
MSG

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USER GUIDE

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Multidimensional Spectral Grids (MSG) is an open-source software package that synthesizes stellar spectra and photometric colors via interpolation in pre-calculated grids. MSG is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the [GNU General Public License](#) as published by the [Free Software Foundation](#), version 3.

PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Why use MSG?

Synthesizing stellar spectra from first principles is a complicated endeavor, requiring a detailed understanding of radiative transfer and atomic physics, together with significant computational resources. Therefore, in most circumstances it's better to use one of the many pre-calculated grids of spectra published in the astrophysical literature (see, e.g., [Lanz & Hubeny, 2003](#); [Lanz & Hubeny, 2007](#); [Kirby, 2011](#); [de Laverny et al., 2012](#); [Husser et al., 2013](#); [Allende Prieto et al., 2018](#); [Chiavassa et al., 2018](#); [Zsargó et al., 2020](#)). However, even with these grids a significant obstacle remains: when photospheric parameters fall between the grid nodes, some kind of interpolation is necessary in order to evaluate a spectrum.

MSG is designed to solve this problem. It's not the first software package that offers stellar spectral interpolation (see, e.g., [FERRE](#), [Starfish](#) and [stsynphot](#)); however, with spectral interpolation as its *sole* focus, it offers a combination of features unmatched by other packages:

- scalability — MSG handles grids that are much larger (on disk) than available computer memory.
- extensibility — MSG handles grids with an arbitrary number of dimensions.
- portability — MSG is platform-agnostic and provides APIs for the programming languages (Fortran, C, Python) most commonly used in Astronomy.
- performance — MSG provides smooth and accurate interpolates with minimal computational cost.
- robustness — MSG gracefully handles missing data caused by holes and/or ragged boundaries in the grid.

Together, these features mean that MSG is flexible and powerful while remaining straightforward to use: it's the perfect condiment to add [flavor](#) to your science!.

1.2 Obtaining MSG

The source code for MSG is hosted in the [rhdtownsend/msg](#) git repository on [GitHub](#). Instructions for downloading and installing the software can be found in the [Quick Start](#) chapter.

1.3 Citing MSG

If you use MSG in your research, please cite the following papers:

- Townsend R. H. D., Lopez A., 2022, *Journal of Open-Source Software*, in preparation

Be sure to also cite the source of the grid data that you're using with MSG. For instance, if you're working with one of the *CAP18 grids*, you should cite [Allende Prieto et al. \(2018\)](#).

1.4 Development Team

MSG remains under active development by the following team:

- [Rich Townsend](#) (University of Wisconsin-Madison); project leader
- [Aaron Lopez](#)

1.5 Related Links

- The [MESA Software Development Kit \(SDK\)](#), which provides the compilers and supporting libraries needed to build MSG.

1.6 Acknowledgments

MSG has been developed with financial support from the following grants:

- NSF awards ACI-1663696 and AST-1716436;
- NASA award 80NSSC20K0515.

QUICK START

To get started with MSG, follow these simple steps:

- Install the [MESA Software Development Kit](#).
- Download the [MSG source code](#).
- Unpack the source code using the **tar** utility.
- Set the `MSG_DIR` environment variable to point to the newly created source directory.
- Compile MSG using the command **make -C \$MSG_DIR**.
- Test MSG using the command **make -C \$MSG_DIR test**.
- Install the [pymsg](#) Python module using the command **pip install \$MSG_DIR/python**.

(the last step can be skipped if you don't plan to use the Python interface).

For a more in-depth installation guide that covers alternative use-cases, refer to the [Installation](#) chapter. If the code doesn't compile properly, consult the [Troubleshooting](#) chapter. Otherwise, proceed to the next chapter where you'll undertake your first MSG calculations.

WALKTHROUGHS

The best way to familiarize yourself with MSG is use it. This chapter provides example walkthroughs in Python, Fortran, and C, each focused on calculating the spectrum and colors of [Sirius](#) (α Canis Majoris A).

3.1 Python Walkthrough

This section walks through using the MSG Python interface to evaluate spectra and photometric colors for a model of Sirius. The code fragments are presented as a sequence of [Jupyter](#) notebook cells, but pasting all of them into a Python script should work also. Alternatively, the entire notebook (including this text) is available in the source distribution at `$MSG_DIR/docs/source/user-guide/walkthroughs/python-walkthrough.ipynb`.

3.1.1 Preparation

Before starting Jupyter, make sure that you have installed the [pymsg](#) package as described in the [Quick Start](#) and/or [Installation](#) chapters. Also, ensure that the [NumPy](#), [Matplotlib](#) and [Astropy](#) packages are installed on your system. Finally, confirm that the `MSG_DIR` environment variable is set.

3.1.2 Initialization

Launch Jupyter, create a new Python3 notebook, and initialize the notebook with the following statements:

```
[1]: # Import standard modules

import os
import numpy as np
import astropy.constants as con
import astropy.units as unt
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Import pymsg

import pymsg

# Set plot parameters

%matplotlib inline
plt.rcParams.update({'font.size': 16})
```

3.1.3 Loading & Inspecting the Demo Grid

For demonstration purposes MSG includes a low-resolution `specgrid` (spectroscopic grid) file, `$MSG_DIR/data/grids/sg-demo.h5`¹. Load this demo grid into memory² by creating a new `pymsg.SpecGrid` object:

```
[2]: # Load the SpecGrid

MSG_DIR = os.environ['MSG_DIR']
GRID_DIR = os.path.join(MSG_DIR, 'data', 'grids')

specgrid_file_name = os.path.join(GRID_DIR, 'sg-demo.h5')

specgrid = pymsg.SpecGrid(specgrid_file_name)
```

This object has a number of (read-only) properties that inform us about the parameter space spanned by the grid:

```
[3]: # Inspect grid parameters

print('Grid parameters:')

for label in specgrid.axis_labels:
    print(f' {label} [{specgrid.axis_x_min[label]} -> {specgrid.axis_x_max[label]}]')

print(f' lam [{specgrid.lam_min} -> {specgrid.lam_max}]')

Grid parameters:
  Teff [3500.0 -> 50000.0]
  log(g) [0.0 -> 5.0]
  lam [2999.999999999977 -> 9003.490078514782]
```

Here, T_{eff} and $\log(g)$ correspond (respectively) to the T_{eff}/K and $\log_{10}(g/\text{cm s}^{-2})$ photospheric parameters, while lam is wavelength $\lambda/\text{\AA}$.

3.1.4 Plotting the Flux

With the grid loaded, let's evaluate and plot a flux spectrum for Sirius A. First, store the photospheric parameters for the star in a dict:

```
[4]: # Set Sirius A's fundamental parameters

M = 2.02 * con.M_sun
R = 1.71 * con.R_sun
L = 25.4 * con.L_sun

p = 0.379
d = 1/p * con.pc

# Set photospheric parameters dict

Teff = (L/(4*np.pi*R**2*con.sigma_sb))**0.25/unt.K
logg = np.log10(con.G*M/R**2/(unt.cm/unt.s**2))
```

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¹ Larger grids can be downloaded separately; see the *Grid Files* appendix.

² Behind the scenes, the data in the `specgrid` file are loaded on demand; see the *Data Caching* chapter for further details.

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```
x = {'Teff': Teff, 'log(g)': logg}
print(Teff, logg)
```

```
9909.16258994498 4.277426775965449
```

(the mass, radius and luminosity data are taken from [Liebert et al., 2005](#), while the parallax comes from [Simbad](#)). Then set up a uniformly-spaced wavelength abscissa for a spectrum spanning the visible range, 3 000 Å to 7 000 Å.

```
[5]: # Set up the wavelength abscissa

lam_min = 3000.
lam_max = 7000.

lam = np.linspace(lam_min, lam_max, 501)

lam_c = 0.5*(lam[1:] + lam[:-1])
```

Here, the array `lam` defines the boundaries of 500 wavelength bins $\{\lambda_i, \lambda_{i+1}\}$ ($i = 1, \dots, 500$) and the array `lam_c` stores the central wavelength of each bin.

With all our parameters defined, evaluate the observed flux using a call to the `pymsg.SpecGrid.flux()` method, and then plot it:

```
[6]: # Evaluate the observed flux

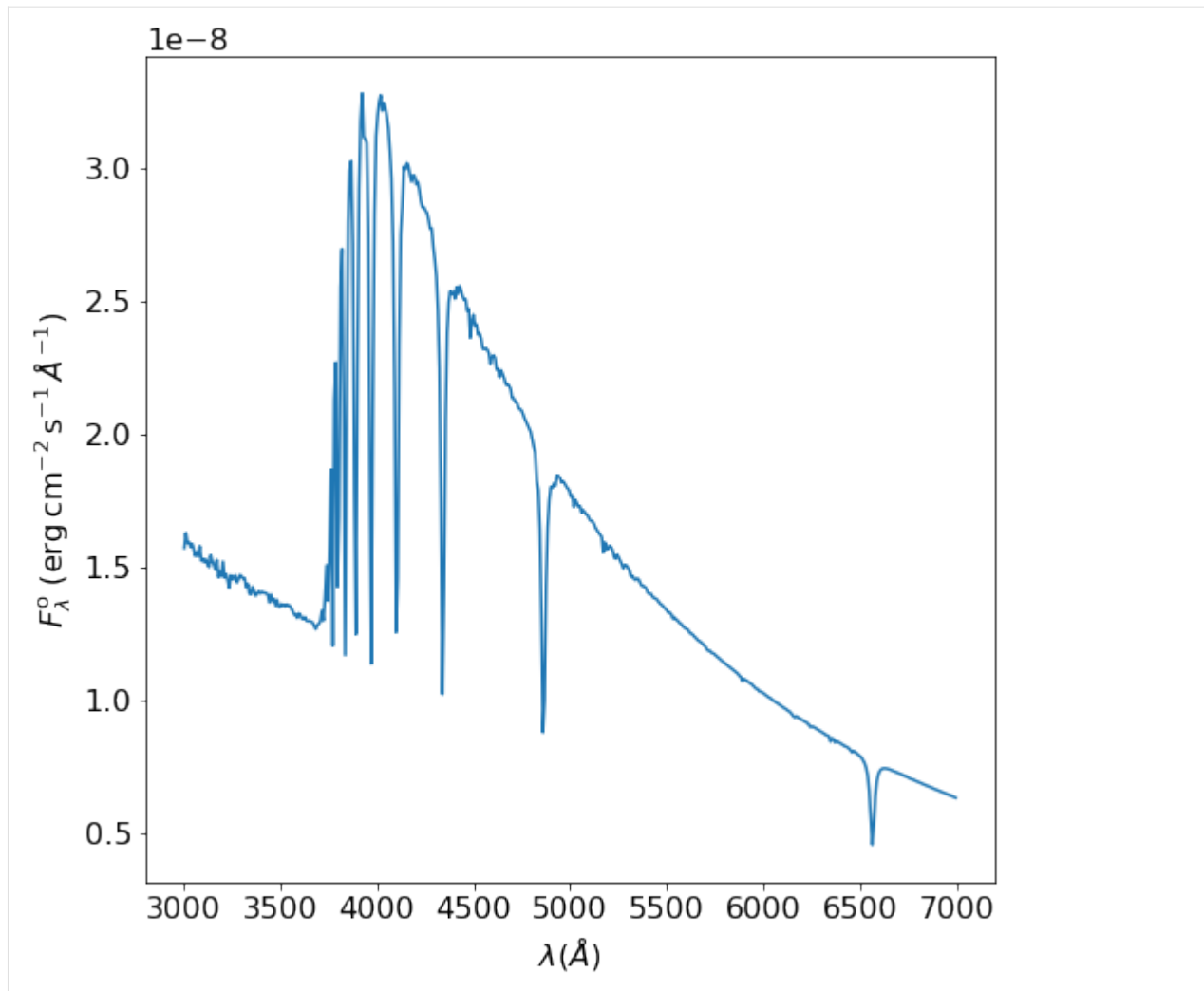
F_obs = (R/d)**2*specgrid.flux(x, lam)

# Plot

plt.figure(figsize=[8,8])
plt.plot(lam_c, F_obs)

plt.xlabel(r'$\lambda$ (Å)')
plt.ylabel(r'$F^{\mathrm{o}}_{\lambda}$ (erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ Å$^{-1}$)')

[6]: Text(0, 0.5, '$F^{\mathrm{o}}_{\lambda}$ (erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ Å$^{-1}$)')
↪')
```



(See equation (4.7) of the *MSG Fundamentals* chapter to understand the origin of the expression for F_{obs}). The plot looks about right — we can clearly see the Balmer series, starting with $H\alpha$ at 6563 Å.

3.1.5 Plotting the Intensity

Sometimes we want to know the specific intensity of the radiation emerging from each element of a star's surface; an example might be when we're modeling a rotationally distorted star, whose surface geometry and properties vary with latitude. For this, we can use the `pymsg.SpecGrid.intensity()` method.

Here's a demonstration of this method in action, plotting the specific intensity across the $H\alpha$ line profile for ten different values of the emergence direction cosine $\mu = 0.1, 0.2, \dots, 1.0$.

```
[7]: # Set up the wavelength abscissa

lam_min = 6300.
lam_max = 6800.

lam = np.linspace(lam_min, lam_max, 100)
```

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```

lam_c = 0.5*(lam[1:] + lam[:-1])

# Loop over mu

plt.figure(figsize=[8,8])

for mu in np.linspace(1.0, 0.1, 10):

    # Evaluate the intensity

    I = specgrid.intensity(x, mu, lam)

    # Plot

    if mu==0.1 or mu==1.0:
        label=r'$\mu={:3.1f}$'.format(mu)
    else:
        label=None

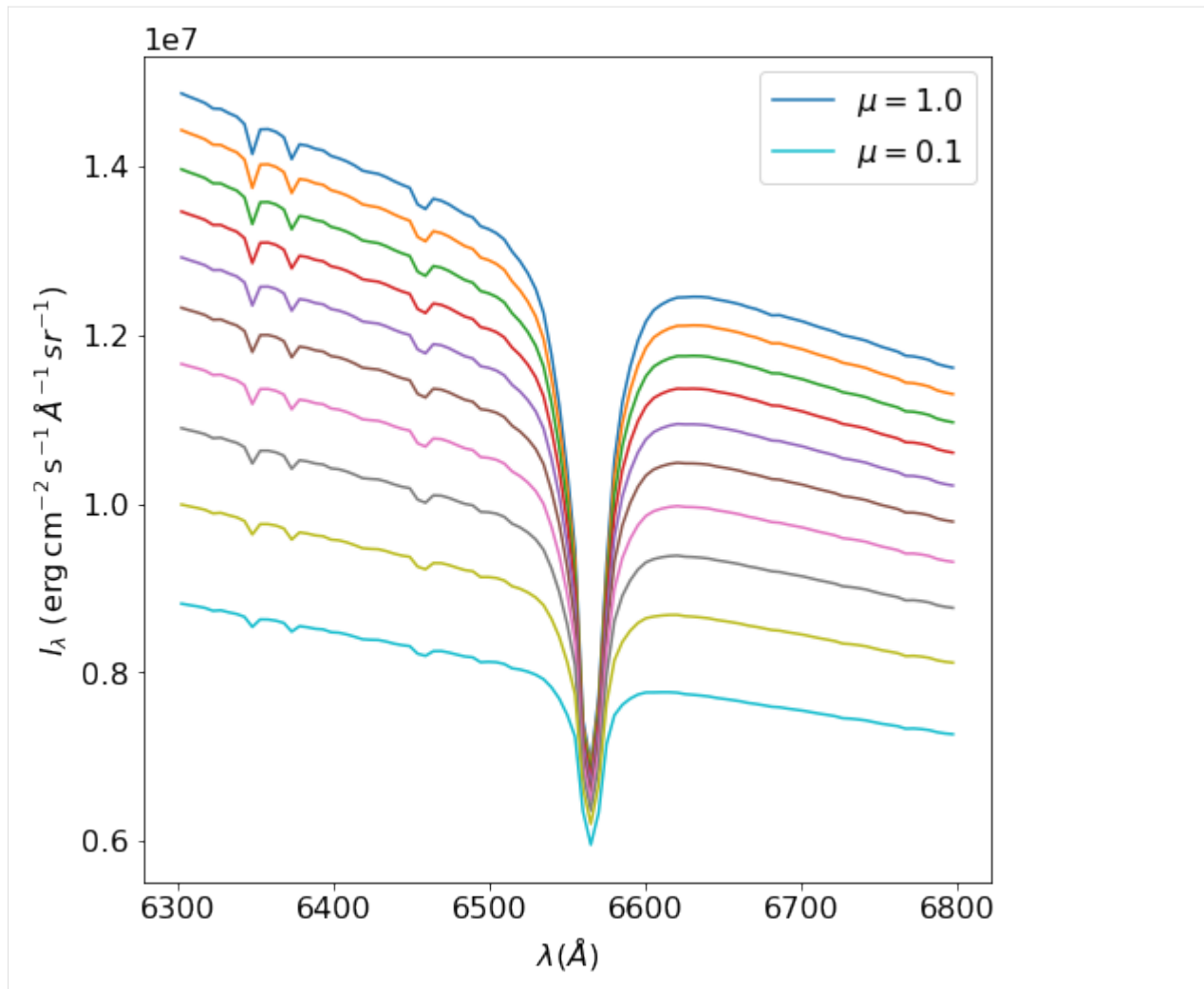
    plt.plot(lam_c, I, label=label)

plt.xlabel(r'$\lambda$ ({AA})$')
plt.ylabel(r'$I_{\lambda}$ (erg cm-2 s-1 Å-1 sr-1)$')

plt.legend()

```

[7]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7ff643465670>



We can clearly see that limb-darkening in the line core is much weaker than in the continuum — exactly what we expect from such a strong line.

