



**DECTRIS®**

*detecting the future*

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***EIGER***

***Detector Manual***

Version: V1.2

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## 1. Document History

### 1.1. Current Document

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Prepared</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Released</b>
1.2	19.06.2015	Released	SB/AM/MS/MH/BL /TD/GT	MM/SK	SB

### 1.2. Changes

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Changes</b>
1.0	17.12.2014	First version
1.1	26.03.2015	Additional information
1.2	19.06.2015	Additional information

## 2. *How to Use This Manual*

Before you start to operate the EIGER detector system please thoroughly read this manual.

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### Email:

- [support@dectris.com](mailto:support@dectris.com)

Should you have questions concerning the system or its use, please contact us via telephone, mail or fax.



**Do not attempt to ship the system back before receiving the necessary transport and shipping information from DECTRIS.**

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### 2.1. Disclaimer

DECTRIS has carefully compiled the contents on this manual according to the current state of knowledge. Damage and warranty claims arising from missing or incorrect data are excluded.

DECTRIS bears no responsibility or liability for damage of any kind, also for indirect or consequential damage resulting from the use of this system.

DECTRIS is the sole owner of all user rights related to the contents of the manual (in particular information, images or materials), unless otherwise indicated. Without the written permission of DECTRIS it is prohibited to integrate the protected contents published in these applications into other programs or other Web sites or to use them by any other means.

DECTRIS reserves the right, at its own discretion and without liability or prior notice, to modify and/or discontinue this application in whole or in part at any time, and is not obliged to update the contents of the manual.

### 3. Warnings



Please carefully read these warnings before operating the detector

- Before switching on the power supply, check if the supply voltage printed on the detector is in accordance with the power supply.
- Power down the detector system before connecting or disconnecting any cable.
- Make sure all required cables are connected and properly secured.
- Avoid any pressure or tension on the cables.
- Operating the detector outside the specified ambient conditions will damage the system.
- The detector is not specified to withstand direct beam at a synchrotron. The direct beam will damage the exposed pixels.
- Place the protective cover on the detector when it is not in use.
- Opening the detector or the power supply housing will void the warranty.
- DO NOT INTERACT WITH THE DETECTOR SERVER OTHER THAN VIA THE SIMPLON API OR THE WEB INTERFACE – THERE IS NO CONSOLE ACCESS TO THE DETECTOR SERVER.
- DO NOT TOUCH THE MYLAR ENTRANCE WINDOW OF THE DETECTOR! The modules will be damaged.



The Technical Specifications document contains important additional information for your specific detector in addition to this manual. Please read it before installing the detector.

## 4. System Description

The EIGER detector system consists of the following components:

- EIGER detector
- Power supply for detector
- Detector control unit (a Dell PowerEdge system)
- Water chiller
- Data cable(s) (10G Ethernet, Cat6A only)
- Coolant tubing with couplings and hose clamps
- Documentation: this manual, technical specifications, SIMPLON API

### 4.1. Hardware

The EIGER X-ray detector operates in "single photon counting" mode and is based on the hybrid pixel technology. X-rays are directly converted into electric charge and processed in the CMOS readout chips. This design has no dark current or readout noise, while providing a short readout time, and excellent spatial resolution (a point spread function of 1 pixel). As the quantum efficiency depends on the silicon sensor thickness, the detectors can be used for energies of up to 30 keV, in some applications even higher. The counting rate is greater than  $2 \times 10^6$  counts/s/pixel, enough to perform many experiments using the high flux of modern synchrotron light sources. However, the detector cannot withstand a direct synchrotron beam.

The EIGER hybrid pixel detector is composed of a silicon sensor, which is a two-dimensional array of pn-diodes processed in high-resistivity silicon, connected to an array of readout channels designed in advanced CMOS technology.

### 4.2. Software

The EIGER detector system is controlled via the SIMPLON API, which relies on a http/REST interface. The API documentation is provided as a separate document "SIMPLON API".

The detector's web interface (chapter 7) gives access to fundamental settings and status parameters and also enables a first test to see if the detector system has been set up properly (after installation and startup as described in chapters 5 and 6).

The EIGER detector writes images in the HDF5 file format (see chapter 10). DECTRIS provides the image viewer ALBULA, which is able to handle the HDF5 images, with the primary aim to display them. ALBULA is available free of charge for the platforms Linux, Windows and Mac (for download please go to <http://www.dectris.com>). The ALBULA version for Linux comes with a Python API for handling the HDF5 files that allows performing arithmetic operations on image data as well as basic analysis. Furthermore, the API enables seamless integration of the viewer into a beamline infrastructure. More information on HDF5 and ALBULA is given in chapter 10.

## 5. Installation

### 5.1. Mounting

The detector has to be mounted as indicated in the technical specifications of the EIGER detector. The chiller has to be installed in a place with adequate ventilation and set up according to its user manual. The detector control unit (DCU) should be mounted in an appropriate 19" computer rack.

