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TPC
SHORT OPERATIONS MANUAL FOR DETECTOR OPERATORS

(written by Blair Stringfellow)

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1. Rules of Operation

1.1 FEE's

There are two sets of FEEs (and RDOs) for the TPC:

1. The pad plane FEE's
2. The MWC FEE's that terminate the anode wires and are used for the peripheral trigger.

Both sets are cooled by the TPC water skid (nominal temperature = 75 F). The temperature is monitored by a computer program which periodically reads out 120 thermistors mounted on the FEE and RDO cooling manifolds. The temperatures can be read by going to http://tpctemp.star.bnl.gov
These temperatures are also watched by the TPC alarm handler (alarm = 80 F).

RULE 1: If any thermistor reads > 80F, power down the FEE's and MWC FEE's until the cooling problem is solved.

The TPC water skid exchanges heat with the STAR Modified Chilled Water (MCW). To maintain the TPC at 75, the MCW must typically be < 64F. A problem with the TPC cooling water temp can usually be traced to a MCW problem. Note also that the FEE's are interlocked to the TPC water skid – a loss of flow will automatically turn off the FEE's.

Because of an uncertainty about induced currents associated with the magnet, we also have:

RULE 2: Turn off all FEE's and MWC FEE's when the magnet is being ramped up or down.

It's also probably a good idea to power off the FEE's if there will be no beam for > 1 hour.

1.2 HV

Ultimate responsibility for the safe operation of the TPC rests with the Detector Operator! For this reason, the final authority for turning on (and off) the HV also rests with the detector operator. To protect the TPC, the most important rule is:

RULE 3: The anode and cathode HV are to be kept OFF UNTIL RHIC has stable stored and cogged beams. There are NO exceptions to this rule except by explicit permission from Blair Stringfellow or Howard Wieman.

We have seen both field cage sparkdowns and multiple anode trips that were clearly beam induced. This can happen at any energy and any intensity. Note that this means turning ON the HV AFTER the beams are stored AND turning OFF the HV BEFORE the beams are dumped. It is the detector operator's responsibility to encourage the shift leader to always get advance notice of a beam dump.

1.3 Frequency and method for Pedestal Runs

It is now possible to save the TPC pedestal values on disk, so a DAQ reboot doesn't necessarily mean having to take a new pedestal run. Pending further study, it is recommended to take a pedestal run at least once per shift. Pedestal runs are configured through trigger and DAQ. Number of events > 50.
The state of the TPC should be:

FEE's and MWC FEEs ON
Gated Grid ON
Cathode HV on or off
Anode HV at pedestal values or less (pedestal values are Inner = 700V, Outer = 900V)

1.4 Frequency and method for Laser Runs

Laser runs are used to check the TPC drift velocity, and should be taken once a store, usually 1 hour into the store. Since DAQ can now interleave triggers, laser events can be taken automatically during a physics run simply by powering on the laser. (See below). The TPC's operating parameters (HV) are the same for laser runs and physics run. After the laser run is over (~ 1000 events), turn the laser off.

1.5 Frequency and method for TPC Pulser Runs

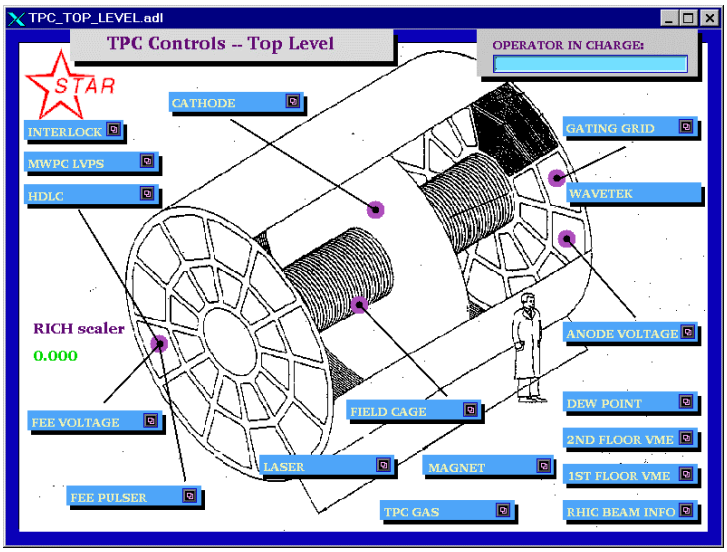
Pulser runs are used to check the TPC FEE's and RDO's. They can be taken at any time by reconfiguring trigger and DAQ for a pulser run. Under normal conditions, it shouldn't be necessary to take pulser runs except for calibration purposes during the run. For a pulser run:

FEE's and MWC FEE's ON
Gated Grid On or Off
Cathode On or Off
Anode Off or On at or below pedestal values (Inner = 700V, Outer = 900V)

2. Operations for Various Subsystems:

2.1 Boot & setup of Control Computer

All operations for the TPC are controlled from the PC chaplin.star.bnl.gov located in the STAR control room. To get started, log on to Chaplin (username and password posted on the monitor). After boot, double click on the desktop icon "toplevel.xs". This Exceed session will automatically log on to the slow controls computer sc.star.bnl.gov and start the TPC top level control GUI, which looks like:



To simplify the controls for the various subsystems. Chaplin is set up to run 9 virtual desktops, each labeled for a specific function:

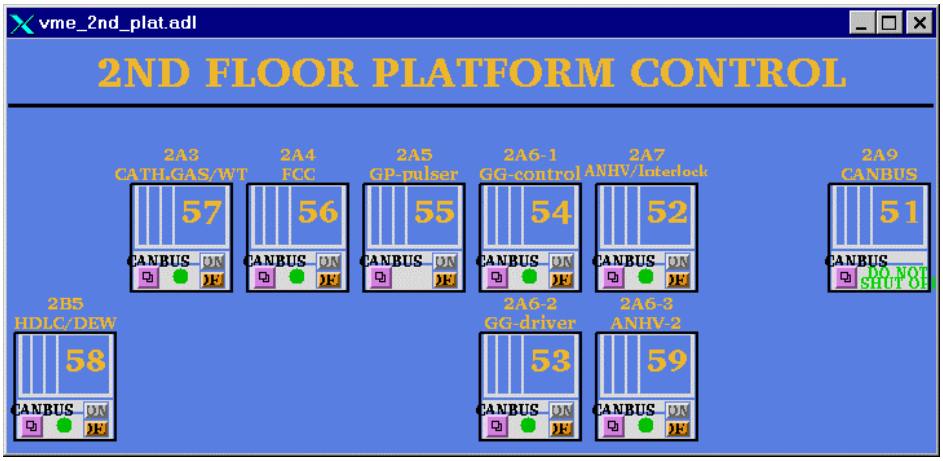
1. Anodes
2. Cathode and field cage
3. Gating grid
4. FEE's
5. Laser
6. Gas system
7. Interlocks
8. VME status
9. Pad monitor/General Use.

