A User Guide to Mexec

A Matlab-based Bespoke Processing Suite

for Ship-based Oceanographic Data

Version 4 (subset of ocp\_hydro\_matlab)

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 About this guide

This guide, and Mexec, are designed for those wishing to process CTD and underway data at sea. The underway portion is applicable to ships running SCS or TECHSAS systems. Basic familiarity with UNIX/Linux, shell scripting, and Matlab is assumed.

Throughout, > is used to indicate examples of steps run from the command line, including shell scripts, and >> for steps run from Matlab. Variables or parts of filenames that must be substituted with values are in italic (e.g. a reference to m\_daily\_proc(*day*) indicates that the day number should be substituted for *day*; opt\_*cruise*.m refers to opt\_dy113.m, opt\_jc238.m, etc.; ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_2db.nc refers to one of a set of files, with *cruise* replaced by the cruise designation and *nnn* replaced by the 3-digit form of the station number).

The following sections give instructions for setting up Mexec processing for a cruise (Section 2); processing CTD data (Section 3); and processing underway data (Section 4). A brief description of Mexec is given below, with a few more details in Appendix A, but in general this is meant to be a guide to a standard set of steps with limited variations. Example processing checklists are included in Appendix \*\*\*.

This guide was first written by Penny Holliday and has been updated for v3 by Yvonne Firing and Alejandra Sanchez Franks and for v4 by Yvonne Firing.

## 1.2 What is Mexec?

Mexec is a system for processing, quality control, and integration of hydrographic data including CTD and water sample data and standard underway streams. It consists of Matlab and shell scripts, and interfaces with output of the SeaBird software (for collection and initial processing of CTD data), and with external libraries for processing of LADCP and VMADCP data. It saves its output as NetCDF files with a particular set of metadata and conventions (referred to here as Mstar files, see 1.2.3). The Matlab scripts are part of git repository git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/ocp\_hydro\_matlab, and the shell scripts are in git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/mexec\_exec.

The Mexec libraries were developed over a number of years by scientists at the UK National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, principally Brian King and Yvonne Firing, with contributions from many others including D. Desbruyeres, G. Evans, C. Florindo Lopez, N.P. Holliday, L. Houpert, E. Kent, G. McCarthy, B. Moat, A. Sanchez-Franks, D. Smeed, Z. Szuts, and E. Woodward (?I think: efw\*\*\*), as well as from external collaborators including E.P. Abrahamsen, K. Baumeister, S. Gary, and D. Ham, They use the Seawater (C. Morgan and L. Pender), GSW (SCOR/IAPSO WG127), and gamma\_n (D. Jackett and T. McDougall) libraries in calculations. They interface with the LDEO IX LADCP processing software (M. Visbeck and A. Thurnherr), and read in underway data from SCS,, TechSAS, and RVDAS (NOC/NMF) as well as VMADCP data from CODAS (University of Hawaii Currents Group).

The code has undergone numerous revisions, more recently preserved as git commits (before 2018 preserved in each cruise’s end-of-cruise backup of the processing workstation). Major changes since 2014 include:

JR15003 (2015/16): start of mexec\_processing\_scripts\_v3, with introduction of cruise options files (see 1.2.2).

JC159 (2018): introduction of git for version control, using three repositories (now superseded and no longer maintained, see below): git.noc.ac.uk/MEXEC/mexec\_processing\_scripts, git.noc.ac.uk/MEXEC/mexec, and git.noc.ac.uk/MEXEC/mexec\_exec.

JC191 (2020): revision of netcdf file-interface code to use Matlab-native functions (replacing bespoke functions developed before the Matlab-native functions were available).

JC211 (2021): addition of interface to NMF RVDAS underway data acquisition system, as well as function for saving from Matlab workspace to Mstar files using Matlab save-like interface, and (enabled by this function) the start of simplification of processing steps and reduction in number of intermediate Mstar files

JC238 (2022): version 4: continued simplification of processing steps, merge of mexec and mexec\_processing\_scripts along with other related Matlab code into a single git repository, git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/ocp\_hydro\_matlab, and shifting of (maintained) mexec\_exec repository from git.noc.ac.uk/MEXEC/ to git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/.

Some attempts at backwards compatibility have been made, with the goal that newer code could be used to reprocess older cruises’ data (without starting completely from scratch), for instance if new bottle samples analysed ashore become available, or calibrations are reconsidered. Where file name patterns (e.g. for merged intermediate files) have changed, the aim is for code to be compatible with both old and new versions. Backwards compatibility is also maintained for some variable names but not all . When cruise options files were introduced on JR15003, processing choices from previous cruises were captured, and earlier cruises’ options files were generally kept up to date with changes to code through DY113. Changes from JC211 on (e.g. to option names, how they are specified, or in which scripts they are used) have been only partially propagated back to earlier cruises’ options files as of this point, so reprocessing earlier cruises’ data may require more editing of the options files.

### 1.2.1 History files and data file version control for multiple people processing data

Each step that goes into a Mstar file is recorded both in the header comment field and in a history file for the processing stream (so, although there are multiple ctd Mstar files for each station, there will be a single ctd history file for each station). The history files are found in mexec\_housekeeping/history/.

To prevent conflicts over modifying Mstar files, editing one also sets a lock file, in mexec\_housekeeping/version/, which will normally be reset in closing the program. If a program is interrupted mid-run, however, the flag may have to be reset manually using mreset.m.

### 1.2.2 Processing options and parameters

A number of processing parameters and variables (e.g. which CTD is primary, the calibration functions for conductivity and other parameters, etc.) change from cruise to cruise. From Mexec v3 on, rather than editing the various scripts that may contain these parameters, they are set centrally, with modifications contained in one script (per cruise), as follows: processing scripts and functions call get\_cropt.m, which

1. calls the four setdef\_cropt\_\*.m scripts to set any defaults using switch/case on two (string) variables: scriptname (generally the name of the calling script) and oopt;
2. calls opt\_*cruise*.m to set cruise-specific options, again using switch/case on scriptname and oopt; and
3. calls check\_cropt.m to (for some cases) check and warn about invalid or unset options.

The defaults are split, purely for convenience/readability, across four scripts: setdef\_cropt\_cast.m contains defaults relating to CTD casts, setdef\_cropt\_sam.m those relating to sample data, setdef\_cropt\_uway.m those relating to underway streams, and setdef\_cropt\_other.m contains defaults relating to everything else (csv output files, multi-cast gridding, etc.). These setdef\*.m scripts contain explanations for each set of options and therefore may be useful to examine, but general users should not edit them. Instead, make changes to opt\_*cruise*.m for your cruise – it is recommended that you not duplicate (unchanged) default settings in this file -- and raise an issue (see 1.3) if you think the defaults themselves should change.

A guide to finding out about cruise-specific options is in Appendix \*\*\*.

To determine processing choices that went into a given data file, in addition to the comment field, the metadata includes the commit active when the data file was most recently modified; the setdef\_cropt\_\*.m and opt\_*cruise*.m files in that commit thus contain a record of corresponding processing parameters. If you add parameters (e.g. a list of salinity sample flags to modify) not explicitly in opt\_*cruise*.m but by having opt\_*cruise*.m read in another file (e.g. salflags.txt), you should place that file in your data directory (e.g. in ctd/BOTTLE\_SAL) so it will be backed up along with the original input “data” files (e.g. sal\_jc238\_crate1.csv, etc.).

### 1.2.3 Mexec conventions

Mexec uses global variables for passing arguments to functions. This means if you clear the workspace you will have to re-run m\_common or m\_global before using any other Mexec programs.

The reason for this setup is that many of the original functions that performed calculations and did file i/o (now in ocp\_hydro\_matlab/file\_tools/mexec/) were designed to be run in an interactive mode, prompting for successive inputs on the command line. To call these functions within other scripts or functions, therefore, a global variable (MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN) is used and queried for the inputs. Because the list of inputs depends on the previous choices, the best way to figure out how to use one of these functions is to call it in interactive mode (with empty or missing MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN) and follow the prompts.

