

Pixie Viewer Online Help

- **Getting Help for the Pixie Viewer**

Each Pixie Viewer Control Panel also has a "Help" button, which directly displays the help topic for that panel.

In the help topics, click on [blue underlined links](#) to jump to cross references. [**Blue blue bracketed text**] refers to buttons or control fields in the control panels.

You can also use IGOR's built-in help browser to access the Pixie Viewer specific help file by selecting Help -> Help Topics from the top menu bar. Choose "Pixie-Help" in the popup menu on the left, and select the appropriate help topic from the list on the right.

If Igor reports that no matching help topic has been found, manually open the help file as File -> Open File -> Help File -> Pixie_Help.ifn. Choose to view "all files" in the file open dialog to see files with extension ifn.

For further information and support, please see

- the Pixie-4e User Manual
 - the Pixie-4e FAQ website: <https://support.xia.com/default.asp?W695>
 - the Pixie-4e software download website: <http://support.xia.com/default.asp?W365>
- or email support@xia.com

- **Getting Started**

Preparations

1. If you have a remote controller (PXI bridge), first install the driver software for the controller itself. Unless directed otherwise by the manufacturer of the controller, this can be done with or without the controller and Pixie modules installed in the host computer and/or chassis. If the modules are installed, ignore attempts by Windows to install drivers for the modules until step 7. NI controllers come with a multi-CD package called "Device Driver Reference CD". For simplicity it is recommended to install the software on these CDs in the default configuration.
2. Unless already installed, power down the host computer, install the controller in both the host computer and chassis, and power up the system again (chassis first).
3. Windows will detect new hardware (the controller) and should find the drivers automatically. Verify in Window's device manager that the controller is properly installed and has no "resource conflicts".
4. Install Igor Pro, version 6.22 or higher
5. Install the Pixie Viewer software provided by XIA by running the setup program
6. Unless already installed, power down the host computer, install the Pixie modules in the chassis, and power up the system again (chassis first).
7. Windows will detect new hardware (the Pixie modules) and should find the drivers automatically. If not, direct it to the "drivers" directory in the Pixie Viewer software distribution installed in step 5.
8. Find *Pixie.pxp* in the installed folder and double-click it to open the Pixie Viewer.

- **Initial Startup**

When the Pixie Viewer has been loaded, the *Pixie Start Up Panel* should be prominently displayed in the middle of the desktop. It will prompt you to do the following:

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Select PXI chassis type

Chassis selection is irrelevant for Pixie-4 Express and Pixie-500 Express. Leave the selection at the default "8-slot PXIe-1062"

Currently supported PXIe crates are

- the National Instruments 8-slot PXIe-1062Q hybrid chassis
- the National Instruments 8-slot PXIe-1082 chassis
- the National Instruments 4-slot PXIe-1071 chassis
- the National Instruments 5-slot PXIe-1073 chassis
- the National Instruments 9-slot PXIe-1075 chassis

For the Pixie-4, select the PXI or PXIe chassis you are using. Currently supported PXI crates are

- standard 4-, 5-, 6- or 8-slot chassis,
- the National Instruments 14-slot or 18-slot chassis with 3 PCI bus segments
- the 14-slot 6U chassis designed for Pixie-16 modules by XIA.
- the National Instruments 8-slot PXIe-1062Q hybrid chassis

(The National Instruments 14-slot chassis has the same PCI bus configuration as the 18-slot chassis, only fewer slots). If your specific chassis is not listed, try the option for 4, 5, 6, or 8 slots.

Specify the Pixie modules

Next select the number of Pixie modules in the system. Then specify the serial number for each module resides. For the Pixie-4, specify the chassis slot number in which the module resides.

Finally, click [[Start Up System](#)]. (If you want to try the software without a chassis or modules attached, click on [[Offline Analysis](#)].) In the IGOR history window, a message will show if the modules have been initialized successfully.

You will now see the long vertical *Main* control panel that links to all other control panels. Its controls are organized in three groups: Setup, Run Control, and Results. In the Setup group, the [[Start System](#)] button opens the *Pixie Start Up Panel* in case you need to reboot the modules. The [[Open Panels](#)] popup menu leads to four panels where parameters and acquisition options are entered. To get started, select *Parameter Setup* in this menu, which will open (or bring to front) the [Parameter Setup Panel](#). Most of the actions the Pixie Viewer interacts with one Pixie module at a time. The number of ~~that~~ module is displayed in the *Main* control panel and at the top right corner of the [Parameter Setup Panel](#) (in the [[Module](#)] control).

Proceed with the steps below to configure your system.

1. At the bottom of the [Parameter Setup Panel](#), click on the [[Oscilloscope](#)] button

The [Oscilloscope](#) is a graph that shows the untriggered signal input. Click [[Refresh](#)] to update the display. The pulses should fall between about 1600 and 15000 on the left axis for modules with 14 bit ADCs, and between 6000 and 60000 for modules with 16 bit ADCs. If no pulses are visible or if they are cut off above the maximum or below 0, click [[Adjust Offsets](#)] to automatically set the DC offset. There is a control called [[Offset %](#)] on the Oscilloscope which can be used to set the target DC offset for each channel (in % of the full range). If the pulse amplitude is too large to fall in the display range, decrease the [[Gain](#)]. Since the offsets might drift, for example after changes in input count rate, it is useful to leave the display open and check the offsets once in a while.

2. In the [Energy tab](#) of the [Parameter Setup Panel](#), input an estimated preamplifier RC decay time for [[Tau](#)] then click on [[Auto Find Tau](#)] to determine the actual Tau value for the all channels of the current module. The Tau finder works best for a Tau value from 20 μ s to 200 μ s at moderate count rates.
3. At the bottom of the [Parameter Setup Panel](#), click on [[save](#)] to save the system parameters found so far. You can save the settings into either an existing settings file or a new file.

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- Click on the [Run Control](#) tab, set [\[Run type\]](#) to 0x301 MCA Mode, [\[Poll time\]](#) to 1 second, and [\[Run time\]](#) to 30 seconds or so, then click [\[Start Run\]](#). After the run is complete, go to the [Main](#) panel and select *MCA spectrum* from the [\[Open Panels\]](#) popup menu in the *Results* group. The [MCA Spectrum](#) shows the MCA histograms for all four channels. After defining a range in the spectrum with the cursors and setting the fit option to [\[fit peaks between cursors\]](#), you can apply a Gauss fit to the spectrum by selecting the channels to be fit in the [\[Fit\]](#) popup menu. You can also enter the fit limits using the [\[Min\]](#) and [\[Max\]](#) fields or by specifying a [\[range\]](#) around the tallest peak or the peak with the highest energy. To scale the spectrum in keV, enter the appropriate ratio in the field [\[keV/bin\]](#).

If you are not getting a nice-looking spectrum, you may need to adjust some settings such as filter rise time and flat top etc. Refer to the User's Manual for details.

- **Main Panel**

The *Main* control panel links to all other control panels. At the top of the panel is a control to select the current [\[Module\]](#). Its other controls are organized in three groups: Setup, Run Control, and Results.

In the *Setup* group, the [\[Start System\]](#) button opens the *Pixie Start Up Panel* in case you need to reboot the modules. The [\[Open Panels\]](#) popup menu leads to four panels where parameters and acquisition options are entered:

- [Parameter Setup Panel](#)
- [Oscilloscope](#)
- [ChassisRegisterPanel](#)
- [AllFilesPanel](#)

In the *Run Control* group, the [\[Run type\]](#) popup menu is used to choose the run type, described in more detail under [Run Control](#). The [\[Start Run\]](#) button starts a data acquisition, the [\[Stop Run\]](#) button stops it. You can also enter the total [\[Run Time\]](#) and the [\[Number of Spills\]](#) to be acquired in list mode runs -- they count down during the run and the first to reach zero stops the run. For more run control options, see the [Run Control](#) tab of the [Parameter Setup Panel](#).

In the *Results* group, the [\[Update\]](#) button refreshes the [\[Event rate\]](#) and [\[Input Count Rate\]](#). The [\[Open Panels\]](#) popup menu leads to five panels and graphs that show the data acquired in more detail:

- [MCA Spectrum](#)
- [List Mode Traces](#)
- [List Mode Spectrum](#)
- [Run Statistics](#)
- [File Series](#)

- **Parameter Setup Panel**

The *Parameter Setup* panel is used to set all parameter for one particular module, except for those related to the analog gain and offset, which are located in the [Oscilloscope](#). At the upper right of the panel is a control to select the current [\[Module\]](#). Using the control tabs, you can define parameters in the following areas:

- [Trigger](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Waveform](#)
- [Gate](#)
- [Coincidence](#)
- [Advanced](#)
- [Run Control](#)

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It also has several buttons on the bottom of the panel:

- [[Start System](#)] can be used to re-initialize the modules
- [[Oscilloscope](#)] opens the [Oscilloscope](#) graph
- [[Copy](#)] opens the [CopyPanel](#) to copy settings between channels/modules
- [[Extract](#)] opens the [ExtractPanel](#) to extract settings from file
- [[Load](#)] loads settings from file
- [[Save](#)] saves settings to file
- [[More](#)] will show additional controls on the control panel
- [[Help](#)] will open this help file, at the entry corresponding to the currently active tab
- [[About](#)] will show software and hardware version information

- **Trigger**

The *Trigger* tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel sets parameters that control the operation of the trigger filter. If not all described controls are visible, click on the [[More](#)] button at the bottom of the panel.

Trigger Filter

In the Filter group you can set the [[Rise Time](#)] and [[Flat Top](#)] for the trigger filter of each channel. The units of time are μ s. For a detailed description of filter operation please refer to the User's Manual. The trigger filter is operated at the full ADC sampling rate or at a quarter of that rate for high speed ADCs. Any value can be entered; the Viewer will automatically select the closest allowed value. A shorter trigger filter [[Rise Time](#)] makes the trigger more sensitive to small fast pulses and better detect pileup, but also averages out less noise. The trigger filter [[Flat Top](#)] is usually quite short, ~ 50 ns is a good value. In applications with very short rise times a flat top of zero will give the best pileup rejection performance. For very slow rising pulses, increase the trigger filter [[Flat Top](#)] as much as possible.

The trigger [[Threshold](#)] corresponds to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pulse height in ADC steps, e.g. with a threshold of 20, triggers are issued for pulses shown in the [Oscilloscope](#) with amplitudes of 80 or more. This relation is true if the trigger filter [[Rise Time](#)] is large compared to the pulse rise time and small compared to the pulse decay time. A pulse shape not meeting these conditions has the effect of raising the effective threshold. The threshold value is scaled with the trigger filter [[Rise Time](#)], therefore it is not limited to integer numbers.

The threshold should be set just above the noise level of the signal. For a modeled behavior of the trigger, you can open the [Filter Display](#) from the [List Mode Traces](#) graph or the [ADCFilterDisplay](#) from the [Oscilloscope](#) that show trigger filter and threshold computed from acquired waveforms using the current settings.

Setting the trigger [[Threshold](#)] to zero switches off the trigger logic. (The [[Enable trigger](#)] checkbox only disables triggers being sent to the DSP for event processing and to other channels/modules for synchronous waveform capture. [[Threshold](#)] = 0 switches off local trigger generation, so the input count rate becomes zero.)

