

CutiePie v1.6-003 — A User's Guide

CutiePie (a.k.a. QtPy) is a desktop viewer for **live nuclear-physics spectra** served by SpecTcl. It shows one or more histograms ("spectra") in a grid of panels, refreshes their counts in real time, and gives you the everyday analysis tools: gates (graphical cuts), summing regions, peak finding, curve fitting, data export, and reference-image overlays.

This guide is task-oriented: each section tells you **what to click and what you will see**. It assumes you already know, roughly, what a spectrum, a gate, and a fit are — the goal here is to teach *this program's* buttons.

- > **Before you start, you need:** a running **SpecTcl** instance with some bound
 - > spectra, reachable over its **REST** port and **mirror** port. If you don't
 - > have one, ask whoever runs your DAQ for the host name and those two port
 - > numbers. Without a live server CutiePie opens fine but shows no data.
 - > *All button and menu names in this guide were checked against the program's
 - > source. If a label on your screen differs, your install may be a different
 - > version — tell your instructor.*
-

How the window is organized

There are three things to know your way around:

1. **The config strip** — the single row of controls across the top. There is **no menu bar**; everything global lives here.
2. **The pad grid** — a tabbed area below, divided into panels ("pads"). You add a spectrum to a pad.
3. **The "Extra" window** — a separate popup (titled *Special Functions*) that holds Fitting, Peak Finder, Jupyter export, image Overlay, and a few option checkboxes. Open it with the gold **Extra** button.

Read the config strip left to right: **Connect** → **Geometry** (rows, columns, Apply Geometry, More) → **Spectrum** (the spectrum list, Add, Update, refresh interval, Colormap) → **Gate / Sum. Region / Integrate** → **Extra / Exit**.

1. Getting started & connecting

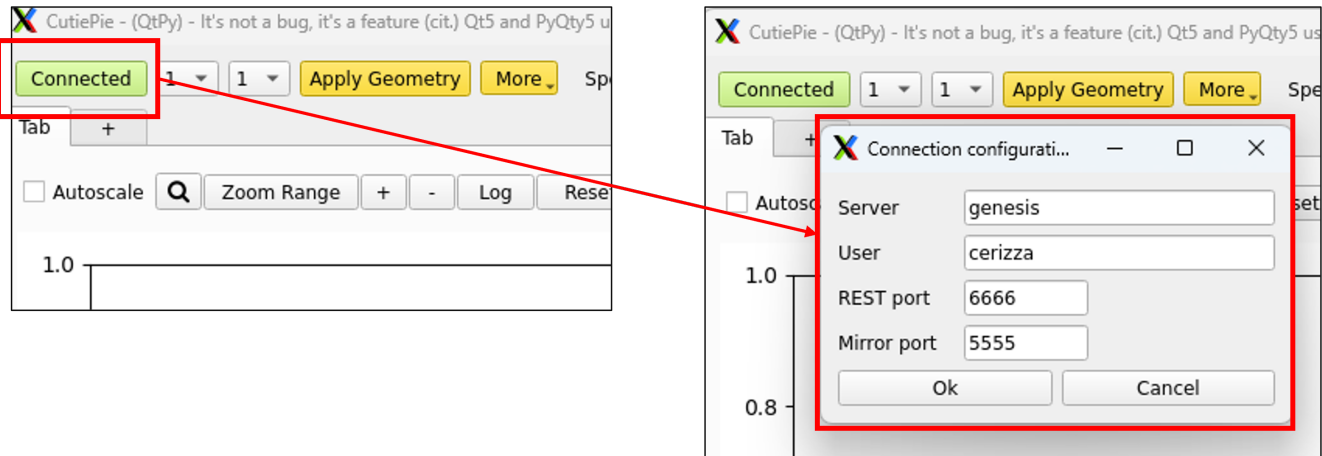
CutiePie is launched from its `gui/` folder by running `Main.py` (your install may wrap this in a launcher script or menu entry — check with your instructor).

To connect to your SpecTcl server:

1. Click the red **Connect** button (far left of the config strip).
2. A small **Connection configuration** window opens with four fields:
 - **Server** — the host name where SpecTcl runs (e.g. `localhost` or a machine name).
 - **User** — your username (pre-filled; usually leave as is).
 - **REST port** — SpecTcl's REST/control port number.

- **Mirror port** — SpecTcl's shared-memory mirror port number.

3. Fill in the host and the two port numbers, then click **Ok**.



The **Connected** button (far left) and the **Connection configuration** dialog — Server, User, REST port, and Mirror port.

Watch the Connect button change color — this is your connection status:

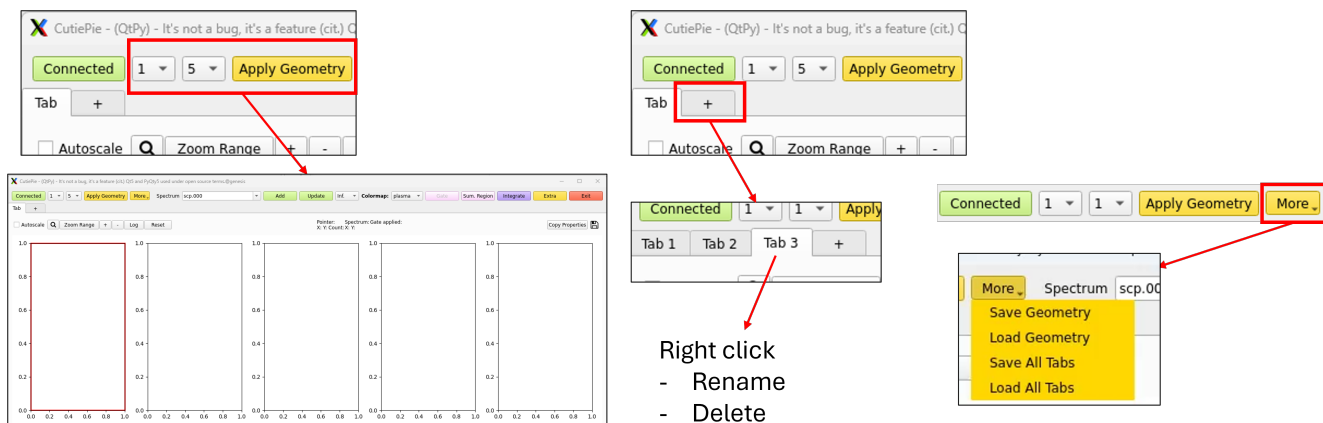
Color & text	Meaning
Red — "Disconnected"	not connected
Amber — "Connecting to mirror..."	handshake in progress (button briefly disabled)
Green — "Connected"	live; spectra and counts are flowing

- > *Shortcut:* if the REST and mirror ports are already filled with valid numbers
- > when the program starts, CutiePie may connect automatically — you'll see the
- > button already green.

Nothing showed up? Check, in order: the server name and both port numbers are correct; SpecTcl is actually running; and the **mirror** service (not just REST) is up — the counts arrive over the mirror port, so a REST-only connection shows spectrum *names* but no live data.

