

# example\_run\_starlight\_and\_ifscube

October 30, 2025

## 1 Running Starlight and IFSCube

This notebook was created as a **step-by-step example** of how to run a full workflow using [STARLIGHT](#) and [IFSCube](#).

The goal is to demonstrate, in a reproducible way, how to load input data, perform spectral fitting, and visualize the results.

The workflow covered here includes: 1. Preparing the input spectra. 2. Running STARLIGHT for stellar population synthesis and spectral fitting. 3. Processing the results with IFSCube. 4. Visualizing the results.

This notebook is intended both as a **hands-on tutorial** and as a **quick reference** for future projects.

```
[1]: import os
import subprocess
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
from pathlib import Path
from spectools import specutils, spectrum_io
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Define your own figure configuration here
font = 12
plt.rcParams.update({
    'font.family': 'DejaVu Sans', # ou Helvetica se estiver instalada
    'text.usetex': True,
    'font.size': font,
    'axes.titlesize': font,
    'axes.labelsize': font,
    'xtick.labelsize': font,
    'ytick.labelsize': font,
    'legend.fontsize': font,
    'figure.titlesize': font,
    'font.sans-serif': ['Helvetica']
})
```

Defining all the workflow directories:

```
[2]: base_dir = Path.cwd().parent    # pega o diretório onde o notebook está rodando
data_dir = base_dir / "data/A194/"

library_dir = base_dir / "data/STARLIGHTv04/CB19CSFBasesDir/"
mask_dir = base_dir / "data/STARLIGHTv04/"
starlight_dir = base_dir / "data/STARLIGHTv04/"
```

Generating a list of all spectra in 'txt' format in **data\_dir** that will be processed with Starlight.

```
[3]: galaxies = [f for f in os.listdir(data_dir) if '.txt' in f]
```

## 1.1 Creating the input file for Starlight fitting

Starlight only runs inside the STARLIGHTv04 directory, where the executable is located.

That's why the **data\_directory** needs to be defined in that way. Inside the next step, where you actually run Starlight, the running occurs inside the **starlight\_dir** defined above.

```
[4]: conf_file = specutils.create_starlight_input_file(
    data_directory = '../A194/',
    list_galaxies = galaxies,
    n_files = 3,
    library = 'CB19_16x5')

conf_path = mask_dir / "config.in"

with open(conf_path, "w") as f:
    f.write(conf_file)
```

## 1.2 Running Starlight...

```
[5]: specutils.run_starlight(starlight_dir)
```

```
**> Welcome to STARLIGHT (v04) & good luck with this run!

**> Read config file: StCv04.C11.config
**> Read data file: spec-1079-52621-0424.txt
    from dir = ./CB19CSFB
    Data goes from: 3734.0 --> 9049.0 Angs with N = 5316 pixels
**> ATT: Defined error & flag spectra the old way! S/N = 11.145
    [ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > N1_max!! 14000
????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????
OOPS! You have specified i_FastBC03_FLAG = 1 (in arq_config) but the file:
./CB19CSFBasesDir/cb19_xmilesi_z004_chab-CSF01.16.man.spec
does NOT match the lambdas of BC03/STELIB!! Reverting to i_FastBC03_FLAG = 0!
????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????
    [ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > N1_max!! 14000
```

[illegible]



```

S/N_err = 11.145 10.443 in S/N & norm. windows
*****
* STARTING FIRST FITS ...
* N_loops = 3
* N_chains = 7
* Temp = 1.00E+02 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.30E+00 ==> 1.30E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
*****
* STARTING RE-FIT AFTER CLIPPING ...
* Clipped 96 points with > 4.0 sigma residuals with method = NSIGMA
* N_loops = 1
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.30E+00 ==> 1.30E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
*****
* STARTING FINAL BURN-IN LOOP...
* N_loops = 1
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.20E+00 ==> 1.20E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
*****
* STARTING EX0s FITS ...
* EX0_method = CUMUL
* EX0s_Threshold = 0.020
* EX0s_PopVector = MIN
* N_loops = 5
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E-03
* GR-R = 1.20E+00 ==> 1.00E+00 Method = 1 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
*****

**> RESULTS for spec-1079-52621-0424_CB19_16x5
N_tot chi2/Nl_eff adev | v0 vd | sum A_V Y_AV | x_j...
[%, j = 1 ... 80
1049440 1.3307E+00 9.4883 | 91.9 75.0 | 101.376 0.28 0.00 | 0.00
32.09 0.00 2.21 0.00 0.00 0.00 6.47 0.00 0.00
4.96
18.57 12.90 2.56 1.65 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00

