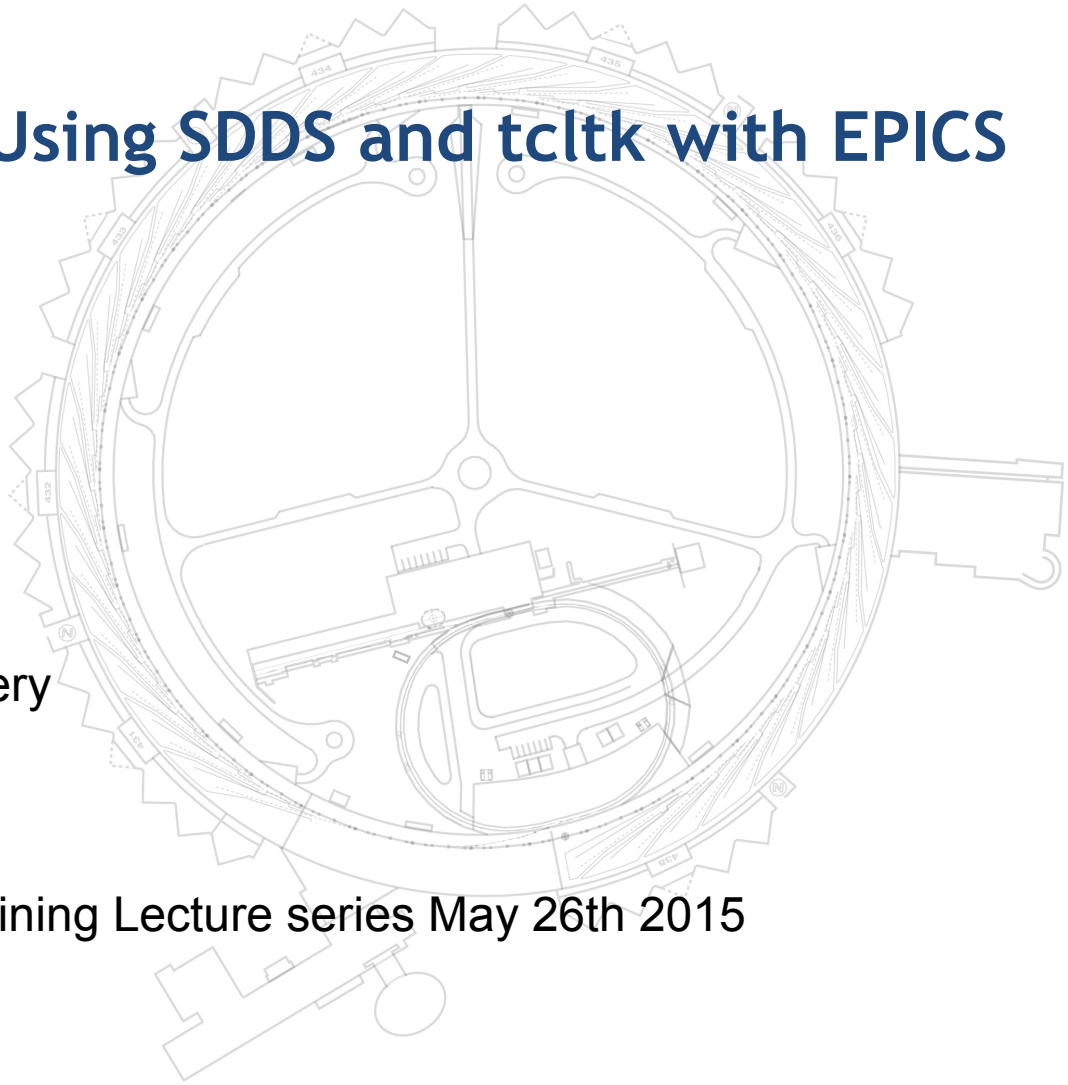
Using SDDS and tcltk with EPICS



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EPICS training Lecture series May 26th 2015

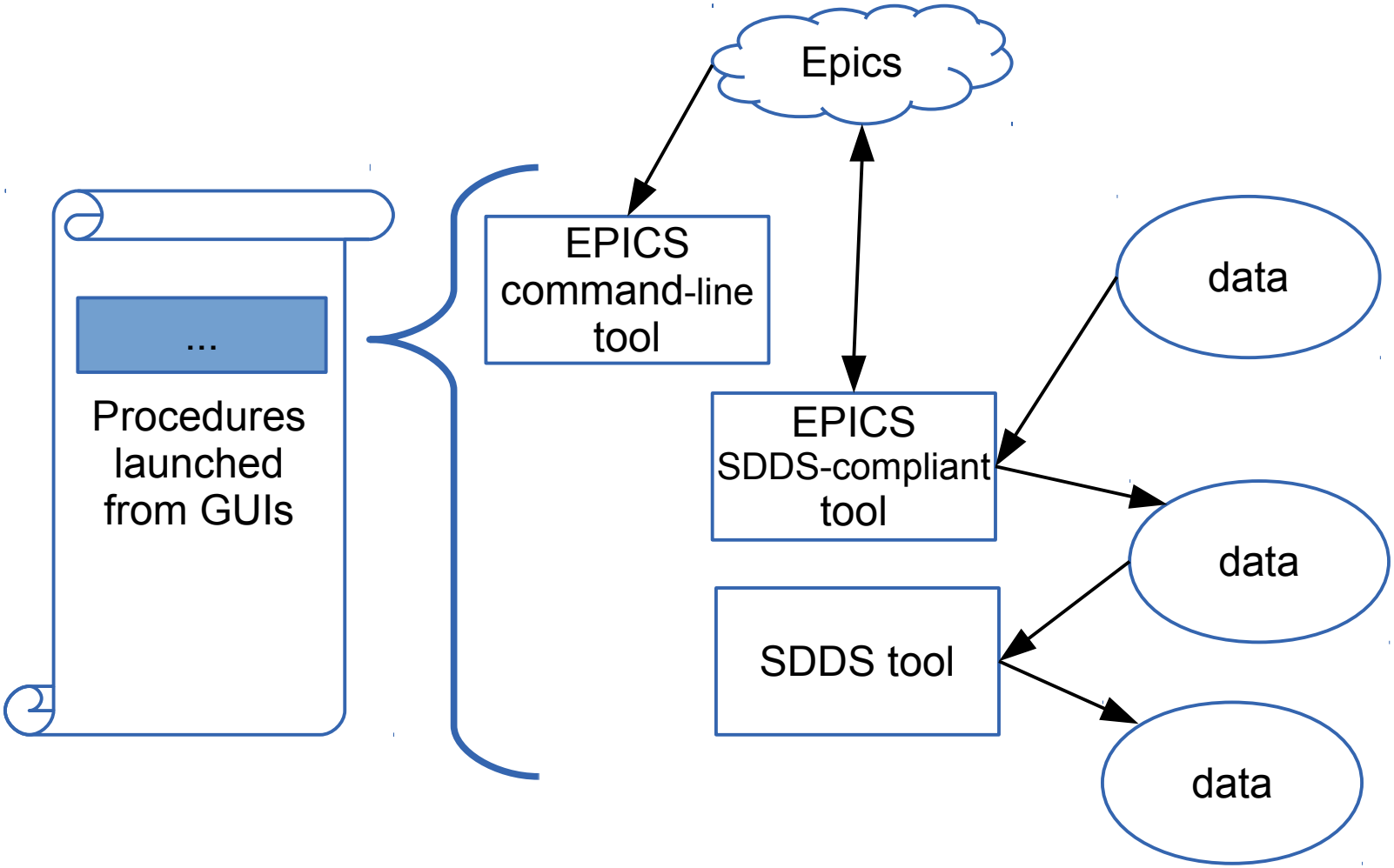
Outline

- Overall picture and philosophy of data archiving, data taking and analysis
- What is SDDS
- What is Tcl/Tk
- Examples of application
  - Setting up storage ring magnets
  - Orbit correction
  - Various beam experiments collecting data from EPICS waveforms and also non-EPICS instrumentation (which could be digitial oscilloscopes, etc.)
  - Generalized feedback: transfer lines, thermal effect compensation
  - Knobs
- Documentation of software found in http://www.aps.anl.gov/Accelerator_Systems_Division/Accelerator_Operations_Physics/oagSoftware.shtml

Use of Data Files in Operations of APS

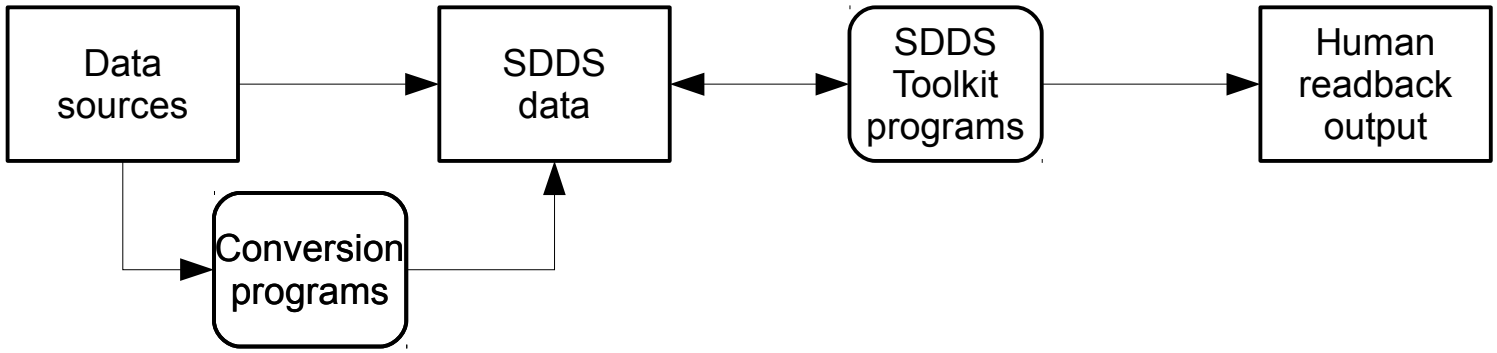
- EPICS hold live data
- Record all data of interest into file
  - To better organize efforts of various kinds, we require a file protocol to read, store and handle all data
- Applications: Put all data and configuration settings in files (as opposed to resident memory) and use software tools as filters from which you can build larger and complicated processes
  - Modularity (make complex operation from smaller pieces)
  - Reusability (e.g. feedback configurable by supplied PV list)
  - Repurposed by others

