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# *Guide to the LSR Real-time Software Suite*

## *Rex, Mex, and GLvex*

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# How To Get Started With REX, MEX and VEX

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## Documentation.

Documentation for the REX, MEX, and VEX systems can be found at <ftp://lsr-ftp.nei.nih.gov/lsr/> in the directories of the same name.

## License.

REX requires signing of a simple license that preserves the rights of NIH to use the code. Copies of this license are in the REX documentation.

## Downloads.

Downloads for REX, MEX, VEX, and various analysis systems can be found at <ftp://lsr-ftp.nei.nih.gov/> in associated directories. The QNX RTP real-time operating system can be downloaded from <http://www.qnx.com>.

## PC.

The REX and MEX real-time systems run under the QNX RTP operating system. This system is available free for non-commercial use to educational institutions ([www.qnx.com](http://www.qnx.com)). There are some specific requirements for configuring PC's to run QNX RTP. The most crucial is that the motherboard permit the reserving of IRQ's. Three vendors make boards that are acceptable- MSI, Asus, and Abit. The essential feature in the BIOS of these boards is the ability to reserve an IRQ from being assigned to a PCI device. This IRQ is then used by REX for the a/d converter. This feature is the essential one to look for when selecting a motherboard. It is no longer present in the BIOS of current Dell, Gateway, Micron, IBM, HP, etc. computers.

We have a preferred configuration using an MSI motherboard. The advantage of this motherboard is that the onboard ethernet is supported by QNX, saving a slot. A specification for this machine follows. Note this machine is somewhat over specified- 1GB of memory and a 3GHz processor is not required for REX. In quantity the cost for this configuration without monitor, keyboard or mouse is about \$1600.

QNX RTP supports only certain video adapters. One can check for compatible adapters on the QNX web site. For dual-head support, one must use the ATI Radeon 9800 Pro.

## Interfaces.

REX and MEX use various a/d converters, digital i/o interfaces, d/a converters, and timer cards. The compatible models are specified in the REX documentation.

## **Specification for NIH Laboratory Real-time PC**

- 1.) Mainboard: MSI 865PE Neo2-LS, part number MS-6728-020. Includes Intel 865PE chipset, Intel ICH5, Intel 82562EZ 10/100 LAN on motherboard.
- 1.) Processor: Intel P4 3.0GHz/512K/800MHz FSB with fan.
- 2.) Memory: Corsair Twinx1024-3200LL (2 matched 512 MB DIMMS). 1GB total.
- 3.) Hard drive: Seagate ST380013AS 80GB SATA/150 Barracuda 7200.7.
- 1.) DVD-ROM: Sony 16X IDE.
- 2.) Video: ATI Radeon 9800 PRO 128MB DDR 8XAGP with DVI to VGA adapter included.
- 3.) Case: Antec SX600II with one rear and two front fans installed. No side panel fan.
- 4.) Power supply: Antec True480 with 110v power cord.
- 1.) Floppy (any manufacturer okay).
- 2.) Assembly and test. Note that all nine mainboard screws must be installed, and the hard disk must be installed in middle position in removable drive cage.
- 3.) Include unused cables and accessories that come with mainboard and case.

### **Vendors who can supply this configuration:**

Frank Bowden  
Account Manager  
Fortress Systems Int'l  
1-800-437-3920 Ext. 1230  
[www.fsiinc.com](http://www.fsiinc.com)

Keith Kim  
Account Manager, Corporate Division  
E-mail: [Keith\\_Kim@amax.com](mailto:Keith_Kim@amax.com)  
Phone: (510) 497-8820  
Fax: (510) 651-4119  
AMAX INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES  
1565 Reliance Way, Fremont, CA 94539  
<http://www.amaxit.com>

Jacky Chen  
Senior Account Executive  
ATACOM, INC  
4725 HANNOVER PLACE  
FREMONT CA 94538  
TEL:(510)933-1200  
FAX:(510)933-1201  
[sales@ATACOM.com](mailto:sales@ATACOM.com)  
[www.ATACOM.com](http://www.ATACOM.com)

# Rex At a Glance...

## Data Acquisition

Rex continually acquires samples from the a/d converter and stores the data to a circular memory buffer. This data is stored to disk when a window is opened. Data is stored until the window is closed. Each window has an associated pre-time and post-time. These times specify additional data that will be saved before the window is opened and after the window is closed. Data stored to disk can originate either from an a/d converter or from global memory variables.

- a/d sample rate (acquire rate) and disk store rate can be different- e.g. a signal can be sampled at 1000Hz and stored to disk at 250Hz.
- All rates (acquire rate and store rate) can be independently set on a per signal basis; all signals are not required to be acquired or stored at the same rate.
- Maximum a/d sample rate (acquire rate) per channel: 2000Hz.
- Overall throughput to disk has been tested to at least 16k samples/sec. on a 486/33 with SCSI disk.
- Each signal can be identified with an ascii string that is available to analysis programs.

## Data File Format

Rex produces only two types of files: the E-file and the A-file. The E-file contains short fixed records that identify epochs or times of occurrence. The A-file is composed of variable length data records. The E-file indexes the A-file. Both files include additional information (such as sequence numbers and magic numbers) that can be used to verify file integrity.

## Laboratory Control

Rex includes a state-set interpreter and language, Spot, for laboratory control. Applications are programmed using Spot and associated C functions (termed actions) that are called from the state-sets. Users can also write custom actions in C. The state-set interpreter supports multiple, independent state chains. Timing resolution for the interpreter is 1msec.

Rex supports industry standard 'Opto 22' type I/O modules for interfacing with devices in the laboratory. These modules can interface with DC and AC voltages and provide optical isolation between the computer and the laboratory.

## Displays

Rex includes four displays. The running-line display is an oscilloscope simulation. The window display is an X-Y display suitable for showing eye position and eye position windows. The raster display shows on-line rasters and spike density functions. This display is completely user customizes in terms of number of rasters, histograms displayed, size, position, triggers, etc. The xcorr display shows unit cross correlation or unit auto correlation.

## User Interface

Users interact with Rex via a graphical interface consisting of pull-down menus, dialogs, and toggle buttons. Variables and parameters in Rex are contained in structures. The contents of all structures can be saved in ascii to a file (termed a root file).

## **PC to PC Communication**

Rex provides two methods for PC to PC communication. The first system, pcmsg, is suitable for real-time. 'pcmsg' requires two interface boards that include the Intel 8255 parallel interface chip (commonly found on digital I/O boards). 'pcmsg' is designed so that the two boards can be cabled together directly, pin for pin, without any external glue logic. 'pcmsg' provides an eight bit communications channel between the PCs. This channel is full-duplex- information can travel in both ways simultaneously. The handshaking protocol is designed to be independent of timing differences between the PCs. The programming interface presents a messaging model- messages are packaged and sent between the machines. Messages include checksum. The second method of communication is to use Ethernet with TCP/IP sockets.

## **Multi-Unit Sorters**

Rex communicates with the Mex multi-unit sorter program via parallel interface using one 8255 parallel chip. Rex will also communicate with the Spectrum Scientific MNAP system using counter-timer boards. Each board will accept up to 20 units from the MNAP system. In order to accept more units, the Rex PC must have available slots for more counter timer boards.

## **Rex Structure and Operating System Environment**

Rex is composed of multiple cooperating processes. For example, keyboard commands, writing to disk, raster display, data acquisition are all handled by different processes. This architecture, originally designed to run on Unix, is not easily ported to DOS. Therefore the QNX real-time operating system was chosen to support Rex on the PC. QNX provides a Unix foundation in a real-time context with fast interrupt response and disk I/O.

## **Availability**

Rex is available free of charge via executing a short license agreement (the purpose of this agreement is to preserve the government's rights to Rex and restrict re-distribution). The Rex manual and a copy of the agreement can be obtained via anonymous ftp from lsr.nei.nih.gov.

# **REX: A Unix-Based Multiple-Process System for Real-Time Data Acquisition and Control**

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## **Introduction**

Rex (*Real-time EXperimentation*) is a real-time system that utilizes a multiple process structure to divide its functions among various cooperating processes. A running Rex system includes the *procSwitch* process to control process interaction, the *scribe* process to write data on disk, an *int* process to respond to interrupts from clocks, analog-to-digital converters, etc., a *running line* process that functions as a digital oscilloscope, an *window* process to display analog data in an X-Y coordinate system, and a *raster* process to generate on-line displays of unit activity. A Rex system is not limited to these processes and may include others. This modular architecture is flexible and easy to maintain. Various applications may use the same procSwitch and scribe processes but different int, running line, window or raster processes. The boundaries imposed by distributing Rex among multiple processes afford some protection against code becoming excessively intertwined and difficult to modify. Rex is written in C, a structured high level language.

Laboratory control is accomplished with a state-based interpreter in the *int* process. A state set description language is translated into tables which drive the interpreter. Rex stores sampled analog data in rotating buffers in a common memory area shared by all processes. Inter process communication messages are also passed through this area. Rex produces only two types of data files. One stores information characterized by epochs and contains long integer times of occurrence, the other stores variable length records such as analog data or experimental parameters. The epoch file indexes the data file. Both files contain additional information inserted by scribe that can be used to verify their integrity or aid in their reconstruction in case of partial loss or corruption.

The original version of Rex ran on the pdp11 using a V6/V7 Unix kernel that was modified to support real-time applications. The PC version of Rex currently runs with the Photon Window Manager on the QNX operating system, a POSIX compliant real-time system.

## **Rex Structure**

Rex is designed for an environment composed of multiple laboratories, each equipped with PCs. These computers are devoted entirely to the on-line tasks in each laboratory. In addition larger machines may exist for off-line tasks such as data analysis, data archiving, program development, etc.

## **Previous Design Approach**

In a previous approach to developing software for this environment a single large program performed all the functions of data acquisition, control, and display generation. To conserve space the machines ran under a small operating system with real-time capability, RT-11. Coding was done in assembly language for efficiency and access to hardware registers. As more laboratories with different needs used this program, it became larger and more complex. Modularity broke down as different programmers modified it. This single program was difficult to debug, maintain, and modify. Capabilities not needed in one experiment were removed when memory space was critical, and other capabilities

were added. A feature of one version was often difficult to transfer to another because of buried differences.

Debugging problems were more difficult since the operating system did not run the program under the protection of memory management. Stacks could overflow without being caught and the operating system itself could be corrupted.

## New Approach

The multiple-process structure of Rex solves many of these problems. With inexpensive solid state memories the laboratory computers can be configured with enough memory to run a larger and more sophisticated operating system such as Unix. A process in Unix consists of a program memory image, register values, status of open files, etc. Unix is a timesharing system and schedules run time among processes that reside in memory or are swapped out to secondary storage. Processes are executed under the full protection of memory management; stack faults are caught, a process has access only to its own address space, and execution of sensitive instructions such as *halt* or *reset* is prohibited. Each process interacts with other processes only through inter process communication protocols.

The major functions of Rex exist as individual Unix processes. The boundaries thus imposed enforce some degree of modularity in Rex. Of course any process can still be poorly constructed internally. However, there is a “firewall” between it and the rest of the system. Its interactions are better defined than if it were a section or overlay in a single large program, sharing the same address space and registers.

The multiple-process structure facilitates maintenance and the development of new functions. Rex systems may run different processes for various applications yet still include the same processes for functions such as keyboard handling and file writing. When changes are made to processes each Rex system needs only to run the new versions to be updated. When debugging, each process has its own address space and can be traced separately. Multiple processes also provide a way for large systems to effectively utilize the full memory capacity of machines such as the pdp11, which have a larger physical memory space than virtual address space. For example, the pdp11/73 has a memory capacity of 4MB and a virtual address space of 64KB text, 64KB data.

Rex is written in C, a structured high level language. C has separate compilation, provides full access to hardware, and is very efficient. C is easily interfaced to assembly language.

## Rex Processes

A typical Rex system is composed of five or more processes. The most common processes are described below.

### Data

The data process is a null process that declares the common in core data area and launches the procSwitch process. It is executed before other Rex processes and remains in memory at all times. Since the data process is the first process executed it is named Rex.

### ProcSwitch

The procSwitch process supervises the launching of all other processes and the opening and closing of files. ProcSwitch displays a small tool bar containing pull-down menus and toggle buttons that provide user input. ProcSwitch maintains a table of all currently established Rex processes and their status.

## **Scribe**

The scribe process writes and maintains data files on disk. When a Rex process desires that data be saved on disk it sends a message to scribe telling it what the data is and where it is located. It is scribe's responsibility to write the data into the proper file in the correct format. For example, the int process might sample data from an analog-to-digital converter and store it in a rotating buffer. When a high water mark is reached it sends a message to scribe to write the data to disk.

## **Int**

Every experiment is unique, and hence some part of Rex must be easily adaptable to the investigator's needs. This is accomplished in Rex by devoting one process, int, to the experiment-specific code. The experiments currently running under Rex investigate the neurophysiology of the visual and eye movement systems. Stimuli are presented to subjects according to a behavioral paradigm. Analog signals are digitized and events (such as pressing a bar or the firing of cells in the brain) are recorded by the computer. Since the control of the experiment and the collection of the data are dependent on the behavior of the subject in these applications, a great deal of digital signal processing must be done in real-time by Rex (e.g., the onset of a rapid eye movement is detected by a digital filter).

In its present configuration Rex is interrupt driven from the real-time clock, which normally interrupts at a one kilohertz rate. (Other applications may have higher sampling rates when less processing is required.) The int process is divided into two parts, an upper-level one that handles the communication with the other Rex processes and the operator, and a lower-level one that responds to the interrupts. The upper-level part displays a tool bar containing pull-down menus and toggle buttons to handle user input. When a new int process is launched, its tool bar appears adjacent to the procSwitch tool bar. The lower-level subroutine is divided into functionally discrete sections, making it simple to modify. Rex provides a method for users to easily create new int processes (see next section). During an experiment many int processes may be executed by Rex; the experimental paradigm can be changed quickly by switching to a different int process.

## **Running Line Display**

The running line display process provides the functions of a digital oscilloscope. It can display analog data, neuronal units, and a timing bar. The time base of the display varies from 30 Hz to 1000 Hz. It has free running and triggered modes. In triggered mode, it has repeat and one-shot modes. Rex supports multiple running displays.

## **Window Display**

The window display process provides an X-Y display of analog data. It has immediate and storage modes. In storage mode, the screen refresh rate can be set to any interval between 16 and 1024 milliseconds, or the screen refresh can be triggered. In triggered storage mode, users can vary the number of draws between refresh cycles. Rex supports multiple window displays

## **Raster Display**

The raster display provides T-Y plots of unit data. The data are grouped according to experimental condition for each plot. Unit data can be displayed as spike rasters or as spike density functions. The raster display can have multiple pages, each containing up to 64 plots. Data from up to 10 different units can be display in each plot. Rex supports multiple raster displays.

## Xcorr Display

The xcorr display provides the cross correlation of one unit with another or the auto correlation of a unit with itself. The correlation is shown both as a raster and as a spike density function.

## Laboratory Control

To achieve useful control in the laboratory, timing and sequencing of events in real-time must occur precisely and efficiently. State notation is a powerful tool for accomplishing this control. The advantage of state notation is that it is simple and easy to learn, yet able to implement even the most complex control sequences. The process of reducing a control problem to state notation often helps clarify the problem and identify logical errors. Rex incorporates a state set processor for laboratory control. This processor is a part of the int process; it is executed on interrupt from the clock, currently every millisecond.

## State Concepts

State notation as implemented in Rex includes the following elements. A state is the current condition or stage of a control sequence. A state consists of the specification of a function to occur when the state is entered (actions) and the conditions that must be met for transition to occur to another state (escapes). Escapes to other states can happen in the following ways:

- *Countdown of a timer to zero.*
- *Bit pattern set in a flag word.*
- *Bit pattern not set in a flag word.*
- *True return from a function call.*
- *Variable equal to a constant.*
- *Variable less than a constant.*
- *Variable greater than a constant.*

Each state contains a long integer (32 bits) to specify the time for escapes on timer countdown (an integer random factor can also be specified). Upon entering a state this long time is loaded into a counter which is then decremented each interrupt. States may contain multiple escapes of mixed types. Each escape is evaluated in turn at interrupt time; transition occurs on the first escape found true.

The Rex state processor is small and designed for fast execution. It uses a linked list to efficiently test escapes. State actions are not performed directly, but are accomplished by calls to functions. The action is therefore the address of a function that is called by the state processor when the state is entered. Up to ten arguments can be passed to the function. The arguments can be constants of type long or pointers to global variables. Many standard actions are available in a system library, or users may write their own. An example of a commonly used action is dio\_on(BIT). This action sets a bit (specified by the device id BIT) in the digital output interface word without disturbing other bits already set.

A provision is made to store a record of state transitions and the time of the transition on disk. This is done by specifying an integer event code contained either in the state or returned by an action. When a state transition occurs this code is entered into the event buffer. If the action for that state returns an event code it overrides the one stored in the state and is entered instead. A state in Rex, therefore, is composed of:

- Event code.
- Action (function address) and up to ten long integer or global variable pointer arguments.
- Long time to initialize timer for timed escapes.

- Integer random factor for time.
- Escapes.

## State Set Specification Language

A user specifies state sets by writing in a language called *Spot* (State PrOcessor Translator). The Spot compiler translates the language into the tables that drive the state processor. The Spot compiler is implemented with the compiler writing tools of Unix: Lex and Yacc. Spot source files are divided into two sections. The first section contains C source code and is passed through Spot untouched to the C compiler. Functions for actions are placed in this section. The second section is the state set specification.

The Spot source file is the primary user interface to the Rex system. Contained in the file is the complete laboratory control specification for an experiment including the source for any specialized actions not found in the system library. Usually, when modifying or creating new Rex applications, the user will only have to be concerned with this one file. To further simplify the user interface the generation of the Rex int process (as well as all Rex processes) is under the control of *make*, a Unix utility. After the user edits the Spot source file he simply types the command *make sf=spotname* where spotname is the name of the Spot source file. This utility then performs all necessary compilations (including Spot), library searching, and loading, and yields a new int process.

## Runtime Considerations

At runtime the state set processor begins execution when the real-time clock is started. Some of the variables contained in a state can be changed at runtime. A special pull-down menu, accessed from the int tool bar, exists to do this. The changeable variables are arguments to actions, times, and the event code.

## Shared Data Structures

The data process sets up a data space that is shared by all of the processes. A process adjusts its memory map to reference the shared space. This space contains the data buffers and the inter process communication area.

When an interrupt occurs, the int process may collect data. This data need not be saved on the disk, but must be available for on-line display by other processes. Int keeps this data in two buffers in the shared space. Data that can be described as an epoch (e.g., a single-unit's action potential, or when the subject presses a bar) are stored in the event buffer. Any data that can not be described as an epoch (e.g., eye position or target position) are stored in the analog buffer. The internal structures of the event and analog buffers are different, and when the data are saved on the disk, two separate files are used (see below).

## Event Buffer

All event data can be identified by only two numbers: an event code and a time of occurrence. The int process records epochs by entering them into a circular event buffer. If events are being saved, scribe writes the data to the disk whenever a high water mark is reached. The circular buffer is large enough to make many events available to the running line, window, and raster display processes. During a neurophysiological experiment, the most common event is the single-unit action potential, or spike. These can occur with average firing rates as low as 1 per second, or as high as 1000 per second. It is

essential that some representation of them be available on-line. The raster display process provides an on-line version of the standard unit raster, built out of the incore event buffer.

### **Analog Buffer**

During the experiments run with Rex many analog signals must be sampled and saved. Collection of analog data is greatly complicated by several factors. For example, the time from which to begin saving may precede the actual time when recognition of the need to save occurs, e.g., one may wish to save eye position from 100 milliseconds before the beginning of an eye movement. Also, the number of samples collected during the run may be greater than the storage capacity of the disk. The approach taken in Rex is to collect the data continuously in rotating buffers, and only store data according to requests in the state set.

A very large buffer is used to hold the analog samples, and when the buffer is full, the load pointer wraps around to the beginning of the buffer. The user controls the saving of this data on the disk with actions in the state set. These actions control the opening, closing and canceling of a data keeping window. Scribe keeps all data collected from the time the window is opened until the window closes, no matter how many times the buffer wraps around (within the limits of the computer's capacity). If a high water mark is hit, scribe writes out a partial data record marked with a continuation flag.

The user also specifies the number of samples to be kept before the window is opened, and the number of samples to be kept after the window is closed. The user need only be concerned with opening and closing the data keeping window. The Rex system performs the bookkeeping necessary to store the data on disk. In addition, every time an analog record is written out an event is generated that indexes the analog record (see below).

### **Menu System**

Rex provides a menu system that allows variables to be accessed and changed at run time. Variables have different types including char, string, octal, decimal, etc. A function can be created to be called when a menu or menu variable is accessed. This function may be called before access, after access, or both. This function can affect how the variable is accessed. For example, the function might prohibit a variable from being changed if the new value is not legal, or perform necessary initialization when a variable is set to a new value.

### **Data File Formats**

Rex data is stored in two files. The E-file contains data which can be described as epochs. The A-file contains all other data, including information about the experimental run that created the data. The E-file also indexes the A-file. Both files contain redundant information so that a complete loss of either file does not preclude access to the other file, and that partial losses from one file can be bridged over. The E-file has a fixed record length structure, while the A-file has a variable record length structure. Both files begin with a one block header. The Unix system dynamically allocates file space; pre-determination of file length is unnecessary.

### **Rex Header Block**

A 512 byte header block is written for both files when they are created. The first word of the header block is a size, in bytes. In the E-file this is the size of the fixed record length, in the A-file it is the size of a fixed-length header associated with each variable length record. The next item in the header block is the file name used to create the files. Then follows the version number for the Rex system that

created the file. These two items are stored as null-terminated ASCII strings, making them readable without a special program. The rest of the header block is available for other information.

### **E-file Format**

After the header block, the E-file consists of an arbitrary number of records, each four words long. The structure of each record is identical. The first word is a sequence number added by the scribe process. The second word is the event code for this record. If the code is a positive number, it corresponds to an event that occurred at a time which is stored in the next two words as a long integer. (Time is kept as clock ticks, and the clock rate is kept in a standard header stored in the A-file.) If the code is negative, the record is an index to a variable length record in the A-file; the next two words form a long integer that is the offset in bytes from the beginning of the A-file to the record header.

### **A-file Format**

After the header block the A-file consists of an arbitrary number of variable length records. Every record is written in the same format: a ten word analog header followed by an arbitrary length data field. The structure of the analog header is the same for every record. The first two words are a long integer magic number. The third word is an unsigned ordinal sequence number assigned by the scribe process. The fourth word is the event code for this record (the same as the event code in the E-file record which indexes this A-file record). The next two words form a long integer containing the time of occurrence of the epoch associated with this record. The following two words form a long integer available to the user. The next word is an integer used to mark continuation records. The last word is the length (in bytes) of the following data field.

Since Rex collects data in rotating buffers, it is possible to store arbitrarily long streams of data. For practical reasons this stream is broken up into short data records that are stored on the disk. When the data buffer pointer exceeds a high water mark, the scribe process writes a partial data record into the A-file. Subsequent pieces of the data stream are then written as continuation records. Each continuation record has the same format as all other A-file records, except for non-zero continuation words in the headers.

### **Data File Consistency**

The Rex file formats incorporate redundant information to allow the consistency of files to be checked, and some effort to be made at restoring damaged files. Since data is often transferred from disk to disk, or from disk to tape and back again, it is necessary to check that blocks have not been lost or scrambled. Both files are consistent if their sequence numbers are correct and if the analog records in the A-file are correctly indexed by the E-file. If the E-file becomes corrupted, it is easily re synchronized by searching for a block boundary, since the event record size evenly divides the physical block size. If the A-file becomes corrupted, it may be re synchronized by searching for the magic number. This number (1210832817L) is four bytes long, chosen to be unique by word or byte search, and outside the range of 12 bit analog-to-digital converters. The amount of data missing can be determined from the gap in the sequence numbers. A utility program exists (\f3srdd\f1) which checks the data files and verifies their consistency.

### **Data File Portability**

Problems may arise when data files are moved to other computers. In general, data is not portable across machine architectures. Differences may involve word size (e.g. 16 bits on pdp11, 32 bits on VAX), byte ordering within words, and bit ordering (whether least significant bit is to left or right).

Because of alignment differences a structure used in a C program to access a data file on one machine may not access the same fields properly on another machine.

One solution to this problem is to add to analysis programs multiple ways of accessing data files and multiple formats for each machine. A much simpler solution, however, is to instead change the data file for each machine. This permits a uniform access method and single data file structure for all architectures. With this solution porting analysis programs to new machines does not require new data formats or changes to access methods. A utility program exists to convert the Rex data files to a new format. The identification of the current format of the data file is stored in the data file header block. Information is not lost during conversion- given the current format a data file can be again converted to any other format.

## **Discussion**

The prototype version of Rex was completed in March of 1981, and ran on the pdp11 processor. The PC port of Rex was completed in Spring of 1992. Rex comprises about 8000 lines of C code (comments not included).

Rex takes advantage of many Unix features to provide a real-time laboratory system that is easy to use. The Spot language and the make utility allow the user to easily create new Rex modules to meet his experimental needs. Hence the investigator has more time to spend on the design of the experiment and the analysis of the data.

## **References**

Unix is a trademark of the Bell Telephone Laboratories. RT-11, pdp11, and DEC are trademarks of Digital Equipment Corporation. QNX is a trademark of Quantum Software Systems, Ltd., 175 Terrence Matthews Crescent, Kanata, Ontario K2M 1W8, (613) 591-0931.

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# SPOT: State Process Translator for REX

Barry J. Richmond Arthur V. Hays Lance M. Optican John W. McClurkin

## Introduction

The REX real-time laboratory control and data acquisition system has been designed so control paradigms for specific experiments can be flexibly implemented. During implementation the user's attention is largely directed to features that are unique for the experiment being designed. This end is realized through implementation of a translator for a state-set based control specification language, Spot (State PrOcessor Translator). The Spot translator produces tables that are compiled by the C compiler. These tables contain specifications that define states; associated with each state are conditions, escapes, that govern transitions to other states. When a new state is entered a user written subroutine (termed an action) can be called if its name is included in the specification of the new state. Virtually no restrictions are placed upon the action. It may touch hardware, do calculations and set flags for later use, process lists of stimuli, etc. The Spot translator makes the chain of states extremely easy to specify and edit. Multiple, independent state chains are permitted and executed in parallel.

## Process Control

REX process control is implemented using a logical structure which depends upon states, actions, and escapes. This system is table driven, executed by an interpreter that runs every millisecond. The tables are difficult to construct by hand, so a translatable language, Spot, has been implemented to make the creation of the tables transparent to the user.

Control routines are always in a current state. When an appropriate condition, recognized in either hardware or software, occurs, a transition or escape to another state takes place. When a new state is entered after an escape has occurred two useful things happen. First, a function called an action, may be called. Actions are usually written in the C language, and must be compatible with C calling conventions. The action may be passed up to sixteen arguments. These arguments can be either long integers or pointers to variables. Second, an event code composed of an integer number and a long integer time-of-occurrence can be placed into the event buffer. The user selects the event code. Standard event codes generally come from some #include file, while specific codes for the particular experiment may be placed directly in the paradigm specification. If the user wishes, a code may be returned by the action which will be placed in the event buffer instead. For example, if the action was setting some variables from a table, it might return a code that indicates which table entry was selected.

A state also contains the variables time (a long integer), and random (a short integer). When a state is entered, a countdown timer is initialized to the time variable (if it is non-negative) plus a portion of the random variable. The random variable is divided into quarters, with 0, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, or the whole added to the timer. *Note if the time variable is negative, the countdown timer is not re-initialized when the state is entered.*

## Spot Language Specification

### Spot file sections

The Spot translator takes as input a specification file (termed a spot file) with suffix ".d". Each Spot specification file is divided into two sections separated by the delimiter "%%". The first section is

composed of include files, actions and other pre-initialized subroutines, user defined menus, user defined functions, and user defined real time variables. Actions may also be placed in user libraries; however, placing actions specific to individual paradigms in the paradigm's Spot file is usually much more convenient. Between the first and second sections a "%%" delimiter is placed. The second section contains the Spot state set specification for the paradigm. The state set chains of the paradigm are declared here. The Spot translator produces a C source file, with the suffix ".d.c" appended to the Spot file name.

## Include files

The following headers are included automatically in the C source produced by Spot.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include "../hdr/sys.h"
#include "../hdr/cnf.h"
#include "../hdr/proc.h"
#include "../hdr/buf.h"
#include "../hdr/menu.h"
#include "../hdr/state.h"
#include "../hdr/encode.h"
#include "../hdr/device.h"
#include "../hdr/cdsp.h"
#include "../hdr/idsp.h"
#include "../hdr/int.h"
```

Since these headers are automatically added by Spot they should not be included again in the ".d" Spot file.

## User defined actions

Rex includes a library of actions that can be called from states, but this library will probably not be sufficient to build a complete experimental paradigm. In particular, if users want to present a number of conditions in a random sequence they will need to write an action that selects the experimental condition for each trial. For example:

```
#include "memSac.h" /* table of conditions */

/* global variables */
int mfTargX = 0;
int mfTargY = 0;
int antiTargX = 0;
int antiTargY = 0;
int trialCounter = -1;
int totalTrials = 0;
int currstim;
int blockcount = 0;

int pick_targ_location()
{
    static int ptrlst[2 * NUM_STIM] = { 0 };
    static int rs_shift = 10;
    int targx;
    int targy;
```

```

/* build list of conditions */
if(--trialCounter <= 0) {
    trialCounter = NUM_STIM;
    for(i = 0; i < trialCounter; i++) ptrlst[i] = i;
    shuffle(trialCounter, rs_shift, ptrlst);
    blockcount++;
}
currstim = ptrlst[trialCounter - 1];
totalTrials++;
memSacTrialList[currstim].total++;

/* set the time of the target-fixation point gap state */
set_times("gap", memSacList[currstim].delay, -1);

/* set the location of the target window */
switch(memSacList[currstim].direction) {
case 1:      /* target in movement field */
    targx = mfTargX;
    targy = mfTargY;
    break;
case -1:     /* target opposite movement field */
    targx = antiTargX;
    targy = antiTargY;
    break;
}
/* action to set eye window position */
wd_pos(WIND1, targx, targy);

/* return code to enter into E file */
return(memSacList[currstim].ecode);
}

```

Beginning with Rex 7.2, actions can have up to 10 arguments. The arguments can be either type long constants, or pointers to global variables.

## User defined menus

You may build menus to allow modification of variables at run time. The menus are accessed from a dialog launched from the *int* process tool bar. Prior to version 7.0, Rex allowed user menus to access submenus. Submenus are no longer supported because they are no longer needed.

*Default Menu.* Spot will build one menu automatically. This menu is named *state\_vars*. All that is needed for this menu is a list of variables to display. The list of variables is defined in an array of structures of type *VLIST* and must be named *state\_vl*. For example:

```

VLIST state_vl[] = {
{"clear_all_da", &clear_all, NP, clearVaf, ME_AFT, ME_DEC},
 {"do_two_ramps", &do_two_ramps, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"ramp0_xda",   &r0_xda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"ramp0_yda",   &r0_yda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"ramp1_xda",   &r1_xda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"ramp1_yda",   &r1_yda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"fix_xwind",   &fxwd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},

```

```

{"fix_ywind",  &fywd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"fix_oxwind", &foxwd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"fix_oywind", &foywd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"user_msg",   &tst_user, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC, },
 {"single_trace", &tst_single, NP, singleVaf, ME_AFT, ME_DEC},
 {NS},
};

```

**Table 1: VLIST Structure**

Member name	Example
char *vl_name	clear_all_da
void *vl_add	&clear_all
void *vl_basep	NP
int (*vl_accf)()	clearVaf
char vl_flag	ME_AFT
char vl_type	ME_DEC

The VLIST structure has the following format:

*Vl\_name* is the character string that will identify the variable in the menu. This character string may not have any imbedded spaces.

*Vl\_add* is the address of the variable itself. This variable must be a global.

*Vl\_basep* is an amount that may be added to the variable pointer. For simple global variables, *vl\_basep* should be NP (null pointer). If *vl\_add* is a pointer to the first element of an array, *vl\_basep* might be the offset into the array for this variable.

*Vl\_accf()* is the address of a function to be called when the variable is changed. Variable access functions are useful for checking the range of a variable or doing some type of initialization. If you do not need a variable access function, the *vl\_accf()* member of the structure should be NP.

*Vl\_flag* is a flag variable that consist of the or'ed combination of any of the following bits: ME\_BEF, ME\_AFT, ME\_LB, ME\_ILB,

ME\_GB, ME\_IGB. The ME\_BEF bit indicates that the variable access function *vl\_accf()* should be called before changing the value of the menu variable. The ME\_AFT bit indicates that the variable access function should be called after changing the value of the menu variable. The ME\_LB bit indicates that the value of *vl\_basep* should be added directly to *vl\_add*. The ME\_ILB bit indicates that *vl\_basep* is the address of the value that should be added to *vl\_add*. The ME\_GB bit indicates that the menu contains a global pointer (*me\_basep*) that must be added to *vl\_add*. The ME\_IGB bit indicates that the menu global pointer is the address of the value that must be added to *vl\_add*.

*Vl\_type* is a flag that indicates the variable type. Valid types are ME\_ACHAR, ME\_OCT, ME\_DEC, ME\_HEX, ME\_LOCT, ME\_LDEC, ME\_LHEX, ME\_STR, and ME\_FLOAT. ME\_ACHAR indicates that the variable is a single ascii character. ME\_OCT indicates that the variable is on octal value. ME\_DEC indicates that the variable is a decimal value. ME\_HEX indicates that the variable is a hexidecimal value. ME\_LOCT indicates that the variable is a long octal value. ME\_LDEC indicates that the variable is a long decimal value. ME\_LHEX indicates that the variable is a long hexidecimal value. ME\_STR indicates that the variable is a string. ME\_FLOAT indicates that the variable is a floating point value.

The last entry in any VLIST structure array must be NS, on a line by itself. NS stands for "null string", and marks the end of the variable list. **Note, failure to end the VLIST definition with an NS line will cause REX to crash when it attempts to display the menu.**

If you only use the default state\_vars menu, then you must also define a help message. The name of the help message must be "hm\_sv\_vl". For example:

```

char hm_sv_vl[] = "\
do_two_ramps-\n\
0: one ramp active\n\
1: two ramps active";

```

If you don't want to define a help message, then the help message must be defined using a null string. For example:

```
char hm_sv_vl[] = "";
```

*MENU structure.* The reason that submenus are no longer needed is that you are not limited to using just the default menu. You may define as many menus as you wish. The menus will be displayed in a pull down list. This makes accessing menus easier than using chains of submenus. In defining your menus you must avoid using names that Rex uses for menus. The following is the list of Rex Menus:

```
control_params
signals
da_conv
mem_array
offsets_eye
rgen(ramps)
run_line_chan
win_disp_chan
saccade_det
bit
trials
windows
```

The list of menus to display is defined in an array of structures of type *MENU* and must be named *umenus*. For example:

```
MENU umenus[] = {
{"state_vars", &state_vl, NP, NP, 0, NP, hm_sv_vl},
 {"separator", NP},
 {"ramp_list", &ramp_vl, NP, ral_maf, ME_BEF, ral_agf, hm_ramp},
 {"separator", NP},
 {"eye_winds", &eyewnds_vl, NP, ral_maf, ME_BEF, ral_agf, hm_eyewnds},
 {"eye_offsets", &eyeoffs_vl, NP, ral_maf, ME_BEF, ral_agf, hm_eyeoffs},
 {NS},
};
```

The MENU structure has the following format:

*Me\_name* is the character string that will be displayed in the pull down menu list. This character string may not have any imbedded spaces. This string must not be one of the reserve Rex strings (see above).

*Me\_vlp* is a pointer to the array of VLIST structures that define the variables to be accessed from this menu.

*Me\_basep* is a value that may be added to the address of each variable in this menu's VLIST structures array.

*Me\_accf()* is the address of the menu access function. This function can be used to set the *me\_basep* in cases where the menu displays elements of an array of structures.

*Me\_flag* is a flag variable that consists of the or'ed combination of any of the following bits: ME\_BEF, ME\_AFT. The ME\_BEF bit indicates that the menu access function should be called before accessing the menu variables. The ME\_AFT bit indicates that the menu access function should be called after

**Table 2: MENU structure**

Member Name	Example
char * me_name	ramp_list
VLIST *me_vlp	&ramp_vl
unsigned me_basep	NP
int (*me_accf)()	ral_maf
int me_flag	ME_BEF
int (*me_rtagen)()	ral_agf
char *me_help	hm_ramp

accessing the menu variables.

*Me\_rtagen()* is the address of a the root argument generation function. If the menu requires arguments, for example if it accesses the members of an array of structures, this function will generate the array indices when writing root files.

*Me\_help* is a pointer to this menu's help message.

Rex 7.0 and later allow special menu entries marked by the *me\_name* "separator". The *me\_vlp* member of these entries must be null (NP). The remaining MENU structure members may be left undefined. If you do define the remaining members of a *separator* MENU structure, they must be defined to be 0. Rex will put a separator line in the user menus pull down menu where ever there is a *separator* entry.

As with the arrays of VLIST structures, the last entry in the *umenus* array must be NS. **Failure to end the umenus definition with an NS line will cause Rex to crash when it attempts to display the user menus pull down menu.**

Rex will display the menus in the order they are listed in the *umenus* array. This allows you to group menus as you like, separating logical groups of menus with *separator* entries.

**More menu examples.** The following code snippets illustrate how to use menus to access members of a structure and how to access members of an array of structures. This example shows the menu access for a single instance of a structure.

```
typedef struct {
    int len;
    int ang;
    int vel;
    int xoff;
    int yoff;
    int type;
    int ecode;
} RMP_PAR;

RMP_PAR ramp;

VLIST ramp_vl[] = {
    {"length",  &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->len,  NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"angle",   &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->ang,   NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"velocity", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->vel,   NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"xoff",    &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->xoff,  NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"yoff",    &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->yoff,  NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"type",    &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->type,  NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"ecode",   &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->ecode, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {NS},
};

char hm_ramp_vl[] = "";

MENU umenus[] = {
    {"ramp_par", &ramp_vl, &ramp, NP, 0, NP, hm_ramp_vl},
    {NS},
};
```

In this example the phrase *&((RMP\_PAR \*)NP)->len* in the *ramp\_vl* definition indicates that this variable address is the address of the *len* member of a structure of type *RMP\_PAR*. The *ME\_BG* notation indicates that a menu global base pointer must be added to this variable address. In the *umenus* definition, the menu global base pointer *me\_basep* is given the value of *&ramp*, the instance of the

RMP\_PAR structure being accessed by this menu. This example assumes that *ramp* is a globally defined variable.

The next example shows a snippet of code for a menu that access members of an array of structures.

```

typedef struct {
    int len;
    int ang;
    int vel;
    int xoff;
    int yoff;
    int type;
    int ecode;
} RMP_PAR;

RMP_PAR rampList[16];

int r_agf(int call_cnt, MENU *mp, char *astr)
{
    if(call_cnt >= 16) *astr= '\0';
    else itoa_RL(call_cnt, 'd', astr, &astr[P_ISLEN]);
    return(0);
}

int r_maf(int flag, MENU *mp, char *astr, ME_RECUR *rp)
{
    int rampnum;

    if(*astr == '\0') rampnum = 0;
    else rampnum = atoi(astr);

    if((rampnum < 0) || (rampnum >= 16)) return(-1);
    mp->me_basep = (unsigned)&rampList[rampnum];
    return(0);
}

VLIST ramp_vl[] = {
    {"length", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->len, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"angle", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->ang, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"velocity", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->vel, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"xoff", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->xoff, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"yoff", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->yoff, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"type", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->type, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {"ecode", &((RMP_PAR *)NP)->ecode, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
    {NS},
};

char hm_ramp_vl[] = "";

MENU umenus[] = {
    {"rampList", &ramp_vl, NP, r_maf, ME_BEF, r_agf, hm_ramp_vl},
    {NS},
};

```

This examples shows two functions, the root argument generation function *r\_agf* and the menu access function *r\_maf* that are needed for menu access to arrays of structures. The purpose of the root

argument generation function is to convert an integer array index value into an ascii string to be written into a root file. In the argument list for *r\_agf*, *call\_cnt* is the element of the array, *mp* is a pointer to the menu struct (in this case *&umenus[0]*), and *astr* is a pointer to a string variable that holds the ascii representation of the index.

The purpose of the menu access function is to convert an ascii string into an integer array index and set a pointer to the appropriate array element. In the argument list for *r\_maf*, *mp* is a pointer to the menu struct (in this case *&umenus[0]*) and *astr* is a pointer to the string to be converted to an integer index. The arguments *flag* and *rp* are required by the function protocol but are not used in this example. In the *umenus* definition, the value of *me\_basep* is set to null (NP) because *me\_basep* is computed by the access function.

## User defined functions

In Rex, actions are just functions, but they are functions that are called by the state processor and are only called once when the processor enters a state. Thus, they will only be called when the Rex clock is running. Rex 7.0 also provides a mechanism for calling functions independently of the state processor. This mechanism is to list the functions in an array of structures of type USER\_FUNC. The name of the USER\_FUNC array must be *ufuncs*. The functions themselves are ordinary C functions. They should be of type *int* or *void*. The functions may have up to sixteen arguments and the arguments may be of type *int*, *float*, or *char \**. The functions are called by entering values for their arguments in the user functions dialog that can be displayed from a pull down menu in the *int* process tool bar. User defined functions must be defined, then listed in the *ufuncs* array. For example:

```
void f_rampReset(void)
{
    ( body of function );
    return;
}

void f_rampOffset(int Xoff, int Yoff)
{
    ( body of function );
    return;
}

USER_FUNC ufuncs[] = {
    {"reset", &f_rampReset, "void"},
    {"offset", &f_rampOffset, "%d %d"},
    {NS},
};
```

**Table 3: USER\_FUNC Structure**

Member name	Example
char n_name[]	"offset"
int (*n_ptr)()	f_rampOffset
char format[]	"%d %d"

The USER\_FUNC structure has the format: *N\_name* is a character string that identifies the function in the dialog. This string may have imbedded spaces.

*N\_ptr()* is the name of the function that will be called. To get the function called, you enter values for the arguments in the dialog's text widget, then enter a carriage return.

*Format* is a character string consisting of tokens that are used to convert the text you enter in the widget to the values that are passed to the function. The tokens are separated by a space. The meaning of the tokens is the same as in a C printf statement,

i.e. "%d" indicates conversion to an integer value, "%f" indicates conversion to a floating point value, etc. Currently, Rex supports conversion to integer, floating point and character strings, i.e. "%d %f and %s". You must enter one token for each argument in your function. This allows Rex to do some error checking. If your function doesn't take any arguments, they you should set the format string to "void". If you want to write functions that take a variable number of arguments, leave the *format* character string blank. This will cause Rex to parse what you enter in the function's widget into two character strings. The first will be all of the characters up to the first space. The second will be the rest of the string. Rex will call your function with pointers to these two character strings. In this case, you must define your function to take two *char \** arguments, i.e.

```
void function(char *str1, char *str2)
```

You will need to add code to your function to parse the two character strings to extract the arguments.

As with the arrays of *VLIST* and *MENU* structures, the last entry in the *ufuncs* array must be NS. **Failure to end the ufuncs definition with an NS line will cause Rex to crash when it attempts to display the user functions dialog.**

## Real time variables

Prior to Rex 7.0, values of variables could only be displayed by bringing up a menu or by typing a command such as *type trials*. Once displayed the values were not updated. If you had variables that tracked the subject's performance such as percent correct or number of trials completed, you had to repeatedly bring up the menu or type the command to see the new values for these variables. Rex 7.0 provides a mechanism to continuously display the values of variables. This mechanism is to list the variables in an array of structures of type *RTVAR*. The name of the *RTVAR* array must be *rtvars*. For example:

```
RTVAR rtvars[] = {
    {"number of trials", &nTrials},
    {"trials remaining", &trialsRemaining},
    {"blocks completed", &nBlocks},
    {"total trials", &totalTrials},
    {"number correct", &correctTrials},
    {"percent correct", &percentCorrect},
    {NS},
};
```

**Table 4: RTVAR Structure**

Member Name	Example
char *rt_name	"number of trials"
int *rt_var	&nTrials

The *RTVAR* structure has the following format: *Rt\_name* is a character string that identifies the variable in the dialog. This name may have imbedded spaces. *Rt\_var* is the address of the variable to be displayed. Real time variables must be of type *int*. You can display up to 64 variables in the dialog.

Rex updates the display with the values of the variables every second for as long as the dialog is displayed.

As with the arrays of *VLIST*, *MENU*, and *USER\_FUNC* structures, the last entry in the *rtvars* array must be NS.

**Failure to end the rtvars definition with an NS line will cause Rex to crash when it attempts to display the real time variables dialog.**

## Comments

Comments are allowed anywhere, and unlike comments in the C compiler, they may be nested. They are stripped out of the output file.

## State set declaration

The beginning of the state set declaration is marked by the delimiter "%%". Following the "%%" delimiter, each paradigm must start with the keyword *ident* or *id*, followed by the paradigm number (which is displayed on the screen at run-time). This is not optional and Spot will give an error if it is not included. Optionally, the keyword *restart* followed by the name of an initialization subroutine may follow.

```
%%
id 300
restart rinitf
(declaration of state set chains)
```

A Spot file may have multiple independent chains of states which are executed asynchronously. Each of the asynchronous chains must start with a name followed by an open curly brace. The entire chain must then be terminated by a close curly brace. After the opening curly brace the next statement must be *status* or *stat*, followed by ON or OFF to indicate whether the chain is on or off at start or restart time. For example:

```
chainA {
    status ON
    (state declarations...)
}
```

## States

Each state begins with its name followed by a colon, e.g. *fpon*:. The initial state in each chain must be indicated by preceding it with the keyword begin. An example of the first state in a chain:

```
begin fpon:
    code FPONCD
    rl +30
    time 2000
    rand 1000
    to stimon
```

An example of a subsequent state in a chain:

```
stimon:
    code STIMCD
    do dio_on(LED2)
    rl 50
    time 500
    to stimoff
```

If there is an event code to be put into the event buffer when the state is entered, it must be next. The event code is specified using keyword *code*, for example *code 1101* or *code FPONCD*. Beginning with Rex7.2, you can specify the event code with a pointer to a global variable as well as with a constant value. This allows you to drop trial specific event codes without having to call an action. For example:

```
code &trialCode
```

Actions, running line levels, and times follow in any order with the following restriction: time and random must be adjoining in either order.

**Running line.** The running line is used both to indicate state transitions in the running line display and to trigger the running line and eye window displays. The running line level is displayed on the REX moving display as a continuous line at different positions on the screen. Its keyword specifier is *rl*. Running line levels are absolute when not preceded by a + or -, and relative when they are preceded by a + or -.

**Actions.** Actions are C-callable subroutines. One action is allowed per state, and is called immediately when the state is entered. ***Note that the initial state of a chain cannot contain an action.*** An action is identified by the keyword *do*. Beginning with Rex7.2, actions may have up to ten arguments. The arguments may be either long integers or pointers to global variables. ***NOTE! If you write your own actions, you must declare any arguments as longs or pointers so that they will be accessed properly by the C compiler.*** Action arguments can be examined and changed through the REX menu system at run time.

All actions must return an integer value. If the return value is non-zero, it is assumed to be an ecode and is loaded into the event buffer. ***Note that only one ecode per state can be loaded into the event buffer.*** An ecode returned by an action has priority over an ecode declared as part of the state using the *code* keyword, and will be entered instead.

## Escapes

Escapes have the following format -

```
to nextstate [on time]
to nextstate on +-CONSTANT \ & int_variable_name_or_address
to nextstate on [+,-]CONSTANT > int_variable_name_or_address
to nextstate on [+,-]CONSTANT < int_variable_name_or_address
to nextstate on [+,-]CONSTANT = int_variable_name_or_address
to nextstate on [+,-]CONSTANT ? int_variable_name_or_address
to nextstate on [+,-]CONSTANT % function_name_or_address
```

The keyword that indicates an escape is *to*. The next word is the name of a state to go to on transition. Conditions for transition are specified after the keyword *on*. A state may contain up to ten escapes. Each escape is tested in sequence. A transition occurs upon the first escape that tests true. After an escape tests true, transition occurs immediately- the remaining escapes in the state are not evaluated.

The tests for transition in an escape all have the same form: a constant (CONSTANT) is evaluated against a memory location (*int\_variable\_name\_or\_address*), or the integer return from a function call (*function\_name\_or\_address*). The field *int\_variable\_name\_or\_address* can be either the name of a variable, or the address of a variable. Spot distinguishes between these two cases as follows. If the name is a numeric constant, or the first letter is upper case, it is assumed to be the *address* of a variable. Otherwise, it is assumed to be the *name* of a variable. Likewise, the field *function\_name\_or\_address* can either be the name of a function, or the address of a function. The same rules are applied as for variables to distinguish between the two. Examples:

```
to nexstate on +01 & goo /* goo is name of variable */
to nexstate on +01 & 0x20 /* 0x20 is memory address */
#define FLAG 0x20
to nexstate on +01 & FLAG /* FLAG is memory address */
```

The PC architecture, as opposed to the pdp11, has separate memory and I/O address spaces. One is forced to use I/O instructions to access I/O ports. The field **int\_variable\_name\_or\_address** is *always* in the memory address space. There is no way to access the I/O address space in an escape test.

*Transition on Timer Countdown to Zero: 'time'.* This escape condition results in a transition when the timer ticks down to zero. The last two words "on time" are assumed, and are optional.

*Transition On Bit Test: '&'.* This escape condition performs a bitwise and between the CONSTANT and the integer variable. If the CONSTANT is preceded by a +, transition occurs if the result of the test is true. If the CONSTANT is preceded by a -, transition occurs if the result of the test is false. This test, then, will result in a transition for the + case when any of the bits set in the CONSTANT are also set in the variable. For the - case transition results only when all of the bits set in the CONSTANT are also not set in the variable. Note that the + or - sign is required in this condition.

*Transition on Comparison Test: '>', '<', '='.* This escape condition performs a comparison between the CONSTANT and the integer variable. If the CONSTANT is greater than (>), less than (<), or equal to (=) the integer variable, transition occurs. The sign is optional. If it is not present, the CONSTANT is assumed to be positive.

*Transition on Query: '?'.* This escape condition first performs a comparison between the CONSTANT and the integer variable, then decrements the integer variable. If the integer variable is less than or equal to the CONSTANT, transition occurs.

*Transition on Return Value of Function: '%'.* This escape condition first calls the function whose name or address is specified by **function\_name\_or\_address**. The integer return value from this function is then compared to CONSTANT. If they are equal, transition occurs.

### Error Handling: Abort List

When an error or special condition occurs during state set processing it is often necessary for certain actions to be executed to effect a re initialization or resetting to known conditions (for example, turning off stimuli, returning mirrors to center, etc.). A special action exists to facilitate this named **reset\_s(arg)**. The state names containing the actions that should be executed on error are listed after the keyword **abort list:**. When the action **reset\_s(arg)** is called, the actions specified in the abort list will be executed in sequence. If arg is -1 (the usual case) the abort list of all chains will be executed. If arg is a positive number, the abort list of only that chain will be executed.

Note the following distinctions between the *abort list* keyword and the *restart* keyword. After the *abort list* keyword one places the name of states. The actions of these states are called whenever the **reset\_s()** action is executed, or during a *reset statelist* command. Note, however, ecodes will not be entered into the event buffer from actions called in this manner from the abort list.

After the *restart* keyword one places a single C function name (not a state name). This function may in turn call actions, or other C functions. The function specified after the *restart* keyword will be executed the first time the clock is begun, and afterwards whenever a *reset statelist* command is issued.

When the *reset statelist* command is issued, the state processor does the following:

- Calls **reset\_s(-1)** which results in the *abort list* actions being executed.
- Executes the function specified after the *restart* keyword.
- Re initializes the state list chains to the first state.
- Enters into the event buffer an ecode composed of the paradigm number specified after the 'id' keyword or'ed with the INIT\_MASK.

## General Considerations

Numbers preceded by a zero are passed on to the C compiler as they are, so they will be treated as octal. White space is free, so use it liberally to make your code clear to the users and yourself.

Error checking by Spot is minuscule. If a syntax error is detected the line number at which it is recognized will be reported, and Spot will terminate. Line numbers reported by Spot refer to lines in the ".d" Spot file. Errors might also be reported later by the C compiler when the C source file generated by Spot, the ".d.c" file, is compiled. In this case the error line numbers will refer to the ".d.c" file. Corrections must be made, however, to the input to Spot, the ".d" file, and not to the intermediate ".d.c" file. The user is responsible for seeing that escapes actually go to existing states. The C compiler might catch this error, but it is not guaranteed.

A few debugging aids exist at run-time. The running line display is often useful for debugging since its level is determined by values specified in the state declarations. Clicking on the debug button in the int process tool bar brings up a dialog displaying buttons for all the states, grouped by chain. As each state is entered, the color of its button is toggled between yellow and blue, and the time the state was entered is printed on the button.

Debugging messages can be printed by using the routines dprintf(), dputchar(), dputs() and rxerr(). If one of these routines is called from the interrupt level, or when the variable doutput\_inmem in the control-param menu is non-zero, the results are not printed on the console. They are instead stored in a rotating buffer in memory. To print this buffer, click on the Controls menu button in the spot toolbar and select the Process Controls item. In the Process Controls dialog, click the Print Debug button at the bottom. (See the REX Graphical User Interface chapter). The variable doutput\_rotate determines whether the memory buffer rotates when filled: if non-zero the buffer rotates, if zero the buffer freezes when filled and does not accept further input. The buffer is initialized with a '\$' as the first character. If the variable doutput\_tofile is non-zero, the contents of the buffer are also printed to a file in /tmp when the int print\_debug command is issued. For more information about these debugging routines, see the comments in the source files "sys/rlib/dprintf.c" and "sys/rlib/dputs.c".

## Example

An example of a complete spot file with multiple chains of states follows:

```
/*
 * Rex ramp test paradigm.
 *
 */
#include <stdlib.h>
#include "../hdr/ramp.h"
#include "ldev_tst.h"
#include "lcode_tst.h"

#define RAMP0 0 /* ramps and windows used in paradigm */
#define RAMP1 1
#define WIND0 0
#define WIND1 1
#define EYEALL ((WD0_XY << (WIND0 * 2)) | (WD0_XY << (WIND1 * 2)))
#define EYEH_SIG 0 /* signal numbers for eyes */
#define EYEV_SIG 1
#define OEYEH_SIG 2
#define OEYEV_SIG 3

typedef struct {
```

```

int len;
int ang;
int vel;
int xoff;
int yoff;
int xwind;
int ywind;
int oxwind;
int oywind;
int eyehoff;
int eyevoff;
int oeyehoff;
int oeyevoff;
int type;
int ecode;
} RA_LIST;

#define E_D0 2000 /* ramp direction series */
#define E_D45 2001
#define E_D90 2002
#define E_D135 2003
#define E_D180 2004
#define E_D225 2005
#define E_D270 2006
#define E_D315 2007

/*
 *  Direction series for tracking.
 */

RA_LIST list0[] = {
    200, 315, 5, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 40, 40, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D315,
    200, 90, 10, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 20, 20, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D90,
    200, 225, 15, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 10, 10, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D225,
    200, 0, 20, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 30, 30, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D0,
    200, 180, 25, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 40, 40, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D180,
    200, 45, 30, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 20, 20, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D45,
    200, 270, 35, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 10, 10, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D270,
    200, 135, 40, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 30, 30, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D135,
    200, 0, 5, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 20, 40, 0, 0, RA_CENPT, E_D0,
    200, 315, 10, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 0, 0, 40, 40, RA_CENPT, E_D315,
    200, 45, 15, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 0, 0, 20, 20, RA_CENPT, E_D45,
    200, 225, 20, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 0, 0, 10, 10, RA_CENPT, E_D225,
    200, 90, 25, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 0, 0, 30, 30, RA_CENPT, E_D90,
    200, 180, 30, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 0, 0, 40, 40, RA_CENPT, E_D180,
    200, 135, 35, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 0, 0, 20, 20, RA_CENPT, E_D135,
    200, 270, 40, 0, 0, 50, 50, 40, 40, 0, 0, 10, 10, RA_CENPT, E_D270,
    -1, -1, -1,-1,-1, -1, -1, -1,-1,-1, -1, -1, 0, -1,
};

RA_LIST *rlp = &list0[0];
int rxwind = 0, rywind = 0;
int roxwind = 0, roywind = 0;
int fxwd = 100, fywd = 100;
int foxwd = 50, foywd = 50;

```

```

int do_two_ramps = 1;
int r0_xda = 0, r0_yda = 1, r1_xda = 2, r1_yda = 3;
int clear_all= 0;
int tst_single= 0; single_step= 0;
RL rl_sav;

int nTrials;
int trialsRemaining = 16;
int nBlocks = 0;
int correctTrials = 0;
int errorTrials = 0;
int totalTrials = 0;
int percentCorrect = 0;

int
nextramp(long flag)
{
    if(flag || (rlp->len == -1)) {
        rlp= &list0[0];
        nBlocks++;
        nTrials = 0;
        trialsRemaining = 16;
    }
    else {
        nTrials++;
        totalTrials++;
        trialsRemaining--;
    }

    ra_new(RAMP0, rlp->len, rlp->ang, rlp->vel, rlp->xoff, rlp->yoff,
           rlp->ecode, rlp->type);
    if(do_two_ramps) {
        ra_new(RAMP1, rlp->len, ((rlp->ang + 180) % 360),
               rlp->vel, rlp->xoff, rlp->yoff, rlp->ecode, rlp->type);
    }
    rxwind= rlp->xwind;
    rywind= rlp->ywind;
    roxwind= rlp->oxwind;
    roywind= rlp->oywind;

    off_eye(rlp->eyehoff, rlp->eyevoff);
    off_oeye(rlp->oeyehoff, rlp->oeyevoff);

    rlp++;
    return(rlp->ecode);
}

int
rampstart(long LED)
{
    ra_start(RAMP0, 1, LED);
    if(do_two_ramps) ra_start(RAMP1, 1, LED);
    return(0);
}

```

```

}

int
rampstop(void)
{
    ra_stop(RAMP0);
    if(do_two_ramps) ra_stop(RAMP1);
    clear_all_da();
    return(0);
}

int
ramptset(long rnum, long preset, long rand)
{
    RA_RAMP_TIME ra_time;

    ra_time= ra_compute_time(rnum, preset, rand);
    if(ra_time.ra_ramp_time_preset != -1) {
        set_times("timeramp", (long)ra_time.ra_ramp_time_preset, (long)ra_time.ra_ramp_time_random);
        ramp[rnum].ra_rampflag |= RA_TIMESTART;
    }
    return(0);
}

int
set_wsz(long flag)
{
    if(flag) {
        wd_siz(WIND0, rxwind, rywind);
        wd_siz(WIND1, roxwind, roywind);
    } else {
        wd_siz(WIND0, fxwd, fywd);
        wd_siz(WIND1, foxwd, foywd);
    }
    return(0);
}

int correctTrial()
{
    score(YES);
    correctTrials++;
    if(totalTrials) percentCorrect = 100 * correctTrials / totalTrials;
    return(0);
}

int errorTrial()
{
    score(NO);
    errorTrials++;
    if(totalTrials) percentCorrect = 100 * correctTrials / totalTrials;
    return(0);
}

void

```

```

rinitf(void)
{
    /*
     * Initializations.
     */
    da_cntrl_2(r0_xda, DA_RAMP_X, RAMP0, r0_yda, DA_RAMP_Y, RAMP0);      /* first ramp */
    da_cntrl_2(r1_xda, DA_RAMP_X, RAMP1, r1_yda, DA_RAMP_Y, RAMP1);      /* second ramp */
    da_cursor(r0_xda, r0_yda, CU_DA_ONE);        /* da cursors */
    da_cursor(r1_xda, r1_yda, CU_DA_TWO);
    clear_all_da();
    wd_disp(D_W_ALLCUR & ~D_W_JOY);      /* all cursors but joystick */
    wd_src_pos(WIND0, WD_DA, r0_xda, WD_DA, r0_yda);
    wd_src_pos(WIND1, WD_DA, r1_xda, WD_DA, r1_yda);
    wd_src_check(WIND0, WD_SIGNAL, EYEH_SIG, WD_SIGNAL, EYEV_SIG);
    wd_src_check(WIND1, WD_SIGNAL, OEYEH_SIG, WD_SIGNAL, OEYEV_SIG);
    wd_siz(WIND0, fxwd, fywd);
    wd_siz(WIND1, foxwd, foywd);
    wd_pos(WIND0, 0, 0);
    wd_pos(WIND1, 0, 0);
    wd_cntrl(WIND0, WD_ON);
    wd_cntrl(WIND1, WD_ON);
    rlp= &list0[0];
    wd_test(1);           /* put windows in test mode */
    ustatus("REX test paradigm");
}

int
clear_all_da(void)
{
    da_set_2(r0_xda, 0, r0_yda, 0);
    da_set_2(r1_xda, 0, r1_yda, 0);
    return(0);
}

int marknum= 1;
int
newmark()
{
    RL_CHAN *rcp;

    if(marknum > 4) marknum= 1;
    sd_mark(marknum-1, marknum);
    marknum++;

    return(0);
}

int tst_user= 0;
int strcount= 0;

int
newstring()
{
    if(!tst_user) return(0);

```

```

if(strcount == 0) {
    ustatus("Change 1");
    strcount= 1;
} else {
    ustatus("Back to test...");
    strcount= 0;
}
return(0);
}

#pragma off (unreferenced)
int
do_clear_vaf(int flag, MENU *mp, char *astr, VLIST *vlp, int *tvadd)
{
#pragma on (unreferenced)
    clear_all_da();
    return(0);
}

static int rl_valid= 0;
#pragma off (unreferenced)
int
setup_single_vaf(int flag, MENU *mp, char *astr, VLIST *vlp, int *tvadd)
{
#pragma on (unreferenced)

    if(tst_single) {
        /*
         * Setup single trace mode. Save current rl struct.
         */
        rl_sav= i_b->rl;
        rl_valid= 1;
        i_b->d_flags |= D_RL_SINGLE;
        single_step= 0;
    }
    else {
        /*
         * Return to continuous mode.
         */
        if(rl_valid) i_b->rl= rl_sav;
        i_b->d_flags &= ~D_RL_SINGLE;
    }
    return(0);
}

/*
 * Declaration of statelist menu.
 */
VLIST state_vl[] = {
{"clear_all_da",      &clear_all, NP, do_clear_vaf, ME_AFT, ME_DEC},
 {"do_two_ramps",     &do_two_ramps, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"ramp0_xda",        &r0_xda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"ramp0_yda",        &r0_yda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"ramp1_xda",        &r1_xda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},

```

```

{"ramp1_yda",      &r1_yda, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"fix_xwind",      &fxwd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"fix_ywind",      &fywd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"fix_oxwind",     &foxwd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"fix_oywind",     &foywd, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"test_user_msg",   &tst_user, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC},
 {"test_single_trace", &tst_single, NP, setup_single_vaf, ME_AFT, ME_DEC},
 {NS},
};

char hm_sv_vl[] = \
do_two_ramps-\n\
0: one ramp active\n\
1: two ramps active";

int ral_agf(int call_cnt, MENU *mp, char *astr)
{
    if(call_cnt >= 16) {
        /*
         * Done. Return null to terminate writing of root for
         * this menu.
         */
        *astr = '\0';
    }
    else itoa_RL(call_cnt, 'd', astr, &astr[P_ISLEN]);
    return(0);
}

int ral_maf(int flag, MENU *mp, char *astr, ME_RECUR *rp)
{
    RA_LIST *rlp;
    int rampnum;

    if(*astr == '\0') rampnum = 0;
    else rampnum = atoi(astr);

    if((rampnum < 0) || (rampnum >= 16)) return(-1);
    rlp = &list0[rampnum];
    mp->me_basep = (unsigned)rlp;
    return(0);
}

/*
 * Declaration of ramp list menu
 */
VLIST ramp_vl[] = {
 {"length",  &((RA_LIST *)NP)->len,  NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"angle",    &((RA_LIST *)NP)->ang,    NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"velocity", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->vel,    NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"xoff",     &((RA_LIST *)NP)->xoff,   NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"yoff",     &((RA_LIST *)NP)->yoff,   NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"type",     &((RA_LIST *)NP)->type,   NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"ecode",    &((RA_LIST *)NP)->ecode,  NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 NS,
};

```

```

};

char hm_ramp_vl[] = "";

/*
 * Declaration of eye windows menu
 */
VLIST eyewnds_vl[] = {
{"xwind", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->xwind, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"ywind", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->ywind, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"oxwind", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->oxwind, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"oywind", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->oywind, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 NS,
};
char hm_eyewnds_vl[] = "";

/*
 * Declaration of offsets menu
 */
VLIST eyeoffs_vl[] = {
 {"eyehoff", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->eyehoff, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"eyevoff", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->eyevoff, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"oeyehoff", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->oeyehoff, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 {"oeyevoff", &((RA_LIST *)NP)->oeyevoff, NP, NP, ME_GB, ME_DEC},
 NS,
};
char hm_eyeoffs_vl[] = "";
/*
 * User-supplied menu table.
 */
MENU umenus[] = {
 {"state_vars", &state_vl, NP, NP, 0, NP, hm_sv_vl},
 {"separator", NP},
 {"ramp_list", &ramp_vl, NP, ral_maf, ME_BEF, ral_agf, hm_ramp_vl},
 {"separator", NP},
 {"eye_winds", &eyewnds_vl, NP, ral_maf, ME_BEF, ral_agf, hm_eyewnds_vl},
 {"eye_offsets", &eyeoffs_vl, NP, ral_maf, ME_BEF, ral_agf, hm_eyeoffs_vl},
 NS,
};

/* Declaration of ramp reset function */
void f_rampReset(void)
{
    int i;

    i = 0;
    while(list0[i].len > 0) {
        list0[i].len = 200;
        list0[i].xoff = 0;
        list0[i].yoff = 0;
        i++;
    }

    list0[0].ang = 315;
}

```

```

list0[1].ang = 90;
list0[2].ang = 225;
list0[3].ang = 0;
list0[4].ang = 180;
list0[5].ang = 45;
list0[6].ang = 270;
list0[7].ang = 135;
list0[8].ang = 0;
list0[9].ang = 315;
list0[10].ang = 45;
list0[11].ang = 225;
list0[12].ang = 90;
list0[13].ang = 180;
list0[14].ang = 135;
list0[15].ang = 270;
return;
}

/* Declaration of ramp length function */
void f_rampLength(int length)
{
    int i;

    for(i = 0; i < 16; i++) list0[i].len = length;
    return;
}

/* Declaration of ramp angle function */
void f_rampAngle(int angle)
{
    int i;

    for(i = 0; i < 16; i++) list0[i].ang += angle;
    return;
}

/* Declaration of ramp offset function */
void f_rampOffset(int Xoff, int Yoff)
{
    int i;

    for(i = 0; i < 16; i++) {
        list0[i].xoff = Xoff;
        list0[i].yoff = Yoff;
    }
    return;
}

/*
 * User-supplied function table.
 */
USER_FUNC ufuncs[] = {
    {"reset", &f_rampReset, "void"},
```

```

{"length", &f_rampLength, "%d"},  

 {"angle", &f_rampAngle, "%d"},  

 {"offset", &f_rampOffset, "%d %d"},  

 {NS},  

};  
  

/*  

 * User-supplied real-time variable table  

 */  

RTVAR rtvars[] = {  

 {"number of trials", &nTrials},  

 {"trials remaining", &trialsRemaining},  

 {"blocks completed", &nBlocks},  

 {"total trials", &totalTrials},  

 {"number correct", &correctTrials},  

 {"number wrong", &errorTrials},  

 {"percent correct", &percentCorrect},  

 {NS},  

};  
  

%%  

id 700  

restart rinitf  

main_set {  

status ON  

begin first:  

    code STARTCD  

    time 1500  

    to pause1  

pause1:  

    to pause2 on +PSTOP & softswitch  

    to go on -PSTOP & softswitch  

pause2:  

    code PAUSECD  

    to go on -PSTOP & softswitch  

go:  

    code ENABLECD  

    rl 0  

    to selramp  

selramp:  

    do nextramp(0) /* select next ramp */  

    to stramp  

stramp:  

/*  

 * Start the next ramp. Pass name of device on mirror  

 * so that it can be turned off at end of ramp (if it  

 * has not already been turned off explicitly by an action.  

 */  

    do rampstart(LED1)  

    rl 15  

    to openw  

openw:  

    do awind(OPEN_W)  

    to fpon on +RA_STARTED & ramp[RAMP0].ra_rampflag

```

```

fpon:
  code FPONCD
  do dio_on(LED1)
  rl 5
  time 250
  to eyeon
eyeon:
  rl 40
  time 250
  to error on +EYEALL & eyeflag /* start checking for eye */
  to stimon
stimon:
  code STIMCD
  do dio_on(BACKLT)
  to error on +EYEALL & eyeflag
  to wdchange
wdchange:
  do set_wsiz(1) /* flag true for ramp sizes */
  rl 50
  to setpres
setpres:
/*
 * Compute time until ramp is completed. Args to
 * ramptset action are a preset and random.
 */
do ramptset(RAMP0, 80, 20)
to error on +EYEALL & eyeflag
to fpooff on +RA_TIMEDONE & ramp[RAMP0].ra_rampflag
fpooff:
  code FPOFFCD
  do dio_off(LED1)
  rl 35
  to stoff
stoff:
  code STOFFCD
  do dio_off(BACKLT)
  to closew
closew:
  do awind(CLOSE_W)
  to wdback
wdback:
  do set_wsiz(0) /* flag false for fixation sizes */
  to rewon
rewon:
  do dio_on(BEEP)
  time 35
  to rewoff
rewoff:
  do dio_off(BEEP)
  to stopramp
stopramp:
  do rampstop(1) /* stop ramp; move to 0,0 */
  rl 20
  to correct

```

```

correct:
  do correctTrial()
  to first
error:      /* abort trial */
  do awind(CANCEL_W)
  to reset
reset:
  code ERR1CD
  do reset_s(-1)
  to wrong
wrong:
  do errorTrial()
  to first
abort list:
  fpoff stoff rewoff stopramp wdback closew
}

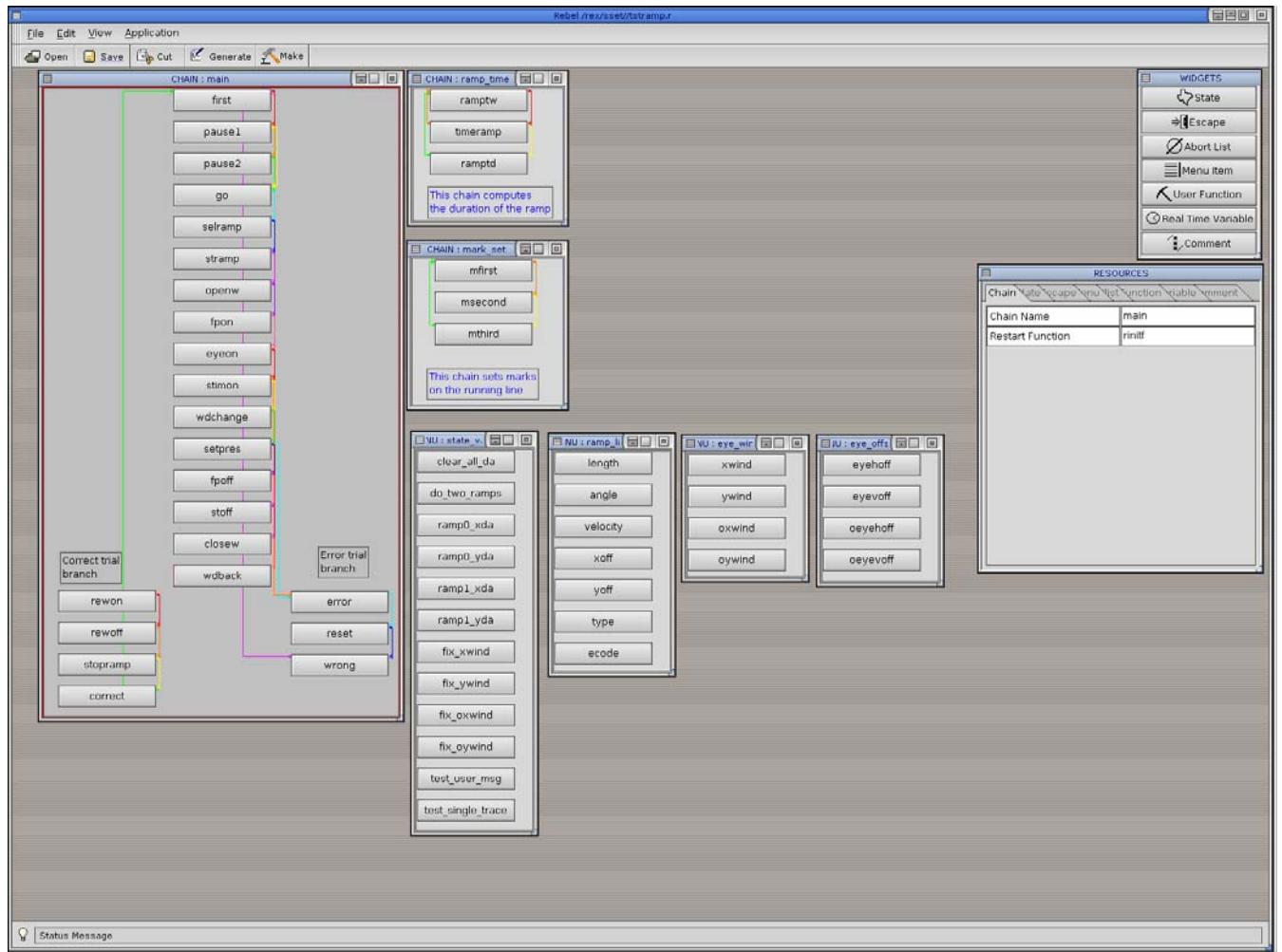
/*
 * Ramp timing state set. Works together with ra_compute_time() action.
 */
rampt_set {
status ON
begin ramptw:
  to timeramp on +RA_TIMESTART & ramp[RAMP0].ra_rampflag
timeramp:
/*
 * The escape time for this state is computed by ramptset()
 * action each time it is called.
 */
  to ramptw on -RA_TIMESTART & ramp[RAMP0].ra_rampflag
  to ramptd
ramptd:
  code RTDONECD
  do ramptd(RAMP0) /* this action will set RA_TIMEDONE bit */
  to ramptw
}

