



Getting Started with EC-Lab®:

# Constant Current Constant Voltage

V1

Getting Started EC-Lab: CCCV

March 2024



# Overview and quick access

Last update: 25/03/2024

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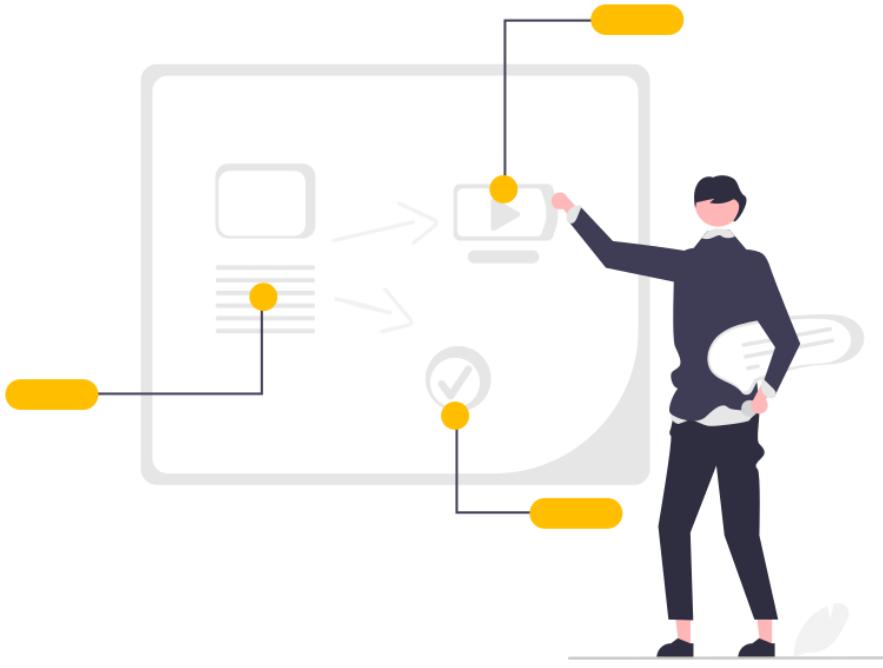
## ■ Procedure

- Launch the experiment
  - [Step 0:](#) Connect instrument and select channel
  - [Step 1:](#) Add CCCV technique
  - [Step 2:](#) Set CCCV parameters
  - [Step 3:](#) Optimize the measurement
  - [Step 4:](#) Set general parameters
  - [Step 5:](#) Launch the measurement
  - [Step 6:](#) Add additional experiments
- Investigate the result
  - [Step 7:](#) Read the graph
  - [Step 8:](#) Analyse the data with Process Data

## ■ Find out more

- [For supplementary information](#)
- [Need help?](#)
- [FAQ](#)

Note: Go back to this slide by clicking on the logo on the top left corner

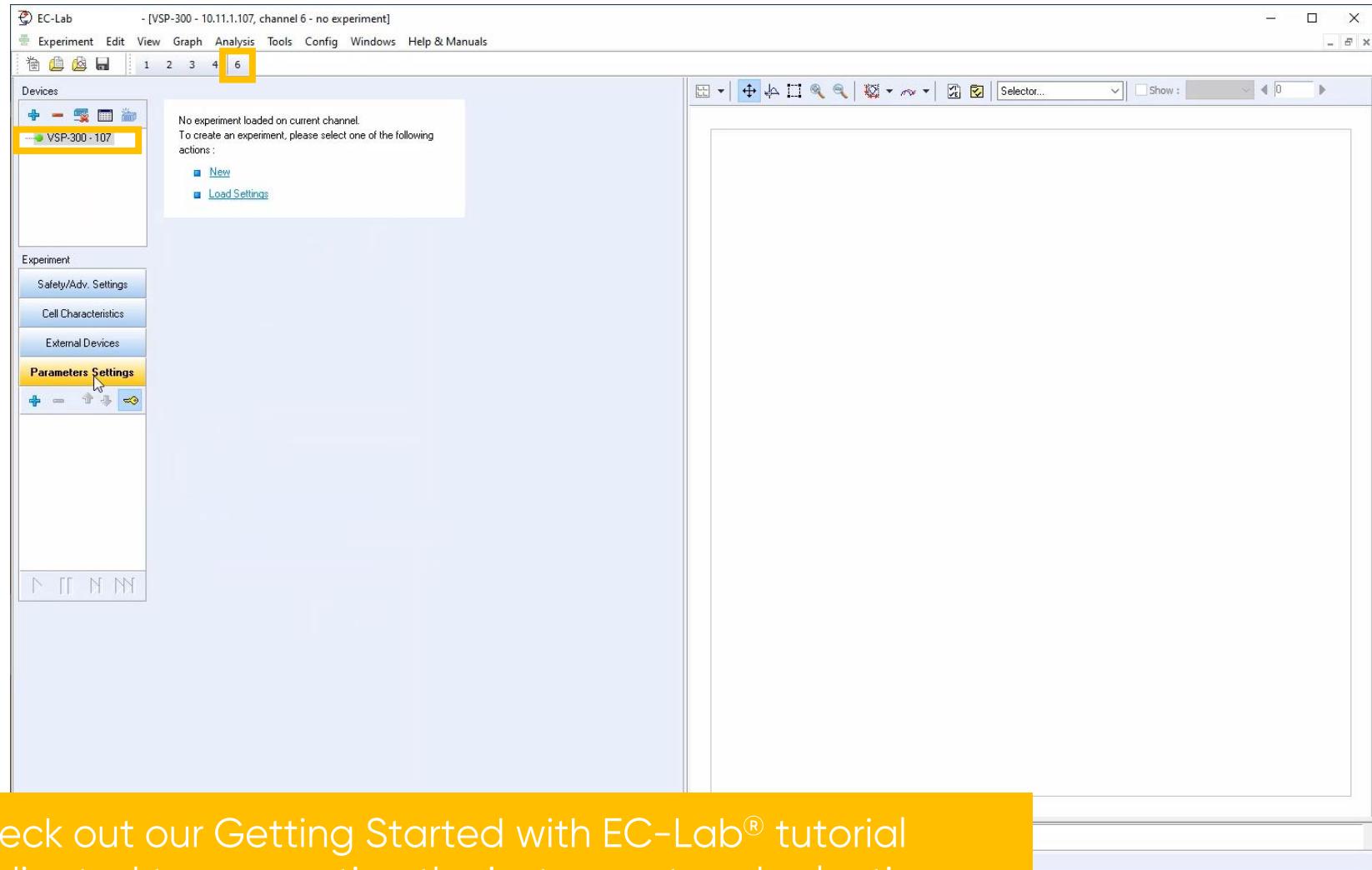


# Procedure



# Step 0: Connect instrument and select channel

- Connect instrument and select channel

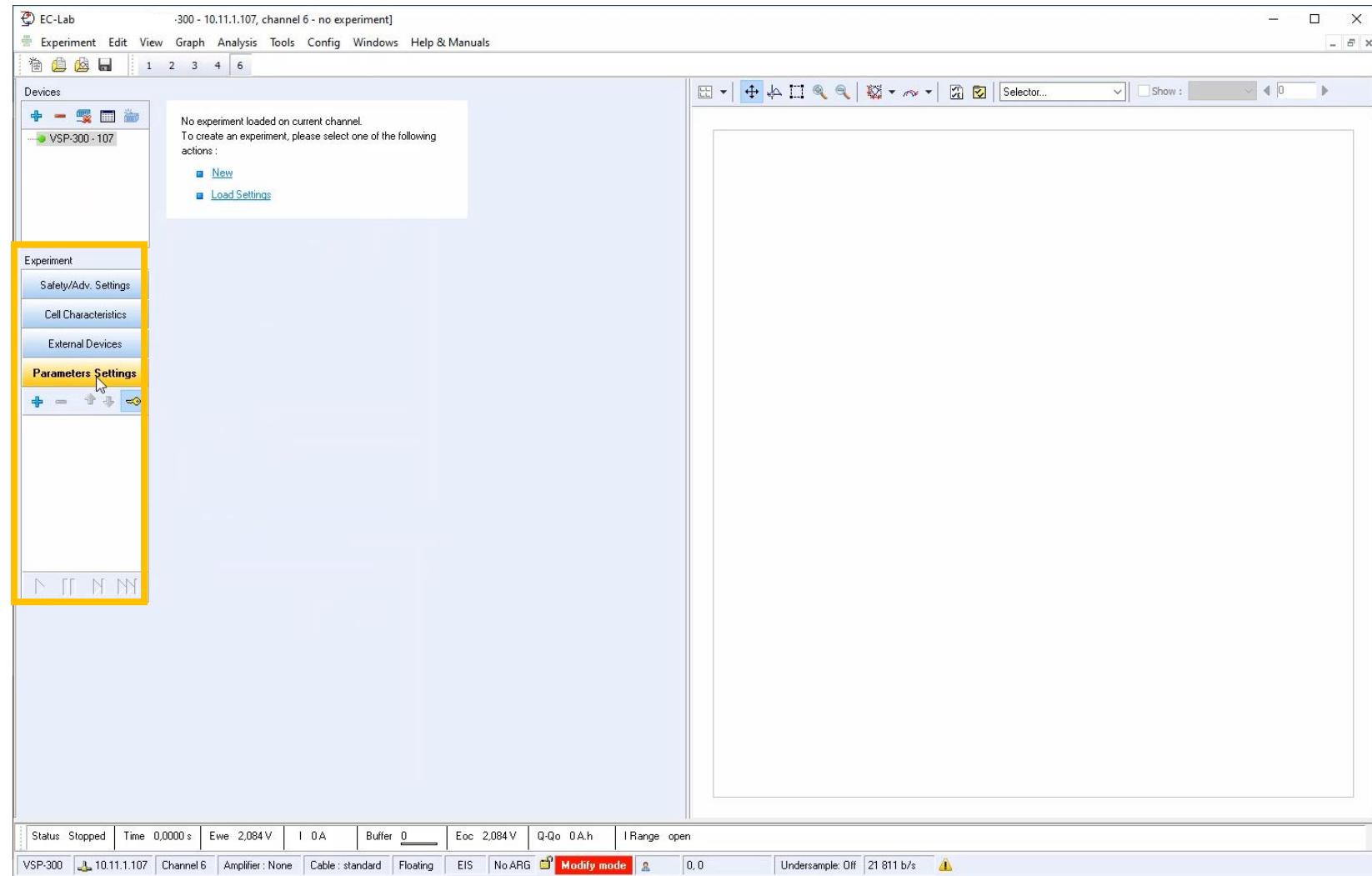


Check out our Getting Started with EC-Lab® tutorial dedicated to connecting the instrument and selecting channels.



# Step 0: Connect instrument and select channel

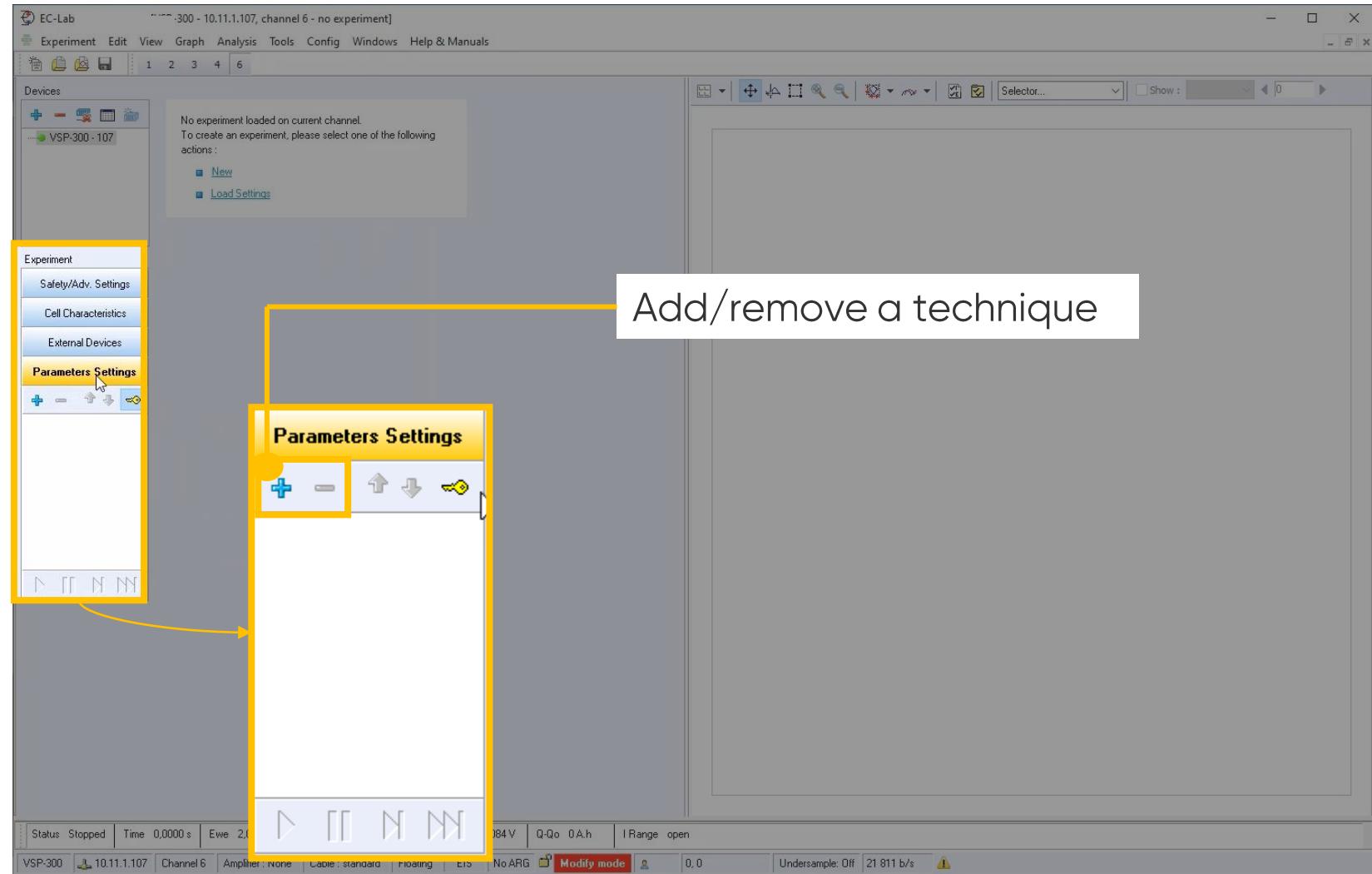
- When the instrument and channel are selected, the user can set the experiment





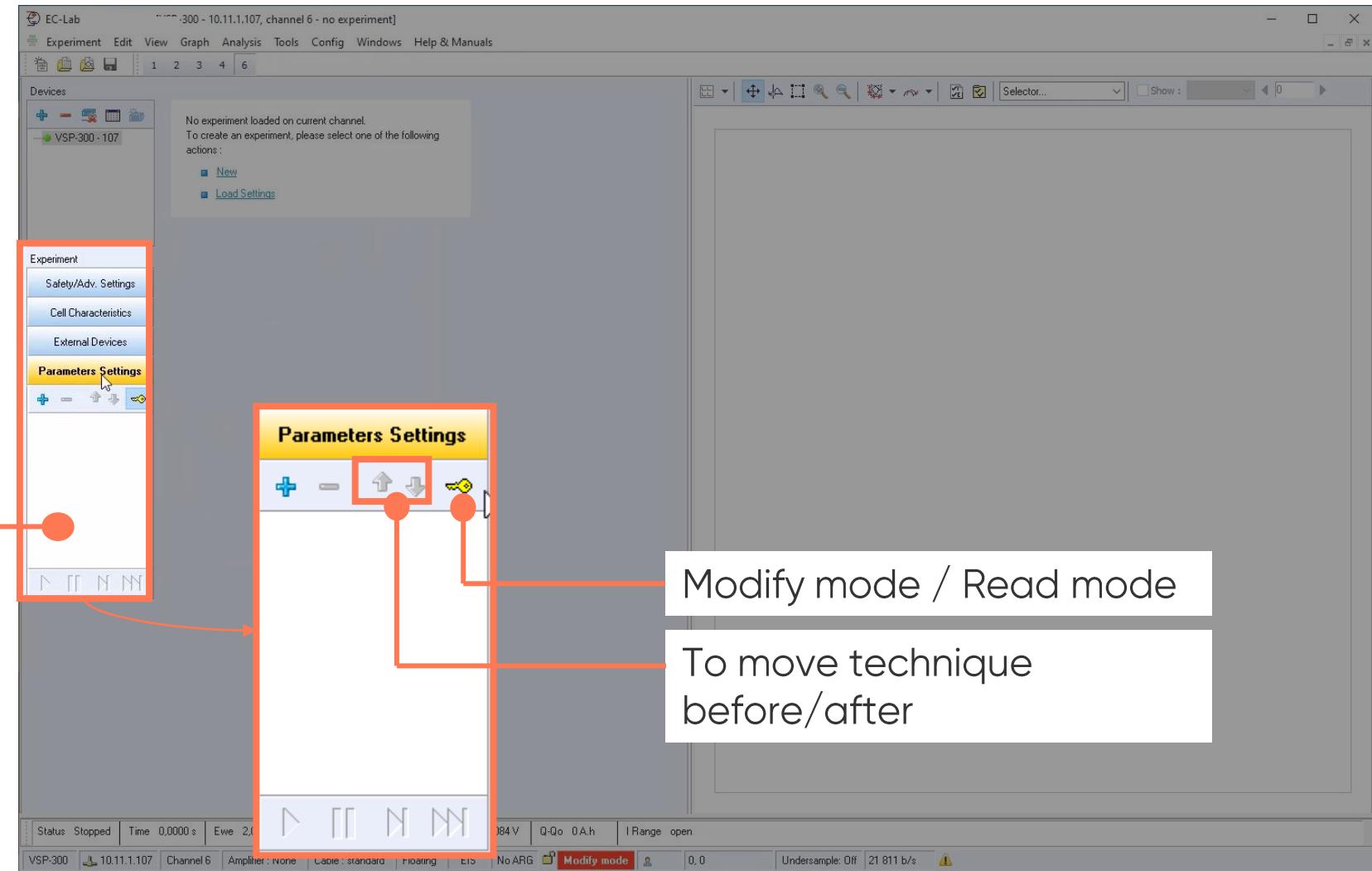
# Step 1: Add CCCV technique

- Click on + to add a technique in the list





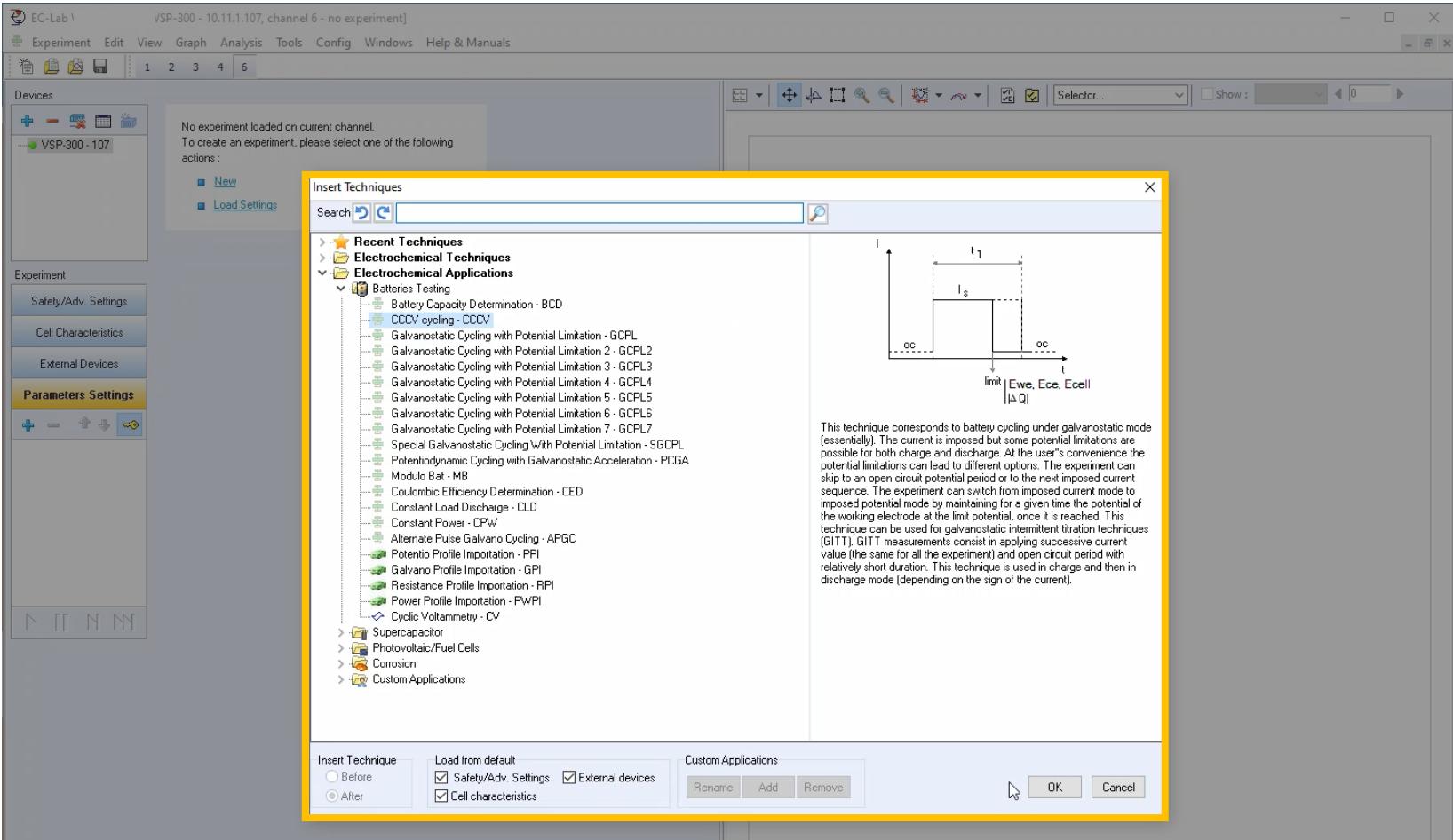
# Step 1: Add CCCV technique





# Step 1: Add CCCV technique

- Select CCCV technique
  - It is in the Batteries Testing folder
- Click on OK to validate



All different GCPL techniques are brought together in one powerful and flexible CCCV technique. Check our [FAQ section](#) for more detail.