Control Room Work



What is SDDS

- SDDS stands for "Self Describing Data Sets"
- A standardized way to store and access data, i.e., a "file protocol"
- A group of ~100 programs use this file protocol
- These programs are the "tools" in the SDDS Toolkit
- Programs in the SDDS toolkit can be used to sequentially transform SDDS data sets
  - Use of Unix pipes is extensive
- Each tool makes others more useful without advance planning by developers



Examples of SDDS Toolkit Function

General tools

- Data display
- Plotting (2 programs)
- Printing data as formatted text
- Summarizing data set contents
- Data processing
- Equation evaluation
- Data filtering and outlier removal
- Statistics, histograms, and correlations
- Fitting and smoothing
- Matrix operations (e.g., SVD)
- Cross-referencing, sorting, and collation
- FFTs and digital filtering

EPICS tools

- Data collection from EPICS
- Logging data at fixed time intervals
- Event-driven data logging
- Alarm logging
- N-dimensional experiments
- Save/restore of EPICS data
- Control functions for EPICS
- Generalized feedback control
- Generalized optimization

Tutorial on SDDS

- Protocol requires every data element has a name and forbids access to data except via name
- File header: namelist description of a structure of an arbitrary number of parameters and arrays, and a data table of arbitrary rows and columns
- Zero or more instances of the structure
- Simplicity of protocol makes the SDDS toolkit feasible

```
SDDS1
&parameter name=pauseBetweenReadings, type=double, &end
&column name=ControlName, type=string,  &end
&column name=LowerLimit, type=double,  units=kV &end
&column name=UpperLimit, type=double,  units=kV &end
&column name=InitialChange, type=double,  units=kV &end
&data mode=ascii, &end
! page number 1
 0.000000000000000e+00
                    2
S:IK3:VoltageSetSendAO  0.000000000000000e+00  1.100000000000000e+01  2.000000000000000e-01
S:IK4:VoltageSetSendAO  0.000000000000000e+00  1.500000000000000e+01  2.000000000000000e-01
```

Example of a small file

http://www.aps.anl.gov/Accelerator_Systems_Division/Accelerator_Operations_Physics/SDDSIntroTalk/slides.html

Other Use of SDDS

- SDDS file protocol can be used for physics simulation codes
  - Outside codes can be modified to use SDDS input and produce SDDS output
- Data obtained from the “off-line” optimization of simulation work can be used in the control room without the need of conversion programs

What is Tcl

- Scripting language “Tool Command Language”
- Simple syntax, few special characters
- Data structures such as list and arrays
- The usual control structures (`if, foreach while,` etc)
- Built-in event-driven programming
- GUI toolkit Tk seen elsewhere (perl, python) was designed for Tcl
- Launch with tclsh (or oagtclsh, our version)
- These are the features I was interested in. More features listed in http://wiki.tcl.tk/299

Tutorial on Tcl/Tk

- Launch with `tclsh`
- Variables; there is no types

```
set phase 180
puts $phase
```

- Lists

```
set a {1 2 3}
puts $a
```

- User-defined procedures

```
proc calculateSquare x {
    return [expr x*x]
}
```

- `[ … ]` means run the procedure inside and return a value

Fun recipe.tcl example

```
proc ? L {
   # returns an random index
   lindex $L [expr {int(rand()*[llength $L])}]
}

proc recipe {} {
    # create four lists
    set a {
        {3 eggs} {an apple} {a pound of garlic}
        {a pumpkin} {20 marshmallows}
    }
    set b {
        {Cut in small pieces} {Dissolve in lemonade}
        {Bury in the ground for 3 months}
        {Bake at 300 degrees} {Cook until tender}
    }
    set c {parsley snow nutmeg curry raisins cinnamon}
    set d {
        ice-cream {chocolate cake} spinach {fried potatoes} rice {soy sprouts}
    }
    # returns a recipe, i.e. one of each list
    return "Take [? $a].\n[? $b].\nTop with [? $c].\nServe with [? $d]."
}
```


Run recipe example

```
>oagtclsh
% source recipe.tcl
% recipe
Take 20 marshmallows.
Cut in small pieces.
Top with raisins.
Serve with spinach.
% recipe
Take an apple.
Bury in the ground for 3 months.
Top with parsley.
Serve with rice.
% exit
```


Other Tcl Features

- Run external commands with `exec command <arguments..>`
  - `set Idipole [exec caget -n SBM:CurrentAO]`
- Catching error codes. Used extensively in our software.
- Regexp
- Some file I/O, though most of the time our complex data files are handled by SDDS toolkit
- Socket communication, e.g. HP instruments
- Events
- Many extensions available, including
  - “pv” package for channel access, and
  - “sdds” package for writing tcl data to and from SDDS files directly.

Command Syntax of pv package

- Examples:
  ```
  pv linkw S35BeamCurrent S35DCCT:currentCC
  pv linkw $apsTopupTclVarList $apsTopupPvList
  ```
- Second word: one of command operation `link, unlink, get, getw, put, putw, putq, info, stat, mon, umon, cmon`
- Third word: list of names of tcl variables
- Other words: depend on operation. For `linkw` it is the list of names of PVs

http://www.aps.anl.gov/Accelerator_Systems_Division/Accelerator_Operations_Physics/manuals/APStclCA/APStclCA.html

Example of pv get

```
pv linkw S35BeamCurrent S35DCCT:currentCC
pv getw S35BeamCurrent
if {$S35BeamCurrent < 102} {
    inject-more-beam
}
```


More Complex Example of pv Package

```
# make links between tcl variables and PV names
# The tcl variables are arrays, BPx(1), BPx(2), etc, one for each sector of APS
# There are 4 elements in the tcl variables list
# The 4 PV names are setpoints for BPMs of a particular sector
set sector 1
set Sn 1
set Sn1 2
pv linkw \
      [list BPx($sector) BPy($sector) APx($sector) APy($sector)] \
      [list S${Sn}B:P1:x:SetpointAO S${Sn}B:P1:y:SetpointAO \
        S${Sn1}A:P1:x:SetpointAO S${Sn1}A:P1:SetpointAO ]
# set up monitor with a script to execute
pv umon BPx($sector) {set  BPx($sector) $BPx($sector)}
pv umon BPy($sector) {set  BPy($sector) $BPy($sector)}
```


Example of pv Package with Catch Statements

```
# make links between tcl variables and PV names
# The tcl variables are arrays, BPx(1), BPx(2), etc, one for each sector of APS
# The PV names are setpoints for BPMs of a particular sector
set sector 1
set Sn 1
set Sn1 2
If { [pv linkw \
        [list BPx($sector) BPy($sector) APx($sector) APy($sector)] \
        [list S${Sn}B:P1:x:SetpointAO S${Sn}B:P1:y:SetpointAO \
           S${Sn1}A:P1:x:SetpointAO S${Sn1}A:P1:SetpointAO ] ] != 0} {
    APSAlertBox .alert -errorMessage "linkw error $errorCode"
    exit
}
# set up monitor with a script to execute
If { [pv umon BPx($sector) {set  BPx($sector) $BPx($sector)}  ] != 0} {
    APSAlertBox .alert -errorMessage "umon error $errorCode"
    exit
}
If { [pv umon BPy($sector) {set  BPy($sector) $BPy($sector)}  ] != 0} {
    APSAlertBox .alert -errorMessage "umon error $errorCode"
    exit
}
```


About 60 GUIs use pv package

- ExperimentDesigner
- PVmonitor
- SRIDSteering, SRBMIntensityOptimization
- SRBunchTrain
- SREnergyApVoltScan
- SRRFPhaseSliders
- TclKnobs
- Also many libraries, cautils.tcl devices.tcl APSRunControl.tcl

What is Tk

- Windowing toolkit, extension of Tcl
- Creates and manipulates widgets in a window
- Buttons, labels, text boxes, list boxes, scrollbar
- Extensions available for fancy elements like tabs.
- Launch with `wish` (or `oagwish`, our version)
- More at http://wiki.tcl.tk/487
- APS has built a standard set of Tk calls for APS GUIs