Trigger Options

Trigger options include checkboxes to control the following:

[[Enable trigger](#)]

You can switch on or off any channel's ability to contribute to the trigger.

[[Respond to group triggers only](#)]

This checkbox controls if a channel uses its own trigger or instead the distributed "group trigger" for the acquisition of waveforms, timestamps, and optionally energies. When not checked, only the triggers generated in this particular channel are used. When checked, the distributed triggers from other channels or modules are used (also may include this channel, if enabled).

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Triggers are always distributed within a module: Any channel with "trigger enabled" will issue a trigger for distribution, and any channel set to "group trigger" will respond to the distributed trigger, including those issued by itself. The controls in the [ChassisRegisterPanel](#) determine how trigger signals are distributed between modules.

[Good channel]

Only channels flagged as good will be read out. For the Pixie-4, this setting has no bearing on the channel's capability to issue a trigger. There can be a triggering channel whose data are discarded. For the Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express, the channel is completely switched off. Channels not marked as good will not be included in the automatic offset adjustment or the computation of the minimum required coincidence window.

[Read always]

Check this box if you want a good channel to be read out even if it did not report a hit. If operated in group trigger mode you will always get a valid waveform. This way you can collect waveforms not biased by trigger requirements. If the signal on the channel crossed the trigger threshold (even if not trigger enabled) you also get a valid energy and timestamp. A checkbox in the [Energy](#) tab allows to get an estimate of the energy even when the signal does not cross the trigger threshold.

Check box is not shown for Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express; they operate with this option always on, i.e. channels triggered by group triggers are always read out.

[Local Timestamp]

Set this checkbox to record individual timestamps for all channels in group trigger mode, rather than the identical time stamps based on the (last) group trigger.

Not shown for Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express. Channels triggered by group triggers always have the group trigger time stamp; if multiple channels triggered, there will be multiple event records. Use run type 0x402 to get both group and local time stamps.

Normally, in acquisitions with shared group triggers, all channels record the (identical) timestamp of the (first) group trigger for this event. Since waveforms are captured based on the group trigger, this ensures that within a data record, the traces and timestamps are correlated. However, if no waveforms are recorded, there is no time-of-arrival information of possible delays between channels. Setting the checkbox (Pixie-4) or taking data in run type 0x402 (Pixie-4 Express and Pixie-500 Express) preserves the time difference information. See the user manual for details.

Note that since only trigger enabled channels latch time stamps, if the box is checked, the recorded timestamp is only valid for trigger enabled channels where the signal crossed the threshold.

[16x longer trigger]

Check this box if you want to build averages of 16 samples before passing them to the trigger filter logic. This effectively multiplies the trigger filter length by 16 and allows lower trigger thresholds (noise is averaged out more). The increase is not shown in the controls.

If the [\[4x longer traces\]](#) checkboxes are checked in the [waveform](#) tab, the trigger filters are also increased by a factor 4 in the Pixie-4 and Pixie-4e.

- **Energy**

The *Energy* tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel sets parameters that control the operation of the energy filter and the pulse height reconstruction in the DSP. If not all described controls are visible, click on the [\[More\]](#) button at the bottom of the panel.

Energy Filter

In the Filter group, you can set the [\[Rise Time\]](#) and [\[Flat Top\]](#) for the energy filter of each channel.

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The units of time are μs . For a detailed description of filter operation please refer to the User's Manual. The sum of energy filter rise time and flat top cannot exceed 127 averaged clock periods. If you type in a rise time or flat top value that violates this limit, the Pixie Viewer will adjust it accordingly.

There are several [\[Filter Ranges\]](#) for the energy filter. In each range, $2^{\text{(filter range)}}$ ADC samples are averaged into a single value for the filter sums. This means higher ranges can operate at longer filter times but with a larger granularity.

Employing a trapezoidal filter avoids the kind of ballistic deficit that occurs when a finite rise time signal is used in conjunction with a Gaussian shaper. The energy filter flat top time should thus be a little larger than the longest pulse rise time expected. The output of the energy filter is sampled one decimated clock cycle before the end of the flat top, plus the signal arrival may jitter by up to one decimated clock cycle with respect to the decimated clock. You should therefore make the flat top two notches longer than the signal rise time.

Energy Computation

To compute the energy from the filter sums, the algorithm needs to know the decay time [\[Tau\]](#) of the preamplifier or scintillator. To set and measure the decay time, first enter an estimated value, then click on the [\[Auto Find Tau\]](#) button. You can also enter a known good value directly in the control. The decay time calibration needs to be performed only once for a given preamplifier. The result is then stored in the parameter database, and can be saved in the settings file by clicking on the [\[Save\]](#) button. A manual fit to find the decay time is possible in the [Oscilloscope](#).

The [\[Integrator\]](#) variable controls the event energy reconstruction:

- 0: Normal code for trapezoidal filter.
- 1: Use energy filter gap sum only. This is equivalent to simply integrating over the pulse. It is useful for scintillator applications where event energies can be derived by setting the energy filter flat top long enough to cover the whole scintillation pulses. Tau is used as a scaling factor in this mode, set to 1 initially.
- 2: Ignore energy filter gap sum when reconstructing event energy. This is useful for step pulses whose amplitude is the difference between the high and low steps.
- 3-5: (Pixie-4 only) Same as 1, but the energy is multiplied by a factor 2, 4, or 8, respectively. This is useful for very fast pulses that do not have a lot of area under the peak and thus will show up only at the very low end of the spectrum.

Energy Options

Energy options include checkboxes to control the following:

[\[Estimate energy if not hit\]](#)

If a channel is read out even if it did not report a hit (see [\[Read always\]](#) in the [Trigger](#) tab), its energy is normally reported as zero since there was no valid local trigger to capture the value of the energy filter.

Pixie4:

Checking this box will capture the energy filter value based on the (last) group trigger distributed within the module or over the backplane and report the energy computed from those filter values. This might be useful for channels with occasional very small pulses (below the threshold), or possibly to capture energy estimates on piled up pulses.

Note that since the timing of the group trigger is not precise with respect to the non-triggering pulse, the energy reported is only a rough estimate. It might help to set the flat top time to a large value to make the capturing of the energy filter less time sensitive.

Pixie-4 Express and Pixie-500 Express:

Checking this box will report the energy from the last local trigger in that channel. This is more suitable

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for the "one record per rising edge" concept of operation. There is currently no option to capture energy filter values based on the distributed trigger.

[Allow energy < 0]

Normally, energies computed as negative are set to zero. Typically such pulses are close to the noise and the pre-trigger sum is larger than the post-trigger sum. In some applications pulses may be bipolar and it may be useful to preserve the negative value. Checking this box will prevent the processing from setting the energy to zero.

For the Pixie-4 Express and Pixie-500 Express, this only applies to list mode data, not spectra

Energy Action Buttons

Click on [[Scan Settings](#)] to open the [File Series Scan](#) panel. This panel allows scanning of filter parameters and Tau in a series of files.

- **Waveform**

The *Waveform* tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel sets parameters that control the operation of the waveform capture and pulse shape analysis (PSA). If not all described controls are visible, click on the [[More](#)] button at the bottom of the panel.

Trace Capture

The [[Trace Length](#)] and [[Trace Delay](#)] values entered in this group of controls, both in units of μs , govern the waveform acquisition. [[Trace Length](#)] is the total length of the acquired waveform, which can be set independently of the parameters in the [Energy Filter](#) and [Trigger Filter](#). You can use the delay parameter to move the trigger point within the trace: [[Trace Delay](#)] measures the trigger time with respect to the beginning of the recorded trace. The trace lengths and increments are

Pixie-4: up to 13.6 μs per channel; 13.3 ns increments.

Pixie-4e: up to 32 μs per channel; 8 ns increments.

Pixie-500e: up to 8 μs per channel; 64 ns increments for [[Trace Length](#)] and 8 ns for [[Trace Delay](#)].

The [[4x longer traces](#)] checkboxes can be used to increase the captured waveforms by a factor of 4 in the Pixie-4 and Pixie-4e. Four samples are summed (Pixie-4) or averaged (Pixie-4e) and stored in a single value every 4th clock cycle. The [[Trace Length](#)] and [[Trace Delay](#)] values do not change when checking the box, the factor 4 is implied, not shown. The RunFormat value in list mode data will have bits 4..7 set if the 4x longer traces are requested for channels 0..3, e.g. RunFormat = 0x21F0 for a Pixie-4 data acquisition in which all channels record 4 times longer traces. This serves as an identifier for any parsing or processing routine. In the list mode traces display, waveforms are scaled with correct dt, the amplitude is in 16 bit units for all cases, but waveforms are left aligned with the first sample, so the trigger point appears to be shifted for the 4x longer waveforms.

If event dead time is a concern, the trace length should be set as short as possible. In particular, if only energies and time stamps are of interest, the trace length can be set to zero. Note that even in compressed list mode runs (0x101-103) where no waveforms are recorded, waveforms are captured for possible pulse shape analysis by the CFD algorithm or user code. If no such processing is performed, [[Trace Length](#)] should be set to zero to minimize dead time.

Pulse Shape Analysis

[[PSA Start](#)] and [[PSA End](#)] specify the trace range for pulse shape analysis (PSA). Currently the Pixie-4 supports two types of PSA: XIA_PSA and USER_PSA. XIA_PSA reports the signal arrival time by measuring the time when the trace reaches a preset percentage level ("constant fraction") of its magnitude. The percentage threshold can be set defined in [[CFD Threshold](#)]. To reduce processing time, the XIA_PSA is only performed when the checkbox [[Compute CFD time](#)] is checked. The

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computed value is the arrival time after the start of the acquired waveform in units of 1/256th of an ADC sampling interval. [[PSA Start](#)] and [[PSA End](#)] should be set to include the rising edge of the trace.

The values also are modified by the [[4x longer traces](#)] checkboxes, again the factor 4 is implied, not shown.

Most of these settings are ignored for the Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express; only the [[CFD Threshold](#)] is used to define a leading edge trigger for the pulse shape analysis executed in the FPGA. (The value entered is 1/5 of the trigger level in ADC steps.)

- **Gate**

The *Gate* tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel sets parameters that control the gating of the data acquisition with external signals. If not all described controls are visible, click on the [[More](#)] button at the bottom of the panel. See also the user manual for a detailed description of the Gate and Veto operation.

Veto

We define Veto as a signal distributed to all modules and channels, but each channel may be individually enabled to require or ignore this signal. The signal is distributed over the backplane; the front panel MMCX connector "IN/OUT" can be used to input an external signal to the backplane if the module is enabled to do so in the [ChassisRegisterPanel](#). (For the Pixie-4 use the input labeled "DSP OUT")

Veto is active during the validation of a pulse (after pileup inspection), an energy filter rise time plus flat top after the rising edge. With suitable external logic, the decision to veto a pulse can be made from information obtained at the rising edge of the pulse (e.g. multiplicity from several channels) and therefore this function is sometimes also called Global First Level Trigger (GFLT). The status of the Veto line is recorded in the list mode event data independent of the settings below. The run statistics record the rate of Veto pulses and the time Veto is high (or low).

If the [[Reject if High](#)] checkbox is set, this channel will not record pulses for which the Veto signal is high. If the [[Reject if Low](#)] checkbox is set, this channel will not record pulses for which Veto is low. High here means the signal fed into the front panel is 3.3V; on the backplane the logic is inverted. Checking both boxes is technically possible, but then nothing will be recorded.