# Step 1: Add CCCV technique

Search bar to quickly find the desired technique

Description of the technique settings and associated graph

No experiment loaded on current channel.  
To create an experiment, please select one of the following actions :

- New
- Load Sett...

Recent Techniques

Electrochemical Techniques

Electrochemical Applications

Batteries Testing

- Battery Capacity Determination - BCD
- CCCV cycling - CC CV
- Galvanostatic Cycling with Potential Limitation 1 - GPL1
- Galvanostatic Cycling with Potential Limitation 2 - GPL2
- Galvanostatic Cycling with Potential Limitation 3 - GPL3
- Galvanostatic Cycling with Potential Limitation 4 - GPL4
- Galvanostatic Cycling with Potential Limitation 5 - GPL5
- Galvanostatic Cycling with Potential Limitation 6 - GPL6
- Galvanostatic Cycling with Potential Limitation 7 - GPL7
- Special Galvanostatic Cycling With Potential Limitation - SGCP
- Potentiodynamic Cycling with Galvanostatic Acceleration - PGCA
- Modulo Bat - MB
- Coulombic Efficiency Determination - CED
- Constant Load Discharge - CLD
- Constant Power - CPW
- Alternate Pulse Galvano Cycling - APGC
- Potentio Profile Importation - PPI
- Galvano Profile Importation - GPI
- Resistance Profile Importation - RPI
- Power Profile Importation - PwPI
- Cyclic Voltammetry - CV

Supercapacitor

Photovoltaic/Fuel Cells

Corrosion

Custom Applications

Insert Technique

Before

After

Load from default

Safety/Adv. Settings

External devices

Cell characteristics

Custom Applications

Rename Add Remove

OK Cancel

Graph description:

This technique corresponds to battery cycling under galvanostatic mode (essentially). The current is imposed but some potential limitations are possible for both charge and discharge. At the user's convenience the potential limitations can lead to different options. The experiment can skip to an open circuit potential period or to the next imposed current sequence. The experiment can switch from imposed current mode to imposed potential mode by maintaining for a given time the potential of the working electrode at the limit potential, once it is reached. This technique can be used for galvanostatic intermittent titration techniques (GITT). GITT measurements consist in applying successive current value (the same for all the experiment) and open circuit period with relatively short duration. This technique is used in charge and then in discharge mode (depending on the sign of the current).

Graph:

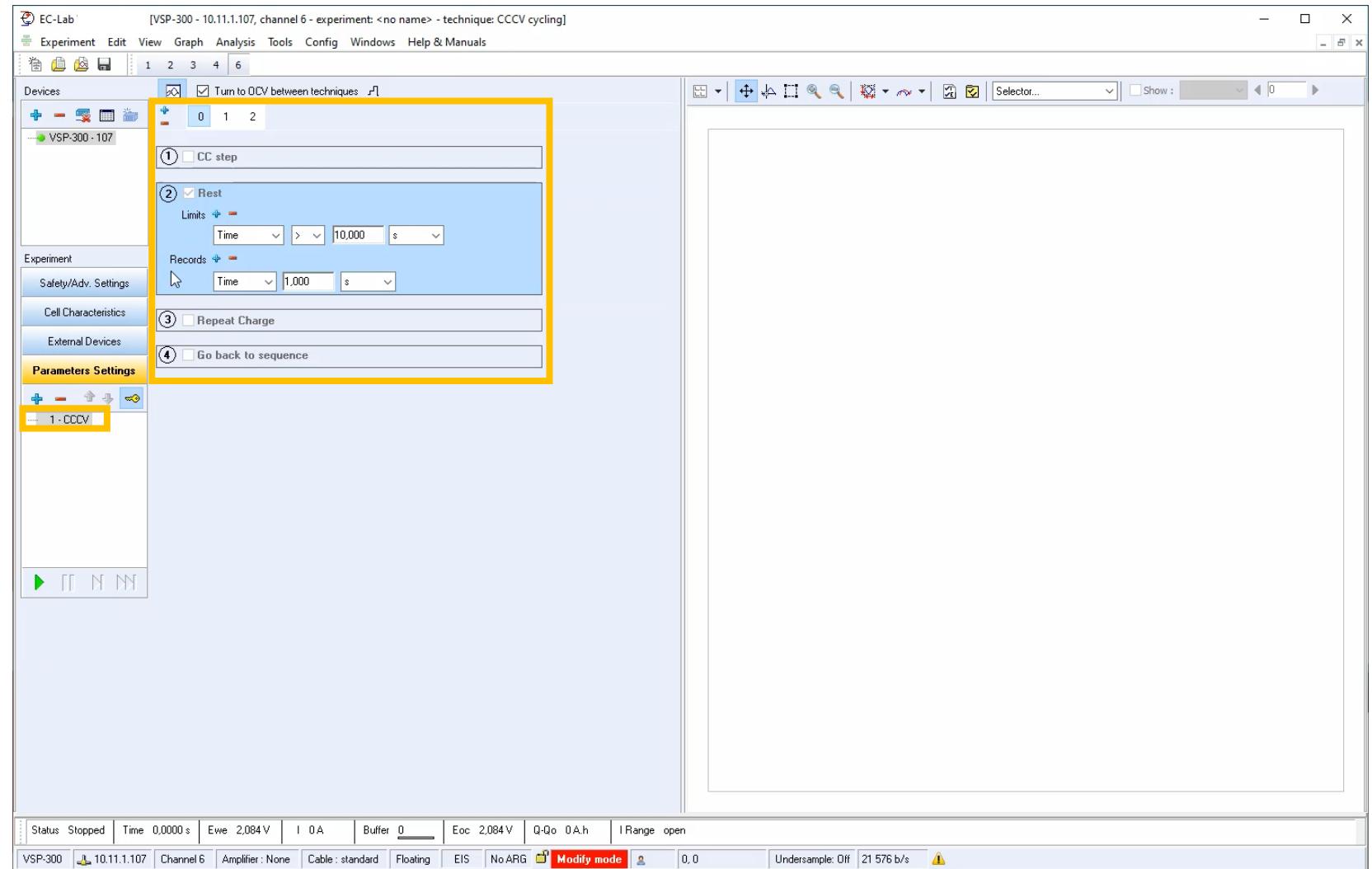
A graph showing current (I) versus time (t). The current starts at a value labeled 'oc' (open circuit), remains constant for a period labeled  $t_1$ , then drops sharply to another value labeled 'oc'. This cycle repeats. The graph also shows potential levels  $E_{we}$ ,  $E_{ce}$ , and  $E_{cell}$ .

Status	Stopped	Time	0.0000 s	E <sub>we</sub>	2.084 V	I	0 A	Buffer	0	E <sub>oc</sub>	2.084 V	Q-Q <sub>o</sub>	0 A.h	I Range	open
VSP-300	10.11.1.107	Channel 6	Amplifier : None	Cable : standard	Floating	EIS	No ARG	Modify mode	0, 0	Undersample: Off	21 630 b/s	!			



# Step 1: Add CCCV technique

- CCCV technique is loaded in the technique list
- Corresponding CCCV parameters settings appear





# Step 1: Add CCCV technique

The screenshot shows the EC-Lab software interface for experiment setup. On the left, the 'Parameters Settings' panel is open, showing a sequence of steps:

- ① CC step
- ② Rest (checkbox checked, set to 10,000s)
- ③ Repeat Charge
- ④ Go back to sequence

Annotations point to specific areas:

- 'General parameters' points to the 'Safety/Adv. Settings' section.
- 'Technique parameters' points to the 'Parameters Settings' panel.

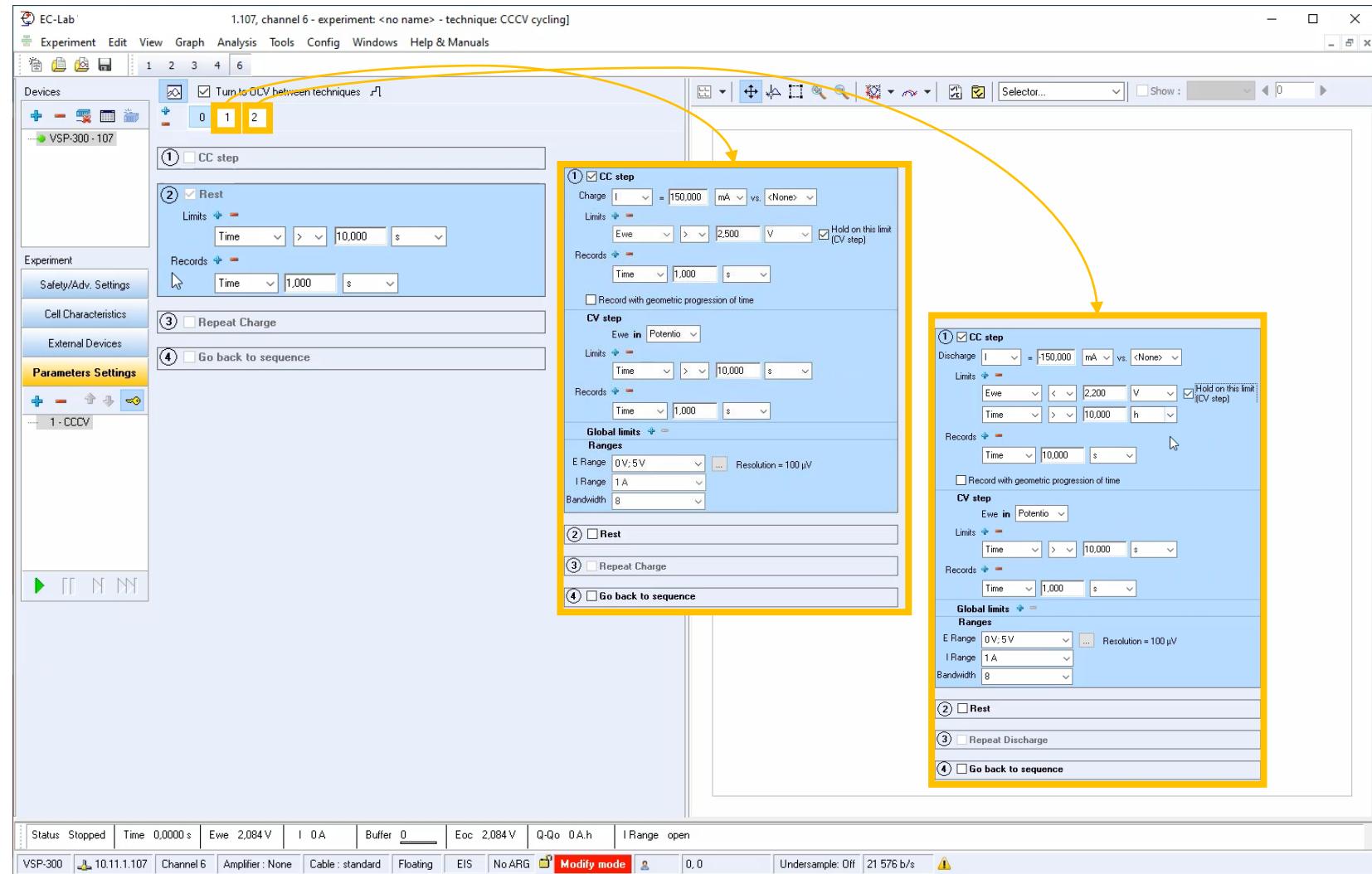
A red box highlights the 'Turn to OCV between techniques' checkbox. Another red box highlights the current graph window, which displays a current-voltage (I-t) plot. The plot shows a rectangular pulse current  $I_S$  over time  $t_1$ , followed by an open circuit voltage (OC) period. The x-axis is labeled  $t$  and the y-axis is labeled  $I$ . Below the plot, the text 'limit | Ewe, Ece, Ecell |  $\Delta Q$ ' is visible.

You can display the description of the settings by clicking on the icon.



# Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

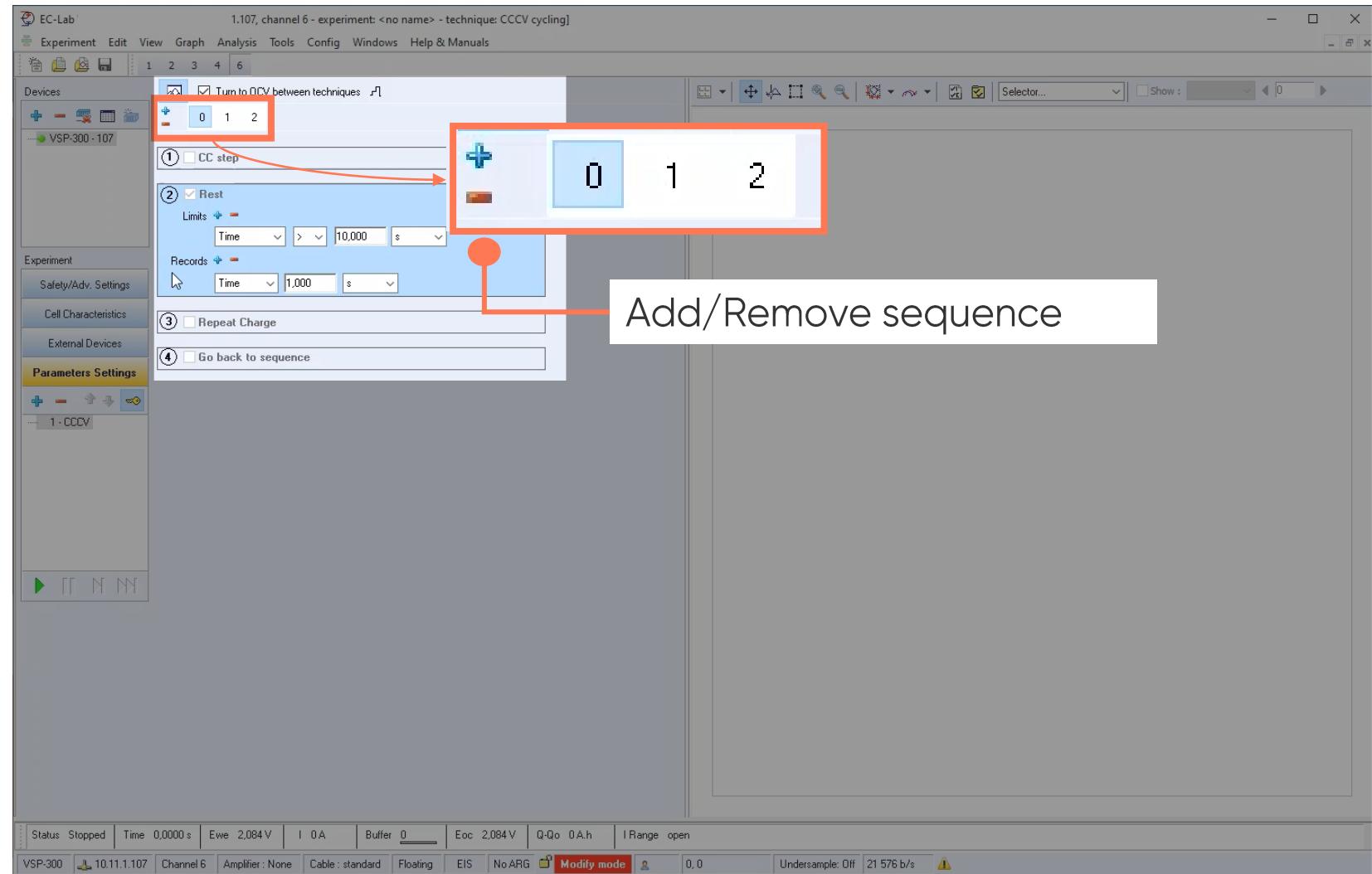
- By default, 3 sequences are displayed
  - 0: Rest
  - 1: Charge
  - 2: Discharge





## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

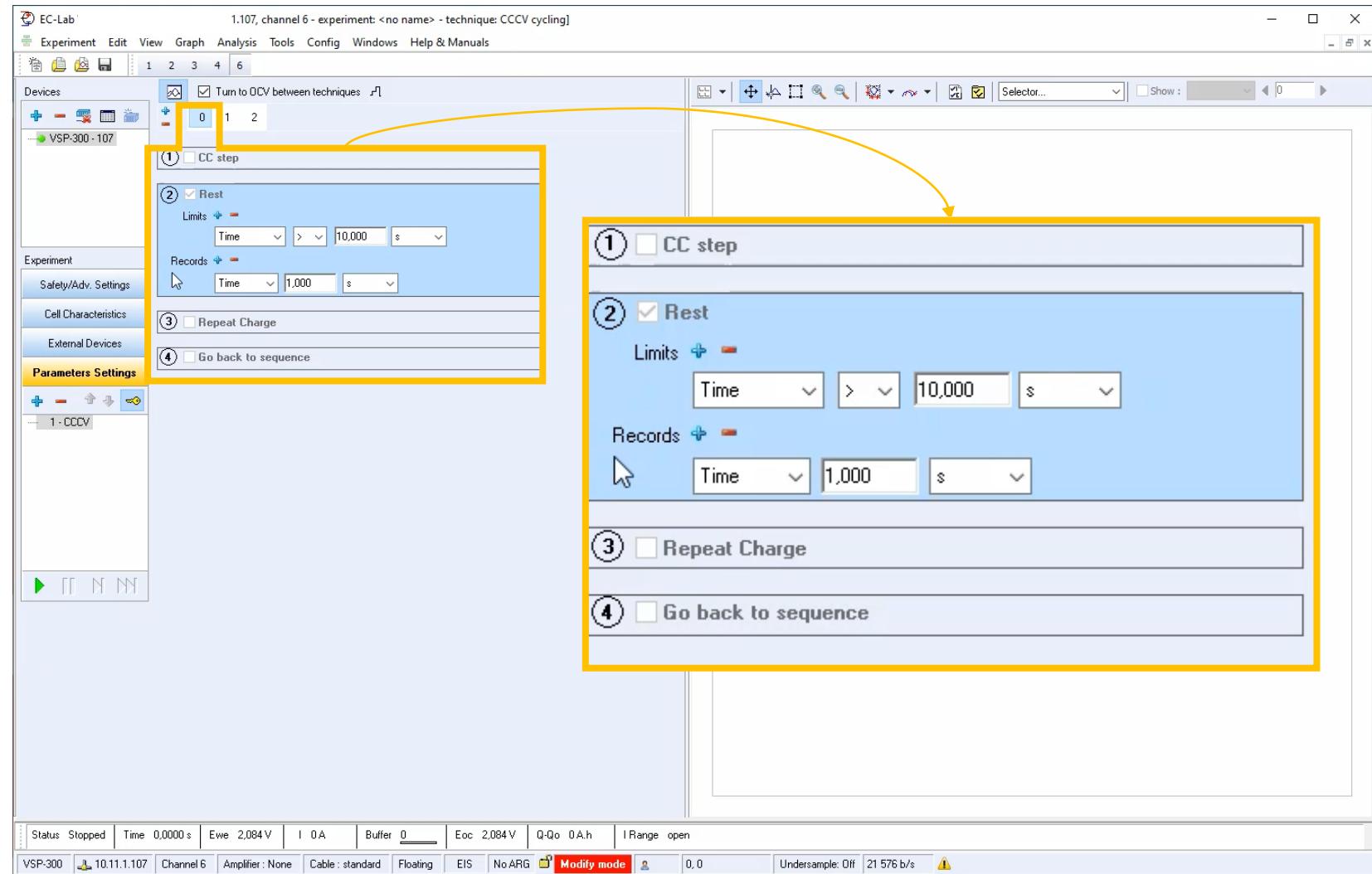
- By default, 3 sequences are displayed
  - 0: Rest
  - 1: Charge
  - 2: Discharge





## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

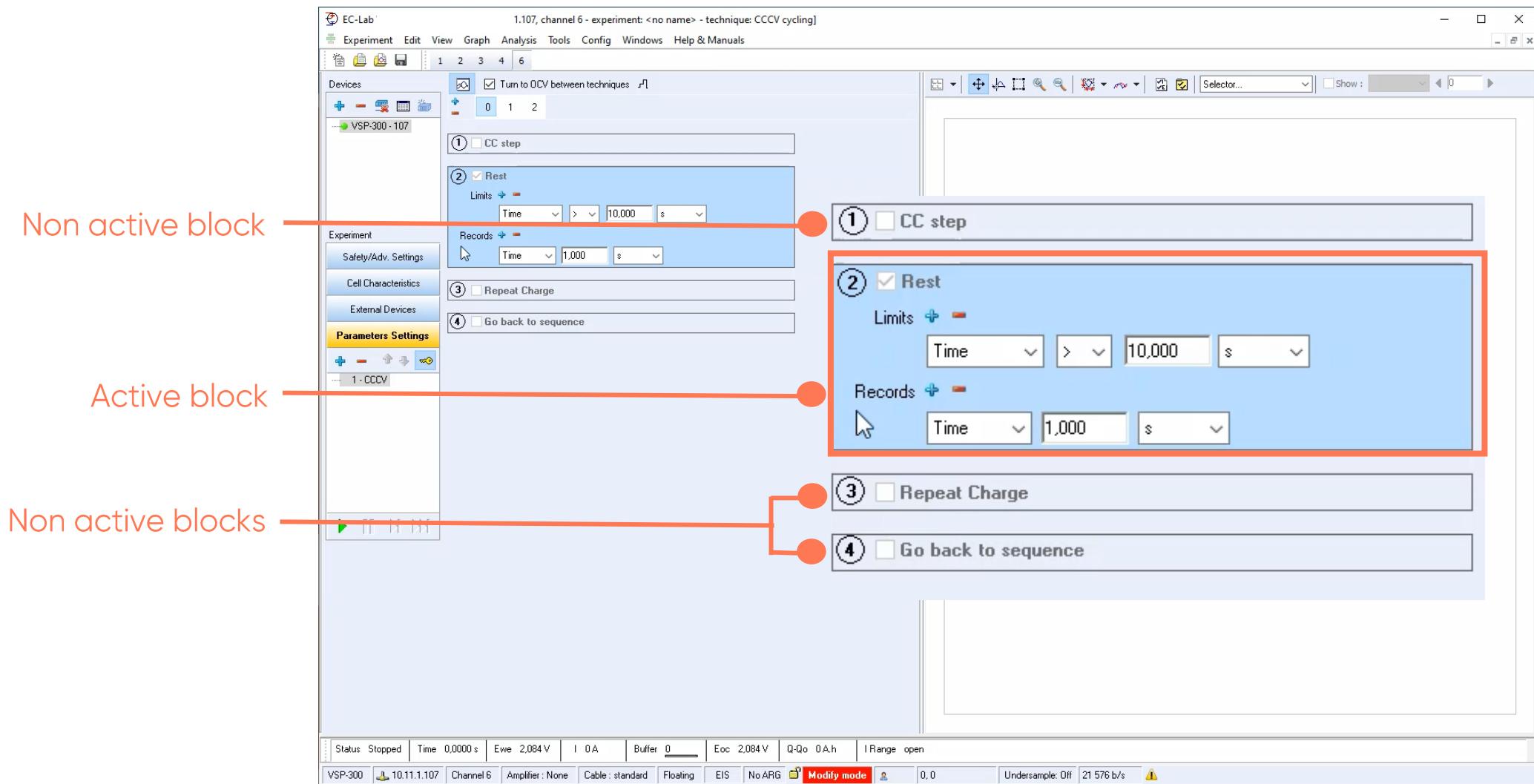
- Sequence 0 is a rest period



Note: Sequence 0 can't be removed



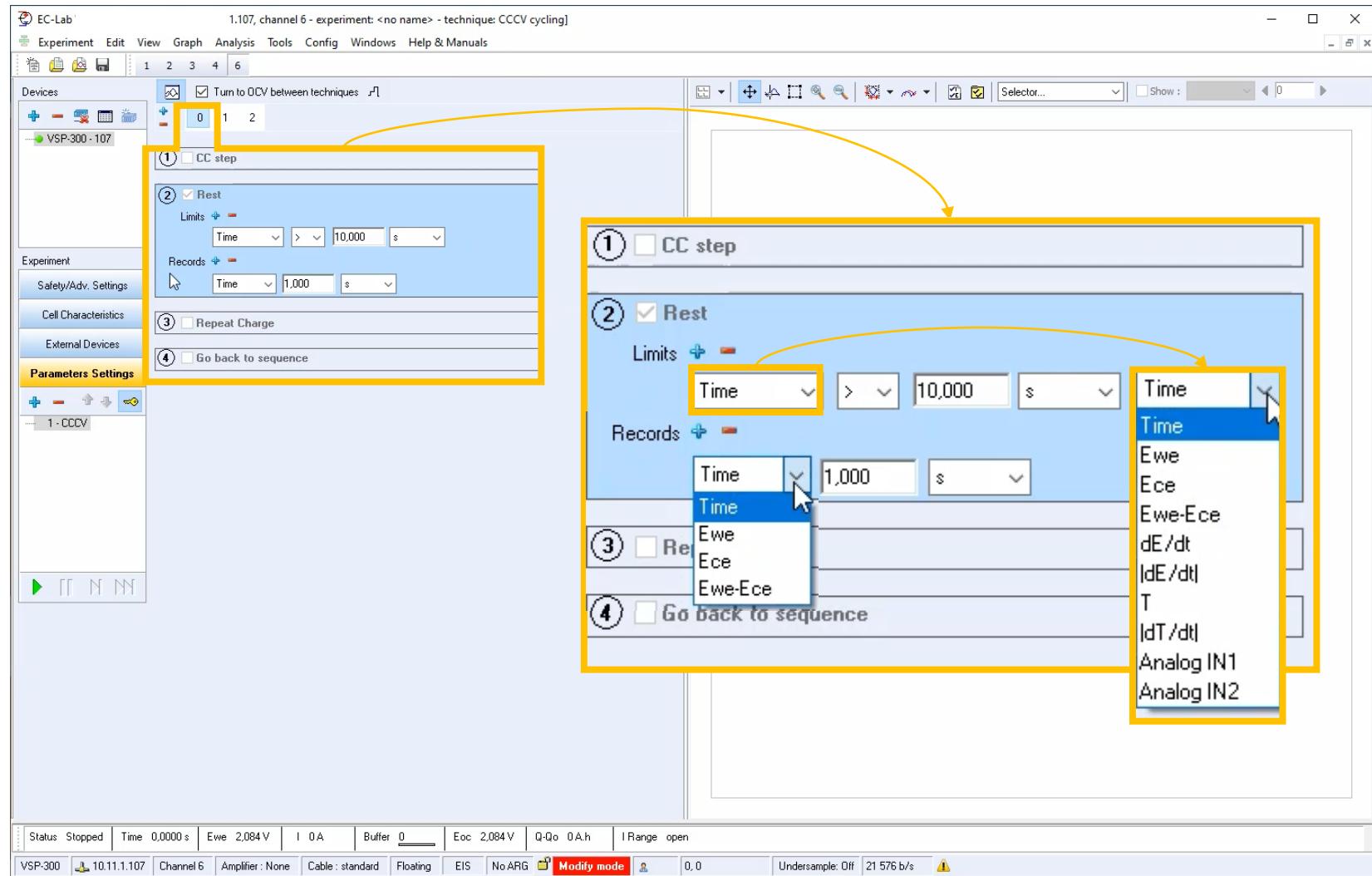
## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters





## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

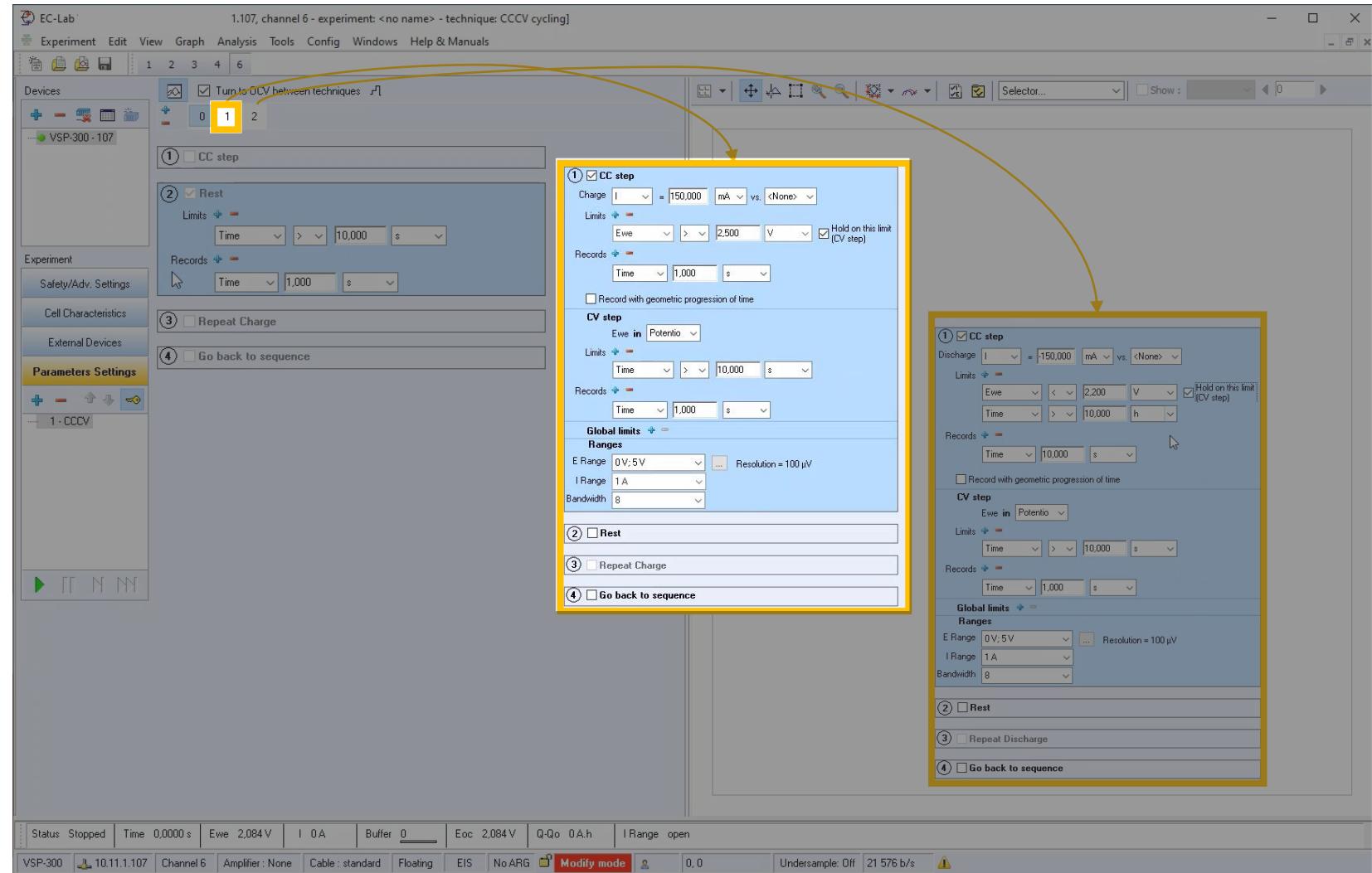
- Select limit(s) type and value
- Select record type and value





# Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- Click on « 1 » to display sequence « 1 »

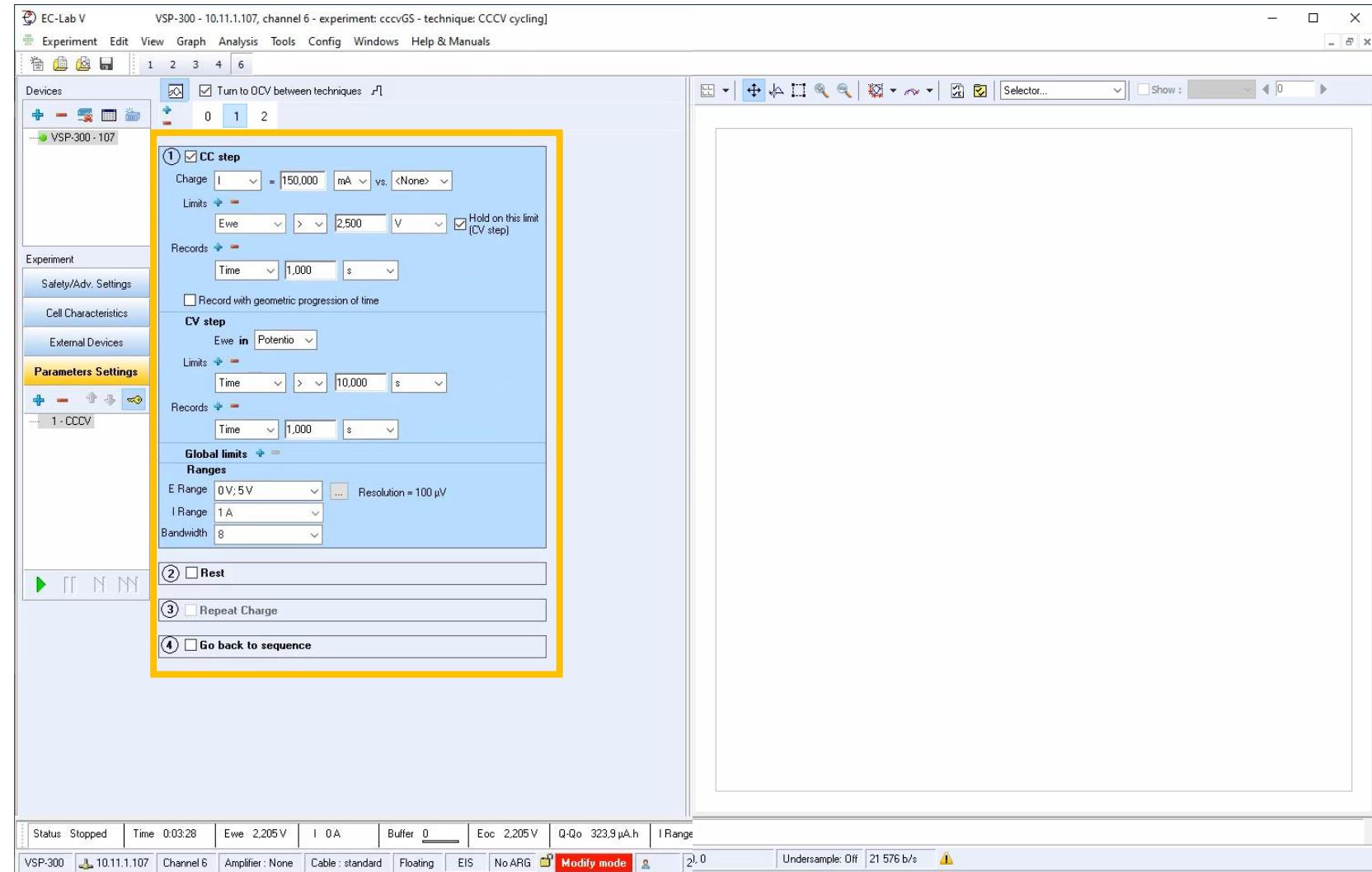


Note: Sequence 1 and 2 are designed in the same way



# Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- Sequence:
  - CC step
  - (CV step)
  - Rest
    - Repeat
  - Go back to

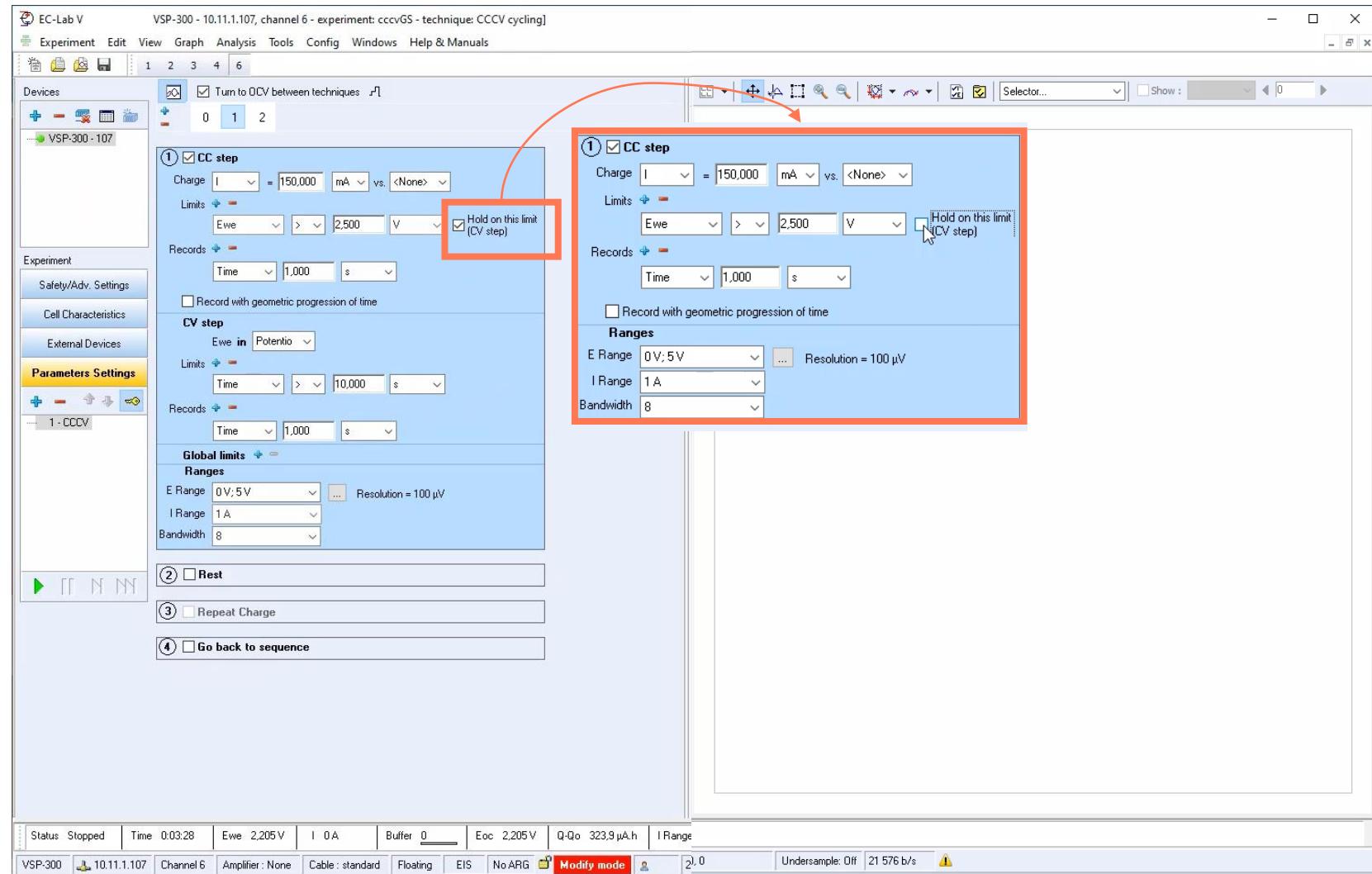


Note: Repeat allows to go back to beginning of sequence if after Rest, required voltage is not reached (steady-state not reached)



## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- If needed, uncheck « Hold on this limit » to remove CV step





# Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- Set applied current

The screenshot shows the EC-Lab software interface for setting CCCV parameters. The main window displays the 'Parameters Settings' tab for a '1 - CCCV' experiment. The 'CC step' section is active, showing a 'Charge' input set to 150,000 mA. Below it, the 'Limits' section includes a condition 'Ewe > 2,500 V' with a checked box for 'Hold on this limit (CV step)'. An inset window provides a detailed view of the 'Limits' section, showing options for 'C / N' and 'C x N'. To the right, a graph illustrates the current profile over time, featuring a rectangular pulse labeled  $I_s$  and  $t_1$ , with open circuit voltage levels indicated by dashed lines.