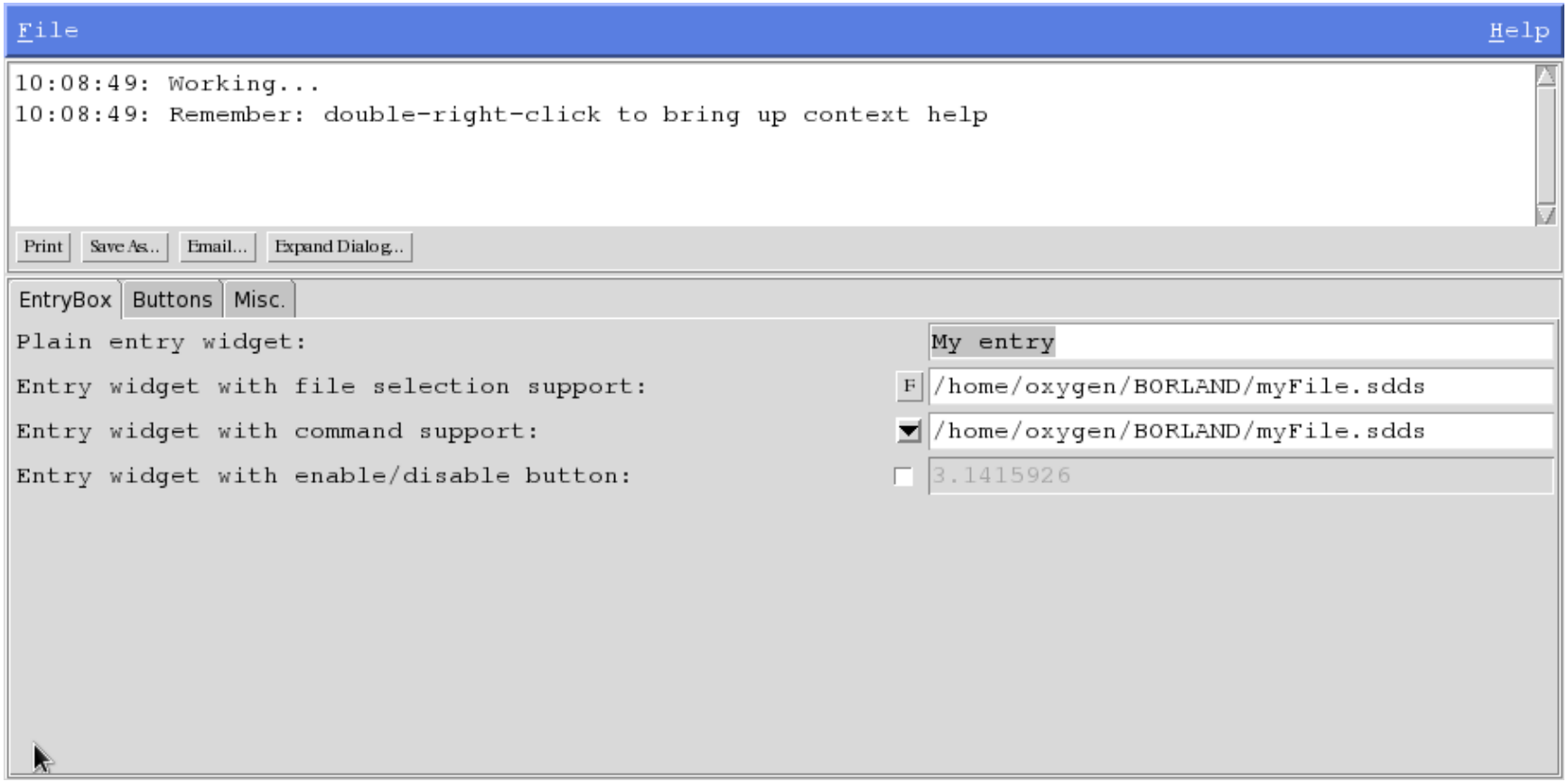
APS Tcl/Tk Library (1996)

- Collection of widget procedures for creating Tk applications with a consistent look and feel
- Calling convention:
  `APSWhatever <widget> [<option-list>]`
  where <option-list> is a list of -name value pairs.
- Options common to most procedures
  `-parent <widget>`
  `-packOption <list>`
  `-contextHelp <string>`
- Use `APSHelp` to get the latest list of procedures and usage

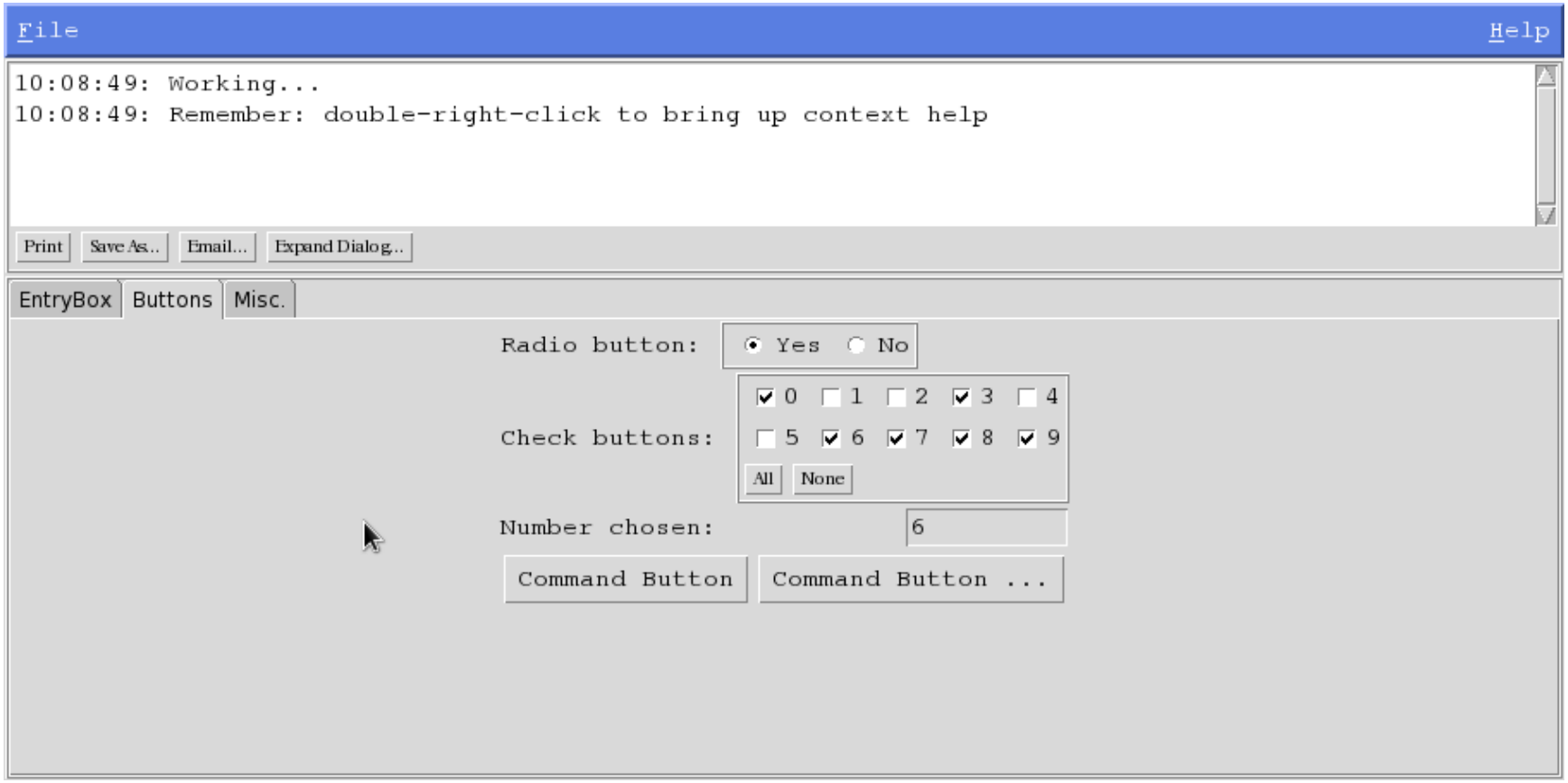
http://www.aps.anl.gov/Accelerator_Systems_Division/Accelerator_Operations_Physics/manuals/APSTk/APSTk4.html