To link the top level GUI to all desktops, left click on the control button of the virtual desktop selection panel:

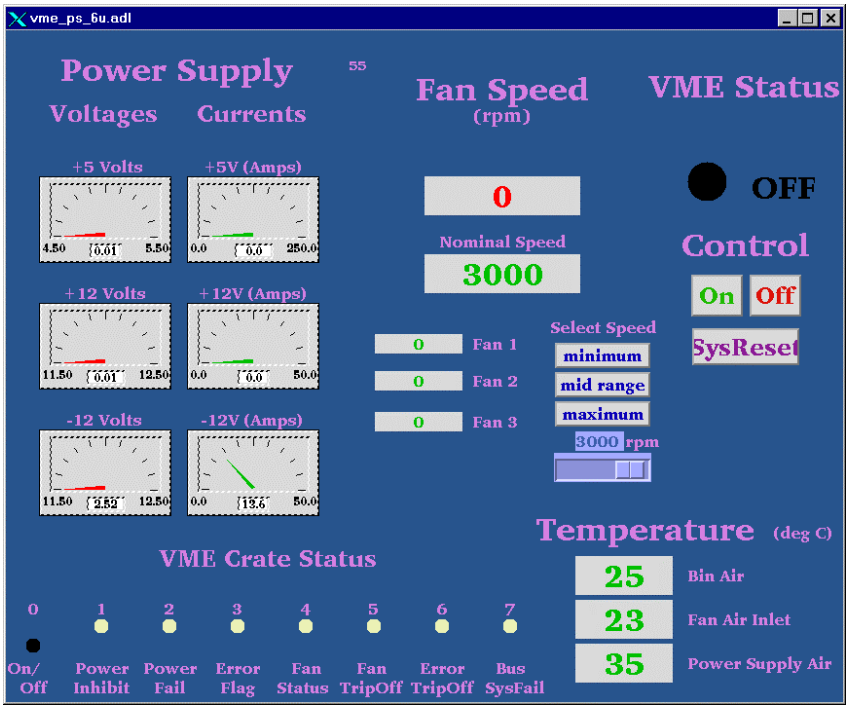
A list of all processes running on all desktops will pop up. RIGHT click on the process TPC_TOP_LEVEL.adl, drag down to "Link to Desktop", drag down to "All" and release. A top level GUI should now be on all desktops.

2.2 VME Crates & Processors

All TPC functions are controlled using VME CPU's which are located in VME crates on the 2nd floor of the south platform. These crates can be remotely turned on/off using slow controls. To check the status of the crates, click on desktop 8 and select "2nd floor VME". This will bring up the VME control GUI:



Note that crates are labeled by function, canbus number and rack number. Crate 51 is for slow controls and should not be powered off. The green dot indicates that the crate is powered on (thus, #55 is off.) To turn a crate on (or off), click and hold on the purple button, drag down and release on the "VME xx" button, where xx is the canbus number. This brings up the control GUI for that crate:



To turn the crate on, click the "ON" button. The fan speed, voltages, currents, and temperatures will be indicated. Kill the window when done.
Before proceeding, make sure all crates for the TPC are ON.

VME PROCESSORS:

Typically, there is one VME processor for each TPC control task, and one CPU per crate. (Some crates may have two processors.) These processors run VxWorks and boot from the main slow controls computer (sc.star.bnl.gov). There are two connections for each CPU, one via ethernet and one through a terminal server. Remote login over ethernet is reserved for the slow controls expert. If problems develop with a CPU it can be rebooted by four different methods:

1. Cycle the power on the crate. (Not recommended, but sometimes necessary.)

OR

2. Push the sys reset button on the crate's control GUI – this reboots all processors in that crate.

OR

3. For the Gated Grid and Inner & Outer Anodes, there is a reset button on the main GUI. Clicking on this button will reboot the processor. (These three processors crash most often.)

OR

4 Login via the terminal server as follows:

On the CHAPLIN desktop, double click on the Exceed session "sc session.xs". This will open a window to sc.

Type telnet scserv xxxx, CR where xxxx is the port number for the processor.

After you are attached to the processor, hit CR. To reboot, type "reboot,CR"

After the reboot, exit the session by typing "CTRL]" simultaneously to get back to the telnet prompt. Type quit to get back to sc. Type exit to logoff.

ALWAYS release these terminal server sessions when you are done!

The current CPU's and port assignments are as follows:

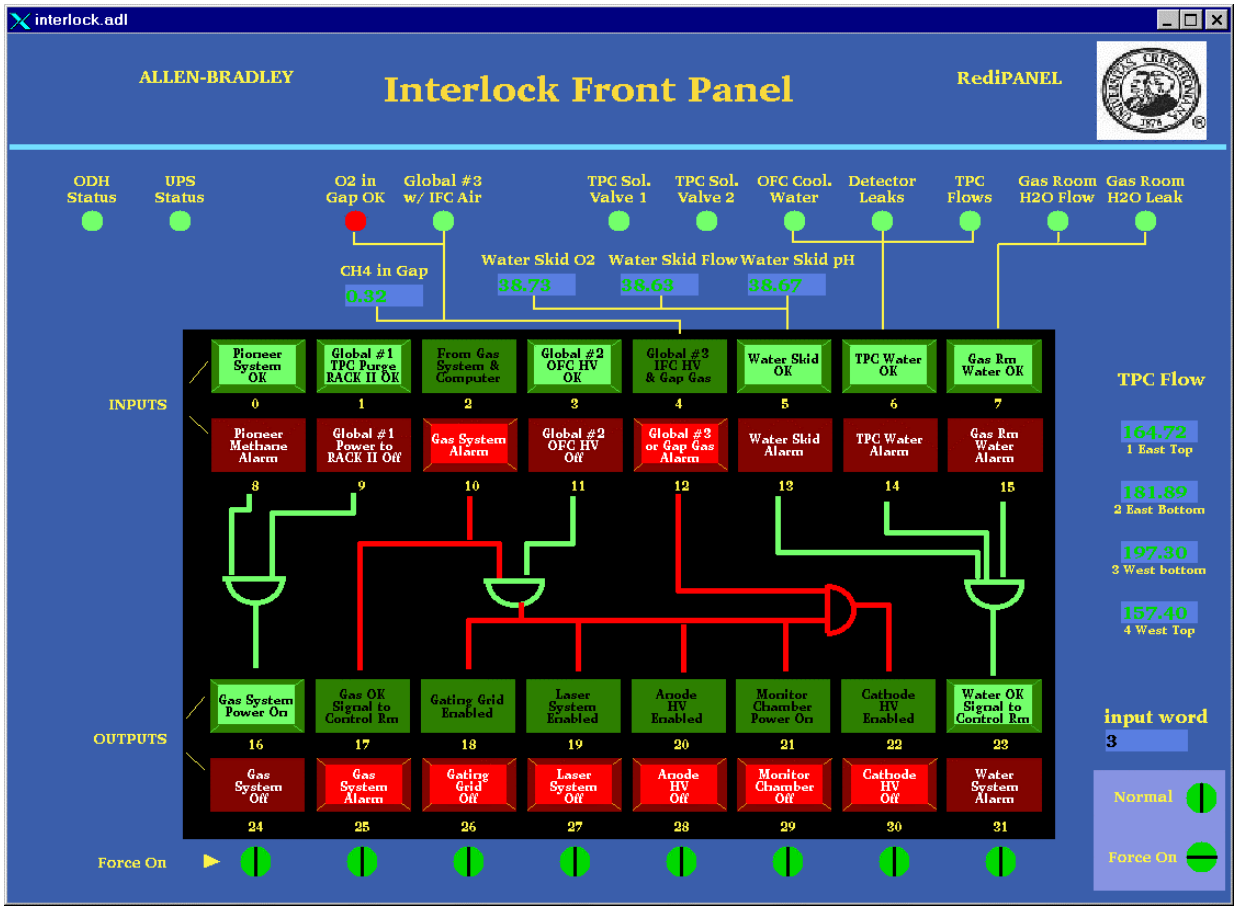
1.Field Cage Readout	Port 9001	Crate 56	Rack 2A4
2. Gated Grid	Port 9002	Crate 54	Rack 2A6
3. FEE Power supplies	Port 9004	Crate 58	Rack 2B5
4. Cathode HV	Port 9005	Crate 57	Rack 2A3
5. Inner Anode HV	Port 9006	Crate 52	Rack 2A7
6. Ground Plane Pulser	Port 9011	Crate 55	Rack 2A5
7. Interlock/Gas System	Port 9012	Crate 52	Rack 2A7
8. Outer Anode HV	Port 9013	Crate 59	Rack 2A6
9. Platform Hygrometer	Port 9015	Crate 58	Rack 2B5