Note: Add « - » to the value to change from charge to discharge

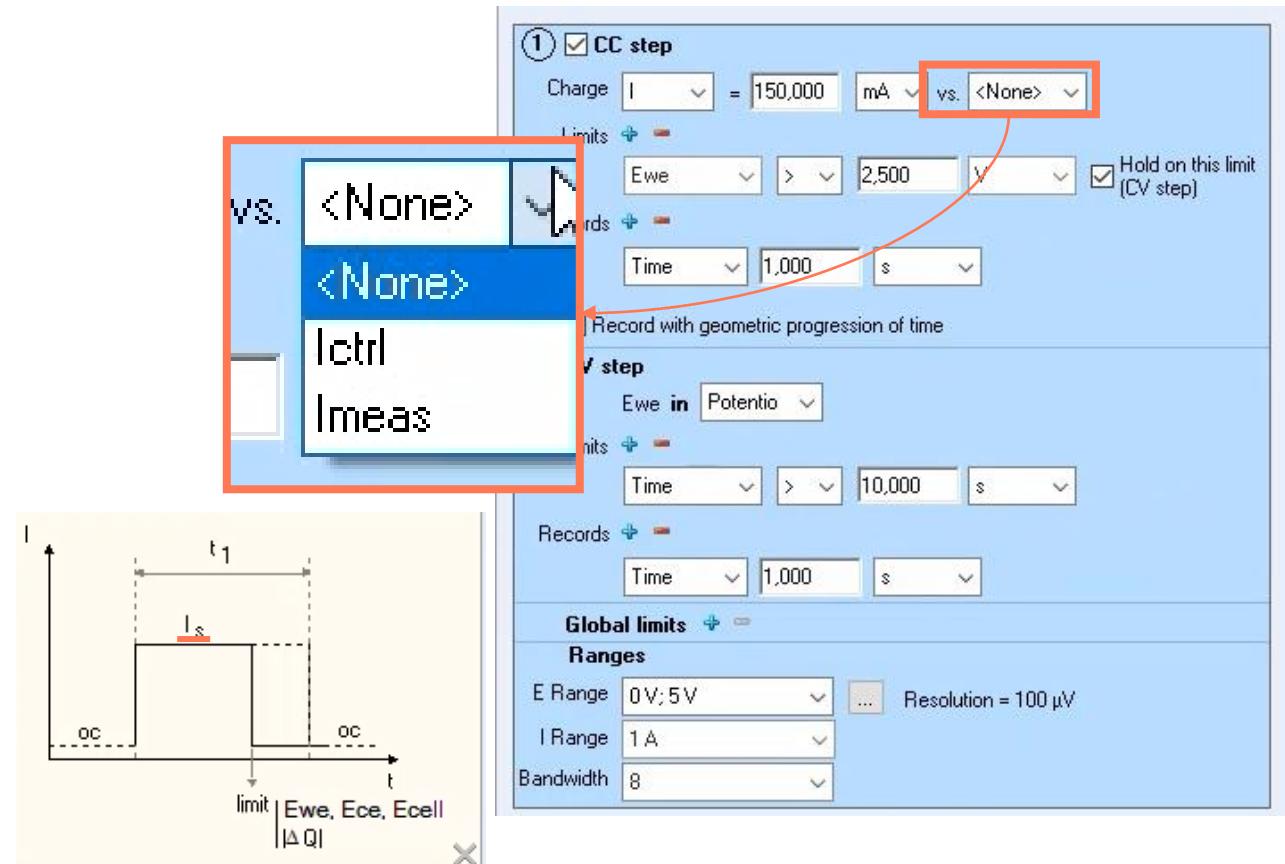
If the capacity of the battery is defined in [Cell characteristics](#), the user may select a rate instead of a current.



## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

Define I versus voltage  
of:

- Ictrl: the previous controlled current, if a technique is set before the CCCV
- Imeas: the previous measured current, if a technique is set before the CCCV





# Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- Set limit(s) type and value

Screenshot of the EC-Lab software interface showing the 'Parameters Settings' tab for a 'CC step'. A yellow box highlights the 'Limits' section where 'Ewe' is selected as the limit type. To the right, a graph shows current (I) versus time (t), illustrating the charge step (I\_s) and the hold phase (t\_1). The graph also indicates open circuit voltage (OC) levels.

EC-Lab [VSP-300 - 10.11.1.107, channel 6 - experiment: <no name> - technique: CCCV cycling]

Experiment Edit View Graph Analysis Tools Config Windows Help & Manuals

Devices VSP-300 - 107

Charge I = 150,000 mA vs. <None>

Limits Ewe > 2,500 V Hold on this limit (CV step)

Records Time Ewe .000 s

CV step

Power

Limits |Energy| dl/dt |dI/dt| |ΔSoC| Records |dE/dt| |dE/dt| Global Resolution = 100 µV

Ran E Range |ΔT| |dT/dt| Analog IN1 |Analog IN2| I Range Bandwidth 8

Status Stopped Time 0,000 s Ewe 2,084 V I 0 A Buffer 0 Eoc 2,084 V Q-Qo 0 A.h I Range open

VSP-300 10.11.1.107 Channel 6 Amplifier: None Cable: standard Floating EIS No ARG Modify mode 0,0 Undersample: Off 21 576 b/s

t<sub>1</sub>

I<sub>s</sub>

OC

t

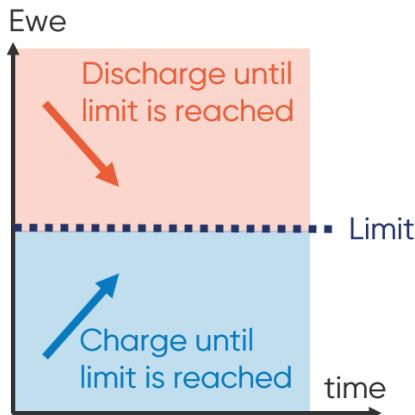
limit Ewe, Ece, Ecell |ΔQ|

Note: By default, voltage Ewe is the limit



## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

Sign is automatically updated according to the sign of the current



EC-Lab [VSP-300 - 10.11.1.107, channel 6 - experiment: <no name> - technique: CCCV cycling]

Experiment Edit View Graph Analysis Tools Config Windows Help & Manuals

Devices VSP-300 - 107

①  CC step

Charge  $I = 150,000$  mA vs. <None>

Limits  $E_{we} > 2,500$  V  Hold on this limit (CV step)

Records Time 1.000 s

Record with geometric progression of time

CV step

Ewe in Potentio

Limits  $E_{we} > 10,000$  s

Records Time 1.000 s

Global limits Ranges

E Range 0 V; 5 V Resolution = 100  $\mu$ V

I Range 1 A

Bandwidth 8

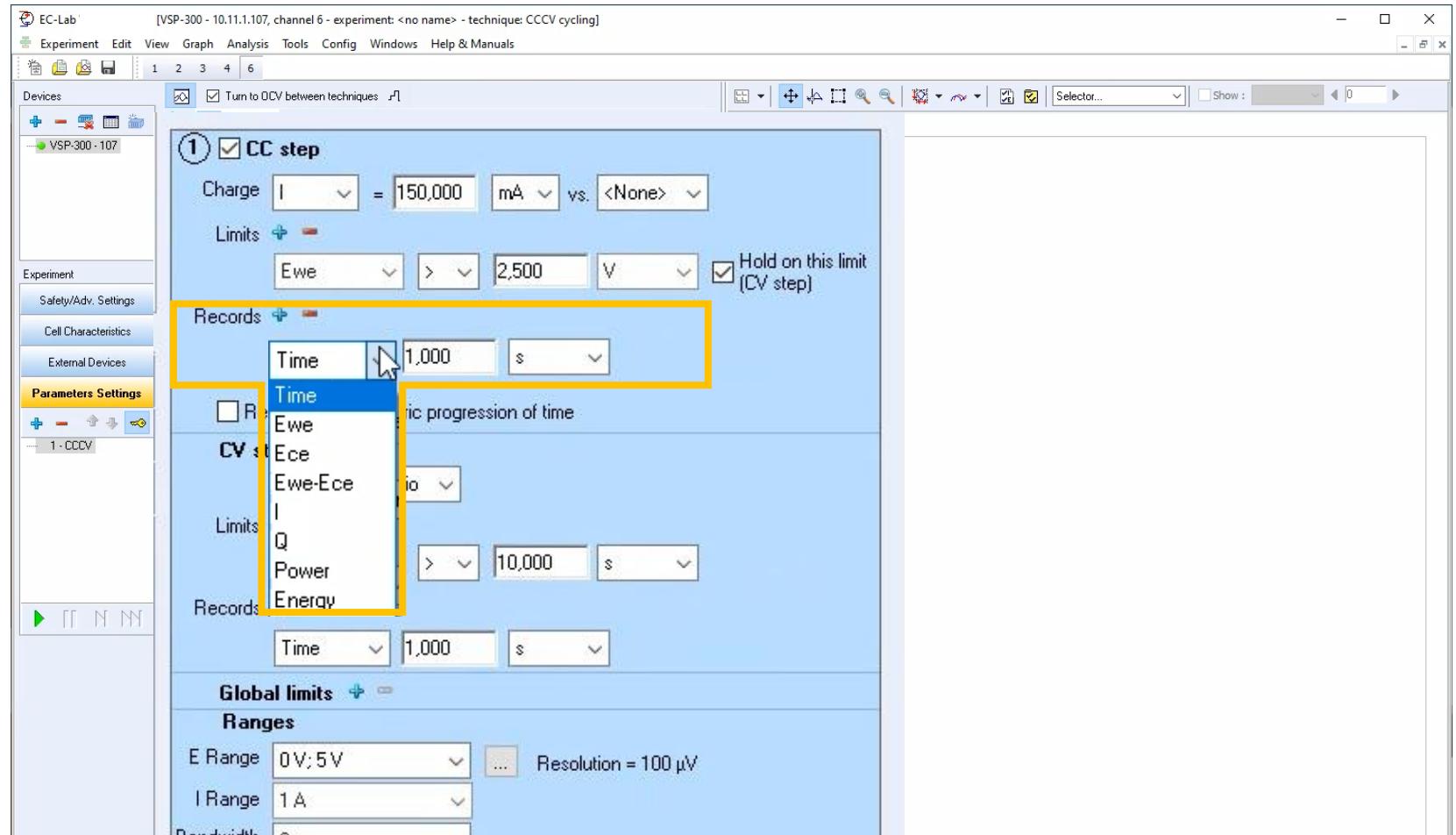
Status Stopped | Time 0,000 s | Ewe 2,084 V | I 0 A | Buffer 0 | Eoc 2,084 V | Q-Qo 0 A.h | I Range open

VSP-300 10.11.1.107 Channel 6 Amplifier: None Cable: standard Floating EIS No ARG Modify mode 0,0 Undersample: Off 21 576 b/s



## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- Set record(s) type and value



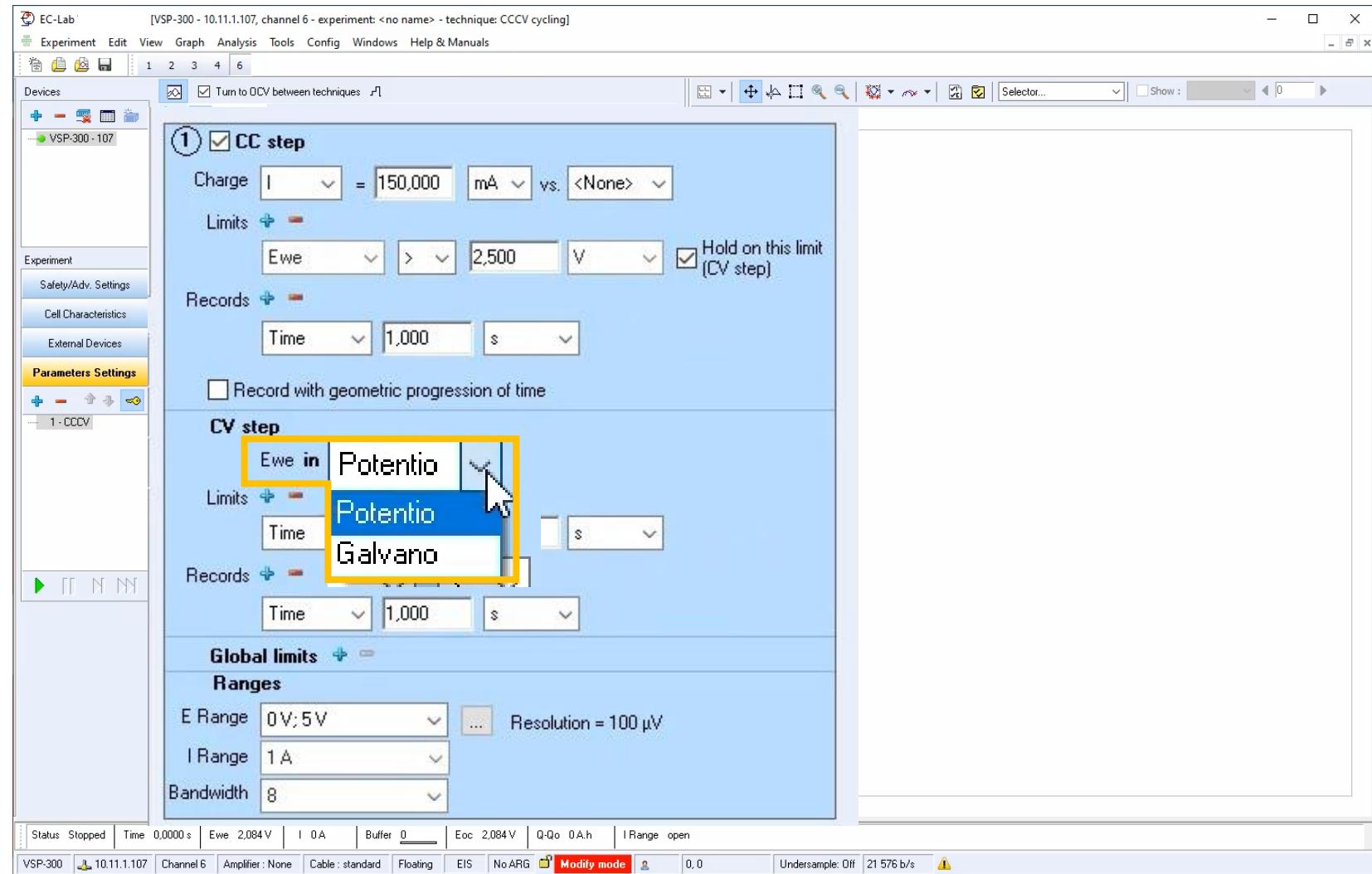
Note: By default, it is recorded in time

As battery testing may take several months, only the relevant points can be recorded (i.e. variations) depending on selected sampling rate.



## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- Select control mode for CV step

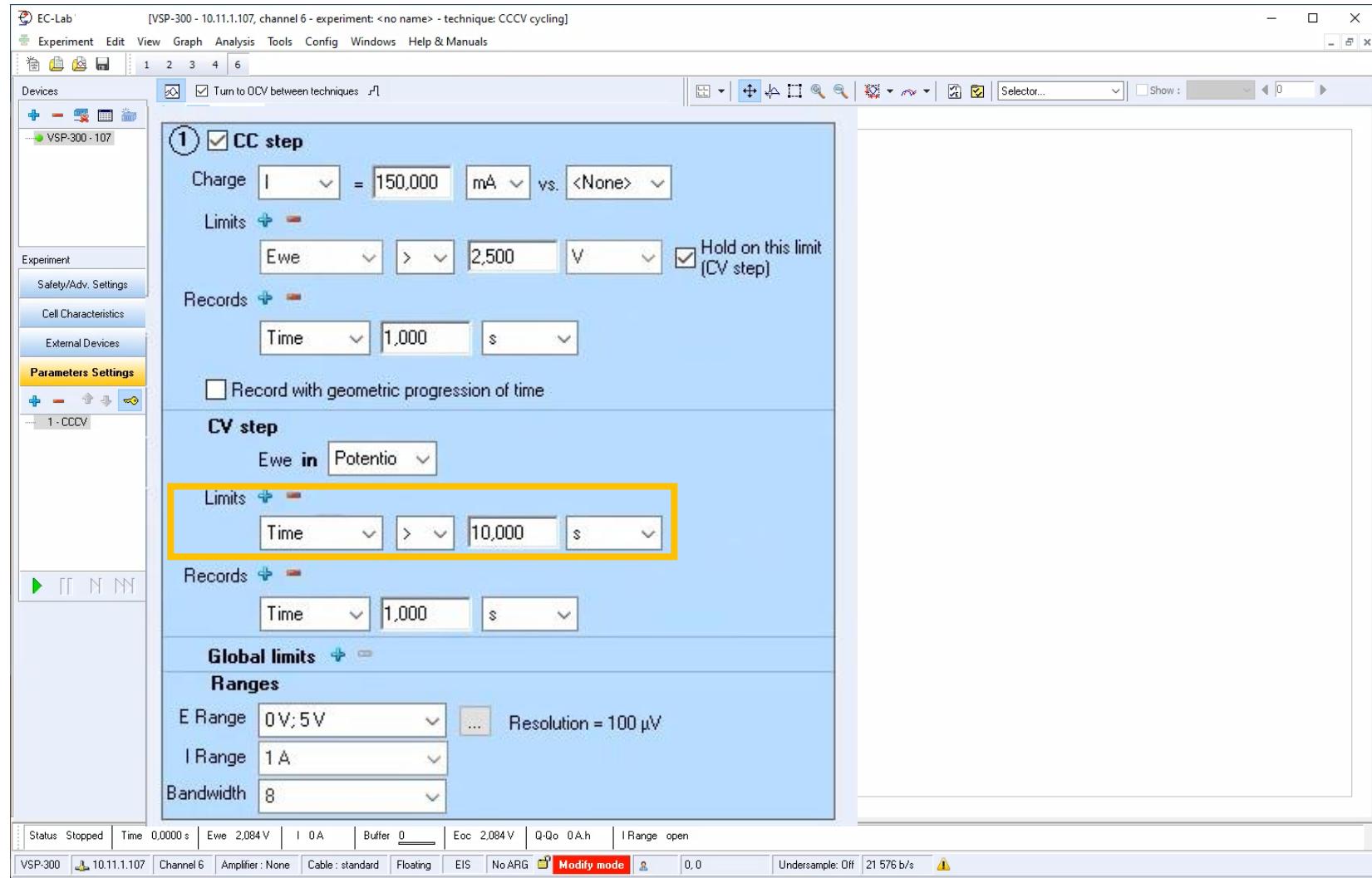


Note: By default, it is potentio



## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

- Set limit(s) type and value



Note: By default, the limit is time



## Step 2: Set CCCV parameters

The screenshot shows the EC-Lab software interface for setting CCCV parameters. The main window displays two steps: CC step and CV step.

