

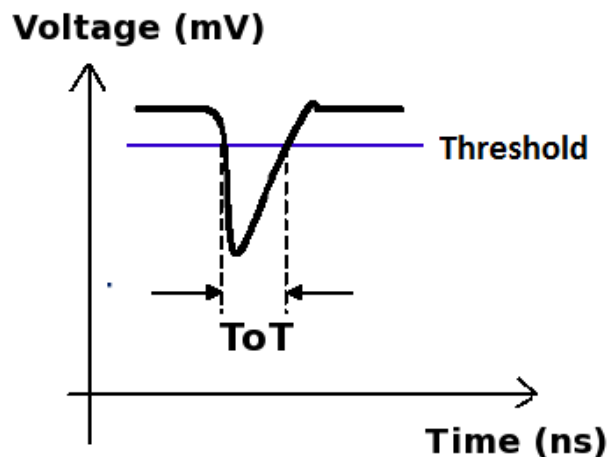
1 Worksheet 3: Performance Study

This section requires taking data with the counters for at least 2 hours. I would recommend even more. You can split the worksheet up into 2 sessions for the week. In the first session, introduce them to the idea of the performance study and allow them to carry out the section “Analysing Data”. This allows them to run a performance study on data recorded by the University of Birmingham. After this, set up the counters using the control voltages found in the plateauing worksheet and start recording data. Leave this running overnight and upload the data the next day. Note that with a large amount of data, it can take up to half an hour to upload. It would be a good idea to have it already uploaded for the second session. They can then run their own performance study and spend some time discussing the performance of the counters. If needed, they can change the control voltage or the threshold slightly.

1.1 Aim

The aim of this worksheet is to check that the detectors are working and are detecting cosmic rays efficiently. We can do this by using the Cosmic Ray e-lab website to analyse the signals being produced by the counters.

1.2 Introduction



The picture above shows a typical signal which comes from the PMT when it detects a cosmic ray muon. The size of the signal depends on both the control voltage used across the PMT and the amount of energy deposited by the muon as it passes through. Since every muon deposits approximately the same amount of energy, we expect the signal from cosmic rays to be constant.

In reality, the PMT will not only produce signals which come from cosmic rays. There are some which come from other ionising particles passing through or from random flashes of light being emitted. These pulses, which do not come from cosmic rays, are called noise since we are not interested in them, and they make detecting the cosmic rays harder. A single counter will tend to produce more noise pulses than signals. The reason we look for a coincidence between two counters is that it is unlikely for noise to be produced in the two counters at the same time.

But there is another method we use to remove the noise, and that is to set a threshold. Noise pulses are usually much smaller than cosmic ray signals, and so we only accept pulses which are above a certain level, called the threshold. The higher the threshold, the fewer noise pulses get through, but at the same time more cosmic ray signals are missed. The threshold can be set through hyperterm with the command `TL n m`. `n` defines the channel which you wish to change, for example counter 1 is channel 0. `m` is the value of the threshold in mV. I recommend using a threshold of 300mV. So to set the threshold of counter 1 to 300mV, type `TL 0 300`. To change all 4 counters at once, type `TL 4 300`.

To test whether the counters are detecting a lot of noise, we want to analyse the pulses which we detect. We do this by measuring the time-over-threshold (ToT) of the pulses. If the height of the pulse is the same, the ToT will also be the same. So we expect all cosmic rays to produce pulses with a ToT of about 20ns. Noise pulses will be much smaller and so will have a smaller ToT. So we will plot a histogram of the time-over-threshold for every pulse we detect from the counter. This will separate the noise from the cosmic ray signals and allow us to check that we shall be able to discriminate between the two sources by imposing an appropriate threshold. We do this by running a Performance Study from the Cosmic e-lab.

1.3 Analysing Data

We will start by running a Performance Study on data which has already been recorded by us at the University of Birmingham. You can analyse the data by logging onto the Cosmic Ray e-lab. The website is <http://www18.i2u2.org/elab/cosmic/home/>

1. Click on the “Data” tab and then “Performance” and you should see the pages below.

Cosmic Ray e-Lab

Project Map Library Upload **Data** Posters Site Map Assessment

View Data Performance Flux Shower Lifetime View Plots Analyses

Performance: Choose data for performance study.

Science requires reliable measurement of variables. You must be able to trust your data in order to draw conclusions that make sense to you and others. Would you believe a bathroom scale that reads 487 pounds when a house cat steps on it? This analysis pathway allows you to check the consistency of the detector recording your data. Big changes in performance can mean two things: some interesting physics occurred or the detector has lost calibration. It's important to know which one happened.

Gain confidence by watching a [performance analysis](#) done, then try yourself by searching for data from "Seaman High School" on "29/2009" and setting the bin width to "2.25" ns. If you need more detailed instructions, try the [Step-by-Step](#) on the right.

Quick Searches: Univ of Birmingham Birmingham GBR All

City: Search Data

Advanced Search

Searching 37117 data files from 398 schools in 53 states.

