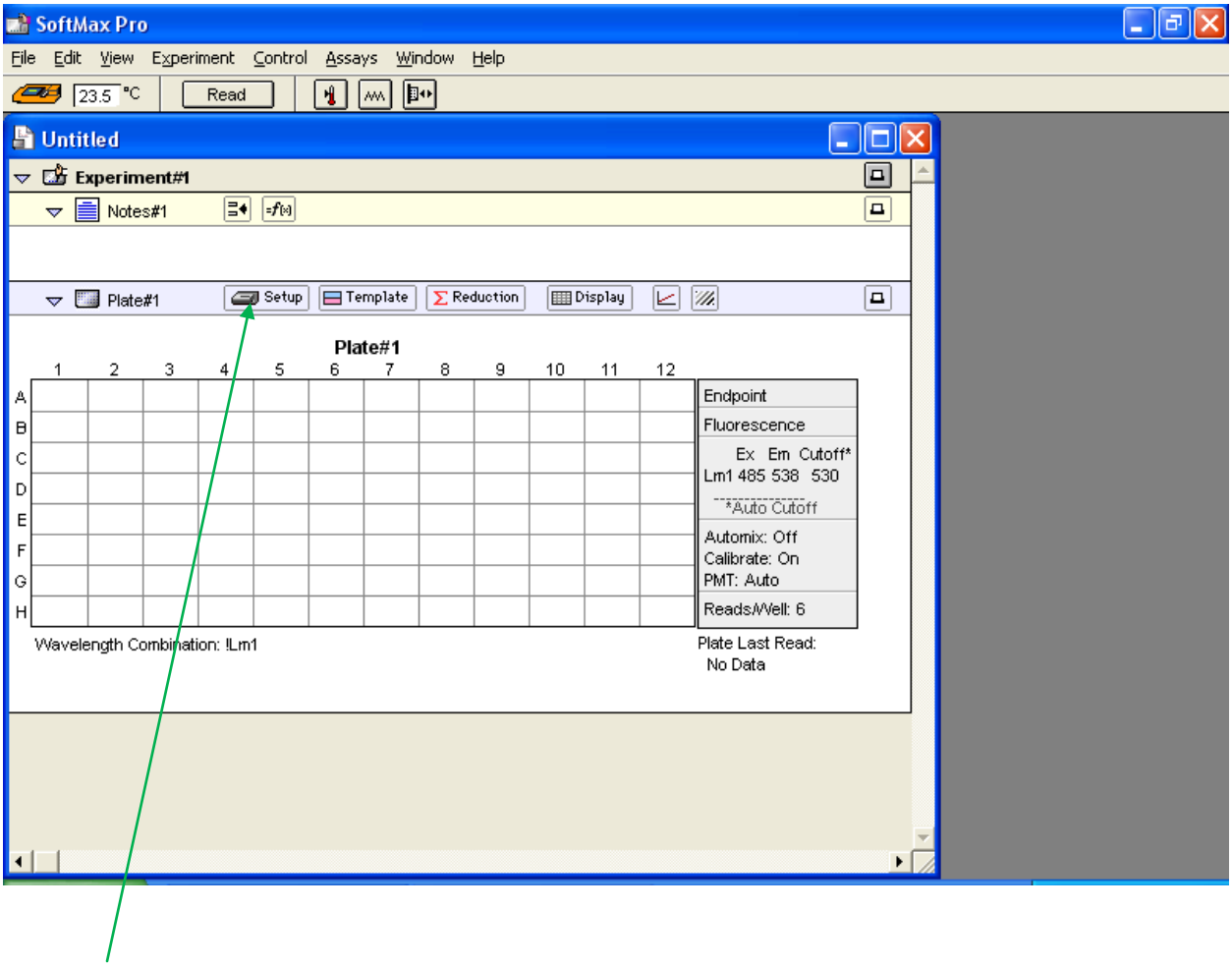
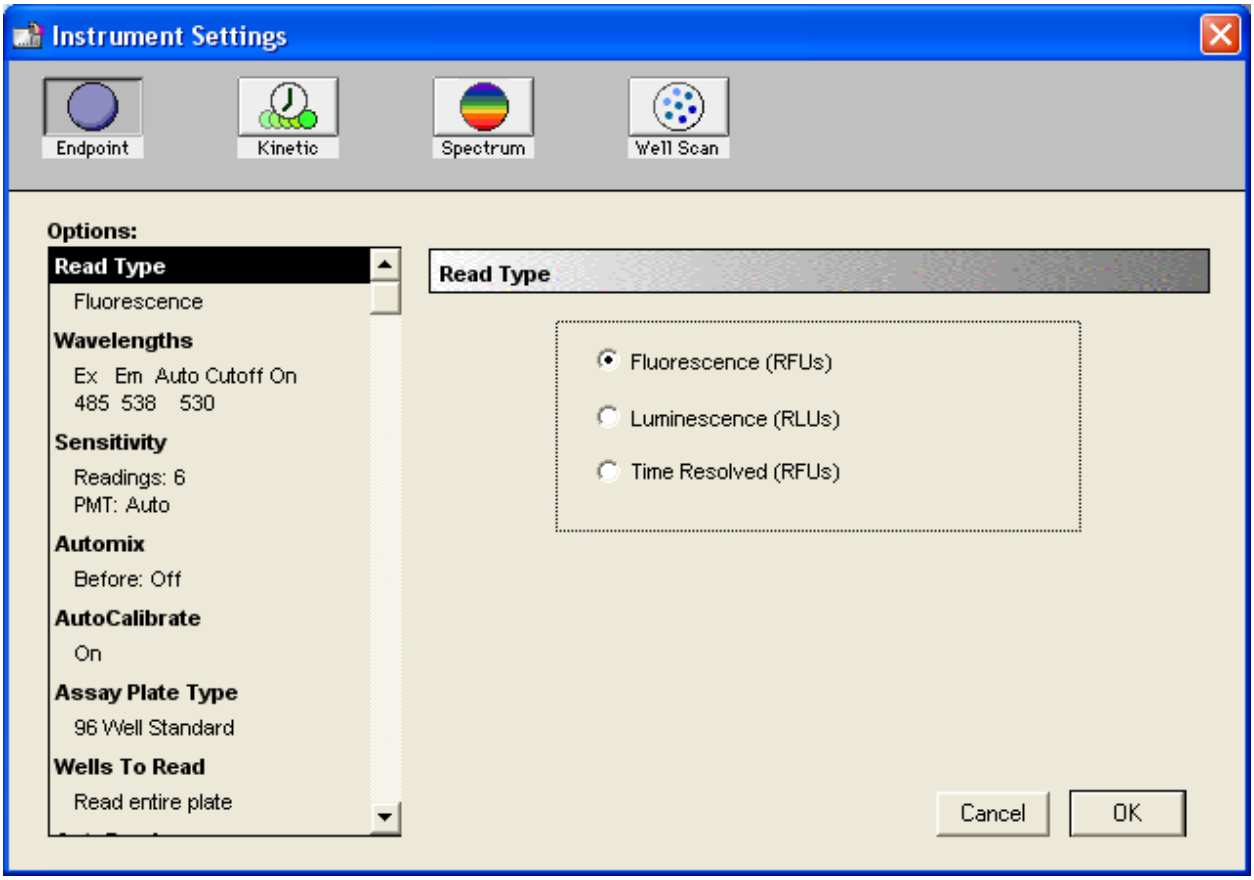
The VERY basic protocol for using Fluorescence Plate Reader

