Technical Overview

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Change the Project During a Running Sequence: Sequence Commands

Introduction

To measure a large quantity of samples, a user might place all vials in the auto sampler, program a sequence, run it, and leave the lab. But perhaps there are different sample types present, or the measurements are being made for several users. In such cases, it may be desirable to distribute several measurements to different projects instead of keeping all injections of the run together.

With Agilent WinGPC software, measurements of a run can only be stored in one project. It is not possible to distribute measurements or injections, respectively, to different projects afterward.

However, using WinGPC together with the ChromPilot offers the possibility to change the WinGPC method while a sequence is running. Because the project path is part of the method, you can use a method change to distribute injections to several projects individually without the need to create a new login every time. This technical overview explains the process.

Open WinGPC Sequence Manager as usual and create a sequence (Figure 1).

In this example, to store the first three samples (PS) in one project and the following three (PMMA) in another project, insert a WinGPC method change into the sequence table, just in front of the PMMA samples.

Before beginning this process, be sure to create WinGPC methods that represent your needs. Instrument, columns, detectors, eluent, and other settings stay the same, and cannot be changed during a running sequence.

However, "Project" can be changed to save these modified WinGPC methods with suitable names such as PS_2024-06-04.MET and PMMA_2024-06-04.MET. In this example, both methods are identical apart from the project path (C:\wingpc_8#1\PS.LDX and C:\wingpc_8#1\PMMA.LDX here).

Tip: The Operator can also be changed to save the modified method and allocate samples to different users. This is not possible when the sequence has already stopped.

Alternatively, different calibration curves can be provided at Calibration, and these can be stored together with the WinGPC methods. Thus, suitable calibrations can be assigned to different sample types during the measurement, rather than doing so manually afterward.