### 5.2. Cables and Tubing

#### 5.2.1. Detector

The detector has to be connected to the external power supply. Please make sure the power switch at the back of the detector is OFF.

Connect the detector's Ethernet ports marked "DATA" ports to the corresponding ports of the detector control unit with the supplied Cat6A network cables only. The number of ports/cables depends on the detector type (X series: 4 ports, R series: 1 port) as shown in the technical specifications document. If more than one cable is required, please pay attention to the numbering of the cables, i.e. that "DATA1" is connected to Port 1 and so on.



Proper detector function can only be guaranteed for the original Ethernet cables supplied with the detector.

Finally, plug in the dry air or nitrogen supply. For pipe diameter, flow rate and medium requirements, please see the technical specifications.

#### 5.2.2. Chiller

The tubing needs to be fixed to the chiller and the couplings using the hose clamps supplied. Plug in the couplings in the detector and check the flow direction (i.e. the chiller outlet should be connected to the detector cooling inlet and vice versa). Once the tubing is installed, the chiller has to be filled with coolant and connected to power. For coolant requirements please see the technical specifications.

#### 5.2.3. Detector Control Unit (DCU)

The detector control unit needs to be connected to power, to the detector (as specified above) and to the customer's workstation meant to receive the acquired data via network connection. See the technical specifications for further information on cables and connectors. Please refer to section 5.3 and 7.2 of this manual for accessing and configuring the network connection of the detector control unit.

Do not connect a mouse, keyboard or screen to the detector control unit, as it is solely controlled via the network interface and all actions are carried out either via the SIMPLON API (see separate document) or tested via the web interface (see below).

### 5.3. Accessing the Detector Control Unit

The EIGER detector is controlled via the network interface of the detector control unit. Hence, the IP network address of the detector control unit has to be known to be able to connect to the interface. Depending on the network structure, there are several ways of determining the IP network address, which are described below.

- See the technical specifications for the default network port configuration of your detector control unit.
- The default network port configuration may be changed through the detector's web interface (see section 7.2).

#### 5.3.1. Using DHCP

If there is a DHCP server available on the network, plug the network cable into a port of the detector control unit pre-configured for DHCP. See the technical specifications for the default network port configuration of your detector control unit.

If your detector control unit has an LCD panel in the front (EIGER X systems), the IP network address can be retrieved from this panel.



Alternatively, or if your detector control unit has no LCD panel (e.g., EIGER R systems), the IP network address can be retrieved by searching for the MAC address on the network. For network safety reasons, please ask the network administrator for assistance in obtaining the IP address. If you are the network administrator or have the required permission, the following linux command can be used to retrieve the IP network address:

- `sudo nmap -sP xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx/24 | awk '/^Nmap/{ip=$NF}/yy:yy:yy:yy:yy:zz/{print ip}'`

where `xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx/24` is the network address range to be scanned (e.g. 192.168.0.1/24) and `yy:yy:yy:yy:yy:zz` is the MAC address of the DHCP network port in the back of the detector control unit. The MAC address of the first network port can be found on the bottom of the service tag label (pull-out label in the front of the detector control unit). The MAC addresses of the second, third and fourth ports are the same as the first one, but with the last two digits incremented by `zz+2`, `zz+4` and `zz+5`, respectively. (e.g. if the first port is 01:23:45:67:89:ab, then the second port is 01:23:45:67:89:ad.)

### 5.3.2. Using a Fixed IP

If you want to access the detector control unit using a fixed IP network address, plug the network cable into a port of your detector control unit pre-configured for a fixed IP. See the technical specifications for the network port configuration of your detector control unit and configure your network accordingly.

If you use e.g., a laptop to access the detector control unit directly for the initial configuration, you can use the following network settings on the laptop:

IP address:	10.42.42.42
Subnet mask:	255.255.0.0
Default gateway:	not required

## 6. Getting Started



Please make sure the detector, the chiller and the detector control unit are properly mounted and connected according to Chapter 5 and the technical specifications. Before operating the detector, make sure you have read the previous chapters of this document as well as the technical specifications.

### 6.1. Startup Procedure

- Turn on the nitrogen or dry air flow at least 30 minutes before turning on the detector.
- Turn on the chiller and set the operation temperature specified in the technical specifications. Please read the chiller manual, as some models must be powered and additionally activated in order to operate properly.
- Turn on the power switch at the back of the detector and press the power button on the front of the detector control unit.
- To quickly verify correct operation of the complete detector system, it is possible to record an image through the detector's web interface, as described in section 7.3.

## 7. Web Interface

The EIGER web interface provides simple access to basic functions and settings of the detector system for installation, testing and system update. For productive operation of the detector, please refer to the SIMPLON API documentation.

### 7.1. Accessing the Web Interface

To access the detector's web interface, please enter the detector's IP address into the browser of a PC connected to the same network as the detector control unit. To determine the detector's IP address, see Section 5.3. The browser will show you the web interface of the detector as shown below.