**CC step:**

- Charge:  $I = 150,000 \text{ mA}$  vs. **<None>**
- Limits: Ewe > 2,500 V. A checkbox "Hold on this limit (CV step)" is checked.
- Records: Time 1.000 s
- A checkbox "Record with geometric progression of time" is highlighted with a red rectangle.

**CV step:**

- Ewe in Potentio
- Limits: Time > 10,000 s
- Records: Time 1.000 s

**Ranges:**

- E Range: 0 V; 5 V Resolution = 100  $\mu\text{V}$
- I Range: 1 A
- Bandwidth: 8

**Annotations:**

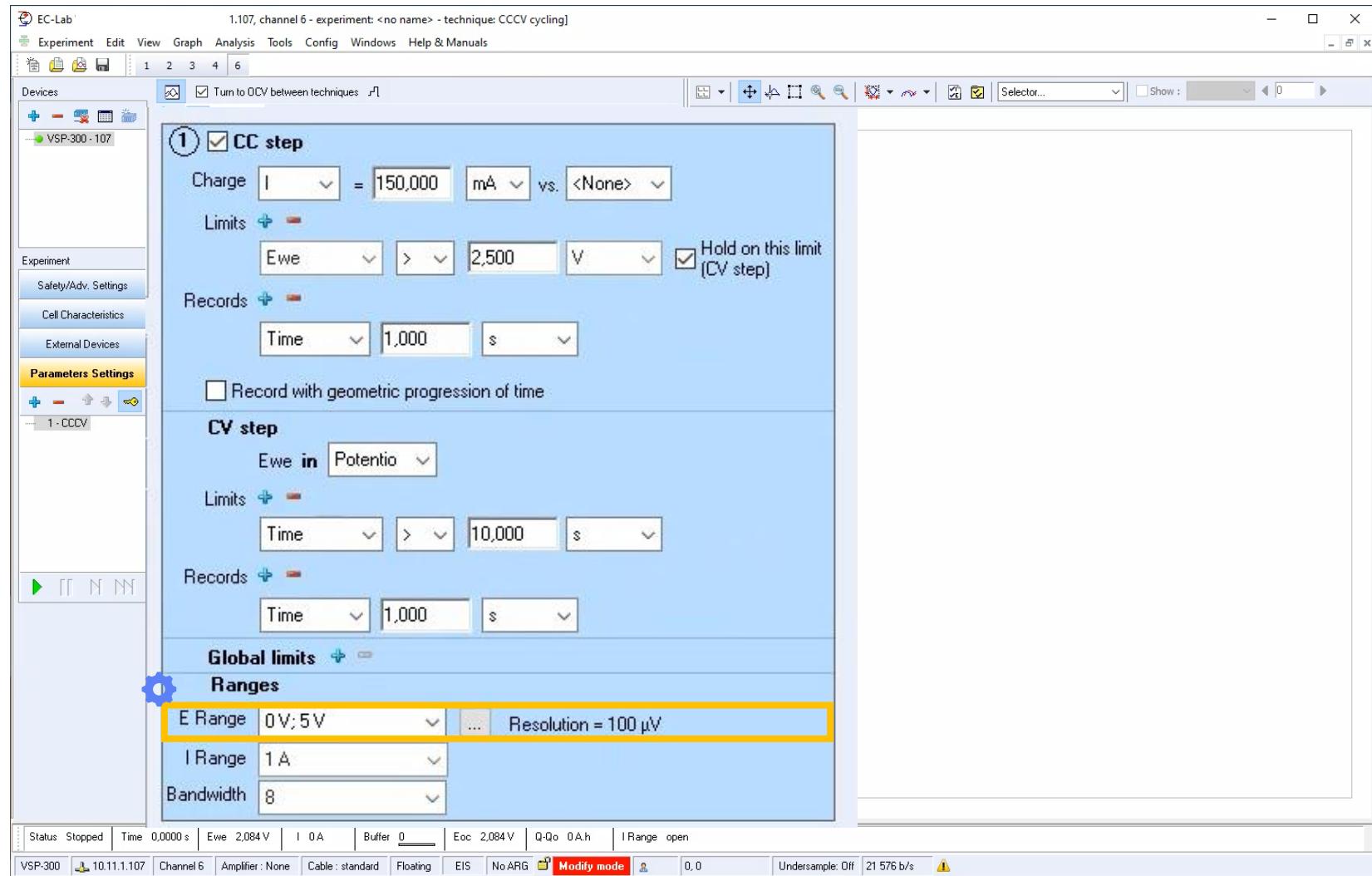
- A red circle highlights the "Record with geometric progression of time" checkbox in the CC step section.
- A red circle highlights the "Global limits" button in the Ranges section.
- Text annotations in orange:
  - "Fast sampling rate at the beginning (to process the apparent resistance)" points to the CC step section.
  - "Global limits are applied to the whole sequence" points to the Global limits button.



# Step 3: Optimize the measurement

- E Range is the range of expected voltage

⚙ E Range has to be wide enough to be in the range of the operating voltage of the battery but narrow enough to get an optimized resolution in the voltage measurement/control

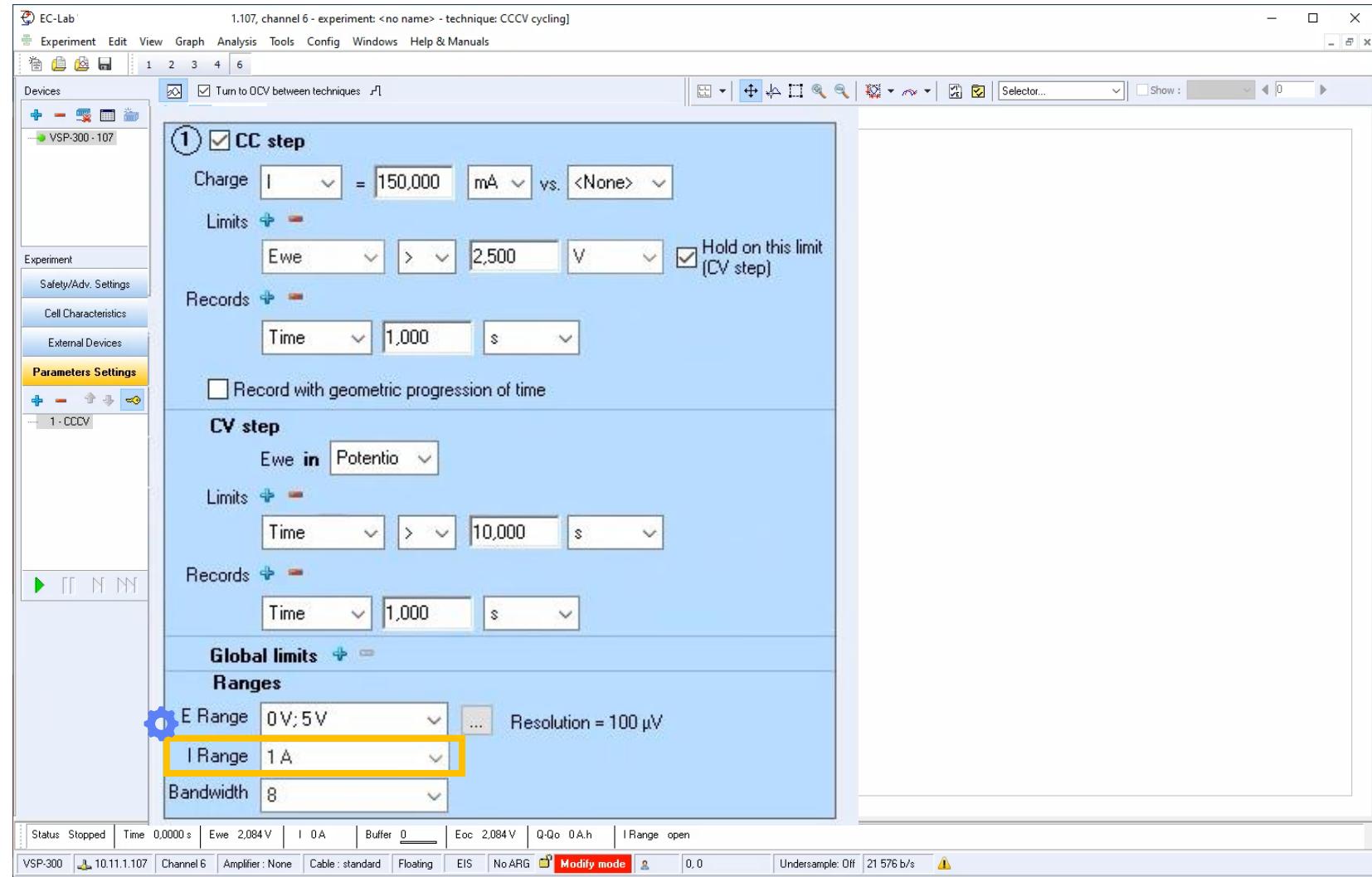




# Step 3: Optimize the measurement

- I Range is the range of expected current
- Autorange is available

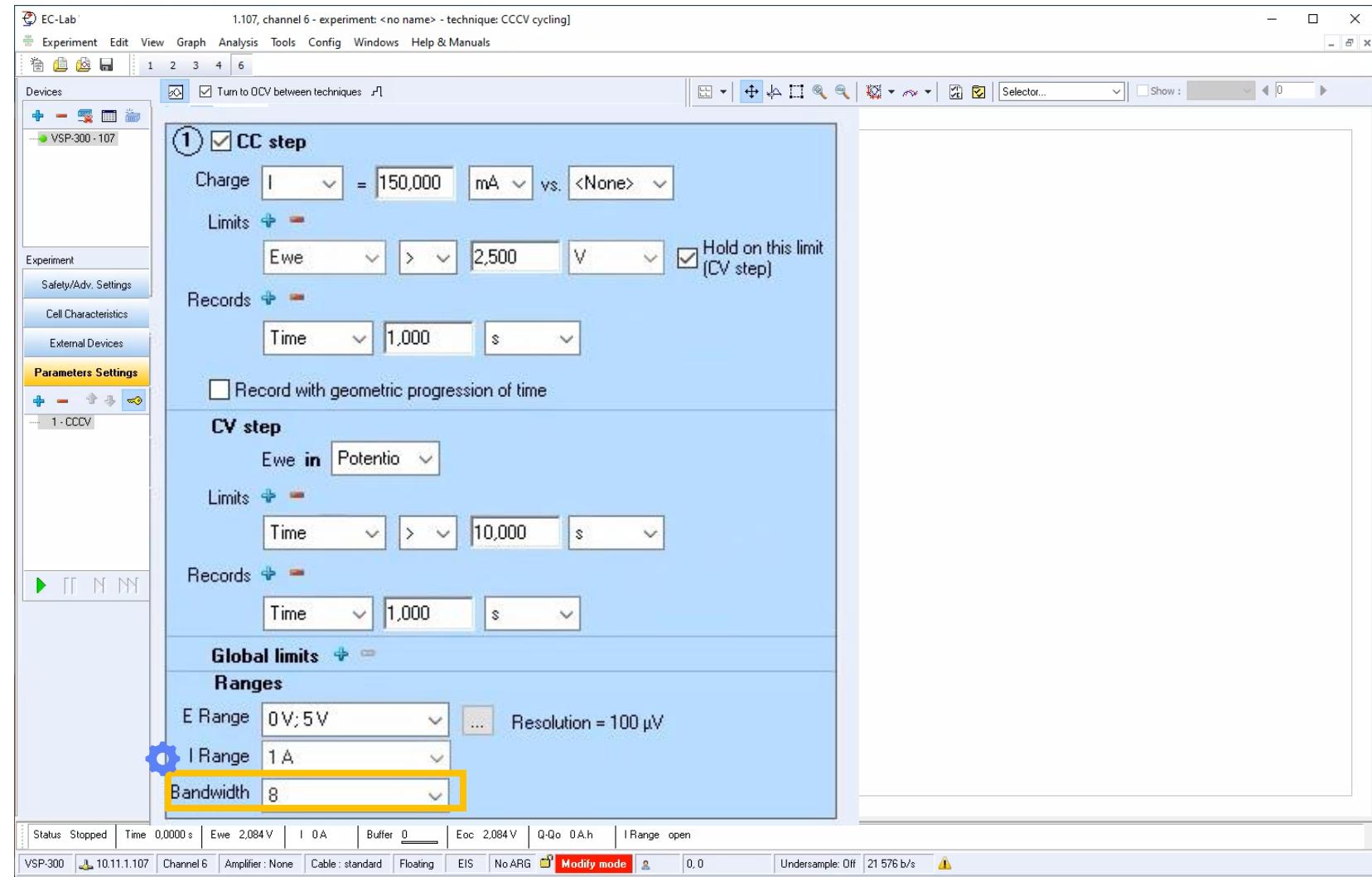
Autorange optimizes current and enables to perform charge/discharge cycles at different C-rates within the same technique





# Step 3: Optimize the measurement

- Adjust bandwidth to make sure potentiostat controls the cell in stable and fast way



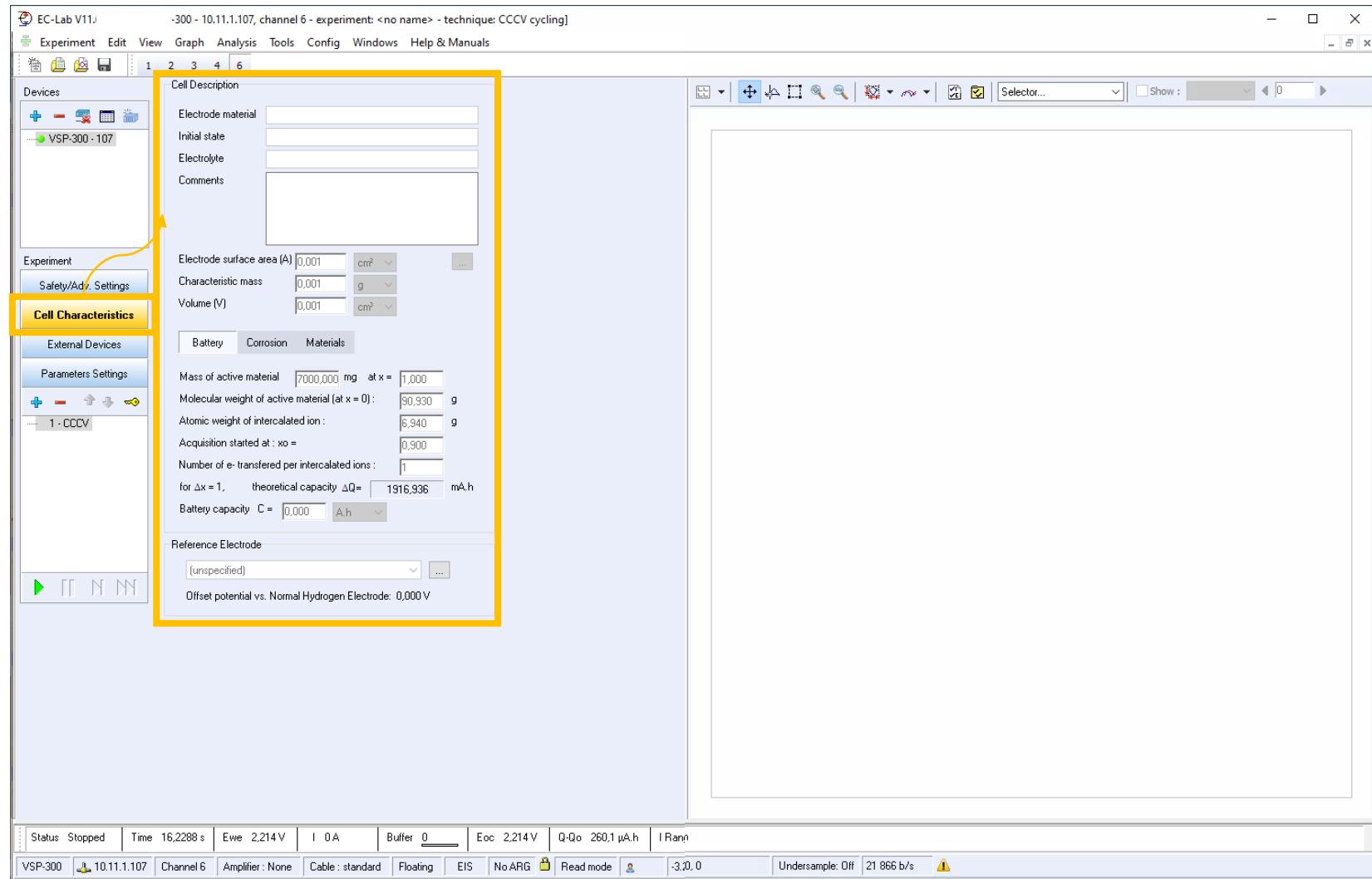
As battery have slow response, a slow bandwidth is appropriate.

- 5-slow for Essential
- 7-slow for Premium



# Step 4: Set general parameters

- Add information and comments about the cell



Note: All this information is stored in the data file



# Step 4: Set general parameters

Dedicated battery section

Fill battery capacity to work in C-rate instead in current

EC-Lab V11.1 -300 - 10.11.1.107, channel 6 - experiment: <no name> - technique: CCCV cycling

Cell Description

Electrode material: [ ]

Initial state: [ ]

Electrolyte: [ ]

Comments: [ ]

Electrode surface area (A) [0.001]  ...

Characteristic mass [0.001]  g

Volume (V) [0.001]  cm³

**Battery** **Corrosion** **Materials**

Mass of active material [7000.000] mg at x = [1.000]

Molecular weight of active material (at x = 0) : [80.930] g

Atomic weight of intercalated ion : [6.940] g

Acquisition started at : xo = [0.900]

Number of e- transferred per intercalated ions : [1]

for  $\Delta x = 1$ , theoretical capacity  $\Delta Q = [1916.936]$  mA.h

Battery capacity C = [0.000] A.h  ...

Reference Electrode: [unspecified]  ...