/*
 * Marks test set.
 */
marks_set {
status ON
begin mffirst:
  to msecond
msecond:
  do newmark()
  time 3000
  to mthird
mthird:
  do newstring()
  to mffirst
}

```

# REBEL: Rex Experiment Builder

John W. McClurkin



## Introduction

Previously, experimental paradigms for REX were created using the Spot translator. Spot takes a text file, written by the user, as input and produces a c source code file that is subsequently built into a Rex int process. With the porting of Rex to QNX and the photon window system, it became feasible to develop a graphical tool to build the tables needed by Rex. Advantages of graphical tools include the ability to embed usage information in the layout tool, and the ability to organize the states of an experiment into relevant subgroups. These features make it easier to develop and maintain paradigms. Rebel represents Rex paradigms as a set of windows for chains, menus, user functions, and real time variable displays. Users place the elements of the paradigm such as states or menu items in the windows.

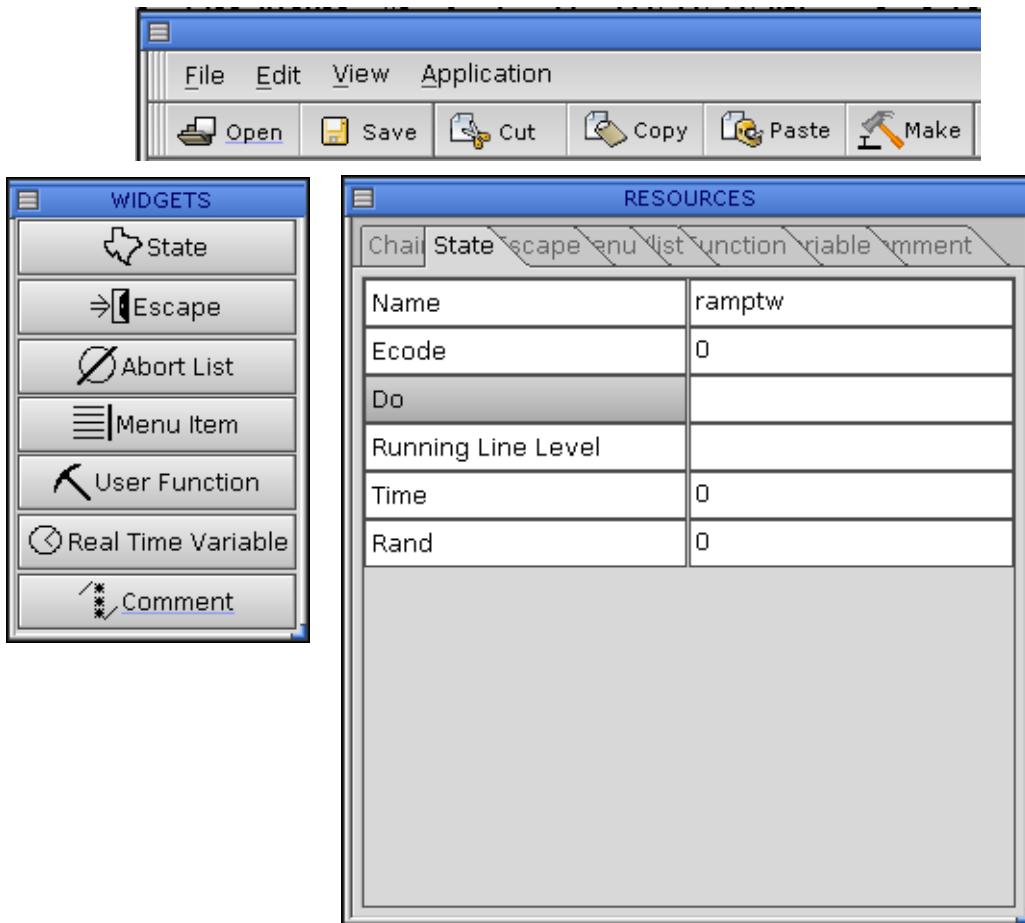
The two dimensional layout of states not only makes it easier to develop paradigms, it also makes it easier to debug paradigms. To facilitate this feature, we developed Rex 7.7 from the QNX RTP version of Rex 7.6. In Rex 7.7, we changed the definition of the state structure, adding variables to indicate whether the paradigm was developed with Spot or Rebel and to specify the coordinates of states in paradigms developed with Rebel. We also changed the debug dialog so that, in paradigms developed

with Rebel, the states have the same layout in the dialog as the user gave them in Rebel. Finally, we modified the make file to accommodate Rebel. Running “make complete” builds Rebel and installs the executable in the sset directory. Rebel paradigms can be compiled with the new make file by defining the REBEL macro in addition to the sf macro. The REBEL macro can be defined to any text string.

**make REBEL=anything sf=tstamp**

## Starting Rebel

To start Rebel, change to the sset directory and run the command “*rebel -Sm*”. The *-Sm* flag causes Rebel to start maximized to fill the screen. You can resize or reposition the Rebel window. When developing a new paradigm, Rebel starts with a canvas containing a menu bar and tool bar on top and widget and resource dialogs. The menu contains buttons accessing all of Rebel’s functions. The buttons

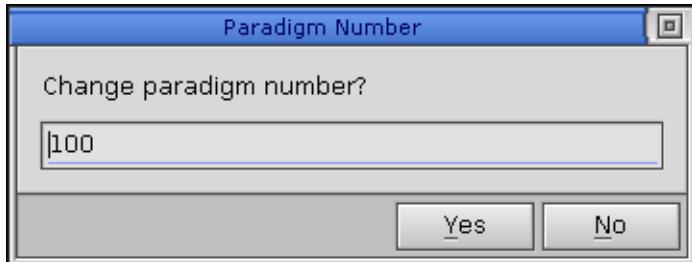


on the tool bar allow quick access to the more commonly used functions. The widget dialog contains buttons to instantiate each of the elements of Rex chains, menus, user functions, and real time variable displays. The resource dialog contains panels to set the properties of the windows and the widgets.

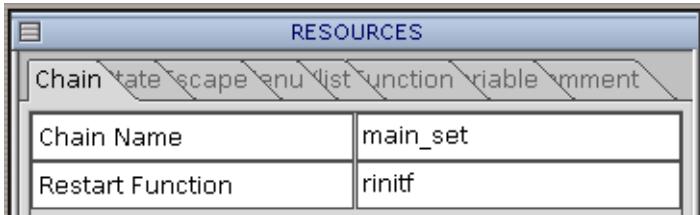
You can reposition any of Rebel’s windows and dialogs, and you can resize any of the windows except the WIDGETS dialog. When you save the paradigm, the positions, sizes and states of all windows will be saved so that when you reopen the paradigm, the layout will be as you last left it.

## New Paradigms

To begin a new paradigm, select New from the File menu or type “*ctrl n*”. Rebel will display chain window, set the RESOURCES dialog to show the properties of a chain window, and show a paradigm number dialog. You must set the paradigm number before proceeding. You can accept the



default paradigm number of 100 by clicking the Yes button, or you can enter a new number and type <return> or click the Yes button. The chain window will have a red lining indicating that it is the selected window. Rebel will set the resources dialog to display the chain properties panel. The default



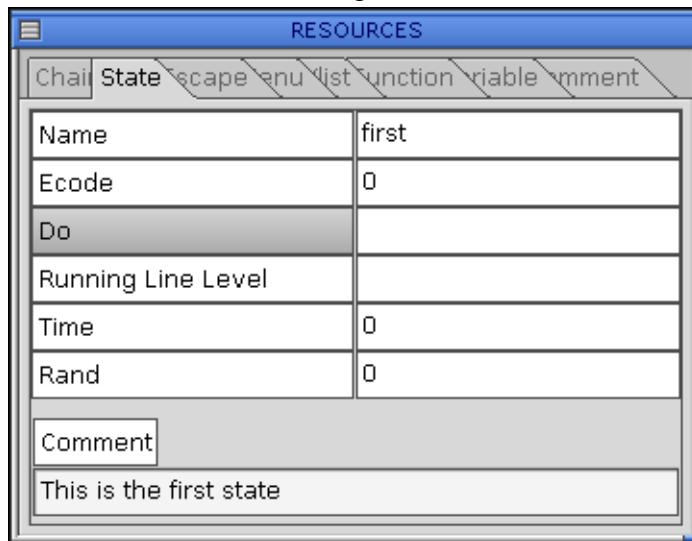
name of the first chain in a paradigm is “main\_set”, and the default name of the initialization function for the first chain is “rinitf”. To change either of these properties, click in the appropriate text field and enter the name you want. When you begin typing in a text field the background will change to blue with white text. This display is an indication that you have modified the text but have not yet committed the change. To commit the change, enter either a <return> or a <tab>. Entering a <return> just commits the change of that property. Entering a <tab> commits the change and advances the cursor to the next text field. If you enter a <tab> in the last text field in a resource panel, the keyboard focus will go back up to the first text field in the panel.

## States

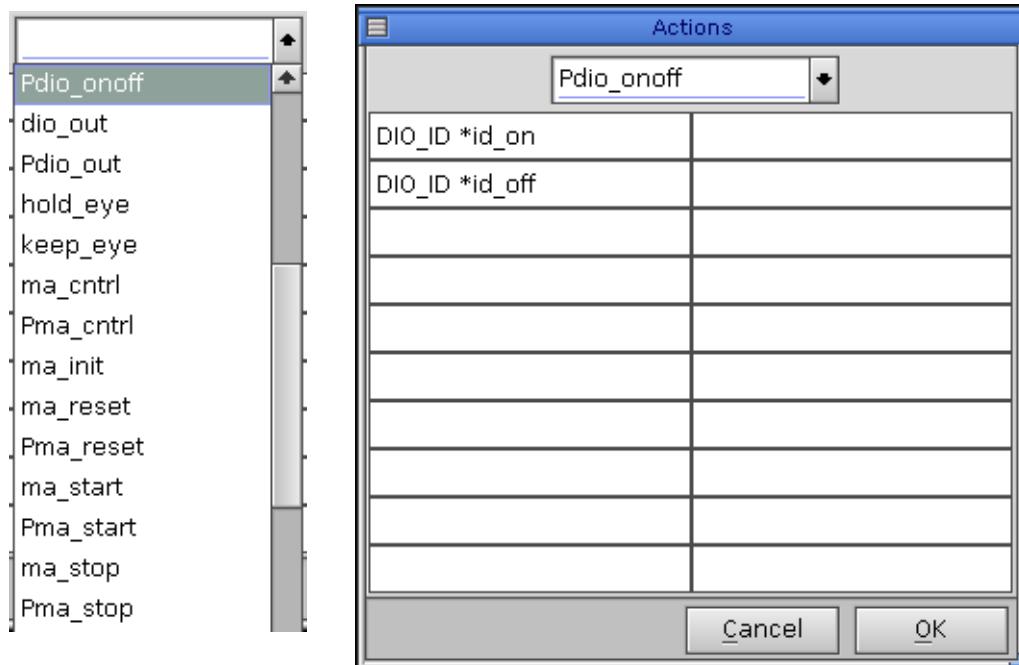
### Adding States

To add states to the chain, click on the State button in the widgets dialog and move the mouse cursor into the chain window. The cursor will change to a small plus indicating the state mode. Move the cursor to where you want the state and click again to drop the state near that location. Rebel has a grid which it uses for the initial placement of states. After a state has been placed, you can move it out its grid box if you want.

When you add a state, Rebel sets the RESOURCES dialog to display the state properties panel. Each state starts with a default name consisting of the chain name and the number of the state. To



set the properties for the state, click in the text fields and enter the values you want. (See the chapter on Spot for an explanation of these values.) Note that the background of the Do label is grey. This indicates that there is a helper dialog associated with this label. To set the action for this state, you can either just type it in to the text field next to the Do label as you would in writing a Spot file, or you can click on the Do label to bring up the helper dialog. The helper dialog contains a drop down list containing all of the Rex actions, and a set of labels and text fields for you to enter the arguments to the action. If you type the name of a Rex action in the text field of the drop down list or select the action from the drop down list, Rebel will indicate the number and types of arguments that this action requires. In this example, the



Pdio\_onoff action is selected. This action requires pointers to the device to be turned on and the device

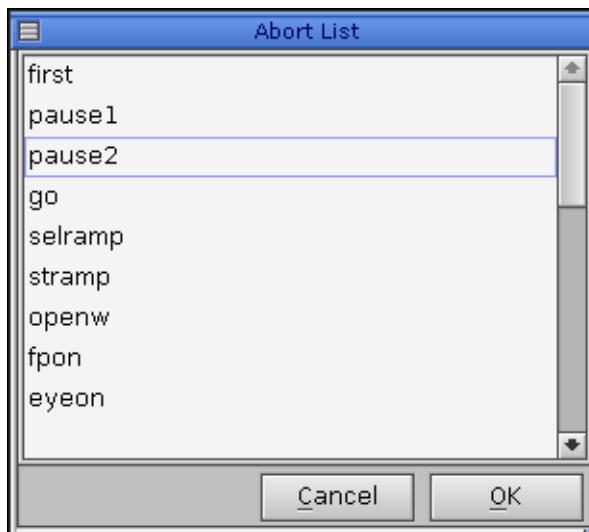
to be turned off. Type in the argument in the text field to the right of each label and click OK. Rebel will dismiss the dialog and print the action in the state properties dialog.

Ecode	0
Do	Pdio_onoff(&dev1, &dev2)
Running Line Level	

If you want to add several states at once, click on the State button in the widget dialog, move the cursor into the chain window, hold down the ctrl key, then click. Rebel will add a new state every time you click as long as you press the ctrl key. You do not have to move the mouse cursor each time you click. Rebel automatically positions each new state below the previous one according to its grid.

### Abort Lists

Rex allows you to specify a set of states the actions of which are executed when a trial is aborted. To generate an abort list for a chain, make sure the chain is selected, then click on the Abort List button in the widgets dialog. This will bring up the Abort List dialog that contains a scrolling list of the states in



the chain. To add a state to the list, select it with the left mouse button. To add several states, hold down the ctrl key while selecting states with the left mouse button. When you have selected all the states you want, click on the OK button. Rebel will dismiss the dialog and mark the states in the abort list with an



'a' in front of the name. You can specify an abort list for each chain in your paradigm.

### Editing States

To edit the properties of an existing state, click on that state's button. The outline of the button will turn red and the text in the button will turn blue as shown below. The RESOURCES dialog will display the state properties panel. You can now change the properties of the state. You can also delete the selected state. Just click on the Cut button in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the Edit menu, or type "Ctrl-x". Note, there is no undo when you cut a state.

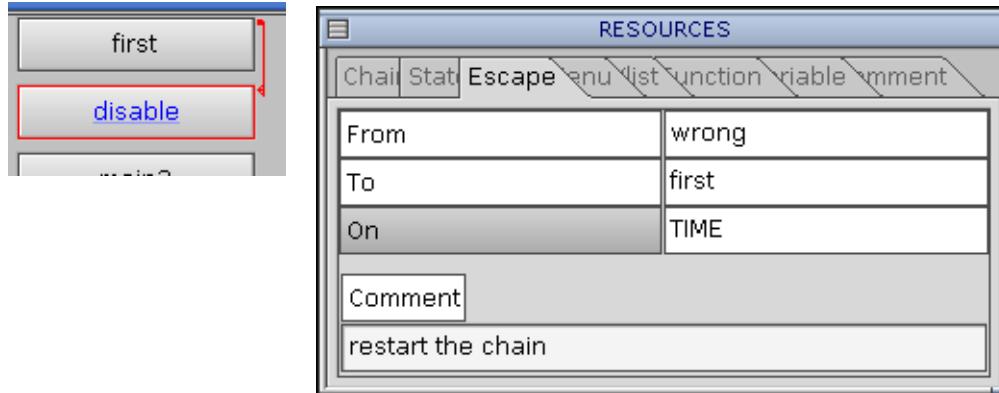
## Moving States

To move a state, move the mouse cursor over the state's button, press the left mouse button, and drag while holding the left button down. To move several states, hold down the Ctrl key and click on each state you want to move. The background of each state will turn dark gray. Now release the Ctrl key, move the mouse cursor over any one of the selected states and drag while holding down the left mouse button. You can also select several states for moving by clicking on a state while holding down the Shift key. This will select the state you click on and all other states that are directly below the selected state. Note, if some states below the selected state do not turn dark grey, then they are not exactly below the selected state. To reset the alignment, click in the chain's window to select it and then select the Snap To Grid item from the Edit menu.

## Escapes

### Setting Escapes

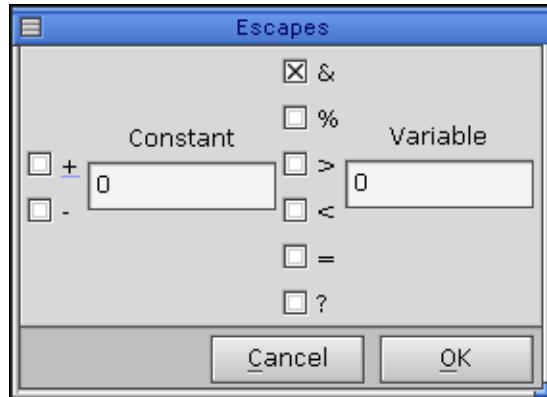
To set an escape between two states, click on the Escape button in the widgets dialog, then click on the from state, and finally click on the to state. Rebel will draw an arrow between the two states and set the resources dialog to display the escape properties panel. The From and To text fields are not



editable in this panel. They are set by the order in which you click on the states. The default escape condition is TIME. This is equivalent to typing “*to disable*” in a spot file. To change the condition you can either enter it in the On text field, for example;

#### -PSTOP & softswitch

or you can click on the On button to bring up a helper dialog. In this dialog, the + and - check boxes

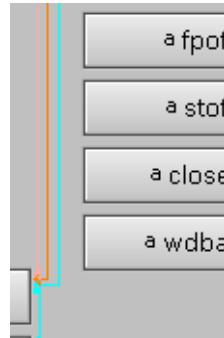


allow you to set the sign of the constant. If both are unchecked, the constant has no sign. Enter the constant in the Constant field. Select the type of the test by checking one of the six boxes in the center of the dialog. Enter the global variable or function in the Variable field. When you click on the OK button,

Rebel will dismiss the dialog and print the condition of the escape in the On text field of the escape resource panel.

### **Editing Escapes**

To edit the properties of an escape, click on the arrow that represents the escape. When the cursor gets close to an arrow, it changes into a pointing finger. Rebel will make the selected arrow twice as thick as the other arrows and will set the RESOURCES dialog to display the escape properties panel. If you have several arrows close together, the escape you are pointing to may not be the escape that is selected. This is because the arrows indicating the escapes are actually polygon widgets whose



dimensions are larger than the arrows them selves. The arrow that gets selected is the one that happens to be “on top” of the pile. To deal with issue, Rebel moves each selected arrow to the bottom of the pile. When you click again at the same spot, a different escape will be selected. Therefore, you may have to click several times on an arrow to select the escape you want. Once you have selected an escape, you can change the escape conditions by changing the text in the ON field, or you can delete the escape by clicking on the Cut button in the tool bar, selecting the Cut item from the edit menu, or by typing “*Ctrl-x*”. As with states, there is no undo when you cut an escape.

### **Adding Chains**

Rex allows you to define several chains of states. The states in the chains are executed in parallel. To define a new chain in Rebel, select the Chain item from the Applications menu. Rebel will



display a dialog for you to enter the name of the chain. Enter a name for the chain and enter a <return>



or click on OK. Rebel will be blocked until you set a name for the chain or cancel the operation by clicking on the Cancel button. Click in the new chain window and Rebel will set the resources dialog to display the chain properties panel. Initially, the Chain Name text field will display the text you entered in the chain name dialog, but you can change it if you wish. Though it is not used frequently, Rex has the capability of executing a separate initialization function for each chain in the paradigm. These functions are called when you first start the paradigm and whenever you press the Reset States button in the paradigm tool bar. If you want a separate initialization function for this chain, enter it in the Restart Function text field.

### **Editing Chains**

To edit a chain, click in the chain window with the left mouse button. The border of the window will turn red and Rebel will display the Chain properties panel in the RESOURCES dialog. You can resize the chain window to better display all of the states in it. You can change the name or restart function by entering the values you want in the text fields. To delete a chain, click on the Cut button in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the Edit menu, or type “*Ctrl-x*”. There is no undo if you cut a chain.

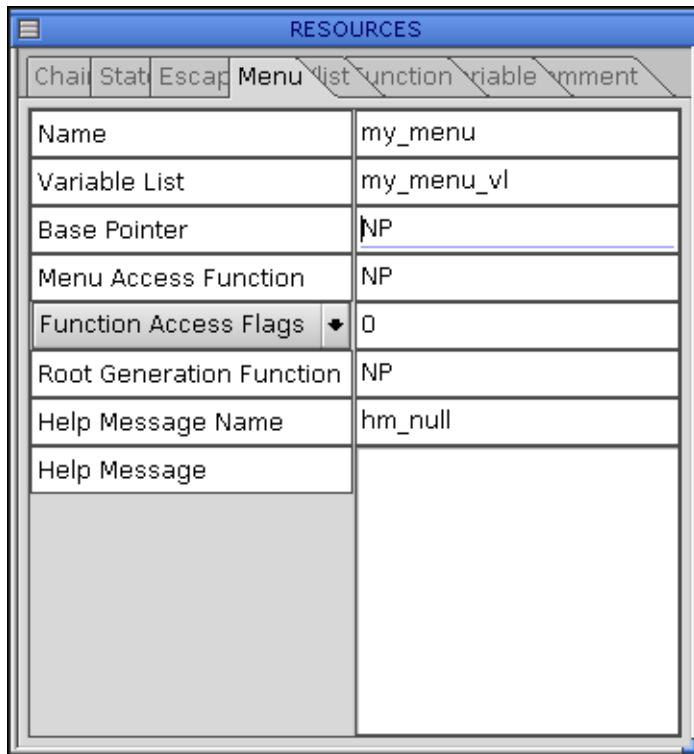
### **User Menus**

You can add as many menus to your paradigm as you want. To add a user menu to your paradigm, select the Menu item from the Application menu. Rebel will display a dialog for you to enter



the name of the menu. Enter a name for the menu and enter a <return> or click on OK. Rebel will be blocked until you set a name for the menu or cancel the operation. After you enter the menu name, Rebel

will bring up a menu window and set the RESOURCES dialog to show the menu properties panel. This



dialog will show the default values for the menu. You may now enter values for the parameters or accept the defaults. (See the chapter on Spot for an explanation of these values.) The Function Access Flags button is gray, indicating a helper dialog for this button. Clicking on the Function Access Flags button will present a list of the possible values for the menu access function flags. You can select one of these values or just type the value into the Function Access Flags text field.

By default, the help message name is hm\_null. This is a null string that is defined by Rex and indicates that this menu has no help message. If you want a help message to pop up with this menu when running Rex, just type the message in the Help Message box. As soon as you enter text in the Help Message box, the value of Help Message Name will change to reflect the name of the menu. You can change this if you want. There is no need to use any special characters in the help message. Just type the message with whatever formatting you want. Rex will display the message with the formatting you enter in the text field.

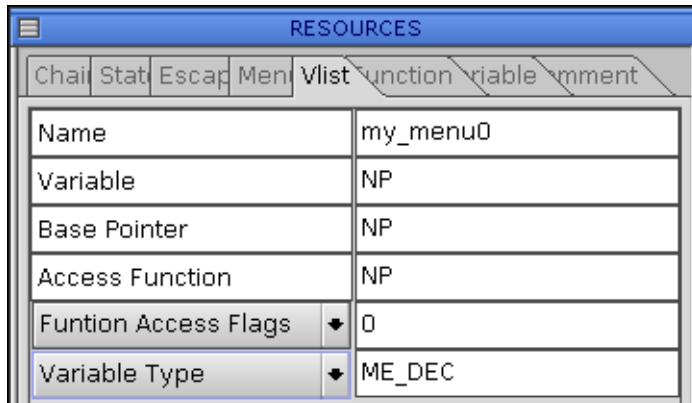
You can use the same help message for several menus if you want. Just enter the message in the first menu and set the Help Message Name. Enter this name in the Help Message Name field in the those other menus where you want to use this help message.

## Editing Menus

To edit a menu, click in the menu window with the left mouse button. The border of the window will turn red and Rebel will display the Menu properties panel in the RESOURCES dialog. You can resize a menu window to better display all of the items in it. You can change any of the parameters of the menu by entering the values you want in the text fields. To delete a menu, click on the Cut button in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the Edit menu, or type “*Ctrl-x*”. There is no undo if you cut a menu.

## Adding Menu Items

To add an item to a menu, click in the menu window to select it. This will cause the border to turn red. Then click on the Menu Item button in the Widgets dialog, position the cursor in the menu window, and click to create the item. Rebel will set the Resources dialog to display the Vlist properties panel. You probably want to change the default name of the item. The name cannot have any imbedded



spaces. If you want to use two or more words, separate them with underscores. (See the chapter on Spot for an explanation of the properties of a menu item. The Function Access Flags and Variable Type buttons are gray, indicating helper dialogs. If you click on the Function Access Flags button, you will get a list of the flags used for the variable access function. You can see the set of valid variable types by clicking on the Variable Type button. You can select values from these lists or just enter them in the text fields.

If you want to add several items at once, click on the Menu Item button in the widget dialog, move the cursor into the menu window, hold down the ctrl key, then click. Rebel will add a new item every time you click as long as you press the ctrl key. You do not have to move the mouse cursor each time you click. Rebel automatically positions each new item below the previous one according to its grid.

You can navigate around the menu item buttons using the F9 and F10 function keys. Use the mouse to select one menu item. Typing the F10 key will move the focus to the next menu item created. Type the F9 key will move the focus to the previous menu item. As you continue to type F10 or F9, the focus will wrap from the last to the first item or vice versa.

By default, the items in the menu will be displayed in the order you create them. To change the order, just rearrange the buttons in the menu window.

If you want to some menu items to be conditionally compiled you can create #ifdef and #endif buttons. For the beginning of the conditionally compiled items, create a button and enter #ifdef MACRO\_NAME in the Name field, where MACRO\_NAME is the name of the macro that governs the conditional compile. Next create the menu items that will be conditionally compiled. Finally, create a menu item and enter #endif in the Name field. The items between the #ifdef and the #endif buttons will appear in the menu in Rex only if MACRO\_NAME is defined. When you create #ifdef or #endif buttons all of the other fields are given the value DONT\_USE. Do not change these values.

## Editing Menu Items

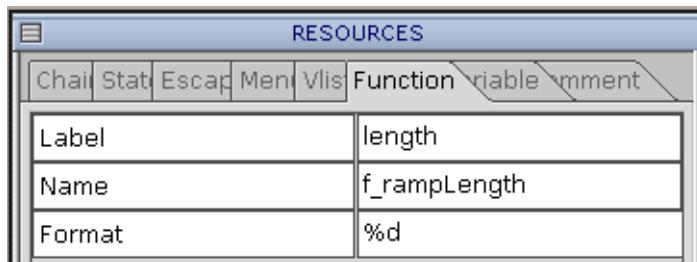
To edit a menu item, click on it with the left mouse button. Rebel will display the Vlist properties panel for that menu item in the RESOURCES dialog. To delete the selected menu item, click on the Cut

button in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the edit menu, or type “*Ctrl-x*”. There is no undo if you cut a menu item.

## User Functions

Rex allows you to define a set of user functions. These are like actions, but they are called whenever their arguments are entered into the dialog, rather than when the paradigm enters a particular state. User functions can be called even when the Rex clock is not running.

To add user functions to your paradigm, select the Function item from the Application menu. Rebel will bring up the User Functions window and set the RESOURCES dialog to display the function properties panel. Unlike chains and menus, you can have only one User Functions window.



## Editing User Functions

To edit the user functions window, click in the window with the left mouse button. The border of the window will turn red and Rebel will display the Function properties panel in the RESOURCES dialog. You can resize a menu window to better display all of the items in it. To delete the user functions, click on the Cut button in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the Edit menu, or type “*Ctrl-x*”. There is no undo if you cut the user functions.

## Adding Functions

To add a user function to your paradigm, click in the User Functions window to select it, click on the User Function button in the WIDGETS dialog, then click in the User Functions window to place the function. Rebel will display the Function properties panel in the RESOURCES dialog. Enter the name that you want Rex to associate with the function in the Label field. Enter the name of the function in the Name field. Enter the format string in the Format field. If your function does not have arguments, you should enter “void” in the format field.

If you want to add several functions at once, click on the User Function button in the widget dialog, move the cursor into the function window, hold down the ctrl key, then click. Rebel will add a new function every time you click as long as you press the ctrl key. You do not have to move the mouse cursor each time you click. Rebel automatically positions each new function below the previous one according to its grid.

You can navigate around the function buttons using the F9 and F10 function keys. Use the mouse to select one function. Typing the F10 key will move the focus to the next function created. Type the F9 key will move the focus to the previous function. As you continue to type F10 or F9, the focus will wrap from the last to the first function or vice versa.

## Editing Functions

To edit a function, click on its button with the left mouse button. Rebel will display the Function properties panel for that menu in the RESOURCES dialog. To delete the selected function, click on the

Cut button in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the edit menu, or type “*Ctrl-x*”. There is no undo if you cut a function.

## Real Time Variables

Rex allows you to define a set of global variables as real time variables. Rex will display the values of these variables at 1 second intervals. These variables can record the performance of the subject during the experiment.

To add real time variables to your paradigm, select the Variable item from the Application menu. Rebel will bring up the Real Time Variables window and set the RESOURCES dialog to display the



Variable properties pane. Unlike chains and menus, you can have only one User Functions window.

## Editing Real Time Variables

To edit the real time variables window, click in the window with the left mouse button. The border of the window will turn red and Rebel will display the Variable properties panel in the RESOURCES dialog. You can resize a menu window to better display all of the items in it. To delete the user functions, click on the Cut button in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the Edit menu, or type “*Ctrl-x*”. There is no undo if you cut the real time variables.

## Adding Variables

To add a real time variable to your paradigm, click in the Real Time Variables window to select it, click on the Real Time Variable button in the WIDGETS dialog, then click in the Real Time Variables window to place the variable. Rebel will display the Variable properties panel in the RESOURCES dialog. Enter the name that you want Rex to associate with the variable in the Name field. Enter the name of the variable in the Variable field. You should precede the name of the variable with an ampersand to indicate a pointer to the variable.

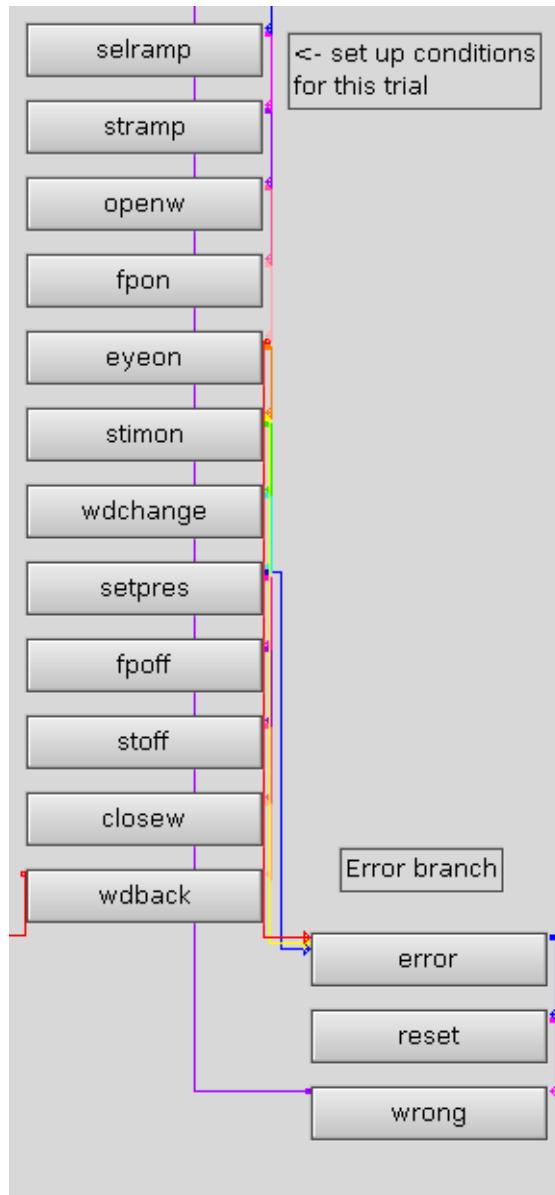
If you want to add several variables at once, click on the Real Time Variables button in the widget dialog, move the cursor into the variables window, hold down the ctrl key, then click. Rebel will add a new variable every time you click as long as you press the ctrl key. You do not have to move the mouse cursor each time you click. Rebel automatically positions each new variable below the previous one according to its grid.

## Editing Variables

To edit a variable, click on its button with the left mouse button. Rebel will display the Variable properties panel for that menu in the RESOURCES dialog. To delete the selected variable, click on the Cut but-

ton in the tool bar, select the Cut item from the edit menu, or type “*Ctrl-x*”. There is no undo if you cut a variable.

## Comment Statements



You can add comments to any of the chain, menu, function or variable windows make clear what a paradigm is doing. Click on the Comment button in the widgets dialog, then click in the window where you want the comment placed. When you move the cursor into the window it will change to an arrow plus page. Rebel will set the Resources Dialog to display the Comment property panel. Type your comment in the text widget. As you type, the comment will be displayed in the window. You MUST NOT use the c language comment delimiters ‘/\*’ and ‘\*/’. The text you type is written into the bottom of the source file as a comment, so Rebel adds these delimiters. You may use the c++ language comment delimiter ‘//’ if you wish, but it is not necessary.

Once created, comments can be selected, moved, and edited like other items. The currently selected comment will have a red border, and the RESOURCES dialog will show the properties panel for that comment. You can select multiple comments within a window for moving by holding down the Ctrl key while clicking with the left mouse button on the comment. Move the comments by dragging the mouse while holding down the left mouse key. Delete the selected comment by clicking on the Cut button in the tool bar, selecting the Cut item from the Edit menu, or by typing “*Ctrl-x*”. there is no undo when you cut a comment.

In addition to comments placed in the windows, you can also attach comments to individual states or escapes. Just click on the state or escape, then enter the comment in the text field at the bottom of the resource dialog. These state and escape comments are limited to a single line and may not have more than 96 characters. As with the window comments, you MUST NOT use the c language comment delimiters ‘/\*’ and ‘\*/’. These comments are written into the source file at the appropriate state or escape definition, so Rebel adds these delimiters. You may use the c++ language comment delimiter ‘//’ if you wish, but it is not necessary.

## Navigating among items

You can navigate among the items in any of the windows using the F9 and F10 function keys. Start by clicking on an item to select it. Pressing the F10 function key will select the next item created and pressing the F9 function key will select the previous item created. At each press, Rebel will set the resource dialog to show the properties for that item. After navigating to the end item in a window, pressing F9 or F10 will cause Rebel to loop and select the last or first item again.

## Functions and Global Variables

As you develop your paradigm, Rebel keeps track of the functions and global variables that you will need. Rebel determines what functions your paradigm will need by examining your entries for restart functions, state actions, menu access functions and root generation functions, menu variable access functions, and user functions. As you enter each value, Rebel checks the function against its list of Rex actions and against its list of functions that you entered previously. If the new function is not in either list, it is added to the list of needed functions.

Rebel determines what global variables your paradigm will need by examining your entries for action arguments, menu variables, and real time variables. As you enter each value, Rebel checks the variable against its list of variables that you entered previously. If the new variable is not in the list, it is added.

There are two instances in which Rebel will not try to keep track of functions or variables. First, Rebel does not track the global variables or functions that used in escapes. For example, if you have an escape such as

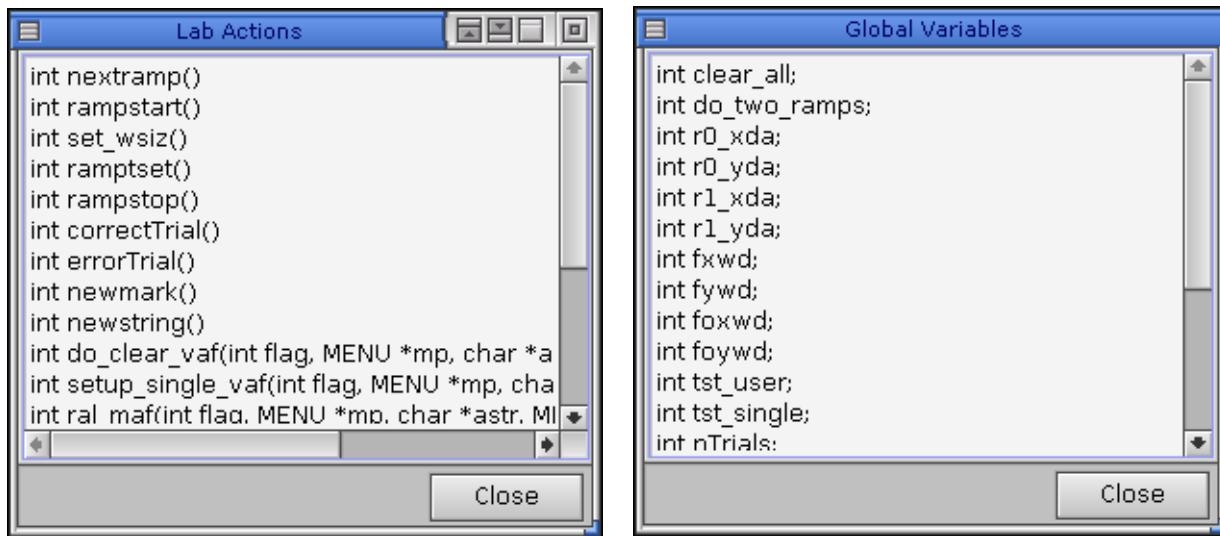
```
to next on +PHOTO_CELL & photon /* escape on state of global variable photon */  
to next on 0 % test_done /* escape on return of function test_done */
```

you will need to make sure that the variable photon and the function test\_done are declared, and that the macro PHOTO\_CELL is defined in the source code. Second, Rebel does not track the variables in menu items that appear to be elements of a structure. For example if you have menu items such as

```
&kluge.jmp1.y /* element y of a structure of type jmp1 in a structure of type kluge */  
&((RA_LIST *)NP)->len /* element len of an array of structures of type RA_LIST */
```

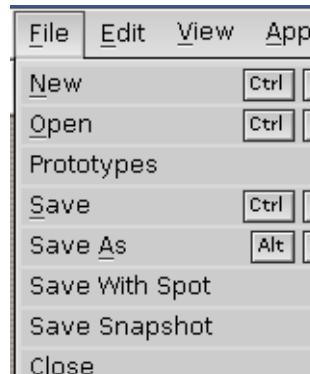
you will need to make sure that the structures kluge and jmp1 or the array of RA\_LIST structures is defined in the source code.

You can check on Rebel's list of functions by selecting the Actions item from the Application menu. Selecting the Globals item from the Application menu displays Rebel's list of global variables.



### Laboratory Specific Actions Libraries

If you use a library of actions, contained either in a separate source code file or in a compiled library, you will need to tell Rebel about these actions to prevent it from writing duplicate actions into your paradigm's source file. Create a file containing prototypes of all of the actions in your library. Select the Prototypes item from the Files menu. Enter the name of the file containing the action

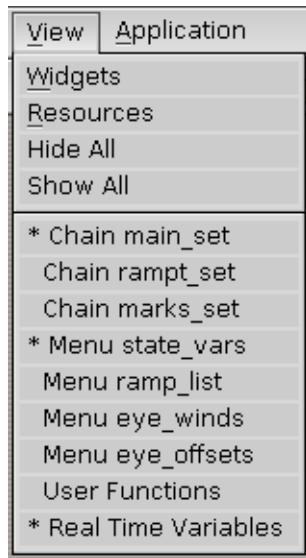


prototypes into the dialog box and click the OK button. If your library of actions is in a source code file, you will have to #include that file in the paradigm file that Rebel creates. If your library of actions is a compiled binary file, you will have to edit the Makefile to make sure that your library is linked with your paradigm.

### Organizing Your Desktop

If you have a number of chains and menus, your desk top can become quite cluttered. You can clean things up by hiding windows you are not working on by clicking the square in the upper right corner of the window's title bar, or by selecting close from the menu in the upper left corner of the title

bar. You can also hide or view any window using the View menu. Selecting the Hide All item from this



menu will hide all of the windows, and selecting the Show All item from this menu will show all of the windows in your paradigm. Window names preceded by an asterisk are showing. If you select one of these windows, Rebel will hide it. Window names that are not preceded by an asterisk are hidden. If you select one of these windows, Rebel will show it. Rebel remembers the size and location of each window when you hide it so that, when you show it, it will appear in the location you last left it.

You SHOULD NOT HIDE the WIDGETS or RESOURCES dialog windows.

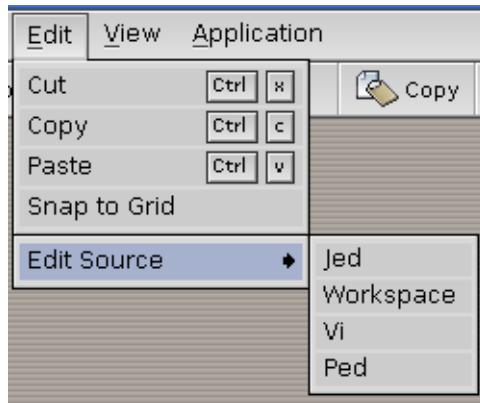
### Saving, Editing, and Building Your Paradigm

You can save your paradigm as often as you like while you are creating it. When you save for the first time, you will have to select a name for your paradigm. Rebel will create two files, one the source file with the extension .r.c, and the other a header file with the extension .r.h. In the source file, Rebel writes a set of #include directives to include header files that Rex needs and paradigm header file. Next, Rebel writes declarations for the global variables in the list of global. After the global variables, Rebel writes stubs for all of the actions in its list of functions. After the action stubs, Rebel writes the comment line,

#### // BEGIN GENERATED CODE

Following this line, Rebel writes the state definitions. In the paradigm header file, Rebel writes the begin generated code comment line followed by external declarations of all of the states in your paradigm.

After you have saved your paradigm you can edit it from within Rebel. Select the Edit Source item from the Edit menu, then select the editor you want. Jed and Workspace are code editors that



provide syntax coloring of the text. Jed can be set to have either emacs or vi key bindings. Vi and Ped are included in QNX RTP V 6.1. Jed and Workspace can be installed from the QNX Contributed Software Repository (<http://packages.qnx.com/contrib/repository620/repository.qrm>). Rebel will launch the editor you select loaded with your application's source file.

You can add any #include directives and #define directives you want to the source file. You can set the initial values and array dimensions of the global variables that Rebel wrote into the source file, and you can add any global variables you need. You can write the body of the functions Rebel wrote into the source file, and you can add any other functions you need. Do not make any changes below the BEGIN GENERATED CODE comment line. Rebel over writes this part of the file every time you save the paradigm. You can also add any code you want to your application's header file above the BEGIN GENERATED CODE comment line.

After you have finished editing your code, you can make your paradigm from within Rebel. Select the Make item from the Application menu or click on the Make button in the tool bar. Rebel captures the output of the make command in a file with the extension .err and displays this file using the ped editor. This makes it easy to find the errors in your code.

In addition to saving your paradigm, you can save snapshots of the windows in your paradigm. Select the Save Snapshot item from the File menu. This will launch the QNX snapshot utility. With this utility you can capture the entire screen, a window including its frame, the contents of window without the frame, or any selected rectangle on the screen. Snapshots can be saved in BMP, JPEG, or PNG format. NOTE: Snapshot is not a part of Rebel. It is a QNX Neutrino RTOS utility which Rebel launches with the system() call. Quitting Rebel will not kill snapshot. You must explicitly exit snapshot. A full description of snapshot is provided in the QNX help viewer at *QNX Neutrino RTOS 6.2 -> Utilities Reference -> S -> snapshot*

## Established Paradigms

To open an existing Rebel paradigm, you can select the Open item from the File menu, or you can start Rebel and provide the paradigm source file name on the command line:

**rebel -Sm -r tstamp.r.c**

Existing paradigms are often used as the basis for new paradigms. To do this, copy both the .r.c and the .r.h file of the existing Rebel paradigm to the new name.

## Converting Paradigms From Spot

Rebel facilitates the conversion of paradigms written using Spot. To do this, simply open the .d.c file generated by Spot. Rebel will construct the chains, menus, real time variables and user functions from the .d.c file. Rebel will not be able to construct the names of the chains from your spot file so you will have to rename the chains in Rebel. After reading in the .d.c file, you can edit the chains, rearranging the states into functional groupings. You can also add comments to any of the chain, menu, real time variable or user function windows. Before you save a paradigm based on a Spot file, you should copy the spot file to a .r.c file. Then edit the .r.c file and remove all of the spot code below the %% delimiter. Also remove any VLIST array declarations, the umenus array declaration, the rtvars array declaration, and the ufuncs array declaration. At this point the .r.c file should contain only your #include and #define directives, global variable declarations, and function definitions. Now, save the paradigm from Rebel. For example, to convert the spot file tstramp.d to Rebel;

1 Run spot to create an up-to-date .d.c file and to make sure that it compiles.

**make sf=tstramp**

2 Copy the .d file to a .r.c file

**cp tstramp.d tstramp.r.c**

3 Edit tstramp.r.c and remove the spot code.

4 Open the .d.c file in Rebel

**rebel -Sm -r tstramp.d.c**

5 Use Rebel to organize your paradigm, then save it. The paradigm file tstramp.r.c will now contain all of the code to run your paradigm.

## **REX Actions Library**

Actions are C-callable subroutines executed by the state-set processor. Each state can contain one action. The action is executed when the state is entered. In rex versions 7.1 and earlier, an action can be called with up to six arguments. These arguments are long integers. If the action is listed in a state, the arguments must be constants. In rex versions 7.2 and later, an action can be called with up to ten arguments. In the standard versions of the actions (i.e. ra\_new) the arguments must be long integers. In the "P" versions of the actions (i.e. Pra\_new) all arguments are pointers to variables.

State-set description files, or Spot files, usually contain source for some actions that are specific to the particular paradigm. Spot files also call other actions that are general in nature and common to many paradigms. These commonly used actions are stored in a system library, and are automatically searched whenever a new paradigm is linked. The following pages document the actions that are provided in the system actions library.

Actions that are specific to Vex, the visual display program are described in the chapter on GLvex.

## State Set Controls

### **reset\_s**

call the abort list

#### **SYNOPSIS.** `reset_s(long flag)`

flag: constant

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `reset_s` causes the abort list to be executed. If flag is negative, abort lists of all chains are executed. If flag is zero or positive, the abort list of only the current chain is executed.

***Note: do not place a state that calls this action in the abort list. You will create an endless loop.***

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `reset_s(-1)`

Abort lists of all state chains are executed.

**FILE.** /rex/act/scntrl.c

## **set\_times Pset\_times**

set a state's time and random entries

**SYNOPSIS.** `set_times(char *name, long time, long rand)`

`Pset_times(char *name, long *time, long *rand)`

**name:** name of the state

**time:** value of the time entry

**random:** value of the rand entry

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `set_times` allows users to dynamically set the time and rand entries of a state. If either the time or rand arguments are -1, the corresponding value is not changed.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `set_times("timeramp", thisTime, thisRand)`

Sets the time entry of the state timeramp to the value contained in the variable `thisTime`, and sets the rand entry of the state timeramp to the value contained in the variable `thisRand`. The values of `thisTime` and `thisRand` can be changed on a trial-by-trial basis.

**FILE.** `/rex/act/stateTime.c`

## **getClockTime, PgetClockTime**

get the current rex clock time. Only the pointer version (PgetClockTime) of the function is an action

**SYNOPSIS.** `getClockTime()`, `PgetClockTime(long *time)`

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `getClockTime` allows users to get the rex clock time.

**RETURN VALUE.** `getClockTime()` returns a long value that is the current rex clock time. `PgetClockTime(long *time)` loads the rex clock time into the variable pointed to by its argument and returns 0.

**EXAMPLE.** `long time;`

```
time = getClockTime()
```

Gets the current rex clock time. **Note:** *This function is not an action.* It can be called from an action to get the current clock time. This can be useful for computing reaction times during an experiment.

```
PgetClockTime(&time)
```

Returns the current rex clock time in the variable "time". The variable must be of type long.

**Note:** *This function can be an action or it can be called from an action.*

**FILE.** /rex/act/stateTime.c

## Data Window Controls

Rex stores event and analog data in internal, rotating buffers. The data window controls determine how data is written from these internal buffers to files on disk.

### **awind**

control analog data storage window

**SYNOPSIS.** `awind(long ctlflag)`

**ctlflag:** See below

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** awind controls the analog storage window. *ctlflag* may be one of the following:

`OPEN_W`: open analog window.

`CLOSE_W`: close analog window.

`CANCEL_W`: cancel currently open analog window.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns the following event codes:

`WOPENCD`: If request is to open window.

`WCLOSECD`: If request is to close window.

`WCANCELCD`: If request is to cancel window

`WERRCD`: If *ctlflag* is an illegal value.

Note that these codes are returned based on the value of *ctlflag* and DO NOT signify that the window command was successfully executed. For example if an open request is made during the *w\_post* time after the previous window has been closed, the window will not be opened, however the `WOPENCD` event code is entered into the event buffer signifying that the request was issued.

**EXAMPLE.** `awind(OPEN_W)`

This command will open the analog window from the current time minus the *w\_pre* time.

**SEE ALSO.** `pre_post()`, `uw_set()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/awind.c`

## **pre\_post, Ppre\_post**

set pre-time and post-time of analog window

**SYNOPSIS.** `pre_post(long pre_time, long post_time)` `Ppre_post(long *pre_time, long *post_time)`  
`pre_time, post_time: times in units of msec. *pre_time, *post_time are pointers to long variables containing the pre and post times.`

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `pre_post` sets times associated with the manipulation of the analog window. The pre-time is the time previous to the window open request that analog data saving is begun. The post-time is the time after the window close request that analog data continues to be saved. If a window open request comes shortly after the previous close request it may be possible that the previous post-time and current pre-time will cause window overlap. In this case the full contents of both windows is still saved and there will be duplication of stored data on disk. This guarantees that data records will always be the full size requested.

*Note well a possible trouble area: if an open request is given during the post-time the request is ignored. Only one window can be processed at a time; open requests are not stacked.*

Please also note that pre-times and post-times are guaranteed to be at least as long as specified. Most likely, however, the actual pre-time and post-time will be somewhat longer than the times specified. This is due to the way REX manipulates and stores data from the in-memory circular buffers. Default values are 100 msec for both pre-time and post-time.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `pre_post(100, 100), Ppre_post(&preTime, &postTime)`

Set the pre-time and post-time to at least 100 milliseconds. Set the pre-time and post-time to at least the values contained in the variables `preTime` and `postTime`.

**SEE ALSO.** `awind()`, `uw_set()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/awind.c`

## **mwind**

send Rex trial information to Mex

**SYNOPSIS.** **mwind(long ctlflag)**

**ctlflag:** See below

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** mwind allows users to signal to Mex the beginnings and ends of trials. These actions signal Mex over a TCP/IP socket, so any spot files that use them must create a socket to Mex. Mex includes this flag with the waveform data that is saved to disk. Offline analysis programs can use the flags to restrict processing to waveforms that occurred during a trial. Rex will send the flag to Mex 10 milliseconds after the call, so states that include this action should have set the time variable to 10.

***This action has no effect on Mex's real time spike sorting algorithms.***

*ctlflag* may be one of the following:

OPEN\_W: signal the beginning of a trial epoch.

CLOSE\_W: signal the end of a trial epoch.

CANCEL\_W: signal that the current trial epoch should be canceled.

OPEN\_LFP: signal Mex to begin storing electrode data

CLOSE\_LFP: signal Mex to stop storing current electrode record

CANCEL\_LFP: signal Mex to cancel the current electrode record

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

Note, when using mwind with one of the LFP flags, Mex will send a response over the TCP/IP socket. States that use the mwind action with the LFP flags should escape on the function **tst\_mx\_new. to nextState on 0 % tst\_mx\_new**

**EXAMPLE.** *mwind(OPEN\_W)*

This command will signal to Mex the beginning of a trial epoch.

*mwind(OPEN\_LFP)*

This command will signal Mex to begin recording electrode data.

**FILE.** /rex/act/awind.c

## **uw\_set**

control latched unit data storage window

**SYNOPSIS.** `uw_set(long ctlflag)`

**ctlflag:** See below

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `uw_set` controls the latched unit storage window. *ctlflag* may be one of the following:

1: open the unit window.

0: close the analog window.

By default, *ctlflag* is 1. This command will have no effect if LATCHED\_UNITS is not defined in cnf.h.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns the following event codes:

`UWOPENCD`: If request is to open window.

`UWCLOSECD`: If request is to close window.

**EXAMPLE.** `uw_set(1)`

This command will open the latched unit window from the current time.

**SEE ALSO.** `awind()`, `pre_post()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/uw_set.c`

## Digital Output Controls

**dio\_on, dio\_off, dio\_onoff, dio\_out, Pdio\_on, Pdio\_off, Pdio\_onoff, Pdio\_out**  
control digital outputs

**SYNOPSIS.** `dio_on(DIO_ID id), dio_off(DIO_ID id), dio_onoff(DIO_ID id_on, DIO_ID id_off), dio_out(DIO_ID id, long value)`  
`DIO_ID: Device id specifying device, port, and bit(s) to turn on or off (see below)`  
`Pdio_on(DIO_ID *id), Pdio_off(DIO_ID *id), Pdio_onoff(DIO_ID *id_on, DIO_ID *id_off), Pdio_out(DIO_ID *id, long *value);`  
`DIO_ID * address of the device id specifying device, port and bits to turn on or off (see below)`

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `dio_on, dio_off, dio_onoff` and `dio_out` control digital output devices. The output device, port, and bit(s) to turn on or off are specified by the `DIO_ID`. This id is defined by using the macro `Dio_id()`. For example, suppose an LED is connected to bit 3 on port 2 of the Industrial Computer Source PCDIO board. One would define a `DIO_ID` as follows:

```
#define LED1 Dio_id(PCDIO_DIO, 2, 0x4)
```

One could then turn this LED on by using the `dio_on` action:

```
dio_on(LED1);
```

To use the pointer version of this action, define a `DIO_ID` and assign it to a variable as follows:

```
#define LED1 Dio_id(PCDIO_DIO, 2, 0x4)
```

```
long led;
```

```
led = LED1;
```

```
Pdio_on(&led);
```

The `dio_off` and `Pdio_off` actions turn the specified bits off. The `dio_onoff` and `Pdio_onoff` actions take two id arguments- the first id is turned on, the second is turned off. The actions `dio_on`, `Pdio_on`, `dio_off`, `Pdio_off`, `dio_onoff`, and `Pdio_onoff` keep a software state of the digital output port. Setting or clearing bits does not affect the state of other bits previously set in the same port. The actions `dio_out` and `Pdio_out` do NOT keep a software state. The contents of value are directly copied to the port; all the bits in the port will be changed to match value.

Definitions for `DIO_ID`s are kept in the header `/rex(hdr/cnf.h`, and in various local headers in `/rex/sset`. This system enhances portability of Spot files among different laboratories. To use a Spot file in a laboratory where devices are connected to different interfaces or bits, one only has to change the `DIO_ID` definitions, not the Spot files. For further information see the header file `/rex(hdr/device.h`.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `dio_on(LED1)`

This example turns on LED1.

```
dio_off(LED1)
```

This example turns off LED1.

```
dio_onoff(LED2, LED1)
```

This example turns on LED2, and turns off LED1.

**SEE ALSO.** `/rex(hdr/device.h`, `/rex(hdr/cnf.h`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/dout.c`, `/rex/int/dio.c`

## Digital to Analog Controls

**da\_cntrl, da\_cntrl\_1, da\_cntrl\_2 Pda\_cntrl, Pda\_cntrl\_1, Pda\_cntrl\_2**

control d/a converter

**SYNOPSIS.** **da\_cntrl\_1(long da, long s, long snum)**

**Pda\_cntrl\_1(long \*da, long \*s, long \*snum);**

**da\_cntrl\_2(long da0, long s0, long snum0, long da1, long s1, long snum1)**

**Pda\_cntrl\_2(long \*da0, long \*s0, long \*snum0, long \*da1, long \*s1, long \*snum2)**

**da, da0, da1: d/a converter number**

**s, s0, s1: source connected to d/a converter output**

**snum, snum0, snum1: source number specifier**

**Note: following function cannot be called as an action:**

**da\_cntrl(int cnt, DA\_CCTRL\_ARG (\*ap)[])** /\* not an action! \*/

**typedef struct {**

**int da\_cntrl\_num;**

**int da\_cntrl\_src;**

**int da\_cntrl\_src\_num;**

**} DA\_CCTRL\_ARG;**

**da\_cntrl\_num: d/a converter number**

**da\_cntrl\_src: source connected to d/a converter output**

**da\_src\_num: source number specifier**

**Note: the pointer version of this function can be called as an action:**

**Pda\_cntrl(int \*cnt, DA\_CCTRL\_ARG (\*ap)[])**

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** The da\_cntrl\_1, Pda\_cntrl\_1, da\_cntrl\_2, and Pda\_cntrl\_2 actions control the operation of the d/a converter. da\_cntrl\_1 and Pda\_cntrl\_1 can be called to control a single converter. da\_cntrl\_2 and Pda\_cntrl\_2 can be called to control two different converters. In the case of the da\_cntrl\_2 and Pda\_cntrl\_2 actions, the operation of both converters will be changed as close together in time as possible with no interrupts permitted between the first and second converter.

The da\_cntrl\_1, da\_cntrl\_2 actions take the following arguments:

**danum:** d/a converter number

**src:** source to which the d/a converter is connected. This source supplies the output of the d/a. The source can be any of the following:

**DA\_STBY:** d/a is in standby mode and is not connected to a source. When in this mode the output of the d/a can still be changed, however, by calling the da\_set\_1, da\_set\_2 actions.

**DA\_RAMP\_X:** source is the X component of the internal ramp generator. src\_num specifies the ramp generator number.

**DA\_RAMP\_Y:** source is the Y component of the internal ramp generator. src\_num specifies the ramp generator number.

**DA\_JOY\_X:** source is the X component of the joystick. src\_num is ignored.

**DA\_JOY\_Y:** source is the Y component of the joystick. src\_num is ignored.

**DA\_WIND\_X:** source is the X component of the position of the eye window. src\_num specifies the window number.

*DA\_WIND\_Y*: source is the Y component of the position of the eye window. *src\_num* specifies the window number.

*DA\_SIGNAL*: source is a signal. *src\_num* specifies the signal number.

*DA\_MEM*: source is an internal memory array. *src\_num* specifies the internal memory array number.

*src\_num*: source number specifier, if needed.

The pointer versions of these actions take pointers to variables as arguments

By default, all d/a converters are initialized to DA\_STBY mode unless changed by calling this action.

The function da\_cntrl can be used to control the operation of more than two d/a converters. The operation of the d/a's will be changed as close together in time as possible, with no intervening interrupts allowed. da\_cntrl is not an action, however, and it cannot be called as an action from a state because its arguments are not of type long. However, it can be called from user-written C-code subroutines in the Spot file. This function takes the following arguments:

*cnt*: number of DA\_CTRNL\_ARG structs passed as arguments

*DA\_CTRNL\_ARG*: pointer to array of structs containing d/a converter number, source, and source number specifier.

The function Pda\_cntrl is an action because its arguments are pointers to variables.

Note that there would normally be no reason to use the da\_cntrl function instead of the da\_cntrl\_1 and da\_cntrl\_2 actions unless one wanted to control more than two d/a's as simultaneously as possible. The da\_cntrl\_1 and da\_cntrl\_2 actions are wrapper functions that repackage the arguments and call da\_cntrl.

*RETURN VALUE*. Returns 0

*EXAMPLES*. *da\_cntrl\_2(0, DA\_RAMP\_X, 0, 1, DA\_RAMP\_Y, 0)*.

Connect d/a number 0 to the X component of ramp generator 0, and d/a number 1 to the Y component of ramp generator 0.

*da\_cntrl\_1(4, DA\_SIGNAL, 0)*

Connect d/a number 4 to signal number 0.

*DA\_CTRNL\_ARG da\_arg\_struct[] = {*

*{0, DA\_RAMP\_X, 0},*

*{1, DA\_RAMP\_Y, 0},*

*{2, DA\_RAMP\_X, 1},*

*{3, DA\_RAMP\_Y, 1}};*

*da\_cntrl(4, &da\_arg\_struct)*

Connect d/a numbers 0 and 1 to ramp generator 0, and connect d/a numbers 2 and 3 to ramp generator 1.

*SEE ALSO*. da\_cursor(), da\_mode(), da\_offset(), da\_set\_1,2()

*FILE*. /rex/act/da\_cntrl.c

## **da\_set, da\_set\_1, da\_set\_2, Pda\_set, Pda\_set\_1, Pda\_set\_2**

output value to d/a converter

**SYNOPSIS.** **da\_set\_1(long num, long val) da\_set\_2(long num0, long val0, long danum1, long value1)**

**Pda\_set\_1(long \*num, long \*val) da\_set\_2(long \*num0, long \*val0, long \*num1, long \*value1)**

**num:** d/a converter number

**val:** output value

**Note: following function cannot be called as an action:**

**da\_set(int cnt, DA\_SET\_ARG (\*ap)[])** /\* not an action! \*/

**typedef struct {**

**int da\_set\_num;**

**int da\_set\_val;**

**} DA\_SET\_ARG;**

**da\_set\_num:** d/a converter number

**da\_set\_val:** output value

**Note: the pointer version of this function can be called as an action**

**Pda\_set(int \*cnt, DA\_SET\_ARG (\*ap)[])**

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** The da\_set\_1 and da\_set\_2 actions cause the specified value to be output to the d/a converter. da\_set\_1 can be called to output to a single converter. da\_set\_2 can be called to output two values to two different converters. In the case of the da\_set\_2 action, both converters will be updated as close together in time as possible with no interrupts permitted between the first and second converter.

The function da\_set can be used to update more than two d/a converters. The d/a's will be updated as close together in time as possible, with no intervening interrupts allowed. da\_set is not an action, however, and it cannot be called as an action from a state because its arguments are not of type long. It must be called from subroutines in the Spot file. This function takes the following arguments:

**cnt:** number of DA\_SET\_ARG structs passed as arguments

**DA\_SET\_ARG:** pointer to array of structs containing d/a converter number and output value.

Note that there would normally be no reason to use the da\_set function instead of the da\_set\_1 and da\_set\_2 actions unless one wanted to update more than two d/a's as simultaneously as possible. The da\_set\_1 and da\_set\_2 actions are wrapper functions that repackage the arguments and call da\_set.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** **da\_set\_1(0, 100): Output value 100 to d/a converter number 0.**

**da\_set\_2(0, 100, 1, 100): Output value 100 to d/a's 0 and 1 as close together in time as possible.**

**DA\_SET\_ARG da\_arg\_struct[] = {**

**{0, 100},**

**{1, 100},**

**{2, 100},**

**{3, 100};**

**da\_set(4, &da\_arg\_struct)**

Output value 100 to first four d/a's as close together in time as possible. Cannot be called as an action!

**SEE ALSO.** da\_cntrl\_1,2(), da\_cursor(), da\_mode(), da\_offset()

**FILE.** /rex/act/da\_set.c

## **da\_mode Pda\_mode**

set d/a converter offset output mode

**SYNOPSIS.** `da_mode(long danum, long mode)` `Pda_mode(long *danum, long *mode)`

**danum:** d/a converter number

**mode:** offset output mode

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** The da\_mode action determines whether an offset will be applied to the output of the d/a converter. mode can be the following:

DA\_DIRECT: no offset is applied to d/a output

DA\_OFFSET\_CONN: offset is applied to d/a output for all connected sources (all sources except DA\_STBY)

DA\_OFFSET\_STBY: offset is applied to d/a output when source is DA\_STBY

Note that DA\_OFFSET\_CONN and DA\_OFFSET\_STBY can be specified together or each individually. The applied offset is provided by the da\_offset action. Offset mode is useful to accomplish stabilization.

By default, all d/a converters are initialized to DA\_DIRECT mode unless changed by calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `da_mode(0, DA_OFFSET_CONN)`

Set d/a converter 0 to apply offset to each output value when source is anything other than DA\_STBY (e.g. when the source is the signal for eyeh).

`da_mode(0, DA_OFFSET_CONN / DA_OFFSET_STBY)`

Set d/a converter 0 to apply offset to each output value for all connected sources and also when source is DA\_STBY.

**SEE ALSO.** da\_cntrl\_1,2(), da\_cursor(), da\_offset(), da\_set\_1,2()

**FILE.** /rex/act/da\_mode.c

## **da\_offset Pda\_offset**

specify offset for d/a converter

**SYNOPSIS.** **da\_offset(long danum, long offset) Pda\_offset(long \*danum, long \*offset)**

**danum:** d/a converter number

**offset:** offset value

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** The da\_offset action specifies an offset for a d/a converter. This offset will not be applied, however, unless the d/a is set to one of the offset modes (see da\_mode() action). The Pda\_offset action takes pointers to values as arguments.

By default, the offset of all d/a converters is initialized to 0 unless changed by calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** *da\_offset(0, 100)*

Set offset for d/a converter number 0 to 100. Note that this offset will not be applied unless the d/a converter is set to one of the offset modes (see da\_mode() action).

**SEE ALSO.** da\_cntrl\_1,2(), da\_cursor(), da\_mode(), da\_set\_1,2()

**FILE.** /rex/act/da\_offset.c

## **da\_cursor Pda\_cursor**

specify d/a numbers for the two d/a window display cursors.

**SYNOPSIS.** **da\_cursor(long x\_danum, long y\_danum, long cursor)**

**Pda\_cursor(long \*x\_danum, long \*y\_danum, long \*cursor)**

**x\_danum:** d/a converter number for x position of cursor

**y\_danum:** d/a converter number for y position of cursor

**cursor:** d/a cursor

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** The REX window display incorporates two cursors for d/a converters (excessive cpu time would be required to support more than two d/a cursors). These cursors are represented by an octagon symbol and a cross sign symbol. The da\_cursor action is used to specify the d/a converter numbers corresponding to each of these two cursors. Arguments are:

**x\_danum:** d/a number for x component of cursor position

**y\_danum:** d/a number for y component of cursor position

**cursor** specifies one of the two available cursors:

**CU\_DA\_ONE:** cursor shaped like an octagon

**CU\_DA\_TWO:** cursor shaped like an X

By default, the CU\_DA\_ONE cursor is connected to d/a converters 0 and 1, and the CU\_DA\_TWO cursor is connected to d/a converters 2 and 3.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** *da\_cursor(4, 5, CU\_DA\_ONE)*

Set the octagon cursor X position to d/a number 4, and the Y position to d/a number 5.

**SEE ALSO.** *da\_cntrl\_1,2()*, *da\_mode()*, *da\_offset()*, *da\_set\_1,2()*

**FILE.** /rex/act/da\_cursor.c

## Ramp Controls

Rex can generate up to 10 linear arrays of values called ramps. These arrays can be used to control the d/a converters.

### ra\_new Pra\_new

specify new ramp

**SYNOPSIS.** `ra_new(int rnum, int len, int angle, int vel, int xoff, int yoff, int ecode, int type)`

`Pra_new(int *rnum, int *len, int *angle, int *vel, int *xoff, int *yoff, int *ecode, int *type)`

The ra\_new routine can not be specified as an action in a state due to size of argument list. Must be called from a C-subroutine in the Spot file. However, the Pra\_new routine can be specified as an action in a state.

**rnum:** ramp number

**len:** tenths of degree

**angle:** degrees

**vel:** degrees per second

**xoff, yoff:** tenths of degree

**ecode, type:** See below

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** ra\_new specifies and computes parameters for a new ramp from the given arguments. Ramps are specified in a combination of polar and rectangular coordinates as follows:

**len:** one half total length of ramp in tenths of degree.

**angle:** polar angle of ramp, assuming 0 degrees is motion from monkey right to left in horizontal plane. Higher angles proceed in clockwise direction, 90 degrees is motion from monkey view bottom to top in vertical plane.

**vel:** Velocity of ramp in degrees/sec. Range: 1 to 1000 degs/sec.

**xoff, yoff:** x and y offset of Cartesian reference point of ramp in tenths of degree. Even though the ramp is primarily specified in polar coordinates, its reference point may have a Cartesian offset. See type below for explanation of the reference point.

**ecode:** currently not used.

**type:** flag used to specify type of ramp.

The ramp has a reference point that can be given a Cartesian offset. This reference point can be considered to be the beginning, middle, or end of the ramp by setting the proper bit in type. For example, if a ramp were specified with a length of 10 degrees and the reference point in the middle, the ramp would begin 10 degrees before the reference point and continue to 10 degrees after the reference point (length is one half total length). If, however, the reference point were the beginning the ramp would start at the reference point and continue for 20 degrees.

type must have one (and only one) of the following bits set:

**RA\_CENPT** (02): reference point is the middle or center of ramp.

**RA\_BEGINPT** (04): reference point is the beginning of ramp.

**RA\_ENDPT** (010): reference point is the end of ramp.

In addition to the above flag bits, another bit causes the mirrors to begin motion at a point before the actual start of the ramp. This initial distance is calculated to provide 25 msec of acceleration time for the mirrors to reach a stable velocity before reaching the starting point of the ramp. Therefore if a stimulus is illuminated at the starting point of the ramp the mirrors will already be at constant velocity.

**RA\_NO25MS** (01): If set, do not add acceleration distance to beginning of ramp.

**Note well that `ra_new()` or `Pra_new()` must be called before every ramp, even if the parameters of the ramp haven't changed from the previous ramp. For example, if the same ramp is to be output over and over, `ra_new()` or `Pra_new()` must be called between each one.**

Variables controlling the ramp may be accessed from user-written C code if needed. However, these variables should not be written or changed- only read. The header rex/hdr/ramp.h defines the `ramp[]` structure. Some variables of interest:

**`ramp[rnum].ra_timeleft: time left on ramp`**  
**`ramp[rnum].ra_rampflag: state of ramp generator`**  
**`ramp[rnum].ra_x.ra_pos: current X position of ramp`**  
**`ramp[rnum].ra_y.ra_pos: current Y position of ramp`**

The `ra_compute_time` and `ramptd` functions can be used to vary the length of ramps in a random fashion:

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `ra_new(0, 100, 90, 10, 0, 0, 0, RA_BEGINPT / RA_NO25MS)`

Specifies new ramp number 0 which begins at offset 0,0 and moves vertically from bottom to top for 20 degrees. There is no 25 milliseconds acceleration time.

**SEE ALSO.** •`ra_phistart()`, `ra_phiend()`, `ra_start()`, `ra_stop()`, `ra_tostart()`

**NOTES.** The ramp is the only built-in waveform generator in REX. To drive the d/a's with other types of waveforms (e.g. sinusoids) the waveform is pre-computed and stored in a memory buffer. This buffer can than be used to drive the d/a directly by specifying the DA\_MEM source (see `da_cntrl_1,2`).

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ramp_act.c`

## **ra\_compute\_time Pra\_compute\_time**

Compute the time remaining before current ramp completes based on specified preset and random percentages

**SYNOPSIS.** `ra_compute_time(long rnum, long presetper, long randper)`

`Pra_compute_time(long *rnum, long *presetper, long *randper, RA_RAMP_TIME *ra_time)`

This function computes the time remaining before the ramp completes based on the specified preset and random percentages. The *ra\_compute\_time* version of this function can not be specified as an action because it returns a structure of type RA\_RAMP\_TIME rather than an int. It must be called from an action. The *Pra\_compute\_time* version of this function can be specified as an action because it returns the RA\_RAMP\_TIME structure in the fourth argument.

```
typedef struct {
    long ra_ramp_time_preset;
    long ra_ramp_time_random;
} RA_RAMP_TIME;
```

**rnum:** ramp number

**presetter:** preset percentage

**randper:** random percentage

**RETURN VALUE.** The *ra\_compute\_time* function returns a structure of type RA\_RAMP\_TIME. The *Pra\_compute\_time* action returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `ra_time = ra_compute_time(rnum, preset, rand).`

`Pra_compute_time(&rnum, &preset, &rand, &ra_time)`

**SEE ALSO.** •*ra\_phistart()*, *ra\_phiend()*, *ra\_start()*, *ra\_stop()*, *ra\_tostart()*

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ramp_act.c`

## **ramptd Pramptd**

This function sets the RA\_TIMEDONE flag for the current ramp. This function is an action, and is used in conjunction with ra\_compute\_time or Pra\_compute\_time

### **SYNOPSIS. ramptd(long rnum) Pramptd(long \*rnum)**

The ra\_compute\_time function computes the time remaining until the ramp completes based on the specified percentages. Suppose one wanted to stop a ramp after 70% of the duration plus an added random 10%. The ra\_compute\_time function would be called with arguments of 70 for presetper and 10 for randper. The function would return an instance of the RA\_RAMP\_TIME struct with the computed preset and random times. These values are then inserted into the time and random fields of a state (this state is usually in a separate chain from the main paradigm). When this state transitions the action ramptd is called to set the RA\_TIMEDONE bit to terminate the ramp. An example of the use of these functions is in the test paradigm /rex/sset/tstramp.d.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** *ramptd(RAMP0) Sets the RA\_TIMEDONE bit in ramp 0*

**SEE ALSO.** •ra\_phistart(), ra\_phiend(), ra\_start(), ra\_stop(), ra\_tostart()

**FILE.** /rex/act/ramp\_act.c

## **ra\_tostart, Pra\_tostart**

move mirrors to starting position of ramp

**SYNOPSIS.** **ra\_tostart(long rnum) Pra\_tostart(long \*rnum)**

**rnum:** ramp number

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** ra\_tostart moves the mirrors to the starting position of the specified ramp. This action is not necessary in general since ra\_start moves the mirrors to the starting position as part of initiating a ramp. However for some paradigms such as fixation- ramp away, it is necessary to hold the mirrors at the starting position for some time before the ramp begins.

Note that if the 25 msec acceleration time is enabled, the mirrors will move to a position before the specified start of the ramp.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** ra\_tostart(0)

This action moves the mirrors to the starting position of ramp number 0.

**SEE ALSO.** ra\_new(), ra\_phistart(), ra\_phiend(), ra\_start(), ra\_stop()

**FILE.** /rex/act/ramp\_act.c

## **ra\_start Pra\_start**

start ramp

**SYNOPSIS.** `ra_start(long rnum, long ctlflag, DIO_ID device)`

`Pra_start(long *rnum long *ctlflag, DIO_ID *device)`

**rnum:** ramp number

**ctlflag:** constant

**device:** device specification recognized by `dio_off()`

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `ra_start` initiates the ramp. Following arguments may be specified:

**rnum:** ramp number

**ctlflag:** if non-zero, there will be a 40 msec pause after moving the mirrors to the starting point of the ramp before starting the ramp. This allows the mirrors to settle after the jump to the starting position. Note that this settling time is independent of the 25 msec acceleration time- one does not affect the other; either, none, or both can be specified.

**device:** If non-zero, this argument is taken to be the device of the illumination stimulus on the mirrors. When the ramp completes, it is turned off.

A bit is set in `ramp[rnum].ra_rampflag` when the ramp actually begins (the mirrors are directly over the starting position). This takes into account settling pauses or the 25 msec acceleration time if enabled. Therefore this bit can be tested to determine when an illumination stimulus should be turned on (octal value of bit shown in parenthesis):

**RA\_STARTED** (01): when this bit becomes set in `ramp[rnum].ra_rampflag` the mirrors are over the starting position of the ramp.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `ra_start(0, 1, LED1)`

Start ramp number 0 with settling pause; turn off LED1 automatically when ramp completes.

**SEE ALSO.** `ra_new()`, `ra_phistart()`, `ra_phiend()`, `ra_stop()`, `ra_tostart()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ramp_act.c`

## **ra\_stop Pra\_stop**

stop ramp

**SYNOPSIS.** `ra_stop(long rnum) Pra_stop(long *rnum)`

`rnum: ramp number`

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `ra_stop` terminates the specified ramp.

**RETURN VALUE.** This action may return the following values:

RDONECD: If ramp had not completed but was currently running when `ra_stop` was executed.

0: If ramp had completed when `ra_stop` was executed.

**EXAMPLE.** `ra_stop(0)`

Stop ramp number 0 if currently running.

**SEE ALSO.** `ra_new()`, `ra_phistart()`, `ra_phiend()`, `ra_start()`, `ra_tostart()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ramp_act.c`

## **ra\_phistart Pra\_phistart**

start phi blinking on ramp

**SYNOPSIS.** `ra_phistart(long rnum)`, `Pra_phistart(long *rnum)`

**rnum: ramp number**

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `ra_phistart` switches the ramp device (`ramp[rnum].ra_device`) to the phi device (`ramp[rnum].ra_phidevice`), and starts phi blinking. The variables `ramp[rnum].ra_phidevice`, `ramp[rnum].ra_pontime`, and `ramp[rnum].ra_pofftime` must have been previously initialized.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `ra_phistart(0)`

Start phi blinking on ramp number 0.

**SEE ALSO.** `ra_new()`, `ra_phiend()`, `ra_start()`, `ra_tostart()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ramp_act.c`

## **ra\_phiend Pra\_phiend**

end phi blinking on ramp

**SYNOPSIS.** **ra\_phiend(long rnum) Pra\_phiend(long \*rnum)**  
**rnum: ramp number**

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** ra\_phiend Ends phi blinking. The variables ramp[rnum].ra\_phidevice  
ramp[rnum].ra\_pontime and ramp[rnum].ra\_pofftime must have been previously initialized.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** ra\_phiend(0)

End phi blinking on ramp number 0.

**SEE ALSO.** ra\_new(), ra\_phistart(), ra\_start(), ra\_tostart()

**FILE.** /rex/act/ramp\_act.c

## Memory Array Controls

Rex allows users to define up to 16 arrays of arbitrary values that can be used to control the d/a converters. This allows greater flexibility than the simple linear arrays provided by the ramp generator

### **ma\_cntrl Pma\_cntrl**

Control memory array resources

**SYNOPSIS.** `ma_cntrl(int num, int *map, int count, int rate, int repeat)`

`Pma_cntrl(int *num, int *map, int *count, int *rate, int *repeat)`

**num:** number of the memory array

**map:** pointer to memory array data

**count:** number of points in memory array data

**rate:** number of milliseconds to wait before sending next element

**repeat:** number of times to repeat memory array

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** none.

**DESCRIPTION.** `ma_cntrl` registers a user defined array with the *int* process. Once registered, the contents of the memory array may be output to a d/a converter by linking the array to the port using the `da_cntrl` commands above.

To use `ma_cntrl`, you first allocate space for the array, then assign values to the array elements. You then call `ma_cntrl` to register the parameters of the array with *int*. After initializing the array resources, `ma_cntrl` calls `ma_reset` to set initial parameters.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0.

**EXAMPLE:** `int array[500];`

```
int scale = 800;
int rate = 5;
int repeat = 1;
double ang_inc;
ang_inc = (2 * M_PI) / 500;
for(i = 0; i < 500; i++) array[i] = sin(i * ang_inc) * scale;
ma_cntrl(0, array, 500, rate, repeat);
```

This example establishes an array of 500, initializes the elements of the array with a sinusoid, and registers the array with *int*.

**SEE ALSO.** `ma_start()`, `ma_stop()`, `ma_reset()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ma_set.c`

## **ma\_reset Pma\_reset**

reset previously registered memory array resources to their initial state.

**SYNOPSIS:** **ma\_reset(int num)** **Pma\_reset(int \*num)**

**num: number of the memory array**

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None.

**DESCRIPTION:** If you wish to output a memory array on a number of trials, you do not need to define and register for each trial. Rather, you may define and register the array once, then merely call *ma\_reset* before each trial to reset the array resources to their initial states. This is particularly useful if computation of the array values is fairly time-consuming.

**RETURN VALUE.** None

**EXAMPLE.** `ma_reset(0);`

This command resets the resources of a previously registered array so that it can be played out again.

**SEE ALSO.** `ma_cntrl()`, `ma_start()`, `ma_stop()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ma_set.c`

## **ma\_start Pma\_start**

start outputting a memory array to the d/a converters.

**SYNOPSIS.** `ma_start(int num); Pma_start(int *num)`  
`num: memory array number`

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None.

**DESCRIPTION.** `ma_start` initiates output of the memory array. The argument specifies that array to initiate. You must define and register the array before calling `ma_start`. Also, before calling `ma_start`, you must make sure that the array resources are in their initial states by calling `ma_cntrl` or `ma_reset`.

Once Rex begins to play the memory array, it sets the MA\_RUN bit in `ma[num].ma_status`. After Rex has play the array requisite number of repeats, it clears the MA\_RUN bit in `ma[num].ma_status`. This allows you to define escapes on the beginning and end of the memory array output.

**RETURN VALUE.** returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `ma_start(0)`

This command starts playing memory array 0

**SEE ALSO.** `ma_cntrl()` `ma_reset()` `ma_stop()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ma_set.c`

## **ma\_stop Pma\_stop**

stop memory array

**SYNOPSIS.** `ma_stop(int num)` `Pma_stop(int *num)`

**num:** number of memory array to stop

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `ma_stop` stops a previously started memory array. The argument specifies that array to stop. After Rex stops the array, it clears the MA\_RUN bit in `ma[num].ma_status`. This allows you to define escapes on the beginning and end of the memory array output.

**RETURN VALUE.** returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `ma_stop(0)`

This command stops playing memory array 0

**SEE ALSO.** `ma_cntrl()` `ma_reset()` `ma_start()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/ma_set.c`

## Running Line Controls

### **rl\_setbar**

set bar value on running line display

**SYNOPSIS.** `rl_setbar(long value)`

**value:** bar value

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `rl_setbar` sets the value of the bar line on the running line display

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `rl_setbar(10)`

Set the bar line value to 10.

**SEE ALSO.** `rl_setbar()`, `rl_addbar()`, `rl_trig()`, `rl_stop()`, `rl_erase()`, `sd_mark()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/rl_set.c`

## **rl\_addbar**

add to the current bar value on running line display

**SYNOPSIS.** `rl_addbar(long value)`

**value amount to add to current bar value**

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `rl_addbar` adds a value to the current value of the bar line on the running line display.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `rl_addbar(-10)`

Subtract 10 from the current value of the bar line.

**SEE ALSO.** `rl_setbar()`, `rl_addbar()`, `rl_trig()`, `rl_stop()`, `rl_erase()`, `sd_mark()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/rl_set.c`

**rl\_setspike**

put a spike dot on running line display

**SYNOPSIS.** **rl\_setspike(long spike\_num)**  
**spike\_num:** spike number

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `rl_setspike` puts a dot on the running line display signifying the occurrence of the designated spike.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `rl_setspike(0)`

Put a dot on the running line display for spike number 0.

**SEE ALSO.** `rl_setbar()`, `rl_addbar()`, `rl_trig()`, `rl_stop()`, `rl_erase()`, `sd_mark()`

**FILE.** /rex/act/rl\_set.c

## **sd\_mark**

put a mark on a signal channel running line trace

**SYNOPSIS.** **sd\_mark(long channel, long mark)**

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** sd\_mark puts a mark on a running line signal channel trace. This is used by the saccade detector to mark the beginning and end of saccades, but is also available to the user to place marks. Each mark is composed of a varying number of dots situated vertically. The maximum number of marks is defined by RL\_MARKMAX in the file idsp.h.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** *sd\_mark(0, 3)*

Place mark number 3 on the running line trace for channel 0.

**SEE ALSO.** rl\_setbar(), rl\_addbar(), rl\_trig(), rl\_stop(), rl\_erase(), sd\_mark()

**FILE.** /rex/act/sd\_set.c

## Saccade Detector Controls

### sd\_set

saccade detector control

**SYNOPSIS.** `sd_set(long ctlflag)`

**ctlflag:** octal constant

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `sd_set` controls the saccade detector. If `ctlflag` is non-zero, the saccade detector is turned on. If `ctlflag` is zero, it is turned off.

The variable `sacflags` can be tested for the following values:

`SF_HOR` (01): if this bit is set detector is following saccade on horizontal component; if not set following saccade on vertical component.

`SF_ONSET` (010): saccade start seen

`SF_GOOD` (020): saccade accepted

The global variables `h_sacinit` and `v_sacinit` contain the initial position of a possible saccade. The global variables `h_sacend` and `v_sacend` contain the final position of the most recently accepted saccade. The global variables `h_sacsiz` and `v_sacsiz` contain the size of the most recently accepted saccade.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `sd_set(1)`

Saccade detector is turned on.

**FILE.** `/rex/act/sd_set.c`

## **Eye Window Controls**

### **wd\_cntrl**

turn window on/off

**SYNOPSIS** `wd_cntrl(long wdbuf, long flag)`

**wdbuf:** window number

**flag:** control flag

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** The wd\_cntrl action turns the specified eye window on/off. flag can be the following:

WD\_OFF: turn window off

WD\_ON: turn window on

Turning an eye window on causes Rex to set corresponding bits in the global variable eyeflag depending on whether the eye is inside or outside the window. Separate tests are made for vertical and horizontal position. Turning an eye window off prevents Rex from testing eye position against that window.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `wd_cntrl(0, WD_ON)`

Turn window number 0 on.

**SEE ALSO.** wd\_center(), wd\_src\_check, pos(), wd\_cursor(), wd\_disp(), wd\_pos(), wd\_siz()

**FILE.** /rex/act/wd\_set.c

## **wd\_pos Pwd\_pos**

set eye window position

**SYNOPSIS.** `wd_pos(long wnum, long xpos, long ypos)` `Pwd_pos(long *wnum, long *xpos, long *ypos)`

**wnum:** window number

**xpos, ypos:** x and y position of window in tenths of degree

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** wd\_pos specifies the position of the designated window.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `wd_pos(0, 100, 200)`

Set window number 0 to position +10, +20 degrees.

**SEE ALSO.** wd\_center(), wd\_src\_check, pos(), wd\_cntrl(), wd\_cursor(), wd\_disp(), wd\_siz()

**FILE.** /rex/act/wd\_set.c

## **wd\_siz Pwd\_siz**

set eye window size

**SYNOPSIS.** `wd_siz(long wnum, long xsiz, long ysiz)` `Pwd_siz(long *wnum, long *xsiz, long *ysiz)`

**wnum:** window number

**xsiz, ysiz:** size in tenths of degree of distance from center of window to side, i.e. one half window size.

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** `wd_siz` specifies the size of a window. The sizes can be different values for horizontal and vertical. Size is specified as length from center of window to one side.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `wd_siz(0, 100, 200)`

Set window number 0 size to 20 degrees across horizontal, and 40 degrees vertical.

**SEE ALSO.** `wd_center()`, `wd_src_check, pos()`, `wd_cntrl()`, `wd_cursor()`, `wd_disp()`, `wd_pos()`

**FILE.** `/rex/act/wd_set.c`

## **wd\_src\_pos, wd\_src\_check**

specify source for window position and source for window to check

**SYNOPSIS.** `wd_src_pos(long wndnum, long x_src, long x_src_num, long y_src, long y_src_num)`

`wd_src_check(long wndnum, long x_src, long x_src_num, long y_src, long y_src_num)`

**wndnum:** window number

**x\_src:** x source

**x\_src\_num:** x source number specifier

**y\_src:** y source

**y\_src\_num:** y source number specifier

**ADDITIONAL HEADERS REQUIRED.** None

**DESCRIPTION.** REX provides a two-dimensional window capability. A window is characterized by an x and y size, an x and y position, and an x and y source to check. A set of flags is maintained in the global variable eyeflag. These flags can be tested from the Spot file to determine if a source is within the bounds of a window.

The wd\_src\_pos and wd\_src\_check actions specify the x and y components of the source that governs the window position and the source for the window to check. Possible sources for both are:

WD\_DIRPOS: The source is a position specified by the wd\_pos action. src\_num is ignored.

WD\_RAMP\_X: source is the X component of the internal ramp generator. src\_num specifies the ramp generator number.

WD\_RAMP\_Y: source is the Y component of the internal ramp generator. src\_num specifies the ramp generator number.

WD\_JOY\_X: source is the X component of the joystick. src\_num is ignored.

WD\_JOY\_Y: source is the Y component of the joystick. src\_num is ignored.

WD\_DA: source is the current output of the d/a converter. src\_num specifies the d/a converter number.

WD\_SIGNAL: source is a signal. src\_num specifies the signal number.

WD\_MEM: source is an internal memory array. src\_num specifies the internal memory array number.

**RETURN VALUE.** Returns 0

**EXAMPLE.** `wd_src_check(0, WD_SIGNAL, 0, WD_SIGNAL, 1)`

If the horizontal eye is signal 0, and the vertical eye is signal 1, this action will set the source for window number 0 to check to eye position. The following examples then specify various sources for the x, y position of the window.

`wd_src_pos(0, WD_DIRPOS, 0, WD_DIRPOS, 0)`

The position of window 0 is controlled by the wd\_pos action.

`wd_src_pos(0, WD_RAMP_X, 0, WD_RAMP_Y, 0)`

The position of window 0 is controlled by ramp generator number 0.

`wd_src_pos(0, WD_DA, 0, WD_DA, 1)`

The x position of window 0 is controlled by d/a 0, the y position is controlled by d/a 1.

`wd_src_pos(0, WD_JOY_X, 0, WD_JOY_Y, 0)`

The position of window number 0 is controlled by the joystick.

**SEE ALSO.** wd\_center(), wd\_cntrl(), wd\_cursor(), wd\_disp(), wd\_pos(), wd\_siz()

**FILE.** /rex/act/wd\_set.c

## **Obsolete Actions**

Beginning with Rex 7.1, you can have multiple running line and eye window displays. The properties of each display can be set independently of the others. This new functionality makes several actions relating to these displays obsolete. These actions are maintained in the actions library so that old spot files will compile, however, these actions have no effect. They simply return a 0.

### **rl\_trig**

The running line displays are now triggered by the running line level. Each display can be set to run in either triggered or continuous mode. The trigger level of each display can be set independently.

### **rl\_erase**

The running line displays can only be erased by iconifying the display window.

### **rl\_stop**

Because there may be multiple running line displays, they can not be stopped from the Spot file.

### **wd\_disp**

The display options for each window display are set using toggle buttons in the bottom part of the display window.

### **wd\_cursor**

Each window display can show all eight eye windows. Each eye window is represented by a rectangle. The choice of which eye windows to display is made using toggle buttons in the bottom part of the display window.

### **wd\_center**

The cursor that is the center of the screen can be set in each window display independently.

# **When Things Don't Work in REX**

Arthur V. Hays Revised 10 September 92

## **When and what to recompile.**

There are two levels of making REX. The first is when modifications have been made ONLY to the spot file (the .d file) of a paradigm, or to the source of the int process. In this case only the int process needs to be recompiled. This is done by changing directory to "rex/sset" and typing the command "make sf=whatever". The second level is when changes have been made to the source of other parts of the REX system. In this case, the entire REX system may need to be recompiled. To do this, change directory to "rex/sset" and type command "make complete".

## **No return value specified from actions.**

An action must always specify a return value- either 0 or an ecode to be loaded into the Efile.

## **Where is the moving display?**

Symptom: the clock is begun, the status says the clock is on, but there is no moving display.  
Possible remedy: make sure the running line stop switch is not on.

## **Paradigm not behaving or operating properly times, arguments to actions incorrect, menu variables mysteriously changed, nothing corresponds to initialized values.**

The REX root file mechanism is very powerful, but must be used carefully. If changes are made to a paradigm BUT the root for the old version is read than any new default initializations may be lost. This can easily happen, for many times a paradigm is actually run by invoking a root file that in turn reads another initialization root file. For example, a state may be changed in the spot file so that it now calls an action where previously it did not. When the old root file is read all arguments to the action will be set to zero, for the state previously did not call an action. This occurs because the state, even though its function has been modified, still has the same name- states are accessed by name when roots are read. Likewise defaults of menu variables may be lost if an old root is read.

Problems caused by reading old roots can be very subtle. If mysterious problems are encountered the safest course is to manually begin the new process to ensure that no roots are read. If symptoms are different when process is run a new root can be written out and compared to old root to determine differences.

## **Roots take longer and longer to read...**

Remember that when a new root is written and a root file of the same name currently exists, the new root is APPENDED to the existing root file. Thus a root file may get longer and longer but still work properly, for the end of the root file will have the current values.

## **Data Keeping Windows**

Data is saved in REX by opening and closing "windows". Windows have an associated pre time and post time. The pre time is the time in msec before the window is opened that data keeping will

actually start. The post time is the time after the window is closed that data will continue to be kept. If a previous window overlaps a subsequent window (e.g. the previous window's post time overlaps the subsequent window's pre time) than the data in the overlapped section is stored twice on the disk- both windows are completely written even though parts overlap. Note, however, that only one window can be active at a time. If a previous window has been closed BUT is still being written during the post time, a subsequent window CANNOT be opened until the post time has expired. The open request is ignored if given during the post time of a previous window (however, an open window ecode IS loaded into the Efile). Also, no error indication will occur. Therefore, one must be sure that a previous window's post time has elapsed before giving a subsequent open window request. For situations where timings are close a flag can be tested in the state set to determine exactly when the post time has expired and the previous window is completed.

## A state named init

The spot compiler prepends "s" to the name of all states. If a state is named "init" it will be become "sinit". This name conflicts with another symbol in an obscure way- no error is reported, however the paradigm will crash. Therefore, do not name a state "init".

## Menu variable names cannot have embedded spaces; symptom- can write a root, but then not read it back in

Menu variable names cannot have embedded spaces. Spaces are parsed as argument delimiters. To simulate a space, use an underscore. If a menu variable name does have an embedded space, everything will seem to work fine until a root is read. The part of the variable name after the space will be interpreted as the value for the variable. The space serves to delimit the name of the variable from its value.

## Debugging Aids

Some debugging aids exist. These will allow printing of debugging messages. See the section in the Spot manual titled "General Considerations" for more info on these aids.

## Endless abort loop

Don't place a state that contains the action reset\_s() in the abort list. You will create an endless loop. The action reset\_s() causes the abort list to be executed.

## Arguments to actions are not passed correctly

Arguments to actions are always long integers. Therefore, the arguments to actions must be declared as long integers. For example, the following action has three arguments and is correctly written:

```
do_something(long a, long b, long c)
{
    int arg3;
    arg3 = c;      /* conversion to int done automatically
                     by C compiler */
}
```

However, the next action shown below will not work because the C compiler is not informed that the arguments are longs. The C compiler will assume they are ints, and not pick them up properly:

```
do_something(a, b, c)
{
    int arg3;
    arg3 = c;      /* this will not put the correct value
                    for 'c' in 'arg3' */
}
```

Paradigms written for the pdp11 version of REX must be changed so that all action arguments are declared as longs.



# REX Graphical User Interface

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## Introduction

Beginning with release 7.0, we have fully ported Rex to QNX's Photon window system. Use of the window system allowed us to not only present better displays of data, but to also provide a graphical user interface. The reasons for doing this are as follows:

- *Better self documentation.* Older versions of Rex used a command-line interface in which the experimenter interacted with the program through a series of screen menus and a set of commands (verbs and nouns). Efficient use of this interface required experimenters to memorize the keystrokes needed to bring up the menus and the rather terse verb-noun combinations needed to execute commands (i.e. "k B" to beginning saving event and analog data). With the graphical user interface, all menus are available from menu buttons, and all commands are executed by clicking on buttons that are displayed in the interface.
- *Better data displays.* The data displays of older versions of Rex were limited to VGA (640X480) resolution. This limited the resolution of the data that could be displayed. Older versions of Rex had three types of data display; an X-Y display of analog data (the eye window display), an oscilloscope-like display of analog and unit data (the running line display), and a histogram-raster display of unit data (the raster display). The X-Y and oscilloscope displays could be superimposed, but the raster display was separate. To view raster data, the other displays had to be disabled. Because of the resolution of the display, a maximum of 16 rasters or histograms could be displayed, a serious limitation in conducting experiments with many conditions. With the Photon window system we are able to use resolutions of up to 1280X1024. Also, the Photon window manager maintains 9 virtual desktops, allowing various data displays to be spread out while retaining ease of access. By placing each display in its own window, we are able to provide multiple X-Y, oscilloscope, and raster displays. Because of the higher resolution, raster displays can have up to 64 plots. By using spike density functions instead of histograms, summary and trial by trial data can be superimposed. Because we can provide multiple copies of each type of display, experimenters can have both triggered and free-running oscilloscope displays, high and low gain X-Y displays, and multiple sets of rasters.
- *Better performance tracking.* Experimenters frequently need to monitor the progress of an experiment or subject's performance. This is done by continuously updating variables such as percent correct, number of trials per block, or number of trials completed, etc. In older versions of Rex, to view such variables, experimenters had to place them in menus and then display the menus using keyboard commands. These menus could not be updated while being displayed, so to see new values, experimenters had to dismiss, then re-display the menu. With the graphical user interface, we are able to construct dialogs that display and automatically update any variables the experimenter needs.

## Changes in the way Rex works

The new features of Rex have rendered some old features obsolete. The following is a list of changes in the behavior of Rex:

- *Root files.* With Rex 7.0, only the int process uses the old Rex root files. Because experimenters can bring up multiple eye window and running line displays, we have disabled the running line and eye window entries in the root file. We plan to provide an alternate root system for these displays. Because of the increased functionality and the possibility of having multiple raster displays, the raster display root is now separate from the main root file.
- *Verbs and nouns.* Because the verb-noun syntax of Rex commands has been replaced by button clicks, the root file system no longer supports verb-noun strings.

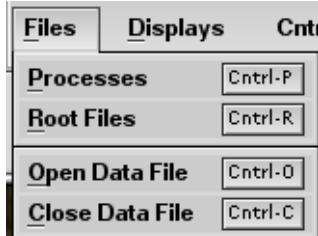
## Process Switching Tool bar

When you start Rex, you are greeted by a short tool bar as shown here. Use the controls in this tool bar to launch all other Rex applications.



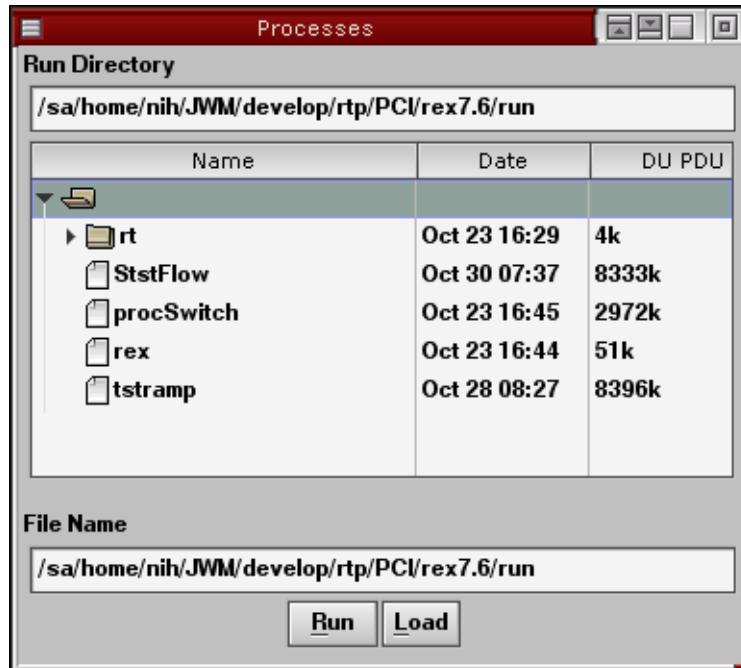
## Files

Clicking on the *Files* button will display a menu with the following items:



Selecting the *Process*, *Root Files*, or *Open Data File* items will bring up a file browser dialog similar to that shown below, except for the action buttons at the bottom. The file selection tool displays the contents of the directory specified in the *Directory* text field. Changing the entry in the *Directory* text field or clicking on a directory folder in the file list display causes the directory to be copied to the *File Name* text field. However, if you just open a directory by clicking on the + sign to the right of the folder, the directory name is not copied to the *File Name* text field. Sorry, that just the way this Photon widget works. If you select a file by clicking on its name in the file list display, the name is appended to the string in the *File Name* text field. Alternately, you can specify a file by typing its name in the *File*

*Name* text field. You then do something with the file by clicking on one of the action buttons at the bottom of the dialog.



With the *Process* dialog, clicking on the *Run* action button will load the int process you selected, put it in the run state, and display an int process tool bar (shown below) just to the right of the process switching tool bar. This is equivalent to executing the command “r p name” in older versions of Rex. Clicking on the *Load* action button will load the int process you selected, but put it in a stopped state and iconify its tool bar. This is equivalent to executing the command “l p name” in older versions of Rex. If you already have an int process running and you click the *Run* action button with a new int process name, Rex will stop the current running int process and iconify its tool bar, load the new int process, put it in the run state and display its tool bar. This is equivalent to executing the command “c p name” in older versions of Rex.

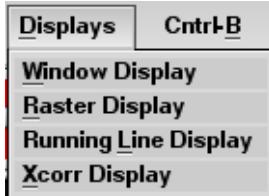
With the *Root Files* dialog, clicking the *Read* action button will read in the root file you selected. Note, with Rex 7.0 and later, you must have an int process in the run state before reading in a root file. Clicking on the *All*, *Sys + User*, *System*, *User*, or *States* action buttons will write out a root file with the name entered in the *File Name* text field. A root file created with the *All* button will contain the current values of all menu items and all states. A root file created with the *Sys + User* button will contain the current values of all menu items, but no states. A root file created with the *System* button will contain only the current values of the system menus. A root file created with the *User* button will contain only the current values of the user menus. A root file created with the *States* button will contain only the current values of the process states.

With the *Open Data File* dialog, the file list is shown as a convenience to indicate what data files you already have. Rex will not reopen an existing data file, so even if you select a file from the list, you will have to modify its name in the *File Name* text widget before clicking on the *Open* action button. You can also open a data file by entering its name in the *File Name* text field and hitting the return key. On opening the new data file, Rex will automatically close the dialog and will display the data file name in the tool bar window frame next to the label *REX*.

Rex does not display a dialog when you select the *Close Data File* item from the *Files* menu. It just closes the data file and removes the file name from the tool bar window frame.

## Displays

Clicking on the *Displays* button when the window is active will display a menu with the following items:



The Window Display is an X-Y plot which displays the positions of the eye signals and eye windows. The Raster Display shows unit activity as both spike rasters and spike density functions. The Running Line display is an oscilloscope display that shows analog and unit data. The Xcorr Display shows unit cross correlation and auto correlation as both a spike raster and a spike density function. Prior to Rex 7.0 you could have only one copy of each display although the eye window display and the running line display could be superimposed. With Rex 7.0 and later, you can have multiple copies of each display active simultaneously. The only limitation is that you can have only 32 processes loaded at one time. Each type of display counts as one process. The Rex data displays are described in detail below.

## Cntrl-B

The Cntrl-B button provides the function for Rex 7.0 that entering cntrl-b provided for earlier versions of Rex. Clicking this button stops data collection, closes the data file, and kills the current running process. Rex will also present a dialog asking whether you want to exit rex.

## Data

The process switching tool bar has a panel labeled *Keep Data* that contains two toggle buttons, *Events + Analog* and *Events Only*. These buttons turn data saving on and off. Rex saves data in two files, an *A* file and an *E* file. The *E* file contains the times of event codes and neuron spike activity. The *A* file contains analog data. Most likely, you will want to save both event and analog data, but, if you are not interested in eye movements, you can conserve disk space by saving *Events Only*.

You can save data only if Rex's millisecond clock is running, and you can start Rex's millisecond clock only if you have an int process running. So why are the data file and data saving functions in the process switching tool bar instead of in the int process tool bar? Though most people don't do it, Rex can save data from multiple int processes into the same data file. (The purpose of the ID code in the spot files is to keep the data from different int processes separated in the data file.) Placing the data file and data saving functions in the process switching tool bar makes them independent of int processes.

## Multiple Processes

Rex allows you to load up to 30 processes at a time. This allows you to rapidly change processes during the course of an experiment. You should load the first process using the *Run* action button. This will display its tool bar and put an icon for the process in the Photon shelf. You can load subsequent process using either the *Run* or the *Load* action buttons. If you use the *Load* action button, the process's tool bar will not be displayed, but an icon will be places in the photon shelf. This icon will have an indicator showing that the tool bar window is iconified. If you use the *Run* action button, the current

process's tool bar will be iconified and the new process's tool bar will be displayed. To switch among loaded processes, simply select the icon of the process you want to run in the Photon shelf and choose restore. This will cause the tool bar of the currently running process to be iconified, putting that process in a stopped state. The new process's tool bar will be displayed, putting the new process in the run state.

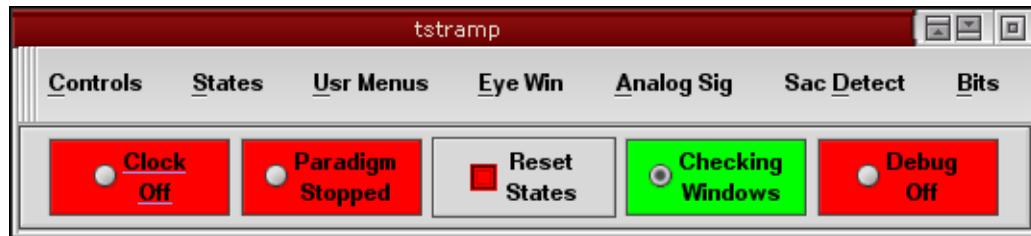
You must stop the clock of the running process and stop the data if you are collecting data before switching processes. However, you do not have to close the data file. Data from different process can be stored in a single file. However, if you do this, you should give each process a unique ecode or set of ecodes so that the data can be extracted later.

When you restore the tool bar window of a stopped process, you should click the *Reset States* button in the tool bar window before starting the clock. This will cause the process's initialization functions to be run when the clock starts.

Whether it is more efficient to use the *Run* or the *Load* action buttons to load subsequent processes depends on whether you use root files. A process must be in the run state with its tool bar displayed for it to be able to read roots. Therefore, if you use root files, it is easier to use the *Run* action button to load subsequent processes, so that each process's root file can be read after it is loaded. If you don't use root files, then it probably doesn't matter whether you use the *Run* or the *Load* action button to load subsequent processes.

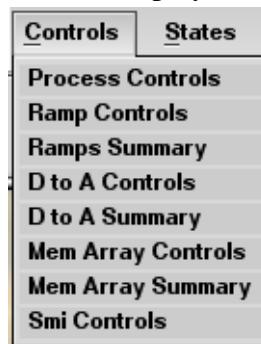
## Int Process Tool bar

When you compile a spot file, you create an int (or interrupt) process. This process controls the specifics of your experiment. When you select an int process to run, Rex displays a tool bar to the right of the process switching tool bar. The base name of the spot file used to create the int process is displayed in the tool bar window frame (in this case, tstramp). The buttons in the menu bar allow you to bring up dialogs that display the various system and user menus. The buttons in the control panel below the menu bar implement basic experiment controls.



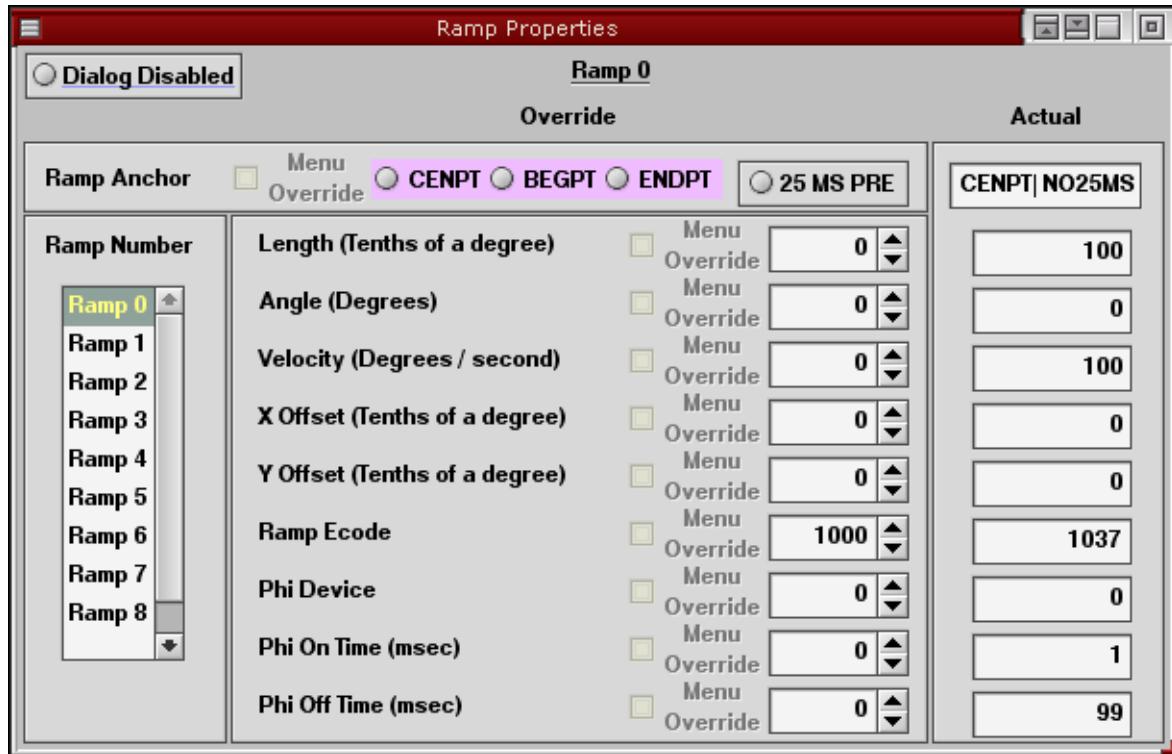
### Controls Menu

Clicking on the *Controls* menu button will display a menu with the following items:



Selecting one of the *Controls* items will bring up a dialog box that has a collection of widgets that allow you to change values. Selecting one of the *Summary* items will bring up a dialog box that

displays the current values but is not editable. The *Ramp Controls* dialog is shown below. The default



values for variables, or values set by the spot file are displayed in the *Actual* panel to the right. The override controls are displayed in the *Override* panels to the left. To change parameters, select the ramp number from the list at the left. Click the *Dialog* button, changing the indicator from red to green and the label to "Dialog Enabled". This will enable the *Menu Override* widgets for this ramp. Enter the values you want in the appropriate numerical boxes. The values will not take effect until you click on the blue *Menu Override* buttons to the left of the numerical boxes. When set, the *Menu Override* buttons will display a large, yellow check mark. If you un-check a *Menu Override* button, the override is removed but the value of the parameter will not change until your spot file changes it. The other control dialogs have a similar format.

The *Ramp Summary* dialog is shown as an example of summary dialogs. The other summaries have a similar format.

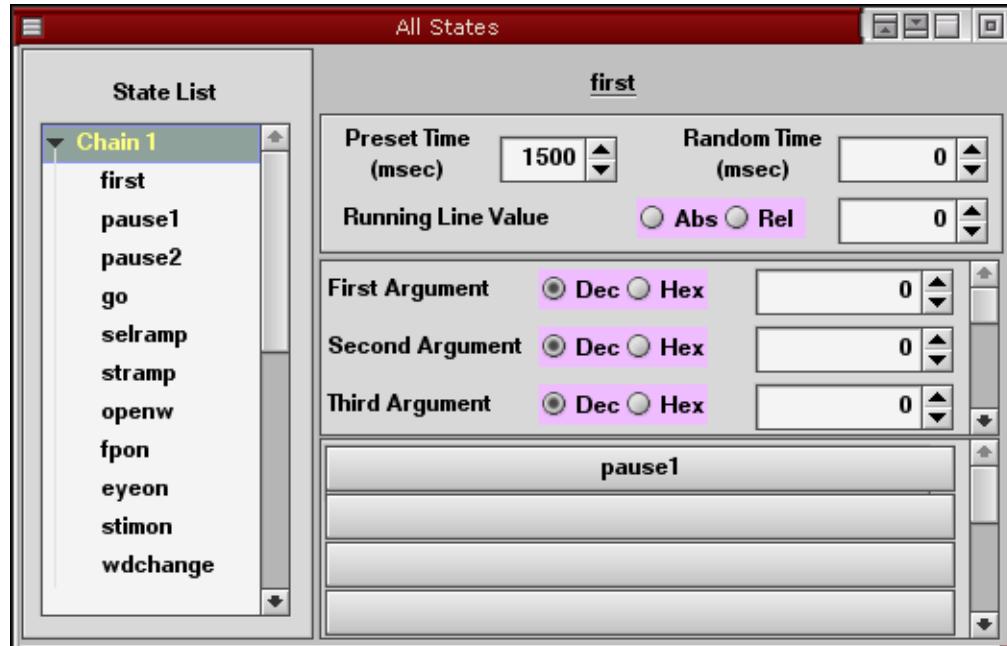
Ramp	Anchor	Length	Angle	Velocity	X Off	Y Off	Ecode	Phi Dev	Phi On	Phi Off
0	CENPT NO25MS	100	0	100	0	0	1037	0	1	99
1	CENPT NO25MS	100	0	100	0	0	1037	0	1	99
2	CENPT NO25MS	100	0	100	0	0	1037	0	1	99
3	CENPT NO25MS	100	0	100	0	0	1037	0	1	99
4	CENPT NO25MS	100	0	100	0	0	1037	0	1	99
5	CENPT NO25MS	100	0	100	0	0	1037	0	1	99
6	CENPT NO25MS	100	0	100	0	0	1037	0	1	99

## States Menu

Clicking on the *States* menu button will display a menu with the following items:



Selecting either of these menu items will display a dialog that allows you to set parameters in your state set definitions. The difference between the two items is that the *Show All States* dialog presents all of the states in your paradigm, whereas the *Show Timed States* dialog presents only those states which have a *time* or *rand* value.



The states in your paradigm are listed in the *State List* tree. The states in each chain are listed in their own branch of the tree. Individual chains can be opened or closed by clicking on the + or - symbol to the left of the chain name. To view or change the parameters of a particular state, click on its name in the *State List* tree.

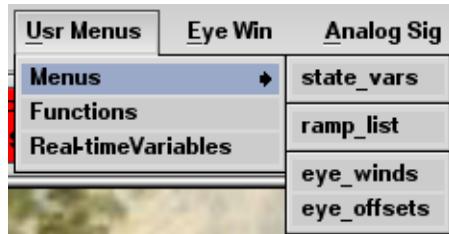
The top panel of the dialog contains widgets that allow you to change the preset and random times for this state and to set the running line level for this state. The *Abs* and *Rel* buttons indicate whether the running line level in this state was set to an absolute (rl 10) or relative value (rl +10). If both the *Abs* and *Rel* buttons are de-selected, then no running line level was specified for this state. If you enter a running line level and click the *Abs* button, the running line will be *set* to the level you entered in the numerical widget. If you click the *Rel* button, the running line will be *changed* by the amount you entered in the numerical widget.

The middle panel of the dialog contains widgets that allow you to change the arguments of the action called in this state. Use the *Dec* and *Hex* toggle buttons to view the argument as a decimal or hexidecimal value. Use the scroll bar at the right to display the entire list of arguments.

The bottom panel of the dialog contains buttons that list the escapes for this state. Currently, the buttons are not functional, we may add the ability to change the parameters of an escape or to add new escapes at run time. Use the scroll bar at the right to display the entire list of escapes.

## User Menus

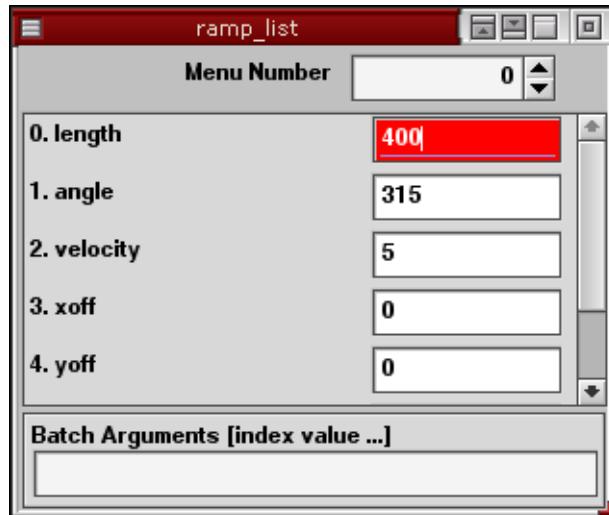
Clicking on the *User Menus* menu button will display a menu with the following items:



**Menus >**. Selecting the *Menus* > pull right menu will display a list of the menus you defined in your spot file. This list is generated from the *umenus* array. Selecting a menu will display a dialog containing the variables in that menu. Use the scroll bar at right, or resize the dialog window to see more of the menu items. To change values, you can either enter the values into the individual text fields, or enter a series of index-value pairs in the *Batch Arguments* text field. For example, entering “1 180 3 100” in the *Batch Arguments* text field would set angle to 180 and xoff to 100. Rex will display an error dialog and abort if you enter an index that is out of range or don’t enter the value member of the index-value pair.

*Note: in either case, items that you have changed but are not yet set will have white lettering on a red background. You must type a tab or a carriage return (Enter), or move the mouse cursor out of the dialog for the value or values to be set. When the value becomes set, the item will revert to black lettering on a white background.*

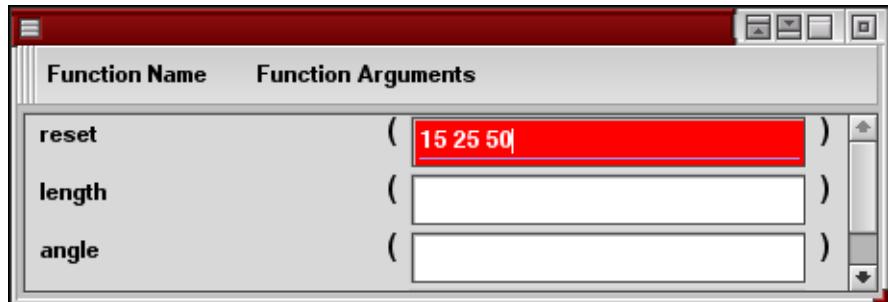
In this example, the menu items are members of an array of structures named *ramp\_list*. The



length item has been changed but not set. The *Menu Number* shows the index number of the array element whose values are displayed in the middle panel of the dialog. When you change the *Menu Number*, Rex will call the menu access function that you defined for this menu to get pointers to the new elements. If the menu displays items that are not members of an array of structures (Rex determines this by whether or not you defined a menu access function), the *Menu Number* label and widget are inactive (grayed out).

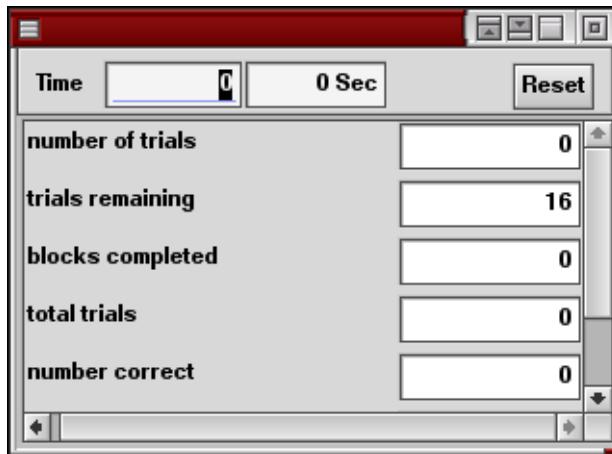
**Functions.** Selecting the *Functions* item from *User Menus* will display a dialog that lists your user-defined functions. This dialog is generated from the *ufuncs* array in your spot file. Use the scroll bar on the right or resize the dialog window if necessary to view all of the functions. To call a function, just

enter its arguments in the *Function Arguments* text field and type a carriage return. Rex will parse text



you entered according to the format string you provided in the *ufuncs* array and call the function. If the number of arguments you enter don't match the number of tokens in the format string, Rex will post an error dialog and abort the call. If you didn't provide a format string, Rex will assign all of the characters up the first space to one character array and all of the rest of the characters to a second character array and call your function with two *char \** arguments. In this case, it is up to your function to parse the arguments.*Note: items that you have changed but are not yet set will have white lettering on a red background. You must type a tab or a carriage return (Enter), or move the mouse cursor out of the dialog for the value or values to be set and the function called. When the value becomes set, the item will revert to black lettering on a white background.*

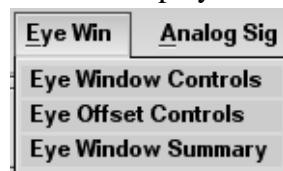
**Real-time Variables.** Selecting the *Real-time Variables* item from *User Menus* will display a dialog that lists the variables in your *rtvars* array. These variables must be globals, and they must be of type *int*.



The fields in *Real-time Variables* dialog are not editable. They are for display only. The dialog updates the values of the variables every second as long as the dialog is open. The *Time* field show the number of minutes and seconds that the Rex clock has been running since the dialog was opened. The *Reset* button will set the *Time* values and the values of all of the variables to 0.

## Eye Win

Clicking on the *Eye Win* menu button will display a menu with the following items:

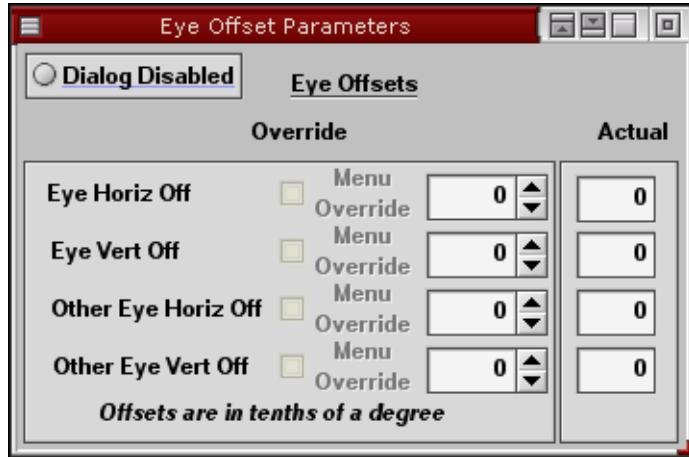


**Eye Window Controls.** Selecting the *Eye Window Controls* item from the *Eye Win* menu will display a dialog that allows you to change the parameters of the electronic windows that Rex uses to monitor eye position. The frequency with which Rex compares a signal to the eye window is governed by the *Eye Win Check Rate*. The fields in the *Actual* panel show the current state of the window. To override values, select the window you want to modify from the list at the left. Enable the dialog for that window by clicking the *Dialog* button so that the indicator turns green and the text reads “Dialog Enabled”. If neither the *On* or *Off* toggles in the *Window* panel are set, then the window is under control of the spot file. Clicking the *On* toggle will force Rex to compare signals with the window. Clicking the *Off* toggle will prevent Rex from comparing signals with the window. To override position, size or source numbers, enter the values you want in the numerical fields, then click the blue *Menu Override* buttons. The buttons will display a yellow check mark when the override is in effect. If none of the *Position* or *Check* toggles are selected, these parameters are controlled by your spot file. To override the spot file click the appropriate button. To disable the override, unselect the button. When you disable an override, control of that parameter is returned to your spot file, but the parameter itself will not change until you call the appropriate action.



**Eye Offset Controls.** When monitoring the positions of both of a subject’s eyes, it is often the case that the two eyes do not seem to be looking at the same point, even when the subject is fixating a small point. This offset may be an artifact introduced by the eye monitoring system rather than a true reflection of the subject’s direction of gaze. To overcome this artifact, Rex allows an offset to be applied to either eye

signal. Selecting the *Eye Offset Controls* item from the *Eye Win* menu will display a dialog that allows you to change the offset parameters.



**Eye Window Summary.** Selecting the *Eye Window Summary* item from the *Eye Win* menu will display a summary of the parameters of all of the eye windows you have defined.

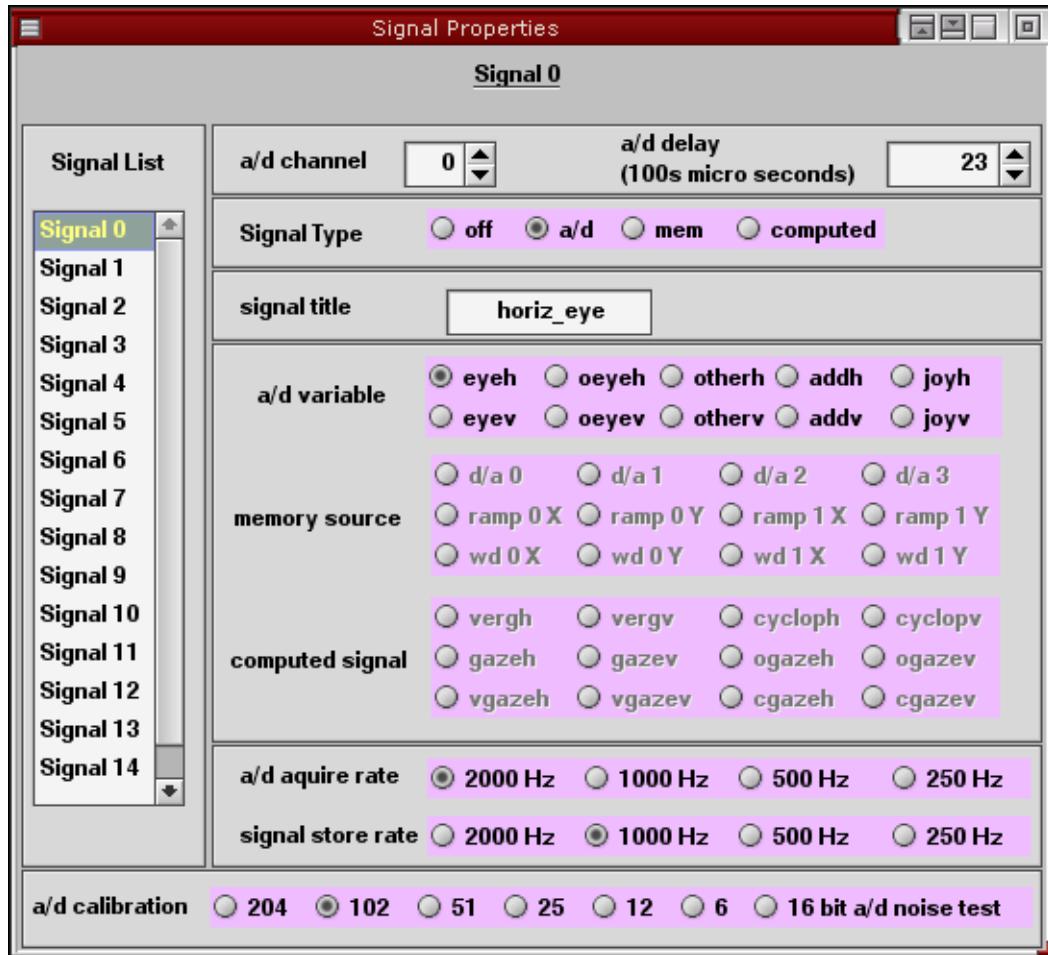
Win	XPos	YPos	Width	Height	XPosNam	XPos#	YPosNam	YPos#	XChkNam	XChk#	YChkNam	YChk#
0	0	0	400	400	d/a	0	d/a	1	signal	0	signal	1
1	0	0	200	200	d/a	2	d/a	3	signal	2	signal	3

## Analog Sig

Clicking on the *Analog Sig* menu button will display a menu with the following items:

- Analog Signal Controls
- Analog Signal Summary

**Analog Signal Controls.** Selecting the *Analog Signal Controls* item from the *Analog Sig* menu will display a dialog that allows you to control the parameters of the analog signals saved by Rex. Select the



signal you want to modify from the *Signal List* at the left. Rex can store either the input from the A/D converters, a memory location, or a computed signal as an analog signal. Set the signal type by clicking on either the *a/d* or *mem* buttons in the *Signal Type* panel. Selecting the *off* button will disable that signal. The dialog will disable or enable the *a/d variable* set of buttons or the *memory source* set of buttons depending on which of the *Signal Type* buttons you select. For A/D signals, the dialog provides options for setting the *a/d channel*, the *a/d delay* and the *a/d acquire rate*. If you have a low frequency signal, you can reduce the size of the analog files in your experiments by selecting one of the lower *signal store rates*.

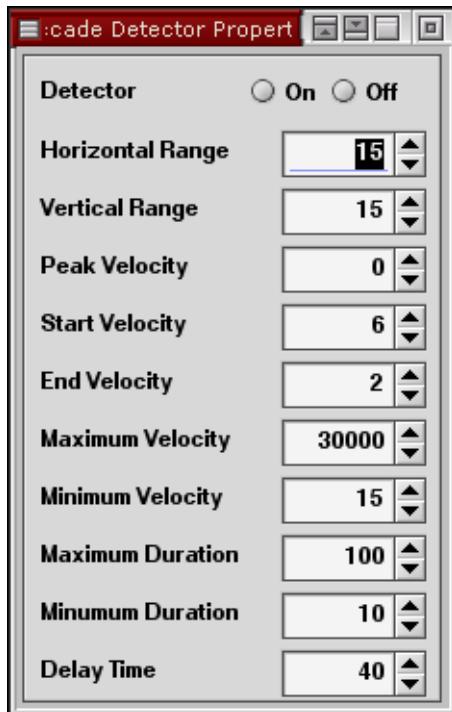
Beginning with Version 7.4, Rex can compute several types of analog signals. Vergence signals (vergh, vergv), are computed by subtracting the oeye signals (oeyeh, oeyev) from the eye signals (eyeh, eyev). Cyclopean (version) signals (cycloph, cyclopv) are computed by summing the eye and oeye signals and dividing by 2. The gaze signals (gazeh, gazev) are computed by the other signals (otherh, otherv) from the eye signals. The ogaze signals (ogazeh, ogazev) are computed by subtracting the other signals from the oeye signals. The vergence gaze signals (vgazeh, vgazev) are computed by subtracting the ogaze signals from the gaze signals. The cyclopean gaze signals (cgazeh, cgasev) are computed by summing the gaze and ogaze signals and dividing by 2. For computed signals, the a/d acquire rate and the signal store rate are taken from the source signals.

**Analog Signal Summary.** Selecting the *Analog Signal Summary* item from the *Analog Sig* menu will display a summary of all of the signals that are on.

Sig	Type	Channel	A Rate	S Rate	Cal	Gain	Delay	Name	Title
0	a/d	0	2000	1000	102	23	eyeh	horiz_eye	
1	a/d	1	2000	1000	102	23	eyev	vert_eye	
2	a/d	2	2000	1000	102	23	oeyeh	other_eyeh	
3	a/d	3	2000	1000	102	23	oeyev	other_eyev	
4	a/d	4	2000	1000	102	23	addh	add_h	
5	a/d	5	2000	1000	102	23	addv	add_v	
6	a/d	6	2000	250	102	23	iouh	horiz_iou	

## Sac Detect

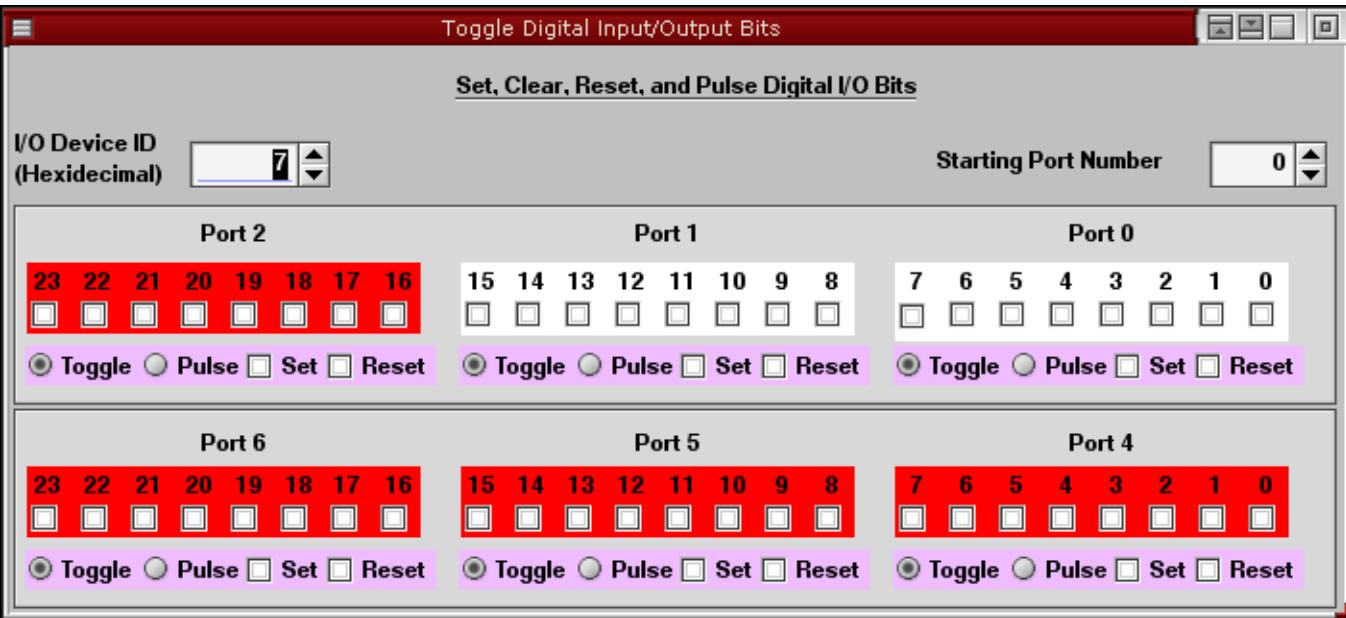
Clicking on the *Sac Detect* menu button will display a dialog that allows you to set up the parameters for Rex's saccade detector. If neither the *On* or *Off* buttons are selected, then the saccade



detector is under the control of your spot file.

## Bits

Clicking on the *Bits* menu button will display a dialog that allows you to set or clear various bits in the digital I/O. In this dialog the panels correspond to the Grayhill output panels. Numbered toggles



represent the individual bits in a port. Sets of toggles with white backgrounds represent bits in ports configured for input. Sets of toggles with red backgrounds represent bits in ports configured for output. The sets of toggles below each port labeled *Toggle*, *Pulse*, *Set*, and *Reset* configure the different modes of the dialog. The dialog only displays panels corresponding to two Grayhill panels. If you have more than two Grayhill panels, you can display panels corresponding to those higher ports by incrementing the *Starting Port Number* value.

The actual value sent to each port is determined by the mode toggles. If the *Toggle* mode is selected, an output bit will be set as soon as the corresponding toggle is set and will remain set for as long as the toggle remains set. If the *Pulse* mode is selected, only one output bit can be set at a time. The bit's toggle will be set only as long as you press the left mouse button. Releasing the mouse button unsets the toggle and unsets the output bit. If you unset all of the mode toggles, then the port is in *Set* mode. You can set or unset any of the bit toggles, but nothing will be sent to the output port until you click on the *Set* mode toggle. The bits in the output port will remain set until you click on the *Reset* mode toggle.

## Control Panel.

Below the menu bar in the int process tool bar is a panel containing 5 buttons.



**Clock.** The *Clock* button starts and stops Rex's millisecond clock. To start or stop the clock, click on the button. When the clock is running, the indicator is green and the button label reads "Clock On". When the clock is stopped, the indicator is red and the label reads "Clock Off". This button implements the *begin clock* and *end clock* commands.

*Paradigm.* The *Paradigm* button sets the value of the *softswitch* variable. When *softswitch* is on, the indicator is green and the label reads “Paradigm Running”. When *softswitch* is off, the indicator is red and the label reads “Paradigm Stopped”. This button implements the *ps so* command. To make your paradigm use this information you need to have escapes such as “**to state on +PSTOP & softswitch**” and “**to state on -PSTOP & softswitch**” instead of “**to state on +PSTOP & drinput**”.

*Reset States.* The *Reset States* button implements the “r s” or reset states command. When you click on the button, the indicator turns green and a “reset states” command is issued. The indicator turns red as soon as you release the mouse button.

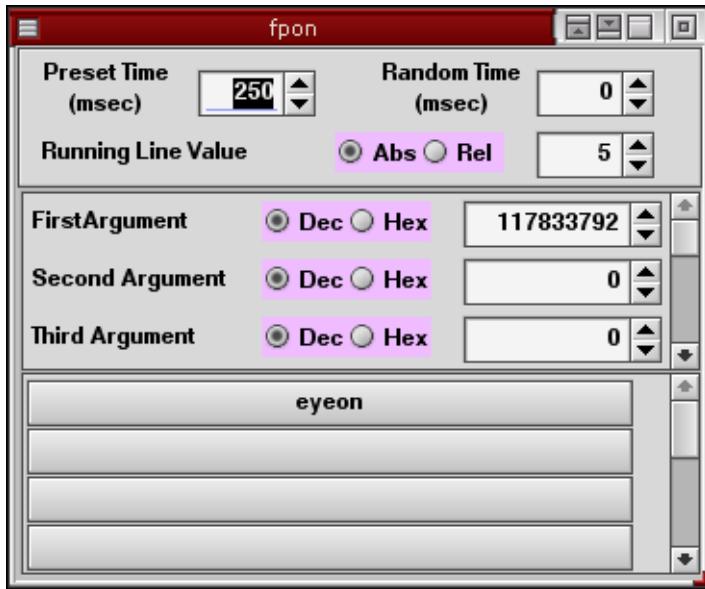
*Windows.* The *Windows* button controls whether or not Rex checks analog signals against the electronic eye windows. When Rex is checking signals, the indicator is green and the label reads “Checking Windows”. In this state, Rex will set or clear bits in the *eyeflag* variable depending on whether a given signal is inside or outside of the electronic window. To force Rex to ignore the windows, click on the button. The indicator will turn red and the label will read “Ignoring Windows”. In this state Rex will report that all signals are always inside their windows.

**Debug.** Older versions of Rex provided a mechanism for debugging spot files. If you set the



`debug_states` variable in the `control_param` menu to 1, as the state processor entered each state, it would print the name of the state. With Rex 7.0, this debugging information is provided in a dialog. Click on the Debug button to display the dialog. When debugging is enabled, the button's indicator turns green and label reads "Debug On". When debugging is disabled, the button's indicator turns red and the label reads "Debug Off". The dialog contains a button for each state. The state button are grouped together by chains. If the name of the state is preceded by a "T", the state's `time` variable is non-zero. As the state processor enters each state, it toggles the color of state's button between yellow and blue. It also prints the time that it entered the state in the button. If you toggle the `Reset States` button, the color of all

buttons is set to blue. You can freeze the dialog by toggling the *Debug* button to off. This makes it very easy to see which states your paradigm enters and when. It also makes it easy to see where your paradigm gets stuck. If you click on a state button, Rex will display a dialog, similar to the *States Menu* that allows you to modify parameters of the state.



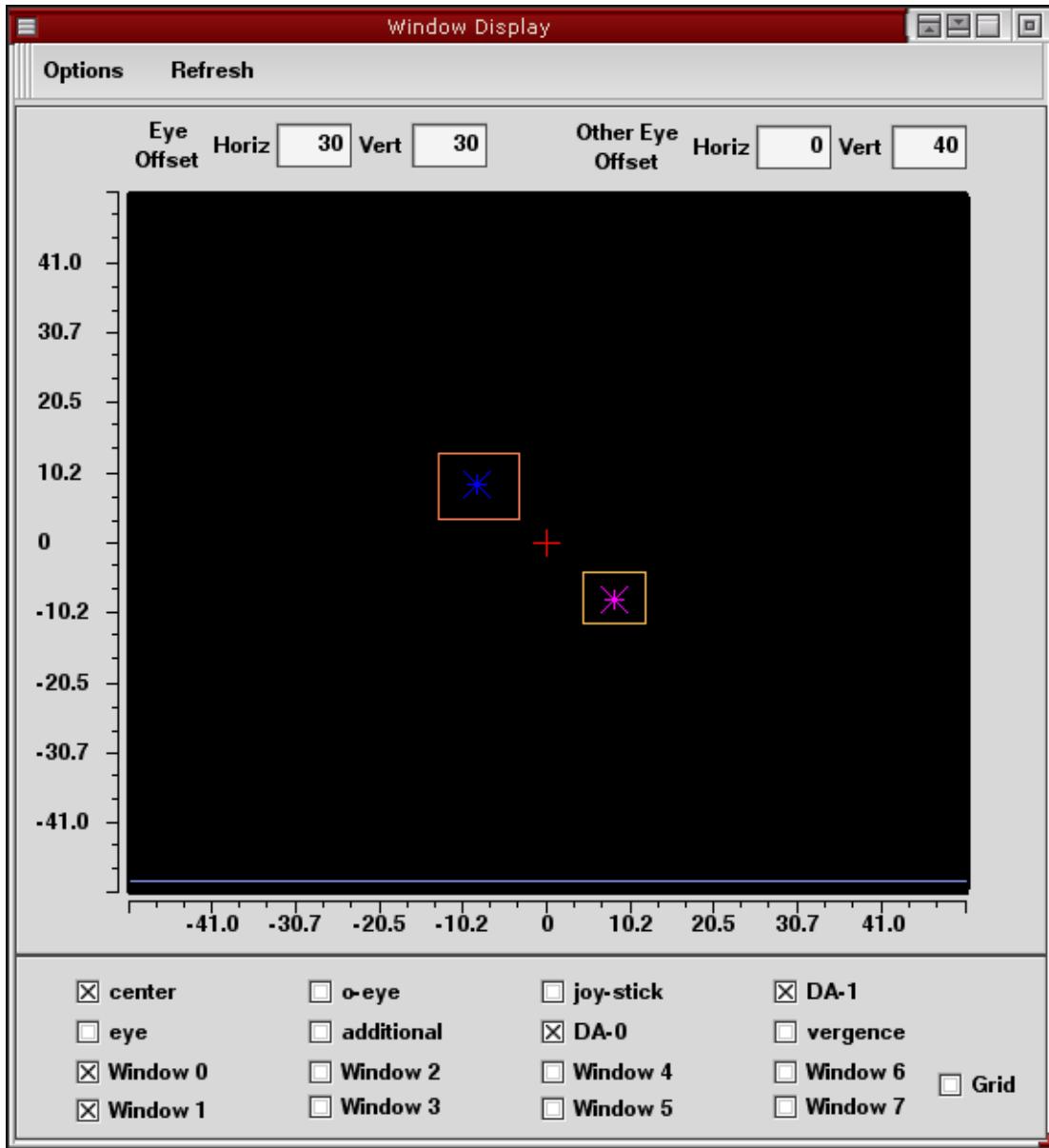
## Data Displays

Rex provides four types of data display. The *Window* display shows cursors representing six analog signals and eight eye window positions in X-Y coordinates. The *Running Line* display shows eight channels of analog signals, unit activity, and *running line* level over time. The *Raster* display shows rasters and spike density functions of unit activity. The *Xcorr* display shows the cross correlation of one unit with another or the auto correlation of a unit with itself.

### Window Display

You launch the window display by selecting the *Window Display* item from the *Displays* menu in the *Process Switching* tool bar. In this display, eye offsets are displayed in the numerical fields at the top of the display panel. The scales at the left and bottom of the display show the spatial extent of the display in degrees. The horizontal and vertical extents are always the same, so if you resize the display to a rectangular shape, square eye windows will appear rectangular. The toggle buttons in the bottom

panel control which signals are displayed. The color of the toggle when set corresponds to the color of its cursor in the display.



*Window display options.* Clicking the *Options* button in the menu bar will display a menu with the



following items. Beginning with version 7.5, you can control GLvex 7.0 through the eye window display. Clicking on the Connect Vex item will bring up a dialog in which you enter the name of the

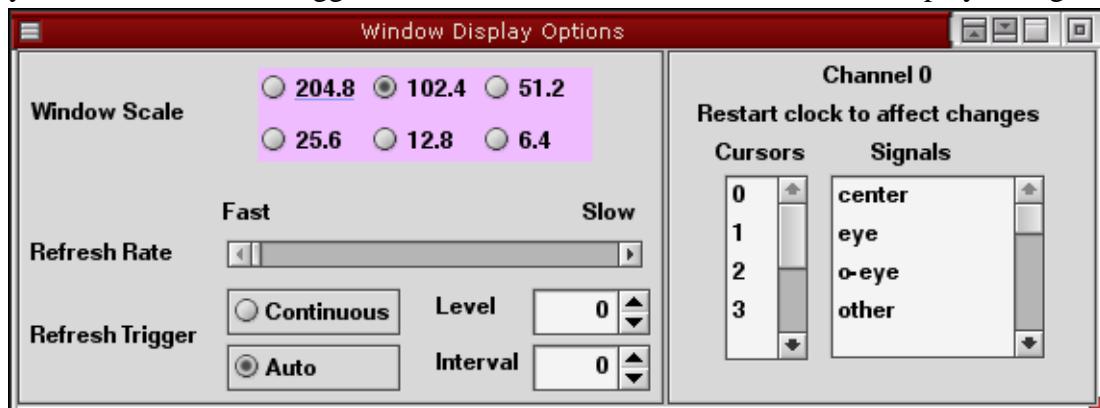
Vex machine. Once you have connected to vex the eye window display will have a blue text line at the



bottom. You can enter GLvex keyboard commands whenever the mouse cursor is inside the eye window display area. Entering incomplete commands causes a help message to be printed in the eye window display area. You can position and flash GLvex stimuli when the mouse cursor is inside the eye window display area. The scales on the bottom and left of the eye window display area indicate the position of the GLvex stimuli. You can also display a grid that allows more accurate placement of the GLvex stimuli.

Beginning with Rex 7.9 and GLvex 7.4, you can get Vex debugging information printed out on the Rex machine. GLvex has a debugging mode that echos commands received from Rex. To go into debugging mode, enter the keyboard command "D 1". To exit debugging mode, enter the keyboard command "D 0". If you enter these commands on the GLvex machine, the debugging information will be printed in the console on the GLvex machine. If you enter these commands in the eye window, the debugging information will be printed in a dialog on the Rex machine. (See the chapter on GLvex).

Clicking on the Options item will bring up a dialog that allows you to set various parameters of the display. The *Window Scale* toggle buttons control the overall extent of the display in degrees. Higher



numbers represent lower gain. The *Refresh Rate* slider controls how often the display is refreshed when the *Refresh Trigger* is continuous. At the fastest refresh rate, the display is erased prior to every draw (16 milliseconds). At slower refresh rates, a number of draws occur before the display is refreshed. This causes moving cursors to leave trails.

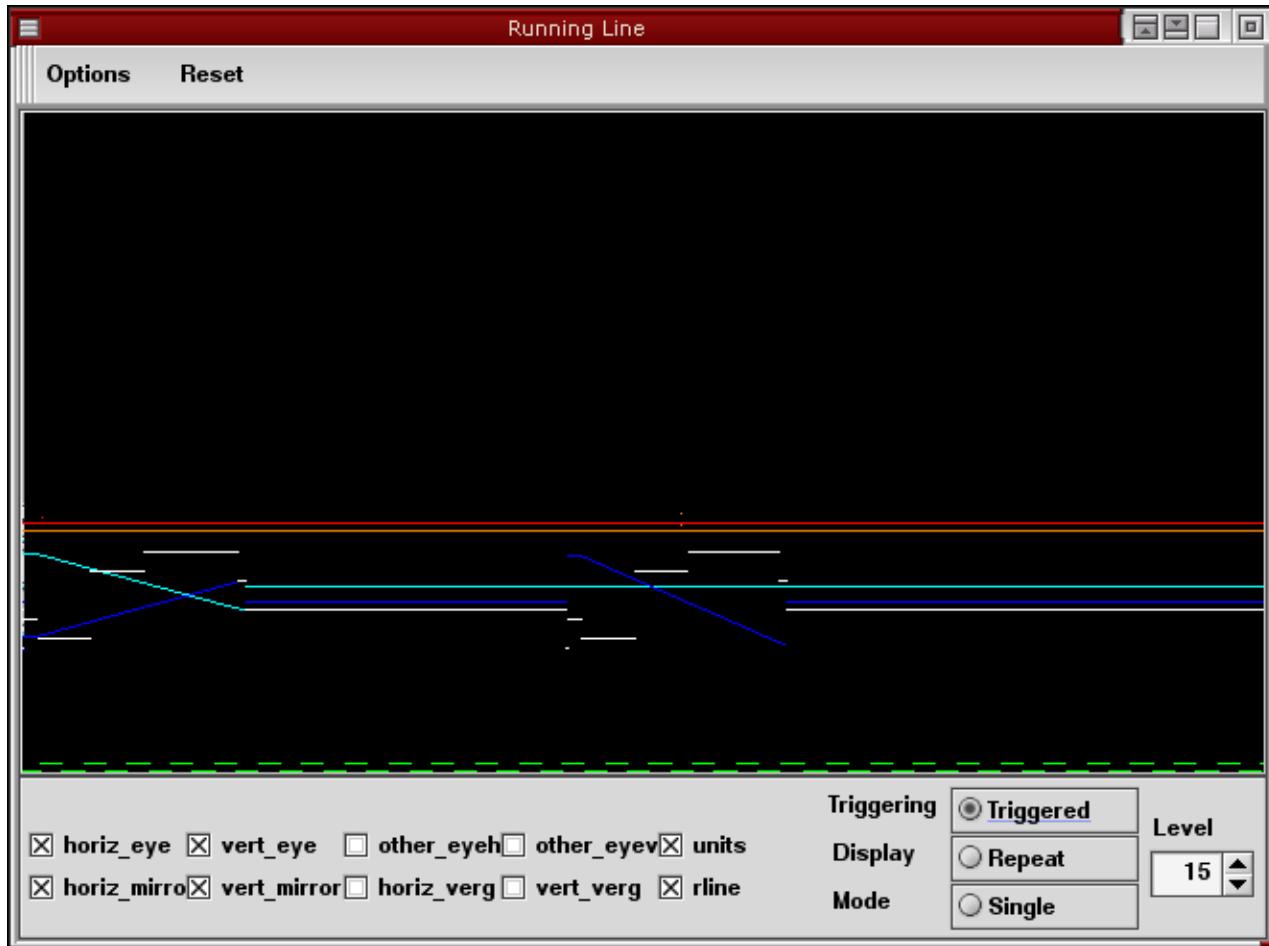
The display can be put in triggered mode by clicking on the *Refresh Trigger* toggle. In this mode, the indicator is green and the label reads "Triggered". You set the trigger level with the *Level* numerical field. In triggered mode, data are drawn only when the running line level in the paradigm equals the level you set in the *Level* field. When the display is refreshed is governed by the states of the *Auto* toggle and *Interval* field. In auto refresh mode, the toggle indicator is green and the label reads "Auto". In manual refresh mode, the toggle indicator is red and the label reads "Manual". If the display is in auto refresh mode and the *Interval* is 0, then the display will be refreshed just prior to each trigger. If the *Interval* is greater than 0, then the display will draw over several triggers before refreshing. If the refresh

mod is manual, then the display will be refreshed when ever you press the *Refresh* button on the menu bar.

**Storage mode example.** Lets suppose you would like to see the track of a subject's saccade. In the state in your spot file that you give the prompt to make the saccade, set the running line level to a unique value, say 50. Then, in the state that your paradigm reaches when the subject completes the saccade, change the running line level to something else, say 49. In the *Window Display Options* dialog, set the *Refresh Trigger* toggle to Triggered mode and set the *Level* to 50. Now the display will draw data only during the saccade and without refreshing, so that the display will show the entire track of the saccade. If the refresh mode is *Auto* and the *Interval* is 0, then the display will be refreshed prior to each saccade. If the *Interval* is 5, then the display will draw 5 saccades before being refreshed, so you will see the tracks of 5 saccades. If the refresh mode is *Manual*, the display will keep drawing saccades, one on top of the next until you click the *Refresh* button in the menu bar.

## Running Line Display

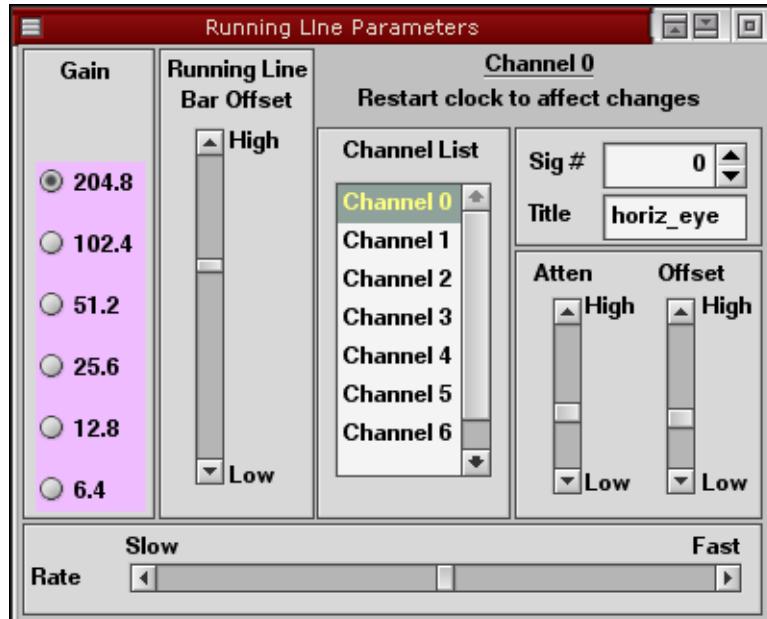
You launch the running line display by selecting the *Running Line* item from the *Displays* menu in the *Process Switching* tool bar. The toggle buttons in the bottom panel control which channels are displayed. The title of the toggle shows the signal carried in that channel. The *rline* toggle determines



whether the *running line* level is displayed. The *units* toggle determines whether unit activity is displayed. The green square wave trace at the bottom of the display is a timing marker with a period of 12 video frames. If the video display rate is 60 Hz, the period of the timing marker is 192 msec. The

width of the display and the display rate determine the length of the epoch of data displayed. If you increase the width of the window or reduce the display rate, you will see a longer period of data. The *Running Line* display can operate in either *continuous* or *triggered* modes. By default, the display is in continuous mode. To put the display in *triggered mode*, click on the Triggering button. Its label will change to "Triggered". In triggered mode, the display sweep will start when the running line level reaches the trigger level and continue to the end of the display. Set the trigger level in the *Level* numerical field. The trigger is a level trigger, not an edge trigger. In triggered mode, the display has *repeat* and *one shot* modes. Be default, the display in repeat mode. In this mode, a new sweep will start after the previous sweep completes each time the running line level reaches the trigger level. To put the display in *one shot mode*, click on the Display. Its label will change to "One Shot". In triggered, one shot mode, the display sweep will start when the running line level reaches the trigger level and continue to the end of the display and then stop. To enable another sweep, click on the *Reset* button in the menu bar. When the display is in continuous mode, the *Repeat/One Shot* button has no effect. Beginning with Rex 7.6, the running line display can display single traces or can overlay traces. When the label of the Mode button is "Single", the display erases previous data as it draws new data. Clicking on the Mode button, changes its label to "Superimpose". In this mode, the display will superimpose new data over old data, like a storage oscilloscope. The display will superimpose traces in both triggered and continuous running modes.

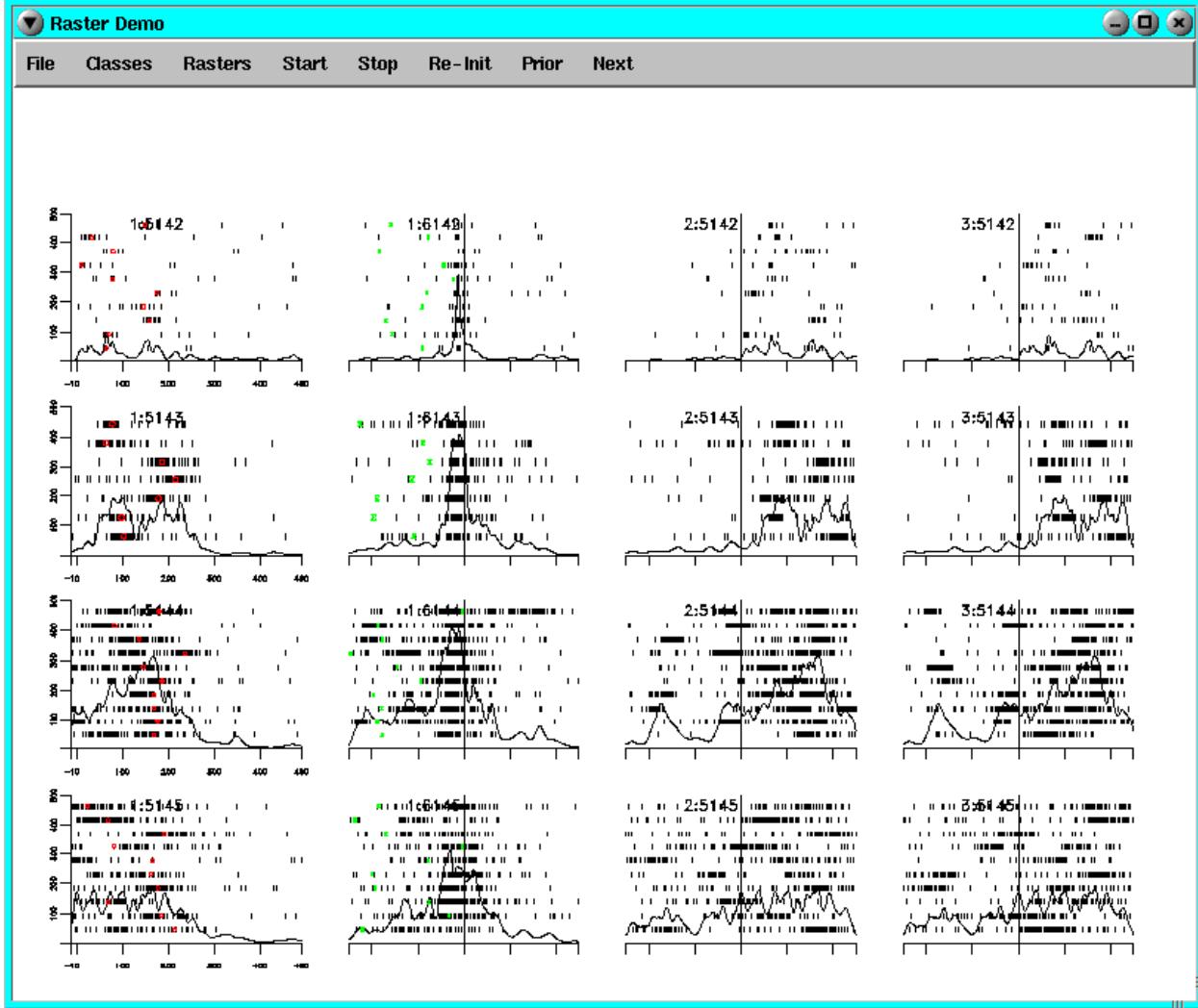
**Running line display options.** Clicking the *Options* button in the menu bar will display a dialog that allows you to set various parameters of the display. The *Gain* toggle buttons set the overall vertical scale



of the display in degrees. Higher numbers represent lower gain. The *rate* slider sets the time base of the display. The *Running Line Bar Offset* slider sets the base location of the running line trace in the display. To set the parameters of the eight analog channels, select a channel from the *Channel List*. The signal number is shown in the *Sig #* numerical field. You can set this to any of the signals you have defined. The *Title* field displays the signal's title. This is not an editable field. You can reduce the gain of the signal with the *Atten* slider. High attenuation represents low gain. The *Offset* slider sets the base location of the channel's signal.

## Raster Display

You launch the raster display by selecting the *Raster Display* item from the *Displays* menu in the *Process Switching* tool bar. The raster display can show up to 64 plots per page. The number of pages is

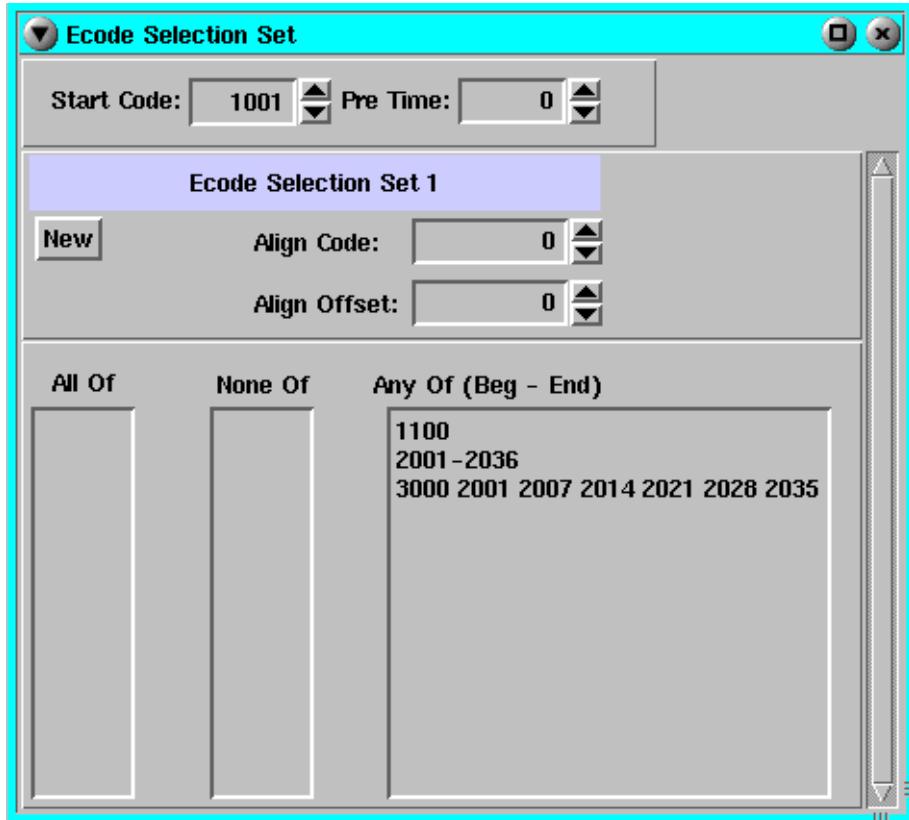


limited only by your RAM and virtual memory. The plots can show combined rasters and spike density functions (shown) or rasters or spike density functions alone. Each plot can show the data from up to 10 neurons. The plot can also show the time of occurrence of one other event in the trial (the red and green marks in the plots on the left above).

**Configuration.** To use the raster display you must first tell Rex how you want to organize your data and how you want to lay out each raster page.

**Data organization.** To tell Rex how to organize your data, click on the *Classes* button in the menu bar and select the *Build Select Specs* item from the menu. here. This brings up the *Ecode Selection Set*

dialog. The top panel contains two numerical fields for entering the *start code* and the *pre time*. The



default value for the *start code* is 1001. You don't need to change this unless you use a different trial start code. Enter the amount of analog pre time that you use in the *pre time* numerical field.

There are three text fields in the bottom panel labeled *All Of*, *None Of*, and *Any Of (Beg - End)*. The *All Of* column is for listing the ecodes that each trial must contain to be accepted for plotting in the raster display. Enter each of these “correct” ecodes, followed by a <return>. You can enter as many ecodes as you want. Remember to end each entry with a carriage return. If you want to delete an entry, you must remember to use a <return> after deleting the entry.

An alternative to making a list of ecodes that each trial must contain is to make a list of ecodes that each trial must not contain to be accepted for plotting. You list these “error” ecodes in the *None Of* column. As with the *All Of* column press <return> after entering each ecode. It is not necessary to use both the *All of* and the *None Of* lists. In fact it is not necessary to use either the *All Of* or the *None Of* columns. If you leave both of these columns blank, Rex will plot all of the trials in your data file looking for *Any Of* ecodes.

The *Any Of* ecodes tell Rex how to organize your data for plotting. Rex searches each trial that passes the *All Of* or *None Of* tests for the ecodes in the *Any Of* list. Rex will group all trials that contain the same *Any Of* ecode will together. If a trial contains several *Any Of* ecodes, Rex will place it into multiple groups.

You can plot your data by individual stimulus conditions, or you can create super sets of conditions. To specify individual stimulus conditions, enter a single ecode or a range of ecodes on a line in the *Any Of* list. You specify ecode ranges by listing the first and last ecodes of the range on the line separated by a dash. For example, the second line in the illustration above causes Rex to create a class for each ecode from 2001 to 2036, inclusively. To specify a super set of conditions, enter a number to identify the super set, followed by a list of the ecodes you want included in the set. For example, the

third line in the illustration above, causes Rex to create the super set 3000, consisting of trials containing the ecodes 2001, 2007, 2014 2021, 2028, and 2035. Rex will align the data from the 6 types of trials on the time of the ecode in the list, or on the time of the *Align Code* (see below).

**NOTE WELL:** *The super set code (3000) must be a number that you do not use as an ecode in your spot file. Further, each of the ecodes in the list must occur only once in the trial. If the super set code is an ecode that you use to identify a stimulus condition, then you will not be able to plot that condition by itself. Also, trials that include the super set code as an ecode may not be aligned properly in the data plot. If a trial contains more than one of the ecodes in the list, it will be included more than once in the plot, each time with a different alignment.*

To compare data from different trials, you must align the data on events in the trials. Rex can use three methods to align data. The default method is to align the data using the time of the *Any Of* ecodes in the trials. If you want to align data on an ecode that is not in the *Any Of* list, enter the ecode on the *Align Code* line in the middle panel of the ecode selection window. Each trial in the set must contain this ecode. If a trial doesn't contain the *align code*, the data from that trial will be aligned on the time of the *Any Of* ecode. If you want to align the data at a given time before or after an alignment ecode or analog record mark, enter the time in milliseconds on the *Align Offset* line. If you enter a negative number, Rex will align the data the specified number of milliseconds before the alignment mark. If you enter a positive number, Rex will align the data the specified number of milliseconds after the alignment mark.

You can define multiple ecode selection sets. To define a new set, click on the *New* button in the middle panel of the dialog. The label will change to reflect the new selection set number and the scroll bar at the right will shorten, reflecting the addition of a selection set. You can use the scroll bar to view your selection sets.

When you create a new selection set, all of the parameters of the previous set are copied to the new set so you don't have to enter everything. For example, you might have one set of *Any Of* codes to group your data, but you might want to align it in several different ways. Define the first set of selection criteria, click *New*, then just change the *Align Code* in second set. Or you might want to view the data from correct and incorrect trials separately. Define the first set of selection criteria and use a reward code in the *All Of* list, click *New*, then delete the reward code from the *All Of* list and enter it in the *None Of* list.

Rex will use two parameters to group your data, the number of the selection set and the ecodes in the *Any Of* list.

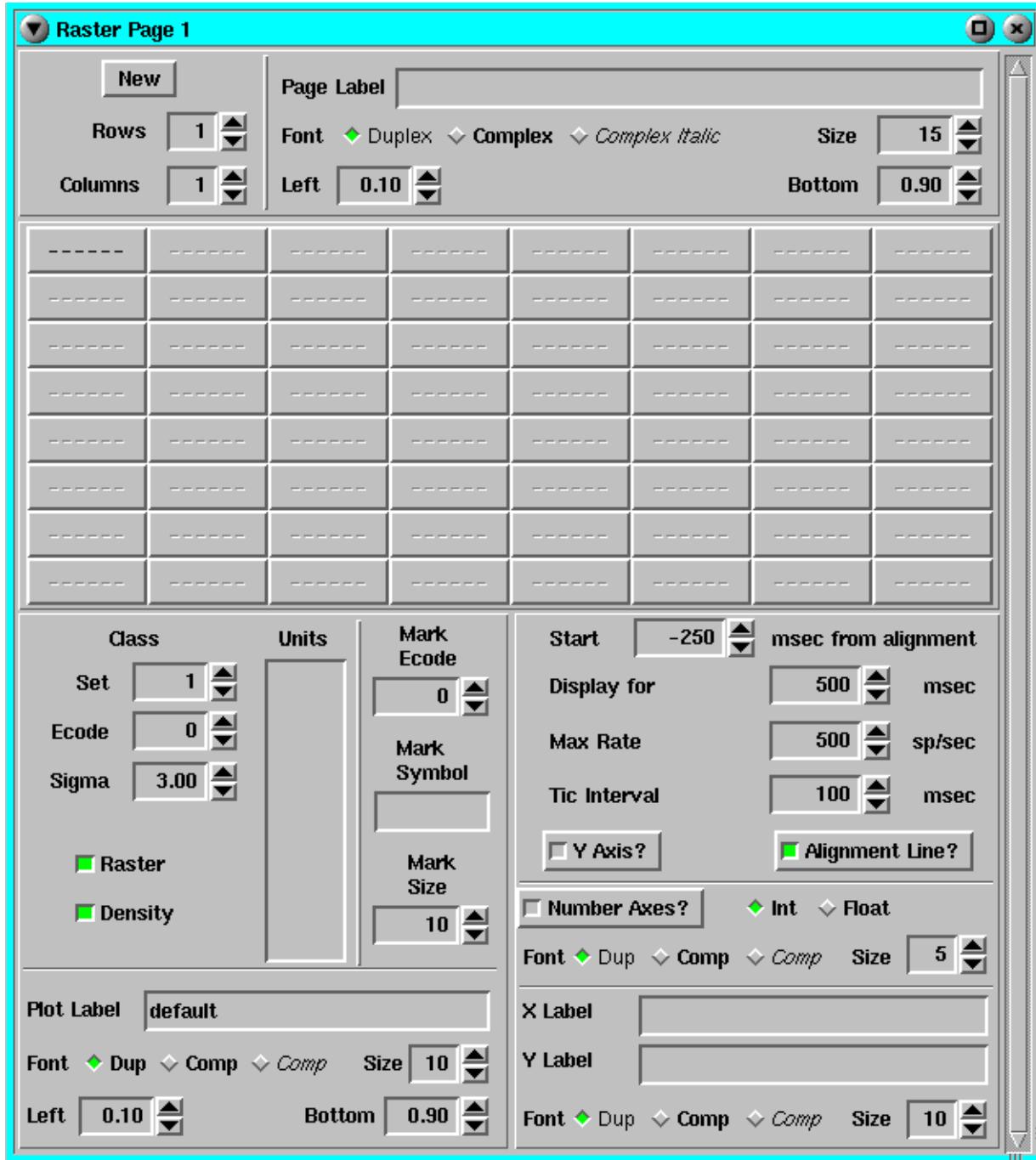
**Page Layout.** To define how Rex is to lay out the raster plots, click on the *Rasters* button in the menu bar and select the *Build Raster Specs* item. This dialog is divided into thirds. The top part of the dialog contains fields to define page-wide parameters of your plots. The middle part of the dialog contains a set of buttons that allow you to select individual plots. The bottom of the dialog contains fields to enter the parameters for individual plots.

To set up your raster specification, first, decide how many rows and columns of plots you want per page and enter these values in the *Rows* and *Columns* numerical fields. The appropriate number of buttons in the button panel will become active. Enter the text of a page label if you like. Below the label text field is a set of buttons that allow you to select the font for the label. The choices correspond to normal, bold, and italic. You specify the size of the label in the *Size* numerical field. The size is in hundredths of an inch. The *Left* and *Bottom* fields allow to specify the position of the page title on the page. These values are in fractions of a page. Specifying a Left position of 0.10 causes the page title to begin one tenth of the page width from the left edge. Specifying a Bottom position of 0.90 causes the page title to begin one tenths of the page height up from the bottom edge.

To specify a plot, click on the appropriate cell in the cell panel. The button will turn yellow and the current selection set and ecode will be displayed. You specify the data to be plotted using widgets in the bottom left panel of the dialog. You specify the scaling of the data using the widgets in the bottom right panel of the dialog.

Enter the selection set number and the ecode of the data for this plot in the *Set* and *Ecode* numerical fields. Use the *Sigma* numerical field to specify the width of the Gaussian kernel used to build spike density functions. The larger the value for *Sigma*, the smoother the spike density function. If you enter a negative value for *Sigma*, Rex will use an adaptive kernel in building spike density functions. By default, Rex plots both spike rasters and spike density functions in each plot. To disable either type of plot, deselect the *Raster* or *Density* toggle button. You can display up to 10 units per plot. Rex draws each unit in a different color. List the units you want to display in the *Units* text field. After each unit's number, enter a *<return>*. You can display the time of occurrence of one other ecode in each plot. For example, a plot might contain data aligned on the time of occurrence of a saccade target. You can display the time of occurrence of the saccade by having your paradigm drop and ecode when the saccade

starts and entering that ecode in the *Mark Ecode* numerical field. Enter the symbol you want Rex to use



in plotting this ecode in the *Mark Symbol* field. The default symbol is an *hourglass*. Other symbols are *circle*, *diamond*, *square*, or any alpha-numeric symbol. Set the size of the symbol in the *Mark Size* field. The size is in hundredths of an inch. If you enter a mark size of 0, Rex will automatically size the symbols to match the number of raster lines in the plot.

At the bottom of the input panel you can define a label for the plot. If you enter “default” for the *Plot Label*, Rex will use the values of *Set* and *Ecode* to build a plot label. For example if the *Set* is 1 and the *Ecode* is 2000, the default plot label would be “1:2000”. Choose the font type by clicking on one of

the three *Font* buttons. The size of the font is in hundredths of an inch. Set the position of the label using the *Left* and *Bottom* fields. These values are fractions of the plot width and height.

To set the scaling factors for the plot, first enter a *Start* value. This is the time in milliseconds from the alignment code that you want to start plotting data. Enter the duration in milliseconds of the plot in the *Display for* field. You set the vertical scaling of the plot using the *Max Rate* field. This value is in spikes per second. The *Tic Interval* field allows you to set the distance between tick marks on the X axis. If you want a Y axis, click on the *Y Axis?* button. If you want an alignment line, click on the *Alignment Line?* button. The differences between the Y axis and the alignment line are that the Y axis is always drawn at the left edge of the plot whereas the alignment line is drawn where ever time is 0, and the Y axis has tick marks, numbering, and a label whereas the alignment line is just a vertical line. If you want Rex to number the axes, click on the *Number Axes?* button. Choose the format of the numbers selecting either the *Int* or *Float* toggle buttons. Choose the font of the numbers from the *Font* group toggle buttons and enter the size of the numbers in the *Size* field. If you want labels on the X or Y axes, enter the text in the *X Label* and *Y Label* fields. Set the font of the labels by selecting one of the *Font* group toggles. Set the size of the labels in the *Size* field.

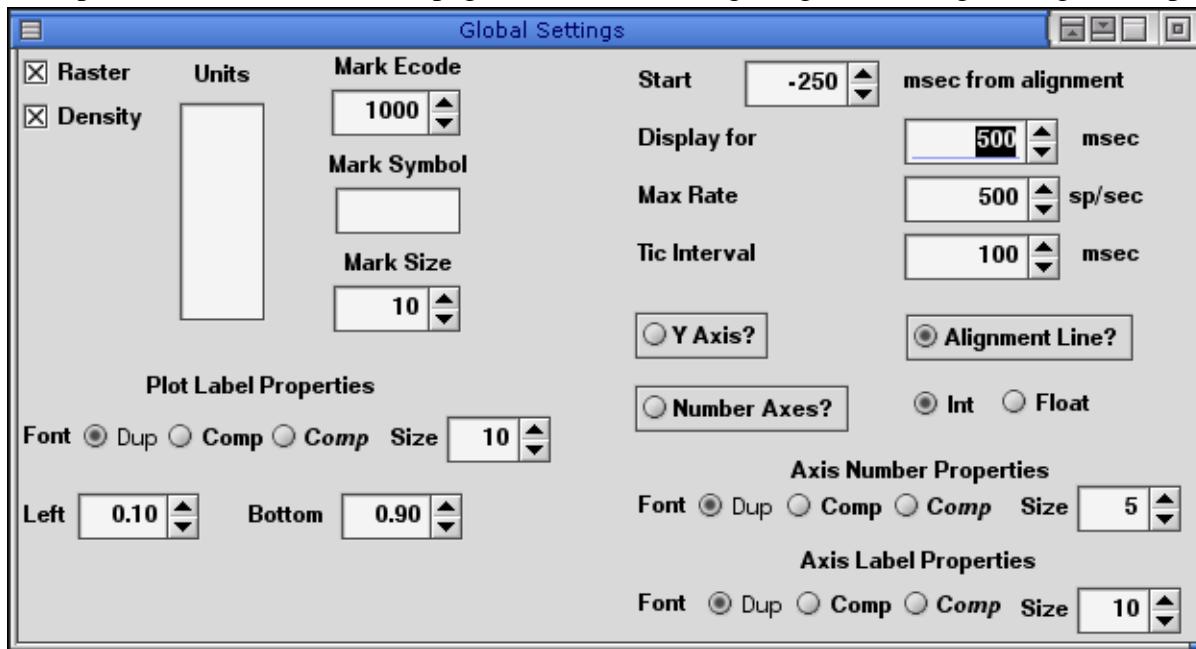
When you select successive plots, the parameters of the previous plot are copied to the new plot. Therefore you don't have to set all of the parameters for each plot. You just have to change the parameters that differ.

If you want another page of plots, click on the *New* button at the top of the dialog. The dialog title will change to reflect the page number and the scroll bar at the right will get shorter. When you define a new page, all of the parameters from the previous page are copied to the new page. Therefore all you have to do is click each cell button and change just the parameters that are different for this page. You can review each page using the scroll bar.

After you have defined the data organization and page layouts, you can save the parameters in a root file. Click on the *File* button in the menu bar and select the *Write Root* item from the menu. This will bring up a file browser dialog that displays the contents of the root directory and provides a field to enter the root file name. To use a previously defined raster display, read in a raster root file by selecting the *Read Root* item from the *File* menu.

**Global Variables.** There are instances when you may want to change the values of a plotting parameter in all of the raster cells. Instead of clicking on each button and setting the parameter for each cell, you

can set the parameter in all cells on all pages of the raster using the global settings dialog. To display the



global settings dialog, select the *Global Settings* item from the *Rasters* menu in the raster display menu bar. See the page layout section above for a description of what the items in the dialog control. If you change a parameter in this dialog, it affect all of the cells in all of the pages of your raster display. If you have multiple raster displays open, this dialog affects only the display from which it was launched. If you save a raster root file after making global changes, the changes will be saved.

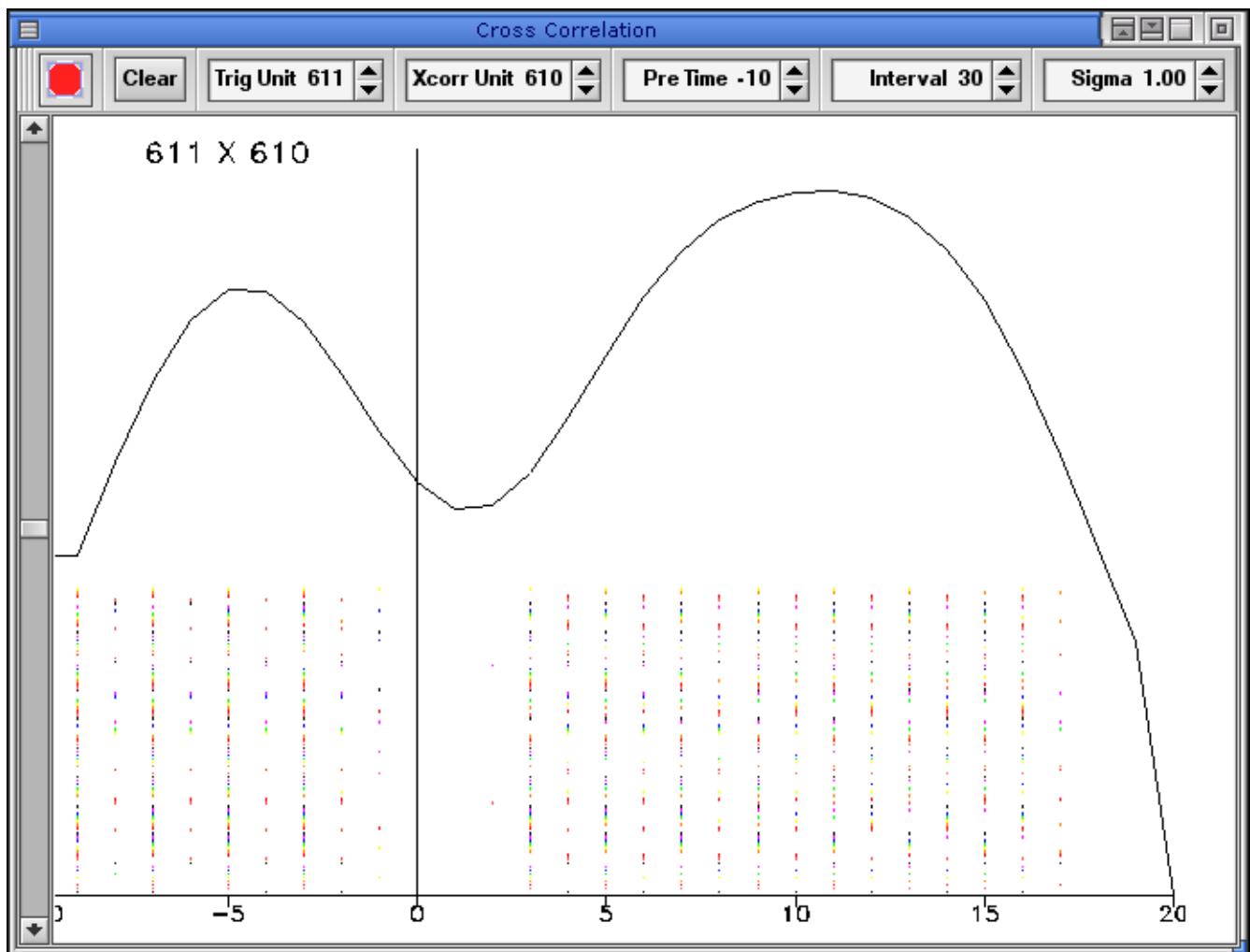
**Displaying Rasters.** To display raster data, start the Rex clock by clicking the *Clock* button in the int process tool bar and start the paradigm switching the PSTOP switch or clicking on the *Paradigm* button in the tool bar. Next click the *Start* button in the raster display menu bar. The raster display will collect data for two trials and then begin plotting rasters. If you defined multiple pages of rasters you can display the different pages by clicking the *Prior* and *Next* buttons in the raster display menu bar. To pause the raster display, click the *Stop* button in the menu bar. The display will ignore all data until you click the *Start* button again. If you click the *Re-Init* button in the menu bar, the display will stop and erase all of the current data. When you click *Start*, the display will begin displaying new rasters.

**Saving Rasters.** If you want to save a set of rasters, click the *Stop* button to stop the display, then select the *Save Rasters* item from the *File* menu. This will bring up a file browser dialog that lets you enter the name of the raster file. Rex will save the current page as a tig file. If you have multiple pages of rasters, you need to click the *Prior* and *Next* buttons to display each page, select a file name for that page, then

save the file. The tig files can be printed on a postscript printer or can be converted to postscript by the ptig program.

### Xcorr Display

You launch the auto/cross correlation display by selecting the *Xcorr Display* item from the *Displays* menu in the *Process Switching* tool bar. Set the ecode of the triggering unit in the Trig Unit



box. Set the ecode of the unit you want to correlate with the triggering unit in the Xcorr Unit box. Set the duration in milliseconds over which you want to correlate the two units in the Pre Time and Interval boxes. Set the smoothness of the spike density function in the Sigma box. Set the amplitude of the spike density function using the slider to the left of the display. Start computing the correlation by clicking the red hexagon in the upper left corner of the display. It will turn into a green circle. You can start and stop the computation of the correlation as often as you wish. If you click the Clear button or change any of the parameters for the correlation, the display will be cleared.

**Theory of Operation.** Every 50 milliseconds, Xcorr starts at the top of the event buffer and looks back the number of milliseconds in the post trigger part of the display. It then begins to search backwards for the first triggering unit ecode. After finding a triggering unit ecode, Xcorr scans event buffer over the set interval looking for correlated unit ecodes, starting from the pre time number of milliseconds before the

triggering unit. Xcorr then creates a raster from the correlated unit times, creates a spike density function from that raster, and adds that spike density function to the average spike density function.

Xcorr records a pointer to the triggering unit used in each iteration. On successive iteration, Xcorr does not scan past the triggering unit used in the previous iteration. This ensures that Xcorr does not use a triggering unit more than once. If Xcorr does not find a triggering unit in an iteration, it does not change the average spike density function but does increment the raster line. If Xcorr does not find any triggering units in the event buffer, it will post a dialog and stop sampling.

If Xcorr does not find any correlated unit ecodes in the designated interval, it does not change the average spike density function, however it does increment the raster lines, resulting in an empty raster line.

# REX Version Release Notes

Arthur V. Hays and John W. McClurkin

## REX 8.0, REX 8.0 SMP, 15 Oct. 2010

This release allows the users to save the current layout when they exit Rex and restore that layout when they restart. When users quit Rex, a dialog will be displayed asking if they want to save the current session. Clicking the Yes button will cause Rex to save the following information: The spot files that are loaded and their current state, running or iconified. The name of the last root file read or written for each spot file. The position, size, and state of each display window. The name of the last root file read or written for the raster display. The settings of the eye window, running line, and cross correlation displays. When Rex is restarted, users will be presented with a dialog asking if they want to restore the previous session. Clicking the Yes button will cause Rex to restore the previous session. The session information is stored in a file named *rex\_session* in the */rex/run/rt* directory. It is not possible to save multiple session from within Rex.

There are versions of Rex 8.0 for Qnx 6.2.1, 6.3.2 and 6.4.0. We support Rex8.0 SMP only for Qnx 6.4.0 and later.

## REX 7.9 SMP, 4 Mar. 2010

This release supports symmetric multiprocessor (SMP) computers running Qnx 6.4.0 or later. If you have an SMP computer, you must run the SMP versions of Rex. If you try to run non-SMP versions of Rex on SMP computers, you will get unpredictable crashes at unpredictable intervals. The crashes can range from corrupted data to the computer completely hanging up. However, SMP versions of Rex will run on non-SMP computers without problems.

Rex 7.9 SMP does not add any new features.

## REX 7.9, 2 Aug. 2007

This release includes support for cross and auto correlation. The Xcorr display allows users to display the cross correlation of one unit with another or the auto correlation of a unit with itself. The correlation is displayed as a raster and as a spike density function. Multiple displays can be opened simultaneously allowing users to display multiple correlations. This release also allows the display of debugging information from GLvex 7.4 and later. Releases of Rex 7.9 dated May 2009 or later can load sound files into Qt versions of GLvex dated May2009 or later.

## REX 7.8, 31 Oct. 2006

This release fixes bugs in the way processes are changed. If you have a process in the run state and you select a new process to run, the windows of the current running process will be iconified which will put that process in a stopped state. You can restart a stopped process by restoring its tool bar window. Restarting a stopped process will cause the windows of the current running process to be iconified. When a process is stopped (as opposed to killed) its eye window and running line display settings will be copied so that they can be restored if that process is restarted.

## **REX 7.7, 4 Feb. 2004**

This release includes Rebel, a new, graphical tool to build paradigms. The state structure now includes information about how states are arranged. Menu.c includes a null menu help message, hm\_null, for use when users do not want a help message associated with a menu. Menus may access floating point variables.

## **REX 7.6, 1 Nov. 2002**

This release includes support for the new QNX Momentics version of the Mex, the LSR's multiunit spike sorting program. This support includes reading spike occurrence from Mex, sending time stamps to Mex, and sending trial start and end codes to Mex. Users can send codes signaling the start and end of a trial to Mex using the new action mwind (see REX Actions Library). Traces in the running line display can be overlaid, much like a storage oscilloscope. The running line display also has a square wave timing trace with 192 msec period.

## **REX 7.5, 1 Sep. 2002**

This release allows users to control the GLvex stimulus display program through the Rex eye window display process. The eye window display has a new dialog that allows users to input the name of the machine running GLvex so that a socket can be established. While the mouse cursor is in the Rex eye window, users can enter GLvex keyboard commands and can use the mouse to control the position of GLvex stimuli. A new version of GLvex, 7.0 was written to accept mouse and keyboard commands from the Rex eye window process.

## **REX 7.4, 29 Mar. 2002**

This release allows users to define computed analog signals. These signals are vergence, conjugate eye movements, and gaze. The signals are computed as the source signals are acquired and can be saved to disk along with other analog signals. This makes it possible to govern subject behavior with these computed signals as well as with acquired analog signals.

## **REX 7.3, 20 Aug. 2001**

This release includes support for PCI bus A/D cards.

## **REX 7.2, 1 Mar. 2001**

This release allows actions to have pointers as arguments as well as long integers. This allows actions defined in states to have variable arguments, and it allows actions to return values that can be used in the spot file. The rex actions library includes versions of each action that take pointers as arguments, facilitating the declaration of actions in states. The rex actions library also includes a set of 60 actions for controlling the GLvex stimulus display program. These actions cut down the amount of code you have to write and reduce the potential for error when using GLvex. This release also allows the *code* declaration in a state to have a pointer as well as a constant. That is, this release allows the declaration *code &code* in a state as well as the declarations *code 1100* or *code FPONCD*.

## **REX 7.1, 5 Feb. 2001**

This release is built using the Photon window system to provide a graphical user interface. This new interface provides multiple eye window, running line and raster displays. The eye window display has a storage mode that allows you to see the full path of eye movements. The raster display allows multiple pages with up to 64 plots per page. The command line menu and verb-noun interfaces have been replaced with graphical dialogs.

## **REX 5.4, 1 Jan. 95**

This release includes work done on the REX window displays. A new display combining both the window and running line (the 'both' display) is available. Also, color is implemented in the displays. The raster display has been changed to fully occupy a 640 by 480 VGA resolution screen. The running line display can now be customized and split into different vertical sections. The traces can be triggered from the Spot file, and a new mode has been added that prevents erasing of the previous trace to simulate a storage scope. An example of this type of running line control is in the 'tstramp' Spot file.

A software switch has been added for the PSTOP, RLSTOP, etc bits. These bits used to have to be controlled by external switches. To use the software switch, change the paradigm to look for PSTOP in the variable 'softswitch' instead of 'drinput'. Then the noun 'softswitch' can be used from the keyboard to set and clear bits such as PSTOP.

Some minor changes to Spot were made. The first state of a chain cannot contain an action. Also, up to 10 escapes are now supported. This version also contains interface code to the MEX multi-unit analyzer.

A bug exists in the running line code. By default, 8 running line channels are initialized. They are set to display various signal numbers- 0-3, 8 and 9. If one changes the default signal list so that any of these signals are no longer valid, then the running line display will complain. The solution is to change the running line menus so that they don't reference a non-active signal.

## **REX 5.0, 8 April 94**

This release includes new programming interfaces for controlling the d/a converters, signal windows, and ramps. The interfaces have been made more general, and REX now supports multiple d/a converters, signal windows (8 by default), and ramps (10 by default) simultaneously. These changes require paradigm modifications to include new actions. Please see the sample paradigm at the end of the Spot manual.

This release only runs under QNX 4.2, the 32-bit version of QNX. However REX is still compiled to run 16 bit, except for spot. spot has been modified to permit a max of six arguments to actions.

Some new variables have been added to the control\_param menu. Please see the description of this menu in Chapter 6. Also, two new verbs were added to the tty noun: map tty and unmap tty. These verbs permit the VGA screen to be returned to text mode while REX is running. One could then use 'telnet' or an editor in the background without affecting REX.

The d/a converters can now be driven by pre-computed waveforms stored in memory. The ramp is still generated at run time as before, but other waveforms can now be used by pre-computing them and storing them into memory buffers. This feature will be more usable when REX is ported to 32-bit mode and the length of memory buffers is not restricted.

**PLEASE NOTE!!!**

With this release, one must change the unit latch circuit! Please see the new circuit in Chapter 9 of the REX manual. If you don't make the change, your unit data will be corrupted.

## **REX 4.3c, 4 April 1994**

This is a version of REX 4.3b ported from QNX 4.0.1 to QNX 4.2. You must use the latest update of 4.2 available from QNX's BBS system. It may run on the version from your diskettes, but I don't guarantee it. Note that QNX is on the net now (qnx.com), however they don't have anonymous ftp up yet. So you must download updates from the BBS or call them for diskettes.

When you install your QNX 4.2 kernel, specify that you want the 32 bit version. However, REX is still running in 16 bit mode except for 'spot'.

This version has some advantages- menus print out without missing characters, reading roots is very fast. Note that the way the screen is switched from text to graph mode is different under 4.2. If you used to use the program 'greset' located in rex/sys/matrox, it will no longer work properly and should not be used.

The file 'config.tar' contains my configuration files. You will need to make a new kernel to run Rex. The file 'boot/go' is a shell file to make the new kernel and install it. This must be done after downloading any updates as well. This new kernel build file assumes that your a/d is on interrupt number 5. If not, edit 'boot/build/aha32.1' and change the flag to 'Proc' for the interrupt level of your a/d.

### **PLEASE NOTE!!!**

With this release, one must change the unit latch circuit! Please see the new circuit in Chapter 9 of the REX manual. If you don't make the change, your unit data will be corrupted.

## **REX 4.3, 24 Nov. 93**

Release 4.3 adds a new field to the sample header that specifies the delay of the anti-aliasing filter on the a/d inputs.

A subsystem for PC to PC communication has been added. This subsystem implements an 8-bit wide full-duplex point-to-point link between the REX PC and other PCs. Each link requires a dedicated 24-bit parallel I/O chip (the Intel 8255). The link is designed so that the interface boards containing the 8255 chip can be cabled together directly, pin for pin, without external glue logic or cable re-mapping. The link protocol is designed to be independent of timing differences between the PCs. The programming interface presents a messaging model to the user. Messages include checksums. Please see rex/hdr/pcmsg.h and rex/int/pcmsg.c for further info about this subsystem.

REX 4.3 conversion: a temporary fix to the rextools has been made that knows about the upgraded data files in version 4.3 of REX. It is installed on irisf. (Since this is a temporary fix, there is an extra printout to stderr that announces whether your files are in "old" or "new" format.) If you have any data files that were collected under the version of 4.2 that included the delay variable, those files will not work correctly. They are really 4.3 version data files.

I made a perl script to convert A- and E-files from 4.2 to 4.3 ONLY FOR THOSE FILES! If you run it on good 4.2 files, you will ruin them! So, if and only if your 4.2 files fail to go through grdd, brdd, or trdd, fix them by running the file "rex4\_3patcher" on irisf. If you just type "rex4\_3patcher", it will give a usage message (of course!). Report problems to me. Lance 11/24

1-4.2, FIX). A bug was found in the PC to PC messaging code that resulted in receive checksum errors being reported on Type 1 messages when both Type 1 and Type 2 messages were being used. To fix this bug, add a single line of code to /rex/int/pcmsg.c:

```

/*
 * Compare checksums.
 */
switch(p->pcm_msg_type) {
case PCM_TYPE0:
    rxerr("pcm_msg_process(): TYPE0 has cksum");
    goto rx_reset;
case PCM_TYPE1:
#ifndef PCM_DEBUG
puts("rx_type1_ck ");
#endif
    p->pcm_rx_calcksum &= 0xff;
    p->pcm_rx_cksum &= 0xff; /* ADD THIS LINE HERE */
    /* fall through */
case PCM_TYPE2:

```

**2-4.3, FIX).** The code that saves the contents of the digital input word is currently \*after\* the code that looks to check for units. This means that the times for units are offset by 1msec. To fix this problem, look in int/int.c and make sure that the section titled "Digital input processing" is just \*before\* instead of \*after\* the section titled "Collect units data". If this is not the case, edit int.c and move it. Thanks to Barry Richmond for finding this.

**3-4.3, FIX).** A problem has existed with the variable 'ras\_wakeup\_ecode' in the 'dsplay' menu. When a root was read back in, this variable would often be set to 0. The fix for this is to add a single line of code to /rex/sys/rlib/access.c:

```

/*
 * of odd num of args, however, *pp must be checked for NP
 * both before and after incrementing in for() statement below.
 */
for(pp= pbuf; *pp != NP; pp= (*pp == NP ? pp : pp+1)) {
    far_ptr= 0;                                /* ADD THIS LINE HERE */
    vlp= mp->me_vlp;
    if(isdigit(*pbuf[0])) line= atoi(*pp++);
    else line= sindex(*pp++, &vlp->vl_name, sizeof(VLIST));

```

Then, you must recompile \*all\* of rex by running a 'make complete'.

**3-4.3, FIX).** A bug in PC-REX affects the setting of variables read in from root files. If the variable is out of range, it may be changed to something else. For example, the reset\_s(-1) action that is used in the spot file to cause the abort list to be executed requires a '-1' argument. When this argument is read in from a root file, it is changed. Then, the actions in the abort list are no longer called.

I will be fixing this bug this week. Until then, a temp fix would be to edit your root and change the argument for the reset\_s action from 0xffffffff to -1. The menu system will accept -1, but not 0xffffffff. A good way to tell what is affected is to run rex and then run your process without calling in a root. Write a root, and then read it back in right away. Then write a second root. The first and second roots should be identical on a 'diff' except for the line containing the date. If there are differences then they are caused by this bug.

**4-4.3, FIX).** A bug in the menu system sometimes resulted in errors in inputting null-value type variables.

## **REX 4.2, 9 Nov. 93**

Release 4.2 incorporates a new A-file format and signal specification menus. It is now possible to specify sampling rates for each a/d channel independently from a menu. Global memory variables can also be stored to the A-file. The new A-file format is incompatible with the old, however.

## **REX 4.1b, 18 Nov. 92**

Release 4.1b is a minor release which fixes some bugs in the d/a converter code. It also adds the code for resetting the unit latch. A new command, \f3bit, has been added. This permits output bits on the default digital I/O device to be turned on/off easily from the keyboard for testing purposes. The header "/rex(hdr/lab.h" has been folded into "/rex(hdr/cnf.h". Support for a joystick was added to the action wd\_ctl and mr\_set. Joystick support currently is enabled by a define in "/rex(hdr/cnf.h".

A new system of naming major and minor releases has been established. Major releases will be designated by numerics, e.g. version 4.2. Minor releases will be designated by lower case letters, e.g. version 4.2c. Current version levels are displayed by the command type proc.

The default address for the d/a card has been changed from 0x210 to 0x180. This is because some of the ICS d/a card addresses can only be set modulo 0x20, not 0x10. If you originally installed your d/a card at 0x210 you will either need to change it to 0x180, or modify "/rex(hdr/cnf.h" to reflect the old address.

All non-system ecodes have been removed from "/rex(hdr/icode.h". This is most of the codes greater than 1000. Please place paradigm-specific ecodes in headers in "/rex/sset", and include these headers in your Spot file. The intent is to keep most of the user-specific code in the sset directory.

## **REX 4.1, Oct. 92**

Release 4.1 adds the programming interface for digital I/O devices. This addition necessitated changing the arguments to actions from ints to long ints. Because of this change, existing actions need to be modified so that their arguments are explicitly declared as longs. This is a minor change, but \f3ALL existing user-written actions must be modified to run properly. See section 11 of Chapter 4, "When Things Don't Work", for a more detailed information and examples.

Changes were also made to the menu handler code for accessing state variables. Arguments to actions are now printed in hex and base 10. A hex number can be entered from the keyboard by prefacing it with "0x". In general the PC world thinks in hex (as opposed to octal for pdp11s). A knowledge of the hex digits will be very useful for the PC version of REX.

Some modifications have been made to Spot. An escape test has been added that will call a function and transition to the next state based on the return value of the function. The Spot document has been updated, and the section on escape tests has been expanded. The need for three sections in Spot files disappeared in REX 3.10, however they were kept for compatibility. In this release, Spot has been modified so that it only accepts files that have two sections- a C code section, and a Spot language section. To modify existing Spot files, simply move the entire third section (after the double percent) into the first section. Then delete the last double percent that marked the beginning of the third section.

The "/rex/lhdr" directory has been deleted. All header files that pertain to the general REX source are now in "/rex/hdr". Header files that pertain to each individual laboratory (such as files that declare local ecodes, or local device ids) are now kept in "/rex/sset". See the chapter "Installing REX" for an overview of important configuration headers and their locations.

## **REX 4.0, Step 92**

Release 4.0 is the first release of the PC version of REX. This version is a port of REX 3.11. REX 4.0 runs on the QNX operating system. Incore space for the event buffer and analog buffer were increased, given the PC's larger address space. QNX currently runs in 16 bit protected mode. When a later release supports 32 bit mode the only limit on the buffers will be memory size.

The C compiler under QNX is ANSI C. ANSI C is more stringent in error checking than the compiler on the pdp11. Existing paradigms will generate many errors the first time they are compiled, and will have to be converted to ANSI C.

### **Current bugs:**

**1-4.0).** Output to dumb tty has gaps when clock is on. This is because QNX does not restart output to slow ttys after interruption by a signal (the pdp11 version of Unix did this). Note that input from the keyboard is not affected. One can stop the clock to see intact printout on the screen. While the clock is on, one must know the line number of the variable being changed. This problem is not easily solved, and requires porting a public domain version of the standard I/O library.

**2-4.0).** When REX is exited, an error message is printed concerning "null pointer assignment detected". This is benign.

## **REX 3.11, Jul. 88**

Release 3.11 adds support for two eyes, and changes to the window display. The primary eye channel is now displayed on the window display as an 'X', the other eye channel is displayed as an 'O'. The two channels are simply called the 'eye' and 'other eye'. There are two windows as well, which can be different sizes.

Offsets can now be applied to the eye channel signals. These offsets are in effect for all on-line operations on the eye signals such as the window check, saccade detection, displays, etc. The offsets are not applied to the values stored in the A-file, however. The offset mechanism is useful when sampling two eyes at various depths. The applied offset is changed to compensate for varying angles between the eyes, thus keeping the displays and window check accurate.

The following actions have been added: wd\_osiz(), wd\_pos(), wd\_ctl(), off\_eye(), and off\_oeye(). The action wd\_set() has been removed. The following menus have been added or changed: wind/mir has been split into windows and mirror. Menu offsets\_eye has been added. Menus control-param and dsplay have been changed.

A number of default display configurations have also been added to the raster display. Displays from 1 to 16 rasters are now available.

## **REX 3.10, Jun. 87**

Release 3.10 has been converted to run under the new real-time 11/73 kernel that utilizes 22 bit addressing. A number of advantages result:

- 1.) All REX processes are now compiled split I/D. This yields much more room for paradigms and more complicated raster displays.
- 2.) The Unix kernel utilizes full 22 bit addressing. Multiple loaded paradigms now reside in memory, instead of being swapped out. This makes changing processes almost instantaneous. A bug was present in the old kernel that caused intermittent system crashes, most often when changing processes or

escaping to the shell. This condition no longer arises, given the much larger memory available. One should no longer need to follow such precautionary steps as ending the clock, or explicitly stopping or killing the current process before executing a change process command. One can also escape to the shell at any time, even with the clock on, without fear of a crash.

3.) The interrupt part of REX now runs in the 11/73's supervisor mode, instead of kernel mode as before. Such errors in the interrupt routine as segmentation violations, stack overflows, etc. used to cause a crash when run in kernel mode. These errors are now caught and recovered from. In addition, the restriction that all variables used in the lower level of the interrupt routine be initialized is no longer needed. In fact, there is now no difference between the first and third sections of the Spot file. Variables and code can be placed in either section, and variables do not have to be initialized in either section. Therefore there is no longer any need to run the shell file 'prt\_bs' in the run directory to check paradigms for uninitialized variables.

4.) There is now only one kernel for both REX and using the Ethernet. One does not have to reboot another kernel to use the Ethernet.

#### **The following enhancements were made to REX:**

1.) Support for more than 80 states was added. The statelist menu now can be advanced to the next page of states by typing '>' to the prompt after the menu is entered. The previous page is accessed by '<'. Alternatively, the nth page can be directly accessed by typing 'set statelist n' where 'n' is the desired page. For example 's s 1' enters the first page. The upper limit on states is probably between 150 and 200, depending on how much other code is in the Spot file.

2.) Information concerning errors which occur in the interrupt routine and are caught and recovered by the kernel is stored in the error file. In addition, when an error occurs the clock is stopped and all files closed.

Conversion of paradigms to REX 3.10 requires one change in the Spot file. A help message string for the 'state\_vars' menu must now be defined in the spot file. (The help message is the information that appears on the right side of the screen when some menus are accessed.) If a help message for the 'state\_vars' menu is not desired, it must at least be defined as a null string. The following example of a 'state\_vars' declaration at the end of a Spot file also includes a definition for a help message to be printed on the right side of the screen:

```
%%
/*
 * Declaration of statelist menu.
 */
extern int tstate, tloop;
VLIST state_vl[] = {
    "tstate",           &tstate, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC,
    "tloop",            &tloop, NP, NP, 0, ME_DEC,
    NS,
};
/*
 * Help message.
 */
char hm_sv_vl[] = "\
tstate:\n\
0: norm, no error\n\
1: pri < 6, panic halt\n\
2: signal stack\n\
3: sup stack\n"
```

```
4: kernel stack\n
5: sys call\n
6: seg violation";
```

If a help message is not desired, the following definition MUST appear to avoid an error message when compiling:

```
/*
 * Null help message.
 */
char hm_sv_vl[] = "";
```

The I/O page in the lower level of the interrupt routine is now mapped with memory management register 6 instead of 7. All device addresses defined in the header "device.h" have been changed to reflect this (see macro 'd\_(addr)' declared at beginning of "device.h"). If you have added new devices to REX, redefine their addresses using this macro just as the addresses in "device.h" are defined.

The part of the matrox library that writes text strings on the screen has been replaced with a more efficient version written by Lance Optican. The text part of the raster displays draws much faster.

## REX 3.5, 27 May 86

Release 3.5 integrates in support for ADAC devices written by Bill Newsome and Grant Tech. devices written by Jack Nelson. In addition the following bugs were discovered and/or fixed:

*1-3.5, FIX).* Bug existed in computation of awtime in write to disk section of int.c. This is the time of the beginning of an analog record, or the time of the beginning of a continuation record. Problem only appeared if SAMP\_P\_ACQ and MS\_P\_INT defined in lhdr/samp.h were not equal. Fix occurs in two places where awtime is computed. This bug found independently by Jack Nelson and Reuben Gellman.

*2-3.5, FIX).* Bug in incrementing pointer 'ladr\_3' in a/d handlers in int.c for versions that store more than two channels at a time in a buffer. The old sequence was to use ladr\_3 to store first sample and auto increment. Then the second sample was stored. At this point value bufinc\_4 was added to ladr\_3 to step it to next buffer. However, it would now be pointing one ahead of the proper location because it had previously been auto incremented. This would result in the horizontal and vertical buffers being one sample out of sync with each other. Fixed by adding (bufinc\_4 - 1) instead of bufinc\_4 alone. Thanks to Jack Nelson for finding this.

## REX 3.4, 30 Nov. 84

Release 3.4 contains support for the Unibus Data Translation a/d converter No old bugs fixed or new ones reported.

## REX 3.3, 30 Oct. 84

Release 3.3 includes changes to makefiles and bug fixes of Release 3.2. The makefiles were changed so that paradigms could be recompiled from a local subset of the int source that is likely to be different per investigator while sharing a single copy of the majority of the REX source. This is useful when multiple users share a single machine, and when integrating new releases REX (since code that is specific per user is kept separately from the shared source).

### **Bugs fixed in this version:**

**1-3.2, FIX).** Afile, Efile overflow errors now reported.

**2-3.2, FIX).** String compare function bug resolved by changing improper uses of match() to strcmp().

**6-3.2, FIX).** Control B problem resolved by not calling dumpe() under certain conditions from dumperr() in scribe (dumpe() was flooding screen with output because of errors due to Efile pointers not being valid since clock had never been started). Now dumperr() will not call dumpe() unless, in addition to other constraints, Efile keeping is also enabled.

### **Bugs reported in this version:**

**7-3.3).** When a command is given to read a rootfile that doesn't exist an error is reported. However, system status is not returned to full quiescent state- rootflag still shows that a rootfile is being read. If at this time another process is run, it will see the rootflag and try to read the non-existent root, giving another error message.

## **REX 3.2**

Release 3.2 is the first general release of Version 3 REX. It was debugged during Summer '84 running experiments conducted by Bob Wurtz and Bill Newsome on Bob's 11/34 system.

### **Current bugs of Release 3.2:**

**1-3.2).** Afile, Efile overflow when no more space remains on disk not reported with an error.

**2-3.2).** Bug in string compare function used in distinguishing process names. A process name that is a subset of another process name is compared as equal.

**3-3.2).** The JHU/Unix kernel sometimes swaps out all swappable processes and then hangs up- it cannot swap anyone back in. This bug appears primarily when running new REX interrupt processes or changing the current interrupt process. One can verify this bug by typing "(control) t" when the keyboard stops responding. All non-locked processes (data, scribe, and int are normally locked) will be swapped out (identified by a '-' by the process id).

An interim fix has been put into comm to help mitigate the effect of this bug. During some of the process control operations comm locks itself in memory to guarantee it will not be locked out on the swap device. This works most of the time.

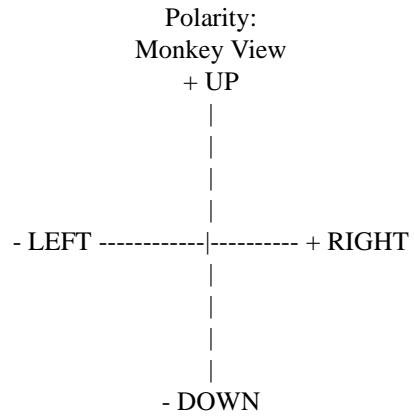
**4-3.2).** The window on the window display will sometimes flicker briefly at its last position when being changed to a new position. For example, if the window is at 0,0, then is turned off and moved to 200,200 and turned on again, it might briefly appear at 0,0 before appearing at 200,200. This bug is due to a section of the window display being re-interrupted during processing. ONLY the display is wrong, the actual window checking function is always accurate.

**5-3.2).** srdd will not parse '1c=num', '2c=num' arguments unless a preceding flag is present.

**6-3.2).** Control B will produce erratic results if done if clock has never been begun.

# **REX Internal Calibrations**

## **REX Internal Calibrations**



## A/D Full Scale Range Calibrations

Full scale range for A/D input is selected by 'eye-calib-num' in control menu. Note that Rex performs most internal operations on the A/D signals at a resolution of 40 steps/degree, 2's complement representation.

**'cal' = 'eye-calib-num' in control menu.**

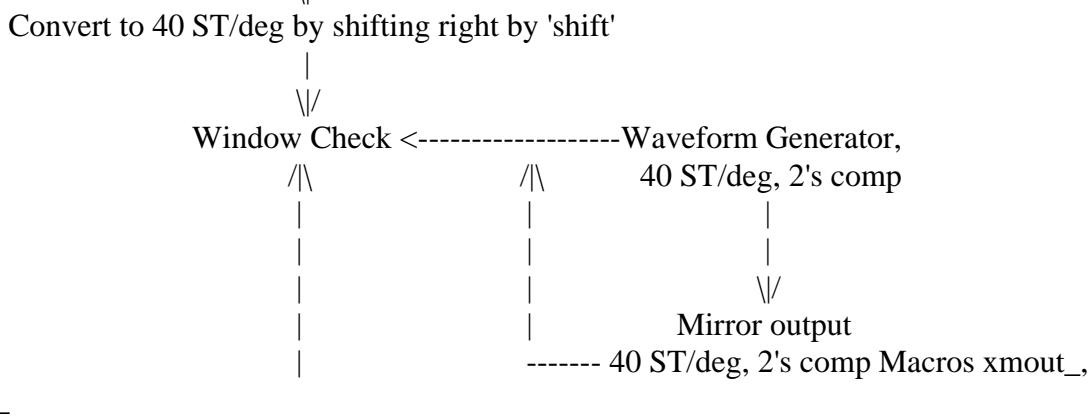
**'shift' = internal shift factor used for conversions**

**FS = Full Scale**

**ST= a/d Steps**

**Table 1:**

10 Bit A/D	cal	shift	12 Bit A/D	cal	shift
102.4 deg FS, 10 ST/deg	5	-2	102.4 deg FS, 40 ST/deg	0	0
51.2 deg FS, 20 ST/deg	6	-1	51.2 deg FS, 80 ST/deg	1	1
25.6 deg FS, 40 ST/deg	7	0	25.6 deg FS, 160 ST/deg	2	2
12.8 deg FS, 80 ST/deg	8	1	12.8 deg FS, 320 ST/deg	3	3
6.4 deg FS, 160 ST/deg	9	2	6.4 deg FS, 640 ST/deg	4	4



Absolute coordinates for window check,

# **Configuring PC Systems for Running REX**

Arthur V. Hays  
Revised 7 Apr. 94

## **REX Software Configuration**

REX for the PC runs on the QNX operating system. QNX is a distributed real-time operating system that is POSIX compliant. We chose the QNX operating system because it provides an application programming interface that closely parallels the Unix environment that REX runs under on the pdp11. It is also a 32 bit protected mode operating system that has real-time support. QNX provides real-time features such as attaching to interrupts and fast service times and context switches. It has proven very reliable and robust. Through POSIX compatibility, Unix programs are easily ported. The C compiler used under QNX is Watcom C.

REX does not run on DOS. DOS programs, however, can be run under QNX by using an additional product called RUNDOS. This is a DOS emulator. This emulator is quite good, and will run Windows 3.1 in \f2standard\f1 mode! QNX is a product of QNX Software in Canada. We usually place our orders with Florida Datamation. QNX Software also sells a TCP/IP option for QNX. This permits communication via ethernet to other machines. NFS and X-windows are also available.

The disk can be partitioned so that DOS and QNX have separate segments. One can then boot either DOS or QNX. Under QNX, one can read/write the DOS segment. Under DOS, however, one cannot see the QNX segment.

## **REX Hardware Configuration**

### **PC**

The preferred PC for REX is a 486/33 or faster machine, with EISA or PCI bus. The machine should have 4 or 5 available ISA slots for real-time devices. These slots would be allocated as follows: a/d card, d/a card, digital i/o card, and one or two free. I recommend only buying a system that is known to run QNX (one can call QNX and ask whether they know if QNX runs on a machine under consideration). This recommendation is due to the fact that the QNX operating system runs in protected mode. It exercises the hardware more vigorously than DOS. Note that devices that require DOS drivers \f3will not work\f1 under QNX. Sometimes a device will emulate another (e.g. a SCSI controller will emulate an Adaptec) when used with a supplied driver. This driver, however, is written for DOS. DOS drivers cannot be used under QNX. This is a very important point to remember when considering purchasing devices to run under QNX. If the device depends on any supplied software written for DOS, it will not work under QNX.

REX will run in only 4MB, but I recommend 16MB. The disk should be at least 400MB. This is to contain both a QNX partition and a DOS partition. The disk should be a SCSI disk (see below). QNX supports the Adaptec controllers very well. Other SCSI controllers may be supported under QNX, but call QNX before ordering to verify. REX currently uses only VGA 640-480 resolution. Any VGA adapter will work. However, in the future REX may use X Windows. In this case, greater resolution and screen size would be desirable. Call QNX for a list of the currently supported adapters. A 17 inch or greater screen would also be needed.

REX also currently requires a dumb tty that can emulate the VT100. Please note that VT100 emulation IS REQUIRED. REX wont work with anything else. This tty is connected to serial port 2 and runs the REX menu interface. The VGA screen then takes the place of the old Matrox display.

Will REX run on less expensive PC configurations? Perhaps, but I haven't tested it. I would imagine that an ISA bus would be fine, however it is difficult to use more than 14MB of memory on an ISA bus machine. The only EISA card we are currently using is the Adaptec 1740/1742. It is also available for ISA as the Adaptec 1540/1542. In the future the PCI bus will be more popular, and the Adaptec and the graphics card may both be supported by QNX on this bus. The disk type is very important. The SCSI controller works by DMA. Other types, such as IDE and ESDI, do not use DMA and require CPU cycles to move data. This can lock out the CPU and interfere with real-time processing.

QNX supports the Western Digital/SMC 8013 ethernet card very well. I have not been able to get the 3Com cards to work. I suggest purchasing the 8013.

## Real-time Interface Cards

**A/D Cards** Two a/d cards are recommended for PC-REX. One is an inexpensive 12 bit low-end card, the other a 16 bit card. The low cost unit is the Analogics DAS-12/50, \$500. It will sample 8 channels at 1KHz with 12 bit resolution. It cannot be used to sample any faster.

I also evaluated 16 bit a/d converters. I tested the ADAC 5508SHR, the Analogics LSDAS16, and the National Instruments ATMIO16-X. The disappointing fact is that one doesn't really get 16 bits with the current generation of products. When the input is grounded, the output of the converter ranges over 4-5 counts. A 16 bit converter has 4 more bits than a 12 bit, and this equals 16 additional counts. Therefore, one gets only about 2/3 of this extra resolution (5 counts of noise/16 possible counts). Statistically the situation is better, given some processing or averaging. The standard deviation is only 0.5 - 0.7 counts. Whether you should use a 16 bit converter depends on your application. If you are looking at slow velocities, processing the signal (such as software differentiation), etc. the extra resolution may be very helpful.

I quantitatively tested the ADAC and National Instruments (I did not like the way the Analogics did software calibration, and sent it back before I did these latest tests). The National card was cleaner (see results below). It is more expensive (\$2k vs. \$1.3k), however it has a lot more features including 16 bit dacs, full auto calibration, dual dma, extensive on-board buffering, a channel-gain list, double the conversion rate, etc.

My a/d recommendations therefore are the Analogics DAS-12/50 for an entry level 12 bit converter at 50KHz throughput (\$500), and the National Instruments ATMIO16-X for 16 bit at 100KHz throughput (\$2000). I don't have a higher throughput (100-500KHz) 12 bit converter programmed into REX, but would suggest one of the National Instruments cards. Note if you think you may have need in the future for anything more than just 8 channels at 1KHz you should buy the ATMIO16-X.

Some other cards are known to work under REX, and are listed in the "/rex/hdr/cnf.h" file. Included are the DT2821, which works fine and has excellent performance (but is costly). Note that the DT2801 cannot work under REX- it cannot generate an interrupt. If you have this widely used card, you may be able to trade it up to a DT2821. The Analogics and National Instruments cards are preferred for new purchases.

## D/A Cards

REX supports d/a cards with programmed I/O transfers. REX typically can update d/as once per millisecond. The recommended cards can be purchased with from 6 to 16 converters/card.

## Digital I/O

For digital I/O, IO module systems are used. These systems are composed of 'racks' (a 'rack' in this terminology is a pc board, not a floor standing cabinet) and 'bricks' that plug into the racks. The bricks contain solid state relays or dry contact relays. You use one brick per bit. The racks are driven by a single digital I/O card in the PC.

Note that you might not need all the different types of modules ordered here at NIH. Some of these modules I wanted to have on hand incase of special applications. If you have TTL-level inputs, an input module is not even needed. TTL-level inputs can wired directly into the digital I/O card. However, when using the module the LED indicator on the rack will be used. Note that DC input modules are not standardized across all vendors (such as Grayhill, Potter & Brumfield, Opto 22, Gordos, Crydom). Each companies DC input module has different timing specs and input impedances. These specs are important when interfacing TTL or LSTTL gates. The Grayhill module has a high input impedance (1.8k) and can be driven easily by a TTL (sinks 16ma) or 74 series LSTTL (sinks 8ma) gate. However, it's switching times are somewhat slow: 250usec on/400usec off. I am currently looking at some other modules that have lower input impedances but faster switching times (50 microseconds on/100 microseconds off). See circuit diagrams at end of this document for more info.

You will probably certainly need the DC output module and dry- contact relay module. If you want to switch AC loads by this system you should also get an AC output module.

## Counter/Timer Card

For unit input, we may use a counter/timer card. However, it is currently not programmed into REX and we are just using the digital inputs for units. The counter/timer should permit unit resolutions of 10 microseconds (vs. current 1-2 milliseconds). You should not to buy this card at present since it is not being used.

## Device Addresses, Vectors, Jumpers

The following is a list of the addresses, vectors, and DMA assignments we use at NIH. Note that these can be changed. The files "/rex(hdr/cnf.h", "/rex(hdr/device.h", and "/rex/int/cnf.c" contain the configuration information.

**Table 1: Vectra Configuration for QNX and REX**

Interrupts		
0	System Timer	
1	Keyboard	
2	Cascaded interrupts 8-15:	
	8	CMOS Real-time clock (not used by QNX)
	9	Unused
	10	COM3 (VT100 serial port)

**Table 1: Vectra Configuration for QNX and REX**

Interrupts		
	11	Adaptec 1740
	12	Vectra internal mouse port
	13	Coprocessor
	14	IDE disk (if enabled)
	15	Unused
3	SMC 8013 and/or Archive 1/4" tape adapter	
4	COM1 (modem)	
5	a/d converter	
6	Floppy	
7	LPT1	

Interrupt priorities are established by QNX at boot time by assigning one of the levels to be the highest. The priority then decreases from the assigned level for each succeeding interrupt number. Note that interrupt 2 is really the cascaded input from interrupts 8-15. QNX, by default, assigns interrupt 3 to be highest. This results in a priority order from highest to lowest of: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 0, 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. For REX, a new QNX kernel build must be built specifying the flag "-i 5" to Proc (by editing the build file in /boot/build). This changes the assignment of the highest priority interrupt to level 5 and results in a priority order of: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4. The idea is to make the A/D interrupt the highest.

If your A/D cannot be set to level 5, place it somewhere else. Be careful to keep its priority the highest. Also note that COM4 on a Vectra cannot be used with an ATI Graphics Ultra. The 8514/A part of the ATI card uses I/O addresses at 2e8.

Note that REX requires a dumb tty that can emulate a VT100. At NIH, I connect this tty to COM3. I use COM1 for a modem. This tty can be connected to any port, however. If you change it from COM3, you must edit "/etc/config/sysinit.1" to make sure a 'login' is started on the terminal.

**Table 2: DMA Channels**

8 bit channels		16 bit channels	
0	Unused	4	Unused
1	Unused	5	Adaptec 1740
2	Floppy	6	A/D
3	Archive 1/4" tape	7	A/d (when using dual DMA)

**Table 3: Addresses**

I/O Port Addresses (in Hex)		Memory Address (in Hex)		
Address	What	Address	Size	What
170-178	IDE disk	a0000-affff	64k	ATI video board
180-19f	d/a board	b0000-b7fff	32k	Unused
200-207	Archive 1/4" tape	b8000-bffff	32k	ATI text
23c-23f	Mouse	c0000-c7fff	32k	ATI BIOS (shadowed to e0000)
240-25f	a/d board	c8000-cbfff	16k	Unused
280-294	Digital I/O	cc000-cffff	16k	SMC 8013
2e0-??	ATI 8514/A	d0000-d3fff	16k	Adaptec 1740
300-31f	SMC 8013	d4000-dffff	48k	Unused
330-333	Adaptec 1740			
378-37f	LPT1			
3f1-3f7	Floppy			
3e8-3ef	COM3			
3f8-3ff	COM1			

## EISA Configuration for HP Vectra (obvious settings not listed)

- System board Cache memory: enabled Enhanced video performance: copy BIOS to RAM at E0000 AFTER init
- Mouse and serial port board Serial port: COM3 (used for VT100)
- Serial port and parallel port board Serial port: COM1 (used for modem) Parallel port: LPT1
- Adaptec 1740 Note: you should have received a floppy from Adaptec with your 1740. It has the EISA .cfg file needed for configuration. Interface mode: Use standard mode, with interrupt level 11 I/O Port: 330h. DMA: 5. Host adapter BIOS: D0000H. Host ID: 7. SCSI reset: enable. SCSI configuration: standard mode, parity on, sync negation on, disconnection on.
- Vectra memory board Reserved memory: 384k (0 KB remapped)

## Analogics DAS-12/50

The Analogics board should be jumpered for address 0x240. Other jumper options are for differential inputs and full scale range. The vector and DMA are set by software. The DAS-12/50 has a 26 pin \f3High Density\f1 'D' connector. This type of connector is somewhat unusual. It is a \f2high density\f1 version of the regular 'D' style, and has one more pin- 26 instead of 25. One can order the connector from Digikey. The other option is to buy the Analogics screw terminal box (\$200). This box may also have an area to put RC anti-aliasing filters.

## Computer Boards CIO-DDA06, CIO-DAC08, CIO-DAC16

These boards should be jumpered for address 0x180. I also jumper the boards to include a wait state. The simultaneous update jumper should be on 'UPDATE XX' for individual updates. These boards have a 37 pin 'D' connector. The '2M37DSM' termination board from Industrial Computer Source provides screw terminal connections for this connector. This board can also be ordered from Newark. The manufacturer is Augat/RDI.

## Industrial Computer Source PCDIO

This board should be jumpered for address 0x280. See Figure 1 for other jumpers configuration information.

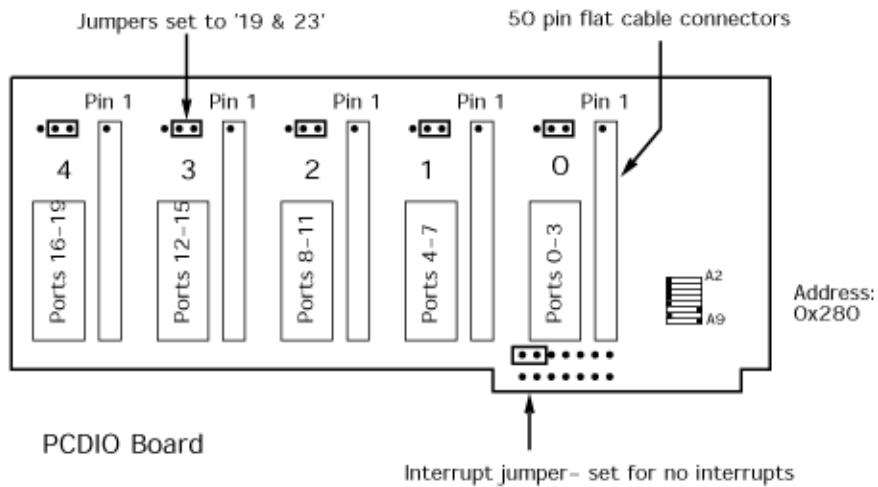
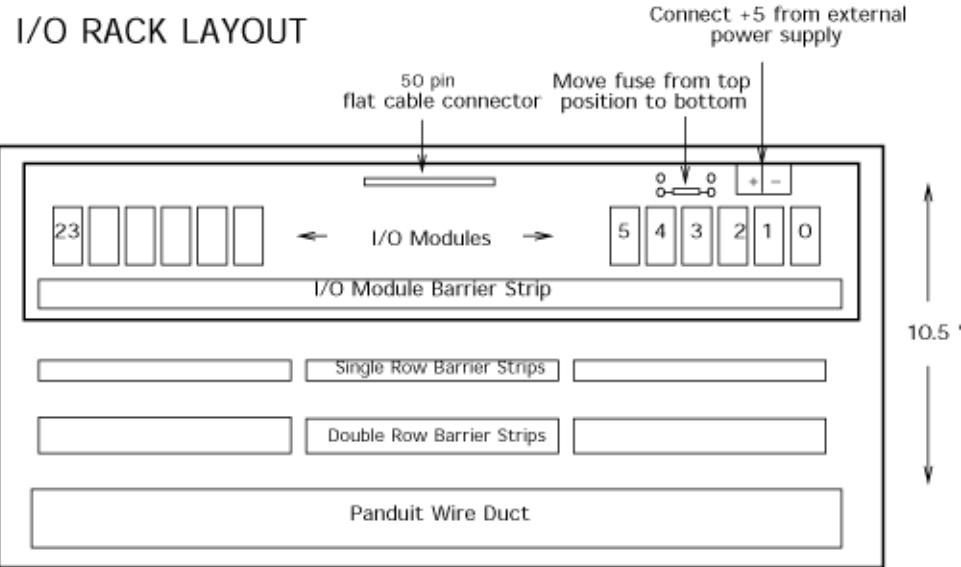


Figure 1: PCDIO Configuration

## Digital I/O Rack Panels and Circuits

Digital I/O is accomplished using I/O rack systems. These systems are composed of a PC board (termed a 'rack'), and potted modules which plug into the PC board. There are four general types of modules: DC input, DC output, AC input, AC output (AC modules will switch 110v). The Industrial Computer Source digital I/O board will drive up to five racks, each rack holding 24 modules. The racks are mounted on standard BUD aluminum panels. See Figure 2.

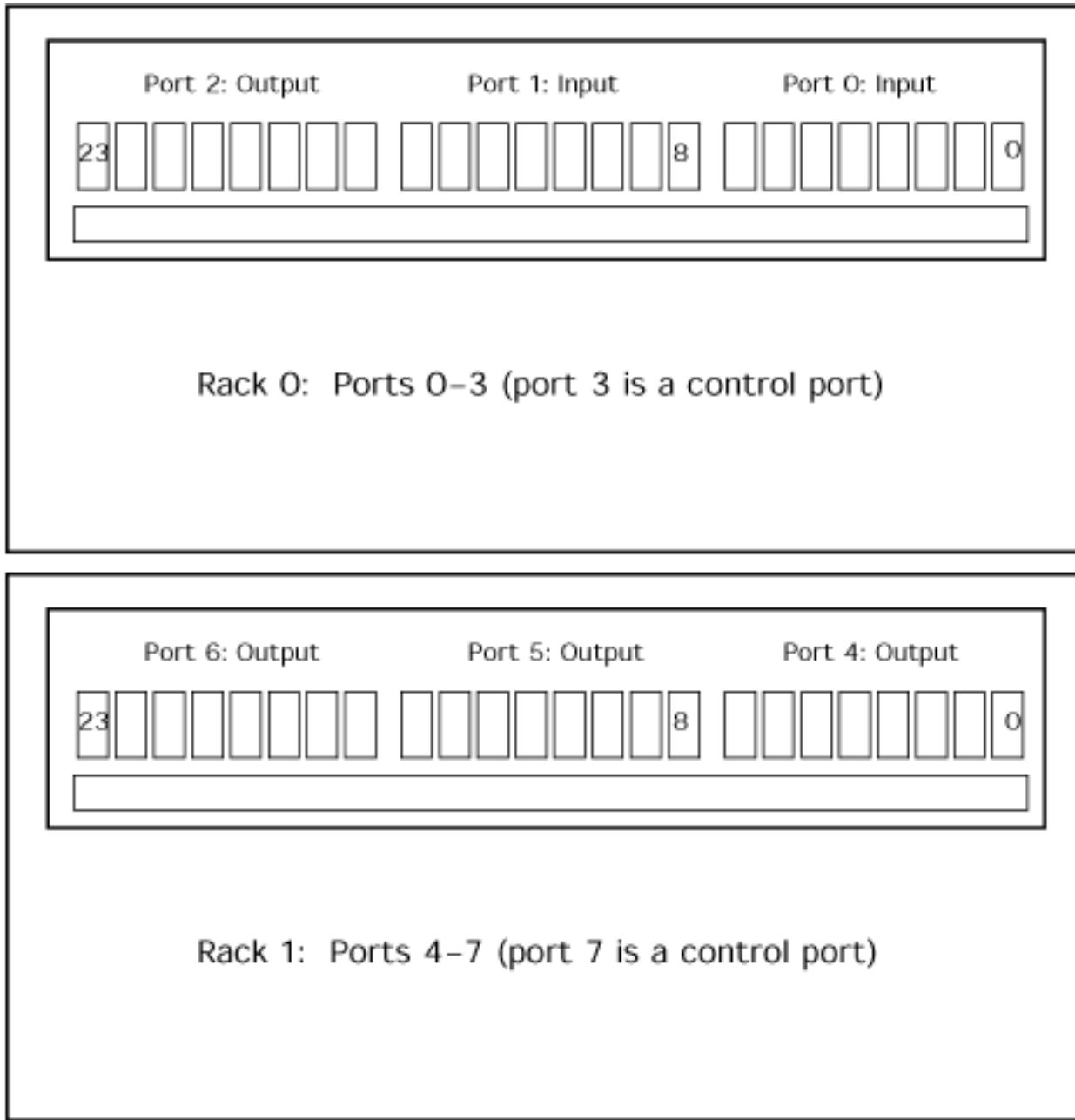


Notes:

1. Mount single and double row barrier strips on 3/4" spacers.
2. All positions on single row barrier strip are connected to +5v.
3. Do not use computer's power supply to power I/O rack. You must have an external +5v. supply. Connect this supply to connectors in upper right hand corner of board. Then move fuse from top position to bottom position (it just pulls out of pin sockets).
4. Barrier strips have 14 positions.

Figure 2: I/O Rack Layout

Also mounted on the BUD panel are two rows of terminal barrier strips. The single-row strip is wired to +5v. The double-row strip is not connected to power or ground. These strips provide space to wire resistors and pots.



Note: Every fourth port on an 8255 programmable peripheral interface chip is a control port. Do not use this port to address I/O modules.

Figure 3: Port Layout

Each eight modules form a group called a 'port'. A typical REX system requires a minimum of 16 input modules, and 32 output modules. See Figure 3.

Each I/O module incorporates an opto-isolator. Following are suggested wiring diagrams for various input circuits. Figure 4 shows a switch input. REX requires at least two switch inputs- one to start/stop the paradigm, the other to freeze the running line display.

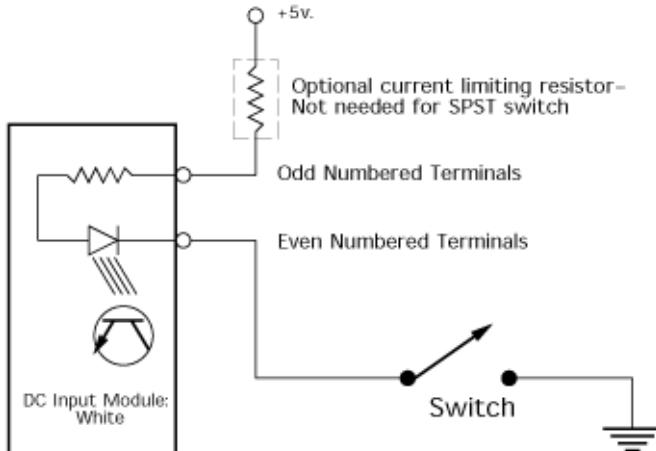


Figure 4: Switch Input Circuit

Logic outputs can also drive the I/O module inputs. Figure 5 shows an input driven by a TTL or LSTTL gate. Note that an input module is not required. An 18 ga. wire can be inserted in the bottom two pins in place of an I/O module. However, the LED will not function without the I/O module.

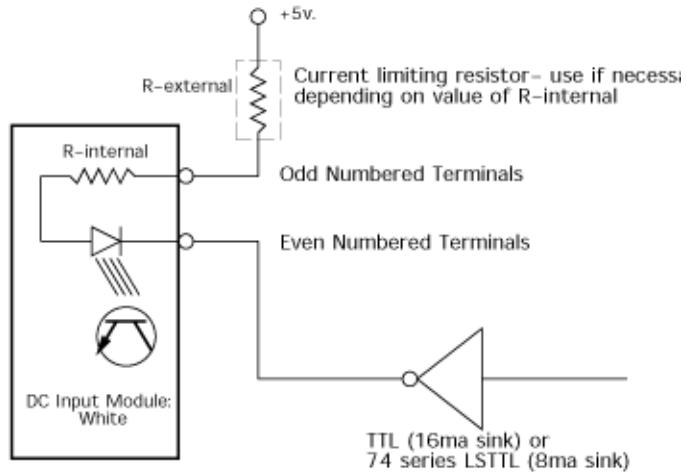


Figure 5: TTL Input Circuit

In the future, REX may collect unit input either through a timer card or a multi-unit analyzer. Until that time, a latch is required to catch the unit pulse. This is constructed with a 7474 D-type latch. See figure 6. Note that the reset pulse is not passed through a red output brick. This is because the red brick will not pass a pulse smaller than 12usec in width. This would require a timing loop in REX that would be processor-speed dependent. To avoid this timing problem, the red brick is bypassed. A jumper is inserted instead of the brick. This jumper connects the reset pulse directly to the digital I/O card.

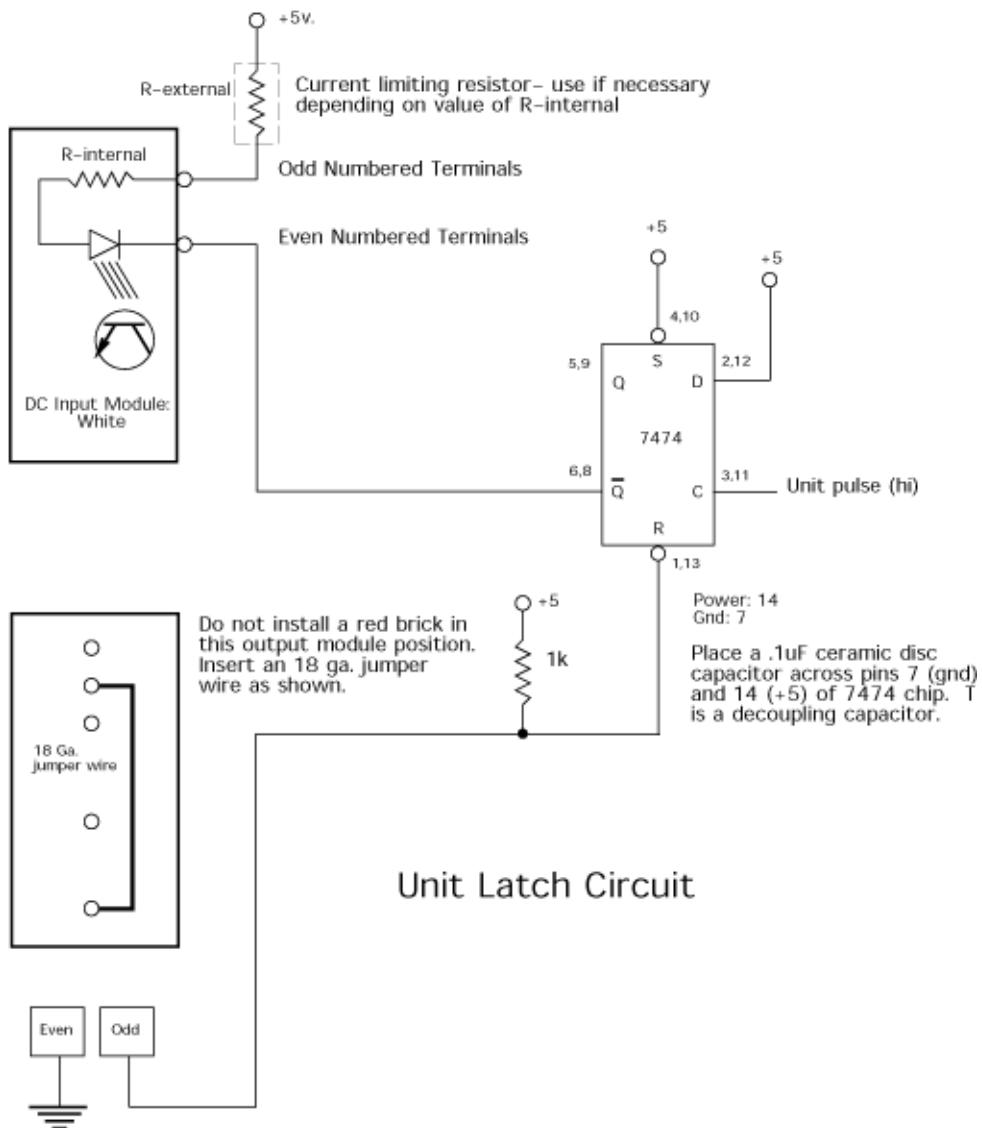
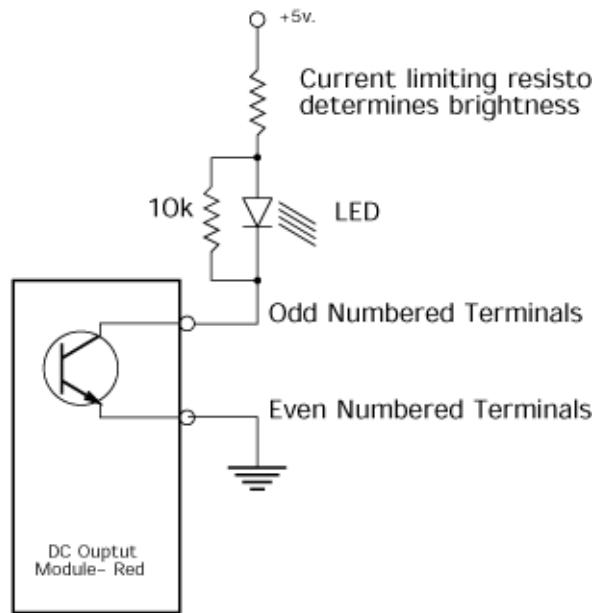


Figure 6: Unit Latch Circuit

The following circuits show various ways to drive LEDs. Figure 7 shows a single LED with a fixed current limiting resistor. This resistor could also be replaced with a pot to vary the brightness. Note the 10k shunt resistor. A DC output module has a small amount of leakage current in the off state, typically 10-30 micro amps. This current, though small, is still sufficient to illuminate an LED in a dark

room. The resistor shunts this current around the LED, preventing the LED from becoming forward biased when the I/O module is off.



10k resistor in parallel with LED is required to shunt leakage current from I/O module.

Figure 7: Single LED

Figure 8 shows an LED which can be dimmed. This circuit requires two I/O modules, and two pots.

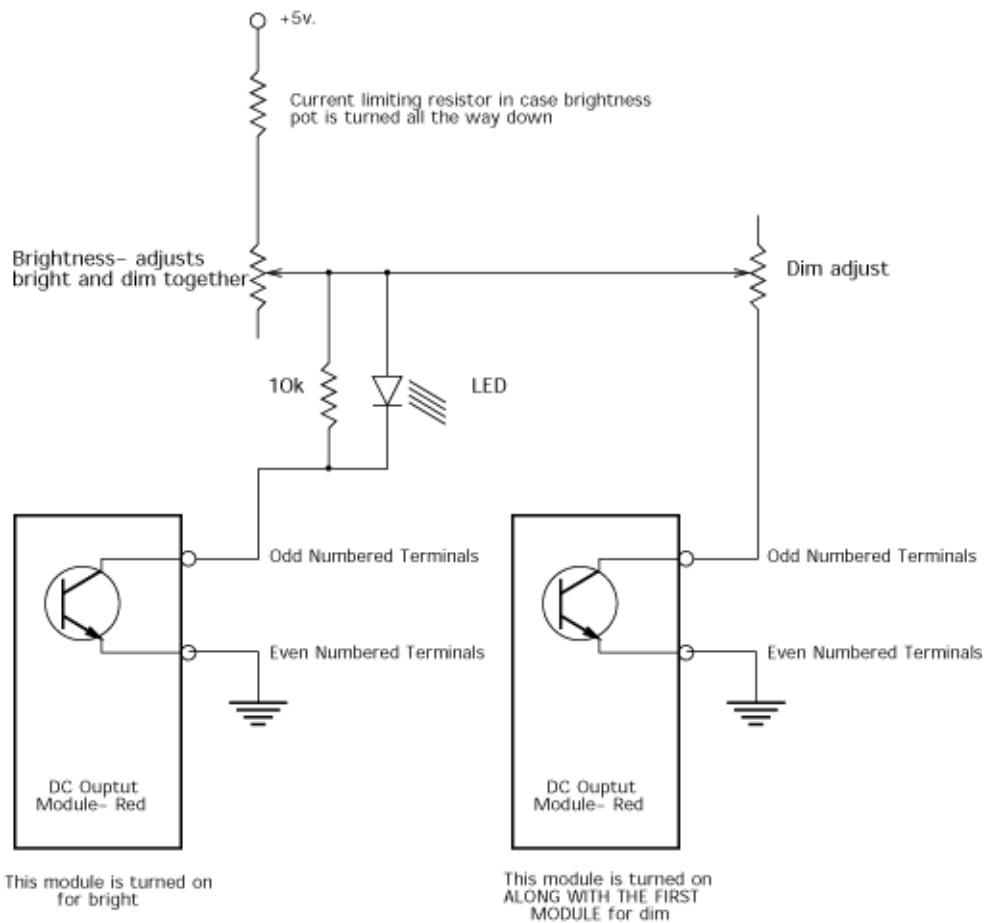
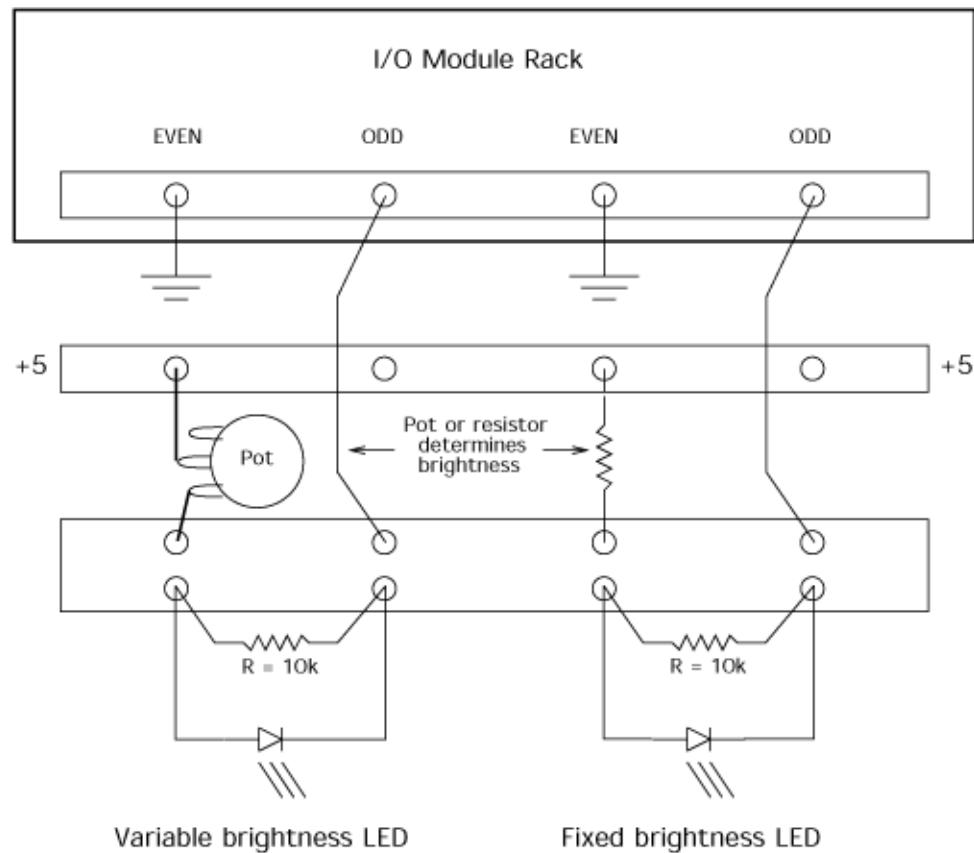


Figure 8: Dimmable LED

The last two figures show how to physically connect the above circuits on the I/O rack panel. Figure 9 shows the connection diagrams for a single LED, either variable brightness or fixed brightness.

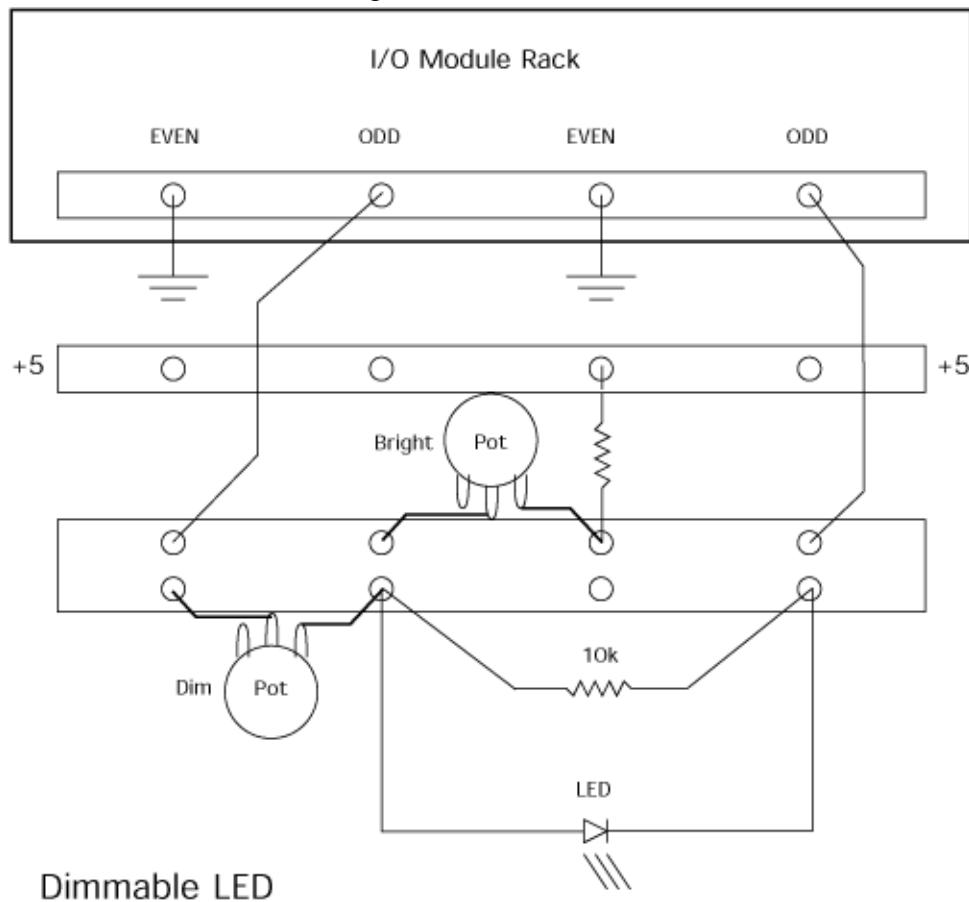


Note: solder 18 ga. solid wire to pot.  
The stiffness of this wire will hold pot in place.

10k resistor in parallel with LED is required to shunt leakage current from I/O module.

Figure 9: Single LED Connections

Figure 10 shows the connection diagram for a dimmable LED.



Note: solder 18 ga. solid wire to pot.  
The stiffness of this wire will hold pot in place.

10k resistor in parallel with LED is required to shunt leakage current from I/O module.

Figure 10: Dimmable LED Connections

The a/d input requires low pass filtering to prevent aliasing. At NIH, we use a custom built box that has an instrumentation amplifier and a six pole Frequency Devices active Bessel filter. At the very minimum, a single pole RC filter should be used. Figure 11 shows the circuit for an RC filter for a differential input with a corner frequency of 241Hz.

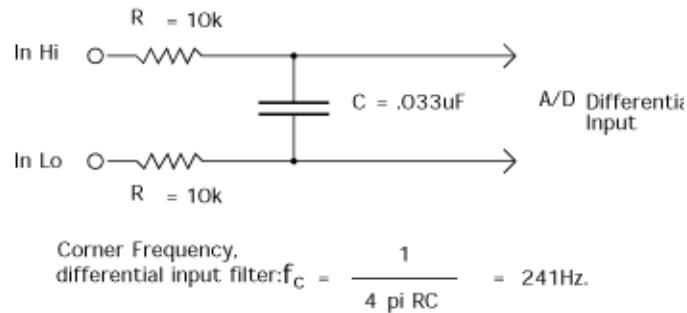


Figure 11: Single Pole RC Filter

## Appendix A: Example Orders

Following are copies of the orders we used at NIH:

**Industrial Computer Source**  
**10180 Scripps Ranch Blvd.**  
**San Diego, CA 92131-1298**  
**(800) 523-2320**  
**FAX: (619) 271-9666**  
**Attn.: Mark Thurman**

**Table 4:**

Item	Order Number	Description	Qty	Price ea.
1	DCC20/A	20 Channel Counter/ Timer card	1	\$395
2	PCDIO120-P	Digital I/O card	1	\$350
3	2M37DSM	37 pin termination board	1	\$29

NOTE: Don't order the counter/timer card at this time. It is not currently used, and may never be

Computer Boards, Inc.  
44 Wood Ave.  
Mansfield, MA 02048  
(508) 261-1123  
FAX: (508) 261-1094

**Table 5:**

Item	Order Number	Description	Qty	Price ea.
1	CIO-DDA06	6 channel D/A card	1	\$349
2	CIO-DAC08	8 channel D/A card	1	\$549
3	CIO-DAC16	16 channel D/A card	1	\$899

NOTE!!! Don't order all 3! Choose which one you need, based on how many d/a's you want.  
(Analogics may have another representative for your area. Call (508) 977-3000 to ask.)

Rep-tron, Inc.  
 6925-D Oakland Mills Road  
 Columbia, MD 21045  
 Attn.: Darrell Covell  
 (410) 995-6322  
 FAX: (410) 995-6325

**Table 6:**

Item	Order Number	Description	Qty	Price ea.
1	DAS-12/50	50KHz 12 bit a/d converter	1	\$449
2	ACAB-22	2 meter cable	1	\$90

NOTE!!! This is the 12 bit a/d. Order only one a/d- either this one or the 16 bit one.National Instruments

15851-A Crabbs Branch Way  
 Rockville, MD 20855  
 Attn.: Linda Provencher  
 (301) 258-0125

Item	Order Number	Description	Qty	Price ea.
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**Table 7:**

Item	Order Number	Description	Qty	Price ea.
1	AT-MIO16-X	16 bit A/D converter	8	\$2000

NOTE!!! This is the 16 bit a/d. Order only one a/d- either this one or the 12 bit one.

MS Electronics  
 8031 Cessna Ave.  
 Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
 (301) 921-0200  
 FAX (301) 921-4996  
 Attn.: John Heyden

Item	Order Number	Description	QtyPrice ea.
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**Table 8:**

Item	Order Number	Description	Qty
1	Grayhill 70RCK24-HL	24 Module I/O rack	2
2	Grayhill 70-ODC5	DC output module	30
3	Grayhill 70-IDC5	DC input module	8
4	Grayhill 70-OAC5	AC output module	4
5	Grayhill 70-OAC5A5	AC output module, NC	2
6	Grayhill 70-IAC5	AC input module	2
7	Grayhill 70-ODC5A	DC output module, 200V	2
8	Opto 22 ODC5R	Dry contact output module, normally open	8
9	Opto 22 Input Switch	Standard size input test switch	2
10	Opto 22 Output Switch	Standard size output test switch	2
11	Gordos ODC5ML	FET DC output module	2
12	Bud PA-1106 MG	10.5" Rack panel, metallic grey	2
13	Panduit E1x2LG6	Wiring duct, 6' length	1
14	Panduit WR2-C20	Wire Retainer, 100/pckg.	1
15	Beau 71114-7233/14-50	Terminal block	10
16	Beau 77014-50	Terminal block	10

NOTE: Each rack handles 24 bits (output or input). Adjust quantities accordingly. Quantities below are good estimate for one lab. For digital inputs that are logic levels you don't need a DC input module. The I/O rack must be mounted on the Bud panel so it can be screwed into a 19" rack cabinet. You will need 50 pin flat cables to connect the rack to the card in the pc.

#### For QNX:

NOTE!!!! As of Oct. 92, QNX Software has a promotion for University users. You can buy QNX for an enormous savings. Contact QNX Software DIRECTLY at (613) 591-0931.

Florida Datamation  
 4720 NW Boca Roton Blvd.  
 Suite 101-D  
 Boca Roton, FL 33431  
 (800) 642-5938  
 Attn.: David Schimmel

Order the latest release of QNX, Watcom C, TCP/IP.

### Noise tests of: Adac 5508SHR, National ATMIO16-X

Sampling rate: all 8 channels scanned each millisecond. For ADAC, pacer clock is 33.3KHz, for National 20KHz. Data below is for channel 1. Every other point was saved, so effective sample rate for data below is 500Hz. Channel inputs 5-7 were open.

In front of A/D input is a Burr-Brown instrumentation amp with gain of 2, and a Freq. Devices 6-pole Bessel filter with corner freq of 181Hz. A/D inputs were set to differential, -10, +10 volts, gain of 1.

Data was taken with input grounded (labeled 'gnd'), and connected to one of our lab devices (labeled 'coil'). This device was generating a DC level.

Histograms of output, giving sample value and number of counts for that value:

adac\_coil\_h 8 total bins, mean:.1596, sd: 1.0796

-3: cnt: 32  
-2: cnt: 593  
-1: cnt: 4043  
0: cnt: 4618  
1: cnt: 4390  
2: cnt: 1505  
3: cnt: 120  
4: cnt: 2

adac\_gnd\_h 6 total bins, mean: 1.1754, sd:.7511

-1: cnt: 182  
0: cnt: 2318  
1: cnt: 8209  
2: cnt: 4589  
3: cnt: 418  
4: cnt: 5

nix\_coil\_h 6 total bins, mean: -9.5482, sd:.9468

-12: cnt: 89  
-11: cnt: 2634  
-10: cnt: 4818  
-9: cnt: 5897  
-8: cnt: 1766  
-7: cnt: 99

nix\_gnd\_h 5 total bins, mean: -178.9268, sd:.5319

-181: cnt: 11  
-180: cnt: 1590  
-179: cnt: 10993  
-178: cnt: 2686  
-177: cnt: 23

## **Appendix B: REX License Agreement**

REX for the PC is distributed under a license agreement. This has been implemented to preserve the LSR's rights to negotiate with any companies that may want to commercialize PC-REX. The intent is \f3NOT\f1 to restrict it's distribution in any way to researchers.

The source to REX is kept on machine lsr.nei.nih.gov under /usr/ftp/rex. The distribution includes the REX source and the manual. The REX source is encrypted. The manual is not encrypted. In order to get the REX source, you must fax the completed license form below. You will then be contacted and given the decryption password. You can pick up the encrypted file via anonymous ftp. Please fill out license form and return via FAX to (301) 402-0511. My voice number is (301) 496-7143.

## **Statement of Terms and Conditions for Release of**

### **The PC-REX Software System**

The Federal Government of the United States of America is hereinafter "THE GOVERNMENT".

The Laboratory of Sensorimotor Research, hereinafter "LSR", an agency of THE GOVERNMENT, is the originator of the PC-REX package.

The PC-REX Package is a collection of computer programs, data files, and associated documentation, which may be provided in either or both electronic and printed form, hereinafter referred to as "PC-REX".

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(enter name of corporation or private individual requesting PC-REX),  
having an office at:

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\_\_\_\_\_ is hereinafter referred to as "RECIPIENT".

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# GLVEX User's Manual

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## Overview

GLvex is a WindowsNT-based program which displays a variety of visual stimuli on a video monitor. Although it can be used as a stand-alone program, it was primarily designed to interface with the Rex real-time data acquisition and control package. GLvex requires a PC running Windows NT V4.0 or higher with at least 64 megabyte of RAM, a graphics card that supports OpenGL version 1.1 and a mouse. For communication with the machine running Rex, you will need either an ethernet card or an Industrial Computer Source PCDIO 24 ISA parallel digital I/O card. If you are using the parallel I/O card, the port address of the card must be set to 0x280. I have tested GLvex with an STB Velocity 128 AGP graphics card, an Intergraph Intense Pro 3D PCI graphics card, an Elsa Gloria XL graphics card, an Omnicomp 3DAEMON TWIN PCI graphics card, and with SGI's 320 and 540 workstations. While GLvex will run on OEM graphics cards as long as they support OpenGL, animation performance is not as good as higher end boards such as the Intergraph and the Omnicomp. The best performance is with the SGI workstations. To use the parallel I/O card under windows NT V4.0 you must install Industrial Computer's PeekPoke drivers. These are included in the file icspp.zip in the distribution. To install, unzip the file and follow the installation instructions.

## What's New

### Additions

Vex 3.1 has the capability to display two- and three-dimensional flow fields. The points in the flow fields are updated in real time so there is no limitation on the length of time that flow field stimuli can be presented.

Vex 3.6 adds the capability to vary the life spans of the checks in flow fields, and the capability to vary the coherence of the movement of the checks in the flow fields. Vex 3.6 has the capability to respond to queries from Rex about the locations of display objects, and allows Rex to set the active object.

Vex 3.8 eliminates the need to switch overlapping objects on or off in a last-on, first-off sequence.

Vex 4.0 changes the COPY\_OBJECT command to allow the copied object to be stretched horizontally or vertically. Also, the luminance or color of the copied object can now be set independently of the source object. Vex 4.0 also adds a new command; DRAW\_RECTANGLE\_RANDOM\_PATTERN. DRAW\_RECTANGLE\_RANDOM\_PATTERN differs from DRAW\_RANDOM\_PATTERN in that the vertical and horizontal resolution of the pattern can be specified independently.

Vex 4.1 cleans up some bugs and improves the keyboard interface.

Vex 4.2 allows two objects to be moved in synchrony with the mouse.

Vex 4.3 adds movies to the list of objects to display. The movies can be either flow fields or sequences of objects. The frames of the flow field movies are stored in extended memory using a simple

extended memory manager. For this reason, Vex 4.3 MUST be run under Dos 6.2 or higher. If you want to run under Windows 95, you must use the pif file provided. This pif file causes Windows 95 to reboot into dos only mode. Vex 4.3 will not run in the default Windows 95 Dos shell. Vex 4.3 also will not run under Windows NT. Vex 4.3 also adds a ramp that erases the object that is being moved. This allows small objects to be placed on a ramp and moved without needing clipping rectangles or erasing annuli to eliminate the trail left by the object as it moves. However, the maximum size of the object that can be placed on an erase-ramp is smaller than that which can be placed on a standard ramp.

Vex 4.4 does away with the simple extended memory manager, using instead the Pharlap 286 Dos extender. This allows Vex 4.4 to run under the Windows 95 version of Dos. To do this, you must reboot the computer into Dos mode, or use the pif file provided. You cannot use a Dos shell under Windows 95 or Windows NT. Vex 4.4 provides a flag to allow users state whether objects may overlap or not. Setting this flag improves drawing performance when objects don't overlap. Vex 4.4 also allows ramps and flow fields to be run at the same time. The user can set a flow field running over a number of trials as a conditioning stimulus while running ramps on a per-trial basis. Vex 4.4 also allows users to load patterns from Rex.

Vex 4.5 adds circular motion to the ramp generator. Also ramps can oscillate or run continuously.

GLvex is a port of Vex 4.5 to OpenGL and the Windows NT operating system. I did this to eliminate the dependence on any particular graphics card, and to eliminate the need for the Pharlap 286 Dos Extender. GLvex is a 32-bit application. We have found that, in some LCD Projectors, the video fields are not phase locked to the vertical sync pulse. This means that the display cannot be synchronized to the data by software alone. GLvex adds a video syncing object flashes when synchronization is necessary. You can place this object anywhere on the screen. This video sync can be disabled. Included with this manual is the schematic for a photo diode trigger that we use in the LSR. GLvex adds automatic correction for tangent error. For calibration, users now input the distance from the subject's eyes to the screen and the width of the initial calibration pattern, both in millimeters, instead of the number of Rex units per pixel. GLvex adds the ability load ramps from Rex. This allows users to have ramps that vary in velocity (i.e. accelerating or decelerating ramps). GLvex enables users to choose the object erase method. The default, WHOLE\_SCREEN, is to simply clear the screen. This method is slower, particularly on low-end graphics boards, but allows users to move flow fields with the mouse while the flow field is running. This may be useful for mapping movement-sensitive neurons. The user may choose EACH\_OBJECT, which erases individual objects or checks. This method achieves the fastest performance. GLvex runs in RGBA mode rather than color lookup table mode. To maintain backwards compatibility, GLvex maintains its own 256 byte color lookup tables, one for each object. Users may specify user objects using either RGB values or color lookup table values. There is no limit to the number of objects you can have in GLvex, other than system memory.

GLvex 7.0 adds support for accepting keyboard and mouse commands from the eye window process of Rex 7.5

GLvex 7.1 adds support for drifting and counter phase sinusoidal gratings.

GLvex 7.2 adds support for varying the transparency of objects. Underlying objects will show through partially transparent overlying objects.

GLvex 7.4 adds support for sending debugging information to the Rex machine. GLvex 7.4 also adds mouse wheel support.

The Qt versions of GLvex dated May 2009 and alter add the ability to play .wav files.

## **Subtractions**

The following Rex commands have been eliminated from vex 3.1: JOYSTICK\_LOCATION, PATTERN\_CHECK\_SIZE, DRAW\_POLYGON, and REX\_DRIVE\_RAMP. The command SHIFT\_LOCATION can be substituted for the commands JOYSTICK\_LOCATION or REX\_DRIVE\_RAMP. The size of checks in stimulus patterns must be specified when the pattern is specified, so the command PATTERN\_CHECK\_SIZE is redundant. The command DRAW\_POLYGON was never implemented in earlier versions of GLvex, so it has been deleted. This command may be implemented in a later version of GLvex.

## **Starting GLvex**

You start GLvex from a WinNT console window. GLvex has several command line arguments. To get a list of arguments, type GLvex -h. You will get the following help message.

### **GLvex command line arguments:**

```
-r name: name of the rex machine
-o n: set number of objects
-Hz n: set video vertical refresh rate
-f [0/1]: start vex in [window/full screen] [default 1]
-WW n: width of vex window
-WH n: height of vex window
-WX n: X coordinate of Vex window
-WY n: Y coordinate of Vex window
-v [0 - 4]: number of rex video sync objects [ 0 to 4 ]
-d [0/1]: [disable/enable] rex digital sync
-e [0/1]: [each object/whole screen] erase
-Sx n x: X coordinate of the nth video sync object [1 - 4]
-Sy n y: Y coordinate of the nth video sync object [1 - 4]
-Sw n w: width of the nth video sync object in pixels [1 - 4]
-Sh n h: height of the nth video sync object in pixels [1 - 4]
-Sm [0/1].[0/1].[0/1]. red, green blue and alpha mask values [0.0.1.1]
-s n: distance between viewer and screen [mm]
-w n: width of calibration pattern [mm]
```

**You must enter values for both -s and -w to set scaling**

**Press any key to exit**

Note, the argument identifier (-Hz, etc.) must be separated from the parameter by a space. The default video refresh rate is 60 Hz. By default, both the video sync and digital sync are enabled (have values of 1). By default, the erase method is whole screen (has a value of 1). By default, the video sync object is located in the upper left corner of the screen and is 64 X 64 pixels in size. Therefore you do not need to enter values for these arguments unless you need something different. Since the distance between the viewer and the screen and the width of the calibration pattern will probably be the same for all of your experiments, you can start GLvex without entering values for screen distance and pattern width, make the measurements, then add those values to the command line arguments the next time you start. With the exception of the number of objects argument, all of the other arguments can also be set with keyboard commands or with rex commands. If you do not enter a value for the number of objects, you will get the following prompt.

**Enter number of objects**

GLvex will then wait until you enter a value.

To make entering these command line arguments easier, you can create a shortcut to GLvex and enter the arguments on the command line of the shortcut. Then all you need to do is double-click the

shortcut symbol to launch GLvex with the desired arguments. Click the right mouse button on the desktop and select New-Shortcut. In the Create Shortcut window, select Browse and traverse the drives and folders to where you installed GLvex.exe. Select GLvex.exe and click open. Enter the command line arguments you want in the Command line: window after the program name. Click Next and enter a name for the short cut. Click Finish. Now, whenever you launch GLvex from this shortcut, the command line arguments you entered will be applied.

Included in the distribution is an icon for GLvex -- GLvex.ico. To set the icon for the short cut, click on the short cut with the right mouse button, select the Shortcut tab, click on Change Icon, select the Browse button, enter the GLvex directory in the path, and select the GLvex icon.

To make debugging easier, set the window size of the console or shortcut to 80 columns and 25 lines, but set the screen buffer size to 80 columns and 200 to 300 lines. This way, you can set the debug flag, run your paradigm for a trial or two, then use the scroll bar on the console window to scan the debugging output.

Normally, GLvex runs as a full screen application. This means that the window decorations (border, title bar) are not shown. If you set the WinNT task bar option to Auto hide, then there will be no windows decorations at all. This also means that the console from which you started GLvex will be covered. GLvex does have a pseudo-console that appears in the upper-left corner of the screen to echo keyboard commands and display help messages, but this is not sufficient for debugging output. Therefore, you can set the window size to be smaller than the screen resolution so you can see debugging output in the WinNT console window. Once you have reduced the window size, you cannot go back to full screen mode, even if you try to set the window size to the screen resolution. The window decorations will always be visible. To go back to full screen mode, you will need to quit and restart GLvex.

## Coordinate System

The screen coordinate system used by GLvex is the same as that used by rex. That is, the center of the screen has a coordinate of 0x, 0y. Negative x values are in the left half of the screen, and negative y values are in the lower half of the screen. The basic unit of position in rex is one tenth of a degree. Therefore, in GLvex, a rex unit is defined as one tenth of a degree of visual angle. All position and window commands to GLvex will be in rex units if you set the scale factors properly. However, if you set the screen distance value to 0, then all position commands to GLvex will be in raw pixels.

## Video Fields

In raster displays, drawing begins in the upper left corner of the screen, and continues left-to-right, top-to-bottom, until the bottom right corner of the screen. With the graphics board running at 60Hz, this process is repeated 60 times a second. To set the display rate and spatial resolution, click on the Windows NT desktop with the right mouse button to bring up the Display Properties panel. Select the refresh frequency and desktop area you want. GLvex is able to determine the desktop area, but not the refresh frequency. Therefore, you will need to enter the refresh frequency using the keyboard command described below. In GLvex a video field is defined as the time it takes draw the screen once. At 60Hz, a video field is 16.67 milliseconds. All stimuli in GLvex must be presented for some integer number of video fields. Because modern video cards allow a range of vertical refresh rates, I have included a keyboard command in GLvex to set the vertical refresh rate. You will need to set this to get accurate flow field speeds and ramp movement speeds.

## **Animation**

GLvex allows several types of animation. You can have flow fields in which checks move in a two- or three-dimensional space. You can place stimuli on ramps such that the stimulus moves across the screen. You can define square wave gratings in which the bars drift horizontally or vertically. You can set up sequences of stimuli to be displayed as a movie. In computing the animation sequences, GLvex assumes that all drawing will be completed in one vertical refresh cycle of the video system. However, if your animation involves a lot of drawing, the graphics hardware may not be able to draw everything in one vertical refresh cycle. When this occurs, your animation will be much slower than you specified. For example, the drawing requires between 1 and 2 vertical refresh cycles, your animation will run at half the speed you specified. Further, if the drawing requires exactly 1 vertical refresh cycle, the movement will likely be jerky.

GLvex has no way of knowing how much time the drawing is taking so it has no way of adjusting the animation to deliver the speed you specified. Therefore, you should manually time your animation sequences. You do not need precision timing to do this because the speed drops so much as the drawing timing increases; first to half speed, then to third speed, then to quarter speed, etc. It is possible to test this by setting up an animation sequence to take, say two seconds, and then counting "one mississippi, two mississippi" as the sequence runs. One way or another, you should test the speed of your animations. If you find that your animation runs slower than you specified, you should increase the specified speed to compensate.

How much drawing can be done in each vertical refresh cycle depends on the graphics hardware. Generally, the more expensive the hardware, the more it can draw in each vertical refresh cycle. Of the machines I have tested, I have found that the SGI 320 workstation provide the best animation performance for the price of Windows NT workstations. If you need higher animation performance, Dell, Hewlett Packard, and IBM among others offer high end graphics workstations using Intergraph graphics that may be better. Further, though I haven't done it yet, it would not be difficult to port GLvex to unix and X windows so that it could be run on high end unix graphics workstations such as the SGI Octane series.

## **Stimuli**

Most GLvex static stimuli are sets of square checks that are laid out in a rectangular matrix to form the desired pattern. The resolution of a pattern refers to the number of rows and columns of the check matrix. Pattern checks are not the same as video pixels. A video pixel is the smallest element that the graphics board can draw on the screen, and depends on the hardware configuration. A pattern check is the smallest element of a pattern, and is a logical concept. Each pattern check can be several video pixels high and wide. The exceptions to this are bar, annulus, and circle stimuli, and TIFF images.

Flow field stimuli are lists of points distributed at random in a two- or three-dimensional space. The resolution parameter of static patterns has no meaning for flow fields, so the size of the flow field stimulus is limited only by the size of the display screen.

*Types of stimuli.* GLvex will display the following types of stimuli:

- Walsh patterns with a resolution of 16 checks X 16 checks.
- Haar patterns with a resolution of 16 checks X 16 checks.
- User defined patterns with a resolution of up to 255 checks X 255 checks. User defined patterns need not be square.
- Random check patterns with a resolution of up to 255 checks X 255 checks. Random check patterns need not be square.

- Circular spots and annuli..
- Oriented bar stimuli.
- RGBA Tiff images.
- A calibration pattern with a resolution of 40 checks X 40 checks.
- Two- and three-dimensional flow fields.
- Movies.
- Square gratings to be used as optokinetic nystagmus stimuli.
- Sinusoidal grating stimuli
- .wav sound stimuli in Qt versions of GLvex dated May2009 and later.

Stimuli can be grouped into two classes: two tone stimuli and continuous tone stimuli. Two tone stimuli are those that have one set of checks that are one color or luminance and a second set of checks that are a second color or luminance. These two colors or luminances are termed foreground colors and background colors. Two tone stimuli may be monochromatic, that is consist of "white" and "black" checks, or they may be poly chromatic, consisting of red and green checks or yellow and blue checks, etc. In monochromatic stimuli, the foreground and background checks can each have any of 256 shades of gray. In poly chromatic stimuli, the foreground and background checks can each have any of 16,777,216 colors. Walsh patterns, Haar patterns, random check patterns, circles, flow fields okn gratings and annuli are all two toned stimuli. User defined patterns may be two toned. Examples of how to define a two toned user pattern are given below.

Continuous tone stimuli may have up to 256 different gray levels or any number of colors simultaneously. The calibration pattern is a continuous tone pattern, and users may define continuous tone patterns. Examples of how to define a continuous toned user pattern are given below.

## **Calibration pattern**

When you first start GLvex, it will display a calibration pattern on the screen. This calibration pattern is 40 checks high and 40 checks wide. The pattern is a hollow white square that is bisected by horizontal, vertical, and diagonal white bars. The horizontal and vertical bars contain sets of 16 gray shades. The center of the pattern has a black spot that indicates the 0, 0 coordinate of the display. This pattern can be used to determine whether your monitor has any barrel or pincushion distortion, and whether the horizontal and vertical scales are the same. The gray shades give you a standard that you can use to tweak the contrast and brightness controls of your monitor to give you the best dynamic range. This pattern is also essential for setting the Rex calibration. To set Rex calibration, you will need to measure the distance from the viewer to the screen in millimeters, and the width of the calibration pattern in millimeters. GLvex will use these values to calculate the number of video pixels per rex unit (1/10 of a degree) and to correct for tangent error.

## **Flow fields**

Flow fields are drawn in rectangular or circular objects which can be of any size up the to the limits of the screen. Additionally, a rectangular or circular portion of the flow field can be masked out. The rectangular mask can be located anywhere in the object, but the circular mask is centered in the object. Multiple flow fields may be displayed simultaneously. For three-dimensional flow fields, the movement of the points are specified by 6 parameters: movement along the X and Y axes (sheer), movement along the Z axis (vergence), rotation about the Z axis (roll), rotation about the Y axis (yaw), and rotation about the X axis (pitch). For two-dimensional flow fields, the parameters which produce movement in depth (vergence, yaw, and pitch) must be set to 0 or the program will hang.

The movement of points in the flow fields in the X-Y plane are specified in rex units (tenths of a degree of visual angle). The movement of points in depth are in the linear equivalents of rex units. That is; if your display subtends 1 degree of visual angle per centimeter, then movement of 10 degrees/second along the Z axis would be equivalent to movement of 10 centimeters/second.

To use flow field stimuli, you must first define the flow field pattern. After defining the pattern you may define an occluding mask if you wish. The last step is to define the movement parameters of the flow field. Only after fully defining the flow field may you start the flow fields. Failure to follow this sequence will result in error messages or may cause the GLvex computer to crash.

Starting and stopping the movement of the flow fields is independent of switching the objects on or off. After a flow field movement has started, the object in which it is drawn may be turned off and then on again to produce a blink stimulus. While the object is off, the positions of the points in the flow field will be continuously update according to the transformation matrix so that when the object is turned back on, the points will be in the positions that they would have been in had they not been turned off. Also, an object containing a flow field pattern may be switched on and off without putting the flow field in motion, allowing you use flow field patterns as static stimuli.

When you stop the movement of groups of flow fields, you should stop all the flow fields that are running. If you start flow fields moving in 4 objects, and then stop the flow fields in two of the objects, the checks in the stopped flow fields will jitter back and forth as long as the flow fields in the remaining two objects continue in motion.

## Objects

GLvex draws all stimuli in logical objects. The objects may be switched on or off for static displays, or they may be placed on ramps for moving displays. Presenting stimuli using GLvex is somewhat like presenting pictures using an overhead projector. Using an overhead can be broken into three steps, you first draw a picture or write some text on a sheet of acetate, you then place the acetate on the projector platen and slide it into the correct position, and finally you turn the overhead projector on. All three of these steps are independent. That is, the projector does not have to be turned on to draw a picture on a sheet of acetate or to position the acetate. A GLvex object is analogous to a sheet of acetate, GLvex drawing operations are analogous to drawing on the acetate, GLvex positioning operations are analogous to sliding the acetate around on the projector platen, and GLvex switching operations are analogous to switching the projector on or off. Moving an object on a GLvex ramp is analogous to sliding the acetate around on the projector platen while the projector is on.

The three steps in displaying a stimulus in GLvex take different amounts of time, just as they do in using overhead projectors. Drawing a stimulus in an object can take a fair amount of time depending on the complexity of the stimulus (several seconds for a large random check pattern). Positioning an object on the screen is fairly fast, but switching an object on or off is the fastest operation. By making the three steps in presenting stimuli independent, GLvex allows you to group the time consuming steps of drawing and positioning into one action to be called at the beginning of the trial, thus falling in the inter-trial interval.

One of the properties of GLvex objects is priority. Object 1 has the highest priority, and objects with higher numbers have lower priorities. The fixation point has the highest priority of all. High priority objects always occlude lower priority objects. This is different from previous versions of vex where object 1 had the lowest priority and higher number objects had higher priorities.

TIP: If you want to move one object around on the screen while other objects are on, performance will be best if you move the highest priority object.

## Communications

Users may communicate with GLvex directly through the keyboard, from rex, or with the mouse. Objects can be moved on the screen or flashed on and off using the mouse. To move the active object, move the mouse while holding down the right mouse button. Pressing the left mouse button will turn the active off. This is different from previous versions of vex where pressing the left mouse button caused the object to reverse contrast. Pressing the left mouse button will turn off all types of objects, not just two-toned objects as was the case with previous versions of vex. You can change the active object using the "s" command described below. Sometimes, the object will not go to the edges of the screen. In this case, re-specify the active object using the "s". command. The keyboard and rex protocols are described below.

### Communications with Rex

GLvex can use either of two protocols to communicate with Rex. The first method is to use a parallel I/O card and the subroutines in pcmsg. This communication algorithm is fully handshaked and has no timing dependencies. The code on either the TX\_PC (transmitting) side or the RX\_PC (receiving) side can be interrupted indefinitely at any point and the algorithm will still function properly when execution is resumed. The algorithm would be simpler if the handshaking lines were latched. However, the 8255 chip on the PIO board was not designed to talk directly to another 8255. It does not permit an efficient algorithm without external glue logic to latch the handshake lines. If the receiving PC encounters an error the ERROR line is set. The transmitting PC then aborts the transfer and returns an error to the caller. Error conditions are therefore passed from the receiving end back to the transmitting end. Errors are not sent from the transmitting end to the receiving end. However, the transmitting end reports an error to the caller if message receiving is not enabled on the receiving end.

### Synchronizing parallel I/O communications

To ensure that messages between rex and GLvex are not garbled when you are using the pcmsg communication protocol, actions in your paradigm that communicate with GLvex should be called only when the transmission line is clear, and your paradigm should be ready to handle signals returned from GLvex. At the present time this synchronization must be done explicitly. The best way to ensure proper synchronization is to embed actions that communicate with GLvex in a set of three states as follows:

Example GLvex parallel I/O communication state set:

```
    .          /* other states in your paradigm */

    .          to vstwts  /* vstwts means vex state wait to send */

vstwts:      to vexst on 0 % tst_tx_rdy /* test if transmission is ready */
              /* a state that sends a message to vex */
              do vex_call()      /* do action which sends a message to vex */
              to vexack on 0 % tst_rx_new/* escape when vex signal is received */

vexst:       code ECODE /* to indicate the start of a display change */
              do pcm_ack(0)/* do action which acknowledges signal from vex */
              time 100
              rand 100
              to othst      /* othst means other states */

vexack:      .          /* other states in your paradigm */

othst:       .          /* other states in your paradigm */
```

***/\* other states in your paradigm \*/***

The escapes *tst\_tx\_rdy* and *tst\_rx\_new* are functions defined in vex\_com.c that test whether the transmission line is ready and whether a new message has been received, respectively. Beginning with Rex 7.2 the GLvex escape functions are defined in the vexActions.c located in /rex/act. In this example, note that in the states vstwts and vexst, the rex variables time and rand are not given values. These variables should not be given values in states that test the transmission lines. In particular, you should not write paradigms that exit from states before the communication conditions have been met. This can cause problems. You may find that not giving the time variable a value causes your paradigm to hang. This is a bug in your spot file which you should try to fix rather than ignore.

## Ethernet communications

The second method is to use an ethernet card and the subroutines in pcsSockets. To use this method, you must use the sockets version of Rex and you should have the QNX TCP/IP Developer's toolkit installed on your computer. Ethernet communications are more easily implemented in your spot files and have a broader bandwidth than do parallel I/O communications. However, ethernet communications are subject to network fluctuations, especially if you connect the GLvex and Rex machines using a network with a lot of other machines. Depending on your situation, you may be better off using a 3 or 4 port mini-hub to isolate your experimental machines from the rest of the network. Also, ethernet communications do not guarantee millisecond precision in synchronizing communications between the GLvex and rex machines, so the use of the video sync object is more important.

To use ethernet communications, connect your GLvex and rex machines to your network, then try to ping each machine from the other using their names.

*For example:* From the rex machine execute: ping vex\_machine\_name. From the GLvex machine execute: ping rex\_machine\_name. Don't use the IP addresses because the ethernet communications protocol implemented in rex only uses names, not IP addresses. Your systems must pass this test or the ethernet communications won't work.

To use ethernet communications you must set the flags that will compile the sockets code. Edit the /rex/hdr/cnf.h file and make sure that it contains the line:

**#define PCS\_SOCKET /\* PC to PC messaging code with sockets \*/**

The /rex/int directory should contain the files pcsVexSocket.c and pcsVexSocket.o.

Once you have your rex and GLvex machines communicating you can turn to your spot files. In each spot file you must define a restart function. The beginning of the first chain of states should look something like:

```
%%  
id 100  
restart rinitf  
main_set {  
status ON  
begin      first:  
. . .
```

In this example, rinitf is the name of the restart function. You can call it anything you want. This function is called whenever you start a paradigm using the rp command, reset the states using the rs

menu command, or return to a paradigm using the c p command. Beginning with Rex 7.6, the restart function should look something like:

```
rinitf(void) {
    char *host = "lsr-sgia"; /* name of the GLvex machine as defined in /etc/hosts */
    pcsConnectVex(host);/* open a udp socket to the GLvex machine */
    wd_disp(D_W_EYE_X);

    . . .
    /* other functions in rinitf */

}
```

When you launch GLvex, you should set the name of your rex machine on the command line using the -r flag described above:

**GLvex.exe -r lsr-labvex -o 5... (other arguments)**

This argument tells GLvex to accept commands only from the machine lsr-labvex.

## Synchronizing ethernet communications

The ethernet communications protocol between rex and GLvex are not as complicated as the parallel I/O protocol. You need not test to see if the transmission line is clear and you do not need to acknowledge responses from GLvex. Therefore, the set of states described for the parallel I/O communications protocol can be reduced to the following:

Example GLvex ethernet communication state set:

```
. . .
/* other states in your paradigm */

to vexst          /* escape to the vex state */
vexst:           /* a state that sends a message to vex */
    do vex_call() /* do action which sends a message to vex */
    to nxtst on 0 % tst_rx_new/* escape when GLvex signal received */

nxtst:
    code ECODE /* to indicate the start of a display change */
    time 100
    rand 100
    to othst   /* othst means other states */

othst:
. . .
/* other states in your paradigm */
```

*Note: The only escapes you should use from states that call these actions are when the function tst\_rx\_new returns 0 or when a photo cell is triggered by the video sync object.*

## Synchronizing stimuli

GLvex sends a signal at the beginning of the first video field when the display needed to synchronized to the data collection (i.e.. when a stimulus was turned on or a ramp started). Your spot file can drop an ecode when Rex receives the signal to allow you to align data across trials. This digital form of synchronization may not be possible for some digital displays. In some LCD and DLP projectors, the video display is not phase locked to the vertical sync pulse. (Its true, just don't ask me why). Therefore, GLvex includes a video synchronizing signal. This signal is a small black square. By default, it is located in the upper left corner of the screen, but you can place it anywhere you wish. This square will flash white for one video field when synchronization is be needed. You can tape a photo diode over the

square and use its signal to align data. Included in this documentation is a schematic for a trigger system that we use in the LSR. The video sync object will be displayed only when you send commands from rex that require timing. It will not be displayed for batchable commands from rex, or for keyboard commands. By default, both digital and video sync signals are enabled, but you can disable either or both by command line arguments, keyboard commands, or rex commands.

There is a practical difference between the digital and video synchronization signals. Each digital synchronization signal must be acknowledged. If your spot file doesn't wait for the digital sync signal using the `tst_rx_new` function and doesn't acknowledge the signal with the `pcm_ack` function, communications between GLvex and rex will get screwed up and your paradigm will hang. The video synchronization signals do not need to be acknowledged. In the LSR, we feed the output of the photo diode into a latch that goes high when the video sync flashes white and stays high until reset by the rex paradigm. Further flashes have no effect. Therefore, to use only the video sync signals you are interested in, you can send a reset command to the digital I/O port (`dio_on()`) just before you are expecting a critical sync signal. This will clear any previously latched signals.

## Parallel I/O Communication errors

This section is repeated in the ERRORS AND WARNINGS section.

It is possible for communications between the rex and GLvex PC's to get out of sync when you are using the `pcmsg` protocol. If this happens, your paradigm will hang, or the stimulus display will become erratic. In either event, stop the rex paradigm by setting the PSTOP switch to on, hit the `<return>` key on the GLvex PC to halt any messages to rex, type "`r s`" on the rex PC to restart the state list, and finally, set the PSTOP switch to off to resume the paradigm. If your paradigm still does not run, check to see if the GLvex PC is hung by typing "`<return>`". Vex should print a help message. If not, reboot the GLvex PC using the cntrl-alt delete sequence. If GLvex is not hung, kill and reload the offending rex process. In the worst case, you will have to quit rex and reboot the GLvex PC.

There are four general ways that rex to GLvex communications can get out of sync.

- First, if you end the rex clock to stop a paradigm, or you reset the state list after rex has sent a command to GLvex but before GLvex has sent its response signal, you may de synchronize the communications. To avoid this, ALWAYS stop paradigms using the PSTOP switch before ending the rex clock or using the `r s` command. This should guarantee that all communications have been resolved. At this point, you can end the clock, begin the clock, reset the state list, or open and close files.
- Second, including states that call actions which communicate with GLvex in the rex abort list. Rex will attempt to execute these actions without testing the transmission bits or acknowledging signals from GLvex. This will cause problems. Monkey (subject) errors must be handled explicitly in the following manner:

Example state loop:

```
        :          /* other states in your paradigm */  
        :  
        :          to vstwts  
vstwts:  
        :          to vexst on 0 % tst_tx_rdy /* test if transmission is ready */  
vexst:  
        :          do vex_time() /* vex command that will take a while */  
        :          to error on +WD0_XY & eyeflag  
        :          to vexack on 0 % tst_rx_new/* escape when signal is received */
```

```

vexack:
    code ECODE
    do pcm_ack(0)          /* acknowledge signal from vex */
    time 100
    rand 100
    to othst

othst:
    .
    .
    /* other states in your paradigm */

error:
    code ERR1CD
    do reset_s(-1) /* but don't include vex states in abort list */
    to alloff on 0 % tst_tx_rdy

alloff:
    do off_all() /* turn off all stimuli and fixation point */
    to offack on 0 % tst_rx_new

offack:
    do pcm_ack(0)
    time 5000           /* time out */
    to disable

abort:
    offrew
    clwind

```

Third, the monkey can make an error that causes an escape from a state such as vexst in the example above that is expecting a signal from GLvex just as GLvex is about to send the signal. In the above example, if the actions to handle monkey errors do not send the abort command off\_all() before GLvex sends the signal at the end of the vex\_time() action, you may have an extra, unacknowledged signal from GLvex. This situation should occur infrequently.

Fourth, you are careless in testing the transmit and receive bits in your paradigm or you do not acknowledge signals from GLvex. Study the example spot file at the end of this document carefully. In particular, don't hide the `pcm_ack(0)` action in other actions to save on the number of states in your paradigm. While this is legal, it will make your paradigms harder to debug. This type of error will cause frequent hang-ups but may not occur on every trial. In particular, be suspicious if your paradigm runs properly only if some states need to have the time variable set to some minimum value.

## KEYBOARD COMMANDS

Unless otherwise indicated, keyboard commands are case sensitive. That is the command beginning with the letter x is different the command beginning with the letter X. Most of the keyboard commands affect a single object. A keyboard command is used to select which object is active. Once an object has been made active, it remains active until changed. All subsequent keyboard commands such as drawing, switching, moving, or sizing will affect only that object. There are two forms of keyboard commands; single stroke commands which are not terminated by a <return>, and single or multi-stroke commands which are terminated with a <return>.

## Keyboard commands not terminated by a <return>

These keys may be tapped once for a single execution of the command, or they may be pressed and held for repeated execution of the command. Vex will not be able to keep up with repeat execution,

so the action will continue for a while after you have released the key. Also, you will get input buffer overflow errors if you hold the key down too long.

**UP ARROW**

Moves the active object up one video pixel.

**DOWN ARROW**

Moves the active object down one video pixel.

**LEFT ARROW**

Moves the active object left one video pixel.

**RIGHT ARROW**

Moves the active object right one video pixel.

**F1**

For Walsh and Haar patterns, increment the pattern number by one. For user patterns, tiff images, and png images, increment the file number by one. For random patterns, increase the proportion of white checks by one percent. For flow field stimuli, increase the density of the checks by one tenth of a percent. For annulus stimuli, increase the outer diameter of the annulus by one tenth of a degree. For bar stimuli and sine wave gratings, increase the orientation by one degree.

**F2**

For Walsh and Haar patterns, decrement the pattern number by one. For user patterns, tiff images, and png images, decrement the file number by one. For random patterns, decrease the proportion of white checks by one percent. For flow field stimuli, decrease the density of the checks by one tenth of a percent. For annulus stimuli, decrease the outer diameter of the annulus by one tenth of a degree. For bar stimuli and sine wave gratings, decrease the orientation by one degree.

**F3**

For Walsh, Haar, user, random, and flow field patterns, increase the check size by one. For annulus stimuli, increase the inner diameter of the annulus by one tenth of a degree. For bar stimuli, increase the length of the bar by one tenth of a degree. For sine wave gratings, increase the spatial frequency by 5%.

**F4**

For Walsh, Haar, user, random, and flow field patterns, decrease the check size by one. For annulus stimuli, decrease the inner diameter of the annulus by one tenth of a degree. For bar stimuli, decrease the length of the bar by one tenth of a degree. For sine wave gratings, decrease the spatial frequency by 5%.

**F5**

For Walsh and Haar patterns and annulus stimuli, swap the contrast of the pattern. For bar stimuli, increase the width of the bar by one tenth of a degree. For flow field patterns, increase the speed of check movement by one degree per second. For random patterns, increase the number of rows of checks by one. For sine wave gratings, increase the temporal frequency by 10%.

## **F6**

For Walsh and Haar patterns and annulus stimuli, swap the contrast of the pattern. For bar stimuli, decrease the width of the bar by one tenth of a degree. For flow field patterns, decrease the speed of check movement by one degree per second. For random patterns, decrease the number of rows of checks by one. For sine wave gratings, decrease the temporal frequency by 10%.

## **F7**

For bar stimuli, swap the contrast of the pattern. For random patterns, increase the number of columns of checks by one. For sine wave gratings, increase the contrast by 10%.

## **F8**

For bar stimuli, swap the contrast of the pattern. For random patterns, decrease the number of columns of checks by one. For sine wave gratings, decrease the contrast by 10%.

## **F9**

For sine wave gratings, increase the size of the patch by one half of a degree.

## **F10**

For sine wave gratings, decrease the size of the patch by one half of a degree.

## **Mouse Wheel**

Beginning with GLvex 7.4, rotation of the mouse wheel gives the same functionality as function keys F1 and F2.

## **Keyboard commands terminated by a <return>**

### **"a"; Set anti aliasing**

This command turns OpenGL's software anti aliasing on and off. Anti aliasing reduces the jagged appearance of lines that are not quite vertical or horizontal. If you type "a<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following

**a [0 1]: set aliasing [off on]**

Example command:

**a 1**

This command turns anti aliasing on. With some combinations of computer, operating system and device driver, turning software anti aliasing on causes the object to be drawn in the background color, seeming to disappear. If this happens, turn software anti aliasing off and use the hardware anti aliasing features.

### **"b"; Set screen background color**

This command sets the screen background color or luminance. This command is not case sensitive. If you type "b<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**b [r g b]: set Background color to rgb**

**b [n]: set Background luminance level to n**

**Current background = 128 128 128**

The letters *r g b* in brackets stand for the values of red, green, and blue to use for the screen background. The values for *r*, *g*, and *b* each can range from 0 to 255. The letter *n* in brackets stands for the gray level to use for the screen background. These values can range from 0 to 255.

Example commands:

**b 128 0 0**

This command sets the screen background to a medium red.

**b 128**

This command sets the screen background to a medium gray.

**"C"; Color Mask**

This command sets the color planes that GLvex will draw in. If you type "*C*<*return*>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**C red, green, blue, alpha**

The terms red, green, blue, and alpha stand for the drawing planes.

Example command:

**C 1 0 0 0**

This command will cause GLvex to draw in the red color plane only. This command will override any color commands.

**"c"; Absolute clipping rectangle, Clear**

These commands set the clipping rectangle of the active object, and clear the screen. If you type "*c*<*return*>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**clear: clear the screen****cfull: set Clipping rectangle to FULL screen****cr [x y w h]: set Clipping rectangle to location x, y, width w, height h**

The letter *w* in brackets stands for the width of the clipping rectangle in rex units (tenths of a degree). The letter *h* in brackets stands for the height of the clipping rectangle in rex units. The letter *x* in brackets stands for the X coordinate of the center of the clipping rectangle in rex units. The letter *y* in brackets stands for the Y coordinate of the center of the clipping rectangle in rex units. The word full in brackets stands for setting the clipping rectangle to the full screen.

Example commands:

**cr -10 -10 150 100**

This command places the center of the clipping rectangle 1 degree below and to the left of the center of the screen, and makes the clipping rectangle for the active object 15 degrees wide and 10 degrees tall.

**cfull**

This command makes the clipping rectangle for the active object span the entire screen.

**clear**

This command completely clears the screen, and sets all object switches to OFF. This command is useful for cleaning up garbage left by improperly sequenced switch or move commands.

**"D"; Debug flag**

This command sets the debug condition. If you type "*D*<*return*>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**D [0/1]: set Debug state to 0 = NO, 1 = YES**

Example commands:

**D 1**

This command will turn the rex debugging flag on. When the debugging flag is on, GLvex will print to the console window every command and parameter that it receives from rex, and it will print each signal that it sends to rex. To use this command effectively, you should use the w command (see below) to reduce the size of the GLvex display window so you can see the console window. Also, if you

set the console window screen buffer size to 200 to 300 lines, you will be able to run your paradigm for several trials, then be able to use the scroll bar on the console window to view the debugging output.

Beginning with GLvex 7.4 and Rex 7.9, if this command is entered in the Rex eye window, the debugging information will be sent to Rex for display. This allows you to see debugging information without having to reduce the GLvex display window.

### "d"; Rex scaling

This command sets up the rex scaling factor. If you type "*d*<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**d [d w]: set screen distance, pattern width in millimeters**

The letter *d* in brackets stands for the distance from the viewer to the screen. The letter *w* in brackets stands for the width of the initial calibration pattern. Both values must be in millimeters.

Example command:

**d 572 900**

This command sets the screen distance to 572 millimeters and the pattern width to 900 millimeters.

### "e"; Set erase method

GLvex allows two methods of erasing stimuli; clearing the entire screen or erasing each individual object with rectangles the color of the screen background. By default, the erase method is set to clearing the entire screen. Erasing each object is much faster than clearing the entire screen, especially on low-end graphics boards. However, using the entire screen method allows you to move and switch a running flow field with the mouse. This could be useful in mapping the receptive fields of movement sensitive neurons such as those found in area MT of the Macaque. If you type "*e*<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**e [0/1]: set erase method to 0 = each object 1 = whole screen**

The letters *0/1* in brackets stand for the erase method.

Example command:

**e 1**

This command sets the erase method to clear the entire screen.

### "F"; Fixation point properties

Commands beginning with "F" set the properties of the fixation point. If you type "*F*<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**Fc [n]: set Fixation luminanCe to n**

**Fc [r g b]: set Fixation Color to r g b**

**Fm [n]: set Fixation diM level to n**

**Fm [r g b]: set Fixation diM color to r g b**

**Fx [n m]: move Fixation point to nX mY**

**Fz [n]: set Fixation point size to n pixels**

In the two "*Fc*" commands, the letter *n* in brackets stands for the on luminance of the fixation point, and the letters *r g b* in brackets stand for the on color of the fixation point. Similarly, in the two "*Fm*" commands, the letter *n* in brackets stands for the dim luminance of the fixation point, and the letters *r g b* in brackets stand for the dim color of the fixation point. In both the *Fc* and *Fm* commands, the values for *n* and for *r, g, and b* can range from 0 to 255. In the "*Fx*" command, the letters *n m* in brackets stand for the X and Y coordinates of the fixation point location. In the "*Fz*" command, the letter *n* stands for the size of the fixation point in video pixels.

Example commands:

#### **Fc 64**

This command will make the fixation point dark gray when it is turned on.

#### **Fm 128 0 0**

This command will make the fixation point turn medium red when it is dimmed.

#### **Fx 200 200**

This command moves the fixation point into the upper right part of the screen.

#### **Fz 4**

This command makes the fixation point 4 video pixels high and 4 video pixels wide.

### **"f"; Switch fixation point, set video frame rate**

These commands switch and dim the fixation point and tell GLvex the vertical refresh rate of your monitor If you type "*f<return>*", you will get the following help message:

**fpon: turn Fixation point on**  
**fpoff: turn Fixation point off**  
**fpdim: dim the Fixation point**  
**fr [n]: set frame rate to n Hz**

Example commands:

#### **fpdim**

This command dims the fixation point.

#### **fr 100**

This command tells GLvex that the frame rate of your monitor is 100 Hz. GLvex uses the frame rate to calculate how big to make each step of a ramp or how far to move each check in a flow field on each screen refresh. Note: Low-end graphics boards may not be able to produce smooth animation such as ramps or flow fields at high frame rates. You may get a better looking display by setting the frame rate lower than you are actually using.

### **"g"; Grating stimuli**

These commands allow you to set up and run sinusoidal, square wave, and optokinetic gratings.

If you type "*g<return>*", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**gk [a s w h t]: darw OKN grating with a angle, s speed, w X h size bar, t size**  
**gs [ o f t p c s]: draw Sine wave with o orientation, spatial f, temporal t frequency counterphase**  
    **p [0 / 1] c % contrast s size**  
**gs [ o f t p r g b s]: draw Sine wave with o orientation, spatial f, temporal t frequency counterphase**  
    **p [0 / 1] r g b % contrast s size**  
**gq [ o f t p c s]: draw sQuare wave with o orientation, spatial f, temporal t frequency counterphase**  
    **p [0 / 1] c % contrast s size**  
**gq [ o f t p r g b s]: draw sQuare wave with o orientation, spatial f, temporal t frequency counterphase**  
    **p [0 / 1] r g b % contrast s size**  
**gB [ o1 o2]: begin grating motion in objects o1 through o2**  
**gB [ o1 o2 c]: begin grating motion in objects o1 through o2 for c cycles**  
**gb: begin grating motion in active object**  
**gb [ c ]: begin grating motion in active object for c cycles**  
**ge: end grating motion**  
**gr [ r c ]: begin grating motion in active object and put it on Ramp r with Cycle c [0 1 2]**

In the "gk" command, the letters in brackets stand for the parameters of the optokinetic grating. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "*gk<return>*" to get a help message similar to the following:

**a = angle of bars [0 / 90]**

**s = speed of bars (rex units per second)**

**w = width of bars in rex units**

**h = height of bars in rex units**

**t = width of patch in rex units**

Example command:

**gk 0 10 10 100 100**

This command will make an optokinetic grating horizontal bars that drift a 1 degree (10 rex units) per second. The bars will be 1 degree wide and 10 degrees long. The patch will be 10 degrees square.

In the "gs" and "gq" commands, the letters in brackets stand for the parameters of the sinusoidal grating. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "gs<return>" to get a help message similar to the following:

**o = orientation of the grating in degrees**

**f = spatial frequency of grating in cycles per degree**

**t = temporal frequency of grating in cycles per second**

**negative temporal frequency reverses the direction of drift**

**p = counterphase [1], or drift [0]**

**c = percent contrast of all three colors**

**r, g, b = percent contrast of each of the red, green and blue colors**

**"0 percent turns color off, negative percent gives color on color grating**

**s = size of patch in rex units**

Example command:

**gs 0 1 1 0 50 100**

This command will make a horizontal sinusoidal grating of 1 cycle per degree that drifts at 1 degree per second. The contrast will be 50% and the grating will be presented in a patch 10 degrees in diameter.

Example command:

**gs 90 1 1 1 50 -50 0 100**

This command will make a vertical sinusoidal grating of 1 cycle per degree that oscillates in counter phase fashion at 1 cycle per second. The color of the grating will be red versus green, and will be presented in a patch 10 degrees in diameter.

## "H h"; Help message

This command prints out the following help message:

**Single key stroke commands are:**

**h: print this message**

**arrow keys: move active object**

**[Page Up]/[Page down]: decrement/increment stimulus number**

**Commands requiring arguments start with the letters:**

**b, c, D, d, e, F, f, L, I, M, m, n, O**

**o, P, p, q, r, S, s, t, w x, Z, z**

**Type the first letter of the command for a help message  
and current values**

This command is not case sensitive.

## "L"; Look up table color

This command sets the color of a color lookup table entry for the active object. In GLvex, each object has its own color lookup table. If you type "L<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**L [n]: get current values for lookup table entry n**

**L [n r]: set color lookup table entry n to color r r r**

**L [n r g b]: set color lookup table entry n to colors r g b**

The letter *n* in brackets stands for the number of the color lookup table. It can range from 0 to 255. The letters *r g b* in brackets stand for the values of red, green, and blue to place in the color lookup table entry. They also can range from 0 to 255.

Example command:

**L 4 255 0 255**

This command sets places a magenta color in the active object's lookup entry 4.

### "I"; Foreground and background luminance

This command sets the luminances of the foreground and background checks of two tone stimuli in the active object. If you type "*l<return>*", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**I [n m]: set Luminances of foreground/background checks of active object to n/m**

**Current luminances of active object are 255, 0**

The letter *n* in brackets stands for the luminance of the foreground checks, and the letter *m* in brackets stands for the luminance of the background checks. These values can range from 0 to 255

Example commands:

**I 255 0**

This command sets the foreground and background pixels of the active object to 255 and 0, respectively. This command will have no effect if the active object has a continuous tone stimulus.

### "M"; Start a movie clip

Commands beginning with "M" start movie clips. If you type "*M<return>*", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**Start a movie clip**

**Mo [f l i c]: start an Object movie**

**Mf [o n f l]: start flow field movie**

**Ms: stop movies**

You can get an explanation of the parameters in the "Mo" command by typing *Mo<return>* to get a help message similar to the following:

**f = first object in movie**

**l = number of objects in the movie**

**i = number of video fields per movie frame**

**c = number of movie cycles**

The value for *l* cannot exceed the number of objects you created when you started Vex.

You can get an explanation of the parameters in the "Mf" command by typing *Mf<return>* to get a help message similar to the following:

**o = the first object with a flow field movie**

**n = the number of objects with movies**

**f = first frame of the movie**

**l = last frame of movie**

The value for *l* cannot exceed the number of frames defined for the movie (see below). You can show a movie for shorter periods if you want.

Example commands:

**Mf 1 2 100 300**

This command will start movies at frame 100 of flow fields that were previously defined for objects 1 and 2 and will display them for 300 frames.

**Mo 2 20 5 5**

This command will show an object movie using objects 2 through 20. Each object will be displayed for 5 video and the movie will repeat 5 times.

## "m"; Link two objects on mouse

This command links or unlinks two objects to be moved with the mouse. The purpose of this command is to allow mapping of binocular receptive fields. If you type "*m<return>*", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**m [m s]: mouse acts on two objects [Master & Slave]**

**m [m]: mouse acts on Master only [default]**

The letter *m* in brackets stands for the number of the master object, and the letter *s* in brackets stands for the number of the slave object. Even if you link two objects with this command, the arrow keys will move only the slave object, and the *x* command will move only the master object. Changing the active object with the *s* command or entering a single parameter in the *m* command will break the master-slave bond.

Example command:

**m 1 2**

This command links object 2 to object 1 for action by the mouse.

## "n"; Sound stimuli

This command allows you to play .wav files if your computer is equipped with a sound card and speakers. If you type "*n<return>*", you will get the following help message:

**n [n]: play a sound from the file sn.wav**

The names of the sound files must have the form *s#.wav* where # is a number between 0 and 32767. For example *s1001.wav*, *s1002.wav*, etc. The sound is played asynchronously. GLvex will play one iteration of the file. If the file is large, you can stop the playback by typing "stopp". Though the sound stops after one iteration, the object may still be "ON". If the object is "ON", the sound will play again when you turn on other objects. To make sure the sound does not play when you don't expect it, explicitly turn the object off with the *stopp* command.

## "O"; Flow fields

The commands beginning with "O" allow you to set up and run flow fields. If you type "*O<return>*", you will get the following help message:

**Compute Optic flow field for active object**

**Op [w h n f p s]: set flow field Pattern**

**Om [w h x y]: set flow field Mask**

**Ot [x z v r p y s c]: set Translation of flow field**

**Ov [o l]: make a flow field moVie**

**Os [o n]: Set the first field of a flow field movie**

**OB [o1 o2]: Begin flow fields in objects o1 through o2**

**Ob begin flow field in active object**

**Oe end flow fields**

**Or [r o c]:begin flow field in active object and Ramp r with Object o cycle [0 1 2]**

In the "Op" command, the letters in brackets stand for the parameters of the flow field. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "*Op<return>*" to get a help message similar to the following:

**w = width of flow field**

**h = height of flow field**

**n = distance to near plane**

**f = distance to far plane**

**p = tenths percent coverage [<= 255]**

**s = check size**

**Current values for object 0:**

