

Initialization procedure for the mx55 serial interface & Data File Information
Note: many of the meters we use in the labs were donated by AEMC. Thanks AEMC.
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In order to initialize the mx55 serial interface, **the button pk+/- must be held while switching the meter on.** I have drawn a bright green box around the important button. If your meter is properly initialized to use the RS232 interface, it should show a small double-headed arrow in the display that says RS232.

When you acquire data, the data will be written to your folder in ~/I with the name that you specify. Keep the names to 8 letters maximum and don't use unusual characters in naming your files (no periods, spaces, etc.). Also do not add any period or ending to your file name. You will need to (later) open these files and copy the data from that location into open office spreadsheets for analysis.

The data files written by the acquisition programs will have the ending ".csv" which means that they are comma separated variable format. Open Office can read these types of files easily. However to copy the data to a spreadsheet, you will need to have not only your data file open but also the spreadsheet helper open. Also, you will need to name later files differently than any other file name so that the data will not be over written. When importing the files, not the column header titles. These are not imported (by my default setup) in open office.

In order to access the acquisition programs, you should use appropriate icons on the second row of the computer screen.

These acquisition programs are written in an older computer language (gwbasic) and then compiled by use of a basic compiler. The dependability of this old computer language and its ease of use in non-time critical applications has made it my language of choice for all data acquisition which we will be doing in the lab. Under linux I am able additionally to link to the real time clock in the computer so that the time of measurement is also reflected in the data files. For most labs, this is not used.

At the conclusion of each lab, make sure that you switch off the mx55 so that the battery is conserved.