

# Detection of Inhomogeneity After Mixing Solutions by Analyzing the Chemical Wave Pattern in the Belousov-Zhabotinsky Reaction

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The correlation between BZ reaction and mixing state has been studied for decades, and the researchers are trying to apply it to chemical engineering. We observed a chemical wave pattern in the Belouzov-Zhabotinsky (BZ) reaction based on the inhomogeneity after mixing BZ and ferroin solutions with a mixing method named the rotation-and-stop method. A one-dimensional chemical wave appeared for large inhomogeneity in mixing. The frequency and wavenumber decreased with decreasing degree of inhomogeneity. In an almost perfectly mixed state, the wavenumber significantly reduced and approached the global oscillation. The degree of mixing could be efficiently determined by this reported method. Perfect mixing has never been realized in natural and biological systems. The results of this study can be applied to estimate the degree of mixing in a solution that is not being stirred after the mixing process.

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

The correlation between the Belouzov-Zhabotinsky (BZ) reaction and the mixing state has been studied extensively for decades [1-4]. The quality of products in industrial processes depends on the mixing state; therefore, an easy method to quantify the mixing state is essential. The BZ reaction is a nonlinear chemical reaction that shows period oscillations in the concentration of the reaction intermediates. A significant characteristic of the BZ reaction is the amplification of a small initial concentration fluctuation in the excitable system. The oscillation period depends on the stirring rate in the batch reactor; with increasing stirring rate, the period increases and the oscillation suddenly disappears [5–7]. At a low stirring rate, the redox potential in a macroscopic area (average over a larger area) shows a noisy oscillation pattern compared to that of a smaller area [8]. This suggests that the oscillation pattern in a batch reactor is affected by the spatial inhomogeneity of the solution. The oscillation pattern of the BZ reaction in a continuous stirred tank reactor (CSTR) depends on both the stirring speed and reactant supply rate, which causes period-doubling bifurcation and chaotic behavior [9,10]. Using gallic acid as an organic redox agent, the redox potential showed a hysteresis against the stirring speed [11]. These results observed in the CSTR arise from the inhomogeneous distribution of reactant concentrations due to incomplete mixing.

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Solution	NaBrO <sub>3</sub> (M)	NaBr (M)	CH <sub>2</sub> (COOH) <sub>2</sub> (M)	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (M)	Ferroin (mM)	Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )
BZ	0.2	0.01	0.1	0.7		1.06
ferroin					0.96	0.986

The BZ reaction exhibits a chemical wave without stirring [1]. In the studies related to chemical waves, researchers considered perfectly mixed solutions or gels [3]. The role of the convection due to imperfect mixing and chemically-driven inhomogeneity in the BZ reaction is studied with the batch conditions in detail [12,13]. However, the generation of a chemical wave requires concentration fluctuations (inhomogeneity). If the solution in the oscillatory regime is completely homogeneous, the oscillation exhibits a global oscillation. To the best of our knowledge, the effect of inhomogeneity after mixing (hereinafter referred to as "the inhomogeneity") on chemical waves has not been studied. If inhomogeneity affects the characteristics of the chemical wave pattern.

Furthermore, the BZ reaction has been studied as a model for cyclic chemical reactions in living systems, such as the tricarboxylic acid cycle [14], rhythmic motion [15–18], synchronization [19–21], and self-organization [22–24]. A living system cannot be stirred mechanically; as a result, perfect mixing has never been realized. Thus, their self-organizations are probably affected by the effect of the imperfect mixing. Therefore, the study of the mixing effect based on the chemical wave pattern is essential for analyzing living systems.

Herein, we demonstrate the effect of inhomogeneity on the chemical wave pattern produced by the BZ reaction. This study leads to a new quantitative method to estimate the degree of mixing and a deeper understanding of pattern formation in living systems.