Partially in v3 and increasingly in v4, these functions are being superseded, first by increased calculations in the workspace, and second by functions that take input arguments in a more Matlab-standard format. This guide thus assumes users will interact with Mexec by running the wrapper scripts (ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts and subdirectories, described below) and modifying the cruise options file, ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts/cruise\_options/opt\_*cruise*.m, and will not need to directly call the ocp\_hydro\_matlab/file\_tools/mexec/ functions (or edit them except for some specifying underway file information, detailed in Section \*\*\*).

### 1.2.4 Mstar file format

Mexec generates NetCDF files, with a particular format (set of attributes), referred to here as Mstar files. While these NetCDF files can be read with ncdisp.m and ncread.m (or equivalent programs in other languages), there are specific Mexec scripts for interfacing with them. There are two notable idiosyncracies that may trip up when interacting with Mstar files: a) all data must be numeric; b) their specification of time base and units is non-standard.

A quick guide to interacting with Mstar files is given in Appendix \*\*\*.

## 1.3 Changes and bugs

To submit edits, report bugs or suggest changes, raise a pull request or issue at git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/ocp\_hydro\_matlab or git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/mexec\_exec, or email [yvonne.firing@noc.ac.uk](mailto:yvonne.firing@noc.ac.uk). (Please see the lists of known bugs and planned additions in Appendix D first.)

We would like to record cruise-specific options used as well as integrate user improvements, so we encourage you to create a pull request or send us your scripts at the end of your cruise. To make it easier for us to track and integrate changes, please put any new scripts/functions that you think might be added to and maintained in the code base into ocp\_hydro\_matlab/ (and, ideally, in the issue or email include some context about your changes and/or additions), and keep any code that is working code just for your cruise (e.g. quick/specific code making plots of data) in a separate directory (i.e. outside ocp\_hydro\_matlab).

# 2. Setting up a new cruise and using Mexec

2.1 Before the cruise

1. Get the two git repositories.

If you have git and a login to git.noc.ac.uk with an ssh key linked to the OCP group, clone the master branch:

> cd ${PROGDIR} #wherever you choose to keep the software

> git clone [git@git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/ocp\_hydro\_matlab.git](mailto:git@git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/ocp_hydro_matlab.git)

> git clone [git@git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/mexec\_exec.git](mailto:git@git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/mexec_exec.git)

Generally the master branch is the version you should use, but in special cases you may instead want to work from a different cruise branch:

> cd ${PROGDIR}/ocp\_hydro\_matlab

> git branch *other\_branch*

> git fetch origin *other\_branch*

> git checkout origin *other\_branch*

> git pull origin *other\_branch*

Otherwise, download the desired branch (probably the master branch) from <http://git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/ocp_hydro_matlab> and <http://git.noc.ac.uk/OCP/mexec_exec>, and unpack in ${PROGDIR}.

1. Determine or decide on your cruise designation, typically 2-3 letters denoting the ship and 3-5 letters denoting the cruise number, e.g. dy113, jr18002, nbp0705. This will be used in various places and is the variable meant by (italic) *cruise* through the rest of this document.

a) If you are using git, for each of the repositories, create and switch to a new branch for your cruise:

> cd ${PROGDIR}/ocp\_hydro\_matlab

> git branch *cruise*

> git checkout *cruise*

> cd ${PROGDIR}/mexec\_exec

> git branch *cruise*

> git checkout *cruise*

3) Add mexec\_exec and its subdirectories to your shell path (in .bashrc or equivalent). Add ocp\_hydro\_matlab to your Matlab startup path.

4) Edit the cruise name and processing base directory (e.g. /local/users/pstar/dy113/mcruise/) in mexec\_exec/conf\_scripts/conf\_script\_mexec. You may also need to edit the underway data system and a flag for whether LADCP data are acquired. Run to configure the cruise directory structure:

> conf\_script\_mexec

This will set up a processing directory structure, including relative symbolic links so that the directory structure can be copied elsewhere (e.g. at the end of a cruise) and processing continued.

1. Edit ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts/m\_setup.m.

Most things you (may) need to modify are near the top of the file, including cruise designation (stored as MEXEC\_G.MSCRIPT\_CRUISE\_STRING), and year of the data time origin. The “quiet” flag determines how much information will be displayed to the screen while programs are running.

6) Generate an empty cruise-specific options file, ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts/cruise\_options/opt\_*cruise*.m, replacing *cruise* with your cruise reference (in the same form as you set in m\_setup.m, e.g. dy113). See below, as well as other files in that directory, for examples.

## 2.2 On the ship

7) Remotely mount data filesystems, and if necessary set up symbolic links, e.g.

> ln -s /mnt/Data/current\_cruise ~/mounts/mnt\_cruise\_data

The NOC OCP seagoing workstations have mount points for Cook and Discovery in /etc/fstab and preserved under ~/mounts/, e.g. \*\*\*

8) Edit shell scripts in mexec\_exec/: ctd\_syncscript, lad\_syncscript (for LADCP), and uhdas\_01\_linkmerge (if reading UHDAS/CODAS data).

These scripts will be used to sync data from the remote directories to the processing directory structure, and will need to be edited to reflect file naming conventions in the remote directories (e.g. ~/mounts/CTD/Data/CTD\_DY113\_001.cnv vs. ~/mounts/CTD/Data/Processed/ctd\_dy113\_001\_01.cnv, etc.).

You may also want to use mexec\_exec/cruise\_backup to sync the processing directory and scripts to an external hard drive; in this case, edit the directories set near the top of cruise\_backup, and (recommended) add it to your crontab file to run regularly.

9) Set up or link underway data processing

a) ocp\_hydro\_matlab/file\_tools/mexec/mtechsas/mtnames.m (for TECHSAS) or ocp\_hydro\_matlab/file\_tools/mscs/msnames.m (for SCS): add or comment/uncomment lines as necessary to reflect the stream names available on your cruise. If adding a new type of stream you can decide on the Mexec abbreviation. \*\*\*mrvdas

b) ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts/underway/m\_setudir.m: if you added new Mexec stream abbreviations in a), add them and the directories where you wish those streams to be processed to the list in m\_setudir.m. In any case you may need to uncomment/comment out newly relevant/irrelevant lines.

Note: if new underway streams become available during the cruise, remove ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts/underway/m\_udirs.m and regenerate it, and the new directories, by running m\_setudir.m.

10) Edit template files in ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts/varlists/ \*\*\*deprecated?

Template files are used to control lists of variables within scripts. They include ctd\_renamelist.csv, sam\_varlist.csv, dcs\_varlist.csv, and cchdo\_varlist.csv and cchdo\_ctd\_varlist.csv which determine lists of variables to be loaded for CTD, bottle sample, and other files, and how (if) they will be renamed. For SCS ships, there is also the set of scs\_renamelist\_source.csv files.

The list of variable names that you require in each file will vary from cruise to cruise depending on which samples are being collected. The ctd\_, sam\_, and cchdo\_ template files put in place by the conf\_script contain many possible variables, so in most cases you will just need to delete lines. The scs\_ files may need to be edited but most likely not.

c) ocp\_hydro\_matlab/mexec\_processing\_scripts/varlists/mcvars\_list.m: make sure the two lists in this file include all the variables you want to carry through CTD processing and sample comparison, respectively. It is not necessary to comment out variables you don’t have.

2.3 Using Mexec

Each time Matlab is started, run m\_setup.m to initialize the environment for Mexec processing by adding paths and generating global variables. If you clear all variables at any point, run m\_common or m\_global to regenerate them.

# 3. CTD data and water bottle sample data

## 3.1 Sea Bird data acquisition and processing

The first step is to select the SBE output variables in the SBE data acquisition software, SeaSave. Record the setup by saving a .XMLCON file. It is essential that the output variables include scan and pressure temperature, and it is highly useful for them to include NMEA latitude and longitude if those streams are available (generally the case on modern research vessels). For some variables (e.g. turbidity), the conversion from voltage to physical units may result in loss of precision, so better results may be obtained by outputting the raw voltage stream.

