

# Signal Processing

The objective of this tutorial is **to provide an overview of signal processing in Visual3D**.

Most signal processing functionality is available through the **Command Pipeline**, so it is advisable that you are familiar with the material in the previous [Tutorial: Command Pipeline](#). The file [Tutorial2.cmo](#), which was generated in the [Tutorial: Visualizing Data](#), can be used as the starting material here.

## Preparation

1. Open [Tutorial2.cmo](#) that you have just downloaded.
2. Click on Signal and Event Processing to visualize the animation of the model based on the movement data and the model that was applied to it. If the animation doesn't appear in the 3D Animation viewer, check the active file combo box on the toolbar. It should read 'Walking Trial 1.c3d' rather than ALL-FILES
3. If the animation is not playing, click on the PLAY button of the VCR controls at the bottom of the screen.
4. There are many viewing options for the Animation viewer available under the View Menu item or by clicking with the Right Mouse Button in the Animation Viewer itself. You should play around with these options to see the effects they have; most of the effects are intuitively obvious.

## Visual3D Philosophy

When a c3d file is loaded the data is copied into the Visual3D workspace. Visual3D follows a philosophy that **your original data is sacrosanct**. You should definitely check out the [Visual3D Philosophy](#) page, but we will review some key points here.

The sacrosanct status of your original data means that the original data itself should never be changed or modified. Therefore, all processing performed on signals creates a new signal, whose **Processing History** is stored as a property of the new signal. This protects the researcher from "losing track" of the processing that was done and allows analysis results to be reproduced at any time. The original signals are stored in a folder labeled ORIGINAL. If a signal is processed with a command that acts only on that signal (e.g. a digital filter), the result is placed into a folder labeled PROCESSED. If the ORIGINAL signal is processed again, the existing PROCESSED signal is replaced with the newer version. If the user wants to retain this PROCESSED folder with the intention of having several versions of a signal persisting (e.g. Position, Velocity, and Acceleration), the PROCESSED folder can be renamed; this renamed folder will persist (e.g. it won't be overwritten automatically).

You need to be aware of any pre-processing done by your camera or analog equipment manufacturer. Some vendors interpolate and/or filter data **prior** to creating an output file, perhaps in order to make their output "look better", for commercial reasons. At HAS-Motion, we believe that this practice has potentially damaging effects on outcomes. Physical disabilities can be completely hidden or minimized in this manner. Researchers using these systems will not be able to create reproducible results without fully documenting the preprocessing assumptions, algorithms, and results prior to any

analysis. Feel free to contact HAS-Motion if you are unsure about how your system generates and provides its data. In many cases, pre-processing activity can be turned off.

Being wary of unwarranted assumptions is also why we advocate capturing data in as "raw" a form as possible. For example, if all we have is pre-computed ground reaction data from a force plate as input, we have to make the (possibly unwarranted) assumption that all the force plate properties, calibrations, and processing were perfect, since there is no way to validate the data. In designing Visual3D, and in our attempts to improve it incrementally over time, we have tried to make working with "raw" input data as painless as possible, in order to encourage you to do so.

We have been challenged on this notion of the "RAW" data because Visual3D doesn't actually work with the video images, but rather with the processed 3D trajectories from another program. We accept this limitation but point out that most manufacturers place the calibration and tracking parameters into the C3D File.