3.1.6 Evaluating Magnitudes & Colors

As a final step in this walkthrough, let's evaluate the magnitude and colors of Sirius A in the Johnson photometric system. We can do this by creating a new `pymsg.PhotGrid` object for each passband:

[8]: `# Load the PhotGrids`

```
PASS_DIR = os.path.join(MSG_DIR, 'data', 'passbands')
filters = ['U', 'B', 'V']

photgrids = {}

for filter in filters:
    passband_file_name = os.path.join(PASS_DIR, f'pb-Generic-Johnson.{filter}-Vega.h5')
    photgrids[filter] = pymsg.PhotGrid(specgrid_file_name, passband_file_name)
```

(for convenience, we store the `pymsg.PhotGrid` objects in a dict, keyed by filter name). In the calls to the object

constructor `pymsg.PhotGrid()`, the first argument is the name of a `specgrid` file (here, the demo grid), and the second argument is the name of a `passband` file; a limited set of these files is provided in the `$MSG_DIR/data/passbands` subdirectory³. The observed fluxes of Sirius A are then found using the `pymsg.PhotGrid.flux()` method:

```
[9]: # Evaluate the observed fluxes (each normalized to the passband
# zero-point flux)

F_obs = {}

for filter in filters:
    F_obs[filter] = (R/d)**2*photgrids[filter].flux(x)
```

To convert these into apparent magnitudes, we apply Pogson's logarithmic formula:

```
[10]: # Evaluate apparent magnitudes and print out magnitude & colors

mags = {}

for filter in filters:
    mags[filter] = -2.5*np.log10(F_obs[filter])

print(f"V={mags['V']}, U-B={mags['U']-mags['B']}, B-V={mags['B']-mags['V']}")
V=-1.4466779855804992, U-B=-0.05964681835037444, B-V=0.001121934559611848
```

Reassuringly, the resulting values are within 10 millimag of Sirius A's apparent V-band magnitude and colors, as given by *Simbad*.

3.2 Fortran Walkthrough

This section reprises the steps of the *Python Walkthrough* — evaluating spectra and photometric colors for Sirius A — but now using the MSG Fortran interface.

3.2.1 Preparation

In your working directory, create a new file `fortran-walkthrough.f90` with the following source code:

```
program fortran_walkthrough

    ! Uses

    use forum_m
    use fmsg_m

    ! No implicit typing

    implicit none

    ! Parameters
```

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³ Passband definition files for other instruments/photometric systems can be downloaded separately; see the *Passband Files* appendix.

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```

real(RD), parameter :: lam_min = 3000._RD
real(RD), parameter :: lam_max = 7000._RD
integer, parameter :: n_lam = 501

! Variables

type(specgrid_t)      :: specgrid
type(axis_t)          :: axis
character(LABEL_LEN) :: label
integer               :: i
real(RD)              :: R2_d2
real(RD)              :: lam(n_lam)
real(RD)              :: lam_c(n_lam-1)
real(RD)              :: x_vec(2)
real(RD)              :: F(n_lam-1)
real(RD)              :: F_obs(n_lam-1)
integer               :: unit
type(photgrid_t)      :: photgrid_U
type(photgrid_t)      :: photgrid_B
type(photgrid_t)      :: photgrid_V
real(RD)              :: F_U
real(RD)              :: F_B
real(RD)              :: F_V
real(RD)              :: F_U_obs
real(RD)              :: F_B_obs
real(RD)              :: F_V_obs
real(RD)              :: U
real(RD)              :: B
real(RD)              :: V

! Load the specgrid

call load_specgrid('sg-demo.h5', specgrid)

! Set photospheric parameters to correspond to Sirius A

do i = 1, 2

    call specgrid%get_axis(i, axis)
    call axis%get_label(label)

    select case(label)
    case('log(g)')
        x_vec(i) = 4.2774_RD
    case('Teff')
        x_vec(i) = 9909.2_RD
    case default
        stop 'unrecognized axis label'
    end select

end do

```

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```

! Set the dilution factor R2_d2 = R**2/d**2, where R is Sirius A's
! radius and d its distance

R2_d2 = 2.1351E-16_RD

! Set up the wavelength abscissa

lam = [(lam_min*(n_lam-i) + lam_max*(i-1))/(n_lam-1), i=1,n_lam]

lam_c = 0.5_RD*(lam(:n_lam-1) + lam(2:))

! Evaluate the observed flux

call specgrid%interp_flux(x_vec, lam, F)

F_obs = R2_d2*F

! Write it to a file

open(NEWUNIT=unit, FILE='spectrum.dat', STATUS='REPLACE')

do i = 1, n_lam-1
    write(unit, *) lam_c(i), F_obs(i)
end do

close(unit)

! Load the photgrids

call load_photgrid_from_specgrid('sg-demo.h5', 'pb-Generic-Johnson.U-Vega.h5',
↳ photgrid_U)
call load_photgrid_from_specgrid('sg-demo.h5', 'pb-Generic-Johnson.B-Vega.h5',
↳ photgrid_B)
call load_photgrid_from_specgrid('sg-demo.h5', 'pb-Generic-Johnson.V-Vega.h5',
↳ photgrid_V)

! Evaluate fluxes

call photgrid_U%interp_flux(x_vec, F_U)
call photgrid_B%interp_flux(x_vec, F_B)
call photgrid_V%interp_flux(x_vec, F_V)

F_U_obs = R2_d2*F_U
F_B_obs = R2_d2*F_B
F_V_obs = R2_d2*F_V

! Evaluate apparent magnitudes

U = -2.5_RD*LOG10(F_U_obs)
B = -2.5_RD*LOG10(F_B_obs)
V = -2.5_RD*LOG10(F_V_obs)

```

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```

print *, ' V=', V
print *, 'U-B=', U-B
print *, 'B-V=', B-V

! Finish

end program fortran_walkthrough

```

A few brief comments on the code:

- The use `forum_m` statement provides access to the [Fortran Utility Module \(ForUM\)](#). For the purposes of the demo program, this module defines the *RD* kind type parameter for double precision real variables.
- The use `fmsg_m` statement provides access to the MSG Fortran interface. Primarily, this interface serves to define the *specgrid_t* and *photgrid_t* datatypes.
- Because Fortran doesn't have dict datatypes, the photospheric parameters must be passed to MSG as a plain array (here, stored in the variable `x_vec`). A `select case` construct is used to make sure the correct values are stored in each array element.

3.2.2 Compiling

The next step is to compile the demo program. Make sure the `MSG_DIR` environment variable is set, as described in the [Quick Start](#) chapter. Then, enter the following on the command line:

```
$ gfortran -o fortran-walkthrough fortran-walkthrough.f90 -I$MSG_DIR/include `MSG_DIR/scripts/fmsg_link`
```

The `-I$MSG_DIR/include` option tells the compiler where to find the module definition (`.mod`) files, while the `$MSG_DIR/scripts/fmsg_link` clause (note the enclosing backticks) runs a link script that returns the compiler flags necessary to link the program against the appropriate libraries.

3.2.3 Running

To run the code, first create a symbolic link to the demo grid:

```
$ ln -s $MSG_DIR/data/grids/sg-demo.h5
```

Then, execute the command

```
$ ./fortran-walkthrough
```

The code will create a file `spectrum.dat` containing the flux spectrum for Sirius A (as an ASCII table), and print out the apparent V-band magnitude and colors of the star.

3.3 C Walkthrough

This section reprises the steps of the [Python Walkthrough](#) — evaluating spectra and photometric colors for Sirius A — but now using the MSG C interface.

3.3.1 Preparation

In your working directory, create a new file `c-walkthrough.c` with the following source code:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <string.h>

#include "cmsg.h"

#define N_LAM 501
#define LAM_MIN 3000.
#define LAM_MAX 7000.

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {

    SpecGrid specgrid;
    PhotGrid photgrid_U;
    PhotGrid photgrid_B;
    PhotGrid photgrid_V;

    char label[17];

    double x_vec[2];

    double R2_d2;

    double lam[N_LAM];
    double lam_c[N_LAM-1];
    double F[N_LAM-1];
    double F_obs[N_LAM-1];
    double F_U;
    double F_B;
    double F_V;
    double F_U_obs;
    double F_B_obs;
    double F_V_obs;
    double U;
    double B;
    double V;

    FILE *fptr;

    // Load the specgrid

    load_specgrid("sg-demo.h5", &specgrid, NULL);

    // Set photospheric parameters to correspond to Sirius A

    for(int i=0; i < 2; i++) {

        get_specgrid_axis_label(specgrid, i, label);
```

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```

    if (strcmp(label, "log(g)") == 0) {
        x_vec[i] = 4.2774;
    }
    else if (strcmp(label, "Teff") == 0) {
        x_vec[i] = 9909.2;
    }
    else {
        printf("invalid label\n");
        exit(1);
    }
}

// Set the dilution factor R2_d2 = R**2/d**2, where R is Sirius A's
// radius and d its distance

R2_d2 = 2.1351E-16;

// Set up the wavelength abscissa

for(int i=0; i < N_LAM; i++) {
    lam[i] = (LAM_MIN*(N_LAM-1-i) + LAM_MAX*i)/(N_LAM-1);
}

for(int i=0; i < N_LAM-1; i++) {
    lam_c[i] = 0.5*(lam[i] + lam[i+1]);
}

// Evaluate the flux

interp_specgrid_flux(specgrid, x_vec, N_LAM, lam, F, NULL, NULL);

for(int i=0; i < N_LAM-1; i++) {
    F_obs[i] = R2_d2*F[i];
}

// Write it to a file

fptr = fopen("spectrum.dat", "w");

for(int i=0; i < N_LAM-1; i++) {
    fprintf(fptr, "%.17e %.17e\n", lam_c[i], F_obs[i]);
}

fclose(fptr);

// Load the photgrids

load_photgrid_from_specgrid("sg-demo.h5", "pb-Generic-Johnson.U-Vega.h5", &photgrid_U,
↪NULL);
load_photgrid_from_specgrid("sg-demo.h5", "pb-Generic-Johnson.B-Vega.h5", &photgrid_B,

```

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```

↪NULL);
    load_photgrid_from_specgrid("sg-demo.h5", "pb-Generic-Johnson.V-Vega.h5", &photgrid_V,
↪NULL);

    // Evaluate fluxes

    interp_photgrid_flux(photgrid_U, x_vec, &F_U, NULL, NULL);
    interp_photgrid_flux(photgrid_B, x_vec, &F_B, NULL, NULL);
    interp_photgrid_flux(photgrid_V, x_vec, &F_V, NULL, NULL);

    F_U_obs = R2_d2*F_U;
    F_B_obs = R2_d2*F_B;
    F_V_obs = R2_d2*F_V;

    // Evaluate apparent magnitudes

    U = -2.5*log10(F_U_obs);
    B = -2.5*log10(F_B_obs);
    V = -2.5*log10(F_V_obs);

    printf("  V=  %.17e\n", V);
    printf("U-B=  %.17e\n", U-B);
    printf("B-V=  %.17e\n", B-V);

    // Clean up

    unload_specgrid(specgrid);

    unload_photgrid(photgrid_U);
    unload_photgrid(photgrid_B);
    unload_photgrid(photgrid_V);

    // Finish

    exit(0);
}

```

A few brief comments on the code:

- The `#include "cmsg.h"` statement includes the header definitions for the MSG C interface.
- Because C doesn't have dict datatypes, the photospheric parameters must be passed to MSG as a plain array (here, stored in the variable `x_vec`). A loop with `strcmp()` calls is used to make sure the correct values are stored in each array element.
- Many of the calls to MSG routines (e.g., `load_specgrid()`, `interp_specgrid_flux()`) contain NULL trailing arguments; these correspond to omitted optional arguments.

3.3.2 Compiling

The next step is to compile the demo program. Make sure the MSG_DIR environment variable is set, as described in the *Quick Start* chapter. Then, enter the following on the command line:

```
$ gcc -o c-walkthrough c-walkthrough.c -I$MSG_DIR/include `MSG_DIR/scripts/cmsg_link`
```

The `-I$MSG_DIR/include` option tells the compiler where to find the header file, while the `$MSG_DIR/scripts/cmsg_link` clause (note the enclosing backticks) runs a link script that returns the compiler flags necessary to link the program against the appropriate libraries.

3.3.3 Running

To run the code, first create a symbolic link to the demo grid:

```
$ ln -s $MSG_DIR/data/grids/sg-demo.h5
```

Then, execute the command

```
$ ./c-walkthrough
```

The code will create a file `spectrum.dat` containing the flux spectrum for Sirius A (as an ASCII table), and print out the apparent V-band magnitude and colors of the star.

MSG FUNDAMENTALS

This chapter expands on the *Walkthroughs*, by describing in detail how MSG evaluates stellar spectra and photometric colors. It also aims to clarify the variety of different concepts that are often lumped together under the name ‘spectrum’.

4.1 Elemental Spectra

The radiation emitted by a small element of a star’s surface is most completely characterized by the specific intensity $I_\lambda(\lambda; \hat{\mathbf{s}}; \mathbf{x})$. This quantity is defined such that energy passing through the element into a solid angle $d\Omega$ oriented along the unit direction vector $\hat{\mathbf{s}}$, and within wavelength interval $[\lambda, \lambda + d\lambda]$ and time interval dt , is

$$dE = I_\lambda(\lambda; \hat{\mathbf{s}}; \mathbf{x}) \hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} d\Omega d\lambda dt dA.$$

Here, dA is the area of the surface element, $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ is the unit surface normal vector, and $\mathbf{x}$ is a vector specifying the photospheric parameters of the element — for instance, its effective temperature T_{eff} and gravity g . Integrating this equation over all solid angles yields the net energy passing through the element in the wavelength and time intervals:

$$E = F_\lambda(\lambda; \mathbf{x}) dt dA, \tag{4.1}$$

where the flux is introduced as

$$F_\lambda(\lambda; \mathbf{x}) \equiv \int I_\lambda(\lambda; \hat{\mathbf{s}}; \mathbf{x}) \hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} d\Omega. \tag{4.2}$$

Typically the radiation field is axisymmetric around $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$, and so I_λ depends on direction solely via the angle parameter $\mu \equiv \hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$. Then, the flux simplifies to

$$F_\lambda(\lambda; \mathbf{x}) = 2\pi \int_0^1 I_\lambda(\lambda; \mu; \mathbf{x}) \mu d\mu \tag{4.3}$$

(the lower bound on μ is set to 0 rather than -1 under the assumption that there is no external radiation at the stellar surface).