Lecroy serial session for inner sectors	Port 9037
Lecroy serial session for outer sectors	Port 9038

When a VME processor reboots, a grey MEDM Message Window will pop up with the message "network connection lost". Close this window. Also, the relevant GUI will turn white until the processor reboots.

2.3 Interlocks

The interlock status for the TPC can be checked from the control room by selecting the "Interlock" button on the top level GUI. (This is a representation of the AB panel which is located in Rack 4 of the gas mixing room.) The panel looks like:

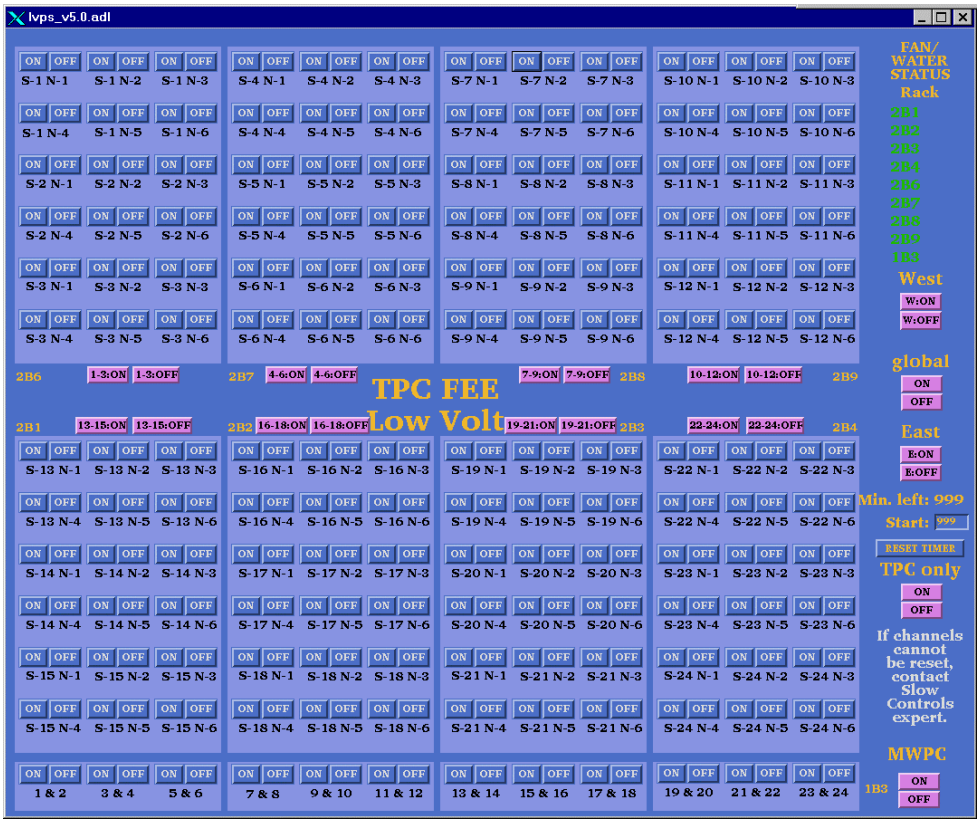


The round lights across the top and the top row of rectangular lights are status lights for the inputs to the interlock panel. The bottom two rows of rectangular lights show the status of the outputs to the various subsystems of the TPC. Under normal circumstances, ALL lights should be green. In the above example, the gas system is off, so no system can run.

Note that if, during a run, one or more of the inputs changes from OK to "not OK", the AB PLC will take automatic action to shut down the affected subsystem or HV. NO OPERATOR ACTION IS REQUIRED.

2.4 FEE's and MWC FEE's

To operate the main TPC FEE's, go to desktop 4 and select "FEE Voltage" on the toplevel GUI. The FEE control looks like:



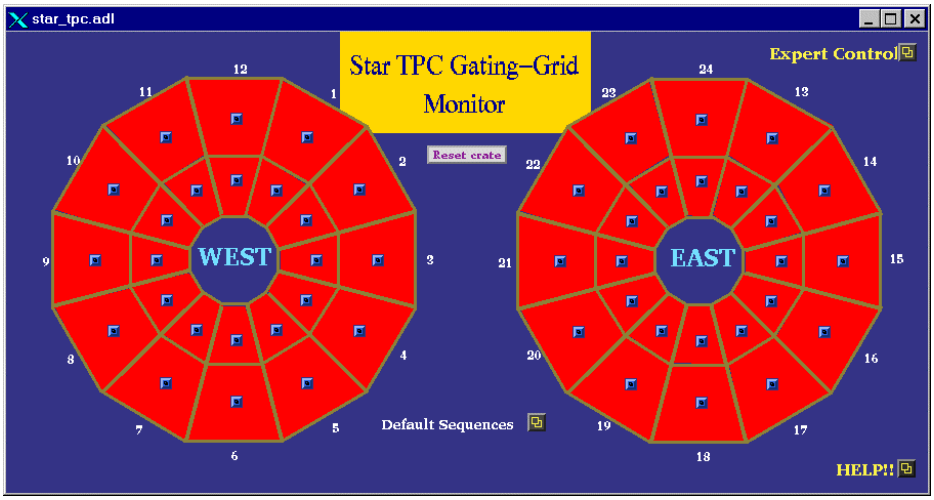
To turn all the FEE's on, click on the "global" on button. Each of the supplies will turn green in turn. There are also "on" buttons for each rack (= 3 supersectors), east and west ends, and individual supplies. To turn off, click on the corresponding "off" button.