Demo Script of APS widgets

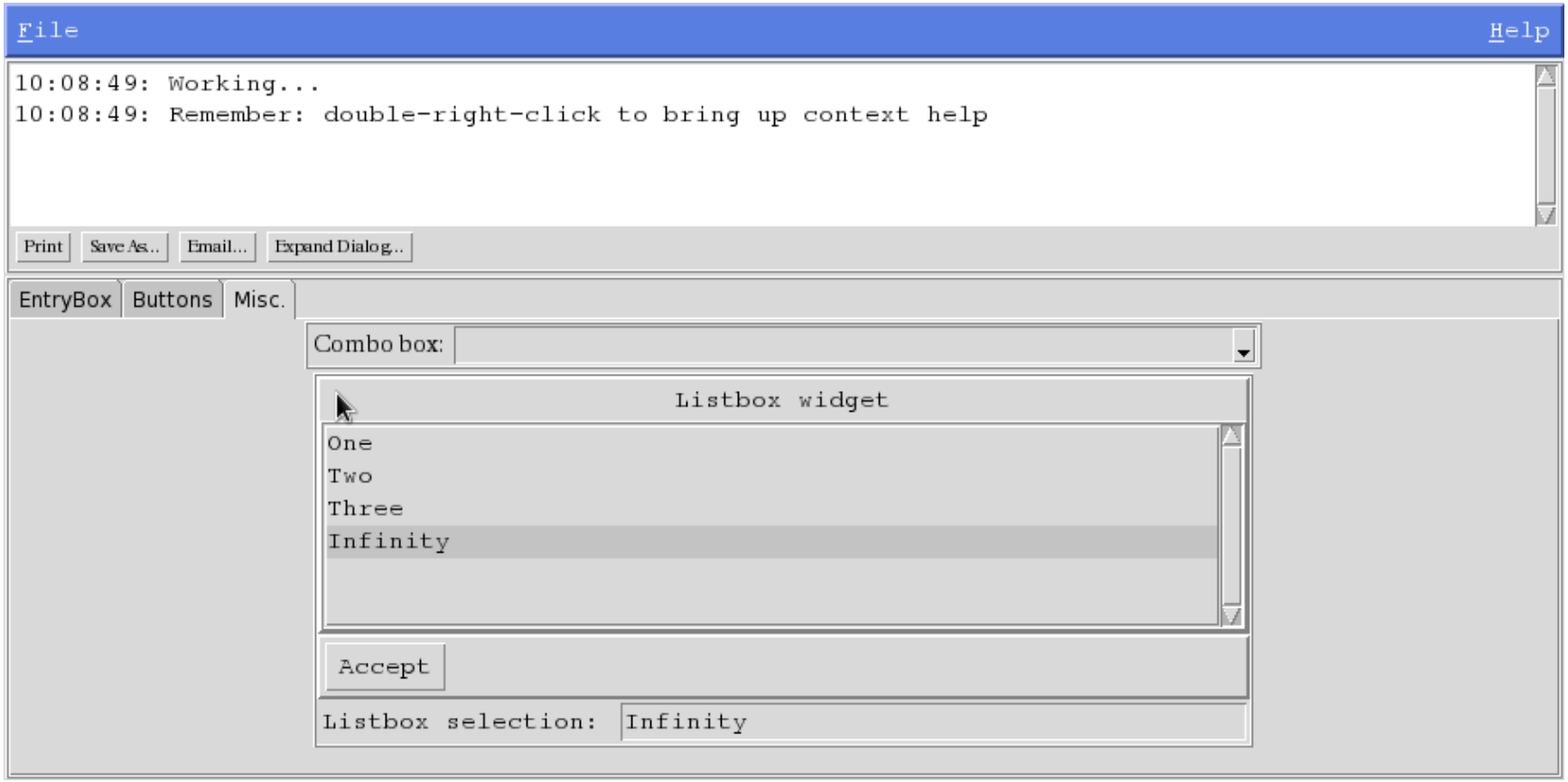
/usr/local/oag/apps/bin/linux-x86_64/demoScript



Demo Script of APS widgets



Demo Script of APS widgets



Use of tag/value pairs in Tcl/Tk calling procedures

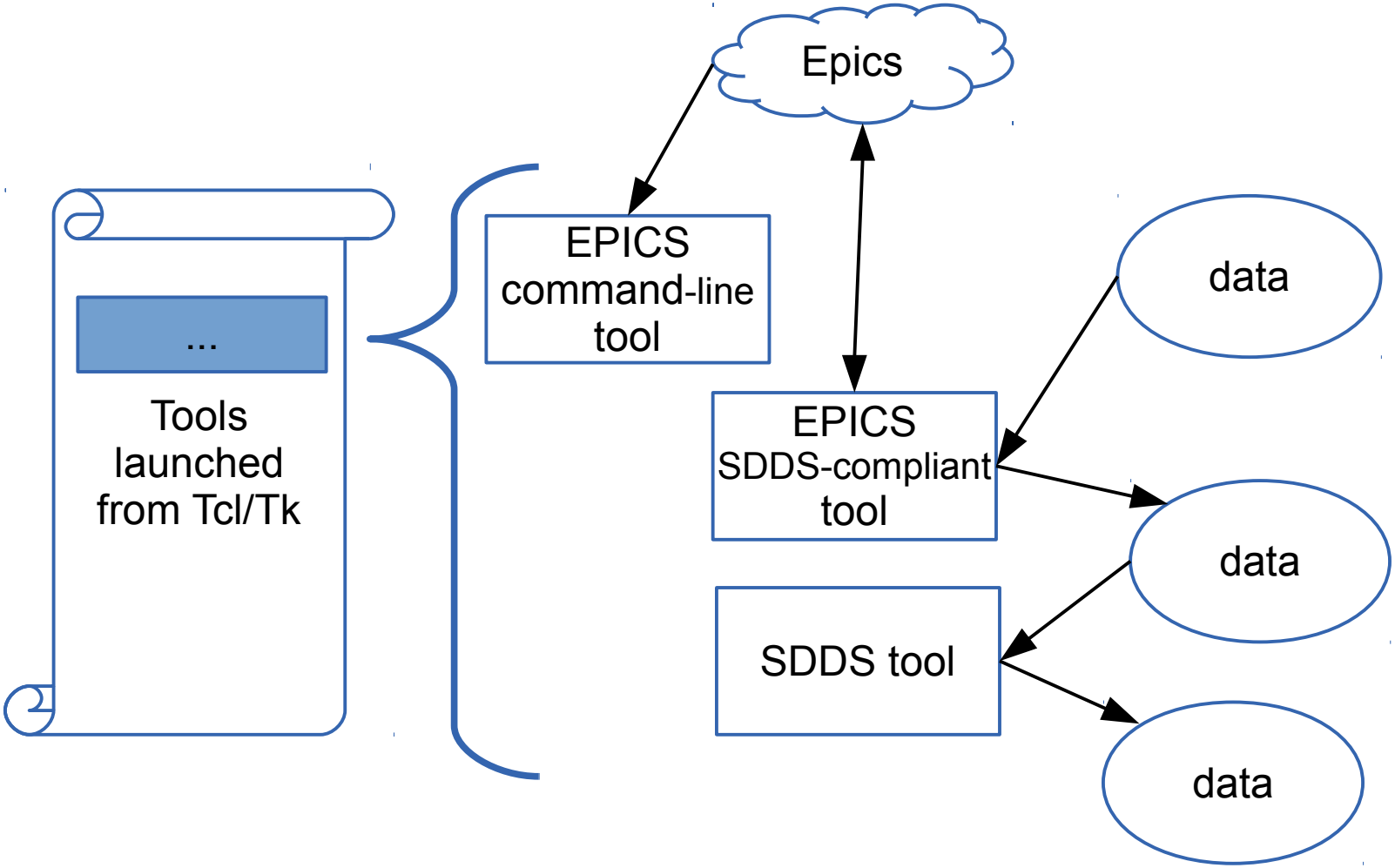
- APS Tcl scripts and procedures are called with tag-value pair arguments, making it unnecessary to remember the order of arguments.

```
myAPScommand -var1 val1 -var2 val2
```

- These items are converted into local variables inside procedure disregarding the order

```
proc myAPScommand {args} {
    # new local variables will be creates from
    # the args list
    APSParseArguments {var1 var2}
    puts $var1
    puts $var2
}
```


Script working with SDDS and EPICS toolkits



Three ways to communicate with EPICS from Tcl

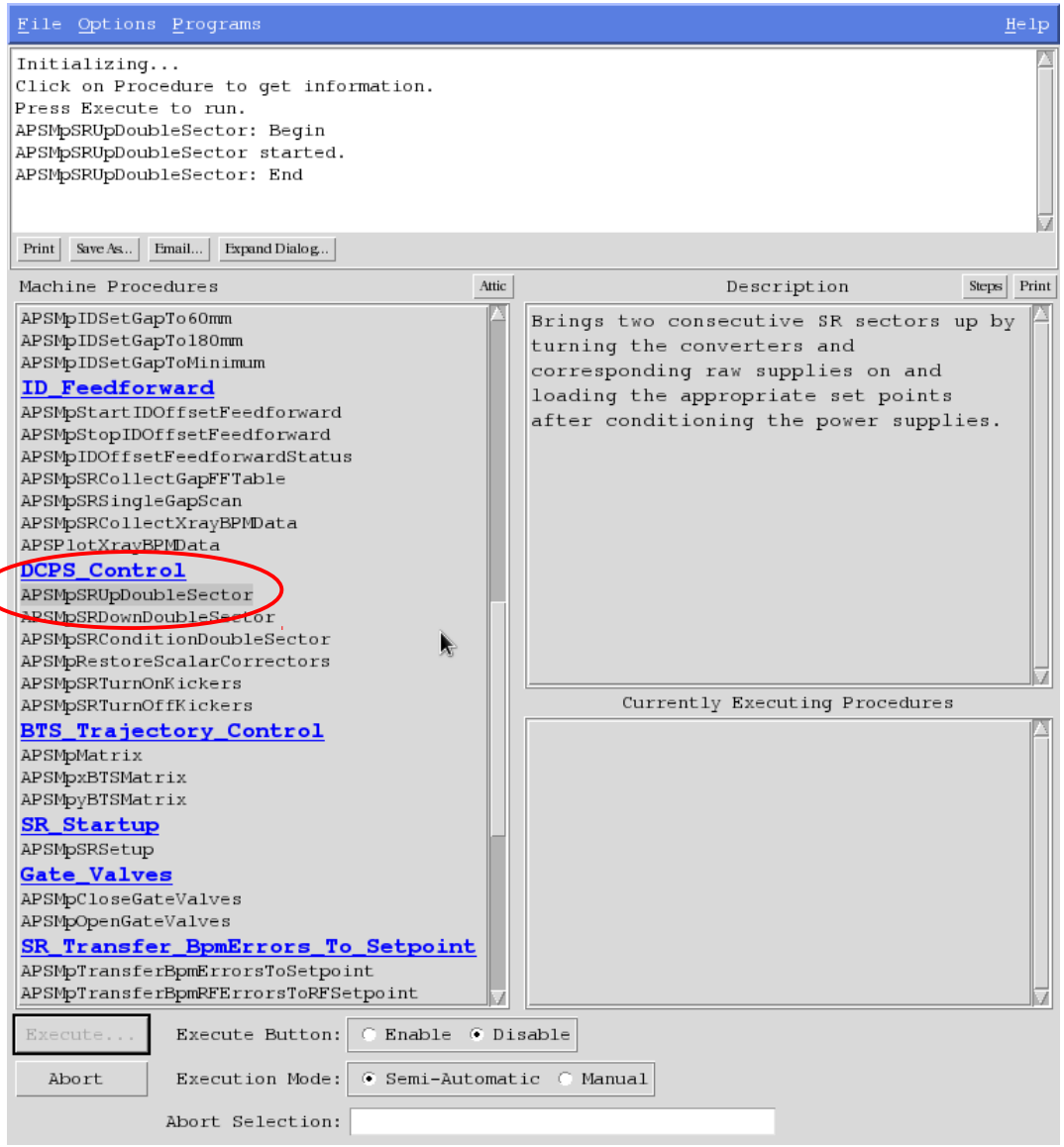
- pv extension package, e.g.
  - `pv putw SRdipoleMain 450`
- External command-line interface, e.g.
  - `exec caput S:BM:CurrentAO 450`
  - `exec cavput -list=S -range=beg=1,end=40 \`
    `-list=A:QS4:CurrentAO=0.1 -delta`
- APS extension library
  - `APScavput -list=S -range=beg=1,end=40 \`
    `-list=A:QS4:CurrentAO=0.1 -delta`
- SDDS-compliant toolkit, e.g.
  - `exec sddscasr -restore SR.snp`
  - `exec sddsmonitor PV.mon PV-01 -interval=1 -time=1,day`
  - `exec sddscontrollaw matrix -interval=1 -gain=0.5`
- Choice depends on complexity and requirement for leaving CA connections open