## Basic Signal Processing

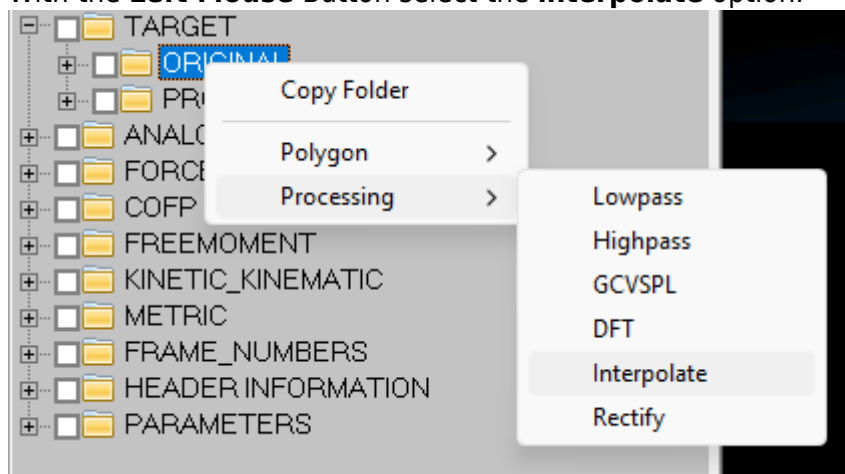
Several basic signal processing functions are available interactively by selecting a second tier FOLDER (e.g. TARGET:ORIGINAL, ANALOG:PROCESSED, etc) in the data tree with the **Right Mouse Button**. The available functions are:

1. Lowpass Filter
2. Highpass Filter
3. GCVSPL
4. DFT
5. Interpolate
6. Rectify

## Interpolate and Filter the TARGET signals

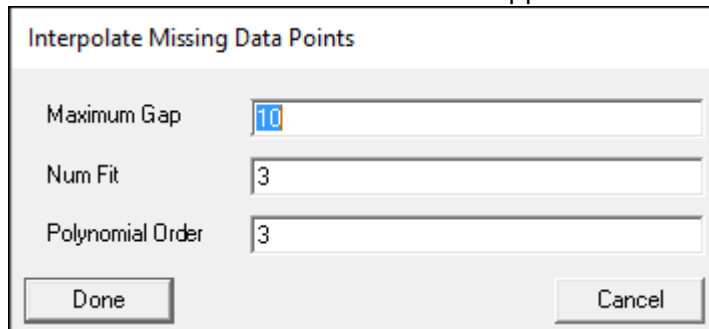
Interpolating and Filtering the TARGET data is a two step process.

1. Expand the data tree in **Signal and Event Processing** mode.
2. With the **Right Mouse Button** select the **ORIGINAL** folder under the **TARGET** folder.
3. With the **Left Mouse Button** select the **interpolate** option.

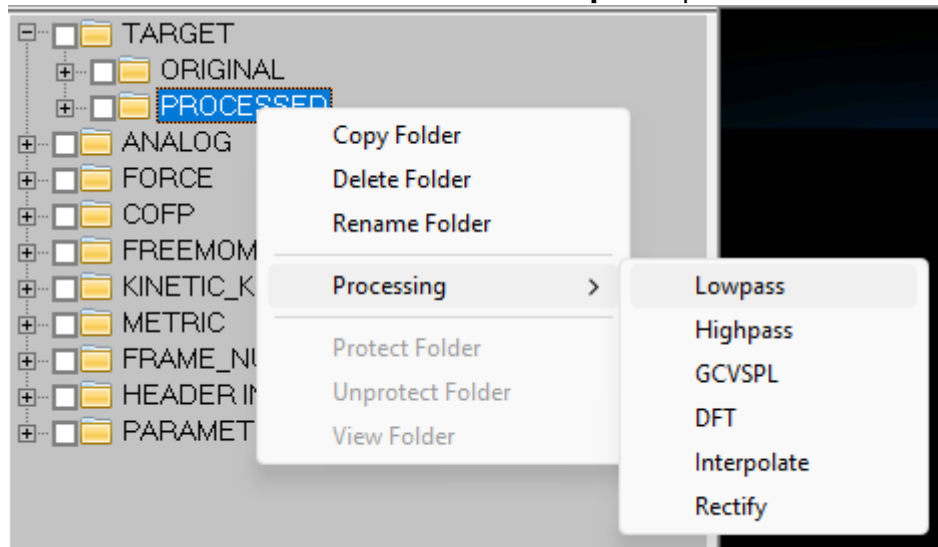


4. Select **Done** to execute the command.

Note that a **PROCESSED** folder has appeared under the **TARGET** folder in the data tree.

