

GPC THF – Manual
Polymer Facilities - MRL @ UCSB
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Log into FBS to access instrument. No reservations needed.

SAMPLE PREPARATION: Polymer **must be perfectly soluble** in tetrahydrofuran (THF). Prepare solution 6-8 mg of the polymer in 2 mL of THF. Sample concentration affects both viscosity and injection volume. While small sample amounts produce narrower peaks, viscous samples may require larger, more dilute solution. After filtration through 0.45 μ m filter, transfer solution into the 2 mL autosampler vial (fill between the second and third mark). Small volume inserts (150 μ L) are also available.

- Columns: 2 Tosoh TSKgel SuperHBM-N + guard (MW range: 200-700,000 g/mol)

STARTING EMPOWER SOFTWARE

1. Open Empower icon on desktop (if you need to log in, the log in information is in the instrument folder in the bookcase).
2. Click on Run Samples
3. Highlight System **GPC THF** and select folder **GPC THF 20XX** → Click on Ok.
4. Load sample set using load icon → Load previously created sample set → “THF Unknown sample set”

ADD SAMPLES to the running GPC (only red icon is active):

1. Edit- **Alter Running Sample**- OK. Red and green icons should be active.
2. Insert rows, change sample name, vial #. Don't forget to load carousel with vials.
3. Don't change rows, injection volume or # of injections:
 - Rows before samples:
 - Purge Injector; Condition Columns; Purge Detector; Equilibrate
 - Row after samples:
 - Flow down to 0mL
 - Injection volume: 20 μ L and # of injections: 1.
4. Click on the **GREEN ICON**. Click on Run.

RUN SAMPLE when instrument idle (only green icon is available):

1. Delete unused rows. Insert more rows if necessary- change sample name, vial #. Load carousel with your vials.
2. Don't change rows, injection volume or # of injections:
 - Rows before samples:
 - Condition Columns; Purge Injector; Purge Detector; Equilibrate
 - Row after samples:
 - Flow down to 0mL
 - Injection volume: 20 μ L and # of injections: 1.
3. Click on the green icon. Click on Run.

ANALYSIS:

1. **To Calculate MOLECULAR WEIGHT:** From the Empower Pro Window, open Browse Project → Polymer 20XX → ok. Open your run by double clicking left mouse button. Clear all integration using Edit → Clear integration. Using left mouse button, integrate signal along the baseline and Quantitate (icon or Process → Quantitate). Click on the icon Save ALL- close analysis window. Update Results. If you need to integrate few signals which are close to each another use CTRL-ALT and click with left mouse between signals
2. **To Create PDF REPORT:** With right mouse click on your updated analysis- **Preview/Publisher** –Open Preview/Publisher with left mouse- Use the Report Method- GPC Default Individual Report- OK. To change the scale in the report, close the first report window with right mouse click on the GPC results- Chromatogram Properties- Scaling- change Y-start and Y-end- Apply- close. You must save properties to be able to print. After you finish, please ALWAYS change properties- Y should be ~ 50 and save. Don't save any changes to the **GPC**

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Default Individual Report.

3. **To Change CALIBRATION (i.e. PMMA or PEG):** To reprocess your open file with another calibration method, Open File→ Processing Method→PMMA cal. (latest date)- Open. Go to Edit→Clear Integration. Reintegrate with left mouse- Quantitate (icon)- Save All (icon)- Close Window- Update Results Table. Open results (Processing Method should be PMMA cal)- Print Report (see analysis).
4. **OVERLAY:** Empower- Results- with left mouse (CTRL) select data- Tools- Compare.

EXPORT DATA:

1. Empower- Browse Project- results-choose your run- Database- Export Data- **ASCII**- Browse- Choose Z: drive- write name of your file- OK
2. You will get 3 files in your folder if you choose export with PDF
 - .arw file is your raw data. This can be imported into Excel to graph
 - .pdf is the PDF of your data
 - .txt is the table that contains your Mw and PDI data after processing