## **2 MATERIALS AND METHODS**

# 2.1 Chemicals and Preparation of the BZ and Ferroin Solutions

All the chemicals used in this study were purchased from FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation. We prepared a catalyst-free BZ solution and ferroin solution (catalyst) using the purchased chemicals. Ferroin is oxidized to ferriin by the BZ reaction, which is accompanied by a color change from red to blue. As shown in **Table 1**, constituents of the BZ solution were sodium bromate (Wako Special Grade, 99.5%), sodium bromide (guaranteed reagent grade, 99.5%), malonic acid (Wako Special Grade, 99.5%), and sulfuric acid (64%). Ferroin solution was prepared using iron (II) sulfate heptahydrate (~99.0–102.0%) and 1,10-Phenanthroline monohydrate (guaranteed reagent grade, 99.0%). First, we prepared the BZ solution by mixing the constituents in the following order: 5 ml of 1 M sodium bromate, 0.25 ml of 1 M

sodium bromide, 2.5 ml of 1 M malonic acid, 13.75 ml of ultrapure water (PURELAB flex 3, ELGA LabWater), and 3.5 ml of 5 M sulfuric acid. After the addition of sulfuric acid, the color of the mixture changed to brown immediately, and it was mixed for 20 s until the mixture became colorless. In addition, 1.2 ml of 20 mM ferroin solution was diluted in a measuring flask to a volume of 25 ml. Before use in the experiments, the two solutions were bubbled with nitrogen gas for 1 minute, and the capped bottles containing the solutions were placed in a water bath at 20°C for 30 min, which is for avoiding the effects of the oxygen and temperature. The compositions of the BZ and ferroin solutions are shown in **Table 1**. These solutions were prepared before every experiment.

# 2.2 Preparation of the Two-Layer Solution

The chemical oscillation started after the BZ and ferroin solutions were mixed, and the mixing was carried out in a test tube using the method explained in **section 2.3**. In this study, the initial separation of these two solutions in the test tube was important. As shown in **Figure 1A**, 1 ml of both the BZ and ferroin solutions were poured into a test tube. The inner diameter and length of the test tube were 0.72 and 30 cm, respectively. First, the BZ solution, which has a higher density, was poured into the test tube, followed by the ferroin solution. The ferroin solution was poured carefully onto the BZ solution in the test tube using a silicone tube with an inner diameter of 1 mm, such that the boundary of the two solutions was not violated.

# 2.3 Mixing Method to Evaluate the Inhomogeneity After Mixing

Figure 1 shows the mixing method of the BZ and ferroin solutions (mentioned in 2.1) in a test tube, which is referred to as the rotation-and-stop method. As shown in Figures 1A,B, the test tube was capped and attached to a stirrer machine (IKA, RW 14 basic). The tube slanted to the right side, as shown in Figure 1A, because of the mechanical structure of the apparatus (this is the initial state before the rotation). Using this setup, the tube was rotated (center of the test tube was the center of rotation) counterclockwise twice at a rate of approximately one rotation/s, following a sudden stop. The mixing occurs primarily because of this sudden stop, where the two solutions mix near the interface owing to weak convection caused by the inertia. The tube was rotated again approximately 3 s after the rotation was completely stopped. This series was repeated several times and the number of repetitions (also the number of stops) was denoted as n (n = 20-200). The two solutions were mixed slightly at each stop process. After completion of this rotation process, 2 ml of decane was poured onto the surface of the mixed solution to avoid the dissolution of oxygen from the air. The tube was then placed vertically in a water bath at 20°C. More than three experiments were performed under identical conditions. The solution in the test tube was recorded by a video camera for 30 min after the



**FIGURE 1** | Rotation-and-stop method; (A) Front view and (B) side view of the experimental setup. (C) The behavior of the solutions in a tube during a single rotation-stop cycle. (D) The mixing process of between  $Na_2SO_4$  and ferroin solutions in a test tube by rotation-and-stop method. The residual image in the (C) is caused by the fast rotation (~90 cm/s) and the slow frame rate (30 frame/s).



completion of the rotation-and-stop process, and the movie slices were analyzed using the image analysis software ImageJ.

# **3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

# 3.1 Mixing of Solutions by Rotation-and-Stop Method

Figure 1C shows a series of snapshots recorded in a single rotation-stop process. In this experiment, the ferroin solution and Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution (0.77 M) were mixed to investigate only mixing process without the BZ reaction. The density of the Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution is approximately the same as that of the BZ solution, however, the BZ reaction did not occur. As shown in Figure 1C, the stirrer power was turned on at 0 s, but the rotation started after 2 s. Subsequently, the tube started to rotate counterclockwise. The stirrer was turned off at 3.32 s when two rotations were completed. However, the tube overshot until 3.50 s. After the overshoot, the tube returned to a stable state and stopped completely at 4.13 s. The solutions were mixed only around the boundary region after the two rotations. The mixing occurred at the stop-and-overshoot stages because of the density difference between the two solutions and the small diameter of the test tube which caused the complete separation of the solutions during rotation owing to the centrifugal force. Similarly, the BZ and ferroin solutions mix only at the stop-and-overshoot stages. Thus, the stepwise mixing can be achieved by the stop-and-overshoot stages n.