2. Laying out the workspace: geometry & tabs

A "pad" is one panel that holds one spectrum. You first choose how many pads to show, in a rows × columns grid.



Left: a 1×5 grid built with **Apply Geometry**. Middle: add tabs with the +, and right-click a tab to **Rename** / **Delete**. Right: the **More** menu — Save/Load Geometry and Save/Load All Tabs.

Set the grid:

1. In the **Geometry** block, pick a number of rows in the first small dropdown and columns in the second (each goes 1–9).
2. Click **Apply Geometry** (the gold button). The current tab rebuilds into that grid of empty pads.

Select a pad: single-click inside a pad. A **red dashed rectangle** marks the selected pad — that's where the next **Add** (Section 3) will drop a spectrum, and it's the pad most tools act on.

Working with tabs (each tab is an independent pad grid):

- **New tab:** click the + tab at the right of the tab bar.
- **Rename or delete:** right-click a tab → **Rename** or **Delete**.
- *Gotcha:* you can't delete the tab you're currently on — switch to another tab first, then delete it.
- **Reorder:** drag a tab left or right (the + always stays last).

Saving and restoring layouts — click the **More** button (in the Geometry block) for a dropdown:

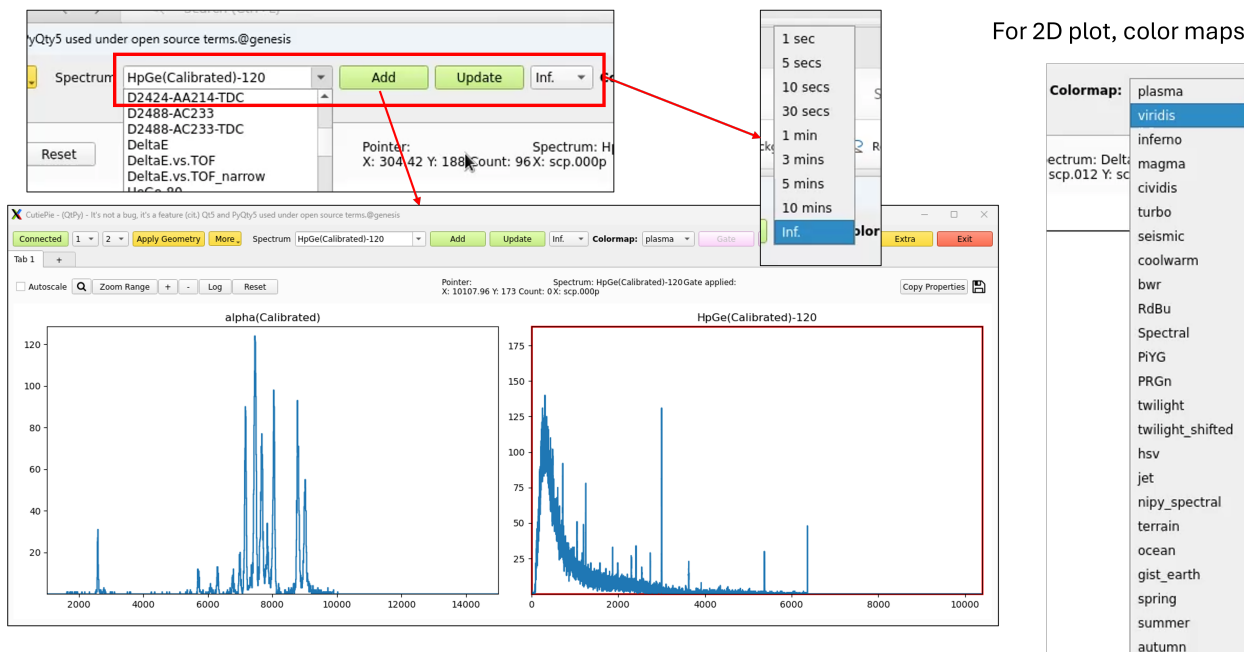
- **Save Geometry / Load Geometry** — save or reload *the current tab's* layout as a .win file (which spectra are in which pads, their zoom and log settings).
- **Save All Tabs / Load All Tabs** — save or restore your **whole multi-tab session** at once. Loading replaces everything currently open.

> *If you mix them up:* **Load Geometry** now recognizes when you hand it a multi-tab session file by mistake — it tells you how many tabs the file holds > and asks whether to load them all (which replaces your current tabs) rather > than failing. Point it at something that isn't a geometry file and it warns > *"Not a readable geometry file — nothing was changed."*

3. Adding & viewing spectra

Once you're connected (green button) and have a pad grid:

1. Click the **Spectrum** dropdown and start typing — it filters the list of bound spectra by any part of the name (not just the start).
2. Pick the spectrum you want.
3. Single-click the pad you want it in (red dashed rectangle appears).
4. Click **Add**. The spectrum draws in that pad.



The **Spectrum** dropdown (type to filter), **Add / Update**, the refresh-interval dropdown (1 sec ... Inf.), and the **Colormap** list for 2D spectra.

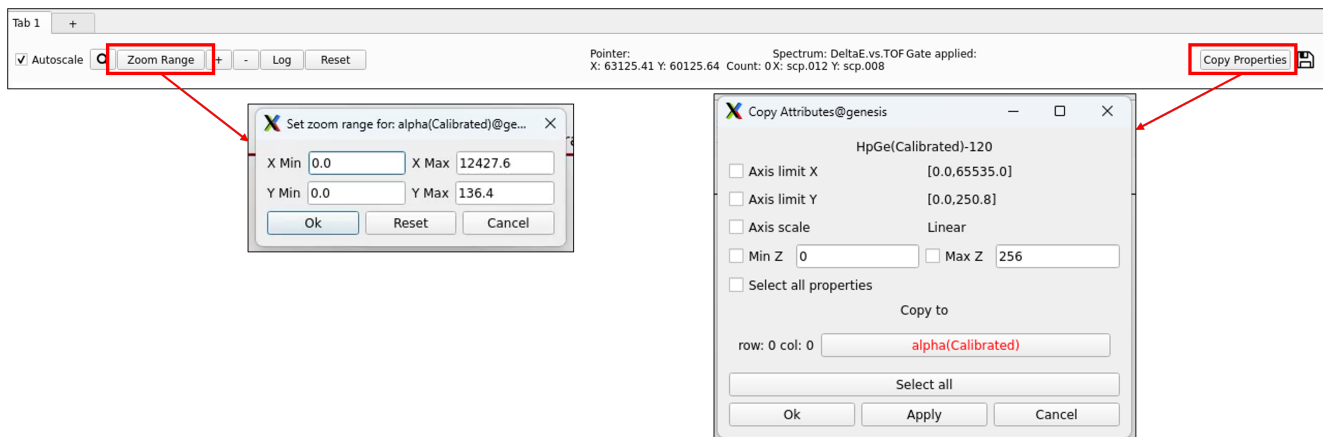
Keeping data live:

- **Update** redraws the selected pad on demand (a one-shot refresh).
- The **refresh-interval dropdown** (next to Update) controls automatic refreshing: choices are **1 sec**, **5 secs**, **10 secs**, **30 secs**, **1 min**, **3 mins**, **5 mins**, **10 mins**, and **Inf.**
- *Gotcha:* it starts on **Inf.**, which means **no auto-refresh**. To watch counts grow live, choose an actual interval (e.g. 5 secs).