1. Turn on the plate reader
2. Launch the Softmax software (shortcut on the desktop)
3. The following window appear:



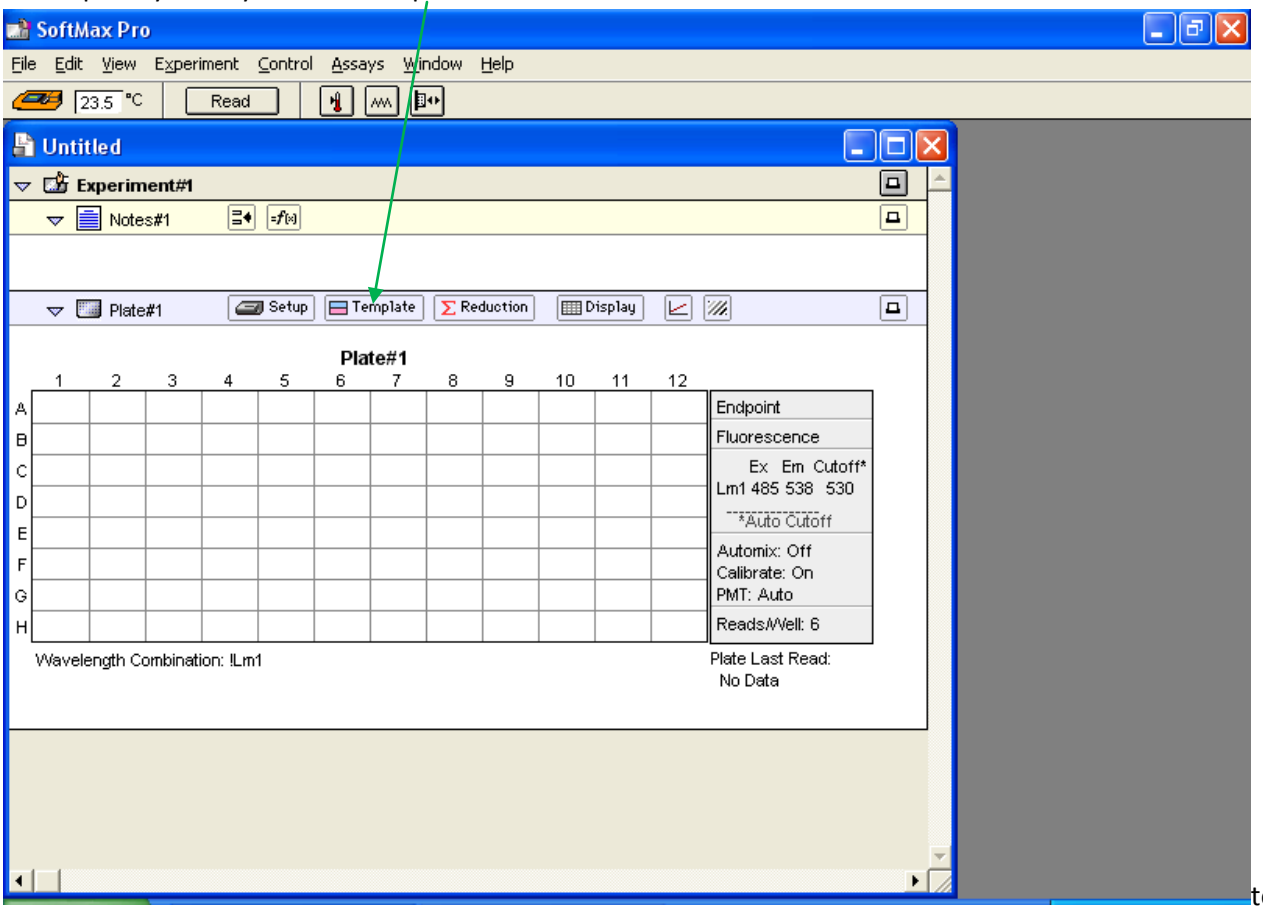
4. Go to “set up” to enter your experimental settings (see window below) like for example wavelength, type of measurements etc.:

Yale University



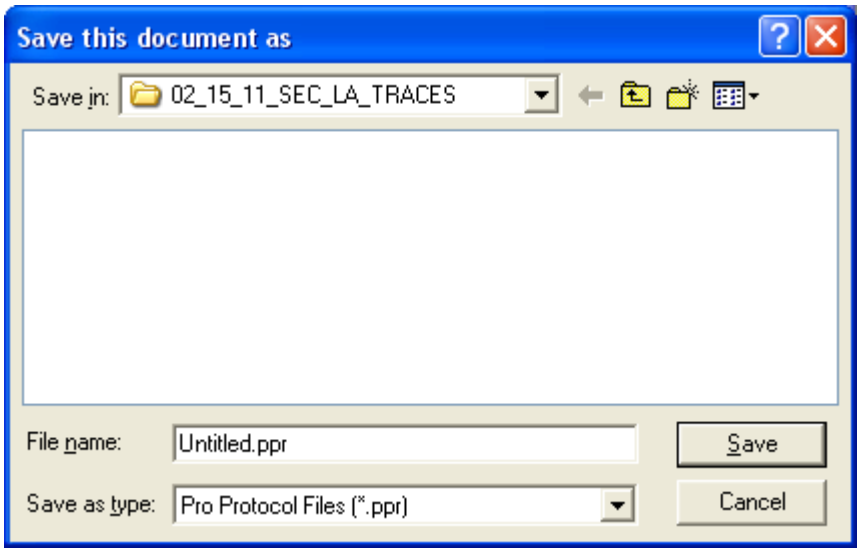
5. Modify the settings according to your experimental needs; go through all the settings to make sure all the parameters (like plate type etc.) match your actual settings.

