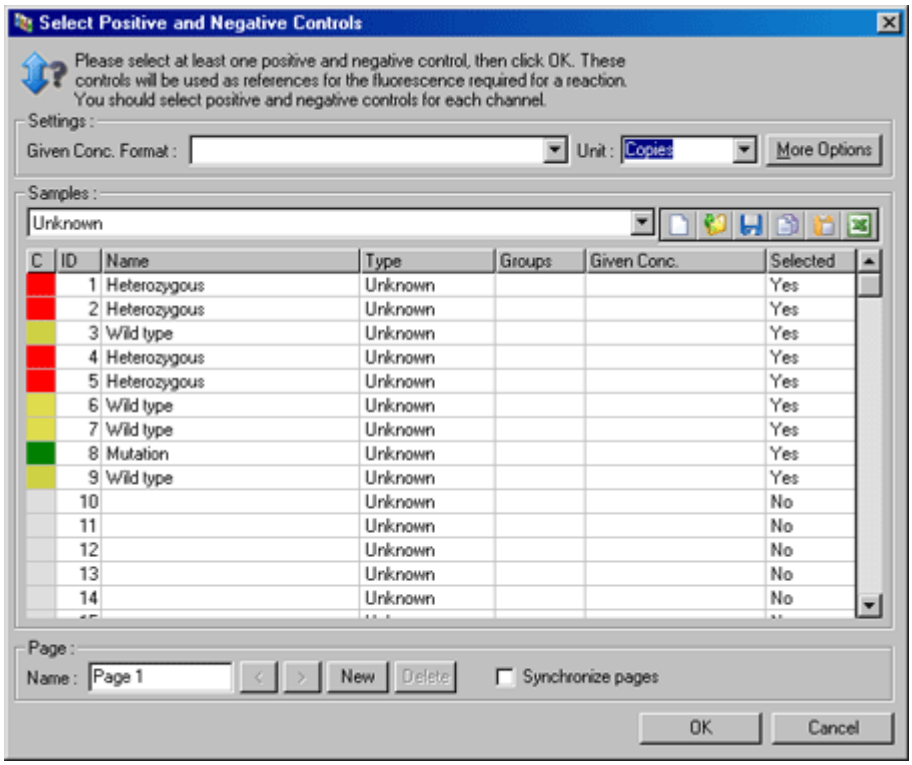


Define Controls

When you open an EndPoint analysis for the first time, you will likely not have set up your Positive and Negative controls. The following message will be displayed :



After clicking OK, the sample editor appears, allowing you to define Positive and Negative controls. To set a sample to be a Positive or Negative control, click on the cell containing the sample's type, then select the relevant control type from the drop-down box which appears next.



This screen functions in an identical manner to the **Sample Editor**.

Normalisation

Normalisation of the EndPoint data scales all signal levels to be within the range of 0-100%. You must have selected at least one **Positive Control** and one **Negative Control**, however, you will need more than this if you are analysing multiple channels and your standards are not multiplexed. You should also use more than one control of each type if there is the risk that your positive control may not amplify.

1. For each channel, all the Positive Controls are sampled and one with the highest fluorescence is set to be 100%. This allows for a Positive Control to fail without affecting your run, if you are running duplicate controls.
2. All the Negative Controls are then sampled, and the one with the lowest fluorescence level is set to 0%.
3. The raw fluorescence values of the other samples are then scaled relative to the highest Positive Control and the lowest Negative Control.

Here is an example:

Sample	Type	Fluorescence
1	Positive Control	56.3
2	Positive Control	53.0
3	Negative Control	4.5
4	Negative Control	4.3
5	Sample	48.1
6	Sample	6.4

This run was a success, as the two positive and negative controls are both close together, and are outside the fluorescence values of the samples.

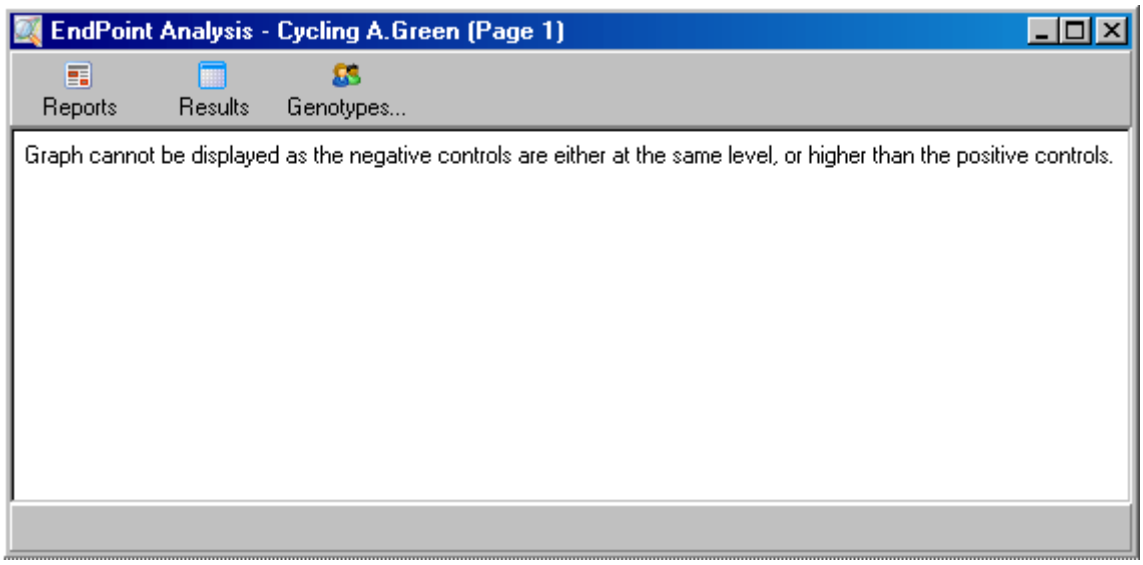
Here are the normalised values:

Sample	Type	Expression(%)
1	Positive Control	100.0
2	Positive Control	93.7
3	Negative Control	0.4
4	Negative Control	0.0
5	Sample	84.2
6	Sample	4.0

As Sample 1 was the Positive Control with the highest fluorescence, it was set to 100% expression, with the other positive control slightly lower. Sample 4, the lowest Negative Control was set to 0% expression. It is now obvious that Sample 5 is more likely to have amplified, whereas Sample 6 is likely not to have amplified.

NOTE: If Positive and Negative Controls are not selected carefully, it is possible to achieve expression levels of greater than 100%, and lower than 0%. This can be interpreted as "the sample expressed itself more than the positive controls", or "it is less likely that the sample reacted than that the negative controls reacted". Such a result is not of concern as the purpose of the analysis is obtain a qualitative answer.

If you receive a message stating that the Negative Controls are higher than the Positive Controls, then you have incorrectly set up your samples. For example, your Negative Controls had a level of 10Fl, but the Positive Controls had a level of 5Fl. Since this is an illogical result, you will receive the following warning:



Normalisation on Multiple Channels

It is possible to analyse signal data over multiple channels, however, the sample setup is a little more complex. EndPoint analysis assumes multiplexing and so each tube can only have a single tube position. This can cause difficulties when a sample position is a positive control for one channel, and a negative control for the other. It is not possible to analyse such a setup in the software at this stage.

Although the samples definitions operate from a single sample definition, the normalisation occurs independently for each channel.

If a tube position is a positive control for at least one channel, mark its type as Positive Control. Otherwise leave it as type Sample. The same applies for Negative Controls.

As an example, if a sample is a Positive Control on Green, but not on Yellow, the sample should still be defined as a Positive Control. So long as there is least one Positive Control on Yellow which will amplify, the definition of the sample as a control for Green will be ignored.

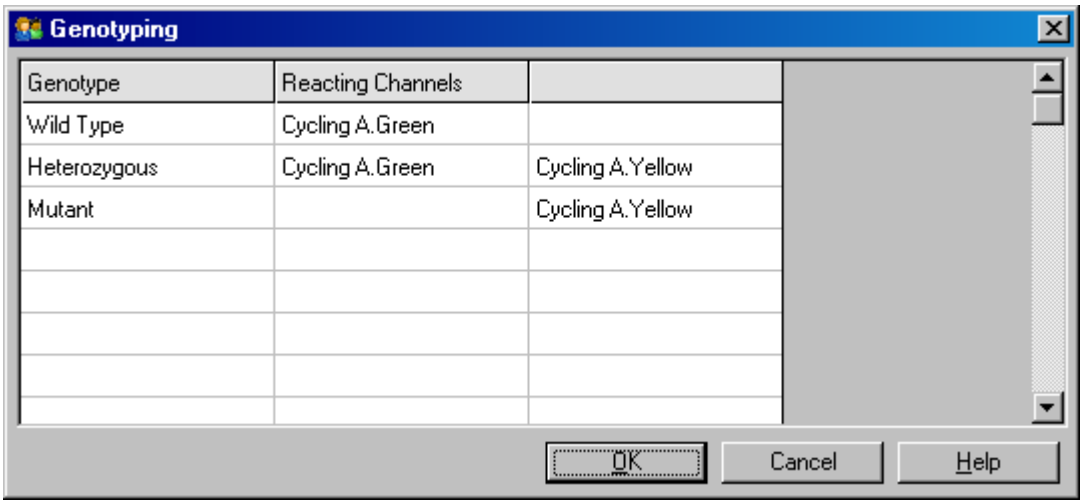
Threshold

The **Threshold** is used to determine the percentage level of expression required for a reaction on each channel. Once the **Positive** and **Negative Controls** have been defined, all channels will be normalised to the same scale, 0-100%. This is the reason why only one threshold is needed, even when analysing multiple channels.

Click and drag the threshold line to an area between 0-100%. Your threshold should not be too near samples on either side of the line as this indicates that the run was not conclusive. If the difference between a sample amplifying or not is a matter of a few percent, then the same reaction run again could appear on the other side of the threshold.

Genotypes

Genotypes: As in Allelic Discrimination, this option opens the genotype window to define which genotype is detected in which channel.



This screen lets you assign genotypes to reacting channels. In the above example, a sample is heterozygous if readings in channels Cycling A.CH1 and Cycling A.CH2 cross the threshold.

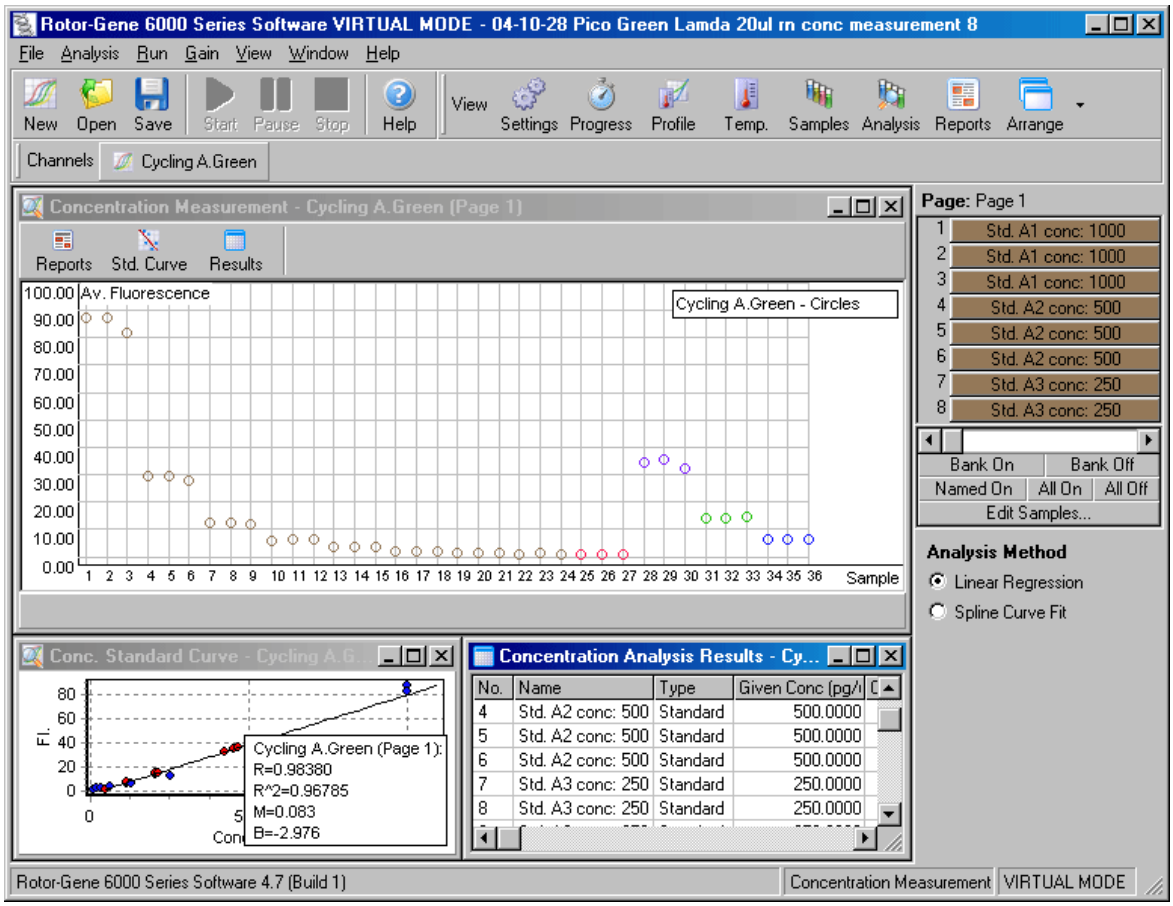
EndPoint Analysis Templates

Allelic analysis templates allow the user to export genotype and threshold settings into a single **.ENT** file. This file can be imported and reapplied in other experiments. See Analysis Templates for more details.

8.6.10 Concentration Measurement

Concentration Measurement allows you to use the instrument to measure DNA concentrations, or to obtain fluorometer readings.

Below is a screenshot of the analysis with a sample run:



Preparing a Run

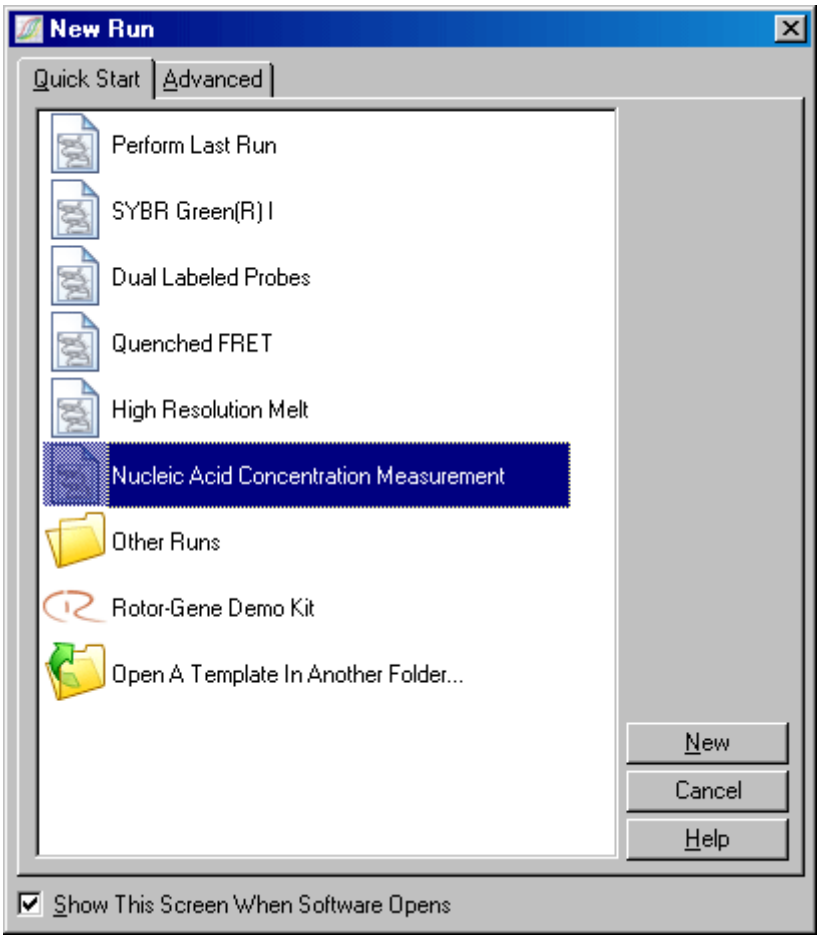
To perform a **Concentration Analysis** run, first prepare your fluorescent standards and samples, ideally in triplicates.

Preparation of Standards

A standard curve is used to determine the concentration of DNA from each sample measured. The DNA used in the standard curve should be derived from similar DNA in the samples being measured. It is recommended that the concentration of at least one DNA sample be determined using ultraviolet spectrophotometry and that this sample be used as the standard. The minimum number of standards used should be three (with replicates). Importantly, DNA standards used in fluorescence detection are only linear within the range of 100 nano-grams per micro-litre to 1 nano-gram per micro-litre. That is, within this range, if the concentration of DNA is halved, so is the fluorescent reading. The confidence intervals for any concentration outside this range are very broad due to non-linearity in the chemistry.

Type of DNA Measured
Differences have been observed in the measurement of various forms of DNA. For example, genomic DNA compared with plasmid DNA. Therefore, it is recommended that only alike DNA are measured together, and the use of plasmid DNA as a standard be avoided when measuring genomic DNA.

Run Setup
Then, select Other Runs from the Quick Start wizard:



NB: Ensure that you run a positive control, such as a high concentration standard in tube position 1. Without a positive control, the software will be unable to optimise gain settings for maximum sensitivity. You will be prompted for this before each run.

Analysis

Concentration Measurement analysis operates by relating the fluorescence level to a concentration value. Two analysis models are available, which may be more or less useful depending on your chemistry and application.

Linear Regression analyses data by assuming a linear relationship, and estimating unknown values on the basis of a generated linear model. It determines measurement error by examining

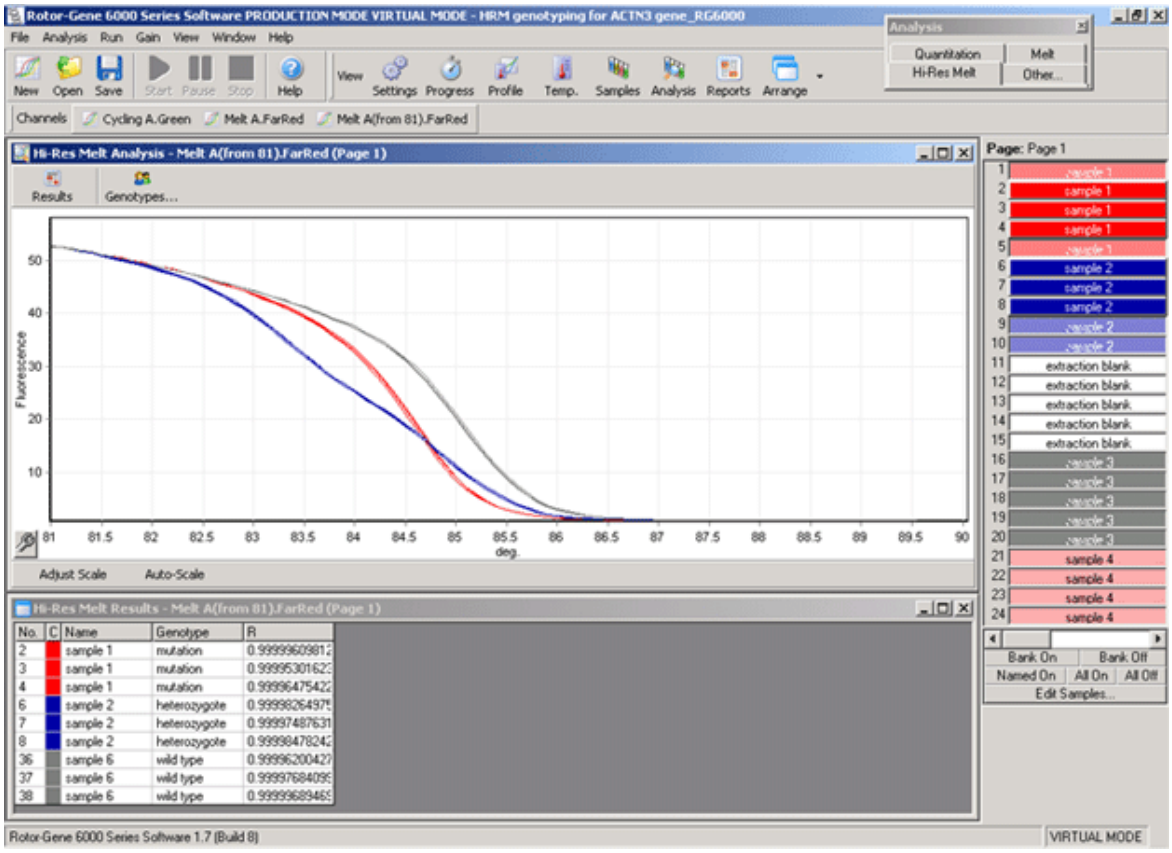
the deviation of the readings from a linear model. If concentration readings are linear, this is the most suitable analysis, as it provides statistical analysis of variation (ANOVA) to the operator.

