**Image Processor**

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## **Contents**





The Image Processor devices can be connected to the output channel of a device producing images (usually a camera, or an image processor device).

Incoming data will be sought for images in the data.image key.

Contents:

#### Auto Correlator

<span id="page-6-0"></span>The AutoCorrelator device is designed to provide an online determination of the pulse duration using a single-shot auto correlator<sup>[1](#page-6-1)</sup>.

The measurement of the time profile of pulses is based on the following principle, graphically displayed in  $Fig.$  %s. The input beam is sent to a beam-splitter; the two identical beams propagate along two distinct optical paths until they intersect in a non-linear crystal. Here, due to the high-intensity of the beams, a second harmonic beam (SH) is created and its integrated energy is measured by a CCD camera located after the crystal.

The pulse duration of laser pulses can be determined upon measuring the transverse distribution of the energy deposited in the CCD camera. From geometrical considerations in  $Fig.$  %s, assuming for the incoming beams a rectangular time profile  $\tau_p$  and uniform transverse intensity profile, it is found that the transverse profile  $D_z$  of the second harmonic depends on the pulse duration  $\tau_n$  of the fundamental beams,

$$
D_z = \frac{\tau_p \cdot u}{\sin(\phi/2)}
$$

$$
\tau_p = D_z \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta Z_0}
$$

where  $u = c/n$  and  $\phi$  are the speed of light and the intersection angle of input beams, respectively, in the crystal with refractive index  $n$ . The transverse profile  $D<sub>z</sub>$  is determined from the data accumulated with the CCD camera available in the system. An example of camera image is presented in Fig. %s:

The figure shows clearly the deposited energy from the signal of the generated second harmonic beam (central and more intense peak) and of the two fundamental beams (low intensity side signals). The transverse profile  $D_z$  is determined as FWHM from the fit to the SH peak.

The angle  $\phi$  cannot be measured with sufficient precision for a reliable extraction of pulse duration  $\tau_p$ . The way used in the device to determine the pulse duration from the measured transverse profile is presented the calibration section.

The device configuration editor is presented in Fig.  $\text{\$s},$ 

The camera device providing the image of the beam profile should be set in the key input.connectedOutputChannels of the autocorrelator device. For each camera image the projection along the x-axis is calculated, a fit is performed according to a selectable model (Beam Shape) for the time-profile of the pulse, and the peak position and FWHM

<span id="page-6-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RP Photonics Encyclopedia, <https://www.rp-photonics.com/autocorrelators.html>



Fig. 1: The diagram describes geometrically the intersection of two identical beams in a crystal and the generation of the second harmonic beam.



Fig. 2: The fundamental beams and the second harmonic beam are detected in the CCD camera located after the non-linear crystal.



are determined from the fitting function (Input Image Peak x-Pos and Input Image Peak x-Pos). The Fit Error parameter is an integer flag describing the fit status. If it is equal to 1, 2, 3 or 4, the solution was found, otherwise the solution was not found<sup>[2](#page-9-1)</sup>. The possible fit status values are:

- 0: Improper input parameters were entered,
- 1: The solution converged,
- 2: The number of calls to function has reached default max number,
- 3: Max for relative error is too small, no further improvement in the approximate solution is possible,
- 4: The iteration is not making good progress, as measured by the improvement from the last five Jacobian evaluations,
- 5: The iteration is not making good progress, as measured by the improvement from the last ten iterations,
- 'unknown': "An error occurred.

The result of pulse duration is presented only in case of a solution is found, and the fit status value is lower than four.

#### <span id="page-9-0"></span>**1.1 Calibration**

To overcome the difficulty in measuring the incident angle  $\phi$  of the primary beams, the following method is applied.

By shifting the mirror stage in the optical delay line, Fig. %s, a delay  $\Delta t$  is added between the two input pulses, resulting in a shift  $\Delta Z_0$  of the center of SH transverse distribution

$$
\Delta Z_0 = \frac{\Delta t \cdot u}{2 \cdot \sin(\phi/2)}
$$



Fig. 4: Setup of an intensity autocorrelator. BS refers to the beam splitter.

Combining equations on transverse profile  $D_z$  with shift  $\Delta Z_0$  the dependence on the intersection angle  $\phi$  is removed, and the pulse duration can be obtained as

$$
\tau_p = D_z \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta Z_0}
$$

The ratio  $K = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta Z}$  is a calibration factor which allows the conversion of the SH transverse profile (measured in pixel units) to the pulse time profile (measured in femtosecond units).