```

```

0.00 14.88 5.06 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00
Total chi2
= 5.9946E+03 for Nl_eff = 4505 lambdas!

*CidTIME> FF= 9 RF= 2 BI= 4 EX0= 1 ALL=
34 sec - fit = spec-1079-52621-0424_CB19_16x5
*TotTIME> FF= 8.571 RF= 2.248 BI= 3.666 EX0= 1.186 ALL=
34.340 sec - fit = spec-1079-52621-0424_CB19_16x5
*UsrTIME> FF= 8.568 RF= 2.248 BI= 3.666 EX0= 1.185 ALL=
34.316 sec - fit = spec-1079-52621-0424_CB19_16x5
*SysTIME> FF= 0.003 RF= 0.000 BI= 0.000 EX0= 0.001 ALL=
0.024 sec - fit = spec-1079-52621-0424_CB19_16x5

```

```

**> Welcome to STARLIGHT (v04) & good luck with this run!

```

```

**> Read config file: StCv04.C11.config

```

```

**> Read data file: spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-5

```

```

from dir = ./CB19CSFB

```

```

Data goes from: 3534.0 --> 9641.0 Angs with N = 6108 pixels

```

```

**> ATT: Defined error & flag spectra the old way! S/N = 6.397

```

```

[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

```

```

????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????

```

```

OOPS! You have specified i_FastBC03_FLAG = 1 (in arq_config) but the file:

```

```

./CB19CSFBasesDir/cb19_xmilesi_z004_chab_CSF01.16.man.spec

```

```

does NOT match the lambdas of BC03/STELIB!! Reverting to i_FastBC03_FLAG = 0!

```

```

????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????

```

```

[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

```

```

[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

```

```

[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

```

```

[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

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[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

```

```

[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000

```

[illegible]

```

[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
[ReadSpecWithHeader] BUG! N > Nl_max!! 14000
**> Read base files: CBASE.PARSEC.chab.16x5.all          N_base = 80
    from dir = ./CB19CSFBasesDir/
**> Read masks file: mask_sdss.gm                      N_masks = 24
    from dir = ./
**> Modeling spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-5 ==>
spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-525400f334e1_CB19_16x5
    Sampling: 3569.0 ==> 9650.0 with dl = 1.0 Angs & fscale_chi2 = 1.000E+00
    dl_cushion (A) = 50.0
    Extinction Law = CCM
    Initial kinematical parameters: v0 = 0.0 & vd = 150.0 km/s
    We are going to FIT the spectrum of this galaxy
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@> BASE LIMITS WARNING <@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
@ Your base goes from lambda = 5.6 to 8750.6 Angs
@ but the fit will run from 3519.0 to 9700.0 Angs
@ (including a +/- 50.0 Angs cushion for the kinematical filter)
@ STARLIGHT will flag-out lambdas outside the 55.6 to 8700.6 Angs range!
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
    Number of components with different extinction = 0 (0.00 < YAV < 0.00)
    S/N = 6.397 6.380 in S/N & norm. windows
    S/N_err = 6.397 6.380 in S/N & norm. windows
*****
* STARTING FIRST FITS ...
* N_loops = 3
* N_chains = 7
* Temp = 1.00E+02 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.30E+00 ==> 1.30E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
*****
* STARTING RE-FIT AFTER CLIPPING ...
* Clipped 71 points with > 4.0 sigma residuals with method = NSIGMA
* N_loops = 1
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.30E+00 ==> 1.30E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
*****
* STARTING FINAL BURN-IN LOOP...