Spline Curve Fit makes the lesser assumption that concentration values increase with fluorescence. While this approach makes estimates of data with non-linearities more accurate, it cannot provide any ANOVA, as it does not assume a linear model.

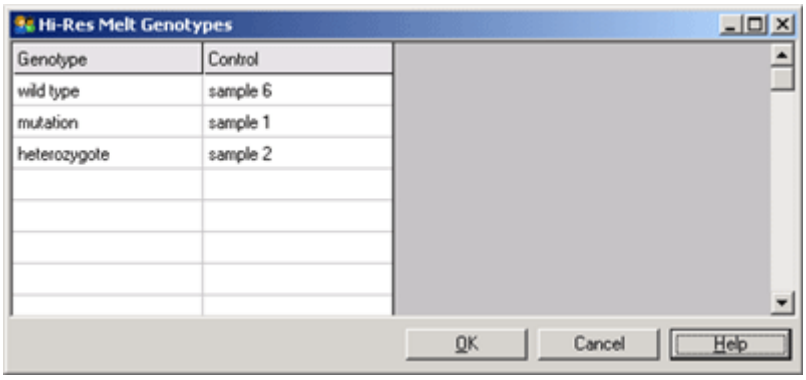
8.6.11 High Resolution Melt Analysis

High Resolution Melts characterize samples based on sequence length, GC content and complementarity. Genotyping single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) is a typical application that saves on probe and label costs over other methods.

To perform the analysis go to **Analysis** and select **Hi-Res Melt**. Double click on the channel to analyse. The melt curves from the raw channel are normalised by averaging all starting and ending fluorescence values and then forcing the end points of each sample to be the same as the average.



Auto calling of samples is achieved by selecting the **Genotypes** icon. Enter the name of the genotype followed by the sample number, which is used as a postive control to call unknown samples automatically. An R value is calculated to provide a level of confidence in the result.



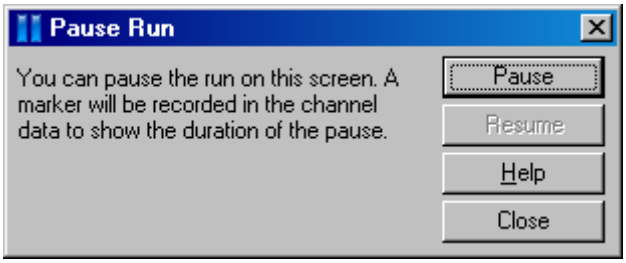
8.7 Run Menu

8.7.1 Start Run

Starts the defined Temperature Profile with the current Gain settings. Before the Rotor-Gene 6000 starts the Profile Run Confirmation screen is shown. A graphical representation of the temperature profile to be run is displayed along with the Gain settings for each channel.

8.7.2 Pause Run

You can use this screen to pause and resume a run. As performing this operation can seriously affect the results of a run, a marker is drawn across all channels acquired to by the currently running cycle. A message is also placed in the message screen.



Caution: When pausing the machine, it will not be cooled completely to room temperature. You should exercise caution before handling the rotor or any tubes in the machine.

8.7.3 Stop Run

When stopping a run you will be prompted to confirm your intention.

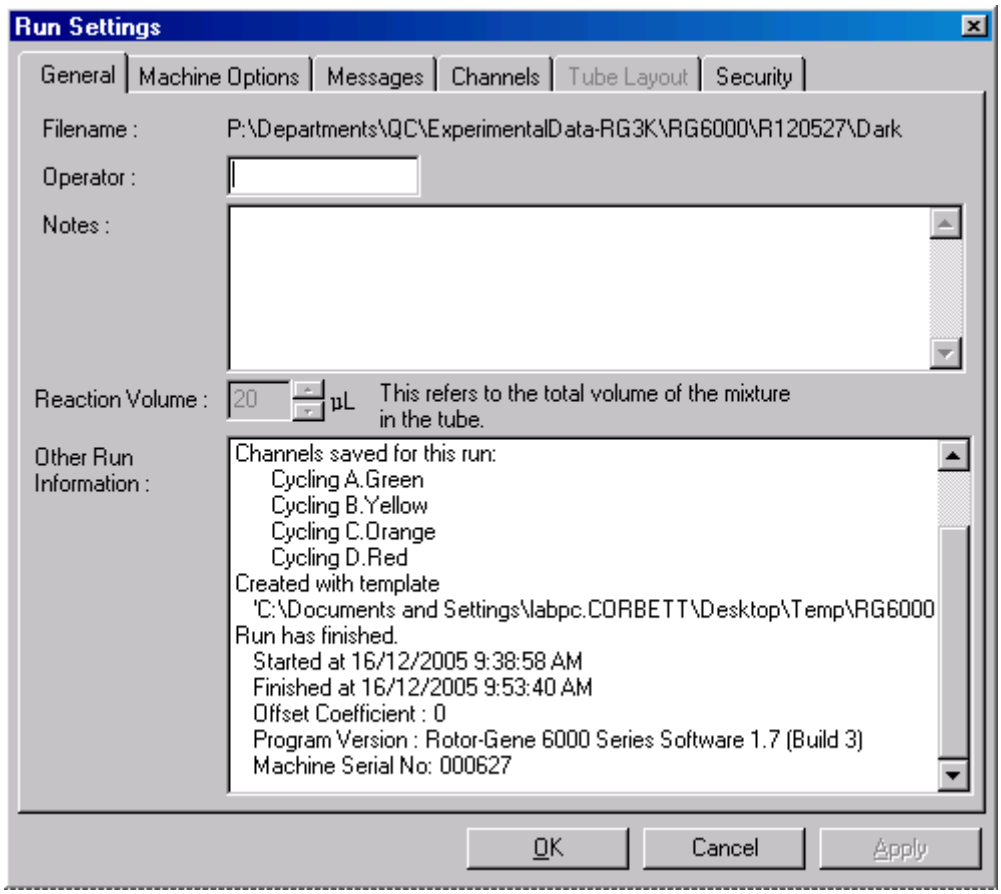
8.8 View Menu

8.8.1 Run Settings

General

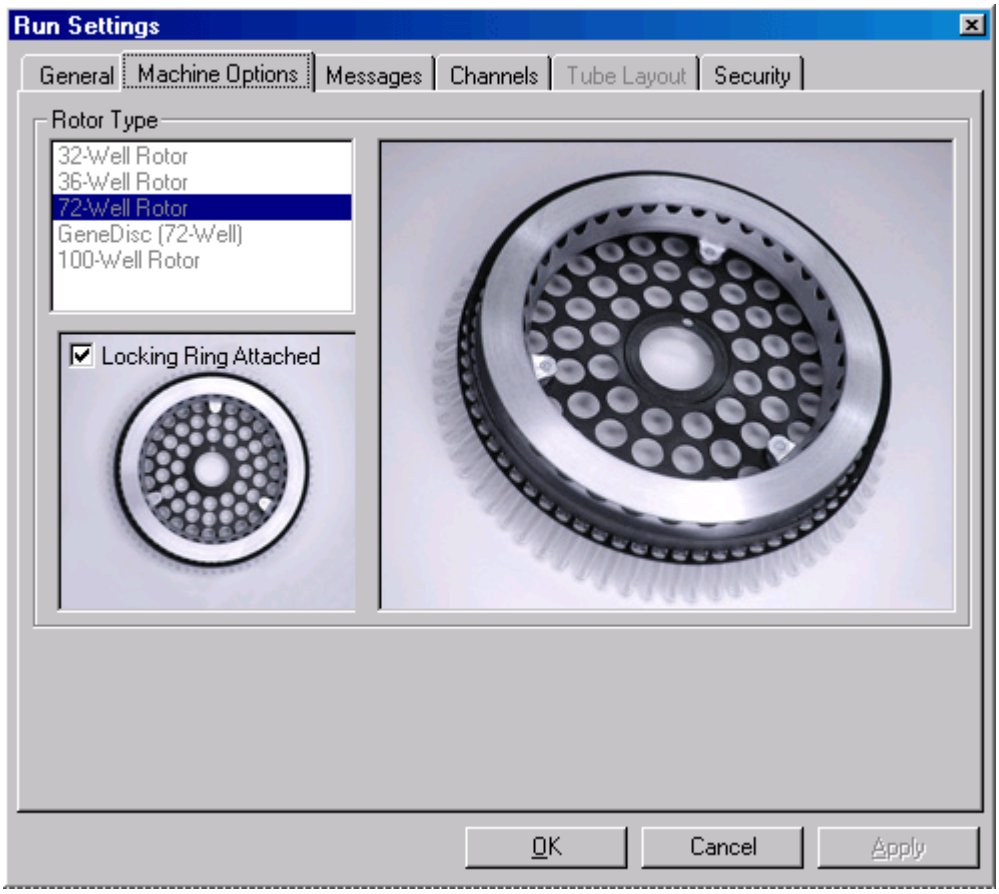
This window allows the setup of run information, run filename, analysis date, operator and any associated notes.

The run information window contains all information except for the profile required to configure a run. The following information is displayed after a run has finished: type of machine, Gain settings, number of channels and time of start/finish.



Machine Options

This tab contains settings for the configuration of the Rotor-Gene 6000 instrument.



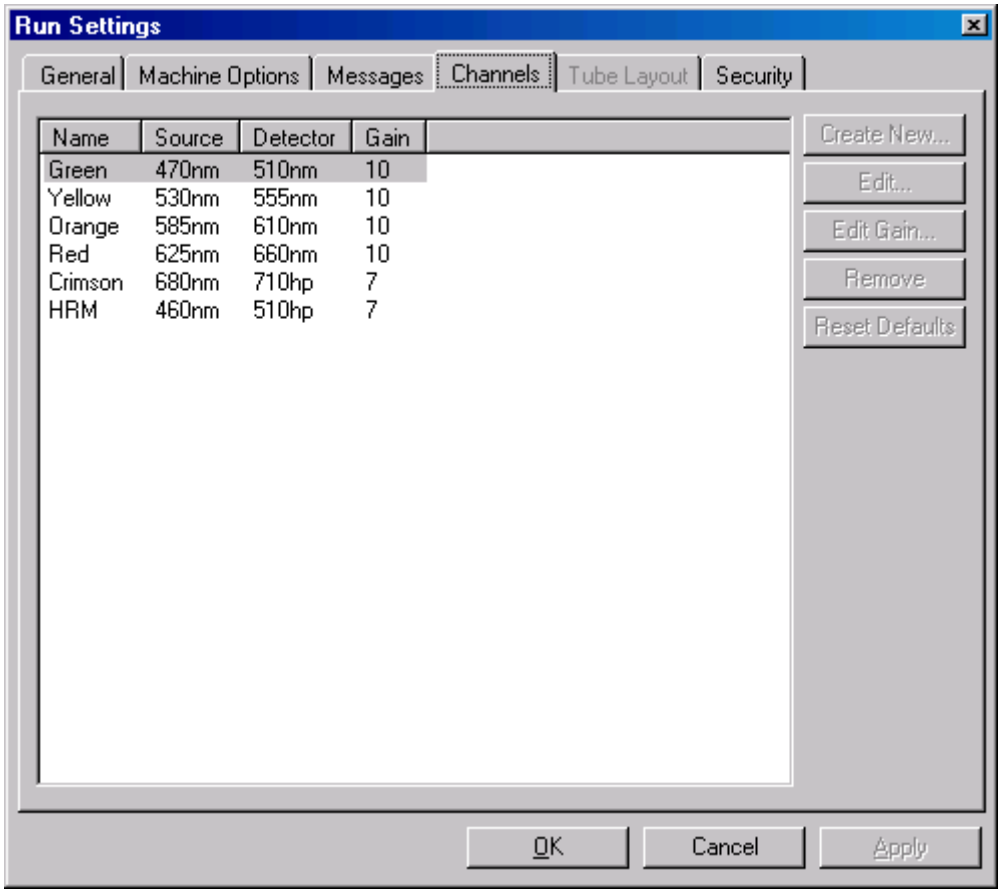
Rotor Type: The rotor should be set to that currently installed in your Rotor-Gene 6000. If opening an existing run, this setting will reflect the rotor that was installed in the machine at that time. The options available depend on your machine and the rotors it supports.

Messages

This tab displays messages where the operator has changed functions such as pausing the machine or skipping cycles during a run. It also displays warnings received during the run. You should check this tab if you receive unusual results.

Channels

If configuring a new run, the channels tab displays the current configuration of the channels available in the machine. If you are viewing an existing run, then the information displayed represents the configuration of the channels when the run was performed. You can modify the Gain and create and modify channels if you are using a Multi-Channel system. To restore default channels if a run corrupts your machine's channel settings, click Reset Defaults.



Name: Describes the name of the channels.

Source: Specifies the excitation wavelength of the source LED.

Detector: Specifies the detection wavelength and filter type. (nm=band pass, hp=high pass)

Gain: Specifies the Gain for that particular channel.

Create new: This feature allows creating new channels. Pressing this button opens a window, which asks for a new name, source and detection filter. The filters can be chosen by using the pull down menu next to each window.

Some commonly used channel configurations are listed below:

Channel Name	Source/Detector	Example Fluorophores
Green	**470nm/510nm**	FAM, SYBR Green I, etc
Yellow	**530nm/555nm**	JOE, VIC, TET, etc
Orange	**585nm/610nm**	ROX, Tamra, etc
Red	**625nm/665nm**	Cy5, LC 640, etc
User defined	**470nm/665nm**	FRET, Cy5, LC640 and others

Channels Green, Yellow, Orange and Red channels are standard configurations for 4 channel multiplex detection. Quencher molecules need to be used on the 3' end of the dual labeled probes so as not to occupy spectral bandwidth. The best combination is BHQ (black hole quenchers from Biosearch Technologies) Green/BHQ1, Yellow/BHQ1, Orange/BHQ2, Red/BHQ3.

Channel 470/665nm is used to detect eg. Red or LC640 in a FRET reaction where an increase in energy is detected. This can be used for quantitation or mutation detection.

NOTE: For mutation detection using FRET probes, the information is contained in the differential of the melt curve and it makes no difference whether the increase in Red (FRET) or the decrease in Green (quenched FRET) is monitored. This is helpful when looking at multiplexing a mutation detection assay as a Green/BHQ1 and Yellow/BHQ1 probe sets (quenched FRET) can be used in conjunction with Green and Yellow channel configurations.

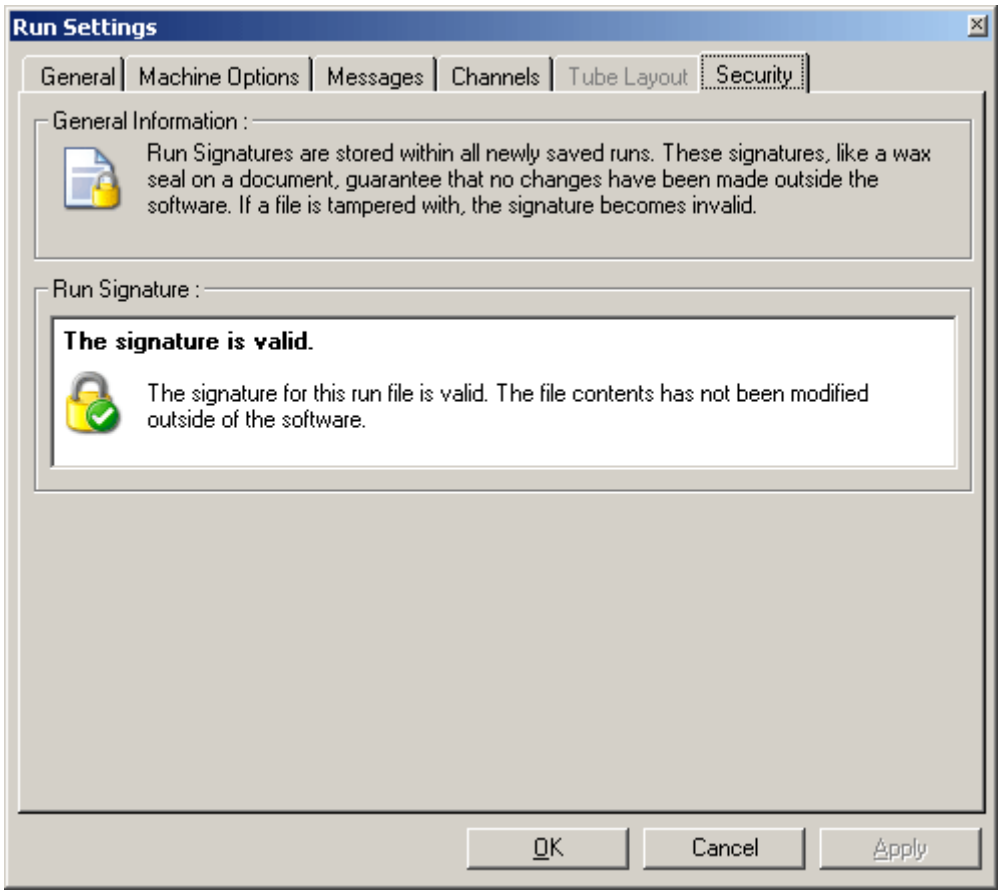
Tube Layout

Tube Layout: If you are using a 72-well system, you may wish to reorganize samples to more closely match the labeling that you are using on a 9x8 block. The tube layout tab allows you to label samples sequentially (the default), so that samples are listed in the order they are placed in the machine, or by every 9th sample (1A, 1B, 1C, etc). This is useful when loading samples with a multi-channel pipette.

If modifying this setting, you should perform a test run to confirm that the organization option you have selected works in the manner that you expect.

Security

The security tab displays information about the Run Signature. The Run Signature is a non-reversible key which is regenerated every time the file is changed. If any section of the REX file is modified outside of the software, the signature and the file will no longer match. Using the signature, you can ensure that the raw data is not modified outside the application, that the profile has not been tampered with and that the temperature graph is valid. The signature also protects against non-malicious corruption, such as file-system errors.