```
width = 640
height = 480
near = 500
far = 2000
tenths percent = 50
```

The values for the near and far planes determine whether the flow field is two- or three-dimensional. If the values for the near and far planes are equal, the flow field will be two-dimensional. If the values for the near plane are less than the far plane, the flow field will be three-dimensional. For three-dimensional flow fields, if the value for the near plane is much smaller than the values for the height or width, you will get wide-angle distortion during yaw or pitch movements. If the value for the near plane is much larger than the values for the height or width, you will get telephoto distortion during yaw or pitch movements.

Example commands:

**Op 640 480 1 1 50 4**

This command will set up a two-dimensional flow field 640 rex units wide, 480 rex units high with 5% of its area covered by checks and the checks will be 4 pixels square.

**Op 1000 700 1000 3000 10 4**

This command will set up a three-dimensional flow field 1000 rex units wide and 700 rex units high with 1% of its area covered by checks and the checks will be 4 pixels square. The near plane will be 1000 rex units from the viewer, and the far plane will be 3000 rex units from the viewer. If the visual display subtends 1 centimeter/degree of visual angle, then the near plane will be 1 meter from the viewer and the far plane will be 3 meters from the viewer.

In the "*Om*" command, the letters in brackets stand for the dimensions and location of an occluding mask over the flow field. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "*Om<return>*" to get a help message similar to the following:

```
w = width of mask
h = height of mask
x = x coordinate of mask in object
y = y coordinate of mask in object
Current values for object 0
width = 100
height = 100
x = -100
y = 0
```

Example commands:

**Om 200 200 -100 0**

This command will create an occluding mask in a flow field that is 200 rex units wide and high, and centered 100 rex units to the left of the center of the object.

In the "*Ot*" command, the letters in brackets stand for the parameters defining the way in which the checks in the flow field will move. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "*Ot<return>*" to get a help message similar to the following:

```
x = angle of 2-D translation in degrees [0 to 360]
z = angle of 3-D translation in degrees [-90 to 90]
v = translation velocity in degrees / sec
r = rate of rotation in degrees / sec
p = rate of pitch in degrees / sec
w = rate of yaw in degrees / sec
s = life span of checks in fields
c = percent of checks coherent
Current values for object 0
```

```
angle = 45
depth = 0
velocity = 20
rotation = 0
pitch = 0
yaw = 0
span = 0
coherence = 100
```

The *x* parameter is an angle that specifies the direction of movement in the X-Y plane. A value of 0 represents movement to the right, and a value of 90 represents movement upwards. The *z* parameter is an angle that specifies the direction of movement in depth. A value of 90 represents movement away from the viewer, a value of 0 represents no movement in depth, and a value of -90 represents movement toward the viewer. The *v* parameter represents the translational velocity of the checks in the direction specified by the compound X-Y-Z angle. The X- and Y- velocity components are multiplied by the cosine of the *z* parameter, so specifying *z* values of 90 or -90 will produce pure vergence movement no matter how you set the *a* parameter. The *s* parameter defines the life span of checks in the flow field in numbers of video fields. For a flickering display, this parameter must have a value of 3 or greater. Setting this parameter to 0 will produce a continuous flow field. The *c* parameter defines the percentage of checks in the flow field that move as specified. All other checks will move in random directions at random speeds.

Example command:

**Ot 90 45 10 0 0 0 10 100**

This command will produce translation at 10 degrees/sec (100 rex units / sec) upward and away from the viewer. Each check will be displayed for 10 video fields, and then turned off and moved to a new location. All checks will move in the specified direction.

**Ot 0 90 10 20 0 0 0 50**

This command will produce a counter-clockwise rotation of 20 degrees/sec coupled with translation away from the viewer at 10 degrees/sec. The checks will remain on as long as the movement continues. Half of the checks will move in the specified manner, and half will move in random directions.

In the "*Ov*" command, the letters in brackets stand for the number of the object in which to make the movie and the length of the movie in frames. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "*Ov<return>*" to get a help message similar to the following:

**o = object with flow movie**

**I = number of frames in movie**

The number of frames defines the maximum length of the movie, but you can show it for shorter periods if you want. Before creating a movie in any object, you must define a flow field pattern for that object and you must define the way in which the checks in the flow field will move. You may also define an occluding mask.

Example commands:

**Ov 1 300**

This command will create a flow field movie in object 1 that can be run for up to 300 frames.

In the *Os* command, the letters in brackets stand for the object containing the flow field movie and the starting frame of the movie. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "*Os<return>*" to get the following help message:

**o = object for movie**

**s = starting frame of the movie**

Example command:

## **Os 2 50**

This command will set the flow field in object 2 to movie frame 50.

In the *OB* command, the letters *o1* and *o2* in brackets stand for the lowest and highest priority objects in which you want to have moving flow fields. The *Ob* command starts the flow field in the active object. The *Oe* command, stops the flow fields in all objects.

Example command:

## **OB 1 4**

This command will start flow fields moving in objects 1 through 4.

You can get an explanation of the parameters in the "*Or*" command by typing "Or<return>" to get the following help message:

**r = number of ramp to run with flow field**

**o = number of object to put on ramp**

**c = type of ramp cycle**

**c = 0: ramp runs once**

**c = 1: oscillation - ramp goes back and forth**

**c = 2: loop - ramp runs over and over**

Example command:

## **Or 1 5 0**

This command will start the flow field in the active object and start ramp number 1 with object number 5. The ramp will run once.

## **"o"; Foreground and background colors**

This command sets the colors of the foreground and background checks of two tone stimuli in the active object. If you type "*o<return>*", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**of [r g b]: set cOlor of object foreground to r, g, b**

**ob [r g b]: set cOlor of object background to r, g, b**

**Current values:**

**object 1 forgrnd rgb = 255 255 255; backgrnd rgb = 0 0 0**

**object 2 forgrnd rgb = 255 0 0; backgrnd rgb = 0 255 0**

The letters *r g b* in brackets stand for the values of red, green, and blue to use for the object foreground or background. These values can range from 0 to 255

Example commands:

**of 255 0 0**

**ob 0 255 0**

These two commands will make the active object have a red foreground and a green background. This command will have no effect if the active object has a continuous tone stimulus.

## **"P"; Copy pattern**

This command copies the pattern in one object to a second object. If you type "*P<return>*", you will get the following help message:

**P [s d]: coPy pattern from Source object to Destination object**

**P [s d x y]: coPy pattern from Source object to Destination object**

**and scale width by X% and height by Y%**

The letter *s* in brackets stands for the number of the source object, and the letter *d* in brackets stands for the number of the destination object. In the second example of the command, the letter *x* in brackets stands for the percentage to scale the width of the copied object and the letter *y* in brackets stands for the percentage to scale the height of the copied object. To increase the size of the copied object, use *x* and *y* values greater than 100. To decrease the size of the copied object, use *x* and *y* values less than 100. If either the *x* or *y* value is negative, the copy will be a mirror image of the source.

Example command:

## P 1 2

This command will copy the stimulus pattern in object 1 to object 2. The main purpose of this command is to allow you to draw exact copies of random check or flow field patterns in several objects, but it will copy any pattern. The reason that this command is needed is that if you execute the draw random pattern function separately for each object, the patterns would have the same statistical properties but the positions of the "white" and "black" checks would be different.

## "p"; Draw pattern

These commands draw patterns in the active object. Currently, GLvex will draw patterns based on one of 8 functions: Walsh functions, Haar functions, User defined templates, User defined RGB templates, Random functions, Annuli, Bars, and Tiff images. To draw a filled circle, specify an annulus with an inner radius of 0. If you type "*p<return>*", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**pa [o i c]: draw Annulus with outer radius o, inner radius i, contrast c**  
**pb [a w h c]: draw a bar with angle a, width w, height h, contrast c**  
**ph [n c s]: draw Haar pattern n with contrast c size s**  
**pp [n]: draw a PNG image from the file in.png**  
**pr [p r c s]: draw Random pattern with p% white, r X c checks, size s**  
**pt [n]: draw a TIFF image from the file In.tif**  
**pu [n c s]: draw User pattern from the file**  
**Pn with contrast c size s**  
**pu [n s]: draw user RGB pattern from the file Pn size s**  
**pw [n c s]: draw Walsh pattern n with contrast c size s**

### Current patterns:

**object 1 function w pattern = 1 contrast = 1**  
**object 2 function u pattern = 101 contrast = -1**  
**object 3 function c radius = 40 contrast = 1**  
**object 4 function r resolution = 120 percent white = 10**

The letter immediately following *p* stands for the function of the pattern. The letter *n* in brackets following the *pw*, *ph*, *pt* and *pu* commands stands for the pattern number. The letter *s* in brackets following the *ph*, *pr*, *pu*, and *pw* commands stands for the size of the pattern checks. The letter *c* in brackets following the *pw*, *ph*, *pu*, and *pa* commands stands for the contrast (normal or reverse) of the pattern. The contrast value can be either 1 for normal contrast or -1 for reverse contrast. The letter *p* in brackets following the *pr* command stands for the percentage of white checks in the random pattern. The letters in brackets following the *pr* command stands for the number of rows and the letter *c* in brackets following the *pr* command stands for the number of columns in the random check pattern. The letter *o* in brackets following *pa* stands for the outer radius of the annulus, and the letter *i* in brackets following *pa* stands for the inner radius of the annulus. If the value for *i* is 0 then the pattern will be a filled circle. The letter *a* in brackets following the *pk* command stands for the direction of drift. This value must be 0, 90, 180, or 270. The letter *s* in brackets following the *pk* command stands for the speed of drift in degrees/second. The letter *w* in brackets following the *pk* command stands for the width of the grating in tenths of a degree. The letter *h* in brackets following the *pk* command stands for the height of the grating in tenths of a degree. The letter *t* in brackets following the *pk* command stands for the thickness of the bars in the grating in tenths of a degree.

Example commands:

### **pw 119 1**

This command will draw a "normal" contrast version of Walsh pattern 119 (an 8 X 8 checkerboard) in the active object.

### **pu 101 -1**

This command will use the template found in the file p101 to draw a "reverse" contrast version of the user-defined pattern.

**pa 40 20 1**

This command will draw a "normal" contrast annulus with an outer radius of 40 and an inner radius of 20 in the active object.

Valid pattern numbers for *w* and *h* functions range from 0 to 255. Valid pattern numbers for *u* and *t* functions range from 0 to 65536. This means that files containing user-defined templates can only have names ranging from P0 to P65536. Files containing TIFF images can only have names ranging from I0.tif to I65536.tif.

To make user-defined patterns, you must provide GLvex with a template of the pattern you want. The template can be a set of numbers indicating the color lookup table entries to use for each check, or a set of 3 numbers indicating the R, G, and B values to use for each check. This template is defined in an ascii file which must be placed in the directory from which you run GLvex. The format of the lookup table template file is:

```
r c  
n ... n  
...  
...  
...  
n ... n
```

The letters *r* and *c* indicate the number of rows and columns in the pattern. The maximum number of rows or columns is 255. The pattern may be rectangular, i.e., you do not need to have the same number of rows and columns. The letters *n* indicate the values for the individual checks in the pattern. If *n* equals 1, the object's foreground color will be used in that check. If *n* equals -1, the object's background color will be used in that check. If *n* equals 0, the screen's background color will be used in that check. If *n* equals 2 - 255, color lookup table entries 2 - 255 will be used in that check.

The format of the RGB template file is:

```
r c 3  
r g b.....r g b  
.....  
.....  
.....  
r g b.....r g b
```

The letters *r* and *c* indicate the number of rows and columns in the pattern, and the number 3 indicates that there are 3 values for each check. You must use a 3 in this location and no other number. The maximum number of rows or columns is 255. The pattern may be rectangular, i.e., you do not need to have the same number of rows and columns. The letters *r g b* indicate the red, green, and blue values for the individual checks in the pattern. The *r*, *g*, and *b* values must be separated by at least 1 space but the triplets may be separated by more than 1 space for readability.

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 3 rows and 8 cols. This file defines a horizontal "white" bar flanked by two "black" bars. The name of the file might be "P1".

```
3 8  
-1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1  
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  
-1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1
```

Example of a file for a user defined RGB pattern with 3 rows and 8 cols. This file defines a horizontal "red" bar flanked by two "green" bars. The name of the file might be "P2000".

```
3 8 3  
0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0
```

```
255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0  
0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0
```

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 8 cols. This pattern will have 8 vertical strips of different gray levels if you set up a gray scale ranging from 128 to 184. The name of the file might be "P100".

```
8 8  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184  
128 136 144 152 160 168 176 184
```

#### "q"; Quit

This command quits GLvex. These commands are not case sensitive. If you type "q<return>", you will get the following help message:

```
qv: quit Vex
```

#### "R"; Rotate object

This command rotates an object about the x, y, and z axes. If you type "R<return>", you will get the following help message:

```
R [x, y, z]: set rotation about the x, y z axes
```

Example command:

```
R 0 0 20
```

This command will rotate the active object 20 degrees about the Z axis

#### "r"; Absolute ramps

The command *rc* computes the absolute location of ramps, and the command *rs* starts ramps. If you type "r<return>", you will get the following help message:

```
rc [n len ang vel xoff yoff type action]: Compute a ramp
```

```
rs [r o c]: Start Ramp r with Object o continuation c [0 1 2]
```

```
rstop: stop all ramps reset: reset ramps
```

In the "rc" command, the letters in brackets stand for the parameters of the ramp. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "rc<return>" to get a help message similar to the following:

```
n = number of ramp to compute len = half of the linear length [tenths of a degree]
```

```
len = radius of circular ramp [tenths of a degree]
```

```
ang = slope of linear ramp in degrees
```

```
ang = starting point of circular ramp
```

```
vel = velocity of ramp in degrees / sec
```

```
xoff, yoff = location of ramp reference point
```

```
type = type and reference point of ramp
```

```
type = 2: linear ramp centered on the reference point
```

```
type = 4: linear ramp beginning at the reference point
```

```
type = 8: linear ramp ending at the reference point
```

```
type = 16: Clock-wise circular ramp centered on reference point
```

```
type = 32: Counter clock-wise circular ramp centered on reference point
```

```
action = object switch after end of ramp
```

```
action = 1: leave object on after end of ramp
```

```
action = 0: turn object off after end of ramp
```

Example commands:

**rc 1 200 45 20 100 -100 2 0**

This command will compute ramp 1 with a length of 40 degrees, a direction of 45 degrees, a speed of 20 degrees / second, and a mid-point that is 10 degrees to the right and 10 degrees below the center of the screen. The object will be switch off after the end of the ramp

**rc 1 200 45 20 100 -100 16 1**

This command will compute a circular ramp with a radius of 40 degrees, a starting location 45 degrees from the center, a surface speed of 20 degrees / second, and a mid-point that is 10 degrees to the right and 10 degrees below the center of the screen. The object will be left on after the end of the ramp

In the "rs" command, the letters in brackets stand for the number of the ramp to run and the object to put on it. You can get an explanation of the parameters by typing "rs<return>" to get a help message similar to the following:

**r = number of ramp to run**

**o = object to put on the ramp**

**c = type of ramp cycle**

**c = 0: ramp runs once**

**c = 1: oscillation - ramp goes back and forth**

**c = 2: loop - ramp runs over and over**

Each ramp must have been previously computed with the rc command.

Example commands:

**rs 1 1 0**

This command will place object 1 on ramp 1 and start ramp 1 moving. The ramp will run once. You can start two ramps simultaneously with the command:

**rs 1 1 0 2 2 0**

This command will place object 1 on ramp 1, object 2 on ramp 2 and start both ramps moving. Both ramps will run once.

## "S"; Switch all objects

These commands switch all objects on or off. If you type "S<return>", you will get the following help message:

**Ston: Switch all objects on**

**Stoff: Switch all objects off**

## "s"; Switch, set active object, set sync

These commands switch the active object on or off, enable or disable the sync signals and change the active object. If you type "s<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**s [n]: make object n active [release slave]**

**ston: Switch active object on**

**stoff: Switch active object off**

**syncVon: Switch video sync on**

**syncVoff: Switch video sync off**

**syncDon: Switch digital sync on**

**syndDoff: Switch digital sync off**

**Object number 1 is now active**

The letter *n* in brackets stands for the object to be made active. It must be a valid object number.

Example command:

**s 2**

This command makes object 2 active, and breaks any master-slave linkages created with the m command.

## "T"; Transparency commands

These commands affect the transparency of the stimuli. If you type "T<return>", you will get the following help message:

**T[n]: set object transparency to n [0.0 - 1.0]**

Example command:

**T 0.5**

This command sets the transparency of the active object to 0.5. The effect is to reduce the active object's contrast by 50% and allow an underlying object to show through at 50% contrast.

**T 1.0**

This command makes the active object completely opaque.

**T 0.0**

This command makes the active object completely transparent.

## "t"; Timing commands

These commands affect the timing of the stimuli. If you type "t<return>", you will get the following help message:

**t [n]: turn active object on for n fields**

**t [o1 m n o2 p]: object 1 for m fields, n gap, object 2 for p fields**

Example command:

**t 45**

This command will display the active object for 45 video fields.

**t 1 30 30 2 30**

This command will display object 1 for 30 fields, wait 30 fields, then display object 2 for 30 fields.

## "W"; Video sync size

By default, the size of the video sync object is 64 pixels wide and 64 pixels high. However, for low resolution screens such as 640 X 480, this may be too large. This command sets the size of the video sync object. If you type "W<return>", you will get the following help message.

**Ws [w h]: set video sync size to width w, height h**

The letter *w* in brackets stands for the width of the video sync square in pixels. The letter *h* in brackets stands for the height of the video sync square in pixels.

Example command:

**Ws 32 32**

This command will set the size of the video sync square to 32 pixels wide and 32 pixels high.

## "w"; Set window size

Normally, GLvex runs in a full screen window. However, there are times when you might want to reduce the size of the window. For example, to see the console window during debugging. If you type "w<return>", you will get the following help message:

**ws [w h]: set Window size to width w, height h**

The letter *w* in brackets stands for the width of the GLvex window. The letter *h* in brackets stands for the height of the GLvex window.

Example commands:

**ws 800 600**

This command will set the size of the window that GLvex runs in to 800 pixels wide and 600 pixels high. **NOTE: Once you have changed the size of the GLvex window you cannot go back to a full screen window.** To go back to full screen mode, you will need to restart GLvex.

## "X"; Video Sync X and Y coordinates

GLvex can display up to 4 video sync objects. By default, GLvex displays one video sync object and places it the upper left corner of the screen. If you specify more video sync objects on the command line, GLvex places in the other corners of the screen. This command allows you to place the objects anywhere you like. if you type "X<return>" you will get the following help message:

**X [n x y]: set video sync n location to xX yY**

The letter *n* in brackets stands for the video sync number [1 - 4], the *x* in brackets stands for the X coordinate of the sync object. The letter *y* in brackets stands for the Y coordinate of the sync object. The coordinates are relative to the center of the screen.

Example command:

**X 1 -500 240**

This command places the first sync object 500 pixels to the left and 240 pixels up from the center of the screen.

## "x"; Absolute X and Y coordinates

This command moves the active object to an absolute position on the screen. If you type "x<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**X [n m]: move active object to nX mY location on screen**

Current locations:

**object 1 x = 100, y = 100**

**object 2 x = -100, y = 100**

The letter *n* in brackets stands for the horizontal position and the letter *m* in brackets stands for the vertical position of the object in rex units. The center of the screen is location "0 0". Negative X values will place the object in the left half of the screen, and negative Y values will place the object in the bottom half of the screen.

Example command:

**x -50 -50**

This command will position the active object 5 degrees below and to the left of the screen center.

## "Z"; Set the size of all objects.

This command sets the sizes of the pattern checks in all objects. If you type "Z<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**Z [n]: set size of pattern checks in all objects to n pixels**

The letter *n* in brackets stands for the height and width of each pattern check in video pixels.

Example command:

**Z 4**

This command will set the pattern check size of all objects to 4 video pixels by 4 video pixels.

## "z"; Set the size of active object

This command sets the size of the pattern checks in the active object. If you type "z<return>", you will get a help message similar to the following:

**z [n]: set size of pattern checks in active object to n pixels**

The letter *n* in brackets stands for the height and width of each pattern check in video pixels.

Example command:

**z 2**

This command will set the pattern check size of the active object to 2 video pixels by 2 video pixels.

## REX ACTIONS

Rex 7.2 introduces a new control protocol. You can now send commands to GLvex using a set of actions. All of the actions take pointers to global variables as arguments. The reason for this change is to provide an interface that is more simple and robust. The earlier command protocol required you to load values into a *char* buffer, then call a function to send the buffer to Rex. You had to break *int* and *float* variables into byte arrays by hand. Getting the order of the bytes wrong resulted in nonsensical displays. Also, filling out the buffer required a lot of coding which was both tedious and error prone. With the actions control protocol, you assign values to global array elements, then call the action with the arrays as arguments. The action takes care of assembling the buffer for GLvex. One disadvantage of the actions control protocol is that all of the new vex actions are non-batchable. That is, only one vex action can be called per state. You cannot write an action that calls a series of vex actions. If you try, only the last action will be executed. This means that your paradigms will have more states. However, you will have to write fewer actions so your spot files will be shorter.

All spot files using Rex actions must include the header file "GLcommand.h" and either the header file "pcsSocket.h" or the header file "pcmsg.h", depending on whether you are using the ethernet or parallel I/O communication protocol.

All of these actions return a value of 0. However, GLvex will return various digital signals after completing the required action. If the video sync is enabled, GLvex will flash the sync object white on the first video field in which the action is completed for those actions requiring precise timing. **Note:** *The only escapes you should use from states that call these actions are when the function tst\_rx\_new returns 0 or when a photo cell is triggered by the video sync object.*

With Rex 7.2, you can continue to use the older Rex commands described below, and you can write some actions that use the Rex commands while defining other states that use the Rex actions. If you have an earlier version of Rex, you must use the Rex commands describe below.

## **Actions That Duplicate Command Line Arguments**

### **PvexEraseMethod**

set the erase method to be either whole screen or individual objects.

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexEraseMethod(int *method)`

**method:** erase method, can be `WHOLE_SCREEN` or `EACH_OBJECT`

**DESCRIPTION.** PvexEraseMethod allows you to set whether GLvex turns off stimuli by clearing the whole screen or by erasing individual stimuli. If method equals `WHOLE_SCREEN`, the whole screen will be erased. If method is `EACH_OBJECT`, then GLvex will erase objects by drawing a rectangle the color of the background over them. If method is `WHOLE_SCREEN`, then GLvex will erase objects by clearing the entire screen. The `EACH_OBJECT` method is faster, but the `WHOLE_SCREEN` method is more robust. The default method is `EACH_OBJECT`. Once the erase method is set, it will remain in effect until changed, so you only need to call this command once. This variable can be set using the `-e` command line argument to GLvex. The `WHOLE_SCREEN` and `EACH_OBJECT` constants are defined in `GLcommand.h`.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal `BATCH_DONE` (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int method = WHOLE_SCREEN;  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexEraseMethod(&method)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexVideoSync

switch the video sync signal.

### SYNOPSIS. PvexVideoSync(int \*sync)

**sync: switch determining whether GLvex will use a video syncing signal, can be 0 or 1**

**DESCRIPTION.** PvexVideoSync allows you to turn on or off GLvex's video syncing object. When the video sync is enabled, GLvex will draw a small black square in the upper left corner of the screen. This square will flash white for 1 video field when synchronization is needed. The video sync is enabled by default. Once the video sync is enabled, it will remain enabled until disabled, so you only need to call this action once. This variable can be set using the -v command line argument to GLvex.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

### EXAMPLE.

```
int sync = 1;
```

```
%%
state:
    do PvexVideoSync(&sync)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDigitalSync

switch the digital sync signal.

### SYNOPSIS. PvexDigitalSync(int \*sync)

**sync: switch determining whether GLvex will use a digital syncing signal, can be 0 or 1**

**DESCRIPTION.** PvexDigitalSync allows you to turn on or off GLvex's digital syncing signal. When the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return a signal via ethernet or pcmsg at the beginning of the first video field where synchronization is needed. The digital sync is enabled by default. Once the digital sync is enabled, it will remain enabled until disabled, so you only need to call this action once. This variable can be set using the -d command line argument to GLvex.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

### EXAMPLE.

```
int sync = 1;
```

```
%%
state:
    do PvexDigitalSync(&sync)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetRexScale

set the scale factors to allow tangent correction in the placement of objects on the screen

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetRexScale(int \*distance, int \*width)

**distance:** distance from the subject to the screen in millimeters

**width:** width of the initial calibration pattern in millimeters.

**DESCRIPTION.** PvexSetRexScale allows you to set the parameters necessary for GLvex to compute locations on the viewing screen in degrees of visual angle. Once the scale is set, it will remain in effect until reset, so you only need to call this action once. The distance variable can be set using the -s command line argument to GLvex, and the width variable can be set using the -w command line argument to GLvex.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int width = 290;  
int distance = 573;
```

```
%%  
state:  
    do PvexSetRexScale(&distance, &width)  
        to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Set Luminance and Color

### PvexSetBackLum

set the luminance or color of the screen background

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetBackLum(int \*r, int \*g, int \*b)

**r:** intensity of red in the background, can be 0 to 255

**g:** intensity of green in the background, can be 0 to 255

**b:** intensity of blue in the background, can be 0 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This is action sets the luminance or color of the screen background. It requires three parameters, the values for the red, green, and blue guns.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE:**

```
/* set background to medium gray */
int red = 127;
int green = 127;
int blue = 127;

%%
state:
    do PvexSetBackLum(&red, &green, &blue)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetFixColors

sets the colors of the fixation point when it is switched on or dimmed

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexSetFixColors(int *or, int *og, int *ob, int *dr, int *dg, int *db)`

or: intensity of red in fixation point when switched on, can be 0 to 255

og: intensity of green in fixation point when switched on, can be 0 to 255

ob: intensity of blue in fixation point when switched on, can be 0 to 255

dr: intensity of red in fixation point when dimmed, can be 0 to 255

dg: intensity of green in fixation point when dimmed, can be 0 to 255

db: intensity of blue in fixation point when dimmed, can be 0 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This function allows you to specify what the color or luminance of the fixation point will be when it is switched on and when it is dimmed.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int onRed = 255;  
int onGreen = 0;  
int onBlue = 0;  
int dimRed = 0;  
int dimGreen = 255;  
int dimBlue = 0;
```

```
%%  
state:
```

```
    do PvexSetFixColors(&onRed, &onGreen, &onBlue, &dimRed, &dimGreen, &dimBlue)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetStimLuminances

sets the foreground and background luminances of one- and two-tone stimuli

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetStimLuminances(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*fgList, int \*bgList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to set

**objList:** array of object numbers to set

**fgList:** array of foreground luminances, can be 0 to 255

**bgList:** array of background luminances, can be 0 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This function allows you to specify the gray levels of the foreground and background checks of a number of objects.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objects[255];
int fore[255];
int back[255];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 15;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objects[i] = i * 2;
        fore[i] = 255;
        back[i] = 0;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%%
prev:
    do setup()
    to state:
state:
    do PvexSetStimLuminances(&num, objects, fore, back)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetStimColors

sets the foreground and background colors of one- and two-tone stimuli

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetStimColors(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*fgrList, int \*fggList, \*fgbList,

int \*bgrList, int \*bggList, int \*bgbList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to set

**objList:** array of object numbers to set

**fgrList, fggList, fgbList:** arrays of foreground red, green and blue values, can be 0 to 255

**bgrList, bggList, bgbList:** arrays of background red, green and blue values, can be 0 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This function allows you to specify the colors of the foreground and background checks of a number of objects

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objects[255];
int foreRed[255], foreGreen[255], foreBlue[255];
int backRed[255], backGreen[255], backBlue[255];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 15;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objects[i] = i * 2;
        foreRed[i] = 255 - (i * 15);
        foreGreen[i] = 0 + (i * 15);
        foreBlue[i] = 127;
        backRed[i] = 127;
        backGreen[i] = 0 + (i * 15);
        backBlue[i] = 255 - (i * 15);
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do action
    to state;
state:
    do PvexSetStimColors(&num, objects, foreRed, foreGreen, foreBlue,
                        backRed, backGreen, backBlue)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetGrayScale

sets up a gray scale for all objects in each object's color lookup table

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetGrayScale(int \*start, int \*length)

**start:** index into color lookup table to start gray scale, can be 0 to 255

**length:** number of gray levels in gray scale, can be 1 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets up a gray scale in all objects' color lookup tables. The sum of the start and length parameters cannot exceed 255. The luminance range of the gray scale is always 0 to 255. The size of the steps between luminances is determined by the length of the gray scale. This command is used to initialize a gray scale for continuous tone stimuli.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int start = 64;  
int length = 128;
```

```
%%  
state:  
    do PvexSetGrayScale(&start, &length)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILES.** ./rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetObjectGrayScale

sets up a gray scale for each specified object in that object's color lookup table

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetObjectGrayScale(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*startList, int \*lengthList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to set

**objList:** list of the object numbers to set

**startList:** index into each object's color lookup table to start its gray scale, can be 0 to 255

**lengthList:** number of gray levels in each object's gray scale, can be 1 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets up a gray scale in the object's color lookup tables. The sum of the start and length parameters cannot exceed 255. The luminance range of the gray scale is always 0 to 255. The size of the steps between luminances is determined by the length of the gray scale. This command is used to initialize a gray scale for continuous tone stimuli.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

## EXAMPLE.

```
int num;
int objList[15];
int startList[15];
int lengthList[15];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    for(i = 0; i < 15; i++) {
        objList[i] = i + 3;
        startList[i] = 32 + (i * 2);
        lengthList[i] = 64;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexSetObjectGrayScale(&num, objList, startList, lengthList)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

## FILES.

/rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetLutEntryClr

sets the color of the specified entry in each object's color look up table

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetLutEntryClr(int \*nEntries, int \*entryList, int \*rList, int \*gList, int \*bList)

**nEntries:** number of entries to set, can be 1 to 255

**entryList:** array of look up table indices to set, can be 0 to 255

**rList:** array of red values, can be 0 to 255

**gList:** array of green values, can be 0 to 255

**bList:** array of blue values, can be 0 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to set the red, green, and blue values of a number of entries in the color lookup tables of all objects. Each object has a color look up table of 255 entries.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int list[32];
int red[32];
int green[32];
int blue[32];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    for(i = 0; i < 32; i++) {
        list[i] = i + 32;
        red[i] = i * 8;
        green[i] = i * 4;
        blue[i] = 127;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexSetLutEntryClr(&num, list, red, green, blue)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetObjectLutEntryClr

sets the color of the specified entry in the specified object's color look up table

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexSetObjectLutEntryClr(int *nObjects, int *objectList, int *nEntries, int *entryList, int *rList, int *gList, int *bList)`

`nObjects`: number of objects to set

`objList`: list of object numbers to set

`nEntries`: number of entries to set, can be 1 to 255

`entryList`: array of look up table indices to set, can be 0 to 255

`rList`: array of red values, can be 0 to 255

`gList`: array of green values, can be 0 to 255

`bList`: array of blue values, can be 0 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to set the red, green, and blue values of a number of entries in the color lookup tables of a number of objects. Each object has a color look up table of 255 entries. The sizes of the entryList, rList, gList, and bList arrays must be at least as large as the product of the number of objects and the number of entries.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int nObjects, nEntries;
int objList[32], entryList[1024], red[1024], green[1024], blue[1024];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    int j;
    nObjects = 32;
    nEntries = 32;
    for(i = 0; i < nObjects; i++) {
        objList[i] = i;
        for(j = 0; j < nEntries; j++) {
            entryList[j] = i;
            red[j] = i * 8;
            green[j] = i * 4;
            blue[j] = 127;
        }
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do action
    to state

state:
    do PvexSetObjectLutEntryClr(&nObjects, objList, &nEntries, entryList, red, green, blue)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetColorMask

sets the red, green, blue, and alpha channel flags of a list of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexSetColorMask(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*redList, int \*greenList, int \*blueList, int \*alphaList);**

**nObjects:** number of objects to set

**objList:** list of the number of the objects to set

**redList:** list of flags controlling the objects' red masks should be 0 or 255

**greenList:** list of flags controlling the objects' green masks should be 0 or 255

**blueList:** list of flags controlling the objects' blue masks should be 0 or 255

**alphaList:** list of flags controlling the objects' alpha masks should be 0 or 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to set which color planes the object will be drawn in.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int nObjects;
int objList[32], red[32], green[32], blue[32], alpha[32];

int setup()
{
    int i, j;
    nObjects = 32;
    for(i = 0; i < 15; i++) {
        objList[i] = i;
        red[i] = 255;
        green[i] = 0;
        blue[i] = 0;
        alpha[i] = 0;
    }
    for(i = 16; i < nObjects; i++) {
        objList[i] = i;
        red[i] = 0;
        green[i] = 255;
        blue[i] = 0;
        alpha[i] = 0;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%%
prev:
    do action
    to state
state:
    do PvexSetColorMask(&nObjects, objList, red, green, blue, alpha)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Switch Stimuli

### PvexAllOff

switch off all objects and the fixation point

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexAllOff(void);**

**DESCRIPTION.** This action switches all objects and the fixation point off. Its purpose is to quickly and simply clear the screen

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, Glvex will return the signal ABORT\_TRIAL (255) at the beginning of the first clear video field. In this case, you should escape to the next state when the tst\_rx\_new function returns 0, indicating receipt of a signal from GLvex. If the video sync is enabled, the sync square will flash white for the first field in which all objects are off.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
%%
state:
do PvexAllOff()
to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if digital sync */
to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if video sync*/
```

**FILE.** /rex/vexActions.c

## PvexSwitchFix

switches the fixation point on or off

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSwitchFix(int \*switch)

**switch:** whether the fixation point turns on or off, can be OBJ\_OFF or OBJ\_ON

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to switch the fixation point on or off. If the value of switch is OBJ\_OFF, the fixation point will be switched off. If the value is OBJ\_ON, the fixation point will be switched on.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, Glvex will return the signal FIX\_ON (254) or FIX\_OFF (253) at the beginning of the first video field in which the fixation point is switched. If the video sync is enabled, the sync square will flash white for the first field in which the fixation point is switched.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int switch = OBJ_ON;  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexSwitchFix(&switch)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if digital sync */  
    to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if video sync*/
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDimFix

dim the fixation point

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexDimFix(void);**

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to dim the fixation point object to the color or luminance previously defined.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, Glvex will return the signal FIX\_DIM (252) at the beginning of the first video field in which the fixation point is dimmed. If the video sync is enabled, the sync square will flash white for the first field in which the fixation point is dimmed.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
%%
state:
do PvexDimFix()
to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if digital sync */
to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if video sync*/
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexPreloadStim, PvexSwapBuffers

load a set of objects into the drawing page but don't display them yet

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexPreloadStim(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*swtchList)**

**nObjects:** number of objects to load

**objList:** array of object numbers

**switchList:** array of switch values, can be OBJ\_OFF or OBJ\_ON

**PvexSwapBuffers(void)**

**DESCRIPTION.** Normally, GLvex switches objects on or off by placing them in its draw buffer, then doing a buffer swap to display the objects. If you have a lot of objects or large objects, it may take GLvex several video frames to get the draw buffer set up. These two actions allow you to have GLvex place the objects into its draw buffer when time is not critical, then to swap the buffers when a short latency is needed.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal LIST\_ON (249) if the first object in the list is to be switched on or LIST\_OFF (248) if the first object in the list is to be switch off after completing the PvexPreloadStim action. If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal BUFFER\_SWAP (232) at the beginning of the first video field after the buffer swap. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white in the first video field after the buffer swap.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num, objArray[15], swtchArray[15];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 15;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objArray[i] = i + 1;
        swtchArray[i] = OBJ_ON;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexPreloadStim(&num, objArray, swtchArray)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
    .
    .
onState:
    do PvexSwapBuffers()
    to newstate on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if digital sync */
    to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if video sync*/
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSwitchStim

switches a number of objects on or off

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSwitchStim(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*swtchList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to switch

**objList:** array of object numbers

**swtchList:** array of switch values, can be OBJ\_OFF or OBJ\_ON

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to switch a number of objects on or off. You can switch some of the objects on and some off simultaneously

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal LIST\_ON (249) if the first object's switch is on or LIST\_OFF (248) if the first object's switch is off in the first video field in which the switch is executed. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white in the first video field in which the switch is executed.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objArray[16];
int swtchArray[16];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 16;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objArray[i] = i + 1;
        if(i % 2) swtchArray[i] = OBJ_ON;
        else swtchArray[i] = OBJ_OFF;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexSwitchStim(&num, objArray, swtchArray)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new /* if digital sync */
    to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if video sync */
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetStimSwitch

sets the switches a number of objects to on or off

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSwitchStim(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*swtchList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to switch

**objList:** array of object numbers

**swtchList:** array of switch values, can be OBJ\_OFF or OBJ\_ON

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to set the switches of a number of objects to on or off. You can set some of the switches on and some off simultaneously. This action does not actually switch the objects. The objects will be switched by the next action that changes the display. The purpose of this action is to switch objects on or off while a ramp, flow field, or movie is running. For example, you would use this command if you wanted to blink a pursuit target off and on while it is moving.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal

FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE (234) if you call this action while a ramp is running in the first video field in which the switch is executed. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white in the first video field in which the switch is executed. If you call this action when no ramp, flow field or movie is running, GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing the action.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objArray[16];
int swtchArray[16];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 16;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objArray[i] = i + 1;
        if(i % 2) swtchArray[i] = OBJ_ON;
        else swtchArray[i] = OBJ_OFF;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexSwitchStim(&num, objArray, swtchArray)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new /* if digital sync */
    to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if video sync */
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexTimeStim

presents a number of objects for a fixed interval

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexTimeStim(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*nFields)

**nObjects:** number of objects to time

**objList:** array of object numbers

**nFields:** number of video fields to display objects, can be 1 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to present a number of objects for a precise interval. The interval will be more precise than that you can achieve if you use Rex's clock.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal TIME\_ON (248) at the beginning of the first video field in which the objects are on, and the signal TIME\_OFF (247) at the beginning of the first video field in which the objects are off. If the video sync is enabled, the video sync object will flash white in the first video field in which the objects are on and again in the first video field in which the objects are off.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num
int objects[4];
int fields;

int setup()
{
    int i
    num = 4;
    fields = 8;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) objects[i] = i + 10;
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexTimeStim(&num, objects, &fields)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if the digital sync is enabled */
    to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if the video sync is enabled */
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSequenceStim

presents a group of objects for one interval, waits, presents a second group of objects for another interval.

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexSequenceStim(int \*nFrstObj, int \*firstList, int \*firstFields, int \*gapFields,  
int \*nScndObj, int \*secondList, int \*secondFields)**

**nFrstObj:** number of objects in the first group.

**firstList:** array of object numbers in the first group.

**firstFields:** number of video fields to present first group of objects.

**gapFields:** number of video fields to wait before presenting second group of objects (may be 0).

**nScndObj:** number of objects in the second group.

**secondList:** array of object numbers in the second group.

**secondFields:** number of video fields to present second group of objects

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to present one group of objects for up to 255 video fields, wait for up to 255 video fields, then present a second group of objects for up to 255 video fields.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return three or four signals from this command, depending on whether there is a gap between presentations of the two lists of objects.

FIRST\_ON (245) is sent when the first list of objects is turned on, FIRST\_OFF (244) is sent at the beginning of the gap, if any. SECOND\_ON (243) is sent when the second list of objects is turned on.

SECOND\_OFF (242) is sent when the second list of objects is turned off. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white when the first list of objects is turned on, at the beginning of the gap, if any, when the second list of objects is turned on, and when the second list of objects is off.

## EXAMPLE.

```
int i, n1, frst[5], frstFIds, gap, n2, scnd[5], scndFIds;  
int setup()  
{  
    n1 = n2 = 5;  
    frstFIds = 2; scndFIds = 30; gap = 0;  
    for(i = 0; i < 5; i++) {  
        frst[i] = i + 1;  
        scnd[i] = i + 10;  
    }  
    return(0);  
}  
  
%%  
prev:  
    do setup()  
    to state  
state:  
    do PvexSequenceStim(&n1, frst, &frstFIds, &gap, &n2, scnd, &scndFIds)  
    to first on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if digital sync is enabled */  
    to first on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if video sync is enabled */  
first:  
    to second on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if digital sync is enabled */  
    to second on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput /* if video sync is enabled */  
second:  
    to nextstate
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Position Stimuli

### PvexSetFixLocation

sets the location of the fixation point object

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetFixLocation(float \*x, float \*y)

**x:** the x coordinate of the fixation point in 10ths of a degree

**y:** the y coordinate of the fixation point in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets the location of the fixation point object

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
float fpx = 0.0;  
float fpy = 0.0;
```

```
%%  
state:  
    do PvexSetFixLocation(&fpx, &fpy)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStimLocation, PvexStimFromFixPoint

set the locations of a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexStimLocation(int *nObjects, int *objList, float *xList, float *yList)`

`PvexStimFromFixPoint(int *nObjects, int *objList, float *xList, float *yList)`

`nObjects:` number of objects to position

`objList:` array of object numbers

`xList:` array of the x coordinates of the objects in 10ths of a degree

`yList:` array of the y coordinates of the objects in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** These actions set the locations of a number of objects. PvexStimLocation sets the locations in absolute screen coordinates. PvexStimFromFixPoint sets the locations relative to the location of the fixation point

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objectArray[4];
float xArray[] = { 100.00, 100.00, -100.00, -100.00 };
float yArray[] = { 100.00, -100.00, -100.00, 100.00 };

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 4;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objectArray[i] = i + 1;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexStimLocation(&num, objectArray, xArray, yArray);
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexShiftLocation

sets the location of a number of objects and signals when the shift is complete

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexShiftLocation(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, float \*xList, float \*yList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to position

**objList:** array of object numbers

**xList:** array of the x coordinates of the objects in 10ths of a degree

**yList:** array of the y coordinates of the objects in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets the locations of a number of objects and signals the beginning of the first video field in which the object positions have changed. This action is useful if you want to move a GLvex object with a Rex ramp, or if you want to move objects with a joystick connected to one of Rex's A/D ports.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal SHIFTED (240) at the beginning of the first video field in which the objects are shifted. The rex video sync square will not flash for this command.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objectArray[4];
float xArray[] = { 100.00, 100.00, -100.00, -100.00 };
float yArray[] = { 100.00, -100.00, -100.00, 100.00 };

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 4;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objectArray[i] = i + 1;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexShiftLocation(&num, objectArray, xArray, yArray);
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexReportLocation

asks GLvex to report the location of the indicated object

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexReportLocation(int \*object)

**object:** number of the object whose location you want

**DESCRIPTION.** This action, together with PvexMessage described below, allow you to query GLvex as to the location of objects. The purpose of these two actions is to allow you to have Rex eye windows follow objects that are moving on GLvex ramps. It is particularly important that the only escape you should use in a state that calls this action is when the function *tst\_rx\_new* returns 0.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal OBJECT\_LOCATION (233) plus the X and Y coordinates of the selected object. Use the action PvexMessage to get the X and Y coordinates

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int vexMessage;
int vexX, vexY;
int trgsiz;
int obj = 1;

int targ_wnd(void)
{
    wd_pos(WIND1, vexX, vexY);
    wd_siz(WIND1, trgsiz, trgsiz);
    wd_cntrl(WIND1, WD_ON);
    return(0);
}

%%%
state:
    do PvexReportLocation(&obj);
    to tstmsg on 0 % tst_rx_new/* no other escapes */

tstmsg:
    do PvexMessage(&vexMessage, &vexX, &vexY)
    to tarwnd on OBJECT_LOCATION = vexMessage
    to otherstate /* do something else if the signal returned is not OBJECT_LOCATION */

tarwnd:
    do targ_wnd
    to nextstate
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexMessage

returns the signal number and possibly the location of an object

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexMessage(int *code, int *x, int *y)`

**code:** the signal returned by GLvex

**x:** the x coordinate of the object specified in a call to PvexReportLocation in 10ths of a degree

**y:** the y coordinate of the object specified in a call to PvexReportLocation in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** This action retrieves any of the signals returned by GLvex and places them in the variable *code*. If the signal was OBJECT\_LOCATION (233), then this action places the X coordinate of the object in the variable *x* and the Y coordinate of the object in the variable *y*. NOTE: This action should only be called from a state which is entered because GLvex returned a signal

**RETURN VALUE.** returns 0

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int code;
int x, y;

%%
laststate:
/* do some action that sends commands to GLvex */
to state on 0 % tst_rx_new
state:
do PvexMessage(&code, &x, &y)
to codestate on FLOW_RAMP_CHANGE = code
to endstate on FLOW_RAMP_STOP = code
to tarwnd on OBJECT_LOCATION = code
codestate:

endstate:

tarwnd:
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## **PvexSetActiveObject**

sets GLvex's active object

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexSetActiveObject(int \*object)**  
**object:** number of the object to make active

**DESCRIPTION.** This action has the same effect as the *s* keyboard command.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int active = 2;
```

```
%%
state:
    PvexSetActiveObject(&active)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Draw Stimuli

### PvexSetAliasing

turns anti aliasing on or off in a number of objects.

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetAliasing(int \*nObjs, int \*objList, int \*aliasList)

**nObjs:** number of objects to set anti aliasing

**objList:** array of object numbers

**aliasList:** array of flags to turn anti aliasing on [1] or off [0].

**DESCRIPTION.** This action turns anti aliasing on or off for a number of objects. Anti aliasing reduces the jagged appearance of lines that are not quite vertical or horizontal. With some combinations of computer, operating system and device driver, turning software anti aliasing on causes the object to be drawn in the background color, seeming to disappear. If this happens, turn software anti aliasing off and use the hardware anti aliasing features.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num, objArray[4], aliasList[4];
```

```
int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 4;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objArray[i] = i + 1;
        aliasList[i] = 1;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%  
state:  
    do PvexSetAliasing(&num, objArray, aliasList)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexSetTransparency

sets the transparency of a number of objects.

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexSetTransparency(int \*nObjs, int \*objList, float \*transList)**

**nObjs:** number of objects to set anti aliasing

**objList:** array of object numbers

**transList:** array of floating point transparency values.

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets the transparency for a number of objects. Transparency values can range from 0.0 to 1.0. A value of 1.0 makes the object completely opaque, and to occlude underlying objects. This is the default. A value of 0.0 makes the object completely transparent. A value of 0.0 is not too useful because the object will not be drawn. Intermediate values will cause the object to be drawn, but allow underlying objects to show through. One use for this action is to allow you to sum a series of sine wave gratings of the same or of differing orientations and frequencies. Note, increasing the transparency of an object reduces its contrast. For example, drawing a sine wave grating with a contrast of 50%, then setting the transparency of the object to 0.5 will result in a sine wave grating with a contrast of 25%.

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num, objArray[4];
float transList[4];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 4;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objArray[i] = i + 1;
        transList[i] = 0.5;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%%
state:
    do PvexSetTransparency(&num, objArray, transList)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexClipRectSet, PvexClipRectFromFixPoint

sets a clipping rectangle to limit the extent that an object is visible

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexClipRectSet(int \*nObjs, int \*oList, int \*wList, int \*hList, int \*xList, int \*yList)

PvexClipRectFromFixPoint(int \*nObs, int \*oList, int \*wList, int \*hList, int \*xList, int \*yList)

nObjs: number of objects for which clipping rectangles are needed

oList: array of object numbers

wList: array of clipping rectangle widths in 10ths of a degree

hList: array of clipping rectangle heights in 10ths of a degree

xList: array of the X coordinates of the clipping rectangles in 10ths of a degree

yList: array of the Y coordinates of the clipping rectangles in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** These actions set clipping rectangles for a number of objects. The clipping rectangle of each object is independent of the clipping rectangles of other objects. You can use clipping rectangles to achieve optic flow by moving a large object behind a smaller clipping rectangle. Another use is to display small parts of a complex image. PvexClipRectSet sets the location of the clipping rectangles in absolute screen coordinates. PvexClipRectFromFixPoint sets the location of the clipping rectangles relative to the fixation point

**RETURN VALUE.** Glvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num, objArray[4], widthArray[4], heightArray[4], xArray[4], yArray[4];
```

```
int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 4;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objArray[i] = i + 1;
        widthArray[i] = 50;
        heightArray[i] = 50;
        if(i < 2) xArray[i] = 50;
        else xArray[i] = -50;
        if(i % 3) yArray[i] = -50;
        else yArray[i] = 50;
    }
    return(0);
}

%% state:
do PvexClipRectSet(&num, objArray, widthArray, heightArray, xArray, yArray)
to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexClearClipRect

remove the clipping rectangles from a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexClearClipRect(int \*nObjects, int \*objList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to clear

**objList:** array of object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action clears the clipping rectangles that were set by the previous actions.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num
int objArray[4];

int setup()
{
    int i
    num = 4;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) objArray[i] = i + 1;
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexClearClipRect(&num, objArray);
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawWalsh

draws patterns based on Walsh functions in a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawWalsh(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*patList, int \*sizList, int \*cntrstList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to draw in

**objList:** array of object numbers

**patList:** array of Walsh function numbers on which to base patterns; can be 0 to 255

**sizList:** array of sizes of the pattern checks in screen pixels; can be 1 to 255

**cntrstList:** array of the contrasts of the patterns in each object; can be 1 or -1.

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws patterns based on Walsh functions in objects. Walsh patterns are 16 rows by 16 columns. The individual checks in the patterns can be either "white" or "black", depending on the Walsh function number. White checks are drawn in the object's foreground color, black checks are drawn in the object's background color. The size parameter sets the sizes of the individual checks. That means that the smallest Walsh pattern can be 16 pixels high and 16 pixel wide. Specifying a contrast of -1 yields a contrast reversed version of a pattern specified with a contrast of 1.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num
int objects[16];
int walsh[16] = { 0, 17, 34, 51, 68, 85, 102, 119, 136, 153, 170, 187, 204, 221, 238, 255 };
int size[16];
int contrast[16];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 16;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        object[i] = 1 + 1;
        size[i] = 4;
        contrast[i] = 1;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawWalsh(&num, objects, walsh, size, contrast)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawHaar

draws patterns based on Haar functions in a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawHaar(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*patList, int \*sizList, int \*cntrstList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to draw in

**objList:** array of object numbers

**patList:** array of Haar function numbers on which to base patterns; can be 0 to 255

**sizList:** array of sizes of the pattern checks in screen pixels; can be 1 to 255

**cntrstList:** array of the contrasts of the patterns in each object; can be 1 or -1.

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws patterns based on Haar functions in objects. Haar patterns are 16 rows by 16 columns. The individual checks in the patterns can be either "white", "black", or "transparent", depending on the Haar function number. White checks are drawn in the object's foreground color, black checks are drawn in the object's background color, transparent checks are drawn in the screen's background color. The size parameter sets the sizes of the individual checks. That means that the smallest Haar pattern can be 16 pixels high and 16 pixel wide. Specifying a contrast of -1 yields a contrast reversed version of a pattern specified with a contrast of 1.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objects[16];
int haar[16] = { 0, 17, 34, 51, 68, 85, 102, 119, 136, 153, 170, 187, 204, 221, 238, 255 };
int size[16];
int contrast[16];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 16;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        object[i] = 1 + 1;
        size[i] = 4;
        contrast[i] = 1;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawHaar(&num, objects, walsh, size, contrast)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawRandom

draws patterns of random checks in a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawRandom(int \*nObj, int \*oList, int \*cList, int \*rList, int \*sList, int \*pList)

**nObj:** number of objects to draw in

**oList:** array of object numbers

**cList:** array of the numbers of columns in the random patterns; can be 1 to 255

**rList:** array of the numbers of rows in the random patterns; can be 1 to 255

**sList:** array of the sizes of the individual checks in the patterns in screen pixels; can be 1 to 255

**pList:** array of the percentage of white checks in the pattern; can be 1 to 99

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws random check patterns in objects. The checks are either "white" or "black". White checks are drawn in the object's foreground color, black checks are drawn in the object's background color. The patterns may be square or rectangular. To have equal numbers of white and black checks, the pList parameter should be 50. If the pList parameter is less than 50, there will be fewer white than black checks. If the pList parameter is more than 50, there will be more white than black checks

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objects[4];
int rows[4];
int cols[4];
int size[4];
int pwhite[4];
```

```
int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 4;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objects[i] = i + 1;
        rows[i] = 50;
        cols[i] = 75;
        size[i] = 4;
        pwhite[i] = 50;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawRandom(&num, objects, cols, rows, size, pwhite)
    to nexstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawAnnulus

draws circular stimuli in objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawAnnulus(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*outerList, int \*innerList, int \*cntrstList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to draw in

**objList:** array of object numbers

**outerList:** array of the outer radii of the annuli in 10ths of a degree; may be 2 to 255

**innerList:** array of the inner radii of the annuli in 10ths of a degree; may be 0 to 255

**cntrstList:** array of the contrasts of the annuli; may be 1 or -1

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws circular and annular stimuli in objects. The inner and outer radii are in 10ths of a degree of visual angle. If the inner radius is 0, GLvex will draw a filled circle. If the contrast is 1, the annulus will be drawn in the object's foreground color. If the contrast is -1, the annulus will be drawn in the object's background color. The center of the annulus is transparent. To get a center-surround annulus requires two objects.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
/*
 * use two objects to create an annulus with a black center and a white surround
 * the two objects must be given the same location coordinates
 */
int num = 2;
int objects[2] = { 1, 2 };
int outer[2] = { 10, 5 };
int inner[2] = { 5, 0 };
int contrast[2] = { 1, -1 };

%%%
state:
    doPvexDrawAnnulus(&num, objects, outer, inner, contrast)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawBar

draws rectangular stimuli in objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawBar(int \*nObjs, int \*oList, int \*anglList, int \*widList, int \*lenList, int \*cntrList)

**nObjs:** number of objects to draw in

**oList:** array of object numbers;

**anglList:** array of the orientations of the bars in degrees; can be 0 to 180

**widList:** array of the widths of the bars in 10ths of a degree

**lenList:** array of the lengths of the bars in 10ths of a degree

**cntrList:** array of the contrasts of the bars in 10ths of a degree; can be 1 or -1

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws rectangular stimuli in objects. The width and length parameters are in 10ths of a degree of visual angle. If the contrast is 1, the bar will be drawn in the object's foreground color. If the contrast is -1, the bar will be drawn in the object's background color.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objects[8];
int angles[8];
int widths[8];
int lengths[8];
int contrasts[8];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 8;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objects[i] = i + 1;
        angles[i] = i * 22;
        widths[i] = 2;
        lengths[i] = 10;
        contrasts[i] = 1;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawBar(&num, objects, angles, widths, lengths, contrasts)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawFlowField

sets initial check locations in flow field patterns

**SYNPOSIS.** **PvexDrawFlowField(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*widthList, int \*heightList, int \*nearList, int \*farList, int \*covList, int \*sizList)**

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw flow fields

**objList:** array of object numbers

**widthList:** array of flow field widths in 10ths of a degree

**heightList:** array of flow field heights in 10ths of a degree

**nearList:** array of near clipping planes in 10ths of a degree

**farList:** array of far clipping planes in 10ths of a degree

**covList:** array of 10ths of a percent of field covered by checks; can be 1 to 255

**sizList:** array of check sizes

**DESCRIPTION.** This action specifies the initial positions of the checks in flow field stimuli in a number of objects. The near and far parameters are the distances to the near and far clipping planes of the flow field. If the near and far parameters are the same, you will get a two dimensional flow field. If the near parameter is smaller than the far parameter, you will get a three dimensional flow field. Three dimensional flow fields are required for yaw, pitch, and zoom movements (see PvexNewFlow).

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num = 1;  
int object = 2;  
int width = 100;  
int height = 100;  
int near = 500;  
int far = 1500;  
int coverage = 25;  
int size = 4;
```

%%

state:

```
do PvexDrawFlowField(&num, &object, &width, &height, &near, &far, &coverage, &size)  
to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawEllipticalFlowField

sets initial check locations in circular or elliptical flow field patterns

**SYNPOSIS.** PvexDrawFlowField(**int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*radList, float \*widthList,**

**float \*heightList, int \*nearList, int \*farList, int \*covList, int \*sizList)**

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw flow fields

**objList:** array of object numbers

**radList:** array of flow field radii in 10ths of a degree

**widthList:** array of proportions of the radius for the width,

**heightList:** array of proportions of the radius for the height

**nearList:** array of near clipping planes in 10ths of a degree

**farList:** array of far clipping planes in 10ths of a degree

**covList:** array of 10ths of a percent of field covered by checks; can be 1 to 255

**sizList:** array of check sizes

**DESCRIPTION.** This action specifies the initial positions of the checks in flow field stimuli in a number of objects. The radius is the radius of the flow field in tenths of a degree. The width and height are the percentages of the radius to use in setting the width and height of the flow field. If width and height are 100, the flow field will be a circle with its radius defined by the radius variable. If the width and height are different, the flow field will be elliptical. The near and far parameters are the distances to the near and far clipping planes of the flow field. If the near and far parameters are the same, you will get a two dimensional flow field. If the near parameter is smaller than the far parameter, you will get a three dimensional flow field. Three dimensional flow fields are required for yaw, pitch, and zoom movements (see PvexNewFlow).

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

## EXAMPLE.

```
int num = 1;
int object = 2;
int rad = 100;           /* radius of 10 degrees, (diameter of 20 degrees) */
float width = 1.0;       /* width equal to radius */
float height = 1.0;      /* height equal to radius */
int near = 500;
int far = 1500;
int coverage = 25;
int size = 4;

%%
state:
    do PvexDrawEllipticalFlowField(&num, &object, &rad, &width, &height, &near, &far,
                                    &coverage, &size)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexMaskFlowField

masks part of a flow field

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexMaskFlowField(int \*nObjects, int \*oList, int \*wList, int \*hList, int \*xList, int \*yList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to mask

**oList:** array of object numbers

**wList:** array of mask widths in 10ths of a degree

**hList:** array of mask heights in 10ths of a degree

**xList:** array of x coordinates of mask centers in 10ths of a degree

**yList:** array of y coordinates of mask centers in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to mask part of a flow field stimulus. The x and y parameters are position relative to the center of the flow field object. If the width and height variables are both non zero, the mask will be rectangular. For a circular mask, set the width variable to the desired radius of the mask in tenths of a degree and the height variable to 0. Circular masks are always centered in the flow field so if you select a circular mask, the X and Y variables are ignored. *Note: you must first draw a flow field in an object before setting the flow field mask for that object.*

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE 1.**

```
/* rectangular mask */
int num = 1;
int object = 2;
int width = 10;
int height = 10;
int x = 0;
int y = 0;

%%
state:
    do PvexMaskFlowField(&num, &object, &width, &height, &x, &y)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

**EXAMPLE 2.**

```
/* circular mask */
int num = 1;
int object = 2;
int width = 10;
int height = 0;
int x = 0;          /* these variables will be ignored but must be defined */
int y = 0;          /* because the function requires 6 variables to be passed */

%%
state:
    do PvexMaskFlowField(&num, &object, &width, &height, &x, &y)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawUserPattern

draws a pattern defined in user's template file

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexDrawUserPattern(int *nObjects, int *objList, int *pList, int *sList, int *cList)`

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw

**objList:** array of object numbers

**pList:** array of pattern numbers

**sList:** array of pattern check sizes in screen pixels

**cList:** array of pattern contrasts, can be 1, 0, -1, or between 2 and 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to define a pattern in a template file. The name of the template file must be "Pnumber" where number is the number of the pattern. For example the file P10 holds the template for pattern number 10. The format of the template file is:

```
r c
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
...
...
...
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
```

The letters *r* and *c* indicate the number of rows and columns in the pattern. The maximum number of rows or columns is 255. The pattern may be rectangular, i.e., you do not need to have the same number of rows and columns. The letter *n* indicate the values for the individual checks in the pattern. If *n* equals 1, the object's foreground color will be used in that check. If *n* equals -1, the object's background color will be used in that check. If *n* equals 0, the screen's background color will be used in that check. If *n* equals 2 - 255, lookup table entries will be use in that check.

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 8 cols. This file defines a "white" and a "black" bar centered in a gray region. The name of the file might be "P1".

```
8 8
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
```

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 2 cols. This file also defines a "white" and a "black" bar, but does not have the gray region. The name of the file might be "P2".

```
8 2
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
```

*RETURN VALUE.* GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

*EXAMPLE.*

```
int num;
int objects[5];
int patterns[5];
int sizes[5];
int contrasts[5];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 5;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objects[i] = i + 1;
        patterns[i] = i + 10;
        sizes[i] = 4;
        contrasts[i] = 1;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state:
state:
    do PvexDrawUserPattern(&num, objects, patterns, sizes, contrasts)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

*FILE.* /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawRgbUserPattern

draws an rgb pattern defined in user's template file

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawRgbUserPattern(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*pList, int \*sList, int \*cList)

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw

**objList:** array of object numbers

**pList:** array of pattern numbers

**sList:** array of pattern check sizes in screen pixels

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to define an RGB pattern in a template file. The name of the template file must be "Pnumber" where number is the number of the pattern. For example the file P10 holds the template for pattern number 10. The format of the template file is:

```
r c 3
rgb r g b r g b ... r g b r g b r g b
rgb r g b r g b ... r g b r g b r g b
rgb r g b r g b ... r g b r g b r g b
...
...
...
rgb r g b r g b ... r g b r g b r g b
rgb r g b r g b ... r g b r g b r g b
rgb r g b r g b ... r g b r g b r g b
```

The letters *r* and *c* indicate the number of rows and columns in the pattern. The number 3 indicates that each pixel is defined by 3 values, *r g* and *b*. This number can only be 3. The maximum number of rows or columns is 255. The pattern may be rectangular, i.e., you do not need to have the same number of rows and columns. The letters *r g b* indicate the values for red, green, and blue for the individual checks in the pattern.

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 8 cols. This file defines a "red" and a "green" bar centered in a blue region. The name of the file might be "P1000".

```
8 8 3
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
```

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 2 cols. This file also defines a "red" and a "green" bar, but does not have the blue region. The name of the file might be "P2000".

```
8 2 3
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
```

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```

int num;
int objects[5];
int patterns[5];
int sizes[5];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 5;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objects[i] = i + 1;
        patterns[i] = i + 10;
        sizes[i] = 4;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
do setup()
to state:

state:
do PvexDrawRgbUserPattern(&num, objects, patterns, sizes)
to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

```

*FILE.* /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawTiffImage

draws a tiff image in an object

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawTiffImage(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*patList)

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw images

**objList:** array of object numbers

**patList:** array of pattern numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to draw a TIFF image in an object. The image is taken from a file named "Inumber.tif" where "number" is the image number you are going to use for that image. For example, I100.tif is a valid tiff image file name. I chose to have file names start with "I" because they contain images, not patterns. The reason for requiring the ".tif" extension is so that other windows programs can recognize the file as a TIFF file. Though TIFF image files may contain multiple images, currently GLvex will only draw the first image in the file. Further, GLvex does not support image compression. The images in the TIFF files must be in RGBA format.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objects[16];
int patterns[16];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 16;
    for(i = 0; i < 16; i++) {
        objects[i] = i + 1;
        patterns[i] = i + 100;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawTiffImage(&num, objects, patterns)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawPngImage

draws a png image in an object

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawPngImage(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*patList)

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw images

**objList:** array of object numbers

**patList:** array of pattern numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to draw a PNG image in an object. The image is taken from a file named "inumber.png" where "number" is the image number you are going to use for that image. For example, i100.png is a valid png image file name. I chose to have file names start with "i" because they contain images, not patterns. The reason for requiring the ".png" extension is so that other windows programs can recognize the file as a PNG file. The images in the PNG files must be in either RGB or RGBA format.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int objects[16];
int patterns[16];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    num = 16;
    for(i = 0; i < 16; i++) {
        objects[i] = i + 1;
        patterns[i] = i + 100;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%%
prev:
    do setup()
    to state
state:
    do PvexDrawPngImage(&num, objects, patterns)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawSineGrating

draws sinusoidal gratings in a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexDrawSineGrating(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*orList, float \*spatFreqList,  
float \*tempFreqList, int \*cntrPhaseList, float \*redList float \*greenList  
float \*blueList, int \*sizList)

nObjects: number of objects in which to draw

objList: array of object numbers

orList: array of grating orientations, can be 0 to 360 degrees

spatFreqList: array of spatial frequencies in cycles / degrees

tempFreqList: array of temporal frequencies int cycles / second

cntPhaseList: array indicating whether the grating drifts or counter phases, can be 0 or 1

redList: array of contrasts for red

greenList: array of contrasts for green

blueList: array of contrasts for blue

widList: array of grating widths in 10ths of a degree

heightList: array of grating heights in 10ths of a degree

barwidList: array of grating bar widths in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws circular patches of one dimensional sine wave gratings in objects.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num, object, orientation, cntrphase, siz;  
float sfreq, tfreq, rcntrst, gcntrst;
```

```
int setup()  
{  
    nm = 1      /* grating will be drawn in one object */  
    ob = 2;     /* grating will be drawn in object number 2 */  
    or = 45;    /* orientation of the grating will be 45 degrees */  
    sfreq = 0.5; /* spatial frequency of the grating will be 0.5 cycles / degree */  
    tfreq = 2.5; /* temporal frequency of the grating will be 2.5 cycles / second */  
    cntrphase = 0; /* grating will drift, for counter phase grating, set this to 1 */  
    rcntrst = 50.0; /* these contrast values will produce a red-green grating */  
    gcntrst = -50.0; /* if the contrast is negative, the color will be in the opposite phase */  
    bcntrst = 0.0; /* if the contrast is 0, the color will not be used in the grating */  
    siz = 50;     /* diameter of the patch in rex units (tenths of a degree) */  
    return(0);  
}  
  
%%  
prev:  
    do setup()  
    to state  
state:  
    do PvexDrawSineGrating(&nm, &ob, &or, &sfreq, &tfreq, &cntrphase, &rcntrst,  
                           &gcntrst, &bcntrst, &siz)  
    to nextstat on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawSquareGrating

draws square wave gratings in a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexDrawSquareGrating**(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*orList, float \*spatFreqList,  
float \*tempFreqList, int \*cntrPhaseList, float \*redList float \*greenList  
float \*blueList, int \*sizList)

nObjects: number of objects in which to draw

objList: array of object numbers

orList: array of grating orientations, can be 0 to 360 degrees

spatFreqList: array of spatial frequencies in cycles / degrees

tempFreqList: array of temporal frequencies int cycles / second

cntPhaseList: array indicating whether the grating drifts or counter phases, can be 0 or 1

redList: array of contrasts for red

greenList: array of contrasts for green

blueList: array of contrasts for blue

widList: array of grating widths in 10ths of a degree

heightList: array of grating heights in 10ths of a degree

barwidList: array of grating bar widths in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws circular patches of one dimensional square wave gratings in objects.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num, object, orientation, cntrphase, siz;  
float sfreq, tfreq, rcntrst, gcntrst, bcntrst;  
  
int setup()  
{  
    nm = 1      /* grating will be drawn in one object */  
    ob = 2;     /* grating will be drawn in object number 2 */  
    or = 45;    /* orientation of the grating will be 45 degrees */  
    sfreq = 0.5; /* spatial frequency of the grating will be 0.5 cycles / degree  
    tfreq = 2.5; /* temporal frequency of the grating will be 2.5 cycles / second  
    cntrphase = 0; /* grating will drift, for counter phase grating, set this to 1 */  
    rcntrst = 50.0; /* these contrast values will produce a red-green grating */  
    gcntrst = -50.0; /* if the contrast is negative, the color will be in the opposite phase */  
    bcntrst = 0.0; /* if the contrast is 0, the color will not be used in the grating */  
    siz = 50;    /* diameter of the patch in rex units (tenths of a degree) */  
    return(0);  
}  
  
%%  
prev:  
    do setup()  
    to state  
state:  
    do PvexDrawSquareGrating(&nm, &ob, &or, &sfreq, &tfreq, &cntrphase, &rcntrst,  
                            &gcntrst, &bcntrst, &siz)  
    to nextstat on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexDrawOknGrating

draws an opto-kinetic stimulus grating in a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexDrawOknGrating(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*dirList, int \*speedList, int \*widList, int \*heightList, int \*barwidList)**

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw

**objList:** array of object numbers

**dirList:** array of grating drift directions, can be 0, 90, 180, or 270

**speedList:** array of drift rates in degrees / sec

**widList:** array of grating widths in 10ths of a degree

**heightList:** array of grating heights in 10ths of a degree

**barwidList:** array of grating bar widths in 10ths of a degree

**DESCRIPTION.** This action draws one dimensional square wave gratings in objects to be used as opto-kinetic stimuli. The gratings may be horizontal or vertical, the direction of drift may be left, right, up, or down.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int object, direction, speed, width, height, barwidth;

int setup()
{
    num = 1
    object = 1;
    direction = 180;
    speed = 10;
    width = 100;
    height = 100;
    barwidth = 10;

    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawOknGrating(&num, &object, &direction, &speed, &width, &height,
                          &barwidth)
    to nextstat on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexLoadPatterns

loads patterns defined in Rex into GLvex

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexLoadPatterns(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*stimList, int \*sizList, int \*rowList, int \*colList, int \*checkList)**

**nObjects:** number of objects in which to draw

**objList:** array of object numbers

**stimList:** array of stimulus numbers, dummy variable needed by GLvex

**sizList:** array of check sizes in screen pixels

**rowList:** array of numbers of rows of checks in pattern

**colList:** array of numbers of cols of checks in pattern

**checkList:** array of color lookup table indices for checks in pattern, can be 0 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action is similar to PvexDrawUserPattern but you define the template in Rex. The purpose of this action is to allow you to add visual noise to a pattern that changes from trial to trial. The color or luminance of each check is determined by the value of the color lookup table element referenced by that check's value. You will need to set up gray scales or color lookup tables for each object. The size of the checkList array must be at least as large as the sum of the products of the row values and the column values.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

## EXAMPLE.

```
int num;
int objArray[50], stimArray[50], sizArray[50], rows[50], cols[50], checks[5000];
int setup()
{
    int nRows, nCols, i, j, k, l;
    nRows = nCols = 10;
    num = 50;
    l = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        objArray[i] = i + 1;
        stimArray[i] = i + 1;
        sizArray[i] = 4;
        for(j = 0; j < nRows; j++) {
            for(k = 0; k < nCols; k++) {
                checks[l++] = getRand();
            }
        }
    }
    return(0);
}
%%
prev:
    do setup()
    to state:
state:
    do PvexLoadPatterns(&num, objArray, stimArray, sizArray, rows, cols, checks)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexLoadSound

loads sounds from .wav sound files.

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexLoadSound(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*sndList);

nObjects: the number of objects in which to load sounds.

objList: array of object numbers.

sndList: array of sound numbers.

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to play a sound. The sound is taken from a file named "snumber.wav" where "number" is the number you are going to use for that sounds. For example, s100.wav is a valid sound file name. I chose to have file names start with "s" because they contain sounds, not images or patterns. The reason for requiring the ".wav" extension is so that other windows programs can recognize the file as a wav file.

### **NOTE WELL the following caveats:**

You can load sounds into multiple objects at one time, but if you try to turn on several objects containing sounds, the result will be unpredictable.

GLvex plays the sounds in an asynchronous manner. The stim on signal will mark the start of the sound only to within several milliseconds. If you need more precision, you will need install a microphone, or tap into the speaker wires. GLvex cannot signal the end of the sound.

GLvex plays one interaction of the contents of the .wav file. After the sound stops, the object is still "ON". If you do not explicitly switch the object off with the PvexSwitchStim command, the sound will play again when other objects are switched on or off. The sound will also play repeatedly during a ramp or a stimulus sequence.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action

### **EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int object;
int sound];

int setup()
{
    num = 1;
    object = 15
    sound = 1001;
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexLoadSound(&num, &object, &sound)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexLoadPointArray

loads an array of locations to place checks in an object.

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexLoadPointArray(int \*obj, int \*nPoints, int \*size, int \*pointArray)

**obj:** the number of the object that will draw the point array; this function loads only one object

**nPoints:** the number of squares to be drawn

**size:** the size of each of the squares

**pointArray:** an array of X and Y coordinate pairs in tenths of a degree, relative to the object location

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to define an array of locations for an object to place checks. The purpose is to add visual noise to the background of a display. Depending on the algorithm you use to choose check coordinates, the noise may be a regular array or a random array. Further, you may define the checks to lie within an irregular boundary. Though the pointArray variable is a simple array, the elements are assumed to be X-Y coordinate pairs. The even numbered elements are defined to be X coordinates, the odd numbered elements are defined to be Y coordinates. Thus pointArray[0] = X1, pointArray[1] = Y1, pointArray[2] = X2, pointArray[3] = Y2, etc.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

### EXAMPLE.

```
int obj, nPoints, size, pointArray[2048];
int setup()
{
    int nRows, nCols, i, j, k, l;
    int width = 1280;
    int height = 1024;
    nRows = nCols = 32;
    nPoints = 2048;
    size = 4;
    l = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < nRows; i++) {
        for(j = 0; j < nRows; j++) {
            pointArray[l++] = getRand() *width; /* X coordinate */
            pointArray[l++] = getRand() * height; /* Y coordinate */
        }
    }
    return(0);
}
%%
prev:
    do setup()
    to state:
state:
    do PvexLoadPointArray(&obj, &nPoints, &size, pointArray)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexCopyObject

copies the pattern in one object to another object

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexCopyObject(int *source, int *destination, int *xscale, int *yscale)`

**source:** number of the source object

**destination:** number of the destination object

**xscale:** percentage to scale copy width, 100 means no scaling

**yscale:** percentage to scale copy height, 100 means no scaling

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to make duplicates of patterns. The copied patterns can be stretched or shrunk in either width or height. The scaling is not cumulative. That is, if you copy a pattern from object 1 to object 2 with 125% scaling, then copy object 2 to object 3, also with 125% scaling, object 3 will be 125% larger than object 1, not 125% larger than object 2. If either of the scaling values is negative, the copy will be a mirror image of the source.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num = 1;
int source = 1;
int dest = 2;
int rows = 50;
int cols = 50;
int size = 4;
int pwhite = 50;
int xScale = 150;
int yScale = 100;

return(0);
}

%%

state:
    do PvexDrawRandom(&num, &source, &cols, &rows, &size, &pwhite)
    to copystate on 0 % tst_rx_new
copystate:
    do PvexCopyObject(&source, &dest, &xScale, &yScale)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexRotateObject

rotates objects around the X, Y, or Z axes.

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexRotateObject(int \*nObjects, int \*obList, float \*Xlist, float \*Ylist, float \*Zlist)

**nObjects:** number of objects to rotate

**objList:** array of object numbers to rotate

**Xlist:** array of angles of rotation about the X axis

**Ylist:** array of angles of rotation about the Y axis

**Zlist:** array of angles of rotation about the Z axis

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to rotate patterns made up of checks, such as random patterns or walsh patterns, about the three cardinal axes. Note, tiff images cannot be rotated because they are bitmaps, not arrays of checks.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int nObjects = 2;
int objList[] = { 1, 2 };
float Xrot = { 0.0, 0.0 };
float Yrot = { 0.0, 0.0 };
float Zrot = { 25.0, 25.0 };

}

%%%
state:
do PvexRotateObject(&nObjects, objList, Xrot, Yrot, Zrot)
to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Control Ramps

### PvexNewRamp, PvexNewRampFromFixPoint

computes parameters for a number of ramps

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexNewRamp(int \*nRamps, int \*rampList, int \*lenList, int \*dirList, int \*velList, int \*xList, int \*yList, int \*typeList, int \*actList)**

**nRamps:** number of ramps to compute

**rampList:** array of ramp numbers, ramp numbers must be sequential

**lenList:** array of lengths in 10ths of a degree, length is half the length of the ramp

**dirList:** array of ramp directions in degrees

**velList:** array ramp velocities in degrees per second

**xList:** array of the X coordinates of ramp locations in 10ths of a degree

**yList:** array of the Y coordinates of ramp locations in 10ths of a degree

**typeList:** array of types of the ramps

**actList:** array of actions at ramp end, can be ON\_AFTER\_RAMP or OFF\_AFTER\_RAMP

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to specify the parameters of a number of ramps. The typeList parameters define the reference points of the ramps. RA\_CENPT (02): reference point is the center of the ramp. RA\_BEGINPT (04): reference point is beginning of the ramp. RA\_ENDPT(08): reference point is end of the ramp. RA\_CLKWISE(16) ramp is a clockwise circular ramp and the reference point is the center of the circle. RA\_CCLKWISE(32): ramp is a counter clockwise circular ramp and the reference point is the center of the circle. The reference point for PvexNewRamp is relative to the center of the screen. The reference point for PvexNewRampFromFixPoint is relative to the fixation point. The actList parameter determines whether the object on the ramp will be left on or turned off when the ramp stops.

*Once specified, GLvex can move objects according to the specifications. If you are defining new ramps, the ramp numbers must be sequential. If you are redefining old ramps, the ramp numbers need not be sequential. Once defined, a ramp remains defined until changed. That is, unlike the Rex action ra\_new, you do not have to call this action on every trial. Call it once to define some ramps, then reuse them as often as you like.*

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

### EXAMPLE:

```
int num = 1;
int ramp = 1;
int length = 200;                                /* half the length of the ramp in Rex units */
int direction = 15;                               /* direction of travel in degrees */
int speed = 20;                                   /* speed of 20 degrees / sec */
int rx = 100;                                    /* X coordinate of reference point */
int ry = -10;                                    /* Y coordinate of reference point */
int type = RA_CENPT;                            /* rx and ry define middle of ramp */
int act = ON_AFTER_RAMP;                         /* leave object on when ramp stops */

%%
state:
    do PvexNewRamp(&num, &ramp, &length, &direction, &speed, &rx, &ry, &type, &act)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexLoadRamp

defines ramps from coordinates passed from Rex

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexLoadRamp(int \*nRmp, int \*rmpList, int \*actList, int \*stpList, float \*xLst, float \*yLst)

nRmp: number of ramps

rmpList: array of ramp numbers

actList: array of actions at ramp end, can be ON\_AFTER\_RAMP or OFF\_AFTER\_RAMP

stpList: array of the number of steps of each ramp

xLst: array of the X coordinates of each step of each ramp

yLst: array of the Y coordinates of each step of each ramp

### DESCRIPTION

This action allows you to specify arbitrary movements for objects.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

### EXAMPLE:

```
float Xarray[1024], Yarray[1024];
int num = 2;
int ramps[2] = { 1, 2 };
int steps[2] = { 256, 768 };
int act[2] = { ON_AFTER_RAMP, ON_AFTER_RAMP };

int setup() /* define two horizontal ramps that increase speed */
{
    int i, j, k, end;
    float x, y;
    k = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        if(i == 0) end = 256;
        else end = 768;
        x = ((float)end / 2);
        y = 0.0;
        for(j = 0; j < end; j++) {
            Xarray[k] = x;
            Yarray[k] = y;
            if(j < (end / 2)) x += 1.0;
            else x += 2.0;
        }
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup
    to state

state:
    do PvexLoadRamp(&num, ramps, act, steps, Xarray, Yarray)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexToRampStart

places objects at the beginnings of their ramps

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexToRampStart(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*rampList)

**nObjects:** number of objects

**objList:** array of object numbers

**rampList:** array of ramp numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action positions a number of objects at the beginnings of the ramps that will govern their movement. The objects carried by the ramps can contain any kind of image or pattern. You must use the actions described above to define the ramps before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

**EXAMPLE.** int num;

int objList[5];

int rampList[5];

int setup()

{

    int i;

    num = 5;

    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {

        objList[i] = i + 1;

        rampList[i] = i + 1;

    }

    return(0);

}

%%

prev:

    do setup()

    to state

state:

    do PvexToRampStart(&num, objList, rampList)

    to nextstate on 0 % tst\_rx\_new

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStartRamp

starts a number of ramps moving

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexStartRamp(int \*nRamps, int \*rmpList, int \*objList, int \*cycleList)

**nRamps:** number of ramps to start

**rmpList:** array of ramp numbers

**objList:** array of object numbers to place on ramps

**cycleList:** array of ramp cycle types

**DESCRIPTION.** This action starts ramps moving. You must use the actions described above to define the ramps before calling this action. The cycle types can be RA\_ONCE (0) which causes the ramp to run once, RA\_OSCIL (1) which causes the ramp to go back and forth, and RA\_LOOP (2) which causes the ramp to run over and over.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the ramps start moving, the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) when the ramps stop moving, and the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE (234) at each step specified by the *PvexSetTriggers* action (see below). If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the ramps start, when the ramps stop, and at each step specified by the *PvexSetTriggers* action.

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num = 5;
int ramps[5], objects[5], cycles[5];

int setup()
{
    int i;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        ramps[i] = i + 1;
        objects[i] = i + 1;
        cycles[i] = RA_ONCE;
    }
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup
    to state

state:
    do PvexStartRamp(&num, ramps, objects, cycles)
    to run on 0 % tst_rx_new

run:
    to stop on 0 % tst_rx_new

stop:
    to nextstate
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexResetRamps

resets RA\_ONCE ramps to their starting positions

### SYNOPSIS. PvexResetRamps(void)

**DESCRIPTION.** You may have experimental conditions in which you have some ramps running in one of the continuous modes (RA\_OSCIL or RA\_LOOP) and others running in RA\_ONCE mode. You may also have experimental conditions in which you have a flow field stimulus running continuously in conjunction with a ramp running in RA\_ONCE mode. In either of these cases, you can restart the RA\_ONCE ramps without affecting the continuously running ramps or the flow field by calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE (234) when the ramps restart. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the ramps restart.