Offset potential vs. Normal Hydrogen Electrode: 0.000 V

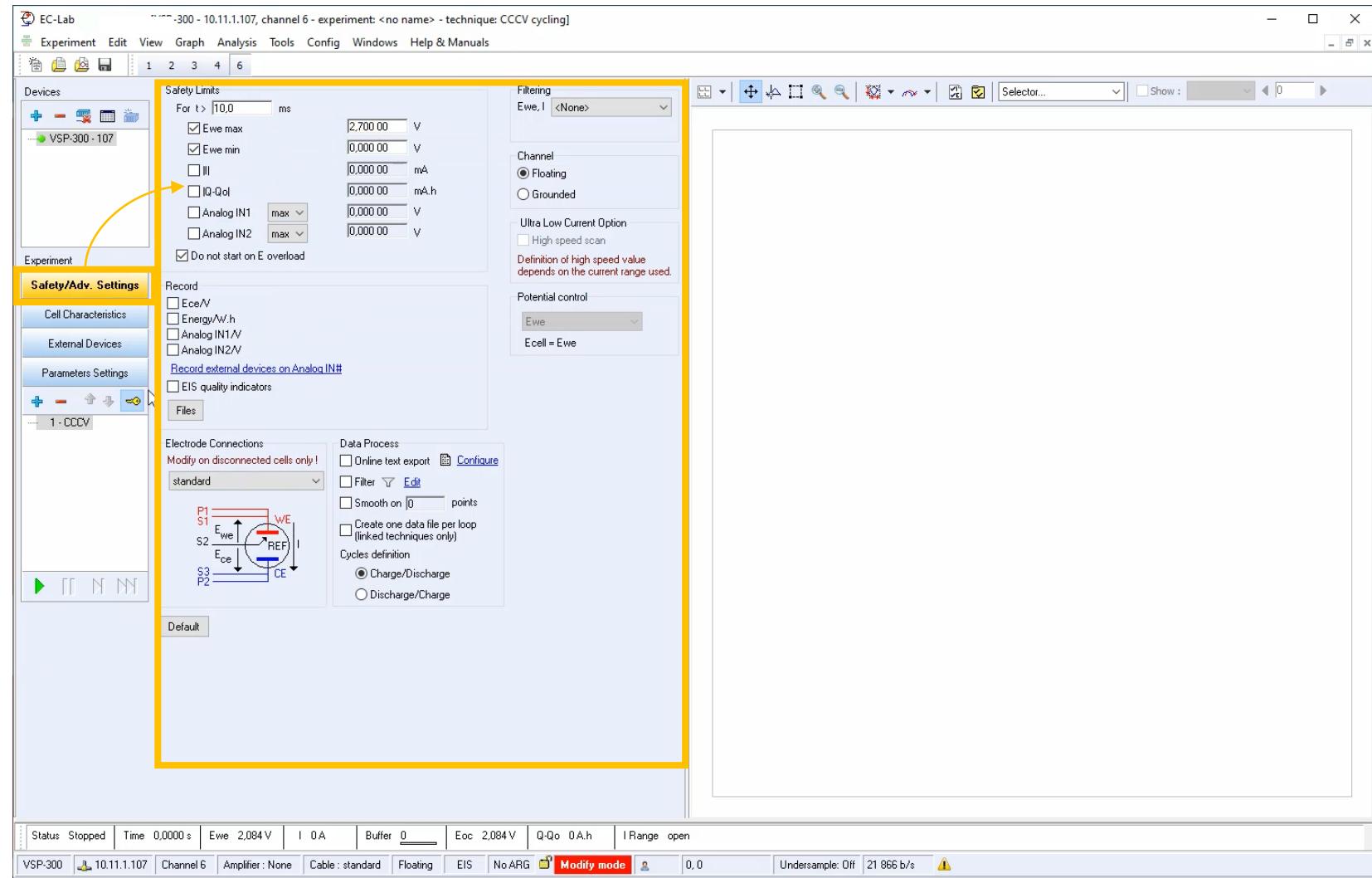
Status: Stopped | Time: 16.2288 s | Ewe: 2.214 V | I: 0 A | Buffer: 0 | Eoc: 2.214 V | Q-Qo: 260.1 µAh | I Rann:

VSP-300 | 10.11.1.107 | Channel 6 | Amplifier: None | Cable: standard | Floating | EIS | No ARG | Read mode | -3.0, 0 | Undersample: Off | 21 866 b/s |



# Step 4: Set general parameters

- Safety and Advanced Settings are available here

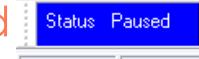


Note: This windows is different for the Essential and Premium instruments.

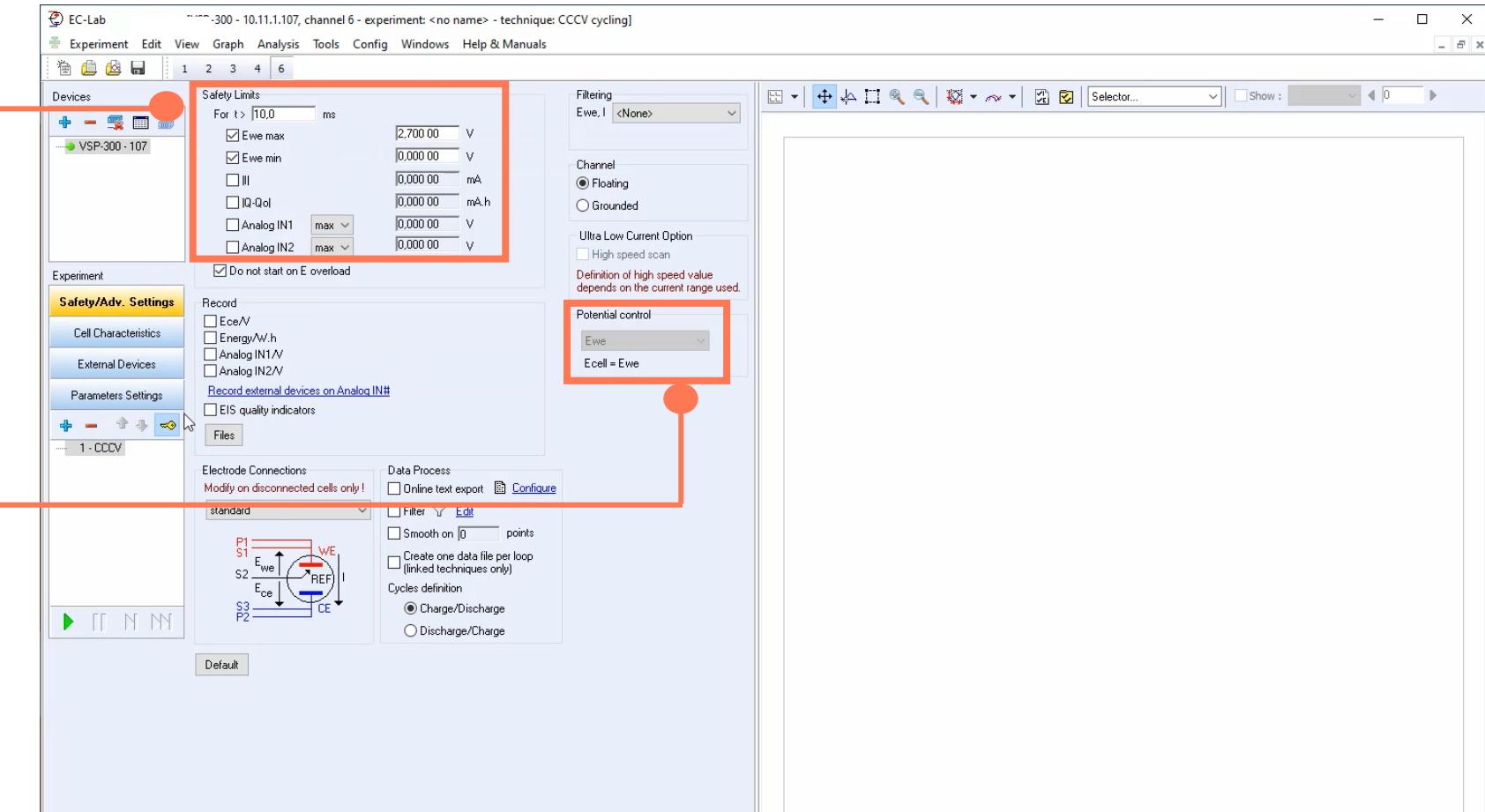


# Step 4: Set general parameters

Safety limits are active  
for all loaded  
techniques,  
if a limit is reached:  
paused



Control potential of Ewe  
(between positive electrode and ref)  
or Ewe-Ece  
(between positive and negative electrode)

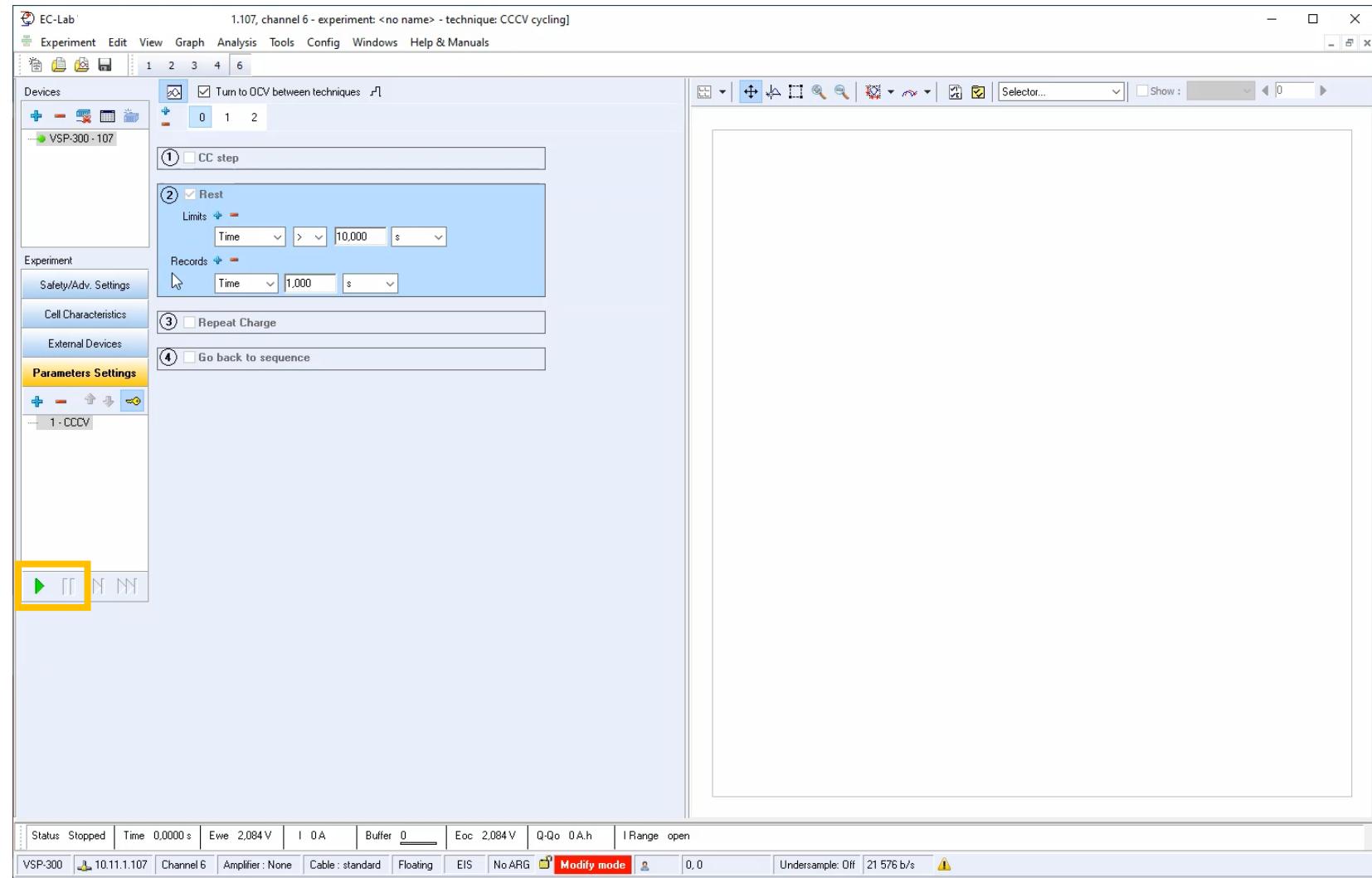


For stack experiment (only available for Essential potentiostats), it is possible to use the voltage of each cell as safety limits.



# Step 5: Launch the measurement

- Click on ▶ to launch experiment

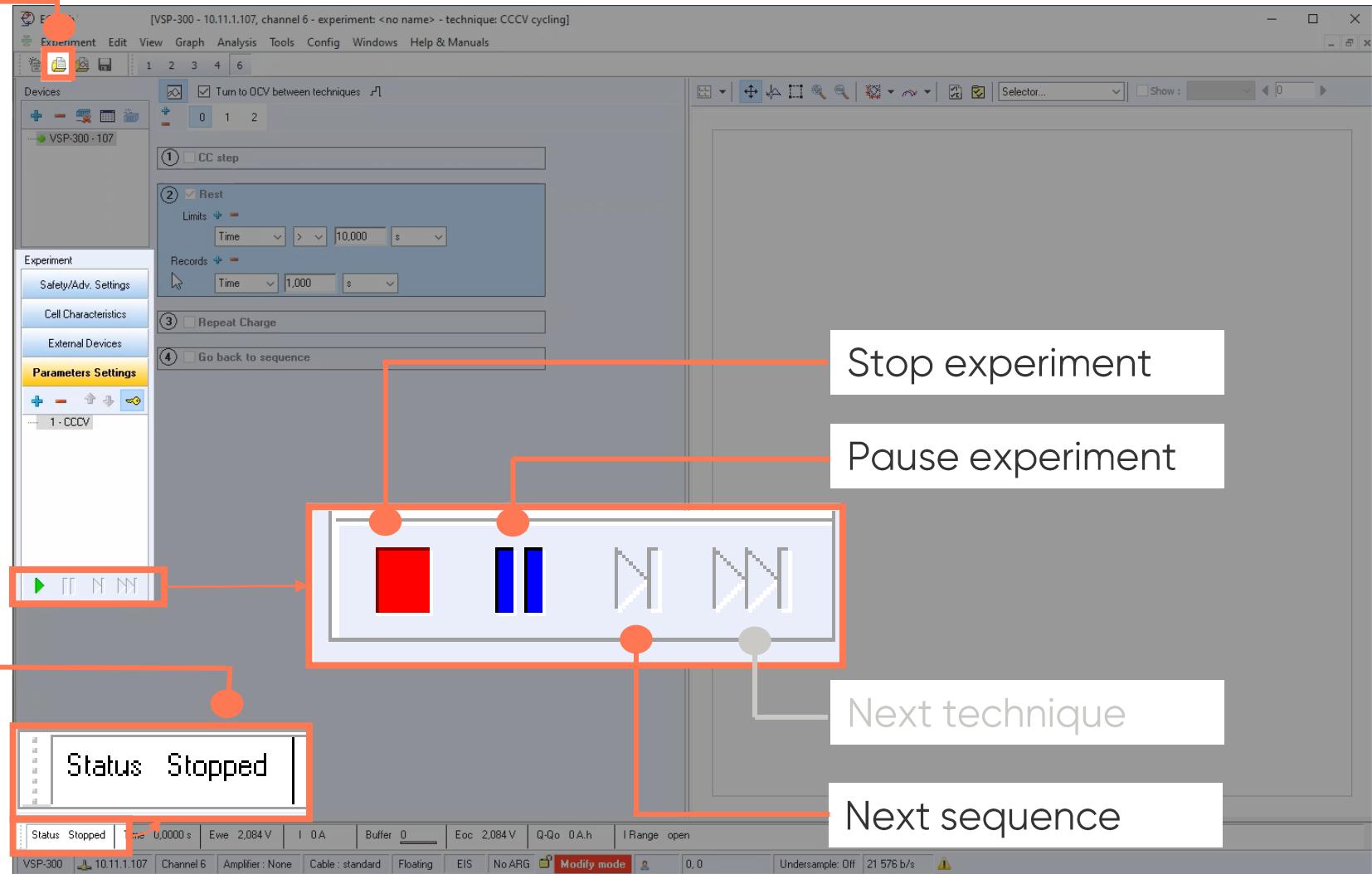


Note: All the settings may be changed during the experiment (Modify on the fly) except Irange, Erange, bandwidth



# Step 5: Launch the measurement

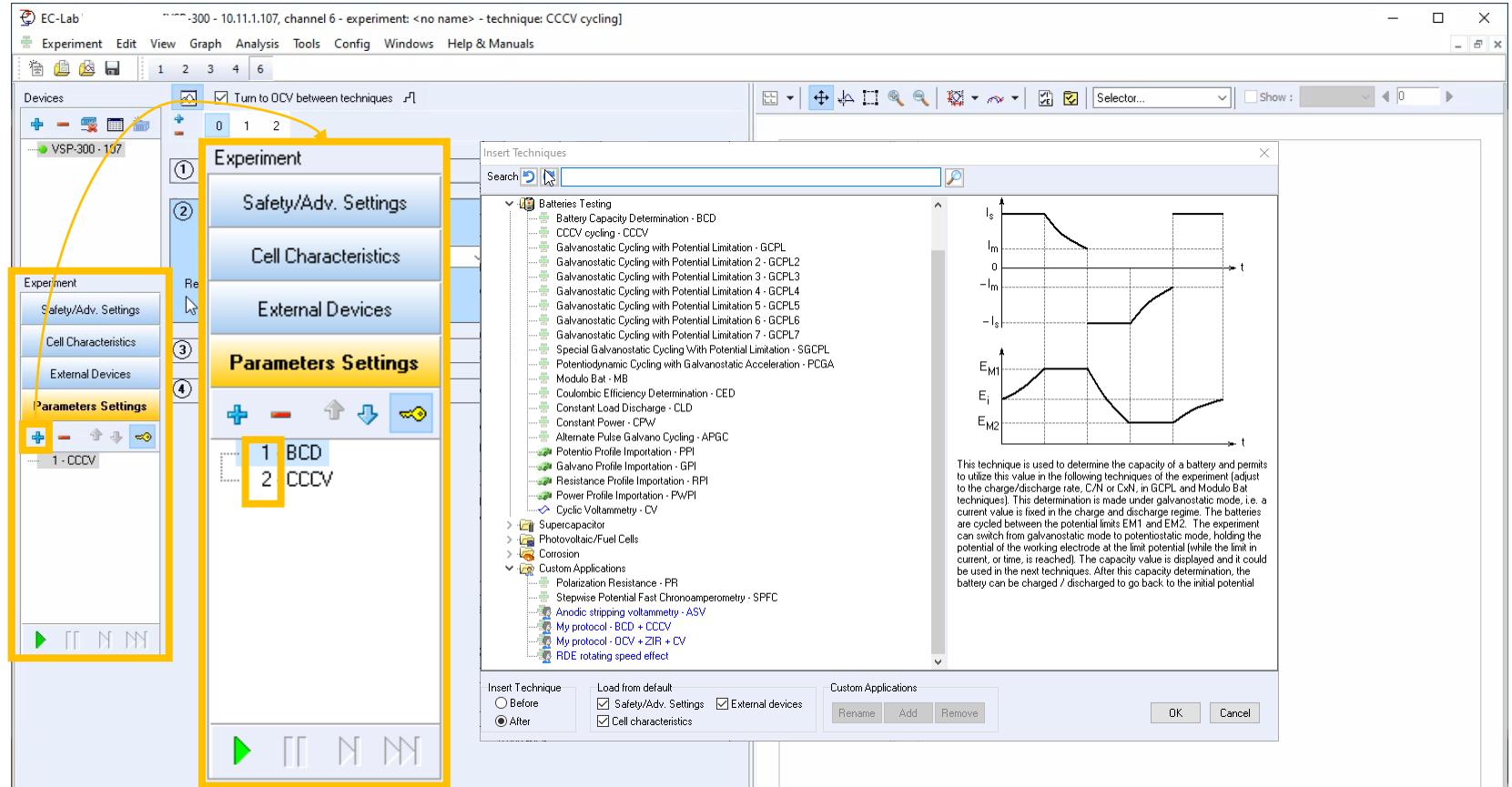
Load techniques with same  
settings using a .mps file  
created when launching the  
experiment





# Step 6: Add additional experiments

- Click on + button to add more techniques
- Order of execution appears in the technique list



You can save personalized protocols to technique list with (in the main bar menu Experiment) and find it under Electrochemical Application - Custom Applications





# Step 6: Add additional experiments

Can be used to determine battery capacity and use value in the following technique (refer to TN#38)