If the [[Count @ Fall](#)] checkbox is set, the gate time counter counts the time Veto is low and the gate pulse counter counts the falling edges. If not, the other polarity is counted. The counters count both Gate and Veto signals (with the assumption that only one is normally used); however if Veto is used as an input for Gate, only the modified Gate is counted, not the original Veto.

Gate

We define Gate as a dedicated signal for each individual channel. It is active near the rising edge of the pulse, e.g. to suppress a detector pulse with a coincident pulse from a BGO shield.

To accommodate different signals and sources, as well as delays between the detector signal and the Gate, the incoming signal can be modified in a variety of ways:

- 1) By default, the high density front panel connector is used to connect 4 individual Gate signals to the Pixie-4 Express. If the [[Use Veto](#)] box is checked, the Veto signal from the front panel MMCX connector is used instead (copied to the local Gate input stage).
- 2) At the Gate input stage, the incoming signal can be delayed to match any cabling delays by defining a Gate Delay in [[Delay by](#)].
- 3) If [[Make Pulse](#)] is checked, the delayed signal is replaced with a pulse of length [[Width](#)], creating a user defined Gate Window starting at the rising edge of the delayed signal. (The falling edge can

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be used by checking [[Start @ Fall](#)]).

The status of the modified signal is recorded in the list mode event data. The run statistics record the rate of Gate pulses and the time Gate is high (or low). A copy of the modified signal is available to confirm correct setup on the output pins of the high density front panel connector if the box [[FP out](#)] is checked. If the box is checked, the modified Gate signal replaces bit 0 of the ADC samples in the [Oscilloscope](#) graph plotted by itself in the [ADCFilterDisplay](#)

If the [[Reject if High](#)] checkbox is set, this channel will not record pulses for which the modified Gate signal is high. If the [[Reject if Low](#)] checkbox is set, this channel will not record pulses for which the modified Gate is low. High here means the signal fed into the front panel is 3.3V. Checking both boxes is technically possible, but nothing will be recorded.

If the [[Count @ Fall](#)] checkbox is set, the gate time counter counts the time the modified Gate is low and the gate pulse counter counts the falling edges. If not, the other polarity is counted. The counters count both Gate and Veto signals (with the assumption that only one is normally used); however if Veto is used as an input for Gate, only the modified Gate is counted, not the original Veto.

Statistics

Normally (if the [[Gate Statistics](#)] checkbox is not checked) the gate time (GDT) counter only increments if the channel is live (i.e. run in progress, signal in range, etc). However, in some applications the Gate or Veto signal may be the main condition for taking data. Examples include a generator that is periodically on and off, and data should only be taken if the generator is on. If the on/off signal is used as the Veto signal for the Pixie module, it may be desired to only count the livetime and count rates when the generator is on (or off).

This can be accomplished by checking the [[Gate mode](#)] checkbox. If checked, all time and rate counters except RUN TIME and TOTAL TIME are only active while the modified Gate or Veto are counted. Selection of counting during high or low is made through the [[Count @ Fall](#)] checkboxes. This means Gate or Veto must be present for the channel to be live. In turn, GDT is counted independently from whether the module is live or not.

If the [[GCOUNT in LM](#)] box is checked, the current value of the counter for Gate or Veto pulses is included in the list mode data channel header. This can also be used to tag events with a number that is incremented by an external signal.

- **Coincidence**

The *Coincidence* tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel sets parameters that control coincidence acquisition within a module. For coincidence between modules, refer to the [ChassisRegisterPanel](#). If not all described controls are visible, click on the [[More](#)] button at the bottom of the panel.

Allowed Hit Patterns

In this section, you can select the [Coincidence Pattern](#) that defines which channels have to contribute to an event to make it acceptable. For example, you might be only interested in events in which only a single channel was hit, or in any event in which more than two channels contributed.

For each event, the Pixie module first checks which channels contributed to the event. This [Hit Pattern](#) is a 4 bit number, e.g. (0001) if only channel 0 contributed or (1111) if all channels contributed. By setting the checkboxes you can require that an event must match one of the selected hit patterns to be accepted for further processing. Any or all hit patterns can be selected; if none is selected no events will be accepted, if all are selected any event will be selected.

The hit pattern (0000) can be useful when sharing triggers between modules: Traces etc will be recorded in the module for any channel marked as [[Read Always](#)] in the [Trigger](#) tab even if there is no hit in the module itself.

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Setting the checkboxes will automatically modify the 16bit coincidence pattern shown above the checkboxes where it can also be edited directly (type "0x#####" to enter a hex number #####).

An example shall illustrate this feature. Assume a single module connected to 4 detectors which observe a Na-22 source, emitting back to back 511keV gamma-rays from positron annihilation. Channels 0 and 1 are connected to one pair of back to back detectors and channels 2 and 3 are connected to a second pair of back to back detectors. You are interested only in gammas from positron annihilation. Thus a coincidence in channel 0 and 1 or a coincidence in channel 2 and 3 is required. If all 4 channels were in coincidence, that would be fine too. So, the acceptable hit patterns would be (0011), (1100) and (1111), where the right most digit indicates channel 0 and the left most is for channel 3. To achieve the desired behavior, you have to select the three acceptable hit patterns by checking the appropriate boxes, and deselect all other hit patterns by not checking their boxes.

Note the difference between "hit" and "trigger": A "hit" occurs if a pulse goes over threshold and passes pileup inspection. "Hits" can not be disabled. A "trigger" means there is a "hit" plus a request for event processing is sent to the module's DSP unit. "Triggers" can be disabled on a channel by channel basis in the [Trigger](#) tab. Channels will be recorded if they have a hit or their [\[Read always\]](#) checkbox is set, but only "hit" channels will have valid energy and timing information.

Coincidence Window

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The first channel passing pileup inspection starts the coincidence window. At the end of the coincidence window the hit pattern is latched from all channels and compared to the acceptable hit patterns. If other channels registered a hit during that time, they will be included in a common event. All channels contribute to the hit pattern, whether trigger enabled or not. (Set the threshold to zero or uncheck the "good channel" option to suppress a channel's contribution.) However, a channel's contribution to the hit pattern is cleared after a certain delay (default ~400ns). This is to ensure hits don't linger for channels that are not read out.

The minimum coincidence window is ~27ns. This window can be increased by entering a number in the [\[Window width\]](#) control field to accommodate larger delays between channels, as may be required by the physics of the experiment up to a value of about 0.86ms.

In some cases, it may be desired to delay one channel's contribution to the hit pattern relative to the other channels with the [\[Channel Delay\]](#) parameter. For example, one channel may have a much shorter cable delays than the others, say by 200ns. In the detectors, pulses may be created at exactly the same time, but the channel with the shorter cable will always start the coincidence window 200ns before the other channels register their hit. To accommodate the delay difference, the coincidence window would have to be at least 200ns. This may be undesirably large, so instead one can set the [\[Channel Delay\]](#) to 200ns, which delays the start of the coincidence window by that channel.

Another use of [\[Channel Delay\]](#) is to compensate for the difference in energy filter length. Since the pile up inspection is roughly equal to the sum of energy filter rise time and energy filter flat top, a channel with shorter filter length will pass pileup inspection sooner and therefore start the coincidence window earlier. The software thus calculates the required additional window width to compensate for any such difference. If the [\[Adjust for E filter\]](#) box is checked, [\[Channel Delay\]](#) is automatically set to the required value and can not be changed by the user.

Notes:

- 1) Any added coincidence window width will increase the time required to process an event and thus reduce the maximum count rate.
- 2) Pulses occurring *during the readout of data* (after the end of the coincidence window) are lost. The readout may take several microseconds, longer if waveforms are to be recorded.
- 3) The cut off at the end of the coincidence window is precise to within 13.3ns
- 4) The timeout to a channel's contribution to the hit pattern is adjusted to be 400ns plus the Channel Delay.

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Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express

Every channel, after detecting a rising edge, sets its "hit" bit to 1 for the time specified in [\[Window width\]](#). After half that time, it latches the module-wide coincidence pattern, which is later compared to the acceptable hit patterns. If other channels registered a hit during that time, their hit bit will be included in the recorded event. All channels contribute to the hit pattern, whether trigger enabled or not. (Set the threshold to zero or uncheck the "good channel" option to suppress a channel's contribution.)

The minimum coincidence window is ~40ns. This window can be increased by entering a number in the [\[Window width\]](#) control field to accommodate larger delays between channels, as may be required by the physics of the experiment up to a value of about 1us.

Notes:

- 1) Coincidence windows should be smaller than the energy filter time
- 2) Channel contributing to a hit pattern may subsequently be piled up. If pileup rejection is not turned off, event records thus may show coincidence patterns with more channels than actually being recorded.

Clover Addback

To support 4-fold clover detectors, there is a further option to sum energies from individual channels in events with more than one hit and bin them into an addback spectrum. This function is enabled with the checkbox [\[Sum channel energies for addback MCA\]](#). The Pixie module will thus generate 4 channel MCA and one addback MCA at the same time.

If clover addback is selected, there is the further option to omit those events with more than one active channel from the individual channel MCA.

This clover addback is supported for the accumulation of spectra in MCA mode and in list mode, but the Pixie-4 list mode data does not contain the sum energy (only the channel energies). For Pixie-4 Express and Pixie-500 Express, the sum energy is recorded in run type 0x402.

• **Advanced**

The *Advanced* tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel sets advanced parameters. No controls are visible unless the [\[More\]](#) button at the bottom of the panel is clicked.

Histogram Control

This section shows the parameters controlling the operation of the MCA increment in Pixie-4 memory. Energy values are calculated to 16-bit fixed-point numbers. This would correspond to a 64k spectrum. To map the full energy range into the available 32k spectrum, one has to combine bins. At minimum, 2 bins have to be combined into one, so the [\[Binning Factor\]](#) has to be set to 1 (combining 2^1 bins). Higher binning factors can be useful for low count rate or low resolution applications.

To disable the incrementing of MCA histograms, uncheck the [\[Enable\]](#) box. This is ignored for the Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express.

Out of Range and Pileup

In this group, the pileup inspection can be modified. Normally, events are not recorded if a pulse is followed by a second pulse in less than the sum of energy filter rise time and energy filter flat top.

If the [\[Disable\]](#) box is checked, the pileup inspection is disabled, i.e. all pulses are allowed. In the Pixie-4, the energy is only computed once for any number of pulses following each other closer than the above limit; energy filter sums are latched with respect to the first pulse. The result of the energy computation will contain contributions from both pulses and thus be not equal to the energy in either pulse (and likely not equal to their sum energy). In the Pixie-4 Express and Pixie-500 Express, there will

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be a record for each detected rising edge. The result of the energy computation will contain contributions from both pulses and thus be not equal to the energy in either pulse (and likely not equal to their sum energy).

If the [\[Invert\]](#) box is checked, the pileup inspection is inverted, i.e. only piled up pulses are recorded. The energy is computed as described above.

If the [\[Pause\]](#) box is checked, triggers are ignored for ~400ns after a first pulse. This may be useful in systems where the detector outputs a signal with ringing or overshoots, which would cause the Pixie module to trigger twice on the same pulse and thus reject it as piled up. (This effect is usually more pronounced in larger pulses, and thus causes a loss of counts at the high end of the spectrum). The computed energy is likely to be correct, since the ringing is not a second pulse with random energy. However, this option will make the rejection of real pileup less effective.