Here is an example from JC086.

# name 0 = timeS: Time, Elapsed [seconds]

# name 1 = depSM: Depth [salt water, m]

# name 2 = prDM: Pressure, Digiquartz [db]

# name 3 = t090C: Temperature [ITS-90, deg C]

# name 4 = t190C: Temperature, 2 [ITS-90, deg C]

# name 5 = c0mS/cm: Conductivity [mS/cm]

# name 6 = c1mS/cm: Conductivity, 2 [mS/cm]

# name 7 = sal00: Salinity, Practical [PSU]

# name 8 = sal11: Salinity, Practical, 2 [PSU]

# name 9 = sbeox0V: Oxygen raw, SBE 43 [V]

# name 10 = sbeox0Mm/Kg: Oxygen, SBE 43 [umol/Kg]

# name 11 = sbeox0ML/L: Oxygen, SBE 43 [ml/l]

# name 12 = xmiss: Beam Transmission, Chelsea/Seatech/WET Labs CStar [%]

# name 13 = flC: Fluorescence, Chelsea Aqua 3 Chl Con [ug/l]

# name 14 = turbWETbb0: Turbidity, WET Labs ECO BB [m^-1/sr]

# name 15 = altM: Altimeter [m]

# name 16 = scan: Scan Count

# name 17 = ptempC: Pressure Temperature [deg C]

# name 18 = pumps: Pump Status

# name 19 = latitude: Latitude [deg]

# name 20 = longitude: Longitude [deg]

# name 21 = flag: 0.000e+00

For combining CTD data with Niskin bottle sample data, the CTD data file names should incorporate a unique integer cast number, referred to here as station number – not to be confused with a number or alphanumeric designating a planned station/site. (For instance, imagine a cruise starts with a test CTD followed by a full CTD both at site A-55, and then a CTD at site A-53: the cast or station numbers for Mexec processing could be (1, 2, 3) or (990, 1, 2) or even (10, 9, 15) – but not 55, 55, 54, nor 1.1, 1.2, 2.)

## 3.1.1 SBE Data Processing

On the CTD logging computer, the SBE Data Processing software should be used for initial processing when the cast is finished, by running the following three steps:

1. Data Conversion to convert the raw frequency and voltage data to engineering units as appropriate by applying the manufacturer's calibrations stored in the CON file and saving both downcast and upcast to an ASCII format (.cnv) file.

* This may include oxygen hysteresis correction using SBE default parameters, but it is recommended not to apply the correction here but instead to apply it in mexec processing (this makes it easier to change the parameters if necessary). If you decide to correct for oxygen hysteresis at this stage you will need to to change the dooxyhyst flag in the mctd\_02 case of opt\_*cruise*.m).

The output file names should contain the three-digit sequential station/cast number (ideally, something like ctd\_cruise\_nnn.cnv).

1. Align CTD to align the oxygen sensor in time relative to pressure. Recommended: set the output name to \_align so that, for input CTD\_CRUISE\_nnn.cnv, this step will produce CTD\_CRUISE\_nnn\_align.cnv.
2. Cell Thermal Mass to correct the pressure and conductivity. Recommended: set the output name to \_ctm so that, for input CTD\_\_CRUISE\_nnn\_align.cnv, this step will produce CTD\_­CRUISE\_nnn\_align\_ctm.cnv.

The first and last .cnv files (that is, original and \_align\_ctm), as well as the .bl and .ros files, should be copied to /local/users/pstar/cruise/data/ctd/ASCII\_FILES, while .hex, .hdr, and .XMLCON files should be copied to RAW\_CTD\_FILES. On unix/linux systems you can use (mexec\_exec) ctd\_syncscript to do this after editing cruise name and location of original files.

## 3.2 Mexec CTD data processing

### 3.2.1 Output file types

ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_\*.nc contain CTD time series or profiles, with different stages of processing, editing, and averaging (see below).

dcs\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc contains information about scans (start, bottom, end of cast) and positions

fir\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc contains information about bottle firing times and corresponding CTD and winch data

sam\_*cruise*\_all.nc is a combined (all-station) file containing the data from the fir\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc files along with analysed bottle sample data.

win\_*cruise*\_nnn.nc contains winch information\*\*\*

### 3.2.2 Processing steps to do immediately following a cast

The basic steps for CTD processing following a cast are:

> ctd\_syncscript

Copies .hex, .cnv, \_align\_ctm.cnv, and .bl files from acquisition computer to processing workstation.

>> stn = *n*; ctd\_all\_part1 % *n* is the integer station number

ctd\_all\_part1.m calls the following:

mctd\_01.m loads and renames variables (as set in varlists\*\*\* and cruise options files) and saves in ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_raw.nc.

mctd\_02.m does conversions, edits, and corrections as set in cruise options files, calling ctd\_apply\_autoedits.m, ctd\_apply\_oxyhyst.m, select\_calibrations.m, and apply\_calibrations.m to produce ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_raw\_cleaned.nc and ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_24hz.nc files. The only default action is to apply (the manufacturer default) correction for oxygen hysteresis, but examples are available for code to remove out of range values, certain scan ranges, spikes, and/or times when the pumps were off; it is generally not recommended to apply these before first examining data (as problems may be masked). Once sample data are available, the mctd\_02 case of the cruise options file is also where calibration functions can be specified (with a setting to apply to all stations or only a subset).

mctd\_03.m selects primary sensors (as set in cruise options files), computes derived variables (e.g. salinity) and averages to 1 Hz, using grid\_profile.m, producing ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_psal.nc.

mdcs\_01.m guesses start and bottom of cast and saves in dcs\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc.

>> stn = *n*; mdcs\_03g

mdcs\_03g.m brings up a GUI for selection or confirmation of cast start, bottom, and end based on P, T, C, and pumps flag; any modifications are added to dcs\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc.

For the start of the downcast, select the lowest pressure after the CTD has soaked and been brought to the surface before descending (unless it was brought too close to the surface, causing erroneous conductivity values, in which case, select the start of the good data). For the end of the upcast, select the last scan for which there was good in-water oxygen, temperature, conductivity and salinity data (note that oxygen data becomes out-of-water before the other variables because of the different sensor response times).

Edit opt\_cruise.m for Niskin flags and depths\*\*\*

>> stn = *n*; ctd\_all\_part2

ctd\_all\_part2.m calls the following:

mctd\_04.m separates down and up casts, optionally applies m\_loopedit.m to the downcast data, and averages to 2 dbar, producing ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_2db.nc and ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_2up.nc.

mfir\_01.m gets times and scans of Niskin bottle firing from .bl file, along with Niskin bottle numbers (default: 1:24) and flags (default: 2 for all fired bottles, 9 otherwise) from cruise options files, and puts in fir\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc.

mfir\_03.m gets CTD data from these scans from the 1-Hz \_psal.nc file and adds to fir\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc.

mwin\_01.m gets winch information from the underway stream and saves in win\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc.

mwin\_to\_fir.m adds the winch information to fir\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc.

mfir\_to\_sam.m puts the data from fir\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc into appended sam\_*cruise*\_all.nc.

station\_summary.m adds position, start and end time, depth obtained by calling best\_station\_depths.m, and information from sam\_*cruise*\_all.nc for this station to station\_summary\_*cruise*.nc and table station\_summary\_*cruise*.txt. Rather than storing station depths in a text file, they are calculated by best\_station\_depths.m. Immediately following a cast, it will try to calculate them from CTD+altimeter; later you can specify to include information from the LADCP (if available), but in any case, if you have casts that are not full-depth, you should use the underway bathymetry data to fill in a list of bottom depths under the best\_station\_depths case in opt\_*cruise*.m.

mdep\_01.m adds the depths to the various ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_\*.nc files.