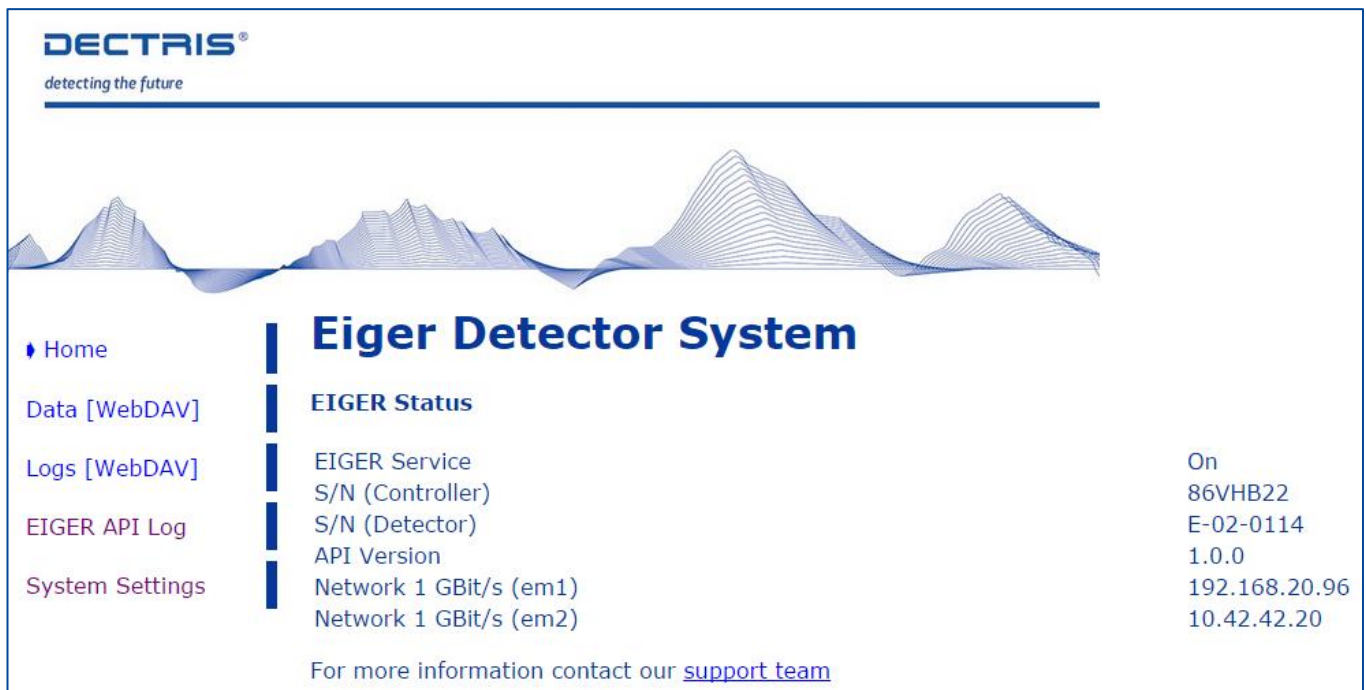


Figure 1: Screenshot of the home page of the detector web interface showing the EIGER status.

The following information is available through the web interface menu:

- Home: Status of EIGER service (more detailed through system settings), controller and detector serial numbers, API version and network configuration
- Data [WebDAV]: file listing of the /data/ directory
- Logs [WebDAV]: file listing of the /logs/ directory
- SIMPLON API log: RestAPI live log
- System Settings: to access the detector control unit system settings (see Section 7.2)

### 7.2. System Settings

The system settings are password protected to prevent unauthorized access:

User: eiger  
Password: #EIGER\_Detector#

Once logged in, you will see the web interface for the detector system settings similar to the screenshot in Figure 2.