If the [\[Ignore out of range\]](#) box is checked, events are accepted even if the signal goes out of range, meaning the detector output is beyond the range of the ADC input (after front end analog electronics).

Baseline Settings

In this group, two parameters concerning the baseline acquisition can be set. Baselines are captured between pulses to correct the computed pulse height for drifts in the DC offset. Multiple baselines are averaged to reduce noise.

The [\[Baseline Cut\]](#) parameter sets a limit for baseline values; if they differ by this much from the running average, they are not used to update the average. The number itself has no easily explainable units; normally a value between 3 and 100 is useful. A value of zero switches off this feature. The effect on the energy resolution is usually very small.

Since the baseline cut depends on trigger and energy filters, it is recomputed after every change in one of these parameters, or when manually clicking the [\[Recompute\]](#) button.

The [\[Baseline Averaging\]](#) parameter controls the length of the running average. A value of zero means no averaging, 65535 is the shortest averaging, and the averaging increases as the value decreases from 65535. The effect on the energy resolution is usually very small.

The [\[Calibr. ADCs\]](#) button starts a calibration routine for the ADCs of the Pixie-500 Express or Pixie-4 Express with 500 MHz ADCs, which are actually two ADC cores on a single chip. The two cores have to be matched in gain and offset to avoid artefacts in the waveforms (systematic difference between odd and even samples). Normally the calibration parameters are read from a PROM at boot time. In some cases, for example temperature drifts, it may be necessary to recalibrate from the default values.

- **Run Control**

The *Run Control* tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel sets parameters that control the data acquisition. If not all described controls are visible, click on the [\[More\]](#) button at the bottom of the panel.

Run Control Group

This section sets run type, run time, and polling time

[Run Type]

This popup menu is used to set the run type to one of the following modes:

List Mode

List mode is the general data acquisition run. Waveforms, energies and time stamps are collected on an event-by-event basis. The data is stored in various formats (see section 3.6 of the user manual for

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details):

Pixie-4 only:

- 0x100 full event data (9 words), plus waveforms
- 0x101 full event data (9 words), no waveforms
- 0x102 compressed event data (4 words), no waveforms
- 0x103 compressed event data (2 words), no waveforms

Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express:

- 0x400 full event data (32 words) plus waveforms
- 0x401 header data only, no waveform, in ASCII text format (.dt3)
- 0x402 full event data with waveforms, arranged in 4-channel events

Note that even in compressed list mode runs (0x101-103) where no waveforms are recorded, waveforms are captured for possible pulse shape analysis by the CFD algorithm or user code. If no such processing is performed, [\[Trace Length\]](#) should be set to zero to minimize dead time. In list mode run 0x401, no waveforms are acquired internally and the trace length is ignored; there is no need to change the value when switching run types.

MCA Mode

MCA mode puts all modules into a typical spectrum-only acquisition mode in which there are no list-mode data required. The event data is not stored in the output buffer, but only used to calculate the energy for incrementing the spectrum. Runs end after the time specified in [\[Run Time\]](#) counts down to zero.

[Poll Time]

The polling time indicates the time interval at which the Pixie Viewer checks if data is ready for writing to disk (list modes 0x100-103), how many spills have been written by the C interrupt routines (list modes 0x400-402), or if the run time reached zero (MCA run).

The polling should be as fast as possible in list mode runs 0x100-103 so that the module does not have to wait too long with a full data buffer until Igor notices this and reads out the module. However, the polling routine itself requires a certain amount of time to perform. This time is about 0.03s, so a poll time shorter than 0.03s will not lead to faster polling. In fact, Igor will be so busy with polling that the run time will not count down properly.

Enabling run options like "Update MCA every 5 s" will lead to an increased time requirement for the polling routine at that interval.

[Run Time]

This variable is used to indicate the total requested run time for data acquisition. During a run, it counts down the remaining time. List mode runs end when the [\[Number of Spills\]](#) is reached or the [\[Run Time\]](#) is down to zero, whichever comes first. This time is tracked by Igor and Windows; precision is to within 1-2s.

The actual run time is reported in the [Run Statistics](#) panel. It will usually be slightly higher than the requested [\[Run Time\]](#) due to the delays in sending start/stop commands from Igor to the modules.

Output File

You can choose a [\[Base name\]](#) and a [\[Run\]](#) in order to form an output file name. The run data will be written to files whose name is composed of both (i.e. base####.xxx). The run number is automatically incremented at the end of each run if you select [\[Auto increment run number\]](#) on the [Data Record Options](#) panel, but you can change it manually as well. Data are stored in files in either the MCA folder if the run is a MCA run or the PulseShape folder if the run is a List Mode run. These files have the different extensions as described below.

".bin" , ".b###"

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For list mode runs with the Pixie-4, buffer data are stored in a file with name extension ".bin". For the Pixie-500 Express or Pixie-4 Express, there is a file with extension .b## for every module ##. All these are binary files consisting of 16bit unsigned integers.

".dat", "dt2", "dt3"

For list mode runs, a summary of event data is stored in a file with name extension ".dat". This is an ASCII file. For long list mode runs with many spills, this file can become much larger than the binary file. If you do not need the ASCII data, you can disable the ".dat" file by unchecking the [\[Auto process list mode data ...\]](#) in the [Data Record Options](#) panel, which also sets the default file type to 1. For different formats and detail of the ASCII data, choose file type 2 or 3.

".mca"

For both list mode runs and MCA runs, MCA spectrum data are stored in a file with name extension ".mca" if you select [\[Auto store spectrum ...\]](#) on the [Data Record Options](#) panel. This is a binary file consisting of 32bit unsigned integers. It includes MCA data for all modules, ordered from channel 0 of module 0 to channel 3 of the last module

".set"

Module settings are stored in a file with name extension ".set" after each run if you select [\[Auto store settings ...\]](#) on the [Data Record Options](#) panel. Run statistics can also be extracted from this file. This is a binary file consisting of 16bit unsigned integers. It is equivalent to the settings files saved from the [Settings](#) tab.

".ifm"

For both list mode runs and MCA runs, run statistics information are stored in a file with the extension ".ifm" if you select [\[Auto store statistics ...\]](#) in the [Data Record Options](#) panel.

List Mode Spill Settings

[Number of Spills]

In list mode runs, the data is read out from the module from time to time. Each such readout is called a spill. The amount of data per spill varies:

For the Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express, it is 2 MB

For the Pixie-4, it is either 1 or 32 buffers of 8K words (but possibly only partially filled)

For a longer run in list mode, you can request several spills. For example, if you request a run with 10 spills, you will get 10 times the data. At start of the first run all previous run history is cleared, e.g. MCA memory and run and live time information. The next nine spills add more data while leaving previous run information intact. Run times and live times and spectra in MCA memory are thus incremented from all 10 spills, and the list mode data from all 10 spills is appended to the same file.

Even if set to zero, there will be at least one spill. List mode runs end when the [\[Number of Spills\]](#) is reached or the [\[Run Time\]](#) is down to zero, whichever comes first.

Due to the buffering of data in the Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express, the file will likely have one or more additional spills than the number requested.

[Spill Timeout]

This variable sets the timeout for each individual spill. During a run, it counts down the remaining time. If it reaches zero, the current spill is ended by the host, and a new spill starts. Ignored for the Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express.

[Events / Buffer]

List mode data is first accumulated in a buffer in internal DSP memory. This variable indicates the preset number of list mode events the Pixie-4 or Pixie-500 module will store in its buffer for each run. The number is calculated automatically if you change the run type. The Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express ignore this number.

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The automatically computed value ($\text{Events/Buffer} = \text{MAXEVENTS}$) is the maximum "safe" number of events. That is, given the maximum length of an event (all "good" channels contributing), in any case at least MAXEVENTS events will fit in the output buffer. MAXEVENTS can be decreased by the user if desired. MAXEVENTS can be set to zero, to disable the halting at a preset number. This makes the acquisition more efficient: if MAXEVENTS takes into account 4 "good" channels per event, but only few multi-channel events occur in the acquisition, the buffer will only be filled up to about 1/4 when MAXEVENTS is reached. Setting Events/Buffer to zero will always fill the buffer as much as possible. It is ignored in MCA runs. The Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express ignore this number.

[1, 32 Buffers per Spill]

List mode data is first accumulated in a buffer in internal DSP memory. There is an option to use the larger external memory on the Pixie-4 to store several buffers and read them out in a fast block read. These options reduce readout dead time (because the block read is faster). The Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express always store data in external memory and this option is ignored.

If the radio button [1 buffer per spill] is selected, the external memory is not used at all and the module stores only one buffer in internal memory. The total number of events will be $[\text{Events} / \text{Buffer}]$ times the [Number of Spills]. The readout deadtime will be higher in this mode.

If the radio button [32 buffers per spill] is selected, the module stores 32 data buffers in external memory, which then are read out in a fast block read. Each readout counts as one "spill". The total number of events will be 32 times the $[\text{Events} / \text{Buffer}]$ times the [Number of Spills].

Synchronization

The first check box asks if data acquisition should [Simultaneously start and stop] in all modules. In almost all multi-module systems this will be the case and the box should be checked.

Synchronization signals are distributed over a PXI backplane line. If a Pixie module is present in the crate, but not part of the current data acquisition setup, it might inhibit the synchronization setup. For setups with more than 7 modules in chassis with PCI bridges, make sure the [Trigger share mode] in the ChassisRegisterPanel is set to 2 for all module except the left most module, which should be set to 3. There must be no gaps between the modules in this case.

If you also want all timers in all modules to be reset to zero with the start of the next data acquisition run, click the box [Re-synchronize clocks]. For this feature to be useful all Pixie modules should be operating from the same master clock as described in the user's manual.

In the Pixie-4 Express and Pixie-500 Express, clocks of all modules in the system are synchronized at module boot time, and they will stay synchronized until modules are power cycled or rebooted. Therefore the only reason to check this box is to start a new data set with a known time stamp. However, this breaks the time correlation between runs.

In the Pixie-4, clocks are NOT synchronized at boot time, and the box should be checked for the first run to correlate timestamps across modules. The checkbox is cleared at the end of the run, preserving time correlation between subsequent runs. It is advised to save settings to file with the box checked, not after the run. For those cases where it may be beneficial to resynchronize the clocks in every new run (i.e. reset the clock to zero for every new data file), check the [every new run] checkbox (visible only in the Pixie-4 version of the interface).

Start Run

After setting all parameters, you can start a run to take data. During the run, the [Run Time] control shows the remaining time. If you select multiple spills for list mode runs, the number of spills will also count down during the run.

For list mode runs, when the first module reaching the preset maximum number of events stops its run,

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it will also stop the runs in all other modules if Module Synchronization is enabled. Then the data buffer of each Pixie module will be read out and saved into a file. If more than one spill is requested, the run will resume in all modules.

When the [\[Run Time\]](#) control counts down to 0, the Pixie Viewer will issue a run stop command to stop the run in all modules, followed by readout of data to file.

Stop Run

If you want to stop a run before it finishes by itself, you can click on this button to manually stop it. This will end runs in all modules and read out and save the data.