Both I_λ and F_λ can reasonably be dubbed a ‘spectrum’, as they each represent the distribution of electromagnetic energy with respect to wavelength. However, one should be careful to distinguish these *elemental* spectra from the *observed spectrum* of a star; this distinction is further clarified below.

Evaluating an elemental spectrum requires solution of the radiative transfer equation throughout the atmospheric layers composing the surface element. This is often far too computationally expensive to do on-the-fly. An alternative approach is to pre-calculate spectra across a multi-dimensional grid spanning a range of photospheric parameters, and then interpolate within this grid when an elemental spectrum is required for a specific $\mathbf{x}$. *This is the fundamental purpose of MSG.*

4.2 Evaluating Elemental Spectra

To evaluate an elemental specific intensity spectrum, MSG models the dependence of I_λ on each of its three arguments as follows:

- Wavelength dependence is represented using piecewise-constant functions.
- Angle dependence is represented using limb-darkening laws.
- Photospheric parameter dependence is represented using tensor surface interpolation.

The following subsections discuss these in greater detail.

4.2.1 Wavelength Dependence

The λ dependence of the specific intensity is represented as a piecewise-constant function on a wavelength abscissa $\lambda = \{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_M\}$:

$$I_\lambda(\lambda) = I_i \quad \lambda_i \leq \lambda < \lambda_{i+1}.$$

(for brevity, the dependence of I_λ on μ and $\mathbf{x}$ has been suppressed). Mapping intensity data onto a new abscissa $\lambda' = \{\lambda'_1, \lambda'_2, \dots, \lambda'_{M'}\}$ is performed conservatively, according to the expression

$$I'_i = \frac{\int_{\lambda'_i}^{\lambda'_{i+1}} I_\lambda(\lambda) d\lambda}{\lambda'_{i+1} - \lambda'_i}.$$

Beyond its simplicity, the advantage of this approach (as compared to higher-order interpolations) is that the equivalent width of line profiles is preserved.

4.2.2 Angle Dependence

The μ dependence of the specific intensity is represented using limb-darkening laws. Most familiar is the linear law

$$\frac{I_\lambda(\mu)}{I_\lambda(1)} = 1 - c[1 - \mu], \quad (4.4)$$

where $I_\lambda(1)$ represents the normally emergent ($\mu = 1$) intensity and c is the linear limb-darkening coefficient (as before, the dependence of the intensity on other parameters has been suppressed). An improved characterization involves additional μ -dependent terms on the right-hand side; for instance, the four-coefficient law devised by [Claret \(2000\)](#) is

$$\frac{I_\lambda(\mu)}{I_\lambda(1)} = 1 - \sum_{k=1}^4 c_k [1 - \mu^{k/2}], \quad (4.5)$$

where there are now four limb-darkening coefficients c_k .

The advantage of using limb-darkening laws is the ease with which other useful quantities can be calculated. For instance, the flux (4.3) can be evaluated analytically, as can any of the [Eddington \(1926\)](#) intensity moments (or *E-moments*, as MSG terms them):

$$\mathcal{E}_\lambda^i(\lambda; \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 I_\lambda(\lambda; \mu; \mathbf{x}) \mu^i d\mu.$$

MSG supports the following limb-darkening laws:

CONST

Constant law, where I_λ has no dependence on μ whatsoever. This is discussed further below.

LINEAR

Linear law given in equation (4.4) above.

SQRT

Square-root law introduced by Diaz-Cordoves & Gimenez (1992).

QUAD

Quadratic law introduced by Wade & Rucinski (1985).

CLARET

Four-coefficient law introduced by Claret (2000) and given in equation (4.5) above.

The choice of law is made during grid construction (see the *Grid Tools* appendix for more details). The coefficients appearing in the limb-darkening laws (e.g., c and c_k) are typically determined from least-squares fits to tabulations of the specific intensity. In cases where these tabulations include flux but not specific intensity data, the *CONST* law is used; the angle-independent specific intensity is determined so that it produces the correct flux when evaluated using equation (4.3).

4.2.3 Photospheric Parameter Dependence

The photospheric parameter dependence of the specific intensity is represented using cubic Hermite tensor product interpolation. The appendices provide a *(relatively) gentle introduction to tensor product interpolation*. The short version is that the intensity is modeled via piecewise-cubic functions of each component of $\mathbf{x}$, constructed to be continuous and smooth at the join between each piecewise region. The derivatives at these joins are estimated using second-order finite difference approximations involving neighboring points (or first-order at grid boundaries).

Grids often contain holes and/or ragged boundaries (the latter typically arising near the edge of the region of the $T_{\text{eff}} - g$ plane corresponding to super-Eddington luminosity). When an interpolation tries to access such missing data, MSG either switches to a lower-order scheme, or (if there simply aren't sufficient data to interpolate) signals an exception (see the *Exception Handling* chapter for further details).

4.3 Observed Spectra

Suppose we observe a star from Earth, at a distance d along unit direction vector $\hat{\mathbf{d}}$. The energy measured by a detector of area A° , within the usual wavelength and time intervals, is

$$E^\circ = F_\lambda^\circ(\lambda) dt A^\circ$$

(here and subsequently the superscript $^\circ$ should be read as ‘observed’), where the observed flux is introduced as

$$F_\lambda^\circ(\lambda) \equiv \frac{1}{d^2} \int_{\text{vis.}} I_\lambda(\lambda; -\hat{\mathbf{d}}; \mathbf{x}) [-\hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}] dA. \quad (4.6)$$

The integral here is similar to that in equation (4.2), but $\hat{\mathbf{s}}$ has been replaced by $-\hat{\mathbf{d}}$, the solid angle element $d\Omega$ has been replaced by dA/d^2 , and the bounds of the integral are limited to the parts of the stellar surface that are visible from Earth.

However, for stars that are spherical and have photospheric parameters that don't vary across their surface, further simplifications can be made. Let θ and ϕ be the colatitude and azimuth angles in a spherical coordinate system centered on the star and with polar axis antiparallel to $\hat{\mathbf{d}}$. Then, the observed flux becomes

$$F_\lambda^\circ(\lambda) = \frac{R^2}{d^2} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} I_\lambda(\lambda; -\hat{\mathbf{d}}; \mathbf{x}) \cos \theta \sin \theta d\theta d\phi,$$

where R is the stellar radius. Assuming an axisymmetric radiation field, this further reduces to

$$F_{\lambda}^o(\lambda) = 2\pi \frac{R^2}{d^2} \int_0^{\pi/2} I_{\lambda}(\lambda; \cos \theta; \mathbf{x}) \cos \theta \sin \theta d\theta.$$

With the substitution $\mu = \cos \theta$ (replacing a spatial coordinate θ with a directional one μ) the result pops out that

$$F_{\lambda}^o(\lambda) = \frac{R^2}{d^2} F_{\lambda}(\lambda; \mathbf{x}). \quad (4.7)$$

Don't be fooled by the apparent triviality of this result: it means that we need only the elemental flux spectrum, and not the specific intensity, to calculate the observed spectrum of a star. This is why many spectral grids in the literature include flux spectra instead of specific intensity spectra.

However, remember that equation (4.7) applies only for spherically symmetric and fixed- $\mathbf{x}$ stars. In more complex situations, for instance when a star is rotationally oblate, spotted, pulsating or even eclipsed, evaluation of F_{λ}^o must proceed via the visible-disk integration appearing in equation (4.6), which requires the specific intensity.

4.4 Photometric Colors

To evaluate a photometric color, MSG convolves stellar spectra with an appropriate passband response function $S'(\lambda)$. This function represents the combined sensitivity of the optical pathway, filter and detector. The passband-averaged specific intensity is defined as

$$\bar{I}(\hat{\mathbf{s}}; \mathbf{x}) = \int_0^{\infty} I_{\lambda}(\lambda; \hat{\mathbf{s}}; \mathbf{x}) S'(\lambda) d\lambda \bigg/ \int_0^{\infty} S'(\lambda) d\lambda, \quad (4.8)$$

meaning that $S'(\lambda)$ is interpreted as an *energy* response function (see appendix A of [Bessell & Murphy, 2012](#) for a discussion of the relationship between S' and the corresponding photon response function S). The passband-averaged observed flux follows from equation (4.6) as

$$\bar{F}^o = \frac{1}{d^2} \int_{\text{vis.}} \bar{I}(-\hat{\mathbf{d}}; \mathbf{x}) [-\hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}] dA,$$

and the apparent magnitude of the star is

$$m = -2.5 \log_{10} \left(\frac{\bar{F}^o}{F_0} \right),$$

where the normalizing flux F_0 is set by the zero-point of the photometric system.

The convolution in (4.8) can be performed before or after the interpolations discussed above:

- the ‘before’ option performs the convolution as a pre-processing step using the **specgrid_to_photgrid** tool to create a **photgrid** file from a **specgrid** file (as discussed in the [Importing Data](#) section). This is computationally more efficient, but requires a separate **photgrid** file to be created for each passband.
- the ‘after’ option loads data from a **specgrid** file, but performs the convolution on-the-fly after each spectrum is interpolated. This is computationally less efficient, but incurs no storage requirements beyond the **specgrid** file.

DATA FILES

This chapter discusses the files in which MSG stores its data. These files adopt the [HDF5 data format](#), a platform-neutral binary storage format with advanced features such as transparent decompression.

5.1 File Types

There are five types of MSG data files, distinguished by their differing content:

- [specint](#) files store spectroscopic intensity data for a single combination of photospheric parameters.
- [photint](#) files store photometric intensity data for a single combination of photospheric parameters.
- [specgrid](#) files store spectroscopic intensity data over a grid of photospheric parameters.
- [photgrid](#) files store photometric intensity data over a grid of photospheric parameters.
- [passband](#) files store passband response functions, used to convert spectroscopic intensities into corresponding photometric intensities.

For a detailed description of each file type, refer to the [Data Schema](#) chapter.

5.2 Obtaining Data

MSG ships with a limited set of data files, sufficient to enable the [walkthroughs](#). Additional files can be downloaded separately from the [Grid Files](#) and [Passband Files](#) appendices.

5.3 Importing Data

To import an existing spectroscopic grid into MSG, first convert the individual spectra into corresponding [specint](#) files. MSG provides a number of tools to assist with this conversion; see the [Grid Tools](#) appendix for further details.

The next step is to create a manifest (named, say, `manifest.txt`) listing all the [specint](#) files composing the grid. This is a simple text file with each line naming one file; for instance:

```
specint-0001.h5
specint-0002.h5
specint-0003.h5
```

Then, run the `specint_to_specgrid` tool to create a [specgrid](#) file:

```
$ $MSG_DIR/bin/specint_to_specgrid manifest.txt specgrid.h5
```

To build a [photgrid](#) file from the data in a [specgrid](#) file, run the **specgrid_to_photgrid** tool:

```
$ $MSG_DIR/bin/specgrid_to_photgrid specgrid.h5 passband.h5 photgrid.h5
```

... where `passband.h5` is the name of the [passband](#) file to use. Note that it's not always necessary to create a [photgrid](#) file, as MSG can convolve with passbands on the fly (as discussed in the *Photometric Colors* section).

DATA CACHING

This chapter discusses MSG's data caching, a key component of its performance and scalability. Each instance of a grid data type (e.g., `specgrid_t` in Fortran, or `pymsg.PhotGrid` in Python) has an associated cache that temporarily stores spectroscopic and/or photometric data for use in interpolations. This grid cache is initially empty when the instance is created, but grows in size as data are loaded on-demand from disk. Eventually, once a user-definable size limit is reached, old data are discarded from the cache to make room for new.

6.1 Caching Demo

With its caching functionality, MSG can in principle work with grids that are much larger on disk than available computer memory. The following Python code fragments showcase this capability, while also illustrating the basics of inspecting and controlling a grid cache.

To get started, download the `sg-CAP18-coarse.h5` spectroscopic grid from the *CAP18 Grids* appendix, storing it your working directory. Then, initialize MSG and load the grid:

```
[1]: # Import standard modules

import sys
import os
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import random as rn
import time

# Import pymsg

import pymsg

# Set plot parameters

%matplotlib inline
plt.rcParams.update({'font.size': 16})

# Load the SpecGrid

specgrid = pymsg.SpecGrid('sg-CAP18-coarse.h5')
```

Next, inspect the state of the cache attached to the `specgrid` object:

```
[11]: # Inspect the cache

print(f'cache usage: {specgrid.cache_usage} MB')
print(f'cache limit: {specgrid.cache_limit} MB')

cache usage: 128 MB
cache limit: 128 MB
```

The `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_usage` property reports the current memory usage (in megabytes) of the cache. Because we've just loaded `specgrid`, this usage is zero — no data have (yet) been read into memory. The `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_limit` property likewise specifies the maximum memory usage (again, in megabytes) of the cache. By default, this limit is set to 128 MB.

Let's define a function that interpolates the visible-spectrum flux for a randomly-chosen set of photospheric parameters. Since we're interested primarily in the behavior of the grid cache, the function returns its execution time rather than interpolation result.

```
[3]: # Random flux routine

def random_flux():

    start_time = time.process_time()

    # Set up the wavelength abscissa (visible-spectrum)

    lam_min = 3000.
    lam_max = 7000.

    lam = np.linspace(lam_min, lam_max, 1000)

    # Loop until a valid set of photospheric parameters is found

    while True:

        # Choose random photospheric parameters

        x = {}

        for label in specgrid.axis_labels:
            x[label] = rn.uniform(specgrid.axis_x_min[label], specgrid.axis_x_max[label])

        # Interpolate the flux, allowing for the fact that the
        # photospheric parameters may fall in a grid void

        try:
            F = specgrid.flux(x, lam)
            break
        except LookupError:
            pass

    end_time = time.process_time()

    return end_time-start_time
```

Running this function a few times (for now ignoring the return value), we can watch the cache fill up to the 128-MB

limit.

```
[4]: # Run random_flux three times

for i in range(3):
    random_flux()
    print(f'cache usage: {specgrid.cache_usage} MB')
```

```
cache usage: 86 MB
cache usage: 128 MB
cache usage: 128 MB
```

If needed this limit can be increased by changing the `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_limit` property, as this example demonstrates:

```
[5]: # Increase the cache limit to 256 MB

specgrid.cache_limit = 256

# Run random_flux three times

for i in range(3):
    random_flux()
    print(f'cache usage: {specgrid.cache_usage} MB')
```

```
cache usage: 215 MB
cache usage: 256 MB
cache usage: 256 MB
```

Finally, the contents of the cache can be flushed (and the memory freed up) with a call to the `pymsg.SpecGrid.flush_cache()` method:

```
[6]: # Flush the cache

print(f'cache usage: {specgrid.cache_usage} MB')

specgrid.flush_cache()

print(f'cache usage: {specgrid.cache_usage} MB')
```

```
cache usage: 256 MB
cache usage: 0 MB
```

6.2 Wavelength Subsetting

When working with spectroscopic grids, it's often the case one is interested only in a subset of the wavelength range covered by the grid. As an example, the `random_flux()` function defined above focuses on just the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum. In such cases, you can direct MSG to cache only the data within the subset by setting the `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_lam_min` and `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_lam_max` properties. This has the benefit of slowing the rate at which the cache fills up, as the following example demonstrates:

```
[7]: # Subset to the visible part of the spectrum
```

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```

specgrid.cache_lam_min = 3000.
specgrid.cache_lam_max = 7000.

