

Chapter 4

DataScope and Other Programs

Chapter Overview

Use of DataScope with Other Programs

- Copying to the Clipboard

- Permanent Data

- HDF Files

Chapter Overview

NCSA DataScope has many calculation and imaging features, but it cannot duplicate all of the functions of a good spreadsheet program or a good color painting program. To take advantage of a combination of programs for your Macintosh, this chapter describes methods for exchanging data and images with other programs.

Use of DataScope with Other Programs

The primary exchange methods for DataScope data are the standard Macintosh Clipboard and HDF files. Programs that can read and write to the Clipboard or HDF files can have access to the data and images used by DataScope according to the following guidelines:

Copying to the Clipboard

To use DataScope under MultiFinder in conjunction with other programs, a variety of Copy and Paste choices are provided. The notebook windows operate as standard Macintosh windows. Three text editing capabilities—Cut, Copy, and Paste—are available. Text may be copied between separate notebook windows and to and from other MultiFinder partitions.

The text windows that display the printed floating point numbers support Copy, but not Paste. The current selection region can be copied to the clipboard as a list of numbers, separated by tabs and new lines. When copied in this format, the array of numbers from the selection region can be copied and then pasted into graphics and spreadsheet programs. The text may also be pasted into a DataScope notebook window.

The image windows of DataScope also support Copy, but not Paste. If the Copy command is invoked when an image window is frontmost, the entire image is copied to the clipboard. The image can then be pasted into a color paint program, or any other program that supports color image pasting.

NOTE: The selection region is ignored. To copy only the selection region of an image, you must extract the selection with the Extract Selection command from the Numbers menu, create a new image from the extracted dataset, and then copy that image.

Permanent Data

Data that is read into DataScope cannot be changed. It is assumed that a simulation or other source of data created the dataset as a permanent record. DataScope allows you to extract portions, do calculations, and so forth, but each operation creates a new dataset from the old one. Modifications of the original are not allowed. Overwriting the original file is still your, but not recommended.

HDF Files

The NCSA Hierarchical Data Format (HDF) supports a wide variety of systems and data types. Files stored as HDF files can be transported among various systems and various programs. Other NCSA programs can read and write HDF files. Therefore, saving your dataset, with its generated images, is one of the easiest ways to exchange data and images with other programs.