Its determination with sufficient accuracy is challenging. To overcome this difficulty the following procedure is applied. One of the two optical paths can be varied by pulling or pushing one mirror in the line in a controllable way

<span id="page-9-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Scipy.org, <https://github.com/scipy/scipy/blob/master/scipy/optimize/minpack.py>

using a micrometer. A change  $\Delta l$  of the micrometer head position results in a pulse delay of  $\Delta t = 2\Delta l/c$  and in the shift  $\Delta Z_0$ . Thus, shifting the SH distribution, as measured in the CCD camera, in two extreme opposite positions (1 & 2) of the sensitive area allows the measurements of calibration factor with a lower relative uncertainty as shown in the steps below:

$$
\Delta t = 2\Delta l/c
$$

$$
\Delta t_1 - \Delta t_2 = 2(\Delta l_1 - \Delta l_2)/c
$$

Considering the above expression of  $\tau_p$ ,

$$
\Delta t_1 - \Delta t_2 = 2 \cdot \tau_p / D_z (\Delta Z_1 - \Delta Z_2)
$$

$$
(\Delta l_1 - \Delta l_2) / c = \tau_p / D_z (\Delta Z_1 - \Delta Z_2)
$$

resulting in

$$
\tau_p = D_z \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{2}{c} \cdot \frac{\Delta l_1 - \Delta l_2}{\Delta Z_1 - \Delta Z_2}\right)
$$

This way, the calibration factor  $K = (\frac{2}{c} \cdot \frac{\Delta l_1 - \Delta l_2}{\Delta Z_1 - \Delta Z_2})[\frac{fs}{pxl}]$  can be calculated with a larger relative precision using a reproducible and controllable procedure.

It should be noted that the multiplying factor 1/2 in the above equation results from the initial and non-realistic assumption of a rectangular time profile and uniform transverse intensity profile for the incoming beams. More realistic models for the unknown time shape of initial pulses should be considered. Assuming the Gaussian and hyperbolic secant shapes for the pulse time-profile results in the factors 1/2 and 1/1.54, respectively.

The oscillator pulse duration is then calculated as the mean value of these extracted values, and the contribution from model uncertainty to the global systematical uncertainty can be estimated as half of the maximum deviation between the two calculated values.

The above mentioned calibration steps are handled by the device configuration editor. The user should take care to properly select the fitting region reducing the contribution from the fundamental beams. The fitting window can be optimized configuring the keys Fit Lower Limit and Fit Upper Limit. Also, attention should be taken in order not to cut the profile tail of the SH beam thus affecting the measurement of the FWHM.

After moving the generated SH beam to one side of the sensitive area of the CCD camera (by properly translating the mirror stage in the optical delay line with the micrometer), by clicking on Current Image as 1st Calibration the current values of peak position and FWHM will be set as **Image1 Peak**  $(x)$  and **Image1 FWHM**  $(x)$ , respectively. Similarly, the second set of calibration parameters are obtained steering the SH profile in the other side of the camera and clicking on Current Image as 2nd Calibration.

Once the two calibration images are acquired, the calibration constant  $K$  can be calculated by clicking on **Calibrate** after setting

- Delay Unit to  $\mu m$ ;
- Delay to the entire translation of the mirror stage, equivalent to  $(\Delta l_1 \Delta l_2)$ . This measurement should be taken by the user;

or, in case the optical delay between the two calibration images was provided already in femtosecond unit, after setting

- Delay Unit to  $fs$ ;
- Delay to the time delay.

The extracted Calibration constant allows to calculate the pulse duration from the measured FWHM  $D_z$ ,

$$
\tau_p = D_z \cdot \alpha \cdot K,
$$

 $\alpha$  being the multiplication factor originating from the model assumed for the time-profile of the pulse.

The uncertainty of the pulse duration is preliminary estimated via error propagation by the uncertainty on the fit FWHM, assuming the uncertainty of the calibration constant is negligible and that no correlation between the fit parameters exists.

#### <span id="page-11-0"></span>**1.2 Device Scenes**

At the moment, one scene is auto-generated by the device.

It can be opened either by right-clicking on the device name, and selecting from the drop up menu the item *Open device scene*, or double-clicking on the device name.

An example of scene is presented in Fig.  $§ s$ :



Fig. 5: The scene of the auto-correlator device.

All calibration parameters are available in the upper-right sub-panel. The image x-profile is shown superimposed to the fitting function. To deselect one of the graphs use the item list widget. If not yet visible, this widget can be activated from the drop up menu showing up by right-clicking on the graph.

A log of the device status is also provided. Note that only messages appeared after the opening of the scene will be displayed.

A link to the camera auto-generated scene is provided, allowing the user to configure the camera without having to navigate in the project.

#### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**1.3 Troubleshooting**

Some typical errors have been identified up to now:

- In case the camera device is not instantiated or it is stopped the peak position and FWHM should be null, and no calculation of the pulse duration can be performed;
- In case no calibration constant is provided, either inserted by the user (if previously known) or by following the calibration procedure described in the text, the pulse duration is not calculated;
- In case the calibration constant is inserted by the user, and the results appear to be very different from what expected, the value used might describe no more the current optical setup of the autocorrelator device. A new calibration measurement could be performed;
- In case the uncertainty arising from the fit procedure is relative large, likely the model used in the fit is not appropriate:
	- try to use a different available model;
	- try to optimize the fitting region;
	- verify that the tails of the second harmonic beam are well within the fitting area;
- In case no available model describes correctly the data, an optimization of the optical line setup could be attempted.

#### Image Processor

<span id="page-14-0"></span>The Image Processor device can provide for each incoming image (2D) or spectrum (1D):

- the minimum, maximum and mean pixel value;
- the frequency distribution of pixel values;
- the image integrals in x and y directions (only for 2D images);
- the centre-of-mass and standard deviation;
- gaussian fit parameters for the x and y integrals (the latter only for 2D (images);
- gaussian fit parameters for the 2D image;
- pixel values integral over a region.

Each feature can be enabled or disabled by using the boolean properties listed in the *[General Settings](#page-14-2)* section. General settings of the Image Processor are described in the *[Enabling Features](#page-15-0)* section.

#### <span id="page-14-1"></span>**2.1 Input to the Device**

#### <span id="page-14-2"></span>**2.1.1 General Settings**

The following properties affect all the algorithms ran in the device.



#### <span id="page-15-0"></span>**2.1.2 Enabling Features**

The different algorithms available can be enabled by setting the following boolean parameters.



#### **2.1.3 Options for Centre-of-Mass**

The user can define a range for the centre-of-mass calculation, and a pixel threshold to discard background pixels. More details are given in the table:



#### **2.1.4 Options for Gaussian Fit**

The Gaussian fit is done by using the fitGauss and fitGauss2DRot functions available in the image processing package.

Initial parameters fit are calculated by the peakParametersEval function in the imageProcessing package, when the "raw peak" option is choosen.

The user can define the range used for the Gaussian fit, enable a 1st order polynomial, define which initial fit parameters shall be used, enable rotation angle for the 2D Gaussian fit.

More details are given in the table:



#### **2.1.5 Options for Integration**

The user can define the region to be integrated over.



#### <span id="page-18-0"></span>**2.2 Commands**

The user can select the current image as background image.



## <span id="page-19-0"></span>**2.3 Output of the Device**

#### **2.3.1 General properties**



#### **2.3.2 Execution Time**

The time spent in each part of the image processing is calculated and displayed in the device. The values are refreshed once per second.



#### **2.3.3 Centre-of-Mass**



#### **2.3.4 Gaussian Fit**

By enabling the 1D fits, the image will be first integrated along Y- and X- directions, in order to give a 1D distribution. These distributions will be then fitted with a Gaussian.



By enabling the 2D fit, the 2D pixel distribution will be fitted. Be careful, for large images it could be quite slow, in particular if you enable rotation angle!



#### **2.3.5 Integration**



#### **2.3.6 Other Outputs**

The following vector properties are available in the output channel named *output*.





Fig. 1: An example of pixel count distribution.

### Simple Image Processor

<span id="page-28-0"></span>The Simple Image Processor device can be connected to the output channel of a device producing images (usually a camera, or an image processor device).

Incoming data will be sought for images in the data.image key.

The Simple Image Processor device can provide for each incoming image:

- the maximum pixel value;
- gaussian fit parameters for the x and y integrals.

The settings of the Simple Image Processor are described in the next section.

## <span id="page-29-0"></span>**3.1 Input to the Device**



### <span id="page-29-1"></span>**3.2 Commands**



# <span id="page-30-0"></span>**3.3 Output of the Device**

#### **3.3.1 General properties**



#### **3.3.2 Gaussian Fit**



# <span id="page-31-0"></span>**3.4 Expert Contact**

- Dennis Goeries [<dennis.goeries@xfel.eu>](mailto:dennis.goeries@xfel.eu)
- Andrea Parenti [<andrea.parenti@xfel.eu>](mailto:andrea.parenti@xfel.eu)

## Image Averager

<span id="page-32-0"></span>The *ImageAverager* device can perform a running average, or the standard one, of the incoming images. Its settings are described in the *[Input to the Device](#page-52-1)* section.

## <span id="page-32-1"></span>**4.1 Input to the Device**



# <span id="page-33-0"></span>**4.2 Commands**



# <span id="page-33-1"></span>**4.3 Output of the Device**



# Image Background Subtraction

<span id="page-34-0"></span>The *ImageBackgroundSubtraction* device can subtract a background image from the incoming one. Its settings are described in the *[Input to the Device](#page-34-1)* section.