>> stn = *n*; mctd\_checkplots

mctd\_checkplots.m produces a set of plots to check for sensor drift or other problems. It will make plots comparing the two sensors, plots comparing up- and downcast data. It will also make plots comparing station *n* with other stations, first querying for either some number of preceding stations (including 0) or a list of specific station numbers to use. If you notice loops/static instabilities here, you can activate the cruise option to apply loop editing in mctd\_04.m.

>> stn = *n*; mctd\_rawshow

mctd\_rawshow.m allows inspection of 24 Hz data. If this reveals editing needed (e.g. spikes that are large enough to affect averaged data), there are normally two options:

1. specify automatic edits (based on scan ranges, data ranges, behaviour if pumps go off, and despiking) in opt\_*cruise*.m under mctd\_02.m case; and/or
2. >> stn = *n*; mctd\_rawedit

mctd\_rawedit.m brings up a GUI for selecting and deleting spikes in the data (starting from ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_raw\_cleaned.nc if available, ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_raw.nc otherwise), and saves the selections to ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn* \_raw\_cleaned.nc, as well as recording them in (text file) mplxyed\_*yyyymmdd*\_*HHMMSS*\_ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*

If there are significant instrument or cable problems, the inspection may show spikes in pressure or temperature that are large enough to affect the other data streams, requiring reprocessing from before the cellTM stage\*\*\* details in \*\*\*.

If automatic edits were added or mctd\_rawedit was used,

>> stn = *n*; ctd\_all\_postedit

ctd\_all\_postedit.m reruns mctd\_02, mctd\_03, mctd\_04, mfir\_03, and mfir\_to\_sam to apply edits and propagate changes to the ctd\_*cruise*\_*nnn*\_raw\_cleaned.nc file through to other files.

If necessary, iterate the rawedit and postedit steps, and/or mctd\_checkplots.m, ctd\_all\_part2.m to loopedit.

Note: If you need to restart processing from the mctd\_01 stage after doing manual edits in mctd\_rawedit, to reapply them run ctd\_apply\_autoedits.m.

## 3.3 Water Bottle Sample Data

### 3.3.1 Loading data

The result of the sample data processing is to create a master sample data file, sam\_*cruise*\_all.nc, populated with CTD firing data, sensor data, and subsequently the water sample data as they become available. The CTD winch, firing and sensor data are pasted into this file during running of ctd\_all\_part2.m, as described above. This section describes how the water sample data are included in the process.

To link analysed water sample data with the corresponding CTD data (and with each other) we use CTD cast number (referred to here as station number, or field statnum in the Mstar files) and Niskin position (i.e. the carousel position, or field position in the Mstar files). The two parameters are combined to make a unique “sample number” variable:

>> sampnum = d.statnum\*100 + d.position;

Scripts including msal\_01.m, moxy\_01.m, mnut\_01.m, mco2\_01.m, mcfc\_01.m, miso\_01.m (etc.) perform the following steps, depending on parameters and code specified in opt\_cruise.m:

1. Read in sample data from excel (single or multiple sheet) or ascii csv files (with or without header lines preceding one or more column header rows and zero or more units rows) or from netcdf or Matlab files. Currently, for excel/csv files, every data row is required to have a value for every column (e.g. if station number is a column, even if the file contains a single station, the number must be filled in on each line). For samples collected but not yet analysed, the “data” is a record of where they were collected, and goes into a *quantity*\_flag field for reference.
2. Map variable (or column) names to standardized names used in the Mexec processing and Mstar files, and check units (if supplied) or add them (if not).
3. Calculate additional quantities and apply corrections, e.g. calculate oxygen concentration from titre, standard, blank, and draw temperature values; apply salinity standards offsets and average salinity readings; modify flags based on opt\_*cruise*.m
4. Save data to *type*\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc file(s), where type is e.g. sbe35, sal, oxy, etc., and to sam\_*cruise*\_all.nc. The individual data type files contain more information on each than the concatenated sam file, for instance for oxygen replicate values and their individual flags will be recorded (as botoxya, botoxyb, etc. and botoxya\_flag, botoxyb\_flag, etc.) in oxy\_*cruise*\_*nnn*.nc, but only the average (of good values) and correspondingly updated flags will be copied to sam\_*cruise*\_all.nc. Before saving to sam\_cruise\_all.nc, flags will additionally be updated for consistency with Niskin bottle flags (i.e., if a Niskin has been flagged as 4 or 3 for having closed at the wrong depth or leaked, respectively, all samples from that bottle will be flagged 4 “bad”). For salinity, only CTD samples are copied to sam\_*cruise*\_all.nc, while TSG samples are written to tsg\_*cruise*\_all.nc.

The key information to determine early in the process is:

1. The format and column headers/variable names of the input sample files
2. whether information from file headers is required (e.g. salinometer bath temperature) and can be read in or should be coded into opt\_*cruise*.m
3. whether you will want to recalculate variables or whether concentrations and salinities will be provided as-is by analysts. (For salinity, it is recommended that you read in conductivity ratio values for both samples and standards, and inspect them before coding and applying standards offsets and then calculating conductivity and salinity.)

Thinking through these questions early on can help to not only make the files easier to parse (e.g. by making sure they do include columns for CTD station and Niskin, or that standards and samples are clearly denoted) but also to make sure that all required information is collected (e.g. lab temperature) and that everyone is using the same convention for any flags supplied (e.g. WOCE standard flags, readthedocs.io/exchange\_format).

### 3.3.2 Checking data

\*\*\*gridding

Several functions are available to facilitate checking various data quantities against each other, neighbouring profiles, and/or the CTD:

checkbottles\_01

checkbottles\_02

mctd\_evaluate\_sensors

Sample flags set in opt\_cruise.m under msal\_01 etc. cases, and/or Niskin flags set under the mfir\_01 case, can be updated to reflect problems identified here, and \*\*\* run to apply them to the sam\_cruise\_all.nc file. \*\*\*automatically generated lists?

flags: initial flags should be 2 (bottle good, sampled), 3 (leaking [and did not sample]), 4 (did not trip correctly [wire not released or bottle was seen to snap closed on landing]), 7 (unknown problem [maybe leaking but not so obviously we didn’t sample]), 9 (did not sample, no further information). Then after examining data update initial flags of 2 or 7 to 2 (good), 3 (several sample values suspicious so probably leaking), 4 (clearly sample is from a different depth, i.e. did not trip correctly), 9 (did not sample)?

Mctd\_evaluate\_sensors can also be used to test CTD calibration functions

mctd\_evaluate\_sensors.m compares data from the CTD to the calibration sample data. The quantity to be compared is set by variable sensname. The script generates plots of residuals against time and pressure to allow the user to get a sense of how the sensors are behaving, and to determine an appropriate calibration function to enter in to the temp\_apply\_cal (for temperature), cond\_apply\_cal (for conductivity), or oxy\_apply\_cal (for oxygen) cases of opt\_cruise.m.

It allows data to be examined in groups of primary or secondary sensors, including multiple such groupings (if a sensor was changed during the cruise, or there was an apparent calibration shift at any point). The groups of sensors must be added to the ctd\_evaluate\_sensors case of opt\_cruise.m.

The comparisons produced by ctd\_evaluate\_sensors.m may also indicate bad or questionable bottle samples (or just questionable comparisons, for instance in regions of high gradient), which can be flagged as 4 or 3 respectively by editing the msbe35\_01 (for temperature), msal\_01 (for salinity/conductivity), and moxy\_01 (for oxygen) cases of opt\_cruise.m.

## 3.4. Sensor Calibration

The steps below are described in the simplest order, assuming temperature, conductivity, and oxygen are all being calibrated. However, steps can be skipped or run out of order (for instance, oxygen values could be compared before calibrating temperature and salinity, as long as the associated uncertainty is kept in mind). These scripts can be run on all stations, or on a specified list of stations if calibration data for all are not available, or if only some stations have changed flags. Keep in mind, however, that the goal is to calibrate each sensor, not each cast; comparisons may not be very useful until sufficient data are accumulated.