Data Record Options

This panel gives you several options for automating tasks after or during a run. Most are checked by default to ensure all data are saved for each data run.

[\[Auto increment run number\]](#) will increase the run number in the file name of the data files to avoid overwriting of files.

In addition, if this option is checked, Igor will test at the beginning of a run if the output file already exists (testing the .bin file for list mode runs and the .mca file for MCA runs). If the file exists, Igor will increment the run number and try again; after 20 tries it will add "_new" to the base file name and continue. This feature is intended to avoid overwriting previous files when Igor only remembers a run number from an earlier run, for example after a PC crash.

[\[Auto store spectrum ...\]](#) will store the spectrum data automatically after a run as a binary .mca file.

[\[Auto store settings ...\]](#) will store the run parameters automatically after a run in binary format (same as settings file). Run statistics can also be extracted from this file.

[\[Auto process list mode data ...\]](#) will extract the energies and timestamps from the binary data and save them in a ".dat" file in ACSII format. This may take a very long time for large data sets. There are several formats:

- type 0 means no file,
- type 1 is a ".dat" file with energies and time stamps (16 bit),
- type 2 is a ".dt2" file with energies, full 48 bit time stamps, and 2 PSA values
- type 3 is a ".dt3" file with energies, full 48 bit time stamps, and 6 PSA values

[\[Auto store statistics ...\]](#) will store the run statistics and run start/stop date and time automatically a run in ASCII format in an .ifm file. f t e r

In addition, you can choose to automatically [\[Update MCA every N seconds\]](#) during MCA runs or every N spills during List mode runs. "N" can be selected in the variable control field. Run statistics will be updated at the same time. You can also manually update the MCA spectrum by clicking the [\[Update\]](#) button in the [MCA Spectrum](#) display.

Further, you can choose to automatically store data in [\[New Files every N spills\]](#) during List mode runs. "N" can be selected in the variable control field. Run statistics and spectra will be saved at the same time. This feature can be used to break up output data into several smaller files; since it will take some time to save the data, N should be set to a rather large value, typically several hundred spills. Note that the run statistics and spectra are cumulative in the new files in list mode runs 0x400-0x403. In MCA runs, the specified "N" is interpreted in seconds. In run types 0x100-0x301, a new run will be started after saving, i.e. all run statistics will be reset, MCA spectra will be cleared, and clocks resynchronized if the [\[in every run\]](#) checkbox is set in the [Synchronization](#) section in the [Run](#) Tab. Thus enabling this feature is equivalent to manually starting several individual runs with N spills.

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[[Do not parse list mode file ...](#)] will disable the automatic parsing of the list mode file after the run to build a list of pointers to individual events. This is required for Igor to display events in the [List Mode Traces](#) graph, but may take a long time for large files. If disabled, you have to manually load the file in the [List Mode Traces](#) graph before viewing traces and/or energies.

[[Delay runstart ...](#)] will cause Igor to wait in a loop until the current Windows time matches the date and time entered in the corresponding field. [[Force run stop ...](#)] will force the run to end when the current Windows time matches the date and time entered in the corresponding field. Both functions are based on a text string comparison and thus require the date and time to be entered in exactly the right format. To assist finding this format, clicking on the [[Date/Time](#)] button will print the current date and time in the Igor history window.

To abort a run start delay, click on the "Abort" button in the bottom left corner of the Igor window, then click [[Stop Run](#)].

- **Oscilloscope**

The Oscilloscope shows 8192 untriggered ADC samples from the input for each channel. The time between samples can be set using the [[dT](#)] variable. The display is updated through its [[Refresh](#)] button. Any DC offset of the preamplifier signal has to be compensated for in order to bring the DC-coupled input into the ADC range. The exact DC value has no bearing on the acquired spectrum and its origin, which is always at zero. The DC-adjustment is used only to ensure that the signals to be measured fall comfortably into the ADC range. When clicking the [[Adjust Offsets](#)] button, the Pixie Viewer will set the DC offset to a percentage of the full ADC range specified in the [[Offset %](#)] control. Gain and offset can be changed manually with the [[Gain V/V](#)] and [[Offset V](#)] controls.

If pulses begin with a falling edge, toggle the [[invert](#)] checkbox. The core of the trigger/filter FPGA can only trigger on a rising edge. If the checkbox is set, the FPGA will invert the signal before processing it for triggers. You may have to [[Adjust Offsets](#)] again to set the offset properly after inversion.

The offset calibration must be performed with the preamplifiers connected to the Pixie inputs and with both the preamplifier power and detector HV switched on. One should also repeat the offset calibration each time measurement conditions change in any major way, e.g., when the count rate changes greatly. All such changes may influence the DC offset value of the preamplifier signal.

A Tab control to the right contains additional controls:

[[Buttons](#)]

This tab contains the [[FFT Display](#)] button, which opens the [FFTDisplay](#) used to analyze the noise spectrum of the acquired trace; the [[Filters](#)] button which opens the [ADCFilterDisplay](#) used to view the effect of the digital filters applied to the ADC traces; and the [[Capture](#)] button which repeats the action of the [[Refresh](#)] button until a pulse is detected (useful for low count rates).

The [[Calibrate](#)] button starts a calibration routine for the ADCs of Pixie modules with 500 MHz ADCs which are actually two ADC cores on a single chip. The two cores have to be matched in gain and offset to avoid artefacts in the waveforms (systematic difference between odd and even samples).

Normally the calibration parameters are read from a PROM at boot time. In some cases, for example temperature drifts, it may be necessary to recalibrate from the default values. In cases when the calibration fails, the [[Reset](#)] button can be used to start over. (This is equivalent to what happens at module reboot, but applies only to a single module).

The [[Save](#)] button can be used to save the Oscilloscope waveforms to file (Igor text format with time scale)

[[Tau](#)]

This tab contains controls to [Manually Fit Decay Time](#)

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[Rates]

This tab displays the current input count rate [ICR] and the current fraction of time the signal is out of range [Out of Range]. These values are updated in the DSP every ~2-3ms if a run is in progress or not. Their precision is in the order of 5-10%, or 50 cps.

FFTdisplay

You can analyze the noise spectrum in the trace captured in the Oscilloscope, by observing the Fourier transform of the signal. For best results, remove any source from the detector and only regard traces without actual events. The chart shows a plot of amplitude vs. frequency. The plot is not calibrated; the main intention is to identify noise sources. FFT lines at 2 MHz or ~180 kHz may come from the on-board power supplies.

If you click on the [Apply Filter] button, you can see the effect of the energy filter simulated on the noise spectrum.

ADCFilterDisplay

This graph shows the ADC trace for the selected channel and the response of the (slow) energy filter and the (fast) trigger filter together with an estimate of the trigger threshold. The display is updated through its [Refresh] button. The Gate plot shows the modified Gate signal (after delays and inversions) specified in the Gate tab, if the "FP out" box is checked

Notes:

1. For best representation of the filters, the filter lengths should be an integer multiple of the ADC sampling interval.
2. Only a simple trapezoidal difference filter is shown for the energy filter. In the actual pulse height calculation, corrections are applied that take into account the decay of previous pulses, the contribution during the flat top time, and long term baseline effects.

Manual Fit Decay Time

Manual Tau Fitting is done on a channel-by-channel basis. First set the cursors on the trace to fit. If possible, some of the baseline after the pulse should be included in the fit region. Use "Ctrl-I" to show the cursors at the bottom of the graph if they are not already visible. Clicking into the [Fit Trace] popup menu lets you select the channel to fit. The result is shown in the field [Tau] below. If acceptable, use the [Accept] popup menu to assign the fit result to a channel.

Clicking [Remove Tau Fit ...] will remove the fit function and residuals from the graph.

- **CopyPanel**

This panel can be used to copy parameter settings from one module to another. The source module and channel are selected at the top of the panel. The parameters to be copied are organized into list box in the left-hand column. The right-hand column shows the destination channels and modules for the copy operation. The Items to copy shown on the Copy Panel and the actual variables to be copied are listed below.

Items	Actual variables to be copied
[Gain]	Gain [V/V]
[Offset]	Offset [V] and base percent

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[Filter]	Energy Filter Rise Time and Flat Top, Baseline Cut
[Trigger]	Trigger Filter Rise Time and Flat Top, Trigger Threshold
[FIFO]	Trace Length, Delay, dT [μ s],
[ChanCSR]	Channel CSRA, Channel CSRB, Channel CSRC
[Coinc.]	Coincidence Pattern, Coincidence Window, Coincidence Delay
[MCA]	Binning Factor
[TAU]	Tau [μ s]
[Intergrator]	Integrator
[ModCSR]	All module coincidence settings and backplane options except front panel GFLT
[Gate]	Gate Window, Gate Delay
[PSA]	PSA Start, PSA End, CFD Threshold

After selecting source, destination and parameters, click on the [Copy] button to execute the copy operation.

- **ExtractPanel**

This panel can be used to extract parameter settings from a file to selected modules and channels. The source file is specified at the top of the panel. Click on the [Find] button to locate the source file. Parameters to be extracted and destination modules or channels are selected in the same manner as in the [CopyPanel](#). Click the [Extract] button to execute the operation.

- **AllFilesPanel**

This panel gives you access to the underlying files of the Pixie Viewer software. Usually, these files are already loaded in the memory of the Pixie Viewer. You only have to change these files when you receive custom code from XIA.

The directory locations are specified as complete (not relative) search paths: the DSP Path for the DSP code; and the FPGA Path for the trigger/filter FPGA configuration. Use a colon (:) as the separator between drive name, directory, and subdirectories. Do not use backslashes (\). For example use "D:XIA:data" rather than "D:\XIA\data".

Full path and file name should be limited to 80 characters.

- **MCA Spectrum**

The MCA Spectrum displays the histograms accumulated in the Pixie modules. The channels to be displayed can be selected with checkboxes within the parameter/result table. Gray fields indicate input parameters, purple fields indicate results. The [Sum] checkbox adds or removes the clover addback spectrum. The [Cum0] to [Cum3] checkboxes add cumulative spectra for MCA runs broken into multiple files.

The [Fit] menu allows you to make Gaussian fits to peaks in the histograms. The fit range can be set by the cursors, the [Min] and [Max] fields in the table, or by specifying a percentage range around the tallest or highest energy peak. The [Fit] menu starts a fitting routine for one or all channels, or one of the addback, reference or cumulative spectra. The routine takes into account a constant background term, though its result is not displayed. Results that are displayed include the peak position, the number of counts in the peak, and the relative and absolute full width at half max (FWHM). For best results include some of the background in the fit.

To calibrate the energy scale, you can enter a scaling factor [keV/bin] in the table as well. This simply changes the label on the x axis.

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The **[Sum]** menu gives you three options of summing the spectrum. You can either sum the range defined by the **[Min]** and **[Max]** fields without any corrections, sum the range and subtract the background, or sum the entire MCA. Summing is performed on all four channels at the same time. The calculated Sum is displayed in the **[Peak Area]** field, and the bin with the largest number of counts within the sum range is displayed in the **[Peak]** field.

A channel's histogram can be saved using the **[Ref]** popup menu and added to the graph with the corresponding check box in the channel field.

The **[Files]** popup menu allows to store individual spectra and read back stored spectra from disk. There are three operations:

[Save MCA to Igor text file] will save the current MCA (4 channels) as a scaled wave with some added comments in a text file. This can be useful to import data into other applications

[Read MCA to Igor text file] will read back a Igor text file saved as above.