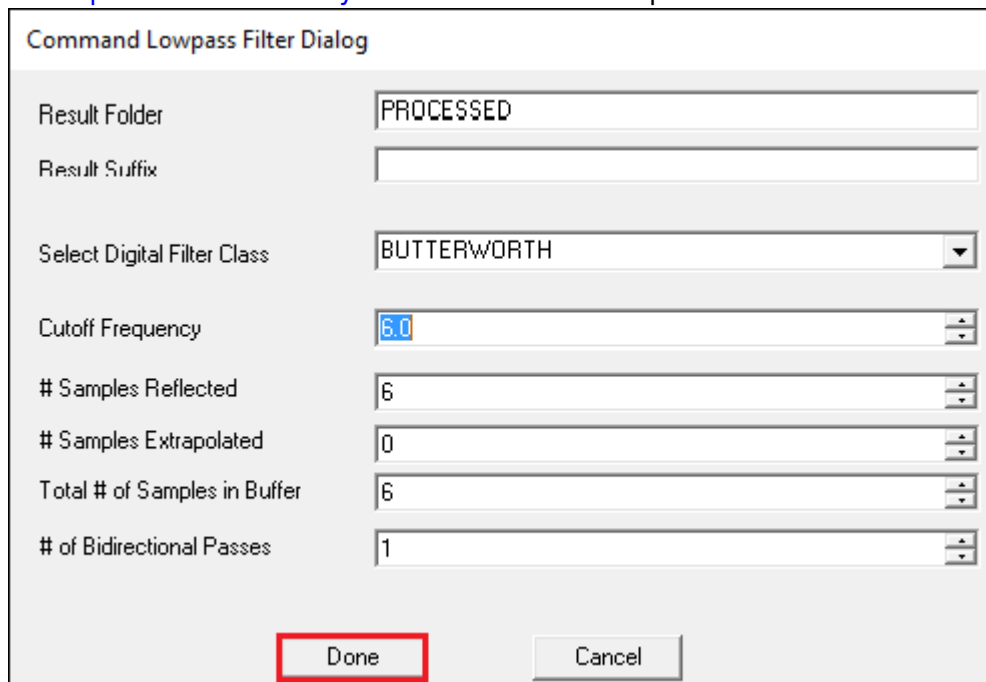


5. With the **Right Mouse Button** select the **PROCESSED** folder under the **TARGET** folder.  
 6. With the **Left Mouse Button** select the **lowpass** option.



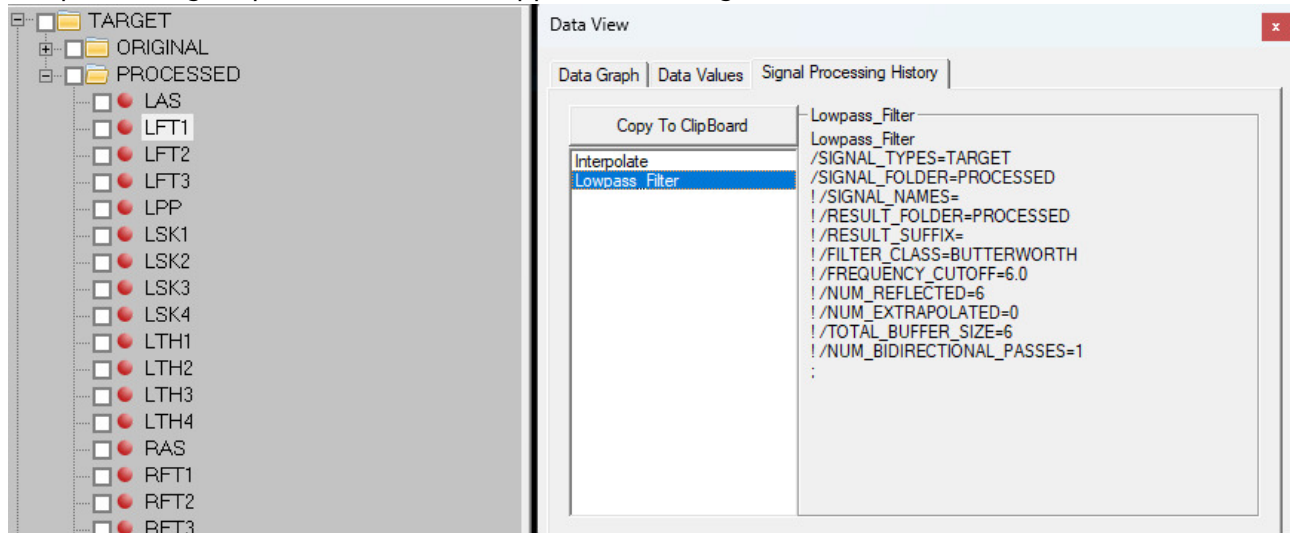
7. Select **Done** to execute the command.