Calibrations entered into the temp\_apply\_cal,\*\*\* cond\_apply\_cal, or oxy\_apply\_cal cases of opt\_cruise.m can be applied to any data by calling temp\_apply\_cal etc.\*\*\* to be tested (before being applied to the Mstar files) by setting precalt, precalc, or precalo, respectively, to 1 before running ctd\_evaluate\_sensors.m. This will produce the same set of plots comparing the calibration data with the calibrated CTD data. this lets you apply the calibration to data without modifying the files, so you can test it.

\*\*\*

## 3.5 Outputting data in other formats

### 3.5.1 1hz files for LADCP processing

### 3.5.2 LADCP processing for bottom depth

To run basic processing of LADCP data from cast nnn (after mout\_1hzasc has been run):

> lad\_linkscript\_ix # to copy data from network machine

>> cd ladcp/ix

>> cfgstr.orient = ‘DL’; process\_cast\_cfgstr(nnn, cfgstr);

This will generate plots as well as matlab files in ladcp/ix/DL\_GPS/processed/nnn/

And if you have dual instruments, you can process the uplooker on its own:

>> cfgstr.orient = ‘UL’; process\_cast\_cfgstr(nnn, cfgstr);

And both together:

>> cfgstr.orient = ‘DLUL’; process\_cast\_cfgstr(nnn, cfgstr);

If you have the CTD 1 Hz file, you can include bottom tracking as a constraint:

>> cfgstr.orient = ‘DL’; cfgstr.constraints = {‘BT’}; process\_cast\_cfgstr(nnn, cfgstr);

And if you have a file\*\*\* of SADCP data for the station, …

### 3.5.3 WOCE exchange format CTD and bottle data

mout\_cchdo\_sam.m and mout\_cchdo\_ctd.m, respectively, write bottle sample and corresponding CTD data from sam\_cruise\_all.nc, and 2-dbar downcast CTD profiles from ctd\_cruise\_nnn\_2db.nc, to WOCE exchange format (ascii) files. mout\_cchdo\_ctd.m writes one station/file at a time. File headers are customized in opt\_cruise.m; the header information should include a note on which quantities are calibrated and which are not.

### 3.5.3 Summary tables

station\_summary.m produces a table of CTD casts, with columns including start, bottom, and end times; depth; number of bottles fired; number of salinity samples; and numbers of other samples, customized in opt\_cruise.m

tsg\_summary prints out/makes plots of some info from merged files (not sure this one works, some of the input files may not be current)

sam\_listing is a function that just prints the CTD data from bottle firing times for a particular station

mout\_sam\_csv

mctd\_makelists

# 4. Underway Data

## 4.1 TECHSAS/SCS/RVDAS

### 4.1.1 Data access

Mexec uses 'short names' to access the TECHSAS and SCS streams or RVDAS tables through lookup tables set in mtnames.m, msnames.m, or mrnames.m, respectively. Additional lines can be added to these files, and irrelevant lines commented out, as necessary.

The following Mexec Matlab commands can be used for a quick look at RVDAS data (substitute mt or ms in place of mr for TECHSAS or SCS respectively).

help mrvdas lists the ‘mr’ commands (alternates: mtechsas or mscs)

mrlookd tells you filename, start, end

mrnames lists mexec 'shortnames', full filenames in cell array.

mrdfinfo winch provides info about that datastream (eg winch)

mrgaps gyro\_s 10s lists gaps in datastream of more than 10s

mrposinfo([yyyy mm dd hhmm]) gives you position for that time

mrlistit list segments of data

mrload load data from specified table/stream and time range

### 4.1.2 Preparation at the start of the cruise

m\_setudir.m, called by m\_setup.m, creates the directories in which Mstar versions of the underway data will be placed. If the ship does not record a certain data stream (eg SBE38 not used on JC) that short name is ignored by the mexec scripts. But if a processed data directory is not present, the scripts will also ignore its corresponding stream, and the data will not be processed. Therefore you can exclude certain streams from Mexec processing (if they are unimportant, or low quality) by editing m\_setudir.m at the beginning of the cruise (see Section 2).

### 4.1.3 Automatic daily processing

Standard underway data (including navigation, surface air and water, and bathymetry) can be processed on a day-by-day basis by running

>> days = [ddd]; uway\_daily\_proc

where days is a vector of the yeardays you want to process, not exceeding yesterday (the last complete day). If days is not found it defaults to yesterday.

uway\_daily\_proc.m goes through the list of underway data streams found in mrnames (or mtnames/msnames) finds which ones are present in the rvdas table list or the scs or techsas link directory, and calls mday\_01.m to load them, producing a series of daily files from each data stream, located in their individual directories (e.g. bathy/singleb/singleb\_jc238\_d197\_raw.nc). It is also possible to exclude some streams/set a limited list of streams for uway\_daily\_proc.m, but by default it processes everything found in both mrnames (etc.) and m\_udir.m. If no data are available on a day from a given stream, that stream is skipped.

uway\_daily\_proc.m then performs additional processing and cleaning steps on some streams by calling mday\_01\_clean\_av.m, which has cases for different streams. The automatic processing includes renaming variables to standard names (e.g. head\_gyr, depth), correcting (especially in TECHSAS) or standardising units strings, applying factory calibration coefficients (i.e. to convert from voltage to physical units) where necessary, searching for and flagging backwards time steps or duplicate times in nav streams, NaNing out-of-range values, correcting echosounder depth for speed of sound variations based on the Carter tables, and averaging bathymetry to 30-s; output files are stream\_*cruise*\_d*ddd*\_edt.nc.

For bathymetry, when both the singlebeam (EA600/EA640) and multibeam (EM120/EM122) centre beam streams are present, mbathy\_av\_merge.m is called to paste in the depths from the other instrument for subsequent comparison.

After all days have been loaded and edited, uway\_daily\_proc.m calls m\_uway\_append.m to add the days’ files to the appended file for each data stream (e.g. sim\_cruise\_01.nc). The list of daily files appended into the master files is given in the header information of that file.

Finally, uway\_daily\_proc.m calls mnav\_best.m, mwind\_true.m, mtsg\_medav\_clean\_cal.m, and (for scs) upate\_allmat.m, which calculate new variables from the appended files.

The following sections contain further details of the individual data streams, manual quality control/editing steps, and the final steps operating on the appended files.

### 4.1.4 Navigation: additional processing

The navigation streams in whose position and heading we have most confidence are set in m\_setup.m. Script mnav\_best.m loads these appended files and averages and merges to a common, 30-s time base, producing a file bst\_*cruise*\_01.nc containing position, heading (using proper vector averaging), course and speed over ground, and distance run. This is the ‘definitive’ cruise navigation file.

Navigation streams, including different sources of GPS position, do not always agree to within their stated accuracies (see e.g. DY146 cruise report), so it is worth comparing the different streams carefully especially if they are being used for e.g. ADCP processing or wind calculations.

### 4.1.5 Meteorology: additional processing

Ship speed, position and heading from the bst navigation file are merged onto the wind data in the surfmet file. The absolute wind speed is calculated and vector averaged in one multi-step script mwind\_true.m. The output files from this processing are  
surfmet\_*cruise*\_true.nc  
surfmet\_*cruise*\_trueav.nc  
The latter file is reduced to 1-minute averages, with correct vector averaging when required. In order to avoid ambiguity, variable units are explicit in whether wind directions are ‘towards’ or ‘from’ the direction in question. The result is a bit cumbersome, but should be unambiguous if the units are read carefully.

Note: TECHSAS stores wind speed in m/s, but says the variable unit is knots. This is corrected in mday\_01\_clean\_av.

Wind over the stern: The standard test of whether the relative wind processing has been done correctly would be to observe no change in the calculated absolute wind when the ship changes direction or speed. This can be misleading, since the anemometer sited on the foremast under-reads speed by a significant margin when the wind is over the stern. Therefore if either the ‘before’ or ‘after’ wind direction is over the stern, there can be a significant change in the apparent true wind speed during such manoeuvres.