The global on button will also turn on the MWPC FEE's, shown across the bottom of the GUI. To turn on the MWPC FEE's only, use the MWPC ON button at the bottom of the GUI.

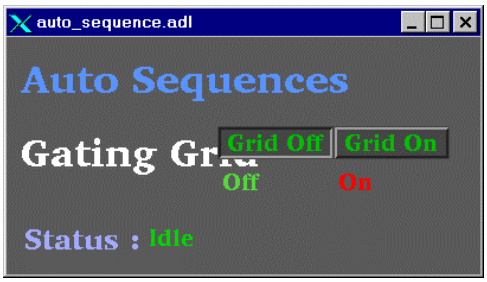
Remember – the MWPC FEE's should be on for ALL runs!

2.5 Gated Grid

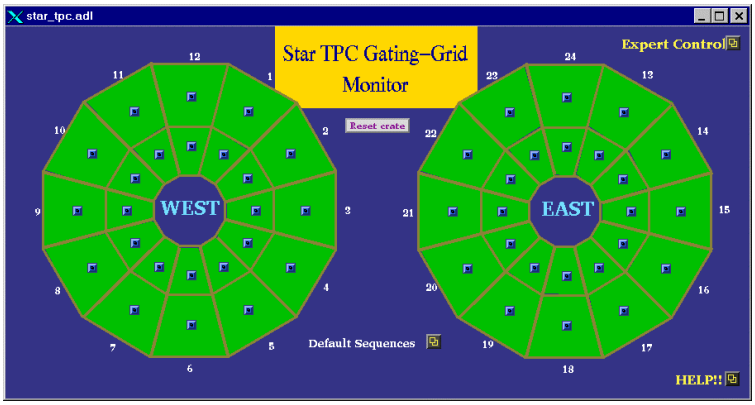
To turn on the gated grid, go to desktop # 3 and click on “Gating Grid” on the top level GUI. This brings up the main gated grid GUI:



1. Click on the “Default Sequences” button. This brings up the control screen:

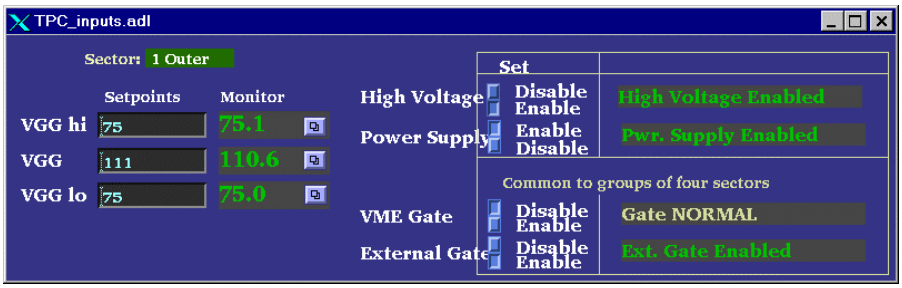


2. Click on the “Grid On” button. This will run a program to set all the GG power supplies. You should see the message “Downloading Setpoints”. It should take ~3 minutes for all sectors to come up to voltage. when the gated grid is ready, all sectors on the main screen turn green:



3. If the status remains “idle” after clicking on the “Grid On” button, you will have to reboot the processor. Click on the “reset crate” button on the main GG GUI and wait for the processor to reboot (~4 min). Try the auto sequence again.

4. To check on the voltage setpoint for a sector, click on the button for that sector. This brings up the control window:



5. The display for the main GG panel is color coded – a sector whose voltage deviates 2% from the setpoint will turn yellow, 5% will turn red. You will also get an alarm from the TPC alarm handler. For yellow, the run can continue – for red, STOP the run.

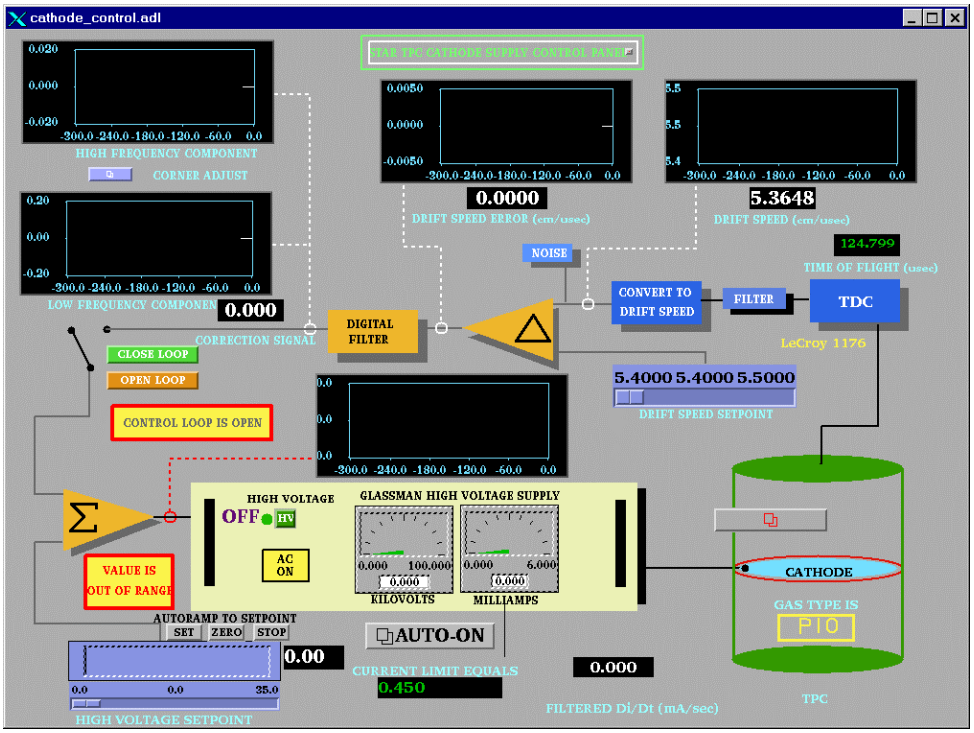
6. To turn the GG off, click the “Grid Off” button in the Default Sequences window.

2.6 Cathode HV & Field Cage

AUTORAMP MODE

1. To turn on the cathode HV using autoramp mode, first go to desktop # 2 and click on “cathode” to open the cathode GUI. Also click on “Field Cage” to open the field cage current read back screen.