Colormap (2D spectra): the **Colormap** dropdown (in the Spectrum block) recolors 2D histograms — plasma, viridis, jet, and many more, plus **custom** (loads a colormap from a file).

4. Reading & navigating a plot

Every pad has its own small toolbar. From left to right it holds: **Autoscale**, the **zoom (magnifier)** button, **Zoom Range**, **+**, **-**, **Log**, **Reset**, then the cursor readout labels, **Copy Properties**, and the **Save** figure button. Each is described below.



The pad toolbar; **Zoom Range** opens the Set zoom range dialog (exact X/Y/Z limits); **Copy Properties** opens the Copy Attributes dialog to copy display settings onto another pad.

- **Autoscale** (checkbox) — when ticked, the pad rescales its y-axis (1D) or color/z-axis (2D) to fit the data automatically. Untick it to keep a fixed scale.

- **Zoom (magnifier) button** — *left-click* it to arm rubber-band zoom, then drag a rectangle on the plot to zoom into it. *Right-click* the button instead for **Set Zoom Range Manually**, which opens a dialog (see Zoom Range below).

- **Zoom Range** — opens **Set zoom range for: <spectrum>**, where you type exact limits: **X Min / X Max / Y Min / Y Max** (and **Z Min / Z Max** for 2D). Then **Ok** applies them, **Reset** clears the zoom, **Cancel** backs out.

- **+ / -** — zoom in / out in fixed steps (raise/lower the y or z ceiling). The keyboard **+** and **-** keys do the same on the selected pad.

- **Log** — *left-click* toggles a logarithmic axis for this pad. *Right-click* for **Log all / unLog all** (apply to every pad at once).

- **Reset** — *left-click* restores this pad's full range ("home"). *Right-click* for **Reset all**.

- **Readout labels** (Pointer / Spectrum / Gate) — these just display the cursor position, counts under the cursor, and any applied gate. Not clickable.

- **Copy Properties** — copies display settings (axis limits, log, etc.) from one pad onto another. Opens a dialog where you tick which properties, pick the target pad, and click **Apply** (or **Ok** to apply and close).

- **Save** — the standard matplotlib "save figure to image file" button.

> **Enlarging a pad — remember this one. Double-click** a pad to blow it up

> to fill the tab (double-click again to return). Enlarging isn't just for a

> better view: **you must enlarge a pad before you can draw gates or summing > regions on it** (Sections 5 and 6). The **Gate** button stays greyed out until

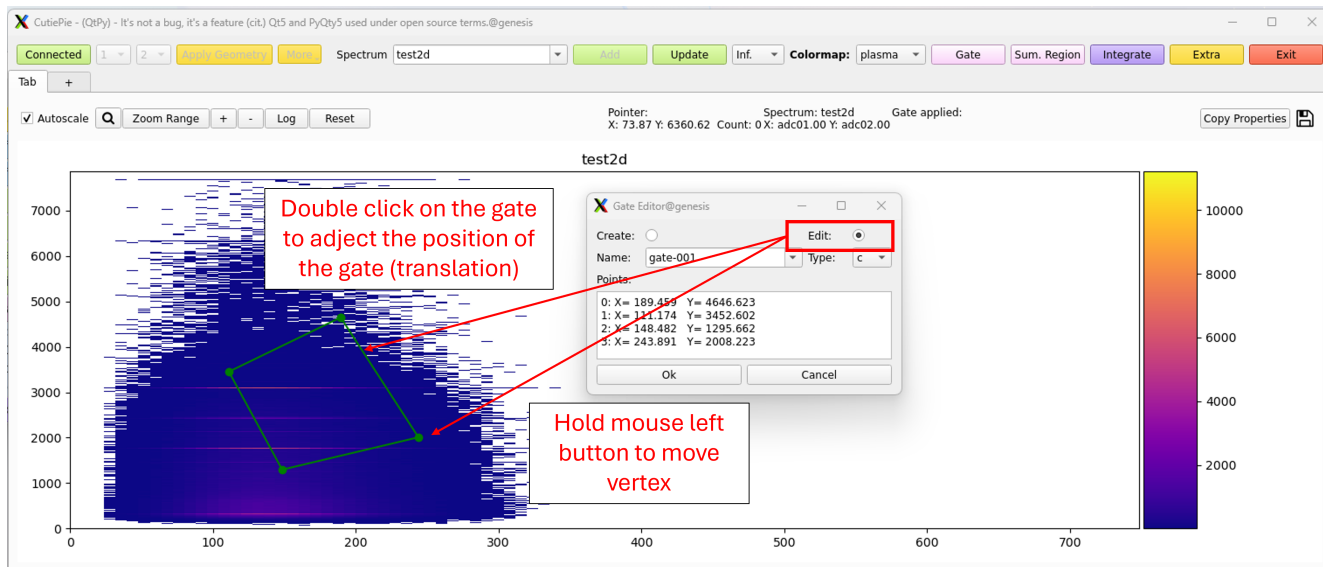
> a pad is enlarged.

5. Gates (graphical cuts)

A gate is a region you draw on a spectrum to select events. In CutiePie you draw gates directly on the plot and they're saved back to SpecTcl.

> **■ ■ ■ Enlarge first.** Gates only work on an enlarged pad. **Double-click the > pad** you want to gate. If the **Gate** button is greyed out, you haven't

1. In the Gate Editor, click the **Edit** radio.
2. Pick a gate from the **Name** dropdown — it redraws in green with markers, and the **Points** box becomes editable.
3. To reshape it on the plot, hold **Alt**: **Alt + left-click** inserts a vertex, **Alt + right-click** deletes one. (You can also edit the numbers in the Points box directly.)



*Editing: switch the **Edit** radio and pick a gate — it redraws in green with draggable vertices. Double-click the gate to translate it; hold left-click on a vertex to move it.*

6. Summing regions & integration

A summing region is like a gate you draw purely to **add up counts** in an area. Same drawing mechanics as gates; the payoff is the **Integrate** report.

> ■■ **Enlarge first**, exactly as with gates — double-click the pad.

