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GRAVITATIONAL WAVE ANTENNA MARIO SCHENBERG: MANUAL OF THE DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM

Carlos Filipe da Silva Costa
César Strauss
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Technical manual: instructions of use and installation of the data acquisition system.

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ABSTRACT

The main goal of this document is to give a quick introduction to main functionalities of the Data Acquisition System of the Gravitational Wave detector Mario Schenberg. The reader will find information about the installation of the electronics and its configuration. He will also find information about the configuration of the PCs and the specific program of acquisition.

ANTENA DE ONDAS GRAVITACIONAIS MARIO SCHENBERG: MANUAL DO SISTEMA DE AQUISIÇÃO DE DADOS

RESUMO

Neste texto se descreve de modo geral todo o sistema de aquisição de dados da antena gravitacional Mario Schenberg. O objectivo é ter um documento com as informações cruciais sobre o funcionamento dos programas e montagem de todo o sistema electrónico e dos computadores.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DAQ	–	Data Acquisition
ADC	–	Analogue to Digital Converter
GPS	–	Global Positioning System
PPS	–	Pulse Per Second
UTC	–	Coordinated Universal Time
GMT	–	Greenwich Mean Time
PC	–	Personal Computer
GUI	–	Graphical User Interface
FFT	–	Fast Fourier Transform
TFP	–	Time Frequency Processor
SMB	–	SubMiniature version B) connectors
RAID	–	Redundant Array of Independent Drives
VNC	–	Virtual Network Computing
DNS	–	Domain Name System
YAST	–	Yet Another Setup Tool (OpenSuse)
SSH	–	Secure Shell
TTL	–	Transistor-Transistor Logic

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1 INTRODUCTION

Mario Schenberg is spherical gravitational waves detector. It uses a spherical resonant mass made of CuAl(6%) alloy which provides a high mechanical Q. Its mass is 1150kg for 65cm diameter.

Gravitational waves couple with the five quadrupolar modes of the sphere (ZHOU; MICHELSON, 1995; COSTA et al., 2003). These quadrupolar modes have frequencies of 3200Hz with a bandwidth of ∼80Hz. Sphere surface oscillations due to GW interactions are converted into (EM) signals by six transducers disposed in the TIGA configuration (JOHNSON; MERKOWITZ, 1993; MERKOWITZ; JOHNSON, 1997). Transducers signals are converted into the quadrupolar mode channels h_m

$$h_m(\omega) = T_{mk}(\omega)V_k(\omega) \quad m = 1, .., 5 \text{ and } k = 1, .., 6\,, \tag{1.1}$$

where T_{NK} is the transfer function containing the equations of our system and V_k are the tensions provided by the transducers.

Using a basis for quadrupolar tensor Y^m_{ij}, the quadrupolar mode are directly related to the GW tensor $h_{ij} = h_m Y^m_{ij}$ (MAGGIORE, 2008; ZHOU; MICHELSON, 1995). Thus with the five quadrupolar modes we have the complete information about the gravitational waves: direction and polarisation. All the analysis is done with the quadrupolar modes channels h_m.

The detector Mario Schenberg is the first spherical detector to use parametric transducers of the klystron type (PIMENTEL O D AGUIAR; TOBAR, 2008). The EM cavity of the transducer is pumped with a frequency of 10GHz. Frequency modulations due to oscillations of the transducer membrane closing the cavity are measured ($df/dx \sim$ 80MHz/μm) (AGUIAR et al., 2006).

Signals of the six transducers are amplified and digitalised. Here we present the system of data acquisition and digitalisation. We have written our softwares to manage the acquisition (ADC, GPS, VXI-PC plates). We tested the synchronisation between the Pulse Per Second (PPS) of the GPS and the data acquisition. We get a timing error of 1/*sampling*. Scintillators are also being installed to veto astroparticle shower's.

2 THE DAQ SYSTEM

The data acquisition (DAQ) system is composed by the following devices, see Figures 2.1 and 2.2:
- A VXI mainframe containing three boards (see Figure 2.3):

- The bridge between the VXI mainframe (CT-400 chassis) and a PC (Firewire) is done by the Agilent board **E8491B** (Agilent Technologies, 2006).
- The data acquisition (DAQ) and the analog to digital conversion ADC is done by the **VT1436** from VT1436 Instruments (VXI Technology, 2010).
- The reference time is given by the Time Frequency Processor **BC537gps** (SYMMETRICOM, 2004) from Symmetricom.

(A small description of the plates is available below and full manuals are in the folder: *C:\SDAQ\Manuals*.)

- Two PC:

- The Dell Optiplex 780 is dedicated to the DAQ, therefore this PC is called “schenbi-daq”.
- The Dell Power Edge 1900 is used as a server and to perform the real time analysis. His name is “schenbi-s” (this is also its DNS).

Two programs have been developed to manage the DAQ system. These programs are installed in the DAQ PC.

- **GPSmgr.exe** to control the GPS.s The GPS control is done sending predefined command package (package of bits). Some commands are described below. This program is written in C++ with a GUI (Graphical User Interface). The GUI is provided by the free library wxWidget.
- **SDAQ9.m** to perform the data acquisition.
  This is a Matlab program composed by two files (SDAQ9.m and SDAQ9.fig). A more detailed description follows below.

(Both programs are located in the *C\DAQ\SDAQprg\SDAQ64\*.)

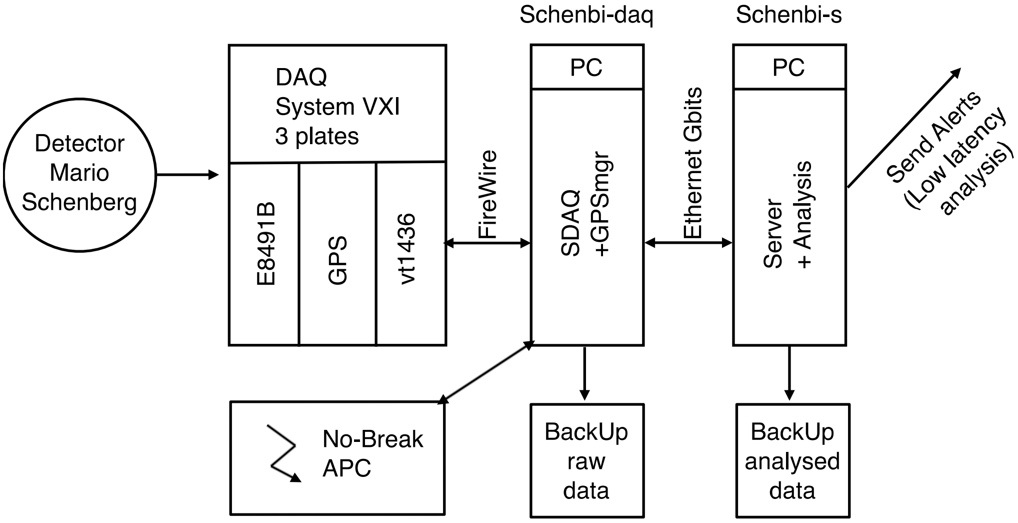


Figure 2.1 - Schema of the complete setup.

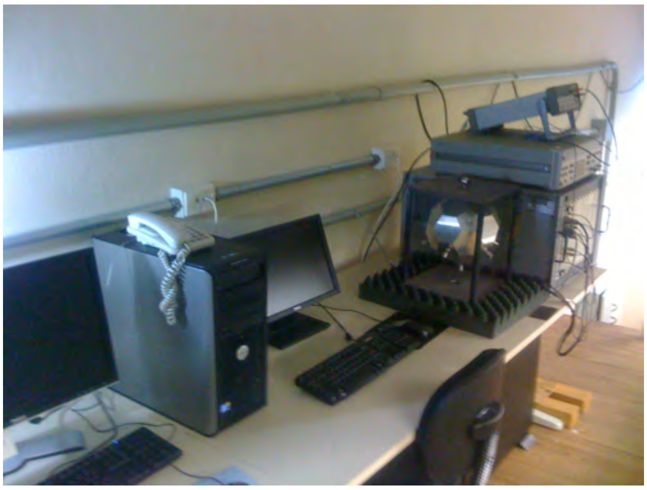


Figure 2.2 - The complete setup, the two PCs and the C-400 chassis containing the three boards. In the middle we can observe a test mass with six Piezoelectric resonators.

The hardware and a part of the DAQ system are also described in the César Costa's report (COSTA, 2008).

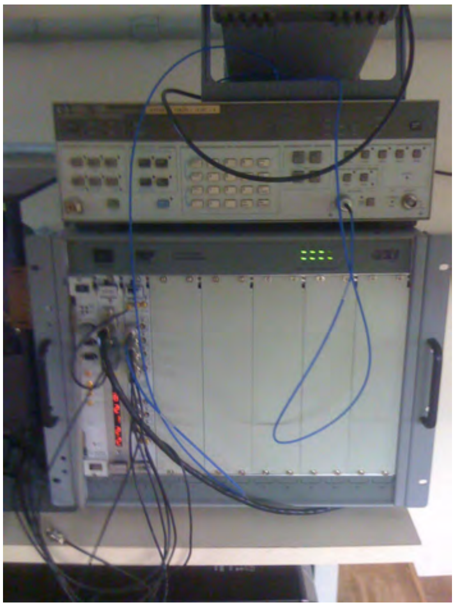


Figure 2.3 - The C-400 chassis and the three boards. From left to right: the E8491b, the BC537gps and VT1436. Above we can observe a function generator used for tests.

2.1 The CT-400 chassis

The CT-400 chassis from VT technology is the mainframe that contains the boards, see Figure 2.3. It is defined as a C-size (industry standard). All the boards are C-size. The chassis has thirteen slots and use the VXIbus.

2.2 The E8491B

The E8491B is on slot 0 (on the left), see Figures 2.3 and 2.5, and its logical address is 0. It is the mainframe's resource manager (Agilent Technologies, 2006) and provides a direct connection from the PC to the VXI mainframe via the industry standard IEEE-1394 bus (firewire).

2.3 The VT1436

The VT1436 is placed on slot 2, on the right and side, see Figures 2.3 and 2.5. The VT1436 provides 16 channels with a maximum sampling of 102.4 kSa/s and a DRAM memory buffer of 32MB divided by the number of channels (so 16 MSa). Each sample is 16bits.

2.4 The GPS

The Time Frequency processor (TFP) BC537gps is on slot 1, middle, see Figure 2.3. It has an internal clock and provides the time with a precision of 0.1 microseconds. Nevertheless, our precision is not 0.1μs. Accessing the memory of the GPS takes a few milliseconds. We correct this delay using the PPS. But our precision is then limited to $1/sampling$, see Sections C.8 and D.
The GPS antenna is placed on the building roof. The signal in this case is given by the GPS, but in case of communication lost, the BC537gps will run in the “flying” mode. It means using its own clock. Presently, we use the BC537gps to get the GPS time and the PPS. We use it also to generate a external sampling frequency synchronized with the pulse per second (PPS) signal. For both functions, we need to configure the TFP using the GPSmgr program or the SDAQ.

2.5 The Scintillator Veto

Moreover, a scintillator veto was added to the system. This is a veto composed by three plates and 9 ADC channels. The acquisition of the cosmic rays is independent of the Mario Schenberg signal acquisition. For the moment these vetoes are going to be used for offline analysis. A possible adaptation could be done to add a channel to the real time data acquisition. This is under study. The complete scintillator vetoes is described in report written by prof. Anderson Fauth of Unicamp (FAUTH, 2011).

2.6 Actual configuration of the VXI instruments

2.6.1 VT1436

Considerations on the clock and sampling frequency:
We can use an internal clock or an external clock that serves as reference for the sampling. When using the internal clock, the following frequencies [Hz] are available: 40960, 41938.6, 44122.1, 48000, 49152, 50000, 51200, 52400.9, 61440, 62500, 64000, 65536, 66666.6, 76800, 78125, 80000, 81920, 96000, 98304, 100000, 102400
The sampling frequencies are defined as the clock frequencies divided or not by 5 and divided by any multiple of 2. If you program a clock frequency (then a sampling frequency) that does not match this list above, the VT1436 will use the closest one on the list.

Remark: For our application, we are interested in the sampling frequency. But the logic applied inside the VT1436 is not to configure the sampling frequency but the span frequency. The span frequency is the sampling frequency divided by 2.56. This frequency is in fact currently used in data acquisition. When doing a FFT, the maximum frequency of our spectra is the sampling frequency divided by two. But we have artifacts due to the FFT of finite transformation. So dividing by 2.56, we define a “safer” bandwidth without these artifacts.

To avoid variations of the number of bins per second, we use the external clock, the clock of the GPS. This problem is described in Section C.1.
The external clock should be within the range of 40960Hz to 102400Hz. Presently, the given frequency is chosen to match an internal one. This allows us to avoid radical changes of sampling in case of system failure.

The resonant frequency of Mario Schenberg detector is around 3200Hz. In theory, a frequency a bit higher than the frequency of our signal (resonant frequency) allows to reconstruct the signal. Practically, we define a Nyquist frequency as twice as the minimum required bandwidth, so: 6400Hz. The maximum frequency of FFT space is:

$$f_{max} = \frac{sampling}{2},$$

we should use such a sampling that our f_{max} is above or equal to 6400Hz. But not too high to generate an excess of useless data.

Frequencies generated by the Time Frequency Processor BC537gps that match the VT1436 internal frequencies and between the admissible range (40960Hz to 102400Hz) are [Hz]: $5^7 = 78125$, $2^2 \times 5^6 = 62500$, $2^4 \times 5^5 = 50000$, $2^5 \times 5^5 = 100000$, $2^7 \times 5^4 = 80000$.

The second point that we have to take into account is the time resolution $dt = 1/(sampling\ frequency)$.

Thus we define a set of sampling frequencies (see below) compatible with the defined criteria, sampling high enough to fulfill the Nyquist condition and a reasonable time resolution (tens of microseconds) but not too high to generate useless data.

Consideration on others parameters:
The VT1436 allows different acquisition modes.

- The trigger is set to manual. This allows us to control the beginning of the acquisition.
- The acquisition is set to “continuous mode”. The “block mode” send the data after each acquisition and wait till it finish sending the data. We lose

data in this mode, this problem is shown in Section C.3. The “continuous mode” continue getting data during the sending process. It keeps data temporally on the buffer. Thus cuts could appear if we saturate the buffer.

- The transmission to the PC is done per block of data. We have different block sizes programed, they are powers of two: 1024, 2048 and 4096 samples. Each sample is 2 bytes. As we will see bellow, we can set in our program the number of block per file. The function “Repeat ... times” corresponds to the numbers of blocks that we save in one file (repeat the block acquisition).

2.6.2 BC537gps

The TFP could generate a driving clock. This is the “External clock” used by the VT1436. It is a 10MHz clock. Subdivision frequencies could be obtained doing 10MHz/$n_1 \times n_2$ where n_1 and n_2 are two programmable parameters. When we use the PPS (peak per second) synchronous option, n_1 and n_2 should be defined as the desired value minus one unit. For example, to get 100KHz, we set $n_1 = 1$ and $n_2 = 49$ instead of 2 and 50 (Remark: the n_2 division is applied first so to get square signal we should keep $n_1 = 2$). The GPSmgr program allows us to set these parameters.

In the latest version of the SDAQ, the initialization of the TFP is done automatically.

2.6.3 Parameter summary:

- We program the following list of sampling frequencies [Hz]: 10000, 12500, 15625, 20000. For our measures we will use 15625Hz.

- We use the external clock given by the GPS. This clock is synchronous with the PPS signal.

- The acquisition is done in continuous mode.

- We have the following block sizes on buffer: 1024, 2048, 4096,

- The size of the file should be of 256 blocks of 1024 (128 of 2048, etc). A power of 2 optimize the FFT. This number of data corresponds to $\sim$ 10s.

- The VT1436 channel connections are summarized in the table below. The PPS is connected at the channel 16.

Table 2.1 - Table of correspondences between the position of the transducers on the sphere and the channels used on the DAQ and in the analysis.

Channel analysis	Positions on sphere ϕ	θ	VT1436 channel
1	240	79,2	1
2	120	79,2	2
3	0	79,2	3
4	300	37,4	4
5	180	37,4	9
6	60	37,4	10

(Notice: To have a determination of the GW arrival, the right orientation of the sphere should be given respectively to the north).

2.7 How to connect the TFP BC537gps and the VT1436.

The VT1436 entries are SMB connectors also called mini-BNC. The system use SMB connectors which are not 50Ω terminated.

To connect an external clock, we use the “External Sample SMB” connector on front panel of the VT1436. The voltage of the external clock signal should be compatible with the TTL standard (0 to 5V).

On the BC537gps the output connector is a 15-pin connector visible on Figure 2.5. Both boards are connected trough a 15-pin to SMB adapter cables, see Figure 2.6. The used pins are:

- Pin 4: PPS
- Pin 15: Periodic Output (the external clock for the VT1436)
- Pin 2 and 12: grounds

The description of pins is defined on Table 6.1 of the BC537gps manual, see Figure 2.4.