**Figure 1D** shows the interface between the two aqueous solutions after *n* stops. The interface diffused with increasing *n*. The mixing achieved by a single rotation stop was very weak and the degree of mixing monotonically increased with an increase in *n*. This result indicates that fine control of the mixing state is possible by controlling the value of *n*. Solutions with  $n \ge 40$  appeared to be homogeneous. Even though

inhomogeneity could be present, it is difficult to detect with the naked eye.

# 3.2 Behavior of Chemical Wave at Different Stop Times (*n*)

After the completion of the mixing between BZ and ferroin solutions with the rotation-and-stop method, three modes were observed for different values of n. The first was an upward chemical wave, as shown in Figure 2A. This type of pattern is likely to appear at relatively smaller *n* values. This upward chemical wave was generated at the bottom of the solution, then traveled upward and spread in the entire solution. The second pattern was referred to as the complicated pattern as shown in Figure 2B. In this pattern, a chemical wave was generated at the top or middle of the solution together with an upward chemical wave or oscillation at the local place. For example, oscillation of color appeared in the lower half of the solution at n = 90 (Figure 2B). This complicated pattern, observed 30 min after the rotation-andstop process, was transient, and one of the local chemical waves or chemical oscillations became dominant over time (see Supplementary Video S1). The last pattern was a globaloscillation-like pattern over the entire solution, as shown in Figure 2C. In this phenomenon, the color of the entire solution oscillated for at least 30 min after the completion of the rotation-and-stop process. This oscillation is gradually transformed into a one-dimensional chemical wave (primarily into an upward wave) over time. In addition, the bubble growth caused by CO<sub>2</sub> generation was rarely observed in any modes, and so the additional mixing due to this effect can be ignored.

In general, if chemical oscillations with different frequencies exist, the maximum frequency dominates the entire solution [25]. Furthermore, the different profile of the chemical species may cause the different local excitability and thus different patterns [26,27]. Therefore, the oscillation frequencies f at three different



FIGURE 3 | Classification of the wave patterns by measuring the maximum frequency; (A) three measuring positions of the test tube, (B) ratio of three modes at different values of *n*. (C) Maximum frequency and (D) wavenumber as a function of *n*. GO indicates a global-oscillation-like pattern. The error bar represents the range covering the results of three times experiments.

points in the test tube as shown in Figure 3A, were measured. The results shown in Figure 2 are presented in Table 2. The maximum in the three types of  $f(f_{max})$  was determined (the measurement was performed 30 min after the completion of the rotation-and-stop process with different *n* values). The patterns were classified by identifying the position where  $f_{max}$  was observed; when the position of  $f_{max}$  was found at the bottom, the mode was identified as an upward chemical wave. When  $f_{max}$ appeared at the middle or top of the tube, the pattern was classified as complicated. A global-oscillation-like pattern appeared when the frequencies of the three points were the same. The classification made by this method was in good agreement with that of visual observation, as shown in Figure 2. In this study, the classification of wave patterns was achieved by measuring the  $f_{max}$  to avoid human subjectivity. Figure 3B shows the ratio of the three modes obtained for each value of n. The upward chemical wave was found to be dominant for  $n \leq 60$ . Complicated and global-oscillation-like patterns appeared at a higher *n* value. Figure 3C shows the  $f_{\text{max}}$  as a function of n. It was observed that  $f_{max}$  decreased with increasing *n*.

**TABLE 2** Frequencies of chemical oscillations, *f* at three different positions of the tube for *n* values of 20–170 (**Figure 2**).

n (–)	Top (h <sup>−1</sup> )	Middle (h <sup>-1</sup> )	Bottom (h <sup>-1</sup> )	Mode
20	4	42	114	Upward
50	12	30	40	Upward
70	40	44	52	Upward
90	4	6	8	Upward
90	46	42	42	Complicated
90	72	72	72	Global-oscillation like
100	38	38	24	Complicated
170	18	18	18	Global-oscillation like

These experimental results show that the upward chemical waves with higher  $f_{\max}$  appeared for lower values of n. The upward chemical wave indicates that the lower part of the test tube is the source of the chemical oscillation. Therefore, at  $n \le 60$  (where the upward wave dominated), the highest frequency oscillator is generated at the lower part of the test tube because the oscillator with the highest frequency dominates the entire solution. At the lower part of the test tube, the ratio



of BZ solution to the local solution of the BZ to the ferroin solutions was estimated to be larger owing to the mixing process using the rotation-and-stop method, as shown in **Figure 1D**. The worse the mixing (the smaller the *n* values), the larger the ratio of BZ solution.