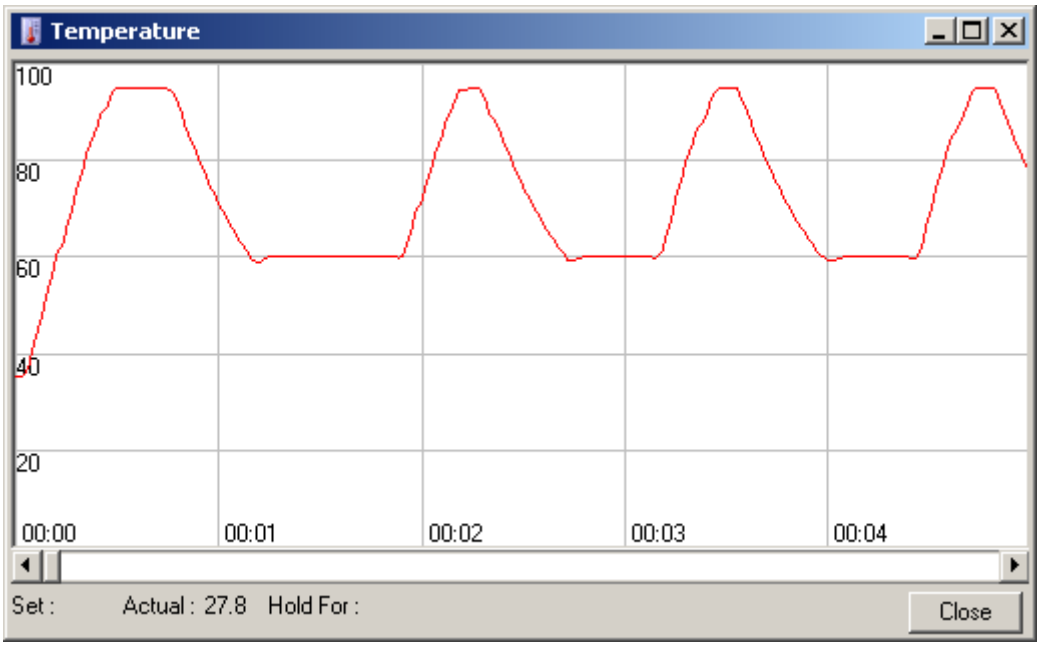


Important: Older versions of software did not store run signatures only exists in recent versions of the software. The absence of a signature in old files does not mean that a file has been modified. However, any new runs you create should contain a signature and so can be validated. You should treat with suspicion any file where the signature is invalid.

You can ensure security for your files by making a laboratory policy that all run files must be run using 5.0.8 or later. Runs performed in this version will display a warning if they have not been signed, whereas older runs will not. However, all reports will include the version number of the software, so you can also treat as suspicious newly run files on old versions of the software.

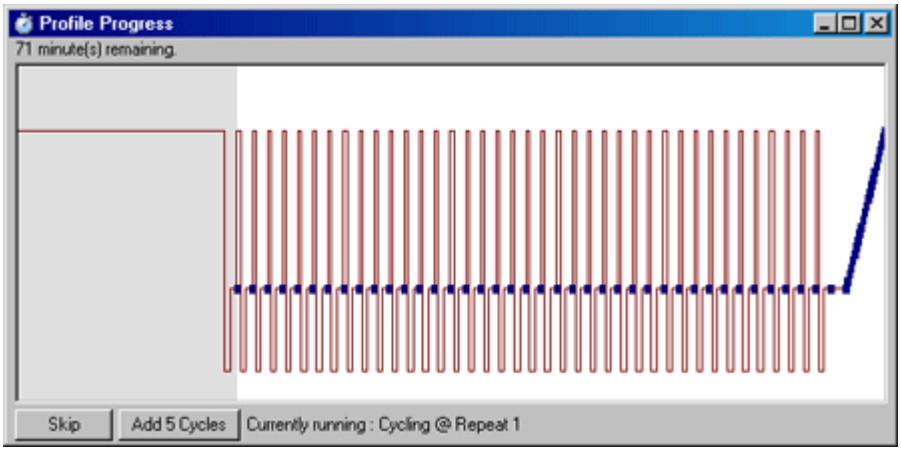
8.8.2 Temperature Graph

The temperature graph shows the temperature of the samples during a run. As the run proceeds the Set, Actual and Hold time is shown for each step of the program. When loading an existing run file, the temperature graph shows the temperature history during the run. The vertical scale represents temperature and the horizontal scale represents time. Use the scrollbar to scroll backwards and forwards throughout the temperature history.



8.8.3 Profile Progress

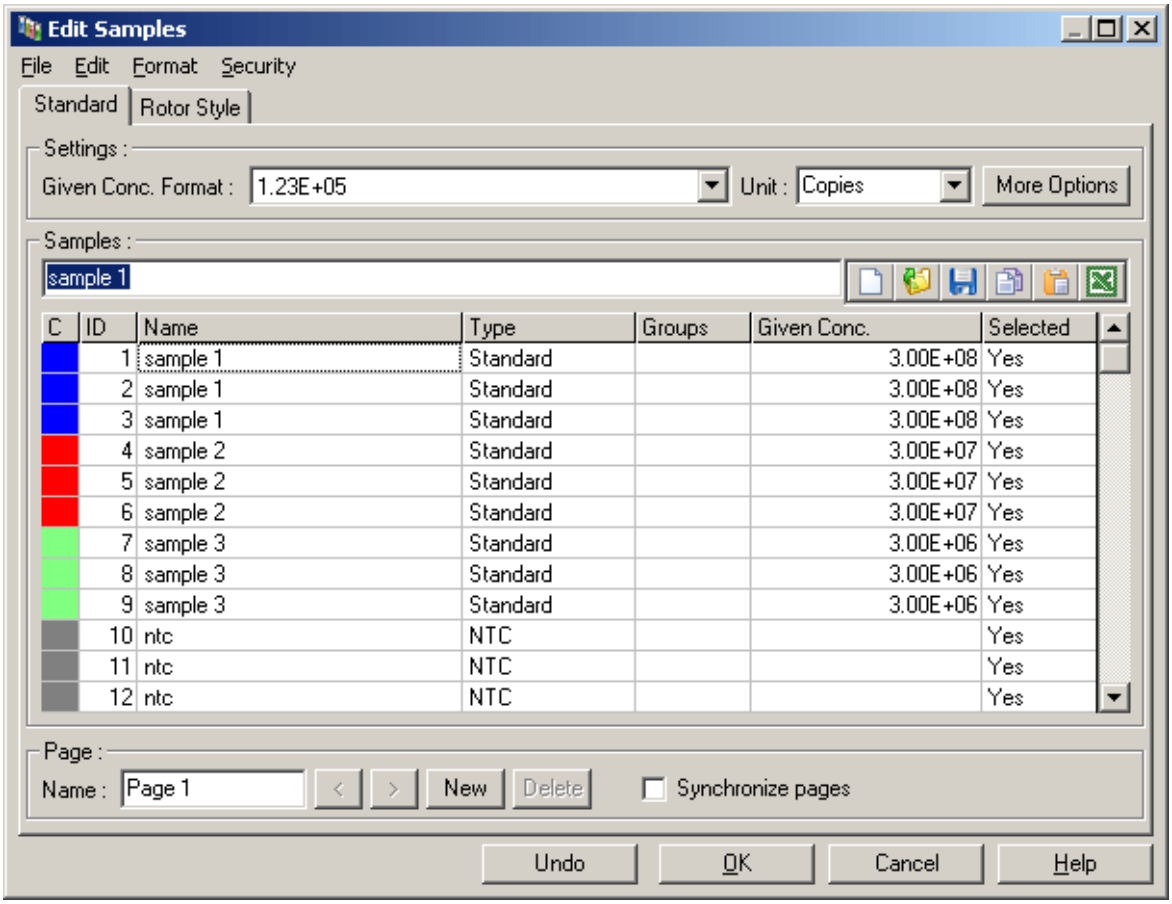
This screen shows a graphical representation of the thermal profile associated with the run. When performing a run, the shaded portion of the window indicates the number of cycles that have been completed. There is also an estimate of how many minutes the program will take to finish this run.



There are two further buttons on the window: **Skip** and **Add 5 Cycles**. While skip allows skipping any steps of the profile, the "Add 5 Cycles" button allows adding five repeats to the current step.

8.8.4 Edit Samples

Standard Editor

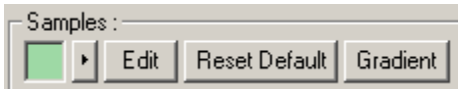


This window has identical functionality to the sample edit grid in the New Run Wizards, except that the toolbar functions are also available in the File and Edit menus. This menu can also be accessed by right clicking over the sample list on the right side of the main screen.

Three menus are given on the top of the screen, **File**, **Edit** and **Security**. The file menu is used to create a new (blank) sample sheet, open an existing sample template or save sample names as a template for future use. The extension of those files is *.smp. The edit menu allows you to copy and paste rows in the grid. The security menu allows you to lock the sample definitions.

Given concentration format: This drop down menu is used to choose a suitable format for the concentration display. Concentrations are automatically formatted in a manner appropriate with your currently selected locale.

Unit: This drop down menu sets the units of measurement for your assay.



Edit: Pressing this button opens the colour selector. It is possible to select multiple rows when assigning tubes a colour.

Reset Default: Click this to reset all selected color cells back to their default color values.

Gradient: The gradient function allows choosing a gradient from the first to the last selected color. Several gradients can be defined in a sample setup.

New Icon: Clears the sample grid in preparation for data entry.

Open Icon: Brings up a dialog box in which you can select a <BRANDNAME> Sample file to import. Note: A 32-well sample setup cannot be imported into a 72-well setup and vice versa. The number of samples in the open sheet and the file being imported must match.

Save As Icon: Brings up a dialog box in which you can enter the name and folder in which to save a copy of the current sample definitions.

Copy Icon: Copies the selected cells.

Paste Icon: Pastes cells which had been selected with the copy command onto the currently selected position on the grid.

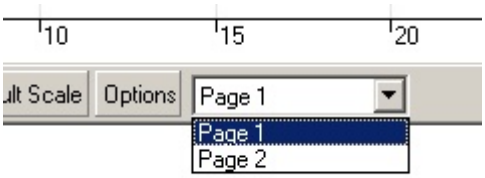
Excel Icon: Pressing the Excel icon prompts you for a file name. Excel is than opened automatically with the grid contents.

Sample Types: Samples can be defined as one of several types, listed below:

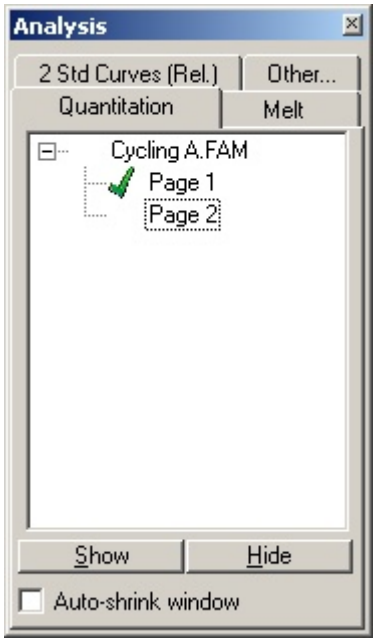
Sample Type	Meaning
None	No sample in that position.
NTC	No Template Control
Negative Control	Negative Control
Positive Control	Positive Control
Unknown	Unknown sample to be analysed.
Standard	Values are used to construct a standard curve to calculate unknown sample concentrations.

Sample Pages: This function allows the user to have different sample definitions, and indeed, separate experiments in the same run. This is useful if you are analysing different products in different channels. Use the arrow buttons to move between the sample pages. Use **New** and **Delete** to create and delete pages. You can also have multiple sample definitions for the same channel, if you wish to run multiple standard curves without multiplexing. Simply define the samples of interest and their related standard curves on separate pages. You will be able to analyse the single channel twice with each set of definitions independently. Sample pages do not need to be labelled "Page 1" -- they can be given any name, such as "Housekeeper". This name will then appear in reports.

When viewing the raw amplification plots, you can select which sample definitions to use to display by the drop-down selector next to the Options button:



You can also select the page to use when performing an analysis:



Given Conc.: Shows the concentration for each of the standards defined. The units can be defined as a decimal or log number. If a dilution series has to be typed in it is only necessary to type the first two standards. By pressing ENTER, the program automatically adds the next logical dilution in the series, if there are further Standards defined below.

Line Style: You can modify the style of the line to improve readability of graphs on black and white printers. You can also add emphasis to certain lines by modifying their style. To access this feature, click on the right arrow button next to the Edit button:

The toolbar will then change to show the default style "Solid". You can change this to "Dashed", "Dotted" or a number of other possibilities. When you have finished, click the left arrow button to return to the Edit, Reset Default and Gradient view.

Productivity Tips:

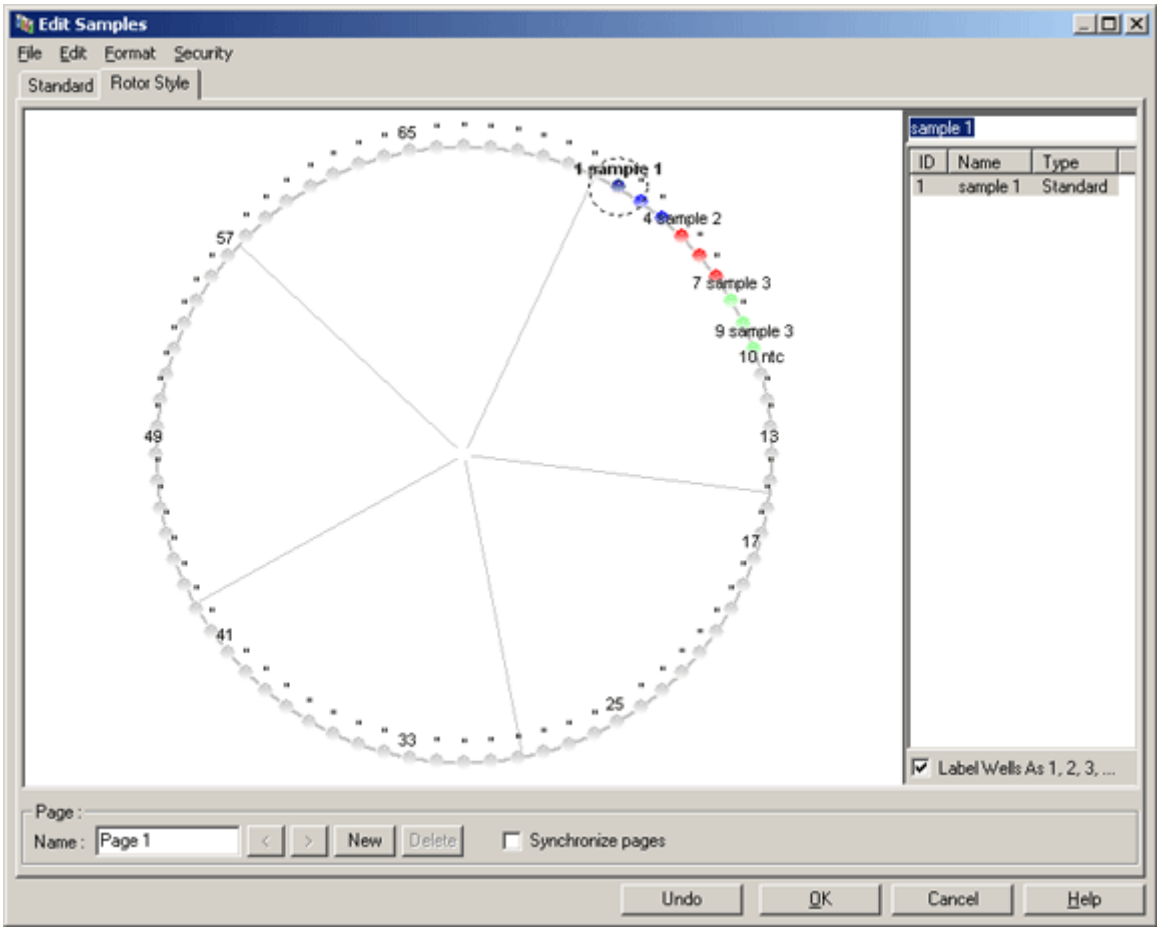
Multiple-Row Entry: If you need to enter the same information for several rows at once, select all the rows, then begin to type. The information will be entered into each row. This works for selecting sample types, choosing colors or entering concentrations.

Sample Type Hotkey: To quickly select a sample type, just enter the first letter of its name. So, to set 5 samples to be Non Template Controls, select them in the sample type column, then press N for NTC. All samples will be converted to NTC's.

Note: A complete sample description can be saved as a sample file (*.smp) and loaded into future runs with the same sample configuration.

Rotor Style Editor

The rotor style editor is an alternative way of entering sample names. You should select replicates by dragging over the rotor view, the right hand selection window will update and you can type in the sample which will set the same name for the current selection. The software will recognize these wells as replicates.

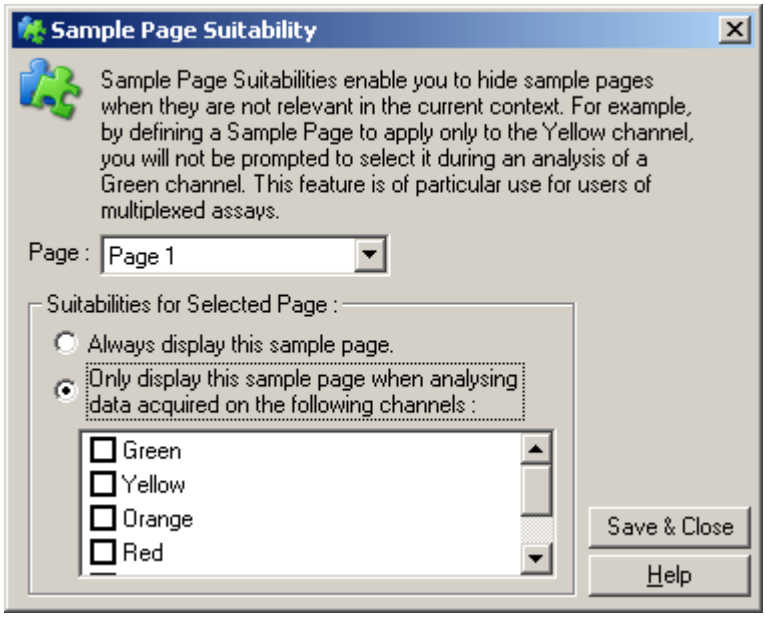


The rotor style editor is a cut down version of the standard editor, designed for users who quickly want to setup their sample names and colours. Settings such as the whether the sample represents a standard cannot be defined here, known concentration of each standard also cannot be defined. If these need to be defined then the standard editor should be used.

Suitabilities

Sample page suitabilities allow users to match sample pages to channels. In a SYBR Green assay, for example, all page definitions are applicable to the Green channel, since there is only a single setup. In a relative quantitation assay, however, the sample page for the Gene of Interest may apply to the Green channel, and the Housekeeper to the Yellow channel. In this instance, setting up Suitabilities reduces the number of analysis options available to those that make sense for the particular assay.

The sample suitability screen is shown below:

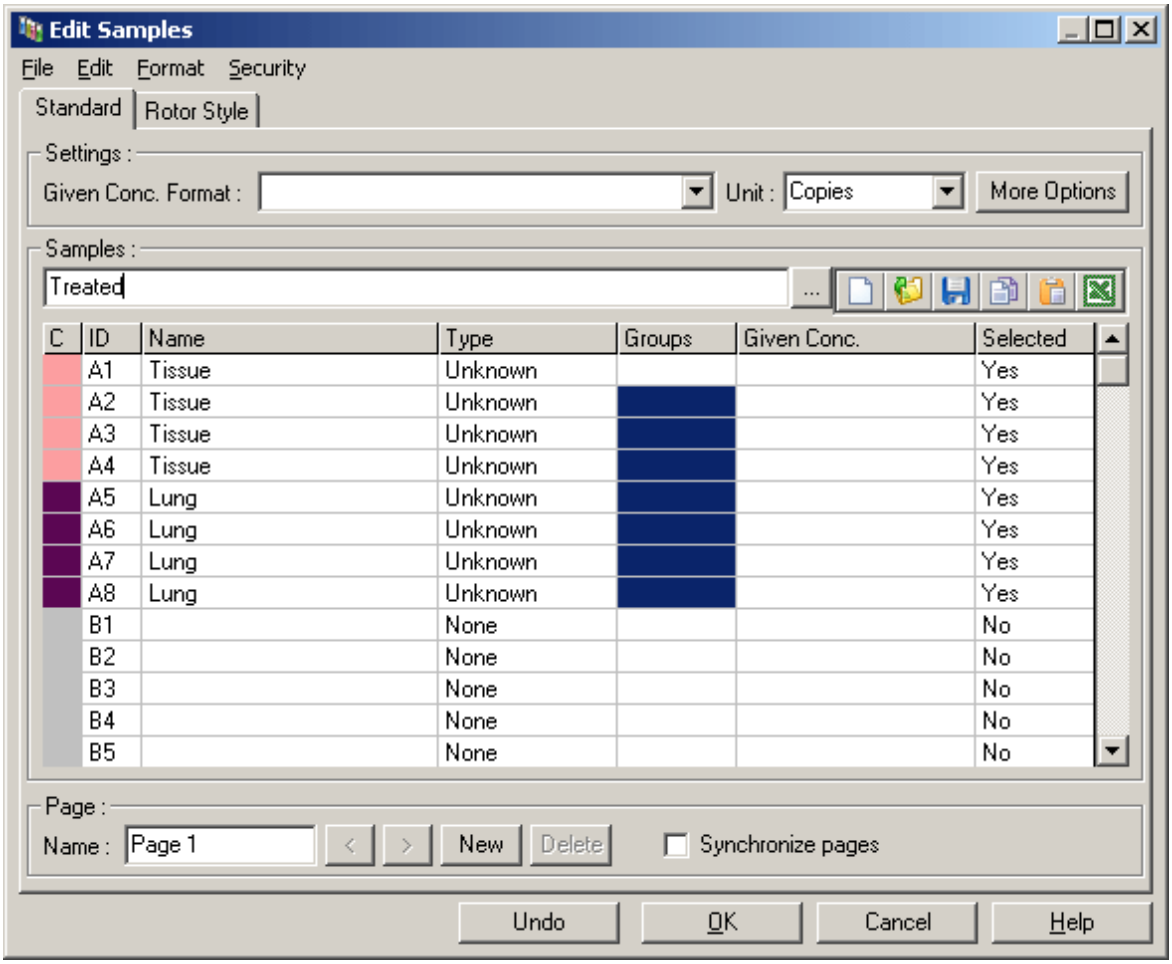


Tip: When setting up an assay, create all of the sample pages and suitabilities, then save them as a template. This reduces the amount of setup required for each run.