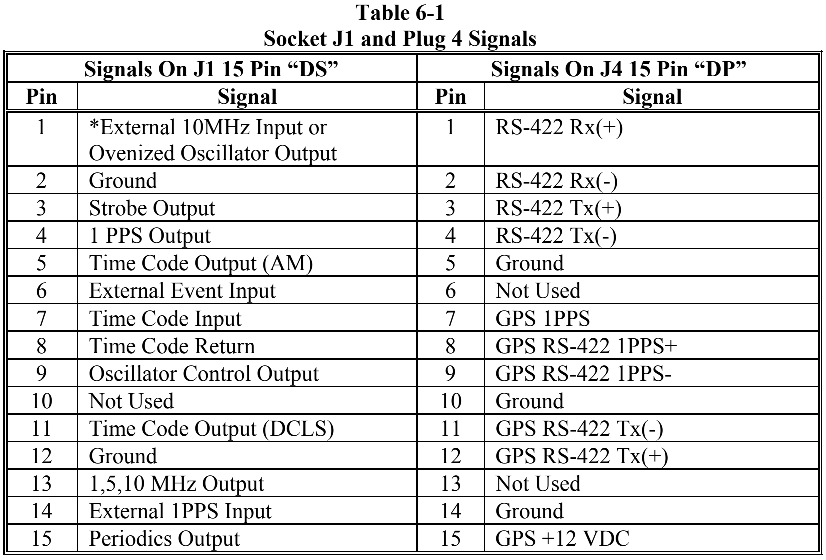


Table 6-1
Socket J1 and Plug 4 Signals

Signals On J1 15 Pin "DS"		Signals On J4 15 Pin "DP"	
Pin	**Signal**	**Pin**	**Signal**
1	*External 10MHz Input or Ovenized Oscillator Output	1	RS-422 Rx(+)
2	Ground	2	RS-422 Rx(-)
3	Strobe Output	3	RS-422 Tx(+)
4	1 PPS Output	4	RS-422 Tx(-)
5	Time Code Output (AM)	5	Ground
6	External Event Input	6	Not Used
7	Time Code Input	7	GPS 1PPS
8	Time Code Return	8	GPS RS-422 1PPS+
9	Oscillator Control Output	9	GPS RS-422 1PPS-
10	Not Used	10	Ground
11	Time Code Output (DCLS)	11	GPS RS-422 Tx(-)
12	Ground	12	GPS RS-422 Tx(+)
13	1,5,10 MHz Output	13	Not Used
14	External 1PPS Input	14	Ground
15	Periodics Output	15	GPS +12 VDC

Figure 2.4 - Extract of the BC537gps manual.

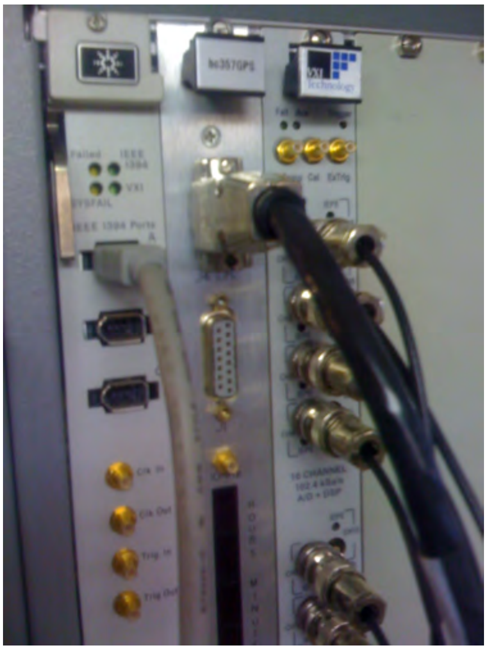


Figure 2.5 - Close view of the three boards. In the middle, on the BC537gps, we can see the 15-pin connector (still free). Above we have the connector and cable of the GPS antenna.

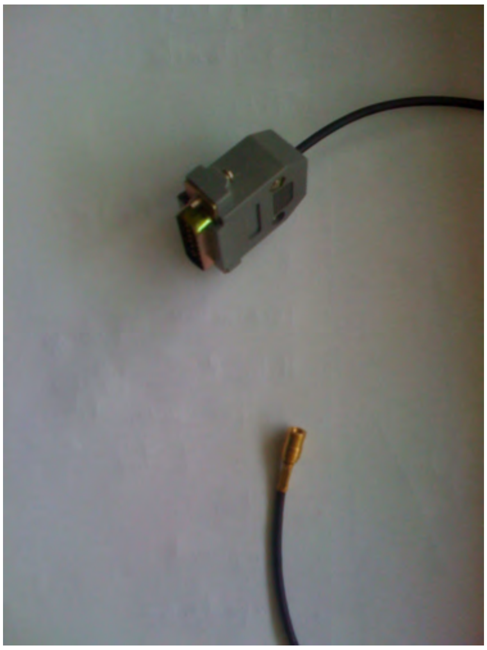


Figure 2.6 - Cable adaptation: 15-pin to SMB.

3 MINIMAL INSTALLATION FOR THE DATA ACQUISITION AND ANALYSIS

3.1 The data acquisition PC: schenbi-daq

The Optiplex 780 runs Windows 7 (64 bits). The hardware configuration is in Annex A.1.1. This PC is dedicated to run the SDAQ program and in background it monitors the no-break system from "APC".

- The connection with the VXI mainframe is done trough the Firewire port. This port was added with a PCI card. This is a 5V card and has no proper power supply. Thus we have to connect it in parallel to the floppy disk power supply cable. A special connector was made for this purpose.
- This PC also monitors the no-break status. It uses a program given by APC. In case of electricity cut, the no-break has a battery that last a few hours. After this delay the system is shut down. The APC was programed to send warning e-mails in case of electricity cut, low battery and other situations.

The following programs are installed on the DAQ PC :

- **Matlab R2009** which runs the SDAQ program. Presently, we are using an USP license. All the installation indications are available online USP/CCE. The following tool package are used:
  Data acquisition, Statistics, Curve fitting, Control system and Signal processing.
- **Codeblocks**, this is a free C++ compiler, it serves to compile the GPSmgr program. We use wxWidget to create the GUI. Both could be get free from the Internet. We need to install a GCC compiler.
- **Cygwin** allows us to use Linux applications. When installing Cygwin, one should install the "ssh" tools that allow our remote connections.
- **"PowerChute Business Edition"** is the APC management program. A description is available in Annex B.2.

The SDAQ program and GPSmgr need the following drivers:

- **IOlibrary suite** from Agilent (v16.1 64bits, for windows 7). It installs the application "Agilent Connection Expert.exe". This last program allows us to manage the connection to the boards. The IOlibrary suite installation also includes the VISA libraries which are the interface between the code machine and the programming code. More indications about the Agilent program could be found in (COSTA, 2008; Agilent Technologies, 2006). The help is located in the VISA file.

- **VXIplug&play library** (64bits), this is the VT1436 plate driver. We have an installation file that installs this library "hpe1432_64.dll" and other things. A copy of the library is directly installed in the path of our SDAQ application.

- **Mex-file: hpe1432.mexw64**, this is a library used by Matlab. This library allows Matlab to use the C functions of the "hpe1432_64.dll" libraries. This file must be placed in the path of the SDAQ.

- **"mwagilentvisa.dll"**, this library is installed in *C:\Program Files\MATLAB\R2009a\toolbox\instrument\instrumentadaptors*. Our MATLAB program uses it to send commands to the TFP. This is the VISA interface. This library comes with the version R2010a or superior versions of Matlab.

The installations files are stored in *C:\DAQ \Drivers new*

3.2 The server: schenbi-s

The Dell PowerEdge 1900 runs openSUSE 11.4 (64 bits). The hardware configuration is in Annex A.1.2. This PC is used for real time analysis. It also serves as the interface between the DAQ PC and Internet.

The Sever needs the following programs :

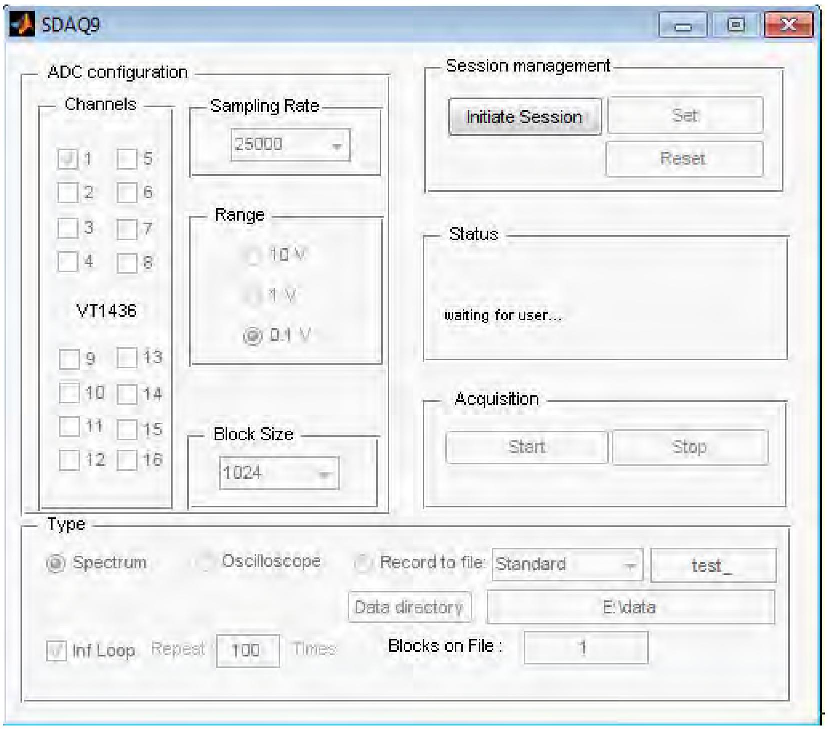
- **Root**, the data analysis application from CERN.

The data analysis programs need the following libraries:

- **GSL libraries**

- **mG_Libraries**
- **mS_Libraries**
- **Frame Libraries from Ligo-Virgo**
- **Wavelet_Analysis_Tool**

4 SDAQ UTILISATION



Channels: ☑ 1 □ 5 □ 2 □ 6 □ 3 □ 7 □ 4 □ 8 □ 9 □ 13 □ 10 □ 14 □ 11 □ 15 □ 12 □ 16

Sampling Rate: 25000

Range: ○ 10 V ○ 1 V ● 0.1 V

Block Size: 1024

Status: waiting for user...

Type: ● Spectrum ○ Oscilloscope ○ Record to file: Standard test_

Data directory: E:\data

☑ Inf Loop Repeat 100 Times

Blocks on File : 1

Figure 4.1 - Front panel of the SDAQ9 program.

The DAQ system program is written with MATLAB. MATLAB is compatible with C++ and allows to create graphical interface (GUIDE, see (MATHWORKS, 2002)). In Figure 4.1 is shown the front panel of the SDAQ program.

The SDAQ9.m could be found in *C\DAQ\SDAQprg\SDAQ64\*).

The program is divided in five sections. They are described in the order by which they should be used. The buttons are automatically enabled or disabled when they can be used or not. To follow the description below, please, refer to Figure 4.1.

4.1 Session management

The first section is the **Session management**. You will be asked to initiate the session. No controls are allowed before it.

a) **Initiate Session**: when pressing this button the program sets all internal variables to default values. It also sends the commands to initialize the channels of acquisition. The initialization of the BC537gps is done at the same time (to control the external clock).

b) **Set**: this button is used when you have selected the kind of data acquisition you wish. It sends your data acquisition configuration to the board.

c) **Reset**: cancels the set function.

4.2 ADC configuration

The **ADC configuration** section is dedicated to measurement settings. It is composed by:

a) **Channels**: selection of the measured channels.

b) **Sampling rate**: we have programmed a list of different samplings, see 2.6.3.

c) **Range**: of the input voltage (peak to peak).

d) **Block size**: number of samplings acquired from the VT1436 memory.

4.3 Type

In the **Type** section you will choose how the data are displayed or saved. You have the choice between:

a) **Spectrum**: measures the frequency spectrum of the signal.

b) **Oscilloscope**: measures the signal (voltage).

c) **Record to file**: the data are not displayed but directly saved to files. First you can choose the path where to save files. Then you define the file names. Three options are available:

   - MSdata20101107185446 (see filename convention below, Section 6.1).
   - Test20101107185446 (see filename convention below).
   - You can create your base name and the files are numerated from 1 to the maximum measurements allowed.

d) **Inf loop**: is marked when a continuous data acquisition is wanted. If not, you can choose the number of acquisition.

e) **Repeat**: it defines the number of block that are stored before write to the file.

4.4 Status

This section is reserved for status information. When the program is initiated, it shows the date. If not, an error message will be displayed, the communication between the PC and the boards, including the Agilent board, should be checked.

During measurements it indicates the actual operation done and when needed the next operation to be done.

4.5 Acquisition

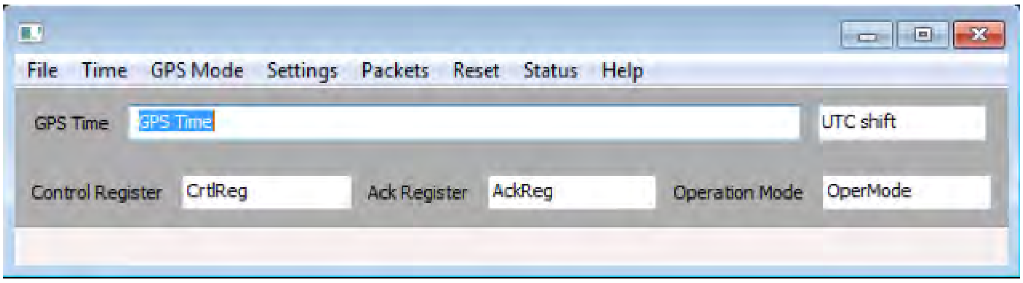
This is the last section to be done before starting acquisition.

a) **Start**: this button calls the "VT1436_initMeasure" (VXI Technology, 2010). which serves to define the group channels (and cancel old ones). At this level parameters of the data acquisition are transmitted to the VT1436. When possible, parameters are written to the hardware as soon as they are received. Sometimes, the parameter cannot be written to the hardware until starting a measurement. In this case, the value of the parameter is saved in the RAM of the VT1436B module until the measurement is started with "VT1436_initMeasure." Finally, the "triggerMeasure" function is called and the measurement initiates.

b) **Stop**: stops the data acquisition.

5 GPSmrg UTILISATION

The latest version of SDAQ initiate the BC537gps. Nevertheless, other tests could be done. The GPSmgr (GPS manager) contains predefined command (bit package) that are used to set the GPS. The description of the "command package" is available in (SYMMETRICOM, 2004). The front panel of the program in Figure 5.1 is shown.



GPS Time GPS Time UTC shift

Control Register CrtlReg Ack Register AckReg Operation Mode OperMode

Figure 5.1 - Front panel of the GPSmgr program.

5.1 Panel

a) The **Menu Bar** contains all the commands. They will be listed below.

b) The **GPS Time window** displays the TFP time and the date. In principle this time is give by the GPS. The configuration could be change.

c) The **UTC shift** window displays the number of hour that the TFP time differ from the UTC time.

d) The **Control register** window display the last status of the register (The TFP is controlled by registers written and read by the host).

e) The **Ack register** (Acknowledge register) window shows if the packet was received or ready to be sent.

f) The **Operation Mode** displays operation modes)

g) The **Status bar** display the status of sent command.

5.2 Time

This menu allows us to enable or disable the TFP time acquisition. It is recommended to disable the time when taking data. We can suspect a slowing in the communication.

5.3 TFP mode (called GPS mode)

a) **Set Frequency Clock Mode** (TIME SYNC MODE): The TFP could use different clock (its one clock or external clocks), see the section 1.5 of the manual (SYMMETRICOM, 2004). We can choose between:

   - **Time code**: this function allows the user to select the format and modulation types associated with an input timing signal.
   - **Free Running**: the TFP runs at the last known oscillator frequency.
   - **Real Time Clock Mode**: the TFP synchronizes to the onboard real time clock (RTC) IC, and the major time is also derived from the clock IC.
   - **GPS Mode**: our GPS receiver is located in one antenna. The internal clock is controlled by the GPS.

b) **Set Position mode**: this function is specific of the GPS: If the position is known and static, then time can be determined by measuring the time of arrival of a single satellite signal. Each satellite broadcasts information which allows the GPS to calculate the position. Presently, our position is fixed and we need only time, so one satellite. Three satellites are needed to get position and four to determine the position and the time. We can choose to use 4, 3 or only one satellite. The option automatic switch from one, three or four satellites in function of the reception. It is better to get our position from the GPS.

5.4 Settings (could be Time Settings)

When we use the GPS, the date and time are set automatically but in other modes we have to set them manually.

a) **Set UTC shift**: UTC (coordinated universal time) refers to the old GMT (Greenwich Meridian Time). The GPS gives the UTC time. We can set the TFP to display and record our local time by giving the shift hours of the local position. **Remark**: When taking scientific data, it is recommended to use the UTC time so UTC shift 0.

b) **Set year**: We should set the year if we are not using the GPS.

c) **Set Time**: the same as above.

d) **Set GPS or UTC time**. The TFP could give the the UTC time (GMT, date and time) or the number of seconds since 6 January 1980.

5.5 Others Packets

a) **"C" Command input**: This packet sets machine parameters. As an example, we can do a "Software Reset".

b) **"D" Load D/A converter**: The TFP reference crystal oscillator is voltage controlled using the buffered output of a 16 bits D/A converter as the controlling voltage.

c) **"F" Heartbeat control**: This packet establishes the frequency of the TFP output periodic. This is the mode to generate the clock used to drive the VT1436. For more detail, please refer to (SYMMETRICOM, 2004).

d) **"G" Propagation Offset control**: This mode is used if we have a delay in the transmission of the time from GPS to the TFP.

e) **"I" Clock Source select**: The 10Mhz frequency of the TFP could be driven from the internal or an external clock.

f) **Send packet**: Allows you to send any undefined packet.

5.6 Resets

We can reset the receiver (GPS) or the TFP.

a) **Reset TFP/Board**

b) **Reset Receiver**

5.7 Status

It prints in a separate windows the TFP configuration and a list of errors.

6 FILE STRUCTURE CONVECTION

Files generated by the SDAQ.m program are defined by the following conventions. Each file contains an header and data are save as floats.

6.1 File names:

The name of the file is defined in the following way:

- The file starts with:
  - **MSdata** when the data are scientific data.
  - **Test** when data belong to tests.
  - A name could be specify for special tests.

- When using the MSdata or Test conventions, the name of the file contains automatically the date in the following format: MSdata20101107185446
  - 4 digits for the year
  - 2 digits for the month
  - 2 digits for the day
  - 2 digits for the hour (UTC)
  - 2 digits for minutes
  - 2 digits for seconds

6.2 File header

The header has the following format:

Total number of bytes	1 byte (Including this byte)
Program version	1-byte
Header version	1-byte
Date of GPS (seconds)	4-bytes
Date of GPS (fraction of seconds)	4-bytes
Date of the file begin (seconds)	4-bytes
Date of the file begin (fraction of seconds)	4-bytes
Number of blocks	2-bytes, unsigned integer type
Size of a block	2-bytes, unsigned integer type
Number of channels	1-byte, unsigned integer type
Sample rate	4-bytes, single
Range	1 byte, unsigned integer type

The header format will change according to the evolution of our data. The evolution is show in the table 6.1.