Wind relative direction near 0/360: The age old problem of wind direction near the 0/360 boundary still remains. Since the anemometer is set up with 0/360 at the bow, the relative wind is very often around this heading. Even though the anemometer data are recorded at the data rate generated by the sensor (nominal 1 Hz), there is a problem with the raw data. In particular, when the wind is near 0/360, the TECHSAS files will sometimes contain headings in between, eg in the range 150 to 210, reminiscent of when simple numerical averaging of heading was occurring. When these bad headings are used in correct calculation of true wind, bad data are the result.

Irradiance and surface pressure

Downwelling PAR and TIR data are read into both TECHSAS and RVDAS in V rather than W/m2, so factory calibration coefficients should be entered into opt\_*cruise*.m under the mday\_01\_apply\_fcal case.

### 4.1.6 Ocean surface variables: additional processing

Ocean surface variables may come in in multiple streams, e.g. tsg/ocl, sbe38dropkeel, and some are in surfmet along with wind etc.

By default, temperature and salinity are edited for bad times (e.g. when pumps were off), which can be found using mtsg\_findbad.m and added to opt\_*cruise*.m under the mtsg\_medav\_clean\_cal case, and averaged to 30 s using mtsg\_medav\_clean\_cal.m. They may then be calibrated by comparison with bottle samples (salinity) or CTD 5-m temperature. TSG salinity samples are read in at the same time as CTD samples using msal\_01.m (see Section 3). mtsg\_bottle\_compare.m helps compare salinity and choose a time-varying calibration which can be added to opt\_cruise.m under tsgsal\_apply\_cal\*\*\* case. mtsg\_medav\_clean\_cal.m is then rerun with flag usecal set to 1 to incorporate the calibrated data. Finally, mtsg\_surfmet\_merge combines the tsg data with the other surfmet variables.

Temperature variables: On TECHSAS, sea surface temperature (that is, temperature at the seawater intake) is called temp\_r or temp\_m, while the housing temperature (temperature inside the inline CTD, applicable to the conductivity measurements) is called temp\_h. On SCS on the JCR, there are two sea surface temperature sensors, sstemp and sstemp2; the conductivity measurement temperature, tstemp, and the fluorometer temperature, sampletemp. On the Cook, temp\_housing is the temperature applicable to conductivity, temp\_remote that at the seawater intake (actually a little way up the pipe), and sbe35dropkeel\_temp the temperature on the hull.

You can re-run mtsg\_findbad.m, mtsg\_bottle\_compare.m, and m\_tsg\_medav\_clean\_cal.m as many times as required to get a clean record.

If you want to check a calibration already applied, edit the switch at the beginning of mtsg\_bottle\_compare.m from ‘uncal’ to ‘cal’ and rerun.

### 4.1.7 Bathymetry: additional processing

Following m\_daily\_proc.m, bathymetry data can be cleaned by interactive scripts \*\*\* renovate/mbathy\_plot.m; needs checking/updating \*\*\* which allows the user to select bad data points from the EA600 and the EM120/EM122 centre beam for each day. To incorporate the cleaned data into the appended files at the end of the cruise, rerun m\_uway\_append.m for all days for these two streams.

## 4.2 VMADCP

## 4.2.1 Acquiring and processing/editing data

### 4.2.1.1 Vmdas plus CODAS

Vessel mounted ADCP data processed using the old University of Hawaii CODAS software (Matlab/Python hybrid version, see /local/users/pstar/cruise/sw/uh\_adcp/programs/index.html for documentation) can be loaded into daily and appended Mstar files using mcod\_01.m, mcod\_02.m, and mcod\_mapend.m. The latter sorts by time, so sequences can be added in any order or any number of times.

The full round of processing from VMDAS to Mstar, including the calls to CODAS quick\_adcp.py and gautoedit.m, can be run for a sequence or set of sequences using wrapper scripts vmadcp\_proc.m and vmadcp\_edit.m, as follows:

>> doall = 1; vmadcp\_proc % runs vmadcp\_linkscript to sync and link files; writes q\_py.cnt using initial angle and amplitude set in opt\_cruise.m, and calls quick\_adcp.py to load data into database; calls mcod\_01, mcod\_02, mcod\_mapend

This script will prompt for the instrument to use (75 or 150, probably), sequence number or vector of sequence numbers, and possibly the mode (narrowband or broadband), if not set in opt\_cruise.m

If this fails on “cannot find asetup”, it may indicate there’s not enough data in the sequence

Optional additional processing (better done on multiple sequences, and can be done back at home):

At some point, examine cal/botmtrk/btcaluv.out and cal/watertrk/adcpcal.out (in whichever sequence directories they are found; they will not be generated for every sequence), to refine the angle and amplitude calibrations. Add these to the vmadcp\_proc aa75 and/or aa150 cases in opt\_cruise.m. Once you have done this, you can rerun vmadcp\_proc.m, setting doall = 2:

>> doall = 2; vmadcp\_proc % writes q\_pyrot.cnt using angle and amplitude set in opt\_cruise.m and calls quick\_adcp.py to apply angle and/or amplitude corrections; calls mcod\_01, mcod\_02, mcod\_mapend

>> vmadcp\_edit % writes q\_pyedit.cnt, calls gautoedit.m to enable interactive data editing, calls quick\_adcp.py to apply edits; calls mcod\_01.m, mcod\_02.m, mcod\_mapend.m

### 4.2.1.2 UHDAS plus CODAS

In pycodas terminal (prompt should start with (pycodas) bash-4.2$)

0) If you previously applied calibrations (angle, amplitude, xducer\_dx or \_dy) to data in postprocessing:

rm -rf /local/users/pstar/cruise/data/vmadcp/postprocessing/DY113/proc\_editing/os\*

1) uhdas\_01 #syncs data from acquisition computer to koaeula

2) uhdas\_02 #syncs to postprocessing/proc\_editing (and makes links if necessary)

3) uhdas\_03 #copies previously made edits (archived in proc\_archive) to proc\_editing so they will be applied to newly expanded dataset; adds new data to dataset

4) cd ~/cruise/data/vmadcp/postprocessing/DY113/proc\_editing

5) cd os150nb

6) dataviewer.py -e & #edit using selectors and/or thresholds; remember to apply edits to every segment of time series

7) quick\_adcp.py --steps2rerun apply\_edit:navsteps:calib --auto

8.1) cat cal/watertrk/adcpcal.out

8.2) cat cal/watertrk/guess\_xducerxy.out

8.2) cp -Rp . ../os150nb\_a

9) quick\_adcp.py --steps2rerun apply\_edit:rotate:navsteps:calib --rotate\_amplitude amp --rotate\_angle ang --xducer\_dx dx --xducer\_dy dy --auto #if adcpcal.out shows amplitude or angle calibration needed

10.1) cd ..

10.2) dataviewer.py -c os150nb\_a os150nb & #to see the effect of the edits and calibration. If you are not happy with them, repeat 6)-9). When you are happy:

10.4) rm -rf os150nb\_a #only keep the edited, calibrated version here now

11) cd ../os75nb #and repeat 6)-10)

12) cd ..