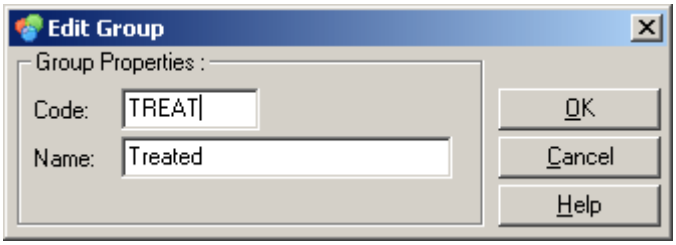
Groups

Sample groups allow you to calculate statistics for an arbitrary collection of samples. Unlike replicates, which must have identical names, samples can have any name, can be positioned anywhere in the rotor and can belong to multiple groups.

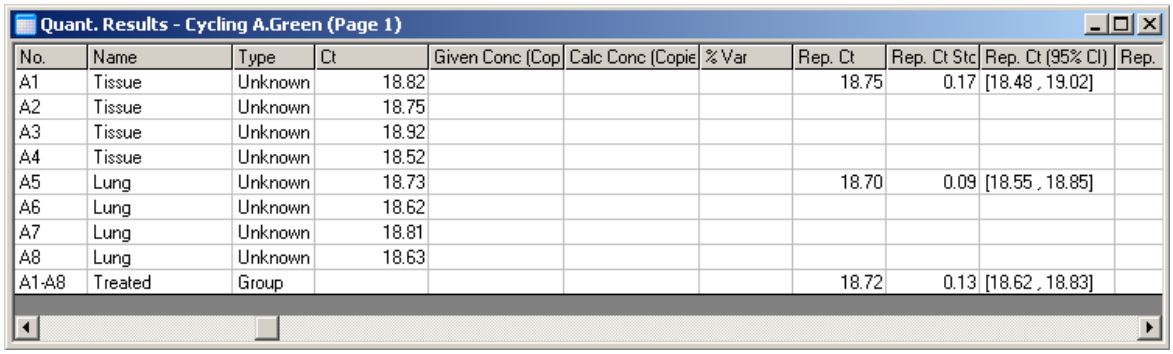
To define a group, type the full name of the group next a sample and then press ENTER:



The group editor will automatically appear:



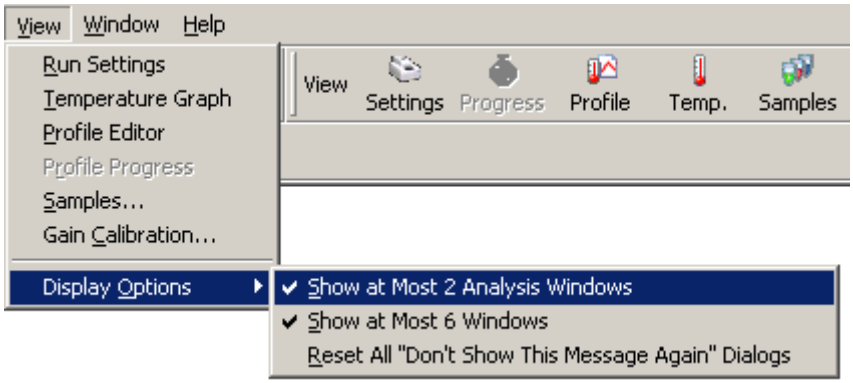
Define a suitable abbreviation, then click OK. You can now use the abbreviation to set up groups. Groups have aggregate results calculated automatically in any analysis, such as average value and 95% confidence intervals.



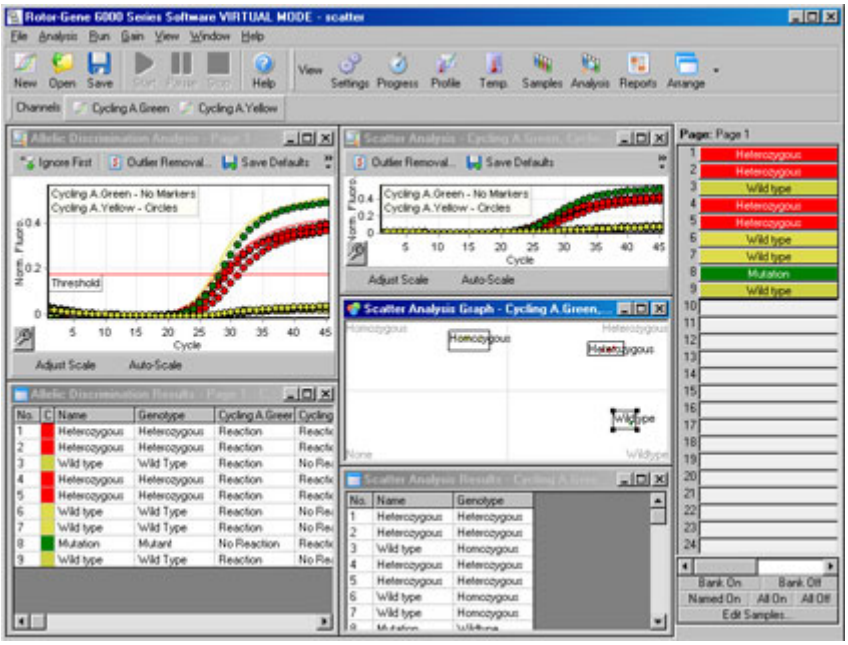
No.	Name	Type	Ct	Given Conc (Cop	Calc Conc (Copie	% Var	Rep. Ct	Rep. Ct Stc	Rep. Ct (95% CI)	Rep.
A1	Tissue	Unknown	18.82				18.75	0.17	[18.48 , 19.02]	
A2	Tissue	Unknown	18.75							
A3	Tissue	Unknown	18.92							
A4	Tissue	Unknown	18.52							
A5	Lung	Unknown	18.73				18.70	0.09	[18.55 , 18.85]	
A6	Lung	Unknown	18.62							
A7	Lung	Unknown	18.81							
A8	Lung	Unknown	18.63							
A1-A8	Treated	Group					18.72	0.13	[18.62 , 18.83]	

8.8.5 Display Options

The display options menu is shown below:



Show at most two analysis windows: This option ticked shows a maximum of two analysis windows at once. By performing a quantitation analysis, three windows are opened by default. If more than six or seven windows are opened at once, the overall view might not be clear. This option ticked will close the first analysis window and replace it with the last opened analysis window. If the option is unticked more than three analysis windows can be displayed. In the example below, the maximum of two windows is displayed. Opening another analysis will cause one analysis to be closed:



Show at most 6 windows: To improve readability, the software removes unused windows when new windows are opened. This option is enabled by default, as it keeps the Rotor-Gene software work area clear. You may, however, need to see more than 6 windows at once, in which case you should uncheck this option.

Reset all "Don't Show This Message again" Dialogs: This window forces the software to re-display all dialog boxes again. These include messages about suspicious settings which you may have previously set to not display again. This might be useful if a new user is now using the machine who is unfamiliar with the Rotor-Gene 6000 or the Rotor-Gene software.

8.9 Security Menu

The Rotor-Gene software contains features that enable it to operate securely in a diagnostic environment. When correctly configured, the Rotor-Gene software can ensure the following:

- Access to the Rotor-Gene 6000 equipment or the analysis software is restricted to user groups
- Modifications to run files are logged
- Unauthorized modifications are detected (signatures)
- Templates used to perform runs are logged
- Sample names are protected

Integration with Windows Security

To provide a strong level of accountability, the Rotor-Gene software does not manage security internally. Accounts, groups and passwords are all managed using the Windows inbuilt security model (Windows NT Security). Integration allows the same password that provides access to network files and programs to control Rotor-Gene software access, meaning less administration. In larger organizations, for example, network administrators can easily remove access to users leaving the company due to the centralized security model.

By virtue of this, setting up the Rotor-Gene software securely primarily involves configuration of the Windows security roles according to best practices.

Prerequisites

To use security, you must be running Windows NT4 Service Pack 6, Windows 2000, or Windows XP Professional. The security features cannot be used with Windows XP Home, as it does not have the fine-grained access model used by the software. You must also have installed the software with the "Force Authentication through Windows NT Logon" option.

NOTE: The Security Menu will not appear if you are logged into a Linux Samba domain. You must have either a local logon or a Windows Server to use the described security features.

8.9.1 Configuration

This section describes how to set up the system to run the Rotor-Gene software securely.

To use the Rotor-Gene software security features, you will need to have installed the software with the "Force Authentication through Windows NT Logon" option. This queries the Windows domain for your access level and credentials, and is essential for providing the accountability and security features.

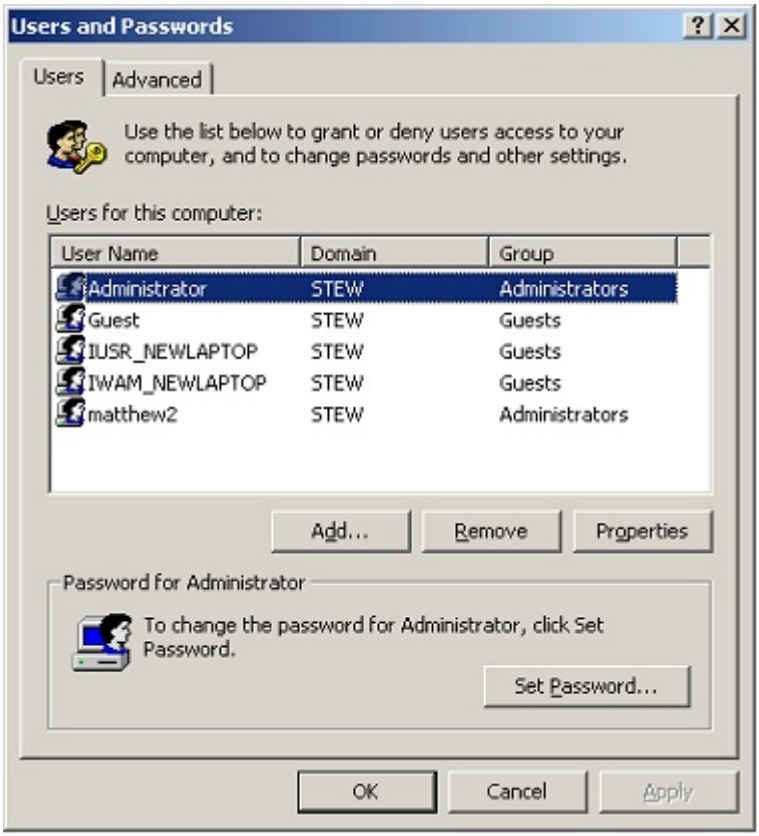
Don't Run As Administrator

Most users run their computers as 'Administrator', with no password. While this is convenient, it makes it impossible to determine who is using the computer. This eliminates accountability and prevents many of the Rotor-Gene software security measures from activating. When running as Administrator, all of the software features are enabled. This ensures that users who do not need security features will not be unnecessarily surprised with restricted access to features they previously used.

Creating a New User Account

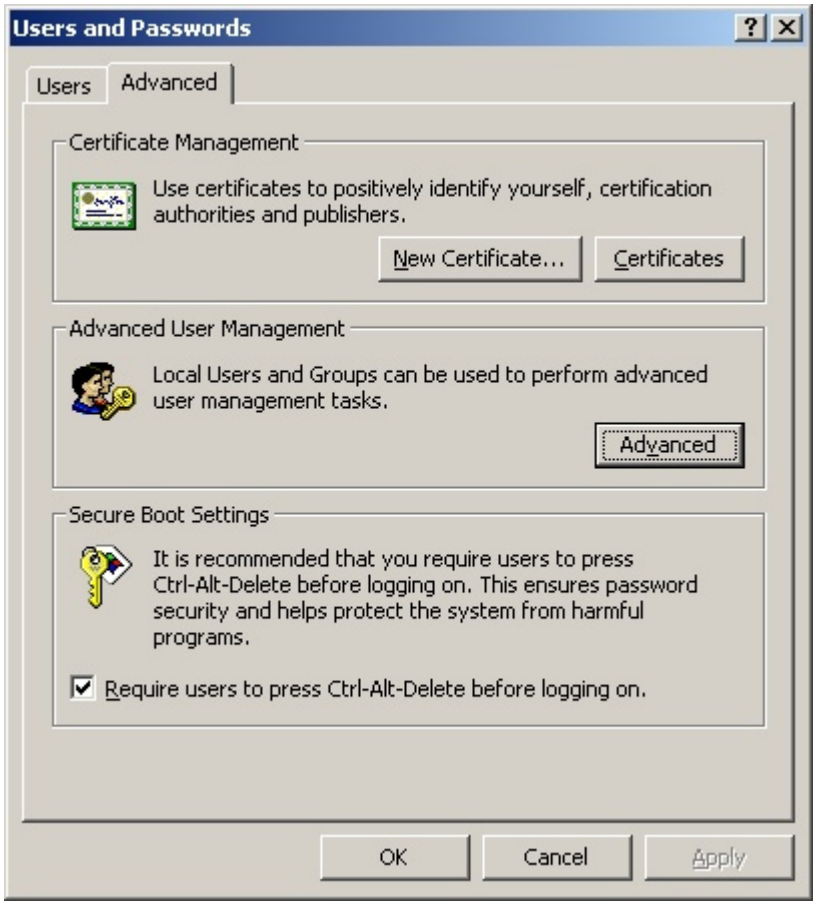
You should create user accounts for each user of the software. For each user, repeat the steps below until all accounts have been created.

To create a new user, click on Start, choose Settings, then Control Panel:

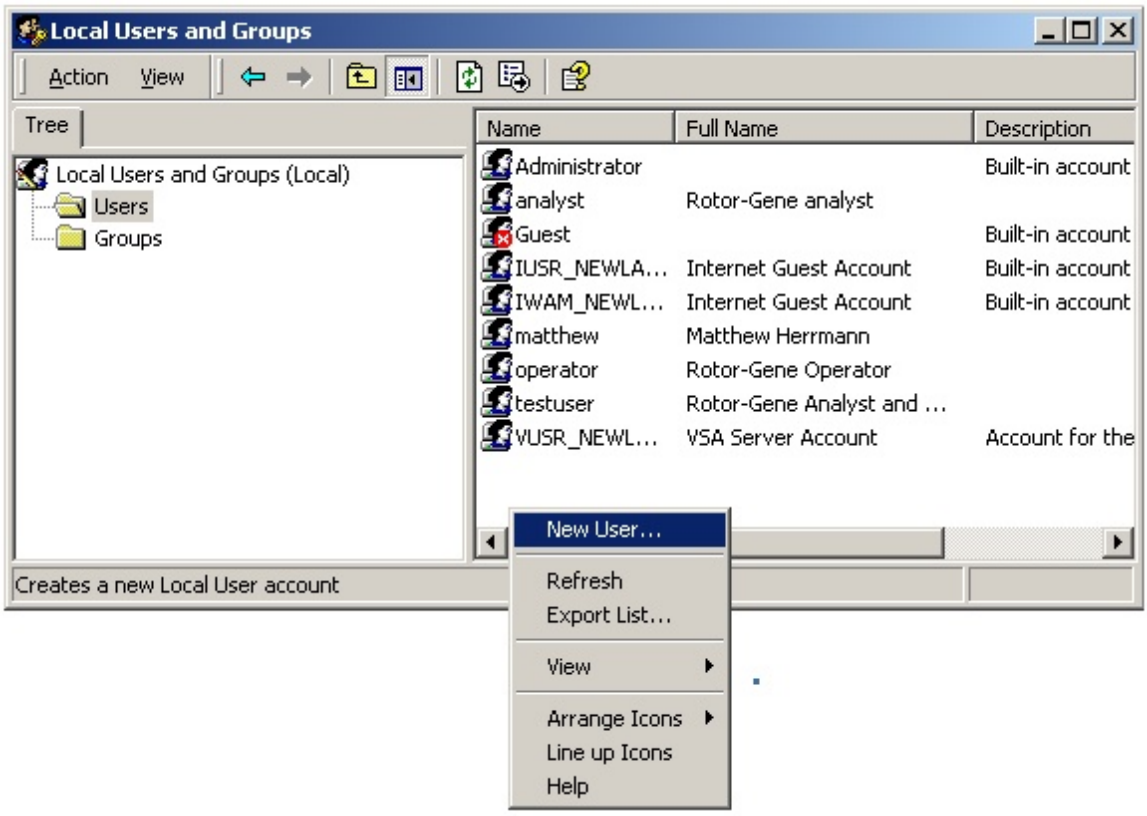


Double-click "Users and Passwords".

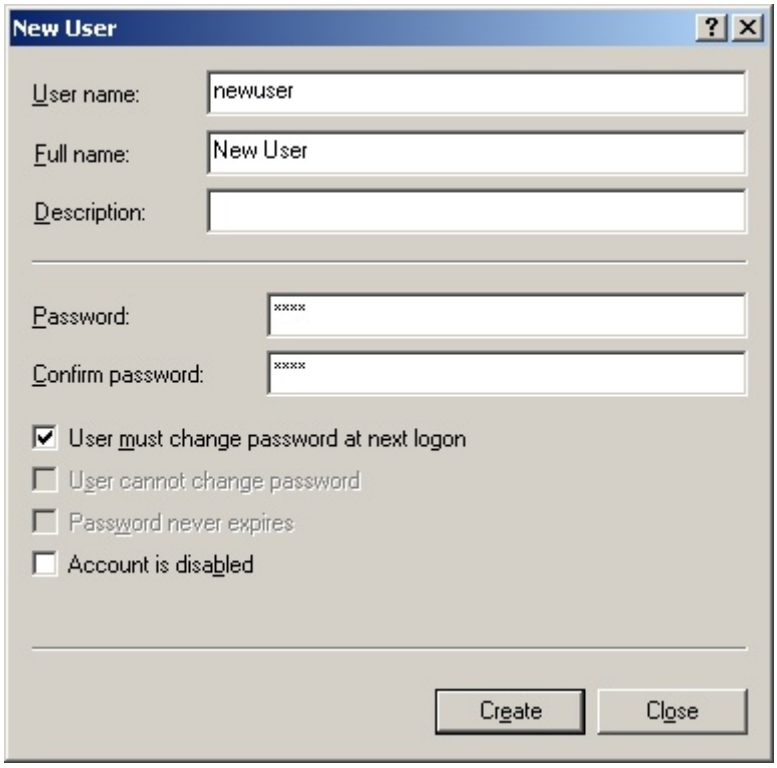
Click the Advanced tab, then click the Advanced button highlighted below:



In the window which opens, select the users folder. Right-click on the right-hand window and select "New User".