[Extract MCA from binary file] will read MCA data for the current module from a binary file, such as the .mca file automatically saved at the end of the run. The file is assumed to be in 32bit unsigned integer format.

[Export ch.# as CHN] will save the MCA data for the selected channel as a spectrum file in CHN format,

If the spectrum is longer than the 16K limit for CHN, Igor will prompt you to either truncate or combine bins.

[Export ALL ch as CHN] will save the MCA data for all 4 channels into 4 separate CHN files. It will only prompt once to truncate or combine bins.

[Export ALL ch as CSV] will save the MCA data for all 4 channels and the sum spectrum as comma separated values into a text file.

You can **[Update]** the MCA during a run at any time. The **[MCA source]** field displays where the MCA was last read from, e.g. from the module's memory or a specific file.

The **[Zoom]** buttons above the graph can be used as shortcuts to zooming operations with the mouse. The **[Reset Scale]** button resets the scaling of the MCA to 1/bin.

- **List Mode Traces**

After a list mode run has finished, the acquired waveforms and event data can be displayed on an event-by-event basis in the List Mode Traces panel. The most recently acquired data file will be selected by default, and searched for the event requested in the **[Event number]** field. The display will show the traces from the selected module, and the associated time stamps, energies and PSA values for those channels that reported a hit in this event. Energies are always scaled as 16 bit numbers -- a pulse amplitude with the full ADC range will have an energy near 64K. Traces are scaled differently for the different module types:

For the Pixie-4, traces are scaled as 16 bit numbers (lowest 2 bits are zero). In contrast, the ADC traces shown in the **Oscilloscope** are raw 14 bit numbers, i.e. ADC traces have values divided by 4 compared to list mode traces.

If **[4x longer traces]** have been requested in the **Waveform** tab, Pixie-4 list mode traces are scaled with correct 4 times larger dt, and all 16 bits carry valid data (the four 14 bit numbers add up to a 16 bit number)

For the Pixie-4 Express, traces are scaled as 14 bit or 16 bit numbers, the same as the ADC traces shown in the **Oscilloscope**.

For the Pixie-500 Express, traces are scaled as 14 bit numbers, the same as the ADC traces shown in the **Oscilloscope**.

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Since the Pixie-500 Express and Pixie-4 Express data is stored as single-channel records, normally every event returns only one waveform from one channel. However, if the checkbox [\[Show 4 pulses\]](#) has been checked, the parsing routine for the list mode data file will search for pulses in other channels within a certain window, so that up to 4 pulses are displayed. The window is specified in 2 ns clock ticks. If this option is selected, it may take up to 4 increments of the [\[Event number\]](#) to show new data, because selecting e.g. event 0 (channel 0) will display data from events 0-4 (channels 0-4).

In any case, waveforms from different channels are left aligned with the first sample, so the trigger point appears to be shifted for the 4x longer waveforms, and traces captured at a later time (by different trigger) do not appear shifted by that time difference -- one has to take into account the time stamp difference to obtain the correct alignment of the traces.

If the graph is full size, may show the [\[Event times\]](#) and the [\[Hit Pattern\]](#). The last 4 bits of the hit pattern mark the channels recorded (bits 0-3 for channel 0-3) and bits 8-11 mark the channels reporting a hit (bits 8-11 for channel 0-3). Bit 5 shows the result of the local coincidence test, bit 6 the level of the "Status" line, and bit 7 the result of the global coincidence test. Bits 4, 12-15 are used for the channel GATEBIT. Further bits are decoded into checkboxes for information purposes.

In order to display traces from an earlier experimental run one needs to change the Data File name by entering it directly in the [\[Data File\]](#) control or clicking the [\[Find\]](#) button. For the Pixie-500 Express, filename and module number can be changed simultaneously with the arrow buttons.

A channel's waveform and header data can be saved using the [\[Ref\]](#) popup menu and added to the graph with the corresponding check box in the channel field.

To see the response of the energy and trigger filters for the current event, click on [\[Digital\]](#), which opens the [Filter Display](#). This window is mainly intended for diagnostic purposes. For information how to use the Pixie-4 for more detailed pulse shape analysis, please contact XIA.

Filter Display

This graph is used to see the simulated response of the energy and trigger filters in an event. You can browse the leading edge trigger filter response and the energy filter response of individual events. The latter requires a trace length of at least twice the peaking time plus the gap time to be displayed. The trace is shown in red. The trigger filter is shown in blue, and the energy filter is shown in green.

Note that only a simple difference filter is displayed for the energy filter, without the corrections for baseline and decay of the pulse used in the energy calculations.

- **List Mode Spectrum**

Pulse height spectra can be reconstructed from list mode data stored on the disk. The file shown in the [\[Data File\]](#) field will be processed and the resulting histograms will be displayed for the selected Pixie module. Use [\[Read\]](#) after changing the data file to process the new data, and [\[Histo\]](#) to update the displayed spectrum. The full spectrum length is equal to 64k channels. Use [\[No. of bins\]](#) and [\[Delta E\]](#) settings to compress the spectrum such that it fits the display. Hint: use 8192 and 4 to see the full range of data, and then adjust these numbers to zoom into the range of interest. The number of bins and the delta E variables are kept in memory for each channel individually. Be sure to select the channel of interest prior to changing these variables. Use the mouse to zoom in on peaks of interest. Set [\[Emin\]](#) to 4 to hide the spike at bin 0 from events with energy=0. You can also specify a sub-range of events to include in the histogram using the [\[First\]](#) and [\[Last\]](#) controls.

The [\[Fit\]](#) menu allows you to make Gaussian fits to peaks in the histograms. The fit range can be set channel by channel in the [\[Min\]](#) and [\[Max\]](#) fields, or by placing cursors on the spectrum with the

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mouse. The **[Fit]** menu starts a fitting routine for one or all channels. The routine does take a constant background term into account, though its value is not displayed. The fit results that are displayed include the peak position, the number of counts in the peak, and its relative and absolute full width at half maximum (FWHM), calculated from the Gaussian fit. For best results be sure to extend the fit range to cover some of the constant background.

The **[Zoom]** buttons above the graph can be used as shortcuts to zooming operations with the mouse. The **[Reset Scale]** button resets the scaling of the MCA to 1/bin.

A channel's histogram can be saved using the **[Ref]** popup menu and added to the graph with the corresponding check box in the channel field.

- **Run Statistics**

The run statistics for all modules and channels are displayed in the *All Run Statistics* panel. It also shows the time and date of run start and stop and the source where the statistics were last read from. The information can be refreshed during a run by clicking the **[Update]** button, it can be saved to or read from an .ifm file with the **[Files]** menu.

The "DAQ Fraction" is an estimate of the fraction of the lab time a module is taking data. As described in the user manual, "Total time" is read from the module and includes all the time from the module run start to run end (but not the time the host PC takes to setup or finish a run). "Run Time" measures only the time a module was actively taking data, i.e. excluding the time a module is waiting for readout by the host. (For Pixie-500 Express or Pixie-4 Express, time is only lost when the SDRAM FIFO buffer is full.) "Count Time" measures the time a channel was actively taking data, i.e. excluding the time the signal is out of range (and for the Pixie-500 Express, the time a channel's ZDT buffer is full).

Thus "Total Time" and "Run Time" are always smaller than the elapsed "Lab time" (i.e. the difference between date/time of run start and run stop). "DAQ Fraction" is defined as "Run Time" / "Total Time" *100 and thus gives an estimate of the time lost for readout etc. The difference between "Run Time" and "Count Time" indicates the amount of time a single channel is overwhelmed by fast bursts of pulses.

For Pixie-4, the time to read out one spill in list mode runs is about 0.030s per module. The DAQ Fraction will drop significantly if the time to fill the memory approaches this value. To maximize the DAQ Fraction, a) run in 32 buffer/spill mode, b) make sure the polling time is significantly smaller than the fill time, c) define only those channels actually used as "good", and d) minimize the amount of waveform captured or run in a compressed list mode to store more events in the same amount of memory.

For example, with 4 channels active in mode 0x103, the memory will hold $744 \times 32 = 23,808$ events, so at a count rate of 23kcps, the memory will fill in about 1s and be read out in less than 0.1s, which results in a DAQ Fraction of more than 91%.

The **[History]** button opens a plot in which the event rate for each module is plotted. "Current" event rates are calculated every time the **[Update]** button is clicked or an automatic update is performed if the **[Track Event rates ...]** box is checked. In the calculation, the "current" event rate is determined as (counts since last update) / (time since last update).

The Count Time was named Live Time in previous software version and this was often confusing. In many ways the Count Time is equivalent to "Real Time" in the common understanding in nuclear physics -- Count Time is the time during which the module is turned on and able to detect and record pulses. "Live Time" is commonly used to describe the time of the measurement during which no events were lost. In the Pixie modules, this applies on two levels:

- the trigger filter can not detect triggers while the (filtered) signal is still over the trigger threshold.

This

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dead time is counted in an internal parameter (FTDT), and count time minus FTDT (the "trigger filter live time") is used to compute the input count rate.

- the energy filter can only measure pulse heights correctly when pulses are separated by the energy

filter time (rise time plus flat top). When pileup inspection is turned off, no events are lost, so the "energy filter live time" is equal to the Count Time but the pulse height may be wrong. When pileup inspection is turned on, (both) piled up pulses are not recorded and so there is a (paralyzable) dead time recorded in the parameter "filter dead time" (internally SFDT). Technically, Count Time minus SFDT is the "energy filter live time", but normally this is not a useful value since dead time correction for paralyzable systems with known `_times_` is not trivial. We recommend to use the ratio ICR/OCR for dead time correction based on known `_counts_`.

For further details, please see the application note on dead time correction in Pixie modules

- **File Series Scan**

The File Series Scan panel is used to set up a series of acquisition runs in which the settings are modified. One file is saved for each setting, creating a file series that can be processed in the [File Series](#) panel.

A control field [\[Filter Range\]](#) is repeated from the [Energy](#) tab. In three groups of controls, you can set the start, end, and step size for varying the energy filter rise time, the energy filter flat top, and the decay time Tau. If the step size is zero, that parameter will not be varied.

Two buttons assist in setting up the initial conditions: [\[Set Parameters to Start\]](#) sets the current values of the energy filter and Tau to the start value defined in the *File Series Scan* panel. If you omit to click this button, the file series will begin with the current value; this is useful to resume a file series. [\[Set Scan Run Conditions\]](#) will set the checkboxes in the [Data Record Options](#) panel to the values required for the scan, and set the run time to the total time required (interval N in the [Data Record Options](#) panel times the number of settings).

At the bottom of the panel, the button [\[Start Scan\]](#) starts the file series. This is a different button from the standard Start Run button, because it is starting a run which is modifying parameters. All the updates during a run work the same as in a standard run, though; and the run can be stopped with the standard Stop Run button. When the run is complete, click on the [\[File Series\]](#) button to open the [File Series](#) panel for analysis

- **File Series**

The *File Series Results* panel is used to process a series of data files with consecutive run numbers. There are control fields to enter the [\[Basename\]](#) as in the [Run Control](#) tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel and the [\[Start\]](#) and [\[End\]](#) end run number. These numbers are inclusive, i.e. Start = 1 and End = 10 processes files 1..10.

