Quick-look Applet Spectrum 2

Markus Dolensky¹, Benoît Pirenne

Space Telescope - European Coordinating Facility,
Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 2, D-85748 Garching, Germany

Scott Binegar, Molly Brandt, Nial Gaffney

Space Telescope Science Institute, 3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218

Christophe Arviset, Jose Hernandez

ISO Data Centre, European Space Agency, Space Science Department,
Astrophysics Division, Villafranca del Castillo, PO Box 50727, 28080 Madrid, Spain

Abstract. Spectrum 2 is a new quick-look applet for spectra. It serves as part of the ST-ECF HST archive web interface. Prior to display the ESO Fits Translation Utility²(FTU) is used to homogenize plots of data from HST instruments STIS, FOS and GHRS. Spectrum 2 supports manipulations of multiple spectra. It will also be integrated within STScI’s new archive browser StarView 6. A stand-alone version of Spectrum 2 is available for download³.

This article concentrates on the software architecture and interfaces of this java utility since it is composed of various components mainly developed by ESA-IDC and ST-ECF.

1. S/W Architecture

Figure 1 shows Spectrum 2 in context of the ST-ECF HST archive web interface (http://archive.eso.org). On user request preview spectra are retrieved from the archive DB. The ESO Fits Translation Utility (FTU) is used to homogenize plots of data from HST instruments STIS, FOS, and GHRS. Spectrum 2 supports manipulations of multiple spectra. It will also be integrated within STScI’s new archive browser StarView 6. A stand-alone version of Spectrum 2 is available for download³.

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¹Affiliated to the Astrophysics Division, Space Science Department, European Space Agency
²http://archive.eso.org/ftu/
³http://archive.eso.org/java/sp2/
capability has been implemented first. This happened in cooperation with the ISO Data Centre. For the sake of browser support the GUI is based on the Abstract Windowing Toolkit (AWT) rather than on the more powerful Swing libraries. AWT is part of the Java Virtual Machine that executes Spectrum 2 and therefore does not require any installation on the client side. The actual plot is rendered with Brookshaw’s Graph Class Library. A user does not need any knowledge about the internal data structure of HST observations to perform a quick on-line evaluation of individual or associated spectra.

2. Interfaces

Spectrum 2 provides various machine interfaces (Figure 2). It accepts parameters from the command line in application context and from the HTML <APPLET> tag in applet context. It is capable of parsing FITS headers in order to extract plot attributes and finally it can communicate with other Java components via shared objects by which means it can be hooked up to StarView 6 from STScI.

3. Future Work

• The first release will be further tailored to support the visualization and on-line analysis of associations of spectra: Binning and features for the manipulation of individual spectra within an association of spectra are desirable.
Figure 3. *Spectrum 2* displaying 16 associated FOS spectra of Eta Carinae (PI Davidson).

- *Spectrum 2* software releases will be made available for download\(^4\).
- Integration within archive browser StarView 6: There will be a static interface comparable to the interface with image viewer JIPA (Dolensky, Mayhew, & Kennedy 1998), but it may be turned into a dynamic Bean component at a later stage.

**References**


\(^4\text{http://archive.eso.org/java/sp2/}\)