# Run random_flux three times

for i in range(3):
    random_flux()
    print(f'cache usage: {specgrid.cache_usage} MB')

cache usage: 18 MB
cache usage: 30 MB
cache usage: 55 MB

```

(compare this against the cache growth in the preceding examples).

6.3 Performance Impact

Let's now explore how caching can have a significant impact on MSG's performance. Run the following code, which expands the cache limit further to 512 MB, and then calls `random_spectrum()` 300 times, storing the usage and execution time after each call:

```

[8]: # Flush the cache and set the limit to 512 MB

specgrid.flush_cache()
specgrid.cache_limit = 512

# Allocate usage & timing arrays

n = 300

cache_usages_512 = np.empty(n, dtype=int)
exec_timings_512 = np.empty(n)

# Call random_flux

for i in range(n):
    exec_timings_512[i] = random_flux()
    cache_usages_512[i] = specgrid.cache_usage

```

Then, plot the results:

```

[9]: # Plot cache usage and execution time

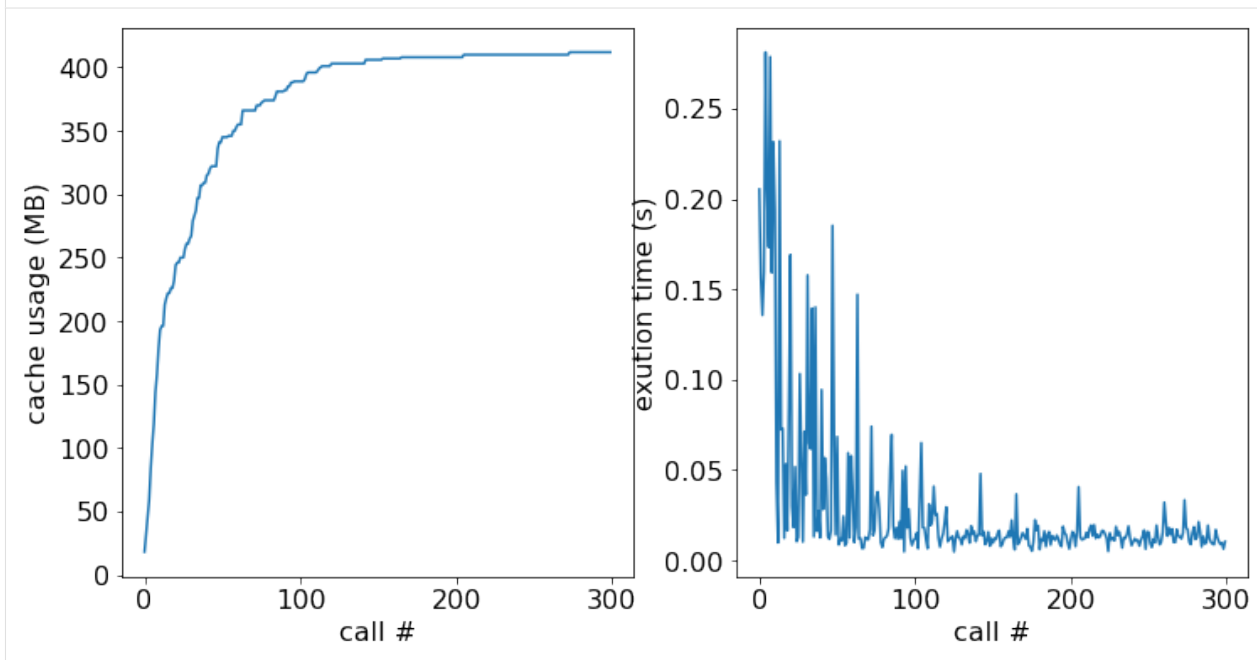
fig, ax = plt.subplots(ncols=2, figsize=[12,6])

ax[0].plot(cache_usages_512)
ax[0].set_xlabel('call #')
ax[0].set_ylabel('cache usage (MB)')

ax[1].plot(exec_timings_512)
ax[1].set_xlabel('call #')
ax[1].set_ylabel('exution time (s)')

```

```
[9]: Text(0, 0.5, 'exution time (s)')
```



In the left-hand panel we see the cache usage grow and eventually asymptote toward the point where the entire grid (around 400 MB) is resident in memory. In the right-hand panel the execution time rapidly drops from ~0.2s down to ~0.01s, as more and more data can be read from memory (fast) rather than disk (slow).

Let's now repeat the exercise, but for a cache limit reduced back down to 128 MB:

```
[10]: # Flush the cache and set the limit to 128 MB

specgrid.flush_cache()
specgrid.cache_limit = 128

# Allocate usage & timing arrays

n = 300

cache_usages_128 = np.empty(n, dtype=int)
exec_timings_128 = np.empty(n)

# Call random_flux

for i in range(n):
    exec_timings_128[i] = random_flux()
    cache_usages_128[i] = specgrid.cache_usage

# Plot cache usage and execution time

fig, ax = plt.subplots(ncols=2, figsize=[12,6])

ax[0].plot(cache_usages_512, label='512 MB limit')
ax[0].plot(cache_usages_128, label='128 MB limit')
ax[0].set_xlabel('call #')
```

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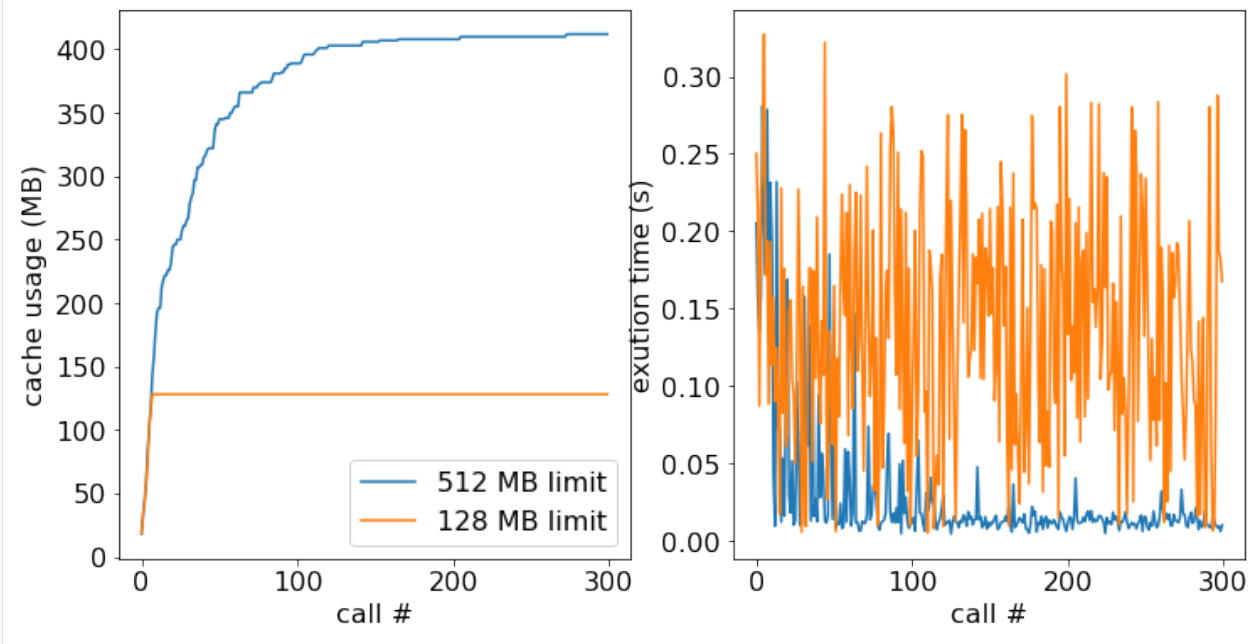
```

ax[0].set_ylabel('cache usage (MB)')
ax[0].legend(loc=4)

ax[1].plot(exec_timings_512)
ax[1].plot(exec_timings_128)
ax[1].set_xlabel('call #')
ax[1].set_ylabel('exution time (s)')

```

```
[10]: Text(0, 0.5, 'exution time (s)')
```



The left-hand panel reveals that, as expected, the growth of the cache usage stops once the limit is reached. Because not all the data can be held in memory, the performance gains from the cache are more modest than in the previous case, with the execution times in the right-hand panel averaging 0.15s.

6.4 Choosing Cache Settings

As the demonstration above makes clear, the choice of the `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_usage` property can have a significant impact on the performance of MSG. Ideally, this property should be set to exceed the total size of the grid¹; but if that's not possible due to limited computer memory, try some of the following measures:

- set the `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_usage` property to at least 4^N times the size of a single node, where N is the number of dimensions in a grid (see the *Tensor Product Interpolation* appendix).
- if undertaking a sequence of interpolations, reorder them so that ones with similar photospheric parameters are grouped together.
- for spectroscopic grids, use the `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_lam_min` and/or `pymsg.SpecGrid.cache_lam_max` properties, as discussed above in the *Wavelength Subsetting* section.

¹ Note that the in-memory size of a grid is typically larger than its on-disk size, due to compression.

6.5 Technical Details

The basic data unit of MSG's caches is a grid node, representing the spectroscopic or photometric intensity for a single set of photospheric parameters. During an interpolation the nodes required for the calculation are accessed through the cache, which reads them from disk as necessary. After every node access, the current cache usage is compared against the user-specified limit. If it exceeds this limit, then one or more nodes are evicted from the cache using a [least-recently used \(LRU\)](#) algorithm.

This implementation — with eviction taking place **after** cache access — means that in principle the cache limit can be zero. For performance reasons, however, this is not recommended.

EXCEPTION HANDLING

This chapter discusses how MSG handles exceptions. These can arise in a variety of circumstances:

- Attempts to load grids from files that are missing or corrupt.
- Attempts to interpolate at locations outside the bounds of a grid.
- Attempts to interpolate at locations where grid data are missing (so-called *grid voids*).
- Attempts to interpolate with incomplete specification of photospheric parameters.
- Attempts to interpolate for invalid wavelength and/or angle parameters.

When an exception occurs, how it's signaled depends on the language interface being used.

7.1 Python

Using the Python interface, exceptions are signaled using the language's built-in exception handling capabilities. The list of exceptions that can be thrown by each function is provided in the [Python Interface](#) chapter.

7.2 Fortran

Using the Fortran interface, exceptions are signaled through the optional procedure argument `stat`. If this argument is present, then on return it is set to one of the status code values defined in the [Fortran parameters](#) section. The value `STAT_OK` indicates that no problem was encountered; other values signal an exception. If `stat` is not present when an exception occurs, then execution halts with an error message printed to standard output.

7.3 C

Using the C interface, exceptions are signaled through the pointer function argument `stat`. If this pointer is non-null, then on return the pointer target `*stat` is set to one of the status code values defined in the [C enums](#) section. The value `STAT_OK` indicates that no problem was encountered; other values signal an exception. If `stat` is null when an exception occurs, then execution halts with an error message printed to standard output.

TROUBLESHOOTING

8.1 Missing `forum.inc`

During compilation, if the error `include file 'forum.inc' not found` arises then it's likely you have an incomplete copy of the source code. Verify that when you *checked out* the code from GitHub, you used the `--recurse-submodules` option.

8.2 Other Problems

If you encounter something else that doesn't work as it should, please [open an issue](#) on GitHub. In your issue, please specify the following:

- The release of MSG you are using (e.g. 1.1).
- The operating system and architecture you are using (e.g., Mac OS 13.1 on Intel).
- A brief description of the problem.
- A narrative of the steps to reproduce the problem.

CONTRIBUTING

9.1 Code

To contribute code to the MSG project, from bug fixes through to major new features, the preferred method is the standard fork—branch—pull-request paradigm described [here](#). If your pull request languishes for more than a couple of weeks without receiving a response, consider [opening an issue](#) to give the developers a nudge.

9.2 Documentation

To contribute documentation toward the project, follow the same approach as above for code. (The ReStructured Text source files for the documentation reside in the `docs/source` subdirectory.)

9.3 Data

To contribute data toward the project (in the form of spectral intensity or flux grids), a number of options are available. The *Importing Data* section explains how to import an existing grid; but if this lies beyond your technical expertise, then the MSG team will be happy to assist. Either way, if you want to make your data publicly available and listed in the *Grid Files* chapter, then please [open an issue](#).

INSTALLATION

This chapter discusses MSG installation in detail. If you just want to get up and running, have a look at the [Quick Start](#) chapter.

10.1 Pre-Requisites

To compile and use MSG, you'll need the following software components:

- A modern (2008+) Fortran compiler
- The [LAPACK](#) linear algebra library
- The [LAPACK95](#) Fortran 95 interface to LAPACK
- The [fypp](#) Fortran pre-processor
- The [HDF5](#) data management library

On Linux and MacOS platforms, these components are bundled together in the [MESA Software Development Kit \(SDK\)](#). Using this SDK is *strongly* recommended.

If you're planning on using the [pymsg](#) Python module, then you'll also need the following components:

- [Python 3.7](#) (or more recent)
- [NumPy 1.15](#) (or more recent)

10.2 Building MSG

Download the [MSG source code](#), and unpack it from the command line using the **tar** utility:

```
$ tar xf msg-1.1.2.tar.gz
```

Set the `MSG_DIR` environment variable with the path to the newly created source directory; this can be achieved, e.g., using the **realpath** command¹:

```
$ export MSG_DIR=$(realpath msg-1.1.2)
```

Finally, compile MSG using the **make** utility:

```
$ make -j -C $MSG_DIR
```

(the `-j` flag tells **make** to use multiple cores, speeding up the build). If things go awry, consult the [Troubleshooting](#) chapter.

¹ The **realpath** command is included in the GNU [CoreUtils](#) package. Mac OS users can install CoreUtils using [MacPorts](#) or [Homebrew](#).

10.3 Testing MSG

To test MSG, use the command

```
$ make -C $MSG_DIR test
```

This runs unit tests for the various Fortran modules that together compose the MSG library. At the end of the test sequence, a summary of the number of tests passed and failed is printed. All tests should pass; if one or more fails, then please [open an issue](#) to report the problem.

10.4 Installing the pymsg Module

To install the *pymsg* Python module, use the **pip** tool:

```
$ pip install $MSG_DIR/python
```

You can alternatively add the `$MSG_DIR/python/src` directory to the `PYTHONPATH` environment variable. Note that in order for *pymsg* to function correctly, the `MSG_DIR` environment variable must be set at Python runtime (this variable allows the module to find the Python extension that interfaces to the back-end).

10.5 Custom Builds

Custom builds of MSG can be created by setting certain environment variables, and/or variables in the file `$MSG_DIR/src/build/Makefile`, to the value `yes`. The following variables are currently supported:

DEBUG

Enable debugging mode (default no)

FPE

Enable floating point exception checks (default yes)

OMP

Enable OpenMP parallelization (default yes)

PYTHON

Enable building of the Python extension (default yes)

TEST

Enable building of testing tools (default yes)

TOOLS

Enable building of development tools (default yes)

If a variable is not set, then its default value is assumed.

10.6 GitHub Access

Sometimes, you'll want to try out new features in MSG that haven't yet made it into a formal release. In such cases, you can check out MSG directly from the [rhdtownsend/msg](https://github.com/rhdtownsend/msg) git repository on [GitHub](#):