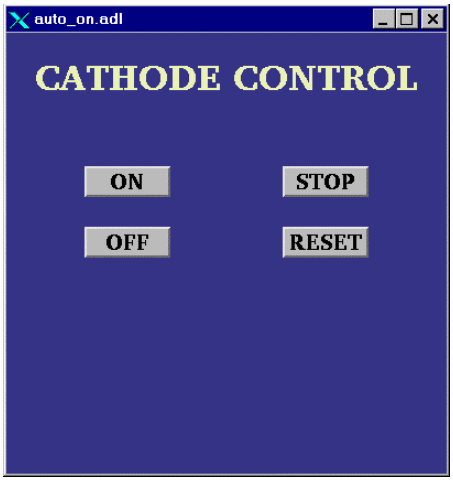
2. The cathode control looks like:



3. Make sure the slider switch is set to 0 and then click the HV button if the HV is off. The HV will turn on and the light will go to red. Note that it is not possible to turn the HV back off again by pushing this button!

4. Make sure that the RHIC beam is stored, cogged and stable before proceding.

5. Click on the “Auto-On” button. This brings up the GUI:



6. Click the “ON” button. The program will then automatically do the following:

Ramp to 10 kV
Check that the four field cage currents are all equal.
Ramp to 20 kV
Again check the currents
Ramp to final HV (currently 27 kV, but can change).
Check the currents

This process takes ~ 10 minutes.

If the currents are not equal, the program will stop and ramp the HV back to 0. The operator can also stop the autoramp at any time by clicking on “STOP”. Clicking “OFF” ramps the HV back to 0.

IF AT ANYTIME THE AUTORAMP REPORTS A PROBLEM OR THE CURRENTS ARE NOT EQUAL (TPC ALARM HANDLER), RUN THE VOLTAGE IMMEDIATELY TO 0 AND CALL AN EXPERT!

MANUAL MODE

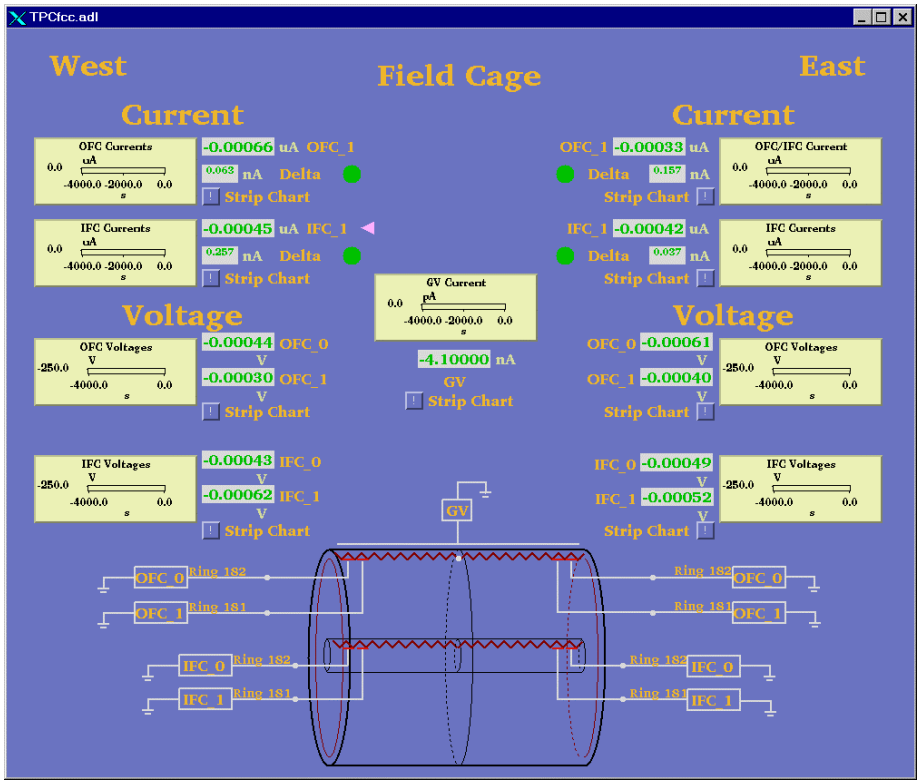
The HV can also be set manually as follows:

1. Turn on the HV as before.

2. Drag the slider switch to the desired HV (this should be done in 10 kV steps max).

3. Click on “SET” above the slider bar and the voltage will ramp up. You can stop the ramp by clicking on “STOP” and go back to 0 by clicking on “ZERO”.

4. When the HV stops ramping, check the field cage GUI:



This program is reading the 4 field cage resistor chain currents, the current going to the ground shell (GV current) and the voltage on the next-to-last and last stripes. It also checks that all four resistor chain currents are equal within 100 nA (Delta green lights.)

5. After the HV stops ramping, confirm that the currents are equal before ramping further.

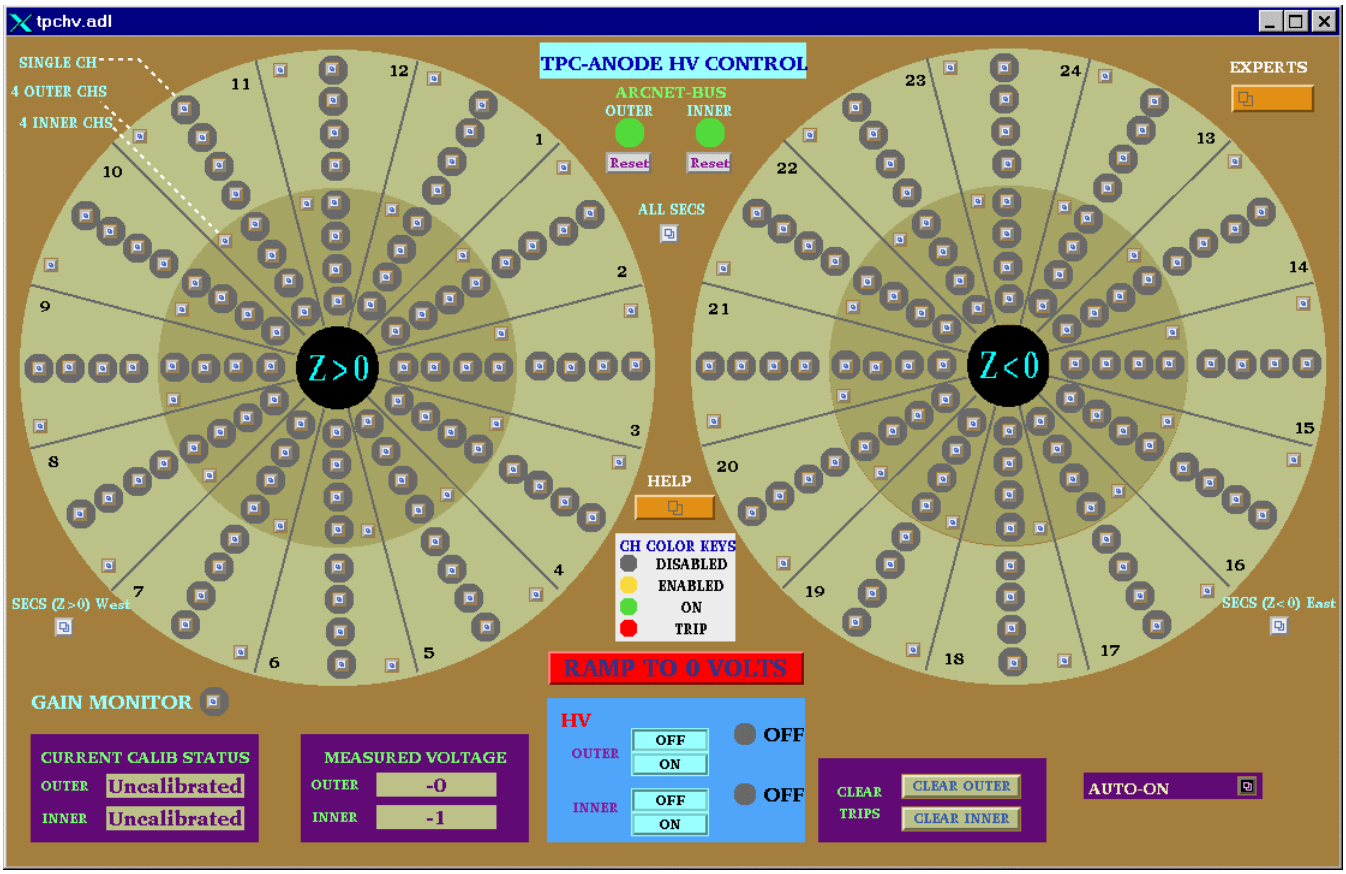
6. Once the HV is set to the final value, the currents are monitored by the TPC alarm handler. For an alarm, immediately ramp the cathode to zero and call an expert.