Table 6.1 - Evolution of the header.

Versions of program:	 of header:	changes applied:
1-7	n/d	- No changes.
8	1	- Program version and header version were added.
9	2	- UTC Time was changed to GPS Time.

6.2.1 Notice about time definitions!

The GPS works with the UTC time or with seconds since 6 January 1980. The date is given until 10^{-7}s. In the UTC convention, the time was given in the following format

8 bits	empty
4 bits	for the status
12 bits	day of the year (4 bits per day)
8 bits	for hours (4 per digit)
8 bits	for minutes (4 per digit)
8 bits	for seconds (4 per digit)
28 bits	for the fraction of seconds (4 per digit till 10^{-7}s)
4 bits	empty

The time was saved in this format until the version 9 of the program SDAQ. In version 9, we opted for the number seconds since 6 January 1980. There are two reasons for that. First it is more simple to handle and to do time corrections. Second, this is also the format used in the "Frame" defined by Ligo-Virgo. If we exchange data with them, we will already have the same format and reference.

Remark: now the time displayed on the GPS card is the GPS time which has 15s in advance respectively to UTC time.

The UTC time presents corrections of seconds called leap seconds [1]. At certain dates, seconds are subtract to keep the UTC time synchronous with solar time (one second

[1] see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leap_second

each date). These corrections do not allow a simple conversion from UTC time to the number of seconds from a defined epoch. It is easier to apply the opposite conversion.

6.2.2 Configuration of GPS time (number of seconds)

To read this time the function “init_gps.m” was changed to “init_gps_2.m” which include a new packet to send:
“gps_send_packet(vv,‘PA0’); to Use GPS Time format”
“gps_send_packet(vv,‘M+00’); to Set time zone, GMT”

At the same time when defining the GPS time, we have to select the option: “ignore leap second” bit 3=1, see (SYMMETRICOM, 2004) Section 4.1.14. This gives a GPS time including all the seconds since 6 January 1980.

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APPENDIX A- PC CONFIGURATION AND INSTALLATIONS

A.1 Hardware

A.1.1 DAQ PC, shenbi-daq

This is an Dell OptiPlex 780.

- Processador Intel¨ CoreT2 Quad Q9650 (3.00GHZ, 12M, 1333MHZ FSB)
- RAM 16GB
- HD 500GB SATA, 7200RPM
- 2× HD 2TB SATA
- DVD 16X DVD+/-RW SATA
- Warranty: “4 anos de Garantia Pro Support com atendimento telefónico 24x7”, TAG 50TJNQ1

Presently, it is running Windows7 professional.

A.1.2 Server, shenbi-s

The server is a DELL computer “PowerEdge 1900”.

- Two Dual-Core Intel Xeon Processors 5000
- RAM 16GB
- 4 HD of 250G mounted in RAID 5
- DVD 16X DVD+/-RW SATA
- Various PCI (one full-height, half-length 3.3-V, 64-bit, 133-MHz (slot 1); one full-height, full-length 3.3-V, 64-bit, 133-MHz (slot 2); one x8 lane, 3.3-V (slot 3); three x4 lanes, 3.3-V (slots 4 through 6).
- Warranty: TAG 9T7FMC1

More informations about the hardware could be obtain in the terminal using the command: hwinfo –short.

Presently, it is running openSuse 11.4. In parallel we keep an installation of windows 2008. This version is not supported yet by the IOlibraries. Then this system could not be used for the DAQ.

A.1.3 Hard disks

Our system uses HD installed in RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Drives). HD manipulations should be cared.

We use the following configuration:

- schenbi-daq:

We installed internally one disk of 500GB and 4TB (2 disks of 2TB each, mounted in one logical volume). Externally, we keep a copy of the data in "schenbi-data_1" a logical volume of 4TB (2 samsung disks mounted in one case MTEK). The HD extern is connected with via e-SATA.
Attention: there is no plug&play function for the e-SATA. So always shut down the PC before unmount the disk.

- schenbi-s:

We have internally 4disks of 250GB (mounted in RAID 5). Our total memory is 860GB, due to RAID5 mirroring we loose 25%. Externally, we have a Iomega case with 2 disks of 2TB each mounted in RAID 1 ("schenbi-data_2" and "schenbi-data_3"). We have then a copy of the analyzed data in each disk. The Iomega is connected via e-sata.

Details on the RAID:
"It is a technology that provides increased storage functions and reliability through redundancy. This is achieved by combining multiple disk drive components into a logical unit, where data is distributed across the drives in one of several ways called RAID levels." (Wikipedia)

"RAID 0 (block-level striping without parity or mirroring) has no (or zero) redundancy. It provides improved performance and additional storage but no fault tolerance. Hence simple stripe sets are normally referred to as RAID 0. Data written to a RAID 0 volume are broken into fragments called blocks. Blocks are written in parallel to different disks. **Any drive failure destroys the array**, and the likelihood of failure increases with more drives in the array (at a minimum, catastrophic data loss is almost twice as likely compared to single drives without RAID).” (Wikipedia)

“RAID 1 (mirroring without parity or striping), data is written identically to multiple drives.” (Wikipedia)

“RAID 5 is a cluster-level implementation of data with “distributed parity or mirroring”. Clusters can vary in size and are user-definable but they are typically blocks of 64 thousand bytes. The clusters and parity are evenly distributed across multiple hard drives, as shown in Figure A.1 and this provides better performance than using a single drive for parity. Out of an array with ÒNÓ number of drives, the total capacity is equal to the sum of ÒN-1? hard drives. For example, an array with 4 equal sized hard drives will have the combined capacity of 3 hard drives. This is the most common implementation of data striping with parity. In this example 25% of the storage purchased is used for duplication (internet sources).” (Wikipedia)

Never unmount two disk at the same time! We get problems with it. It corrupts the disks. In raid 5, a copy of the missing part is done in remanning disks. So if two disk fail at the same time, the raid 5 could not managed it.

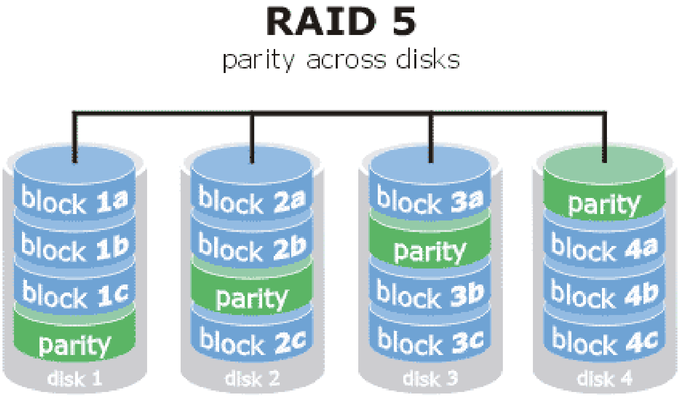


Figure A.1 - Schema of the RAID 5 parity.

Configuration of the RAID on the Iomega case

Behind the Iomega HD, are located two switches. Four different configurations are possible. We can pass from an extended logical disk, RAID 0 and RAID1, see the manual. RAID1 is mirroring of the two disks. In this case we have only 2TB.

Configuration of the RAID on the server

The raid could be configured during the BIOS initialization. At a certain moment you will be call to change RAID pressing the CTRL+R command. You will enter in the RAID configuration. The are 3 pages. The first pages presents you the configuration (we have only one ”configuration 0”). If you press F2 when this configuration is selected you will reset it and creates a new one.

A.2 Internet and ethernet connections.

The two PCs (Server and DAQ PC) are connected via ethernet. They use two gigabit cards. The server has another gigabit connexion for Internet.

Their DNS and names were set as:

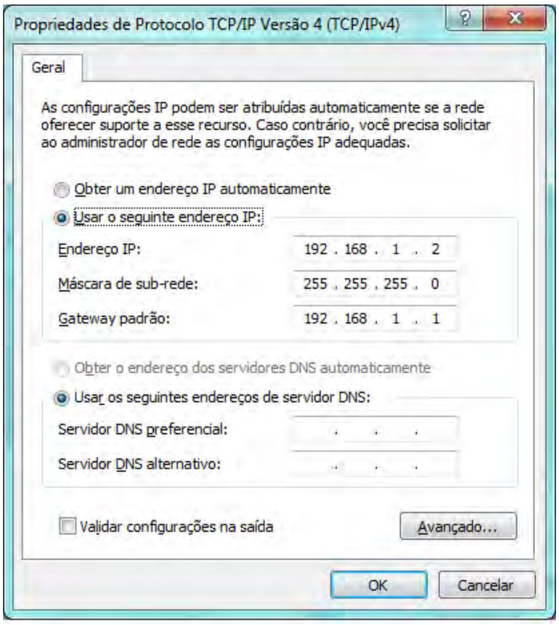
- DAQ PC: schenbi-daq
- Server: shenbi-s

A.2.1 schenbi-daq

This computer should perform the following tasks:

- Connect to the server.
- Access internet (port 80).
- Send email alerts.
- Allows ssh connections (“ssh” which was installed with Cygwin, port 22).
- It should access the Licence server of the USP (for MATLAB).
- We want to have a Remote Desktop access (port 3389).

For this purpose it is configured as follow:
First, we assign it the IP 192.168.1.2 and as a gateway the IP of the server 192.168.1.1 see Figure A.2. We do not give the DNS to avoid direct connection with the exterior.



As configurações IP podem ser atribuídas automaticamente se a rede oferecer suporte a esse recurso. Caso contrário, você precisa solicitar ao administrador de rede as configurações IP adequadas.

○ Obter um endereço IP automaticamente

● Usar o seguinte endereço IP:

Endereço IP: 192 . 168 . 1 . 2

Máscara de sub-rede: 255 . 255 . 255 . 0

Gateway padrão: 192 . 168 . 1 . 1

○ Obter o endereço dos servidores DNS automaticamente

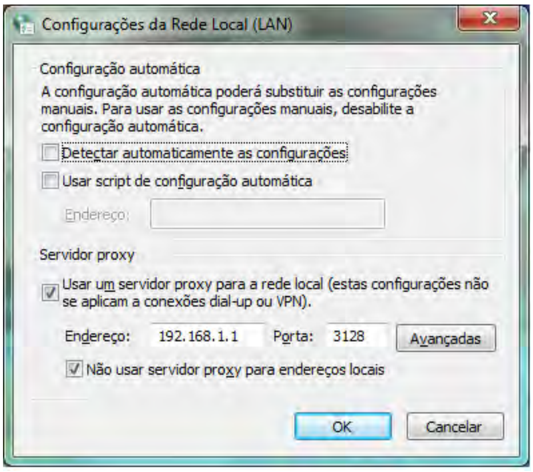
● Usar os seguintes endereços de servidor DNS:

Servidor DNS preferencial: . . .

Servidor DNS alternativo: . . .

□ Validar configurações na saída

Figure A.2 - schenbi-daq IP configuration



Configuração automática

A configuração automática poderá substituir as configurações manuais. Para usar as configurações manuais, desabilite a configuração automática.

□ Detectar automaticamente as configurações

□ Usar script de configuração automática

Endereço:

Servidor proxy

☑ Usar um servidor proxy para a rede local (estas configurações não se aplicam a conexões dial-up ou VPN).

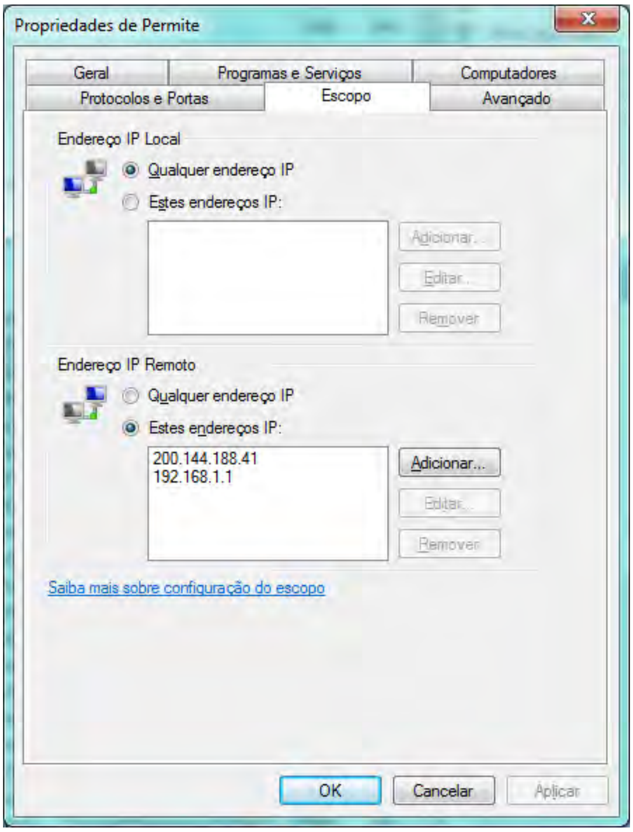
Endereço: 192.168.1.1 Porta: 3128

☑ Não usar servidor proxy para endereços locais

Figure A.3 - Configuration to use a proxy. (Proxy defined in the server.)

To connect to the Internet, we use a proxy, see Figure A.3.

Finally, we use a Firewall to protect the USP net, see Figure A.4. If the the DAQ computer is contaminated by a virus it could not spread its virus. In the opposite way, it is itself protected by the server firewall.



Endereço IP Local

● Qualquer endereço IP

○ Estes endereços IP:

Endereço IP Remoto

○ Qualquer endereço IP

● Estes endereços IP:

200.144.188.41
192.168.1.1

Figure A.4 - Configuration of the Firewall. We authorize only connections to the server (192.168.1.1 or the Licence server of the USP 200.144.188.41.

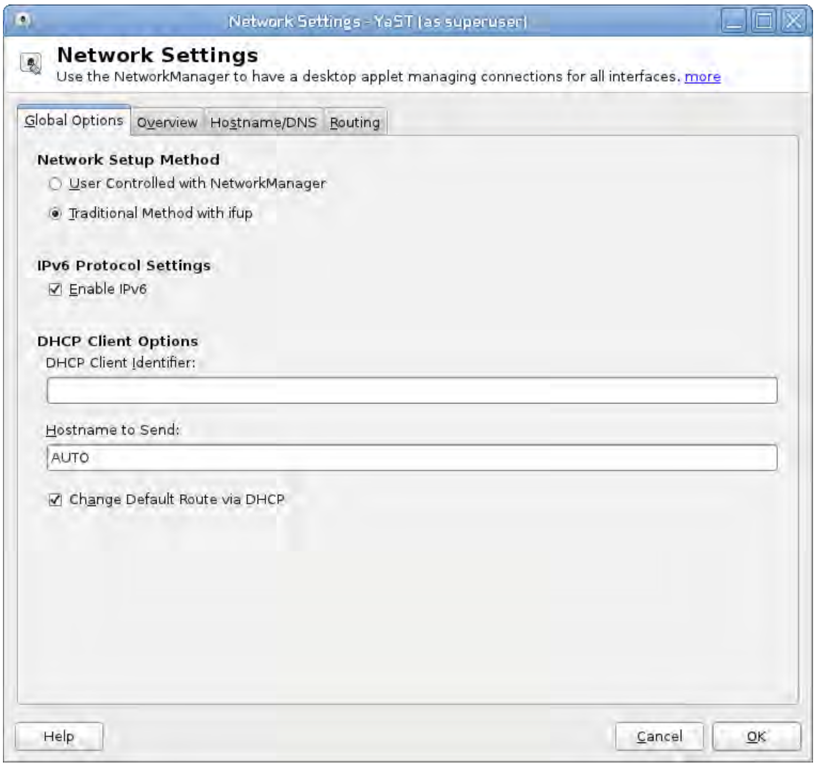
A.2.2 schenbi-s

This computer should perform the following tasks:

- Connect to the DAQ PC
- Access internet (port 80) and serves as proxy for the DAQ PC.
- Forward the DAQ emails (It use a mail server “postfix”, see below.).
- Allows ssh connections (port 22).
  Remarks: The port 22 is open by USP on our demand. If it fails one should ask the USP CCE service.
- It allows VNC connections.
- It make an IP maskering for Remote Desktop (port 3389).
- We close the firewall except for the application above.

Most of the command panel for the configuration are in the Yast2 manager.

First lets configure the IP, gateway and DNS, see Figures A.5, A.6 and A.7.