```
$ git clone --recurse-submodules https://github.com/rhdtownsend/msg.git
```

However, a word of caution: MSG is under constant development, and features in the main branch can change without warning.

footnote

PYTHON INTERFACE

The Python interface is provided through the *pymsg* module.

11.1 API Specification

11.1.1 Classes

class *pymsg.SpecGrid*(*file_name*)

The *SpecGrid* class represents a grid of spectroscopic intensity data.

This grid may be used to interpolate the intensity (or related quantities) across a wavelength abscissa and for a set of photospheric parameter values.

__init__(*file_name*)

SpecGrid constructor (via loading data from a *specgrid* file).

Parameters

file_name (*string*) – Name of the file

Returns

Constructed object.

Return type

pymsg.SpecGrid

Raises

- **FileNotFound** – If the the file cannot be found.
- **TypeError** – If the file contains an incorrect datatype.

property rank

Number of dimensions in grid.

Type

int

property axis_labels

Photospheric parameter axis labels.

Type

list

property axis_x_min

Photospheric parameter axis minima.

Type

dict

property axis_x_max

Photospheric parameter axis maxima.

Type

dict

property lam_min

Minimum wavelength of grid (Å).

Type

double

property lam_max

Maximum wavelength of grid (Å).

Type

double

property cache_lam_min

Minimum wavelength of grid cache (Å).

Type

double

property cache_lam_max

Maximum wavelength of grid cache (Å).

Type

double

property cache_usage

Current memory usage of grid cache (MB).

Type

int

property cache_limit

Maximum memory usage of grid cache (MB).

Type

int

flush_cache()

Flush the grid cache

intensity(*x*, *mu*, *lam*, *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the spectroscopic intensity.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.b
- **mu** (*double*) – Cosine of angle of emergence relative to surface normal.
- **lam** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Wavelength abscissa (Å).

- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

Spectroscopic intensity ($\text{erg/cm}^2/\text{s}/\text{\AA}/\text{sr}$) in bins delineated by *lam*; length $\text{len}(\text{lam})-1$.

Return type

`numpy.ndarray`

Raises

- **KeyError** – If *x* does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If *x*, *mu*, or any part of the wavelength abscissa falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If *x* falls in a grid void.

E_moment (*x*, *k*, *lam*, *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the spectroscopic intensity E-moment.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.
- **k** (*int*) – Degree of moment.
- **lam** (`numpy.ndarray`) – Wavelength abscissa ($\text{\AA}$).
- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

Spectroscopic intensity E-moment ($\text{erg/cm}^2/\text{s}/\text{\AA}$) in bins delineated by *lam*; length $\text{len}(\text{lam})-1$.

Return type

`numpy.ndarray`

Raises

- **KeyError** – If *x* does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If *x*, *k*, or any part of the wavelength abscissa falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If *x* falls in a grid void.

D_moment (*x*, *l*, *lam*, *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the spectroscopic intensity D-moment.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.
- **l** (*int*) – Harmonic degree of moment.
- **lam** (`numpy.ndarray`) – Wavelength abscissa ($\text{\AA}$).

- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

Spectroscopic intensity D-moment ($\text{erg/cm}^2/\text{s}/\text{\AA}$) in bins delineated by *lam*; length $\text{len}(\text{lam})-1$.

Return type

`numpy.ndarray`

Raises

- **KeyError** – If *x* does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If *x*, *l*, or any part of the wavelength abscissa falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If *x* falls in a grid void.

flux(*x*, *lam*, *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the spectroscopic flux.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.
- **lam** (`numpy.ndarray`) – Wavelength abscissa ($\text{\AA}$)
- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

Spectroscopic flux ($\text{erg/cm}^2/\text{s}/\text{\AA}$) in bins delineated by *lam*; length $\text{len}(\text{lam})-1$.

Return type

`numpy.ndarray`

Raises

- **KeyError** – If *x* does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If *x* or any part of the wavelength abscissa falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If *x* falls in a grid void.

class `pymsg.PhotGrid`(*file_name*, *passband_file_name=None*)

The PhotGrid class represents a grid of photometric intensity data.

This grid may be used to interpolate the intensity (or related quantities) for a set of photospheric parameter values.

__init__(*file_name*, *passband_file_name=None*)

PhotGrid constructor (via loading data from a *photgrid* file, or from a *specgrid* file together with a passband file).

Parameters

- **file_name** (*string*) – Name of grid file.

- **passband_file_name** (*string*) – Name of passband file (if file_name corresponds to a specgrid file)

Returns

Constructed object.

Return type

pymsg.PhotGrid

Raises

- **FileNotFound** – If either file cannot be found.
- **TypeError** – If either file contains an incorrect datatype.

property rank

Number of dimensions in grid.

Type

int

property axis_labels

Photospheric parameter axis labels.

Type

list

property axis_x_min

Photospheric parameter axis minima.

Type

dict

property axis_x_max

Photospheric parameter axis maxima.

Type

dict

property cache_usage

Current memory usage of grid cache (MB).

Type

int

property cache_limit

Maximum memory usage of grid cache (MB).

Type

int

flush_cache()

Flush the grid cache

intensity(*x*, *mu*, *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the photometric intensity, normalized to the zero- point flux.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.
- **mu** (*double*) – Cosine of angle of emergence relative to surface normal.

- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

photometric intensity (/sr).

Return type

double

Raises

- **KeyError** – If *x* does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If *x* or *mu* falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If *x* falls in a grid void.

E_moment (*x*, *k*, *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the photometric intensity E-moment, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.
- **k** (*int*) – Degree of moment.
- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

photometric intensity E-moment.

Return type

double

Raises

- **KeyError** – If *x* does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If *x* or *k* falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If *x* falls in a grid void.

D_moment (*x*, *l*, *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the photometric intensity D-moment, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.
- **l** (*int*) – Harmonic degree of moment.
- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

photometric intensity D-moment.

Return type

double

Raises

- **KeyError** – If x does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If x or l falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If x falls in a grid void.

flux(x , *deriv=None*)

Evaluate the photometric flux, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **x** (*dict*) – Photospheric parameters; keys must match *axis_labels* property, values must be double.
- **deriv** (*dict*, *optional*) – Flags indicating whether to evaluate derivative with respect to each photospheric parameter; keys must match the *axis_labels* property, values must be boolean.

Returns

photometric flux.

Return type

double

Raises

- **KeyError** – If x does not define all keys appearing in the *axis_labels* property.
- **ValueError** – If x or l falls outside the bounds of the grid.
- **LookupError** – If x falls in a grid void.

FORTRAN INTERFACE

The Fortran interface is provided through the `fmsg_m` module, which defines derived types together with supporting parameters and procedures.

12.1 API Specification

12.1.1 Derived Types

type `specgrid_t`

The `specgrid_t` type represents a grid of spectroscopic data.

This grid may be used to interpolate the intensity (or related quantities) across a wavelength abscissa and for a set of photospheric parameter values.

subroutine `get_rank(rank)`

Get the rank (dimension) of the grid.

Parameters

rank [*integer*, *out*] :: Rank.

subroutine `get_axis(i, axis)`

Get an axis of the grid.

Parameters

- **i** [*integer*, *in*] :: Index of axis (between 1 and *rank*).
- **axis** [*axis_t*, *out*] :: Axis.

subroutine `get_lam_min(lam_min)`

Get the minimum wavelength of the grid.

Parameters

lam_min [*real(RD)*, *out*] :: Minimum wavelength (Å).

subroutine `get_lam_max(lam_max)`

Get the maximum wavelength of the grid.

Parameters

lam_max [*real(RD)*, *out*] :: Maximum wavelength (Å).

subroutine `get_cache_lam_min(cache_lam_min)`

Get the minimum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

lam_min [*real(RD),out*] :: Minimum wavelength (Å).

subroutine get_cache_lam_max(*cache_lam_max*)

Get the maximum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

cache_lam_max [*real(RD),out*] :: Maximum wavelength (Å).

subroutine get_cache_limit(*cache_limit*)

Get the maximum memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

cache_limit [*integer,out*] :: Maximum memory usage (MB).

subroutine get_cache_usage(*cache_usage*)

Get the current memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

cache_usage [*integer,out*] :: Current memory usage (MB)

subroutine set_cache_lam_min(*cache_lam_min, stat*)

Set the minimum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

lam_min [*real(RD),in*] :: Minimum wavelength (Å).

Options

stat [*integer,out*] :: Status code.

subroutine set_cache_lam_max(*cache_lam_max, stat*)

Set the maximum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

cache_lam_max [*real(RD),in*] :: Maximum wavelength (Å).

Options

stat [*integer,out*] :: Status code.

subroutine set_cache_limit(*cache_limit, stat*)

Set the maximum memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

cache_limit [*integer,in*] :: Maximum memory usage (MB).

Options

stat [*integer,out*] :: Status code.

subroutine interp_intensity(*x_vec, mu, lam, I, stat, deriv_vec*)

Interpolate the spectroscopic intensity.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real(RD),in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.
- **mu** [*real(RD),in*] :: Cosine of angle of emergence relative to surface normal.
- **lam** (*) [*real(RD),in*] :: Wavelength abscissa (Å).
- **I** (*) [*real(RD),out*] :: Spectroscopic intensity (erg/cm²/s/Å/sr) in bins delineated by lam; length LEN(lam)-1.

Options

- **stat** [*integer*,*out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*,*in*] :: Derivative flags.

subroutine interp_E_moment(*x_vec*, *k*, *lam*, *E*, *stat*, *deriv_vec*)

Interpolate the spectroscopic intensity E-moment.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.
- **k** [*integer*,*in*] :: Degree of moment.
- **lam** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Wavelength abscissa (Å).
- **E** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*out*] :: Spectroscopic intensity E-moment (erg/cm²/s/Å) in bins delineated by lam; length LEN(lam)-1.

Options

- **stat** [*integer*,*out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*,*in*] :: Derivative flags.

subroutine interp_D_moment(*x_vec*, *l*, *lam*, *D*, *stat*, *deriv_vec*)

Interpolate the spectroscopic intensity D-moment.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.
- **l** [*integer*,*in*] :: Harmonic degree of moment.
- **lam** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Wavelength abscissa (Å).
- **D** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*out*] :: Spectroscopic intensity D-moment (erg/cm²/s/Å) in bins delineated by lam; length LEN(lam)-1.

Options

- **stat** [*integer*,*out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*,*in*] :: Derivative flags.

subroutine interp_flux(*x_vec*, *lam*, *I*, *stat*, *deriv_vec*)

Interpolate the spectroscopic flux.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.
- **lam** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Wavelength abscissa (Å).
- **F** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*out*] :: Spectroscopic flux (erg/cm²/s/Å) in bins delineated by lam; length LEN(lam)-1.

Options

- **stat** [*integer*,*out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*,*in*] :: Derivative flags.

type photgrid_t

The photgrid_t type represents a grid of photometric data.

This grid may be used to interpolate the intensity (or related quantities) for a set of photospheric parameter values.

subroutine get_rank(rank)

Get the rank (dimension) of the grid.

Parameters

rank [*integer*,*out*] :: Returned rank.

subroutine get_axis(i, axis)

Get an axis of the grid.

Parameters

- **i** [*integer*,*in*] :: Index of axis (between 1 and *rank*)
- **axis** [*axis_t*,*out*] :: Returned axis.

subroutine get_cache_limit(cache_limit)

Get the maximum memory usage of the cache.

Parameters

cache_limit [*integer*,*out*] :: Maximum memory usage (MB).

subroutine get_cache_usage(cache_usage)

Get the current memory usage of the cache.

Parameters

cache_usage [*integer*,*out*] :: Current memory usage (MB)

subroutine set_cache_limit(cache_limit, stat)

Set the maximum memory usage of the cache.

Parameters

cache_limit [*integer*,*in*] :: Maximum memory usage (MB).

Options

stat [*integer*,*out*] :: Status code.

subroutine interp_intensity(x_vec, mu, I, stat, deriv_vec)

Interpolate the photometric intensity, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.
- **mu** [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Cosine of angle of emergence relative to surface normal.
- **I** [*real*(*RD*),*out*] :: Photometric intensity (/sr).

Options

- **stat** [*integer*,*out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*,*in*] :: Derivative flags.

subroutine interp_E_moment(x_vec, k, E, stat, deriv_vec)

Interpolate the photometric E-moment, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real*(*RD*),*in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.

- **k** [*integer*, *in*] :: Degree of of moment.
- **E** [*real(RD)*, *out*] :: Photometric E-moment.

Options

- **stat** [*integer*, *out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*, *in*] :: Derivative flags.

subroutine interp_D_moment(*x_vec*, *l*, *D*, *stat*, *deriv_vec*)

Interpolate the photometric D-moment, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real(RD)*, *in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.
- **l** [*integer*, *in*] :: Harmonic degree of moment.
- **D** [*real(RD)*, *out*] :: Photometric D-moment.

Options

- **stat** [*integer*, *out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*, *in*] :: Derivative flags.

subroutine interp_flux(*x_vec*, *F*, *stat*, *deriv_vec*)

Interpolate the photometric flux, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **x_vec** (*) [*real(RD)*, *in*] :: Photospheric parameter values.
- **F** [*real(RD)*, *out*] :: Photometric flux.

Options

- **stat** [*integer*, *out*] :: Status code.
- **deriv_vec** (*) [*logical*, *in*] :: Derivative flags.

type axis_t

The **axis_t** type represents a grid axis.

subroutine get_n(*n*)

Get the number of points making up the axis.

Parameters

- **rank** [*integer*, *out*] :: Number of points.

subroutine get_x_min(*x_min*)

Get the minimum value of the axis.

Parameters

- **x_min** [*real(RD)*, *out*] :: Minimum value.

subroutine get_x_max(*x_max*)

Get the maximum value of the axis.

Parameters

- **x_max** [*real(RD)*, *out*] :: Maximum value.

subroutine `get_label(label)`

Get the axis label.

Parameters

character (*) :: Label.

subroutine `fetch(i, x, stat)`

Fetch an axis value.

Parameters

- **i** [*integer*, *in*] :: Index of value (from 1 to *n*).
- **x** [*real*(*RD*), *out*] :: Axis value.

Options

stat [*integer*, *out*] :: Status code.

subroutine `locate(x, i)`

Locate where along the axis a value falls.

Parameters

- **x** [*real*(*RD*), *out*] :: Value to locate.
- **i** [*integer*, *out*] :: Location index.

12.1.2 Parameters

int `RD`

Kind type parameter for reals.

int `LABEL_LEN`

Length of *axis_t* labels.

int `~fmsg_m/STAT_OK`

Status code indicating procedure call completed without error.

int `STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_RANGE_LO`

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the range minimum.

int `STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_RANGE_HI`

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the range maximum.

int `STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_AXIS_LO`

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the axis minimum.

int `STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_AXIS_HI`

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the axis maximum.

int `STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_LAM_LO`

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the wavelength minimum.

int `STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_LAM_HI`

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the wavelength maximum.

int `STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_MU_LO`

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the emergence cosine minimum.

int STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_MU_HI

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the emergence cosine maximum.

int STAT_UNAVAILABLE_DATA

Status code indicating procedure call encountered unavailable data.

int STAT_INVALID_ARGUMENT

Status code indicating procedure call encountered an invalid argument.

int STAT_FILE_NOT_FOUND

Status code indicating procedure call encountered a file that could not be found.

int STAT_INVALID_FILE_TYPE

Status code indicating procedure call encountered a file with an invalid type.

int STAT_INVALID_GROUP_TYPE

Status code indicating procedure call encountered a file group with an invalid type.

int STAT_INVALID_GROUP_REVISION

Status code indicating procedure call encountered a file group with an invalid revision number.

12.1.3 Procedures

subroutine load_specgrid(specgrid_file_name, specgrid, stat)

Create a new [specgrid_t](#) by loading data from a [specgrid](#) file.

Parameters

- **specgrid_file_name** [*character(*),in*] :: Name of the [specgrid](#) file.
- **specgrid** [*specgrid_t,out*] :: Grid object.

Options

stat [*integer,out*] :: Status code.

subroutine load_photgrid(photgrid_file_name, photgrid, stat)

Create a new [photgrid_t](#) by loading data from a [photgrid](#) file.

Parameters

- **photgrid_file_name** [*character(*),in*] :: Name of the [photgrid](#) file.
- **photgrid** [*specgrid_t,out*] :: Grid object.

Options

stat [*integer,out*] :: Status code.

subroutine load_photgrid_from_specgrid(specgrid_file_name, passband_file_name, photgrid, stat)

Create a new [photgrid_t](#) by loading data from a [specgrid](#) file, and convolving on-the-fly with a response function loaded from a [passband](#) file.

Parameters

- **specgrid_file_name** [*character(*),in*] :: Name of the [specgrid](#) file.
- **passband_file_name** [*character(*),in*] :: Name of the [passband](#) file.
- **photgrid** [*specgrid_t,out*] :: Grid object.

Options

stat [*integer*, *out*] :: Status code.

subroutine get_version(*version*)

Get the version of the MSG library

Parameters

character (*) :: Version string.

12.2 Compiling/Linking

The module file `fmsg_m` for the Fortran interface is provided in the directory `$MSG_DIR/include`, and executables should be linked against `$MSG_DIR/lib/libfmsg.so` (Linux) or `$MSG_DIR/lib/libfmsg.dylib` (MacOS). To simplify this process, a script `$MSG_DIR/scripts/fmsg_link` is provided that writes the appropriate linker commands to standard output. This script can be used to compile/link a program with **gfortran** as follows:

```
$ gfortran -o myprogram myprogram.f90 -I $MSG_DIR/include ` $MSG_DIR/scripts/fmsg_link `
```

C INTERFACE

The C interface is provided through the `cmsg.h` header file, which defines typedefs, enums and functions.

13.1 API Specification

13.1.1 Typedefs

type **SpecGrid**

A `void *` pointer to a Fortran `specgrid_t` spectroscopic grid object.

type **PhotGrid**

A `void *` pointer to a Fortran `specgrid_t` photometric grid object.

13.1.2 Enums

enum **Stat**

enumerator **STAT_OK**

Status code indicating function call completed without error.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_RANGE_LO**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the range minimum.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_RANGE_HI**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the range maximum.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_AXIS_LO**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the axis minimum.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_AXIS_HI**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the axis maximum.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_LAM_LO**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the wavelength minimum.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_LAM_HI**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the wavelength maximum.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_MU_LO**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, below the emergence cosine minimum.

enumerator **STAT_OUT_OF_BOUNDS_MU_HI**

Status code indicating function call encountered an out-of-bounds reference, above the emergence cosine maximum.

enumerator **STAT_UNAVAILABLE_DATA**

Status code indicating function call encountered unavailable data.

enumerator **STAT_INVALID_ARGUMENT**

Status code indicating function call encountered an invalid argument.

enumerator **STAT_FILE_NOT_FOUND**

Status code indicating function call encountered a file that could not be found.

enumerator **STAT_INVALID_FILE_TYPE**

Status code indicating function call encountered a file with an invalid type.

enumerator **STAT_INVALID_GROUP_TYPE**

Status code indicating function call encountered a file group with an invalid type.

enumerator **STAT_INVALID_GROUP_REVISION**

Status code indicating function call encountered a file group with an invalid revision number.

13.1.3 Functions

SpecGrid

void **load_specgrid**(const char *specgrid_file_name, *SpecGrid* *specgrid, *Stat* *stat)

Create a new *SpecGrid* by loading data from a *specgrid* file.

Parameters

- **specgrid_file_name** – Name of the *specgrid* file.
- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).

void **unload_specgrid**(*SpecGrid* specgrid)

Unload a *specgrid* grid, freeing up memory.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.

void **get_specgrid_rank**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int *rank)

Get the rank (dimension) of the grid.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **rank** – Rank.

void **get_specgrid_lam_min**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double *lam_min)

Get the minimum wavelength of the grid.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **lam_min** – Minimum wavelength (Å).

void **get_specgrid_lam_max**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double *lam_max)

Get the maximum wavelength of the grid.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **lam_max** – Maximum wavelength (Å).

void **get_specgrid_cache_lam_min**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double *cache_lam_min)

Get the minimum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_lam_min** – Minimum wavelength (Å).

void **get_specgrid_cache_lam_max**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double *cache_lam_max)

Get the maximum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_lam_max** – Maximum wavelength (Å).

void **get_specgrid_cache_limit**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int *cache_limit)

Get the maximum memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_limit** – Maximum memory usage (MB).

void **get_specgrid_cache_usage**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int *cache_usage)

Get the current memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_usage** – Current memory usage (MB).

void **get_specgrid_axis_x_min**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int i, double *x_min)

Get the minimum value of the i'th grid axis.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **i** – Axis index (beginning at 0).
- **x_min** – Minimum value.

void **get_specgrid_axis_x_max**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int i, double *x_max)

Get the maximum value of the i'th grid axis.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **i** – Axis index (beginning at 0).
- **x_max** – Maximum value.

void **get_specgrid_axis_label**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int i, char *label)

Get the label of the i'th grid axis.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **i** – Index of the label (beginning at 0).
- **axis_label** – Buffer to store axis label (at least 17 bytes, to accomodate label plus null terminator).

void **set_specgrid_cache_lam_min**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double cache_lam_min, *Stat* *stat)

Set the minimum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_lam_min** – Minimum wavelength (Å).
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).

void **set_specgrid_cache_lam_max**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double cache_lam_max, *Stat* *stat)

Set the maximum wavelength of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_lam_max** – Maximum wavelength (Å).
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).

void **set_specgrid_cache_limit**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int cache_limit, *Stat* *stat)

Set the maximum memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_limit** – Maximum memory usage (MB).
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).

void **interp_specgrid_intensity**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double x_vec[], double mu, int n, double lam[], double I[],
Stat *stat, bool deriv_vec[])

Interpolate the spectroscopic intensity.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **mu** – Cosine of angle of emergence relative to surface normal.

- **n** – Number of points in wavelength abscissa.
- **lam[n]** – Wavelength abscissa (Å).
- **I[n-1]** – Spectroscopic intensity (erg/cm²/s/Å/sr) in bins delineated by lam
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

void **interp_specgrid_E_moment**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double x_vec[], int k, int n, double lam[], double E[], *Stat* *stat, bool deriv_vec[])

Interpolate the spectroscopic intensity E-moment.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **k** – Degree of moment.
- **n** – Number of points in wavelength abscissa.
- **lam[n]** – Wavelength abscissa (Å).
- **D[n-1]** – Spectroscopic intensity E-moment (erg/cm²/s/Å) in bins delineated by lam
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

void **interp_specgrid_D_moment**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double x_vec[], int l, int n, double lam[], double D[], *Stat* *stat, bool deriv_vec[])

Interpolate the spectroscopic intensity D-moment.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **l** – Harmonic degree of moment.
- **n** – Number of points in wavelength abscissa.
- **lam[n]** – Wavelength abscissa (Å).
- **D[n-1]** – Spectroscopic intensity D-moment (erg/cm²/s/Å) in bins delineated by lam
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

void **interp_specgrid_flux**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, double x_vec[], int n, double lam[], double F[], *Stat* *stat, bool deriv_vec[])

Interpolate the spectroscopic flux.

Parameters

- **specgrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **n** – Number of points in wavelength abscissa.
- **lam[n]** – Wavelength abscissa (Å).

- **F[n-1]** – Spectroscopic flux (erg/cm²/s/Å) in bins delineated by lam
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

PhotGrid

void **load_photgrid**(const char *photgrid_file_name, *PhotGrid* *photgrid, int *stat)

Create a new *PhotGrid* by loading data from a *photgrid* file.

Parameters

- **photgrid_file_name** – Name of the *photgrid* file.
- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).

void **load_photgrid_from_specgrid**(const char *specgrid_file_name, const char *passband_file_name, *PhotGrid* *photgrid, int *stat)

Create a new *PhotGrid* by loading data from a *specgrid* file, and convolving on-the-fly with a response function loaded from a *passband* file.

Parameters

- **specgrid_file_name** – Name of the *specgrid* file.
- **passband_file_name** – Name of the *passband* file.
- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).

void **unload_photgrid**(*PhotGrid* photgrid)

Unload a photometric grid, freeing up memory.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.

void **get_photgrid_rank**(*Photgrid* photgrid, int *rank)

Get the rank (dimension) of the grid.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **rank** – Rank.

void **get_photgrid_cache_usage**(*Photgrid* photgrid, int *cache_usage)

Get the current memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_usage** – Current memory usage (MB).

void **get_photgrid_cache_limit**(*Photgrid* photgrid, int *cache_limit)

Get the maximum memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.

- **cache_limit** – Maximum memory usage (MB).

void **get_photgrid_axis_x_min**(Photgrid photgrid, int i, double *x_min)

Get the minimum value of the i'th grid axis.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **i** – Axis index (beginning at 0).
- **x_min** – Minimum value.

void **get_photgrid_axis_x_max**(Photgrid photgrid, int i, double *x_max)

Get the maximum value of the i'th grid axis.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **i** – Axis index (beginning at 0).
- **x_max** – Maximum value.

void **get_photgrid_axis_label**(*SpecGrid* specgrid, int i, char *label)

Get the label of the i'th grid axis.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **i** – Index of the label (beginning at 0).
- **axis_label** – Buffer to store axis label (at least 17 bytes, to accomodate label plus null terminator).

void **set_photgrid_cache_limit**(Photgrid photgrid, int cache_limit, int *stat)

Set the maximum memory usage of the grid cache.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **cache_limit** – Maximum memory usage (MB).
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).

void **interp_photgrid_intensity**(*PhotGrid* photgrid, double x_vec[], double mu, double *I, int *stat, bool deriv_vec[])

Interpolate the photometric intensity, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **mu** – Cosine of angle of emergence relative to surface normal.
- **I** – Photometric intensity (/sr).
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

```
void interp_photgrid_E_moment(PhotGrid photgrid, double x_vec[], int k, double *E, int *stat, bool deriv_vec[])
```

Interpolate the photometric intensity E-moment, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **k** – Degree of moment.
- **D** – Photometric intensity E-moment.
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

```
void interp_photgrid_D_moment(PhotGrid photgrid, double x_vec[], int l, double *D, int *stat, bool deriv_vec[])
```

Interpolate the photometric intensity D-moment, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **photgrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **l** – Harmonic degree of moment.
- **D** – Photometric intensity D-moment.
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

```
void interp_photgrid_flux(PhotGrid photgrid, double x_vec[], double *F, int *stat, bool deriv_vec[])
```

Interpolate the photometric flux, normalized to the zero-point flux.

Parameters

- **PhotGrid** – Grid object.
- **x_vec** – Photospheric parameter values.
- **F** – Photometric flux.
- **stat** – Status code (set to NULL if not required).
- **deriv_vec** – Derivative flags (set to NULL if not required).

Other

```
void get_msg_version(char *version)
```

Get the version of the MSG library.

Parameters

- **version** – Buffer to store version (recommended at least 10 bytes).

13.2 Compiling/Linking

Headers for the C interface are provided in the header file `$MSG_DIR/include/cmsg.h`, and executables should be linked against `$MSG_DIR/lib/libcmsg.so` (Linux) or `$MSG_DIR/lib/libcmsg.dylib` (MacOS). To simplify this process, a script `$MSG_DIR/scripts/cmsg_link` is provided that writes the appropriate linker commands to standard output. This script can be used to compile/link a program with **gcc** as follows:

```
$ gcc -o myprogram myprogram.c -I $MSG_DIR/include ` $MSG_DIR/scripts/cmsg_link `
```


DATA SCHEMA

This chapter specifies the data schema used by MSG data files. These files are stored on disk in [HDF5](#) format, and the schema describes what data appear in each type of file.

14.1 Conventions

All MSG data files adhere to the following conventions:

- HDF5 groups are used to store nested data structures that correspond reasonably closely to the derived data types (e.g., [specgrid_t](#)) of the Fortran interface.
- Real values are written with HDF5 type *H5T_IEEE_F64LE*, or *H5T_IEEE_F32LE* when reduced precision is permitted.
- Integer values are written with HDF5 type *H5T_STD_I32LE*.
- Logical (boolean) values are written with HDF5 type *H5T_STD_I32LE*, with 1 corresponding to true, and 0 corresponding to false.
- Character values are written with HDF5 type *H5T_NATIVE_CHARACTER*.

14.2 Files

passband

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
/	group	pass-band	passband.

photgrid

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
/	group	photgrid	photgrid.

photint

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
/	group	limb_photint	specint
/labels/<label>	attribute	real	label value.

specgrid

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
/	group	specgrid	specgrid.

specint

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
/	group	limb_specint	specint
/labels/<label>	attribute	real	label value.

14.3 Groups

axis

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'axis_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
label	attribute	character	label.
x	dataset	real(:)	abscissa values.

comp_range

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'comp_range_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
n_ranges	dataset	integer	number of sub-ranges.
ranges[i]	group	lin_range log_range tab_range comp_range	sub-ranges (i = 1, ..., n_ranges).

cubint

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'cubint_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
n	attribute	integer	number of points.
x	dataset	real(n)	abscissa values.
f	dataset	real(n)	ordinate values.
df_dx	dataset	real(n)	derivative values.

limb

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'limb_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
law	attribute	character	limb-darkening law (see here for a list of options).

limb_photint

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'limb_photint_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
precise	attribute	logical	precision of data (<i>.TRUE.</i> for 64-bit, <i>.FALSE.</i> for 32-bit).
c	dataset	real(:)	intensity coefficients (/sr).
limb	group	limb	limb-darkening law.

limb_specint

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'limb_specint_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
lam_min	attribute	real	minimum wavelength (Å).
lam_max	attribute	real	maximum wavelength (Å).
precise	attribute	logical	storage precision of c (true for <i>H5T_IEEE_F64LE</i> , false for <i>H5T_IEEE_F32LE</i>).
c	dataset	real(:,:)	intensity coefficients (erg/cm ² /s/Å/sr).
range	group	lin_range log_range tab_range comp_range	wavelength grid (Å).
limb	group	limb	limb-darkening law.

lin_range

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'lin_range_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
x_0	attribute	real	abscissa start value.
dx	attribute	real	abscissa spacing.
n	attribute	integer	number of points.

log_range

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'log_range_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
logx_0	attribute	real	logarithm of abscissa start value.
dlogx	attribute	real	abscissa logarithmic spacing.
n	attribute	integer	number of points.

passband

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'passband_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
F_0	attribute	real	normalizing flux (erg/cm ² /s).
cubint	group	cubint	filter interpolant.

photgrid

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'photgrid_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
photsource/ n	attribute	integer	number of photints.
photsource/ photints[i]	group	limb_photint	grid photints ($i = 1, \dots, n$).
vgrid	group	vgrid	virtual grid.

specgrid

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'specgrid_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
specsource/ n	attribute	integer	number of specints.
specsource/ lam_min	attribute	real	minimum wavelength (Å).
specsource/ lam_max	attribute	real	maximum wavelength (Å).
specsource/ specints[i]	group	limb_specint	grid specints ($i = 1, \dots, n$).
vgrid	group	vgrid	virtual grid.

tab_range

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'tab_range_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 1.
x	dataset	real(:)	abscissa values.

vgrid

Item	Object Type	Data Type	Definition
TYPE	attribute	character	literal 'vgrid_t'.
REVISION	attribute	integer	literal 2.
shape	attribute	integer(rank)	shape of grid.
rank	attribute	integer	rank of grid.
axes[i]	group	axis	grid axes ($i = 1, \dots, \text{rank}$).

GRID FILES

Due to their large size and gradually evolving content (as improvements are made), [specgrid](#) files are not shipped as part of the [rhtownsend/msg](#) git repository; they must be downloaded separately (the sole exception is the demo grid, `$MSG_DIR/data/grids/sg-demo.h5`). This chapter describes the various grids currently available.

15.1 OSTAR2002 Grids

The OSTAR2002 grids are based on the line-blanketed O-star model atmospheres published in [Lanz & Hubeny \(2003\)](#). Spectra are calculated from these atmospheres using SYNSPEC, and their angle dependence parameterized with the *CLARET* limb-darkening law.

Specgrid File	Resolution	λ Range	Photospheric Parameters
sg-OSTAR2002-low.h5 (50MB)	$\mathcal{R} = 1000$	$[880 \text{ \AA}, 5.0 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), Z/Z_{\odot}$
sg-OSTAR2002-medium.h5 (447MB)	$\mathcal{R} = 10000$	$[880 \text{ \AA}, 5.0 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), Z/Z_{\odot}$
sg-OSTAR2002-high.h5 (4.2GB)	$\mathcal{R} = 100000$	$[880 \text{ \AA}, 5.0 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), Z/Z_{\odot}$

The definitions and ranges of the photospheric parameters are as follows:

- effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}} = T_{\text{eff}}/\text{K} \in [27500, 55000]$
- surface gravity $\log(g) = \log_{10}(g/\text{cm s}^{-2}) \in [3.0, 4.75]$
- metallicity $Z/Z_{\odot} = Z/Z_{\odot} \in [0.02, 2]$

15.2 BSTAR2006 Grids

The BSTAR2006 grids are based on the line-blanketed B-star model atmospheres published in [Lanz & Hubeny \(2007\)](#). Spectra are calculated from these atmospheres using SYNSPEC, and their angle dependence parameterized with the *CLARET* limb-darkening law.

Specgrid File	Resolution	λ Range	Photospheric Parameters
sg-BSTAR2006-low.h5 (77MB)	$\mathcal{R} = 1000$	$[880 \text{ \AA}, 5 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), Z/Z_{\odot}$
sg-BSTAR2006-medium.h5 (693MB)	$\mathcal{R} = 10000$	$[880 \text{ \AA}, 5 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), Z/Z_{\odot}$
sg-BSTAR2006-high.h5 (6.5GB)	$\mathcal{R} = 100000$	$[880 \text{ \AA}, 5 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), Z/Z_{\odot}$

The definitions and ranges of the photospheric parameters are as follows:

- effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}} = T_{\text{eff}}/\text{K} \in [15000, 30000]$
- surface gravity $\log(g) = \log_{10}(g/\text{cm s}^{-2}) \in [1.75, 4.75]$
- metallicity $Z/Z_{\odot} = Z/Z_{\odot} \in [0, 2]$

15.3 CAP18 Grids

The CAP18 grids are based on the data published in [Allende Prieto et al. \(2018\)](#) (the letters ‘CAP’ are the initials of the first author). The angle dependence of spectra is parameterized with the *CONST* limb-darkening law.

Specgrid File	Resolution	λ Range	Photospheric Parameters
sg-CAP18-large.h5 (73GB)	$\mathcal{R} = 10000$	$[1300 \text{ \AA}, 6.5 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), [\text{Fe}/\text{H}], [\alpha/\text{Fe}], \log(\xi)$
sg-CAP18-coarse.h5 (339MB)	$\mathcal{R} = 10000$	$[1300 \text{ \AA}, 6.5 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), [\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$
sg-CAP18-high.h5 (2.9GB)	$\mathcal{R} = 100000$	$[1300 \text{ \AA}, 6.5 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), [\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$
sg-CAP18-ultra.h5 (5.2GB)	$\mathcal{R} = 300000$	$[1300 \text{ \AA}, 6.5 \mu\text{m}]$	$T_{\text{eff}}, \log(g), [\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$

The definitions and ranges of the photospheric parameters are as follows:

- effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}} = T_{\text{eff}}/\text{K} \in [3500, 30000]$
- surface gravity $\log(g) = \log_{10}(g/\text{cm s}^{-2}) \in [0.0, 5.0]$
- metallicity $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = \log_{10}[(\text{Fe}/\text{H})/(\text{Fe}/\text{H})_{\odot}] \in [-5.0, 0.5]$
- alpha enhancement $[\alpha/\text{Fe}] = \log_{10}[(\alpha/\text{Fe})/(\alpha/\text{Fe})_{\odot}] \in [-1.0, 1.0]$
- microturbulent velocity $\log(\xi) = \log_{10}(\xi/\text{cm s}^{-1}) \in [-0.301, 0.903]$

15.4 Göttingen Grids

The Göttingen grids are based on the data described in [Husser et al. \(2013\)](#) and available for download from phoenix.astro.physik.uni-goettingen.de. The angle dependence of spectra is parameterized with the *CONST* limb-darkening law.

Specgrid File	Resolution	λ Range	Photospheric Parameters
sg-Goettingen-HiRes.h5 (116GB)	variable	[500 Å, 5.5 μ m]	T_{eff} , $\log(g)$, [Fe/H], [alpha/Fe]
sg-Goettingen-MedRes-A.h5 (6.0GB)	$\Delta\lambda = 1 \text{ Å}$ (10× over-sampled)	[3000 Å, 1.0 μ m]	T_{eff} , $\log(g)$, [Fe/H], [alpha/Fe]
sg-Goettingen-MedRes-R.h5 (18GB)	$\mathcal{R} = 10,000$ (10× over-sampled)	[3000 Å, 2.5 μ m]	T_{eff} , $\log(g)$, [Fe/H], [alpha/Fe]

The definitions and ranges of the photospheric parameters are as follows:

- effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}} = T_{\text{eff}}/\text{K} \in [2\,300, 12\,000]$
- surface gravity $\log(g) = \log_{10}(g/\text{cm s}^{-2}) \in [0.0, 6.0]$
- metallicity $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = \log_{10}[(\text{Fe}/\text{H})/(\text{Fe}/\text{H})_{\odot}] \in [-4.0, 1.0]$
- alpha enhancement $[\text{alpha}/\text{H}] = \log_{10}[(\alpha/\text{Fe})/(\alpha/\text{Fe})_{\odot}] \in [-0.2, 1.2]$

PASSBAND FILES

As with the *Grid Files*, the [passband](#) files used by MSG are not shipped as part of the [rhdtownsend/msg](#) git repository; they must be downloaded separately. This chapter describes the various files available for download.

16.1 SVO Filter Service Passbands

The [Spanish Virtual Observatory \(SVO\)](#) offers a [database](#) of filters and calibrations for a wide array of photometric systems. The table below provides links to tar archives of [passband](#) files created for selected systems in the SVO database using the [make_passband](#) tool. For each filter of each system, separate passband files for the Vega, AB and ST magnitude systems are provided.

Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
Corot.tar.bz2	Corot	—	AS, PF
GAIA-Gaia2m.tar.bz2	GAIA	Gaia2m	Gbp_faint, Gbp_bright, G, Grp
GAIA-GAIA2r.tar.bz2	GAIA	GAIA2r	Gbp, G, Grp
GAIA-GAIA2.tar.bz2	GAIA	GAIA2	Gbp, G, Grp
GAIA-GAIA3.tar.bz2	GAIA	GAIA3	Gbp, G, Grp
GAIA-GAIA0.tar.bz2	GAIA	GAIA0	Gbp, G, Grp
GALEX.tar.bz2	GALEX	—	FUV, NUV
Generic-Johnson.tar.bz2	Generic	Johnson	U, B, V, R, I, J, M
Geneva.tar.bz2	Geneva	—	U, B1, B, B2, V2, V, G
Hipparcos.tar.bz2	Hipparcos	—	Hp, Hp_bes, Hp_MvB

continues on next page

Table 16.1 – continued from previous page

Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
HST-STIS_FUV.tar.bz2	HST	STIS_FUV	F25LYA, F25LYA_G140L, F25LYA_G140M, 25MAMA_G140M, F25ND5_G140M, 25MAMA_G140L, F25ND3_G140M, F25ND5_G140L, 25MAMA, F25ND3_G140L, F25ND5, F25ND3, F25NDQ2_G140M, F25NDQ3_G140M, F25NDQ2_G140L, F25NDQ1_G140M, F25NDQ3_G140L, F25NDQ1_G140L, F25NDQ2, F25NDQ4_G140M, F25NDQ3, F25NDQ1, F25SRF2_G140M, F25NDQ4_G140L, F25SRF2_G140L, F25NDQ4, F25SRF2, F25QTZ_G140M, F25QTZ_G140L, F25QTZ
HST-ACS_SBC.tar.bz2	HST	ACS_SBC	F122M, F115LP, PR130L, PR110L, F125LP, F140LP, F150LP, F165LP
HST-WFPC1-WF.tar.bz2	HST	WFPC1-WF	G200M2, F157W, F194W, F230W, F122M, F284W, F336W, F368M, F375N, F413M, F439W, F437N, G200, F469N, F487N, F492M, G450, F502N, F517N, F555W, F547M, F569W, F588N, F606W, F8ND, POL0, POL120, POL60, F128LP, F622W, F631N, F648M, F656N, F658N, F664N, F673N, F675W, F702W, F718M, G800, F791W, F814W, F725LP, F875M, F889N, F785LP, F850LP, F1042M, F1083N
HST-WFPC1-PC.tar.bz2	HST	WFPC1-PC	G200M2, F157W, F194W, F230W, F284W, F336W, F368M, F375N, F413M, F439W, F437N, F469N, F122M, F487N, F492M, F502N, G450, G200, F517N, F555W, F547M, F569W, F588N, F606W, F622W, F8ND, POL0, POL120, POL60, F128LP, F631N, F648M, F656N, F658N, F664N, F673N, F675W, F702W, F718M, G800, F791W, F814W, F725LP, F875M, F889N, F785LP, F850LP, F1042M, F1083N

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Table 16.1 – continued from previous page

Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
HST-WFPC2-WF.tar.bz2	HST	WFPC2-WF	F122M, F160BW, F157W, F170W, F185W, F218W, F255W, F300W, F336W, F343N, F375N, FQUVN33, FQUVN_B, F390N, FQUVN_C, FQUVN_D, F380W, F410M, F439W, F437N, F450W, F467M, F469N, F487N, F502N, F555W, FQCH4N_D, F547M, F569W, F588N, F606W, FQCH4N33, F622W, F631N, F165LP, F130LP, F656N, F658N, F673N, F675W, F702W, POLQ, POLQ_90, POLQ_45, FQCH4N_B, F814W, F791W, F785LP, FQCH4N_C, F850LP, F953N, F1042M
HST-WFPC2-PC.tar.bz2	HST	WFPC2-PC	F122M, F160BW, F157W, F170W, F185W, F218W, F255W, F300W, F336W, F343N, F375N, FQUVN, F390N, F380W, F410M, F439W, F437N, F450W, F467M, F469N, F487N, F502N, F555W, FQCH4N, F547M, F569W, F588N, F606W, F622W, F631N, F165LP, F130LP, F656N, F658N, F673N, F675W, F702W, POLQ, F814W, F791W, F785LP, F850LP, F953N, F1042M
HST-HSP_UV1.tar.bz2	HST	HSP_UV1	F122M_B, F122M_A, F135W_A, F135W_B, F145M_A, F145M_B, PRISM_BLUE, F152M_A, F152M_B, F184W_A, F184W_B, F218M_A, F218M_B, F220W_A, F220W_B, F140LP_A, F140LP_B, F240W_A, F240W_B, F248M_A, F248M_B, PRISM_RED, F278N_A, F278N_B
HST-HSP_UV2.tar.bz2	HST	HSP_UV2	F122M_B, F122M_A, F145M_A, F145M_B, PRISM_BLUE, F152M_A, F152M_B, F179M_A, F179M_B, F184W_A, F184W_B, F218M_A, F218M_B, F140LP_A, F160LP_A, F140LP_B, F160LP_B, F248M_A, F248M_B, F262M_A, F262M_B, PRISM_RED, F278N_A, F278N_B, F284M_A, F284M_B
HST-FOC_F48.tar.bz2	HST	FOC_F48	F140W, F150W, F175W, F195W, F220W, F275W, PRISM3, F130LP, F342W, PRISM1, F180LP, PRISM2, F305LP, F430W

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Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
HST-FOC_F96.tar.bz2	HST	FOC_F96	F120M, F130M, F140M, F140W, F152M, F170M, F175W, F165W, F190M, F195W, F210M, F220W, F231M, F253M, F275W, F278M, F307M, F320W, F6ND, F2ND, F342W, F1ND, PRISM1, F346M, F130LP, POL120, POL0, F4ND, PRISM2, POL60, F8ND, F372M, F410M, F430W, F370LP, F437M, F470M, F486N, F502M, F501N, F480LP, F550M, F600M, F630M
HST-HSP_VIS.tar.bz2	HST	HSP_VIS	F184W_A, F184W_B, PRISM_BLUE, F240W_A, F240W_B, F262M_A, F262M_B, F355M_A, F355M_B, F160LP_A, F160LP_B, F419N_A, F419N_B, F450W_A, F450W_B, F400LP_A, F400LP_B, F551W_B, F551W_A, PRISM_RED, F620W_B, F620W_A

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Table 16.1 – continued from previous page

Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
HST-STIS_NUV.tar.bz2	HST	STIS_NUV	F25CN182, F25CN182_PRISM, F25CIII_PRISM, F25CIII, F25CIII_G230L, F25CIII_G230M, F25CN182_G230L, F25CN182_G230M, 25MAMA, F25NDQ1, 25MAMA_PRISM, F25QTZ, F25SRF2, F25QTZ_PRISM, F25SRF2_PRISM, F25NDQ1_PRISM, 25MAMA_G230L, F25QTZ_G230L, F25SRF2_G230L, 25MAMA_G230M, F25NDQ1_G230L, F25QTZ_G230M, F25SRF2_G230M, F25NDQ2, F25NDQ1_G230M, F25NDQ2_PRISM, F25NDQ2_G230L, F25ND3, F25NDQ2_G230M, F25ND3_PRISM, F25ND3_G230L, F25ND3_G230M, F25NDQ3, F25NDQ3_G230L, F25CN270_G230L, F25CN270, F25CN270_PRISM, F25CN270_G230M, F25NDQ3_PRISM, F25NDQ3_G230M, F25NDQ4, F25NDQ4_PRISM, F25MGII, F25MGII_PRISM, F25MGII_G230L, F25MGII_G230M, F25NDQ4_G230L, F25NDQ4_G230M, F25ND5, F25ND5_PRISM, F25ND5_G230L, F25ND5_G230M

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Table 16.1 – continued from previous page

Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
HST-WFC3_UVIS2.tar.bz2	HST	WFC3_UVIS2	F218W, FQ232N, F225W, FQ243N, G280, F275W, F300X, F280N, F336W, F343N, F373N, FQ378N, FQ387N, F390M, F390W, F395N, F410M, FQ422M, F438W, FQ436N, FQ437N, F467M, F469N, F475W, F487N, F200LP, F475X, FQ492N, F502N, FQ508N, F555W, F547M, FQ575N, F350LP, F606W, FQ619N, F621M, F625W, F631N, FQ634N, F645N, F656N, F657N, F658N, F665N, FQ672N, FQ674N, F673N, F680N, F689M, F600LP, FQ727N, FQ750N, F763M, F775W, F814W, F845M, FQ889N, FQ906N, F850LP, FQ924N, FQ937N, F953N