See [Pipeline Command Syntax Tutorial](#) for an explanation of the default command parameters.



8. Note that only a **PROCESSED** folder exists under the **TARGET** folder in the data tree (e.g. a new PROCESSED folder wasn't created). By default Visual3D uses only one PROCESSED folder, which contains the most recent processing done to a signal.  
 9. Expand the **PROCESSED** folder in the data tree and with the **Left Mouse Button** select the signal **LFT1**. A dialog appears containing 3 tabs. Selecting the **History** tab will display a list of

the processing steps that have been applied to this signal



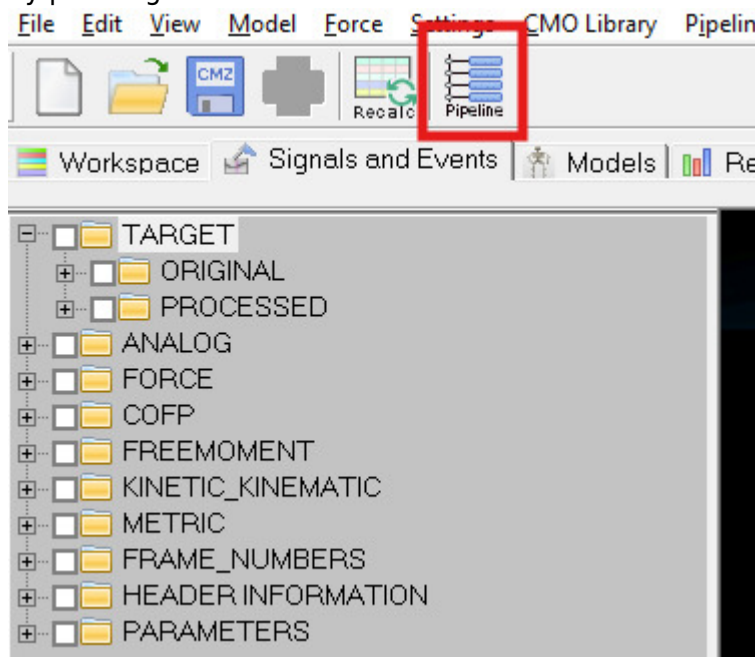
10. If you want to protect the **PROCESSED** folder so that it is not replaced by the next processing step, you should rename it to something else. A folder with a name other than **PROCESSED** will not be removed unless the user explicitly deletes it.