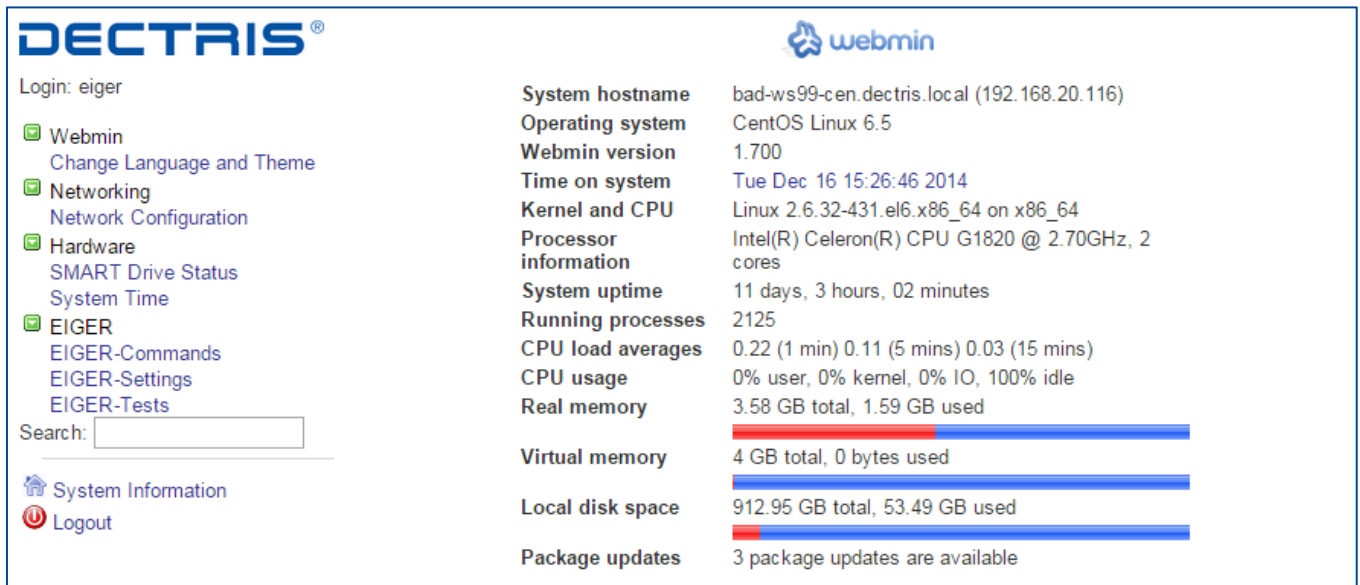


Figure 2: Screenshot of the system settings page showing the menu structure (left) and detailed detector control unit status information (right)

The following menu items are available for configuration/testing:

- Webmin → Change Language and Theme: Configure language and login password
- Networking → Network Configuration: Configure network interfaces, routing and gateways, hostname and DNS client and host addresses
- Hardware → SMART Drive Status: Retrieve hard drive status information
- System Time: Configure system and hardware time, time zone and time server sync
- EIGER → Commands: Detector commands (initialize, abort, arm, trigger, disarm, cancel)
- DCU-Control: Detector control unit commands (power off, reboot, upgrade, cable check, restart DAQ, restore network default settings)
- EIGER-Tests: Basic detector tests (cable check, EIGER image capture test and EIGER components status)

### 7.3. Test Image Using the Web Interface

In the EIGER-Tests section please execute the command EIGER image capture test. This test will initialize the connected detector and then record an image. After this image is recorded, it is possible to download the image using the links in the Data menu of the web interface (see section 7.1). The image can be displayed using the ALBULA viewer (see section 10).

## 8. General Usage of the Detector System

### 8.1. Detector Control and Output

The EIGER detector system is controlled through the SIMPLON API, an interface to the detector that is based on the http protocol and implemented on the detector control unit. The SIMPLON API documentation supplied with the system describes this interface in detail and allows for easy integration of detector control into instrument control or similar software. Please refer to the SIMPLON API documentation for details.

The data recorded by the detector can be accessed in two different ways. Images can be stored by the file writer on the detector control unit (RAM disk) as HDF5 files (for details see section 10), which include meta-data in a NeXus-compatible format. These files have to be subsequently copied to a permanent storage by the user (to prevent an overflow of the available RAM disk, which could overwrite existing images and result in data loss). Alternatively, the images can be directly obtained through the http interface via the detector's monitor interface. Both ways are described in detail in the SIMPLON API documentation.

### 8.2. Recording Images

To record images or image series, the following steps need to be performed through the SIMPLON API (see the SIMPLON API documentation for details).

1. Initialize the detector (detector and detector control unit must be running; only required once).
2. Set the detector parameters for data acquisition (exposure time, exposure period, energy threshold, trigger method, number of images, ...) and specify the desired output (File Writer and/or Monitor Interface, bit depth, ...).
3. Arm the detector
4. Send trigger(s) to record the programmed image or image series. Do this once or multiple times (creating auto-named files).
5. Disarm the detector (to ensure files are finalized and closed).
6. Go back to step 2 for further data acquisition with different settings or to step 3 for identical settings.
7. Retrieve the recorded image data: Copy the HDF5 image containers from the server before they are overwritten. OR: Get the images through the Monitor Interface before the monitor buffer overflows. Data retrieval may be performed simultaneously with data acquisition (step 4).

### 8.3. Control of the Detector from a Specific Environment

Integrating the detector into a specific environment requires understanding of the necessary detector functions. The API reference will list all possible commands and features, but it does not give an explanation of the required functionality. Important and frequently used parameters are explained below.

#### 8.3.1. Main Configuration Parameters

Following this section allows control of the detector and data acquisition. Data will be acquired, but the interface for data retrieval, filewriter, stream and/or monitor, has to be configured separately. For data acquisition, only the following parameters need to be adjusted.