Create a summing region:

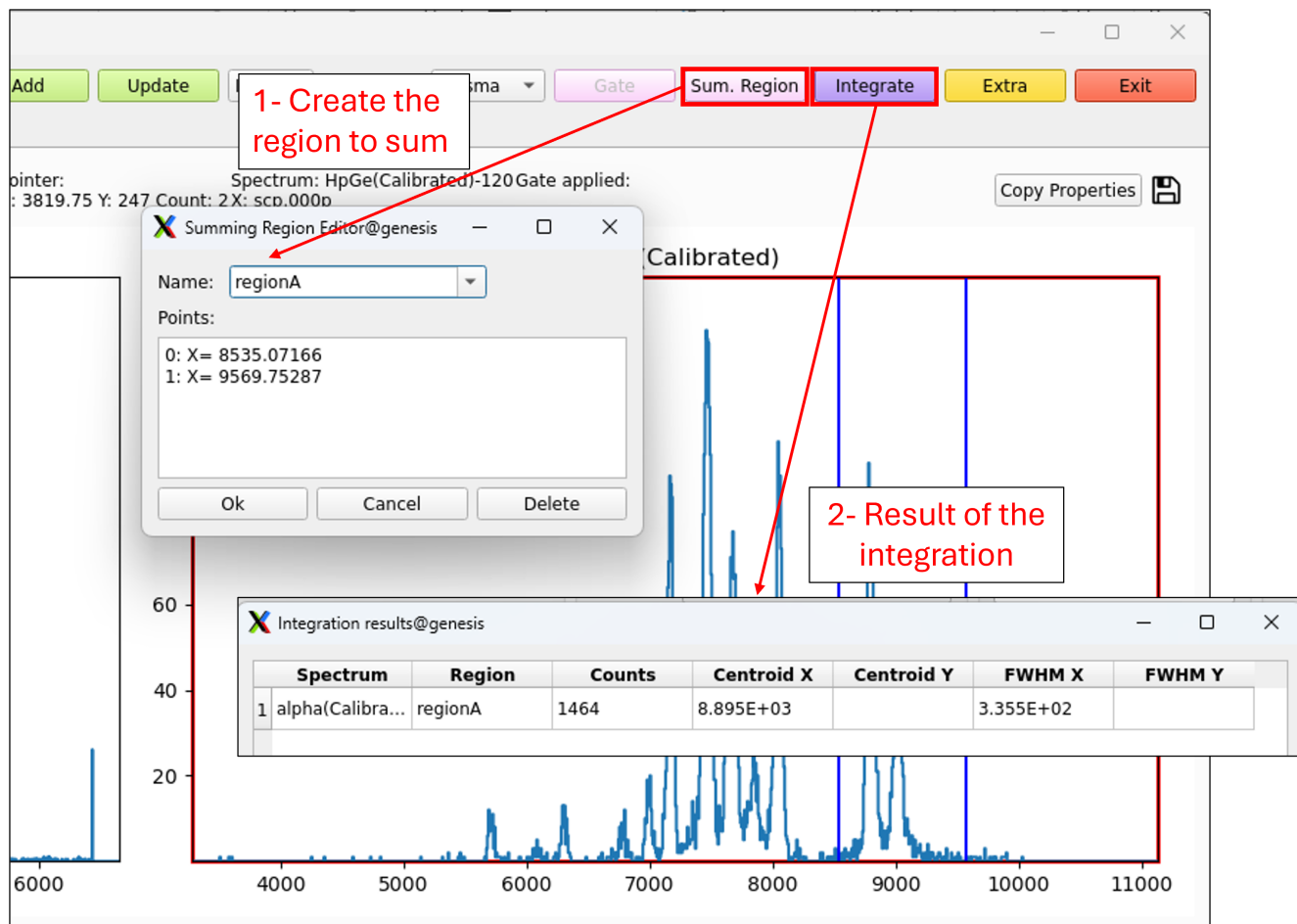
1. Double-click a pad to enlarge it.
2. Click **Sum. Region** (pink button). The **Summing Region Editor** opens with a **Name** box, a **Points** readout, and **Ok / Cancel / Delete** (there's no type dropdown and no edit mode — regions are just delete-and-redraw).
3. Draw it by left-clicking, same as a gate:
 - **1D**: two clicks for the low/high range.
 - **2D**: click polygon vertices (auto-closes); **right-click** to back up a point.
4. Click **Ok** to save it (overwrite prompt if the name exists). **Delete** removes a region by name.

Integrate:

1. With regions (and/or gates) saved on the pad, click **Integrate** (purple button, config strip).
2. The **Integration results** table opens with columns: **Spectrum, Region, Counts, Centroid X, Centroid Y, FWHM X, FWHM Y** (1D spectra fill only the X

columns).

3. **To copy the numbers out:** click any cell — the *entire* table is copied to your clipboard as tab-separated text, ready to paste into a spreadsheet or notebook.



(1) Draw a region in the **Summing Region Editor** (Name, Points, Ok/Cancel/Delete), then (2) click **Integrate** to get the **Integration results** table — Counts, Centroid, and FWHM per region.

