

# Thorlabs OSA300/Redstone and OSA200 LabVIEW Drivers 1.0.0

## Support

- LabVIEW 2010 and newer, 64 bit.
- See the system requirement field for the [OSA GUI application](#) (supported OS).
- Requires a prior OSA GUI application installation, (FTSLib.dll and FTSLV.dll), version 3.20 or newer.
- The executable for example.vi has not been fully tested.

## Legacy OSA200 only driver

- We do NOT recommend a Labview driver upgrade from the [OSA20X Labview Drivers](#), Libraries tab, if having already employed any program using these drivers.

## Installation package or ZIP-file

The drivers are available as a vi package or a zipped project. The vi package, (vip-file), created with VI Package Manager, will install the OSA FTS drivers in the Labview environment for driver access through an Instrument I/O and Instrument Driver diagram palette. The vi package installation will also enable access to the driver project file, help files and example vis from the Labview Help menu.

- thorlabs\_lib\_ofs-1.0.0.X.vip - vi package manager installation
- thorlabs\_lib\_ofs-1.0.0.X.zip - zipped project

*Please make sure the [OSA GUI application](#) has been installed before installing or using the LabVIEW drivers!*

*Make sure all older OSA200 specific LabVIEW driver files are removed - root folder names contain the 'OSA20X' characters.*

To have access to the OSA diagram palette with the zip-file (when not installing with a vip-file) proceed as follows:

- move the driver hierarchy to the labview instr.lib folder, (example LabVIEW 2010 - C:\Program Files\National Instruments\LabVIEW 2010\instr.lib\Thorlabs). Create the Thorlabs sub-folder if not already present.
- rename the driver root folder to *Thorlabs OSA FTS*, (path: ..\instr.lib\Thorlabs\Thorlabs OSA FTS\Thorlabs FTS.lvproj).
- move all files under Thorlabs OSA FTS\_examples to ..\National Instruments\Labview 20??\Examples\Thorlabs\Thorlabs OSA FTS
- do a mass compile of the driver hierarchy if using a newer version than LabVIEW 2010.
- do a mass compile of example vis under ..\National Instruments\Labview 20??\examples\Thorlabs\Thorlabs OSA FTS.

## High Level Driver Files

Use only vis directly accessible through the Thorlabs OSA FTS diagram palette, the Tree.vi or if picking vis directly from within Thorlabs FTS.lvproj:

- OSA.lvclass\public

## FTSLib.dll

The driver vis are based on functions in FTSLib.dll version 3.20 or newer, located under Thorlabs OSA in the OSA GUI application installation directory, (Program Files..). The OSA GUI application installation updates the Path system environment variable with the FTSLib.dll path. For detailed information of FTSLib.dll functions; see Thorlabs OSA\lib\FTSLib.docx and h-files, available from the Labview Help menu after vip package installation, and located in Thorlabs OSA\lib and \include folders.

## Driver vis

See the TREE vis for a categorized overview of the driver vis and the example vis for guidelines of how to use them. For most applications the FTSLib.dll functions supported by the Labview drivers will be appropriate; however some functions have not yet been implemented. When adding new vis that call functions in FTSLib.dll we recommend the Labview import shared library tool.

## Example vis

A simple example shows the basic spectrum retrieval and buffering procedure, and a more complex how to retrieve both interferogram and spectrum with some post dataprocessing. There are also examples for setting data-acquisition options, instrument properties and interferogram/spectrum analysis. A traces example shows how to make use of data buffers allocated by FTSLib.dll.

## Support Files

FTSLV.dll was created for Labview calls to FTSLib functions requiring function pointer parameters. Addresses to functions within FTSLV.dll are fetched via kernel32.dll and serve as input parameter values to data acquisition functions in FTSLib.dll.

FTSLib.lvlib contains some Labview autogenerated FTSLib.dll wrappers used in some of the driver vis, (most of the vis calling FTSLib.dll functions don't have wrappers).

\_goop4.llb contains vis supporting the main OSA class.

## Building Executables

See the Thorlabs FTS project build specification for the OSA\_Example.vi, (regarding support files). The path to FTSLib.dll and FTSLV.dll must be set in the PATH system environment variable, (updated during OSA GUI application installation).

## **OSA Class**

The fact that the driver vis are part of LabVIEW classes does not necessarily require any attention. When adding new driver vis we recommend starting out with existing driver vis as templates to comply with and conveniently access GOOP class/objects properties.

## **Known Issues**

Large Data Sets When acquiring the largest interferogram datasets in conjunction with zero fill and other data analysis functions; see chapter 7, 'Recommended Hardware and Software Requirements' in the Thorlabs OSA manuals for the OSA200 or 300/Redstone series. Data-acquisition to traces, instead of the OSA dedicated Labview buffer, will in most cases improve performance/execution time – see the traces example and trace vis in the tree.vi.

## **Changes Log**

### **1.0.0.12**

First release of driver supporting FTSLib.dll version 3.20 and newer.

### **1.0.0.13**

OSA\_example\_analyse.vi updated with wavelength meter and extended documentation.