- `nimages`
- `count_time`
- `frame_time`
- `photon_energy`

The parameter photon energy has to be set to the X-ray energy used for the experiment. The difference between the timing parameters `frame_time` and `count_time` has to be greater than the `detector_readout_time`, which can be

read back from the API. The `count_time` is the time the detector counts photons and `frame_time` is the interval between acquisition of subsequent frames. The number of images in a series of images, e.g., after a trigger pulse, is configured with the parameter `nimages`. A good way of understanding this is that the detector “thinks” in series of `n` images. This series is started after a trigger command or an electronic pulse on the external trigger input. To change between the trigger modes one can use the

- `trigger_mode`

which allows changing between the modes (see section 9 for details).

There is a convenience function for `photon_energy`, called

- `element`

which accepts the chemical symbols for elements, e.g., “Cu”, “Mo”, as an argument and sets the photon energy to the  $K_{\alpha 1}$  emission line for that element.

With EIGER Firmware version 1.1 or higher it is possible to use the parameter

- `ntrigger`

with values  $>1$ , which allows several trigger commands or external pulses per arm/disarm sequence. This mode allows recording several series with the same parameters, which can be an advantage for some experiments.

With the filewriter enabled (default after initialization of the detector system), the acquired data is written into a hdf5 file. The filewriter has the following important configuration parameters:

- `name_pattern`
- `nimages_per_file`
- `compression_enabled`

where `name_pattern` sets the name of the file (using the pattern `$id` adds a sequence number in its place). The parameter `nimages_per_file` sets the number of images written to a single data file. A value of 1000 (default) means that for every 1000th image, a data file is created in the data directory after recording. If for example, 1800 images are expected to be recorded, the arm, trigger, disarm sequence means that the master file is created in the data directory after the arm. The trigger starts the image series and after 1000 recorded images one data container appears. This state does not change until the disarm command which finishes the series and closes the second open data container. This makes the data container appear in the data directory.



Please note that recorded image data can also be retrieved in different ways. For details, please see the API documentation.

### 8.3.2. Additional Configuration Parameters



The following parameters are for special conditions and should be set with care and with an understanding of the consequences. The parameters can clearly negatively influence the data quality!

- `threshold_energy` (is set automatically by photon energy to 50% of the possible value, this should only be changed if the suppression of fluorescence is necessary for the experiment: can be used between 50% - 80%, there are no limits from API.)

Corrections can be turned off using the following, commands. This should most certainly not be done for any standard experiment, since it requires post treatment of the data. There are very few experiments where this can be an advantage, but it can easily be a negative influence.

- `flatfield_correction_applied`
- `pixel_mask_applied` (possible in future versions)

Further settings, such as the following, allow you to enter beamline and experiment relevant parameters.

- `beam_center_x`
- `beam_center_y`

- detector\_distance
- detector\_orientation
- detector\_translation
- wavelength (but corresponds and acts like photon energy)

Further parameters and their functions are described in the API reference manual.

### 8.3.3. Dependence of Parameters

The following parameters are either directly affected by the detector calibration or they affect other parameters that stem from the calibration: flatfield, pixel mask, element, photon energy, wavelength and threshold energy. Changing one of these parameters may let the SIMPLON API change other parameters as well in order to keep the detector configuration consistent.

- photon\_energy: Changing photon energy in general sets **element** to an empty string and **wavelength** to its corresponding value; **threshold energy** is set to **photon energy**/2. This implies that **threshold energy** should be set after **photon energy** or **wavelength**; **flatfield** is recalculated.
- element: Setting the **element** is equivalent to setting the **photon energy** to the K $\alpha$  line of the element. Hence **photon energy**, **wavelength** and all parameters that depend on **photon energy** are changed accordingly.
- wavelength: Changing **wavelength** in general sets **element** to an empty string and **photon energy** to the corresponding value; **threshold energy** is set to **photon energy**/2. This implies that **threshold energy** should be set after **photon energy** or **wavelength**; **flatfields** are recalculated.
- threshold\_energy: **flatfield** is recalculated whenever **threshold energy** changes.
- flatfield: The **flatfield** has been measured during calibration as a function of **photon energy** and **threshold energy**.

## 9. Trigger Usage

### 9.1. Introduction

In order to record an image or a series of images, the EIGER detector has to be configured, armed and the exposure(s) started by a trigger signal. The detector can be triggered through software (internal trigger) or by an externally applied TTL signal (external trigger). Three different trigger modes are available and described below.

#### Notes:

In order to set the trigger parameters (config/...), the detector has to be initialized first. The sequence of commands, as described in the "SIMPLON API" documentation, has to be maintained. See the document "SIMPLON API" for a description of the configuration parameters.

Depending on the type of EIGER System, the valid values for the trigger parameters differ. Please consult the technical specifications for your system. The values presented in the examples below are on the low side of performance and will work on every EIGER system. If the settings or the external trigger/enable pulses applied are outside the specifications, acquisitions will not be performed, and subsequently crucial information may be missed.

All values used in the example are for demonstrational purposes only and should be adapted to meet the requirements of your application.

### 9.2. INTS - Internal (Software) Triggering

An exposure (series) can be triggered by using a software trigger. This is the default mode.