Enter a username and password. By default, the user will be created with normal access privileges. This means they will be able to run software, but not install new programs or change system settings.

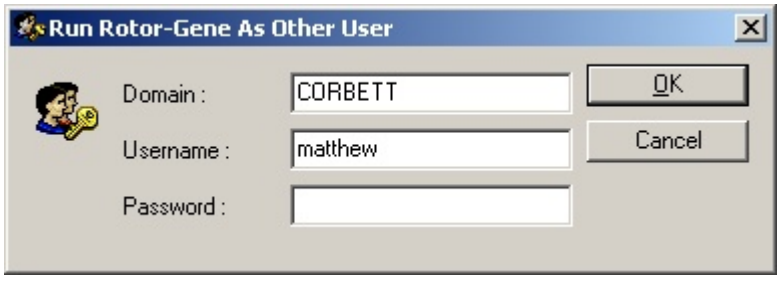


Click Create. You can now log on as this user.

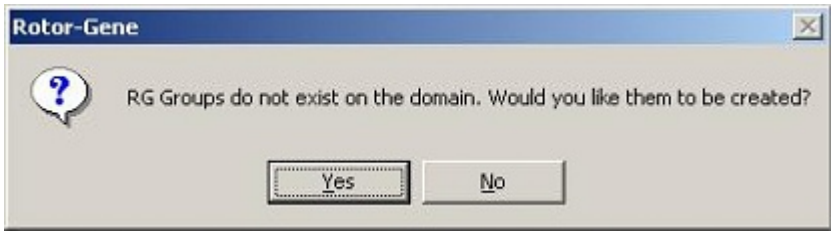
Assigning Roles to Each User
You should now assign roles to each user. Access is divided into the following areas:

- Rotor-Gene Operator – Can perform runs, but cannot generate reports or perform analysis.
- Rotor-Gene Analyst – Can analyse run data and generate reports, but cannot perform new runs.
- Rotor-Gene Operator and Analyst – Has the capabilities of both roles
- Administrator – Can unlock sample names, and perform all operations of Analysts and Operators.
- None – Access to the software is denied.

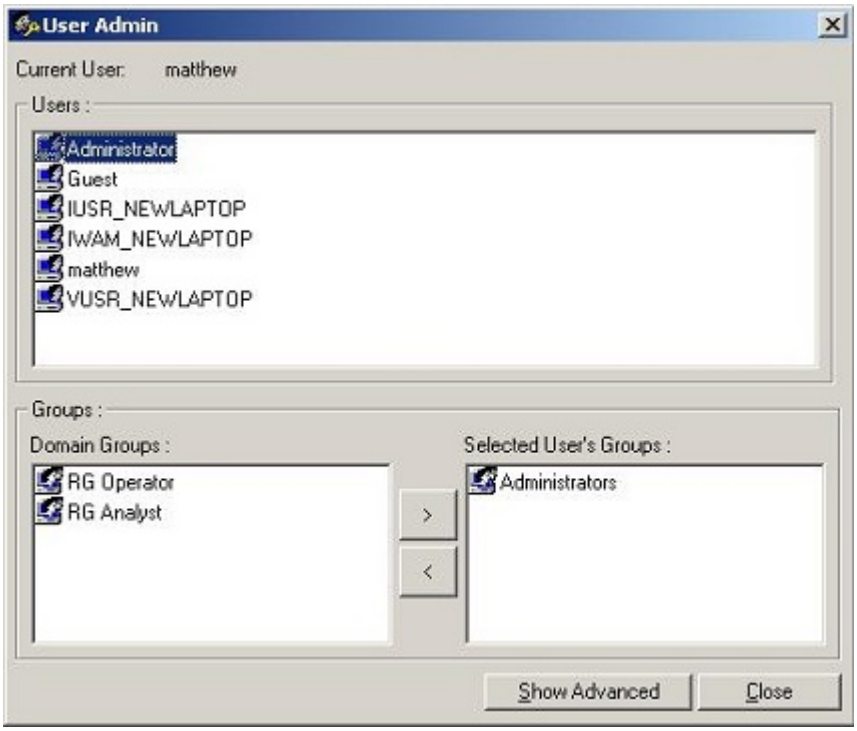
To assign roles, log in to Windows as an Administrator, or use the Rotor-Gene Logon window to open the software and log in as a single step:



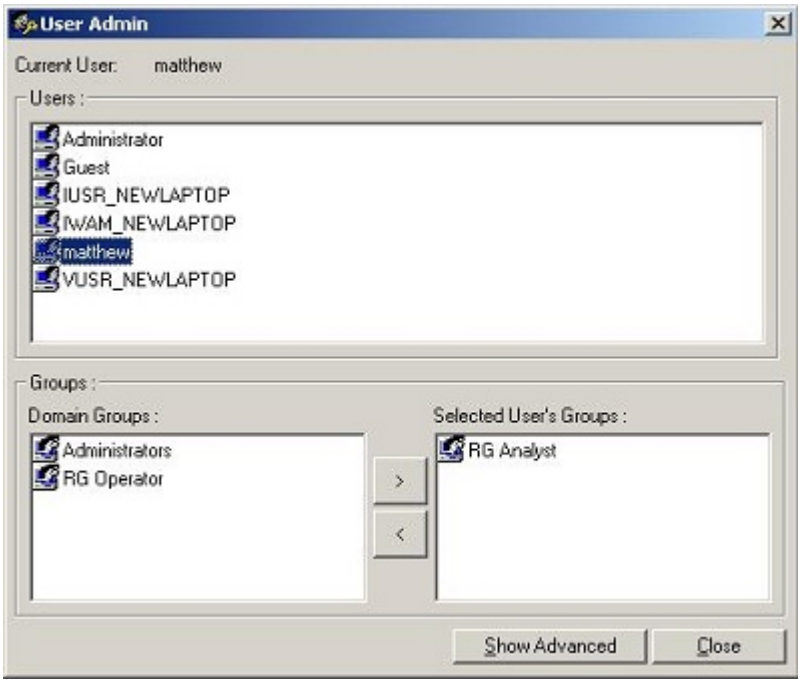
Then, once the software is open, click on the Security menu. The first time you run this, Rotor-Gene software will configure a number of system groups which will control access to the software:



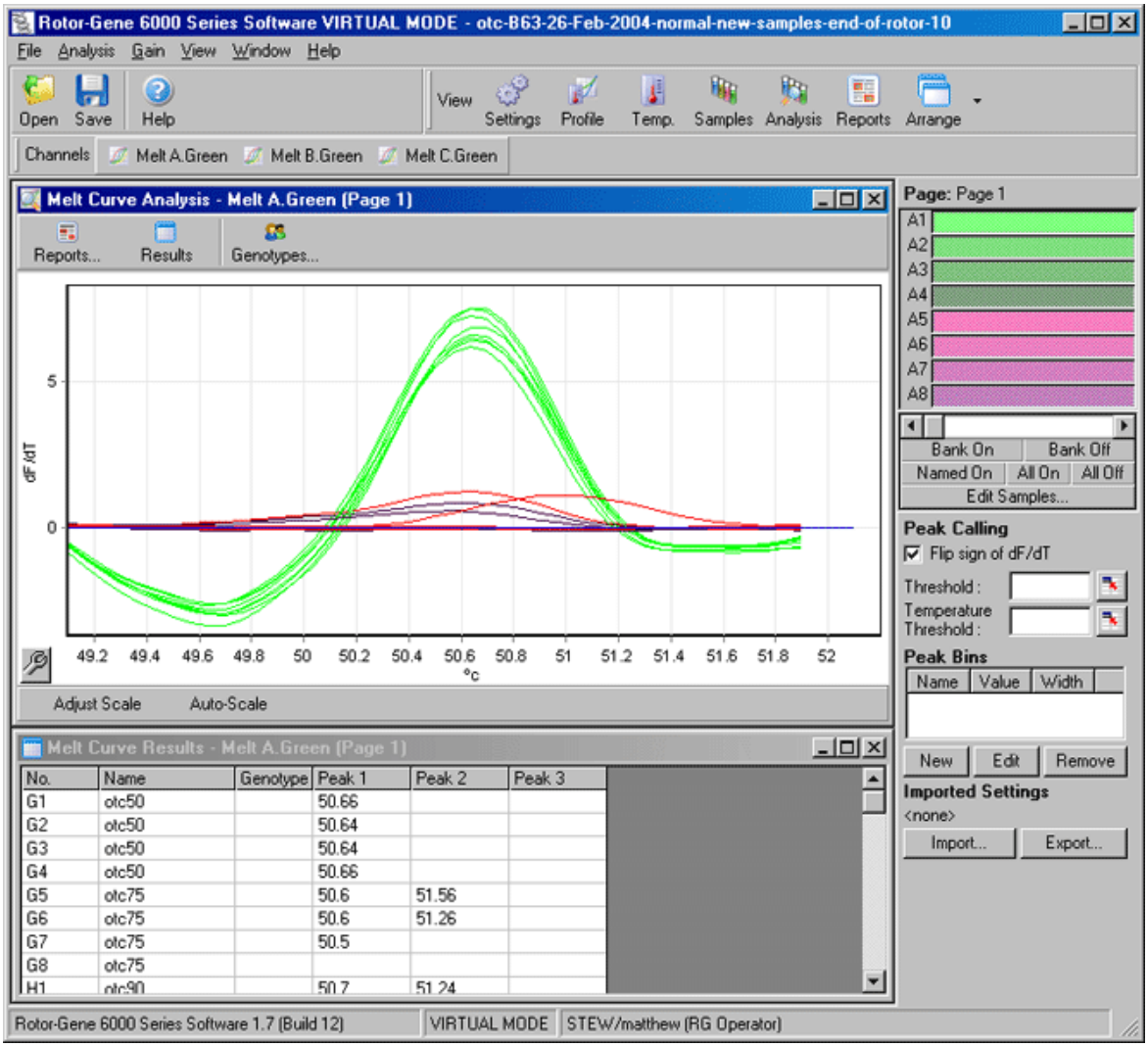
Click Yes. The main security window will then appear. In the top pane, all the users on your computer are displayed. Some accounts are used by the system, and so will be unfamiliar. The bottom pane shows the groups assigned to the user:



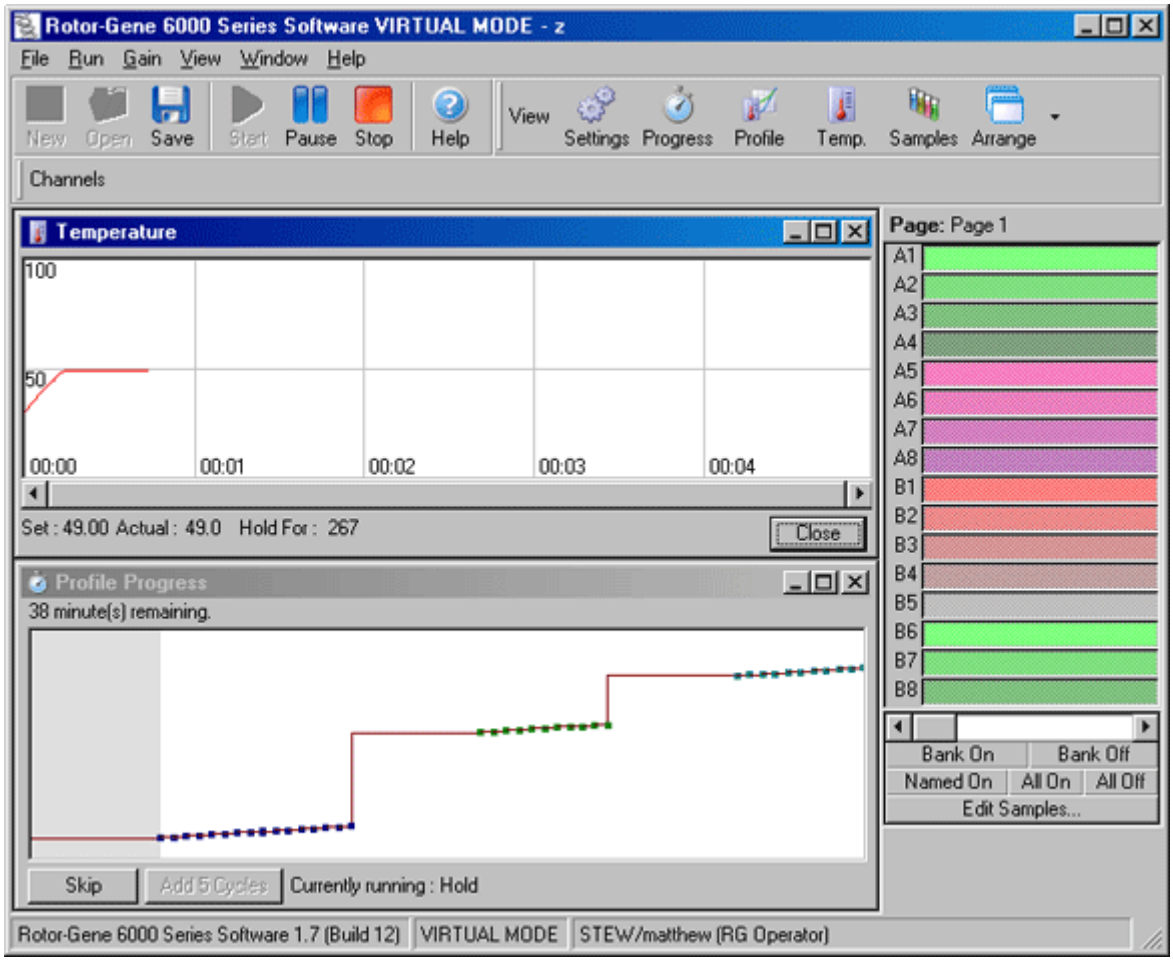
To assign a group to a user, select the user's name from the list. The bottom pane will update to reflect what roles the user currently participates in. If the user has no groups, they will not be available to launch the software. In this example, we assign the user "matthew" access under the RG Analyst group by selecting the group on the left-hand side, then clicking the [>] button. Groups can be removed by selecting them, then clicking the [<] button :



We now log in as this user. As an Analyst, the Run menu and the profile control options are unavailable. However, existing files can still be opened and analysed, as shown in the image below. The status bar indicates that the user "STEW/matthew" is an RG Analyst, thus explaining why some functionality is unavailable:

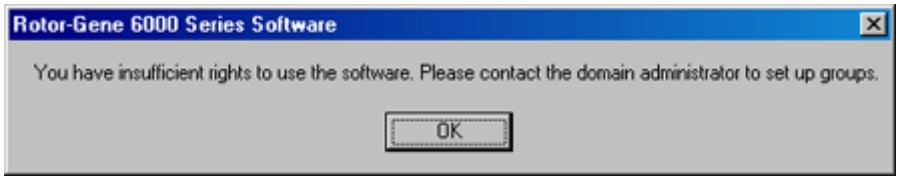


By logging in as an Administrator again, we can assign "Operator" rights to Matthew and launch the software again. This time, the Analysis and Reports options are missing, and the Run options are enabled:



The status bar indicates that the user "STEW/matthew" belongs to the "RG Operator" role.

If you log in as Administrator and remove all groups from the user Matthew, the following message will appear when opening the software:

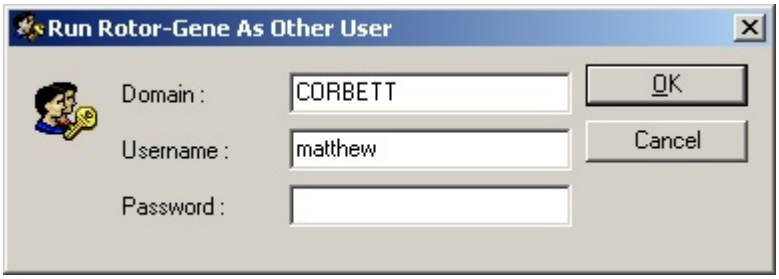


8.9.2 Running Multiple Users On Same Computer

To use the Rotor-Gene software with multiple users, you should create a user account which does not have access to the Rotor-Gene software. Log into windows using this account, so that users cannot anonymously access the Rotor-Gene 6000 instrument.

By using the Rotor-Gene 6 Login, users can open the Rotor-Gene software under their user account:

Enter your username and password in the provided box:



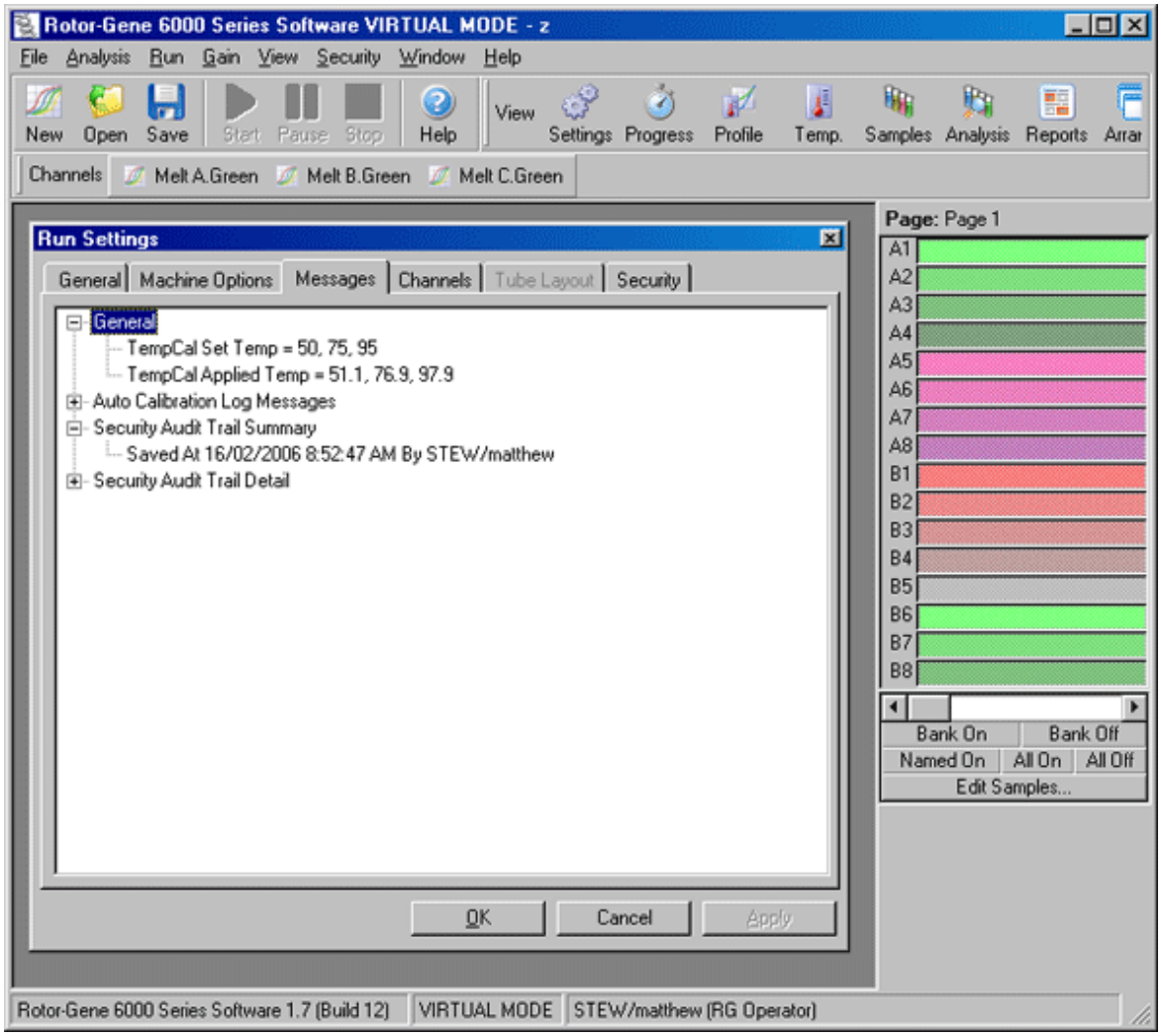
The domain is either the computer you are logging into, or the name of your local network. Consult your network administrator as to which you are logging into.