### EXAMPLE.

```
%%
state:
    do PvexResetRamps()
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Control Grating Stimuli

### PvexStartOkn

starts a number OKN gratings drifting

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexStartOkn(int \*nObjects, int \*objList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to start

**objList:** array of object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action starts OKN gratings drifting. You must have defined the OKN gratings prior to calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the gratings start. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the gratings start

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num;
int object, direction, speed, width, height, barwidth;

int setup()
{
    num = 1
    object = 1;
    direction = 180;
    speed = 10;
    width = 100;
    height = 100;
    barwidth = 10;

    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawOknGrating(&num, &object, &direction, &speed, &width, &height,
                          &barwidth)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

nextstate:
    do PvexStartOkn(&num, &object)
    to next on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStopOkn

stops all OKN gratings

### SYNOPSIS. PvexStopOkn(void)

**DESCRIPTION.** This action stops all OKN gratings that are drifting. You must have previously defined OKN stimuli and called PvexStartOkn before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) when the gratings stop. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the gratings stop

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num;
int object, direction, speed, width, height, barwidth;

int setup()
{
    num = 1
    object = 1;
    direction = 180;
    speed = 10;
    width = 100;
    height = 100;
    barwidth = 10;

    return(0);
}

%%%
prev:
    do setup()
    to state
state:
    do PvexDrawOknGrating(&num, &object, &direction, &speed, &width, &height,
                          &barwidth)
    to startstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
startstate:
    do PvexStartOkn(&num, &object)
    to runstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
runstate:
    time 1000
    to stopstate
stopstate:
    do PvexStopOkn()
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStartSine

starts a number of sine wave gratings drifting or oscillating in counter phase motion

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexStartSine(int \*nObjects, int \*objList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to start

**objList:** array of object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets sine wave gratings in motion. You must have defined the sine wave gratings prior to calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the gratings start. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the gratings start

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num, object, orientation, cntrphase, siz;
float sfreq, tfreq, rcntrst, gcntrst, bcntrst;

int setup()
{
    nm = 1           /* grating will be drawn in one object */
    ob = 2;          /* grating will be drawn in object number 2 */
    or = 45;         /* orientation of the grating will be 45 degrees */
    sfreq = 0.5;     /* spatial frequency of the grating will be 0.5 cycles / degree
    tfreq = 2.5;     /* temporal frequency of the grating will be 2.5 cycles / second
    cntrphase = 0;   /* grating will drift, for counter phase grating, set this to 1 */
    rcntrst = 50.0;  /* these contrast values will produce a red-green grating */
    gcntrst = -50.0; /* if the contrast is negative, the color will be in the opposite phase */
    bcntrst = 0.0;   /* if the contrast is 0, the color will not be used in the grating */
    siz = 50;        /* diameter of the patch in rex units (tenths of a degree) */
    return(0);
}

int setup()
{
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawSineGrating(&nm, &ob, &or, &sfreq, &tfreq, &cntrphase, &rcntrst,
                           &gcntrst, &bcntrst, &siz)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

nextstate:
    do PvexStartSine(&num, &object)
    to next on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStopSine

stops all sine wave grating motion

### SYNOPSIS. PvexStopSine(void)

**DESCRIPTION.** This action stops all sine wave gratings that are in motion. You must have previously defined sine wave stimuli and called PvexStartSine before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) when the gratings stop. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the gratings stop

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num, object, orientation, cntrphase, siz;
float sfreq, tfreq, rcntrst, gcntrst, bcntrst;

int setup()
{
    nm = 1           /* grating will be drawn in one object */
    ob = 2;          /* grating will be drawn in object number 2 */
    or = 45;         /* orientation of the grating will be 45 degrees */
    sfreq = 0.5;     /* spatial frequency of the grating will be 0.5 cycles / degree */
    tfreq = 2.5;     /* temporal frequency of the grating will be 2.5 cycles / second */
    cntrphase = 0;   /* grating will drift, for counter phase grating, set this to 1 */
    rcntrst = 50.0;  /* these contrast values will produce a red-green grating */
    gcntrst = -50.0; /* if the contrast is negative, the color will be in the opposite phase */
    bcntrst = 0.0;   /* if the contrast is 0, the color will not be used in the grating */
    siz = 50;        /* diameter of the patch in rex units (tenths of a degree) */
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawSineGrating(&nm, &ob, &or, &sfreq, &tfreq, &cntrphase, &rcntrst,
                           &gcntrst, &bcntrst, &siz)
    to startstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

startstate:
    do PvexStartSine(&num, &object)
    to runstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

runstate:
    time 1000
    to stopstate

stopstate:
    do PvexStopSine()
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStartSquare

starts a number of square wave gratings drifting or oscillating in counter phase motion

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexStartSqyare(int \*nObjects, int \*objList)

**nObjects:** number of objects to start

**objList:** array of object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets sine wave gratings in motion. You must have defined the sine wave gratings prior to calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the gratings start. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the gratings start

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num, object, orientation, cntrphase, siz;
float sfreq, tfreq, rcntrst, gcntrst, bcntrst;

int setup()
{
    nm = 1      /* grating will be drawn in one object */
    ob = 2;     /* grating will be drawn in object number 2 */
    or = 45;    /* orientation of the grating will be 45 degrees */
    sfreq = 0.5; /* spatial frequency of the grating will be 0.5 cycles / degree
    tfreq = 2.5; /* temporal frequency of the grating will be 2.5 cycles / second
    cntrphase = 0; /* grating will drift, for counter phase grating, set this to 1 */
    rcntrst = 50.0; /* these contrast values will produce a red-green grating */
    gcntrst = -50.0; /* if the contrast is negative, the color will be in the opposite phase */
    bcntrst = 0.0; /* if the contrast is 0, the color will not be used in the grating */
    siz = 50;    /* diameter of the patch in rex units (tenths of a degree) */
    return(0);
}

int setup()
{
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawSquareGrating(&nm, &ob, &or, &sfreq, &tfreq, &cntrphase, &rcntrst,
                           &gcntrst, &bcntrst, &siz)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

nextstate:
    do PvexStartSquare(&num, &object)
    to next on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStopSquare

stops all square wave grating motion

### SYNOPSIS. PvexStopSquare(void)

**DESCRIPTION.** This action stops all square wave gratings that are in motion. You must have previously defined sine wave stimuli and called PvexStartSquare before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) when the gratings stop. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the gratings stop

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num, object, orientation, cntrphase, siz;
float sfreq, tfreq, rcntrst, bcntrst;

int setup()
{
    nm = 1          /* grating will be drawn in one object */
    ob = 2;         /* grating will be drawn in object number 2 */
    or = 45;        /* orientation of the grating will be 45 degrees */
    sfreq = 0.5;    /* spatial frequency of the grating will be 0.5 cycles / degree */
    tfreq = 2.5;    /* temporal frequency of the grating will be 2.5 cycles / second */
    cntrphase = 0;  /* grating will drift, for counter phase grating, set this to 1 */
    rcntrst = 50.0; /* these contrast values will produce a red-green grating */
    gcntrst = -50.0; /* if the contrast is negative, the color will be in the opposite phase */
    bcntrst = 0.0;  /* if the contrast is 0, the color will not be used in the grating */
    siz = 50;       /* diameter of the patch in rex units (tenths of a degree) */
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexDrawSquareGrating(&nm, &ob, &or, &sfreq, &tfreq, &cntrphase, &rcntrst,
                            &gcntrst, &bcntrst, &siz)
    to startstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

startstate:
    do PvexStartSquare(&num, &object)
    to runstate on 0 % tst_rx_new

runstate:
    time 1000
    to stopstate

stopstate:
    do PvexStopSquare()
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexTimeGrating

drifts or counter phases gratings for a given number of cycles

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexTimeGrating(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*cycles)

**nObjects:** number of objects to time

**objList:** array of object numbers

**cycles:** number of cycles to drift or counter phase gratings, can be 1 to 255

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to drift or counter phase the sine wave gratings in a number of objects for a precise number of cycles. The number of cycles of motion will be more precise than that you can achieve if you use Rex's clock. The temporal frequency of the grating in the first object governs the drift or counter phase oscillation. The temporal frequencies of each of the gratings should be the same. If the temporal frequencies of the gratings are not the same, gratings with frequencies higher than that of the grating in the first object will drift for more than the number of cycles requested and gratings with frequencies lower than that of the grating in the first object will drift for less than the number of cycles requested.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal TIME\_ON (248) at the beginning of the first video field in which the objects are on, and the signal TIME\_OFF (247) at the beginning of the first video field in which the objects are off. If the video sync is enabled, the video sync object will flash white in the first video field in which the objects are on and again in the first video field in which the objects are off.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num
int objects[4];
int fields;

int setup()
{
    int i
    num = 4;
    fields = 8;
    for(i = 0; i < num; i++) objects[i] = i + 10;
    return(0);
}

%%

prev:
    do setup()
    to state

state:
    do PvexTimeGrating(&num, objects, &fields)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new/* if the digital sync is enabled */
    to nextstate on +PHOTO_CELL & drinput/* if the video sync is enabled */
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Control Flow Fields

### PvexNewFlow

sets the translation matrices of a number of flow field objects

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexNewFlow(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*xyList, int \*zList, int \*velList,  
                          int \*rollList, int \*pitchList, int \*yawList, int \*spanList, int \*coherList)

**nObjects:** number of flow field objects

**objList:** array of object numbers

**xyList:** array of flow directions in the X-Y plane

**zList:** array of flow directions along the Z axis (only valid for 3-D flow fields)

**velList:** array of linear velocities

**rollList:** array of angular velocities around the Z axis

**pitchList:** array of angular velocities around the X axis (only valid for 3-D flow fields)

**yawList:** array of angular velocities around the Y axis (only valid for 3-D flow fields)

**spanList:** array of check life spans (in video fields)

**coherList:** array of percentages of coherent checks

**DESCRIPTION.** This action sets the direction of movement of the checks in a flow field. Checks can move in a linear direction or in a rotational direction. Linear and rotational movement can be combined. If the checks are given a non-zero life span, they will move as directed by the translation matrix for the given number of video fields, then they will turn off. This gives a scintillating appearance to the flow field. The percentage of coherent checks governs the number of checks that will move in the direction specified by the translation matrix. Non-coherent checks will move in random directions.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num = 4;
int objects[4] = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
int xy[4] = { 0, 90, 180, 270 };
int z[4] = { 0, 45, -45, 90 };
int vel[4] = { 10, 15, 20, 25 };
int roll[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int pitch[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int yaw[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int span[4] = { 0, 5, 0, 5 };
int coher[4] = { 100, 75, 50, 25 };

%%
state:
    do PvexNewFlow(&num, objects, xy, z, vel, roll, pitch, yaw, span, coher)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexMakeFlowMovie

makes a series of flow field frames

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexMakeFlowMovie(int *nObjects, int *nFrames, int *objList)`

**nObjects:** number of flow field objects

**nFrames:** number of frames in all movies

**objList:** array of flow field object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to pre-compute the movement of checks in a flow field for later display. This action is useful if you want to display exactly the same sequence of check movements on successive trials. You must call *PvexDrawFlowField* and *PvexNewFlow* to define flow field stimuli and setup the translation matrices before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num = 4;
int nFrames = 100;
int objects[4] = { 2, 3, 4, 5 };
int widths[4] = { 100, 100, 100, 100 };
int heights = { 100, 100, 100, 100 };
int nears[4] = { 500, 500, 500, 500 };
int fars[4] = { 1500, 1500, 1500, 1500 };
int coverages[4] = { 25, 25, 25, 25 };
int sizes[4] = { 4, 4, 4, 4 };
int xy[4] = { 0, 90, 180, 270 };
int z[4] = { 0, 45, -45, 90 };
int vel[4] = { 10, 15, 20, 25 };
int roll[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int pitch[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int yaw[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int span[4] = { 0, 5, 0, 5 };
int coher[4] = { 100, 75, 50, 25 };

%%
state:
    do PvexDrawFlowField(&num, objects, widths, heights, nears, fars, coverages, sizes)
    to trans on 0 % tst_rx_new
trans:
    do PvexNewFlow(&num, objects, xy, z, vel, roll, pitch, yaw, span, coher)
    to movie on 0 % tst_rx_new
movie:
    do PvexMakeFlowMovie(&num, &nFrames, objects)
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexToFlowMovieStart

shows the starting frame of a flow field movie.

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexToFlowMovieStart(int *nObjects, int *startFrame, int *objList)`

**nObjects:** number of flow field objects

**startFrame:** the number of the movie frame to use as the start

**objList:** array of flow field object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to show the starting frame of a flow field movie before starting the movie. Thus, when you show a flow field movie, you do not need to start on the first frame. You must call *PvexDrawFlow*, *PvexNewFlow*, and *PvexMakeFlowMovie* to define the flow field and the translation matrices and make the movie before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) when it completes this action.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num = 4;
int nFrames = 100;
int startFrame = 25;
int objects[4] = { 2, 3, 4, 5 };
int widths[4] = { 100, 100, 100, 100 };
int heights = { 100, 100, 100, 100 };
int nears[4] = { 500, 500, 500, 500 };
int fars[4] = { 1500, 1500, 1500, 1500 };
int coverages[4] = { 25, 25, 25, 25 };
int sizes[4] = { 4, 4, 4, 4 };
int xy[4] = { 0, 90, 180, 270 };
int z[4] = { 0, 45, -45, 90 };
int vel[4] = { 10, 15, 20, 25 };
int roll[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int pitch[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int yaw[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };
int span[4] = { 0, 5, 0, 5 };
int coher[4] = { 100, 75, 50, 25 };

%%
state:
    do PvexDrawFlowField(&num, objects, widths, heights, nears, fars, coverages, sizes)
    to trans on 0 % tst_rx_new
trans:
    do PvexNewFlow(&num, objects, xy, z, vel, roll, pitch, yaw, span, coher)
    to movie on 0 % tst_rx_new
movie:
    do PvexMakeFlowMovie(&num, &nFrames, objects)
    to moviestart on 0 % tst_rx_new
moviestart:
    do PvexToFlowMovieStart(&num, &startFrame, objects)
    to nextframe on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStartFlow

starts the flow fields in a number of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexStartFlow(int \*nObjects, int \*objList)**

**nObjects:** **number of flow field objects**

**objList:** **array of flow field object numbers**

**DESCRIPTION.** This actions starts the checks in the specified flow field objects moving according to the objects' translation matrices. You must have called the *PvexDrawFlowField* and *PvexNewFlow* actions before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the checks begin to move. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the checks begin to move.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num = 4;  
int objects[4] = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexStartFlow(&num, objects)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexTimeFlow

runs the flow fields in a number of objects for a given number of video fields

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexTimeFlow(int *nObjects, int *fields, int *objList)`

**nObjects:** number of flow field objects

**fields:** number of video fields to show flow field

**objList:** array of flow field object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This actions starts the checks in the specified flow field objects moving according to the objects' translation matrices and moves them for the given number of video fields. You must have called the *PvexDrawFlowField* and *PvexNewFlow* actions before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the checks begin to move, and the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) when the checks stop moving. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the checks begin to move, and again when the checks stop moving.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num = 4;  
int frames = 60;  
int objects[4] = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexTimeFlow(&num, &frames, objects)  
        to run on 0 % tst_rx_new  
run:  
    to nexstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexShiftFlow

shifts the translation matrices of a number of flow field objects while the flow field is running

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexShiftFlow(int \*nObjects, int \*objList, int \*xyList, int \*zList, int \*velList,  
int \*rollList, int \*pitchList, int \*yawList, int \*spanList, int \*coherList)**

**nObjects:** number of flow field objects

**objList:** array of object numbers

**xyList:** array of flow directions in the X-Y plane

**zList:** array of flow directions along the Z axis (only valid for 3-D flow fields)

**velList:** array of linear velocities

**rollList:** array of angular velocities around the Z axis

**pitchList:** array of angular velocities around the X axis (only valid for 3-D flow fields)

**yawList:** array of angular velocities around the Y axis (only valid for 3-D flow fields)

**spanList:** array of check life spans (in video fields)

**coherList:** array of percentages of coherent checks

**DESCRIPTION.** This action is similar to PvexNewFlow except that it shifts the direction of movement of the checks in a flow field while the checks are moving. Checks can move in a linear direction or in a rotational direction. Linear and rotational movement can be combined. If the checks are given a non-zero life span, they will move as directed by the translation matrix for the given number of video fields, then they will turn off. This gives a scintillating appearance to the flow field. The percentage of coherent checks governs the number of checks that will move in the direction specified by the translation matrix. Non-coherent checks will move in random directions.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE (234) on the first video field in which the checks have changed direction. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the checks change direction.

## EXAMPLE.

```
int num = 4;  
int objects[4] = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };  
int xy[4] = { 0, 90, 180, 270 };  
int z[4] = { 0, 45, -45, 90 };  
int vel[4] = { 10, 15, 20, 25 };  
int roll[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };  
int pitch[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };  
int yaw[4] = { 0, 0, 0, 0 };  
int span[4] = { 0, 5, 0, 5 };  
int coher[4] = { 100, 75, 50, 25 };  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexShiftFlow(&num, objects, xy, z, vel, roll, pitch, yaw, span, coher)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexShowFlowMovie

shows a number of flow field movie

**SYNOPSIS.** `PvexShowFlowMovie(int *nObjects, int *startFrame, int *lastFrame, int *objList)`

**nObjects:** number of flow field objects

**startFrame:** number of the frame on which to start the movie

**lastFrame:** number of the last frame to display

**objList:** array of flow field object numbers

**DESCRIPTION.** This action shows flow field movies. The length of the movie is lastFrame - startFrame. The movies in all objects must start and end on the same frame number. You must call *PvexDrawFlow*, *PvexNewFlow*, and *PvexMakeFlowMovie* before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the checks begin to move, and the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) when the checks stop moving. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the checks begin to move, and again when the checks stop moving.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int num = 4;  
int start = 10;  
last = 50;  
int objects[4] = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexShowFlowMovie(&num, &start, &last, objects)  
        to run on 0 % tst_rx_new  
run:  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## PvexStartFlowRamp

starts flow fields and ramps together

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexStartFlowRamp(int \*nFlows, int \*flwList, int \*nRamps, int \*rmpList, int \*objList)**

**nFlows:** number of flow field objects

**flwList:** array of flow field object numbers

**nRamps:** number of ramps

**rmpList:** array of ramp numbers

**objList:** array of object numbers to be carried on the ramps

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to start a number of flow fields and a number of ramps simultaneously. This allows you to study the effects of pursuit with a moving background. You must define all of the flow fields, translation matrices, and ramps before calling this action.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) when the checks and ramps begin to move. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the checks and ramps begin to move.

**EXAMPLE.**

```
int nFlows = 2;  
int flows[2] = { 1, 2 };  
int nRamps = 2;  
int ramps[2] = { 1, 2 };  
int objects[2] = { 3, 4 };  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexStartFlowRamp(&nFlows, flows, &nRamps, ramps, objects)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## **PvexStopFlowRamp**

stops all ramps and flow fields

### **SYNOPSIS. PvexStopFlowRamp(void)**

*DESCRIPTION.* This actions stops all of the flow fields and ramps that you have running

*RETURN VALUE.* If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) after all movement has stopped. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white after all movement has stopped.

### *EXAMPLE.*

```
%%
state:
do PvexStopFlowRamp()
nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

*FILE.* /rex/act/vexActions.c

## **Actions That Control Object Movies**

### **PvexShowMovieClip**

displays a sequence of objects

**SYNOPSIS.** **PvexShowMovieClip(int \*nClips, int \*objList, int \*nFrames, int \*interval, int \*cycles)**

**nClips:** number of clips to show simultaneously

**objList:** array of the numbers of the first object in each movie clip

**nFrames:** number of objects in each movie

**interval:** number of video fields to display each frame of all clips

**cycles:** number of times to show the clips

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to present an arbitrary number of objects in sequence. Several groups of objects may be presented simultaneously. If all of the objects in each group have the same position, the effect is that of showing a movie. You may also distribute the positions of the objects. Each object is displayed for the same amount of time. If you want more than one group of objects, each group must consist of the same number of objects.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal MOVIE\_START (239) when the first object in each clip is shown, and the signal MOVIE\_STOP(238) after the last object in each clip is shown. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white when the first object in each clip is shown, and again after the last object in each clip is shown.

### **EXAMPLE.**

```
int num = 2;
int objects[2] = { 1, 51 };
int nFrames = 50;
int interval = 5;
int cycles = 2;

%%
state:
    do PvexShowMovieClip(&num, objects, &nFrames, &interval, &cycles)
        to runstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
runstate:
    to stopstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## **PvexStopMovie**

stops all flow field movies and movie clips

### **SYNOPSIS. PvexStopMovie(void)**

**DESCRIPTION.** This action allows you to halt flow field movies and movie clips in the event that an error has occurred.

**RETURN VALUE.** If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) if you have been showing a flow field movie or the signal MOVIE\_STOP if you have been showing a movie clip after all movement has stopped. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white after all movement has stopped.

### **EXAMPLE.**

```
%%
state:
do PvexStopMovie()
to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## Actions That Set Arbitrary Trigger Points

### PvexSetTriggers

sets a list of steps at which to send a trigger

**SYNOPSIS.** PvexSetTriggers(int \*nTrigs, int \*rmpList, int \*trigList, int \*frameList)

nTrigs: number of trigger lists

rmpList: array of the numbers of the ramps or movie clips in which to place triggers

trigList: array of the number of triggers in each trigger list

frameList: array of the step numbers of each ramp or frame numbers of each movie clip to trigger

**DESCRIPTION.** When you define ramps using *PvexLoadRamp* or setup movie clips using *PvexShowMovieClip*, you may want to introduce discontinuities into the display. For example, you may want the object on a ramp to change speed or direction, or you may want one of the objects in a movie clip to have a different property, color, luminance, size, etc. To have GLvex tell you when it displays the discontinuity, you need to tell it the ramp step number or movie frame of the discontinuity. This action allows you to do that. You may set a maximum of 10 trigger points in each ramp or movie clip.

**RETURN VALUE.** GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing this action. During the display, if the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE (234) at each ramp step specified in the call or the signal MOVIE\_CHANGE (237) at each frame specified in the call. If the video sync is enabled, the sync object will flash white at each trigger point.

### EXAMPLE.

```
int num = 2;  
int ramps[2] = { 1, 2 };  
int triggers[2] = { 4, 8 };  
int frames[12] = { 10, 20, 30, 40, 20, 40, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180 };  
  
%%  
state:  
    do PvexSetTriggers(&num, ramps, triggers, frames)  
    to nextstate on 0 % tst_rx_new
```

**FILE.** /rex/act/vexActions.c

## REX COMMANDS

To facilitate communication, a number of actions and functions have been defined in a file named GLvex\_com.c. This file should be "#included" at the top of any spot file that communicates with GLvex. In addition, I have used #defines to give provide names for the GLvex command values. These #defines are listed in a file named GLcommand.h which is #included in GLvex\_com.c. Both the GLvex\_com.c and the GLcommand.h files should be placed in the /rex/sset directory.

A number of the GLvex commands are batchable; that is, several commands with their parameters can be loaded into *vexbuf[]* for a single transmission to GLvex. These commands are batchable because GLvex will return one signal (BATCH\_DONE) after executing all commands in *vexbuf[]*. Other commands should not be batched because GLvex returns a signal after completing each of these commands. Loading several non-batchable commands into *vexbuf[]* at one time may cause communication problems between GLvex and Rex, or may cause the time stamps in the rex E-file to be inaccurate. You may either load a single non-batchable command and its parameters into *vexbuf[]*, or load one non-batchable command into *vexbuf[]* at the end of a series of batchable commands. In either case, GLvex will return the signal of the non-batchable command.

Rex spot files control the behavior of GLvex by calling actions which first load command values and parameters into the *vexbuf[]* command buffer, and then call the *to\_vex()* function. Both *vexbuf[]* and *to\_vex()* are defined in *GLvex\_com.c*. The following list describes the commands that can be executed from a rex spot file together with example actions. In this list, each section header consists of the #defined name of the command. ***Note: The only escapes you should use from states that call these commands are when the function tst\_rx\_new returns 0 or when a photo cell is triggered by the video sync object.***

All of the actions that can be done using the keyboard commands described above can also be done from rex using the proper sequences of the commands described below.

## **SET\_ERASE\_METHOD**

This is a batchable command that sets which erase method will be used. This command requires 1 parameter, which must be EACH\_OBJECT (0) or WHOLE\_SCREEN (1). If the parameter is EACH\_OBJECT, then \v3GLvex will erase objects by drawing a rectangle the color of the background over them. If the parameter is WHOLE\_SCREEN, then GLvex will erase objects by clearing the entire screen. The EACH\_OBJECT method is faster, but the WHOLE\_SCREEN method is more robust. The default method is EACH\_OBJECT. Once the erase method is set, it will remain in effect until changed, so you only need to call this command once.

Example action:

```
setup()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    vexbuf[index++] = SET_ERASE_METHOD;
    vexbuf[index++] = WHOLE_SCREEN; /* #defined in GLCommand.h */

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **ENABLE\_REX\_VIDEO\_SYNC**

This is a batchable command that enables the video sync for synchronizing the display with rex. It does not require any parameters. When the video sync is enabled, GLvex will draw a small black square in the upper left corner of the screen. This square will flash white for 1 video field when synchronization is needed. The video sync is enabled by default. Once the video sync is enabled, it will remain enabled until disabled, so you only need to call this command once.

Example action:

```
setup()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;

    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    vexbuf[index++] = ENABLE_REX_VIDEO_SYNC;
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **DISABLE\_REX\_VIDEO\_SYNC**

This is a batchable command that disables the video sync for synchronizing the display with rex. It does not require any parameters. The video sync is enabled by default. Once the video sync is disabled, it will remain disabled until enabled, so you only need to call this command once.

Example action:

```
setup()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;

    :
    :
    /* other batchable commands */

    vexbuf[index++] = DISABLE_REX_VIDEO_SYNC;
    :
    :
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **ENABLE\_REX\_DIGITAL\_SYNC**

This is a batchable command that enables the digital sync for synchronizing the display with rex. It does not require any parameters. When the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return a signal via pcmsg at the beginning of the first video field where synchronization is needed. The digital sync is enabled by default. Once the digital sync is enabled, it will remain enabled until disabled, so you only need to call this command once.

Example action:

```
setup()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;

    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    vexbuf[index++] = ENABLE_REX_DIGITAL_SYNC;
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **DISABLE\_REX\_VIDEO\_SYNC**

This is a batchable command that disables the digital sync for synchronizing the display with rex. It does not require any parameters. The digital sync is enabled by default. Once the digital sync is disabled, it will remain disabled until enabled, so you only need to call this command once.

Example action:

```
setup()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;

    :
    /* other batchable commands */

    vexbuf[index++] = DISABLE_REX_DIGITAL_SYNC;
    :
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SET\_REX\_SCALE**

This is a batchable command that sets the scaling factors. This command requires four parameters. The first two parameters are the hi- and lo- bytes of the distance between the viewer and the screen in millimeters. The last two parameters are the hi- and lo- bytes of the width of the calibration pattern in millimeters.

Example action:

```
short screenDistance = 572; /* distance between viewer and screen */
short patternWidth = 900; /* width of initial calibration pattern */
set_scale(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    vexbuf[index++] = SET_REX_SCALE;
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(screenDistance);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(screenDistance);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(patternWidth);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(patternWidth);

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **SET\_BACK\_LUM**

This is a batchable command that sets the luminance or color of the screen background. It requires three parameters, the values for the red, green, and blue guns. These parameters can range from 0 to 255.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will set the background to a specified color
 */
bgrnd_clr(long r, long g, long b)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_BACK_LUM;
    vexbuf[index++] = r;
    vexbuf[index++] = g;
    vexbuf[index++] = b;

    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SET\_FP\_ON\_CLR**

This is a batchable command that sets what the color or luminance of the fixation point will be when it is switch on. It requires three parameters, the values for the red, green, and blue guns. These parameters can range from 0 to 255.

## Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will set the fixation point to a specified gray luminance.
 */
int lum; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
fpOn_lum(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_FP_ON_CLR;
    vexbuf[index++] = lum;
    vexbuf[index++] = lum;
    vexbuf[index++] = lum;

    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SET\_FP\_DIM\_CLR**

This is a batchable command that sets what the color or luminance of the fixation point will be when it is dimmed. It requires three parameters, the values for the red, green, and blue guns. These parameters can range from 0 to 255.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will set the fixation point dim level to a specified color
 */
fpdim_clr(long r, long g, long b)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_FP_DIM_CLR;
    vexbuf[index++] = r;
    vexbuf[index++] = g;
    vexbuf[index++] = b;

    .
    .
    .                                         /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SET\_STIM\_LUMINANCES**

This is a batchable command that sets the foreground and background luminances of one- and two-tone stimuli. The first parameter is the number of objects to set. Each object requires three parameters, the object number, the luminance of the foreground pixels, and the luminance of the background pixels. The luminance values can range from 0 to 255.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will set the luminances of three objects to the same level
 */
short fgl = 255;
short bgl = 0;
short num_stim = 3;
short list[] = { 2, 3, 4 };
stim_lum(void)
{
    unsigned short index; short i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_STIM_LUMINANCES;
    vexbuf[index++] = num_stim; /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < num_stim; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = list[i];/* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = fgl;      /* foreground luminance */
        vexbuf[index++] = bgl;      /* background luminance */
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## SET\_STIM\_COLORS

This is a batchable command that sets the foreground and background colors of one- and two-tone stimuli. The first parameter is the number of objects to set. Each object requires seven parameters, the object number, the levels of red, green, and blue for the foreground pixels, and the levels of red, green and blue for the background pixels. The levels of each color can range from 0 to 255.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will set the foreground and background colors
 * of an object.
 */
short fgr = 255;
short fgg = 128;
short fgb = 0;
short bgr = 0;
short bgg = 0;
short bgb = 255;
stim_clr(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_STIM_COLORS;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                                /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = fgr;                             /* foreground red */
    vexbuf[index++] = fgg;                             /* foreground green */
    vexbuf[index++] = fgb;                             /* foreground blue */
    vexbuf[index++] = bgr;                             /* background red */
    vexbuf[index++] = bgg;                             /* background green */
    vexbuf[index++] = bgb;                             /* background blue */

    :
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SET\_GRAY\_SCALE**

This is a batchable command that sets up a gray scale in all objects' color lookup tables. It requires two parameters. The first parameter is the index of the lookup table where the gray scale will start. The value of this parameter can range from 0 to 255. The second parameter is the number of bytes in the gray scale. The value of this parameter can range from 1 to 255. The sum of the start and length parameters cannot exceed 255. The luminance range of the gray scale is always 0 to 255. The size of the steps between luminances is determined by the length of the gray scale. This command is used to initialize a gray scale for continuous tone stimuli.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action sets up a 128 byte gray scale starting at
 * lookup table index 64.
 */
gray(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_GRAY_SCALE;
    vexbuf[index++] = 64;           /* start of gray scale */
    vexbuf[index++] = 128;          /* length of gray scale */
    .
    .
    .                                         /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SET OBJECT GRAY SCALE**

This is a batchable command that sets up a gray scale in the specified object's color lookup table. The first parameter is the number of objects to set. Each object requires three parameters. The first parameter is the object number. The second parameter is the index of the lookup table where the gray scale will start. The value of this parameter can range from 0 to 255. The third parameter is the number of bytes in the gray scale. The value of this parameter can range from 1 to 255. The sum of the start and length parameters cannot exceed 255. The luminance range of the gray scale is always 0 to 255. The size of the steps between luminances is determined by the length of the gray scale. This command is used to initialize a gray scale for continuous tone stimuli.

## Example action:

```

/*
 * This action sets up a 128 byte gray scale starting at
 * lookup table index 64 in objects 5 and 10.
 */
list[] = {5, 10};
gray(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_OBJECT_GRAY_SCALE;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to set */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = list[i]; /* list of object numbers */
        vexbuf[index++] = 64;     /* start of gray scale */
        vexbuf[index++] = 128;    /* length of gray scale */
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */
}

to_vex(index);
return(0);
}

```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## SET\_LUT\_ENTRY\_CLR

This a batchable command that sets the colors in a variable number of color lookup table entries for all objects. The first parameter is the number of lookup table entries to set. Each lookup table entry requires four parameters, the table index and the values for the red, green, and blue guns for that index. These parameters can range from 0 to 255;

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action loads counter phase red and green ramps into the lookup
 * table from index 64 to 127.
 */
rg_ramp()
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i;
    int red, green, blue;
    red = 255;
    green = 0;
    blue = 0;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_LUT_ENTR_CLR;
    vexbuf[index++] = 64;           /* number of table entries to set */
    for(i = 0; i < 64; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = i + 64;   /* table index */
        vexbuf[index++] = red;     /* red value */
        vexbuf[index++] = green;   /* green value */
        vexbuf[index++] = blue;    /* blue value */
        red -= 4;                 /* decrement red */
        green += 4;               /* increment green */
    }
    :
    :
    :
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SET\_OBJECT\_LUT\_ENTRY\_CLR**

This a batchable command that sets the colors in a variable number of color lookup table entries for the specified object.. The first parameter is the number of objects to set. Each object two parameters, the object number, and the number of entries to set. Each lookup table entry requires four parameters, the table index and the values for the red, green, and blue guns for that index. These parameters can range from 0 to 255;

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action loads counter phase red and green ramps into the lookup
 * table from index 64 to 127 in objects 2 and 3.
 */
list[] = {2, 3};
rg_ramp()
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i, j;
    int red, green, blue;
    red = 255;
    green = 0;
    blue = 0;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_OBJECT_LUT_ENTR_CLR;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to set */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = list[i];/* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = 64; /* number of table entries to set for this object */
        for(j = 0; j < 64; j++) {
            vexbuf[index++] = j + 64;      /* table index */
            vexbuf[index++] = red;        /* red value */
            vexbuf[index++] = green;      /* green value */
            vexbuf[index++] = blue;       /* blue value */
            red -= 4;                   /* decrement red */
            green += 4;                 /* increment green */
        }
    }
    :
    :
    /* other batchable commands */
}

to_vex(index);
return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **ALL\_OFF**

This is a non-batchable command that turns off the fixation point and all stimuli by clearing both drawing pages, and stops all ramps and flow fields. It does not require any parameters.

Example action:

```
off_all(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = ALL_OFF;
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal ABORT\_TRIAL (255) at the beginning of the first clear video field. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the objects are off. If you use the ALL\_OFF function to abort ramps or flow fields, the normal ramp and flow field completion signals will not be sent. The off\_all() action shown above is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **SWITCH\_FIX\_POINT**

This is a non-batchable command that switches the fixation point on or off. It requires one parameter, the switch value. The switch values are 0 for OFF and 1 for ON.

Example actions:

```
/*
 * This action will switch the fixation point on.
 */
on_fix(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SWITCH_FIX_POINT;
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON; /* GLcommand.h: #define OBJ_ON 1 */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FIX\_ON (254) at the beginning of the video field in which the fixation point is switched on. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the fixation point is switch on.

```
/*
 * This action will switch the fixation point off.
 */
off_fix(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SWITCH_FIX_POINT;
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_OFF; /* GLcommand.h: #define OBJ_OFF 0 */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FIX\_OFF (253) at the beginning of the video field in which the fixation point is switched off. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If enabled, the rex video trigger will flash white for the first field in which the fixation point is switch off. The on\_fix() and off\_fix() actions shown above are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **DIM\_FIX\_POINT**

This is a non-batchable command that dims to fixation point to a preset level. It does not require any parameters.

Example action:

```
dim_fix(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DIM_FIX_POINT;
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FIX\_DIM (252) at the beginning of the video field in which the fixation is dimmed. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If enabled, the rex video trigger will flash white for the first field in which the fixation point is switch dimmed. The dim\_fix() action shown above is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **PRELOAD\_STIM**

This is a batchable command that loads a variable number of objects into the drawing buffer. The first parameter is the number of objects to load. Each object requires two parameters, the object number and the switch value. The switch values are 0 for OFF and 1 for ON. This command is meant to be used with the SWAP\_BUFFERS command (see below) to achieve short latency switching of complex displays. Typically, you use the various DRAW\_ commands to draw stimuli in your objects, the STIM\_LOCATION command to position the objects, and the PRELOAD\_STIM command to load the objects into the drawing buffer during a part of the trial when time is not critical. Then use the SWAP\_BUFFERS command to actually display the objects. NOTE: This procedure makes the display and draw buffers different, so you can't do anything to GLvex between the PRELOAD\_STIM and the SWAP\_BUFFERS commands. Also, you may need to call the PRELOAD\_STIM command again after the SWAP\_BUFFERS command to synchronize the display and draw buffers.

Example actions:

```
/*
 * This action will preload object 3 on and object 4 off, simultaneously.
 */
preload_stim()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    vexbuf[index++] = PRELOAD_STIM;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to load */
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;           /* first object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;     /* GLvex_com.c: #define OBJ_ON 1 */
    vexbuf[index++] = 4;           /* second object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_OFF;    /* GLvex_com.c: #define OBJ_OFF 0 */

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SWAP\_BUFFERS**

This is a non-batchable command that swaps the display and drawing buffers. It requires no arguments.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will swap the display and draw buffers
 */
swap_buffers()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SWAP_BUFFERS;
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal BUFFER\_SWAP (232). The signal is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the buffers are swapped. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If enabled, the rex video trigger will turn white on the first field after the buffers are swapped.

## **SWITCH\_STIM**

This is a non-batchable command that switches a variable number of objects on or off. The first parameter is the number of objects to switch. Each object requires two parameters, the object number and the switch value. The switch values are 0 for OFF and 1 for ON.

Example actions:

```
/*
 * This action will switch object 3 on and object 4 off, simultaneously.
 */
sw_stim()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SWITCH_STIM;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;          /* number of objects to switch */
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;          /* first object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;    /* GLvex_com.c: #define OBJ_ON 1 */
    vexbuf[index++] = 4;          /* second object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_OFF;   /* GLvex_com.c: #define OBJ_OFF 0 */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal STIMULUS\_ON (251) if the first object switch is "on", or the signal STIMULUS\_OFF (240) if the first object switch is "off". The signal is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the objects are switched. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If enabled, the rex video trigger will flash white for the first field in which the objects are switched.

## **SET\_STIM\_SWITCH**

This is a batchable command that sets the switches of a variable number of objects, but does not implement the switch. Switch implementation will be done by the next non-batchable command that is executed. The first parameter is the number of object switches to set. Each object requires two parameters, the object number and the switch value. Switch values can be ON (1) or OFF (0). The purpose of this command is to turn an object on in the field in which the ramp carrying it begins to move. You can also turn an object on at some time after its ramp begins to move. This allows you some independence between switching objects and starting ramps, but still allows synchronization.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action sets the switches of objects 1, 2, & 3 to ON
 */
set_switch()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    /* surround switch */
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_STIM_SWITCH;
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;           /* number of objects to switch */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;     /* switch value */
    /* center switch */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;     /* switch value */
    /* square switch */
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;           /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;     /* switch value */
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## TIME\_STIM

This is a non-batchable command that presents a variable number of objects for a given number of video fields. The first parameter is the number of objects to present. Each object requires one parameter, the object number. The last parameter is the number of fields to present the objects. The number of fields can range from 1 to 255.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will present objects 3 and 4 simultaneously for 60 fields.
 */
short fields = 60; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
st_time(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = TIME_STIM;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to present */
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;           /* first object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = 4;           /* second object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = fields;     /* number of video fields */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return two signals from this command. The signal TIME\_ON (247) is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the objects are turned on, and the signal TIME\_OFF (246) is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the objects are turned off. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the objects are switched on and again in the first field in which the objects are switched off.

## SEQUENCE\_STIM

This is a non-batchable command that presents one list of objects for a given number of video fields, switches them off, waits for a given number of video fields, and then presents a second list of objects for a given number of video fields. The first parameter is the number of objects in the first list. Each of these objects requires one parameter, the object number. The next two parameters are the number of fields to present the first list, and the number of fields to wait between lists. The value for the number of fields to wait between lists can be 0. The next parameter is the number objects in the second list. Each of these objects requires one parameter, the object number. The last parameter is the number of fields to present the second list.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will present object 1 for 60 fields, wait 10 fields,
 * and then present objects 3, 4, and 5 for 120 fields.
 */
short fld1 = 60;
short fld2 = 10;
short fld3 = 120;
short n_in_frst = 1;
short frst_lst[] = { 1 };
short n_in_scnd = 3;
short scnd_lst[] = { 3, 4, 5 };
sequence(void) {
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SEQUENCE_STIM;
    vexbuf[index++] = n_in_frst; /* number of objects in first list */
    for(i = 0; i < n_in_frst) {
        vexbuf[index++] = frst_lst[i];/* object number */
    }
    vexbuf[index++] = fld1;           /* number of fields to present first list */
    vexbuf[index++] = fld2;           /* number of fields in gap (can be 0) */
    vexbuf[index++] = n_in_scnd;      /* number of objects in second list */
    for(i = 0; i < n_in_scnd; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = scnd_lst[i];/* object number */
    }
    vexbuf[index++] = fld3;           /* number of fields to present second list */
    to_vex(index);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return three or four signals from this command, depending on whether there is a gap between presentations of the two lists of objects. The signal FIRST\_ON (245) is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the first list of objects is turned on. The signal FIRST\_OFF (244) is sent at the beginning of the first video field of the gap, if any. The signal SECOND\_ON (243) is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the second list of objects is turned on. The signal SECOND\_OFF (242) is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the second list of objects is turned off. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the first list of objects is turned on, for the first field of the gap, if any, for the first field in which the second list of objects is turned on, and for the first field in which the second list of objects is off.

## **SET\_FP\_LOCATION**

This is a batchable command that sets the position of the fixation point on the screen. The X and Y coordinates must be floating point values. It requires eight parameters, the first four of which are the four bytes of the X coordinate of the fixation point location, and the second four of which are the four bytes of the Y coordinate of the fixation point location. The X and Y coordinates are in REX units, i.e., tenths of a degree. REX and GLvex have the same screen coordinate system, i.e., 0,0 is the center of the screen, negative X values are to the monkey's left, and negative Y values are down.

Example action:

```
float fpx = 0.0;           /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
float fpy = 0.0;           /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
fix_pos(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    char *flbuf;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_FP_LOCATION;
    flbuf = float2byte(fpx);          /* convert floating point X value to chars */
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    flbuf = float2byte(fpy);          /* convert floating point Y value to chars */
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The float2byte() function is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## STIM\_LOCATION

This is a batchable command that sets the position of an object on the screen. The X and Y coordinates of the object locations must be floating point values. The first parameter is the number of objects to locate. Each object requires nine parameters. The first parameter is the object number. The next four parameters are the four bytes of the X coordinate of the object location. The last four parameters are the four bytes of the Y coordinate of the object location. The X and Y coordinates are in REX units, i.e., tenths of a degree. REX and GLvex have the same screen coordinate system, i.e., 0,0 is the center of the screen, negative X values are to the monkey's left, and negative Y values are down.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will position two objects,
 * one in the upper left quadrant, and
 * one in the lower left quadrant.*/
float stx[] = { -100.0, 100.0 };
float sty[] = { -100.0, -100.0 };
short ob[] = { 1, 2 };
stm_pos(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i, j;
    char *flbuf;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = STIM_LOCATION;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to position */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];      /* object number */
        flbuf = float2byte(stx[i]);
        for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
        flbuf = float2byte(sty[i]);
        for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The float2byte() function is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **STIM\_FROM\_FIX\_POINT**

This is a batchable command that determines the position of an object relative to the fixation point. The first parameter is the number of objects to locate. Each object requires nine parameters. The first parameter is the object number. The next four parameters are the four bytes of the X coordinate of the object location relative to the fixation point. The last four parameters are the four bytes of the Y coordinate of the object location relative to the fixation point. The X and Y coordinates are in REX units, i.e., tenths of a degree. For this command, object coordinate 0,0 is the fixation point location, which may not be the same as the center of the screen. Negative X values are to the monkey's left of the fixation point, and negative Y values are below the fixation point.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will position an object below and to the right
 * of the fixation point.
 */
float rlx = 100;
float rly = -100;
rel_pos(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i;
    char *flbuf;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = STIM_FROM_FIX_POINT;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* number of objects to position */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* first object number */
    flbuf = float2byte(rlx);
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    flbuf = float2byte(rly);
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The float2byte() function is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## SHIFT\_LOCATION

This is a non-batchable command that sets the position of an object on the screen. The X and Y coordinates must be floating point values. The first parameter is the number of objects to locate. Each object requires nine parameters. The first parameter is the object number. The next four parameters are the four bytes of the X coordinate of the object location. The last four parameters are the four bytes of the Y coordinate of the object location. The X and Y coordinates are in REX units, i.e., tenths of a degree. REX and GLvex have the same screen coordinate system, i.e., 0,0 is the center of the screen, negative X values are to the monkey's left, and negative Y values are down. This command is identical to STIM\_LOCATION except that it returns a signal at the beginning of the first video field in which the objects are shifted. The purpose of this command is to allow Rex ramps to control GLvex objects.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will shift two objects
 */
float stx[] = { -100, 100 };
float sty[] = { -100, -100 };
short ob1 = 1;
short ob2 = 2;
stm_pos(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i;
    char *flbuf;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SHIFT_LOCATION;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to position */
    vexbuf[index++] = ob1;        /* first object number */
    flbuf = float2byte(stx[0]);
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    flbuf = float2byte(sty[0]);
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    vexbuf[index++] = ob2;        /* first object number */
    flbuf = float2byte(stx[1]);
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    flbuf = float2byte(sty[1]);
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    to_vex(index);
}
return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal SHIFTED (240) at the beginning of the first video field in which the objects are shifted. The rex video sync square will not flash for this command. The float2byte() function is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **REPORT\_LOCATION**

This is a non-batchable command that reports the screen location of a specified object. This command has a single parameter, the number of the object whose location is desired. The purpose of this command is to allow rex to find the location of a GLvex object to use for positioning an eye movement window.

Example set of actions:

```
/*
 * Action that gets object location from VEX
 */
short act = 1;
object_location()
{
    short index
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = REPORT_LOCATION;
    vexbuf[index++] = act;
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}

/*
 * Action that moves target window to GLvex
 * object location
 */
targ_wnd(void)
{
    unsigned char *msg;
    unsigned char code;
    msg = vex_message();/* get the last message from vex */
    if(msg) { /* if msg is not null */
        code = vex_code(msg);/* get the return code from the message */
        if(code == OBJECT_LOCATION) {
            vex_location(msg);/* unpack coordinates into vx and vy */
            wd_pos(WIND1, vx, vy);
            wd_siz(WIND1, tarsiz, tarsiz);
            wd_cntrl(WIND1, WD_ON);
        }
    }
    return(0);
}
```

One way to use this command is to set up a second state chain.

Example state chain:

```
/*
 * Object location query state set
 */
where_set{
status ON
begin      start:
                      to halt
```

```

halt:                                to qrywts on -PSTOP & drinput
qrywts:                            to query on 0 % tst_tx_rdy
query:                               do object_location()
                                         to qryack on 0 % tst_rx_new
qryack:                                do pcm_ack(0)
                                         to stgwnd
stgwnd:                                do targ_wnd()
                                         time 200
                                         to halt
}

```

GLvex will return two floating point values representing the X and Y coordinates of the selected object packed into an array of 8 bytes regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The rex video sync square will not flash for this command. The vex\_message() subroutine retrieves the last message from GLvex. The vex\_code(char \*) subroutine gets the code value from the msg argument. The vex\_location(char \*) subroutine unpacks the coordinates from the byte array msg and loads them into the long variables vx and vy. Vex\_message, vex\_code(char \*), vex\_location(char \*), vx, and vy are all defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **SET\_ACTIVE\_OBJECT**

This is a batchable command that changes the active object. Subsequent keyboard commands or movements of the mouse will affect the object specified by this command. The REPORT\_LOCATION command will report the location of this object. This command has a single parameter, the number of the object to make active.

Example action:

```
/*
 * Action that sets the active object in VEX
 */
short act = 1;
set_active()
{
    short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_ACTIVE_OBJECT;
    vexbuf[index++] = act;
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## SET\_FP\_SIZE

This is a batchable command that sets the size of the fixation point. It requires one parameter, which sets the radius of the fixation point in video pixels.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action sends the four GLvex commands that determine
 * the properties and location of the fixation point as a single
 * batch command.
 */
short fpsiz = 4; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
short fplum = 128; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
short fpdim = 96; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
float fpx = 0.0; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
float fpy = 0.0; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
set_fp()
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i;
    char *flbuf;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_FP_SIZE;
    vexbuf[index++] = fpsiz;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_FP_ON_CLR;
    vexbuf[index++] = fplum;
    vexbuf[index++] = fplum;
    vexbuf[index++] = fplum;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_FP_DIM_CLR;
    vexbuf[index++] = fpdim;
    vexbuf[index++] = fpdim;
    vexbuf[index++] = fpdim;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_FP_LOCATION;
    flbuf = float2byte(fpx);           /* convert a float to a string of 4 bytes */
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    flbuf = float2byte(fpy);
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The float2byte() function is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## CLIP\_RECT\_SET

This is a batchable command sets an object's clipping rectangle. The first parameter is the number of objects to set. Each object requires nine parameters, the object number, the hi- and lo- bytes of the X coordinate of the center of the clipping rectangle, the hi- and lo- bytes of the Y coordinate of the center of the clipping rectangle, the hi- and lo- bytes of the width of the clipping rectangle, and, the hi- and lo- bytes of the height of the clipping rectangle. All four of the clipping rectangle parameters are in REX units, i.e., tenths of a degree. You must use clipping rectangles if you want to place random patterns on ramps to display translational flow fields.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will set clipping rectangles in two objects.
 */
int rfx = -100;           /* X coordinate of receptive field */
int rfy = -30;            /* Y coordinate of receptive field */
int clipx[] = { 300, 100 };/* width of surround texture aperture */
int clipy[] = { 300, 100 };/* height of surround texture aperture */
int ob[] = { 1, 2 };
set_obj(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    /* surround clipping rectangle */
    vexbuf[index++] = CLIP_RECT_SET;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of apertures */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = 1;       /* surround object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfx); /* high byte of center x */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfx); /* low byte of center x */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfy); /* high byte of center y */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfy); /* low byte of center y */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(clipx[i]);/* high byte of width */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(clipx[i]);/* low byte of width */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(clipy[i]);/* high byte of height */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(clipy[i]);/* low byte of height */
    }
    .
    .
    . /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **CLIP\_RECT\_SET\_FROM\_FP**

This is a batchable command sets an object's clipping rectangle, relative to the fixation point. The first parameter is the number of objects to set. Each object requires nine parameters, the object number, the hi- and lo- bytes of the horizontal distance of the center of the clipping rectangle from the fixation point, the hi- and lo- bytes of the vertical distance of the center of the clipping rectangle from the fixation point, the hi- and lo- bytes of the width of the clipping rectangle, and the hi- and lo- bytes of the height of the clipping rectangle. All four of the clipping rectangle parameters are in REX units, i.e., tenths of a degree. You must use clipping rectangles if you want to place random patterns on ramps to display translational flow fields.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will clipping rectangles in two objects.
 */
int rfx = -100;           /* X coordinate of receptive field */
int rfy = -30;            /* Y coordinate of receptive field */
int clipx[] = { 300, 100 };/* width of surround texture aperture */
int clipy[] = { 300, 100 };/* height of surround texture aperture */
int ob[] = { 1, 1 };
set_obj(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    /* surround clipping rectangle */
    vexbuf[index++] = CLIP_RECT_SET_FROM_FP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                      /* number of apertures */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];/* surround object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfx); /* high byte of center x */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfx); /* low byte of center x */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfy); /* high byte of center y */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfy); /* low byte of center y */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(clipx[i]);/* high byte of width */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(clipx[i]);/* low byte of width */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(clipy[i]);/* high byte of height */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(clipy[i]);/* low byte of height */
    }
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **FULL\_CLIP\_RECT**

This is a batchable command that resets the clipping rectangles of objects to the full screen. The first parameter is the number of objects. Each object has one parameter, the object number.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action restores the clipping rectangles of 4 objects to full screen.
 */
restore_clip(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = FULL_CLIP_RECT;
    vexbuf[index++] = 4;                      /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = i + 1; /* object number */
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_WALSH\_PATTERN

This is a batchable command that draws a Walsh pattern in an object. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires four parameters, the object number, the pattern number, the pattern check size, and the contrast. The pattern numbers can range from 0 to 255. The contrast can be either 1 for normal contrast patterns, or -1 for reverse contrast patterns.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws Walsh patterns in three objects.
 */
short patterns[] = { 7, 18, 21, 24, 43, 63 };
short ptrlst[6] = { 0 };
short ob[] = { 3, 5, 2 };
short size = 4;
draw_walsh()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i, j;
    static int rs_shift = 10;
    static int trlcntr = 6;
    for(i = 0; i < trlcntr; i++) ptrlst[i] = i;
    shuffle(trlcntr, rs_shift, ptrlst);
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_WALSH_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;                                /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
        j = ptrlst[i];
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];/* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = patterns[j];/* pattern number */
        vexbuf[index++] = size;      /* pattern check size */
        vexbuf[index++] = 1;         /* positive contrast */
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_HAAR\_PATTERN

This is a batchable command that draws a Haar pattern in an object. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires four parameters, the object number, the pattern number, the pattern check size, and the contrast. The pattern numbers can range from 0 to 255. The contrast can be either 1 for normal contrast patterns, or -1 for reverse contrast patterns.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws Walsh patterns in three objects.
 */
short patterns[] = { 7, 18, 21, 24, 43, 63 };
short ptrlst[6] = { 0 };
short ob[] = { 3, 5, 2 };
short size = 4;
draw_haar()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i, j;
    static int rs_shift = 10;
    static int trlcntr = 6;
    for(i = 0; i < trlcntr; i++) ptrlst[i] = i;
    shuffle(trlcntr, rs_shift, ptrlst);
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_HAAR_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;                                /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
        j = ptrlst[i];
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];/* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = patterns[j];/* pattern number */
        vexbuf[index++] = size;      /* pattern check size */
        vexbuf[index++] = 1;         /* positive contrast */
    }
    .
    .
    .                                /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_RANDOM\_PATTERN

This is a batchable command that draws a rectangular, random, two-dimensional matrix of "white" and "black" checks in an object. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires five parameters, the object number, the horizontal resolution of the random pattern, the vertical resolution of the random pattern, the pattern check size, and the percentage of checks to make "white". The horizontal and vertical resolution determines the number of rows and columns in the matrix, and can range from 2 to 180. The white check percentage can range from 1 to 99. The random number generator is given a new seed number on each call, so each call will produce a different pattern of checks.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws two different random patterns with the same resolution
 * and percentage of white checks in two objects.
 */
short horizontal = 60;      /* 60 columns */
short vertical = 120;        /* 120 rows 7200 checks */
short pwhite = 20; /* 1440 of 7200 checks to be "white" */
short ob[] = { 1, 2 };
short size = 4;             /* pattern check size */
draw_random()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_RANDOM_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];   /* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = horizontal; /* horizontal resolution */
        vexbuf[index++] = vertical; /* vertical resolution */
        vexbuf[index++] = size;     /* pattern check size */
        vexbuf[index++] = pwhite;   /* percentage of white checks */
    }
    .
    .
    . /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_ANNULUS

This is a batchable command that draws an annulus in an object. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires four parameters, the object number, the outer radius of the annulus, the inner radius of the annulus, and the contrast. If the inner radius is 0, then GLvex will draw a filled circle. The contrast can be either 1 for normal contrast annuli, or -1 for reverse contrast annuli.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws an annulus in an object.
 */
short outer = 45;
short inner = 10;
short obi = 1;
short size = 4;
draw_annulus()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_ANNULUS;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = obi;         /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = outer; /* outer radius */
    vexbuf[index++] = inner; /* inner radius (can be 0) */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* positive contrast */

    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_BAR

This is a batchable command that draws a bar in an object. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires 5 parameters, the object number, the orientation of the bar, the width of the bar, length of the bar, and the contrast of the bar. The contrast can be either 1 for a normal contrast bar, or -1 for a reverse contrast bar. A normal contrast bar is drawn in the object's foreground color, and a reverse contrast bar is drawn in the object's background color.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws an oriented bar in an object.
 */
short angle = 15;
short width = 5;
short length = 200;
short contrast = 1;
draw_bar()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_BAR;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = 5;           /* this object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = angle;      /* orientation of the bar (0 - 180 degrees)*/
    vexbuf[index++] = width;      /* width of the bar in rex units */
    vexbuf[index++] = length;     /* length of the bar in rex units */
    vexbuf[index++] = contrast;   /* a normal contrast bar */

    . . .                         /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_FLOW\_PATTERN

This is a batchable command that specifies the initial positions of checks for a flow field. The first parameter is the number of objects in which to draw flow fields. Each object requires 11 parameters; the object number, the hi- and lo- bytes of the width of the flow field, the hi- and lo- bytes of the height of the flow field, the hi- and lo- bytes of the distance to the near plane, the hi- and lo- bytes of the distance to the far plane, the coverage of the flow field, and the check size. The width and height, are in rex units, i.e., tenths of a degree of visual angle. You specify the distances to the near and far planes in rex units, but these parameters are converted internally from degrees of visual angle to the equivalent linear distance. If the far value is greater than the near value, the flow field will be three-dimensional, otherwise the flow field will be two-dimensional. The coverage of the flow field is the percentage of the area of the flow field you want covered by checks expresses in tenths of a percent.

Example action:

```
/* This action sets up three-dimensional flow fields in 2 objects */
short wide[] = { 640, 200 };
short tall[] = { 480, 200 };
short ob[] = { 2, 3 };
short near = 640;           /* near value is less than */
short far = 2000;          /* far value for 3-D flow field */
short cov = 50;            /* 5% of flow field area will be covered by checks*/
short size = 4;
draw_flow()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_FLOW_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                      /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];             /* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(wide[i]);/* high byte of flow field width */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(wide[i]);/* low byte of flow field width */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(tall[i]);/* high byte of flow field height*/
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(tall[i]);/* low byte of flow field height */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(near);/* high byte of near plane distance */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(near);/* low byte of near plane distance */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(far); /* high byte of far plane distance */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(far); /* low byte of far plane distance */
        vexbuf[index++] = cov;           /* tenths percent coverage */
        vexbuf[index++] = size;         /* check size */
    }
    :
    :
    :                                     /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## MASK\_FLOW

This is a batchable command that defines an area within a flow field where checks will not be drawn. The first parameter is the number of objects in which to mask flow fields. Each object requires 13 parameters. The first parameter is the object number. The next four parameters are the hi- and lo- bytes of the width of the mask and the hi- and lo- bytes of the height of the mask. The next four parameters are the four bytes of the X coordinate of the mask in the flow field. The last four parameters are the four bytes of the Y coordinate of the mask in the flow field. The width, height, X-, and Y-coordinates are all in rex units, i.e., tenth of a degree of visual angle. The X-, and Y-coordinates are relative to the center of the object. Negative X values are in the left half of the object, and negative Y values are in the lower half of the object. A flow field pattern must be specified for an object before a flow field mask can be specified for the object. The width and height of the mask should not exceed the width and height of the flow field.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action sets up a mask in a flow field pattern in 1 object
 */
short wide = 200;
short tall = 200;
short obi = 2;
short x = -20.0;
short y = 20.0;
mask_flow()
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = MASK_FLOW;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = obi;                            /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(wide);/* high byte of mask width */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(wide);/* low byte of mask width */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(tall);/* high byte of mask height */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(tall);/* low byte of mask height */
    flbuf = float2byte(x);
    for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
    flbuf = float2byte(y);
    for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **DRAW\_USER\_PATTERN**

This is a batchable command that draws a user defined pattern in an object. The pattern is defined in a file named "Pnumber" where "number" is the pattern number you are going to use for that pattern. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires five parameters, the object number, the high byte of the pattern number, the low byte of the pattern number, the pattern check size, and the contrast. The pattern numbers can range from 0 to 65536. The contrast can be either 1 for normal contrast patterns, or -1 for reverse contrast patterns.

The format of the pattern template is:

```
r c
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
...
...
...
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
n n n ... n n n
```

The letters r and c indicate the number of rows and columns in the pattern. The maximum number of rows or columns is 255. The pattern may be rectangular, i.e., you do not need to have the same number of rows and columns. The letter n indicate the values for the individual checks in the pattern. If n equals 1, the object's foreground color will be used in that check. If n equals -1, the object's background color will be used in that check. If n equals 0, the screen's background color will be used in that check. If n equals 2 - 255, lookup table entries will be use in that check.

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 8 cols. This file defines a "white" and a "black" bar centered in a gray region. The name of the file might be "p1".

```
8 8
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -1 0 0 0
```

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 2 cols. This file also defines a "white" and a "black" bar, but does not have the gray region. The name of the file might be "p2".

```
8 2
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
1 -1
```

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws user defined patterns in three objects.\n*/
short patterns[] = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 };
short ptrlst[6] = { 0 };
short ob[] = { 3, 5, 2 };
short size = 4;
draw_user()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i, j;
    static int rs_shift = 10;
    static int trlcntr = 6;
    for(i = 0; i < trlcntr; i++) ptrlst[i] = i;
    shuffle(trlcntr, rs_shift, ptrlst);
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_USER_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 3; /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
        j = ptrlst[i];
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i]; /* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(patterns[j]);/* high byte of pattern number */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(patterns[j]);/* low of pattern number */
        vexbuf[index++] = size; /* pattern check size */
        vexbuf[index++] = 1; /* positive contrast */
    }
    :
    :
    /* other batchable commands */
    :
    :
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **DRAW\_RGB\_USER\_PATTERN**

This is a batchable command that draws a user defined RGB pattern in an object. The pattern is defined in a file named "Pnumber" where "number" is the pattern number you are going to use for that pattern. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires four parameters, the object number, the high byte of the pattern number, the low byte of the pattern number, and the pattern check size. The pattern numbers can range from 0 to 65536.

The format of the pattern template is:

```
r c 3
rgb rgb rgb ...rgb rgb rgb
rgb rgb rgb ...rgb rgb rgb
rgb rgb rgb ...rgb rgb rgb
...
...
...
rgb rgb rgb ...rgb rgb rgb
rgb rgb rgb ...rgb rgb rgb
rgb rgb rgb ...rgb rgb rgb
```

The letters r and c indicate the number of rows and columns in the pattern. The number 3 indicates that each pixel is defined by 3 values, r g and b. This number can only be 3. The maximum number of rows or columns is 255. The pattern may be rectangular, i.e., you do not need to have the same number of rows and columns. The letters r g b indicate the values for red, green, and blue for the individual checks in the pattern.

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 8 cols. This file defines a "red" and a "green" bar centered in a blue region. The name of the file might be "P1000".

```
8 8 3
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 255 0 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255 0 0 255
```

Example of a file for a user defined pattern with 8 rows and 2 cols. This file also defines a "red" and a "green" bar, but does not have the blue region. The name of the file might be "P2000".

```
8 2 3
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
255 0 0 0 255 0
```

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws user defined patterns in three objects.
```

```

*/
short patterns[] = { 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006 };
short ptrlst[6] = { 0 };
short ob[] = { 3, 5, 2 };
short size = 4;
draw_rgb_user()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i, j;
    static int rs_shift = 10;
    static int trlcntr = 6;
    for(i = 0; i < trlcntr; i++) ptrlst[i] = i;
    shuffle(trlcntr, rs_shift, ptrlst);
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_RGB_USER_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 3; /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
        j = ptrlst[i];
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i]; /* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(patterns[j]);/* high byte of pattern number */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(patterns[j]);/* low of pattern number */
        vexbuf[index++] = size; /* pattern check size */
    }
    . . .
    /* other batchable commands */
}

to_vex(index);
return(0);
}

```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_TIFF\_IMAGE

This is a batchable command that draws a TIFF image in an object. The image is taken from a file named "Inumber.tif" where "number" is the image number you are going to use for that image. I chose to have file names start with "I" because they contain images, not patterns. The reason for requiring the ".tif" extension is so that other windows programs can recognize the file as a TIFF file. Though TIFF image files may contain multiple images, currently GLvex will only draw the first image in the file. Further, GLvex does not support image compression. The images in the TIFF files should be in RGBA format.

The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires three parameters, the object number, the high byte of the image number, and the low byte of the image number. The image numbers can range from 0 to 65536.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action draws a TIFF image in three objects.
 */
short patterns[] = { 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006 };
short ptrlst[6] = { 0 };
short ob[] = { 3, 5, 2 };
draw_tiff()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i, j;
    static int rs_shift = 10;
    static int trlcntr = 6;
    for(i = 0; i < trlcntr; i++) ptrlst[i] = i;
    shuffle(trlcntr, rs_shift, ptrlst);
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_TIFF_IMAGE;
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;                                /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
        j = ptrlst[i];
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];           /* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(patterns[j]);/* high byte of pattern number */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(patterns[j]);/* low of pattern number */
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## DRAW\_OKN\_PATTERN

This is a batchable command that creates either a horizontal or a vertical square wave pattern that can be used as an optokinetic nystagmus stimulus. The first parameter is the number of objects to draw in. Each object requires 11 parameters, the object number, the hi- and lo-bytes of the direction of movement, the hi- and lo-bytes of the speed of movement, the hi- and lo-bytes of the width of the pattern, the hi- and lo-bytes of the height of the pattern, and the hi- and lo-bytes of the width of the bars. The direction of movement can only be 0 degrees, 90 degrees, 180 degrees, and 270 degrees. The height and width of the pattern and the width of the bars are in rex units, i.e., tenths of a degree of visual angle. The speed of movement is in degrees / second.

Example action:

```
/* This action sets up an OKN stimulus in object 2 */
draw_okn()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short direction;
    short speed;
    short width;
    short height;
    short thick;
    direction = 90;           /* upwards movement */
    speed = 10;              /* ten degrees/second */
    width = 300;             /* pattern is 30 degrees wide */
    height = 250;            /* pattern is 25 degrees high */
    thick = 10;              /* bars are 1 degree wide (and 30 degrees long) */
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_OKN_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;       /* number of objects to draw OKN stimuli in */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;       /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(direction);/* high byte of the direction of movement */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(direction);/* low byte of the direction of movement */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(speed);/* high byte of the speed of movement */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(speed);/* low byte of the speed of movement */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(width);/* high byte of the width of stimulus */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(width);/* low byte of the width of stimulus */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(height);/* high byte of the height of stimulus */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(height);/* low byte of the height of stimulus */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(thick);/* high byte of the thickness of the bars */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(thick);/* low byte of the thickness of the bars */

    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If you turn object 2 on after calling this action, you will see a stationary, horizontal square wave grating. You must use the START\_OKN command described below to start the bars moving. GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## LOAD\_PATTERN

This is a batchable command that loads a user pattern from Rex. The first parameter is the number of the object into which to load the pattern. The second parameter is the stimulus number. The third parameter is the size of the checks in the pattern. The fourth parameter is the number of rows in the pattern. The fifth parameter is the number of columns in the pattern. The remaining parameters are the values to be loaded into the individual checks in the pattern, from upper left to lower right. The number of check values you supply must equal the number of rows multiplied by the number of columns.

Example actions:

```
#define MVLENGTH 20
#define IMAGE_TOTAL 2 * MVLENGTH
#define MAX_LOOKUP_NUMBER 100
struct grid_struct {
    int obj;
    int colorch;
};
static struct grid_struct grid[IMAGE_TOTAL][MAX_LOOKUP_NUMBER];
int rand_noise()
{
    int flag1;
    if(rand() < (RAND_MAX/2)) flag1 = -1;
    else flag1 = 1;
    return(flag1 * ((double)rand() / ((double)RAND_MAX + 1)) * range);
}
grid_val()
{
    int rand_perc, i, j;
    int chksz = 10; int fbd = 50; unsigned short index = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < IMAGE_TOTAL; i++) {
        for(j = 0; j < 100; j++) {
            rand_perc = ((float)rand_noise() * fbd) / 100.0;
            grid[i][j].colorch = rand_perc;
        }
        vexbuf[index++] = LOAD_PATTERN;
        vexbuf[index++] = i + 1; /* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = i + 1; /* stimulus number */
        vexbuf[index++] = chksz; /* check size */
        vexbuf[index++] = 10; /* number of rows in stimulus */
        vexbuf[index++] = 10; /* number of columns in stimulus */
        for(j = 0; j < 100; j++) /* the 100 values for the stimulus */
            vexbuf[index++] = grid[i][j].colorch;
    }
}
:
/* other batchable commands */

to_vex(index);
return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## COPY\_OBJECT

This is a batchable command that copies the stimulus in one object into a second object. It requires 6 parameters, the number of the source object, the number of the destination object, the hi- and lo- bytes of the percentage of horizontal scaling of the copied object, and the hi and lo- bytes of the percentage of the vertical scaling of the copied object. The purpose of this command is to draw identical random check patterns or identical flow field patterns in multiple objects, however it will copy any pattern from one object to another with the exception of TIFF images. NOTE: If you want to create a series of copies, each of a different size, then start with the same source object each time. For example, if you want to scale the pattern in object 1 by 125% and by 150%, you should copy object 1 to object 2 with 125% scaling and then copy object 1 to object 3 with 150% scaling. If you copy object 1 to object 2 with 125% scaling, then copy object 2 to object 3 with 125% scaling, object 3 will be 125% of the size of object 1, not object 2. (i.e. object 3 will be the same size as object 2, not 25% larger). If either of the scaling values is negative, the copy will be a mirror image of the source.

Example action:

```
/* draw random pattern in one object, copy into second object and shrink width by 10% */
short vres = 100; short hres = 200; short size = 5; short prcnt = 20;
short ob1 = 1; short ob2 = 2;
short xs = 90; short ys = 100; /* copy will be 90% as wide as and same height as source */
binoc(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    /* draw random pattern in one object */
    vexbuf[index++] = DRAW_RANDOM_PATTERN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = ob1;                             /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = hres;                            /* horizontal pattern resolution */
    vexbuf[index++] = vres;                            /* vertical pattern resolution */
    vexbuf[index++] = size;                            /* size of pattern checks */
    vexbuf[index++] = prcnt;                           /* percentage of white checks */
    /* copy and shrink random pattern from object 1 to object 2 */
    vexbuf[index++] = COPY_OBJECT;
    vexbuf[index++] = ob1;                                /* source object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = ob2;                                /* destination object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(xs); /* high byte of horizontal scaling */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(xs); /* low byte of horizontal scaling */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(ys); /* high byte of vertical scaling */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(ys); /* low byte of vertical scaling */
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## NEW\_RAMP

This is a batchable command that defines a new ramp or redefines an old ramp. The first parameter is the number of ramps to define. Each ramp requires 13 parameters; the ramp number, the hi- and lo- bytes of the length, the hi- and lo- bytes of the angle, the hi- and lo- bytes of the velocity, the hi- and lo- bytes of the X reference point, the hi- and lo- bytes of the Y reference point, the ramp type, and the end action. Length is half the total length in tenths of a degree. Angle is the polar angle of the ramp with 0 degrees defining motion from the monkey's left to right. Velocity is in degrees/second. Reference point is a cartesian point in tenths of a degree. For circular ramps, the length is the radius of the circle, and angle is the starting point of the object on the rim of the circle. Spot files that use ramps must include the /rex(hdr/ramp.h header file.

Type defines the reference point of the ramp. RA\_CENPT (02): reference point is the center of the ramp. RA\_BEGINPT (04): reference point is the beginning of the ramp. RA\_ENDPT (08): reference point is the end of the ramp. RA\_CLKWISE (16): computes a clockwise circular ramp centered on reference point RA\_CCLKWISE (32): computes a counter-clockwise circular ramp centered on reference point.

Action defines what happens to the object on the ramp after the ramp stops.

OFF\_AFTER\_RAMP (0): object turns off after the end of the ramp. ON\_AFTER\_RAMP (1): object stays on after the end of the ramp.

Example action:

```
/* This action defines a ramp */
short length = 200; short direction = 15; short speed = 20; short rfx = 100; short rfy = -10;
make_ramp(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = NEW_RAMP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(length);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(length);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(direction);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(direction);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(speed);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(speed);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfx);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfx);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfy);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfy);
    vexbuf[index++] = RA_CENPT;
    vexbuf[index++] = ON_AFTER_RAMP;
    :
    :
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

/\* number of ramps \*/  
/\* ramp number \*/  
/\* high byte of ramp length \*/  
/\* low byte of ramp length \*/  
/\* high byte of ramp direction \*/  
/\* low byte of ramp direction \*/  
/\* high byte of ramp speed \*/  
/\* low byte of ramp speed \*/  
/\* high byte of X offset \*/  
/\* low byte of X offset \*/  
/\* high byte of Y offset \*/  
/\* low byte of Y offset \*/  
/\* reference is center of ramp \*/  
/\* object stays on after end of ramp \*/  
  
/\* other batchable commands \*/

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **NEW\_RAMP\_FROM\_FP**

This is a batchable command that defines a new ramp or redefines an old ramp, relative to the fixation point. The first parameter is the number of ramps to define. Each ramp requires 13 parameters; the ramp number, the hi- and lo- bytes of the length, the hi- and lo- bytes of the angle, the hi- and lo- bytes of the velocity, the hi- and lo- bytes of the horizontal distance from the fixation point, the hi- and lo- bytes of the vertical distance from the fixation point, the ramp type, and the end action. Length is half the total length in tenths of a degree. Angle is the polar angle of the ramp with 0 degrees defining motion from the monkey's left to right. Velocity is in degrees/second. Offset is a cartesian point in tenths of a degree. Spot files that use ramps must include the /rex/hdr/ramp.h header file.

Type defines the reference point of the ramp. RA\_CENPT (02): reference point is the center of the ramp. RA\_BEGINPT (04): reference point is the beginning of the ramp. RA\_ENDPT (08): reference point is the end of the ramp. RA\_CLKWISE (16): computes a clockwise circular ramp. RA\_CCLKWISE (32): computes a counter-clockwise circular ramp.

Action defines what happens to the object on the ramp after the ramp stops.

**OFF\_AFTER\_RAMP** (0): object turns off after the end of the ramp. **ON\_AFTER\_RAMP** (1): object stays on after the end of the ramp

## Example action:

```

/* This action defines a ramp.*/
short length = 200; short direction = 15; short speed = 20; short rfx = 100; short rfy = -20;
make_ramp(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = NEW_RAMP_FROM_FP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(length);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(length);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(direction);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(direction);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(speed);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(speed);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfx);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfx);
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rfy);
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rfy);
    vexbuf[index++] = RA_CENPT;
    vexbuf[index++] = OFF_AFTER_RAMP;
    :
    :
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}

/* number of ramps */
/* ramp number */
/* high byte of ramp length */
/* low byte of ramp length */
/* high byte of ramp direction */
/* low byte of ramp direction */
/* high byte of ramp speed */
/* low byte of ramp speed */
/* high byte of horiz distance from FP */
/* low byte of horiz distance from FP */
/* high byte of vertical distance from FP */
/* low byte of vertical distance from FP */
/* reference is center of ramp */
/* object turns off after end of ramp */

/* other batchable commands */

```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## LOAD\_RAMP

This is a batchable command that loads a user defined ramp from Rex. The command is for users who want ramps that are not linear or circular. The first parameter is the number of ramps to load. Each ramp requires four parameters, the number of the ramp, the end action, high byte of the number of steps in the ramp, and the low byte of the number of steps in the ramp. Each step requires eight parameters, the four bytes of the X coordinate of the step, and the four bytes of the Y coordinate of the step. The step coordinates are in Rex units. Spot files that define user loaded ramps do not need to include the /rex/hdr/ramp.h header file.

End action defines what happens to the object on the ramp after the ramp stops.

OFF\_AFTER\_RAMP (0): object turns off after the end of the ramp. ON\_AFTER\_RAMP (1): object stays on after the end of the ramp.

Example action:

```
/* This action loads a ramp computed in Rex to GLvex */
struct ramp {
    float x;
    float y;
}
struct ramp thisRamp[300];
loadRamp()
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i, j, steps;
    char *flbuf;
    ****
    * You would put code to load the ramp steps here
    ****
    steps = 300;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = LOAD_RAMP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of ramps to load */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* this ramp number */
    vexbuf[index++] = ON_AFTER_RAMP;                   /* object stays on after end of ramp */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(steps);                  /* hi byte of number of ramp steps */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(steps);                  /* lo byte of number of ramp steps */
    for(i = 0; i < steps; i++) {
        flbuf = float2byte(thisRamp[i].x);
        for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
        flbuf = float2byte(thisRamp[i].y);
        for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c. The float2byte() function is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## LOAD\_PIXEL\_RAMP

This is a batchable command that loads a user defined ramp from Rex. The command is for users who want ramps that are not linear or circular. The first parameter is the number of ramps to load. Each ramp requires four parameters, the number of the ramp, the end action, high byte of the number of steps in the ramp, and the low byte of the number of steps in the ramp. Each step requires eight parameters, the four bytes of the X coordinate of the step, and the four bytes of the Y coordinate of the step. This command is the same as LOAD\_RAMP except that the step coordinates are in screen pixels rather than in Rex units. Spot files that define user loaded ramps do not need to include the /rex/hdr/ramp.h header file.

End action defines what happens to the object on the ramp after the ramp stops.

OFF\_AFTER\_RAMP (0): object turns off after the end of the ramp. ON\_AFTER\_RAMP (1): object stays on after the end of the ramp.

Example action:

```
/* This action loads a ramp computed in Rex to GLvex */
struct ramp {
    float x;
    float y;
}
struct ramp thisRamp[300];
loadRamp()
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i, j, steps;
    char *flbuf;
    ****
    * You would put code to load the ramp steps here
    ****
    steps = 300;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = LOAD_RAMP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                      /* number of ramps to load */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                      /* this ramp number */
    vexbuf[index++] = ON_AFTER_RAMP;          /* object stays on after end of ramp */
    vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(steps);          /* hi byte of number of ramp steps */
    vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(steps);          /* lo byte of number of ramp steps */
    for(i = 0; i < steps; i++) {
        flbuf = float2byte(thisRamp[i].x);
        for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
        flbuf = float2byte(thisRamp[i].y);
        for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
    }
    .
    .
    .
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c. The float2byte() function is defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **TO\_RAMP\_START**

This is a batchable command that moves objects to the beginnings of the ramps that will carry them. Ramps must be defined before calling TO\_RAMP\_START. The first parameter is the number of objects to position. Each object has two parameters, the number of the object and the number of the ramp that will carry it. This command is necessary if you want to display a stationary object at the beginning of a ramp before starting the ramp.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will move an object that was turned on in a different
 * part of the screen to the beginning of a ramp.
 */
jump_and_run(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = TO_RAMP_START;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* number of objects to position */
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;           /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* ramp number */

    . . .                         /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## START\_RAMP

This is a non-batchable command that places objects on ramps and starts the ramps moving. The first parameter is the number of ramps to start. Each ramp requires three parameters, the number of the ramp, the number of the object to place on that ramp, and the type of cycle. There are three types of ramp cycle

RA\_ONCE (0): ramp runs once.

RA\_OSCIL (1): ramp goes back and forth until stopped.

RA\_LOOP (2): ramp runs over and over until stopped.

Ramps of differing speeds, lengths, or cycle may be started together. Switching the object and moving the object are independent actions. Each object must be positioned at the beginning of the ramp and then turned on, or must have its switch set to "ON" to be displayed. If the object placed on a ramp is switched off, the ramp will run but nothing will be displayed.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action starts two ramps.
 */
short rmp[] = { 1, 2 };
short obi[] = { 1, 2 };
get_going(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = START_RAMP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;      /* number of ramps to start */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = rmp[i];    /* ramp number */
        vexbuf[index++] = obi[i];    /* object number to put on ramp */
        vexbuf[index++] = RA_ONCE; /* run each ramp once */
    }
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) at the beginning of the video field in which the ramp starts moving, and the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) at the beginning of the first video field after the ramp stops moving. Also GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE (234) at each step specified in the SET\_TRIGGERES command (see below). If the digital sync is not enabled, GLvex will not return any digital signal in this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the ramps are running, and for the first field after the ramps have stopped. Also, the rex video sync square will flash white for one field at each step specified in the SET\_TRIGGERES command (see below).

## **RESET\_RAMPS**

This is a non-batchable commands that resets ramps that were set to run only once. This is ramps with a cycle type of RA\_ONCE. The purpose of this command is to allow users to restart an RA\_ONCE ramp that is running in conjunction with a flow field or with RA\_LOOP or RA\_OSCIL ramps. It requires no parameters. This command can be used in conjunction with the SET\_STIM\_SWITCH command (see above) to change which objects will be displayed when the ramps restart.

Example action:

```
reset_ramp()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf(index++) = SET_STIM_SWITCH; /* set stimulus switches */
    vexbuf(index++) = 2;                /* number of objects to set */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf(index++) = i + 5; /* object numbers 5 and 6 */
        if(!i) vexbuf(index++) = OBJ_ON; /* set object 5 switch on */
        else vexbuf(index++) = OBJ_OFF; /* and object 6 switch off */
    }
    vexbuf[index++] = RESET_RAMPS;
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE (234) at the beginning of the first video field in which the ramp is reset. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the ramp is reset.

## NEW\_FLOW

This is a batchable command that defines the translation matrix for flow fields. The first parameter is the number of objects. Each object requires 15 parameters; the object number, the hi- and lo- bytes of the angle of movement in 2-D, the hi- and lo- bytes of the angle of movement in 3-D, the hi- and lo- bytes of the velocity, the hi- and lo- bytes of the rotation about the Z-axis (roll), the hi- and lo- bytes of the rotation about the X-axis (pitch), the hi- and lo- bytes of the rotation about the Y-axis (yaw), the life span of the checks, and the percentage of coherent checks. If the value for life span is 0, then the checks will be displayed constantly. If the value for life span is greater than 3, then each check will be displayed for the specified number of fields as it moves, then moved to a new location and be redrawn again for the specified number of fields. This gives the flow field a scintillating appearance. If the value for coherence is less than 100, then some of the checks will move in quasi-random directions.

Example action:

```
/* Set up a sliding, expanding flow field in one object and a contracting field in a second object. */
short xy[] = { 180, 0 }; short z[] = { -45, 90 }; short ob[] = { 1, 2 };
short vel = 10;           /* velocity of checks in degrees / sec */
short span = 10;          /* number of video field each check is displayed */
short coher = 50;          /* percentage of checks that move in the specified direction */
make_transform()
{
    short index, i, roll, pitch, yaw;
    index = 0;
    roll = pitch = yaw = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = NEW_FLOW;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                      /* number of objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = ob[i];/* object number */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(xy[i]);/* high byte of translation in 2-D */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(xy[i]);/* low byte of translation in 2-D */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(z[i]); /* high byte of translation in depth */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(z[i]); /* low byte of translation in depth */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(vel); /* high byte of translation in depth */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(vel); /* low byte of translation in depth */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(roll);/* high byte of roll rate */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(roll);/* low byte of roll rate */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(pitch);/* high byte of pitch rate */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(pitch);/* low byte of pitch rate */
        vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(yaw);/* high byte of yaw rate */
        vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(yaw);/* low byte of yaw rate */
        vexbuf[index++] = span;           /* life span of checks */
        vexbuf[index++] = coher;         /* coherence of checks */
    }
    .
    .
    ./* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **START\_FLOW**

This is a non-batchable command that starts the flow fields in a variable number of objects. The first parameter is the number of objects to turn on. Each object requires one parameters, the object number.

Example actions:

```
/*
 * This action will switch on the flow fields in objects 3 and 5, simultaneously.
 */
sw_flow()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = START_FLOW;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to switch */
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;           /* first object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = 5;           /* second object number */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (232) at the beginning of the video field in which the flow fields start. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the flow fields start.

## TIME\_FLOW

This is a non-batchable command that presents flow fields in a variable number of objects for a given number of video fields. The first parameter is the number of objects to present. Each object requires one parameter, the object number. The last parameter is the number of video fields to present the flow fields. The number of fields can range from 1 to 255.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action will present flow fields in objects 3 and 4 simultaneously for 60 fields.
 */
short fields = 60; /* value may be set in Rex state variables menu */
flow_time(void)
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = TIME_FLOW;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to present */
    vexbuf[index++] = 3;           /* first object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = 4;           /* second object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = fields;     /* number of video fields */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return two signals from this command. The signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (232) is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the flow fields are turned on, and the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (231) is sent at the beginning of the first video field after the flow fields stop. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the flow fields start, and again for the first field in which the flow fields stop.

## MAKE\_FLOW\_MOVIE

This a batchable command that creates the successive frames of flow field movies and places them in memory for subsequent playback. The first parameter is number of objects that will contain the movies. The second parameter is the number of frames in the movies. One parameter is required for each of the movie objects, the object number. Before using this command, you must call DRAW\_FLOW\_PATTERN and NEW\_FLOW for each of the objects that hold flow movies.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action defines flow field movies 500 frames long
 * based on flow fields defined for objects 2 and 3.
 */
short mobi = 1;
short fobi[] = { 2, 3 };
short wide = 600;
short tall = 400;
short near = 600;
short far = 1500;
short cov = 20;                                /* 50% of flow field area will be covered by checks*/
short size = 4;                                 /* size of the flow field checks */
short xy[] = { 180, 270 };                      /* xy direction of the flow fields */
short z = -45;                                  /* z (depth) angle of the flow field */
short vel = 100;                                /* velocity of checks in 1/10ths degree / sec */
short span = 0;                                 /* life span of the checks (continuous) */
short coher = 100;                             /* coherence of motion */
short nframes = 500;                            /* number of frames */
flow_movie()
{
    short index, i, roll, pitch, yaw;
    /* DRAW_FLOW_PATTERN and NEW_FLOW have already been
     * called for objects 2 and 3 */
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = MAKE_FLOW_MOVIE; /* define the flow movie */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                /* number of objects containing movies */
    vexbuf[index++] = nframes;         /* number of frames in the movies */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = fobi[i];    /* object number */
    }
    :
    :
    /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## **TO\_FLOW\_MOVIE\_START**

This is a batchable that sets the flow fields in flow field objects to the starting frame of a flow field movie. The first parameter is the number of objects to set up. You must build a flow field movie for each of these objects before using this command (see above). The second parameter is the starting frame of the movie. All objects must start on the same frame. For each object, only one parameter is needed, the object number.

Example action:

```
set_movie()
{
    short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = TO_FLOW_MOVIE_START;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* number of objects to set up */
    vexbuf[index++] = 50;          /* frame at which the flow move will start */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* first object with flow field movie */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* second object with flow field movie */

    .                           /* other batchable commands */

    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not.

## **SHOW\_FLOW\_MOVIE**

This is a non-batchable command that displays flow field movies. The first parameter is the number of movies to show. The second parameter is the starting frame of the movies. The third parameter is the last frame to show. Each movie requires one parameter, the number of the object containing the movie. Each movie must start on the same frame and end on the same frame. The movies must have been defined prior to calling this function. The number of frames to show can be less than the number of frames defined.

Example action:

```
/*
 * this action displays a single flow field movie of 60 frames
 * beginning with frame 30 and ending with frame 90
 */
int obi = 1;
int start = 30;
int end = 90;
start_movie()
{
    short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SHOW_FLOW_MOVIE;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;           /* number of flow movies */
    vexbuf[index++] = start;      /* first frame of the movie */
    vexbuf[index++] = end;        /* last frame of the movie */
    vexbuf[index++] = obi;        /* number of the object containing the movie */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return two signals from this command. The signal MOVIE\_START (239) is sent at the beginning of the video field in which the ramp starts moving, and the signal MOVIE\_STOP (238) is sent at the beginning of the first video field after the ramp stops moving. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the movie starts, and again for the first field in which the movie stops.

## **START\_FLOW\_RAMP**

This is a non-batchable command that runs ramps and flow fields simultaneously. The first parameter is the number of flow fields to run. Each flow field requires one parameter, the object in which the flow field was drawn. After listing the flow field objects, the next parameter is the number of ramps to run. Each ramp requires two parameters, the number of the ramp to run and the number of the object to put on the ramp. This display works best if the objects on the ramps have a higher priority (i.e., lower numbers) than the objects containing flow fields. Before using this command, you must call DRAW\_FLOW\_PATTERN and NEW\_FLOW for each of the objects that will hold flow fields, and you must call NEW\_RAMP for each of the ramps you use.

Example action:

```
/*This action runs a flow field and a ramp */
flow_ramp(void)
{
    unsigned short index; short i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf(index++) = START_FLOW_RAMP;
    vexbuf(index++) = 2;           /* number of flow fields to start */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) vexbuf(index++) = i + 5; /* flow field object numbers 5 and 6 */
    vexbuf(index++) = 2;           /* number of ramps to start */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf(index++) = i + 1; /* run ramps 1 and 2 */
        vexbuf(index++) = i + 3; /* put objects 3 and 4 on the ramps */
    }
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START at the beginning of the first video field in which the flow fields and ramps start moving. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the field in which the flow fields and ramps start. The display will continue until the RA\_ONCE ramps have completed. During this period, GLvex will run all of the ramps, but will display only those objects that you have switched ON. If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will then return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE at the beginning of the first video field after the ramp objects have turned stopped. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video square will flash white for the field in which the ramps stop. At this point the flow fields will still be running. You have a couple of choices now. You can stop the flow fields and get out of this loop entirely by switching off the flow fields using the STOP\_FLOW\_RAMP command (see below). If you do this, GLvex will send the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP at the beginning of the video field after the flow field stops moving if the digital sync is enabled. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the field in which the flow fields stop moving. Alternately, you can send the command RESET\_RAMPS (see below). GLvex will place the ramp objects at the beginnings of their respective ramps, start all ramps running again, and send the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_CHANGE at the beginning of the first video field in which the ramps start moving if the digital sync is enabled. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the field in which the ramps start again. You can leave the flow fields running across multiple trials while using the RESET\_RAMPS command to restart the ramps at the beginning of each trial. In this way, you can use the flow fields as an adapting stimulus.

## **STOP\_FLOW\_RAMP**

This is a non-batchable command that stops all ramps, flow fields, and OKN gratings. It requires no parameters.

Example action:

```
stop()
{
    unsigned short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = STOP_FLOW_RAMP;
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_STOP (235) at the beginning of the first video field after the ramps stop. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field after the ramps have stopped.

## **START\_OKN**

This is a non-batchable command that starts the bars moving in square-wave, OKN gratings. The first parameter is the number of objects to start. Each object requires one parameter, the object number. You must define an OKN grating in an object before calling this function.

Example action:

```
startOkn()
{
    unsigned short index;
    int i;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = START_OKN;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;           /* start OKN movement in two objects */
    for(i = 0; i < 2; i++) {
        vexbuf[index++] = i + 2;   /* objects 2 and 3 have OKN gratings */
    }
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal FLOW\_RAMP\_START (236) at the beginning of the first video field in which the bars are moving. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field in which the bars are moving.

## **SHOW\_MOVE\_CLIP**

This is a non-batchable command that displays sequences of objects for a given number of video fields each. It is assumed that you have loaded the appropriate patterns in the objects and positioned them on the screen before calling this function. The first parameter is the number of clips to show. All clips will be shown simultaneously. Each clip requires one parameter, the number of the first object in the clip. Each of the clips must have the same number of objects and the objects must be sequential. After entering the starting objects for each clip, this command requires three more parameters. These are the total number of frames in the movie, the number of video fields to display each frame, and the number of times to cycle through the movie. If you set the number of cycles to 0, the movie will run in a continuous loop until you stop it with the STOP\_MOVIE command (see below).