HST-WFC3_UVIS1.tar.bz2	HST	WFC3_UVIS1	F218W, FQ232N, F225W, FQ243N, F275W, G280, F300X, F280N, F336W, F343N, F373N, FQ378N, FQ387N, F390M, F390W, F395N, F410M, FQ422M, F438W, FQ436N, FQ437N, F467M, F469N, F475W, F487N, F475X, FQ492N, F502N, FQ508N, F200LP, F555W, F547M, FQ575N, F350LP, F606W, FQ619N, F621M, F625W, F631N, FQ634N, F645N, F656N, F657N, F658N, F665N, FQ672N, FQ674N, F673N, F680N, F689M, F600LP, FQ727N, FQ750N, F763M, F775W, F814W, F845M, FQ889N, FQ906N, F850LP, FQ924N, FQ937N, F953N
HST-ACS_HRC.tar.bz2	HST	ACS_HRC	F220W, F250W, F330W, F344N, FR388N, F435W, FR459M, F475W, F502N, FR505N, F555W, F550M, F606W, PR200L, F625W, FR656N, F658N, F660N, POL_UV, POL_V, G800L, F775W, F814W, F892N, F850LP, FR914M
HST-HSP_POL.tar.bz2	HST	HSP_POL	F216M_0, F237M_0, F277M_0, F327M_0, F160LP_T, F160LP_A

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Table 16.1 – continued from previous page

Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
HST-STIS_CCD.tar.bz2	HST	STIS_CCD	F28X50LP_G230LB, 50CCD_G230LB, 50CORON_G230LB, F28X50LP_G230MB, 50CCD_G230MB, 50CORON_G230MB, F28X50OII_G430L, F28X50OII_G430M, F28X50OII, 50CCD_G430M, 50CORON_G430M, 50CCD_G430L, 50CORON_G430L, F28X50OIII, F28X50OIII_G430L, F28X50OIII_G430M, F28X50LP_G430M, F28X50LP_G430L, 50CCD, 50CORON, 50CCD_G750L, 50CORON_G750L, F28X50LP, 50CCD_G750M, 50CORON_G750M, F28X50LP_G750L, F28X50LP_G750M
HST-FOS_BLUE.tar.bz2	HST	FOS_BLUE	G130H, MIRROR, G190H, G160L, G400H, G270H, PRISM
HST-ACS_WFC.tar.bz2	HST	ACS_WFC	FR388N, FR423N, F435W, FR459M, FR462N, F475W, F502N, FR505N, F555W, FR551N, F550M, F606W, FR601N, F625W, FR647M, FR656N, F658N, F660N, POL_UV, POL_V, FR716N, G800L, F775W, FR782N, F814W, FR853N, F850LP, F892N, FR914M, FR931N, FR1016N
HST-FOS_RED.tar.bz2	HST	FOS_RED	G780H, G160L, G190H, MIRROR, G400H, G270H, PRISM, G570H, G650L
HST-FGS.tar.bz2	HST	FGS	ND5, PUPIL, F583W, F605W, F550W, F650W
HST-NICMOS1.tar.bz2	HST	NICMOS1	F090M, F095N, F097N, POL0S, POL240S, POL120S, F108N, F110M, F113N, F110W, F140W, F145M, F160W, F165M, F164N, F166N, F170M, F187N, F190N
HST-WFC3_IR.tar.bz2	HST	WFC3_IR	F098M, G102, F105W, F110W, F125W, F126N, F127M, F128N, F130N, F132N, F139M, G141, F140W, F153M, F160W, F164N, F167N

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Table 16.1 – continued from previous page

Passband File	Facility	Instrument	Filters
HST-NICMOS3.tar.bz2	HST	NICMOS3	G096, F108N, F110W, F113N, F150W, G141, F160W, F164N, F166N, F175W, F187N, F190N, F196N, F200N, F212N, F215N, G206, F222M, F240M
HST-NICMOS2.tar.bz2	HST	NICMOS2	F110W, F160W, F165M, F171M, F180M, F187W, F187N, F190N, POL120L, POL240L, POL0L, F204M, F205W, F207M, F212N, F215N, F216N, F222M, F237M
JWST-NIRCam.tar.bz2	JWST	NIRCam	F070W, F090W, F115W, F140M, F150W, F162M, F164N, F150W2, F182M, F187N, F200W, F210M, F212N, F250M, F277W, F300M, F323N, F322W2, F335M, F356W, F360M, F405N, F410M, F430M, F444W, F460M, F466N, F470N, F480M
JWST-NIRISS.tar.bz2	JWST	NIRISS	F090W, F115W, F140M, F150W, F158M, F200W, F277W, F356W, F380M, F430M, F444W, F480M
JWST-MIRI.tar.bz2	JWST	MIRI	F560W, F770W, F1000W, F1065C, F1130W, F1140C, F1280W, F1500W, F1550C, F1800W, F2100W, F2300C, F2550W
Kepler.tar.bz2	Kepler	—	K
LSST.tar.bz2	LSST	—	u_filter, u, g_filter, g, r, r_filter, i, i_filter, z, z_filter, y, y_filter
MOST.tar.bz2	MOST	—	band
PAN-STARRS-PS1.tar.bz2	PAN-STARRS	PS1	g, r, w, open, i, z, y
Spitzer-IRAC.tar.bz2	Spitzer	IRAC	I1, I2, I3, I4
Spitzer-IRS.tar.bz2	Spitzer	IRS	Blue, Red
Spitzer-MIPS.tar.bz2	Spitzer	MIPS	24mu, 70mu, 160mu
Generic-Stromgren.tar.bz2	Generic	Strömgren	u, v, b, y
TESS.tar.bz2	TESS	—	Red
WFIRST-WFI.tar.bz2	WFIRST	WFI	R062, Z087, Y106, Prism, J129, W146, Grism, H158, F184

GRID TOOLS

This appendix outlines the set of tools provided with MSG to assist in creating and managing custom grids. These tools are built by default during compilation, and can be found in the `$MSG_DIR/bin` directory.

17.1 Converting Spectra

The following tools convert existing spectra and/or spectroscopic grids into one or more `specint` files:

17.1.1 `synspec_to_specint`

The `synspec_to_specint` tool extracts an single intensity spectrum from a `fort.18` data file produced by the SYN-SPEC spectral synthesis package (Lanz & Hubeny, 2003), and writes it to a `specint` file. It accepts the following command-line arguments:

<synspec_file_name>

Name of input SYNSPEC file.

<n_mu>

Number of μ values in input file (as specified by the `nmu` parameter in the `fort.55` SYNSPEC control file).

<mu_0>

Minimum μ value in input file (as specified by the `ang0` parameter in the `fort.55` SYNSPEC control file).

<lam_min>

Minimum wavelength of output file (Å).

<lam_max>

Maximum wavelength in output file (Å).

<R>

Resolution $\mathcal{R} = \lambda/\Delta\lambda$ in output file.

<law_str>

Limb-darkening law in output file (see [here](#) for a list of options).

<specint_file_name>

Name of output `specint` file.

<label> (optional)

Label of atmosphere parameter (must be accompanied by a corresponding `<value>` argument).

<value> (optional)

Value of atmosphere parameter (must be accompanied by a corresponding **<label>** argument).

Note that **<label>** and **<value>** parameters must be paired; and that there can be multiple of these pairs. For the law selected by the **<law_str>** option, the tool calculates the limb-darkening coefficients at each wavelength via a least-squares fit to the function

$$y(\mu) = 1 - \frac{I_{\lambda}(\mu)}{I_{\lambda}(1)}.$$

17.1.2 ferre_to_specint

The **ferre_to_specint** tool extracts a series of flux spectra from a data file in **FERRE** format, and writes them to **specint** files. It accepts the following command-line arguments:

<ferre_file_name>

Name of input FERRE file.

<ferre_file_type>

Type of input file. This determines the mapping between photospheric parameters given in the input file, and photospheric parameters written to the output file. Supported options are CAP18 (for the [Allende Prieto et al., 2018](#) grids).

<specint_prefix>

Prefix of output **specint** files; these will have the name **<specint_prefix>-NNNNNNNN.h5**, where NNNNNNNN is the zero-padded index of the spectrum (starting at 1).

17.1.3 goettingen_to_specint

The **goettingen_to_specint** tool extracts a flux spectrum from a data file in FITS format (with the schema described by [Husser et al., 2013](#)), and writes it to a **specint** file. This tool accepts the following command-line arguments:

<fits_file_name>

Name of input FITS file.

<wave_type>

Type of wavelength abscissa. This determines the number and distribution of points to assume for the input file. Supported options, corresponding to the different grids described by [Husser et al. \(2013\)](#), are HiRes (high-resolution), MedRes-A1 (medium-resolution, $\Delta\lambda = 1 \text{ \AA}$) and MedRes-R10000 (medium resolution, $\mathcal{R} = 10\,000$).

<specint_file_name>

Name of output **specint** file.

Note: In order for **goettingen_to_specint** to build, you must first uncomment/edit the line in `$MSG_DIR/build/Makefile` that defines the `FITS_LDFLAGS` variable. This variable defines the flags used to link against your system's FITS library.

17.1.4 `ascii_to_specint`

The `ascii_to_specint` tool reads a generic flux spectrum from an ASCII text file, and writes it to a `specint` file. It accepts the following command-line arguments:

<ascii_file_name>

Name of input ASCII text file (see below).

<lam_units>

Units of wavelength data in input file. Possible choices are 'A' (Å).

<flux_units>

Units of flux data in input file. Possible choices are 'erg/cm^2/s/A' ($\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{Å}^{-1}$).

<specint_file_name>

Name of output `specint` file.

<label> (optional)

Label of atmosphere parameter (must be accompanied by a corresponding **<value>** argument).

<value> (optional)

Value of atmosphere parameter (must be accompanied by a corresponding **<label>** argument).

Note that **<label>** and **<value>** parameters must be paired; and that there can be multiple of these pairs. The input ASCII text file should contain one or more lines, each consisting of a wavelength value followed by a flux value.

17.1.5 `specint_to_specint`

The `specint_to_specint` tool subsets and/or rebins data in an existing `specint` file. It accepts the following command-line arguments:

<specint_file_name_in>

Name of input `specint` file.

<specint_file_name_out>

Name of output `specint` file.

lam_min=<value> (optional)

Subset to have a minimum wavelength of at least **<value>** (Å).

lam_max=<value> (optional)

Subset to have a maximum wavelength of at most **<value>** (Å).

R=<value> (optional)

Rebin to have a uniform resolution $\mathcal{R}$ of **<value>**.

diam=<value> (optional)

Rebin to have a uniform wavelength spacing $\Delta\lambda$ of **<value>** (Å).

just=<L|R> (optional)

Justify the new wavelength abscissa to the left (L) or right (R).

If you would like to convert spectra from a format that isn't covered by these tools, please [open an issue](#) describing the format and/or pointing to relevant literature.

17.2 Packaging Grids

The following tools package multiple `specint` files to create `specgrid` and `photgrid` files:

17.2.1 `specint_to_specgrid`

The `specint_to_specgrid` tool packages together multiple `specint` files to make a spectroscopic grid, writing it to a `specgrid`. It accepts the following command-line arguments:

<manifest_file_name>

Name of input manifest file (see below).

<specgrid_file_name>

Name of output `specgrid` file.

<allow_dupes> (optional)

Flag governing handling of duplicate grid nodes in the manifest file; set to T to allow duplicates.

The manifest file is a simple text file that lists all the `specint` files (one per line) that should be included in the grid. The axes and the topology of the grid are automatically determined by the labels attached to each `specint` file. If two files have identical labels, then the one appearing later in the manifest file is used if `<allow_dupes>` is T; otherwise, an error is thrown.

17.2.2 `specgrid_to_photgrid`

The `specgrid_to_photgrid` tool convolves a spectroscopic grid with a passband to make a photometric grid, writing it to a `photgrid` file. It accepts the following command-line arguments:

<specgrid_file_name>

Name of input `specgrid` file.

<passband_file_name>

Name of input `passband` file.

<photgrid_file_name>

Name of output `photgrid` file.

Note that it's not always necessary to create `photgrid` files, as MSG can convolve with passbands on the fly (as discussed in the *Photometric Colors* section).

17.3 Creating Passband Files

The following tools create `passband` files:

17.3.1 make_passband

The **make_passband** tool reads response data, and writes them to a **passband** file. It accepts the following command-line arguments:

<input_file_name>

Name of input file (see below).

<F_0>

Normalizing flux F_0 ($\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{\AA}^{-1}$).

<passband_file_name>

Name of output **passband** file.

The input file is a text file tabulating wavelength λ ($\text{\AA}$) and passband response function $S'(\lambda)$ (see the *Photometric Colors* section).

TENSOR PRODUCT INTERPOLATION

Tensor product interpolation is a generalization of low-dimension (typically, 2-d or 3-d) multivariate interpolation schemes to an arbitrary number of dimensions. The literature on this topic is rather specialized (although see this [Wikipedia section](#)); therefore, this appendix provides a brief introduction. Interpolation in general is covered by many textbooks, so the focus here is reviewing how simple schemes can be generalized.

18.1 Univariate Interpolation

Suppose we are given a set of values $f(x_1), f(x_2), \dots, f(x_n)$, representing some function $f(x)$ evaluated at a set of n discrete grid points. Then, a piecewise-linear interpolation scheme approximates $f(x)$ in each subinterval $x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}$ via

$$\tilde{f}(x) = f_i \ell_1(u) + f_{i+1} \ell_2(u)$$

Here $f_i \equiv f(x_i)$, while

$$u \equiv \frac{x - x_i}{x_{i+1} - x_i}$$

is a normalized coordinate that expresses where in the subinterval we are; $u = 0$ corresponds to $x = x_i$, and $u = 1$ to $x = x_{i+1}$. The linear basis functions are defined by

$$\ell_1(u) = 1 - u, \quad \ell_2(u) = u.$$

This interpolation scheme is C^0 continuous, and reproduces $f(x)$ exactly at the grid points.

If we want a smoother representation of the function, we generally need more data. Suppose then that we're also provided the derivatives df/dx at the grid points. Then, a piecewise-cubic interpolation scheme is

$$\tilde{f}(x) = f_i c_1(u) + f_{i+1} c_2(u) + \partial_x f_i c_3(u) + \partial_x f_{i+1} c_4(u)$$

where u has the same definition as before, $\partial_x f_i \equiv (df/dx)_{x=x_i}$, and the cubic basis functions are

$$c_1(u) = 2u^3 - 3u^2 + 1, \quad c_2(u) = u^3 - u^2, \quad c_3(u) = -2u^3 + 3u^2, \quad c_4(u) = u^3 - 2u^2 + u$$

(these can be recognized as the basis functions for [cubic Hermite splines](#)). This new definition is C^1 continuous, and reproduces $f(x)$ and its first derivative exactly at the grid points.

18.2 Bivariate Interpolation

Bivariate interpolation allows us to approximate a function $f(x, y)$ from its values on a rectilinear (but not necessarily equally spaced) grid described by the axis values $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ and $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m$. A piecewise-bilinear interpolating scheme approximates $f(x, y)$ in each subinterval $x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}, y_j \leq y \leq y_{j+1}$ via

$$\tilde{f}(x, y) = f_{i,j} \ell_1(u) \ell_1(v) + f_{i+1,j} \ell_2(u) \ell_2(v) + f_{i,j+1} \ell_1(u) \ell_2(v) + f_{i+1,j+1} \ell_2(u) \ell_2(v)$$

Here, u has the same definition as before, while

$$v \equiv \frac{y - y_j}{y_{j+1} - y_j},$$

and $f_{i,j} \equiv f(x_i, y_j)$. We can also write the scheme in the more-compact form

$$\tilde{f}(x, y) = \sum_{p,q=1}^2 \mathcal{L}^{p,q} \ell_p(u) \ell_q(v),$$

where the coefficients $\mathcal{L}^{p,q}$ can be expressed as the matrix

$$\mathcal{L}^{p,q} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} f_{i,j} & f_{i,j+1} \\ f_{i+1,j} & f_{i+1,j+1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

A corresponding piecewise-bicubic interpolating scheme can be written in the form

$$\tilde{f}(x, y) = \sum_{p,q=1}^4 \mathcal{C}^{p,q} c_p(u) c_q(v),$$

where the coefficients $\mathcal{C}^h$ can be expressed as the matrix

$$\mathcal{C}^{p,q} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} f_{i,j} & f_{i,j+1} & \partial_y f_{i,j} & \partial_y f_{i,j+1} \\ f_{i+1,j} & f_{i+1,j+1} & \partial_y f_{i+1,j} & \partial_y f_{i+1,j+1} \\ \partial_x f_{i,j} & \partial_x f_{i,j+1} & \partial_{xy} f_{i,j} & \partial_{xy} f_{i,j+1} \\ \partial_x f_{i+1,j} & \partial_x f_{i+1,j+1} & \partial_{xy} f_{i+1,j} & \partial_{xy} f_{i+1,j+1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Constructing this matrix requires 16 values: the function at the four corners of the subinterval, the first derivatives with respect to x and with respect to y at the corners, and the cross derivatives $\partial_{xy} f$ at the corners.

18.3 Multivariate Interpolation

Let's now generalize the compact expressions above for piecewise-bilinear and bicubic interpolation, to piecewise interpolation in N dimensions. For linear interpolation, we have

$$\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N) = \sum_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N=1}^2 \mathcal{L}^{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N} \prod_{k=1}^N \ell_{p_k}(u_k)$$

Likewise, for cubic interpolation, we have

$$\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N) = \sum_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N=1}^4 \mathcal{C}^{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N} \prod_{k=1}^N c_{p_k}(u_k).$$

The coefficients $\mathcal{L}^{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N}$ and $\mathcal{C}^{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N}$ cannot easily be expressed in closed form, but they are relatively straightforward to construct algorithmically.

The summations in expressions above can be regarded as the contraction (over all indices) of a pair of rank- N tensors. In the cubic case, the components of the first tensor correspond to the coefficients $\mathcal{C}^{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N}$, while the second tensor is formed by taking N outer products between the vectors

$$\mathbf{c}(u_k) = \begin{bmatrix} c_1(u_k) \\ c_2(u_k) \\ c_3(u_k) \\ c_4(u_k) \end{bmatrix} \quad (k = 1, \dots, N)$$

Hence, this kind of multivariate interpolation is known as tensor product interpolation.

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