Network Settings

Use the NetworkManager to have a desktop applet managing connections for all interfaces. more

Network Setup Method

○ User Controlled with NetworkManager

● Traditional Method with ifup

IPv6 Protocol Settings

☑ Enable IPv6

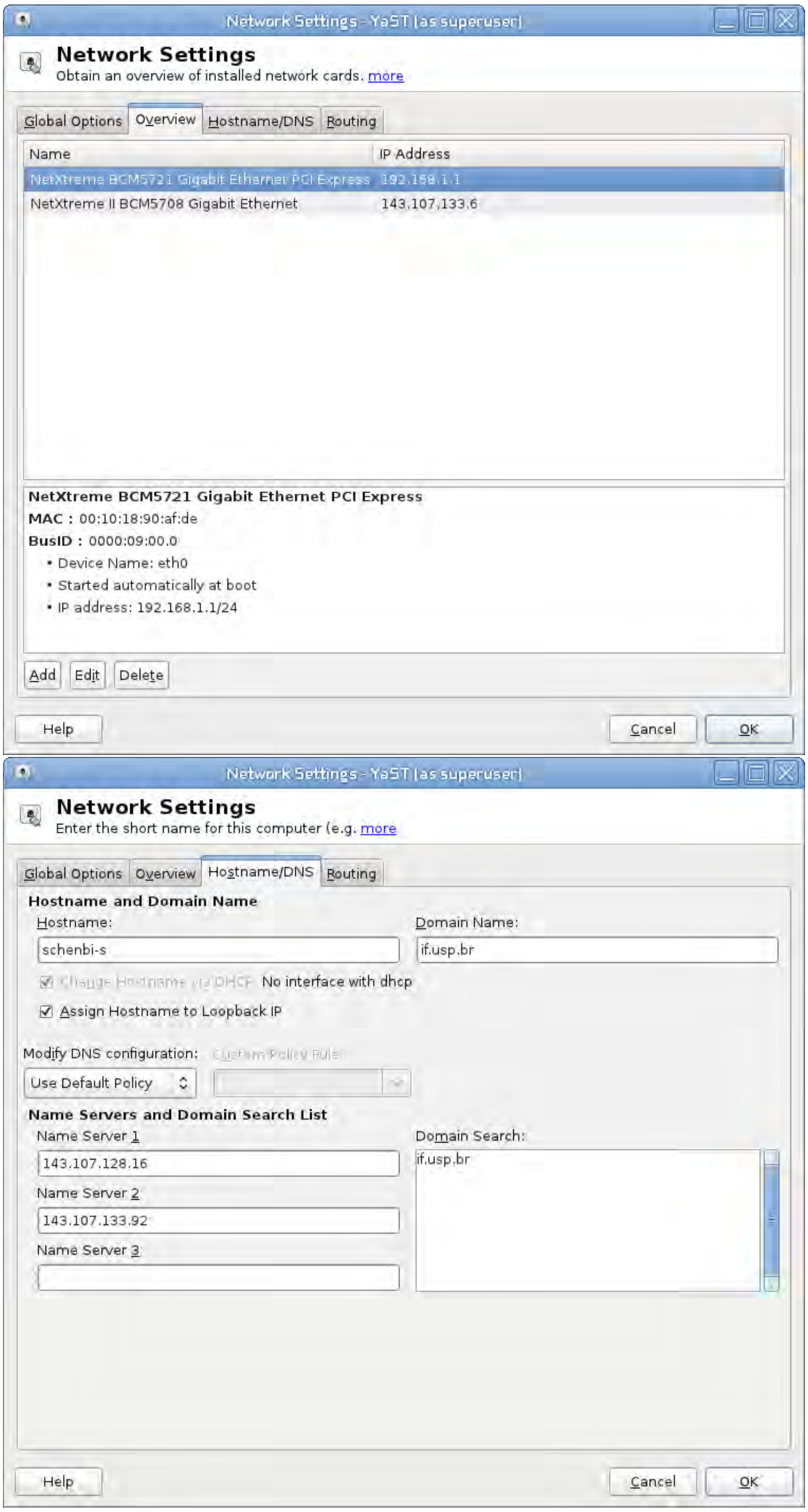
DHCP Client Options

DHCP Client Identifier:

Hostname to Send: AUTO

☑ Change Default Route via DHCP

Figure A.5 - To avoid configuration problems, we use the “ifup” method. The NetworkManager does not recognize one plate.



Network Settings

Obtain an overview of installed network cards. more

Name	IP Address
NetXtreme BCM5721 Gigabit Ethernet PCI Express	192.168.1.1
NetXtreme II BCM5708 Gigabit Ethernet	143.107.133.6

NetXtreme BCM5721 Gigabit Ethernet PCI Express
MAC : 00:10:18:90:af:de
BusID : 0000:09:00.0

- Device Name: eth0
- Started automatically at boot
- IP address: 192.168.1.1/24

Network Settings

Enter the short name for this computer (e.g. more

Hostname and Domain Name

Hostname: schenbi-s

Domain Name: if.usp.br

☑ Change Hostname via DHCP No interface with dhcp

☑ Assign Hostname to Loopback IP

Modify DNS configuration: Use Default Policy

Custom Policy Rule:

Name Servers and Domain Search List

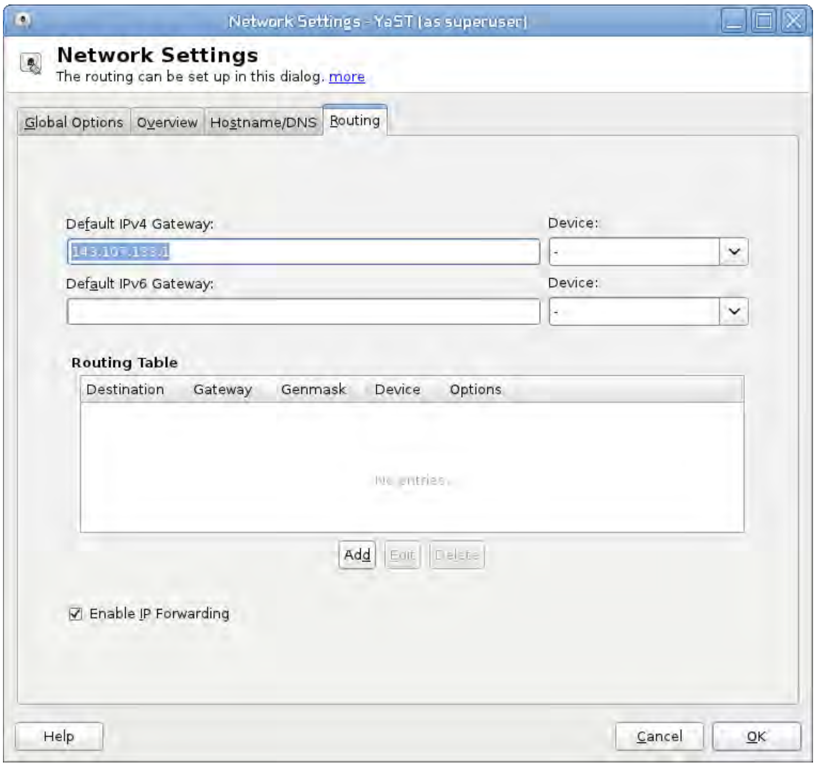
Name Server 1: 143.107.128.16

Name Server 2: 143.107.133.92

Name Server 3:

Domain Search: if.usp.br

Figure A.6 - We set the internal IP (eth0) as 192.168.1.1 and the external as 143.107.133.6 (eth1). As we can see the server name is **schenbi-s**. For the external IP, we configure the usual DNS of the USP.



Network Settings - YaST (as superuser)

Network Settings

The routing can be set up in this dialog. more

Default IPv4 Gateway: 143.107.133.1

Device: -

Default IPv6 Gateway:

Device: -

Routing Table

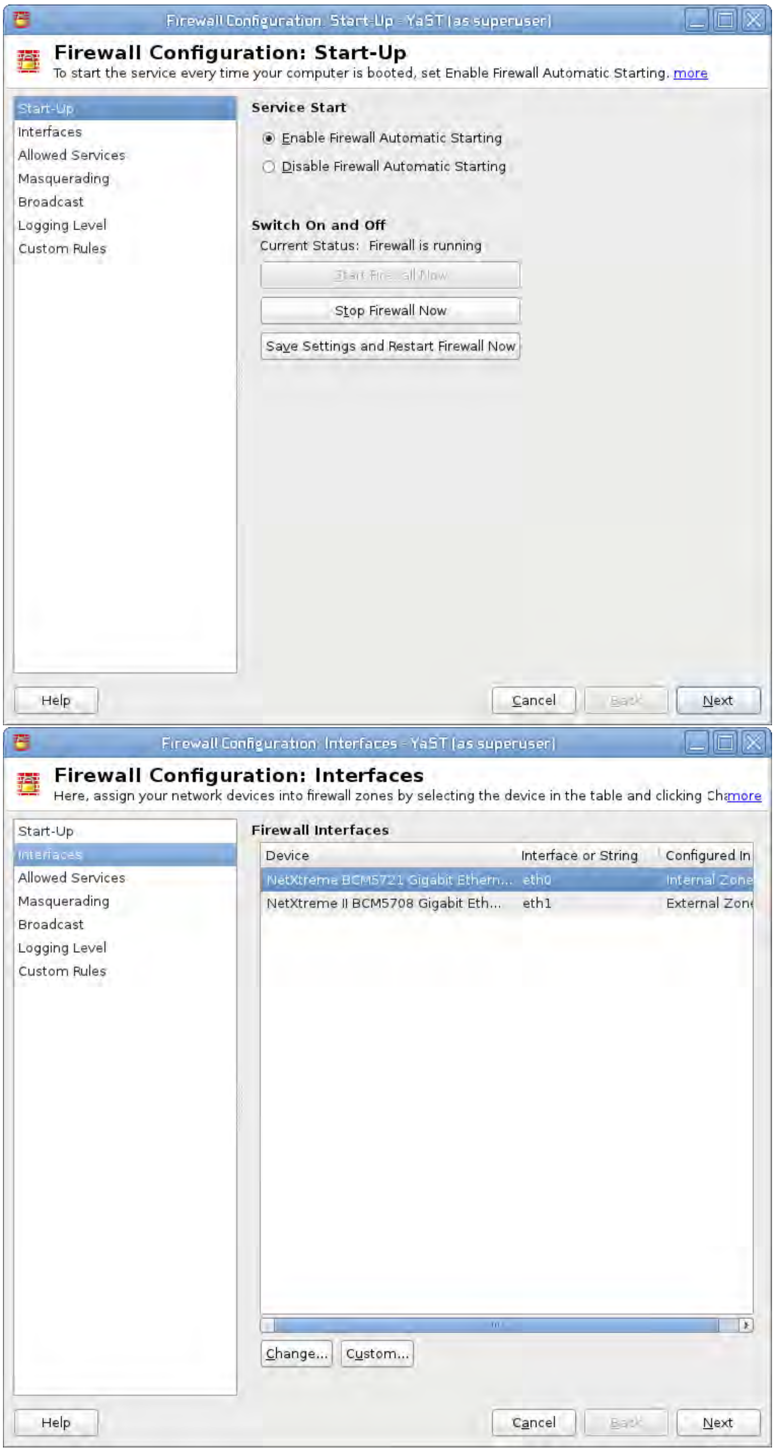
Destination	Gateway	Genmask	Device	Options

No entries.

☑ Enable IP Forwarding

Figure A.7 - The Gateway (or router) is 143.107.133.1

Then we set the firewall and the maskering for Remote Desktop connections, see Figures A.8 and A.9:



Firewall Configuration: Start-Up - YaST (as superuser)

Firewall Configuration: Start-Up

To start the service every time your computer is booted, set Enable Firewall Automatic Starting. more

Service Start

● Enable Firewall Automatic Starting

○ Disable Firewall Automatic Starting

Switch On and Off

Current Status: Firewall is running

Firewall Configuration: Interfaces - YaST (as superuser)

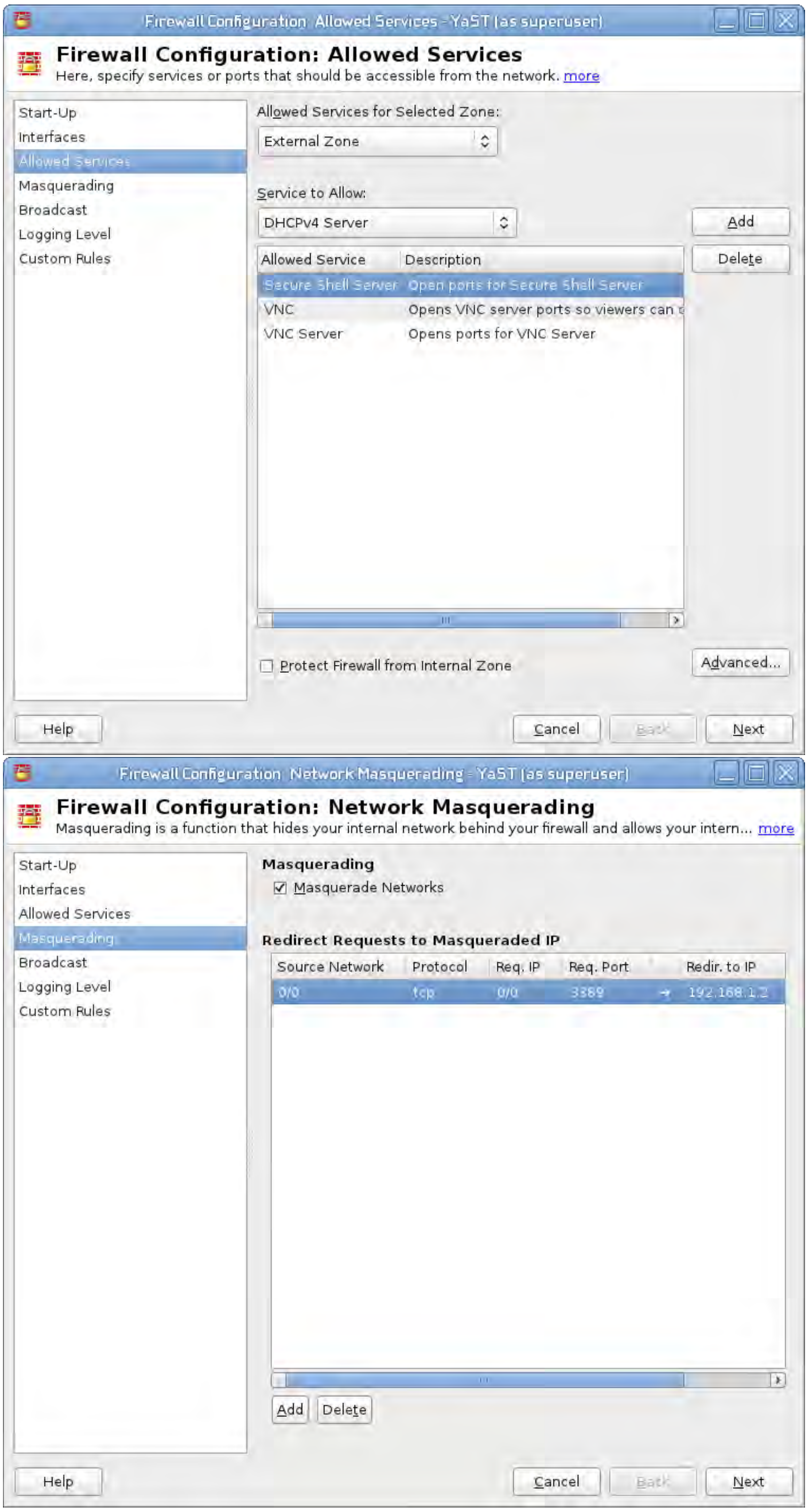
Firewall Configuration: Interfaces

Here, assign your network devices into firewall zones by selecting the device in the table and clicking Chamore

Firewall Interfaces

Device	Interface or String	Configured In
NetXtreme BCM5721 Gigabit Ethern...	eth0	Internal Zone
NetXtreme II BCM5708 Gigabit Eth...	eth1	External Zone

Figure A.8 - We should enable the service to get the maskering. The firewall has two configurations. For internal connection (between the two PC's), we apply no special rules. For external connections, we allow only a few programs, see below.



Firewall Configuration: Allowed Services - YaST (as superuser)

Firewall Configuration: Allowed Services

Here, specify services or ports that should be accessible from the network. more

Allowed Services for Selected Zone: External Zone

Service to Allow: DHCPv4 Server

Allowed Service	Description
Secure Shell Server	Open ports for Secure Shell Server
VNC	Opens VNC server ports so viewers can c
VNC Server	Opens ports for VNC Server

☐ Protect Firewall from Internal Zone

Firewall Configuration: Network Masquerading - YaST (as superuser)

Firewall Configuration: Network Masquerading

Masquerading is a function that hides your internal network behind your firewall and allows your intern... more

Masquerading

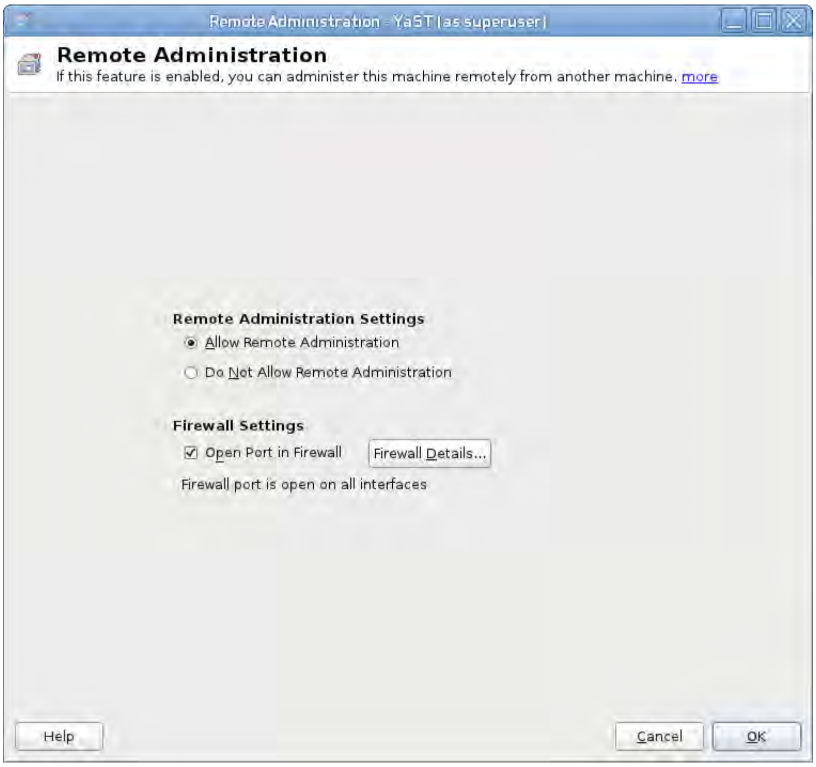
☑ Masquerade Networks

Redirect Requests to Masqueraded IP

Source Network	Protocol	Req. IP	Req. Port		Redir. to IP
0/0	tcp	0/0	3389	→	192.168.1.2

Figure A.9 - We allows access with "ssh" (port 22), VNC (port 5901, websharing VNC 143.107.133.6:5801. We apply a masquerade (or port forwarding) for Remote Desktop (3389). All accesses on this port are redirected to schenbi-daq 192.168.1.1.