13) dataviewer.py -c os75nb os150nb & #to compare two instruments and check for additional needed edits; if any noticed, follow steps above

14) uhdas\_04 #generates .nc files in ~/cruise/data/vmadcp/DY113/postprocessing/proc\_edit/os75nb/contour/ and os150nb/contour/

15) uhdas\_05 #syncs proc\_edit to proc\_archive

## 4.2.2 Output station data for LADCP processing

In matlab

16 – 19) vmadcp\_stations\_to\_ladcp(start\_station, end\_station)

16) os = 75; nbb = 1; mvad\_01

os = 150; nbb = 1; mvad\_01

%makes mstar format files containing vmadcp data in /local/users/pstar/cruise/data/vmadcp/mproc/

17) stn = nnn; cast = ‘ctd’; os = 75; nbb=1; mvad\_03

stn = nnn; cast = ‘ctd’; os = 150; nbb=1; mvad\_03

%vmadcp upper ocean velocity profiles corresponding to ctd station nnn; run for each station for which new or edited vmadcp data are available

18) mvad\_for\_ladcp(‘ctd’,nnn,75,1)

mvad\_for\_ladcp(‘ctd’,nnn,150,1)

%makes file of station nnn data to be used as constraint in LADCP processing

19) cfgstr.orient = ‘DLUL’; cfgstr.constraints = {‘GPS’;’BT’;’SADCP’}; process\_cast\_cfgstr(nnn, cfgstr);

can’t process cast 79 using os150 ‘ctd’ method because there is too little good data (too short a time on station)

Making plots:

new:

use sectinfotest.txt as a model (transposed format, includes section names)

quick\_plots.py --inst os150nb --sifile sectinfotest.txt --sect cb

and similarly for the other sections listed in the sectinfo file (you’ll have to run the command more times as it will only make plots for one section each time)

# Appendices

## A. A bit more detail about Mexec functions

The Mexec functions found in subdirectories of ocp\_hydro\_matlab/file\_tools/mexec / can either interactively query for inputs, or take inputs from global cell array MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN (or both, if MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN has fewer elements than the function is expecting). Future versions may evolve towards more standard argument parsing, without the querying mode.

More detail: MEXEC\_A having been declared a global variable by m\_setup, it is available within any function by calling m\_common. Within each top-level function (e.g. msave, mcalib), MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN is copied to MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN\_LOCAL and cleared. Then m\_getinput and/or m\_getfilename are called each time an input variable is required, assigning the next element of MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN\_LOCAL, or, if it is empty, querying for input. Some functions take lists of indeterminate length, in which case passing the string ‘/’ or ‘ ‘ or ‘-1’ (depending on the function) will terminate the loop to move on to the next type of input.

Many of the functions won’t accept the same file for input and output, hence the use of temporary wk\*.nc files.

## B. Handy Hints and Tips

You must have mexec\_processing\_scripts on your Matlab path. Each time you start Matlab:

>> m\_setup % to add paths and set global variables

If you clear the workspace variables:

>> m\_global % to set global variables

To load an Mstar file:

>> [d, h] = mload(filename, ‘/’); % loads all data and header information from filename

Both d and h are structures, d containing “data” and h containing “header” information. The names of the variables in the structure d are also given in h.fldnam, while their units are in h.fldunt. Times in Mstar files (generally in seconds) are relative to the time specified by the vector h.data\_time\_origin [yyyy mm dd HH MM SS] or [yyyy mm dd]. The .nc suffix of filename is not required but the path is.

To save variables from the workspace to an Mstar file:

>> mfsave(filename, d, h) % where d and h are like Mstar data and header structures; see help mfsave for other options

Help mode: on Linux/Unix systems, get\_cropt can be called on the Matlab command line to find out about options:

>> help\_cropt = 1; scriptname = ‘’; oopt = ‘’; get\_cropt

Displays a list of scriptnames and oopts in any of the setdef\_cropt\_\*.m.

>> help\_cropt = 1; scriptname = scriptname; oopt = ‘’; get\_cropt

Displays a list of all calls to get\_cropt in file scriptname.m, if this file exists, and if not, of all files which use scriptname = scriptname to call get\_cropt.

>> help\_cropt = 1; scriptname = scriptname; oopt = oopt; get\_cropt

Displays which of the setdef\_cropt\_\*.m contains this (scriptname, oopt) case (and therefore a help string explaining it), along with a list of opt\_\*.m files which contain it (and therefore examples of modifying the defaults).

\* If a script crashes while writing a file, that file may be left with an "open to write" flag and subsequent calls or scripts will fail. Reset using "mreset". Scripts crashing may also result in a proliferation of temporary wk\*.nc files (which would normally be removed at the end of the script); these contain the date of generation so they can be cleaned up periodically.

\* Once or twice in Mstar scripts we got a mysterious error message along the lines of "not a binary mat file" or "a preference with that name or group already exists". Just re-run the program and next time it will likely be fine; if not, try >> clear all; m\_setup; if that doesn’t work, exit and restart Matlab.

\* Occasionally there may be an error with a library, possibly related to writing the NetCDF files. Restarting Matlab usually clears this up.

Because of the interactive prompting options, sometimes a prompt will appear even if you have passed input arguments in MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN. If Matlab says “Busy|”, you don’t need to do anything even if it looks like it is asking for input.

You do not need to be in a particular directory to run the mexec programs, as long as you specify full file paths when using e.g. mload (all the processing scripts are set up to specify full file paths).

\* In matlab/Mstar to open a Mstar nc file: mload

To save data to struct array d, header info to array h:

>> [d h]=mload('filename','/') % ‘/’ means all vars, or you can list the ones you want.

\* >> m\_read\_header(file) allows you to read the header info only

\* >> mhistory: returns to you the text you need to copy into a script to recreate the program steps you just ran.

## C. List of cruise-specific options

These are the cruise-specific options currently included in the Mexec scripts. Not all of these need to be set for every cruise; many have default values, assigned in get\_cropt.m. Look in the opt\_cruise.m files for examples of settings for each of these parameters, and in the scripts corresponding to each case for how they are used. Recall that oopt is an optional string variable (used to distinguish between multiple calls to get\_cropt.m in a given script)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CTD data processing | | | |
| scriptname | | oopt | what it does |
| mctd\_02 | | corraw | edits to be applied to raw file |
| mctd\_02b | | hyst | oxygen hysteresis parameters and function call |
| mctd\_03 | | 24hz | edit 24hz for instance to replace fouled scans from one CTD with data from another |
| 1hz |  |
| psal | exclude and interpolate over bad scans for a particular set of parameters |
| s\_choice | set primary salinity sensor and list of stations on which to use alternate as primary |
| o\_choice | same for oxygen |
| mctd\_04 | | pretreat | remove some data before averaging to 2db; or use upcast data for 2db (on some station(s)) |
| mdcs\_03 | | vstring | single oxygen sensor or two oxygen sensors |
| mfir\_03 | | fillstr |  |
| mwin\_01 | |  | set acceptable time window by station |
| mwin\_03 | |  | fix some winch wireout data when underway logging missing |
| mctd\_checkplots | | pf1 | list of parameters to plot |
| sdata1 | salinity to plot (psal vs asal) |
| odata1 | oxygen to plot (1 or 2 sensors) |
| mctd\_rawshow | | pshow5 | parameters to plot on one figure |
| pshow2 | parameters to plot on another figure |
| pshow4 | parameters to plot on a third figure |
| mctd\_rawedit | | badscans | set scans to edit out of raw data (rather than choosing graphically) |
| pshow1 | parameters to plot together for editing |
| populate\_station\_depths | | fnin | input text file list of station depths |
| bestdeps | edit some of these depths |
| smallscript | | klist | list of stations to batch process |
| Sample data and sensor calibrations | | | |
| scriptname | | oopt | what it does |
| ctd\_evaluate\_sensors | | tsensind | set station numbers on which different primary and secondary sensors were used |
| csensind |
| osensind |
| cond\_apply\_cal | | switch on sensor to set conductivity calibration factor as a function of station, pressure, and temperature | |
| oxy\_apply\_cal | | switch on sensor to set oxygen calibration coefficients alpha (function of station) and beta (function of pressure) | |
| numoxy | |  | number of oxygen sensors present |
| temp\_apply\_cal | | switch on sensor to set temperature offset | |
| tsgsal\_apply\_cal | |  | set salinity offset |
| fluorcal | |  | set calibration function for fluorescence |
| msal\_standardise\_avg | |  |  |
| mbot\_00 | |  | default Niskin numbers |
| mbot\_01 | | infile | full path to bottle csv file |
| botflags | default Niskin bottle flags |
| mcfc\_02 | | infile1 | input data file |
| cfclist | list of types of cfcs measured |
| msbe35\_01 | | flag | flag bottles which might have closed too quickly for a good sbe35 reading |
| msal\_01, mtsg\_01 | | salcsv | sets input file name |
|  | | cellT | set cellT if not in file |
|  | | offset | set offset if standards or offset are not in file |
|  | | flag | set bottle/bottle reading flags by station and (Niskin) position |
|  | | indata |  |
|  | | sstdagain | run msal\_standardise\_avg a second time? |
| msal\_standardise\_avg | | std2use | set standards readings to exclude |
| sam2use | set sample readings to exclude; set sample bottle quality flags |
| mtsg\_medav\_clean\_cal | | smdiff | load smoothed differences saved by mtsg\_bottle\_cleanup, to use for calibration |
| mtsg\_bottle\_compare | | dbbad | exclude bad sample data (or bad comparison) |
| sdiff | smoothed differences |
| mtsg\_cleanup | | kbadlims | sets of start and end times of bad data to NaN |
| vout | change from default (which is to just NaN all variables between kbadlims); this is also the place to do something like NaN a given variable when it is out of range |
| moxy\_01 | | oxycsv | set input file name |
| oxybotnisk | translate from bottle rows in the oxygen spreadsheets to Niskin numbers |
| flags | set flags by station and (Niskin) position |
| moxy\_ccalc | | oxypars | set parameters for computing oxygen concentration from titre |
| blstd | blank and standard titre volumes |
| botvols | sample bottle volumes file |
| Summaries | | | |
| scriptname | oopt | | what it does |
| mcchdo\_01 | expo | | WOCE expo code and section ID for hydro section |
| outfile | | file to write exchange-format bottle sample data |
| headstr | | header information to write to file |
| mcchdo\_02 | expo | | as above |
| outfile | | file to write exchange-format CTD data |
| station\_summary | optsams | | cell arrays of sample types collected |
|  | stnmiss | | stations not to include |
|  | cordep | | corrected depth field |
|  | comments | |  |
|  | altdep | |  |
|  | varnames | | standard variable names (the optional samples will be appended) |
| Underway data | | | |
| scriptname | oopt | | what it does |
| mday\_01\_clean\_av | cnav\_fix | | by default the function cnav\_fix will be applied to the cnav stream to correct an error in labeling minutes as decimal degrees; if this is not necessary (i.e. already fixed), the correction can be switched off |
| morecorr | | use the Mexec short name (called abbrev in this script) to switch on non-standard cleaning/calibration operations |
| msim\_plot | sbathy | | file of atlas bathymetry |
| mem120\_plot | sbathy | | file of atlas bathymetry |
| vmadcp\_proc | aa0\_75 | | approximate/nominal alignment angle and amplitude for 75 kHz and 150 kHz |
| aa0\_150 | |
| aa75 | | additional (refined) rotation and amplitude corrections  based on btm/watertrk |
| aa150 | |