The screenshot shows the EC-Lab software interface for a VSP-300 setup. The main window displays the 'Experiment' configuration for 'Battery Capacity Determination'. Key parameters include:

- Set I to  $I_{S1} = 260.000 \text{ mA}$  for  $t_1 = 11 \text{ h } 0 \text{ mn } 0.000 \text{ s}$
- Limit  $E_{we} > E_{M1} = 4.200 \text{ V vs. Ref}$  and  $E_{we} < E_{M2} = 2.700 \text{ V vs. Ref}$
- Record every  $dE_{we} 1 = 0.0 \text{ mV}$  or  $dt_1 = 10.000 \text{ s}$
- Hold  $E_{M1}$  (on charge) once reached for  $t_M = 1 \text{ h } 0 \text{ mn } 0.000 \text{ s}$  with  $I_m = 130.000 \text{ mA}$
- E Range = 0 V - 5 V, Resolution = 100  $\mu\text{V}$ , I Range = 1 A, Bandwidth = 8
- Rest for  $t_R = 0 \text{ h } 0 \text{ mn } 0.000 \text{ s}$ , Limit  $|dE_{we}| / dt < dE_{we} / dt = 0.0 \text{ mV/h}$
- Record every  $dE_{we} R = 0.0 \text{ mV}$  or  $dt_R = 0.000 \text{ s}$
- Discharge with the same rate: Set I to  $I_{S2} = 260.000 \text{ mA}$  for  $t_2 = 11 \text{ h } 0 \text{ mn } 0.000 \text{ s}$

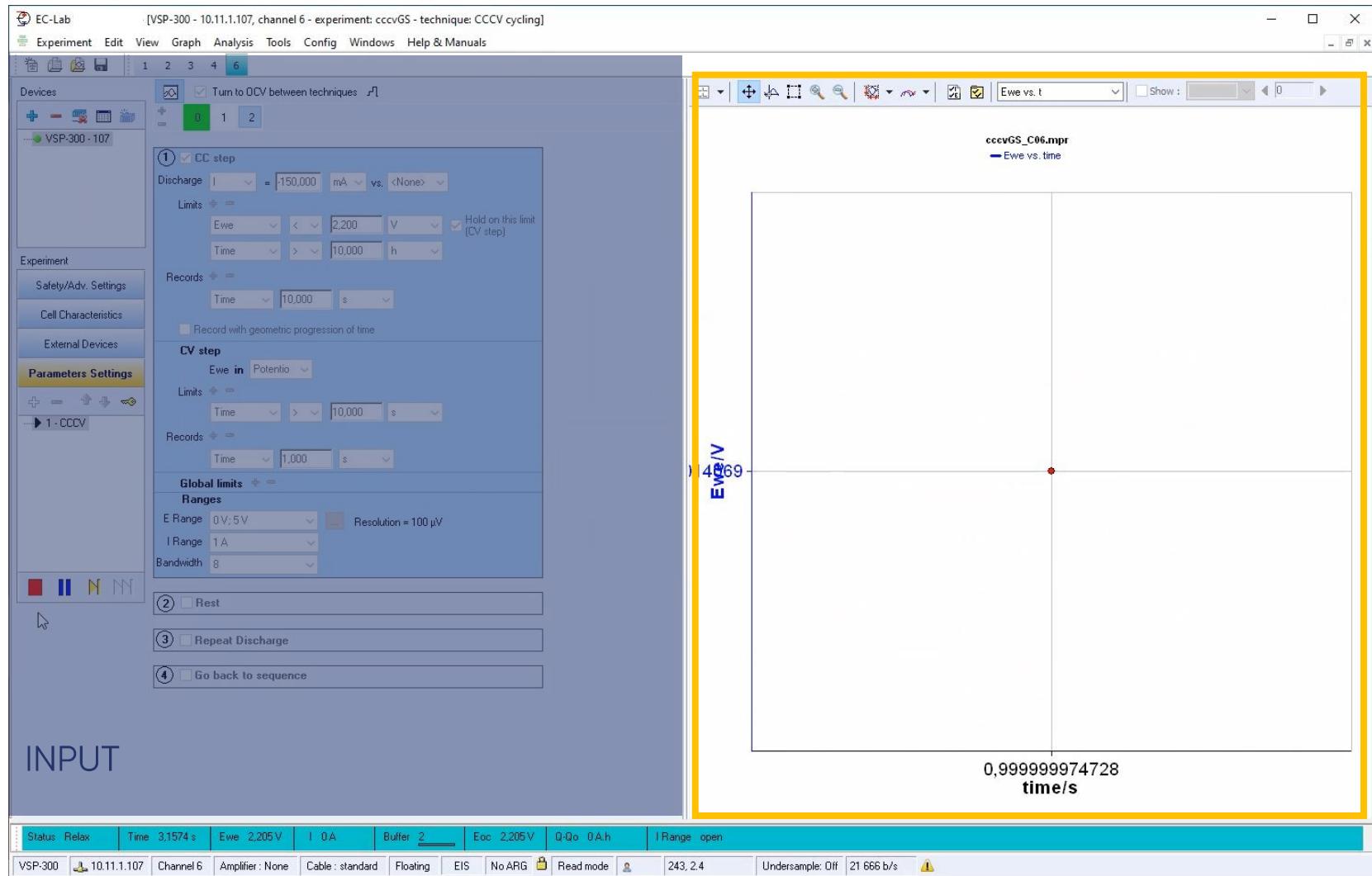
The 'Insert Techniques' dialog is open, showing a list of available techniques under 'Batteries Testing' and 'Custom Applications'. A graph on the right illustrates the charge and discharge cycles between potential limits  $E_{M1}$  and  $E_{M2}$ .

**Result:** Capacity = 0.000 mAh  
 use the capacity value in the following techniques



# Step 7: Read the graph

- Graphic is displayed in real time
- Data are saved in .mpr file





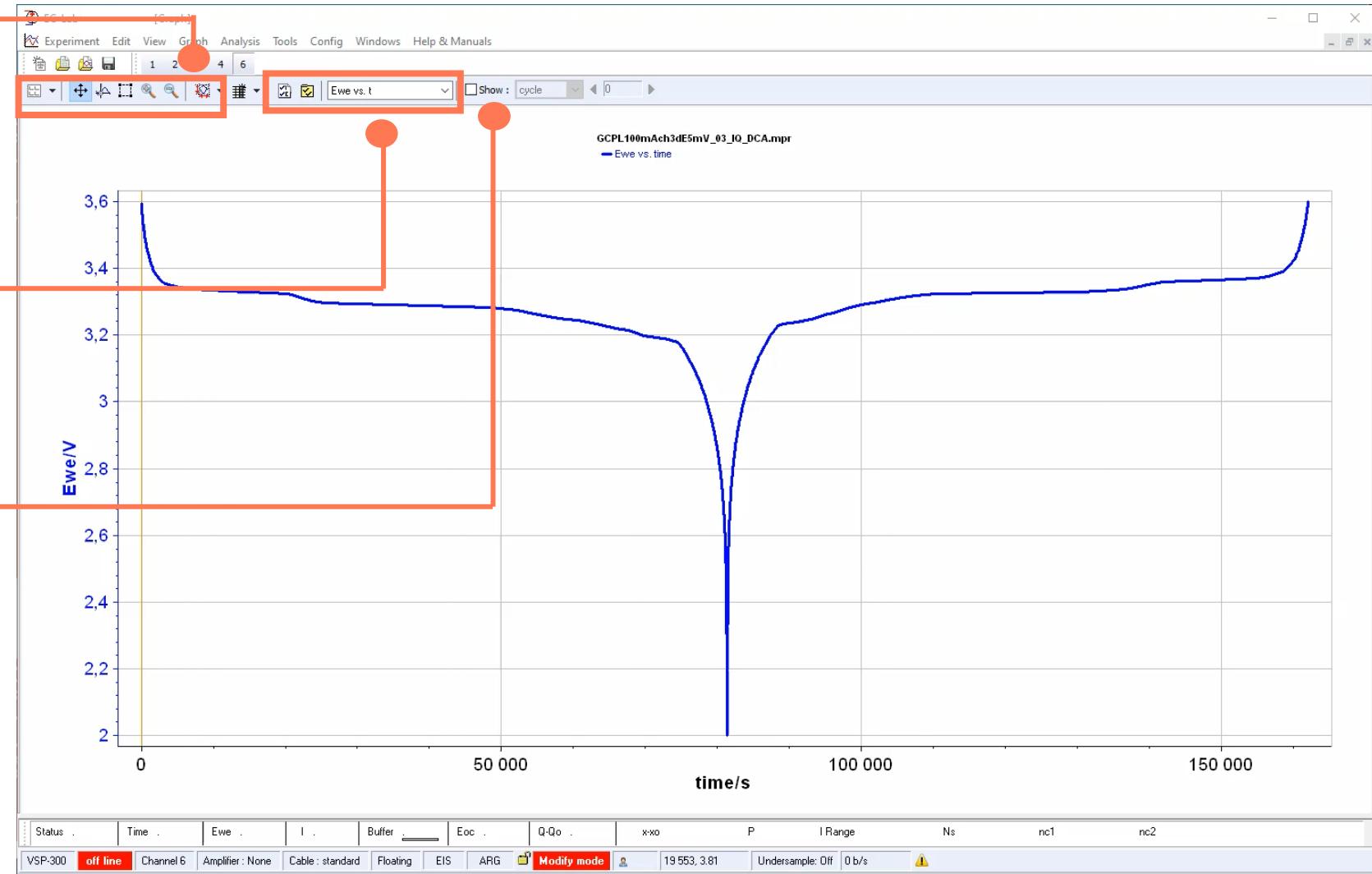
# Step 7: Read the graph

Browse through  
the graph

(Filter, Scroll, Cursor,  
Selection, Zoom +, Zoom  
-, Autoscale)

Modify the graph  
(Selector, graphic  
properties,  
representations)

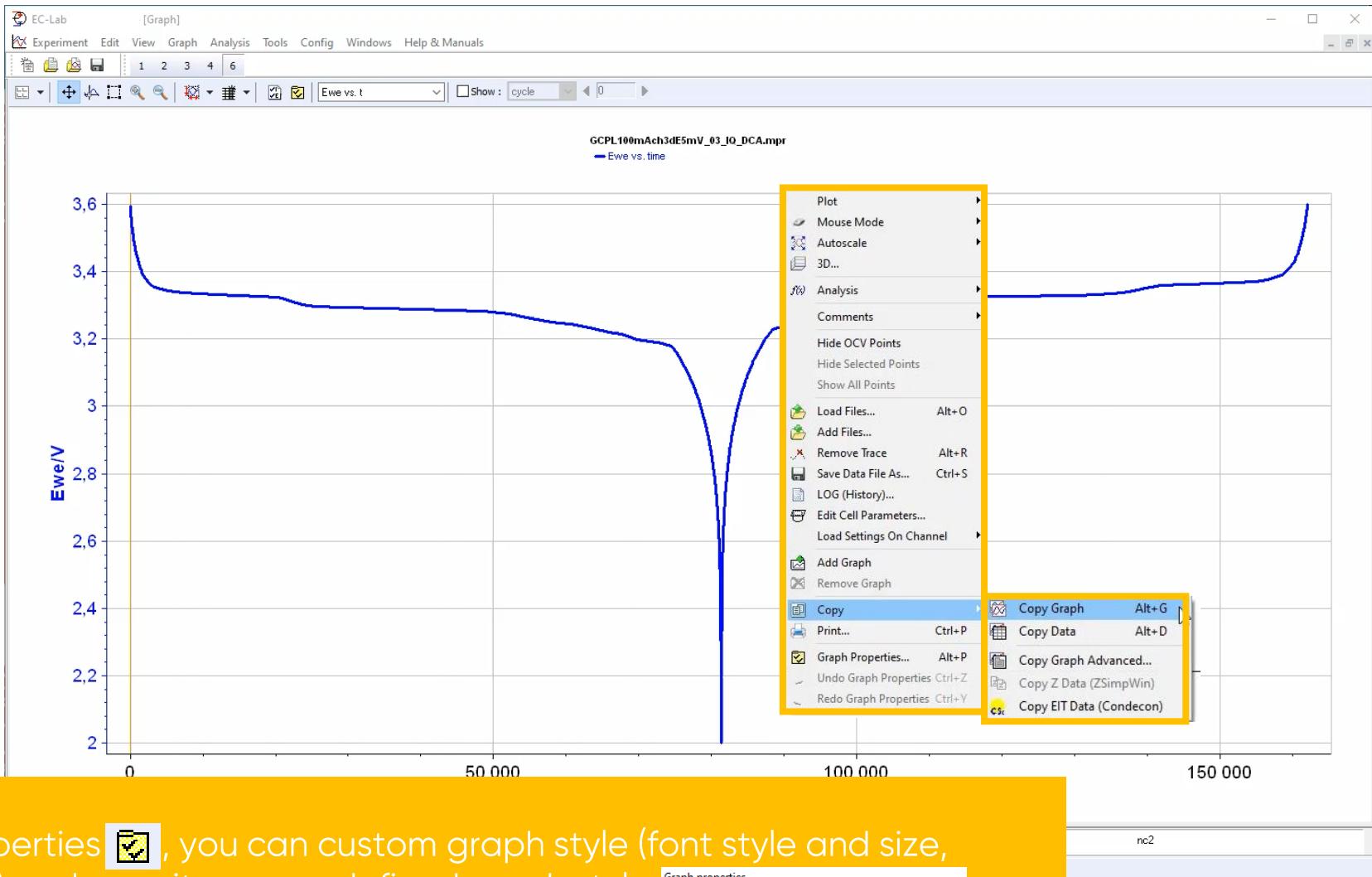
Show only selected  
cycle





# Step 7: Read the graph

- Copy graph as a picture with a right click on the graph



In graph properties , you can custom graph style (font style and size, traces, grid...) and save it as a predefined graph style.

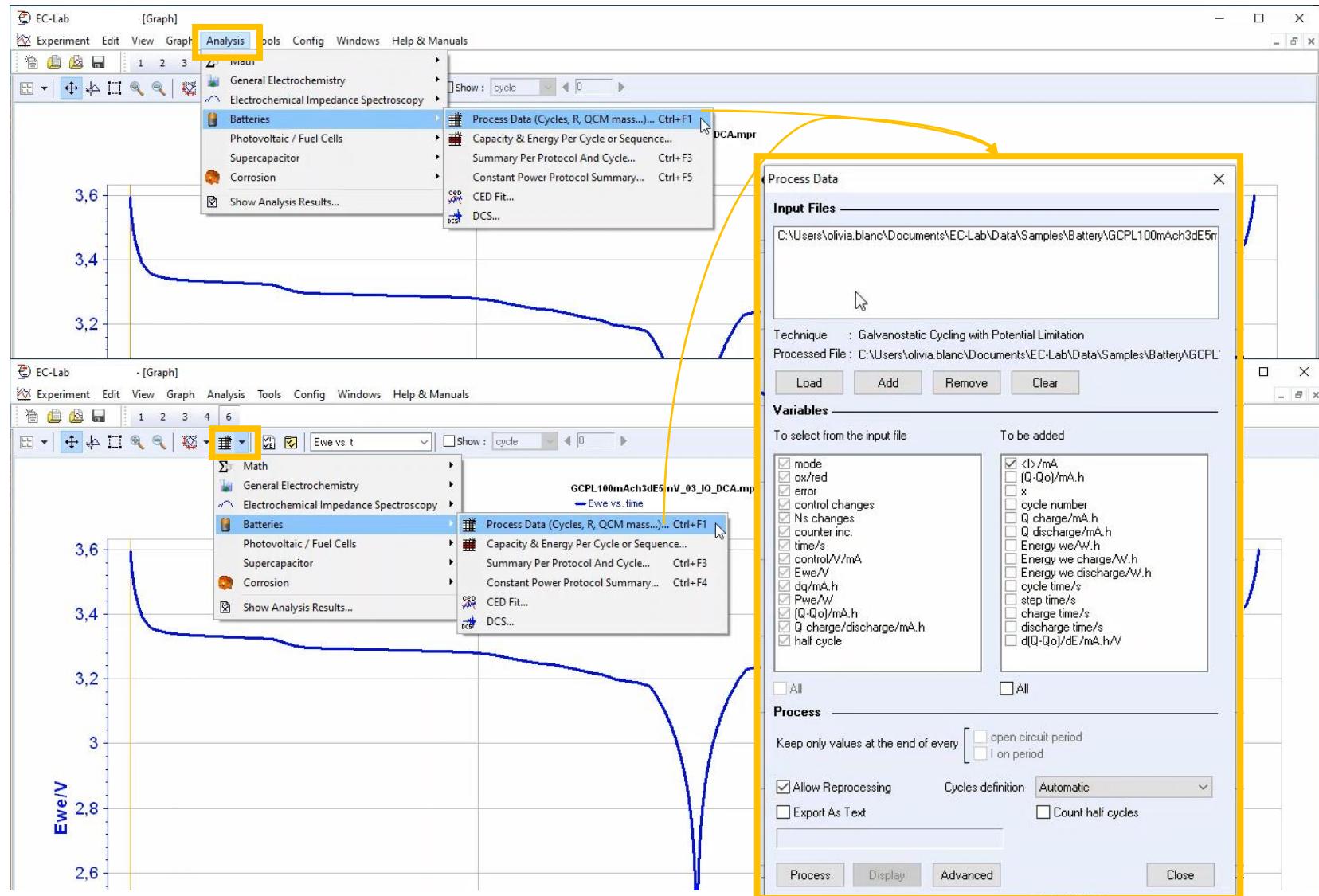




# Step 8: Analyse the data with Process Data

- Analyse with Process Data

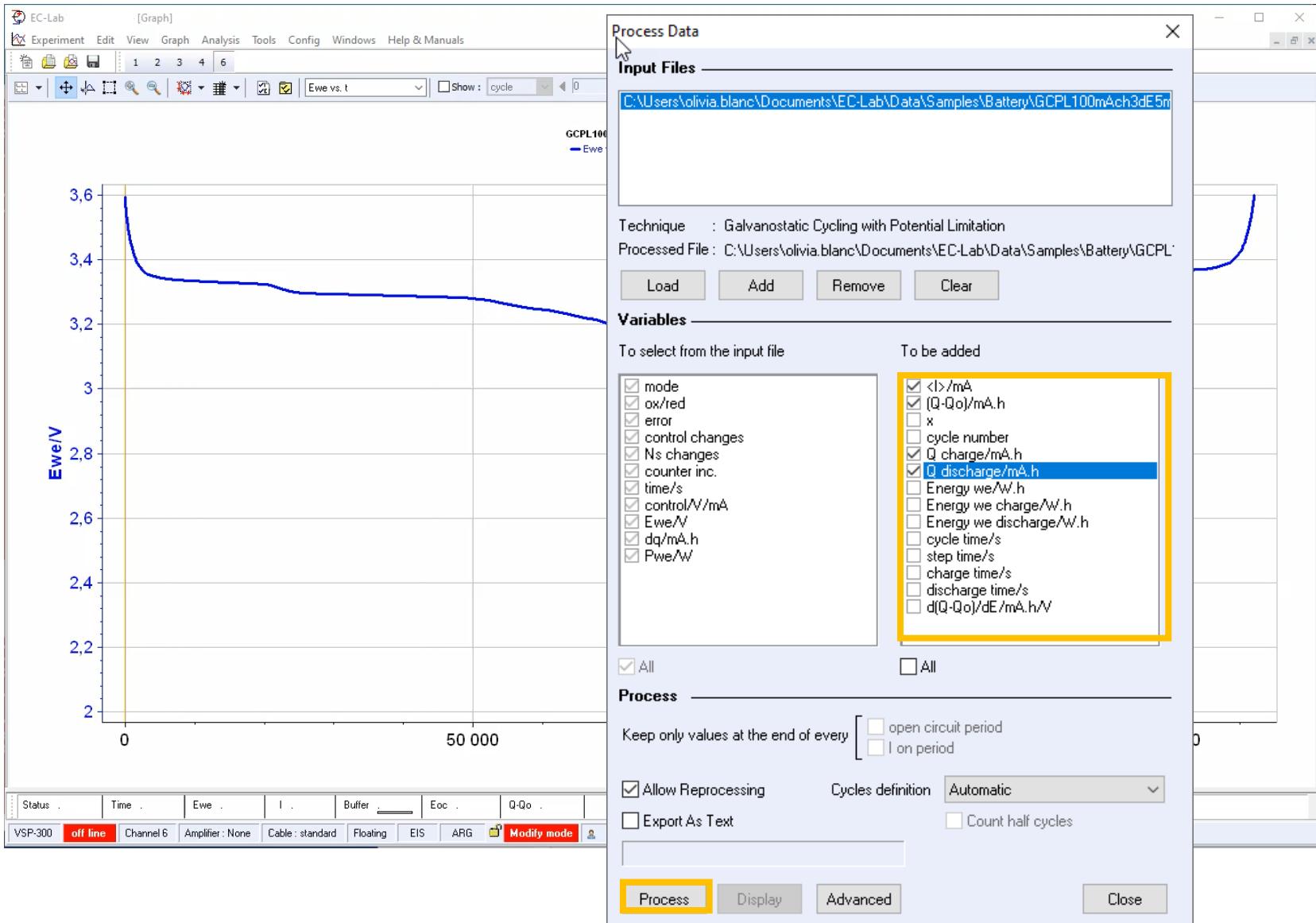
Note: Analysis is available either in the main tool bar or as a shortcut in the graph bar, or with F6