Finally, we enable VNC connections in Remote administration, see Figure A.10


Remote Administration - YaST (as superuser)

Remote Administration

If this feature is enabled, you can administer this machine remotely from another machine. more

Remote Administration Settings

● Allow Remote Administration

○ Do Not Allow Remote Administration

Firewall Settings

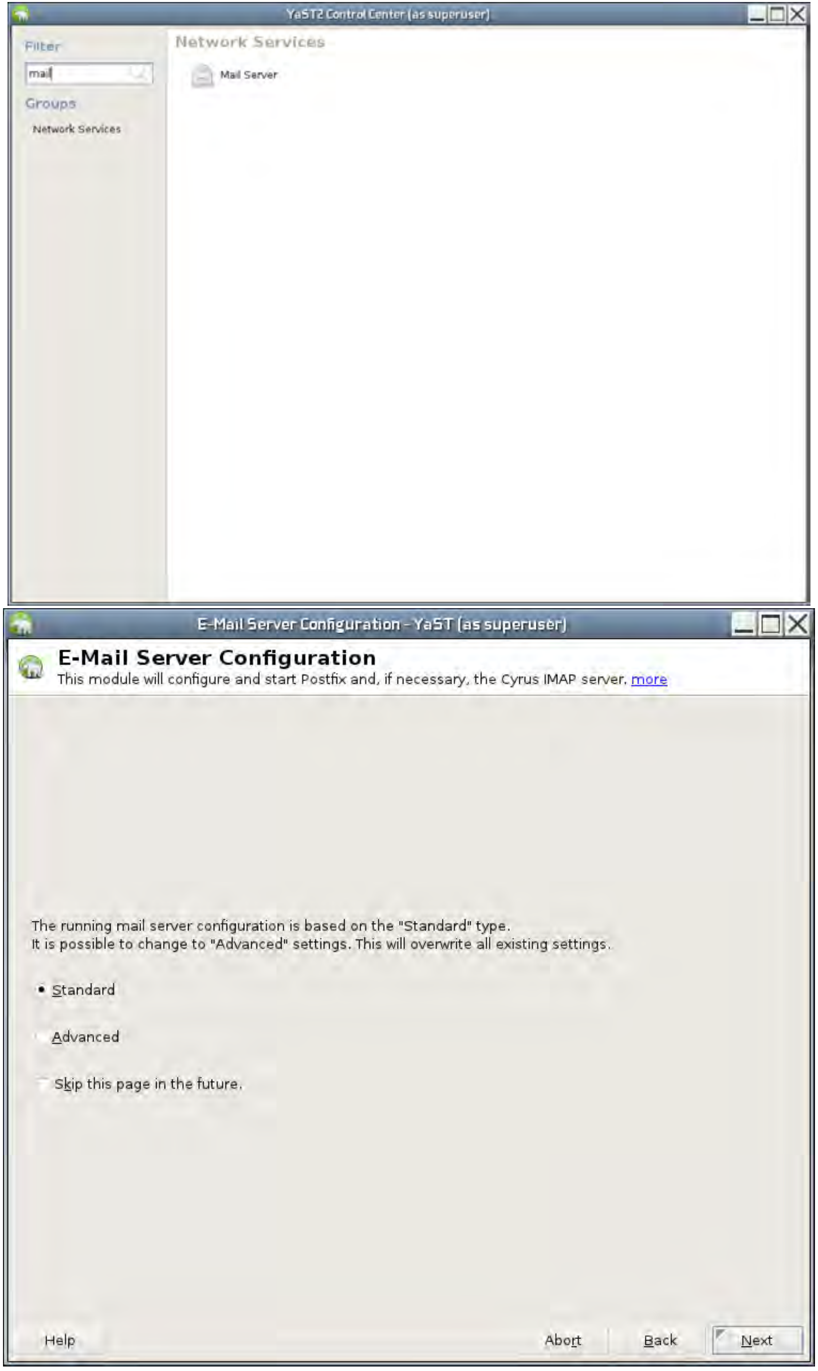
☑ Open Port in Firewall

Firewall port is open on all interfaces

Figure A.10 - The exception of VNC is automatically added in the firewall.

Configuring the email server

We will use a dedicate gmail account for the project as outgoing mail server. First, search for the mail server in YAST manager. Open it, then we select a standard configuration, see Figure A.11.


YaST2 Control Center (as superuser)
Filter
mail
Groups
Network Services
Network Services
Mail Server
E-Mail Server Configuration - YaST (as superuser)
Help
Abort
Back
Next

E-Mail Server Configuration

This module will configure and start Postfix and, if necessary, the Cyrus IMAP server. more

The running mail server configuration is based on the "Standard" type.
It is possible to change to "Advanced" settings. This will overwrite all existing settings.

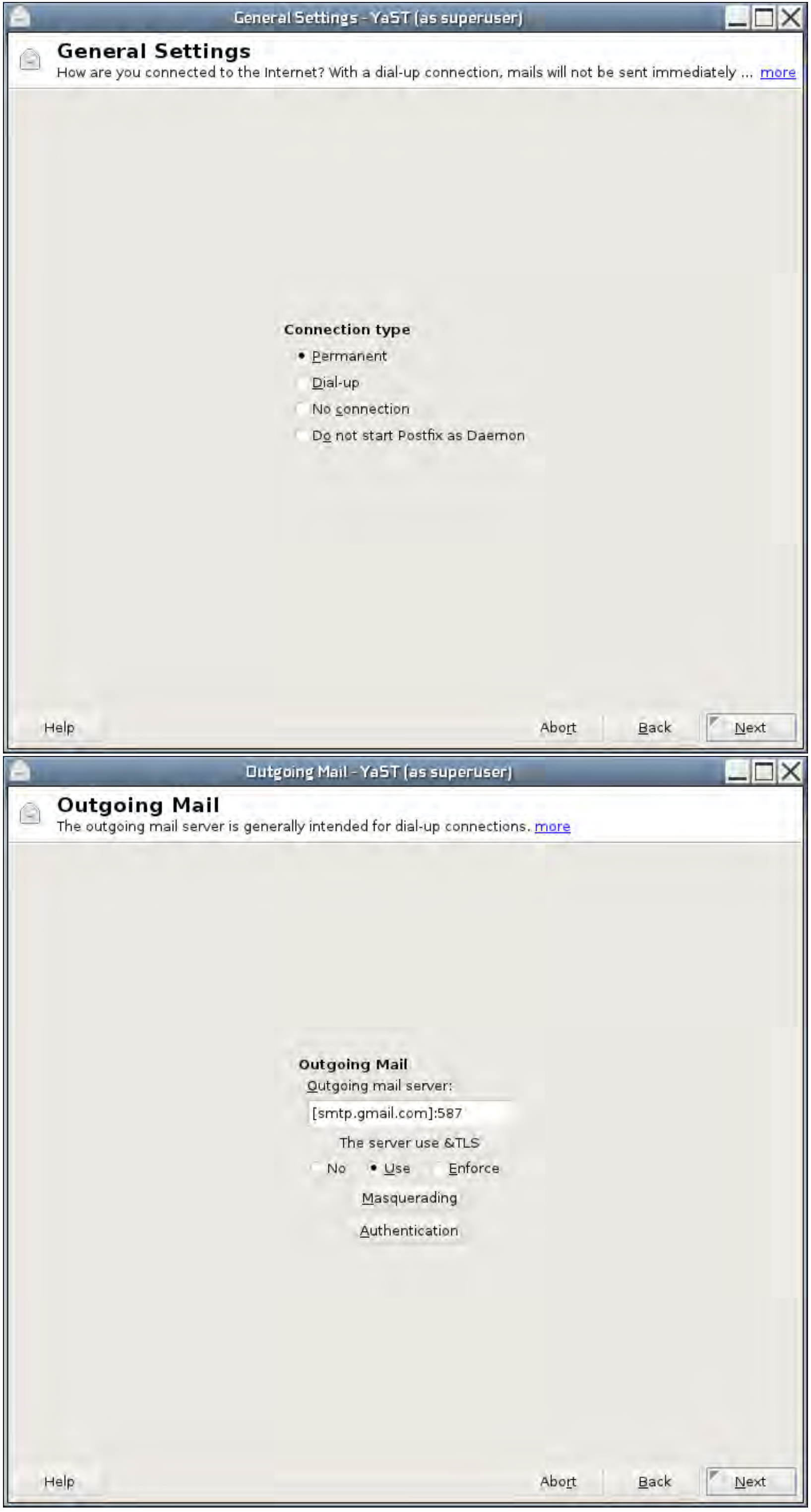
● Standard

○ Advanced

□ Skip this page in the future.

Figure A.11 - Views of the YAST manager and the Server mail configuration.

We select the permanent connection, see Figure A.12 and enter the smpt server of gmail (smpt.gmail.com port 587).



General Settings - YaST (as superuser)

General Settings

How are you connected to the Internet? With a dial-up connection, mails will not be sent immediately ... more

Connection type

● Permanent

○ Dial-up

○ No connection

○ Do not start Postfix as Daemon

Outgoing Mail - YaST (as superuser)

Outgoing Mail

The outgoing mail server is generally intended for dial-up connections. more

Outgoing Mail

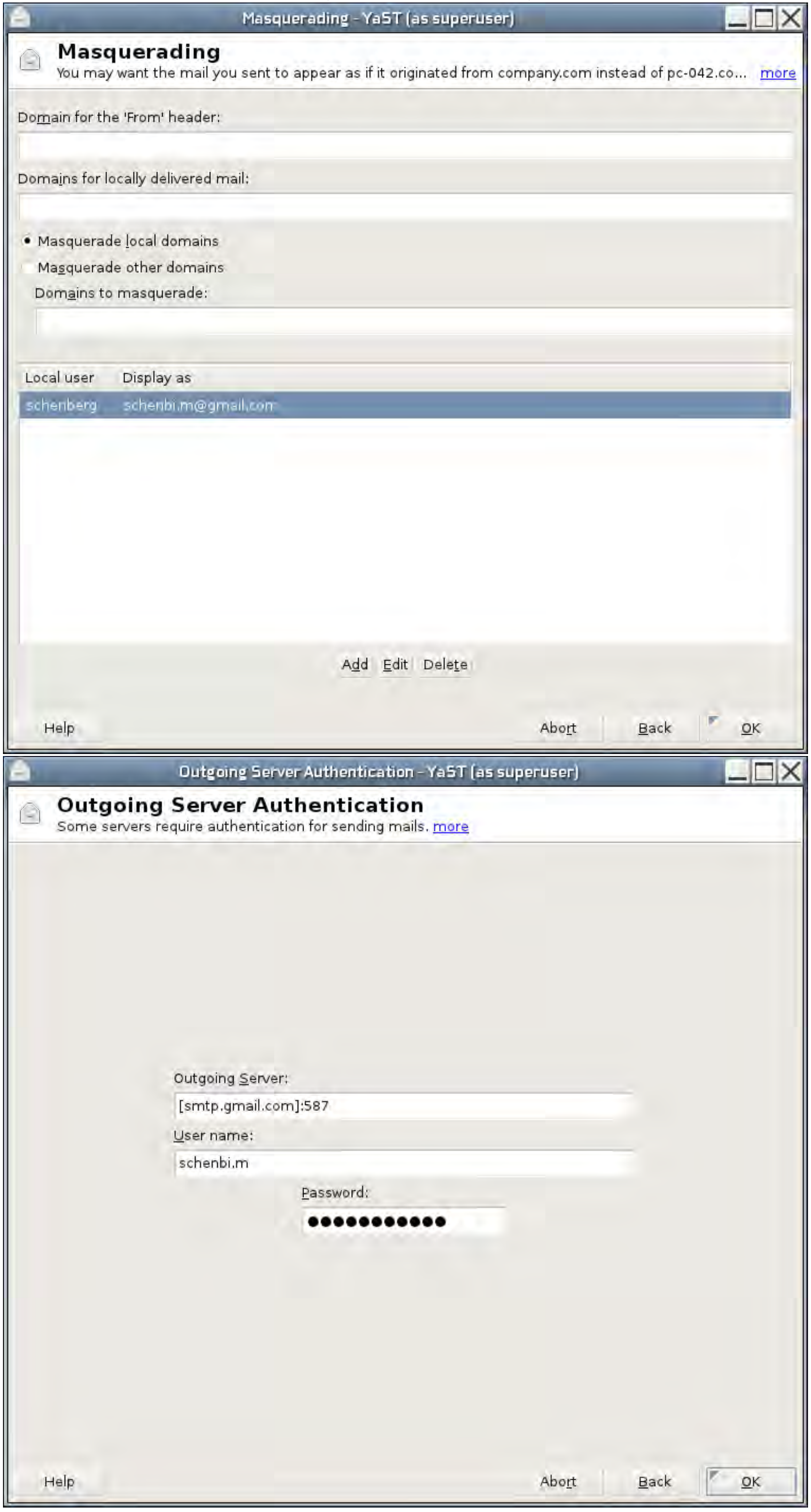
Outgoing mail server: [smtp.gmail.com]:587

The server use &TLS

○ No ● Use ○ Enforce

Figure A.12 - Views of the YAST manager: general settings and outgoing mail server settings.

We define a masquerade, the user “schenberg” will be define by the email “schenbi.m@gmail.com”. This is not compulsory. For connections to gmail server, we will use authentication method (user, password), see Figure A.13.



Masquerading - YaST (as superuser)

Masquerading

You may want the mail you sent to appear as if it originated from company.com instead of pc-042.co... more

Domain for the 'From' header:

Domains for locally delivered mail:

● Masquerade local domains

○ Masquerade other domains

Domains to masquerade:

Local user	Display as
schenberg	schenbi.m@gmail.com

Outgoing Server Authentication - YaST (as superuser)

Outgoing Server Authentication

Some servers require authentication for sending mails. more

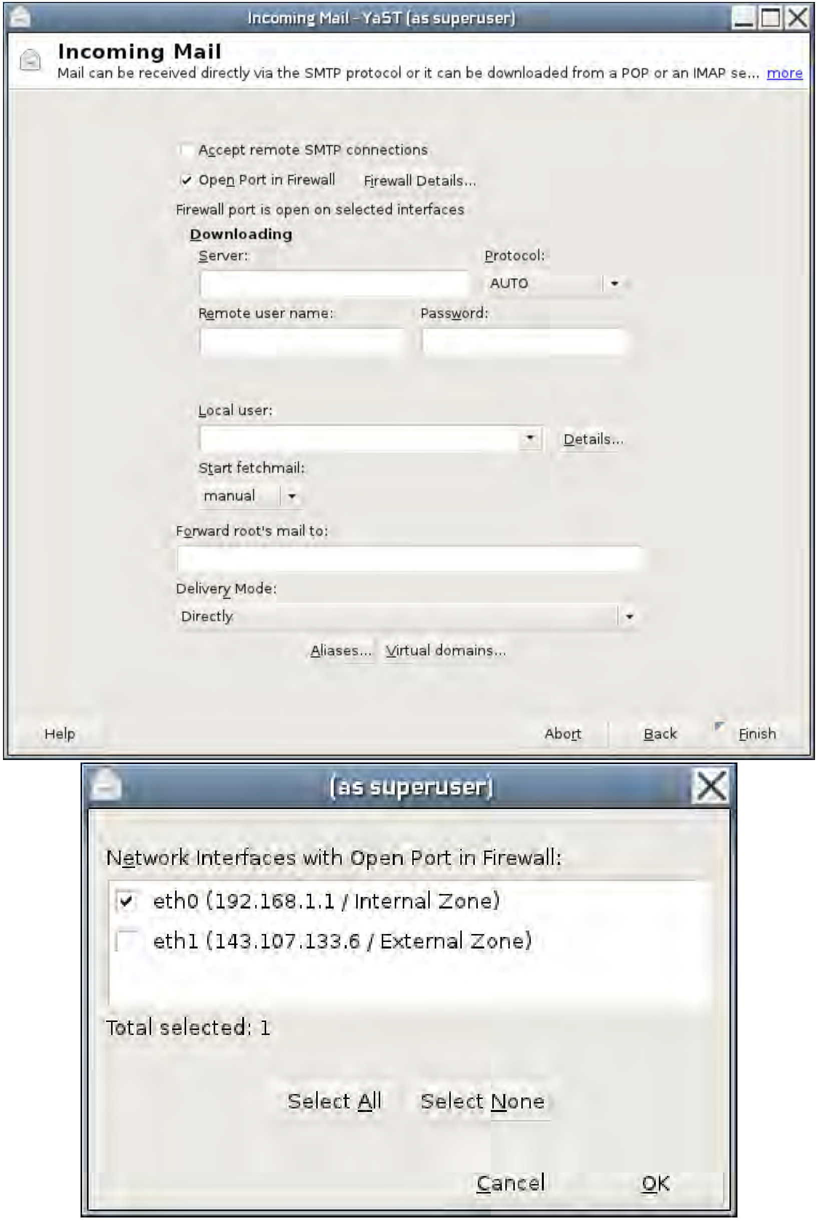
Outgoing Server: [smtp.gmail.com]:587

User name: schenbi.m

Password: ●●●●●●●●●●●●

Figure A.13 - Views of the YAST manager and the Server mail configuration (2).

The incoming email is not useful except for mails received from the daq pc (schenbi-daq). We need only to open the port in the firewall from the schenbi-daq, see Figure A.14. Schenbi-daq is connected to the ethernet board 0.



Incoming Mail - YaST (as superuser)

Incoming Mail

Mail can be received directly via the SMTP protocol or it can be downloaded from a POP or an IMAP se... more

☐ Accept remote SMTP connections

☑ Open Port in Firewall

Firewall port is open on selected interfaces

Downloading

Server:

Protocol: AUTO

Remote user name:

Password:

Local user:

Start fetchmail: manual

Forward root's mail to:

Delivery Mode: Directly

(as superuser)

Network Interfaces with Open Port in Firewall:

☑ eth0 (192.168.1.1 / Internal Zone)

☐ eth1 (143.107.133.6 / External Zone)

Total selected: 1

Figure A.14 - Views of the YAST manager and the Server mail configuration.

At this level all mails receive from schenbi-daq are sent trough the gmail account.

APPENDIX B- APPLICATIONS USED BY DAQ PC

B.1 Cygwin

Cygwin emulates a UNIX environment. We can use all the tools of UNIX including "ssh".

B.1.1 How to install it:

- Download Cygwin from internet.
- Follow the setup. Install the following packages:

  Net: choose all the applications related to ssh, ftp and tunneling.