TIP: When you log into the Rotor-Gene software, all of the user files will be available for that user. You can therefore ensure that each user saves files into their own area. If set up correctly, this is the highest form of security that can be provided.

TIP: Each user should log out of the Rotor-Gene software after their run has been completed to prevent other users from performing a run in their name.

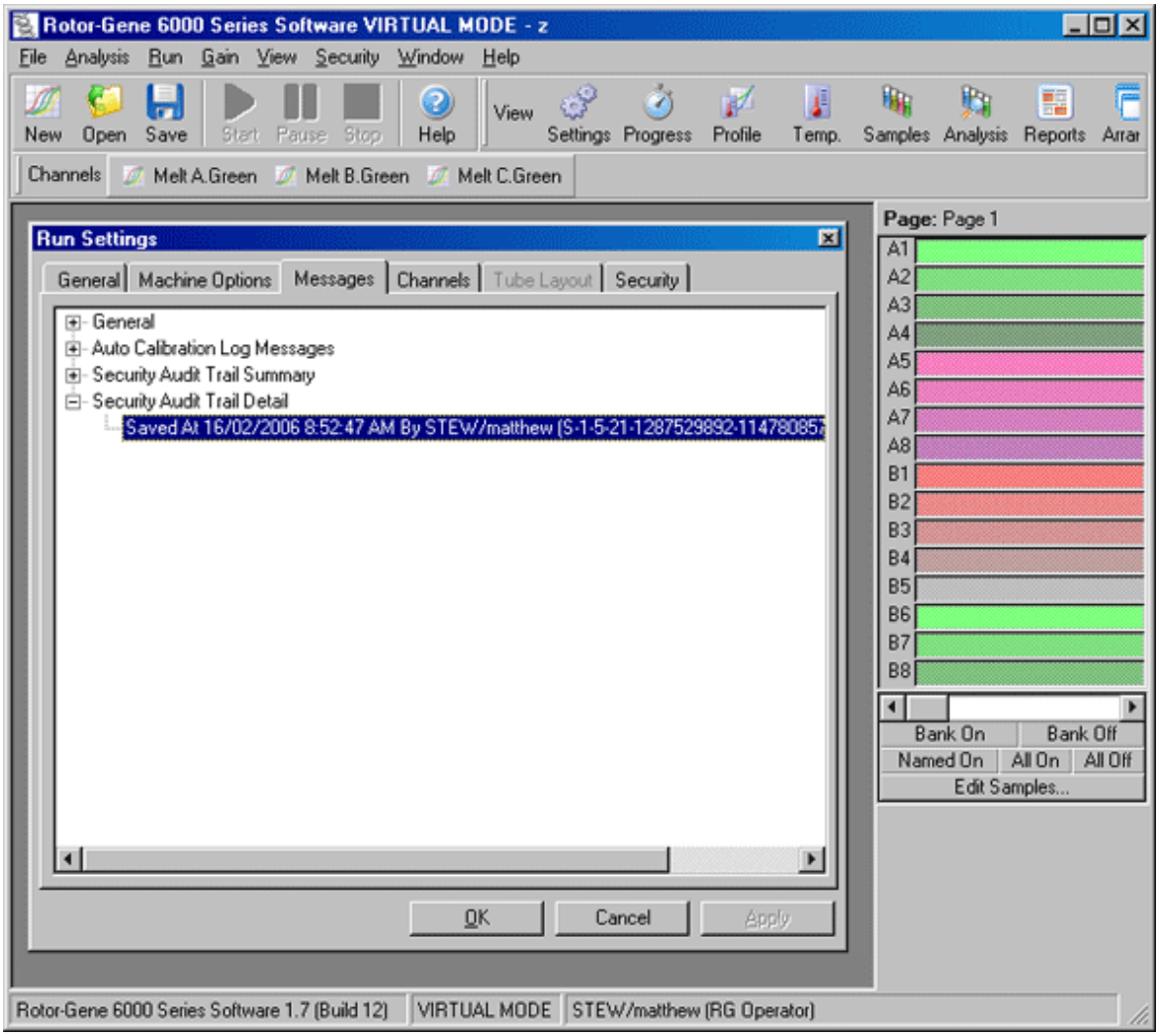
8.9.3 Audit Trails

Each time a file is saved by a user, their details are recorded in the Run Settings under the messages tab as Security Audit Trail Summary and Security Audit Trail Detail:



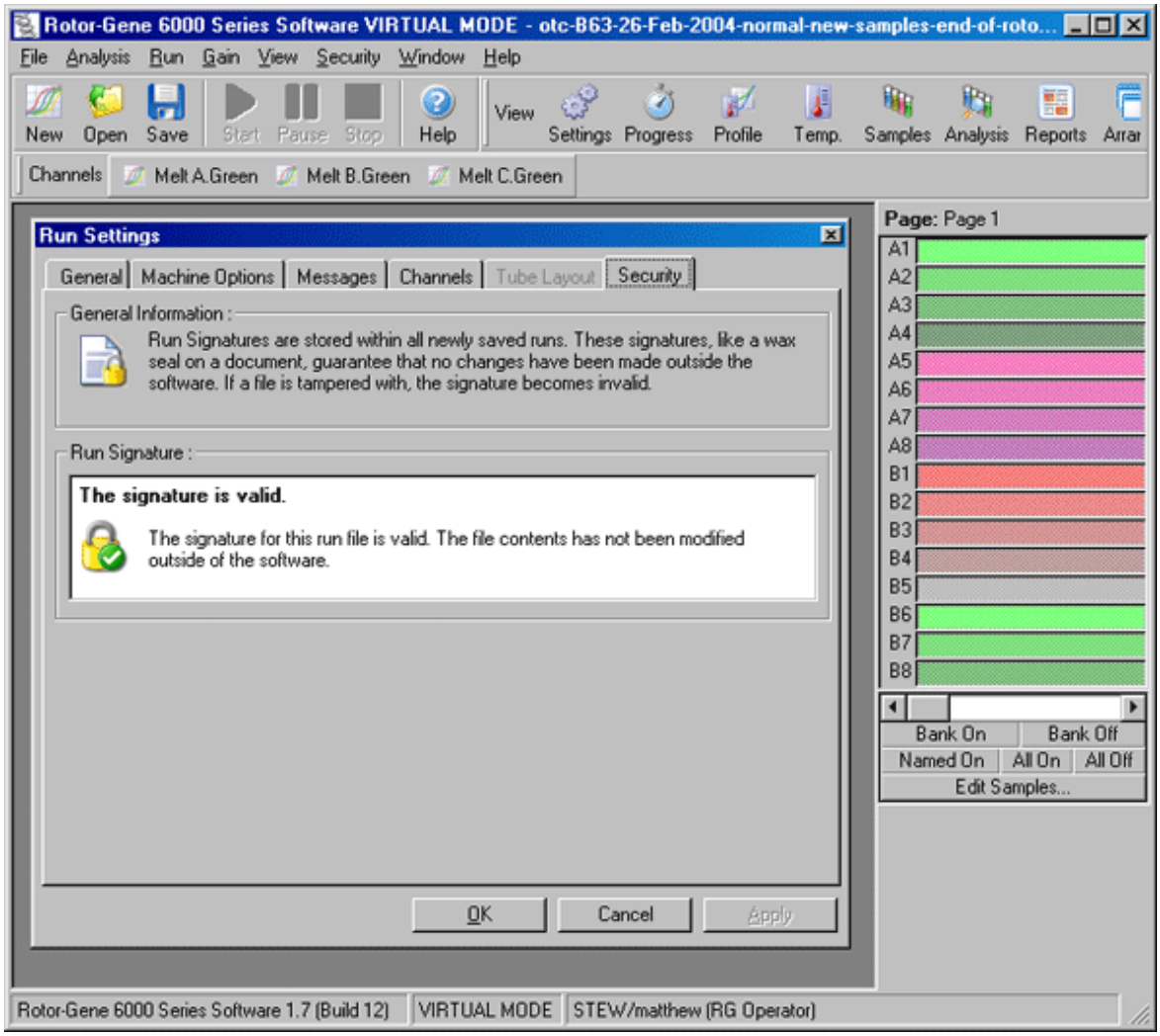
This can be used to monitor who has modified the contents of a file. The Security Audit Trail Detail contains more detail, such as the unique identifier of the user. This identifier is important to avoid a user creating an account with the same name on another computer and thereby impersonating another user. In this case, the user names will be the same, but the account id's will be different.

The identifier for the account STEW/matthew, S-1-5-21-1287529892-... is shown in the details:

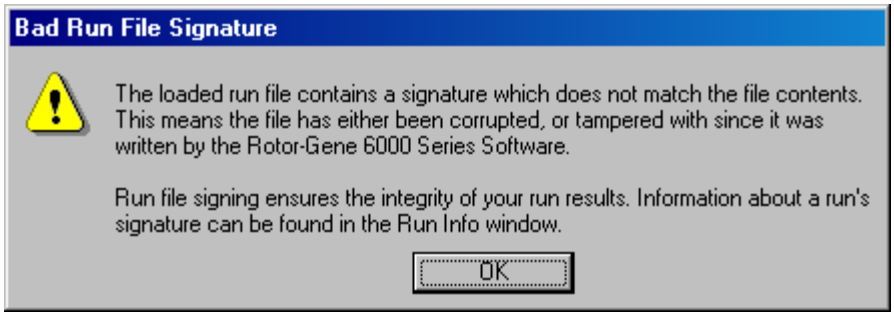


8.9.4 Run Signatures

All of the audit trail is stored within the Rotor-Gene run file. Conceivably, this file could be modified by a malicious user to remove any trace of their actions. The best defence against such damage is to keep the files in a safe location. This can be done by setting up Windows accounts to only have access to certain files. However, when files are being stored in a shared area, Run Signatures can provide an extra degree of security against such modification. Here is a screenshot of the Security tab in Run Settings, with a signed run file:

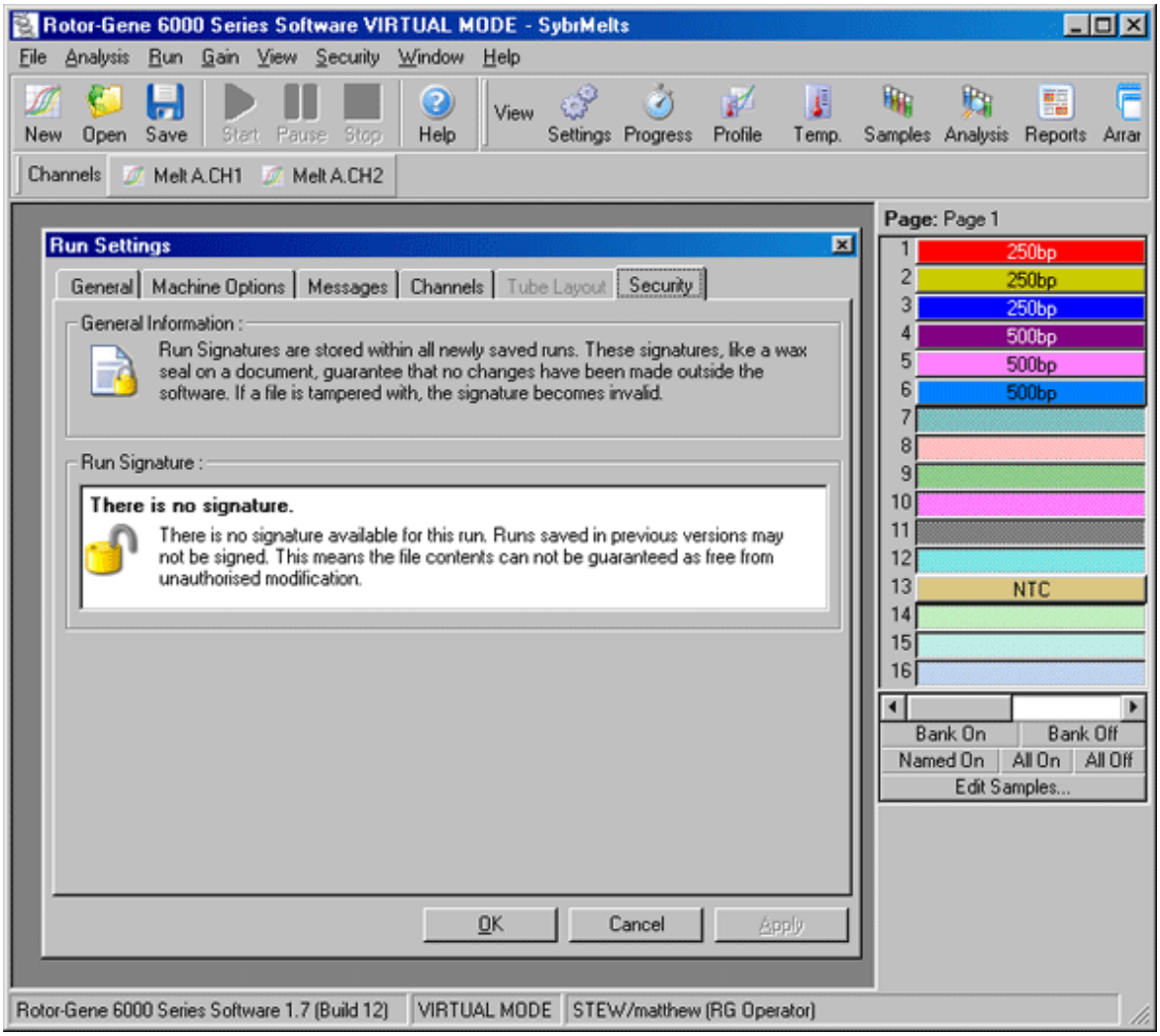


The Run Signature is a long word generated each time the file is saved which is linked to the contents of the file. For example, the signature for this file is "517587770f3e2172ef9cc9bd0c36c081". If now opened in notepad, and the run date is changed 3 days earlier, the following message appears when the file is reopened:



Run file signatures were introduced in version 5.0 of the Rotor-Gene software. Old run files will therefore, not contain signatures. You should treat with suspicion, however, any new runs that

have been performed which do not contain a signature:

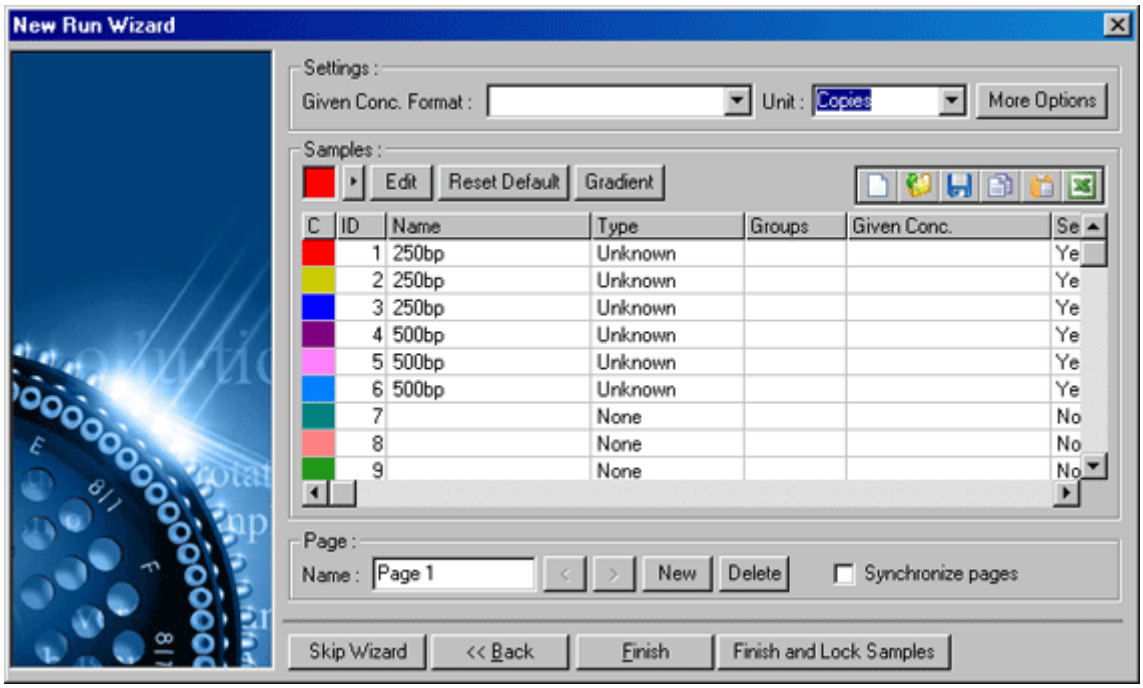


8.9.5 Sample Locking

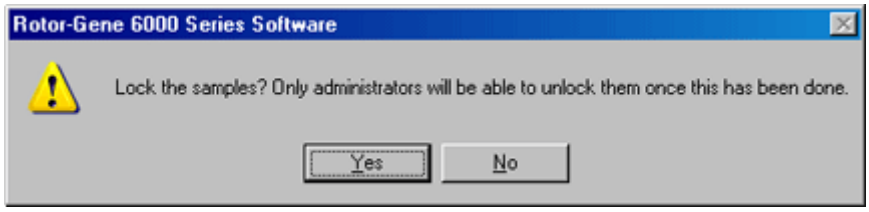
In a diagnostic environment, it is important to ensure that sample names are not accidentally or intentionally changed once an operator has started a run. To allow for this, the Rotor-Gene software provides a sample locking mechanism. The sample names can be locked by any user, but can only be unlocked by an Administrator. Since most users run their computers in Administrator mode, this option will be of limited use unless the computer has been configured securely as described in the previous sections.

Tip: If you intend to lock samples, do not run the software as Administrator. Create an account with RG Operator and RG Analyst access, and do not make the Administrator password publicly available. Users will then require your authorisation to unlock files that contained mistakes.

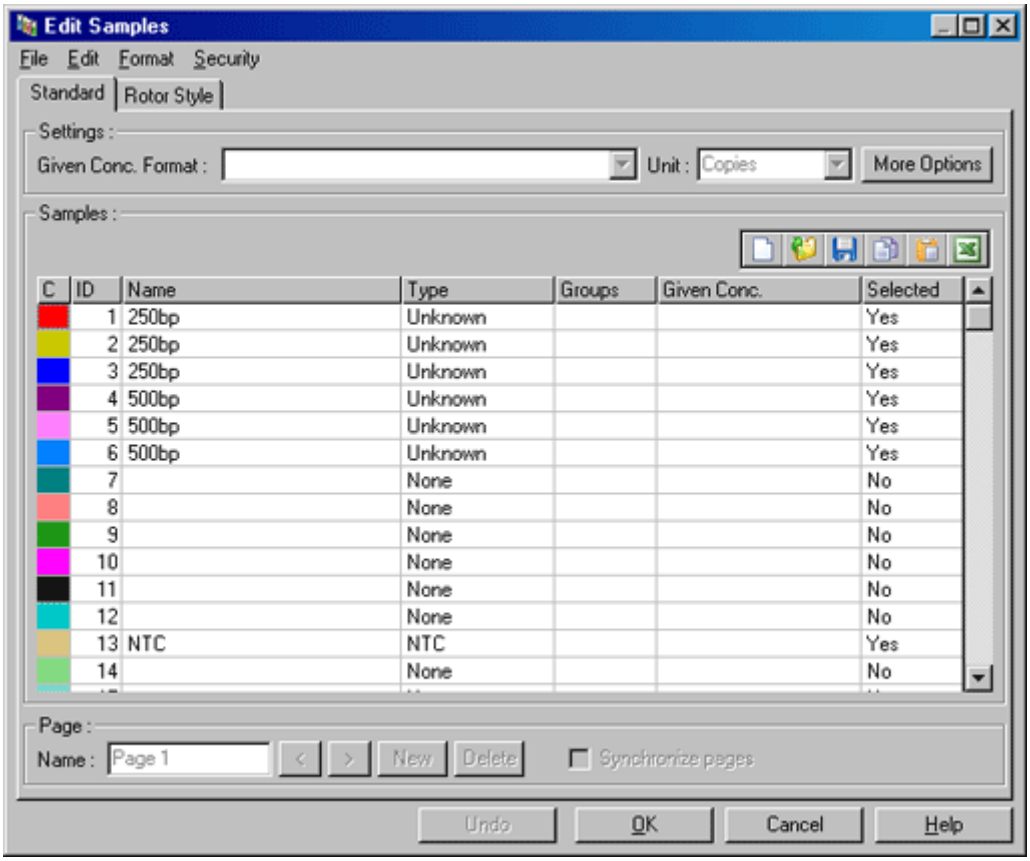
Samples can be locked before starting a run when using the Advanced Wizard, by clicking "Finish and Lock Samples":



The following warning will appear. Click Yes to confirm.