Example of procedure: Starting up SR magnets

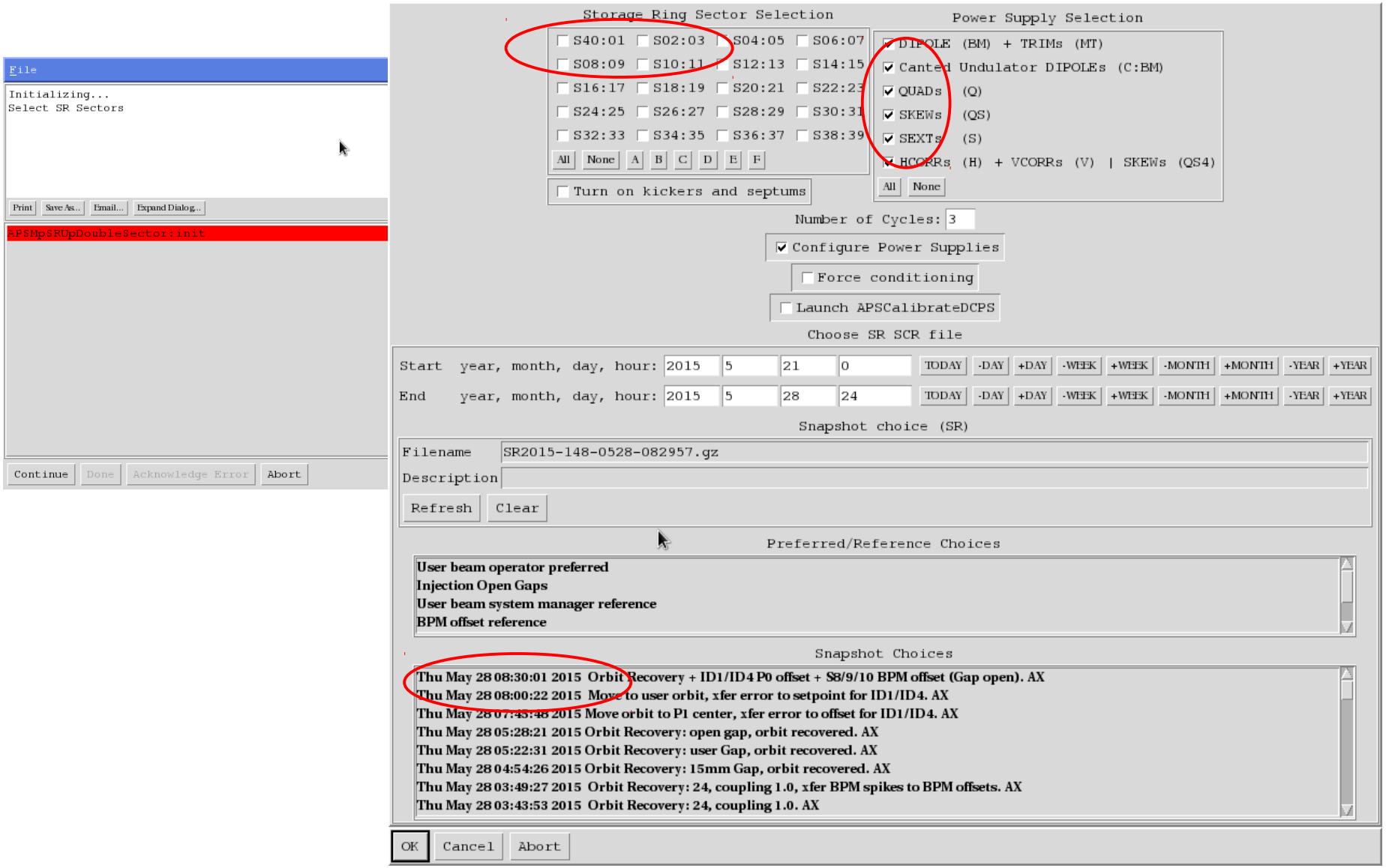
- Goal: run the necessary steps to turn on power supplies of SR magnets, run conditioning cycles, and leave magnets running with currents of predetermined set points. Also we need to monitor progress.
- A high-level procedure was written that
  - Requests from the operator which archived file to use for current set points
  - Selected possible a subset of sectors or magnet types
  - Creates a file of PVs that configures the power supplies cycling
  - Sends “configure” commands to power supplies ioc
  - Sends “On” commands to all power supplies. Waits for completion
  - Sends “Start conditioning” commands. Waits for completion
  - Sends final values for current to power supplies
  - Pop-up window gives progress.

http://www.aps.anl.gov/Accelerator_Systems_Division/Accelerator_Operations_Physics/manuals/APSPEM/APSPEM4.html