  Editors: vi, emacs

  shell: all the bash

  Documenting:

  Install gcc

- When installed, start the application Cygwin. A terminal will open. Launch it as an administrator.
- Now we will configure openSSH.

B.1.2 How to configure SSH

0 The read-me is in: usr/share/doc/.

1 In usr/bin: configure the openssh.readme

2 Then execute the ssh-host-config (you need to start Cygwin as admin, right click on Windows OS)

3 Basically check yes all options.

4 Set ssh-user-config, choose a simple user name. We choose the same as windows.

5 To finish launch the openssh: net start sshd

B.2 How to use APC program

The APC no-break is connected to the schenbi-daq pc. A special cable USB- RJ45 make the connection between the APC and the PC.

The APC no-break comes with two installation CDs containing 3 applications. You should install: “PowerChute Business Edition”. The server is used only when many PC are connected to different APC systems.

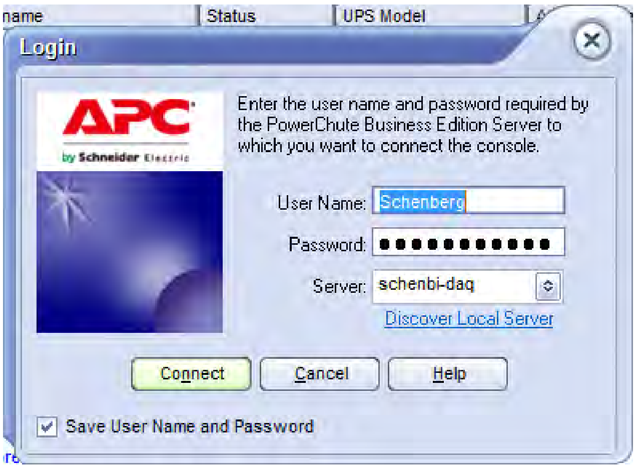
The monitoring application is a web interface application (User Schenberg, password see list of passwords). The program is located in: *C:\Users\Schenberg\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs*. Or you could start it from the browser: *https://schenbi-daq:6547/main* and from the start menu: “APC PowerShut Business Agent/Agent web Interface”. **Remark:** it does not work with Mozilla, you should use Explorer.

It could send mails or execute specific scripts. The command scripts are in a reserved repertory. Presently we use only the email function. The program is configured with an email dedicated to the detector Schenberg (schenbi.m@gmail.com) and the smtp server is the schenbi-s pc (192.168.1.1), see below. The server is configured as a mail server, see the schenbi-s configuration.

Remark: To add a new script the easiest way is to modify an existing one and to save it with a new name. An example could be already found in the dedicate file: *c:\Programs (x86)\APC\PowerChuteBusiness\agent\cmdfiles*.

B.2.1 To configure the APC

First step, open the program: “APC PowerChute Business Edition Deluxe”, see Figure B.1.



Enter the user name and password required by the PowerChute Business Edition Server to which you want to connect the console.

User Name: Schenberg

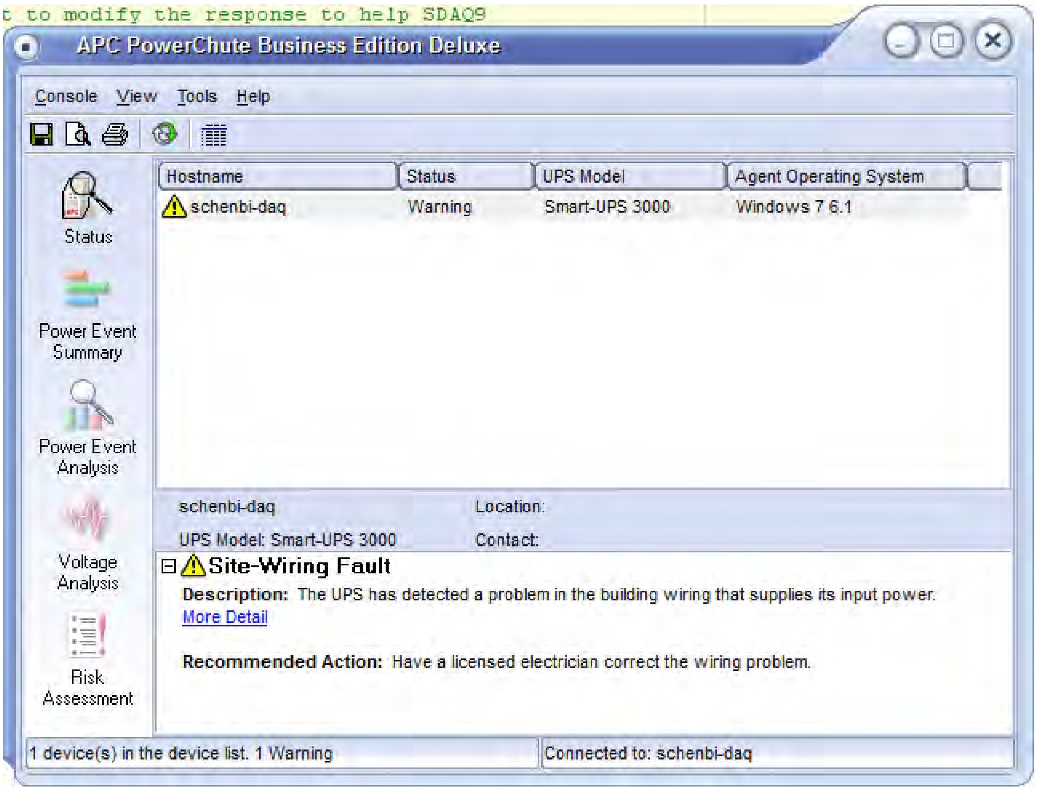
Password: ●●●●●●●●●●●

Server: schenbi-daq

☑ Save User Name and Password

Figure B.1 - Opening “APC PowerChute Business Edition Deluxe”. Use Schenberg and the defined password.

Then click on tools, see Figure B.2:



Hostname	Status	UPS Model	Agent Operating System
⚠ schenbi-daq	Warning	Smart-UPS 3000	Windows 7 6.1

schenbi-daq Location:

UPS Model: Smart-UPS 3000 Contact:

⊟ ⚠ Site-Wiring Fault

Description: The UPS has detected a problem in the building wiring that supplies its input power.

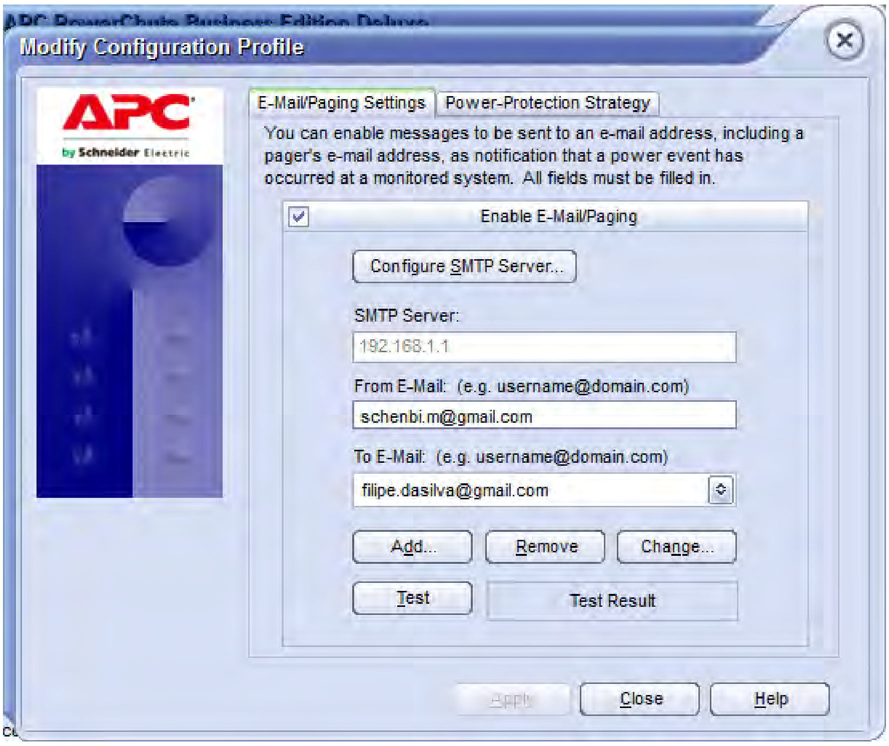
Recommended Action: Have a licensed electrician correct the wiring problem.

1 device(s) in the device list. 1 Warning

Connected to: schenbi-daq

Figure B.2 - View of the “APC PowerChute Business Edition Deluxe” program.

Configure the smtp server, see Figure B.3 and click in SMTP settings, see Figure B.4.



Modify Configuration Profile

You can enable messages to be sent to an e-mail address, including a pager's e-mail address, as notification that a power event has occurred at a monitored system. All fields must be filled in.

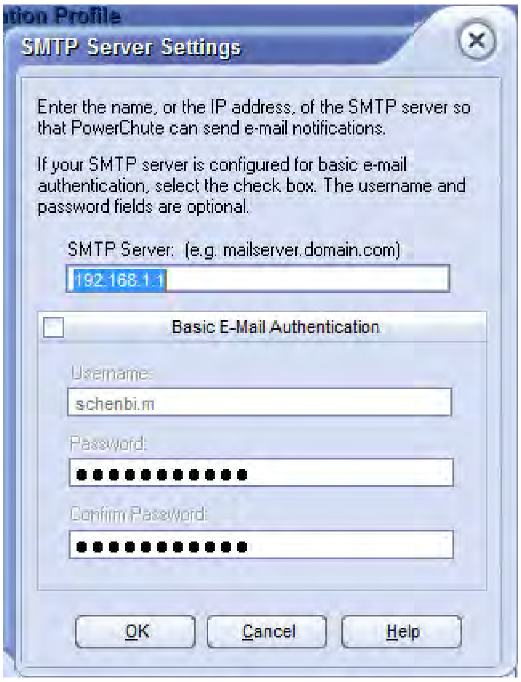
☑ Enable E-Mail/Paging

SMTP Server: 192.168.1.1

From E-Mail: (e.g. username@domain.com) schenbi.m@gmail.com

To E-Mail: (e.g. username@domain.com) filipe.dasilva@gmail.com

Figure B.3 - SMTP configuration of the APC.



SMTP Server Settings

Enter the name, or the IP address, of the SMTP server so that PowerChute can send e-mail notifications.

If your SMTP server is configured for basic e-mail authentication, select the check box. The username and password fields are optional.

SMTP Server: (e.g. mailserver.domain.com) 192.168.1.1

□ Basic E-Mail Authentication

Username: schenbi.m

Password: ●●●●●●●●●●●

Confirm Password: ●●●●●●●●●●●

Figure B.4 - SMTP configuration of the APC.

B.3 C++ compiler

We have installed an open source compiler: Codeblocks. It installs with it the mingw "Minimal GNU for Windows" which contains a gcc. There is no special setup.
Then we have installed a library wxWidgets.org (wxMSW - installer for Windows, with manual (other formats: zip)) to implement GUI (visual interface).
Once installed, we will found the following repertory: build/msw/config.gcc. We should add gcc to the path (command prompt): PATH=%PATH%; Next command: mingw32-make -f makefile.gcc
That's all folks!

B.4 Drivers 32bit

The DAQ PC could run a 32bits version of our DAQ (the server could also run the system in 32bits using the windows system "server 2003 service pack 2"). The configuration is almost the same as for 64bits.

- The **IOlibrary suite** from Agilent (v15): This suit install the application Agilent Connection Expert.exe. This last programs allows us to manage the connection to the boards. The IOlibrary suite installation includes the VISA libraries which are the interface between the code machine and the programming code. More indications about the Agilent program could be found in (COSTA, 2008; Agilent Technologies, 2006). The help is located in the VISA file.

- The **VXIplug&play library**: It installs the vt1432.dll[1] library that could be used with Matlab and C programs. The help is in the VXIpnp file.

- The **Mex-file**, this is a library used by Matlab. This library allows us to use the C vt1432 libraries. This file must be place in the path of your Matlab application. The Library is called: "vt432.dll", in future version the mex file will not have the same name as the library.

- We also need the: "mwagilentvisa.dll" which is included in the toolbox of Matlab. This library contains functions used to control the GPS.

[1] The name vt1432 is misleading, in fact this is the driver for the plate versions 1432-36, not only 1432.

APPENDIX C- TESTS OF THE DAQ

All the data of the tests described below are stored in schenbi-daq: $C\backslash DAQ\backslash TestsDAQ$.

C.1 External clock tension

The tension of the TFP periodic signal (used for the sampling) should be TTL compatible. It means at least 3V, preferably 5V. The measured tension is ~ 4V, see Figure C.1.

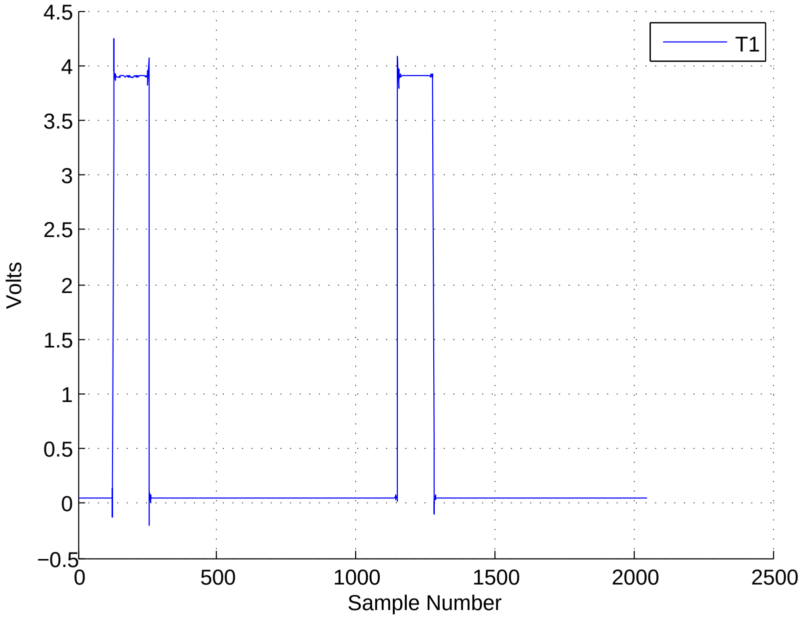


Figure C.1 - Voltage of the TFP periodic signal. The number of bins is not relevant for this measure.

C.2 TFP periodic signal and PPS synchronization

The TFP BC357GPS generate a signal that could be synchronous or asynchronous with the PPS. We want it to be synchronous to have a complete control on the number of bins in a second. In asynchronous mode, the two signals start at different times, as shown in Figure C.2. So we will not have a bin starting exactly at the beginning of the of the PPS.

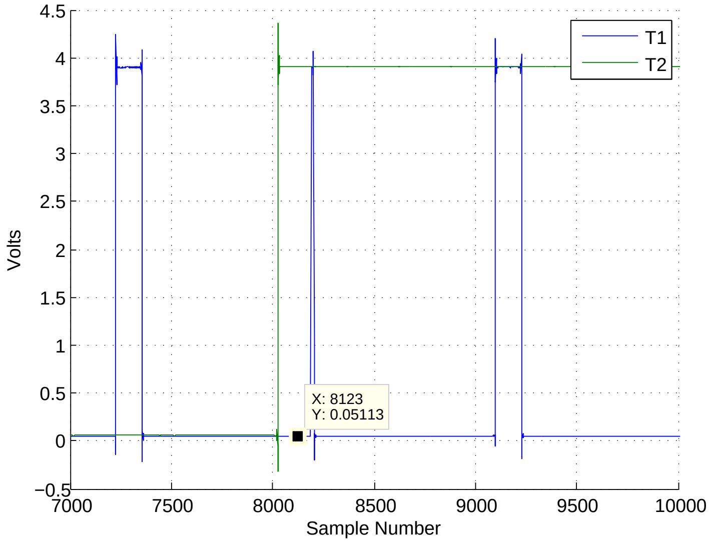


Figure C.2 - The PPS signal is the green line (long peak, T2). The periodic signal is the blue line (shorter peaks, T1). The frequency used for the test is 25Hz. Remark: one peak is cut. This is due to the “block mode” of the acquisition.

In Figure C.3, we see the case when the BC357GPS is in mode synchronous. The two peaks are perfectly synchronized. The two rising edges are in coincidence.

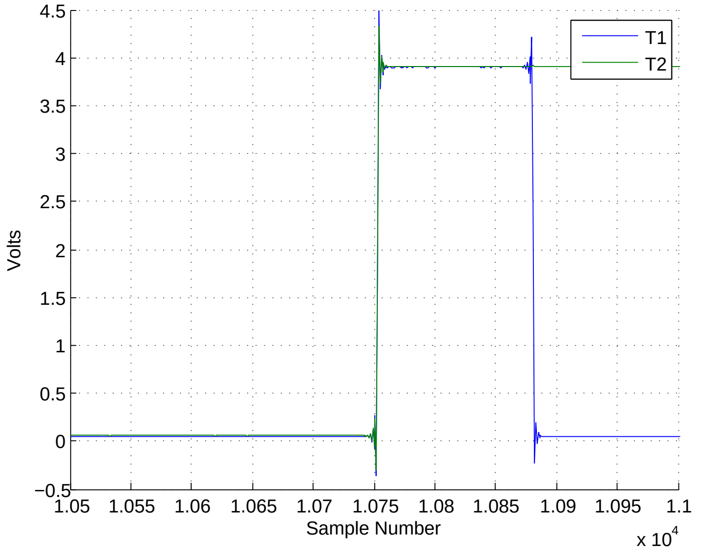


Figure C.3 - The PPS signal is the green line (long peak, T2). The periodic signal is the blue line (shorter peak, T1). The frequency used for the test is 25Hz.

C.3 Block mode

In Figure C.4 is shown the effect of the acquisition "block mode". When the system is in block mode, it waits until the data are sent before continuing the acquisition. For this reason, we use only continuos mode. The option block mode was suppressed from the SDAQ program.