Example action:

```
/*
 * this action displays two movie clips of 20 frames each.
 * each frame is shown for 2 video fields and the movie
 * loops 5 times */
clp1 = 1;
clp2 = 21;
nframes = 20;
interval = 2;
cycles = 5;
start_movie()
{
    short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SHOW_MOVIE_CLIP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                                /* number of movie clips */
    vexbuf[index++] = clp1;                            /* number of the first object in clip 1 */
    vexbuf[index++] = clp2;                            /* number of the first object in clip 2 */
    vexbuf[index++] = nframes;                         /* number of frames each in clip */
    vexbuf[index++] = interval;                        /* video fields to show each frame */
    vexbuf[index++] = cycles;                          /* number of times to loop through movie */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return the signal MOVIE\_START (226) at the beginning of the video field in which movie starts, and the signal MOVIE\_STOP (225) at the beginning of the first video field after the movie stops. Also GLvex will return the signal MOVIE\_CHANGE (237) at each frame specified in the SET\_TRIGGERES command (see below). If the digital sync is not enabled, GLvex will not return any digital signal in this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field of the movie, and for the first field after the movie stops. Also, the rex video sync square will flash white for one field at each frame specified in the SET\_TRIGGERES command (see below).

## **STOP\_MOVIE**

This is a non-batchable command that stops flow field and object movies. It does not require any parameters. This command allows you to stop an object movie that is in a continuous loop or to stop object or flow field movies before their designated number of cycles or frames have completed.

Example action:

```
/*
 * this action stops all running movies
 */
stop_movie()
{
    short index;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = STOP_MOVIE;
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}
```

If the digital sync is enabled, GLvex will return MOVIE\_STOP (233) at the beginning of the first video field after the movie has stopped. Otherwise GLvex will not return any signal after this command. If the video sync is enabled, the rex video sync square will flash white for the first field after the movie stops. This command has no effect and GLvex will not return any signals if the command is issued outside the context of the SHOW\_FLOW\_MOVIE or SHOW\_MOVIE\_CLIP commands.

## SET\_TRIGGER

This is a batchable command that allows you to tell GLvex that you want a trigger to be sent when a ramp reaches a specified step or an object movie reaches a specified frame. You can specify up to 10 triggers for each ramp or object movie. The first parameter is the number of trigger sets to define. Each trigger set requires two parameters, the ramp number or object movie number from which you want triggers, and the number of triggers in you want in that ramp or object movie. Each trigger requires two parameters, the hi- and lo- bytes of the ramp step or movie frame where you want the trigger.

Example action:

```
/*
 * This action sets up two user defined ramps, then specifies that
 * triggers be sent when the objects on the ramps change direction
 */
struct ramp {
    float x;
    float y;
}
struct ramp rampOne[300];
struct ramp rampTwo[200];
loadRamp()
{
    unsigned short index;
    short i, j, stepsOne, stepsTwo;
    short breakOne, breakTwo;
    rampOne[0].x = -150.0;           /* starting location of the first ramp */
    rampOne[0].y = -150.0;
    for(i = 1; i < 150; i++) {       /* ramp goes to the right */
        thisRamp[i].x = thisRamp[i - 1].x + 2.0;
        thisRamp[i].y = thisRamp[i - 1].y;
    }
    for(; i < 300; i++) {           /* ramp goes up */
        thisRamp[i].x = thisRamp[i - 1].x;
        thisRamp[i].y = thisRamp[i - 1].y + 2.0;
    }
    rampTwo[0].x = -100.0;          /* starting location of second ramp */
    rampTwo[0].y = -100.0;
    for(i = 1; i < 100; i++) {      /* ramp goes up and to the right */
        thisRamp[i].x = thisRamp[i - 1].x + 2.0;
        thisRamp[i].y = thisRamp[i - 1].y + 2.0;
    }
    for(; i < 200; i++) {          /* ramp goes down and to the right */
        thisRamp[i].x = thisRamp[i - 1].x + 2.0;
        thisRamp[i].y = thisRamp[i - 1].y - 2.0;
    }
    stepsOne = 300;
    stepsTwo = 200;
    breakOne = 150;
    breakTwo = 100;
    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = LOAD_RAMP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;             /* number of ramps to load */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;             /* first ramp number */
}
```

```

vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;           /* object stays on after end of ramp */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(stepsOne); /* hi byte of steps in first ramp */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(stepsOne); /* lo byte of steps in first ramp */
for(i = 0; i < stepsOne; i++) {
    flbuf = float2byte(rampOne[i].x);
    for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
    flbuf = float2byte(rampOne[i].y);
    for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
}
vexbuf[index++] = 2;                /* second ramp number */
vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON; /* object stays on after end of ramp */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(stepsTwo);/* hi byte of the number of steps in second ramp */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(stepsTwo);/* lo byte of the number of steps in second ramp */
for(i = 0; i < stepsTwo; i++) {
    flbuf = float2byte(rampTwo[i].x);
    for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
    flbuf = float2byte(rampTwo[i].y);
    for(j = 0; j < 4; j++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[j];
}
vexbuf[index++] = SET_TRIGGER;
vexbuf[index++] = 2;                /* number of trigger sets */
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                /* first ramp from which the triggers will come */
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                /* number of triggers in this set */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(breakOne);/* hi byte of the step number on which to trigger */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(breakOne);/* lo byte of the step number on which to trigger */
vexbuf[index++] = 2;                /* second ramp from which the triggers will come */
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                /* number of triggers in this set */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(breakTwo);/* hi byte of the step number on which to trigger */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(breakTwo);/* lo byte of the step number on which to trigger */

.
.
.
/* other batchable commands */

to_vex(index);
return(0);
}

```

GLvex will return the signal BATCH\_DONE (241) after completing all commands in the list regardless of whether digital synchronization is enabled or not. The hibyte() and lobyte() functions are defined in GLvex\_com.c.

## ERRORS AND WARNINGS

There are a number of conditions that will result in errors or warnings. Errors are fatal and require that you exit GLvex and fix the problem. Warnings are not fatal and GLvex will continue execution, but you may not be able to access all of the functions, or get the result you were expecting.

## **Memory Management Errors**

During the initialization phase and when computing ramps and flow fields, GLvex dynamically allocates the memory it needs on the host computer. Failure to allocate memory for objects is fatal and will cause GLvex to quit. Failure to allocate memory for ramps or flow fields is not fatal, but, if you attempt to run a ramp or flow field that could not be allocated, you will get unpredictable results.

## **Object memory errors**

GLvex allocates space for the object structures, stimulus templates, and flow field buffers in the host computer memory. If there is not sufficient host memory for the requested number of objects you will get an error message similar to the following:

**Unable to allocate memory for 25 objects  
Exit and invoke GLvex requesting fewer objects  
Press any key to exit**

## VEX-REX Parallel I/O Communication Errors

It is possible for the parallel I/O communications between the rex and GLvex PC's to get out of sync. If this happens, your paradigm will hang, or the stimulus display will become erratic. In either event, stop the rex paradigm by setting the PSTOP switch to on, hit the <return> key on the GLvex PC to halt any messages to rex, type r s on the rex PC to restart the state list, and finally, set the PSTOP switch to off to resume the paradigm. If your paradigm still does not run, check to see if the GLvex PC is hung by typing "<return>". GLvex should print a help message. If not, quit GLvex. If GLvex is not hung, kill and reload the offending rex process. In the worst case, you will have to quit rex and GLvex.

There are four general ways that rex to GLvex communications can get out of sync.

First, if you end the rex clock to stop a paradigm, or you reset the state list after rex has sent a command to GLvex but before GLvex has sent its response signal, you may de synchronize the communications. To avoid this, ALWAYS stop paradigms using the PSTOP switch. This should guarantee that all communications have been resolved. At this point, you can end the clock, begin the clock, reset the state list, or open or close files.

Second, including states that call actions which communicate with GLvex in the rex abort list. Rex will attempt to execute these actions without testing the transmission bits or acknowledging signals from GLvex. This will cause problems. Monkey (subject) errors must be handled explicitly in the following manner:

Example state loop:

```
        . . . /* other states in your paradigm */

vstwts
    to vstwts

vexst:
    to vexst on 0 % tst_tx_rdy /* test if transmission is ready */
    do vex_time()           /* vex command that will take a while */
    to error on +WD0_XY & eyeflag
    to vexack on 0 % tst_rx_new/* escape when signal is received */

vexack:
    code ECODE
    do pcm_ack(0)          /* acknowledge signal from vex */
    time 100
    rand 100
    to othst

othst
    . . . /* other states in your paradigm */

error:
    code ERR1CD
    do reset_s(-1) /* but don't include vex states in abort list */
    to alloff on 0 % tst_tx_rdy

alloff:
    do off_all() /* action that turns off all stimuli and fixation point */
    to offack on 0 % tst_rx_new

offack:
    do pcm_ack(0)
    time 5000           /* time out */
    to disabl

abort:
    offrew             /* no vex communications in these */
    clwind             /* two states */
```

Third, the monkey can make an error that causes an escape from a state such as vexst in the example above that is expecting a signal from GLvex just as GLvex is about to send the signal. In the above example, if the actions to handle monkey errors do not send the abort command off\_all() before GLvex sends the signal at the end of the vex\_time() action, you may have an extra, unacknowledged signal from GLvex. This situation should occur infrequently.

Fourth, you are careless in testing the transmit and receive bits in your paradigm or you do not acknowledge signals from GLvex. Study the example spot file at the end of this document carefully. In particular, don't hide the pcm\_ack(0) action in other actions to save on the number of states in your paradigm. While this is legal, it will make your paradigms harder to debug. This type of error will cause frequent hang-ups but may not occur on every trial. In particular, be suspicious if your paradigm runs properly only if some states need to have the time variable set to some minimum value.

## Argument Errors

In sending a command to GLvex, you load a buffer with a number that represents the command, followed by more numbers that represent the parameters for the command. GLvex parses this buffer by assuming that the first value represents a command. GLvex treats a number of the following values as arguments for that command. How many of the following values are treated as values depends on the command number. Any given number can be treated as a command or as an argument, depending on its context. If you do not load the buffer correctly, GLvex will not be able to parse the buffer correctly. This results in unpredictable behavior. If you are not getting the result you expect, shrink the main window with the "w s" command, then turn on debugging with the "D 1" command. If you get the message:

**rexIn: Command # is an invalid command**

**rexIn: Aborting input loop**

you probably have not loaded the correct number of arguments into the buffer. If the values that GLvex prints out are vastly different from what you think they should be, you probably have not loaded the bytes of integer or floating point values in the correct order.

## Memory Management Warnings

When you compute a new ramp, GLvex dynamically allocates space for the X and Y buffers that hold the sequence of object positions defined by the ramp. If you run out of host memory, GLvex will print the following a warning similar to the following:

**compute\_ramp: Warning, unable to malloc space for ramp 10**

Execution will continue, but the ramp will not be computed. If you attempt to start the ramp, you will get unpredictable results. If you have this problem, try recomputing an old ramp. If, in recomputing an old ramp, you get a warning similar to,

**compute\_ramp: Warning, unable to realloc space for ramp 10**

you will probably have to quit GLvex to free up memory. I don't know how many ramps can be defined simultaneously. It will depend on the lengths and speeds of the ramps. The shorter and faster the ramp, the more that can be defined simultaneously.

When you compute a new flow field, GLvex dynamically allocates a floating point buffer to hold the 3-D homogeneous coordinates of the points in the flow field, and two integer buffers to hold the 2-D projects of the points in the flow field. If you run out of host memory, GLvex will print warnings similar to the following:

**make\_flow: Warning, unable to malloc space for object 10 hvec**

**make\_flow: Warning, unable to malloc space for object 10 pvec[0]**

**make\_flow: Warning, unable to malloc space for object 10 pvec[1]**

When you recompute an old flow field, GLvex dynamically reallocates the 3-D homogeneous coordinates buffer and the two 2-D projection buffers. If you run out of host memory, GLvex will print warnings similar to the following:

**make\_flow: Warning, unable to realloc space for object 10 hvec**

**make\_flow: Warning, unable to realloc space for object 10 pvec[0]**

**make\_flow: Warning, unable to realloc space for object 10 pvec[1]**

Execution will continue, but the flow field will not be computed. The object's stimulus type will be set to NULL so that you won't be able to create masks, movement transforms, or to start the flow fields. This is done to avoid unpredictable results. To correct this problem, you will probably have to quit GLvex to free up memory. When you restart GLvex, try defining smaller or less densely covered flow fields.

## **Pattern Specification Warnings**

If you attempt to specify a pattern number greater than 255 (say 256), you will get the following message:

**256 is an invalid number to specify pattern**

**Pattern number must be between 0 and 255**

A pattern will be drawn but only the low byte of the number will be used, so you will get an unexpected result.

If you attempt to draw a random check pattern with a resolution greater than 255 (say 300), you will get the following message:

**random check resolution 300 is too high**

**setting resolution to 255**

A random check pattern will be drawn with a resolution of 255.

If you attempt to draw a flow field with more than 10% coverage (say 15%), you will get a message similar to the following:

**make\_flow: tenth percent coverage 150 is too high**

**setting coverage to 100 tenths percent**

A flow field will be draw with 10% coverage.

If you attempt to create a flow field mask that is larger than the flow field, you will get the following message:

**make\_flow\_mask: Warning, mask is larger than view field**

No mask will be draw in the flow field.

In specifying a user pattern (say 101), if you don't have a file with the proper name in the working directory (in this case P101), in you will get a message similar to the following:

**Error: make\_user could not open file P101**

If you attempt to define a user pattern with more than 255 rows or columns (say 260 X 300), you will get a message similar to the following:

**make\_user: rows = 190 cols = 70**

**make\_user: Error, number of rows or columns must not be greater than 180**

In these two cases, GLvex will not draw any pattern, and the stimulus in the object will be unchanged.

## **Flow Field Transforms**

GLvex supports both two- and three- dimensional flow fields. If you are using 2-D flow fields, the three transform parameters which produce movement in depth (vergence, yaw, pitch) must be set to 0. If you try to compute a transform that produces movement in depth for a 2-D flow field, you will get the following message:

**compute\_transform: Warning, no depth movement**

**allowed in 2-D flow fields.**

**Setting trans.v, trans.w, trans.p to 0**

The transform will be computed, but with the depth parameters set to 0. If you requested a transform with nothing but movement in depth, then the flow field will not move when turned on.

## **Contrast Specification**

In specifying patterns from the keyboard, you must specify the contrast of the pattern, normal or reverse, even if it is a continuous tone pattern. Failure to specify the contrast will result in the pattern being drawn with unpredictable luminances. However, GLvex will not print any warnings.

## Color, Luminance Specification Warnings.

All color and luminance values can range only between 0 and 255. If you try to specify a color or luminance value outside this range you will get a warning similar to the following:

**red value 256 out of range**

If you enter an illegal value from the keyboard, no change will be made. If you enter an illegal value from rex, the object you are changing may take on an unpredictable color or luminance.

## Sample Spot File Demonstrating Socket Communication

```
#include "../hdr/ramp.h"
#include "localEcodes.h"
#include "memSac.h"
#include "GLvex_com.c"
#include "shuffle.c"
#define WIND0 0
#define WIND1 1
#define RAMP_DONE 1
#define RAMP_ON 2
#define TARG_SWITCH 4
#define LOCATE 8

/* begin user action block */
int rampFlag = 0;
int vexMessage = 0;
int mfTargX = 0;
int mfTargY = 0;
int rLength = 150;
int rSpeed = 5;
int trialCounter = -1;
int blockcount = 0; /* number of blocks of trials */
int totalTrials = 0;
int correctTrials = 0;
int errorTrials = 0;
int percentCorrect = 0;
int currstim;
int targsz = 100;

int pick_ramp_direction()
{
    static int ptrlst[2 * NUM_STIM] = { 0 };
    static int rs_shift = 10;
    int rDir;
    int index;
    int i;
    char *flbuf;

    if(--trialCounter <= 0) {
        trialCounter = NUM_STIM;
        for(i = 0; i < trialCounter; i++) ptrlst[i] = i;

        /* shuffle ptrlst to randomize stimulus conditions */
        shuffle(trialCounter, rs_shift, ptrlst);
        blockcount++;
    }
}
```

```

}

currstim = ptrlst[ttrialCounter - 1];/* index to this condition */
totalTrials++;
memSacTrialList[currstim].total++;

/* set the time of the target-fixation point gap */
set_times("rampon", memSacList[currstim].delay, -1);

/* set the location of the target window */
switch(memSacList[currstim].direction) {
case 1:
    rDir = 0;
    break;
case -1:
    rDir = 180;
    break;
}

/* define the ramp */
index = 0;
vexbuf[index++] = NEW_RAMP;
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of ramps */
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* ramp number */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rLength);/* high byte of ramp length */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rLength);/* low byte of ramp length */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rDir);/* high byte of ramp direction */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rDir);/* low byte of ramp direction */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(rSpeed);/* high byte of ramp speed */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(rSpeed);/* low byte of ramp speed */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(0); /* high byte of X offset */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(0); /* low byte of X offset */
vexbuf[index++] = hibyte(0); /* high byte of Y offset */
vexbuf[index++] = lobyte(0); /* low byte of Y offset */
vexbuf[index++] = RA_CENPT;                         /* reference is center of ramp */
vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_OFF;                          /* object switches off at end of ramp */

/* set the location of the saccade target */
vexbuf[index++] = STIM_LOCATION;
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
vexbuf[index++] = 2;                                /* object number */
flbuf = float2byte(mfTargX);
for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
flbuf = float2byte(mfTargY);
for(i = 0; i < 4; i++) vexbuf[index++] = flbuf[i];
to_vex(index);
wd_pos(WIND1, mfTargX, mfTargY);
return(memSacList[currstim].ecode);
}

int to_ramp_start()
{
    int index;

```

```

index = 0;
vexbuf[index++] = TO_RAMP_START;
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* object number */
vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* ramp number */
to_vex(index);
return(0);
}

int wndxctr = 0;
int wndyctr = 0;
int wndsiz = 5;
ctr_wnd()
{
    wd_pos(WIND0, wndxctr, wndyctr);
    wd_siz(WIND0, wndsiz, wndsiz);
    wd_siz(WIND1, targsiz, targsiz);
    return (0);
}

int pursuitOn()
{
    int index;

    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SWITCH_STIM;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;   /* turn object on */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}

int start_ramp()
{
    int index;

    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = START_RAMP;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of ramps to start */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* ramp number */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of object on ramp */
    vexbuf[index++] = RA_ONCE; /* run ramp once */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}

int object_location()
{
    short index;

    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = REPORT_LOCATION; /* tells REX where VEX target is */
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                  /* object number */

```

```

        to_vex(index);

        return(0);
    }

    int vex_gate(long flag)
    {
        if(flag) rampFlag = RAMP_ON;
        else rampFlag = RAMP_DONE;
        return(0);
    }

    int resetSwitch()
    {
        vexMessage &= ~TARG_SWITCH;
        return(0);
    }

/*
 * Subroutine that tests the return message from vex
 */
int tstVexMsg()
{
    unsigned char *msg;
    unsigned char code;

    msg = vex_message();/* retrieve message from GLvex */
    if(msg) /* if message is not null */
        code = vex_code(msg);/* returned code */
        if(code == FLOW_RAMP_STOP) rampFlag = RAMP_DONE;
        else if(code == FLOW_RAMP_CHANGE) {
            vexMessage = TARG_SWITCH;
        }
        else if(code == OBJECT_LOCATION) {
            vexMessage = LOCATE;
            vex_location(msg);/* unpack x and y values to globals vx, vy
        */
    }
    else vexMessage = 0;
}

return(0);
}

int targ_wnd(void)
{
    wd_pos(WIND0, vx, vy); /* set position from globals vx, vy */
    wd_siz(WIND0, wndsiz, wndsiz); /* set window size */
    wd_cntrl(WIND0, WD_ON); /* turn window on */

    return(0);
}

int flash_on()

```

```

{
    int index;

    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_STIM_SWITCH;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                                /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_ON;   /* turn object on */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}

int flash_off()
{
    int index;

    index = 0;
    vexbuf[index++] = SET_STIM_SWITCH;
    vexbuf[index++] = 1;                                /* number of objects */
    vexbuf[index++] = 2;                                /* object number */
    vexbuf[index++] = OBJ_OFF; /* turn object on */
    to_vex(index);
    return(0);
}

int goodTrial()
{
    correctTrials++;
    memSacTrialList[currstim].good++;

    if(totalTrials) percentCorrect = (correctTrials * 100) / totalTrials;
    if(memSacTrialList[currstim].total) {
        memSacTrialList[currstim].percent =
            (memSacTrialList[currstim].good * 100) /
            memSacTrialList[currstim].total;
    }
    return(0);
}

int badTrial()
{
    errorTrials++;
    memSacTrialList[currstim].bad++;

    if(totalTrials) percentCorrect = (correctTrials * 100) / totalTrials;
    if(memSacTrialList[currstim].total) {
        memSacTrialList[currstim].percent =
            (memSacTrialList[currstim].good * 100) /
            memSacTrialList[currstim].total;
    }
    return(0);
}

rinitf()

```

```

{
    char *port = GLVEX_PORT_STR;
    char *host = "lsr-sgia";
    char *subnet = 0;

    pcsSetPeerAddr(host, port);
    pcsAllocPassiveSocket(subnet, port);

    wd_disp(D_W_EYE_X);
    wd_src_pos(WIND0, WD_DIRPOS, 0, WD_DIRPOS, 0);
    wd_src_check(WIND0, WD_SIGNAL, 0, WD_SIGNAL, 1);
    wd_src_pos(WIND1, WD_DIRPOS, 0, WD_DIRPOS, 0);
    wd_src_check(WIND1, WD_SIGNAL, 0, WD_SIGNAL, 1);
    wd_center(CU_CENTER);
    wd_cntrl(WIND0, WD_ON);
    wd_cntrl(WIND1, WD_ON);
    return (0);
}

VLIST state_vl[] = {
    "fixWndSiz",    &wndsiz,      NP,          NP,          0,          ME_DEC,
    "fix_x_ctr",    &wdxctr,     NP,          NP,          0,          ME_DEC,
    "fix_y_ctr",    &wndyctr,    NP,          NP,          0,          ME_DEC,
    "targWndsiz",   &targsiz,    NP,          NP,          0,          ME_DEC,
    NS,
};

char hm_sv_vl[] = "";

MENU umenus[] = {
    "state_vars",   &state_vl,    NP,          NP,          0,          NP,hm_sv_vl,
    NS,
};

void f_setTargs(int xpos, int ypos)
{
    mfTargX = xpos;
    mfTargY = ypos;
    return;
}

USER_FUNC ufuncs[] = {
    {"setTargets",   &f_setTargs, "%d %d"}, 
    {""}, 
};

RTVAR rtvars[] = {
    {"blocks completed", &blockcount},
    {"trials completed", &totalTrials},
    {"block trials left", &trialCounter},
    {"tot correct trls", &correctTrials},
    {"tot error trls", &errorTrials},
    {"tot prcnt right", &percentCorrect},
    {"25 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[0].percent},
    {"50 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[1].percent},
};

```

```

    {"100 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[2].percent},
    {"200 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[3].percent},
    {"400 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[4].percent},
    {"800 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[5].percent},
    {"1600 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[6].percent},
    {"25 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[7].percent},
    {"50 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[8].percent},
    {"100 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[9].percent},
    {"200 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[10].percent},
    {"400 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[11].percent},
    {"800 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[12].percent},
    {"1600 prcnt right", &memSacTrialList[13].percent},
    {"", 0},
};

%%

id 300
restart rinitf
main {
stat ON
begin      first:
                    to disabl
disabl:
                    to enable on -PSTOP & softswitch /* paradigm enabled? */
enable:
                    code ENABLECD
                    rl 0
                    to pcktarg
pcktarg:
                    do pick_ramp_direction()
                    to fpncmd on 0 % tst_rx_new
fpncmd:
                    do on_fix()
                    to awnopn on 0 % tst_rx_new
awnopn:
                    code FPONCD
                    do awind(OPEN_W)
                    rl 10
                    to waitfix
waitfix:
                    do ctr_wnd()
                    time 1000
                    to fixtim on -WD0_XY & eyeflag
                    to error
fixtim:
                    time 400
                    rand 400
                    rl 20
                    to error on +WD0_XY & eyeflag
                    to setrmp
setrmp:
                    do to_ramp_start()
                    to tgncmd on 0 % tst_rx_new
tgncmd:

```

```

        do pursuitOn()
        to fpfcmd on 0 % tst_rx_new

fpfcmd:
        do off_fix()
        rl 30
        to strtramp on 0 % tst_rx_new

strtramp:
        do start_ramp()
        to rampon on 0 % tst_rx_new

rampon:
        do vex_gate(1)
        rl 40
        to flshoncmd
        to waitsac on +RAMP_DONE & rampFlag

flshoncmd:
        do flash_on()
        to timefish on +TARG_SWITCH & vexMessage
        to waitsac on +RAMP_DONE & rampFlag

timefish:
        code TARGONCD
        do resetSwitch()
        rl 50
        time 100
        to waitsac on +RAMP_DONE & rampFlag
        to floffcmd

floffcmd:
        do flash_off()
        to ramprun on +TARG_SWITCH & vexMessage
        to waitsac on +RAMP_DONE & rampFlag

ramprun:
        code TARGOFFCD
        do resetSwitch()
        rl 40
        to waitsac on +RAMP_DONE & rampFlag

waitsac:
        code FPOFFCD
        time 100
        rl 60
        to waittarg on +WD0_XY & eyeflag
        to error

waittarg:
        code SACSTARTCD
        time 100
        to correct on -WD1_XY & eyeflag
        to error

correct:
        code REWCD
        do goodTrial()
        to rewon

rewon:
        do dio_on(REW)
        rl 35
        time 50
        to rewoff

```

```

rewoff:
    do dio_off(REW)
    to last
error:
    code ERRCD
    do badTrial()
    time 1000
    rl 25
    to last
last:
    do awind(CLOSE_W)
    rl 15
    to first
abort:
    rewoff
    last
}

/*
 * move eye win to follow ramp object
 */
move_win {
status ON
begin    mfirst:
            to halt
halt:
            to qrywts on -PSTOP & softswitch
qrywts:
            to qryvex on +RAMP_ON & rampFlag
qryvex:
            do object_location()
            to tstmsg on 0 % tst_rx_new
tstmsg:
            do tstVexMsg()
            to stgwnd on +LOCATE & vexMessage
            to wait
stgwnd:
            do targ_wnd()
            to tstmsg on 0 % tst_rx_new
            to wait
wait:
            time 50
            to tstmsg on 0 % tst_rx_new
            to halt on +RAMP_DONE & rampFlag
            to qryvex

```

# MEX User's Manual

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## Overview

Mex is a program that allows you to classify in real time multiple neuronal waveforms from a micro electrode and to use neuronal waveforms as triggering events for antidromic collisions experiments. Mex can save neuronal waveforms to disk for later classification. Mex can also save data from antidromic collision experiments to disk for subsequent display. Mex is designed either to interface with the Rex real-time data acquisition and control program, or to run in a stand alone mode for use with other data acquisition programs.

Mex runs under the QNX Momentics 6.2 and 6.3.x real time platform operating systems with the Photon microGUI. Two cards, a high speed analog to digital card for data input and a digital I/O card for signaling the acceptance of waveforms. Currently, Mex supports the Measurement Computing PCI-DAS4020/12 12 bit high speed A/D board, the Measurement Computing PCI-DAS6070 12 bit A/D board, the UEI PowerDaq PD2-MF-16-1M/12L 12 bit A/D board and the UEI PowerDaq PD2-MF-16-3M/12L 12 bit A/D board. The DAS4020 board accepts inputs from up to 4 electrodes. The DAS6070 board, the PD2-MF-16-1M/12L board, and the PD2-MF-16-3M/12L board accept inputs from up to 8 electrodes. Mex supports the Kontron PCI-DIO24, PCI-DIO48, and PCI-DIO120 digital I/O boards. Mex also requires an ethernet card to interface with Rex.

## Known Problems

There are several known problems with Mex.

- First: if you open the antidromic dialog, deliver single antidromic shocks, close the antidromic dialog, then try to open it again, Mex will freeze. You will need to reboot the computer using the power or reset switch to recover. If this happens, run the chksys command to repair the disks. Next start and stop Mex without starting the clock. This resets the A/D board. This problem does not occur if you deliver trains of antidromic pulses. Solution: if you open the antidromic dialog, don't close it until you are ready to exit Mex.
- Second: if you set the oscilloscope display interval to values between 100 and 133 milliseconds (max displayed values 90.00 to 120.00) and deliver single antidromic shocks, the data buffer will get out of sync, making the waveforms vary widely in amplitude and shape. Solution: start and stop the clock to re synchronize the data buffer. Use oscilloscope display intervals less than 100 or greater than 135 milliseconds when doing antidromic stimulation.
- Third: if you set the display interval to greater than 80 milliseconds (max displayed value 71.9), deliver antidromic shocks, then try to measure the times of events in the waveforms using the timing cursors, the antidromic display will be erased. Solution: use display intervals of less than 80 milliseconds if you want to use the timing cursors.

## Mex 2.9

Mex 2.9 adds a display to show average spike triggered waveform shapes.

## **Mex 2.8**

Mex 2.8 has been ported to Qnx 6.3.x so that it can run under Qnx 6.2.1 and Qnx 6.3.x. Mex 2.8 adds a switch to the oscilloscope display that allows that display to run in an untriggered mode. In this untriggered mode, the threshold slider still controls the level which the signal must exceed to identify a spike waveform. Thus, the threshold slider still controls what will be displayed in the waveform views, but the oscilloscope display can display the signal even when it never exceeds the trigger level.

Mex 2.8 fixes the bug which caused Mex to crash if you closed the antidromic dialog after having delivered antidromic pulses.

## **Mex 2.7**

Mex 2.7 adds the ability to save long records of the input from the electrodes to disk. These records can be from 1 to 10 seconds long. The records must be triggered from Rex and can be stopped or canceled from Rex.

## **Mex 2.6**

Mex 2.6 adds counters to the antidromic dialog that record the number of one-shot antidromic pulses given. **NOTE WELL:** For the time being, once you have delivered an antidromic stimulus in Mex 2.6, you cannot close the dialog. Closing the antidromic dialog will cause Mex to lock up and freeze the operating system. The only recourse is to reboot the computer. I am investigating the cause of this behavior but have not found the answer.

## **Mex 2.5**

Mex 2.5 adds the ability to send sorted spikes to an amplifier to provide auditory feedback. To utilize this feature, you will need to buy a second 24 bit or 48 bit digital IO card, or you will need to replace your current digital IO card with a PCI-DIO-120 120 bit digital IO card. You will also need to buy STB-50 screw terminal cards. Each STB-50 card supports up to 4 electrodes.

## **Mex 2.4**

Mex 2.4 fixes a bug which caused mex to freeze when trying to save waveforms to a second file. Mex 2.4 also adds features that improve its support for antidromic stimulation. The first feature is the ability to drive up to 8 stimulating electrodes. The antidromic control dialog has been changed to support this feature. The second is the ability to subtract the antidromic shock artifact waveform from the data. The antidromic display now displays a marker to indicate the time of the antidromic shock.

## **Mex 2.3**

Mex 2.3 improves the reliability of the spike sorting displays, reducing the tendency to freeze up. Mex 2.3 adds support for the Measurement Computing DAS 6070 A/D board.

Mex 2.3 also adds a number of features. The first feature is a new display for antidromic stimulation. This display shows data aligned on the occurrence of the antidromic stimulation pulse. The display also includes two cursors that allow users to measure the interval between the antidromic shock artifact and the evoked action potential. The second feature is the ability to trigger an antidromic pulse on selected neurons as well as on the threshold level of the input waveform. This makes it easier to use small spikes to trigger antidromic stimulation. The third feature allows users to limit the rate of antidromic stimulation. Users can set the maximum number of pulses or can deliver a single pulse.

## **Mex 2.0**

Mex 2.0 eliminates the necessity of running the cal4020 program after starting the computer. Mex 2.0 also adds support for the UEI PowerDaq PD2-MF-16-1M/12L 12 bit A/D board.

## **Mex 1.1**

Mex 1.1 adds two features. The first is the ability to mark the beginnings and ends of Rex trials. A new Rex action called mwind allows users to send a code to Mex indicating the beginning or end of a trial. This information can be used by offline spike sorting programs to distinguish between neuronal activity that occurred during a trial from that which occurred during the inter trial interval. With this information, neuronal classification algorithms can avoid being biased by activity that is not determined by experimental conditions.

The second feature is the ability to save overlapping samples of neuronal waveforms. In conditions of low signal to noise, sampling may be triggered by random fluctuations in the signal that precede the actual spike. In this instance, the neuronal spike occurs late in the epoch causing it to be missed by classification algorithms. To deal with situation, Mex 1.1 begins sampling when the signal crosses the threshold, but continues to test the input against the trigger conditions. If, during a sample, the signal level drops below threshold then crosses the threshold again, Mex begins collecting a new sample from the new threshold crossing while continuing to collect the original sample. Mex 1.1 can save up to 20 overlapping waveforms.

## **Interface Boards**

The Measurement Computing DAS 4020 board does not need any special interface cards or cables. This board has 4 BNC connectors that accept coax cables from the electrode amplifiers. To interface with the Measurement Computing DAS 6070 board you will need the BNC-16D1 BNC interface box and the C100HD50-X cable. To interface with the PD2-MF-16-1M/12L card or the PD2-MF-16-3M/12L card you will need the PD-BNC-16-KIT. This kit includes the PD-BNC-16 interface panel, a 1 meter long PD-CBL-96 cable, and a PD-CBL-37 ribbon cable.

If you plan to do antidromic collision tests you will need a screw terminal board and a cable. For the DAS4020 you will need the CIO MINI37 screw terminal board, the BP40-37 cable and the C37FFS-X cable. For the DAS6070 board you will ned the CIO MINI50 screw terminal board. This board connects to the PINS 51-100 branch of the C100HD50-X cable. For the PD-MF-16-1M/12L and PD-MF-16-3M/12L boards you will need to connect the external part of the PD-CBL-37 cable to the screw terminal part of the PD-BNC-16 board.

## **Theory of Operation**

Mex samples the analog inputs at from 1 to 2 mega samples per second, depending on which A/D card you use. With the DAS 4020 card, Mex samples at 2 mega samples per second. With the DAS 6070 or the PD2-MF-16-1M/12L cards, Mex samples at 1.024 mega samples per second. Mex distributes the samples across the number of electrodes that you are using. If you use one electrode, Mex samples that electrode at the full rate. If you use 4 electrodes, Mex samples each electrode at one quarter of the full rate. Mex processes the analog data in discrete intervals. With the Measurement Computing DAS 4020 or DAS 6070 boards and the UEI PowerDaq PD2-MF-16-3M/12L, Mex processes the data every 256 microseconds. With the UEI Powerdaq PD2-MF-16-1M/12L board, Mex process the data every 512 microseconds.

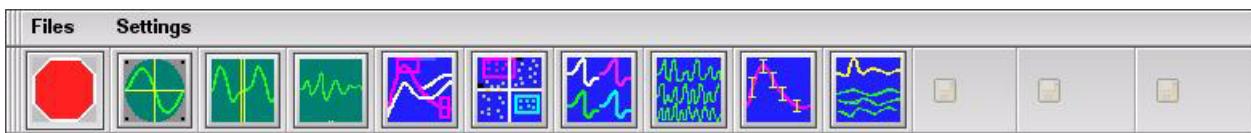
For neuronal classification, when the signal on any electrode satisfies trigger conditions, Mex extracts a waveform from that input at a 50KHz rate. This waveform includes one half millisecond of data prior to the trigger, and from 0.1 to 8.0 milliseconds of data after the trigger. If you want to save waveforms, Mex writes these waveforms to disk, together with the times, in milliseconds, of the trigger crossings. If you have connected Mex with Rex using the Rex Connection dialog, these times will be the Rex time stamps. Otherwise the time stamps will start at 0.

Once Mex has acquired the waveform, it can use two methods to classify it. One method is time and amplitude. This method uses two types of boxes, acceptance boxes and rejection boxes. Mex classifies the waveform as originating from a neuron if the waveform does pass through each of the acceptance boxes and does not pass through any of the rejection boxes that you set for that neuron. The second method is parameter clusters. Mex computes 6 parameters for each waveform; waveform peak, waveform valley, time of peak relative to the trigger, time of valley relative to trigger, peak minus valley, amplitude (peak minus valley), and width, (peak time minus valley time). Mex classifies a waveform as originating from a neuron if these parameters of the waveform fall within the ranges you specify for that neuron. Both methods may be used together. If the waveform satisfies your criteria for the neuron, Mex toggles a bit from in the digital I/O. When interfaced to Rex, the bit remains set for 1 millisecond.

For antidromic collision tests, when the signal on the selected electrode satisfies the trigger conditions, Mex starts a timer. To determine the value for the timer, Mex computes the number of microseconds between the time in the current processing interval at which the triggering event occurred and the end of the processing interval. Mex then subtracts this time from the delay that you specify. Once the timer count down is complete, Mex toggles a bit in the digital I/O. This bit should be connected to the trigger input of stimulator. By default, the bit will be set for 10 microseconds, but you can select durations of 50 or 100 microseconds. Mex continues to display data for the interval you selected. By setting the display interval longer than the stimulation delay, you can see both the shock artifact and whether the shock evoked an action potential. If you save antidromic data to disk. Mex will save data beginning one half millisecond before the trigger and continue for the interval you specify. Two criteria can be used for the antidromic trigger condition. If you have spike selection boxes set, Mex will send a trigger pulse after a waveform has been successfully classified. If you do not have any selection boxes, Mex will send a trigger pulse as soon as the input waveform crosses the threshold level.

## Configuring Mex

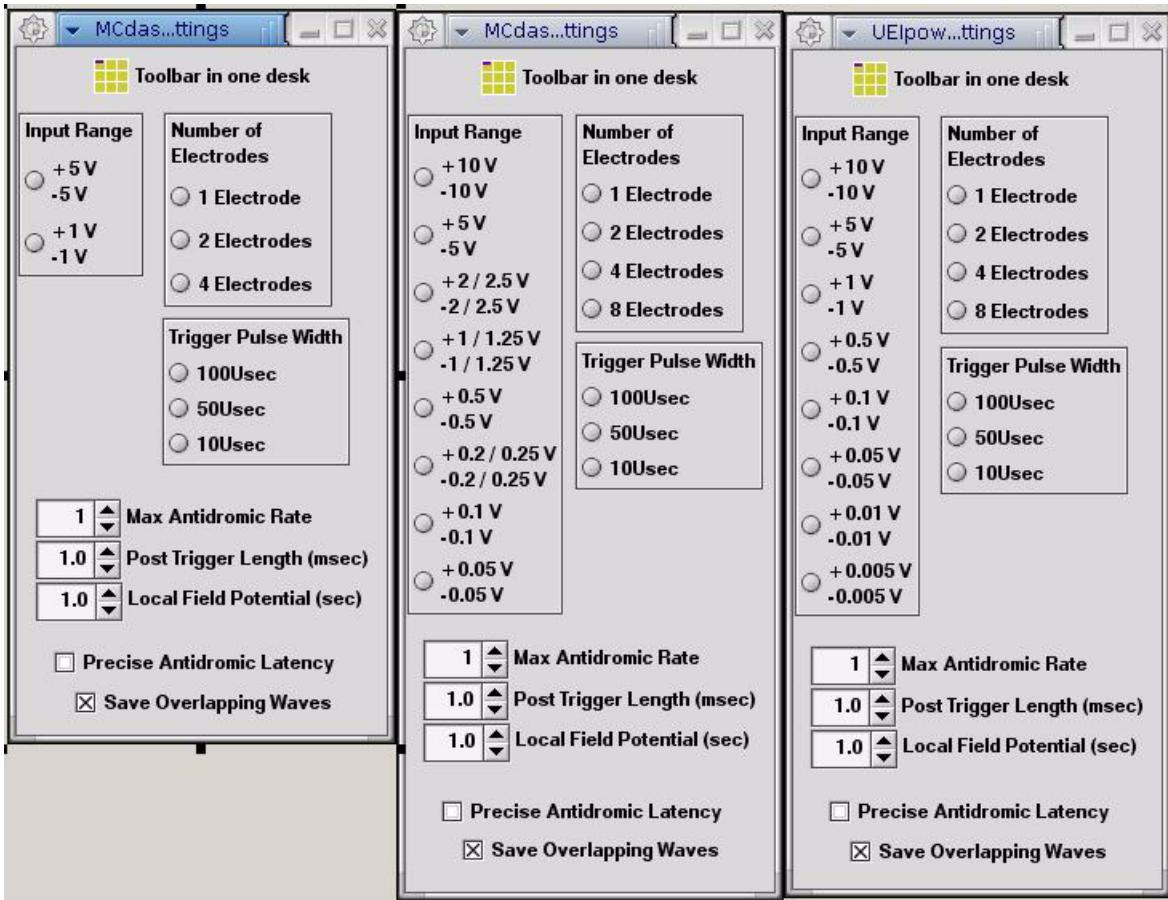
*Calibration.* After rebooting your computer and before running versions of Mex before 2.0, you must run the calibration program for the Measurement Computing PCI-DAS4020/12 A/D board. If you have installed the executable files in the default location (/usr/local/bin), in a terminal window type "cal4020". This program will generate a large amount of output which you can ignore. After it exits, the A/D board will be ready to function. You don't need to run the calibration each time you start Mex. It is necessary only after rebooting the computer.



*Launching.* To start Mex, type "mex" in a terminal window. After about 10 seconds, the Mex tool bar will appear in the upper left corner of the screen. If you have saved a root file from a previous run, you can start Mex by typing "mex -r rootfile". Mex will start with the configuration specified in the root file.

## Settings

The first time you run Mex you must configure its operation. Click on the Settings button in the Mex menu bar. This will bring up the settings dialog box. This figure shows the settings dialogs for the



four A/D boards that Mex supports. Mex will automatically display the correct dialog for your A/D board. Your options are as follows:

**Toolbar in one desk.** By default, the Mex tool bar is placed on only one of the nine Photon desktops. Clicking on this toggle button will cause the tool bar to be placed on all desktops. This option is useful if you spread your displays out over several desktops.

**Input Range.** The DAS4020 board has two input ranges indicated by the two radio buttons. The DAS-6070 and the Powerdaq boards have 8 input ranges. The default is +- 5volts. You should select the range that displays your signals at the greatest range without clipping. If you select too small a range, signals will be clipped and shape information will be lost. If you select too large a range, signals will not be represented with full 12 bit precision.

**Number of Electrodes.** With the DAS4020 board, Mex can record from up to 4 electrodes. With the DAS-6070 and the Powerdaq boards, Mex can record from up to 8 electrodes. There is no default number, you must select one of these values or Mex will not work. If you want to record from 3 electrodes, select the 4 electrode option and ground the unused input. You should select only the number of electrodes you are using so that Mex can sample your signals with the greatest precision.

**Trigger Pulse Width.** When doing antidromic stimulation, you can set the trigger pulse width to 10, 50, or 100 microseconds. The default value is 10 microseconds. You should use the default value unless the device you use for antidromic stimulation cannot be reliably triggered by a 10 microsecond pulse. In all cases, the trigger pulse is a TTL pulse that switches from 0 to 5 volts and back.

**Max Antidromic Rate.** When doing antidromic stimulation, it is often useful to restrict the rate at which stimulation is given. The default rate is 1 pulse per second. This can be increased to 20 pulses per second. For further control of antidromic stimulation, Mex can also deliver single pulses (see the oscilloscope display).

**Post Trigger Length.** This item allows you to select the length of a neuron's waveform. The default is 1 millisecond. You can set this from 0.1 to 8.0 milliseconds after the threshold crossing. Mex begins classifying a waveform only after it has obtained the complete waveform. The classification routine takes between 3 and 10 microseconds. Thus, if you set the unit length to 1 millisecond, Mex will toggle the bit signifying acceptance of the waveform 1.003 to 1.010 milliseconds after threshold crossing. If you set the unit length to 4 milliseconds Mex cannot toggle the bit signifying waveform acceptance until 4.003 to 4.010 milliseconds after threshold crossing. Therefore, you should set this value to be as small as possible while still capturing the significant details of the neuronal waveform.

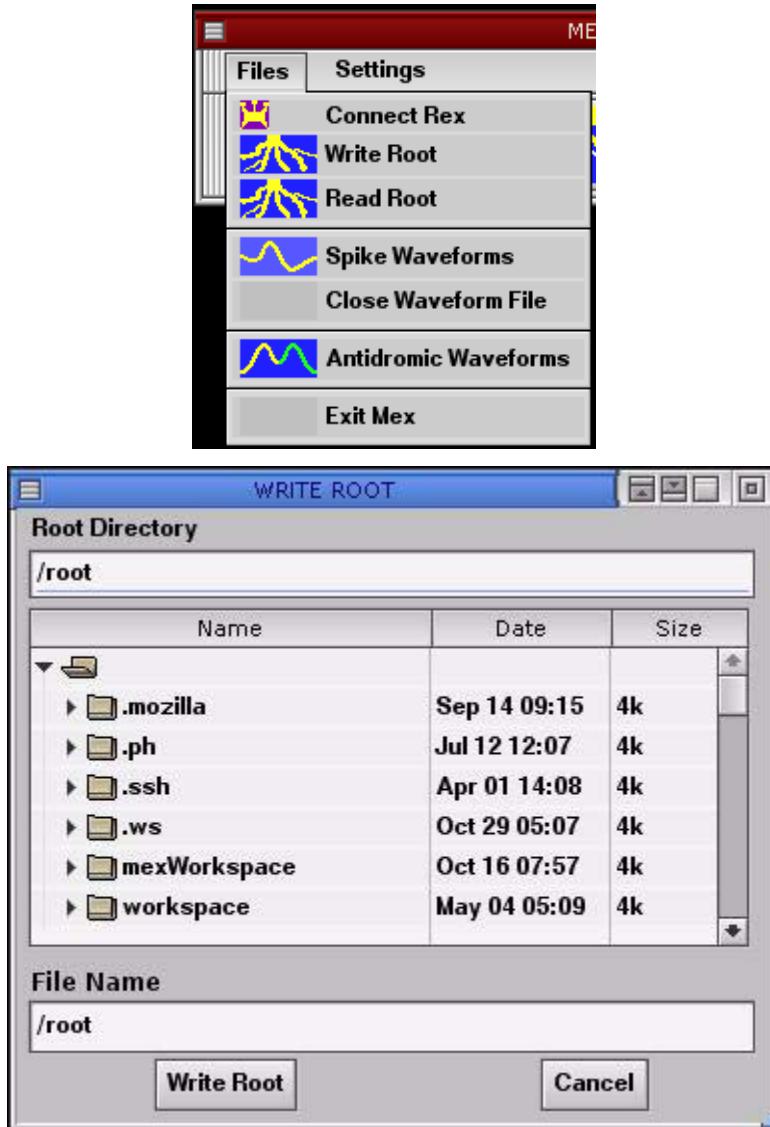
**Local Field Potential (sec.).** This item allows you to select the maximum length of the input from the electrodes to be saved to disk. You can set this from 1.0 to 10.0 seconds.

**Precise Antidromic Latency.** As described above, Mex processes data every 256 or 512 microseconds, depending on the type of A/D board you have. This processing rate sets a limit on the degree of precision with which Mex can time the delivery of an antidromic pulse after a triggering event has occurred in the data. Mex does improve on this limit somewhat using the following technique. If an antidromic triggering event occurs in a processing interval, Mex computes the time between the event and the end of the interval. Mex subtracts this offset from the antidromic stimulation delay that you specify to compute the value to use in arming the antidromic timer. This technique breaks down at very short antidromic delays. The minimum value that can be used for the antidromic timer is 50 microseconds. If the triggering event in the data occurs very early in the processing, the difference between the antidromic stimulation delay and the event offset may be less than 50 microseconds. In this case what Mex does depends on whether you set the Precise Antidromic Toggle. If you set this toggle and the difference between the antidromic delay and the event offset is less than 50 microseconds, Mex does not arm the timer and no antidromic stimulation is given. If you do not set this toggle, Mex arms the timer with 50 microseconds, and an antidromic stimulation will be given. This toggle has no effect at longer antidromic delays.

**Save Overlapping Waves.** When the input signal crosses the threshold, Mex starts saving a waveform. Normally, Mex continues to look for threshold crossings as it saves the waveform. If the input signal crosses the threshold before the previous waveform is complete, Mex will start saving a new waveform, one that overlaps with the previous waveform. The reason for this is as follows. When the threshold is set low, noise in the signal can trigger the saving of a waveform just before a neuron fires. This causes the neuron's action potential to occur late in the waveform, which, in turn, causes the action potential to be missed by the classification routines. By saving overlapping waveforms, this action potential can be properly captured. However, this behavior may not always be desirable. If you unset this toggle, Mex will not look for threshold crossings the previous waveform is complete.

## Roots

After you have entered the settings and launched and positioned the displays, you can save this information to a file so that you can start Mex again with the same settings and display geometry. Click on the Write Root entry in the Files menu to bring up the file selection dialog. Enter the directory and



file name and click Save. Once you have a root file, you can have Mex read it at start up by entering the name of the file after the -r command line argument ("mex -r root"), or you can have Mex read a root after it has started by clicking on the Read Root entry in the Files menu and entering the name in the file selection dialog.

If you don't save your settings to a root file, you will have to enter them in the Settings dialog each time you start Mex.

## Saving Data

**Sockets.** If you want to save data for offline analysis, you will need to create TCP/IP sockets between your Mex and Rex machines. To test if the connections will work, in a Photon terminal window on the Mex machine run the command "ping rex\_machine", and in a Photon terminal window on the Rex

machine run the command "ping mex\_machine". These commands should result in a number of lines of output showing the IP address of the target machine and the time it took to receive each packet. If ping



```
# ping lsr-labrtp
PING lsr-labrtp.lsrnet.nei.nih.gov (10.1.0.229): 56 data bytes
64 bytes from 10.1.0.229: icmp_seq=0 ttl=255 time=0 ms
64 bytes from 10.1.0.229: icmp_seq=1 ttl=255 time=0 ms
64 bytes from 10.1.0.229: icmp_seq=2 ttl=255 time=0 ms

--- lsr-labrtp.lsrnet.nei.nih.gov ping statistics ---
3 packets transmitted, 3 packets received, 0% packet loss
round-trip min/avg/max = 0/0/0 ms
#
```

seems to hang, then your host machine cannot resolve the IP address of your target machine. You will need to examine the host file or DNS name resolution to find the problem. Type control-C in the terminal window to stop ping.

To establish the socket from the Mex side, select the Connect Rex item from the Files menu. This will bring up a dialog in which you enter the name of your Rex computer. After entering the name, hit the Enter key on the keyboard or click the OK button in the dialog. Mex will establish the socket and



remove the dialog. *Note: you must enter the name of the Rex machine, not the IP address.* If you try to open a file to save data without having created the TCP/IP socket to Rex, Mex will automatically bring up the connection dialog as a reminder. Once you have established a socket to a Rex computer, you cannot close it and open a connection to another Rex computer.

You establish the socket from the Rex side in your spot files just as you do for GLvex. In each spot file you must define a restart function. The beginning of the first chain of states should look something like:

```
%%
id 100
restart rinitf
main_set {
status ON
begin      first:
.
```

In this example, rinitf is the name of the restart function. You can call it anything you want. This function is called whenever you start a paradigm using the r p command, reset the states using the r s menu command, or return to a paradigm using the c p command. If you use both GLvex and Mex, the restart function should look something like:

```
rinitf(void) {
    char *vexHost = "lsr-labVex"; /* name of the GLvex machine as defined in /etc/hosts */
    char *mexHost = "lsr-labMex";/* name of Mex machine as defined in /etc/hosts */

    pcsConnectMex(mexHost);/* open a udp socket to the Mex machine */
    pcsConnectVex(vexHost);/* open a udp socket to the Vex machine */
```

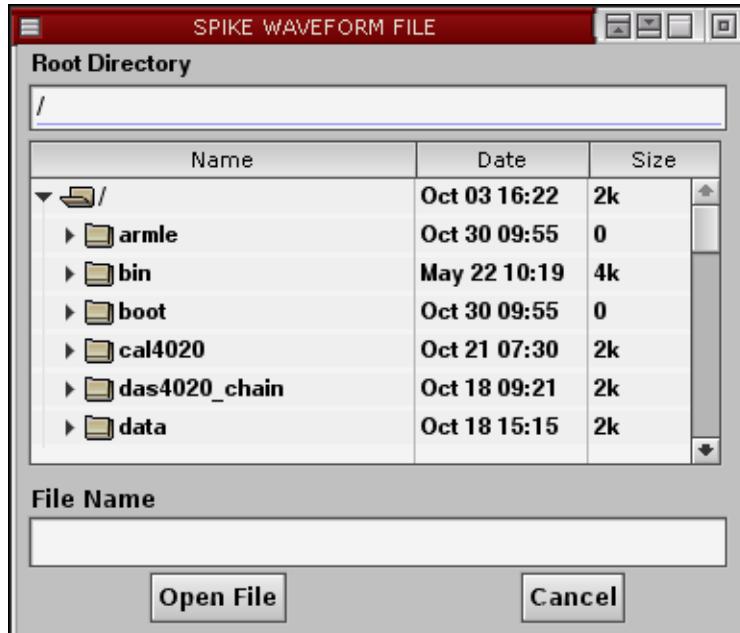
```

wd_disp(D_W_EYE_X);
.
.
.
}

```

If, at another time, you use this spot file without Mex, you must remove the statement opening the socket to the Mex machine. Otherwise you will get a stream of socket error messages when you run your spot file.

**Data Files.** To open files for saving data, select the Spike Waveforms, Antidromic Waveforms, or



Local Field Potentials entry from the Files menu. Enter the file name in the File Name box and press Enter or click on the Open File button. You can save spike waveform, antidromic waveform data, and local field potential data simultaneously.

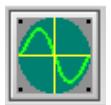
## Toolbar

After you have entered the settings for Mex, you will be able to bring up its various displays and start data collection. These actions are controlled by the large buttons below the menu bar in the Mex tool bar. If you hover the mouse cursor over a button, a brief message pops up to the right of the button

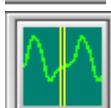


describing what the button does.

**Clock.** The left most button with the red octagon starts and stops the Mex clock. When the clock is stopped, the icon for this button is a red octagon. When the clock is running, the icon for this button is a green circle.



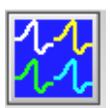
**Displays.** The next eight buttons launch Mex's displays. The first display button brings up Mex's oscilloscope displays. Use the oscilloscope displays to set the trigger levels and slopes for detecting neuron waveforms and to set the latency for antidromic stimulation.



The second button brings up Mex's antidromic display. The antidromic display shows data that are aligned on antidromic triggering pulse. This display shows the records that are written to the antidromic waveform file.



The third button brings up Mex's local field potential display. The LFP display shows from 1 to 10 seconds of the input from the selected electrode. The beginning of the record is set from Rex, so if you have not created a TCP/IP socket when you open this display, Mex will bring up the Rex Connection Dialog as a reminder. This display shows what will be written to disk.



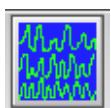
The fourth display button brings up Mex's waveform displays. The waveform displays show each waveform extracted from an electrode's signal and how Mex has classified it; as unclassified, or as belonging to neuron 1, 2, or 3. If you save waveform data, this display shows all of the waveforms that Mex saves to disk.



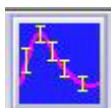
The fifth display button launches Mex's time and amplitude discrimination window. This display plots each waveform extracted from an electrode's signal and allows you to place windows that Mex can use to classify the waveform as belonging to a specific neuron.



The sixth display button launches Mex's parameter cluster window. Mex plots the parameters of the waveforms it extracts an electrode's signal in this window and allows you to place boxes around clusters of points to specify neurons.



The seventh display button launches Mex's raw signal display. Mex plots the value of its inputs in this display regardless of trigger conditions. If you lose the signal in the oscilloscope or waveform displays, you can still see something in the signals display. Even if there is no signal on an input, Mex will still plot a flat line for that input.

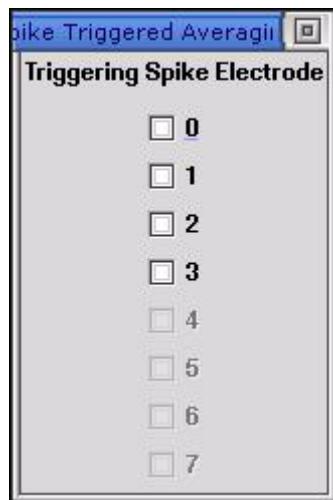


The eighth display button launches Mex's average waveform display. If you are recording from multiple electrodes and you are looking at spike triggered averages, you can see an average of the triggered waveforms classified according to the spike waveform from which they were triggered. If you are recording from only one electrode, this button is inactive.



**Spike Triggered Averaging.** If you are recording from more than one electrode, you can use the signal in one electrode to trigger the saving of waveforms from the other electrodes. For example, one input might be from a high impedance electrode that recording action potentials while another input might be from a low impedance electrode recording field potentials. Click on the spike triggered average dialog button to bring up a dialog that allows you to select the triggering

electrode. Select the input that has the high impedance electrode. Then, every time the signal from the



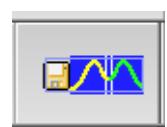
high impedance electrode crosses the threshold, Mex will extract waveforms from all of the electrodes, allowing field potentials to be aligned with action potentials. If you classify the waveforms from the triggering electrode, Mex will apply the same classification to the waveforms from the other electrodes. That is, if a waveform from the triggering electrode meets the purple classification criteria, Mex will classify the waveforms from the other electrodes as purple, etc.

If you are recording from only one electrode, this button is inactive.

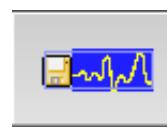
**Saving Data.** The last three button in the tool bar toggle Mex's data saving functions. If you want to save neuronal waveforms for offline sorting or antidromic data for later display, you must first open a data file. Select the Spike Waveforms, Antidromic Waveforms or Local Field Potentials entry from the Files menu and enter the name of the file in the dialog box. Until you open a file and start the clock, the neuronal and antidromic data save buttons are inactive.



The first save button toggles the saving of neuron waveforms. Click the button to toggle saving. While Mex is saving neuron waveforms to disk, the button will display a waveform picture next to the floppy disk picture. Also, the clock button is inactive while saving data. If you want to stop the Mex clock, you must first stop saving data. You can start and stop the saving of waveforms whenever you like while the data file is open. When you are finished, stop saving and close the waveform file by selecting the Close Waveform File item from the Files menu.



The second save button toggles the saving of data during antidromic collision tests. The button remains inactive until you have opened a file and started the clock. While Mex is saving antidromic data to disk, the button will display a waveform picture next to the floppy disk picture. Also, the clock button is inactive. When you stop saving antidromic data, Mex automatically closes the antidromic file.



The third save button toggles the saving of the records from the electrodes. The button remains inactive until you have opened a file and started the clock. While Mex is saving records to disk, the button will display a waveform picture next to the floppy disk picture.

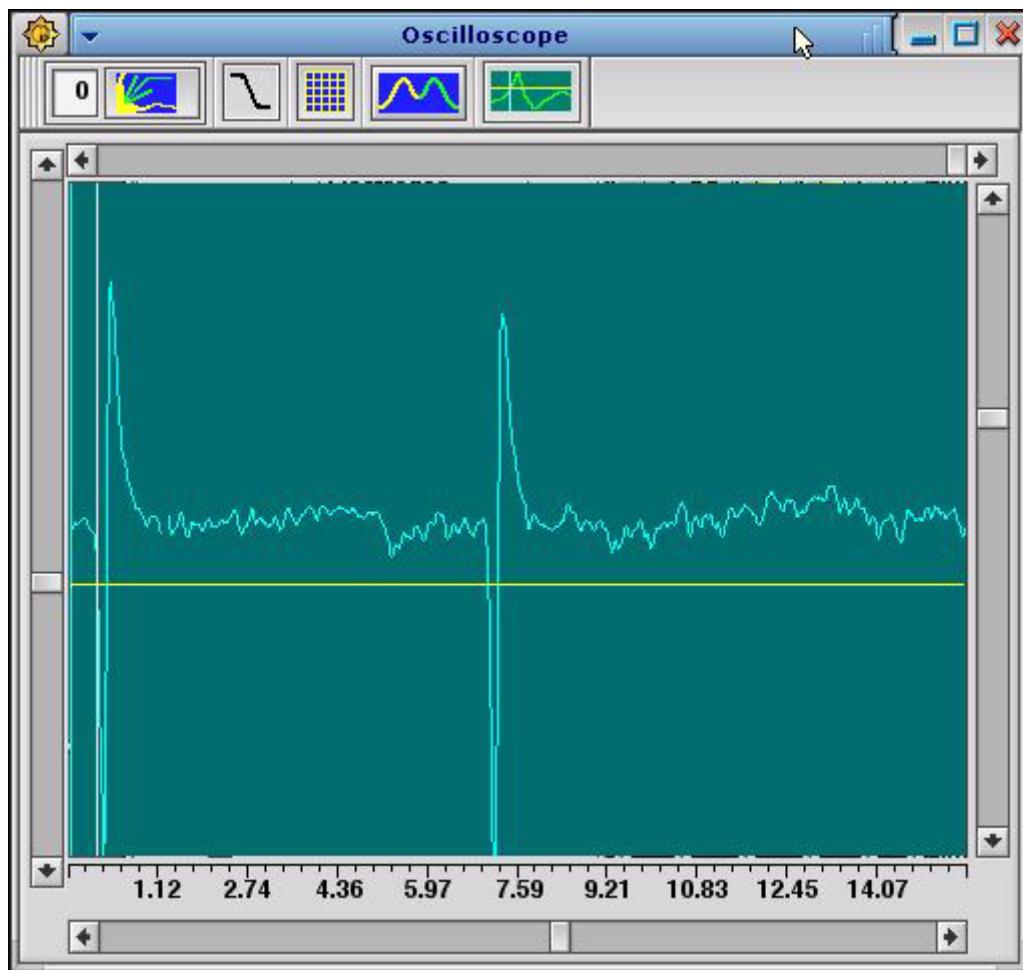
You can start and stop the saving of electrode records whenever you like while the data file is open. When you are finished, stop saving and close the waveform file by selecting the Close LFP File item from the Files menu

## Running Mex

### Displaying Data

#### The Oscilloscope Display

The oscilloscope display has buttons in the menu bar at the top of the display allow you to select the electrode to display (*if you are recording from multiple electrodes*), set the trigger slope, draw a grid



over the display, launch the antidromic dialog and set the triggering mode. If you hover the mouse cursor over a button, a brief dialog will pop up describing what the button does. The scroll bars around the display allow you to set the threshold level, display interval, display gain, and latency of antidromic stimulation. The scale below the display shows the time interval of the display in milliseconds. The vertical white line in the display shows the time of threshold crossing. To the left of the line is the half millisecond of pre threshold data.

The scroll bar on the left, together with the slope button in the menu bar, controls the threshold conditions. You can set the threshold by moving the mouse cursor over the scroll bar slider, pressing the left mouse button, and moving the mouse up or down. A yellow horizontal line will appear indicating the threshold level. This line will disappear as soon as you release the left mouse button. If you want to have the threshold level line to remain on the display, set the level by clicking the left mouse button in

the scroll bar trough above or below the slider. Pick a level and slope combination that best displays the waveform.

The scroll bar on the bottom controls the display interval. You can set the interval by moving the mouse cursor over the scroll bar slider, pressing the left mouse button, and moving the mouse left or right. The labels on the scale will change to reflect times of the tick marks relative to the threshold crossing. The minimum display interval is 1 millisecond, the maximum is 500 milliseconds.

The scroll bar on the right controls the gains of Mex's displays. You can set the gain by moving the mouse cursor over the scroll bar slider, pressing the left mouse button, and moving the mouse up or down, or by clicking the left mouse button in the scroll bar trough or on the arrow buttons above or below the slider. Increasing the display gain may be helpful in discriminating low amplitude waveforms.  
*Note: this scroll bar affects only the displays, not the internal data.*

### Trigger Mode

By default, the oscilloscope display runs in triggered mode. That is, the display only draws a trace when the signal crosses the trigger threshold. In this mode, the trigger mode button shows a yellow

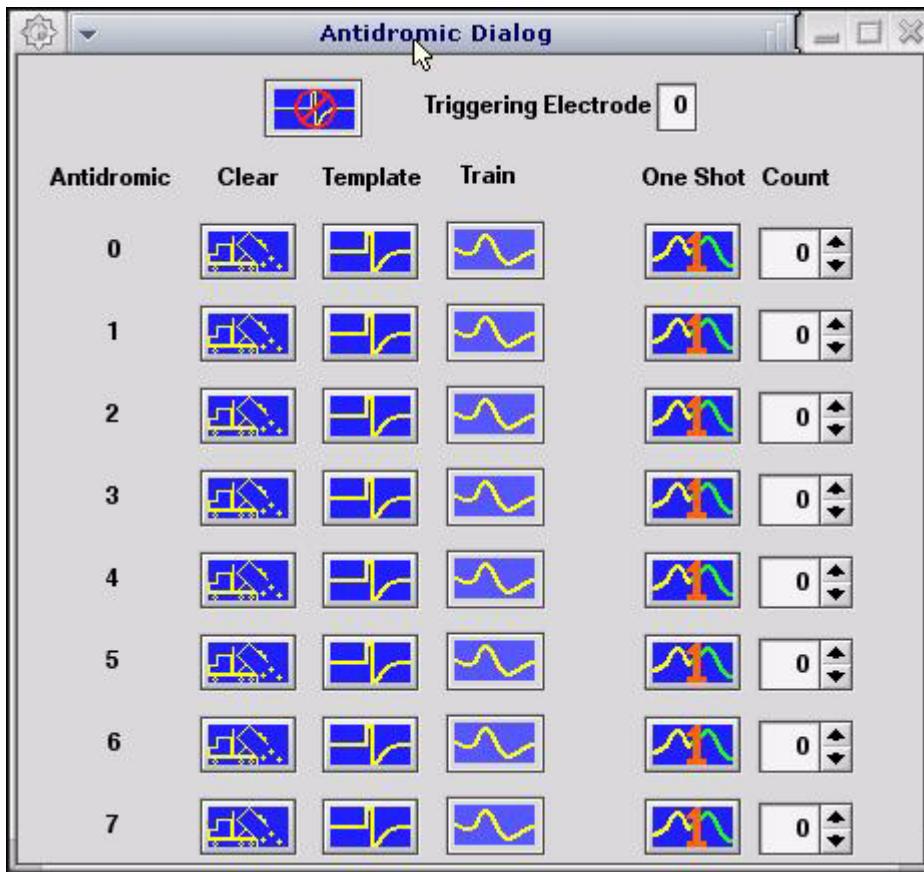
line across the signal.  If you click this button, the oscilloscope display will run in untriggered mode and the yellow line in the button will disappear. Though the oscilloscope displays a signal regardless of whether the signal has crossed the threshold, the threshold still controls the selection of waveforms.

### Antidromic Collision Experiments.

The scroll bar on the top controls the latency between threshold crossing and stimulation for antidromic collision experiments. You can set the latency by moving the mouse cursor over the scroll bar slider, pressing the left mouse button, and moving the mouse left or right. You must set the latency before doing antidromic stimulation. A vertical red line and a value will appear indicating the latency in milliseconds. The value and line will disappear as soon as you release the left mouse button. If you want the latency value and line to remain on the display, set the latency by clicking the left mouse button in the scroll bar trough or on the arrow buttons to the left or right of the slider. The minimum latency is 300 microseconds after the threshold, the maximum is the display interval.

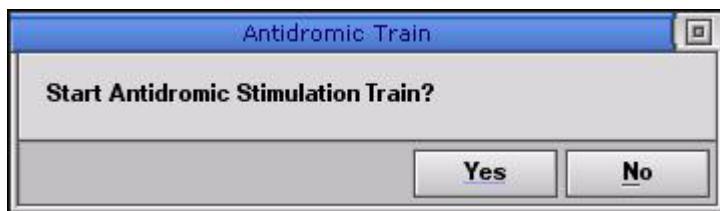
In doing collision experiments, you will probably want to manipulate both the display interval and the antidromic latency until you have a display of the triggering waveform, the shock artifact, and the presence or absence of an evoked waveform. Once you begin saving data for a collision experiment, the display interval scroll bar will become inactive because collision data file can contain waveforms of a single length. If you decide that you really need a different display interval, you will have to stop saving antidromic data and open a new file before saving data at the new interval. Of course the antidromic latency scroll bar remains active.

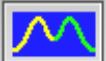
Click on the antidromic button in the oscilloscope menu bar  to bring up the antidromic stimulation control dialog. The text box at the top of the dialog shows which recording electrode will be

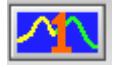


used to trigger antidromic stimulation. You change the triggering electrode by changing the electrode displayed in the oscilloscope display. Each row of buttons controls one of the 8 possible stimulating electrodes. The default label for each row is simply the stimulating electrode number. To provide a more meaningful label, click the label and enter the text you want. The labels will be saved to the root file.

To start a train of antidromic stimulation, click on the  toggle in the column labeled Train. Mex will post this dialog asking you to verify delivering a train of stimuli. The icon in the button



will change to  when Mex enters train antidromic stimulation mode. In train stimulation mode, Mex will deliver an antidromic stimulation for each triggering event, but no more often than you specify with the Max Antidromic Rate variable in the settings dialog.

If you want to deliver a single antidromic stimulation, click on the  one shot button in the oscilloscope menu bar. The button will be grayed out until the antidromic stimulus is delivered. If you want to cancel the single antidromic stimulation before it is given, click on the grayed out button and it will return to normal. The counter on the right keeps track of the number of single stimulations given. You can reset it by using the arrow keys or by entering a number in the counter.

### **Antidromic Shock Suppression.**

Versions of Mex greater than 2.4 are capable of subtracting the waveform that follows electrical stimulation in the brain from the brain. To do this, first position the recording electrodes near the areas of interest. Next, click on the  button in the column labeled Template. Mex will deliver a an unsynchronized pulse to the stimulating electrode and save 8 milliseconds of data from each recording electrode into template buffers. You can average up to 16 shock waveforms by repeatedly clicking the template button. Once Mex has built an antidromic shock waveform template for a stimulating electrode, it will be able to subtract that template from the data recorded at each recording electrode after each antidromic pulse delivered from the stimulating electrode. The toggle button at the top of the display controls whether or not Mex subtracts the templates from the data. When the button image is 

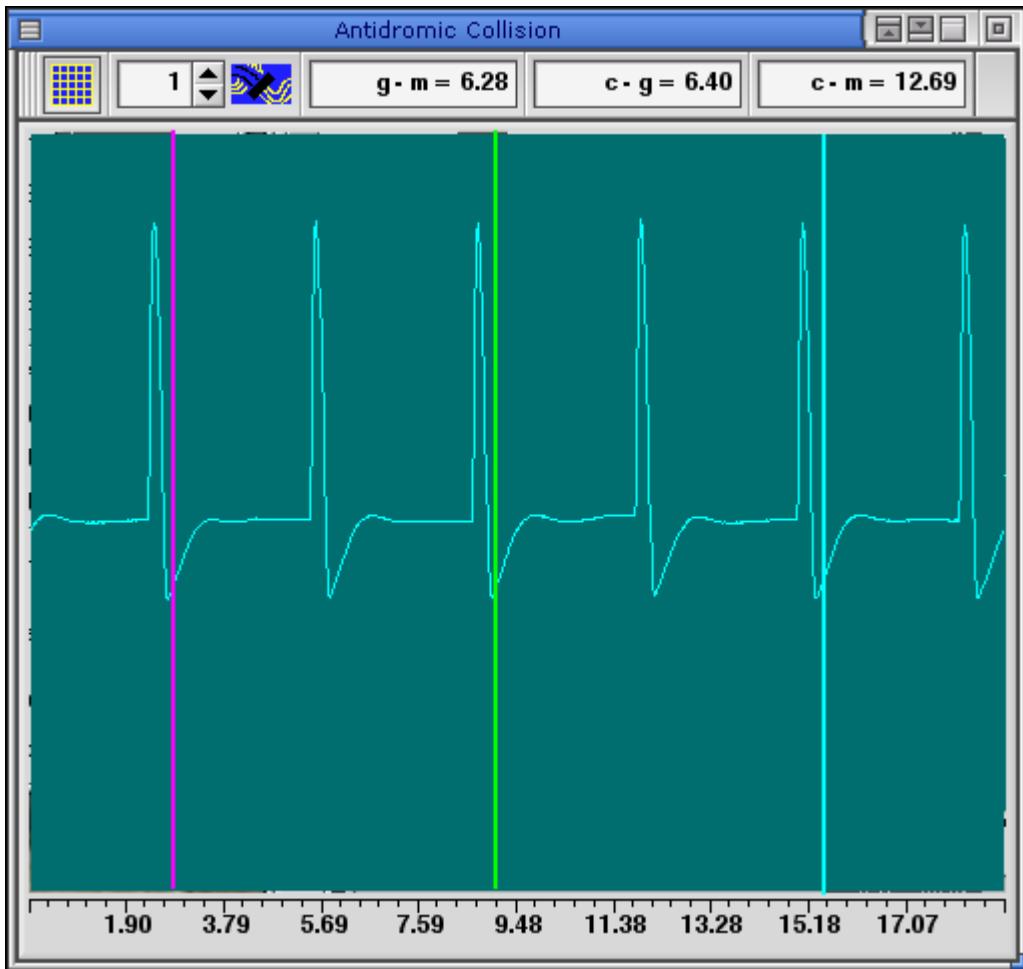
Mex will subtract the antidromic shock artifact waveform. When the button image,  Mex will not subtract the artifact.

If, after advancing the recording electrode, you think that the shock artifact has changed, you can build a new set of templates by clicking on the  button in the Clear column and then clicking on the template button.

### **The Antidromic Display**

Though the shock artifact from antidromic stimulation and the evoked action potential are displayed in the oscilloscope display, they are quickly over written by new data. For this reason Mex

versions 2.3 and later include a display that is triggered on the antidromic stimulation pulse. When



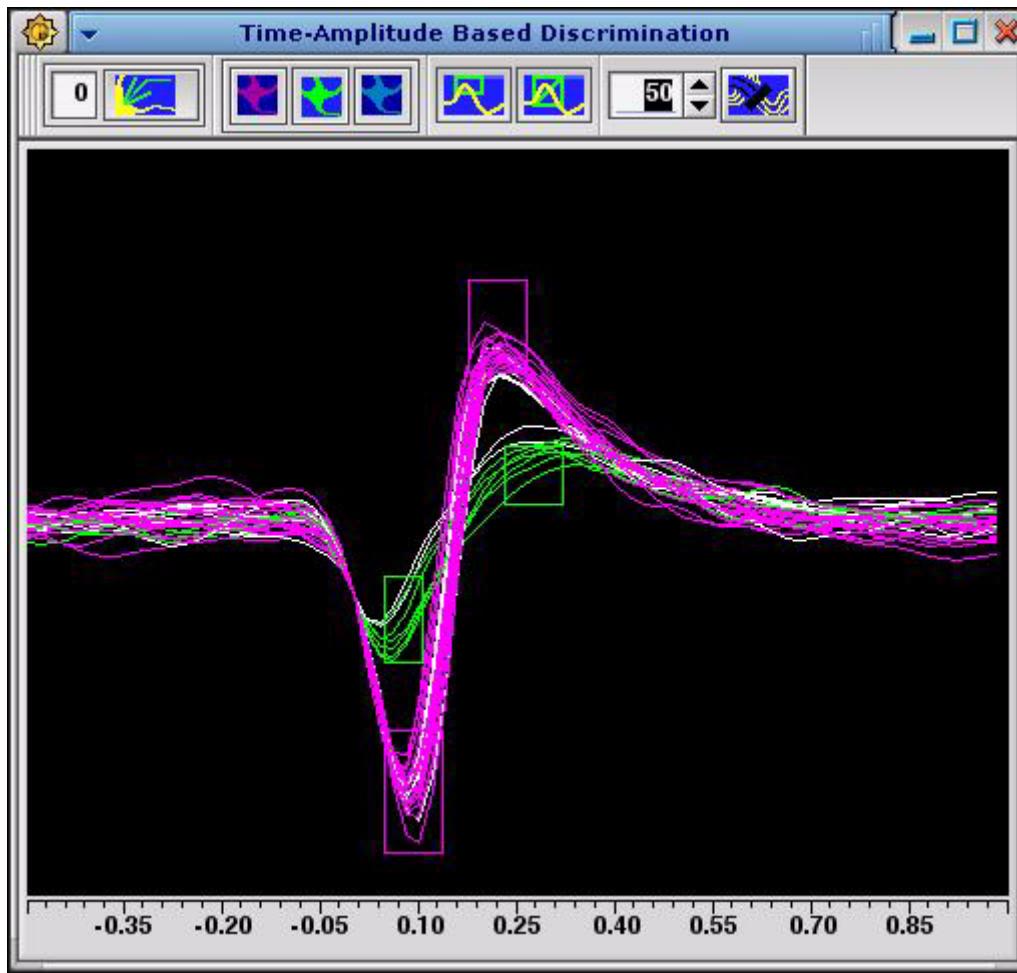
present, the antidromic shock artifact will appear near the middle of the display with the triggering waveform to the left and the evoked waveform, if any, to the right. If you are subtracting the shock artifact from the data, Mex will place a vertical bar in the display to mark the time of the stimulation. The scale at the bottom of the display shows the time period in milliseconds. This is always twice as long as the time period of the oscilloscope display. The button at the left of the menu bar allows you to draw a grid on the display. You can superimpose multiple traces by incrementing the overlap counter in

the menu bar. Mex will automatically erase the display after the set number of traces

have been accumulated. To erase accumulated traces on demand, click on the erase button to the right of the counter. The antidromic display contains three cursors that allow you measure the time between events in the signal. Move the magenta cursor to the first event, the green cursor to the second event, and the cyan cursor to the third event. The time in milliseconds between the cursors is displayed in the three number fields in the menu bar. You must set all cursors to get an accurate measurement.

## The Time Amplitude Display

The time amplitude display shows the waveforms that satisfy the threshold conditions set in the



oscilloscope display. This display shows the half millisecond of the waveform that occurred before the trigger crossing and the 0.1 to 8.0 milliseconds of the waveform after the trigger crossing. The scale at the bottom of the display shows length of the waveform in milliseconds with 0 at the trigger crossing. The waveform length is set by the Post Trigger Length item in the Settings dialog box, not by the display interval slider in the oscilloscope display. Therefore, you can set the oscilloscope to show a long interval of data but still see the details of the waveform around the time of the trigger crossing. The purpose is to allow you to place boxes through which a waveform must pass to be classified as originating from a neuron.

The buttons in the menu bar allow you to select which electrode to display (*if you are recording from multiple electrodes*), to select which of 3 neurons (*purple, green, blue*) to define criteria for, to set the type of box (*acceptance or rejection*), and to set the refresh interval. If you hover the mouse cursor over a button, a dialog will pop up giving a brief description of that button's function.

To set up criteria for a neuron, first select a neuron by clicking with the left mouse button



on one of the three neuron buttons. The button will become highlighted. All subsequent boxes will belong to this neuron. Next, click with the left mouse button on one of the two box types,



acceptance or rejection. Finally, click with the left mouse button in the display. A box will be drawn at the site of the mouse cursor. The color of the box will match the color of the neuron. To set more boxes for this neuron, just click on the box type and then in the display. To set criteria for another neuron, click on one of the other neuron buttons, and then proceed to set boxes. If you click on a neuron button that is already highlighted, that neuron will be deselected and you will not be able to set boxes until you select another neuron button.

To position and resize boxes, move the mouse cursor over the box. The cursor will change into one of four types. The cursor with arrows pointing in all four directions is a move cursor. With this cursor you can move a box without changing its size by pressing the left mouse button and dragging the mouse. The cursor with arrows pointing left and right is the horizontal resize cursor. With this cursor you can change the width of the box by pressing with the left mouse button and dragging the mouse left or right. The cursor with arrows pointing up and down is the vertical resize cursor. With this cursor you can change the height of the box by pressing with the left mouse button and dragging the mouse up or down. The cursor with arrows pointing diagonally is the combination horizontal, vertical resize cursor. With this cursor you can change the width and the height of the box by pressing with the left mouse button and dragging the mouse left, right, up or down. To obtain the resize cursors, position the mouse cursor just inside the box. To obtain the move cursor, position the mouse cursor in the middle of the box or at one edge. If you have a very thin box, you might not be able to obtain a resize cursor by placing the mouse cursor in the middle of the box. In this case, you will have to move the box by bringing the mouse cursor to one edge.

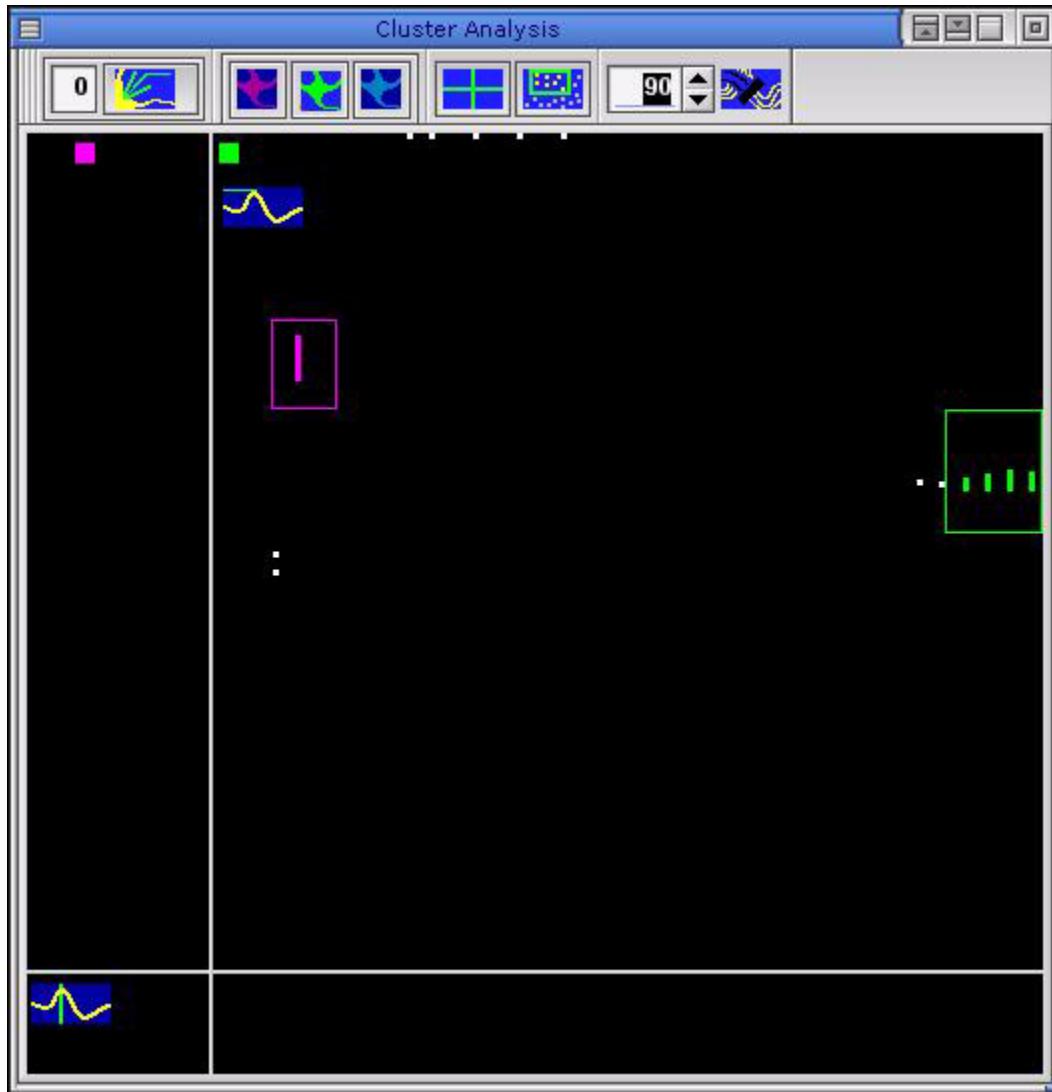
To delete a box, move the mouse cursor over the box and click the right mouse button. The mouse cursor will change to a blocked cursor (*circle with a line through it*) and a dialog will pop up asking if you want to delete the box. Click the Delete button in the dialog with the left mouse button to delete the box. The effect of deletion is instantaneous, and cannot be undone.

For Mex to classify a waveform as belonging to a neuron, the waveform must pass through all of the acceptance boxes and must not pass through any of the rejection boxes you have set for that neuron. Mex will draw waveforms that meet your criteria for a neuron in that neuron's color. Mex draws waveforms that don't meet criteria for any neurons in white. If you have set up boxes for several neurons, Mex prioritizes classification, first purple, then green, then blue. For example, if a waveform passes through a set of purple acceptance boxes and a set of green acceptance boxes, Mex will classify the waveform as belonging to the purple neuron. The rejection boxes are specific to each neuron. For example, if a waveform passes through the purple acceptance boxes and through a purple rejection box, Mex will reject that waveform as belonging to the purple neuron, but it can still classify the waveform as belonging to either the green or blue neurons if the waveform passes through green or blue acceptance boxes.

By default, Mex refreshes the display every 16 milliseconds. At this rate, you might have trouble setting criteria for neurons that fire infrequently.  You can increase the interval between refreshes using the display refresh interval counter. The refresh interval will increase by about one second for every increase by 16 in the counter. In this example, Mex will refresh the display approximately every two seconds. To erase accumulated traces on demand, click on the erase button to the right of the counter.

## The Cluster Display

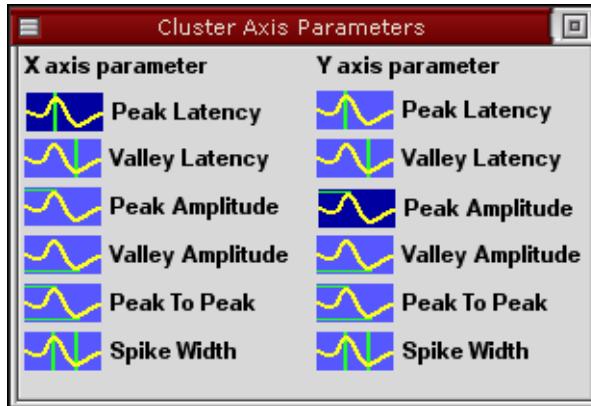
The cluster display plots pairs of various parameters in XY coordinates of waveforms that satisfy



the threshold conditions set in the oscilloscope display. These parameters are peak amplitude, valley amplitude, times of the peak and valley amplitudes relative to the threshold crossing, the peak to peak amplitude (peak minus valley), and the width of the waveform (time of peak minus time of valley). The purpose is to allow you to place boxes through which a waveform must pass to be classified as originating from a neuron. Each waveform is plotted as a point in a two dimensional space. The position of the point along the X axis is governed by the value of that waveform's X axis parameter and the position of the point along the Y axis is governed by the value of that waveform's Y axis parameter.

The buttons in the menu bar allow you to select which electrode to display (*if you are recording from multiple electrodes*), to select which of 3 neurons (purple, green, blue) to define criteria for, to set which parameters to plot on the X and Y axes, to select a box, and to set the refresh interval. If you hover the mouse cursor over a button, a dialog will pop up giving a brief description of that button's function. The icons next to each axis indicate which parameter is being plotted on that axis. If you hover the mouse cursor over an icon, a dialog will pop up giving a brief description of that parameter.

When you first bring up the cluster display, the X axis parameter is the peak latency and the Y axis parameter is the peak amplitude. To change the axis parameters, click on the axis button  in the cluster display menu bar. This will bring up cluster axis parameter dialog. Buttons representing the



current axis parameters will be drawn with dark backgrounds. Select which parameter you want to plot on each axis by clicking with the left mouse button on that parameter's button in each axis's column. *Note: Mex will not let you specify the same parameter for both axes.* For example, if you wanted to plot the Peak Latency on the Y axis in the above example, you would need to first specify the new parameter for the X axis before setting the Peak Latency for the Y axis.

You may find that, for a given set of parameters, all of the points are plotted in only one quadrant or only one half of the display. To get better plotting precision, you can move the position of the X and Y axes. Move the mouse cursor over an axis and the cursor will change, displaying arrows pointing left and right or up and down. When the cursor displays the left right arrows, you can move the Y axis by pressing the left mouse button and dragging the mouse left or right. When the cursor displays the up down arrows, you can move the X axis by pressing the left button and dragging the mouse up or down.

To set criteria for a neuron, first select a neuron by clicking with the left mouse button on one of the three neuron buttons. The button will become highlighted. All subsequent boxes will belong to this neuron. Next, click with the left mouse button on the cluster button  . Finally, click with the left mouse button in the display. A box will be drawn at the site of the mouse cursor. The color of the box will match the color of the neuron. To set more boxes for this neuron, just click on the box button and then in the display. To set criteria for another neuron, click on one of the other neuron buttons, and then proceed to set boxes. If you click on a neuron button that is already highlighted, that neuron will be deselected and you will not be able to set boxes until you select another neuron.

All of the criteria for a neuron do not have to be defined in one set of axis parameters. You can for example, set some criteria for the purple neuron with the display plotting Peak Latency versus Peak amplitude, then switch the display to plot Spike Width versus Peak to Peak amplitude and set some more criteria for the purple neuron. You can move, resize and delete boxes as with the time and amplitude display.

For Mex to classify a waveform as belong to a neuron, the parameters of that waveform must fall within all of the ranges that you have specified for that neuron. Mex will draw the points for waveforms that meet your criteria for a neuron in that neuron's color. Mex draws points for waveforms that don't meet criteria for any neurons in white. If you have set up boxes for several neurons, Mex prioritizes classification, first purple, then green, then blue. For example, if the parameters of a waveform fall

within the ranges you set for purple neurons and for green neurons, Mex will classify the waveform as belonging to the purple neuron.

When you set criteria for a neuron, a hollow box defining the range of parameters of those criteria is drawn in the display. A small filled box is also drawn in the upper left part of the display. The purpose of this box is to allow you to rapidly switch the display among the parameters and axis positions you have chosen. For example, if you set some criteria while plotting Peak Latency versus Peak Amplitude and other criteria while plotting Valley Latency versus Valley, click on an icon box with the left mouse button will switch the display to plot the parameters and position the axes as they were when you set the criteria represented by that icon. This allows you to rapidly switch among the parameter sets you want to use without having to use the Axis Parameters dialog.

By default, Mex refreshes the display every 16 milliseconds. At this rate, you might have trouble setting criteria for neurons that fire infrequently.



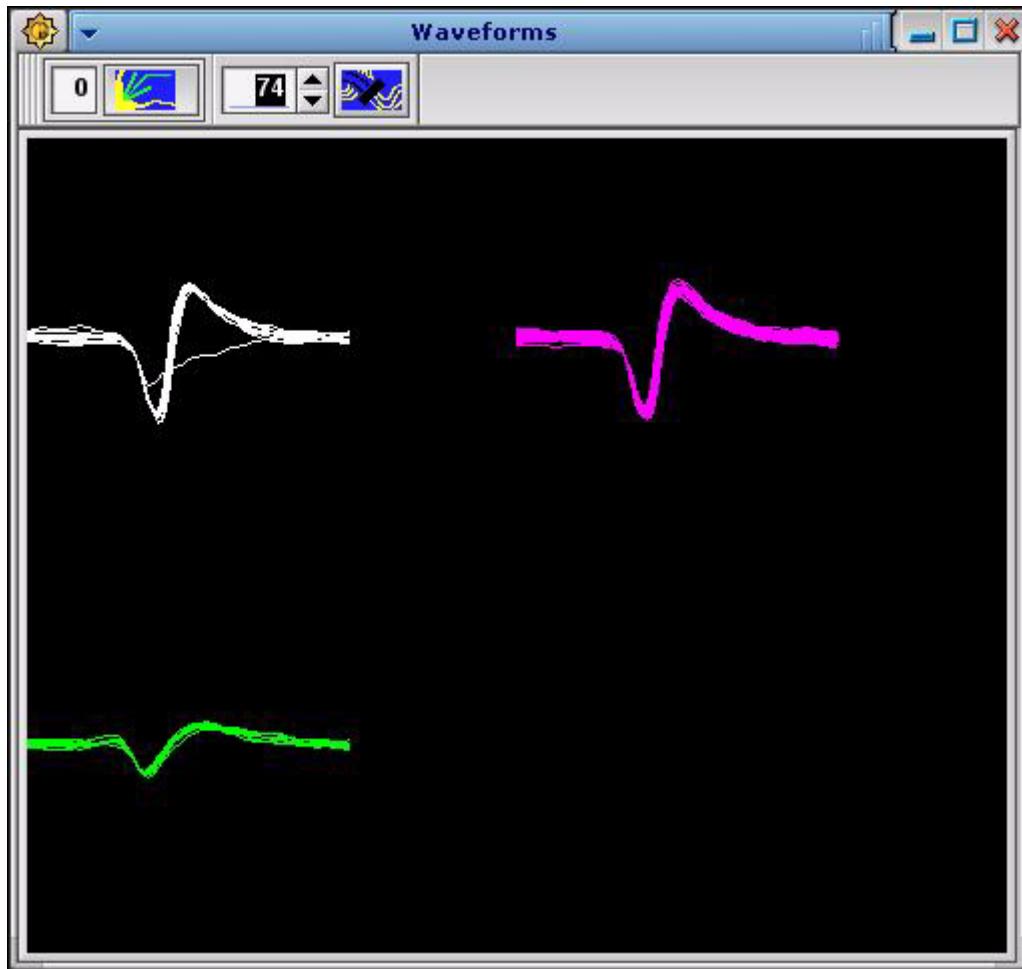
You can increase the interval between refreshes using the display refresh interval counter. The refresh interval will increase by about one second for every increase by 16 in the counter. In this example, Mex will refresh the display approximately every two seconds. To erase accumulated traces on demand, click on the erase button to the right of the counter.

### Combining Time Amplitude and Cluster Classification

If you wish, you can classify waveforms using both time and amplitude and parameter range criteria. Simply launch both a Time Amplitude display and a Cluster display. Set criteria in both displays. Mex will classify a waveform as belonging to a neuron if it meets all criteria in both displays and does not cross a time amplitude rejection box. The only limitation is that, for each electrode, no more than 5 boxes may be used to define acceptance and rejection criteria for one neuron.

## The Waveform Display

The waveform display shows a summary of all of the waveforms that satisfy the trigger criteria set in the oscilloscope display and how Mex has classified those waveforms. It doesn't matter which



display you use to set your neuronal criteria. The buttons in the menu bar allow you to select which electrode to display (*if you are recording from multiple electrodes*) and to set the refresh interval. If you hover the mouse cursor over a button, a dialog will pop up giving a brief description of that button's function.

By default, Mex refreshes the display every 16 milliseconds. At this rate, you might have trouble setting criteria for neurons that fire infrequently. You can increase the interval between refreshes using the display refresh interval counter. The refresh interval will increase by about one second for every increase by 16 in the counter. In this example, Mex will refresh the display approximately every two seconds. To erase accumulated traces on demand, click on the erase button to the right of the counter.

Waveforms that Mex did not classify as belonging to any neuron are drawn in white. Waveforms that satisfy your criteria for the purple, green, or blue neurons, are drawn in the corresponding color. Further, the different types of waveforms are drawn separately. The unclassified waveforms are all drawn in the upper left quadrant of the display. Waveforms belonging to the purple neuron are drawn in the upper right, those belonging to the green neuron are drawn in the lower left, and those belonging to

the blue neuron are drawn in the lower right. Drawing the four different classes of waveforms in different parts of the display makes it easier for you to judge the variability in the shapes of the waveforms that match your criteria for the neuron types. If you save waveforms to disk for later classification, this display shows exactly what is being saved.

### **Recording From Multiple Electrodes**

Each of the four displays described above has a button in its menu bar to select which electrode to display. If you set several of the displays to show the input from a particular electrode, the inputs of those displays will be locked together. That is, if you have the oscilloscope display, the time and amplitude display, and the waveform display showing the input from electrode 0, and you change the waveform display to show electrode 1, the oscilloscope and time and amplitude displays will also change to display electrode 1.

You can instantiate as many copies of each of the four display described above as you have electrodes. That is, if you have set Mex to record from two electrodes, you can have two copies of the oscilloscope display, two copies of the time and amplitude display, etc.

Mex will not allow the multiple copies of the displays to show input from the same electrode. That is, if you set Mex to record from four electrodes and you have two copies of the oscilloscope display, each copy must show the input from a different electrode. When you click on the electrode button in the menu bar of one of the oscilloscope displays, you will find that the choices corresponding to that display's electrode and the other display's electrode will be inactive. You will be able to shift that display only to one of the undisplayed electrodes. This prevents you from setting conflicting criteria for an electrode.

### **The Signals Display**

The four displays described above all show the input from a single electrode and all require that the input cross threshold defined by amplitude and slope. Thus, if the input from an electrode drops markedly in amplitude or goes completely flat, these displays will not show anything. Mex has a fifth

type of display that shows the inputs of all electrodes simultaneously, regardless of amplitude. This is

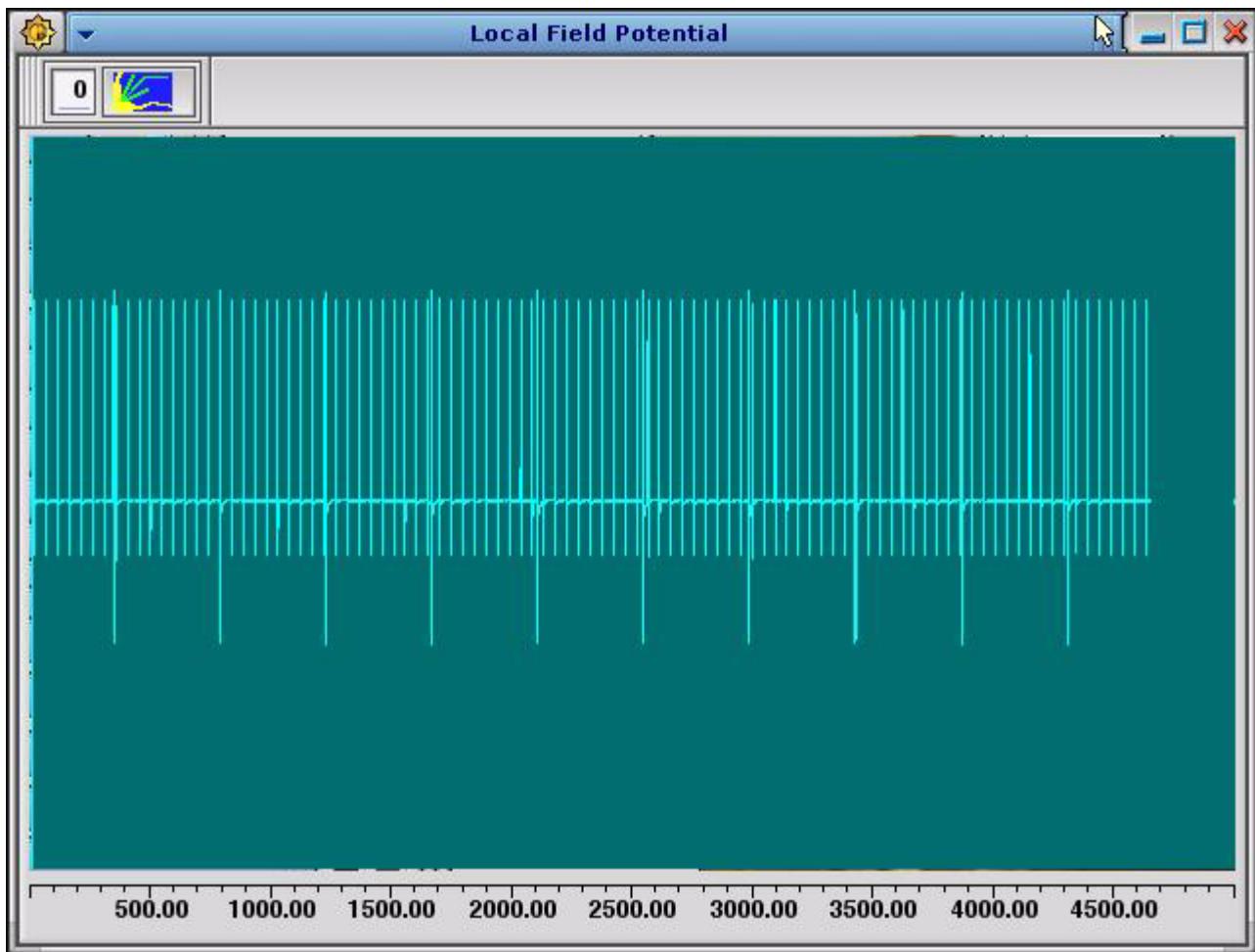


the signals display. This display is refreshed every 16 milliseconds. On each cycle it shows all of the data from all electrodes acquired during the previous 16 milliseconds. Electrode 0 is drawn at the top with each successive electrode drawn below. If you are recording from more than two electrodes you will need to use the scroll bar to view all of the inputs. You can also stretch the display vertically to view more inputs. Stretching the display horizontally will show more detail but will not display more than the previous 16 milliseconds of data. If the other displays seem to have stopped responding, you can use this display to get an idea of the problem. *Note, if the user interface seems sluggish in cases where the signal does not reach threshold, change the trigger slope.*

### Local Field Potentials

Versions of Mex greater than 2.7 have the capability of displaying and saving from one to ten seconds of input from the electrodes. This data is saved at the rate of 50 KHz per electrode. Data from multiple electrodes are interleaved. If you record from multiple electrodes, you can set the display to show the data from a particular electrode by entering the number of the electrode in the box at the top of the display. The start of each record contains a time stamp to allow aligning the record to data from Rex.

Though this data is referred to as local field potentials, no filtering is done. The raw data from the



electrodes is saved. The values on the X axis indicate the number of milliseconds from the start of the record. In the above example, the maximum local field potential was set to 5 seconds and mwind(CLOSE\_LFP) was called 4500 milliseconds after mwind(OPEN\_LFP);

To start a record, you must use the mwind(OPEN\_LFP) action in Rex. The mwind(OPEN\_LFP) action sends Mex a Rex time stamp that is 10 milliseconds in the future, together with a 4 bit code. Once the Rex timer has reached this time, Rex sets the code on a parallel port. Once Mex receives the time stamp and code, it begins sampling the parallel port. Once Mex sees the code on the parallel port, it stores the time stamp and begins storing the electrode input in RAM. Mex will also send a signal to Rex indicating that it is saving electrode input. You can cancel or close these records. If you call mwind(CANCEL\_LFP) while Mex is storing a record, Mex stops storing the electrode input and erases that part of the record already stored. If you call mwind(CLOSE\_LFP) while Mex is storing a record, Mex stops storing the electrode input and sets the remainder of the record to zero. Calling mwind(CANCEL\_LFP) or mwind(CLOSE\_LFP) when Mex is not storing electrode input has no effect. Mex will also ignore an mwind(OPEN\_LFP) command if it has not finished storing the previous record. Mex writes a record to disk after it has finished storing it in RAM. States that call the mwind functions should escape on the tst\_mx\_new function.

#### **EXAMPLE.**

**to openlfp**