## D. Known bugs and future changes

### D.1. Bugs

~~If a function is interrupted, some fields of MEXEC\_A are not cleared properly such that filenames being written to the history file can accumulate.~~ Resolved, jc159.

Possibly relatedly, errors involving MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_OT may come up (clear all, run m\_setup, and try again).

~~Warning about not finding an exact case match for “redef” or something like that (ignore, unless it turns into an error, in which case, restart Matlab).~~ Resolved, jc159, however see next item.

Issues with different versions of matlab/versions of snctools and mexcdf not properly setting row/col dimensions in .nc files. Workaround for v2011a forces underway data to be rows/columns\*\*\* . . . does not work on v2014b. \*\*\*

Matlab netcdf errors about “a preference with that name or group already exists” occur, apparently when multiple Matlab sessions are accessing the low-level netcdf functions at the same time. The only response is to start again at the point of interruption and hope there won’t be more coincidences, although in extreme cases it may be necessary to restart one or multiple Matlab sessions. The error seems particularly likely to be triggered by running m\_setup, so one adaptation is to keep a couple of Matlab sessions running and set up, rather than starting a new one while Mexec scripts are running in another window . . . however this only reduces rather than eliminates the occurrence of these errors.

Error using netcdflib

Library failure in call to open. eacces:permissionDenied. Error message from the NetCDF

library: "Permission denied".

Error in netcdf.open (line 50)

[varargout{:}] = netcdflib ( 'open', filename, mode );

Error in nc\_attput>nc\_attput\_tmw (line 41)

ncid =netcdf.open(ncfile, nc\_write\_mode );

Error in nc\_attput (line 28)

nc\_attput\_tmw ( ncfile, varname, attribute\_name, attval )

Error in m\_openio (line 20)

nc\_attput(ncfile.name,nc\_global,'openflag','W'); % set to W if file is open to write.

Usual state is R.

Error in mheadr (line 22)

ncfile = m\_openio(ncfile);

Error in mctd\_02a (line 98)

mheadr

Error in ctd\_all\_part1 (line 16)

stn = stnlocal; mctd\_02a; %rename variables following templates/ctd\_renamelist.csv

This means you should remove ctd/ctd\_cruise\_nnn\_raw.nc (or even ctd/ctd\_cruise\_nnn\*.nc) and start again. Make a note on the processing logsheet.

If the beginning part of this error occurs when running smallscript\_botnav, in terminal:

chmod u+w ctd/ctd\_dy113\_nnn\_raw\*.nc

Exit with error because file /local/users/pstar/dy113/mcruise/data/ctd/ctd\_dy113\_002\_2db.nc is already open for write

It may be the case that this program has crashed or been interrupted before, leaving the write flag set in the file

If required you can reset the write flag using

mreset(filename) or mreset(ncfile)

where filename or ncfile.name is a char string containing the name of the mstar file

Error in m\_openot (line 27)

ncfile = m\_exitifopen(ncfile); % exit if write flag set

Error in mcalc (line 57)

ncfile\_ot = m\_openot(ncfile\_ot);

Error in mctd\_04 (line 176)

mcalc

>> mreset('ctd/ctd\_dy113\_002\_2db.nc')

About to reset mstar openflag on file ctd/ctd\_dy113\_002\_2db.nc.

Do you really want to do this ?

Reply y/yes. Default is no. y

File ctd/ctd\_dy113\_002\_2db.nc has been modified

Attempt to reference field of non-structure array.

Error in mtposinfo (line 51)

tin = pdata.time+MEXEC\_G.uway\_torg;

Error in mctd\_02a (line 111)

[botlat botlon] = mtposinfo(tbotmat);

Error in ctd\_all\_part1 (line 16)

stn = stnlocal; mctd\_02a; %rename variables following templates/ctd\_renamelist.csv

run techsas\_linkscript in terminal (have to do this each new day UTC)

some error about f.ladcpdo

run lad\_linkscript\_ix and make sure LADCP files were copied/links were made

D.2 Planned future changes

Add loopedit?!?

At least: further reducing querying for input when MEXEC\_A.MARGS\_IN has been supplied; hopefully: more normal functional input argument handling (rather than using global variables for all input arguments or prompting for input)

Separate out initial setup of directories, version files etc. from adding paths from setting global variables (?)

More documentation of functions—but please point out where specifically this is missing!

Use matlab’s built-in netcdf support; perform more operations in scripts (rather than passing to mexec source functions) and just have functions to read and write mstar format (no need for mapend, mcalc, etc., and probably no need for m\_write\_header, m\_print\_header etc. as separate functions as opposed to optional operations of the basic reading and writing functions)

Possible condensation of mfir, mwin, mdcs scripts (fewer intermediate Mstar files). Generally reducing file i/o by not writing every intermediate step to a file (this is part of the change to built-in netcdf support above anyway).

Updating mtsg\_lagsal, tsglag, mtow\_04, msam\_nutkg, mcfc\_03 to use gsw rather than sw

checking fluor scripts

Script to append despiked bathymetry data (or option in m\_daily\_processing to stop for despiking along the way?)

D.2.a unnecessary functions/scripts in mexec source (i.e. could be done significantly quicker and/or more concisely)

mcrange

pretty much all the special netcdf handling functions

I already got rid of the function whose entire contents was “return” so that’s something

mtruew\_01 seems to undo/redo some of its own calculations? maybe? hard to tell. also it claims to be adding documentation but the docstrings are still unclear.

D.2.b functions/scripts in mexec source that need better documentation

all of them