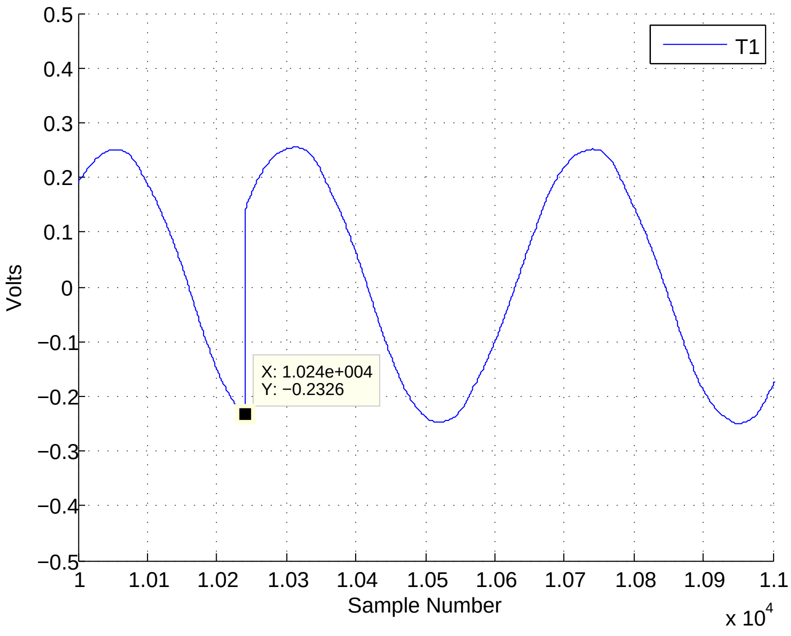


Figure C.4 - Data loss due to the block mode.

We used a signal generator with a sinusoid of 60Hz to check the continuity of our data acquisition. The sampling is 25600Hz [1].

C.4 Numbers of bins per second.

When using the internal clock we get a shift between the PPS and the internal clock of the VT1436. The number of bins is not constant, see Figure C.5. This was tested with 40s of data. Approximately one over two PPS intervals is lower than 25600 bins (the chosen sampling). The lost bin represents 3.3s per day.
The number of bins was also tested with other sampling frequencies. If the sampling was higher we loose one or two bins with a frequency of approximately every 6 PPS.

[1] The parameters of the sinusoid frequency and sampling are not indicated. Nevertheless, the interest is to show the effect of the loose of data due to the block mode.

\

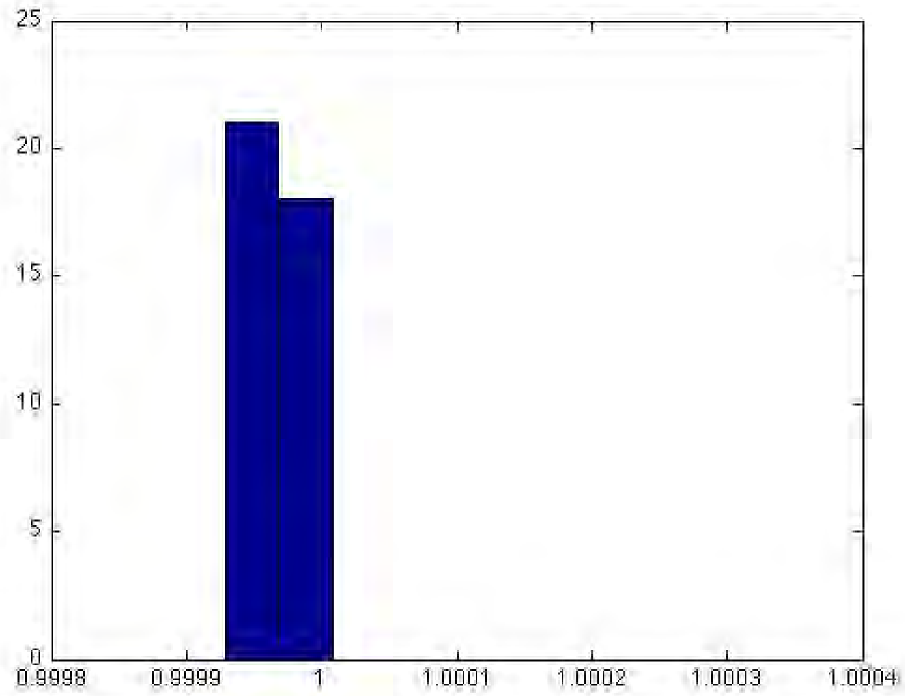


Figure C.5 - Histogram of PPS time interval. One bin represents 39μs.

We proceed at the same test with the external clock. This clock is synchronous with the PPS signal. We can choose to synchronize the clock on the rising or lowering edge of the PPS. Here we tested with the option down. The continuities was tested for more than 18h (66144s). The sampling was 25000Hz which is more convenient to set the external clock. We get over 18hours the right number of bin per second, see Figure C.6.

This test was repeated two more times with the same sampling 25000Hz for 12hours and the results were the same, see Section C.5.1 for more details. The data are stored in the files “Test_continuity_19_3”, “Sinus_100hz_18_8_11” and “rampa_5s_18_8_11”.

To finish, we also tested another sampling frequency 15600Hz, still using the synchronous mode (but in the up mode). All the PPS intervals have the same binning, see Figure C.7.

C.5 Continuity of data acquisition

C.5.1 PPS as a continuity test

Actually a simple way to test the continuity of the data is to count the number of PPS and to check as above if the binning remains constant. It was tested with the following data: “Sinus_100hz_18_8_11” and “rampa_5s_18_8_11” where we have

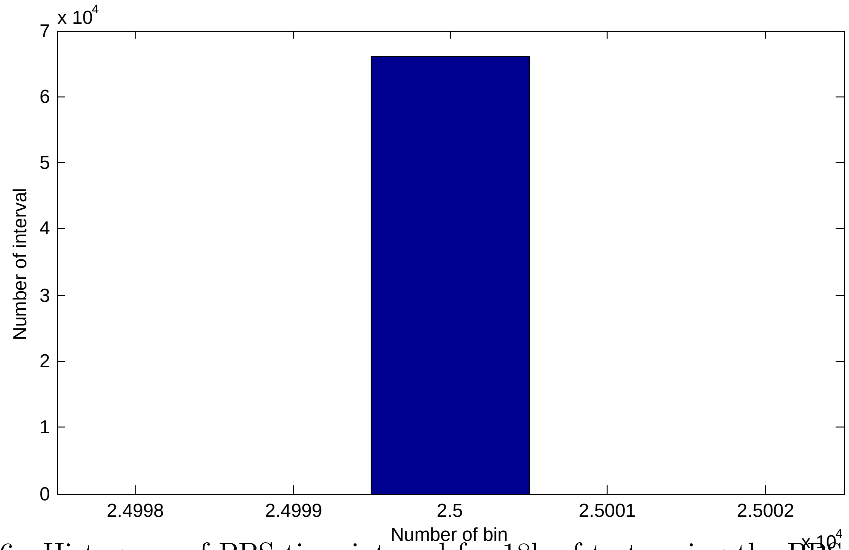


Figure C.6 - Histogram of PPS time interval for 18h of tests using the PPS synchronization.

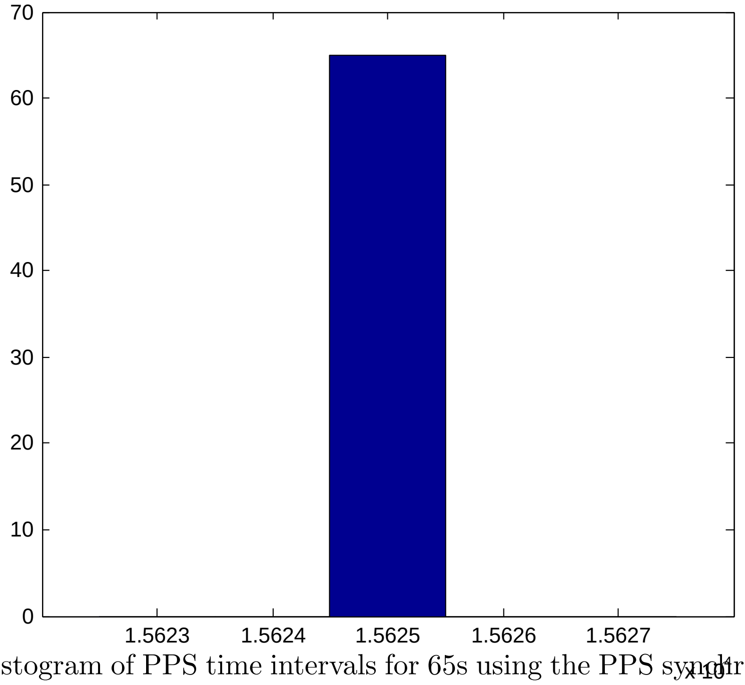


Figure C.7 - Histogram of PPS time intervals for 65s using the PPS synchronization: clock 62500, sampling 15625Hz.

register in canal 1 a specific signal and in canal 16 the PPS.

Both tests have exactly the same amount of PPS which correspond at the number of seconds of acquisition. The binning remains also constant: 25000bins. This test shows that in 12h, we do not loose any data.

Table C.1 - Number of PPS found across the 2110 files for each test.

	Sinus_100hz	rampa_5s
Sampling	25kHz	25kHz
Blocksize	1024	1024
nb of blocks per file	500	500
nb of files	2110	2110
seconds	43212,8	43212,8
nb of PPS	43213	43213

C.5.2 Phase shift of two sine signals

A way to test the continuity is to measure a sinusoid signal with our DAQ and to compare it with an ideal signal. The signal was generated by function generator. We test phase shift difference between the two sinusoids. If the phase shift remains constant (except normal errors due to the signal) it will indicate no data lost.
First we try to apply this method bin per bin. This test is not suitable for the following reasons:

- An amplitude variation simulates change in the phase.
- A variation of the injected signal frequency also mimic a phase shift. If the two frequencies are constant we get a constant ramp, see Picture C.8. The frequency of the injected signal is not at 1000Hz, it has a difference of:

  $$\Delta f = \frac{|-1,341+0.786|}{2\pi 102400/25000} = 0.021\text{Hz}$$

  A FFT gives the signal frequency, but to get enough resolution we have to examine many seconds of data. The limit of the resolution is given by $sampling/(2 * number\ of\ data)$. In the opposite way if we are confront to quick change in the frequency we have to check small time periods.
- Last point, the method to get the phase shift is not simple and the method show some artifacts. The large zone in Figure C.8 is due to a few points between others points that have a jump of phase.

Another option:
We have measured another sinusoidal with a frequency of 100Hz and amplitude 5V pp. We took 2110 files of 1024 × 500 data each, the equivalent of 12h. We have

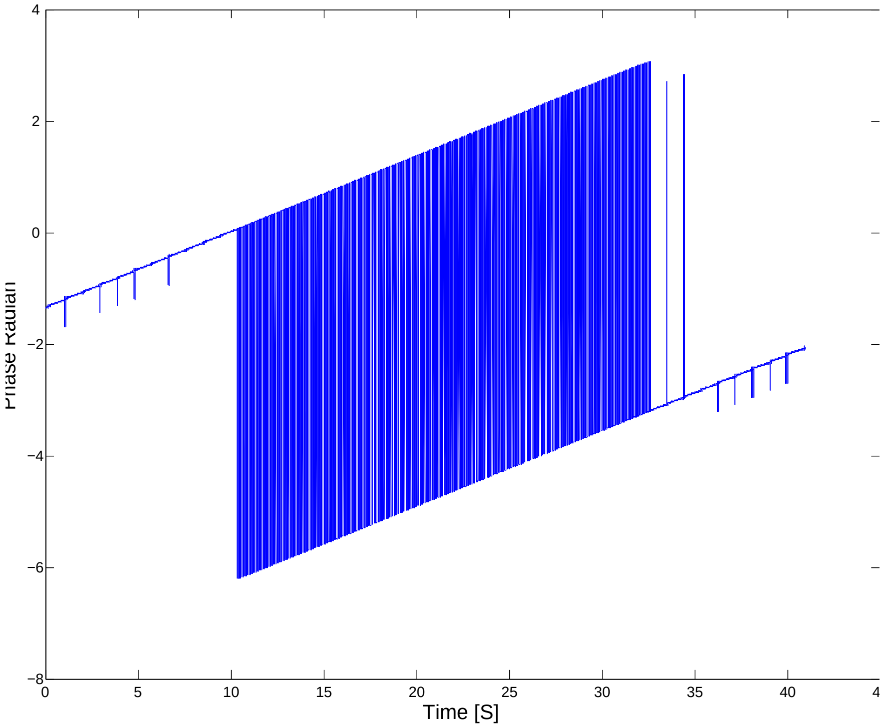


Figure C.8 - Phase shift in function of the time.

examined simultaneously the time period, the frequency and the phase of the signal over many periods.

As we can see in Figure C.9, the number of bins is practically constant. The expected number was given by the $sampling/signal\ frequency = 25000/100 = 250$. We get 4249025×250bins, 29100×249bins and 43100×251bins. The expected number of periods is $number\ of\ data/250 = 4321280$. The number of periods registered was 4321225. The difference is not due to data lost but to the variations of bins per period. If we take the number of period with 251 less the number of period with 249, we get $43100 - 29100 = 14000$bins. This number of bins 14000 corresponds to 56 periods of 250bins, the missing number of periods. We can conclude that we lose no data.

The variation is due to a slight difference in the frequency of the signal. We perform a FFT of the signal over 211 files and get a frequency of 99.9986Hz. We can observe this phase shift by monitoring the first value of each sinus period, the first non zero value. In Figure C.10, values of 80 periods are shown. Values slightly decrease. It means that a period 250bins cuts each time a bit earlier the real period. Then the

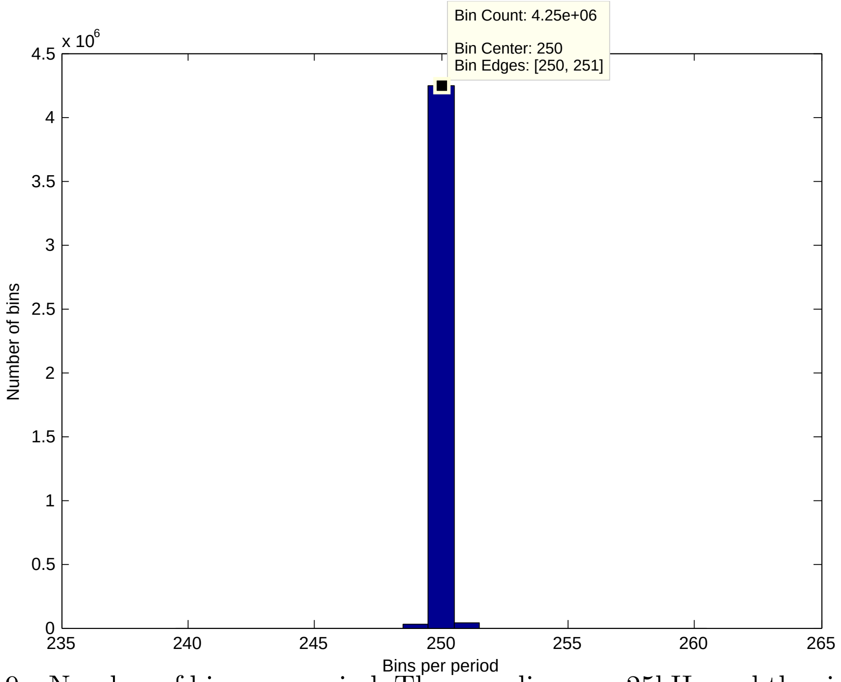


Figure C.9 - Number of bins per period. The sampling was 25kHz and the signal frequency 100Hz.

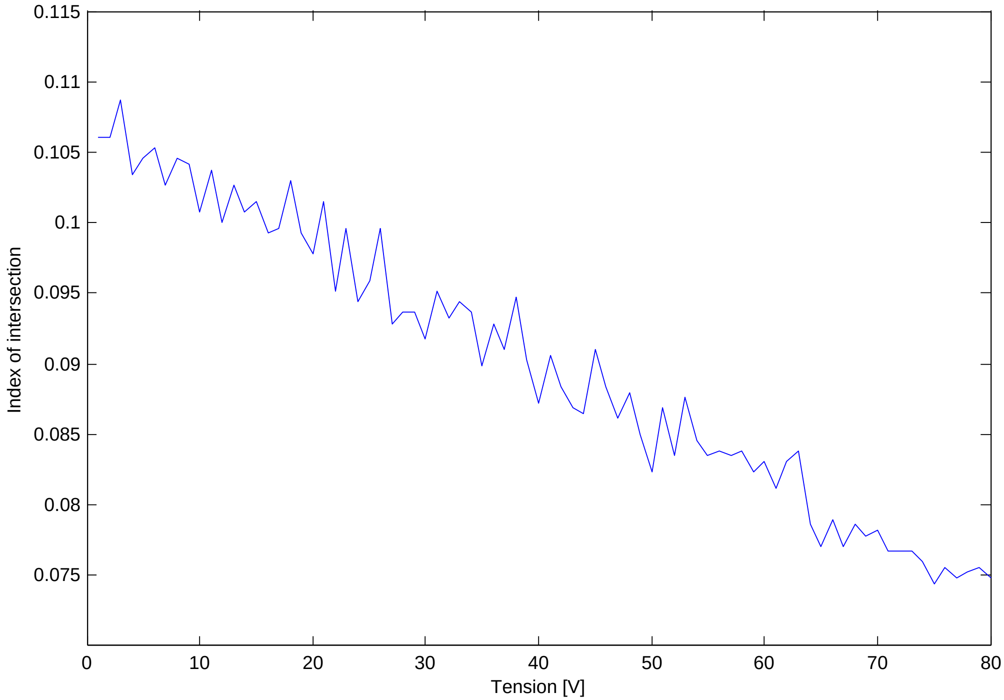


Figure C.10 - Value of the first bin of 80 periods.

period is slightly higher than 250bins. Actually, if we divide the the number of data by the number of periods that we get, the period should last 250.003bins. From the FFT test, the period is 250.0035bins. This confirm our suppositions.

Remarks: I have done a few programs that could be used to tests signals. My programs give the frequency and the phase shift phase of two continuous sinusoids. The phase is given by the difference of the two complex number phases of the signal frequency bin.