To understand the effect of the ratio of BZ solution on the frequency of waves, another experiment was performed, where the oscillation frequency of the x: (1-x) volumetric mixture of BZ and ferroin solutions was measured in a batch reactor with a magnetic stirrer. Figure 4A shows that the global oscillation was observed in the range of  $x \ge 0.5$ , and **Figure 4B** indicates that the frequency is higher at a larger x value (i.e., BZ-rich solution). The BZ-rich portion in the lower part of the test tube generated a chemical wave with a higher frequency to dominate the entire solution. This led to the upward chemical wave in the test tube. The solution approached a uniform mixture with an increase in n, and the frequencies at different locations approached each other. BZ reactions with the same frequency in the entire solution form a global oscillation. This phenomenon agrees with our experimental result where a global-oscillation-like pattern appeared at extremely large n values. However, in an actual experiment, an imperfection in mixing may exist even at larger *n* values. Owing to this imperfection, the local frequencies may differ slightly and the close frequencies form a complicated pattern. Therefore, complicated and global-oscillation-like

patterns appear at a larger *n* value, where  $f_{\text{max}}$  is small because of better mixing. The *x*-values of the oscillators decreased and approached x = 0.5 for larger *n* values. This agrees with the results shown in **Figure 3B**. As shown in **Figure 4A**, the oscillation periods during 1 h batch experiment are almost the same. Furthermore, the time required for 200 times of rotation and stop (the maximum value of in the experiment) is less than 20 min. Therefore, the reactants remain sufficiently after the rotation and stop procedure, and the consumption of the reactants does not affect the result.

Apart from frequency, the wavenumber was also counted  $(k_{30})$ 30 min after the rotation-stop procedure. For the upward wave, the wavenumber was calculated from the number of blue lines at **Figure 2A** divided by the solution height (4.9 cm). For the globaloscillation-like pattern, the number of wave crests was one or zero in the snapshot of 30 min; hence,  $k_{30}$  was calculated to be 0.20 or 0 cm<sup>-1</sup>. For complicated patterns, the wavenumber was not counted because of its complexity. **Figure 3D** shows that  $k_{30}$ decreased to an extremely small value with an increase in *n*. Both the frequency and wavenumber exhibited a similar trend. This result suggests that the inhomogeneity in mixing (incompleteness of mixing) can be estimated by the frequency and/or wavenumber of the chemical wave.

# 4 NUMERICAL CALCULATION USING THE ROVINSKY-ZHABOTINSKY MODEL

The numerical calculation was performed employing the RZ model [2] to study the BZ reaction kinetics. This model has been developed for the ferroin-catalyzed BZ reaction. The solution is not one-dimensional strictly, because the three-dimensional pattern is observed (**Figure 2B** or **Supplementary Video S1B**). However, both the upward wave and the global-oscillation-like pattern may be expressed by the one-dimensional coordinate. Here, therefore, one-dimensional reaction-diffusion equations are used and solved numerically. The original RZ model is proposed in a dimensionless form, where the dimensionless time  $\tau$  is scaled by the initial concentration of the reactant and reaction rate constants. In the present calculation, each position in a test tube had a different initial concentration of reactants; hence, we used equations with actual dimensions:

$$R_U(U, V) = k_1 H_0 A_0 U - 2k_4 H_0 U^2 - \left\{ \frac{q K_8 B_0 V}{H_0 (F_0 - V)} + \frac{k_{12} B_0}{2} \right\} \frac{k_5 H_0 U - k_7 H_0 A_0}{k_5 H_0 U + k_7 H_0 A_0}$$
(1)

$$R_V(U, V) = 2k_1 H_0 A_0 U - \frac{k_8 B_0 V}{H_0 (F_0 - V)}$$
(2)

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = D_U \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2} + R_U(U, V)$$
(3)