2.7 ANODE & TRIPS

AUTORAMP

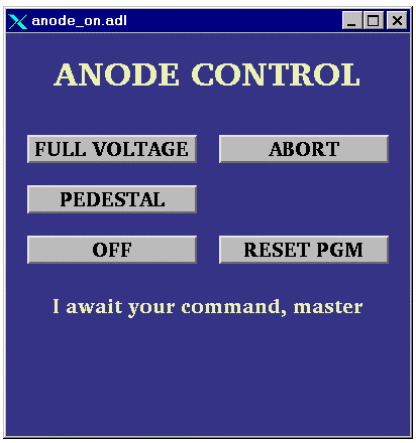
To turn the anodes on using the autoramp program:

1. Go to desktop # 1 and click on “Anode Voltage” on the top level GUI.



2. Check the ARCNET-BUS status lights for the Inner and Outer sectors – if either or both are red, click the corresponding “reset” button. This will reboot the processor. (The display will go white while it reboots). WAIT ~ five minutes for the reboot.

3. When the status lights have turned green, click on the “Auto-On” button:



4. At this point, you can go to pedestal voltage (Inner = 700, Outer = 900) or to full operating voltage (Inner = 1170, Outer = 1390).

5. Make sure RHIC has stored, cogged and stable beam!

6. To go to pedestal voltage, click “pedestal”. The program will:

Turn on the HV
Enable all channels
Ramp HV to 400 volts
Calibrate the currents (subtract out any DC offset)
Ramp to pedestal voltage

If the HV is already on, the program will just ramp up (or down) to pedestal values.

At any time the operator can stop the process by clicking “Abort”. This will ramp the voltage back to 0.

After the voltages are at pedestal values, the TPC is ready to take a pedestal run (make sure the GG is on!)

7. One can go to full voltage from either the off position or from the pedestal position.

From off, the program will repeat the pedestal procedure, and then:

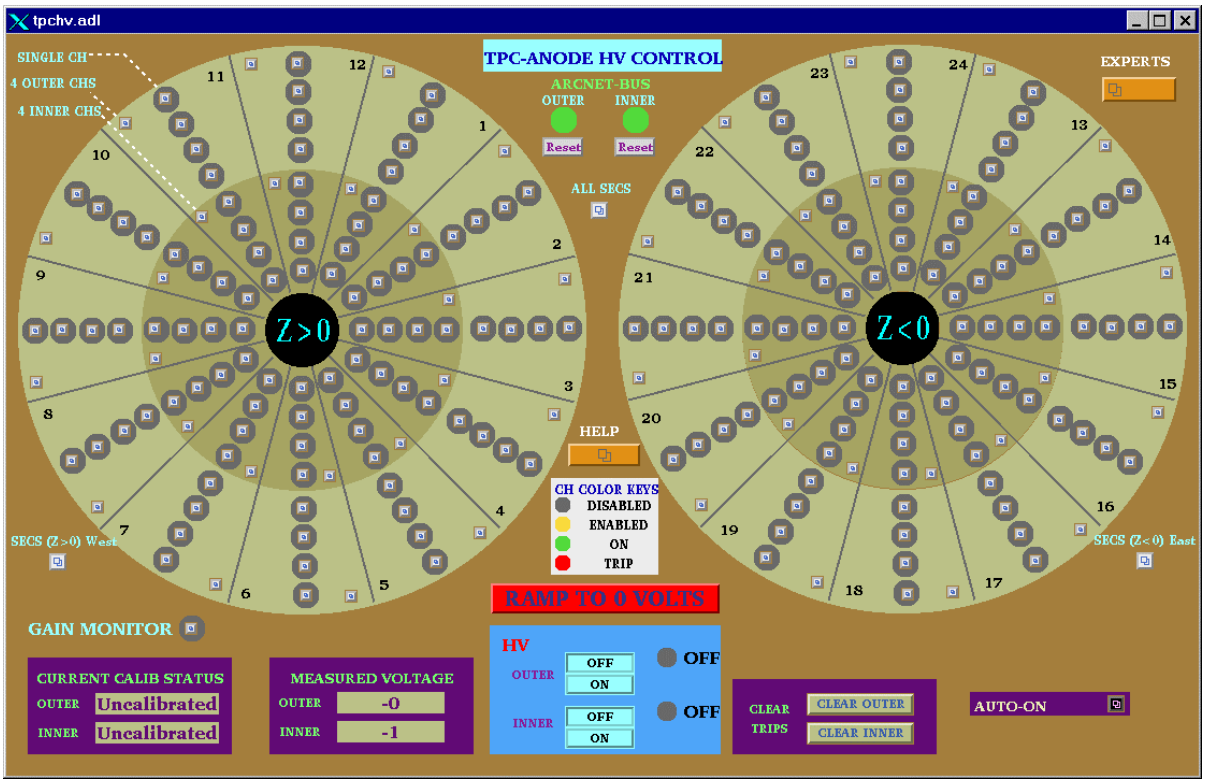
Check for tripped channels
Check for excessive currents
Ramp to Inner = 1000, Outer = 1200
Check for trips
Check for currents
Ramp to Inner = 1100, Outer = 1300
Wait for 2 minutes
Check for trips and currents
Ramp to final voltage (Inner = 1170, Outer = 1390)
Check for trips or currents.
HV ready for data

This procedure takes ~ 10 minutes.