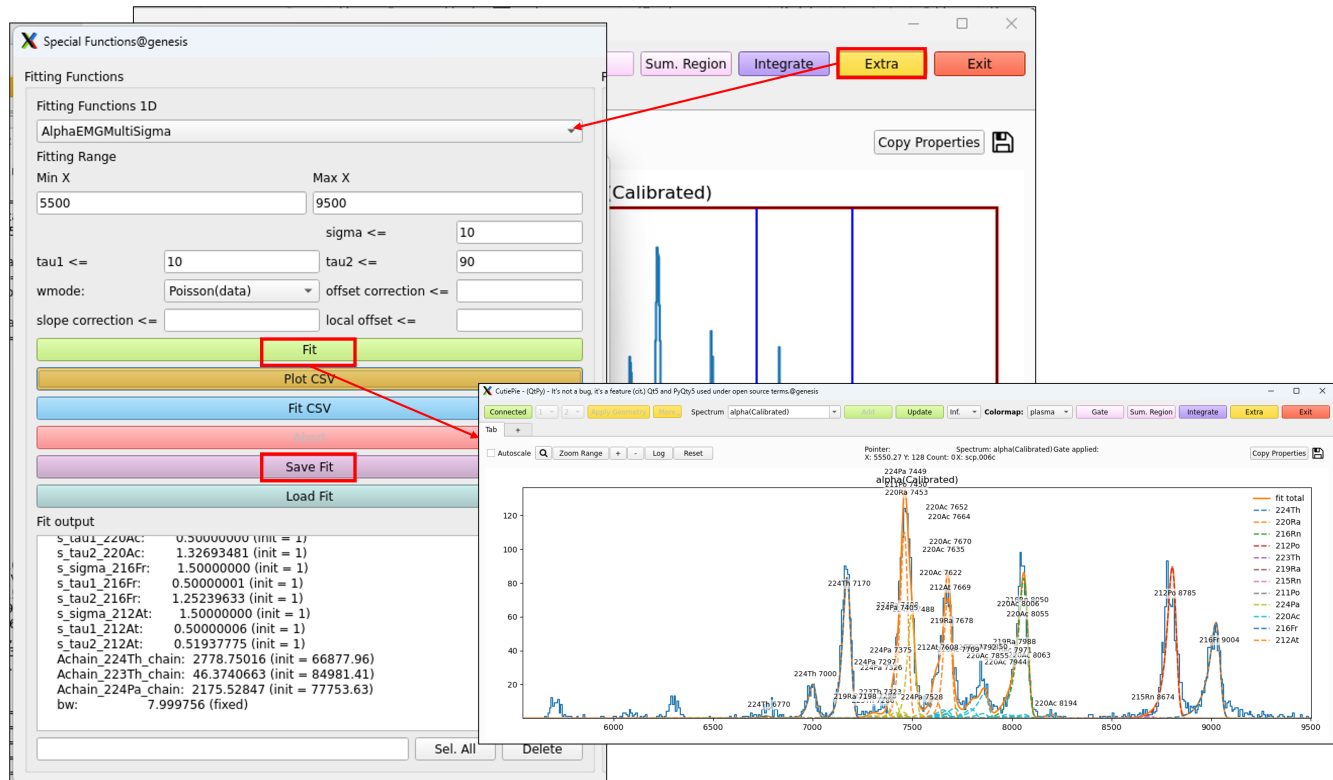
7. Fitting a 1D spectrum

Curve fitting lives in the **Extra** window.

1. Click **Extra** (gold button) to open **Special Functions**. The **Fitting Functions** panel is on the left.
2. Single-click the **1D** pad you want to fit (fitting acts on the selected pad).
3. Choose a model from the fit dropdown. The everyday models are:
 - **Gauss** — a Gaussian peak.
 - **Exp** — an exponential.
 - **Pol1, Pol2** — straight line, parabola.
 - **G+Pol1, G+Pol2** — a Gaussian on a linear / quadratic background.

(The dropdown also lists AlphaEMG... models — specialist nuclear line-shapes used for alpha-decay work. They're beyond this tutorial; ignore them unless your project needs them.)

- Set the fit window: **Min X** and **Max X**. (If you enter Min > Max, CutiePie warns you and just swaps them.)
- (Optional) enter starting guesses in the **p0, p1, ...** fields — these relabel to match the model (for Gauss: **A** amplitude, μ mean, σ width). Leave them blank to let CutiePie seed them automatically.
- Click **Fit**. The fit curve draws on the pad, results append to the **Fit output** box, and a separate **Fit results** — **<model> : <spectrum>** window opens with the full parameters.



The **Fitting Functions** panel (model, range, bounds, **Fit / Save Fit / Load Fit**, Fit output) and the drawn fit — here an AlphaEMGMultiSigma fit with the total curve plus per-isotope components in the legend.

Other fit controls:

- Abort** (red) — stop a long-running fit. The output notes ****[abort] Fit stopped by user.****
- Sel. All** then **Delete** — **Sel. All** fills the index box with the numbers of all fit lines on the pad; **Delete** removes the ones you list. Deleting a fit removes the *whole* fit at once — for a multi-line fit that means the total curve, every component curve, its peak labels, and the legend all disappear together.
- Plot CSV / Fit CSV** — plot an external x, y CSV file, then fit it with the same range fields. (Fitting with no CSV loaded warns "No CSV loaded".)
- Fitting a **2D** spectrum is not supported — you'll get ****Sorry 2D fitting is not implemented yet.****

Saving a fit and re-using it on another plot:

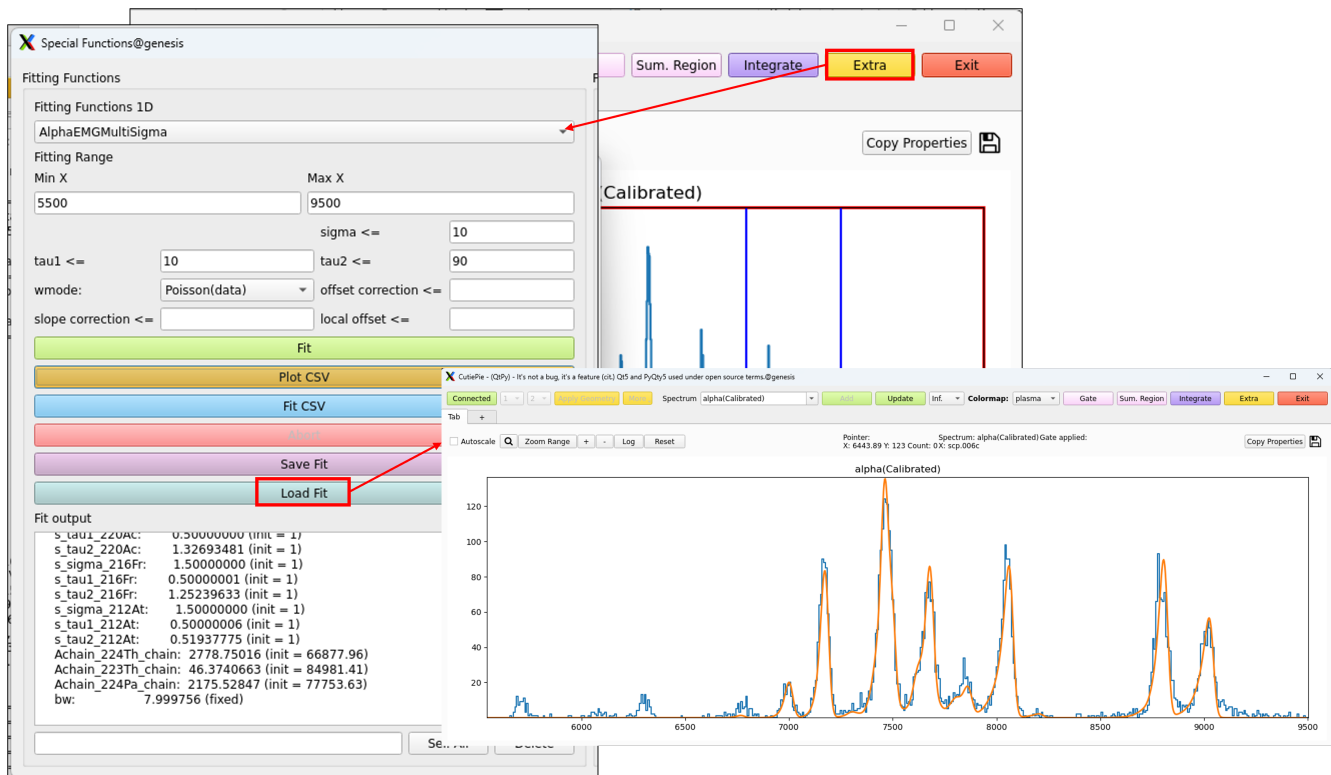
Once you've run a fit you can save its curve and draw it back later — handy for comparing a reference fit against a fresh spectrum.

- **Save Fit** (mauve) — writes the *last* fit's curve to a .csv (a file dialog lets you pick the name; .csv is added if you leave it off). For most models this is a three-column x, y_data, y_fit file — one row per histogram bin, giving the bin centre, the raw counts, and the fitted value — so you can compare fit against data straight in Excel. (If the raw data isn't available it falls back to a two-column x, y_total file.) Clicking Save Fit before you've run any fit warns "No fit to save."