```



```

* N_loops = 1
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.20E+00 ==> 1.20E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
*****
* STARTING EX0s FITS ...
* EX0_method = CUMUL
* EX0s_Threshold = 0.020
* EX0s_PopVector = MIN
* N_loops = 5
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E-03
* GR-R = 1.20E+00 ==> 1.00E+00 Method = 1 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****

```

```

**> RESULTS for spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-525400f334e1_CB19_16x5
  N_tot chi2/Nl_eff  adev |   v0   vd | sum      A_V  Y_AV |   x_j...
[%, j = 1 ... 80
 1257340 9.6491E-01 11.9768 | 99.3 23.5 | 98.121 0.41 0.00 | 0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
1.49 0.00 0.00 4.81 9.37 0.00 0.00 7.52 0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00 0.00 26.69 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 36.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.11 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 5.62
0.06 0.01 0.00 1.34 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 5.08 0.00

Total chi2
= 4.5013E+03 for Nl_eff = 4665 lambdas!

```

```

*CidTIME> FF=      8  RF=      3  BI=      3  EX0=      2  ALL=
35 sec - fit = spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-525400f334e1_CB19_16x5
*TotTIME> FF=  7.743  RF=  3.425  BI=  3.239  EX0=  2.008  ALL=
35.024 sec - fit = spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-525400f334e1_CB19_16x5
*UsrTIME> FF=  7.743  RF=  3.425  BI=  3.238  EX0=  2.008  ALL=
35.011 sec - fit = spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-525400f334e1_CB19_16x5
*SysTIME> FF=  0.000  RF=  0.000  BI=  0.001  EX0=  0.000  ALL=
0.013 sec - fit = spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-525400f334e1_CB19_16x5

```

```

**> Welcome to STARLIGHT (v04) & good luck with this run!

```



[illegible]

```

Sampling: 3569.0 ==> 9650.0  with dl = 1.0 Angs & fscale_chi2 = 1.000E+00
dl_cushion (A) = 50.0
Extinction Law = CCM
Initial kinematical parameters: v0 = 0.0 & vd = 150.0 km/s
We are going to FIT the spectrum of this galaxy
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@> BASE LIMITS WARNING <@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
@ Your base goes from lambda = 5.6 to 8750.6 Angs
@ but the fit will run from 3519.0 to 9700.0 Angs
@ (including a +/- 50.0 Angs cushion for the kinematical filter)
@ STARLIGHT will flag-out lambdas outside the 55.6 to 8700.6 Angs range!
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
Number of components with different extinction = 0 (0.00 < YAV < 0.00)
S/N = 8.809 7.979 in S/N & norm. windows
S/N_err = 8.809 7.979 in S/N & norm. windows
*****
* STARTING FIRST FITS ...
* N_loops = 3
* N_chains = 7
* Temp = 1.00E+02 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.30E+00 ==> 1.30E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
* STARTING RE-FIT AFTER CLIPPING ...
* Cliped 25 points with > 4.0 sigma residuals with method = NSIGMA
* N_loops = 1
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.30E+00 ==> 1.30E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
* STARTING FINAL BURN-IN LOOP...
* N_loops = 1
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E+00
* GR-R = 1.20E+00 ==> 1.20E+00 Method = 0 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****
* STARTING EX0s FITS ...
* EX0_method = CUMUL
* EX0s_Threshold = 0.020
* EX0s_PopVector = MIN
* N_loops = 5
* Temp = 1.00E+00 ==> 1.00E-03
* GR-R = 1.20E+00 ==> 1.00E+00 Method = 1 (0/1=Soft/Hard)
*****

**> RESULTS for spec-1497-52886-0498_CB19_16x5
N_tot chi2/Nl_eff adev | v0 vd | sum A_V Y_AV | x_j...
[%, j = 1 ... 80
1532650 6.7415E-01 8.6266 | 58.6 69.0 | 96.078 -0.06 0.00 | 5.78

```

0.00	2.93	1.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
									0.02	
4.70	5.86	6.28	8.66	0.00	3.30	0.00	15.55	1.77		
									0.00	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
									0.00	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
									0.00	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
									0.00	
1.97	8.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
									0.00	
0.00	0.00	0.00	8.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00		
									0.00	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.76	0.00	13.86		

Total chi2

= 3.0876E+03 for Nl\_eff = 4580 lambdas!

```

*CidTIME> FF=          7   RF=          3   BI=          3   EX0=          2   ALL=
34 sec - fit = spec-1497-52886-0498_CB19_16x5
*TotTIME> FF=    7.471   RF=    2.442   BI=    2.886   EX0=    2.416   ALL=
33.593 sec - fit = spec-1497-52886-0498_CB19_16x5
*UsrTIME> FF=    7.471   RF=    2.442   BI=    2.886   EX0=    2.414   ALL=
33.583 sec - fit = spec-1497-52886-0498_CB19_16x5
*SysTIME> FF=    0.000   RF=    0.000   BI=    0.000   EX0=    0.002   ALL=
0.010 sec - fit = spec-1497-52886-0498_CB19_16x5

```

Once Starlight has run, we need to create the “.fits” file for IFSCube fitting and generate output spectra images to inspect the quality of the fit.