Clicking [\[Parse Files\]](#) will read spectra from each file and perform a Gauss fit with the settings in the [MCA Spectrum](#). The results of the fit are plotted in the graph section. The individual spectra are also accumulated into a total spectrum (for each channel), which at the end of processing replace the spectra shown in the [MCA Spectrum](#).

In addition, the energy filter settings and the value for the decay time are read for each file from the associated .ifm file and also plotted in the graph. This can be used to find the optimum settings together with the function to scan filter settings described under [File Series Scan](#).

- **ChassisRegisterPanel**

The Chassis Setup Panel controls several system-wide parameters.

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Gain Modification

Near the bottom of the panel, the control [[Multiply all gains by](#)] can be used to enter a common multiplier for the gains in all channels. For example, if channels have been carefully gain matched to align the 1.3 MeV peak in the spectrum, but now should be changed to double the dynamic range for all channels (= lower gain by factor 2), the value would be set to 0.5. The change is applied by clicking the [[Apply](#)] button.

Backplane Options

Trigger share mode

As described for the [Trigger](#) tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel, if group trigger operation is requested, each channel will respond to a distributed trigger rather than its own local trigger. Triggers are always distributed within a module: Any channel that is enabled to trigger will contribute to the distributed trigger, and any channel in group trigger mode will (only) respond to the distributed trigger, including those issued by itself.

In addition, triggers can be distributed over the PXI(e) backplane between modules. The field [[Trigger share mode](#)] controls this distribution: There are currently 4 modes:

In mode = 0, the module is disconnected from the backplane. Group triggers are only distributed between the 4 channels of the module.

In mode = 1, the module is connected to the backplane's wired-OR lines. This means that any module in mode = 1 issues triggers on common backplane lines, and every module in mode = 1 responds to these triggers.

Modes 2 and 3 are used in large chassis with more than 8 slots, where backplane lines do not support a wire-OR across PCI segment boundaries. A module in mode = 2 receives triggers from the right neighbor, builds an OR with its own triggers, and sends them to the left neighbor. The leftmost module thus receives a "daisy-chain OR" of triggers from all modules and should be set to mode = 3 to put these distributed triggers on shared backplane lines (PXI_TRIG0, PXI_TRIG1). All modules in mode 2 or 3 respond to triggers on these lines (i.e. at the same time).

Note that the backplane has to be configured to drive PXI_TRIG0 and PXI_TRIG1 from the leftmost segment to the other segments. In the XIA 18-slot chassis, this drive direction is hardwired. For National Instrument chassis, use the NI PXI explorer to configure the chassis backplane.

Mode 2 and 3 is currently not supported for Pixie-4e and Pixie-500e

Notes:

Since other backplane lines are used for other Pixie module functions (e.g. PXI_TRIG3 for run synchronization), it is generally a good idea to configure the backplane to drive all PXI_TRIGx lines from the leftmost segment to the other segments. Also, for proper functioning of the run synchronization use mode 2 and 3 in systems with more than 7 Pixie-4 modules even if not sharing triggers.

Front Panel Input Settings

One option to connect an external Veto (GFLT) signal to the Pixie system is to use the MMCX front panel connector on a Pixie module. The Veto signal is distributed via the PXI backplane to all modules, and - if enabled in the [Gate](#) tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel - a channel only records events where the Veto signal is high or low. If the [[Front panel drives Veto line](#)] checkbox is set, the current module will internally connect the MMCX front panel input to drive the GFLT backplane line. Only one device may issue the signal to the backplane. If the checkbox is set for one module, the function will automatically be disabled for all other modules. However, it is the user's responsibility to ensure that no other device in the PXI chassis issues signals on this line.

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The Front panel input signal must be a LVTTTL signal, i.e. 0 = 0V, 1 = 3.3V.

A second option for the MMCX front panel input of a Pixie-4 module (not Pixie-4e and Pixie-500e) is to configure it to contribute to the STATUS line on the backplane. This is a wire-OR line connected to all modules in a backplane segment. If the MMCX input is high, the module will pull down the wire-OR line (this constitutes a logic 1 for this line). The state of the STATUS line can be recorded during event processing (see below)

External Trigger

External signals can also be connected to the Pixie front panel input. The field [\[Validation delay for external trigger\]](#) controls generation of fast and event triggers. If the value is zero, no triggers are generated. If the value is nonzero, a fast trigger is issued to the backplane immediately after detection of a rising edge on the front panel, and an event trigger is issued the specified delay thereafter. As the triggers are sent to the backplane, the external triggers appear as if an additional module with a pileup inspection time (energy filter rise time plus flat top) equal to the validation delay had seen a pulse. For the Pixie-4, sharing triggers over the backplane must be enabled even for the module connecting to the external signal.

For Pixie-4e and Pixie-500e, there is no event trigger but still a nonzero value is required to enable external trigger distribution (for compatibility). Also, Pixie-4e and Pixie-500e always use the external trigger internally if enabled with a nonzero value, and additionally share over the backplane if the trigger share mode (above) is set to 1.

PDM control

PDM control is implemented for the Pixie-4 only, not Pixie-4e or Pixie-500e

For making coincidence decisions between modules, it is recommended to use XIA's logic and preamp power module, the PXI-PDM. It is meant to reside in slot 2. The PXI-PDM has no PCI interface, and thus is programmed by a Pixie-4 module in the neighboring slot. To enable a module to program the PXI-PDM, the checkbox [\[Module programs PDM to immediate left\]](#) has to be set. The Pixie-4 module then sends the [\[PDM control pattern\]](#) to the PDM.

The PXI-PDM receives the Pixie-4's hit pattern through the PXI Star Trigger lines. A module can be set to not send out its hit pattern by unchecking the box [\[Send local hit pattern to PDM in slot 2\]](#). The PDM assumes a default (0000).

Note that due to the architecture of the PXI Star Trigger, a module in slot 2 must not send signals on this backplane pin. Therefore for a module in slot 2 this checkbox is automatically cleared. (The module should not be in slot 2 in the first place because the PDM has to be there to receive the hit patterns)

The coincidence decision in the PDM is determined from the full 48bit hit pattern of the modules in slots 3-14 and the [\[PDM control pattern\]](#) as listed below. This decision list is implemented in the PDM's firmware with no claim to cover all cases. Please contact XIA to request additional cases or to obtain verilog source code to write custom PDM firmware.

Events are accepted if MC ==1. Logic operators are AND = &, XOR = ^, OR = |, NOT = !. Operators in front of an array hit[a:b] or {a,b,c,d} are unitary reductions to a single bit (e.g. &{a,c,b} = a AND b AND c). Variables are defined as follows:

multi_all	= multiplicity of all channels (0 ... 48 in any particular event)
multi_req1	= multiplicity requirement 1. its value is 1 for PDMcontrol[0:3] = 1,4,7; 2 for 2,5,8; 3 for 3,6,9; 0 otherwise
multi_req2	= multiplicity requirement 2. its value is equal to PDMcontrol[0:3]
MxCy	= Hit bit of module x, channel y. Module 0 is in slot 3.
payy	= pair yy, counting from ch. 0 and 1 of Module 0. Channels are ANDed
poyy	= pair yy, counting from ch. 0 and 1 of Module 0. Channels are ORed
pxyy	= pair yy, counting from ch. 0 and 1 of Module 0. Channels are XORed
hitNs	= an array of all channel N hit bits e.g. hit0s = (M0C0,M1C0,M2C0,...)

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Msum_all = number of modules active in event
Msum_g1 = number of modules in group (module 0 ... module 5) active in event

case (PDM control pattern)

// test and debug, overall multiplicity

16'h0000: MC <= 0; // always low

16'h0001: MC <= 1; // always high

// overall multiplicity

16'h001X: MC <= (multi_all >= multi_req2); // multi_req2 defined above, X = 1...F

16'h002X: MC <= (multi_all == multi_req2); // X = 1...F

// single module tests -- can actually be done in P4 with "local contributes to global" option

16'h0100: MC <= (M0C0 & !M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3); // 1 specific channel hit, no others

16'h0101: MC <= (M0C0 & M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3); // 2 specific channels hit, no others

16'h0102: MC <= (M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & !M0C3); // 3 specific channels hit, no others

16'h0103: MC <= (M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & M0C3); // 4 specific channels hit

16'h0104: MC <= (M0C0); // 1 specific channel hit, others don't matter

16'h0105: MC <= (M0C0 & M0C1); // 2 specific channels hit, others don't matter

16'h0106: MC <= (M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2); // 3 specific channels hit, others don't matter

16'h0111: MC <= ((multi00 >= multi_req1));// 1 or more

16'h0112: MC <= ((multi00 >= multi_req1)); // 2 or more

16'h0113: MC <= ((multi00 >= multi_req1)); // 3 or more

16'h0114: MC <= ((multi00 == multi_req1)); // 1

16'h0115: MC <= ((multi00 == multi_req1)); // 2

16'h0116: MC <= ((multi00 == multi_req1)); // 3

// 2 module tests

16'h0200: MC <= ((M0C0 & !M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3) | (M1C0 & !M1C1 & !M1C2 & !M1C3));
// 1 specific channel hit in either module, no others

16'h0201: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & !M1C2 & !M1C3));
// 2 specific channels hit in either module, no others

16'h0202: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & !M0C3) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 & !M1C3));
// 3 specific channels hit in either module, no others

16'h0203: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & M0C3) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 & M1C3));
// 4 specific channels hit in either module, no others

16'h0204: MC <= ((M0C0) | (M1C0));
// 1 specific channel hit in either module, others don't matter

16'h0205: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1) | (M1C0 & M1C1));
// 2 specific channels hit in either module, others don't matter

16'h0206: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2));
// 3 specific channels hit in either module, others don't matter

16'h0207: MC <= ((M0C0 & !M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3) ^ (M1C0 & !M1C1 & !M1C2 & !M1C3));
// 1 specific channel hit in either, not both modules, no others

16'h0208: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3) ^ (M1C0 & M1C1 & !M1C2 & !M1C3));
// 2 specific channels hit in either, not both modules, no others

16'h0209: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & !M0C3) ^ (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 & !M1C3));
// 3 specific channels hit in either, not both modules, no others

16'h020A: MC <= ((M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & M0C3) ^ (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 & M1C3));
// 4 specific channels hit in either, not both modules, no others

16'h020B: MC <= ((M0C0) ^ (M1C0));

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```
// 1 specific channel hit in either, not both modules, others don't matter
16'h020C: MC <= ( (M0C0 & M0C1 ) ^ (M1C0 & M1C1 ) );
// 2 specific channels hit in either, not both modules, others don't matter
16'h020D: MC <= ( (M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 ) ^ (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 ) );
// 3 specific channels hit in either, not both modules, others don't matter

16'h0211: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1 ) | (multi01 >= multi_req1 ) ); // 1 or more in either module
16'h0212: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1 ) | (multi01 >= multi_req1 ) ); // 2 or more in either module
16'h0213: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1 ) | (multi01 >= multi_req1 ) ); // 3 or more in either module
16'h0214: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1 ) | (multi01 == multi_req1 ) ); // 1 each in either module
16'h0215: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1 ) | (multi01 == multi_req1 ) ); // 2 each in either module
16'h0216: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1 ) | (multi01 == multi_req1 ) ); // 3 each in either module