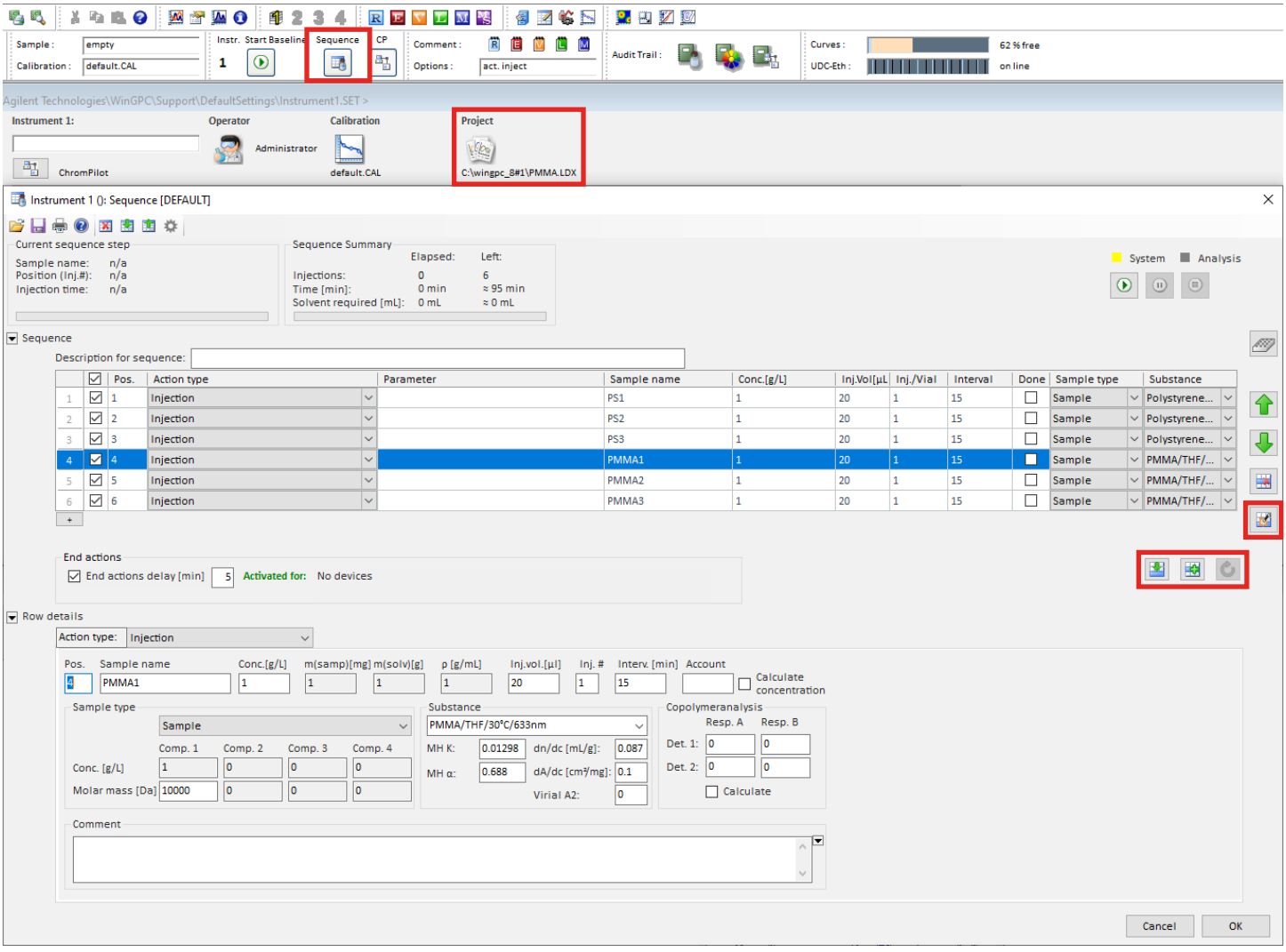

Figure 1. Open WinGPC Sequence Manager and create a sequence, as shown.

Use the button to insert a new line in the sequence table at the desired position (Figure 2). Then, change the Action type from "Injection" to "Load WinGPC method" in the input mask below. Click the button and specify the WinGPC method you want to apply. Refresh the sequence table by pressing the button.

Note: If using overlapped injection, be sure that the Interval of the last injection before the WinGPC method change is long enough. Data acquisition will stop after the interval time and then will be started again with the new WinGPC method and the following samples.