## Interpolate and Filter the TARGET signals using the Command Pipeline

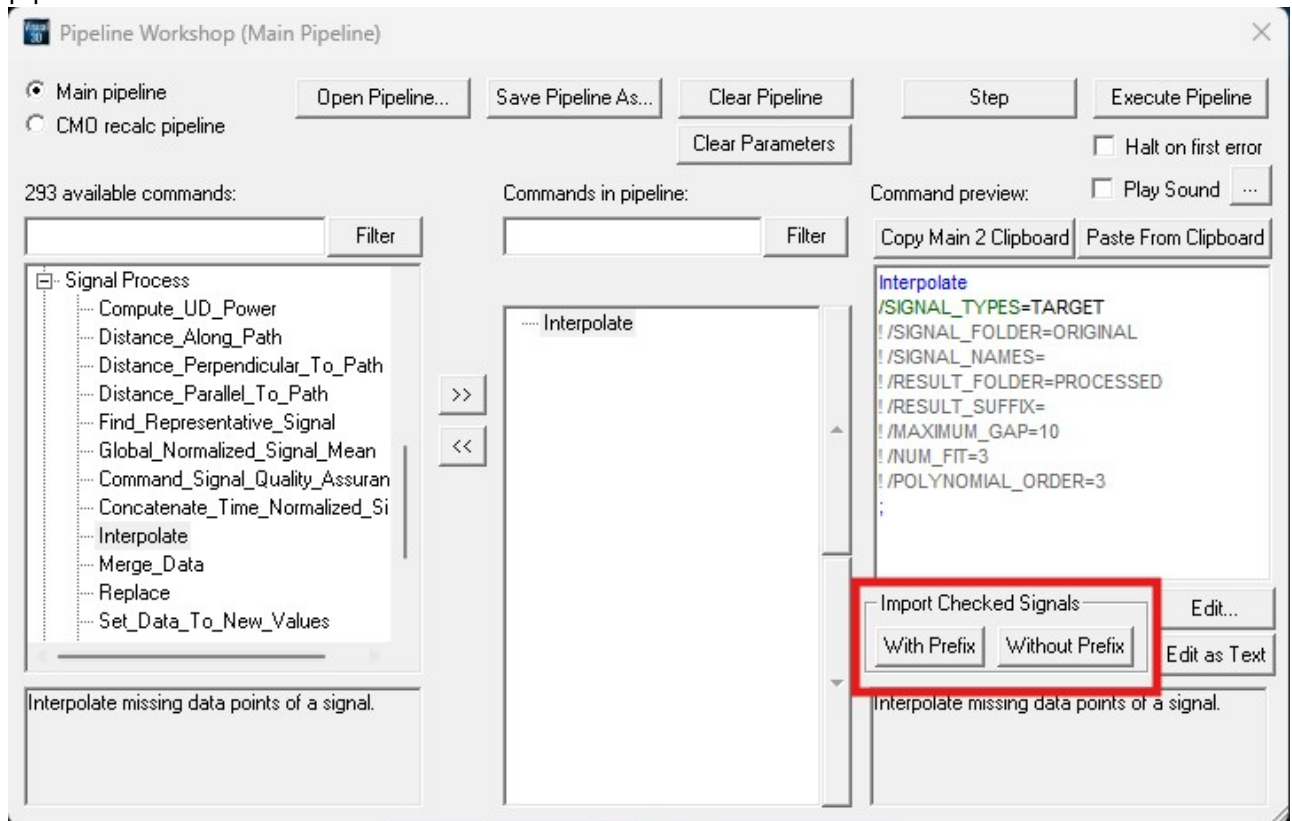
The preceding signal processing (e.g. interpolate then filter) can be accomplished using the Command Pipeline.

**NOTE: Steps 4 and 5 should not both be done. If you choose to use step 4 and process the signals manually, you should not then use Step 5.**