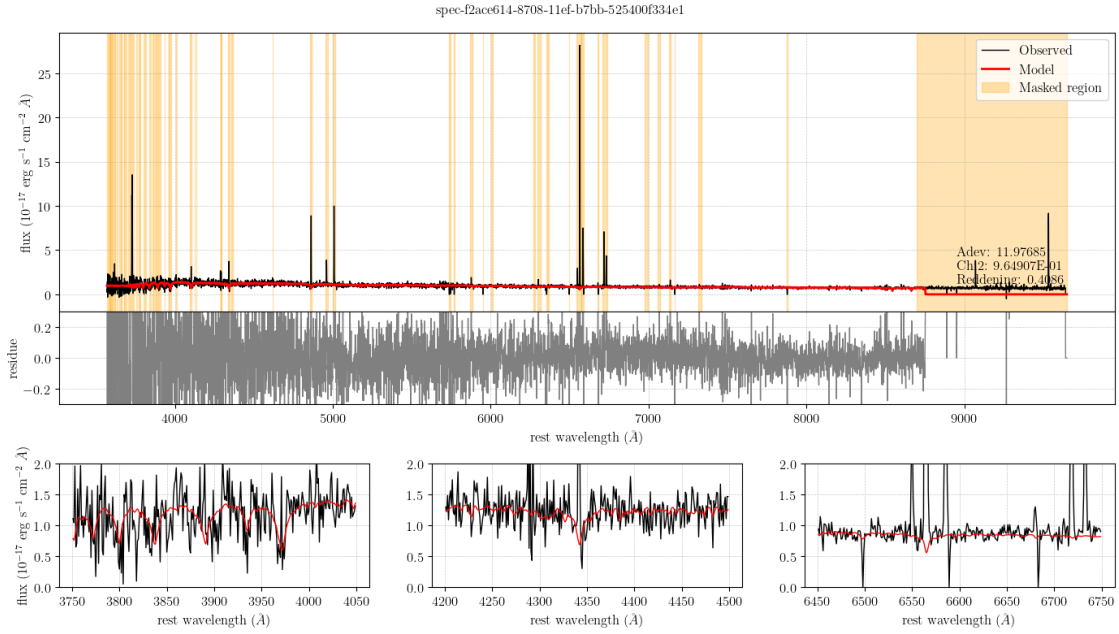
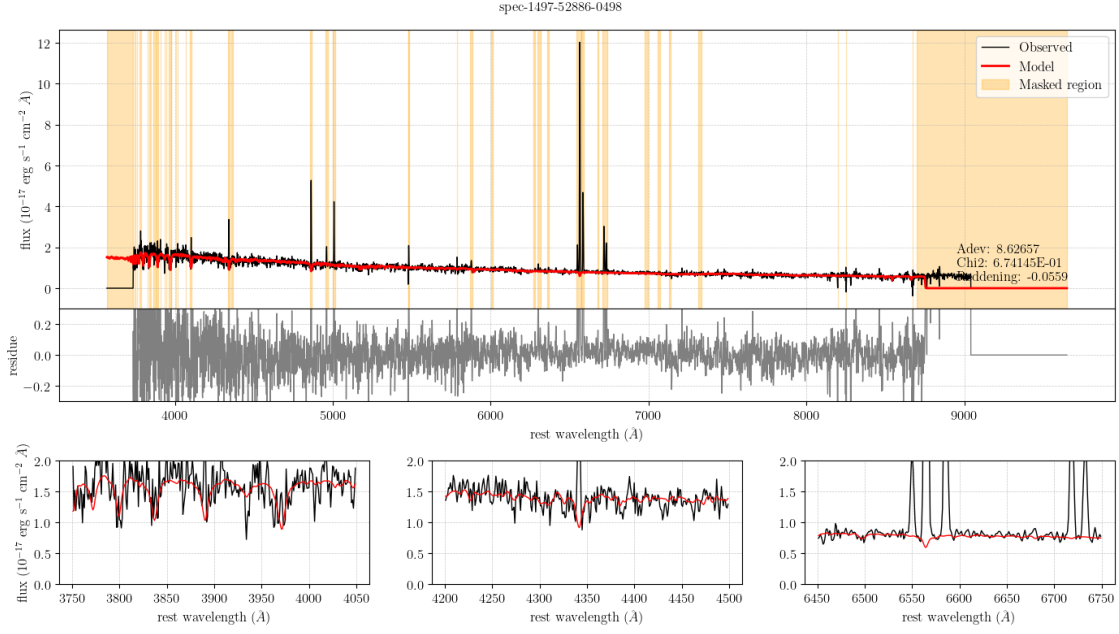
```

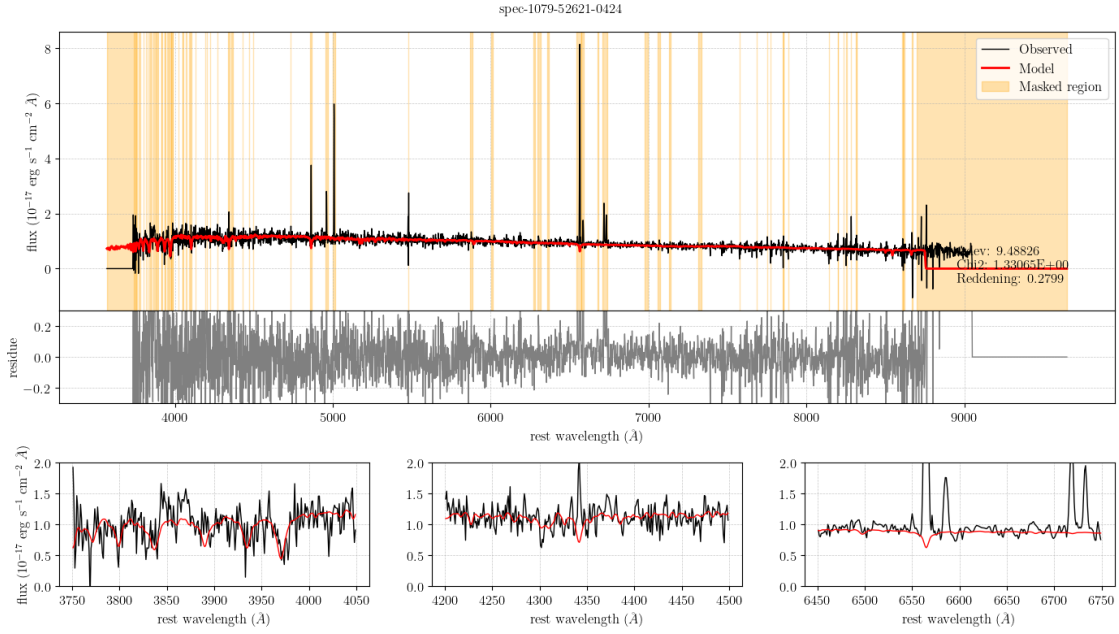
[6]: # After running Starlight, read the output files and saving into a list
files = [f for f in os.listdir(data_dir) if os.path.isfile(os.path.
    ↪join(data_dir, f)) and '.' not in f]
starlight_output = specutils.read_starlight_output(files,
    ↪filepath=str(data_dir) + '/')

for galaxy, data in starlight_output.items():
    fig = specutils.plot_starlight_spectrum(data)
    fig.suptitle(f'{galaxy}')
    fig.tight_layout()
    fig.savefig(data_dir / f'{galaxy}_starlight.png')
    plt.show(fig)
    plt.close(fig)

new_fits = specutils.create_new_fits_from_starlight(data)
new_fits.writeto(data_dir / f'{galaxy}_starlight.fits', overwrite=True)