Select school and search for Univ of Birmingham

Help

[Tutorial on performance study](#)

[Step-by-Step Instructions](#)

[FAQs](#)

States include provinces and countries. Enter the [abbreviation](#)

Related Milestones

[Analyze Data](#)

[Correct Data](#)

[Assemble Evidence](#)

Legend

Unstacked data

Stacked data

Blessed data

AddView comments

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Quick Searches: Univ of Birmingham Birmingham GBR All

City: Search Data

Advanced Search

Results 1 - 1 of 1 for school Univ of Birmingham (Searched 86 files in 0.032 seconds)

Univ of Birmingham

Birmingham, GBR

86 data files, 0 blessed, 70 stacked, 53,763,011 total events.

► August 2010, 23 files

► September 2010, 16 files

► October 2010, 2 files

► March 2011, 8 files

► May 2011, 2 files

► July 2011, 11 files

► August 2011, 24 files

Detector 6411, 9 files

Thu 11 2,315,948 events

Fri 12 2,897,699 events

Fri 12 2,185,999 events

Sat 13 5,336,249 events

Sun 14 322,452 events

Mon 15 933,204 events

Tue 16 4,403,979 events

Wed 17 44,737 events

Fri 19 78,584 events

Select data from Fri 19th August 2011

Detector 6430, 15 files

Mon 01 103,054 events

Mon 01 724,344 events

Tue 02 621,793 events

Wed 03 589,775 events

Wed 03 139,365 events

Thu 04 220,216 events

Thu 04 100,274 events

Thu 08 2,654,716 events

Thu 10 29,647 events

Thu 10 3,877,761 events

Thu 11 632,242 events

Thu 11 938,888 events

Thu 11 2,315,948 events

Fri 12 2,897,699 events

Click here to start analysis

Analyze

Run performance study

Help

[Tutorial on performance study](#)

[Step-by-Step Instructions](#)

[FAQs](#)

States include provinces and countries. Enter the [abbreviation](#)

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2. Search for data from 19/08/2011 from the school “Univ of Birmingham”. Select the data from this day to analyse.

This analysis looks at the [signals](#) generated when cosmic ray muons passes through a counter. The values are displayed in a histogram.

Gain confidence by running a practice analysis.

[Understand the graph](#)

You're analyzing...	Chan1 events	Chan2 events	Chan3 events	Chan4 events	Raw Data
Univ of Birmingham Aug 1, 2011 08:07:08 UTC	71232	79158	112052	63072	View Statistics Geometry
Total (1 files 325514 events)	71232	79158	112052	63072	Compare files

Click **Analyze** to use the default parameters. Control the analysis by expanding the options below. Be sure to click the question icon next to "Bin width (ns)."

Analysis Controls

Select channels to analyse

Channels: 1 2 3 4

Bin width (ns):

Plot Controls

Use plot controls to change the range of the axis and the title of the plot.

X-min: X-max:

Y-min: Y-max:

Plot Size:

Plot Title:

Figure caption:

Execution Mode

Local (estimated time: 00:01:00)

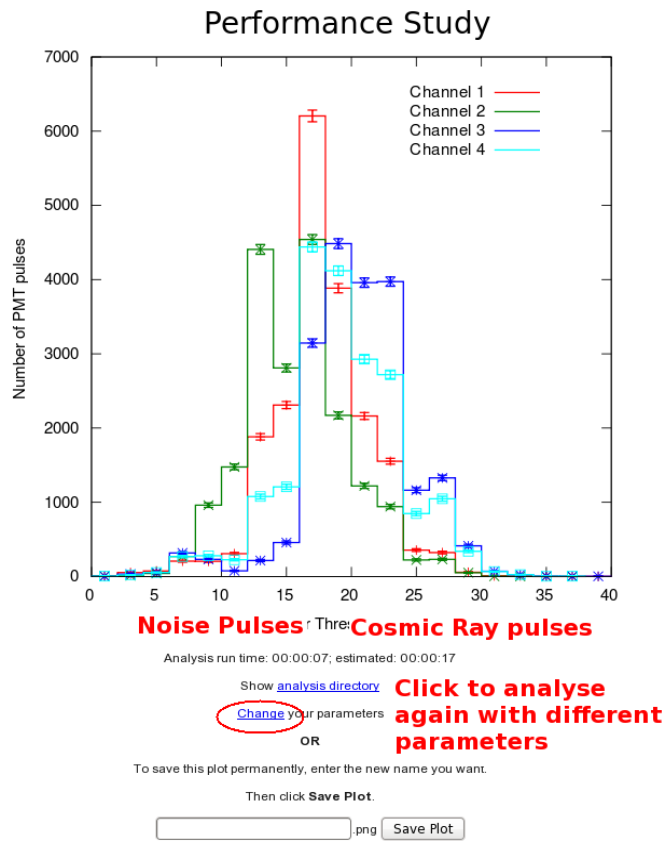
I2U2 Cluster (estimated time: 00:01:55)

