

## Supplementary Material

### S1 COMPLIANCE-PRESSURE RELATIONSHIP OF THE EYE

According to Ethier et al. (2004), the pressure-volume relationship of the eye can be written as

$$\ln \left( \frac{P + \gamma}{P_{r,\phi} + \gamma} \right) = \frac{\alpha}{3V_{r,\phi}} (V - V_{r,\phi}) \quad (\text{S1})$$

where  $\gamma = 2Ah/R$ , and  $P_{r,\phi}$  and  $V_{r,\phi}$  represent the values of  $P$  and  $V$  at a specific reference state.  $R$  and  $h$  represent the radius and thickness of the corneoscleral shell.  $A$  and  $\alpha$  represent the material properties of the corneoscleral shell, defined based on the Fung constitutive relation for collagenous tissues describing stress  $\sigma$  in terms of strain  $\varepsilon$  according to  $\sigma = A(e^{\alpha\varepsilon} - 1)$ .

Expressing Equation 1 in terms of  $V$  and differentiating with respect to  $P$  yields an expression for the ocular compliance given by

$$\phi = \frac{3V_{r,\phi}}{\alpha} \frac{1}{P + \gamma} \quad (\text{S2})$$

If we define a reference ocular compliance,  $\phi_r$  that applies at  $P = P_{r,\phi}$ , then  $\phi$  can be written in terms of  $\phi_r$  as

$$\phi = \phi_r \left( \frac{P_{r,\phi} + \gamma}{P + \gamma} \right) \quad (\text{S3})$$

This expression describes the ocular compliance relationship as a function of pressure and is consistent with Equation 3 of the main text.

## S2 NOMENCLATURE OF KEY VARIABLES

<b>Time-dependent variables</b>		
$Q$	$nl/min$	Flow rate as measured by the flow sensor
$Q_s$	$nl/min$	Flow rate into the system compliance
$Q_\phi$	$nl/min$	Flow rate into the ocular compliance
$Q_r$	$nl/min$	Flow rate through the aqueous humour outflow pathway.
$P$	$mmHg$	Pressure as measured by the pressure sensor, representative of intraocular pressure
$P_a$	$mmHg$	Applied pressure
<b>Pressure-dependent variables</b>		
$\phi$	$nl/mmHg$	Ocular compliance
$R$	$mmHg/(\mu l/min)$	Hydrodynamic resistance of the outflow pathway
$C$	$nl/min/mmHg$	Conventional outflow facility ( $C = 1/R$ )
<b>Variables for each step, <math>j</math></b>		
$Q_j$	$nl/min$	Steady state flow rate for step $j$
$P_j$	$mmHg$	Steady state pressure for step $j$
$P_{a,j}$	$mmHg$	Applied pressure for step $j$
$P_{\phi,j}$	$mmHg$	Pressure corresponding to the measured compliance for step $j$ using the Discrete Volume Method
$\Delta P_j$	$mmHg$	Difference in steady state pressure $P$ between two steps
$\Delta P_{a,j}$	$mmHg$	Difference in applied pressure $P_a$ between two steps
$\Delta V_\phi$	$nl$	Change in intraocular volume for a change in intraocular pressure
$\phi_j$	$nl/mmHg$	Ocular compliance for step $j$
$\lambda_j$	-	Non-linearity parameter arising in Step Response Method.
<b>Variables that are constant for each eye</b>		
$\phi_s$	$nl/mmHg$	System compliance
$\phi_r$	$nl/mmHg$	Reference compliance at $P_{r,\phi}$
$R_q$	$mmHg/(\mu l/min)$	Combined hydrodynamic resistance of the flow sensor and capillary
$R_c$	$mmHg/(\mu l/min)$	Hydrodynamic resistance of the cannula
$C_q$	$nl/min/mmHg$	Hydrodynamic conductance of flow sensor and capillary
$C_r$	$nl/min/mmHg$	Reference facility at $P_{r,c}$
$\beta$	-	Non-linearity parameter characterising pressure dependence of outflow facility
$\gamma$	$mmHg$	Non-linearity parameter characterising deviation from Friedenwald's model
$P_{r,c}$	$mmHg$	Reference pressure for facility calculations
$P_{r,\phi}$	$mmHg$	Reference pressure for compliance calculations