Procedure Launched from PEM interface



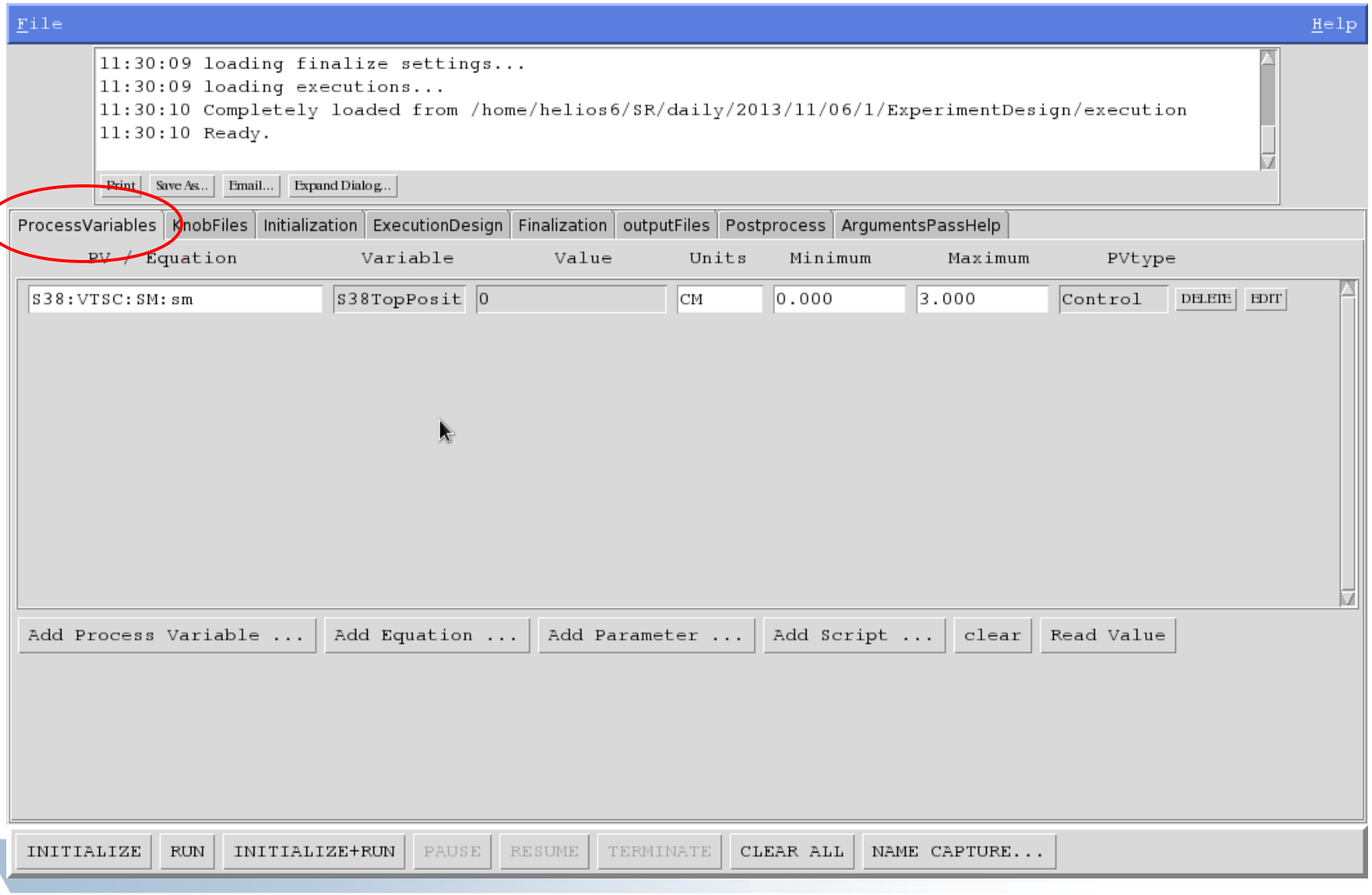
Windows for Starting SR Magnets



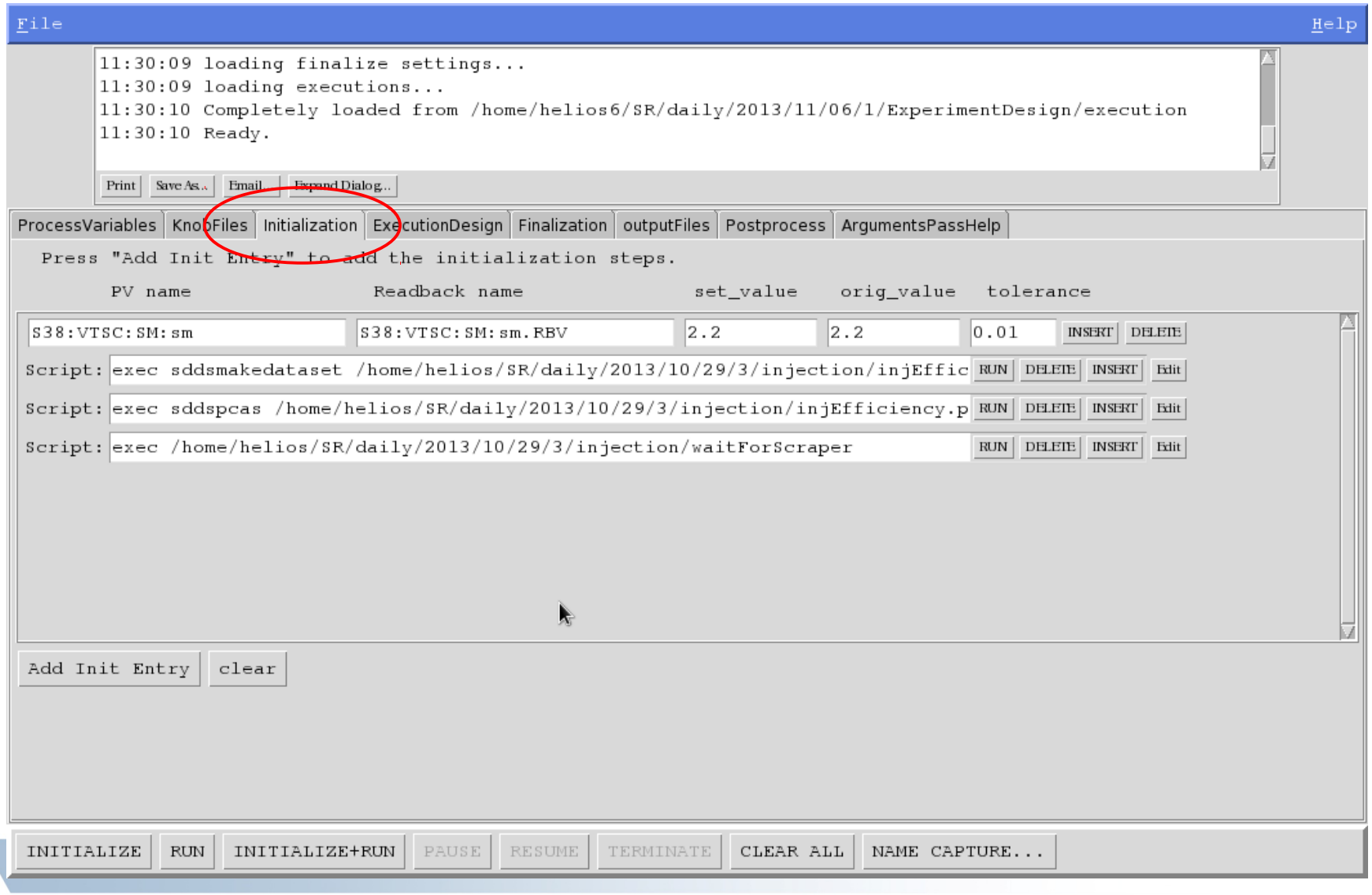
Choices in Running an Experiment

- For the purpose of this discussion, an “experiment” is a scan of one or more control variables (could be discrete values form a list) and the collection of physcially-dependent quantities
- Use a loop in a Tcl/Tk script or GUI
- Use sddsexperiment with configuration file describing with namelist commands the control variable and the monitored variables, and also the pauses between the steps
- Use ExperimentDesigner for very complex situations that need scripts to be run in between steps