Example of a detector configuration for an internally (software) triggered exposure series:

```
config/trigger_mode = ints
config/frame_time = 1
config/count_time = 0.7
config/nimages = 10
```

#### Note:

In order to set these parameters, the detector has to be initialized first. The sequence of commands, as described in SIMPLON API documentation, has to be maintained.

See API: Configuration for a description of the configuration parameters.

The detector starts the first exposure after a command is processed. All subsequent frames are triggered according to the information previously configured by the "frame\_time" and "count\_time" parameters. The detector records "nimages" frames.

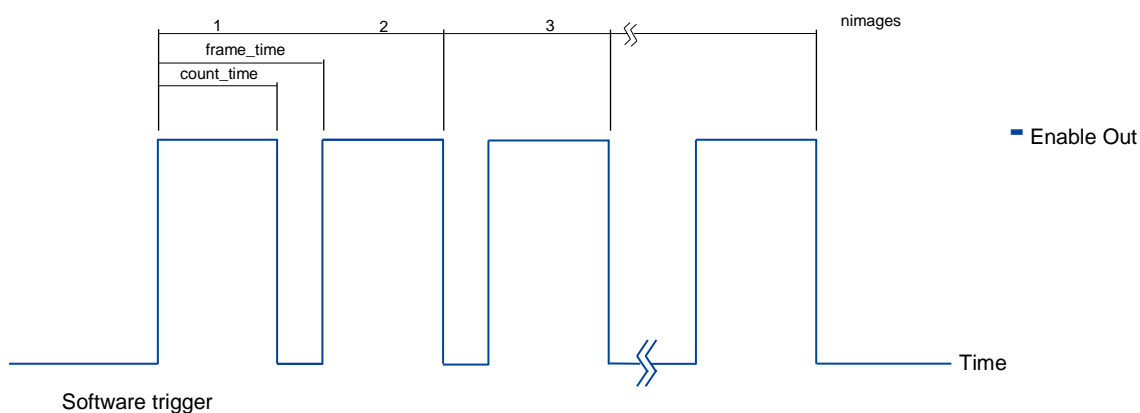


Figure 3: Series of exposures, defined by "frame\_time", "count\_time" and "nimages", triggered by a software trigger.



### 9.3. EXTS - Externally Triggered Exposure Series

The EIGER detector system also externally triggered exposure series with multiple frames, activated by one single trigger pulse.

Below is an example of a detector configuration for an externally triggered exposure series:

```
config/trigger_mode = exts
config/frame_time = 1
config/count_time = 0.7
config/nimages = 10
```

#### Note:

In order to set these parameters, the detector has to be initialized first. The sequence of commands, as described in SIMPLON API documentation, has to be maintained.

See API: Configuration for a description of the configuration parameters.

After the detector has been armed, the acquisition can be triggered by a single external trigger pulse. See the technical specifications for further information on the specifics of the allowed trigger signal.

The detector starts exposing after the trigger signal. All subsequent frames are internally triggered according to the information previously configured by the “frame\_time” and “count\_time” parameters. The detector records “nimages” frames.

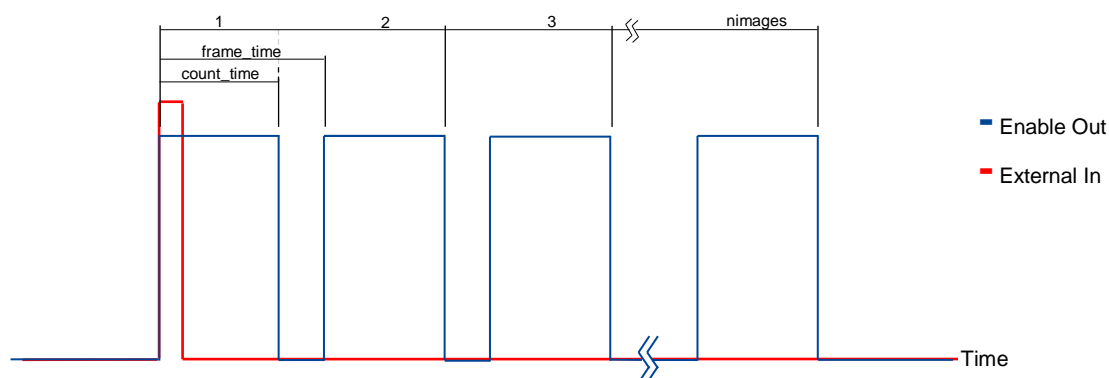


Figure 4: Exposure series defined by “frame\_time”, “count\_time” and “nimages”, triggered by a single external trigger pulse. Periods not drawn to scale in the time domain.

### 9.4. EXTE - Externally Enabled Exposure Series

The EIGER detector system also allows externally enabled exposure series. Multiple trigger pulses activate multiple frames and the length of the pulse defines the length of the exposure.