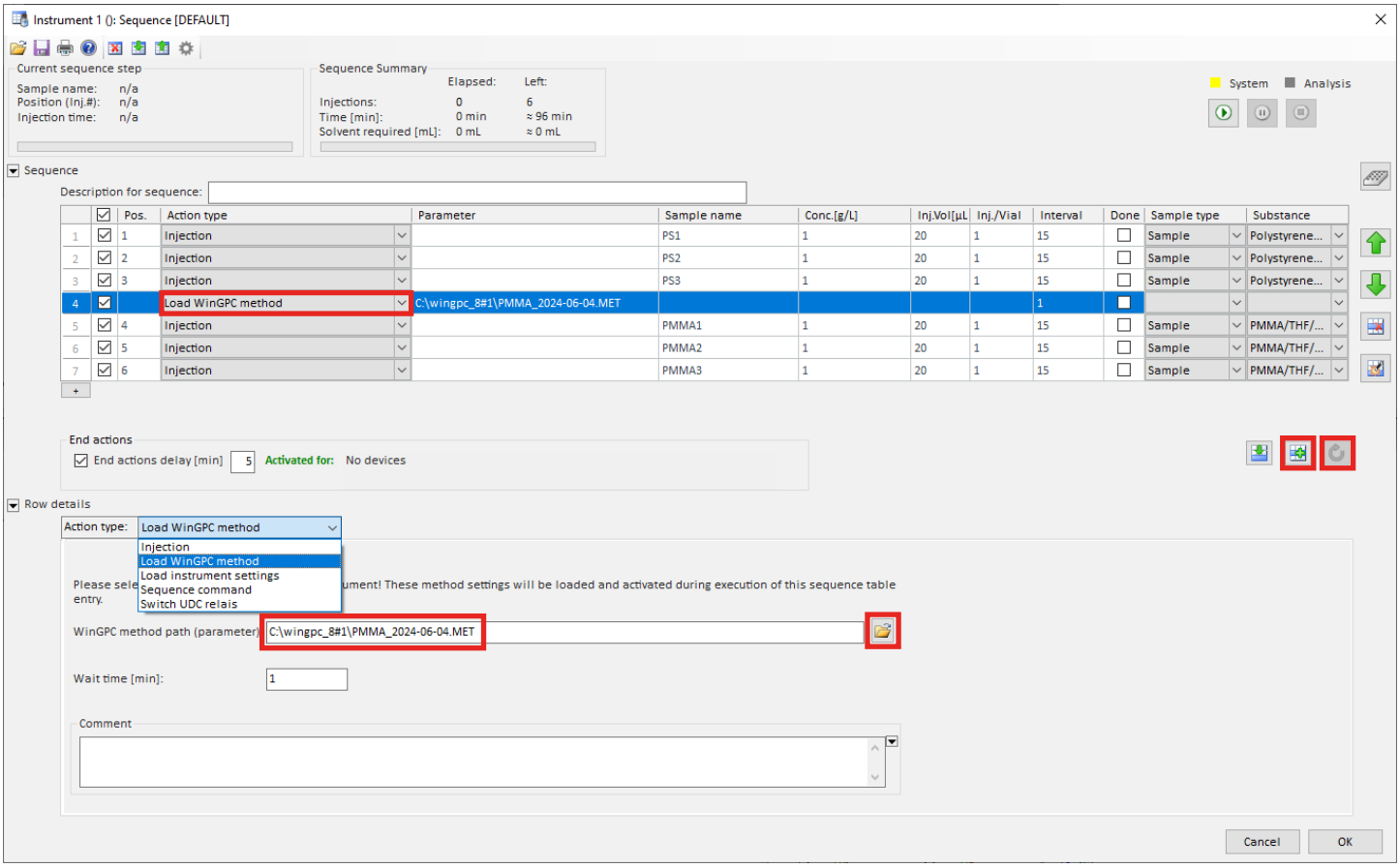

Figure 2. Insert a new line with the button. Change the Action type from "Injection" to "Load WinGPC method". Click the button to select the desired WinGPC method to apply. Refresh the sequence with the button. Ensure that the Interval of the last injection before the WinGPC method change is long enough.

The sequence is now complete. As it runs, the WinGPC method will be changed automatically before the PMMA samples, and different sample types will be stored in different projects.

Tip: WinGPC usually starts the sequence with the actual active method (PS_2024-06-04.MET here), but this parameter can also be entered in the very first line of your sequence table so that you can see at once which samples run with which method (Figure 3).

Sequence

Description for sequence:

		Pos.	Action type	Parameter	Sample name	Conc.[g/L]	Inj.Vol[µL	Inj./Vial	Interval	Done	Sample type	Substance
1	☑		Load WinGPC method	C:\wingpc_8#1\PS_2024-06-04.MET					1	☐		
2	☑	1	Injection		PS1	1	20	1	15	☐	Sample	Polystyrene...
3	☑	2	Injection		PS2	1	20	1	15	☐	Sample	Polystyrene...
4	☑	3	Injection		PS3	1	20	1	15	☐	Sample	Polystyrene...
5	☑		Load WinGPC method	C:\wingpc_8#1\PMMA_2024-06-04.MET					1	☐		
6	☑	4	Injection		PMMA1	1	20	1	15	☐	Sample	PMMA/THF/...
7	☑	5	Injection		PMMA2	1	20	1	15	☐	Sample	PMMA/THF/...
8	☑	6	Injection		PMMA3	1	20	1	15	☐	Sample	PMMA/THF/...

Figure 3. Sequence table, showing which samples run with which methods.

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