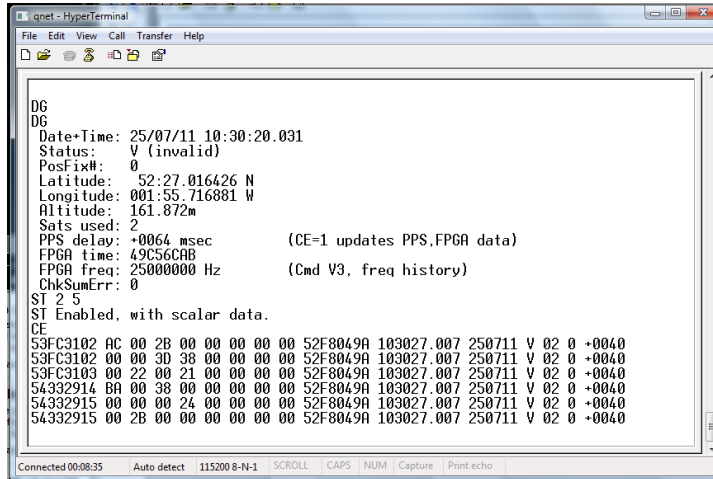
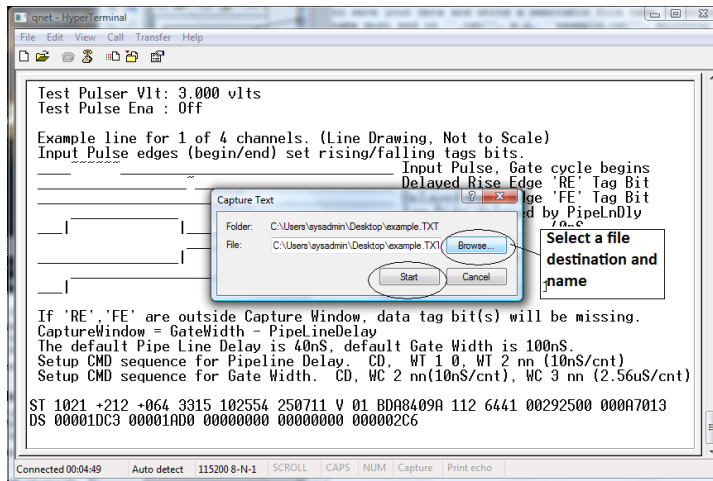
Grid (temporarily disabled)

Automatic (estimated time: 00:01:09)

Click on analyze

- You should see the options in the figure above. Select which counters you want to analyse (all of them) and set the bin width to 2ns. Expand the "Plot Controls" tab and you can change the range of the axes and the plot title. Then click on "Analyze".





1. Set up the DAQ board to record coincidences between all 4 counters, i.e. a 4-fold coincidence level, by typing WC 00 3F.
2. From the “Transfer” menu select “Capture Text”
3. Choose a file name ending with “.txt” and save your file somewhere memorable. Then select “Start”
4. Anything which now appears in the Hyperterminal window will also be written to the “.txt” file. Start by typing the commands V1, V2, DG, TL, ST 2 5. This ensures your data file contains the necessary information about the detectors.
5. Type the command CE to enable the counters and start writing data to the “.txt” file. Leave this running for about 2 hours. While you are collecting data you can move onto “Analysing Data” to run a performance study on data we have already taken. Make sure that the computer you are using is set to never sleep, otherwise you will not continue to collect data.
6. Once you have collected enough data type the command CD to stop writing out data.
7. From the “Transfer” menu select “Capture Text” and “Stop”.

This could be the end of the first session. Leave the computer recording data overnight. Don't forget to set the computer to never sleep. Also make sure they have typed the command CE, or else no data will be recorded.

Upload raw data collected by your cosmic ray detector.

- Select the **detector** associated with the data you are uploading.
- Click **Choose File/Browse** to locate the data file on your computer.
- Click **Upload** to upload the file.

Please do not upload files larger than 2 GB in size. You'll have to split them up into smaller pieces. Questions? See the [FAQ](#)

Choose detector
6430

Raw Data File: Choose File No file chosen

Optional comments on raw data:

Select your detector and click to find your data file

Once you have selected your file click on "Upload"

Once you have collected enough data you can run your own performance study. Upload your data by clicking “Upload” and then “Data”. It is now ready to be analysed. Repeat the steps above with the data you have just taken to obtain your own performance plots. How do they look? Can you trust the detectors to measure the flux of cosmic rays? If the peak of the noise signals is higher than the cosmic ray signal then you have a problem. It could be that your control voltage is too high, so check your plateau again. If that fails then you can increase the threshold slightly to see if that helps. Once you have a detector producing a good performance study, you can have confidence in its ability to observe cosmic rays, and you can prove to other groups that your detector does not have too much noise. Once you are happy with your plot, click on “Save Plot” so that you can easily access it later.