- **Load Fit** (teal) — select the pad you want to draw on, click Load Fit, and choose a saved file. The curve is drawn on that pad as a normal fit line, so **Sel. All / Delete** manage it like any other fit.

- *Heads-up:* Load Fit does **not** rescale the pad — it draws inside the current view. If you don't see the curve, it may be sitting outside your zoom; reset or widen the view (Section 4).

- Loading with no pad selected warns "No plot selected."



Reloading a saved fit: **Load Fit** draws the saved curve back onto the selected pad (here the total curve overlaid on the spectrum).

Saving all components (AlphaEMGMultiSigma). When you save an AlphaEMGMultiSigma fit, the file keeps every component — the total, one summed column per isotope, **and one column per individual peak** — organised by decay chain. The .csv is built to be readable and Excel-friendly:

- A **per-peak parameter table** near the top — a plain CSV block (chain, isotope, E_keV, A, mu, sigma, tau1, tau2, eta, one row per peak) that imports straight into Excel/pandas as a table.

- Below it, the sampled **data table**, one row per histogram bin. A y_data column carries the raw counts alongside the fit columns, which are named by their place in the hierarchy — fit total, then <chain>/<isotope> for an isotope sum and <chain>/<isotope>/<energy> for a single peak — so you can

chart each peak, or the fit against the data, directly in Excel.

On **Load Fit**, every component is drawn at once (total solid, isotope sums

dashed, individual peaks dotted — all one deletable fit) and a **Loaded fit components** panel opens. The panel **stays open** so you can add or remove

components live:

- It's a tree with *fit total* on top, then each decay **chain**, its **isotopes** (the summed curve), and each isotope's individual **peaks** indented beneath — everything ticked.
- **Untick** a box to remove that curve from the pad; **re-tick** it to add it back — the plot updates immediately, no re-loading.
- Ticking/unticking an isotope's **(sum)** box toggles all of its peaks at once.
- **All / None** add or remove everything; **Close** leaves the currently shown curves on the pad.

A new **Load Fit** (or running a new fit) closes the panel and starts fresh.

8. Finding peaks

The **Peak Finder** panel in the **Extra** window searches the visible range for peaks in one pass and marks everything it finds.

Peak Finder (scan)

An automatic peak finder: it searches the visible X range in one pass and marks everything it finds, rather than fitting one peak per click.

1. Click **Extra**, then find the **Peak Finder** panel. Select a **1D** pad.
2. Set **Peak Width (in bins)** to roughly the FWHM of the peaks you expect, in bins.
3. Pick an **Algorithm** (or keep the default):
 - **Mariscotti (2nd difference)** — the default. The classic nuclear-spectroscopy search; it cancels smooth backgrounds, so it is the best choice when your peaks sit on a slope (e.g. an exponential continuum). Good everywhere else too.
 - **Smoothed (Savitzky-Golay)** — smooths the counts before searching and requires a peak to beat the statistical noise; the best pick for low-statistics spectra. Accepts peaks down to half the entered width.
 - **Raw counts (legacy)** — the original CutiePie search, run directly on the raw counts. Kept for continuity with old results; on noisy spectra it reports many spurious "peaks".
 - **Raw counts (legacy, fast)** — identical results to the legacy search, just faster on very large spectra.
4. Click **Scan**. Found peaks are marked in red (a v marker plus guide lines), and the **Output** box lists each one:
 - > *Gotcha (legacy algorithms only)*: for the two **Raw counts** entries the width acts as a strict minimum-width filter — with the default **20** on narrow peaks the scan finds **nothing**; lower the number and scan again.
 - > Mariscotti and Smoothed are forgiving about the width setting.

...

Peak1

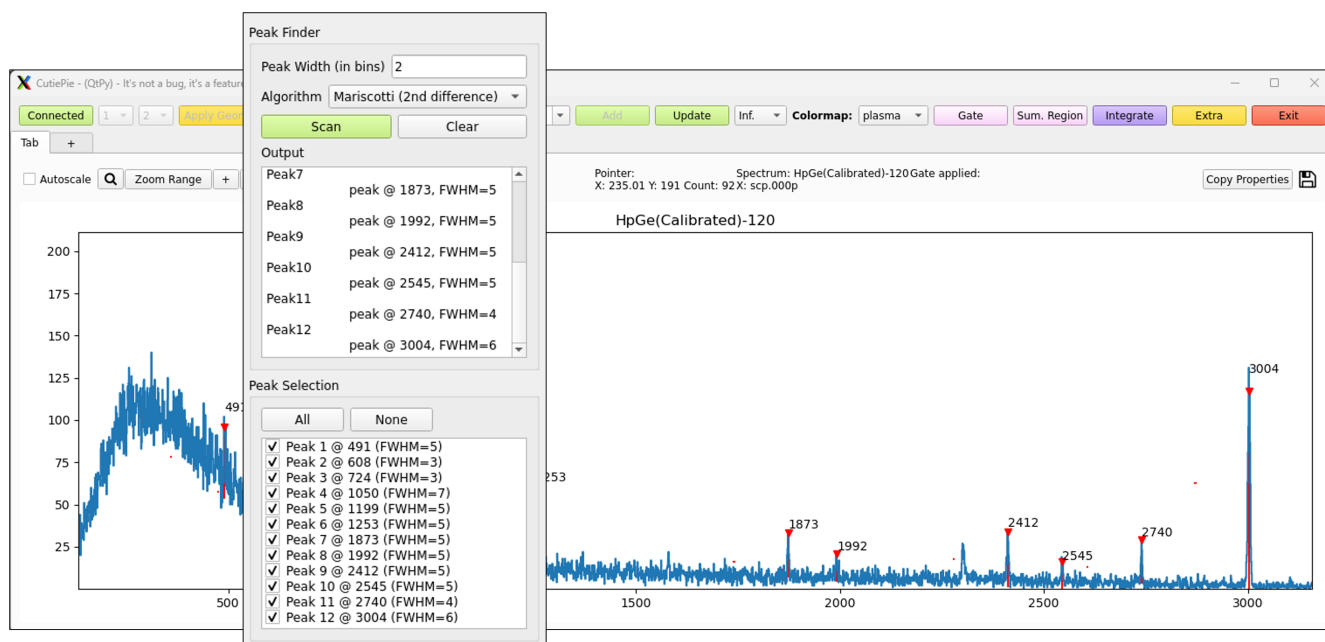
peak @ <position>, FWHM=<width>

...

5. Only peaks in the **currently visible X range** are found — zoom into a region first (Section 4) to focus the scan there.

Managing the markers: every found peak (no limit on how many) appears as a checkable row in the **Peak Selection** list, labeled

Peak N @ <position> (FWHM=<width>) — untick a row to hide that peak's markers, re-tick to show it again. **All** / **None** check or uncheck every row at once. **Clear** wipes the markers, the list, and the Output box.