### S3 DETERMINING $P_\phi$ FOR THE DISCRETE VOLUME METHOD

Ocular compliance changes as a function of pressure. Hence, ocular compliance measured over a pressure step by the Discrete Volume Method,  $\Delta V_\phi/\Delta P$ , corresponds to the true value of the ocular compliance at some pressure between  $P_{j-1}$  and  $P_j$ , which we term  $P_{\phi,j}$ . According to the mean value theorem,  $\Delta V_\phi/\Delta P$  is equivalent to  $dV_\phi/dP$  evaluated at  $P_{\phi,j}$ :

$$\phi \Big|_{P_{\phi,j}} = \frac{dV_\phi}{dP} \Big|_{P_{\phi,j}} \quad (\text{S4})$$

Using Equation S3 to evaluate  $\phi$  at  $P_{\phi,j}$  and by applying the integral over the  $j^{\text{th}}$  pressure step from  $P_j$  at  $t = 0$  to  $P_{j-1}$  at  $t = T$ , where  $\Delta P_j = P_j - P_{j-1}$ , we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_r \left( \frac{P_{r,\phi} + \gamma}{P_{\phi,j} + \gamma} \right) &= \frac{1}{\Delta P_j} \int_0^T Q_\phi dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\Delta P_j} \int_0^T \phi \frac{dP}{dt} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\Delta P_j} \int_{P_{j-1}}^{P_j} \phi dP \\ &= \frac{1}{\Delta P_j} \int_{P_{j-1}}^{P_j} \phi_r \left( \frac{P_{r,\phi} + \gamma}{P + \gamma} \right) dP \\ &= \frac{\phi_r (P_{r,\phi} + \gamma)}{\Delta P_j} \ln \left( \frac{P_j + \gamma}{P_{j-1} + \gamma} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S5})$$

Cancelling  $\phi_r (P_{r,\phi} + \gamma)$  from both sides yields

$$\frac{1}{P_{\phi,j} + \gamma} = \frac{1}{\Delta P_j} \ln \left( \frac{P_j + \gamma}{P_{j-1} + \gamma} \right) \quad (\text{S6})$$

Hence

$$P_{\phi,j} = \frac{\Delta P_j}{\ln \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta P_j}{P_{j-1} + \gamma} \right)} - \gamma \quad (\text{S7})$$

Using the Laurent series expansion  $1/\ln(1+x) = 1/x + 1/2 - x/12 + \mathcal{O}(x^2)$  allows us to write an solution for  $P_{\phi,j}$

$$P_{\phi,j} = P_j - \frac{\Delta P_j}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{6} \left( \frac{\Delta P_j}{P_{j-1} + \gamma} \right) + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{\Delta P_j}{P_{j-1} + \gamma} \right)^2 \right) \quad (\text{S8})$$

This reveals that to leading order,  $P_{\phi,j}$  is simply the midpoint between  $P_{j-1}$  and  $P_j$ .

## S4 ANALYSIS FOR THE STEP RESPONSE METHOD

In this section, we derive an analytical solution to the step response of a system with pressure-dependent resistance and compliance. We start with the simple lumped parameter model shown in Fig 1b, with  $R_c$  neglected and compliances  $\phi$  and  $\phi_s$  in parallel. This yields the equation:

$$\frac{dP}{dt} + \frac{(C + C_q)P - C_q P_a}{\phi + \phi_s} = 0 \quad (\text{S9})$$

where the compliance dependence on pressure is described by

$$\phi + \phi_s = \phi_r \left( \frac{P_r \phi + \gamma}{P + \gamma} \right) + \phi_s \quad (\text{S10})$$

The facility pressure dependence is given by

$$C = C_r \left( \frac{P}{P_{r,c}} \right)^\beta \quad (\text{S11})$$

In the experiments, the applied pressure is adjusted in a series of steps and held constant until the pressure in the eye asymptotes to a steady value. For an arbitrary step starting at  $t = 0$  the initial condition is defined as  $P_{j-1}$ , which is the steady state pressure of the previous step. The steady state asymptote for the  $j^{\text{th}}$  step is found by setting the derivative in Equation S9 to zero which yields

$$P_j = \left( \frac{C_q}{C_j + C_q} \right) P_{a,j} \quad (\text{S12})$$

where  $C_j$  is the facility at  $P = P_j$ . Because of the non-linearity due to the pressure dependence in both the compliance and facility, we seek a solution to Equation S9 using asymptotic analysis, where we assume that the size of the imposed pressure step,  $\Delta P_j = P_j - P_{j-1}$ , is small relative to the pressure at the end of the step,  $P_j$ .