If a trip or high current is detected during this procedure , the voltage for all channels will be ramped back to pedestal values automatically.

To turn the HV off, click on the “Off” button in the auto-on window, or click on the red “Ramp to 0 Volts” button on the main anode GUI.

MANUAL ANODE OPERATION



There are 193 separate anode supplies, 1 for the gain chamber and 192 for the TPC. For each sector, the anode wires are grouped in sections, so there are four supplies per sector. The operator can control the voltage for all sectors (including the gain chamber), for the east or west end only, for the sector only (4 sections) or for an individual section (usually necessary to reset a trip.) In the main GUI above, the status of each power supply (section) is indicated by the round color field surrounding the control button. Thus:

Grey = Channel is disabled. Even if the HV is turned on and you set a demand voltage for that channel, nothing will happen.

Yellow: Channel is enabled but the HV is off or <10 volts.

Green: Channel is on at some voltage > 10 volts.

Red: Channel has tripped off due to excessive current draw. (> 2 μA)

NOTE: The Anode program is very slow. You MUST wait for each command to be acknowledged before issuing another command or it will crash!

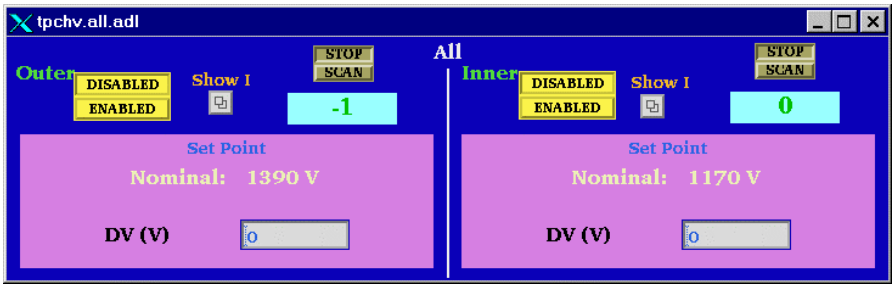
To turn on all sectors manually:

1. Check the status lights of the Arcnet-Bus. If either is red, click on the reset button to reboot the processor. Wait ~ 5 minutes. (There is a separate processor for the inner and outer sectors).

NOTE: The ARCNET link is lost frequently – you will get a TPC alarm when this happens. When this link is down the program can't get updated information from the Lecroy HV mainframe, BUT the HV is still on and the chamber is still protected. Rebooting the processor has no effect on the HV.

2. When the ARCNET lights are green, click the HV on button for the inner and outer sectors. Wait for the HV lights to turn green.

3. Open the “ALL SECS” control panel:

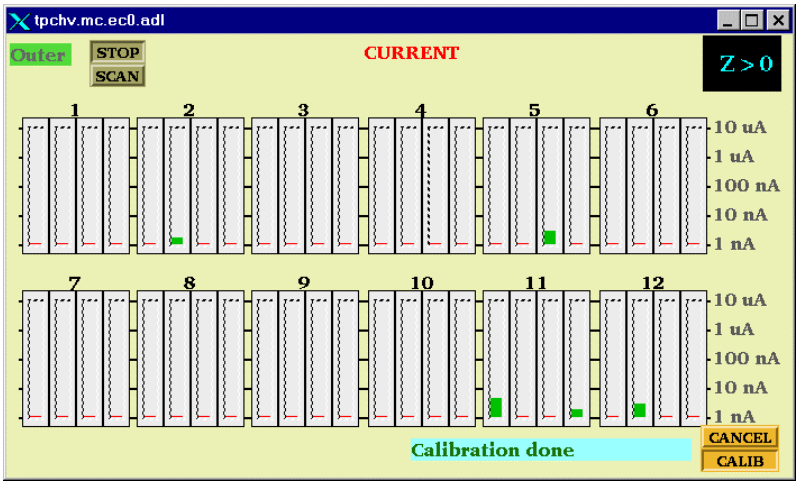


4. Check that the demand voltage DV (V) for inner and outer reads 0. If not, enter 0, CR in each window.

5. Click on “Enabled” for the inner and outer. Wait until the color circles turn green on the main anode GUI.

6. Type in a demand voltage of 400 V for the inner and outer sectors. Wait until the voltage ramps up and is confirmed in the readback window.

7.Check the Current Calibration status window in the main anode GUI. If the status is “calibrated” continue raising the voltage (see below step 10). If the status is uncalibrated, click on the Outer “SHOW I” button in the “ALL SECS” control GUI, drag down to “I (Z > 0) West) and release. This brings up the current display for all the outer sectors on the west end:



8. Click on the “Calib” button. The status window will say “Current is Ready” and then “Calibration in Progress”. The program will subtract the DC current offsets FOR ALL OUTER SECTORS (east and west). The status window will then say “Calibration Done”.

9. Repeat this procedure for the Inner sectors, if needed.

10. Set the demand voltage to pedestal values (Inner = 700, Outer = 900). Wait for the voltage to ramp up.

11. Continue to raise the voltage in steps, checking the currents after each step:

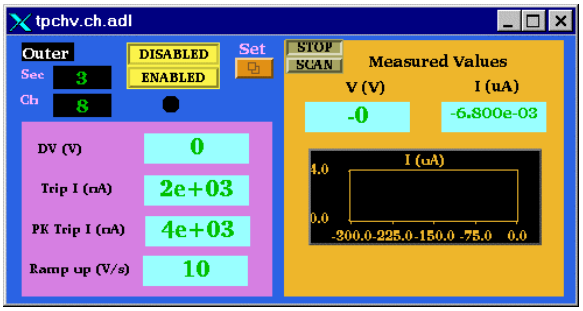
Inner = 1000, Outer = 1200
Inner = 1100, Outer = 1300
Wait ~ 2 minutes
Inner = 1170, Outer = 1390

12. To turn the Anodes off, either type in 0 for the demand voltage or click on the red “Ramp to 0 Volts” button on the main anode GUI.

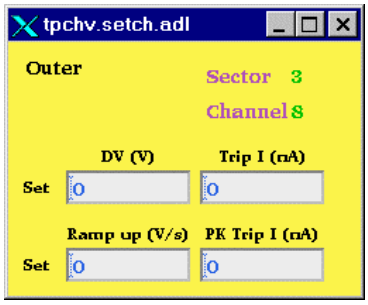
RESETTING TRIPS

Occasionally, one or more channels will draw excessive current (> 2 μA) and automatically trip off. There will be a TPC alarm and the run (if active) will stop. These trips can be random or beam induced. To reset a tripped channel:

1. Click on the individual control button for the tripped channel in the main anode GUI. This brings up the channel status panel:



2. Click on the “SET” button. This brings up the control panel:



3. In the demand voltage window “DV (V)”, type in 0,cr to set the demand voltage back to zero. Do this FOR ALL tripped channels.