```





### 1.3 Defining IFSCube inputs

If you want to add more emission lines in the fit, you need to add them at the “lines\_config” dictionary.

```
[7]: ifscube_config_file = base_dir / 'data/ifscube_config.cfg'
stdout_ifscube = {} # to save the output log of ifscube runs
velocity = '0, +- 300'
velocity_broad = '0, +- 300'
sigma = '100, 40:400'
sigma_broad = '120, 50:200'
lines_config = {
    "OII_3726": spectrum_io.make_line(3726.032, velocity, sigma),
    "OII_3729": spectrum_io.make_line(3728.815, velocity, sigma),
    "OIII_4363": spectrum_io.make_line(4363.210, velocity, sigma),
    "Hb_4861": spectrum_io.make_line(4861.325, velocity, sigma),
    "OIII_5007": spectrum_io.make_line(5006.84, velocity, sigma, k_group=0),
    "OIII_4959": spectrum_io.make_line(4958.91, velocity, sigma,
                                     amplitude="peak, 0:, OIII_5007.amplitude / 2.98",
                                     k_group=0),
    "OI_6300": spectrum_io.make_line(6300.304, velocity, sigma),
    "Ha_6563": spectrum_io.make_line(6562.80, velocity, sigma),
    "NII_6583": spectrum_io.make_line(6583.46, velocity, sigma, k_group=12),
    "NII_6548": spectrum_io.make_line(6548.04,
                                     amplitude="peak, 0:, NII_6583.amplitude / 3.06",
                                     k_group=12),
}
```

```

    "SII_6716": spectrum_io.make_line(6716.44, velocity, sigma, k_group=13),
    "SII_6731": spectrum_io.make_line(6730.82, amplitude="peak, 0:",
    ↪k_group=13),
}

```

## 1.4 Running IFSCube

Before running IFSCube, we check if the galaxy has emission lines detected.

-> How we do that?

We define as detected the emission line that has the amplitude greater than 3 times the standard deviation of the continuum next to the line.

```

[8]: ifscube_output_files = [f for f in os.listdir(data_dir) if f.
    ↪endswith('_starlight.fits')]

for file in ifscube_output_files:
    galaxy = os.path.splitext(file)[0]
    print(f' -> Checking if galaxy {galaxy} has detected emission lines... \n')
    do_fit = spectrum_io.select_do_fit(data_dir/file, value=3)
    if do_fit == True:
        out_image = data_dir / f'{galaxy}_g.fits'
        config = spectrum_io.
    ↪generate_ifscube_configuration_file(continuum_degree=1, lines=lines_config,
    ↪out_image=out_image)
        # print(config)

        with open(ifscube_config_file, "w") as f:
            f.write(config)

        output = subprocess.run(["specfit", "-oc", ifscube_config_file,
    ↪data_dir/file], check=True, text=True)
        stdout_ifscube[galaxy] = output.stdout
    else:
        print(f'Skipping galaxy {galaxy}. No emission lines detected.')

    # break

```

-> Checking if galaxy spec-1497-52886-0498\_starlight has detected emission lines...

```

/home/kelly/Dropbox/bolsa-FAPESP/github/spectools/.venv/lib/python3.12/site-
packages/ifscube/onedspec.py:109: RuntimeWarning: Wavelength read in meters.
Changing it to Angstroms.

```

```

    warnings.warn(message="Wavelength read in meters. Changing it to Angstroms.",
category=RuntimeWarning)

```



-> Checking if galaxy spec-1079-52621-0424\_starlight has detected emission lines...

/home/kelly/Dropbox/bolsa-FAPESP/github/spectools/.venv/lib/python3.12/site-packages/ifscube/onedspec.py:109: RuntimeWarning: Wavelength read in meters. Changing it to Angstroms.

```
warnings.warn(message="Wavelength read in meters. Changing it to Angstroms.", category=RuntimeWarning)
```

-> Checking if galaxy spec-f2ace614-8708-11ef-b7bb-525400f334e1\_starlight has detected emission lines...

/home/kelly/Dropbox/bolsa-FAPESP/github/spectools/.venv/lib/python3.12/site-packages/ifscube/onedspec.py:109: RuntimeWarning: Wavelength read in meters. Changing it to Angstroms.

```
warnings.warn(message="Wavelength read in meters. Changing it to Angstroms.", category=RuntimeWarning)
```

Plotting the fit...

```
[ ]: ifscube_fitted_galaxies = [f for f in os.listdir(data_dir) if f.endswith('_g.
↳fits')]
for galaxy in ifscube_fitted_galaxies:
    fig = specutils.plot_ifscube_spectra(data_dir, galaxy)
    # plt.close(fig)
```