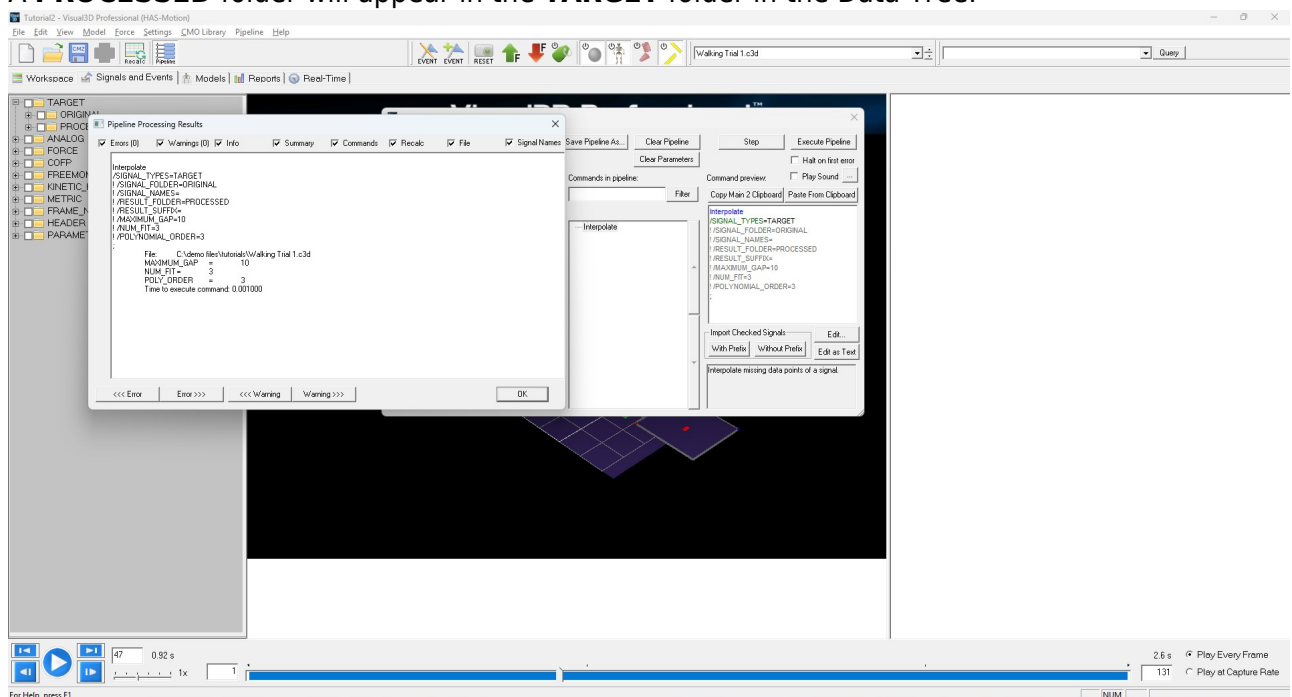
1. Launch the Command Pipeline Dialog by clicking the pipeline button  on the toolbar, or by pressing F11.