Upon editing the samples in the Sample Editor, all editing functionality will be disabled:

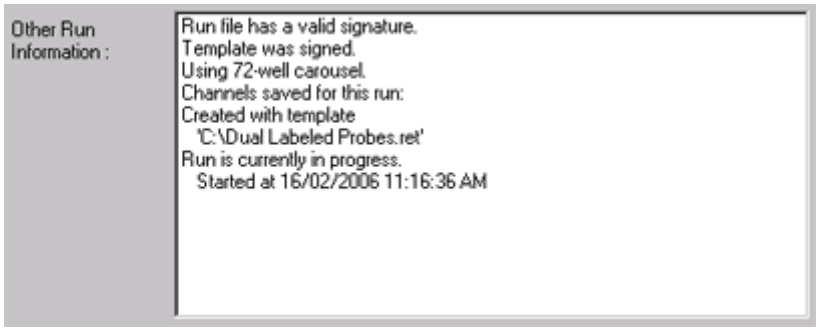


Sample Locking can also be toggled inside the Sample Editor. However, unless you are an administrator, the Sample Locking menu item cannot be toggled once it has been set:

As before, it is possible for users to modify the run file and remove the locking flag. However, as an unauthorized change to the file, this will again break the run file signature, alerting you to the violation.

8.9.6 Locked Templates

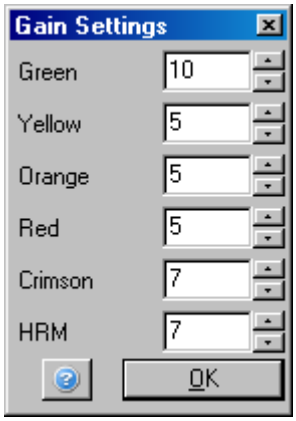
In a diagnostic environment, it may be a requirement that all runs be performed by launching a specific template file. This template may be stored on a network drive where users cannot modify data. Users still have the possibility of running their own profiles, however. To account for this, the Rotor-Gene software stores the name of the template file that was run, accessible via the Run Settings menu in "Other Run Information":



It is not currently possible to create read-only template files through the Rotor-Gene software interface. However, templates, such as those used for the Temperature Verification Rotor can be locked by the development team by placing a request on our support address support@corbettlifescience.com. Functionality to lock templates within the software is scheduled for a future release.

8.10 Gain Menu

Here, you can view the **Gain Settings** for the current run and modify them if the run has not yet been started. Use the **Up/Down** arrows next to each text field to modify the fields without needing to enter in a value with the keyboard. Click OK when you have finished.



Sets the Gain of the specified channel before running a program. Gain settings will be retained from the last run.

Change gain during the first ten cycles: The software offers the possibility to change the gain during the initial cycles. A red line will be drawn in the appropriate channel showing where the gain has been changed. The cycles before the gain has been changed will be excluded from analysis.

8.11 Window Menu

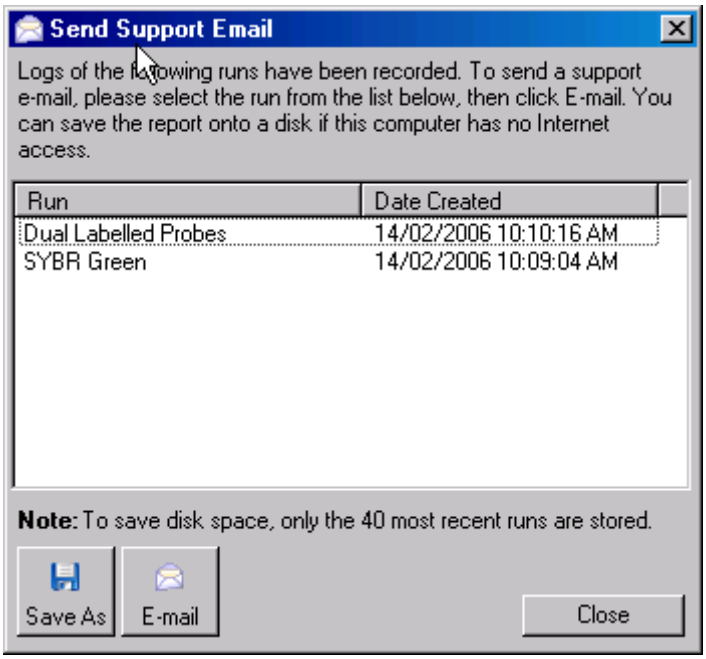
This menu allows you to tile the window either vertically, horizontally or arrange windows in a cascade. A further option of tiling windows is found under Arrange in the tool menu.

8.12 Help Menu

The **Contents** menu brings up the help menu. **What's New** gives a brief overview of new features added to the previous software release. Selecting **Website** will open the site in a new browser window. **About Rotor-Gene** gives miscellaneous information about the connected machine, the serial number of the Rotor-Gene 6000 and the software version.

8.12.1 Send Support E-Mail

The **Send Support Email** option in the Help menu allows you to send a support email to Corbett Research which contains all relevant information from a run. The **Save As option** will save all the information to a file which you can copy onto a floppy disk or across a network if you do not have access to e-mail on the computer running the Rotor-Gene 6000. Technical support is available via phone on +612 9736 1320 or email at support@corbettlifescience.com.



9 General Functions Used Over Several Windows

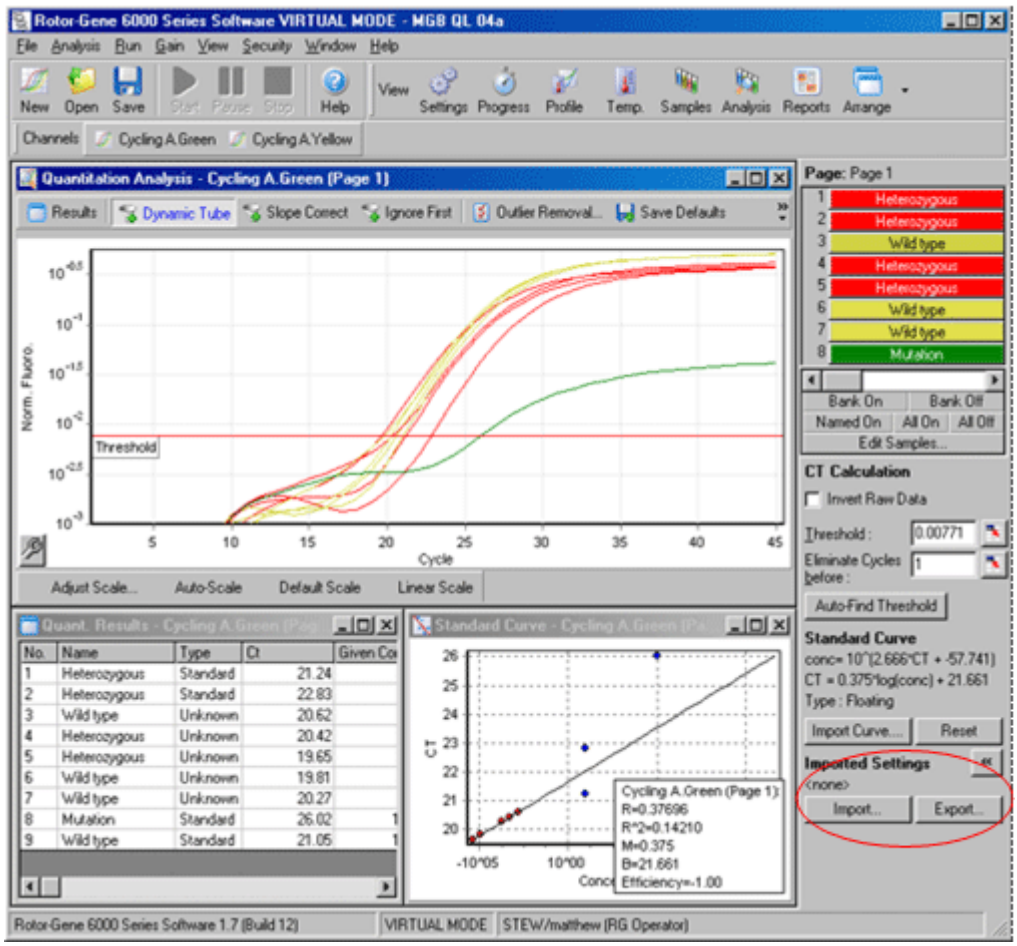
9.1 Analysis Templates

Some analyses will require the user to define thresholds, normalisation settings, genotype settings and often these settings are reused frequently across different experiments.

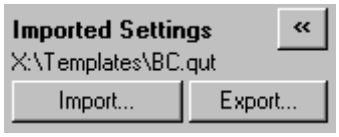
Analysis templates allow the user to save and reuse these settings across any number of experiments, this reduces the hassle to users who have preferred settings and reduces the chance of human error when setting it up.

Currently the analysis that support analysis templates are Quantitation, Melt, Allelic, Scatter plot, and End point analysis. Each of these types of analyses allow the user to export a file type that is unique to that analysis, eg. Quantitation analysis allows exporting and importing of **.QUT** files that contain solely quantitation settings.

To make use of analysis templates, import and export facilities are typically located on the analysis docking panel as illustrated below.



After importing or exporting an analysis template, the filename of the template will be displayed for future reference.



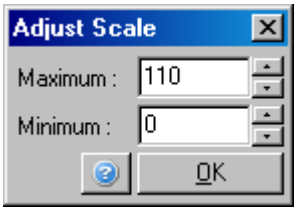
9.2 Opening A Second Run

While performing a run, it is possible to open and analyse runs which were performed earlier. Note that several functions like **New** or **Start Run** are not activated in this second window. Even closing the first window will not bring up these functions. A new run can only be started from the first window, once the first run has finished. If a run must be started from the second window, it

needs to be closed and reopened to access the appropriate functions.

9.3 Scaling Options

Adjust Scale will bring up a window in which you can manually enter a scale, or interactively select one. To chose this option simply press the right mouse button over the appropriate screen.



Auto-Scale attempts to fit the scale to the maximum and minimum readings in the data.

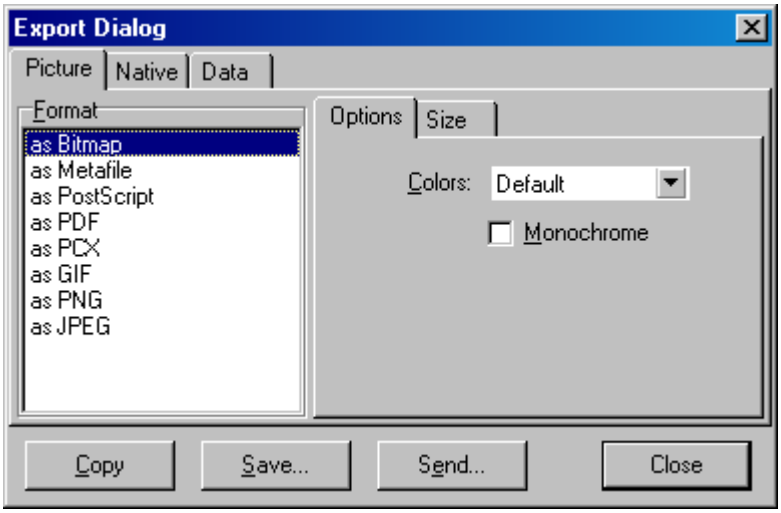
Default will reset the scale to display from 0-100 fluorescence units.

9.4 Exporting Graphs

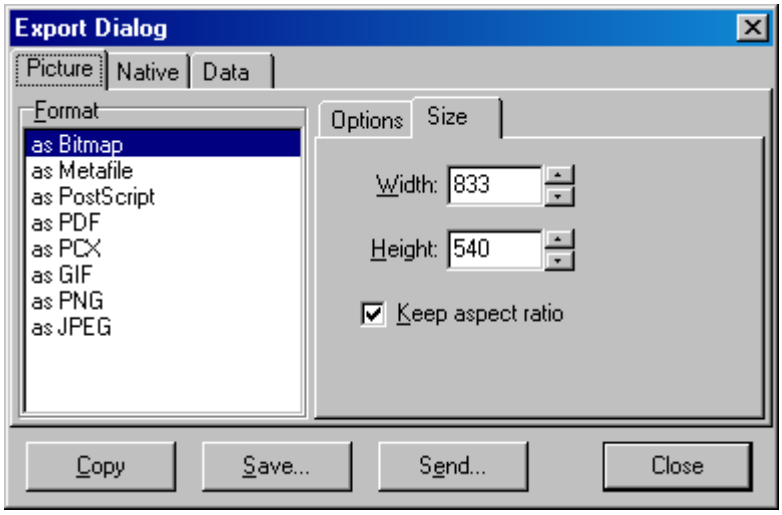
Picture Export
Graphs in the Rotor-Gene software now provide a much wider range of export options.

The following example explains how to go about saving a bitmap file format.

- Select the desired format.



- On the right hand side select the size you want.



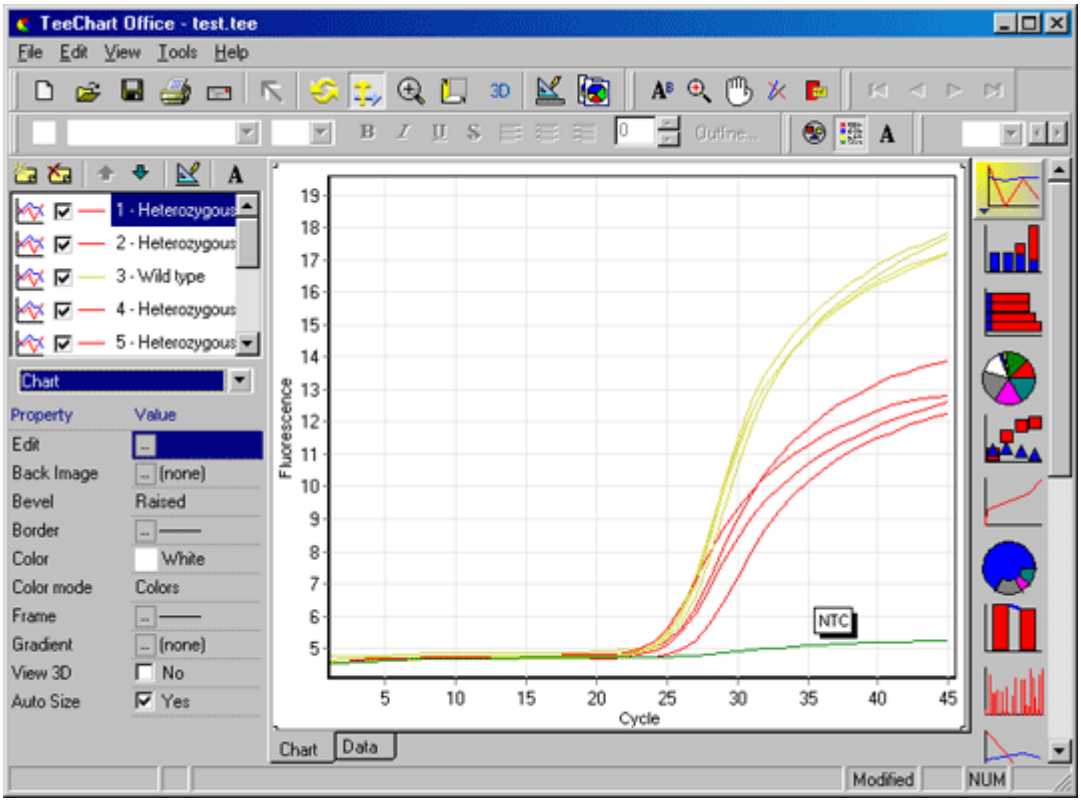
- Selecting **Keep aspect ratio** will keep the image in the correct proportion when adjusting its size.

- Click **Save** and select a filename, the resulting file will contain an image of the graph.

For users who require a much higher resolution image, we suggest either increasing the size of the image until it suits your requirements, or another excellent option saving the graph as a Metafile (**.EMF**, **.WMF**). The metafile format is a vector-based format that can opened in software such as Adobe Illustrator, this will allow the user to create an image of any resolution required.

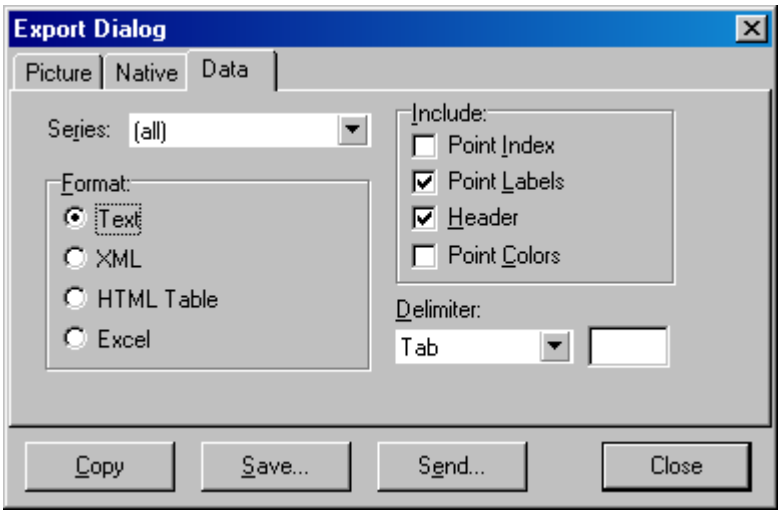
Native Export
Graphs in the Rotor-Gene software make use of the third party component TeeChart developed by Steema software. A graph that is saved in native format is in fact the standard TChart file format, this allows the user to take advantage of TeeChart Office another tool provided by this vendor. TeeChart Office is freely available and can be download from the Corbett website in the software download area http://www.corbettlifescience.com.

TeeChart Office allows the user to manipulate the graph they have exported, this includes things like changing colours of curves, adding annotations, changing fonts, adjusting actual data points etc. There are a wide range of features that will be of use to users.



Data Exports

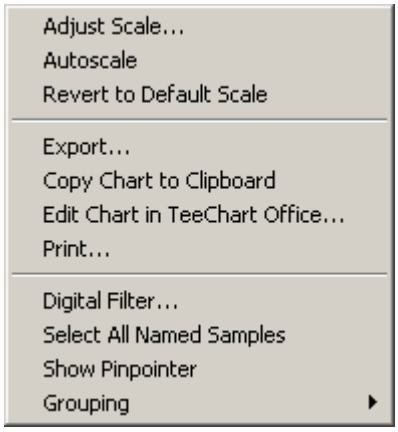
Facilities to export to different data format is also provided, exporting to these different formats will result in a file containg the raw data points used in the graph.



Please note that exporting raw data and analysis data can also be done via the **File > Save As** menu (see Opening and Saving).

9.5 Spanner Icon

Clicking the spanner icon at the bottom left-hand corner of each window brings up a number of miscellaneous options. These tools can also be accessed using the right mouse button on the graph directly.



Scaling: See Scaling Options.

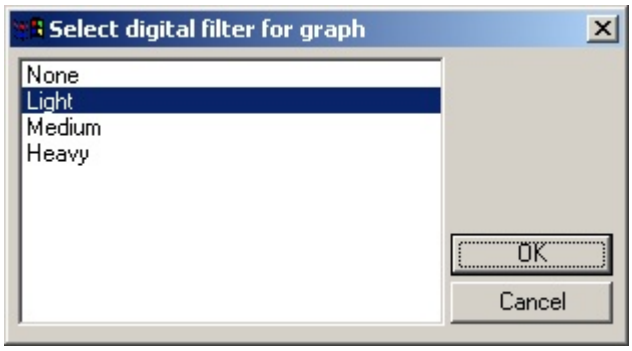
Export... Saves the graph in a variety of formats. (see Exporting Graphs)

Copy Chart to Clipboard: Copies the graph image to the clipboard.