```

openlfp:
    do mwind(OPEN_LFP)
    to Ifpopen on 0 % tst_mx_new

Ifpopen:
    code ECODE
    to nxtst

nxtst:
    .
    .           /* other states in your paradigm */

    to closelfp

closelfp:
    do mwind(CLOSE_LFP);
    to next on 0 % tst_mx_new
    .
    .

error:
    do errorstuff()
    to cancellfp

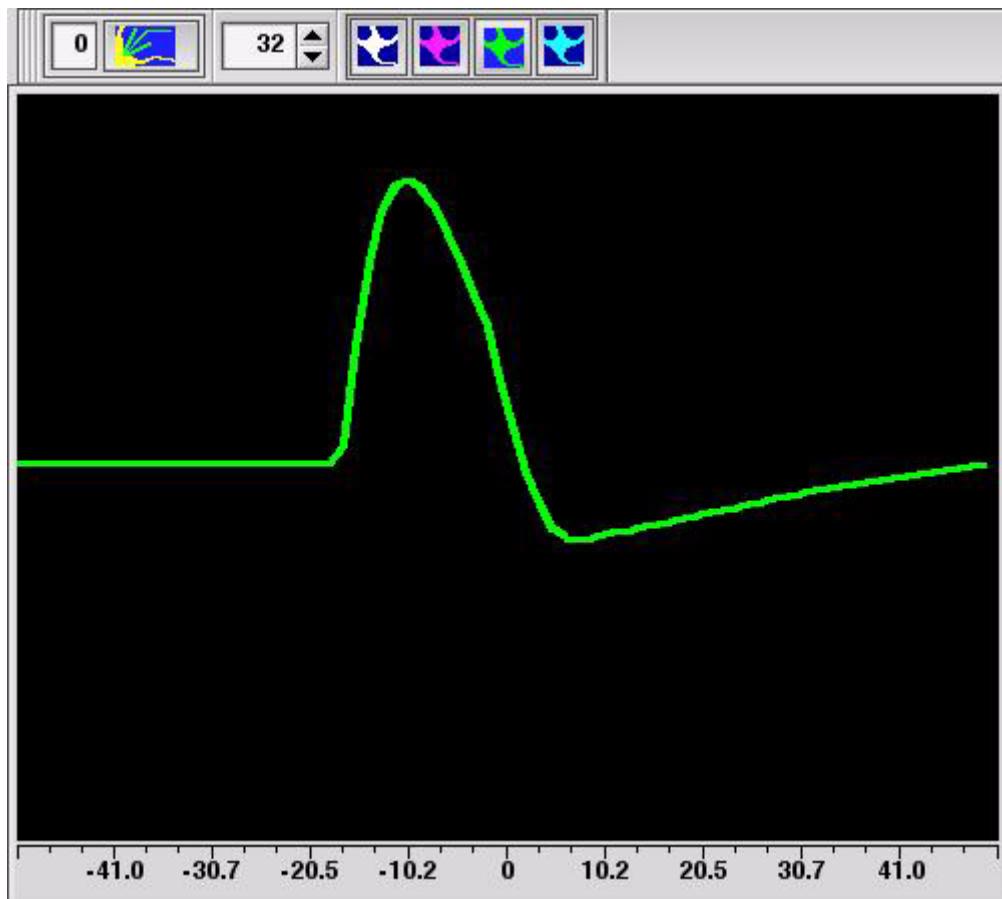
cancellfp:
    do mwind(CANCEL_LFP);
    to next on 0 % tst_mx_new
    .
    .

```

*Note on synchronizing Mex and Rex while collecting LFP data.* If you have a Rex paradigm that triggers the saving of LFP data, you should not switch the Mex clock on or off during the trial. If you need to stop the Mex clock, stop your paradigm first using the paradigm stop switch. Once your paradigm has stopped, you can start or stop the Mex clock. If you stop or start the Mex clock in the middle of a trial that has triggered the saving of LFP data, you may get into a state in which Mex will not send the signals that are read by `tst_mx_new()`. This will cause your paradigm to hang. If this happens, stop your paradigm, stop the Rex clock, and click on the Reset States button in the paradigm tool bar. Then you can restart the Rex clock.

## Average Waveform Display.

Versions of Mex greater than 2.9 have the capability of displaying averages of spike triggered waveforms if you are recording from multiple electrodes. The buttons in the menu bar allow you to select



which electrode to display, to set the number of waveforms to average, and to select which classification type to display. If you hover the mouse cursor over a button, a dialog will pop up giving a brief description of that button's function. The scale at the bottom of the display shows length of the waveform in milliseconds with 0 at the trigger crossing. Mex uses a moving boxcar average. After the specified waveforms have averaged, as each new waveform is collected, the oldest waveform is subtracted from the average before the new waveform is added.

## Saving Data

### Interfacing with Experimental Control

Mex indicates waveform classification by toggling bits in ports A and B of the parallel I/O card. If you record from more than 4 electrodes, Mex will use the A and B ports of groups 0 and 1. If you use Mex with Rex, Rex interprets the bits in these ports and automatically assigns ecodes corresponding to the different neurons. Mex uses bits 0 and 1 of each port to send sequence information to Rex. Mex signals the purple, green, and blue neurons from electrode 0 by toggling bits 2, 3, and 4 respectively in port A of group 0. Mex signals the 3 neurons from electrode 1 by toggling bits 5, 6, and 7 respectively in port A of group 0. Mex signals the 6 neurons from electrodes 2 and 3 by toggling bits 2, 3, and 4 and

bits 5, 6, and 7 in port B of group 0. Mex signals the 12 neurons from electrodes 4 through 7 by toggling bits 2 through 7 in port A and in port B of group 1. Each bit is set for 1024 microseconds.

## Waveform Data

Mex saves waveform data to disk in a binary format. The first 512 bytes of the file constitute a header containing ascii strings that declare this to be a waveform data file, define the number of bytes in a data record, the length of the waveform in the record, the A/D value that equals a voltage of 0, and the minimum and maximum A/D values as follows:

### WAVEFORM FILE

**Size of waveform record = nnn**  
**Number of samples in waveform = nnn**  
**True zero = nnn**  
**ADmin = nnn**  
**ADmax = nnn**

Following this header are the data records. Each record consists of the following items: An unsigned long integer that contains the time that the waveform crossed the trigger. If you are using Mex with Rex, this time is the Rex time stamp. Otherwise it is a number starting with 0. Following this time stamp are three short integers. They are the electrode number, a code indicating the trial boundary, and the number of elements in the waveform array. Following the data length element is an array of short integers holding the waveform itself. The complete record is as follows:

```
typedef struct {  
    unsigned long tim;          /* time stamp at trigger crossing */  
    short int elc;              /* electrode number */  
    short int rexFlag;          /* flag indicating trial start or end */  
    short int dataLen;           /* number of elements of data occupied by waveform */  
    short int data[dataLen];      /* the waveform data */  
} WAVEDATA;
```

## Antidromic Data

Mex saves data from antidromic collision tests to disk in binary format. The first 512 bytes of the file constitute a header containing ascii strings that declare this to be an antidromic data file, define the number of bytes in an antidromic record, the number of samples in a record, the A/D value that equals a voltage of 0, and the minimum and maximum A/D values as follows:

**ANTIDROMIC FILE**  
**Size of anti record = nnn**  
**Number of samples in record = nnn**  
**True zero = nnn**  
**ADmin = nnn**  
**ADmax = nnn**

Following this header are the data records. Each record contains the following items: An unsigned long integer that contains the time that the waveform crossed the trigger. If you are using Mex with Rex, this time is the Rex time stamp. Otherwise it is a number starting with 0. Following this time stamp is a short integer that contains the electrode number used to trigger the antidromic stimulation. Following the electrode number is an array of short integers holding the waveform itself. The complete record is as follows:

```
typedef struct {  
    unsigned long tim;          /* time stamp at trigger crossing */  
    short int elc;              /* electrode number */  
    short int data[dataLen];      /* the waveform data */  
} ANTIDATA;
```

## **Saving Waveform and Antidromic data simultaneously**

When recording from neurons that on which you have done antidromic collision tests, you may want to periodically trigger single antidromic pulses to verify that the neuron that you from which you started recording is the one from which you are currently recording. To do this you simply leave the antidromic display open and then, every so often, trigger a single antidromic pulse from the oscilloscope display. If you want to save these periodic collision tests while you are saving waveform data, open an antidromic and a waveform data file. After you have started the clock, click both the waveform and antidromic save buttons in the tool bar. Now, Mex will write the neuronal waveforms to the waveform file, and the antidromic records from your collision tests to the antidromic file.

## **Auditory Feedback for Classified Neurons**

Mex 2.5 adds the ability to represent classified neurons as clicks on an audio amplifier. To do this, you will need to buy a second PCI-DIO-24HD or PCI-DIO-48 digital I/O card or you will need to replace your current digital I/O card with a PCI-DIO-120 digital I/O card. If you buy a second card, just plug it into any available PCI slot, and run 50 conductor flat ribbon cables from the headers on the card to STB-50 screw terminal boards. Leave the original card connected to Rex. If you replace your current digital I/O card with a PCI-DIO-120 card, connect headers 0 and 1 to Rex and connect headers 2 and 3 to STB-50 screw terminal boards. Header 4 is not used in this application.

If you are recording from 1 to 4 electrodes you will need 1 STB-50 screw terminal board. The pins in the PORT A group labeled CH2, CH3, and CH4 carry the magenta, green and cyan neurons from electrode 0. The PORT A pins labeled CH 5, CH6, and CH7 carry the magenta, green and cyan neurons from electrode 1. The PORT B pins labeled CH10, CH11, and CH12 carry the magenta, green, and cyan neurons from electrode 2, and the PORT B pins labeled CH13, CH14, and CH15 carry the magenta, green, and cyan neurons from electrode 3. If you are recording from more than 4 electrodes, you will need a second STB-50 screw terminal board. On this second screw terminal board, neurons from electrodes 4 and 5 are carried by the PORT A pins and neurons from electrodes 6 and 7 are carried by the PORT B pins. On each pin, a neuron is represented by a voltage going from 0 to 5 volts for one millisecond. This signal can be sent to an audio amplifier to produce a click each time Mex classifies a neuron.



# Offline Spike Sorting

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## Overview

XmMex is a program that allows you to classify offline the neuronal waveforms saved by Mex. The classification process is largely automatic. Once you are satisfied with the classification, XmMex will write ecodes into a Rex E-file. However, instead of ecodes in the range of 601 to 699 that Rex uses for real time unit information, XmMex writes ecodes in the range of 700 to 779. That way, your offline analysis will not over write your real time data. XmMex analyzes the waveforms from each electrode separately. Ecodes for waveforms recorded from electrode 0 will range from 700 to 709, ecodes for waveforms recorded from electrode 1 will range from 710 to 719, ecodes for waveforms recorded from electrode 7 will range from 770 to 779.

XmMex runs under Linux and the X window system. The program was developed under RedHat V7.2, and I have tested it under RedHat V9.0 and RedHat EL V4.0. It should work with other flavors of Linux, but I have not tested this. If you do not have a computer that you can dedicate to Linux, you can install VMware workstation under Windows XP and run Linux as a guest operating system.

## Theory of Operation

XmMex classifies waveforms using a divisive cluster algorithm. The only parameters that the user specifies is the number of clusters to find and the maximum distance of a waveform from the mean distance of the cluster, expressed in standard deviations. The process is done in two steps. First a set of templates are derived from the waveforms. Second, the waveforms are classified according to their euclidean distances from the templates. By default, this classification is performed twice to improve the uniformity of the clusters.

To find the templates for the clusters, all waveforms from an electrode are grouped together forming a parent cluster. A grand mean waveform is computed. This grand mean is the template for the cluster. The euclidean distance of each waveform in the cluster from the template is measured and the mean, variance, and standard deviation of these distances computed. The individual waveforms are then rank ordered on the basis of their distances from the template. The one percent of the waveforms that are most distant from the template are assembled and the distance between each possible pair of these most distant waveforms is computed to find the two waveforms that are most dissimilar. These two waveforms are used as the templates for two child clusters. Now, each waveform in the parent cluster, starting with the one most distant from the parent template is compared to each of the child templates. The waveform is assigned to that child cluster to whose template it is closest. After each assignment, a new template for the cluster is computed. This process is repeated until all of the waveforms in the parent cluster have been assigned into one of the two child clusters, and the parent cluster has been eliminated. There is now one more cluster than before the split. Next, the mean euclidean distance of each waveform in each child cluster is measured from the template of the child template. The mean and variance of these distances are computed. If another cluster is needed, the child cluster with the highest variance is split. If one of the child clusters contains less than 25% of the waveforms from the parent

cluster, that child is discarded and the number of clusters remains the same. This process is repeated until the data have been split into the number of clusters you specified.

The reason for looking for seed waveforms from only the one percent of waveforms farthest from the template is as follows. To find the two waveforms that are the most different from each other, you need to compare each possible pair of waveforms in the data set. This requires  $(n^2 - n)/2$  calculations. For 100,000 waveforms, this would be 4,999,950,000 calculations. However, it is not necessary to compare each possible pair of waveforms to find the two most dissimilar waveforms, because both of these waveforms will be in the fringes of the sample. Searching for the two most dissimilar waveforms in a cluster from among the most distant waveforms reduces the number of calculations needed by a factor of almost 10,000. For 100,000 waveforms, only 499,500 calculations are needed.

Once the data have been divided into the number of clusters you specified, the clusters must be refined for several reasons. The waveforms used to seed the clusters are almost always a long way from the cluster template. Further, the assignment of waveforms to clusters during the search phase did not take into consideration the actual distance of the waveform from the cluster template, only that the waveform was closer to the template of its cluster than to the templates of the other clusters when it was assigned. Finally, though at the time of assignment a given waveform was closest to the template of its cluster, after all the clustering is done, the waveform might be closer to the template of a different cluster.

To refine the clusters, the cluster template, the mean of the distances of the waveforms in the cluster from the template, and the standard deviation of those distances are saved for each cluster. The members of each cluster are discarded. Next, each waveform in the data set is compared with each template to find the template to which it is closest. Finally, if the euclidean distance of the waveform from that template is within the specified number of standard deviations from that cluster's mean distance, the waveform is assigned to that cluster. If the waveform to template distance is more than the specified number of standard deviations from the mean distance for all clusters, the waveform is marked as unclassified. For example, if the mean euclidean distance of waveforms in a cluster from the cluster template is 10 and the standard deviation is 2, and you specify a maximum distance of 3 standard deviations, a waveform will be assigned to the cluster if its distance from the cluster template is less than 16. If the distance is greater than 16, the waveform will be marked as unclassified. Once all of the waveforms have been reclassified, a new template, mean distance and standard deviation are computed for each cluster. This refinement procedure is repeated one more time. This entire clustering and refinement process is done separately.

At this point, each waveform is assigned a tentative ecode based on its electrode and cluster number. If you are feeling reckless, you could save the data at this point, and XmMex would write the ecodes into the Rex E-file. This is not a good idea because some of the clusters might represent noise and need to be deleted. Depending on the number of clusters you specified, the waveforms emitted by a neuron might be divided into several different clusters which would need to be merged. Finally, you might decide that the refinement process needs to be repeated with a smaller or larger standard deviation. The bulk of XmMex is a set of graphical tools that enable you to make these decisions.

## Installing XmMex

The XmMex distribution consists of the executable file called XmMex, a shell script called runMex, and the shared object libraries that XmMex needs. The executable was named XmMex to avoid name collision with the mex program distributed with Matlab. Copy the tar file to /usr/local and untar it.

This will put the executable and the shell script in /usr/local/bin and the shared object libraries in /usr/local/lib/bxLibs. The directory /usr/local/bin should be in your PATH environment variable. The shell script adds the shared object directory to the LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH environment variable, then launches XmMex. If you untar the distribution in a different location, you will need to edit the shell script to specify the correct location of the shared object libraries.

## Running XmMex

To run XmMex, change to a directory containing the data files you want to process and type runMex. This will bring up the XmMex tool bar.



## Reading Data

Before loading a data file, there are two options that you need to consider. Click on the Options item in the tool bar to bring up the options menu. If you click on the dashed line at the top of the options



menu, you can tear off the menu and post it as a dialog as shown. By default, XmMex will align the

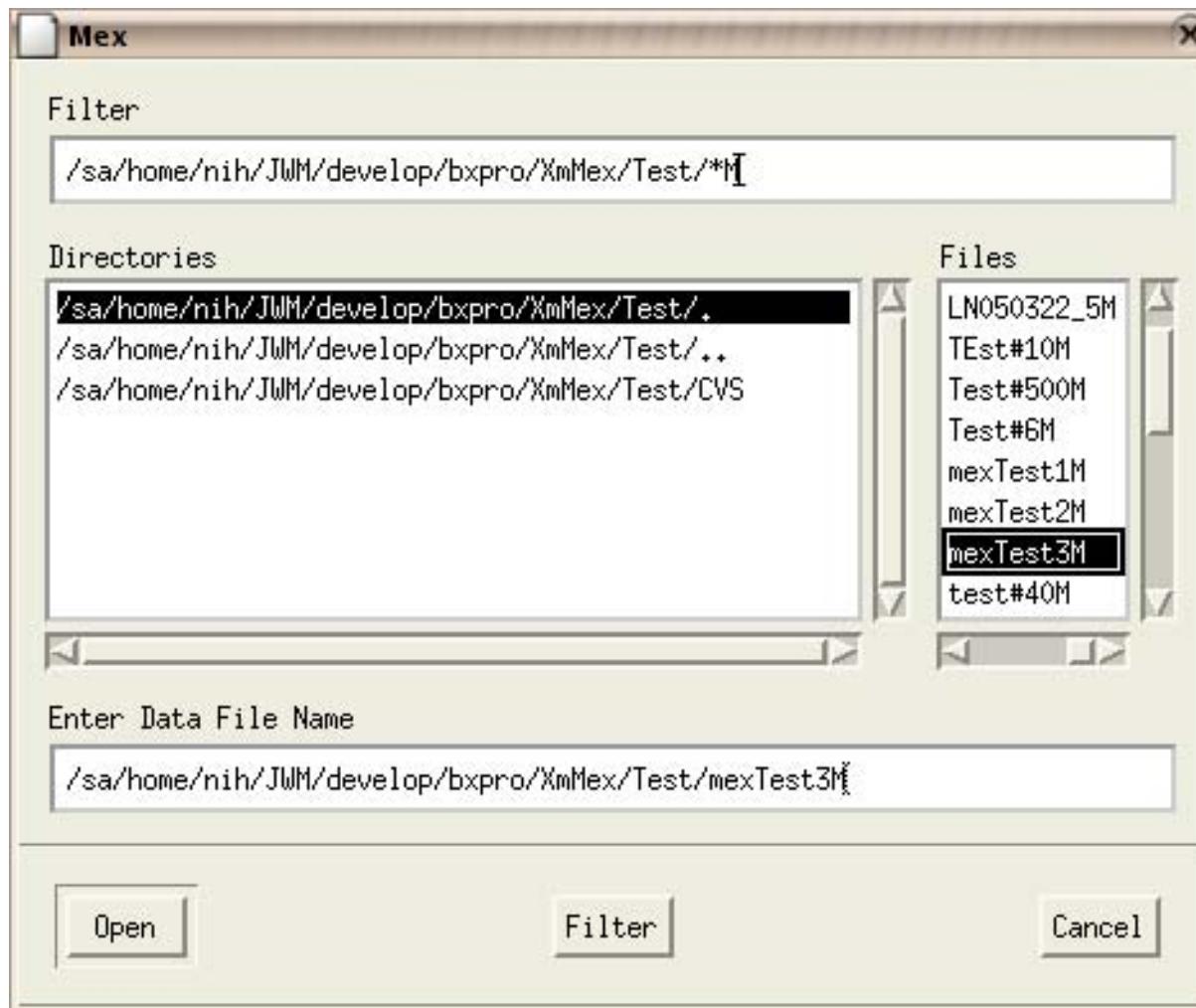
neuronal waveforms in the following manner. First, an average waveform is computed across all of the waveforms in the data set. Next, each waveform shifted beginning with 10 samples to the left and ending at 10 samples to the right to find the alignment that provides the best correlation with the grand mean waveform. Finally, the maximum number of samples that the waveforms were shifted right is trimmed off the beginning of all of the waveforms and the maximum number of samples that the waveforms were shifted left is trimmed off the end of all of the waveforms. This process results in waveforms that are a bit shorter than the raw waveforms but are better aligned with each other. The purpose of aligning the waveforms is to compensate for variations in threshold crossing and results in tighter clusters. If you decide you do not want to align the waveforms, you must unset this option before reading the data.

The second option you need to consider before loading data is the use of epochs. Rex versions 7.6 and later have action called mwind. You can add this action to your spot or Rebel files to send flags to Mex that mark the beginnings and ends of trials. If you select this option and you used the mwind actions, XmMex will use only the waveforms that occurred during trials for analysis. Waveforms that occurred during inter trial intervals will be discarded. If you select this option but did not use the mwind actions, XmMex will form groups of 50 waveforms from the beginning to the end of the data set. In either case, if you select the epochs option, XmMex will provide a display that shows the waveforms in your data set over time.

To read a data file, select the Select File item from the File menu. A dialog will be displayed that

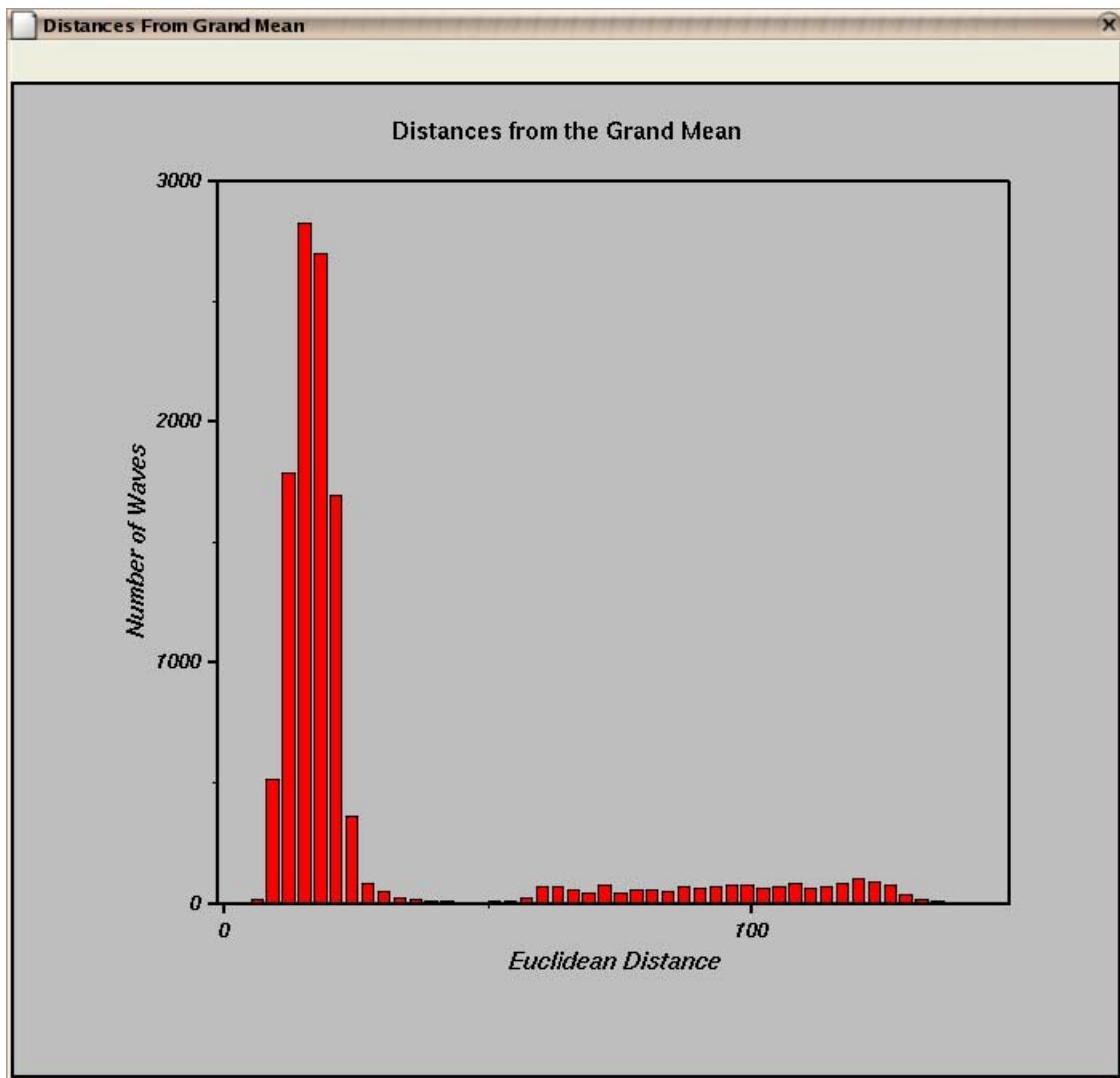


allows you to select the data file. You can navigate the file system by double clicking on the entries in



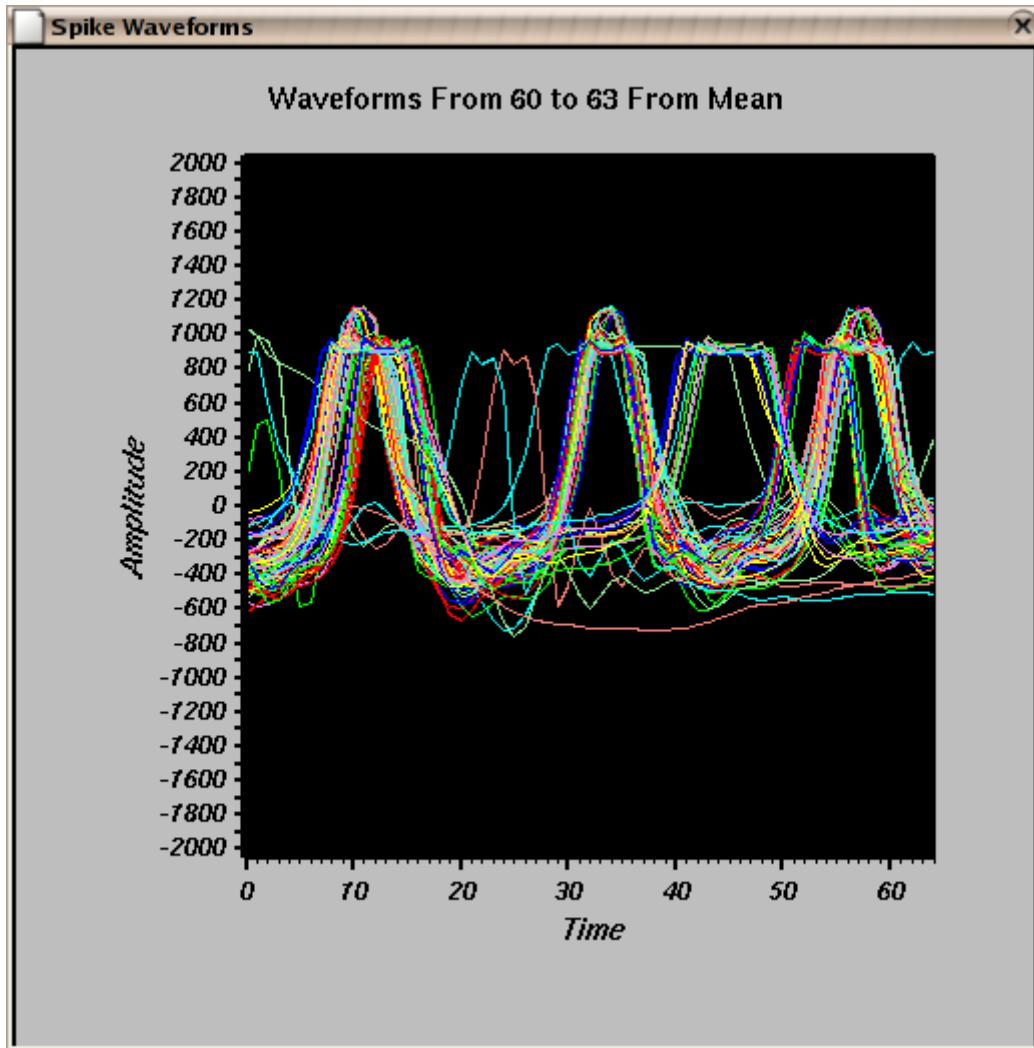
the Directories list. You can limit the files displayed on the Files list by entering standard Unix regular expressions in the Filter box at the top of the dialog and clicking on the Filter button at the bottom of the dialog. Select a file by clicking on its name in the Files list and clicking the Open button at the bottom of the dialog. XmMex will open the data file and count the number of waveforms. It will then post an information dialog that it is reading or reading and aligning the data and the number of waveforms in the data set.

After XmMex has read all of the waveforms in the data set, it computes a grand mean waveform and measures the distance of each waveform from this grand mean. It then computes and displays a histogram of these distances. The purpose of this display is to give you an overall look at the uniformity

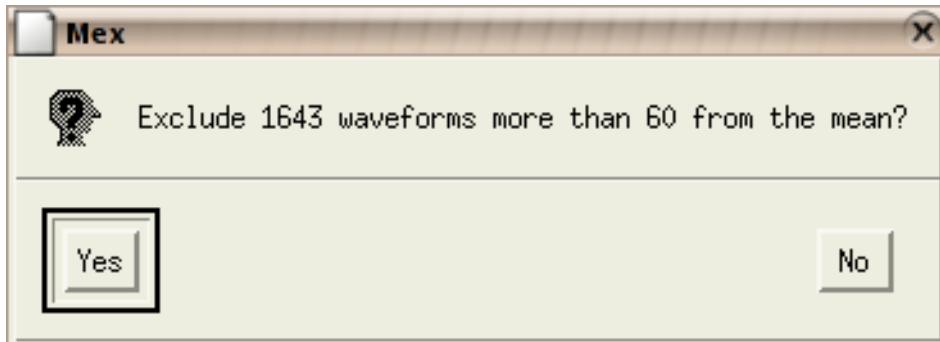


of your data. Because all neurons have similar mechanisms for generating action potentials, all neuronal waveforms recorded by an electrode will have similar shapes. If your data set contains only neuronal waveforms, the distribution of distances from the grand mean will be more or less normal. In the example shown, the distribution of distances has a strong positive tail. This suggests that the data set contains non-neuronal waveforms. This can happen if you set the trigger threshold in Mex to a low level or if you have a noisy input. Neuronal waveforms tend to be similar in shape, but noise waveforms can vary considerably. If you attempt to do a cluster analysis on a data set with a distribution like that shown, the algorithm will group all the neuronal waveforms into a single cluster and waste all of its energy sorting the noise into different groups. To avoid this you need to be able to eliminate these outlying waveforms.

To examine the shapes of the waveforms, click on one of the bars in the histogram. XmMex will display up to 100 waveforms that are the selected distance from the grand mean. XmMex will also post a



question dialog asking if you want to exclude these and all waveforms more distant from the grand mean from the cluster analysis. Click Yes if you want to exclude these waveforms from the analysis. Click No

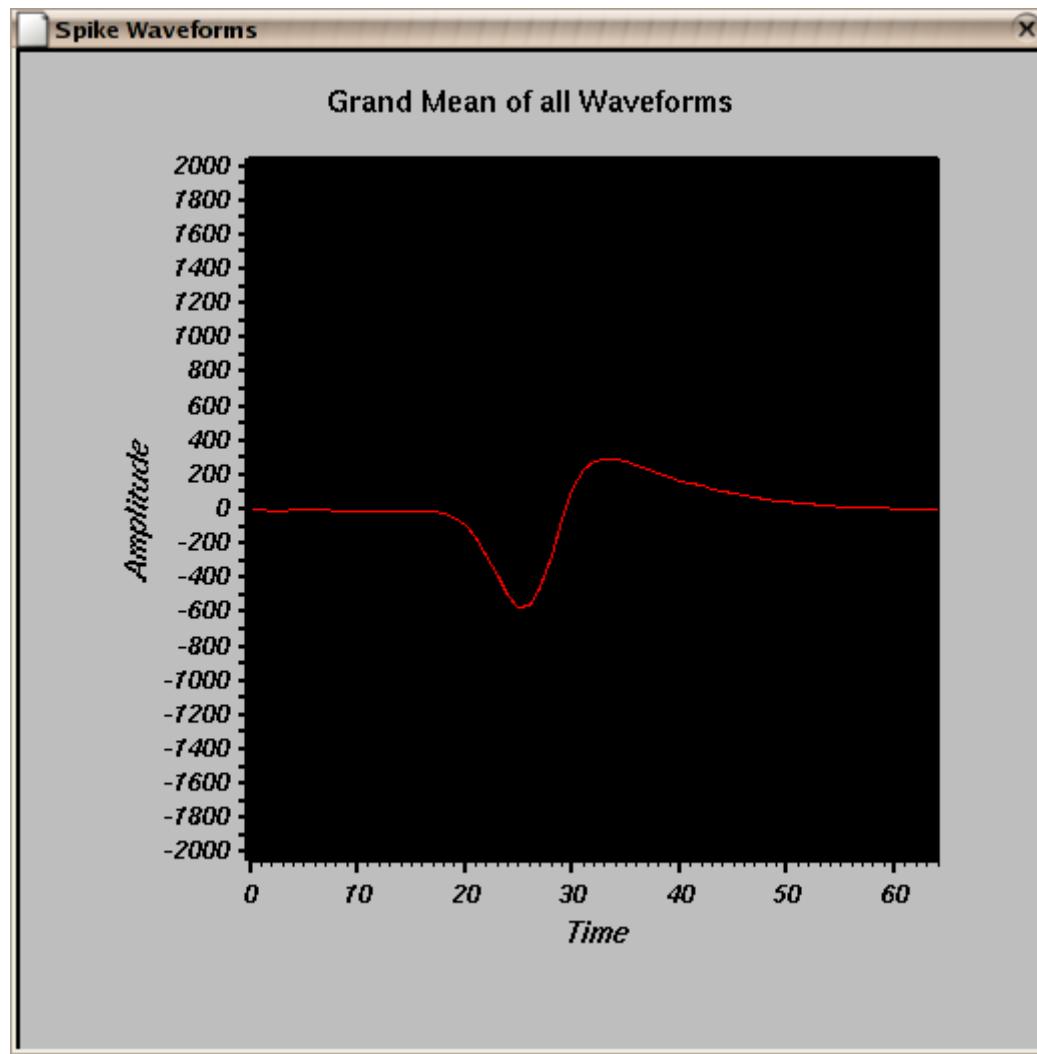


if you want to view other waveforms. This is a blocking dialog so you have to click either Yes or No to proceed. If you want to view waveforms at other distances from the grand mean, you will need to refresh

the histogram by selecting the Wave Distances item from the View menu. If you want to see the shape

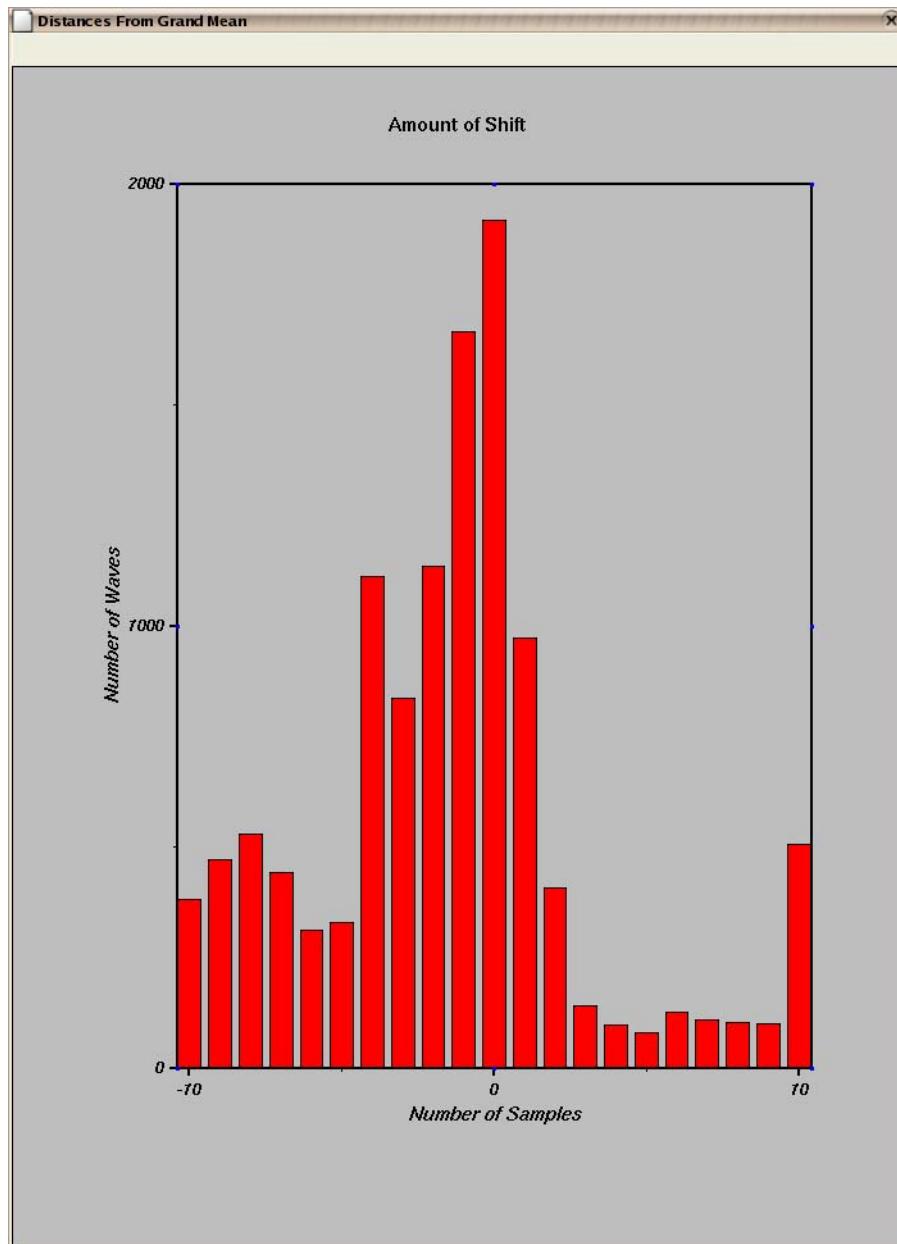


of the grand mean, select the Grand Mean item from the View menu.

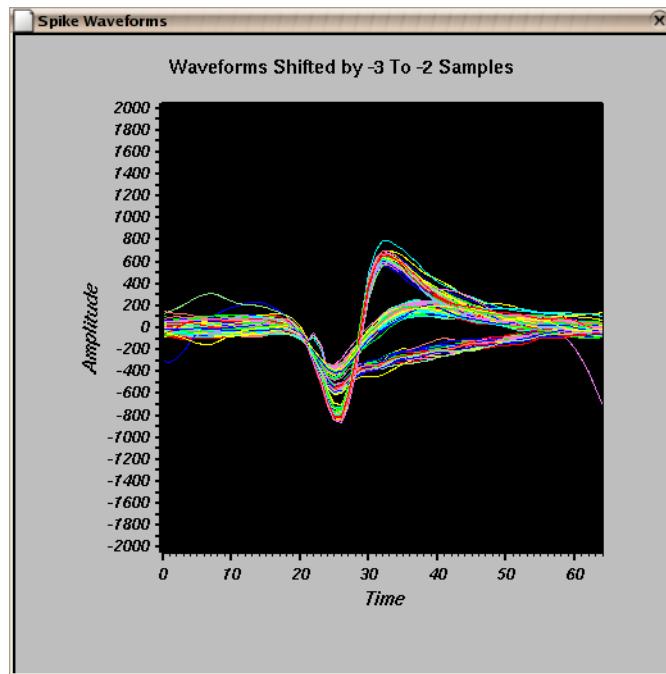


By default, views of waveforms are plotted with the Y axis showing the full A/D range of the data. This can leave waveforms such as the grand mean flattened. To fit the waveform to the display, select the Auto Scale Waveforms item from the Options menu and redraw the view.

If you selected the Align Waveforms option, you can view a histogram of the number of samples that the waveforms were shifted. Select the Shift Histogram item from the Views menu. To see what the



waveforms look like after being shifted, click on one of the bars in the histogram. XmMex will display up to 100 waveforms that were shifted by the amount indicated by the histogram bar.

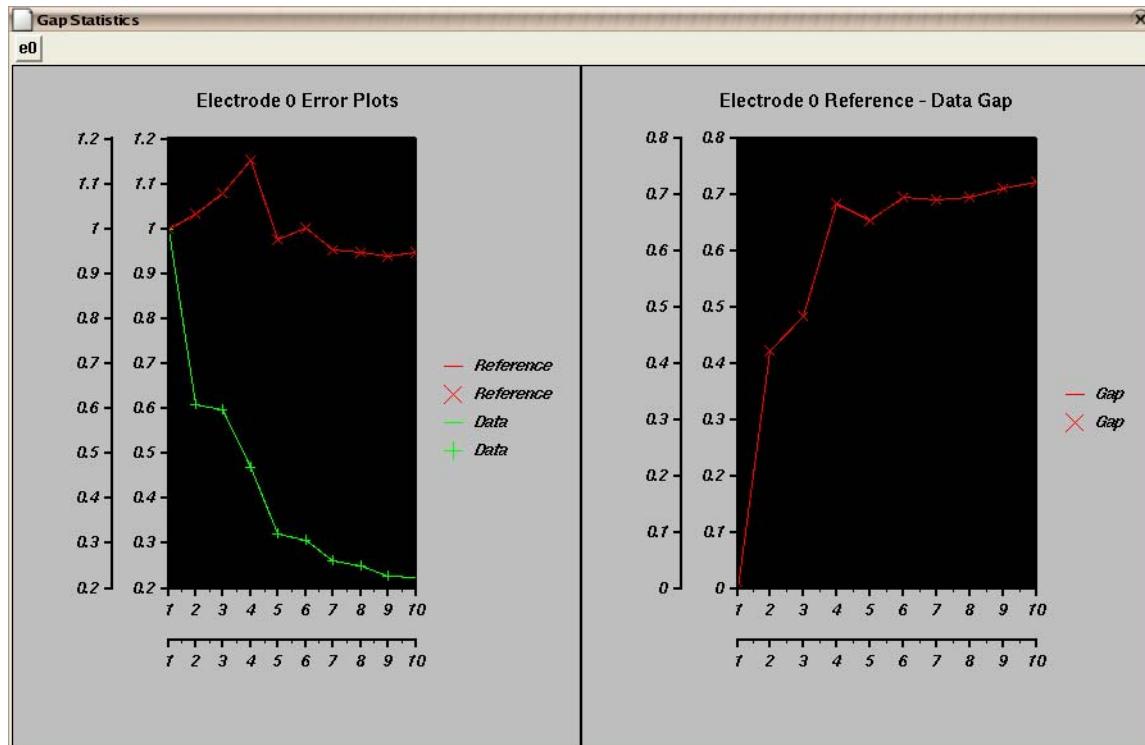


When you click Yes in the exclude dialog, XmMex will remove the distance histogram and the grand mean view. You can redisplay these views at any time by selecting their items from the View menu.

### Classifying Waveforms

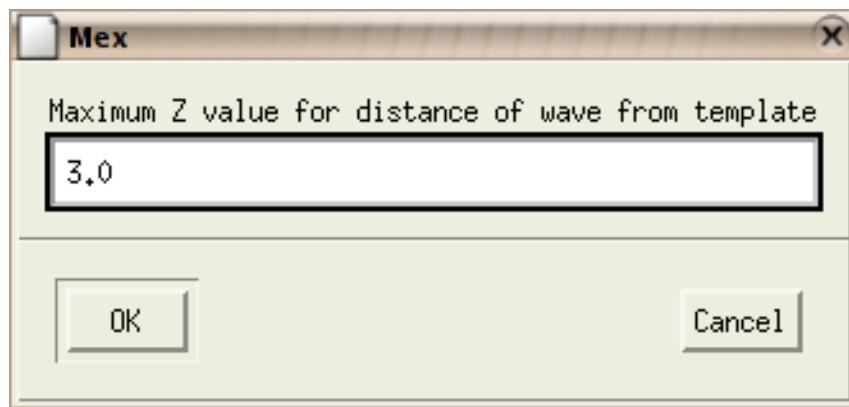
After reading a data file, you will need to set the number of templates that you want XmMex to use. You can either set the number of templates or you can ask XmMex to estimate the number of templates in the data set using the method described by Tibshirani, Walther and Hastie (J.R.Statist. Soc. B 2001, V 63, Part 2, pp 411-423). If you ask XmMex to estimate the number of templates, XmMex will

post a series of dialogs to show its progress, then it will display the results. According to Tibshirani,



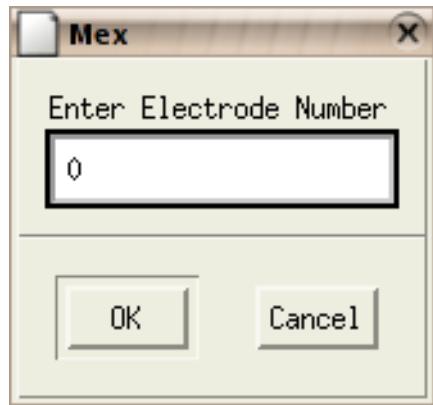
et.al. the number of clusters in a data set is the number where the gap between the error in a set of reference clusters and the set of data clusters stops increasing. In this example, this is 4 clusters. Whether you use this estimate or not, set the number of templates by selecting the desired item from the options menu.

Once you have set the number of templates, you can classify the waveforms. Select the Classify Waves item from the Files menu. XmMex will post a dialog requesting the maximum distance that a waveform can be from the mean in Z values. The default value is 3.0. Change the value if you wish, then

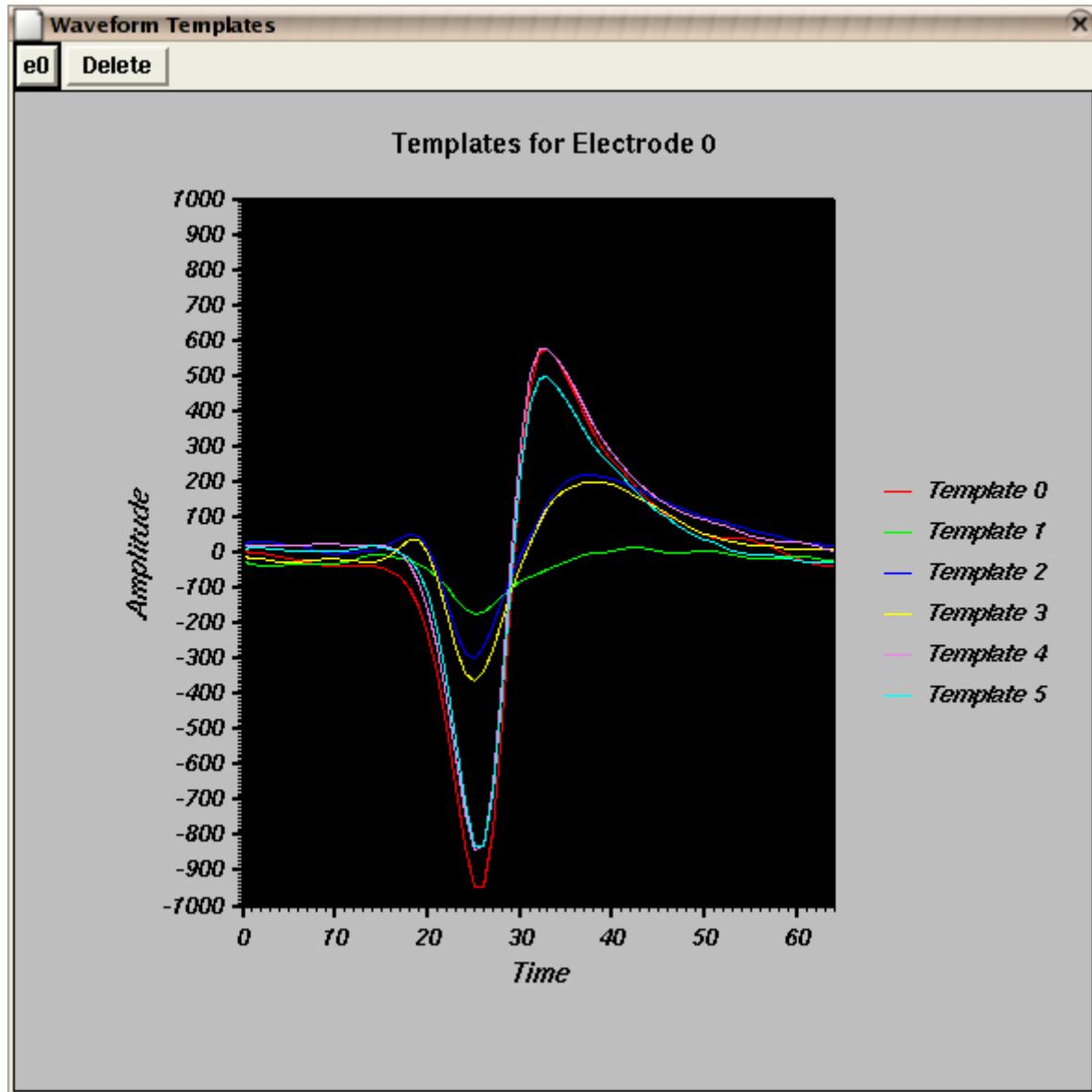


click the OK button. XmMex will now find the requested number of templates and classify the waveforms according to the templates, posting dialogs describing its progress. After the dialogs have been unposted, you can use the various views to see the results of the classification. To view the templates, select the Templates item from the Views menu. XmMex will post a dialog requesting that

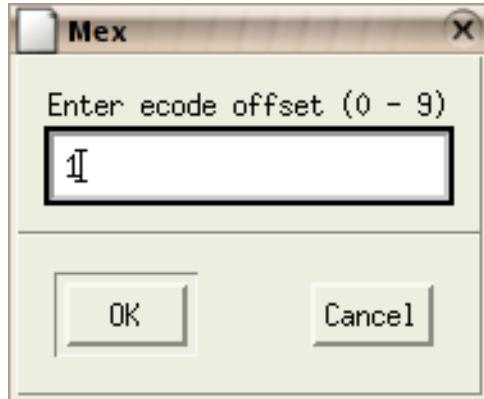
you specify the electrode number of the templates that you want to see. Enter the electrode number or



accept the default of 0 and click on OK. XmMex will display the templates. This view has up to 8



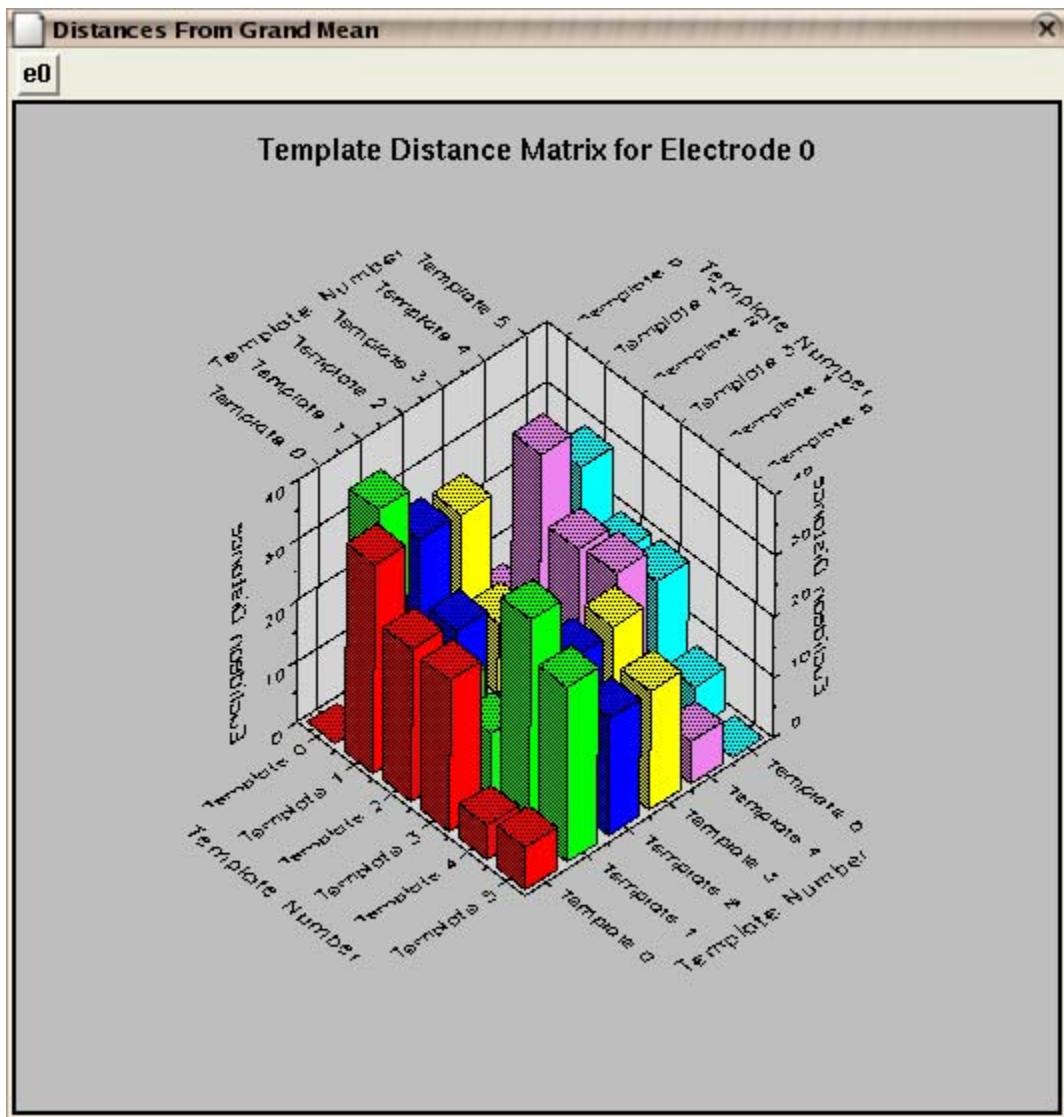
buttons in the tool bar labeled e0 to e7 representing the possible electrode numbers. If you want to view the templates for a different electrode or to redisplay the templates for the current electrode, click on the appropriate button in the tool bar. If you click on one of the waveforms, it will be selected and XmMex will draw a set of blue boxes on the waveform representing the actual data points of the template. An information dialog will be posted asking you to specify the offset for the selected template. To accept



the default offset click OK or Cancel. To change the offset, enter the new offset and click OK. This is a blocking dialog so you will have to click on either the OK or the Cancel button to proceed. If you click the Delete button in the waveform view tool bar, the template will be deleted, the waveforms represented by the selected template will be marked as unclassified and no ecodes for those waveforms will be written to the Rex E file.

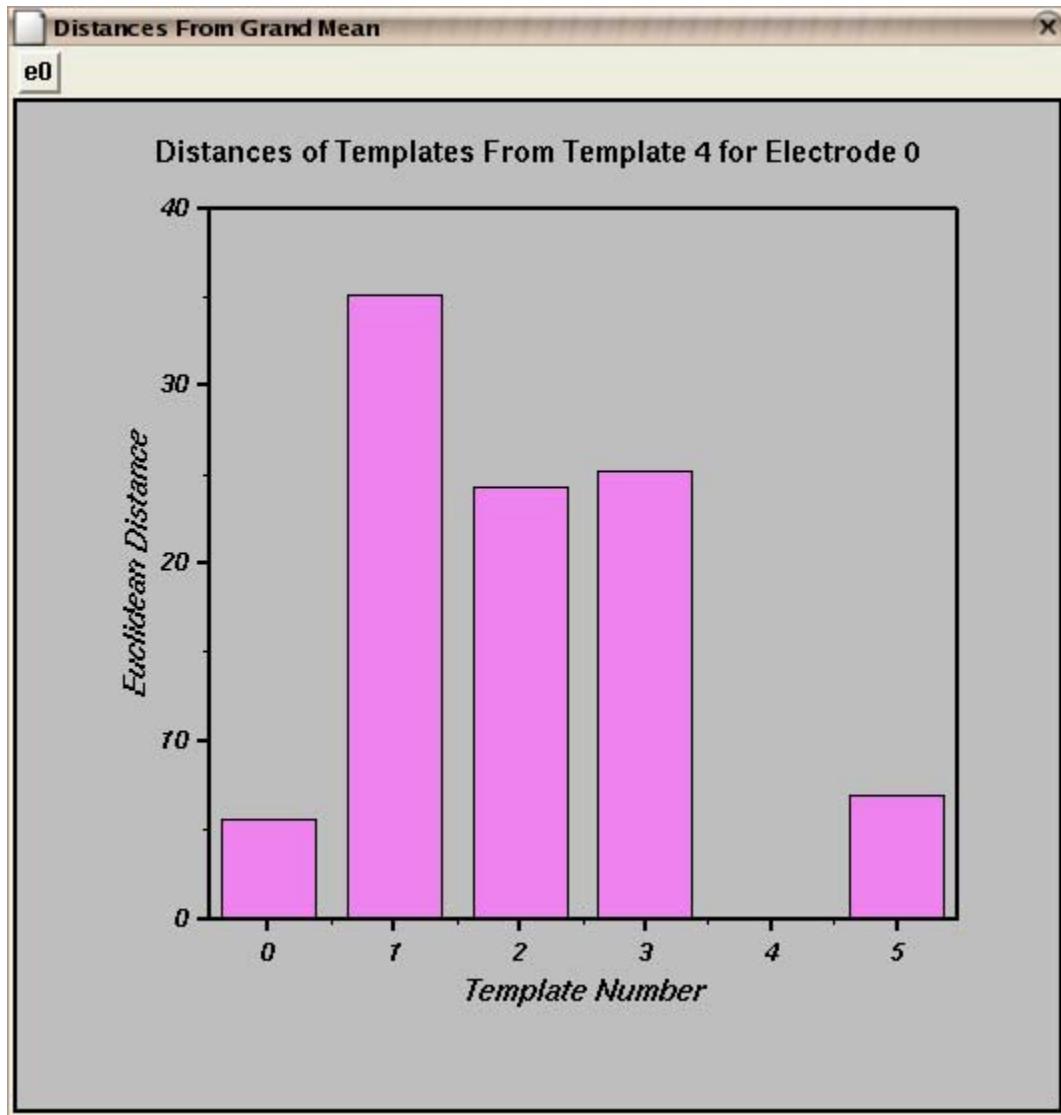
In the example given, it seems that the waveforms in this data set may have come from two or three different neurons, one represented by the yellow and blue templates, one represented by the red and pink templates, and a possible third represented by the cyan template. Also, the green template may represent noise. This suggests that some templates may need to be merged and one may need to be deleted. For help in determining which templates should be merged select the Template Distances item

from the View menu. This will bring up a three dimensional histogram showing the Euclidean distance



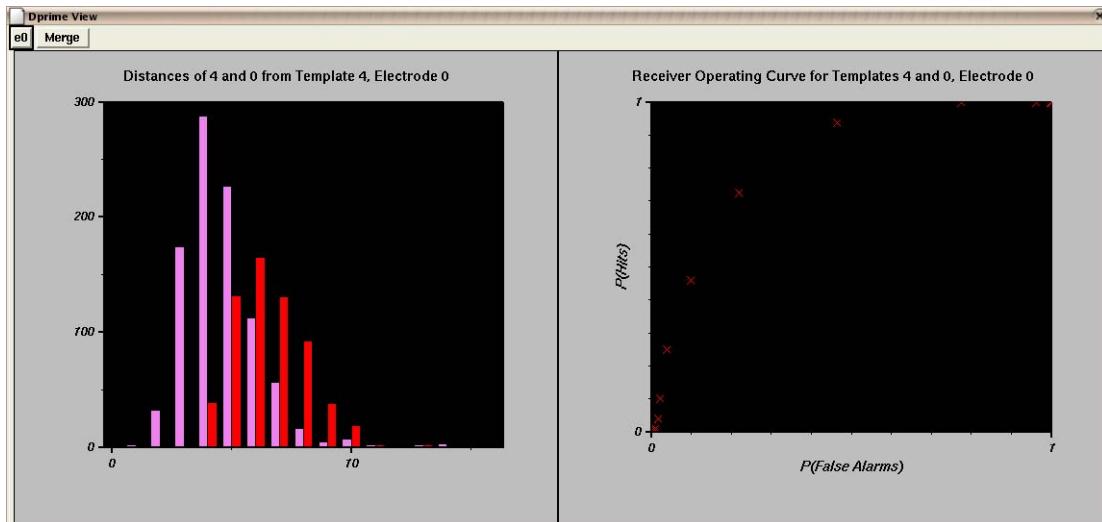
of each template from all of the others. The perspective of this view can be changed by holding down the right mouse button and dragging the mouse. If you click on one of the sets of bars with the left mouse button, the three histogram will be replaced with a two-dimensional histogram showing the

distances of each template from the specified template. Now click on one of the bars with the left mouse

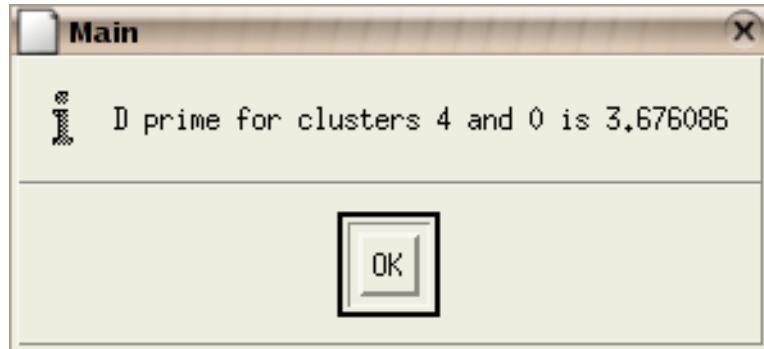


button. XmMex will display a view showing the distances of waveforms in both clusters from the

specified template and a receiver operating curve. XmMex will also post an information dialog showing



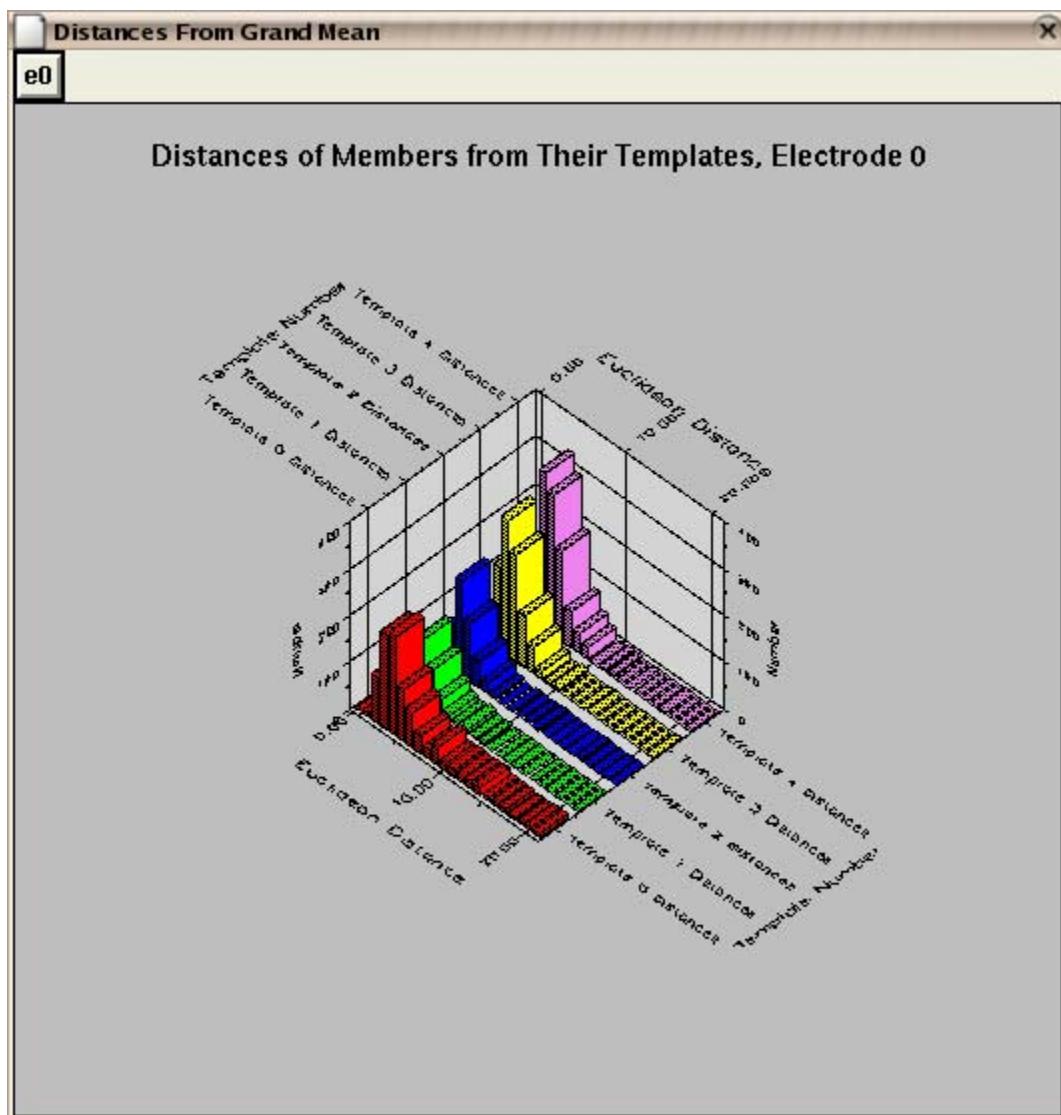
the D-prime for these two templates. In this example, the red and pink waveforms overlap considerably,



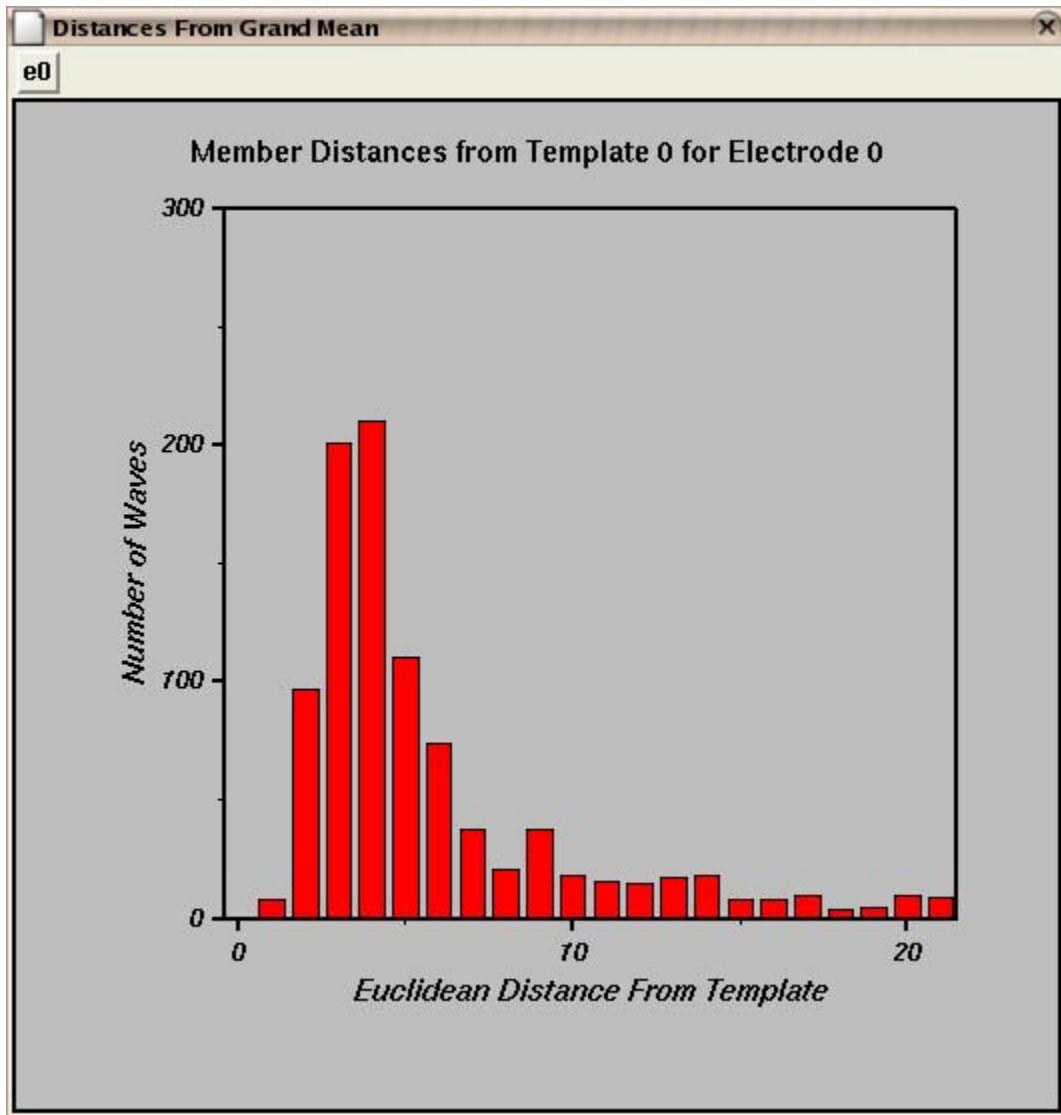
suggesting that they should be merged into one cluster. To merge the waveforms, click the Merge button in the D-Prime view tool bar. If you click on the electrode button in the tool bar of Template Distance view, the three dimensional histogram will be displayed with only 5 sets of distances. If you redisplay the template view, it will show only 5 templates. Note that the numbers and colors of the templates will be different than in the original view.

For help in determining which templates should be deleted, select the Member Distances item from the Views menu. This will bring up a three dimensional histogram showing the distances of each

waveform from its template. If you click on one of the sets of bars with the left mouse button, the view

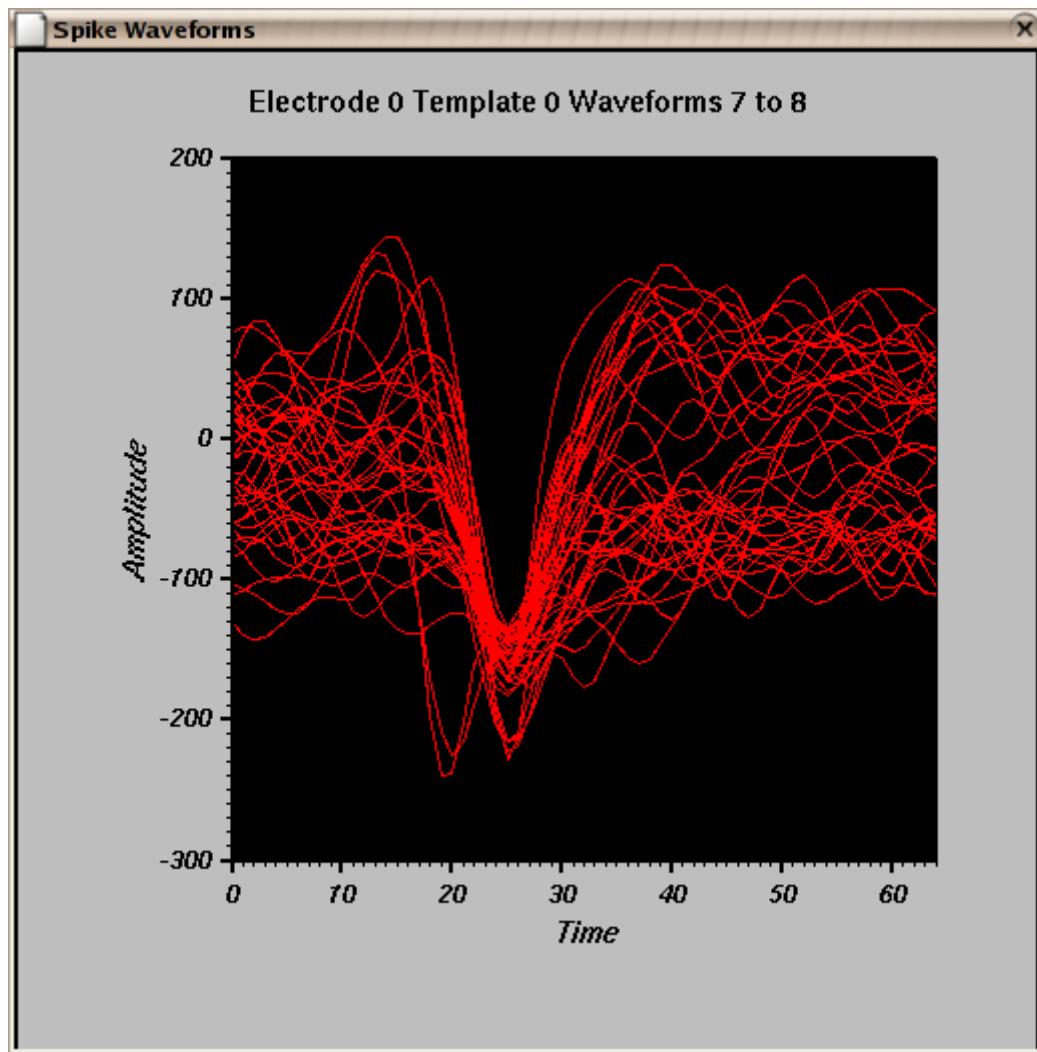


will display a two dimensional histogram showing the distances of the waveforms in the specified



clusters from the cluster template. Now click on one of the bars with the left mouse button. XmMex will

display up to 100 waveforms that are the specified distance from the cluster template. This example



suggests that the waveforms in the cluster represented by the red template are probably noise and that they should be deleted. To do this, bring up the template view, click on the red template, then click the Delete button in the tool bar.

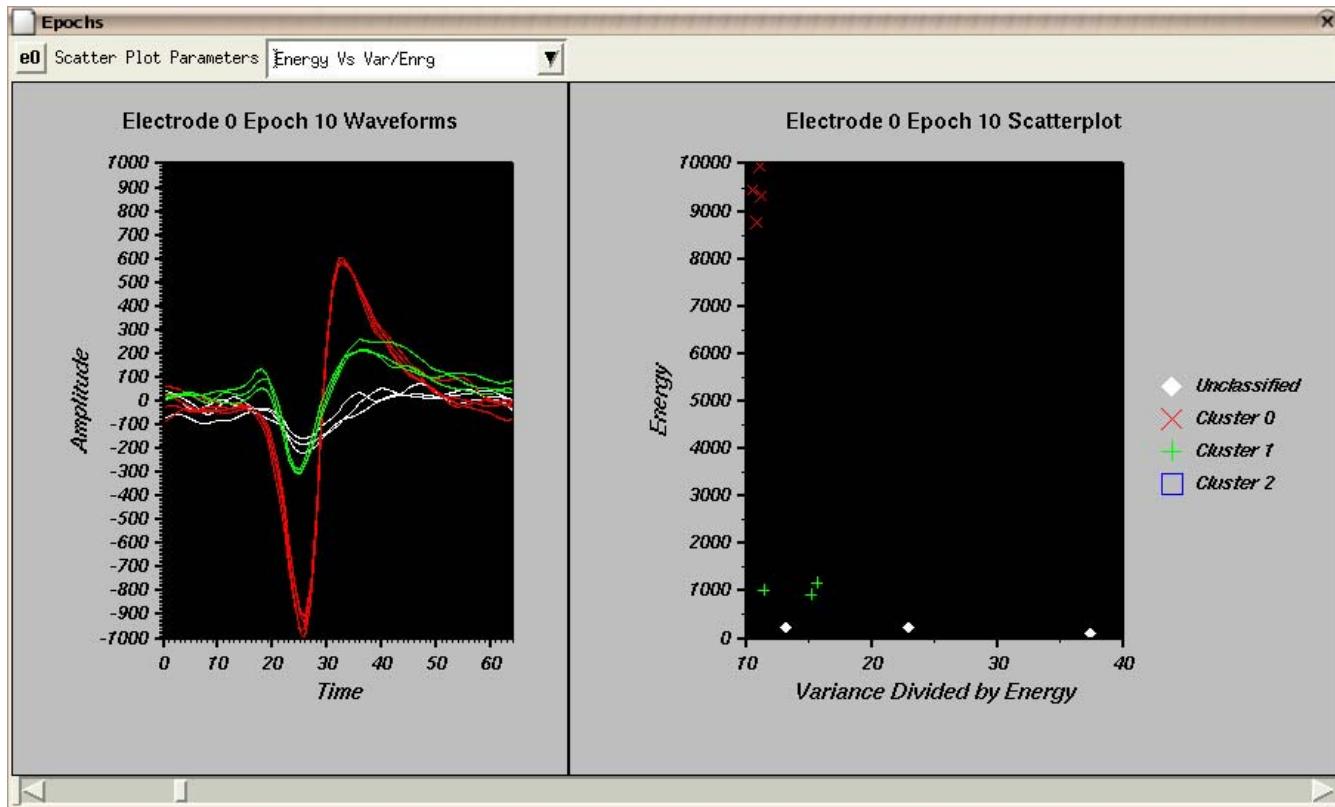
If you want to see what waveforms were unclassified, click on the Unclassified Distances item in the Views menu. This will bring up a histogram showing the distances of the unclassified waveforms from the grand mean. Click on one of the bars in the histogram and XmMex will display up to 100 of the waveforms that are the specified distance from the grand mean.

If you think that the clusters contain waveforms that are too far from the template, or if you think that unclassified waveforms should have been classified, you can refine the classification by selecting the Classify Waves item from the Files menu and entering a new distance metric. Because XmMex has a set of templates, it will skip the finding templates phase and go directly to the classification phase, using the new distance metric.

XmMex provides tools for merging or deleting clusters of waveforms but no tool for splitting a cluster. Therefore, if it appears that a cluster contains waveforms from two neurons, you will have to reclassify the data with a new number of templates. To do this, select the Erase Templates item from the Files menu. Then select the new number of templates from the Options menu. Now, when you select the

Classify Waves item from the Files menu, XmMex will find a new set of templates and classify the waveforms according to these new templates. You can repeat this process until you are satisfied with the result.

In addition to viewing waveforms by distance from cluster templates, you can view the waveforms in your data set by trial or in groups of 50 if you selected the Use Epochs option in the Options Menu. Selecting the Scan Waves by Trial item from the Views menu will bring up the following view. You move through your data set using the slider below the panels. You can drag the



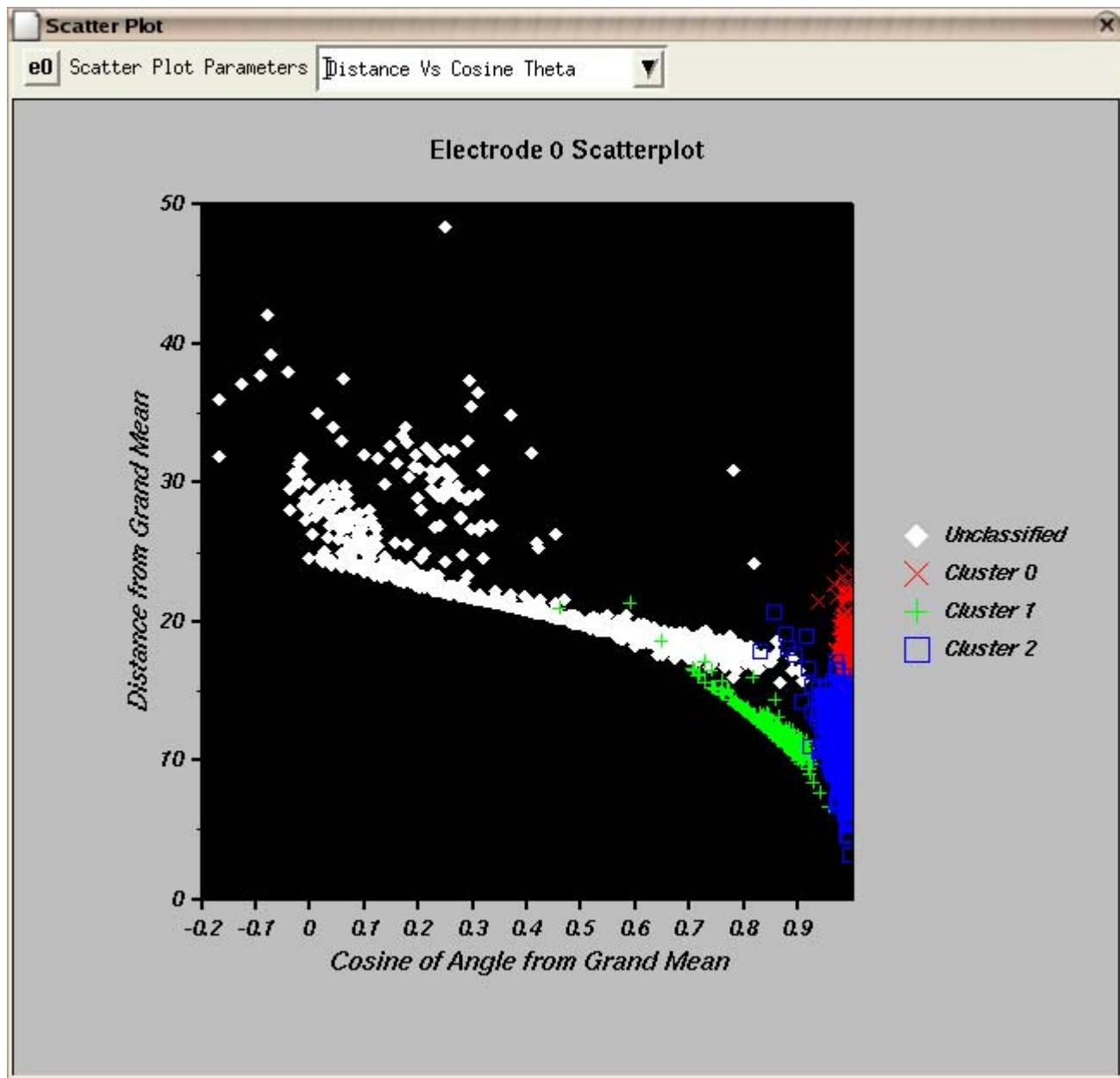
slider, click on the arrows at either end of the slider, or click in the slider trough.

In the left panel, the waveforms in a trial or epoch are plotted with colors corresponding to the templates that represent their clusters. Unclassified waveforms are plotted in white. In the right panel, pairs of waveform metrics are plotted against each other in scatter plots. You can select pairs of metrics from the pull down list in the view's tool bar. To see the waveform that corresponds to a data point in the scatter plot, click on the symbol. The waveform will be plotted by itself in the waveform panel. To redisplay all of the waveforms and data points in the trial, click on the electrode button in the view's tool bar.

This view allows you to see the effectiveness of the neuronal classifications. If waveforms of several colors are superimposed, you probably have clusters that should be merged. If waveforms of the same color form distinct groups, you probably merged clusters that should have remained separate, or you did not specify enough clusters when you ran the classification algorithm. If white waveforms are superimposed on colored waveforms, it suggests that the distance metric you used for the classification was too large or too small. If waveforms of one color predominate in early trials, but waveforms of a different color predominate in later trials, the recordings changed during the experiment. It may be that the neuron waveforms simply changed amplitude, or it may be that you were recording from different neurons in the beginning of the experiment than in the end of the experiment.

XmMex measures several metrics of the waveforms in the data set. These are peak amplitude, peak time, valley amplitude, valley time, max height, max width, wave variance, wave energy, distance, and cosine theta. The peak amplitude is the maximum positive value in the waveform. Peak time is the time of the maximum positive amplitude. Valley amplitude is the maximum negative value in the waveform. Valley time is the time of the minimum negative value. Max height is the difference between the peak and valley amplitudes. Max width is the positive difference between the peak time and the valley time. Wave variance is the statistical variance of the data points in a waveform. Wave energy is the sum of the squared differences between neighboring pairs of points in the waveform divided by the number of pairs. Distance is the euclidean distance between a waveform and the template of the waveform's cluster. Cosine theta is the cosine of the angle between a waveform and the template of the waveform's cluster. You can view plots of pairs of these parameters on a trial by trial basis in the epochs view, or you can plot these parameters across all the data. Select the Parameter Scatter Plot item

from the Views menu. You can select which pairs of parameters to plot from the pull down list in the



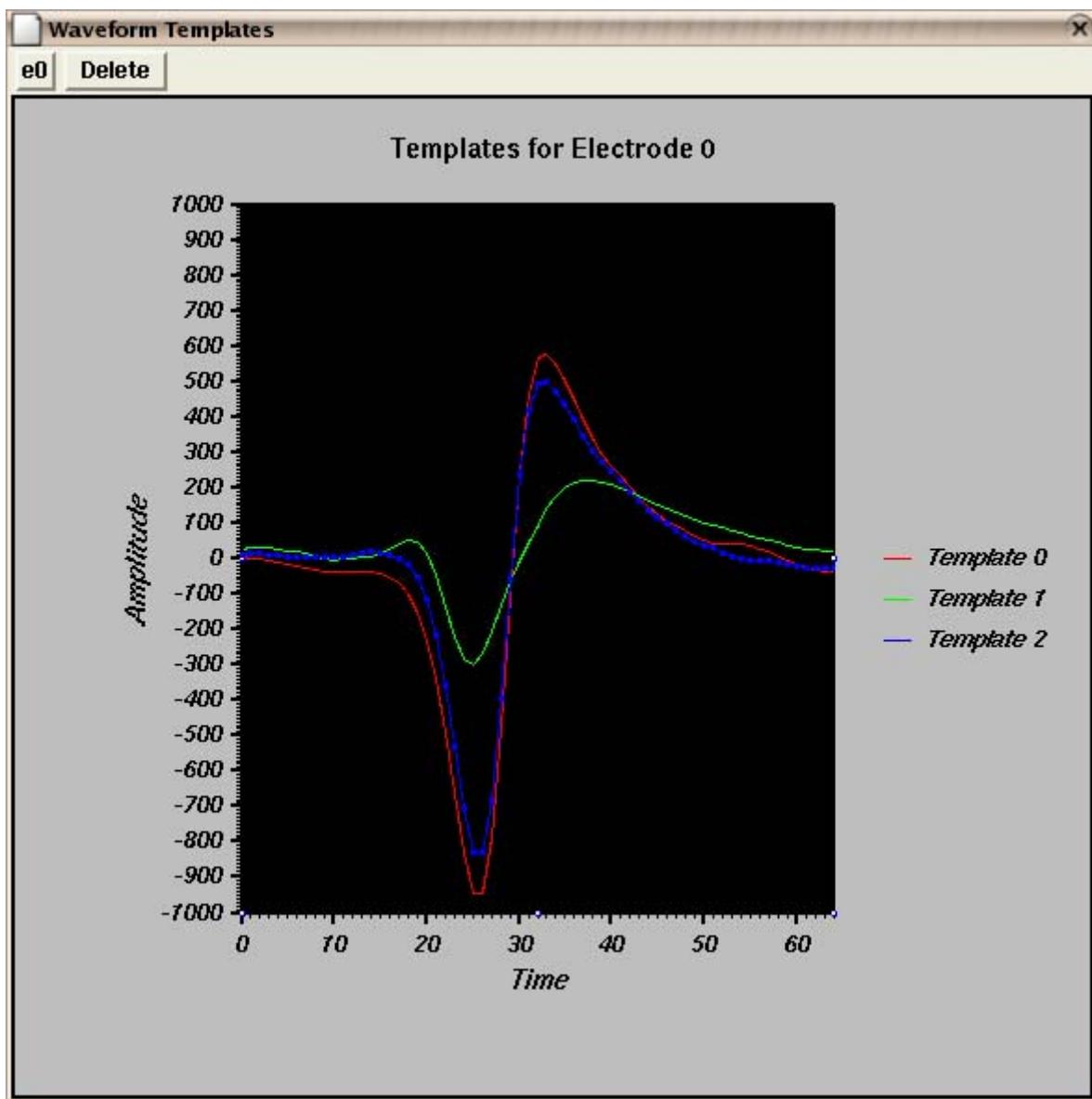
view's tool bar.

### Saving Views

If you want you can save any of the views as postscript files. Bring up the view you want to save and select one of the Print... items from the Files menu. XmMex will post a dialog box asking for the name of the file to which the view should be saved. This will be a postscript file so you should append the suffix .ps to the file name. You can then preview the file with any postscript viewer and print it to any postscript printer. The views will look best on color printers.

## Saving Data

Once you are satisfied with the classification of the waveforms in the data set, you can save the results to the E file. XmMex sets the default ecodes as follows, for electrode 0, waveforms from the cluster represented by template 0 will be given the ecode 700, those from the cluster represented by template 1 will be given the ecode 701, etc. Waveforms recorded from electrode 1 will be given ecodes ranging from 710 to 719. If you want different ecodes, click on a template in the template



view. Blue boxes will be drawn for the data points in the selected template. XmMex will post a dialog box which displays the default ecode offset number and in which you can enter a new offset. The offset must be from 0 to 9. Finally, click on the Save item in the Files menu. Ecodes corresponding to each waveform's template will be written to the E file.