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = D_V \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + R_V (U, V)$$
(4)

k <sub>1</sub>	<i>k</i> ₄	<i>k</i> ₅	k <sub>7</sub>	<i>K</i> <sub>8</sub>	k <sub>12</sub>	q (-)	<i>D</i> <sub>U</sub>	<i>D</i> <sub>V</sub>
(Μ <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	(M <sup>−2</sup> ·s <sup>−1</sup> )	(M <sup>−2</sup> ·s <sup>−1</sup> )	(M <sup>−2</sup> ·s <sup>−1</sup> )	(M ⋅ s <sup>-1</sup> )	(s <sup>-1</sup> )		(cm <sup>2</sup> · s <sup>-1</sup> )	(cm <sup>2</sup> ⋅ s <sup>-1</sup> )
9.5	8×10 <sup>4</sup>	1.5×10 <sup>7</sup>	5	$0.4 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-6}$	0.5	$1.5 \times 10^{-5}$	$0.9 \times 10^{-5}$

**TABLE 3** | Tuned values of reaction and diffusion constants.



where U and V correspond to the concentrations of HBrO<sub>2</sub> and ferriin, respectively. t and x denote time and position, respectively.  $D_U$  and  $D_V$  are the diffusion constants for U and V, respectively [3].  $k_1$ ,  $k_4$ ,  $k_5$ ,  $k_7$ ,  $k_{12}$ , and  $K_8$  are reaction rate constants. The NaBr concentration was maintained at a steady state [2].  $A_0$ ,  $B_0$ ,  $F_0$ , and  $H_0$  correspond to the initial concentrations of NaBrO<sub>3</sub>, malonic acid, ferroin, and protons, respectively, which all were approximated as constants owing to their excess amount in solution throughout the reaction. Actually,  $A_0, B_0, F_0$ , and  $H_0$  diffuse obeying their concentration gradient, but the diffusion length within 30 min is approximately 1 mm  $(\sim \sqrt{10^{-5} cm^2/s} \cdot 1800 s)$ . On the other hand, the small changes in U and V by diffusion dramatically affect the reaction kinetics, because they are directly related to the autocatalytic processes; their diffusion terms are required for the chemical wave generation. Therefore, the diffusion terms only for U and V are taken into account in Eqs 3, 4. A<sub>0</sub>, B<sub>0</sub>, F<sub>0</sub>, and H<sub>0</sub> depend on the height (position) of the test tube. In the present experiment, stock solutions of BZ and ferroin (compositions shown in Table 1) were poured into a test tube and mixed gradually. The concentrations of each constituent in the stock solution are defined as notations with subscript S. Therefore, As, Bs, and Hs correspond to the concentrations of NaBrO<sub>3</sub>, malonic acid, and protons in the BZ solution, respectively.  $F_{\rm S}$  corresponds to the ferroin concentration in the ferroin solution. In a batch reactor experiment, the BZ and ferroin solutions were mixed in the volumetric ratio x:(1-x). Then, the initial concentrations  $A_0$ ,  $B_0$ ,  $H_0$ , and  $F_0$  were calculated by x A<sub>S</sub>, x B<sub>S</sub>, x H<sub>S</sub>, and (1-x) F<sub>S</sub>, respectively. The blue curve in Figure 4B is the frequency calculated using Eqs 1-4 using these initial concentrations and ignoring diffusion terms (perfect mixing is assumed). The calculated results were in good agreement with the experimental

results. The tuned constant values shown in **Table 3** are in the same order as those reported in the literature [2,3] except  $k_1$ , and fine-tuning is provided to obtain a better agreement in **Figure 4B**.

During the rotation-and-stop method,  $A_0$ ,  $B_0$ ,  $H_0$  and  $F_0$  in a test tube were calculated by  $y A_s$ ,  $y B_s$ ,  $y H_s$ ,  $(1 - y) F_s$ , where y is the ratio of BZ solution of the two solutions at a particular height (position) of the test tube for a certain value of n. Thus, to estimate y, the height and n are required.