Below is an example of a detector configuration for an externally triggered exposure series:

```
config/trigger_mode = exte
config/count_time (It is advisable to set count_time to a value as close as possible to the real enable
time.)
config/nimages = 10
config/ntrigger = 10
```

#### Note:

In order to set these parameters, the detector has to be initialized first. The sequence of commands, as described in SIMPLON API documentation, has to be maintained.

See API: Configuration for a description of the configuration parameters.

After arming the detector, the acquisition can be enabled by an external signal. The value `ntrigger` defines how often this can be repeated. See the technical specifications for further information on the specifics of the allowed enable signal.

The detector starts exposing the first image after the rising edge and stops after the falling edge. In the same manner, all subsequent frames are externally enabled. The count time and period are determined by the external enable signal. The detector records as many frames as valid (according to the specifications) enable pulses are received until the value set for `ntrigger` is reached.

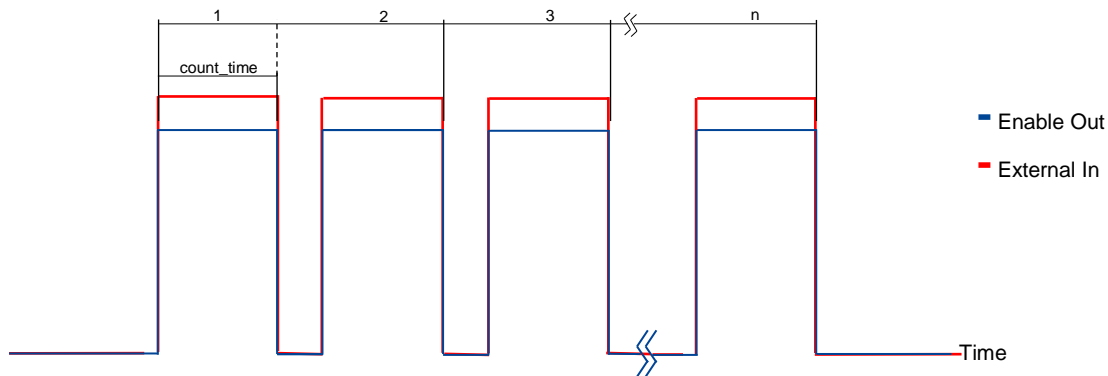


Figure 5: Exposures defined by external enable

The acquisition is controlled by the shape of the external signal. The detector waits for pulses until the number of configured trigger pulses (`ntrigger`) is reached or the detector has been disarmed by issuing the disarm command.

## 10. HDF5 and ALBULA

### 10.1. HDF5 Using ALBULA

ALBULA is DECTRIS' cross-platform image viewer. The Linux version also provides an image library for the Python language.

ALBULA can be downloaded for free at [www.dectris.com](http://www.dectris.com) (after registration). Scripts written in Python using ALBULA can be used to read, display and store data taken by the EIGER (and also PILATUS) detectors.