16'h0221: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1 ) ^ (multi01 >= multi_req1 ) ); // 1 or more in either, not both
modules
16'h0222: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1 ) ^ (multi01 >= multi_req1 ) ); // 2 or more in either, not both
modules
16'h0223: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1 ) ^ (multi01 >= multi_req1 ) ); // 3 or more in either, not both
modules
16'h0224: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1 ) ^ (multi01 == multi_req1 ) ); // 1 in either, not both modules
16'h0225: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1 ) ^ (multi01 == multi_req1 ) ); // 2 in either, not both modules
16'h0226: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1 ) ^ (multi01 == multi_req1 ) ); // 3 in either, not both modules

16'h0230: MC <= ( (pa00 | pa01) | (pa02 | pa03) ); // one or more pairs out of 4 pairs ; a pair is two
channels hit
16'h0231: MC <= ( (pa00 | pa01) ^ (pa02 | pa03) ); // one or more pair in one module, not both
16'h0232: MC <= ( (pa00 ^ pa01) | (pa02 ^ pa03) ); // exactly one pair in one or both modules
16'h0233: MC <= ( (pa00 ^ pa01) ^ (pa02 ^ pa03) ); // exactly one pair in one, not both module

16'h0234: MC <= ( (po00 | po01) | (po02 | po03) ); // one or more pairs out of 4 pairs ; a pair = at
least one of two channels hit
16'h0235: MC <= ( (po00 | po01) ^ (po02 | po03) ); // one or more pair in one module, not both
16'h0236: MC <= ( (po00 ^ po01) | (po02 ^ po03) ); // exactly one pair in one or both modules
16'h0237: MC <= ( (po00 ^ po01) ^ (po02 ^ po03) ); // exactly one pair in one, not both module

// 3 module tests
16'h0300: MC <= ( (M0C0 & !M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3) | (M1C0 & !M1C1 & !M1C2 & !M1C3) |
(M2C0 & !M2C1 & !M2C2 & !M2C3) ); // 1 specific channel hit in either module, no
others
16'h0301: MC <= ( (M0C0 & M0C1 & !M0C2 & !M0C3) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & !M1C2 & !M1C3) |
(M2C0 & M2C1 & !M2C2 & !M2C3) ); // 2 specific channels hit in either module, no
others
16'h0302: MC <= ( (M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & !M0C3) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 & !M1C3) |
(M2C0 & M2C1 & M2C2 & !M2C3) ); // 3 specific channels hit in either module, no
others
16'h0303: MC <= ( (M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2 & M0C3) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 & M1C3) |
(M2C0 & M2C1 & M2C2 & M2C3) ); // 4 specific channels hit in either module, no
others

16'h0304: MC <= ( (M0C0) | (M1C0) | (M2C0) );
// 1 specific channel hit in either module, others don't matter
16'h0305: MC <= ( (M0C0 & M0C1) | (M1C0 & M1C1) | (M2C0 & M2C1) );
// 2 specific channels hit in either module, others don't matter
16'h0306: MC <= ( (M0C0 & M0C1 & M0C2) | (M1C0 & M1C1 & M1C2 ) |
(M2C0 & M2C1 & M2C2) ); // 3 specific channels hit in either module, others don't matter
```

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```
16'h0311: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1) | (multi01 >= multi_req1) | (multi02 >= multi_req1) ); // 1 or
more in either module
16'h0312: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1) | (multi01 >= multi_req1) | (multi02 >= multi_req1) ); // 2 or
more in either module
16'h0313: MC <= ( (multi00 >= multi_req1) | (multi01 >= multi_req1) | (multi02 >= multi_req1) ); // 3 or
more in either module
16'h0314: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1) | (multi01 == multi_req1) | (multi02 >= multi_req1) ); // 1
each in either module
16'h0315: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1) | (multi01 == multi_req1) | (multi02 >= multi_req1) ); // 2
each in either module
16'h0316: MC <= ( (multi00 == multi_req1) | (multi01 == multi_req1) | (multi02 >= multi_req1) ); // 3
each in either module

16'h0330: MC <= ( (pa00 | pa01) | (pa02 | pa03) | (pa04 | pa05) ); // one or more out of 6 pairs ; a
pair is two ch.hit
16'h0331: MC <= ( ^{(pa00 | pa01) , (pa02 | pa03) , (pa04 | pa05)} ); // one or more pair in one
module, not more
16'h0332: MC <= ( (pa00 ^ pa01) | (pa02 ^ pa03) | (pa04 ^ pa05) ); // exactly one pair in one or
more modules
16'h0333: MC <= ( ^{(pa00 ^ pa01) , (pa02 ^ pa03) , (pa04 ^ pa05)} ); // exactly one pair in one
module

16'h0334: MC <= ( (po00 | po01) | (po02 | po03) | (po04 | po05) ); // one or more out of 6 pairs ; a
pair is one of two ch. hit
16'h0335: MC <= ( ^{(po00 | po01) , (po02 | po03) , (po04 | po05)} ); // one or more pair in one
module, not more
16'h0336: MC <= ( (po00 ^ po01) | (po02 ^ po03) | (po04 ^ po05) ); // exactly one pair in one or
more modules
16'h0337: MC <= ( ^{(po00 ^ po01) , (po02 ^ po03) , (po04 ^ po05)} ); // exactly one pair in one
module

// 4 modules
16'h0400: MC <= (&hit0s[3:0]); // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 4 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0401: MC <= (&hit0s[3:0] & &hit1s[3:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 4 specific module,
others don't matter

// 5 modules
16'h0500: MC <= (&hit0s[4:0]); // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 5 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0501: MC <= (&hit0s[4:0] & &hit1s[4:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 5 specific module,
others don't matter

// 6 modules
16'h0600: MC <= (&hit0s[5:0]); // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 6 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0601: MC <= (&hit0s[5:0] & &hit1s[5:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 6 specific module,
others don't matter

// 7 modules
16'h0700: MC <= (&hit0s[6:0]); // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 7 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0701: MC <= (&hit0s[6:0] & &hit1s[6:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 7 specific module,
others don't matter
```

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```
// 8 modules
16'h0800: MC <= (&hit0s[7:0]);           // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 8 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0801: MC <= (&hit0s[7:0] & &hit1s[7:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 8 specific module,
others don't matter

// 9 modules
16'h0900: MC <= (&hit0s[8:0]);           // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 9 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0901: MC <= (&hit0s[8:0] & &hit1s[8:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 9 specific module,
others don't matter

// 10 modules
16'h0A00: MC <= (&hit0s[9:0]);           // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 10 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0A01: MC <= (&hit0s[9:0] & &hit1s[9:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 10 specific module,
others don't matter

// 11 modules
16'h0B00: MC <= (&hit0s[10:0]);          // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 11 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0B01: MC <= (&hit0s[10:0] & &hit1s[10:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 11 specific
module, others don't matter

//12 modules
16'h0C00: MC <= (&hit0s[11:0]);          // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 12 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0C01: MC <= (&hit0s[11:0] & &hit1s[11:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 12 specific
module, others don't matter

// 13 modules
16'h0D00: MC <= (&hit0s[12:0]);          // 1 specific channel hit in (each of) 13 specific modules, others
don't matter
16'h0D01: MC <= (&hit0s[12:0] & &hit1s[12:0]); // 2 specific channels hit in (each of) 13 specific
module, others don't matter

// group tests
16'h1020: MC <= (MSUM_g1 >= 2);          // 2 or more modules in first group, rest don't care
16'h1021: MC <= ( (MSUM_g1 >= 2) | (MSUM_all >=3) ); // 2 or more modules in first group, OR
at least 3 modules overall

// ARSA tests
//M0: gamma pairs, M1, M2: beta pairs
16'h1100: MC <= ( (pa00 ^ pa01) & ( ^{po02,po03,po04,po05} ) );
// only one pair (=2 hits) from M0 AND exactly one pair (>0 hits) from M1,M2
16'h1101: MC <= ( (pa00 | pa01) | ( {po02,po03,po04,po05} ) );
// at least one pair (=2 hits) from M0 OR at least one pair (>0 hits) from M1,M2
16'h1102: MC <= ( (pa00 ^ pa01) | ( {po02,po03,po04,po05} ) );
// only one pair (=2 hits) from M0 OR at least one pair (>0 hits) from M1,M2
16'h1103: MC <= ( (pa00 ^ pa01) );
// only one pair (=2 hits) from M0, rest don't care
16'h1104: MC <= ( (pa00 | pa01) );
// at least one pair (=2 hits) from M0, rest don't care
16'h1105: MC <= ( ((pa00 & !po01) | (!po00 & pa01)) & ( ^{po02,po03,po04,po05} ) );
// exactly one pair (2/0 or 0/2 hits) from M0 AND exactly one pair (>0 hits) from M1,M2
16'h1106: MC <= ( ((pa00 & !po01) | (!po00 & pa01)) | ( {po02,po03,po04,po05} ) );
```

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// exactly one pair (2/0 or 0/2 hits) from M0 OR at least one pair (>0 hits) from M1,M2

default: MC <= 1;

Module Coincidence Setup

Module Coincidence is implemented for the Pixie-4 only, not Pixie-4e or Pixie-500e

Each module always tests the *Hit Pattern* of contributing channels against the user defined *Coincidence Pattern* (set in the [Coincidence](#) tab of the *Parameter Setup* panel) before recording and processing an event. This is called the local coincidence test.

A global coincidence test can be applied using a PXI PDM in slot 2: Each module can send its hit pattern to the PXI PDM. The module in slot 2 defines which test the PXI PDM should apply (see above), and the PXI PDM outputs the result of the test on a shared backplane line.

In addition, each module can add the negative result of its local test to the global test, essentially vetoing those events that do not pass its local test for *all* modules. This allows one or more master trigger modules to influence acquisition for all modules. Limited module coincidence requirements can thus be applied even without a PXI PDM

With the checkboxes in the [[Module Coincidence Setup](#)], each module can thus be set to accept events if

- a) only the local coincidence test is passed (check "local")
- b) only the global coincidence test is passed (check "global")
- c) either the local OR the global coincidence test is passed (check "global" and "local")
- d) the global test AND all relevant local tests pass (check "global" and "local adds to global")

The [[Coincidence Pattern](#)] and [[Coincidence Window](#)] for each module are shown for reference only.

A further option is [[Channel 3 Hit contributes to STATUS line](#)] which makes this information available in the event hit pattern for all modules.

Examples:

1. To require a local coincidence of channels 0-1, 2-3, or both, set the coincidence pattern to 0x9008 in the [ModuleRegisterPanel](#) and check only the "local test" box in the Chassis Register Panel
2. To require coincidence of channels 0 and 1 in Module 0, and no other channel/module matters, in the [ModuleRegisterPanel](#) set the coincidence pattern in Module 0 to 0x8888 and in all other modules to 0xFFFF. In the Chassis Register Panel, check the "global test" box for all modules and the "local adds to global" box for module 0. No PXI PDM is required.
3. To require at least 3 channels to be active in all modules, use a PDM module in slot 2 and set the [[PDM control pattern](#)] to 0x0013 for the module in slot 3. Make sure the [[Module writes control pattern ...](#)] box is checked for this module and the [[Send local hit pattern to PDM](#)] box is checked for all modules. Then check the "global test" box for all modules