## <span id="page-34-1"></span>**5.1 Input to the Device**



### <span id="page-35-0"></span>**5.2 Commands**



# <span id="page-35-1"></span>**5.3 Output of the Device**



## Image Masking

<span id="page-36-0"></span>The *ImageApplyMask* device applies a mask to the incoming image, and writes the masked image to an output channel.

# <span id="page-36-1"></span>**6.1 Input to the Device**



# <span id="page-37-0"></span>**6.2 Commands**



# <span id="page-37-1"></span>**6.3 Output of the Device**



### Image ROI

<span id="page-38-0"></span>The *ImageApplyROI* device applies a ROI to the incoming image, and writes the sub-image to an output channel.

# <span id="page-38-1"></span>**7.1 Input to the Device**



## <span id="page-38-2"></span>**7.2 Output of the Device**



### Normalized Spectrum from ROI

<span id="page-40-0"></span>The *ImageNormRoi* device is used to calculate an inline normalized spectrum from an image. In order to compute the spectrum, the operator has to define a data region of interest (ROI) and a normalization ROI from the incoming image. Both regions of interest are created with the same size (roiSize) and the positions can be defined by dataRoiPosition and normRoiPosition, respectively. The normalization ROI is then subtracted from the pixel values of the data region of interest and the result is finally integrated along the Y direction to retrieve the spectrum.

#### <span id="page-40-1"></span>**8.1 Input to the Device**



# <span id="page-41-0"></span>**8.2 Output of the Device**



#### Image Pattern Picker

<span id="page-42-0"></span>The aim of this device is to filter input images according to their train IDs.

The image pattern picker has two nodes (chan\_1 and chan\_2); each of them contains an input channel that can be connected to an output channel to receive an image stream (e.g. from a camera).

The input image has to be found in the data.image element. If its trainId fulfills a given condition (see next Section), it will be forwarded to the output channel in the same node.

#### <span id="page-42-1"></span>**9.1 Input to the Device**



# <span id="page-43-0"></span>**9.2 Output of the Device**



### Image Picker

<span id="page-44-0"></span>This device has two input channels (input Image and input Trainid).

- inputImage expects an image stream (e.g. from a camera);
- inputTrainId is used to get the timestamps. Its data content is ignored, as only timestamp is relevant.

Images whose trainId equals inputTrainId + trainIdOffset are forwarded to an output channel, while others are discarded.

# <span id="page-45-0"></span>**10.1 Input to the Device**



# <span id="page-46-0"></span>**10.2 Output of the Device**



### Image to Spectrum

<span id="page-48-0"></span>The *ImageToSpectrum* device is used to calculate an inline spectrum from an image. In order to compute the spectrum, the operator has to define a region of interest (ROI) from the incoming image. After the selection of the ROI, the image is integrated along the Y direction to retrieve the spectrum.

#### <span id="page-48-1"></span>**11.1 Input to the Device**



### <span id="page-48-2"></span>**11.2 Output of the Device**



### Beam Shape Coarse

<span id="page-50-0"></span>The *BeamShapeCoarse* device integrates the incoming images in Y and X directions, then finds the position of the peak and the beam size on such integrals.

Position and size of the beam are calculated with the *peakParametersEval* function from the image processing package, thus the evaluated values make sense only if the peak has a single maximum. Also noise (ripple) may affect the result.

#### <span id="page-50-1"></span>**12.1 Commands**



# <span id="page-51-0"></span>**12.2 Output of the Device**



### Image Thumbnail

<span id="page-52-0"></span>The *ImageThumbnail* device is meant to reduce the input image for preview purposes. It expects an image in input.

It lets the user specify the size of a canvas where the output thumbnail image must fit. It outputs the image downscaled to fit in the specified canvas. Downscaled image is obtained by means of the *thumbnail* function from the image processing package.

### <span id="page-52-1"></span>**13.1 Input to the Device**



# <span id="page-53-0"></span>**13.2 Output of the Device**



#### Two Peak Finder

<span id="page-54-0"></span>The *TwoPeakFinder* device will integrate the input image in the vertical direction, then find two peaks, one left and one right from the *zero\_point*.

# <span id="page-54-1"></span>**14.1 Input to the Device**



#### <span id="page-54-2"></span>**14.2 Commands**



# <span id="page-55-0"></span>**14.3 Output of the Device**



Expert Contact

<span id="page-56-0"></span>• Andrea Parenti [<andrea.parenti@xfel.eu>](mailto:andrea.parenti@xfel.eu)

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