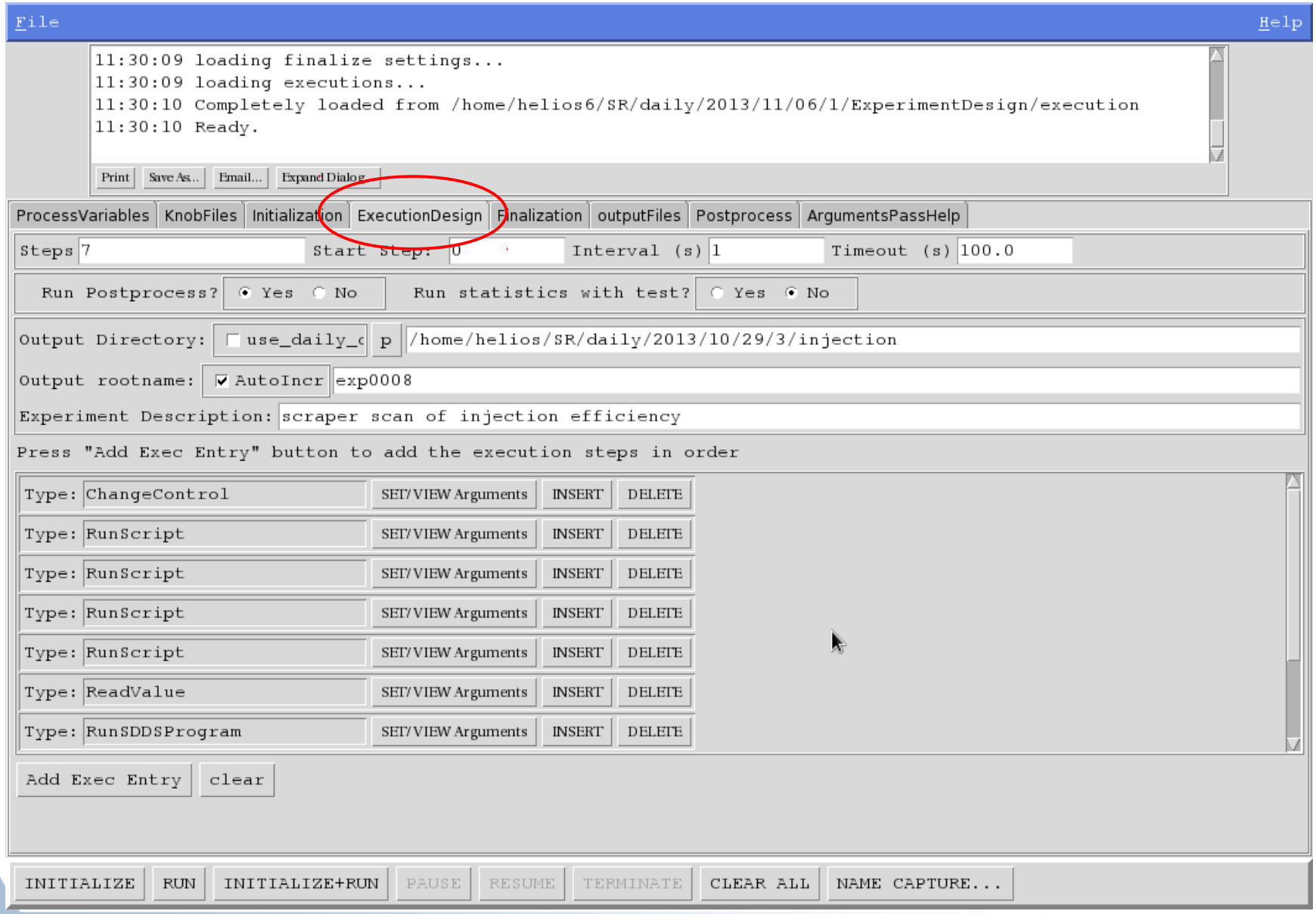
Experiment Designer



Experiment Designer



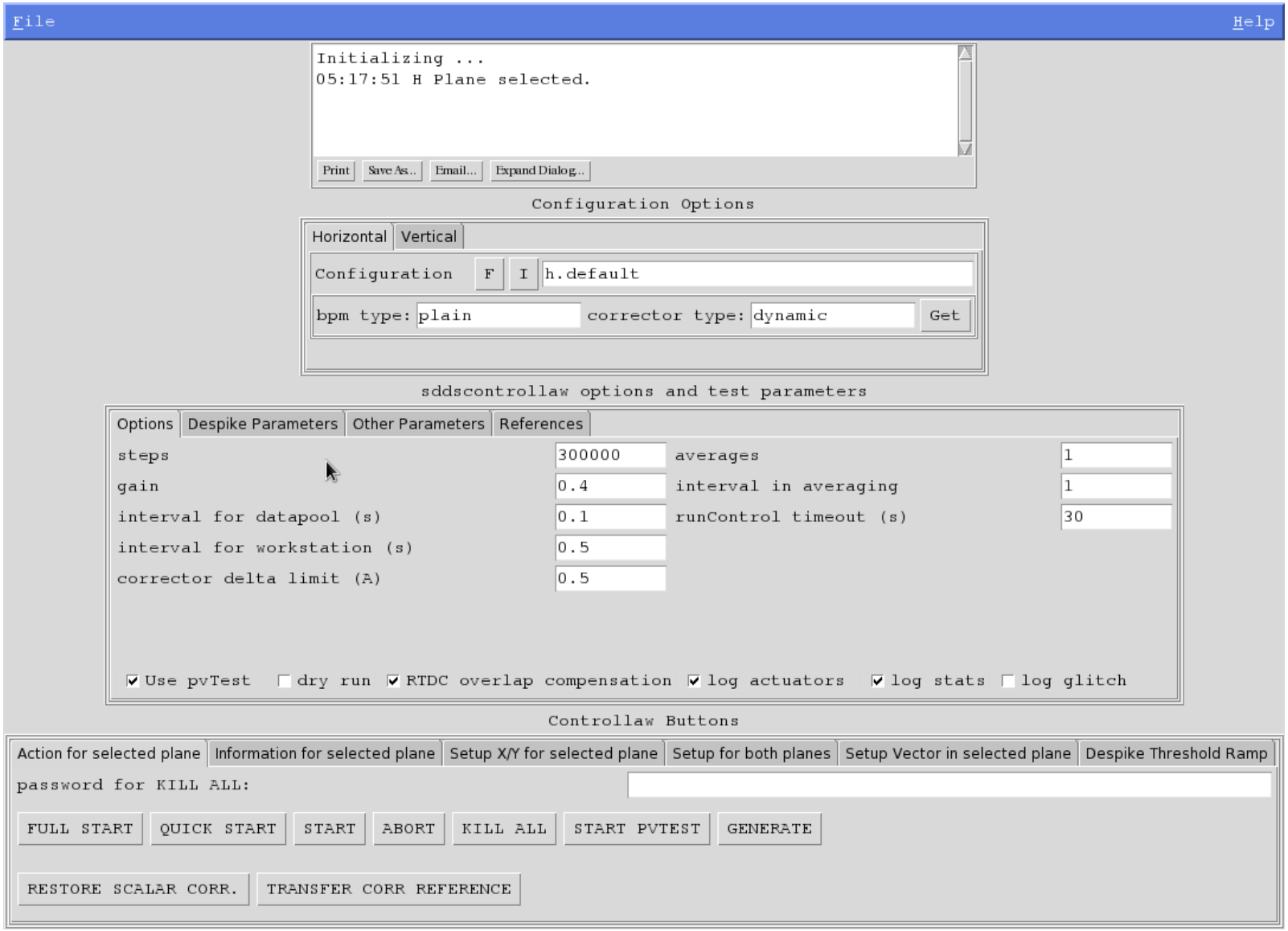
Experiment Designer



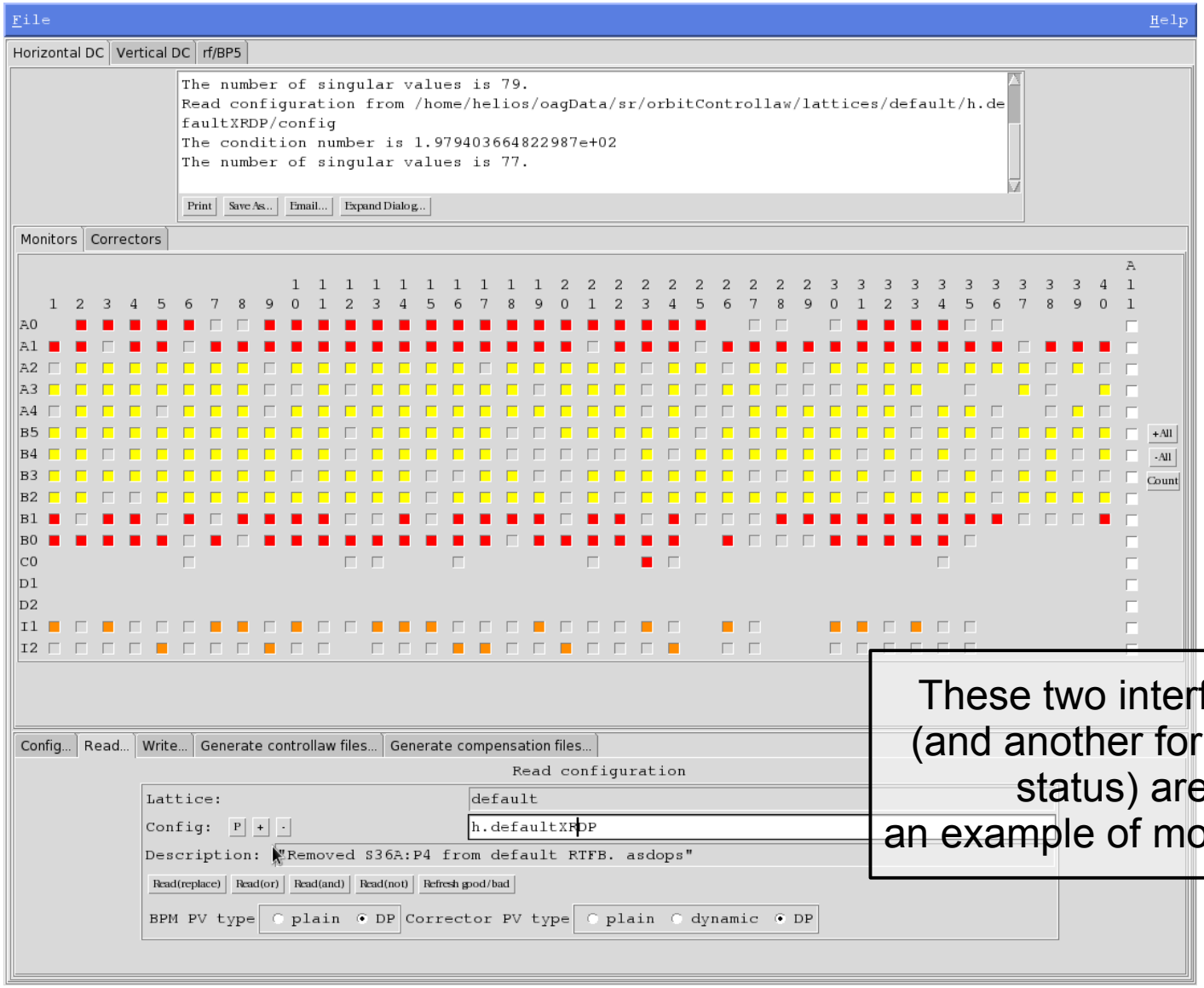
Other Tcl Applications

- See following slides

Orbit Correction Launcher

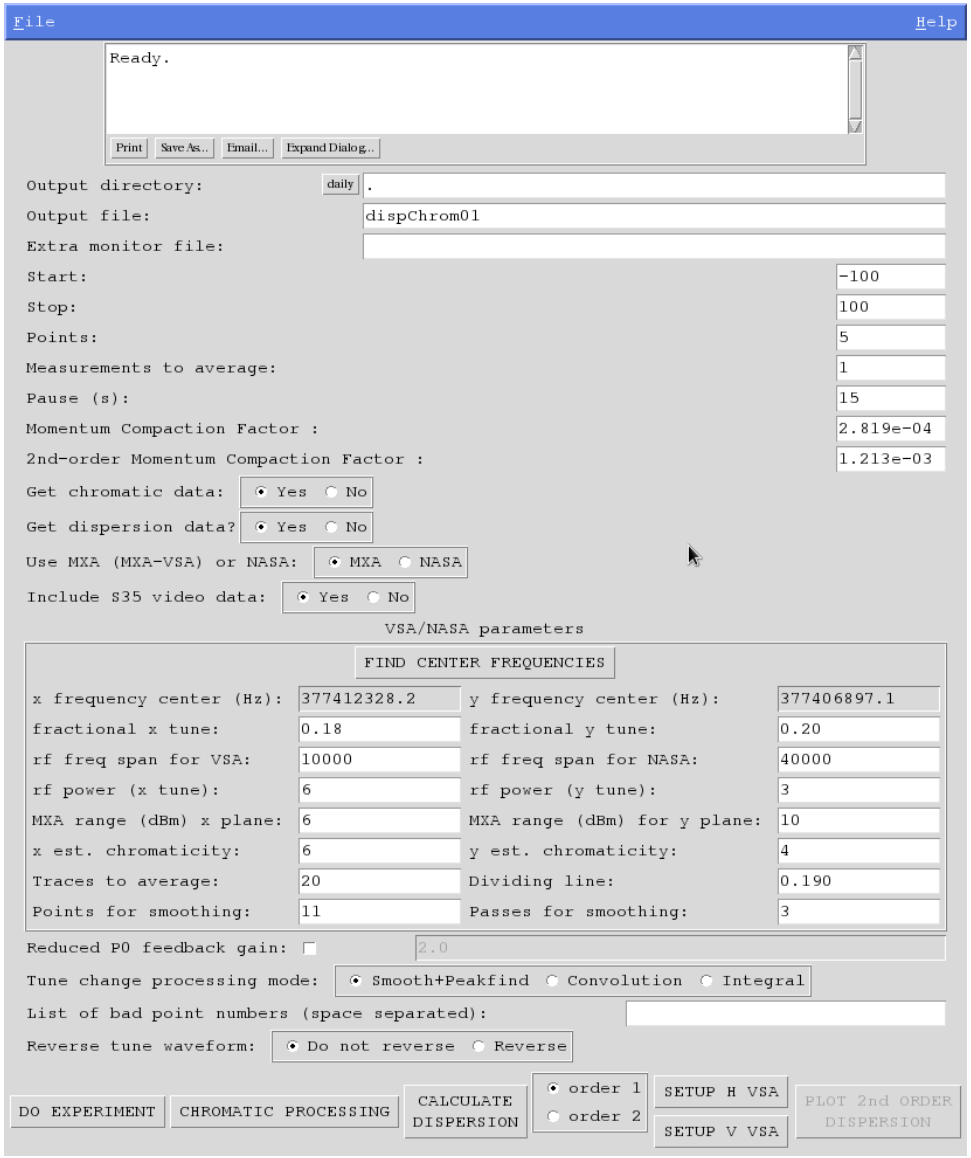


Orbit Correction Configuration



These two interfaces (and another for BPM status) are an example of modularity

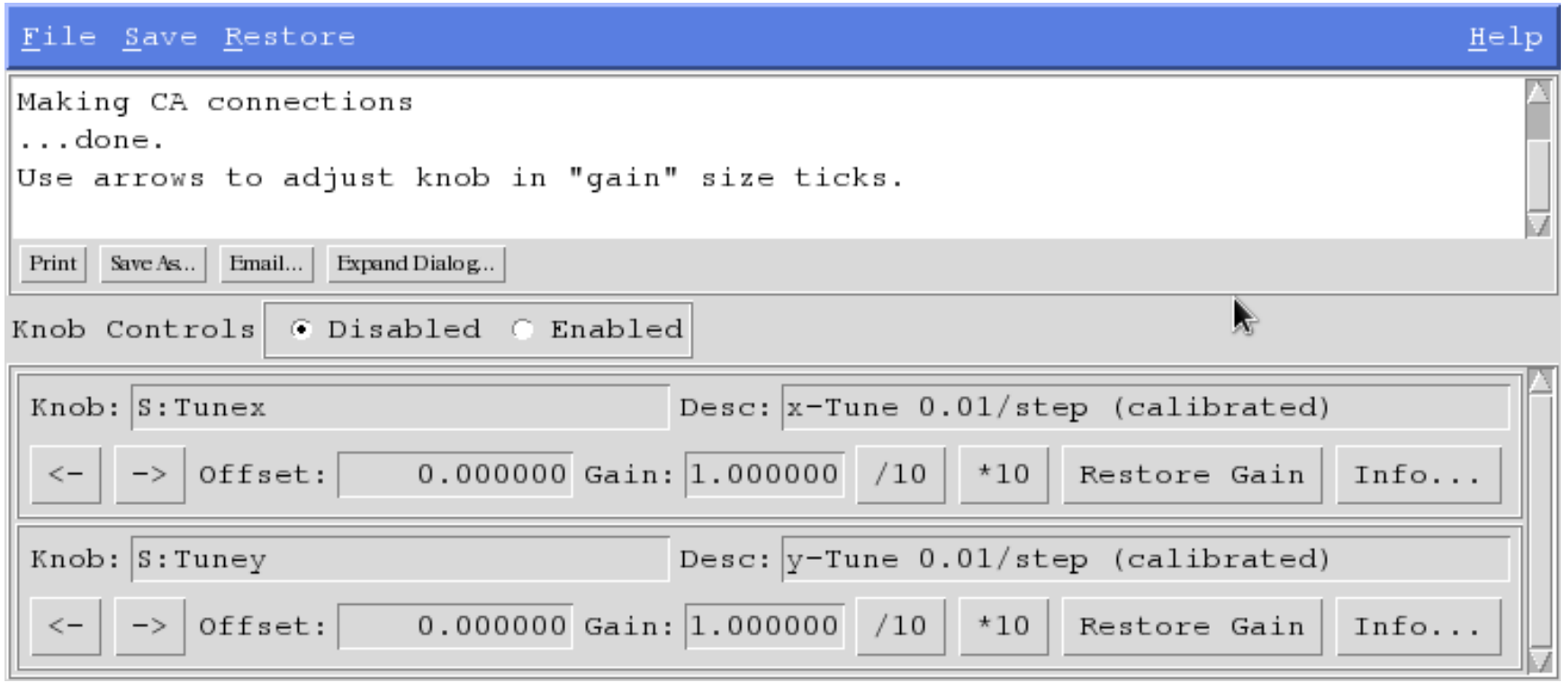
Dispersion and Chromaticity Measurement



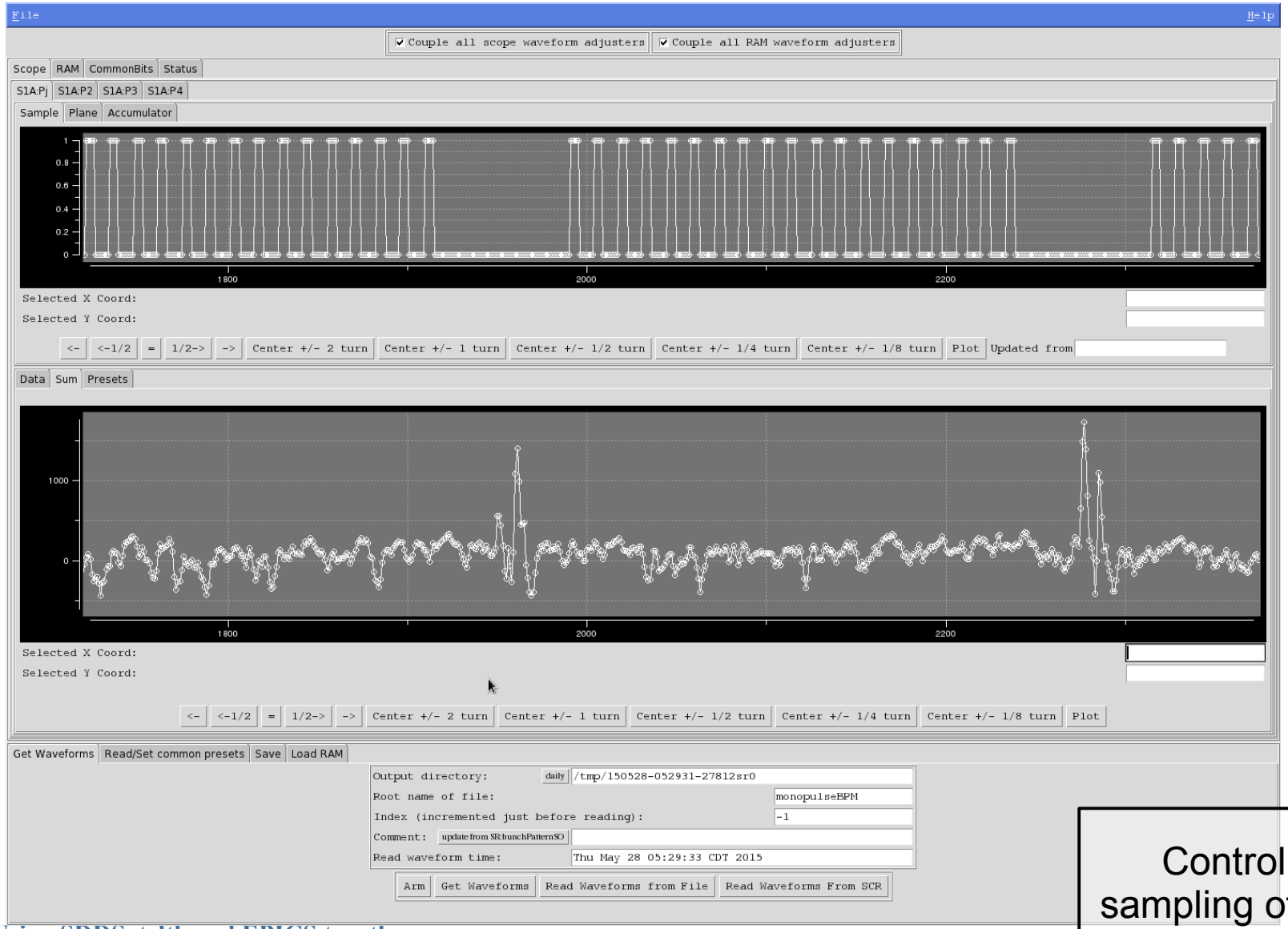
Control of a network analyzer and rf frequency

Tcl knobs for SR Tune

- Use File menu to configure the knobs to a different set of PVs



BSP-100 BPM Control Waveform Viewer



Control of sampling of bpms

Conclusions and Comments

- Complex applications have been constructed using Tcl/Tk working with EPICS and with SDDS and EPICS tools
- All this could have been done similarly with other scripting languages. I find Tcl/Tk (espeically other's code) cleaner to read.
- Other labs have used MATLAB in the role of Tcl/Tk, and instead of using SDDS toolkit, they have used MATLAB functions.
  - SDDS extension is available in MATLAB, BTW.