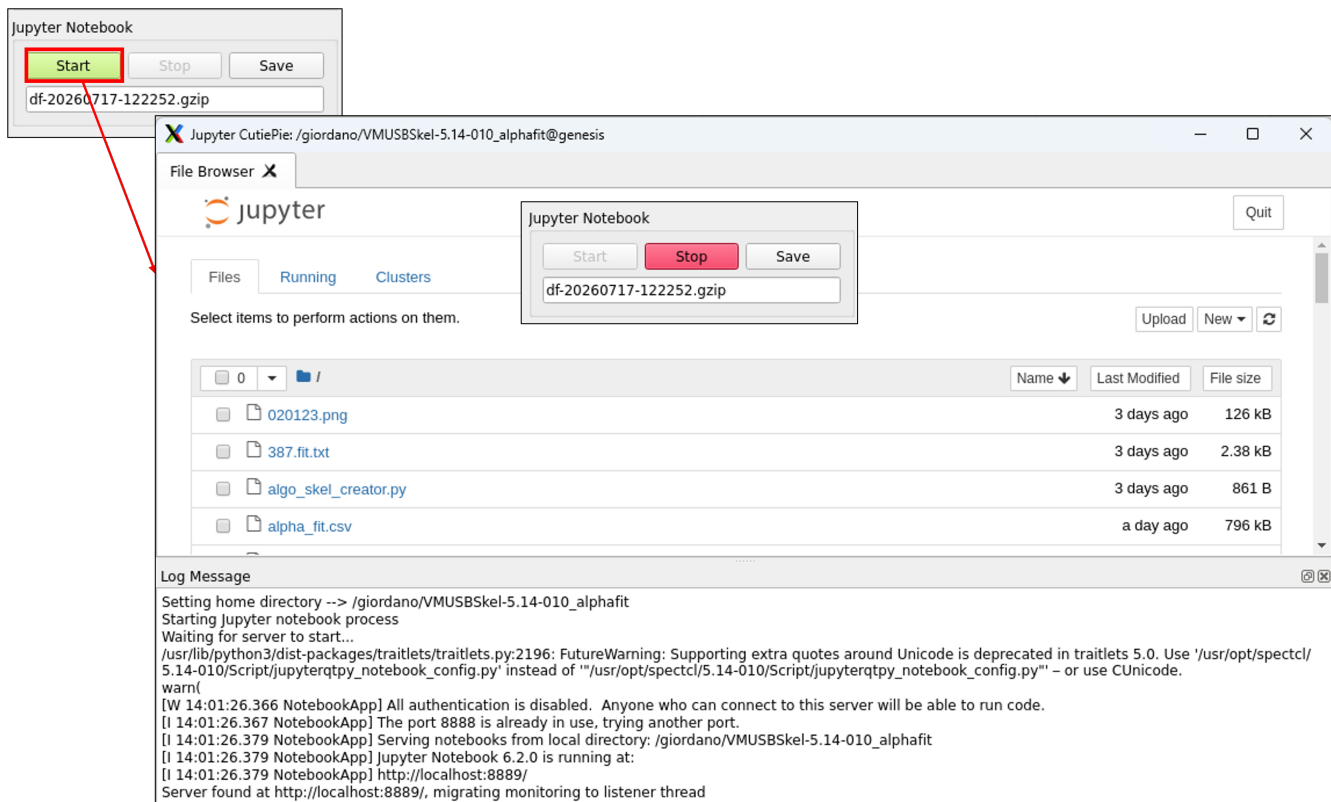


The **Peak Finder** panel — **Peak Width**, **Algorithm**, **Scan** / **Clear**, the **Output** list, and the checkable **Peak Selection** list — with each found peak marked (red v) and labelled on the spectrum.

9. Exporting data (Jupyter / pandas)

CutiePie can dump every displayed spectrum to a compressed CSV for analysis in Python. This is in the **Extra** window's **Jupyter Notebook** panel.

- **Filename field** — pre-filled with `df-<date-time>.gzip`; edit it to choose where the file goes.
- **Save** — writes the CSV **right now**, without launching anything. Use this when you just want the data file.
- **Start** — writes the CSV *and* launches a Jupyter notebook server with a docked browser window. **Stop** shuts the server down again.



The **Jupyter Notebook** panel (**Start / Stop / Save** and the `df-...gzip` filename); **Start** opens the docked Jupyter file browser, with the server log at the bottom.

What you get: two files that belong together — the CSV you named, and a counts file beside it with `-counts.npz` in place of the extension. Saving `df-20260711-101500.gzip` also writes `df-20260711-101500-counts.npz`. Copy or move them as a pair.

The CSV has one row per spectrum, with columns:

...

name, dim, binx, minx, maxx, biny, miny, maxy,
xunderflow, yunderflow, data, xoverflow, yoverflow, parameters, type
...

`xunderflow/yunderflow` and `xoverflow/yoverflow` are the under/over-range statistics (blank/NaN where the server doesn't report them, e.g. the y-values for a 1D spectrum). The data column holds a short key such as `s0` pointing into the counts file — the counts themselves are no longer written into the CSV, which is what makes a large 2-D export take under a second instead of several.

Read it back in Python:

```
python
import sys
sys.path.append("<path to>/PyQtGUI/gui")
from services.dataframe_export import read_spectrum_export

df = read_spectrum_export("df-20260711-101500.gzip")
print(df[["name", "dim", "xunderflow", "xoverflow"]])
counts = df["data"].iloc[0] # a real NumPy array, 1-D or 2-D
```

```
...
```

`read_spectrum_export` opens both files and puts the counts back in the `data` column as NumPy arrays. It also opens **older** exports, where the counts were inside the CSV, so old files keep working. If the counts file has been renamed or left behind, it says so — `counts sidecar missing for ...` — rather than failing quietly.

Plotting a spectrum. The stored array has `binx + 1` entries: one more than the number of bins. CutiePie's own fitting code drops the first entry and pairs the rest with bin centres, and that is what you want for analysis:

```
```python
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

row = df[df["name"] == "my_spectrum"].iloc[0]
edges = np.linspace(row["minx"], row["maxx"], int(row["binx"]) + 1)
centres = edges[:-1] + 0.5 * np.diff(edges)
plt.step(centres, row["data"][1:], where="mid")
```
```

A 2-D spectrum goes straight into `imshow`:

```
```python
plt.imshow(row["data"], origin="lower", aspect="auto",
extent=[row["minx"], row["maxx"], row["miny"], row["maxy"]])
```
```

Without importing anything. The counts file is a plain `.npz`, so you can read the pair by hand:

```
```python
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd

meta = pd.read_csv("df-20260711-101500.gzip", compression="gzip")
z = np.load("df-20260711-101500-counts.npz")
counts = z[meta["data"].iloc[0]] # the cell holds the key, e.g. "s0"
```
```

The keys are **positional** — `s0`, `s1`, ... in CSV row order, not spectrum names. That is deliberate: spectrum names carry spaces, brackets and slashes, and a slash would turn an archive entry into a path. Always look the key up from the CSV's `data` column rather than guessing it from a name.