6. At this point you may choose “template”



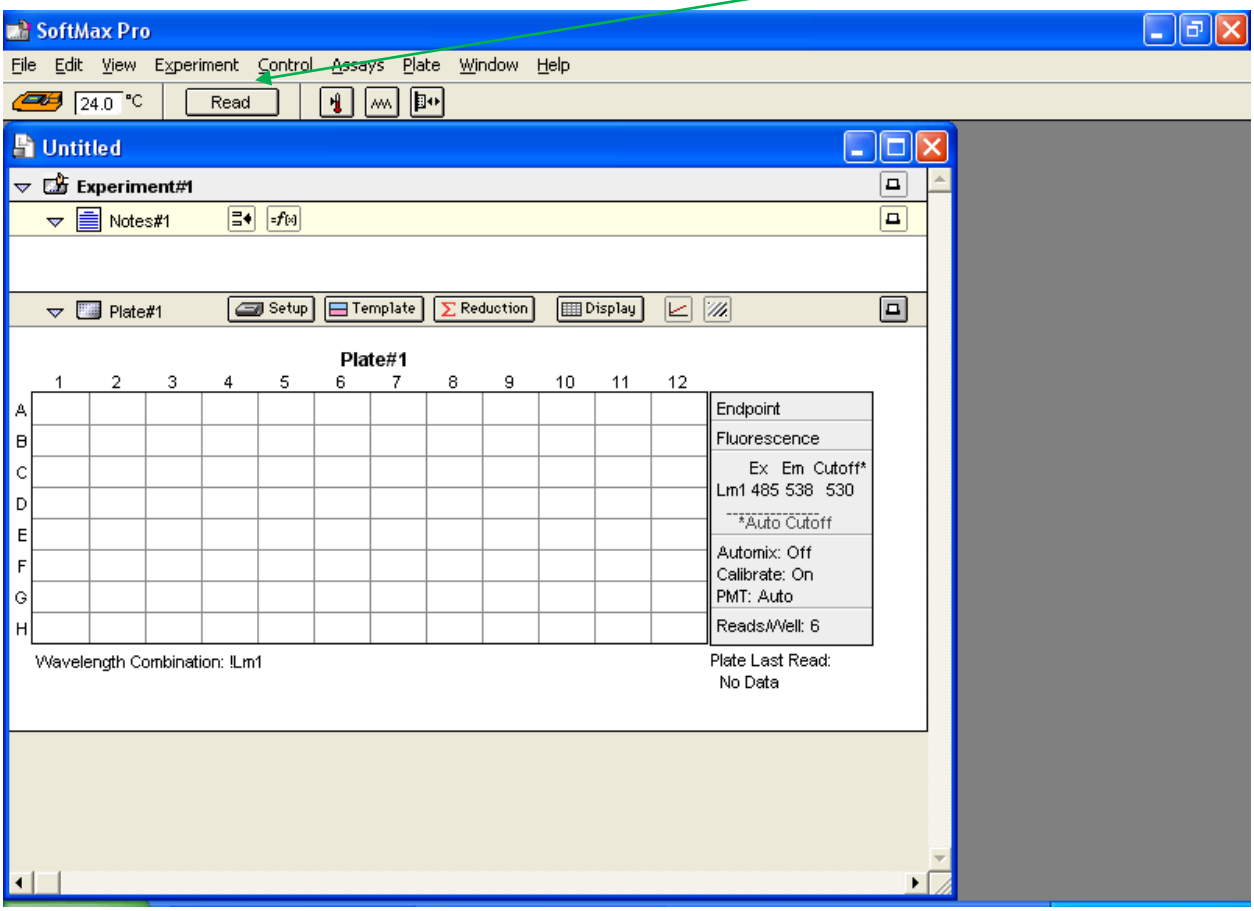
to and define which wells you want to read, which wells contain unknown and which ones contain standards etc. You may group your samples into subcategories if you wish. For shortest reading times, arrange your samples by columns rather than rows.

7. You may save these settings in your directory as a “protocol file” (*.ppr) rather than a typical data file (*.pda). You may load such previously established protocols any time you come back to read similar samples.



Yale University

8. You are now ready to load your plate (into the plate reader drawer) and choose “read” to activate the reading task.



9. You may save you data file by choosing File:save as. PLEASE REMEMEBR TO SAVE YOUR FILES ONLY IN YOUR DIRECTORY; PLEASE ORGANIZE YOUR DATA FILES INTO FOLDERS NAMED BY DATE; for example: FL_plate_reader_data/Ewa/data/03_04_11

10. If you only want to save your data to be plotted in Excel, go to File-> Import/Export-> Export and save your data as Text Files. You can then import the text file into Excel.

11. Once the data file is saved into your folder, you can e-mail it to yourself from the processing computer in the office area of the resource.