# Step 8: Analyse the data with Process Data

- Select desired variables
- Click on Process

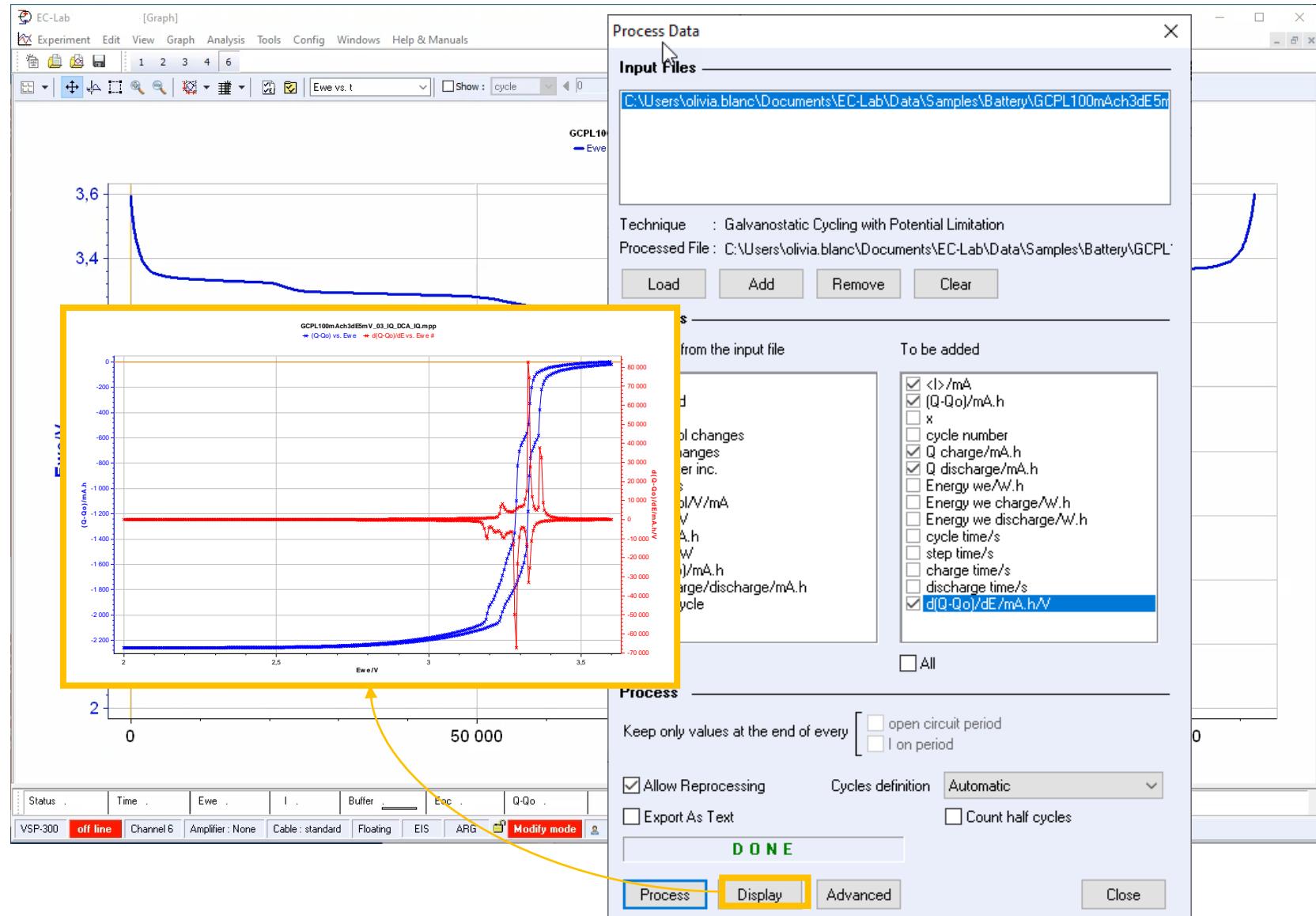


Note: You can export result as text by checking corresponding box



# Step 8: Analyse the data with Process Data

- Display the result



Note: For more detail about differential (or incremental) capacity analysis, refer to AN#40



# Find out more



# For supplementary information

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### ■ Documentation list

- How to read battery cycling curves (article)
- How to obtain battery cycling data of interest? (video)
- Data of interest – work more efficiently (article)
- EC-Lab Techniques and Applications (manual)
- EC-Lab Analysis and Data Process (manual)



Did you know? Free update of EC-Lab® are available on our website.



# Need help?

## Contact us!



- Helpful information to provide when contacting support center:
  - Serial number of the instrument (located on the rear panel of the device)
  - Software and hardware version you are currently using (on the Help menu, About on EC-Lab)
  - Operating system on the connected computer
  - Connection mode (Ethernet, LAN, USB) between computer and instrument

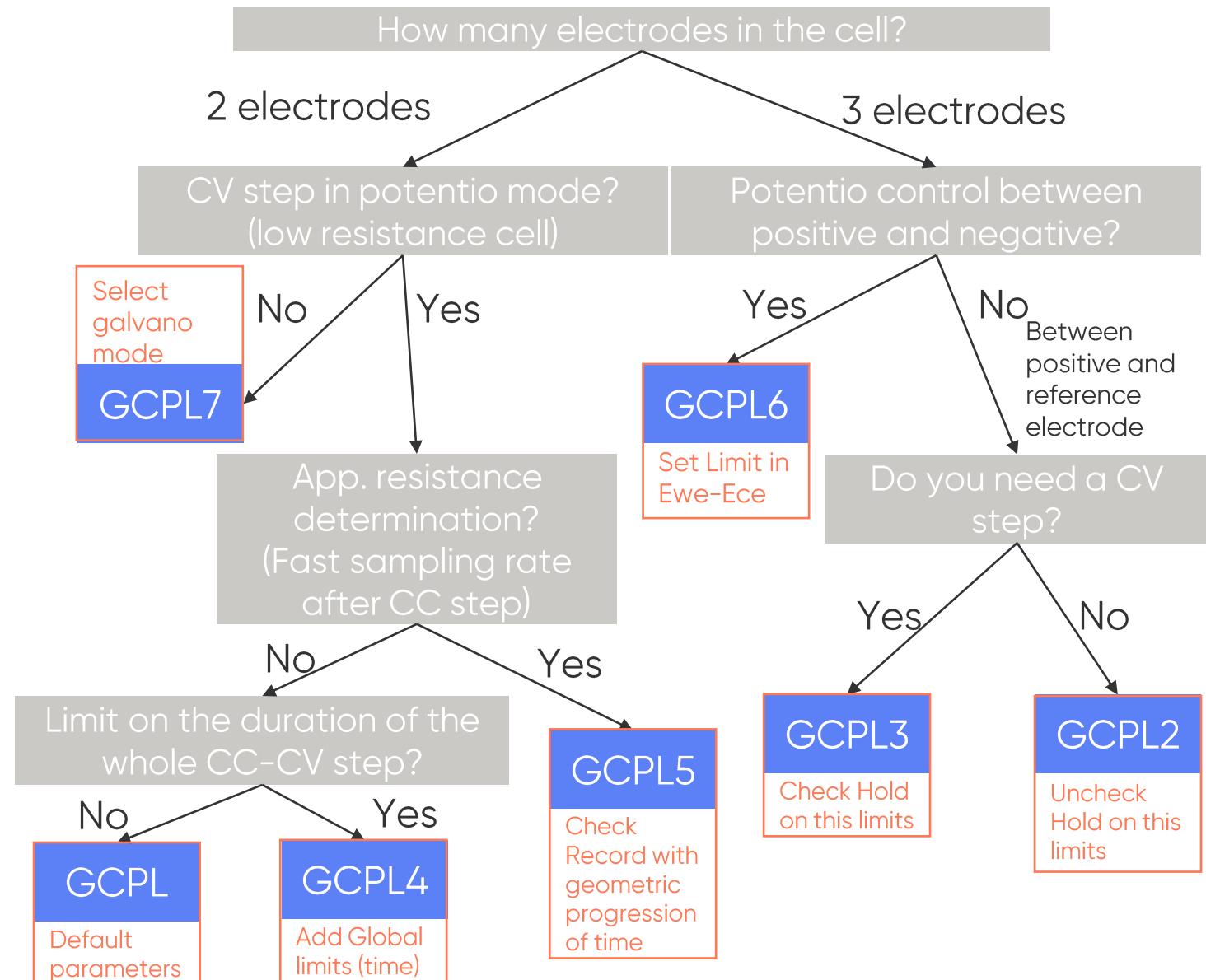


- What is the difference between CCCV and GCPL?
- What is the difference between compliance and control voltage?
- How do I connect potentiostat to the cell?
- How to manage temperature measurement/control during electrochemical investigations?



# What is the difference between CCCV and GPL ?

- CCCV technique covers all GPL techniques thanks to modular control and limit options
- Switch easily from GPL to CCCV with this diagram





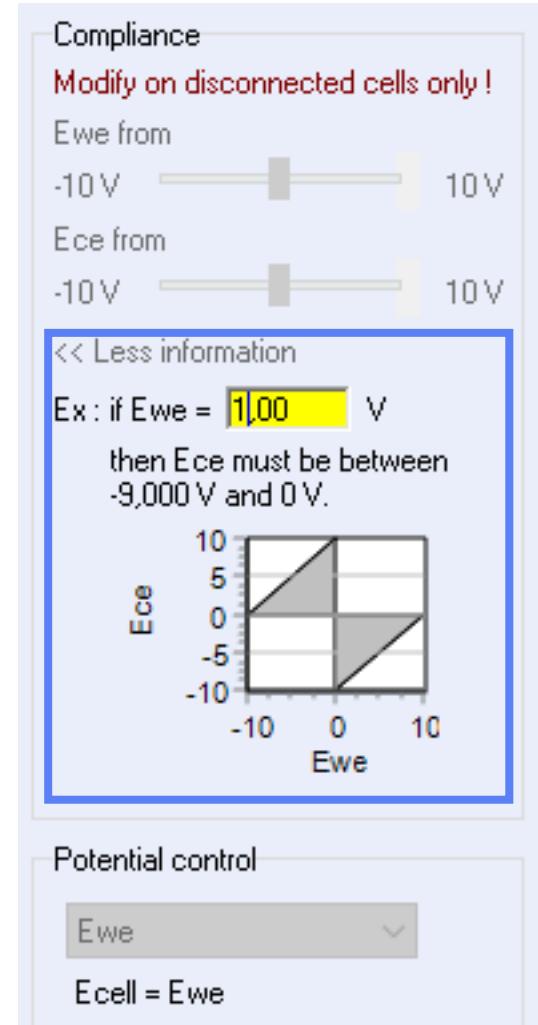
# What is the difference between compliance and control voltage?

- Compliance is the voltage between WE and CE
- Control voltage is the voltage between WE and RE
- Verify the desired voltage to apply matches with the compliance.
  - For Premium: compliance =  $\pm 12$  V
  - For Essential: compliance = 20 V adjustable from  $\pm 10$  V, between [-20 ; 20] V



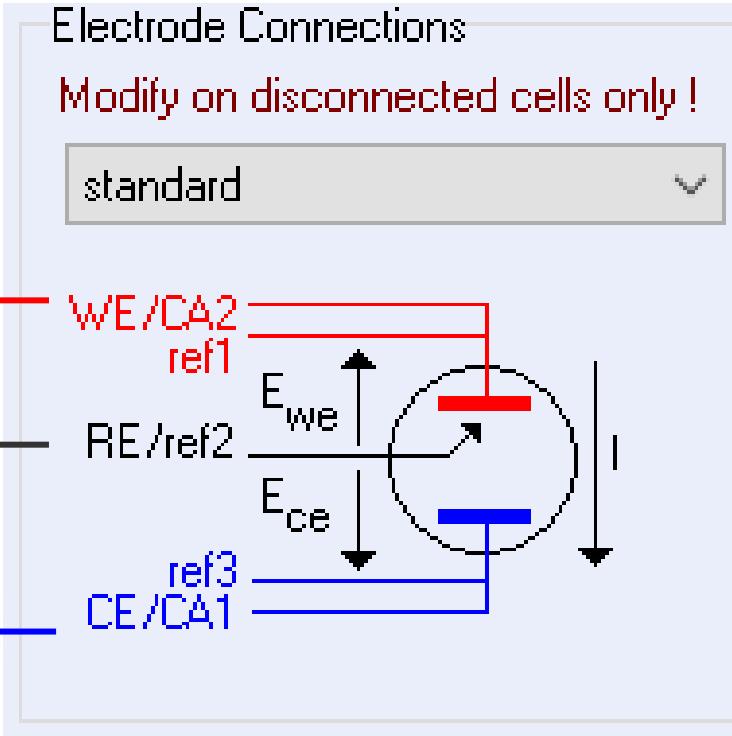
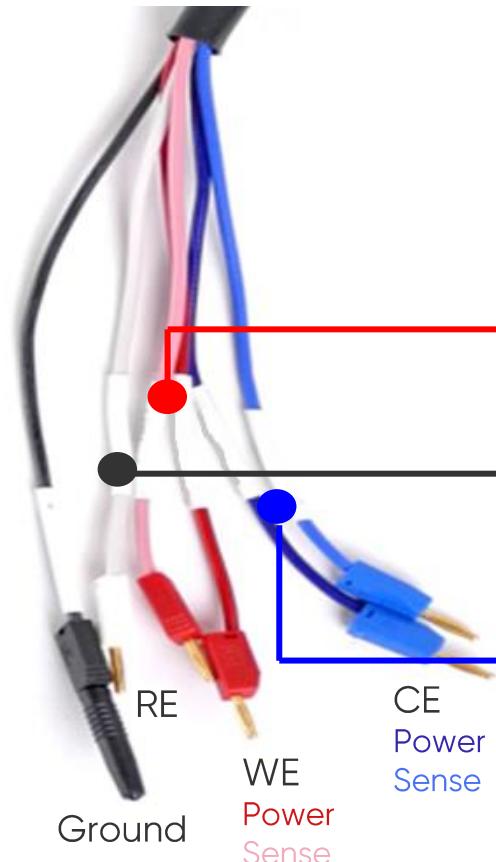
For a single cell, the voltages of a battery are included in the range of [2; 5 V] so the standard compliance of -10 to 10 V will be ok. For a battery stack, this may be adjusted from 0 to 20V to allow measurements up to 20 V.

NB : Compliance is adjustable only on essential instrument in Safety/Adv Settings.





# How do I connect potentiostat to the cell?



- In standard electrode connections mode:
  - Working Electrode (WE)  
Connect power and sense
  - Reference Electrode (RE)  
To connect for a 2 electrode system
  - Counter Electrode (CE)  
Connect power and sense

Note: For other connection modes, refer to Connection to the cell (article) or Technical Notes #09 and #11, or Installation and Configuration Manual.



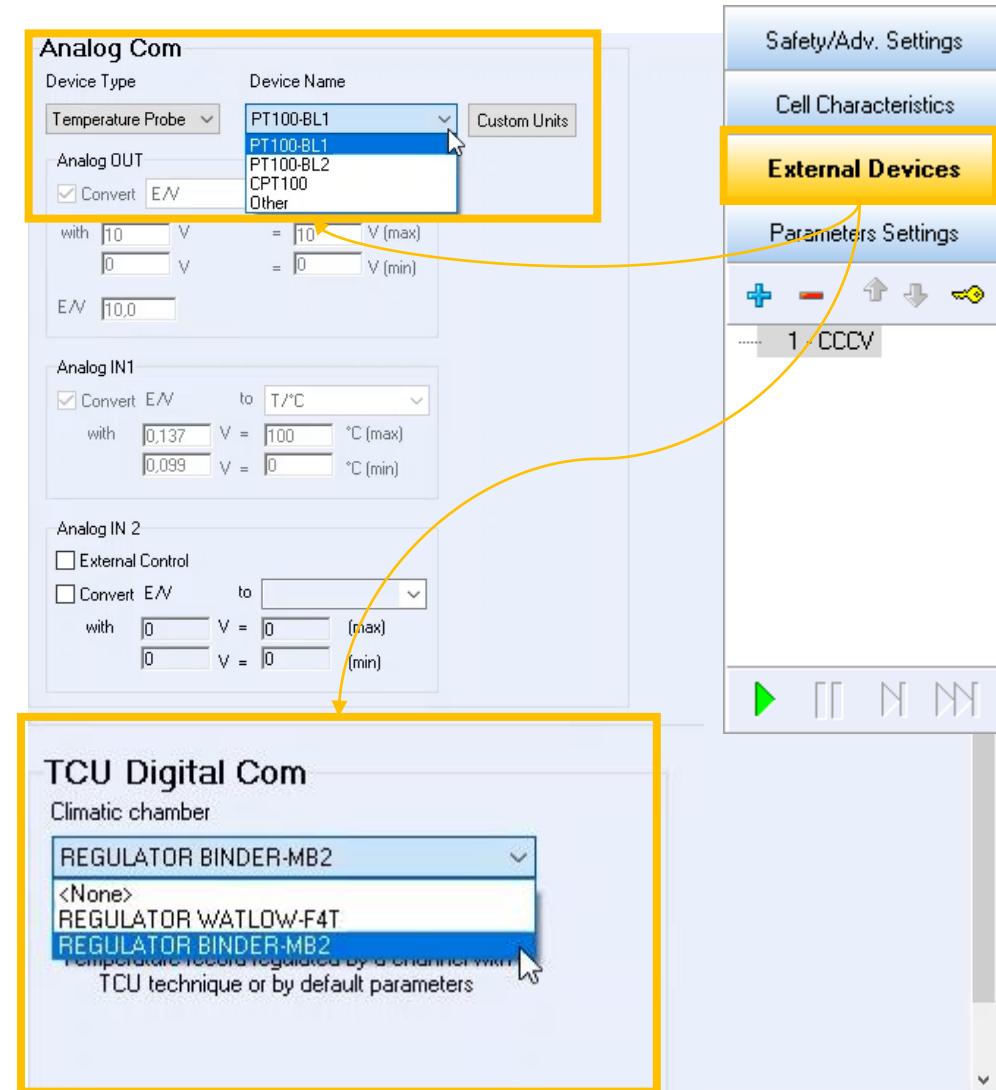
# How to manage temperature measurement/control during electrochemical investigations?

- Monitor temperature by coupling a temperature probe with Analog Com

Note: Refer to TN#36

- Control the regulator of a climatic chamber with TCU Digital Com and TCU technique

Note: Refer to Installation and Configuration Manual of the TCU Server and related videos





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