C.5.3 Test of ramp signal

The main goal of this test is to test the continuity of the data. Actually, if we have a discontinuity it should happen between blocks. So we have apply a signal with a slow ramp, a period of 30s. No lost bin was observed.

C.6 Test of the GPS failure

The TFP behavior was tested. We simulated a loss of GPS reception. We take 350 files of 500 blocks. The size of one block is 1024 samples. During the file number 97, we switched the TFP clock to use the internal clock instead of the GPS. During the file 230, we switched back the situation. The clock was still synchronous with the GPS:
- The time of the test: $350 \times 500 \times 1024/25000 = 7168$
- We found exactly 7168 PPS. All intervals are 25000bins.
The cut last 2867,2s so 47' 47". It means that in such laps of time no delay was registered. We should perform a longer test.

C.7 Test of the SDAQ time performances

To be performed: to check the time that each operation takes including the correction of the "time of acquisition" .

C.8 Checking the delay of the GPS reading

The header of the files was changed to contain the GPS reading time and the time of the begin of the file. 7200 files of data were measured, which corresponds to ∼8h of data. We compare the two times to get the delay that the system takes to read the time (access the GPS memory), see the algorithm Section D.
It takes: in average 0.012[s] with a standard deviation 0.004[s], see Figure C.11

To confirm that our measure was right and that the correction was also right, we tested starting times interval for each two consecutive files. Over 7199 intervals, we get: in average 4.096[s] and standard deviation of 0[s], see Figure C.12. All the files presents exactly the right starting time. The correction is correct. The used

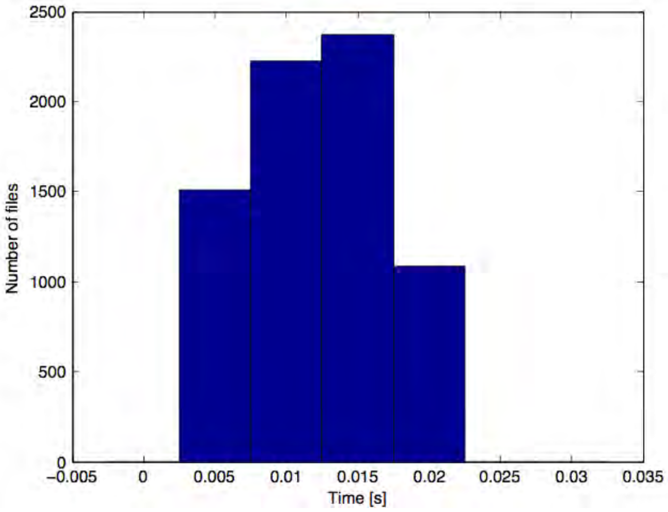


Figure C.11 - Time delays of the GPS reading for 7200 files.

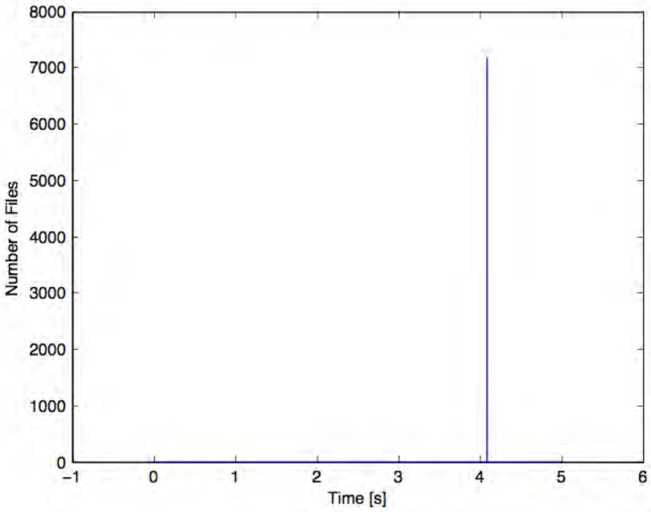


Figure C.12 - Consecutive time intervals between 7200 files.

algorithm is described in section D.

C.9 Electronic delay of the signals

The electronic delay of the circuit should be tested. First the electronic delay of the veto is computed. Showers of astroparticles will be seen by the detector as events with hight energy. Then astroparticle event times will serve as a reference to calibrate the electronic delay of our system. We have to check if this delay is bigger or smaller than the bin precision of our samplings $\sim$64μs?

APPENDIX D- SYNCHRONISATION OF THE DATA

When acquiring data we register the starting time of acquisition (GPS reading). This time is saved in the header of the data file. The problem is that this time is collected with a delay (tested by César Costa, see (COSTA, 2008)). This is due to the mapping time of the TFP memory.

With our data, we record an extra channel containing the Pulse Per Second signal (PPS) of the GPS. This channel is synchronised with the data acquisition channels. To correct our starting time, we use this PPS. The PPS is a rectangular pulse signal of 200ms, see Figure D.1 and Reference (SYMMETRICOM, 2004). It starts exactly at full seconds with a precision of 1μs, see (SYMMETRICOM,).

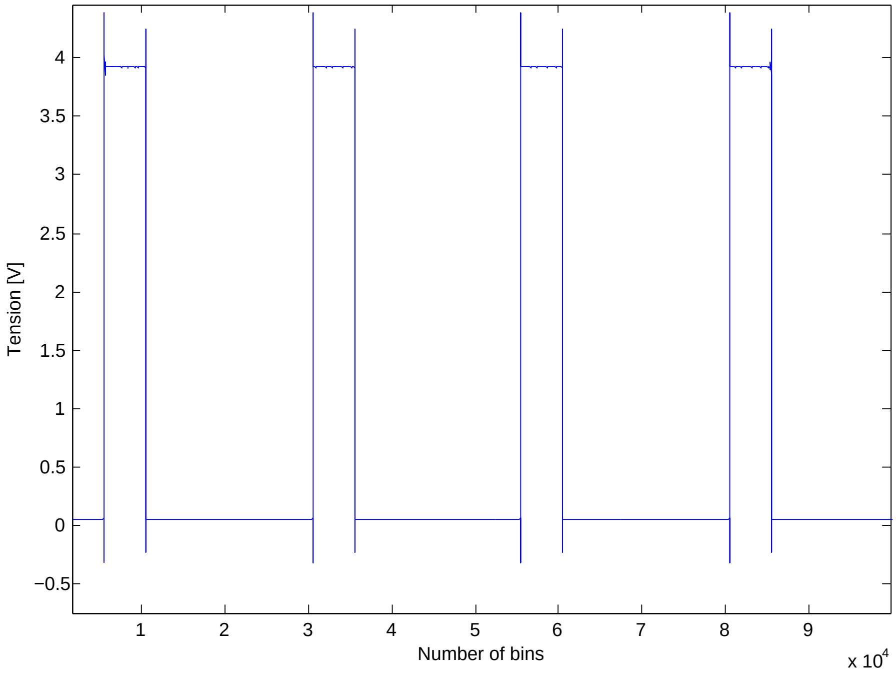


Figure D.1 - Shape of the PPS signal. The sampling is 25kHz.

D.1 Algorithm

To know the right starting time of the data we proceed as follow:

- The time of the GPS could be read during an incomplete pulse or before a complete pulse. It depends only when we start acquiring data.

- We first find the position of the first complete pulse on the data.

- We know that this pulse is gave at a complete second.

- Then we compute, knowing the number of bin to the beginning of the file, the time before this pulse: $nb\ of\ Bin/sampling$.

- To finish we cross check the information of the GPS and the position of the pulse to find the real starting time of the file.

- We can have two cases:
  1) If the time to the beginning is less than one second. In this case we just change the fraction of the seconds that the GPS gave.
  2) If the time to the beginning is negative, it means that we are considering the wrong second as reference, we have to subtract 1s to the GPS second. It happens when the PPS starts just before the GPS time reading.

To find the pulse we use the following parameters of the PPS. As we can see in Figure D.2, the distribution of the tension is clearly separated between the low level (0.5V) and the high level (4V).

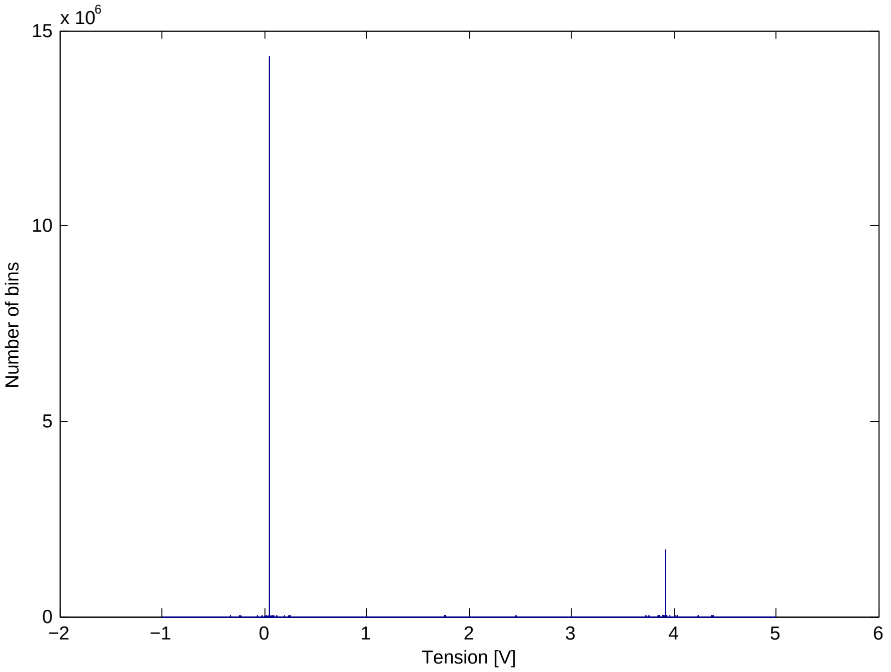


Figure D.2 - Histogram of the PPS tension. We see clearly two peaks corresponding to the low and hight state of the pulse. The average vales are 0,5V for the low state and 4V for the high state.

The rising edge of the of the PPS is sharp, only 1 to 3 points, see Figure D.3.

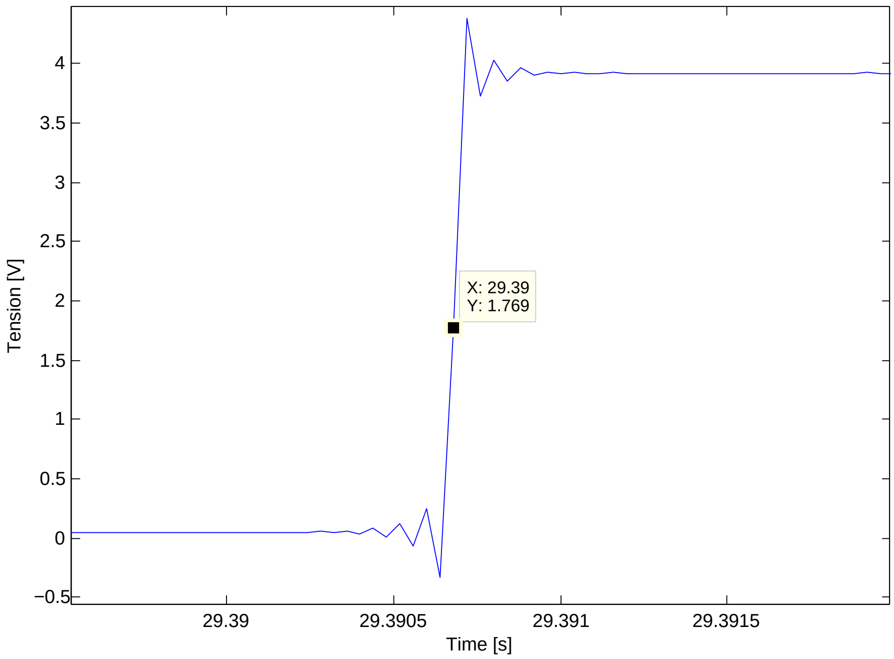


Figure D.3 - Close view of the rising edge of one PPS signal. This edge has only one point in the middle.

Then our algorithm search only for the rising edge. We test two points, if the first point is below and the second above a fix threshold of 3.5V. This simple test guarantees us to select the rising edge. We select always the second point.

Remark:To spare some computing time we do not test the points of the high voltage. Once we find the edge we skip the following point (number of bins equivalent to 0.19s).

As example program: “Test_correction_GPS_time” is located in:
$C\backslash DAQ\backslash SDAQprg\backslash Examples\backslash$.

APPENDIX E- CHANGING THE SDAQ PROGRAM

"The VXIplug&play Library "hpe1432.dll" communicates with the hardware using VISA (Virtual Instrument Software Architecture). VISA is the input/output standard upon which all the VXIplug&play software components are based" (VXI Technology, 2010).

The SDAQ, in MATLAB, uses the MEX file hpe1432.mexw64 as interface to use the library "hpe1432.dll". This file must be placed in the same directory as the SDAQ.

E.1 VXI boards logical addresses (LA):

To send commands to the boards we need to access them by their logical addresses. The logical addresses could be find using the Agilent Connection Expert program. Presently we have the following configuration:

- Agilent E8491B: slot 0: LA 0
- Symetricom BC537gps: slot 1: LA 253
- VXITech VT1436: slot 2: LA 8

E.2 Functions

In MATLAB all functions have the same structures (in the version 64bit their name start by "hpe" and in 32bit it is "vt"):
`[status] = hpe1432('deleteAllChanGroups',session);`

They are overloads of the same function hpe1432(). The function is defined by the string which specify the action of the function. So each function returns and gets as entries one or more parameters in function of the defined action.

E.3 List of functions

This list is not exhaustive:

- `hpe1432('find')`
  "This function searches the VXI mainframe and returns the VXI Logical Address for every VT1432B found."
- `hpe1432('getHWConfig')`
  "This function returns additional information about the hardware."

- `[config.status, config.session ]= hpe1432(’init’,’VXI0::8::INSTR’,1,1);`
  “This function initializes the VXIplug&play library and registers all VT1432B modules. It also checks the existence of a VT1432B module at each of the logical addresses given in the resource list and allocates logical channel identifiers for each channel in all of the VT1432Bs. Input channels, source channels, and tachometer/trigger channels are kept logically separated. (VXI Technology, 2010)” The two function before could be used before ’init’.

- `hpe1432(’getNumChans’)`
  This function get the total count of inputs, sources, and tachs for all VT1432B modules named in the hpe1432(’init’) call.

- `[status] = hpe1432(’deleteAllChanGroups’,session);`
  This function delete the groups of channel. It used before the creation of groups to ensure that no group exist before creating one. Conflicts may appear if this precaution is not taken.

- `[status,gid] = hpe1432(’createChannelGroup’,session,length(OLDCHANNELS),OLDC`
  To control a channel, this channel must be included in a group. A channel group is unite base for the VXI.

- `[status] = hpe1432(’setActive’,session,gid,’CHANNEL_OFF’);`
  When deleting a group, some channels could remain active saturating the buffer. Channels must be explicitly deactivated before deleting the group. This is done withe the ’setActive’ command.

- `vt1432_check_status(session, status);`
  This is function actually is a function wrote in MATLAB which calls two functions from the library. The file “vt1432_check_status.m” should be explicitly in the MATLAB repertory. The two functions are ’error_message’ and ’errorDetails’. It is recommended to check the status after all commands. The status is a return value of all functions.

- `[status] = hpe1432(’setBlocksize’,session,gid,BLOCKSIZE);`
  The block size is the number of sample points in a block of data. All the active channels have the same block size.

- `[status, actual_blocksize] = hpe1432(’getBlocksize’,session,gid);`
  Get the block size of all active channels.

- `[status] = hpe1432('setRange',session,gid,RANGE);`
  Set the full scale voltage range of all active channels.

- `[status, actual_range] = hpe1432('getRange',session,gid);`
  Get the full scale voltage range of all active.
  channels.

- `[status] = hpe1432('setSpan',session,gid,SPAN);`
  The rate at which the measurement data is sampled. For the VT1432B, the sample rate is 2.56 times the frequency span (2.56 × span= sample rate) . Sample rate is abbreviated ÒfsÓ (for Òsample frequencyÓ).

- `[status, actual_span] = hpe1432('getSpan',session,gid);`
  Get the SPAN (sample rate/2.56).

- `[status] = hpe1432('setDataMode',session,gid,'BLOCK_MODE');`
  Put module in block acquisition mode. “In block mode, the input hardware acquires one block after getting an arm and trigger. It does not allow the system to trigger until it is ready to process the trigger and it acquires pre-trigger data if necessary. The hardware does not accept a new arm and trigger until the acquired block is sent to the host. There is no provision for overlap or queuing up more than one block when in block mode. There is also no way for a FIFO overflow to occur.”

- `[status] = hpe1432('setAutoTrigger',session,gid,'MANUAL_TRIGGER');`
  Set the trigger mode. They are 8 trigger modes. “Triggering is defined as the transition from the ARMED state to the TRIGGER state.”

- `[status] = hpe1432('initMeasure',session,gid);`
  Start measurement.

APPENDIX F- CHANGING THE BC537GPS PROGRAM

F.1 List of functions

The new version is written with “Codeblocks” and the GUI is done using the wxWidget libraries.

All the function to communicated with the TFP board are in the files “sym_lib.h” and “.cpp”. It use the VISA functions. The program is written in c++.
We can give just as an example the two basic function ton sen and get bytes.

- To send:

  ```
  void poke( ViSession seg, ViAddr off, unsigned short word ){
    viPoke16( seg, off, word ); \\ VISA function see the VISA help.
    return;
  }
  ```

- To receive:

  ```
  unsigned short peek( ViSession seg, ViAddr off ){
    unsigned short word;
    viPeek16( seg, off, & word ); \\ VISA function see the VISA help.
    return word;
  }
  ```

APPENDIX G- COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SDAQ AND THE LOW LATENCY ANALYSIS

The basic code is the following:

```
com=tcpip(192.168.1.1, 4000); (IP and port)
fopen(com);
fwrite(com, ‘A’);
fprintf(com, ‘texto...’) fclose(com):
```

For more help, see the MATLAB function “tcpip” and example other examples are available at:
http://www.mathworks.com/products/instrument/hardware/tcpip.html

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