In the rotation-and-stop method, only the regions close to the interface of the two solutions are mixed by a single rotation-stop cycle. This elementary step was repeated several times. Therefore, the mixing achieved by this procedure can be estimated by integrating the local mixing states. The mixing process in this study can be modelled as shown in Figure 5A. The mixing by the single rotation and stop process is restricted within a small region where the collision between the solution element and the tube wall induces the local mixing. Here, the small region is evaluated as approximately one-tenth of the solution height. The volumetric ratio of BZ solution is expressed as  $y_{n, i}$ , where n and j represent the stop times and positions, respectively. In the initial state is expressed by (to express perfect separation):  $y_{0, i} =$ 0 at  $j \ge j_{\text{max}}/2$  and  $y_{0, j} = 1$  at  $j < j_{\text{max}}/2$  (the smaller  $y_{n, j}$  is colored red in Figure 5A). The ratio of BZ solution at position j after a single rotation stop is calculated as

$$y_{n+1, j} = \left(y_{n, j+1} + y_{n, j} + y_{n, j-1}\right) / 3 \tag{5}$$

**Figure 5B** shows  $y_{n, j}$  after *n* rotations-stop cycles.  $y_{n, j}$  approached a uniform distribution as *n* increased. A transient distribution (the dotted curve), which was approximately well correlated to the line of n = 10 at **Figure 5B**, is calculated using the hyperbolic tangent function:



maximum frequency, and (C) wavenumber as a function of s 30 min after mixing. The black arrows indicate the travel direction.

$$y_{n,j} = y(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 - tanh\left(\frac{x - \frac{h}{2}}{\alpha_m \cdot \frac{h}{2}}\right) \right\}$$
(6)

where *x* and *h* (instead of  $j_{max}$ ) denote the position and length of the system, respectively. The mixing index,  $\alpha_m$  expresses the degree of mixing and is correlated with the stop time *n* in the experiment, where an increase in  $\alpha_m$  corresponds to an increase in *n*. **Figure 5C** shows the concentration distributions of the BZ solution ingredients at each  $\alpha_m$ . For example,  $\alpha_m \cong 0$  and  $\infty$ , indicate that the two solutions are completely separated and mixed, respectively.

In the experiment, a blue color appeared in the ferriin-rich part formed by the oxidation of ferroin. Therefore, in the calculation, the region with the highest V (highest concentration of ferriin) is colored blue. Figure 6A shows the pseudo-colored image created by this method at each  $\alpha_m$  value 30 min after mixing. The upward chemical wave was reproduced as shown in Figure 6A (waves traveling to larger *x*-values, see **Supplementary Video S2**). Figures 6B,C show the calculated  $f_{\text{max}}$  and  $k_{30}$  values, respectively. The calculation was performed using the same method as that applied for the experimental results. The results indicated that  $f_{\text{max}}$  and  $k_{30}$  decreased with an

increase in  $\alpha_m$ . Because  $\alpha_m$  is positively correlated with *n*, this trend is qualitatively identical to those shown in **Figures 3C,D**. At  $\alpha_m > 100$ ,  $k_{30}$  reached zero, and  $f_{max}$  took a small non-zero value. This represents the global-oscillation-like pattern. The global-oscillation-like pattern is observed only at a sufficiently large *n* value in the experiment, which is reproduced by this calculation.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

The stepwise mixing of two solutions in a test tube was achieved using the rotation-and-stop method. The BZ reaction exhibited three modes: upward chemical waves, complex patterns, and global-oscillation-like patterns in this mixing process. These patterns were visible to the naked eye and distinguished by determining the position of the highest oscillation frequency in the test tube. A transition from an upward chemical wave to complicated and global-oscillation-like patterns (which signifies the degree of mixing) was observed with an increase in the number of stops. An improved mixing state was achieved with a relatively low frequency and wavenumber. The results were explained by a numerical calculation using the RZ model and an appropriate concentration distribution. The relationship between the degree of mixing and the pattern produced in the BZ reaction will help quantify the degree of mixing using the spatiotemporal pattern. It is looking forward that the investigation of the accuracy of measurement with a comparison with the other method and that the developed quantification by the measurement of the chemical wave propagating speed.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/**Supplementary Material**, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

YO performed all experiments and calculations. YO, EO, DY, and AS conceived the study. YO, DY, and AS used a

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physicochemical model. YO, EO, DY, SN, and AS have discussed this research.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fphy.2022.895824/full#supplementary-material

Supplementary Video S1 | Experimental results: (A) upward chemical wave, (B) complicated pattern, and (C) global-oscillation-like pattern. The speed was 200 times faster than the real speed.

Supplementary Video S2 | Calculated pseudo-color image of the chemical wave. The speed was 150 times faster than the real speed.

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