

## Computer update

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We have recently acquired new Hewlett-Packard 9000/745i-100 computers to replace the old computers at each of our x-ray stations. These computers have 32 Megabytes of RAM (as opposed to 4 for the old computers) and 1 Gbyte hard disks (as opposed to 140 Mbytes). Each station will also have GPIB capability built-in. Overall we expect greatly improved performance from these new machines. Although the computers will not increase your x-ray flux or make the motors move any faster, they will allow us to make some much needed improvements in our lab.

The stations will continue to use SPEC and its kin, OSCAM and FOURC, as the

primary data collection programs. In addition, you will find that many data analysis packages will run on the station computers or at least you can display them at the stations as they run on a remote system, something the old computers had trouble with. To allow you to switch between analysis, collection, and help screens, the new computers have simple "dash board" at the bottom of the screen (see Figure 1). Clicking on a button will replace all the windows and icons with the contents of the selected session.

We plan some network administrative changes to allow users to easily backup data to tape and gain access to their data

while at CHESS. In addition, work has started on graphical user interfaces, such as one for the B1 optical system shown in Figure 1. We hope the improvements in the computer systems will allow more effective use of beam time.

(Figure 1) A picture from the screen of one of the new computers. The main window shows the new graphical user interface for the B1 optical system. Users can easily obtain ruby fluorescence data (as shown) for measuring the pressure in a diamond anvil cell using this interface. The various icons at the bottom of the screen allow users to easily start up terminal sessions, print portions of the screen, and switch between sessions. Other icons placed around the screen, such as the one shown for *Densview*, can start an application running either on the station computer or else on a remote workstation.