We define the non-dimensional pressure  $p^*$  during step  $j$  according to

$$p^* = \frac{P_j - P}{\Delta P_j} \quad (\text{S13})$$

which is equivalent to

$$P = P_j(1 - \varepsilon p^*) \quad (\text{S14})$$

where

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta P_j}{P_j} \ll 1 \quad (\text{S15})$$

Substituting Equations S14 into Equation S9

$$-\varepsilon P_j \frac{dp^*}{dt} + \frac{(C + C_q)P_j(1 - \varepsilon p^*) - C_q P_{a,j}}{\phi + \phi_s} = 0$$

The pressure dependent facility (see Equation S11) can be written using a series expansion around  $\varepsilon = 0$ , to  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ :

$$C = C_j \left( 1 - \varepsilon\beta p^* + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2\beta(\beta - 1)p^{*2} \right) \quad (\text{S16})$$

Substituting Equations S12 and S16 the differential equation becomes

$$\frac{dp^*}{dt} + \frac{((1 + \beta)C_j + C_q)p^* - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon\beta(\beta + 1)C_j p^{*2}}{\phi + \phi_s} = 0 \quad (\text{S17})$$

Similarly the reciprocal of the pressure dependent total compliance can be written to  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$ :

$$\frac{1}{\phi + \phi_s} = \frac{1}{\phi_j + \phi_s} \left[ 1 - \frac{\varepsilon P_j \phi_j p^*}{(P_j + \gamma)(\phi_j + \phi_s)} \right]$$

where  $\phi_j = \phi_r \left( \frac{P_r \phi + \gamma}{P_j + \gamma} \right)$  is the ocular compliance at step  $j$ . Substituting this expression into S17 and collecting powers of  $\varepsilon$ , we obtain to  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$

$$\frac{dp^*}{dt} + \frac{p^*}{\tau_j} - \frac{\varepsilon a_j p^{*2}}{\tau_j} = 0 \quad (\text{S18})$$

where

$$\frac{1}{\tau_j} = \frac{C_q + (1 + \beta)C_j}{\phi_j + \phi_s}$$

and

$$a_j = \frac{\frac{1}{2}\beta(\beta + 1)C_j}{C_q + (1 + \beta)C_j} + \frac{P_j \phi_j}{(P_j + \gamma)(\phi_j + \phi_s)}$$

Equation S18 has the exact solution due to Bernoulli

$$p^*(t) = \frac{1}{k_j e^{\frac{t}{\tau_j}} + \varepsilon a_j}$$

where  $k_j$  is an arbitrary integration constant.

Using the initial condition  $p^*(0) = 1$ , yields  $k_j = 1 - \varepsilon a_j$ , hence:

$$p^*(t) = \frac{1}{(1 - \varepsilon a_j)e^{\frac{t}{\tau_j}} + \varepsilon a_j} \quad (\text{S19})$$

Substituting into Equation S13 and letting  $\lambda_j = \varepsilon a_j$  we obtain the equation for  $P(t)$

$$P(t) = P_j \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta P_j}{P_j} \frac{1}{(1 - \lambda_j)e^{t/\tau_j} + \lambda_j} \right) \quad (\text{S20})$$

where using the definition of  $\varepsilon$  (Equation S15)

$$\lambda_j = \frac{\Delta P_j}{P_j} \left( \frac{1}{\phi_s + \phi_j} \right) \left[ \left( \frac{\beta(\beta + 1)C_j\tau_j}{2} \right) + \left( \frac{P_j\phi_j}{P_j + \gamma} \right) \right] \quad (\text{S21})$$

and

$$\tau_j = \frac{\phi_j + \phi_s}{C_q + (1 + \beta)C_j} \quad (\text{S22})$$

Due to the dependence of  $\lambda_j$  on  $\gamma$ , an iterative process must be applied. The initial estimate of  $\tau_j$  for this process can be calculated by omitting terms of  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$ , which is equivalent to setting  $\lambda_j = 0$ .