4. In the main anode GUI, click on the “Clear Trips” button for inner or outer sectors, depending on which channels tripped. Wait – the tripped channels which were red should turn back to green.

5. Using the individual channel control windows, slowly raise the voltage in stages back up to the operating point. Monitor the current for each channel. For any indication of excessive current draw, lower that channel back to 0 and call an expert. (Excessive current for constant voltage = 50 nA)

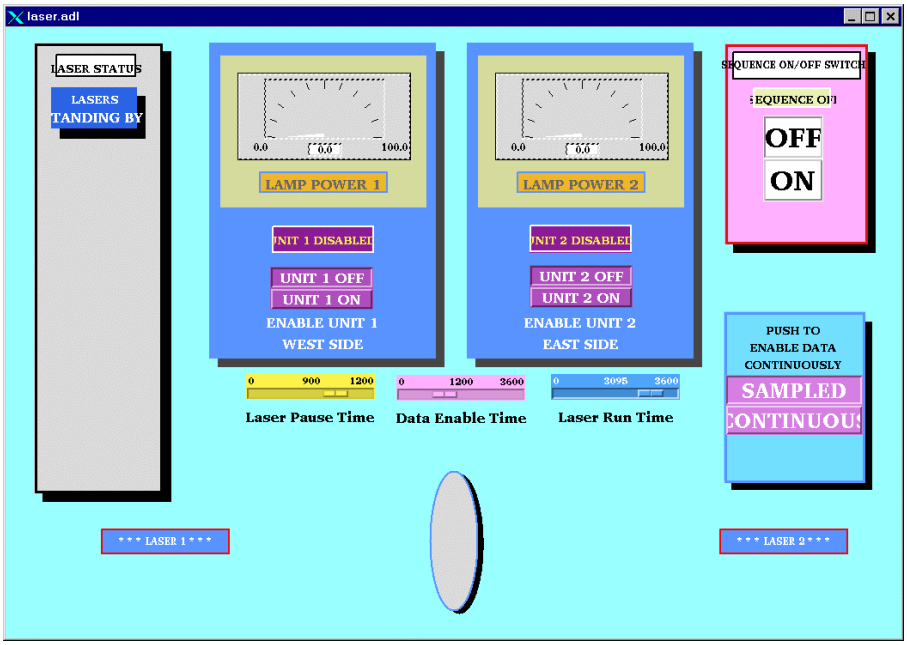
6. Record the tripped channels in the "STAR TPC ANODES" binder.

NOTE: The current limits can only be changed by the subsystem manager. If a channel will not stay on with a limit of 2 µA, LEAVE IT OFF and call an expert.

2.8 LASER

There are two TPC lasers (east & west) which are used for calibration. This year, it is no longer necessary to make a special laser run – simply powering on the lasers during an active run will cause DAQ to interleave laser events with the physics. To power on the lasers:

1. Go to desk top # 5 and click on the "Laser" button to bring up the laser control panel:



2. Click on the "Sequence On" button and within a few seconds, click on the "Unit 1 On" and "Unit 2 On" lamp power buttons. The lasers should come to full power within 2 minutes. Note that only the EAST laser will trigger DAQ.

3. To check that the lasers are really on, see the separate laser manual for a method to view the CCD cameras that are looking at the laser spot.

4. To turn the lasers off after the run, click on "Unit 1 Off", "Unit 2 Off" and "Sequence Off" in turn.

2.9 TPC ALARM HANDLER

There is a specific TPC alarm handler which is running on a separate PC – the monitor is located up and to the right of Chaplin. To start the alarm handler, click on the "Alarms.exe" icon on the desktop. The alarm handler monitors the following TPC parameters:

Anode trips
Excessive Anode currents (any channel)
Cathode HV not on (must be > 25 kV)
TPC FEE temperatures < 80 F
Temperature in the WAH < 82
Dewpoint in WAH < 62
Inner and Outer Arcnet links active
Field cage currents equal
All gated grid voltages at nominal
Inner Anode current sum (all channels) < 400 nA
Outer Anode current sum (all channels) < 400 nA
Anode HV – check whether any channel is not equal demand voltage.

The alarm handler reads the status of these parameters every few minutes and will sound an audible alarm if something is out of range. There is a 10 minute snooze button that can be used when bringing up the TPC voltages to prevent frequent (false) alarms. If an alarm goes off, it can be silenced (acknowledged) by clicking the button below the alarm.

The alarm buttons are color coded:

Green = OK
Yellow = warning but run continues
Red = alarm – for some conditions involving TPC HV, the current run will stop automatically. For others, (temperature, dew point etc) the run continues but action needs to be taken.
Grey = the data was not read on this try – this usually clears on the next read.

3. ALARMS

3.1 GAS ALARMS

In case of a TPC gas alarm:

1. Hit the acknowledge button on the alarm box in the control room. This silences the local alarm.

2. Go to the gas mixing room – hit the acknowledge button located next to the TPC AB PLC panel in rack 4

3. Call an expert – the list is posted in the mixing room.

4. The expert will tell you what to do.

3.2 TPC WATER ALARMS

In case of a water alarm:

1. . Hit the acknowledge button on the alarm box in the control room. This silences the local alarm

2. Go to the gas mixing room – hit the acknowledge button located next to the TPC AB PLC panel in rack 4

3. Call a TPC water expert. A water alarm means the skid has shut down (the FEE's will also trip off). This alarm is also repeated to the CAD pump room, so someone may respond from there. Do NOT restart the TPC water skid until the problem has been diagnosed and the TPC water expert has given the ok.

TPC CALL LIST

TPC

Blair Stringfellow
Office X7386
Home Apt 5D, X1016
Cell – 631-786-0485 (must use area code if calling from BNL)

Jim Thomas
Office X3918
Home 928-8661

Fabrice Retiere
Office X7603
Home 878-8807

Howard Wieman
Office X7762
Home 734-2514
Cell 631-431-8236

TPC WATER

Alexei Lebedev
Office X3101
Home 924-9033
Jim Thomas
Blair Stringfellow

TPC GAS

Leonid Kotchenda (when in town) Current numbers posted in gas mixing room.
Office
Dorm
BNL beeper X3456-8518-your #

Blair Stringfellow

Alexei Lebedev

TPC INTERLOCKS

Blair Stringfellow

Jim Thomas

TPC LASER

Alexei Lebedev

Blair Stringfellow

SLOW CONTROLS

Dennis Reichhold
Office X7803
Home 642 - 9373
Cell 631-786-0484 (must use area code if calling from BNL)

5. TPC STARTUP CHECK LIST

Check gas system GUI All Green?																	
Check FEE manifold temperature tpctemp.star.bnl.gov																	
Check TPC interlocks GUI – Green?																	
Check WAH temperature & dewpoint (temp <80, DP < 64)																	
Check 2nd floor VME crates – all on?																	
Turn on FEE's & MWC FEE's																	
Turn on gated grid																	
Beam stored & cogged? Clock OK?																	
Turn on cathode HV																	
Turn on anode HV																	