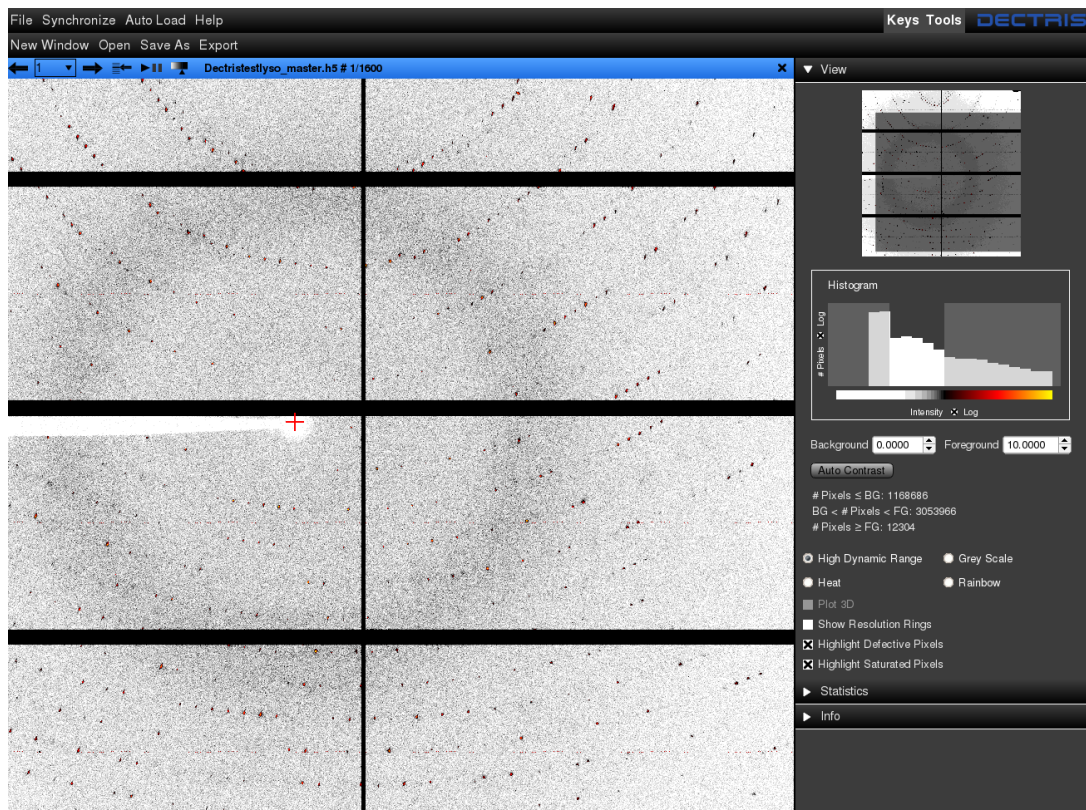


Figure 6: Screenshot ALBULA showing crystallographic data of an EIGER X 4M

### 10.2. ALBULA HDF5 Python Library (Linux only)

The following examples illustrate how the data stored in HDF5 files by the EIGER detector can be manipulated with ALBULA.

#### 10.2.1. Get Started

```
#!/usr/bin/python
```

```
### import the dectris.albula image library ###
import sys
sys.path.insert(0, "/usr/local/dectris/python")
import dectris.albula as albula

def iterateChildren(node, nodeList=[]):
    """ iterates over the children of a neXus node """
    if node.type() == albula.GROUP:
        for kid in node.children():
            nodeList = iterateChildren(kid, nodeList)
    else:
        nodeList.append(node)
    return nodeList
```

```
### open the albula viewer ###
m = albula.openMainFrame()
s = m.openSubFrame()
```

### 10.2.2. Read the Data

```
### read the compressed (or uncompressed) container through the master file ###
h5cont = albula.DHDF5IntContainer("series_16_master.h5")

### loop over the frames and display them in albula ###
for i in range(h5cont.size()):
    #s.loadImage(img)
    img = h5cont[i]
    ### read header items using convenience functions ###
    optData = img.optionalData()
    ## e.g. wavelength ##
    wavelength = optData.wavelength()
    ## threshold energy ##
    threshold_energy = optData.threshold_energy()

### Read the header item directly without convenience functions ###
neXusHeader = h5cont.neXus()
### print all header item names with path ###
neXusRoot = neXusHeader.root()

for kid in iterateChildren(neXusRoot):
    print kid.neXusPath()

## extract wavelength ##
wavelength = neXusRoot.childElement('/entry/instrument/monochromator/wavelength')
## print value ##
print "wavelength value: ",wavelength.value()
## print attributes ##
for attr in wavelength.attributes():
    print attr.name(), attr.value()

## extract threshold ##
threshold_energy = neXusRoot.childElement('/entry/instrument/detector/threshold_energy')
## print value ##
print "threshold_energy value: ",threshold_energy.value()
## print attributes ##
for attr in threshold_energy.attributes():
    print attr.name(), attr.value()
```

### 10.2.3. Write the Data

```
### write the (uncompressed) images and the neXus header to a new HDF5 file ###
HDF5Writer = albula.DHDF5Writer("testContainer.h5",1000, neXusHeader)
for i in range(h5cont.size()):
    img = h5cont[i]
    HDF5Writer.write(img)
### flushing closes the master and the data files ###
HDF5Writer.flush()

### write the images in the cbf format. Careful: Information from the header will be lost!
###
for i in range(h5cont.size()):
    img = h5cont[i]
    albula.DImageWriter.write(img, "testImage_{0:05d}.cbf".format(i),
albula.DImageWriter.CBF)

### write the images in the tif format. Careful: Information from the header will be lost!
###
for i in range(h5cont.size()):
    img = h5cont[i]
    albula.DImageWriter.write(img, "testImage_{0:05d}.tif".format(i),
albula.DImageWriter.TIF)
```

### 10.3. HDF5 without Using ALBULA

The EIGER HDF5 data can also be directly read with programs using the HDF5 library. The EIGER data is, by default, compressed using the LZ4<sup>1</sup> algorithm. In order to decompress the data, the HDF5 plugin filter<sup>2</sup> can be used, see <https://github.com/dectris/HDF5Plugin>. By setting the environment variable HDF5\_PLUGIN\_PATH to the path where the compiled plugin filter can be found, the HDF5 library will decompress the data compressed with LZ4 by itself. If the user wants to use proprietary software like Matlab, IDL or similar, he has to make sure that the HDF5 library version used by this software is at least v1.8.11 in order for the plugin mechanism to work.

For developers using C++, example code can be found on the Dectris website, [here](#) after [registration](#) and [login](#).

<sup>1</sup> See <https://code.google.com/p/lz4/>

<sup>2</sup> In order to use the filter plugin mechanism, HDF5 v1.8.11 or greater must be used. See also <http://www.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/doc/Advanced/DynamicallyLoadedFilters/HDF5DynamicallyLoadedFilters.pdf>