

MESA Stellar Model Format

MESA-format files store data describing a stellar model in an ASCII text file. There are two variants of this format, ‘old’ and ‘new’, differentiated by their header lines.

Old Variant

The first line of old-variant MES files is a header with the following columns:

Column	Variable	Datatype	Definition
1	n	integer	Number of grid points
2	M_*	real	Stellar mass (g)
3	R_*	real	Stellar radius (cm)
4	L_*	real	Stellar luminosity (erg s^{-1})

The following n lines contain the model data, one line per grid point extending from the center to the surface, with the following columns:

Column	Name	Datatype	Definition
1	k	integer	Grid point index ($k = 1, \dots, n$)
2	r	real	Radius (cm)
3	w	real	$M_r/(M_* - M_r)$
4	L_r	real	Luminosity (erg s^{-1})
5	p	real	Total pressure (dyn cm^{-2})
6	T	real	Temperature (K)
7	ρ	real	Density (g cm^{-3})
8	∇	real	$d \ln T / d \ln p$
9	N^2	real	Brunt-Väisälä frequency squared (s^{-2})
10	c_V	real	Specific heat at constant volume ($\text{erg g}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$)
11	c_p	real	Specific heat at constant pressure ($\text{erg g}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$)
12	χ_T	real	$(\partial \ln p / \partial \ln T)_\rho$
13	χ_ρ	real	$(\partial \ln p / \partial \ln \rho)_T$
14	κ	real	opacity ($\text{cm}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$)
15	κ_T	real	$(\partial \ln \kappa / \partial \ln T)_\rho$
16	κ_ρ	real	$(\partial \ln \kappa / \partial \ln \rho)_T$
17	ϵ	real	energy generation/loss rate ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$)
18	ϵ_T	real	$(\partial \epsilon / \partial \ln T)_\rho$ ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$)
19	ϵ_ρ	real	$(\partial \epsilon / \partial \ln \rho)_T$ ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$)

New Variant

The first line of new-variant MES files is a header with the following columns:

Column	Variable	Datatype	Definition
1	n	integer	Number of grid points
2	M_*	real	Stellar mass (g)
3	R_*	real	Stellar radius (cm)
4	L_*	real	Stellar luminosity (erg s^{-1})
5	n_{col}	integer	Number of columns in subsequent lines

The following n lines contain the model data, one line per grid point extending from the center to the surface, with the following columns:

Column	Name	Datatype	Definition
1	k	integer	Grid point index ($k = 1, \dots, n$)
2	r	real	Radius (cm)
3	w	real	$M_r/(M_* - M_r)$
4	L_r	real	Luminosity (erg s^{-1})
5	p	real	Total pressure (dyn cm^{-2})
6	T	real	Temperature (K)
7	ρ	real	Density (g cm^{-2})
8	∇	real	$d \ln T / d \ln p$
9	N^2	real	Brunt-Väisälä frequency squared (s^{-2})
10	Γ_1	real	$(\partial \ln p / \partial \ln \rho)_{\text{ad}}$
11	∇_{ad}	real	$(d \ln T / d \ln p)_{\text{ad}}$
12	δ	real	$-(\partial \ln \rho / \partial \ln T)_p$
13	κ	real	opacity ($\text{cm}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$)
14	κ_T	real	$(\partial \ln \kappa / \partial \ln T)_\rho$
15	κ_ρ	real	$(\partial \ln \kappa / \partial \ln \rho)_T$
16	ϵ	real	energy generation/loss rate ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$)
17	ϵ_T	real	$(\partial \epsilon / \partial \ln T)_\rho$ ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$)
18	ϵ_ρ	real	$(\partial \epsilon / \partial \ln \rho)_T$ ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$)
19	Ω_{rot}	real	Rotation angular velocity (rad s^{-1})