

Data Collection

Lab Guide

Task

Download the data stored in your data logger to your computer.

What You Need

- Data logger disconnected from the four sensor cables
- Data Logger Data Sheet*
- Computer: 386 or better, 4 Mb RAM, Windows 3.1 or later, 1 available COM (serial) port

In the Lab

1. Make sure that your computer's clock is reading the correct local time.
2. Run BoxCar® software.
3. Connect the HOBO® 4-Channel External logger to the serial cable using the bottom and largest plug.
4. Select "Readout" (or Ctrl R) under the "Logger" button on the main menu bar.
5. You should see:
 - a. A pop-up box will indicate that the software is searching for the HOBO® data logger.
 - b. A pop-up box will indicate that the data are being downloaded.
 - c. A warning will be given if the data logger and shuttle clocks are unsynchronized.
 - d. Battery Level: replace the battery after saving the data if the battery level falls below 30%.
 - e. A "Save As" box.
6. Rename the data file (.dtf file) and save it. It is recommended to use a file name like "SSYYMMDD" where,
 - a. "SS" is a two character school or site code and "YYMMDD" are the two digit values for year, month and day (i.e., 010315) for the date that you downloaded (READOUT) these data from your logger. Note: this BoxCar® software is limited to 8 character filenames.
 - b. Make sure to select or take note of the output data directory.
7. Take time to preview the data using BoxCar's graphing capabilities.