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User interfaces at the PoLLux STXM beamline

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Scanning transmission X-ray spectro-microscopy (STXM) involves both nanoscale imaging and spectroscopy that can cover multiple absorption edges over a wide energy range. The technique presents users with a dizzying array of parameters that control the dimensions of scans and details of the scanning process. Important quality measures such as the spatial and spectral resolution also depend on these parameters in complicated ways. Users who do not fully understand how to operate the instrument will tend to make suboptimal choices and rely heavily on the beamline staff. The PoLLux STXM beamline is addressing these issues with a number of custom software tools:

- * the Pixelator STXM control software (C++)
- * scripting interface to Pixelator (Python)
- * the PoLLux Calculator (Python)
- * the Focus Finder GUI (Python)
- * thumbnail images embedded in data files (XMP in HDF5)

Here, we will present these software tools and their usage at the PoLLux STXM beamline.

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