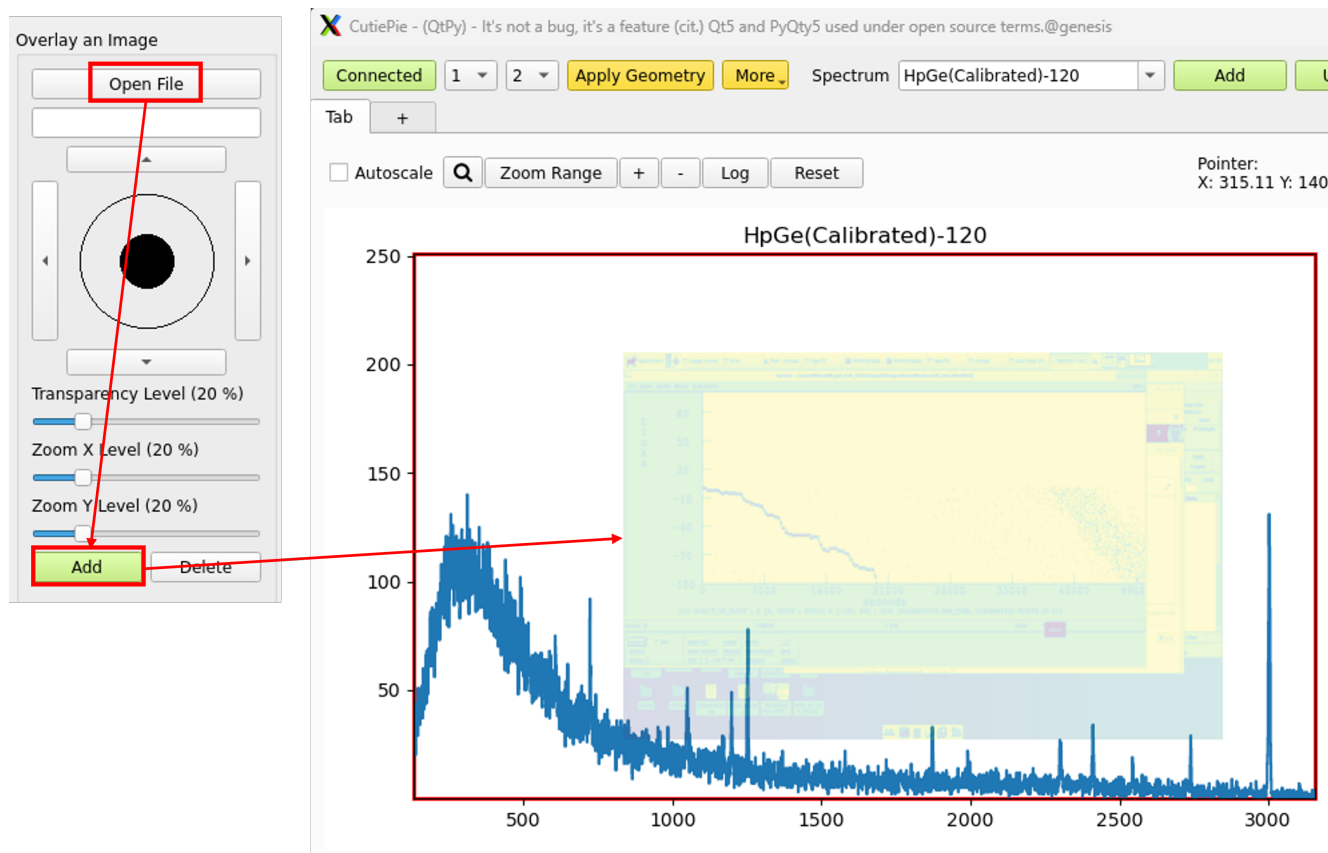
> **If you have a notebook that does** `pd.read_csv(...)` **on an export:** it still runs, but its `data` column now holds the `s0`-style keys rather than counts.
> Switch that line to `read_spectrum_export` to get the arrays back. Everything else about the table is unchanged.

10. Overlaying a reference image (LISE)

You can lay a reference image (e.g. a LISE prediction) over a pad to compare it

with your data. This is in the **Extra** window's **Overlay an Image** panel.

1. Click **Open File**, pick a .png or .jpg. Its path appears in the field.
2. Single-click the pad you want it on, then click **Add** — the image appears over that pad.
3. **Position it**:
 - Drag the **Joystick** widget to move the image (bigger drag = bigger step).
 - Use the four fine **arrow** buttons for small, precise nudges.
4. **Adjust it** with the sliders: **Transparency**, **Zoom X**, **Zoom Y**.
5. **Delete** removes the overlay.



The **Overlay an Image** panel — **Open File**, the joystick and arrow nudges, and the **Transparency / Zoom X / Zoom Y** sliders — with a reference image overlaid on the spectrum after **Add**.

11. Quick reference

Most-used buttons:

| Button (where) | Does |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Connect (config strip) | open the connection dialog / show status by color |
| Apply Geometry | build the rows × columns pad grid |
| More | Save/Load Geometry, Save/Load All Tabs |
| Add | put the chosen spectrum in the selected pad |
| refresh-interval dropdown | how often pads auto-refresh (Inf. = never) |
| Gate / Sum. Region | draw a gate / summing region (needs an enlarged pad) |
| Integrate | tabulate counts in gates & regions |

| Button (where) | Does |
|------------------------|--|
| Extra | open the Fitting / Peak / Jupyter / Overlay window |
| pad Log / Reset | log scale / reset view (right-click for "all") |

Common gotchas:

- **Gates and summing regions need an *enlarged* pad** — double-click the pad first (the Gate button is greyed out otherwise).
- **No live counts?** The refresh interval is on **Inf.** by default — pick a real interval.
- **Peak scan finds nothing?** With a **Raw counts (legacy)** algorithm the **Peak Width** default of 20 bins is too wide for narrow peaks — lower it, or switch to the default **Mariscotti (2nd difference)** algorithm.
- **Can't delete a tab?** You can't delete the tab you're on — switch away first.
- **Gates/regions need a live SpecTcl connection** (green Connect button).

12. Appendix

- **Exit** (config strip, red) closes CutiePie. If a Jupyter server is running it is shut down for you.
- **Saved files:** geometry layouts are .win files; Jupyter data dumps are .gzip CSVs; saved fits (Section 7's **Save Fit**) are .csv files — an x, y_data, y_fit table (bin centre, raw counts, fit), or, for AlphaEMGMultiSigma, a multi-column file with one column per isotope plus a # meta header. All saved to wherever you point the file dialogs / filename field.
- **If something looks wrong:** confirm the Connect button is green; confirm your refresh interval isn't on Inf.; and remember the enlarge-first rule for gates/regions. If a label in this guide doesn't match your screen, your install may be a different version — check with your instructor.