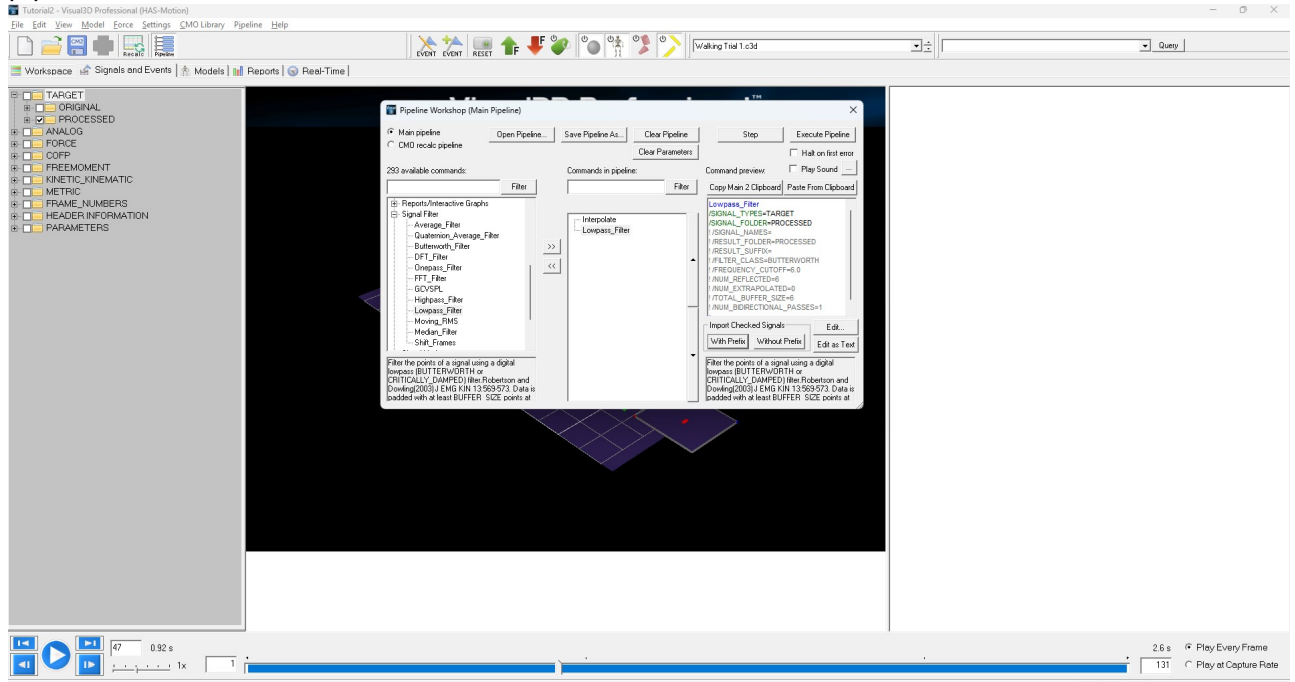
- Expand the **TARGET** folder in the data tree (in Signal and Event Processing Mode) and select the check box beside the **ORIGINAL** folder.
- Expand the **Signal Processing** folder in the list of Pipeline Commands
- Double click on the **Interpolate** to load the command into the pipeline
- Click on **Import Checked Signals from Tree** button, which will add the checked signals to the pipeline command.



- Select the **Execute Pipeline** button to execute the interpolate command.
- When you execute the pipeline, Visual3D executes in order all commands in the pipeline. A dialog will appear with the results of the processing. It lists the output of each command and highlights any errors. Pipelines are useful for ordering a set of tasks so that they always occur in the same order. But pipelines must be set up precisely in order to work.
- A **PROCESSED** folder will appear in the **TARGET** folder in the Data Tree.



9. Expand the **TARGET** folder in the data tree (in Signal and Event Processing Mode) and select the check box beside the PROCESSED folder.
10. Expand the **Signal Filter** folder in the list of Pipeline Commands
11. Double click on the **Lowpass\_Filter** to load the command into the pipeline
12. Click on **Import Checked Signals from Tree** button, which will add the checked signals to the pipeline command.



13. Select the **Execute Pipeline** button to execute the interpolate command.
14. A dialog will appear with the results of the processing
15. A new **PROCESSED** folder will not appear in the **TARGET** folder in the Data Tree because the existing **PROCESSED** folder has now been updates to contain signals that have been **Interpolated and Filtered**. Check the signal processing history as described in the previous section.

## Signal Math

The **Signal Math** commands in the pipeline are mostly related to mathematical operations on signals, such as multiplying two signals.

If the processed signal is result of a command that includes more than one signal (e.g. adding two signals), it is not appropriate to store the new signal as a **PROCESSED** version of either one of the signal used. In this situation Visual3D stores the resulting signal into a folder labeled **DERIVED**. The user should be careful with **DERIVED** signals because they contain a variable number of components (e.g. 1 if ANALOG signals were used, 2 if TARGET signals were used, etc.)

The most powerful **Signal Math Command** is [Evaluate\\_Expression](#)

For example, to compute the absolute value of multiplying 2 signals use the following.

```
Evaluate_Expression
/Expression= abs(ANALOG::ORIGINAL::EMG1 * ANALOG::ORIGINAL::EMG2)
/Result_Name=EMG_MULT
```

```
/Result_Type=DERIVED  
/Result_Folder=PROCESSED  
;
```

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Proceed with next [Tutorial: Force Platforms](#)

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