Edit Chart in TeeChart Office... Opens the graph directly in TeeChart Office for editing. **Note:** TeeChart must be installed for this to operate. (see Exporting Graphs for more details)

Print: This function allows for the current graphic screen to be printed.

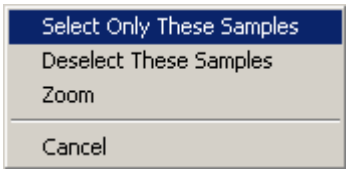
Digital Filter: Modifies the currently selected digital filter on the graph. The digital filter smoothes data using a sliding window of points. To open the window, click the right mouse button over a window containing data.



Show Pinpointer: Opens a window with exact coordinates of the current cursor position.

Grouping: Visually groups samples which have been given identical names. This can be useful on full rotor runs. Toggling this option has no impact on calculated values.

Dragging with the Mouse: Once a region has been dragged with the mouse, the following options are available:



Select Only These Samples: Samples not contained in the highlighted region will be deselected.

Deselect These Samples: All samples in the selected region will be deselected.

Zoom: Zooms to the highlighted region of the graph. Clicking **Default Scale** will zoom out again.

9.6 Abbreviations

BHQ	Black Hole Quencher
Comp. Quantitation	Comparative Quantitation
LCD	Liquid crystal display
LED	Light Emitting Diode
PMP	Photomultiplier
Quant. Settings	Quantitate Settings
.REA	Rotor-Gene Archive File
.REX	Rotor-Gene Run File
.SMP	Sample File
Std. Curve	Standard Curve

10 Maintenance

Maintaining the working performance of the Rotor-Gene 6000 is simple and quick. Optical performance is maintained by ensuring that the lenses, located at both the emission and detection source, are clean. This is achieved by gently wiping a cotton tip applicator with ethanol over the two lenses.

To avoid dust build up, keep the lid of the Rotor-Gene 6000 closed when the instrument is idle.

If the rotor chamber becomes contaminated, it can be cleaned by wiping the surfaces with a lint free cloth dampened with a bleach solution. Avoid dripping bleach into the chamber.

11 Optical Temperature Verification (OTV)

Optical Temperature Verification (OTV) is a method to verify the in-tube temperature of a Rotor-Gene 6000. Validation of in-tube temperature can be an important procedure in certified laboratories.

11.1 OTV System Function

The OTV system uses the optical properties of three different thermochromatic liquid crystals (TLC) that are an absolute temperature reference. When heated, TLC's change from opaque to transparent at very precise temperatures (50, 75 and 90^{o}C). As TLC's do not fluoresce, it is necessary to cover the excitation source with a fluorescent scatter plate (white for Rotor-Gene 6000) so that changes in the TLC transition points can be detected by the Rotor-Gene 6000's optical system. TLC's that are below their transition temperature are opaque and any source light will be reflected. Some of the reflected light will scatter toward the detector, increasing fluorescence. When the in-tube temperature reaches the TLC transition point, the TLC becomes transparent, thereby, the source light passes through the sample rather than being reflected toward the detector, resulting in a decrease in fluorescence. The fluorescence change is used to determine the precise transition temperature of each TLC. The transition temperature is compared to the Rotor-Gene 6000's reported temperature, verifying that the instrument is within temperature specification.

11.2 OTV Kit Components

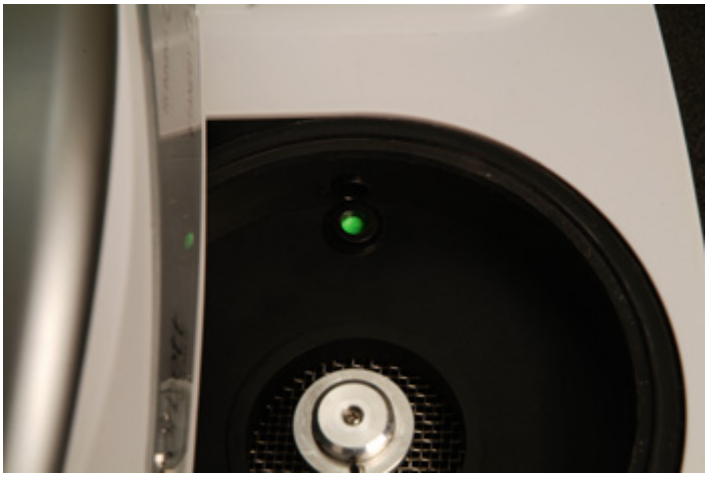
The following components are required to run an OTV;

- An OTV Rotor Kit (PN# 3001-026) comprising;
    1. Sealed Gene-Disc 72 OTV Rotor (complete with TLC's)
    2. Fluorescent insert (RG3000 black, RG6000 white)
    3. Experiment profile
    4. A CD with OTV Rotor Serial Number
    5. Service Notes 27
    6. Calibration Test file
- Rotor-Gene 6000 Series Software Version 1.7, which contains the easy to use OTV Rotor

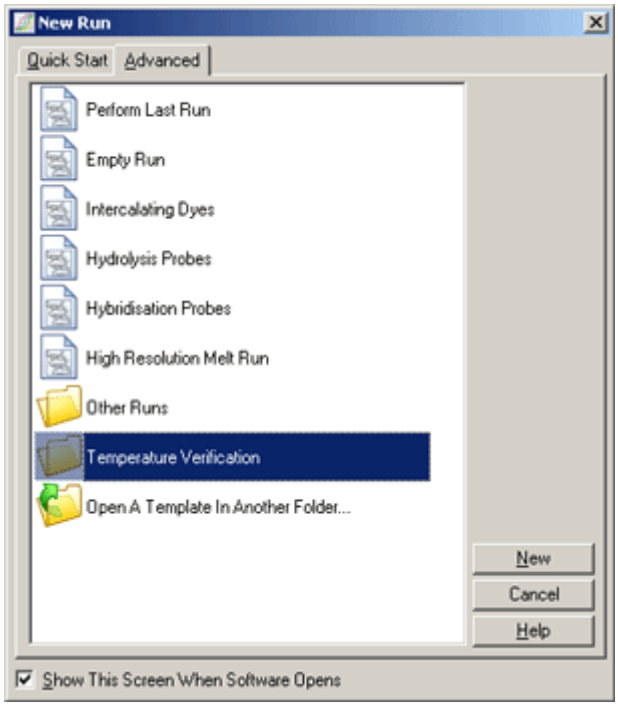
Wizard
- Gene-Disc 72 Rotor Hub (PN# 6001-014)
- Gene-Disc 72 Locking Ring (PN# 6001-006)

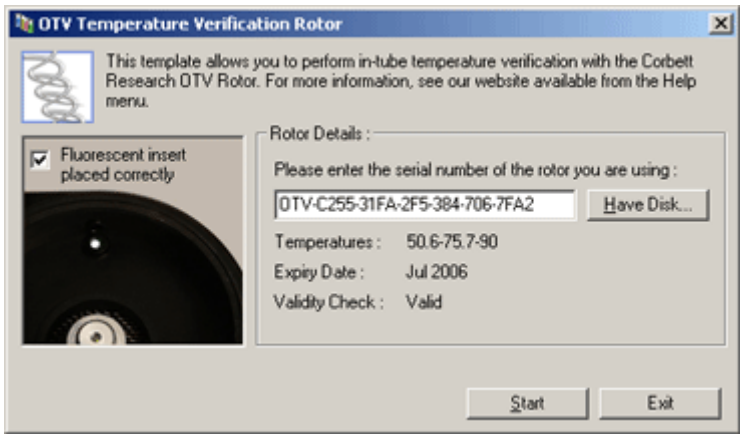
11.3 Running an OTV

Begin by placing the scatter plate into the detector well, followed by the OTV rotor, into the Rotor-Gene 6000.

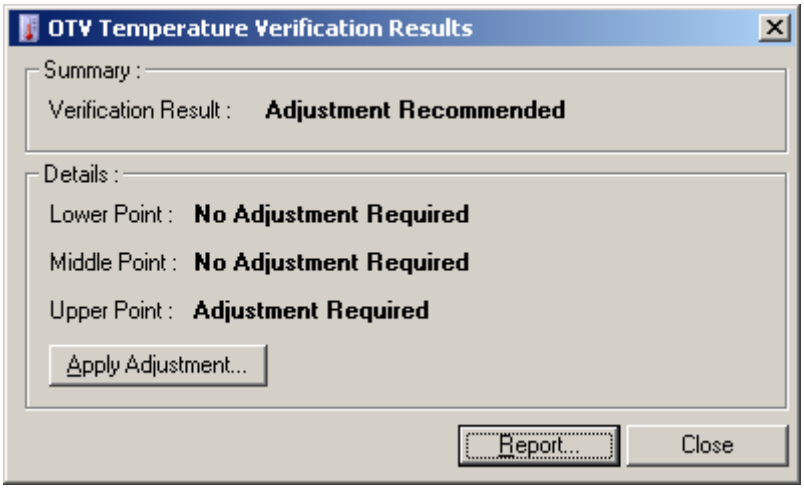


Select the **Temperature Verification\OTV Rotor Run** template from the Advanced wizard. The wizard will then ask for the OTV serial number, you can get this by reading the label off the actual rotor.





The software will then ask you to enter a filename for the run, once entered the run will initiate. The run will perform a series of melts that will indicate the thermal charateristics of the machine.



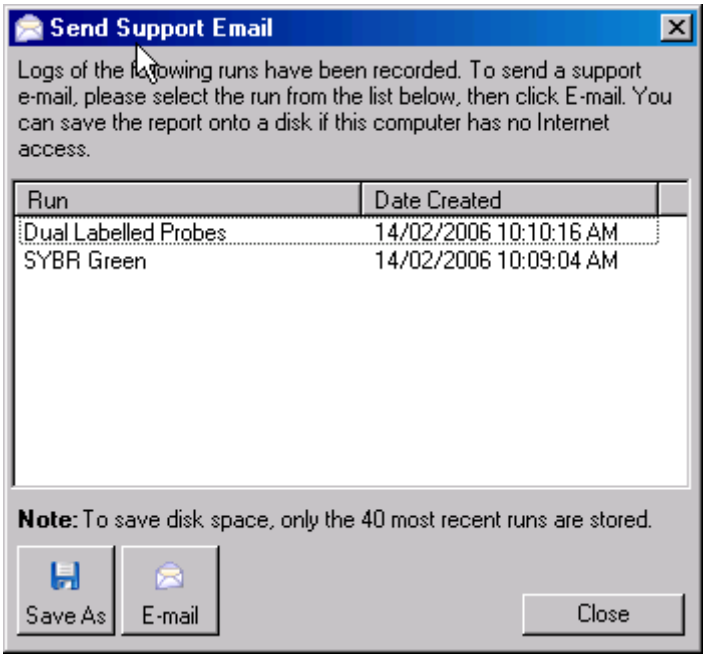
At the conclusion of the run, the software will indicate whether the machine is within specification. If adjustment is required, the user should select **Apply Adjustment** and it will prompt the user to perform a verification run. Once the instrument is within specification the user can preview a report of the run and can print this report as an indication that the instrument now conforms.

12 Troubleshooting

12.1 Log Archives

The software keeps an unmodified record of each run, along with diagnostic information in its Log Archive repository. By using the Help, Send Support Email option, you can send an email with all the diagnostic information the Corbett Research support technicians require:

See the section Send Support Email for more information.



12.2 Troubleshooting Run Files

To troubleshoot runs which did not perform as expected, enter the Profile Editor and ask the following questions:

12.2.1 Initial Denature Step

Is the initial hold temperature and time for the Taq Polymerase used appropriate? Check the manufacture's description of the enzyme. The recommended temperature is 95°C and the times can vary from 2 min to 15 min, depending on the enzyme used.

12.2.2 Cycling Profile

Have 50 µl volumes been run on the Rotor-Gene 6000?
The Rotor-Gene 6000 is calibrated for 20 – 25 µl, in which case we recommend a denaturation time during cycling of 15 seconds. Some protocols specify 50 µl reactions in which case we recommend increasing the denaturation time during cycling to 30 seconds.

Is the denature temperature appropriate? Most double stranded DNA has melted at 95°C. In some cases temperatures from 90°C to 94°C may not denature the DNA properly. Due to partially denatured DNA, the accessibility of primers and probes could be reduced and could therefore reduce the reaction efficiency of the assay.

Is the denature time appropriate? 15 to 20 sec is usually enough to denature the amplicon, however, longer products might need up to 30 sec. A denature time of 60 sec is usually not required.

Is the annealing temperature and time appropriate? Check the Tm's of the primers and probes. The annealing time for SYBR-Green I is around 20 to 35 sec. Dual labeled probes are often run as a two step profile where annealing and extension steps are combined. In this case the annealing/extension step is between 45 and 60 sec and the temperature is usually 60°C. For FRET probes the annealing step is between 20 and 30 sec.

Is the extension temperature and time appropriate? Check the recommendations of the manufacturer's Taq Polymerase. For a product less than 300 bp the recommended time is between 15 and 30 sec.

At what step have data been acquired? For SYBR-Green I data should be acquired at the end of the extension step. Dual labeled probes are often run as two step assays, with data acquisition on the lower temperature step. For FRET assays, data should be acquired at the annealing step. If in doubt about the appropriate data acquisition point, data can be acquired at several steps for comparison. If no raw data can been seen on the screen at all, go to edit profile and check if data was acquired at least at one point.

12.2.3 Melt Curve Analysis

Has a hold step at the same temperature as the beginning of the melt been inserted before starting the melt curve? If no hold step has been used before running a melt curve, the results in the melt curve analysis could be a steep increase in the first few cycles making the actual melt peak hardly visible.

For SYBR-Green I melt curves; was the melt curve run to 99°C? Some amplicons melt higher

than 90°C. The expected melt peak might not occur, due to the fact that DNA has not melted.

12.2.4 Gain Settings

Have the appropriate gain settings been chosen? In some cases it has been observed that curves in the raw data went off scale resulting in a straight line at a fluorescence of 100. Although quantitation of most data can still be performed, the gain should be reduced to a setting, where the raw data does not go off scale.

In some cases it has been observed that fluorescence signal is off scale even at the first cycle, thus appearing as if no data is being acquired. This indicates that the gain has been set too high.

If a straight line at a fluorescence of 100 at the beginning of a melt curve is observed, the melt curve should be re-run using a lower gain. There is no need to repeat the amplification as SYBR-Green I or FRET samples can be reused to a certain extent for melt analysis.

Have the appropriate Quantitation Settings been chosen? In some cases it has been observed that the raw data show a perfect amplification but no data can be seen in the quantitation screen. Setting the NTC Threshold to zero, and disabling the Reaction Efficiency Thresholds will show all data. The Quantitation Settings can be used to exclude small changes of fluorescence, due to probe degradations or other probe related effects, which do not show true amplification but rather a steadily increasing line.

If the quantitation curves can be excluded with minimal Quantitation Settings, the gain for the next run should be increased. Note: The gain setting has no influence on the actual data, the expected fold increase will be similar.

12.2.5 General Setup Conditions

Has the appropriate setup been chosen for the Rotor-Gene 6000? To check, go to file menu then to setup and tick the appropriate boxes. If in doubt about the meaning of any other the settings, or if setup is not accessible, please contact the distributor.

Has the appropriate rotor for the run been chosen? At the beginning of the run wizard, ensure that the selected rotor corresponds to the one installed in the Rotor-Gene 6000 instrument. Selecting a mismatched rotor setup will result in the loss of the data from every second sample (when running a 72-well rotor but having selected the 36-well setup) or incorrectly labelled positions (when running a 36-well rotor with the software configured for the 72-well rotor).

What version of the software is used on the Rotor-Gene 6000? The software development for the Rotor-Gene 6000 Series Software is ongoing. Check our website for additional information. Make sure that a recent version is uploaded and used.

12.2.6 Run Settings

If samples are not detected check also the channel setup. Make sure data has been acquired with the appropriate excitation and detection filters. This is particularly important when user defined filters have been set up.

What if all the above mentioned conditions were right, but the assay did not look as expected or did not work at all? In the restricted area of our homepage there is a file called "real-time summary". Steps are suggested on how to optimize SYBR-Green I, dual labeled probes and FRET reactions. In general, the expected fold increase of a SYBR-Green I reaction is

between 5 and 50 times and a dual labeled reaction between 2 and 10 times.

12.3 Regional Settings In Windows 98

On some computers, the regional settings are configured in a contradictory manner which causes a conflict within the Rotor-Gene system. The problem occurs when different decimal settings are used for currencies and numbers. For example, if numbers are displayed in a "123 456,789" format, but currencies are shown as "$299,192.20", then there is a conflict, since the number "20,123" is ambiguous. On Windows 98 machines, this prevents the Rotor-Gene software from correctly interpreting numbers. This problem does not occur on Windows 2000.

To correct this setting, please follow the following steps. The names of these options may be different in your system's language.

- Click on the Start Menu.
- Click on Settings.
- Click on Control Panel.
- Double-Click on Regional Settings.
- Double-Click on Regional Options.
- Click on the Numbers tab.
- Note down which is the Decimal Symbol, and which is used as the Digit Grouping Symbol. On a German system, for example, the comma (,) will be used for Decimals, and the period (.) is used as a Digit Grouping Symbol.
- Click on the Currency tab.
- Change the Decimal Symbol and the Digit Grouping Symbol to be the same as on the Numbers tab.
- Click OK.
- Re-run the Rotor-Gene software.

13 Mathematical Appendix

This section describes the mathematical techniques used in more detail.

Quantitation

Calculated concentrations are obtained from a simple linear regression model, with the known values the log concentrations (x) and the experimental values the C_T values (y).

The log concentrations and C_T values of the standards are used to construct a model in the form:

y = mx + b

Confidence Intervals for Calculated Concentrations

We use the following confidence interval 100(1-α)% for an estimate of a new observation x0 from the standard curve.:

$$\frac{Y_0 - \hat{\beta}_0}{\hat{\beta}_1} \pm \frac{S}{\hat{\beta}_1}(1 + \frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x_0 - \bar{x})^2}{S_{xx}})^{\frac{1}{2}} t_{n-2,\alpha/2}$$

This is the confidence interval for the concentration of a single unknown.

Suppose now we have k further observations at x=x0 and we denote their average by $\bar{Y}_0$. Then,

$$\bar{Y}_0 \sim N(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_0, \frac{\sigma^2}{k})$$

and arguments similar to above give

$$\frac{Y_0 - \hat{\beta}_0}{\hat{\beta}_1} \pm \frac{S}{\hat{\beta}_1}(\frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x_0 - \bar{x})^2}{S_{xx}})^{\frac{1}{2}} t_{n-2,\alpha/2}$$

This formula determines how confidence intervals for concentrations of replicate unknowns are determined.

For estimation of standards, a tighter confidence interval can be obtained :

$$\frac{Y_0 - \hat{\beta}_0}{\hat{\beta}_1} \pm \frac{S}{\hat{\beta}_1}(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x_0 - \bar{x})^2}{S_{xx}})^{\frac{1}{2}} t_{n-2,\alpha/2}$$

The implication of this formula is that adding replicates to an standard individual concentration reduces the width of the interval for all estimates, as n is increased. Adding a large number of replicates to an Unknown reduces its uncertainty to that of a single standard. The extra replicates reduce the uncertainty due to the unknown not forming part of the linear model.

Confidence Intervals for C_T Values

We assume that error in replicate C_T values is linear and normally distributed.

We therefore use the One-Sample t Confidence Interval. Let μ be the mean value for a

replicate's C_T values $(x_0 \ldots x_{n-1})$. Then, a

100(1-α)% confidence interval for a C_T value μ is:

$$\left(\bar{x} - t_{\alpha/2,n-1} \cdot \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}},\ \bar{x} + t_{\alpha/2,n-1} \cdot \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$$